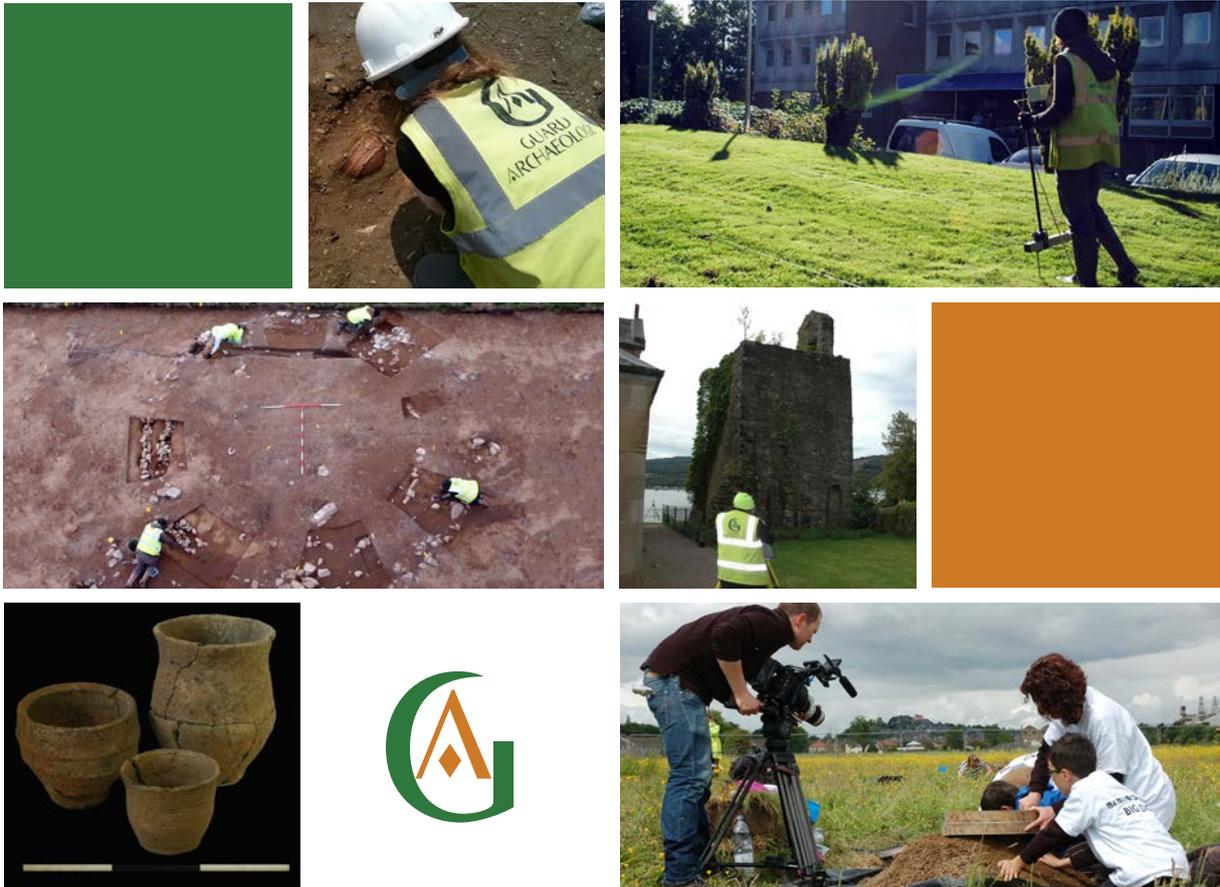


# GUARD ARCHAEOLOGY



**Ferrymuir, South Queensferry, Edinburgh  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Data Structure Report  
Project 4078**

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**Ferrymuir, South Queensferry, Edinburgh**  
**Archaeological Evaluation**  
**Data Structure Report**

**On behalf of:** Bellway Homes Limited (Scotland)

**NGR:** NT 12186 7736

**Project Number:** 4078

**Report by:** Maureen C. Kilpatrick

**Illustrations:** Fiona Jackson

**Project Manager:** Bob Will

**Approved by:**



**Date:**

12/03/2015

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

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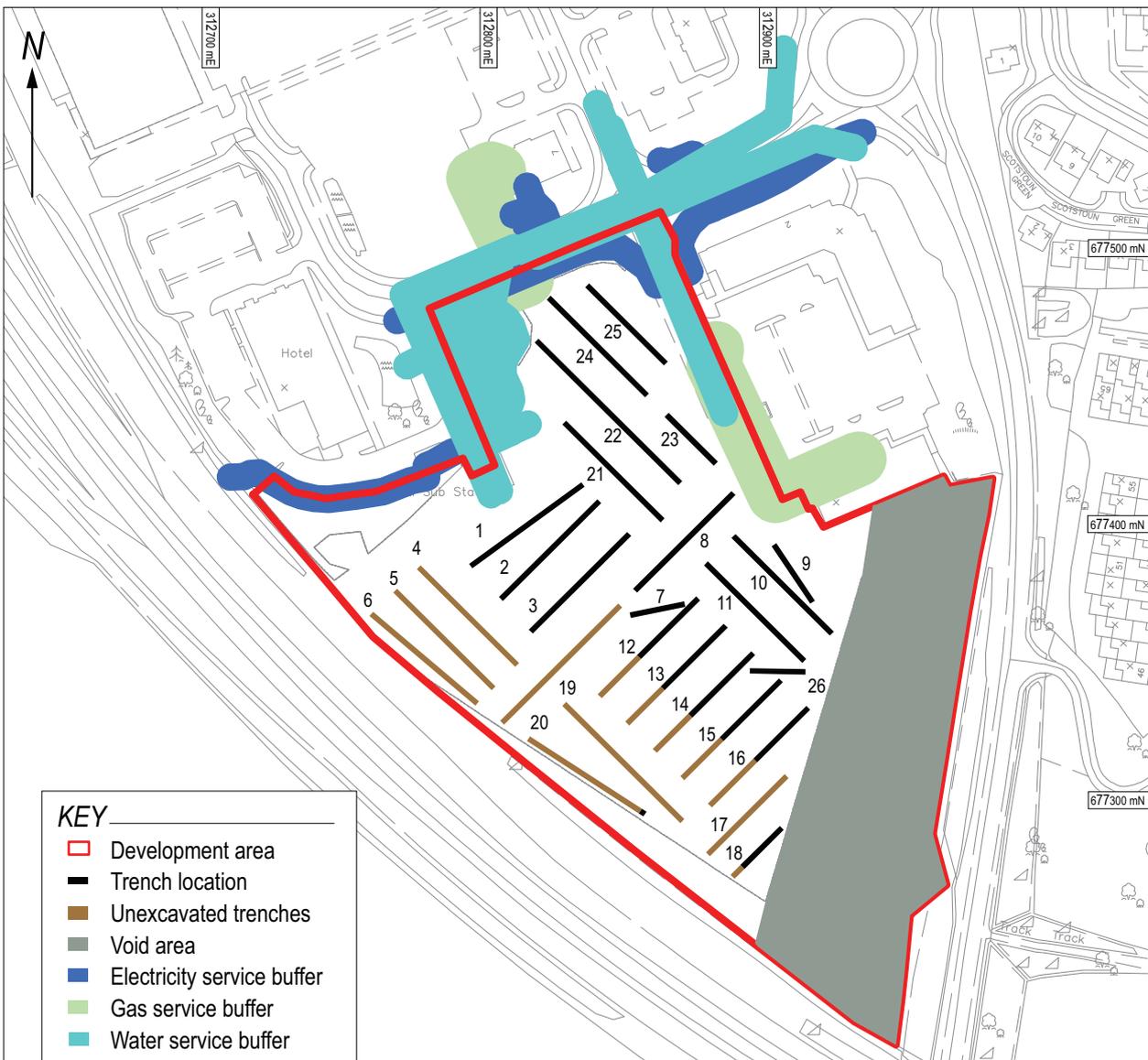


Figure 1:  
Site location.



## Executive Summary

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out by GUARD Archaeology Limited, working on behalf of Bellway Homes Limited (Scotland), on an area proposed for development at Ferrymuir, South Queensferry, Edinburgh. The proposed trial trench evaluation was to sample 10% (2,396 m<sup>2</sup>) of the total area proposed for development (2.39 ha) which excluded service buffer zones. However, excavation was limited within the western extent of the site due to the ground conditions and following discussions with the Edinburgh Council archaeologist the area was reduced. The reduced area amounted to 1,522 m<sup>2</sup> spread over 20 trenches which varied in length between 20 m and 73 m and focused on the central and eastern areas of the site (figure 1). The work programme revealed no finds or features of archaeological significance with most of the trenches revealing deep deposits of modern overburden that consisted of redeposited clay and modern debris with only patches of subsoil surviving below. No topsoil deposit was located above the remaining subsoil suggesting the site had been significantly truncated in the past.

## Introduction

- 2.1 This report sets out the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by GUARD Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Bellway Homes Limited (Scotland) on an area proposed for development at Ferrymuir, South Queensferry (Figure 1). The work was carried between 2nd – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015 to address conditions in relation to Planning references: 13/04029/FUL as stipulated by the archaeological advisor to Edinburgh City Council.

## Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 3.1 The development area is located to the west of Ferrymuir on the south side of South Queensferry, to the east of the motorway leading to the Forth Road Bridge (centred on NGR: NT 12186 7736). The development area lies to the south of a retail and leisure park consisting of a hotel, supermarket and restaurants and comprises 2.39 ha of accessible land (Figure 1). The area is irregularly shaped in plan and generally flat in topography with a raised area of ground present towards the north-west of the site leading to the motorway. The area immediately adjacent to this is significantly wet underfoot with a large area of standing water. A north-west/south-east tarmac road is also present in the western area along with building debris including blaes deposits and large fragments of concrete debris. The whole area is covered with a moss vegetation and weeds.
- 3.2 The underlying drift geology is Glacial Till, while the solid geology consists of Hopetoun Member – Sedimentary rock cycles, Strathclyde Group Type (British Geological Survey Map Viewer <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geology/obritian/home.html>).

## Archaeological Background

- 4.1 South Queensferry and its sister North Queensferry were established as ferry-ports by the 11<sup>th</sup> century on either side of the last narrow crossing point across the Firth of Forth between Fife and the Lothians. By 1150 the settlement was being called “the queen’s ferry”, a reference to the improvements order by Queen Margaret of Scotland (AD 1063-93) to the ferry service. The site of the early medieval ferry, port and harbour has historically been placed to the north of the 14<sup>th</sup> century Carmelite friary (now South Queensferry Priory Church) and to the west of the post-medieval harbour (located at the foot of Gote Lane) constructed around 1600. The importance of this ferry-port grew, under the control of Dunfermline Abbey, throughout the medieval period with South Queensferry gaining burgh status by 1300 and Royal burgh status in 1636. The layout of the historic core of the modern town has change little since the medieval/post medieval period, with linear layout plots running off at right-angles from the High Street.
- 4.2 The Ferrymuir formed part of the common grazing ground for the medieval burgh and was a documented place of execution in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. During this period the area was used as a place for the public execution of witches, by burning, with the last recorded execution

having taking place in 1649. In addition the area is suspected as containing the remains of a Roman Road (NMRS Ref NT17NW 178), recorded by the antiquarian William Maitland on 1757. Maitland describes the road as extending across the northern part of Ferrymuir and forming the part of the coastal road linking Cramond and Inveresk to the east with the Antonine Wall

- 4.3 Therefore there is a potential for buried archaeological artefacts and remains to survive within the development area.

## Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to identify:

- the extent and nature of archaeological features within the development area;

- 5.2 The objectives were therefore to:

- Conduct an archaeological evaluation within the development area to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains, and their character, date and extent if surviving;
- Submit a report to data structure level for approval to the City of Edinburgh Council, on completion of the archaeological fieldwork, which includes an outline of the scope of any further excavation works should any significant archaeology be encountered.

## Methodology

- 6.1 An archaeological evaluation of the development area comprising the machine excavation of trenches amounting to 1,522 m<sup>2</sup> of that 2.39 ha of the development area out with live services, their buffer areas and those areas deemed inaccessible was conducted in order to evaluate the presence, nature, significance and extent of any archaeological features.
- 6.2 The evaluation trenches across the development area comprised 20 trenches (measuring 2m in width and varying between 20 m and 73 m in length) amounting to 1,522 m<sup>2</sup> in total (Figure 1). Evaluation trenches were located to provide comprehensive coverage across the development site.
- 6.3 All machine excavation of trenches were supervised by a GUARD Archaeologist. The machine excavator was fitted with a c 2 m wide flat-bladed (toothless) ditching bucket.
- 6.4 The overburden at each trench location was removed in spits to the first archaeological horizon or, where none was found, to the natural subsoil. Any archaeological features encountered were cleaned by hand by the on-site Archaeologist to determine their character and extent.
- 6.5 A representative section of each trench was recorded denoting depth of overburden, 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.
- 6.6 Once the evaluation trenches were recorded the trenches were backfilled by machine.

## Results

- 7.1 The results should be read in conjunction with the detailed results found in Appendices B-C and Figure 1.
- 7.2 During the course of the work no features of archaeological significance were encountered although evidence of recent agricultural improvements were revealed and consisted of the very fragmentary remains of a ceramic field drains often identified by drain fragments on the surface of the subsoil rather than complete pipes or drains (trenches 8, 13, 14, 18, 21, 23 and

24) and a stone filled rubble drain in trench 2. The remains of two ground investigation test pits were also uncovered in trench 11.



Plate 1: Post-excavation of trench 25.



Plate 2: Post-excavation of trench 16.



Plate 3: North-west facing section of trench 3 showing disturbed subsoil below overburden deposit.



Plate 4: South-east facing section of trench 1.

- 7.3 Topsoil consisted of shallow putative layer of grey/brown silty clay approximately 0.15m deep and was covered with moss and straggly vegetation and grass (plate 4). The main deposit below the topsoil that was observed across the whole site was a deep layer of modern made ground or overburden that comprised a mixed stiff brown/grey silty clay that contained varying amounts of construction debris including wire, plastic, concrete, bricks, stone, blaes, wood and fragments of ceramic drainage pipes. This layer varied in depth from 0.5m to 1.3m. This layer of overburden lay directly over the subsoil and the original topsoil or plough soil did not survive below the overburden in any of the trenches. In trench 25 a layer of gravel was uncovered that had been laid on geotextile over the subsoil and may be the remains of a compound or access road that was used when the neighbouring buildings and roads were constructed.
- 7.4 Across the site the subsoil generally comprised a mixed stiff grey/beige/brown silty clay with inclusions of pebbles and stones (plates 1 and 2). However, in many trenches the subsoil had either been heavily disturbed or stripped away completely exposing the underlying glacial boulder clay which was generally located at least 1 m below present ground surface (plate 3) except in the south-east corner of the site where it was between 0.5-0.8m below ground level. In many of the trenches modern building debris was found pressed into the surface of the subsoil.

- 7.5 20 trenches were excavated, totalling 1,522 m<sup>2</sup>. The details on each trench are set out in Appendix B-D.

## Discussion

- 8.1 The evaluation trenches revealed no features or finds of archaeological significance during the present work programme. Investigation revealed the site to have been heavily truncated in the past probably a result of the various phases of construction work that has been undertaken in the immediate surrounding area. Building debris, intermixed with subsoil was then spread across most of the site raising the ground level and altering drainage patterns leading to areas of localised flooding. This disturbance was noted throughout the site and no areas were identified that had not been disturbed.



Plate 5: Backfilled trenches and flooded western area.

## Conclusion

- 9.1 The evaluation work has shown that no potentially significant archaeologically sensitive features exist within the present development area and in consequence no further work is recommended.
- 9.2 GUARD Archaeology Limited would stress that these recommendations are intended for guidance only and the final decisions on the nature and extent of any further archaeological work rest with the planning authority.
- 9.3 A summary of the project results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*. A copy of this is included in Appendix H. The archive for the project, including a copy of the report, will be submitted to the National Monuments Records for Scotland within six months of the completion of all fieldwork.
- 9.4 The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> for this project (OASIS Reference: guardarc1 – 205369(1)) will be completed within 3 months. Once the Data Structure Report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, the archaeological advisor to Aberdeen City Council 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 Bellway Homes Limited (Scotland) for commissioning us to conduct the evaluation. Thank you to John Lawson of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service for his advice and assistance. Plant and operators were supplied by John Collier. Technical support was from Aileen Maule. The evaluation was conducted by Maureen Kilpatrick with assistance from Clarke Innes and Johnnie Atkinson. The illustrations and trench survey were produced by Fiona Jackson. The report was desk top published by Gillian McSwan. The project was managed for GUARD Archaeology Ltd by Bob Will.

**Ferrymuir, South Queensferry, Edinburgh  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Data Structure Report**

**Section 2: Appendices**



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## Appendices

### Appendix A: Bibliography

British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain viewer, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home/html> [accessed 5th March 2015].

National Monuments Record for Scotland, [www.rcahms.gov.uk](http://www.rcahms.gov.uk) [accessed 5th March 2015].

### Appendix B: List of Trenches

Tr No	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Topsoil/Overburden	Subsoil	Details
1	35	2	0.3 - 1.3	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.22 m) above a stiff mid to dark brown redeposited grey silty clay with building material debris including concrete, wire and metal barrel fragments (depth 0.7 m) made ground deposit	Beige/mid grey silty clay with dark grey boulder clay below	Fragments of ceramic field drain. At western end trench shallower due upward rise in ground level
2	50	2	0.9 - 1.4	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.36 m) above a stiff mid to dark brown grey silty clay with building material debris including stone, brick concrete and wire fragments (depth 0.54 m - 1 m) made ground deposit	Beige/mid grey silty clay with dark grey boulder clay below	One rubble field drain in eastern end of trench.
3	50	2	0.76	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.11 m) above a stiff mid brown grey redeposited silty clay with building material debris made ground deposit	Mid grey/brown silty clay with cobble and pebble inclusions. Below is a dark grey boulder clay (0.7 m from present ground surface). Subsoil heavily disturbed	No archaeology noted
4	-	-	-	Not excavated - made ground	-	-
5	-	-	-	Not excavated - made ground	-	-
6	-	-	-	Not excavated - made ground	-	-
7	20	2	0.6	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.12 m) above a stiff mid to dark brown grey silty clay with building material debris redeposited clay (depth 0.48 m) made ground deposit	Mid grey/brown silt clay with cobbles	No archaeology noted
8	53	2	0.62 - 1	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.2 m) above a stiff redeposited mid grey silty clay with building material debris (depth 0.42 m - 0.8 m) made ground deposit	Very stiff beige/grey silty clay with boulder clay at eastern end	One ceramic field drain in central area of trench
9	25	2	0.9 - 1.05	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.18 m) above a stiff mid to dark brown grey redeposited silty clay with building material debris (depth 0.7 m - 0.81 m) made ground deposit	Very patchy mottled brown/beige silty clay and dark grey boulder clay. Subsoil very disturbed with lower lying boulder clay present in northern end of trench	No archaeology noted
10	47	2	0.8 - 1	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.11 m) above a stiff mid grey brown redeposited silty clay with building material debris (depth 0.6 m) made ground deposit	Very patchy mottled brown/beige silty clay and dark grey boulder clay. Subsoil very disturbed with lower lying boulder clay present in northern end of trench	No archaeology noted

Tr No	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Topsoil/Overburden	Subsoil	Details
11	50	2	0.6 - 1.45	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.12 m) above a stiff mid grey redeposited silty clay with building material debris (depth 0.48 m - 1.3 m ) made ground deposit	Very stiff grey/beige silty clay. At northern end grey clay present	No archaeology noted
12	30	2	1	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.14 m) above a stiff beige grey redeposited silty clay with building material debris (depth 0.82 m ) made ground deposit	Grey clay	No archaeology noted
13	32	2	0.7 - 1	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.18 m) above a stiff beige grey redeposited silty clay with building material debris (depth 0.52 m - 0.80 m ) made ground deposit	Beige grey clay with fragments of ceramic field drain noted on surface	No archaeology noted
14	32	2	0.8	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 80 mm) above a stiff beige grey redeposited silty clay with building material debris (depth 0.58 m ) made ground deposit	Beige brown silty clay with occasional cobbles with fragments of ceramic field drain noted on surface	No archaeology noted
15	30	2	0.7	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.21 m) above a stiff mid grey redeposited silty clay with building material debris (depth 0.5 m ) made ground deposit	Beige brown silty clay with occasional cobbles	No archaeology noted
16	27	2	0.43	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.1 m) above a stiff mid grey brown redeposited silty clay with building material debris (depth 0.3 m) made ground deposit	Beige/brown silty clay	No archaeology noted
17	-	-	-	Not excavated - flooded area	-	-
18	20	2	1.2	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.15 m) above a firm mid grey/light brown silty clay with blaes	Natural subsoil not attained due to flooding in trench.	No archaeology noted. Ceramic drain at western end of trench.
19	-	2	-	Not excavated - flooded area	-	-
20	2	2	1.2	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.15 m) above a firm mid grey/light brown silty clay with blaes	Natural subsoil not attained due to flooding in trench.	Trench not fully excavated due to flooding and instability
21	50	2	0.8 - 1	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.12 m) above a firm mid to dark grey redeposited silty clay with inclusions of building debris and cobbles and pebbles (0.6 m - 0.8 m)	Beige/mid grey silty clay with cobbles and boulders	Ceramic field drain at north-western end
22	73	2	0.47 - 1	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.1 m) above a beige/ mid grey redeposited silty clay with inclusions of building debris and cobbles and pebbles (0.32 m - 0.89 m)	Very stiff brown/beige silty clay with inclusions of pebbles and cobbles	No archaeology noted
23	25	2	0.5	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.1 m) above a beige/ mid grey redeposited silty clay with inclusions of building debris and cobbles and pebbles (0.4 m)	Very stiff brown/beige silty clay with inclusions of pebbles and cobbles	No archaeology noted

Tr No	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Topsoil/Overburden	Subsoil	Details
24	50	2	0.5	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.1 m) above a mid to dark grey redeposited silty clay with inclusions of building debris and cobbles and pebbles (0.25 m - 0.3 m)	Very stiff brown/beige silty clay with inclusions of pebbles and cobbles	No archaeology noted. Spread of hardcore material noted on subsoil - probable old works compound area
25	40	2	0.55 - 0.6	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 0.1 m) above a mid to dark grey redeposited silty clay with inclusions of building debris and rubble/hard core and pebbles (0.4 m - 0.5 m)	Very stiff olive/grey silty clay with inclusions of pebbles and cobbles	No archaeology noted. Concrete and debris remains of modern road/ track in south-eastern area of the trench as a layer of gravel was found laid over terram.
26	20	2	0.58	Mid grey gravel clay with moss and weed vegetation (depth 60 mm) above a stiff mid to dark brown grey silty clay with building material debris (depth 0.42 m) made ground deposit	Beige brown silty clay with occasional cobbles	-

### Appendix C: List of Photographs

Frame	Trench No.	Context No.	Subject	Taken From
1	-	-	Pre-excavation shots of development area	NE
2	-	-	Pre-excavation shots of development area	NE
3	-	-	Pre-excavation shots of development area	NW
4	-	-	Pre-excavation shots of development area	W
5	-	-	Pre-excavation shots of development area	NW
6	-	-	Pre-excavation shots of development area	N
7	-	-	Pre-excavation shots of development area	SW
8	-	-	Pre-excavation shots of development area	SE
9	-	-	Pre-excavation shots of development area	S
10	2	001-003	S-facing section of trench	S
11	2	001-003	SE-facing section of trench	SE
12	2	003	Post-excavation of trench	W
13	2	003	Shot of rubble field drain	NW
14	2	003	Shot of drain/furrow/machine tracks?	NW
15	2	003	Shot of drain/furrow/machine tracks?	NW
16	2	003	SE-facing section of trench	SE
17	2	003	Post-excavation of trench	SW
18	8	001-003	NW-facing section of trench	NW
19	8	003	Post-excavation of trench	SW
20	2	003	Drain/furrow	NW
21	11	001-003	SW-facing section of trench	SW
22	11	001-003	NE-facing section of trench	NE
23	11	003	Post-excavation of trench	SE
24	15	003	Shot of rubble drain	NW
25	15	001-003	NW-facing section of trench	NW
26	15	001-003	Post-excavation of trench	NE
27	13	001-003	NW-facing section of trench	NW
28	13	003	Post-excavation of trench	SW
29	12	-	Working shot of trench 12	N
30	12	001-003	N-facing section of trench	N
31	12	003	Post-excavation of trench	W
32	16	001-003	NW-facing section of trench	NW

Frame	Trench No.	Context No.	Subject	Taken From
33	16	003	Post-excavation of trench	SE
34	21	-	ID Shot	-
35	21	001-003	NE-facing section of trench	NE
36	21	003	Post-excavation of trench	NW
37	22	-	ID Shot	-
38	22	001-003	NE-facing section of trench	NE
39	22	003	Post-excavation	NW
40	24	-	ID Shot	-
41	24	001-003	NE-facing section of trench	NE
42	24	001-003	NE-facing section of trench	NE
43	24	003	Post-excavation of trench	NW
44	23	-	ID Shot	-
45	23	003	Post-excavation of trench	SE
46	23	001-003	SW-facing section of trench	SW
47	25	-	ID Shot	-
48	25	001-003	NE-facing section of trench	NE
49	25	003	Post-excavation	NW
50	18	001-003	SW-facing section of trench	SW
51	18	001-003	SW-facing section of trench	SW
52	18	003	Post-excavation of trench	SE
53	16	-	ID Shot	-
54	16	001-003	S-facing section	S
55	16	003	Post-excavation of trench	E
56	10	-	ID Shot	-
57	10	001-003	W-facing section of trench	W
58	10	003	Post-excavation of trench	S
59	10	-	Post-excavation of trench	N
60	9	001-003	W-facing section of trench	W
61	9	003	Post-excavation of trench	S
62	3	-	ID shot	-
63	3	001-003	N-facing section of trench	N
64	3	001-003	N-facing section of trench	N
65	3	003	Post-excavation (east side)	E
66	3	003	Post-excavation (west side)	E
67	1	001-003	N-facing section of trench	N
68	1	001-003	N-facing section of trench	N
69	1	001-003	N-facing section of trench	N
70	26	001-003	S-facing section of trench	S
71	26	001-003	S-facing section of trench	S
72	26	003	Post-excavation of trench	SW
73	14	-	ID shot	-
74	14	001-003	N-facing section of trench	N
75	14	003	Post-excavation of trench	E
76	7	-	ID shot	-
77	7	001-003	SE-facing section of trench	SE
78	7	001-003	SE-facing section of trench	SE
79	7	003	Post-excavation of trench	SE
80	1	-	ID shot	-
81	1	003	Post-excavation of trench	E
82	1	003	Post-excavation of trench	E
83	1	003	Post-excavation of trench	W
84	1	003	Post-excavation of trench	W
85	-	-	Backfilled trenches	SW
86	-	-	Backfilled trenches	W
87	-	-	Backfilled trenches	NW

Frame	Trench No.	Context No.	Subject	Taken From
88	-	-	Backfilled trenches	NW
89	-	-	Backfilled trenches	N
90	-	-	Backfilled trenches	NE
91	-	-	Backfilled trenches	NE
92	-	-	Backfilled trenches	N
93	-	-	Backfilled trenches	NW
94	-	-	Backfilled trenches	W
95	-	-	Backfilled trenches	SW
96	-	-	Backfilled trenches	S
97	-	-	Backfilled trenches	S
98	-	-	Backfilled trenches	S
99	-	-	Backfilled trenches	S
100	-	-	Backfilled trenches	S

## Appendix D: Discovery and Excavation Entry

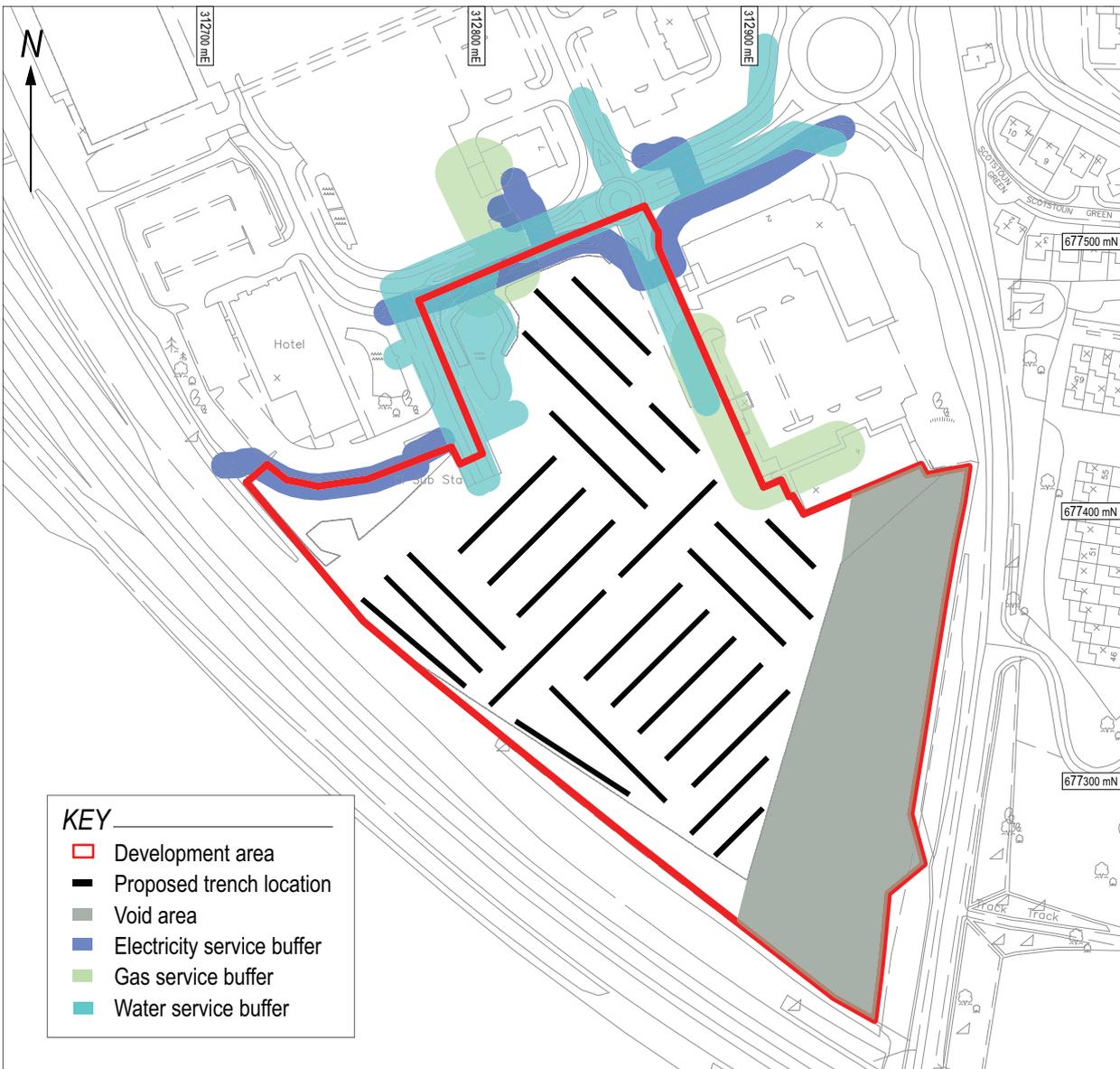
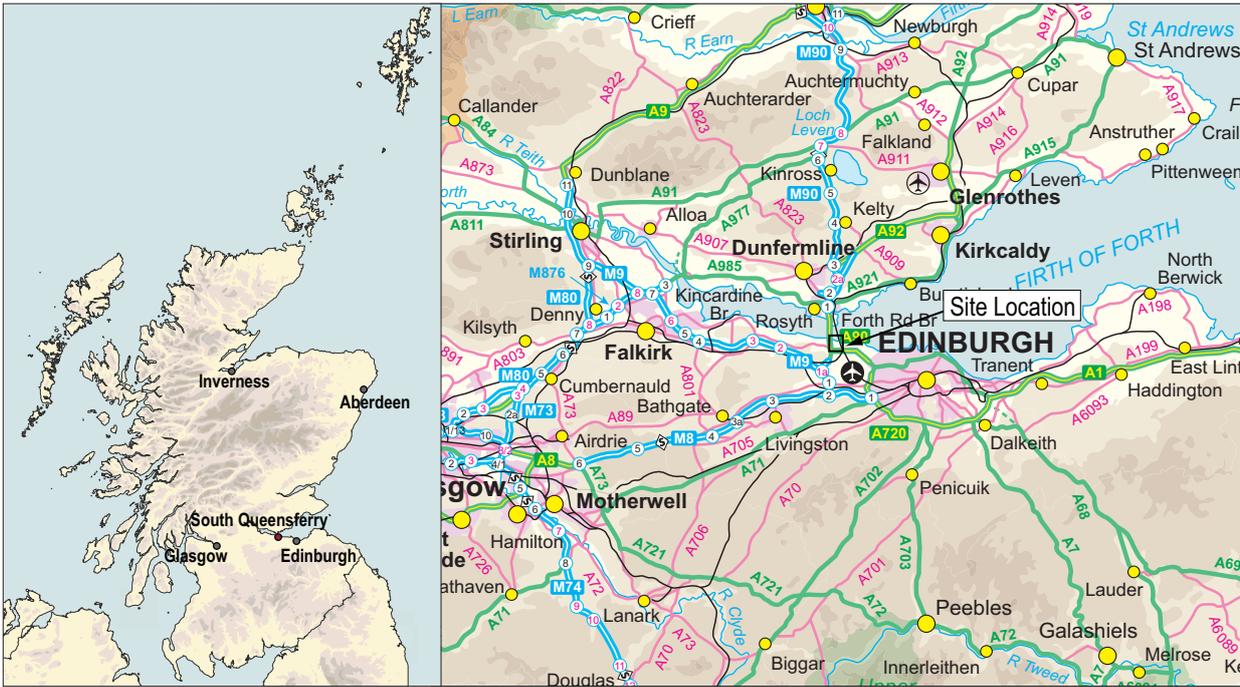
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh City Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Ferrymuir, Queensferry, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	4078
PARISH:	Dalmeny
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Maureen C Kilpatrick
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	GUARD Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	n/a
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	n/a
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 12186 7736
START DATE (this season)	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2015
END DATE (this season)	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was carried out by GUARD Archaeology Limited on an area proposed for development at Ferrymuir, South Queensferry, Edinburgh. The trial trench evaluation consisted of 20 trenches and amounted to 1,522 m <sup>2</sup> of the accessible 2.9 ha site. The work programme revealed no finds or features of archaeological interest with most of the trenches revealing deep deposits of modern overburden consisting of redeposited clay with only patches of subsoil surviving below. No topsoil deposit was located above the remaining subsoil suggesting the site had been significantly truncated in the past.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Bellway Homes Limited (Scotland)
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	54 Elderpark Workspace, 100 Elderpark Street, Glasgow, G51 3TR
EMAIL ADDRESS:	bob.will@guard-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive will be deposited with the NMRS

Appendix E: Written Scheme of Investigation

# FERRYMUIR, SOUTH QUEENSFERRY, EDINBURGH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

PROJECT 4078



## Executive Summary

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation forms the archaeological method statement for the evaluation of the Ferrymuir Development Area at South Queensferry and will require to be approved by 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 Ferrymuir development site in accordance with condition 2 of the planning consent (Ref: 13/04029/FUL). An archaeological evaluation of the development area will then undertaken to establish the presence, extent and nature of any significant archaeological remains. Should significant remains be identified and it is not possible to preserve them *in situ* a further requirement for archaeological works to ensure their preservation through record is likely to be required.
- 2.2 This WSI outlines the programme of archaeological works that may be needed to mitigate the effects of the proposed development. It details the methodology to be employed in implementing the Stage 1 archaeological works. The mitigation methodology to be employed during Stage 2 excavation and Stage 3 post excavation analysis and publication, will be specified in *addenda* to this document. These *addenda*, if required, will be submitted for the approval of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (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 The development area are located to the west of Ferrymuir on the south side of South Queensferry, to the east of the motorway leading to the Forth Road Bridge (centred around NGR: NT 12186 7736). The development area lies to the south of a retail and leisure park consisting of a hotel, supermarket and restaurants and comprises 2.39 ha of accessible land (Figure 1).

## Archaeological Background

- 4.1 South Queensferry and its sister North Queensferry were established as ferry-ports by the 11<sup>th</sup> century on either side of the last narrow crossing point across the Firth of Forth between Fife and the Lothians. By 1150 the settlement was being called "the queen's ferry", a reference to the improvements order by Queen Margaret of Scotland (AD 1063-93) to the ferry service. The site of the early medieval ferry, port and harbour has historically been placed to the north of the 14<sup>th</sup> century Carmelite friary (now South Queensferry Priory Church) and to the west of the post-medieval harbour (located at the foot of Gote Lane) constructed around 1600. The importance of this ferry-port grew, under the control of Dunfermline Abbey, throughout the medieval period with South Queensferry gaining burgh status by 1300 and Royal burgh status in 1636. The layout of the historic core of the modern town has change little since the medieval/post medieval period, with linear layout plots running of at right-angles from the High Street.
- 4.2 The Ferrymuir formed part of the common grazing ground for the medieval burgh and was a documented place of execution in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. During this period the area was used as a place for the public execution of witches, by burning, with the last recorded execution having taking place in 1649. In addition the area is suspected as containing the remains of a Roman Road (NMRS Ref NT17NW 178), recorded by the antiquarian William Maitland on 1757. Maitland describes the road as extending across the northern part of Ferrymuir and forming the part of the coastal road linking Cramond and Inveresk to the east with the Antonine Wall
- 4.3 Therefore there is a potential for buried archaeological artefacts and remains to survive within the development area.

## Aims, Objectives and Scope

- 5.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation is to identify:
- the extent and nature of archaeological features within the development area;
- 5.2 The objectives are therefore to:
- Conduct an archaeological evaluation within the development area to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains, and their character, date and extent if surviving;
  - Submit a report to data structure level for approval to the City of Edinburgh Council, on completion of the archaeological fieldwork, which includes an outline of the scope of any further excavation works should any significant archaeology be encountered.

## Fieldwork Methodology

### Archaeological Evaluation

- 6.1 An archaeological evaluation of the development area comprising the machine excavation of trenches amounting to 10% (ie 2,396 m<sup>2</sup>) of that 2.39 ha of the development area out with live services and their buffer areas, in order to evaluate the presence, nature, significance and extent of any archaeological features.
- 6.2 The evaluation trenches across the development area will comprise 25 trenches (17 trenches 50 m by 2 m, 2 trenches 40 m by 2 m, 3 trenches 25 m by 2 m, 2 trenches 60 m by 2 m and one trench 73 m by 2 m), amounting to 2,396 m<sup>2</sup> in total (Figure 1). Evaluation trenches will be located to provide comprehensive coverage across the development site.
- 6.3 All machine excavation of trenches will be supervised by a GUARD Archaeologist. The machine excavator will be fitted with a c 2 m wide flat-bladed (toothless) ditching bucket.
- 6.4 The topsoil at each trench location will be removed in spits to the first archaeological horizon or, where none was found, to the natural subsoil. Any archaeological features encountered will be cleaned by hand by the on-site Archaeologist to determine their character and extent.
- 6.5 Any significant archaeological features encountered will be dealt with by the on-site Archaeologist. Should negative-cut features be encountered, a representative sample will be 25-50% excavated in order to determine their significance, date and function. A full record of excavated features will be made using a single context recording system using pro forma sheets, drawings and photographs. All archaeological features will be photographed and recorded at an appropriate scale. Sections will be drawn at 1:10, and plans at 1:20. All trenches will be accurately surveyed using a sub-metre GPS and located within the National Grid.
- 6.6 All archaeological finds will be dealt with by the on-site Archaeologist. Finds and animal bone will be collected as bulk samples by context. Significant small finds will be three dimensionally located prior to collection. All finds will be processed to MAP2 type standards and subject to appropriate specialist assessment. If necessary, conservation of finds will be appraised to allow for specialist study.
- 6.7 All excavated feature fills and horizons will be sampled as appropriate, using bulk soil samples, for palaeo-environmental evidence.
- 6.8 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.
- 6.9 Should human remains be revealed by the excavation, the local police, the client and CECAS will be informed immediately. Any human remains will be accurately recorded, but left *in situ*, pending the agreement of the police, the client and CECAS on an appropriate mitigation strategy.
- 6.10 Should significant archaeological remains be encountered by the evaluation, requiring more than the limited evaluation outlined above, the remains will be largely left *in situ* pending the agreement of the client and the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Officer on WSI addenda for an appropriate

scope of excavation (Stage 2) and Post-excavation design including scope of finds analysis, conservation & publication (Stage 3).

- 6.11 On completion of the recording of the evaluation trenches, the backfilling of trenches will be undertaken by machine. No specialist backfilling is proposed, nor will the backfilling of trenches be supervised by the on-site archaeologist.

## Report Preparation and Contents

- 7.1 A report detailing the results of the archaeological fieldwork will be submitted to the client within two - four weeks of completion of fieldwork and, subject to client approval, then submitted to CECAS. The report will take the form of a Data Structure Report and will contain an analysis of the results of the metal detecting survey and evaluation. The report will include a full descriptive text that will characterise the date and extent of any archaeological deposits. It will also include plans at an appropriate scale showing the area subjected to ground-breaking works, evaluation trenches, archaeological features and archiving lists of all finds, samples, field drawings and photographs.
- 7.2 If appropriate, the report will be accompanied by an addendum to this WSI for further archaeological fieldwork, should significant archaeology have been encountered.
- 7.3 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;
  - OASIS reference number; unique site code;
  - Planning application number;
  - 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 field work;
  - context & feature descriptions;
  - features, number and class of artefacts, spot dating & scientific dating of significant finds presented in tabular format;
  - plans and section drawings of the features drawn at a suitable scale;
  - initial assessment of relevant finds/samples if appropriate;
  - recommendations regarding the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological work such as excavation (Stage 2) and Post-excavation finds analysis, conservation & publication (Stage 3);
  - bibliography.
- 7.4 A pdf copy of the report will be prepared for the client and a further hard copy and a digital PDF copy will be sent to CECAS.
- 7.5 The report will be presented in an ordered state and contained within a protective cover/sleeve or bound in some fashion. The report 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 Ltd.

## 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 archaeological fieldwork, 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. If the finds are allocated to the City of Edinburgh Museum, all finds will be marked (on the finds bag) with appropriate CEC accession number and boxed, with boxes marked again with appropriate CEC box number. 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 team will comprise the following qualified and experienced GUARD archaeologists:
- Project Manager: Bob Will
  - Project Director (on-site Archaeologist): TBC
  - Survey Archaeologist: Fiona Jackson
  - Finds Specialist: Bob Will
  - Archaeologist: TBC
  - Finds and Environmental Support and Conservation: Aileen Maule
  - Illustrator: Gillian McSwan
  - Quality Assurance: John Atkinson
- 12.2 The GUARD Project Manager, Bob Will, 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 fieldwork is 2 March but will be confirmed in due course. CECAS will be informed of the site mobile phone number prior to the start date so that monitoring visits can be arranged. It is envisaged that the evaluation of 10% of the development area will take four days to complete, with a further two days for the unsupervised backfilling of trenches which will immediately follow the conclusion of the evaluation.

## Health & Safety and Insurance

- 14.1 GUARD Archaeology Ltd adheres to the guidelines and standards prescribed for archaeological fieldwork set down in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists approved Health and Safety in Field Archaeology document. It is standard GUARD 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's Fieldwork Safety Policy Statement may be viewed upon request.
- 14.2 GUARD Archaeology Ltd also possesses all necessary insurance cover, proofs of which may be supplied upon request.

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