

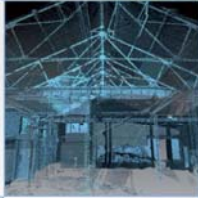
31 Tofthill Street, Gilmerton,
Edinburgh:
Archaeological Watching Brief

AOC 22806

July 2014

Oasis Number; 183611

Planning Reference: 14/00929/FUL



ARCHAEOLOGY

| HERITAGE

| CONSERVATION

31 Tofthill Street, Gilmerton, Edinburgh: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: Mr Joe Foster
JRF Electrical
238 The Murrays Brae
Edinburgh
EH17 8UL

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 29155 68560

AOC Project No: 22804

Prepared by: Jamie Humble

Illustration by: Jamie Humble

Date of Fieldwork: 7th July 2014

Date of Report: 8th July 2014

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

Author: J Humble

Date: 8th July 2014

Approved by: M Cook

Date: 8th July 2014

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Date: 8th July 2014

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Edgefield Industrial Estate
Edgefield Road
Loanhead
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
e-mail. edinburgh@aacarchaeology.com



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Summary

An archaeological monitored topsoil strip was required as a condition of planning consent (14/00929/FUL), during ground breaking works associated with the construction of a single house plot measuring 13.0m by 15.0m 31 Tofthill, Gilmerton, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 29155 68560).

The only archaeological remains uncovered related to post-medieval agricultural activity. These comprised of a series of furrows and rubble filled field drains was exposed. No significant archaeological material was recorded.

0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 An archaeological monitored topsoil strip was required by Mr Joe Foster as a condition of planning consent (14/00929/FUL) during all ground-works associated with the construction of a single house plot at 31 Tofthill Street, Gilmerton, Edinburgh (NGR; NT 29155 68560).
- 0.2 The proposed development site lies within the administrative area of City of Edinburgh Council which is advised on archaeological matters by City of Edinburgh Council archaeology Service (CECAS). The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).
- 0.3 Archaeological features revealed during the monitored topsoil strip relate to post-medieval farming activity with a series of rubble filled field drains and furrows being recorded. No significant archaeological remains were observed during the monitored topsoil strip.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.2 An archaeological monitored topsoil strip was required by Mr Joe Foster on the site of a single house plot at 31 Tofthill Street, Gilmerton, Edinburgh (NGR; NT 29155 68560).
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was required in response to a planning condition (14/00929/FUL) set by city of Edinburgh Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).
- 1.1.4 The archaeological works required were in accord with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Curatorial control

- 1.2.1 The monitored topsoil strip was designed to fully satisfy the requirements of City of Edinburgh Council. The Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2014) outlined the entirety of the archaeological programme of work which may have been needed to mitigate the effects of the proposed development; it detailed principally the methodology to be employed in implementing the archaeological monitored topsoil strip.

1.3 Site Location

- 1.3.1 The site is located at 31 Tofthill Street, Gilmerton, Edinburgh. The site is situated within a residential garden bounded to the southwest by Tofthill Street and to the Southeast by a garden wall. The site is centred on NGR: NT 29155 68560.

1.4 Archaeological Background

- 1.4.1 The development area (NT 29155 68560) is within the medieval settlement of Gilmerton, (NT26NE 122) an important satellite of Edinburgh which is noted from c.1300 and appears on

Pont's map of Lothian c.1600. Several listed buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries are centered on Drum Street, which forms the main thoroughfare through the village, also connecting Edinburgh to Dalkeith and lies c.500m Northeast of the development area.

- 1.4.2 The development area itself does not contain any known site as listed by RCAHMS however immediately to the north of the development area there are the 'Bank House' buildings (NT26NE 192) The mid-19th century 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the development area as open farmland lying to the west of Gilmerton Church. In recent years the development area has contained two single garages now demolished.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological monitored topsoil strip were:
- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
 - ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of archaeological mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, should significant archaeological remains be encountered that cannot be preserved *in situ*.

3 METHOD

- 3.1 The archaeological works comprised the monitoring topsoil strip of the area of a single house plot measuring 15.0m by 13.0m. The watching brief ceased once the required level had been reached or archaeologically sterile subsoil had been observed.
- 3.2 The ground breaking works were undertaken by means of a Mechanical Digger equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist. The monitored topsoil strip was also to include the excavation of any archaeological features encountered in order to establish the extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features impacted upon by these works.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological monitored topsoil strip was carried out on the 7th July 2014. Weather conditions were fair and archaeological visibility was good. A single L-shaped trench measuring 12.0m by 8.0m was excavated representing all of the proposed building footprint available for excavation due to the presence of a live power cable.

4.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as four appendices:

Appendix 1 contains the photographic register;
Appendix 2 contains the context register
Appendix 3 contains the drawing register
Appendix 4 reproduces the '*Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*' entry.

4.2 Overview

4.2.1 The excavation of the L-shaped building footprint measuring 15.0m by 13.0m in overall size revealed a deep sandy loam topsoil (013) up to 0.9m in depth. This overlay a pinky orange boulder clay (014) with numerous sub-angular stones.



Plate 1: The area of the monitored topsoil strip, facing NE

4.2.2 The excavation revealed a series of linear features cut into the boulder clay (Figure 2). These comprised of four rubble filled drains running on a NW-SE (003, 005 & 007) and NE-SW (011) alignment these measured between 0.18m and 0.31m wide and between 0.18m and 0.21m deep. Two further features are interpreted as furrows, one [001] running NW-SE measuring 0.72m wide and 0.11m deep. The second furrow [007] was truncated by field drain [011] and lay on a NE-SW alignment at the edge of the excavation area. Furrow [007] measured 0.72m wide

and 0.09m deep. Both furrows [001 & 007] were filled with a dark brown sandy loam (002 & 008) similar to the topsoil (013)

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Archaeological features relating to the post-medieval agricultural activity in the area were revealed. However no significant archaeological deposits were revealed. No further archaeological works are recommended. This recommendation will require confirmation by CECAS on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council.

6 REFERENCES

AOC 2014 *Land to South of 31 Newtoft Street, Gilmerton: Monitored Topsoil Strip written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpubl AOC Archaeology Client Report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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

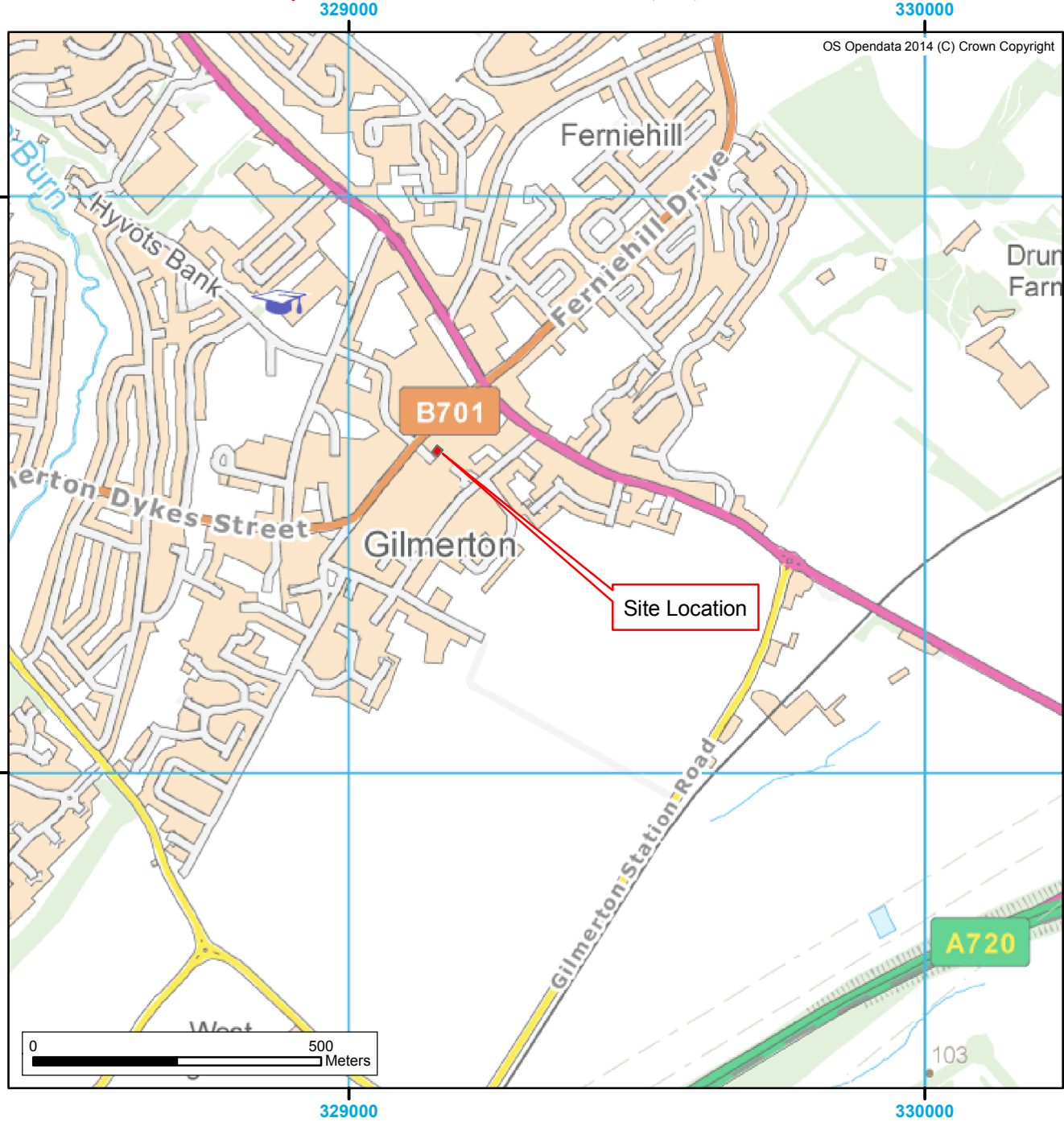
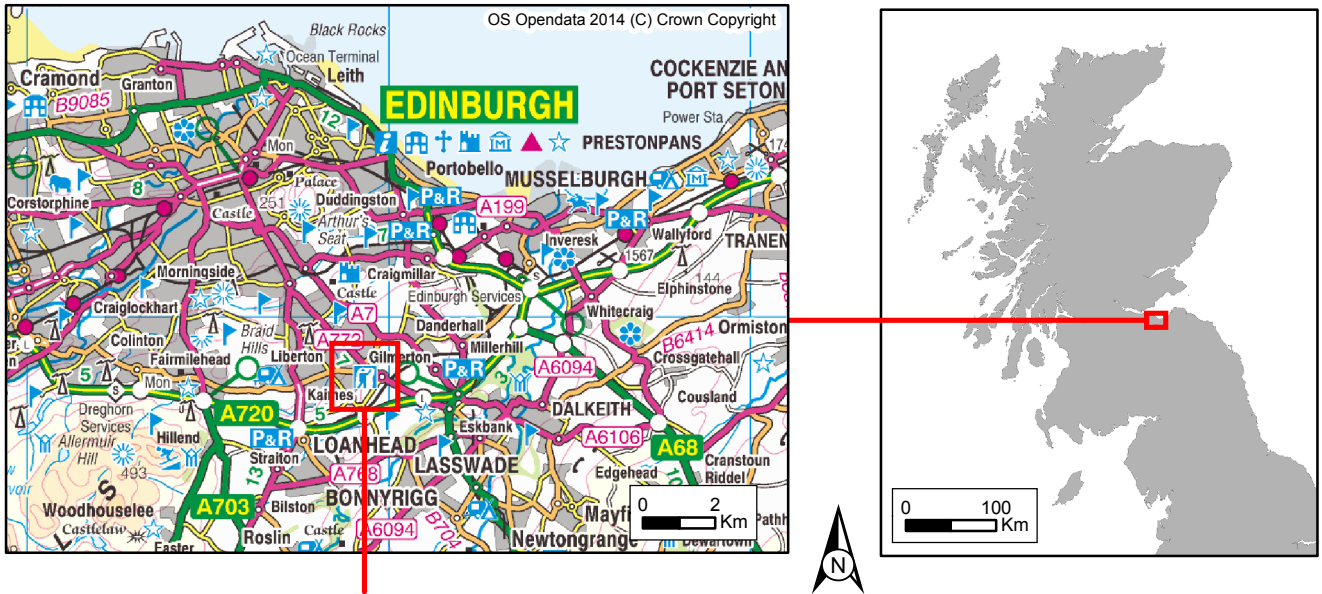
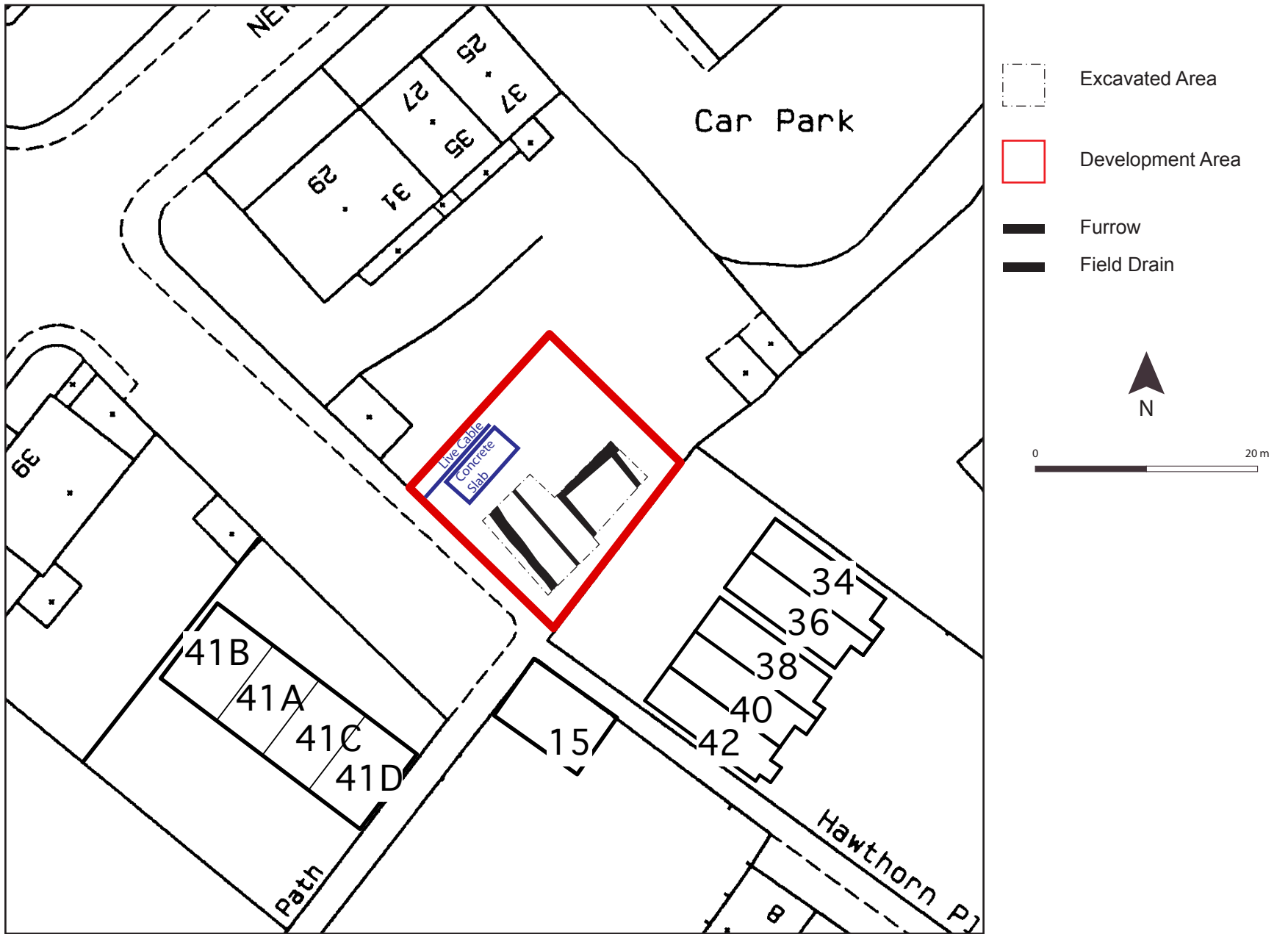


Figure 1: Site Location Plan



(Based on a drawing provided by the client)

Figure 2 - Development location showing excavated area and archaeological features

31 Tofthill, Gilmerton: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

| Frame | Description | From |
|-------|--|------|
| 1 | Registration | - |
| 2 | Excavated area | SW |
| 3 | Excavated area | S |
| 4 | Furrow [001] SE-facing section | SE |
| 5 | Furrow [001] NW-facing section | NW |
| 6 | Drain [003] SE-facing section | SE |
| 7 | Furrow [007] & Drain [011] NE facing section | NE |
| 8 | Drain [009] NW facing section | NW |

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT REGISTER

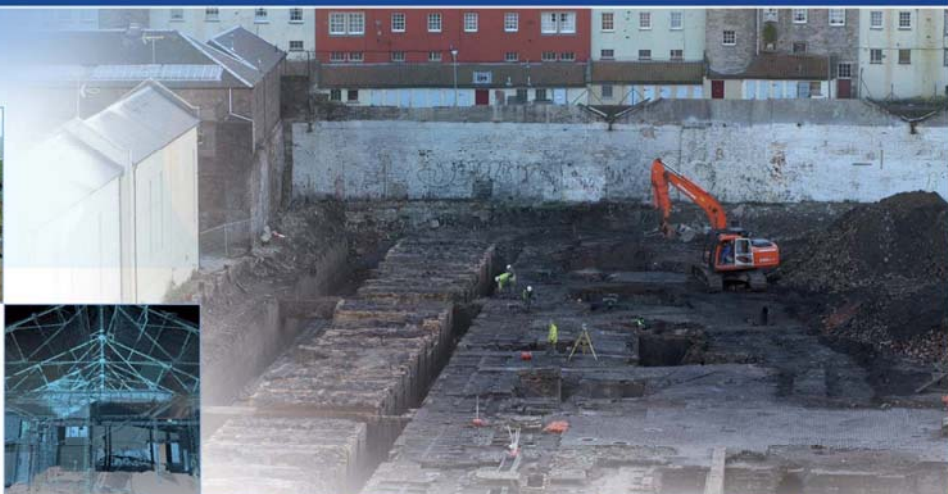
| Context | Description |
|---------|---|
| 001 | Linear cut oriented NW-SE extending across excavation area, 0.72m wide and 0.11m deep. Cut of furrow. |
| 002 | Dark brown sandy loam with frequent stone. Fill of furrow (001). |
| 003 | Linear cut oriented NW-SE extending across excavation area, 0.31m wide and 0.18m deep. Cut of field drain. |
| 004 | Sub-angular stone in a sandy loam matrix. Fill of drain (003). |
| 005 | Linear cut oriented NW-SE extending across excavation area, 0.30m wide and 0.21m deep. Cut of field drain. |
| 006 | Sub-angular stone in a sandy loam matrix. Fill of drain (005). |
| 007 | Linear cut oriented NE-SW extending across excavation area, 0.72m wide and 0.09m deep. Cut of furrow. |
| 008 | Dark brown sandy loam with frequent stone. Fill of furrow (007). |
| 009 | Linear cut oriented NW-SE extending across excavation area, 0.31m wide and 0.19m deep. Cut of field drain. |
| 010 | Sub-angular stone in a sandy loam matrix. Fill of drain (009). |
| 011 | Linear cut truncating furrow [007/008] oriented NE-SW extending across excavation area, 0.18m wide and 0.20m deep. Cut of field drain. |
| 012 | Sub-angular stone in a sandy loam matrix. Fill of drain (011). |
| 013 | Dark brown humic sandy loam, across site up to 0.9m deep. Topsoil. |
| 014 | Pinkish orange boulder clay. Natural. |

APPENDIX 3: DRAWING REGISTER

| Drawing | Description | Scale |
|---------|--|-------|
| 001 | Plan of excavated area | 1:100 |
| 002 | Furrow [001] SE facing section | 1:10 |
| 003 | Drain [003] SE facing section | 1:10 |
| 004 | Drain [005] Se facing section | 1:10 |
| 005 | Furrow [007] & Drain [011] NE facing section | 1:10 |
| 006 | Drain [009] NW facing section | 1:10 |

APPENDIX 4: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | City of Edinburgh council |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | 31 Tofthill, Gilmerton, Edinburgh |
| PROJECT CODE: | 22804 |
| PARISH: | Edinburgh |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Jamie Humble |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | AOC Archaeology Group |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Monitored Topsoil strip |
| NMRS NO(S): | None |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | None |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | None |
| NGR (2 letters, 6 figures) | NT 29155 68560 |
| START DATE (this season) | 7 th July 2014 |
| END DATE (this season) | 7 th July 2014 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES) | None |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | <p>An archaeological monitored topsoil strip was required as a condition of planning consent (CL/13/0506), ahead of construction of a single house plot at 31 Tofthill, Gilmerton, Edinburgh. A single L-shaped trench measuring 12.0m by 8.0m was excavated ahead of construction, covering all of the footprint of the proposed building that could be excavated due to the presence of live services.</p> <p>Archaeological features recorded related to post-medieval agricultural activity with a number of furrows and field drains. No significant archaeological material was recorded.</p> |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS: | N/A |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Mr Joe Foster |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR: | AOC Archaeology Group |
| EMAIL ADDRESS: | admin@aocarchaeology.com |
| ARCHIVE LOCATION | Archive to be deposited in NMRS |



AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY
tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com