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NEWBRIDGE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, EDINBURGH

Data Structure Report of an Archaeological Evaluation

for Northern Trust

11/01939/FUL

July 2011

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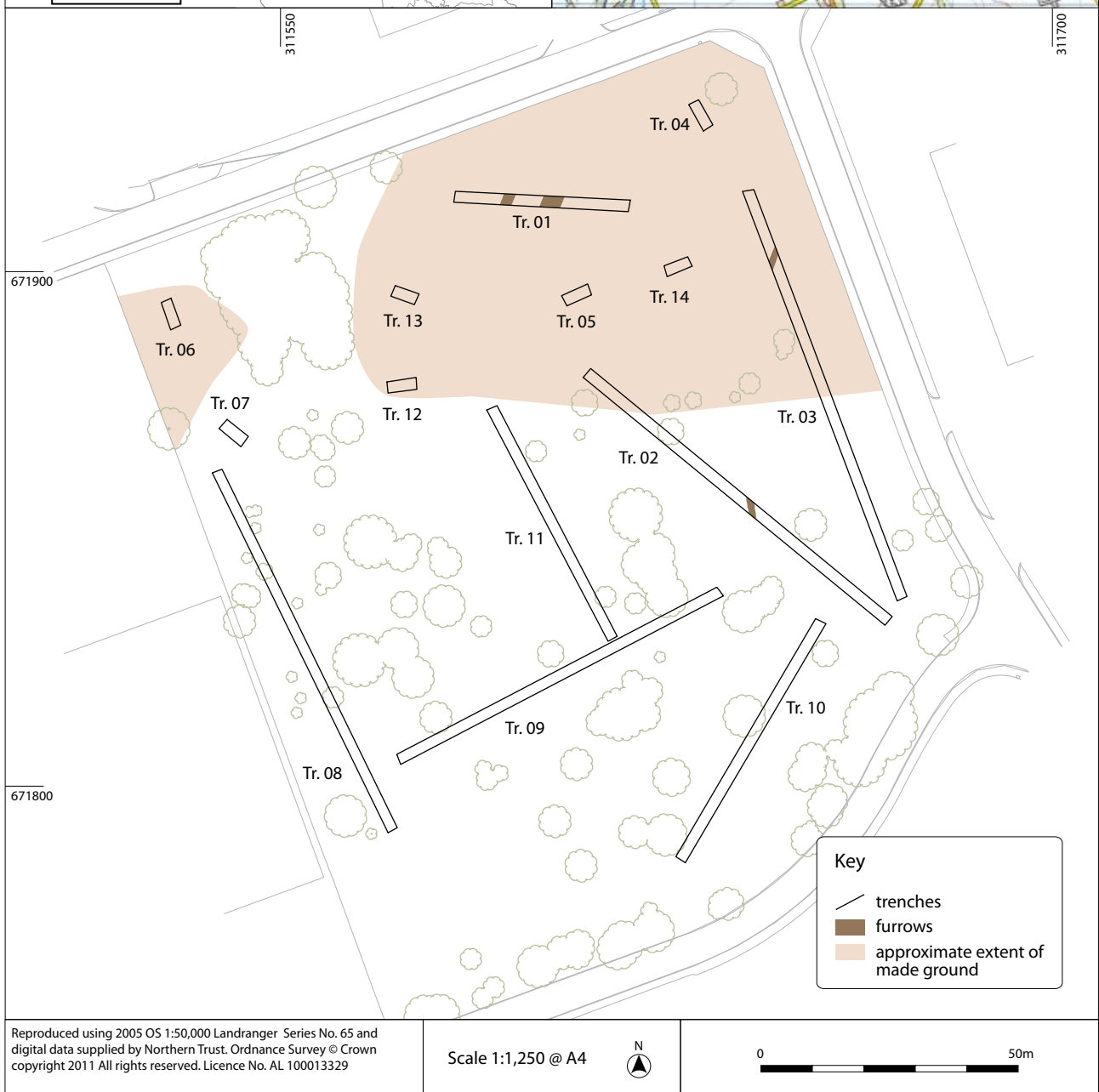
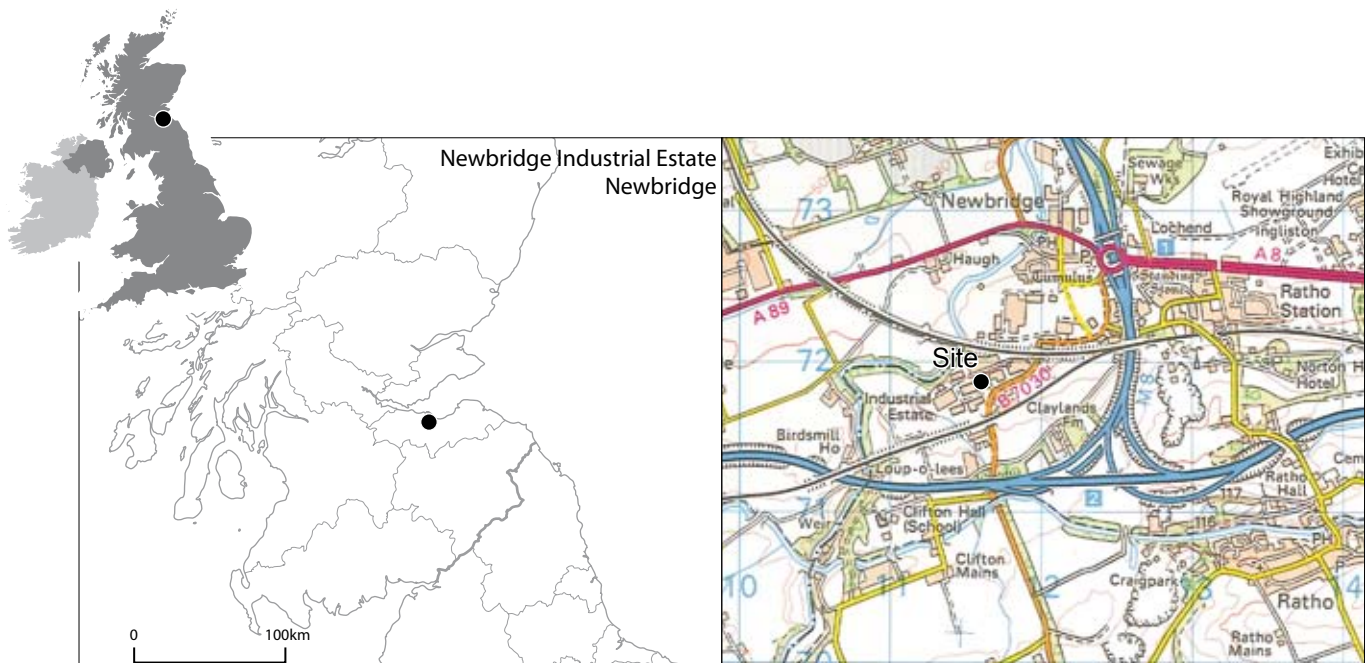
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Illus 1
Location plan

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An archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed industrial development and associated works at Newbridge Industrial Estate, Edinburgh was undertaken in advance of determination of a planning application. A combination of trenches and test pits established that an old ground surface was present beneath an area of deep made ground in the northern half of the proposed development area. No made ground was present in the southern half of the proposed development area. Field drains and cultivation furrows were present across the whole site indicating that little modern truncation of the underlying glacial deposits had taken place during the construction of the surrounding industrial estate. However, despite this no significant archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation, outwith medieval/post medieval rig and furrow; though it was not possible to fully evaluate the northern part of the site due to the safety concerns arising from trenching into the deep made ground.

1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to carry out an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed industrial development, car-parking, landscaping, access and associated works at Newbridge Industrial Estate, Edinburgh. The work was carried out in advance of determination of a planning application and adhered to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Headland Archaeology and agreed with the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS) on behalf of the local planning authority.

This report presents the results of the evaluation, which incorporated 884m² of trial trenching and seven 5m by 2m test pits, undertaken on the 30th June and 1st July.

2. SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

The proposed development lies in a currently undeveloped area measuring approximately 19,500m², to the southeast of Cliftonhall Industrial Estate. The site is bordered to the north east and south by estate roads that serve the wider Newbridge Industrial Estate with Clifton Hall road adjacent to the south eastern site boundary. The current topography of the site is flat with an artificial bund along all sides apart from the easternmost extent. The site was c.54m OD at the southern end falling to c.50m at the

northern. Areas of semi-mature trees were also present in the proposed development area located predominantly in the southern and eastern areas of the site.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, mostly prehistoric, to the south of and in close proximity to the River Almond. The main focus of prehistoric activity appears to be in the area north of the river. Several features including pits, post-holes, a human cremation, a group of ring-ditches and an Iron Age cart burial have been excavated in the area (Headland Archaeology 2001). The proximity of these features to the scheduled site of Huly Hill cairn (an Early Bronze Age mound) is indicative of a probable ritual landscape around this monument.

4. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the work were:

- to test the archaeological potential of the proposed development site in order,
- to inform the scope of any required mitigation measures.



Illus 2
View of Trench 01

2 5. METHODOLOGY

The proposed development site covered an area of $\approx 19,500\text{m}^2$. A 7% sample had been agreed with CECAS with a further 3% kept in reserve used to investigate areas or extend trenches as appropriate during the course of the evaluation. A 7% sample corresponded to the investigation of $\approx 1,365\text{m}^2$ (or $\approx 682\text{m}$ linear at 2m wide). A large area of deep made ground in the northern half of the site (in Phase 1 of the proposed development) was discovered during the course of the evaluation (see results for more detail). The great depth of the made ground made it difficult and dangerous to excavate trenches of significant length. Following consultation with CECAS, it was agreed that investigations in this area would consist of test pits with the goal of establishing the extent and depth of the made ground and to determine if any undisturbed ground survived beneath.

It was possible however to evaluate the southern half of the site (Phase 2) by means of trial trenching, as no made ground was present. Areas of dense trees were exempt from trenching as was the south west corner of the site owing to the presence of a waste water pipe. A total of 442m of trenches were excavated across the whole development area.

A mechanical excavator was used to remove modern overburden and/or topsoil under archaeological control.

Excavation continued until clean geological sediments, significant archaeological deposits or structures were encountered. Only trenches less than 1m and considered safe were entered by site staff.

The resulting surfaces were hand cleaned where necessary and archaeologically investigated (where considered safe as noted above). The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full.

6. RESULTS

A total of fourteen trenches, five of which were 5m by 2m test pits, were excavated (Illus 1). The trenches covered 884m^2 (not including the test pits) with the majority concentrated in the southern half of the site owing to the area of deep made ground in the north. Full trench descriptions can be found in Appendix 1, results are summarized below.

Trench 01 (Illus 1) was located in the northern half of the development area and demonstrated that substantial amounts of made ground (up to 2.5m below the present ground surface) had been deposited here. This mostly consisted of fairly clean (*i.e.* few inclusions) redeposited clay containing some modern material (plastic, wood, scraps of geotextile, *etc.*). Beneath this was an old ground surface consisting of a vegetation layer and up to 0.4m of topsoil over the geological substratum (orange-brown



Illus 3
View of Trench 02



Illus 4
View of Trench 06

sandy clay). A rubble field-drain and two cultivation furrows, all oriented N-S, were present in Trench 01 and are likely to be reasonably contemporary. These were not investigated owing to the depth of the trench (Illus 2).

Test-pitting demonstrated that the made ground was confined to the northern half of the site (see Illus 1 for an approximate extent) and it had been deposited onto the old ground surface. In Trench 04, the old ground surface was present at 1.5m below the present ground surface (at 49.5m OD). In Trenches 05, 13 and 14 the old ground surface was present at a depth of 2m, 1m and 1.8m respectively below the present ground surface (at 51.1m OD).

The old topsoil beneath this ground surface was deepest in Trench 13 where it was 0.8m deep. In the other trenches it was between 0.4 and 0.5m deep.

The trenches in the southern half of the development area were excavated to a depth of between 0.3m and 0.6m below present ground surface, with topsoil overlying the natural substratum. No made ground was present in this part of the site though disturbed natural along the length of Trench 08 (Illus 1) suggests that this area had been landscaped/truncated, probably during the construction of the adjacent industrial unit.

The majority of the trenches contained field-drains (both rubble and ceramic) with Trenches 02 and 03 also containing ephemeral remains of cultivation furrows

(Illus 1). These were up to 1.5m wide, 0.05m deep, oriented N-S in Trench 02 and SW-NE in Trench 01.

7. DISCUSSION

Apart from medieval/post medieval rig and furrow no features or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified in the evaluation trenches though it was not possible to fully evaluate the northern half of the development area due to an area of deep made ground. This made ground had been deposited directly on the old ground surface indicating no modern disturbance had occurred in this area with presence of field-drains and cultivation furrows in Trench 01 confirming this. It is likely the made ground originated from the construction of the surrounding industrial units.

The trenches in the southern area also contained cultivation furrows and field-drains (not illustrated) suggesting that this area had also not been subjected to modern disturbance with the exception of the eastern edge of the site where evidence of landscaping was present. These agricultural features are likely to be post-medieval to reasonably modern (19th century) in date.



8. APPENDICES

8.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Trench register

Trench no.	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Description
01	34	1.4–2.8	Oriented E-W. Made ground present along whole length. Deepens to west. Buried ground surface, consisting of 0.4m of old topsoil over the natural orange-brown sandy clay, is present beneath up to 2.5m of made ground. Two furrows, oriented N-S and c.3m wide and a rubble field were present.
02	85	0.5–1.5	Oriented NW-SE. Topsoil is 0.4m deep. Made ground present at 44m from southern end and continues to north to a max depth of 1.5m. N-S oriented furrow [001] present as a well as several rubble and ceramic field drains.
03	76	0.65–1.5	Oriented NNW-SSE. Topsoil is 0.4m deep. Made ground present at 40m from southern end and continues to north to a max depth of 1.5m. E-W oriented furrow present as a well as a rubble field drain.
04	5	1.8	Test pit. Made ground to a depth of 1.5m over buried ground surface consisting of 0.4m of old topsoil over the natural orange-brown sandy clay.
05	5	2.8	Test pit. Made ground to a depth of 2m over buried ground surface consisting of 0.8m of old topsoil over the natural orange-brown sandy clay.
06	5	3	Test pit. Made ground to a depth of 3m over natural orange-brown sandy clay.
07	5	1.5	Test pit. Made ground to a depth of 1.5m over natural orange-brown sandy clay.
08	77	0.6	Oriented NNW-SSE. Mixed topsoil and hardcore, 0.3m deep, over disturbed natural present to 25m from northern end. Rubble drain present at 65m from southern end.
4 09	70	0.3	Oriented SW-NE. Topsoil up to 0.4m deep over natural orange sandy clay. Contains 3 N-S oriented rubble field drains.
10	50	0.4	Oriented SW-NE. Topsoil up to 0.4m deep over natural orange sandy clay. Contains 2 N-S and 1 E-W oriented rubble field drains.
11	50	0.2 – 1.3	Oriented NNW-SSE. Topsoil is 0.4m deep. Made ground present at 29m from southern end and continues to north to a max depth of 1.3m. Contained one E-W oriented rubble field drain.
12	5	1.3	Test pit. Made ground to a depth of 1.3m over natural orange-brown sandy clay. Ceramic field drain present at base of trench.
13	5	1.8	Test pit. Made ground to a depth of 1m over buried ground surface consisting of 0.8m of old topsoil over the natural orange-brown sandy clay.
14	5	2.3	Test pit. Made ground to a depth of 1.8m over buried ground surface consisting of 0.5m of old topsoil over the natural orange-brown sandy clay.

Context register

Context no.	Area	Description
001	Tr02	Cut of furrow. Oriented N-S. Linear in plan. Gently sloping sides and a flat base. Width-1.66m, depth = 0.06m. Rubble field drain runs down the centre.
002	Tr02	Fill of furrow [001]. Grey brown sandy clay.

Photographic register

Photo no.	Direction facing	Description
001	–	ID Shot
002	E	Trench 01
003	N	Trench 02
004	SW	Furrow [001]- Trench 02
005	S	Trench 03
006	SW	Trench 04 (Test pit)
007	NE	Trench 05 (Test pit)
008	SE	Trench 06 (Test pit)
009	NE	Trench 07 (Test pit)
010	SW	Trench 10
011	E	Trench 09
012	S	Trench 08
013	S	Trench 11
014	NE	Trench 12 (Test pit)
015	NW	Trench 13 (Test pit)
016	SE	Trench 14 (Test pit)
017	W	General view of northern half of site
018	W	General view of northern half of site
019	SW	General view of southern half of site
020	W	General view of site showing density of trees
021	W	General view of site showing density of trees
022	W	General view of site showing trenches amongst trees
023	N	General view of site showing trenches amongst trees



8.2 Appendix 2 – DES Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Newbridge Industrial Estate, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	NIEM11
PARISH:	Kirkliston
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Ross Murray
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR:	NT 11605 71850
START DATE (this season)	31/6/2011
END DATE (this season)	1/6/2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
6 MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:	An archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed industrial development and associated works at Newbridge Industrial Estate, Edinburgh was undertaken in advance of determination of a planning application. A combination of trenches and test pits established that an old ground surface was present beneath an area of deep made ground in the northern half of the proposed development area. No made ground was present in the southern half of the proposed development area. Field drains and cultivation furrow were present across the whole site indicating that little modern truncation of the underlying glacial deposits had taken place during the construction of the surrounding industrial estate. However, despite this no significant archaeological remains (outwith post medieval rig and furrow) were encountered during the evaluation though it was not possible to fully evaluate the northern part of the site due to the safety concerns arising from trenching into the deep made ground.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Unknown
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Northern Trust
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