

WPCO/02



# WELLINGTON PLACE CALL OUT

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

commissioned by SJS

December 2015



# WELLINGTON PLACE CALL OUT

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

commissioned by SJS

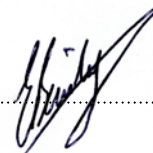
December 2015

project info

**HA JOB NO.** WPCO/02  
**NGR** NT 27113 76041  
**PARISH** Leith  
**LOCAL AUTHORITY** City of Edinburgh  
**OASIS REF.** headland1-229238

project team

**PROJECT MANAGER** Eddie Bailey  
**AUTHOR** Joshua Gaunt  
**FIELDWORK** Joshua Gaunt  
**GRAPHICS** Caroline Norrman, Mano Kapazoglou  
**SPECIALISTS** David Henderson – Skeletal remains  
**APPROVED BY** Eddie Bailey – Project Manager



 **HEADLAND  
ARCHAEOLOGY**  
© 2015 by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd



**SCOTLAND**

Headland Archaeology  
13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE

0131 467 7705

[scotland@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:scotland@headlandarchaeology.com)

[www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)



## PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook a site inspection of works associated with a building renovation at 4 Wellington Place. The inspection was following the discovery of human remains within spoil excavated during the works. The aims of the inspection was to identify and record archaeological remains disturbed by the works. The work was commissioned by SJS following discussions with CECAS in response to the discovery of human remains on site.

The site visit was conducted in November 2015 to recover and record the human remains on site.

# CONTENTS

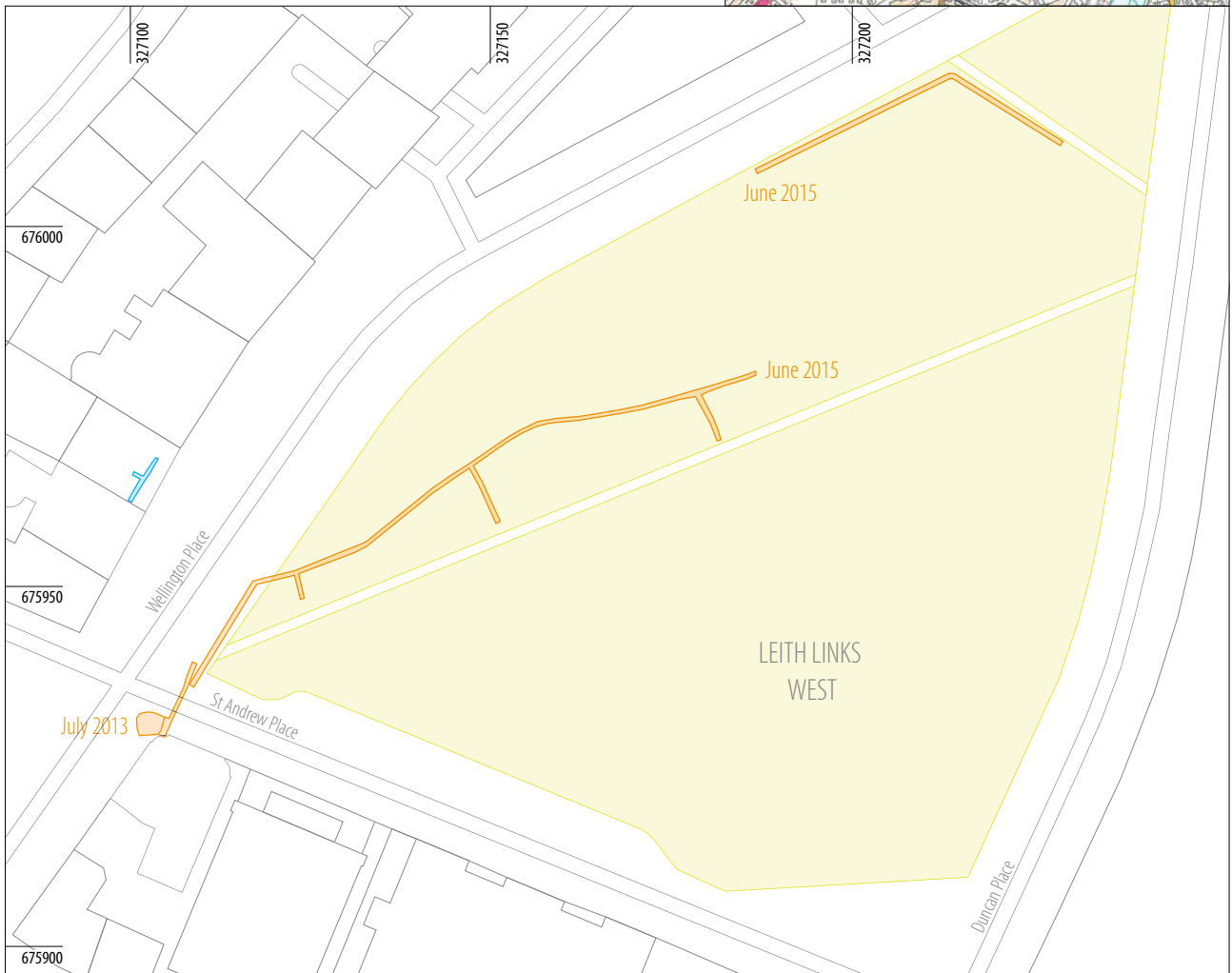
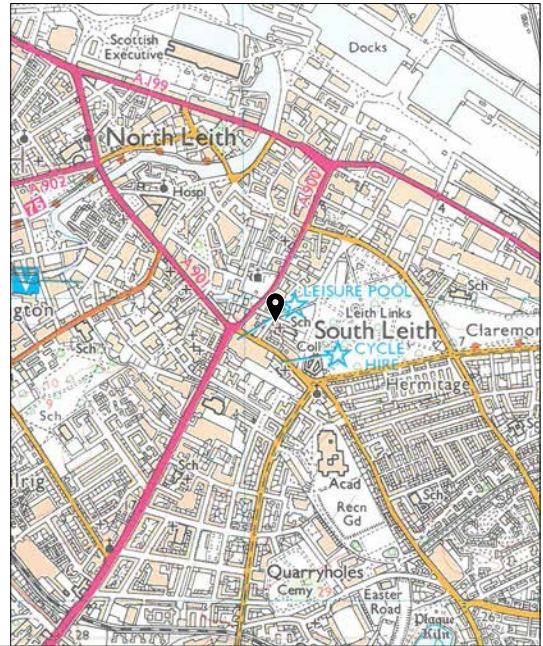
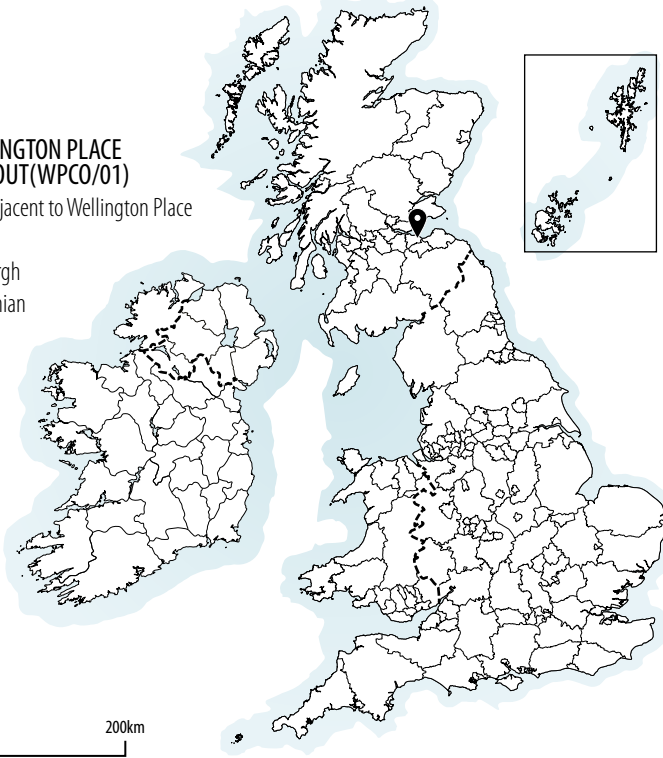
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
	1.1 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	1
<b>2</b>	<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>1</b>
	4.1 FIELDWORK	1
	4.2 RECORDING	1
<b>5</b>	<b>RESULTS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>BONE ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>SOURCES</b>	<b>3</b>
	8.1 BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES	3
	8.2 ONLINE SOURCES	3
<b>9</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>4</b>
	APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS	4
	APPENDIX 2 DES ENTRY	5

# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

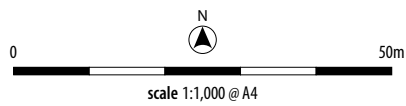
<b>ILLUS 1</b> SITE LOCATION	VIII
<b>ILLUS 2</b> SHOT OF EAST FACING SECTION – LOCATION OF BONE RECOVERY	2
<b>ILLUS 3</b> NORTH FACING VIEW OF NORTHERN AREA OF EXCAVATION AND SPOIL HEAP	2
<b>ILLUS 4</b> SOUTH FACING VIEW OF SOUTHERN AREA OF EXCAVATION	2
<b>ILLUS 5</b> VIEW OF TRENCH SHOWING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FEATURE [1003] AND 19TH CENTURY WALL FOUNDATIONS	3
<b>ILLUS 6</b> DRESSED ASHLAR CELLAR PRESENT IN CENTRE OF TRENCH	3

**WELLINGTON PLACE  
CALL OUT(WPCO/01)**

land adjacent to Wellington Place  
Leith  
Edinburgh  
Midlothian



- KEY**
- November 2015 trench location
  - past trench locations



SCOTLAND

13 Jane Street  
Edinburgh EH6 5HE  
0131 467 7705  
[www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)

Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2001. All rights reserved. Licence no. AL 100013329



# WELLINGTON PLACE CALL OUT

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Upon discovery of human remains at 4 Wellington Place, SJS contacted Police Scotland (incident number 1834 of 3rd November 2015) and subsequently John Lawson of City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service. Following an onsite inspection by John Lawson it was established that the remains were likely to be 16-17th century in origin. As the site was no longer a crime scene SJS were instructed to commission an archaeological company to recover any further remains and record the site.

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by SJS to carry out an archaeological inspection at the site.

The development comprises a small paved area to the front of a residential property, into which a pipe trench was excavated.

#### 1.1 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site is located at 4 Wellington Place, centred on NT 27113, 76041. The site covers approximately 40m<sup>2</sup> and is located to the West of Leith Links. The site is currently a paved area in front of a residential property and is being excavated for the purposes of placing pipes. The ground level is around 8.9m OD and is underlain by Devensian sand and gravel overlying sandstone bedrock (British Geological Survey website).

### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

It is known that plague victims have been buried in Leith Links (Turner Simpson et al 1981, 79 and Canmore record for NMRS site no NT27NE 77), with large numbers of bodies possibly relating to a 1645 epidemic found during the construction of Wellington Place (Canmore record for NMRS site no NT27NE 44).

In 2013 human bones were found during installation of new street lighting ducts at the corner of St Andrew Place and Academy Street at the south-west corner of the area (ILLUS 1). The discovery led to a small excavation exposing a pit containing disarticulated human

bones. The bones represented at least two adults and three juveniles which were dated to between the early 15th and early 17th centuries AD (van Wessel 2013).

In early 2015 more remains were uncovered during the excavation of more cable trenches associated with new street lighting (ILLUS 1) on park-land opposite this site. These burials appeared to comprise of disarticulated remains within charnel pits, representing the reburial of bones due to disturbance from construction (Dalland 2015).

### 3 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the inspection were:

- to recover any disturbed remains from the works already undertaken.
- to record any archaeological features and deposits exposed by the development works.
- to report on the results of the work.

### 4 METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 FIELDWORK

The excavated area was cleaned and recorded. The spoil created from the previous works was checked and any further remains disturbed by excavation recovered. Due to the completion of excavation prior to arrival no monitoring was required.

#### 4.2 RECORDING

All recording followed Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd standard procedures and was in accordance with the codes of practice and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to accepted archaeological norms and all contexts were given unique numbers, a full list of which can be found in Appendix 1.



**ILLUS 2** Shot of East facing section – location of bone recovery **ILLUS 3** North facing view of northern area of excavation and spoil heap **ILLUS 4** South facing view of southern area of excavation

Digital photographs were taken to record archaeological contexts and to illustrate the general nature of the work. All photographs have been recorded by individual number and include information on the context and direction taken. A full list of the photographs can be found in Appendix 1.

A site plan including all identified features, areas of excavation and other pertinent information were recorded digitally. The site plan has been accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to OD. Digital recording was undertaken using a differential GPS.

## 5 RESULTS

A collection of human and animal bone plus a fragment of post-medieval pottery were collected by site construction workers and handed over to the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeologist (John Lawson) during the initial assessment of the area. Upon arrival a visual inspection of already undertaken work was carried out, and the excavated area was recorded (ILLUS 2–4).

The natural geology of the trench comprised sterile silty sand (1000) overlain by a deposit of silty sandy gravel (1001) from which some bone fragments were recovered. Over this was a deposit of brown sandy silt (1002), thought to be a possible old topsoil layer. Truncating this was a large feature [1003] filled greyish brown sandy silt (1004) from which fragments of disarticulated bone were recovered (ILLUS 4). Given the limited scope of the intrusive works it was not possible to ascertain the nature of the feature, however it is likely to be the

construction cut for a dressed ashlar cellar present within the centre of the excavated trench (ILLUS 5). The cellar is associated with the construction of the residential property, which was built in the early part of the 19th century. Sealing this was a deposit of building rubble and concrete paving.

The spoil from previous excavation was sorted to recover any bone disturbed by the works. It was not possible on initial inspection to ascertain whether the remains were articulated due to being removed prior to archaeological works.

## 6 BONE ASSESSMENT

DAVID HENDERSON

18 fragments of human bone were recovered from site. These were from all areas of the skeleton. Two fragments could be sexed, a female temporal and a female ilium from an individual of between 50 and 60 years of age. Four bones were from immature individuals, a tibia diaphysis from a perinatal baby, a left radius shaft and right humerus fragment of child size (2–6 years) and the left maxilla of a nine year old. An adult distal right radius shaft showed spade marks at the broken end, also, none of the bones were articulated, suggesting that the assemblage comprises disturbed bone which has been redeposited.

Four animal bones were recovered: cattle rib, sheep ilium and the astragalus and left pelvis of a horse. The horse bones had been chopped and sawn.

**ILLUS 5** View of trench showing relationship between feature [1003] and 19th century wall foundations **ILLUS 6** Dressed ashlar cellar present in centre of trench



## 7 DISCUSSION

The bones recovered are suggestive of redeposited material disturbed during the construction of the Georgian tenement on site between 1804 and 1817. Although some disarticulated bones were recovered within the cut feature recorded during the work it is unlikely that the feature was for charnal deposition. Given that the bone was not recovered in great quantities, the size of the feature and its location it is most likely a construction cut for the building foundations exposed by the trench. The bones themselves most likely originate from the disturbance of burial pits excavated in and around Leith links during one of several out breaks of the plague from the 15th to 17th century.

## 8 SOURCES

### 8.1 BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

Dalland, M 2015 *Wellington Place, Leith. Report on Archaeological watching brief* Headland Archaeology unpublished client report.

Turner Simpson A, Holmes N & Stevenson S 1981 *Historic Leith – The Archaeological Implications of Development* Glasgow.

van Wessel, J 2013 *St Andrew Place, Leith, Edinburgh. Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring Recording* Headland Archaeology unpublished client report

### 8.2 ONLINE SOURCES

British Geological Survey (website) Available: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>, Accessed: 5th November 2015

Canmore Site Record for NMRS no NT27NE 44 – Edinburgh, Leith, Wellington Place, <http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/51961/details/edinburgh+leith+wellington+place/>, accessed 5th November, 2015

Canmore Site Record for NMRS no NT27SE 77 - Edinburgh, Leith Links, <http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/52004/details/edinburgh+leith+links/>, accessed 5th November, 2015.

## 9 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

#### Appendix 1.1 Context register

Context	Description
1000	Natural sand
1001	Orange brown sandy sily gravel
1002	Mid brown sandy silt - possible buried topsoil
1003	Large cut feature - possible construction cut for 19th century tenement
1004	Greyish brown sandy silt, fill of [1003]

#### Appendix 1.2 Photographic register

Photo	Direction	Description
1001	N	Shot of Cable Trench
1002	SW	Shot of Cable Trench
1003	SW	Shot of Cable Trench
1004	SW	Shot of Cable Trench
1005	S	Shot of Cable Trench
1006	W	Shot of north end of cable trench
1007	SW	Shot of east facing section
1008	W	Shot of east facing section
1009	W	Shot of east facing section
1010	S	Shot of west facing section
1011	N	Spoil heap containing human remains
1012	NE	General site shot

## APPENDIX 2 DES ENTRY

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Edinburgh City Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Wellington Place Call Out
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	WPCO/01
<b>PARISH:</b>	Leith
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Joshua Gaunt
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	Human Remains
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NT 27113, 76041
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	November 2015
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	November 2015
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)</b>	<p>Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook a watching brief on works associated with a building renovation at 4 Wellington Place. The monitoring was undertaken in order to identify and record any archaeological remains that might have been disturbed due to previous works. The work was commissioned by SJS in response to the discovery of human remains on site.</p> <p>A site visit was conducted in November 2015 to recover and record the human remains on site, having been already excavated by machine. No further archaeological monitoring was necessary.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	-
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	SJS
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd, 13 Jane Street, Edinburgh, EH6 SHE
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:josh.gaunt@headlandarchaeology.com">josh.gaunt@headlandarchaeology.com</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	RCAHMS







**SOUTH & EAST**

Headland Archaeology  
Building 68C, Wrest Park, Silsoe  
Bedfordshire MK45 4HS

01525 861 578

[southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com)

**MIDLANDS & WEST**

Headland Archaeology  
Unit 1, Clearview Court, Twyford Road  
Hereford HR2 6JR

01432 364 901

[midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com)

**NORTH**

Headland Archaeology  
Unit 16, Hillside, Beeston Road  
Leeds LS11 8ND

0113 387 6430

[north@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:north@headlandarchaeology.com)

**SCOTLAND**

Headland Archaeology  
13 Jane Street  
Edinburgh EH6 5HE

0131 467 7705

[scotland@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:scotland@headlandarchaeology.com)

[www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)