

SANDY LOAN, GULLANE: EAST LoTHIAN



JULY 2015

CARRIED OUT ON BEHALF OF REYWOOD CONSTRUCTION

 **archaeology**
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ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Location plan

Figure 2: Plan of site with foundations monitored

Figure 3: Plan of site with excavation over wall

Figure 4: Ordnance survey plans showing location of long range of structures.



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Figure 1: Site Location Map

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological monitored strip was undertaken due to planning application requirements for 03/00919/FUL relating to the erection of three houses , garages and associated works, at Sandy Loan, Gullane, East Lothian. The site lies between the church lands and the centres of medieval activity and later occupation to the north of the High Street. (Figure 1)
- 1.2 The work consisted of visual inspection of the strip foundations to a depth of up to 1.5 metres (Figure 2) and the subsequent 2m x 2m trench to evaluate and characterise a wall uncovered during the previous phase of works. The work was undertaken on the 9th July 2015 and 23rd July 2015 in bright but overcast conditions.
- 1.3 The wall is matched with a 19th century OS map of the area showing a range of structures along the eastern boundary of the plot, and may represent stables and carriage-house.
- 1.4 The work will enable the archaeological officer for East Lothian Council to decide on the requirements for any further work, and they were kept informed of all activities during the process.
- 1.5 The OASIS ID for this project is: **connolly1-219837**
- 1.6 Further work is not expected as the surviving archaeology had been much truncated by later garage works, including petrol tanks and inspection pits. The wall surviving has been dated and the depth of windblown sand exceeds 1.5m depth. However, the final decision rests with Mr Andrew Robertson, the East Lothian Council Archaeological Officer.

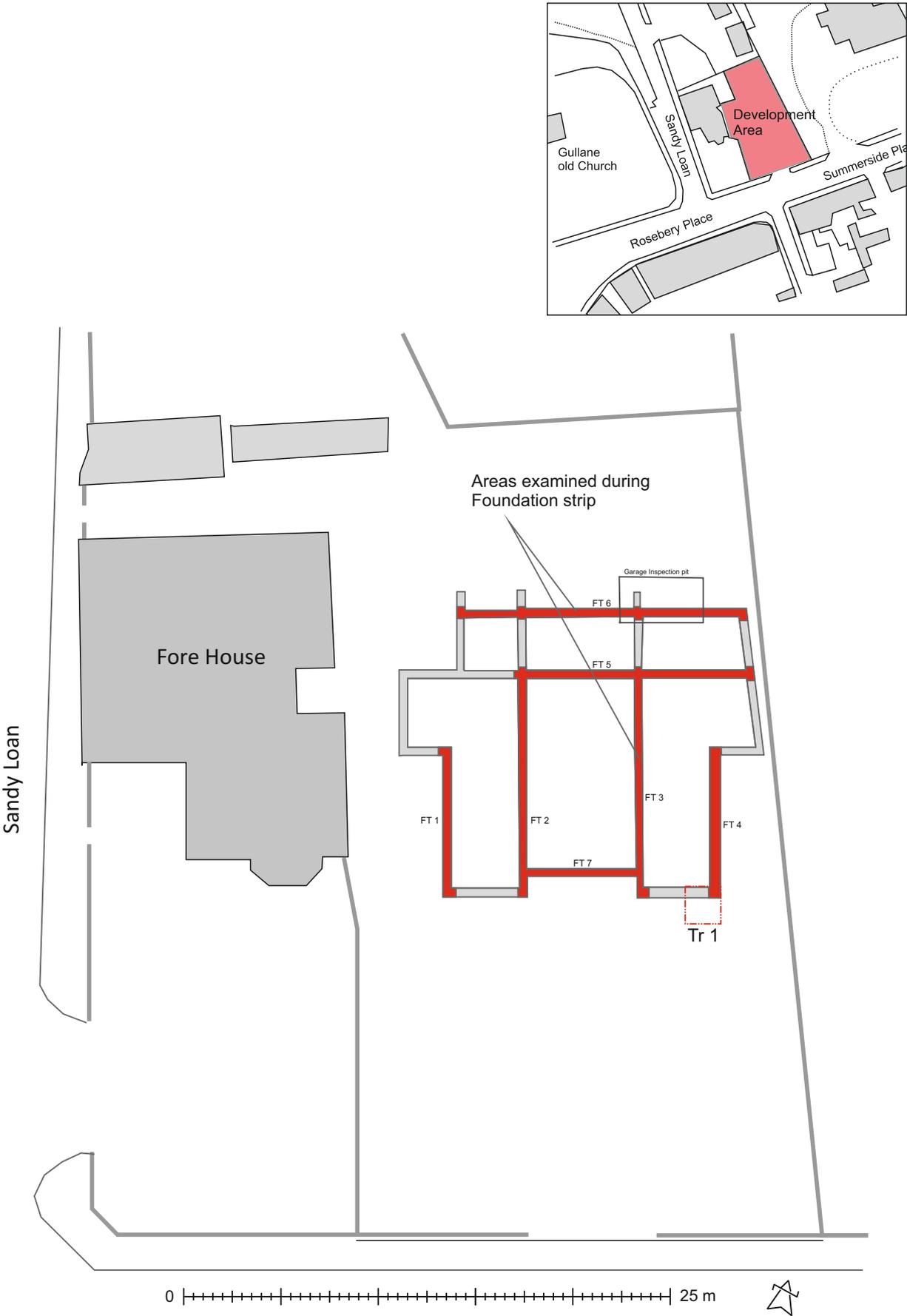


Figure 2: Site Plan showing area of excavation and monitored strip

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1.1. The site is located, in Gullane, at the west end of Main Street (A198), to the east of St. Andrew's Church, and Sandy Loan.

2.2. SITE HISTORY

Prior to the current development site, the land was occupied by a petrol station and garage.

- 2.2.1. Map regression identifies a row of structures on the 1st edition six-inch Ordnance Survey map (1854), running north-west to south-east. The buildings are also featured on the 1st edition one-inch map (1878), but the structure has changed considerably by 1895. This infers that either half the row has been demolished; or the entirely demolished and rebuilt (see Figure 4).
- 2.2.2. There has been no previous archaeological investigation of this site, however the location would place between the church precinct or the medieval village. The potential was high for archaeological features to be uncovered.

3. OBJECTIVES

- 3.1** The basis for investigation is to examine the presence of any substantive remains that may survive in the area of trenching – with care taken to examine and record any features relating to previous occupation and activity in Gullane.
- 3.2** As no intrusive work had been carried out in this location a series of trenches along the area of the strip foundations and associated services were examined to a depth of up to 1.5m.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1** In keeping with the format and approved ClfA guidance on carrying out a monitored strip, the machine used a smooth bladed ditching bucket to excavate a line along the proposed foundations and to a depth in excess of the final known depth of concrete (1.2m)
- 4.2** After excavation signs of activity or subsurface cut features were examined. Further deeper excavation was cut through the sands to view the layers of sand, stabilisation and further layers of windblown sand.
- 4.3** A series of digital images were taken to record the process and the site recorded.
- 4.4** The area containing a stone wall was further investigated (Figure 3) and the area expanded to create a larger trench (2m x 2m). The trench was cleaned, planned and photographed and a section drawn to show the relationship of the contexts.



Plate 1: Excavated wall with sondage trench and section

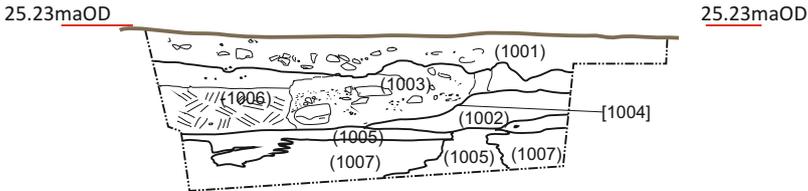
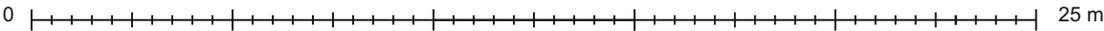
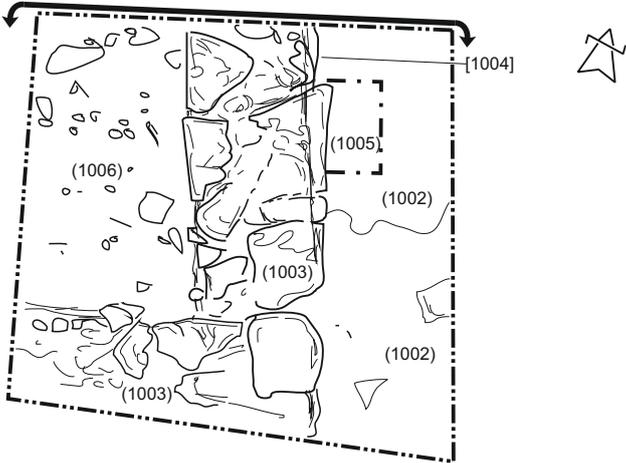
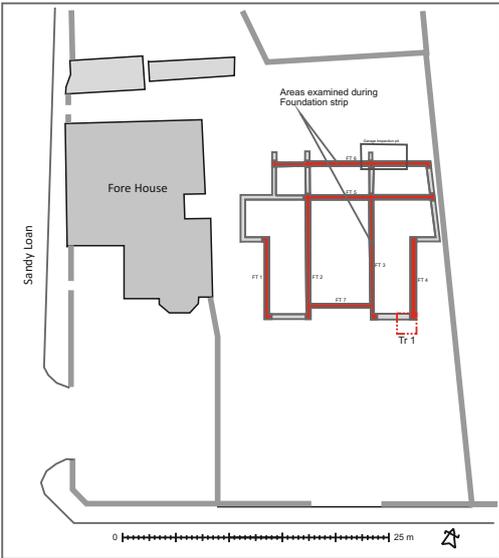
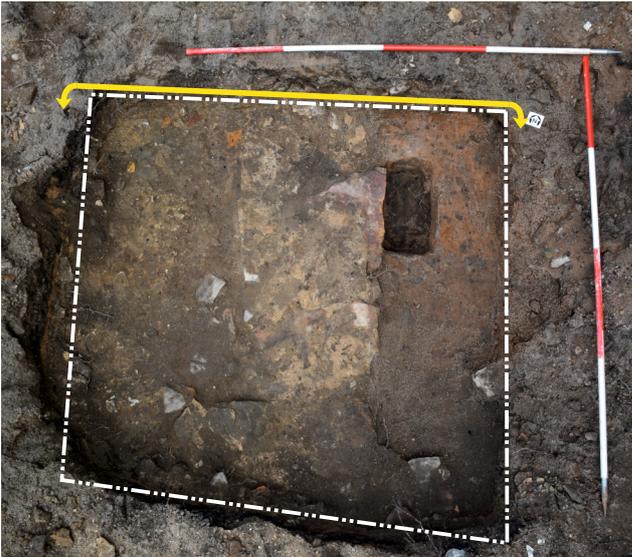


Figure 3: Trench Plan and section

5.1. FIELDWORK

- 5.1.1 The work was undertaken over two separate days in July, under suitable weather conditions. The work was divided into evaluation and excavation.
- 5.1.2 The initial monitored foundation trenching (Figure 2) revealed the depth of overlying subsoils and recent dumping relating to the garage across the site. The foundation trenches that were full examined were numbered T1 – T8.
- 5.1.3 The depth of windblown sands was variable across the site, ranging from 0.25m – 1.20m below current ground surface (c. 25maOD) and it was clear from sections cut through the sands, to depths of up to 1.50m, that they represented various events of sand inundation and then soil stabilisations, with repeated layers of sands and soils. There is of course potential that beneath these levels there are further archaeological deposits, but as the foundations of the current structure will rarely exceed 1.00m, these deposits, if they exist will not be affected.
- 5.1.4 In the southeast corner of the site, a linear stone feature bonded with mortar was located, covered in a dump of recent ceramic and building material. This was considered to be of enough importance to investigate and characterise the feature as well as ensure that there were no further features on the same line, such as might be found on backlot divisions. (ditches, walls, fences etc)
- 5.1.5 Excavation of the wall [1003] and surrounding deposits was partial undertaken as a training exercise along with two students (Naomi Wells and Kai Wallace from Edinburgh University and UHI Perth respectively).
- 5.1.6 Context (1001) overlay all deposits, as a mix dump layer of masonry, brick and early 20th century ceramics. It is clear the material represents a levelling deposit, over the truncated features below.
- 5.1.7 The loose orange brown sandy material to the east of the trench contained charcoal, and would have been exposed during the construction of the wall structure. Cut [1004] was a shallow 0.40m deep foundation cut, extending to the west where it would have formed a wide trench the width and length of the building. This was not a foundation trench, but rather a foundation area strip. The wall was constructed of flat sandstone slabs mortared together with a deep cream sandy mortar. The wall footings would have been built around the foundation trench edges, and then infilled with the green yellow clay (1006) to form a solid platform for constructing what must have been low single story buildings.

- 5.1.8 The clay platform would have been the footings for a slab floor (now removed) Beneath these deposits and cuts there are the layered sands and soil deposits (1005) and (1007) which will continue down to a depth of at least 1.50m.
- 5.1.9 A slot trench was taken down to a depth of 0.70m but no sign of further features on the same alignment were noted.
- 5.1.10 Examination of the OS maps (Figure 4) confirmend the origin and possible function of this stretch of walling. Dating to the early 19th century, there is a linear range of structures to the east of the grounds of the current house. That they represent stables or couch houses must be seen as a possibility. By the 2nd edition map of 1892, the south end of the range has been truncated, and this ties well with the possible return noted in the trench, where a smaller wall is seen heading west, though slightly overlying the Wall [1003]. When plotted onto the map, it is clear the excavation represents this corner of the building.
- 5.1.11 During the watching brief, a linear stone structure was recovered. Further removal of the surface layer revealed this structure to be a wall at foundation level as well as uncovering an external corner. This indicates a stone building of no more than one storey in height based on the shallow depth of foundation. To the west of the wall there was a deposit of yellow sandy-clay laid down as floor preparation. Digging through this revealed the same orange sand (naturally deposited) with lenses of dark silty sand. A sondage against the section proved there were no further archaeological features beneath this sequence, other than the constant inundation of windblown sand.
- 5.1.12 The construction of the 20th century garage had effectively truncated and destroyed the remains of these 19th century structures. The nature of the present strip foundations would not impact any other surviving pockets of this archaeology.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** The programme of archaeological evaluation has revealed that there will be limited disturbance of archaeology in the area under construction. And as the remains have been characterised as being of 19th century date, with no earlier features within the areas to be impacted by development, there is no compelling case for further intrusive works. The final decision will lie with the Archaeologist for East Lothian Council.



1888 Ordnance Survey - Six-inch 2nd Edition



1842 Ordnance Survey - Six-inch 1st Edition

Figure 4: 1842 and 1888 OS plan of site showing long cottage row.

APPENDIX 1 - PHOTO REGISTER (DIGITAL)

| ID | File | Description | Direction | Date |
|----|----------|---|-----------|------------|
| 1 | DSC_6020 | General view of site to south | S | 02/07/2015 |
| 2 | DSC_6021 | Trench slot 1 | N | 02/07/2015 |
| 3 | DSC_6022 | Trench slot 2 | N | 02/07/2015 |
| 4 | DSC_6023 | Trench slot 3 | N | 02/07/2015 |
| 5 | DSC_6024 | Trench slot 4 | N | 02/07/2015 |
| 6 | DSC_6025 | Trench slot 4 | N | 02/07/2015 |
| 7 | DSC_6026 | Trench slot 5 | E | 02/07/2015 |
| 8 | DSC_6027 | Trench slot 6 | E | 02/07/2015 |
| 9 | DSC_6028 | Trench slot 7 | E | 02/07/2015 |
| 10 | DSC_6029 | Trench slot 1 – signs of earlier garage/filling station | NW | 02/07/2015 |
| 11 | DSC_6044 | Trench slot 5 – showing recent makeup Sand and then soil line | Oblique | 02/07/2015 |
| 12 | DSC_0191 | Overview of Trench 1 after cleaning, showing wall [1003] green/yellow clay to left and mottled sands to right | Vert | 21/07/2015 |
| 13 | DSC_0192 | South facing section of trench 1 (1 of 3) | | 21/07/2015 |

| ID | File | Description | Direction | Date |
|----|----------|---|-----------|------------|
| 14 | DSC_0193 | South facing section of trench 1 (2 of 3) | | 21/07/2015 |
| 15 | DSC_0194 | South facing section of trench 1 (3 of 3) | | 21/07/2015 |

APPENDIX 2 - CONTEXT REGISTER

| Number | Type | Description |
|--------|------------|---|
| 1001 | Deposit | Friable dark-mid brown makeup deposit with mixed 20 th century debris |
| 1002 | Deposit | Loose orange sand with frequent charcoal flecks |
| 1003 | Structural | Sandstone slabs and cream mortar forming wide 0.80m wide base for walls (now demolished) |
| 1004 | Cut | Shallow 25cm deep cut extending beyond trench to west taking the foundations and floor footings for the entire range of structures. |
| 1005 | Deposit | Dark brown clean Soil horizon and infills over sands (turf line) |
| 1006 | Deposit | Green-yellow clay deposit set as footings for floor surface. |
| 1007 | Deposit | Lower dark yellow windblown sand |

REFERENCES

Ordnance Survey Map 1843 Haddingtonshire

Ordnance Survey Map 1892 Haddingtonshire

| | |
|---|--|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | East Lothian |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | Gullane Sandy Loan |
| PROJECT CODE: | GSL2015 |
| PARISH: | Gullane |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | David Connolly |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | (Connolly Heritage Consultancy) |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Monitored strip |
| NMRS NO(S): | - |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | OUTBUILDINGS |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | - |
| NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures) | NT 48140 82732 |
| START DATE (this season) | 9 th July |
| END DATE (this season) | 23rd July 2015 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.) | - |
| MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | Monitored strip on the line of foundations within a development plot to the north of the Main street of Gullane. Lying between the Medieval Churchyard and the village, the potential for activity was high, however, although excavated in some areas to a depth of 1.5m below current ground surface, the only remains uncovered belonged to a range of buildings that may be associated |

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| | with the building that shares the plot. Perhaps coach-house and stables. The only other remains related to the garage that stood previously on the site. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | - |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | - |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Reywood Construction Ltd |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR: | Old Schoolrooms , Luggate Burn, East Lothian, EH41 4QA |
| EMAIL ADDRESS: | info@bajr.org |
| ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited) | RCAHMS (int), CHC |