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DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY
TOPOGRAPHICAL AND LANDSCAPE SURVEY
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



MORRISON CONSTRUCTION

**ST MARGARET'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL,
STATION ROAD, SOUTH QUEENSFERRY**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

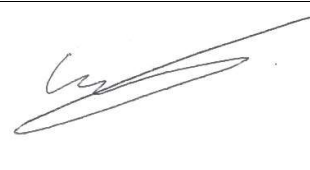
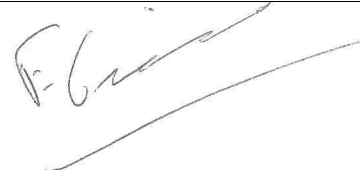
March 2017

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REPORT VERSION NUMBER: 001

MORRISON CONSTRUCTION

St. Margaret’s RC Primary School, Station Road, South Queensferry

Archaeological Evaluation

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Plate 2; Trench 2 facing west.

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Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

Figure 3: 1832 Great Reform Acts and Reports

Figure 4: 1854 Revised First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 25inch

Figure 5: 1914 Ordnance Survey Map, 6inch

SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong (WA) was commissioned by Morrison Construction, to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at St Margaret's RC Primary School, Station Road, South Queensferry, EH30 9JY (NGR: NT 13478 78071). The evaluation was required as a condition of planning consent. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced in response to a advice given by John Lawson from the City of Edinburgh Council, acting as the archaeological planning advisor on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council.

The archaeological work was undertaken on the 16th of March 2017 and consisted of three 5m x 1.6m long trenches. The trenches were positioned to cover a representative area of the proposed new gym development. No archaeological remains were noted during the evaluation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong (WA) thanks Morrison Construction for commissioning the project, and for all their assistance throughout the work. Also, WA thank John Lawson, Edinburgh City Council archaeologist, for his assistance.

The evaluation was supervised by Ed Johnson and who also wrote the report. The figures were produced by Helen Phillips. The project was managed by Frank Giecco who also edited the report.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Circumstances and Planning Background

- 1.1.1 In March 2017, Wardell Armstrong (WA) undertook an archaeological evaluation of land at St. Margaret's RC Primary School, Station Road, South Queensferry (centred on NGR NT 13478 78071). It was commissioned by Morrison Construction who intends to build a new gym hall extension to the existing building for which a planning consent has been granted by the City of Edinburgh Council (planning reference: 16/05384/FUL).
- 1.1.2 The grant of planning permission by the City of Edinburgh Council, dated 3rd February 2017 stated that, *"No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority, having first been agreed by the City Archaeologist"* (Condition 1, 16/05384/FUL).
- 1.1.3 This planning condition was in line with advice provided to the City of Edinburgh Council by John Lawson, Edinburgh City Council archaeologist, in a letter dated 30th November 2016 (16/05384/FUL).
- 1.1.4 The proposed development is thought to be located in an area of archaeological potential, with the prehistoric cists to the north of the site (Canmore ID 50563) and the close proximity of the medieval settlement of South Queensferry, the heritage significance of which may be affected by the application.

1.2 Project Documentation

- 1.2.1 The project conforms to a brief which was prepared in consultation with the archaeological planning advisor John Lawson, the City of Edinburgh archaeologist. A WSI (WAA 2017) was then produced to provide a specific methodology based on the brief for a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation. This was approved by the archaeological planning advisor prior to the fieldwork taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.2.2 This report outlines the work undertaken on site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological evaluation.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards and guidance

2.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014a), and in accordance with the WAA fieldwork manual (2017).

2.1.2 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014a) and the Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA 2014b).

2.2 Documentary Research

2.2.1 A rapid archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared by as part of this report, which set out the archaeological and historical background of the site, and provided an assessment of the significance of all known and potential heritage assets up to 0.25km from the area of investigation.

2.3 The Field Evaluation

2.3.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of three trenches measuring 5m in length by 1.6m in width across the proposed development area that measured 236m². The trenches were placed using a random grid array. Representing a 10% sample of the overall site. The general aims of these investigations were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

2.3.2 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand. All possible features were inspected and selected deposits were excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples. Once completed all features were recorded

according to the WA standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (WA 2017).

- 2.3.3 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project specification, and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited with National Monuments Record Scotland held by Historic Environment Scotland. It is understood that once the report has been signed off and accepted by John Lawson, Archaeologist at Edinburgh City Council the report will become a publically assessable document within the Sites and Monuments Record maintained by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier ED12047, SQM-A/17.
- 2.3.4 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology supports the **Online Access** to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by WAA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: wardella2-279931.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.1.1 The site is located at NGR NT 13478 78071 (centred). The site's environs comprise of the grass and tarmac covered rear school yard. To the north of the school is a wooded area separating the school from its neighbouring housing development
- 3.1.2 The footprint of the proposed new building is approximately 236m². It is located within school grounds in an area already in part occupied by buildings. It is of rectangular shape and is north-west to south-east aligned, abutting the already existing building of St Margaret's RC Primary School.
- 3.1.3 The underlying solid geology within the area of investigation is mapped as sedimentary rock cycles of the Hopetoun Member deposited during the Carboniferous Period formed approximately 326 to 335 million years ago. This is overlain by superficial deposits of Diamicton of the Devensian Till deposited up to 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period (BGS 2017).

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.2.1 A desk-based assessment was produced to summarise the known historical and archaeological background of the site and the surrounding landscape to a distance of 0.25km
- 3.2.2 This report identifies that there were no designated heritage assets within the site boundary, however there are a further 9 within the wider search area of 0.25km. The greater part of these heritage assets are upstanding structures.
- 3.2.3 No heritage assets designated as scheduled ancient monuments are recorded within the immediate vicinity of the site.
- 3.2.4 Nine non-designated heritage assets are recorded within the immediate vicinity of the site. The majority of these assets relate to late 19th to early 20th century development of South Queensferry. The presence of the prehistoric cists to the north of the site indicates to prehistoric activity within the area. This desk-based assessment concluded that there was a low to medium likelihood that thus far unknown archaeological remains of prehistoric date may be present within the proposed development site. The site is regarded as occurring within an area of archaeological potential.
- 3.2.5 No previous archaeological works have been undertaken within the development area. No archaeological works are noted within the study area.

- 3.2.6 Although situated on the edge of the medieval settlement, archaeological evidence from the surrounding area, for instance Echline and the site of the New Forth Crossing, indicate that the area of high ground that the site occupies was a focus for prehistoric settlement and activity. Excavations in the last decade by CFA & Headland in these locations have unearthed evidence occupation dating back to c.8200BC through to the late Bronze Age.
- 3.2.7 **Prehistoric:** no archaeological activity dating to the prehistoric period is known within the site. To the north of it, several cists with human remains, were reported found here prior to 1855 during the construction of the railway (Canmore ID 50563). The bank is situated to the west of Two Bridges hotel on the southern side of the promenade. There is no other information on these cists and there is nothing visible on the ground.
- 3.2.8 **Romano-British:** there is no known evidence for Roman activity in the proposed development area.
- 3.2.9 **Medieval:** The small town of South Queensferry was established by the 11th century. The site is situated to the south-east of this medieval settlement. The town comes first into notice as the station at which St Margaret, the queen of Malcolm Ceanmor, passed the Forth in her numerous excursions between Edinburgh and Dunfermline during 1068 and 1093, thus giving the town its name (<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/descriptions/137770>). However, no sites of archaeological significance are known to date from the medieval period within the search radius.
- 3.2.10 **Post-medieval to modern:** Several structures within the search area originate from the post medieval to modern period. Newhalls Cottage, to the north of the site, is an occupied building which has been greatly modified over the years (Canmore ID 50519). The house has been dated to c 1816.
- 3.2.11 The Two Bridges Pub Hotel (Canmore ID 50485), also known as Garvie Hotel, Holst House, Newhalls Villa or Moncrief House, is a large stone building which is still used as a hotel but has been recently taken over by Tennants breweries. Moncrief House is noted on the 1854 first edition OS map, but it may be of even earlier origin.
- 3.2.12 A barrage balloon mooring site has been identified from an oblique air photograph (Canmore ID 209840, No.1 CAM, x954, 20 October 1941) situated in what is now an

area of new housing to the north of Rosebury Avenue. One hut associated with the mooring site, is situated about 80m to the east.

3.2.13 Five further heritage assets (Canmore ID 237221, 237222, 237224, 237226, 237347) are associated with the Ashburnham estate, build between 1895 and 1914. It comprises a lodge, villa and a coach house.

3.3 **Map regression**

3.3.1 The area appears undeveloped during the medieval and post-medieval development of South Queensferry. On the 1832 map (Figure 3), the closest structure to the development site is the property of Captain Ross, situated to the east. The road, now Station Road, is only partially in existence. The outlines of an enclosed garden are present to the west of the site.

3.3.2 By 1854 (Figure 4), the Ferry Burn running east to west aligned to the site was changed in its path. The garden disappeared. Ravel Bank, to the immediate north of the site, is covered in three growth. The railway was added by 1869, during which construction stone coffins or cists were found. Station Road was fully established by 1914 (Figure 5). Any development on the site must have occurred after 1950.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken on the 16th of March 2017, with three trenches excavated across the proposed development site (Figure 2). The trenches were placed using a random grid array to investigate a 10% sample of the proposed development. Any deposits beyond 1.2m would not be impacted by the development.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 **Trench 1** was aligned east-west and measured 5m by 1.6m in length. It had a maximum depth of 1.2m when excavations were halted. Excavations were through a layer of made ground formed mainly of building rubble (**100**) measuring in excess of 1.2m deep. The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

4.2.2 **Trench 2** was aligned east-west and measured 5m by 1.6m in length. It had a maximum depth of 1.2m when excavations were halted. Excavations were through a layer of made ground formed mainly of building rubble (**200**) measuring in excess of 1.2m deep. The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

4.2.3 **Trench 3** was aligned north-south and measured 5m by 1.6m in length. It had a maximum depth of 1.2m when excavations were halted. Excavations were through a layer of made ground formed mainly of building rubble (**300**) measuring in excess of 1.2m deep overlaying a buried yellow-brown soil (**301**). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features however at its southern end a modern cast iron drainpipe was recorded.

4.3 Archaeological Finds and Environmental Sampling

4.3.1 No archaeological finds were recovered, and no environmental samples were retained during the groundworks.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The desk based assessment showed that the impact area to the north of St. Margaret's school had low potential for any archaeological evidence. This was confirmed by the archaeological evaluation which discovered no archaeological deposits within the excavated sample of the development area which showed extensive disturbance associated with the construction of the existing Primary School building.
- 5.1.2 No further archaeological work is deemed necessary as mitigation for development impact.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Professional Guidance

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7 APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

Length: 5m Width: 1.6m Orientation: East-West
 Average Depth: 1.1m Maximum Depth: 1.2m

| Context Number | Context Type | Description | Height/Depth | Discussion |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 100 | Deposit | Made Ground | 1.2m | |
| | | | | |

Trench 2

Length: 5m Width: 1.6m Orientation: East-West
 Average Depth: 1.1m Maximum Depth: 1.2m

| Context Number | Context Type | Description | Height/Depth | Discussion |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 200 | Deposit | Made Ground | 1.2m | |
| | | | | |

Trench 3

Length: 5m Width: 1.6m Orientation: North-South
 Average Depth: 1.1m Maximum Depth: 1.2m

| Context Number | Context Type | Description | Height/Depth | Discussion |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 300 | Deposit | Made Ground | 1.2m | |
| 301 | Deposit | Buried Soil | NFX | Possible buried subsoil |

8 APPENDIX 2: PLATES



Plate 1; Trench 1 facing west, including 2x 1m scale.



Plate 2; Trench 2 facing west.



Plate 3; Trench 3 facing west, including 2x 1m scale.

APPENDIX 3: DES ENTRY

The archaeological evaluation undertaken at St. Margaret's consisted of 3 trenches measuring 5m x 1.6m in the former play area to the north of the existing Primary School. These trenches were excavated through a made ground layer formed of demolition rubble possibly used during the construction of the school to level the site. No archaeological remains were recorded during the excavations of these trenches.

APPENDIX 4: FIGURES



0 1km



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2017

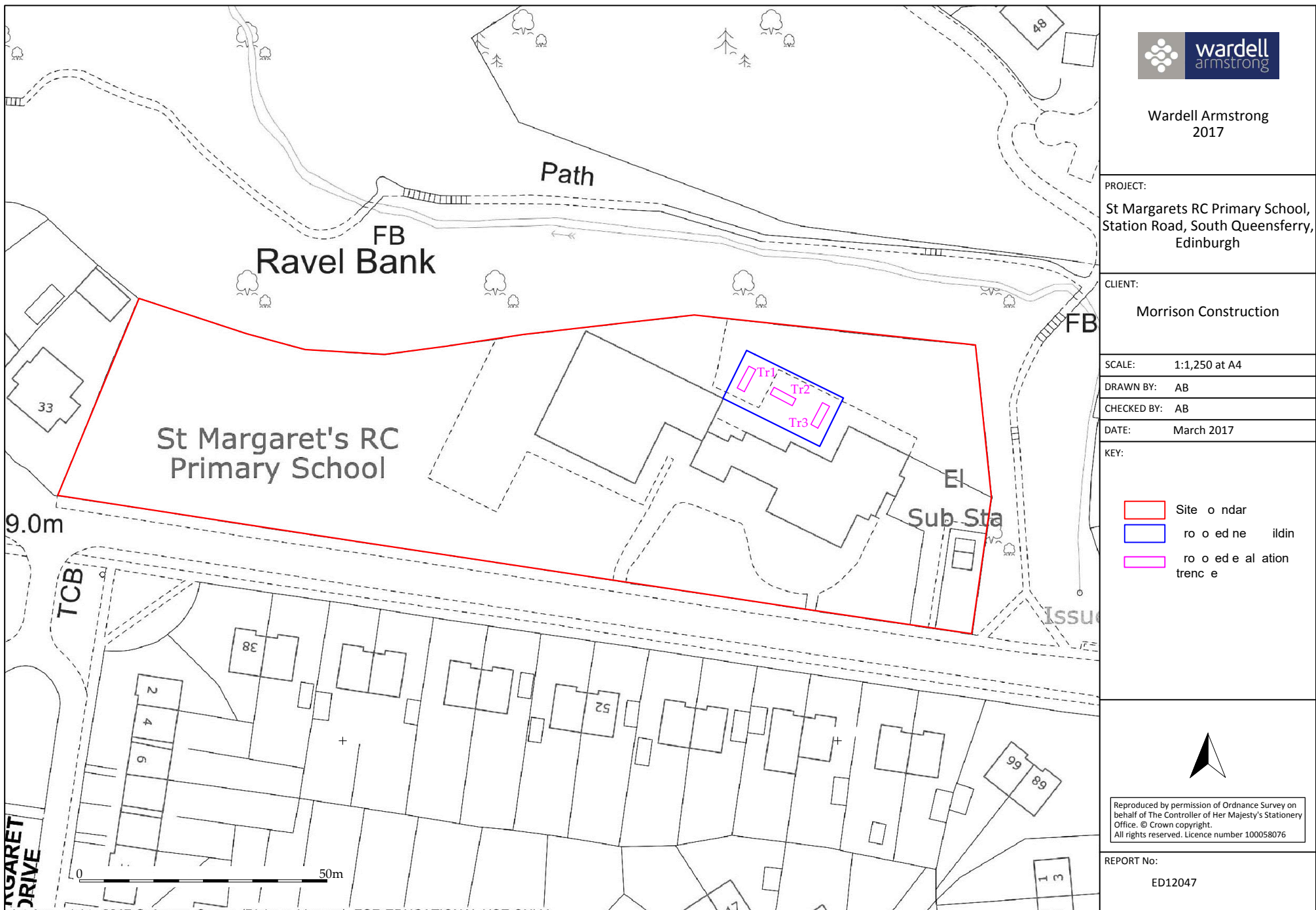
PROJECT: St Margaret's RC Primary School, Station Road, South Queensferry, Edinburgh
 CLIENT: Morrison Construction
 SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4
 DRAWN BY: AB
 CHECKED BY: AB
 DATE: March 2017
 REPORT No: ED12047

KEY:
 Site location



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Figure 1: Site location.



PROJECT:
St Margaret's RC Primary School,
 Station Road, South Queensferry,
 Edinburgh

CLIENT:
Morrison Construction

SCALE: 1:1,250 at A4


DRAWN BY: AB

CHECKED BY: AB

DATE: March 2017

KEY:

- Site boundary
- Proposed building
- Proposed allocation trenches



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Figure 2: Detailed site location.

PROJECT:
St Margarets RC Primary School,
Station Road, South Queensferry,
Edinburgh

CLIENT:
Morrison Construction

SCALE: Not to scale

DRAWN BY: HP

CHECKED BY: HP

DATE: March 2017

KEY:
 Site location



REPORT No:
ED12047

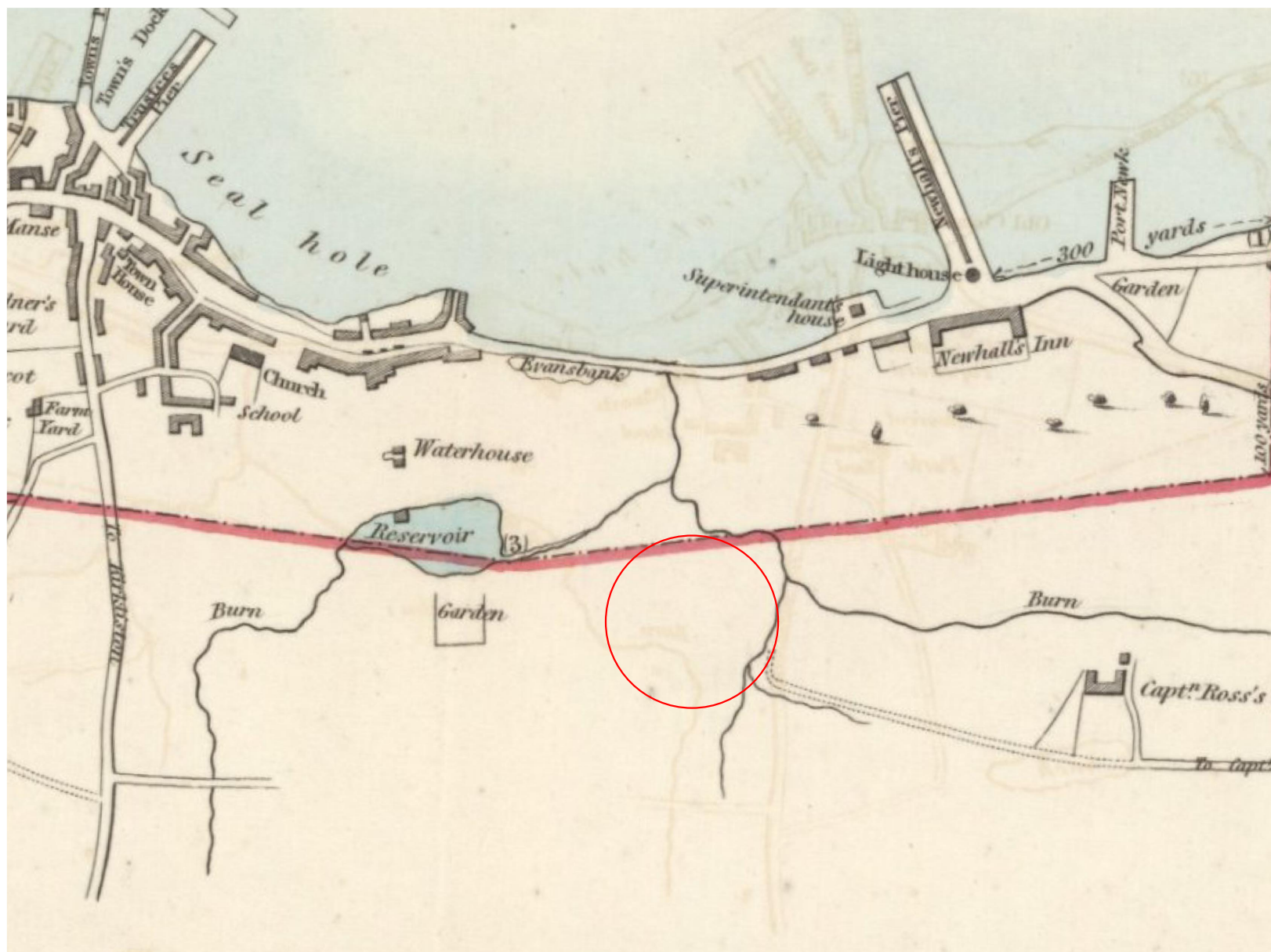


Figure 3: Great Reform Acts and Reports, 1832.



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PROJECT:
St Margarets RC Primary School,
Station Road, South Queensferry,
Edinburgh


CLIENT:
Morrison Construction

SCALE: 1:2,500 at A4

DRAWN BY: HP

CHECKED BY: HP

DATE: March 2017

KEY:
 Site boundary



REPORT No:
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Figure 4: Revised First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1854 (25 inches to 1 mile scale).



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Edinburgh

CLIENT:
Morrison Construction

SCALE: 1:2,500 at A4

DRAWN BY: HP

CHECKED BY: HP

DATE: March 2017

KEY:
 Site boundary



REPORT No:
ED12047

Figure 5: Ordnance Survey Map, 1914 (6 inches to 1 mile scale).

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