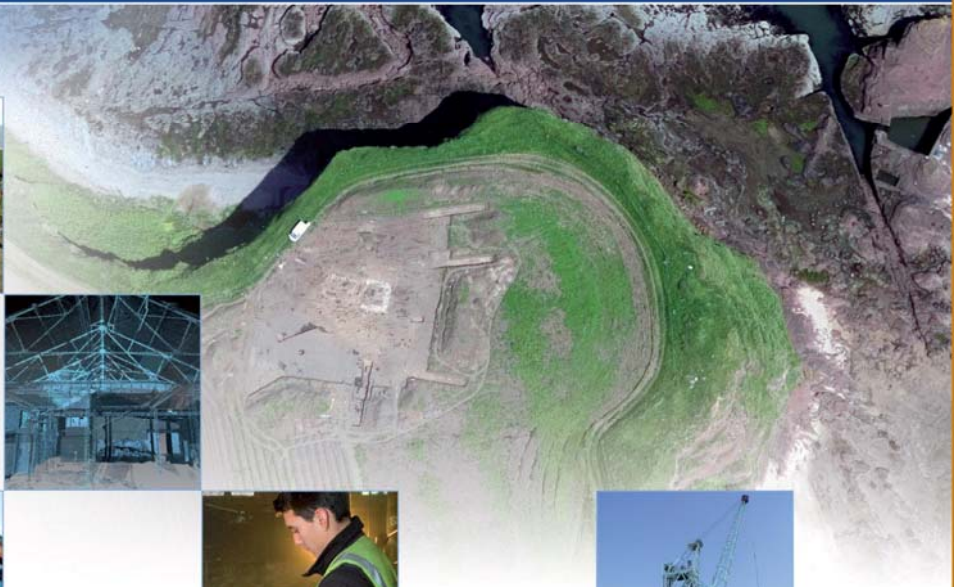


# Gilmerton Dykes Road, Gilmerton, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC 23667  
24<sup>th</sup> January 2017



# Gilmerton Dykes Road, Gilmerton, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

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**On Behalf of: Lovell Partnerships**  
271 Springhill Parkway,  
Baillieston,  
Glasgow  
G69 6GA

**Planning Reference: 15/04287/FUL**

**National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 2887 6820**

**AOC Project No: 23667**

**OASIS No.: aocarcha1-274209**

**Prepared by: Kevin Paton**

**Date of Fieldwork: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**Date of Report: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

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

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**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

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**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft**

**Date:**

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## ABSTRACT

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An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group prior to a residential development on land next to Gilmerton Dykes Road, Gilmerton, Edinburgh.

The evaluation revealed disturbance from previous development of the site with the subsoil in areas having been excavated by modern machinery. Other areas did show survival of a former plough soil, which was covered in modern made ground throughout. Two furrows were revealed in one of the trenches that indicate post medieval agricultural use of the site. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed throughout the development area.

It is recommended that no further archaeological works be conducted.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was required by Lovell Partnerships prior to a residential development on land adjacent to Gilmerton Dykes Road, Gilmerton, Edinburgh. The scope of the works was determined by the City of Edinburgh Council as advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2016), approved on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council by CECAS and in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning And Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

## 1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The development area is located to the SW of Gilmerton villages' historic centre, and comprises a brown field plot to the immediate NW of Gilmerton Dykes Road (NGR: NT 2887 6820; Figure 1). The site is bounded by residential properties to the NE and SW along Gilmerton Dykes Road, with the back gardens of other properties to the NW.

## 1.3 Historical Background

1.3.1 The site lies within Gilmerton historic village, which has now become incorporated into the larger Edinburgh periphery lying just inside the Edinburgh Bypass. The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map of the 1850's shows that the development area is largely agricultural land. Gilmerton Dykes Road exists on its current alignment and position and the northern and southern site boundaries are already established. Whilst the site is free of buildings there is a 'Coal Pit' marked in the SE corner (Figure 2).

1.3.2 The HES national database shows no sites existing within the development boundary and the closest known site is Gilmerton House (NMRS No NT26NE 34). The site of this former house lies a few hundred metres to the east of the development area. The original house was destroyed in the 16<sup>th</sup> century with the latest version demolished in the 1950's. A watching brief conducted in 2007 within the former grounds established the presence of various walls and foundations (AOC 2007).

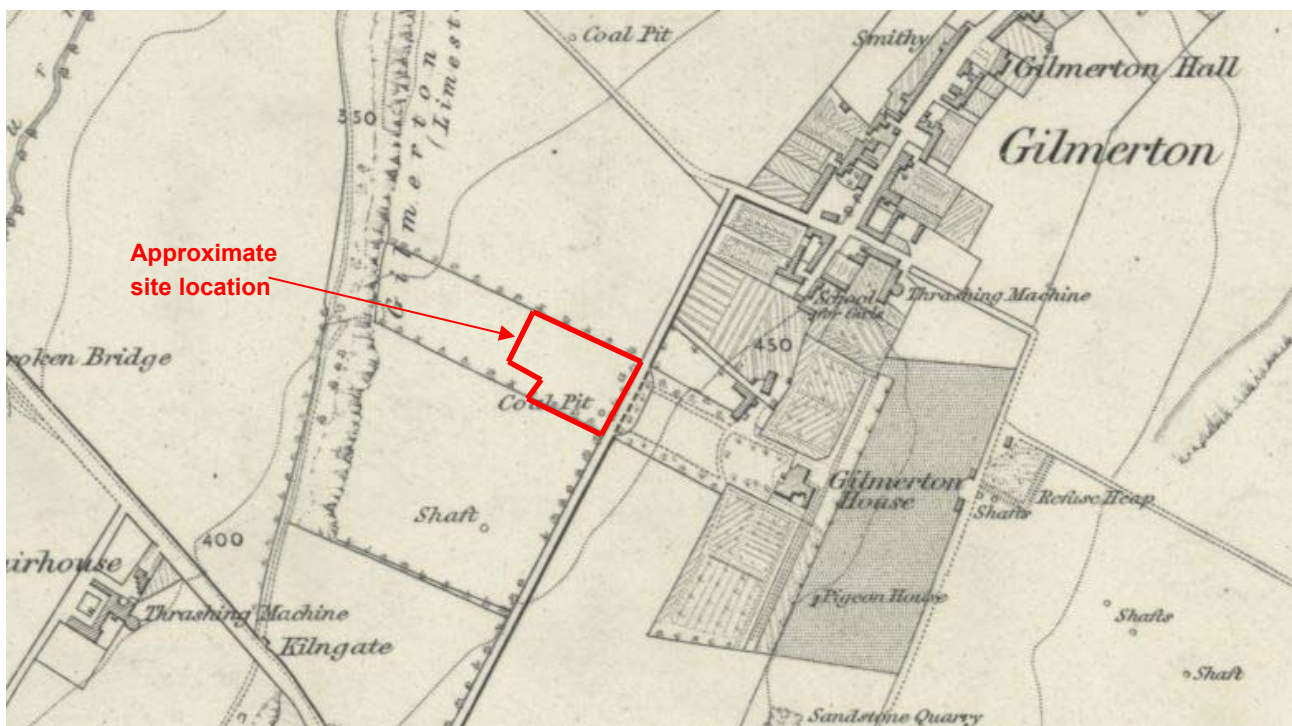


Figure 2: Extract from 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1854

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area through evaluation trenching;
- 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 10% evaluation of the 0.2 hectare development area originally required the excavation of 100 linear metres of trench. However, due to a power cable entering the centre of the site from the SE, a tarmac driveway along the NE edge of the site and a rectangular parking area at the NW edge, the area available for trenching was significantly reduced.

3.2. In total, the evaluation consisted of three trenches of varying length and alignment, equating to 50 linear metres of trench (Figure 3). The work was conducted utilising a JCB 3CX excavator equipped with a bladed ditching bucket, and operating under the constant supervision of an experienced field archaeologist. Each trench was recorded using AOC *pro forma* trench record sheets and any potential features investigated further to assess their character and date.

## 4 RESULTS

4.1 All archaeological works were conducted on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Weather conditions were fair throughout the course of the work conducted meaning that archaeological visibility was good. The various data gathered from the evaluation are presented as a series of appendices:

Appendix 1: Evaluation trench descriptions

Appendix 2: Photographic Register;

Appendix 3: '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' entry

4.2 The overburden throughout the development area consisted of a mid brown clay loam mixed with rubble that overlay a mid brown clay plough soil. Trench 1 consisted of 1 m of made ground overlying the plough soil which covered the natural yellow clay. Trenches 2 & 3 were not as deep with only 0.6 m of topsoil and rubble over the former plough soil. Both of these trenches contained areas that had been previously disturbed by toothed excavators most likely relating to the demolition of the former building on site.

4.3 The only archaeology of note were two NW-SE aligned furrows in Trench 3 that were perpendicular to the road and approximately 5 m apart (Plate 1). No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed within the evaluation trenches.



Plate 1: General view of Trench 3

## 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation revealed that there is no significant archaeology within the development area. As such, it is recommended that no further archaeological works are required. This recommendation will require the approval of the CECAS who advise the City of Edinburgh Council on archaeological matters.

## 6 REFERENCES

### 6.1 Bibliographic References

AOC 2016 *Gilmerton Dykes Road, Gilmerton, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished client report

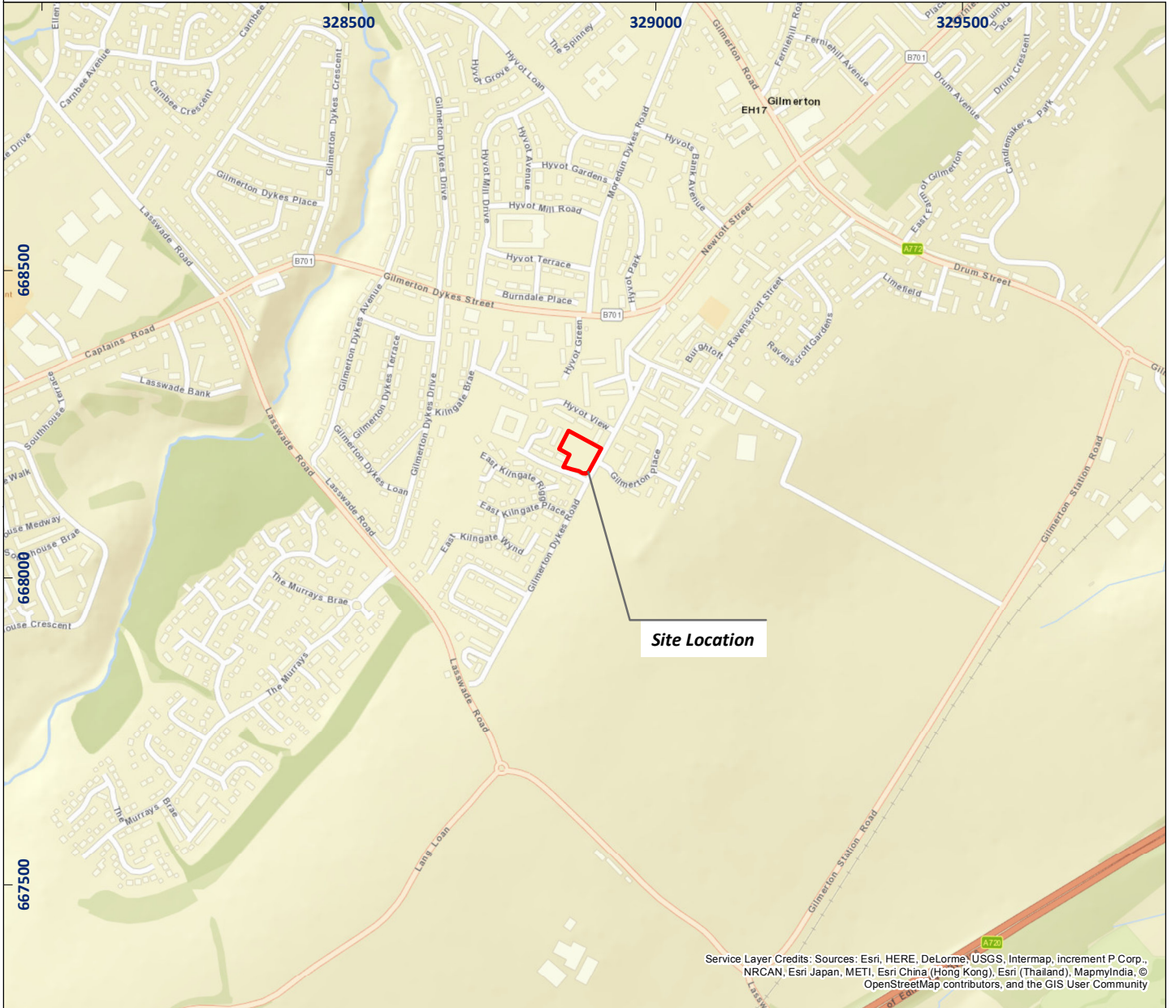
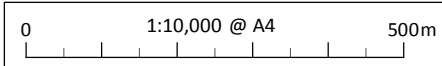
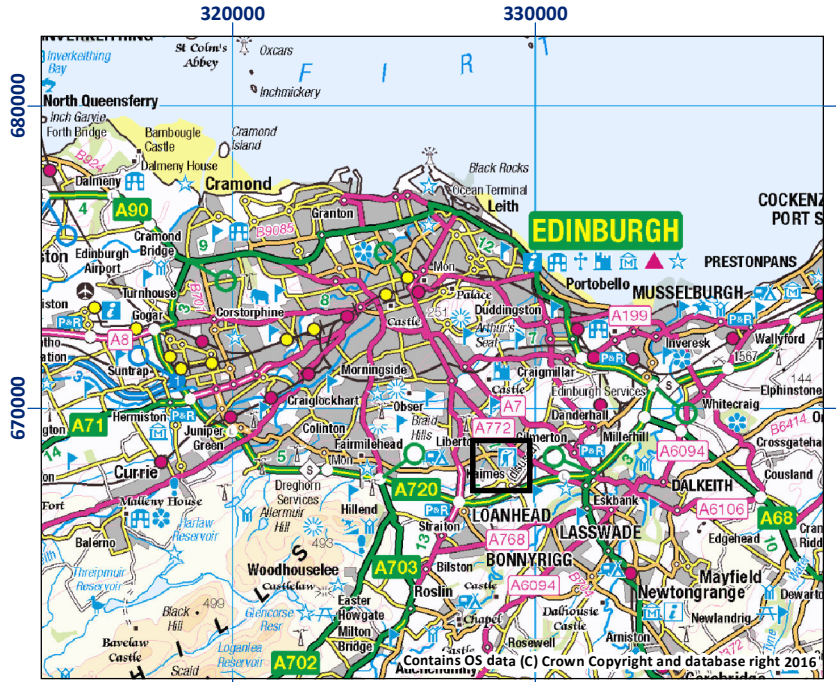
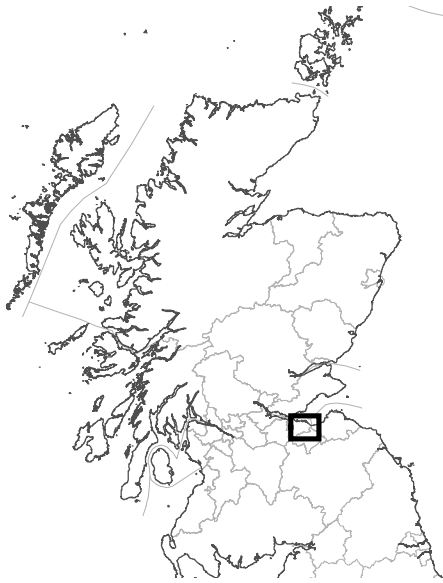
Scottish Government 2014 Scottish Planning Policy.

Scottish Government 2010 PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology.

### 6.2 Cartographic References

1854 Ordnance Survey *Edinburghshire Sheet VI*





Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Figure 1: Site location plan

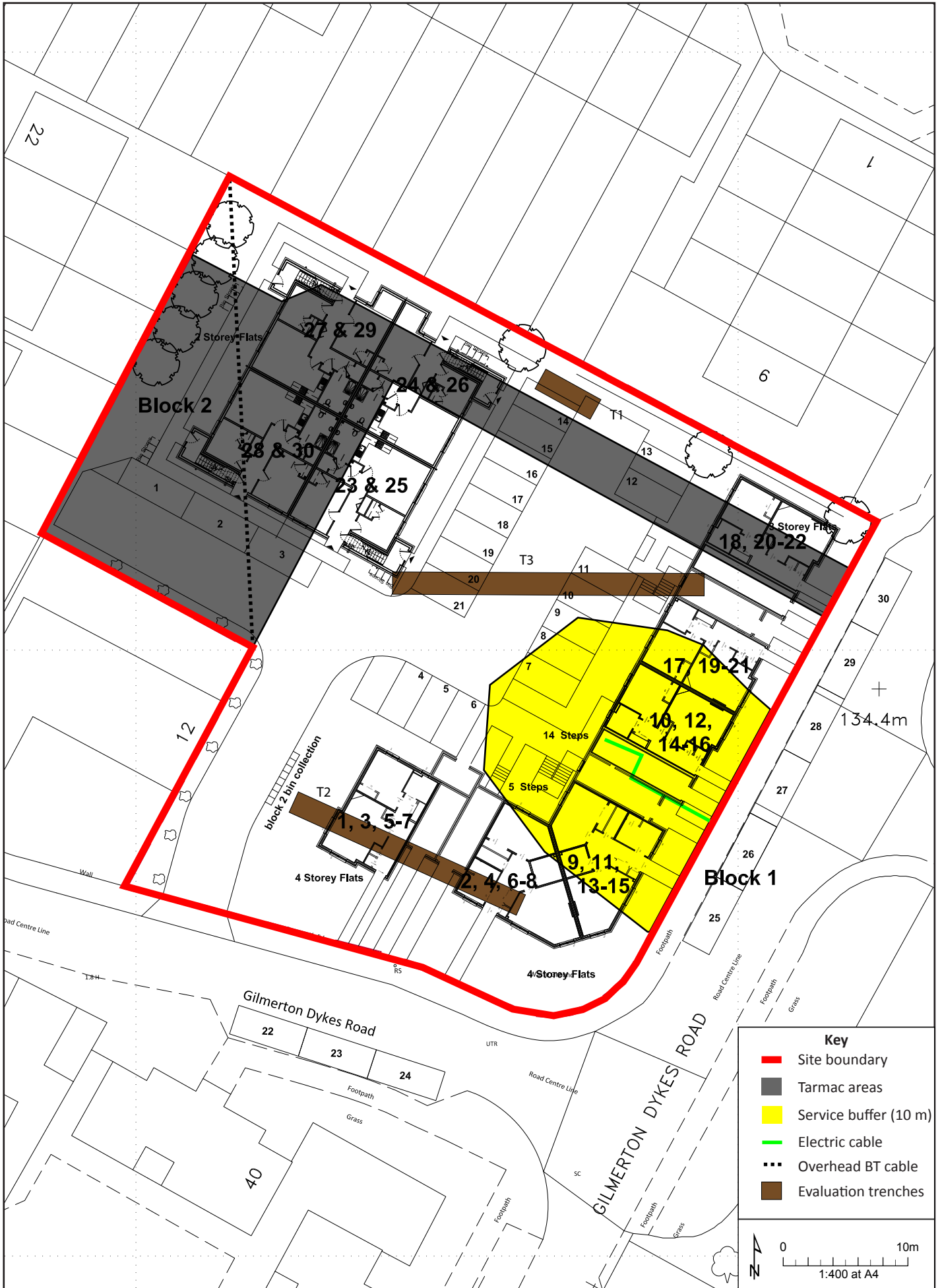


Figure 3: Evaluation trench location plan

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**Gilmerton Dykes Road,  
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Archaeological Evaluation  
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**Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: EVALUATION TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

### Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	5 m by 1.8 m
<i>Excavated Area</i>	9 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SE to NW
<i>Soil make-up</i>	Made ground (1) – Crushed rubble, type 1 and red blaes – 0.9 m Made ground (2) – grey clay and rubble – 0.2 m Plough soil – mid brown clay with occasional coal flecks
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Yellowish brown clay
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Modern drain at 0 m aligned NE-SW with tail aligned E-W until 2 m
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	20 m by 1.8 m
<i>Excavated Area</i>	36 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SE to NW
<i>Soil make-up</i>	Made ground (1) – Reddish brown clay and rubble (0.3 m) over red blaes (0.2 m) cut from 7 m to 15 m to end of trench – 0.5 m Former topsoil - Very compact grey clay cut from 7 m to 15 m – 0.15 m Plough soil – mid brown clay with occasional coal flecks – 0.2 m
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Yellowish brown clay
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Tarmac strips at 1 m to 2 m and 3 m to 4 m aligned NE-SW, just under vegetation. Modern cut through made ground from 7 m to 15 m filled with 1 m of mixed soil and rubble
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 3

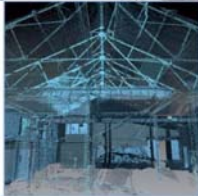
<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 1.8 m
<i>Excavated Area</i>	45 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E to W
<i>Soil make-up</i>	Made ground (1) – Greyish blue grout – 0.25 m Made ground (2) – Dark brown clay and red blaes – 0.38 m Plough soil – mid brown clay with occasional coal flecks – 0.2 m
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Yellowish brown clay with mottled brown clay and stone
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Furrows at 4.3 m to 6.6 m and 14 m to 15.7 m aligned NW-SE; Modern drain at 20.6 m aligned SW-NE
<i>Finds</i>	None

**APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTERS**

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-7	General views of site	Var	20/1/17
8	Post-ex of T1	SE	20/1/17
9	T1 – SW facing section of trench	SW	20/1/17
10	T2 – SW facing section of trench	SW	20/1/17
11	Tooth bucket marks in subsoil	S	20/1/17
12	Post-ex of T2	NW	20/1/17
13-15	View of site from E corner	Var	20/1/17
16-17	Post-ex of T3	W/E	20/1/17
18	T1 backfilled	S	20/1/17
19-20	T2 and T3 backfilled	Var	20/1/17

**APPENDIX 3: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	City of Edinburgh Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Gilmerton Dykes Road, Gilmerton
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	23667
<b>PARISH:</b>	Edinburgh
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Kevin Paton
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 2887 6820
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group prior to a residential development on land next to Gilmerton Dykes Road, Gilmerton, Edinburgh.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed disturbance from previous development of the site with the subsoil in areas having been excavated by modern machinery. Other areas did show survival of a former plough soil, which was covered in modern made ground throughout. Two furrows were revealed in one of the trenches that indicate post medieval agricultural use of the site. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed throughout the development area.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	No
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Lovell Partnerships
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group Edgefield Road Industrial Estate Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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