136 Peffermill Road, Edinburgh: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

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Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: The City of Edinburgh Council

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 2830 7150

AOC Project No: 22762

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ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of the City of Edinburgh SAC Consulting during ground breaking works associated with the creation of football pitches at 136 Peffermill Road, Edinburgh.

The works mainly involved the excavation of drainage trenches across the pitch areas using a bladed cutting wheel 0.25 m wide with a few larger drainage and cable trenches 0.5 m wide excavated around the football pitch.

No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the ground breaking works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Background**

1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by SAC Consulting on behalf of Edinburgh City Council during ground breaking works associated with the creation of football pitches at 136 Peffermill Road, Edinburgh. The scope of the works was determined by the City of Edinburgh Council as 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 2014) approved on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council by CECAS and in accordance with Scottish Planning Policy (Scottish Government 2010) and PAN 2/2011 Planning And Archaeology (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 **Site Location**

1.2.1 The development area lies to the south of Peffermill Road and is bounded by the railway line to the south and east and the Braid Burn to the west (Figure 1; centred at NT 2830 7150). The area is already currently being used as playing fields.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The development area is located within what were historically open fields due south of Peffermill House. In the area of Peffermill House there was a mill recorded as being in existence in 1630. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of the 1850's (Figure 3) shows a surviving mill pond to the west of Peffermill House and to the north of the development area. This mill pond appear to be fed by a possibly an earlier course of the Braid (Peffer) Burn or an actual mill lade which can be clearly seen as a tree lined north to south aligned feature crossing the development area on Figure 2. The Braid (Peffer) Burn has since been canalized and presently forms the northwestern boundary of the current development area.

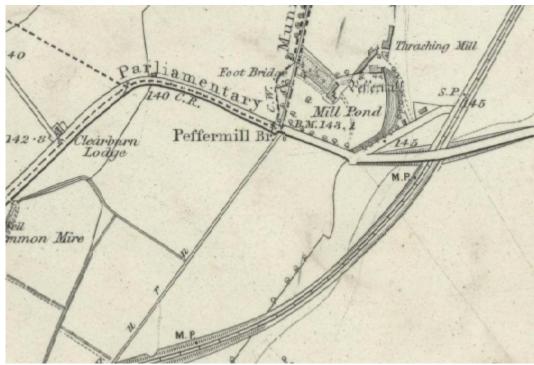


Figure 2 - 1850's OS map showing development area

3 **OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works are:
 - i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by ground works associated with the construction of a residential development at the site of the former Fort House:
 - ii) to liaise with 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;
 - iii) to report on the results of the watching brief.

4 **METHODOLOGY**

4.1 The majority of drainage trenches across the proposed football pitch were excavated using a bladed cutting wheel measuring 0.25 m wide. These trenches were not watched but they were left open for inspection when other works were taking place. All other excavations were conducted using a narrow bladed bucket measuring 0.5 m wide (Figure 3). All wider trenches associated with the football pitch were monitored by an experienced field archaeologist.

5 **RESULTS**

- The archaeological works were conducted between the 9th June 2014 and the 1st July 2014. Weather 5.1 conditions were fair throughout the course of the work conducted and archaeological visibility was good.
- 5.2 Topsoil [001] throughout the site was a very compact dark greyish brown silty clay averaging 0.35 m deep across the site. This covered a made ground [002] up to 0.8 m deep that consisted of compact greyish brown silty clay with frequent small sub angular stones and coal flecks (Plate 1). Some larger stones [003] and a mortar spread [004] were noted within the natural boulder clay [006] along the NE edge, most likely representing disturbance of the subsoil by previous activity on site (Plate 2).
- 5.3 Furthermore, a deposit of sub-angular stones [005] aligned NE-SW were also noted along the NE edge drain (Plate 3). The stone deposit measured 5.5 m wide but was not noted in any other trenches to the south or west and is most likely natural.

6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological excavations revealed two stone deposits that most likely relate to disturbance of the subsoil during the earlier creation of the playing fields and the deposition of the made ground that covers the site.
- 6.2 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.

7 **REFERENCES**

AOC Archaeology 2014 Football pitches 136 Peffermill Road, Edinburgh: Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation. Unpublished AOC Project Design

Scottish Government 2010 Scottish Planning Policy.

Scottish Government 2010 PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology.



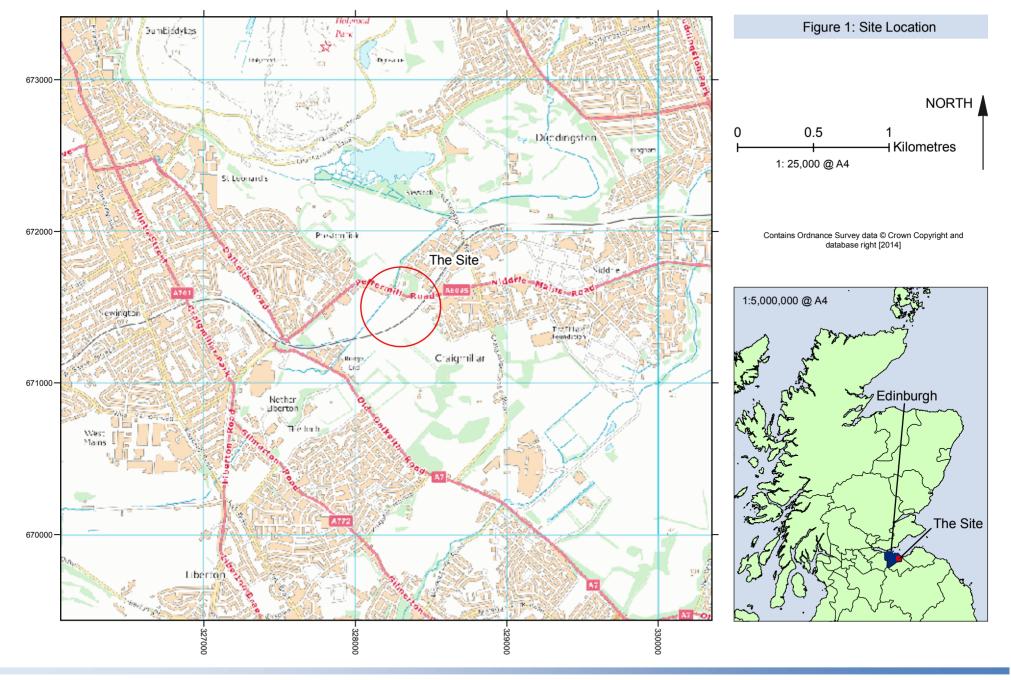
Plate 1 - General shot of main drain trench



Plate 2- Shot of stones [003] and mortar [004]



Plate 3 - General shot showing deposit [005]





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Section 2: Appendices



APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTERS

Context No.	Description and Interpretation	
001	Mid greyish brown silty clay averaging 0.35 m thick.	
	Topsoil	
002	Greyish brown silty clay with sub angular stone inclusions and coal flecks measuring 0.8 m thick.	
	Made ground	
003	Two large sub angular stones nest to a mortar spread [004] and sitting in natural [006]	
	measuring 0.5 m long (only seen in section).	
	Demolition rubble	
004	Degraded mortar deposit at base of made ground [002] and next to stones [003] measuring 0.25	
	m by 0.35 m by 0.05m.	
	Mortar spread at base of made ground	
005	Deposit of sub angular stones within natural clay [006] measuring 5.5 m wide.	
	Probable natural stone	
006	Light orange sandy clay with occasional sandstone boulder inclusions.	
	Natural boulder clay	

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Digital Photographs

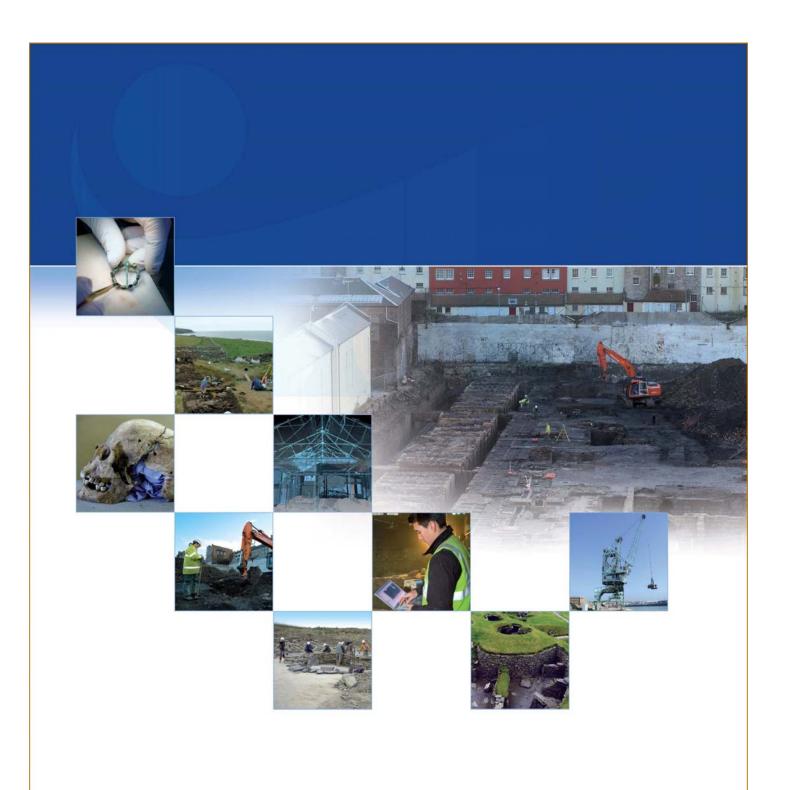
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29 Trencher cut drain going towards main drain W 13/6/14 30 Trencher cut drain detail of width W 13/6/14 31 Floodlight pit L5 – post ex W 13/6/14 32 Location of L5 SSW 13/6/14 33 Concreted flood light pit L4 S 13/6/14 34 Floodlight pit L6 W 13/6/14 35 Floodlight pit L6 WNW 13/6/14	27	Location of floodlights L3 and L4	N	13/6/14
30 Trencher cut drain detail of width W 13/6/14 31 Floodlight pit L5 – post ex W 13/6/14 32 Location of L5 SSW 13/6/14 33 Concreted flood light pit L4 S 13/6/14 34 Floodlight pit L6 W 13/6/14 35 Floodlight pit L6 WNW 13/6/14	28	Flood lights pit L2 with old ceramic drain	W	13/6/14
31 Floodlight pit L5 – post ex W 13/6/14 32 Location of L5 SSW 13/6/14 33 Concreted flood light pit L4 S 13/6/14 34 Floodlight pit L6 W 13/6/14 35 Floodlight pit L6 WNW 13/6/14	29	Trencher cut drain going towards main drain	W	13/6/14
32 Location of L5 SSW 13/6/14 33 Concreted flood light pit L4 S 13/6/14 34 Floodlight pit L6 W 13/6/14 35 Floodlight pit L6 WNW 13/6/14	30	Trencher cut drain detail of width	W	13/6/14
33 Concreted flood light pit L4 S 13/6/14 34 Floodlight pit L6 W 13/6/14 35 Floodlight pit L6 WNW 13/6/14	31	Floodlight pit L5 – post ex	W	13/6/14
34 Floodlight pit L6 W 13/6/14 35 Floodlight pit L6 WNW 13/6/14	32	Location of L5	SSW	13/6/14
35 Floodlight pit L6 WNW 13/6/14	33	Concreted flood light pit L4	S	13/6/14
	34	Floodlight pit L6	W	13/6/14
36-37 Trencher machine cutting narrow drain E 13/6/14	35	Floodlight pit L6	WNW	13/6/14
	36-37	Trencher machine cutting narrow drain	E	13/6/14

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38	Detail of narrow trencher cut drain leading to main drain	E	13/6/14
39	General shot of concreted dug out 1	NNE	13/6/14
40	General shot of concreted dug out 1	NNE	13/6/14
41	T2 General post ex	SSW	13/6/14
42	T2 General post ex	NNW	13/6/14
43	Registration shot new camera	-	17/6/14
44-45	Sandstone outcrop in base of trench	Var	17/6/14
46-47	Sandstone rocks in subsoil/made ground	Var	17/6/14
48-49	Second out crop of sandstone	Var	17/6/14
50-51	General shots of two outcrops of sandstone	Var	17/6/14
52-53	Drainage channel – brick filled	SW	19/6/14
54-55	Drainage channel	NW	19/6/14
56-57	Typical profile of drainage channel	NE	19/6/14
58	General shot of track location	E	26/6/14
59	Shot of open track	E	26/6/14
60-61	General shots of track location	Var	26/6/14
62	General shot of larger backfilled area	N	30/6/14
63	Electric cable trench – general shot	ESE	30/6/14
64	General shot of site with backfilled larger area	E	30/6/14
65-66	General shot of electric cable trenches 1,2,3	NW	30/6/14
67	Ceramic drain in T3	SSW	30/6/14
68	View of excavations	SE	1/7/14
69-70	View of excavations	NW	1/7/14

APPENDIX 3: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	136 Peffermill Road, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	22762
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
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 2386 7150
START DATE (this season)	9 th June 2014
END DATE (this season)	1 st July 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of SAC Consulting during ground breaking works associated with the creation of football pitches at 136 Peffermill Road, Edinburgh. The works mainly involved the excavation of drainage trenches across the pitch areas using a bladed cutting wheel 0.25 m wide with a few larger drainage and cable trenches 0.5 m wide excavated around the football pitch. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the ground breaking works.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	City of Edinburgh Council
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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