

1A Liberton Tower Lane, Edinburgh Monitored Topsoil Strip: Data Structure Report

AOC Project: 22572
25th November 2013



1A Liberton Tower Lane, Edinburgh: Monitored Topsoil Strip Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Martin Reynolds The Glebe Birkhall Ballater AB35 5SQ
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 26465 69599
Planning Ref:	11/01184/FUL
AOC Project No:	22572
OASIS No:	165218
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Date of Fieldwork:	19 th November 2013
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Summary

AOC Archaeology Groups was commissioned by Martin Reynolds to monitor the topsoil strip associated with the construction of a garage at No 1A Liberton Tower Lane, Edinburgh, as part of the planning condition on the development.

No archaeological features or finds were recovered and therefore no further archaeological works are recommended.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Mr Martin Reynolds to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the topsoil strip associated with the construction of a single garage at 1A Liberton Tower Lane, Edinburgh. The works were undertaken in order to satisfy a condition set by the City of Edinburgh Council who are advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS), Planning Ref: 11/01184/FUL.
- 1.1.2 The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* 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 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The development area is located at 1A Liberton Tower Lane, Edinburgh and is centred on NGR: NT 26465 69599 (Figure 1). The area of development was bounded by existing properties to the north, west and east and a lawn with mature trees to the south.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The development area lies within the grounds of Liberton Tower House, a Category A Listed Building dating to the mid-15th century. The tower house is associated with various other estate buildings including outbuildings and stables. Due to the location of the development inside the grounds of this late medieval property, there remained the potential for uncovering significant medieval material.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:
- i) to monitor any ground-breaking works associated with the construction of the garage to prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
 - ii) given the discovery of significant archaeological material in quantity that would suffer an adverse impact from the development (ie, where preservation *in situ* would be impractical), the recording of all archaeological features by means of a mitigation strategy to be formulated with CECAS.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All ground-breaking works were conducted using a 360° excavator with a bladed bucket. All excavation was monitored by an experienced field archaeologist and all recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practices.

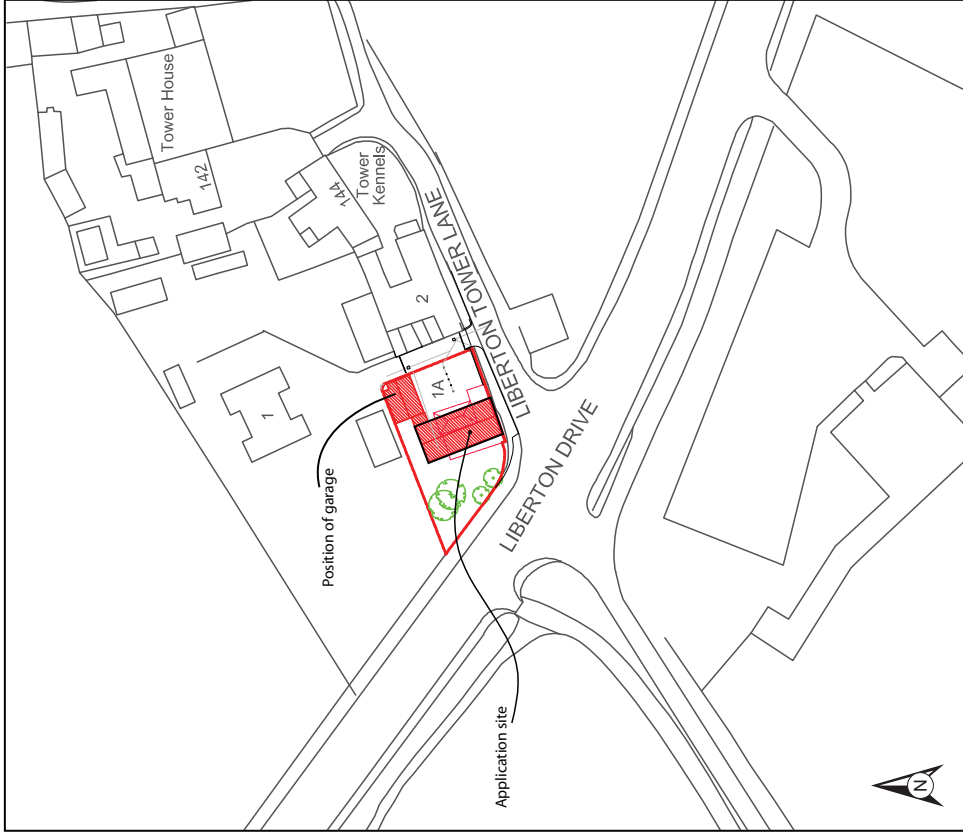
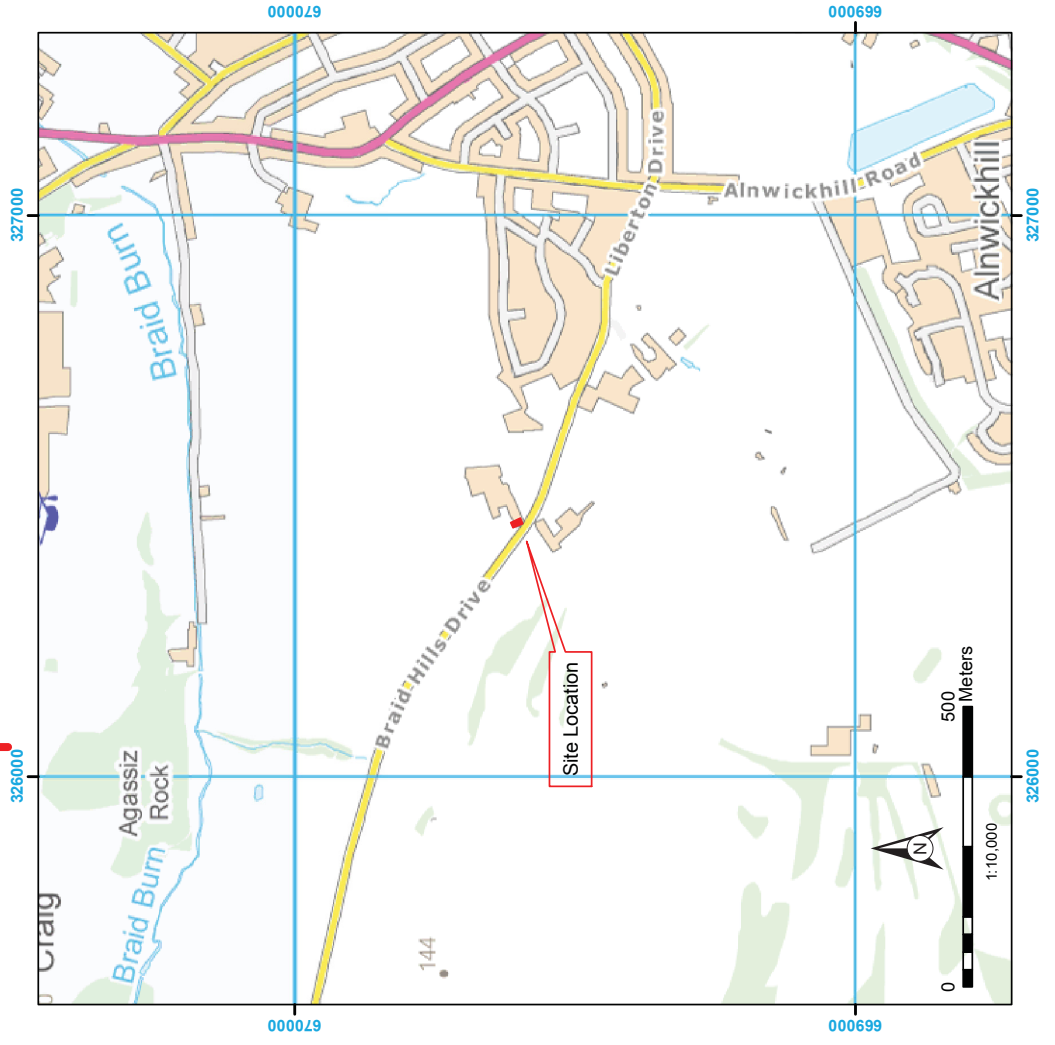
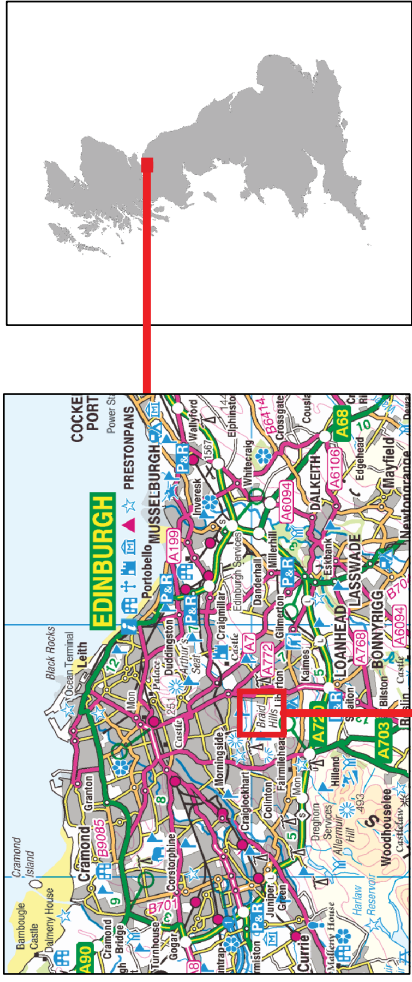


Figure 1: Site location plan showing area of watching brief (footprint of garage) - base site plan provided by client

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The area monitored included a complete topsoil strip of the garage area to the west of the main house (see Figure 1).
- 4.2 An area measuring 8.20m by 5.80m was stripped with a thin topsoil depth of 0.15m throughout. This revealed made ground consisting of a gravel surface. Four trenches around the footprint of the building were also excavated to the maximum depth of 0.60m. This revealed a demolition rubble deposit, up to 0.40m in depth, consisting of mixture of modern brick, concrete fragments, gravel and stone. In the easternmost foundation trench, disused brown UPVC drain pipes were also encountered. The demolition rubble plausibly resulted from the demolition of the kennels, which used to stand on the site, and subsequent landscaping attempts associated with residential properties on the site. Beneath the demolition/made ground deposit natural clay at a depth in places of 0.40m, which was a possible redeposited natural (Plate 1).



Plate 1: General view of the eastern foundation trench

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the archaeological watching brief. No further archaeological works are considered necessary within the development area. This recommendation will require confirmation by CECAS.

6 REFERENCES

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

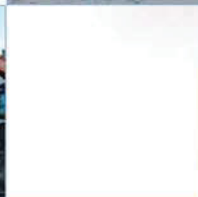
Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology*.

APPENDIX 1: COLOUR DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Ref No	Description	From	Date
1	General shot of topsoil stripped area, showing type 1 made ground	N	19/11/13
2	General shot of topsoil stripped area, showing type 1 made ground	N	19/11/13
3	General shot of topsoil stripped area, showing type 1 made ground	N	19/11/13
4	Working shot with topsoil stripped area	N	19/11/13
5	General shot of western foundation trench (E facing section)	E	19/11/13
6	General shot of western foundation trench	E	19/11/13
7	General shot of northern foundation trench (portion of N facing section)	N	19/11/13
8	General shot of northern foundation trench (portion of N facing section)	N	19/11/13
9	General shot of eastern foundation trench, with disused ceramic drain pipes	E	19/11/13
10	General shot of eastern foundation trench, with disused ceramic drain pipes	N	19/11/13
11	General shot of southern foundation trench, with natural clay (portion of N facing section)	N	19/11/13
12	General shot of eastern foundation trench, with disused ceramic drain pipes (portion of N facing section)	N	19/11/13

APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND (DES) REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	1A Liberton Tower Lane, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22572
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Diana Sproat
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitored Topsoil Strip
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 26465 69599
START DATE	19 th November 2011
END DATE	19 th November 2011
PREVIOUS WORK	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:	AOC Archaeology Groups was commissioned by Martin Reynolds to monitor the topsoil strip associated with a new development at No 1A, Liberton Tower Lane, Edinburgh, as part of the planning condition on the development.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Martin Reynolds
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION:	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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