

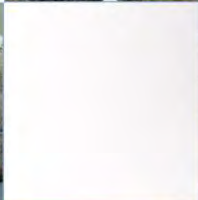
Niddrie Mill Crescent, Edinburgh

Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

AOC Project No: 24234

September 2018



Niddrie Mill Crescent, Edinburgh

Archaeological Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: **The City of Edinburgh Council,**
Business Centre 2.0,
Edinburgh
EH16 4DS

National Grid Reference (NGR): **NT 30200 71955 (centre)**

AOC Project No: **24234**

Prepared by: **Stuart Wilson**

OASIS No. **aocarcha1-330438**

Planning Reference: **15/05058/FUL**

Date of Fieldwork: **21st August – 3rd September 2018**

Date of Report: **September 2018**

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

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Date: **September 2018**

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Date: **October 2018**

Draft Report Stage:

Date:

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List of illustrations

- Figure 1: Site Location
Figure 2: Extract from map by Roy, 1752-55
Figure 3: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, surveyed: 1852-33; Published: 1854
Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, revised: 1893; Published: 1895
Figure 5: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, published c.1947

List of plates

- Plate 1: Reduction of topsoil
Plate 2: Subsoil at base of gullies

List of appendices

- Appendix 1: Photographic Record
Appendix 2: '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' Report

Abstract

AOC Archaeology undertook archaeological works in the form of a watching brief on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council regarding the ground-breaking works associated with the creation of a public car park

The site was located at Niddrie Mill Crescent centred on NT 30200 71955. The works were required due to the potential for uncovering remains of the medieval Niddrie Mill and associated mill lade.

The watching brief did not uncover any remains associated with Niddrie Mill or the mill lade. No other significant archaeological remains were discovered and no further works are required at this point depending on confirmation from CECAS.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by Edinburgh Council on the construction of a car park at Niddrie Mill Crescent, Edinburgh ("the Site" Figure 1). Planning permission for the change of use from a grassed area to parking bays for the general public was granted in April 2016 (Planning Reference: 15/05058/FUL)
- 1.1.2 The need for and scope of the archaeological works was determined by the City of Edinburgh Council who are advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). CECAS requested a programme of archaeological works as a Condition of the approved planning permission (Reference: 15/05058/FUL)
- 1.1.3 The programme of archaeological works is in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014), *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011) and local planning policy 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 on a D-shaped parcel of land at the junction of Niddrie Mill Crescent and Niddrie Mill Drive, Niddrie, Edinburgh. The Site is bound to the north west by the gardens of a residential property, 17 Niddrie Mill Crescent, EH15 3EY. Niddrie Burn runs to the west of the Site. The Site measures approximately 700m² and is centred on NGR: NT 30200 71955 (Figure 1).

1.3 Development proposal

- 1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by the City of Edinburgh Council in April 2016 for the construction of a car park on a grassed area at the junction of Niddrie Mill Crescent and Niddrie Mill Drive. The following archaeological condition was attached the consented application:

"Conditions:

- 1. *No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority, having first been agreed by the City Archaeologist.*

Reasons:

- 1. *In order to safeguard the interests of archaeological heritage."*

1.4 Archaeological Background

- 1.4.1 Historic mapping indicates that the Site has been located in some proximity to Niddrie Mill from at least the mid 1750's, although there is the potential for the mill to be of medieval origin. A group of buildings along an east-west orientated road are annotated as *Niddrie Mill* to the south of the Site on Roy's Military Map of Scotland, Lowlands 1752-55 (Figure 2). One of these structures is the actual mill building, although on this map it is unclear as to which structure it is. Further south a large house

is depicted, surrounded by formal gardens, annotated as *Niddry*. This house was part of the Niddrie Marischal Estate. CECAS believes that the mill was most likely part of the Niddrie Marischal Estate by the mid-19th century, if it had not previously been associated with the estate (CECAS, 2016: Appendix 1). The Site is depicted within ploughed lands north of Niddrie Mill in 1752-55, south of a group of buildings annotated *Niddrie Mains* and east of Niddrie Burn.



Figure 2: Extract from map by Roy, 1752-55

- 1.4.2 Thomson's 1832 map of Edinburgh-shire (Not illustrated) shows no changes to the Site between the mid 1750's and the early 19th century. The Edinburgh to Dalkeith Railway was constructed between 1831 and 1835 and is drawn by Davies in 1838 (Not illustrated) to the north of the Site. However, this map suggests no further land use changes.



Figure 3: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, surveyed: 1852-33; Published: 1854

- 1.4.3 The Ordnance Survey (OS) map surveyed in 1852-3, published 1854 (Figure 3, also see inset Figure 1) depicts the Site within a plot of undeveloped land north of Niddrie Mill, bound to the east by a

north-south orientated road (the modern A6106); to the south by Niddrie Mains Road; to the west by Niddrie Burn; and to the north by the *St Leonard's Branch* of The Edinburgh to Dalkeith Railway run by North British Railway. A *Mill Lade* is depicted branching off Niddrie Burn running towards Niddrie Mill, located on Niddrie Mains Road which appears to have been located in the vicinity of the Site. A track is illustrated to the east running north east, south-west from the railway to Niddrie Mains Road. The NRHE records two 19th century railway bridges (NT37SW 592 & NT37SW 593) to the north-east and north-west of the Site respectively which are drawn on this OS map as well as School (NT37SW 471).

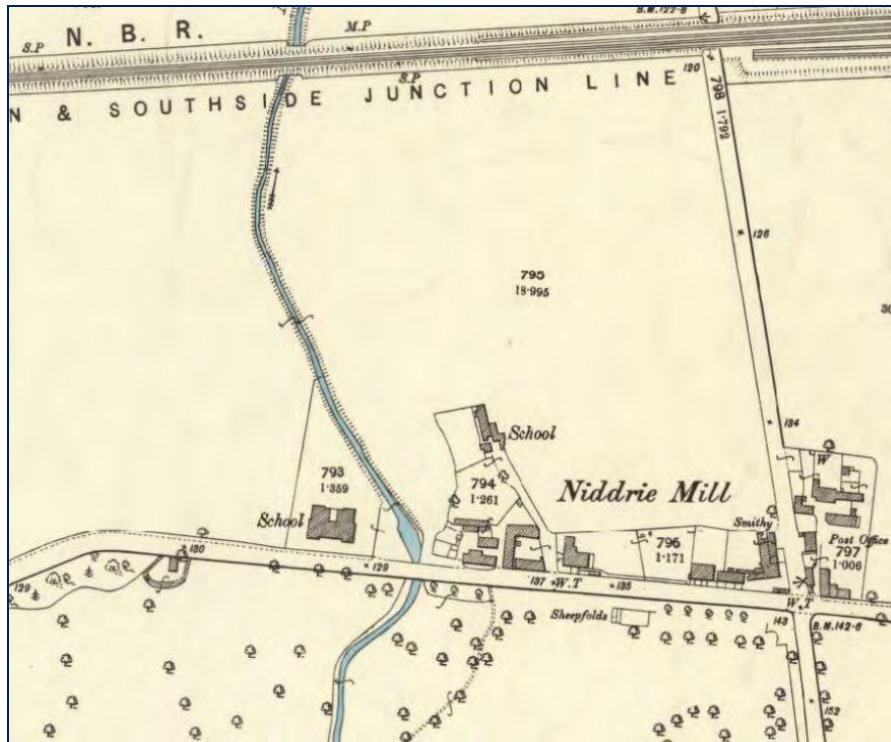


Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, revised: 1893; Published: 1895

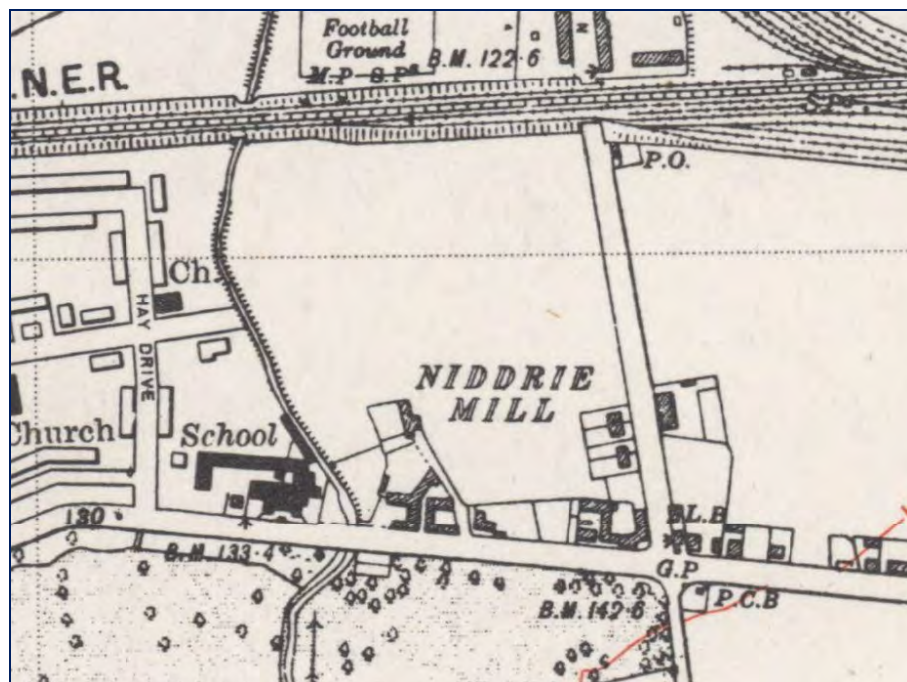


Figure 5: Extract from Ordnance Survey Map, published c. 1947

- 1.4.4 The OS map revised 1893, published 1895 (Figure 4) does not depict the mill lade, although the mill building is illustrated on Niddrie Mains Road to the south. The track to the east of the Site is also not illustrated. There are no changes to the Site recorded on historic mapping in the early 20th century (see Figures 3-5). Between 1932 and 1948 the land to the west of Niddrie Burn was developed for residential housing. Residential housing was constructed around the Site between 1957 and 1961, although the Site remained undeveloped.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:
- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by soil stripping, required for the construction of the car park. Provision of an experienced field archaeologist to undertake a watching brief during all ground-breaking works associated with the residential development;
 - ii) to liaise with CECAS and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.
 - iii) To prepare a final 'Data Structure Report' and project archive.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 The archaeological works comprised of the monitored topsoil strip of a designated area for the car park.
- 3.2 The ground-breaking works were completed using a JCB 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. The excavation was completed in shallow units/spits. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.

4 Results

- 4.1 The archaeological works were completed on the 3rd September 2018. Weather conditions were fair for the most part allowing for excellent visibility for observing any potential archaeological features.
- 4.3 The stratigraphy consisted of a dark grey sandy-clay topsoil measuring 0.23m thick overlying a deposit of made ground comprising of modern glass and brick fragments measuring 0.35m thick.

Sub-soil was only observed in narrow drainage gullies and was found to be a mid-orange clay with occasional sub angular inclusions throughout.



Plate 1: Reduction of topsoil



Plate 2: Subsoil encountered at base of gullies.

4.2 No archaeological remains were observed throughout the entirety of the ground-breaking works.

Specifically there were no remains found that could be interpreted as belonging to or part of Niddrie Mill and its associated mill lade.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The works were required due to the potential for uncovering remains of the medieval Niddrie Mill and associated mill lade. The watching brief did not uncover any remains associated with Niddrie Mill or the mill lade. No other significant archaeological remains were discovered and no further works are required at this point depending on confirmation from CECAS.
- 5.2 No further works are considered necessary however this will require confirmation from City of Edinburgh Council Archaeological Service.

6 REFERENCES

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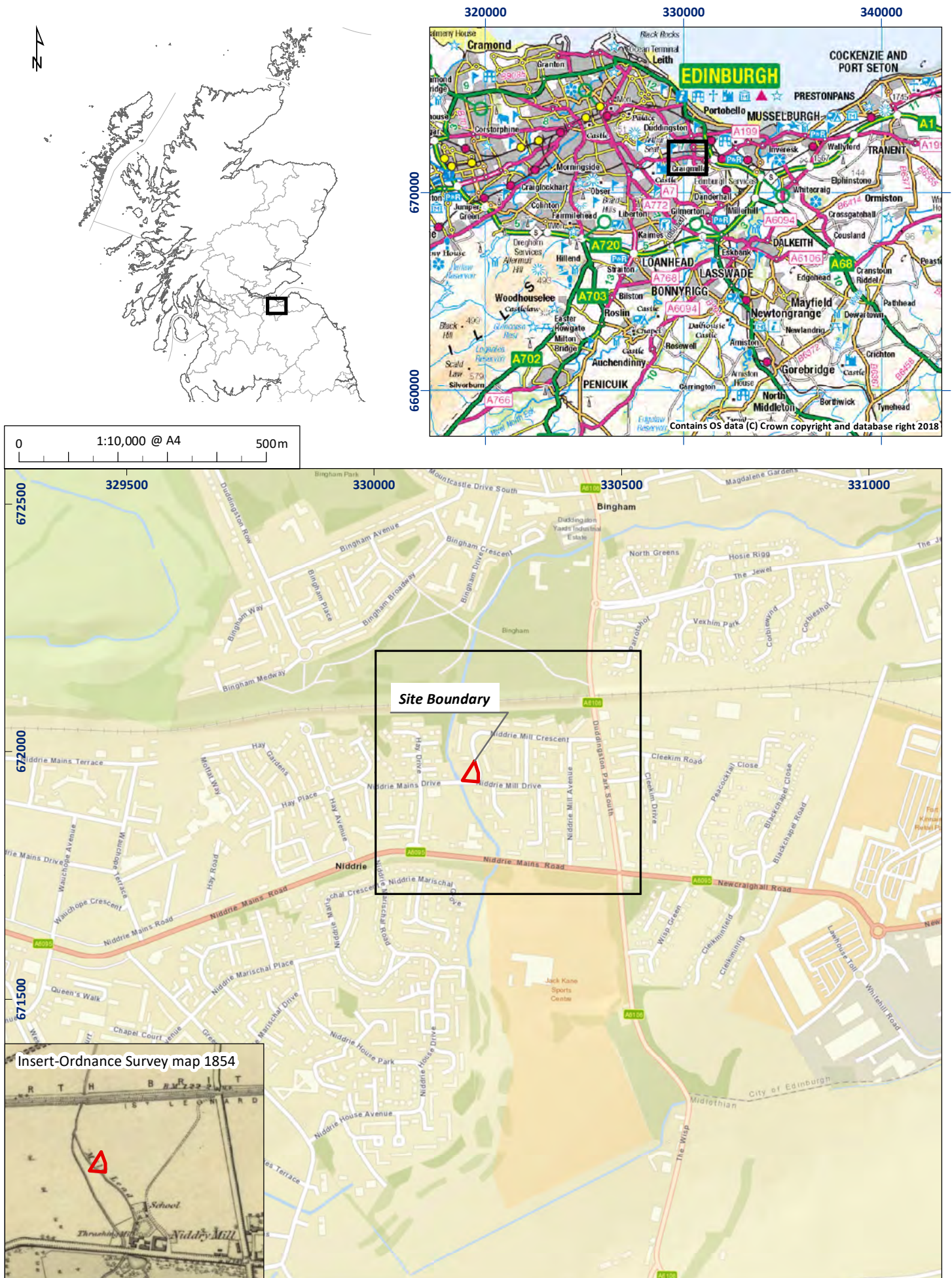


Figure 1: Site location plan

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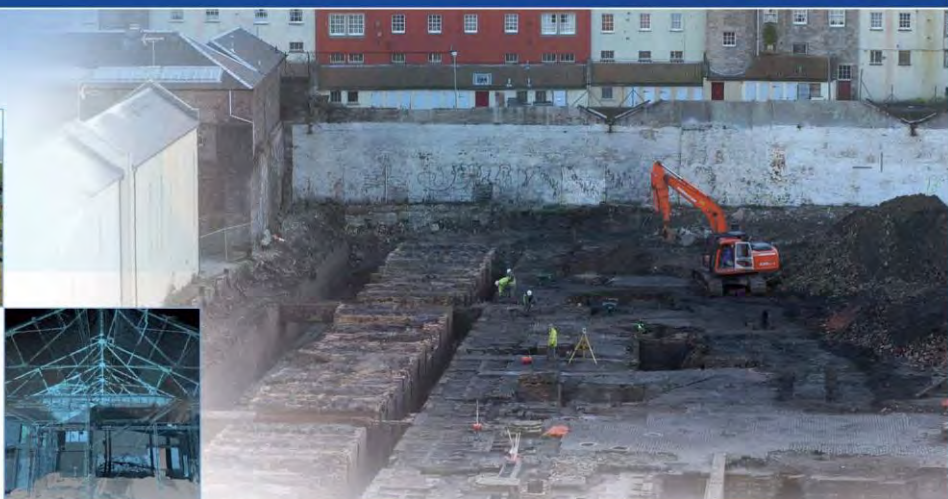
APPENDIX 1

Photo Register

Frame	Description	From
1	Pre-excavation shot	SW
2 - 5	Pre-commencement activities	Various
6 - 9	Levelling of site	Various
10 - 12	Section showing made ground deposit	E
13 -14	General shots	Various
15	General shot of made ground deposit	W
16	Working shot	S
17	Progress shot	SW
18	Rubbish from made ground deposit	-
19 - 20	Working shots	Various
21 - 29	Test pits showing made ground depths	Various
30 - 36	Excavation of gully	S

APPENDIX 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Niddrie Mill Crescent
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 24234
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Stuart Wilson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 30200 71955
START DATE (this season)	21 st August 2018
END DATE (this season)	3 rd September 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>AOC Archaeology undertook archaeological works in the form of a watching brief on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council regarding the ground-breaking works associated with the creation of a public car park</p> <p>The site was located at Niddrie Mill Crescent centred on NT 30200 71955. The works were required due to the potential for uncovering remains of the medieval Niddrie Mill and associated mill lade.</p> <p>The watching brief did not uncover any remains associated with Niddrie Mill or the mill lade. No other significant archaeological remains were discovered and no further works are required at this point depending on confirmation from CECAS.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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