

51 Cramond Glebe Road, Edinburgh: Watching Brief Report

AOC 22989
15th May 2015



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

51 Cramond Glebe Road, Cramond;

Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of:	Urban Creatures Chartered Architects 134 Queensferry Road Edinburgh EH4 2BG
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 18902 76895
Planning Application No:	14/03089/FUL
OASIS Number:	211324
AOC Project No:	22989
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Illustration by:	Gemma Hudson
Date of Fieldwork:	14th May 2015
Date of Report:	21st May 2015

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

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Summary

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at 51 Cramond Glebe Road, Cramond, Edinburgh and within the immediate vicinity of Cramond Roman Fort. The watching brief monitored the excavation of seven small foundation pits for the construction of a new raised deck to the rear of the property.

All the foundation pits found the same deposit of garden soil which included two small fragments of post medieval ceramics.

No significant archaeological deposits were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology during ground-breaking works associated with the construction of a raised deck to the rear of the property at 51 Cramond Glebe Road, Cramond, Edinburgh (NGR; NT 18902 76895). The watching brief was commissioned by Urban Creatures, Chartered Architects, on behalf of their clients Paula and Michael Owens and was required by the City of Edinburgh Council (as advised by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service) as a condition on the planning consent for development (Planning Ref: 14/03089/FUL).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken in accordance with in accordance with Scottish Planning Policy (2014) and PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology (2011).

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The site is located to the rear of the property at 51 Cramond Glebe Road, Edinburgh, and centred on NGR: NT 18902 76895 (Figure 1). It is situated within the immediate vicinity of the Scheduled Area of Cramond Roman Fort (SAM 2526), which is a nationally significant site afforded statutory protection.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 A Roman site had been long suspected at Cramond because the area had yielded a succession of finds, such as coins, pottery and inscribed stones (Stuart 1845). Early Ordnance Survey maps also indicate that some Roman remains were known here, and it is possible that they may have been upstanding to some degree until fairly recently. The Roman fort was eventually re-discovered during excavations in 1954 (Rae and Rae 1974). Several other archaeological excavations undertaken at Cramond since this time have revealed further evidence of the fort and of associated Roman activity. The western part of the fort is now occupied by residential houses on the west side of Cramond Glebe Road, while the east side is overlain by Cramond Kirk and Kirkyard, the Manse and other open ground in which some of the Roman foundations have been exposed and consolidated. A Roman bath-house located about 100m north of the fort was excavated in the mid-1970s (Holmes 2003).
- 1.3.2 In November 2007 a programme of archaeological test-pitting was carried out in advance of the proposed Walled Garden play park development. A series of four test-pits were excavated over the proposed location of the play facilities, however neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified (Cook & Lynchehaun 2007).
- 1.3.3 A number of other excavations have been undertaken around the Roman fort at Cramond, in some private gardens, on the college campus and in the parkland to the east. These have found a variety of remains, including sections of the Roman road approaching the fort from the south-east (Hoy 1979; Gooder 2003). More recently a programme of archaeological works adjacent to Cramond Kirk was undertaken on behalf of the Cramond Management Group and the City of Edinburgh Council to enable the identification of an appropriate mitigation strategy for the future protection, conservation and interpretation of the known Roman remains. The works consisted of three elements involving the re-excavation of two barrack blocks, the evaluation of the granary building and the evaluation of the eastern entrance within Cramond Roman Fort. The work was hugely successful identifying previously known features within Barrack Block B, but more importantly unearthing *in situ* deposits within Barrack Block A and Trenches B and C. Fresh evidence for the phasing of the buildings was recovered, and a large selection of artefacts was recovered including metalwork, coins and ceramics all relating to the Roman occupation, as well as Medieval ceramic and metalwork (Cook 2008).
- 1.3.4 Further works at 6, The Glebe, Cramond in 2009 found part of a cobbled surface that may relate to a building or a possible Roman road (Engl 2009).

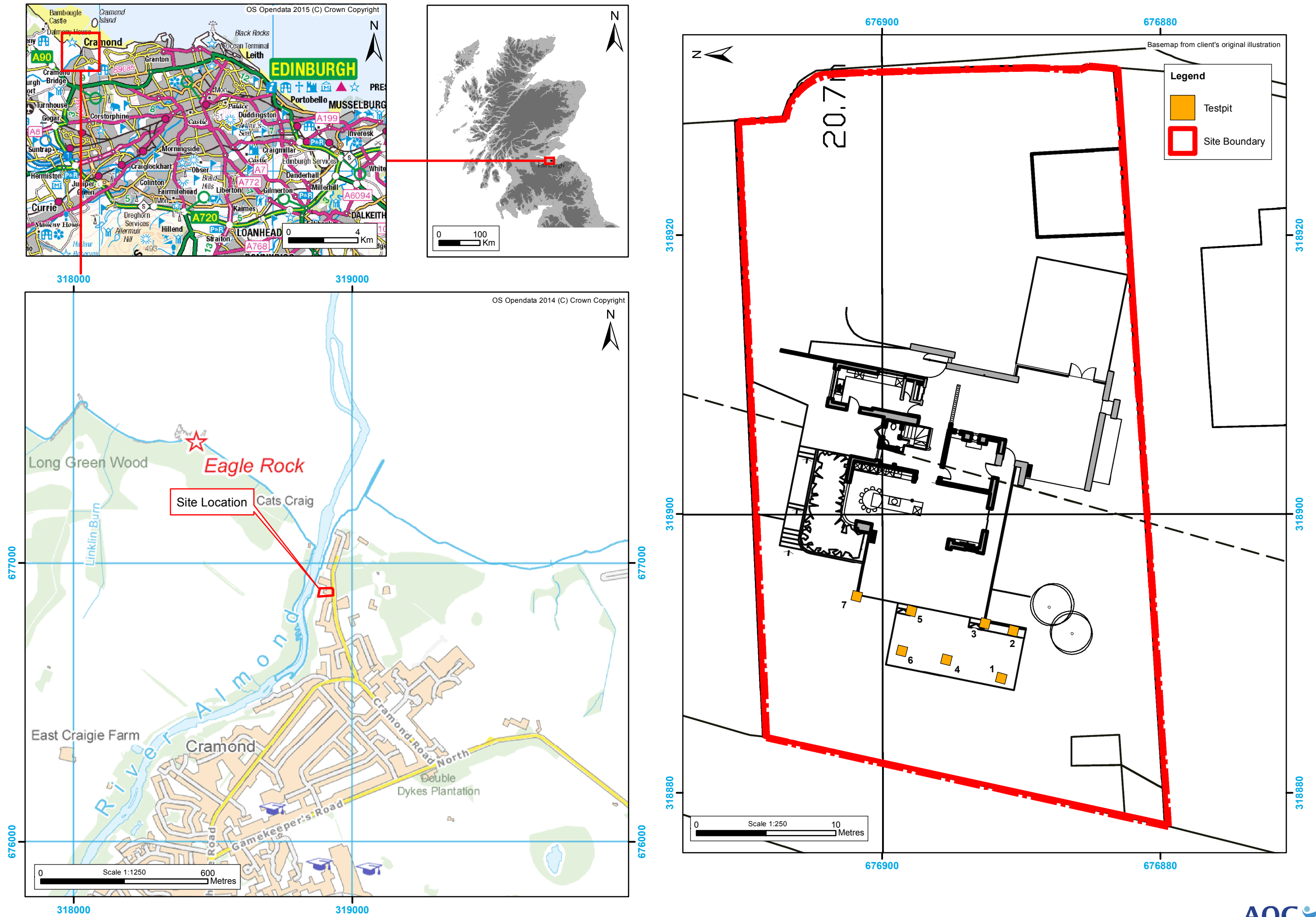


Figure 1: Site and Testpit Location Plan

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from inadvertent destruction by development impacts;
- ii) to undertake the immediate recording of isolated finds of moderately significant archaeological material that will be disturbed by construction activities;
- iii) given the discovery of highly significant archaeological material in quantity that that would suffer an adverse impact from construction works (ie preservation *in situ* was impractical), the recording of all archaeological features by means of a mitigation strategy formulated with CECAS.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Work was carried out using a small 360° tracked excavator equipped with a 0.3m wide smooth bladed ditching bucket. All ground-breaking works were carried out in shallow spits and monitored by an experienced field archaeologist. All spoil was scanned for finds and the trenches were recorded by written and photographic record.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 14th May 2015. The weather was bright and sunny and archaeological visibility was good.

4.2 Foundation pits

4.2.1 All seven foundation pits were excavated as square pits measuring approximately 0.7m by 0.7m and varying in depth between 0.5m and 1m deep depending on the slope of the area (see Figure 1; Plate 1). The pits closest to the house were covered in a layer of rubble [001] associated with the current renovations of the house and lay directly next to a line of kerb stones and cinder from a garden path [003]. Below these deposits all seven pits encountered the same deposit of garden soil [002] composed of dark brown/grey silty clay and sand with rocks, oyster shell, charcoal, 19th-20th century ceramics and construction refuse. Within this assemblage two sherds of post-medieval ceramics were retrieved from Pits 2 and 7. Below this material in Pit 2 was a horizon of orange sandy clay and in Pit 3 a solid orange sandy rock deposit (Plate 2). Both of these deposits were only partially visible at the limit of excavation but may represent the natural subsoil of the area.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 The garden soil [002] encountered contained two fragments of post-medieval ceramic, oyster shell and charcoal indicative of a midden deposit. However this material also contained more recent material and likely represents a deposit disturbed and re-deposited at the time of the house construction.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The archaeological watching brief found no significant archaeological finds or deposits. As such no further works are considered necessary. This is a recommendation pending approval by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service.



Plate 1: General view of the site (pre-excitation)



Plate 2: General post-excitation view of Pit 3

7 REFERENCES

AOC, 2015 *51 Cramond Glebe Road, Watching Brief: Written Scheme of Investigation*.

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Holmes, N. 2003 *Excavation of Roman Sites at Cramond, Edinburgh*. M. Collard & J. Lawson (eds). *Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Monograph 23*.

Stuart, R 1845. *Caledonia Romana*. Edinburgh & London.

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**51 Cramond Glebe Road,
Edinburgh
Watching Brief Report**

Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Foundation Pit 1

Dimensions 0.6m x 0.6m
Depth 0.5m
Finds none

Foundation Pit 2

Dimensions 0.6m x 0.6m
Depth 0.7m
Finds Ceramic Fragment (SF1)

Foundation Pit 3

Dimensions 0.7m x 0.7m
Depth 1m
Finds None

Foundation Pit 4

Dimensions 0.7m x 0.7m
Depth 0.6m
Finds None

Foundation Pit 5

Dimensions 0.7m x 0.7m
Depth 0.7m
Finds None

Foundation Pit 6

Dimensions 0.8m x 0.8m
Depth 0.7m
Finds None

Foundation Pit 7

Dimensions 0.8m x 0.8m
Depth 0.8m
Finds Ceramic Fragment (SF2)

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description
1	Registration shot
2-15	General shots
16-20	Pit 3
21-23	Pit 4
24-27	Pit 5
28-30	Pit 2
31-34	Pit 1
35-38	Pit 6
39-42	Pit 7
43-48	Post ex shots of site

APPENDIX 3: Context Register

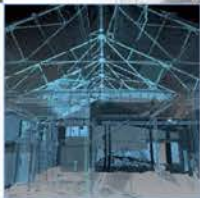
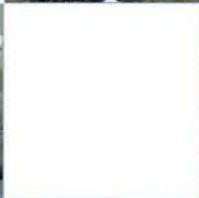
Context Number	Description
000	Deposit of orange sandy clay and rock. Possible natural subsoil.
001	Building demolition material from current renovations. Modern building demo.
002	Deposit of dark brown grey silty clay and sand with roots, rocks, charcoal, oyster shell, 19 th -20 th century ceramics and building rubbish. Two sherds of post medieval ceramics recovered. (SF 1 and 2) Garden Soil.
003	Kerb stones and grey cinder. Modern Garden Path.

APPENDIX 4: Finds Register

Find Number	Context	Trench Number	Description
1	002	2	Grey ceramic fragment
2	002	7	Green Glazed Ceramic Fragment

APPENDIX 5: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' (DES) Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	51 Cramond Glebe Road, Cramond
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22989
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Nicholas Johnstone
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Cobbled Surface
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 18902 76895
START DATE (this season)	14 th May 2015
END DATE (this season)	14 th May 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at 51 Cramond Glebe Road, Cramond, Edinburgh. The watching brief monitored the excavation of seven small foundation pits for the construction of a new raised deck to the rear of the property. The site is located within the immediate vicinity of Cramond Roman Fort.</p> <p>All the foundation pits found the same deposit of garden soil which included two small fragments of post medieval ceramics.</p> <p>No significant archaeological deposits were encountered.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Paula and Michael Owens
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EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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