

# GUARD ARCHAEOLOGY



**Craigpark Quarry, Ratho, Edinburgh  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Data Structure Report  
Project 3972**

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**Craigpark Quarry, Ratho, Edinburgh**  
**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
**Data Structure Report**

**On behalf of:** Alex Brewster & Sons

**NGR:** NT 126 710

**Project Number:** 3972

**Report by:** Rowena Thomson

**Illustrations:** Gillian McSwan

**Project Manager:** Ronan Toolis

**Approved by:**



**Date:**

06/10/2014

*This document has been prepared in accordance  
with GUARD Archaeology Limited standard operating procedures.*

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## Contents

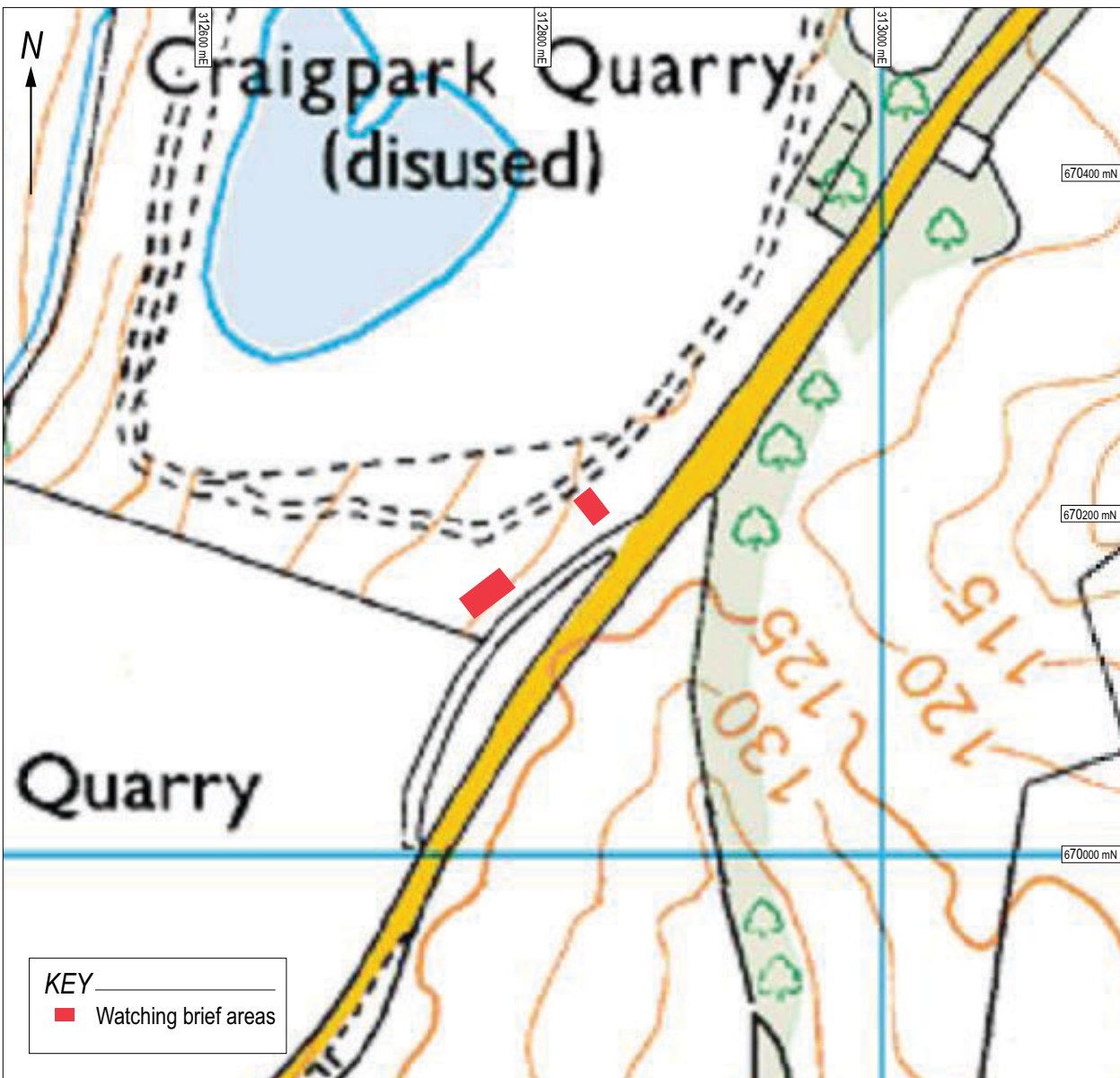
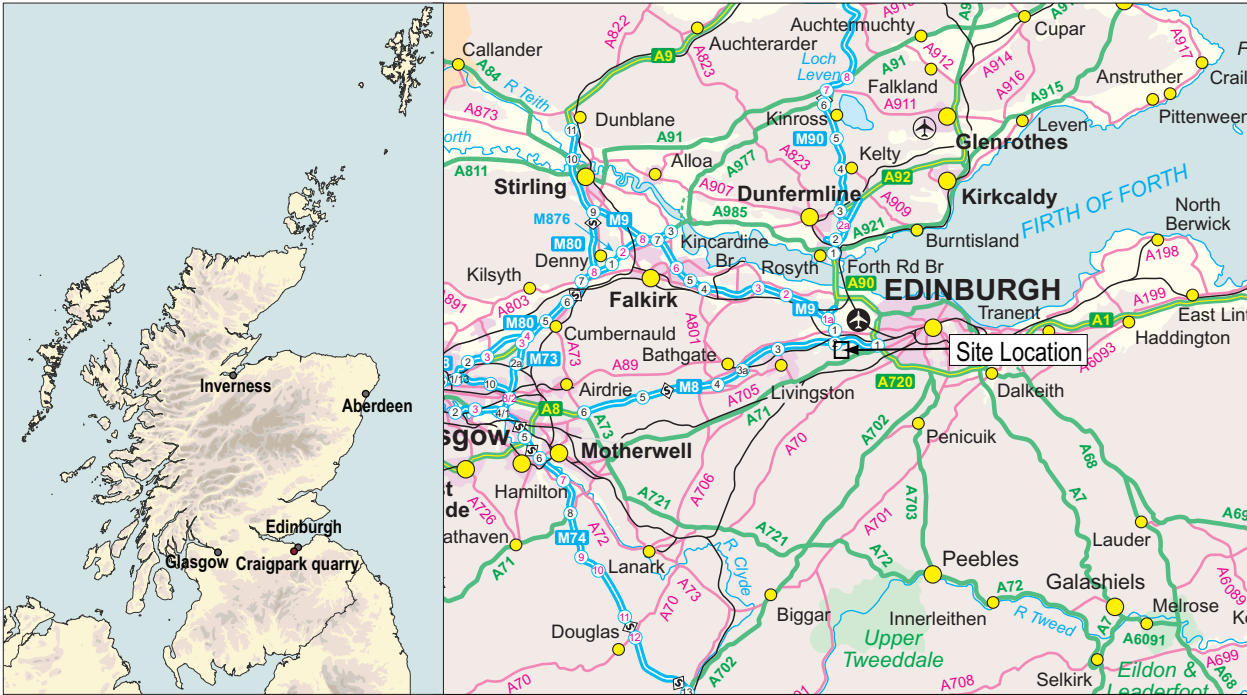
Executive Summary	5
Introduction	5
Site Location	5
Archaeological Background	5
Aims and Objectives	5
Fieldwork Methodology	6
Results	6
Discussion	7
Conclusion	7
Acknowledgements	8
Appendices	10
Appendix A: List of Contexts	10
Appendix B: List of Photographs	10
Appendix C: Discovery And Excavation Scotland Entry	10
Appendix D: Written Scheme Of Investigation	11

## List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location	4
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## List of Plates

Plate 1: General view of trench foundation for house/lodge, from north-west	7
Plate 2: General view of foundation trench for agricultural building, from west	7
Plate 3: East facing section of strip foundation for agricultural shed. The thin black layer represents the undisturbed topsoil	7





## Executive Summary

- 1.1 GUARD Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during ground-breaking works required for the construction of an agricultural storage shed and manager's residence on land to be developed as a country park at Craigpark Quarry near Ratho, Edinburgh. The excavation works encountered no finds of archaeological significance.

## Introduction

- 2.1 This Data Structure Report sets out the results of an archaeological watching brief commissioned by Alex Brewster & Sons and undertaken by GUARD Archaeology on 24 September 2014 during ground-breaking works required for the construction of an agricultural storage shed and manager's residence on land to be developed as a country park at the former Craigpark Quarry, Ratho, Edinburgh. The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with planning condition 3 (Planning Reference: 14/02128/FUL), adhering to the specification provided by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

## Site Location

- 3.1 The site lies at an elevation of approximately 120 m OD and is located to the south-west of Ratho to the west of Edinburgh (NGR: NT 126 710; Figure 1). It is a rural environment bounded by arable and pasture fields in the surrounding landscape. The site comprised two areas, one c. 10 x 5 m and the other 15 x 30 m, each requiring the excavation of strip foundations. The two areas were c. 40 m apart.
- 3.2 The underlying geology of the site consists of the Midland Valley Sill complex of quartz and micro-gabbro.

## Archaeological Background

- 4.1 There are no known archaeological remains within the development area. There are, however, a number of prehistoric remains within the surrounding countryside. These include an Early Bronze Age flat bronze axe found during quarrying in 1796 on North Plot Hill near Ratho, an Early Bronze Age copper axe found in Ratho bog in the early nineteenth century and an Early Bronze Age barrow found somewhere near Ratho, from which a skeleton accompanied by a food vessel, filled with ashes and fragments of human bones, mingled with several pieces of bronze rings and an Early Bronze Age bar armlet, were recovered. Several prehistoric cup and ring marked stones lie a short distance to the south at Tormain Hill, where possible prehistoric quernstones have been previously recovered. An undated enclosure cropmark, which may be prehistoric, also lies to the north-west of the quarry.

## Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The main aim of the archaeological watching brief was to ensure that important archaeological remains were not destroyed without first being properly recorded. Therefore the aims and objectives of the archaeological watching brief were as follows:
- undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground-breaking works to record potential archaeological deposits;
  - submit a report to data structure level for agreement to CECAS on completion of the archaeological works;
  - submit, if excavation or post-excavation works are required, an accompanying project design and costing alongside the data structure report, which will outline arrangements for further excavation or post-excavation works, should significant archaeology be encountered.

## Fieldwork Methodology

- 6.1 The methodology adhered to a Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix D) agreed in advance with CECAS. The scope of the watching brief included archaeological monitoring of below ground interventions to ensure that no significant archaeological remains were disturbed, without first being recorded. The watching brief included the monitoring of all over-burden stripping operations by machine, as ground-breaking works could have revealed remains or deposits that relate to the earlier use of the site.
- 6.2 All ground disturbances were monitored by an archaeologist, under the overall guidance of an archaeological project manager. The number of watching brief archaeologists required during stripping operations was dependent upon the number of machines employed at any one time (one watching brief archaeologist per machine). All machines used for overburden stripping were fitted with a flat-bladed (toothless) ditching bucket for removal of any overburden layers (excepting tarmac surface) to ensure the subsoil interface is not disturbed and any archaeological features can be clearly identified.
- 6.3 The overburden was removed in spits to the first archaeological horizon or, where none was found, to the required depth of ground-works. Any archaeological features encountered were cleaned by hand by the Watching Brief Archaeologist to determine the date of the deposits, their character and extent. Such features were recorded by written description on pro forma recording sheets, by photograph and by measured drawing.
- 6.4 Suitable down time was provided to the Watching Brief Archaeologist in order to fully recover any archaeological evidence encountered on site. If significant archaeology was encountered, requiring more than one day to excavate and record, an on-site meeting was to be arranged as soon as possible between the GUARD Project Manager, the client's agent and CECAS to agree appropriate mitigation measures (eg full excavation).
- 6.5 All archaeological finds was dealt with by the on-site Archaeologist. The general practice was to bulk recover all artefacts by context.
- 6.6 All hand-excavated feature fills and horizons were to be sampled, using bulk soil samples, for palaeo-environmental evidence. This could have included micro-morphological sampling in order to address soil development at the site.
- 6.7 A representative section was recorded denoting depth of topsoil, any stratigraphy present and the nature of the soil. This information was logged in the day book together with a sketch drawn to scale and a photographic record of deposits.
- 6.8 In the event that human remains were encountered during the watching brief, the local police, the client and CECAS would have been notified immediately and no further work would have taken place on site until agreement on how to proceed had been reached with all parties.
- 6.9 If any archaeological deposits encountered had been sufficiently significant or complex to require more than one day to record, and these could not be preserved in situ, appropriate mitigation works, such as excavation, post-excavation analysis and publication, may have been required by CECAS as necessary follow-up works, in accordance with the condition of planning consent. CECAS on behalf of the Planning Authority would be the final judge of significance in any instance and may have required the full excavation of any archaeological remains to be destroyed by the proposals.

## Results

- 7.1 The watching brief was undertaken on 24 September 2014 and comprised the monitoring of the machine excavation of foundation trenches (Plates 1-2). The detailed results of the watching brief are set out in Appendices A-B.



*Plate 1: General view of trench foundation for house/lodge, from north-west.*



*Plate 2: General view of foundation trench for agricultural building, from west.*

7.2 Remnants of a spoil heap (001) from the old quarry overlay the darker original topsoil (002) and a mid-brown natural silt (003; Plate 3). The original topsoil was thinner and more patchy under the site of the proposed agricultural shed. No features of archaeological significance were encountered.



*Plate 3: East facing section of strip foundation for agricultural shed. The thin black layer represents the undisturbed topsoil.*

## Discussion

8.1 The archaeological watching brief noted that the old spoil heap (001) which overlay the site for some decades had not been totally removed (Plate 3). This mix of topsoil and the surrounding natural was easily distinguishable from the undisturbed topsoil underneath it. No features of archaeological significance were encountered.

## Conclusion

9.1 The site location has been used as a spoil storage area over a period of time and was probably agricultural before that, but no significant archaeological remains were encountered during the works.

9.2 A summary of the project results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*. A copy of this is included in Appendix C. The archive for the project, including a copy of the report, will be submitted to the National Monuments Records for Scotland within six months.

9.3 The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> (OASIS Reference: guardarc1-191168) will be completed within 3 months. Once the Data Structure Report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, CECAS will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.

## Acknowledgements

- 10.1 GUARD Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Alistair Smith of AMS Associates Ltd and Alex Brewster & Sons for their assistance. GUARD Archaeology Ltd would also thank John Lawson, City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Officer for his advice. The illustration and desk top publishing was prepared by Gillian McSwan. The project was managed for GUARD Archaeology Ltd by Ronan Toolis.



**Craigpark Quarry, Ratho, Edinburgh  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Data Structure Report**

**Section 2: Appendices**



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## Appendices

### Appendix A: List of Contexts

Context No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Very compact greyish brown topsoil/type 1/subsoil mix. 0.1-0.25m in depth, covering site. Machine excavated in dry conditions.	Remnants of a spoil heap from the quarry.
002	Very compact dark grey/black silty topsoil. 0.3m at deepest and patchy in its extent over the site. Machine excavated in dry conditions.	Buried topsoil lying underneath the quarry spoil heap
003	Very compact mid brown silt with grey patches and frequent rounded pebbles. Appears heavily affected by compression. Machine excavated in dry conditions.	Natural - compressed by quarry spoil heap.

### Appendix B: List of Photographs

#### Digital File 1

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
1	-	001	Working shot - footprint of agricultural shed	E
2	-	001-003	Working shot - trench foundation for house/lodge	NW
3	-	001-003	East facing section - foundation for house/lodge	W
4	-	001-003	North facing section - foundation for house/lodge	S
5	-	001-003	Working shot - agricultural building	W
6	-	001-003	East facing section - foundation for agricultural building	W
7	-	-	ID shot	-

### Appendix C: Discovery And Excavation Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Craigpark Quarry, Ratho
PROJECT CODE:	3972
PARISH:	Ratho
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Rowena Thomson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	GUARD Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Quarry
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 126 710
START DATE (this season)	24 September 2014
END DATE (this season)	24 September 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Due to a number of prehistoric remains lying within the wider surrounding area, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by GUARD Archaeology Ltd during the excavation of strip foundations for two buildings. No archaeology was encountered and no finds were recovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Alex Brewster and Sons
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	52 Elderpark Workspace, 100 Elderpark Street, Glasgow, G51 3TR
EMAIL ADDRESS:	bob.will@guard-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

**Appendix D: Written Scheme Of Investigation**

# CRAIGPARK QUARRY, RATHO, EDINBURGH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

PROJECT 3972

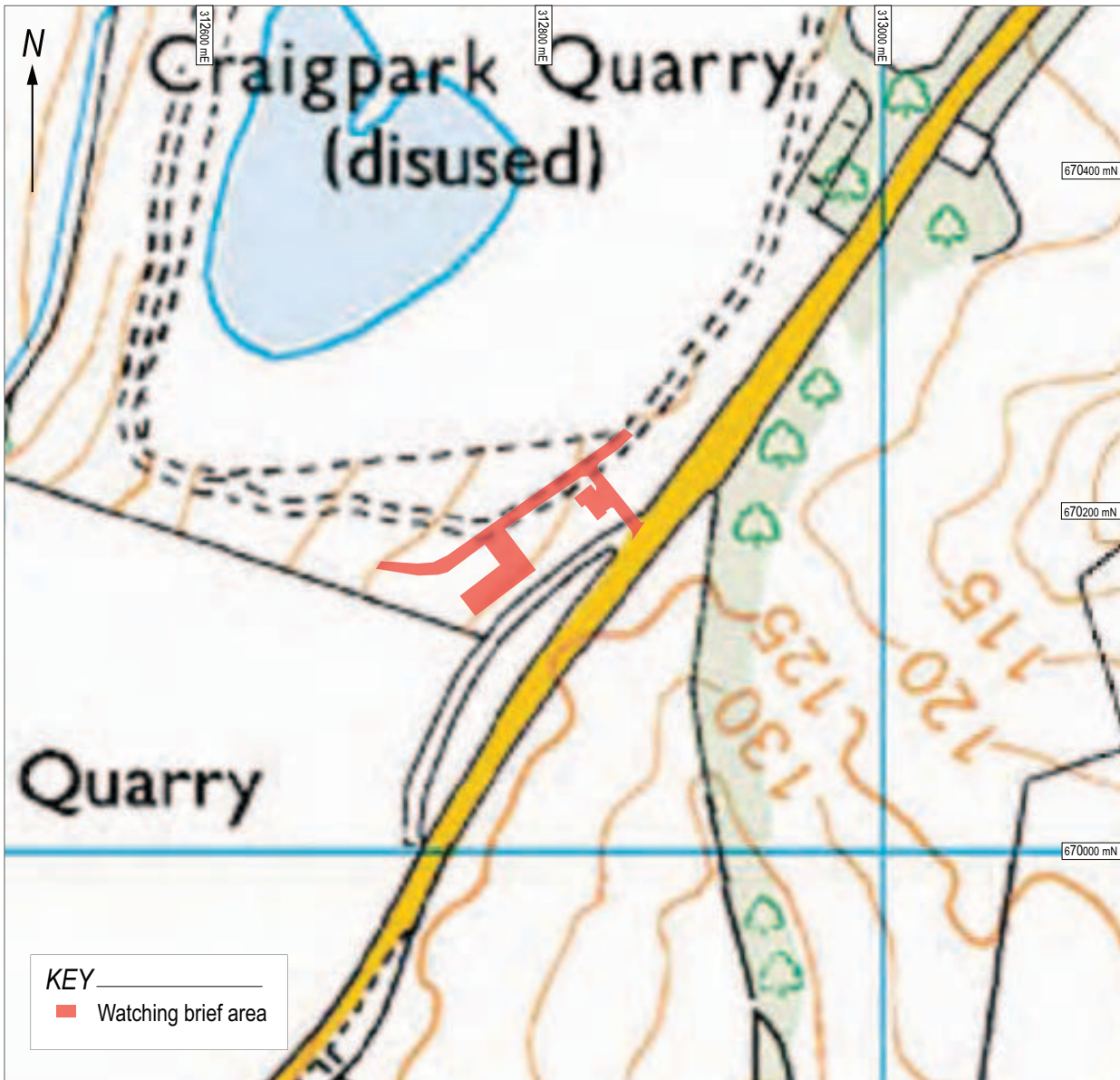
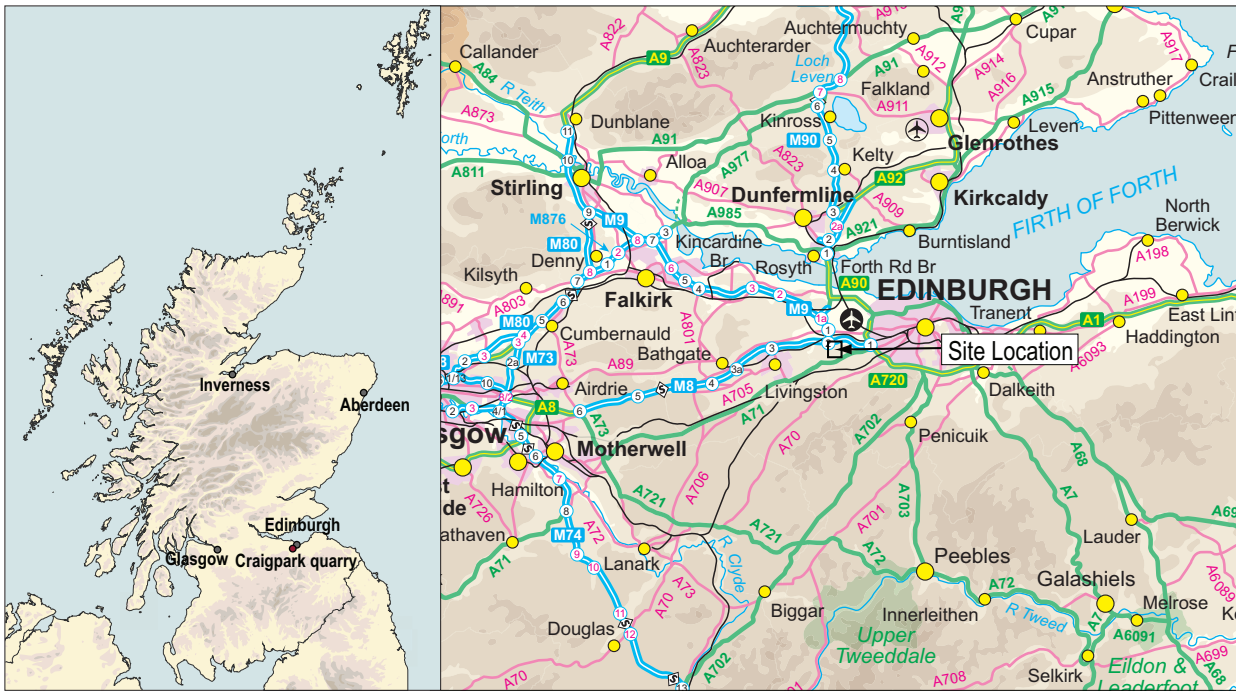


Figure 1:  
Site location.

## Executive Summary

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation forms the archaeological method statement for the archaeological work associated with the development at Craigpark Quarry near Ratho, Edinburgh. This work will comprise archaeological monitoring of ground-breaking works for the construction of an agricultural storage shed and manager's residence on land to be developed as a country park. This Written Scheme of Investigation will require to be agreed by the archaeological adviser to the local authority prior to the commencement of archaeological fieldwork.

## Introduction

- 2.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) sets out the methodology for the archaeological mitigation works required for the Craigpark Quarry development in accordance with planning condition 3 (Planning Reference: 14/02128/FUL), to be undertaken by GUARD Archaeology, on behalf of Alex Brewster and Sons. In accordance to the specification provided by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS), the scope of work is for an archaeological watching brief to monitor ground breaking works as the redevelopment area has potential archaeological sensitivity. The ground-breaking works to be monitored during this watching brief will comprise the topsoil/overburden strip.
- 2.2 This WSI outlines the programme of archaeological mitigation works (Stage 2) following the completion of the Stage 1 evaluation of the development site. Following the completion of stage 2 there may be a requirement Stage 3 post-excavation analysis and publication, if required, will be specified in further WSI addendums. These WSI addendums, if required, will be submitted for the agreement of CECAS, prior to the commencement of any archaeological work. All phases of work will be funded by the developer as required by the Planning Authority.

## Site Location

- 3.1 Craigpark Quarry is located to the south-west of Ratho to the west of Edinburgh (NGR: NT 126 710; Figure 1).

## Archaeological Background

- 4.1 There are no known archaeological remains within the development area. There are, however, a number of prehistoric remains within the surrounding countryside. These include an Early Bronze Age flat bronze axe found during quarrying in 1796 on North Plot Hill near Ratho, an Early Bronze Age copper axe found in Ratho bog in the early nineteenth century and an Early Bronze Age barrow found somewhere near Ratho, from which a skeleton accompanied by a food vessel, filled with ashes and fragments of human bones, mingled with several pieces of bronze rings and an Early Bronze Age bar armlet, were recovered. Several prehistoric cup and ring marked stones lie a short distance to the south at Tormain Hill, where possible prehistoric quernstones have been previously recovered. An undated enclosure cropmark, which may be prehistoric, also lies to the north-west of the quarry. There is a potential, albeit slight, that the development may encounter unknown prehistoric remains.

## Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The main aim of the archaeological watching brief is to ensure that important archaeological remains are not destroyed without first being properly recorded. Therefore the aims and objectives of the archaeological watching brief are as follows:
  - undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground-breaking works to record potential archaeological deposits;
  - submit a report to data structure level for agreement to CECAS on completion of the archaeological works



- Submit, if excavation or post-excavation works are required, an accompanying project design and costing alongside the data structure report, which will outline arrangements for further excavation or post-excavation works, in accordance with 2.2 above.

## Methodology

- 6.1 The scope of the watching brief will include archaeological monitoring of below ground interventions to ensure that no significant archaeological remains are disturbed, without first being recorded. The watching brief will include the monitoring of all over-burden stripping operations by machine, as ground-breaking works may reveal remains or deposits that relate to the earlier use of the site.
- 6.2 All ground disturbances will be monitored by an archaeologist, under the overall guidance of an archaeological project manager. The number of watching brief archaeologists required during stripping operations will be dependent upon the number of machines employed at any one time (one watching brief archaeologist per machine). All machines used for overburden stripping will be fitted with a flat-bladed (toothless) ditching bucket for removal of any overburden layers (excepting tarmac surface) to ensure the subsoil interface is not disturbed and any archaeological features can be clearly identified.
- 6.3 The overburden will be removed in spits to the first archaeological horizon or, where none is found, to the required depth of groundworks. Any archaeological features encountered will be cleaned by hand by the Watching Brief Archaeologist to determine the date of the deposits, their character and extent. Such features will be recorded by written description on pro forma recording sheets, by photograph and by measured drawing.
- 6.4 Suitable down time will be provided to the Watching Brief Archaeologist in order to fully recover any archaeological evidence encountered on site. If significant archaeology is encountered, requiring more than one day to excavate and record, an on-site meeting may be arranged as soon as possible between the GUARD Project Manager, the client's agent and CECAS to agree appropriate mitigation measures (eg full excavation).
- 6.5 All archaeological finds will be dealt with by the on-site Archaeologist. The general practice will be to bulk recover all artefacts by context.
- 6.6 All hand-excavated feature fills and horizons will be sampled, using bulk soil samples, for palaeo-environmental evidence. This may also include micromorphological sampling in order to address soil development at the site.
- 6.7 A representative section will be recorded denoting depth of topsoil, any stratigraphy present and the nature of the soil. This information will be logged in the day book together with a sketch drawn to scale and a photographic record of deposits.
- 6.8 In the event that human remains are encountered during the watching brief, the local police, the client and CECAS will be notified immediately and no further work will take place on site until agreement on how to proceed has been reached with all parties.
- 6.9 If any archaeological deposits encountered are sufficiently significant or complex to require more than one day to record, and these cannot be preserved in situ, appropriate mitigation works, such as excavation, post-excavation analysis and publication, may be required by CECAS as necessary follow-up works, in accordance with the condition of planning consent. CECAS on behalf of the Planning Authority will be the final judge of significance in any instance and may well require the full excavation of any archaeological remains to be destroyed by the proposals.

## Report Preparation and Contents

- 7.1 A Data Structure Report (DSR) is to be produced within two-four weeks of fieldwork ending. Any Post-Excavation Research Design (PERD) is to be produced within 3 months of CECAS agreement to the DSR. Any final publication is to be completed within a year of CECAS agreement to the PERD (subject to availability of specialists etc). The DSR will contain an analysis of the results of the archaeological watching brief. The report will include a full descriptive text that will characterise the

results of the watching brief. It will also include lists of all the archaeological records, drawings and photographs.

7.2 The report will include the following:

- executive summary
- a site location plan to at least 1:10,000 scale with at least an 8 figure central grid reference
- Planning reference
- OASIS reference number; unique site code
- contractor's details including date work carried out
- nature and extent of the proposed development, including developer/client details
- description of the site history, location and geology
- a site plan to a suitable scale and tied into the national grid so that features can be correctly orientated
- discussion of the results of the watching brief
- feature descriptions
- plans and section drawings of the features drawn at a suitable scale
- bibliography

7.3 Digital PDF copies of the report will be sent to the client and CECAS.

7.4 The report will be presented in an ordered state, will be page numbered and supplemented with section numbering for ease of reference.

## Copyright

8.1 Unless otherwise agreed copyright for any report resulting from the archaeological work undertaken as part of the project will be deemed the intellectual property of GUARD Archaeology Limited.

## Publication

9.1 A summary of the project results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*. In the event of minor archaeological remains being encountered during the work, it is proposed that a comprehensive report submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, will form the final publication of the site. A copy of this will be included in the Data Structure Report.

## Archive

10.1 The archive for the project, including a copy of the report, will be submitted to the National Monuments Records for Scotland within three months of completion of all relevant work.

10.2 The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be completed within 3 months of completion of the work. Once the Data Structure Report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, CECAS will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.

## Finds Disposal

11.1 The arrangement for the final disposal of any finds made in connection with the archaeological work, will be deposited in keeping with Scottish legal requirements as set out in the Treasure Trove Code of Practice published by the Scottish Government in December 2008. The laws relating to Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia* in Scotland apply to all finds where the original owner cannot be identified. This includes all material recovered during archaeological fieldwork. Accordingly, all assemblages

recovered from archaeological fieldwork are claimed automatically by the Crown and must be reported to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel through its secretariat, the Treasure Trove Unit. In the event of the discovery of small finds, a filled-out copy of the form "Declaration of an Archaeological Assemblage from Fieldwork" and two copies of the pertinent Data Structure Report will be submitted to the Panel at the conclusion of the fieldwork. The Panel will then be responsible for recommending to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer which museum should be allocated the finds. All artefacts will be temporarily stored by GUARD Archaeology until a decision has been made by the panel.

## Personnel and Liaison

- 12.1 The GUARD Archaeology team will comprise the following qualified and experienced GUARD archaeologists:
- Project Director (on-site Archaeologist): Ms Rowena Thomson
  - Technical Support: Ms Aileen Maule
  - Project Manager: Mr Ronan Toolis
- 12.2 The GUARD Archaeology Project Manager, Mr Ronan Toolis, will be the point of contact for the archaeological works. A full CV for individuals concerned can be made available on request.

## Monitoring

- 13.1 The proposed start date for the archaeological works is expected to be during the week commencing 15 September 2014. CECAS and the client will be informed of the site mobile phone number prior to the start date so that monitoring visits can be arranged. Archaeological watching brief work during ground-breaking works will be undertaken in accordance with the main contractor's schedule.

## Health & Safety and Insurance

- 14.1 GUARD Archaeology Limited adheres to the guidelines and standards prescribed for archaeological fieldwork set down in the Institute for Archaeologists approved Health and Safety in Field Archaeology document. It is standard GUARD Archaeology policy, prior to any fieldwork project commencing, to conduct a risk assessment and to prepare a project safety plan, the prescriptions of which will be strictly followed for the duration of all archaeological fieldwork. Copies of the resultant project safety plan and of GUARD Archaeology Limited's Fieldwork Safety Policy Statement may be viewed upon request.
- 14.2 GUARD Archaeology Limited also possesses all necessary insurance cover, proofs of which may be supplied upon request.

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