

McDonald Road Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

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McDonald Road Archaeological Evaluation Edinburgh: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Glencairn Developments Ltd
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 25990 75230
AOC Project No:	22386
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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 evaluation on brownfield land at McDonald Road, Edinburgh. The evaluation took place on the 21st of March 2013 in sunny weather and good archaeological visibility. Trenches were laid out in order to take a 10% sample of the development area, and were excavated using a 13 tonne tracked 360° excavator, using a two metre wide ditching bucket.

No significant archaeological material or features were detected, other than large scale landscaping and backfilling, attributed to modern sand extraction.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of phased archaeological works was required as a condition of planning consent prior to and during the development of a brownfield site at McDonald Road, Edinburgh. The site lies within the administrative area of the City of Edinburgh Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (hereafter referred to as CECAS). The archaeological works will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (2011) and consist of an archaeological evaluation
- 1.1.2 The programme of archaeological works specified by CECAS is 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 The proposed development area lies within a roughly rectangular land parcel, between McDonald Road to the north-east, McDonald Street to the south-east, McDonald Place to the south-west and Bellevue Road to the north-west and is centred on NT 25990 75230.
- 1.2.2 The area subject to evaluation in this phase comprised the western fragment of the development (Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The proposed development area comprises open farm land until at least the publication of the Great Reform Act Plan of 1832. However, by the end of the 19th century, due to the northerly development of Edinburgh and specifically the extension of the New Town, the western part of the site was occupied by a church (Figure 1). The church was relatively short-lived, having been removed and built over by the publication of Bartholomew's 1939 map (Figure 2).
- 1.3.2 Most recently the site was occupied by Crawford's Bakery (NMRS: NT27NE 956) which was demolished in the last decade. The bakery was known to occupy the site from around 1930, and was extended over its lifetime.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objective of the archaeological works is to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any sub-surface archaeological remains within the development area and, should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, to prepare a mitigation strategy compliant with *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (2011).

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Ground works involved the excavation of a total of 100 linear metres of trenching using a two metre wide ditching bucket, resulting in a sample of 200m², or 10% of the development site. Trenches were excavated using a 13 tonne 360° tracked excavator. Excavations were taken down in shallow spits until either natural, or the first archaeological horizon was encountered. Trenches were positioned in order to take an even sample across the whole of the site, in accordance with AOC best working practice.



Plate 1: Trench 2 post ex

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 All trenches encountered clean natural sand typical of the area although this had been heavily disturbed across the site. The NW trenches: 1, 2 and 3 encountered various modern cuts through the natural, which had been backfilled with modern demolition waste, including lead piping, cast iron downpipes, and crushed brickwork and ashlar fragments. Cuts were interpreted as possible sand extraction pits, and the demolition rubble was thought to relate to the levelling of the church, and other buildings which also occupied the site, during the mid 20th century.
- 4.2 Trench 4, excavated parallel to the SE boundary to the site, revealed disturbed natural sand under around 300mm of modern made ground. Natural sand in Trench 1, parallel to the NW boundary was covered by 900mm of overburden, suggesting that the natural slope of the site had also been levelled at some time after 1939.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No archaeological features were encountered in this area of the development, the depth of modern made ground to the NW of the site suggests that much of the demolition material from the church, and other buildings depicted on the Post Office Plan of Edinburgh, ended up being used to level this area, prior to the construction of Crawford's Bakery. The balance of probability suggests that the evaluated portion of the site (Figure 1) is archaeologically sterile.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Works on the 21st of March returned no evidence for any archaeologically significant activity in the evaluated area. No further archaeological works are considered necessary in this area (Figure 1). This recommendation will require confirmation by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) on behalf of Edinburgh City Council.
- 6.2 The eastern fragment of the development site will still be required to be evaluated to meet the planning condition.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC Archaeology Group, *McDonald Road Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpublished Client Report

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

Scottish Government 2011 PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology



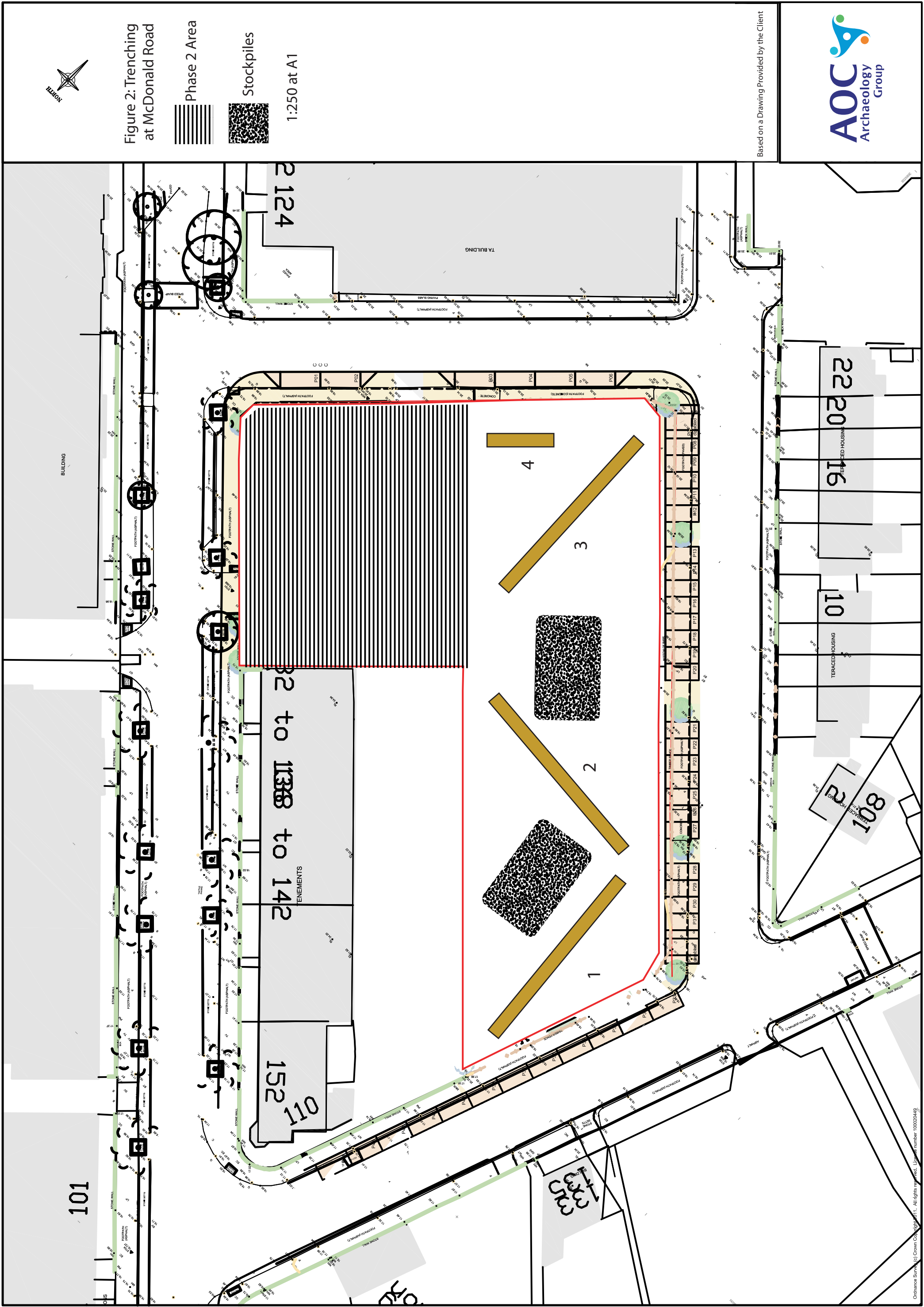
Figure 2: Trenching at McDonald Road

Phase 2 Area

Stockpiles

1:250 at A1

Based on a Drawing Provided by the Client



McDonald Road Evaluation, Edinburgh: Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

Digital Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Trench 4 Post Ex	SE
3-4	Trench 3 Post Ex	S
5-6	Trench 2 Post Ex	W
7	Trench 1 Post Ex	S

APPENDIX 2: Trench Records

Trench 1

Length: 30m

Width 2.0m

Orientated: N-S

Made Ground Depth:

900mm @ 0m

400mm @ 10m

500mm @ 20m

700mm @ 30m

Made Ground: Mixed Demolition Rubble

Natural: Mid Yellow Brown Sands

Trench 2

Length: 30m

Width 2.0m

Orientated: W-E

Made Ground Depth:

900mm @ 0m

400mm @ 10m

500mm @ 20m

600mm @ 30m

Made Ground: Mixed Demolition Rubble

Natural: Mid Yellow Brown Sands

Trench 3

Length: 30m

Width 2.0m

Orientated: N-S

Made Ground Depth:

600mm @ 0m

595mm @ 15m

590mm @ 30m

Made Ground: Mixed Demolition Rubble

Natural: Mid Yellow Brown Sands

Trench 4

Length: 10m

Width 2.0m

Orientated: SE-NW

Made Ground Depth:

300mm @ 0m

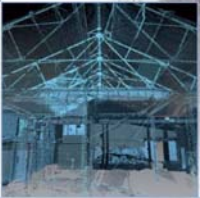
250mm @ 10m

Made Ground: Mixed Demolition Rubble

Natural: Mid Yellow Brown Sands

APPENDIX 3: *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report*

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	McDonald Street, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	22386
PARISH:	Leith
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jake Streatfeild-James
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 260 752
START DATE (this season)	21 st March 2013
END DATE (this season)	21 st March 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report represents the results of an archaeological evaluation on brownfield land at McDonald Road, Edinburgh. The Evaluation took place on the morning of the 21st of March 2013 in sunny weather and good archaeological visibility. Trenches were laid out in order to take an even sample of 10% of the development area, and were excavated using a 13 tonne tracked 360° excavator, using a two metre wide ditching bucket.</p> <p>No significant archaeological material or features were detected, other than large scale landscaping and backfilling, attributed to modern sand extraction.</p>
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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