

FSGC12



## FOSTERS SPORTS GROUND, CLENCHWARTON, NORFOLK

*Archaeological Evaluation*

*for CgMs Consulting Ltd*

*April 2012*

# FOSTERS SPORTS GROUND, CLENCHWARTON, NORFOLK

*Archaeological Evaluation*

*for CgMs Consulting Ltd*

*April 2012*

HA Job no.: FSGC12

NGR: TF 60150 20450

Parish: Clenchwarton

Council: Norfolk

OASIS ref.: headland4-121735

Archive will be deposited with Norwich Castle Museum

Project Manager

James Newbould

Author

James McNicoll-Norbury

Fieldwork

Nuala Marshall-Woodley & James McNicoll-Norbury

Graphics

Julia Bastek, Anna Sztromwasser

Specialists

Scott Timpany – Environmental

Approved by

James Newbould – Project Manager



**Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd**  
© Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2012

**South & East**

Headland Archaeology  
Technology Centre, Stanbridge Road  
Leighton Buzzard LU7 4QH  
01525 850878  
leighton.buzzard@headlandarchaeology.com

**[www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)**



## CONTENTS

---

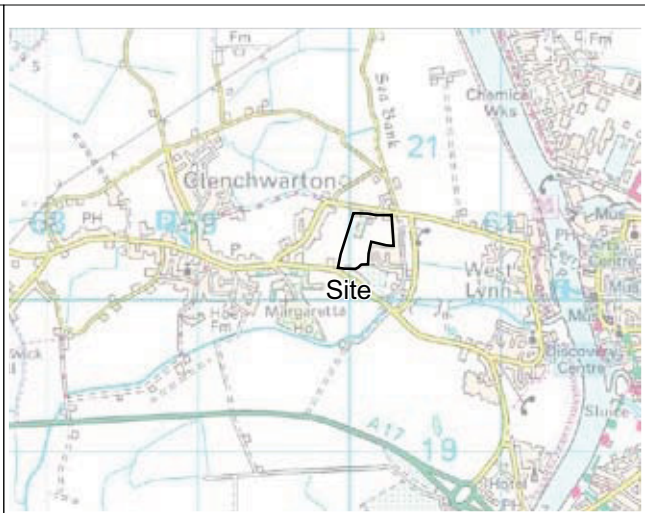
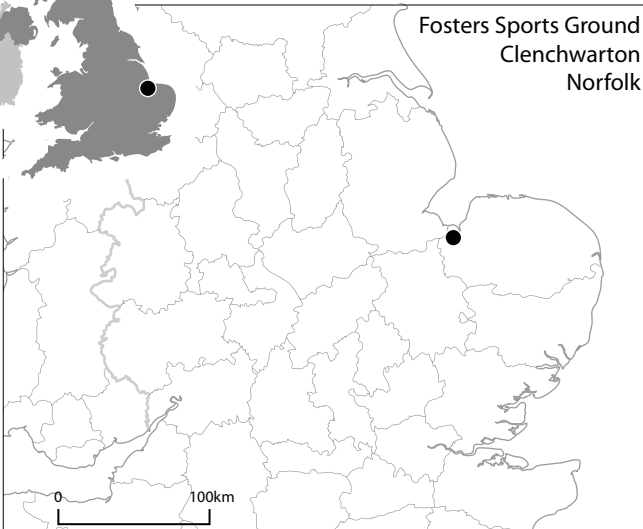
|     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| 1.  | INTRODUCTION   | 1 |
| 1.1 | Planning background  | 1 |
| 1.2 | Site location and background   | 1 |
| 1.3 | Archaeological background  | 1 |
| 2.  | METHODOLOGY  | 2 |
| 2.1 | Objectives   | 2 |
| 2.2 | Methodology  | 2 |
| 2.3 | Recording  | 2 |
| 3.  | RESULTS  | 2 |
| 3.1 | Description of the significance of the heritage assets                         | 2 |
| 4.  | ENVIRONMENTAL  | 2 |
| 5.  | DISCUSSION   | 5 |
| 5.1 | Assessment of archeological potential within the DA                            | 7 |
| 5.2 | Assessment of the impact of development on the significance of Heritage Assets | 7 |
| 6.  | BIBLIOGRAPHY   | 7 |
| 7.  | APPENDICES   | 8 |
| 7.1 | Appendix 1 – Site registers  | 8 |
|     | <i>Trench register</i>   | 8 |
|     | <i>Context register</i>  | 8 |

---

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

---

|                |   |      |
|----------------|---|------|
| <i>Illus 1</i> |   | viii |
|                | <i>Site location</i>                            |      |
| <i>Illus 2</i> |   | 3    |
|                | <i>Trench plan showing location of sondages</i> |      |
| <i>Illus 3</i> |   | 5    |
|                | <i>NE facing section of Trench 2</i>            |      |
| <i>Illus 4</i> |   | 5    |
|                | <i>NE facing section of Trench 20</i>           |      |
| <i>Illus 5</i> |   | 6    |
|                | <i>NE facing section of Trench 20</i>           |      |
| <i>Illus 6</i> |   | 6    |
|                | <i>NNW facing shot of Trench 2</i>              |      |
| <i>Illus 7</i> |   | 6    |
|                | <i>N facing shot of Trench 13</i>               |      |



Reproduced using 2011 OS 1:50,000 Landranger Series no. 132 and digital 1:2,500 data. Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2012. All rights reserved. Licence no. AL 100013329

Scale 1:3,500 @ A4



0 150m

### Illus 1

Site location

# FOSTERS SPORTS GROUND, CLENCHWARTON, NORFOLK

## Archaeological Evaluation

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted an evaluation at a proposed development site at Clenchwarton, in order to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the site. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting. A total of twenty trenches were excavated over the Development Area (DA) revealing deposits of clay laid down during a marine transgression probably ending around the 4th century, no archaeological features were identified.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Planning background

The client is developing proposals for the construction of new housing at Clenchwarton, Norfolk. The site is henceforth referred to as the Development area (DA). As part of the application process, the client commissioned a heritage assessment of the entire DA (in line with PPS5: Planning for Historic Environment) which highlighted the potential for below-ground archaeology within the area affected by the proposed works (JMHS 2011).

Because of the potential for sub-surface archaeological remains, Norfolk County Council's Historic Environment Services produced a brief (NCCCHES 2011) requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological trial trenching within the DA. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a programme of archaeological trial trenching was prepared in line with the brief and approved by the NCCCHES. Headland Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake the site works and produce a report (this document) on the results.

#### 1.2 Site location and background

The DA occupies c.3.5ha of grass land, previously used as a sports field at the eastern end of Clenchwarton, a small village to the west of Kings Lynn. The DA is split into two fields, divided by an E-W aligned line of trees. To the south the site is bounded by Main Road, to the north by Ferry Road and to the east and west housing. The DA is relatively flat and lies at a height of 2.25m OD. The solid geology consists of Terrington Beds.

#### 1.3 Archaeological background

The archaeological background is detailed in a desk-based assessment (JMHS 2011) based on a study of all known

archaeological sites in the Norfolk HER within 1,000m of the DA (the study area). The results are summarised below.

Within the DA itself, the HER search revealed no records of archaeological remains. The 1st edition 1888 OS map shows a pond in the northern field (JMHS 2011) which is still visible as a cropmark on internet mapping sites (Bing 2012). A number of other cropmarks are also visible on modern mapping. Both fields within the DA contain N-S aligned linear cropmarks indicative of field boundaries. Indeed, the cropmark in the southern field matches with a boundary shown on the 1888 OS map. In the northern field, a series of parallel, broadly E-W aligned linear cropmarks may indicate the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation or modern field drains. Given the presence of marshy ground in this part of the DA, the latter is more likely.

There are no finds from the prehistoric, Roman or Saxon periods within the DA. The nearby Sea Bank (NHER 2187; NMR1032408) is located approximately 150m east of the DA. Its exact date is unknown, although it is thought to be late Saxon in origin (Albone *et al.* 2007, 116).

The DA is thought to lie 700m northeast of the medieval settlement and port of Maidenhouse (NHER 2192), on the northern bank of the River Great Ouse. The site of Margareta House is believed to be that of a moated manor which would have been the principle focus for the port and village. To the west of the port of Maidenhouse a number of earthworks are visible (NHER 27216) and field walking in the 1980s recovered medieval pottery (NHER 22308).

To the north and east of the DA, Saltern mounds relating to salt-making during the medieval and post-medieval periods have been identified (NHER 20879 & 22309) from which pottery and late medieval metalwork have been found.



## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Objectives

In general the objectives of the evaluation are presented in the WSI (Headland Archaeology 2011, Section 4).

Specifically the aims of the investigation include:

- establishing the depth and character of archaeologically 'sterile' overburden
- identifying, characterising and dating any potential archaeological remains within the site
- defining any constraints encountered during the evaluation and any potential constraints for further archaeological fieldwork (*e.g.* areas of disturbance, service locations, *etc.*).

### 2.2 Methodology

Fieldwork took place between the 26th and 27th March 2012. A total of twenty 40m by 2m trenches were excavated (Illus 3 & 4). Trenches were laid out in order to test blank areas which fell within zones of proposed development impact as well as cropmarks within the DA (Illus 1).

A 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a flat-bladed bucket was used to remove topsoil under direct archaeological control. Excavation continued until clean geological sediments, significant archaeological deposits or structures were encountered or until the limit of safe excavation was reached, whereupon sondages were dug to establish the depth of the natural geology.

Further excavation required to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation was continued by hand. A representative sample of identified features, sufficient to meet the objectives of the evaluation, was investigated by hand and all identified features were recorded. The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full.

The evaluation was monitored and approved by Norfolk Council's Historic Environment Officer (HEO). Backfilling of the trenches was undertaken following approval from the HEO.

### 2.3 Recording

All recording was in accordance with the code of practice of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All trenches and contexts were given unique numbers and all recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to accepted archaeological standards. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded.

An overall site plan at an appropriate scale and relative to the National Grid was recorded by digital survey

using a differential GPS.

A full photographic record comprising colour slide and black and white print photographs was taken, supplemented with digital photography. A metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs of contexts.

## 3. RESULTS

Full trench descriptions, including orientation, length and depth of overburden are presented in Appendix section. Technical details of individual contexts are presented in Appendix section. Context numbers are expressed according to the trench in which they were found; *i.e.* Trench 1 – [100], [101]; Trench 2, [200], [201] *etc.* Cut features are shown as [100] and the deposits within them are expressed as (102). The results are described in chronological order and feature type.

Overburden generally comprised topsoil (001) between 0.2m and 0.3m in depth which overlay up to 0.22m of grey silty clay subsoil (002). This directly overlay a layer of grey/brown post-glacial marine clay (003) which contained several modern land drains. Sondages were dug in Trenches 1, 2, 11, 18 and 20 which revealed the clay was up to 1.5m thick and overlay peat deposits (004) up to 0.3m in thickness, which contained reeds. Sondages revealed a second deposit of clay (005) lying beneath this layer of peat. These clay deposits have been interpreted as the result of post-glacial marine transgressions over the DA.

The remains of the modern pond shown on the 1st edition 1888 OS map were revealed in the northern end of Trench 9. However, no significant archaeological deposits were encountered within the DA.

### 3.1 Description of the significance of the Heritage Assets

The local and regional research frameworks are provided by Medlycott (2011) (Glazebrook 1997, Brown & Glazebrook 2000). Due to no archaeological remains being identified by trial trenching, the site does not contribute to the research aims contained within these frameworks.

## 4. ENVIRONMENTAL

*By Scott Timpany*

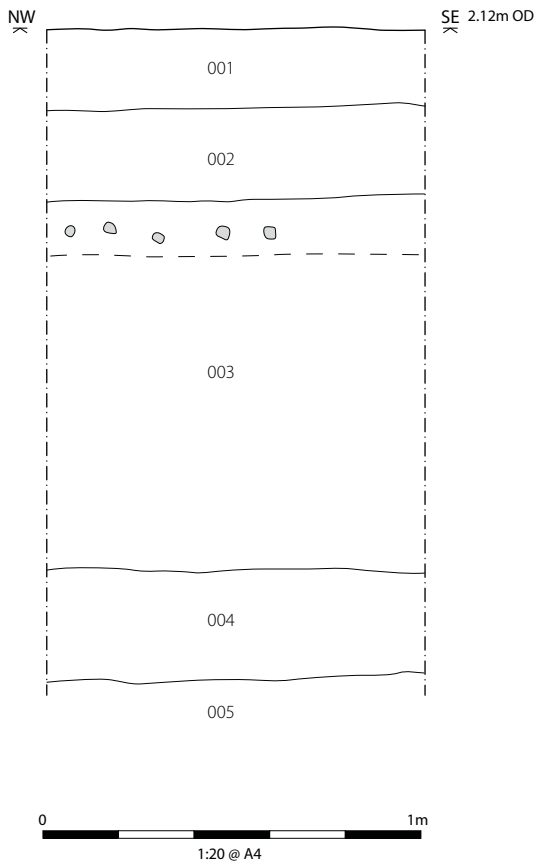
Samples taken from the upper clay alluvium (003) and peat (004) deposits were scanned for indicators of morphology and environmental potential.

Deposit (003) has very fragmented cockle shell. Deposit (004) is Phragmites Peat containing reed fragments.



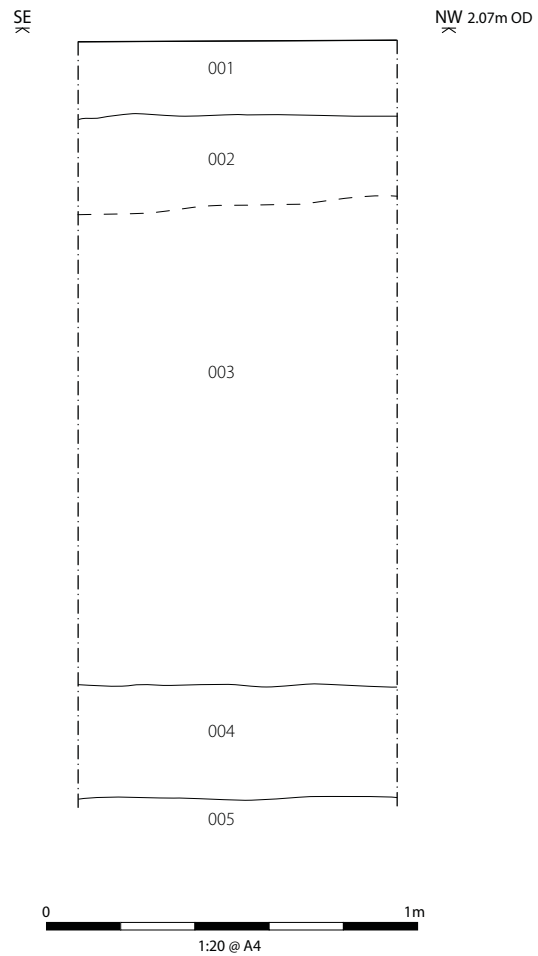
**illus 2**  
Trench plan showing location of sondages





**Illus 3**

*NE facing section of Trench 2*



**Illus 4**

*NE facing section of Trench 20*

These deposits represent a transition from reed swamp to estuarine silt with cockle indicating a lower to middle shore environment. The horizon between the peat (004) and upper clay alluvium (003) is fairly sharp. The presence of stones in the section at this level implies a high energy event. This indicates that the upper surface of the peat may have been lost to erosion during the transition to an alluvial regime.

The good preservation of the reed fragments would indicate good preservation potential of micro- and macroscopic plant remains within the peats. It should also be noted that the peat has probably been subject to some compaction from the weight of the heavier clays above, therefore the peat sequence may be of considerable length.

## 5. DISCUSSION

Trial trenching has revealed no evidence of archaeological remains within the DA. The stratigraphic sequence identified within the DA comprised two deposits of marine clays, separated by a layer of reedy, *Phragmites* Peat. This sequence matches that of the Terrington Beds, a sequence of marine alluvial deposits and peats on the North Norfolk coast and the Fenlands.

The Terrington Beds were formed as the result of a major marine transgression, which occurred about 2600BC, brining alluvial clay to the margins of the Fens (Hodge *et al.* 1984, pp.124–2; D’Olier 2002, p.5). These were later covered by peat deposits after the water level receded (Hodge *et al.* 1984, pp.124–5). Hodge also states ‘a further transgression, finishing in the fourth century AD, laid down clays and silts around the Wash’ (1984, pp.124–5).

This indicates that the upper clay deposits identified within the DA are likely to be a result of the transgression finishing in the fourth century. Later marine transgressions in the Middle Ages are likely to have been prevented from affecting land within the DA by the Sea Bank (NHER2187; NMR1032408) which is thought predate 1086. This supports the hypothesis that marine clay deposits south of the bank originate from the late Roman transgression. It has also been suggested that the land occupied by these deposits (the Terrington Beds) is likely to have been first resettled in the late Saxon period (Albone *et al.* 2007).



◀ **Illus 5**  
*NE facing section of Trench 20*



◀ **Illus 6**  
*NNW facing shot of Trench 2*



◀ **Illus 7**  
*N facing shot of Trench 13*

## 5.1 Assessment of archeological potential within the DA

The upper deposits of marine clay are considered to be late Roman in origin. Therefore, any archaeological remains post-dating the fourth century would be visible as cut features within the surface of these deposits. The lack of remains from these periods indicated that there is no potential for post-Roman archaeology within the DA.

Peat with reed inclusions, similar to that found within the DA have been identified at excavations in Wisbech to the southwest (Hinman 2002). These have been dated from the late Bronze Age to the Roman period. It is possible that peat layers within the DA are related to these periods. However, their potential has been reduced by erosion of their upper surface through a high-energy transition to marine alluvium. Furthermore, they are present at between 1.44m and 1.7m below current ground level (Illus 3 & 4). Therefore, if any remains pre-dating the fourth century marine transgression to exist with the DA, their depth means they would not be impacted by the proposed development.

## 5.2 Assessment of the impact of development on the significance of Heritage Assets

The change of use of the DA to dwellings will involve destructive groundworks. However, as no archaeological features were uncovered, and peat deposits were encountered in excess of 1.44m below ground level, the impact of any development on Heritage Assets is considered to be nil.

## 6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Albone, J *et al.* 2007 *The Archaeology of Norfolk's Coastal Zone: Results of the National Mapping Programme*, English Heritage Project No.: 2913.
- Brown, N & Glazebrook, J 2000 *Research & Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties – 2 Research Agenda and Strategy*, Norwich: Scole Archaeological Committee (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8).
- D'Olier, B 2002 *Southern North Sea Sediment Transport Study, Phase 2: Sediment Transport Report, Appendix 10: A Geological Background to Sediment Sources, Pathways and Sinks*.
- Glazebrook, J 1997 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties – 1 Resource Assessment*.
- Headland Archaeology 2012 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation at Fosters Sports Ground, Clenchwarton, Norfolk*.
- Hinman, M 2002 *Deeply Stratified Medieval and Post-Medieval Remains at Market Mews, Wisbech*.
- Hodge, CAH, Burton, R G O, Corbett, WM, Evans, R & Seale, R S 1984 *Soils and Their Use in Eastern England*, p.19.
- John Moore Heritage Services 2011 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of Land at Fosters Sports Ground, Clenchwarton, Norfolk*.
- Medlycott, M 2011 (ed.) *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.
- Ncches 2011 *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at Fosters Sports Ground, Clenchwarton, Norfolk*, Norfolk County Council, Historic Environment Service.



## 7. APPENDICES

### 7.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

#### Trench register

| Trench no. | Length (m) | Orientation | Description   |
|------------|------------|-------------|---|
| 001        | 40         | WNW-ESE     | 0–0.2m topsoil; 0.2–0.4m subsoil; 0.4–1.7m grey/brown marine clay   |
| 002        | 40         | NW-SE       | 0–0.2m topsoil; 0.2–0.4m subsoil; 0.4–1.44m grey/brown marine clay; 1.44–1.76m peat; 1.76m+ grey/brown clay |
| 003        | 40         | NE-SW       | 0–0.2m topsoil; 0.2–0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ grey/brown marine clay  |
| 004        | 40         | WNW-ESE     | 0–0.2m topsoil; 0.2–0.3m subsoil; 0.3m+ grey/brown marine clay  |
| 005        | 40         | NNW-SSE     | 0–0.2m topsoil; 0.2–0.3m subsoil; 0.3m+ grey/brown marine clay  |
| 006        | 40         | NE-SW       | 0–0.2m topsoil; 0.2–0.3m subsoil; 0.3m+ grey/brown marine clay  |
| 007        | 40         | NW-SE       | 0–0.2m topsoil; 0.2–0.3m subsoil; 0.3m+ grey/brown marine clay  |
| 008        | 40         | ENE-WSW     | 0–0.2m topsoil; 0.2–0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ grey/brown marine clay  |
| 009        | 40         | NNE-SSW     | 0–0.2m topsoil; 0.2–0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ grey/brown marine clay  |
| 010        | 40         | N-S         | 0–0.2m topsoil; 0.2–0.3m subsoil; 0.3m+ grey/brown marine clay  |
| 011        | 40         | NW-SE       | 0–0.2m topsoil; 0.2–0.43m subsoil; 0.43m–1.6m grey/brown marine clay; 1.6m+ peat                            |
| 012        | 40         | NE-SW       | 0–0.22m topsoil; 0.22–0.37m subsoil; 0.37m+ grey/brown marine clay  |
| 013        | 40         | N-S         | 0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25–0.41m subsoil; 0.41m+ grey/brown marine clay  |
| 014        | 40         | NW-SE       | 0–0.32m topsoil; 0.32–0.47m subsoil; 0.47m+ grey/brown marine clay  |
| 015        | 40         | WNW-ESE     | 0–0.27m topsoil; 0.27–0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ grey/brown marine clay  |
| 016        | 40         | NE-SW       | 0–0.31m topsoil; 0.31–0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ grey/brown marine clay  |
| 017        | 40         | NW-SE       | 0–0.31m topsoil; 0.31–0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ grey/brown marine clay  |
| 018        | 40         | NW-SE       | 0–0.31m topsoil; 0.31–0.43m subsoil; 0.43m+ grey/brown marine clay  |
| 019        | 40         | NE-SW       | 0–0.31m topsoil; 0.31–0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ grey/brown marine clay  |
| 020        | 40         | NW-SE       | 0–0.2m topsoil; 0.2–1.7m grey/brown marine clay; 1.7–2m peat; 2m+ grey/brown clay                           |

8

#### Context register

| Context no. | Trench no.               | Description                                 |
|-------------|--------------------------|---|
| 001         | T1–20                    | Grey brown friable clay with turf (topsoil) |
| 002         | T1–20                    | Mid grey silty clay (subsoil)               |
| 003         | T1–20                    | Grey/brown clay with shell inclusions       |
| 004         | Trench 1, 2, 11, 18 & 20 | Peat with reed inclusions                   |
| 005         | Trench 1, 2, 11, 18 & 20 | Grey brown clay                             |



**Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd**  
© Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2012

**South & East**

Headland Archaeology  
Technology Centre, Stanbridge Road  
Leighton Buzzard LU7 4QH  
01525 850878  
leighton.buzzard@headlandarchaeology.com

**Midlands & West**

Headland Archaeology  
Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road  
Hereford HR4 9NZ  
01432 364 901  
hereford@headlandarchaeology.com

**North East**

Headland Archaeology  
13 Jane Street  
Edinburgh EH6 5HE  
0131 467 7705  
office@headlandarchaeology.com

**North West**

Headland Archaeology  
10 Payne Street  
Glasgow G4 0LF  
0141 354 8100  
glasgowoffice@headlandarchaeology.com

[www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)