

# Foxhall Plantation, Kirkliston

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

*AOC Project 23027*

*16<sup>th</sup> June 2015*



## Foxhall Plantation, Kirkliston: Archaeological Evaluation Report

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| On Behalf of:                  | Conifox Nurseries<br>Foxhall<br>Kirkliston<br>Edinburgh<br>EH29 9ER   |
| National Grid Reference (NGR): | NT 13041 74091  |
| AOC Project No:                | 23027   |
| Planning Ref:                  | 14/02296/FUL (Foxhall Plantation)<br>14/02268/FUL (Kitchen Extension) |
| OASIS No:                      | 212429  |
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| Date of Fieldwork:             | 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2015   |
| Date of Report:                | 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2015  |

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

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## Summary

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*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group, on behalf of Conifox Nurseries, prior to development of a plot of land at Foxhall Plantation, Kirkliston. A watching brief was also required on ground within the main house prior to an intended kitchen extension. The works were required as a condition of the planning consent on both developments.*

*The evaluation consisted of the machine trenching of five trenches totalling an area of 270m<sup>2</sup> or 180 linear metres. A general photographic record was also taken of the ha-ha at the site. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.*

*A brief inspection of the ground intended for the kitchen extension identified that, as there was a swimming pool in the position of the intended kitchen extension, no archaeological features were likely to have survived.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Conifox Nurseries to carry out a programme of archaeological works prior to the creation of a new play area within the Foxhall Plantation to the south-east of Kirkliston, Edinburgh (Planning Ref. No. 14/02296/FUL). An additional watching brief was also required on the site of an intended kitchen extension to the main house at Foxhall (Ref: 14/02268/FUL).
- 1.1.2 The proposed developments lie within the administrative area of the City of Edinburgh Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principals set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *Planning & Archaeology* (2011) and in accordance with City of Edinburgh Council requirements as advised by CECAS.
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2015) outlining the entire programme of archaeological works was agreed with CECAS in advance of the works being undertaken.

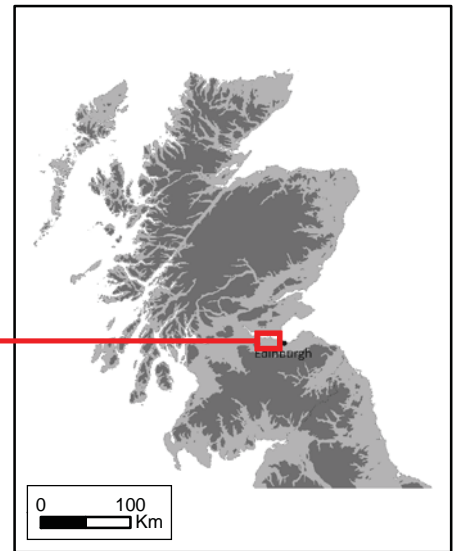
### 1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The development area is located within the Foxhall Plantation which lies to the south-east of the small town of Kirkliston, centred on NGR: NT 13041 74091 (Figure 1). It is wholly enclosed by the plantation and is bounded by the River Almond to the west and south and horticultural fields to the north and east. The site covers an area of approximately 0.65ha with a new access road to the north which will extend for approximately 190m and will link onto the current access road.
- 1.2.2 The kitchen extension is located to the south side of the main house which is located to the north-east of the development area and is centred on NGR: NT 13134 74180 (see Figure 6).

### 1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 There is no current evidence for prehistoric activity within the development area and, as land has been heavily ploughed and disturbed by tree planting, it is unlikely that any remains have survived. There are also no known early medieval remains within the development area, although it has been suggested that the Foxhall Estate could form part of an earlier medieval Templar Estate. Occupation of the site is first mentioned in 1536 where an earlier house is said to have occupied the site (pers comm, John Lawson).
- 1.3.2 By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Estate is said to have changed hands from the Monteith-Carre family to the Horn family, with Hugh Horn purchasing the estate in 1736. The name was then changed to 'Todshaugh', as we can see in William Roy's map of ca. 1747 – 1755, where it is annotated as such (Figure 2). This is also when the site is depicted/annotated for the first time cartographically. It depicts a large estate with enclosures bounded by trees and a north/south walkway to the centre. By Knox's 1816 map, it is annotated for the first time as Foxhall (Figure 3), which is dated 6 years after most of the buildings at Foxhall were constructed by William Thomas Wishart.
- 1.3.3 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1856 shows the plantation in detail, with the development area shown as uncultivated land (Figure 4). The later 1895 map identifies that the adjacent buildings now comprising the Farmhouse Shop and Café has now been constructed, with again no development to the west of it. This continues into the later 20<sup>th</sup> century after which time the development area becomes used as plantation land (Figure 5).





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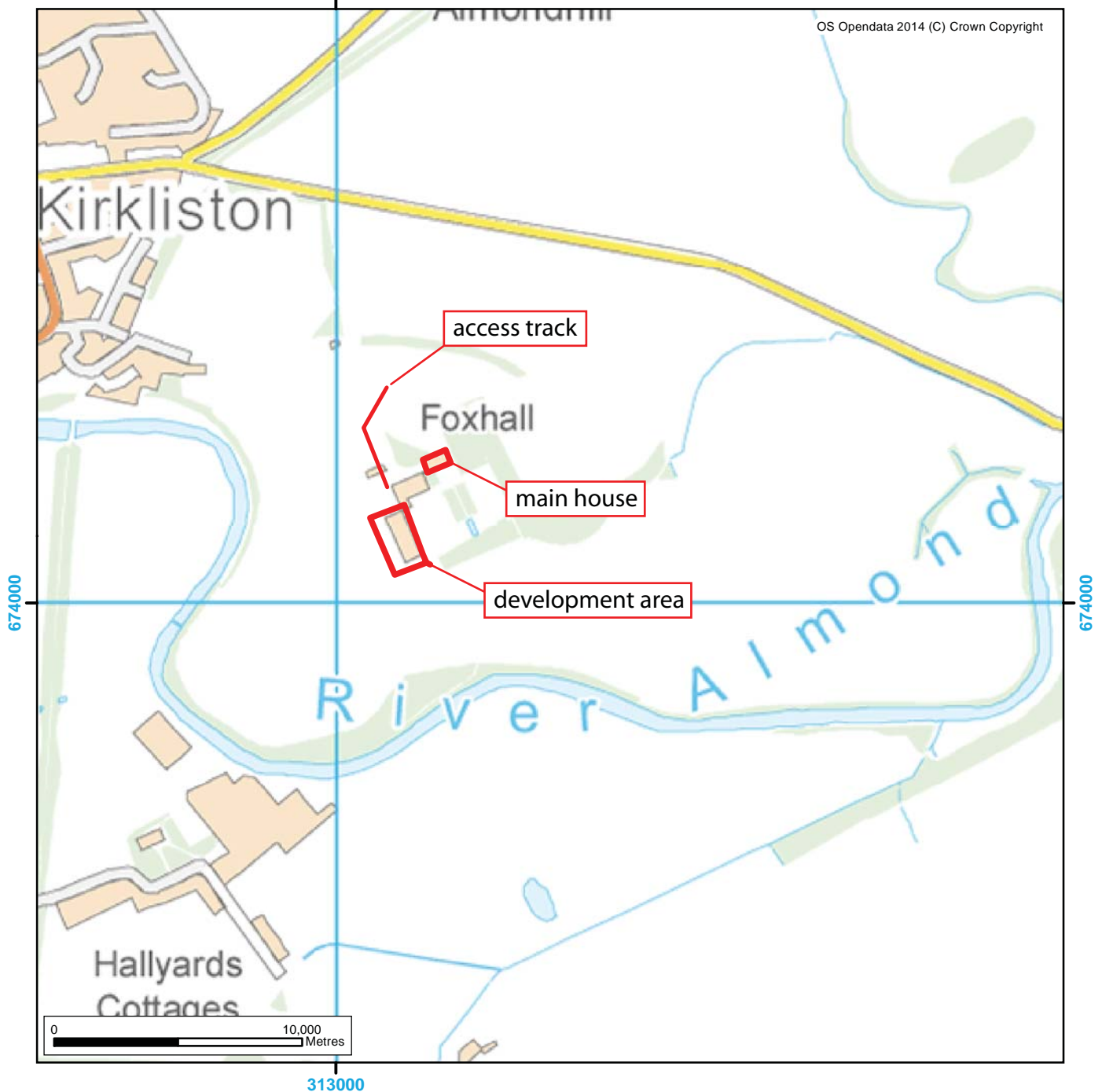


Figure 1: Site Location Plan



Figure 2: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, ca. 1747 - 1755



Figure 3: Extract from James Knox's map, 1816



Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1856

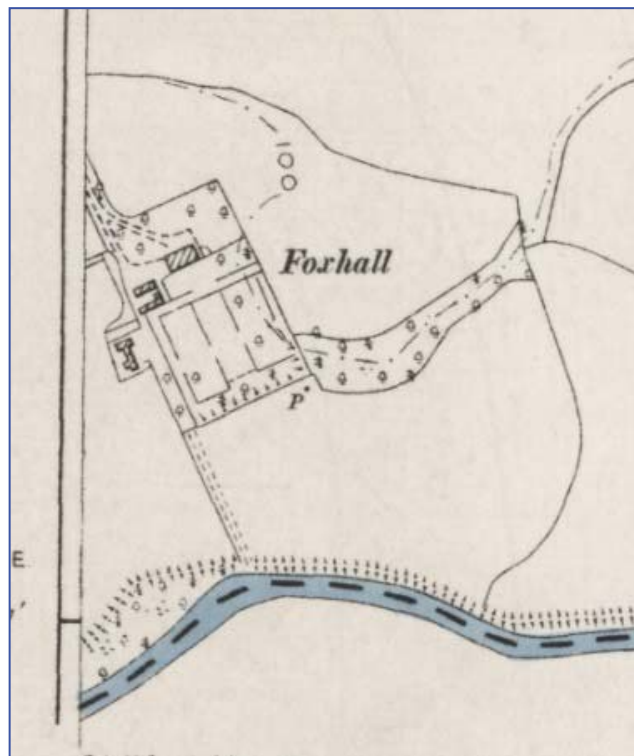


Figure 5: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1895



## 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 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2015 using an excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. It consisted of the excavation of five evaluation trenches with a complete basal area of 270m<sup>2</sup>, or 180 linear metres based on each trench being 1.5m in width (see Figure 6). The evaluation was undertaken in dry, clear conditions with good archaeological visibility. Trenches were recorded and subsequently backfilled and tracked-over by the machine.
- 3.2 The ha-has was subject to a detailed digital photographic survey accompanied by a written record of the wall.
- 3.3 There was also a requirement to undertake a watching brief on an intended new kitchen extension associated with the main house, which was viewed at the time of the evaluation by the archaeological officer on site.

## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 Trenches 1 – 5 were located within the plantation area on varying orientations (see Figure 6). In all trenches, the depth of the topsoil was between 0.25 – 0.30m in depth overlying a dark grey silty clay subsoil (Plates 1 & 2). Trench 6 was located within the intended access road with a medium – light beige sandy clay subsoil. No archaeological features or finds were located in any of the trenches.
- 4.2 The ha-ha was located to the immediate west of the main road into the site to the east of the intended new access road. It consisted of a simple stone rubble wall with ditch to the west side (Plates 3 & 4).
- 4.3 The area of the extension to the house was also viewed by the archaeological officer on site, which presently contains a swimming pool located in a conservatory, a photograph of which was taken at the time of the evaluation.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 No significant archaeological finds or features were encountered during the archaeological evaluation and the area appears archaeologically sterile.
- 5.2 The area where the intended new extension to the main house is located is presently occupied with a swimming pool, so no archaeology is likely to have survived below ground considering the groundworks required for the pool and its relating services.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by Mr Lawson of CECAS on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council.

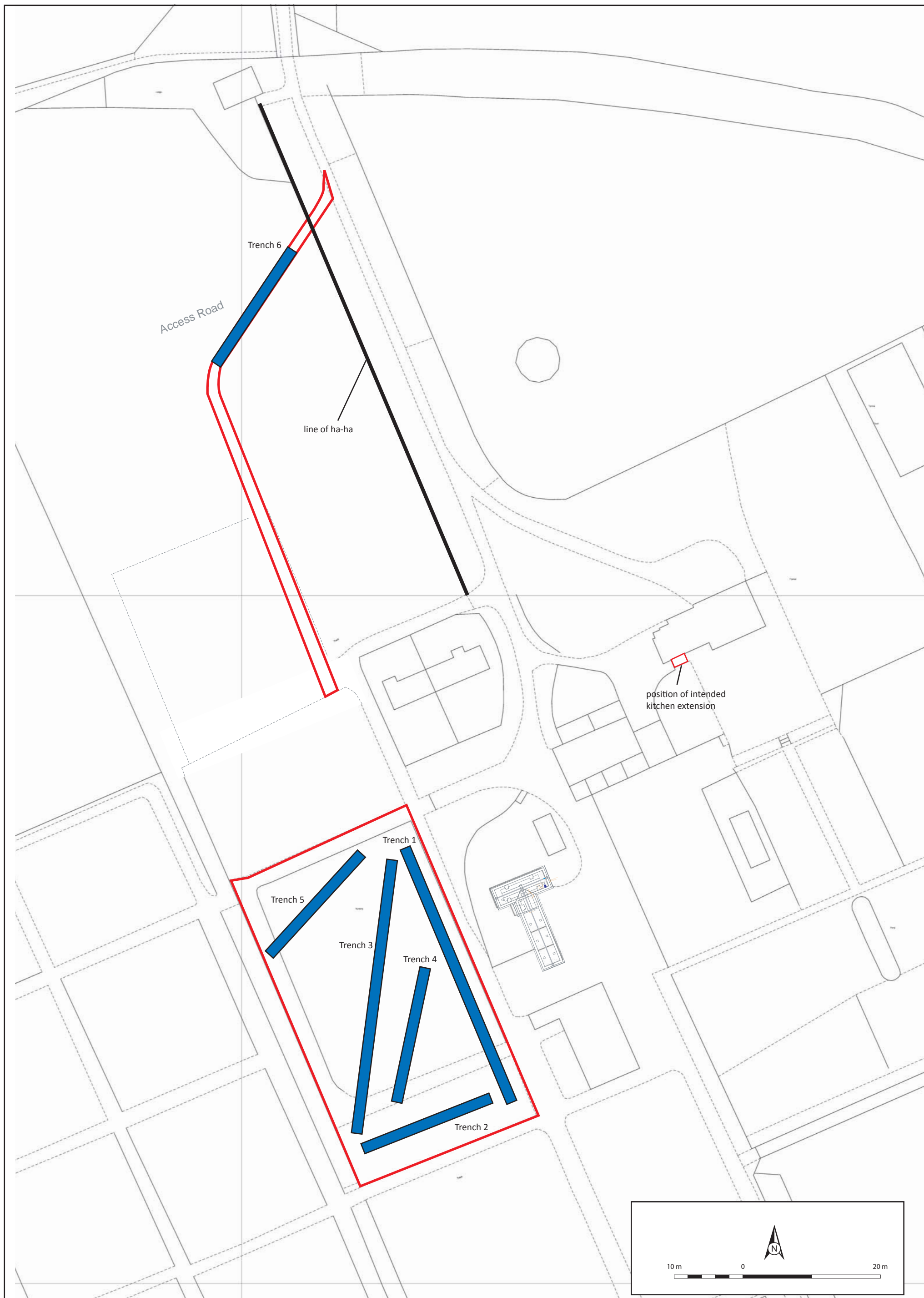


Figure 6: Site plan showing development area and position of evaluation trenches and ha-ha





Plate 1: Trench 2, general post-excitation shot from the east



Plate 2: Trench 4, detail of the SEE-facing section from the south-east





Plate 3: General view of the ha-ha from the south



Plate 4: Detail of the ha-ha construction from the west

## 6 REFERENCES

### 6.1 Bibliographical references

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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

### 6.2 Cartographic references

|                 |                 |   |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| ca. 1747 - 1755 | William Roy     | <i>Military Map of Scotland</i>                     |
| 1786            | John Laurie     | <i>A Plan of Edinburgh and the country adjacent</i> |
| 1816            | James Knox      | <i>Map of the shire of Edinburgh</i>                |
| 1856            | Ordnance Survey | <i>Linlithgowshire Sheet 7</i>                      |
| 1895            | Ordnance Survey | <i>Edinburghshire 002.06</i>                        |
| 1897            | Ordnance Survey | <i>Linlithgowshire Sheet VII.NW &amp; SW</i>        |
| 1914            | Ordnance Survey | <i>Linlithgowshire Sheet nIX 1914</i>               |
| 1955            | Ordnance Survey | <i>1:25000 Provisional Edition NT 1955</i>          |



## APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

### Trench 1

|                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Dimensions</i>           | 40m x 1.5m           |
| <i>Orientation</i>          | N/S                  |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i>     | 0.25m – 0.45m        |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i>  | 0.60m – 0.89m        |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None                 |
| <i>Other Features</i>       | None                 |
| <i>Subsoil</i>              | Dark grey silty clay |
| <i>Finds</i>                | None                 |

### Trench 2

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Dimensions</i>           | 40m x 1.5m                      |
| <i>Orientation</i>          | E/W                             |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i>     | 0.25m – 0.30m                   |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i>  | 0.48m – 0.60m                   |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None                            |
| <i>Other Features</i>       | None                            |
| <i>Subsoil</i>              | Medium – light brown silty clay |
| <i>Finds</i>                | None                            |

### Trench 3

|                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Dimensions</i>           | 40m x 1.5m           |
| <i>Orientation</i>          | NE/SW                |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i>     | 0.29m – 0.30m        |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i>  | 0.63m – 0.79m        |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None                 |
| <i>Other Features</i>       | None                 |
| <i>Subsoil</i>              | Dark grey silty clay |
| <i>Finds</i>                | None                 |

### Trench 4

|                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Dimensions</i>           | 20m x 1.5m           |
| <i>Orientation</i>          | NE/SW                |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i>     | 0.26m – 0.30m        |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i>  | 0.35m – 0.42m        |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None                 |
| <i>Other Features</i>       | None                 |
| <i>Subsoil</i>              | Dark grey silty clay |
| <i>Finds</i>                | None                 |

### Trench 5

|                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Dimensions</i>           | 20m x 1.5m           |
| <i>Orientation</i>          | NEE/SWW              |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i>     | 0.20m – 0.31m        |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i>  | 0.55m – 0.70m        |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None                 |
| <i>Other Features</i>       | None                 |
| <i>Subsoil</i>              | Dark grey silty clay |
| <i>Finds</i>                | None                 |

### Trench 6

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>Dimensions</i>           | 20m x 1.5m                                       |
| <i>Orientation</i>          | NE/SW  |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i>     | 0.29m – 0.30m                                    |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i>  | 0.50m – 0.60m                                    |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None   |
| <i>Other Features</i>       | None   |
| <i>Subsoil</i>              | Medium – light beige sandy clay with patchy sand |
| <i>Finds</i>                | None   |

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

| Frame   | Area | Trench/Feature | Description                             | From | Date       |
|---------|------|----------------|---|------|------------|
| 1       | A    | 1              | General post-excavation shot            | N    | 25/05/2015 |
| 2       | A    | 1              | Detail of the E-facing section          | NEE  | 25/05/2015 |
| 3       | A    | 1              | Detail of rubble drain                  | E    | 25/05/2015 |
| 4       | A    | 2              | General post-excavation shot            | E    | 25/05/2015 |
| 5       | A    | 2              | Detail of S-facing section              | S    | 25/05/2015 |
| 6       | A    | 3              | General post-excavation shot            | NE   | 25/05/2015 |
| 7       | A    | 3              | Detail of the SEE-facing section        | SEE  | 25/05/2015 |
| 8       | A    | 4              | General post-excavation shot            | NEE  | 25/05/2015 |
| 9       | A    | 4              | Detail of the SEE-facing section        | NEE  | 25/05/2015 |
| 10      | A    | 5              | General post-excavation shot            | SWW  | 25/05/2015 |
| 11      | A    | 5              | Detail of SEE-facing section            | SSW  | 25/05/2015 |
| 12 – 15 | A    | -              | General post-excavation shots of Area A | NNE  | 25/05/2015 |
| 16      | B    | Ha-ha          | General view of the ha-ha               | N    | 25/05/2015 |
| 17      | B    | Ha-ha          | Detail showing erosion                  | W    | 25/05/2015 |
| 18      | B    | Ha-ha          | General view of ha-ha wall and ditch    | S    | 25/05/2015 |
| 19      | B    | Ha-ha          | General view of ha-ha wall and ditch    | W    | 25/05/2015 |
| 20      | B    | Ha-ha          | Detail of erosion                       | W    | 25/05/2015 |
| 21      | B    | Ha-ha          | Detail of erosion                       | N    | 25/05/2015 |
| 22 – 23 | B    | Ha-ha          | General view of ha-ha                   | S    | 25/05/2015 |
| 24 – 25 | B    | Ha-ha          | Detail of erosion                       | W    | 25/05/2015 |
| 26 – 28 | B    | Ha-ha          | General view of ha-ha and ditch         | N    | 25/05/2015 |
| 29      | B    | 6              | Detail of SSW-facing section            | SSW  | 25/05/2015 |
| 30      | B    | 6              | General post-excavation shot            | SW   | 25/05/2015 |

### APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES) Report

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>   | City of Edinburgh Council   |
| <b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>  | Foxhall Plantations   |
| <b>PROJECT CODE:</b>  | AOC 23027   |
| <b>PARISH:</b>  | Kirkliston  |
| <b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>   | Diana Sproat  |
| <b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>  | AOC Archaeology Group   |
| <b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>  | Archaeological Evaluation   |
| <b>NMRS NO(S)</b>   | None  |
| <b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>   | None  |
| <b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>   | None  |
| NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)  | NT 13041 74091  |
| <b>START DATE</b> (this season)   | 25/05/2015  |
| <b>END DATE</b> (this season)   | 25/05/2015  |
| <b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)   | None  |
| <b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b><br>(May include information from other fields) | An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Conifox Nurseries, prior to development of a plot of land at Foxhall Plantation, Kirkliston. The works were required as a condition of the planning consent for the development. The evaluation consisted of the machine trenching of five trenches totalling an area of 270m <sup>2</sup> or 180 linear metres. A general photographic record was also taken of the ha-ha at the site. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered. |
| <b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>  | None  |
| <b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>   | None  |
| <b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>   | Conifox Nurseries   |
| <b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>   | AOC Archaeology Group   |
| <b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>   | admin@aocarchaeology.com  |
| <b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b><br>(intended/deposited)                                     | National Monuments Record for Scotland  |



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