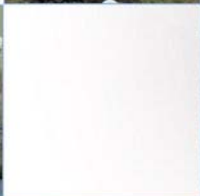
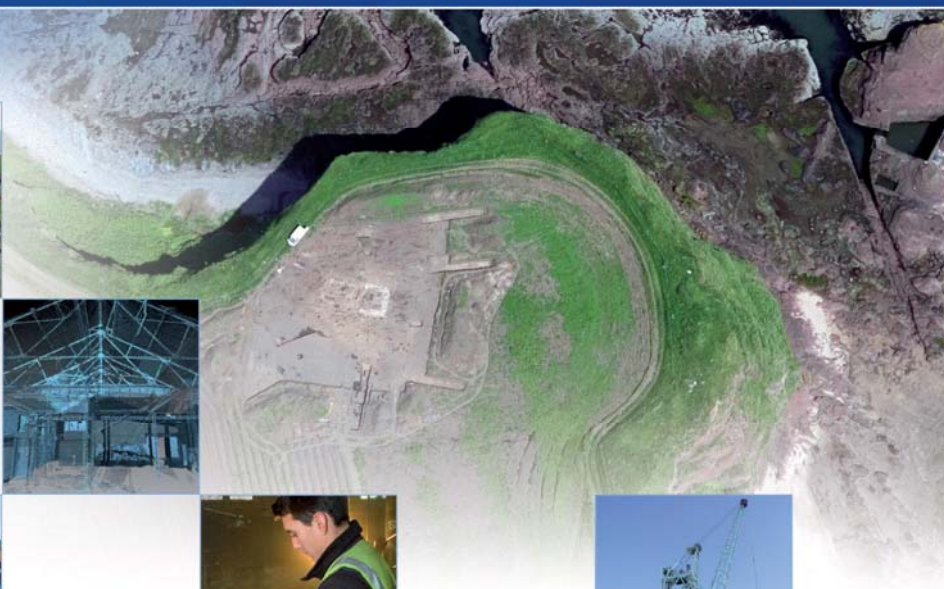


Former Spartans Football Ground, Land to the Rear of 500 Ferry Road, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOCarcha1-159935
AOC Project 22318
25th September 2013



Former Spartans Football Ground, Land to the Rear of 500 Ferry Road, Edinburgh

Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Link Group Ltd & J Smart & Co (Contractors) PLC c/o 28 Cramond Road South Edinburgh EH4 6AB
National Grid Reference (NGR):	centred on NT 2337 7595
Planning Application No:	13/006506/FUL
AOC Project No:	22318
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Date of Fieldwork:	17 th September – 19 th September 2013
Date of Report:	25 th September 2013

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

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Approved by: Martin Cook	Date: 25 th October 2013
Draft/Final Report Stage:	Date: 27 th October 2013

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in respect to a proposed development at the site of the former Spartans Football Ground, Ferry Road, Edinburgh (centred on NGR: NT 2337 7595).

The development area measures approximately 2.13 ha in total. A 10% sample of the available area was investigated by the evaluation.

The evaluation was restricted by the presence of numerous live services and exclusion zones.

A high level of truncation had occurred across the development area with the exception of a small pocket within the north-east of the site. This revealed a relict plough-soil.

With the exception of a single sherd of Medieval white gritty ware recovered from the imported top-soil, no archaeological remains pre-dating the late 19th/early 20th centuries were recorded.

Due to the truncation recorded across site, no further works are considered necessary.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by J Smart & Co (Contractors) PLC to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to a development at the site of the former Spartans' Football Ground to the rear of 500 Ferry Road, 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 2013) 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 2337 7595; Figure 1) measured approximately 2.13 ha in total and included an area of football field, banked terracing and some scrub woodland.
- 1.1.3 Trenching revealed that much of the development area had undergone significant truncation, which had removed much of the original ground surface. Deposits of made ground up to one metre in depth were recorded alongside numerous rubble and clay field drains.
- 1.1.4 No archaeological remains were recorded with the exception of a single sherd of white gritty ware medieval ceramic and an iron horse-shoe of indeterminate date. Both of these artefacts were recovered from the top-soil.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development is located in the Pilton area of Edinburgh. The site is centred on NGR NT 2337 7595. The western boundary is marked by Pilton Drive whilst houses fronting onto Ferry Road form the southern boundary. Existing residential housing, West Winnelstrae and West Ferryfield, together form the eastern boundary. To the north the edge of the site is marked by a cycle path which follows the line of a former railway line.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland does not list any known archaeological sites as lying within the development boundaries. The development site has most recently seen it house the grounds of Spartans Football Club, 'City Park'. A small stand that once formed part of the ground was severely damaged by fire and was demolished on the grounds of Health and Safety, however, the banked terracing is still evident around parts of the former pitch.
- 1.3.2 The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland does not list any known sites as existing within the development boundaries.
- 1.3.3 As noted in the brief supplied by CECAS, (March 2013) a Desk-based Assessment completed by the CFA noted that the surrounding area had been principally open farmland under cultivation from the 14th Century onwards. As a green-field site, with no history of development, there was always the possibility that hitherto unknown prehistoric features and/or artefacts may be present within the site boundaries.

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 of the c.2.13 ha development area. This equates to a minimum evaluation sample of 2,130 m² (1,065 linear metres). This was reduced to 630 linear metres due to the presence of live services and exclusion zones for badger sets and knotweed contamination.
- 3.3 The evaluation was undertaken by a 360 excavator equipped with 2.0 m wide bladed ditching bucket. 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 period 17th September – 19th September 2013. Overall weather conditions were dry and archaeological visibility was good.



Plate 1 General View of Site From E



Plate 2 General View of Site From NE

- 4.2 The area of the former football pitch (Trenches 1-8) was covered by a deposit of made ground ranging from 0.30 m to 0.60 m in depth. This deposit consisted of demolition material and re-deposited clay. The made ground was in turn covered with an imported top-soil 0.25 m to 0.55 m in depth.



Plate 3 Trench 3 From South

- 4.3 A small area of relict plough-soil was recorded to the north-east (Trenches 9-10). This was 0.30 m to 0.60 m in depth.
- 4.3 The evaluation trenches (Trenches 11 & 12) located within the eastern boundary of the development revealed that the area had been previously stripped and in-filled with a made ground of re-deposited top-soil and demolition material 0.60 m in depth.



Plate 4 Trench 11 from north-east

- 4.4 All trenches revealed a natural sub-soil of red-brown boulder clay. This was cut by numerous clay and rubble drains orientated north to south and east to west.

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The proposed development site was subject to a full and comprehensive archaeological evaluation given the limitations imposed by the present services and exclusion zones. With the exception of the single sherd of Medieval white gritty ware recovered from the imported top-soil neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts pre-dating the late 19th/ early 20th century were identified.
- 5.2 No further works are considered necessary. 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

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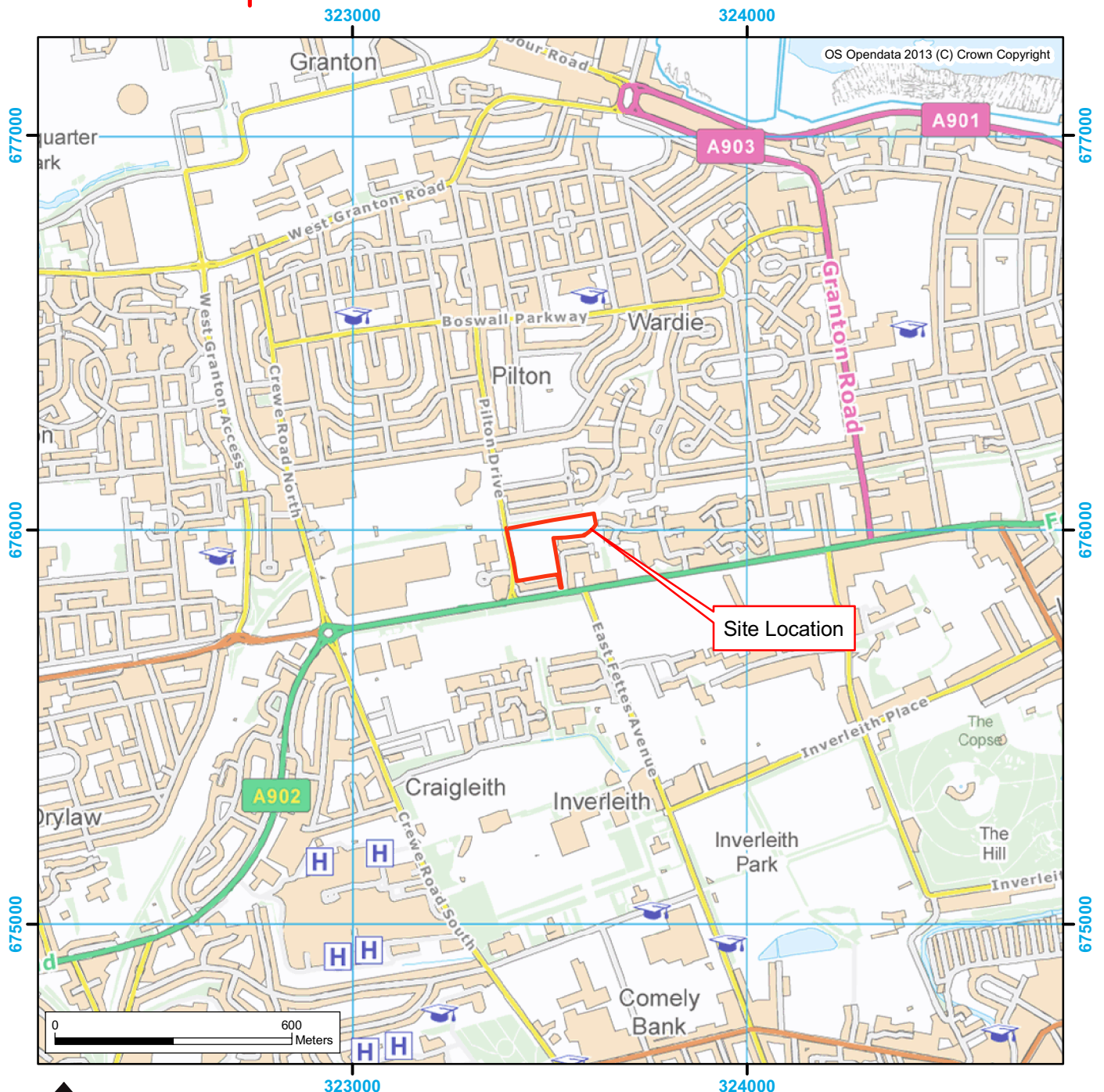
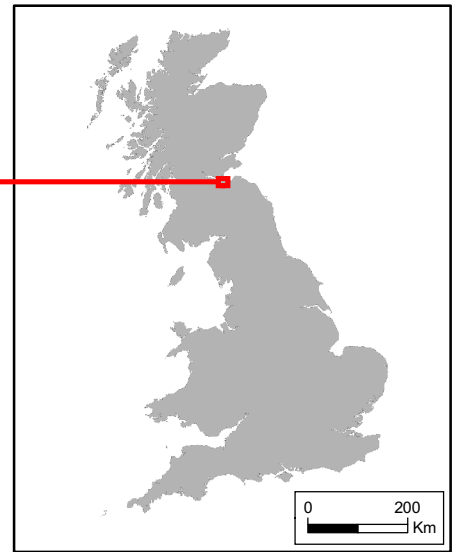
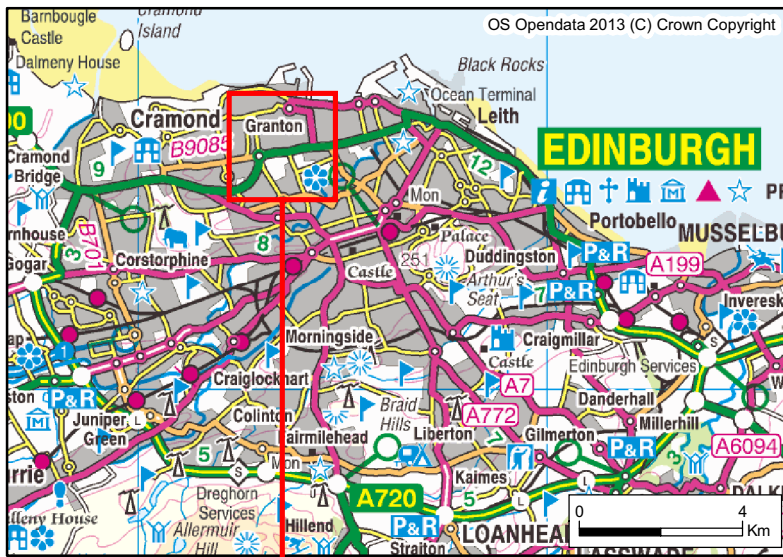


Figure 1: Site Location Plan



Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

**Former Spartans Football Ground, Land to the
Rear of 500 Ferry Road, Edinburgh:
Archaeological Evaluation
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	50.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Top-soil</i>	0.40 m – 0.50 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Clay drains at 5.0 m & 15.0 m, rubble at 15.0 m all N-S
<i>Subsoil</i>	Pale red brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Depth of Top-soil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	0.50 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.90 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Clay drains at 15.0 m, rubble at 15.0 m & 50.0 m all N-S
<i>Subsoil</i>	Grey brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	50.0 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Top-soil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	0.50 m ending at 20.0 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.80 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble drain at 2.0 m E-W
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	50.0 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Top-soil</i>	0.50 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.60 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble drain at 26.0 m NE-SW
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	50.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Depth of Top-soil</i>	0.25 - 0.50 m
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	0.35 – 0.40 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.80 m – 1.0 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Clay drains at 19.0 m & 25.0 m, rubble at 5.0 m & 13.5 m all N-S
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red brown boulder clay

Finds Sherd of Medieval white gritty ware (SF 1) & iron Horse-shoe (SF 2)

Trench 6

Dimensions 50.0 m by 2.0 m
Orientation NW-SW
Depth of Top-soil 0.20 - 0.45 m
Depth of Made Ground 0.30 – 0.50 m
Depth of Excavation 0.65 – 1.10 m
Significant Features None
Other Features Rubble at 10.0 m & 30.0 m all N-S & E-W
Subsoil Red brown boulder clay
Finds None

Trench 7

Dimensions 50.0 m by 2.0 m
Orientation NE – SW
Depth of Top-soil 0.30 m
Depth of Made Ground 0.40 – 0.60 m
Depth of Excavation 1.0 m
Significant Features None
Other Features Rubble at 11.0 m & 26.0 m N-S & E-W
Subsoil Red brown boulder clay
Finds None

Trench 8

Dimensions 50.0 m by 2.0 m
Orientation S – N
Depth of Top-soil 0.20 – 0.45 m
Depth of Made Ground 0.30 – 0.50 m
Depth of Excavation 0.60 – 0.80 m
Significant Features None
Other Features None
Subsoil Red brown boulder clay
Finds None

Trench 9

Dimensions 20.0 m by 2.0 m
Orientation E-W
Depth of Top-soil 0.45 m
Depth of Made Ground None
Depth of Excavation 0.60 – 0.80 m
Significant Features None
Other Features Clay drains at 0.0 m & 18.0 m E-W & N-S
Subsoil Red brown boulder clay
Finds None

Trench 10

Dimensions 50.0 m by 2.0 m
Orientation SE – NW
Depth of Top-soil 0.30 – 0.60 m

<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	None
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.30 – 0.90 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 11

<i>Dimensions</i>	50.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	W-E
<i>Depth of Top-soil</i>	None
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	0.70 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.75 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 12

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Top-soil</i>	None
<i>Depth of Made Ground</i>	0.50 – 0.70 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.60 – 0.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

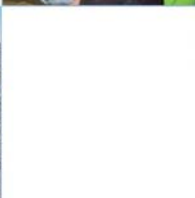
Frame	Description	From
1	Registration	-
2	Trench 2 post-excavation	SE
3	Trench 3 post-excavation	S
4	Trench 4 post-excavation	SE
5	General view of site	SE
6	General view of site	E
7	General view of site	NE
8	General view of site	W
9	Trench 5 post-excavation	NW
10	Trench 6 post-excavation	SE
11	Trench 8 post-excavation	N
12	Trench 9 post-excavation	W
13	Trench 10 post-excavation	NW
14	Trench 11 post-excavation	E
15	Trench 12 post-excavation	NE

APPENDIX 3: Small Finds Register

No.	Description	Context
SF1	Body-sherd Medieval white gritty ware	U/S
SF2	Iron Horse-shoe	U/S

APPENDIX 4: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Former Spartans Football Ground, Ferry Road, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22318
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 Sports Ground
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 2337 7595
START DATE (this season)	17 th September 2013
END DATE (this season)	19 th September 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 in respect to a proposed development at the site of the former Spartans Football Ground, Ferry Road, Edinburgh (centred on NGR: NT 2337 7595).</p> <p>The development area measures approximately 2.13 ha in total. A 10% sample of the available area was investigated by the evaluation.</p> <p>The evaluation was restricted by the presence of numerous live services and exclusion zones.</p> <p>A high level of truncation had occurred across the development area with the exception of a small pocket within the north-east of the site,. This revealed a relict plough-soil.</p> <p>With the exception of a single sherd of Medieval white gritty ware recovered from the imported top-soil, no archaeological remains pre-dating the late 19th/early 20th centuries were recorded.</p> <p>Due to the truncation recorded across site, no further works are considered necessary.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Link Group Ltd & J Smart & Co (Contractors) PLC
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EMAIL ADDRESS:	Rob.Engl@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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