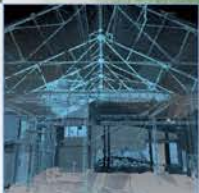
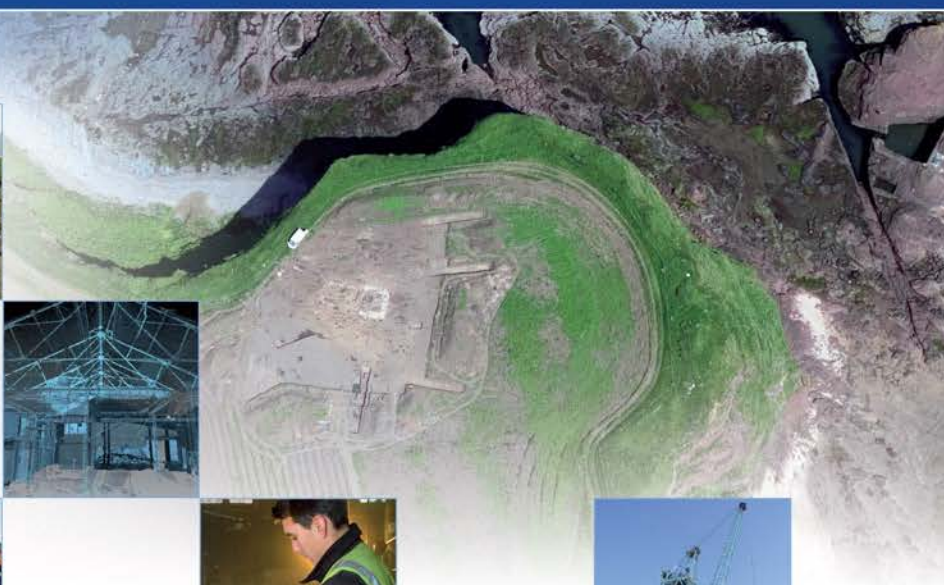


# Land Adjacent to Whitehill Road, Newcraighall, Edinburgh Monitored Topsoil Strip Data Structure Report

AOC Project 23670  
30<sup>th</sup> August 2017



# Land Adjacent to Whitehill Road, Newcraighall, Edinburgh

## Monitored Topsoil Strip Data Structure Report

**On Behalf of:** John Clark Holdings Ltd.  
Alliance Centre,  
Greenwell Road,  
East Tullos Industrial Estate,  
Aberdeen

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NT 31108 71529

**AOC Project No:** 23670

**OASIS No:** aocarcha1-294409

**Prepared by:** Leah Watt

**Date of Fieldwork:** 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017 - 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**Date of Report:** 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017

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

**Author:** Leah Watt

**Date:**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**Draft/Final Report Stage:** Draft

**Date:**

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## Abstract

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An archaeological mitigation comprising a strip, map and record exercise was required as a condition of planning consent prior to the construction of a motor retail dealership (Planning Ref 16/03449/FUL).

Features [002], [007] and [009] were linear plough furrows on a NW-SE alignment extending from trench edge. They measured between 0.23 m – 0.39 m wide by 0.14 m – 0.27 m deep and were steep sided and flat based.

Wall [011] of unknown date was uncovered on an E-W alignment. It was of drystone construction comprising rough sandstone chunks. It cut through furrows [002], [007] and [009] and was cut by modern field drains. The wall was badly disturbed by works on site and had been tracked over multiple times by machinery and so was not in a good condition.

No other significant archaeology was uncovered during the works.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 An archaeological mitigation comprising a strip, map and record exercise was required as a condition of planning consent prior to the construction of a motor retail dealership (Planning Ref 16/03449/FUL). The site lies within the administrative area of the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC), which is advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).
- 1.1.2 The programme of archaeological works were in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may have been present within the development area.

### **1.2 Site Location**

- 1.2.1 The development area (NT 31108 71529), covering 0.89ha, is adjacent to Whitehill Road, at the southern edge of an existing retail park, Fort Kinnaird, in the Newcraighall area of Edinburgh. At present the site is an undeveloped Greenfield site with rough pasture, trees and shrubbery. The site is an approximate L-shape bounded on the East side by an existing storage unit and on the West two fast food chains.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

- 1.3.1 The development site lies within the area of Newcraighall, and recent excavations by GUARD Archaeology have unearthed late/post-medieval mine shafts at Newcraighall village. The area lies within an historic mining area and is of industrial archaeological significance. Mining in the area is thought to date back to the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> centuries; however evidence is just beginning to be uncovered by these recent excavations.
- 1.3.2 Further archaeological works were carried out in the area in 2008 by CFA Archaeology on a site to the South of this proposed development. An archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to a commercial plot development (Planning Ref 08/00409/OUT). The evaluation uncovered two circular features of c. 3m diameter which are thought to relate to 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century mining excavations. A further brick feature was identified and was thought to be the remains of a capped mine shaft or adit.
- 1.3.3 Following these initial archaeological works by CFA Archaeology; In 2009 AOC Archaeology carried out an excavation of the identified features. They unearthed a stone-built building, a cobbled surface and culverts. Cartographic evidence confirms a structure deriving from a single rectangular building lying to the West of Whitehill Road, with an origin in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century. The structures identified appear to relate to a farmstead with well drained land, given the adjacent culverts.
- 1.3.4 To the immediate North of the development area is St Andrew's Episcopalian Church (NT 31072 71629). This was constructed in 1900 and is now B-Listed (LB No. 43571)
- 1.3.5 In light of the yet undisclosed extent of mining and industrial works in the nearby area of Newcraighall this archaeological stripping report has been proposed.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) To monitor ground-breaking works associated with the proposed extension and prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
- ii) to undertake the immediate recording of isolated finds of nationally significant archaeological material that will be disturbed by ground breaking works.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 CECAS have outlined that they required an archaeological strip, map and record exercise associated within the development. All ground-breaking works were therefore monitored by an experienced archaeologist who identified and recorded all archaeological finds and features which were revealed by the development works.
- 3.2 Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits and was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures.



**Plate 2 General shot of site showing natural subsoil exposed**



## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The undertaken area strip contained topsoil a mid brown crumbly topsoil (001) which varied in thickness across site. The natural comprised mixed orange sandy clay with frequent large stone inclusions.
- 4.2 Features [002], [007] and [009] were linear plough furrows on a NW-SE alignment extending from trench edge. They measured between 0.23m – 0.39m wide by 0.14m – 0.27m deep and were steep sided and flat based.
- 4.3 Wall [011] was uncovered on an E-W alignment and was of drystone construction of rough sandstone chunks. It cut through furrows [002], [007] and [009] and is cut by modern field drains. This was badly disturbed by works on site and had been tracked over multiple times by machinery and so was not in a good condition. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey maps do not show any such wall and 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping shows undeveloped farmland to either side of Whitehill Road. The Church to immediate North of the site is constructed in 1900 and it is possible the wall may relate to the church though the drystone construction would suggest an earlier date.



**Plate 3 Sandstone boundary wall [011]**



## **5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

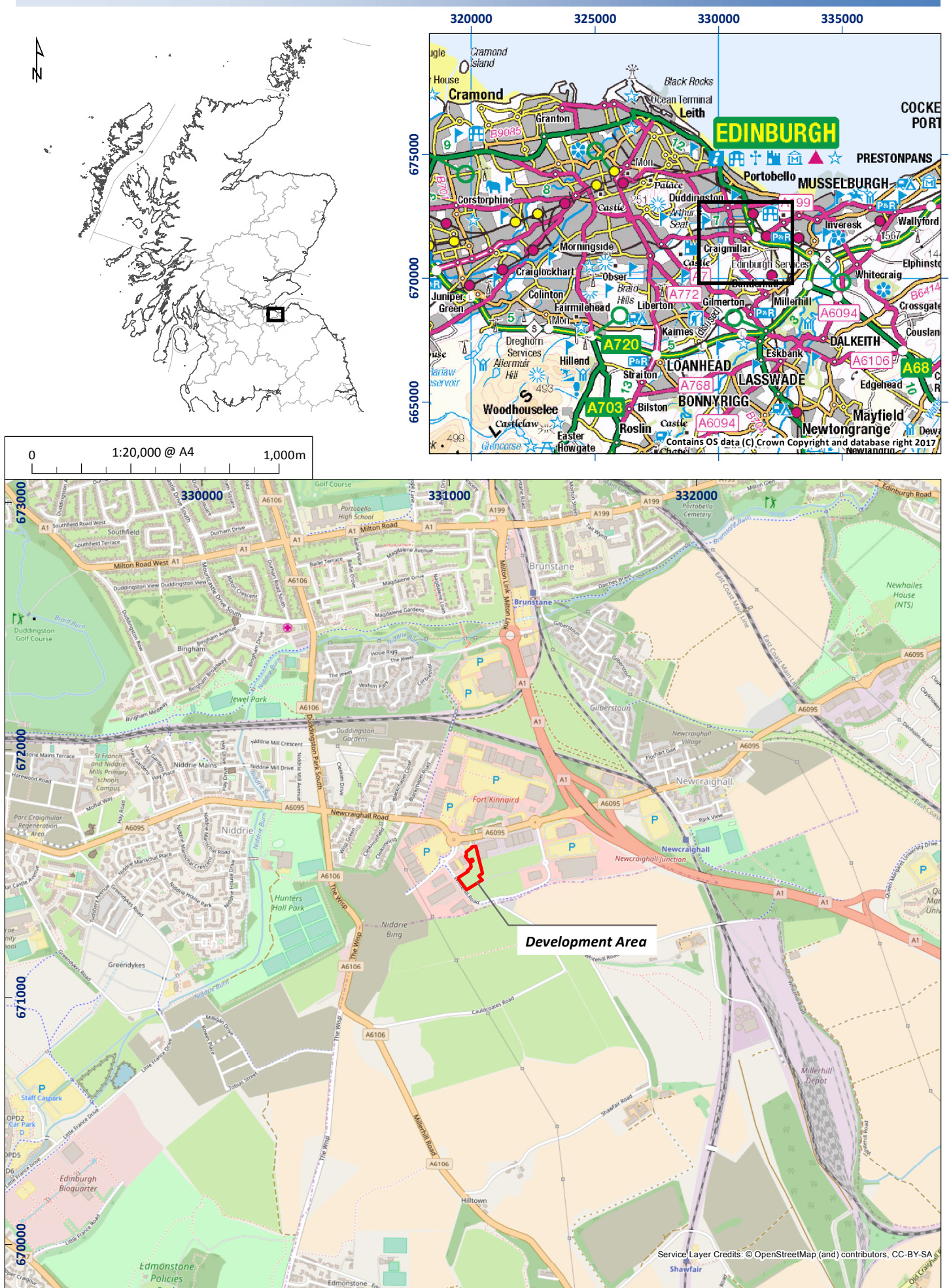
- 5.1 The furrows [002], [007] and [009] are of unknown date but relate to the local farming activity within the area. The wall [011] may be a boundary wall for the church located to the north of the site.
- 5.2 No significant archaeology was uncovered and no further work is recommended.

## **6 REFERENCES**

Grant, J 1880 *Cassel's Old & New Edinburgh*, Volume IV, pp 330 - 334

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*, 2014

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology* 2/2011



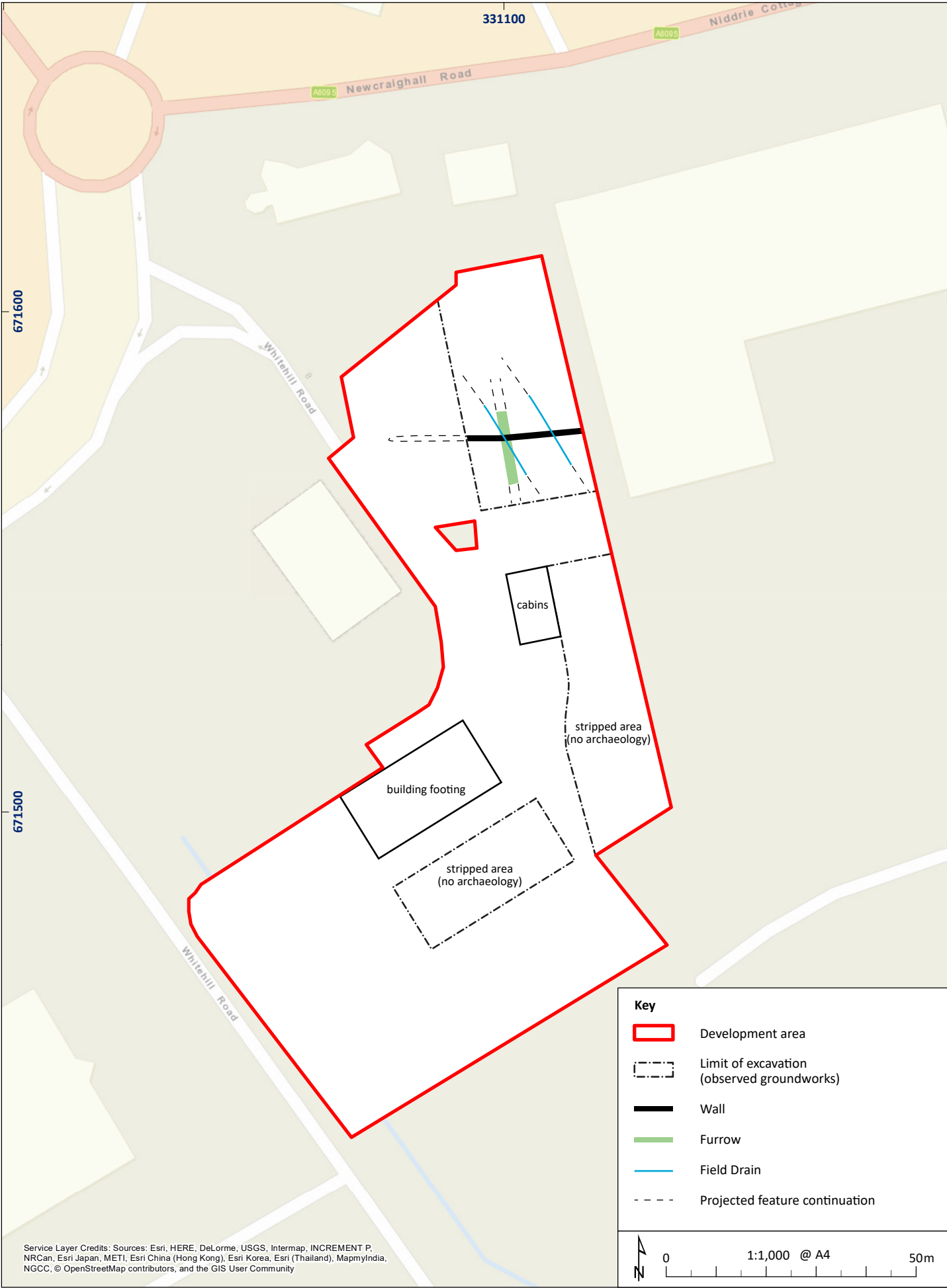


Figure 2: Watching brief area

01/23670/REP/02/01

# **Land Adjacent to Whitehill Road, Newcraighall, Edinburgh: Archaeological Strip Mapping Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT RECORD

Context No.	Description
1	Mid brown loose crumbly soil with infrequent stone inclusions, occasionally mixed with modern rubble and brick <b>Topsoil</b>
2	Linear on NW-SE alignment measuring 0.39m wide x 0.32m deep, exposed length 27m. Straight edges meeting at a flat base. <b>Linear</b>
3	Dense packed orange clay with occasional mixed stone inclusions, charcoal and oyster shell <b>Fill of [002]</b>
4	Dark brown clayey soil with frequent charcoal inclusions <b>Fill of [002]</b>
5	Dense orange clay, similar in appearance to (004) but with no inclusions. <b>Fill of [002]</b>
6	Dark brown clayey soil at bottom of (003) <b>Fill of [002]</b>
7	Linear NW-SE alignment measuring 0.23m wide x 0.14m deep, steep sided meeting at a flat base. <b>Linear</b>
8	Mixed small – medium sized sub angular stones and rubble in a matrix of brown clayey soil <b>Fill of [007]</b>
9	Linear on NW-SE alignment, steep sided, flat base. Measures 0.24m wide x 0.11m deep. <b>Linear</b>
10	Small – medium subangular stony rubble with a clayey soil matrix. <b>Fill of [009]</b>
11	Wall on E-W alignment constructed of rough sandstone chunks with no mortar, dry stone construction. Measures 0.5m – 0.7m thick. <b>Boundary wall – possibly relates to church</b>

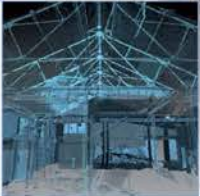


## APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPH RECORD

Frame	Feature No.	Description	From	Date
1	[002]	Linear feature	SW	12/1/17
2	[002]	SW facing section linear [002]	SW	12/1/17
3	[002]	SW facing section linear [002]	SW	12/1/17
4	[002]	Post ex section showing (004)	SW	12/1/17
5	[002]	(003), (005) and (006)	SW	12/1/17
6		Working shot	NW	13/1/17
7-8	[007]	Uncovering linear feature	E	18/1/17
9	[007]	Linear feature pre-excavation	SE	18/1/17
10-11	[007]	Excavated slot through [007]	SE	18/1/17
12-13	[007]	Section through linear feature [007]	NW	18/1/17
14	[007]	Linear feature with excavated slot	NW	18/1/17
15	[009]	Pre-ex of linear feature [009]	NW	18/1/17
16	[009]	Linear feature with excavated slot	NW	18/1/17
17	[009]	Linear feature section	NW	18/1/17
18-20	[009]	Linear feature in plan	NW	19/1/17
21	[007] / [009]	Working shot showing [007] and [009]	S	19/1/17
22		Working shot of drainage	S	23/1/17
23		Working shot of foundation	-	1/2/17
24		Working shot of foundation	-	1/2/17
25		Working shot of drainage before boxed areas	-	1/2/17
26		Working shot of drainage	-	1/2/17
27-28		Uncovering of [007] in drainage channel	-	1/2/17
29		Manhole	-	2/2/17
30-32		Working shot of drainage	-	7/2/17
33-35		Linear feature – modern	SE	8/2/17
36		Working shot of drainage backfilled	SW	15/2/17
37-38		Working shot of continuation of strip after manhole fitting	SW	15/2/17
39		Working shot of continuation of strip after manhole fitting	-	21/2/17
40-41		Area stripped for manhole under road showing modern pipe and backfill and exposed high voltage cable	Var	21/2/17
42-45		Work in area behind building done without archaeologists being present	Var	6/4/17
46-48		Work in entrance area without us there	Var	6/4/17
49	[011]	Wall after being rolled over without us there	E	6/4/17
50	[011]	Stripping around wall working shots	SE	6/4/17
51-53	[011]	Working shots	Var	6/4/17
54	[011]	Wall – very damaged – just loose rubble now	N	6/4/17
55	[011]	Field drain truncating wall	S	6/4/17
56-58	[011]	[011] wall overview	S + E	6/4/17
59-60	-	Area stripped with no archaeologist present	-	8/6/17

### APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	The City of Edinburgh
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Land Adjacent to Whitehill Road, Newcraighall
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 23670
<b>PARISH:</b>	Edinburgh
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Leah Watt
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Strip Map and Recording
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 31108 71529
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2017
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological mitigation comprising a strip, map and record exercise was required as a condition of planning consent prior to the construction of a motor retail dealership (Planning Ref 16/03449/FUL). Features [002], [007] and [009] were linear plough furrows on a NW-SE alignment extending from trench edge. They measured between 0.23m – 0.39m wide by 0.14m – 0.27m deep and were steep sided and flat based.</p> <p>Wall [011] of unknown date was uncovered on an E-W alignment. It was of drystone construction comprising rough sandstone chunks. It cut through furrows [002], [007] and [009] and was cut by modern field drains. The wall was badly disturbed by works on site and had been tracked over multiple times by machinery and so was not in a good condition.</p> <p>No other significant archaeology was uncovered during the works.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	---
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	John Clark Holdings Ltd.
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	admin@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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