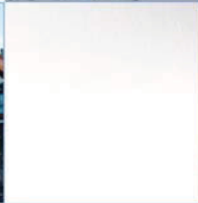
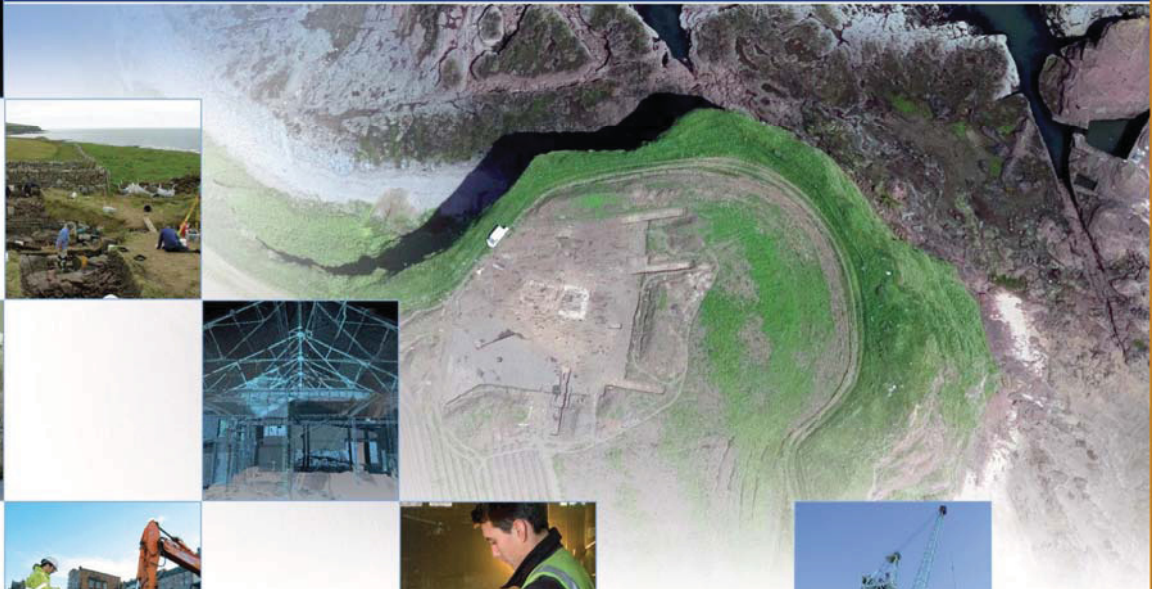
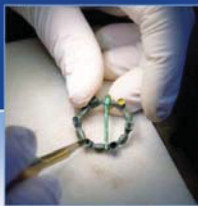


# Auchendinny Monitored Topsoil Strip: Data Structure Report

21360

30<sup>th</sup> October 2009



## Auchendinny: Monitored Topsoil Strip Report

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**On Behalf of:** Edinburgh Heritage Ltd  
81-85 Portland Street  
Edinburgh  
EH6 4AY

**(NGR):** NT 2515 6134

**AOC Project No:** 21446

**Prepared by:** Martin Cook

**Illustration by:** Douglas Park

**Date of Fieldwork:** 21<sup>st</sup> October 2009

**Date of Report:** 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009

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

**Author:** Martin Cook

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009

**Approved by:** John Gooder

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009

**Draft/Final Report Stage:** Draft

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009

**Enquiries to:** AOC Archaeology Group  
Edgefield Industrial Estate  
Edgefield Road  
Loanhead  
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593  
Fax. 0131 440 3422  
e-mail. [admin@aacarchaeology.com](mailto:admin@aacarchaeology.com)



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## **Abstract**

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This report documents the results of an archaeologically monitored topsoil strip undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on ground breaking works associated with the erection of a terrace and steps within the garden of Auchendinny House, Wester Auchendinny, Midlothian. No deposits, features or small finds of archaeological significance were found.

No further works are considered necessary.

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

- 1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Edinburgh Heritage Ltd to undertake a Monitored Topsoil Strip at Auchendinny House, Wester Auchendinny, Midlothian. The need for, and scope of archaeological works has been determined by Midlothian Council who are advised on archaeological matters by the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS).

### 1.2 Project Background and Location

- 1.2.1 The development proposals (08/00763/FUL; Figure 1) involve the construction of a terrace and steps along the eastern edge of the west wing of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Auchendinny House (an A-listed building). ELCAS have undertaken a preliminary desk-study and advised that an adequate archaeological mitigation response to any adverse development impacts would involve the evaluation by a monitored topsoil strip of all areas of ground-breaking associated with the planning application and consequent Data Structure Report.

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The National Monuments Record entry for Auchendinny House (NMRS: NT26SE.6.0; NGR: NT 2517 6133) records it as *'the latest and smallest example of the work of Sir William Bruce. Its layout is typical of his work and others of his day, i.e. a regular, symmetrical oblong flanked by two outlying pavilions linked to it by curved screen walls. Internally there are two vaulted chambers in the western part of the basement suggesting the representation there of an older house of 16th - 17th century date. This is, however, not conclusive but from family papers the house appears to have been completed by 1707'* (RCAHMS 1929).

Auchendinny House (or *Auchindinny*) is category A-listed (HB No. 13034; 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1971). The listing also includes the house's gatepiers, boundary walls and outbuildings. Its listing description is:

*'Possibly Sir William Bruce, circa 1705; later alterations and additions including bathroom block, Leadbetter, Fairley and Reid, 1914-20. Symmetrical classical country house. 2-storey, with attic, over half sunk basement, or cellar storey, 5-bay rectangular-plan corps-de-logis with 2-storey, 2-bay flanking pavilions linked to main block by quadrant walls. Steps and platt to entrance at principal floor level. Pink and cream stugged sandstone; (coursed and squared rubble to rear and to pavilions) with polished ashlar dressings. Base course; raised margins to windows; moulded, shouldered margins with consoled cills to NW (principal elevation) windows of pavilions; eaves course; strip quoins. Later lean-to greenhouse facing garden to rear (SE).  
CORPS-DE-LOGIS: NW (PRINCIPAL) ELEVATION: pedimented doorpiece with roll-moulded and lugged architrave, approached by stair to raised principal floor level; 2-leaf, part-glazed timber panelled door; window at 1st floor; dormer window above. Small opening at cellar storey set to right of stair; window at principal floor and 1st floor, or lodging storey, in bays to right of centre; dormer window set between above. Window at each floor in bays to left of centre; dormer window set between above.*

*SE (REAR) ELEVATION: 7-bay, grouped 2-3-2. Advanced, central 3-bay group (later): 2-leaf, part-glazed door with rectangular fanlight at ground in bay to centre; window at 1st floor above. Window at each floor in bays flanking. Tripartite dormer window centrally set above. Main block: window at each floor (including basement) in flanking bays; 2 tripartite dormers set between above. PAVILIONS: single bay, 2-storey, rectangular-plan pavilions. Boarded door to ground; window at 1st floor above; 2-bay returns with window at each floor in each bay; (coach arch at ground to SW elevation of right hand pavilion). 3 original 24-pane timber sash and case windows to NE; 12-pane timber sash and case windows (4-pane to basement) to main block; casement to central rear dormer; 6-pane fixed windows to ground floor of pavilions. Bell-cast grey slate piend and platform roof; piended dormers to NW; flat dormers to SE; grey slate piend roofs to pavilions; 2 ashlar corniced stacks to platform of corps-de-logis; polygonal cans; single ashlar corniced ridge stacks to pavilions; coped linking quadrant walls; cast-iron rainwater goods. INTERIOR: fine interiors: 1st floor landing panelled with Memel pine; pine lugged, architraved landing doors; oak-panelled drawing room; moulded stone fireplaces with lugged and corniced surrounds; pine- panelled principal bedroom with allegorical romantic painted panels; shutters intact; moulded stone staircase with freestone newels; stone architraves to attic doorways; plain cornices; partly vaulted basement. OUTBUILDINGS: parallel range of two single storey gabled outbuildings to NE. Squared rubble with ashlar margins to openings. BUILDING TO RIGHT (SW): NE ELEVATION: segmental arch with boarded doors; 2 leaf garage doors to left; window to right; boarded door with hayloft opening (also boarded) and weather vane above to gable end. BUILDING TO LEFT (NE) SW ELEVATION: 2 sets of boarded garage doors. Grey slate roof with skylights; coped skews. GATEPIERS AND BOUNDARY WALLS: circular-plan ashlar sandstone gatepiers with band cope, circular cap and ball finial. Sandstone rubble walls with square cope'.*

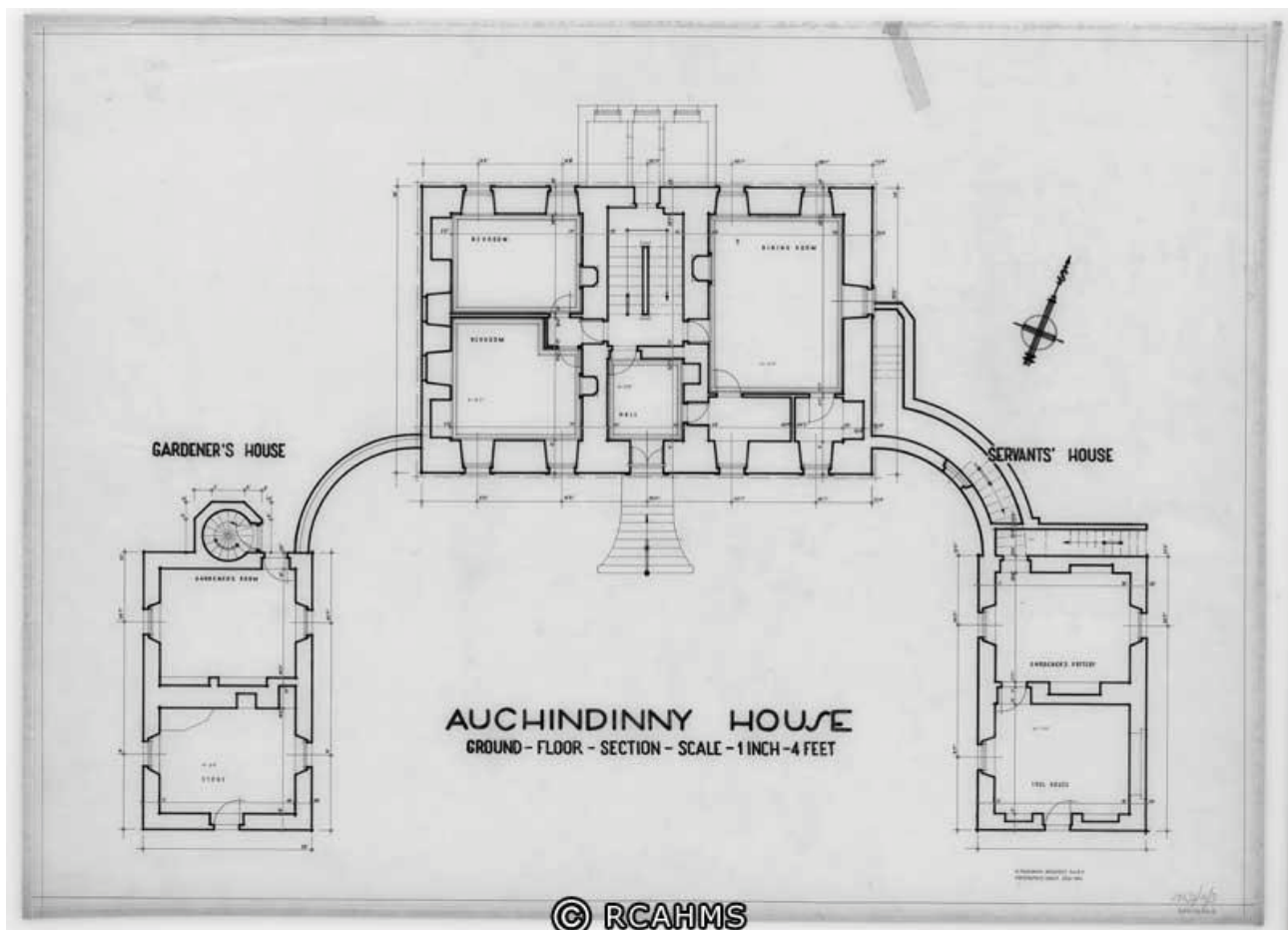
*'It was attributed to Sir William Bruce, originally by Henry Mackenzie in his book Anecdotes and Egotisms; he lived in the house from 1795-1807 and praised Bruce for his smokeless flues. Other eminent tenants include Archibald Fletcher, 'Father of Burgh Reform', who died there in 1828. The estate was bought by John Inglis of Langbyres, Lanarkshire, from the Prestons of Gorton in 1702 and building began around 1705, possibly incorporating parts of an earlier house (see Fenwick, p102). The masonry was probably originally harled and the positioning of the stacks suggest the division of the house into the simplest form of double-pile. The rear bathroom block was added by Leadbetter, Fairley and Reid, 1914 1920. The pavilions are sometimes said to have been a later addition. The east pavilion was the gardener's house and potting shed, having an external spiral stair to the rear; the western one was the servants' quarters and linked to the main house by a (later) passage. The painted panels in the master bedroom are possibly by James Norie who had done similar work at Brunstane, Newhailes and possibly Prestonfield nearby. Allegorical in subject matter, one scene seems to depict*



*the local tourist attraction, Rosslyn Chapel. As at Kinross, where the house is aligned, through the axial garden, with Leven Castle, Auchendinny is also related to its wider landscape. The main central avenue of the garden was planned to line up with an Iron Age fort, located at the foot of the Pentland Hills in the distance’.*

1.3.2 The RCAHMS plan of Auchendinny House is presented as Plate 1

1.3.3 Whereas the existing Auchendinny House dates to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, the architectural evidence for an earlier structure on the site (the two vaulted chambers of possible 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century date in the western part of the basement) is sustained by historic mapping (eg, Bleau 1654 & Adair 1682) which depicts (albeit with very detail) an earlier house at this location.



**Plate 1: Plan of Auchendinny House (Copyright RCAHMS)**

Comparing the development proposals (Figure 1) with the RCAHMS plan (Plate 1) illustrates that the development impacts will be next to the eastern wall of the House's western pavilion (originally a ground-floor garden store with domestic servants quarters on the first floor).



## 2 Objectives

2.1 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*.

## 3 Method

3.1 The evaluation was achieved by means of a monitored topsoil strip of the total area to be impacted upon by the new steps and terrace (Figure 1). Ground reduction under constant archaeological control was undertaken by machine plant equipped with a wide smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All monitoring was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures.

## 4 Results

4.1 The monitored topsoil strip was conducted on a single day, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2009. The weather conditions during the works were dry and sunny which rendered good archaeological visibility. The various data gathered from the watching are presented as a series of appendices:

- i) Appendix 1 contains the photographic register;
- ii) Appendix 2 reproduces the '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' entry.

4.2 The total area monitored comprised the excavation of an approximate a NNW - SSE aligned trench at NGR: NT 2515 6134. Measuring approximately 8 m by 4 m the trench ran parallel with the western pavilion of the house at a distance of 2 m. The topsoil comprised up to 0.25 m of silty sandy, overlying a yellow clay subsoil. No significant archaeological material was identified.

## 5 Conclusion

5.1 No features, deposits or finds of any archaeological significance were recorded during the watching brief. No further archaeological works are considered necessary.



**Plate 2: Working shot of area under excavation**

## 6 References

Adair, J 1682 *Map of Midlothian*.

Bleau, J 1654 *Lothian and Linlithgo*

RCAHMS 1929 *The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions of Scotland. Tenth report with inventory of monuments and constructions in the counties of Midlothian and West Lothian*, Edinburgh.

Roy, W 1745-55 *Military Map of Scotland*.

SOEnd 1994 *Planning Advice Note 42: Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. January 1994. The Scottish Office Environment Dept.

SPP23 2008 *Scottish Planning Policy 23: Planning & the Historic Environment*. The Scottish Government.

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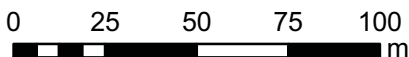
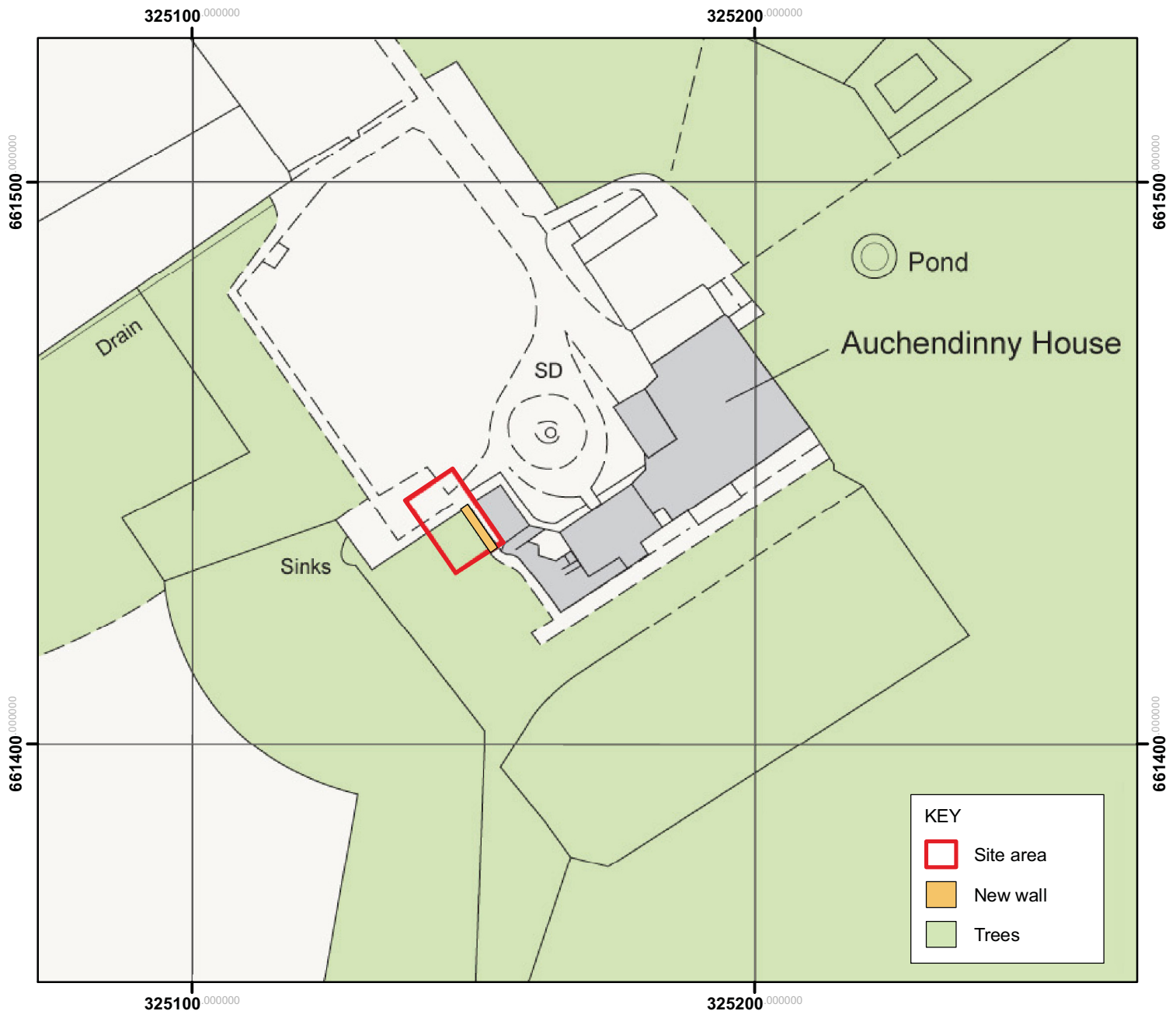
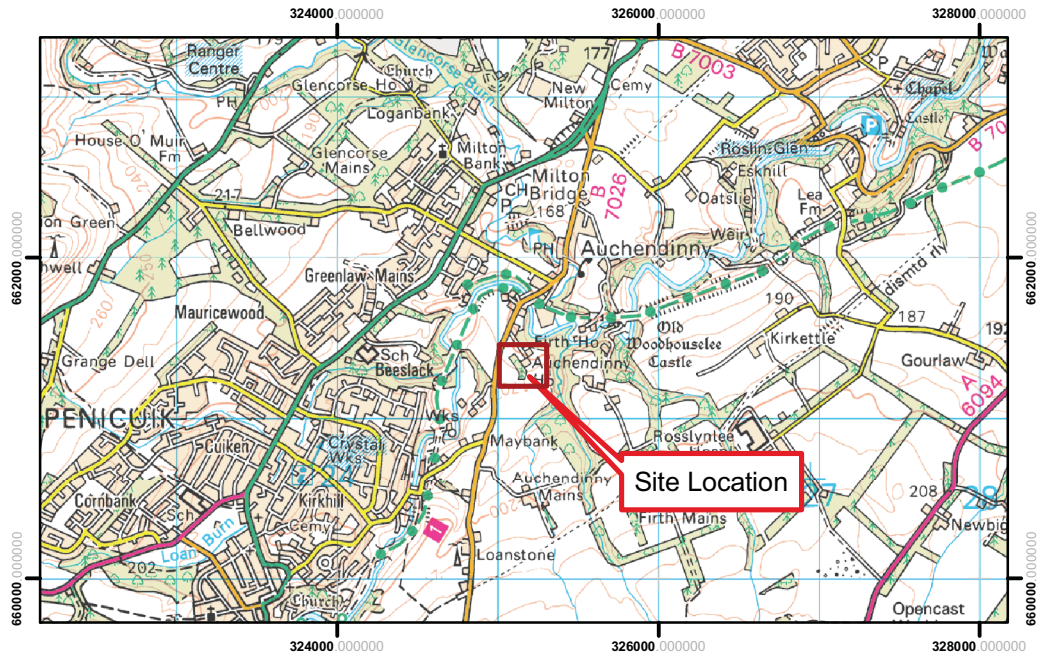
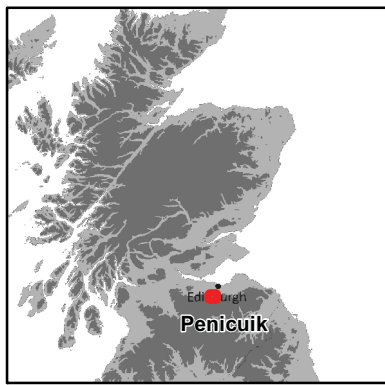


Figure 1: Site Location

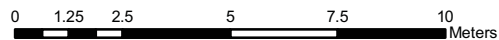
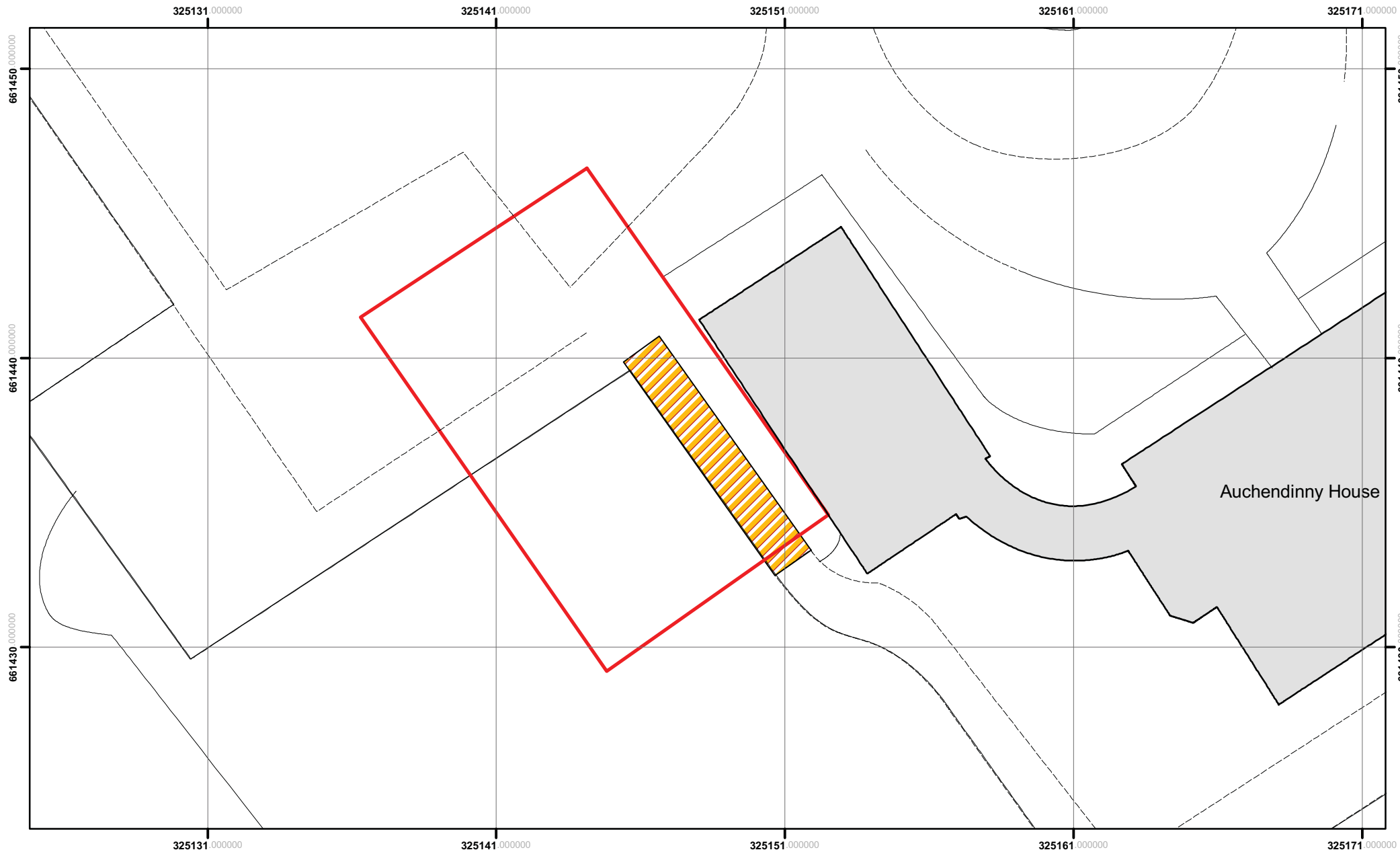


Figure 2: Plan of area monitored

-  New Wall
-  Site Area



(c) AOC Archaeology 2009

# **Auchendinny House: Monitored Topsoil Strip Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**



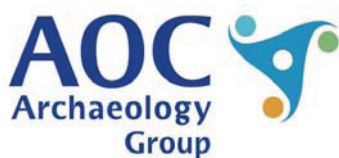
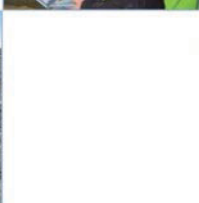
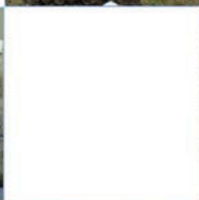
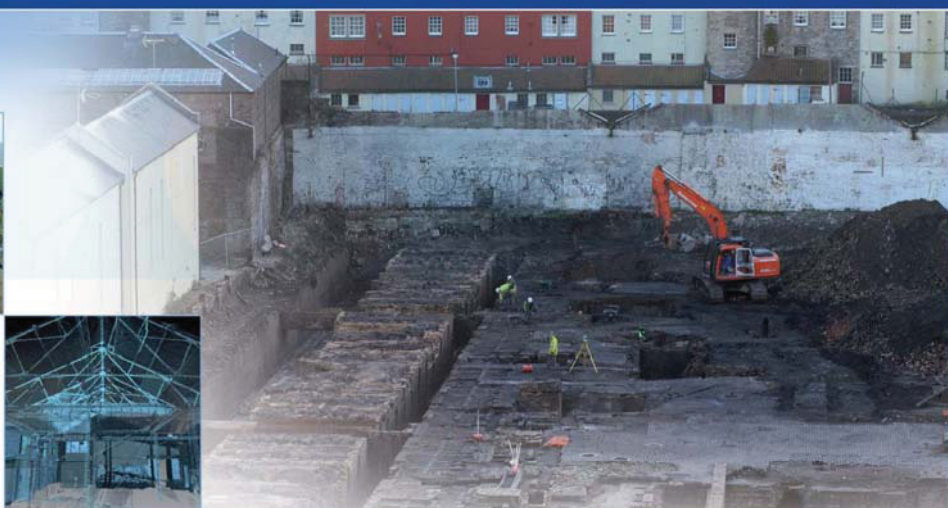
## Appendix 1: Photographic Register

Number	Description	From
1	Registration	
2	Working shot during excavation of staircase footprint	S
3	Working shot during excavation of staircase footprint	S

## Appendix 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Midlothian
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Auchendinny House
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 21360
<b>PARISH:</b>	Penicuik
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Martin Cook
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeologically Monitored Topsoil Strip
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	NT26SE.6.0
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 2515 6134
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> October 2009
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> October 2009
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An archaeologically monitored topsoil strip was conducted during groundbreaking works associated with the construction of an extension to the existing Auchendinny House.  Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified during the works.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	--
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Edinburgh Heritage Ltd
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:admin@aocscot.co.uk">admin@aocscot.co.uk</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS





**AOC Archaeology Group**, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY  
tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: [edinburgh@aacarchaeology.com](mailto:edinburgh@aacarchaeology.com)

[www.aocarchaeology.com](http://www.aocarchaeology.com)