

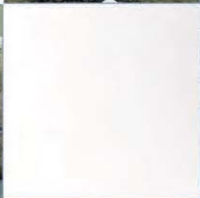
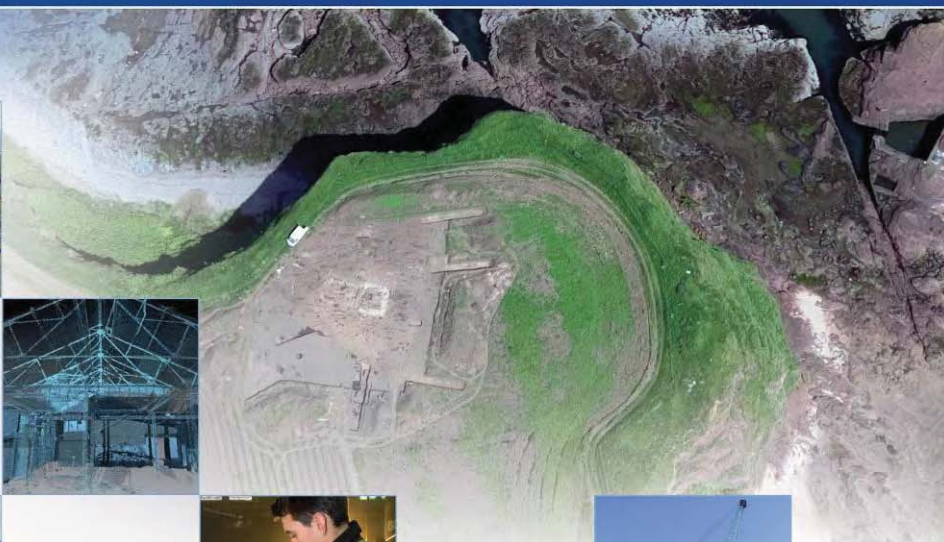
Henderson Street, Leith:

Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22139

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22nd August 2012



Henderson Street, Leith:

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	City of Edinburgh Council
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 26884 76133
AOC Project No:	22139
Prepared by:	Jake Streatfeild-James
Illustration by:	Jake Streatfeild-James
Date of Fieldwork:	7 th May 2012
Date of Report:	22 nd August 2012

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during the removal, underpinning and reinstatement of setts on Henderson Street, Leith. Removal of the underpinning layers revealed an old ground surface through which a single amorphous cut feature of post-medieval date was found.

Small finds included four sherds of Scottish Post-Medieval Reduced Ware, mammal bone and marine shell.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Edinburgh Council on ground-breaking works associated with the removal, underpinning and reinstatement of the cobbled surface of Henderson Street, Leith. The street lies within the medieval core of Leith, and within the settlement's network of 16th century defences. The need for and scope of the archaeological works was determined by the City of Edinburgh Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).
- 1.1.2 The programme of archaeological works specified by CECAS was in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 Henderson Street runs south to north from Great Junction Street, accessing a number of small closes and yards between Great Junction Street and Constitution Street. (centred NGR: NT 26884 76133)

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The development area is located within the network of 16th / 17th century defensive ditches constructed in 1548, renovated in 1560 and again the 1640s. These defensive works marked the bounds of the town until the late 18th century. While no previous archaeological works had been undertaken on Henderson Street itself, AOC Archaeology Group had been contracted to undertake an excavation on a nearby plot at Great Junction Street (Cook, 2012), where the town ditch and adjacent archaeological features were found to be in a good state of preservation. A significant probability of the survival of nearby, associated archaeological material was therefore determined by CECAS.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
 - i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by groundworks associated with the development;
 - ii) to liaise with CECAS and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording;
 - iii) to report on the results of the monitored strip.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The watching brief was undertaken on the 7th and 8th of May and the 6th and 8th of June, 2012 in fair weather conditions yielding good archaeological visibility. The ground works involved the excavation of seven test-pits, after the removal of the cobbled surface, positioned at 20 m intervals along the street. If significant archaeological deposits/features were encountered above the level of the madeground strip (395mm below current street level), the entire strip was to be monitored so that those deposits/features might be recorded prior to their truncation.



Plate 1: Henderson Street Area 2 Post Strip

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 Seven test-pits were excavated along a total 140 m length of Henderson Street. Test-pits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 revealed a mix of deposits, making up an artificial ground level, over what is presumed to be mixed Aeolian and dune sands. Test-pit 5 revealed this natural layer 140 mm below the bottom of the setts. Elsewhere sands directly underlay the Henderson Street setts / road make-up.
- 4.2 Test-pit 6 revealed the edge of a cut feature [205] (Figure 3; Plate 2) containing a structured deposit of different midden (?) materials: fill [202] contained oyster shell, while fill [203] included oyster shell, large mammal bone and four sherds of Scottish Post-Medieval Reduced Ware - dating to late 17th / early 18th century (G Haggarty pers comm). The basal fill [204] consisted of a mid brown yellow re-deposited natural, indicating that the feature had been exposed for a period of time before being backfilled. Due to the density of services running along Henderson Street, it was impossible to define the plan or full extent of the feature or to say certainly whether it represents a deliberately constructed midden pit, or

another functionally distinctive negative feature (perhaps a sand quarry) which subsequently formed a convenient depository for midden waste.



2 North-facing Section of feature [205]

5 CONCLUSION

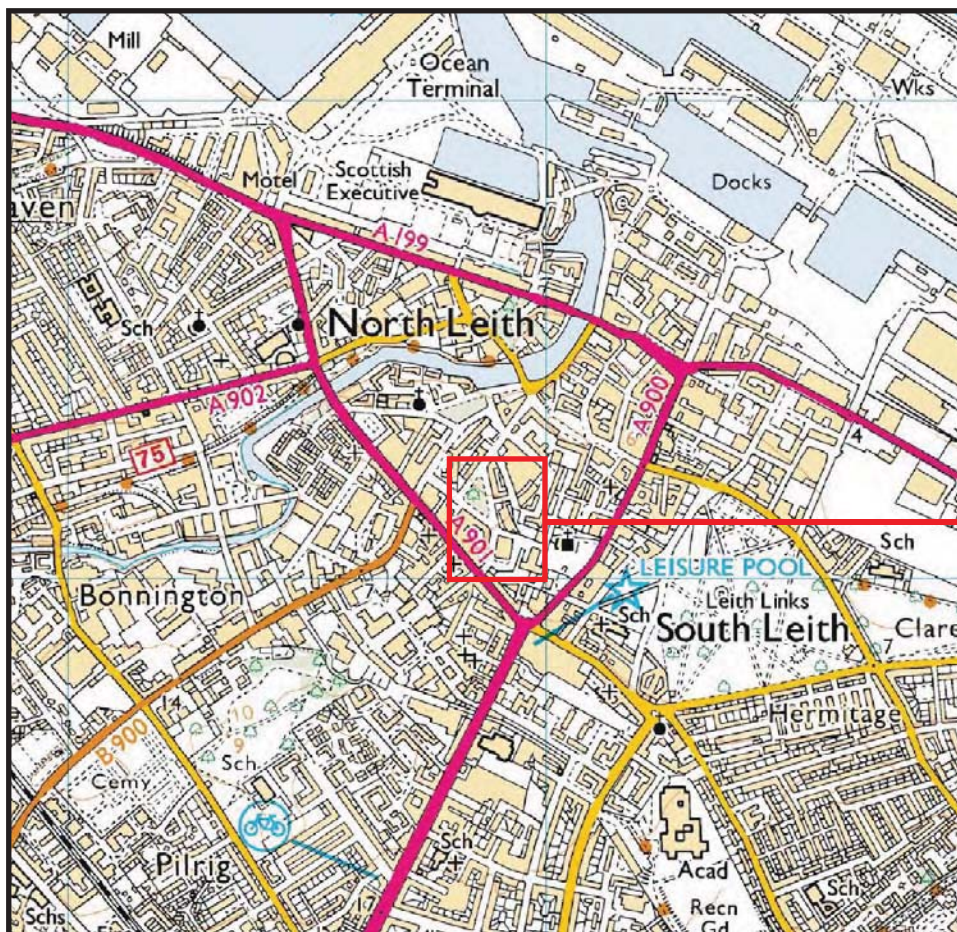
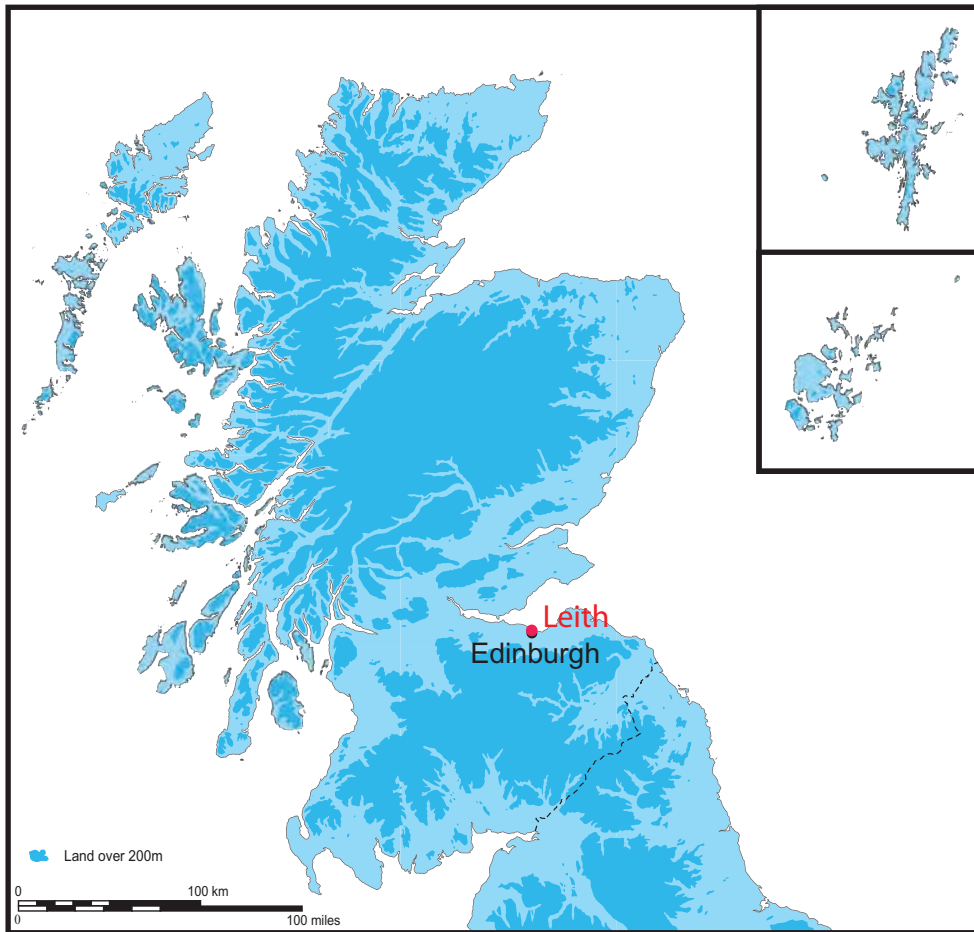
- 5.1 The archaeological deposits contained within feature [205] represent post-medieval activity in the area between the bounds of the medieval town and its 16th / 17th century defences, demonstrating that Leith was expanding during this time. Truncation by 19th and 20th century services was found to be so extensive, that feature [205] could not be described in plan, but only in section.
- 5.2 The necessity of any further archaeological works will be determined by the City of Edinburgh Council as advised by CECAS.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cook, M (2012) *72-92 Great Junction Street, Leith, Edinburgh: Excavation Data Structure Report*, Unpublished Data Structure Report, AOC Archaeology Group

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy* (February 2010)

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology*



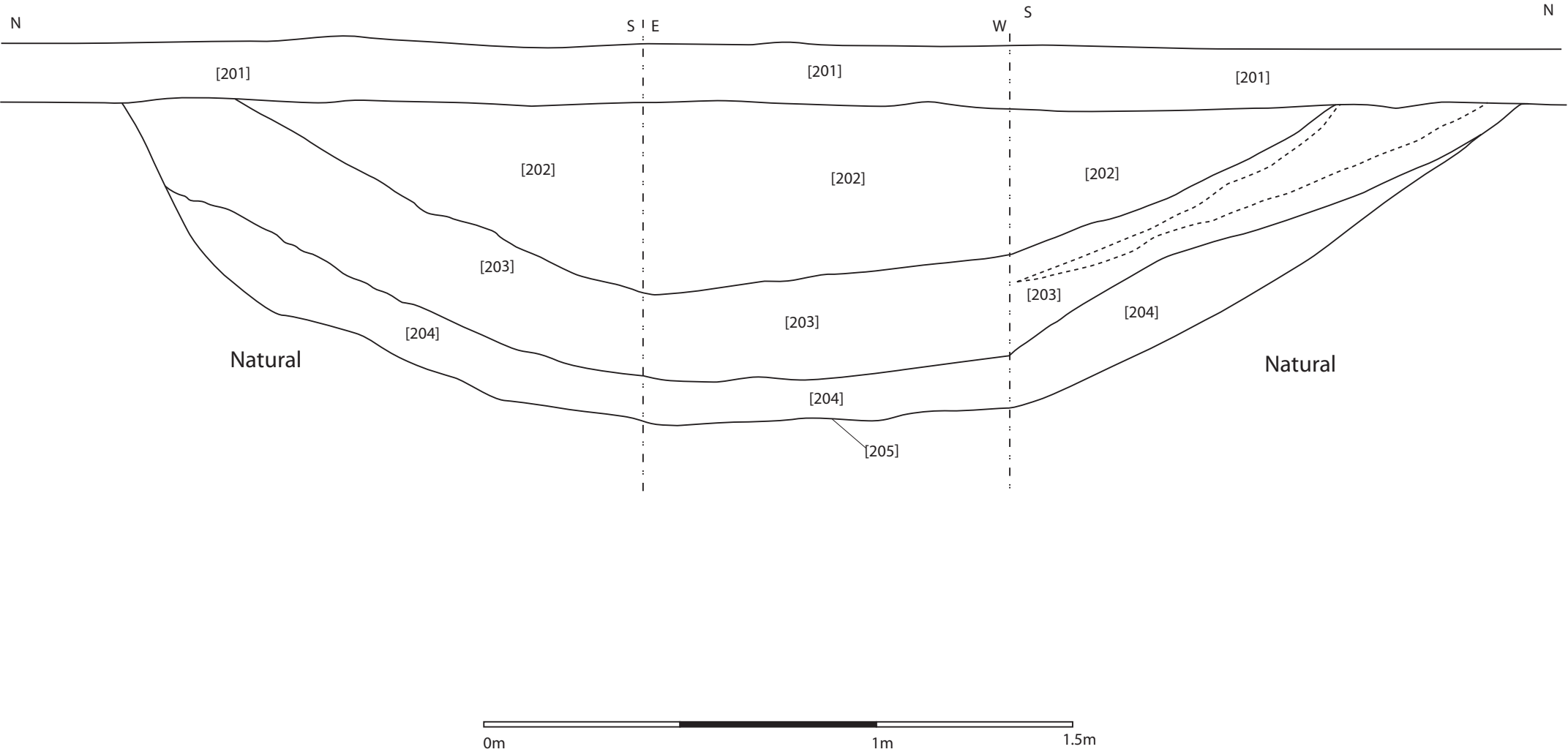
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Figure 1: Location of the site at Henderson Street, Leith



Figure 2: Location of Test Pits

Figure 3: Box Section of [205]



Henderson Street, Leith: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

Excavation Black & White and Colour Slide Film

Frame	F. No	Description	From
1-2		Test Pit 1	N
3-4		Test Pit 1 Section	W
5-6		Test Pit 2	NW
7-8		Test Pit 3	N
9-10		Test Pit 4	S
11-12		General view of southern end of Henderson Road	S
13		Test Pit 5	E
14		Test Pit 6	W
15		Test Pit 7	W
16		Working Shot	N
17		Working Shot	N
18		[205] W Facing Section	W
19		[205] N Facing Section	N
20		[205] E Facing Section	E

APPENDIX 2: Test-pit Descriptions

Test-pit 1

Dimensions	1 m by 1 m
Total Area	1 m ²
Depth of Excavation	0.88 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Four levels of made ground including concrete and hardcore
Subsoil	N/A
Finds	None

Test-pit 2

Dimensions	1 m by 1 m
Total Area	1 m ²
Depth of Excavation	0.38 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Concrete and made ground
Subsoil	N/A
Finds	None

Test-pit 3

Dimensions	1 m by 1 m
Total Area	1 m ²
Depth of Excavation	0.65 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Three layers of made ground
Subsoil	Sand and gravels
Finds	None

Test-pit 4

Dimensions	1 m by 1 m
Total Area	1 m ²
Depth of Excavation	0.83 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Three layers of made ground
Subsoil	Sand and gravels
Finds	None

Test-pit 5

Dimensions	1 m by 1 m
Total Area	1 m ²
Depth of Excavation	0.40 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Crushed concrete straight onto natural sand
Subsoil	Wind blown sand
Finds	None

Test-pit 6

Dimensions	1 m by 1 m
Total Area	1 m ²
Depth of Excavation	0.98m
Significant Features	Cut [205]
Other Features	Structured deposit of different fill materials. See [202], [203] and [205]
Subsoil	Sand and gravels
Finds	Oyster, Large Mammal Bone, Scottish Post-Medieval Reduced Ware sherds

Test-pit 7

Dimensions	1 m by 1 m
Total Area	1 m ²
Depth of Excavation	0.66 m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Three layers of made ground, lowest carrying fragments of hand pressed brick
Subsoil	N/A
Finds	CBM

APPENDIX 3: *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Henderson Street, Leith
PROJECT CODE:	22139
PARISH:	Leith
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jake Streatfeild-James
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Medieval Core of Leith
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Post medieval deposits, ceramic sherds, mammal bone, oyster shell
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 26884 76133
START DATE (this season)	06/05/2012
END DATE (this season)	08/06/2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the removal, underpinning and reinstatement of the cobbled surface of Henderson Street, Leith. Archaeological deposits were recorded within a single amorphous cut feature containing three discrete fills, relating to the post-medieval occupation of Leith. Small finds included four Scottish Post-Medieval Reduced Ware sherds, mammal bone and marine shell.</p> <p>Any further features that may once have existed would have severely truncated by 19th / 20th century utility service trenches and previous alterations to the surface of the road.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	City of Edinburgh Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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