

RCHE19



REPLACEMENT CASTLEBRAE HIGH SCHOOL, EDINBURGH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PLANNING REF. 19/01771/FUL

commissioned by Morrison Construction

November 2019

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PROJECT INFO:

HA Project Code **RCHE19** / NGR **NT 2907 7179** / Local Authority **City of Edinburgh** / OASIS Ref.
headland1-372318 / Archive Repository **Historic Environment Scotland**

PROJECT TEAM:

Project Manager **Edward Bailey** / Author **Donald Wilson** / Fieldwork **Asta Pavilionyte, Donald
Wilson** / Graphics **Rafael Maya-Torcelly**

Approved by **Edward Bailey**



Headland Archaeology Scotland
13 Jane St | Edinburgh EH6 5HE
t 0131 467 7705
e scotland@headlandarchaeology.com
w www.headlandarchaeology.com



part of the **RSK** Group



PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation on vacant land to the north of the City of Edinburgh Council Neighbourhood Centre, Craigmillar, Edinburgh as a condition of the planning application for development of the Replacement Castlebrae Highschool by Morrison Construction. The excavation of 10 trial trenches amounting to 428m linear revealed the southern part of the site had been disturbed during the construction of the Neighbourhood Centre and this area had subsequently been landscaped. Much of the area was covered in scrub and small tree cover with undulating and uneven ground. The depth of the excavated trenches varied between 0.25 and 1.1m and in all cases exposed either the geological subsoil or bedrock. No features of archaeological interest were present.

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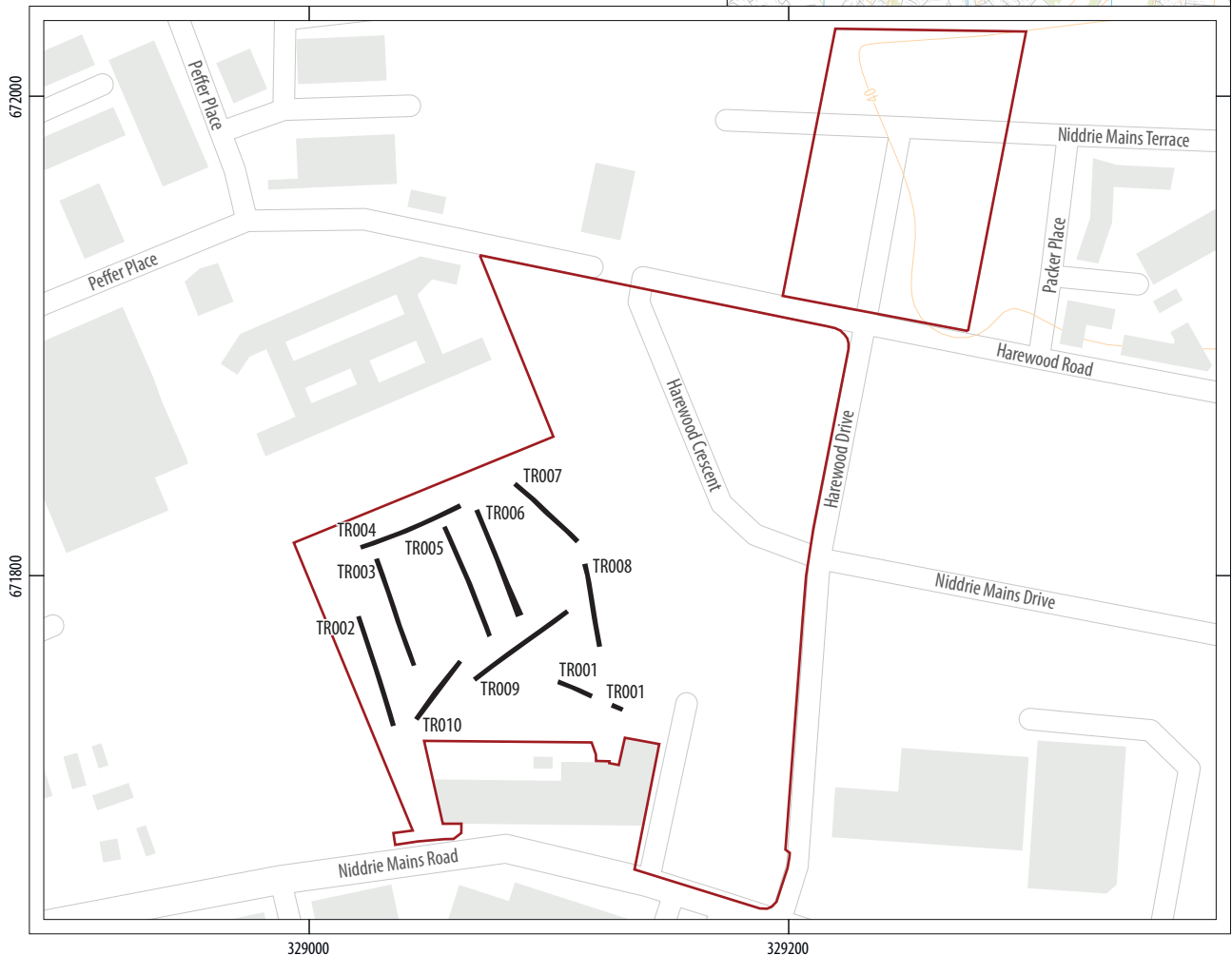
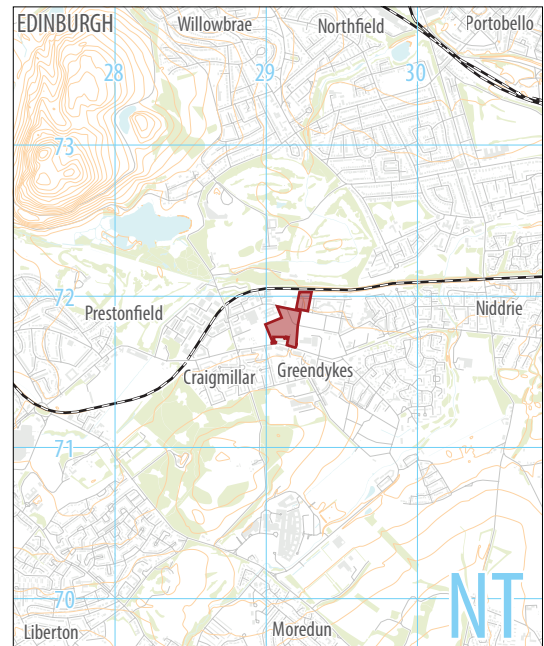
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Castlebrae High School
Greendykes
Edinburgh

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



0 60m
1:3,000 @ A4

development boundary
trench location

HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY

Headland Archaeology Scotland
13 Jane St | Edinburgh EH6 5HE
t 0131 467 7705
e scotland@headlandarchaeology.com
w www.headlandarchaeology.com

REPLACEMENT CASTLEBRAE HIGH SCHOOL, EDINBURGH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Morrison Construction to undertake an archaeological trial trenching evaluation on the former playing field located to the north of the current City of Edinburgh Council Neighbourhood Centre. The work was carried out in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent (ref: 19/01771/FUL) in advance of the redevelopment of the site. The evaluation adhered to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Headland Archaeology (2019) and agreed with the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) on behalf of Edinburgh City Council (the Local Planning Authority). The work was undertaken in October 2019.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site was located across an area of vacant land at Craigmillar, Edinburgh (centred on NGR NT 29071 71787). It encompassed a total area of approximately 3.7 ha with the area subject to evaluation totalling 8800m² (Illus 1). The site was split into two areas the first, smaller of the two, was bounded to the north by the existing railway line, to the west by waste ground, to the east by an ongoing housing development, and to the south Harewood Road. The larger area was bounded to the north by Harewood Road and the Castlebrae Business Centre, to the east by Harewood Drive, to the south by the CEC Neighbourhood Centre and to the west further waste ground.

The bedrock geology of the site consists of Ballagan Formation sandstone that formed approximately 345 to 359 million years ago. This is overlain by sand and gravel deposits formed during up to 3 million years ago during the Quaternary Period (NERC 2019).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies at the centre of the modern settlement of Craigmillar, with the western part of the site formerly occupied by school playing fields and the eastern section being occupied by pre-war housing. Prior to the mid-20th century the area was largely agricultural ground, as shown on Kirkwood's 1817 Edinburgh map. By the mid to late 19th century the surrounding area was notable for industry including nearby mining and brick works at Niddrie and late 19th/early 20th century breweries located adjacent to the site's western boundary. These are all depicted on the 1895 and later ordnance survey maps. On the early ordnance survey maps the area of the investigation was still depicted as agricultural ground. The name of the former farm of Cairntows, which stood nearby to the south of the current Police Station, first recorded in 1550 suggests that the farm took its name from the location of prehistoric burial mounds located in this area though now lost. Increasing industry enclosed the site until its redevelopment in the 1930's to 50's with schools and housing constructed, the development site becoming the playing fields to one of the schools.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project were as follows:

- › establishing the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the accessible areas targeted for trenching;
- › establishing the integrity and state of preservation of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the accessible areas;

- › To produce and deposit a satisfactory archive and disseminate the results of the work via grey-literature reporting and publication as appropriate.

The results of the evaluation will be used to inform a strategy for further archaeological mitigation if appropriate.

4.1 METHODS

A 10% sample of the former playing fields to the north of the CEC Neighbourhood Centre was examined by archaeological trial trenching. This amounted to 880 m² or 440m of linear trenches with an approximate width of 2m. The trenches were set at varying orientations within the area in order to provide sufficient coverage across the former playing fields. Their distribution was partially informed by site-specific factors (e.g. topography and vegetation).

Trenches were opened using a tracked excavator. The machine was fitted with 2m wide toothless ditching bucket to remove all deposits. All excavation was carried out in controlled spits under direct archaeological supervision. Excavation terminated at the top of the natural geology or the first archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first. Spoil was stored at the side of each trench.

Excavation of archaeological deposits and features required to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation were continued by hand. On completion of machine excavation, all faces of the trench that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits were identified.

All trenches were backfilled following the completion of the evaluation and all recording.

4.2 REPORTING AND ARCHIVES

All recording followed ClfA Standards and Guidance (2014). All contexts were given unique numbers and all trench recording was undertaken on pro forma record sheets (see Appendix 1). A photographic record of all trenches was taken using digital photography (a full list can be found in Appendix 1). The digital photographs will be submitted to Historic Environment Scotland (HES) for long-term archive storage.

A site plan including all identified features, areas of excavation and other pertinent information was recorded digitally and will be accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to AOD. Digital recording was undertaken using a differential GPS in order to allow data checking while in the field.

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 Archaeological Data Service OASIS database (headland1-372318).

The complete project archive will be deposited with HES 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).

5 RESULTS

The evaluation was carried out between the 30th and 31st October 2019 in dry and bright conditions. At the time of the evaluation the land could best be described as wasteland. Much of the area was covered in small trees and scrub and was uneven throughout (Illus 2). The area also included several earthen banks forming rough terracing across parts of the site. The most pronounced bank was to the south end of the site. Here it formed a steep slope up to the rear of recently constructed CEC Neighbourhood Centre (Illus 3). Additional banks were recorded across the centre of the site and a small area to the north end of the site. This undulating ground and areas of scrub affected the positioning of the proposed trenches, although a reasonably even spread was achieved.

Ten evaluation trenches were excavated across the site and the descriptions and dimensions of these can be found in Appendix 1. The geological subsoil or bedrock (Illus 4) was exposed in all trenches with no features or artefacts of archaeological significance recorded. The stratigraphy and depths of the trenches varied considerably, and three main inferences relating to the site can be made based on these variations. Trench 1 exposed deep deposits of modern debris (002) within the bank to the south end of the site (Illus 5). This indicated that the slope was linked to landscaping of the site after the construction of the Neighbourhood Centre. In trenches 1, 8, 9 and 10 the presence of a compacted rubble stone layer (003) indicated that the area to the south side of the site had been used as the compound during the same construction. In Trench 9 it was clear that this rubble layer had truncated the geological subsoil (Illus 6), therefore also truncating any potential archaeology in this area. In trenches 6–9 a thick layer of compacted redeposited sand (007) was recorded above the geological subsoil. This may have been deposited as part of the formation of the school playing fields in this area. Again, this may have resulted in the truncation of any archaeological features.

A single tile drain, and a rubble field drain were recorded in Trench 4 to the north end of site and the trenches to the west side site all included a layer of subsoil (004) with charcoal fleck inclusions. The drains along with the subsoil represent the only remains of the agricultural activity in the area.

6 DISCUSSION

The trial trench evaluation revealed that the southern part of the site had been heavily disturbed during the construction of the Neighbourhood Centre in recent years. It also indicated that the eastern half of the site may have been disturbed during the formation of the playing fields.



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3

ILLUS 2 General view of the site showing the heavy scrub cover **ILLUS 3** View of the banking at the south end of the site



ILLUS 4 Trench 3 showing the bedrock **ILLUS 5** Trench 1 showing the made ground deposits **ILLUS 6** View of the section of Trench 9 showing the topsoil and subsoil layers

7 REFERENCES

Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF) 2011 *Archaeological Archives A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (2nd edn) (ClfA: Reading) http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/aaf_archaeological_archives_2011.pdf accessed 31 Oct 2019

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Cartographic Sources

Kirkwood, R 1817 *This plan of the City of Edinburgh and its environs*

Edinburghshire IV.9 (Edinburgh) Publication date: 1895 Revised: 1893 <https://maps.nls.uk/view/82877571>

Edinburghshire IV.9 (Edinburgh) Publication date: 1908 Revised: 1906 <https://maps.nls.uk/view/82877574>

Edinburghshire IV.9 (Edinburgh) Publication date: 1934 Revised: 1932 Levelled: 1913 <https://maps.nls.uk/view/82877580>

8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Trench register

TR	ALIGNMENT	SIZE (M)	MAX D (M)	DESCRIPTION
1	NW-SE	2 x 30	1.1	Located to SE end of the site partially across a steep bank. Topsoil (001) over 1m of modern made ground (002) to SE end. A layer of rubble
2	N-S	2 x 50	0.9	Located to the W end of site with 0.3m of topsoil (001) over 0.4m of subsoil (004). Natural was a
3	N-S	2 x 40	0.25	Located to the W side of site with up to 0.25m of topsoil (001) over sandstone bedrock (006).
4	E-W	2 x 50	0.4	Located across the
5	N-S	2 x 50	0.4	Located across the central area of the site. Covered with 0.2m of topsoil (001) over up to 0.2m of subsoil (c004). The natural alternated between bands of sand (005) and bedrock (006)
6	N-S	2 x 50	0.55	Located across the central area of the site. Covered with 0.25m of topsoil (001) over up to 0.25m of subsoil (c004). The natural was mainly sand (005) with occasional stone inclusions. A single area of modern disturbance was recorded.
7	NW-SE	2 x 40	1.1	NW end of the trench was located at the edge of a raised bank and was 1.1m deep at this point. Section revealed the area was all compacted re-deposited sand (007) below 0.2m of topsoil (001). The natural was mainly sand (005). A single service pipe was recorded in the trench.
8	N-S	2 x 40	0.7	The N end of the trench was across a terraced slope so was shallow at this end. Below the topsoil/turf (001) was a redeposited
9	NE-SW	2 x 50	0.6	Located to the S side of the site with a compact redeposited sand (007) below the topsoil (001). At the SW end a rubble surface (c003) was recorded truncating the natural, a
10	NE-SW	2 x 32	0.65	Located to the SW corner of the site. This included a greyish brown sand subsoil (c004) below 0.25m of topsoil (001). The natural was mainly sand (c005) with occasional bedrock (006). Two modern drains were recorded in the trench. A layer of rubble (003) was also recorded at the SW end.

Context Register

CONTEXT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
001	Topsoil	A dark grey brown soft sandy loam with moderate poorly sorted stone inclusions and heavy root bioturbation. Between 0.1 and 0.3m deep
002	Made ground	A deep layer of modern debris including stone, brick and concrete and sand forming a bank at the S end of the site.
003	Temp surface	A layer of angular stone rubble forming a temporary ground surface. Used a compound area during the construction of the building to the south
004	Subsoil	A dark grey brown sand with moderated charcoal fleck inclusions and occasional small stones. Mainly recorded to the west half of the site.
005	Natural	A geological subsoil of mid orange to light yellow sand
006	Bedrock	A laminated sandstone
007	Made ground	A layer of very compacted dark grey brown sandy loam with frequent stone inclusions. This was more compact than the topsoil or subsoil and was likely redeposited material to form a level surface for the playing fields

Photographic register

PHOTO	FACING	DESCRIPTION
RCHE-01	N	Pre-excavation view
RCHE-02	NW	Pre-excavation view
RCHE-03	N	Pre-excavation view
RCHE-04	NW	View of Trench 1
RCHE-05	SE	View of Trench 1
RCHE-06	SW	NE facing section of Trench 1
RCHE-07	N	View of Trench 2
RCHE-08	E	E facing section of trench 2
RCHE-09	S	View of Trench 3
RCHE-10	W	E facing section of trench 3
RCHE-11	S	N facing section of Trench 4
RCHE-12	E	View of Trench 4
RCHE-13	W	E facing section of trench 5
RCHE-14	N	View of Trench 5
RCHE-15	N	Working shot
RCHE-16	N	Working shot
RCHE-17	W	View of bank slope at S end of site
RCHE-18	N	Post-ex of trench 2
RCHE-19	W	E facing section of trench 6
RCHE-20	E	W facing section of trench 6
RCHE-21	N	View of Trench 6
RCHE-22	E	View of bank slope at the N end of site
RCHE-23	NW	View of Trench 7
RCHE-24	SW	NE facing section of trench 7

PHOTO	FACING	DESCRIPTION
RCHE-25	W	E facing section of trench 8
RCHE-26	S	View of Trench 8
RCHE-27	N	Working shot
RCHE-28	N	Working shot
RCHE-29	SW	View of Trench 9
RCHE-30	SE	NW facing section of Trench 9
RCHE-31	NW	SE facing section of trench 10
RCHE-32	NE	View of Trench 10
RCHE-33	SE	NW facing section of trench 9
RCHE-34	NW	Post-excavation view of site
RCHE-35	NE	Post-excavation view of site
RCHE-36	N	Post-excavation view of site
RCHE-37	SE	Post-excavation view of site
RCHE-38	E	View of bank at the north end of site
RCHE-39	SE	Post excavation view of site

APPENDIX 2 DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Replacement Castlebrae School, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	RCHE19
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Donald Wilson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	NT 29071 71787
START DATE	30th October 2019
END DATE	31st October 2019
PREVIOUS WORK	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation on vacant land to the north of the City of Edinburgh Council Neighbourhood Centre, Craigmillar, Edinburgh as a condition of the planning application for development of the Replacement Castlebrae Highschool by Morrison Construction. The excavation of 10 trial trenches amounting to 428m linear revealed the southern part of the site had been disturbed during the construction of the Neighbourhood Centre and this area had subsequently been landscaped. Much of the area was covered in scrub and small tree cover with undulating and uneven ground. The depth of the excavated trenches varied between 0.25 and 1.1m and in all cases exposed either the geological subsoil or bedrock. No features of archaeological interest were present.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	No
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Morrison Construction
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	office@headlandarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Historic Environment Scotland



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Headland Archaeology Scotland
13 Jane Street
Edinburgh EH6 5HE
t 0131 467 7705
e scotland@headlandarchaeology.com

Headland Archaeology Yorkshire & North
Unit 16 | Hillside | Beeston Rd
Leeds LS11 8ND
t 0113 387 6430
e yorkshireandnorth@headlandarchaeology.com

Headland Archaeology South & East
Building 68C | Wrest Park | Silsoe
Bedfordshire MK45 4HS
t 01525 861 578
e southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com

Headland Archaeology Midlands & West
Unit 1 | Clearview Court | Twyford Rd
Hereford HR2 6JR
t 01432 364 901
e midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com

Headland Archaeology North West
Fourways House | 57 Hilton Street
Manchester M1 2EJ
t 0161 236 2757
e northwest@headlandarchaeology.com