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LOGIE GREEN ROAD, EDINBURGH

Results of a desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation

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MA (Hons) AIfA

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

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<i>Parish</i>	EDINBURGH
<i>Council</i>	CITY OF EDINBURGH
<i>Planning Application Ref No</i>	08/01365
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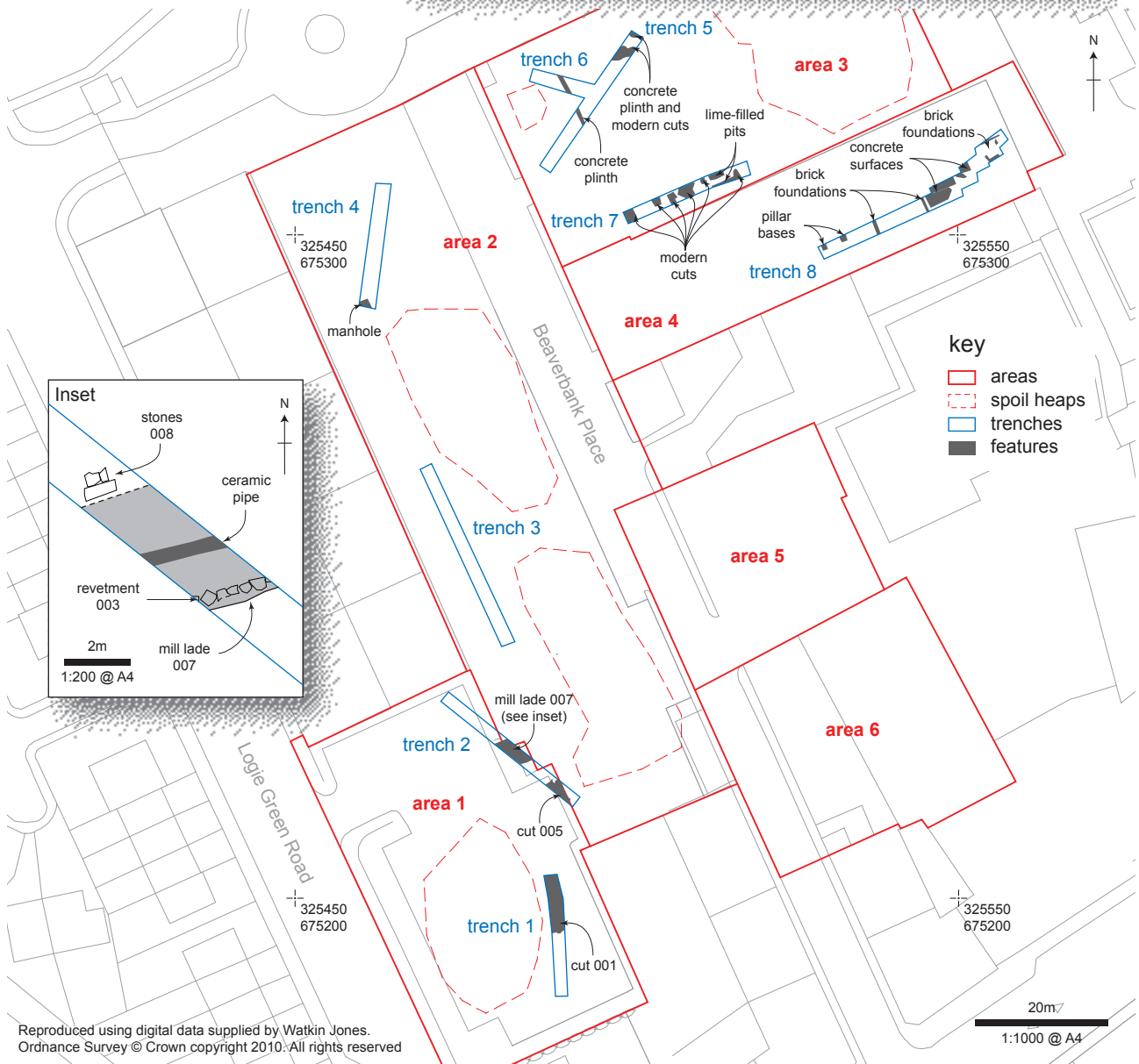
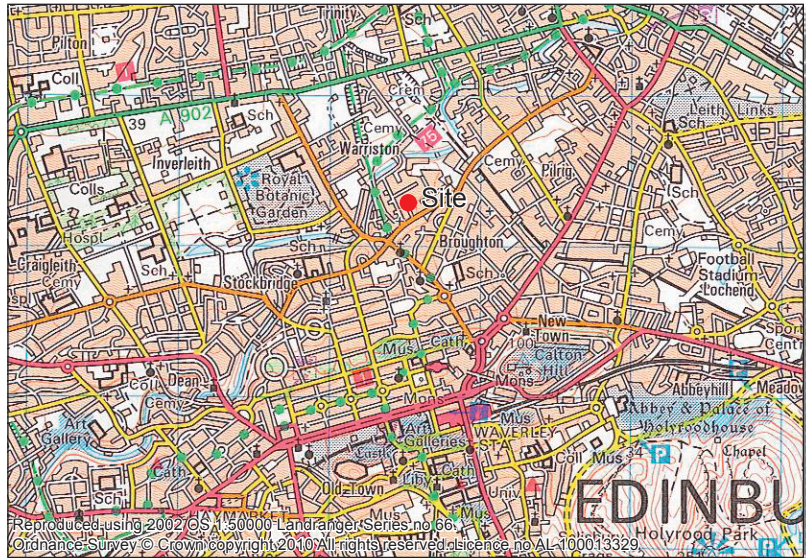
Signed off by:

Simon Stronach BSc(Hons) MIFA, Project Manager

Date:.....

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Illus 1

Site location and trench plan showing recorded features

LOGIE GREEN ROAD, EDINBURGH

Results of a desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation

by Jürgen van Wessel

A desk-based assessment and a programme of trial trenching were undertaken at a site on Logie Green Road/Beaverbank Place, Edinburgh, in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent. Map and documentary evidence highlighted the potential for archaeologically significant remains within the proposed development area. An early-mid 18th century mill lade and mid 19th century industrial buildings were specifically targeted during the evaluation programme. The lade was well preserved, and could be dated to fit closely with the map evidence. A further substantial infilled cut feature to the south may represent an earlier incarnation of this lade, and the fill contained pottery dating to the late 17th-early 18th century. These features are assessed as of archaeological significance.

Elsewhere structural foundations and some pits were thought to relate to 19/20th century industrial activity. They provided little new information and are not assessed as of archaeological significance.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Watkin Jones Construction to carry out a desk-based archaeological assessment and a programme of archaeological evaluation at Logie Green Road/Beaverbank Place, Edinburgh (Illus 1), in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent (Planning App. No. 08/01365/FUL). The work was undertaken under the terms of a Written Scheme of Investigation produced in 2009 and agreed with the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). The area available for evaluation measured approximately 7500m², and included land on both sides of Beaverbank Place, covering a car park and the sites of several recently demolished industrial buildings. The work was carried out between the 11th and 14th of December 2009.

2 AIMS AND METHODS

2.1 Desk-based Assessment

The desk-based assessment was undertaken prior to work starting on site. A search was undertaken for documents from the following sources:

- Maps and plans held at the National Library of Scotland
- Maps, plans and documents held by the National Archives of Scotland (NAS)
- Information held in the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS)
- The Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network (SCRAN)
- Capital Collections

The findings are outlined in the results section, and a list of sources is provided in the bibliography.

2.2 Trial Trenching

The evaluation was intended to identify any significant archaeological remains that would be threatened by the proposed mixed-use development. The test trenches were located to target features identified by the desk-based assessment, while avoiding several large spoil heaps of demolition material. Additionally, Areas 5 and 6 were not accessible to a mechanical excavator at the time of fieldwork, and were not trenched.

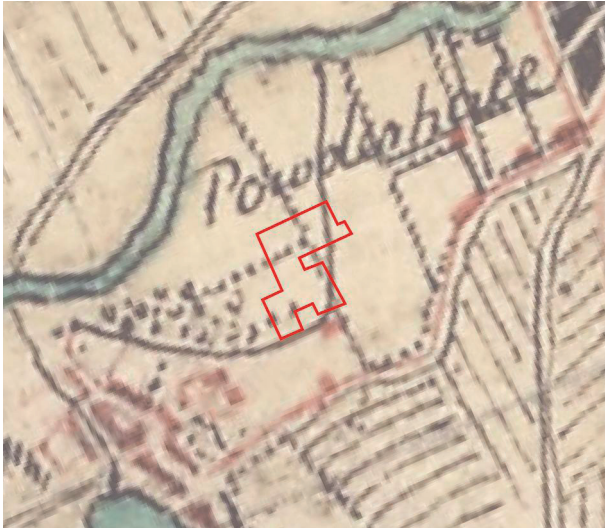
The trenching was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed bucket, operating under continuous archaeological supervision. A toothed bucket was used initially to remove overlying tarmac, also under supervision. Any potential features identified during the trenching were hand cleaned, investigated and recorded appropriately.

3 RESULTS

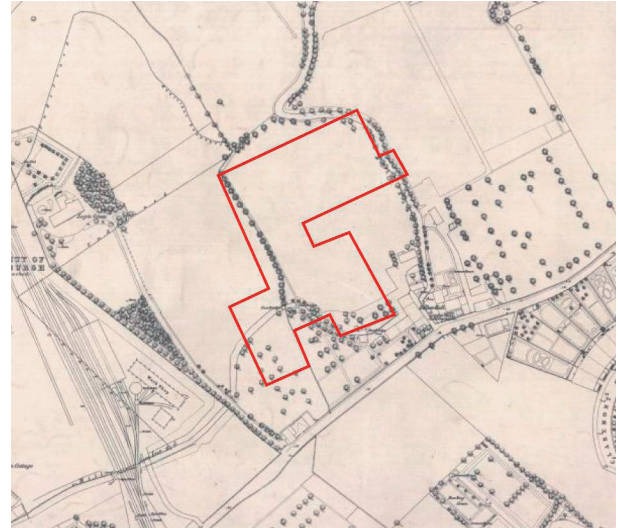
3.1 Desk-based Assessment

18th century

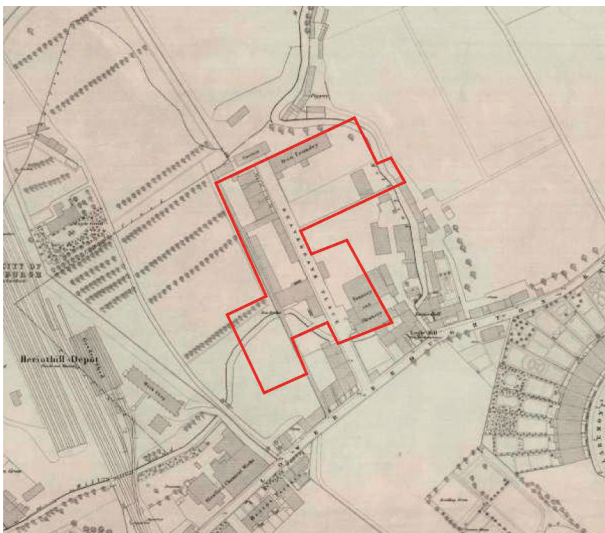
The pre-Ordnance survey maps show the area largely as fields with Wariston marked on; a mill is marked on the south side of the Water of Leith on Adair's (1682) and Laurie's (1766) maps – this is labelled as Bonnington Mill on Laurie's map. Roy's Map (1747-55, Illus 2a) shows a mill lade running from the loch at Canon Mills eastwards towards the site and beyond to the Water of Leith. A small



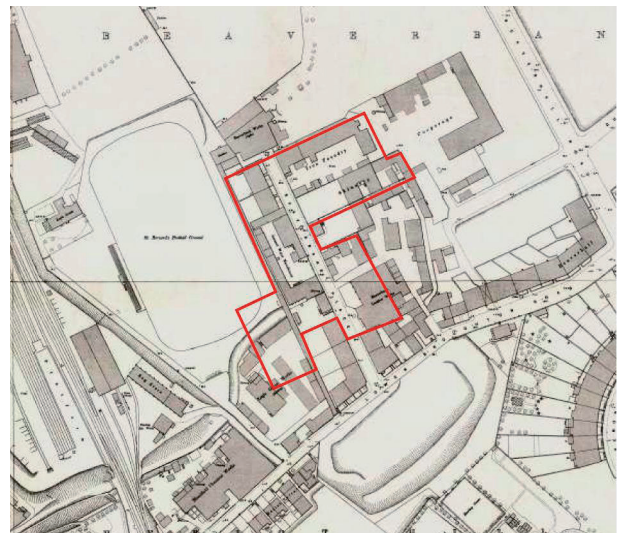
Illus 2a
Roy's Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-55
©The British Library. Licensor www.scran.ac.uk



Illus 2b
Ordnance Survey 1st Edition, 1853
Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland



Illus 2c
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition, 1876
Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland



Illus 2d
Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition, 1896
Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland

building shown at a bend in the mill lade is presumably Logie Mill, demonstrating that it was established by the mid 18th century. The site's location cannot be determined with any accuracy on Roy's map and the outline shown in Illus 2a is indicative only. Knox's map of 1812 shows an area marked as Logie Green to the east of a big house.

19th century

Kirkwood's (1817) map shows the site in some detail (in *An Atlas of Old Edinburgh*). This shows a Mill Lead running across the middle of the westernmost part of site (labelled Area 1 on the drawing) and roughly along the southern boundary of the site. Most of the eastern part of the site is part of Clark's Mill Bleach Fields in Mr Hay's property, the mill lade may be associated with Clark's Mill, though the mill itself is not marked. A search of NMRS and the NAS did not produce any information on Clark's Mill. Logie Mill is not marked on this map.

The first edition Ordnance Survey map (1853, Illus 2b) shows Logie Mill and Beaver Hall to the east of the site and also shows the mill lade noted above. The site can now be located with more certainty and the route of the mill lade noted; most of the site is still fields. A footbridge across the lade can be seen to the north of Area 1.

The second edition Ordnance Survey map (1876, Illus 2c) shows the site has been developed, with buildings on either side of Beaverhall Place and the mill lade still open. There is a building in the north-east corner of Area 1, buildings on the eastern side of Area 2 and an Iron Foundry on the north side of Area 3. There is a building at the eastern end of Area 4 and a Tannery and Skinnery occupies Area 6. By 1896 (Illus 2d) there are additional buildings in Areas 3, 4 and 5 and the Tannery and Skinnery has become Beaverbank Leather Works. Beaver Tanning Company Ltd (NT27NE 455) is recorded by the NMRS and the collection includes a full list of elevations and plans of the building. The building

in Area 2 has been extended and is now occupied by an Aerated Water manufactory. The mill lade is shown on the west of the site but appears to have been culverted and runs underground in the east of the site.

20th century

The 1908 Ordnance Survey map shows that Logie Green Road has been built to the west of the site. By 1914 the building in Area 4 is labelled as Skin Works; no other buildings are labelled. The buildings in Area 5 are no longer standing and the area has been cleared. There is little change in the layout of the buildings from this period onwards. In 1955 the building in Area 2 is a Furniture Factory, in Area 3 is a Boiler Works, in Area 4 is a Skin Works, Area 5 is a Garage and the eastern building in Area 6 is a Cooperage. By 1967 there are houses at the north end of Area 2. Sometime before 1984 a small building is built at the west side of Area 3. There subsequently appears to be little major change until the recent demolition of the buildings.

The National Archives of Scotland were consulted but no relevant material was present. SCRAN and capital Collections were also searched for photographs of the former buildings on the site but none were located. The entries from the NMRS are summarised in table 1.

Table 1
NMRS entries

Site name	Site type	Site No	NGR
* Beaver Tanning Company Limited	Works	NT27NE 455	NT 2555 7530
Logie Green House	House	NT27NE 883	NT 2533 7528
Logie Green Works	Cooperage, Saw Mills	NT27NE 886	NT 2564 7534
Warriston Works/ Waterston's Printing works, 73 - 77 Logie Green Road	Printing Works	NT27NE 866	NT 25390 75424

* Within the site boundary. The rest of the entries are in the surrounding area.

3.2 Trial trenching (Illus 1)

On the basis of the findings of the desk based assessment the trenches were targeted on the following locations:

Trench No	Length (m)	Location
1	25	Mapped mill lade
2	20	Mapped 19th Century building in NE corner Area 1
3	30	Area of no mapped buildings Area 2



Illus 3
Stone revetment [003]

4	20	Area of no mapped buildings Area 2
5	30	Mapped iron foundry Area 3
6	30	Area of no mapped buildings Area 3
7	30	Mapped tannery Area 4

Trench 1 (20 x 2m)

Trench 1 was located in the eastern side of Area 1. It was excavated through tarmac, demolition rubble, and silty-clay topsoil [009] to a clean, light brown clay at an average depth of 1m. The clay was interpreted as alluvium most likely deposited by the Water of Leith. In the base of the trench was the south-western edge of a large cut [001] with weathered, concave sides, and filled with mid brown sandy clay [002] containing fragments of pottery, glass, clay pipe and animal bone. The extents or shape of this cut could not be demonstrated as it extended beyond the limits of the trench to the west, north and east. A sondage was hand excavated at the northern end to test the feature. No base was encountered and the sondage demonstrated that the cut was over 0.8m deep at this point. The finds from [002] most likely represent material from late 17th – early 18th century (see finds assessment, below).

Trench 2 (25 x 2m)

Trench 2 was located north of Trench 1, in the north-east corner of Area 1. It was targeted at the mill lade identified by the desk-based assessment. The trench was again excavated through tarmac, rubble and topsoil [009] to brown clay alluvium, which was reached at an average depth of 0.9m.

A linear cut [007] was discovered running east-west across the trench. The location, width and orientation of the cut correspond well to the mapped evidence for the former mill lade. The southern edge was marked by a substantial dry-stone revetment [003]. A single course of substantial stones survived in the trench (Illus 3), though 2-3 courses were visible in the trench sections. The space between the stones and the edge of the lade cut was packed with a fine



Illus 4
Stone structure [008]

light brown/grey clay. The revetment rested on a thin black sandy-gravel deposit [004] which extended towards the center of the lade. This deposit contained several fragments of glass, leather and animal bone, dated to the early-mid 18th century (see finds assessment, below). This may represent a temporary surface laid down during construction of the revetment. The northern edge of the lade was defined by several dressed slabs [008], in alignment with the edge of the cut (Illus 4). The lade had been intentionally backfilled with a dark mixed deposit containing machine-made bricks, stones and other demolition rubble. A modern ceramic pipe had been cut into the fill. The overall width of the lade was *c* 4m, and it was around 0.9m deep from the top of the surviving revetment.

An irregular cut [005] was revealed at the south-east end of the trench. The full extents of the feature were not exposed; it had near-vertical sides and uniform fine mid-grey silty clay fill that contained no modern material, suggesting that this may be the result of relatively early activity.

Trench 3 (30 x 2m)

Trench 3 was located along the western edge of Area 2, targeting an area that had remained as open ground until the mid-late 19th century. It was excavated through demolition rubble that formed the present ground surface to the tan clay alluvium, at an average depth of 0.9m. No significant features were discovered. Demolition rubble lay directly over alluvium and no former ground surface was observed.

Trench 4 (20 x 2m)

Trench 4 was located in the northern end of Area 2, and was excavated through coarse grey gravel levelling deposit that formed the present ground surface to a mid red/brown alluvial gravel, between 0.6 and 1.4m from the surface. A modern brick-built manhole was discovered at the south-western end. No features of archaeological significance were located in this trench. Demolition rubble lay directly over alluvium and no former ground surface was observed.

Trenches 5 and 6 (25 x 2m and 10 x 2m)

Trenches 5 and 6 were located in the north-western corner of Area 3. Due to limited space, the proposed Trench 5 was shortened and the remainder appended as Trench 6 to the north-west, forming a 'T' shape. The trenches were excavated through demolition rubble that formed the present ground surface to tan alluvium, which was encountered 0.4-1m from the surface. Three concrete plinths and a series of cuts (cut from immediately below the present ground surface and backfilled with modern demolition debris) were uncovered. Demolition rubble lay directly over alluvium and no former ground surface was observed.

Trench 7 (20 x 2m)

Trench 7 ran parallel with the southern edge of Area 3. It was excavated through 0.7m of demolition rubble that formed the present ground surface to the tan clay alluvium, which became more gravelly towards the western end. Several cuts filled with demolition rubble were uncovered, as well as two rectangular pits (0.7 and 1.2m deep) backfilled with lime. All these features were cut from immediately below the contemporary ground surface and are assumed to be very modern in origin. Demolition rubble lay directly over alluvium and no former ground surface was observed.

Trench 8 (33 x 2m)

Trench 8 was located in the eastern corner of Area 4, inside the recently demolished warehouse. Tan clay alluvium was encountered between 0.6-0.9m below the present ground surface, under modern hardcore and demolition rubble that formed the present ground surface. Several concrete surfaces and brick foundations were discovered at the east end. A further brick foundation and two concrete pillar bases were found to the west. These were cut from immediately below the contemporary ground surface. Demolition rubble lay directly over alluvium and no former ground surface was observed.

4 FINDS ASSESSMENT

Julie Franklin

4.1 Summary of Assemblage (Table 2)

Seven finds were recovered, spread between two features: the fill [002] of a large cut in Trench 1; and fill [004] of the mill lade in Trench 2. All were of post-medieval date, between the 17th and the mid 18th century. The pottery includes a fragment of slipware and a sherd of Seville 'olive jar', a large amphora-like vessel, used for importing liquid goods from Spain. The finds include sherds from glass wine bottles, a clay pipe bowl as well as a scrap of leather.

The clay pipe from fill [002] dates it to the late 17th or early 18th century, and the associated finds are of similar

Context	Material	Qty	Object	Description	Spot Date	Period
002	Clay Pipe	1	Bowl	large heeled bowl, part of heel and any maker's mark missing, Scottish	c.1690-1720	PM
002	Glass	1	Bottle	Green sherd	–	PM/Mod
002	Pottery	1	Slipware	small sherd, white slip-trailed	17th/18th	PM
002	Pottery	1	PMR	olive glazed int & ext	17th/18th	PM
004	Glass	1	Bottle	neck/shoulder sherd from ?mallet bottle	c.1720-50	PM
004	Leather	1	Strip	Found at bottom of mill lade. 103x6mm	–	–
004	Pottery	1	Import	Seville olive jar sherd, orange gritty, with off white exterior layer, a little abraded with stained interior	17th	PM

Table 2
Finds catalogue

date. The finds from the mill lade [003] are probably a little later, the glass bottle sherd suggests a date for this deposit in the early or mid 18th century. An associated sherd of Seville coarseware is a little earlier, but as this sherd is a little abraded, it may well be redeposited.

4.2 Potential of finds assemblage

The finds assemblage is too small to have much potential for further study as it is. However, it does show the potential for interesting finds from apparently well dated deposits. A larger assemblage could provide useful information about the material culture of the post-medieval period in Edinburgh, including imported pottery and early wine bottles with associated clay pipes to aid dating, and even the potential for waterlogged organic finds as evidenced by the survival of leather in the mill lade.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Post-medieval remains

The large cut [001] discovered in Trench 1 cannot be clearly characterised, with neither extents nor depth visible from the limited area exposed. The fill [002], however appears to contain post-medieval midden material, dated to the late 17th or early 18th century. The cut may therefore represent a very substantial waste pit, terracing or perhaps an early effort to control the flow of water through the area. Although the first mapped evidence of the mill lade that crosses site (and the associated Logie Mill) does not appear until the mid 18th century, another nearby mill is shown on Adair's map of 1682.

The location of a large cut in Trench 2 [007] was discovered in close concordance with the line of a mill lade as shown on later map evidence. It may be significant that a stone revetment [003] appears only on the south side – this may represent localised consolidation of a weak

bank, or perhaps stonework was robbed from the opposite bank at some stage. At present, too little has been exposed to draw any firm conclusions. A possible gravel surface [004] laid to construct this revetment can be dated to the early-mid 18th century, which corresponds with mapped evidence for the construction of the lade. It suggests that the lade was not substantially altered until it was infilled or culverted in the late 19th/early 20th century. The stones [008] on the north side of the lade may correspond to a footbridge marked on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey. Since there is no evidence for a related ground surface, the stones may represent a footing, or foundation, rather than a surface.

In the remaining trenches no former ground surfaces were encountered, suggesting that any potential unmapped earlier features may have been truncated prior to the construction of the later industrial buildings.

5.2 19th-20th century

The concrete plinths recorded in Trenches 5 and 6 are likely to relate to foundations for part of the former iron foundry that was present on site from the mid 19th century. The rectangular pits backfilled with lime that were seen in Trench 7 may also be associated with the foundry. The stratigraphic position of these features (immediately below the present ground surface formed from recent demolition material) and their fills (modern demolition material) both suggest that they are very recent in date and some probably relate to the structures demolished immediately prior to the evaluation.

The structures uncovered in Trench 8 are likely to relate to two buildings – the brick foundation walls are likely to relate to the skinnery that appears on the 1876 Ordnance Survey, and further extended by 1893. The concrete surfaces and pillar bases are more likely associated with the recently demolished warehouse.

No surfaces were encountered and the archaeological potential of these previously mapped foundations and recent cut features is assessed as low.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The desk-based assessment outlined the potential for archaeologically significant remains within the proposed development area. Of these, the early-mid 18th century mill lade and mid 19th century industrial buildings were specifically targeted during the evaluation programme. The lade [007] appears to be well preserved, and can be dated by finds to fit closely with the map evidence. It offers good potential for further investigation, in terms of both structural and finds preservation. In contrast remains relating to industrial buildings are restricted to mapped foundations and very recent cut features.

The large cut [001] filled with late 17th-early 18th century midden material [002] was an unexpected find and may relate to the construction of a lade on an earlier, more southerly alignment. Alternatively, it may represent a substantial waste pit. Without exposing more of this feature, little more can be ascertained at present, though it does indicate some substantial activity on the site around the turn of the 18th century.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the staff at Watkin Jones for assistance and to the machine operator from Lomond Plant Hire.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 Cartographic references

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- Roy, W 1747 – 1755 *The Military Survey of Scotland*.
- Laurie, J 1766 *A plan of Edinburgh and places adjacent*.
- Knox, J 1812 *Map of the shire of Edinburgh*.
- Kirkwood, R 1817 *A map of the environs of Edinburgh 1: 3750*.
- Ordnance Survey 1853 *Edinburgh and its Environs Sheet 20*. 1:1050 Surveyed 1852.
- Ordnance Survey 1876 *Edinburgh and its Environs Sheet 20*. 1:1050 Surveyed 1852, Revised 1876.
- Ordnance Survey 1896 *Edinburgh New Series Sheet III.3*. 1:2500 Surveyed 1894.
- Ordnance Survey 1908 *Edinburghshire Sheet III.3*. 1:2500 Re-surveyed 1894, Revised 1905.
- Ordnance Survey 1914 *Edinburghshire Sheet III.3*. 1:2500 Re-surveyed 1894, Revised 1912-13.
- Ordnance Survey 1931 *Midlothian Sheet III.3*. 1:2500 Re-surveyed 1894, Revised 1931.
- Ordnance Survey 1944 *Sheet 36/2575SW*. 1:1250.
- Ordnance Survey 1944 *Sheet 36/2575SE*. 1:1250.
- Ordnance Survey 1955 *Sheet NT2575SW*. 1:1250 Surveyed 1944, Revised 1955.
- Ordnance Survey 1955 *Sheet NT2575SE*. 1:1250 Surveyed 1944, Revised 1955.
- Ordnance Survey 1967 *Sheet NT2575SW*. 1:1250 Surveyed 1944, Revised 1966.

Ordnance Survey 1967 *Sheet NT2575SE*. 1:1250 Surveyed 1944, Revised 1966.

Ordnance Survey 1984 *Sheet NT2575SW*. 1:1250.

Ordnance Survey 1984 *Sheet NT2575SE*. 1:1250.

Ordnance Survey 1995 *Sheet NT2575SW*. 1:1250.

Ordnance Survey 1995 *Sheet NT2575SE*. 1:1250.

8.2 Online resources

SCRAN

<http://www.scran.ac.uk/search/full.php>

Capital Collections

<http://www.capitalcollections.org.uk/index.php?a=area>

National Archives of Scotland

<http://www.nas.gov.uk/onlineCatalogue/>

RCAHMS Canmore database

<http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/advanced/>

9 APPENDICES

9.1 Site registers

Trench register

Trench	Description	Dimensions (m)
1	Trench running N-S near E wall of former car park. Tarmac and rubble (0.5m) overlying mid-dark brown silty clay (0.4-0.9m). Exposed S edge of large cut [001]	20x2m, max. depth 1.5m (sondage)
2	Trench running NW-SE across NE corner of former car park. Tarmac and rubble (0.7-1.0m) overlying mid brown silty clay (0.35m). Exposed section of mill lade [007] and irregular cut [005]	25x2m, max. depth 1.8m (sondage)
3	Trench running N-S alongside W wall of former warehouse to W of Beaverbank Place. Modern infill (0.8-0.9m), no features recorded.	30x2m, max. depth 1.4m (sondage)
4	Trench running NE-SW across N end of former warehouse to W of Beaverbank Place. Coarse grey gravel (0.6-1.4m) overlying natural. Modern brick manhole at SW end.	20x2m, max. depth 1.4m
5	Trench running NE-SW across NW corner of land to E of Beaverbank Place. Rubble infill (0.4-0.8m) overlying natural. Several concrete plinths and cuts filled with modern demolition debris recorded.	25x2m, max. depth 1.2m (sondage)
6	Trench running NW-SE from NW side of trench 5. Rubble infill (0.9-1m) overlying natural. Once concrete plinth recorded.	10x2m, max. depth 1m
7	Trench running E-W across land to E of Beaverbank Place. Demolition rubble (0.7-1.2m) overlying natural. Exposed several cuts filled with modern demolition rubble and two rectangular cuts backfilled with lime.	20x2m, max. depth 1.2m
8	Trench running E-W inside former warehouse to E of Beaverbank Place. Modern hardcore (0.1-0.7m) overlying industrial rubble (0.2-0.3m). Exposed two concrete pillar bases, several modern brick foundations and concrete surfaces at the E end.	33x2m, max depth 0.9m

Context register

Context No	Trench	Description	Dimensions (m)
1	1	Large cut, only part of southern edge visible, dimensions and depth unknown. Concave sides (as far as seen), clear break of slope.	L: 2.0 visible, W and D unknown
2	1	Compact mid brown sandy clay, diffuse interface with natural, regular angular stones. Contained pot frags, clay pipe, glass and animal bone. Fill of [001]	L: 2.0 visible, W and D unknown
3	2	Stone wall running NW-SE. 2-3 courses remain in section, though truncated in trench. Large unbonded stones lining S edge of mill lade [007], with light brown/grey clay packing behind.	L: 2.5 visible, W: 0.25-0.4, D: 0.8
4	2	Moderately compact black-dark brown silty gravelly sand in base of mill lade [007]. Underlies [003] and contained glass, leather and bone. Possibly primary fill of [007].	L: 2.5 visible, W: unknown, D: 0.1
5	2	Irregular cut, full extents unseen. Near vertical sides, clear break of slope. Possibly modern.	L: unknown, W: unknown, D: 0.55
6	2	Loose, fine mid grey clay-sand. Clear interface with natural. Fill of [005]	L: unknown, W: unknown, D: 0.55
7	2	Cut of mill lade, only small section exposed. Profile of S side unseen behind revetment [003], N edge unclear, though possibly defined by stones [008]. Base largely unseen.	L: 2.5 visible, W: 4.0 approx, D: 0.8-0.9
8	2	Three stone slabs set in natural. Straight edge to SW parallel to stone revetment [003] so is likely to be related with construction of lade [007].	L: 0.98, W: 0.8, D: unknown
9	1, 2	Mid-dark brown silty clay. Former topsoil in area 1.	unknown

Sample Register

Sample No	Description
1	(002) - Fill of cut [001]
2	(004) - Primary fill of lade [007]
3	(006) - Fill of cut [005]

Photo Register

Photo No	Direction facing	Description
1	-	ID shot
2	N	Record shot, Trench 3
3	NE	Record shot, Trench 4
4	SW	Record shot, Trench 5
5	SE	Record shot, Trench 6
6	S	Revetment Wall [003], several exposures
7	W	Record shot, Trench 7
8	E	Record shot, Trench 8
9	E	Cut [001]
10	N	Record shot, Trench 1
11	S	Cut [005]
12	N	Structure [008]
13	SE	Record shot, Trench 2