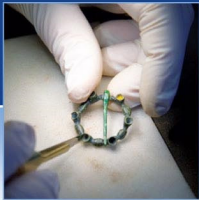


Woodhall Mains, Woodhall Road, Juniper Green, Edinburgh Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

AOC Project: 24521
10th September 2018



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Woodhall Mains, Woodhall Road, Juniper Green Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Blagdon Equestrian Ltd.,
C/o Galbraith,
59 George Street,
Edinburgh
EH2 2JG

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 2032 6858 (centered)

AOC Project No: 24521

OASIS No: 1-328021

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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 evaluation undertaken prior to the redevelopment of land at Woodhall Mains, Woodhall Road, Juniper Green, Edinburgh.

A total of 65 linear metres were excavated. The evaluation revealed a well-drained subsoil of sands and gravels overlain by an improved agricultural soil of well sorted sandy loam. The subsoil was cut by several modern drains. Numerous sherds of 19th century ceramics were observed within the topsoil.

No significant archaeology was identified within the evaluation area.

Given the negative findings, no further mitigation is thought necessary within the development area. However, this will need to be confirmed in writing by the CECAS on behalf of CEC.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Galbraith on behalf of their client Blagdon Equestrian Ltd. prior to the construction of a horse-riding arena on land at Woodhall Mains, Woodhall Road, Juniper Green, Edinburgh. The site lies within the administrative area of the City of Edinburgh Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). CECAS had advised that 10% of the site to be impacted by the development be subject to an archaeological evaluation through trial trenching in order to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features and/or deposits. The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles as set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (2011).

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The area under investigation lies to the immediate south of the Water of Leith with the Edinburgh City Bypass (A720) less than 100m to the east. Woodhall Road forms the southern edge of the site with open pasture fields to the west continuing on towards Woodhall Farm Stables. The area which requires archaeological works measures c.1,250 m² in size and is centred on NGR NT 2032 6858 (Figures 1 & 2). The area to be developed is currently pasture fields.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The Cartographic and documentary sources indicate the proposed development area has been agricultural for at least the last 150 years with boundaries consistent since the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1850's (See Figure 3). The route of Woodhall Road remains the same as shown on 1st Edition.



Figure 3 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map extract with approximate site location

- 1.3.2 The HES Database notes no known sites as lying within the development boundary though the site of the former Woodhall Mill (HES No. NT26NW 224) is noted with Historic Building Recording and a watching brief conducted at the site in 2003. The site entry states,

“A programme of historic building recording was carried out in May 2003 of the remaining mill buildings prior to their demolition. Features of an earlier mill building were shown to have been later adapted to be used as a brick and concrete silo.

In addition, a watching brief carried out during ground investigation test pits on the site of a 17th-century mill unearthed part of a possible mill lade situated on the southern part of the site close to the Water of Leith. This was found buried below a layer of landscaping infill associated with the recent development of the site. No other archaeological features were seen.”

- 1.3.3 To the west of the development another site is listed, at 184 Woodhall Road where in 2013 an evaluation was conducted with field drains and a field boundary amongst the only features encountered (HES No. NT26NW 234).
- 1.3.4 As an undeveloped greenfield site with no known previous land-use activity other than agriculture there remained the possibility of encountering hitherto unknown prehistoric features and activity especially given the nearby presence of a river, the Water of Leith.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation 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 a 10% evaluation;
 - ii)* should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, to prepare a mitigation strategy compliant with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government, February 2014) and *PAN 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Evaluation

- 3.1.1 The details of the archaeological evaluation, laid out below, were designed to meet the requirements of the City of Edinburgh Council as advised by CECAS.
- 3.1.2 The development area measured approximately 1,250 m² in total. The Council, as advised by CECAS, required that a 10% evaluation be undertaken across the entire site. This equated to ca.65

linear metres. The trenches were placed so as to trench the areas of greatest impact such as the foundations required for construction.

- 3.1.3 Excavation continued until the natural subsoil was reached. All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The Archaeological Evaluation was conducted on the 6th September 2018. Weather conditions were fair allowing for good archaeological visibility throughout the evaluation.
- 4.2 The excavation of the trenches revealed a well sorted sandy loam that ranged from 0.30m to 0.45m in depth. The topsoil contained numerous sherds of 19th century whiteware and glass. The topsoil lay immediately over a subsoil of compact sands and gravels. The subsoil itself revealed occasional plough scars and stone holes, illustrating that the land parcel had once been intensively cultivated. Several modern drain cuts filled with type 1 were also observed.
- 4.3 No significant archaeology was identified during the evaluation.



Plate 1 Site pre-excavation from NW



Plate 2 Trench 1 post-excitation from SW



Plate 2 Trench 3 post-excitation from SW

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological material.
- 5.2 No further archaeological mitigation is considered necessary within the development area. However, this will need to be confirmed in writing by the CEC Archaeology Service on behalf of the CEC.

6 REFERENCES

AOC 2017. *Woodhall Mains, Woodhall Drive, Juniper Green, Edinburgh, Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished client report.

Scottish Government 2014. *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011. *Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology*.

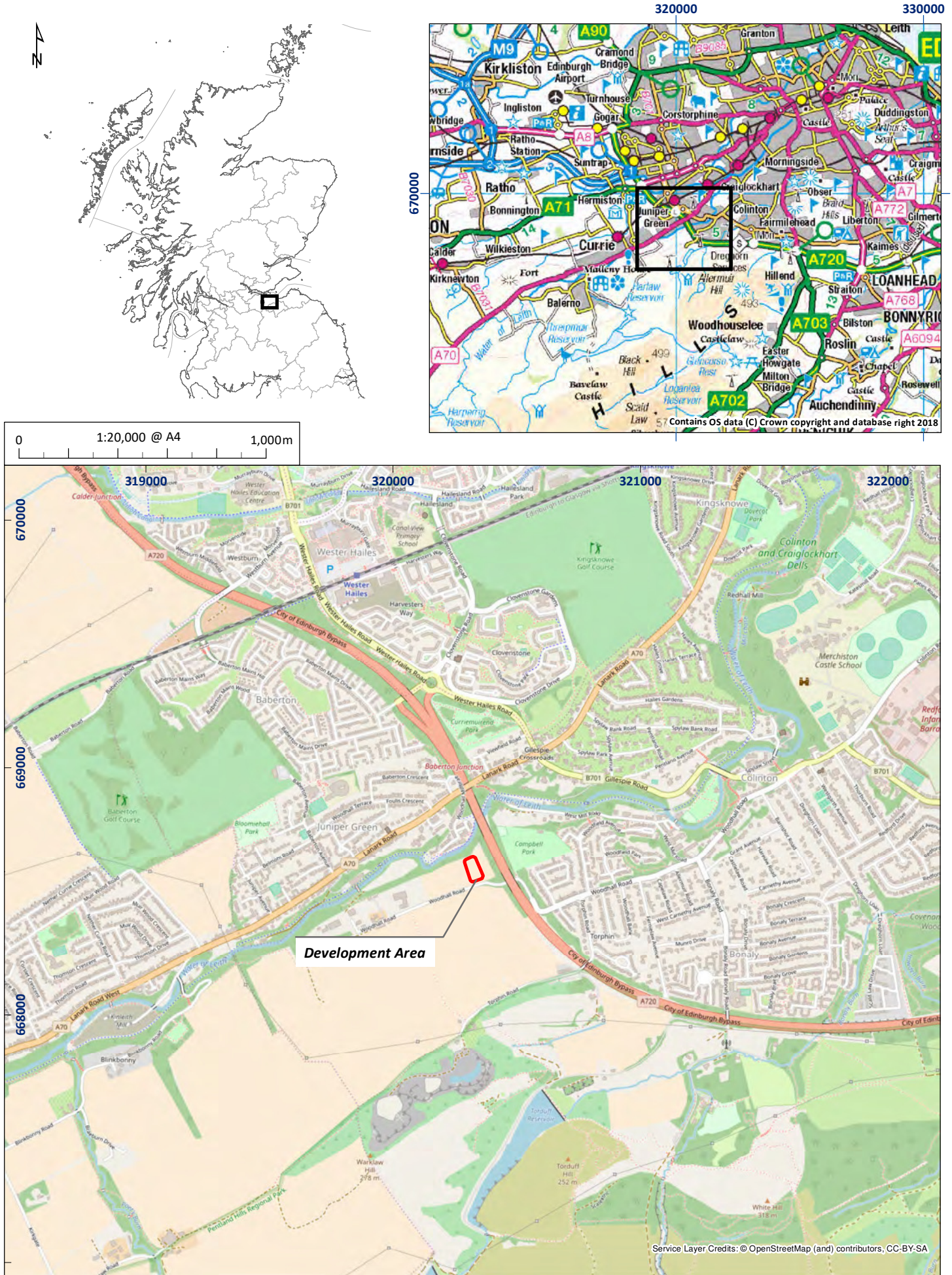


Figure 1: Site location plan

01/24521/WSI/01/01

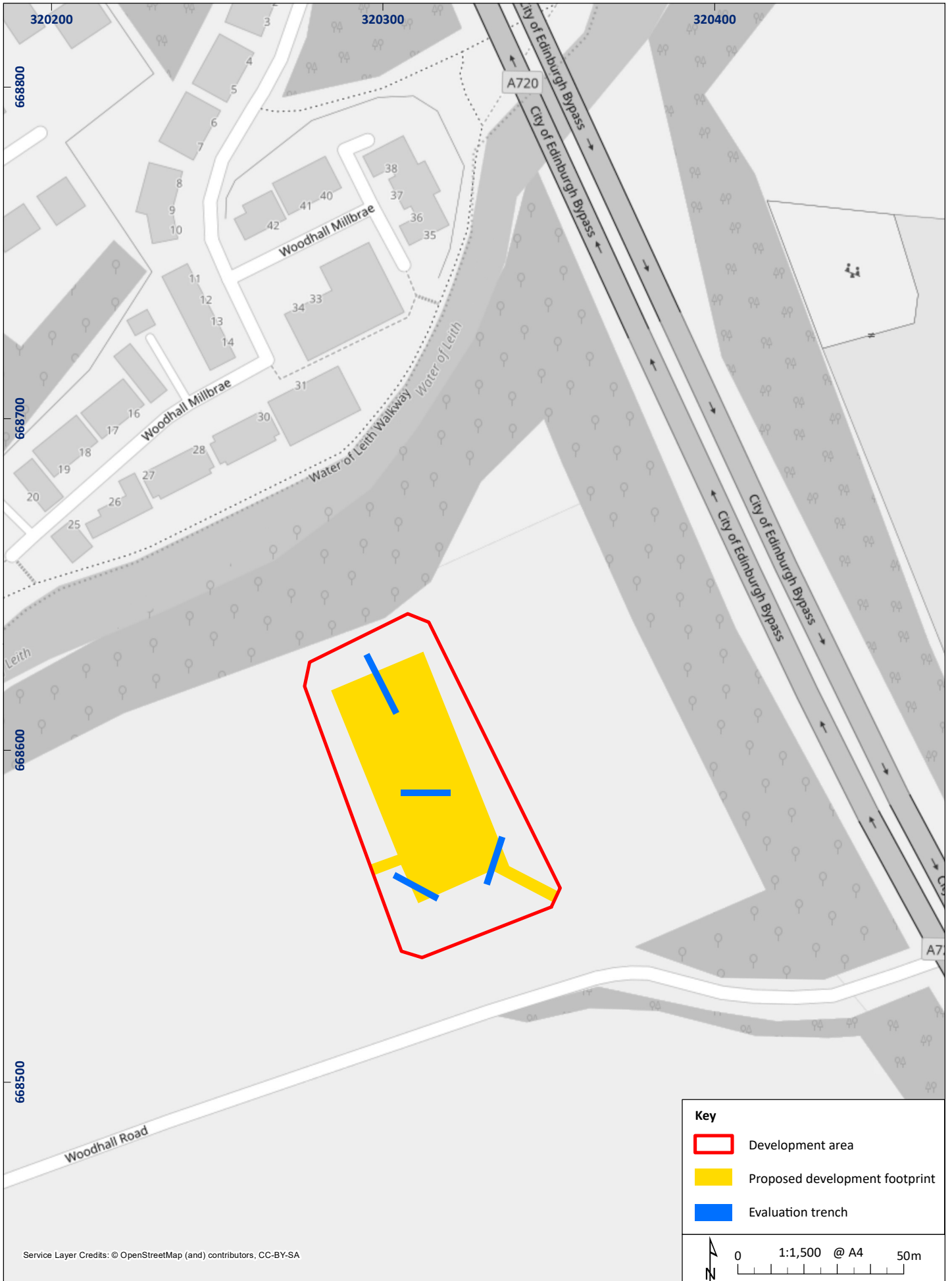


Figure 2: Site plan with provisional trench plan

01/24521/WSI/02/01

Woodhall Mains, Woodhall Road, Juniper Green, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Evaluation Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	20m x 2m
<i>Total Area</i>	40m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NNW-SSE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – well sorted sandy loam 0.20m – 0.30m in depth
<i>Significant Features</i>	Nil
<i>Other Features</i>	Modern drain with type 2 infill at 3.0m NE/SW
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Red/brown sands and gravels
<i>Finds</i>	Assorted small finds of 19 th century ceramics

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	15m x 2m
<i>Total Area</i>	30m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – well sorted sandy loam 0.30m in depth
<i>Significant Features</i>	Nil
<i>Other Features</i>	Modern drain with type 2 infill at 12.0m E/W
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Red/brown sands and gravels
<i>Finds</i>	Nil

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	15m x 2m
<i>Total Area</i>	30m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – well sorted sandy loam 0.30m – 0.35m in depth
<i>Significant Features</i>	Nil
<i>Other Features</i>	Nil
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Red/brown sands and gravels
<i>Finds</i>	Nil

Trench 4

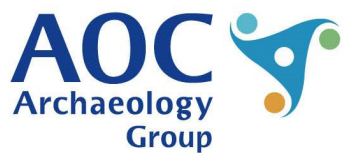
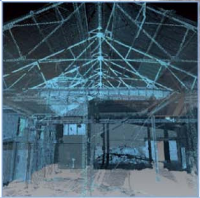
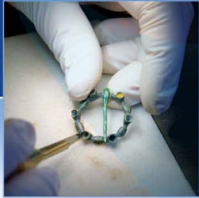
<i>Dimensions</i>	15m x 2m
<i>Total Area</i>	30m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – well sorted sandy loam 0.30m – 0.35m in depth
<i>Significant Features</i>	Nil
<i>Other Features</i>	Nil
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Red/brown sands and gravels
<i>Finds</i>	Nil

APPENDIX 2: Digital Photographic Register

Photo No.	Trench	Description	Taken From
1-2	-	Pre-excavation shots of site area	NW
3	1	Trench 1 post excavation shot	SSE
4	1	Trench 1 NNE facing section	NNE
5	2	Trench 2 post excavation shot	W
6	3	Trench 3 post excavation shot	SE
7	4	Trench 4 post excavation shot	SW

APPENDIX 5: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Woodhall Mains, Woodhall Road, Juniper Green, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 24521
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT
START DATE (this season)	6 th September 2018
END DATE (this season)	6 th September 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken prior to the redevelopment of land at Woodhall Mains, Woodhall Road, Juniper Green, Edinburgh.</p> <p>A total of 65 linear metres were excavated. The evaluation revealed a well-drained subsoil of sands and gravels overlain by an improved agricultural soil of well sorted sandy loam. The subsoil was cut by several modern drains. Numerous sherds of 19th century ceramics were observed within the topsoil.</p> <p>No significant archaeology was identified within the evaluation area.</p> <p>Given the negative findings, no further mitigation is considered necessary within the development area. However, this will need to be confirmed in writing by the CECAS on behalf of CEC.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Blagdon Equestrian Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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