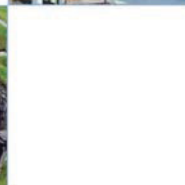
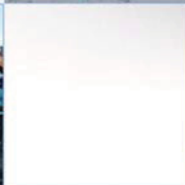
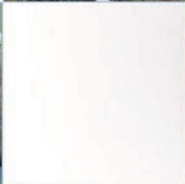
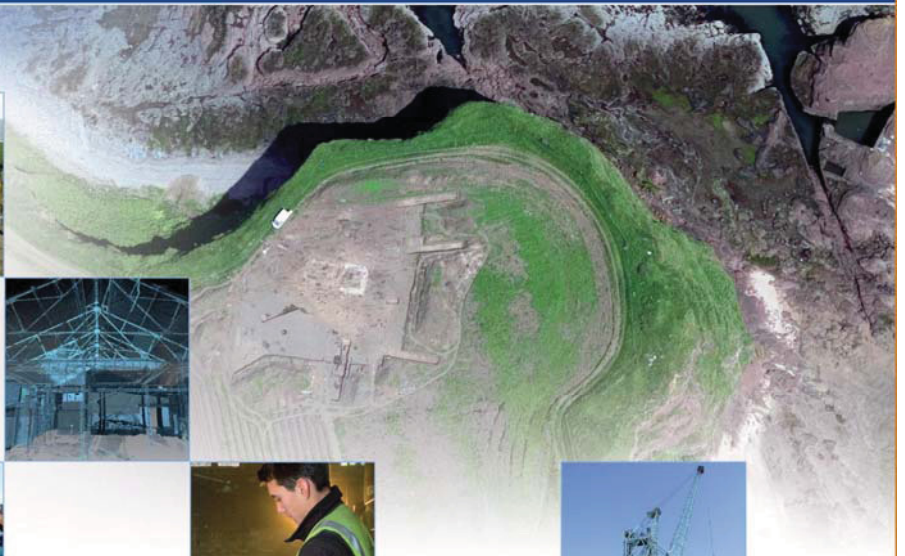


42 Hermiston, Edinburgh: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

21672

23rd November 2010



42 Hermiston, Edinburgh:

Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Mr Jim McKendrick 42 Hermiston Hermiston EH14 4AQ
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 1767 7023
AOC Project No:	21672
Prepared by:	Mike Roy
Illustration by:	Mike Roy
Date of Fieldwork:	1st - 2nd November 2010
Date of Report:	23rd November 2010

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

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Draft Report Stage:	Date: 23rd November 2010

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Abstract

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Mr Jim McKendrick to undertake an archaeological watching brief on ground breaking works at 42 Hermiston, Edinburgh, on the outskirts of the small village of Hermiston. The location is thought likely to have been central within the medieval fermtoun of Hermiston, which is a Conservation Area.

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 Jim McKendrick to undertake a watching brief on ground breaking works associated with the development at 42 Hermiston, City of Edinburgh.
- 0.2 These works were required to satisfy Mr John Lawson, principal archaeologist at City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS), to address the impact of development works with regard to a planning application for the construction of a single residential dwelling. The location of the works was in the centre of the medieval fermtoun of Hermiston, which is an historic Conservation Area.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The area lies within the administrative jurisdiction of the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC), who are advised on archaeological matters by Mr. John Lawson of CECAS. The archaeological works were required by Mr Jim McKendrick to address the impact of development works with regard to a condition on planning permission for the construction of a single residential dwelling (Planning Ref 10/0493/FUL) and were in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and PAN 42 (SOEnD 1994).
- 1.2 The site lies on the outskirts of the small village of Hermiston, close to Hermiston Farm and is centred at NGR NT 1767 7023 (Figure 1). The A71 Calder Road passes to the south of the property and existing buildings lie to the north, east and west of the site. The building plot is situated within the garden of the existing 42 Hermiston property and incorporates land previously occupied by a recently demolished garage (Planning Ref 10/00493/FUL).
- 1.3 The site is located in the centre of the medieval fermtoun of Hermiston, a Conservation Area, which is of potential archaeological significance in terms of medieval and later rural development. To the west of the area impacted by groundworks is a 19th century cottage. The site was until late-2008 to 2009 bounded to the north by a range of mid-19th century farm buildings, which have been demolished. No trace of this feature was visible during the archaeological works.
- 1.4 The works required comprised a watching brief on all ground breaking works associated with the development at 42 Hermiston including any foundation trenches, service trenches and landscaping works, along with a photographic record of a boundary wall, which had partially collapsed.
- 1.5 Following a site visit by Mr Lawson, it was agreed that the watching brief should cease following the opening of the majority of foundation trenches. There was no sign, during the site visit of the boundary wall.

2. AIMS

- 2.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were:
 - i) to determine the character, extent and quality, date and condition of any archaeologically significant remains that might be disturbed by the development works, namely all ground breaking works for new foundations, service trenches or landscaping works;
 - ii) to make a photographic record with annotated location plan of the remains of the collapsed boundary wall;

- iii) to liaise with CECAS and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.

3. METHOD

- 3.1 Ground breaking works associated with the foundations of a new dwelling were monitored by an archaeologist. The ground breaking works involved the stripping of c. 0.15 m topsoil over the extent of the new house, followed by the excavation of c. 0.7 m wide foundation trenches through topsoil and into the subsoil, to a depth of c. 1.0 m, by a small tracked 360° Mechanical Digger, equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation was in shallow spits under the supervision of an experienced field archaeologist. The trenches were planned and photographed, and deposits and features were recorded (Appendices 1-3). The plan (Figure 2) shows the limit of the topsoil strip and monitored foundation trenches.
- 3.2 Recording of the trench revealed a series of ceramic and stone-filled field drains (Figure 2; Plates 1 and 2), underlying the topsoil.
- 3.3 During the watching brief, no remains of the boundary wall were found to be present.

4. RESULTS

- 4.1.1 Underneath c. 0.3-0.5 m modern topsoil layer [1], and overlying a light reddish brown subsoil, a buried soil layer [2] was identified. This was a mid to dark reddish brown gritty silty clay. Its depth was generally c. 0.30 m, though in the centre of the foundation works it was 0.42 m in depth. A series of ceramic drains (Plate 1) were visible at the base of the foundation trenches in the west and north of the excavated area. In addition, a stone-filled field drain [3] was located in the southern foundation trench (Figure 2; Plate 2), cut through deposit [2]. Pottery of no earlier than 19th century date was identified within the fill of this feature. In the south-east of the foundation trenches an animal burial [6] was identified (Plate 3), cut through topsoil [1].
- 4.1.2 No significant archaeological remains were noted during the recording of the foundation trenches (Plate 4).
- 4.1.3 No trace of the boundary wall was noted during the watching brief. The boundary wall had suffered a total collapse some months prior to the undertaking of the watching brief so unfortunately a photographic record of the wall could not be included with the site archive.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Given the negative findings by the watching brief no further archaeological works are considered necessary. The recommendation will require confirmation by Mr Lawson of CECAS.



Plate 1: Western foundation trench showing S-facing section and ceramic drains



Plate 2: South of site showing drain [3]



Plate 3: Animal burial pit [6] in north-facing section



Plate 4: Post-excavation view of site

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Description
1	Dark greyish brown silty clay; topsoil
2	Mid to dark reddish brown gritty silty clay with occasional small to medium stone; buried soil layer
3	East/west-aligned linear cut into [2], 0.7 m wide, 0.5 m+ deep, near vertical sides; drainage ditch
4	Irregular and sub-rounded medium and large stone in loose dark reddish grey silty clay; basal fill of ditch [3]
5	Mottled mid reddish brown/grey silty clay with rare small to medium stone; upper fill of ditch [3]
6	0.45 m deep cut into [2]; near vertical sides and flat base; pit for animal burial
7	Loose dark greyish brown silty clay with common animal bone; basal fill of pit [6]
8	Dark greyish brown silty clay; upper fill of pit [6] = topsoil

APPENDIX 2: FINDS REGISTER

Finds No.	Context No.	Material
1	1	Ceramic – pottery
2	4	Ceramic – pottery
3	1	Clay pipe
4	7	Animal Bone - ? Cow

APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Black & White Print No. 1

Shot No.	Description	From
1-2	Registration shots	-
3-4	Topsoil strip – working	SW
5-6	Site	SW
7-8	Stone dump (modern)	S
9-10	Soil strip near completion	SW
11-12	West foundation trench showing ceramic drains	S
13-14	Stone drain [3]	SE
15-16	W-facing section, centre of foundation works	W
17-18	Working shot	NW
19-20	South foundation works, showing drain [3]	E
21-22	N-facing section of animal burial pit [6]	S
23-24	Post-excavation view of site	E

Colour Slide No. 1

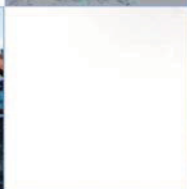
Shot No.	Description	From
1-2	Registration shots	-
3-4	Topsoil strip – working	SW
5-6	Site	SW
7-8	Stone dump (modern)	S
9-10	Soil strip near completion	SW
11-12	West foundation trench showing ceramic drains	S
13-14	Stone drain [3]	SE
15-16	W-facing section, centre of foundation works	W
17-18	Working shot	NW
19-20	South foundation works, showing drain [3]	E
21-22	N-facing section of animal burial pit [6]	S
23-24	Post-excavation view of site	E

Digital No. 1

Shot No.	Description	From
1-2	Registration shots	-
3-4	Topsoil strip – working	SW
5-6	Site	SW
7-8	Stone dump (modern)	S
9-10	Soil strip near completion	SW
11-12	West foundation trench showing ceramic drains	S
13-14	Stone drain [3]	SE
15-16	W-facing section, centre of foundation works	W
17-18	Working shot	NW
19-20	South foundation works, showing drain [3]	E
21-22	N-facing section of animal burial pit [6]	S
23-24	Post-excavation view of site	E

APPENDIX 4: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	42 Hermiston
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21672
PARISH:	Currie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Mike Roy
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological watching brief on foundation groundworks
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 1767 7023
START DATE (this season)	1 st November 2010
END DATE (this season)	2 nd November 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on ground breaking works associated with the construction of a new dwelling at 42 Hermiston; a location central to the medieval fermtoun of Hermiston. Modern services and a field drain of no earlier than 19 th century date were identified, cutting a reddish brown gritty silty clay buried soil layer. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Jim McKendrick
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	C/o AOC Archaeology Group
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