

**GORE14**

**Planning Application Reference 11/02827/FUL**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trench Evaluation**

**396 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh**

**Client: 3DReid**

**DRAFT v.1**

**14th October 2014**

**Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd  
13 Jane Street, Edinburgh  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 An application for development (11/02827/FUL) at 396 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh has been submitted to City of Edinburgh Council. As part of the application process, the client has commissioned an Historic Building Survey and the results will form part of the application submission.
- 1.2 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.*

- 1.3 The client has commissioned Headland Archaeology to agree a programme of archaeological work with the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeological Service (CECAS), and to encapsulate that programme within a written scheme of investigation (WSI - this document) to be submitted for agreement.
- 1.4 This document takes into account a Desk Based Assessment (Humble & Kimber 2007), targeted Trial Trench Evaluation (Murray 2011) and Historic Building Survey (van Wessel in prep) that have previously been undertaken in connection with the planning application.
- 1.5 This WSI takes into account relevant IfA 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 17<sup>th</sup> century Gorgie House was located in the immediate vicinity. Cartographic evidence shows mill activity on the site from at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

- 3.3 The trial trench evaluation (Murray 2011) identified remains of a square building present on the 1855 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition associated with the industrial complex. No traces of medieval or early post-medieval structures, including Gorgie House, were identified.
- 3.4 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.

#### **4 OBJECTIVE**

- 4.1 In general, the purpose of the evaluation is to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the archaeological significance and potential of the proposed development site.
- 4.2 More specific aims of the evaluation include:
- Establishing the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the accessible areas targeted for trenching.
  - Establishing the integrity and state of preservation of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the accessible areas.
- 4.3 The results of the evaluation will be used to inform a strategy for further archaeological mitigation if appropriate.
- 4.4 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 Subject to receipt of the necessary approval from CECAS, Phase 1 (pre-demolition) of Trial Trenching will be completed within the week commencing either 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014, followed by Phase 2 (post-demolition). A draft report will then be delivered to the client and, on approval, to CECAS within 4 weeks of the completion of fieldwork.

#### **6 PROJECT TEAM**

- 6.1 The project will be managed for Headland Archaeology by Alistair Robertson (Project Manager); the field team will consist of Jürgen van Wessel (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 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 (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 evaluation.

## **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. A plan of any services within the proposed development area will also be provided by the client or their agents where appropriate. Any obstructions/spoil heaps etc. will be removed by the client prior to trenching.

## **10 STRATEGY**

- 10.1 Trial Trenching will be undertaken pre-demolition (Phase 1) and post demolition (Phase 2) of the currently upstanding structures on the development footprint.
- 10.2 Phase 1 will incorporate c. 45 linear m of trenches (provisionally 3 trenches of 15m length), representing 10% of the development's NW-SE footprint. Trenches will be located to provide good coverage of the area to establish archaeological potential and also specifically target a branch of the mill lade (see attached figure).
- 10.3 Phase 2 will incorporate c. 50 linear m of trenches (provisionally 5 trenches of 10m length), representing 10% of the development's NE-SW footprint. Trenches will be located to provide good coverage to establish archaeological potential of the area fronting onto the historic thoroughfare and also specifically to target the principle mill lade (see attached figure).
- 10.4 The results of these trenches will be assessed by CECAS and if further information is required an additional area of excavation will be undertaken subsequent to agreement 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. Spoil will be stored beside the trench.

- 11.2 Excavation of archaeological deposits and features required to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation will continue by hand (except where agreed otherwise with CECAS). On completion of machine excavation, all faces of the trench that require examination or recording will be cleaned using appropriate hand tools where required. The stratigraphic sequence will be recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.
- 11.3 A sufficient quantity (to adequately evaluate the site) of identified features will be investigated and recorded. This will typically involve excavation of 50% of discrete features, and a 1m slot of linear features. Where features form a definite arrangement a sample of features within the arrangement will be sample excavated. Features not suited to excavation in evaluation trenches will be investigated in plan only. This would typically apply to areas of complex, intercutting features such as structures with *in-situ* floor surfaces, kilns and other 'special' features, all of which benefit from open area investigation and suffer when excavated during trial trench evaluations. No features will be wholly excavated; similarly, structures and features worthy of preservation will not be unduly excavated.
- 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 evaluation.
- 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 IfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological evaluations. 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 evaluation 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 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).

- 11.10 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 evaluation 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 evaluation 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 IfA 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.

## **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 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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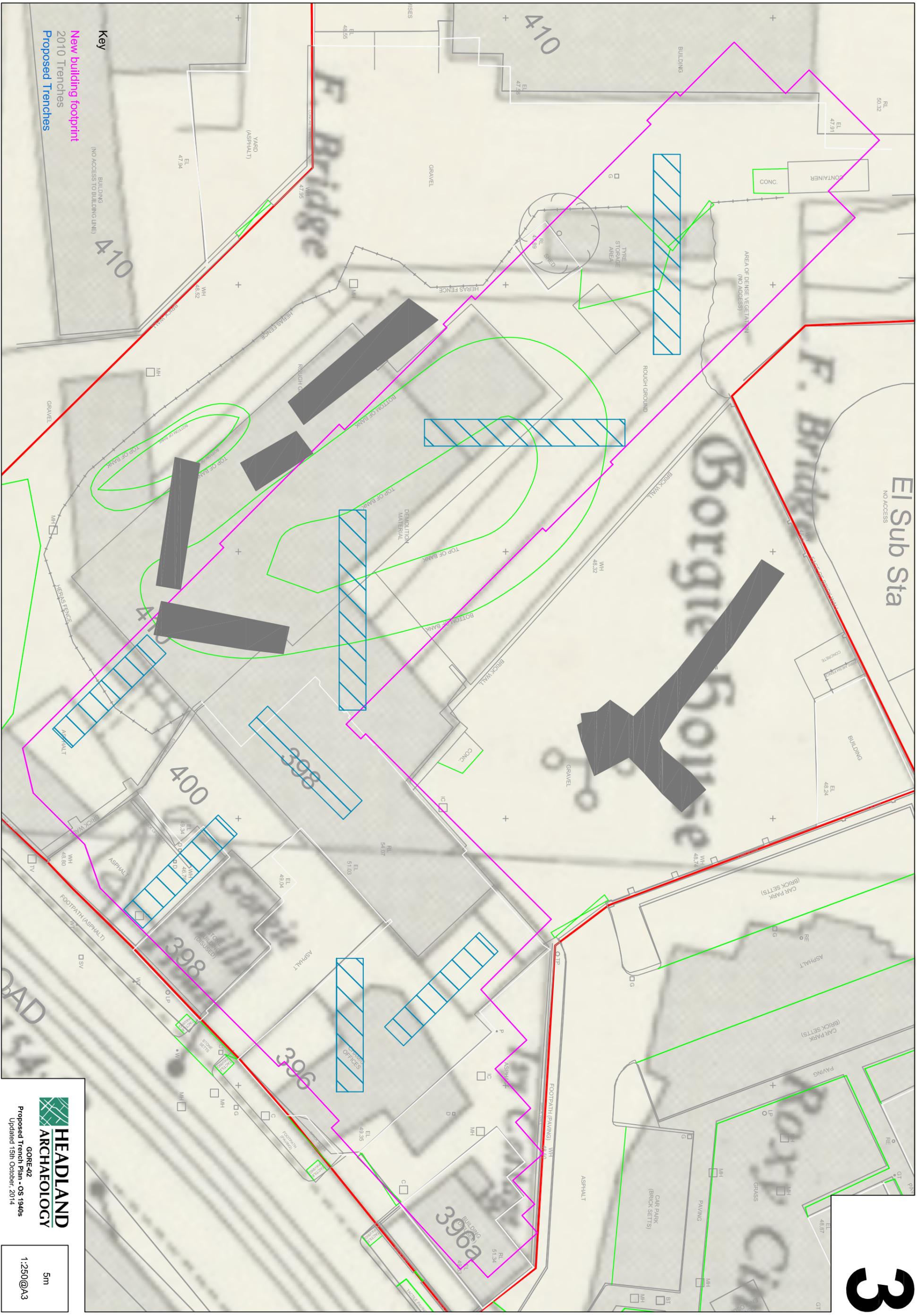
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**Key**  
 New building footprint  
 2010 Trenches  
 Proposed Trenches

NO ACCESS TO BUILDING LINE)

El Sub Sta  
 NO ACCESS