

# Longstone, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 23047

9<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Planning Ref. 15/03075/FUL



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

# Longstone, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Report

<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>Places for people Scotland</b> Saltire Studio 3 Saltire Street Edinburgh EH5 1QS
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>NT 2103 7117 (centre)</b>
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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 Places for People Scotland ahead of a residential development on land at Longstone, Edinburgh. The total development area totalled 2.5 ha and consisted of waste ground.

The evaluation revealed that up to 3.0 m of top-soil had been previously dumped onto the proposed development area during the construction of nearby HMP Edinburgh. An area of hard-standing associated with a compound relating to the prison construction was visible within the north-east corner of the development. This had been stripped to natural. Part of the development area was formerly occupied by football pitches. No original ground surface was observed and it is likely that the area may have been partially stripped prior to being built up with made ground.

No significant archaeological remains or features were observed during the evaluation.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Places for People Scotland to carry out an archaeological evaluation ahead of a residential development on land at Longstone, Edinburgh (Planning Ref: 15/03075/FUL).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development lies within the administrative area of the City of Edinburgh Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Mr John Lawson of 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 The evaluation revealed that up to 3.0 m of top-soil had been dumped onto the proposed development area during the construction of HMP Edinburgh. An area of hard-standing associated with a compound relating to the prison construction was visible within the north-east corner of the development. This had been stripped to natural. Part of the development area was formerly occupied by football pitches. No original ground surface was observed and it is likely that the area may have been partially stripped prior to being built up with made ground.
- 1.1.5 No significant archaeological remains or features were observed during the evaluation.

### 1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area comprises a plot of land to the north of Longstone Road, Edinburgh. The site is bounded by HMP Edinburgh to the east, Longstone Terrace to the south-west, and Calder Road to the north. The site was formerly occupied by football pitches to the south of Calder Road and is currently waste ground. The site is c. 5.6 ha in size with the area to be evaluated equating to 2.8 ha, centred at NGR: NT 2103 7117 (Figure 1).

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The site at Longstone does not contain any known archaeological sites listed within the Royal Commission databases, nor do the earlier maps of the area indicate that any buildings, structure or features of interest were present on the site in the recent past. Cartographic evidence indicates the site was part of a field system to the N of Longstone Road as far back as the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, possibly forming part of the Saughton estate. More recently the field systems have been constructed upon, including the HM Prison immediately E of the development area.

## 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 compliant with *Scottish Planning Policy (2014)* and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (2011)*, 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

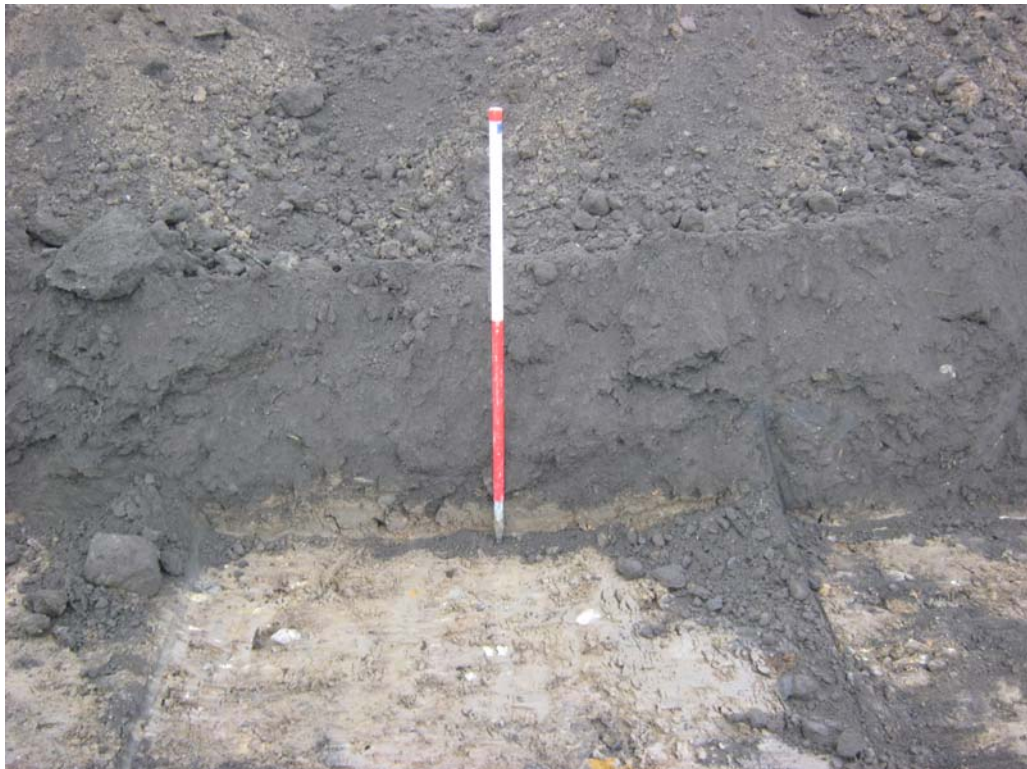
- 3.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 using an excavator fitted with a 2.0m wide toothless ditching bucket. A 10% evaluation of the development area (5.6 ha) was originally required, however, only the northern part of the site bordering Calder Road was to be subject to development works and therefore required evaluation. The southern and western parts of the site were occupied by an existing site compound and a tip area (Figure 2). The area available to be evaluated therefore totalled approximately 1.8 ha (1,800 m<sup>2</sup>); unfortunately ground-works had already begun on site prior to evaluation. This had involved the removal of up to three metres of imported top-soil previously dumped on site during the construction of HMP Edinburgh. The removal of the top-soil had revealed natural clay across the eastern part of the area. Nevertheless enough deposits remained for the evaluation to be undertaken. The remainder of the top-soil dump was removed under archaeological supervision. A total of 900 linear metres was therefore excavated. The evaluation was undertaken in wet, overcast conditions yet archaeological visibility remained good. All excavations were monitored by an experienced field archaeologist. The trenches were individually recorded and subsequently backfilled and tracked-over by machine.

### 4 RESULTS



Plate 1 Spoil tip/top-soil under removal from Calder Road

- 4.1. Nine trenches (1-9) were excavated within the area of development bounded by Calder Road and HMP Edinburgh. Where still extant the excavations revealed a mixed deposit of made ground/top-soil 0.20 m -0.50 m in depth. This overlay natural drift geology of pale orange boulder clay. Several ceramic field drains were revealed in Trench 1 aligned north-east to south-west. No original ground surface was observed and it is probable that the area had undergone significant truncation prior to the dumping of the top-soil from the construction of HMP Edinburgh. Several football pitches were known to previously occupy the site and it is likely that some ground levelling was undertaken.
- 4.1.2 The removal of the spoil tip/top-soil dump revealed three metres of deposit overlying the majority of the area. This was removed and deposited within the bund site located to the south of the prison complex. Two thirds of this material had been removed prior to the evaluation. The remainder was removed under archaeological supervision.



**Plate 2 Trench 6 south facing section showing made ground overlying natural**

- 4.1.3 No significant archaeological material or features were revealed during the evaluation.





**Plate3 Trench 5 post excavation from north-east**

## **5 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 The evaluation revealed that the development area bordering Calder Road had previously been used as a storage area for banded top-soil removed during the construction of HMP Edinburgh. Given the occupation of the site by a former construction compound and former football pitches, it is likely that the area had undergone significant disturbance prior to the current works.
- 5.2 Given the negative findings of the evaluation no further mitigation is deemed necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by Mr Lawson of CECAS on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council.

## **6 REFERENCES**

*Paton, K 2016, Longstone, City of Edinburgh, Written Scheme of Investigation, AOC Archaeology. Unpublished Client Report*

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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

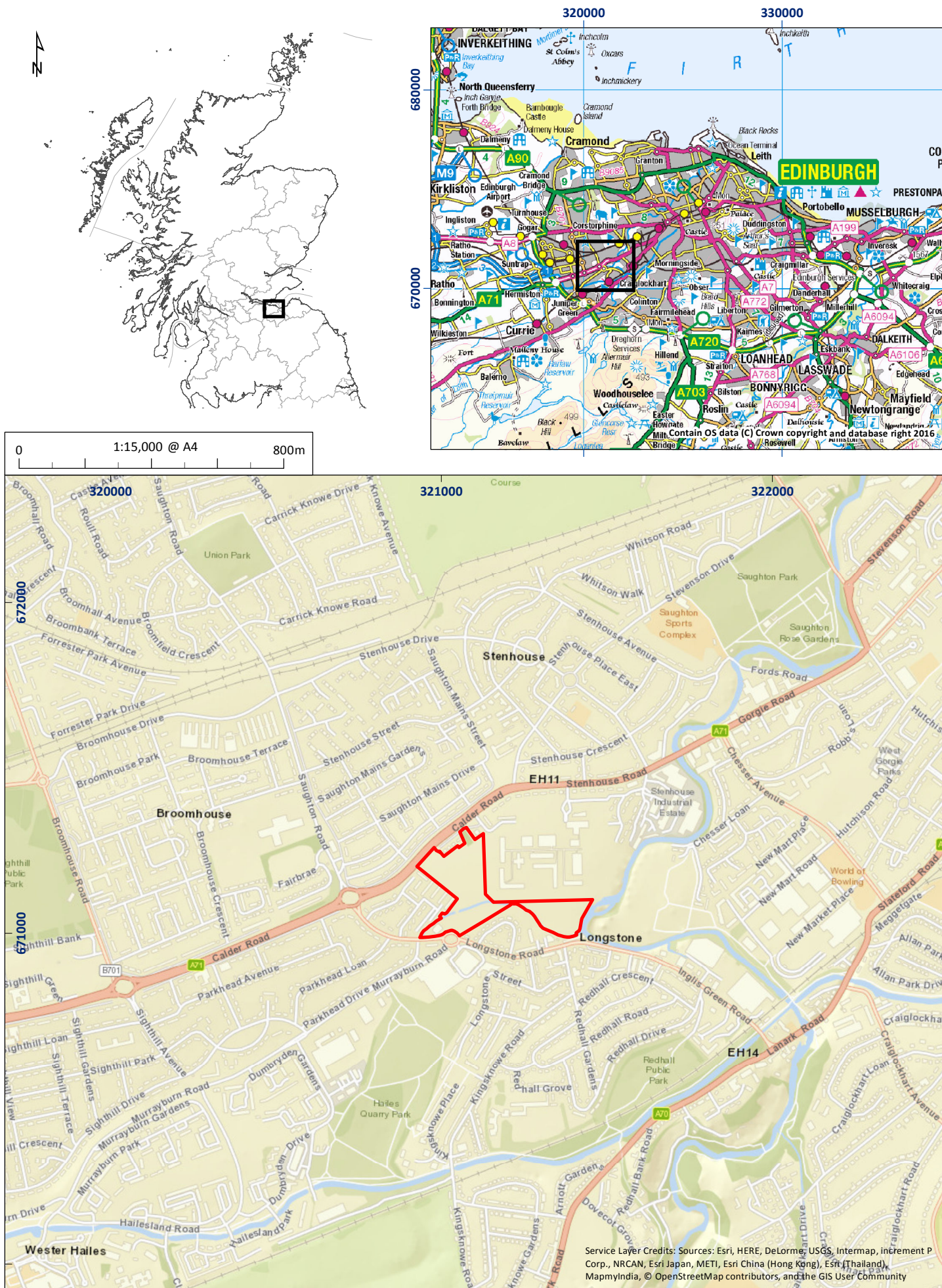


Figure 1: Site location plan

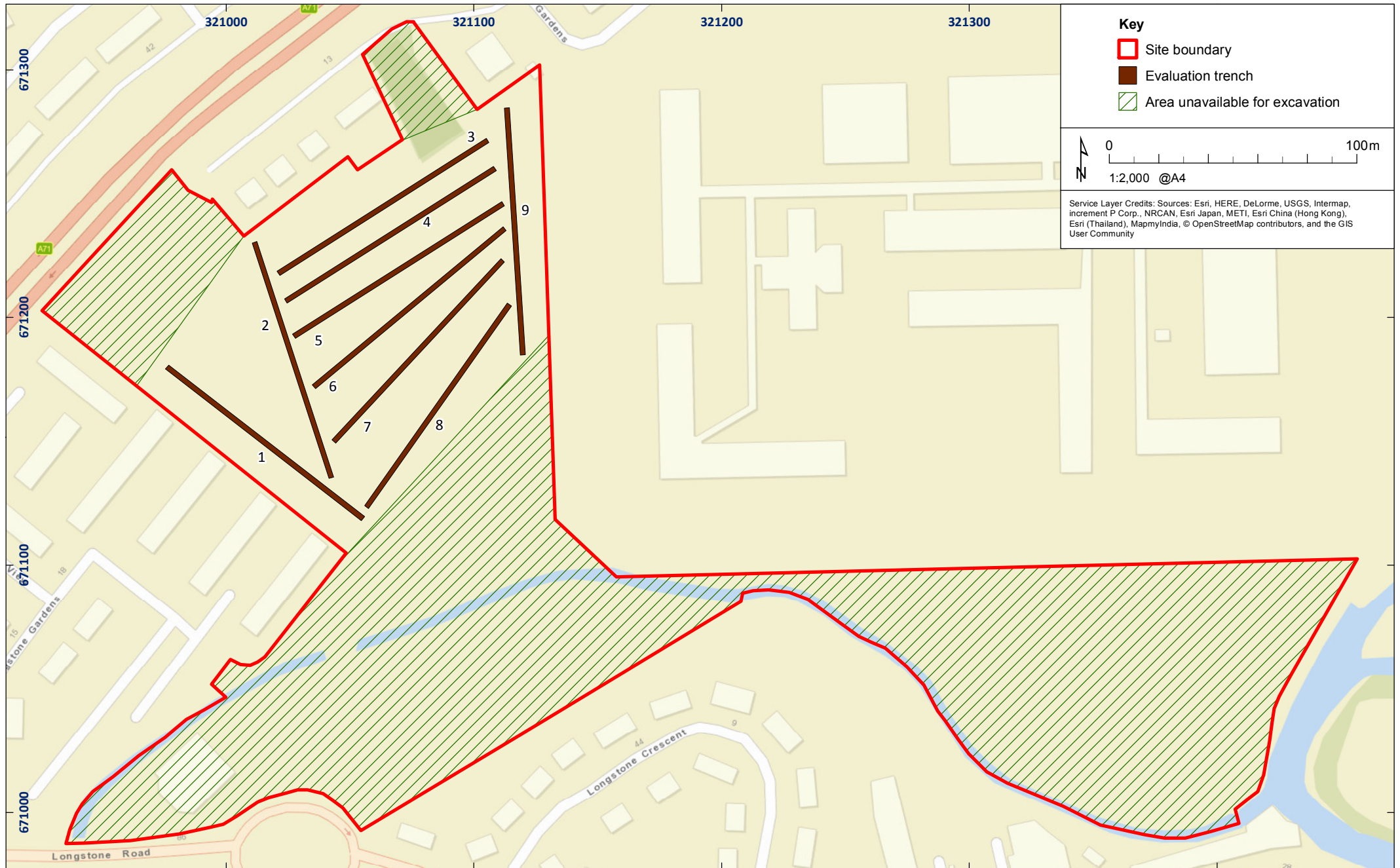


Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

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**Longstone, Edinburgh:  
Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

### Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	100m by 2.0m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.3m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4m
<i>Significant Features</i>	N/A
<i>Other Features</i>	Ceramic drains at 5.0 m & 10.0 m N-S
<i>Subsoil</i>	Compact pale orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics

### Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	100m by 2.0m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.5m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.6m
<i>Significant Features</i>	N/A
<i>Other Features</i>	N/A
<i>Subsoil</i>	Compact pale orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	100m by 2.0m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2m-0.4m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.5m
<i>Significant Features</i>	N/A
<i>Other Features</i>	N/A
<i>Subsoil</i>	Compact pale orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	White ceramics

### Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	100m by 2.0m
<i>Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.10m-0.2m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.3m
<i>Significant Features</i>	N/A
<i>Other Features</i>	N/A
<i>Subsoil</i>	Compact pale orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	100m by 2.0m
<i>Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4m
<i>Significant Features</i>	N/A
<i>Other Features</i>	N/A
<i>Subsoil</i>	Compact pale orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	100m by 2.0m
<i>Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2m-0.4m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.25m-0.5m
<i>Significant Features</i>	N/A
<i>Other Features</i>	N/A
<i>Subsoil</i>	Compact pale orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	N/A

### Trench 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	100m by 2.0m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.10m-0.40m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.15m-0.45m
<i>Significant Features</i>	N/A
<i>Other Features</i>	N/A
<i>Subsoil</i>	Compact pale orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	N/A

### Trench 8

<i>Dimensions</i>	100m by 2.0m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.3m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4m
<i>Significant Features</i>	N/A
<i>Other Features</i>	N/A
<i>Subsoil</i>	Compact pale orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	N/A

### Trench 9

<i>Dimensions</i>	100m by 2.0m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.3m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4m
<i>Significant Features</i>	N/A
<i>Other Features</i>	N/A
<i>Subsoil</i>	Compact pale orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	N/A

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

### Camera 1

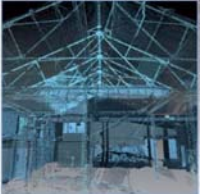
Frame	Description	From
1	Registration shot	-
2	Trench 1 Post excavation shot	SE
3	Trench 2 Post excavation shot	S
4	Trench 3 Post excavation shot	NE
5	Trench 4 Post excavation shot	NE

6	Trench 5 Post excavation shot	NE
7	Trench 6 south facing section showing top-soil/made ground	S
8	Trench 7 Post excavation shot	NE
9	Trench 8 Post excavation shot	NE
10	Trench 9 Post excavation shot	NE
11-13	Spoil tip under removal	N

**APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	City of Edinburgh Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Longstone, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Report
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 23047
<b>PARISH:</b>	Edinburgh
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Rob Engl
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 2103 7117 (centre)
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	9/11/2016
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	9/11/2016
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p><i>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Places for People Scotland ahead of a residential development on land at Longstone, Edinburgh. The total development area totalled 2.5 ha and consisted of waste ground.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed that up to 3.0 m of top-soil had been previously dumped onto the proposed development area during the construction of nearby HMP Saughton. An area of hard-standing associated with a compound relating to the prison construction was visible within the north-east corner of the development. This had been stripped to natural. Part of the development area was formerly occupied by football pitches. No original ground surface was observed and it is likely that the area may have been partially stripped prior to being built up with made ground.</i></p> <p><i>No significant archaeological remains or features were observed during the evaluation.</i></p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Places for People Scotland
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	Admin@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	NMRS





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