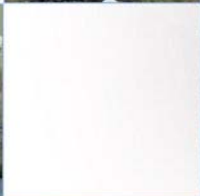


# 5 Cramond Glebe Terrace Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

AOC 21517  
8<sup>th</sup> December 2009



## 5 Cramond Glebe Terrace Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

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**National Grid Reference (NGR):** **NT 1892 7668**

**AOC Project No:** **21517**

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**Date of Fieldwork:** **1<sup>st</sup> December 2009**

**Date of Report:** **8<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

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

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**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009

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**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009

**Draft Report Stage:** draft

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009

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## **Abstract**

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An archaeological evaluation was required by Mr. Tom Gray prior to a proposed residential development (a single house plot) within the grounds of 5 Cramond Glebe Terrace, Cramond. Two trenches comprising a basal area of 47 m<sup>2</sup> were opened across the development area.

Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified.

## **0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

- 0.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Mr. Tom Gray within the proposed development site of a single house plot at 5 Cramond Glebe Terrace, Cramond, Edinburgh.
- 0.2 The proposed development lies within the administrative area of the City of Edinburgh Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Mr. John Lawson of the City of Edinburgh Archaeology service (CECAS). The work was carried out in accordance with SPP23 (2008) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994), in order to determine the nature, extent, condition and significance of any archaeological material within the development area.
- 0.3 Two trenches comprising a basal area of 47 m<sup>2</sup> were opened across the development area. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site location**

- 1.1.1 The proposed development area (NGR: NT 1892 7668) is located within the grounds of 5 Cramond Glebe Terrace, and is surrounded on all sides by residential properties (Figure 1).

### **1.2 Development proposal**

- 1.2.1 The proposed development involves the construction of a single detached residential dwelling house.

### **1.3 General Archaeological background**

- 1.3.1 A Roman site had been long suspected at Cramond because the area had yielded a succession of finds, such as coins, pottery and inscribed stones (Stuart 1845). Early Ordnance Survey maps also indicate that some Roman remains were known here, and it is possible that they may have been upstanding to some degree until fairly recently. The Roman fort was eventually re-discovered during excavations in 1954 (Rae and Rae 1974). Several other archaeological excavations undertaken at Cramond since this time have revealed further evidence of the fort and of associated Roman activity. The western part of the fort is now occupied by residential houses on the west side of Cramond Glebe Road, while the east side is overlain by Cramond Kirk and Kirkyard, the Manse and other open ground in which some of the Roman foundations have been exposed and consolidated. A Roman bath-house located about 100 m north of the fort was excavated in the mid-1970s (Holmes 2003).
- 1.3.2 It is likely that the earliest Roman settlement at Cramond comprised timber buildings, as at other contemporary sites, eg Vindolanda, although no trace of these has yet been identified

during excavations. However, evidence of the later stone phases has survived well. The fort covered an area of about 4.8 acres and was of the usual sub-rectangular plan. Its perimeter was defined by a rampart of clay and turf with at least two outer (contemporary) encircling ditches, dating from the Antonine period. A section of a third outlying ditch has also recently been uncovered beneath the Kirk Hall, possibly of 3<sup>rd</sup> century date. The Roman ditches on the north side are not thought to have survived the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century landscaping, which may have removed sediments to a depth of up to 2 m. Similarly no Roman ditch has been found on the west side of the fort (although there have been few opportunities for investigations in this area). An annexe, defined by an extra ditch, was attached to the east side of the fort, contained evidence of contemporary industrial activity possibly representing a *vicus*. Although part of the Roman fort has been excavated, most of the remains are thought to still survive underground, under woodland, lawn, and standing buildings.

- 1.3.3 The early excavations between 1954 and 1966 concentrated on the fort (see Rae & Rae 1974). These early excavations established the approximate line of the fort rampart on the north, east and south sides, and showed that there were remains of some contemporary activity on the east side of the fort. Evidence of two occupational phases during the Antonine period was observed during these excavations (compared with three phases of Antonine occupation at the nearby Inveresk Fort). There was evidence for the partial re-cutting of the inner ditch with the insertion of a slot or 'ankle-breaker', and also for similar re-cutting of the outer ditch, however the date of these re-cuttings has not been established. In 1971 further archaeological investigation took place during the construction of a housing estate in the former Glebe, just beyond the south-east corner of the fort. Excavated features in the fort comprise the remains of stone buildings that were interpreted as the *principia*, workshops, granaries, and a latrine. Another building interpreted as a bath house was excavated in the north-west corner of the fort, near to what was believed to be the fort commander's house (*praetorium*). Evidence was also found of the roads which traversed the interior of the fort and led out through the ramparts to areas beyond the fort. However, as only a small proportion of the fort has been excavated, the internal layout has not been fully investigated and the type of military unit that was stationed at Cramond (whether Roman legionaries or auxiliaries) is thus still unclear. Three inscriptions recovered from Cramond refer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Legion Augusta (normally stationed at Caerleon Fort in South Wales) and two auxiliary regiments – the 5<sup>th</sup> Cohort of Gauls (from France) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort of Tungri (from Lower Germany), commanded by a legionary centurion. As Cramond probably performed an important role as a supply base for other forts and camps further north, the granaries must have been a significant feature of the fort, and there may have been relatively fewer combatants in comparison to other forts, and greater numbers of craftsmen, administrative and other supportive personnel. The discovery of the finely carved Cramond Lioness and of evidence for the manufacture of some finely carved luxury wooden items suggest that high status items were being supplied to, and perhaps from, Cramond Fort (Hunter pers com).
- 1.3.4 Other excavations between 1975 and 1981 are reported in a recently published monograph and, in particular, they have shown evidence of the extra-mural settlement to the south-east of the fort, enclosed by a ditch (Holmes 2003). This was a large annexed area containing evidence for contemporary industrial activity (see also Gooder 2003). This area may have



formed part of a *vicus*, a civilian settlement commonly found outside Roman forts, inhabited by people servicing or associated with the fort. Excavation in the south half of the Walled Garden between 1975-8 found Roman material between 0.5 m and 1.0 m below the ground surface. This indicated multi-period occupation, including varied industrial activity during at least one phase of the Roman military occupation. The features contemporary with the fort were foundation trenches for timber structures, post-holes, pits, ditches, a well, a stone-lined drain and two probable metal-working furnaces. Some organic material and artefacts were preserved in waterlogged deposits in the well and pits. These features were filled with and sealed by a spread of destruction material. No phasing of the Roman period features was apparent and it is now thought that the industrial activity in this area is related to the Severan occupation of the fort (Holmes 2003). Industrial activity included the manufacture of leather footwear, carpentry and iron-working, and much of the manufactured material was presumably transported on to the forward base at Carpow Fort. Later occupation remains overlay the back-filled Roman site, representing evidence of native civilians who built stone structures and laid a cobbled surface, although the scale and duration of this post-Roman phase remains unclear.

- 1.3.5 In November 2007 a programme of archaeological test-pitting was carried out in advance of the proposed Walled Garden play park development. A series of four test-pits were excavated over the proposed location of the play facilities, however neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified (Cook & Lynchehaun 2007).
- 1.3.6 A number of other excavations have been undertaken around the Roman fort at Cramond, in some private gardens, on the college campus and in the parkland to the east. These have found a variety of remains, including sections of the Roman road approaching the fort from the south-east (Hoy 1979; Gooder 2003). More recently a programme of archaeological works adjacent to Cramond Kirk was undertaken on behalf of the Cramond Management Group and the City of Edinburgh Council to enable the identification of an appropriate mitigation strategy for the future protection, conservation and interpretation of the known Roman remains. The works consisted of three elements involving the re-excavation of two barrack blocks, the evaluation of the granary building and the evaluation of the eastern entrance within Cramond Roman Fort. The work was hugely successful identifying previously known features within Barrack Block B, but more importantly unearthing *in situ* deposits within Barrack Block A and Trenches B and C. Fresh evidence for the phasing of the buildings was recovered, and a large selection of artefacts was recovered including metalwork, coins and ceramics all relating to the Roman occupation, as well as Medieval ceramic and metalwork (Cook 2008). The most recent work, a watching brief at 6 The Glebe, Cramond, identified a fragment of cobbled surface which possibly relates to the presence of the nearby Roman Fort, although no small finds of Roman date were recovered from the surface (Engl 2009).

## **1.4 Specific archaeological issues**

- 1.4.1 Excavation in October 1995, immediately to the north of the development area (NMRS NT17NE 3.03; NGR: NT 1894 7673), confirmed the existence of the Roman road running southwards from the fort's southern gate. The road itself was in a poor state of preservation

having suffered from robbing, with only a single layer of metallurgy surviving. This work also unearthed small quantities of Roman and Medieval pottery as well as several struck lithics, some certainly Mesolithic in character. The edge of a north to south aligned Roman ditch was also revealed excavated. The ditch producing Roman Grey Ware from the main fill and was not on the same alignment as the known fort, and may be of an earlier fort, possibly Flavian. The expected outer ditch of the Antonine/Severan fort did not occur on its projected alignment, though the southern edge of a ditch was located further to the north of the anticipated line (Lawson 1995).

- 1.4.2 The principal archaeological issue related to the possibility of the development having an adverse physical impact on archaeological remains associated with the southern approach road to the fort. Extrapolation of the road's anticipated (NNE -SSW) line suggested it may have lain within the western portion of the development area (Figure 2). Information from Mr Gray was that the overlying topsoil within the development area was particularly deep suggesting the enhanced probability of archaeological survival.

## **2 OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the development area by means of an intrusive field evaluation;
  - ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

## **3 METHOD**

- 3.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2009) proposed the excavation of two trenches totalling 47 m<sup>2</sup>, within the footprint of the dwelling house. The WSI stated the trenches were to total a minimum 10% sample of the development area.
- 3.2 Both trenches were excavated with a JCB 3CX wheeled excavator using a 1.6 m wide ditching bucket (Figure 3). The trench details are summarised in Appendix 1. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil 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 within the Method Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2009).



## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The evaluation was conducted on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009. The weather conditions during the evaluation were overcast but dry. Overall archaeological visibility within both trenches was good.
- 4.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as a series of appendices. Appendix 1 contains the trench summary descriptions, Appendix 2 the photographic register, with Appendix 3 reproducing the '*Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*' entry.



**Plate 1: Post-excavation shot of Trench 1**

- 4.1.3 The proposed development was covered in a layer of rich black silty topsoil, which varied in depth from 0.40 m to 0.50 m, according to the local topography of the land. The topsoil contained almost no artefactual material at all, although two single pieces of 19<sup>th</sup> century white ceramic and a bottle were identified. The subsoil was consistent across the site and comprised an orange/brown silt, with few stone inclusions. No evidence was identified for plough scarring on the surface of the natural subsoil. A single rubble field drain was identified aligned north to south across both trenches. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefactual material was unearthed by the evaluation.



**Plate 2: Post-excavation shot of Trench 2**

## 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Despite the presence of significant Roman features to the immediate north of the proposed development (see Section 1.4 above), no significant archaeological material was identified within the trenches.
- 5.2 The absence of any archaeology within the trenches, or even residual artefacts relating to the Roman occupation of the immediate environs, may reflect the actual absence of significant archaeological activity on the site, or that any physical remains of such activity have not survived to the present day. The projected route of the Roman road identified to the immediate north of the site may just miss the proposed development area, perhaps surviving in ground immediately to the west. Additionally, the majority of the Cramond area has been severely truncated by plough action. Despite there being no evidence for plough attrition within the site, previous excavations to the east of the development has recorded the detrimental affect ploughing has on Roman remains (Gooder 2003).
- 5.3 The evaluation has revealed that the site directly impacted upon by the development is apparently free from any significant archaeological material. The significant balance of probability is that the house plot development area is archaeologically sterile. We would consider any further archaeological investigation, should the development proceed, as unnecessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by Mr John Lawson (CECAS) on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council. .

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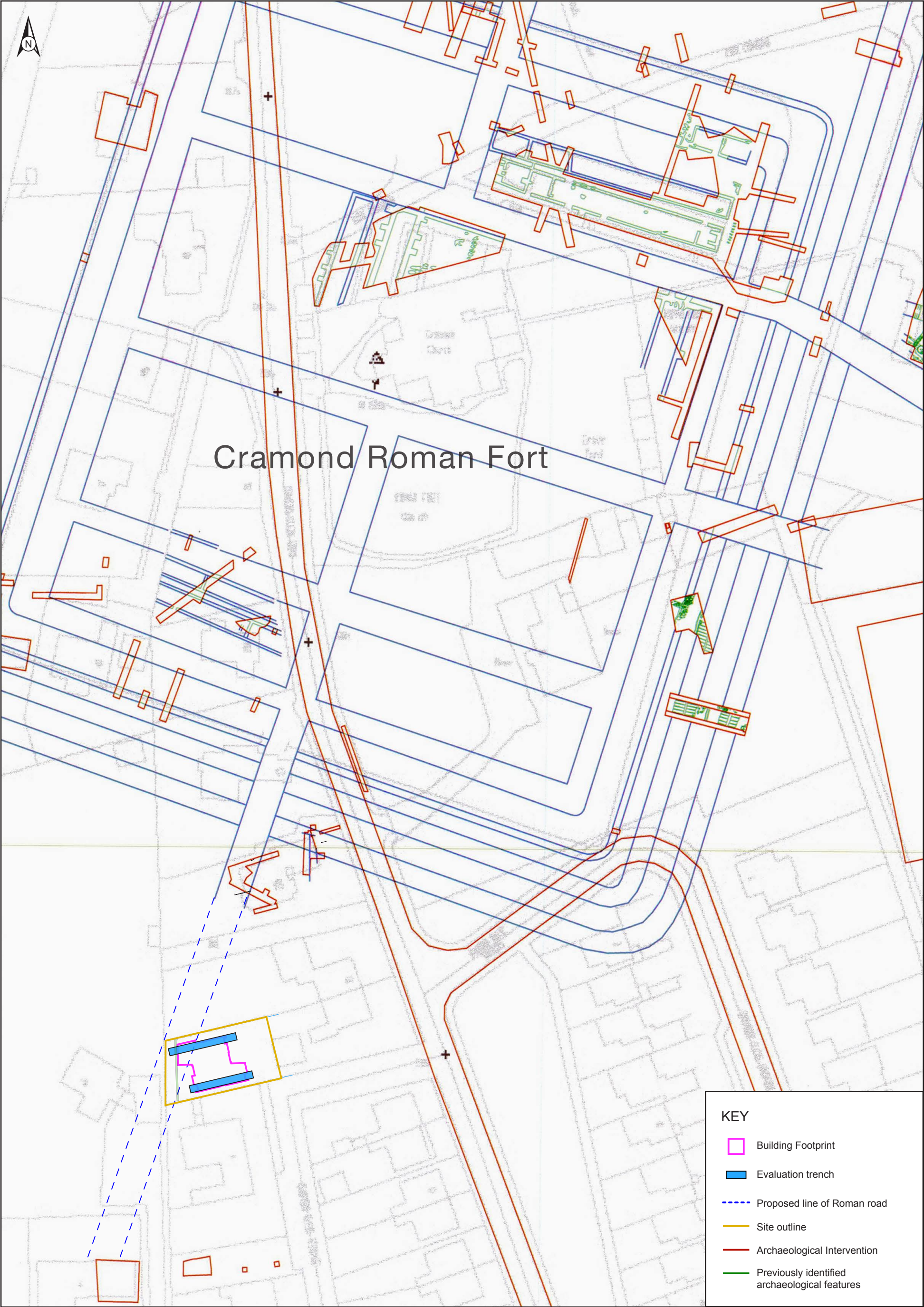
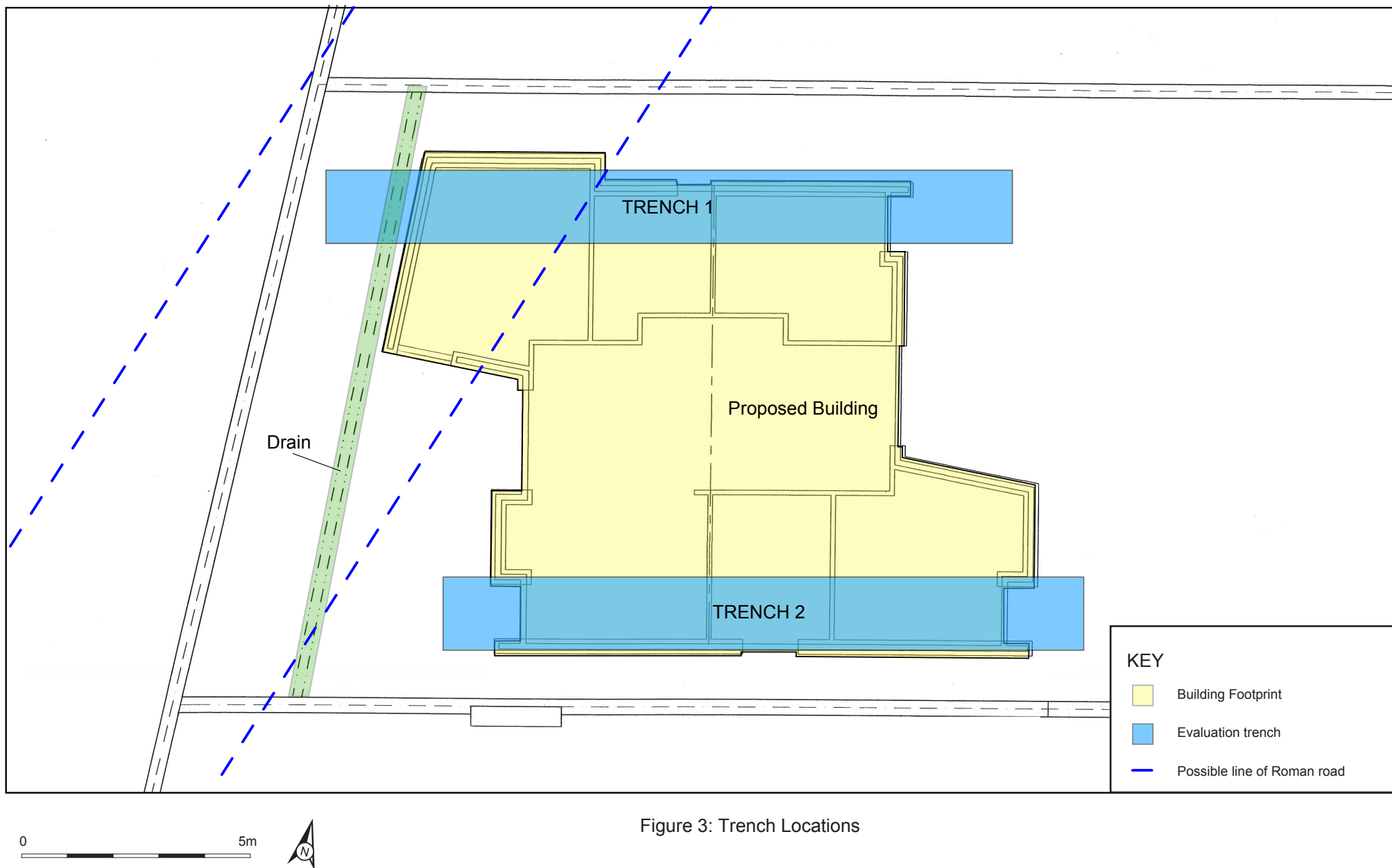


Figure 2: Site location and position of trenches







## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

### Trench 1

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Dimensions       | 15.0 m by 1.6 m          |
| Orientation      | E-W                      |
| Depth of Topsoil | 0.40 m to 0.50 m         |
| Features         | N-S aligned rubble drain |
| Subsoil          | Orange/brown silt        |
| Finds            | None                     |

### Trench 2

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Dimensions       | 14 m by 1.6 m  |
| Orientation      | E-W  |
| Depth of Topsoil | 0.40   |
| Features         | Extensive, deep plough scarring, NW-SE parallel to field boundary. |
| Subsoil          | Dark orange gravelly sands, with occasional patches of sand        |
| Finds            | None   |

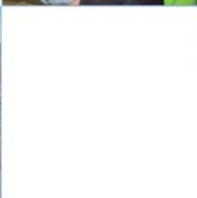
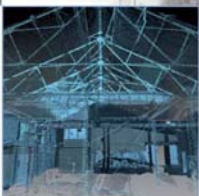
## APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

### Digital Record

| Frame | Area | Detail                         | From |
|-------|------|--------------------------------|------|
| 1     | -    | Registration                   | -    |
| 2-3   | Tr.1 | Post-excavation shot of trench | W    |
| 4-5   | Tr.2 | Post-excavation shot of trench | W    |

**APPENDIX 3: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY:   | City of Edinburgh council  |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:   | 5 Cramond Glebe Terrace Archaeological Evaluation  |
| PROJECT CODE:  | AOC 21517  |
| PARISH:  | Edinburgh  |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:   | Martin Cook  |
| 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 1892 7668   |
| START DATE (this season)   | 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2009  |
| END DATE (this season)   | 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2009  |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)   | None   |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:<br>(May include information from other fields) | An archaeological evaluation was undertaken within the proposed development site of a single house plot at 5 Cramond Glebe Terrace, Cramond. Two machine excavated trenches totalling a basal area of 47 m <sup>2</sup> were opened. Neither significant features nor artefacts were identified. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:  | None   |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:   | n/a  |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:   | Mr Tom Gray  |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:   | C/o AOC Archaeology Group  |
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