

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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**Gorebridge Water Pipe,
Gowkshill Farm, Gorebridge
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Report No. 1573

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Illustrations (bound at rear)

Fig. 1	Site Location Map	
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during the excavation of a service trench for a water main. The watching brief was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in October 2008 at Gowkshill Farm, Stobhill Road, Gorebridge, Midlothian (NGR: NT 340 630) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Scottish Water Onesource.
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the project was produced by CFA and agreed by David Connolly, Assistant Archaeological Officer for East Lothian Council.
- 1.1.3 The WSI specified that there were two areas along the route of the pipeline where an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) was needed during ground breaking works associated with the insertion of a water pipe (Scottish Water Drawing Nos. GN-01-07 and GN-02-07).

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 The site was in an arable field at Gowkshill Farm, north of Gorebridge off the Stobhill Road, north of and adjacent to the Greenhall Community Centre.
- 1.2.2 The proposed development required the excavation of a trench for a mains water pipe. The Assistant Archaeological Officer for East Lothian Council required an archaeological watching brief on two sections of the excavations for the service trench. These excavations were in the vicinity of the scheduled ancient monuments (SAM's) known as Gowskill Enclosure and Gowskill Pit Alignment both identified as cropmarks through aerial photography. The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) records these features as having a probable prehistoric origin (SAM No's 6337 and 6336; NMRS Nos. NT36SW.26 and NT36SW.32). The sections identified where watching briefs were to be maintained were to the south and to the east of the SAM's within the same field.
- 1.2.3 The required archaeological watching brief to the east of the SAMs did not take place as CFA were not informed of the timetable for groundbreaking work along this section of the service trench.
- 1.2.4 No previous invasive archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place within the proposed development area prior to the watching brief.

1.3 Objectives

- 1.3.1 The aims of the watching brief were to determine the location, character, extent and quality of any features or objects of archaeological importance that may have survived within the application area, and which may be damaged or destroyed by this development.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.

2.2 Watching Brief

- 2.2.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out along a c.170m length of a service trench for a water mains at Stobhill Road (Scottish Water Drawing No GN-01-07).
- 2.2.2 Excavation of the service trench was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Any archaeological excavations required to fulfil the objectives of the watching brief were carried out by hand.
- 2.2.3 The stratigraphy of the monitored service trench was recorded by photography and scaled drawing.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 3.1 The watching brief monitored a c.170m length of pipe trench along the existing track (Fig. 1). The trench was c.1m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5m, although natural subsoil (**000**) was reached at 1.2m to 1.5m beneath the surface.
- 3.2 The stratigraphic sequence as recorded from the sides of the trench demonstrated that the deposits within the service trench were not archaeologically significant.
- 3.3 The ground surface was a 0.15m deep deposit of moss and soil (**001**). Below **001** were the degraded remains of a tarmac road (**002**). The tarmac road overlay a 0.2m deep deposit of hardcore and rubble, interpreted as the road's foundation (**003**). This hardcore deposit (**003**) sealed a layer of dark soil, rubble and stone (**004**) interpreted as made ground. Deposit **004** ranged from 0.8m deep at the west end of the trench to an unknown depth at the east end as it continued below the 1.5m maximum depth of the trench. Deposit **004** overlay the natural subsoil (**000**). The clarity of horizon between the made ground (**004**) and the subsoil (**000**) was not clear in places, with significant merging between the two layers indicative of human disturbance of the subsoil. Deposit **004** contained a few dressed sandstone blocks which were not in situ. Deposit **004** was cut by a large plastic culvert capped with concrete (**005**). The culvert (**005**) was sealed by the road hardcore (**003**).
- 3.4 No dateable finds were discovered from the made ground deposit (**004**) although the presence of the sandstone blocks suggests that it is not of great antiquity.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 There was no evidence of archaeological features of prehistoric date associated with the SAMs and no significant archaeological features of any other date discovered during the watching brief. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the made ground deposit (004).
- 4.2 The stratigraphic sequence as recorded from the trench sides comprised the remains of a moss- and soil-covered (001) tarmac road (002), its associated foundation deposit (003), which overlay made ground (004) which in turn overlay the natural subsoil (000).
- 4.3 Ashlar sandstone blocks were discovered within 004, but they were not in situ and therefore do not represent building foundation remains. Without knowing whether the material of 004 was imported to the site, it is not possible to say with certainty that these blocks originated from a building that once occupied the site. The NMRS records does record that there once stood a 17th century building, Masterton House (NMRS No NT36SW.5) on the northern side of the site, but does not record the type of building material used. The made ground may have been deposited during the construction of the adjacent community centre.
- 4.4 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the Midlothian Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.5 A summary statement of the results of this watching brief, to be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 4), will be sufficient to disseminate the results of this watching brief.
- 4.6 The final decision regarding all mitigation measures lies with the Midlothian Council Archaeology Officer.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

No.	Description
000	Natural Subsoil
001	Moss/soil surface
002	Tarmac road
003	Hardcore
004	Made ground
005	Concrete capped plastic pipe

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digital Images

No.	Description	From
1-2	General view of trench west end	W
3	General view of trench west end showing flooding	W
4	Profile of trench showing 004	N
5-6	Plastic culvert <i>in situ</i>	W
7	General view down trench	E
8-9	Unexcavated tarmac track at east end of site	W
10-11	General view down trench	E
12-14	Section of trench showing profile	N
15	General view down completed trench	E

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

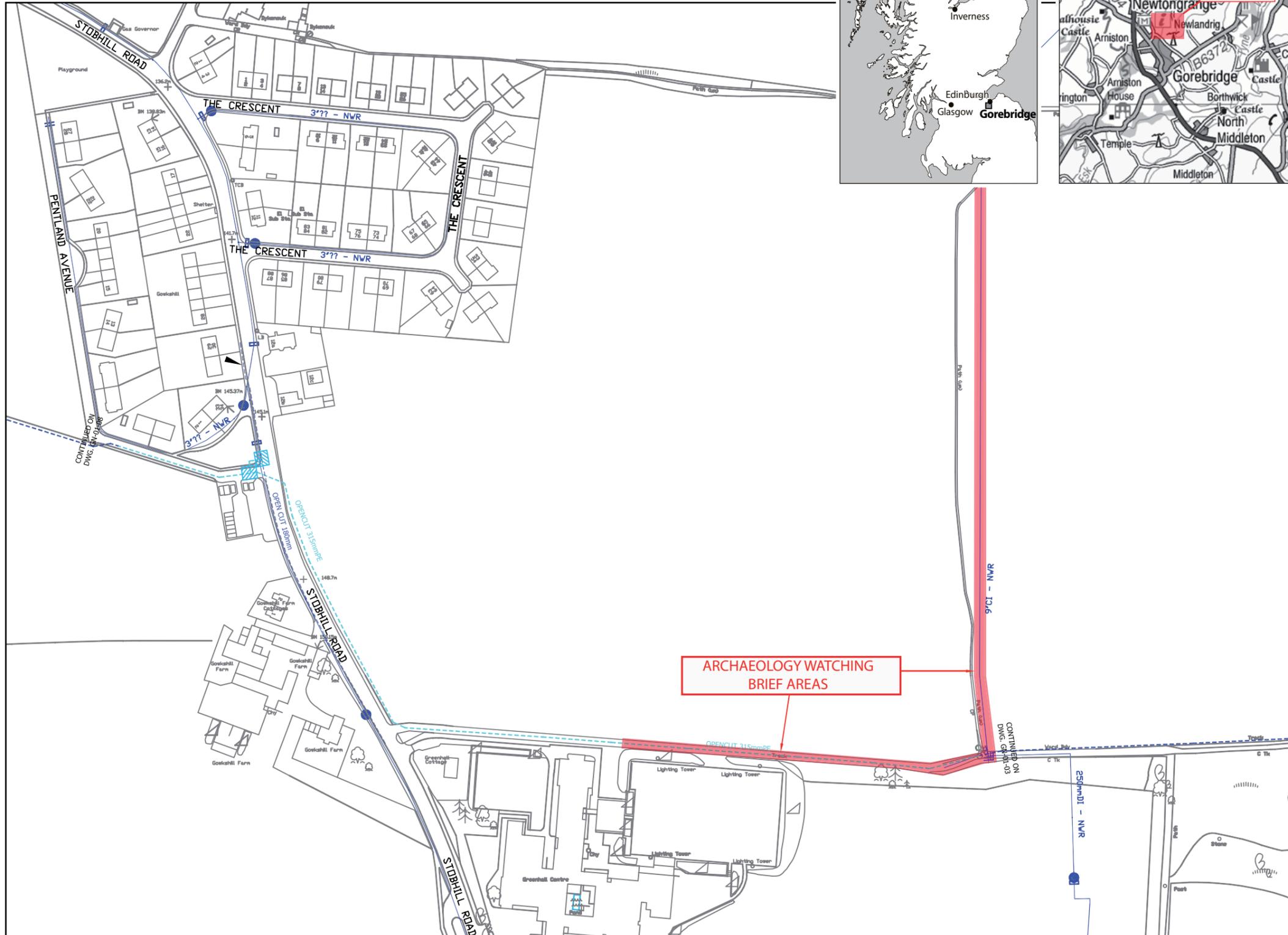
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Midlothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Gorebridge Water Pipe
PROJECT CODE:	GOWP
PARISH:	Cockpen
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Stuart Mitchell
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR	NT 340 630
START DATE (this season)	23/10/2008
END DATE (this season)	24/10/2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological Watching Brief was carried out at land off Stobhill Road, Gorebridge, Midlothian during the excavation of a new main water pipe trench. A tarmac track and deposit of made ground were identified. No significant archaeological remains were discovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scottish Water Onesource
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record of Scotland Midlothian Council Sites and Monuments Record



IFA-registered archaeological organisation

Key:

Archaeology Watching Brief Areas



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Fig. No: 1 Revision: A

Title: Location Map

Project: Gorebridge Water Pipe

Scale: 1:1250

Client: Scottish Water Onesource

Drawn by: CAE