

DCSQ12



DUNDAS CASTLE, SOUTH QUEENSFERRY

Archaeological Watching Brief

for Enviko Ltd

12/01606/FUL

August 2012

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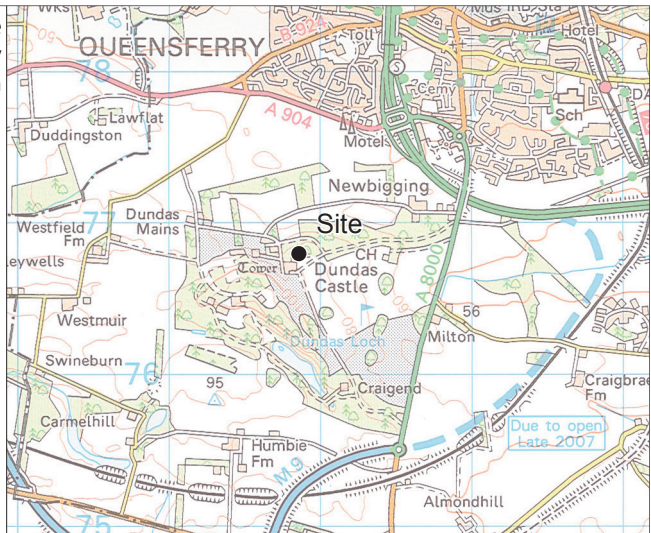
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Dundas Castle
South Queensferry
Lothian



0 100km



viii

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Scale 1:2,500 @ A4



0 125m

Illus 1

Site location

DUNDAS CASTLE, SOUTH QUEENSFERRY

Archaeological Watching Brief

Headland Archaeology Ltd undertook a watching brief on trench excavations associated with the laying of a cable for the connection of solar PV panels at Dundas Castle. The monitoring was undertaken in order to identify and record any archaeological remains that might be exposed during the works. The work was commissioned by Enviko Ltd, and a specification was agreed with Edinburgh City Council.

A narrow trench 245 m long across the grounds to the S of the castle was monitored to a maximum depth of 0.9 m. Although no archaeological features were uncovered during the watching brief the trench was excavated through an area of early 19th century landscaping to the W of the Castle. This was both apparent in the bank leading up to the castle and the gardens further to the SW. No artefacts of archaeological significance were recovered during this work.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief, carried out at Dundas Castle, South Queensferry, between 25th – 26th July 2012. The work was undertaken in response to a planning condition (Planning ref. 12/01606/FUL) attached to the consent of the proposed development by CECAS (City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service). The aim of the work was to record any surviving sub-surface archaeological remains exposed during the excavation of a cable trench associated with the erection of 198 solar PV panels at Land 230m SW of Dundas Castle by Enviko Ltd. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd and approved by CECAS.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION & BACKGROUND

Dundas Castle is situated approximately 2km to the S of South Queensferry. The castle lies within an area of manicured gardens, wooded enclosures and farmland centred on NGR: NT 11835 76714 (*Illus 1*). The archaeological monitoring was carried out on the excavation of a narrow cable trench that ran from the NW corner of the castle across the castle grounds in a roughly SW direction through a lightly wooded garden area to a field of rough pasture approximately 200m from the castle. The cable trench ran across areas of steep uneven ground and areas of level manicured garden.

The topography of the trench location varied significantly with areas of uneven steep slopes and areas of flat level ground. The base geology of the area comprises sedimentary rocks of the

Carboniferous period with a mix of superficial geology comprising alluvial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel formation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=edinburgh>).

The potential for previously unknown archaeology was high due to the proximity to the castle which has medieval origins. Dundas Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (HS Index No. 1909) and also has multiple entries in the NMRS including the Country House NT17NW 6.00 and Dundas Castle Keep NT17NW 6.12. The surrounding area also included a number of entries associated with the later history of the property including the Boathouse NT17NW 6.02, a fountain and sundial NT17NW 6.03 and Castle Grove NT17NW 6.04. In addition to these features a number of earlier archaeological features have been recorded in the surrounding area. A short cist was discovered during works associated with the Forth Road Bridge in the 1960s (NT17NW 18) and further cists were recorded at Moat Knowe in the 1800s (NT17NW 8). A roman coin was also discovered close to Moat Knowe (NT17NW 31) in the 1800s.

Dundas Castle was originally constructed c1416 as a large tower house. A second wing was added to this c1424 forming a 4-storeyed L-shaped tower. A crenellated parapet was added by the 16th century. Apparently the castle was converted into a distillery for a short time. In the early 19th century the castle was renovated and extended with the construction of a whole new series of buildings designed by William Burn (www.dundascalles.co.uk/about-dundas-castle-edinburgh.html). Part of this new building replaced an earlier 17th century building which was pulled down. The estate was eventually sold in 1875 to James Russell who in turn sold it to Stuart Clark in 1899. It has been held by the Clark family since this time.



2

Illus 2

View of the cable trench from the SW

3. OBJECTIVES

In general, the purpose of the works was to record any archaeological remains threatened by the development works and to report on the results of the works.

The resulting archive (finds and records) has been organised and deposited in the National Monuments Record of Scotland to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

All ground-breaking works associated with the 224m long cable trench (*Illus 1*) were carried out under the direct supervision of a monitoring archaeologist. A flat-edged bucket fitted to a back-actor was used to remove soft deposits (topsoil and colluvium). Machine excavation then continued until either the formation levels, significant archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits were exposed; whichever was encountered first.

4.2 Recording

All recording was in accordance with the codes of practice and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (2008). All recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards that conform to accepted archaeological norms.

35mm colour transparencies and digital photographs were taken to record archaeological contexts and to illustrate the general nature of the work. All photographs have been recorded by individual print number and include information on the context and direction taken. A full list of the photographs can be found in Appendix 1.

A plan of the development area in relation to the National Grid was supplied by the client.

4.3 Reporting and archive

On completion of the monitored groundworks a site archive and an archive report will be produced. An online OASIS report has been completed and is accompanied by a pdf report and boundary file (headland1-131066). A summary report has been submitted for inclusion in Discovery and Excavation Scotland a copy of which can be found in Appendix 2.



Illus 3

View of the cable trench leading into the garden area from the W



Illus 4

Detail of the section through the cable trench

The project archive will be compiled in accordance with the guidelines published by the Institute for Archaeologists on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (July 2007). The documentary and digital archive will be submitted to RCAHMS within six months of completion of all work on this project.

5. RESULTS

The monitoring of a single linear cable trench was undertaken on 25th – 26th July 2012 under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The trench was 0.5m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m although this depth fluctuated according to the varying depth and nature of the underlying geology. The trench was 245m long running from the NW corner of the castle (close to the early Tower House) to a field of rough pasture approximately 200m SW of the castle.

The initial 25m of the trench from the NW corner of the castle was aligned E–W and ran down a steep bank of landscaped garden (*Illus 2*). The stratigraphy of this bank comprised 0.9m of soft stone rich dark brown loam with occasional oyster shell and animal bone inclusions. The bank had clearly been landscaped, probably as part of the redevelopment of the castle in the 19th century. At the base of the bank the trench turned to the SW and continued up a steep slope of rough pasture continuing for approximately 100m. The depth of the topsoil across this area varied from 0.2m of topsoil over bedrock to 0.8m of dark orangey brown clayey sand with moderate large stone inclusions. At the top of the slope the trench then turned to the SE through an area of lightly wooded garden (*Illus 3*). The trench followed a grassed garden path through this area continuing SE for 50m before turning to the SW for a further 50m. The topsoil over much of this area comprised mid-orangey brown clayey sand with frequent stone inclusions (*Illus 4*). The depth of the topsoil varied from 0.2m to 0.7m and sat above the bedrock. The final 25m of the trench continued SW through an area of rough pasture and comprised a dark greyish brown clayey sand topsoil to a depth of 0.8m over the bedrock.

The monitoring of the 245m long cable trench revealed no features or artefacts of archaeological significance. The only observation of note was that the material that formed the bank to the W of the castle had clearly been re-deposited and that this had probably occurred during the refurbishment of the castle c1818.



6. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey *Geology of Britain viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=edinburgh> (accessed 26/07/2012).

Dundas Castle www.dundascastle.co.uk/about- Dundas-castle-edinburgh.html (accessed 26/07/2012).

IfA 2009 *Archaeological Archives Forum Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*.

IfA 2008 *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised October 2008).

SPP: Scottish Planning Policy (February 2010; www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/03132605/0).

7. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Photographic register

Frame	C/S	Direction	Description
DCSQ12-001_001	1/37	–	Film 1 ID shot
DCSQ12-001_002	1/36	S	Working shot of trench excavations
DCSQ12-001_003	1/35	SE	Working shot of trench excavations
DCSQ12-001_004	1/34	E	View of the N end of the trench
DCSQ12-001_005	1/33	W	View of the N end of the trench
DCSQ12-001_006	1/32	E	View of the N end of the trench
DCSQ12-001_007	1/31	SW	General shot of the trench from the castle
DCSQ12-001_008	1/30	NE	Working shot of trench excavations
DCSQ12-001_009	1/29	NE	Working shot of trench excavations
DCSQ12-001_010	1/28	E	Working shot of trench excavations
DCSQ12-001_011	1/27	NE	Detail of the trench at 80m
DCSQ12-001_012	1/26	NE	View of the first 120m of the trench
DCSQ12-001_013	1/25	SE	View of the trench running into the garden area
DCSQ12-001_014	1/24	SE	Working shot of trench excavations at 80m
DCSQ12-001_015	1/23	E	Detail of the trench section at 120m
DCSQ12-001_016	1/22	SE	View of the trench at 140m
DCSQ12-001_017	1/21	W	View of the first 120m of the trench from the castle
DCSQ12-001_018	1/20	SW	Trench at 170m as it turns to the N
DCSQ12-001_019	1/19	SW	Trench at 180m
DCSQ12-001_020	1/18	NW	Trench at 195m
DCSQ12-001_021	1/17	NW	Section of the trench at 210m
DCSQ12-001_022	1/16	NE	Final 25m of trench at the S end
DCSQ12-001_023	1/15	SW	Detail of the trench section at 180m showing bedrock



Appendix 2 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	A watching brief at Dundas Castle
PROJECT CODE:	DCSQ12
PARISH:	Dalmeny
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Donald Wilson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT17NW 6.00
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Castle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	none
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 11835 76714
START DATE (this season)	July 2012
END DATE (this season)	July 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	none
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Headland Archaeology Ltd undertook a watching brief on trench excavations associated with the laying of a cable at the site of Dundas Castle in order to identify and record any archaeological remains that might be exposed by the works. The work was commissioned by Enviko Ltd, and a specification was agreed with Edinburgh City Council.</p> <p>A narrow trench 245m long across the grounds to the S of the castle was monitored to a maximum depth of 0.9m. Although no archaeological features were uncovered during the watching brief the trench was excavated through an area of early 19th century landscaping to the W of the Castle. This was both apparent in the bank leading up to the castle and the gardens further to the SW. No artefacts of archaeological significance were recovered during this work.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	–
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Enviko Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	donald.wilson@headlandarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NMRS



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