

NSSE/01



ASDA, 1 CLIFTONHALL ROAD, EDINBURGH

Archaeological Watching Brief

commissioned by Woodgreen Construction Ltd
on behalf of ASDA Stores Ltd

15/01522/FUL

August 2015

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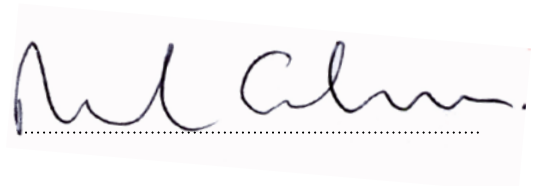
August 2015

project info

HA JOB NO. NSSE/01
NGR NT 12419 72526
PARISH Kirkliston
LOCAL AUTHORITY City of Edinburgh
OASIS REF. headland1-218875

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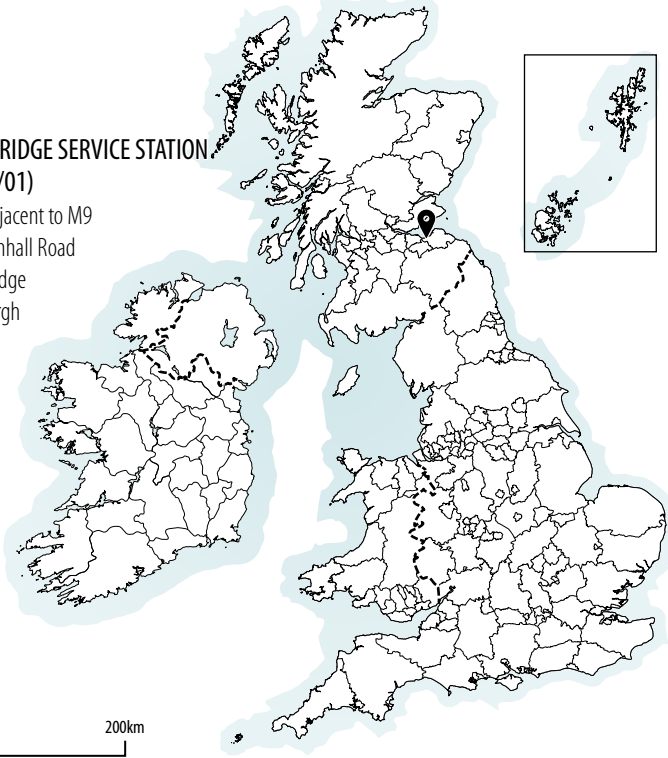
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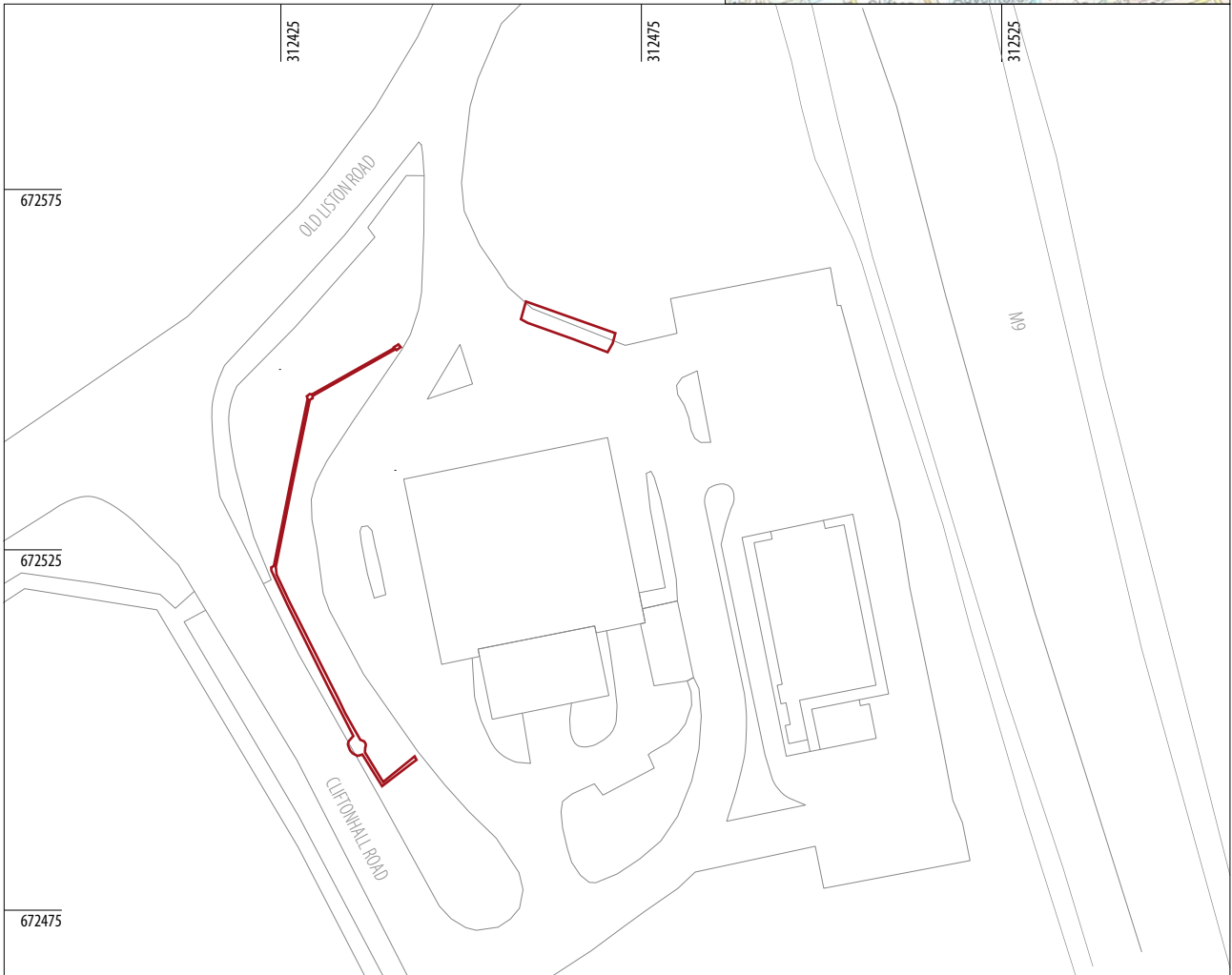
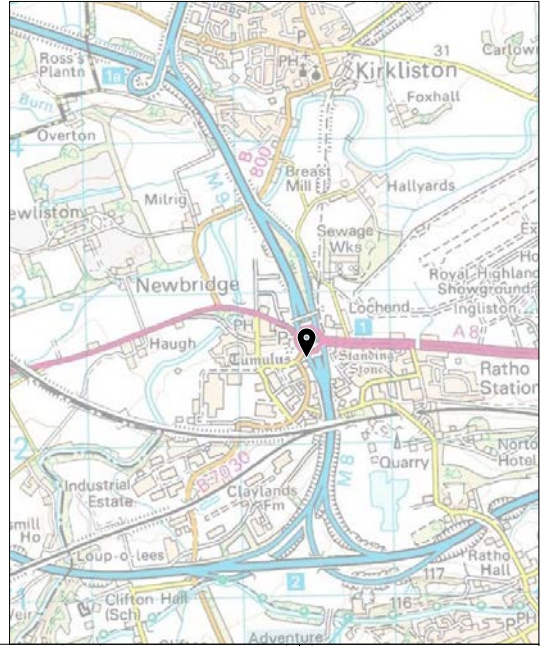
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**NEWBRIDGE SERVICE STATION
(NSSE/01)**

land adjacent to M9
1 Cliftonhall Road
Newbridge
Edinburgh




0 200km



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KEY
 monitored area

0  50m
 scale 1:1,000 @ A4

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ILLUS 1
 Site location

ASDA, 1 CLIFTONHALL ROAD, EDINBURGH

Archaeological Watching Brief

An application by Woodgreen Construction Ltd, on behalf of ASDA Sores Ltd, for the installation of collection lockers and associated services (15/01522/FUL) at the existing Newbridge Service Station, Edinburgh was approved by The City of Edinburgh Council. A condition attached to approval required an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken on ground breaking works associated with the development, as stipulated by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeological Service (CECAS). This report presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief.

The works took place on the 21st-22nd July and involved archaeological monitoring of preparatory groundworks for the footprint of the lockers and on the excavation of a trench for connecting services. Although the site is located in a previously developed area surrounding an active service station, there are a number of archaeological sites and find spots in the vicinity. The depth required for the works did not go below that of the made-ground and no remains of archaeological significance were identified.

1 INTRODUCTION

An application for the installation of 'Click and Collect' lockers (15/01522/FUL) by Woodgreen Construction Ltd. (the client) on behalf of ASDA Stores Ltd. for a development at 1 Cliftonhall Road, Edinburgh was approved by the City of Edinburgh Council (the LPA). As a condition attached to the approval of the application, an archaeological watching brief was required on ground breaking works associated with the development.

The client commissioned Headland Archaeology to agree a programme of archaeological work with the CECAS, encapsulated in a written scheme of investigation (WSI). This report presents the results of those works, undertaken as an archaeological watching brief.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The watching brief sought to provide further information about the archaeological resource, to enable appropriate decisions to be reached regarding the planning submission and therefore mitigate any adverse impacts on that resource.

3 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located at National Grid Reference NT 12419 72526, in the centre of Newbridge, to the West of Edinburgh City itself (Illus 1). It is situated on an industrial estate less than 100m from the M9, by Edinburgh Airport. The site itself comprises two small areas of turf-

covered ground around a petrol station forecourt, along with two road crossings within the grounds of the petrol station.

The area to be monitored included the turf covered main area to the north, measuring roughly 2x5m, where the lockers were to be sited. In addition, a service trench was required to run around the periphery of the station to enter the western end of the locker kiosk. The service trench measured roughly 80m in length, 0.3m width and 0.6m depth and ran through turf covered areas, as well as crossing the entrance and exit roads to the petrol station.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is underlain by superficial geological deposits formed from gravel, sand and silt laid down during the Quaternary Period. These in turn overlie sedimentary bedrock deposits of Carboniferous origin (British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

Newbridge lies within an area of high archaeological potential. Roughly 30m to the north of the site is the Bronze-age burial mound of Huly Hill (an Early Bronze Age mound; NMRS NT17SW 8). Excavated in 1830, a Bronze Age spearhead, animal charcoal and small bone fragments were recovered from the tumulus. Of the two concentric circles of standing stones surrounding the tumulus, just two stones still remain. Monitoring took place nearby in both 1999 and 2001, with the 1999 work providing no archaeologically significant remains (Miller 1999); however the 2001 monitoring identified features dating from several periods. These include prehistoric pits, post-holes, a human cremation, several ring-ditches



ILLUS 2

E facing view of service trench to road crossing



ILLUS 3

SW facing view of main area of excavation for lockers



ILLUS 4

SE facing view of machining of service trench

and an Iron Age cart burial (Baker & Hunter 2001) and suggest the monument is part of a wider ritual landscape.

The cart burial is of particular significance as a find of this type from the Iron Age is unprecedented in Scotland, and most closely resembles those found in north-eastern France and Belgium where chariot burial was a relatively common practice. The nearest comparison within the UK are the cart burials of The Arras culture, Yorkshire (Stead 1979), which are similar, although these carts are dismantled prior to burial.

In addition, this area is believed to be the site of a battle from 995 between Malcolm II's brother Kenneth, and the usurper Constantine, although this has not been confirmed archaeologically.

Several large pits of likely medieval date were also found, alongside an extensive rig and furrow field system (Smith 1992). The pits are suggested to have been related to the agriculture, however their exact purpose is unknown. Phosphate analysis was carried out due to their potential as graves, however the testing showed no burials had taken place within the features.

5 METHODOLOGY

Excavations were undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket. A narrow 0.3m bucket was used for the service trench and a wider bucket used for the more open areas. All ground-breaking was monitored by an archaeologist.

All archaeological deposits were recorded using standard archaeological methods and pro forma record sheets. Photographs were taken using a digital camera.

6 RESULTS

The excavations involved the digging of the service trench around the western edge of the

site; the excavation of the area for the lockers; and the road crossings through the petrol station. Across the site, the topsoil was fairly deep and comprised made-ground. The service trench was excavated to a depth of 0.6m, but natural sub-soil was not encountered (Illus 2, 3). The soil exposed comprised a mid-brown silt containing small-large poorly sorted stones with rubble, modern refuse and several services. The excavations for the lockers were limited to 0.3m depth and similarly natural sub-soil was not encountered (Illus 4).

In light of the results, it was agreed with CECAS that archaeological monitoring of the road crossings was not required.

7 DISCUSSION

The watching brief identified no features or deposits of archaeological significance. The stripping of the topsoil during groundworks revealed modern made-ground extending across the site.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Baker & Hunter, L & F 2001 'Interchange Park, Newbridge, City of Edinburgh (Kirkliston parish), Iron Age cart burial' in *Discovery Excav. Scot* vol. 2, 2001: 44–45, Fig 17.

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Smith, H 1992 Newbridge M8 industrial estate, GUARD 75. Glasgow. Page(s): 75 RCAHMS Shelf Number: E.2.1.SMI.P

Stead, IM 1979 *The Arras Culture* York: Yorkshire Philosophical Society.



9 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Appendix 1.1 Photographic register

Photo	Direction facing	Description
001	E	Northern end of service trench
002	E	Northern end of service trench
003	E	Northern end of service trench
004	W	Northern end of service trench
005	E	Main area for excavation
006	SW	Service trench excavation
007	SW	Service trench excavation
008	SW	Service trench excavation
009	S	Service trench excavation
010	S	Service trench excavation
011	S	Service trench excavation
012	S	Service trench excavation and replaced cable
013	W	Service trench excavation and replaced cable
014	N	Service trench excavation
015	E	Service trench excavation
016	E	Service trench excavation
017	E	Main area of excavation
018	NW	Main area of excavation
019	N	Gas release valve in area
020	SE	Main area of excavation

APPENDIX 2 DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	ASDA Click & Collect Lockers, 1 Clifton Hall Road, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	NSSE15
PARISH:	Kirkliston
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Josh Gaunt
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	n/a
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	urban
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	none
NGR:	NT 12419 72526
START DATE (this season)	21st July 2015
END DATE (this season)	22nd July 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was carried out on 21st-22nd July 2015 in fulfilment of a condition attached to planning consent for the installation of collection lockers by Woodgreen Construction Ltd. The watching brief identified no deposits of archaeological significance.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	—
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	ASDA
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
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