

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

*archaeological consultants*

*Advice on Archaeology & Planning*

*Environmental Impact Assessment*

*Intpretation, Design & Display*

*Finds/ Environmental Analysis*

*Field Evaluation & Excavation*

*Historic Building Recording*

*Site & Landscape Survey*

*Geophysical Survey*

**217B Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh**  
**Archaeological Works**  
**Report No. 1808**

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Commissioned by	Johnston & Co. Ltd on behalf of Mr Joe Crolla
Date issued	August 2010
Version	0
OASIS Reference	cfaarcha1-81047
Planning Application No	09/00519/FUL
Grid Ref	NT 27369 70623

This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

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# **1. INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 General**

1.1.1 This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological works undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in August 2010 at 217B Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 27369 70623 ) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Johnston and Co on behalf of Mr Joe Crolla.

1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the project was produced by CFA. The WSI was based upon documents provided by Johnston & Co. Ltd and a verbal brief from the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeologist.

## **1.2 Background**

1.2.1 Planning permission (09/00519/FUL) has been granted for a residential development at 217B Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh. The planning consent was subject to a condition requiring a programme of archaeological works prior to any groundbreaking works being undertaken.

1.2.2 The work required consisted of a desk-based assessment, a photographic survey of the boundary wall incorporated into an existing building adjacent to the road, and a trial trenching evaluation. The trial trenching evaluation was undertaken following the demolition of the existing buildings that occupied the site.

1.2.3 The proposed development area was situated on the north-eastern side of Gilmerton Road (A772) to the south-east of Old Mill Lane. It was bordered by adjoining properties to the north-west and south-east, mature trees to the north-east and by Gilmerton Road to the south-west. The area largely consisted of demolition debris from the recently demolished buildings that formerly occupied the site.

1.2.4 No previous invasive archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place within the proposed development area prior to this evaluation.

## **1.3 Objectives**

1.3.1 The project's aims and objectives were:

- Photographic and written survey (Level 1) of the boundary wall incorporated into the building's frontage;
- To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area through trial trenching evaluation;
- To establish the vulnerability of any archaeological features to the proposed development;

- To propose mitigation measures.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

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

### **2.2 Desk-based Assessment**

- 2.2.1 The historic map collection held by the National Libraries of Scotland (NLS) was examined for information on pre-recent land use within the proposed development area. The maps examined included the Ordnance Survey 6" and 25" map editions, large Scale Town Plans (1848-53), together with other readily available cartographic information.

- 2.2.2 The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and Historic Scotland's 'Pastmap' (<http://jura.rcahms.gov.uk/PASTMAP/Map>) web site were consulted to obtain information on known archaeological sites within the proposed development area.

### **2.3 Photographic Survey**

- 2.3.1 An appropriate photographic record was made of the boundary wall fronting onto the street. A brief description on the length, height and materials used in the wall and any breaks in build or other features were recorded. The wall was checked for the presence of any re-used masonry. CFA uses a Nikon D100 Professional Digital SLR.

### **2.4 Trial Trenching**

- 2.4.1 Three trenches (Fig. 1) were excavated, amounting to c.60m<sup>2</sup> (c.5% of the total development area).

- 2.4.2 Topsoil and modern overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator equipped with a 2m wide smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. All further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

- 2.4.3 The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded, whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

- 2.4.4 Trench positions were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment.

- 2.4.5 All trenches were backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

#### **3.1 Desk-based Assessment**

##### *NMRS Sites*

- 3.1.1 The NMRS does not record any sites within the development boundary. The site lies within the area of the former Nether Liberton village (NT27SE 144), which is recorded as having a population of 267 at the close of the 18th century, with a weekly market held there. A mill was recorded here of allegedly medieval origin (Whyte 1792).
- 3.1.2 The site lies to the south-west of Inch Park, which contains Inch House (NT27SE 80.0), a Category A-Listed early 17th century L-plan mansion which was extended in the 19th century. It was built by the Winram family. The West Lodge is adjacent to the south-east of the development site.
- 3.1.3 Immediately to the west of the proposed development area on the opposite side of Gilmerton Road lies Nether Liberton Dovecote (NMRS No. NT27SE 134). This dovecote is the largest in the Edinburgh area and is thought to have been the manorial dovecote for Inch House. It is Category A-listed (HB No. 28140) and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No. 2309).

##### *Cartographic Sources*

- 3.1.4 The village of Nether Liberton is shown on a range of historic maps (Adair 1735, Forrester 1850, Hunter & Anderson 1834, Kirkwood 1817, Roy 1747-55, Laurie 1766, Knox 1816, Sharp et al 1828, Thomson 1820) to the south-west of Inch Park.
- 3.1.5 The development site lies just outside of the area covered by the Ordnance Survey Town Plans. However, it is shown on the 1855 6-inch map (Fig. 2). The development site appears to occupy a blank area of land between the West Lodge within Inch Park and a range of buildings to the north-west marked as Nether Liberton.

#### **3.2 Photographic Survey**

- 3.2.1 The survey undertaken of the boundary wall (Fig. 3 and 4) fronting onto the street recorded that it comprised of sandstone blocks ranging in colour from pink to yellow and pale grey. There was no evidence for re-used masonry. The length of wall recorded was 17m in length and fronted onto the street; it had been incorporated into a commercial property on the development site and formed a side wall of this building. It was rubble built in random courses.
- 3.2.2 The wall had two phases evident. The lower 1.25 m of the wall was presumably original, with the blocks on this lower part suffering from weathering and were more rounded. The upper 0.5m of the wall was a new addition, presumably to raise the height of the wall to allow its incorporation into the building. These newer blocks (Fig. 6) started at the level of the new

concrete window lintels, and were more squared off and still showed evidence of tool marks. It was not possible to identify any evidence of the early mortar used, as the stones all had modern concrete render.

- 3.2.3 Two windows were present, with concrete sills and three panes each (Fig. 5). The windows were 1.75m long by 0.5m high and were covered with metal grilles.
- 3.2.4 The doorway (Fig. 7) situated at the south-eastern end of the wall appears to have been a later insertion, with the surrounding stonework showing scarring and infill from this procedure.
- 3.2.5 The boundary wall is likely to be post-medieval in date, most probably 18th or 19th century, and, although the mapping is not sufficiently detailed, the wall may relate to the boundary of the West Lodge in the adjacent plot.
- 3.2.6 A full list of photographs is contained in Appendix 3.

### **3.3 Trial Trenches (Fig. 1)**

- 3.3.1 Numbers in bold and parentheses refer to contexts (Appendix 1).

#### *Trench 1*

- 3.3.2 This trench measured 12m by 2m. The deposits encountered consisted of 0.7m of demolition material (**001**) overlying sandy-gravel natural (**000**). A shallow feature (**002**) was discovered cut into the natural, measuring at least 1.6m long by 1.2m wide by 0.25m deep (Fig. 8). It had shallow sides and a flat base. This was either a ditch or elongated pit containing a single fill (**003**) of orange-brown slightly silty sands and gravel which contained an oyster shell. No artefacts were recovered from this feature and consequently it remains undated.

#### *Trench 2*

- 3.3.3 This trench measured 12m by 2m. The deposits encountered consisted of 0.65m of demolition material and Type 1 hardcore (**001**) overlying orange-brown sandy-gravel natural (**000**). A plastic utility service pipe was noted, but there were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified.

#### *Trench 3*

- 3.3.4 This trench measured 11m by 2m (Fig. 9). The deposits encountered consisted of 0.4m of demolition material (**001**) overlying stony gravel natural (**000**). There were no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts identified within this trench.

#### **4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment, photographic survey and trial trenching evaluation were carried out at 217B Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh prior to the construction of a residential development. The desk-based assessment indicated that the proposed development area lay within the former Nether Liberton village, and the photographic survey recorded the boundary wall fronting onto the street prior to its demolition. Trial trenching identified a single linear feature, but this did not contain any dateable material.
- 4.2 A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 4).
- 4.3 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 City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.4 CFA does not recommend any further mitigation measures. However, the final decision regarding all mitigation measures lies with the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeologist.

## 5. REFERENCES

Whyte, T 1792 'An Account of the Parish of Liberton in Mid-Lothian or County of Edinburgh' *Archaeologia Scotica*, vol. 1, 292-388.

### 5.1 Cartographic

Adair, J 1735 *A map of Mid-Lothian*.

Forrester, W 1850 *Map of the County of Edinburgh shewing the turnpike and statute labour roads...etc.*

Hunter, W & Anderson, J 1834 *Plan of the Environs of Edinburgh*.

Kirkwood, R 1817 *A map of the environs of Edinburgh*

Knox, J 1816 *Map of the Shire of Edinburgh*

Laurie, J 1766, *A plan of Edinburgh and places adjacent*.

Ordnance Survey 1855 *Edinburghshire*, Sheet 6, six inches to one mile.

Ordnance Survey 1885 *Edinburghshire*, Sheet 6, six inches to one mile.

Roy, W 1747-55 *Military Survey of Scotland*, Lowland Sheet 7.

Sharp, T Greenwood, C and Fowler, W 1828 *Map of the county of Edinburgh*

Thomson, J 1820 *Edinburgh Shire*, *John Thomson's Atlas of Scotland*.

## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context	Area	Trench	Description
000	N/A	All	Natural subsoil (glacial sand and gravel)
001	N/A	All	Demolition rubble
002	N/A	1	Cut of linear pit or shallow trench
003	N/A	1	Fill of linear 002 (orange-brown slightly silty sandy-gravel)

## APPENDIX 2: Summary of Excavation Results

Trench no.	Size (m)	Depth of deposits (m)	Features
1	12 by 2	0.7	Linear 002
2	12 by 2	0.65	Modern plastic service pipe
3	11 by 2	0.4	N/A

## APPENDIX 3: Photographic Register (Digital)

### *Standing Building Survey*

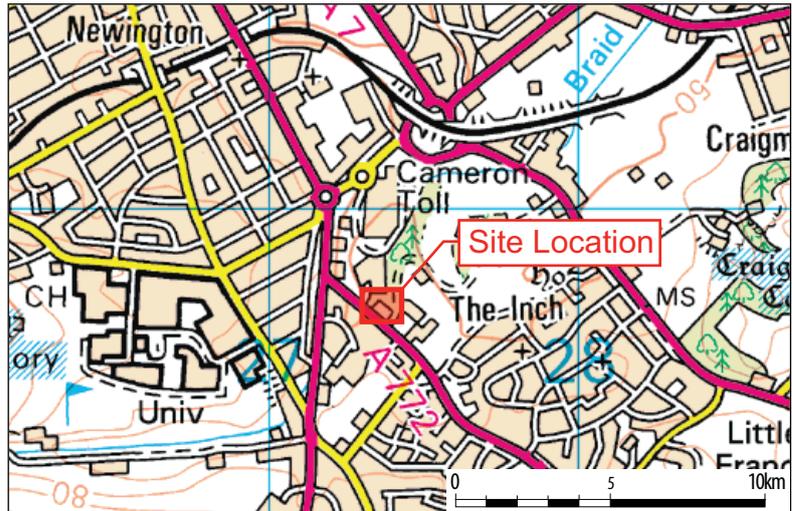
No.	Description	From	Conditions
1-2	General shot of SW-facing wall (oblique)	South	Overcast
3-4	General shot of SW-facing wall (oblique)	West	Overcast
5-6	General shot of SW-facing wall	SW	Overcast
7-8	General shot of SW-facing wall (with ranging rods)	SW	Overcast
9-10	Truncated wall end in concrete render	SW	Overcast
11-12	Detail of NW window	SW	Overcast
13-14	Detail of NW window, inner face showing squared stonework	SW	Overcast
15-16	Detail of wall showing line of new stonework	SW	Overcast
17-18	Detail of arched gateway	SW	Overcast
19-20	Detail of repair to arched gateway	SW	Overcast
21-36	Sequence of shots of wall from SE to NW	SW	Overcast
37-38	Shot of blocked up gateway	SW	Overcast
39-40	Detail of filled in gate	SW	Overcast
41-44	Detail of new wall line showing new concrete pointing	SW	Overcast
45-46	General shot of site through Heras fencing	SW	Overcast

### *Evaluation*

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	Trench 1, general shot	NE	Overcast
2	Trench 1, feature 002	S	Overcast
3	Trench 1, feature 002, part excavated	S	Sun
4	Trench 1, feature 002, section	E	Sun
5	Trench 2, modern services	S	Sun
6	Trench 2 showing make-up of deposits	W	Sun
7	Trench 2, general shot	SW	Sun
8	Trench 2, trench section and service pipes	S	Sun
9	Trench 3, general shot	S	Sun
10	Trench 3, trench section	E	Sun
11-13	General shots of site		Sun

## APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	City of Edinburgh Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	217B Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	217B
<b>PARISH:</b>	Edinburgh, City of
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Magnus Kirby
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)</b>	NT 27369 70623
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	July 2010
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	August 2010
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)</b>	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological desk-based assessment, photographic survey and trial trenching evaluation were carried out at 217B Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh prior to the construction of a residential development. The desk-based assessment indicated that the proposed development area lay within the former Nether Liberton village, and the photographic survey recorded the boundary wall fronting onto the street prior to its demolition. Trial trenching identified a single linear feature, but this did not contain any dateable material.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	N/A
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Mr Joe Crolla
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	National Monuments Record of Scotland City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record



Key:



Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: Johnston & Co Ltd

Title: Location Map showing trial trenches.

Project: 217B Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh.



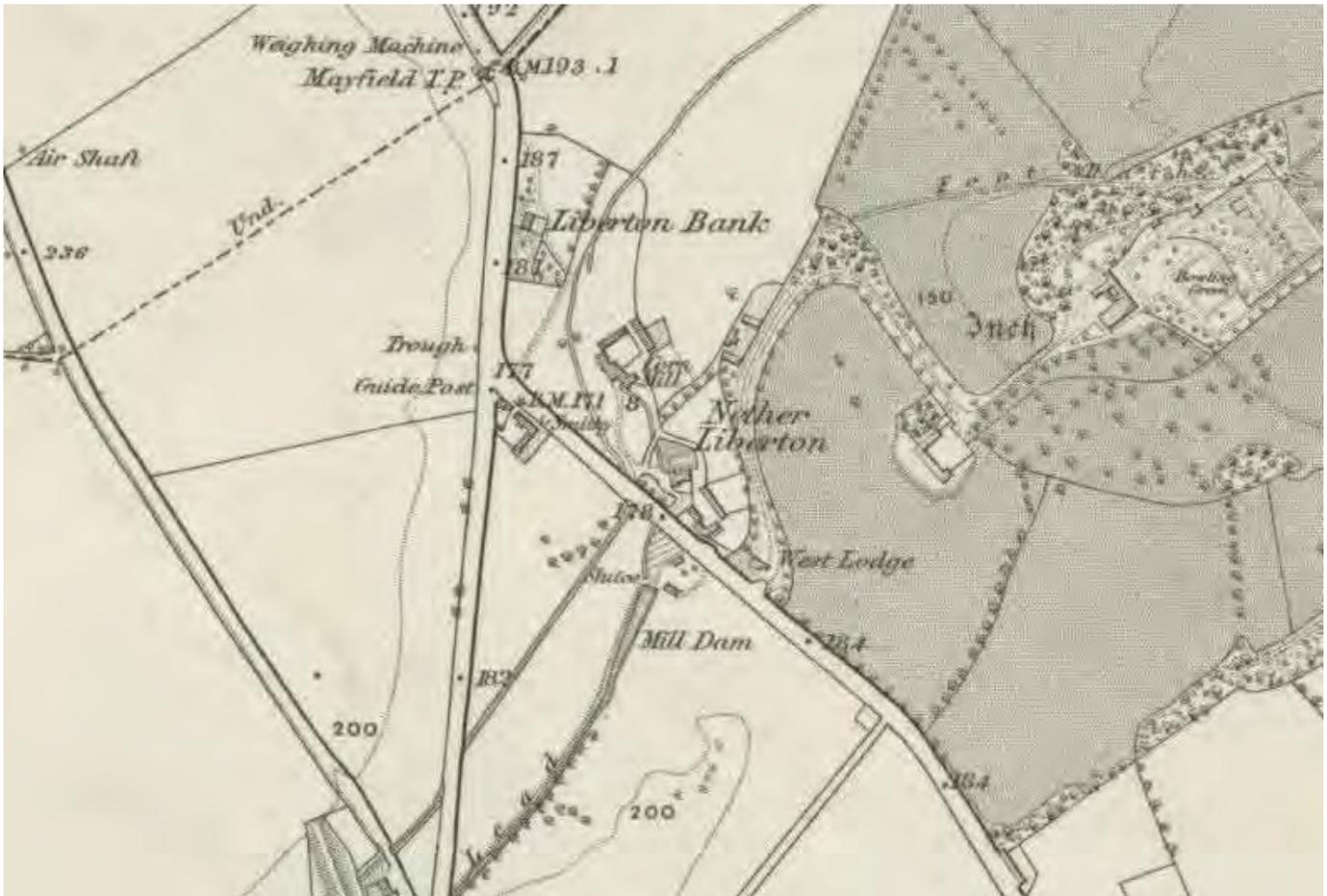
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Key:

Fig. No:	2	Revision:		Client:	Johnston & Co Ltd
Title:	Extract from map by Ordnance Survey, 1855.				
Project:	217B Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh.				

Scale:



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Fig. 3 General view of boundary wall



Fig. 4 View of boundary wall from SW

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	Project:					
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Fig. 5 Detail of window insert



Fig. 6 Detail of secondary phase of building

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Fig. 7 Detail of doorway

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Fig. 8 Trench 1, Feature 002



Fig. 9 Trench 3

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Fig. No:	8-9	Revision:	Client:	Johnston & Co Ltd
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