

# Little France Path Network

## *Edinburgh*

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*Tree Planting Watching Brief Data Structure Report:  
December 2016*

*for*

The Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust

*December 2016*



*Decorated pottery recovered from topsoil*

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**Addyman Archaeology**

Archaeology   Heritage Consultancy   Architecture

# Little France, Path Network

## Edinburgh

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### *Watching Brief* *December 2016*

*Job number 2215*

*December 2016*

by Kenneth Macfadyen

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# Little France Path Network

## *Edinburgh*

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### *Path Network: Tree Planting Watching Brief: Summary Report*

*December 2016*

#### *Executive Summary*

Addyman Archaeology undertook a watching brief during the planting of 30 standard trees. This planting completes the landscaping works associated with the construction of a network of paths through open land to the north and east of the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh, Little France, Edinburgh. The planting involved the excavation of 30 holes for the trees spread out along the sides of the path network. A metal detector survey of the spoil removed for the planting was also undertaken

Most of the monitored areas revealed a homogenous and continuous plough soil across almost the whole areas of excavation, overlying subsoil and natural boulder clays below.

No archaeological features were noted. A limited amount of pottery was observed during the excavations. This was all 19-20<sup>th</sup> century in origin and was generally not retained, with the exception two fragments, one decorated. No metal finds were recovered.

#### *1. Introduction*

##### *i. General*

Addyman Archaeology was commissioned by The Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during planting of 30 standard trees alongside a network of paths to the north and east of Royal Infirmary Edinburgh, Little France, Edinburgh. This network of paths was subject to an earlier archaeological watching brief (Macfadyen 2016) and metal detector survey during its construction; this located one archaeological feature and a possible rubble foundation for a road. The tree planting avoided this area and this was not further uncovered.

The earlier watching brief also recovered a number of pottery sherds showing the area to have been open fields for 500 years or more and the tree planting monitoring produced similar types of pottery.

Prior to the earlier phase of excavation John Lawson of CECAS had specified that the areas proximity to Craigmillar Castle raised the possibility of archaeological potential across the site. The higher ground to the north and east in particular was identified as having good potential for archaeology.

A full watching brief of this phase of final landscaping to the path network mostly confined to the higher northern part of the site was specified by John Lawson of CECAS. This was to include a metal detector survey of the spoil during the excavation. Historically some metal artefacts had been discovered in this area, notably metal cap badges from military training in the field (John Lawson, pers comm); one piece of unidentified cast lead alloy fragment (*SF004*) was also recovered from the earlier watching brief.

*ii. Site location*

The proposed development site is located within the South East extent of Edinburgh (trenching area approximately centred NT329006 670970). To the north there is existing forestry (Hawkhill Wood) on the site of a former quarry, to the south west is some further modern forestry and to the east open farmland.

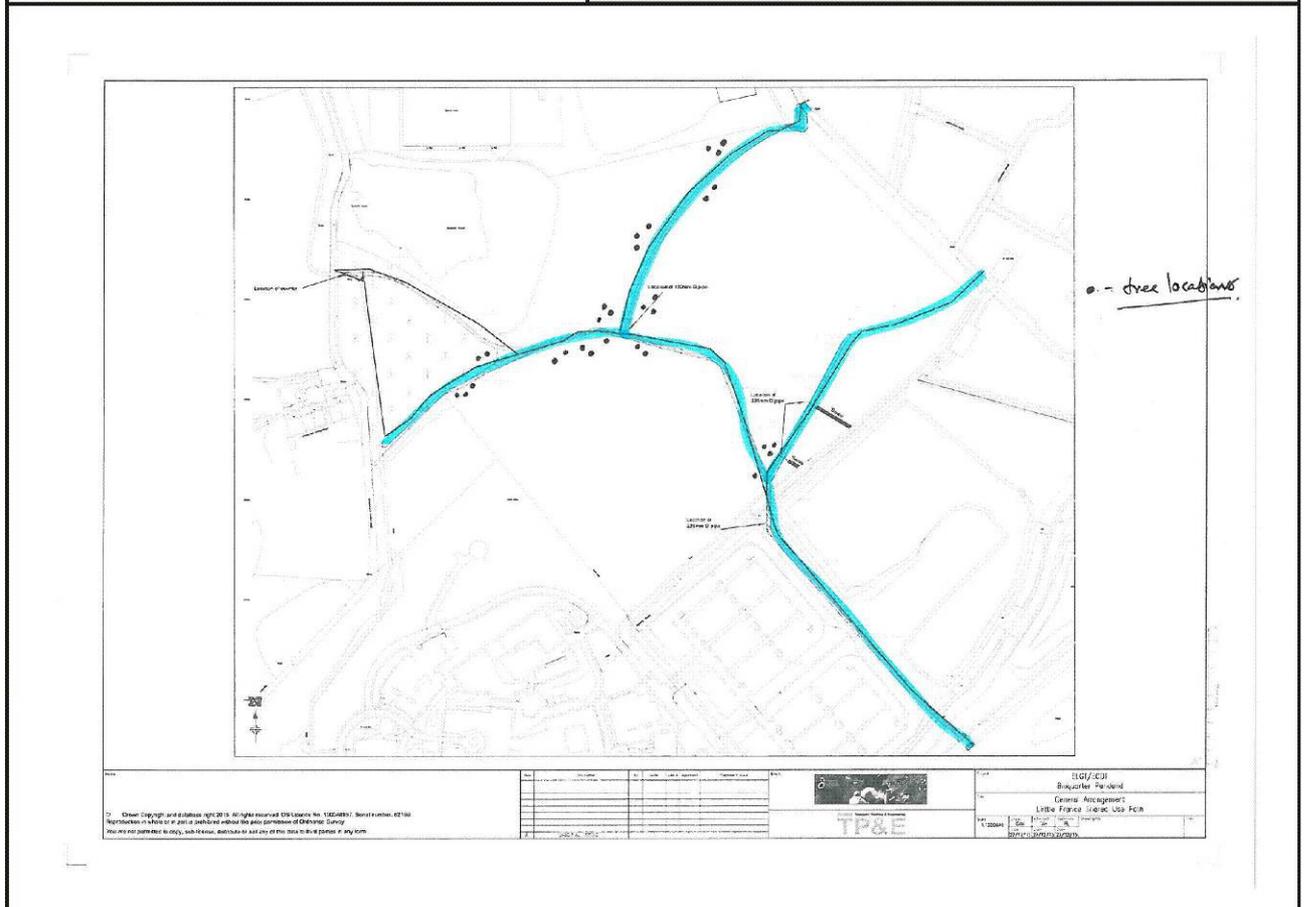
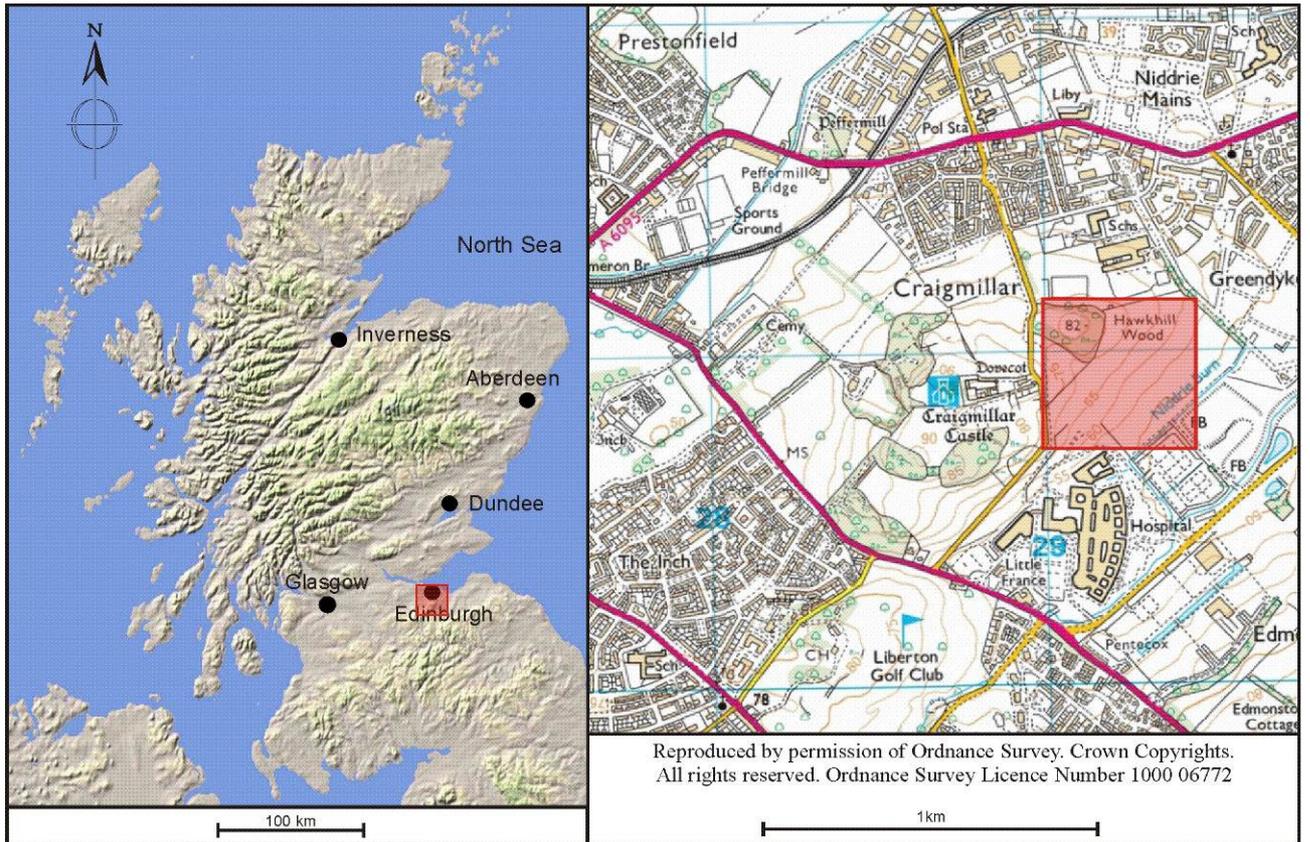
The underlying geology consists of Sandstone of the Kinnesswood Formation. A Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 352 to 385 million years ago in the Carboniferous and Devonian Periods in a Local environment previously dominated by rivers ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).

*iii. Methodology*

The monitoring work was undertaken during all excavation for the tree planting. The holes were excavated by a mini digger fitted with a 0.30 m toothless bucket; the holes were roughly formed and just big enough to fit the tree root ball

With no archaeological features exposed and the planting pits being small and rough no formal recording was undertaken and the supplied location plan of the trees was taken as accurate. Representative photographs were taken of the planting holes showing the stratigraphy

A record of this project (Oasis ID **addymana1-270652**) will be deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service and with *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland.



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Figure 1 site location

## 2. Watching Brief

### i. Planting holes

The excavation was undertaken by a small minidigger, fitted with a narrow toothless 0.30m wide bucket. The excavations were monitored at all times by an Archaeologist. Trenches extended to a maximum depth of 0.60m and were frequently shallower. The holes were irregular in shape and mainly less than 0.6m in diameter.

The removed soil was kept and used in the reinstatement mixed with some compost.

The trenching was undertaken from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 and was undertaken by K. Macfadyen. Conditions were freezing with the ground in places frozen solid, solid enough that the mini digger had trouble breaking into the soil especially the southern holes

In most of the planting holes solid natural deposits 003 were exposed. The same stratigraphy identified in the earlier path construction phase was also exposed in most of the holes. The natural subsoil 003 was overlain by approximately 0.30 to 0.40m of topsoil 001, with in some places a subsoil 002 visible, mainly towards the centre of the site. A few pits to the west were cut into spoil from the paths construction; this was spread alongside the path and thus only cut into the former topsoil without getting down to natural

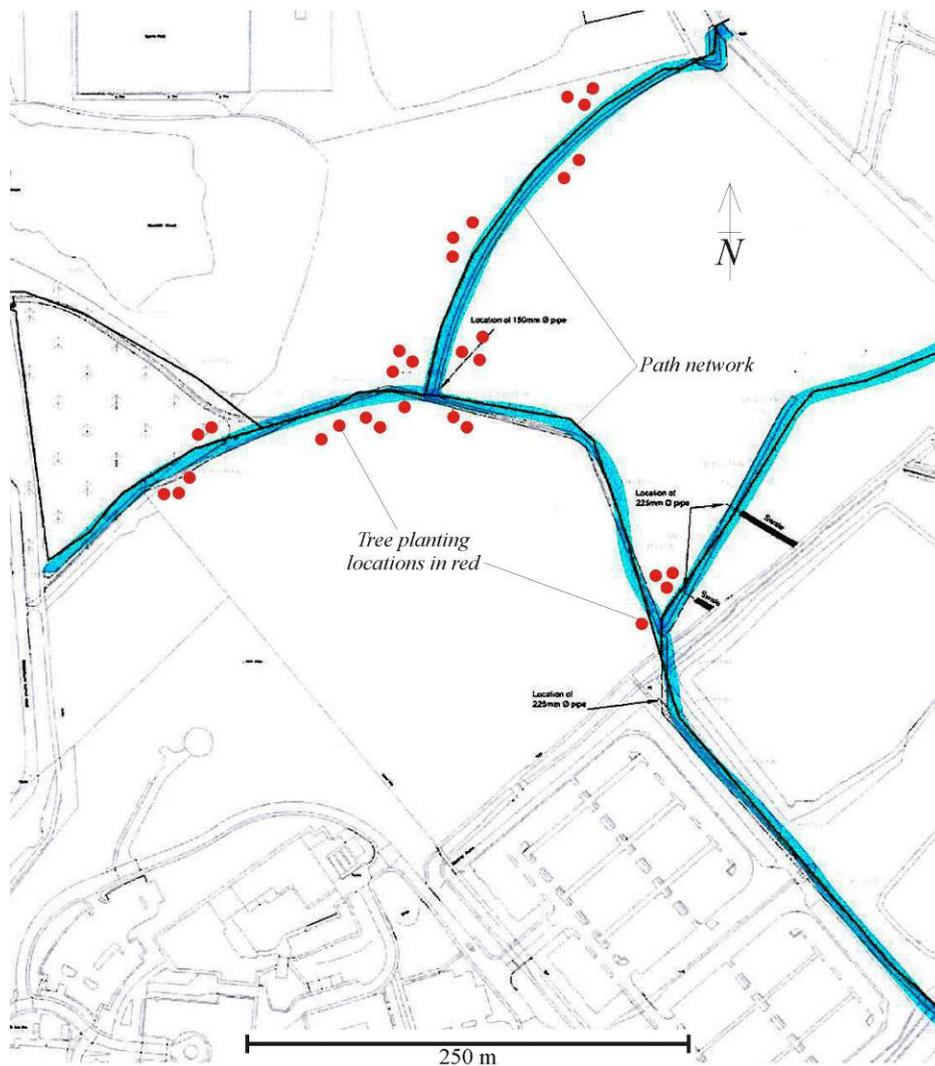


Figure 2 tree planting hole locations



*Plate 1 decorated pottery (SF 005)*



*Plate 2 tree planting hole shows topsoil 001 over natural clays 003 (0.50 m scale)*

A small number of pottery sherds were noted in the spoil from the planting holes all of relatively recent date. Two of these were retained: the first (*SF 005*) (numbering continued from the earlier phase) had a fragmentary printed pattern showing a Chinese(?) Scene with someone smoking an opium pipe while the arm of someone else apparently holding a trowel is digging or perhaps building.

## *ii. Metal detecting survey*

The spoil from the tree planting holes was metal detected and from these small excavations no metal artefacts were recovered, apart from a surface scatter of beer cans and beer bottle caps (not retained).

## *3. Conclusion*

Across the extent of the monitored trenching the stratigraphy was as had been seen in the earlier monitoring of the path construction. This comprised basically a plough soil over natural boulder clays. The finds, though few in number, were similar to those of the earlier excavations; together with the earlier pottery recovered this shows the land to have been fertilised with domestic refuse from at least the 15<sup>th</sup> century up to recent times and from the map evidence to have been open fields for a long time.

## *4. References*

Macfadyen, K 2016 *Little France Path Network, Edinburgh: Watching Brief Data Structure Report*. Addyman Archaeology archive report, July 2016.

**Appendix A: Finds Register continued from earlier monitoring**

<i>Finds No.</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initials</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comments</i>
005	001	ceramic	6/12/16	Kmacf	1	19 <sup>th</sup> C? pottery with oriental design	From Ploughsoils
006	001	pottery	5/12/16	Kmacf	1		

**Appendix B: Photo Register**

<i>Photo No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Taken by</i>
73	Tree planting hole south of site, shows topsoil 001 cut down to top of natural clays 003	Kmacf
74	Tree planting hole south of site, shows topsoil 001 cut down to top of natural clays 003	Kmacf
75	Tree planting hole, middle of site, shows topsoil 001 cut down into natural clays 003	Kmacf
76	Tree planting hole, middle of site, shows topsoil 001 cut down into natural clays 003	Kmacf
77	Tree planting hole, east of site, shows topsoil 001 cut down into natural clays 003	Kmacf
78	Tree planting hole, east of site, shows topsoil 001 cut down into natural clays 003	Kmacf

**Appendix C: Photographic contact sheet**



2215 Little France (73).JPG



2215 Little France (74).JPG



2215 Little France (75).JPG



2215 Little France (76).JPG



2215 Little France (77).JPG



2215 Little France (78).JPG

***Appendix D: WSI, October 2016***

***Little France Path Network,  
Edinburgh***

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Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust

***Addyman Archaeology – October 2016***

***1. Introduction***

***i. General***

Addyman Archaeology has been commissioned by The Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during tree standard planting as part of the creation of a path network at Little France Park, Craigmillar. The proposed development is located in the near vicinity of the historic Craigmillar Castle. City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology officer (John Lawson) placed a condition on the works requiring an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during any excavations in the area considered to of potential archaeological interest.

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) sets out the methodology for the archaeological watching brief placed upon the development as required by the planning authority.

The proposed development comprises a series of new paths through Little France Park, adjacent to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

***ii. The Site – Location, Topography and Geology***

The proposed development site is located within the South East extent of Edinburgh (approximately centred NT329006 670970). The site is bounded to the north by existing forestry (Hawkhill Wood) on the site of a former quarry; to the southwest by further modern forestry and to the east by open farmland.

The underlying geology consists of Sandstone of the Kinnesswood Formation. A Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 352 to 385 million years ago in the Carboniferous and Devonian Periods in a Local environment previously dominated by rivers ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).

***2. Map regression***

Accessible maps of the area from the National Library of Scotland (<http://maps.nls.uk/>) were consulted. Early maps of the area show little detail of the site; however Ordnance Survey maps from the second edition of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards show the site at a larger scale. General Roy's map of the 1750s shows the area around Craigmillar as farmland (*figure 2*). Kirkwood's map of 1817 shows the area of Little France marked to the south of the Niddry burn (*figure 3*). Little was noted in the maps across the area to be monitored. The maps showed primarily open farmland with a quarry noted where Hawkhill Wood is now on the second edition Ordnance Survey map (*figure 4*).



Figure 2 Extract from General Roy's Military Survey of Scotland 1745 – 55, National Library of Scotland



Figure 3 Robert Kirkwood, 'Map of the environs of Edinburgh', 1817

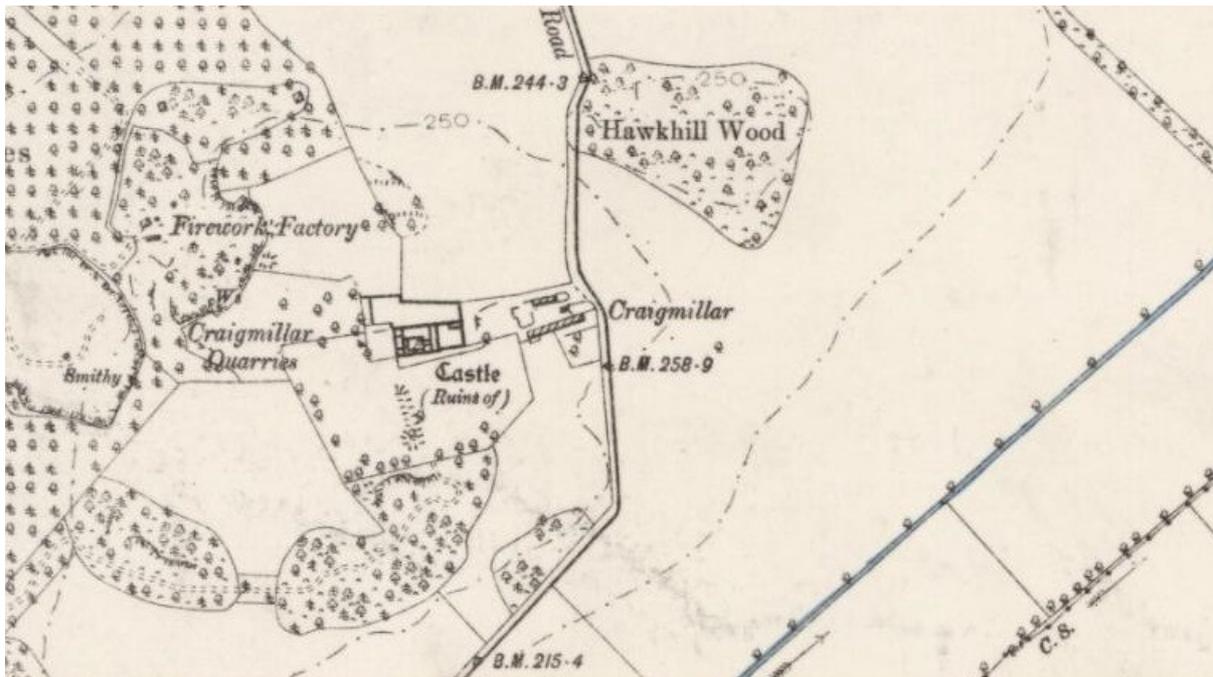


Figure 4 Ordnance Survey map of 1895 25 inch to a mile

### 3. *Scope of Proposed Works*

#### i. *Watching Brief*

The proposed works comprise the excavation of tree pits for planting 15 – 20 trees within the path network. It is proposed that all excavation in this area shall be archaeologically monitored by an archaeologist and any exposed archaeological features or deposits mapped and recorded.

The excavation of the tree pits will be conducted by a mini digger and under direct archaeological supervision. Provision will be made by the contractor to allow suitable time for any identified archaeological features to be investigated during the works.

All spoil excavated from the tree planting pits will be metal detected.

#### ii. *Recovery of archaeologically significant remains*

When archaeologically significant remains are identified during the watching brief, the supervising archaeologist will take over formal investigation of these feature(s). Any archaeological remains encountered will be recorded and investigated/sampled as per recording standards which comply with those outlined by the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists *CIfA* (see Section 3.iv. below).

If archaeological finds are recovered during the work, they will have to be formally recorded, cleaned/conserved where necessary, and studied appropriately. A small provision is allowed for such work as part of this phase. The qualified archaeologist on site will assess the extent and quality of the archaeological remains.

Should the remains prove to be significant and their extent substantial, a new phase of archaeological mitigation may be required, to be discussed with the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeological Officer and the client at the time of discovery. This will also include a proposal for the study of artefacts and ecofacts, should the requirements exceed the provision within the watching brief phase.

### ***iii. Standards and Recording.***

Addyman Archaeology is committed to providing a high standard of research work, for historic building recording and assessment and for any below-ground archaeological investigations. We use standard *pro-forma* sheets for the recording of archaeological contexts, finds and samples and for drawings and photographs produced during the archaeological works, which become part of the archaeological record. These records are produced to *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA)* standards and Addyman Archaeology adheres to the *CIfA*'s principal codes of conduct. The *pro-forma* sheets are filled in manually on site and generally digitised in the office in excel database or word format as required.

Standard recording drawings are undertaken at 1:20 scale (in plan) with details and sections drawn at 1:10. Plans and sections of areas that yielded archaeological remains will be produced representing and preserving the encountered stratigraphy. A general site plan indicating the position of archaeological features will be prepared at a larger scale. All drawings are complemented by digital photography. We generally complement the digital record (provided on CD) by a print-out of thumbnail-format images and a list with the photograph descriptions.

As the archaeological works are not a separate work stage, but co-ordinated with the contractor, we would in general expect that the Risk Assessment is undertaken by the contractor, although we complete our own as a matter of procedure. We are happy to provide some archaeological input for the preparation of the Risk Assessment by the contractor, should this requirement arise.

### ***iv. Reporting, archiving and artefact/ecofact analysis***

The results of the archaeological evaluation will be presented in a formal Data Structure Report (DSR) to be submitted to the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service, typically 4-6 weeks after completion of the site works. In the event that a limited amount of significant archaeological finds are made, a small provision of contingency within this proposal will permit sample excavation, and specialist analysis of the finds, artefacts and ecofacts.

All material, drawings, reports, site records and photographs will be catalogued and deposited in a suitable archive; the paper and digital archives will be submitted to HES. A short description of the works will also need to be submitted to the journal *Discovery & Excavation Scotland* and to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Evaluations (OASIS) as part of the archaeological evaluation. Any finds resulting from the excavation will be declared to Treasure Trove within 6 months of the completion of the project.

If significant artefacts and/or ecofacts are recovered during the watching brief requiring detailed specialist study, a separate Post-Excavation Research Design (PERD) will have to be agreed with CECAS (see mitigation strategy below).

## ***4. Mitigation strategy if significant archaeological remains are recovered***

### ***i. Preservation in situ***

If any features of archaeological significance are identified during the archaeological watching brief, the first mitigation option to be considered should be avoidance. This would involve altering the proposed location or course of the construction aspect causing the direct impact on the archaeological feature. The alteration of the course and layout would have to be of a sufficient amount that it no longer causes a direct impact upon the archaeological feature in question.

### ***ii. Excavation***

It is anticipated that any archaeological remains which are discovered during the archaeological watching brief will be recorded *in situ*, prior to being excavated where necessary. Depending upon the nature of any archaeological sites/features identified and the nature of the construction impacting upon them, it may be the case that 'preservation by record' is regarded as the most appropriate mitigation method. This would involve the excavation, recording and study of archaeological sites to an accepted methodology agreed at the time of the discovery of significant archaeological remains.

Formal archaeological excavation usually involves the study of artefacts and anthropogenic material, so-called ecofacts recovered during the excavation process. The extent of such post-excavation analysis would have to be discussed at the time of the discovery and a separate Post-Excavation Research Design (PERD) submitted and agreed by CECAS, should this matter arise. The PERD will detail the proposed methodology for the study of artefacts and environmental remains by specialists. If significant archaeological remains are found, the post-excavation requirements may be substantial.

If the findings during excavation and / or post-excavation analysis provide a significant contribution to archaeology as a subject, it may become a condition to disseminate the results through full academic publication. Any pre-publication work such as writing, editing and illustrations will have to be assessed separately, along with the PERD. There may also be a requirement for publication of the results in a suitable journal. Any post-excavation and/or publication would be costed separately from the present stage of works.

## *5. Schedule*

### *i. Timetable*

The works are currently scheduled to take place in October/November 2016.

### *ii. Staff*

The monitoring will be conducted by one of Addyman Archaeology's experienced site staff; CVs are available on request.