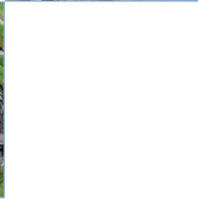
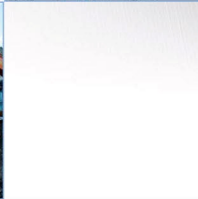
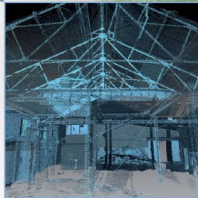


Land East of 20 West Bowling Green Street, Leith: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC 23895

Planning Ref: 17/02345/FUL

10th July 2017



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Land East of 20 West Bowling Green Street, Leith: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: HB Villages Development Ltd

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 26403 76182

AOC Project No: 23895

Oasis No: 1-290694

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Illustration by: Sam O'Leary

Date of Fieldwork: 10th July 2017

Date of Report: 12th July 2017

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

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Date: 12th July 2017

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Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

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ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of HB Villages Development Ltd prior to the development of the land east of 20 West Bowling Green Street, Leith.

The Evaluation revealed a cobbled surface probably related to the use of the site in the 19th and 20th century, which correlates with various maps dating from this period.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was required by HB Villages Developments Ltd in respect to a proposed supported housing development on land 43m to the east of 20 West Bowling Green Street, Leith Edinburgh (Planning Ref 17/02345/FUL). The proposed development area is located within the administrative area of the City of Edinburgh Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeological Service (CECAS). A programme of archaeological works was specified by CECAS in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy (2014)* and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology (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 site is located 43m to the east of 20 West Bowling Green Street, Leith, Edinburgh (centred on NGR: NT26403 76182). The site is bounded to the north and east by the Water of Leith and to the west by a public cycle/footpath (Figure 1). An electrical substation is located to the south-west of the proposed development area, and a wall forms the site boundary to the north-east.

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The development site lies on the southern limits of the navigable stretch of Water of Leith, and the remains of the 18/19th century version of the weir that marked this boundary are known to survive immediately to the north and possibly under the sites northern boundary. This position on the Water of Leith makes the site a prime location for a water mill with the main site for the medieval mills associated with the town of Leith lying directly opposite the development area on the southern side of the Water of Leith. It is possible that the development area may also contain remains associated with the 1540's sieges of Leith and it is possible that it may also possess important evidence for these nationally significant sieges (eg. siege ditches/works and/or artefacts). An archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology (Paton & Cook 2016) on land to the north and south of West Bowling Green Street revealed three ditches relating to field systems of Old Bonnington House estate as well as a group of features that most likely relate to the 1560 siege of Leith, alongside a small assemblage of medieval ceramics.

The evaluation also recorded the foundation pillars and arched foundations of the 19th Century fertiliser works as well as the remains of 19th Century warehouse foundations cutting through several earlier 18th and 19th century buildings and features, one of which contained a couple of fragments of disarticulated human remains.

2.1 In addition to the probable medieval and post-medieval remains the site also has an important 19th-20th century industrial heritage containing the site of the caul and also forming the southern half of the mid 19th century Junction Mills (CECAS, 2011).

2.2 There are no other known sites of archaeological, historical or architectural significance within the development area. However, similar re-development sites elsewhere in Leith have revealed sub-surface survival of highly significant archaeological features and small finds relating to the medieval and early post-medieval expansion of Leith.



Figure 3 - Bartholemew, John, Plan of Edinburgh Leith with Suburbs (1877)

3 OBJECTIVES

3.1 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 through evaluation trenching;
- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, public/community engagement, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The details of the archaeological Evaluation, laid out below, are designed to meet the requirements of City of Edinburgh Council as advised by CECAS.

4.2 The Evaluation was achieved through the excavation of linear trenches using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 2 m wide ditching bucket. The trenching was originally designed to cover a 10% sample of the c.3000 m² development area (150 linear metres). However the presence of extensive soil bunds, an existing cycle path and services reduced the scope of the evaluation. Excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural drift geology was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.

4.3 All significant archaeological features were cleaned and fully defined.

- 4.4 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures (Appendix 7, 7.1 to 7.29).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 All archaeological works were conducted between the 10th July 2017 and the 11th July 2017. Weather conditions were fair throughout the course of the work and archaeological visibility was good.
- 5.1.2 The various data gathered from the evaluation and excavations are presented as a series of appendices:

Appendix 1: Evaluation trench descriptions
Appendix 2: Context Register;
Appendix 3: Photographic Register;
Appendix 4: Drawing Register;
Appendix 5: reproduces the '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' entry

- 5.1.3 The evaluation consisted of one 10m trench, three 5m trenches and one 3m test pit. The topography of the site restricted the evaluation with the existence of services, a large bund to the north of the site and a cycle path dividing the area north to south. The area to the east of the cycle path was composed of a tarmac driveway and flagstones. The area had been previously disturbed by extensive trial pitting.

5.1.4 Trench 1

- 5.1.4.1 Trench 1 was excavated to the west of the cycle path and revealed a cobbled surface [101] (Plate 1) covered by 0.70m of made ground [102]. A concrete surface [103], probably a threshold was exposed directly to the east. The natural was reached at the south end of Trench 1 at a depth of 1.9m. Trench 1 was excavated to a length of 10m as possible asbestos was observed in the south-west corner.



Plate 1 – Cobble surface [101] in Trench 1

5.1.5 **Trench 2**

5.1.5.1 Trench 2 was revealed 1.20m of demolition rubble. No archaeological features were revealed. The area available for trenching was limited due to the presence of a borehole and services to the south-west of site.

5.1.6 **Trenches 3 & 4**

5.1.6.1 Trenches 3 and 4 were excavated within the flagstone surface. The trenches revealed a deposit of of demolition rubble 1.40-2.40m in depth. No archaeological features were revealed (Plate 2).



Plate 2 – Trench 4 showing demolition rubble

5.1.7 **Trench 5**

5.1.7.1 Trench 5, which was excavated to the west of the tarmac driveway and revealed a cobbled surface [501] 0.65m below the existing ground surface. The extent of which has not been identified as the areas to the north and south have previously been disturbed (Figure 2).



Plate 2 – Trench 5 showing cobble surface [501]

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The archaeological evaluation revealed the survival of a cobble surface and concrete threshold, probably related to the use of the site in the 19th and 20th century. No structure associated with this surface was visible in the opened trenches. An archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology (Paton & Cook 2016) identified the remains of the 19th Century fertiliser works directly to the east. The demolition rubble revealed in all of the excavated trenches illustrates the demolition of the former buildings occupying the site. The rubble was then used to create the existing ground level.
- 7.2 Given the limited nature of the site and recorded structural remains, it is advised that no further archaeological works are required. This will be decided by Mr John Lawson of CECAS archaeological advisor to City of Edinburgh Council.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliographic References

Lawson, J. 2011 *Site at West Bowling Green Street and Anderson Place Leith*. CECAS letter (1st September 2011).

Scottish Government 2010 Scottish Planning Policy.

Scottish Government 2010 PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology.

8.2 Cartographic References

Bartholemew, John, *Plan of Edinburgh Leith with Suburbs* (1877)

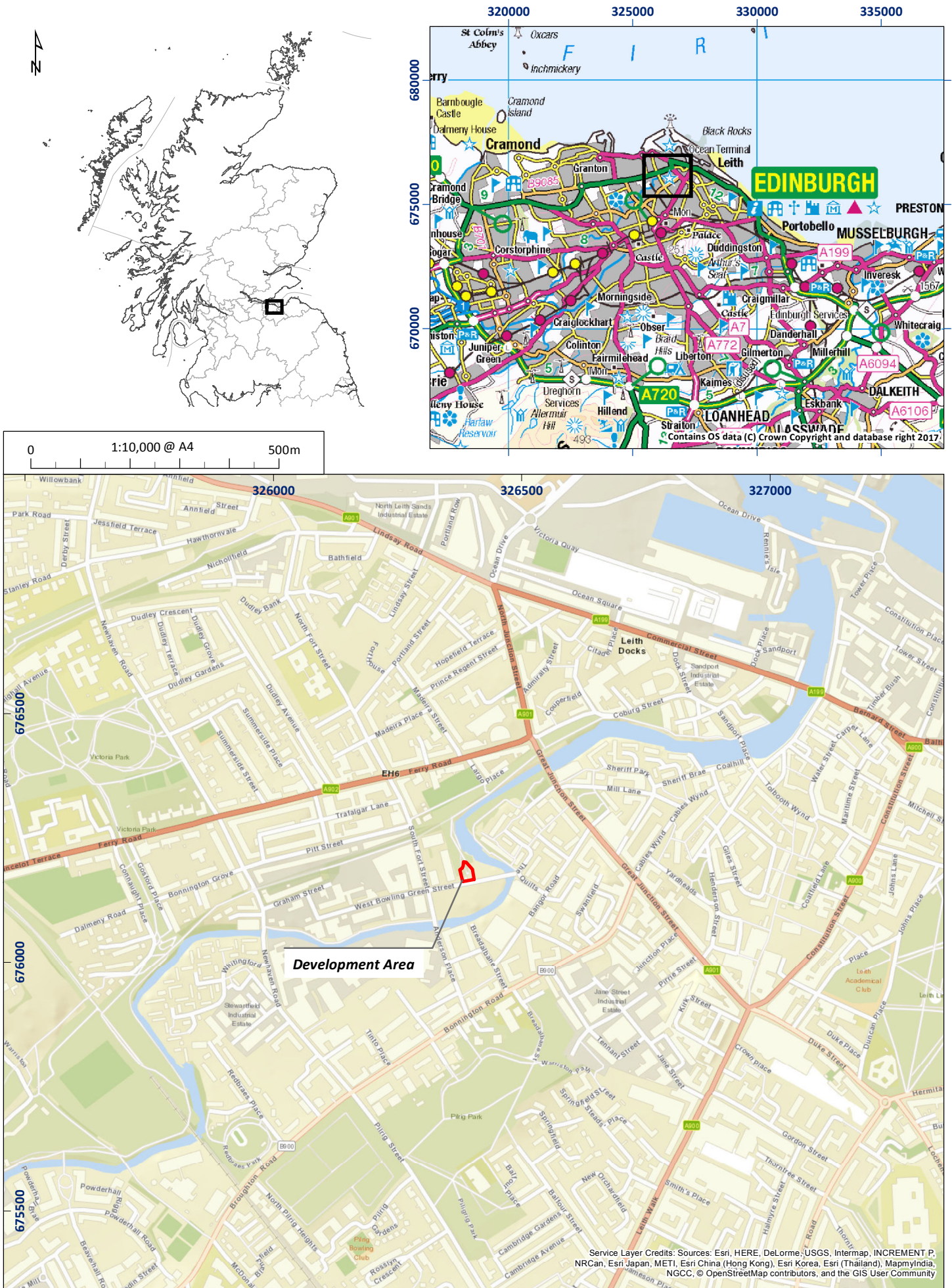


Figure 1: Site location plan



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Figure 2: Site plan showing location of trenches

**Land East of 20 West Bowling Green Street,
Leith:
Archaeological Evaluation
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: EVALUATION TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	10.0m by 2.0m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.9m
<i>Significant Features</i>	[101] Cobble surface/path [103] Concrete threshold
<i>Soil make-up</i>	0.7m made ground onto dark compact clay
<i>Natural</i>	Mid reddish brown
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	5.0m by 2.0m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.40m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Soil make-up</i>	Made ground
<i>Natural</i>	Natural not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	5.0m by 2.0m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.1m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Soil make-up</i>	Demolition rubble, onto clay mix with rubble
<i>Natural</i>	Natural not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	5.0m by 2.0m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.40m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Soil make-up</i>	Demolition rubble
<i>Natural</i>	Natural not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	3.0m by 2.0m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.65m
<i>Significant Features</i>	[501] Cobble surface
<i>Soil make-up</i>	0.20m Tarmac onto dark clay onto Type 1
<i>Natural</i>	Natural not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT REGISTERS

Context No.	Area	Description and Interpretation
101	Trench 001	N-S cobble surface, with a 3m long N-S aligned section and a 2m long E-W aligned section. Each cobble measures approximately 0.25x0.10. A concrete threshold abuts the N-S aligned section of cobbles to the west. Cobble surface/path
102	Trench 001	Made ground layer of bricks, concrete and gravel mixed with a clay/silty clay deposit Made ground
103	Trench 001	N-S aligned concrete surface, possibly threshold directly to the west of [101] Concrete threshold
501	Trench 005	Cobble surface, each cobble measures approximately 0.25x0.10 Cobble surface/path

APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

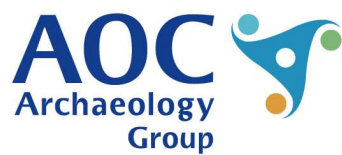
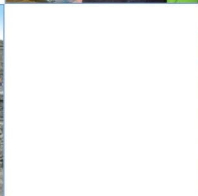
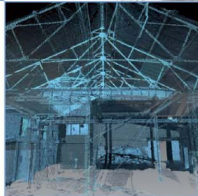
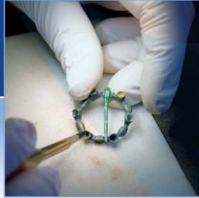
Frame	Area	F. No	Description	From	Date
1-16			General view of area	VAR	10/07
17	Tr. 1		General view of Trench 001	N	10/07
18	Tr. 1		Section through Trench 001	E	10/07
19	Tr. 1		Section through Trench 001	E	10/07
20	Tr. 1		General view of [101] and [103]	W	10/07
21	Tr. 1		General view of [101]	N	10/07
22	Tr. 2		General view of Trench 002	S	10/07
23	Tr. 3		General view of Trench 003	E	10/07
24	Tr. 3		Section through Trench 003	SE	10/07
25			Backfilled area	S	10/07
26	Tr. 4		General view of Trench 004	E	10/07
27	Tr. 4		Section through Trench 004	S	10/07
28	Tr. 5		General view of Trench 005	W	10/07
29	Tr. 5		General view of Trench 005	S	10/07
30-31			Backfilled area	S	10/07

APPENDIX 4: DRAWING REGISTER

Drawing No.	Area	Feature No.	Details	Scale
1	Trench 001	[101], [102], [103]	Plan of Trench 001 showing cobble surface	1:50
2	Trench 005	[501]	Plan of Trench 005 showing cobble surface	1:50

APPENDIX 5: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Land East of 20 West Bowling Green Street, Leith
PROJECT CODE:	23895
PARISH:	North Leith
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Anne-Aymonne Marot
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 26403 76182
START DATE (this season)	10 th July 2017
END DATE (this season)	10 th July 2017
PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)	Desk Based Assessment (AOC2017)
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of HB Villages Development Ltd prior to the development of the land east of 20 West Bowling Green Street, Leith.</p> <p>The Evaluation revealed a cobbled surface probably related to the use of the site in the 19th and 20th century, which correlates with various maps dating from this period.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	To be confirmed
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	HB Villages Developments 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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