

HSWB10

PLANNING APP. NO. 08/02886/FUL and 10/00896/FUL

**Mid-Hermiston Steading, 58 Hermiston, Currie, Edinburgh:
Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Works**

Client: Credential Homes

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1 INTRODUCTION

This Written Scheme of Investigation details a specification for archaeological works connected with a planning application to the City of Edinburgh Council on a proposed development at Mid-Hermiston Steading, 58 Hermiston, Currie, Edinburgh. The scope of works has been discussed with the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS) which advises the planning authority on archaeological matters, and that advice has been set out in a letter (27/08/09). The work will comprise the monitoring of main contract excavations below the level of current hard surfacing.

The proposed development lies within the historic limits of the fermtoun of Hermiston, which is on record from the early 13th century on. The agricultural buildings at Hermiston Steading date to the late 18th and 19th centuries and incorporate a decorative stone marriage plate, considered to be of regional importance, inscribed with the year 1599, it is not known whether this stone is of local origin or was brought in from elsewhere. Previous archaeological work, undertaken by Headland Archaeology, on the site included historic building recording and trial trenching, in which wall foundations relating to the 19th century buildings and stone lined culverts corresponding to the 18th century farmhouse buildings were recorded. CECAS noted that the site lies within an area of archaeological importance and advised that a condition be attached to planning permission as per the model contained in PAN 42. This states:

No development shall take place on the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (historic building recording, excavation, reporting and analysis) in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

This document forms the required Written Scheme of Investigation for the archeological watching brief and will be submitted to CECAS for approval.

2 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1 OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of archaeological works are:

- To record any archaeological remains threatened by the proposed development works.
- To report on the results of the work

2.2 METHODOLOGY

2.2.1 *Watching Brief*

The main contractor will undertake all ground breaking works. A toothed bucket will be used to remove any hard surfaces/demolition deposits and all soft deposits are to be removed using a flat bladed ditching bucket. The ground breaking works will be monitored by an archaeologist. The monitoring strategy will provide information on any previously unrecorded features of archaeological interest in a relatively unobtrusive manner. It should not involve major interruption to the work programme. Isolated features or artefacts will be recorded according to normal watching brief methodology. This will typically be within one hour for each feature. If a significant archaeological horizon is encountered or if significant *in situ* archaeological deposits are found during the operations then all ground disturbance in the area must cease until an appropriate level of excavation and recording has been undertaken to the satisfaction of CECAS. If appropriate a site meeting will be arranged to discuss an appropriate strategy.

2.2.1 *1599 Marriage Stone*

The client will undertake all works pertaining to the marriage stone. The proposed mitigation to be undertaken by the client for the Marriage Stone is as follows:

- 1) The Marriage stone is currently being stored on a pallet face down so that the details are not exposed to any sort of weather and the pallet is covered (see appendix). The marriage stone will be stored in the site compound during construction works on the pallet under cover until it is built in to the gable of unit 8 as shown on our drawings which have Planning Permission and Conservation Area Consent.
- 2) The stone will be built in to the gable using lime mortar and will be protected by a polythene cover during the application of the render to the gable. The pallet carrying the marriage stone will be mechanically lifted onto the scaffold and then the stone carefully man-handled into position. The face of the stone will be carefully brushed down, but **no** abrasives will be used.

2.3 RECORDING

All recording will be according to IfA standards and guidance. All contexts, small finds and environmental samples will be given unique numbers and all recording will be undertaken on *pro forma* record cards.

Colour transparency and digital photographs will be taken and recorded in a photographic register. Record shots of archaeological contexts will have a metric scale visible.

A plan of the development area in relation to the National Grid has been supplied by the client. Significant archaeological features will be recorded on this plan by use of hand measurements where appropriate. Where this is deemed inaccurate or inefficient significant features will be recorded by digital survey using a total station and related to the National Grid. Where appropriate sections through individual features will be drawn by hand at an appropriate scale and hand drawn plans of complex contexts, features and structures will be completed where required.

2.4 MONITORING

Access will be afforded to a representative from CECAS to monitor the progress of the works. Any significant discoveries or unexpected conditions shall be communicated immediately to the client and CECAS.

2.5 SAMPLES AND ARTEFACTS

A representative amount of any archaeological deposits will be sampled for the recovery of palaeo-environmental or other remains. Bulk samples, a minimum of 10 litres but up to 30 litres if possible, will be taken for wet sieving and flotation. These will be processed and assessed as part of the contract. Bulk samples will be taken from any deposits suspected of being waterlogged for assessment of organic remains. All samples taken will be recorded in a register.

Bulk finds will be collected by context. Small finds will be recorded in a register and plotted using Total Station survey. Finds will be stored in appropriate conditions as advised by Headland's Finds Officer (Julie Franklin). Any objects requiring conservation shall be assessed but not conserved as part of the scope of works detailed here.

2.6 REPORTING AND ARCHIVE

The results of the works will be presented in an illustrated report within 4 weeks of the completion of fieldwork. A summary report will be prepared for submission to *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland* and the OASIS database. Depending on the results

of the field work additional post-excavation analysis, conservation and reporting may be required by CECAS to fulfill the requirements of planning consent.

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.

Any artefacts from the site will be declared for Treasure Trove procedures within 6 months of the completion of fieldwork. A copy of the site archive will be kept with the finds.

2.7 PROJECT TEAM

The fieldwork will be managed for Headland Archaeology by Edward Bailey and supervised on-site by a suitably experienced Project Officer.

Headland Archaeology Ltd is a Registered Organisation of the *Institute for Archaeologists* and abides by its Codes of Conduct. The company has all the necessary technical and personnel resources for the satisfactory completion of the investigation.

2.8 INSURANCE

Headland Archaeology Ltd is fully indemnified and all necessary insurances can be presented on request.

2.9 HEALTH & SAFETY

All of Headland's work is undertaken in accordance with current H&S legislation and is overseen by HSE Solutions Ltd. Risk assessments will be carried out and method statements for safe working will be prepared.

2.10 HUMAN REMAINS

Any human remains encountered during the course of the evaluation will be left *in situ*. All finds of human remains will be reported to the client, CECAS and the local police. Unless instructed to do so, no burials will be excavated during the course of the present programme of work.

APPENDIX: MARRIAGE STONE PHOTOS

