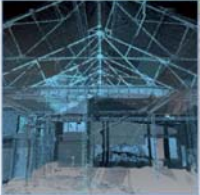


Burdiehouse Mains, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOCarcha1-193852

AOC Project 22904

31st October 2014



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Burdiehouse Phase II, Edinburgh Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: **Barratt and David Wilson Homes**
Telford House
3 Mid New Cultins
Edinburgh
EH11 4DH

National Grid Reference (NGR): **centred on NT 27847 67404**

AOC Project No: **22904**

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Date of Fieldwork: **27th October– 30th October 2014**

Date of Report: **31st October 2014**

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

Author: Rob Engl **Date:** 31st October 2014

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in respect to a proposed development at Burdiehouse Mains, Edinburgh (centred on NGR: NT 27847 67404).

The development area covered approximately 3.9 ha in total. A 10% (1950 linear metres) sample of the available area was investigated by the evaluation.

The evaluation revealed that the eastern half of the proposed development area had been previously truncated, with a widespread compact deposit of made ground and demolition material overlain by re-deposited natural and top-soil.

No significant archaeological remains were recorded within the development area and no further works are considered necessary.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Barratt and David Wilson Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to a development at Burdiehouse Mains, Edinburgh. The evaluation was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, City of Edinburgh Council who are 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) in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).
- 1.1.2 The development area (centred on NGR: NT 27847 67404; Figure 1) covers approximately 3.9 ha in total. The area is comprised of arable land and is presently fallow.
- 1.1.3 The evaluation revealed that the eastern half of the development area had undergone significant previous truncation. A compact deposit of made ground and demolition material was recorded overlain by re-deposited natural clay and top-soil.
- 1.1.5 No significant archaeological features or finds were revealed during the evaluation.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area comprises an area within open fields on the southern edge of the City of Edinburgh. It is ca. 3.9 hectares in size and is bounded by 'The Murrays' residential estate to its north east, the Burdiehouse burn to the north, Burdiehouse Mains and access roads to the north west and west and open fields to the south east. The site is centred on NGR NT 27847 67404 and is currently fallow agricultural land.
- 1.2.2 The development area consists of relatively sloping ground ranging in height from 120.0 m to 135.0 m OD. The ground follows the course of the Burdiehouse Burn and forms a small bowl within the northern portion of the site.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The farmhouse and associated farmsteading of Burdiehouse Mains first mapped by 1816 (Knox) (NMRS: NT26NE 97 & NT26NE 97.01) lies immediately to the north-west of the development area, with the farm road presently forming the proposed development access. Furthermore, to the south-west of the site there are two upstanding lime kilns from the Burdiehouse Lime Works (NMRS: NT26NE 96). Both of these sites are indications of post-medieval activity in the vicinity to the development site.
- 1.3.2 The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) lists no known archaeological sites located within the boundaries of the current development area. Previous archaeological works including a desk based assessment (Headland 2010) and evaluation

(Headland 2013). The evaluation was undertaken on a land parcel forming the southern boundary of the current development area. A flint artefact of prehistoric date was recovered from the top-soil.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to determine and 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 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 The details of the archaeological evaluation, laid out below, were designed to meet the requirements of City of Edinburgh Council as advised by CECAS.

3.2 The evaluation was based on the trenching of a 10% sample of the 3.9 ha development area, for a total basal trench area of c.3,900 m². This amounts to a linear meterage of 1950 m.

3.3 The evaluation was undertaken by a tracked excavator equipped with 2.2 m wide bladed ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and as per the methodology within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2014). The trenches were immediately backfilled upon completion.



Plate 1: Site area pre-evaluation showing slope

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken during 27th October – 30th October 2014. Overall weather conditions were wet and overcast, however, archaeological visibility was good.



Plate 2: Trench 3 east facing section showing buried soil



Plate 3: Trench 4 post-excitation from south-east

- 4.2 The western part of the development (Trenches 1 – 5, 15) was covered by a relatively shallow deposit of active clay loam. This directly overlay a shallow deposit of old plough soil. Underlying these deposits was a natural of pale red-brown boulder clay. Numerous clay and rubble field drains were recorded. The drains ran northwards to empty into the Burdiehouse Burn. The top-soil had been improved with numerous sherds of 19th century ceramics being noted.

- 4.3 The excavation of the eastern portion of the site revealed that the majority of the current site area had been previously truncated. A deposit of compact made-ground and demolition material was encountered. This deposit ranged from 0.10 m to 0.20 m in depth and was capped by a re-deposited natural 0.20 m thick. A re-deposited plough-soil covered the area.
- 4.4 The overgrown remains of a former walled field boundary shown on the 1st Edition OS map of 1855 was noted just outside of the sites eastern boundary. The wall appears between 0.60 m and 0.70 m in width and has been truncated down to foundation level. A small ditch 0.50 m in width and 0.30 m in depth runs along the eastern face of the boundary.



Plate 4: Former field boundary running along the eastern site boundary

- 4.5 No archaeologically significant material or features were revealed.

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The proposed development site was subject to a full and comprehensive archaeological evaluation. Trenching revealed that the eastern half of the site had undergone significant recent truncation with a deposit of made ground and demolition material being capped with re-deposited boulder clay. This in turn was overlain by plough soil. Any *in situ* archaeological remains would therefore have been removed.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by Mr John Lawson Archaeological Officer for the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS) on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Headland Archaeology 2012 *Burdiehouse, Edinburgh*. Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment Unpublished client report.

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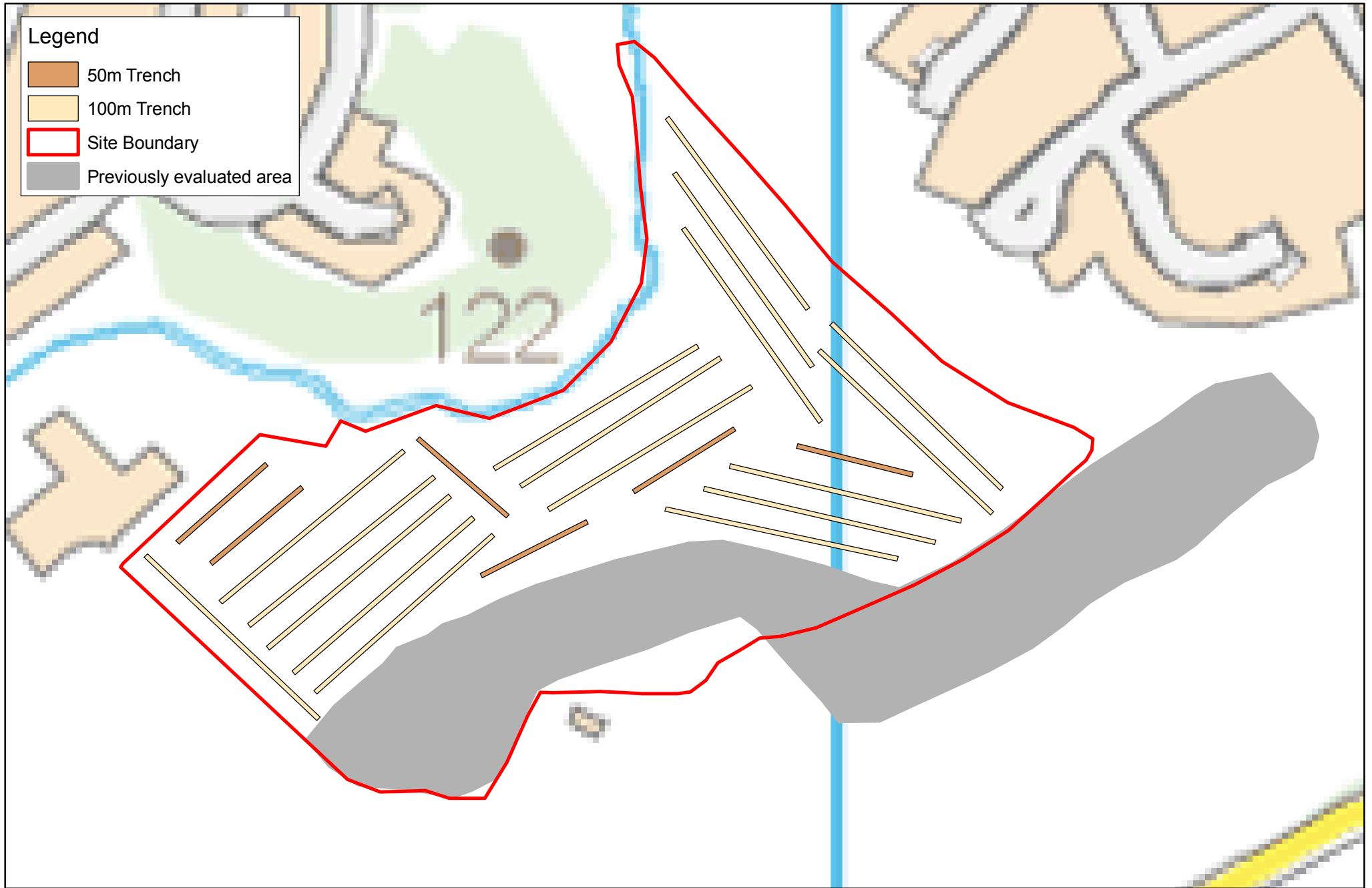
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7 CARTOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

1812 Knox, J. Map of the Shire of Edinburgh

1855 Ordnance Survey Edinburghshire VI 1: 10560 (surveyed 1852)



0 100 Metres

Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

Burdiehouse Mains, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.20 m – 0.30 m
<i>Other deposits</i>	Old plough soil 0.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drains at 3.0 m, 25.0 m, 35.0 m, then every 10.0 m.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red-brown boulder clay with occasional boulders
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Other deposits</i>	Old plough soil 0.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drains at 13.0 m
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red-brown boulder clay with occasional boulders
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Other deposits</i>	Old plough soil 0.20 m to 60.0 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.60 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drains at 40.0 m
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red-brown boulder clay with occasional boulders
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	W-E
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.20 m - 0.30 m
<i>Other deposits</i>	Old plough soil 0.30 m to 40.0 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.30 m- 0.60 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drains at 5.0 m clay at 95.0 m N/S
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red-brown boulder clay with occasional boulders
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Other deposits</i>	Old plough soil 0.20 m to 50.0 m

<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drains at 3.0 m, 5.0 m, 25.0 m, then every 5.0 m. Clay drain at 80.0 m
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red-brown boulder clay with occasional boulders
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.20 m – 0.30 m
<i>Other Deposits</i>	Re-deposited natural 0.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m – 0.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drain at 3.0 m
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red-brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

Trench 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Other Deposits</i>	Re-deposited natural 0.20 m – 0.30 m from 20.0 m to 100.0 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m – 0.60 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drain at 0.0 m N/S
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red-brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

Trench 8

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.20 m – 0.30 m
<i>Other Deposits</i>	Re-deposited natural 0.20 m and made ground 0.20 m in depth
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m – 0.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drain at 3.0 m intervals
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red-brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

Trench 9

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.20 m – 0.30 m
<i>Other Deposits</i>	Re-deposited natural 0.10 m and made ground 0.20 m in depth
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m – 0.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drain at 3.0 m intervals
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red-brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

Trench 10

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.2 m
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<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.20 m – 0.30 m
<i>Other Deposits</i>	Re-deposited natural 0.20 m and made ground 0.20 m in depth
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m – 0.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drain at 3.0 m intervals
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red-brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

Trench 11

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.20 m – 0.30 m
<i>Other Deposits</i>	Re-deposited natural 0.20 m and made ground 0.20 m in depth
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m – 0.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drain at 3.0 m intervals
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red-brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

Trench 12

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.20 m – 0.30 m
<i>Other Deposits</i>	Re-deposited natural 0.20 m and made ground 0.20 m in depth
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m – 0.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drain at 3.0 m intervals
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red-brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

Trench 13

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.20 m – 0.30 m
<i>Other Deposits</i>	Re-deposited natural 0.20 m and made ground 0.20 m in depth
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m – 0.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drain at 3.0 m intervals
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red-brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

Trench 14

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.20 m – 0.30 m
<i>Other Deposits</i>	Re-deposited natural 0.20 m and made ground 0.20 m in depth
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m – 0.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drain at 3.0 m intervals
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red-brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

Trench 15

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.20 m – 0.30 m
<i>Other Deposits</i>	Re-deposited natural 0.20 m and made ground 0.20 m in depth
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m – 0.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drain at 3.0 m intervals
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red-brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

Trench 16

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.20 m – 0.30 m
<i>Other Deposits</i>	Re-deposited natural 0.20 m and made ground 0.20 m in depth
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m – 0.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drain at 3.0 m intervals
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red-brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

Trench 17

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Other Deposits</i>	Re-deposited natural 0.20 m and made ground 0.20 m in depth
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m – 0.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drain at 3.0 m intervals
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red-brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

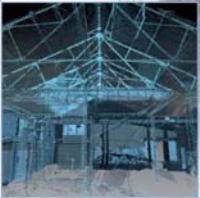
Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration	-
2	Trench 1 post-excavation shot	SE
3-4	Pre-excavation shots of north of site showing slope	W
5	Trench 2	SE
6	Trench 3	E
7	Trench 3 north facing section showing old plough soil	N
8	Trench 4	E
9	Trench 5	SE
10	Trench 6	NE
11	Trench 7	NW
12	Trench 8	NW

13	Trench 9	NW
14	Trench 10	NW
15	Trench 11	NW
16	Trench 12	NW
17	Trench 13	E
18	Trench 14	NW
19	Trench 15	SE
20	Trench 16	E
21	Trench 17	NE

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Burdiehouse Mains, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22904
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
START DATE (this season)	27 th October 2014
END DATE (this season)	30 th October 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>AOC Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation in respect to a proposed development at Burdiehouse Mains, Edinburgh (centred on NGR: NT 27847 67404).</p> <p>The development area covered approximately 3.9 ha in total. A 10% (1950 linear metres) sample of the available area was investigated by the evaluation.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed that the eastern half of the proposed development area had been previously truncated, with a widespread compact deposit of made ground and demolition material overlain by re-deposited natural and top-soil.</p> <p>No significant archaeological remains were recorded within the development area and no further works are considered necessary.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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