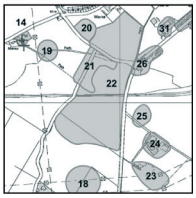
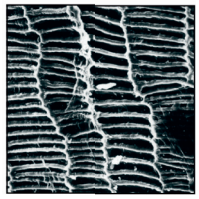
CMDE/02





CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS CLUB
25 MARINE DRIVE, EDINBURGH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

commissioned by Marcos

12/01964/FUL

November 2015

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA

CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS CLUB
25 MARINE DRIVE, EDINBURGH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

commissioned by Marcos

12/01964/FUL

November 2015

project info

HA JOB NO.	CMDE/02
NGR	NT 216 766
PARISH	Edinburgh
LOCAL AUTHORITY	City of Edinburgh Council
OASIS REF.	headland1-229582

project team

PROJECT MANAGER	Edward Bailey
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APPROVED BY	Edward Bailey – Project Manager

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PROJECT SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of indoor playing pitches and modifications to an existing structure at the Civil Service Sports Club, 25 Marine Drive, Edinburgh. The evaluation entailed 12% trial trenching of existing outdoor playing fields. Just a small number of rubble field drains were recorded. The test pit showed a layer of blueish clay beneath the soil where these features were laid out. Geological sand and gravel deposits were reached less than 1.20m deep just below the aforementioned clay.

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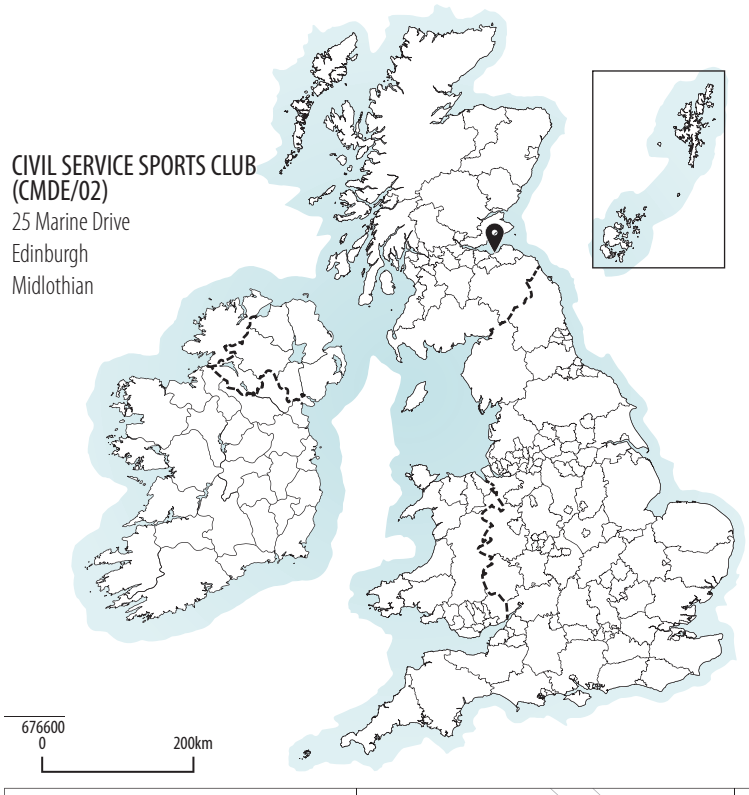
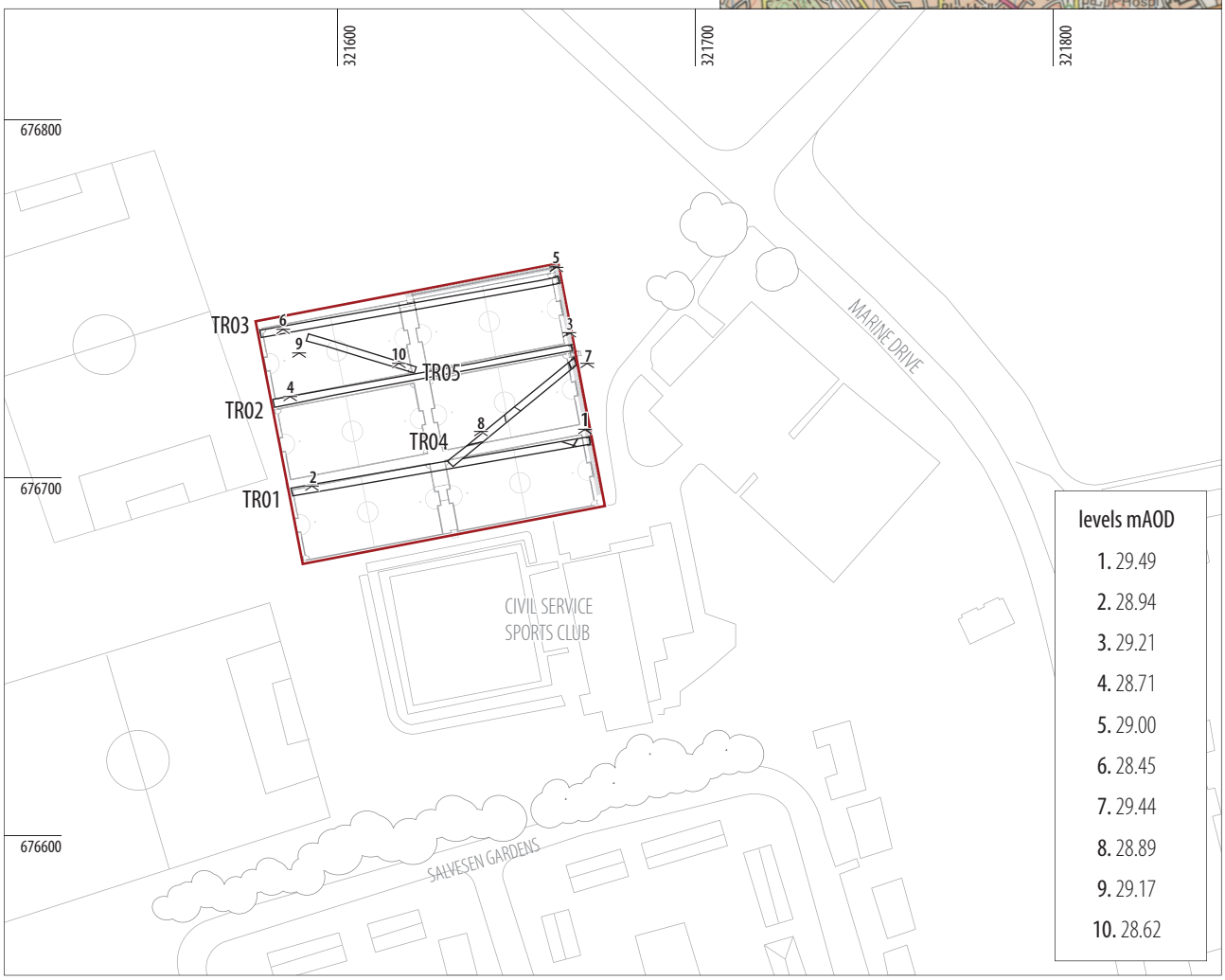
CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS CLUB (CMDE/02)

25 Marine Drive
Edinburgh
Midlothian





levels mAOD

1. 29.49
2. 28.94
3. 29.21
4. 28.71
5. 29.00
6. 28.45
7. 29.44
8. 28.89
9. 29.17
10. 28.62

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KEY

- development boundary
- trench location
- field drain

N

0 100m

scale 1:2,000 @ A4

ILLUS 1

Site location

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CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS CLUB 25 MARINE DRIVE, EDINBURGH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

Planning consent has been granted by the City of Edinburgh Council for the construction of indoor playing pitches and modifications to an existing structure at the Civil Service Sports Club, 25 Marine Drive. The City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS) advised that a condition be attached to that consent that required the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved in writing by the Head of Planning.

The client commissioned Headland Archaeology to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) setting out the programme of archaeological work (trial trenching).

The WSI was submitted to and agreed with the City of Edinburgh Archaeological Service (the curator) who advise the Local Planning Authority on archaeological matters. This report details the results of the work.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The evaluation sought to provide further information about the archaeological resource, to enable appropriate decisions to be reached regarding any planning submission and therefore mitigate any adverse impacts on that resource.

More specifically, it sought to establish the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the specified locations to be impacted by site investigation works.

3 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located in north Edinburgh, between Granton and Silverknowes (NGR: NT 216 766; see **ILLUS 1**). It is occupied by a Civil Service Sports Club, car park and playing fields, with the site proposed indoor playing pitches currently used as outdoor playing fields

The site lies around 30mOD and is underlain by clean geological deposits of sand and gravel deposits, which are of Devensian in origin (British Geological Survey website; http://www.bgs.ac.uk).

4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The development area is currently football pitches and a sports club. The early 19th century Craigroyston House is located approximately 250 m to the north. Another early 19th century country house, Granton House, was located approximately the same distance to the north-east, before it was destroyed by fire in the 1950s. According to the OS First edition map (1853) the development area appears to lie on the south-west boundary of the grounds of these two buildings. It was possible that garden or designed landscape features related to these houses had survived as sub-surface archaeological features but no evidence regarding this was recorded whatsoever.

5 METHODOLOGY

The work was undertaken as specified in the WSI. In total, five trenches equating to 12.7% of the proposed development area were excavated using a JCB equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All excavations were carried out under direct archaeological supervision, with deposits removed in controlled spits.

A test pit was excavated to investigate deep depositional sequence, this was backfilled immediately after excavation.

5.1 RECORDING

All aspects of the work were undertaken in accordance with the current relevant ***Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists for conducting archaeological evaluations*** (2008).

All archaeological deposits were recorded using standard archaeological methods and proforma record sheets. Digital photographs were taken. Trenches were recorded using a dGPS.

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ILLUS 2

SW facing shot of Trench 1

ILLUS 3

Modern features in Trench 1, facing S

5.2 REPORTING AND ARCHIVES

The results of the works are presented below. A summary report has been prepared for submission to Discovery & Excavation in Scotland (Appendix 2) and the OASIS database.

The complete project archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) within six months of the completion of the project. The records (paper and digital) will be archived according to best practice guidelines set out by the Archaeological Archiving Forum.

6 RESULTS

Three 94m long evaluation trenches following the line of the proposed foundation trenches for the development and two 26m long trenches, located within the footprint of the proposed indoor playing pitches (see **ILLUS 1**) were excavated. The total sampled area amounted to 12.7%, of the development area. Trenches were 2m wide and had an average depth 0.55m.

Immediately below the topsoil, comprising dark brown sandy silt down to 0.30m, was a layer of redeposited natural sands and gravels mixed with brown silty sand. In this several rubble field drains were encountered, probably related to the need of providing well-drained and level ground for the playing pitches. Below this deposit, with an average thickness of 0.50m, a layer of compact blueish silty clay lay over the natural sands and gravels. The water table was reached at 1.20m in the test pit.

The following summarizes the results of the trenching:

Trenches 1, 2, 3 Orientated SW-NE, all with a length of 83.75m and average depth of 0.55m. In Trench 1, just a modern linear (0.50m wide) was identified with a fill of clinker and disturbed soil, related to a modern pipe drain (**ILLUS 2 – 5**).

Trench 4 Orientated NE-SW, with a length of 36.32m and an average depth of 0.50m. Four rubble field drains were recorded following different orientations with an average width of 0.30m (**ILLUS 6** and **7**).

Trench 5 Orientated NW-SE, with a length of 30.17m, no significant features were detected in this trench (**ILLUS 8**).

7 DISCUSSION

The evaluation identified no features or deposits of archaeological significance. The only features present comprised linear features identified as rubble field drains.. The high water table and presence of numerous field drains indicate that prior to modern development the site was poorly drained and therefore may have been unsuitable for pre-modern settlement.

ILLUS 4
SW facing shot of Trench 2

ILLUS 5
NE facing shot of Trench 3

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Archives Forum ***Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*** (published by the CIfA 2007).

IfA Standards and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (revised October 2008).

SPP: Scottish Planning Policy (February 2010; http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/03132605/0)

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ILLUS 6

Rubble field drain in Trench 4, facing NW

ILLUS 7

SW facing shot of Trench 4

ILLUS 8

NW facing shot of Trench 5

9 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Frame	File name	Direction	Description
001	CMDE-02-001	SE	NW facing section in Test pit, Trench 4
002	CMDE-02-002	NW	First stages of excavation Trench 1, facing NW
003	CMDE-02-003	SE	NW facing section in Test pit, Trench 4
004	CMDE-02-004	NW	General vew of Trench 1
005	CMDE-02-005	SE	General vew of Trench 1
006	CMDE-02-006	SE	General vew of Trench 1
007	CMDE-02-007	SW	Modern feature and field drain in Trench 1 - Detail
008	CMDE-02-008	SW	Modern feature and field drain in Trench 1
009	CMDE-02-009	NW	General view Trench 1
010	CMDE-02-010	NW	General view Trench 2
011	CMDE-02-011	NW	General view Trench 2
012	CMDE-02-012	NW	General view Trench 2
013	CMDE-02-013	NW	General view Trench 2
014	CMDE-02-014	NW	Trench 3 in excavation process
015	CMDE-02-015	SE	General view of Trench 3
016	CMDE-02-016	S	Field drain in Trench 4
017	CMDE-02-017	SW	Excavation Trench 4
018	CMDE-02-018	SW	Excavation Trench 4
019	CMDE-02-019	SW	Excavation Trench 4
020	CMDE-02-020	NW	Field drain in Trench 4
021	CMDE-02-021	NW	Field drain in Trench 4
022	CMDE-02-022	N	Field drain in Trench 4
023	CMDE-02-023	SW	General view Trench 4
024	CMDE-02-024	S	NW section in Trench 5
025	CMDE-02-025	S	NW section in Trench 5
026	CMDE-02-026	SE	Trench 5 in excavation
027	CMDE-02-027	NW	General view of Trench 5
028	CMDE-02-028	NW	General view of Trench 5

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APPENDIX 2 DES ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Civil Service Sports Club 25 Marine Drive, Edinburgh Archaeological Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	CMDE/02
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Rafael Maya-Torcelly
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	n/a
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	urban
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	none
NGR:	NT 216 766
START DATE (this season):	9th October 2015
END DATE (this season):	12th October 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.):	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed indoor playing pitches construction and modifications to an existing structure at the Civil Service Sports Club, 25 Marine Drive. Just a small number of rubble field drains were recorded. Geological sand and gravel deposits were reached less than 1.20m deep just below the aforementioned clay.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited):	NMRS
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Marcos
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Headland Archaeology Ltd, 13 Jane St, Edinburgh. EH6 5HE
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