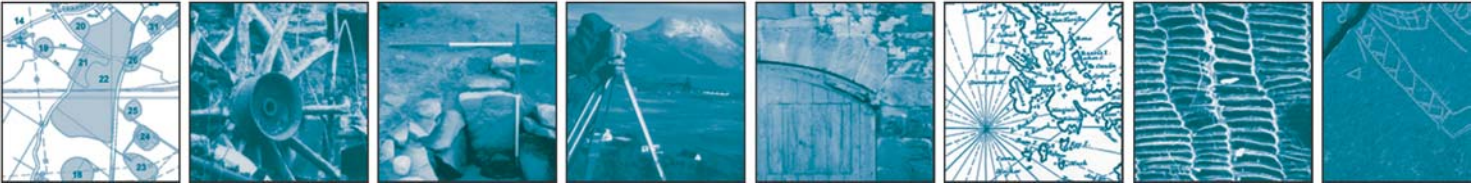


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Date: January 2008
Client: Cooper Cromar for Steven Shear



138 Elliot Street, Glasgow: An Archaeological Evaluation

James McMeekin

Planning Reference: 07/02128/DC

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET (ESGW07)

Client	Cooper Cromar for Steven Shear
National Grid Reference	NS 5746 6523
Planning Reference	07/02128/DC
Project Manager	Simon Stronach MIFA
Report	James McMeekin
Finds	Julie Franklin MIFA
Illustrations	Elin Evertsson
Fieldwork	Mike Kimber AIFA James McMeekin

Summary

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Cooper Cromar on behalf of Steven Shear to undertake an archaeological programme of works at 138 Elliot Street, Finnieston, Glasgow, in connection with a proposed development. The western part of the site had previously been evaluated and shown to contain structural remains relating to the Verreville Pottery. The eastern part lay outside the mapped extent of the pottery in the 19th century. To test the archaeological potential of the eastern part of the site six test pits were excavated. The results confirmed the presence of modern overburden up to 3m thick. A lens of material containing ceramics and kiln furniture was identified 2.3m below the modern ground surface in one test pit. The pottery formed part of a more general accumulation of dumped 19th material and did not form part of a well stratified or substantial area of dumping. The 19th century deposits lay directly over the naturally deposited sands and alluvial gravels.

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INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological works in connection with a proposed office development at 138 Elliot Street, Finnieston, Glasgow. Glasgow City Council has approved the development application and a condition (No.2) of that consent required the implementation and approval of an archaeological programme of work.

The site proposed for development is a 3098 m² plot of derelict ground on the west side of Elliot Street (Figure 1, Plates 1-3). The site is enclosed on three sides by modern buildings, and fronts directly on to Elliot Street in the east. The site was thoroughly cleared and levelled after demolition of the previous building. There is an approximate 2m change in level on the site, a feature that does not represent the natural topography but rather the substantial build up of material on the north side. The northern part of the site is higher, separated from the lower level by a steep drop.

Previous evaluation work by Headland Archaeology (2002) had identified archaeological deposits relating to the Verreville Pottery in the western half of the site, resulting in a change to the design of the proposed development. This report contains the results of a subsequent programme of works consisting of an on-site evaluation comprising six test pits targeted at areas in the eastern half of the site where deep piling is now proposed. The work followed a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the council's archaeological advisers, WoSAS (the West of Scotland Archaeology Service).

METHODOLOGY

Six 2m x 2m test pits were excavated at agreed locations using a 13 tonne 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothed bucket, under direct archaeological supervision. Where soft archaeological deposits were identified a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket was used. Hard concrete foundations necessitated the use of a concrete breaker in a number of the test pits.

Colour transparencies and negative photographs were taken and unique numbers given to each test pit. Overall site plans were created using a Total Station linked to a Penmap digital mapping system.

RESULTS

The relevant first and second edition ordnance survey maps for the area, published in 1859-60 and 1895 respectively, show little direct land use on the eastern half of the site. This contrasts with the western and southwestern areas, which contained the Verreville Pottery, a ropeworks and reservoir; later development saw the emergence of structures and a tramline in these areas. A 'rope walk' or covered walkway ran north-south through the centre of the site. This is likely to have been a temporary structure of simple construction (Headland Archaeology Ltd. 2002). No buildings are shown in the eastern half of the site prior to the 20th century.

Test Pit 1

Compacted soil and mixed rubble [001] formed the surface material and extended to 1.4m below the modern ground surface. A brick foundation [009] was exposed in the southern side of the test pit (Plate 4). The bricks were machine rather than hand made, indicating that the structure was relatively modern, and most likely dates to the 20th century. A mixed, sandy

loam with less frequent rubble [002] 0.5m thick lay beneath [001] and above the natural sand and alluvial gravels.

Deposit	Depth from modern ground surface
001	0-1.3m
009	0.3-1.5m
002	1.3-1.8m

Test Pit 2

The same compacted rubble deposit [001] as seen in the previous test pit formed the surface material and extended to 1m in depth below the modern ground surface. Directly beneath this rubble layer a concrete tank [003] constructed from pre-cast slabs with steel reinforcement was identified (Plate 5). The overall thickness of the tank was 2.2m from top to base. The north, east and south walls of the tank were identified in the section faces of the test pit, giving the tank a north-south width of 2m. Backfilled rubble inside the tank extended to the west (Plate 6). Using the concrete breaker it was possible to determine that the base of this tank sat directly on natural sand.

Deposit	Depth from modern ground surface
001	0-1m
003	1-3.2m

Test Pit 3

As in test pit 1 compacted loam and mixed rubble [001] formed the surface material and extended to 1.5m in depth below the modern ground surface. A mixed, sandy loam with less frequent rubble [002] up to 1.3m thick lay beneath [001] and above the natural sand and alluvial gravels (Plate 7).

Deposit	Depth from modern ground surface
001	0-1.5m
002	1.5-2.8m

Test Pit 4

A very thick deposit of rubble and made up ground [001] up to 1.9m in depth lay over clean sand [004]. The sand was 0.4m thick and beneath this deposit lay a lens of material rich in ceramic fragments and kiln material [005] up to a maximum of 0.2m thick. A further loamy sand deposit [006] 0.5m thick lay beneath this pottery-rich lens and above the natural sand (Plate 8).

Deposit	Depth from modern ground surface
001	0-1.9m
004	1.9-2.3m
005	2.3-2.6m

006	2.6-3.1m
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Test Pit 5

The made up ground deposit [001] extended to 0.9m thick and lay directly over a concrete pad or pile foundation [007] (Plate 9). An attempt to break through this foundation with the concrete breaker was abandoned after 0.7m of concrete was removed without signs of breaking through to underlying deposits.

Deposit	Depth from modern ground surface
001	0-0.9m
007	0.9-1.6m +

Test Pit 6

Test pit 6 was located in the southern part of the site where the modern ground surface was approximately 2m lower than that of the other test pits. The surface material comprised compacted loam and rubble to a depth of 0.3m. Mixed loam with occasional fragments of rubble [002] formed a deposit up to 0.9m thick beneath [001]. A band of dark brown sandy loam [008] up to 0.1m thick was identified at the base of [002]. This deposit may relate to earlier dumping on the site. Beneath [008] lay natural sand (Plate 10).

Deposit	Depth from modern ground surface*
001	0-0.3m
002	0.3-1.2m
008	1.2-1.3m

* Ground surface approx. 2m lower than rest of site to north.

Finds Summary

The finds all relate to 19th century pottery production. There are saggars (large vessels to protect the pottery being fired), kiln props (to separate vessels and prevent them sticking together while firing), bisque and waster sherds of pottery (Appendix 3).

The pottery is mainly cut sponge printed and transfer printed, both types known to have been produced at the Verreville Pottery (cf. Haggarty 2007). The kiln furniture is all of types previously recorded. Some of the pottery patterns were found during previous excavations on the site, (Finnieston Street, FSG05, Headland Archaeology), e.g. 'Syria', some were not, e.g. the spongeware designs.

DISCUSSION

A depth of overburden of greater than 3m was identified, confirming the findings of the engineer's report (Woolgar Hunter 2007). The deposits of made up ground appear to be thinner at the northern edge of the site (1.8m deep in Test Pit 1) compared to the main body of the eastern side of the site (2.8m-3.2m in Test Pits 2-4). Taking into account the 2m step in the southern area of the site, the 1.3m of made up ground in Test Pit 6 suggests a fairly flat natural topography across most of the evaluated area, perhaps rising in the northern extremity of the site.

A clear stratigraphic sequence can be determined, with a period of dumping of rubble and demolition material dating to the 20th century [001]. This extended to a maximum depth of 1.9m below current ground surface. Beneath [001] lay a mixed sandy loam with less frequent rubble [002] that varied in thickness from 0.5m to 1.3m. This deposit is likely to have accumulated as a result of earlier, more sporadic, dumping and date to the 19th century when the eastern half of the site was undeveloped and open. It is in this context that the lens of pottery and kiln furniture [005] was included.

The lens of pottery and kiln material [005] identified in Test Pit 4 most likely represents dumped material relating to the adjacent Verreville Pottery. The deposit appears to be thin and localized. Pottery waste from Glasgow's many factories is a common find in the city. It has been shown to have a wide distribution, with material sometimes found some distance from the kiln (Haggarty pers com). Though some of the pottery patterns appear to be slightly different to those found at the Finnieston Street site (Headland Archaeology 2007), all are fragmentary, with no near complete vessels. It is certainly not part of a well stratified deliberate area of dumping by the factory, but rather some kiln waste which has become mixed with other material in the make up in this area.

No further deposits of archaeological significance were identified within the test pits. The concrete tank [003] identified in Test Pit 2 was constructed from pre-cast slabs reinforced with steel. This method of construction suggests it does not pre-date the 20th century. In March 2002 Headland Archaeology Ltd identified a concrete tank of similar construction in the western half of the site (Headland Archaeology Ltd 2002). This tank was also deemed to be modern.

REFERENCES

Maps

- 1828 - Smith, D. Plan of the City of Glasgow and its Environs with all the latest improvements
- 1839 - Smith, D. & J.Collie 1839 Plan of the City of Glasgow and its Environs
- 1859 - Ordnance Survey Lanarkshire. Glasgow Sheet VI.10.12
- 1860 - Ordnance Survey Lanarkshire. Glasgow Sheet VI.10.17
- 1895 - Ordnance Survey Lanarkshire. Glasgow Sheet VI.10.12
- 1895 - Ordnance Survey Lanarkshire. Glasgow Sheet VI.10.17

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Haggarty, G 2007 *Verreville Pottery Glasgow, Ceramic Resource Disc*, Headland Archaeology/NMS

Headland Archaeology Ltd. (2002) *Results of an Archaeological Investigation at 138 Elliot Street, Finnieston, Glasgow.*

Headland Archaeology Ltd. (2007) *Verreville Glass and Pottery Manufactory Excavations at 133-139 Finnieston Street, Glasgow, 2005*

Woolgar Hunter Consulting Engineers (2007) *Sovereign Properties Proposed Development Elliot Street, Glasgow: Development Appraisal*

Appendix 1

Context Register

Context No.	Description
001	Compacted loam and mixed rubble make up
002	Dark brown mixed sandy loam, occasional rubble fragments
003	Concrete tank and base
004	Sand deposit (TP4 only)
005	Lens of pot, kiln furniture, etc. (TP4 only)
006	Loamy sand deposit below [005] (TP4 only)
007	Concrete pad/pile (TP5 only)
008	Thin band of dark brown sandy loam (TP6 only)
009	Brick foundation (TP1)

Appendix 2

Photo Register

Shot No.	Direction Facing	Description
01	-	ID Shot
02	W	Test Pit 1: east facing section
03	S	Test Pit 1: north facing section showing brick piling
04	S	Test Pit 1: north facing section showing brick piling
05	S	Test Pit 6: north facing section
06	N	Test Pit 4: south facing section, note pot material [005]
07	S	Test Pit 3: north facing section
08	S	Test Pit 5: north facing section
09	N	Test Pit 2: south facing section

Appendix 3

Finds List

Area	Ctxt	Sample	Material	Object	Qty	Description	Spot Date
TP4		1	Ceramic	Saggars	9	Large cylindrical saggars. Coarse buff fabric with large stone & grog inclusions, some glaze coated on either surface. Mostly from one large sagger, interior of base encrusted with crushed flint, wall thickness 18-22mm, approx 350mm in diam (cf. Haggarty 2007, file 133, page 20). Mvc 3	18 th /19 th
TP4		1	Ceramic	Kiln Props	44	Three different types. 20 extruded handmade three armed stilts, V-shaped section (cf. Haggarty 2007, file 133, page 2). 17 industrially moulded three-armed stilts, mostly large (arm length 54mm), two smaller ones (arm length 31mm), (cf. Haggarty 2007, file 133, page 7). 7 coarse buff hand made sausages, of same fabric as saggars, some joined together	L.18 th / 19 th
TP4		1	Pottery	Cut Sponge-Printed Whiteware	34	Mostly bowls, few mugs, cups. Includes waster (fused sherds) and 2 bisque fired sherds. Various simple designs in blue, purple, red, brown, black. (Designs different to those recorded in Haggarty 2007, files 48-68, C). Mvc.15	19 th
TP4		1	Pottery	Transfer Printed Whiteware	33	Various designs, mostly black, some blue, one bisque, some seconds/wasters, some recognisable, e.g. 'Syria' (Haggarty 2007, file 97) and possible 'Staffordshire'/standard Willow (Haggarty 2007, file 96/103). Mvc.13	19 th
TP4		1	Pottery	Plain Whiteware	35	Including 13 bisque sherds, several wasters, forms suggest most from spongeware bowls	19 th
TP4		1	Pottery	Misc Decorated Whiteware	3	Hand painted, blue banded and late shell edging.	19 th

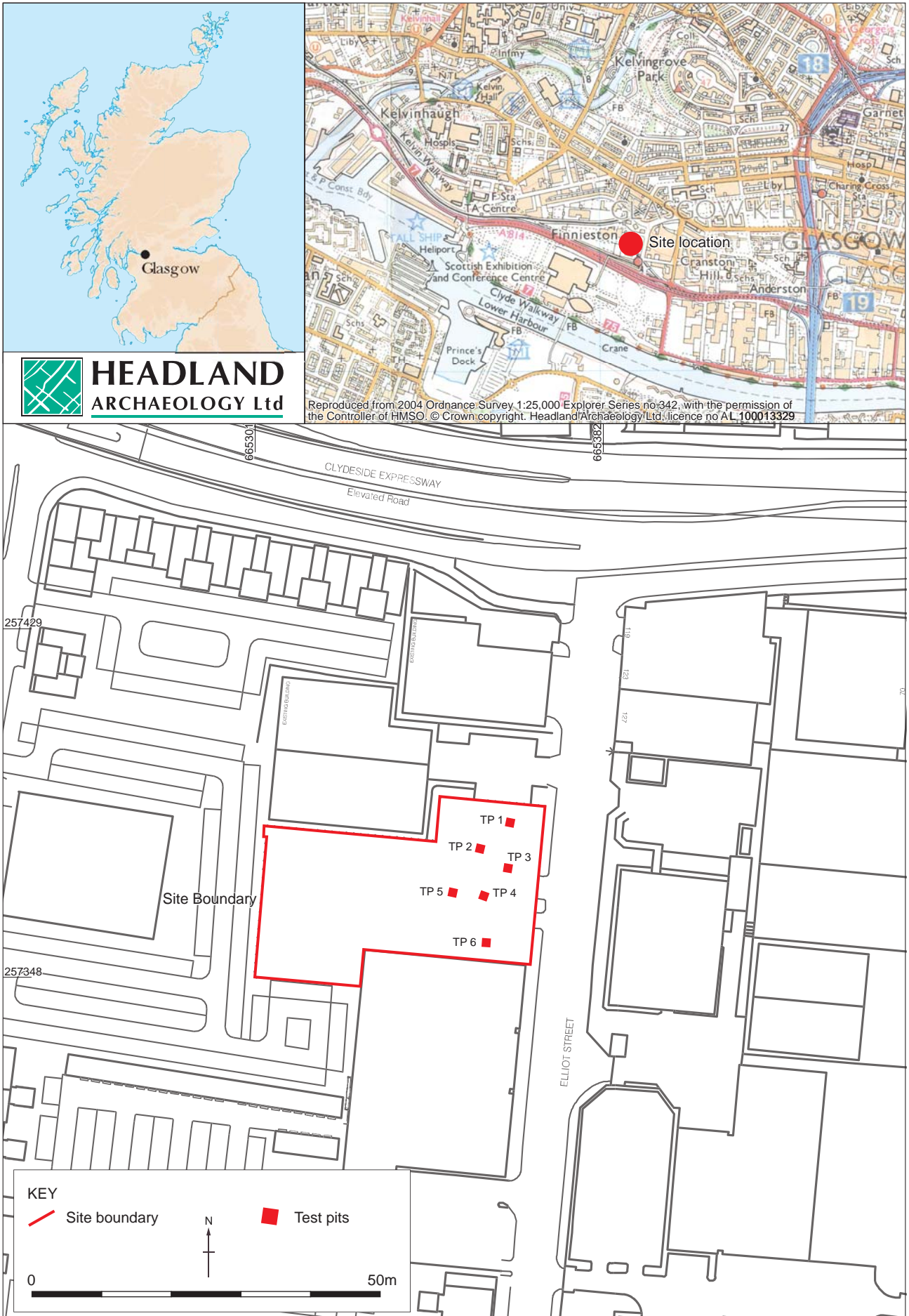


Figure 1 - ESGW07, 138 Elliot Street, Glasgow - Site Location.



Plate 1 - Site, facing east



Plate 2 - Northern area of site, facing east



Plate 3 - Southern area of site, facing east



Plate 4 - Test Pit 1, with brick foundation 009.



Plate 5 - Tank 003 in Test Pit 2



Plate 6 - Backfill in tank 003 in Test pit 2



Plate 7: Test Pit 3



Plate 8: Test Pit 4



Plate 9 - Concrete pile 007 in Test Pit 5



Plate 10 - Test Pit 6