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Client: George Wimpey East Scotland Ltd
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Harvieston Farm, Gorebridge Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

Colin Hewat

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET (HFG07)

Client	George Wimpey East Scotland Ltd
National Grid Reference	NT 3470 6050 (site centred)
Project Manager	Andrea Smith
Text	Colin Hewat
Illustrations	Colin Hewat
Evaluation	Colin Hewat Clionadh McGarry Nick Moignard
Schedule	
Fieldwork	September 2007
Report	September 2007

Summary

This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed housing development within the former grounds of Harvieston House, Gorebridge, Midlothian. The evaluation entailed 5% trial trenching of three fields. A number of wall bases and a stone culvert were recorded, all of these date to early phases of the Harvieston estate, most likely 18th Century. Several rubble field drains, furrows and other possible cultivation or drainage features were also recorded. There was very little evidence of activity predating the Harvieston estate apart from some ephemeral furrows. There was no evidence for prehistoric occupation on the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by George Wimpey East Scotland Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed housing development within the former grounds of Harvieston House, Gorebridge. This report presents the results of a field evaluation that comprised a 5% sample of the development area.

The fieldwork was undertaken between the 3rd and 7th September 2007 in dry and calm conditions.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site of the proposed housing development (centred on NGR NT 3470 6050) is in the grounds of what was previously the Harvieston estate (**Figure 1**). Harvieston House, a grade C(S) listed building, is located to the south east of the development area. The site is bounded along the north west by Powdermill Brae and to the south west by the A7. The Gore Water and valley run along the north east edge of the site. Currently a tree-lined track runs from the Lodge house at the intersection of Powdermill Brae and the A7, winding through the site, to Harvieston House. Two fields are located to the north of this track and one to the south. These fields have most recently been used for grazing by Harvieston farm. The fields to the north of the track slope gently towards the Gore valley with some steeply sloping sections.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Harvieston House originated in the 17th Century and was expanded and modified over the years. The earliest map evidence we have for the house is from John Adair's Map of Midlothian (**Plate 1**) which dates to around 1682. Map evidence shows the development of the Harvieston estate (**Plates 1 – 8**).

No archaeological sites were known to have existed on the site but records held at the NMRS suggest that there was prehistoric activity within the Gorebridge area. Several possible enclosures, trackways and other unidentified cropmarks have been picked up from aerial photography. Three scheduled monuments are situated within the wider area, Loquhariot Fort (later prehistoric), Carrington Barns enclosure (prehistoric) and Newbyres Castle (16th century). The majority of sites recorded within the local area, however, are buildings of 18th and 19th century date.

4. AIMS AND METHODS

The primary objective of the field evaluation was to determine the presence or absence, quality, nature, extent and character of any buried archaeological remains. The results would be used to allow the client and the local authority to make an informed decision regarding further mitigation works.

A sample of the area comprising 4,500 m² (2,250 linear metres with a 2m ditching bucket) was excavated, equivalent to 5% of the 9 hectare development area available for evaluation. A 360° tracked excavator equipped with a 2m wide ditching bucket was used to excavate the trenches under direct archaeological supervision. The stratigraphy of the trenches was

recorded using the Headland Archaeology Ltd standard method with all recording undertaken on *pro forma* record sheets. Colour transparencies and black and white print photographs were taken. The layout of the trenches and any features within them was recorded using a Leica total station.

5. RESULTS

Thirty-one trenches of varying length were excavated across the site and several features were recorded (**Figure 2**). All the trenches were 2m wide. The topsoil [007] comprised dark grey-brown sandy silt with frequent rounded stones and had an average depth of 0.3 m. The natural subsoil varied across the site though it was predominantly made up of grey and orange clay deposits and orange gravels. Patches of orange sand were encountered, often with veins of coal running through them. Trenches 19 and 27 encountered a peat deposit which reached a depth of around 1.4m.

A stone culvert, several sections of boundary and garden walls, and several discrete linear features were identified and recorded. Several ephemeral furrows were also identified in two of the trenches. Numerous ceramic field drains and several rubble field drains were encountered across the site.

The following summarises the results of the trenching. Full descriptions of all trenches and features can be found in Appendix 1.

Trench 1

Two linear features were encountered in trench 1. Feature [001] cut across the trench and feature [003][005] cuts across the trench and turned at 90° running along the trench for around 5m. It is possible these features may be related to the estate gardens, either as planting beds or drainage features.

Trench 8

Three heavily truncated furrows were recorded in trench 8, [008], [014] and [012]. It is likely that some areas of the site had been cultivated through rig and furrow; Roy's Military Map from the mid 18th Century (**Plate 2**) shows rig and furrow cultivation in several fields surrounding the Harvieston estate. Prior to the establishment of the estate these fields were probably similarly cultivated. The poor preservation of the furrows is possibly due to the later cultivation techniques used on the site. Numerous plough scars were evident in the subsoil across the whole site. Deep ploughing is likely to have destroyed earlier furrows. The terminal end of a small ditch, possibly a drainage ditch, [010], and the base of an old hedgerow [022] were also recorded.

Trench 14

One section of yellow sandstone wall [020] was recorded in trench 14, this runs along a ridge which shows the line of the old boundary wall. The stone used is the same as that used in the estate walls, lodge and Harvieston House. This wall is visible on maps from 1816 (**Plate 3, 4 and 7**) and therefore may date to around the late 18th Century. The wall has been demolished and stone from it has been used in two rubble drains further down the trench. The wall may have been demolished some time between 1854 and 1886 as it can be seen on the 1854 map (**Plate 7**) but not on the 1854-1886 map (**Plate 8**).

Trench 16

A stone culvert [016] was recorded in trench 16. This was very well constructed, again made from yellow sandstone and most likely dating to around the 18th Century, during the Improvement period, based on map evidence discussed above.

Trench 18

Another yellow sandstone wall [031] was recorded in trench 18, similar to that in trench 14 but on a different alignment.

Trench 19

Two walls were identified in trench 19, both made from yellow sandstone. Wall [026] aligns with wall [020] in trench 14 and wall [017] aligns with wall [031] in trench 18. The walls run parallel with each other.

Trench 20

Several furrows [029] were identified in the north end of trench 20; like the furrows in trench 8, these were heavily truncated. A small garden wall [018] was also recorded; this is not aligned with the other walls, but it does run parallel with them.

Trench 21

A yellow sandstone wall [019], similar to those recorded in trenches 14, 18 and 19, was recorded in trench 21, again running parallel with the other walls recorded.

Trench 23

A yellow sandstone wall [028], similar to, and aligned with, wall [019] in trench 21 and wall [027] in trench 29, was recorded in trench 23.

Trench 27

A yellow sandstone wall [025], similar to, and aligned with, wall [026] in trench 19 and wall [020] in trench 14, was recorded in trench 27.

Trench 29

A yellow sandstone wall [027], similar to and aligned with, wall [019] in trench 21 and wall [028] in trench 23, was recorded in trench 29.

Trench 30

A heavily disturbed stone feature [024] was identified in trench 30. Again it was made from yellow sandstone, its form was hard to see, only a few blocks appeared to still be in situ, it may possibly have been part of some steps or a path leading down to the Gore Water, or some other garden feature.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The results of the trenching suggest that there was no prehistoric occupation of the site. There is very little evidence for any activity on the site prior to the establishment of the Harvieston estate in the 17th century. The sparse and heavily truncated furrows identified in trenches 8 and 20 are the only evidence for early cultivation on the site. It is probable that much of the site was cultivated using rig and furrow, possibly in the postmedieval period before the estate was established. More recent agricultural methods, evidenced in the deep plough

scarring across the site, have largely obliterated any evidence for this earlier cultivation and possibly any evidence of earlier occupation along with it.

The only substantial finds from the evaluation were a series of sandstone walls which represent boundary walls and garden walls within the Harvieston estate. Materials and construction methods are the same as those used in the construction of the surrounding estate wall and lodge house, and the earlier phases of the main house. The walls were most likely constructed between the late 18th and early 19th Centuries based on map evidence. A substantial wall is first seen on Knox's map of 1816 (**Plate 3**) with roughly the same position and orientation as the wall in trenches 14, 18 and 19. The other walls are of similar construction and material and most likely date to similar periods of activity within the estate grounds. These walls would have acted as boundary and retaining walls. The ground to the east of the walls slopes downhill, very steeply in places and this would not have been intensively managed. The ground to the west of the walls, however, would have been actively maintained as gardens and woodland as part of the estate grounds. All the walls had been demolished, they may have been demolished at varying times but the main boundary wall appears to have been demolished some time between 1854 and 1886 as it can be seen on the 1854 map (**Plate 7**) but not on the 1854-1886 map (**Plate 8**). Large spreads of sandstone rubble from the walls were identified in several trenches down slope from the remains of the walls. Several rubble drains also appear to have been constructed using stones robbed from these walls. The stone culvert was well constructed and still working well, it was also made of yellow sandstone and similarly dates to around the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

There was no substantial evidence for any activity within the proposed development area any earlier than the 16th or 17th Centuries. Most features identified can be related to activities within the Harvieston estate and date between the 17th and 19th Centuries. No further work is recommended.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation was commissioned and funded by George Wimpey East Scotland Ltd.

8. SOURCES

- Adair and Cooper. 1682 – 1735. A Map of Midlothian.
Gellatly and Johnson. 1834. Gellatly's New Map of the country 12 miles round Edinburgh.
Greenwood, Fowler and Sharp. 1828. Map of the county of Edinburgh.
Hunter and Anderson. 1834. Plan of the Environs of Edinburgh.
Knox. 1816. Map of the shire of Edinburgh.
Laurie. 1757 – 1800. A plan of Edinburgh and places adjacent.
Ordnance Survey. 1854, 1st Edition, 6 inch.
Ordnance Survey. 1854 – 1886. Index to the Ordnance Survey of Edinburghshire.
Roy. 1747 – 1755. Roy's Military Map. Area around Dalkeith, in Edinburghshire.

APPENDIX 1: SITE REGISTERS**1.1 Trench Register**

Trench No.	Description	Length (m)	Av. Depth (m)	Max. Depth (m)
1	Field 1, Runs E-W, linear feature [001], [003] and [005]	90	0.6	0.9
2	Field 1, Runs NE-SW	100	0.6	0.9
3	Field 1, Runs NW-SE	50	0.6	0.8
4	Field 1, Runs NNW-SSW	100	0.65	0.8
5	Field 1, Runs ENE-WSW	90	0.5	0.7
6	Field 1, Runs E-W	85	0.6	0.7
7	Field 1, Runs NE-SW	50	0.6	0.8
8	Field 1, Runs NNE-SSW, furrows [008], [012] and [014], hedgerow [022] and ditch [010]	120	0.5	0.7
9	Field 1, Runs NNE-SSW	55	0.45	0.6
10	Field 1, Runs E-W	40	0.45	0.55
11	Field 1, Runs N-S	100	0.45	0.6
12	Field 1, Runs NW-SE	90	0.45	0.6
13	Field 1, Runs E-W	40	0.5	0.6
14	Field 2, Runs NE-SW, wall [020]	180	0.6	0.7
15	Field 2, Runs NE-SW	100	0.45	0.6
16	Field 2, Runs NW-SE, stone culvert [016]	50	0.4	0.55
17	Field 2, Runs NE-SW	50	0.4	0.5
18	Field 2, Runs NE-SW, wall [031]	70	0.45	0.6
19	Field 2, Runs NE-SW, walls [026] and [017]	50	0.5	0.65
20	Field 3, Runs E-W, furrows [029] and wall [018]	80	0.7	0.8
21	Field 3, Runs N-S, wall [019]	50	0.4	0.6
22	Field 3, Runs N-S	50	0.4	0.55
23	Field 3, Runs NE-SW, wall [028]	100	0.5	0.7
24	Field 3, Runs NW-SE	80	0.4	0.6
25	Field 3, Runs E-W	60	0.5	0.6
26	Field 3, Runs E-W	40	0.4	0.5
27	Field 3, Runs NE-SW, wall [025]	90	0.6	1.4
28	Field 3, Runs NNE-SSW	80	0.6	0.7
29	Field 3, Runs ENE-WSW, wall [027]	50	0.5	0.6
30	Field 3, Runs N-S, stone feature [024]	40	0.4	0.5

31	Field 3, Runs N-S	20	0.4	0.5
Total	-	2,250	-	-

1.2 Context Register

Context No.	Trench No.	Description	Dimensions (m)
1	1	Cut of ditch	1.72 x 0.42 x 0.2
2	1	Fill of [001]	1.72 x 0.42 x 0.2
3	1	Cut of linear feature	1.15 x 0.33 x 0.16
4	1	Fill of [003]	1.15 x 0.33 x 0.16
5	1	Cut of linear feature	5.5 x 0.48 x 0.11
6	1	Fill of [005]	5.5 x 0.48 x 0.11
7	-	Topsoil	0.3
8	8	Cut of shallow ditch/furrow	1.9 x 0.4 x 0.04
9	8	Fill of [008]	1.9 x 0.4 x 0.04
10	8	Cut of drainage ditch [010]	2 x 0.25 x 0.07
11	8	Fill of [010]	2 x 0.25 x 0.07
12	8	Cut of furrow	2 x 0.25 x 0.07
13	8	Fill of [012]	2 x 0.25 x 0.07
14	8	Cut of furrow	2 x 0.67 x 0.09
15	8	Fill of [014]	2 x 0.67 x 0.09
16	16	Stone culvert	1.9 x 0.7 x 0.5
17	19	Stone wall	1.9 x 0.5 x 0.15
18	20	Stone wall	3 x 0.3 x 0.1
19	21	Stone wall	1.8 x 0.3 x 0.12
20	14	Stone wall	1.9 x 0.85 x 0.37
21	18	Stone wall (possible)	0.57 x 0.95
22	8	Cut of possible hedgerow	3.5 x 0.45 x 0.03
23	8	Fill of possible hedgerow	3.5 x 0.45 x 0.03
24	30	Stone feature	1.1 x 1 x 0.3
25	27	Stone wall	2 x 0.6
26	19	Stone wall	1.9 x 0.7
27	29	Stone wall	1.9 x 0.6
28	23	Stone wall	1.9 x 0.65
29	20	Cut of furrow	2.1 x 0.6 x 0.6
30	20	Fill of [029]	2.1 x 0.6 x 0.6
31	18	Stone wall	2 x 0.5

1.3 Sample Register

Sample No.	Context No.	Description
1	2	Fill of ditch 001
2	4	Fill of linear feature 003
3	6	Fill of furrow 005
4	11	Fill of small linear feature 010
5	15	Fill of furrow 014
6	-	Void
7	17	Mortar from boundary wall in trench 19
8	18	Mortar from boundary wall in trench 20

1.4 Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Scale	Description
1	1:10	Section through ditch [001]
2	1:10	Section through linear [003]
3	1:10	Section through linear [005]
4	1:20	Trench 1, plan detail showing [001], [003] and [005]
5	1:50	Trench 8 plan
6	1:10	Section through furrow [014]
7	1:10	Section through linear [008]
8	1:10	Section through linear [010]
9	1:10	Section through rubble drain
10	1:20	Stone culvert [016]
11	1:10	Section through stone culvert

1.5 Photographic Register

Shot No.	Direction Facing	Description
1	-	ID Shot
2	E	General pre-ex shot of field 1
3	E	General pre-ex shot of field 1
4	N	General pre-ex shot of field 1
5	E	General pre-ex shot of field 2
6	SE	General pre-ex shot of field 2
7	SE	General pre-ex shot of field 2 and 3
8	S	General pre-ex shot of field 2 and 3
9	SE	Line of old boundary in field 2
10	NE	Toward Gore water, alluvial terracing, field 3
11	NW	Toward Gorebridge, field 3
12	W	Toward Gorebridge, field 3
13	NE	Area shot, trench 1 showing relationship between features
14	NW	SE facing through ditch 001
15	NW	SE facing through ditch 003

16	SW	SE facing through furrow 005
17	SW	General shot, trench 1
18	NW	General shot, trench 2
19	SE	General shot, trench 3
20	N	Cows in field 3
21	SW	General shot, trench 2
22	NE	General shot, trench 2
23	SW	General shot, trench 7
24	NE	General shot, trench 7
25	W	General shot, trench 6
26	E	General shot, trench 6
27	NNW	General shot, trench 4
28	SSE	General shot, trench 4
29	SSW	General shot, trench 5
30	NNE	General shot, trench 5
31	SSW	Services in north end of trench 5
32	NNW	General shot, trench 8
33	SSE	General shot, trench 8
34	S	General shot, trench 11
35	N	General shot, trench 11
36	E	General shot, trench 13
37	W	General shot, trench 13
38	-	ID Shot
39	SE	General shot, trench 10
40	NW	General shot, trench 10
41	SE	General shot, trench 12
42	NW	General shot, trench 12
43	NE	Trench 8, SW facing section through shallow linear feature 008
44	NE	Trench 8, SW facing section through modern ditch
45	NE	Trench 8, terminal of ditch 010
46	N	Trench 8, S facing section through ditch 010
47	SW	Trench 8, NE facing section through rubble drain
48	SW	Trench 8, furrow 012
49	SW	Trench 8, furrow 014
50	NE	Trench 8, head of land drain
51	N	Line of possible hedge, trench 8
52	N	General shot, trench 10
53	S	General shot, trench 10
54	NE	Trench 16, stone culvert 016
55	SW	Trench 16, stone culvert 016, capstone removed
56	NW	General shot, trench 16
57	SE	General shot, trench 16
58	SW	Trench 20, wall 017
59	SE	Trench 20, wall base
60	NE	General shot, trench 22
61	NE	General shot, trench 28
62	N	General shot, trench 23
63	NE	General shot, trench 31
64	SW	General shot, trench 20

65	N	General shot, trench 14
66	N	General shot, trench 15
67	N	General shot, trench 17
68	N	General shot, trench 18
69	N	General shot, trench 19
70	NE	General shot, trench 27
71	N	General shot, trench 21
72	S	Trench 21, working shot, wall 19
73	NW	General shot, trench 30
74	NE	Trench 30, stone feature
75	E	General shot, trench 24
76	NE	General shot, trench 25
77	NE	General shot, trench 26
78	S	General shot, trench 29
79	S	Trench 21, wall 019
80	E	Trench 18, wall 021
81	SE	Trench 14, wall 020

APPENDIX 2: ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE REPORT

Sarah-Jane Haston

Introduction

Five samples were collected for environmental assessment from the fills of drainage or cultivation features within the former grounds of Harvieston House, Gorebridge.

Methods

Samples were processed in laboratory conditions using a standard floatation method (cf. Kenward *et al*, 1980). All plant macrofossil samples were analysed using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x01 and up to x100 where necessary to aid identification. Identifications were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers *et al* (2006).

Results

Charcoal fragments are present in four samples of which three samples contained fragments of a size suitable for identification and/or Accelerated Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dating. Charred cereal grain is present in three samples (samples 1, 2 and 3), which contain oat (*Avena* sp.) Other finds present within the samples include a rare quantity of cinders.

Discussion

A small number of charred cereal grains of oat were recovered from the samples. The mixture of charred grain, charcoal and some cinders suggests the samples may relate to disposal of domestic rubbish (e.g. from hearths and fires), from activities such as baking, the charcoal the result of wood being used as a fuel source. Much of the grain was observed to be in poor state of preservation with broken and abraded grains present within the samples. The poor preservation of the grain indicates that it had been exposed to, and moved around on, the surface for a period of time before being blown and/or washed into the drainage ditch, the furrows and the fills of the other linear features.

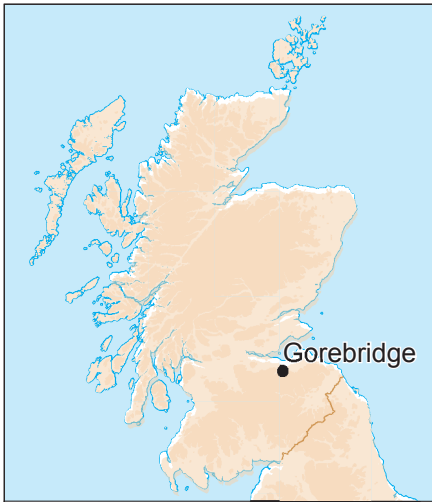
Recommendations

No further work is recommended for this site.

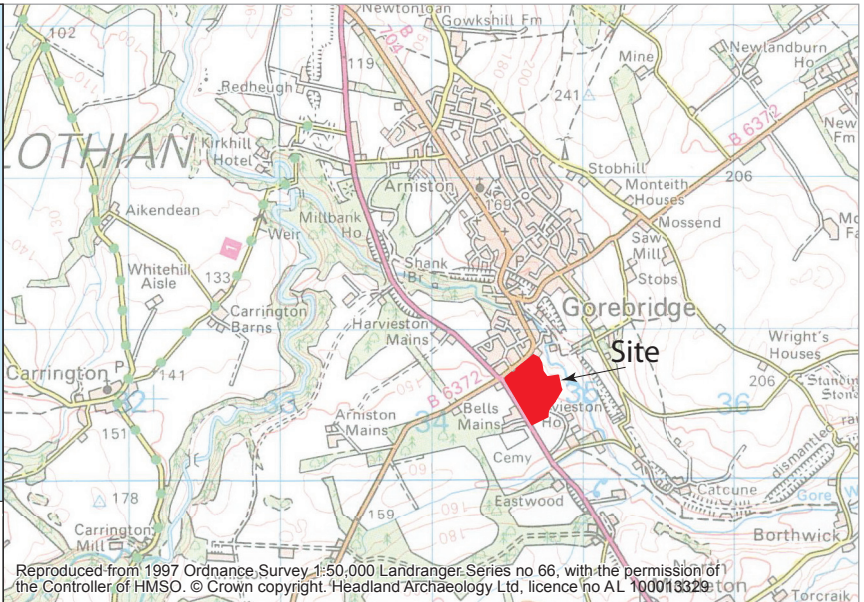
References

Cappers R.T.J., Bekker R.M. and Jans J.E.A. (2006) *Digital seed atlas of the Netherlands* (Barkhuis Publishing and Groningen University Library, Groningen).

Kenward, H. K., Hall, A. R. and Jones, A. K. G. (1980). A tested set of techniques for the extraction of plant and animal macrofossils from waterlogged archaeological deposits. *Science and Archaeology* 22, 3-15.



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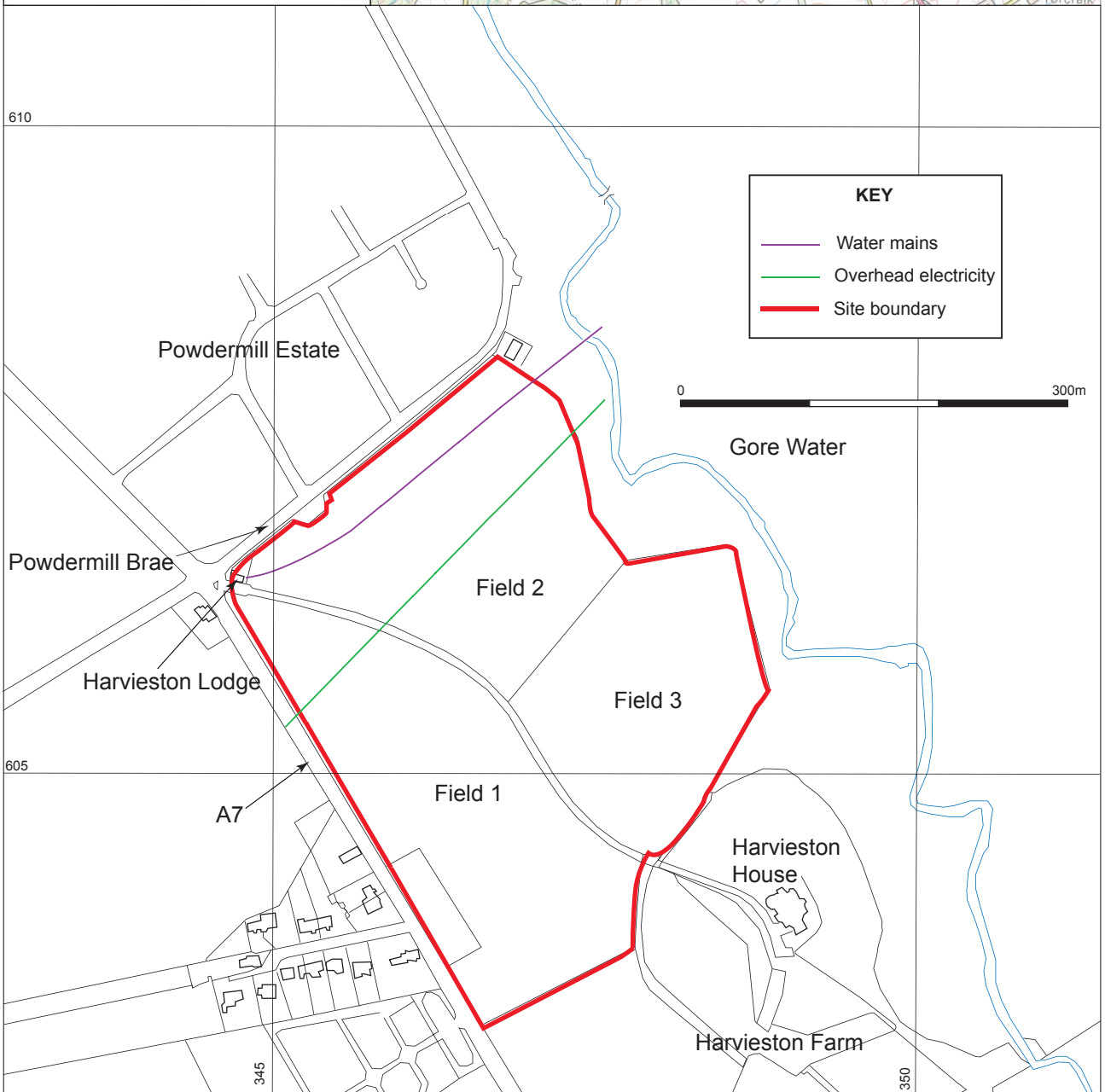


Figure 1: HFG07 - Harvieston Farm, Gorebridge: Site Location

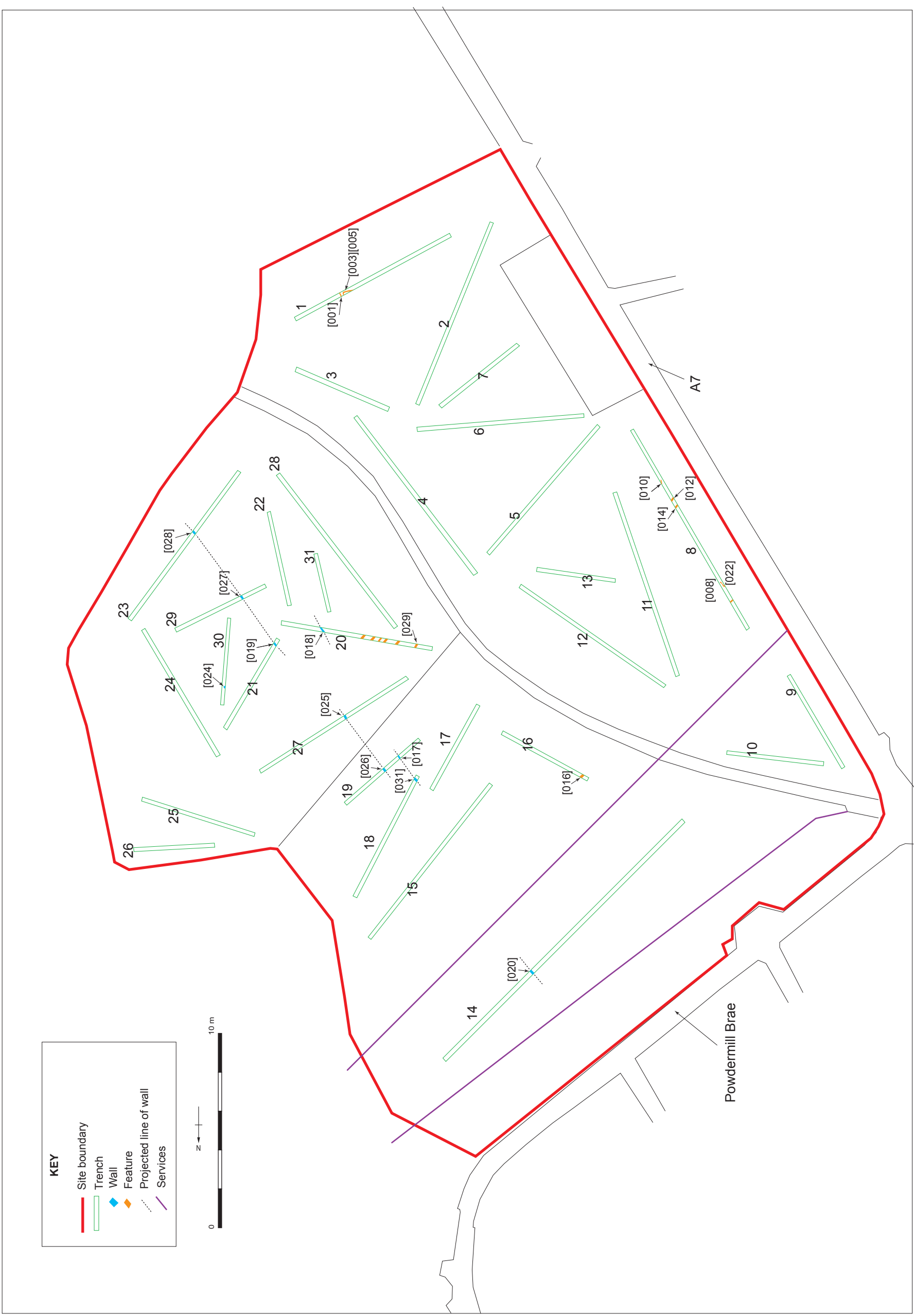


Figure 2: Trench and Feature Location Plan



Plate 1: A Map of Midlothian. Adair and Cooper. 1682 – 1735.
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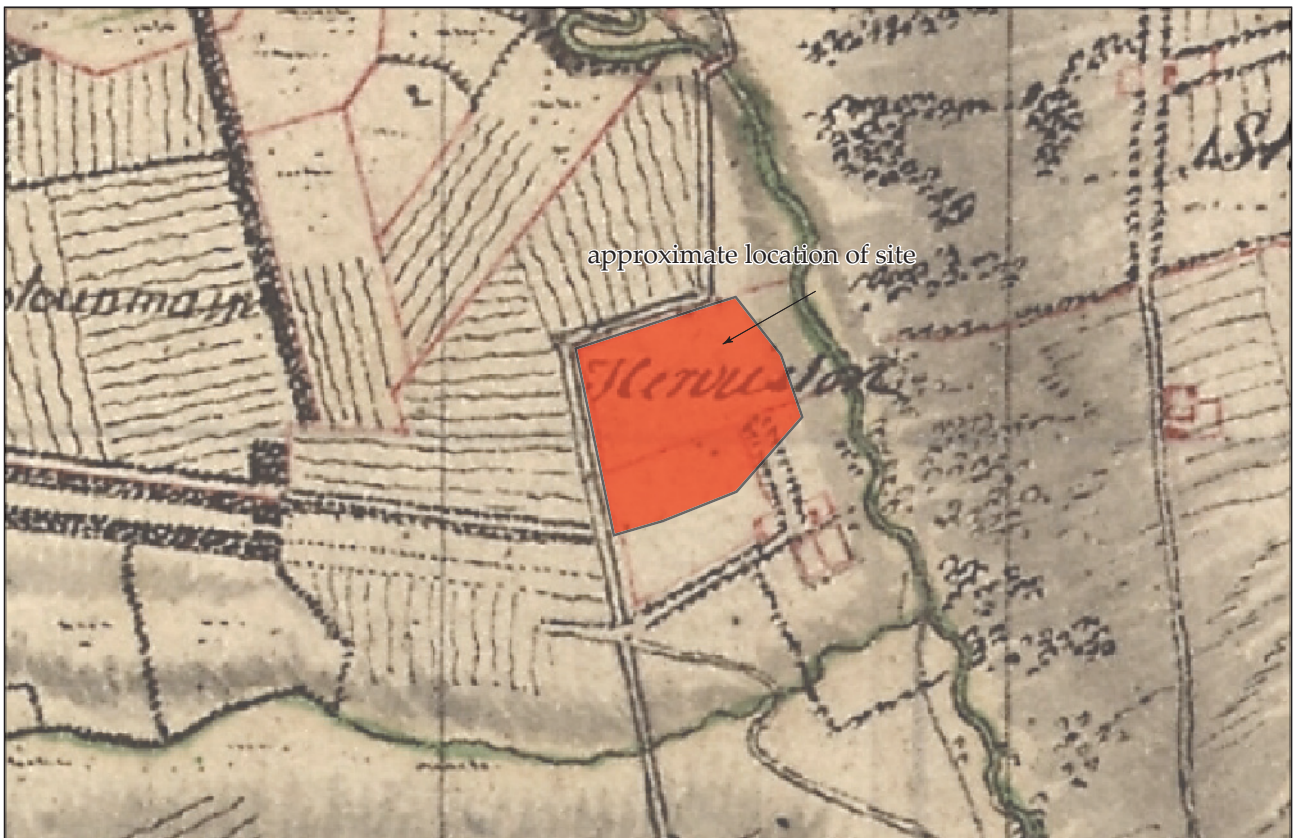


Plate 2: Roy's Military Map. Area around Dalkieth, in Edinburghshire. 1747 – 1755.
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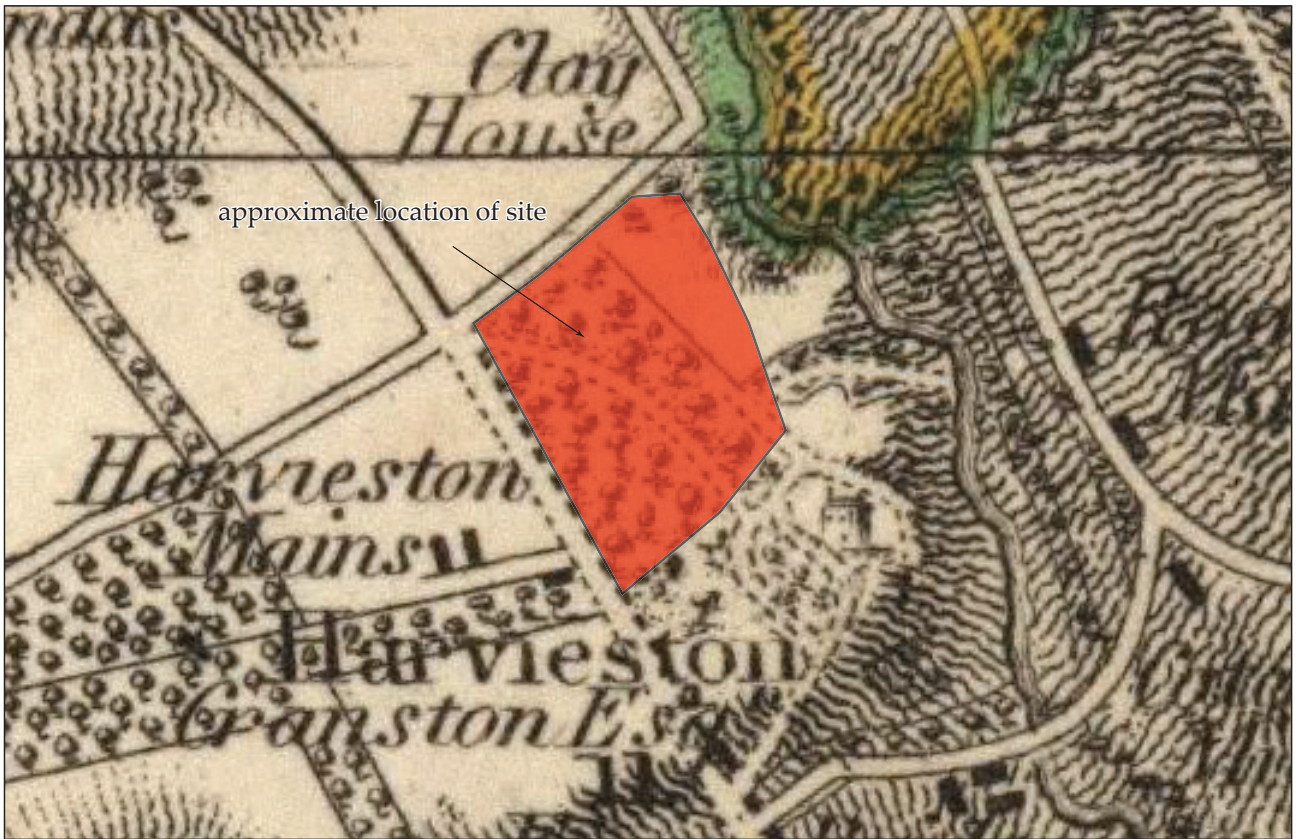


Plate 3: Map of the shire of Edinburgh. Knox. 1816.
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Plate 4: Map of the county of Edinburgh. Greenwood, Fowler and Sharp. 1828.
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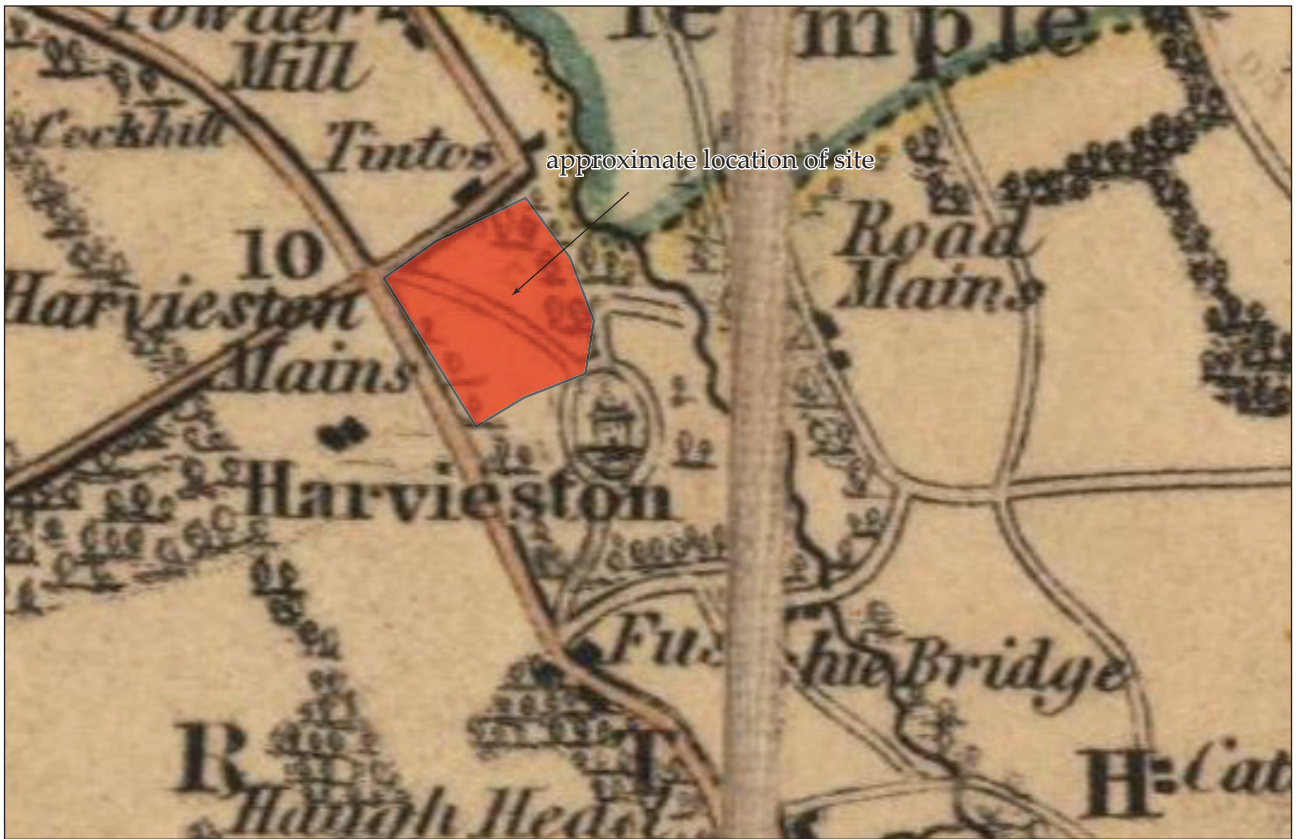


Plate 5: Gellatly's New Map of the country 12 miles round Edinburgh. Gellatly and Johnson. 1834.
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Plate 6: Plan of the Environs of Edinburgh. Hunter and Anderson. 1834.
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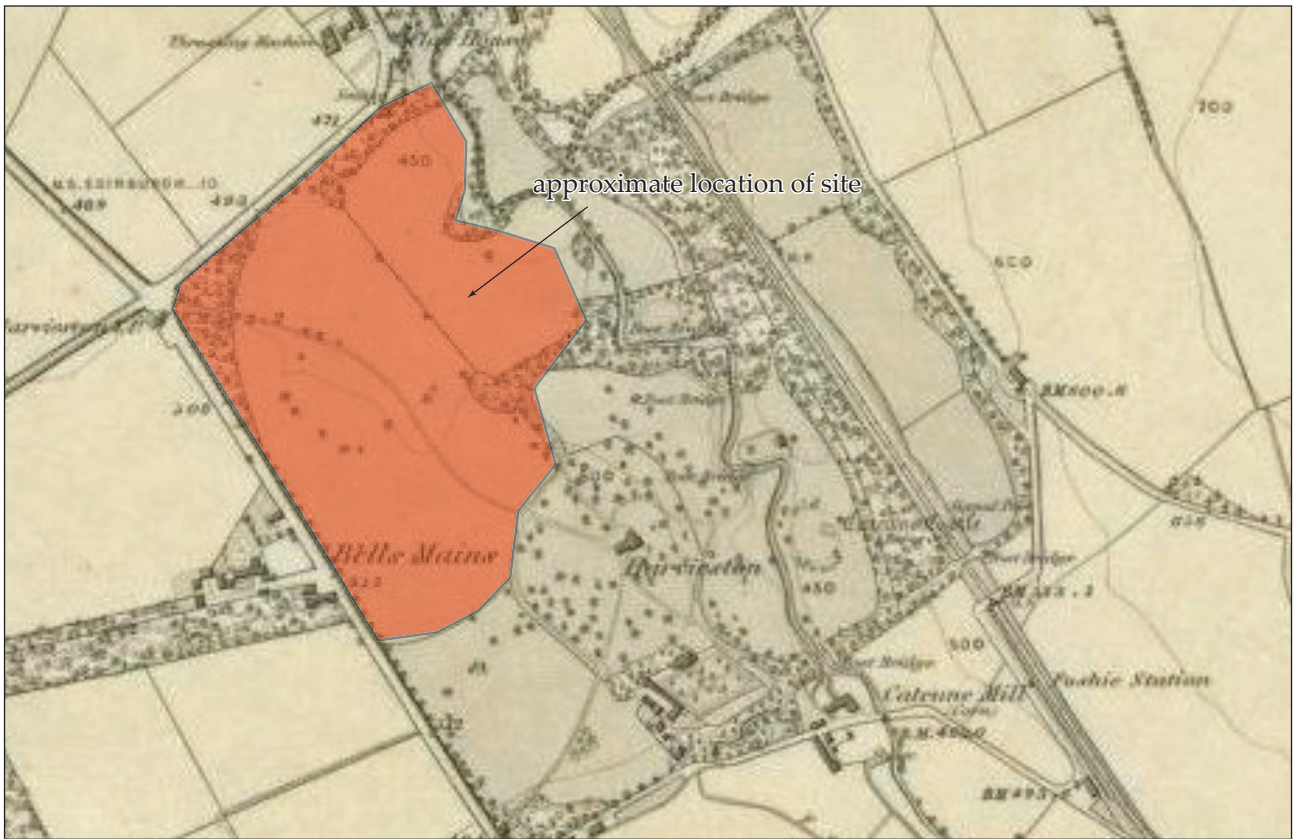


Plate 7: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey, 6 inch, 1854.
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Plate 8: Index to the Ordnance Survey of Edinburghshire. 1854 – 1886.
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