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Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**New house to the rear of
22 Drum Street, Gilmerton, Edinburgh**

**Archaeological Watching Brief
Report No. 1912**

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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standard operating procedures.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in June 2011 during site clearance and the excavation of foundation trenches for a proposed residential development within a yard to the rear of 22 Drum Street, Gilmerton Edinburgh (NGR: NT 2927 6860 (centred); Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Mumtaz Hussain.

In overview, the site lies within the historic village of Gilmerton, close to the nationally significant 18th century Gilmerton Cove. The village of Gilmerton is one of Edinburgh's most significant medieval villages having been recorded in existence since the 12th century. Much of the historic settlement has, however, been removed since the 1890s. Nevertheless, the medieval/post-medieval layout can clearly be seen on both the 1853 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map and the earlier eighteenth century (c.1750) Military Survey by General Roy.

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

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the project were to conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) during the excavation of foundation trenches associated with the construction of the new build and report on its findings. The boundary walls were also to be photographed and interpreted.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork.

2.2 Wall Recording

The three upstanding sandstone walls enclosing the yard within which the development took place were recorded by digital photography.

2.3 Foundation Trenches

The excavation of foundation trenches was monitored and their stratigraphy recorded. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Locating the site through detailed examination of the 1st Edition OS map (1853) is not easy. It appears that a rectangular roofed building lies wholly within the site, extending south-east from near its western corner. A wall runs north-east from this building to Gilmerton Road (Drum Street in 1894) but does not run south-west to the south-western boundary wall. Both the south-western and south-eastern boundary walls are shown. There is a small square building (not clearly roofed) attached to part of the south-eastern boundary wall outside the site and a second roofed building attached to part of the south-western wall, also outside the site.

By the 2nd Edition OS 1:2500 map (1894), the rectangular building on the 1st Edition map is not depicted. A possible gap in the north-western boundary wall may hint at its location. What may be a different building is attached to the entire south-western boundary wall outside the site. Roofed buildings are depicted against the south-eastern boundary wall within the site and although these continue beyond the site to the south-west, the south-western boundary wall is shown running through them. A roofed building is depicted on the site of the existing 22 Drum Street.

Later maps, up to and including the 1:10,000 (1992-3) show no significant changes, although the gap in the north-western boundary wall referred to above is no longer shown.

Existing sheds within the yard to the rear of 22 Drum Street were removed. These are shown on the aerial view of the site (Fig. 1). They had no foundations which required grubbing out. Removal of the sheds revealed the full elevations of the boundary walls.

3.2 Boundary Walls

Three boundary walls were present on the site (Figs. 2-4).

The boundary walls to the north-west (Fig. 2) and south-east (Fig. 4) are free-standing and consist of mortared red sandstone rubble with vertically-set coping stones on top. They are 2-2.5m in height and around 0.5m wide. The wall to the north-west was demolished and the north-west foundation trench for the new build was excavated along the same alignment (Fig. 5).

The boundary wall to the south-west is of similar construction to the above walls but has been overlain at either end by the gable walls of two adjacent cottages and in the centre by a modern harled extension to the cottage fronting the lane (Fig. 3). The cottage walls are constructed from different colours of sandstone. Construction of the one to the south (Fig. 3 left) has led to the loss of the coping stones from the boundary wall whereas the one to the north (Fig. 3 right) is built over the coping stones.

It is also notable that the boundary wall does not extend down to the present ground level over much of its length (Fig. 3) and this may indicate that the ground levels within the site have been lowered since the wall was constructed.

Both the south-west and south-east boundary walls were preserved.

3.3 Foundation Trenches

The development site was surfaced with tarmac (001). This overlay a thin layer of crushed stone (002). Below this was a thin topsoil (003) which overlay natural clay (004).

There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified in any of the foundation trenches and the level of the yard within which the development took place was c.0.5m below that of the lane off Drum Street (Fig. 5).

4. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundbreaking works for a new build residential house development within a yard to the rear of 22 Drum Street, Gilmerton. Existing sheds were removed and the boundary walls were recorded by photography. The north-west boundary wall was demolished with other boundary walls being preserved.

There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified during the excavation of foundation trenches.

The north-western boundary wall preserved no evidence of the building depicted on the 1st Edition map and there was no significant difference in its construction to the south-west or the north-east of the buildings assumed location. This suggests that the wall has been rebuilt since the 1850s.

The south-western wall is depicted on the 1st Edition map and is overlain by buildings which appear for the first time on the 2nd Edition 1:2500 map. Indeed, the wall is shown as running through these buildings. Viewed from inside the site, at the south-eastern end of this wall, the gable of a sandstone building overlies the wall but there is no indication that further buildings of similar nature continued north-east within the site as suggested by the cartographic evidence. These buildings may therefore have been different in construction and/or function. At the north-western end of the boundary wall the gable of a sandstone building again overlies the wall but differences in the stone and in the way it overlies the wall suggest they are not contemporary. The foundations of the south-western boundary wall are exposed. This, and differences in the levels between the development site and the adjacent lane (Drum Street), suggest that the interior of the site may have been truncated since the wall was built prior to 1853.

The south-eastern boundary wall is also depicted on the 1853 1st Edition map and buildings appear along it within the site for the first time on the 1894 2nd Edition map. The nature of these buildings is however uncertain, and they may be open cart/storage sheds, for example, although there is no apparent access to them from what is now Drum Street. There is no evidence for these buildings preserved in the structure of the wall, but equally, there is no evidence that the wall has been rebuilt in recent years.

The responsibility for decisions over future archaeological work lies with City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service.

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 City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital Images

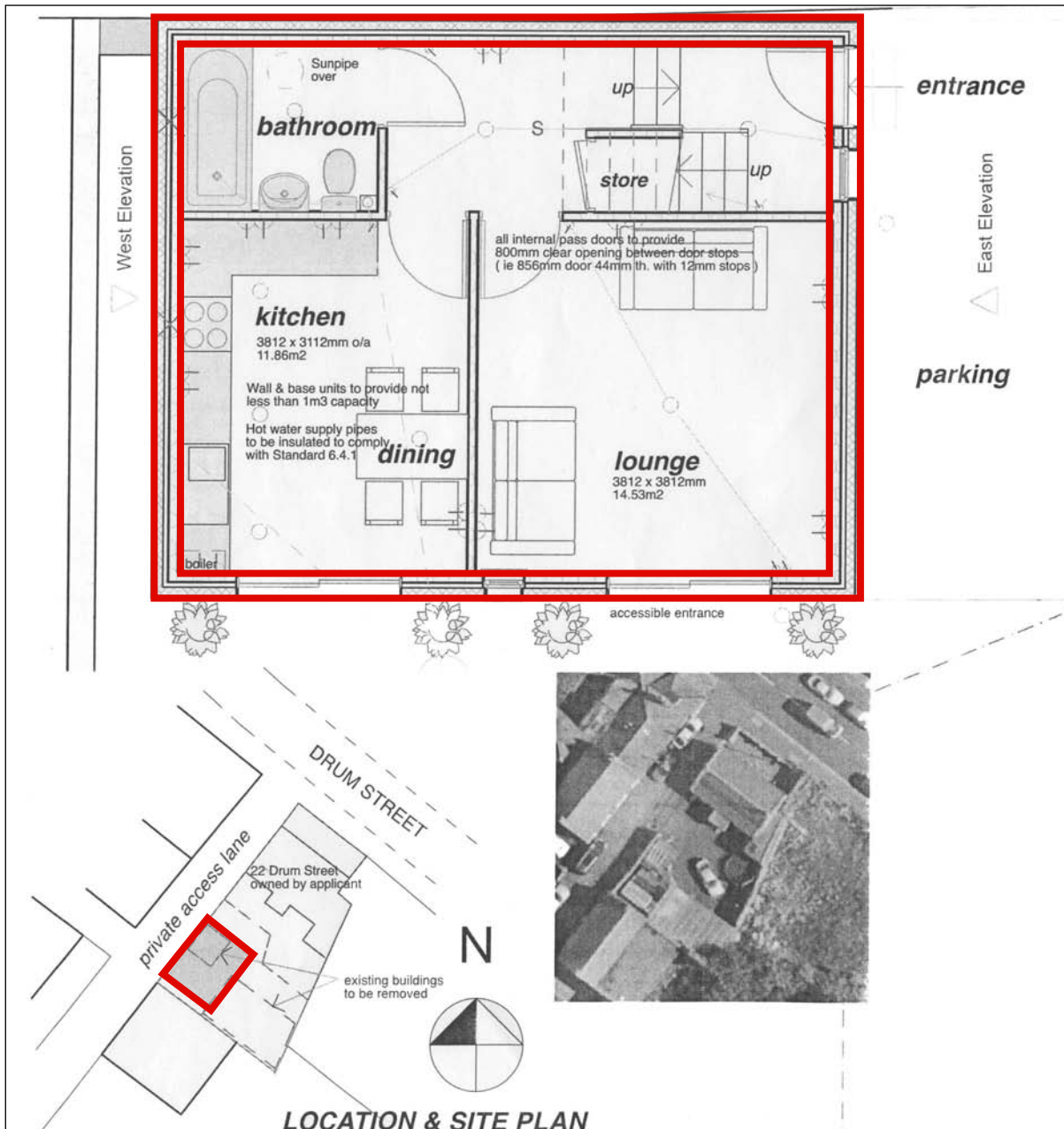
Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1	SW boundary wall W end	NE	Sunny
2	SW boundary wall E end	NE	Sun/Shade
3	SW boundary wall E end detail	NE	Sun/Shade
4	SW boundary wall centre area detail	NE	Sun/Shade
5	SW boundary wall W end detail	NE	Sunny
6	SW boundary wall detail showing the exposed foundation	NE	Sunny
7	W boundary wall (to be demolished)	SE	Sunny
8	E boundary wall general shot	NW	Sun/Shade
9	Concrete base and sawn off wooden support pillar from demolished lean-to shed	-	Sunny
10	Detail of N end of E boundary wall where it joins 22 Drum St Cottage	NE	Sun/Shade
11	Detail of S end of E boundary wall where it joins SW	NE	Sun/Shade
12	Detail of feature in SW boundary wall and wooden roof support for demolished lean-to shed	SE	Sun/Shade
13	Detail of modern harled area between the two gables on SW boundary wall	SE	Sunny
14	Detail of section in S foundation trench showing natural clay	N	Sun/Shade
15	General shot of S foundation trench SW boundary wall is on the left	SE	Sun/Shade
16	General shot of to be demolished W boundary wall	NW	Sunny
17	General shot of to be demolished W boundary wall	NW	Sun/Shade
18	Detail of section in N foundation trench showing natural clay	SW	Sunny
19-24	General views of the site and the northern foundation trench which was excavated 4-6-2011 without our presence. Various views	-	Overcast
25-26	General views of the site and the northern foundation trench	E	Overcast
27-34	NW foundation trench, SE facing section NE to SW	SE	Overcast
35	General view of the location from the junction with Drum Street	NE	Overcast

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

No.	Description
001	Tarmac
002	Quarried crushed stone
003	Dry & powdery thin grey-brown soil under 002
004	Natural yellow or grey clay subsoil. Overlies coal in the N corner of the site

APPENDIX 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	22 Drum Street, Gilmerton, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	DEET
PARISH:	Liberton
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Ian Suddaby
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	NT 2927 6860
START DATE (this season)	June 2011
END DATE (this season)	June 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief took place on the site of a new residential property to the rear of 22 Drum Street, Gilmerton, Edinburgh. Upstanding sandstone boundary walls were recorded and an interpretation of their date and function was undertaken. The excavation of foundation trenches was monitored. No archaeological remains were recorded.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mumtaz Hussain.
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 City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record



LOCATION & SITE PLAN

Key:



Area of Watching Brief



Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: Mumtaz Hussain

Title: Plan of the proposed building with an inset showing the location

Project: 22 Drum Street, Edinburgh

Scale: 1:700 A4



Figure 2: General view of the north-western boundary wall from the south-east



Figure 3: General view of the south-western boundary wall from the north-east.



Key:	Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	Mumtaz Hussain	 <div>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</div>
	Title:						
	Project: 22 Drum Street, Edinburgh						
Scale:	Drawn by: SW Checked: LW Report No: 1912						



Figure 4: General view of the south-eastern boundary wall from the north-west.



Figure 5: General view of the excavated foundation trenches from the north-east

Key:	Fig. No:	4-5	Revision:	A	Client:	Mumtaz Hussain	 <div>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</div>		
	Title:								
	Project:								
Scale:	22 Drum Street, Edinburgh						Drawn by: SW	Checked: LW	Report No: 1912