HOUSE TO THE WEST OF ST MICHAEL'S, INVERESK, EAST LOTHIAN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

PROJECT 6481

By Christine Rennie

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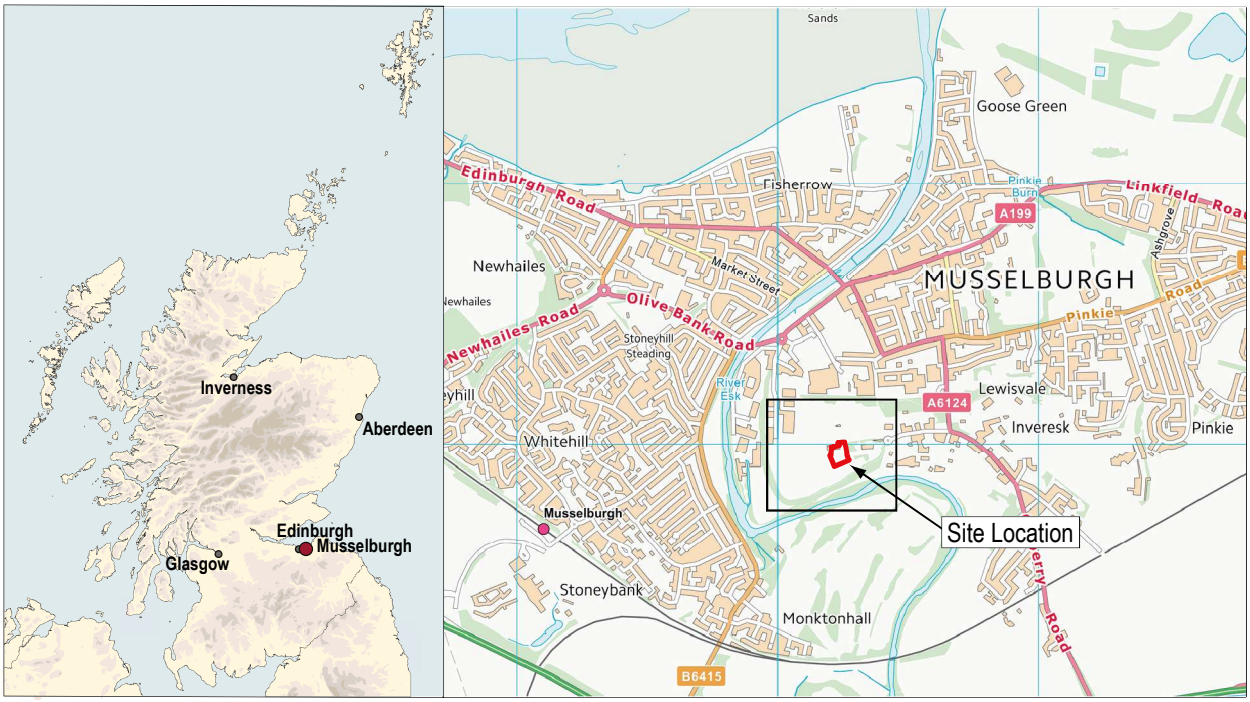

Figure 1: Site location.

0 20 m

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Executive Summary

1.1 This document sets out the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation of land within Inveresk, Roman Fort and Civil Settlement Scheduled Monument. The WSI has been produced to support an application for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) at the House to the West of St Michael's in Inveresk, Musselburgh, East Lothian. Implementation of this WSI will discharge an anticipated condition of planning consent (Planning Reference: 23/01244/P).

1.2 All works will be carried out under the guidance and supervision of GUARD Archaeology, who will consult with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS) throughout the process to ensure that conditions related to SMC and planning consent are met.

Introduction

2.1 This WSI sets out the scope and methodology for groundworks within Inveresk, Roman Fort and Civil Settlement Scheduled Monument SM3285 (hereafter the Scheduled Monument) at the House to the West of St Michael's in Inveresk, Musselburgh, East Lothian. All works will be carried out in accordance with any Scheduled Monument Consent granted by HES on behalf of the Scottish Ministers. No works will take place without prior agreement with HES and ELCAS.

2.2 The aim of the archaeological works is to establish the presence, extent and nature of any significant archaeological remains. Should significant remains be identified they will be preserved in situ.

2.3 Should archaeological remains attributable to the Roman period be identified, they must be preserved *in situ* to be compliant with NPF4 and local planning policy.

2.4 This WSI details the methodology to be employed in implementing the Stage 1 archaeological works. The mitigation methodology to be employed during Stage 2 excavation and Stage 3 post excavation analysis and publication, if required, will be specified in addenda to this document. These addenda, if required, will be submitted for the approval of HES and ELCAS prior to the commencement of any archaeological work. All phases of work will be funded by the developer as required by the Planning Authority.

Site Location

3.1 The Site is located within Inveresk and comprises uncultivated land (BNG: centred at NT 34245 71968). The Site is bounded to the north by the western extension of Inveresk Village Road and to the west and east by existing dwellings. To the south is a further area of uncultivated land. The Site is 582 m² in extent.

Archaeological Background

4.1 The historical background of the Site is dominated by Inveresk Roman Fort and Civil Settlement Scheduled Monument (SM3285). This Scheduled Monument consists of the buried remains of part of the Roman fort and part of the Roman vicus (civil settlement) attached to the fort. The fort lay within what is now the graveyard of St Michael's Church, while a civilian settlement to its south and east lay in an area now partly overlain by houses in Inveresk village. The fort and civil settlement were occupied during the mid-second century AD, during the Antonine occupation of Scotland.

4.2 A heritage impact assessment of the Site carried out in 2023 considered the potential impacts that the development may have upon the fabric and setting of Inveresk Roman Fort and Civil Settlement Scheduled Monument, the Battle of Pinkie Inventory Battlefield and Inveresk Conservation Area (Barbour 2023).

Aims, Objectives and Scope

5.1 The aims of the archaeological mitigation works are to:

- establish the location, extent and depth of archaeological remains within the development footprint without causing significant impacts to them,
- determine and report on the character, extent, significance and research potential of any archaeological deposits encountered.

5.2 The objectives are therefore to:

- carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation amounting to 20% of the development footprint to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains, and their character, date and extent if surviving;
- establish the presence or absence of any significant remains that will be recorded and will remain in situ, and
- submit a report to data structure level for agreement of HES and ELCAS on completion of the archaeological fieldwork.

Methodology

6.1 All work will be conducted in line with the following standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) of which GUARD Archaeology is a Registered Organisation:

- *Code of conduct* (2022);
- *Standard for archaeological field evaluation (2023);*
- *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2023);*
- *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2020);*
- *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (2020).

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

6.2 The 20% evaluation of the 582 m² development footprint will necessitate excavating five trenches each measuring 10 m x 2 m and a further one trench measuring 8.2 m x 2 m. All trenches will be excavated using a back-acting machine with a smooth-edged bucket under the constant supervision of a GUARD Archaeologist.

6.3 A GUARD Archaeology surveyor will mark out the positions of the trenches in advance of the fieldwork taking place. General photographs will be taken prior to the commencement of excavations.

6.4 There will be no movement of plant over excavated areas.

6.5 The topsoil and any overburden will be removed in spits to the first archaeological horizon or, where none is found, to the natural subsoil. Any archaeological features encountered will be cleaned by hand by the on-site Archaeologists to determine their character and extent.

6.6 Any significant archaeological features encountered will be cleaned, recorded and left *in-situ.* Limited excavation may be conducted to help confirm the significance of features, but all significant features will be preserved in situ.

6.7 A full record of archaeological features will be made using a single context recording system using pro forma sheets, drawings and photographs. All archaeological features will be photographed and recorded at an appropriate scale. Sections will be drawn at 1:10 and plans at 1:20. All trenches will be accurately surveyed using a sub-metre GPS and located within the National Grid.

6.8 Should potentially sterile natural deposits be found, a test pit would be machine-excavated into the trench base to confirm that these are natural deposits rather than, for example, the fills of large Roman features such as ditches.

6.9 All archaeological finds will be dealt with by the on-site Archaeologist(s). Finds and animal bone will be collected as bulk samples by context. Significant small finds will be three dimensionally located prior to collection. All finds will be processed to MAP2 type standards and subject to appropriate specialist assessment. If necessary, conservation of finds will be appraised to allow for specialist study.

6.10 Where the excavation of features is necessary to confirm their significance, the feature fills and horizons will be sampled as appropriate, using bulk soil samples, for palaeo-environmental evidence. Sampling will be selective, targeting features with apparent potential to contain environmental remains, as well as a random selection of other features. When selected for sampling, bulk samples will be a minimum of 20L where sufficient soil exists. Any sampling should be clearly documented, justified and its implications for analysis recognised. General rules regarding sampling are set out in Table 1 below; where a site's scale or complexity warrants it, a separate sampling strategy will accompany this WSI. All samples will be retained in storage until a decision has been made regarding the requirement for post-excavation analysis, prior to any superfluous samples then being discarded.

Table 1: Feature General Sampling Strategy

Feature/Deposit Type	Percentage/Quantity to be Sampled
Pits/posts not containing artefacts	Up to 50%
Pits/posts/spreads containing artefacts	Up to 100%
Cremations	100%
Burial cists	100%
Floor deposits/occupation layers	Up to 100% on grid basis & kubienas as agreed
Large pits >1 m diameter	Up to 50% bulk, column samples & monolith/kubienas as agreed
Linear feature/ditch	Up to 10% bulk (min 40 Litres), column samples & monoliths/kubienas as agreed
Waterlogged/carbonised wood	100%

6.11 A representative section of each trench will be recorded denoting depth of topsoil, any stratigraphy present and the nature of the soil. This information will be logged in the day-book together with a section drawing drawn to scale and a photographic record of deposits.

6.12 Should human remains be revealed, the local police, the client, HES and ELCAS will be informed immediately. Any human remains will be accurately recorded, but left in situ, pending the agreement of the police, the client, HES and ELCAS on an appropriate mitigation strategy.

6.13 Should significant archaeological remains be encountered by the evaluation, they will be left in situ. HES and ELCAS will be consulted about the need for Post-excavation analysis, including scope of finds analysis, conservation & publication.

6.14 Should significant archaeological remains be encountered, the area of investigation may be expanded, in consultation with the client, HES and ELCAS, with the aim of defining the full extent of the archaeological features.

6.15 HES will be the final judge of significance regarding any findings.

Report Preparation and Contents

7.1 A report detailing the results of the archaeological fieldwork will be submitted to the client within two to four weeks of completion of fieldwork and, subject to client approval, then submitted to HES and

ELCAS. The report will take the form of a Data Structure Report and will contain an analysis of the results of the archaeological trial trench evaluation. The report will include a full descriptive text that will characterise the date and extent of any archaeological deposits. It will also include plans at an appropriate scale showing the locations of excavated trenches and any archaeological features, and will include archiving lists for all finds, samples, field drawings and photographs.

7.2 If appropriate, the report will be accompanied by an addendum to this WSI for further archaeological fieldwork, should significant archaeology have been encountered.

7.3 The report will include the following:

- executive summary;
- a site location plan to at least 1:10,000 scale with at least an 8-figure central grid reference;
- OASIS reference number; unique site code;
- SMC reference number;
- Planning reference number
- contractor's details including date work carried out;
- nature and extent of the proposed development, including developer/client details;
- description of the site history, location and geology;
- a site plan to a suitable scale and tied into the national grid so that features, and working areas, can be correctly orientated;
- section drawings of trenches showing the depth of any archaeological deposits below current ground level;
- a detailed account of all processes followed during the works accompanied by before, during and after photographs;
- discussion of the results of field work;
- context & feature descriptions;
- features, number and class of artefacts, spot dating & scientific dating of significant finds presented in tabular format;
- plan drawings of the any features drawn at a suitable scale;
- initial assessment of relevant finds/samples if appropriate;
- recommendations regarding the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological work if deemed necessary by HES;
- reference to the recent HES requirements for reporting and archiving;
- bibliography.

7.4 An appropriate number of hard copies and digital pdf copies of the report will be prepared for the client, and for distribution to the relevant bodies.

7.5 The report will be page numbered and supplemented with section numbering for ease of reference.

7.6 Should significant features or materials be discovered that require post-excavation analysis, a PERD will be submitted to HES and ELCAS within 3 months of the end of fieldwork, detailing an appropriate scheme of analysis and further reporting.

Copyright

8.1 The copyright for any report resulting from the archaeological work undertaken as part of the project will be deemed the intellectual property of GUARD Archaeology Ltd.

Publication

9.1 A summary of the project results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*. In the event of minor archaeological remains being encountered during the archaeological fieldwork, it is proposed that a comprehensive report submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, will form the Stage 1 publication of the site. A copy of this will be included in the Data Structure Report.

Archive

10.1 The archive for the project, including a copy of the report, will be submitted to the National Record of the Historic Environment within three months of completion of all relevant work. All archiving will be undertaken according to standards and guidelines set out by HES and CIfA (where applicable to Scotland): HES *Guidelines for Archiving of Archaeological Projects* and CIfA *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*. All procedures are reviewed regularly and revised where required to incorporate updates in line with the standards and guidance issued by HES and CIfA.

10.2 The online OASIS form at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ will be completed within 3 months of completion of the work. Once the Data Structure Report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the Historic Environment Record, ELCAS will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.

Finds Disposal

11.1 The arrangement for the final disposal of any finds made in connection with the archaeological work, will be deposited in keeping with Scottish legal requirements as set out in the Treasure Trove Code of Practice published by the Scottish Government in January 2016. The laws relating to Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia* in Scotland apply to all finds where the original owner cannot be identified. This includes all material recovered during archaeological fieldwork. Accordingly, all assemblages recovered from archaeological fieldwork are claimed automatically by the Crown and must be reported to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel through its secretariat, the Treasure Trove Unit. In the event of the discovery of small finds, a filled-out copy of the form "Declaration of an Archaeological Assemblage from Fieldwork" and two copies of the pertinent Data Structure Report will be submitted to the Panel at the conclusion of the fieldwork. The Panel will then be responsible for recommending to the King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer which museum should be allocated the finds. All artefacts will be temporarily stored by GUARD Archaeology until a decision has been made by the panel.

Personnel and Liaison

12.1 The GUARD team will comprise the following qualified and experienced GUARD archaeologists:

- Project Manager: Christine Rennie
- Project Director (on-site Archaeologist): Alan Hunter Blair
- Other on-site Archaeologists: TBC
- Finds and Environmental Support and Conservation: Aileen Maule
- Illustrator: Gillian Sneddon
- Quality Assurance: Dr Ronan Toolis

12.2 The GUARD Project Manager, Christine Rennie, will be the point of contact for the archaeological works. A full CV for individuals concerned can be made available on request.

Monitoring

13.1 The proposed start date for the archaeological work is to be confirmed. HES and ELCAS will be provided with a minimum of two weeks of notice prior to the commencement of works.

Health & Safety and Insurance

14.1 GUARD Archaeology Limited adheres to the guidelines and standards prescribed for archaeological fieldwork set down in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists approved Health and Safety in Field Archaeology document. It is standard GUARD Archaeology policy, prior to any fieldwork project commencing, to conduct a risk assessment and to prepare a project safety plan, the prescriptions of which will be strictly followed for the duration of all archaeological fieldwork. Copies of the resultant project safety plan and of GUARD Archaeology Limited's Fieldwork Safety Policy Statement may be viewed upon request.

14.2 GUARD Archaeology Ltd also possesses all necessary insurance cover, proofs of which may be supplied upon request.

Sources Consulted

Barbour, J 2023 St Michael's, Inveresk, East Lothian: Heritage Impact Assessment. GUARD Archaeology unpublished report, Project 6134.