Project code: FBCP10-001
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Client: Forth Road Bridge

Results of an Archaeological Evaluation at the Forth Road Bridge Car Park

Ross Murray MA (Hons)

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

Client	FORTH ROAD BRIDGE
National Grid Reference	NH 6414 4860 (CENTRE)
Address	FORTH ROAD BRIDGE CAR PARK
Parish	DALMENY
Council	CITY OF EDINBURGH
Planning Application No	09/03305/FUL
NMRS No	N/A
Oasis No	N/A
SMR No	N/A
HB/SAM No	N/A
Listing Category	N/A
Project Manager	CHRIS LOWE
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Specialists	N/A
Schedule	
Fieldwork	6th APRIL 2010
Report	14th APRIL 2010

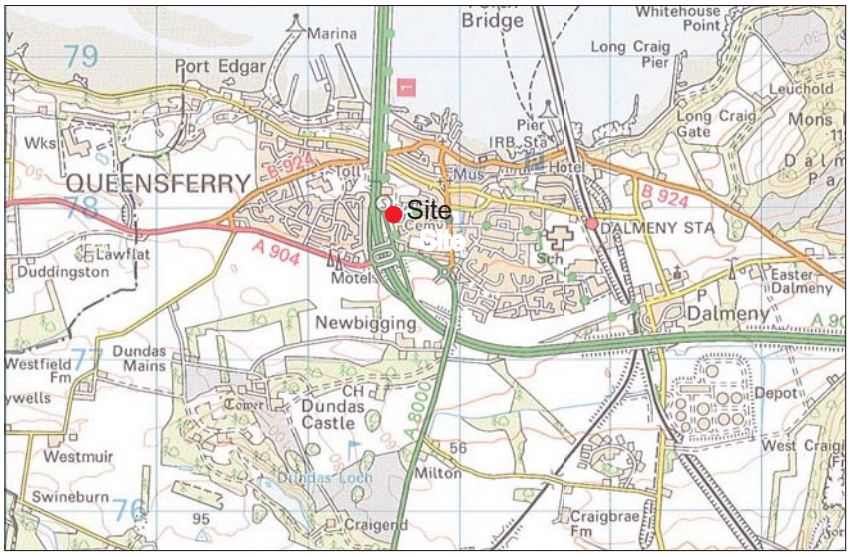
Signed off by …….:

Chris Lowe MIFA, Project Manager

Date:……

CONTENTS

HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY (UK) Ltd



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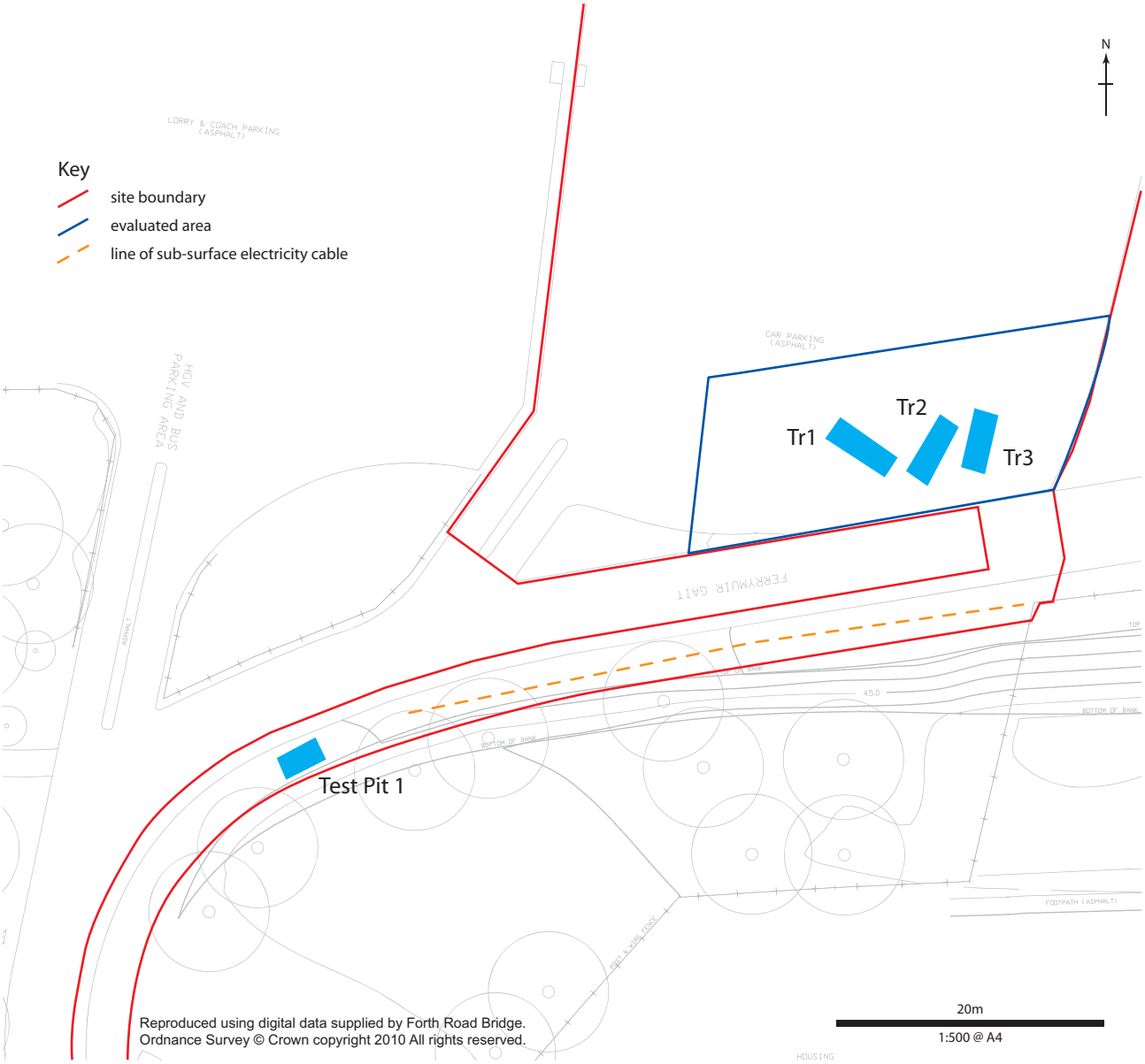

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Forth Road Bridge Car Park

Archaeological Evaluation

by Ross Murray

Headland Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation at the Forth Bridge car park in advance of the development and landscaping of a new compound area. The work was undertaken to meet a planning condition placed by the City of Edinburgh Council.

No archaeological features were present within three 5 x 1.6m trenches and one 3 x 1.6m test pit. The trenches and test pit demonstrate the site is located on an area of made ground at least 1m deep that is likely to have been created for the construction of the present day car park and adjacent road.

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken at the Forth Bridge car park on the 6th April 2010. The work was undertaken to meet a planning condition placed by the City of Edinburgh Council, on the advice of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS), on an application for development on the land by Forth Road Bridge. The works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd and approved by CECAS.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the work were:

- to establish the presence or absence, quality, condition and extent of archaeological deposits within the site by means of intrusive trenches. Specifically to test the hypothesis that the site area comprises made-ground to a depth of >800mm.

METHODOLOGY

Archaeological Trial Trenches

A series of linear archaeological trial trenches were machine-excavated. The specified 10% sample of the soft landscaping area (245 sq m) corresponds to 15m linear or three trenches 5m long and 1.6m wide. In addition, three further test pits were proposed (3 x 1.6m) along the adjacent proposed footpath. Due to the presence of live electricity cables supplying the roadside street lighting only one 3 x 1.6m test pit was excavated.

Works were undertaken by a JCB 3CX backacter. A breaker and toothed bucket were used to remove hard surfaces and modern overburden under archaeological control. The base of the trenches was cleaned with a flat-bladed bucket. Excavation ceased at a depth of 1m. The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full. Trenches were backfilled but not re-surfaced.

RESULTS

No archaeological features were present in the three evaluation trenches within the soft landscaping area or the test pit near the proposed footpath (Illus 1). All the evaluation trenches contained the same sequence of deposits with a 0.14m layer of tarmac laid over a 0.85m deep deposit of red blaes. Beneath this was made ground consisting of dark grey silt-loam containing brick, wood and stone. Excavation ceased at this deposit (Plates 1-6).

The sequence of deposits in the test pit comprised a 0.1m deep layer of turf and topsoil over a 0.9m deep mixture of topsoil, hardcore and red blaes (Plates 7 and 8)

DISCUSSION

The archaeological evaluation demonstrated the development area lies in an area of made ground to a depth of over 1m. It is likely that during the construction of the present day car park and adjacent road the ground was roughly levelled with the silt-loam deposit. This was then covered with blaes to create an even surface for the laying of the tarmac.

APPENDIX 1 Photograph register

Picture no.	Prints	Slides	Digital file name	Direction facing	Description
1		1	FBCP10-001.jpg	NE	View of section in Trench 1
2		1	FBCP10-002.jpg	SE	View of Trench 1
3		1	FBCP10-003.jpg	SW	View of Trench 2
4		1	FBCP10-004.jpg	NW	View of section in Trench 2
5		1	FBCP10-005.jpg	N	View of Trench 3
6		1	FBCP10-006.jpg	W	View of section in Trench 3
7		1	FBCP10-007.jpg	N	View of section in Test Pit 1
8		1	FBCP10-008.jpg	W	View of Test Pit 1

APPENDIX 2 Plates

Illus 1
View of section in Trench 1

Illus 2
View of Trench 1

Illus 3
View of Trench 2

Illus 4
View of section in Trench 2

Illus 5
View of Trench 3

Illus 6
View of section in Trench 3

Illus 7
View of section in Test Pit 1

Illus 8
View of Test Pit 1