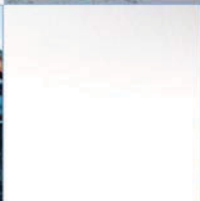


Gracemount, Gilmerton: Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC 21344

April 2009



Gracemount, Gilmerton: Evaluation

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	City of Edinburgh Council Waverley Court 4 East Market Street Edinburgh EH8 8BG
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 2790 6870
AOC Project No:	21344
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Date of Fieldwork:	29th - 30th April 2009
Date of Report:	1st May 2009

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

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Abstract

An evaluation in advance of a new housing development at Gracemount, Gilmerton found no features, deposits or artefactual material of any archaeological significance.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology group were commissioned by Edinburgh City Council to undertake a programme of archaeological works on ground subject to re-development. The works were designed to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) who are advised on cultural heritage issues by Mr. John Lawson of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). CECAS recommended an intrusive archaeological evaluation of the development area. The works were carried out under the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2009) approved by CECAS on behalf of the Council and in accord with the principals inherent in SPP23 (2008) and PAN42 (1994).

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The development area occupies approximately 1.2 ha and is centered at NGR: NT 2790 6870 (Figure 1) and is a predominately grassed area lying to the south and east of three large residential tower blocks: Soutra Court, Fala Court and Garvald Court. Gracemount Youth Centre and Gracemount School lie to the south-east with the eastern boundary marked by Lasswade Road. The land directly in front of Gracemount House (Trenches 1 to 4; Figure 2) sloped down to the east before levelling to the south of the tower blocks.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.3.1 Gracemount was originally known as *Priesthil'* prior to the Reformation where after it changed to the *Mount of Grace* and subsequently *Gracemount*. The Mansion, built around the turn of the 19th century, and estate were sold to the Edinburgh Corporation following the death of the then owner Charles Green around 1920, and was developed as new housing and schools with the present high rise flats built in the 1950s (Beechgrove 2001).

It first appears in the cartographic record as an estate on early 19th century maps (eg Knox 1816; Plate 1). No evidence of any development is evident on the Ordnance Survey map of 1926 (OS 1926). The mansion operated as a nursing home before standing vacant and then becoming the Gracemount Youth Centre of today. No archaeological finds or sites are known within the immediate environs of the site.



Plate 1: Extract from Knox's map 1816

1.4 Objectives

1.4.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- ii) 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*.

2 Method

2.1 The evaluation trenches (Figure 2) were excavated using a 360° type tracked excavator fitted with a 2 m wide toothless ditching bucket. All ground reduction was controlled by an experienced field archaeologist. Excavation was carried out in shallow spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil. All significant features were cleaned and fully defined to enable a written, drawn and photographic record to be taken. As part of the safety regime implemented on the site each trench location was scanned with a Cat Scanner in order to locate any unrecorded buried live services. During this operation live services were located crossing the proposed location of Trench 5 and as a result this trench was not dug.

3 Results

- 3.1 The evaluation was carried out on 29th and 30th April 2009 in fine weather conditions which rendered good archaeological visibility. The various data gathered from the evaluation is presented as a series of appendices.
- i) Appendix 1 contains the trench summaries;
 - ii) Appendix 2 contains the Photographic Register;
 - iii) Appendix 3 reproduces the *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* entry
- 3.2 In general the trenches can be divided into two groups. The first group contained Trenches 1 to 7 and consisted of over approximately 0.3 m of topsoil lying directly overlying the natural subsoil. The second group comprising Trenches 8 to 11 were much deeper (up to 1.8 m) and showed the presence of modern made ground (re-deposited natural subsoil) overlying a possible buried soil. Both these deposits contained fragments of 19th and 20th century ceramics (not retained). Rubble filled drains were seen to cross Trenches 1, 2 and 4 on an approximate north to south alignment and further similar land drains were located in Trench 6, aligned on a east to west axis. Two drains adjoining in Trench 7 on these two alignments. No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were observed in any of the trenches.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 The evaluation has shown that the significant balance of probability is that no meaningful archaeology exists within the proposed development site at Gracemount. The deep deposits within Trenches 8 to 11 located around Soutra Court are likely to have been formed during the construction of this block of flats resulting from re-deposited natural sandy clay, removed during the excavations of the flats foundations, subsequently being dumped in order to level the ground. It is notable that the houses of Gracemount Drive immediately to the east of the site, close to Trench 11, have been constructed on much lower ground.

5 References

Bibliographic

AOC 2009 *Gracemount Evaluation, Edinburgh: Written Scheme of investigation*, AOC Archaeology Group, Unpublished client Document

Beechgrove 2001, http://thebeachgrovegarden.com/factsheet/factsheet.php?fact_id=236

Scottish Planning Policy SPP23. *Archaeology and Planning*, Nov. 2008

Cartographic Sources

Knox, 1816 'Map of the shire of Edinburgh', James Knox, Edinburgh

OS 1926, 'Ordnance Survey, *One inch 'popular' edition, Scotland' Sheet 74 Edinburgh*



Plate 2: Trench 4 looking north-east



Plate 3: Trench 6 looking west

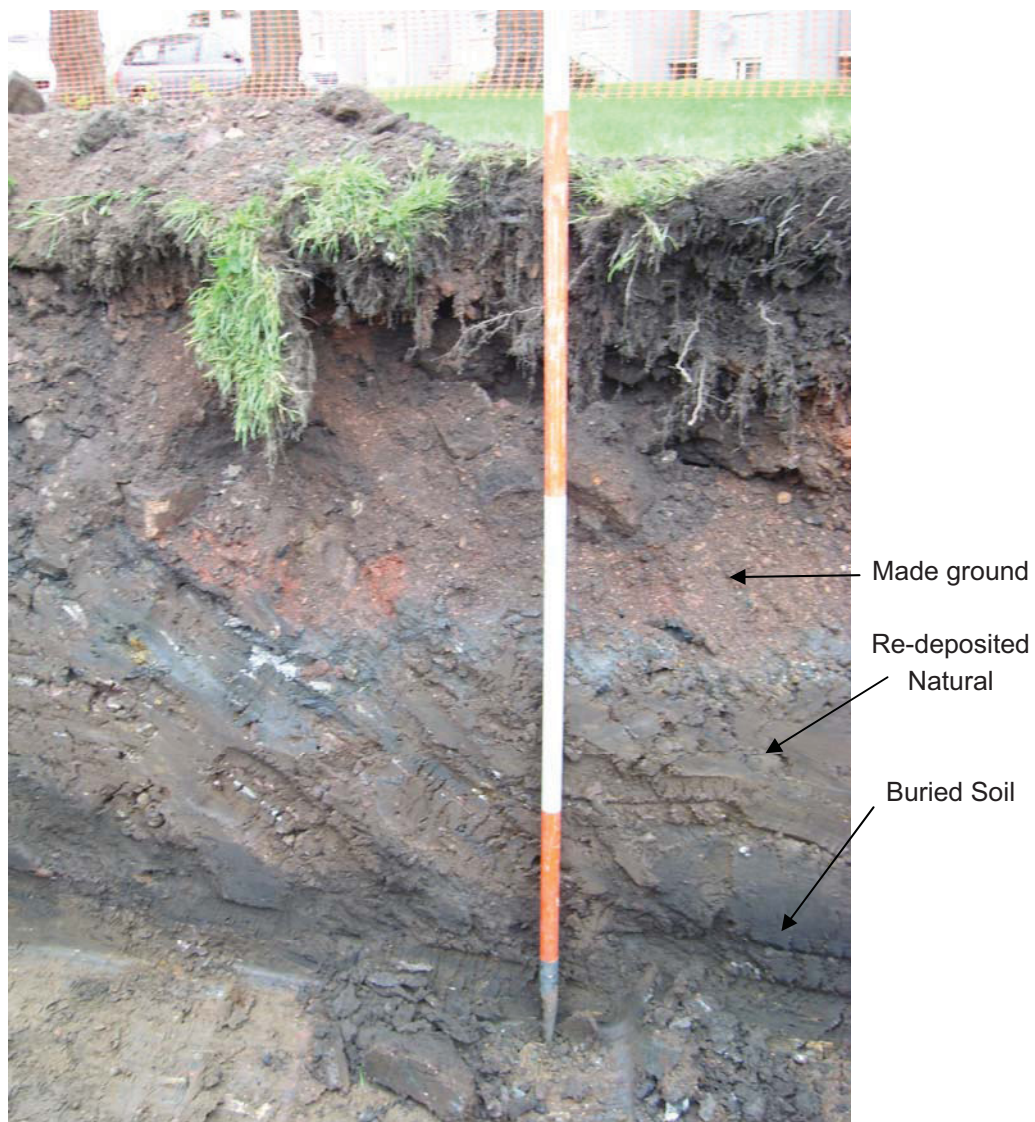


Plate 4: North-west facing section of Trench 11

Gracemount, Gilmerton: Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

Appendix 1

Trench summeries

Trench 1	Length (m)	30	Width (m)	2.0	Depth (m)	0.3
Total Area (m²)	60					
Orientation	NE-SW					
Description (Stratigraphically)					Depth (m)	
Topsoil Moderately compact; Very dark brown; Silt Few inclusions of small angular stones, moderately frequent fragments of 19 th /20 th century pottery and charcoal flecks.					0.3	
Natural Mottled orange brown sandy clay						

Trench 2	Length (m)	30	Width (m)	2.0	Depth (m)	0.3
Total Area (m²)	60					
Orientation	NNW-SSE					
Description (Stratigraphically)					Depth (m)	
Topsoil Moderately compact; Very dark brown; Silt Few inclusions of small angular stones, moderately frequent fragments of 19 th /20 th century pottery and charcoal flecks.					0.3	
Natural Mottled orange brown sandy clay						

Trench 3	Length (m)	30	Width (m)	2.0	Depth (m)	0.3
Total Area (m²)	60					
Orientation	N-S					
Description (Stratigraphically)					Depth (m)	
Topsoil Moderately compact; Very dark brown; Silt Few inclusions of small angular stones, moderately frequent fragments of 19 th 20 th century pottery and charcoal flecks.					0.3	
Natural Mottled orange brown sandy clay						

Trench 4	Length (m)	30	Width (m)	2.0	Depth (m)	0.3
Total Area (m²)	60					
Orientation	NE-SW					
Description (Stratigraphically)					Depth (m)	
Topsoil Moderately compact; Very dark brown; Silt Few inclusions of small angular stones, moderately frequent fragments of 19 th 20 th century pottery and charcoal flecks.					0.3	
Natural Mottled orange brown sandy clay						

Trench 6	Length (m)	30	Width (m)	2.0	Depth (m)	0.3
Total Area (m²)	60					
Orientation	ENE-WSW					
Description (Stratigraphically)					Depth (m)	
Topsoil Moderately compact; Very dark brown; Silt Frequent inclusions of small angular stones, moderately frequent fragments of 19 th 20 th century pottery, charcoal flecks and occasional frogged bricks					0.45	
Natural Mottled orange brown sandy clay						

Trench 7	Length (m)	30	Width (m)	2.0	Depth (m)	0.3
Total Area (m²)	60					
Orientation	NE-SW					
Description (Stratigraphically)					Depth (m)	
Topsoil Moderately compact; dark brown; silt Frequent inclusions of small angular stones, moderately frequent fragments of 19 th /20 th century pottery and charcoal flecks					0.3	
Natural Mottled orange brown sandy clay						

Trench 8	Length (m)	30	Width (m)	2.0	Depth (m)	0.9
Total Area (m²)	60					
Orientation	NE-SW					
Description (Stratigraphically)					Depth (m)	
Topsoil Moderately compact; Mid grey; Silt Frequent inclusions of small angular stones and charcoal flecks, moderately frequent fragments of 19 th /20 th century pottery fragments					0.7	
Red Blaze Compact crushed red brick					0.09	
Buried soil Compact; Very dark brown; Silt Occasional fragments of 19 th /20 th century pottery					0.1	
Natural Compact sandy clay						

Trench 9	Length (m)	30	Width (m)	2.0	Depth (m)	1.0
Total Area (m²)	60					
Orientation	N-S					
Description (Stratigraphically)					Depth (m)	
Topsoil Moderately compact; Mid brown; Silt Frequent inclusions of small to medium sized angular stones, Moderately frequent fragments of 19 th /20 th century pottery and charcoal flecks and occasional brick rubble					0.3	
Re-deposited natural Compact; Light brown; Clay Frequent medium sized angular stones, Occasional large rounded boulders.					0.6	
Buried soil Moderately compact; Dark grey; Silt Occasional 19 th /20 th century pottery fragments and charcoal flecks					0.1	
Natural Mottled orange brown sandy clay						

Trench 10	Length (m)	15	Width (m)	2.0	Depth (m)	1.5
Total Area (m²)	30					
Orientation	E-W					
Description (Stratigraphically)					Depth (m)	
Topsoil Moderately compact; Dark brown; Silt Occasional 19 th /20 th century pottery fragments and charcoal flecks					0.45	
Re-deposited natural Compact; Light brown; Clay Frequent small angular stones and occasional 19 th /20 th century pottery fragments					0.85	
Buried soil Moderately compact; Dark brown silty; Clay Occasional 19 th /20 th century pottery					0.2	
Natural Stony mottled brown sandy clay						

Trench 11	Length (m)	15	Width (m)	2.0	Depth (m)	1.5
Total Area (m²)	30					
Orientation	ENE-WSW					
Description (Stratigraphically)					Depth (m)	
Topsoil Moderately compact; Mid brown; Silt Occasional 19 th /20 th century pottery fragments and charcoal flecks					0.25	
Made Ground Layer of brick and stone rubble					0.43	
Re-deposited Natural Compact; Light brown; Clay Frequent small angular stones and occasional 19 th /20 th century pottery fragments					0.55	
Buried Soil Moderately compact; Black; Silty clay Occasional 19 th /20 th century pottery fragments					0.23	
Natural Compact Mid brown sandy stony clay						

Appendix 2

Photographic register

Colour slide film 1

Number	Trench	Description	From
1		Registration	
2	1	General trench shot	SW
3	1	General trench shot	SW
4	2	General trench shot	SE
5	4	General trench shot	SSW
6	3	General trench shot	SW
7	6	General trench shot	ENE
8	7	General trench shot	NE
9	8	General trench shot	SW
10	9	East-facing section	W
11	10	South facing section	N
12	10	General trench shot	E
13	11	North-west facing section	SE
14	11	General trench shot	NE

Black and white film 1

Number	Trench	Description	From
1		Registration	
2	1	General trench shot	SW
3	1	General trench shot	SW
4	2	General trench shot	SE
5	4	General trench shot	SSW
6	3	General trench shot	SW
7	6	General trench shot	ENE
8	7	General trench shot	NE
9	8	General trench shot	SW
10	9	East-facing section	W
11	10	South-facing section	N
12	10	General trench shot	E
13	11	North-west facing section	SE
14	11	General trench shot	NE

Digital images

Number	Trench	Description	From
1	1	General trench shot	SW
2	2	General trench shot	SE
3	4	General trench shot	SSW
4	3	General trench shot	SW
5	6	General trench shot	ENE
6	7	General trench shot	NE
7	8	General trench shot	SW
8	9	East-facing section	W
9	9	East-facing section	W
10	10	North-facing section	S
11	10	North-facing section	S
12	10	General trench shot	E
13	10	General trench shot	SE
14	11	North-west facing section	SE
15	11	North-west facing section	SE
16	11	General trench shot	NE

Appendix 3

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Gracemount, Gilmerton Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	21344
PARISH:	City of Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Hindmarch, Erlend
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPES(S) OF PROJECTS:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR:	NT 2790 6870
START DATE:	29/04/2009
END DATE:	30/04/2009
PREVIOUS WORK:	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION:	An evaluation in advance of a new housing development at Gracemount, Gilmerton found no features, deposits or finds of any archaeological significance.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING	City of Edinburgh Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group Edgefield Industrial Estate Edgefield Road Loanhead Midlothian EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Erlend.Hindmarch@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION:	NMRS

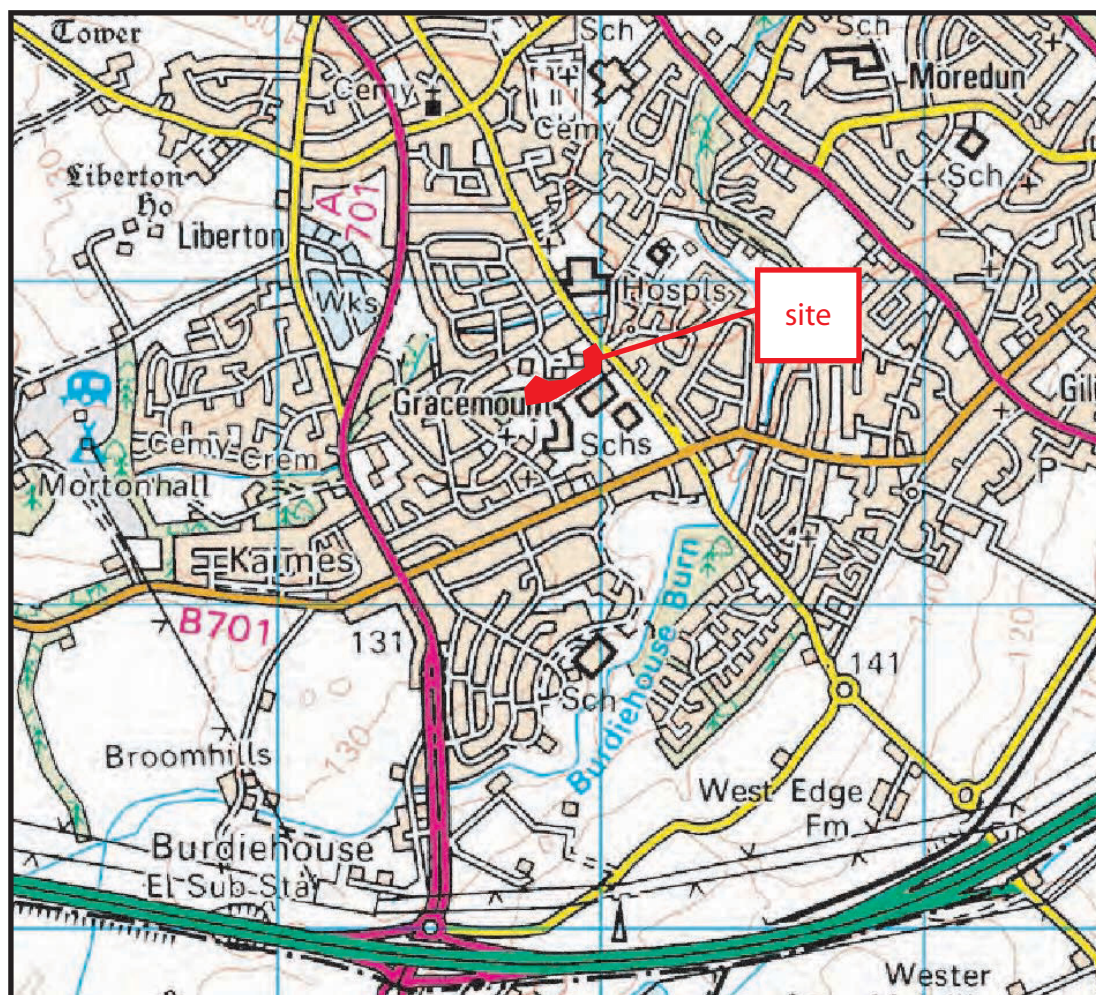
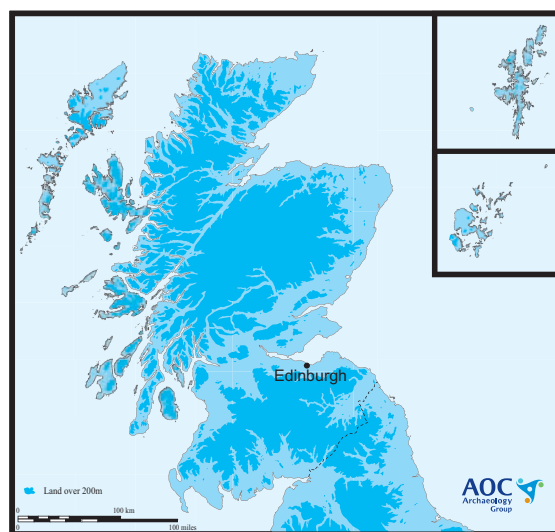
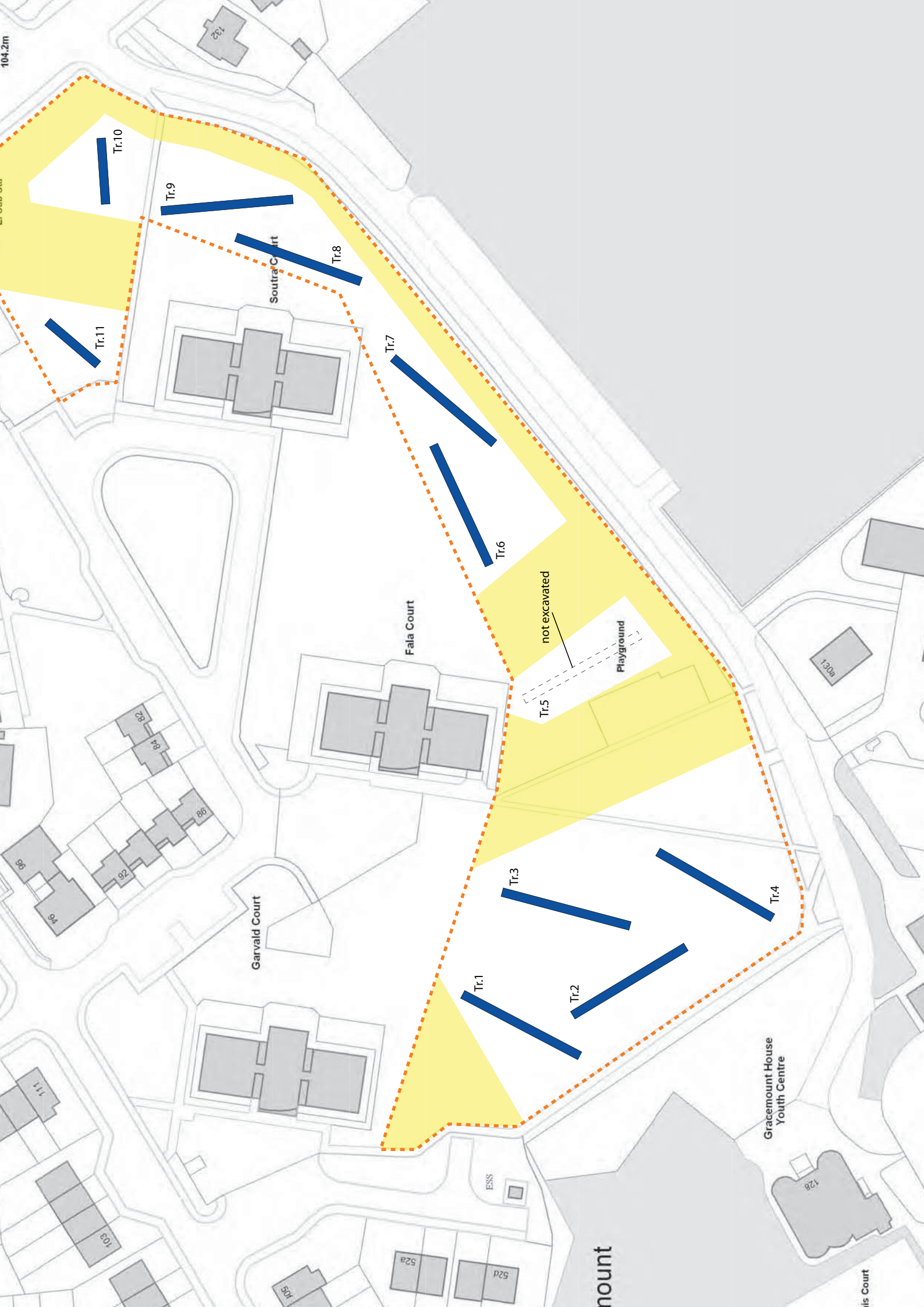


Figure 1: Site location

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