

Plot 7 & 8, Newbridge, Edinburgh; Archaeological Monitored Topsoil Strip Report

OASIS No:1-259057

AOC 20483

21st July 2016



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Plot 7 & 8, Newbridge, Edinburgh: Archaeological Monitored Topsoil Strip

On Behalf of:	Prem Rooseter II LLP C/o GM Mackenzie Ltd Arnhall Business Park 23 Abercrombie Court Westhill Aberdeen AB32 6FE
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 1212 7324 (centered)
OASIS No:	1-259057
AOC Project No:	20483
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological monitored topsoil strip of development area Plots 7 & 8, Newbridge, Edinburgh. The works were undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at the behest of GM Mackenzie Ltd on behalf of their client Prem Rooster II LLP.

The top-soil stripping of Area Plots 7 and 8 revealed that this part of the development area had been heavily contaminated by construction debris. The site had evidently been used to bund the excess material created by the development of other land Plots within the site area. The archaeological works revealed a thin deposit of topsoil overlying compacted clay subsoil and substantial areas of made ground. No significant archaeological features were discovered during the monitored topsoil strip or trial trenching.

The works took place between the 4th July and 21st July 2016.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by GM Mackenzie Ltd in respect to a commercial development at Plots 7 & 8, Newbridge, Edinburgh. The development lies within the administrative area of City of Edinburgh Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Mr John Lawson of the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS).
- 1.1.2 The wider development at Newbridge has been ongoing since 2001. As part of the planning conditions GM Mackenzie Ltd required a further series of archaeological works consisting of a monitored top-soil strip (Figure 1).
- 1.1.3 No ground reduction works were required on various parts of the site as these had been previously built up through the deposition of excess made ground originating in previous plot developments. In these instances a number of trial trenches were excavated to natural sub-soil in order to determine the existence of any significant archaeological material.

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area is currently derelict land recently used for the storing of excess material created during the development of other plots within the site area. The area was formerly the site of a chicken factory. The site is centred on NGR NT 1212 7324 and is bounded by the A89 to the south, the M9 to the north east and the River Almond to the west.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The proposed development area lies within the fragmented remains of a prehistoric landscape centred on Huly Hill (NMRS NT17SW 8), an upstanding prehistoric barrow and stone circle, which is a Scheduled Monument. Excavations in this area in the past have recorded cists and the location of Scotland's first chariot burial.
- 1.3.2 Archaeological works carried out in plot 9 by AOC in 2007 (Engl & Dunbar, forthcoming) recorded the remains of a medieval field system, including numerous ditches, pits, and two associated kilns. The remains of the probable western extension of the Dere Street Roman road were recorded to the south of Plot 9, together with Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement evidence.
- 1.3.3 In 2014 during the monitored topsoil strip of Plot 7a a section of medieval ditch with an associated medieval pottery assemblage was recovered complimenting the medieval finds from earlier phases of work (Duffy & Johnstone, 2014).

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the present archaeological works were:
- to conduct a monitored topsoil strip of the area Plots 7 & 8 to expose any potential archaeological features.

- to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the targeted topsoil strip area;
- identification, excavation, soil sampling and recording of all significant archaeological features within the targeted topsoil strip areas;
- the retrieval of a representative artefact assemblage;
- upon conclusion of the excavation, the preparation of a post-excitation research design (*PERD*) to be agreed with CECAS. The scope and appropriateness of the post-excitation analyses to be employed will be decided upon by CECAS. The *PERD* will be pertinent to the quantity, quality, character, date and condition of retrieved small finds and soil samples when considered against the series of research questions raised by the excavated features;
- the post-excitation analysis of recovered material;
- publication of results of the excavation to bring the findings into the public and academic domain.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The topsoil strip involved the use of a 360 tracked excavator equipped with a 2m wide toothless ditching. The topsoil strip was to continue until the natural or first archaeological horizon was reached. All excavations were monitored by an experienced archaeologist.
- 3.2 No ground reduction works were to be undertaken in the southernmost areas of the plots as the intention was to build up the existing ground level. A number of test trenches and test pits were therefore to be excavated to natural sub-soil in order to determine the existing depth of the made-ground and to reveal if any significant archaeology was present. These works were also undertaken with a 360 tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.



Plate 1: Topsoil stripping Plots 7 and 8

4 RESULTS

4.1 Monitored Topsoil Strip

- 4.1.1 The works were conducted on the 4th July – 21st July 2016. The weather conditions during the works were variable with short intense periods of heavy rain and sunshine however, overall archaeological visibility was fair.
- 4.1.2 Topsoil across the site consisted of a dark brown silty loam ranging between 0.5m - 0.10 m in depth and revealed compacted yellow silty clay subsoil with patches of sand.



Plate 2: Made ground across the south of Plots 7 and 8

- 4.1.3 Plots 7 & 8 contained several bunds of dumped topsoil. These were also removed under archaeological supervision.
- 4.1.4 A significant proportion of the Plot areas were overlain by significant deposits of made ground. This ranged between 1.50 m and 3.10 m in depth. A water pipe ran through this area aligned NE – SW and a concrete slab covered a small part of the area. The exposure of the water pipe and the removal of the concrete slab revealed further deposits of made ground and construction debris.
- 4.1.5 No ground reduction works were to be conducted in the southern portion of the Plot areas. Therefore, after consultation with Mr John Lawson of CECAS, the decision was made to excavate a number of test pits and trenches in order to determine the presence of any significant archaeology. These test pits were recorded, photographed and back filled. No significant archaeology was observed, although it was determined that the depth of the made ground meant that any potential archaeology would be preserved in situ,



Plate 3: Section of Trial Trench 7

5 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Although this site has previously been noted as an area with significant archaeological potential, Plots 7 and 8 contained substantial deposits of construction debris. The Plots have been used as a dumping ground in recent years mostly notably to the south where excess material from the development of other Plots has been deposited. Areas where natural subsoil was uncovered revealed no significant archaeological features.
- 5.2 No significant archaeological features were encountered during the monitored topsoil strip or test pits. It is recommended that no further archaeological investigations are required within Plots 7 & 8. This recommendation will require confirmation by, and is at the discretion of, John Lawson of CECAS.

6 REFERENCES

6.1 Bibliographical references

AOC 2016, *WSI Monitored Topsoil Strip Plots 7 & 8, Newbridge, Edinburgh* (Unpublished Grey Literature)

Engl, R & Dunbar, L, Forthcoming, *'A Roman Road Runs Through it, Excavations at Newbridge, Edinburgh'* SAIR

Duffy, A & Johnstone, N 2014 *'Monitored Topsoil Strip at Plot 7a Newbridge, Edinburgh Data Structure Report'* Unpublished client report.

Scottish Planning Policy 2014, Archaeology and Planning, Scottish Government 2014

Scottish Government 2011, *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011*

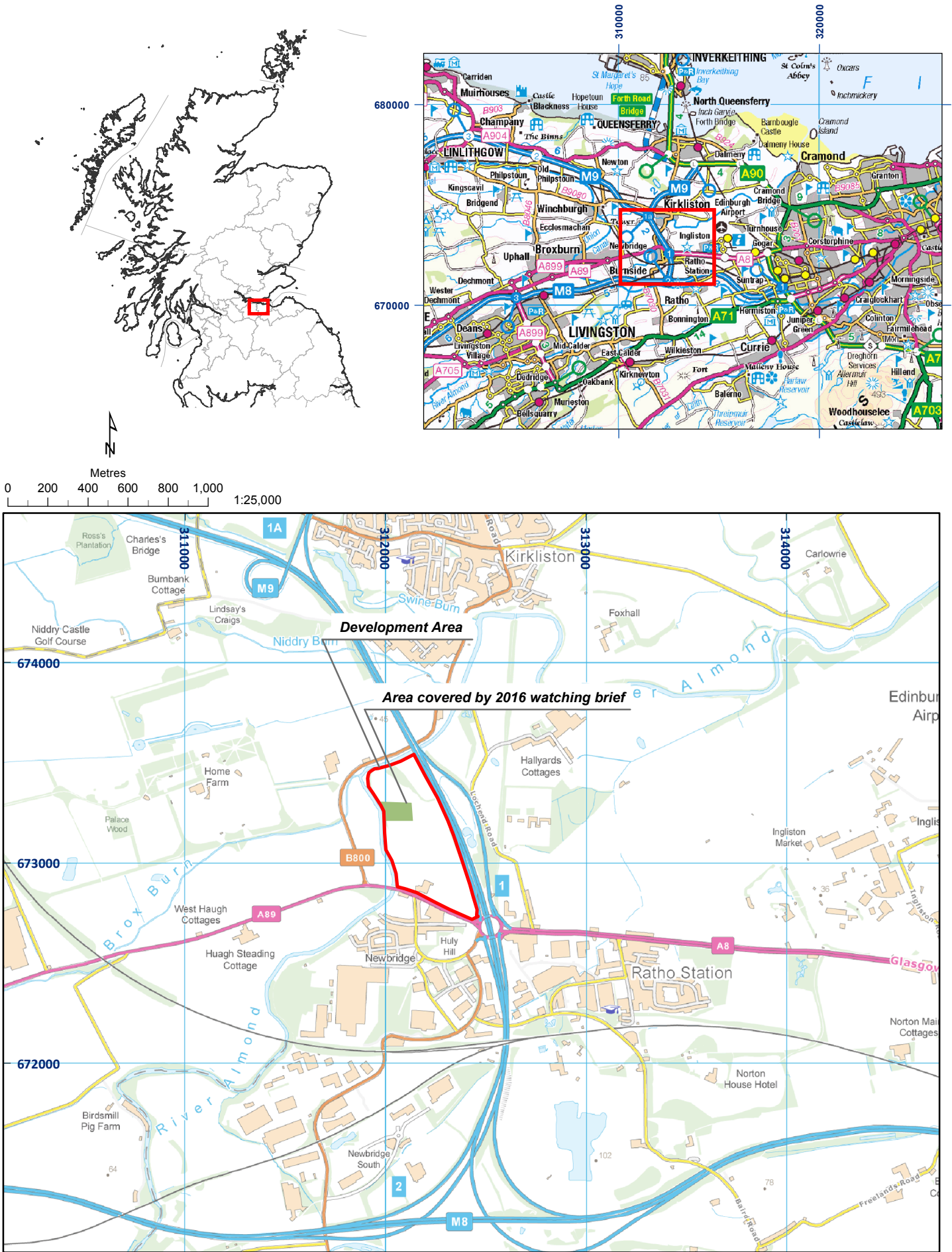


Figure 1: Site location plan

Newbridge Plots 7 & 8, Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Monitored Topsoil Strip

No.	Description	Taken From	Date
1-2	Topsoil stripping central area Plot 7	N	12/07/2016
3	Removal of natural for levelling	N	12/07/2016
4	Topsoil stripping central area Plot 7	N	12/07/2016
5	Removal of natural for levelling	N	12/07/2016
6-7	Topsoil stripping central area Plot 7	E + N	12/07/2016
8-12	Topsoil stripping central area Plot 7	Various	13/07/2016
13-14	E – facing section showing topsoil and made ground	E	13/07/2016
15-16	Topsoil stripping central area Plot 7	N	14/07/2016
17	Removal of Type 1 material to be used for roads	S	14/07/2016
18-19	Removal of bunds	Various	14/07/2016
20-21	Removal of bunds	Various	15/07/2016
22-23	Topsoil stripping central area Plot 7	Various	18/07/2016
24-37	Post excavation shots of Plots 7 and 8	Various	19/07/2016
38	S most bund removed	NW	21/07/2016
39	Centre of plots 7 and 8 levelled	S	21/07/2016
40-42	Drainage ditch post excavation	Various	21/07/2016
43-45	Topsoil strip of pump station post excavation	Various	21/07/2016

Trial Trenches

No.	Description	Taken From	Date
1-2	Trench 1 post excavation	SW	07/07/2016
3-4	Trench 2 post excavation	W	07/07/2016
5-6	Trench 3 post excavation	E	07/07/2016
7-8	Trench 4 post excavation	SE	07/07/2016
9-10	Trench 5 post excavation	SE	07/07/2016
11-12	Trench 6 post excavation	NW	07/07/2016
13-14	Trench 6 NW – facing section	NW	07/07/2016
15-16	Trench 7 W – facing section	W	07/07/2016
17-18	Trench 7 post excavation	N	07/07/2016

APPENDIX 2: TRENCH REGISTER

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	10.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	20 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – dark brown silty clay loam – max depth 0.20 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Medium orange brown sandy clay with patches of sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	4.0 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	8.0 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	N to S
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – dark brown silty clay loam – max depth 0.20 m Made ground and demolition material – up to 3.50m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	5.0 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	10 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – dark brown silty clay loam – max depth 0.20 m Made ground and demolition material – up to 2.20m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	4.50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	9.0 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	N to S
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – dark brown silty clay loam – max depth 0.15 m Made ground and demolition material – up to 2.80 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	6.0 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	12.0 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E to W
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – dark brown silty clay loam – max depth 0.10 m Made ground and demolition material – max depth 1.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Medium orange brown sandy clay with patches of sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	4.0 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	8.0 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – dark brown silty clay loam – max depth 0.15 m Made ground and demolition material – max depth 1.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Medium orange brown sandy clay with patches of sand

Finds None

Trench 7

Dimensions 8.0 m by 2 m

Total Area 16.0 m²

Excavated Orientation N to S

Soil Make-up Topsoil – dark brown silty clay loam – max depth 0.10 m
Made ground and demolition material – max depth 1.20 m

Significant Features None

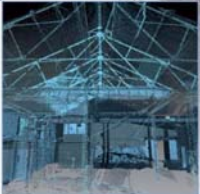
Other Features None

Natural Subsoil Medium orange brown sandy clay with patches of sand

Finds None

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

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Plots 7&8, Newbridge
PROJECT CODE:	20483
PARISH:	Newbridge
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Stuart Wilson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Monitored Topsoil Strip
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 1212 7324
START DATE (this season)	4 th July 2016
END DATE (this season)	21 st July 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	AOC 2007; Engl & Dunbar, AOC 2014 Duffy & Johnstone
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A programme of archaeological works was required by GM Mackenzie Ltd in respect to a commercial development at Plots 7 & 8, Newbridge, Edinburgh. A series of archaeological works have been carried out at Newbridge since 2001. During these works, all topsoil stripping and groundbreaking works were monitored by an experienced field archaeologist. No significant archaeology was noted. In certain areas of the site no ground breaking works were required; rather they were stripped of vegetation and built up. In this instance a number of trial trenches were excavated to determine the depth of the made ground (up to 3.10 m) and any underlying archaeological features. No significant archaeology was present.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	GM Mackenzie Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group; Edgefield Road Industrial Estate; Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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