



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY

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Biomass Store at Arniston House, near Temple, Midlothian

Archaeological Monitored Strip
Report No. 3825

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**Biomass Store at Arniston House,
near Temple, Midlothian**

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Fig. 2 Post ex strip of area facing west

Fig. 3 Cleaned area after root extraction in SW area

Fig. 4 1893 Ordnance Survey 25 inch map

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological monitored strip carried out during December 2018 by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) at Arniston House, near Temple, Midlothian ((NGR: NT 3299 5940; Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Savills on behalf of The Estate Office, Arniston House.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the work, dated 21st September 2018, was produced by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) and approved by the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS), archaeological advisors to Midlothian Council.

1.2 Background

Planning permission has been granted for construction of a biomass chipping and storage shed with ancillary external storage area and associated access road formation/improvement within the grounds of Arniston House, Midlothian. A condition for an archaeological monitored strip was applied to the development.

The site lies within agricultural land just to the south of the Category C Listed Arniston Home Farm (LB43128) and within Arniston House Garden and Designed Landscape. Midlothian Council's Historic Environment Record holds records for a crop mark enclosure located in the field immediately to the north of the access road to Home Farm, of possible prehistoric date (MEL10369). There was potential for previously unknown buried archaeological remains to survive within the proposed development area.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (monitored strip) to monitor all groundbreaking works required for the development, such as topsoil clearance and where necessary the excavation of foundations, service tracks, hardstandings and other construction features; to ensure works are cleared of topsoil and other modern overburden to identify either undisturbed natural subsoil or archaeological features (whichever comes first).
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified by excavation and recording and to produce a report on them.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

All work was conducted with regard to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards, and to the standard conditions of ELCAS for fieldwork in its area.

2.2 Monitored Strip

All stripping and ground breaking was under constant archaeological supervision, as previously agreed and described in the WSI.

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures and by completing standard CFA record forms.

The stratification of the excavated area was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Numbers in bold refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 1.

The development area lay within arable land. The area stripped of topsoil measured c.730m² (Fig. 2-3).

The topsoil (**001**) was approximately 0.2m to 0.3m deep. It overlay natural subsoil (**002**), which was yellowish-brown silty clay. The natural subsoil had various inclusions, most prominently sandstone fragments of various sizes, and modern rooting.

In the middle of the development area, a shallow, modern drainage gully was uncovered, running out of the area to the east. This was reinstated as part of the construction works as the previous location of the gully began to fill with water.

Besides the brick, the only finds were various fragments of modern pottery, plastic fragments, an old plastic drain cover, candy wrappers and two frogged bricks, one of which was stamped 'ARNISTON'. These were not retained.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were uncovered.

4. CONCLUSION

A monitored strip was carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd at Arniston House. The works involved the building a biomass chipping and storage shed, and associated access road formation/improvement at Arniston House. The ground breaking works encountered no archaeological features or deposits.

The Garden and Designed Landscape at Arniston is a landscape park of the late 18th and early 19th century (Thomas White improvement plan 1791) that incorporates features from a previous formal scheme, part of which was designed by William Adam (1726-33). The development area was formerly lightly wooded parkland to the south of Home Farm, as shown on the 1854 Ordnance Survey map. This land use continued with no change through the 19th and 20th centuries until it came into agricultural use (date uncertain). There was possibly a former avenue of trees to the north of the development area, as shown on the Ordnance Survey maps (Fig. 4). The watching brief confirmed that no garden or designed landscape features survived within the development area, nor any archaeological features of any other date.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Record for the Historic Environment Scotland (NRHE) and copies of reports will be lodged with Midlothian Council Historic Environment Record.

A summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

6. REFERENCES

Ordnance Survey 1854 Edinburghshire, Sheet 13. 6 inch.

Ordnance Survey 1893 Edinburghshire XIV.11. 25 inch.

Ordnance Survey 1907 Edinburghshire XIV.11. 25 inch.

Ordnance Survey 1941 GSGS 3906 38/68 S.W. 1:25,000.

Ordnance Survey 1955 NT35. 1:25,000.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

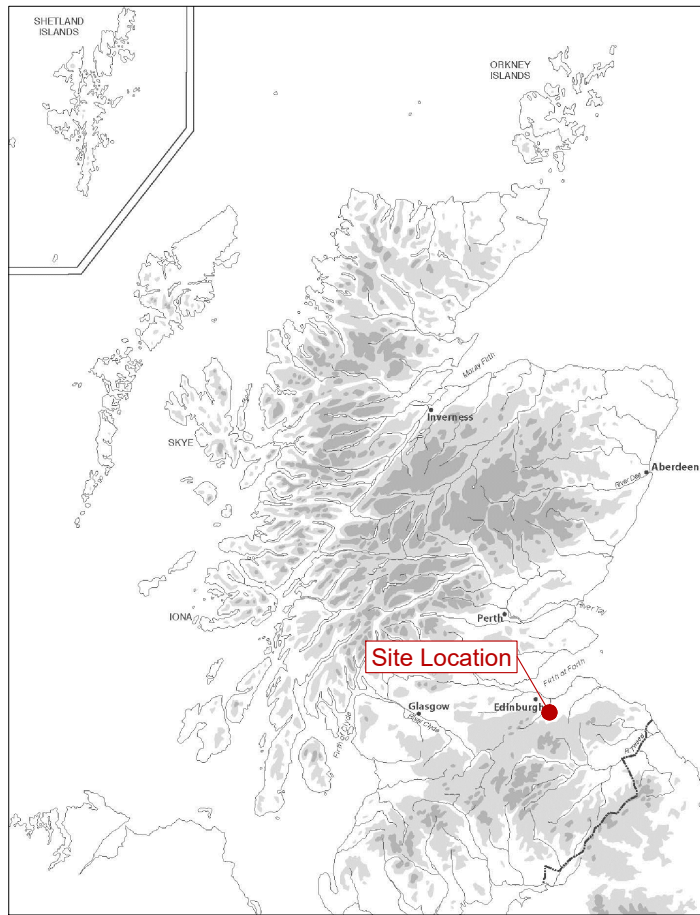
Context No.	Description
001	Topsoil. 0.2-0.3m of brown sandy silt
002	Subsoil. Dark yellow-brown firm clay

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

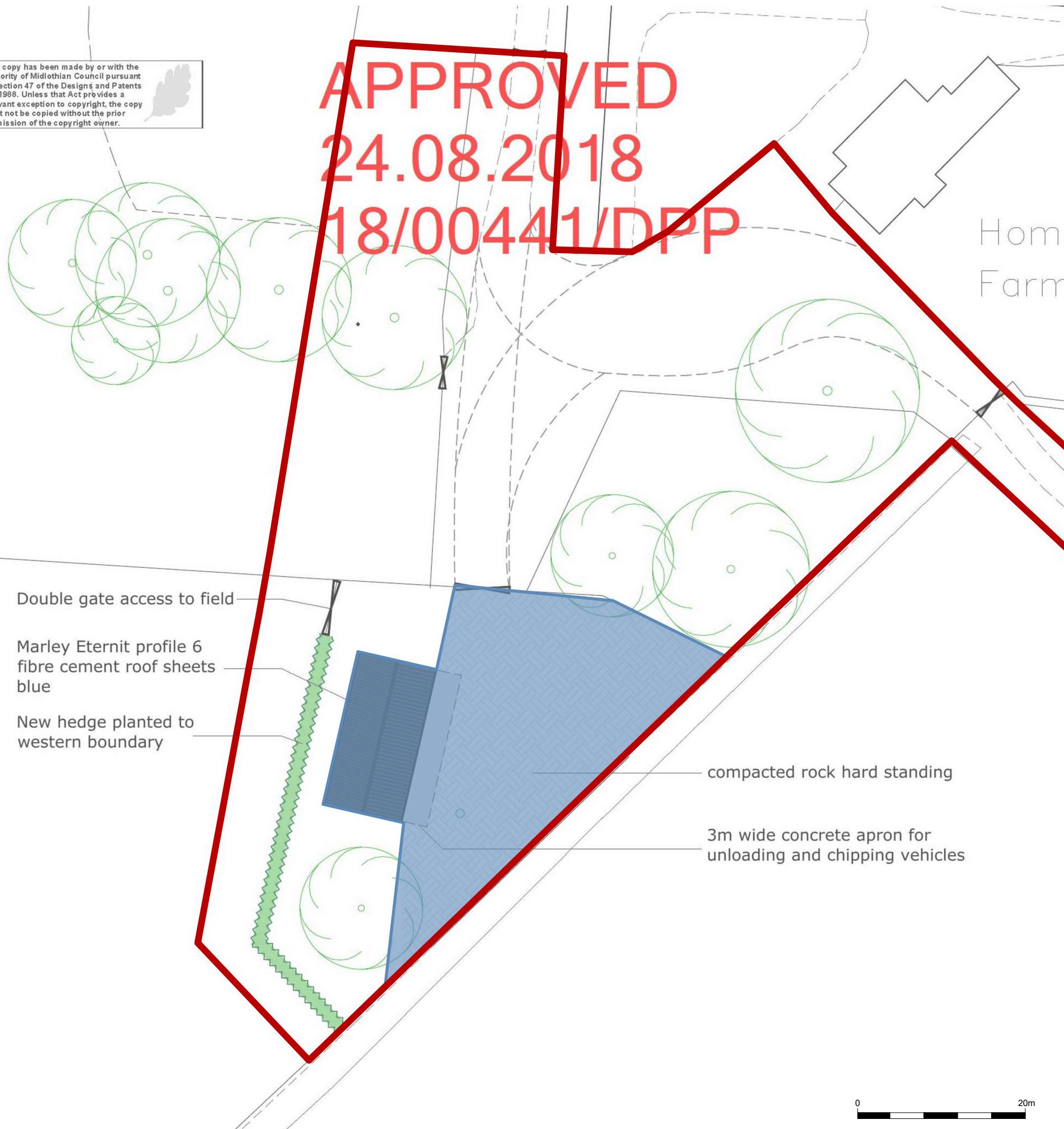
Photo No.	Description	Facing
1	Gen area view - pre ex.	SSW
2	Working shot of stripped area (SE).	NW
3	Post-ex strip area.	W
4	Working shot (WSW area).	SW
5	Post strip area.	S
6	Working shot (W area).	W
7	Post strip area (West).	W
8	Working shot (S of SE area).	SW
9	Broken brick with stamp (partial).	N/A
10	Working shot (S area).	S
11	Working shot of area SW - with tree root.	SW
12	Working shot - S area.	W
13	Post-ex shot of S area.	W
14	Working shot - cleaning of gully.	SSE
15	First light working shot.	S
16	First light working shot.	SSE
17	First light working shot.	E
18	Tree root extraction (working shot).	SW
19	Tree root extraction (working shot).	SW
20	Cleaned area after extraction.	W
21	Cleaning for new gully.	NE
22	End of day final shot.	W
23	End of day final shot.	SE
24	End of day final shot.	E
25	End of day final shot.	N

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Midlothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Biomass Store at Arniston House
PROJECT CODE:	ARNI
PARISH:	Borthwick
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Sofia Black
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Monitored Strip
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Garden and Designed Landscape/Conservation Area
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 32995 59411
START DATE (this season)	11 December 2018
END DATE (this season)	12 December 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (NARRATIVE) (May include information from other fields)	A monitored strip was carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd at Arniston Home Farm. The works involved the building of a biomass chipping and storage shed, and associated access road formation/improvement at Arniston House. The ground breaking works encountered no archaeological features or deposits.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	The Estate Office, Arniston House
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to NRHE, report with Midlothian HER



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Key:

- Site boundary
- Watching brief area



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Title:
Location Map and Site Plan

Project:
**Proposed Biomass Store at
 Arnistone House,
 Archaeological Monitored Strip**

Client:
The Estate Office, Arnistone House

Scale at A3:
1:500 (main inset)

Drawn by: CA	Checked by: SW	Date: 07/05/2019
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Report No: 3825	Fig. No: 1
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Fig. 2 - Post-ex strip area facing west



Fig. 3 - Cleaned area after root extraction in SW area

Project:
Proposed Biomass Store at Arnistone House, Archaeological Monitored Strip



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Client:
The Estate Office, Arniston House

Drawn by: CA	Checked: SW	Date: 09/01/19
Report No: 3825		Fig. No: 2-3



Key:

- Site boundary
- Watching brief area



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Title:
1893 Ordnance Survey
25 inch map

Project:
Proposed Biomass Store at
Arnistone House,
Archaeological Monitored Strip

Client:
The Estate Office, Arniston House

Scale at A3:
1:1500

Drawn by: CA	Checked: SW	Date: 07/05/2019
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Report No: 3825	Fig. No: 4
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