

NHRE12



JOHNSTON PRESS SITE, NEWHAVEN ROAD, EDINBURGH

Archaeological Monitoring

for Barratt East Scotland

11/02671/FUL

August 2012

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Project Manager
Author
Fieldwork
Graphics
Approved by

Edward Bailey
Alistair Robertson
Alistair Robertson
Anna Sztromwasser
Edward Bailey – Project Manager



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North East

Headland Archaeology
13 Jane Street
Edinburgh EH6 5HE
0131 467 7705
office@headlandarchaeology.com

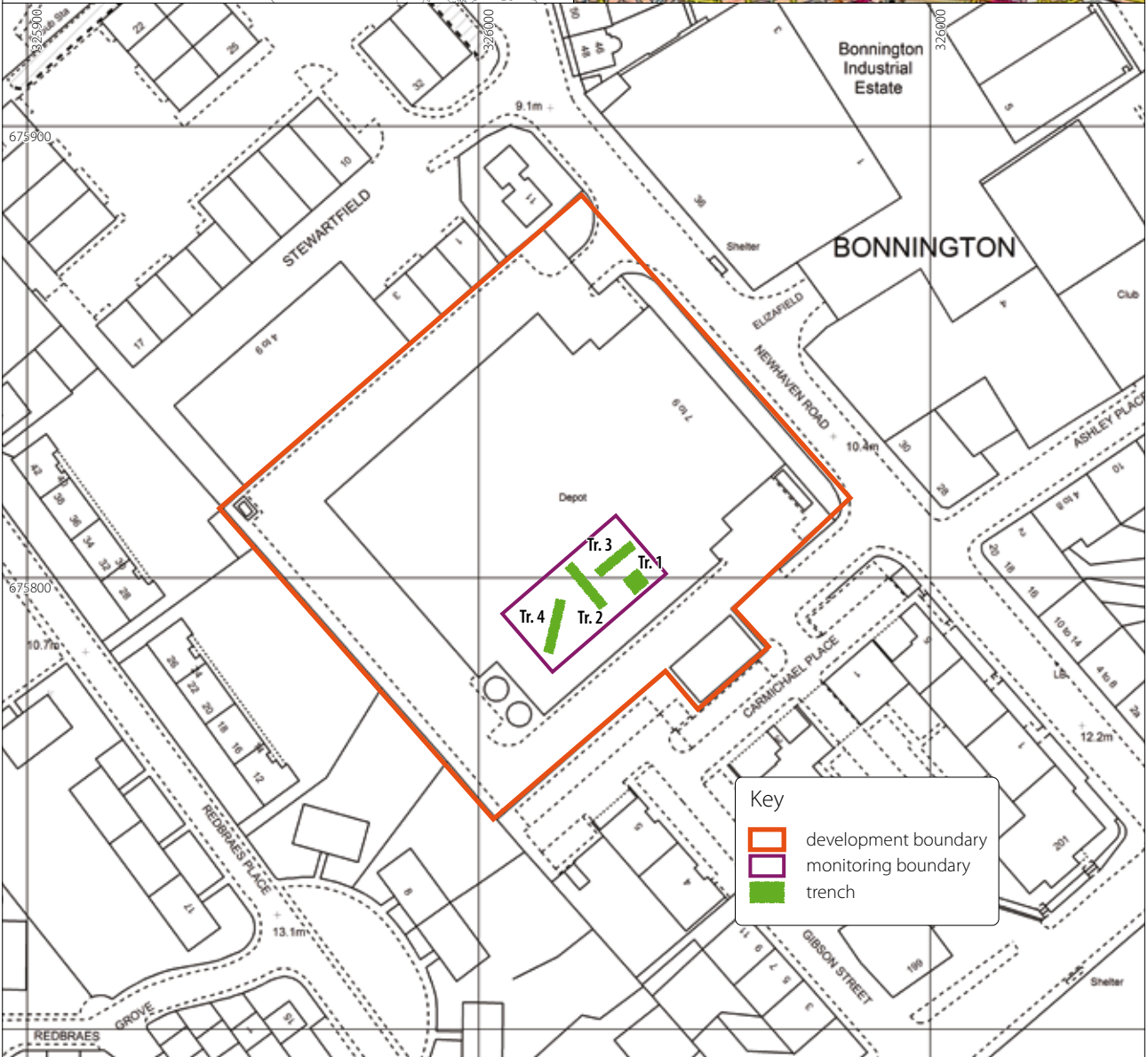
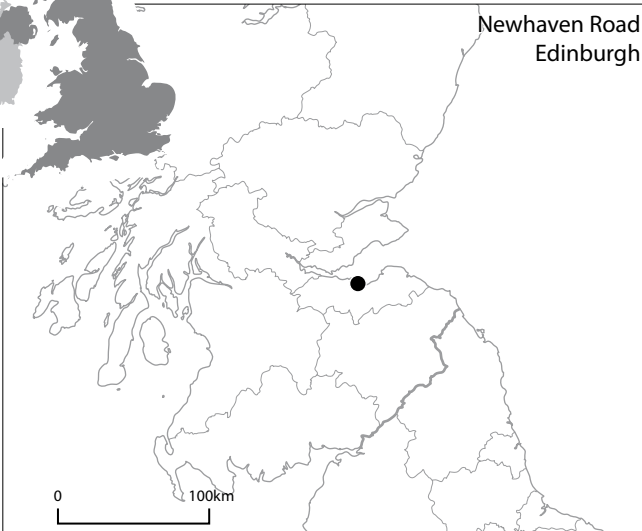
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Scale 1:1,500 @ A4



Illus 1
Site location

JOHNSTON PRESS SITE, NEWHAVEN ROAD, EDINBURGH

Archaeological Monitoring

An application for development (11/02671/FUL) by Barratt East Scotland for construction of housing at the former Johnston Press Site, Newhaven Road Edinburgh has been submitted to the City of Edinburgh Council. As part of the application, City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) submitted a consultation response that included an archaeological condition. This report presents the findings of a programme of archaeological monitoring undertaken as a requirement of that condition.

The programme took place from 7th–12th June and incorporated monitoring of preparatory groundworks along with excavation of four trenches to establish the presence, or otherwise, of remains relating to the 18th century Stewartfield House. No remains of archaeological significance were identified. It was evident that development throughout the 20th century had significantly truncated the monitored area to the level of geological subsoil and removed any sub-surface remains of the structure.

1. INTRODUCTION

An application for development (11/02671/FUL) by Barratt East Scotland (the Client) for construction of housing at the former Johnston Press Site, Newhaven Road Edinburgh has been submitted to the City of Edinburgh Council (the LPA). As part of the application process a consultation response was received from the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS: letter dated 26/8/11).

This response advised that the proposed development be accompanied by a programme of archaeological work secured using the following condition:

No development shall take place on the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (excavation, reporting and analysis & publication) in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

In response to this consultation the client commissioned Headland Archaeology to produce an 'Archaeological Impact Assessment' (31 October 2011), which was submitted to the LPA. This document concluded that the archaeological potential of the proposed area was low, the proposed impacts of the development were limited and recommended no further archaeological work.

Subsequent discussions between the client and CECAS determined outline requirements for a further stage of site works. This report presents the results of those works, undertaken as a programme of archaeological monitoring.

2. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The programme of work sought to mitigate any adverse impacts the proposed development would have on the archaeological resource.

Specific aims included:

- providing supplementary information to the Impact Assessment,
- to confirm, or otherwise, whether any significant remains relating to Stewartfield House have survived 20th century development.

3. SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located at no. 9 Newhaven Road, Edinburgh (the former Johnston Press Site; NGR NT 2602 7581; Illus 1) and has been occupied most recently by industrial buildings. The site is approximately 1ha in area and lies around 11.5m OD. It is underlain by clean geological deposits of sand.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A full description of the archaeological background is presented in the Impact Assessment and will not be repeated here.

The site was formerly the location of Stewartfield House (NMRS NT27 NE1585), built around 1743 by the Mylnes of Powderhall. An unnamed structure at the location is visible on Roy's map of 1747–55, while the 1853 Ordnance Survey depicts the same building



as 'Stewartfield', surrounded by gardens (Illus 2). A depiction of the front of the house is included in Grant (1882, p104; Illus 3). The house stood until the turn of the 20th century, when it was demolished for railway construction.

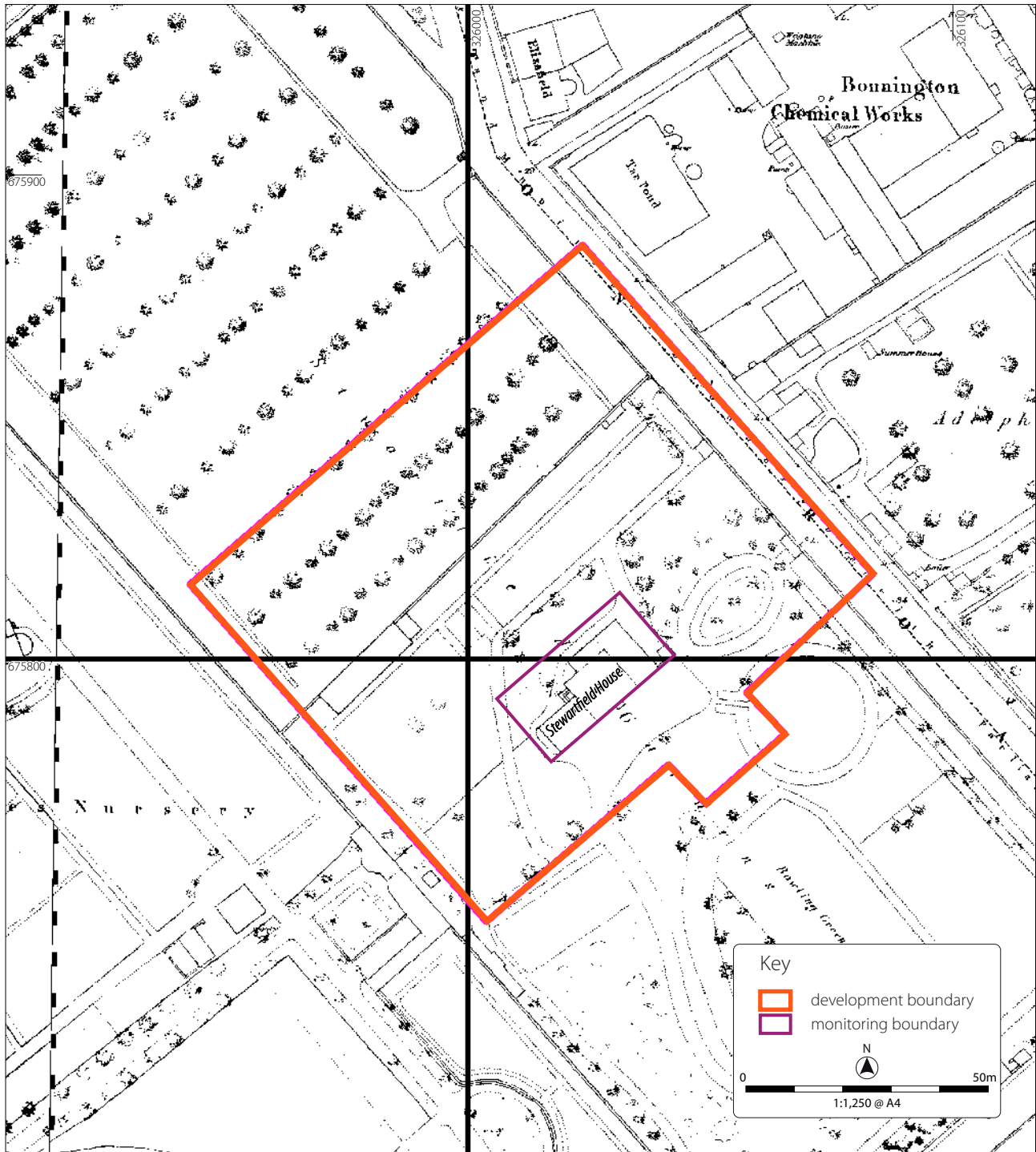
The 1931 Ordnance Survey shows additional development on the site comprising buildings, tanks and yards and by 1966 the railways had been removed. New depot buildings were constructed in the 1970s and 80s, with a printing works subsequently constructed in 1991.

5. METHODOLOGY

The area to be monitored totalled approximately 525m² and incorporated the likely location of Stewartfield House (Illus 1). After the concrete surfacing had been broken out, modern foundations were initially removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed bucket by the demolition contractor.

The shallow depth of most of the foundations in the monitoring area meant it could not be clearly established

2



Illus 2

1st Edition Ordnance Survey showing Stewartfield House & surroundings



Illus 3

1880s depiction of Stewartfield House (top right)

whether or not remains of Stewartfield House were present. The groundworks were expanded (Illus 4) such that four trenches totalling 84m² were excavated across the area to the top of the natural geology, utilising a mechanical excavator equipped with toothless bucket under the direction of the monitoring archaeologist.

All archaeological deposits were recorded using standard archaeological methods and *pro forma* record sheets. Photographs were taken using 35mm colour transparencies and digital photographs. Trenches were recorded and their locations subsequently linked to the National Grid and heights to Ordnance Datum.

6. RESULTS

The groundwork excavations revealed yellow geological sand [001] at a depth of 1.5m (10.15m OD) sealed by modern overburden deposits [002] consisting of rubble, ash, coal and brick which lay beneath the concrete surface [003] (Illus 5).

Most of the groundworks did not exceed the depth of modern overburden [002]; therefore four trenches were excavated to the top of geological sand [001] (Illus 1) to better assess the archaeological potential.

Trench 1 (4 x 4m)

Geological deposit of yellow sand [001] identified at 1.3m depth (11.35m OD). This was sealed by modern overburden deposit [002] which was 1.2m depth on average, surfaced by concrete 0.1m thick (Illus 6).

Trench 2 (12 x 2m)

Geological deposit of yellow sand [001] identified at 1.5m depth (11.15m OD). This was sealed by modern overburden deposit [002] which was 1.4m depth on average, surfaced by concrete 0.1m thick.

Trench 3 (10 x 2m)

Geological deposit of yellow sand [001] identified at 1.7m depth (10.95m OD). This was sealed by modern overburden deposit [002] which was 1.6m depth on average, surfaced by concrete 0.1m thick.

Trench 4 (12 x 2m)

Geological deposit of yellow sand [001] identified at 2m depth (10.65m OD). This was sealed by modern overburden deposit [002] which was 1.9m depth on average, surfaced by concrete 0.1m thick.

No deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the excavations.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Monitoring of the development groundworks and additional trenching revealed no surviving archaeological deposits. More specifically, there was no evidence of sub-surface features relating to the 18th century Stewartfield House.

It was apparent from the trench sections that the area had been heavily truncated, with modern overburden directly sealing geological sand. This correlates with the previous borehole and test pit logs undertaken on the site. 20th century development has therefore removed any below-ground elements of the house, such as basements, as well as the upstanding aspects.

The programme of works has therefore met its objectives, by providing supplementary information to the Impact Assessment and confirming no significant remains relating to Stewartfield House have survived 20th century development.



◀ **Illus 4**

General shot of groundworks with Trench 2 in foreground



◀ **Illus 5**

Shot showing geological sand sealed by modern overburden deposit



◀ **Illus 6**

South-west facing section of Trench 1

8. SOURCES

8.1 Bibliography

David R Murray & Associates 2011 *Proposed Development at 7–9 Newhaven Road, Edinburgh: Site Investigation Report*, Sept 2011: Ref C9237/CIB/NJH.

Grant, J 1880 *Old and New Edinburgh*, Vol. 5. Cassell.

NMRS NT27 NE1585 *Stewartfield House*.

NMRS NT27NE 393 *Mills, Granary*.

Stronach, S 2011 *Johnston Press Site, Newhaven Road Edinburgh. Archaeological Impact Assessment for Barratt East Scotland*.

8.2 Cartography

1853 Ordnance Survey *Edinburghshire*, scale 1:1,056.

1876 Ordnance Survey *Edinburghshire*, scale 1:1,056.

1895 Ordnance Survey *Edinburghshire*, scale 1:500.

1896 Ordnance Survey *Edinburghshire*, scale 1:2,500.

1908 Ordnance Survey *Edinburghshire*, scale 1:2,500.

1914 Ordnance Survey *Edinburghshire*, scale 1:2,500.

1931 Ordnance Survey *Edinburghshire*, scale 1:2,500.

1944–48 Ordnance Survey, scale 1:2,500.

1955–64 Ordnance Survey, scale 1:2,500.

1966–78 Ordnance Survey, scale 1:1,250.

1977–87 Ordnance Survey, scale 1:1,250.

1987–92 Ordnance Survey, scale 1:1,250.

1991 Ordnance Survey, scale 1:1,250.

1747–55 Roy W *Military Survey of Scotland*, (NLS Maps website).



APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Site registers

Context register

Context	Description
001	Geological deposit of yellow sand
002	Mixed, modern overburden deposit; comprises rubble, ash, coal, brick and loam, up to 2m in depth and directly overlying deposit [001]
003	Concrete surfacing, on average 0.1m thick; Sealed overburden deposit [002]

Photographic register

Photo	Direction facing	Description
1	–	ID shot
2	W	Groundworks section showing modern overburden [002]
3	NE	Southwest facing section of Trench 1
4	E	Groundworks section showing modern overburden [002]
5	N	Trench 2
6	NW	Southeast facing section of Trench 3
7	SW	Trench 4
8	N	General site shot
9	SE	Northwest facing section of Trench 4

Appendix 2 – Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	9 Newhaven Road, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	NHRE12
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Alistair Robertson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological monitoring, trial trenching
NMRS NO(S):	NT27 NE1585
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Post medieval building
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	none
NGR	NT 2602 7581
START DATE (this season)	7th June 2012
END DATE (this season)	12th June 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	none
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned to carry out a programme of archaeological monitoring and additional trial trenching in advance of development to establish the presence, or otherwise, of remains relating to the 18th century Stewartfield House. No remains of archaeological significance were identified. It was evident that development throughout the 20th century had significantly truncated the monitored area to the level of geological subsoil and removed any sub-surface remains of the structure.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	none
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS and report lodged with CECAS.
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Barratt East Scotland
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Headland Archaeology Ltd, 13 Jane St, Edinburgh EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	alistair@headlandarchaeology.com



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North East

Headland Archaeology
13 Jane Street
Edinburgh EH6 5HE
0131 467 7705
office@headlandarchaeology.com

North West

Headland Archaeology
10 Payne Street
Glasgow G4 0LF
0141 354 8100
glasgowoffice@headlandarchaeology.com

South & East

Headland Archaeology
Technology Centre, Stanbridge Road
Leighton Buzzard LU7 4QH
01525 850878
leighton.buzzard@headlandarchaeology.com

Midlands & West

Headland Archaeology
Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road
Hereford HR4 9NZ
01432 364 901
hereford@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com