

EGPG11

Planning Application Reference P/11/0511/FUL

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Works

**Land to the northwest of Grangemouth Technology Park, Earls Road,
Grangemouth**

November 2011

**Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An application (P/11/0511/FUL), by Bericote Properties Ltd (the client), for Class 6 development comprising a distribution warehouse, parking, SUDS, access roads, internal access road, landscape works and associated facilities at land to the northwest of Grangemouth Technology Park, Earls Road, Grangemouth, has been submitted to Falkirk Council as local planning authority (the LPA).
- 1.2 The LPA has decided to grant planning consent subject to conditions, including the following (no.4):

There shall be no works on site until such times as a written scheme of archaeological investigation has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the planning authority and that the scheme of archaeological investigation has been demonstrated to have been completed also with the written approval of the Planning Authority. For the avoidance of doubt the scheme of archaeological investigation should be carried out in respect of the existing standing structures at the site, and the site of the former Kerse House. The developer shall allow access at all reasonable times to any archaeologist/archaeological organisation approved by this planning authority and shall allow them to observe work in progress and record items of interest and finds. Notification of the commencement date, site contact person and name of the archaeologist/archaeological organisation retained by the developer shall be submitted in writing not less than 14 days before development commences.

- 1.3 Bericote Properties has commissioned CgMs Consulting to agree a programme of archaeological work with the LPA, and to encapsulate that programme within a written scheme of investigation (WSI - this document). This document has been produced by Headland Archaeology, following detailed discussions with CgMs Consulting and it will be submitted for agreement in line with this condition.
- 1.4 The programme of work will involve several elements: documentary research, historic structure recording and area excavation.
- 1.5 This WSI takes into account relevant IfA Standards and Guidance.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

- 2.1 The site is located to the west of Grangemouth (NGR NS 915 816; see attached figure). It is currently occupied by a number of buildings and park areas. These include some stone-built historic structures and modern buildings. Some areas are covered with mature trees.
- 2.2 The site lies around 5 m OD and is underlain by inter-tidal deposits (clay – Hydrock Consultants SI Records, Sept 2011).
- 2.3 Geological deposits are overlain by ‘made ground’ containing a variety of material, some of it likely to be modern in origin (brick, blaes); the depth of this varies from 0.2 m in the north of site to 0.9 m in the south. A localised area of 2.6 m of made ground was noted in one test pit (HTP 07).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site contains structural remains relating to the post-medieval Kerse House, including a walled garden and ice-house. It has potential to contain remains relating to a medieval predecessor to Kerse House (Carss Castle).
- 3.2 Kerse House appears to have been built in the 17th century. With much alteration and extension this structure was mapped by the Ordnance Survey in 1865

(footprint shown on the attached plan). Photographs taken prior to demolition (in 1957) show a central structure, partially on an artificial terrace, and with large 19th century extensions on either side. The walled garden is recorded as constructed in 1777. The icehouse appears to have been mapped in 1865.

- 3.3 A map made by Timothy Pont toward the end of the 16th century. Depicts a 'Carss Castle' in the general vicinity of site, and this is presumed to relate to a medieval predecessor of Kerse House. Its precise location is not known. The SI logs (Hydrock Consultants SI Report, Sept 2011) show that the site is underlain by intertidal clays beneath 'made ground'. It is considered likely that much of the site is reclaimed 'Carse' (intertidal marshland).

4 OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 In general, the purpose of the programme of work is to mitigate any adverse impacts the development will have on the archaeological resource.
- 4.2 More specific aims of the programme include:
- Creating an appropriate archive record of any historically significant standing structures prior to demolition.
 - Controlled archaeological excavation and recording of an area centred on the footprint of Kerse House.
- 4.3 The resulting archive will be organised and deposited in the National Monuments Record of Scotland and a copy with the Falkirk Archives Service to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

5 SCHEDULE

- 5.1 Subject to receipt of the necessary approval, the programme of archaeological works will commence in November 2011.

6 PROJECT TEAM

- 6.1 The project will be managed by Simon Mortimer of CgMs Consulting. Headland Archaeology will carry out the necessary fieldwork and reporting and Simon Stronach will co-ordinate the project for Headland Archaeology. The field team will be supervised by Alastair Robertson (Project Officer). *Curricula vitae* of key personnel can be supplied on request. The project team will familiarise themselves with the background to the site and will be aware of the project's aims and methodologies.
- 6.2 Specialist artefact analyses will be managed by Julie Franklin who is Headland's Finds Manager. Julie will undertake finds assessment within her areas of competence (medieval and post-medieval ceramics, metalwork, glassware, clay pipes, ceramic building material and other small finds) and assisted by Julie Lochrie (lithics, prehistoric pottery). Further consultation will be sub-contracted to recognised period specialists if appropriate.
- 6.3 Environmental analysis will be managed by Dr Scott Timpany. Headland has in-house specialists who can undertake analysis of pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and thin sections. Faunal remains will be assessed by Claudia Suarez and human remains by Carmelita Troy (although it is not anticipated that the latter will be removed during an evaluation project).
- 6.4 Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd is a Registered Organisation and abides by the Codes of Conduct and Approved Practice and Standards of the Institute for

Archaeologists. The company has all the necessary technical and personnel resources for the satisfactory completion of the fieldwork.

7 INSURANCE & COPYRIGHT

- 7.1 Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd is fully indemnified and all necessary insurances can be presented on request.
- 7.2 Copyright will be retained by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. Headland will licence the client, CGMS, curator and other bodies as necessary for use in matters relating to the project and for use of the project archive by NMRS. This licence will also extend to non-commercial use.

8 HEALTH & SAFETY

- 8.1 All of Headland's work is undertaken in accordance with current H&S legislation. A risk assessment and method statement will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork. All staff will wear appropriate PPE and this will include high-visibility clothing, hard hats and safety footwear. Suitable site welfare facilities will be provided.

9 ACCESS & SERVICES

- 9.1 This WSI is submitted on the understanding that vegetation removal and machine clearance will be organised directly by the client. There are no services within the proposed excavation area.

10 STRATEGY

- 10.1 A desk-based assessment will be undertaken prior to any fieldwork. It will recover information from all existing archaeological databases, published historic maps, aerial photographs where relevant, and readily available published sources. These basic sources will be supplemented by additional data gathering to obtain copies of relevant plans, elevations and photographs relating to Kerse House in the National Archives of Scotland and RCHAMS. The results will be used to inform fieldwork, and will be included in reports where appropriate.
- 10.2 Historic structure recording will be undertaken on all the former elements of the gardens associates with Kerse House (ice house, walled garden and other garden walls). The ice house will be cleared of vegetation under archaeological supervision prior to recording.
- 10.3 The survey will be in line with the requirements of a Level 2 record (RCHME 1996) the survey will include:
- Ground plan as existing (to scale and using a base plan supplied by client). To include the form and location of structural features of historic significance (e.g. blocked doors & windows, masonry joints, changes in level). A measured interior floor plan of the ice house will be created.
 - General photographic view or views of all visible structural faces.
 - Photographs that capture the overall appearance of features.
 - Detailed photographic coverage of structural features of historic significance.
 - The ice-house façade, currently obscured by a brick 'blast-wall', will be recorded photographically following removal of the brick wall.

- 10.4 The demolition of the ice-house will be archaeologically monitored and any pertinent architectural details recorded by photograph and written record (including measured location).
- 10.5 Any significant architectural structural materials (for example, date-stones) noted during the recording or demolition works will be retained.
- 10.6 An area centered on the former location of Kerse House (see attached plan) will be cleared of vegetation to current ground level without archaeological supervision.
- 10.7 This cleared area (c.1 ha or 10 000 sq m) will then be subject to machine clearance of modern deposits/topsoil under archaeological supervision from over, around and within surviving structural elements of Kerse House.
- 10.8 The cleared area will be subject to archaeological recording. The scope will be determined following the site strip following consultation with the Falkirk Council Archaeologist.

11 METHOD

AREA EXCAVATION

- 11.1 The excavation area will be cleared using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket except where compact modern deposits require use of a toothed bucket. The area will be excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision in controlled spits to remove topsoil and deposits of modern make-up. Machine excavation will terminate at the top of the natural geology (intertidal clays) or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever is encountered first.
- 11.2 Machines and any dumpers will not track over stripped areas. Following machine excavation, the area will be cleaned using appropriate hand tools where required.
- 11.3 In tandem with machine excavation a representative sample of identified features will be investigated and recorded; sufficient to characterise the nature of the exposed archaeology. The results will be used to determine a strategy for full excavation and recording. This strategy will be agreed on completion of machine clearance following consultation with the Falkirk Council Archaeologist.

RECORDING

- 11.4 Historic Structure Recording will follow IfA Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (IfA 2008). Recording will be undertaken on *pro forma* record sheets. 35mm colour transparencies and digital images will be taken; a graduated metric scale will be clearly visible and a register kept.
- 11.5 Excavation area recording will follow IfA Standards and Guidance (IfA 2008). All contexts, small finds and environmental samples will be given unique numbers. All recording will be undertaken on *pro forma* record cards. In the event that stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled. 35mm colour transparencies and prints will be taken; a graduated metric scale will be clearly visible. Digital images may be taken for illustrative purposes.
- 11.6 A site plan including all identified features, areas of excavation and other pertinent information will be recorded digitally. The site plan will be accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to OD. Where appropriate, sections and stratigraphic sequences will be recorded digitally. Digital recording will be undertaken using a differential GPS or an EDM linked to a hand-held computer in order to allow data checking while in the field. If additional detailed recording of features and sections is required (ie. where their complexity means that archaeological information could

be lost if recorded digitally) then plans and sections will be hand-drawn on permatrace at an appropriate scale (normally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections).

- 11.7 Headland maintains a digitally-based library of guidance documents that includes information on excavation and recording. Relevant parts can be forwarded on request.

SAMPLES AND ARTEFACTS

- 11.8 Finds will be routinely recorded by context and recorded 3-dimensionally where appropriate (ie. where their position within a context can provide further significant information or the find is of particular significance). Any artefacts retrieved during the evaluation will be cleaned using appropriate techniques and packaged and stored in accordance with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 1998). All artefacts recovered during the evaluation will be cleaned, marked and catalogued. Headland's in-house finds specialists will be available to provide advice remotely or on site if necessary. Conservation will be undertaken by Scottish Conservation Studio (for metalwork) and AOC Ltd (for organics).

- 11.9 Deposits identified as archaeologically significant will be sampled for environmental material and other finds (e.g. bone, pottery etc.). Bulk samples will be taken from selected deposits for wet sieving and floatation in order to recover any environmental material. A bulk sample will typically be 40 litres. However, where large deposits are encountered more than one bulk sample may be taken. Similarly, small deposits such as the fill of postholes may contain less than 10 litres of sediment and will be fully sampled. A representative proportion of samples taken on site will be processed and assessed with the results and recommendations for any further work included in the evaluation report.

- 11.10 Where waterlogged deposits are encountered appropriate sampling techniques will be employed so as to maximise the environmental information gained from such deposits. This may include the taking of monolith or core samples for pollen and non-pollen palynomorphs (e.g. testates and fungal spores) and large specialist samples for plant macrofossil, wood (including waterlogged wood) and insect analyses.

- 11.11 Headland's Environmental Specialist, Dr Scott Timpany, will liaise with site staff to ensure an appropriate strategy for the recovery and sampling of environmental remains develops in tandem with fieldwork results.

12 MONITORING

- 12.1 Access to the site will be afforded to the LPA archaeological advisor for monitoring purposes.

13 REPORTING AND ARCHIVE

- 13.1 An archive report describing the background, method and results of the historic structure survey, with accompanying analysis of the structures' current form, development and nature will be produced and included in the overall site report. This will include: a scale plan of the whole site showing the location of each of the recorded buildings/structures. It will also include a broad selection of photographs.
- 13.2 On completion of the excavation Headland will produce an ordered site archive and an archive report that includes all relevant specialist assessments of excavated material. If it is determined that the significance of the results merits further post-excavation analysis and production of a publication report a Project Design for this work will accompany the archive report. The Project Design will be submitted to the

Falkirk Council Archaeologist for agreement of a programme of post-excavation analysis and production of a report fit for publication in a suitable journal.

- 13.3 An online OASIS report will be completed and will be accompanied by a pdf report and boundary file. A summary report will be submitted for inclusion in *Discovery and Excavation Scotland*.
- 13.4 Final report contents and format will be in line with IfA standards & guidance. Copies of the report will be sent to the client for onward transmission to the local planning authority; copies (paper & electronic) will also be submitted to the HER. Draft reports will be submitted within 6 weeks of the completion of fieldwork.
- 13.5 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 and a copy with the Falkirk Archives Service within six months of completion of all work on this project. All finds will be reported to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel, which will determine the ultimate destination of the material archive. Once this is determined, and within three months, arrangements will be made with the specified museum for transfer of material and title.

14 HUMAN REMAINS

- 14.1 All finds of human remains will be reported to the client, curator and local police. If human remains are to be excavated all excavation and treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains will be undertaken in cognisance of IfA Technical Paper Number 13 (Brickley & McKinley & 2004) and relevant Historic Scotland policy on the treatment of human remains.

15 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Watkinson D & Neal V First aid for finds, (Third Edition 1998).