

CBSL10-001

Archaeological Monitoring at Casselbank Street, Leith,
Edinburgh

Watching brief

For Mr R. Heinfer

10/00431/FUL

December 2012

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HA Job no:	CBSL10-001
NGR:	NT 2684 7584
Parish:	Leith
Council:	City of Edinburgh
OASIS ref.:	headland1-139906
SMR no.:	none
Archive will be deposited with:	RCAHMS
Project Manager:	Sorina Spanou
Author:	Donald Wilson
Fieldwork:	Ross Murray
Graphics:	Ross Murray

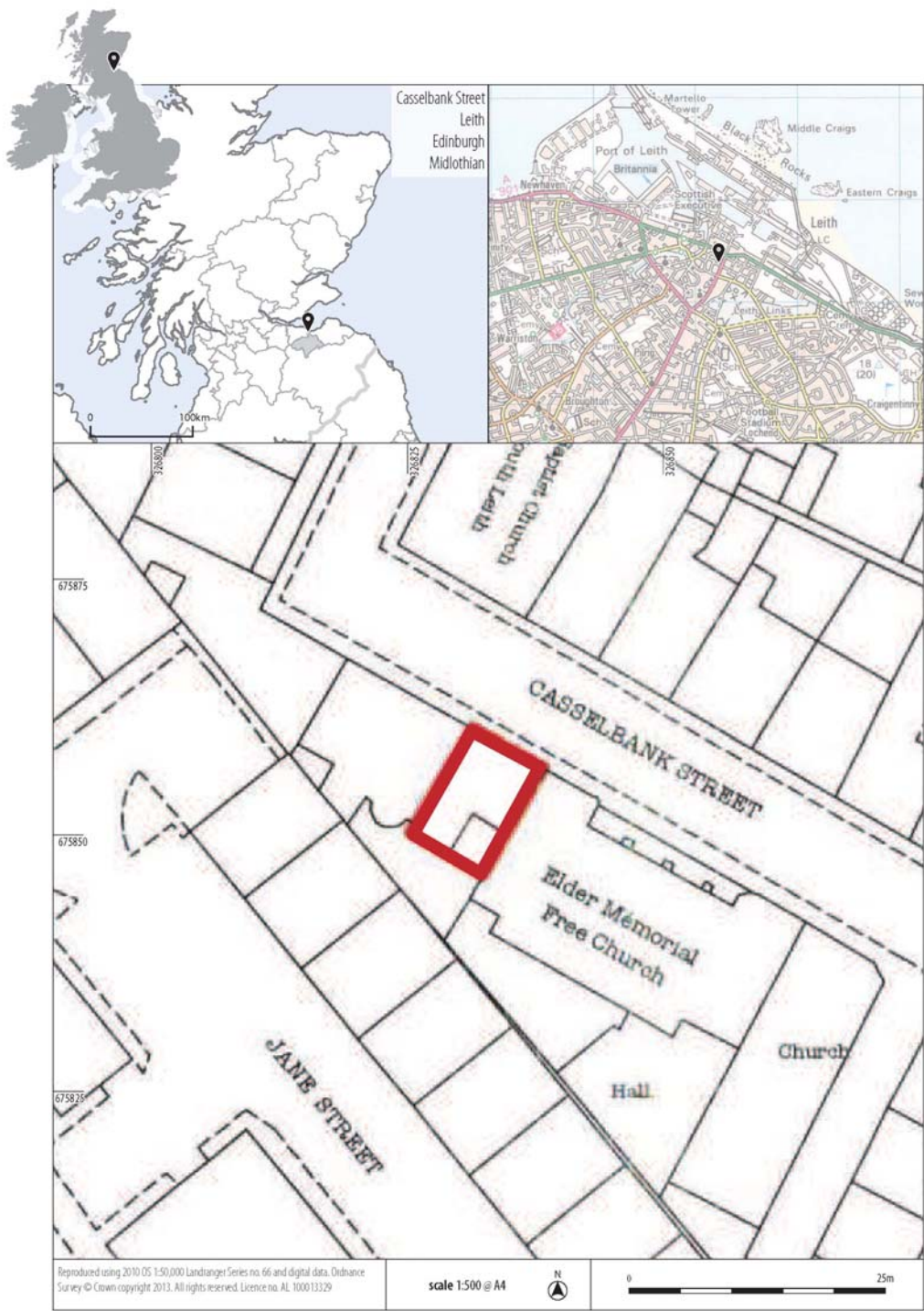
Approved by: Sorina Spanou – Project Manager

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- 1 - Location Plan showing the site.
- 2 – Extract from the first edition ordnance survey
- 3 - View of the foundation trench to the S end of the site, facing W
- 4 - View of foundation trenches facing NW



Illus 1
Site location

Summary

A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out on ground breaking works associated the construction of a single dwelling at Casselbank Street, Leith, Edinburgh in order to satisfy a condition of the planning consent for the development. The monitoring of ground works covered an area 64m² within a gap between existing buildings facing onto Casselbank Street. The results of this work revealed a layer of garden soil underlying the modern ground surface. No features of archaeological significance were identified during this work although a small number of clay pipe stems dating to the 18th/19th century were recovered from the garden soil.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to carry out a programme of archaeological monitoring during ground works associated with the construction of a single dwelling at 7 Casselbank Street, Leith, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 2684 7584). The work was carried out in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent (ref: 10/00431/FUL) and adhered to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Headland Archaeology and agreed with City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

This report presents the results of the monitoring, which covered an area of approximately 64 sq m. The fieldwork was undertaken in December 2012 in dry weather conditions.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site is located at 7 Casselbank Street close to the core of historic Leith (**Illus 1**). At the time of the work, it was occupied by demolition rubble resulting from the removal of a garage previously sited at this location. The site was bounded to the east, west and south by upstanding buildings and the remains of a sandstone wall facing the street to the north.



Illus 2: extract from the 1852 first edition Ordnance Survey

3 BACKGROUND

The site is immediately south of the historic core of Leith in an area that saw concerted development from the 19th century onwards. The first edition Ordnance Survey map (1852) (**Illus 2**) depicts the area as undeveloped gardens. Later maps also show little change to this area until the 1920s when significant development across the wider area was carried out including the construction of a garage in the location of the proposed development.

The site also carried the potential to encounter evidence of earlier activity in the area; in particular evidence of the siege works associated with the Earl of Hertford's 1559-60 Siege of Leith.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- In general, the purpose of the work was to record any archaeological remains threatened by the development and to report on the results of this work.
- The resulting archive (finds and records) will be organised and deposited in the National Monuments Record of Scotland to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Site Works

Ground breaking works associated with the foundation trenches were carried out under the direct supervision of a monitoring archaeologist. A flat-edged bucket fitted to a back-actor was used to remove soft deposits and/or made ground. Machine excavation continued until the formation levels, significant archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits were exposed; whichever is encountered first.

The monitoring archaeologist was allowed the opportunity to investigate and record any exposed significant archaeological features, artefacts or deposits encountered by the works.

5.2 Recording

All recording followed IfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological evaluations. All contexts and small finds have been given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards. 35mm colour transparencies were taken with a graduated metric scale clearly visible. Digital images were also taken for illustrative purposes. A full list of the photographic record can be found in Appendix 1

A site plan including all identified features, areas of excavation and other pertinent information was recorded. The site plan is accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to OD.

5.3 Reporting and Archive

On completion of the evaluation Headland will produce a site archive that will include a copy of this report. An online OASIS report (headland1-139906) will be completed and will be accompanied by a pdf report and boundary file. A summary report will be submitted for inclusion in *Discovery and Excavation Scotland* (a copy of which can be found in Appendix 2).

The project archive will be compiled in accordance with the guidelines published by the Institute for Archaeologists on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (July 2007). The documentary and digital archive will be submitted to RCAHMS within six months of completion of all work on this project. All finds will be reported to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel, which will determine the ultimate destination of the material archive. Once this is determined, and within three months, arrangements will be made with the specified museum for transfer of material and title.

6 RESULTS

The ground breaking works undertaken as part of this development comprised the excavation of a series of foundation trenches across the site. These trenches were between 0.7m and 1.5m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m below the present ground surface. Excavation during ground breaking works did not reach the geological subsoil.



Illus 3: View of the foundation trench to the S end of the site, facing W

The stratigraphy recorded in these trenches comprised 0.4m of a mid-brown silty sand with inclusions of occasional oyster shells, animal bone and clay pipe stem fragments. The pipe stem fragments were thought to date from the 18th-19th century. This garden soil underlay 0.2m of made ground of dark brown silty sand with frequent rubble inclusions formed by the demolition of the extant garage.



Illus 4: View of foundation trenches facing NW

7 DISCUSSION

The results of the programme of monitoring recorded a layer of garden soil relating to the 18th and 19th century use of this area of Leith. No evidence of the 16th century siege works was revealed although the geological subsoil was not exposed during these works.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliographic sources

Archaeological Archives Forum Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (published by the IfA 2007).

IfA Standards and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (revised October 2008).

8.2 Cartographic sources

1852 Ordnance Survey six-inch
Edinburghshire Sheet 16

8.3 Other sources

SPP: Scottish Planning Policy (February 2010;
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/03132605/0>)

9 APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Photographic register

Frame no.	Direction	Description
001	SW	View of foundation trench
002	NE	View of foundation trench
003	NW	View of foundation trench section
004	NW	View of foundation trench
005	NW	View of foundation trench section
006	NE	View of foundation trench
007	SW	View of foundation trench
008	SW	General view of site
009	NE	View of wall 003
010	NW	General view of site
011	E	View of step foundation for demolished earlier building
012	E	View of step foundation for demolished earlier building

9.2 Appendix 2 – Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Archaeological monitoring at Casselbank Street, Leith, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	CBSL10
PARISH:	City of Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Donald Wilson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 2684 7584
START DATE (this season)	December 2012
END DATE (this season)	December 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out on ground breaking works in order to satisfy a condition of the planning consent for the construction of a single dwelling at Casselbank Street, Leith, Edinburgh. The monitoring of ground works covered an area 64m ² within a gap between existing buildings. The results of this work revealed a layer of garden soil underlying the modern ground surface. No features of archaeological significance were identified during this work although a small number of clay pipe stems dating to the 18 th /19 th century were recovered from the garden soil.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Robert Heinfer
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Headland Archaeology Ltd, 13 Jane St, Edinburgh. EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	don.wilson@headlandarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to be lodged with City of Edinburgh SMR and NMRS.