

CCW02

**Data Structure Report:
An Archaeological Watching Brief on
Craigmillar Cycle Way,
Craigmillar, Edinburgh, East Lothian**

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Client: City of Edinburgh Council

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Summary

Headland Archaeology Ltd undertook a watching brief during ground works associated with the construction of the Craigmillar Cycle Way around Craigmillar Castle, some of which was within a scheduled area. The work was carried out over 4 days in September 2002. The monitored works were a topsoil strip for the path surface and excavation of a service duct for lighting cables. Undisturbed subsoil was not reached during the excavations, and no features of archaeological significance were recorded. An assemblage of small finds was retrieved from the topsoil and is recorded in a finds assessment report contained in the appendix.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by the City of Edinburgh Council to carry out a watching brief on the ground works associated with the Craigmillar Cycle Way project. Part of the area was within a Scheduled Monument. Fieldwork was undertaken over four days between the 4th and 9th of September 2002. The site comprised two areas of land owned by the Council, on either side of the road joining the A7 to the A6095 (see figure 1). The eastern monitored area began at the summit of the ridge on which Craigmillar Castle rests, progressing downhill northwards through modern woodland landscaping. The cycle way crossed the road after a distance of approximately 80 m. The area to the west of the road was excavated downhill across open grassland for a distance of approximately 200 m. The site centred NGR was NT 2895 7110. A Written Scheme of Investigation was agreed with the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service, which followed a Project Design produced by them.

2 OBJECTIVES AND METHOD

The objectives of the project were to record all exposed deposits and features of archaeological significance and recover finds. The topsoil strip for the pathway was excavated using a 20-ton, tracked excavator with a 2 m, flat-bladed ditching bucket, soil was stripped to formation level within the topsoil at an average depth of 0.25 m. The service duct trench was excavated using a 2-ton tracked mini-excavator, with a 0.4 m toothed bucket. The resulting cut was an average width of 0.5 m with the same depth. Written records were maintained on Headland Archaeology Ltd *pro forma* sheets, photographs were taken using colour print and transparency film, suspected features were cleaned by hand and all finds observed in the topsoil were collected and assessed.

3 RESULTS

No features of archaeological significance were identified during the topsoil strip, as the excavations did not extend below the topsoil. Occasionally a clayey gravel interface with subsoil was identified during the excavation of the service duct trench, however no features were identified. An assemblage of finds were retrieved from the topsoil, primarily dating from the 19th and 20th centuries, although some later 17th century sherds were recovered. A full finds assessment report is included in the appendix.

4 CONCLUSIONS

No features of archaeological significance were identified during the watching brief. The deeper excavations associated with the service trench were extremely limited in area and did not reach below the interface with subsoil. No further analysis is recommended on the finds assemblage.

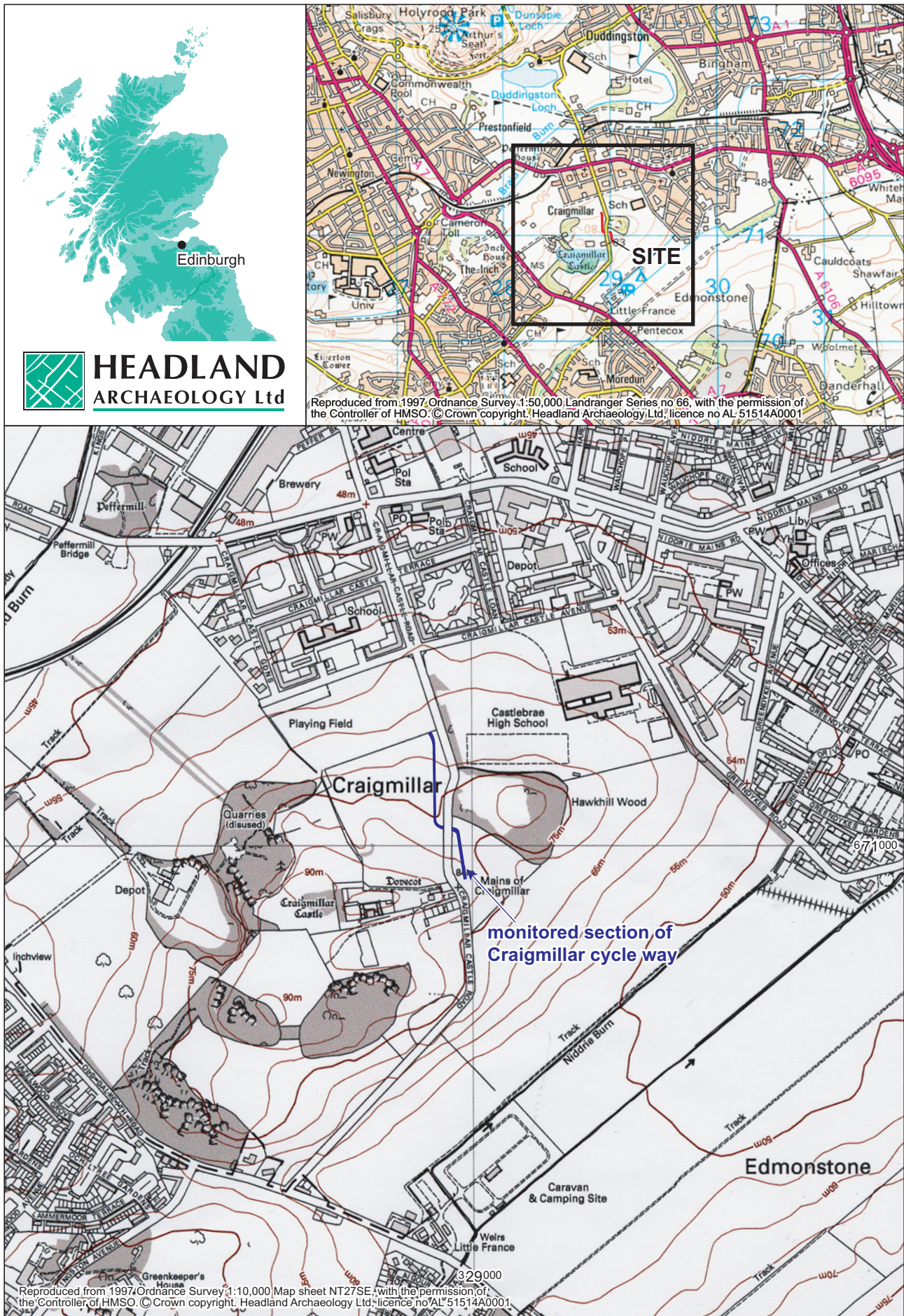


Figure 1. Craigmillar Cycle Way: Site location.

APPENDIX

SITE REGISTERS

Context Register

Context No.	Description
001	Topsoil. Dark brown loam, with rounded gravel, pebbles and cobbles. Loose. Clean. Fairly common 18 th – 20 th century finds.
002	Interface with natural. Becoming more clayey and gravelly.

Photographic Register

Shot No.	Direction facing	Description
1	-	Registration shot
2	W	Cut through wall to west field, beginning of strip
3	N	Working shot, machining
4	SW	View of field and castle, pre excavation
5	SW	View of field and castle, pre excavation
6	N	Proposed route, to the north, plus Arthur's seat and Craigmillar
7	NE	General site view
8	NE	General site view
9	NE	General site view
10	N	View of site
11	N	View of site with landscape
12	SE	Working shot, excavating service duct trench
13	W	Working shot, excavating service duct trench
14	SE	Section through service duct, by wall break
15	W	Sample section of service duct trench
16	N	General working view of service duct trench, after hardcore laying
17	N	General view of site
18	N	Cycleway after hardcore and infill of straight portion
19	NW	Excavation of service duct trench on bend
20	N	Working shot
21	S	Service duct trench completed, with castle and general of site
22	W	Sample section showing interface layer 002.
23	N	Shot of road at crossing point and general view
24	NE	General site view

FINDS ASSESSMENT

Jo Dawson (with roof tile identification by Julie Franklin)

All from topsoil

No.	Material	Object	Spot date
7	Ceramic building material	Roof tile, fairly small abraded fragments, no diagnostic features but possibly medieval fabric	C 12th – C17th
8	Brown glazed red earthenware	Large pots	C18th – C20th
6	Cream glazed red earthenware	Large pots eg milk-skimming dishes	C18th – C20th
11	Industrial stoneware	Bottles, jars, mineral water marble stopper and an ink well	C19th – C20th
3	Porcelain	Plain white tea cup and saucer, blue transfer printed saucer with relief-moulded rim	C19th – C20th
6	White glazed white earthenware	Four blue transfer printed pieces of crockery including one flow blue, one green transfer printed item of crockery and plain white jar	C19th – C20th
1	Beige glazed white earthenware	Kitchen ware	C19th – C20th
1	Salt glazed stoneware	Dinner plate with relief-moulded basket weave design	Late C18th
1	Cream ware	Vertically ridged tea bowl	Late C18th
5	Glass	Bottles, including wine bottle, bottle with metal wire seal, rectangular cross-sectioned bottle and melted bottle	C19th – C20th
1	Stone	Scythe whetstone	Post medieval
4	Clay pipe	Decorated pipe bowl, stem with some engine turning marks?	C19th – early C20th
5	Post medieval red earthenware	Large pots	C17th – early C20th