

Dock Street, Leith, Edinburgh: Archaeological Report

21629
June 2010



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Dock Street, Leith: Archaeological Report

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| On Behalf of: | MCP Mariners in Administration Ltd. |
| National Grid Reference (NGR): | NT 2682 7661 |
| AOC Project No: | 21629 |
| Prepared by: | Alan Duffy/Mike Roy |
| Illustration by: | Gemma Hudson/Vicky Oleksy/Mike Roy |
| Date of Fieldwork: | April 2010 |
| Date of Report: | June 2010 |

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

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| Draft Report Stage: | Date: 29th June 2010 |

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Abstract

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by MCP Mariners in Administration Ltd to undertake the recording of a service trench excavated at Dock Street, Leith, Edinburgh, at a point within the eastern side of the defensive ditch of the Cromwellian-era Leith Citadel.

No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the course of the works.

0. NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Melford Developments on behalf of MCP Mariners in Administration Ltd to undertake the recording of a service trench excavated adjacent to the junction of Dock Street and Commercial Street, Leith, Edinburgh.
- 0.2 These works were required to satisfy Mr John Lawson, principal archaeologist at City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS), who had been alerted to the ground breaking works and who, on visiting the site, was concerned that a number of exposed timbers may have been of archaeological significance. The location of the works was at a point within the eastern side of the 17th Century Leith Citadel. The timbers were identified as no earlier than 19th century in date, and were probably associated with services.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 The service trench was located on the eastern side of and approximately 11.5 m from the northern end of Dock Street at the point where it intersects with Commercial Street, adjacent to the Citadel Church (NGR; NT 2682 7661; Figure 1). This service trench had not been dug under the supervision of an archaeologist. The trench measured approximately 3 x 3 m, and had been excavated to a maximum depth of roughly 1 m.
- 1.1.2 The works required comprised the recording the service trench by plan and photography, and the retrieval and examination of any timbers removed during the excavation.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were to determine and record the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any exposed archaeological remains. In particular, the location of the service trench lay within the eastern side of Leith Citadel, a Cromwellian-era fortification.

3. METHOD

- 3.1 As required, the trench was planned and photographed (Appendices 1, 2 and 3). The plan (Figure 2) shows the limit of the excavation, exposed parallel timber lines (Contexts 1, 2 and 3) and utility services present (Contexts 4, 5 and 6). General photographs were taken of the trench and detailed photographs were taken of the north and south facing sections.
- 3.2 Recording of the trench revealed a series of square cut vertical and linear timbers c. 0.20 m x 0.07 m in section (Plates 1 and 2) which lay against the sides of a linear trench containing a gas main.

4. RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The timbers that had been noted by Mr Lawson are the remains of shoring inserted to support a trench dug into sand prior to the insertion of a gas main. Analysis of the timbers by AOC's in-house

specialist (Dr. Anne Crone) revealed these timbers to be planks of conifer wood, with a regular rectangular cross-section, indicating that they were machine cut. They are therefore no earlier than 19th century in date.

4.1.2 No significant archaeological remains were noted during the recording of the service trench.



Plate 1: Vertical timbers adjacent to north-facing section



Plate 2: Horizontal timber (Context No. 3)

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

| Context No. | Description |
|-------------|--|
| 1 | Vertically set timber planks (each c. 0.20 x 0.07 m in section) lining the west side of a service trench cut. Timbers lie 0.63 – 0.70 m below existing ground surface. |
| 2 | Vertically set timber planks (each c. 0.20 x 0.07 m in section) lining the west side of a service trench cut. Timbers lie 0.55 – 0.60 m below existing ground surface. |
| 3 | Horizontal timber, 0.09 m thick, abutting timber line (2). Element of timber shoring for gas main trench. |
| 4 | North/south-aligned metal pipe. Modern service. |
| 5 | North-west/south-east-aligned plastic pipe. Modern gas main. |
| 6 | West/east-aligned plastic pipe. Modern gas main. |

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

| Shot No. | Description | From |
|----------|---|------|
| 1-3 | General view | S |
| 4-5 | South facing section – general view | S |
| 6-7 | South facing section - detail | S |
| 8-9 | Horizontal timber | W |
| 10-11 | North facing section - detail | N |
| 12-13 | General view | N |
| 14-17 | Detail of vertical timbers adjacent to N facing section | E |

APPENDIX 3: DRAWING REGISTER

| Drawing No. | Description | Scale |
|-------------|---|-------|
| 1 | Plan of service trench including exposed timbers and services | 1:10 |

APPENDIX 4: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

| | |
|--|--|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | City of Edinburgh |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | Citadel Church, Leith |
| PROJECT CODE: | AOC 21629 |
| PARISH: | Edinburgh |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Alan Duffy |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | AOC Archaeology Group |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Archaeological recording of previously excavated service trench |
| NMRS NO(S): | None |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | None |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | None |
| NGR (2 letters, 6 figures) | NT 2682 7661 |
| START DATE (this season) | 29 th April 2010 |
| END DATE (this season) | 29 th April 2010 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.) | None |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by MCP Mariners in Administration Ltd to undertake the recording of a service trench excavated at Dock Street, Leith, Edinburgh, at a point within the eastern defensive ditch of the 17 th century Leith Citadel. Due to the extensive presence of earlier services, no significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the course of the works. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | n/a |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | MCP Mariners in Administration Ltd |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR: | C/o AOC Archaeology Group |
| EMAIL ADDRESS: | Alan.Duffy@aocarchaeology.com |

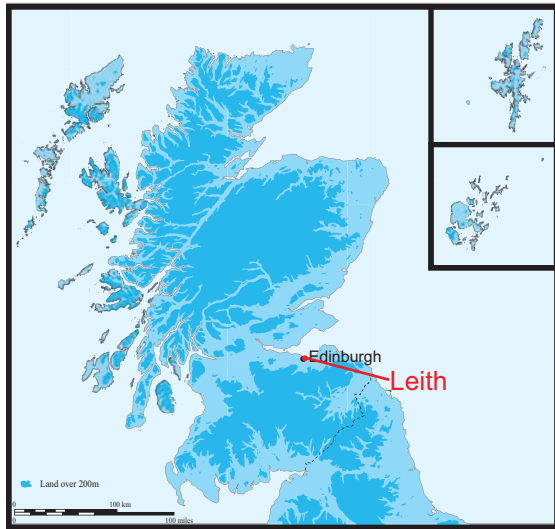


Figure 1: Site location plan

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