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The Leith Programme Leith Walk, Phases 5 to 8

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3231

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**The Leith Programme
Leith Walk, Phases 5 to 8**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) from May to October 2014 during The Leith Programme (Phases 5-8). The Leith Programme is a program of carriageway resurfacing works, footway alterations and environmental improvements to Leith Walk (NT 26828 75600) (Fig. 1) in the City of Edinburgh. The work was commissioned by the City of Edinburgh Council. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CFA and agreed by CECAS.

Leith Walk has been a historic route connecting Edinburgh with its port of Leith for centuries. In addition, it is known that during the mid 16th century sieges of Leith, in particular the 1559-60 siege of Leith, that enclosing siege works were constructed running across the route of the road to the port; the modern day Leith Walk.

Three trenches were excavated across three different locations along the lower northern section of Leith walk, roughly from Iona Street to Crowne Place, over eight phases of work. The primary function of the excavation of these trenches was for the principle contractors to lay electrical ducts running across the road at a predefined depth. However, CECAS had identified the potential for archaeological remains to be disturbed within these trenches, possibly relating to the aforementioned siegeworks. Therefore in order to best identify and record any archaeological features, a watching brief was required to monitor the excavations.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Watching Brief) to monitor the excavation of three trenches across Leith Walk;
- To identify and record the presence of any archaeological deposits or features, with specific attention being paid to any traces of the siege works from the 1559-60 Siege of Leith, that were constructed running across the route of Leith Walk.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 General

CFA follows Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidelines as appropriate.

2.2 Watching Brief

All excavation by mechanical plant was done using a smooth-bladed ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision. Any tarmac breaking was carried out by a pneumatic pick mounted on a mechanical excavator.

Health and Safety dictated that no access could be gained to the trenches so all recording, including section drawing, were done from the modern road surface level.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

The watching brief covered the excavation of three trenches running perpendicular to the course of Leith Walk (Figs. 1-4). The trenches were approximately 1 to 1.15m in width, with the electricity ducts were to be installed at a depth of around 0.8m. CECAS had previously determined that the trenches should be excavated to a depth of 1.5m where possible in order to increase the potential of archaeological remains being discovered and recorded prior to service construction. However, the presence of services often prevented this being achieved

In order to minimise traffic flow disruption and public inconvenience, each trench was excavated and backfilled in multiple segments over separate days. Any given segment was fully excavated, recorded and backfilled prior to the excavation of the next segment the following day.

3.2 Watching Brief

3.2.1 Trench 1 (Figs. 5, 8, 9 & 10)

Trench 1 was the most southerly of the three trenches and was located approximately 70m north of the junction of Iona Street and Leith Walk at NGR: NT 26620 75213 (Fig. 2). The trench measured c.1.05m in width and 16.7m in length. The western side of the trench began 4.15m from the shop fronts, and the trench terminated 3.3m from the shop fronts on the eastern side of the street.

The road surface tarmac (001) at modern ground level directly overlaid a layer of type 1 (002) across the entire trench. Below this were further thin modern deposits and then underneath these were predominantly fine mid-brown sands which were consistent down to 1.5m depth. The sand deposit was extensively cut by modern services.

On the eastern side of the trench gas and water service pipes were discovered so the targeted 1.5m depth could not be reached here. The western 5m of the trench also contained multiple ceramic and iron pipes containing services, with multiple cuts and fills for these visible below layer (002). This prevented the entire western section of the trench from being excavated to 1.5m.

No archaeologically significant remains were discovered throughout the trench.

3.2.2 Trench 2 (Figs. 6, 11 & 12)

Trench 2 was located around 20m south of the junction of Lorne Street and Leith walk at NGR: NT 26740 75457 (Fig. 2). The trench measured 1m in width and 12.2m in length. The trench began 2.6m from the existing pavement curb on the west side and terminated 1.7m from the existing pavement curb on the east side.

The modern road surface of tarmac (001) and type 1 (002) overlaid a layer of cast concrete (027) which covered most of the trench apart from the eastern and western ends of the trench where a number of later service cuts were present.

Services prevented the excavation to full depth in the westernmost end of the trench and a service that ran parallel to the trench prevented the excavation to full depth along most of the eastern half of the trench.

Towards the eastern side of the trench a possible cut (046) sloping from east to west was identified. This contained a deposit of dark grey stiff clay (028) that overlay (042), a deposit of dark brown sandy clay. Only the eastern side of the cut was observed with any clarity as the western side of the trench was full of modern services and possible natural sand (029) was only identified at the very base of the trench so a clear base to the possible cut was not identified with any certainty. A cast iron service with no visible cut was contained within the deposit (028). This could indicate that the cut (046) was relatively recent with the pipe being laid at the same time the wider cut was made. The fills were clayey which was different to the surrounding soils which were sand rich so it seems likely that this cut was backfilled rapidly with imported material. Overall this suggests the cut was recent and not of archaeological significance such a large cut ditch that had silted up.

3.2.3 Trench 3 (Figs 7, 13, 14 & 15)

Trench 3 was the final and most northerly of the three trenches and was located approximately 10m south of the Junction of Crown Place and Leith Walk at NGR: NT 26926 75822 (Fig. 4). The trench measured 1.15m wide and measured 15.95m from the existing pavement curb on the west side of the street to the existing pavement curb on the east side.

The existing road tarmac (001) overlaid a layer of type 1 (002), which overlaid a concrete surface (048 & 070) although this was not present in the western 4.7m of the trench. Two iron beams / girders were set in to the northern side of the concrete surface.

In the westernmost end of the trench the 1.5 m depth could not be reached due to abundance of cast iron and ceramic modern service pipes at around 0.8m to 1.0m depth. The easternmost end of the trench was also significantly disturbed with modern services so the full depth of 1.5m could not be reached.

Between the clusters of services at both ends of the trench there were no services encountered and the trench was excavated to 1.5m through layers of yellow/mid-brown fine sands.

No archaeologically significant remains were discovered throughout the trench.

4. CONCLUSION

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) from May to October 2014 during a program of carriageway resurfacing works, footway alterations and environmental improvements to Leith Walk (NT 26828 75600) (Fig. 1) in the City of Edinburgh.

Three trenches were excavated across Leith Walk to lay electrical ducts. These were monitored under watching brief conditions to identify and record any features or deposits of archaeological significance. There was an emphasis on identifying siege works relating to the mid 16th century sieges of Leith and in particular the 1559-60 siege of Leith where siege works were constructed running across the route of Leith Walk. The trenches were to be excavated to 1.5m deep to try and get below the level of modern disturbance. However, full depth excavation was not possible in the western and eastern ends of the trenches as modern service pipes were encountered at shallow depth making deeper excavation impossible. The central sections of the trenches were largely clear of services and in the main could be excavated to full depth. One edge of a possible wide cut feature was identified but it was considered to be recent in date. No features of archaeological significance were identified.

A summary statement of the results of this watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) and an *OASIS Scotland* entry will be completed.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Trench	Description
001	Tr1, Tr2, Tr3	Tarmac – modern road surface
002	Tr1, Tr2, Tr3	Type 1 below 001
003	Tr1	soil/rubble mix below 002
004	Tr1	Cut of modern gas main
005	Tr1	Natural sand
006	Tr1	Concrete capping for gas service`
007	Tr1	Pea gravel over gas service
008	Tr1	Fill of cut 004
009	Tr1	Cut for iron pipe service
010	Tr1	Fill of 009
011	Tr1	Concrete service cap
012	Tr1	Layer of degraded concrete
013	Tr1	Cut for service
014	Tr1	Fill of 013
015	Tr1	Dirty sand, service backfill
016	Tr1	Service cut
017	Tr1	Dirty sand, service backfill
018	Tr1	Possible natural
019	Tr1	Cast Concrete slab under road
020	Tr1	Cut for former services
021	Tr1	Fill of former service cut 020
022	Tr1	Central road divider on surface of Leith Walk
023	Tr1	Thin concrete layer
024	Tr1	Layer of dirty sand
025	Tr1	Layer of pale sand
026	Tr1	Iron beam / girder
027	Tr2	Cast Concrete slab under road
028	Tr2	Dark grey firm clay fill of possible cut feature 046
029	Tr2	Mottled yellow/brown sand
030	Tr2	Cut for iron pipe
031	Tr2	Fill of 030
032	Tr2	Cut for modern service ducts
033	Tr2	Fill of 032
034	Tr2	Cast Concrete slab under road
035	Tr2	Modern backfill debris
036	Tr2	Modern wooden plank
037	Tr2	Cut for iron pipe
038	Tr2	Fill of 037
039	Tr2	Cut for plastic service pipe
040	Tr2	Fill of 039
041	Tr2	Brown/yellow sand
042	Tr2	Dark brown sandy clay fill of possible cut feature 046
043	Tr2	Not used
044	Tr2	Cut for cast iron pipe in trench base
045	Tr2	Fill of 044
046	Tr2	Possible cut feature containing 028 and 042
047	Tr3	Iron beam / girder
048	Tr3	Concrete surrounding 047
049	Tr3	Dirty sand and sandstone fragments
050	Tr3	Deposit of Dark brown/grey dirty sand
051	Tr3	Deposit of Dark brown dirty sand
052	Tr3	Cut for cast iron service
053	Tr3	Fill of service cut 052

054	Tr3	Cut for cast iron service
055	Tr3	Fill of 054
056	Tr3	Cut for grey plastic services
057	Tr3	Fill of 056
058	Tr3	Cut for ceramic services
059	Tr3	Fill of 058
060	Tr3	Dirty brown sand deposit
061	Tr3	Cut for plastic ducts
062	Tr3	Type 1 fill of 061
063	Tr3	Not used
064	Tr3	Not used
065	Tr3	Not used
066	Tr3	Same as 050
067	Tr3	Type 1 backfill containing service ducts
068	Tr3	Not used
069	Tr3	Not used
070	Tr3	Concrete under tarmac and type 1
071	Tr3	Iron beam / girder in eastern side of Trench 3
072	Tr3	New tarmac road surface for ceramic pipe cut
073	Tr3	Disused clay pipe cut
074	Tr3	Disused clay pipe
075	Tr3	Fill of disused clay pipe cut – mid brown sand
076	Tr3	Cut of service trench
077	Tr3	Fill of service trench – mixed dark brown sand
078	Tr3	Patch of lighter in colour – possible newer type 1
079	Tr3	Lens of type 1 underneath concrete
080	Tr3	Lens of lighter sand within 077
081	Tr3	Bitumen service pipe guard
082	Tr3	Cast iron water service pipe
083	Tr3	Foam & concrete cap covering gas and water services
084	Tr3	Mixed gravels backfill for gas and water services

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Photo No.	Description	From
1	Tr1 - Area on east side of road prior to works	NW
2	Tr1 – initial layer 002 under tarmac 001	NE
3	Tr1 east – east end south facing section	S
4	Tr1 east – west end south facing section	S
5	Tr1 east – post-ex	W
6	General shot of Tr1 east	SW
7	General shot of Tr1 west pre-ex	NW
8	South facing section of east side of Tr1 west.	S
9	South facing section of west side of Tr1 west	S
10	General view of Tr1 west	W
11	Tr1 central – concrete layer 019 and steel beam 026	N
12	As above	E
13	Detail of bolts of 026	E
14-15	Detail of section of 026	\
16-24	S-facing section of Tr1 central E-W	S
25	Road surface being cut for Tr2 west	SE
26	South facing section of Tr2 west – eastern end	S
27	South facing section of Tr2 west – central part	S
28	South facing section of Tr2 west – western end	S
29	Looking along Tr2 west showing services	W
30	Tr2 east – tarmac removal working shot	W

31	Tr2 east – east side	S
32	Tr2 east – middle	S
33	Tr2 east – west side	S
34	Tr2 plan showing services	E
35	Tr3 west – pre-ex	W
36	Tr3 west – post-ex showing services	W
37	Tr3 west –Iron beam / girder in north-facing section	N
38-40	Tr3 west – north facing section	N
41-42	Tr3 west – detail of iron girder	W
43-44	Tr3 west showing services in trench	E
45	Tr3 central – tarmac removal working shot	N
46	Tr3 central – general pre-ex	N
47	Tr3 west – post re-instatement	NE
48-49	Tr3 central – tarmac removal working shot	NE
50	Tr3 central – excavating top layers	S
51	Tr3 central – shallow and damaged/disused service pipe	W
52	Tr3 central – Removal of concrete - working shot	NW
53	Tr3 central – north facing section – east end	N
54	Tr3 central – north facing section – middle	N
55	Tr3 central – north facing section – west end	N
56	Tr3 central – general post-ex	E
57	Tr3 central – general post-ex	W
58	Tr3 central – south facing section – west end	S
59	Tr3 central – south facing section – middle	S
60	Tr3 central – south facing section – east end	S
61	Tr3 east – tarmac removal working shot	N
62	Tr3 east – tarmac and concrete removal working shot	N
63	Tr3 east – excavating brown sand	N
64	Tr3 east – excavating brown sand	WNW
65	Tr3 east –excavation removal working shot	N
66	Tr3 east - Exposed gas and water service markers at 0.8m depth / north facing section – east end	W
67	Tr3 east – north facing section – middle	N
68	Tr3 east – north facing section – west end	N
69	Tr3 east – general post-ex	W

APPENDIX 3: Field Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Description	Plan/Section	Scale
1	1	South facing section of Tr1 – east segment	Section	1:20
2	1	Plan of Tr1 –east segment	Plan	1:20
3	1	South facing section of Tr1 – east segment	Section	1:20
4	2	Plan of Tr1 – west segment	Plan	1:20
5	3	South facing section of Tr1 – central segment	Section	1:20
6	2	Plan of Tr1 – central segment	Plan	1:20
7	4	South facing section of Tr2 – west segment	Section	1:20
8	4	Plan of Tr2 – west segment	Plan	1:20
9	5	South facing section of Tr2 – east segment	Section	1:20
10	5	Plan of Tr2 – east segment	Plan	1:20
11	6	North facing section of Tr3 – west segment	Section	1:20
12	6	Plan of Tr3 – west segment	Plan	1:20
13	7	Plan of Tr3 – central segment	Plan	1:20
14	7	North facing section of Tr3 – central segment	Section	1:20
15	8	Plan of Tr3 – east segment	Plan	1:20
16	8	North facing section of Tr3 – east segment	Section	1:20

APPENDIX 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	The Leith Programme, Leith Walk, Phases 5 to 8 – Archaeological Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	LEWA
PARISH:	Edinburgh (City of)
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Ewan MacNeilage
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	NT 26828 75600
START DATE (this season)	27 May 2014
END DATE (this season)	29 October 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Three trenches were excavated across Leith Walk to lay electrical ducts. These were monitored under watching brief conditions to identify and record any features or deposits of archaeological significance. There was an emphasis on identifying siege works relating to the mid 16 th century sieges of Leith and in particular the 1559-60 siege of Leith where siege works were constructed running across the route of Leith Walk. The trenches were to be excavated to 1.5m deep to try and get below the level of modern disturbance. However, full depth excavation was not possible in the western and eastern ends of the trenches as modern service pipes were encountered at shallow depth making deeper excavation impossible. The central sections of the trenches were largely clear of services and in the main could be excavated to full depth. One edge of a possible wide cut feature was identified but it was considered to be recent in date. No features of archaeological significance were identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	City of Edinburgh Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	RCAHMS and City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record

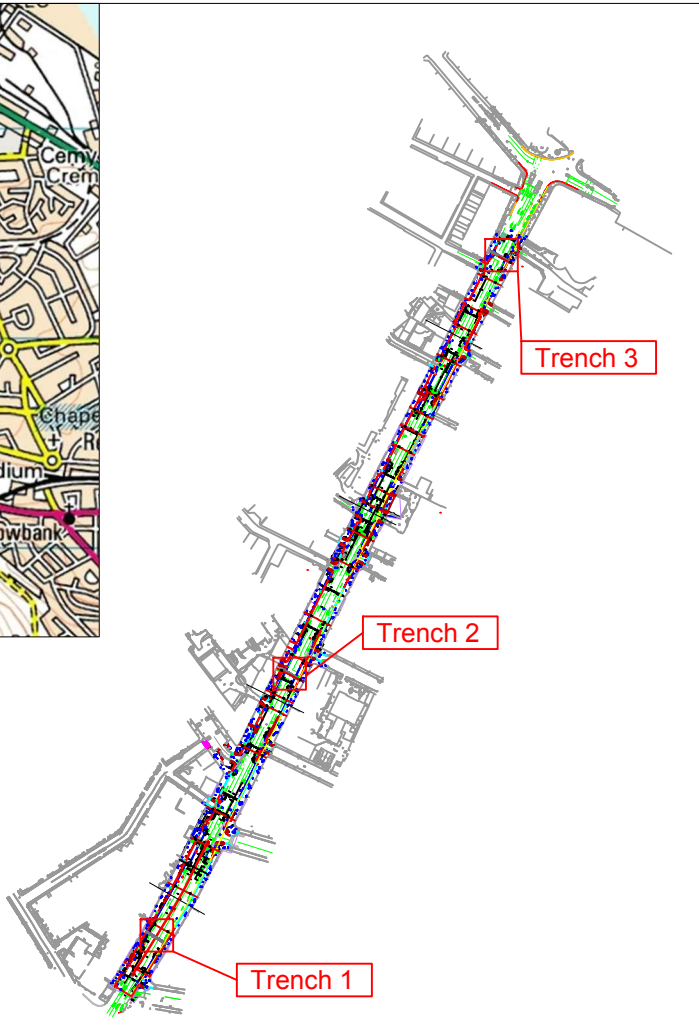
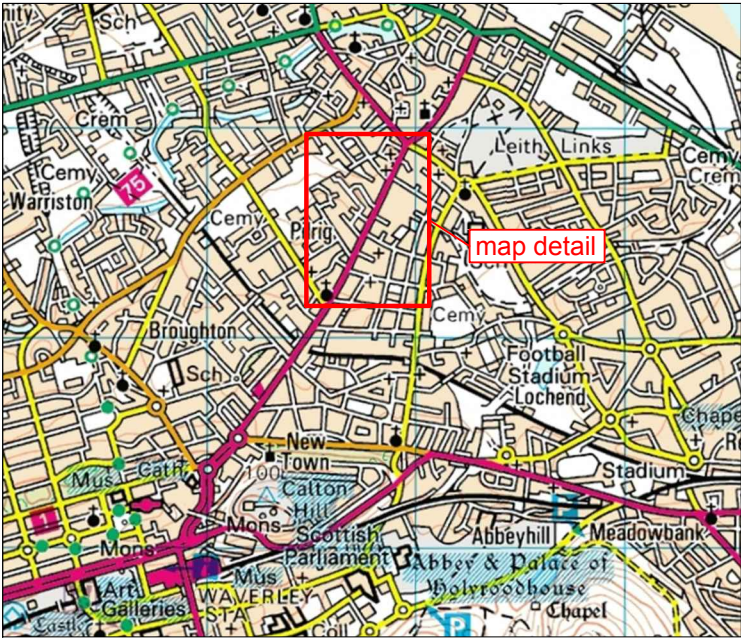


Fig. 1 Site location

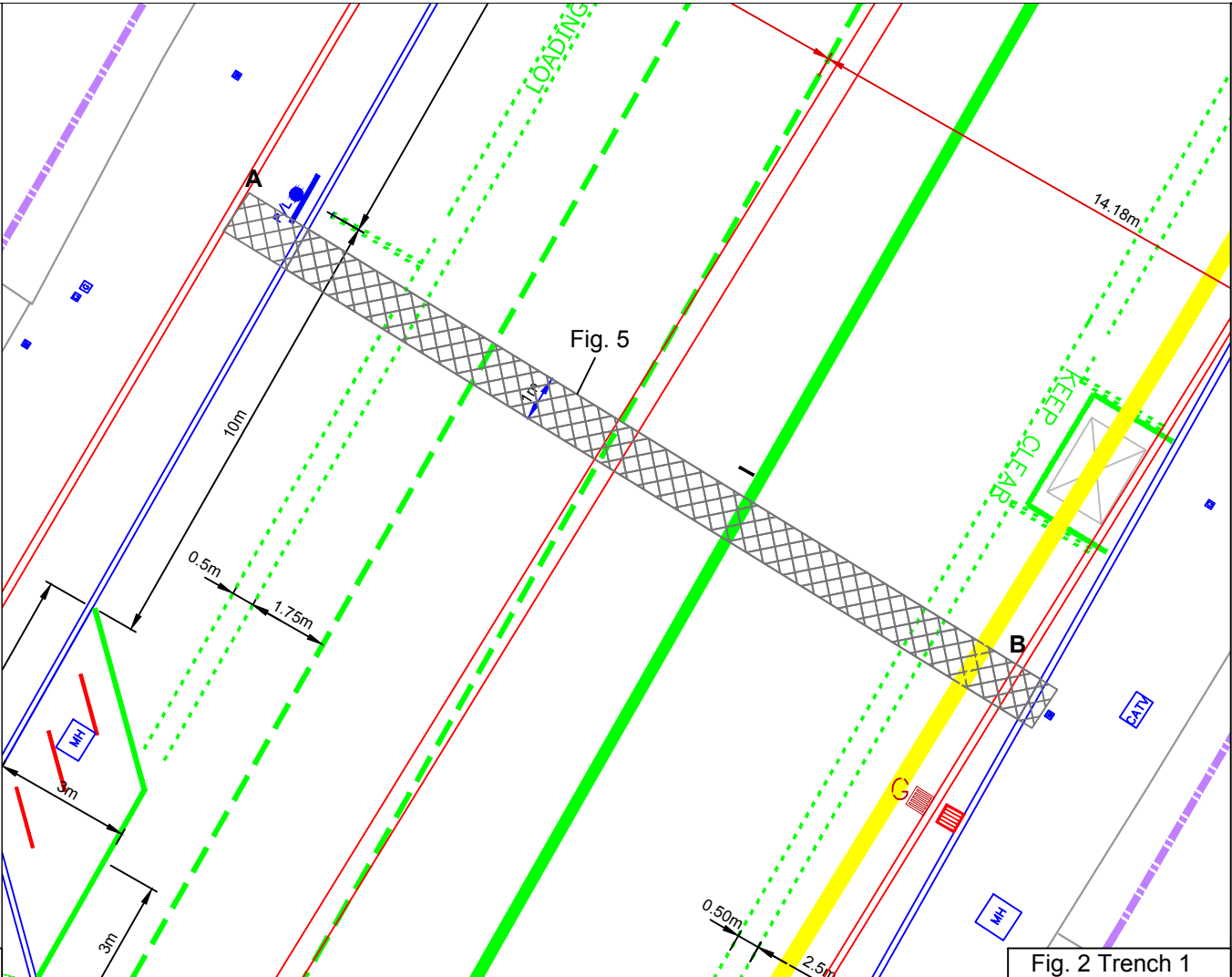


Fig. 2 Trench 1

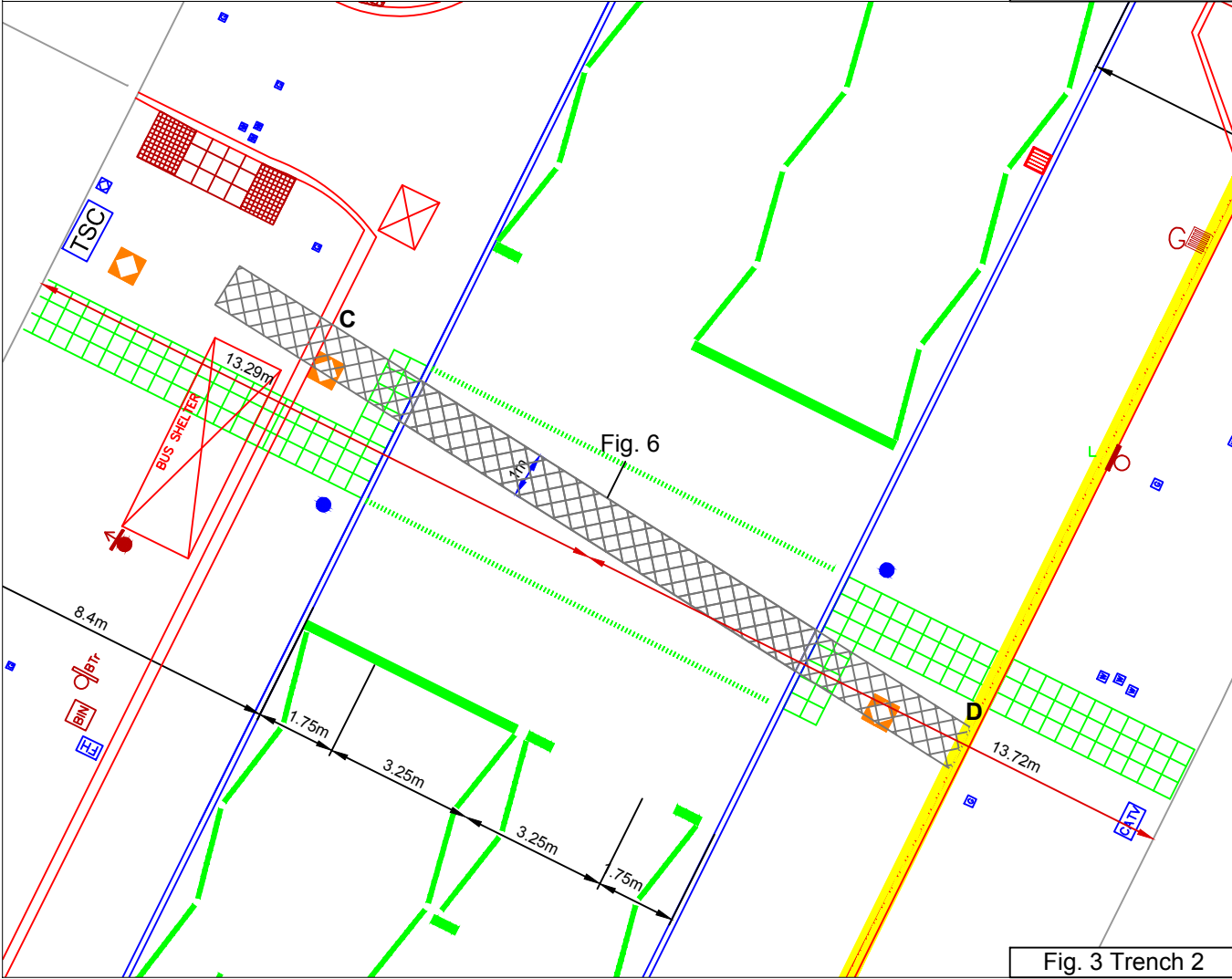


Fig. 3 Trench 2

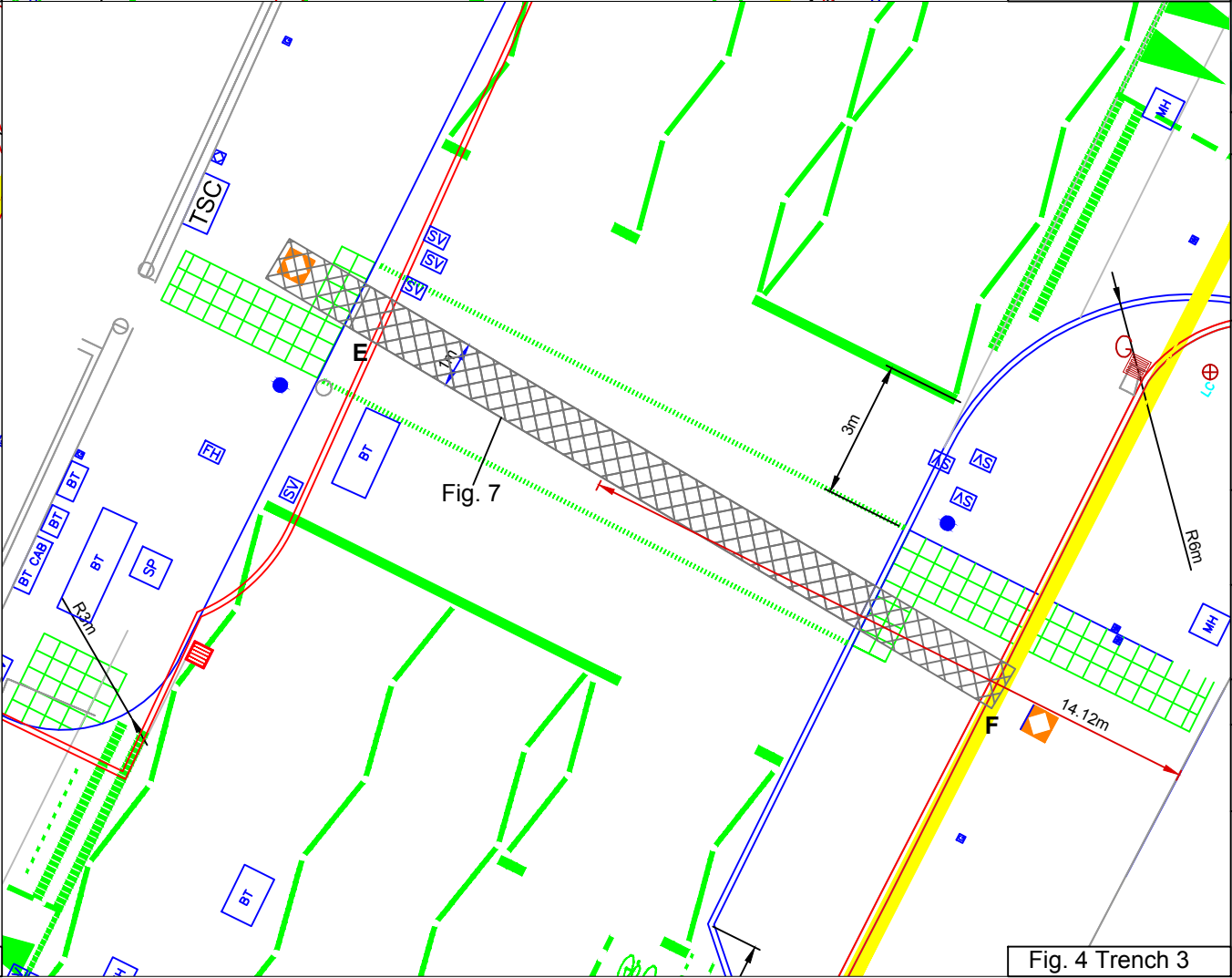


Fig. 4 Trench 3

Key:

Archaeological Trench

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Fig. No: 1-4 Report No: 0

Title:
Site location and location of
Trenches 1-3

Project:
Lieth Walk Archaeological
Works

Client:
City of Edinburgh Council

Scale at A3:
1:150

Drawn by: GC Checked: BG Date: 24/11/14

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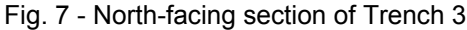
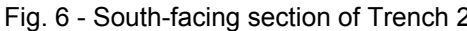
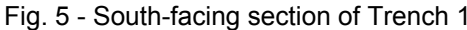




Fig. 8 Photograph of Trench 1, western side



Fig. 9 Photograph of Trench 1, middle section



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Fig. 10 Photograph of Trench 1, eastern side



Fig. 11 Photograph of Trench 2, western side



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Title:	Fig. 10-11	Report: 3231	Drawn: GC	CKD: BG	Date: 08/12/14
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Fig. 12 Photograph of Trench 2, eastern side



Fig. 13 Photograph of Trench 3, western side



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Title:

Project:

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Fig. 12-13

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Date: 08/12/14

Client:

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Fig. 14 Photograph of Trench 3, middle section



Fig. 15 Photograph of Trench 3, eastern side



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