

31 Barnton Avenue West:
Data Structure Report

On behalf of:

Richard Hall Architects
27 Main Street
Davidsons Mains
Edinburgh
EH4 5BZ

National Grid Reference (NGR):

NT 18867 75812

AOC Archaeology Project No:

20278

Prepared by:

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Illustration by:

Graeme Carruthers

0. NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

0.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group prior to the proposed development of 31 Barnton Avenue West, Barnton, Edinburgh. The work was commissioned by Richard Hall Architecture Design on behalf of their clients Mr and Mrs Lam. The site is centred at NGR: NT 18867 75812 and is situated to the immediate east of Barnton Lodge, in the grounds of which stood the now demolished 17th century building of Barnton House (Cramond Regis).

0.2 The City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS), the archaeological advisors to the City of Edinburgh Council, recommended a programme of archaeological works comprising a Desk Based Assessment of archaeological and historical potential, and an intrusive archaeological evaluation prior to development. The work is required in accordance with NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a) in order to determine the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

0.3 The evaluation was undertaken on Monday 4th June 2007, and consisted of three trenches totalling 34 m². The evaluation revealed a substantial 2.0 m section of double coursed sandstone wall and an abutting sandstone floor. These features may be associated with the now demolished Barnton House, or represent an earlier phase of construction.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 A new residential development is proposed at the current address of 31 Barnton Avenue West, Barnton, Edinburgh. AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Richard Hall Architecture Design on behalf of their clients Mr and Mrs Lam to undertake an archaeological evaluation as part of a programme of archaeological works. This was in line with the planning condition as defined by City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS). The work is therefore in accord with NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a) and seeks to determine the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

1.2 Site location

1.2.1 The proposed residential development is located on the site of the present house site at 31 Barnton Avenue West (NGR: NT 18867 75812) (Figure 1). The development area is bounded by Barnton Avenue West to the south, Barnton Lodge to the west and north and a residential dwelling to the east. The development area lies on relatively level land at 41.1 m OD.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background (AOC 2007)

- 1.3.1 The proposed development site is located immediately east of the former location of Barnton House which is present on maps from at least 1682 when it appears as 'Barntoun' on Adair's map (Figure 2) of that date. Adair's map depicts a large castellated mansion house with two towers. The house depicted on Adair's map is said to have been constructed by Lord Balmerino in 1623 (MacGibbon & Ross 1892). Laurie's map of 1776 (Figure 4) (possibly surveyed earlier) shows that the land surrounding Barnton House had become enclosed and hedge rows are apparent. In 1773 Armstrong & Armstrong's map depicts Barnton House surrounded by trees, laid out in linear patterns. The map also indicates that a two storey, three bay house has replaced the original castellated mansion; and indeed; and indeed the RCAHMS notes that the original house was demolished c. 1800 (1963). By 1816 Knox's map depicts a treed landscape which has changed from being rectilinear and is surrounded by roundels of trees of various sizes and make ups. An avenue of trees does, however, lead up to the house from the south. The map also indicates that the house was owned by a Mr. Ramsay. Greenwood, Fowler and Sharpe's map of 1828 shows the area much the same as in 1816, however, the avenue of trees is not depicted on this map; though it is depicted on Johnson and Gellatly map of 1834
- 1.3.2 The first edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map, 1895 indicates that Barnton House is still in existence. It is surrounded by tree but with very few garden features though a pump does exist to the north of the house. The 1908 edition indicates that the house remains the same but that Cargilfield School had been constructed to the northeast; as had several small roofed structures to the north. By 1933 the Ordnance Survey indicates that Barnton House and other residences to the west had been demolished, a formal road had been constructed to the south of the site of the house and new houses had been constructed to the south of this road; the landscape features which had surrounded Barnton House, however, remained unchanged.
- 1.3.3 By 1947 Barnton Lodge had been constructed to the west of the proposed development area and slightly northwest of the location of the former Barnton House. By 1971 No. 15 Barnton Avenue West had been constructed to the northeast of the proposed development area. No change is shown on the 1987 Ordnance Survey map, however by 1990 No. 31, within the proposed development area is shown to be under construction.
- 1.3.4 Barnton Cottages are also thought to have existed in the area and they are given the same National Grid Reference as Barnton House in the NMRS. A reference to the repair of thatched cottages at Drylaw and Barnton is held in the National Archives, however, the exact location of these cottages is unknown and they are not apparent on any historical mapping of the area.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to:

- i) determine the character, extent and quality of any archaeologically significant remains in the development;
- ii) should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, the preparation of a mitigation strategy compliant with NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994), NPPG 18 (SODD 1999) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a) will be undertaken.

3. METHOD

3.1 Three trenches, comprising a 5% sample (34 m²), were opened. The trenches were 10 m, 7 m and 5 m in length. The trenches were located within the grounds of the present building occupying the site and as such their locations were dependent on the position of existing live services. (Figure 2).

3.2 All trenches were excavated with a JCB excavator equipped with a 2 m wide ditching bucket. Overburden was removed in shallow spits until the natural drift geology was encountered.

3.3 The machine excavation was followed by hand cleaning where necessary. All trenches were recorded according to AOC Archaeology's standard practice.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented in the Appendices: trench descriptions (Appendix 1), context descriptions (Appendix 2), photographic register (Appendix 3) and *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland* entry (Appendix 4).

4.1.2 The three trenches were located along the western boundary of the site all within the driveway of the existing property. All the deposits were therefore capped with 0.05 m of tarmac under which lay a layer of made ground which ranged in depth from 0.30 m in trenches 1 & 2 to 0.55 m in trench 3. The made ground [008] was a mixture of building rubble, garden soil and re-deposited natural. In the eastern end of trench 1 the made ground was contaminated by diesel. A layer of crushed sandstone [007], which appears to be a demolition layer, was visible underlying the made ground in all three trenches. This was 0.30 m in depth. The natural drift geology consisted of medium grey boulder clay [002].

- 4.1.3 A sandstone culvert [003] was identified at 4.6 m from the north-eastern end of trench 1. The culvert ran across the trench north to south. The culvert was approximately 0.50 m in width. The culvert was stone lined and capped and was square in section. No water was currently running through the feature and no fill was present. The culvert was visible in both north and south facing sections and was approximately 0.20 m in height. The feature was overlain by the layer of crushed sandstone [007].
- 4.1.4 A section of sandstone flooring [006] (plates 1 & 2) was uncovered at the north end of trench 3. This feature was 1.20 m from the surface and filled the width of the trench. The feature was directly overlain by the layer of crushed sandstone [007]. At 0.90 m the flooring abutted the substantial sandstone wall [004] (plates 1 & 2). The wall was aligned east to west and was 1.30 m in width and double coursed. A 0.30 m void [005] ran along the central section of the wall this void was constructed of nine visible courses of faced stone on both sides and was approximately 1.10 deep. However rubble appeared to fill the void at this level and the void may be deeper. The wall survived to a height of 0.50 m and was again overlain by a probable demolition layer of crushed sandstone. The wall was 0.60 m wide to the north of the void and 0.40 m to the south. A 0.12 m wide cut [009] was also visible on this side. The wall was lime mortar bonded.
- 4.1.5 No finds were retrieved.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The evaluation identified significant archaeology in the form of a large lime bonded sandstone wall and associated floor level. These probably represent structural elements associated with the former Barnton House or an earlier construction. Given that the present house occupying the site was upstanding at the time of the evaluation a further programme of archaeological works are therefore considered necessary.

6. REFERENCES

AOC 2007 *31 Barnton Avenue West, Edinburgh: Written Scheme of Investigation.*

NPPG 18 *National Planning Policy Guideline NPPG 18, Planning and the Historic Environment.* The Scottish Office Development Department 1999.

SOEnd 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and Planning.* Scottish Office Environmental Department.

SOEnd 1994a *Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology and Planning.* Scottish Office Environmental Department

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	10.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	20.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Tarmac</i>	0.05 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.70 m
<i>Natural</i>	Medium grey boulder clay
<i>Drains</i>	Sandstone capped culvert at 4.6 m orientated N-S.
<i>Significant Features</i>	Culvert []
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	4.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	8.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Tarmac</i>	0.05 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.80 m
<i>Natural</i>	Medium grey boulder clay
<i>Drains</i>	None
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	7.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	14.0 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Tarmac</i>	0.05 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.20 m
<i>Natural</i>	Medium grey boulder clay
<i>Drains</i>	Rubble at 4 m & 12.0 m orientated N-S & SW-NE
<i>Significant Features</i>	Sandstone flooring [007] 0.90 m x 2.0 m abutting wall [004] Sandstone wall at 0.90 m from north. Dimensions 1.30 m (width) x 2.0 m (length) x 1.10 m (max.).Lime mortar bonded, double coursed with central void 0.30 m in width, wall is 0.50 m in height overlain by crushed sandstone [005]
<i>Finds</i>	None

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APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT SUMMARIES

Context	Trench	Context Type
001	All	Tarmac
002	All	Natural. Grey boulder clay with numerous glacial sub-angular stones and shattered bedrock.
003	Tr. 1	Sandstone culvert
004	Tr. 3	Sandstone wall abutting associated floor level [006]. Wall runs east – west across trench 3. 1.30 m in width, double coursed with 0.30 m central void [005]. Void is approximately 1.10 m in depth. Wall is 0.50 m in section. Lime mortar bonded.
005	Tr. 3	Void in centre of wall. Void is 0.30 m wide and 1.10 m in depth
006	Tr. 3	Sandstone floor. Max extent 0.90 m. Abutts north face of wall [004]. 1.20 m below surface
007	Tr 1 & 3	Sandstone demolition layer 0.60 m in depth (max) in Trench 1, overlies sandstone wall [004] and floor [006]. Overlies culvert [003] and natural [002] in Trench 1 0.30 in depth (max).
008	All	Made ground medium grey clay natural mixed with garden soil and building debris. Contaminated by diesel in the western end of trench 1. Depth
009	Tr 3	Cut for wall [004] visible on southern side of feature 0.12 m in width

APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

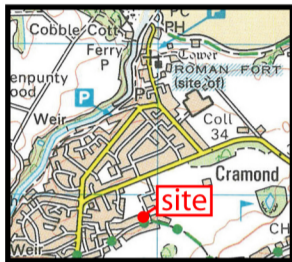
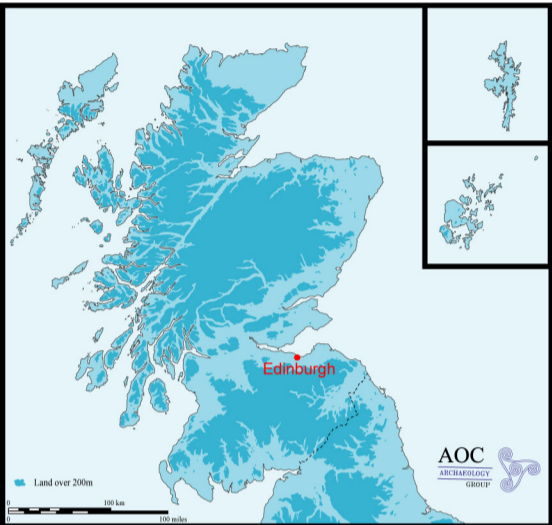
Colour Print & Slide Film No.1

No.	Area	Description	From
0-2		Registration shots	
3-4	Tr 1	Post-excavation shot	E
5-6	Tr 1	South facing section	S
7-8	Tr 1	Culvert[003] and south facing section west end of trench	E
9-10	Tr 1	Culvert [003] close up from west	W
11-12	Tr 1	South facing section culvert [003]	SW
13-14	Tr 2	Trench 2 post-excavation shots	N
15-16	Tr 2	Trench 2 east facing section	E
17-18	Tr 3	Sandstone wall [004] west facing section	W
19-20	Tr 3	Sandstone wall [004] west facing section	N
21-22	Tr 3	Sandstone wall [004] west facing section	S
23-24	Tr 3	Void [005] in centre of wall	W
25-26	Tr 3	West section of wall [004]	E
27-35	Tr 3	Wall and floor [006] various shots	S-N-W

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APPENDIX 4: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	31 Barnton Avenue West, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	20278
PARISH:	Cramond
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	n/a
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	n/a
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Lime bonded sandstone wall with associated sandstone floor level
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NGR: NT 18867 75812
START DATE (this season)	4 th June 2007
END DATE (this season)	4 th June 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group prior to the proposed development of 31 Barnton Avenue West, Barnton, Edinburgh. The work was commissioned by Richard Hall Architecture Design on behalf of their clients Mr and Mrs Lam. The site is situated to the immediate east of Barnton Lodge in the grounds of which stood the now demolished Barnton House (Cramond Regis). The evaluation was undertaken on Monday 4 th June 2007, and consisted of three trenches totalling 34 m ² . The evaluation revealed a substantial 2.0 m section of double coursed sandstone wall and an abutting sandstone floor. These features are probably associated with the now demolished Barnton House.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Further evaluation/excavation
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	C/o AOC Archaeology Group
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocscot.co.uk



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Figure 1: Site location location of evaluation trenches

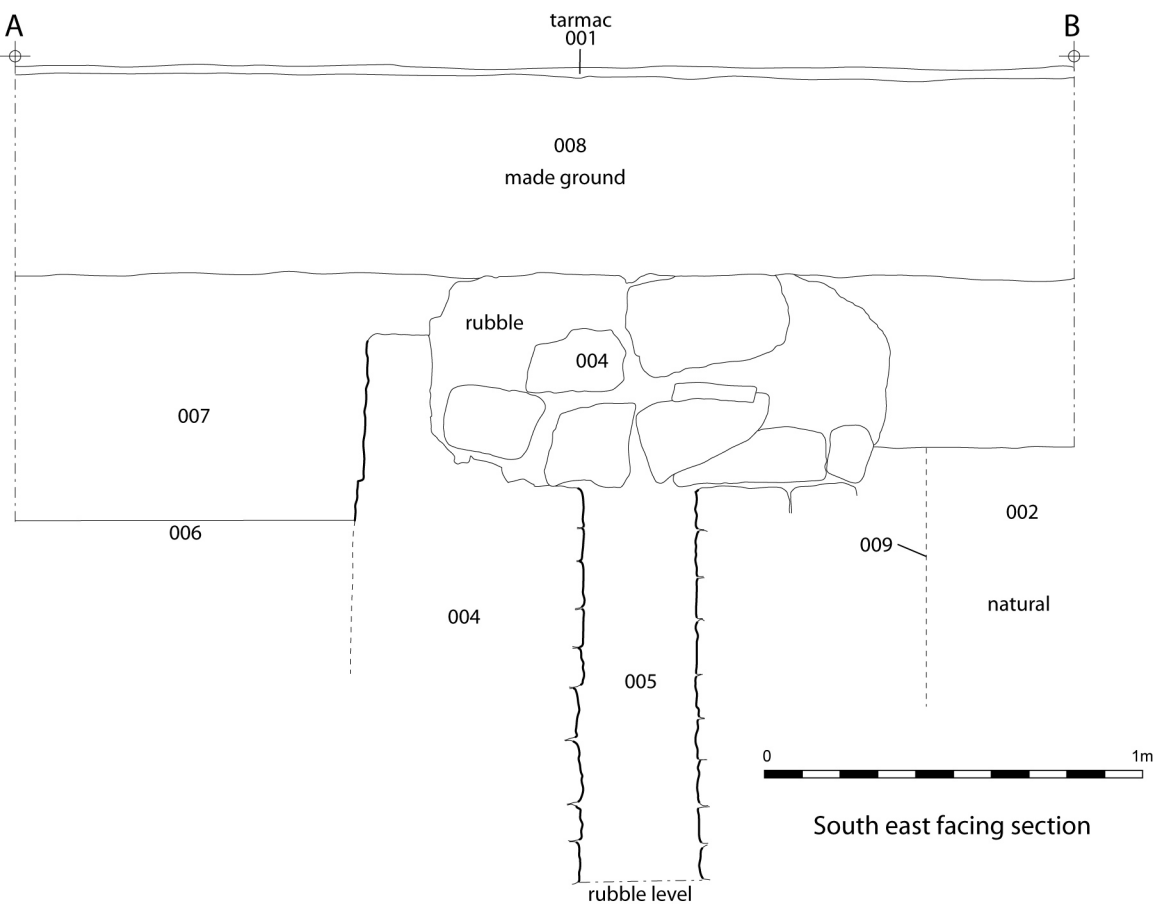
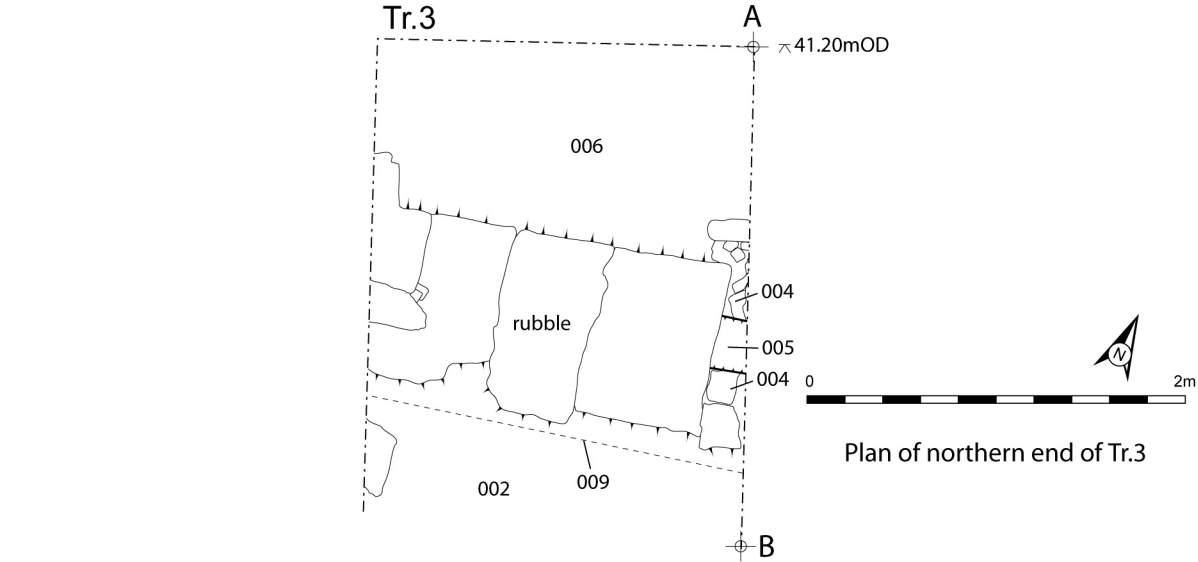


Figure 2: Plan and section of features in Tr.3



Plate 1: Sandstone floor [006] and wall [007] from north



Plate 2: Sandstone floor [006] and wall [007] from west