

40 Swanston Terrace, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

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40 Swanston Terrace, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

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National Grid Reference (NGR):	NS 24567 68233
AOC Project No:	22992
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in relation to the construction of a proposed single dwelling at 40 Swanston Terrace, Edinburgh. The evaluation required the excavation of a 10% sample of the development plot equating to 53 m² of linear trench.

Upon the request of CECAS a further evaluation was required in which the entire area was stripped of topsoil to ensure the site was in fact archaeologically sterile. Upon completion of the works this was revealed to be the case.

No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed throughout the evaluation. No further works are considered necessary within the development area. This recommendation requires the approval of the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Helen Lucas Architects on behalf of their client to undertake a metal detecting survey and archaeological evaluation of a development plot for a proposed single dwelling at 40 Swanston Terrace, Edinburgh. The archaeological works were 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 2015) approved by CECAS on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council and 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 Following the completion of the first evaluation phase of works, the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service requested that the site be subject to a monitored topsoil strip.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area comprises a plot of land between No's 38 and 42 Swanston Terrace. The site is bounded by the aforementioned house plots to the E and W, with Swanston Terrace to the S and the back gardens of Oxfords Road to the N. The site is 525 m² and is centred at NGR: NT 24567 68233 (Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 According to the RCHAMS database there are no known sites of archaeological interest within the development area. However, within a couple of hundred yards of the site (mainly to the N and W) there have been a number of prehistoric burials and burial monuments discovered that indicate the site may be part of a prehistoric cemetery.
- 1.3.2 To the NW of the site, the scheduled prehistoric standing stone called the Caiy Stane (RCHAMS ref NT26NW 14; Historic Scotland Index 1155) has been preserved and is still in situ. Another stone thought to have been further E named the Camus Stone (NT26NW 26) was reportedly destroyed and used for road material in the 18th century. These two stones appear to have been part of a series of boundary markers for a prehistoric cemetery that may have surrounded the slopes of Fairmilehead.
- 1.3.3 Several stone cists have been found near the development site (NT26NW 24, NT26NW 12, NT26NW 13), and many more have been noted as being present when roads were being constructed through the area in the 18th century. Two large cairns (NT26NW 11) were also destroyed by the road building at this time.
- 1.3.4 As well as these prehistoric burial monuments and cists, the area is also near to the line of a Roman road, and a large rectangular banked enclosure to the N of Oxfords Road was suggested to be a 'Roman Camp' on the 1st Edition OS map (Figure 2).

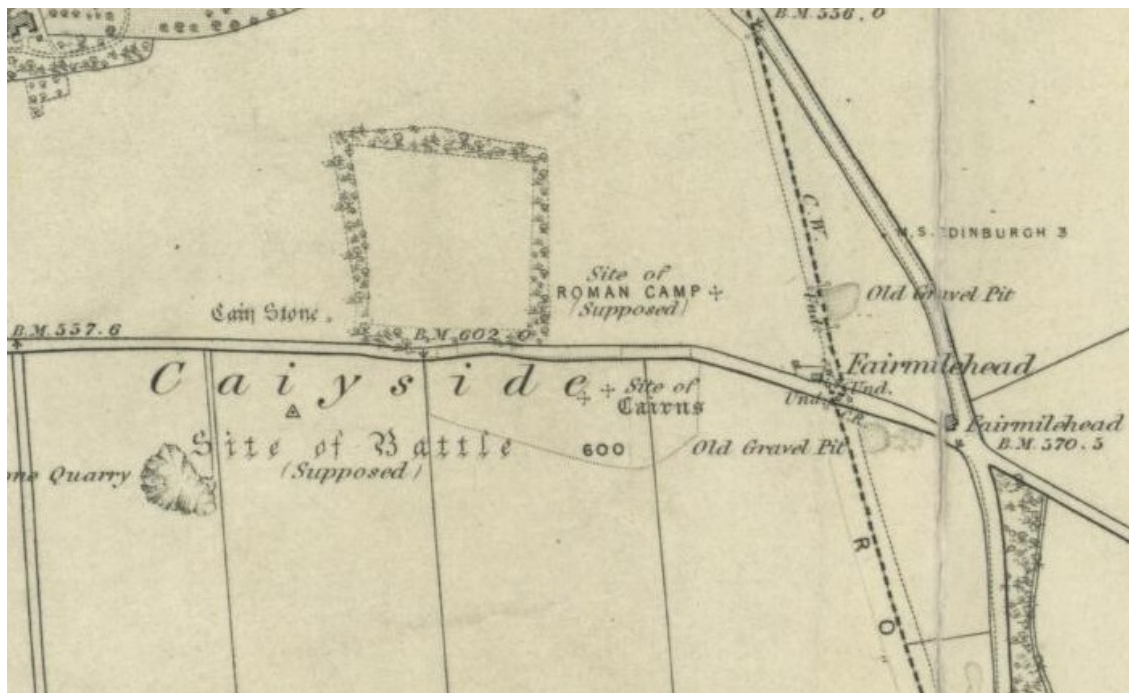


Figure 2 – OS 1st Edition map showing Oxfangs Road

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) to determine and assess 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 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 Prior to excavation of the evaluation trenches a metal detecting survey was conducted throughout the development plot. All excavation was then undertaken by a JCB 3CX excavator with 1.6 m wide ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon. 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 2015). The trenches were backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

3.2 During the second evaluation of the site an 8 tonne mini excavator was used for the required works. Due to the request of the developers it was necessary to first strip the area of vegetation and the top layer of garden soil which would be reinstated at a later date. Due to the space restrictions on site it was necessary to excavate in strips rather than open the entire area all at once. The area was backfilled upon completion of the works with the exception of the top soil and vegetation.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological works were conducted on 6th February 2015. Weather conditions were good, allowing for good archaeological visibility throughout the evaluation. The metal detecting survey conducted prior to the evaluation did not find any artefacts of archaeological significance. A modern bracket, wall tie and a tinfoil wrapper were the only items picked up by the survey (all items were discarded).
- 4.2 During the evaluation, four linear trenches totalling 55 m² of were opened, varying in alignment and length (Figure 3). The trenches revealed between 0.3-0.4 m of loose dark brown loam overlying a pink sandy clay and pink sandstone bedrock (Plates 1-4). No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed within the evaluation trenches.
- 4.3 The second phase of works was completed between 28th and 29th July and comprised the monitored topsoil strip of the entire footprint of the proposed dwelling. Weather conditions were mostly good except for the occasional heavy rain shower however this did not affect the overall visibility of the archaeology. A number of pieces of modern ceramic and glass were found however no significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the excavation.

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 No further archaeological works are deemed necessary within the development area. This recommendation will require the approval of the CECAS on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service.

6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2015, *40 Swanston Terrace, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished AOC project design

AOC Archaeology 2015, *40 Swanston Terrace, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation Addendum*, Unpublished AOC project design

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*, 2014

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*



Plate 1 – Post excavation view of Trench 1



Plate 2 - Post excavation view of Trench 2



Plate 3 - Post excavation view of Trench 3



Plate 4 - Post excavation view of Trench 4

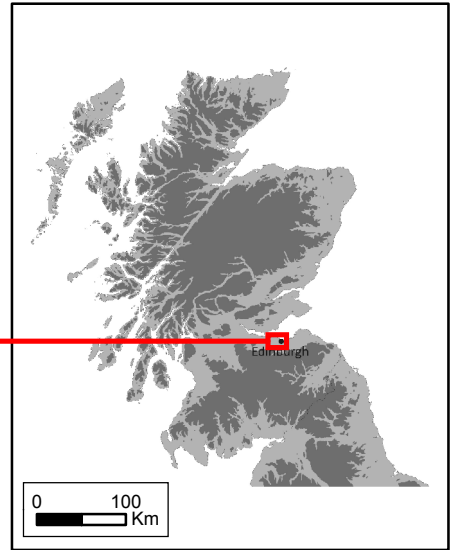
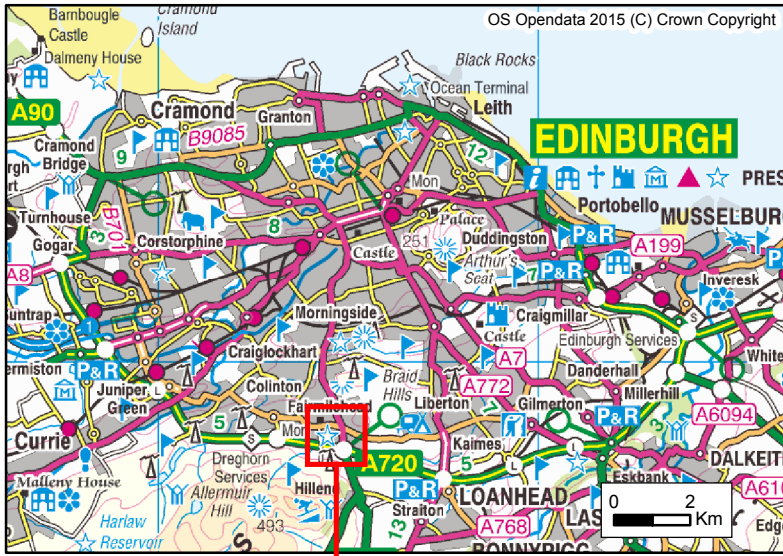


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

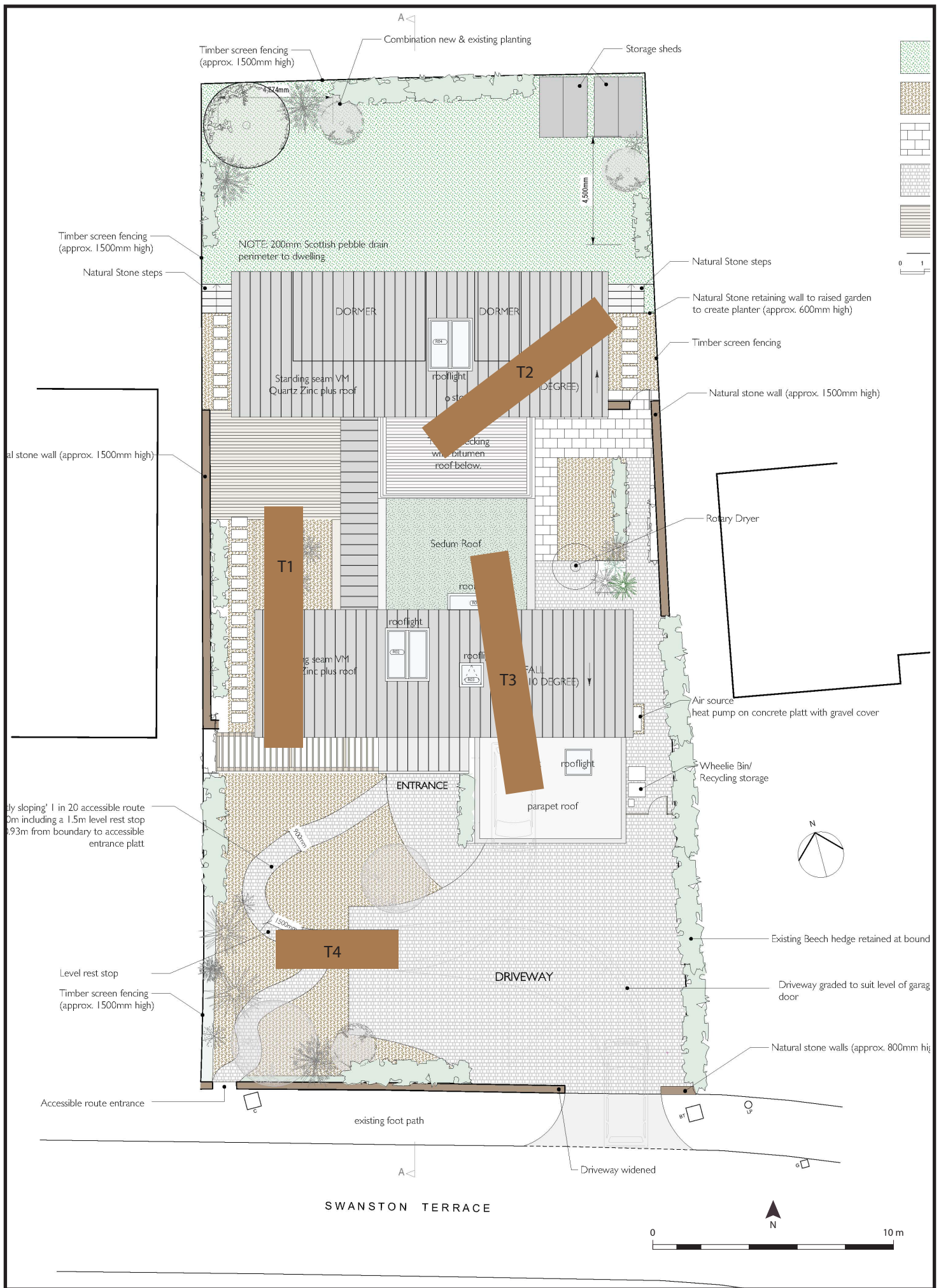


Figure 3 - Evaluation trench location overlaid on proposed development plan

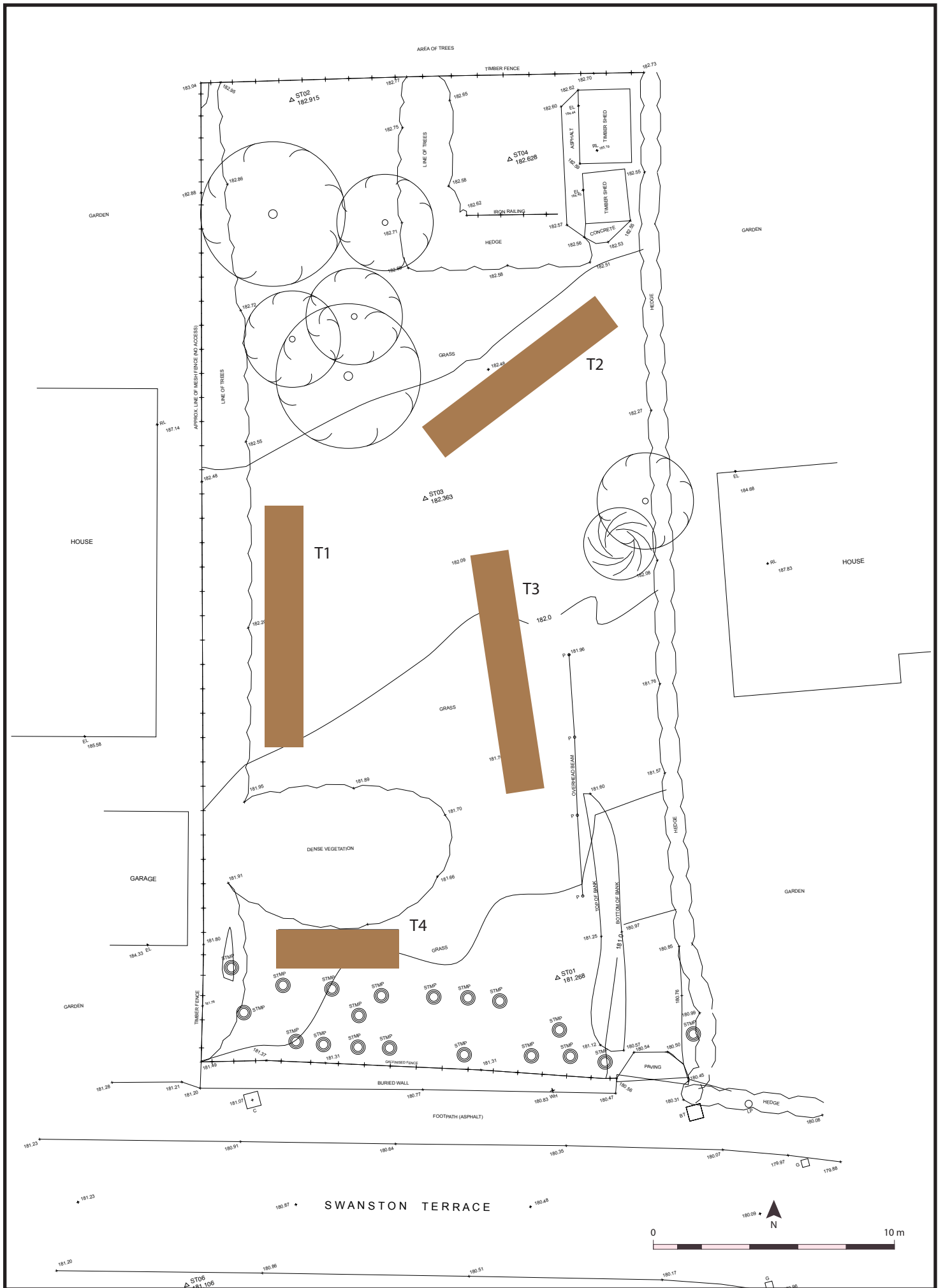


Figure 3 - Evaluation trench location

40 Swanston Terrace, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 1.6 m
<i>Total Area</i>	16 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	S to N
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – loose dark brown loam with occasional small stones – max depth 0.35 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pink sandy clay and boulders/bedrock protrusions.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	9 m by 1.6 m
<i>Total Area</i>	14.4 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	ENE to WSW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – loose dark brown loam with occasional small stones – max depth 0.4 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.42 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pink sandy clay and boulders/bedrock protrusions.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 1.6 m
<i>Total Area</i>	16 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	N to S
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – loose dark brown loam with occasional small stones – max depth 0.4 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pink sandy clay and boulders/bedrock protrusions.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	5 m by 1.6 m
<i>Total Area</i>	8 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	W to E
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – loose dark brown loam with occasional small stones – max depth 0.37 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.37 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pink sandy clay and boulders/bedrock protrusions.
<i>Finds</i>	None

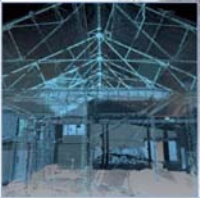
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-2	General view of site from entrance	Var	6/2/15
3	T1 Post-ex	N	6/2/15
4-6	View of hedge and trees at N end of site	Var	6/2/15
7	T2 Post-ex	ENE	6/2/15
8	T3 Post-ex	S	6/2/15
9	T4 Post-ex	W	6/2/15
10-11	Trenches backfilled	Var	6/2/15
12	Pre-ex shot of site	SE	28/7/15
13-18	Pink sandstone/clay natural revealed	W	28/7/15
14	Shot showing heaped vegetaion	E	29/7/15
15-16	Garden soil being stripped	Var	29/7/15
17-19	Pink sandstone/clay natural revealed	W	29/7/15
20	Modern concrete and brick foundations	W	29/7/15
21	Post-ex shot of site	S	29/7/15

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	40 Swanston Terrace
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22992
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 24567 68233
START DATE (this season)	6 th February 2015
END DATE (this season)	6 th February 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in relation to the construction of a proposed single dwelling at 40 Swanston Terrace, Edinburgh. The evaluation required the excavation of a 10% sample of the development plot equating to 53 m² of linear trench.</p> <p>No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed throughout the evaluation. No further works are considered necessary within the development area.</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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