

DKOC10

**Duddingston Kirk, Old Church Lane, Edinburgh:  
Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological  
Evaluation and Historic Building Recording**

Planning Reference: 09/02605/FUL

*Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd*  
13 Jane Street  
Edinburgh  
EH6 5HE

*Client: Crichton Lang, Willis + Galloway*

*July 2010*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

This Written Scheme of Investigation is presented in connection with archaeological works in response to a planning condition placed by the City of Edinburgh Council on a development at Duddingston Kirk, Old Church Lane, Edinburgh. The scope of works has been discussed with the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS) which advises the planning authority on archaeological matters. Initially the work will comprise the excavation of archaeological trial trenches in accessible parts of the proposed development area.

The development covers an area in the north-west corner of the Manse garden of Duddingston Kirk; adjoining the existing gatehouse and including the area of a modern toilet block, which is to be demolished. Because of the site's location near to the Kirk it has a high archaeological potential with prehistoric artefacts found within the vicinity of the proposed development area. In particular a Neolithic stone axe was discovered near the current church gate during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Other finds include a Bronze Age hoard recovered from Duddingston Loch in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. These indicate a potential for the discovery of prehistoric remains in the area.

Place name evidence indicates that the village and church at Duddingston was known by the British name of *Treverlan* during the Early Christian period when the settlement is first recorded. The site itself is adjacent to the parish church and the historic core of the medieval village of Duddingston. Historic records indicate that Duddingston Kirk was founded by the Norman Knight Dodin de Berwic in the 12<sup>th</sup> century who leased the land from Kelso Abbey. Although the church is much altered it contains structural elements from a 12<sup>th</sup> century Romanesque church. It is therefore possible archaeological features and deposits associated with the medieval church may be present within the development area.

## **2 PROJECT DESIGN**

### **2.1 OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the work are:

to test the archaeological potential of the proposed development site in order to inform the scope of any required mitigation measures

### **2.2 METHODOLOGY**

#### **2.2.1 Archaeological Trial Trenches**

Linear trial trenches will be excavated across the available area targeting, where possible, areas where the impact of the new development on buried archaeological remains is considered to most significant (i.e., within the building footprint). Trial trenching will cover a minimum of 5% of the proposed development area (92 sqm).

A mechanical excavator will be used to remove modern overburden and/or topsoil under archaeological control. A toothed bucket may be used to remove demolition deposits; soft deposits will be removed with a flat-bladed bucket. Excavation will continue until clean geological sediments, significant archaeological deposits or structures are encountered OR until the limit of safe excavation is reached. Only trenches less than 1 m and considered safe will be entered by site staff. Deeper sections and sondages may be excavated but these will only be inspected from the surface. It is not proposed to undertake stepping and shoring of trenches during this phase of work.

The resulting surfaces will be hand cleaned where necessary and archaeologically investigated (where considered safe as noted above). A representative sample, sufficient to meet the objectives of the evaluation, of identified features will be investigated by hand and all identified features will be recorded. The stratigraphy of each trench will be recorded in full. Features not suited to excavation in narrow trenches will only be investigated in plan.

The trial trenching shall be undertaken by two archaeologists over a one day period. Trenches shall be backfilled but not re-surfaced.

### 2.2.2 Structural Recording

A Level 1 historic building survey will be undertaken of the gatehouse and northern garden wall prior to the works commencing. This will comprise a photographic survey and written description. The results of the structural recording will be incorporated into the evaluation report

## 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.

An overall site plan has been supplied by the client. Archaeological trenches and features will be added to this using Total Station survey and related to the National Grid. The survey will be related to height levels in m OD. Hand-drawn plans of individual features at a scale of 1:20 will be drawn where appropriate. Sections and elevations will be drawn at 1:10 where appropriate.

## 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.

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 Sorina Spanou 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.