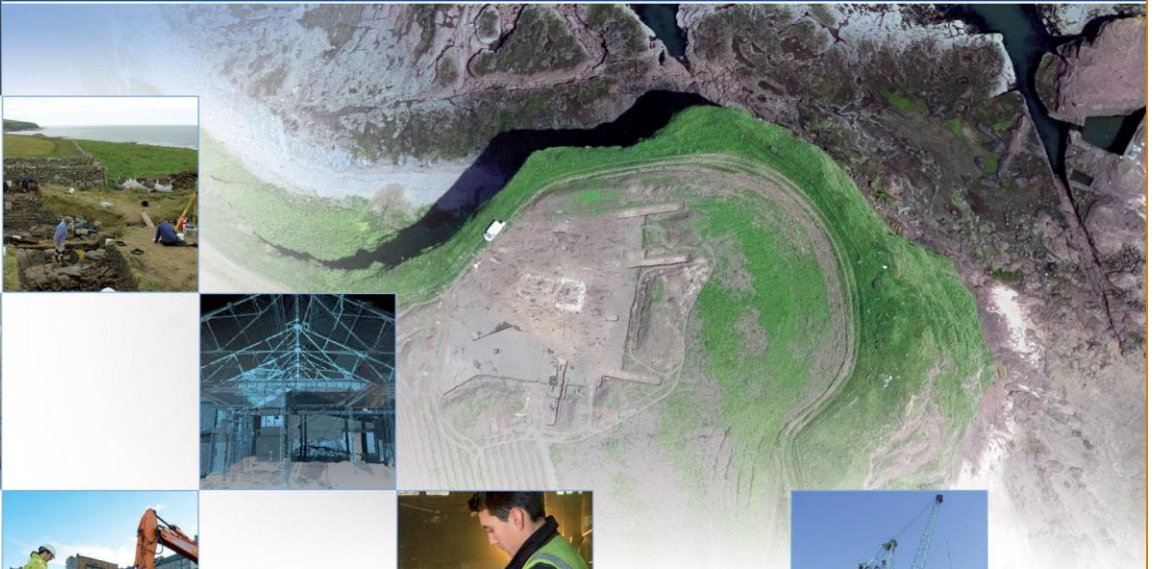
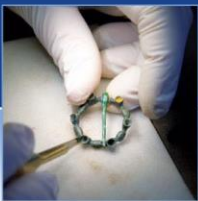


No. 543 Gorgie Road Edinburgh Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC 24638

Planning Ref No. 18/09808/PAN

7th February 2019



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

543 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	S. Harrison Developments Stanley Harrison House, The Chocolate Works Bishopthorpe Road York YO23 1DE
National Grid Reference [NGR]:	NT 3217 6715 (centre)
AOC Project No:	AOC 24638
OASIS No.	aocarcha1 - 342143
Prepared by:	Stuart Wilson
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Date of Excavations	28th January 2019
Date of Report:	7th February 2019

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

Author: Stuart Wilson

Date: 7th February 2019

Approved by: Tom Lovekin

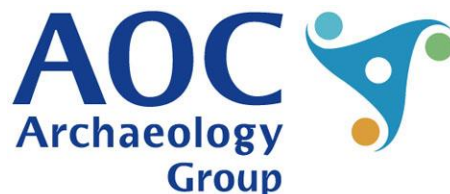
Date: 20th February 2019

Draft/Final Report Stage:

Date: 20th February 2019

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at 543 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh on behalf of S Harrison Developments.

Due to the high number of underground services present within the development area only three trenches were excavated.

The works revealed a shallow deposit of made ground across the site overlying a mid-brown sandy clay sub strata.

No significant archaeological features were discovered during the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Development background

1.1 An archaeological evaluation was required by S. Harrison Developments prior to the construction of a mixed-use development incorporating student accommodation, ancillary uses, commercial uses as well as associated landscaping and infrastructure at No. 543 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh (Planning Ref No. 18/09808/PAN). The site lay within the administrative area of the City of Edinburgh Council who are advised on archaeological matters by City of Edinburgh Council Archaeological Service (CECAS). The archaeological works was conducted in accordance with the principles as set out in *Scottish Planning Policy (2014)* and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (2011)*.

1.2 Site Location

1.2 The proposed development site was located at 543 Gorgie Road (Figure 1). It was bound by the Water of Leith to the west, A71 Gorgie Road to the north, Stenhouse Saughton Church and residential properties to the east and Chesser Grove and properties to the south. The development area was previously occupied by terraced warehouse properties which were recently demolished. The site is centred on NT 3217 6715.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological background

2.1.1 There are no known previously recorded heritage assets within the development site. In the immediate vicinity of the site, the only known heritage asset recorded in the National Record for the Historic Environment is the Stenhouse Saughton Church. The Church is Category B Listed and of early 20th century date. It was constructed to plans by the architect T Aikman Swan in Gothic style with Scots vernacular detailing.

2.1.2 Laurie's map of 1766 (Figure 3) is the first to show the proposed development site in detail. The land is shown as being under cultivation with 'W.Gorgie' to the east and a crossing over the Water of Leith to the west; a main road is located to the north of the site. Similarly the 1855 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 4) shows the site undeveloped with, what is now, Gorgie Road to the north. A small planting of trees is shown in the northwest corner of the site.



Figure 3: Laurie's map of 1766



Figure 4: Ordnance Survey Map, 1855

2.1.3 The 1896 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 5) shows the development of Midlothian Laundry in the northwest corner of the site. The laundry comprised two small rectangular buildings to the south of a larger F-shaped building. The 1908 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 6) shows slight changes to the larger laundry building and the development of Waverly Laundry, also along the Gorgie Road frontage, to the northeast but outwith the proposed development site.



Figure 5: Ordnance Survey Map, 1896



Figure 6: Ordnance Survey Map, 1908



Figure 7: Ordnance Survey Map, 1919

2.1.4 The 1919 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 7) shows no change to the laundry within the site. Edgar Hall had been developed on the site of the church and Chesser Avenue leading south from Gorgie Road had also been constructed.

3 OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works 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 trial trenching;
- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered;
- iii) to prepare a final Data Structure Report and project archive.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The development area consisted of a brownfield site measuring approximately 0.45ha. The works required a 7% evaluation which could not be met due to the presence of several underground services and three large spoil heaps across the proposed development site. It was however possible to excavate three trenches (Trenches 1-3) measuring 25 x 1.8m, 10 x 1.8m and 5 x 1.8m. These trenches were dispersed across the site.

4.2 A JCB 3CX excavator equipped with a toothless bucket was used to excavate all three trenches to the natural sub-stratum. All trenches were backfilled at the end of the archaeological works to the original ground level.

5 RESULTS

5.1 The archaeological works were undertaken on the 28th January 2019 in fine conditions allowing for excellent visibility.



Plate 1: Post-excitation view of Trench 1

5.1.1 The evaluation revealed a shallow deposit of made ground created during the demolition of the buildings measuring between 0.34m to 0.51m across the site. This was found to directly overlie a mid-brown sandy clay with sub angular inclusions throughout (Plate 1). Three trenches were excavated on site. Trench 2 towards the northwest was abandoned early on due to the presence of an unidentifiable cable. Trench 3 was a test pit towards the eastern extent of site which could not be extended due to the presence of a buried water pipe.



Plate 2: Stamped brick from demolished wall within Trench 1

5.1.2 In trench 1 the demolished remains of a red brick wall running northeast to southwest was observed. The exact dimensions of this could not be determined due to the level of destruction that had occurred though likely was at least three courses high and two courses wide. The bricks that could be identified all bore the stamp “Hailes Quarry” (Plate 2).

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The area available for trial trenching was limited due to the presence of a large number of services several of which did not appear on the service plan as well as three large spoil heaps. Despite these obstacles it is believed the degree of coverage achieved successfully demonstrated that there are no known archaeological features present within the development area.
- 6.2 No further archaeological works are recommended. This will require confirmation from CECAS.

7 REFERENCES

AOC (2018) '*No. 543 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh : Written Scheme of Investigation*'.
Unpublished

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning And Archaeology*.

Cartographic References

Laurie, John 1766 A plan of Edinburgh and places adjacent

Ordnance Survey 1855 Edinburghshire Sheet 6

Ordnance Survey 1896 Edinburghshire Sheet III.SW

Ordnance Survey 1908 Edinburghshire Sheet III.SW

Ordnance Survey 1919 Edinburghshire Sheet III.SW

APPENDIX 1: Evaluation Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>25m x 1.8m</i>
<i>Orientation</i>	<i>NE-SW</i>
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	<i>0.48m to 0.8m</i>
<i>Significant Features</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Other Features</i>	<i>Demolished red brick wall (frogged) orientated NW-SE 5m from NE end of trench</i>
<i>Subsoil</i>	<i>Light brown sandy gravel with sub angular inclusions throughout</i>
<i>Finds</i>	<i>None</i>

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>10m x 1.8m</i>
<i>Orientation</i>	<i>NW-SE</i>
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	<i>0.35m to 0.48m</i>
<i>Significant Features</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Other Features</i>	<i>Abandoned due to presence of possibly live cable discovered after 10m</i>
<i>Subsoil</i>	<i>Light brown sandy gravel with sub angular inclusions throughout</i>
<i>Finds</i>	<i>None</i>

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>5m x 1.8m</i>
<i>Orientation</i>	<i>NW-SE</i>
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	<i>0.32m to 0.42m</i>
<i>Significant Features</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Other Features</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Subsoil</i>	<i>Light brown sandy gravel with sub angular inclusions throughout</i>
<i>Finds</i>	<i>None</i>

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digital Images

Frame	Trench	Description	From	Date
1-5	-	Pre ex shots of site	VAR	28/01
6-7	-	Shot showing broken water pipe and run off prior to works	NE	28/01
8	1	Post ex shot of trench 1	SW	28/01
9	1	Shot showing demolished wall in trench 1	NE	28/01
10	2	Post ex shot of trench 2	SE	28/01
11	2	NE facing section of trench 1	NE	28/01
12	1	Backfilling of trench 1	SW	28/01
13	2	Backfilling of trench 2	SW	28/01
14	-	Padlocked gate upon leaving site	NW	28/01
15	-	Stamped brick from demolished wall in trench 1	-	28/01

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	No. 543 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure report
PROJECT CODE:	24638
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Stuart Wilson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NGR: NT 3217 6715
START DATE (this season)	28/01/19
END DATE (this season)	28/01/19
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 by AOC Archaeology Group at 543 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh on behalf of S Harrison Developments.</p> <p>Due to the high number of underground services present within the development area only three trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The works revealed a shallow deposit of made ground across the site overlying a mid-brown sandy clay sub strata.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features were discovered during the evaluation.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	To be confirmed
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	S Harrison Developments
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	stuart.wilson@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

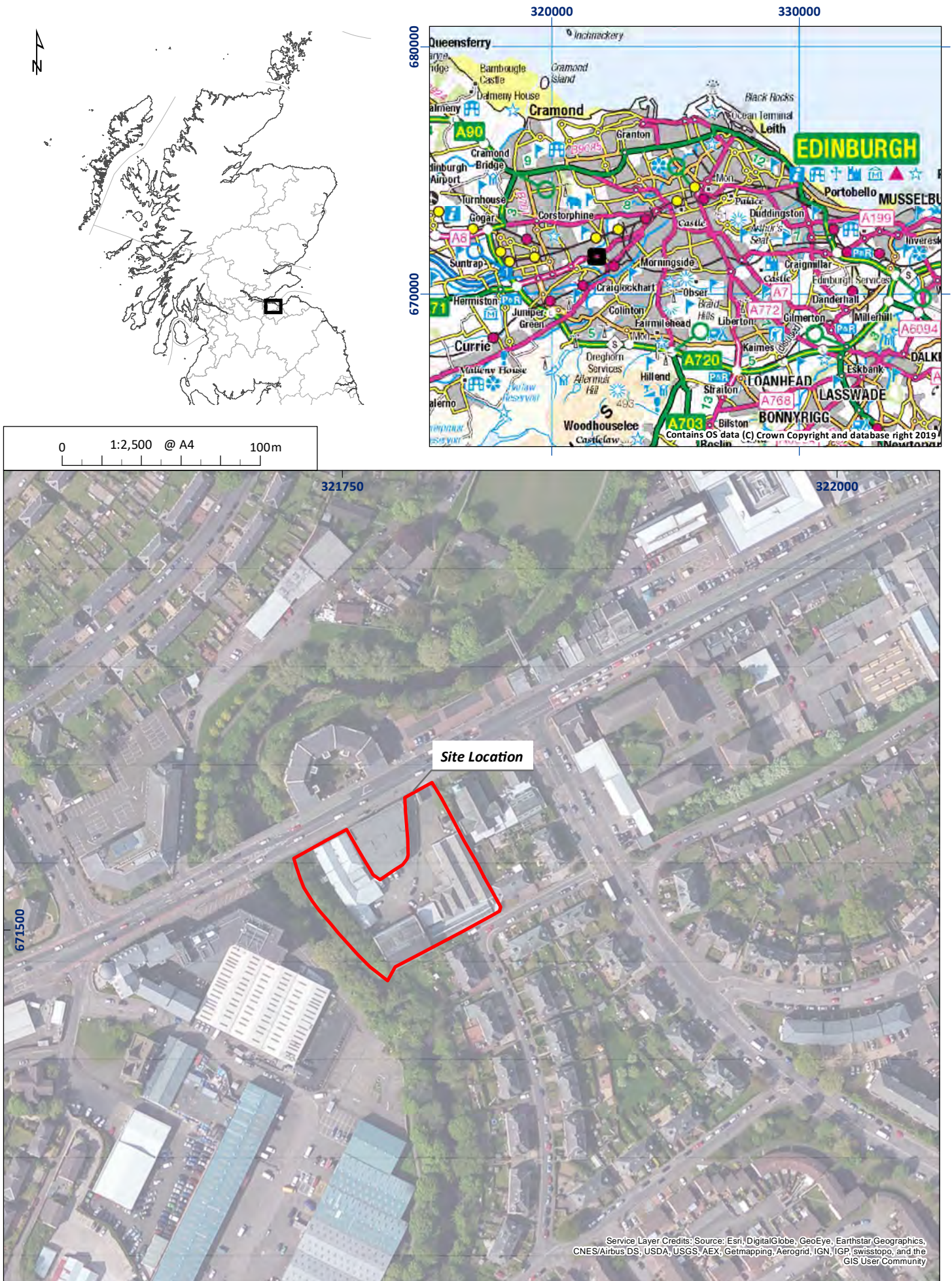
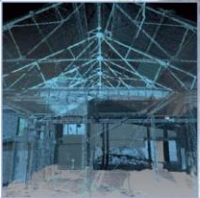


Figure 1: Site Location



Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

01/23638/DSR/02/01



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