

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report provides an overview of the current situation with regard to archaeological finds on site at DTI.

## **2.0 PRE CONSTRUCTION ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS**

The initial phases of development at Potterrow (Informatics Forum and Dugald Stewart Building) were subject to archaeological surveys prior to construction and a Watching Brief during site excavation. Nothing of any archaeological interest was uncovered during excavation and construction of the previous phases.

In light of the above City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) Archaeological Office did not see any justification for any investigative works when the DTI planning application was made in March 2015. CEC did however require a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to be submitted prior to construction and for a Watching Brief to be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist during the site excavation works.

AOC Archaeology were employed by the University to prepare the WSI – this was submitted to CEC in November 2015. The WSI identified historical maps of the area showing how the street pattern has evolved over the centuries. Given the lack of findings during earlier phases it was not anticipated that anything of any great significance would be found on the DTI site during site excavation works.

## **3.0 WATCHING BRIEF WORKS**

The site Watching Brief works commenced on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016, and were originally programmed to take two weeks.

Within days of the site excavation works commencing items of archaeological interest were found. The contractor is using best endeavours to work around the archaeologists on site, but is experiencing delays due to the level of archaeological finds and the need to uncover, survey and record the finds.

A number of meetings have taken place on site with all relevant parties (University, Contractor, Archaeologist and CEC) present in order to discuss how best to mitigate delays caused by the finds.

The finds on the site contained evidence for the post-medieval use of the site in the form of tenement buildings and industrial buildings. These have been excavated over the last two weeks, and some of the areas have now been completely excavated and backfilled.

As per CEC's instructions and the WSI, the post-medieval buildings have been removed and underneath this evidence for medieval use of the site have been identified. Again, all of this needs to be fully excavated and recorded. These were recorded last week and this phase completed last week.

In the north-west corner of the site, the Victorian school that occupied the site has been identified. CEC have agreed that this only needs to be uncovered and surveyed and that it does not need to be fully excavated back to natural levels. It is hoped that this phase of work will be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> April and archaeological works on site fully finished, thus allowing the main contractor unhindered access to the full site.

## 4.0 CURRENT SITUATION

As of the time of this update the archaeologists remain on site, and all attempts to mitigate the impact of delays are taking place – as highlighted above.

All parties are being asked to mitigate the programme and cost impact of the findings, and accurate progress records are being kept by the University's Project Management team and Contract Administrator.

An extension of time claim has yet to be submitted by the contractor but at this stage it is estimated that the delay caused may be in the region of approximately 2 weeks. The contractor is required to formally submit a claim for loss and expense associated with this delay – a 2 week delay could result in additional costs in the order of £50,000, although the final figure will be the subject of an application claim by the contractor and an assessment this by the project team to ascertain the proven loss and expense.

The photographs below illustrate the situation on site as of Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016.



