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13 EDINBURGH ROAD, SOUTH QUEENSFERRY

Historic Building Recording and Watching Brief

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PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

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<i>Parish</i>	DALMENY
<i>Council</i>	CITY OF EDINBURGH
<i>Planning Ref. No.</i>	07/04626/FUL
<i>Oasis No.</i>	HEADLAND1-85403
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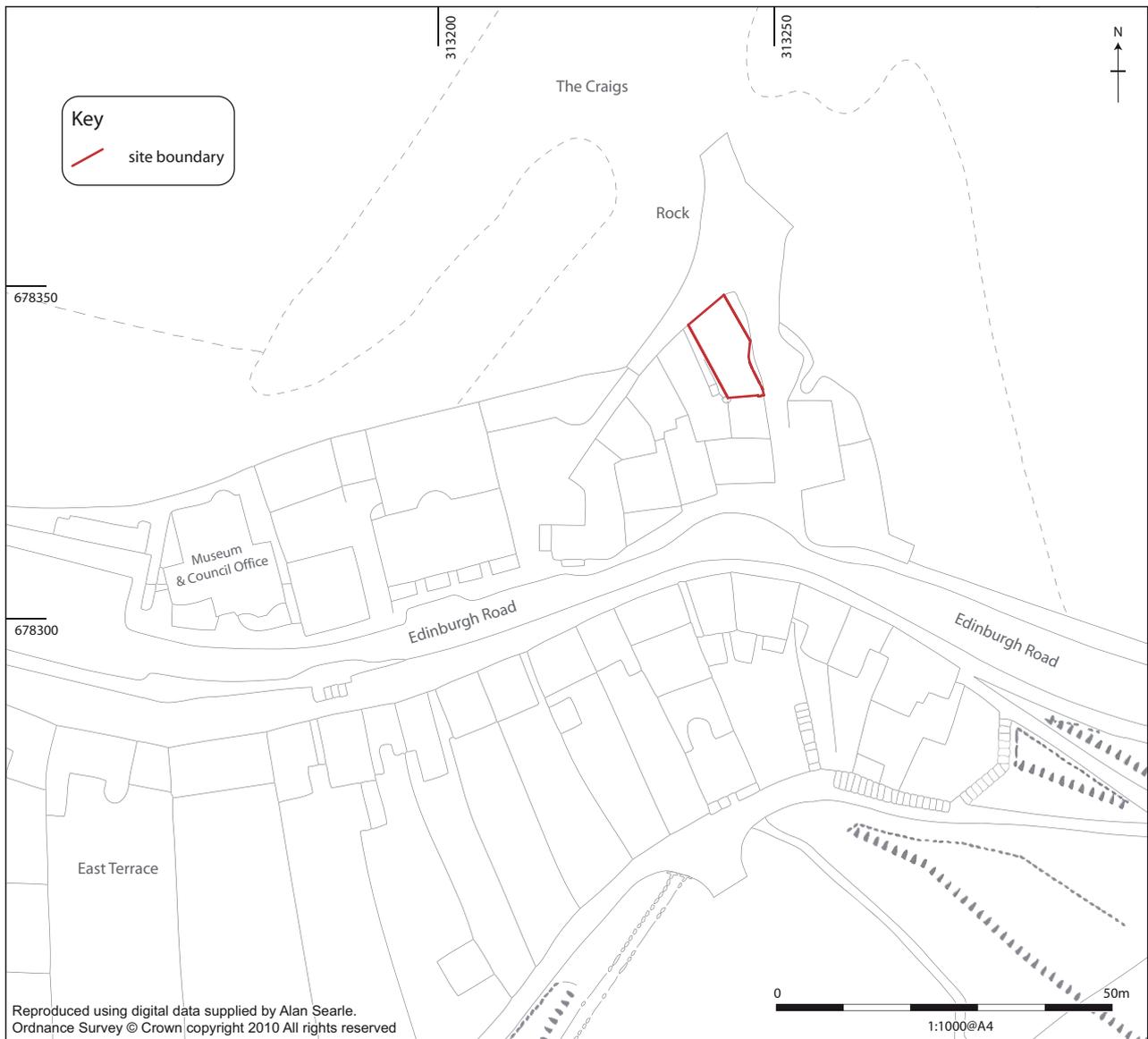
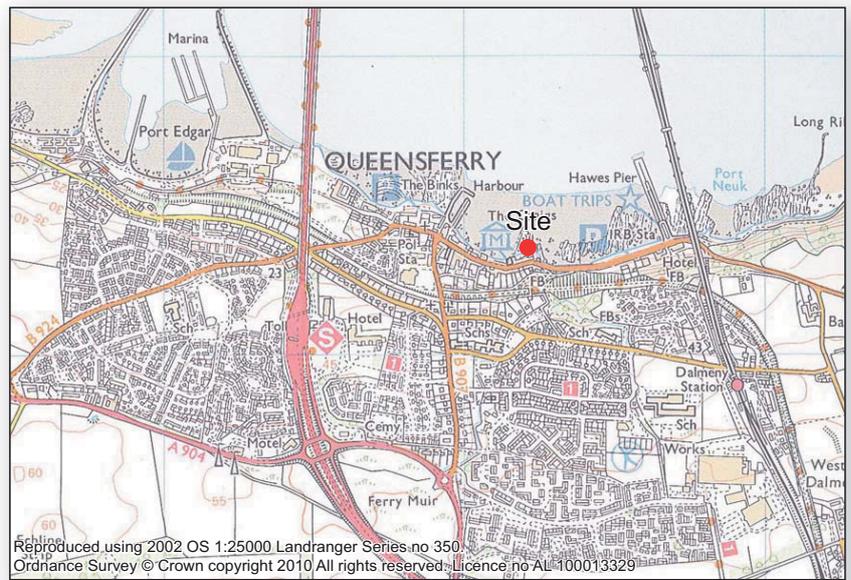
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Illus 1
Site location

13 EDINBURGH ROAD, SOUTH QUEENSFERRY

Historic Building Recording and Watching Brief

by Jürgen van Wessel

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to undertake historic building recording and a watching brief on main contract excavations in response to a planning condition placed on the redevelopment of derelict buildings at 13 Edinburgh Road, South Queensferry by the City of Edinburgh Council.

The site comprised two separate buildings, latterly joined together. Stylistically the buildings appear to date to the 18th or early 19th century and must post-date those to the immediate south. The internal features suggest that they were either domestic or perhaps used for some kind of light industry. The buildings were altered several times over their use with the insertion/blocking of doorways and hearths.

Late in their use the external walls were used to create a yard or storage area, with the internal area being levelled up and concreted over. The excavation of this material was monitored. The 18th/19th century structure was cut into bedrock and no earlier archaeological remains were preserved on the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

Historic building recording and a watching brief on main contract excavations was undertaken in response to a planning condition placed on the redevelopment of derelict buildings at 13 Edinburgh Road, South Queensferry by the City of Edinburgh Council.

The building recording was undertaken to English Heritage Level 2 standard (Menuge 2006). The fieldwork was commissioned by DDA Architects and was undertaken between the 7th and 29th of June, 2010.

The works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd and agreed with the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) prior to the commencement of work.

The floor level within the structures was to be lowered to bedrock to allow installation of modern drainage and foundations in preparation for reconstruction of the buildings as a dwelling. It was expected at the outset of the project that bedrock would be immediately below current ground surfaces.

2. BACKGROUND

The development lies within the historic core of South Queensferry, which is on record from the 11th century onwards (CECAS Memorandum 21/11/07; Ref07/04626/FUL). The buildings comprise two structures located on the south-west end of a small peninsula extending into

the Firth of Forth known as ‘The Craigs’ (Illus 1 & 3). According to local sources a former slaughterhouse was located immediately adjacent to the site and was likely to be associated with an early landing point on the rocks.

An undated photograph (Illus 4) shows the structures as having formerly had two storeys and a white render. At some point they became derelict, and were joined together for use as an unroofed parking or storage area.

A NMRS (National Monuments Record of Scotland) record appears to relate to the buildings (NT17NW 38). This reports that the structure was thought to be 17th century during the 1920s, but this dating is questioned in a later entry. The entry also makes reference to a historic photo, possibly the one noted above, and suggests the image is at least 60 years old, although the date of that comment is also not recorded. The buildings to the immediate south of the site, on the street frontage, are also recorded in the NMRS. The earliest is dated to the 17th century; others are 19th century in date.

3. METHOD

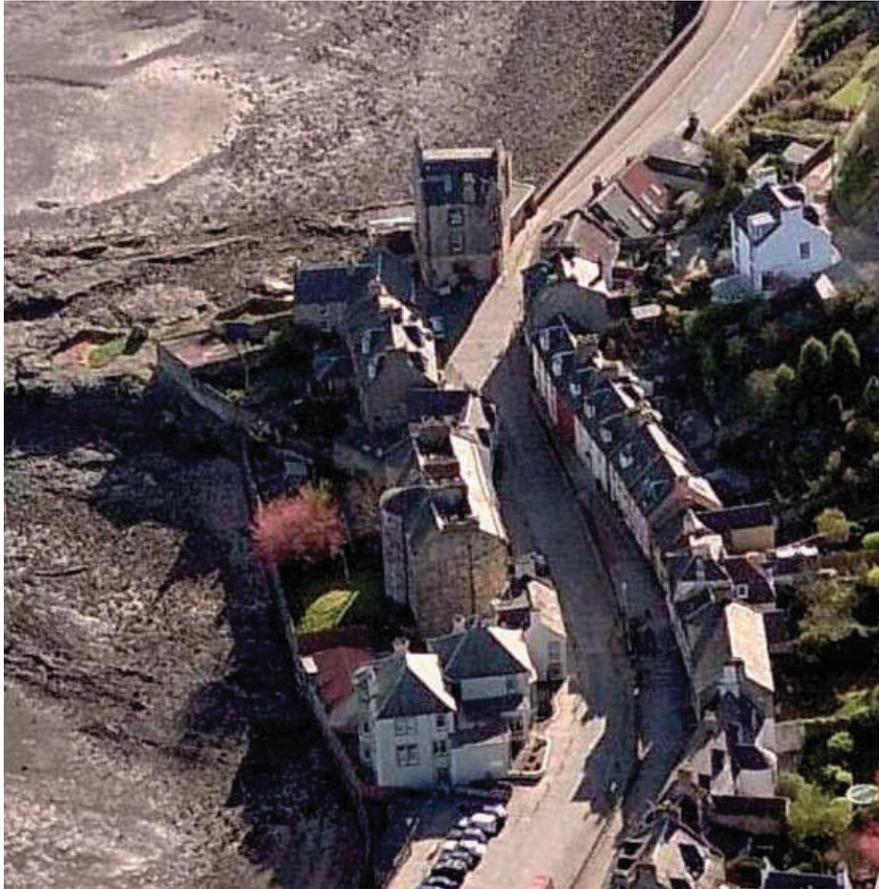
3.1 Objectives

The objectives of the building recording were:

- to create a descriptive record of the buildings prior to alterations, with any further details added after the ground works were complete



Illus 2
Plan of buildings



Illus 3
Aerial shot of general location



Illus 4
Historic image of South Queensferry
Courtesy of Queensferry History Group



Illus 5
Southern building external shot of east wall

- to gain a basic understanding of the building's development and use.

The objective of the watching brief was:

- to identify and record any archaeological remains threatened by the development work.

3.2 Methodology

The building survey was undertaken to comply with the requirements of a standard Level 2 descriptive record (Menuge 2006). This involved a combination of a written description, measured sketches and photographs. These were supplemented with a basic EDM survey to establish relative levels and accurately locate key features. Outline plans and elevations were supplied by DDA Architects. Photographs were taken using a 35mm SLR camera loaded with colour print and slide film, as well as a 10 megapixel digital camera, with a graduated metric scale visible. The survey was undertaken using a Leica TCR805 reflectorless EDM.

The watching brief required archaeological supervision of any excavation below the existing concrete slab floor. Any significant features were recorded using standard archaeological procedures, in accordance with the codes of practice and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Southern building

The southern building (Illus 2) is sub-rectangular in plan (measuring approximately 9.5 x 5m internally) with external walls between 1m and 1.3m thick. The walls (where likely to be original) stand to approximately 2.8m, and are constructed from irregular stone which

has been rendered to a smooth finish. Historic photographs suggest that this building was previously painted, whitewashed or harled (Illus 4), though no evidence for the exact nature of the finish now remains. The wall heads have been consolidated with stepped concrete. Historic photographs show an upper level of windows on the east side; presumably this level was removed at some point over the last 100 years or so. Holes for timber joists were visible in the internal walls and indicate the former ceiling level. This would have been low, especially toward the south end of the building where the floor was highest (less than 2m).

In plan

A concrete floor was removed by the main contractor to reveal several underlying features. In the south-east corner, by the doorway, a low brick structure (measuring 2.1 x 0.9m in plan, Illus 6) was filled with a bituminous deposit, possibly the base of a former step down to the original floor level. This floor consisted of a series of large stone flags in the south-west corner (Illus 2) – further north it had been replaced by a poured concrete surface, which is presumably a later modification. No archaeological deposits were found under these surfaces, and they appeared to have lain directly on bedrock.

Southern elevation

The southern elevation of the south building (contiguous with the northern wall of no. 11 Edinburgh Road) revealed the original pitched roof line in the masonry, reaching 2.2m above the wallhead at its apex. The line confirmed that the walls at the south end of the southern building are likely to reach near to their original height (as can be seen on Illus 5). A blocked window was evident in the shared wall with no. 11 Edinburgh Road (Illus 7)



Illus 6
Southern building internal shot of brick/bitumen structure



Illus 7
Southern building internal shot of south elevation

below the roof line and indicates that the building at no. 11 predated the recorded structure. The current window immediately above the blocked one must have been inserted after the recorded structure fell into disuse. (Illus 7)

Eastern wall

The eastern wall appears to survive for the southernmost 4–4.5m, north of which it has been replaced with an angled wall that joins with the northern building. There are two openings – a doorway immediately adjacent to the south wall, and a lower blocked door further north. Lintels are of stone externally and wood inside. Possible signs of an upper window can be seen between the two. The upper part of the wall has been heavily consolidated with a mixture of brick, stone and concrete. (Illus 5 & 8)

Western wall

The western wall runs for 6.8m and again has been heavily consolidated on the interior, primarily with brick. A former opening is visible 1.5m from the southern end, though it is not now possible to identify it as either door or window. A second opening, 1m from the north end does not appear to break

the external face and was presumably an alcove or press. A protruding line of concrete slopes from the wallhead at the south end towards the top of this alcove – this could be related to the consolidation, and may represent a support for a temporary internal roof. (Illus 9)

4.2 Northern Building

The northern, seaward building is also sub-rectangular in plan (6.1m x 7.7m internally) with walls approximately 0.6m thick. It stands to 3.5m at the tallest point, substantially lower than its original height. The walls are constructed of substantial coarsely dressed stones with smaller stones and mortar bonding. It appears to be constructed on bedrock, which slopes down from the south (Illus 16) by around 0.7m and is highly irregular on the seaward (north) side. The wallheads are again consolidated with stepped concrete (Illus 10). As with the southern building, photographs suggest that the walls were previously painted, whitewashed or harled, though again no evidence of this remains. Holes for timber ceiling joists were visible.

In Plan

A poured concrete and brick floor had been laid relatively recently to produce a level surface. This and underlying levelling material was removed to expose a number of structural features. A substantial stone wall running east–west across the south end is likely to be the original dividing wall between the two buildings (Illus 2). A kink in this wall to the east may have divided off the corner as an externally-accessed shed or store. A series of narrow brick walls divided the interior into three spaces with a narrow corridor joining them. Features exposed in the walls imply that the floor level was around 0.7m below



Illus 8
Southern building internal shot of east wall



Illus 9
Southern building internal shot of west wall



Illus 10
Northern building external shot of east wall



Illus 11
Northern building external shot of north wall



Illus 12

Northern building internal shot of north wall showing hearth and internal dividing wall after excavation

the concrete surface (Illus 13 shows the building prior to excavation). No remains of an original floor were found and presumably this, like the northern building, may have been flagstone. Levelling deposits between the concrete surfaces and bedrock contained no archaeologically significant remains and dated to the modern period. It appears that the interior of the building was originally cut into bedrock.

North Wall

The northern wall of the building was marked by several features. A large ground-floor window (0.9x1.3m) had been blocked with bricks internally with stone on the outside (Illus 11 & 12). A smaller window (0.6x0.7m) further east had been blocked entirely with stone. The interior lintel for the latter is a substantial stone block, while the other is capped by a thin wooden one. Removal of the concrete floor and levelling material revealed two fireplaces with stone sidewalls and plinths, both with bricked up upper sections or flues. The eastern fireplace's flue extended into the smaller window and must be a later insertion. The fireplaces appear to serve the two larger ground floor rooms. The upper parts of the wall had been consolidated with brick and concrete. (Illus 11–13)

West Wall

No features were present on the west elevation, excepting a number of joist sockets (presumably for the roof). A clay drainage pipe extended through the wall at the south end. Again, the wallhead has been consolidated with brick and concrete. (Illus 14)

East Wall

The ground floor of the eastern wall contained two blocked doors (0.9 x 1.9m and 1.25 x 1.85m) both with wooden lintels. The blocking consisted of dressed stone externally, with a layer of brick on the inside of the northern door. The southern door lea into the brick 'corridor'; the other opened into the NE room. Two upper floor windows seen on the historic photograph (Illus 4) could not be clearly distinguished on the exterior although two large horizontal stones may have represented their bottom sills. (Illus 10 & 15)



Illus 13

Northern building internal shot of north wall pre-excavation



Illus 14
Northern building internal shot of west wall post-
excavation



Illus 15
Northern building internal shot of east wall post-excavation



Illus 16
Internal shot showing bedrock



Illus 17

External shot of joining section between north and south buildings

4.3 Recent use

A recent entrance between the two buildings had been created on the east (Illus 17). This consisted of a long concrete lintel supported by substantial dressed stonework around a set of double doors. This section allowed access into the interior and effectively joined the two buildings into one.

5. DISCUSSION

The first map to show the area in any detail (Roy 1747–55) does not clearly show whether buildings were standing on the site. It does show that the built up area of South Queensferry did extend this far east. Thomson's map of 1832 does clearly show buildings on the site and by the time of the Ordnance Survey plan of 1856 the two buildings are clearly shown in plan, much as survives today.

Stylistically the buildings appear to date to the 18th or early 19th century and must post-date those to the immediate south. The internal features suggest that they were either domestic or perhaps used for some kind of light industry. The buildings were altered several times over its use with the insertion/blocking of doorways and hearths.

Late in their use the external walls were used to create a yard or storage area, with the internal area being levelled up and concreted over. The 18th/19th century structure was cut into bedrock and so no earlier archaeological remains were preserved on the site.

6. REFERENCES

6.1 Bibliographic sources

Menuge, A., 2006, *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*. English Heritage: Swindon.

6.2 Cartographic sources

1747–55, Roy, W., *Military Survey*. [Maps C.9.b 8/5a].

1832, Thomson, J., *Atlas of Scotland*.

1856, Ordnance Survey, *First Edition, Linlithgow, sheet III. 13*. Scale 25 inch.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Site Register

Photographic register

Photo no.	Direction facing	Description
001	N	N building, N internal elevation, prior to excavation of floor
002	N	N building, N internal elevation, detail of W blocked window
003	N	N building, N internal elevation, detail of E blocked window
004	E	N building, E internal elevation, photo 1 of 3
005	E	N building, E internal elevation, photo 2 of 3
006	E	N building, E internal elevation, photo 3 of 3
007	W	N building, W internal elevation, photo 1 of 3
008	W	N building, W internal elevation, photo 2 of 3
009	W	N building, W internal elevation, photo 3 of 3
010	W	N building, W internal elevation, detail of masonry
011	E	N building, E internal elevation, detail of N blocked door
012	E	N building, E internal elevation, detail of S blocked door
013	N	N building, general internal view
014	NE	N building, general internal view
015	S	S building, general internal view
016	SW	S building, general internal view
017	SE	S building, general internal view
018	W	S building, W internal elevation, photo 1 of 4
019	W	S building, W internal elevation, photo 2 of 4
020	W	S building, W internal elevation, photo 3 of 4
021	W	S building, W internal elevation, photo 4 of 4
022	W	S building, W internal elevation, photo 1 of 4
023	W	S building, W internal elevation, photo 2 of 4
024	W	S building, W internal elevation, photo 3 of 4
025	W	S building, W internal elevation, photo 4 of 4
026	W	S building, W internal elevation, panorama
027	W	S building, W internal elevation, photo 1 of 2
028	W	S building, W internal elevation, photo 2 of 2
029	W	S building, W internal elevation, detail of possible alcove
030	W	S building, W internal elevation, detail of blocked opening
031	E	E internal elevation, recent entrance between buildings
032	E	S building, E internal elevation, general view
033	E	S building, E internal elevation, general view
034	E	S building, E internal elevation, photo 1 of 4
035	E	S building, E internal elevation, photo 2 of 4
036	E	S building, E internal elevation, photo 3 of 4

Photo no.	Direction facing	Description
037	E	S building, E internal elevation, photo 4 of 4
038	S	S building, S internal elevation
039	S	S building, S internal elevation, ground floor
040	E	W external elevation, photo 1 of 4
041	E	W external elevation, photo 2 of 4
042	E	W external elevation, photo 3 of 4
043	E	W external elevation, photo 4 of 4
044	W	E external elevation, photo 1 of 4
045	W	E external elevation, photo 2 of 4
046	W	E external elevation, photo 3 of 4
047	W	E external elevation, photo 4 of 4
048	SW	N building, E external elevation, general view
049	SW	N building, E external elevation, general view
050	SW	N building, E external elevation, general view
051	NW	N building, E external elevation, general view
052	W	S building, E external elevation, detail of doorway
053	W	S building, E external elevation, detail of blocked doorway
054	W	N building, E external elevation, detail of S blocked doorway
055	W	N building, E external elevation, detail of N blocked doorway
056	W	N building, E external elevation, detail of blocked doorways
057	SW	N building, N external elevation, general view
058	S	N building, N external elevation, general view
059	S	N building, N external elevation, general view
060	S	N building, N external elevation, general view
061	S	N building, N external elevation, general view
062	S	N building, N external elevation, general view
063	S	N building, N external elevation, detail of W blocked window
064	S	N building, N external elevation, detail of E blocked window
065	SW	S building, flagstone flooring revealed beneath concrete floor
066	SE	S building, brick/bitumen structure by doorway
067	N	S building, flagstone and concrete flooring
068	N	N building, floor removed, showing W fireplace
069	N	N building, floor removed, showing E fireplace
070	W	N building, W internal elevation with floor removed
071	E	N building, E internal elevation with floor removed

Appendix 2 – Discovery and Excavation Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh City Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	13 Edinburgh Road, South Queensferry
PROJECT CODE:	ERSQ10
PARISH:	Dalmeny
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jürgen van Wessel
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Historic Building Recording, Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT17 NW 38
OASIS NO:	headland1-85403
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	–
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	–
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 1321 7830
START DATE (this season)	June 2010
END DATE (this season)	August 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	–
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A programme of historic building recording and a watching brief was undertaken in response to a planning condition placed on the redevelopment of derelict buildings at 13 Edinburgh Road, South Queensferry. The site comprised two separate buildings, latterly joined together. Stylistically the buildings appear to date to the 18th or early 19th century and must post-date those to the immediate south. The internal features suggest that they were either domestic or perhaps used for some kind of light industry. The buildings were altered several times over their use with the insertion/blocking of doorways and hearths. Late in their use the external walls were used to create a yard or storage area, with the internal area being levelled up and concreted over. The excavation of this material was monitored. The 18th/19th century structure was cut into bedrock and no earlier archaeological remains were preserved on the site.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	–
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive and report to be deposited in NMRS. Report lodged with CECAS.