

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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## **Land at Seton, East Lothian**

### **Archaeological Metal Detector Survey and Monitored Strip**

**Report No. 1961**

## **CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an Archaeological Metal Detector Survey (MDS) and Monitored Strip carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in September 2011, on an area of mine collapse to the north-west of Seton, East Lothian (NGR: NT 4116 7508 Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Castle Group Scotland Ltd on behalf of the Coal Authority.

A Written Scheme of Investigation was approved by East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (dated 26 September 2011).

### **1.2 Background**

The area of mine collapse lies within the boundary of the Battle of Prestonpans, which is listed in Historic Scotland's Inventory of Historic Battlefields, a list of nationally important battlefields in Scotland.

Excavation by the University of Durham in 1995 of a cropmark site revealed a major defended enclosure complex (NT47NW 21) and excavation by AOC (Scotland) Ltd in 1994 of a cropmark site revealed a sub-rectangular enclosure (NT47NW 24): both of these sites are now under housing to the north of the collapse.

There are also cropmarks of a prehistoric enclosed settlement (NT47NW 214) in the vicinity of the collapse, and therefore there is a high potential for recovering archaeological remains

### **1.3 Objectives**

1.3.1 The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were:

- To establish through metal detector survey whether any metal artefacts of historical significance, particularly in relation to the Battle of Prestonpans, survive within the development site.
- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (monitored strip) to monitor all groundbreaking works, to ensure works are cleared of topsoil and other modern overburden to identify either undisturbed natural subsoil or archaeological features (whichever comes first).
- To propose mitigation measures where necessary.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 General**

Recording of all elements was carried out following established CFA methodology. CFA follows the Codes and appropriate Standards of the Institute for Archaeologists.

### **2.2 Metal Detector Survey**

Prior to the commencement of any on site ground breaking work, a metal detector survey was undertaken. The survey provided good overall coverage of the route to be used in and out of the site and of the area to be stripped of topsoil.

The metal detector survey was undertaken using a C-Scope CS1220XD metal detector set to maximum sensitivity and no discrimination. All finds, including those potentially associated with the battle, were recovered. Each find was given a unique number. Finds had their location plotted to an accuracy of 1m using a Thales differential GPS and the depth below the surface was measured.

### **2.3 Monitored Strip**

The Institute for Archaeologists have produced a Standard for archaeological watching briefs. This states that watching briefs and monitored strips are intended to allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits which could not be established in advance of development, and to provide an opportunity for the archaeologist to signal to all interested parties if an archaeological find is made before its destruction.

The Monitored Strip was conducted over an area of topsoil removal around the collapsed mine. It was initially anticipated that an area of 25m by 25m would be stripped: this was due to the unknown nature and depth of the mine shaft and how much of the shaft area would need to be dug out during its investigation. However, as the shaft collapse only went down approximately 4-5m the area needing to be topsoil stripped was greatly reduced to 6m by 6m.

During the Monitored Strip, the soil was removed in spits during the topsoil strip to allow each spit to be scanned with a metal detector. The excavated spoil was also checked for metal objects using the metal detector.

All topsoil stripping was carried out using a tracked excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

#### 3.1 General

The MDS and Monitored Strip were carried out in a field of recently harvested Brussels sprouts. Topsoil varied between 0.2m and 0.3m deep. Natural subsoil was stiff, orange boulder clay.

#### 3.2 Metal detector Survey

Only two metal finds were discovered by the MDS. They are described below:

| SF No. | NGR.        | Depth | Description  |
|--------|-------------|-------|--|
| 1      | NT4118 7508 | 10 cm | Copper alloy sheet dome (35mm diameter), hollow. Probably a cover for a small knob, eg for a drawer. |
| 2      | NT4116 7506 | 5 cm  | Copper alloy disc button or stud with integral loop/pin (missing), 19mm diameter.                    |

SF No. 1 is a hollow domed copper alloy cover, probably originally part of a furniture knob, and likely to be of 19th/20th-century date.

SF No. 2 is a slightly convex copper alloy disc with the remains of a central attachment loop or pin on the concave surface. Studs of this type have a general post-medieval date range, with examples in England dating from the 16th century onwards. However, buttons of this type are most likely to be of 17th-19th-century date.

#### 3.3 Monitored Strip

No archaeological features or deposits were revealed by the Monitored Strip. The shallow depth of the topsoil meant that the natural subsoil was scarred by modern plough marks.

### 4. CONCLUSION

No archaeologically significant finds or remains were discovered during the metal detector survey and monitored strip.

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 East Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3).

## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

| Context no. | Description     |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 001         | Natural subsoil |
| 002         | Topsoil         |

## APPENDIX 2: Digital Photograph register

| Photo No. | Description  | From |
|-----------|--|------|
| 1         | Area of mine collapse pre excavation   | N    |
| 2         | Removal of the topsoil to the S of the collapse showing the orange clay natural        | N    |
| 3         | Shot showing the shallow topsoil and plough truncated natural                          | E    |
| 4         | Excavation of mine shaft showing geological layers including a band of coal in section | N    |

### APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>   | East Lothian   |
| <b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>   | Land at Seton, East Lothian  |
| <b>PROJECT CODE:</b>  | SETO   |
| <b>PARISH:</b>  | Prestonpans  |
| <b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>   | G. Carruthers  |
| <b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>  | CFA Archaeology Ltd  |
| <b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>  | Metal Detector Survey and Watching Brief   |
| <b>NMRS NO(S):</b>  |  |
| <b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>   | Battlefield  |
| <b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>   | No   |
| <b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>   | NT 411 750   |
| <b>START DATE (this season)</b>   | September 2011   |
| <b>END DATE (this season)</b>   | September 2011   |
| <b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>   | None   |
| <b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b><br>(May include information from other fields) | A metal detector survey and monitored strip were carried out during the investigation of an area of mine collapse. The site is within the area of the Battle of Prestonpans. No archaeologically significant finds or remains were discovered. |
| <b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>  | No   |
| <b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>   | N/a  |
| <b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>   | Castle Group Scotland Ltd  |
| <b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>   | CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.   |
| <b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>   | cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk  |
| <b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>  | Archive to be deposited in NMRS, Reports lodged with SMR and NMRS.   |





Key: Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: Castle Group Scotland Ltd



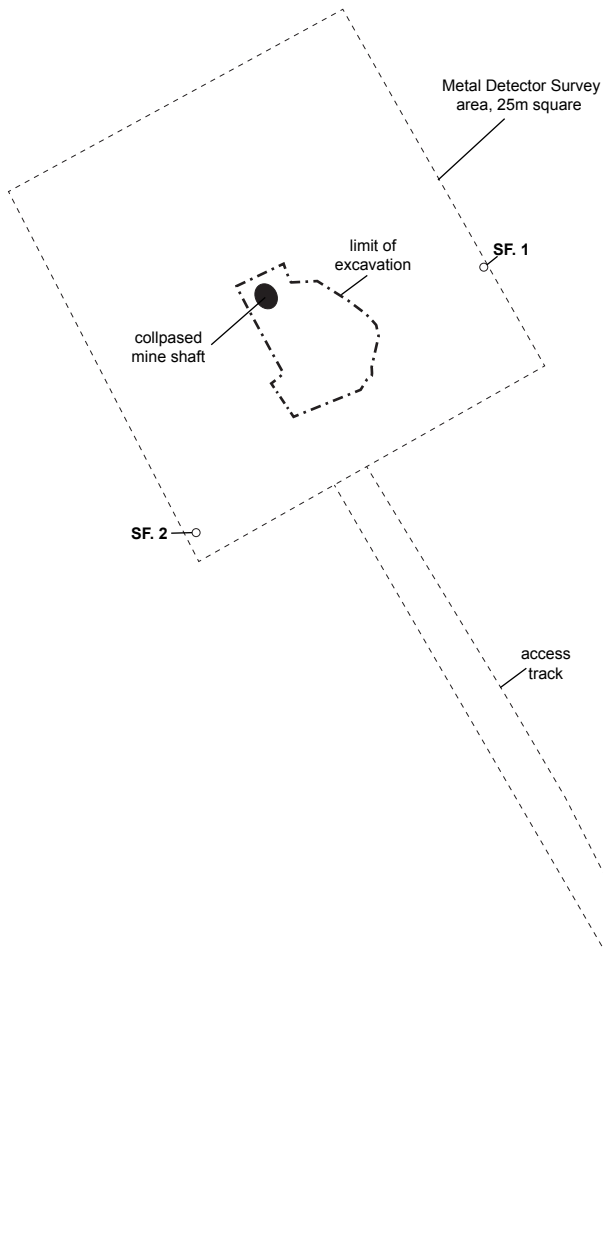
Title: Site location

Scale at A4: 1:500

Project: Land at Seton, East Lothian. Archaeological Metal Detector Survey and Monitored Strip

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Drawn by: GC Checked: LW Report No: 1961






|                    |   |  |             |                                   |  |
|--------------------|---|--|-------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Key:               |  | Fig. No: 2   | Revision: A | Client: Castle Group Scotland Ltd |  <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD<br/>The Old Engine House<br/>Eskmillis Park<br/>Musselburgh<br/>East Lothian, EH21 7PQ<br/>t: 0131 273 4380<br/>f: 0131 273 4381<br/>e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk<br/>w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p> |
|                    |   | Title: Plan showing the 25m square area of Metal Detector Survey and actual area of excavation |             |                                   |  |
| Scale at A4: 1:500 |   | Project: Land at Seton, East Lothian. Archaeological Metal Detector Survey and Monitored Strip |             |                                   |  |



Fig. 3 Collapsed mine shaft in foreground with plough scarred natural clay in the rear, from the north

|              |  |                    |  |  |
|--------------|--|--------------------|--|--|
| Key:         | Fig. No: <b>3</b>  | Revision: <b>A</b> | Client: <b>Castle Group Scotland Ltd</b> |  <b>CFA</b><br>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD<br>The Old Engine House<br>Eskmills Park<br>Musselburgh<br>East Lothian, EH21 7PQ<br>t: 0131 273 4380<br>f: 0131 273 4381<br>e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk<br>w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk |
|              | Title:   |                    |  |  |
| Scale at A4: | Project:<br><b>Land at Seton, East Lothian. Archaeological Metal Detector Survey and Monitored Strip</b> |                    |  | Drawn by: <b>GC</b>   Checked: <b>LW</b>   Report No: <b>1961</b>  |