



Holyrood Park Innocent Railway Cycle-path, Edinburgh

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief

Date: 22nd January 2016

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Client: The City of Edinburgh Council

Project Code: HPCP15

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Rev Number	Description	Undertaken	Approved	Date
1.0	Draft	LB	CM	21 Jan 2016
1.1	Final	LB	CM	22 Jan 2016
1.2	Final amended	LB	CM	21 April 2016

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FIGURES

Figure 1 Site Location (after client drawing).

1. SUMMARY

This document is presented as a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of the lighting poles and connecting services for Holyrood Park Innocent Railway Cycle-path, Edinburgh. This WSI was prepared by Rubicon Heritage Services UK Ltd on behalf of The City of Edinburgh Council.

The development consists of the installation of lighting poles and connecting services for a cycle-path which follows the route of part of The Innocent Railway from near Samson's Ribs at the west to the junction of The Innocent Railway with Duddingston Road West. The development site presently comprises a cycle path along the line of The Innocent Railway passing through Holyrood Palace's Royal Park.

The City Archaeologist, John Lawson, advised that any ground-works are supervised by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist and that any significant archaeological remains identified are excavated, recorded and reported on as necessary.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

This document is presented as a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of the lighting poles and connecting services for a section of Holyrood Park Innocent Railway Cycle-path, Edinburgh. This WSI was prepared by Rubicon Heritage Services UK Ltd on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council. The archaeological fieldwork and reporting requirements as specified by the city archaeologist are as follows:

- 2.1.1 *'This contract requires the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of new lighting poles and associated service trenches. The works to be excavated by the Principal Contractor in stages with on site work currently estimated to last up to 8 weeks, with a 2016 on site start date to be confirmed.'*
- 2.1.2 *'It is expected that archaeological reporting will be completed within three weeks from the end of field work.'*
- 2.1.3 *'The submitted Project Design (WSI) will detail the proposed works to record and excavate any remains encountered and will include provision for sufficient research to place any remains found in context. This Project Design will also fully describe the detail methods of investigation within the trenches (including sampling strategies).'*
- 2.1.4 This written scheme of investigation sets out the methodology which will be applied during the investigation as required by the terms of the above requirements.

2.2 Site Location and background

- 2.2.1 The development site is located on the south edge of Holyrood Palace's Royal Park and Duddingston Loch (Figure 1) in the south of the City of Edinburgh (from NT 27325 72478 to NT 28659 72079). The cycle-path follows the route of the disused Innocent Railway and was opened by the Edinburgh and Dalkeith Railway Company in 1832. It's terminus was formerly located at St Leonards and the rail line was utilised for transporting coal into Edinburgh. In addition to the industrial archaeology associated with the Innocent Railway there is a wealth of further known archaeology of all periods in the vicinity of the development. The area of Holyrood Park and all of archaeological and historic sites and monuments within it are designated as a scheduled monument (SM13032, see Figure 1). In the immediate vicinity these include prehistoric activity in the form of a fort at Samson's Ribs (Canmore ID 52121) and also find spots of a bronze hoard recovered during dredging of Duddingston Loch in 1778 (Canmore ID 52116) and a cinerary urn (Canmore ID 52559) uncovered in 1846 by workmen during the construction of the Queen's Drive. A further possible settlement site is the scooped

settlement at Windy Gowl (Canmore ID 52555) and a possible crannog indicated by a collection of timber piles and stakes (Canmore ID 52218) was noted at the south side of Duddingston Loch. Out-with the scheduled area and to the southwest of the development site rig and furrow (Canmore ID 88330) has been identified in the area around Prestonfield House. Prestonfield House (Canmore ID 52562) was constructed in 1687 and is located to the southwest of the development site.

2.3 Current condition of the site and impact of the proposed development

- 2.3.1 The site comprises the Holyrood Park Innocent Railway Cycle-path which follows the route of the Innocent Railway. To the north is Holyrood Park (Figure 1) and Duddingston Loch and to the south is Prestonfield Golf Course. The construction of new lighting poles and the associated connecting services will involve excavation which may impact any unknown subsurface archaeological remains present.

3. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief are to produce a WSI suitable for submission to HES for Scheduled Monument Consent and subsequently to undertake a programme of archaeological works (watching brief) in order to fully excavate, record and analyse and report on any significant buried remains which will be impacted upon by the project.

3.2 Methodology

- 3.2.1 All fieldwork will be undertaken in accordance with current best practice and the ClfA's standards and guidance for archaeological watching brief (ClfA 2008). All invasive ground works will be carried out by the Principal Contractor and monitored by a suitably experienced and qualified archaeologist. Should archaeology be encountered the mechanical excavator will be halted in the affected area until the archaeology has been recorded. CECAS (and Historic Environment Scotland for discoveries within the scheduled area) will be informed if any archaeological deposits are encountered and a strategy for mitigation will be agreed.
- 3.2.2 All archaeological deposits encountered will be planned and recorded. The work will include, as a minimum, the recording of individual contexts on appropriate pro-formas; plan and section drawings of appropriate single contexts and features (at 1:20 and 1:10 scales, as deemed commensurate with the subject); photographs and other appropriate drawn and written records.
- 3.2.3 All archaeological remains shall be located on appropriate scale site plans, with TBMs and OSBMs indicated. All levels shall be reduced to ordnance datum. Plans will be located using GPS with sub-centimetre accuracy.
- 3.2.4 The photographic record shall consist of digital photographs taken at high resolution (5 megapixels and above). The photographic record shall include photographs of archaeological features, appropriate groups of features and structures. Photographs shall include an appropriate scale.
- 3.2.5 *Finds and environmental samples*
- 3.2.6 All finds will be bagged by context, with the exception of 'small/special finds' which will be given a unique number and their location recorded three dimensionally. All artefacts will be recovered and retained for processing and analysis in accordance with Rubicon Heritage Services UK Ltd's guidelines on the treatment of finds.

- 3.2.7 Rubicon Heritage Services UK Ltd will comply fully with the provisions of Treasure Trove in Scotland and the supporting Code of Practice referred to (Scottish Government 2008). Any finds made that are identified under this Code of Practice automatically belong to the Crown. The appropriate procedures will be implemented with reference to the Code of Practice to ensure eventual handover to the Treasure Trove Unit.
- 3.2.8 Should finds be allocated to City of Edinburgh Council, all boxes will be labelled with accession numbers issued by CECAS following Treasure Trove allocation.
- 3.2.9 *Environmental Sampling*
- 3.2.10 Rubicon Heritage Services UK Ltd has made provision for the sampling of a wide range of contexts for potential assessment and analysis for plant and animal micro/macro fossils and soils/sediments.
- 3.2.11 The preparation for, and methods of, taking samples together with their size, presentation and processing shall be in accord with current best practice. Samples will be bagged by context wherever possible so that environmental information can be rapidly integrated with archaeological data. Where appropriate, bulk samples will be taken from all linear features and pits and a representative sample taken from other features and surfaces.
- 3.2.12 An assessment of all environmental material will be made by appropriately qualified specialist(s) and included in the initial post excavation assessment.
- 3.2.13 *Reporting & Archiving*
- 3.2.14 Within four weeks of completion of the onsite works a fieldwork report will be produced covering this element of works.
- 3.2.15 The preparation of the report will follow the guidelines published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2008). Details of style and format will be determined by Rubicon Heritage Services UK Ltd but will include:
- A non-technical summary.
 - The site location.
 - Aims and purpose of the archaeological work.
 - The methodology of works.
 - A description of the project results.
 - An objective interpretation of the results, placing them in an appropriate local and regional context.
 - Site layout plans on an OS base, with the location of the watching brief areas.

- Plans of each area in which archaeological features were recorded.
 - Sections and feature sections (with OD heights).
 - Site matrices where appropriate.
 - A consideration of evidence within its wider context.
 - Site photographs, including key features, and an index to the full photographic archive.
 - A summary table and descriptive text showing the features, classes and numbers of artefacts located, and soil profiles, with interpretation.
 - An archive statement, which will summarise the contents, location, and projected deposition date of the archive, if required.
 - Supporting illustrations & plans, suitably captioned, at appropriate scales. These will include a location map and site plan; copies of historic map & historic photographs where relevant.
- 3.2.16 The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in RCAHMS is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the CIfA in that organisation's code of conduct (CIfA, 2010).
- 3.2.17 Once the final report has been accepted by the City Archaeologist, Rubicon Heritage Services UK Ltd will complete an OASIS fieldwork summary form and submit it to the Archaeology Data Service.
- 3.2.18 A summary report for inclusion in Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES) will be submitted.
- 3.2.19 Should the results of the work merit further analysis, a Post-excavation Research Design and Publication Plan will be compiled and implemented in agreement with CECAS as part of this contract.

4. PROGRAMME AND MONITORING

4.1 Provisional Programme

- 4.1.1 The start date for the commencement of fieldwork is to be confirmed but will be in early 2016. It is anticipated that the programme of fieldwork will have a duration of 8 weeks.
- 4.1.2 The report on the results will be completed within 4 weeks of the completion of fieldwork.

4.2 Monitoring Responsibilities

- 4.2.1 Rubicon Heritage Services UK Ltd will keep the City Archaeologist informed on the progress of works, including post-excavation works, as necessary.
- 4.2.2 Reasonable access to the site is to be arranged at all times for City Archaeologist, should they request to make a site inspection to ensure that the archaeological watching brief is progressing satisfactorily.
- 4.2.3 Any variations to the WSI shall be agreed with the City Archaeologist, in writing, prior to them being carried out.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

5.1 Health & Safety

- 5.1.1 A risk assessment for the archaeological watching brief will be produced and adhered to by all Rubicon Heritage staff. It will be reviewed on a daily basis prior to commencement of work.
- 5.1.2 Rubicon Heritage staff will adhere to all Health and Safety information and guidelines provided by the construction contractors on site.
- 5.1.3 The following statutory provisions and codes of practice will be adhered to where relevant:
- All statutory provisions and by-laws relating to the work in question, especially the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
 - The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct (CIfA, 2006)
 - The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology (CIfA, 2010)

5.2 Personnel

- 5.2.1 Rubicon Heritage Services UK Ltd propose that the work shall be undertaken by Callum Allsop.

5.3 Variations

- 5.3.1 Any variations to this Written Scheme of Investigation that may be needed as a result of the emerging results of works will be approved in advance with the City Archaeologist.

6. REFERENCES

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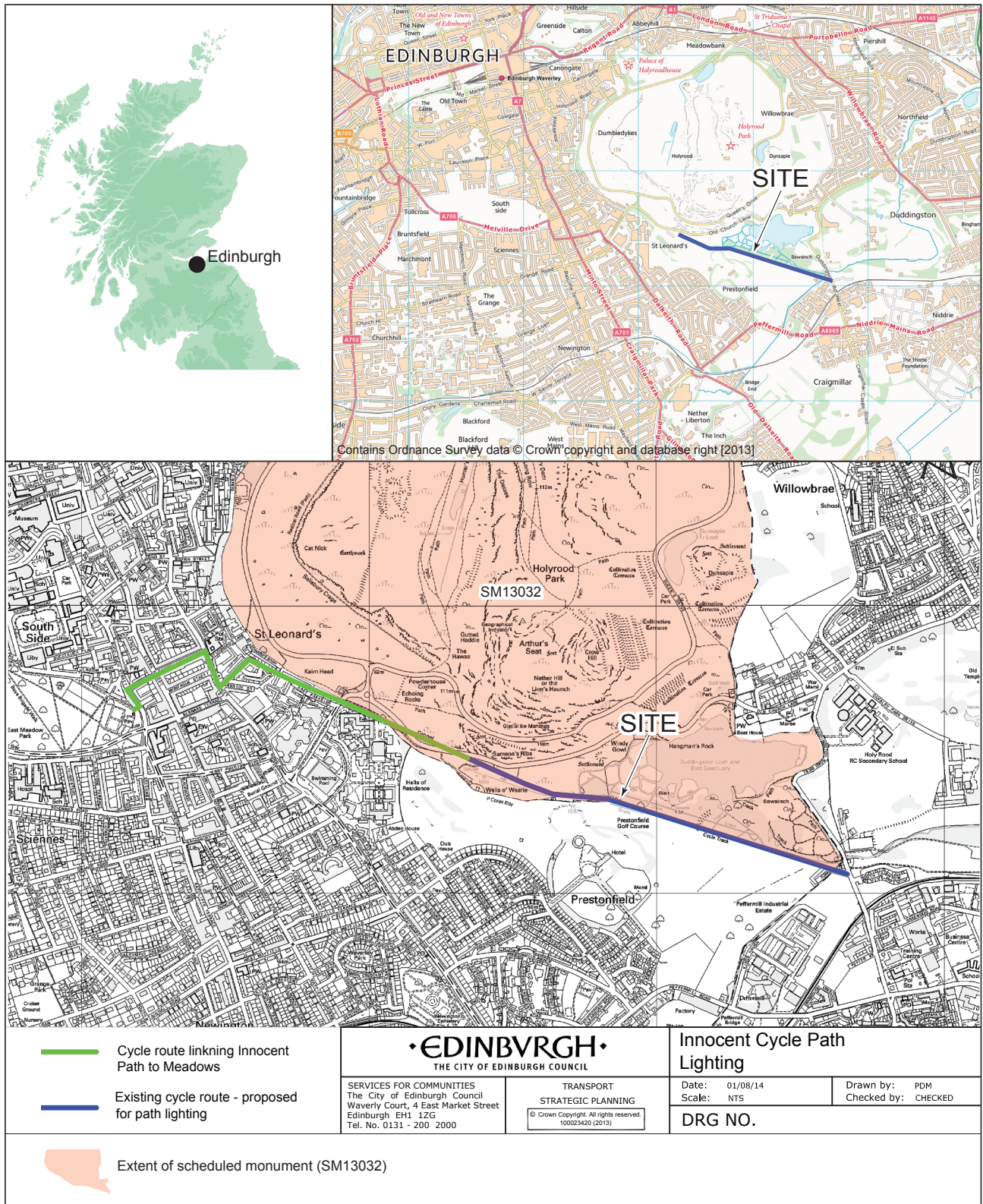


Figure 1 - Innocent Cycle Path, Edinburgh: Site location (after client drawing).