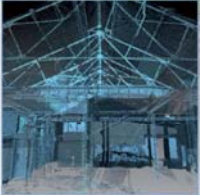


Urban Oasis, Albion Road, Lochend, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOCarcha1-154858
AOC Project 22467
June 2013



Urban Oasis, Albion Road, Lochend, Edinburgh Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	EMA Architecture & Design Limited, The Stables, 38 Bailyfield Road, Edinburgh EH15 1NA
National Grid Reference (NGR):	centred on NT 272 746
Planning Application No:	12/03574/FUL
AOC Project No:	2246715
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Date of Fieldwork:	26th June – 28th June 2013
Date of Report:	30th June 2013

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

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken as part of a response in respect to a proposed development at Urban Oasis, Albion Road, Lochend, and Edinburgh. The development area (centred on NGR: NT 272 746; Figure 1) covers c. 2.5 hectares and is currently derelict ground.

The evaluation was restricted to the west of the site due to the presence of a works compound. Trenching revealed that the remaining area had undergone significant truncation, which had removed most of the original ground surface and replaced it with made ground and demolition debris. Limited archaeological remains were therefore identified.

The surviving archaeology was restricted to the heavily truncated structural remains associated with a building visible on the OS maps of 1905 and 1931 (Figures 2 & 3). The remains consisted of small elements of brick and sandstone flooring, service cuts and a small segment of narrow gauge rail line.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by EMA Architects Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on behalf of their clients, People for Places, prior to a development at Albion Road, Lochend, Edinburgh. The evaluation was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, City of Edinburgh 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) in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).
- 1.1.2 The development area (centred on NGR: NT 272 746; Figure 1) covers c. 2.5 hectares and is currently derelict ground.
- 1.1.3 The evaluation was restricted to the west of the site due to the presence of a works compound. Trenching revealed that the area had undergone significant truncation, which had removed most of the original ground surface and replaced it with made ground and demolition debris. Limited archaeological remains were therefore identified.
- 1.1.4 The surviving archaeology was restricted to the heavily truncated structural remains associated with a building visible on the OS maps of 1905 and 1931 (Figures 2 & 3). The remains consisted of small elements of brick and sandstone flooring, service cuts and a small segment of narrow gauge rail line.



Figure 2: Bartholomew's Post Office Plan of Edinburgh 1905

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The development site lies within the Lochend area of Edinburgh, and is bounded by residential properties to the north, south and west and a retail park to the east (centred on NGR: NT 272 746; Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The Royal Commission of Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) record no sites of archaeological significance within the proposed development.

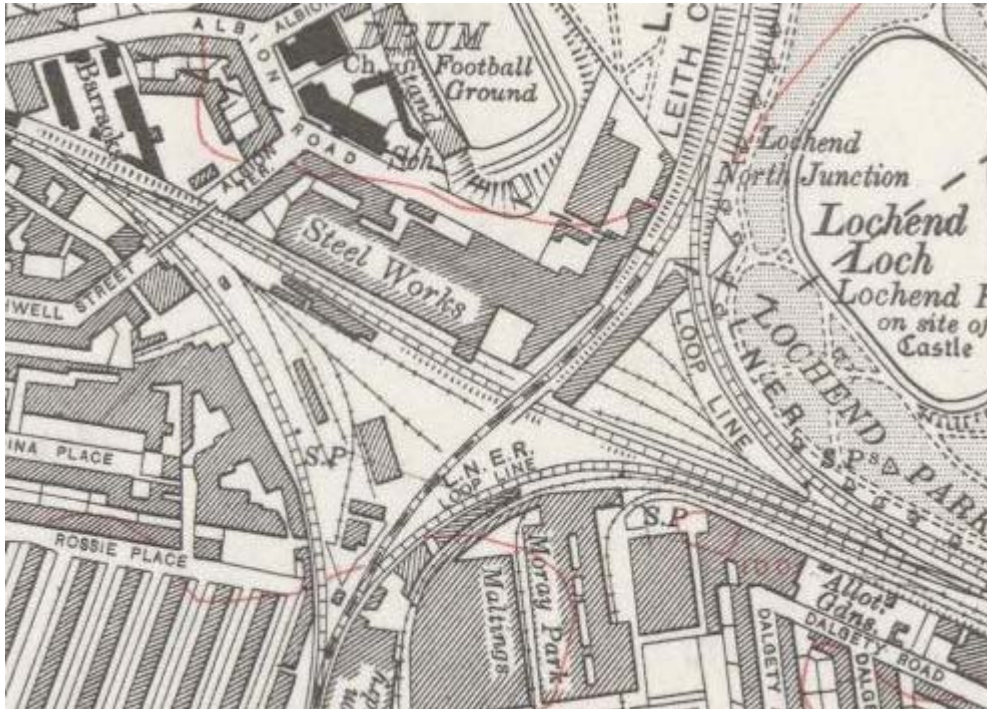


Figure 3: 1931 Ordnance Survey Map of Edinburgh

- 1.3.2 Analysis of the cartographic evidence shows the site was open by the publication of the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1896; Figure 2), although surrounded by railway lined on all sides. In addition, existing industry to the east and west comprised a brewery and glass works. However, by the publication of Bartholomew's Post Office Plan of Edinburgh (1905; Figure 2), the site was completely built up by the presence of an oil gasworks and associated infrastructure of railway lines. The gasworks comprised at least six main buildings and a chimney, as well as associated buildings with the railway.
- 1.3.3 By the publication of the 1931 Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 3), the gasworks had closed down, although the site was still occupied by the majority of the former buildings. The site continued in use through the 1950s and 1960s, but was derelict by the publication of the 1976 OS Map.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:
- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area through evaluation trenching;

- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such 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 The details of the archaeological evaluation, laid out below, were designed to meet the requirements of City of Edinburgh Council as advised by CECAS.
- 3.2 The evaluation was based on the trenching of a 10% sample (2057 m²) of the c.2.5 ha development area. However, the presence of a working site compound at the time of the works restricted the evaluation to the west of the area. Therefore, only 1463 m² were excavated from a required total of 2057 m². Nevertheless, this caused minimal disruption as the targeted buildings identified in the WSI (AOC 2013) remained largely available for evaluation.
- 3.3 The evaluation was undertaken by a 22 tonne excavator equipped with 2.2 m wide bladed and toothed ditching buckets. Excavation was undertaken in units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and as per the methodology within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2013). The trenches were immediately backfilled upon completion.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken during the 26th June – 28th June 2013. Overall weather conditions were dry and archaeological visibility was good.



Plate 1; Brick floor remnant [201] within Trench 2 from east

- 4.2 The area was covered by a layer of made ground and demolition material up to 1.6 m in depth. Where reached sub-soil comprised grey boulder clay.
- 4.3 Trenches 1-3 revealed small areas of mortared brick and sandstone flooring [401] ranging from 1.5 m to 3.5 m in length. These elements of flooring relate to a now demolished section of the northern most building featured on both the Bartholomew Post Office map of 1905 and the 1931 OS map (Figures 2 & 3). Numerous associated drains and other service cuts were also revealed. The flooring was revealed at a depth of 0.40 m - 0.60 m.



Plate 2; Narrow gauge rail tracks Trench 5 from south-west

- 4.5 Trench 5 also produced structural elements associated with the above building in the form of in-situ narrow gauge rail-tracks and wooden sleepers. The tracks were aligned north-west to south east across the trench, and overlaid a ceramic waste water pipe. The tracks were revealed at a depth of 1.30 m. A small associated section of brick wall was also revealed extending from the north facing section of the trench.
- 4.6 Despite the majority of the evaluation trenches being excavated across the location of buildings recorded on the 1905 and 1931 maps (Figures 2 & 3), no other building remains were encountered, demonstrating the depth of truncation across the site.

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The land parcel; of the proposed development site open to evaluation was subject to a full and comprehensive archaeological evaluation given the limitations imposed by the present site compound and services. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts pre-dating the late 19th/ early 20th century were identified. Archaeological remains relating to commercial/industrial activity as shown on the Bartholomew Post Office map of 1905 and the 1931 OS map were identified

during the evaluation (Figures 2 and 3). These remains were confined to the north-western boundary of the site and were extremely truncated. No archaeological remains or deposits were encountered within the remainder of the evaluation area.

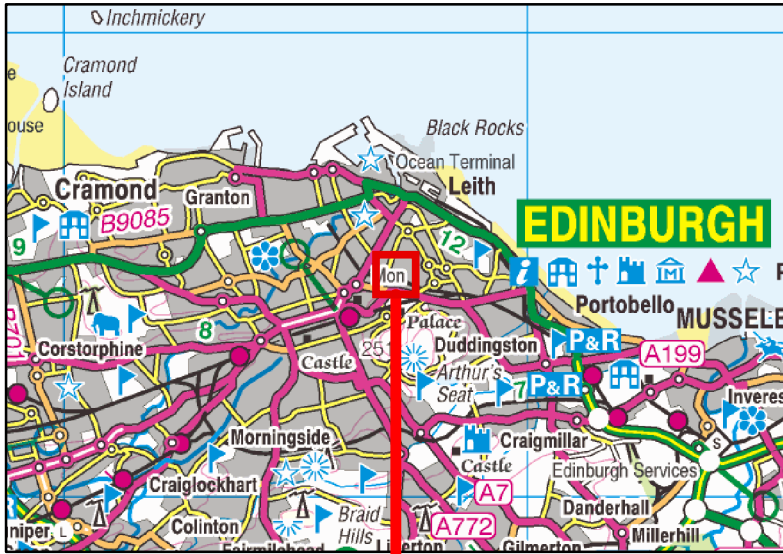
- 5.2 The evaluation has clearly demonstrated that the majority of the site has been truncated and affected by the subsequent demolition of the structures following its closure in the 1970s. While pockets of survival exist in the area subject to evaluation, the trenching suggests that the majority of the buildings have been completely removed.
- 5.3 Due to the level of truncation that has affected the evaluated area, no further works are recommended. However, as the area of the compound was not subject to evaluation, further works may be required here. This recommendation will require confirmation by Mr John Lawson Archaeological Officer for the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS) on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

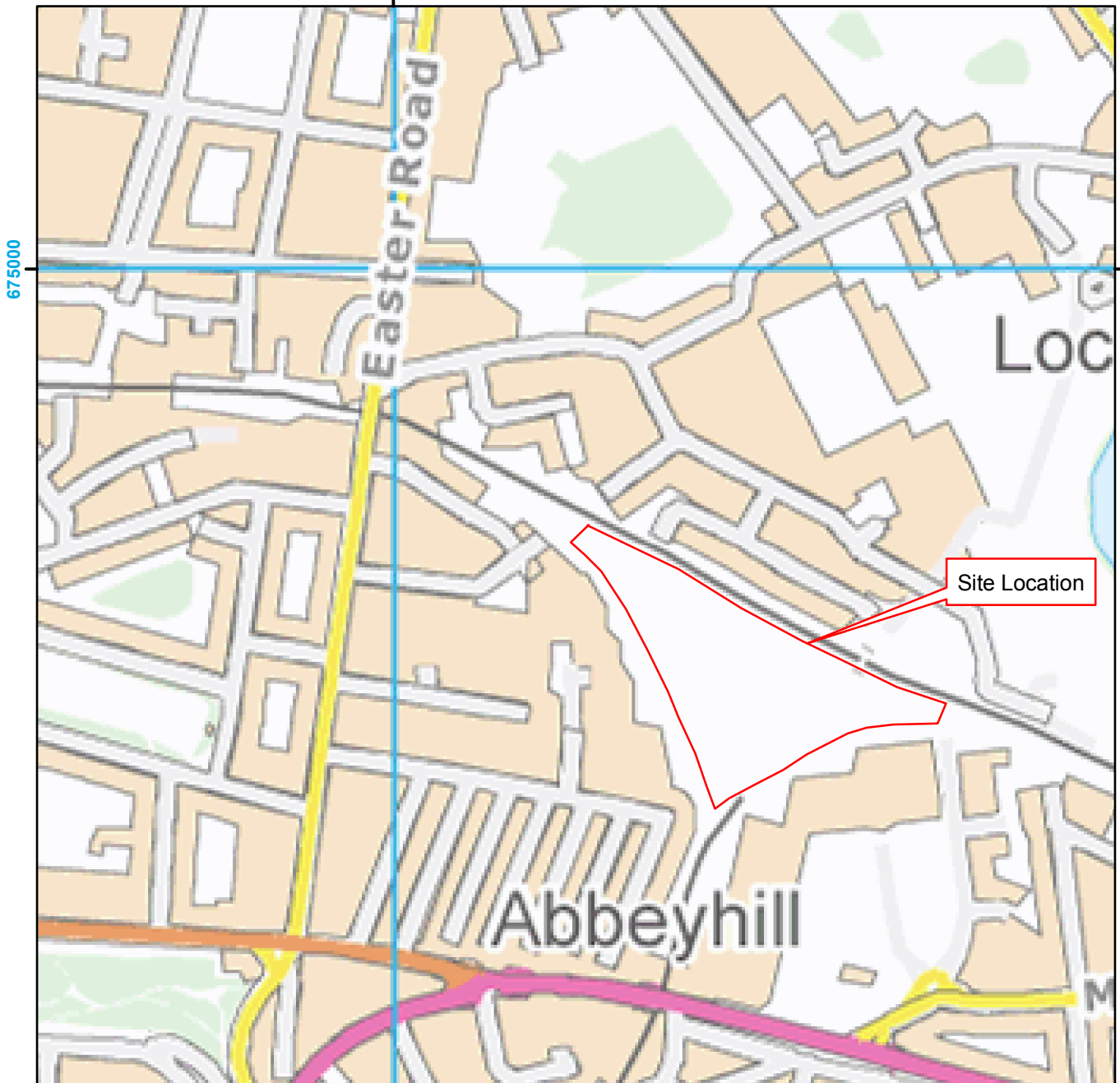
AOC 2013 '*Urban Oasis, Albion Road, Lochend, Edinburgh: Written Scheme of Investigation*'
Unpublished client report

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

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.



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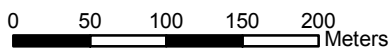


Figure 1: Site Location Plan



AOC 22467
Figure 1 - Trenching Plan

- Existing Services - Gas, Electric and Water
- Gasworks Buildings and Railway Sidings (From OS Survey 1931)
- Evaluation Trench
- Construction compound

Based on a Drawing provided by the Client
Scale: 1:1500 at A4

**Urban Oasis, Albion Road, Lochend,
Edinburgh:
Archaeological Evaluation
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	1.0 m (mixed demo material and topsoil)
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.1 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Floor surface of sandstone and brick [101]
<i>Other Features</i>	Brick filled field drain
<i>Subsoil</i>	Boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	0.6 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.1 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Brick floor surface, orientation NE-SW, 1.3 m long, 0.7 m wide, continues to S
<i>Other Features</i>	Several modern drains, orientation N-S
<i>Subsoil</i>	Boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	0.8 – 1.4 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.4 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Brick floor surface, orientation NW – SE, 1.6 m long, 0.8 m wide, continues to W
<i>Other Features</i>	Modern Drain pipes, orientation N - S and modern concrete relating to standing structure
<i>Subsoil</i>	Boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	1.15 m – 1.3 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.3 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	75 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	1.3 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.3 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Small Gauge railway tracks, wooden sleeper and iron tracks, orientation NE – SW,
<i>Other Features</i>	Modern sewer
<i>Subsoil</i>	Boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	75m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NNE-SSW
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	1.0 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.0 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	75 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NNE - SSW
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	1.0 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.0 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 8

<i>Dimensions</i>	60 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	0.9 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.9 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 9

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	1.3 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.3 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 10

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	W-E
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	1.1 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.1 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 11

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	1.3 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.3 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 12

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	0.4 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

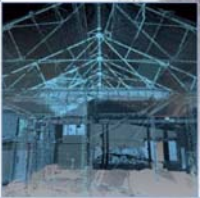
Frame	Area	Description	From
1	Tr.1	Registration	-
2	Tr.1	Sandstone/brick floor surface in Eastern end of Trench 1	N
3	Tr.1	Sandstone/brick floor surface in Eastern end of Trench 1	N
4	Tr.1	Sandstone/brick floor surface in Eastern end of Trench 1	E
5	Tr.1	Working shot showing sandstone/brick floor surface in Eastern end of Trench 1	E
6	Tr.1	Second area of floor surface in Trench 1	N
7	Tr.1	Second area of floor surface in Trench 1	E
8	Tr.1	N-facing section of Trench 1	N
9	Tr.1	N-facing section of Trench 1	N
10	Tr.1	Third area of floor surface in Trench 1 showing drain	W
11	Tr.1	Third area of floor surface in Trench 1 showing drain	S
12	Tr.1	Third area of floor surface in Trench 1 showing drain	W
13	Tr.2	Brick surface in Trench 2	N
14	Tr.2	Brick surface in Trench 2	N
15	Tr.2	Working shot showing sandstone/brick floor surface in Trench 2	E
16	Tr.3	Brick surface in Trench 3	NE
17	Tr.3	SW-facing section of Trench 3	SW
18	Tr.3	General post excavation shot of Trench 3	NE
19	Tr.3	NW-facing section of Trench 3 showing extent of made ground	NW
20	Tr.4	General post excavation shot of Trench 4	SW
21	Tr.5	Foundation and associated cut in Trench 5	E
22	Tr.5	Foundation and associated cut in Trench 5	SW
23	Tr.5	Train tracks and sewer in Trench 5	N
24	Tr.5	Train tracks and sewer in Trench 5	W
25	Tr.5	Train tracks and sewer in Trench 5	SW
26	Tr.5	Train tracks and sewer in Trench 5	SW
27	Tr.6	General post excavation shot of Trench 6	NNE
28	Tr.7	General post excavation shot of Trench 7	NNE
29	Tr.8	General post excavation shot of Trench 8	NNE
30	Tr.9	General post excavation shot of Trench 9	SW
31	Tr.10	General post excavation shot of Trench 10	W
32	Tr.11	General post excavation shot of Trench 11	E

APPENDIX 3: Context Record

Context	Trench	Description
[101]	1	Mortared sandstone and brick floor running across Trench 1 north to south. The floor appears at 4.2 m from the east and runs to 5.60 m. It is visible again at 8.0 m to 9.50 m and again at 15.0 m to 15.70m. The flooring appears to be a single course thick and was visible at 0.60 m in depth.
[202]	2	Mortared sandstone and brick floor running across Trench 2 north to south. The floor appears at 0.5 m from the east and runs to 3.00 m. The flooring appears to be a single course thick and was visible at 0.60 m in depth. Same as [101].
[403]	3	Mortared sandstone and brick floor running across Trench 3 north-east to south-west. The floor appears at 3.0 m from the east and runs to 3.50 m. The flooring appears to be a single course thick and was visible at 0.40 m in depth. Same as [101].
[501]	5	Narrow gauge rail-tracks aligned north-west to south-east across the trench. The tracks are placed 0.65 m apart and include a wooden sleeper. The tracks appeared in-situ at a depth of 1.30 m.
[502]	5	Small section of brick wall within the north facing section of Trench 5.

APPENDIX 4: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Urban Oasis, Lochend, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	AOC22467
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	19 th /20 th century industrial
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Brick and sandstone flooring of late 19 th /early 20 th century building. Associated narrow gauge rail-line.
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 272 746
START DATE (this season)	26 th June 2013
END DATE (this season)	28 th June 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken as part of a response in respect to a proposed development at Urban Oasis, Albion Road, Lochend, Edinburgh. The development area (centred on NGR: NT 272 746; Figure 1) covers c. 2.5 hectares and is currently derelict ground.</p> <p>The evaluation was restricted to the west of the site due to the presence of a works compound. Trenching revealed that the area had undergone significant truncation, which had removed most of the original ground surface and replaced it with made ground and demolition debris. Limited archaeological remains were therefore identified.</p> <p>The surviving archaeology was restricted to the heavily truncated structural remains associated with a building visible on the OS maps of 1905 and 1931 (Figures 2 & 3). The remains consisted of small elements of brick and sandstone flooring, service cuts and a small segment of narrow gauge rail line.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	EMA Architects
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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