

Westfield Avenue, Edinburgh, Phase II

Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report

AOC 21317
25th September 2013



Westfield Avenue, Edinburgh, Phase II: Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Hart Builders
Macmerry Industrial Estate
Macmerry
East Lothian
EH33 1ET

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 2233 7240

OASIS No: 159224

AOC Project No: 21317

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Illustration by: Jake Streatfeild-James

Date of Fieldwork: 11th September 2013

Date of Report: 25th September 2013

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

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Summary

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Hart Builders to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a proposed residential development at land south of the Water of Leith at Westfield Avenue, Edinburgh. The development area consists of former industrial units next to the Westfield Foundry which were the subject of an earlier phase of works by AOC Archaeology Group in 2009.

Works consisted of an archaeological evaluation of three trenches totalling 115m². Large deposits of clinker and crushed brick and stone were scraped off to reveal a buried soil sealing a sandy gravelly natural.

No archaeological remains were discovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Prior to the re-development of the site of the former Westfield Foundry an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Hart Builders at Westfield Avenue, Edinburgh in 2009. AOC were commissioned in 2013 to undertake an additional phase of evaluation works (Phase II).
- 1.1.2 The original Phase I strategy and methodology of field evaluation was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation which was approved by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council in 2009. Discussion between Hart Builders, CECAS and City of Edinburgh Council agreed that the Phase II development could be initially covered by this addendum to the original Written Scheme of Investigation. All the archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in Scottish Planning Policy (Scottish Government 2010) and Planning & Archaeology (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The development area is located in the West End of Edinburgh to the West of Westfield Avenue, opposite the junction with Westfield Road. The centre of the development area is centred on NGR: NT 22424 72425 (Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The previous works on Phase 1 of the current development, undertaken by AOC in 2009, demonstrated that despite the fact that the Westfield Foundry had been functioning into the second half of the 20th century, very little remained under the level of the bus depot which replaced it. It was thought that the high water table, due to the proximity of the Water of Leith, forced the foundry builders to build-up the site. This was further evidenced by the large layer of hardcore under the bus depot slab (Cook 2009). Despite this, several structures were recorded during the first phase of excavation works, including furnace bases, wall lines and a substantial brick-lined tank, all surviving beneath the bus depot slab.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the Phase II 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*.

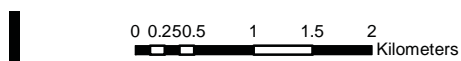
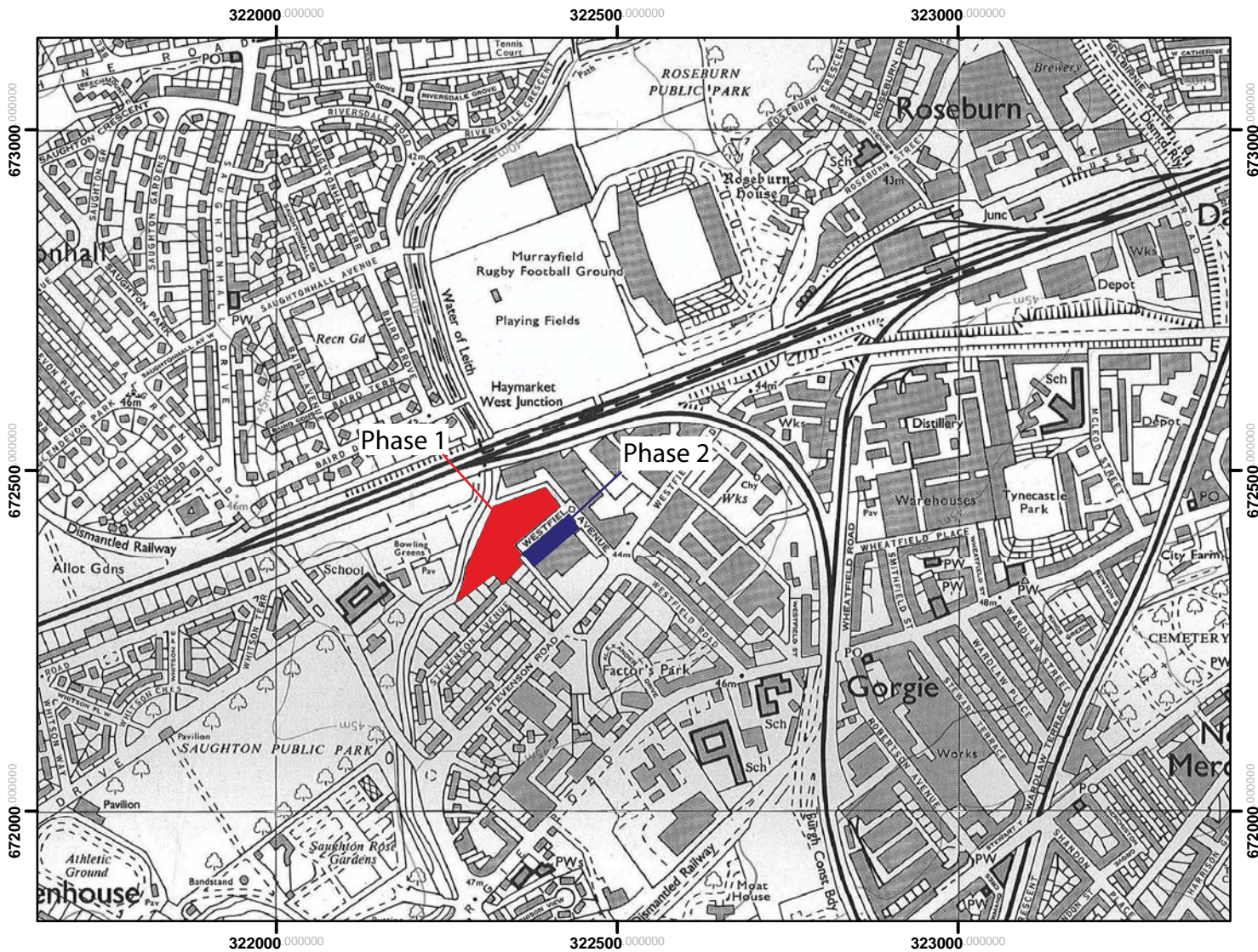
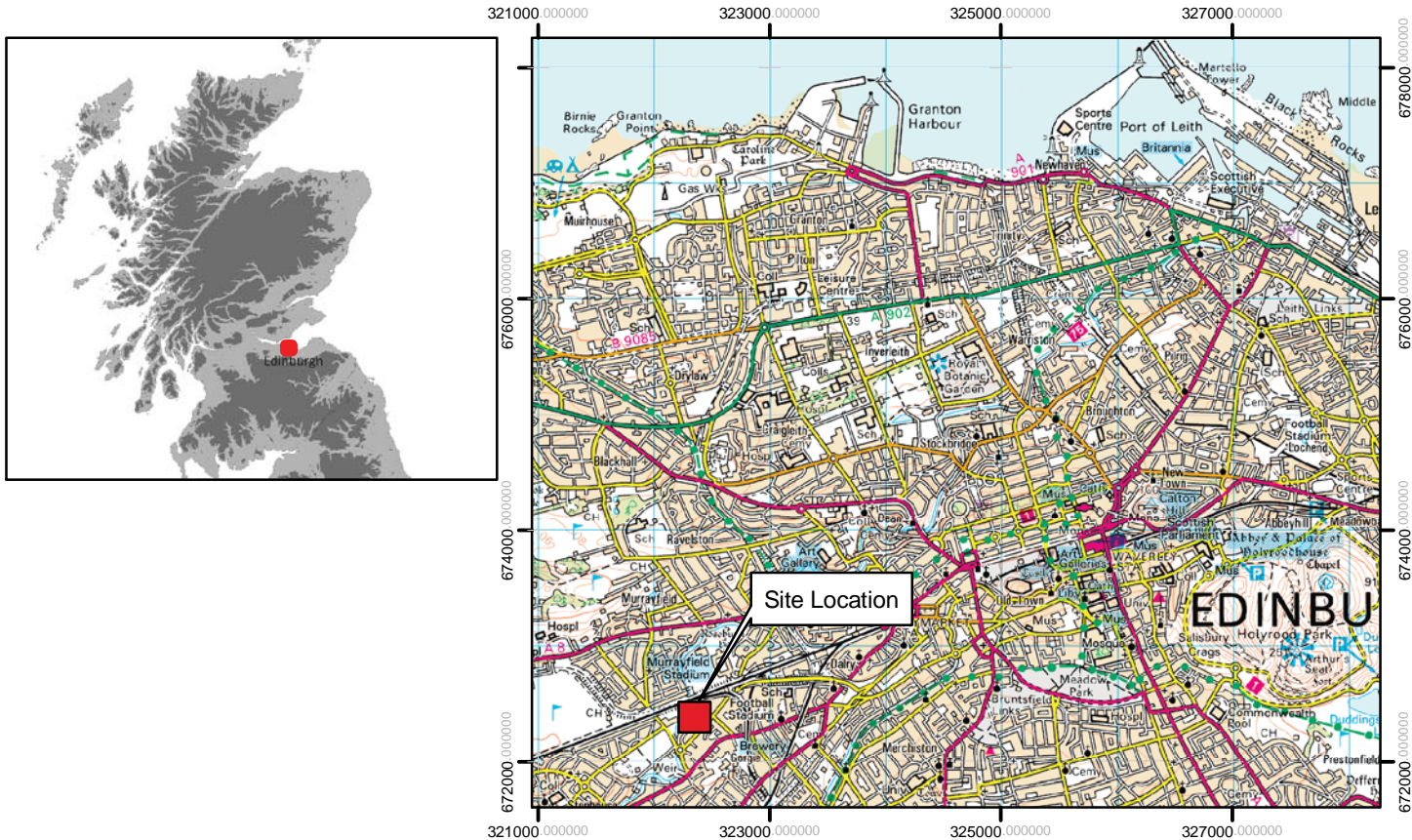


Figure 1: Site location plan

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All trenches were excavated with a 20 tonne tracked excavator using a 2.3m wide ditching bucket. The trench details are summarised in Appendix 1. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil/overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits. The evaluation trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2013).



Plate 1: Trench 1 Post Excavation

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The works were conducted on the 11th September 2013. The weather conditions during the evaluation were clear and dry in the early morning, followed by increasingly heavy rain. Overall archaeological visibility was good. In total three trenches were opened, totalling 115m² (Figure 2).
- 4.2 The site was covered by a deposit of crushed demolition material, consisting of clinker, brick, sandstone and other fragments of the unit which had occupied the site until the commencement of demolition works. This deposit averaged 0.50m in depth over the entire site. The demolition material sealed a topsoil layer, approximately 0.05m thick, of mid-grey brown loam, merging gradually into mid-orange brown clayey sand. The subsoil across the site was a uniform mid-orange brown deposit of sands and gravels (Plate 1).

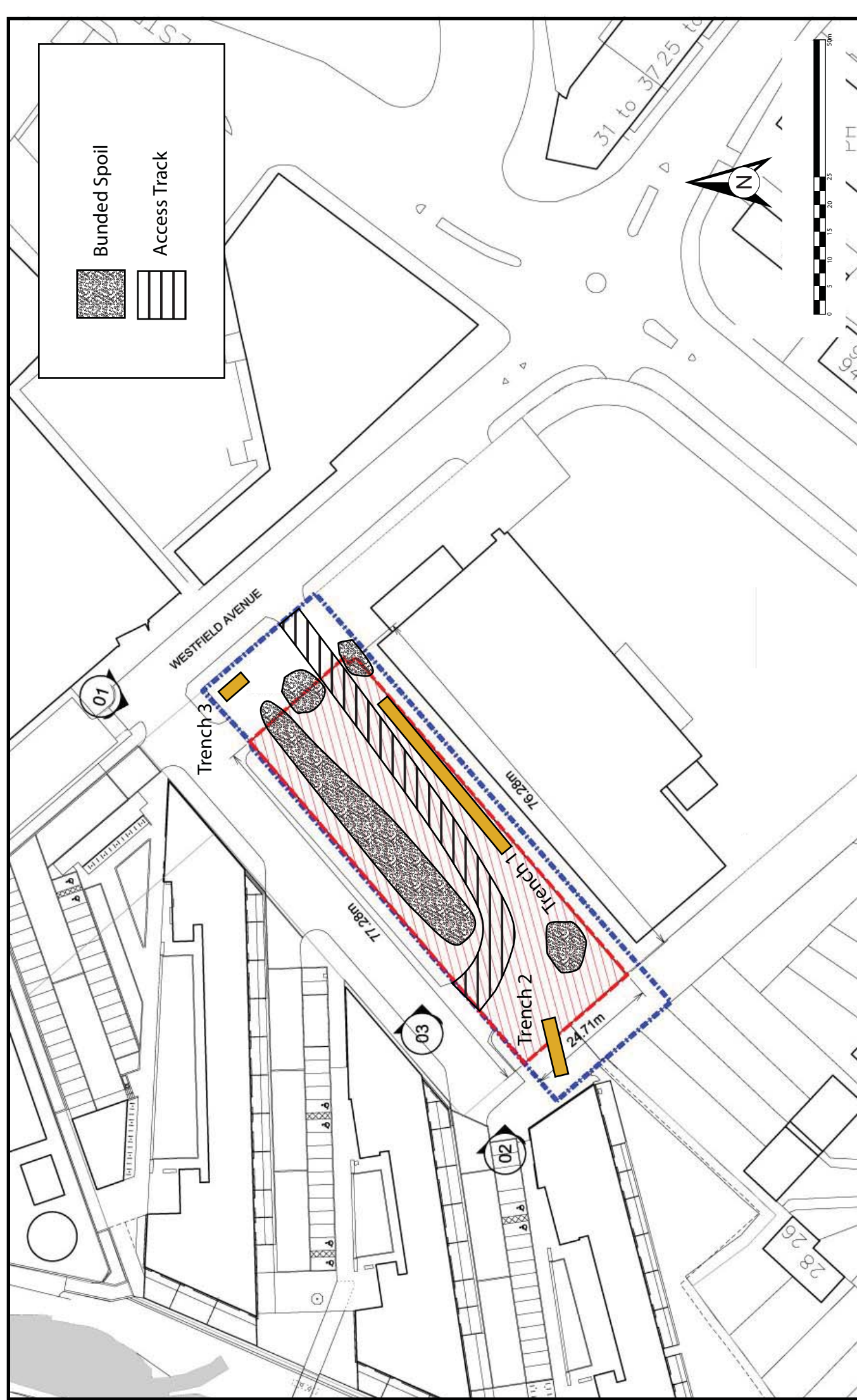


Figure 2: Site plan showing the position of the evaluation trenches

- 4.4 No archaeology was observed within any of the trenches.

5 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeology was discovered as part of this evaluation and, as such, no more archaeological investigations are recommended within the development area. This will require confirmation by CECAS.

6 REFERENCES

6.1 Bibliographical references

AOC Archaeology 2013 *Westfield Foundry Phase 2, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation*. Client Method statement.

Cook, M 2009 *Westfield Avenue, Edinburgh, Evaluation and Excavation Data Structure Report*. Unpublished Client Report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology*.

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Appendices

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1

Dimensions	35m x 2.3m	
Orientation	SW/NE	
Made Ground	0.50m	Cinder and Crushed brick/sandstone
Topsoil	0.05m	Mid grey brown loam
Alluvium	0.50m	Mid orange brown clayey sand
Subsoil	-	Mid orange brown sands and gravels
Features	-	-
Finds	-	-

Trench 2

Dimensions	5m x 2.3m	
Orientation	N/S	
Made Ground	0.50m	Cinder and Crushed brick/sandstone
Topsoil	0.05m	Mid grey brown loam
Alluvium	0.50m	Mid orange brown clayey sand
Subsoil	-	Mid orange brown sands and gravels
Features	-	-
Finds	-	-

Trench 3

Dimensions	10m x 2.3m	
Orientation	W/E	
Made Ground	0.50m	Cinder and Crushed brick/sandstone
Topsoil	0.05m	Mid grey brown loam
Alluvium	0.50m	Mid orange brown clayey sand
Subsoil	-	Mid orange brown sands and gravels
Features	-	-
Finds	-	-

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Black & White Print Film 1 & Digital

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1	-	Registration	-
2-5	-	Pre Ex shot of site	N
6-7	1	Made ground and natural in trench 1	NE
8-9	1	Trench 1 post ex	NW
10-11	2	Trench 2 post ex	W
12-13	2	Trench 2 post ex	N
14-15	3	Made ground – trench 3	W
16-17	3	Trench 3 post ex	W

APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Westfield Avenue, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21317
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jake Streatfeild-James
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 2242 7243
START DATE (this season)	11 th September 2013
END DATE (this season)	11 th September 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Hart Builders to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a proposed residential development at land south of the Water of Leith in the West End of Edinburgh. The development area consists of former industrial units next to the Westfield Foundry which was the subject of an earlier phase of works by AOC Archaeology Group in 2009.</p> <p>Works consisted of an archaeological evaluation of three trenches totalling. Large deposits of clinker crushed brick and stone were scraped off to reveal a buried soil sealing a sandy gravelly natural.</p> <p>No archaeological remains were discovered.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Hart Builders
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group; Edgefield Road Industrial Estate; Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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