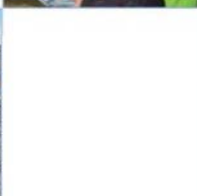
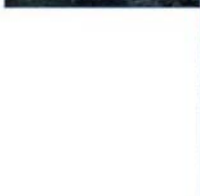
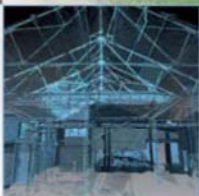
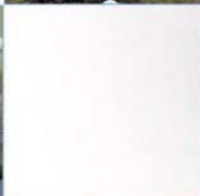


# Scottish National Blood Transfusion Centre, Edinburgh Archaeological Watching Brief Report

*AOC Project: 22842  
3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014*



## Scottish National Blood Transfusion Centre, Edinburgh

### Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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On Behalf of:	NHS National Service Scotland (NSS) Interserve Kajima Partnership & Interserve Construction Limited
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 16742 69724
AOC Project No:	22724
Planning Ref:	13/01175/FUL
OASIS Ref:	197533
Prepared by:	Diana Sproat
Illustration by:	Diana Sproat
Date of Fieldwork:	October to November
Date of Report:	3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2014

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

Author: Diana Sproat

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014

Approved by: Martin Cook

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014

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## Summary

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*This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during the ground-breaking works associated with the new construction of a blood transfusion centre on the outskirts of Edinburgh.*

*No finds or features of archaeological interest were found during the development works and no further archaeological works are recommended.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by the National Service Scotland (NSS), Interserve Kajima Partnerships and Interserve Construction Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground-breaking works associated with the development of a new blood transfusion centre as part of a planning condition on the development (Ref: 13/01175/FUL). The proposed development lies within the administrative area of the City of Edinburgh Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service. A programme of archaeological works was specified by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning And Archaeology* (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

### 1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The development site is located in an unoccupied area of agricultural land to the south of the A71 to the SWW of the city of Edinburgh and just to the north-west of Heriot Watt University campus. It is centred on NGR: NT 16742 69724 (Figure 1).

### 1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The development area looks to always have been undeveloped agricultural land, and it is depicted as such in the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1853, where it is shown to the north-west of the Riccarton Estate, which is now occupied by the Heriot Watt University (Figure 2). A previous evaluation undertaken in 2002 to the south of the site prior to the construction of the Heriot Watt Research Park unearthed no archaeological finds and features (Conolly 2002). The site is also located to the immediate east of the Dalmahoy Historic Designed Landscape.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to safeguard the archaeological resource from inadvertent destruction by development impacts and to liaise with the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council) and the client, in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Ground-breaking associated with the development area was monitored by an experienced field archaeologist and was undertaken using a mechanical digger equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.

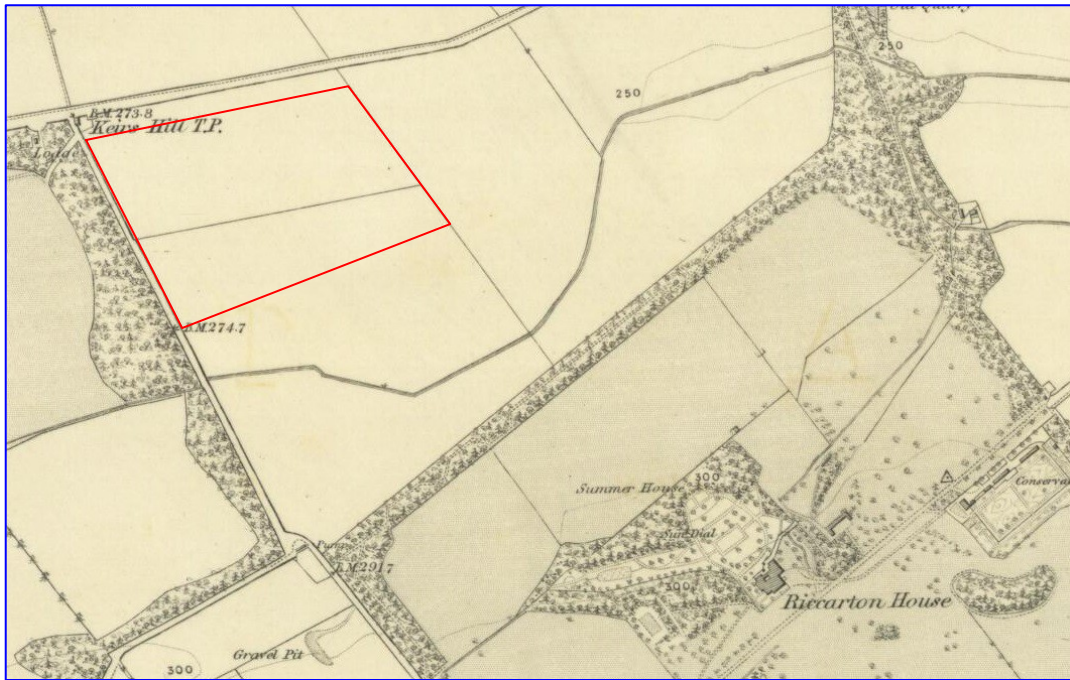


Figure 2: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1853 (development area outlined)

## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The watching brief covered much of the development area, including the footprint of the main buildings and its car park together with further topsoil stripping of the compound area for the development. A topsoil of 0.30m – 0.40m was observed throughout going down on to a light brown clay subsoil.
- 4.2 No finds or features of archaeological interest were found during the watching brief works.

## 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 As no archaeology was exposed as part of the development, no further archaeological works is considered necessary on the site.

## 6 REFERENCES

Ordnance Survey 1853 *Edinburghshire Sheet 5*

Conolly, R 2002 'Heriot-Watt Research Park, Riccarton, City of Edinburgh (Currie parish), evaluation', *Discovery Excav Scot*, vol.3, p 53

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*, February 2010.

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*.

# **Scottish National Blood Transfusion Centre, Edinburgh: Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

## **Appendices**



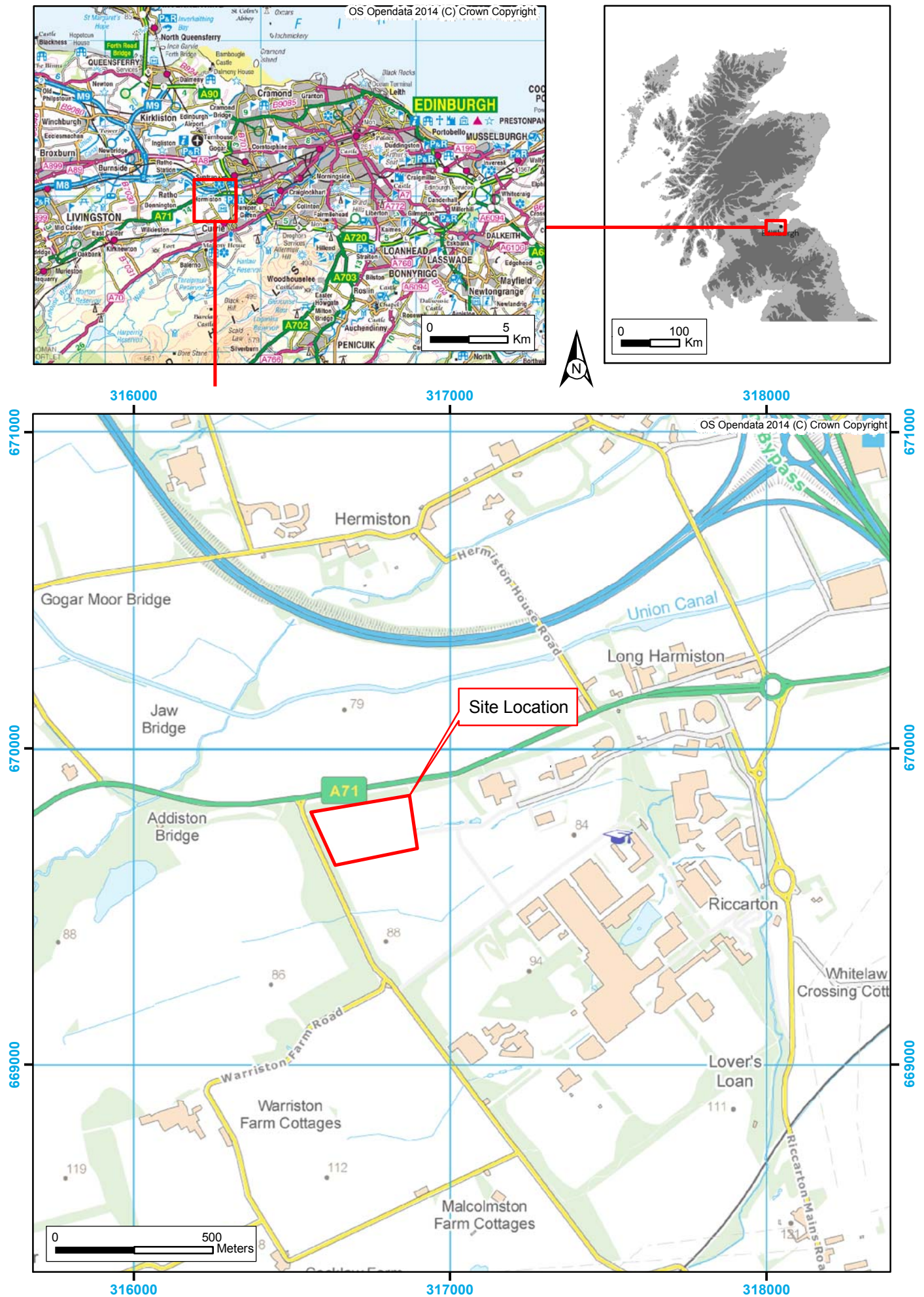


Figure 1: Site Location Plan



**APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record**

## Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1 – 2	General view of area stripped to SW of the site	E	29/10/2014
3 – 4	Road area to N of car park area	W	29/10/2014
5 – 6	General view of the stripped area at SW corner of main building	W	30/10/2014
7 – 8	Soil stripping in landscape area	S	31/10/2014
9 – 10	Stripping of subsoil in main building area	SE	31/10/2014
11	Trench for piping to SE corner of the site	NE	3/11/2014
12	Trench for piping to SE corner of the site	SW	3/11/2014
13	Trench for piping to SE corner of the site	NE	4/11/2014
14 – 15	Trench for piping to SE corner of the site	E	4/11/2014
16 – 17	Trench for piping to SE corner of the site	W	4/11/2014
18 – 19	Stripping of soil in main building area	NE	4/11/2014
20 – 21	Initial clean of stone slabbed feature (later found to be a modern backfilled inspection pit)	E	8/11/2014
22 – 23	Complete topsoil strip of main building area	NW	10/11/2014
24 – 25	Shallow stripping of area for compound	E	10/11/2014
26 – 27	New drainage trench in SE corner	W	11/11/2014
28 – 29	Continuation of drainage trench in SE corner	E	12/11/2014
30 – 31	Soil stripping in NE corner of car park	SE	12/11/2014
32 – 33	Continues excavations in the car park area	SW	13/11/2014
34 – 35	Further soil strip for main building car park	NW	13/11/2014
36 – 37	Further soil strip for main building car park	NE	13/11/2014

**APPENDIX 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report**

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Scottish National Blood transfusion Service, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22842
PARISH:	Currie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Diana Sproat
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 16742 69724
START DATE (this season)	27 <sup>th</sup> October 2014
END DATE (this season)	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in an unoccupied area of land to the south side of the A71 and to the north-west of the Heriot Watt University campus prior to the construction of a new blood transfusion centre. No archaeological features or finds were uncovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	NHS National Service Scotland, Interserve Kajima Partnership & Interserve Construction Limited
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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