

Murano Place, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC 22607
29th November 2013



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Murano Place, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Axiom Project Services 35A Melville Street Edinburgh EH3 7JF
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 2260 7495
OASIS No:	165711
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Summary

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Axiom Project Services on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a proposed development to the east of Murano Place, Edinburgh.

Works consisted of an archaeological evaluation of four trenches totalling 107 linear metres. Several brick building foundations and floor deposits relating to the Victorian industrial buildings that formerly occupied the site were recorded. In addition, a well preserved related cobble yard was also revealed.

The evaluation revealed the archaeological remains associated with the 19th century industrial development of the site, most likely the former Sugar and Spice Works, which date from between 1853 - 1877. It is likely therefore that further archaeological investigations will be recommended within the development area to fully expose the industrial remains on the site. This will require confirmation by, and be at the discretion of, John Lawson of CECAS.

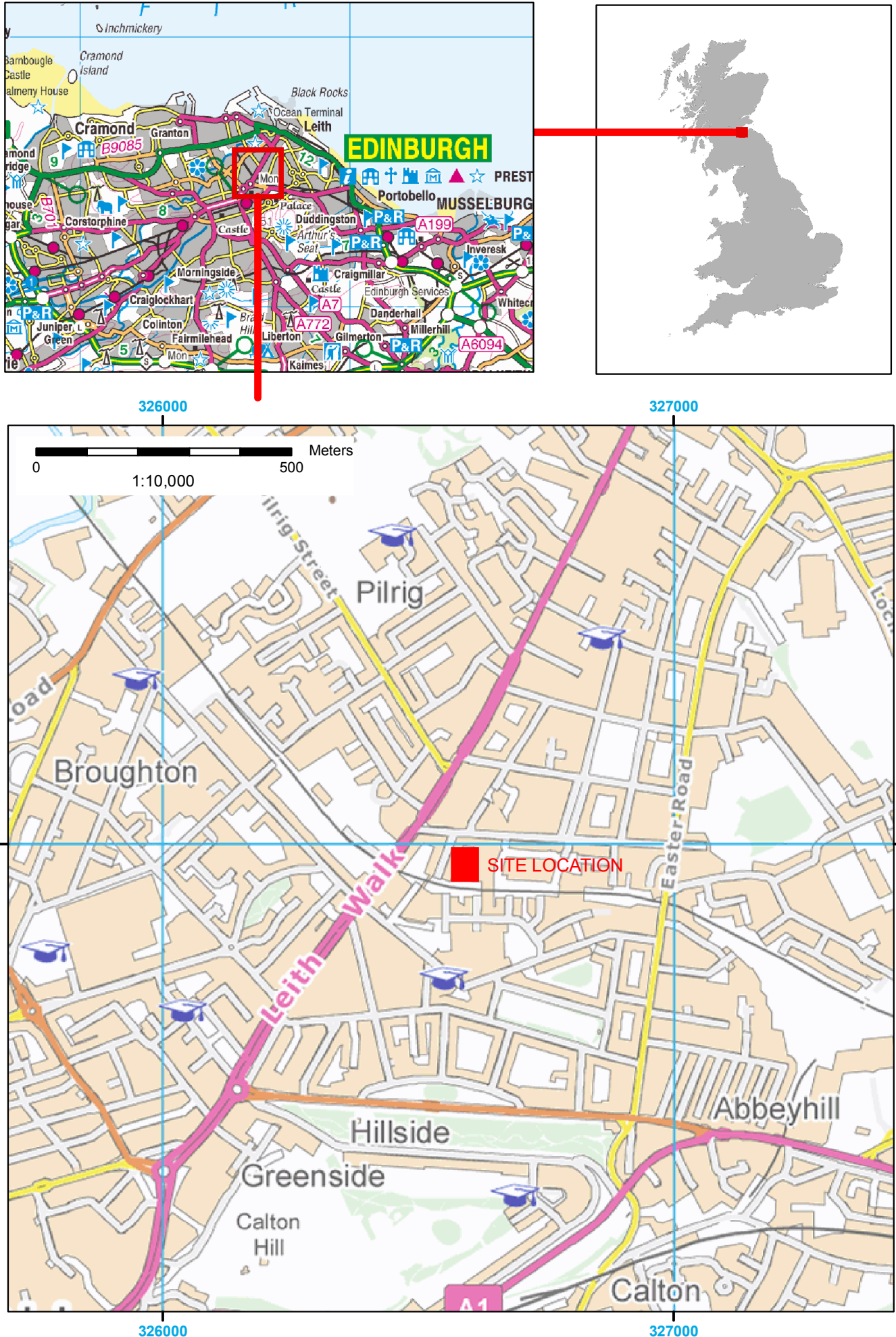


Figure 1: Site location map

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Axiom Project Services, on behalf of their client, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a proposed development at Murano Place, Edinburgh. The proposed development lies within the administrative area of the City of Edinburgh Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS). A programme of archaeological works had been specified by CECAS in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains present within the development area.

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The proposed development area lies to the south of Albert Street and to the east of Murano Place and is currently occupied by a large warehouse with an associated car park and yards. It is bounded by domestic properties on Albert Street to the north, Murano Place to the west and a dismantled railway to the south. It is centred on NT 26608 74550 (Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 In the early to mid 19th century, the area was occupied by nurseries or market gardens, as can be seen in Kirkwood's 1817 map and the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1853 (Figures 2 & 3). By the late 1870s, however, this area had been extensively developed, as the 1877 Ordnance Survey map shows (Figure 4). The development area is seen as comprising a Sugar and Spice Works to the west and a Marble Works to the east. Other industrial buildings have also been constructed in the immediate vicinity, including a brass Works to the west of the site to the immediate east side of Murano Place. A cabinet works, engineering works and a stone and slate yard have also been built to the west side of Murano Place.



Figure 2: Extract from Kirkwood's, 1817, showing approximate location of site

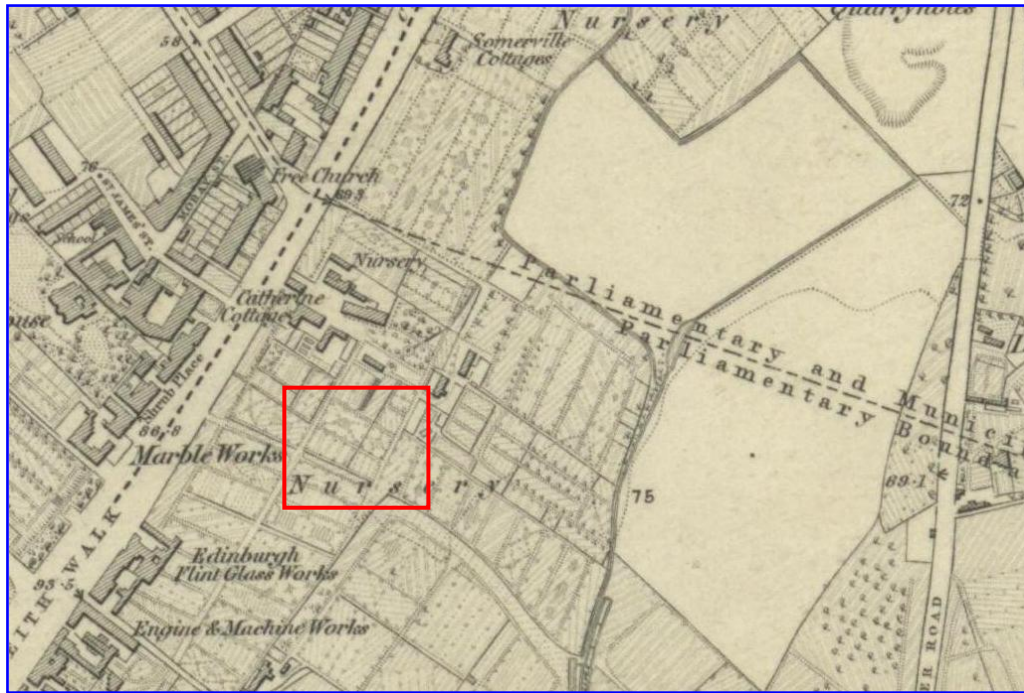


Figure 3: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1853 showing approximate location of site

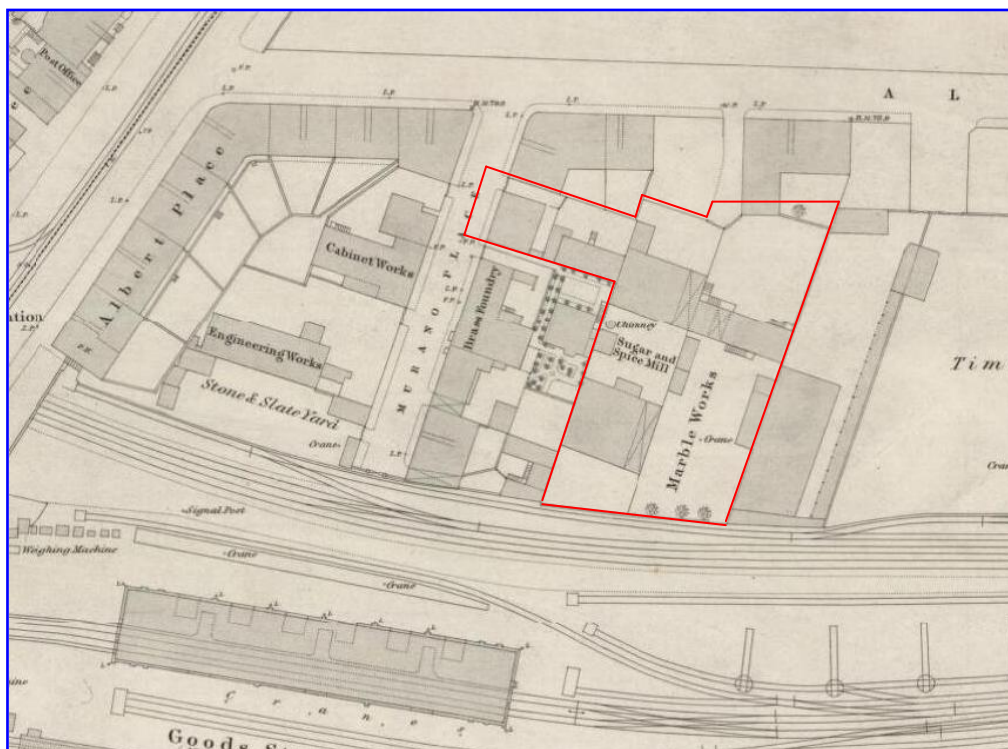


Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1877 with the development area outlined

1.3.2 The later 1894 Ordnance Survey map shows that even more industrial buildings have been constructed within and around the development area (Figure 5). The Sugar and Spice Mills to the west of the site now include a rice mill, and the northern buildings have been extended slightly. The Marble Works are annotated the 'Albert Marble Works'; these buildings are located in the area of the present modern warehouse to the east of the site. A Cooperage has also appeared to the north-eastern extent of the site in the form of two buildings forming an L-shape. To the west of the development area, the brass works has now turned into a

glassworks, with woollen mill and saw mill now taking over the former cabinet works and engineering works of 20 years previous.

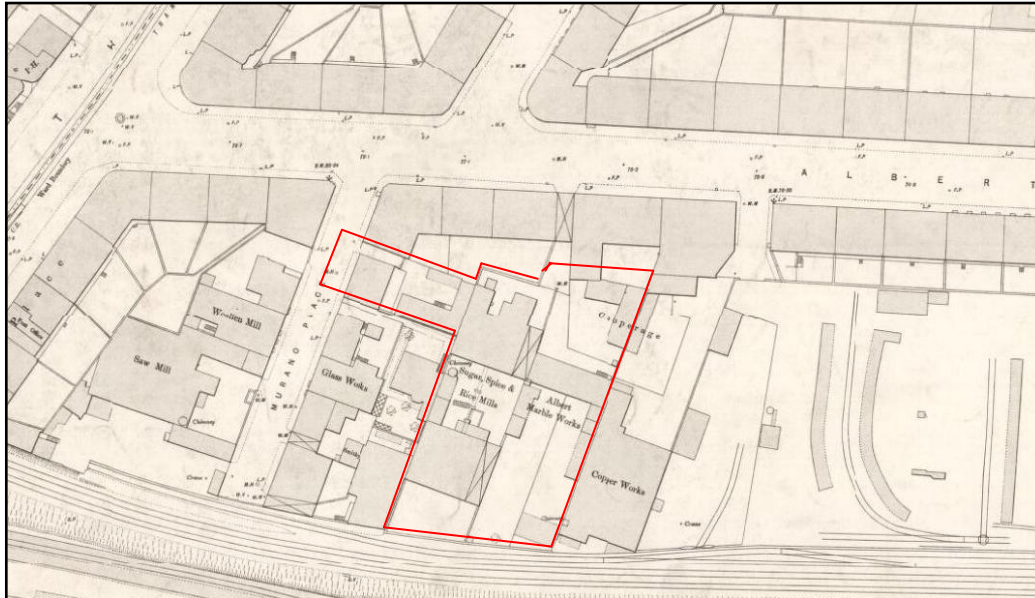


Figure 5: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1894 with the development area outlined

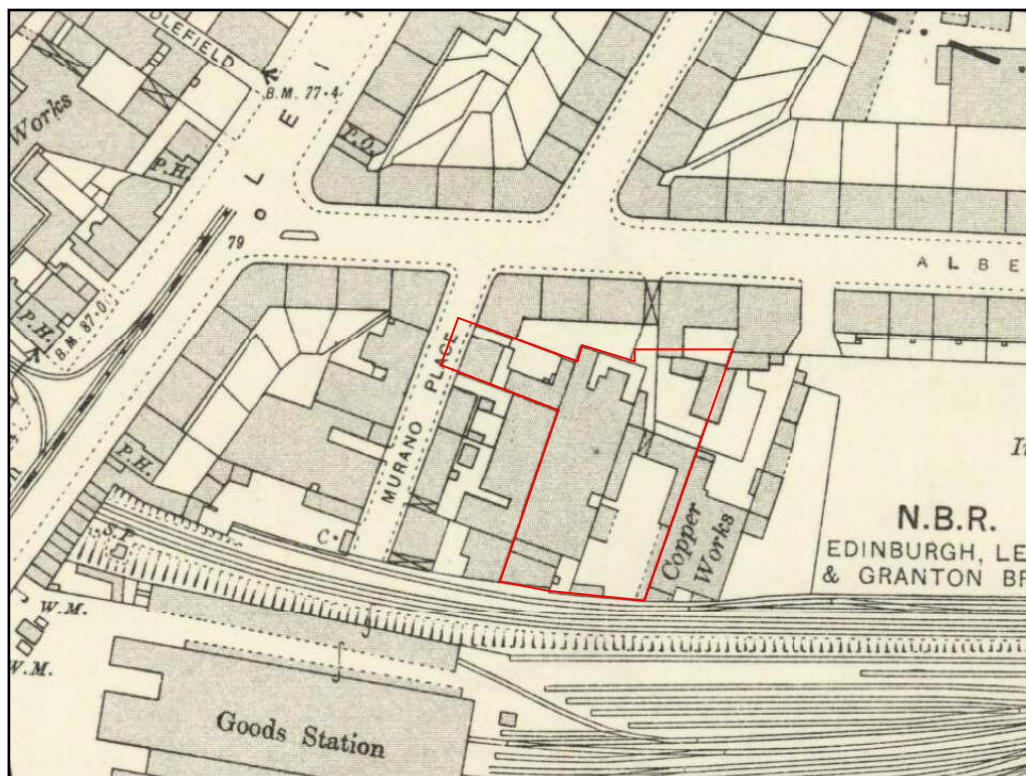


Figure 6: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1914 with the development area outlined

- 1.3.4 By the early 20th century, the 1914 Ordnance Survey map shows the Marble Works to the east as unchanged, although to the west of the development area the former Sugar and Spice Works has been extensively enlarged and now covers much of this area of the site. By the 1930s, the area of the Marble Works has now been completely covered over.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objective of the archaeological works were to:

- i) 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 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 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC Archaeology 2013) was agreed with CECAS which proposed the excavation of trenches equating to a 10% sample of the development area. The site covered approximately ca. 4,690m² resulting in required evaluation trenching with a total basal area of ca. 470m². However, the presence of upstanding buildings, live services and restricted access significantly reduced the available for evaluation and therefore 108 linear metres were evaluated.

3.2 All trenches were excavated with a 13 tonne tracked excavator using a 2m wide ditching bucket. The trench details are summarised in Appendix 1. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through the overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits. The trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2013).

4 RESULTS

4.1 The entire available evaluation area was covered with tarmac 0.10m thick. This overlay a bedding layer of hardcore. These surface deposits capped a layer of demolition deposits up to 0.80m in depth. Natural sub-soil was encountered in all four trenches and comprised a mix of yellow clay and yellow/brown sand. The position of the trenches and major features identified can be found in Figure 7.

4.2 Trench 1

4.2.1 Trench one revealed a truncated brick wall [101] running east/west at 10m from the southern end of the trench. The wall was double coursed and abutted a concrete floor [102], 0.90m below the ground level and a brick wall [101] 0.70m below (Plate 1).

4.3 Trench 2

4.3.1 Trench 2 contained a substantial and well preserved cobbled surface [201] running the length of the trench. The cobbled surface lay 0.30m beneath the present surface and was composed of large mortared stone setts (Plate 2). Modern service trenches truncated the feature east/west at 16m from the southern end of the trench.

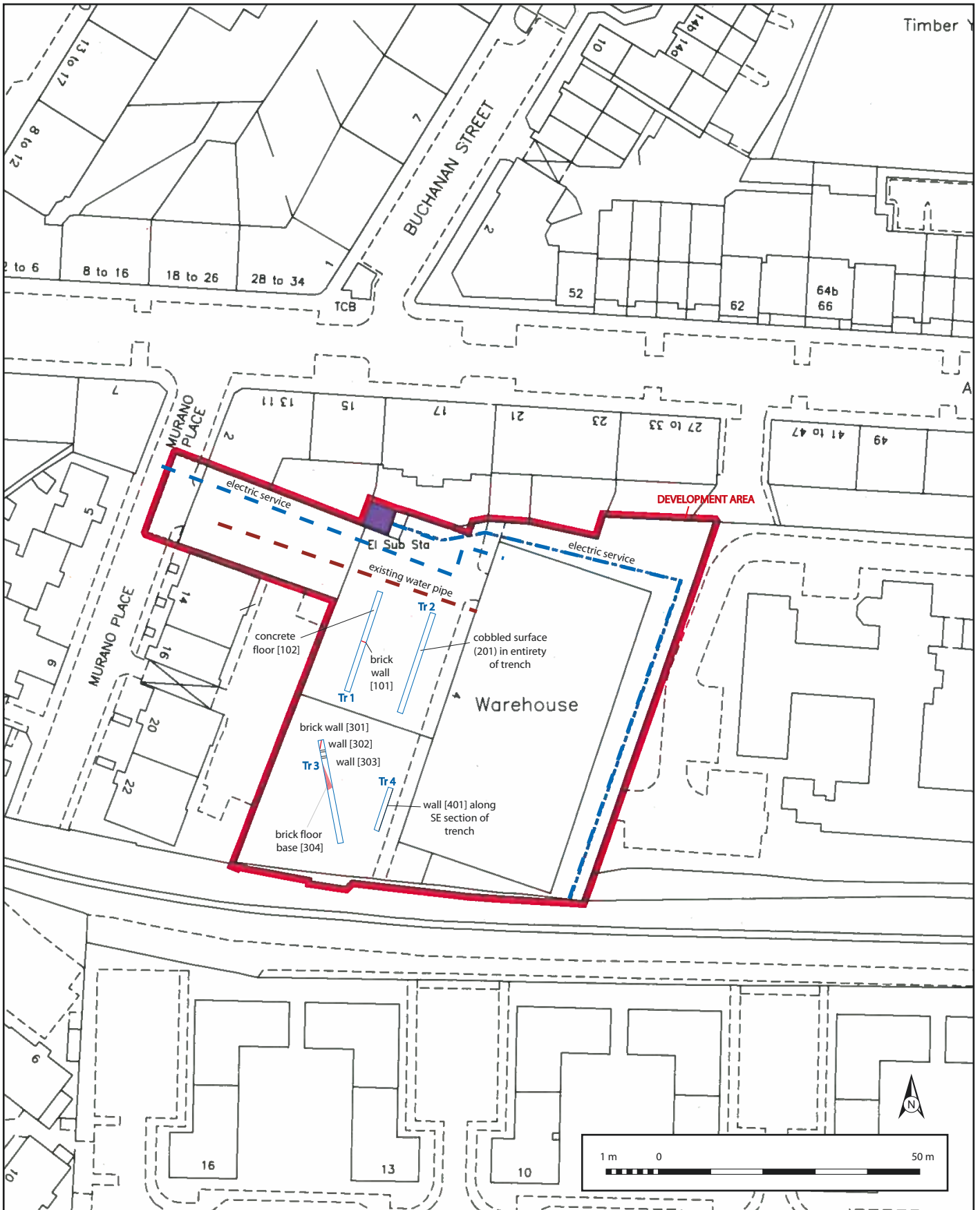


Figure 7: Site plan showing the position of the evaluation trenches and features identified

4.4 Trench 3

- 4.4.1 Trench 3 revealed four separate brick built structural elements including the conjoining walls [301-302], the truncated wall [303] and the substantial brick base [304] (Plate 3). All of these features were exposed within the north-western side of the trench.



Plate 1: Trench 1, Wall [101] and Brick/concrete floor [102] from west



Plate 2 Trench 2, detail of cobbled surface [201] from south



Plate 3: Trench 3, detail of brick base [304] from north

4.5 Trench 4

- 4.5.1 Trench 4 contained a single brick wall [401], two courses thick and suiricing to a height of 1m, running along the entire south-west side of the trench. The wall was again directly overlain by the tarmac and bedding deposits. The lower portion of the wall was abutted by a single course of yellow fire-bricks [402]. A ceramic pipe running north/south along the trench was also located, probably contemporary with this context.

5 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The evaluation revealed the archaeological remains associated with the 19th century industrial development of the site, most likely the Sugar and Spice Works, which date from between 1853 - 1877. It is likely therefore that further archaeological investigations will be recommended within the development area to fully expose the industrial remains on the site. This will require confirmation by, and be at the discretion of, John Lawson of CECAS.

6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2013 *Murano Place, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished client method statement

Kirkwood, Robert 1817 *An Ancient Plan of the City of Edinburgh and its Environs... Intended as an accompaniment to Kirkwood's New Plan of Edinburgh*, Edinburgh: Kirkwood & Son

Ordnance Survey 1853 (Surveyed 1852) *Edinburghshire Sheet 2*, scale 1: 10,560

Ordnance Survey 1877 *Edinburgh Sheet 25*, Scale: 1:1056

Ordnance Survey 1894 *Edinburgh Sheet III.4.17*, Scale: 1:500

Ordnance Survey 1908 (revised 1905) *Edinburghshire Sheet 003.04*, Scale: 1:2500

Ordnance Survey 1914 (revised 1912) *Edinburghshire Sheet 003.04*, Scale: 1:2500

Ordnance Survey 1933 (revised 1931) *Edinburghshire Sheet 003.04*, Scale: 1:2500

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Appendices

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1

Dimensions	20.0m by 3.0m
Orientation	S-N
Depth of Made-ground	1.10m
Features	Brick wall [101], Brick/concrete floor [102]
Subsoil	Yellow/brown sand
Finds	None

Trench 2

Dimensions	20.0m by 3.0m
Orientation	S-N
Depth of Made-ground	1.00 m
Features	Cobbled surface [201]
Subsoil	Yellow clay
Finds	None

Trench 3

Dimensions	20m by 3.0m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Made-ground	1.00 m
Features	Brick walls [301-302-303], Brick base [304]
Subsoil	Yellow/brown sand
Finds	None

Trench 4

Dimensions	8.0m by 3.0m
Orientation	S-N
Features	Some N-S and E-W plough scarring.
Depth of Made-ground	1m
Subsoil	Brick wall [401], Fire-brick wall [402]
Finds	None

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Digital Register

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1	-	Registration	-
2	1	East facing section	E
3	1	East facing section showing brick wall [101] and concrete/ brick floor [102]	E
4	1	East facing section showing concrete/ brick floor [102]	S
5	3	Brick wall [301]	E
6	3	Brick wall [301]-[302]	E
7	3	Brick base [304]	NW
8	3	Brick wall in NW facing section [303]	NW
9	3	Trench 3 post-excavation	NW
10	4	Brick wall [401] in west facing section	W
11-13	4	Trench 2 showing exposed cobbled floor [401]	S/W

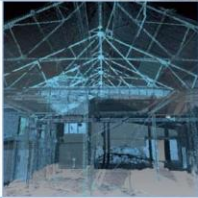
APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT REGISTER

Digital Register

Context	Trench	Description
100	All	Made-ground
101	1	Brick wall at 14.0 m, 0.30 m in elevation and composed of concrete mortar and frogged brick. Double coursed aligned E/W. the wall is truncated and immediately underlies made-ground. Wall is 0.70 m below surface and abuts concrete and brick floor [102] to north
102	1	Concrete floor and underlying brick abutting Wall [101] to south.
201	2	Cobbled surface composed of large mortared stone setts throughout length of trench.
301/302	3	Brick walls [301-302] Conjoined walls forming corner angle. Wall [301] aligned N/S with Wall [302] aligned NE-SW
303	3	Brick wall [303] within NE section 0.30 m in elevation
304	3	Brick base [304] Corner of brick building 3.0 m in width
401	4	Brick wall in W facing section 0.70 m in elevation abutted to west by fire-bricks [402]
402	4	Fire-bricks abutting west face of Wall [401]. Single course in elevation

APPENDIX 4: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Murano Place, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	AOC22607
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):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 2260 7495
START DATE (this season)	27 th November 2013
END DATE (this season)	27 th November 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Axiom Project Services on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a proposed development to the east of Murano Place, Edinburgh.</p> <p>Works consisted of an archaeological evaluation of four trenches totalling 108 linear metres. Several brick building foundations and floor deposits relating to Victorian industrial buildings that formerly occupied the site were recorded. In addition, a well preserved related cobble yard was also revealed.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Axiom Project Services
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group; Edgefield Road Industrial Estate; Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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