

HWRP/01



HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARK, AVENUE NORTH ROAD EXTENSION

Watching Brief

commissioned by Heriot-Watt University

August 2014

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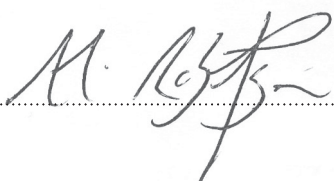
August 2014

project info

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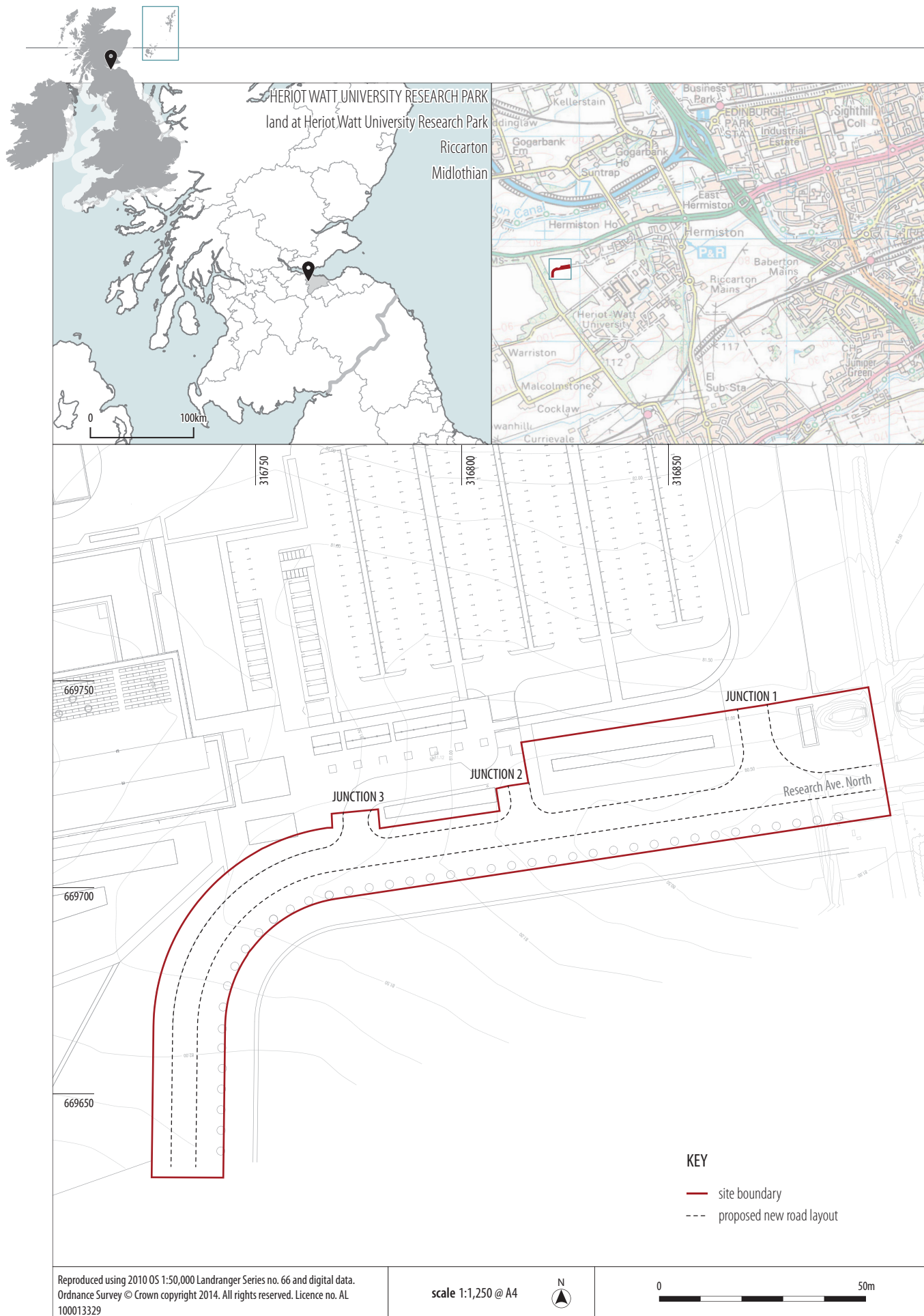


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ILLUS 1
Site location

HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARK, AVENUE NORTH ROAD EXTENSION

Watching Brief

An archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken on the construction of a road extension to Avenue North at Heriot-Watt University Research Park, Riccarton, Midlothian in response to a condition of planning consent. This report presents the findings of the Watching Brief.

The works took place between 10th and 30th of July 2014 and involved the monitoring of ground-works associated with the construction of the road extension. No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed during the monitoring.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Heriot-Watt University to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of the construction of a road extension to Avenue North at Heriot-Watt University Research Park. The work was carried out in order to fulfil a condition placed on planning consent by City of Edinburgh Council. This report represents the findings of the Watching Brief.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In line with planning guidelines (NPPG 5) the main objective of the archaeological works was to preserve by record any archaeological remains exposed and threatened by the proposed development.

3 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located around 85m OD at National Grid Reference NT 16790 69710, immediately north of Heriot-Watt University's Riccarton Campus. The site slopes down from north to south towards an east-west running partially culverted stream, with a plateau to the south of the area of the road construction. More generally the site could be characterised as undulating gently. At the time of construction the land was under cereal crop and was well drained. The superficial

geology is Devensian Till while the bedrock geology is a Gullane formation of the Strathclyde Group type (www.bgs.ac.uk).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

An archaeological evaluation (Conolly, 2002) was undertaken by Headland Archaeology in 2002 and revealed no archaeological features or deposits of significance. However, previous work in advance of the construction of the A71 identified a flint scatter to the north of the roadway, and a number of cropmarks have been identified to the east.

5 METHOD

All ground-works for the road construction including the excavation of trenches for drains, ten test pits for soil compaction testing and topsoil stripping were carried out under the supervision of the monitoring archaeologist in accordance with the methodology stipulated in the Written Scheme of Investigation. Topsoil was removed by a 360 machine excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and the uncovered subsoil was inspected for archaeological features.



ILLUS 2

View N of road Junction excavation

ILLUS 3

View NE of topsoil stripping in progress

ILLUS 4

View E of topsoil stripping in progress



6 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The groundworks exposed geological subsoil of yellow brown sand, silt and gravel with stone inclusions. This was sealed by mid greyish brown silty loam topsoil that measured between 0.25m and 0.3m depth. No archaeologically significant features or deposits were observed.

The results of the watching brief suggest that while the well-drained soil and gently undulating nature of the site may have been attractive in earlier periods for settlement or agriculture, it is likely any evidence for such activity has been truncated by modern ploughing. It was also noted however that the presence of a de-watering system to the north of the road construction is indicative of a high water table; with nearby buildings within the Research Park requiring water management systems to re-distribute the groundwater (J. Coyle, pers. comm.). During ground-works groundwater was observed at 1.4m depth. All this would indicate that historically the area was more waterlogged than today and therefore potentially unsuitable for settlement; which would explain the lack of archaeological material.

7 REFERENCES

Conolly, R 2002 *Results of an Archaeological Evaluation at Heriot-Watt University Research Park, Riccarton Campus, Edinburgh*, Headland Archaeology, unpublished client report.



8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Photo	Direction	Description
001	S	North facing section of Test Pit 1
002	S	North facing section of Test Pit 1 (+ scale)
003	N	South facing section of test pit 2
004	N	South facing section of test pit 3
005	N	South facing section of test pit 1
006	S	View of north-south trench / ditch (eastern edge of site)
007	SW	General site view
008	W	General site view (showing test pits)
009	E	General site view (showing test pits)
010	SW	General site view
011	SW	General site view
012	NE	General site view
013	W	Working shot of trench being excavated
014	E	View of trench
015	E	View of trench
016	SW	Working shot of trench being excavated
017	E	View of trench
018	NW	View of trench
019	W	Working shot of trench being excavated
020	SE	View of trench
021	SW	General site view
022	SW	View of manhole chamber
023	E	View of trench
024	NW	View of trench
025	W	View of trench with concrete O-ring in place
026	W	Working shot of trench being excavated
027	NW	South-east facing section of chamber (concrete O-ring)
028	NE	Working shot of trench
029	SW	Working shot of trench
030	SW	Working shot of trench
031	SW	Working shot of trench
032	NE	Working shot of trench
033	E	View of crop
034	W	East facing section of chamber

Photo	Direction	Description
035	N	View of south end of trench completed
036	S	View of south end of trench completed
037	NE	General site view
038	NE	View of concrete chamber (O-ring)
039	N	View of test pit 4
040	N	View of test pit 5
041	S	View of test pit 6
042	NW	View of compaction device an operator in action
043	NE	View of test pit 7
044	E	View of test pit 8
045	E	View of test pit 9
046	E	View of compaction measuring contraption
047	E	View of compaction measuring contraption
048	E	View of test pit 10
049	NE	General site view with test pits
050	SW	General site view with test pits
051	E	Working shot trench being excavated
052	NW	Area after stripping
053	NE	Area after stripping
054	S	Area after stripping
055	N	Working shot stripping in progress
056	N	Working shot stripping in progress
057	NE	Working shot stripping in progress
058	NW	View of two cobble drains being uncovered
059	NW	View of two cobble drains
060	N	Working shot stripping in progress
061	N	Working shot stripping in progress
062	N	Working shot stripping in progress
063	NE	Working shot stripping in progress
064	E	View of cobble drain
065	W	Storm approaching
066	NW	Working shot stripping in progress
067	NW	Working shot stripping in progress
068	SW	Working shot stripping in progress
069	W	Area stripped of topsoil
070	W	Area stripped to precise level
071	W	Area stripped to precise level
072	W	View of machines in crop

Photo	Direction	Description
073	SW	Area stripped to precise level
074	NW	Area stripped of topsoil
075	W	View of machines in crop
076	W	Area stripped to precise level
077	E	Area stripped of topsoil
078	W	Working shot stripping in progress
079	W	View of entrance to site
080	E	Topsoil stripped
081	NE	Stripping in progress
082	W	Subsoil stripped
083		View of inside of service pipe
084	S	Eastern junction top part stripped into subsoil
085	S	Eastern junction top part stripping
086	SE	Eastern junction top part stripped.
087	E	Eastern junction stripping
088	SE	Eastern junction with service pipes laid
089	SW	View of eastern junction with service pipes laid and covered
090	E	Topsoil stripped
091	SE	Working shot topsoil stripping
092	E	View of topsoil stripped
093	SE	View of topsoil stripped
094	E	View of topsoil stripping
095	SW	View of western end with gravel laid
096	E	Topsoil stripped
097	E	View of subsoil stripped
098	E	Working shot of stripping in progress
099	NE	Working shot of stripping in progress
100	NE	Working shot of stripping in progress
101	NE	Working shot of stripping - eastern end of site
102	NW	Working shot of slot for drain at southern end of site
103	E	Working shot stripping eastern end of site
104	E	View of eastern end of site - topsoil stripped
105	E	View of eastern end of site - topsoil stripped
106	SE	View of eastern road junction - tarmac laid
107	E	View of western junction - topsoil stripped
108	NE	View of western junction stripped to lowest level
109	NE	View of western end of road with kerbs inserted
110	E	View of middle junction - topsoil stripped

Photo	Direction	Description
111	NE	View of middle junction stripped to lowest level
112	N	View of middle junction being stripped to lowest level
113	NW	View of middle junction stripped to base
114	W	View of road with hardcore and gravel laid
115	W	View of site from top of gravel heap
116	E	View of site from top of gravel heap



APPENDIX 2 DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Heriot-Watt Research Park, Avenue North Road Extension
PROJECT CODE:	HWRP/01
PARISH:	Currie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Steve Cox
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	none
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 1679 6971
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END DATE (this season)	30/07/2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	—
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken on the construction of a road extension to Avenue North at Heriot-Watt University Research Park, Riccarton, Midlothian in response to a condition of planning consent. Monitoring of all ground-works associated with the construction of the road extension was undertaken. No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	—
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NMRS
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Heriot-Watt University
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	—
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