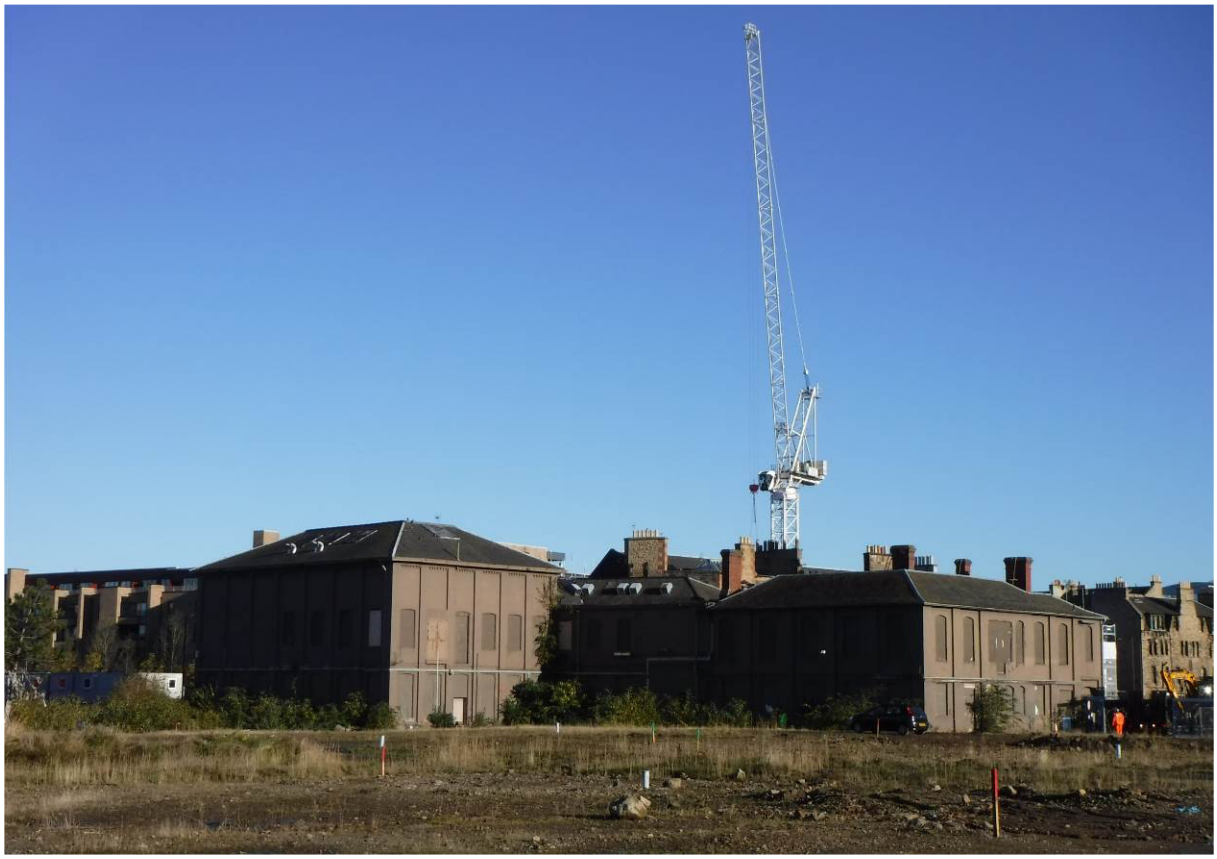
Former North British Rubber Company
2 Gilmore Park, Edinburgh
City of Edinburgh

Archaeological Watching Brief of Geotechnical Investigations

for

Gardiner & Theobald on behalf of Edinburgh Printmakers

November 2016



Former North British Rubber Company Buildings (photo 015)

Addyman Archaeology
Archaeology Heritage Consultancy Architecture

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Former North British Rubber Company
2 Gilmore Park, City of Edinburgh

Archaeological Watching Brief of Geotechnical Investigations
Job number 2252.00

November 2016

by Andrew Morrison

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Former North British Rubber Company
2 Gilmore Park, City of Edinburgh

Archaeological Watching Brief of Geotechnical Investigations: November 2016

Executive Summary

Addyman Archaeology was contracted by Gardiner & Theobald on behalf of Edinburgh Printmakers to undertake an archaeological watching brief during geotechnical investigations at the former North British Rubber Company buildings, 2 Gilmore Park, Edinburgh. It is proposed to convert and extend the structures to provide a new base for the Edinburgh Printmakers.

A series of eight test-pits were excavated: one to reveal the soil morphology over the maximum excavatable depth (Test-Pit 1), three for plate load testing purposes (TP's 2, 3, 6), and four to reveal the depth of the building's foundations (TP's 4, 5, 7, 8). Stratigraphy within test-pit 1 showed over 2.0m of made ground overlying natural silty clay and boulder clays, with no archaeological finds or features present; made ground was noted in all test-pits, extending below the excavated depth in test-pits 2, 3, 5, and 6, and overlying the natural boulder clay in test-pits 4, 7, and 8. Stepped aggregate building foundations were seen within TP7, while the foundations within TP8 were non-stepped brick; the foundations within in both trenches were located at approximately 1.6m below the present ground level. TP5 showed the lower wall exposed within the trench to be plastered and painted, suggesting a cellar level or open area now in-filled.

The watching brief revealed the depth of the brick foundations of the surviving building and also revealed a possible cellar within Test Pit 5, suggesting there may have been a former building in this area. The site has clearly been severely been affected by modern demolition, with demolition rubble encountered in all trenches, however only one of the test pits excavated was deep enough to reach natural deposits. It is therefore possible that although not encountered, building foundations and other archaeological deposits may survive in isolated areas within and below the made ground that stretches across the development area.

1. Introduction

i. General

Addyman Archaeology was contracted by Gardiner & Theobald on behalf of Edinburgh Printmakers to undertake an archaeological watching brief during geotechnical investigations at the former North British Rubber Company buildings, 2 Gilmore Park, Edinburgh. It is proposed to convert and extend these buildings to provide a new base for the Edinburgh Printmakers. As part of the planning conditions (ref: 15/03186/LBC, 15/03129/FUL), the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) has recommended that:

> '*No development shall take place on the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (Historic building recording, excavation, analysis, reporting and publication, interpretation) in accordance with the written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority'*

This Data Structure Report (DSR) represents the results of the archaeological monitoring during geotechnical investigations, carried out by Resource & Environmental Consultants Ltd. (REC), on the 1st and 2nd of November, 2016. Archaeological works were undertaken by Andrew Morrison, under sunny and clear weather conditions. This report is prepared in accordance with standard Addyman Archaeology procedures and in line with the guidelines established by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). A record of the watching brief has been deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS ID addymana1-268640) and with Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland.

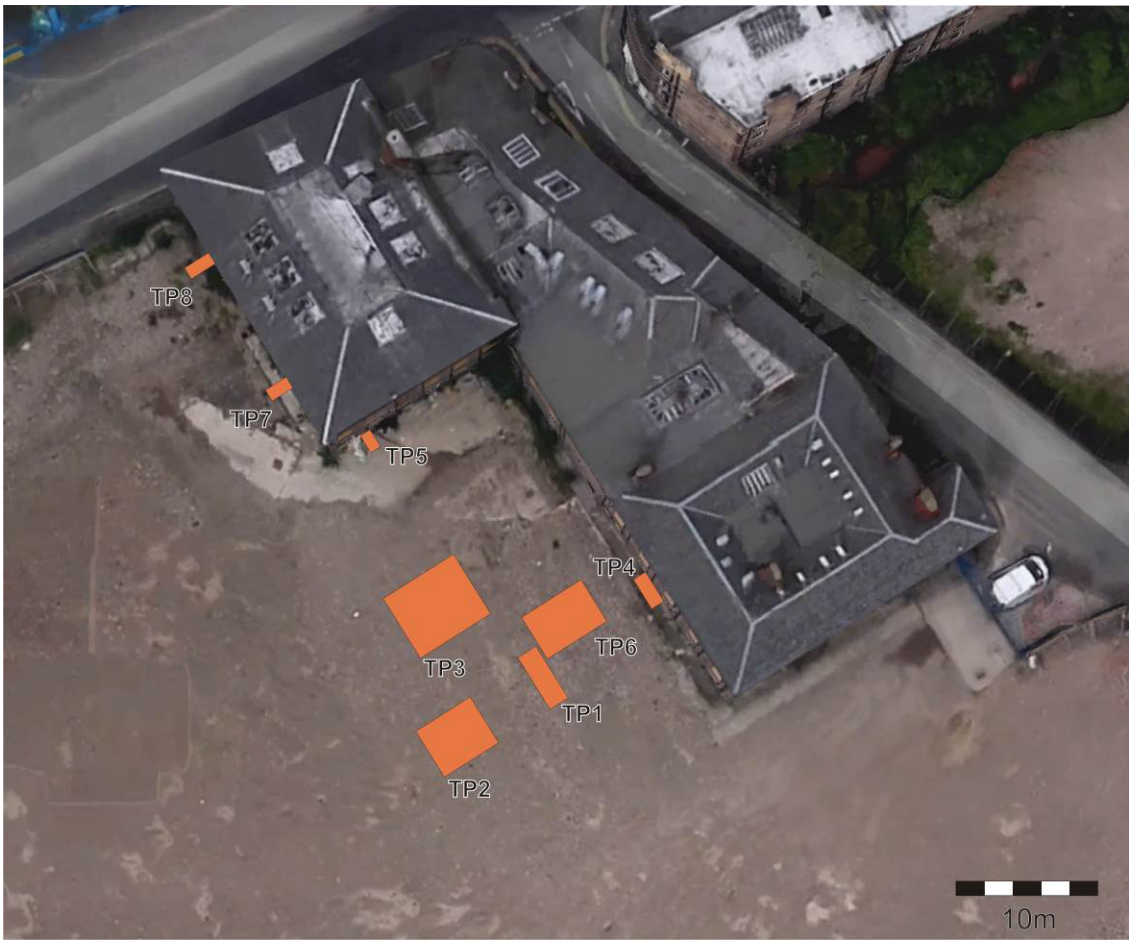

Figure 1 Test-pit locations of geotechnical investigations

2. Monitoring of Geotechnical Investigations

i. General

The archaeological watching brief during geotechnical investigations was undertaken on the 1st and 2nd of November, 2016, with one trench opened to reveal soil morphology over the maximum excavatable depth (Test-Pit 1), three trenches opened for plate load testing (TP's 2, 3, 6), and four trenches opened to reveal the depth of the building's foundations (TP's 4, 5, 7, 8) (***Figure 1***). All test pits were excavated using a 13-tonne tracked JCB JS130 LC fitted with a 1.5m grading bucket for the excavation of TP1, a 1.2m toothed bucket for the excavation of the plate load test-pits, and a 0.8m bladed bucket for the excavation of the building foundation test-pits. Due to contaminated soil conditions, all site personnel were equipped with appropriate additional PPE, including: disposable overhood coveralls, gloves, eye protection, and suitably rated filtered half-masks.

a. Test-pit 1

Plate 1 TP1 Location (photo 017)

Plate 2 TP1 Northeast facing section (photo 019)

Test-pit 1 (TP1) was located approximately 11.2m west of the southernmost corner of the building (***Figure 1***), and was excavated to maximum achievable depth in order to reveal the site's underlying soil morphology (***Plate 1***, ***Plate 2***). Orientated northwest/ southeast, TP1 measured 1.5m in width by 4.2m in length, and extended to a depth of 3.9m –the maximum reach of the excavator arm. The trench section revealed over 2.0m of made ground/ demolition rubble made up of crushed brick, concrete, and rebar that could be seen to form two distinct horizons. Underlying the made ground was approximately 1.0m of loose, wet sandy clay with frequent medium angular stone inclusions, overlying orangey-brown sandy natural and possible bedrock. The depth of the trench and instability of the sections meant that a close inspection of the stratigraphy was not possible due to health and safety reasons. No archaeological finds or features were noted.

b. Test-pit 2

Test-pit 2 (TP2) was located roughly 16.2m west of the building's southernmost corner (***Figure 1***), and was excavated in order to perform a plate load test to assess the load bearing capacity of the underlying soils (***Plate 3***, ***Plate 4***). Measuring 4.5m in length by 3.7m in width, the trench was orientated northeast/ southwest, and was excavated to an overall depth of approximately 1.0m. The depth of the trench meant that it did not extend below the made ground/ demolition rubble recorded in TP1. No archaeological finds or features were noted.

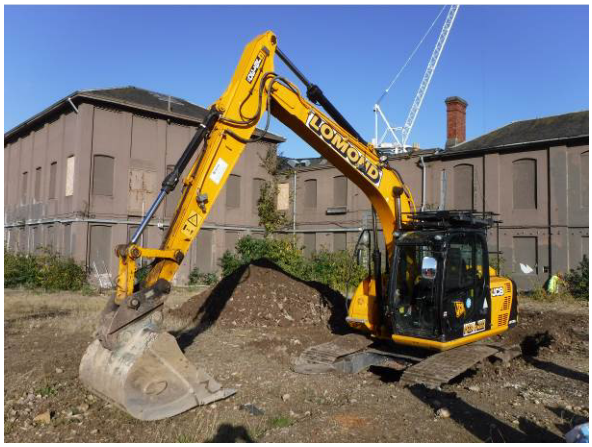

Plate 3 TP2 Location (photo 022)

Plate 4 TP2 Northwest facing section (photo 023)

c. Test-pit 3

Located approximately 10.4m southeast of the building's western extension (***Figure 1***), test-pit 3 (TP3) was excavated in order to perform a plate load test on the underlying soils (***Plate 5***, ***Plate 6***). TP3 measured 5.8m in length by 3.9m in width, and was orientated northeast/ southwest. Excavated to a depth of 0.8m, the excavations did not extend below the level of the made ground, and no archaeological finds or features were noted.

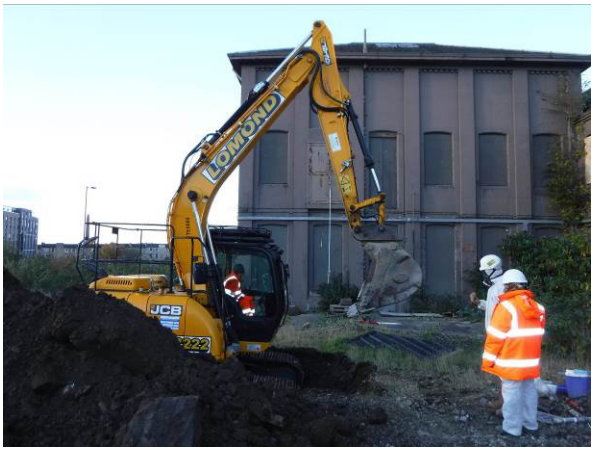

Plate 5 TP3 Location (photo 027)

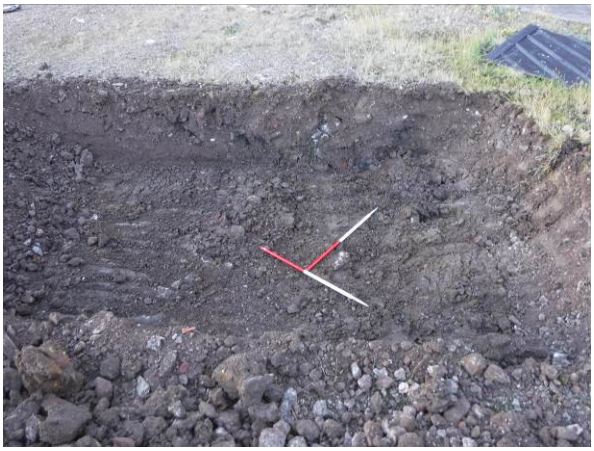

Plate 6 TP3 Post-ex (photo 026)

d. Test-pit 4

Plate 7 TP4 Post-ex (photo 028)

Plate 8 TP4 Northeast facing section (photo 030)

Test-pit 4 (TP4) was located approximately 8.3m northwest of the building's southernmost corner, next to the third buttress along the southwest facing wall (***Figure 1***). The trench was excavated in order to test the depth of the building's foundations, and was orientated northwest/ southeast due to a large concrete pad adjacent to the wall (***Plate 8***). Measuring 2.4m in length by 1.0m in width, TP4 was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.8m, and showed the building to have been set into firm grey-brown boulder clay. The base of the building's foundations was not fully seen within this trench due to the limited range of the excavator bucket determined by the adjacent concrete slab.

e. Test-pit 5

Test-pit 5 (TP5) was located 2.2m northeast of the southern corner of the building's western wing (***Figure 1***). Excavated in order to determine the depth of the building's foundations in the area, the trench was orientated northwest/ southeast, and measured 1.4m in length, by 0.8m in width. Excavations were constrained by a thick concrete surface abutting the building in the area that could not be broken through, necessitating the re-excavation of a pre-existing test-pit in the vicinity of the original planned location. The dimensions of the pre-existing trench limited the range of movement in the excavator's bucket, capping the maximum achievable depth at 1.3m -too shallow to record the building's foundation base.

Stratigraphy within TP5 showed that a considerable depth of made ground/ demolition rubble exists below the concrete slab (***Plate 10***). The exposed lower wall of the building is plastered and retains remnants of a green paint, indicating that this wall had been exposed in the past, either as an external wall or an interior room or cellar within an extension or structure no longer extant (***Plate 9***, ***Plate 10***).

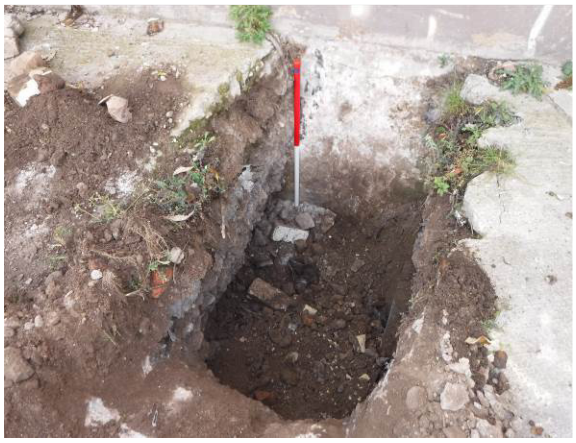

Plate 9 TP5 Facing northwest (photo 032)

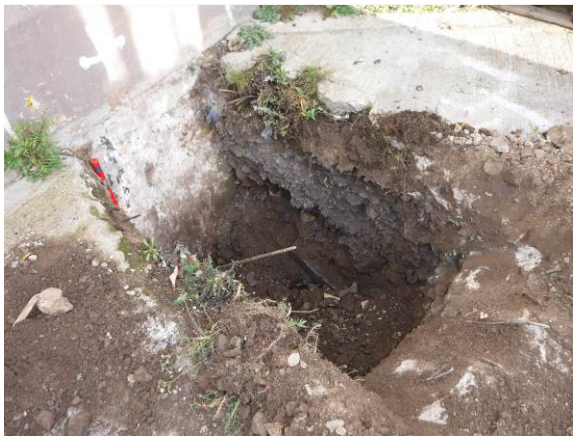

Plate 10 TP5 Wall and stratigraphy (photo 034)

f. Test-pit 6

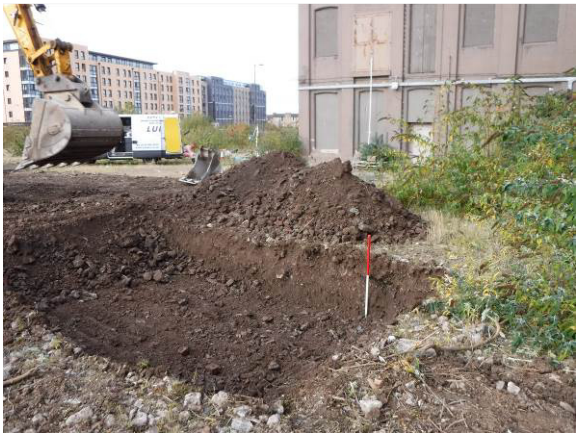

Plate 11 TP6 Location (photo 037)

Plate 12 TP6 Southeast facing section (photo 036)

Located approximately 10.1m west of the building's southernmost corner (***Figure 1***), Test-pit 6 (TP6) was excavated in order to perform a plate load test to assess the load bearing capacity of the underlying soils, and was orientated roughly northeast/ southwest. Measuring 4.9m in length by 3.4m in width, and an overall depth of 0.8m, excavations in this trench were entirely within made ground (***Plate 11***, ***Plate 12***).

g. Test-pit 7

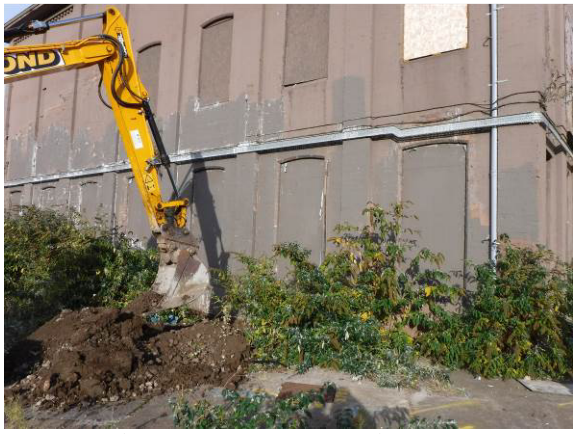

Plate 13 TP7 Location (photo 040)

Plate 14 TP7 Building foundation (photo 039)

Test-pit 7 (TP7) was located roughly 5.3m northwest of the southern corner of the building's west wing (***Plate 13***), and was placed in order to assess the depth and structure of the building's foundations in this area. Orientated northeast/ southwest, the trench measured 1.7m in length by 0.9m in width, and was excavated to an overall depth of 2.0m. Stepped building foundations were encountered at a depth of 1.3m below the present ground surface, and consisted of an aggregate material 0.2m thick and protruding 0.2m from the brick wall face (***Plate 14***). The building foundation was set within firm grey-brown boulder clay that was found to underlie successive bands of made ground and modern service trenches.

h. Test-pit 8

Plate 15 TP8 Wall foundation (photo 041)

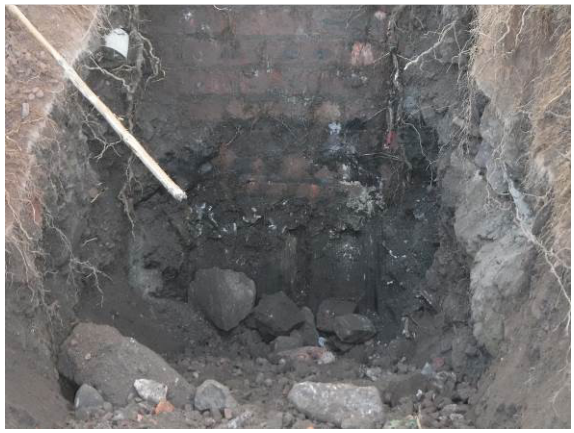

Plate 16 TP8 Foundation base detail (photo 043)

Located approximately 16.6m northwest of the southern corner of the building's west wing (***Figure 1***), Test-pit 8 (TP8) measured 2.0m in length by 0.90m in width, and was placed in order to locate the building's foundations. The base of the foundations was noted at a depth of 1.60m below ground, while the trench excavations reached a maximum depth of 1.8m. Foundations did not step out as seen in TP7, suggesting that the brick structure is set within a foundation trench cut into the boulder clay, with projecting aggregate 'feet' set at regular intervals rather than along the entire length. Stratigraphy was found to be made ground overlying compact grey-black boulder clay.

3. Overall Conclusions and Recommendations

The archaeological monitoring of the geotechnical test-pitting exercise did not reveal any *in-situ* archaeological deposits or features with the exception of the building foundations exposed. Test-pit 1 revealed a stratigraphic sequence of approximately 2.0m of made ground/ demolition rubble, overlying a layer of loose silty clay natural and firm boulder clay over possible bedrock at a depth of 3.9m below the present ground surface level, while the excavated depth of test-pits 2, 3, and 6 did not extend below the level of made ground. Building foundation investigations within test-pits 5 revealed a painted and plastered wall face, suggesting a now in-filled cellar level, while test-pits 7 and 8 showed the building foundations to likely be brick foundations set into natural boulder clay, with projecting aggregate 'feet' placed at regular intervals.

The watching brief revealed the depth of the brick foundations of the surviving building and also revealed a possible cellar within Test Pit 5, suggesting there may have been a former building in this area. The site has clearly been severely been affected by modern demolition, with demolition rubble encountered in all trenches, however only one of the test pits excavated was deep enough to reach natural deposits. It is therefore possible that although not encountered, building foundations and other archaeological deposits may survive in isolated areas within and below the made ground that stretches across the development area.

4. Archiving

Both a hard copy and a digital copy of this report in its final form will be submitted to the NRHE as held by HES. This will be accompanied by the project archive including selected email correspondence, site records, and digital copies of all site photographs.

A copy of this report will also be submitted to the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) for inclusion on their Historic Environment Record.

An entry has been created on the online OASIS platform to ensure public access to the research and an entry will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, the annual journal produced by Archaeology Scotland charting fieldwork across Scotland.

Appendix A Test-pit Table

Test-pit	Purpose	Length	Width	Depth	Notes
TP1	Sondage	4.2m	1.5m	3.9m	2m+ Made ground/ demolition rubble
TP2	Plate Load Test	4.5m	3.7m	1.0m	Within made ground
TP3	Plate Load Test	5.8m	3.9m	0.8m	Within made ground
TP4	Foundation Depth	2.4m	1.0m	1.8m	Foundations not seen
TP5	Foundation Depth	1.4m	0.8m	1.3m	Exposed Lower wall plastered/ painted
TP6	Plate Load Test	4.9m	3.4m	0.8m	Within made ground
TP7	Foundation Depth	1.7m	0.9m	2.0m	Stepped foundation 1.3m below surface
TP8	Foundation Depth	2.0m	0.9m	1.8m	

Appendix B Photographic Register

Photo No.	*Camera Photo No.*	*Direction Facing*	*Date*	*Description*	*Taken By*	*Camera*
001	4138	N	01/11/2016	Site overall, Pre-ex, Building, SE Wing, S facing	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
002	4139	N	01/11/2016	Site overall, Pre-ex, Building, From S	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
003	4140	N	01/11/2016	Site overall, Pre-ex, Building, From S	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
004	4141	NW	01/11/2016	Site overall, Pre-ex, Building, W end	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
005	4142	W	01/11/2016	Site overall, Pre-ex, Open ground	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
006	4143	SW	01/11/2016	Site overall, Pre-ex, Towards High School	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
007	4144	SW	01/11/2016	Site overall, Pre-ex, Towards canal	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
008	4145	E	01/11/2016	Site overall, Pre-ex, Towards canal	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
009	4146	NE	01/11/2016	Site overall, Pre-ex, Towards site entrance	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
010	4147	NW	01/11/2016	Site overall, Pre-ex, Building and lot from SE	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
011	4148	N	01/11/2016	Site overall, From S corner, Wide	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
012	4149	N	01/11/2016	Site overall, From S corner, Zoom	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
013	4150	N	01/11/2016	Site overall, From S corner, Wide	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
014	4151	N	01/11/2016	Site overall, From S corner, Zoom	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
015	4152	N	01/11/2016	Site overall, From S corner, Zoom	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
016	4153	W	01/11/2016	TP1, Mid-ex	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
017	4154	NW	01/11/2016	TP1, Mid-ex	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
018	4155	V/NW	01/11/2016	TP1, To depth	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
019	4157	W	01/11/2016	TP1, E facing section, Showing made ground	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
020	4158	W	01/11/2016	TP1, E facing section, Showing made ground	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
021	4159	N	01/11/2016	TP1, Made ground	AJLM	Fujifilm XP

Photo No.	*Camera Photo No.*	*Direction Facing*	*Date*	*Description*	*Taken By*	*Camera*
022	4160	N	01/11/2016	TP2, Plate load test, Pit 1 location, JCB in	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
023	4161	SE	01/11/2016	TP2, Plate load test, NW facing section, W end	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
024	4162	SE	01/11/2016	TP3, NW facing section, NE end	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
025	4163	S	01/11/2016	TP3, NW facing section, NE end	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
026	4164	V/N	01/11/2016	TP3, Showing made ground	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
027	4167	NW	01/11/2016	TP3, Trench location	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
028	4168	NE	02/11/2016	TP4, Post ex, SW facing	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
029	4169	N	02/11/2016	TP4, Trench location	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
030	4170	SW	02/11/2016	TP4, Concrete, Ne facing	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
031	4171	SW	02/11/2016	TP4, Strat below concrete	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
032	4172	NW	02/11/2016	TP5, Foundation investigation, W range, Post ex	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
033	4173	W	02/11/2016	TP5, Foundation investigation, Strat, Made ground	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
034	4174	E	02/11/2016	TP5, Foundation investigation, Strat, Made ground	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
035	4175	N	02/11/2016	TP6, Load test, Pit 3, S facing section, Post ex	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
036	4176	NW	02/11/2016	TP6, Load test, Pit 3, Location	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
037	4177	NE	02/11/2016	TP7, Foundation Pit 3, Post ex	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
038	4179	SE	02/11/2016	TP7, Foundation Pit 3, Post ex, NW facing section	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
039	4180	E	02/11/2016	TP7, Foundation Pit 3, Post ex, NW facing section and foundation	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
040	4181	N	02/11/2016	TP7, Foundation Pit 3, Location	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
041	4182	E	02/11/2016	TP8, Found Pit 4, Post ex, SW/ NE facing	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
042	4183	NE	02/11/2016	TP8, Found Pit 4, Post ex, Depth	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
043	4184	NE	02/11/2016	TP8, Found Pit 4, Post ex, Depth, Zoom	AJLM	Fujifilm XP
044	4186	N	02/11/2016	TP8, Found Pit 4, Location	AJLM	Fujifilm XP

Appendix C Photographic Thumbnails


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