

36 Drum Street, Gilmerton, Edinburgh: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

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36 Drum Street, Gilmerton, Edinburgh: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Mr John Sheerin
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 29304 68588 (centred)
AOC Project No:	20141
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Date of Fieldwork:	31st October to 1st November 2013
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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 watching brief undertaken during ground breaking works at the site of 36 Drum Street, Gilmerton, Edinburgh.

An archaeological watching brief was required by City Of Edinburgh Council during the ground breaking works associated with the construction of a mixed use development, comprising domestic residencies and retail units.

No significant archaeological remains were noted during these ground breaking works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Mr John Sheerin to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground breaking works at the site of a mixed use development comprising domestic residencies and retail units at 36 Drum Street, Gilmerton, Edinburgh (Planning Reference No. 03/03879/FUL). The watching brief was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, City of Edinburgh Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by Mr John Lawson of City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2013) approved on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council by CECAS 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 is centred at NGR: NT 29304 68588 (Figure 1). It is bounded to the south by the Mechanics Arms public house, to the west and south by domestic housing and gardens and to the east by Drum Street.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The development area is within the core of the medieval settlement of Gilmerton, an important satellite of Edinburgh. Several listed buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries are centred on Drum Street, which forms the main thoroughfare through the village, which also connects Edinburgh to Dalkeith. Gilmerton Cove, a substantial system of artificial caves excavated in the early 18th century (NT26NE 33), is situated in the immediate vicinity and therefore the possibility of finding further excavated tunnels remained a possibility.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- i) to determine the character, extent and quality, date and condition of any archaeologically significant remains that may be disturbed by the proposed construction works;
- ii) to liaise with Mr John Lawson of CECAS and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 All groundbreaking works were carried out using a 350° degree mechanical excavator equipped with a 0.60m wide toothed ditching bucket. Groundbreaking works were no deeper than 0.65m below the pavement level that runs along the east side of the development.

- 3.2 The nature and depth of the deposits overlying the natural deposits were recorded, as was the nature of the natural deposits. The groundbreaking works were constantly monitored and the spoil was scanned for artefacts and ecofacts.



Plate 1: Detail of site

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The upper deposits were all recorded as made ground consisting of brown soil and building material, which were excavated to a depth of between 0.65 to 0.40 m below the current ground level. A number of modern, isolated water, gas and electrical services were also encountered, during the groundbreaking works.
- 4.2 The underlying natural deposits comprised a mixture of grey and light brown clays.
- 4.3 No significant archaeological remains were noted during the course of the works.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Neither significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the course of the groundbreaking works, and therefore no further works are considered necessary. This recommendation will need to be approved by the CECAS.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2013 36 Drum Street, Gilmerton, Edinburgh. *Written Scheme of Investigation Unpublished Project Design*

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology*.

**36 Drum Street, Gilmerton, Edinburgh:
Watching Brief
Data Structure Report
Section 2: Appendices**

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration shot	
2-4	General shot – pre ex	N
5-6	Cut for concrete founds in centre of development	E
7-8	East- west foundation trench at north end	E
9-10	North – south foundation trench at north end	S
11-13	General shot – post ex	NW

APPENDIX 2: ‘Discovery and Excavation in Scotland’ Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	36 Drum Street, Gilmerton Street, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20141
PARISH:	Edinburg (City of Edinburgh)
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Duffy
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 304 588 (centred)
START DATE (this season)	31 st October 2013
END DATE (this season)	1 st November 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was required by City Of Edinburgh Council during the ground breaking works associated with the construction of a mixed use development, comprising domestic residencies and retail units.</p> <p>No significant archaeological remains were noted during the archaeological works.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr John Sheerin
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Alan.Duffy@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

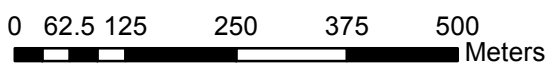
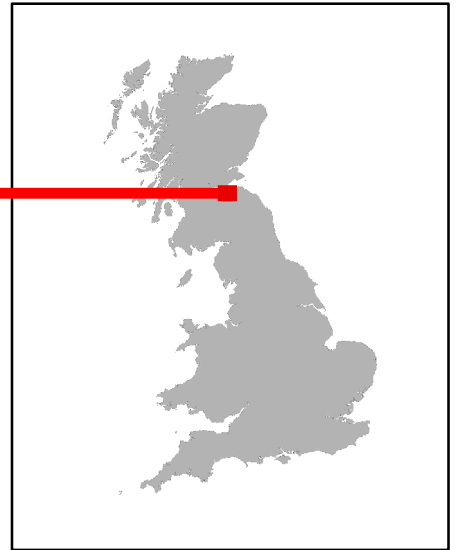
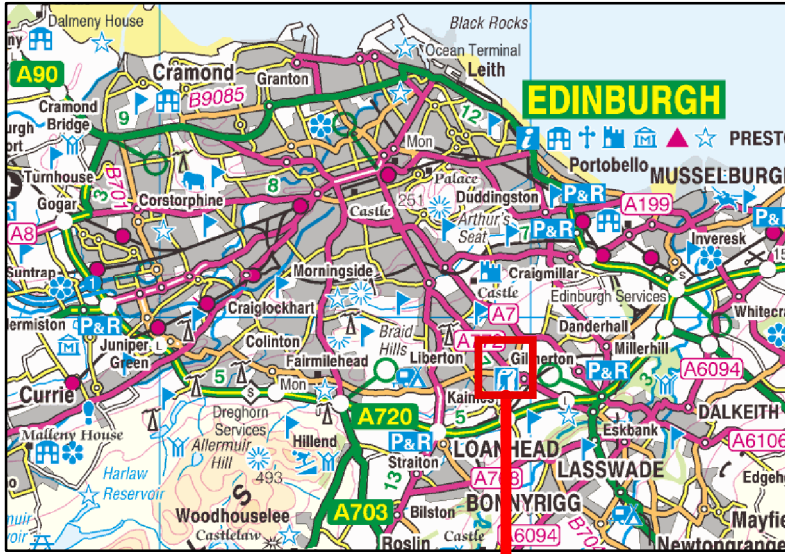
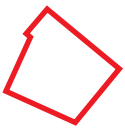
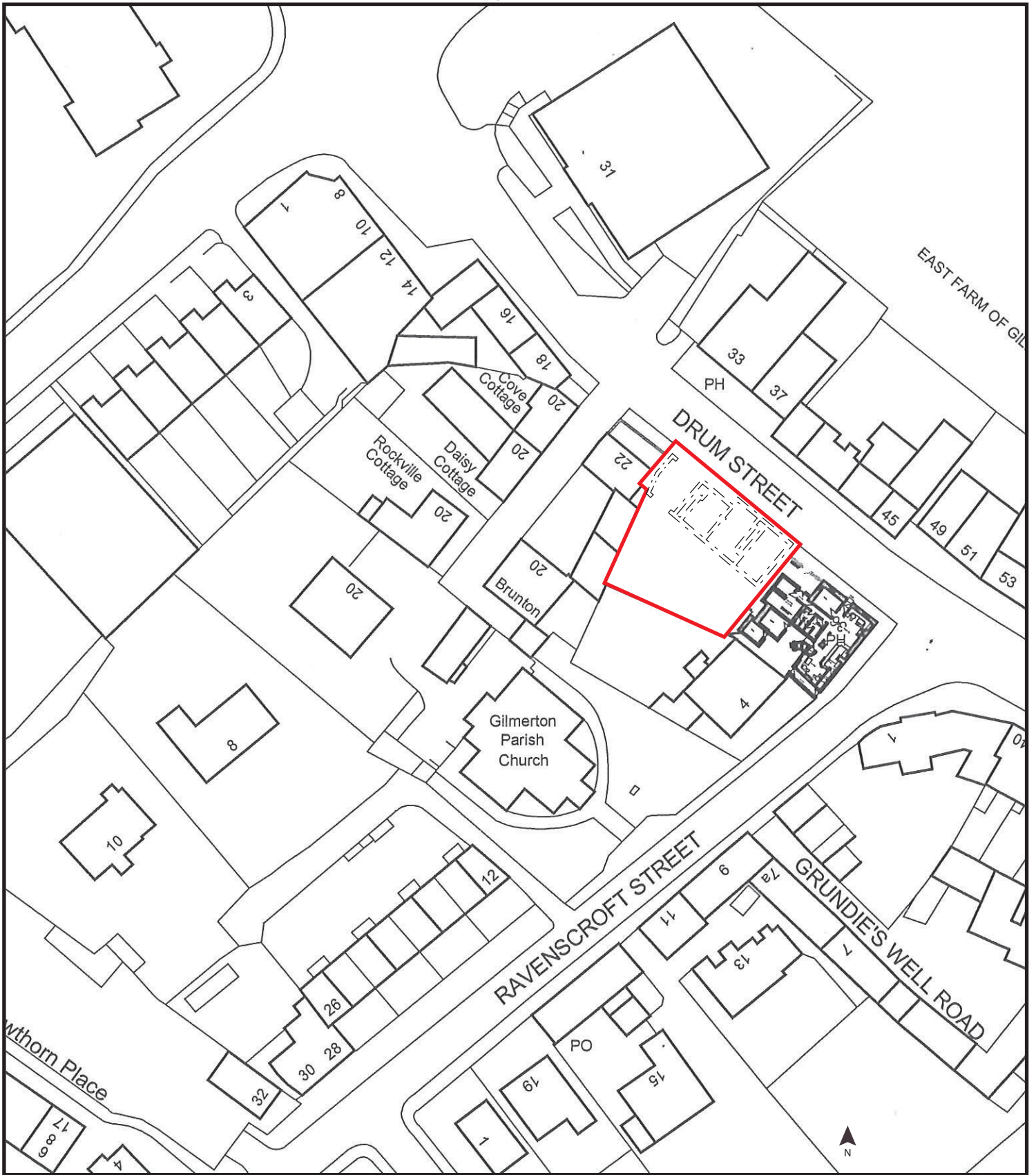


Figure 1: Site Location Plan



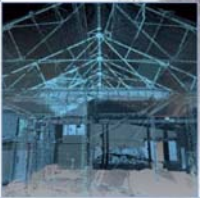
Site Boundary



Watching brief areas



Figure 2 - Watching Brief Detail



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