

ECRF17



EDINBURGH CASTLE RAILWAY FENCING

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

commissioned by Network Rail

January 2018

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PROJECT INFO:

HA Project Code **ECRF17** / NGR **NT 24960 73547** / Parish **Edinburgh** / Local Authority **City of Edinburgh** / OASIS Ref. **headland1-300188** / Archive Repository **NRHE**

PROJECT TEAM:

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Network Rail to monitor all ground-breaking works to be carried out as a requirement of scheduled monument consent. These works consisted of the erection of a new fence line to replace the existing, adjacent to the railway lines between Waverley and Haymarket stations and within the boundaries of the Scheduled Monument of Edinburgh castle.

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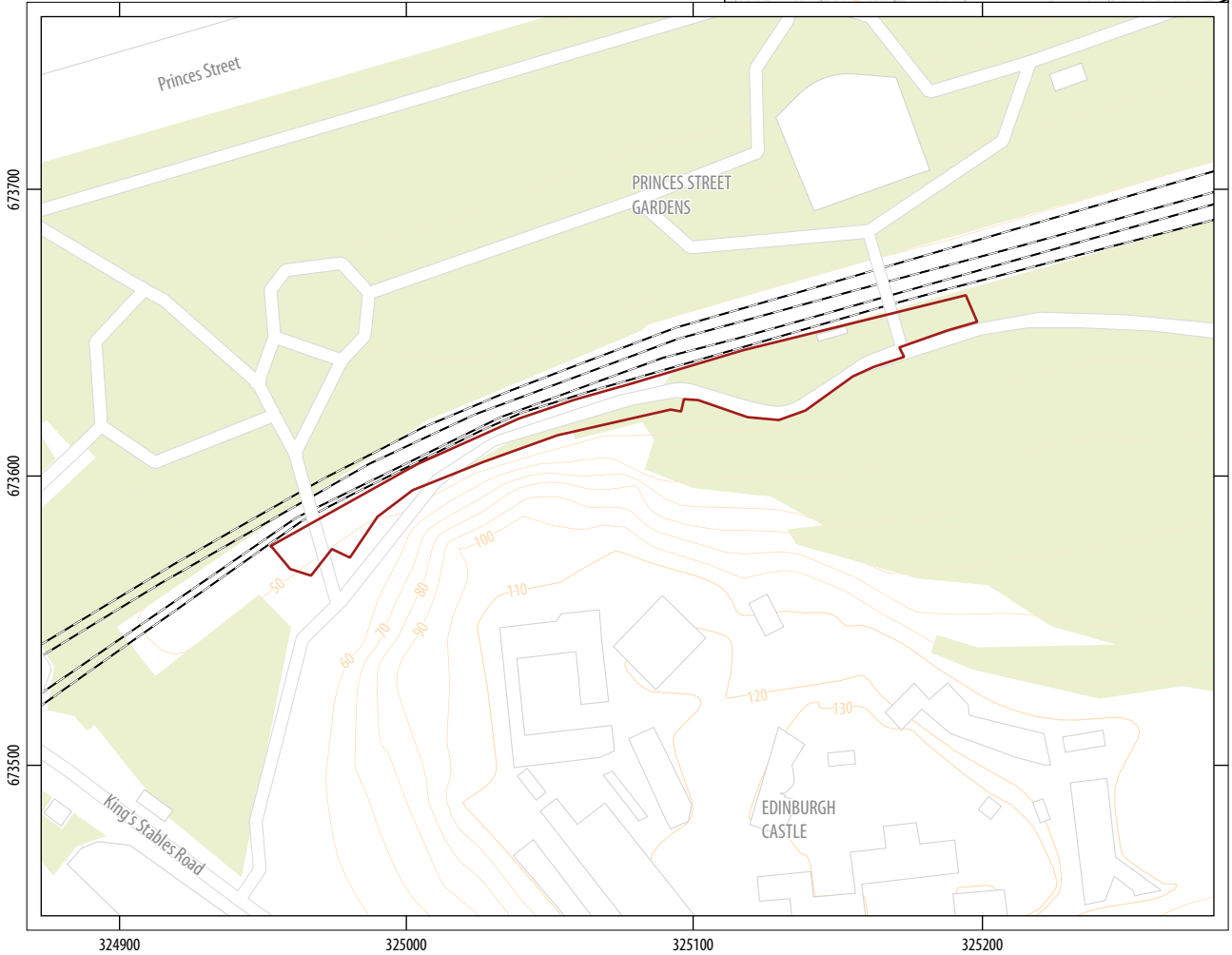
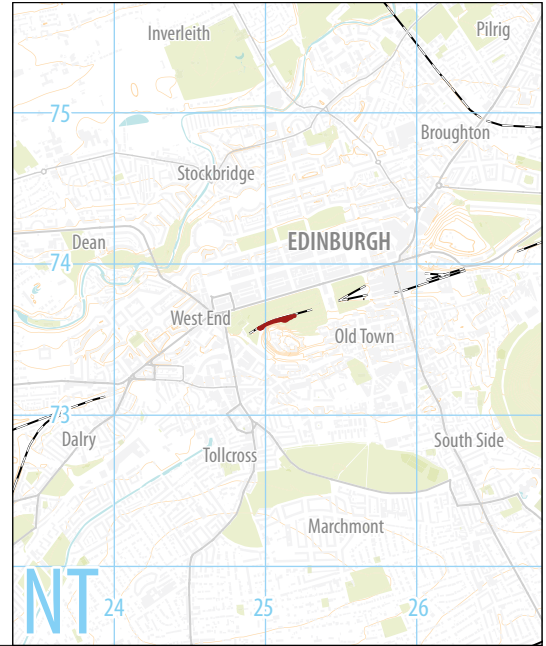
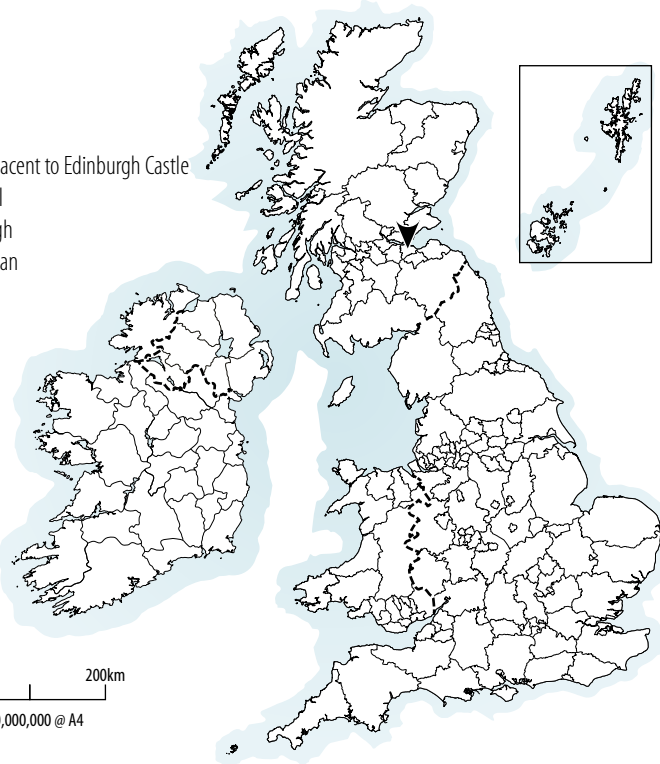
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Land adjacent to Edinburgh Castle
 Castlehill
 Edinburgh
 Midlothian

0 200km
 1:10,000,000 @ A4



0 50m
 1:2,500 @ A4

development boundary

HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY

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EDINBURGH CASTLE RAILWAY FENCING

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Network Rail to undertake a programme of archaeological works in connection with fence replacement works along the railway boundary north of Edinburgh Castle (SM90130). The new fence line extends for 245m east from the West Footbridge up to 30m east of the Middle Footbridge and defines the boundary between the railway line owned by Network Rail and the publicly accessible Castle Hill gardens, owned by the Crown Estate and leased by Edinburgh City Council.

Scheduled Monument Consent for the works was granted by Historic Environment Scotland (HES), on the condition that all ground-breaking works were subjected to archaeological watching brief. In order to fulfil this condition, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Headland Archaeology (August 2017) on behalf of Network Rail; setting out the proposed strategy for archaeological mitigation, in this case an Archaeological Watching Brief.

The WSI was submitted to and agreed with Historic Environment Scotland (HES). This report details the results of the work.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site is located in the City of Edinburgh (NGR: NT 24960 73547; Illus 1) and within the boundaries of the Scheduled Monument of Edinburgh Castle; the New Town Gardens Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape; the New Town Conservation Area and the Edinburgh World Heritage Site.

It lies around 68m AOD and is underlain by the lower slopes of the volcanic plug that forms Castle rock. The igneous intrusion rises steeply immediately south of the development area, and protrudes through a layer of carboniferous sandstone. This sedimentary bedrock forms the solid geology in the eastern half of the development area. Overlying most of the development area is a layer of superficial quaternary deposits of clay, silt and sand broadly corresponding to the footprint of the Nor' Loch which once filled the glacial valley now occupied by Princess Street Gardens (NERC 2017).

Although the Scheduled Monument of Edinburgh Castle has been subject to previous investigations and surveys, most of those have been confined to the top of the rock and the esplanade. No archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the development area.

Immediately outside of this, a historic building survey, DBA and evaluation of the nearby Wellhouse Tower (NT27SE1.12) and Saint Margaret's Well (NT27SE1.02) was undertaken in 2005. Princes Street Gardens has its own Conservation Management Plan (Princes Street Gardens Steering Group, 2011) and also the Old Town (city of Edinburgh Council, 2005a) and New Town (city of Edinburgh Council, 2005b) have the corresponding Conservation Area Character Appraisals which in conjunction with the Edinburgh World Heritage Site Management Plan summarise the history and development of the area.

It is likely that the top of Castle Hill was fortified as early the sixth century, and possibly before, but the earliest surviving building within the castle dates from the twelfth century. The castle has been expanded and added to since the 12th century, with the majority of the building work taking place on the summit of the hill and around the esplanade east of the summit. The closest castle building to the proposed development is the Wellhouse Tower (NT27SE1.02), built in



ILLUS 2 Site location superimposed on the OS Six-inch 1st edition, Edinburghshire

1362 in order to protect St. Margaret’s Well and to act as a gatehouse for the outer ward of the castle. The tower partially survives as a ruin, but there is no trace of the well. In 1873, the ruin was restored and a fountain erected by the officers of the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders. The fountain is now gone, but a plaque remains with an inscription recording the restoration.

Until the 1820s, the valley now occupied by Princes Street Gardens was a marsh – the Nor’ Loch. Created in the twelfth century by damming the River Tumble to provide a moat for the castle, by the eighteenth century the loch was being used by the residents of the old town as an open sewer.

The late-eighteenth century development of the New Town on the northern side resulted in demands for the foul-smelling and silted loch to be cleaned up. In 1759 drainage works began; by 1821 Princes Street Gardens were open to residents of the New Town and paying visitors.

In 1845 the Edinburgh-Glasgow Railway Company began to build a railway line linking Haymarket Station with Waverley Station. The construction of this line through the base of the valley truncated the gardens’ southern edge interrupting some of the paths and walkways but careful tree planting and the placement of the tracks in a cutting means that the railway was largely screened in southward views from the gardens. The Middle (NT27SE1592) and West Footbridges (NT27SW625) were built over the railway to provide access between West Princes Street Gardens and Castle Hill gardens.

The first edition OS map of 1852 (Illus 2) notes that they are both wooden bridges, but now the West Footbridge is an iron bridge clad in fibreglass panels, and the Middle Footbridge is concrete with timber and perspex panels.

Later development around the development area is largely limited to the northern side of the railway lines; the Ross Bandstand (NT27SE 638.01) was built as a wrought-iron structure in 1877 and rebuilt as the current open-air theatre in 1935. The bandstand was



ILLUS 3 Manual excavation of the holes **ILLUS 4** Excavation of hole under the Middle Footbridge **ILLUS 5** General view of the fencing line east of West Footbridge, facing west



ILLUS 6 Detail showing concrete layer between topsoil and subsoil **ILLUS 7** Detail of hole for railway access gate

named after its patron, William Henry Ross, and he also funded the construction of the Ross Fountain (LB27911, Category A) in 1862.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In line with the WSI the main objectives of archaeological works were:

- › monitoring of all ground-breaking works relating to the erection of the fence; and
- › establishing the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features present within areas subject to ground breaking and preserving them by record.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 SITE WORKS

The work was undertaken as specified in the WSI with monitoring of the excavation of around 120 holes, each measuring approximately 0.30 x 0.30 x 0.60m, to accommodate the posts for the new fence (Illus 3 and 4).

4.2 RECORDING

All aspects of the work were undertaken in accordance with the ClfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological watching briefs (ClfA 2014).

Although no archaeological features were identified during the supervision of the works, context numbers have been assigned to the topsoil and subsoil present in all the holes dug and to any distinct layer recorded during the works. Digital photographs of the works have been taken for illustrative and record purposes.

Context and photo registers are included in Appendix 1 to this report.

4.3 REPORTING AND ARCHIVES

The results of the works are presented below. A summary report has been prepared for submission to *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2) and the OASIS database (reference).

The complete project archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) within six months of the completion of the project. The records (paper and digital) will be archived according to best practice guidelines set out by the Archaeological Archiving Forum.

5 RESULTS

5.1 DISCUSSION

The development area lies within the boundaries of the railway line built in 1845 by the Edinburgh-Glasgow Railway Company linking Haymarket Station with Waverley Station. These works affected the existing gardens' southern edge so it was likely that the existing soil would be made ground. As the proposed new fence line was erected to replace the existing, adjacent to the stone wall along the railway tracks, this was even more distinct (Illus 5).

The holes were each approximately 0.60m deep and comprised a subsoil (002), at least 0.30m thick which was identical in colour and composition to the overlying topsoil (001), only differentiated by its firmness. The overlying topsoil (001) was 0.30m thick and comprised dark grey silty sand with organic material and occasionally either concrete or cobble small fragments (Illus 6).

Near the rail-track access gate, concrete and stones from the railway works (006) were also recorded beneath the topsoil (Illus 7).

In the holes excavated between the rail track access gate and the Castlehill pathway entrance, a layer consisting of loose cobbles was identified (004) whilst in those adjacent to the road tarmac (003) was present. (Illus 8 and 9)



ILLUS 8 Detail of hole with cobbled surface (004)



ILLUS 9 Cobble recovered from the excavations



ILLUS 10 General view of the completed new fence line, facing west

5.2 CONCLUSION

No archaeological features were identified during the works and the panels for the fence were installed according to the proposed schedule (Illus 10).

6 REFERENCES

6.1 BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES

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Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) 2017 *British Geological Survey* www.bgs.ac.uk/ accessed 7th August 2017

Princes Street Gardens Steering Group 2011 *Princes Street Gardens Management Plan 2010-2015* (Edinburgh) http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/911/princes_street_gardens_management_plan accessed 7th August 2017

6.2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Ordnance Survey (OS) 1853 Six Inch 1st edition, *'Edinburghshire, Sheet 2'* (Edinburgh, 1:10,560, surveyed 1852, engraved and published 1853) <http://maps.nls.uk/view/74426700> accessed 6th November 2017

7 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Photographic register

Photo	Direction	Description
001	E	Digging of first holes for fencing
002	E	Digging of first holes for fencing
003	E	Digging of first holes for fencing
004	E	Posts being erected and cemented
005	E	Posts being erected and cemented
006	Plan	Details of one of the post-holes dug
007	E	General view of fencing works
008	E	General view of fencing works
009	E	General view of fencing works
010	E	General view of fencing works
011	E	Post-hole digging
012	W	Post-hole digging in bridge area
013	W	Post-hole digging in bridge area
014	W	General view of section
015	NW	Erection of post in bridge area
016	NW	Erection of post in bridge area
017	W	Post-hole digging
018	W	Top view of post-holes dug at the bridge area
019	E	Top view of post-holes dug at the bridge area
020	W	Fencing works in bridge area
021	Plan	Detail of post-hole
022	Plan	Detail of post-hole
023	W	Post-hole digging
024	W	Post-hole digging
025	W	Post-hole digging
026	W	Post-hole digging
027	W	Post-hole digging
028	W	Post-hole digging
029	W	View of the fencing line after posts erected
030	SE	Posts erecting works
031	E	Posts erecting works
032	E	Posts erecting works
033	Plan	Details of post-hole
034	NW	Post in east side of footbridge
035	NE	Post in west side of footbridge

Photo	Direction	Description
036	NE	Post-hole digging west side of footbridge
037	NW	Posts and rails in place in east side of footbridge
038	NE	Posts and rails in place in west side of footbridge
039	NE	Digging works east of western footbridge
040	NW	Fencing line at east of western footbridge
041	Plan	Detail of post-hole
042	W	Post erection east of western footbridge
043	E	Fence line from western footbridge to Castlehill gate
044	E	Fence line from western footbridge to Castlehill gate
045	W	Fence line from western footbridge to Castlehill gate
046	Plan	Detail of post-hole
047	E	Digging works
048	W	Fence line from western footbridge to Castlehill gate
049	Plan	Detail of post-hole with concrete layer (006)
050	E	Fence line from western footbridge to Castlehill gate
051	W	Fence completed with panels in area from western footbridge to Castlehill gate
052	W	Fence completed with panels in area from western footbridge to Castlehill gate
053	W	Digging of post-hole for fencing line between Castlehill gate and rail track access gate
054	Plan	Detail of post-hole
055	Plan	Detail of post-hole
056	E	General view of area between gates
057	W	Fencing works
058	W	Fencing works
059	W	Fencing works
060	W	Fencing works
061	Plan	Post-hole detail in rail track access gate (east)
062	NE	Existing gate and post-holes for new one
063	W	Post-holes digging
064	N	Digging of post-hole for new gate
065	Plan	Details of post-hole
066	Plan	Details of post-hole with cobbled layer
067	W	Fence line from Castlehill gate to rail track track access gate
068	NE	Installing the new gate
069	Plan	Details of cobble from post-hole
070	W	Digging works
071	Plan	West side of gate with concrete foundation
072	W	Installing the new gate

Photo	Direction	Description
073	E	Erection of gate under eastern footbridge

Context register

Context	Description
001	Topsoil: dark grey silty sand
002	Subsoil: dark grey silty sand
003	Tarmac layer
004	Cobbled surface beneath (001)
005	Man-made layer of rail-track stones in access gate area
006	Concrete in rail-track access gate

APPENDIX 2 DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh City Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Edinburgh Castle Railway Fencing
PROJECT CODE:	ECRF17
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rafael Maya-Torcelly
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology UK
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	SM90130
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Castle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 24960 73547
START DATE (this season)	23/10/2017
END DATE (this season)	31/10/2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd, 2017 Edinburgh Castle Railway Fencing Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Edinburgh, unpublished client report
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Network Rail to monitor all ground-breaking works to be carried out as a requirement in the SM consent. These works consisted in the erection of a new fence line to replace the existing, adjacent to the railway lines between Waverley and Haymarket stations and within the boundaries of the Scheduled Monument of Edinburgh castle.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Network Rail
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NRHE



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