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**STOCKBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL
EDINBURGH**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

APRIL 2018

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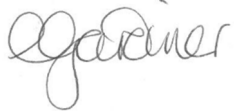



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MORRISON CONSTRUCTION

Stockbridge Primary School, Edinburgh

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) was commissioned by Morrison Construction to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Stockbridge Primary School, 17 Hamilton Place, Edinburgh, EH3 5BA (NGR: NT 24703 74727), in order to monitor all groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to the existing school buildings. The watching brief followed a previous phase of archaeological investigation, undertaken as a condition of planning consent, which comprised the excavation of three trial trenches within and adjacent to the footprint of the proposed development. Two of the trenches were devoid of any archaeological features, with the third revealing the foundations of a post-medieval wall.

The site is situated within an area considered to have high archaeological potential, specifically relating to prehistoric burial activity within the area. John Lawson, Archaeology Officer for the City of Edinburgh Council therefore requested an archaeological watching brief during all groundworks associated with the proposed development, in order to mitigate against the destruction of any significant archaeological remains present within the proposed development area.

The archaeological work was undertaken over five days between the 19th and the 23rd March 2018 and comprised the archaeological supervision of the excavation of foundation trenches and tarmac-stripping.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were recovered during the watching brief.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

Wardell Armstrong LLP also thanks GGK Contracts (Scotland) Ltd, and GAP Group plant hire company, for their help during this project.

The watching brief was undertaken by Miguel Gonzalez who also wrote the report. The figures were produced by Helen Phillips. The project was managed by David Jackson and the report was edited by Lynne Gardiner.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Circumstances

- 1.1.1 In March 2018, Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) undertook an archaeological watching brief at Stockbridge Primary School, 17 Hamilton Place, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 24703 74727). The watching brief was required to monitor all groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to the existing school buildings, and to intervene in the event that archaeological remains were revealed during the course of the proposed groundworks.
- 1.1.2 The watching brief followed a previous phase of archaeological investigation, undertaken as a condition of planning consent, which comprised the excavation of three trial trenches within and adjacent to the footprint of the proposed development. Two of the trenches were devoid of any archaeological features, with the third revealing the foundations of a post-medieval wall (WA 2017a).
- 1.1.3 The site is situated within an area considered to have high archaeological potential, specifically relating to prehistoric burial activity within the area. John Lawson, Archaeology Officer for the City of Edinburgh Council therefore requested an archaeological watching brief during all groundworks associated with the proposed development, in order to mitigate against the destruction of any significant archaeological remains present within the proposed development area.

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, Edinburgh City Council Archaeologist. A WSI (WA 2017b) 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 results of the watching brief, in which all open-cut groundworks excavations were monitored.

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 an archaeological watching brief* (2014a), and in accordance with the WA fieldwork manual (2017c).

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

2.2 Documentary Research

2.2.1 A rapid desk-based assessment was prepared by WA (2017a), 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 0.1km from the area of investigation.

2.3 The Watching Brief

2.3.1 A watching brief is defined as a programme of 'monitoring and investigation carried out during a non-archaeological activity within a specified area of land or development where construction operations may disturb or destroy archaeological remains' (CIFA 2014a).

2.3.2 The watching brief comprised the monitoring of all intrusive works associated with the current development, this comprised the excavation of All groundworks, stripping topsoil/tarmac of the playground and the excavation of four foundation trenches, between 10 and 15 m in length, 1.2m wide and 1.5m in depth, for a new classroom; the percentage excavated in relation to the overall site is about 20% of 0.327 hectares. The general aims of these investigations were:

- allow the monitoring archaeologist to signal that an archaeological find has been made before it is destroyed;
- to provide the opportunity for appropriate resource allocation if the archaeological find cannot be dealt with under the watching brief remit;
- to determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the proposed development site;

- determine levels of disturbance to any archaeological deposits from past building activities;
- investigate and record all deposits and features of archaeological interest within the areas to be disturbed by the current development;
- to determine the likely impact on archaeological deposits from future proposed development arising from the current works;
- to disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of reporting.

And specifically to:

- establish the presence of any cists and cinerary urns of a prehistoric date.

2.3.3 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket to maximise the chance for identification of archaeological remains if present. All intrusive groundworks were monitored under close archaeological supervision by a suitably trained archaeologist.

2.3.4 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 RCAHMS in Edinburgh. 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 accessible 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 **ED12043, STO-A/17**.

2.3.5 Wardell Armstrong LLP 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 WA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: wardella2-312723.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

3.1.1 The site lies to the north of Edinburgh City centre (Figure 1) and is located at Hamilton Place, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 24703 74727). The site's environs comprise a mixture of residential and commercial properties. The site is bound by Hamilton Place to the south-east, Dean Bank Lane to the south-west and the backs of residential properties along Saxe Coburg Terrace. The area of investigation lies at a height of c. 21m aOD (above Ordnance Datum).

3.1.2 The site is approximately 0.327 hectares in size and is of irregular shape. It currently operates as a primary school which comprises two main buildings and several open play areas (Figure 2).

3.1.3 The underlying solid geology within the area of investigation is mapped as pale sandstone interbedded with grey to dark grey mudstone and siltstone of the Gullane Formation deposited during the Carboniferous Period, which formed approximately 335 to 352 million years ago. This is overlain by superficial deposits of sand and gravel of the Devensian Raised Marine Deposits, deposited up to 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period (BGS 2017). The natural substrate observed during the current phase of works comprised light brown sandy gravel which is consistent with the mapped geologies above.

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

3.2.1 A rapid desk-based assessment was produced to summarise the known historical and archaeological background of the site and the surrounding landscape to a distance of 0.1km. It is not intended to repeat that information here and what follows is a brief overview, for further details please refer to the original document (WA 2017a).

3.2.2 The research has identified that Stockbridge Primary School itself is a known heritage asset (Canmore 138411). In addition, there are a further 32 heritage assets within the wider 0.1km search radius.

3.2.3 Thirty-two non-designated heritage assets are recorded within the immediate vicinity of the site. They comprise mainly buildings. To the immediate north-west of the site, cists and cinerary urns were found in April 1823 (Canmore 52660), possibly dating to the prehistoric period. There was therefore considered that archaeological

remains of prehistoric date may have been present within the proposed development site.

- 3.2.4 No Romano-British or medieval remains of archaeological significance have been found within the search radius.
- 3.2.5 The site and its environs remained undeveloped until the 18th century. The earliest documented heritage asset, Deanbank House (Canmore 84004), is a villa dating from the 18th century. The greater part of the documented heritage assets originate from the 19th century. They include Silvermills House (Canmore 148665), Nelson Hall (Canmore 138410), Stockbridge Public Library (Canmore 138409), Kartro House (Canmore 238042) buildings of 2-4 Saxe Coburg Terrace (Canmore 237881, 237882, 237883), Deanbank Cottage (Canmore 238404), 29-35 and 42-94 Hamilton Place (Canmore 138393, 138404, 138405, 138406, 138407, 138390, 128391, 235648, 138392), and several buildings at Clarence Street (Canmore 138345, 138350, 138351, 138352).
- 3.2.6 In 2017, a trial-trench evaluation was undertaken at the site as a condition of planning consent for the present development proposals (WA 2017a). This work comprised the excavation of three trenches within and adjacent to the footprint of the proposed development. Two of the trenches were devoid of any archaeological features, with the third revealing the foundations of a post-medieval wall. No other previous archaeological works are known to have taken place within the development area.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken between the 19th and 23th March 2018. The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations associated with the soil stripping and excavation of the foundations trenches of a new building (Figure 2). Context numbers are provided, where relevant, in brackets.

4.1.2 The groundworks associated with the development required the excavation of four foundation trenches, and one drainage ditch. The excavations largely consisted of the removal of asphalt and topsoil/subsoil to a depth of up to 1.3m, exposing the natural substrate. No archaeological remains were encountered.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 Archaeological works that were undertaken between the 19th to 21st March 2018 comprised the monitoring of soil and tarmac stripping within the southern and western part of the site.

4.2.2 A minimum of 0.1m and a maximum of 0.3m of material was removed. The topsoil encountered comprised a mid-grey to brown loose silt (**100**). Part of the site was also covered in black asphalt (**101**).

4.2.3 Below topsoil lay subsoil (**103**) which measured 0.1m in depth, and consisted of brown sandy/gravel. This overlay the natural substrate (**104**), which consisted of light brown gravel.

4.2.4 Archaeological work undertaken between the 22nd and 23rd March comprised the monitoring of the excavation of three foundations trenches within the northern part of the site; each measuring 1.2m in width and up to 1.3m in depth. A drainage ditch located in the east part of the site was also monitored, which measured 1m in width and 0.40 in depth.

4.2.5 All of the monitored trenches revealed the natural gravel substrate (**104**), below c.0.1m of brown sandy/gravel subsoil (**103**). The subsoil was sealed by 0.1-0.3m of asphalt (**101**) and topsoil (**100**).

4.2.6 No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief.

4.3 Archaeological Finds and Environmental Sampling

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

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations associated with the proposed building extension at Stockbridge Primary School. The purpose of the watching brief was to determine whether buried archaeological remains were present at the site and if so, to establish the nature, date and extent of those remains.
- 5.2 All of the monitored areas were devoid of archaeological features and deposits. No finds were recovered, and all deposits were deemed unsuitable for environmental sampling.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Asphalt
102	VOID	VOID
103	Deposit	Subsoil
104	Deposit	Natural Substrate

APPENDIX 2: PLATES



Plate 1; *Area of foundation trenches before stripping facing west.*



Plate 2; *Playground area following removal of topsoil and tarmac facing north.*



Plate 3; View east of Foundation Trench 1

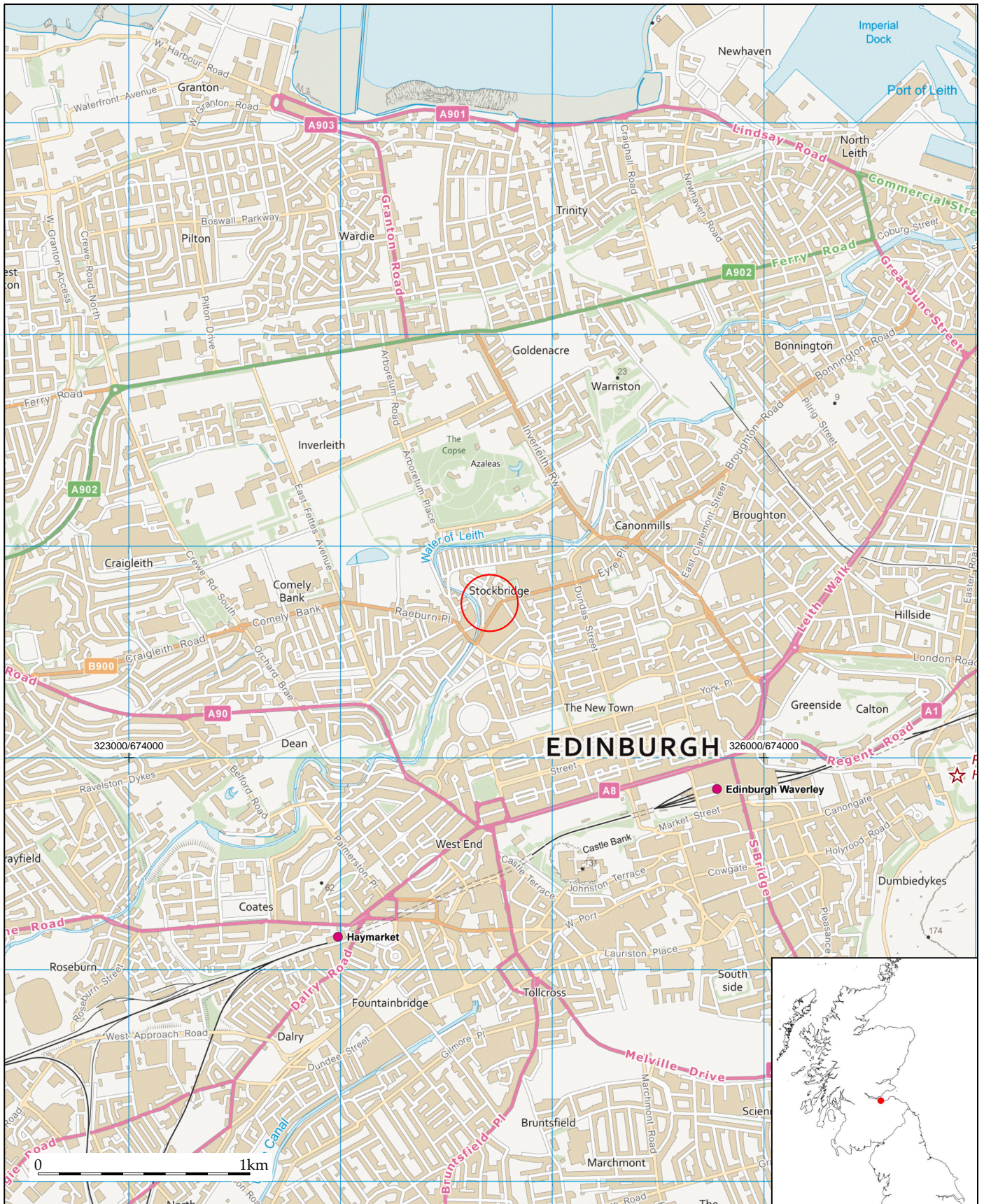


Plate 4; View west of Foundation Trench 2



Plate 5; View north of Foundation Trench 3

APPENDIX 3: FIGURES




Wardell Armstrong
2018

PROJECT: Stockbridge Primary School, Edinburgh

CLIENT: Morrison Construction

SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4


DRAWN BY: HP

CHECKED BY: HP


DATE: April 2018

REPORT No: ED12043

KEY:



Site location



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Figure 1: Site location.

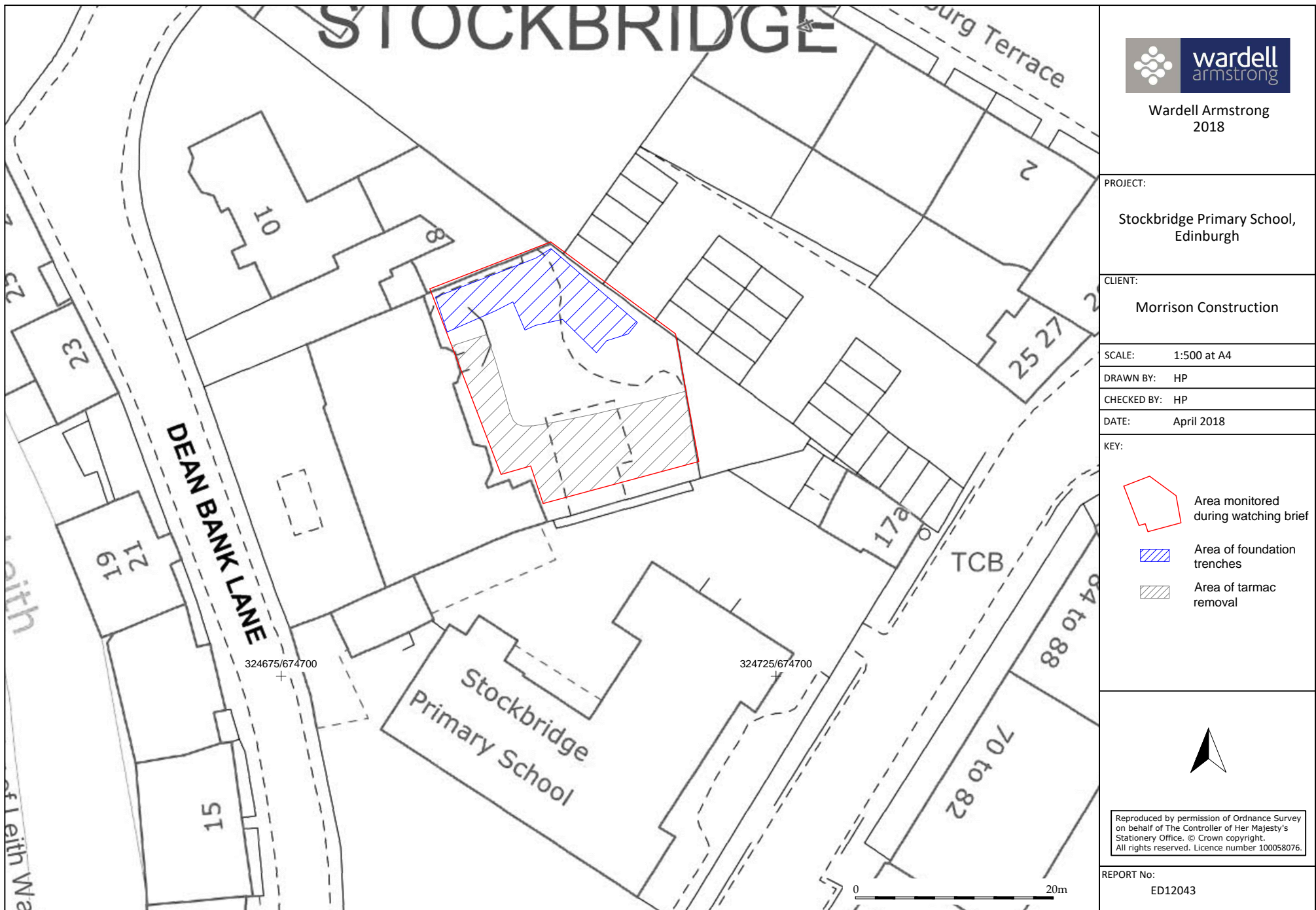


Figure 2: Area of archaeological supervision.

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