

CSLE13-001

**Constitution Street Improvements, Leith
Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief**

Client: City of Edinburgh Council

DRAFT v.2

April 2013

**Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
North East**

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The City of Edinburgh Council intends to carry out a series of improvements to the roads and pavements along the length of Constitution Street from the north of Bernard Street Junction to the foot of Leith Walk. The improvements include relaying footways, alterations to kerb lines, gully repairs, the re-instatement of tree pits and installation of a new bus stop.
- 1.2 The client has commissioned Headland Archaeology to agree a programme of archaeological work with the City of Edinburgh Archaeological Service (CECAS), and to encapsulate that programme within a written scheme of investigation (WSI - this document) to be submitted for agreement.
- 1.3 This WSI takes into account relevant IfA Standards and Guidance.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

- 2.1 The site is located between NGR NT 269 759 and NT 272 764 (see attached figure).
- 2.2 The site lies around 9 m OD and is underlain by windblown sand and raised beach deposits.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Constitution Street lies within a sensitive archaeological area due to its proximity to the early medieval core of Leith and later defences. During mitigation works associated with the Edinburgh Trams project, articulated burials and a defensive ditch relating to the 16th century fortification of Leith were discovered across Constitution Street to the east of South Leith Parish Church's graveyard. A road surface on an earlier route into Leith consisting of a series of cobbled and earthen surfaces interleaved with midden deposits were discovered at the junction of Queen Charlotte Street and Constitution Street. At the far end of Constitution Street, outside Number 8, the remains of a large stone-built breakwater were discovered.

4 OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The watching brief is designed to mitigate any adverse impacts on sub-surface remains of archaeological interest.
- 4.2 The resulting archive will be organised and deposited in the NMRS; to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit. Reports will be made available through the forums noted below.

5 SCHEDULE

- 5.1 The Constitution Street improvement consists of three phases/sections of works with some overlap likely. The section from Baltic Street to Dock Gates is expected to commence on the 29th April 2013 and last for approximately four weeks. The section from Duke Street to Coatfield Lane is expected to commence in parallel with the section above and last for seven weeks. The section from Coatfield Lane to Baltic Street is expected to follow from the section above and last for eight weeks.
- 5.2 Following completion of all ground breaking works requiring archaeological monitoring a draft report on the results of the watching brief will then be delivered

to the client and, on approval, to the curator within 4 weeks of the completion of watching brief.

6 PROJECT TEAM

- 6.1 The project will be managed for Headland Archaeology by Sorina Spanou (Project Manager); the field team will consist of a Project Officer from Headland Archaeology. *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 Tim Holden. Headland has in-house specialists who can undertake analysis of pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and thin sections. Faunal and human remains will be assessed by appropriate specialists.
- 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 watching brief.

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, 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 STRATEGY

- 9.1 The improvement works involve relaying footways with new precast concrete flags and the installation of tactile flags at corners where missing (excavations up to 0.25m), alterations to kerb lines (excavations up to 0.3m), gully repairs where necessary (localised excavations up to 1.5 - 2.0m), the installation of six new tree pits at locations where previously removed by tram works (localised excavations up to 1.5m), the installation of one bus stop and the removal of another (localised excavations up to 0.5m) and the repair of carriageways (excavation between 0.25m and 0.4m).
- 9.2 The deeper excavations, those between 0.5m and 2m, will require the presence of a monitoring archaeologist. Where these occur over ground previously excavated during the Edinburgh Tram works a constant presence may not be necessary. The

locations that require constant monitoring will be determined once the design has been finalised.

- 9.3 It is recommended that the majority of excavation on the part of Constitution Street opposite South Leith Parish Church be constantly monitored due to the presence of known human burials. These occur at various depths with the shallowest being 0.4m below the present ground level.

10 METHOD

FIELDWORK

- 10.1 Where groundworks may disturb significant sub-surface archaeological remains they will be monitored by an archaeologist. Typically one archaeologist will monitor one earth moving plant. 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.

RECORDING

- 10.2 All recording will follow IfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological watching briefs. 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.
- 10.3 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 (i.e. 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).
- 10.4 Headland maintains a digitally-based library of guidance documents that includes information on watching briefs and recording. Relevant parts can be forwarded on request.

SAMPLES AND ARTEFACTS

- 10.5 Finds will be routinely recorded by context and recorded 3-dimensionally where appropriate (i.e. where their position within a context can provide further significant information or the find is of particular significance). Any artefacts retrieved during the works 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 works 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).
- 10.6 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 final report.

- 10.7 Where waterlogged deposits are encountered (such as peat) 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.
- 10.8 Headland's Environmental Specialist, Dr Tim Holden, will liaise with site staff to ensure an appropriate strategy for the recovery and sampling of environmental remains develops in tandem with fieldwork results.

11 MONITORING

- 11.1 Access to the site will be afforded to the curator for monitoring purposes.

12 REPORTING AND ARCHIVE

- 12.1 On completion of the watching brief Headland will produce a combined site archive and an archive report for the earlier evaluation and the watching brief that includes all relevant specialist assessments of excavated material. 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*.
- 12.2 Final report contents and format will be in line with IfA standards & guidance and curator requirements. 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 curator, to be deposited in the HER. Draft reports will be submitted within 4 weeks of the completion of fieldwork.
- 12.3 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. 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.

13 HUMAN REMAINS

- 13.1 All finds of human remains will be reported to the client, curator and local police. If human remains are to be excavated during the works 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.

14 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Archives Forum Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (published by the IfA 2007).

Brickley M & McKinley J 2004 Guidelines to the standards for recording human remains (IfA Paper No 7).

IfA Standards and Guidance for archaeological Watching Briefs (revised October 2008).

Humble J & Murray R 2008 Edinburgh Trams- results of watching briefs on service diversions (Leith and Haymarket) and grounds at Gogarburn depot, unpublished client report

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

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