

CFA Archaeology Ltd

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Environmental Impact Assessment

Interpretation, Design & Display

Finds/ Environmental Analysis

Field Evaluation & Excavation


Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

High Street, Prestonpans, East Lothian Archive Assessment and Evaluation

Report No. 2014

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**High Street, Prestonpans,
East Lothian
Archive Assessment
and Evaluation**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archive assessment and archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in February 2012 at the site of the former Fowlers Brewery Office, later used by Aviamac Ltd, to the east of the Lidl store in High Street, Prestonpans, East Lothian (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Hart Builders (Edinburgh) Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 12 January 2012 was produced by CFA and approved by East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS) prior to the fieldwork.

1.1 Background

The site of the proposed development is situated at the north-eastern end of Prestonpans. Prestonpans was founded in the 12th century by the monks from Newbattle Abbey. The town became a centre for the production of salt, ceramic and beer. The proposed development is located within the site of the former Fowlers Brewery. The majority of the area was however within the inter-tidal zone until the 20th-century when it was reclaimed.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The project's aims and objectives were:

- To determine the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.
- To propose mitigation measures where necessary.

1.3 Acknowledgement

We would like to thank Andy Robertson of ELCAS for providing a copy of the report on the archaeological evaluation of the adjacent LIDL site.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

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

2.2 Archive Assessment

Historic map coverage for the area was examined together with other available cartographic information on pre-recent land use in the development area. The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS), the East Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest and the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (through Pastmap) were consulted to obtain information on known archaeological sites within the proposed development area.

2.3 Evaluation

Five trenches with a total area of 182m² were excavated in the area of the proposed development. The trenches were excavated using a wheeled JCB mechanical excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

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

All trenches were backfilled after recording had been completed.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Archive Assessment

NMRS Sites

The NMRS lists one site within the development area. This was the Fowlers Brewery Office building (NT37SE 276). This was demolished in 2009. The brewery itself is also demolished and is listed as NT37SE 87. To the east, lies the site of the Prestonpans (Preston Links) Colliery (NT37NE 7) and Longdykes post-medieval cemetery (NT37NE 12), recorded in 2004. A long cist cemetery (NT37SE 46) was found in Nethershot Road to the south in 1976. Other sites recorded in the area include 19th century upstanding buildings fronting the High Street and elsewhere. Two shipwrecks are listed, as are elements of the sea defences.

The site does not lie within a Designed Landscape. In addition, there are no Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest nor Scheduled Ancient Monuments nearby.

SMR Sites

Within the site, the East Lothian SMR included a listing for the Fowlers Brewery Office building (MEL 9464). Most of the sites in the immediate areas mentioned above have SMR listings. An evaluation of the LIDL supermarket site to the south-west of the current development site undertaken in 2004 (AOC 2004) is briefly described in MEL 8881.

Cartographic Sources

Prestonpans is shown by Adair (1736) and on all subsequent maps but none show sufficient detail to allow the development area to be accurately pinpointed.

The earliest map to show the proposed development area in detail is the First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1854 (surveyed 1852-53). The site is undeveloped, with its south-eastern portion comprising the area between the coastal road and the sea. Most of the site lies within the intertidal zone. The Second Edition 1:2500 OS map of 1908 shows few changes but a second road is shown, running parallel to the coastal road and leading to Preston Links (Prestonpans) Colliery.

More recent OS maps suggest the area now forming the development site was initially reclaimed between 1928 and 1932. Between these dates, a tramway was run seawards from Preston Links Colliery and areas of dumping are depicted around it. A pump house and reservoir are also shown in this reclaimed land on the 1932 OS 1:10560 map and these are shown at a greater detail on the 1933 OS 1:2500 map. The development site is undefined. Much of the site lies within an enclosure on the 1957 OS 1:10560 map and a new rectangular building lies to the west, close to the Lidl store. Further dumping may have taken place within the site around this time as the 1960 OS 1:2500 map shows the enclosure as lying within a raised platform above the level of the surrounding reclaimed land. This map also shows the rectangular Fowlers Brewery Office building for the first time. Fowlers Brewery closed in 1962 and the

1969 OS 1:2500 map shows the enclosure containing the rectangular buildings annotated as 'Engineering Works'. This presumably refers to Aviamac Ltd.

Documentary Sources

An archaeological evaluation (SMR Ref: MEL 8881) was undertaken in 2004 by AOC Archaeology Group (AOC 2004) on the site of the adjacent Lidl store. This work revealed the existence of three mortared walls and an area of buried soil. The walls appeared to form part of a 19th century building and the soil contained pottery of a similar date.

Various internet and documentary sources describe the industrial history of Prestonpans and the history of the Fowlers Brewery (1745-1962). The Brewery office block was later used by Aviamac Ltd, an engineering company. This office building was demolished in 2009.

Other

It is suspected that some of the made ground deposits were made up of "wasters" from local ceramic production (Robertson *pers comm*). Samples of any such material would have an important role in furthering the study of local ceramic production.

Summary

In summary, the Archive Assessment suggests that an undeveloped site is overlain by two phases of made ground. The first originates from Preston Links Colliery but no source for the second is apparent.

3.2 Evaluation

The development site (Fig. 2) was surfaced with areas of grass, demolition debris and wood chips.

All five trenches revealed deep made ground deposits with loose deposits of black or red soil, soil and ash, ash, creamy-white silt (Fig. 3) or demolition debris. Deposits containing a greater proportion of ash were present towards the base of the made ground. A much more extensive deposit of modern demolition debris, including concrete (Fig. 5) was present at the location of the former office building.

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

Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 25m in length by 1.5m wide and was orientated roughly south-west to north-east (Figs. 1, 3 & 4).

Natural creamy grey-black coarse sand (**003**) was recorded at a depth of between 2m and 2.3m below the modern surface. A deposit of rounded beach cobbles (**109**) measuring 2m by 1m lay over the natural sand. Made ground (**108**) overlay the

pebbles and the natural sand. This was cut by a water pipe (**103**) and two foul drains (**104, 106**). All were overlain by topsoil (**101**).

Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 16m in length with a maximum width of 2.1m orientated roughly south-west to north-east (Fig. 1).

Natural creamy grey-black coarse sand (**003**) was recorded at a depth of between 1.5m and 2m below the surface grass. Made ground (**204**) overlay the natural sand. This was cut by a plastic gas pipe (**202**). All were overlain by topsoil (**201**).

Trench 3

Trench 3 measured 30m in length with a width of 1.5m and was orientated south-east to north-west (Fig. 1).

Natural creamy grey-black coarse sand (**003**) was recorded at a depth of between 2.3m and 2.4m below the surface grass. A linear feature (**303**) was revealed close to the south-east end of the trench. This had a width of c.2.25m and a depth of c.0.3m. It was filled with loose deposits of soil and redeposited sand. Made ground (**302**) overlay both the natural sand and **303** and this was overlain by topsoil (**301**).

Trench 4

Trench 4 measured 20m in length with a width of 1.5m and was orientated south-south-west to north-north-east (Figs. 1, 5). It lay almost entirely within the footprint of the former office building.

Natural creamy grey-black coarse sand (**003**) was recorded at a depth of between 2m and 2.1m below the surface demolition rubble. This was overlain by made ground (**403**) with a depth of 1.2m and this made ground was cut by a north-east to south-west aligned grubbing out trench (**402**) from the recent demolition. It was filled with demolition rubble (**401**).

Trench 5

Trench 3 measured 30m in length with a width of 1.5m and was orientated south-west to north-east (Fig. 1). It lay almost entirely within the former Fowlers Office car park to the rear of the former office building.

Natural creamy grey-black coarse sand (**003**) was recorded at a depth of between 2m and 2.3m below the surface gravel (**501**). This was overlain by deep made ground (**503**) which was overlain by a mixed deposit of bricks (**502**) with a depth of 0.3m. This was overlain by gravel (**501**).

4. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd at High Street, Prestonpans, East Lothian. Five trenches covered 182m² of the development site.

The Archive Assessment indicated that the majority of the site lay within the inter-tidal zone until around 1930 when a programme of land reclamation took place.

The deposit of beach cobbles (**109**) is not considered to be significant and may have had natural origins.

The shallow linear feature (**303**) was filled with a mix of redeposited sand and soil and is not considered to be archaeologically significant.

No deposits of pottery wasters were identified.

Based on the results of this evaluation CFA recommend that no further work is required. However, it is recognised that the decision regarding further mitigation work lies solely with ELCAS on behalf of the planning authority.

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 East Lothian 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 4) and an online OASIS form will be completed.

5. REFERENCES

AOC 2004 LIDL Site, High Street, Prestonpans; Archaeological Evaluation. Data Structure Report. Project No. 4553

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context no.	Trench	Fill of	Description
003	All		Natural gravelly sand
101	Trench 1		Topsoil
102	Trench 1		Cut for pipe
103	Trench 1	102	Mixed fill of 102
104	Trench 1		Cut for ceramic drain
105	Trench 1	104	Mixed fill of 104
106	Trench 1		Cut for ceramic drain
107	Trench 1	106	Mixed fill of 106
108	Trench 1		Made ground
109	Trench 1		deposit of small cobbles
201	Trench 2		Topsoil
202	Trench 2		Cut for plastic gas pipe
203	Trench 2	202	Mixed fill of 202
204	Trench 2		Made ground
301	Trench 3		Topsoil
302	Trench 3		Made ground
303	Trench 3		Linear feature
304	Trench 3	303	Mixed redeposited natural sand and brown soil
401	Trench 4		Demolition rubble
402	Trench 4		Cut through made ground and into natural subsoil
403	Trench 4		Made ground
501	Trench 5		Surface gravel
502	Trench 5		Deposit of bricks
503	Trench 5		Made ground

APPENDIX 2: Drawing Register

Dwg No.	Sheet No.	Scale	Plan / Section	Description/contexts
1	1	1:50	Plan	Trench 1, 102-109
2	1	1:50	Plan	Trench 2, 202-3
3	1	1:50	Plan	Trench 3, 303
4	1	1:50	Plan	Trench 4, 401

APPENDIX 3: Photographic Register








Shot No.	Description	Taken from	Conditions
1-10	General views of Trench 1	Various	
11-12	General site views	E	Sunny
13	View NE towards the former location of Preston Links Colliery	SW	Sunny
14-16	General site views and showing the break of slope between the site and the boatyard to the north	NE	Sunny
17	Trench 2 section	SE	Sunny
18	Trench 2, general view	NE	Sun/Shade
19	Trench 2, general view	SW	Sun/Shade
20-21	Trench 3, general view	SE	Sun/Shade
22-24	Trench 3, general view of the collapsed section	S	Sun/Shade
25	Trench 3, general view	NW	Sun/Shade
26-31	Trench 4, general views of the section	SE/S	Overcast
32	Trench 4, general view	SSW	Overcast
33	General site view showing backfilled trenches 1-3	SE	Overcast
34	Trench 4, general view	NNE	Overcast
35-38	Trench 5, section at NE end	NW	Overcast
39-40	Trench 5, general views	NE	Overcast
41	Trench 5, section in mid-trench	NW	Overcast
42-45	Trench 5, general views	SW	Overcast
46-49	Backfilled trenches and machine backfilling	Various	Overcast

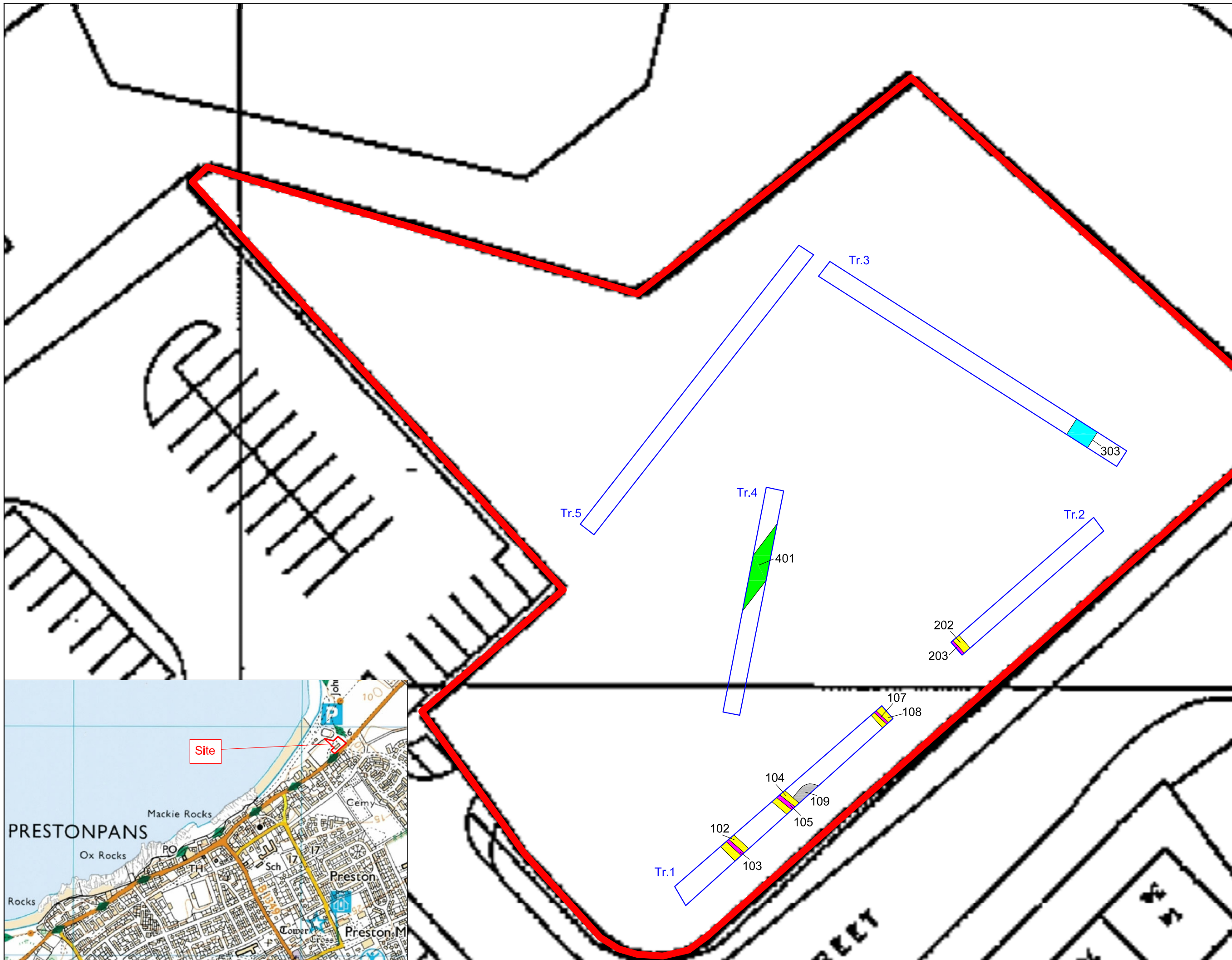
APPENDIX 4: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	High Street, Prestonpans
PROJECT CODE:	HISP
PARISH:	Prestonpans
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Ian Suddaby
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archive Assessment and Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NT37SE 276 (Demolished)
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NT 39200 74900
START DATE (this season)	February 2012
END DATE (this season)	February 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>The archive assessment showed that the majority of the site lay within the inter-tidal zone until the 1930s when the area was reclaimed, probably using material from the nearby Preston Links Colliery. Later, in the late 1950s, further made ground was deposited and an office building for the adjacent Fowlers Brewery was constructed. After Fowlers closed in 1962 the building was used by Aviamac Ltd before being demolished in 2009.</p> <p>An invasive evaluation covering 182m² was subsequently undertaken. Made ground with a depth of 2m-2.5m was recorded. No significant archaeological remains were present and there were no deposits relating to the local ceramic industries in the made ground.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Hart Builders (Edinburgh) Ltd
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) East Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record (report)



Key:

-  development boundary
-  evaluation trench
-  linear feature
-  fill of pipe trench
-  modern pipe
-  demolition rubble
-  natural pebbles



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Fig. No: 1 Revision: A

Title:
 Location map and trench plan

Project:
 High Street Prestonpans

Client:
 Hart Builders (Edinburgh) Ltd

Scale at A3:
 1:300

Drawn by: GC Checked: LW Report No: 2014

Key:



Fig. 2 General view of the site from the north-east showing the break of slope between the site and the boatyard to the north



Fig. 3 The south-western end of Trench 1 showing layers dipping steeply to the north-west



Fig. 4 The north-eastern end of Trench 1 showing widely varying deposits of made ground



Fig. 5 Deep deposits of demolition rubble from the Aviamac building overlying ashy made ground in Trench 4