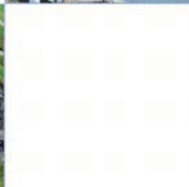
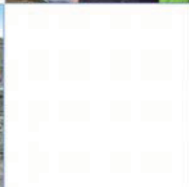
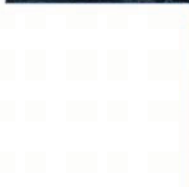
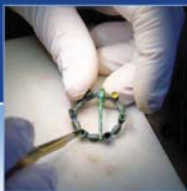


Newbridge Plots 2, 12a and 12b Evaluation, Edinburgh, Phase 1: Data Structure Report

21768

December 2010



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Newbridge Plots 2, 12a and 12b, Evaluation, Edinburgh, Phase 1

Data Structure Report

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| On Behalf of: | Eastern Holdings Limited 8 Westerton Road Broxburn West Lothian EH52 5BE |
| National Grid Reference (NGR): | NT 1211 7292 |
| AOC Project No: | 21768 |
| Prepared by: | Martin Cook |
| Illustration by: | Stefan Sagrott |
| Date of Fieldwork: | 24th to 26th November 2010 |
| Date of Report: | 5th December 2010 |

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

| | |
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| Approved by: | Date: |
| Draft/Final Report Stage: | Date: |

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Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of a proposed commercial garage, Edinburgh Road, Newbridge, Edinburgh.

The archaeological works comprised a controlled topsoil strip and the excavation of two trenches totaling 2,700 m².

Generally, the site was archaeologically sterile, with only modern features such as field drains being identified.

No further works are considered necessary.

1. NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Yeoman McAllister Architects on behalf of their client Easter Holdings Limited to address the potential archaeological impact of a proposed 'Luxury Car Village' at Plots 2, 12a and 12b, Axis Business Park Newbridge, Edinburgh.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development lies within the administrative area of the City of Edinburgh Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). CECAS recommended a programme of archaeological works in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government February 2010) and *Planning Advice Note 42* (SOEnd 1994) in determining the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
- 1.1.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2010) was agreed with CECAS in advance of the evaluation being undertaken. The evaluation was designed around a controlled topsoil strip and limited trenching equating to 2700 m².
- 1.1.4 Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified and no further works are considered necessary.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

- 2.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Yeoman McAllister on behalf of Eastern Holdings Ltd, in advance of a proposed development at Plot 2, 12a and 12b, Axis Business Park, Newbridge, Edinburgh.
- 2.1.2 The proposed development area lies within the administrative area of the City of Edinburgh Council. The works required were a condition of a planning condition, planning ref: 06/02987/FUL, imposed on the development by the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service, as advised by Mr John Lawson of CECAS. CECAS recommended a programme of archaeological works in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government February 2010) and *Planning Advice Note 42* (SOEnd 1994) in determining the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

2.2 Location and Geology

- 2.2.1 The proposed development site lies near to the interchange of the M8 and M9 motorways at Newbridge, within the parish of Kirkliston, Edinburgh. (NGR: NT 1211 7292) It occupies flat ground at the northern foot of the Pentland Hills near the eastern bank of the River Almond The site has until the recent past been in use as an existing building and

associated carpark. It is bounded to the north, east and west by roads and to the south by a Lexus car dealership.

- 2.2.2 The solid geology of the development area comprises carboniferous and Old Red Sandstone sedimentary rocks, with some volcanic porphyries from the nearby Pentlands (Brown & Shipley 1982)

2.3 Archaeological Background

- 2.3.1 The proposed development area lies within the fragmented remains of a prehistoric landscape centred on Huly Hill (NMRS NT17SW 8) an upstanding prehistoric barrow and stone circle and a Scheduled Ancient Monument. This landscape includes cists and the location of Scotland's first chariot burial. The site's location stands, as it did in the past on the main east west axis to and from Edinburgh.
- 2.3.2 The 2003 evaluation of Plots 2 and 3 (Heawood 2003) identified fragmentary remains of a field system and roundhouse settlement, likely dating to the first millennium BC which are located across Plots 2 and 3.
- 2.3.3 Most recently an archaeological excavation carried out within parts of the Phase 1 area of a proposed development site recorded a variety of archaeological features dispersed across the southern and central parts of the development area. Numerous ditches and pits which appear to form part of a medieval field system occupied the northern part of the site together with two associated corn drying kilns. In the central area numerous pits including a group of prehistoric pits, probably form a timber structure, surrounding a stone built hearth. In the southern end of the area there were four possible roundhouse structures each defined by a combination of ring grooves, ring-ditches and internal postholes. A substantial linear stone structure, which is probably a Roman road, crossed the southern end of the development area (Engl & Hunter Blair 2008).
- 2.3.4 An evaluation was carried out within the existing Lexus Car Dealership to the immediate south of the site. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 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*.

4. METHOD

- 4.1 The details of the archaeological works, laid out below, were designed to fully meet the works agreed by CECAS.
- 4.2 The evaluation was achieved through two separate pieces of work, a controlled topsoil strip and the excavation of two evaluation trenches. The controlled topsoil strip was excavated in the south-east corner of the site, where minimum development had taken place. The trenching was excavated across the location of the former factory.
- 4.3 The topsoil strip evaluation was achieved through the excavation of a 50 m by 50 m area using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 2 m wide ditching bucket (Figure 1). The trenching was achieved through the excavation of two linear trenches (Figure 1) using a mechanical excavator (tracked 360°) equipped with a 2 m wide ditching bucket.
- 4.4 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedure's (WSI Appendix 7, 7.1 to 7.29). Spoil was placed to the side of the evaluation trenches. No attempt was made to separate topsoil, made ground and subsoil. Trench descriptions can be found in Appendix 1. Black and white print and colour slide photographs were taken during the course of the works (Appendix 2).

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 The entire site was covered in at least 0.40 m of made ground comprising crushed building debris, which represent the material deposited from the most recent demolition phase of works. Generally, this made ground directly overlay the natural sands and gravels. Information from the client suggests that all of the walls and structural elements of the buildings that formerly occupied the site had been removed prior to AOC's arrival on site (Alex Finlay pers comm.), although elements of the loading bay were identified (Plates 1 and 2).
- 5.2 The area monitored during the controlled topsoil strip comprised between 0.40 m and 1.40 m in depth of made ground overlying both natural sands and gravels and existing building remains. The area contained evidence of the foundations and floor surfaces associated with the former factory building (Plate 1). A series of old services had further truncated the area.



Plate 1: General shot of monitored topsoil strip



Plate 2: Concrete floor at base of topsoil strip

- 5.3 The two trenches were excavated through between 0.50 m and 1.40 m of made ground, overlying and excavated in to the natural sand and gravel (Plate 3). No evidence was identified for either walls or floor levels relating to the factory building, although various service pipes were encountered.



Plate 3: Post-excavation shot of Trench 2

5.4 The results of the evaluation suggests that previous development across the site has removed the first 0.50 m of natural subsoil, thereby removing any the layer in which archaeological features could have been encountered.

5.4 Neither significant archaeological remains nor features were identified.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were identified during the evaluation.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by CECAS on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council.

8. REFERENCES

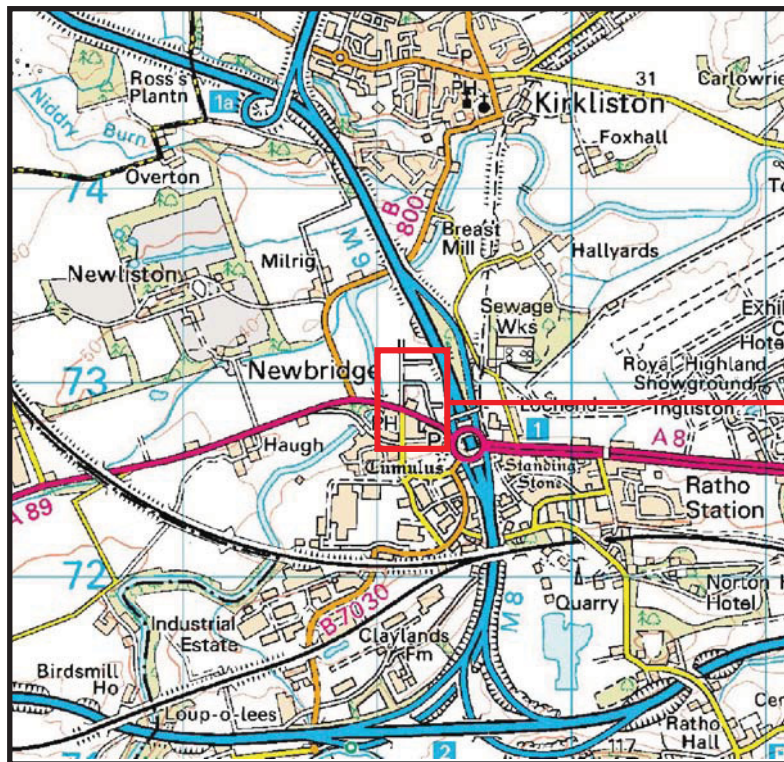
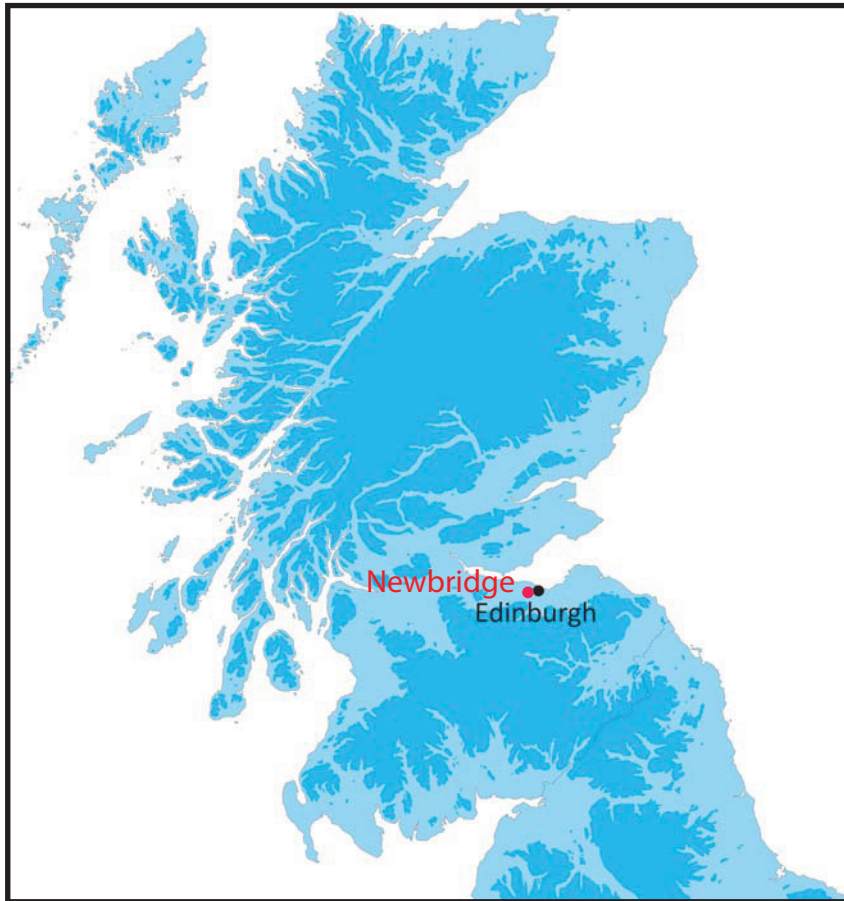
Duffy, A 2008 An Archaeological Evaluation at Plot 1, Axis Business Park, Newbridge, (Kirkliston Parish). *Discovery and Excavation, Scotland* 2008, 80.

Engl, R & Hunter Blair, A 2008 *Kirkliston Road, Newbridge: Excavation Data Structure Report*. AOC Unpubl Archive Report.

Heawood R 2003 2A Kirkliston Road, Newbridge, (Kirkliston Parish) Watching Brief, Evaluation. *Discovery and Excavation, Scotland* 2003, 75.

Scottish Government Feb 2010 Scottish Planning Policy 2010.

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



Site Area

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Figure 1: Location of the site at Newbridge Plots 2 & 12



Figure 2: Monitored archaeology works at Plot 2, Newbridge

- Site boundary
- Former location of the factory
- Area of monitored top soil strip
- Evaluation trench
- Demolished Building
- Buffer Zone

Based on a drawing supplied by the client

**Plots 2 and 12a and 12b, Newbridge, Edinburgh
Data Structure Report
Section 2: Appendices**

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 50 m by 2 m |
| <i>Orientation</i> | North to south |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.30-0.40 1.40 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | Modern services |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Sands and gravels |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 2

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 100 m by 2 m |
| <i>Orientation</i> | W/E |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.40 to 1.40 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | Modern Services |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Sands and gravels |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 3 (topsoil strip)

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 50 m by 50 m |
| <i>Orientation</i> | W/E |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.50 m to 1 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | Red brick walls and concrete floors |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Gravels and sands |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Black & White Print/ /Digital Film 1

| Frame | Trench | Description | From |
|-------|--------|--|------|
| 1 | | Registration | |
| 2-3 | N/A | Western fragment of topsoil strip | N |
| 4-5 | N/A | Western fragment of topsoil strip | S |
| 6-7 | N/A | Area of red brick walls and concrete floor | S |
| 8-9 | N/A | Middle fragment of topsoil strip area | N |
| 10-11 | N/A | Eastern fragment of topsoil strip area | N |
| 12-13 | 1 | Post-excavation shot of trench | S |
| 14-15 | 2 | Post-excavation shot of trench | W |

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland'

| | |
|---|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | Edinburgh |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | Plots 2, 12a and 12b, Axis Business Park, Newbridge, Edinburgh |
| PROJECT CODE: | 21768 |
| PARISH: | Kirkliston |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Martin Cook |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | AOC Archaeology Group |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Evaluation |
| NMRS NO(S): | None |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | None |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | None |
| NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures) | NT 1211 7292 |
| START DATE (this season) | 24 th November 2010 |
| END DATE (this season) | 26 th November 2010 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.) | Heawood R 2003 2A Kirkliston Road, Newbridge, (Kirkliston Parish) Watching Brief, Evaluation. <i>Discovery and Excavation, Scotland</i> 2003, 75. Duffy, A 2008 An Archaeological Evaluation at Plot 1, Axis Business Park, Newbridge, (Kirkliston Parish). <i>Discovery and Excavation, Scotland</i> 2008, 80. |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on a proposed commercial development, Newbridge, Edinburgh. The archaeological evaluation consisted of a monitored topsoil strip and the excavation of 2 trenches (2700 m ²) Neither archaeologically significant finds nor features were encountered. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | None |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Eastern Holdings Limited |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR: | AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY. |
| EMAIL ADDRESS: | admin@aocarchaeology.com |
| ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited) | Archive to be deposited in NMRS |



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