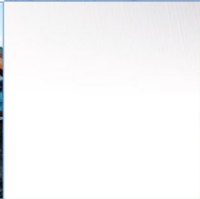
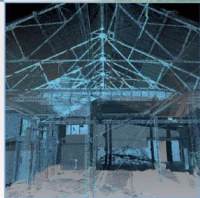
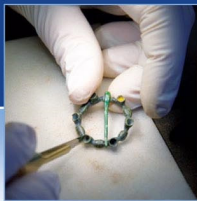


Land north-east of Figgate Street, Portobello, Edinburgh: Archaeological Monitored Topsoil Strip Data Structure Report

AOC Project No. 24206
21st May 2018



Land north-east of Figgate Street, Portobello, Edinburgh

Archaeological Monitored Topsoil Strip: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Mr Andrew Mauritzen
Carlsson Properties Ltd.
108 Blackford Avenue
Edinburgh
EH9 3HH

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 30432 74016 (centred)

AOC Project No: 24206

Oasis Number: 1-318138

Prepared by: Genevieve Shaw

Illustration by: Sam O'Leary

Date of Fieldwork: 21st May 2018

Date of Report: 23rd May 2018

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

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Date: 23rd May 2018

Approved by: Rob Engl

Date: 25th May 2018

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date: 25th May 2018

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Summary

AOC Archaeology was commissioned by Carlsson Properties Ltd. to undertake an archaeological monitored topsoil strip on Land north-east of Figgate Street, Portobello, Edinburgh. The archaeological monitored topsoil strip was carried out on the 21st May 2018.

The City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service required a programme of archaeological works as the plot lies within the Portobello Conservation Area and there was archaeological potential for post-medieval remains associated with the expansion, gentrification and tile and pottery industries of Portobello centred on Figgate Burn to the west of the site.

The development area was approximately 250m² of which approximately 200m² was stripped under archaeological supervision.

A single pit feature was investigated but found to contain modern refuse material. The majority of the site had the remains of concrete slab, stone foundations and ceramic drains associated with the former 19th-20th century buildings identified from previous Ordnance Survey mapping and that were demolished in the 1970s.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Project Background

1.1.1. A programme of archaeological works consisting of an archaeologically monitored topsoil strip was required by Mr Andrew Mauritzen on behalf of Carlsson Properties Ltd. The archaeological works were required ahead of a proposed residential development on land north-east of Figgate Street, Portobello, Edinburgh. The proposed development area 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 Archaeology Service (CECAS). The development was subject to Planning Condition 17/01939/FUL.

1.1.2. The programme of archaeological works was required in keeping with best practice requirements outlined in current planning guidelines *Scottish Planning Policy (2014)* & *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (2011)* in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area. A *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* (AOC Archaeology 2018) detailed how the requirements were to be met.

1.2. Site Location (Figure 1)

1.2.1. The proposed development area is situated approximately 14m to the north-east of Figgate Street, Portobello, Edinburgh (centred on NGR NT30432 74016). The site is a square, vacant plot of land approximately 250m² in size. The site is bounded to the north by a Masonic Lodge and to the east and south by buildings fronting Portobello High Street. The plot was overgrown with trees along the north-east boundary wall.

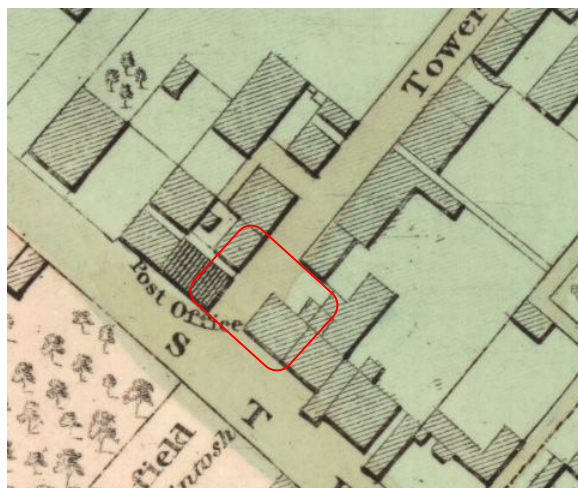


Figure 2 Excerpt from Wood 1824



Figure 3 Excerpt from OS 1st Edition 1888-1913



Plate 1: View showing the condition of the site prior to topsoil stripping, taken from the south-west

1.2.2. The ground level of the site was fairly level at 10m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), Figgate Street lies approximately 220m southeast of Figgate Burn. The superficial geology is recorded as Devensian raised marine deposits of sand and gravel (BGS 2018).

1.3. Archaeological Background

1.3.1. The proposed development area lies within the northern boundary of the Portobello Conservation Area.

1.3.2. Figgate Street was formerly known as Tower Street and renamed in 1965 to avoid confusion with Tower Street in Leith. Tower Street, Portobello, was laid out in 1801-1802 with the houses along it mainly being built between 1805 and 1825. The houses consisted mainly of detached and semi-detached two-storey brick houses, elegantly detailed, some with rich internal plasterwork (Stewart 2018). Cartographic evidence shows that buildings partially occupied the site fronting Figgate Street from the early 19th century (Wood 1824) and this buildings layout continued in the 20th century. By the 1970s many of the buildings fronting onto Figgate Street were in disrepair with the buildings in the development area demolished at this time, the plot has been vacant since.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1.1. The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) To undertake an initial photographic record of the site conditions before and after backfilling of the evaluation trenching;
- ii) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area through 10% evaluation trenching;
- iii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of archaeological mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, should significant archaeological remains be encountered that cannot be preserved *in situ*.
- iv) To prepare a final Data Structure Report and project archive.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1.1. The archaeological monitored topsoil strip, as laid out here, was designed to meet the requirements of the City of Edinburgh Council as advised by Mr John Lawson (CECAS).

- 3.1.2. The archaeological works consisted of a topsoil strip carried out with a JCB excavator equipped with a 1.8m wide flat bladed ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All available areas, totalling approximately 200m², were topsoil stripped except a 1.5m buffer established around the perimeter of the site so as not to undermine any standing walls, a wider 5m buffer on the north-east boundary to avoid damaging a number of mature trees and a communal area at the back of the commercial buildings fronting onto Portobello High Street.
- 3.1.3. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and as per the methodology within the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2018). All features were fully recorded before being backfilled.
- 3.1.4. All significant archaeological features were cleaned and fully defined. A number of features were excavated, sampled and recorded to determine their character, function, nature, date and significance.

4. RESULTS

4.1. Introduction

- 4.1.1. An area of approximately 200m² was topsoil stripped and revealed the partial slab and stone founds beneath a compact rubble and made ground layer interpreted as the final demolition phase of the former 19th century buildings that were on the site.

4.2. Archaeological and modern features

- 4.2.1. The topsoil consisted of a red gravel substrate 0.15m thick across the entire area interpreted as an imported substrate to level the site. There was no subsoil present and the superficial geological deposit or natural consisted of an orange to yellow brown sand.
- 4.2.2. Below the topsoil in the north-east part of the site was a former concrete slab surface approximately 0.15m thick overlying two north-west to south-east aligned linear trenches 0.40m wide filled by sandstone rubble and comprising the former founds of the 19th-20th century buildings that formerly occupied the site. Beneath the concrete slab surface in the north-east part of the site were areas of stone and ceramic building material rubble reaching a maximum depth of 1.0m in places. This was overlying the natural.
- 4.2.3. In between the founds across the central, western and southern parts of the site was a compact dark greyish black silty sand between 0.4 and 0.5m thick and containing frequent charcoal flecks, sandstone fragments and ceramic building material fragments. It was interpreted as a made ground layer backfilled and compacted following the demolition of the former 19th-20th buildings.



Plate 2: North-east facing sample section showing the red gravel substrate topsoil above made ground overlying the natural, taken from the north-east

- 4.2.4. One approximately circular pit was identified on the north-west of the site cut into the natural sands, with dimensions of 0.8m x 0.5m and a depth of 0.6m. It had steep sides and a flat base and contained a loose, dark grey, ashy fill containing frequent mortar fragments, ash, fragments of ceramic building material, white ceramic sherds and slate roof tile fragments. It was interpreted as a rubbish pit filled with material of 19th century date.



Plate 3: South-east facing section of rubbish pit identified in the north-west of the site, taken from the south-east



Plate 4: Western half of the site post excavation



Plate 5: Eastern half of the site post excavation

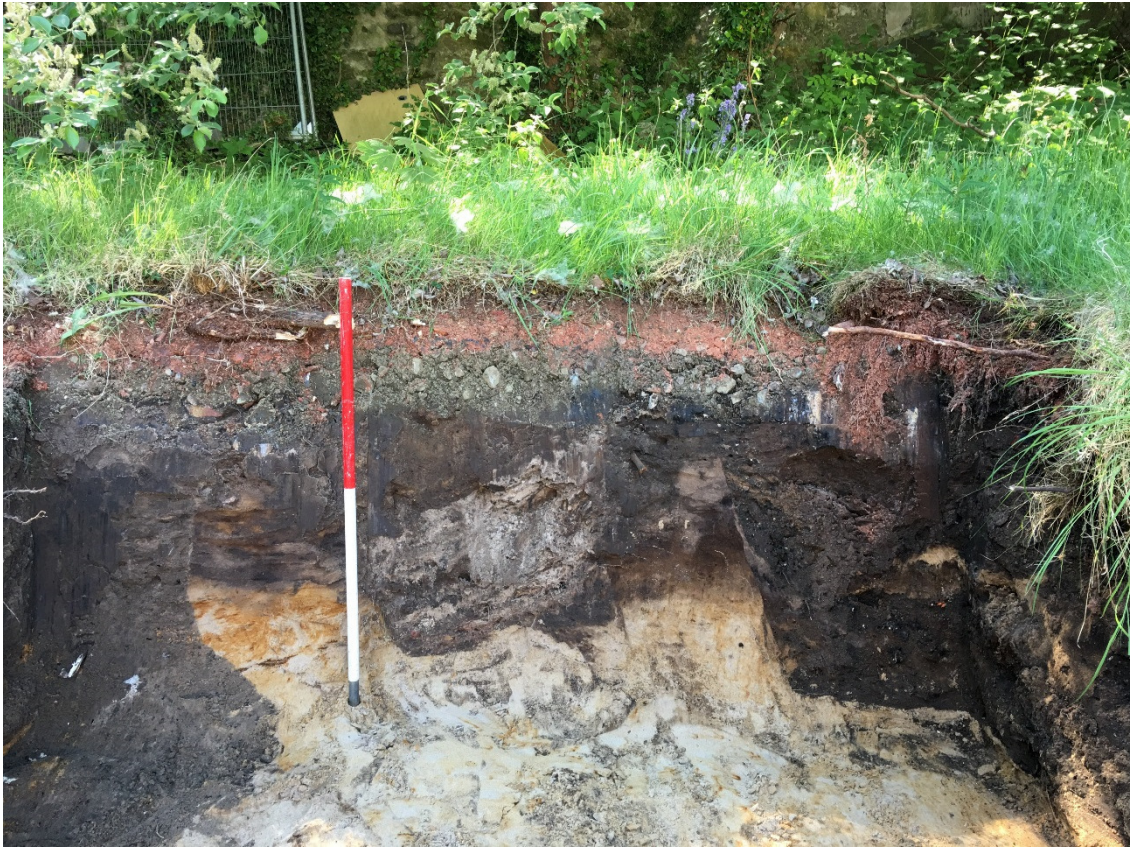


Plate 6: Eastern half of the site post excavation

- 4.2.5. The only other features were linear ceramic drainage service trenches in the southern half of the site associated with the former 19th-20th century buildings that were present on the site.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusions

- 5.1.1. An archaeological monitored top-soil strip was undertaken across approximately 200m² of a vacant brownfield plot on Figgate Street, just off Portobello High Street, Edinburgh. The site was deemed to have archaeological potential due to its location to the east of Figgate Burn and to its history, formerly known as Tower Street, with 19th century buildings constructed along it as part of the expansion and gentrification of Portobello. The only feature investigated was a possible rubbish pit in the northwest corner of the site which contained ceramic building material and glass and white ceramic indicating a relatively recent date for the pit. The rest of the site contained either the remains of a concrete slab surface overlying former stone foundations or areas of rubble both associated with the former buildings present on the site which were demolished in the 1970s.

5.2. Recommendations

- 5.2.1. The archaeological monitored topsoil strip revealed a single archaeological pit feature dating to the 19th century. No other significant archaeological material was observed. It is

recommended that no further archaeological works be undertaken. This will need to be agreed with Mr John Lawson of CECAS following the reporting of these findings.

6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2018 *Landnorth-east of Figgate Street, Portobello, Edinburgh Archaeological Monitored Topsoil Strip: Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished Client Report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2014 *2/2014 Planning and Archaeology*.

Cartographic sources

1824 Wood J Plan of the Town of Portobello from actual survey

1888-1913 OS six inch 1st Edition.

Online sources

British Geological Survey *Geology of Britain Viewer* [Online]

Available at <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [accessed 21st May 2018]

Stewart, J. M. <http://www.portobelloheritagetrust.co.uk/page35.html> [accessed 21st May 2018]

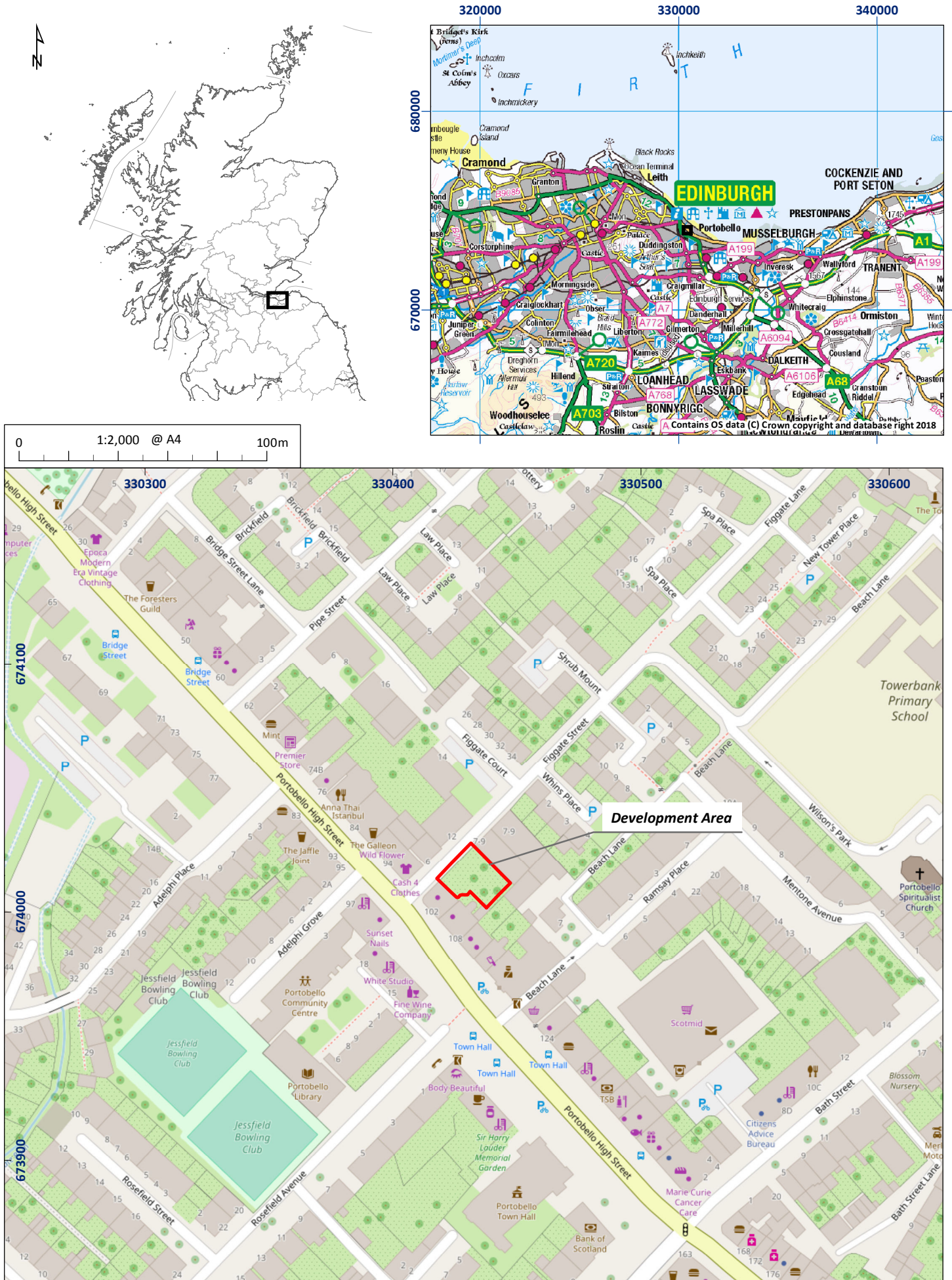


Figure 1: Site Location

01/24206/REP/01/01

**Land north-east of Figgate Street,
Portobello, Edinburgh
Archaeological Monitored Topsoil Strip
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

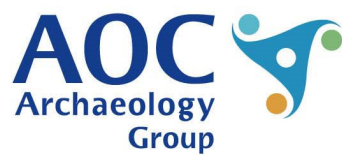
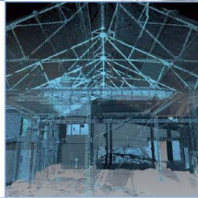
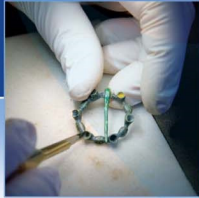
Appendix 1 Photographic Register

Digital Camera 1:

Photo No.	Description	Taken From
1	Pre-Topsoil strip condition of site	N
2	Pre-Topsoil strip condition of site	S
3	Pre-Topsoil strip condition of site	SW
4	Stone garden boundary wall	NW
5	Stone garden boundary wall	NW
6	Concrete slab below topsoil in eastern part of site	SE
7	Pit feature at north-west end of site	S
8	Quarter section through pit, SE-facing section	SE
9	SE-facing section of pit	SE
10	NW-facing sample section on edge of topsoil strip area showing Type 1 over made ground and demolition rubble	NW
11	Demolition rubble present across site	NE
12	Example of depth of demolition rubble along south-east area of site	W
13	Natural below demolition deposit	SW
14	Stone founds below concrete slab of former buildings on site	S
15	Construction cut for stone rubble founds	SW
16	Cut for ceramic drain, cut into the natural	S
17	Cut for ceramic drain, cut into the natural	SE
18	North-east facing sample section showing made ground and demolition rubble overlying the natural	NE
19	North-east facing sample section showing made ground and demolition rubble overlying the natural	NE
20	General shot showing the natural across stripped area with ceramic drain cut into the natural	SW
21	Site backfilled	SW
22	Site backfilled	NE

Appendix 2 'Discovery and Excavation' (DES) Form

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Land north-east of Figgate Street, Portobello, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 24206
PARISH:	Portobello
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Genevieve Shaw
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Monitored Topsoil Strip
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR	NT 30432 74016 (centred)
START DATE	21 st May 2018
END DATE	21 st May 2018
PREVIOUS WORK	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:	<p>AOC Archaeology was commissioned by Carlsson Properties Ltd. to undertake a archaeological monitored topsoil strip on Land north-east of Figgate Street, Portobello, Edinburgh. The archaeological monitored topsoil strip was carried out on the 21st May 2018.</p> <p>The City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service required a programme of archaeological works as the plot lies within the Portobello Conservation Area and there was archaeological potential for post-medieval remains associated with the expansion, gentrification and tile and pottery industries of Portobello centred on Figgate Burn to the west of the site.</p> <p>The development area was approximately 250m² of which approximately 200m² was stripped under archaeological supervision.</p> <p>A single pit feature was investigated and found to contain 19th /20th century refuse material. The majority of the site had the remains of concrete slab, stone foundations and ceramic drains associated with the former 19th-20th century buildings identified from previous Ordnance Survey mapping and that were demolished in the 1970s.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	To be confirmed
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Carlsson Properties Ltd.
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group; Edgefield Road Industrial Estate; Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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