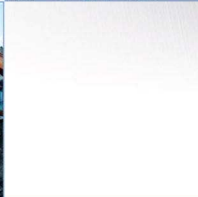
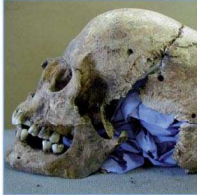
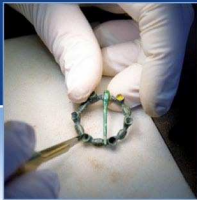


# L'Arche House, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation & Metal Detecting Survey Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22344  
Planning Ref 12/02441/FUL  
20<sup>th</sup> December 2012



# L'Arche House, Edinburgh; Archaeological Evaluation & Metal Detecting Survey Data Structure Report

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<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>L'Arche House,</b> Level 1 Sugar Bonds, 2 Anderson Place, Edinburgh EH6 5NP
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>NT 287 744</b>
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	<b>22344</b>
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<b>Date of Fieldwork:</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> December 2012</b>
<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> December 2012</b>

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

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**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

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**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

**Draft/Final Report Stage:**

**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

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## Abstract

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This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation and metal detecting survey undertaken during the re-development of a plot of land for the new L'Arche House at Restalrig, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 277 744).

The evaluation required a 10% trenching sample throughout the development area, consisting of trenching with combined basal dimensions of 142 m<sup>2</sup>.

The area though previously thought to have been undeveloped agricultural land had undergone significant truncation associated with the construction of the surrounding 20<sup>th</sup> century housing estate.

Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by L'Arche House to undertake a programme of archaeological works consisting of a metal detecting survey and archaeological evaluation prior to a residential development in Restalrig Crescent, Edinburgh. The works were undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority (Planning Ref 12/02441/FUL), Edinburgh City Council who are advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2012) approved on behalf of Edinburgh City Council by CECAS and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

### 1.2 Location

1.2.1 The development area is located to the south side of Restalrig Crescent, Edinburgh and is centred on NGR: NT 277 744 (Figure 1). It consists of a small wedge shaped open area totalling 1445 m<sup>2</sup> and is currently under grass. The area has remained undeveloped despite the 20<sup>th</sup> century housing estate which now surrounds it on all sides. The area was formerly agricultural land.

### 1.3 Archaeological Background (John Lawson, CECAS)

1.3.1 The site lies on high ground between the historic settlement of Restalrig and Leith, an area that remained undeveloped either as open ground or farmland until the 1920's when the surrounding housing scheme was built. The development site occurs within the area associated with the encircling siege works of the Earl of Hertford's 1559-60 Siege of Leith, in particular the route of the English Armies first approach in 1559. Archaeological evidence for these English siege works is rare, though evidence for Somerset's Battery were uncovered as part of the Leith Fortification Project in 2006 & 2007 by the Council's Archaeology Service and GUARD across the northern end of Pilrig Park. The archaeological remains of both the siege works and town defences are potentially unique examples of 16th century artillery siege works in Scotland and area also regarded as being of international importance, particularly in terms of our understanding of Renaissance Warfare in Europe.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to determine the location, character, condition, quality and date of any archaeologically significant metal artefacts within the defined Metal Detecting Survey area;
- ii) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- iii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as evaluation, excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material in situ, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Metal Detecting Survey**

- 3.1.1 The metal detector survey was undertaken using a Whites M6 metal detector (primary detector and smaller unit for detailed location). The metal detecting area was surveyed in transects no greater than 3 m wide. This allowed for a degree of overlap between transects in ensuring ground is not missed. The transects were marked out in advance of the start of the survey.
- 3.1.2 Find-spots were marked and surveyed by a hand-held GPS to allow reasonable accurate plotting of find densities and artefact types.
- 3.1.3 The results of the Metal Detecting Survey are fully recorded in this Data Structure Report (DSR). Any material recovered during the Metal Detecting Survey was subject to a brief assessment of potential and this assessment was to be included within the mitigation strategy as proposed in the DSR. Any resultant artefact or ecofact analysis (Post-Excavation) and publication (if appropriate) was to be fully funded by the client in accordance with a negotiated mitigation strategy that will comply with the Conditions for Planning Consent.

### **3.2 Archaeological Evaluation**

- 3.2.1 The archaeological evaluation was designed to meet the requirements of City Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service, CECAS on behalf of City Edinburgh Council.
- 3.2.2 The evaluation was undertaken through the excavation of linear trenches using a mechanical JCB excavator equipped with a 2 m wide ditching bucket. The development area covered a total of 1445 m<sup>2</sup> of which 10% sample equates to trenching totalling 72 linear metres. However, live services crossing the south of the site reduced the available evaluation area by approximately 400 m<sup>2</sup>. This necessitated a slight reduction in trenching to 60 linear metres.
- 3.2.3 The trial trenching aimed to establish the extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features present. Two 30 m length trenches were set on slightly varying orientations. Excavation was in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural drift geology was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.

## **4 RESULTS**

- 4.1 The metal detecting survey and archaeological evaluation were undertaken on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2012. Overall weather conditions were generally dry and archaeological visibility was good throughout.

### **4.2 Metal Detecting Survey**

- 4.2.1 Numerous metal objects were recovered during the survey these included bottle tops, wire, modern coins, cans and building debris. All were of modern date and were left on site.

### **4.3 Archaeological Evaluation**

- 4.3.1 The two excavated trenches revealed that the development area was covered in a dark brown imported top-soil. This was up to 0.50 m in depth and contained numerous white ceramics, glass and metal objects. A layer of red blaes 0.40 m thick was encountered in Trench 1. Trench 2 incorporated a 0.20 m thick layer of Type 2 hardcore at its northern end. Three modern pits containing demolition material were also observed within Trench 2. No interface between the clay natural and the imported topsoil and made ground was observed. No original soil deposits were encountered. It was evident



that modern construction relating to the construction of the surrounding housing estate had removed all potential archaeological deposits.



**Plate 1: West facing section Trench 1**



**Plate 2 Post-excavation shot of Trench 2**



## 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were identified during either the Metal Detecting survey or the archaeological evaluation. No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) on behalf of Edinburgh City Council.

## 6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2012 '*L'Arche House: Written Scheme of Investigation*' Unpublished client report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*, February 2010.

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*.

# **L'Arche House, Restalrig, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

### Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	30.0 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	60.0 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Depth of Top-soil</i>	0.40 m – 0.50 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	Red blaes at 25.0 m o.40 m in depth
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.55 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Clay drains at 10.0 m (E-W) & 17.0 m (N-S)
<i>Subsoil</i>	Pale yellow brown clay
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics, glass, modern metal objects etc.

### Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	60.0 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	SSE-NNW
<i>Depth of Top-soil</i>	0.40 m – 0.50 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	0.20 m (Type 2 onto mixture of topsoil and re-deposited natural)
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.75 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Modern square pits at 2.0 m (0.60 m by 0.60 m), 10.0 m (0.50 m by 0.50 m) & 11.5 m (1.0 m by 1.0 m)
<i>Subsoil</i>	Pale yellow brown clay
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics, glass, modern metal objects etc.

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

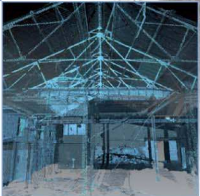
Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration	-
2	Trench 1 post ex	SE
3	Trench 1 west facing trench section	W
4	Trench 1 post ex	NW
5	Trench 2 west facing trench section	SE
6	Trench 2 post ex	SSE
7	Trench 2 post ex	NNW
8	Trench 1 back-filled	S

### APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Edinburgh City Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	L'Arche House, Restalrig, Edinburgh
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 22344
<b>PARISH:</b>	Edinburgh
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Rob Engl
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 287 744
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2012
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2012
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation and metal detecting survey undertaken during the re-development of a plot of land for the new L'Arche House at Restalrig, Edinburgh.</p> <p>The evaluation required a 10% trenching sample throughout the development area, consisting of trenching with combined basal dimensions of 120m<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>The area though previously thought to have been undeveloped agricultural land had undergone significant truncation associated with the construction of the surrounding 20<sup>th</sup> century housing estate.</p> <p>Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	---
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	L'Arche House
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	Rob.Engl@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS





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