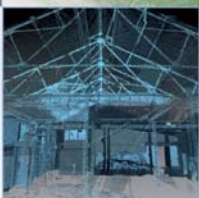


Tennant Street, Edinburgh: Archaeological Works Data Structure Report

AOC 22869
4th February 2016



Tennant Street, Edinburgh: Archaeological works

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Persimmon Homes East Scotland & Charles Church Scotland Unit 1 Wester Inch Business Park Old Well Court Bathgate EH48 2TQ
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 2657 7588
AOC Project No:	22869
OASIS No.	237245
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Draft Report Stage: Draft

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Contents

	Page
List of illustrations	3
List of plates	3
List of appendices	3
Summary	4
1 INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Project Background	5
1.2 Site Location	5
1.3 Archaeological Background	5
2 OBJECTIVES	5
3 METHODOLOGY	6
4 RESULTS	6
4.1 Introduction	6
4.2 Monitored Topsoil Strip	6
4.3 Watching Brief	10
5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	11
6 REFERENCES	11
APPENDIX 1: Context Register	13
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register	15
APPENDIX 3: Drawing Register	16
APPENDIX 4: Finds Register	16
APPENDIX 5: Sample Register	16
APPENDIX 6: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' (DES) Report	18

List of illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Plan of areas monitored and detailed plan of topsoil strip area
Figure 3	Sections of furrows and feature [005]

List of plates

Plate 1	General view of brick structure [039]
Plate 2	View of pit [019], wall foundation [017] and animal burial [015]
Plate 3	View of Victorian pit [003]
Plate 4	View of furrows [007] and [009]
Plate 5	View of feature [005]
Plate 6	View of modern landscaping along eastern edge

List of appendices

Appendix 1	Context Register
Appendix 2	Photographic Register
Appendix 3	Drawing Register
Appendix 4	Finds Register
Appendix 5	Sample Register
Appendix 6	Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

Summary

A programme of archaeological works was required by Persimmon Homes East Scotland & Charles Church Scotland in respect to a proposed development on land at Tennant Street, Edinburgh. The site at Tennant Street lies within an area thought to have been used by English and Scots forces as a battery and temporary fort named Mount Somerset during the Siege of Leith in 1560.

The monitored topsoil strip revealed up to 1 m of made ground and former topsoil overlying the natural sand. The area had several agricultural furrows running E-W through the site dating to the post-medieval period, and there was evidence of modern truncation along the northern edge. The southern edge of a large pit or possible ditch with gently sloping sides was also uncovered along this edge but the limits of the excavation area made it impossible to investigate further, and the modern truncation along the western edge had also impacted upon it. No artefacts were recovered from the feature.

The watching brief did not uncover any significant archaeological features. No further archaeological works are recommended.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Persimmon Homes East Scotland & Charles Church Scotland in respect to a proposed development on land at Tennant Street, Edinburgh. The proposed development lies within the administrative area of Edinburgh City Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). The programme of archaeological works is in keeping with best practice requirements outlined in current planning guidelines *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) & *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (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 proposed development area comprises a plot of land to the SW of the buildings that align Tennant Street. The site is bounded by the back of properties on Bonnington Road to the N, Pilrig Park to the E and buildings of an industrial estate off Jane Street and Leith Walk. The site is a brown field site with former buildings that occupied the site now demolished. The site is 2.15 Ha and is centred at NGR: NT 2657 7588 (Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The site at Tennant Street lies within an area thought to have been used by English and Scots forces as a battery and temporary fort named Mount Somerset during the Siege of Leith in 1560. A recent study into the siege works represented by a 16th century map of Leith has shown that the site may be on the edge of the fort that sat behind the raised mound and battery of Mount Somerset (Paton, forthcoming). This mound and fortification have most likely been long demolished and removed but the defensive ditches surrounding them may have survived ploughing and modern landscaping of the area.
- 1.3.2 A recent evaluation and subsequent excavation at West Bowling Green Street located part of the siege works to the N of the Water of Leith (Paton 2013), and an earlier evaluation in Pilrig Park may have located a similar sized ditch related to Mount Somerset (Pollard 2008). Furthermore, part of the development site has previously undergone archaeological evaluation in 2009 (Gow, 2009; RCAHMS ID: NT27NE 1649) which revealed the site contained a number of post medieval features related to planting carried out in the grounds of Stanwell Lodge. The footings of a small structure, possibly the boiler house for the later Victorian heated garden wall were also revealed, and a later Victorian midden was also uncovered in the area of the early Victorian formal gardens.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works are:
- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area through a monitored topsoil strip;
 - ii) the identification, excavation, sampling and recording of all significant archaeological features within the monitored topsoil strip;

- iii) to safeguard the archaeological resource from inadvertent destruction by development impacts within the watching brief area;

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The works involved two phases of work, the monitored topsoil strip of an area to the N edge of the site, and a watching brief of the remainder of the site not previously built upon (Figure 2). The monitored topsoil strip was conducted using a 20 tonne tracked excavator utilising a bladed ditching bucket. Machine excavation was conducted until the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural subsoil, whichever was encountered first. Any features found were then hand excavated and recorded according to standard AOC Archaeology practice. The area was backfilled upon completion of the strip.
- 3.2 The watching brief involved the monitoring of all ground breaking works within the designated areas (Figure 2) in order to safeguard any archaeological features disturbed by the construction works. All ground reduction was conducted in shallow units/spits under archaeological supervision.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The monitored topsoil strip was undertaken between the 23rd March and 1st April 2015. The watching brief was undertaken intermittently between the 7th July 2015 and 7th January 2015. The various data gathered from the archaeological works is presented as a series of appendices:

- Appendix 1 Context Register;
- Appendix 2 Photographic Register;
- Appendix 3 Drawing Register;
- Appendix 4 Finds Register;
- Appendix 5 Sample Register;
- Appendix 6 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

4.2 Monitored Topsoil Strip

- 4.2.1 The monitored topsoil strip covered an area measuring approximately 1600 m². The topsoil [001] throughout the area consisted of a mid to dark brown sandy clay with modern rubbish throughout. This overlay a made ground [002] consisting of dark grey clay, ash and sand mixed with rubble, modern material and Victorian dumped material, that overlay the natural sand and clay subsoil, [021] and [022] respectively.
- 4.2.2 A number of modern features were revealed within the stripped area including areas of contamination [013], a brick structure [039], concrete foundation [017], concrete foundation blocks [035], [036] and [037], drainage tracks [038], [040] and [033], as well as an ash filled cut [019] and an animal burial, most likely a dog, [015] (Plate 1&2). Earlier disturbance was also noted in a rectangular pit [003] (Plate 3) that was filled with late 19th century ceramics, leather shoes and metal fragments (SF 1-4). Furthermore, three modern square shaped post holes [023], [025] and [027] were also revealed cutting earlier agricultural furrows in one area.
- 4.2.3 Pre-dating these areas of disturbance, four agricultural furrows [007], [009], [011], and [029] were revealed within the stripped area (Plate 4). They were all aligned approximately E-W, with furrows [007] and [009] 4 m

apart, [009] and [011], 8 m apart and [011] and [029] 4 m apart once more. To the S of furrow [029] the furrows appear to stop, most likely due to the truncation of the area by the construction of the later buildings. The furrows are between 1.4 m to 2.4 m wide and up to 0.19 m deep (Figures 2&3). The clay pipe stems and Scottish Post Medieval Reduced Ware found within the fill of the furrows indicates that they are no earlier than 17th century in date.

- 4.2.4 The only possible significant feature is a large shallow sided pit or curving ditch [005] in the northern edge of the stripped area (Plate 5). This features southern edge was all that was exposed within the excavation area, measuring 25 m long by 3 m (+) wide and 0.32 m deep (Figure 3). No artefacts were recovered from the mid to dark sandy clay fill of the feature but there was some charcoal flecking throughout.



Plate 1 - General view of brick structure [039]



Plate 2 - View of pit [019], wall foundation [017] and animal burial [015]



Plate 3 - View of Victorian pit [003]



Plate 4 - View of furrows [007] and [009]



Plate 5 - View of feature [005]

4.3 Watching Brief

- 4.3.1 The watching brief took place within the areas to the S of the monitored topsoil strip, with a main sewer excavation from N to S and the ground reduction to the far S forming the majority of the work. The drainage channels watched showed that the majority of the site had been truncated by previous modern construction with modern surfaces overlying made ground onto the natural subsoil. Closer to the eastern edge of site there were remnants of topsoil under the landscaping related to the modern apartment blocks (Plate 6).
- 4.3.2 No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed throughout the site.



Plate 6 - View of modern landscaping along eastern edge

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The feature found within the northern edge of the stripped area has been recorded and the area is unlikely to be impacted upon by the new development works. As no artefacts were found within the fill of the feature and the amounts of charcoal are minimal it is unlikely that post excavation works would reveal any useful information.
- 5.2 Therefore, no further archaeological works are considered necessary. The recommendation will require confirmation by CECAS.

6 REFERENCES

Gow, A 2009 'Tennant Street, City of Edinburgh (Edinburgh parish), evaluation', *Discovery Excav Scot, New*, vol.10 Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England.

Paton, K (forthcoming) 'The 1560 fortifications and siege of Leith: archaeological evidence for a new transcription of the cartographic evidence', *Post Medieval Archaeology*

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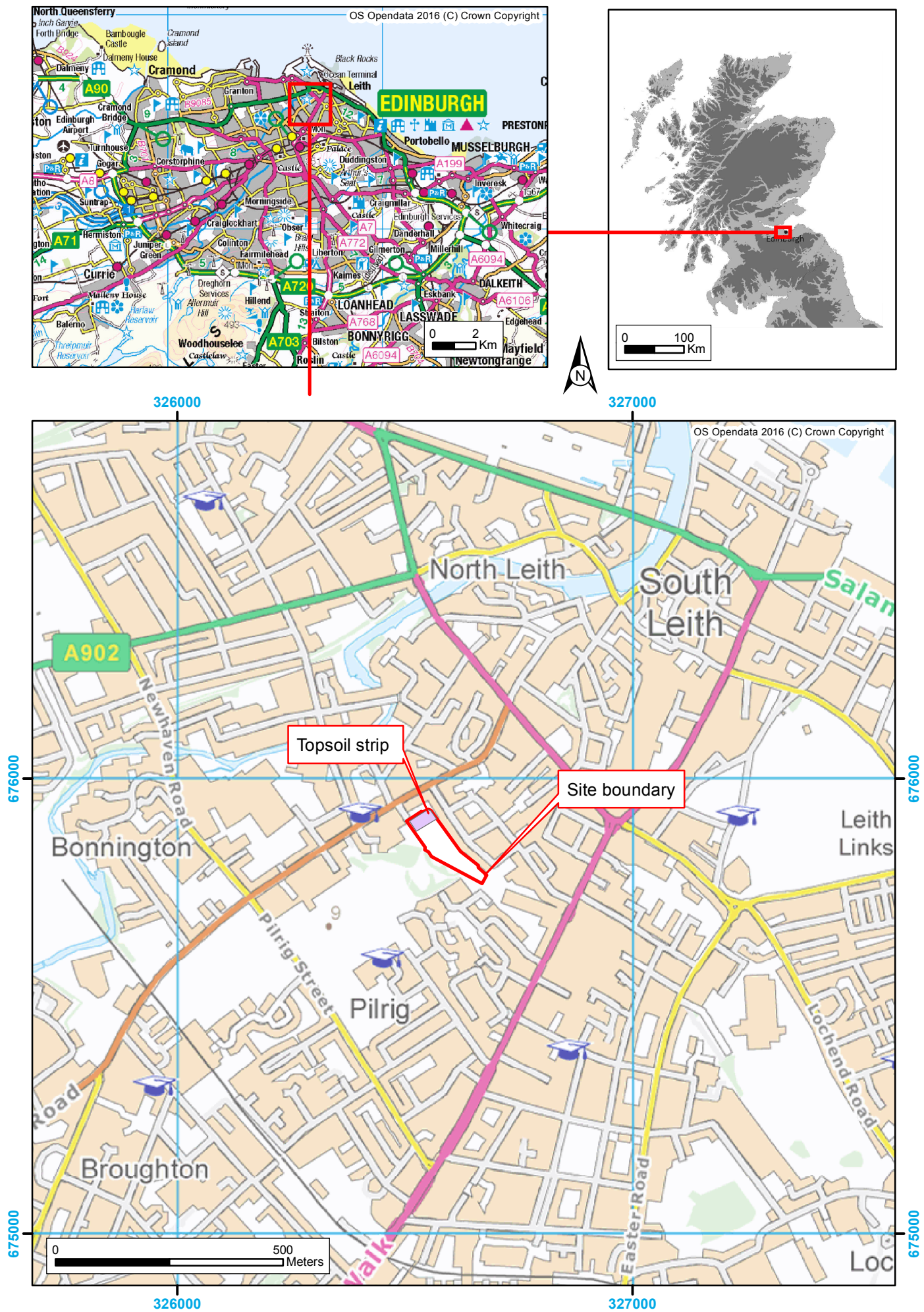


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

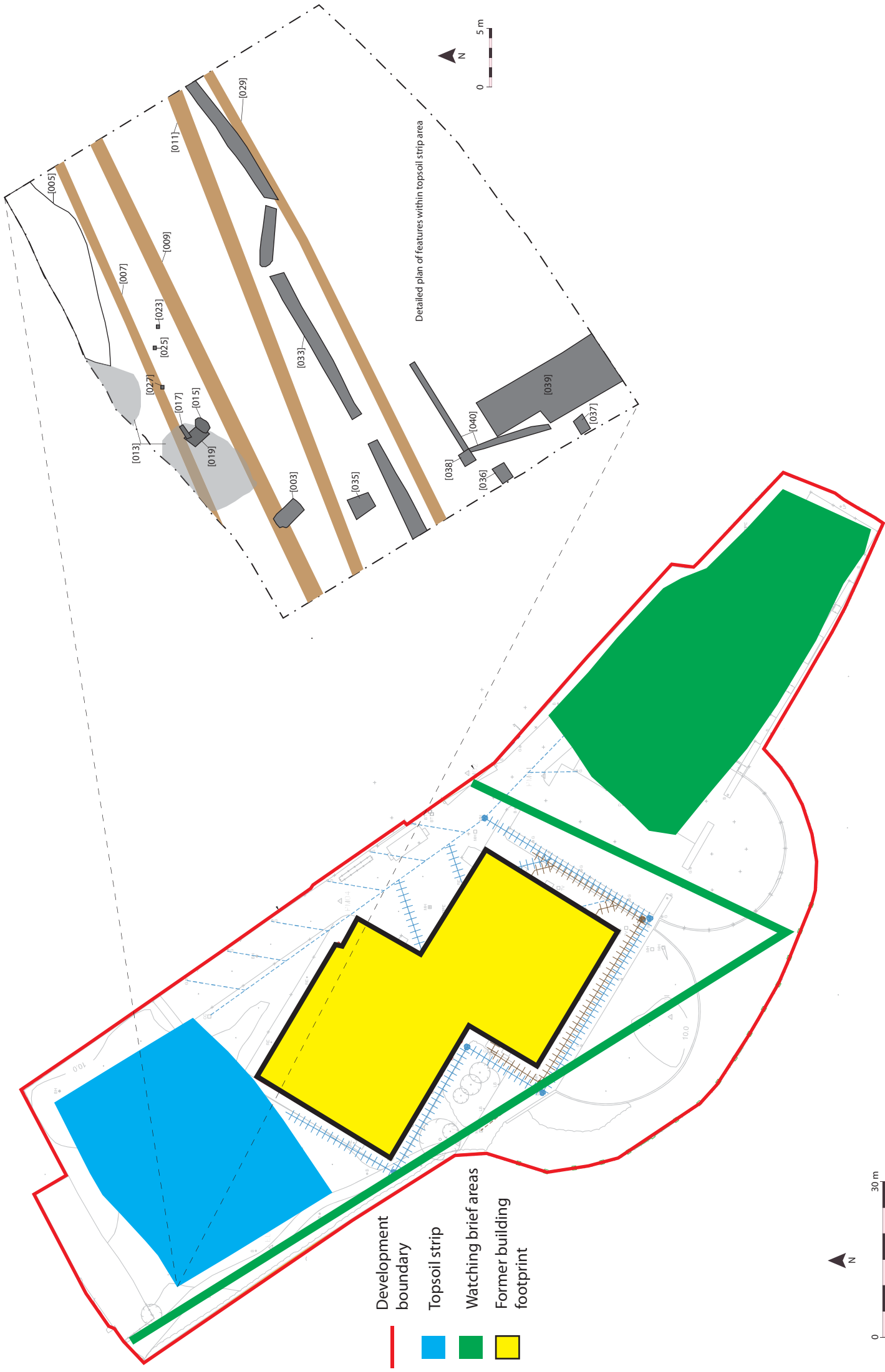


Figure 2 - Plan of areas monitored and detailed plan of topsoil strip area



Figure 3 - Sections of furrows and feature [005]

Tennant Street, Edinburgh: Archaeological works Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Description
001	Mid to dark brown clay covering entire area with modern rubbish and demolition material within it, up to 03.m depth. Topsoil
002	Very compact dark grey sandy clay with abundant large rubble inclusions as well as ash and modern rubbish. Made ground related to railway yard
003	Rectangular cut with steep to vertical sides, 2.9x1.44xca.0.6m through made ground [002]. Aligned N-S Victorian/Modern rubbish pit
004	Black sandy silt with occasional stone and abundant ceramic, glass and metal. Fill of rubbish pit [004]
005	Linear cut aligned approximately E-W, situated to N of furrow [007]. Only S edge of cut visible due to limit of excavation. Gently sloping side to a flattish base, measures 25x0.32m. Modern disturbance [013] makes edges difficult to see. Possible ditch
006	Mid to dark brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks, 25x3x0.32m Fill of [005]
007	Linear cut with gently sloping sides and flat base, 22x1.4x0.12m, aligned E-W, truncated at W end by modern clay deposit and disturbance [013] Furrow
008	Mid to dark brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal/coal fleck inclusions and rare small stones. Fill of furrow [007]
009	Linear cut with gently sloping sides and a flat base aligned E-W, 43x2.44x0.19m. Furrow
010	Mid to dark brown sandy clay with occasional coal/charcoal inclusions and small stones. Fill of Furrow [009]
011	Linear cut aligned E-W, 40x1.78x0.1m, S of furrow [009]. Cuts natural clay [022]. Furrow
012	Dark brown sandy clay with occasional coal/charcoal flecks and rare stone, 40x1.78x0.1m Fill of furrow [011]
013	Areas of modern disturbance along N edge of excavation area. Contains strong smelling fill (014). Modern disturbance
014	Light grey sand – contaminated with oil Fill of modern disturbance [013]
015	Rectangular cut aligned E-W with shallow sides. Contains animal burial, 1.5x0.9x0.05 Cut for animal burial, Modern
016	Dark grey sandy silt – Diesel/oil contamination at base due to modern cut [019] Fill of cut [015]
017	Linear cut aligned E-W, 2.42x0.33m Wall foundation cut – Modern
018	Dark sandy silt, frequent grey clay lumps

	Fill of [017]
019	Rectangular slot aligned N-S cutting deposit (016) of animal burial. 1.57x1m Modern pit
020	Mid brown re-deposited sand and possible limestone cut by [017] – diesel/oil contamination within Fill of [019]
021	Red and mid yellow sand with occasional clay lumps and lenses Natural sand
022	Pale yellow slightly sandy clay Natural clay in NE corner of site
023	Rectangular cut with vertical to steep sides and a flattish base, 1 of 3 similar posts, 0.25x0.22x0.07m Post hole – modern
024	Compact dark brown silty sand with occasional coal/charcoal flecks Fill of post hole [023]
025	Square shaped cut with vertical SE and NW sides, Steep SW side, onto flat base, middle of 3 post holes, 0.2x0.2x0.08m Post hole - modern
026	Compact dark brown silty sand and coal/charcoal flecks Fill of [025]
027	Square shaped cut with vertical sides and irregularly shaped base, 0.25x0.21x0.09m, Westerly of 3 post holes Post hole – modern
028	Friable dark brown sand with occasional coal/charcoal flecks Fill of post hole [027]
029	Linear cut with gently sloping sides and flat base, E-W, 40x1.91x0.1m Furrow
030	Mid to dark brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal/coal fleck inclusions and rare small stones. Fill of furrow [029]
031	VOID – Actually Furrow [011]
032	VOID – Actually Furrow [011]
033	Linear cut, E-W, cutting Fill (012) of furrow [011]. Very shallow and reduced by machine in places. Modern cut
034	Greyish black silty sand and yellow clay lumps and yellow sand, 43x0.63 Fill of modern cut [033]
035	Large square concrete foundation with modern post Modern foundation
036	Concrete foundation with central steel beam Modern foundation
037	Concrete foundation with central steel beam Modern foundation
038	Square brick structure, 2 courses of brick wide, 0.6x0.47 side Possible manhole – modern
039	Brick structure, 3x2.8x9, upstanding to 5 courses Modern structure
040	Drainage tracks containing ceramic Drainage tracks - modern

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Frame	Description
1-3	General view of area to be stripped
4-5	General view of remainder of site
6-7	Area stripped on 23/3/15
8	Concrete foundations along W edge
9-10	View of stripped area showing furrows/ditches on 24/3/15
11	S-facing section of pit [003]
12	General view of pit [003]
13	General view showing pit and furrow [009]
14	Animal burial pit [005]
15	Animal burial pit [005]
16	View of pits [015] and [019] and foundations [017]
17	View of feature [005]
18	View of curving cut [005] at E end
19	View of W end showing disturbance [013]
20	W-facing section of [005] slot 1
21	E-facing section of [005] – slot 1
22	W-facing section of [007] – slot 2
23	W-facing sections of [005] and [007]
24	W-facing section of P/H [027]
25	S-facing section of [025]
26	E-facing section of [023]
27	General view of P/holes [023] and [027]
28	General view of P/holes [023] and [027]
29	W-facing section of [007] – slot 3
30	W-facing section of [007] – slot 3
31	General post-ex view of [007]
32	E-facing section of furrow [009]
33-34	General view of furrow [009] from E
35-36	General view of furrow [009] from W
37	E-facing section of furrow [011]
38	W-facing section of furrow [029]
39	General view of furrow [029]
40	Furrow [011] truncated by cut [033]
41	Foundation and post [035] being removed
42	Modern cut [033]
43	Location of foundation [035]
44	Steel beam foundation [036]
45	Steel beam foundation [037]
46	Drainage track (S) [040]
47	Drainage track (E) [040]
48	Manhole [038]
49	Brick structure [039] partially revealed
50	Foundations at top of made ground
51	N-facing view of [039]
52	General shot of [039]

53	General shot of [039]
54-56	General shot of stripped area from NW corner
57-58	General shot of stripped area from SW corner
59-60	General shot of stripped area from NE corner
61-62	General shot of stripped area from SE corner

APPENDIX 3: Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Feature No.	Details
1	005	E-Facing section of ditch [005] – slot 1
2	005/007	W-facing section of ditch [005] and furrow [007] – slot 2
3	007	W-facing section of [007] – slot 1
4	007	W-facing section of [007] – slot 3
5	009	E-facing section of [009] – slot 1
6	011	E-facing section of [011]
7	029	W-facing section of [029]
8	-	Plan of excavated area

APPENDIX 4: Finds Register

Find No.	Context No.	Description
1	004	Sample of ceramics from pit [003]
2	004	Leather shoe fragments from pit [003]
3	004	Whole ceramic bottles from pit [003]
4	004	Glass fragments from pit [003]
5	006	Ceramic fragments
6	006	Animal bone fragments
7	008	Ceramic fragments
8	010	Ceramic fragments and clay pipe stems
9	010	Animal bone fragments
10	012	Ceramic fragments
11	012	Animal bone fragments
12	028	Ceramic fragment
13	030	Ceramic fragment

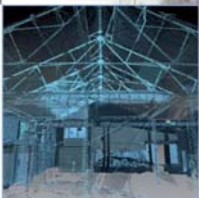
APPENDIX 5: Sample Register

Context No.	Quantity	Notes
006	1 tub	Slot 1
006	1 tub	Slot 2
008	1 tub	Slot 1
008	1 tub	Slot 2
010	1 tub	Slot 1
012	1 tub	Slot 1
024	1 bag	
026	1 bag	

028	1 bag	
030	1 tub	
032	1 tub	

APPENDIX 6: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' (DES) Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Tennant Street, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	22869
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitored Topsoil Strip & Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 2657 7588
START DATE (this season)	March 2015
END DATE (this season)	January 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological works was required by Persimmon Homes East Scotland & Charles Church Scotland in respect to a proposed development on land at Tennant Street, Edinburgh. The site at Tennant Street lies within an area thought to have been used by English and Scots forces as a battery and temporary fort named Mount Somerset during the Siege of Leith in 1560.</p> <p>The monitored topsoil strip revealed up to 1 m of made ground and former topsoil overlying the natural sand. The area had several agricultural furrows running E-W through the site dating to the post-medieval period, and there was evidence of modern truncation along the northern edge. The southern edge of a possible ditch with gently sloping sides was also uncovered along this edge but the limits of the excavation area made it impossible to investigate further, and the modern truncation along the western edge had also impacted upon it. No artefacts were recovered from the feature.</p> <p>The watching brief did not uncover any significant archaeological features. No further archaeological works are recommended.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Persimmon Homes East Scotland & Charles Church Scotland, Unit 1 Wester Inch Business Park, Old Well Court, Bathgate, EH48 2TQ
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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