

Easter Road LIDL, Edinburgh: Archaeological Excavation Data Structure Report

AOC Project No: 23641

June 2017



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Easter Road LIDL, Edinburgh: Archaeological Excavation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: LIDL UK
7 Dovecote Road
Holytown
ML1 4GP

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 27047 75097

AOC Project No: 23641

Planning Application No: 15/04194/FUL

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

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SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological excavation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group prior to the construction of a new LIDL at Easter Road, Edinburgh.

The initial evaluation revealed the base foundation slabs of a possible building not correlating to any of the cartographic evidence for the site. Also revealed were some large rectangular pits, possible cotemporaneous with the foundations.

The following excavation detailed in this report uncovered further sandstone wall foundations, as well as associated features and red brick industrial remains. The sandstone remains were of single coursing and largely truncated. These likely relate to Victorian greenhouses associated with Drum House Nursery. The red brick structures were later in date, probably associated with the later Edina Copper works.

No further archaeological works are considered necessary with post-excavation analysis not being deemed a requirement. This will need confirmed by CECAS.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was required by LIDL UK following the results of a previous evaluation prior to the development of a new supermarket at Easter Road, Edinburgh as part of a planning condition on the development. 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 2017) and *Addendum to the Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2017), approved on behalf of 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).
- 1.1.2 An archaeological evaluation carried out previously by AOC (2017) uncovered the remains of sandstone walls and pits. These features had not been previously recorded on the cartographic evidence.

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The development area is located on the east side of Easter Road, Edinburgh and recently comprised of a DIY warehouse (now demolished) and associated car parking (NGR: NT 27047 75097; Figure 1). The site is bounded by residential properties on Easter Road to the north and south with the Eastern Cemetery to the east.

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 The National Monuments Register shows no sites existing within the sites boundaries. The nearest sites noted are the Eastern Cemetery to the immediate east, several listed buildings to the south and west, and 17th century plague burials to the south.
- 1.3.2 The cartographic sources show that the site was part of a field system in 1766 (Laurie; Figure 2) to the north of a tree lined property, later noted as belonging to J. Sligo Esq (Ainslie 1804). There is no development on the site until 1853 when boundaries and fields related to the Drum House Nursery are placed through the area. There are also two new cottages located to the immediate northwest of the site, labelled as Quarryholes Cottages (Ordnance Survey 1853; Figure 3).



Figure 2: Extract from Laurie's 1766 map



Figure 3: Extract from Ordnance Survey 1853

1.3.3 By 1894 (Ordnance Survey; Figure 4) the nursery has been replaced by the Eastern Cemetery and the street front of Easter Road now contains numerous residential properties. The development site now also contains a large rectangular building to the north, a large open yard area along Easter Road and some smaller buildings along the east edge next to the cemetery. This large rectangular building remains in place into the middle of the 20th century with the remainder of the site changing slightly and Edina Copper Works being constructed after 1912 (Ordnance Survey).

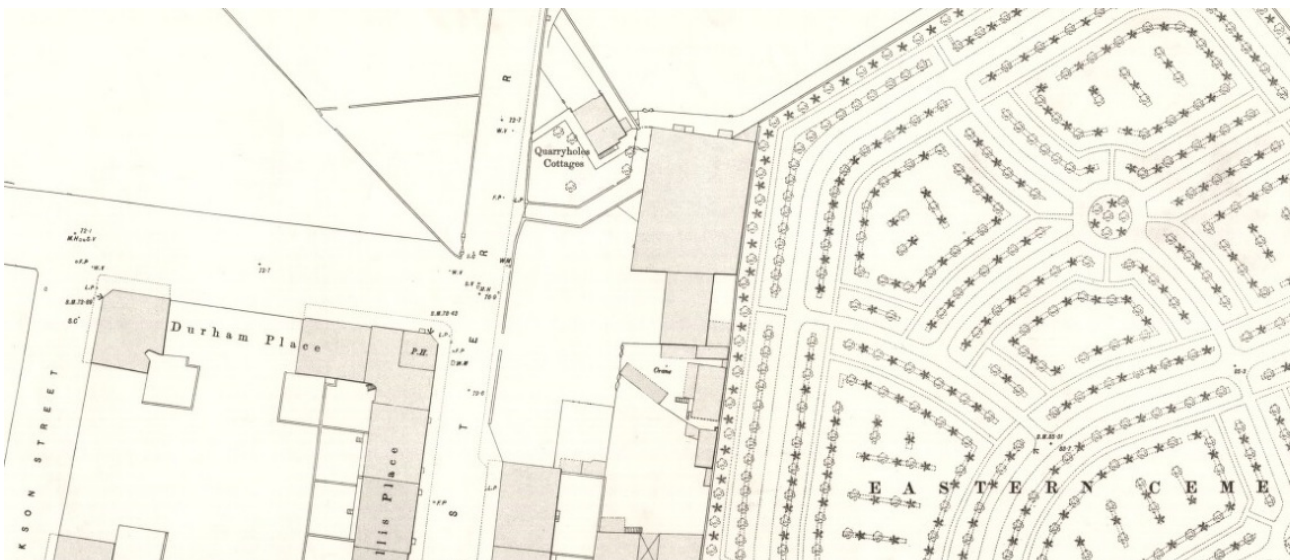


Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey 1894

3 OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological excavation were:

- i) To expose the surviving archaeology within the development footprint through the application of a controlled strip around the marked area, recording all significant archaeological features within the area;
- ii) To liaise with CECAS and the client in order to mitigate against possible damage to the archaeology if it cannot be preserved *in-situ*.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The excavation was carried out utilising an 8 tonne tracked mini excavator using a bladed ditching bucket. All machine excavation was conducted under the constant supervision of an experienced field archaeologist. All features and structures revealed were then cleaned by hand before being recorded by digital photography, surveyed in detail and then a written record produced using AOC *pro forma* context sheets.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 All archaeological works were conducted between the 17th and the 22nd May 2017. Weather conditions were generally fair throughout the course of the work and archaeological visibility was good.

- 5.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation is presented as a series of appendices:

Appendix 1: Context Register;
Appendix 2: Finds Register;
Appendix 3: Sample Register;
Appendix 4: Photographic Register;
Appendix 5: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' (DES) entry

5.2 Excavation

- 5.2.1 The total area excavated was 25 m by 17 m, this was primarily due to available space. To the north, east and west of the area lay the boundary walls, while to the south an unmarked water main ran E-W, thus cutting the southern extent short. The excavation revealed six distinct foundation walls as uncovered during the evaluation. The features and wall foundations were covered in made ground deposit [001] consisting of demolition rubble and a silty material. This overlay a ploughed soil horizon [028], which in turn overlies the natural substrata of mottled orange and brown sand [000].

19th C Wall foundations

- 5.2.2 Six discrete areas of wall foundation were uncovered during the excavation (Figure 5). Three of these were to the west of the excavation area, wall [002] & [003], wall [004] & [005] and wall [006]. One was to the north wall [007] & [013] and one towards the eastern boundary wall [008] & [009], as well as a small area of irregular shaped sandstone flagstones to the southern most edge, [014]. All walls were of a rough hewn sandstone block construction with lime and sand bonding. The foundations were a single course, with individual sandstone blocks varying in dimensions (0.5 - 0.7 m x 0.35 - 0.41 m x 0.12-0.40 m). All the walls were set into [028] with no visible cut and had been severely truncated by later building works associated with the site.



Plate 1 View of Greenhouse foundation [002-005], Structure 1

Cut features

- 5.2.3 Within the centre of the site three large pits were revealed. Two square pits [023] and [025], (dimensions 1.2 - 1.8 m x 1.2 - 1.7 m by 0.17 - 0.37 m deep), and a large rectangular pit [021], (c.5.7 m x 1.8 m by 0.2 - 0.25 m deep). Further to this were the remains of furrows [011] on an NW-SE orientation. Fifteen furrows were uncovered with approximate dimensions of 5.5 m x 0.60 m by 0.05 - 0.11 m deep. The majority of these cut features extended into the natural subsoil [000]

Industrial remains

- 5.2.4 To the west of the site also lay two red brick structures [015] and [017]. Both survived just below [001] and cut into [028] and [000]. Feature [015] was a double coursed red brick rectangular structure, filled with industrial waste [016]. Feature [017] was similar brick built structure to [015] however single coursed.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The archaeological excavation completed at the new LIDL site on Easter Road has shown partial remains of structures not previously detailed on the cartographic evidence. The majority had been previously truncated by later building works.
- 6.2 The sandstone block foundations likely relate to relatively temporary structures associated with the 19th C Drum House Nursery. These potentially acted as the foundations bases for Victorian greenhouses. The remains form the bases of five distinct structures (Figure 5), however they have largely been truncated. Some fragments of 19th C pottery was found in amongst the stones, thus further suggesting their Victorian origin.



Plate 2 View of foundations [007] and [013], Structure 3

- 6.3 The pit features contained several post-medieval to modern white earthenware pottery fragments. Thus they are also likely related to these 'greenhouses' in some manner. They are at least likely to be associated with the Drum House Nursery in some incarnation, perhaps acting as planting beds. The fills and forms of the large pits were not dissimilar to the furrows and are potentially contemporaneous. The furrows are therefore likely to be part of the planting beds as seen in the 1854 Ordnance Survey map.



Plate 3 View of furrows [011]

- 6.4 The red brick industrial features are liable to relate to either the later 19th Century yard that has replaced the Drum House Nursery, or even the Edina Copper Works.

7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The archaeological excavations revealed the limited survival of possible greenhouse bases and associated features in relation to the 19th Century nursery sometime between the 1854 and 1893 Ordnance survey maps. The majority of the features therefore are likely related to the Drum House Nursery, or the intervening period between the two cartographic surveys. Also uncovered were later red brick structures potentially relating to later works such as the Edina Copper works.
- 7.2 The excavations provided a safeguard for all archaeological remains on the site, which have now been excavated and recorded prior to their complete removal by the upcoming development.
- 7.3 It is not recommended that any further post-excavation works are conducted. This recommendation will require approval of the CEC Archaeology Service who advises the CEC on archaeological planning matters.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliographic References

AOC, 2017 *Easter Road, LIDL: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpublished Client Report

AOC, 2017 *Easter Road, LIDL Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report*, Unpublished Client Report

Historic Scotland 2011 SHEP *Scottish Historic Environment Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 PAN2/2011 *Planning and Archaeology*.

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

8.2 Cartographic References

1766 Laurie, J *Plan of Edinburgh and places adjacent from an actual survey*

1852 Ordnance Survey *Edinburgh Sheet 22*

1894 Ordnance Survey *Edinburgh 1894 Sheet III.4.18*

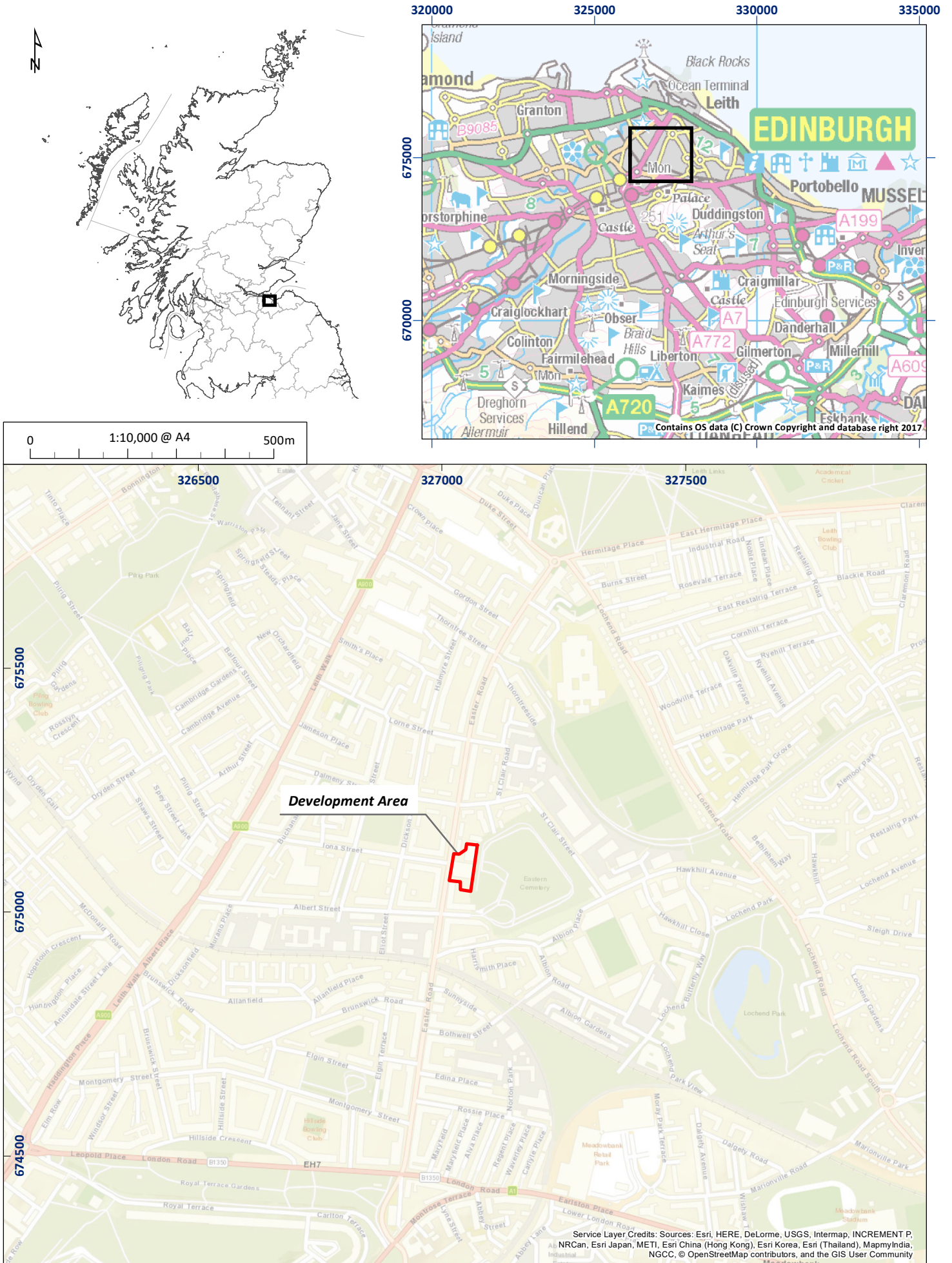


Figure 1: Site location plan

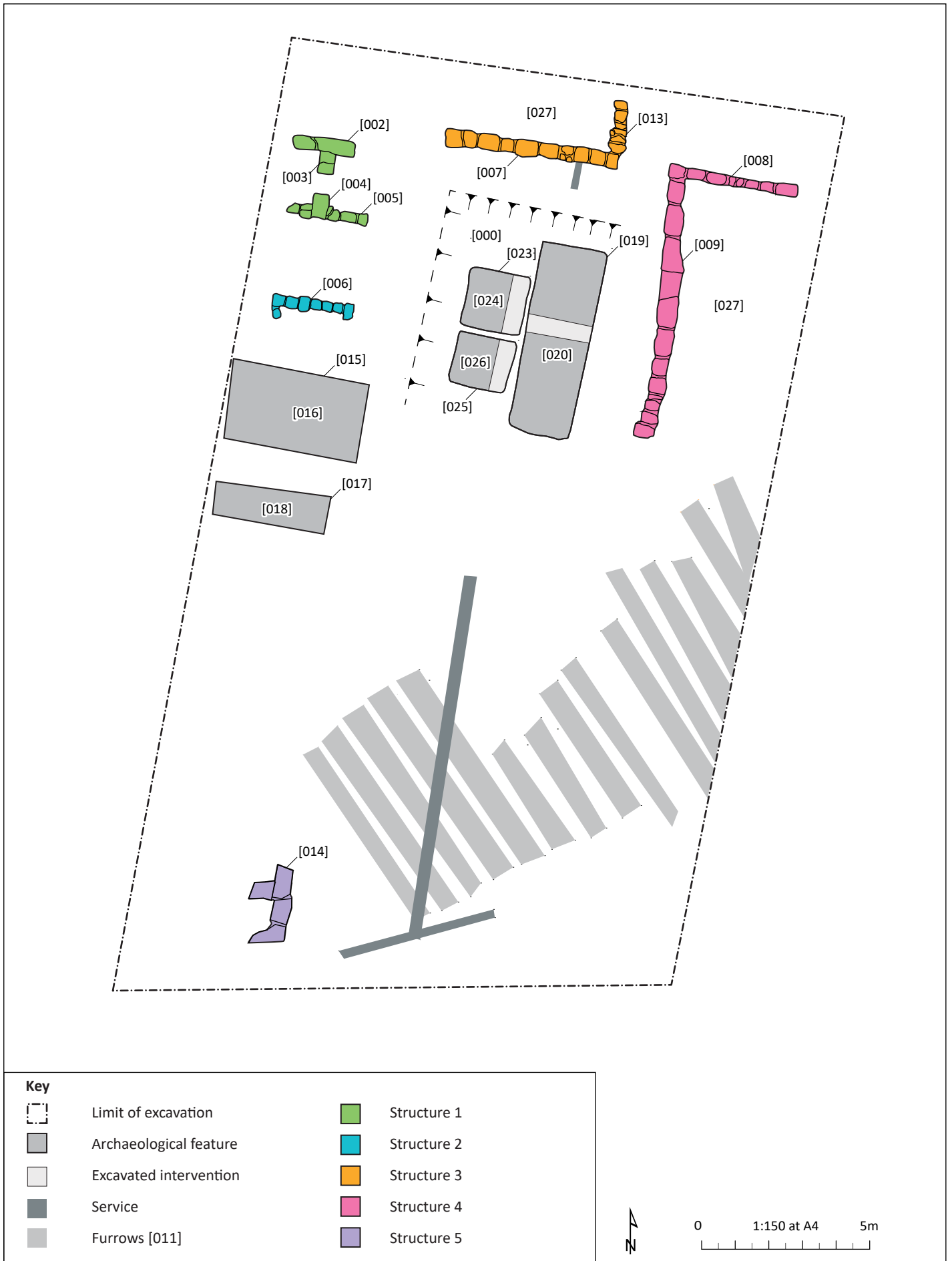


Figure 5: Plan of Site

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Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTERS

Excavation

Context No.	Description and Interpretation
[000]	Mottled orange and brown sand Natural
[001]	Mixed demolition material, various bits of red brick and sandstone. Topsoil/Demolition
[002]	Irregular sandstone blocks, roughly finished with sand and lime mortar. Single coursing orientated on an E-W alignment. Greenhouse Wall Foundation
[003]	Single sandstone block, extending N-S from [002] towards [004]/[005]. Single coursing with rough finish. Internal division of greenhouse formed with [002]-[005]
[004]	Single sandstone block, extending S-N from [005] towards [003]/[002]. Single coursing with rough finish. Internal division of greenhouse formed with [002]-[005]
[005]	Irregular sandstone blocks, roughly finished, orientated E-W, parallel with [002]. Full extent 2.5 m x 0.45 m x 0.4 m. Foundation for possible greenhouse
[006]	Irregular sandstone blocks, lime and sand mortared on E-W orientation. Possible has extension running N-S as well. Single course with rough facing. Full extent c. 2.5m x 0.5m x 0.35m Possible external wall for foundation of greenhouse
[007]	Irregular sandstone blocks, lime and sand mortared on E-W alignment. [013] attached at eastern end forming external wall boundary. Rough finished and single coursed. Full extent c. 5.0m x 0.5m x 0.3m Wall foundation for possible greenhouse
[008]	Sandstone wall foundation, rough faced and lime and sand bonding. E-W orientation, [009] extends N-S from western end. Overall dimensions c. 4.1m x 0.4m x 0.15m Wall foundation for possible greenhouse
[009]	Rough faced sandstone blocks, N-S alignment orientation, irregular in shape. Western wall for greenhouse base
[010]	Stone setts covering majority of eastern excavation area. Above [008] & [009]. Likely relate to late 19 th early 20 th C yard. 19th C cobbles
[011]	Rectangular, linear cuts on NW-SE orientation. C.17 furrows with steep sides onto an uneven but flat base. Dimensions c. 5.5m x 0.59m x 0.05-0.11m. Furrows associated with 18th to 19th C nursery plantation
[012]	Mid black-brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of furrows [011]
[013]	Irregular sandstone blocks, no facing bonded with lime and sand mortar. Extends S-N from eastern end of [007]. Exposed extent 1.6m x 0.69m x 0.1m. East facing foundation for possible greenhouse
[014]	Irregular shaped sandstone flags, roughly faced with lime and sand mortar. Exposed dimensions c.2.1m N-S, C.1m E-W. Possible greenhouse base
[015]	Large rectangular red brick structure. 2 courses in width, c.8 in depth remaining. Bricks c. 0.24m x 0.11m x 0.08m. Industrial structure

[016]	Coarse black charcoal silt, high frequency of industrial debris Fill of [015]
[017]	Small rectangular red brick structure, single course of brick. Bricks c. 0.24m x 0.11m x 0.08m. Industrial structure
[018]	Coarse black charcoal silt, high frequency of industrial debris Fill of [017]
[019]	Large rectangular cut, near vertical sides onto flattish base. 3.0m x 2.5m x 0.7m Possible industrial cut, possible sand quarry
[020]	Mid brown sandy clay fill, occasional charcoal flecks Fill of [019]
[021]	Large rectangular pit, rounded corners, gently sloping sides onto uneven base. 5.7m x 1.8m x 0.2-0.25m. Possible planting bed associated with 19th C nursery
[022]	Mid brown sandy silt, very little inclusions, occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of [021]
[023]	Square cut in plan, machine truncated, near vertical sides onto uneven flat base. 1.8m x 1.7m x 0.19m. Possible 19th C planting bed
[024]	Mid brown grey sandy clay fill. Occasional coal and stone inclusions, with some 19 th C pottery. Fill of [023]
[025]	Square cut in plan, near vertical sides onto uneven flat base. Truncated at W end by evaluation trench backfill. 1.2m x 1.2m x 0.37m Possible 19th C planting bed
[026]	Mid brown silty sand, occasional coal flecks and stone inclusions. Some 19 th C pottery Fill of [025]
[027]	Mid grey-brown clayey silt. High frequency of charcoal. Occasional stone and pottery inclusion. 19th C ploughed soil horizon
[028]	Mid brown sandy matrix with some small rounded stones Buried topsoil

APPENDIX 2: Finds Register

Finds No.	Context No.	Material Code	Description
1	[026]	CE	Various ceramic fragments
2	[020]	CE	Various ceramic fragments
3	[002]	CE	Various ceramic fragments

APPENDIX 3: Sample Register

Context No.	Notes
[012a[1 x 10L
[012b]	1 x 10L
[012c]	1x10L
[026]	2x10L
[024]	2x10L
[016]	1x10L
[020]	2x10L
[022]	2x10L

APPENDIX 4: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Frame	Description	From	Date
1	Registration	-	16/5/17
2-8	General shots of site	Various	16/5/17
9	Initial strip	N	17/5/17
10	View of furrows [011] looking N	S	17/5/17
11-12	View of wall founds to N of Area	N/E	17/5/17
13	Shot of wall foundations [004]/[005]	S	18/5/17
14-15	Shot of wall foundations [004]/[005]	E	18/5/17
16-17	Shot of wall foundations [002]/[003]	N	18/5/17
18	Shot of wall foundation [006]	N	18/5/17
19	Shot of wall foundation [006]	S	18/5/17
20	Shot of wall foundation [006]	W	18/5/17
21-24	Views of 19 th C cobbles	Various	18/5/17
25-28	Shots of furrows [011]	Various	18/5/17
29	NW-facing section of [011c]	NW	19/5/17
30	NW-facing section of [011b]	NW	19/5/17
31	NW-facing section of [011a]	NW	19/5/17
32-34	Views of red brick structure [015]	Various	19/5/17
35-36	Views of red brick structure [017]	Various	19/5/17
37	Shot of [006]	N	19/5/17
38	Shot of [002]-[005]	S	19/5/17
39	Shot of [004]-[006]	N	19/5/17
40	Shot of [002]/[003]	S	19/5/17
41-43	Shots (E-W) of [007]	S	19/5/17
44	Shot of [013]	E	19/5/17
45-46	Views of pits	E	19/5/17
47	Views of walls	E	19/5/17
48	Shot of [009]	E	19/5/17
49-52	Shots (N-S) of [009]	W	19/5/17
53-58	Shots of furrows [011]	W	19/5/17
59	E-facing section of [015]	E	19/5/17
60	W-facing section of [019]	W	19/5/17
61	Shot of [014]	N	19/5/17
62	Shot of [008]	W	19/5/17
63	General shot of [013] & [007]	E	19/5/17
64	General shot of [008] & [009]	N	19/5/17
65	N-facing section of [021]	N	19/5/17
66	S-facing section of [021]	S	19/5/17
67	Evaluation trench rubble backfill truncating pits [[023]/[025]	SW	19/5/17
68	General shot of pit [021]	S	22/5/17
69	General shot of pit [019]	E	22/5/17
70	General shot of pit [025]	S	22/5/17
71	General shot of [023] showing quarter section	N	22/5/17
72	Shot of N-facing section of [023]	N	22/5/17

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73-74	E-facing section of [025]	E	22/5/17
75	E-facing section of [023]	E	22/5/17
76	Shot of pits [023] & [025]	N	22/5/17
77-81	Close down shots of site	Various	22/5/17

APPENDIX 5: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' (DES) REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Easter Road, LIDL
PROJECT CODE:	23641
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Steven Watt
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 26597 72652
START DATE (this season)	17 th May 2017
END DATE (this season)	22 nd May 2017
PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p><i>This report presents the results of an archaeological excavation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group prior to the construction of a new LIDL at Easter Road, Edinburgh.</i></p> <p><i>The initial evaluation revealed the base foundation slabs of a possible building not correlating to any of the cartographic evidence for the site. Also revealed were some large rectangular pits, possible cotemporaneous with the foundations.</i></p> <p><i>The following excavation detailed in this report uncovered further sandstone wall foundations, as well as associated features and red brick industrial remains. The sandstone remains were of single coursing and largely truncated. These likely relate to Victorian greenhouses associated with Drum House Nursery. The red brick structures were later in date, probably associated with the later Edina Copper works.</i></p> <p><i>No further archaeological works are considered necessary with post-excavation analysis not being deemed a requirement. This will need confirmed by CECAS.</i></p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	LIDL UK, 7 Dovecote Road, Holytown, ML1 4GP
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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