

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

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MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of two trenches in advance of a new rock fall barrier being installed on the north side of Johnston Terrace. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
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EDINBURGH CASTLE

JOHNSTON TERRACE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION, MONITORING & RECORDING

For

Historic Scotland

By

Kirkdale Archaeology



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INTRODUCTION

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A programme of archaeological works conducted by Kirkdale Archaeology was required in order to monitor the excavation of two trenches in advance of a new rock fall barrier being installed on the N side of Johnston Terrace, in Edinburgh (Fig.1).

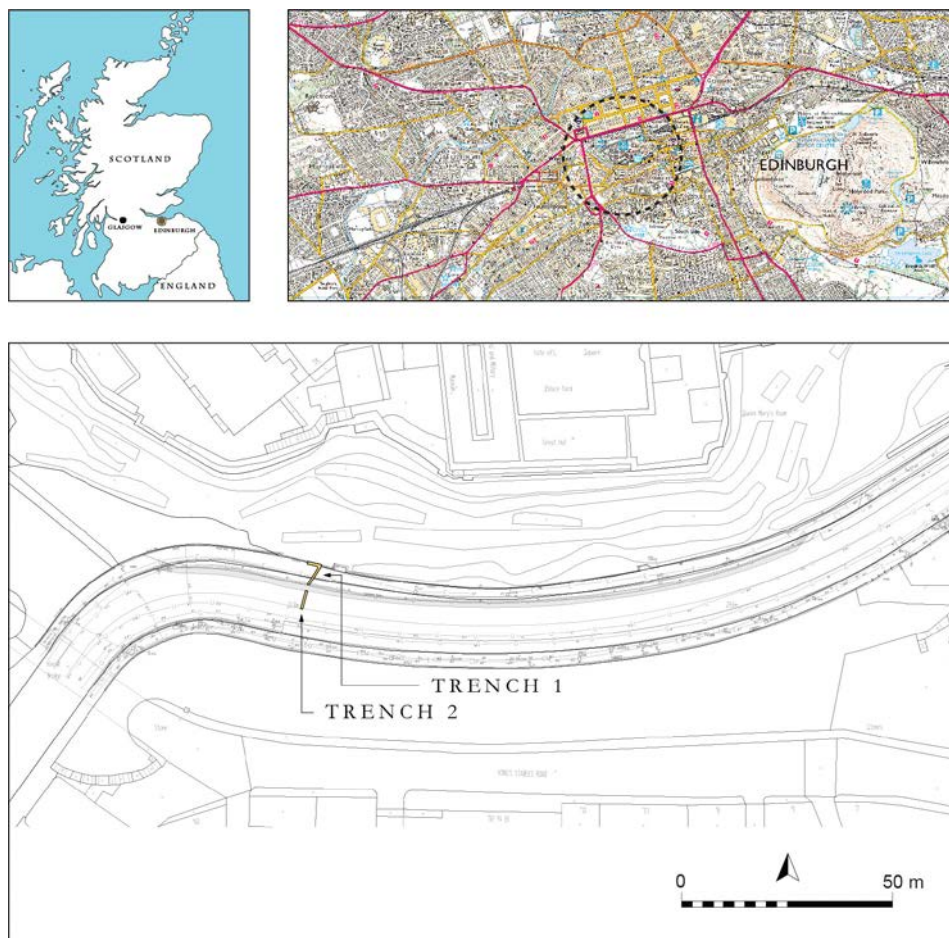


Figure 1: Location plan of the two trenches

DESCRIPTION

Trench 1

The trench measured 7.2m (long) x 0.5m (wide).

Phase 1

Sealed by **117** in the northern part of the trench, **118** was a 300mm thick deposit of compact light grey clay. Context **118** was fairly level before running into the unexcavated lump in the middle of the trench. South of this area, **129** was a similar deposit although it was tipping down to the S. Seen in the bottom 300mm of the N part of Trench 1, but continuing below the excavated level, context **119** was a compact deposit of orange/light brown clay. Once again a similar deposit, **130**, was seen beyond the central strip. This too looked to slope down to the S although little of it was seen.

Phase 2

Towards the S end of the trench, deposits **126**, **127** and **128** were noted. Context **124** cut the upper of these, **126**, which comprised a grey brown clay with some pink/brown clay patches, and measured 80mm in thickness. Sealed by **126**, **127** was a 20mm-40mm thick deposit of yellow/light brown sand. The earliest of the three deposits **128** comprised 70% pink/brown clay and 30% stone fragments measuring 80mm x 60mm (on average).

Phase 3

At the N end of the trench, cut to the N and S by **109** and **112** respectively, **116** was a 250mm thick deposit of compact red/brown clay with one or two small stones. Context **116** sealed **117**, a 350mm thick deposit comprising 70% angular stones (measuring 80mm by 60mm on average) and 30% grey clay.

Phase 4

Along the N side of the trench a stone culvert was seen; the recorded structural elements of the culvert were the capstones (**106**), the N wall (**107**) and the S wall (**108**). The base was not cleared as there was still waste coming through the culvert. The capstones measured up to 650mm square and 200mm thick, and the sidewalls were 550mm high and 200mm thick. The internal aperture of the culvert measured 500mm in height and 350mm wide.

The cut for the culvert, **109**, measured at least 900mm N/S and 800mm in depth, but the full extent was not seen. Fill **110** was seen over **106** and comprised a loose mix of mid grey silt and orange/light brown sand.

Phase 5

Against the S face of **103** and below **124**, context **122** comprised two lines of stone setts placed upright side by side 400mm S of **104**. Between the N edge of **122** and **103** there was another slab (**123**) measuring 400mm N/S and 160mm in thick.

At the S end of this area, south of **122**, context **135** was a 50mm thick tarmac surface directly under **120** and **124**. Context **135** sealed a 200mm thick deposit of hard packed stone chips, **121**. Sealed by **122**, context **139** was the S side of a cut under **122** and **123**. Context **139** continued 200mm below the base of **123** and measured at least 1m N/S but as the N edge was in an area that was not excavated, the precise extent was not seen. The fill of **139**, context **125**, was fine grey/green sand.

Phase 6

The pavement, removed from the northern 4m, was formed with an 80mm thick rough tarmac base (**102**) topped with 120mm of smooth tarmac (**101**). The kerbs at either end were sandstone blocks; to the N, context **104** measured 120mm N/S and 60mm in height. Context **103** separated the pavement from the road and was 300mm high and 120mm N/S. Directly under **104** there was a 250mm thick concrete base, **105**, the northern edge of which was not see within the trench.

The surface of the tarmac road, **120**, was lower than the pavement starting 100mm below the surface of **103**. Context **120** was only 40mm thick immediately S of **103**, but thickened to 100mm through most of its width. Context **124** was an area of road surface extending 700mm S from kerb **103**; it was separated from **120** by a crack or vertical joint.

In the central part of this area, sealed by **102**, context **112** was a 'U'-shaped cut measuring 800mm E/W and 450mm in depth. The fill of **112**, **113**, was a mix of grey and brown clay with some stones throughout Context **112** also carried **111**, a 100mm diameter red ceramic casing containing electrical cables.

At the N end of the excavation, **114** was a pit measuring 450mm N/S and 220mm deep, that was either cut against or by **105**. Context **114** was filled with **115**, angular gravel (measuring 60mm x 40mm on average) and large pieces of smashed orange ceramic pipe.

At the S end of the trench, context **131** was a steep cut that was undercut at the base; it measured at least 1m deep, but neither the S edge or the base were seen in the excavated area. In the base of **131**, **132** was a 250mm diameter ductile water main. The upper fill of **131**, **133** was comprised of

fairly hard packed stones; it measured 300mm in depth. The primary fill of **131, 134**, was a 700mm thick deposit of hard packed grey brown gravel (type 1).

Trench 2

The trench measured 4.1m (long) x 0.5m (wide).

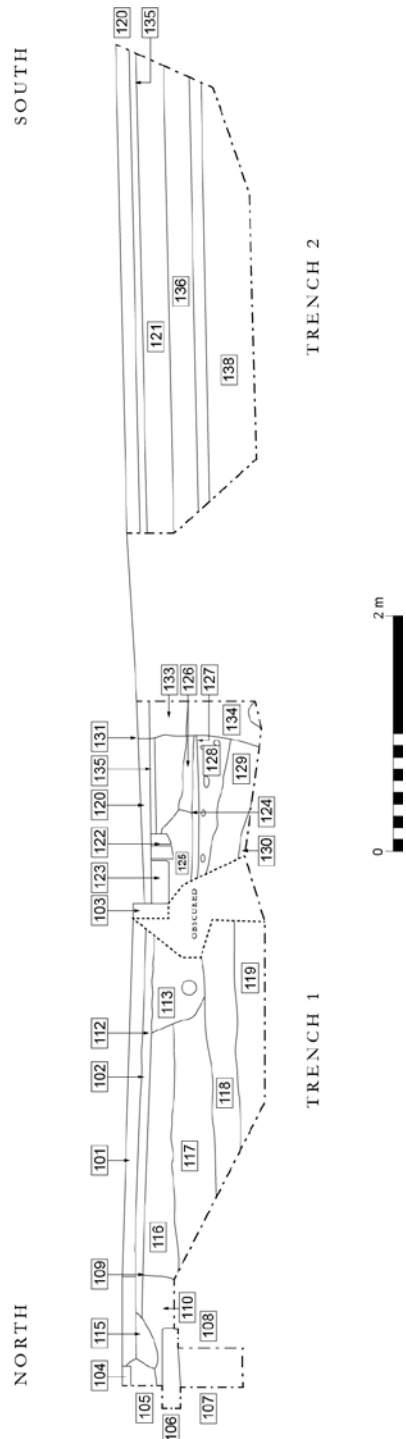


Figure 2: E-facing sections of trenches 1 and 2

Phase 1

Sealed by **136**, context **137** was an 80mm thick deposit of compact red brown clay with occasional rounded stones. The lowest deposit seen, **138**, comprised grey/green clay with occasional rounded stones. Although up to 400mm in depth of **138** was removed, it was not bottomed.

Phase 2

Seen 400mm below the present road surface and measuring 200mm in depth, context **136** was a mix of pink/brown clay (roughly 70%) and stone fragments measuring 80mm x 60mm (on average).

Phases 3 and 4 not present

Phase 5

Under the current road an earlier tarmac surface was recorded as **135**; hard packed stones **121** were seen directly below it (as in Trench 1).

Phase 6

The current road surface, **120**, was also seen in this area.

CONCLUSIONS

The Phase 1 deposits are thought to be *in-situ* subsoil, although this remains uncertain and some monitoring of their removal would help confirm this.

Phase 2 seems to see the initial raising of the ground/landscaping in this area. Perhaps this was to form a path, although the material was mainly clay and would have got very muddy, so it may be this was the base for a surface now lost in this area. Similarly, the Phase 3 deposits may have been make-up for a surface.

The phase 4 stone culvert was still in use. If it is to be moved then it can be more fully investigated. It seems unlikely that the culvert is earlier than 19th century

Phase 5 shows a road pre-dating the current one, and Phase 6 is the current road, pavement and services.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

No.	Trench	Description	Phase
101	1	Current tarmac pavement	6
102	1	Rough tarmac base for 101	6
103	1	Kerb at the S edge of 101	6
104	1	Kerb at the N edge of 101	6
105	1	Concrete base for 104	6
106	1	Capstones of the sewage culvert	4
107	1	N wall of the sewage culvert	4
108	1	S wall of the sewage culvert	4
109	1	Cut for the sewage culvert	4
110	1	Grey silt and orange brown sand, fill of 109	4
111	1	Ceramic culvert carrying wires for the street lights	6
112	1	Cut for 111	6
113	1	Fill of 112 , mix of grey and brown clay	6
114	1	Cut for removal of earlier ceramic culvert	6
115	1	Angular gravel deposit	6
116	1	Compact red brown clay	3
117	1	Compact deposit of angular stones	3
118	1	Compact light grey clay	1
119	1	Compact orange/light brown clay	1
120	1/2	Current tarmac road	6
121	1/2	Hard packed stones, road bottoming	5
122	1	Setts at the edge of earlier road	5
123	1	Slab drain at the edge of earlier road	5
124	1	Possible cut for 122/123	6
125	1	Fine grey/green sand, bedding for 122/123	5
126	1	Grey/brown clay deposit	2
127	1	Yellow/light brown sand	2
128	1	Pink/brown clay and stones	2
129	1	Compact light grey clay	1
130	1	Compact orange/light brown clay	1
131	1	Cut for 132	6
132	1	250mm diameter ductile water main	6
133	1	Upper fill of 131	6
134	1	Fairly compact grey/green gravel, main fill of 131	6
135	1/2	Surface of earlier road	5
136	2	Pink/brown clay and stones	2
137	2	Very compact red brown clay, probably natural	1
138	2	Grey/green clay, probably natural	1
139	1	Cut for 125	5

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Trench	Type	Scale	Description
1	1/2	Plan	1:20	Plan of trench edges
2	1	Elevation	1:20	E elevation of trench
3	2	Elevation	1:20	E elevation of trench

APPENDIX 3: LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Trench	Description	From	Date
1	1	Hard clay deposit 116	E	02/12/2013
2	1	Drainage culvert with a capstone taken off	S	02/12/2013
3	1	Trench 2, W-facing section	W	02/12/2013
4	1	Drainage culvert with a capstone taken off and 114 removed	W	02/12/2013
5	1	Looking W along the culvert	E	02/12/2013
6	1	Culvert with second cap removed	S	02/12/2013
7	1	Looking E along the culvert	W	02/12/2013
8	1/2	N end of Trench 2	W	03/12/2013
9	1/2	N end of Trench 2	E	03/12/2013