Travel Route, Little France Drive to The Wisp, Edinburgh

Archaeological Watching Brief & Metal Detecting Survey:

Data Structure Report

AOC Project 24290 19th April 2018





Travel Route, Little France Drive to The Wisp, Edinburgh

Archaeological Watching Brief & Metal Detecting Survey: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust

National Grid Reference: NT 29585 70591 & NT 30380 70052

AOC Project No: 24290

OASIS No: 1-315230

Planning Ref No: 17FGS25117 (WCAR)

Prepared by: Victoria Huggett

Illustration by: Sam O'Leary

Date: 3/04/2018 - 12/06/2018

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

Author: Rob Engl Date: 13/06/2018

Approved by: Martin Cook Date: 12/06/2018

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft Date: 12/06/2018

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group

Edgefield Industrial Estate

Edgefield Road Loanhead EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593 Fax. 0131 440 3422

e-mail. admin@aocarchaeology.com



www.aocarchaeology.com

Contents

		Page
	st of Illustrations	
	st of Plates	
	st of Appendices	
Αb	bstract	5
1	INTRODUCTION	6
	1.1 Background	6
	1.2 Location	
	1.3 Archaeological Background	
2	OBJECTIVES	7
3	METHODOLOGY	7
4	RESULTS	
5	CONCLUSION	
6		
	PPENDIX 1: Photographic Record	
ΑP	PPENDIX 2: Context Register Register	18
ΑP	PPENDIX 3: Finds Register	18
ΑP	PPENDIX 4: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report	

List of Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Route location

Figure 3 Section of 1854 OS map 'Edinburghshire Sheet 7' showing survey area divided by field

boundaries

List of Plates

Plate 1	View west over site.
Plate 2	Modern Pit [007].
Plate 3	Looking SW over embankment [005].
Plate 4	Looking SE from travel route, embankment [005] visible.
Plate 5	Looking NE at cut through embankment [005].
Plate 6	Historical wall [003] from west.
Plate 7	Demolition of section of historical wall [003].

List of Appendices

Appendix 1	Photographic Record
Appendix 2	Context Register
Appendix 3	Finds Register

Appendix 4 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

Abstract

This report presents the results of a metal detecting and archaeological watching survey undertaken in relation to the creation of a travel route between Little France Drive, Edinburgh and the Wisp, Edinburgh. The area surveyed contained a drystone boundary wall, the remains of an earthen embankment and a pit. These were all related to early 19th century activity.

A small assemblage of 19th and 20th century ceramic material was recovered, consisting primarily of willow pattern, Brampton ware and stone ware. A single sherd of Scottish Reduced Ware was also recovered.

The metal detecting survey was undertaken over ground heavily contaminated with modern material. Small finds were restricted to items related to modern agriculture.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works consisting of a metal detecting survey, a watching brief and the recording of an existing historical boundary wall was required by Edinburgh & Lothian Greenspace Trust in respect of the creation of a travel route between Little France Drive to The Wisp, Little France, Edinburgh (Planning Ref No. 17/05986/FUL). The site lies within the administrative area of City of Edinburgh Council who are advised on archaeological matters by The City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS). The works were implemented 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 material which may be present within the development area.

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The travel route lies on rough ground between Little France Drive in the north (NGR: NT29585 70591) to the Wisp in the South-East (NGR: 30380 70052). The site is bounded by Little France Drive to the West and the Wisp to the East.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The Previous archaeological investigations have occurred within the immediate vicinity of the site. In 2016 Addyman Archaeology undertook a watching brief during the construction of a network of paths and associated tree planting, through open land to the south of the site. Only one feature was present, a deeply buried area of un-bonded rubble stone hardstanding; this was interpreted as bedding for a road. Although no dating evidence was recovered, as it is not depicted on the OS mapping of the late 19th century or later, it is most probably pre-19th century. One of the paths cuts through the development area to join with Greendykes Road. Two un-bonded rubble stone boundary walls defining either side of the wooded area were located, although they were heavily collapsed and robbed. Again, these do not show on mapping of the later 19th century so must predate this. Numerous finds were recovered, mostly pottery ranging in date from as early as the 12th-15th centuries, up to the19th/20th century, showing the plough soil to have been fertilised with domestic rubbish over a long period of time.
- 1.3.2 The In 2011 a Roman brooch and coin were found during metal detecting near Craigmillar (NT 29 71). The small trumpet brooch is intact apart from the spring and pin and has a full acanthus moulding (overall L 51mm). A silver denarius of Marcus Aurelius was also discovered. The artefacts were claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 44/11) and allocated to Edinburgh Museums (Hunter 2011).
- 1.3.3 In 1952, 15 coins were said to have been found 'in a "gourd" at a depth of 10 ins (254mm) in the vicinity of Craigmillar Castle'. There were 11 Roman bronze coins of Constantine I (5), Constantine II, Caesar (1), Helena (1), Constantinopolis (1), and Constantius (3); a Greek imperial coin of Gordian III, 2 Alexandrian coins of Probus, and a small copper coin or token of Charles (IX) of France (1560-74). The 11 Roman coins, and possibly the Greek and Alexandrian coins may have come from a hoard, but even this is doubtful.
- 1.3.4 A penny of Edward I and a penny of Edward II were also discovered on playing fields near Craigmillar Castle in 1979.
- 1.3.5 In March 2018 AOC Archaeology undertook a metal detecting survey on land to the north of the route. The survey produced a 2.5lb iron cannon ball of post medieval date.

- 1.3.6 At the southern end of the route the path runs through land associated with the former Edmondstone Estate. To the immediate south of the route lies the site of the former Home Farm (NT37SW 408).
- 1.3.7 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Headland Archaeology in 2008 at The Wisp, Edmonstone, Craigmillar. The watching brief covered the stripping of topsoil across an area of open field which was being prepared for spoil deposition. A number of pits of unknown date were recorded.
- 1.3.8 The dovecot at Edmonstone also lies south of the proposed path. This building is described by the RCAHMS as made from the ingle of a 16th or 17th c house, a chimney of rough-cast rubble, in two stages, with moulded cope, on a stack, with a pyramidal finial. A small semicircular arched window is present in the lowest stage of the W gable; above it in the second stage are openings for pigeons. A round-arched entrance opens into the dovecot, in the E gable; above it is a large arched window. These give this gable the semblance of a small Norman church, with two buttresses on the S wall. The building is 16'3 1/2 " long. There are 366 nest holes, and the stone roof is barrel-vaulted.
- 1.3.9 The Edmondstone House Gate Lodge (NT37SW 407) lies at the southern end of the proposed route.

2 **OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 The objectives on the archaeological works were:
 - to conduct a metal detecting survey and watching brief along the course of the active travel route;
 - to archaeologically record the remains of a historic boundary wall in both plan and section known to cut through the proposed route.
 - 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;
 - to prepare a final Data Structure Report and project archive

3 **METHODOLOGY**

3.1 **Metal Detecting**

3.1.1 The metal detector survey was undertaken using a Minelab x terra detector (primary detector and smaller unit for detailed location). The entire proposed route was detected ahead of excavation in transects no greater than 2 m wide. This allowed for a degree of overlap between transects and ensured ground was not missed.

3.2 Watching Brief

3.2.1 The path is approximately 3.5m wide and runs for approximately 350m. The excavation and laying of the path was carried out by Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust (subcontracted to MW Groundworks) using a range (6 tonne, 8 tonne and 14 tonne as appropriate) of mechanical excavators fitted with toothless ditching buckets. All excavation was under constant archaeological supervision.

3.3 **Recording of the Historic Wall**

3.3.1 The route runs across the remains of a historic boundary wall which dates to the early 19th century and is probably part of the developing Edmondstone Estate. Where the route truncated the wall, the feature was fully archaeologically photographed and planned, and removal of the wall was supervised.

RESULTS 4

4.1 The watching brief and metal detector survey were conducted concurrently between the 3rd and the 12th of June 2018. An archaeologist detected all stretches of path prior to the machine(s) excavating. [Plate 1] provides a general view of the route.



Plate 1: View of the route from the west.

4.2 **Watching Brief**

- 4.2.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken between 3rd April – 12th April 2018. Weather conditions varied, however archaeological visibility remained good. The watching brief did not take in the entire route. After discussions with Mr John Lawson of CECAS it was decided that monitoring was to be restricted to the southern and middle portions of the route. This was to start at the upstanding drystone boundary wall [003].
- 4.2.2 The southern half of the route was subject to shallow excavation and was therefore contained within the topsoil. Excavation reached a maximum of 0.25m. The topsoil was largely uniform across the length of the route and was composed of a rich dark brown sandy silt around 0.25m - 0.35m deep.

The topsoil contained large quantities of modern white ceramics with smaller amounts of Brampton ware, willow pattern and stoneware. A single body-sherd of Scottish Reduced Ware (SF11) was also recovered.

- 4.2.3 The subsoil across the route varied between a mid-orange brown silty sand with flecks of coal and numerous large sandstone boulders. One such boulder was large enough to protrude through the subsoil and featured multiple plough strikes as a result. occasional exposures of gravel were also encountered. The subsoil was cut by frequent ceramic and rubble field drains.
- 4.3 Pit [007]
- 4.3.1 An oval pit feature [007] measuring 0.7m by 0.5m by 0.3m was recorded close to the earthen embankment [005]. The pit a grey brown silty clay with flecks of coal [Plate 2], the fill contained a single hand-made brick, likely of 18th-19th century date.



Plate 2: 18th/19thC Pit [007].

- 4.4 Earthen Embankment [005]
- 4.4.1 A dirt track runs N-S through the centre of the field. Approximately 50m further downslope (heading north) along the new path route there is an earth embankment [005] after which the level of the slope drops around 1m [Plate 3]. The embankment begins at the trees which edge the SW corner of the field [Plate 4] and runs approximately 130m in a NE-SW direction before petering off at a small group of trees. The new path route extensively cut through this embankment in order to level the path. The embankment was shown to be composed purely of topsoil and has a maximum depth of 0.90m and a width of 4.0m. [Plate 5]. A rubble drain or footing underlies the feature and appears to follow its alignment. Neither the topsoil nor the subsoil of the embankment seemed to vary, suggesting it was created by the digging out of a straight edge along the NW face rather than by a building up of material. The OS maps from 1854 - 1947 show what is now one field divided into three, and this embankment appears to mirror the boundary directly north of buildings marked 'Threshing Machine' on the 1854 map [figure 3] and Home Farm in the later editions, which runs NE-SW and ends at a small patch of trees. The embankment likely dates from this period.



Figure 3: Section of 1854 OS map 'Edinburghshire Sheet 7' showing survey area divided by boundaries



Plate 3: Looking SW over embankment [005].



Plate 4: Looking SE from travel route, embankment visible.



Plate 5 NE facing section through Embankment [005]



Plate 6: Historical wall [003] from west



Plate 7: Demolition of section of historical wall [003]

4.5 **Metal Detecting Survey**

The south end of the path, at the Wisp, appears to be in an area of frequent and prolonged fly tipping and metal results in this area were modern detritus (cans, wires etc). This was also the case in the vicinity of the track that crosses the field (a valve, fence wire and an aluminium blind), although a non-descript chunk of lead was recovered. The remainder of the metal detecting finds were iron and seem to relate to modern agricultural activity. The majority of these came from the area of the embankment; two horse shoes (one from a large cart horse or similar), a plough blade and another iron object were in the face or at the top of the embankment, a hammer head was just downslope (N) of the embankment. A single iron object was recovered downslope, in the region of a spring that crosses the site. After an assessment and discussion with CESAS, these finds were discarded.

4.6 The Historic Wall

The drystone boundary wall [003] was aligned NE-SW and survives to a height of 0.7m [Plate 6]. The wall is a single course in width (0.40m) and is a maximum of five courses in height. Numerous dislodged stones were visible around the base of the wall and it is likely that it was formerly more substantial. To incorporate the new path a 6.5m long stretch was removed under archaeological supervision. The machined section of the wall was recorded and photographed after drawing and photographing.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief and metal detecting survey undertaken on the travel route between Little France Drive and the Wisp recorded several features dating from the early 19th century to the modern period. These consisted of an existing historical drystone boundary wall [003], an earthen field boundary embankment [005] and an isolated pit feature [007]. No other features of archaeological significance were observed.
- 5.2 The comprehensive metal detecting survey was undertaken through severely contaminated ground with large amounts of iron and modern detritus. Retrieved small finds included numerous items associated with 19th century agricultural practices such as horse shoes, nails, tines etc. No significant archaeological material was observed.
- 5.3 Given the findings of the metal detecting survey and the level of recording undertaken, no further archaeological works are considered necessary within the development area. However, this will need to be confirmed in writing by Mr John Lawson of CECAS on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council.

6 REFERENCES

AOC ArchaeologyTravel Route, Little France Drive to The Wisp, EdinburghArchaeological Watching Brief & Metal Detecting Survey: Written Scheme of Investigation

AOC Archaeology 2018 Hawkhill Wood, Little France, Edinburgh Metal Detecting Survey, Data Structure Report

Hunter, F. (2011) Craigmillar, City of Edinburgh (Edinburgh parish), metal detector find', Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol. 12, 2011. Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England. Page(s): 73

Scottish Government 2014 Scottish Planning Policy 2014

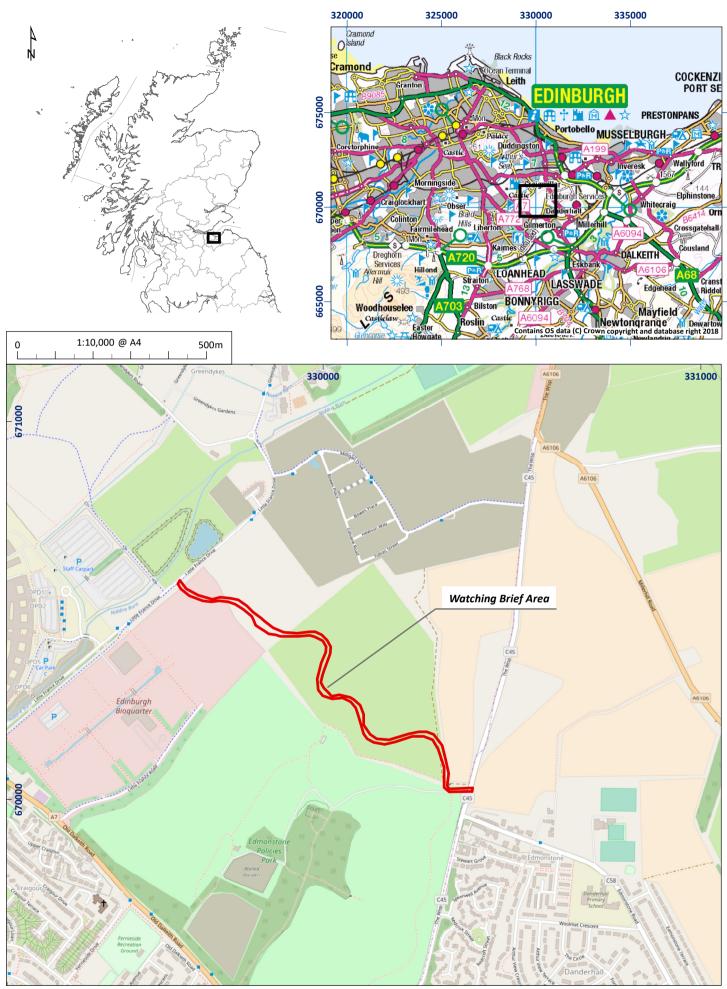


Figure 1: Site location plan

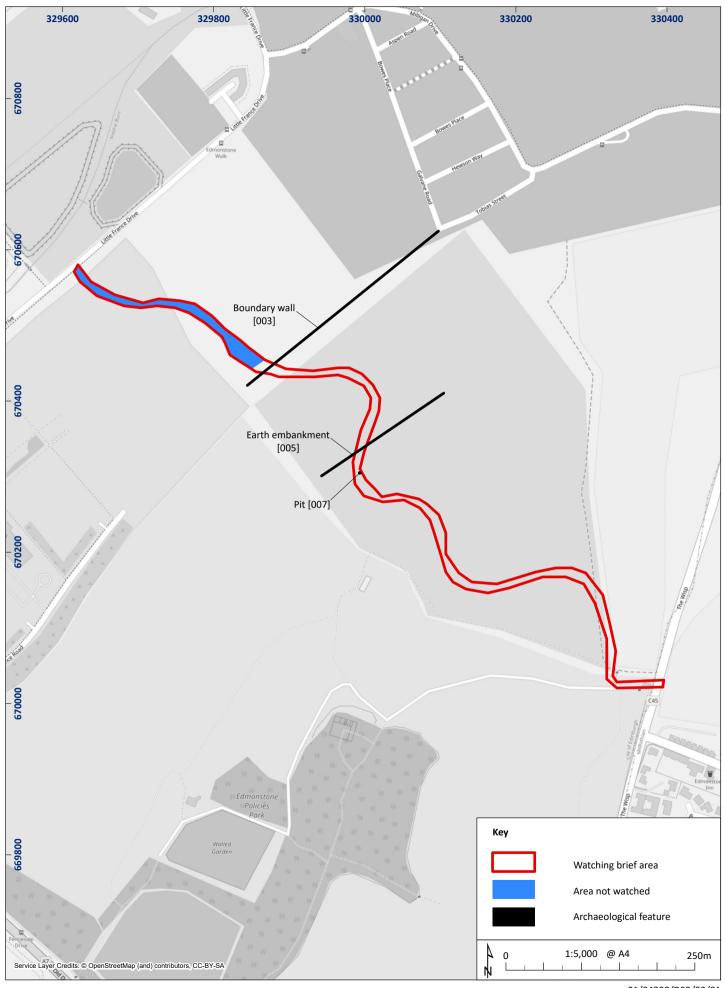


Figure 2: Location of Archaeological Features

01/24290/DSR/02/01

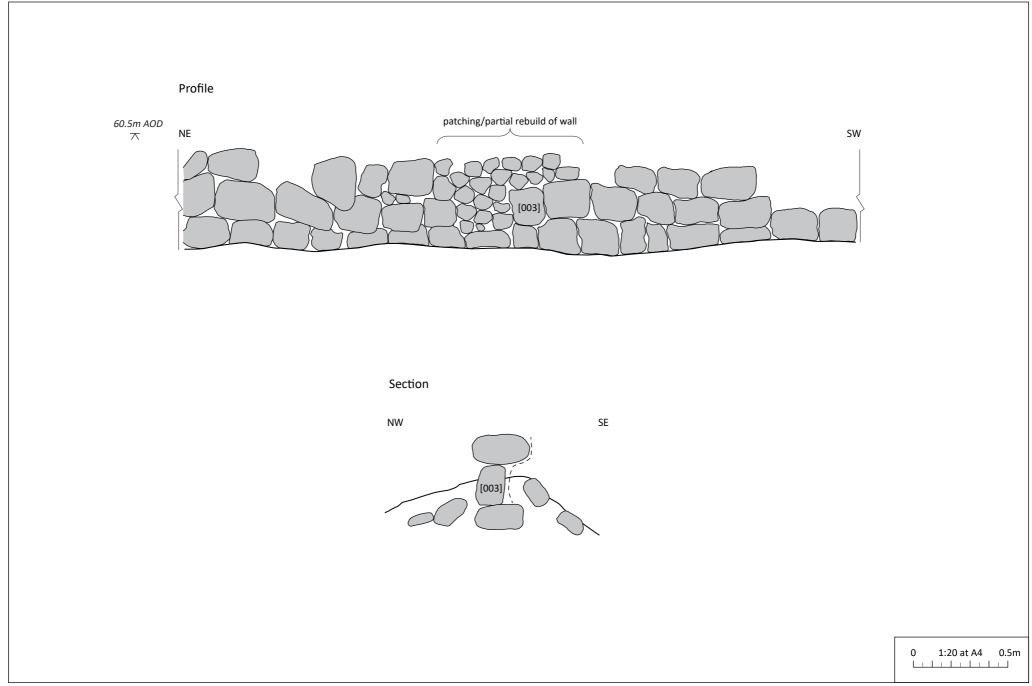


Figure 4: NW facing profile and SW facing section through Historic Boundary Wall [003]

Scottish Government 2011 Planning And Archaeology 2/2011

Travel Route, Little France to the Wisp Edinburgh: Metal Detecting Survey & Archaeological Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

Frame	Description		Date
1	General shot of path		09/04/2018

2	General shot of path	N	09/04/2018
3	General shot of path	SW	10/04/2018
4	General shot of path	NE	10/04/2018
5	General shot of path	NE	10/04/2018
6	General shot	Var	10/04/2018
7	General shot	Var	10/04/2018
8	General shot	Var	10/04/2018
9	General shot	NW	10/04/2018
10	General shot	Var	11/04/2018
11	General shot	Var	11/04/2018
12	General shot	Var	11/04/2018
13	General shot	Var	11/04/2018
14	General view of area to be dug - embankment visible	SE	12/04/2018
15	Embankment	NW	12/04/2018
16	Embankment	SE	12/04/2018
17	Embankment	SE	12/04/2018
18	General	Var	12/04/2018
19	General	Var	12/04/2018
20	General	Var	12/04/2018
21	Excavation through embankment	Var	12/04/2018
22	Excavation through embankment	Var	12/04/2018
23	Excavation through embankment	Var	12/04/2018
24	Excavation through embankment	Var	12/04/2018
25	Excavation through embankment	Var	12/04/2018
26	Excavation through embankment	Var	12/04/2018
27	Excavation through embankment	Var	12/04/2018
28	Field drain	S	12/04/2018
29	Modern pit	Var	12/04/2018
30	Modern pit	Var	12/04/2018
31	Modern pit	Var	12/04/2018
32	Modern pit	Var	12/04/2018
33	Modern pit	Var	12/04/2018
34	Stratigraphy	N	12/04/2018
35	Stratigraphy	N	12/04/2018
36	Broken field drain/rubble	Var	12/04/2018
37	Broken field drain/rubble	Var	12/04/2018
38	Broken field drain/rubble	Var	12/04/2018
39	Broken field drain/rubble	Var	12/04/2018
40	Cut through embankment	S	12/04/2018
41	Cut through embankment	S	12/04/2018
42	Cut through embankment	S	12/04/2018

43	Cut through embankment	S	12/04/2018
44	Cut through embankment	S	12/04/2018
45	General	Var	13/04/2018
46	General	Var	13/04/2018
47	General	Var	13/04/2018
48	Line of rubble drain along front of embankment	Var	16/04/2018
49	Line of rubble drain along front of embankment	Var	16/04/2018
50	Line of rubble drain along front of embankment	Var	16/04/2018
51	Line of rubble drain along front of embankment	Var	16/04/2018
52	Line of rubble drain along front of embankment	Var	16/04/2018
53	General down path	N	16/04/2018
54	Stratigraphy	Var	16/04/2018
55	Stratigraphy	Var	16/04/2018
56	Stratigraphy	Var	16/04/2018
57	Stratigraphy	Var	16/04/2018
58	Field drains (rubble)	N	16/04/2018
59	Field drains (rubble)	N	16/04/2018
60	Field drains (rubble)	N	16/04/2018
61	Field drains (rubble)	N	16/04/2018
62	General	NW	16/04/2018
63	General	NW	16/04/2018
64	Plough struck boulder	n/a	16/04/2018
65	Plough struck boulder	n/a	16/04/2018
66	Plough struck boulder	n/a	16/04/2018
67	Plough struck boulder	n/a	16/04/2018
68	Plough struck boulder	n/a	16/04/2018
69	Plough struck boulder	n/a	16/04/2018
70	Plough struck boulder	n/a	16/04/2018
71	Plough struck boulder	n/a	16/04/2018
72	Plough struck boulder	n/a	16/04/2018
73	Plough struck boulder	n/a	16/04/2018
74	Plough struck boulder	n/a	16/04/2018
75	General	Var	17/04/2018
76	General	Var	17/04/2018
77	General	Var	17/04/2018
78	General	Var	17/04/2018
79	General	Var	17/04/2018
80	General	Var	17/04/2018
81	General	Var	17/04/2018
82	General	Var	17/04/2018
83	Flooded area/spring	Var	17/04/2018

84	Flooded area/spring	Var	17/04/2018
85	Flooded area/spring	Var	17/04/2018
86	Flooded area/spring		17/04/2018
87	7 Flooded area/spring		17/04/2018
88	Flooded area/spring	Var	17/04/2018
89	Flooded area/spring	Var	17/04/2018
90	Flooded area/spring	Var	17/04/2018
91	Flooded area/spring	Var	17/04/2018
92	Flooded area/spring	Var	17/04/2018
93	Flooded area/spring	Var	17/04/2018
94	Clay patch	W	17/04/2018
95	Clay patch	W	17/04/2018
96	Clay patch	W	17/04/2018
97	Clay patch	W	17/04/2018
98	Clay patch	W	17/04/2018
99	General view	S	17/04/2018
100	General	Var	18/04/2018
101	General	Var	18/04/2018
102	General	Var	18/04/2018
103	General	Var	18/04/2018
104	General	Var	18/04/2018
105	General	Var	18/04/2018
106	General	Var	18/04/2018
107	General	Var	18/04/2018
108	General	Var	18/04/2018
109	General	Var	18/04/2018
110	Unbonded stone boundary wall	E	03/04/2018
111	Unbonded stone boundary wall	E	03/04/2018
112	Unbonded stone boundary wall	Е	03/04/2018
113	Unbonded stone boundary wall	E	03/04/2018
114	Unbonded stone boundary wall	Е	03/04/2018
115	Unbonded stone boundary wall	Е	03/04/2018
116	Unbonded stone boundary wall	Е	03/04/2018
117	Working Shot	Var	03/04/2018
118	Working Shot	Var	03/04/2018
119	Working Shot	Var	03/04/2018
120	Working Shot	Var	03/04/2018
121	Working Shot	Var	04/04/2018
122	Working Shot	Var	05/04/2018
123	Working Shot	Var	05/04/2018
124	Working Shot	Var	06/04/2018

125	Working Shot	Var	06/04/2018
-----	--------------	-----	------------

APPENDIX 2: Context Register Register

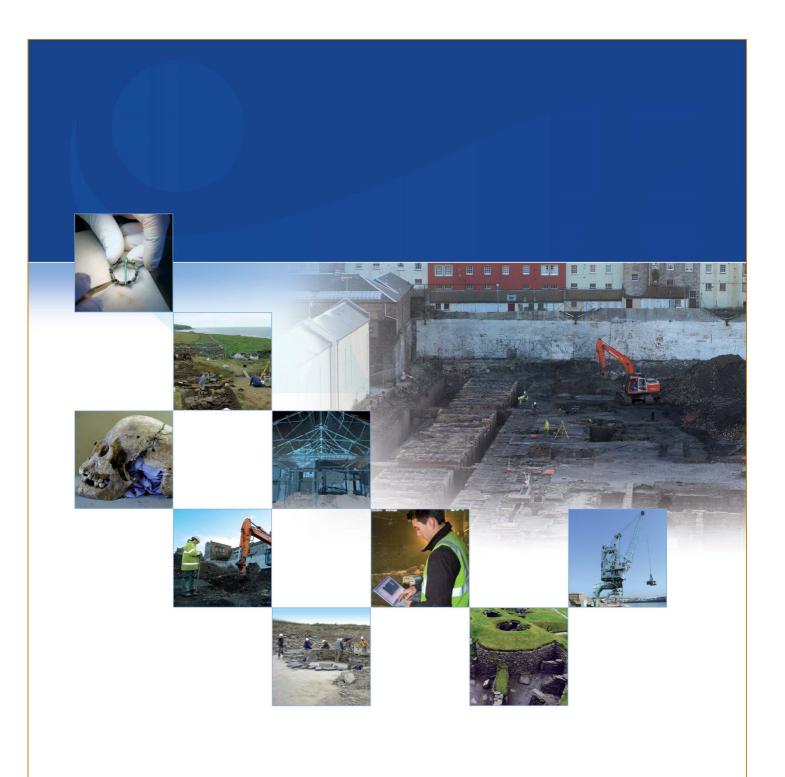
Context No.	Description
01	Topsoil - Rich dark brown sandy silt around 0.25m – 0.35m deep
02	Subsoil - mid-orange brown silty sand with flecks of coal and numerous large sandstone boulders
03	Drystone Wall – 0.70m in height with a width of 0.40m. The wall is a maximum of five courses in height and a single course in width.
04	Deposit – As topsoil. Upper layer of embankment 0.30m in depth.
05	Earthen Embankment – Large earthen embankment composed of two soil layers (04-06). 0.90m in height and 4.0m in width
06	Deposit – pale orange brown sandy clay. Lower layer of Embankment 0.60m in depth
07	Pit- Oval cut with moderately sloping sides and a gently rounded base. The pit measures 0.7m by 0.5m by 0.3m in depth. Filled by (008). Early 19 th century pit.
08	Deposit - Grey brown silty clay with flecks of coal. Includes a single hand-made brick.

APPENDIX 3: Finds Register

Finds No.	Context No.	Description	Material
001	Topsoil	6 iron objects	Fe
002	Topsoil	Large Horse shoe	Fe
003	Topsoil	Lead scrap	Pb
004	Topsoil	Machine tine	Fe
005	Topsoil	Round headed nail	Fe
006	Topsoil	Brass fitting	Cu
007	Topsoil	Lead scrap	Pb
800	Topsoil	Modern twopence piece	Cu
009	Topsoil	Hammerhead	Fe
010	Topsoil	Mixed glass/ceramic finds	Mixed
011	Topsoil	Scottish Reduced Ware body sherd	Ce

APPENDIX 4: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Travel Route, Little France Drive to The Wisp, Edinburgh;
	Archaeological Watching Brief & Metal Detecting Survey.
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 24290
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR. NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief & Metal Detecting Survey
NMRS NO(S)	None
` '	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Field boundaries, pit
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Single sherd of Scottish Reduced Ware
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT29585 70591 to NT30380 70052
START DATE (this season)	3 rd April 2018
END DATE (this season)	12 th April 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE)	This report presents the results of a metal detecting survey and
DESCRIPTION:	archaeological watching brief undertaken in relation to the creation of a
(May include information from other fields)	travel route between Little France Drive, Edinburgh and the Wisp,
caror noide)	Edinburgh. The area surveyed contained a drystone boundary wall, the
	remains of an earthen embankment and a pit. These were all related to
	early 19 th century activity.
	A small assemblage of 19th and 20th century ceramic material was
	recovered, consisting primarily of willow pattern, Brampton ware and
	stone ware. A single sherd of Scottish Reduced Ware was also
	recovered.
	recovered.
	The metal detecting survey was undertaken over ground heavily
	contaminated with modern material. Small finds were restricted to items
	related to modern agriculture.
	ŭ
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS
(intended/deposited)	





AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: admin@aocarchaeology.com