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Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop, Newhaven, City of Edinburgh

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 1926

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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**Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop,
Newhaven, City of Edinburgh**

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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) between April and June 2011 at Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop, City of Edinburgh (NGR: NT 25751 76802) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 07 March 2011 was produced by CFA on behalf of Thomson Bethune. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

1.2 Background

Planning permission (Ref. 10/01616/FUL) has been granted for the construction of a new Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop and associated buildings. The planning permission was subject to a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief during all ground breaking operations.

The site of the new Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop is located to the south of Hawthornvale in Edinburgh and occupies a disused plot of land adjacent to the old railway, presently forming part of the landholding of the current Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop, which occupies a building within the larger site area (Fig. 1 and 2).

The site lies within the northern limits of the former Victorian North British railway that connected with Leith docks to the east. The 19th century Ordnance Survey map shows a range of separate buildings across the site connecting onto the railway. Also, prior to being renamed Hawthornvale in 1869 the area was known as Claypotts from the name of a local 18th century farm. The name itself is of interest in that it may point to the area being used from the medieval period as a source of clay for nearby potteries serving Edinburgh and Leith.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the watching brief were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Watching Brief) to monitor the excavation of ground breaking that is required.
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording and production of a report.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods, as detailed in the approved WSI.

2.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

The terms of the WSI required an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) to monitor all ground breaking works (initial site strip).

Excavation was undertaken with a 22 ton tracked excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket.

All discoveries including soil profiles and subsoil characteristics were recorded using standard CFA recording forms and digital photography.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

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

Initially the ground breaking involved the excavation of a trench for a sewer diversion (Fig. 2-3). In addition, five trenches were excavated on the exterior of the building foundations for drainage purposes (Fig. 2, 4).

The sewer diversion trench, measuring 50m in length east to west, was excavated to a formation depth of 2m with stepped sides resulting in a basal width of 1m, and included a manhole. The drainage trenches were excavated to an average of 1.8m in depth, with lengths varying between 6m and 40m.

The deposits within the drainage trenches consisted of a stratigraphic sequence of topsoil (**001**), mixed made ground containing bricks and rubble (**002**) up to 0.6m deep, mid grey sandy boulder clay containing sub-angular stones (**003**) up to 1.3m deep, and a dark grey boulder clay (**004**) (Fig. 5).

The deposits within the sewer trench consisted of a stratigraphic sequence of topsoil (**001**) up to 0.2m deep, made ground (**002**) up to 0.2m deep, mid grey boulder clay (**003**) up to 0.6m deep, light grey sand (**005**) up to 0.6m deep, with dark grey boulder clay (**004**) at the base.

There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified.

4. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was carried out during ground works for the construction of a new Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop and associated buildings. There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified during the watching brief.

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.

A summary statement of the results of this watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) and an online OASIS form will be completed.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context	Description
001	Topsoil
002	Made ground consisting of black furnace ash, brick and rubble
003	Mid grey sandy boulder clay
004	Grey boulder clay
005	Light grey sand

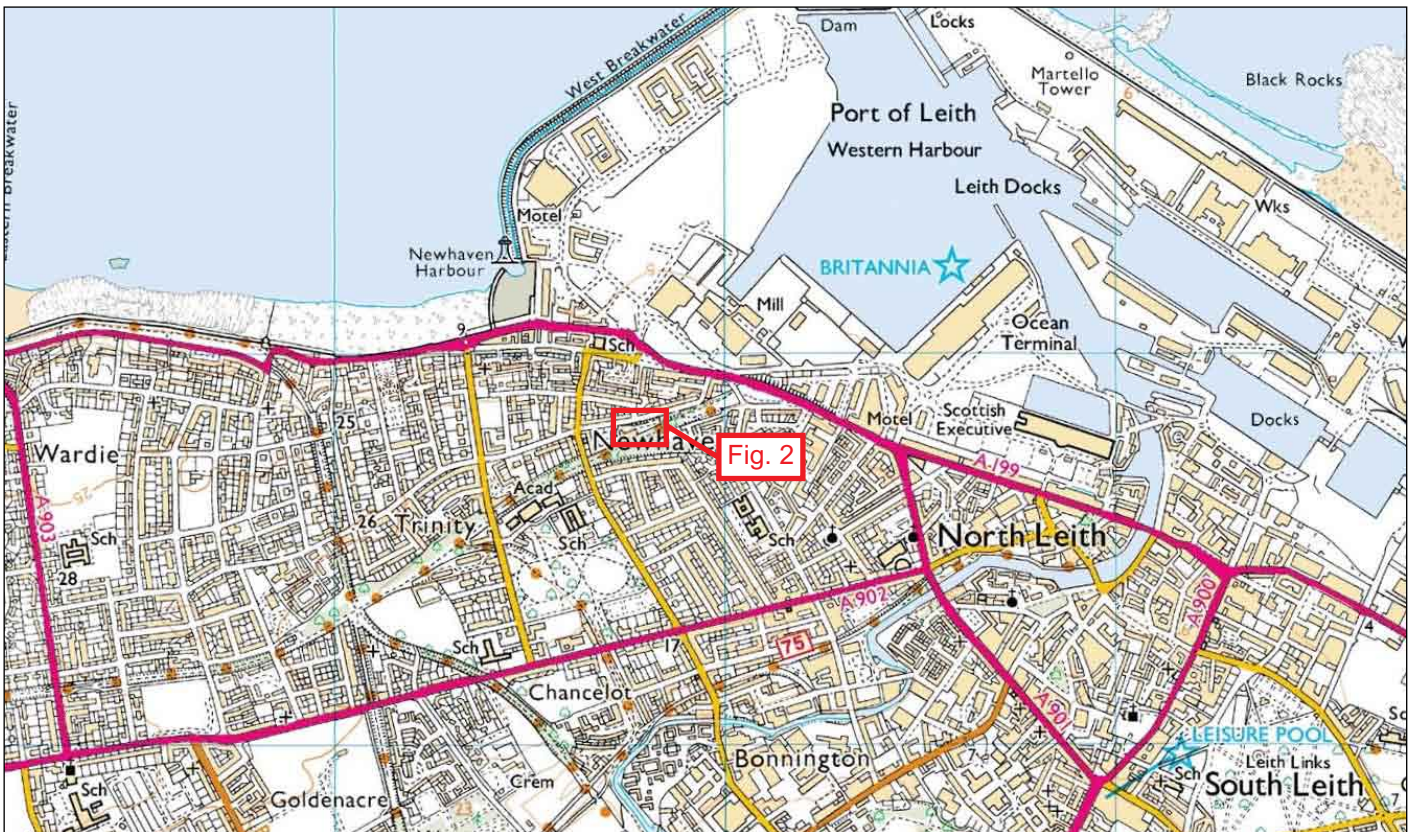
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digital Images

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1	Pre-ex shot of sewer line, post topsoil strip	W	Bright
2	Pre-ex shot of sewer line, post topsoil strip	E	Bright
3	Post-ex shot of sewer line	W	Bright
4	1m wide representative section of trench	SW	Sunny
5	Oblique of trench 2	S	Sunny
6	Post-ex shot of trench 3	ENE	Overcast
7	Representative section in trench 4 showing (001-004)	N	Sunny
8	post-ex shot of trench 4	W	Sunny

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop, Hawthornvale, Newhaven
PROJECT CODE:	ESCU
PARISH:	Edinburgh (City of)
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Gary Savory
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NT 25751 76802
START DATE (this season)	April 2011
END DATE (this season)	June 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out during ground works for the construction of a new Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop and associated buildings. The site lies within the northern limits of the former Victorian North British railway. Also, prior to being renamed Hawthornvale in 1869 the area was known as Claypotts from the name of a local 18 th century farm, suggesting its use as a source of clay for potting. There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified during the watching brief.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Thomson Bethune
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 (archive) City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record (report)



Key:



Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop

Title: Site location

Project: Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop

Scale at A4:

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Drawn by: GC Checked: LW Report No: 1926



sewer trench
 drainage trench



Client:
Thomas Bethune

Project:
Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop


Drawing No.:
2

Title:
Site plan showing areas monitored during watching brief

Rev:


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Fig.3 Post excavation shot of sewer trench



Fig.4 Post excavation shot of Trench 3



Fig.5 Representative section in Trench 4 showing contexts 001 to 004

Key:	Fig. No:	3-5	Revision:	A	Client:	Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop					
	Title:										
Scale at A4:	Project:	Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop									
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