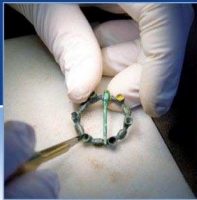


Fernielaw Avenue, Colinton, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22296

Oasis No. aocarcha1-155299

29th July 2013



Fernielaw Avenue, Colinton, Edinburgh

Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

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National Grid Reference (NGR): **NT 21012 68267**

AOC Project No: **22296**

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Date of Fieldwork: **18th July 2013**

Date of Report: **20th July 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 in relation to a small residential development at Fernielaw Avenue, Colinton, Edinburgh.

The development area previously contained a Victorian cottage, now demolished and the site has been used for grazing in recent years. The evaluation required a 10% trenching sample throughout the development area, concentrating on the house plot. Trenching totalled 110 m with combined basal dimensions of 198 m².

A 1.67 m wide ditch with rubble drain at its base was found running N-S through the west edge of site, believed to be a probable post medieval boundary ditch and drain related to Fernielaw farm. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Mr Stephen Dalton to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a small residential development at Fernielaw Avenue, Colinton, 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 City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2013) approved 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 site, centred on NGR NT 21012 68267, is a plot of land situated on the west side of Fernielaw Avenue, across from the end of Munro Drive, Colinton (Figure 1). The development area was previously part of a large garden and field related to 25 Woodhall Bank and was used for rough grazing.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The proposed development comprises an open area of land formerly occupied by a Victorian cottage (NMRS: NTNT26NW 223). Prior to this the site was previously associated with the historic 18th century Fernielaw Farm.

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;
- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as 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 evaluation comprised machine trenching of a 10% sample of the available development area, concentrating on the location of the proposed housing plot and access. The initial area available for trenching was reduced from 3500 m² to 2300 m² due to a main sewer running E-W along the southern edge of the site (Figure 2). This area was further reduced when three previously unmarked services were encountered. Total trenching consisted of 194 m² (total basal trench dimensions), with trenches being 1.8 m wide, and between 14 m and 33 m in length.

3.2 The evaluation was undertaken by a JCB 3CX excavator with a 1.6 m wide bladed ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow 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 backfilled on completion of the evaluation.



Plate 1 - General shot of Trench 1

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 18th July 2013. Weather conditions were dry making archaeological visibility good throughout the evaluation. In total 110 m of trenching was opened, most of which was aligned East to West and concentrated within the limits of the proposed building footprint and associated driveway (Figure 2; Plate 1).



Plate 2 - South facing section of ditch/drain [103]

- 4.2 Topsoil within the development area was a mid-brown silty sand with frequent stone inclusions measuring on average 0.35 m deep over the natural subsoil which consisted of a mid-orange clayey sand with abundant large stone inclusions.

- 4.3 A probable post medieval boundary ditch [103] with a rubble drain at its base was revealed in Trenches 1, 2 & 3. It was aligned north to south and measured 1.67 m wide and up to 0.50 m deep (Plate 2). Across all the evaluation trenches there was noted several ceramic tile field drains also aligned north to south.

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

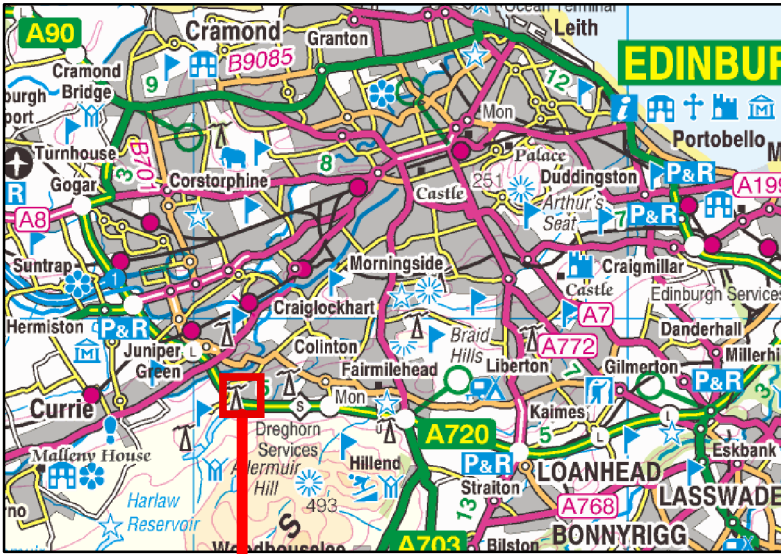
- 5.1 No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were identified during the evaluation. The significant balance of probability is that the site is free of archaeological material. No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by CECAS on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

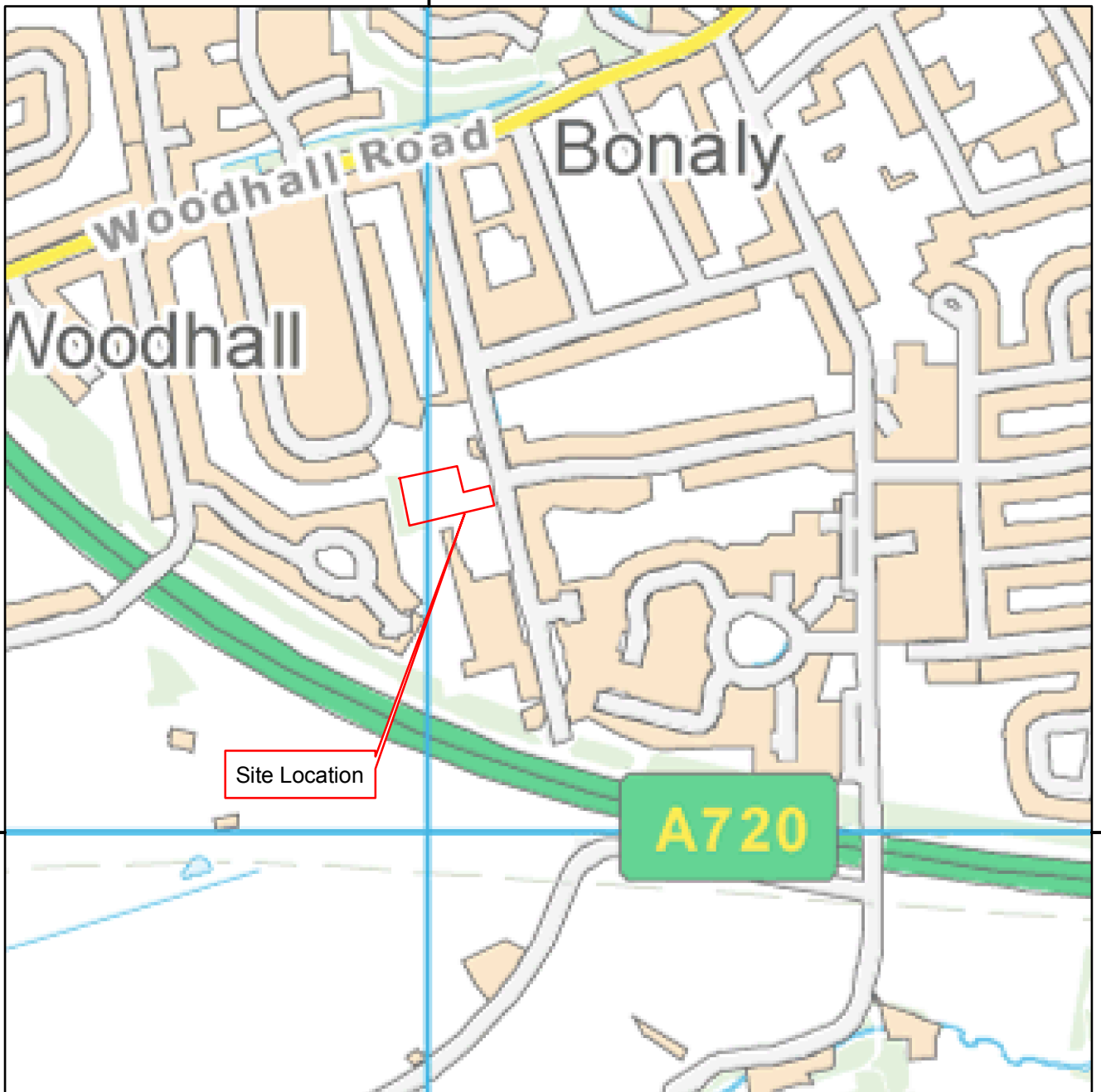
AOC 2013 '*Fernelaw Avenue Evaluation, Colinton, Edinburgh: Written Scheme of Investigation*'
Unpublished client report

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

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



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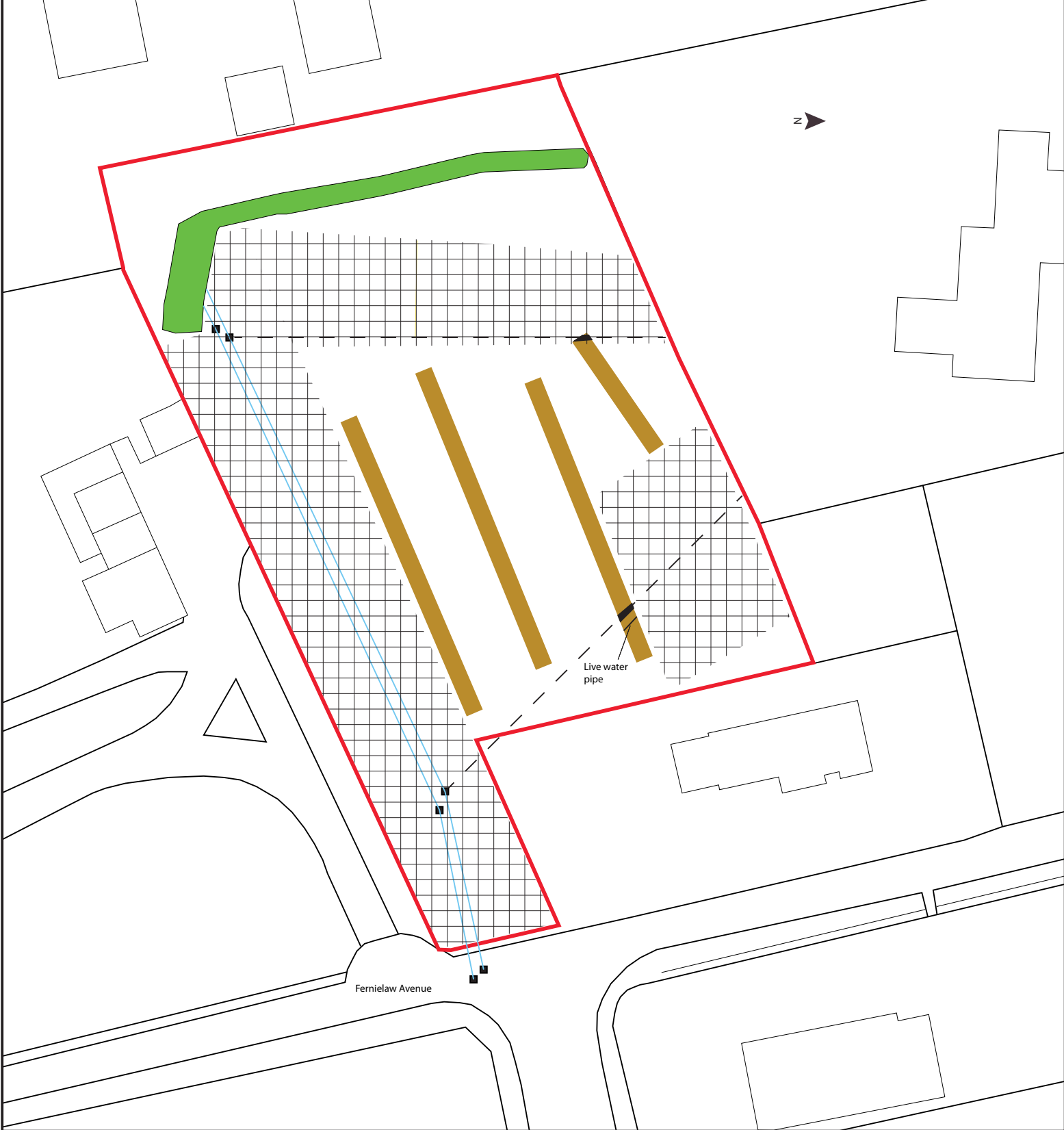
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0 50 100 150 200 Meters

Figure 1: Site Location Plan



- Existing hedge and tree line
 - Manhole locations
- Development boundary
 - Expectant line of unmarked and unknown services
 - Exclusion zone around services



Figure 2 - Evaluation trench locations

Fernelaw Avenue, Colinton, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 33 m by 1.8 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 59.4 m ² |
| <i>Excavated Orientation</i> | E to W |
| <i>Soil Make-up</i> | Topsoil – mid brown silty sand with frequent stone inclusions and occasional modern ceramics – max depth 0.35 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.35 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | Concrete foundations for posts at 1.8 m and 4.7 m in north facing section of trench. Rubble drain and boundary ditch [103] at 13.6 m to 15.3 m aligned N-S; Ceramic tile field drain at 26.7 m aligned N-S and measuring 0.1 m wide |
| <i>Natural Subsoil</i> | Mid orange sandy clay with abundant large angular stone inclusions. |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 2

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 33 m by 1.8 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 59.4 m ² |
| <i>Excavated Orientation</i> | E to W |
| <i>Soil Make-up</i> | Topsoil – mid brown silty sand with frequent stone inclusions and occasional modern ceramics – max depth 0.35 m Ploughsoil – mixture of subsoil and topsoil – max depth 0.3 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.65 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | Rubble drain and boundary ditch [103] at 10.65 m to 12 m aligned N-S; Ceramic tile field drain at 2.6 m and 13.2 m aligned N-S and measuring 0.1 m wide |
| <i>Natural Subsoil</i> | Mid orange sandy clay with abundant large angular stone inclusions and areas of orange and yellow sand. |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 3

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 31 m by 1.8 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 55.8 m ² |
| <i>Excavated Orientation</i> | E to W |
| <i>Soil Make-up</i> | Topsoil – mid brown silty sand with frequent stone inclusions and occasional modern ceramics – max depth 0.35 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.35 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | Live water pipe at 3.4 m aligned SSE-NNW and other service track (0.3 m wide cut with type 1) aligned SE-NW at 4.5 m; Rubble drain at 9.3 m aligned N-S; Rubble drain and boundary ditch [103] at 12.4 m to 13.8 m aligned N-S; Ceramic tile field drain at 14.7 m aligned N-S and measuring 0.1 m wide. |
| <i>Natural Subsoil</i> | Mid orange sandy clay with abundant large angular stone inclusions. |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 4

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 14 m by 1.8 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 25.2 m ² |
| <i>Excavated Orientation</i> | NE to SW |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Soil Make-up</i> | Topsoil – mid brown silty sand with frequent stone inclusions and occasional modern ceramics – max depth 0.35 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.4 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | Service track (0.3 m wide cut with type 1) aligned SW-NE at 14 m |
| <i>Natural Subsoil</i> | Mid orange sandy clay with abundant large angular stone inclusions. |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

| Context No. | Area | Description and Interpretation |
|-------------|------|--|
| [101] | Tr.1 | Mid brown silty sand with frequent stone inclusions measuring 0.35 m thick on average. Topsoil |
| [102] | Tr.1 | Mid orange sandy clay with abundant large angular stones. Natural subsoil |
| [103] | Tr.1 | Linear aligned SSE-NNW with steep sides and a flat base with a rubble drain running through the centre. Measures 1.67 m wide and 0.50 m deep and is visible in trenches 2 and 3 also. Filled by [104] Post medieval boundary ditch with rubble drain at base |
| [104] | Tr.1 | Dark greyish brown sandy clay with frequent medium to large stone inclusions measuring 1.67 m wide and 0.50 m deep. Fill of ditch [103] |

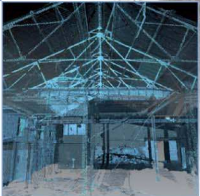
APPENDIX 3: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

| Frame | Description | From | Date |
|-------|---|------|---------|
| 1-4 | View of development area from NW corner | Var | 18/7/13 |
| 5-7 | View of development area from SW corner | Var | 18/7/13 |
| 8 | Location of manholes in SW corner | E | 18/7/13 |
| 9 | Location of manholes at entrance | E | 18/7/13 |
| 10 | Location of manholes at entrance | W | 18/7/13 |
| 11 | Trench 1 post ex | E | 18/7/13 |
| 12 | Trench 2 post ex | E | 18/7/13 |
| 13 | Water pipe and other service track | NW | 18/7/13 |
| 14 | Water pipe tied off | - | 18/7/13 |
| 15 | Trench 3 post ex | E | 18/7/13 |
| 16 | Trench 4 post ex | SW | 18/7/13 |
| 17 | Boundary ditch/rubble drain [103] | SE | 18/7/13 |
| 18 | Rubble drain at base of ditch [103] | SW | 18/7/13 |

APPENDIX 4: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

| | |
|---|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | City of Edinburgh Council |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME | Fernielaw Avenue, Colinton, Edinburgh |
| PROJECT CODE: | AOC 22296 |
| PARISH: | Colinton |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Kevin Paton |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | AOC Archaeology Group |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Archaeological Evaluation |
| NMRS NO(S) | NTNT26NW 223 |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | Cottage |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | N/A |
| NGR (2 letters, 6 figures) | NT 21012 68267 |
| START DATE (this season) | 18 th July 2013 |
| END DATE (this season) | 18 th July 2013 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.) | None |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | <p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in relation to a small residential development at Fernielaw Avenue, Colinton, Edinburgh.</p> <p>The development area previously contained a Victorian cottage, now demolished and the site has been used for grazing in recent years. The evaluation required a 10% trenching sample throughout the development area, concentrating on the house plot. Trenching totalled 110 m with combined basal dimensions of 198 m².</p> <p>A 1.67 m wide ditch with rubble drain at its base was found running N-S through the west edge of site, believed to be a probable post medieval boundary ditch and drain related to Fernielaw farm. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.</p> |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | --- |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Mr Stephen Dalton |
| 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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