



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY

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(Social Bite Village) Land 120m
South of West Shore Road
Granton, Edinburgh

Archaeological Watching Brief
Report No. 3626

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This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd
standard operating procedures.

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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) in December 2017 and January 2018 during ground-works for the construction of 11 temporary nest houses and a temporary social hub (Social Bite Village) at land 120m south of 20 West Shore Road, Granton, Edinburgh (NT 2259 7722) (Fig.1). The work was commissioned by Fouin & Bell Architects Ltd (FBA) on behalf of Social Bite Communities.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 24 November 2017 was produced by CFA on behalf of FBA. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) on behalf of the planning authority, and was agreed by CECAS in advance of works.

1.2 Background

Planning permission (Ref. No. 17/02839/FUL) has been granted for the construction of 11 temporary nest houses and a temporary social hub along with an access drive and landscaping at land 120m south of 20 West Shore Road, Granton, Edinburgh. The planning permission was subject to an archaeological condition requiring a watching brief on ground-works along the southern and eastern edge of the site. A watching brief was required within these locations because it was considered that there was the potential for archaeological remains associated with Granton Castle (NHRE Site No. NT27NW 2) to have survived early 20th century quarrying works which had affected much of the site.

Cartographic sources place Granton Castle in the north-east corner of the site (Figs.2 and 3). A castle within this location is first documented in the late 15th century, but information obtained from the canmore website suggests that the building formerly occupying this site had an L-shaped 16th century nucleus and a 17th century west-wing. After 1740, the castle was renamed Royston House, and appears as such on early Ordnance Survey map editions (annotated Royston House (In Ruins) on 1914 OS map, Fig.2). In 1928, the land on which it was located was bought up by the firm of Bain and Brown who demolished the castle in order to quarry the rock on which it was situated. Nothing now remains of the castle (Fig.6), but the associated boundary wall and dovecot (NHRE Site No. NT27NW 15, Fig.7) survive along with the 15th century walled garden (NHRE Site No. NT27NW 3.02). These three features are still upstanding and are Category B-Listed (LB No. 28139). Later OS map editions (Fig.3) depict the location of the castle as 'Granton Castle (site of)'.

Previous archaeological works relating to this site were carried out in September 2002 for a proposed primary school and consisted of a walkover survey and a desk-based assessment (Johnson 2002), while an earlier trial trenching evaluation undertaken in the early 1990s (Collard 1992) across the footprint of the castle suggested that all archaeological deposits had been destroyed.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of works reported herein were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Watching Brief), along the southern and eastern edges of the site to monitor all topsoil stripping, ground reduction and excavation of foundations and services and other infrastructure elements that are likely to expose natural subsoil, this includes any landscaping that involves excavation. This will ensure that if any archaeologically significant features are uncovered they are carefully exposed within the area affected by the development so as to allow further excavation and recording work to take place.
- To record (by excavation) any surviving remains of archaeological importance that may be present prior to their removal to allow construction to proceed.
- To prepare a suitable report on the findings.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.

2.2 Watching Brief

All groundbreaking in the areas where it was considered remains of the former medieval castle of Granton and any associated features might survive were monitored by an archaeologist.

Groundbreaking works were undertaken with a mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms. The positions of all archaeological features were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Context numbers are in bold and described in Appendix 1.

3.2 Watching Brief

The site comprises a square plot measuring c.85m by 85m with a north facing aspect on the south side of West Shore Road. However, owing to the aforementioned quarry workings and the known location of Granton Castle from cartographic sources, the

groundbreaking with the monitored areas was limited and the watching brief covered ground breaking and landscaping for the nest houses in the south east corner of the site, the excavation of a number of trial-pits along the eastern edge to locate existing services, and the excavation of new service trenches to tie the properties into the existing service network. Unfortunately the access road along the southern side of the site had been completed before the watching brief was undertaken.

The deposits across the area predominantly consisted of c.0.4m of mixed topsoil deposits (001) overlying mottled grey clay natural (004) (Fig.5). A possible fragment of wall (003) (Fig.8) consisting of three tightly packed rough hewn stones was partially exposed within a test-pit (called Trench 1 in this report) (Fig.4) which was excavated to expose existing services. The stonework had a length of >0.6m, a width of >0.2m, and sat directly on the natural to a height of 0.2m (single course). This feature was situated within close proximity to the dovecote (Fig.7), and may have been part of a curving wall depicted on the 1914 Ordnance Survey map (Fig.2). There were no early features associated with Granton Castle identified.

4. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at land 120m south of 20 West Shore Road, Granton, Edinburgh during ground-works for the construction of 11 temporary nest houses and a temporary social hub. The development area encompassed the site of the 16th century Granton Castle, which was demolished in the late 1920s and the underlying rock on which it was founded was quarried away. The watching brief identified a fragment of wall which may relate to a curving feature depicted on the 1914 Ordnance Survey map. There were no features, artefacts or deposits of archaeological significance identified.

On completion of the programme of archaeological works a summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*. The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Record of the Historic Environment and copies of reports will be lodged with the CECAS Sites and Monuments Record.

5. REFERENCES

Bibliographic

Collard, M. 1992 *Granton Castle (City parish of Edinburgh): Evaluation*: DES, 1992
Page 51

Johnson, M, 2002, *Granton Castle, Edinburgh: Archaeological Desk-Desk-based Assessment* CFA Data Structure Report No. 759

Johnson, M, 2003 *Granton Castle (City parish of Edinburgh): Survey*: DES Vol.4,
2003 Page 70

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey, 1914, 25" *Edinburghshire 1.14 (Edinburgh)* (Surveyed 1912)

Ordnance Survey, 1963, 1:1250 *NT2277SE-D (includes Edinburgh)* (Surveyed 1962)

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Photo No.	Contexts/description	Taken From
1	Access drive, southern edge. Post excavation	W
2	Access drive, southern edge. Post excavation	SW
3	Access drive, southern edge. Post excavation	SW
4	Access drive, southern edge. Post excavation	E
5	Access drive, southern edge. Post excavation	E
6	Footpath on east of site, pre-excavation	S
7	Footpath on east of site, pre-excavation	S
8	Footpath on east of site, pre-excavation	S
9	Working shot, test pit excavation and dovecot	SW
10	Working shot, test pit excavation and dovecot	SW
11	Footpath on east of site, pre-excavation	N
12	Footpath on east of site, working shot	N
13	Footpath on east of site, working shot	N
14	Wall stub (003) exposed in test pit	N
15	N/A	N
16	N/A	
17	N/A	
18	Wall stub (003) exposed in test pit	N
19	Wall stub (003) exposed in test pit	N
20	Pre-ex view of nest house plots	W
21	Pre-ex view of nest house plots	W
22	Working shot, nest house area	NW
23	Working shot, nest house area	NW
24	Working shot, nest house area	SW
25	Working shot, nest house area	S
26	Working shot, test pit for services	W
27	N/A	
28	N/A	
29	Area stripped for nest houses	SE
30	Area stripped for nest houses	SE
31	Area stripped for nest houses	ESE
32	Area stripped for nest houses	SSE
33	General working shot of area adjacent to access drive	E
34	General working shot of area adjacent to access drive	S
35	Final watching brief trench adjacent to access drive	E
36	General view of service trench	SSW
37	General working shots of service installation	SE
38	General working shots of service installation	SE
39	General working shots of service installation	SE
40	General view of service trench	SE
41	Service trench with inspection chamber installed	SE
42	General view of service trench	SE

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

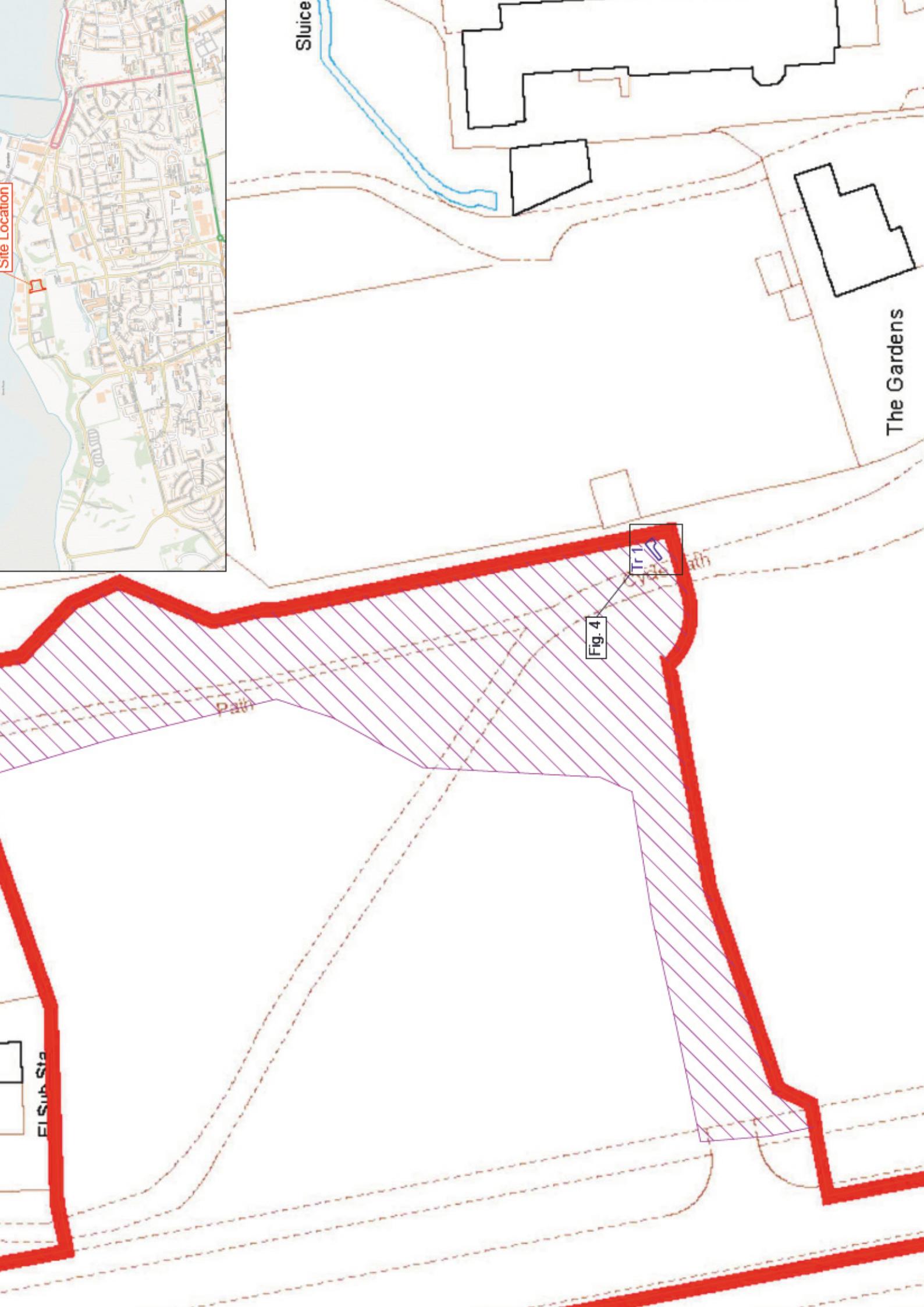
Context	Description
001	Topsoil (mid-brown silt)
002	Subsoil (mid-brown silt)
003	Possible wall fragment (three tightly packed rough hewn stones visible)
004	Natural (mottled grey clay and orange-brown sandy-clay)

APPENDIX 3: Drawings Register

Dwg No.	Sheet No.	Scale	Plan / Section	Description/contexts
1	1	1:20	Plan	Trench 1, plan showing Wall 003
2	1	1:20	Section	Trench 1, north-facing section showing Wall 003

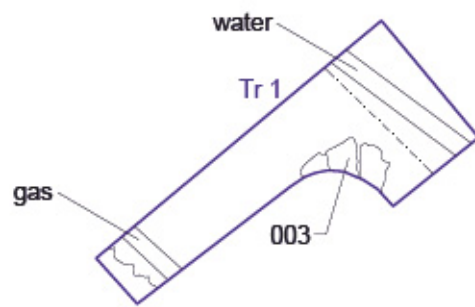
APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh, City Of
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Social Bite Village), Land 120m south of 20 West Shore Road, Granton, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	WSRG
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Magnus Kirby
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 2259 7722
START DATE (this season)	December 2017
END DATE (this season)	January 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN DESCRIPTION (NARRATIVE)	An archaeological watching brief was carried out at land 120m south of 20 West Shore Road, Granton, Edinburgh during ground-works for the construction of 11 temporary nest houses and a temporary social hub (Social Bite Village). The development area encompasses the site of the 16 th century Granton Castle, which was demolished in the late 1920s and the underlying rock on which it was founded was quarried away. The watching brief identified a fragment of wall which may relate to a curving feature depicted on the 1914 Ordnance Survey map. There were no other features, artefacts or deposits of archaeological significance identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Social Bite Communities
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Historic Environment Record and City of Edinburgh Council SMR





Dovecot



Key:

- Site Boundary
- Trench Outline



Title:
Plan of Trench 1

Client:
Social Bike Communities



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Social Bite Village, Land 120m south of 20 West Shore Road, Granton, Edinburgh

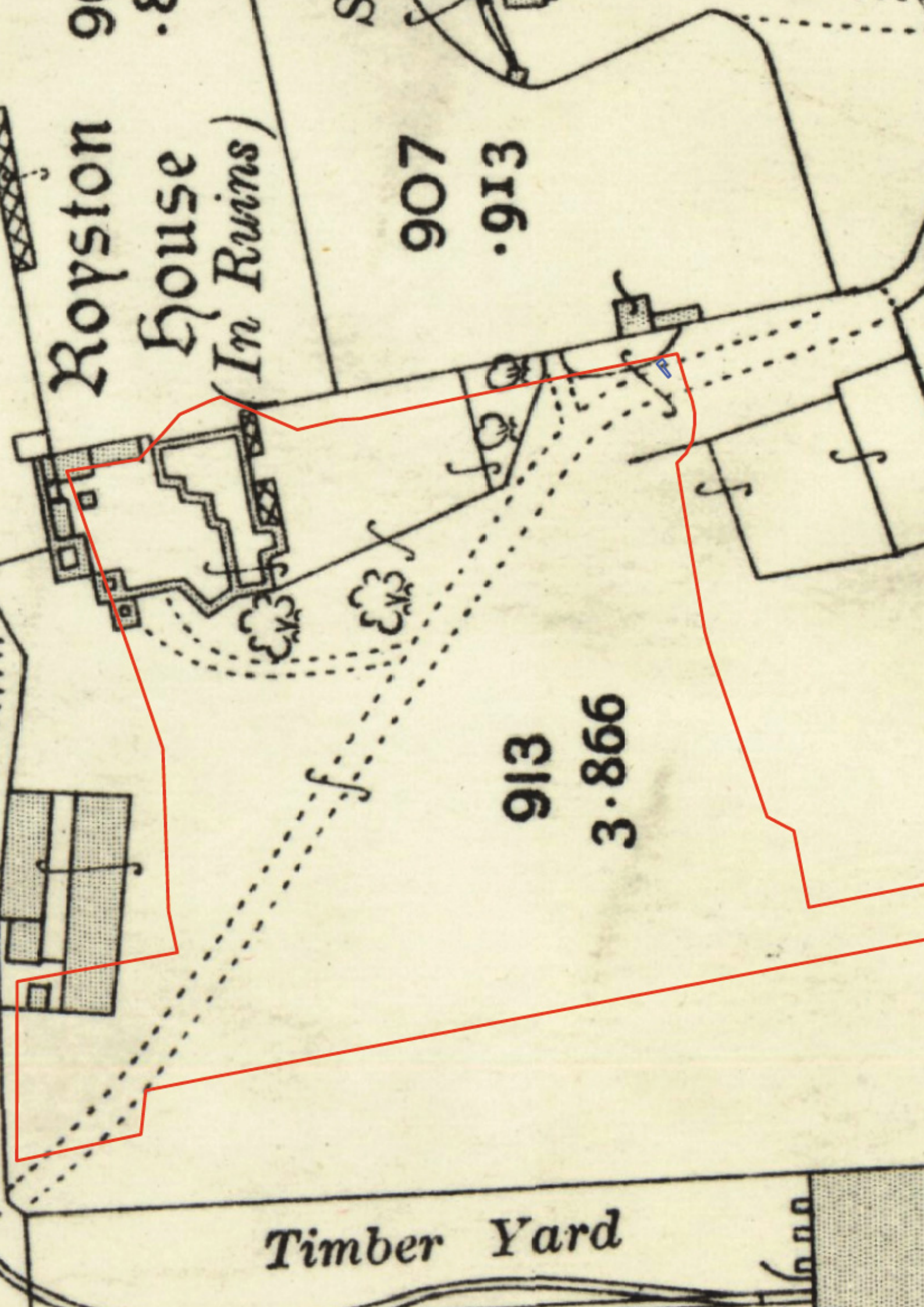
Scale at A4: 1:50	Drawn by: MP	Checked: SW	Date: 13/04/2018	Report No: 3626	Fig. No: 4
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Royston 9
House
(In Ruins)

907
.913

913
3.866

Timber Yard



**Branton
Castle**
(site of)

Dovecote

**Ruberoid
Works**

The Gardens

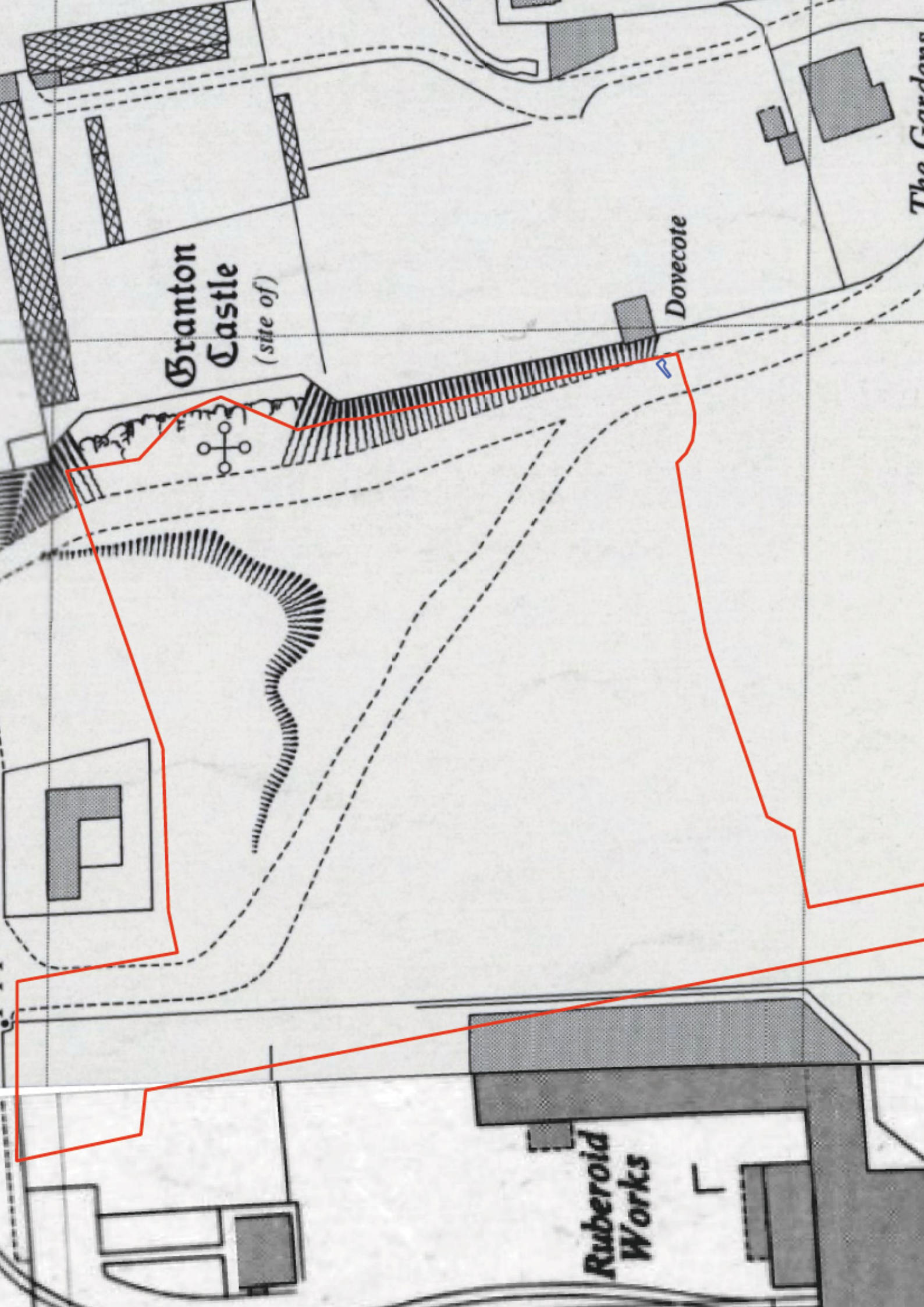




Fig. 5 - General shot showing nature of soil deposits



Fig. 6 - Approximate location of Granton Castle

Project:
Social Bite Village, Land 120m south of 20 West Shore Road, Granton, Edinburgh



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Fig. 7 - Location of Trench 1 with Dovecote in background



Fig. 8 - Possible wall fragment 003 within Trench 1

Project:
Social Bite Village, Land 120m south of 20 West Shore Road, Granton, Edinburgh



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