

SWCE19



NOS 1–8 SWANSTON VILLAGE, EDINBURGH

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AND WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING REF. 18/02543/LBC & 18/02593/FUL

commissioned by Colin McClung

June 2019

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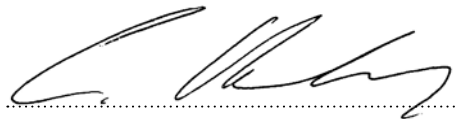
PROJECT INFO:

HA Project Code **SWCE19** / NGR **NT 2408 6725** / Parish **Edinburgh** / Local Authority **City of Edinburgh Council** / OASIS Ref. **headland1-355463**

PROJECT TEAM:

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological works in advance of alteration works to the rear of listed properties 2–7 Swanston Village, Edinburgh. This comprised a Level 1 historic building recording and a watching brief on groundworks associated with the alterations to the six properties. The primary aim of the building recording was to present a record of the external elevations of cottages Nos 2–7 prior to the alteration works taking place. The watching brief monitored the initial works associated with the reduction of the raised garden to the rear of the properties. This exposed the geological subsoil with no archaeological features or artefacts recorded.

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	PLANNING BACKGROUND	1
1.2	SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	1
1.3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	1
2	METHOD	2
2.1	OBJECTIVES	2
2.2	FIELD METHODOLOGY	5
2.3	REPORTING AND ARCHIVES	5
3	RESULTS	6
3.1	HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD	6
3.2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF	7
4	REFERENCES	7
4.1	BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES	7
4.2	CARTOGRAPHIC REFERENCES	8
5	APPENDICES	9
APPENDIX 1	SITE REGISTERS	9
APPENDIX 2	DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND	11

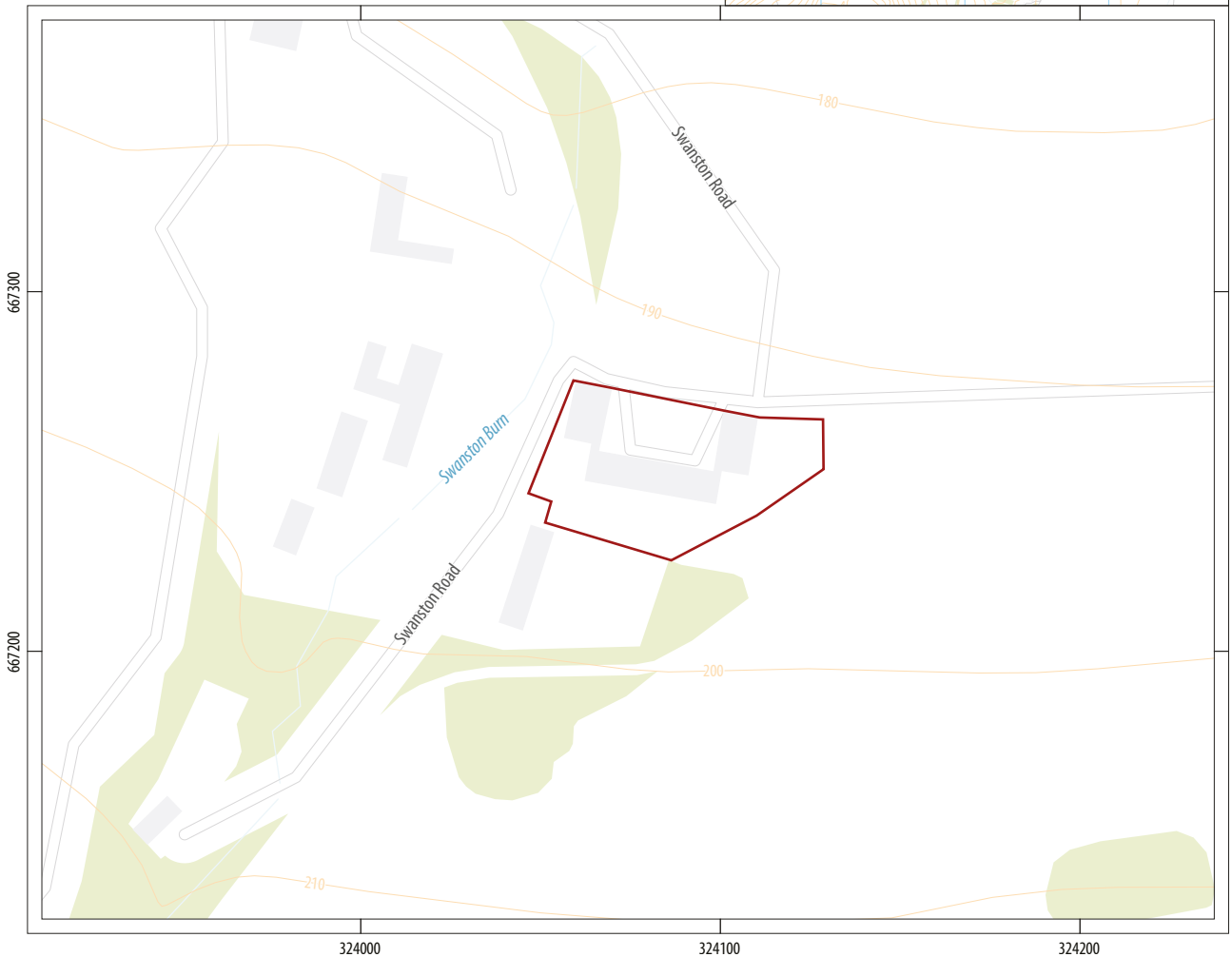
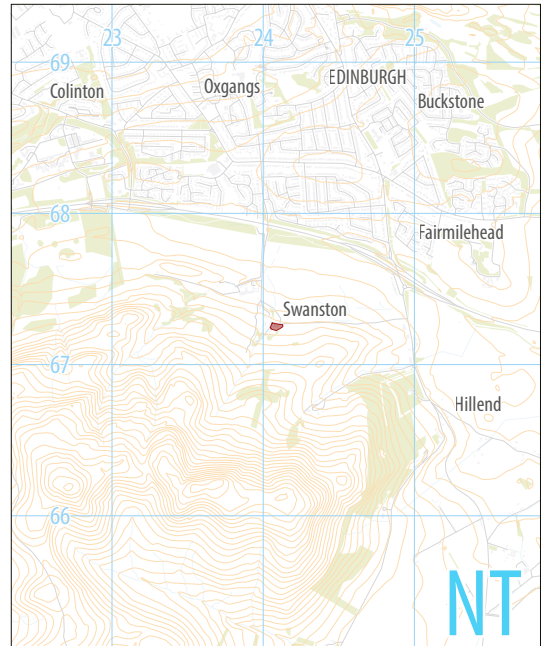
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

ILLUS 1 SITE LOCATION	VIII
ILLUS 2 EXTRACT FROM THE 1852 ORDNANCE SURVEY	2
ILLUS 3 FLOOR PLAN OF THE COTTAGES AND WATCHING BRIEF AREA	3
ILLUS 4 FRONT ELEVATION OF COTTAGES NOS 1 & 2	5
ILLUS 5 FRONT AND SIDE ELEVATION OF COTTAGES NOS 7 & 8	5
ILLUS 6 REAR ELEVATION OF COTTAGES NOS 1 & 2	5
ILLUS 7 PRINCIPAL ELEVATIONS OF COTTAGES NOS 3–6	5
ILLUS 8 VIEW OF THE ORIGINAL EXTENSION TO THE SIDE OF COTTAGE NO 6	6
ILLUS 9 THE REMAINS OF THE ORIGINAL EXTENSION TO COTTAGE NO 5	6
ILLUS 10 VIEW OF THE REAR OF COTTAGE NOS 3 & 4 SHOWING THE MODERN EXTENSIONS	6
ILLUS 11 THE RAISED GARDEN TO THE REAR OF THE COTTAGES	7
ILLUS 12 THE PARTIAL STRIPPED GARDEN AREA EXPOSING THE GEOLOGICAL SUBSOIL	7

Swanston Cottages
Swanston Village
Edinburgh



0 200km
1:12,500,000 @ A4



0 40m
1:2,000 @ A4

development boundary

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NOS 1–8 SWANSTON VILLAGE, EDINBURGH

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AND WATCHING BRIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

The City of Edinburgh Council has granted planning consent (Ref: 18/02593/FUL and 18/02543/LBC) which proposed for the alteration to the existing listed cottages. This included demolition of the existing extensions to the rear of Nos 3–6 and the erection of new extensions to Nos 2–7.

As a part of the condition the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS), advisor on archaeological matters to City of Edinburgh Council (the Local Planning Authority), has requested that a Level 1 (Historic England 2016) historic building record be undertaken on the listed cottages that form the basis of these alterations. CECAS also requested a watching brief be undertaken on any ground reduction works to the rear of the cottages.

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Sunnybrae Property Ltd (the client) to undertake the programme of historic building recording and watching brief ahead of the alteration works. The programme of work adhered to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Headland Archaeology (2019) and agreed with CECAS.

1.2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The proposed development site is located at Swanston Village (Illus 1) on the outskirts of Edinburgh (centred on NGR: NT 2408 6725). The site comprises a group of eight C-listed cottages (Cottages 1 & 2 - LB45842, 3 & 4 - LB45843, 5 & 6 - LB 45844 and 7 & 8 - LB45845) clustered around three sides of a small green to the east of Swanston Burn and south of Swanston Road. The properties are fronted by a gravel road and lawn area, with raised gardens to the rear.

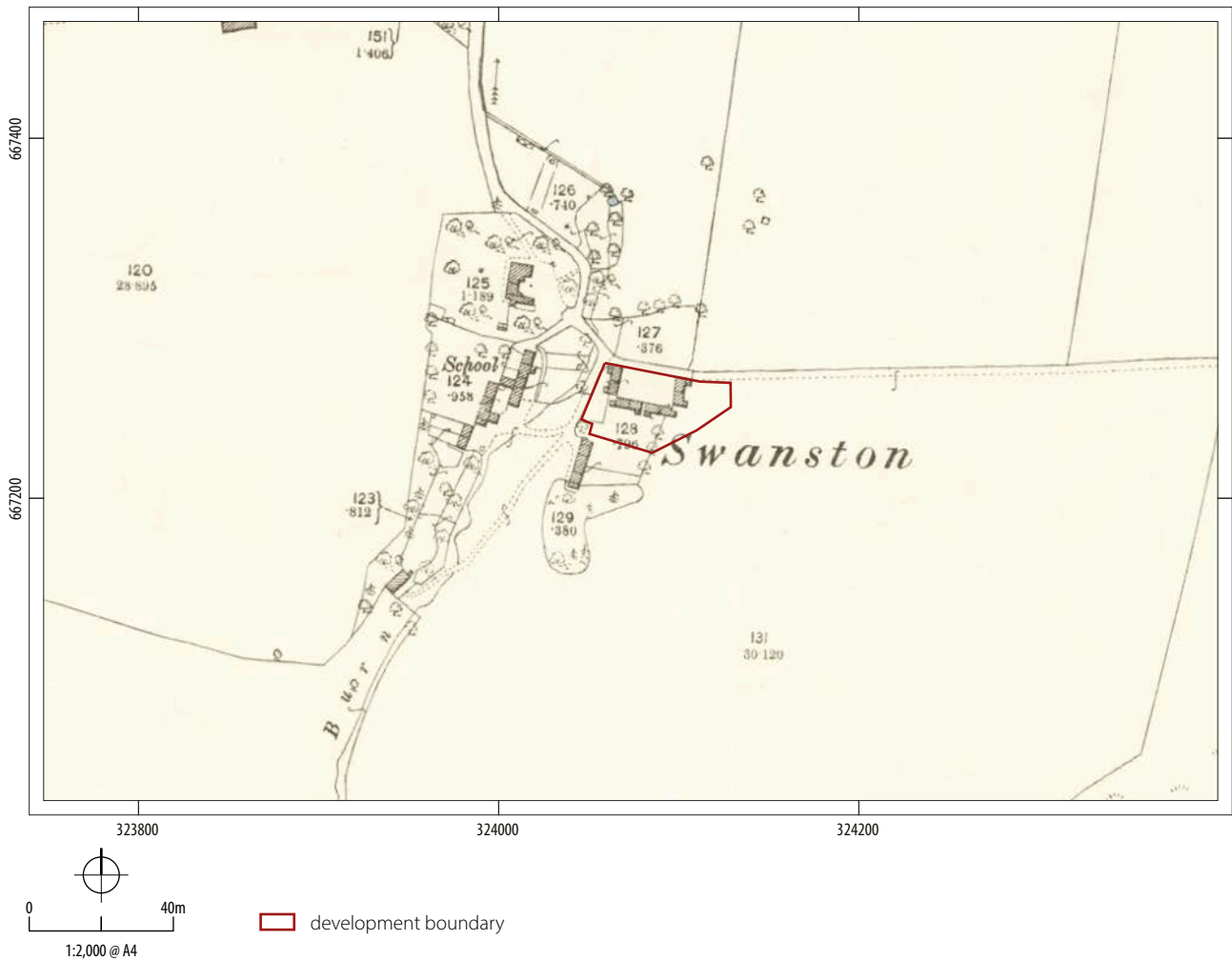
The site overlies igneous bedrock of the Carnethy Volcanic Member formed of Andesite and Basaltic Andesite. The superficial deposits in the area comprise glaciofluvial sheet deposits primarily comprising sand and gravel, formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (NERC 2016).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The eight C-listed (B group) farm labourers' cottages are located within the historic settlement and conservation area of Swanston. They all have entries in National Record of the Historic Environment (www.pastmap.org.uk) (No 1 - NT26NW 81, No 2 - NT26NW 378, No 3 - NT26NW 82, No 4 - NT26NW 379, No 5 - NT26NW 83, No 6 - NT26NW 380, No 7 - NT26NW 84 and No 8 - NT26NW 381). The cottages were constructed during the first half of the 19th century across the eastern side of the village of Swanston. The village dates back to the medieval period, with the name potentially reflecting a 9–11th century origin (Sveinn's farm). The settlement is first recorded in 1214. Until the reformation of the mid-16th century, Swanston appears to have been under religious ownership, principally the Knights of St John. Significantly, the settlement is recorded as a monastic grange.

The cottages were thought to be constructed for the farm estate workers (for the Mortonhall estate). They are finely constructed and symmetrically grouped around a central green. The farm workers probably worked at Swanston Farm Steading which was constructed between the late 1830–50s. This farm was a model of its type and incorporated many of the latest innovations in farm layout and machinery available at that time (Holden 2002).

The village of Swanston is first depicted on Adair's Map of Midlothian (1682) although the detail on this and the following historical maps is poor. The cottages are clearly present by the



ILLUS 2 Extract from the 1852 Ordnance Survey

publication of the 1855 Ordnance Survey, although the scale of this map limits the detail of the properties. Along with the three rows of cottages it also depicts an addition row of buildings to the west side. A more detailed depiction of the cottages is found on the 1894 Ordnance Survey (Illus 2). This clearly shows the three rows of cottages, all with small outhouses to the sides or rear of the properties. The additional block of cottages depicted on the earlier map is no longer present. The layout of the cottages appears not to change after this period until additional extensions were added to the rear of the properties in 1933. Although the cottages were constructed in the mid-19th century, water was not installed until 1934 and electricity was eventually installed in 1949 (Edinburgh City Council 2001).

extensions of all six cottages. The majority of the new extensions will be to the rear of each property, with Nos 2 and 7’s extensions located to their south side. Cottage Nos 1 and 8 are not affected by the current programme of works.

The purpose of the historic building survey was to provide an appropriate level of record to mitigate the alteration of the standing structures through alteration works (following Scottish Planning Policy (SPP; 2014), Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) and the Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes.

The purpose of the archaeological monitoring was to identify and record any archaeological remains threatened by the development works and to report on the results of the works.

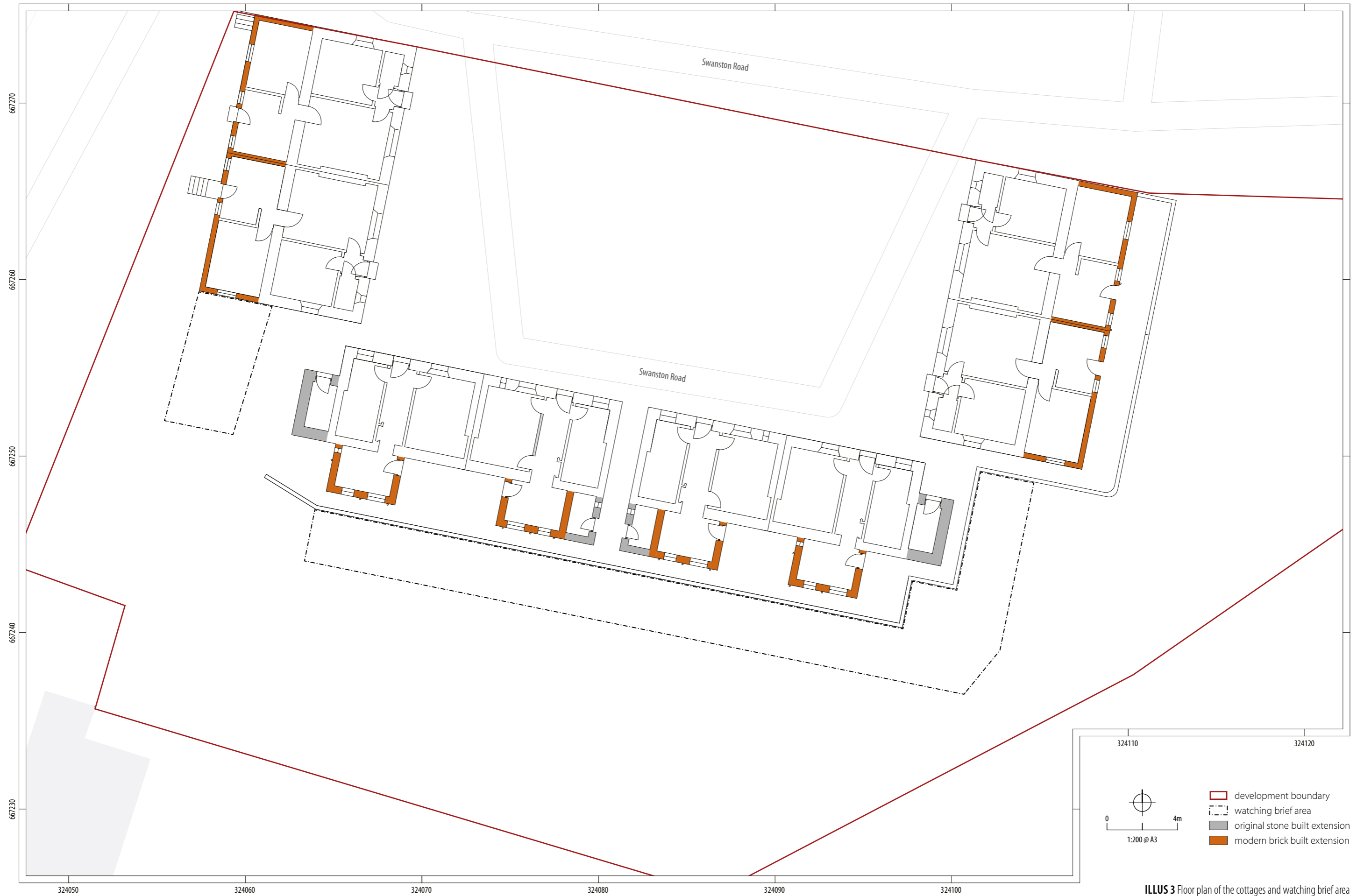
2 METHOD

2.1 OBJECTIVES

The work comprised a Level 1 historic building record (Historic England 2016) on Cottage Nos 2–7, undertaken prior to the demolition of the existing extensions to the rear of cottage Nos 3–6, and monitoring of the ground works prior to the construction of new

More specific aims of the archaeological monitoring include establishing the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the proposed development area.

The resulting archive will be organised and deposited with National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.



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ILLUS 3 Floor plan of the cottages and watching brief area



ILLUS 4 Front elevation of cottages Nos 1 & 2 **ILLUS 5** Front and side elevation of cottages Nos 7 & 8 **ILLUS 6** Rear elevation of cottages Nos 1 & 2
ILLUS 7 Principal elevations of cottages Nos 3–6

2.2 FIELD METHODOLOGY

The Level 1 building survey is a visual and descriptive record of the external elevations of the properties.

In line with the requirements of a Level 1 historic building record the survey included:

- › annotation of the client's plans,
- › general photographic view or views of the structures in context,
- › detailed photographic coverage of the buildings, identifying relevant structural and architectural details, and
- › a written account providing the date the record was made and the name of the recorders and a summary of the structure's form, materials and historical development.

Recording followed ClfA Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (ClfA 2014a). All recording was undertaken on pro forma record sheets. Digital images were taken; a graduated metric scale was clearly visible in all record shots and a register was kept (Appendix 1).

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavation work to the rear of the cottages. This included the areas

of raised gardens that require excavation prior to the construction of the new extensions at Nos 2–7. Monitoring in this context referred to the active control of excavation operations by a suitably experienced field archaeologist.

All monitored excavations were carried out using an 8-ton tracked mechanical excavator working with a toothless blade under direct archaeological supervision. The monitoring followed ClfA Standards and Guidance for Watching Briefs (ClfA 2014b). The monitored excavation continued until either the sterile subsoil was reached or when the maximum required excavation depth was reached.

2.3 REPORTING AND ARCHIVES

This report collates the written, graphic, visible and recorded information outlined above. 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 Archaeology Data Service OASIS database (headland1-355463).

The complete project archive will be deposited with Historic Environment Scotland 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 (2011).



ILLUS 8 View of the original extension to the side of cottage No 6 **ILLUS 9** The remains of the original extension to cottage No 5 **ILLUS 10** View of the rear of cottage Nos 3 & 4 showing the modern extensions

3 RESULTS

3.1 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

The historic building recording was undertaken on the 9th May 2019 and the watching brief was carried out on the 10th June 2019, both in dry and bright weather conditions. The primary aim of the building recording was to present a record of the external elevations of cottages Nos 2–7 prior to the alteration works taking place (Illus 3).

The cottages (Nos 1–8) were formed of 4 pairs of semi-detached single storey buildings set around three sides of a square. To the open (north) side of the square is a small green with allotments and a carpark beyond. In plan a pair of cottages were positioned to each side of the square (Nos 1 & 2 to the east and Nos 7 & 8 to the west) and two pairs of cottages faced north on to the green (Nos 3–6). All four pairs of cottages were constructed of stugged sandstone with raised droved arrises and raised ashlar door and window surrounds, each with a semi-circular panel at the head. The gabled slate roofs each had raised copes along the gable tops, leading to tall chimneys. A central chimney was also present between each pair of cottages.

The two flanking pairs of cottages to the east and west are set on a slope with cottage Nos 1 and 8 set at a lower level than cottage Nos 2 & 7. Other than this, each pair of cottages are symmetrical in

design (Illus 4 and 5). The principal elevations of each set of these cottages displayed reversed plans with slightly off-centre entrances and a single large window to one side and a narrow window to the other. The north and south gable ends had a single large sash-and-case window. Both pairs of cottages (Nos 1–2 & 7–8) also had large modern extensions with flat roofs across the full length of the rear of the buildings (Illus 6). These extensions were not being removed or altered as part of the current works.

The two pairs of north facing cottages (Nos 3–6) again mirrored each other in plan (Illus 7). The principal elevations to both buildings comprised the same off-centre entrances flanked on both sides by large windows. On cottage Nos 4 & 5 a small window was also inserted close to the centre of the elevations. The east gable of No 3 and the west gable of No 6 included a stugged sandstone extension (Illus 8) with a sloping tile roof and raised copes, each with a north facing timber door. The stonework of these extensions indicated they were part of the original construction of the cottages. Further stone-built extensions were present to the rear of cottage Nos 4 and 5 (Illus 9). These would originally have been the same size as those found on the gable ends of Nos 3 and 6 although, in both cases, they had been truncated by the addition of modern brick-built flat roofed extensions attached to the rear of the cottages. Four of these modern extensions were present to the rear of the four cottages in this row (Nos 3–6; Illus 10). Each pair of cottages also had a central dormer window in the roof indicating an upper floor level within the roof space was being utilised.



ILLUS 11 The raised garden to the rear of the cottages



ILLUS 12 The partial stripped garden area exposing the geological subsoil

Each of the modern extensions was harled with an entrance to the side and two south facing windows. As part of the current programme of works these were to be demolished along with the original stone extensions attached to Nos 4 & 5.

3.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

The primary aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any unknown archaeological remains threatened by the development. The external alteration works comprised the addition of extensions to the south gable ends of cottage Nos 2 & 7 and new extensions to the rear of cottage Nos 3–6.

The rear of cottages 3 to 6 had been cut into the slope of a hill and the gardens for these properties was raised almost 1m above the base of the buildings (Illus 11). The rear of the buildings was accessed via a narrow stone paved walkway and the gardens by a series of stone steps cut into the garden slope. The north edge of the garden was supported by a stone revetment wall.

In order allow more space and access to the new extensions, a reduction in the height of the raised gardens was required. Prior to full reduction of this ground a watching brief was carried out on the removal of the topsoil across all areas to be affected by the works. This area measured approximately 250m² forming a 5m wide strip to the rear and sides of cottage Nos 3–6, and to the south of No 7.

The topsoil across the garden area was found to be between 0.3 and 0.7m deep comprising a very dark brown sandy loam with occasional small stone inclusions. Occasional sherds of 19th/20th century pottery and glass (not collected) were observed within this deposit. In all cases this exposed a geological subsoil comprising mid-reddish-brown stone rich sandy clay (Illus 12). No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded. The height of the subsoil horizon was approximately 0.5m above the level of the rear of the cottages. This implies that the construction of the cottages had cut through the geological subsoil to the rear of the properties. Therefore, no archaeology can be expected within the footprint of the new extensions as these do not extend beyond the original garden stone revetment wall.

4 DISCUSSION

The cottages were constructed in the style of a typical Scottish farming town of the period, and appear to follow the traditions of the planned agricultural and domestic improvements started in the previous century. The current alterations to the cottages will not drastically alter the plan of these buildings. The principal elevations of the buildings will remain with only the rear of the properties being altered with the construction of slightly larger extensions, similar in size to those already in place on cottage Nos 1, 2, 7 & 8.

5 REFERENCES

5.1 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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5.2 CARTOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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Edinburghshire *Sheet 6 (includes: Edinburgh; Lasswade) Survey date: 1852*
Publication date: 1855 <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74426705>

Edinburghshire *VII.7 (Edinburgh; Lasswade) Publication date: 1894*
Revised: 1893 <https://maps.nls.uk/view/82877916>

6 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Appendix 1.1 Photo register

PHOTO	FACING	AREA	DESCRIPTION	PHOTO	FACING	AREA	DESCRIPTION
SWCE-01	S		General view of cottages	SWCE-31	NE	Cottage 5	Detail of rear stone built extension
SWCE-02	S		General view of cottages	SWCE-32	N	Cottage 4	Removed stone built rear extension
SWCE-03	S		General view of cottages	SWCE-33	NE	Cottage 4	Removed stone built rear extension
SWCE-04	S		General view of cottages	SWCE-34	NE	Cottage 4+3	View of rear of cottages
SWCE-05	S		General view of cottages	SWCE-35	N	Cottage 4+3	View of rear of cottages
SWCE-06	S	Cottage 1	South facing gable end	SWCE-36	N	Cottage 4+3	View of rear of cottages
SWCE-07	E	Cottage 1	West facing front elevation	SWCE-37	NW	Cottage 4, 5, 6	View of rear of cottages
SWCE-08	E	Cottage 1+2	West facing front elevations	SWCE-38	N	Cottage 4	Rear elevation
SWCE-09	E	Cottage 2	West facing front elevations	SWCE-39	NE	Cottage 3	Detail of chimney on east gable
SWCE-10	N	Cottage 2	South facing gable end	SWCE-40	NW	Cottage 4, 5, 6	Detail of chimney pots
SWCE-11	NE	Cottage 2+1	Rear of cottage showing extensions	SWCE-41	NW	Cottage 5	Detail of small window/opening on east gable
SWCE-12	E	Cottage 2	East facing elevation of extension	SWCE-42	W	Cottage 5	Detail of roof cope stones
SWCE-13	E	Cottage 1	East facing elevation of extension	SWCE-43	W	Cottage 5	Detail of east facing elevation of extension
SWCE-14	SE	Cottage 1+2	Rear of cottage showing extensions	SWCE-44	NW	Cottage 3	Rear and east side elevations
SWCE-15	S	Cottage 3	Front north facing elevation	SWCE-45	NW	Cottage 3	Stone extension to side of cottage
SWCE-16	S	Cottage 3+4	Front north facing elevation	SWCE-46	W	Cottage 3	Stone extension to side of cottage
SWCE-17	S	Cottage 4	Front north facing elevation	SWCE-47	W	Cottage 3	East facing elevation
SWCE-18	SE	Cottage 3+4	Front north facing elevation	SWCE-48	N	Cottage 3	Detail of cope stones to rear
SWCE-19	S	Cottage 6	Front north facing elevation	SWCE-49	SW	Cottage 3	View of extension to side of cottage
SWCE-20	S	Cottage 6	North facing elevation of side extension	SWCE-50	W	Cottage 3	East facing elevation
SWCE-21	S	Cottage 6	Detail of roof of side extension	SWCE-51	S	Cottage 5	Front north facing elevation
SWCE-22	NW	Cottage 6	View of side extension	SWCE-52	S	Cottage 5+6	Front north facing elevation
SWCE-23	NW	Cottage 6	View of side and rear of cottage	SWCE-53	S	Cottage 4-6	Front north facing elevation
SWCE-24	N	Cottage 6	South facing end of side extension	SWCE-54	W	Cottage 7	Front east facing elevation
SWCE-25	NW	Cottage 6+5	Rear elevations of cottages	SWCE-55	W	Cottage 7+8	Front east facing elevation
SWCE-26	W	Cottage 6+5	View showing reduced garden area	SWCE-56	W	Cottage 7	Side south facing gable
SWCE-27	N	Cottage 6	Rear elevation of cottage	SWCE-57	W	Cottage 8	Front east facing elevation
SWCE-28	N	Cottage 5	Rear elevation of cottage	SWCE-58	SW	Cottage 7+8	Front east facing elevation
SWCE-29	NE	Cottage 5	Stone extension to rear of cottage	SWCE-59	S	Cottage 8	North facing gable end
SWCE-30	NE	Cottage 5+6	General view of rear of cottages				

NOS 1-8 SWANSTON VILLAGE, EDINBURGH SWCE19

PHOTO	FACING	AREA	DESCRIPTION	PHOTO	FACING	AREA	DESCRIPTION
SWCE-60	S	Cottage 8	Detail of post-box in gable end	SWCE-71	N	Cottage 7	Topsoil strip to west end of gardens
SWCE-61	SE	Cottage 8	North facing gable end	SWCE-72	E	Cottage 6	Topsoil strip of raised gardens
SWCE-62	SE	Cottage 8	Extension to the rear of cottage	SWCE-73	E	Cottage 5	Topsoil strip of raised gardens
SWCE-63	S	Cottage 8+7	Extensions to the rear of cottage	SWCE-74	E	Cottage 5	Topsoil strip of raised gardens showing depth of topsoil
SWCE-64	E	Cottage 8	West facing elevation of extension	SWCE-75	E	Cottage 4	Topsoil strip of raised gardens
SWCE-65	E	Cottage 8	West facing elevation of extension	SWCE-76	E	Cottage 4	Topsoil strip of raised gardens
SWCE-66	NE	Cottage 8	West facing elevation of extension	SWCE-77	E	Cottage 3	Topsoil strip of raised gardens
SWCE-67	W	Cottage 7	South facing gable end	SWCE-78	W	Nos 3 - 6	Working shot of topsoil strip
SWCE-68	N	Cottage 7	South facing gable end	SWCE-79	W	Nos 3 - 6	Working shot of topsoil strip
SWCE-69	E	Nos 3 - 6	View of gardens to rear of Nos 3 - 6	SWCE-80	SE	Cottage 2	Topsoil strip of raised garden
SWCE-70	W	Nos 3 - 6	View of gardens to rear of Nos 3 - 6	SWCE-81	E	Cottage 2	Topsoil strip of raised garden

APPENDIX 2 DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Nos 1–8 Swanston Village, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	SWCE19
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Donald Wilson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Level 1 HBR and watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Cottages
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 2613 7368
START DATE (this season)	09/04/2019
END DATE (this season)	29/04/2019
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological works in advance of alteration works to the rear of listed properties 2 – 7 Swanston Village, Edinburgh. This comprised a level 1 historic building recording and a watching brief on groundworks associated with the alterations to the 6 properties. The primary aim of the building recording was to present a record of the external elevations of cottages No's 2 - 7 prior to the alteration works taking place. The watching brief monitored the initial works associated with the reduction of the raised garden to the rear of the properties. This exposed the geological subsoil with no archaeological features or artefacts recorded.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Rough Country Holdings Ltd
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Historic Environment Scotland



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