

GORE14

Planning Application Reference 11/02827/FUL

Written Scheme of Investigation for Area Excavation

396 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh

Client: Coldspring on behalf of UK Student Accommodation 1 Limited

DRAFT v.1

November 2015

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

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An application for development (11/02827/FUL) at 396 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh has been submitted to City of Edinburgh Council. The client is currently ensuring that sufficient information is gathered in support of the planning application, in keeping with current policy and guidance (PAN 2/2011, SHEP, SPP). In particular SPP section 112 states:

When significant elements of the historic environment are likely to be affected by development proposals, developers should take the preservation of this significance into account in their proposals. The amount of information and analysis required should relate in scale to the possible impact on the historic environment.

- 1.2 The client commissioned Headland Archaeology to agree a programme of archaeological work (Historic Building Survey, Trial Trench Evaluation and Excavation) with the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeological Service (CECAS) and to encapsulate that programme within a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for each element.
- 1.3 The most recent phase of work (post-demo Trial Trench Evaluation) has established the presence of significant structural and archaeological remains in some parts of the site and the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) have advised the Planning Authority that further recording and reporting are required.
- 1.4 This WSI proposes excavation of an area during the post-demo phase as outlined in the attached plan and is designed to be submitted and approved by CECAS who will monitor the works on behalf of the Planning Authority.
- 1.5 This WSI takes into account relevant ClfA Standards and Guidance.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

- 2.1 The site is located on the north side of Gorgie Road (NGR NT 2248 7214). It is currently occupied by a number of commercial operations using standing buildings, car parks and yards. These include some stone-built structures, some brick buildings and modern industrial units. Most of the open areas are surfaced with tarmac and are used for vehicle access and parking. Some areas are covered in hard standing and are accessible for trenching.
- 2.2 The site lies around 46 m OD and is underlain by clay, sand and gravel, which are either alluvial or lacustrine in origin (British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk> & Ian Farmer Associates Borehole Records October 2007).
- 2.3 Geological deposits are overlain by 'made ground' containing a variety of material, some of it likely to be modern in origin (brick, 'colliery' spoil); the depth of this varies from 1 m in the southwest of site ('area of shallow overburden' on attached figure) to over 2 m in the northwest.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As noted above a Desk Based Assessment (Humble & Kimber 2007) relating to the site has been compiled and consulted. The full results will not be repeated here, however the site was deemed to have the potential to contain remains relating to the medieval, post-medieval and modern period.

- 3.2 Documentary evidence suggests habitation on the site by the late 16th century and the 17th century Gorgie House was located in the immediate vicinity. Cartographic evidence shows mill activity on the site from at least the 18th century onwards.
- 3.3 Historic Building Survey undertaken in October 2014 recorded the surviving upstanding buildings associated with the 19th century mill complex and their phased development/alteration to the present day.
- 3.4 The pre-demo phase of Trial Trenching and Excavation (Woodley 2015) completed in January 2015 identified the remains of multiple phases of activity on the site starting with the construction of a mill wall, lade and operation of timber-lined tanning pits during the early 19th century.
- 3.5 *Summary of recent post-demo Trial Trench phase (see appended plan)*
- 3.6 Trench 1 contained a circular stone-built kiln with evidence of in situ burning. The kiln was located approximately 0.4m below the present ground surface. Carbonised oats were recovered from the kiln. Trench 1 also contained a stone wall 5m to the west of the kiln; this was aligned NE-SW and matches the location a building present on the Ordnance Survey map of 1895. The wall was located at 0.5m below the present ground surface at the NE but was more truncated towards the SW end where the wall was 1.5m below the present ground surface. No features were present to the west of the wall. This area contained layers of levelling over natural to a depth of 2.3m below the present ground surface.
- 3.7 Trench 2 contained a small patch of stone cobbles measuring 1m by 1m at the NE end. These were present at 1.3m below the present ground surface. No other features were present in Trench 2. To the west of the cobble were layers of levelling over natural to a depth of 2.3m below the present ground surface.
- 3.8 Trench 3 contained a stone wall, oriented NW to SE at the trench's west end. It was similar in character and perpendicular to the wall present in Trench 1. No other features were present to the west of the wall. This area contained layers of levelling over natural to a depth of 2.5m below the present ground surface, indicating significant truncation.
- 3.9 Trench 4 contained a substantial wall, oriented NW-SE, along the trench's west edge. The wall was constructed with rectangular sandstone block bonded with lime mortar and stood to a height of up to 1.1m. The wall was 1.3m wide though the western edge of the wall lay outwith the trench. A cobbled surface was present to the east of the wall and appears to be associated. This was found 1.2m below the present ground surface and the limits lay outwith the trench to the east and north. A stone drain was present within the cobbled surface, this was 0.6m wide. Another cobbled surface was present at the SE end of Trench 3 which was stratigraphically later than the wall and surface to the NW and was found 0.2m below the present ground surface. It measured 1.2m by 1.5m.

4 OBJECTIVE

- 4.1 In general, the purpose of the excavation is to record any archaeological and structural remains threatened and exposed by the proposed development works.
- 4.2 The resulting archive (finds and records) will be organised and deposited in the National Monuments Record of Scotland to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

5 SCHEDULE

5.1 The excavation is anticipated to be 2 to 3 weeks duration.

6 PROJECT TEAM

6.1 The project will be managed for Headland Archaeology by Alistair Robertson (Project Manager); the field team will consist of Ross Murray (senior archaeologist) and a team of experienced archaeologists. *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 remains will be assessed by Claudia Suarez and human remains by Dave Henderson.

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 excavation.

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, CECAS 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 there will be machine-access to all relevant areas of the site. Any obstructions/spoil heaps etc. will be removed to a safe distance from the excavation area by the client prior to trenching.

10 STRATEGY

10.1 The excavation area (~550 m²) has been targeted on the area of greatest archaeological potential as identified during the post-demo phase of trial trenching. It also takes into account site restrictions such as live services and a public road that present Health & Safety issues for the excavation team.

10.2 Any further post-demo mitigation will be agreed in advance with the client and CECAS.

11 METHOD

FIELDWORK

- 11.1 Trenches will be opened with a mechanical excavator, suitably equipped with a toothless ditching bucket of adequate width (usually 1.6 m). All trenches will be excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and deposits of modern make-up and will be excavated in controlled spits. Machine excavation will terminate at the top of the natural geology or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever is encountered first. Once stripped of overburden the areas will be hand cleaned to allow the detailed planning and recording of structures and deposits. Spoil will be stored at a safe distance from the trench.
- 11.2 Subsequently all archaeologically significant structures and deposits identified will be characterised and an appropriate sampling and recording strategy implemented.
- 11.3 The sampling level of the archaeological remains will be determined after the initial site clean, and will vary according to the types of feature and deposits identified. The sampling strategy will be determined in discussion with CECAS and adhere to the following principles:
- **Structures and structural features relating to industrial use of the site:** these will be planned to an appropriate level of detail and all stratigraphic relationships recorded. Sample hand excavation of related deposits will be to a sufficient degree to determine their nature.
 - **Discrete cut features:** these will be planned and half sectioned. All stratigraphic relationships will be ascertained. Further hand excavation may be required to fully understand the feature (in terms of date or function).
 - **Linear features:** these will be planned and sample excavated (to a minimum of 10% of overall length). All stratigraphic relationships will be ascertained. Further hand excavated may be required to fully understand the feature (in terms of date or function).
 - **Other archaeological deposits:** excavation and sampling strategies for other types of deposit will be decided according to their nature and significance. Excavation will be sufficient to establish the nature, date and extent of all deposits. Further investigation will be a matter for on-site judgment and discussion.
- 11.4 Due to Health and Safety considerations, excavations below approximately 1m below existing ground level will not be entered by site staff without suitable battering or stepping of trench edges. Localised stepping of trench edges may be undertaken to allow safe inspection and investigation of deep deposits sufficient to fulfil the objectives of the excavation.
- 11.5 Trenches may be machine-excavated to depths greater than approximately 1 m and inspected from the surface. Test pits may be excavated to investigate deep depositional sequences; any such test pits will be located within blank areas of existing trenches, will not be entered by site staff, and will be backfilled immediately after excavation.

RECORDING

- 11.6 All recording will follow ClfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological excavations. All contexts, small finds and environmental samples will be given unique numbers. All recording will be undertaken on *pro forma* record

cards. Digital photographs will be taken; a graduated metric scale will be clearly visible.

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

SAMPLES AND ARTEFACTS

- 11.9 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 excavation 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 excavation 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).
- 11.10 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 excavation report.
- 11.11 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.
- 11.12 Headland's Environmental Specialist, Laura Bailey, 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 CECAS for monitoring purposes.

13 REPORTING AND ARCHIVE

- 13.1 On completion of the excavation Headland will produce a site archive and an archive report 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*.

- 13.2 Final report contents and format will be in line with ClfA standards & guidance and CECAS 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 CECAS, to be deposited in the HER. Draft reports will be submitted within 2 weeks of the completion of fieldwork.
- 13.3 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. Finds will be packaged according to the requirements of the receiving body, with any appropriate labelling, accession numbers and box numbers.

14 HUMAN REMAINS

All finds of human remains will be reported to the client, curator and local police. None will be excavated during the course of the present program of work. If human remains are to be excavated during subsequent work all excavation and treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains will be undertaken in cognisance of ClfA Technical Paper Number 13 (Brickley & McKinley & 2004) and relevant Historic Scotland policy on the treatment of human remains.

15 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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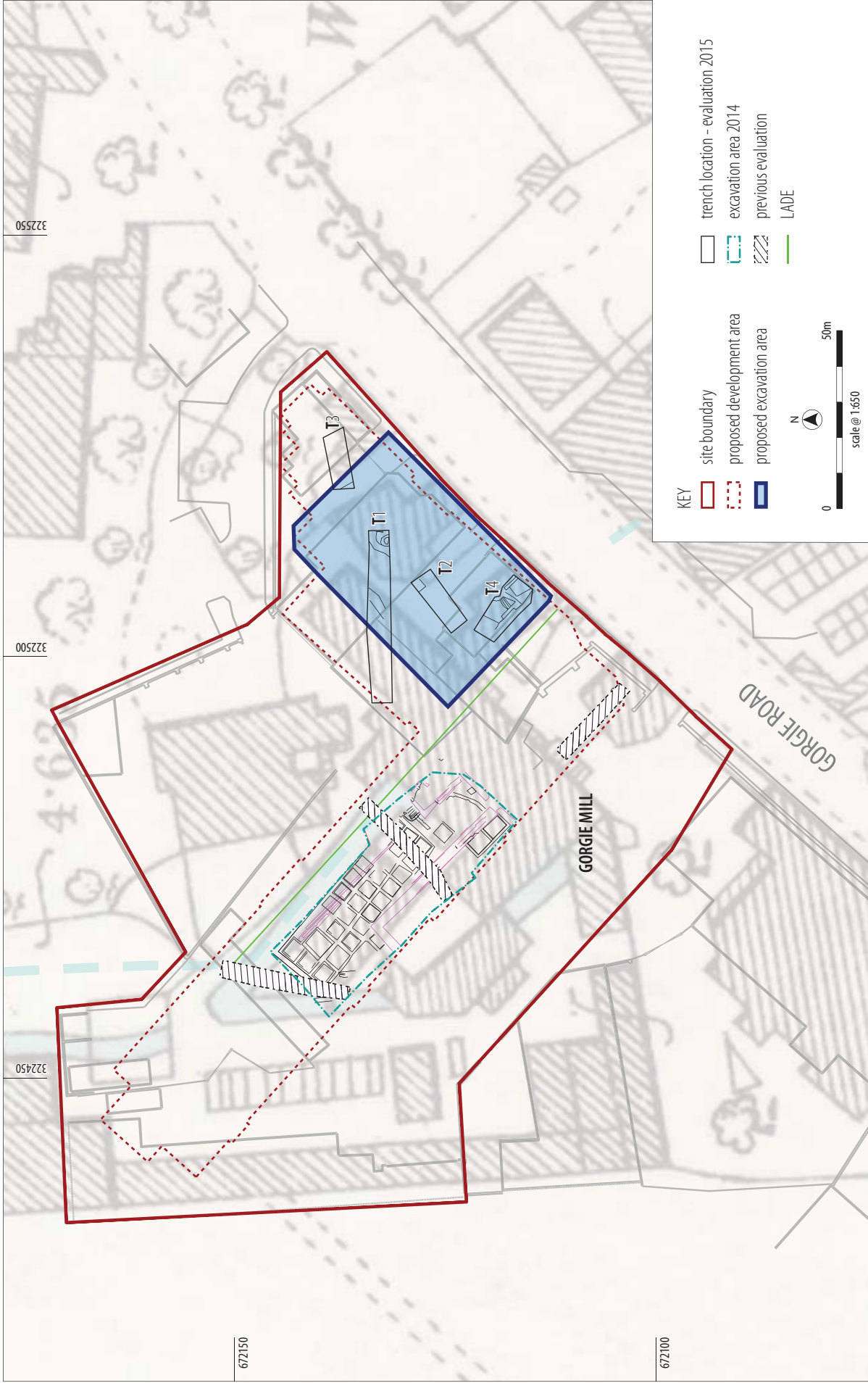
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ILLUS 1
Site plan overlay on 1895 OS Map