

15 Cumin Place, Edinburgh: Archaeological Monitored Topsoil Strip Report AOC 22779

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January 2015

Planning Reference: 14/00368/FUL



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

15 Cumin Place, Edinburgh:

Archaeological Monitored Topsoil Strip Report

On Behalf of: Mr Bill Crossan

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 26032 71942

AOC Project No: 22779

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Illustration by: Jamie Humble

Date of Fieldwork: 6th January 2015

Date of Report: 7th January 2015

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

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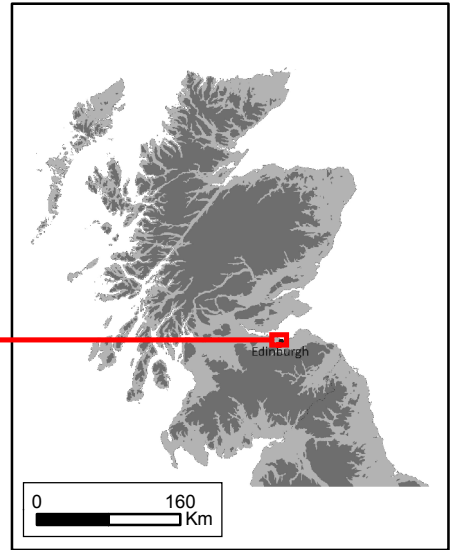
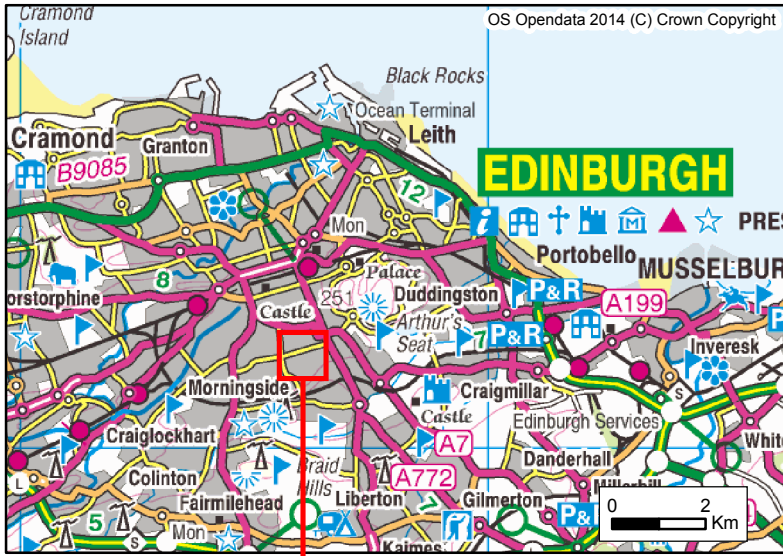
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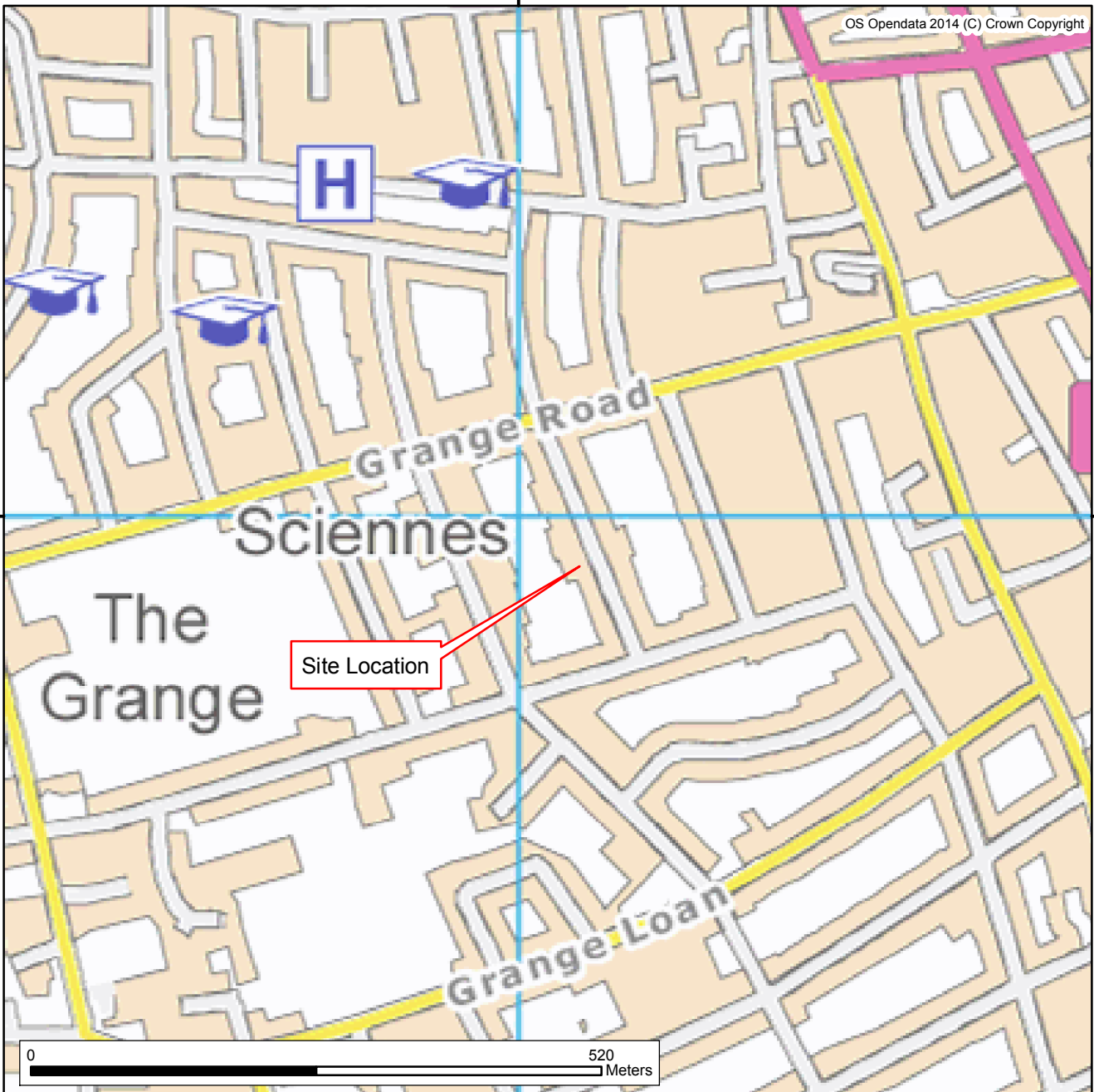
Abstract

An archaeological monitored topsoil strip was required by Morgan McDonald Ltd as a condition of planning consent (14/00368/FUL) on ground breaking works associated with the construction of a small extension to an existing private residence at 15 Cumin Place, Edinburgh (NGR; 26032 71942). The scope of the works was determined by city of Edinburgh Council as advised by City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS), in keeping with the policies outlined in Scottish Planning Policy (2014) and PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology (Scottish Government 2011).

The removal of introduced garden soil up to 0.30 metres in depth across site revealed neither significant archaeological features nor artefactual material. No further works are recommended.



326000



326000

Figure 1: Site Location Plan



- Area monitored during ground breaking
- Area no longer being developed

(Illustrations provided by Wood Associates Ltd.)

Figure 2: Plan of Ground Breaking Works

0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 An archaeological monitored topsoil strip was required by Morgan McDonald Ltd on behalf of their client, Mr & Mrs Crossan at the site of a proposed small extension to an existing residence at 15 Cumin Place, Edinburgh (NGR; NT 26032 71942). The work was required in response to a planning condition (Ref: 14/00368/FUL) set by City of Edinburgh Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS). The archaeological works required were in accord with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology (Scottish Government 2011).
- 0.2 The area of investigation measured approximately 7.5 m² and was covered by an imported garden loam ranging between 0.20 m to 0.30 m in depth. This lay immediately over natural boulder clay. A shallow deposit of loose construction material 0.10 m in depth was visible along the southern edge of the area. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefactual material were unearthed by the watching brief. No further works are recommended.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological monitored topsoil strip was required by Morgan McDonald Ltd on behalf of their client, Mr & Mrs Crossan at the site of a proposed small extension to an existing residence at 15 Cumin Place, Edinburgh (NGR; NT 26032 71942).. The work was required in response to a planning condition set by City of Edinburgh Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works required were in accord with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology (Scottish Government 2011).
- 1.1.3 The project involved monitoring the removal of topsoil deposits during ground breaking works associated with the proposed new residential extension.

1.2 Curatorial control

- 1.2.1 This programme of works was designed to fully satisfy the requirements of City of Edinburgh Council, as advised on archaeological matters by CECAS. While 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 archaeologically monitored topsoil strip.

1.3 Site Location

- 1.3.1 The development area is located within the back garden of 15 Cumin Place, Edinburgh centered on NGR: NT 26032 71942. The property is on the west side of Cumin Place and consists of a two storey detached stone villa with a pitched slated roof with a single storey conservatory to the rear. To the west of the property is a back garden enclosed by high stone walls.
- 1.3.2 The property is located within the Grange Conservation Area.

1.4 Archaeological Background

- 1.4.1 The development area lies within the Grange Conservation Area. This is a suburban area of villas characterized by extensive gardens and high stone walls, laid out to a plan by David Cousin between 1851 and 1870. There is a significant degree of uniformity in construction with extensive use of substantial grey sandstone walls, grey slate on pitched roofs, and spacious walled gardens with mature trees. Within the local area are three listed buildings recorded by the RCAHMS.
- 1.4.2 No other archaeology is known in the area.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the Archaeological Monitored Topsoil Strip were:
- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by the proposed development works;
 - ii) to identify and record through excavation any archaeological features encountered, in order to establish the extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features impacted upon by these works.
 - iii) 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.

3 METHOD

- 3.1 The ground breaking works will be by means of a Mechanical Digger (or equivalent) equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation will be in shallow units/spits. All machine excavation will be supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.
- 3.2 The original works were to include the excavation of a new summer house. However this was removed from the current programme of works. The monitored top-soil strip was therefore restricted to the footprint of the proposed house extension. This amounted to an area of approximately 7.5 m² situated to the immediate rear of the existing building. The majority of the area was previously covered by a former extension. Three 1.0 m trial pits were also excavated against the western garden boundary wall ahead of underpinning.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The Monitored Topsoil Strip was carried out under wet weather conditions on 6th January 2015.

4.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as a series of appendices:

Appendix 1 contains the photographic register;

Appendix 2 reproduces the '*Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*' entry.

4.2 Overview

4.2.1 The proposed area of the topsoil strip (Plate 1) was covered by a dark brown imported garden loam between 0.10 m to 0.30 m in depth. This overlay thin patches of construction deposit consisting of loose brick, sandstone and mortar. Underlying these deposits was a natural sub-soil of pink boulder clay. The areas had previously been subject to grading during both the construction of the former extension. Numerous service trenches were observed.

4.2.2 Three trial pits were excavated along the western garden boundary wall ahead of underpinning. These pits were 1.0 m² and were excavated to a depth of 0.50 m. The trial pits exposed the footings of the wall.



Plate 1. South-west area of topsoil strip



Plate 2. Eastern area of topsoil strip

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No significant archaeological deposits were revealed. It would appear that both the construction of the house and former extension had removed all *in situ* deposits. These deposits were subsequently replaced by thin deposits of imported garden loam and construction material.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are recommended. This recommendation will require ratification by CECAS on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council.

6 REFERENCES

AOC 2014: 15 Cumin Place, Edinburgh: Archaeological Monitored Topsoil Strip; *Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpubl AOC Archaeology Client Report

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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

15 Cumin Place, Edinburgh: Archaeological Monitored Topsoil Report

Section 2: Appendices

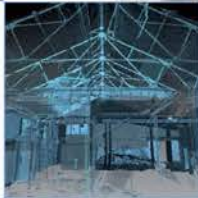
APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Film 1 Digital

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration	
2	Southern area of top-soil strip	E
3	Southern area of top-soil strip	W
4	Area of strip close to house	SW
5	Working shot	NW
6	East facing section Trial pit 1	W

APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	15 Cumin Place; Archaeologically Monitored Topsoil strip
PROJECT CODE:	22779
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitored Topsoil Strip
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	House 19 th Century
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 263 719
START DATE (this season)	6 th January 2015
END DATE (this season)	6 th January 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological monitored topsoil strip was required by Morgan McDonald Ltd as a condition of planning consent (14/00368/FUL) on ground breaking works associated with the construction of a small extension to an existing private residence at 15 Cumin Place, Edinburgh (NGR; 26032 71942). The scope of the works was determined by city of Edinburgh Council as advised by City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS), in keeping with the policies outlined in Scottish Planning Policy (2014) and PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology (Scottish Government 2011).</p> <p>The removal of introduced garden soil up to 0.30 metres in depth across site revealed neither significant archaeological features nor artefactual material. No further works are recommended.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Morgan McDonald Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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