

BGCE12



BABERTON GOLF COURSE, EDINBURGH

Watching Brief

for CgMS Consulting on behalf of McCarthy and Stone

July 2012

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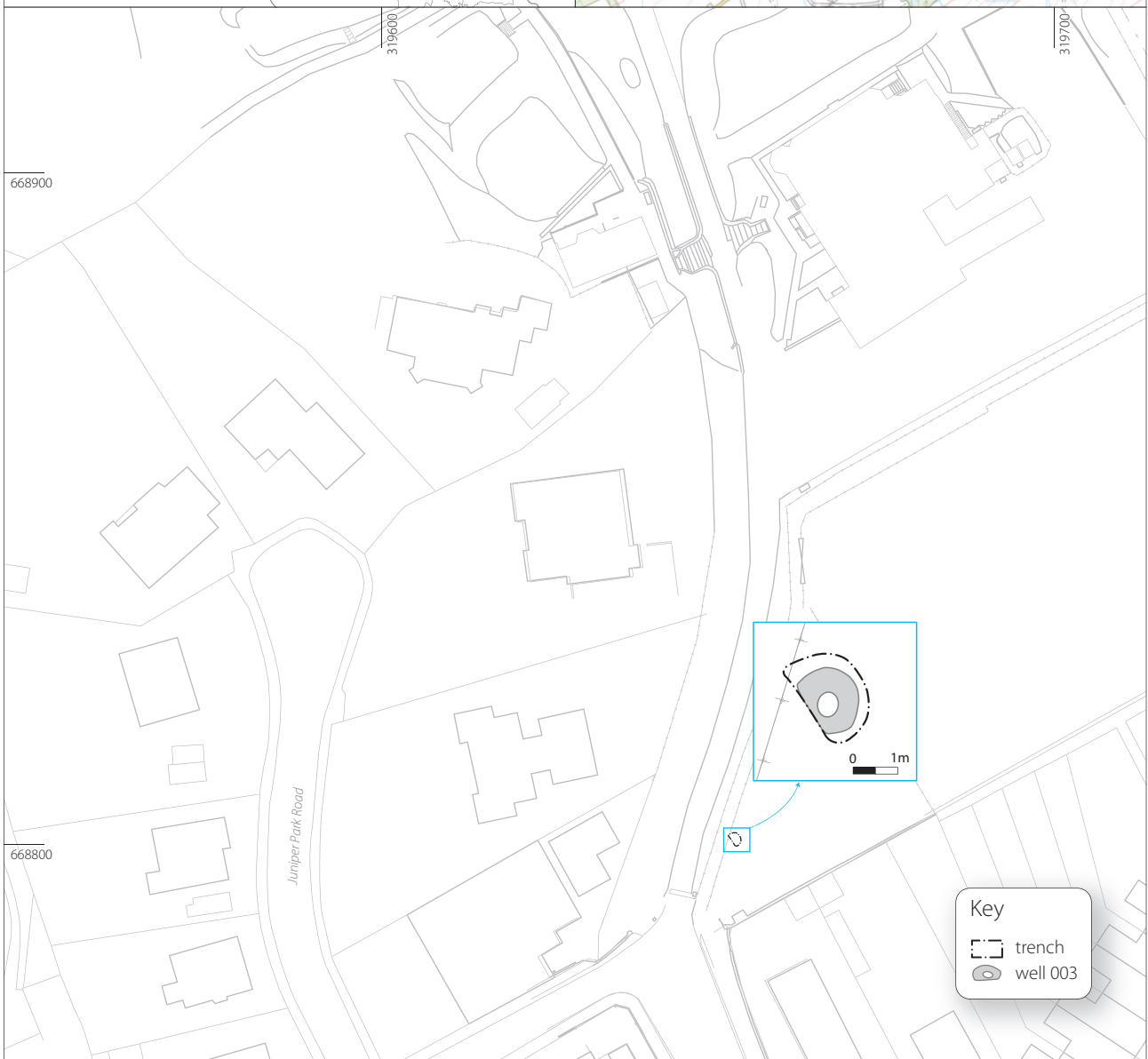
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Baberton Golf Club
Edinburgh



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Scale 1:1,000 @ A4



0 50m

Illus 1
Site location

BABERTON GOLF COURSE, EDINBURGH

Archaeological Recording

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd were asked by CgMs Consulting on behalf of McCarthy & Stone to record a well discovered during construction work at Baberton Golf Course, Edinburgh. The archaeological works carried out on-site were limited to the recording of this structure. The well was built in dry stone and had been infilled in the 20th century. After the well fell into disuse it was capped by placing a former mill stone over the opening of the well.

1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of McCarthy & Stone to carry out a programme of archaeological recording of a structure identified during construction work at Baberton Golf Course, Edinburgh. These works comprised the construction of a new club house and upgrading of the entrance road to the golf course and club house.

2. METHODOLOGY

The aim of the archaeological work was to record a well discovered during the construction works on the site.

All recording was according to IfA standards and guidance. All contexts were given unique numbers and all recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards.

Colour transparency and black and white print photographs were taken and recorded in a photographic register. Record shots of archaeological contexts contained a graduated metric scale visible. An overall site plan was recorded and related to the National Grid. Bulk finds were collected by context. No deposits were sampled.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Fieldwork

The construction works had exposed a backfilled and capped well [003] that was located on a broad north-east to south-west running ridge of high ground to the north-west of Juniper Green. Well [003] comprised a circular dry stone structure of sub-angular stone up to 0.4m by 0.4m by 0.2m laid in irregular courses. The internal diameter of the stone structure of well

[003] was 0.67m and its external diameter was 1.5m the interior of the well was open to a depth of 1.75m. A circular construction cut [005] for well [003] was visible in plan and had a diameter of 2.15m. This was cut into the underlying glacial till [006] and was not excavated. The interior of the well was filled with a silty deposit [002] that contained numerous metal, glass and pottery finds. This deposit was unexcavated but a representative sample of the finds from the surface of this deposit was recovered.

After well [003] had fallen into disuse it was capped using a millstone [007] this circular stone was 1.2m in diameter and 0.19m thick with a central hole 0.2m in size penetrating right through the stone. One edge of the stone had cracked and split off from the stone, although whether this had happened in antiquity or during the current works was not established. If this damage was historic then it might have been the reason the mill stone was discarded.

3.2 Finds assessment

A number of finds were recovered from the fill of a well [002]. These included many complete or near complete objects that are likely to represent material dumped straight into the well, rather than re-used midden material from elsewhere. Finds include stoneware jars, a tin for polish, glass medicine and perfume bottles (one embossed 'for Boots the Chemist, established 1849'), a metal tin for disinfectant, a shaving brush, a 'Williams Shaving Stick', a rounded wooden tobacco pipe bowl, an enamelled metal chamber pot, a brass burner from an oil lamp, a bowl, a saucer, three mismatched plates, a milk jug and no less than 11 other unidentified metal tins. The proportions and removable re-sealable lids of these cans suggest they were for paint or some other household product rather than foodstuffs.

In terms of function, the finds point towards general domestic waste, though the number of metal cans may suggest some other activity, possibly decorating. In terms of dating, most of the finds fit a broad late 19th to mid. 20th century date. The



best of the dating evidence comes from the tablewares. A spongeware bowl and plate are unlikely to have been made after c1935. Another plate is decorated with a motif of four flags, linked by a rope and wreath, with the legend 'FOR RIGHT AND FREEDOM'. This was a commemorative plate made during World War I, acknowledging the alliance of Britain, France, Russia and Belgium. It therefore cannot predate 1914 and is not likely to have been discarded before c1920. If the well was backfilled as one single event then this is likely to have been in the second quarter of the 20th century. However, refuse could have accumulated in the well over a longer period of time.

The finds are of little archaeological value and were not retained.

4. DISCUSSION

The archaeological works recorded the well disturbed by the groundworks. Whilst no evidence was recovered that would date the construction of the well, its construction method and the structure would suggest that it is post-medieval in date. The 2nd edition OS map depicts a pump at the approximate location of the well indicating that the well was open towards the end of the 19th century. The end of use of the well is better dated with a large number of finds from the uppermost deposit [002] filling the well suggesting that it was open, at least for the dumping of rubbish until the 20th century. The use of an old mill stone to cap the structure of the well is unusual and probably relates to the large number of mills that were formerly located in the area.



Illus 3

Interior of well [003], facing south



Illus 2

Well [003], facing south



Illus 4

Well [003] showing millstone [007] used as capping, facing north

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Site registers

Context register

Context	Description
001	Dark brown humic clayey silt up to 0.4m deep. Topsoil.
002	Unexcavated deposit filling well [003]. Silty deposit containing numerous pottery, glass and metal artefacts.
003	Structure of well. Constructed in drystone manner with sub-angular stone up to 0.4m by 0.4m by 0.2m laid in irregular courses with no bonding material. Internal diameter of 0.67m, external diameter of 1.5m and a visible depth of 1.75m.
004	Backfill of construction cut [005]. Unexcavated deposit of dark reddish brown sandy clay silt.
005	Construction cut for drystone structure of well [003]. Unexcavated, circular in plan with a diameter of 2.15m.
006	Glacial till deposit. Orange clayey silt.
007	Millstone re-used as capping for well [003]. Circular conglomerate stone with a diameter of 1.2m 0.19m thick, perforated in the centre of the stone with a hole 0.2m diameter penetrating through the stone.

Photographic register

Photo	Direction	Description
001	–	ID shot
002	W	Well [003] fully exposed
003	S	Well [003] fully exposed
004	E	Well [003] fully exposed
005	N	Well [003] fully exposed
006	S	Interior of well [003]
007	–	Interior of well [003]
008	S	Location of well [003]
009	N	Location of well [003]
010	W	Location of well [003]
011	–	Mill stone [007] capping of well [003]
012	S	Mill stone [007] replaced as capping of well
013	W	Mill stone [007] replaced as capping of well
014	N	Mill stone [007] replaced as capping of well

Drawing register

Drawing	Plan	Description
001	1:20	Plan of well [003]



Appendix 2 – Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Baberton Golf Club, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	BGCE12
PARISH:	City of Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Jamie Humble
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	WELL
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 1956 6880
START DATE (this season)	10/5/12
END DATE (this season)	10/5/12
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	No
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd were asked by CgMs Consulting on behalf of McCarthy & Stone to record a well discovered during construction work at Baberton Golf Course, Edinburgh. The archaeological works carried out on-site were limited to the recording of this structure. The well was built in dry stone and had been infilled in the 20th century. After the well fell into disuse it was capped by placing a former mill stone over the opening of the well.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	No
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	McCarthy and Stone
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	–
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