



# 124 WHITEHOUSE ROAD, EDINBURGH

*Site inspection*

*for Patience and Highmore  
(on behalf of Dr and Mrs Murray)*

*April 2011*



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**Illus 1**  
Site location



# 124 WHITEHOUSE ROAD, EDINBURGH

## Site inspection

*Following excavation of trenches by contractors within the garden adjacent to 124 Whitehouse Road, Cramond, a site inspection was carried out in response to a request from the City of Edinburgh Archaeologist. No archaeological features were seen in the sections of the trenches.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Planning permission has been granted for a development within the garden grounds of 124 Whitehouse Road, Cramond (Planning Ref. 09/03301/FUL). An archaeological evaluation was carried out in June 2010 (Scott 2010) as a condition of planning consent. On 22 February 2011, the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeologist, John Lawson, was notified that additional excavations had been carried out in an area of the garden not covered by the previous planning consent. At his request the site was inspected by the author of this report, to determine whether any archaeological remains had been disturbed by the recent works.

### 1.1 Archaeological background

The site is located close to the road leading to the 16th century Cramond Brig, which is also considered the most likely crossing-point on the River Almond for a road leading to the Roman fort at Cramond. 124 Whitehouse Road, 'The Whitehouse' after which the road is named, dates to 1615 and is a Category B Listed Building.

The archaeological evaluation in 2010 comprised three trial trenches excavated at the south end of the grounds, in an area that lies several metres lower than the rest of the garden, separated from it by a substantial terrace. A culvert drain made of stone slabs, and an adjacent cobbled surface, were recorded in one of the trenches. A fragment of clay pipe recovered from the cobbled surface indicates a post-medieval date for these features. The culvert and cobbled surface overlay a mixed greyish-brown clay deposit which was interpreted as material redeposited during post-medieval landscaping in the grounds of the house: a considerable depth of

this material was present throughout the evaluation area, with undisturbed geological deposits encountered at depths that varied from 1.8–2.2m below ground surface.

## 2. AIMS AND METHODS

The aim of the investigation was to inspect the sections exposed by the excavations to check for, and if necessary record, any archaeological deposits or features. 1

When the site was visited on 22 February 2011, a trench approximately 20m long, 2m wide and 1m deep had been excavated along the SW side of the house, aligned NW-SE (Illus 2). Adjoining the NW end of this trench, an area 6 x 3m wide had been excavated to a depth of 2.5–3m (Illus 3). To the SE, an additional area measuring 20 x 5m, aligned NE-SW, had been excavated to a depth of 1m, with steel reinforcing rods laid in preparation for pouring concrete (Illus 4).

The only part of the excavation that was available for detailed investigation, therefore, was the central NW-SE trench. Part of the SW section of this trench was cleaned by hand to clarify the sequence of deposits it contained. The area to the NW was too deep to enter safely, while the area to the SE where reinforcing rods had been laid was too obstructed to allow safe access. Investigation of these areas was limited to visual inspection from the trench edge.

The extent, location and depth of the excavated areas were recorded on a measured sketch drawing, and digital photographs of the exposed sections were taken.

Spoil from the excavated trenches was inspected for artefact recovery.



**Illus 2**  
NW-SE aligned trench, facing SE

### 3. RESULTS

A thin and very disturbed layer of topsoil was present throughout the site. This overlay a pale brown clayey silt deposit, with frequent small stones, which appeared to be archaeologically sterile and is thought to be a naturally occurring till deposit. The trenches were all bottomed within this deposit, apart from the deeper trench to the north-west. Here, it could be seen to overlie a dark grey stony clay deposit at a depth of approximately 1.2m (Illus 3).

No features of potential archaeological interest could be seen in any of the exposed sections.

No artefacts were identified in the spoil from the excavated trenches.



**Illus 3**  
Deep excavation at NW end of the site, facing NW

### 4. DISCUSSION

No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the site inspection. It should be borne in mind that the excavation itself was not monitored by an archaeologist, and most of the sections were inaccessible for cleaning and detailed inspection. Nevertheless it is unlikely that any significant remains were disturbed.

### 5. REFERENCES

Scott, L, 2010, *124 Whitehouse Road, Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation*, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd, Unpublished Client Report.



**Illus 4**  
Area excavated to SE, with reinforcing rods in place, facing east





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