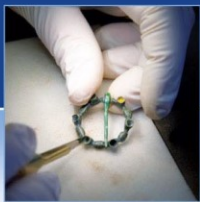


# Land 32m SE of No 4 Freelands Road, Ratho Archaeological Watching Brief & Evaluation Report

31<sup>st</sup> August 2015

AOC23118



ARCHAEOLOGY

| HERITAGE

| CONSERVATION

## Land 32m SE of No. 4 Freelands Road, Ratho: Archaeological Watching Brief & Evaluation Report

**On Behalf of:** Freelands Developments Ltd  
Freelands Farm  
Ratho  
Midlothian  
EH28 8NW

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NT 13906 71059

**AOC Project No:** 23118

**Planning Application No:** 12/02354/FUL

**OASIS No:** 222229

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**Illustration by:** Diana Sproat

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**Date of Report:** 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015

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

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**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> August 2015

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**Date:** 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015

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## Summary

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*AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Freelands Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief and evaluation in the area associated with 4 Freelands Road.*

*This initially consisted of test pitting with a later archaeological evaluation being undertaken prior to the excavation of the intended new house plots, as agreed with the CEC Archaeology Service.*

*No significant archaeological features were uncovered.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by Freelands Development Ltd with respect to ground-breaking works associated with the construction of a three new dwellings located on land 32m to the SE of No 4 Freelands Road, Ratho to the west of Edinburgh. The works are required as a condition of planning consent on the development (Planning Reference No: 12/02354/FUL). The need for and scope of the archaeological works was determined by the City of Edinburgh Council as advised by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).
- 1.1.2 The programme of archaeological works was specified by CECAS is in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

### 1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The development area is located within the rear gardens of No 4 Freelands Road and centred on NGR: NT 13906 71059 (Figure 1).

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The development area lies within gardens associated with the B Listed former Manse for Ratho Kirk and, as such, within the historic limits of the medieval settlement of Ratho. The Manse itself was constructed in 1803, and first appears on James Knox's 1813 map (Figure 3). A house in its position could not be identified on earlier maps, some of which were too small scale, although it is definitely not depicted on Laurie's 1796 map (Figure 2). However, 18<sup>th</sup> century fragments recorded in the grounds of the garden identify that there may have been a Manse here or nearby earlier than the 1803 building (John Lawson, pers comm).
- 1.3.2 Into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the development area remains as gardens, as can be seen in the more detailed 1853 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 4), right up to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (Figure 5) and the present day.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by ground-breaking works associated with the development;
  - ii) 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;
  - iii) to report on the results of the works.



Figure 2: Extract from Laurie's map, 1796, with the position of the future 1803 manse circled



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



Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1853



Figure 5: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1944

### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 An original watching brief on ground-breaking works associated with the development was intended as per the original Written Scheme of Investigation by AOC Archaeology (2015). However, given the requirement by the client to undertake the archaeological excavation works prior to the main development, an evaluation was undertaken on the site, equating to 86.6m<sup>2</sup>, an approach which was agreed with CEC Archaeology Service. Prior to this, a watching brief on the excavation of four test pits (for easter drainage testing) was undertaken on the site.
- 3.2 The excavation of the evaluation trenches consisted of machine excavation in shallow units/spits through topsoil/overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits and carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed with the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2015).

### 4 RESULTS

#### 4.1 Test Pits

- 4.1.1 Four test pits were excavated across the development site (Figure 6). Two were placed in line with the existing manse building to the north of the site, and the other two were placed to the south. All test pits were approximately 2.5m x 1.5m in size. No significant archaeological features were uncovered.
- 4.1.2 Test Pits 1 & 2 were located to the south-east and south-west area of the garden. They were excavated to a depth of 2.7m in total, with the topsoil being recorded to a depth of 0.75m, consisting of a mid-brown silty loam. The subsoil below this consisted of a light brown silty sand with frequent stone inclusions. This overlay a natural subsoil of yellow orange sand (Plate 1).





Plate 1: General view of Test Pit 1

4.1.3 Test Pits 3 & 4 were located in the area overlooking Freelands Road to the north of the site. These were again excavated to a total depth of 2.7m, with the same deposits as seen in Test Pits 1 & 2.

#### **4.2 Evaluation Trenches**

4.2.1 Two evaluation trenches were excavated in the same areas as the test pits. No significant archaeological features were uncovered.

4.2.2 Trench 1 measured 41.6m<sup>2</sup> in size and was orientated north/south from Freelands Road, then east/west towards the Manse (Figure 6; Plate 2). The soil profile was consistent with that of Test Pits 3 & 4 with no archaeological features or artefacts discovered. Some white glazed pottery sherds and oyster shell were located in the topsoil, indicative of the land use of a manse garden.

4.2.3 Trench 2 measured 45m<sup>2</sup> and was orientated east/west, located within the western end. The soil profile was consistent with that found during the test pitting (Plate 3).



Plate 2: General post-excitation view of Trench 1, from the west



Plate 3: General post-excitation view

## 5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The ground works at Freelands Road revealed no significant archaeological features or finds. The depth of the soil profiles varied from the north and south of the site, although given the slope this is unsurprising.

## 6 CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 While the initial WSI called for a watching brief on all ground breaking works at Freelands Road, an initial test pitting watching brief and evaluation were instead carried out. It is recommended that no further archaeological works are required on the site, although this will need to be confirmed by CEC Archaeology Service.

## 7 REFERENCES

### 7.1 Bibliographical references

AOC Archaeology 2015 *Land 32m to the south of No 4 Freelands Road, Ratho: Archaeological watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished client method statement.

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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

### 7.2 Cartographic references

1796	John Laurie	<i>A Plan of Edinburgh and the country adjacent</i>
1816	James Knox	<i>Map of the shire of Edinburgh</i>
1853	Ordnance Survey	<i>Edinburghshire Sheet 5</i>
1944	Ordnance Survey	<i>Edinburghshire Sheet II.SE</i>

## APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

### Digital 1 (Test Pit Watching Brief)

Frame	Description
1-6	General shots of site
7-8	Test pit 1
9-11	Test pit 2
12	Shot of southern area
13-15	Test pit 3
16-18	Test pit 4

### Digital 2 (Evaluation)

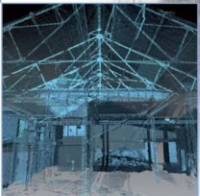
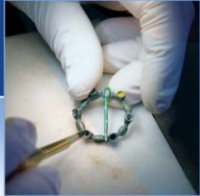
Frame	Description
1	Registration Shot
2-3	Pre-excavation of site
4	Groundbreaking Trench 1
5	Trench 1 looking E
6	Trench 1 looking N
7	General shot of Trench 1
8-11	General shots of site
12	Area to S
13	Trench 2
14	Trench 2 looking E
15	Trench 2 soil profile
16-17	General shots of Trench 2

## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Description
000	Mid yellow orange sand <b>Natural Subsoil</b>
001	Mid brown silty loam <b>Topsoil</b>
002	Light brown silt, frequent stone inclusions <b>Subsoil</b>

**APPENDIX 3: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' (DES) REPORT**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	City of Edinburgh Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	No. 4 Freelands Road, Ratho
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	23118
<b>PARISH:</b>	Ratho
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Steven Watt
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief/Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Category B listed
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 13906 71059
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> August 2015
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> August 2015
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)</b>	AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Freelands Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief and evaluation in the area associated with 4 Freelands Road, in the grounds of the former historic manse for the medieval parish church. This initially consisted of test pitting with a later archaeological evaluation being undertaken prior to the excavation of the intended new house plots, as agreed with the CEC Archaeology Service. No significant archaeological features were uncovered.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	John Muir, Freelands Developments Ltd, Freelands Farm, Ratho, Midlothian, EH28 8NW
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group; Edgefield Road Industrial Estate; Loanhead. Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	admin@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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