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Substation, St Vincent Crescent, Glasgow:
An Archaeological Scoping Exercise
Civil Parish - Glasgow

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MA [HONS]

Project summary sheet

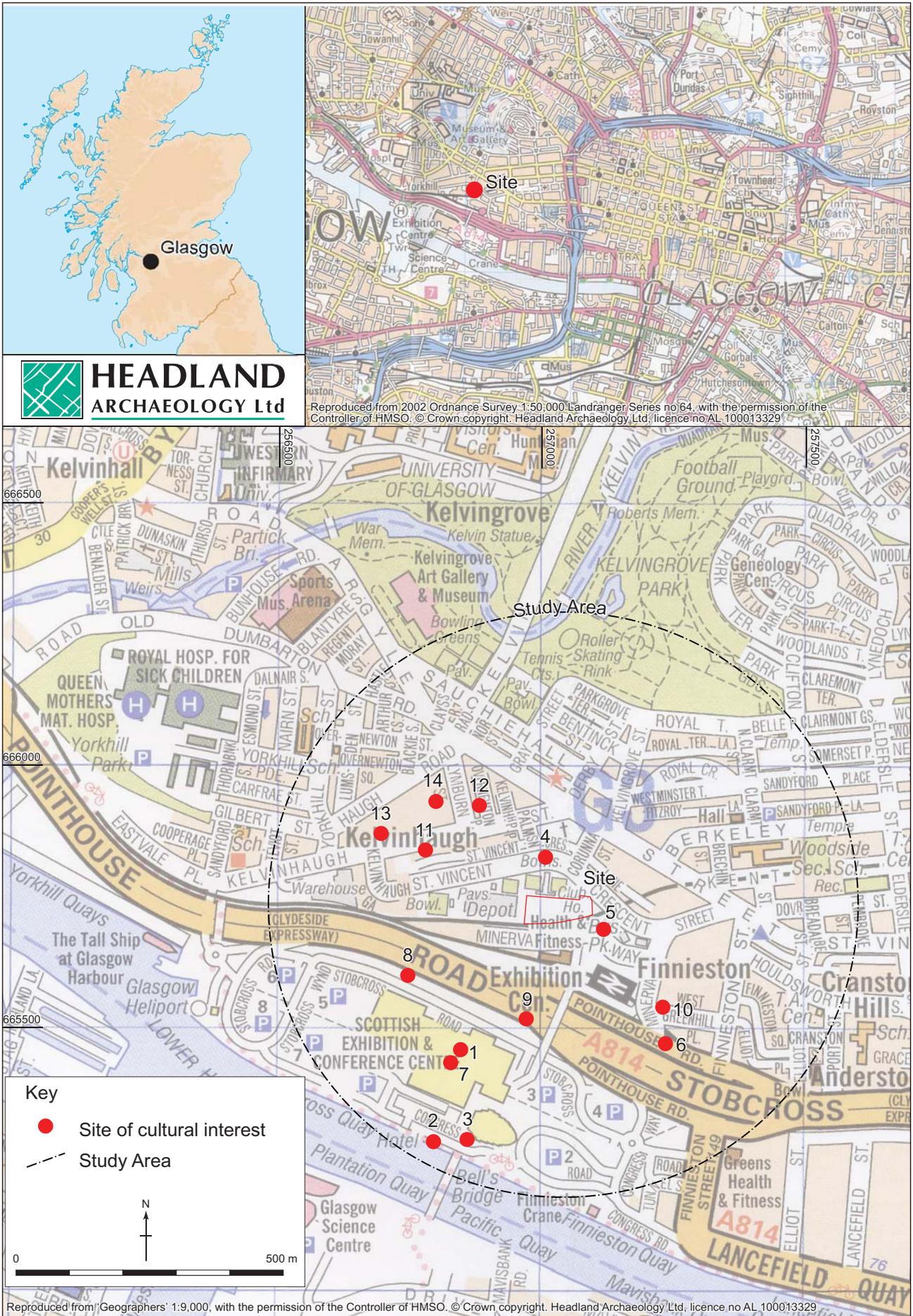
<i>Client</i>	SCOTTISH POWERL
<i>National Grid Reference</i>	NS 57028 65728
<i>Address</i>	ST VINCENT CRESCENT, GLASGOW
<i>Parish</i>	GLASGOW
<i>Council</i>	GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL
<i>Planning Application No</i>	PENDING
<i>NMRS No</i>	N/A
<i>SMR No</i>	N/A
<i>HB/SAM No</i>	N/A
<i>Listing Category</i>	N/A
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<i>Specialists</i>	N/A
<i>Schedule</i>	
<i>Fieldwork</i>	JULY 2008
<i>Report</i>	4 JULY 2008

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Date:.....

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Illus 1
Location plan and sites of cultural interest

Substation, St Vincent Crescent, Glasgow: An Archaeological Scoping Exercise

by Malcolm Corney

An archaeological baseline was prepared for a scoping exercise of the Scottish Power depot, St Vincent Crescent, Glasgow by Headland Archaeology UK Ltd. Prior to 1850 the site formed part of the Stobcross estate and consisted of farmland. With the building of St Vincent Crescent the site was developed for ornamental gardens and subsequently an artificial lake. By the 1930's the lake had been filled in and the site utilised for light industrial purposes with a rope works and electrical company depot. Only the rope works that post dated the lake might survive.

INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology UK Ltd was commissioned by Sinclair Knight Merz on behalf of Scottish Power (Energy Networks) to undertake an archaeological scoping exercise. This exercise was to examine an area around the site of a proposed electrical substation at St Vincent Crescent, Glasgow. This report provides a detailed assessment of the potential of the area in order to inform an appropriate mitigation strategy to deal with any archaeological impacts the development may have.

METHODOLOGY

A study area with a radius of 500m was initially drawn up centered on the location for the substation (NGR NS 5695 6572) (illustration 1). Within this study area a systematic search of background information was carried out, comprising:

- Historic maps held by the National Library of Scotland and the Mitchell Library
- Archive plans held by the National Archives of Scotland
- Archaeological information held by Historic Scotland and RCAHMS on national databases
- Archaeological information held by West of Scotland Archaeology Service
- Relevant documentary evidence held by the Mitchell and Glasgow University libraries

RESULTS

Prehistoric and Medieval

There are no known prehistoric or medieval sites inside or within 100 m of the development area.

To the south of the site during the 19th century a tanged flint arrowhead, a log-boat and a perforated stone hammer (sites 1, 2 and 3) were recovered from the Queen's and Stobcross Docks.

Stobcross is first mentioned in 1136 as part of a land grant to Glasgow Cathedral and formed part of a forest known as the Bishop's Forest, later the Western Common (Cooper, 1972, 7-8). The earliest map

for the area (Pont 1580-1590) records a 'Stobcross' presumably a country house for the estate. The Anderson family had acquired the estate in 1591 (Cooper, 1972, 8) though Pont's map probably depicts an earlier estate house.

Post-medieval and modern

Stobcross House continues to appear on the early maps of Blaeu (1654), Moll (1745) and Roy's military map (1747-55). It is included on Thompson's map of 1832, with a slightly different spelling, and the Ordnance Survey 1st edition of 1882 but had been demolished and replaced by a mineral railway yard depicted on the 2nd edition OS map of 1896.

Prior to 1850 the area around Stobcross appears to have been farmland but after this date the architect Alexander Kirkland began the building of St Vincent Crescent (site 4), which now forms the core of a conservation area (GCC, 2005), to the north of Stobcross House. The crescent appears on the Ordnance Survey large scale town plan of 1857/58 and the 1st edition map of 1882 with two acres of communal gardens, to the immediate south, fenced with ornamental railings (Reed, 1993, 110). By the next edition of the Ordnance survey maps in 1892/4 and 1896, the mineral yard and Stobcross Junction have been built slightly further to the south and west of the St Vincent Crescent gardens. Between the gardens and the railway an artificial boating lake had been constructed with the addition of a bowling green, curling pond and pavilion on the western side of the lake. To the east of the lake the Stobcross railway tunnel had been constructed (sites 5 and 6).

The 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1913 shows little change to the layout of the area with the exception of the former St Vincent Crescent gardens which had been replaced by two bowling greens, a tennis court and a new pavilion.

The 4th edition Ordnance Survey map of 1934 again shows little change to the overall layout of the area. However by this date the artificial lake had been filled in though there was no indication how this new space was being utilized. The bowling green to the west of the former lake had been expanded to incorporate the former curling pond with the addition of a new pavilion.

The 1950 Ordnance Survey map recorded a Rope



Illus 2
Site looking north east



works occupying the land of the former lake with a

Illus 3
Site looking east

complex of buildings scattered across the site. Subsequently in the 1960's the site was used as a Scottish Power depot, with a depot building on the western side of the site, vehicle parking, underground storage tanks and substations (Wicks et al, 2007, 3).

As part of the development proposal Sinclair Knight Merz were commissioned to conduct a geotechnical and contaminated site investigation during 2006 (Wicks et al, 2007). A number of bore holes were drilled across the site. The survey results indicated that a made ground surface exists ranging between 0.5m and 3.2m in depth across the site (Wicks et al, 2007, 13). The study was conducted over a different site and the shallower depths are to the west of, and outside, the current proposal.

Site visit

The site consists of a level tarmac parking area with a single and two storey office and depot to the west. Around the edge of the site are a number of small stores and secure storage compounds. In the mid-

dle of the site there is a propane gas storage cylinder and fuel pumps denoting the location of the underground storage tanks. St Vincent Crescent is clearly visible to the north of the site with the railway line running along the southern boundary of the site.

ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL

There are no known archaeological sites within the development area. Since the site was excavated for an ornamental lake that appears to be up to 3.5 m deep there is very little possibility for archaeological remains to survive within the area.

There is potential for unknown prehistoric sites to have existed. Given the lack of reported prehistoric sites from the area this potential is considered to be low.

There is potential for there to have been medieval or early historic archaeological remains however given the lack of reported medieval or early historic sites from the area the potential for this is considered to be low

REFERENCES

Cartographic sources

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- Wicks, J and Brownsword, G 2007. *Scottish Power St Vincent Crescent Depot: Phase 2 geotechnical and contaminated site investigation*, unpublished report by Sinclair Knight Merz.

APPENDIX 1

Site No.	HS, NMRS,SMR No.	Site Name	Description
1	NS56NE.15, 8555	Queen's Dock	Tanged arrowhead
2	20720	Stobcross Quay	Logboat
3	NS56NE.42	Stobcross Docks	Perforated stone hammer
4	NS56NE.954	St Vincent Crescent	'A' listed buildings, numbers 31-70 forming core of St Vincent Crescent conservation area
5	NS56NE.4888	Stobcross Depot Tunnel	Railway Tunnel
6	NS56NE.2049	Stobcross Station	Railway Station
7	NS56NE.88.0, 8649	Queen's Dock	Dockyard
8	47844	100 Kelvinhaugh Street	Industrial, sawmill
9	NS56NE.2572, 47843	Queen' Dock North Quay	Industrial, Hydraulic Accumulator Tower
10	NS56NE.2351, 47744	131 Minerva Street	Industrial, brass foundry
11	NS56NE.2425, 46626	107 Kelvinhaugh Street	Industrial, sawmill
12	NS56NE.1086, 46943	40-44 Kelvinhaugh Street	Depot, horse tram
13	NS56NE.1085, 46944	128-130 Kelvinhaugh Street	Industrial, engineering works
14	NS56NE.2424, 46627	90 Kelvinhaugh Street	Industrial, boiler works