

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

Bonnington House Near Wilkieston City of Edinburgh

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 2028







CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

The Old Engine House Eskmills Business Park Musselburgh East Lothian EH21 7PQ

Tel: 0131 273 4380 Fax: 0131 273 4381

email: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	Alison McCaig MA
Illustrator	Leeanne Whitelaw BSc MIfA
Editor	Melanie Johnson MA PhD FSA Scot MIfA
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	Wilson
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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 December 2011 and February 2012 at Bonnington House, near Wilkieston, City of Edinburgh (NGR: NT 11141 69102) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Benjamin Tindall Architects on behalf of Robert and Nicky Wilson.

Planning permission (Ref. 09/03184/VARY) has been granted for the construction of two new wings at Bonnington House (Fig. 1). The planning permission was subject to a programme of archaeological works.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 17 November 2011 was produced by CFA on behalf of Benjamin Tindall Architects. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

1.2 Background

This report covers a watching brief carried out during ground works for the construction of the new wings.

Bonnington House is a Category A-Listed Jacobean mansion (HB No. 26826) remodelled in 1858 (probably by Alexander Black), but incorporating an earlier house of c.1622 with additions dating to c.1720. The house is depicted on Roy's Military Survey of Scotland, where it is shown as having two additional wings, one situated to the north-east of the current building and the other situated to the south-east. Analysis of the cartographic evidence suggests that the earlier wings lay further to the east than those currently proposed. A detailed analysis of the history of the house is contained within a Draft Design Statement produced by Benjamin Tindall Architects in 2009.

A geophysical survey undertaken by the University of Bradford Department of Archaeological Sciences in 2009 (Gaffney and Sparrow 2009) on behalf of CFA indicated that the area to the east of the house where the new wings will be constructed had been heavily landscaped in the past. The GPR data indicated the presence of paths, roadways and garden features, the majority of which occurred at a depth of 0-0.5m. There was no clear evidence of the wings depicted on Roy's map, supporting the cartographic evidence that they lay further to the east than those currently proposed.

A watching brief (Kirby 2011) was carried out during the excavation of trial pits. The hand dug trial pits indicated that the foundations for the house sat directly on top of the natural subsoil at a depth of 0.9m or greater below the current ground surface. The machine dug trial pits indicated that deep deposits of made ground were present on the southern side of the house, while elsewhere shallow deposits of topsoil and made ground lay directly over undisturbed subsoil. This evidence suggested that substantial structures such as the earlier wings did not occupy the area of the new proposed wings.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the watching brief were to conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) during the excavation of all groundbreaking works associated with the development.

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 Watching Brief

Topsoil and modern overburden was removed by a 3CX type mechanical excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed bucket. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. All further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the WSI was carried out by hand.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded, whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified. 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.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

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

Summary of Historical Background

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map gives a date for the house of 1622. However, the earliest charter to refer to a 'mansionhouse' on the estate is from 1608, referring to James Elphinstone, 1st Lord Balmerino. By 1609 however, the estate belonged to the Montgomery's after Elphinstone fell out with the King. The first indication of who was in residence at the house is in 1648, with a charter making reference to James Scott of 'Bonytoun'.

The 1654 Blaeu map shows Bonnington estate (named Bonitoun). The estate seems to have been transferred to Hugh Cunningham when he became Lord Provost of Edinburgh in 1702, and was passed to his son in Alexander in 1714. Alexander appears to have undertaken alterations to the estate some time in the first half of the 18th century, and probably even re-built the house into the form recognised on Roy's map and which forms the main core of the structure today. The house and estate are depicted in detail on Roy's military map of 1747-55. The house is shown as a square house with curved screen walls and two pavilions, with a tree-lined avenue and formal gardens shown on the east.

In 1804 the estate was purchased by Matthew Wilkie, who owned it for the next hundred years, and who undertook some minor alterations. An 1822 estate plan shows a walled garden to the rear of the house, and does not depict the two wings shown on Roy's plan. There is an extension on the southern side of the main building which is depicted as being separate from, although built directly onto, the main house

The house was given a 'Jacobean' makeover in 1858 (possibly by the architect Alexander Black, with the date recorded on the wallheand gutters), with re-facings to the exterior and internal refurbishment. By the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1853) there are formal gardens to the west and the growth of woodland around the house. The 1822 southern extension is no longer present.

The house is Category A Listed (HB number 26826). The sundial and dovecot are also A Listed.

Watching Brief Area 1 (Fig. 1)

The archaeological watching brief conducted to the north of Bonnington House included the monitoring of the demolition of the boiler house which lay on the north side of Bonnington House. Topsoil (046) covered the boiler house, which was a subterranean structure measuring 13.5m by 21m internally and with a floor level approximately 2 metres below the ground surface (Fig. 2a). The structure had been built within a cut (050) and was entered via a set of steps (054). The boiler house was served by a coal chute. The date of the boiler house is not known but it is likely to be 20th century in date.

Once the walls (048) were removed, the modern concrete floor (051) and steps (054), which lead up into Bonnington House, were clearly visible. Type 2 hardcore (055) underlay these concrete steps and overlay a set of four well worn sandstone beveledged steps (056), the original steps into the boiler house which were subsequently replaced, perhaps due them being worn. The modern concrete floor overlay a modern layer of gravel chips (052) and a further layer of concrete (053), which was not removed (Fig. 7). This lowest concrete level (053) was abutted by stone blocks relating to the foundation wall of the boiler house (057) (Fig. 8).

The area to the east of the boiler house contained field drains almost one metre below surface level. Earlier walling (058) to the east of the door, on the north side of the main house, was also exposed, forming part of the main build of the house. The build of this wall appears different to the current house and may relate to an earlier phase of the house or repairs, perhaps as a result of the 1858 overhaul in the Jacobean style, but no walling was visible that may have related to the north wing of the house.

Watching Brief Area 2 (Fig. 1)

The area monitored to the south of Bonnington House saw the demolition of the old conservatory/kitchen extension. The structure measured 10m by 5.5m and was constructed on a plinth consisting of stone walls c.1m high with infill material inside, upon which the kitchen extension had been built. The kitchen extension was built in 1999 upon the remaining structure of a conservatory, of which the plinth and earlier walls described below are the surviving remains.

Following demolition of the upstanding walls, two sets of foundation walls were exposed. Walls **001**, **002** and **009** formed the outer walls of the modern structure, sitting directly on top of the outer stone walls (**020**, **033**) of the plinth. These measured 0.3m wide and were built of large sandstone blocks.

An arch was present which continued all the way through wall **002** and likely acted as an air vent. The archway was filled with mortar and rubble (**028**).

Within the area defined by walls 001/002/009 were two further walls (003 and 004), each measuring 5.7m long by 0.9m wide with rubble core (Fig. 3). These were aligned N-S along the axis of the structure. Rubble infill (005, 007) lay between these walls and the outer walls. The walls sat on a sandy clay made ground.

Between walls **001** and **002** the floor surface of the modern kitchen was tiled **(015)**. These tiles overlay Type 1 hardcore 0.14m thick **(011)**. Underlying this were two layers of made ground **(012** and **013)**, both 0.18m thick, which probably represent the same infill event. Beneath this was a further 0.5m thick layer of made ground; a light grey loose, ashy, mortar sand **(014)**. Fills **011-014** filled the space between walls **003** and **004**.

Deposit 029 sits directly below wall 002, and also appears to have been a preparation layer for the walls. Below this was a 0.2m thick deposit of grey ashy mortar (030), and a mid brown sandy clay (031), both to prepare the formation level for walls. Beneath this was a mottled clayey sand (032) which may constitute the natural subsoil.

Beneath the sandstone foundations (020, 033) of the plinth were two deposits of clay: 026, a light brown sandy clay, was 0.4m deep and overlay 027, a 0.6m thick deposit of light brown sandy clay, probably the preparation layer for the structure.

A box drain and a stone built cistern were also recorded within the southern area of the archaeological watching brief. The box drain was situated 6m SSE of the southern wall of Bonnington House. The cut of the box drain (039), aligned NW-SE, was 0.4m wide by 0.35m deep with vertical sides and a flat base (Fig. 2, 4). The sides of the box drain consisted of 1-2 courses of stones (038), set against the sides of the cut of the drain. Only one capstone of the box drain was uncovered (037), which measured 0.3m by 0.5m by 0.15m.

A stone built cistern (042) was recorded 20m south of the south wall of the main house. The cistern, measuring 3.7m by 1.4m by 2.5m deep, was stone capped with vertical sides and was full of water (Fig. 2, 5). The walls consisted of eleven courses of dressed stone. The cistern was exposed, drained of water and recorded but was then left in situ.

To the south of the main house, an 'L'-shaped wall (045) was discovered protruding from the southern wall foundations of the main house (Fig. 2, 6), in the area beneath the demolished conservatory. The N-S section protruded 1.4m from the house foundations and stood at 1.4m high. After turning to the west, the E-W part of this wall only stood to a height of 0.1m and was 3.7m long. The width of this wall was 0.5m. This may relate to the extension noted on the 1822 estate plan rather than to the pavilions depicted on Roy.

A further mortared stone wall stub (043) was exposed (Fig. 2). Aligned ENE-WSW, it had a width of 0.4m and a height of 1-3m. A brick built septic tank (044) stood beside this wall (Fig. 6).

4. **CONCLUSION**

The watching brief in the area to the north of Bonnington House monitored the demolition of the boiler house, a later addition to the house. The removal of the boil house exposed the original set of sandstone steps into the structure and a length of sandstone wall beneath the concrete floor. Walling to the east of the door, on the north side of the main house, was also exposed. A number of field drains were discovered to the east of the boiler house, one metre below the surface. No features were discovered that may have related to the north wing of the house.

To the south of Bonnington House the demolition of the modern kitchen revealed the foundation walls and plinth for the extension building. A stone box drain, stone built water cistern and a brick built septic tank were also recorded within the watching brief area to the south of Bonnington House. An 'L'-shaped foundation wall which protrudes from the main house foundations was exposed running for 1.4m N-S and 3.7m E-W. This wall does not align with the front wall of the main house and may relate to an earlier structure or a now demolished extension.

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.

Upon completion of this project a summary statement of the results of this watching brief and any other information collated will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* and an online OASIS form will be completed.

5. REFERENCES

Benjamin Tindall Architects 2009 Bonnington House Proposed New Wings: Draft Design Statement.

Gaffney, C and Sparrow, T 2009 *Bonnington House, Geophysical Survey Report s2137*. (Unpublished DSR produced by the University of Bradford Department of Archaeological Sciences on behalf of CFA).

Kirby, M 2011 Bonnington House, Near Wilkieston, City of Edinburgh. Archaeological Watching Brief. CFA Archaeology Ltd Report No. 1943.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context no.	Trench/Area	Fill of	Type	Description
001	Kitchen/conservatory		Masonry	Wall - sandstone, 8.5m long by 0.3m wide by 0.4m high, aligned N-S. Modern wall of kitchen area, sitting on slightly wider foundations (020).
002	Kitchen/conservatory		Masonry	Wall - sandstone, 8.5m long by 0.3m wide by 0.4m high, aligned N-S. Modern wall of kitchen area, sitting on slightly wider foundations (033).
003	Kitchen/conservatory		Masonry	Wall - sandstone, 4.8m long by 0.9m wide by 0.6m high, aligned N-S. Forms outer wall of E side of modern kitchen - formerly the outer wall of the conservatory.
004	Kitchen/conservatory		Masonry	Wall - sandstone, 4.8m long by 0.9m wide by 0.6m high, aligned N-S. Partially demolished with rubble core (006). Sits on sandy clay. No foundation trench.
005	Kitchen/conservatory		Deposit	Rubble fill between walls 002 and 004
006	Kitchen/conservatory	004	Masonry	Rubble core of wall 004
007	Kitchen/conservatory		Deposit	Rubble fill between walls 001 and 003
008	Kitchen/conservatory	002	Masonry	Rubble core of wall 003
009	Kitchen/conservatory		Masonry	Wall - sandstone, 5.6m long by 0.35m wide by 0.1m high, aligned E-W. Former southern wall of the modern kitchen.
010	Kitchen/conservatory		Cut	Plastic drain pipe within footprint of former kitchen, aligned N-S.
011	Kitchen/conservatory		Deposit	Type 1 hardcore below existing floor surface of modern kitchen (015), between walls 002 and 004. 0.14m thick.
012	Kitchen/conservatory		Deposit	Made ground below 011. 0.18m thick.
013	Kitchen/conservatory		Deposit	Made ground below 012. 0.18m thick.
014	Kitchen/conservatory		Deposit	Made ground below 013. 0.5m thick.
015	Kitchen/conservatory		Deposit	Floor surface, tiles - between walls 001 and 002.
016	Kitchen/conservatory		Cut	Cut for plastic pipe within footprint of former kitchen.
017	Kitchen/conservatory	016	Deposit	Fill of pipe cut.
018	Kitchen/conservatory		Cut	Plastic pipe within footprint of former kitchen.
019	Kitchen/conservatory		Deposit	Light grey sandy gravel within footprint of former kitchen.
020	Kitchen/conservatory		Masonry	Wall - sandstone foundations for modern kitchen wall 001.
021	Kitchen/conservatory		Cut	Cut for plastic pipe within footprint of former kitchen.

022	Kitchen/conservatory			Plastic drain pipe within (021).
023	Kitchen/conservatory		Deposit	Type 1 hardcore infill
024	Kitchen/conservatory		Cut	Possible cut, 2.4m long by 0.3m deep.
025	Kitchen/conservatory	024	Deposit	Type 1 hardcore filling possible cut (024)
026	Kitchen/conservatory		Deposit	Deposit of clay beneath (020). 0.4m thick.
027	Kitchen/conservatory		Deposit	Deposit of clay beneath (020). 0.6m thick.
028	Kitchen/conservatory		Masonry	Rubble and mortar infill, blocking up the archway in wall (002).
029	Kitchen/conservatory		Deposit	Formation layer for wall (002). 0.15m thick.
030	Kitchen/conservatory		Deposit	Loose ash and mortar deposit below (029). 0.2m thick.
031	Kitchen/conservatory		Deposit	Made ground below (029). 0.6m thick.
032	Kitchen/conservatory		Deposit	Natural subsoil. Mottled orange- brown clayey sand.
033	Kitchen/conservatory		Masonry	Foundations for wall (002).
034	Kitchen/conservatory		Masonry	Two masonry blocks joined together by an iron bar. Abuts wall (002). Function unknown.
035	Kitchen/conservatory		Cut	Cut containing (034) and (036). 2.4m by 1.8m by 0.3m deep. Cuts (032).
036	Kitchen/conservatory	035	Deposit	Grey ash and mortar fill of (035).
037	,	039	Masonry	Capping stone for box drain
038		039	Masonry	Sides of box drain
039			Cut	Cut for box drain, 0.4m wide by 0.35m deep. Vertical sides and flat base.
040			Deposit	Orange-brown clayey sand
041			Deposit	Orange-brown clay at base of box drain, probably natural
042			Masonry	Stone built cistern, 3.7m by 1.4m by 2.5m deep.
043			Masonry	Mortared stone wall, 0.4m wide by 1.3m high. Seen in section.
044			Masonry	Brick built septic tank.
045			Masonry	Mortared foundations seen in section protruding from main house foundations. 3.7m long by 0.5m wide by up to 1.4m high.
046	Boiler house		Deposit	Topsoil covering boiler house
047	Boiler house		Masonry	Red brick
048	Boiler house		Masonry	Boiler house wall
049	Boiler house		Deposit	Infill between cut for construction of coal house/boiler house.
050	Boiler house		Cut	Cut for boiler house.
051	Boiler house		Deposit	Reinforced concrete.
052	Boiler house		Deposit	Modern layer of gravel chips.
053	Boiler house		Deposit	Concrete floor.
054	Boiler house		Masonry	Modern concrete steps.
055	Boiler house		Deposit	Type 2, modern infill.
056	Boiler house		Masonry	Original sandstone steps.

057	Boiler house	Masonry	Sandstone blocks which run the width of the room.
058	Boiler house	Masonry	Wall on north side of main house, to the east of the side door

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digital Images

Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Taken from	Conditions
1	East walls (002, 004) pre-cleaning and demolition	South	Overcast
2	West walls (001, 003) pre-cleaning and demolition	South	Overcast
3	Walls 001-004 pre-cleaning and demolition	South	Overcast
4	Walls 001-004 pre-cleaning and demolition	South-east	Overcast
5	Walls 001-004 pre-cleaning and demolition	South-west	Overcast
6	Walls 001-004, 009 post-cleaning	South	Overcast
7	South-facing section showing stratigraphy of infill	South	Overcast
8	Walls 001, 002, 009	West	Overcast
9	Walls 002, 004	South	Overcast
10	Walls 002, 005	North	Overcast
11	West-facing elevation 001	North-west	Overcast
12	West-facing elevation 001	West	Overcast
13	West-facing elevation 001	South-west	Overcast
14	Detail of masonry blocks 034	South	Sunny
15	Detail of masonry blocks 034	West	Sunny
16	Wall 009 with 034 to east	South-west	Sunny
17	Wall 009 with 034 to east	South	Sunny
18	Rubble infill 007, wall 001 & 003 with 031 and 032	East	Overcast
19	Rubble infill 007, wall 001 & 003 with 031 and 032	East	Overcast
20	Wall 002 with archway elevation	East	Overcast
21	Modern toilet wall overlying stone and heavily mortared wall	South	Overcast
22	Detail of arch/flue in east elevation (004)	West	Overcast
23	Modern toilet wall after cleaning to reveal underlying mortar	South	Overcast
24	South-facing section with foundations of wall 002/004	South	Dark
25	Modern toilet wall overlying possible wall 035	South	Overcast
26	Box drain 037, NW-facing section	North-west	Sunny
27	Chamber 042 from west	West	Sunny
28	Inspection hole in chamber 042	North	Sunny
29	Inspection hole in chamber 044	Above	Sunny
30	Chamber 042 from east	East	Sunny
31	Wall 043 and brick built septic tank 044	West	Overcast
32	Wall 045 with septic tank 044 and wall 043 in background	West	Overcast
33	Wall 045 protruding from main house foundations	South	Overcast
34	Coal chute in boiler house	South	Dark
35	Entrance to boiler house	South	Overcast
36	Boiler house prior to demolition	North	Overcast
37	North wall of boiler house exposed	North	Overcast
38	North wall and brick arch of boiler house	North	Overcast
39	Interior of boiler house	North	Flash
40	Interior east wall of boiler house, north end	West	Flash
41	Finished stone work arch from coal chute		Overcast
42	Worked block on both sides of coal chute	West	Overcast
43	Boiler house steps, below later concrete step	North	Clear
44	Coal chute, north wall	West	Clear

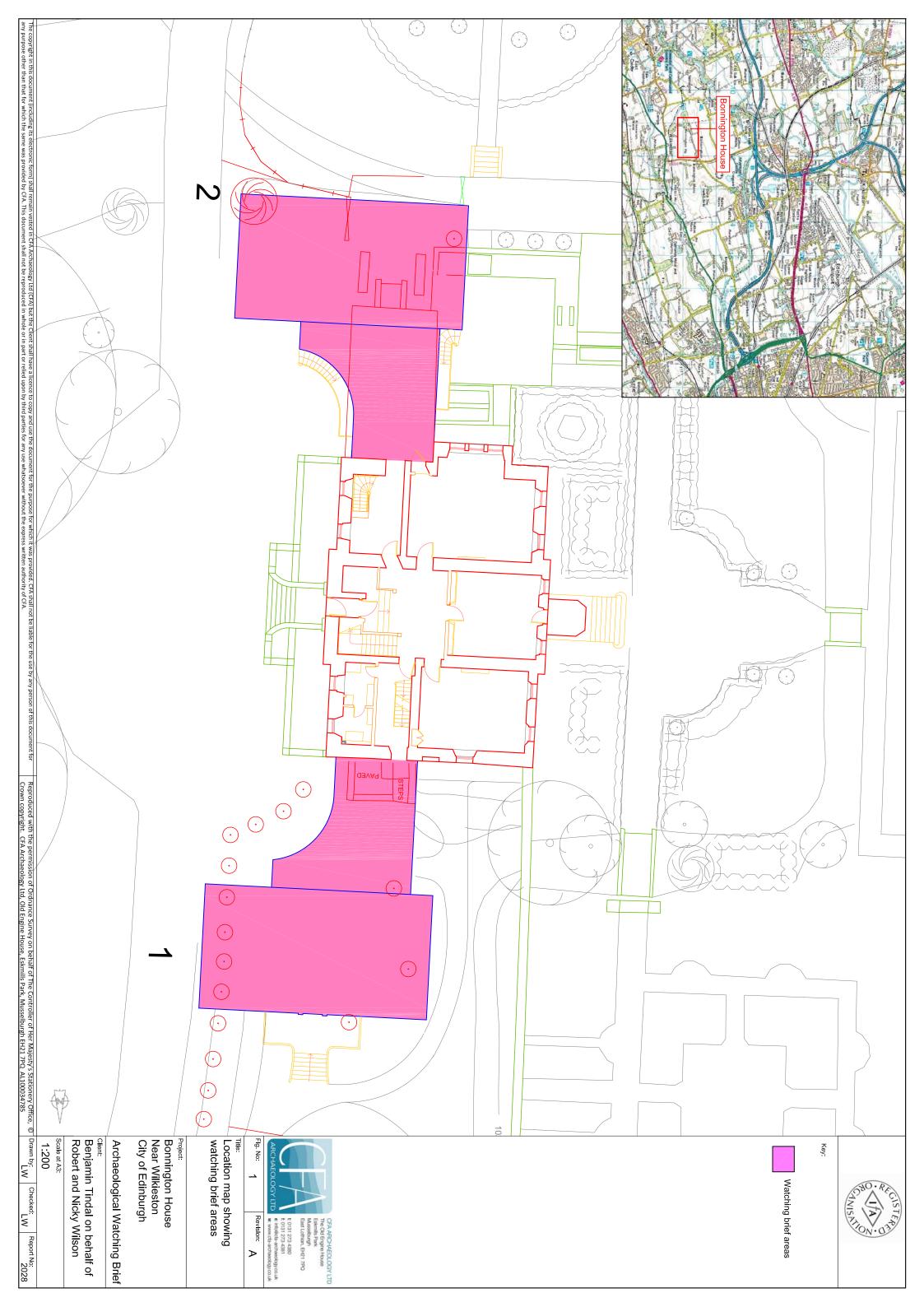
45	Boiler house steps, after concrete step removed	North	Clear
46	Top concrete deposit exposed	North	Clear
47	After removal of top concrete and gravel to expose	North	Clear
	sandstone blocks		
48	After removal of top concrete and gravel to expose	West	Clear
	sandstone blocks		
49	Location shot of above	West	Clear
50	NE corner of main house with earlier walling to right of	North	Clear
	scale		
51	East section, working shot	North	Clear
52	Walling below main house on the NE corner of house	North	Clear
53	As above - note wall runs under front of main house	North	Clear

APPENDIX 3: Field Drawings Register

Dwg No.	Sheet No.	Scale	Plan / Section	Description/contexts
2	1	1:50	Plan	Plan of footprint of conservatory walls and
				modern floor
1	1	1:20	Section	South-facing section in void between 002
				and 004
3	1	1:50	Section	West-facing section of west elevation of
				conservatory kitchen
4	2	1:20	Section	East-facing section with possible archway or
				flue
5	3	1:50	Plan	Plan of walls of conservatory
6	4	1:10	Section	Box drain 037, NW-facing section
7	4	1:10	Plan	Box drain 037, plan of exposed part
8	5	1:50	Plan	Plan showing walls 045, 044 and 043 in
				relation to main house

APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Bonnington House, near Wilkieston
PROJECT CODE:	ВОНО
PARISH:	
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alison McCaig
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 11141 69102
START DATE (this season)	December 2011
END DATE (this season)	February 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground works for new wing extensions to Bonnington House, near Wilkieston. The watching brief in the area to the north of Bonnington House monitored the demolition of the boiler house, a later addition to the house and probably 20th century in date. The removal of the concrete steps into the subterranean boiler house exposed the original sandstone steps into the structure and a length of sandstone wall beneath the concrete floor. To the south of Bonnington House the demolition of the modern kitchen extension revealed that it was built on a plinth for an earlier conservatory structure. A stone box drain, stone built water cistern and a brick built septic tank were also recorded. An 'L'-shaped foundation wall which protruded from the main house foundations was exposed; this wall does not align with the front wall of the main house and may relate to a now demolished extension, possibly that depicted on an 1822 estate plan.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Robert and Nicky Wilson
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



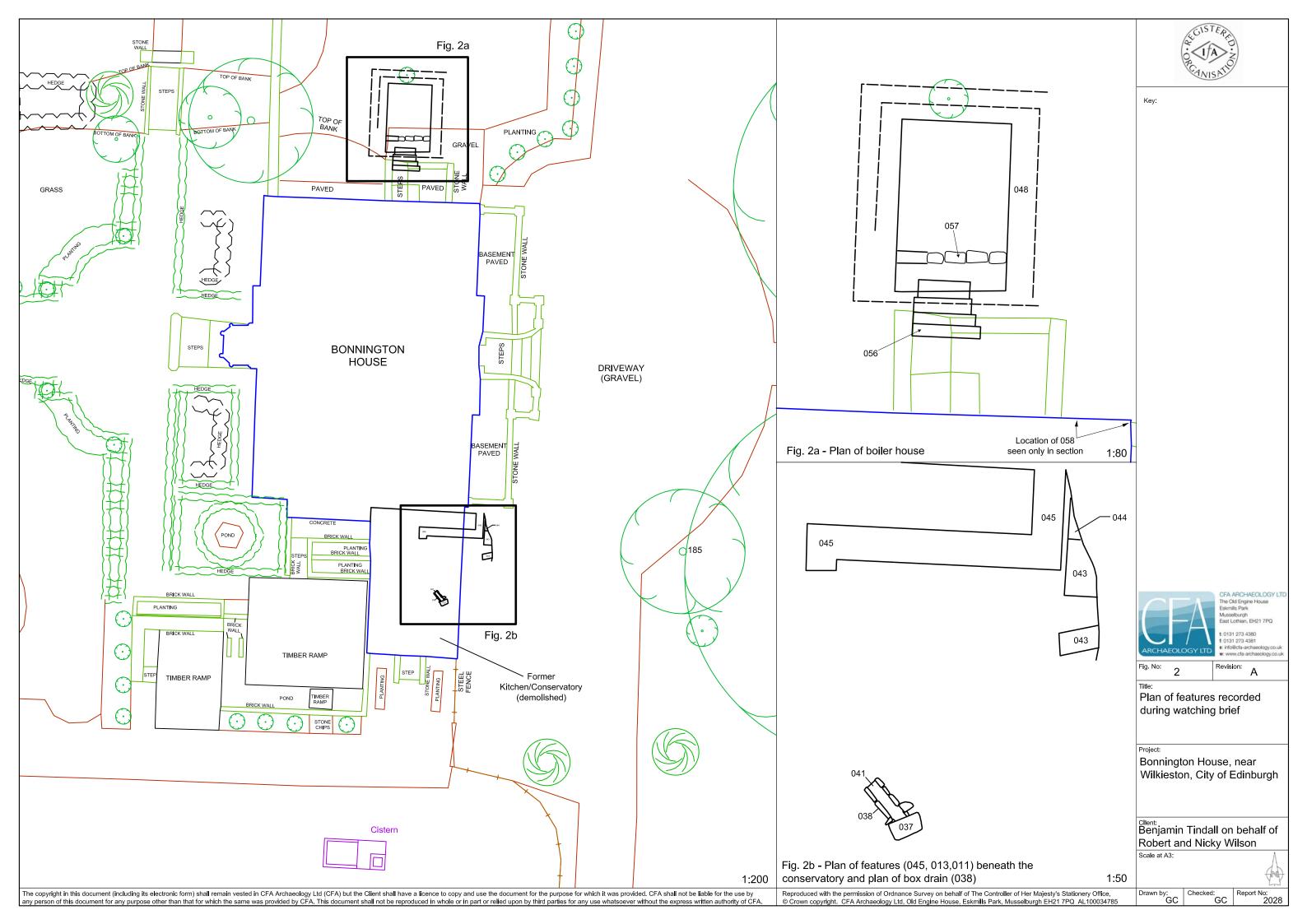






Fig. 3 - The footings beneath the demolished conservatory



Fig. 4 - The box drain (038)

Key:	Fig. No:	3-4	Revision:	Α	Client:	Benjamin Tindall on behalf of Robert and Nicky Wilson		CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House
	Title:					,		Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381
	Project:	Bonning Wilkies				rgh	ARCHAEOLOGY LTD Drawn by: Checked	e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk





Fig. 5 - The cistern (042)



Fig. 6 - The wall (045) beneath the conservatory with septic tank in the background

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		Bonning Wilkiest				gh	Drawn by:	GY LTD e: W:	0131 273 4380 0131 273 4381 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk





Fig 7 - The demolished boiler house with concrete floor (053) visible



Fig 8 - Wall 057 beneath boiler house

Key:	Fig. No: 7-8 Revision	n: A	lient: Benjamin Tindall on be Robert and Nicky Wils		The O	ARCHAEOLOGY LTD Id Engine House
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Scale at A4:	Project:			ARCHAEOLO	GY LTD	acta-archaeology.co.uk w.cfa-archaeology.co.uk
	Bonningto City of Edi		e, near Wilkieston,	Drawn by:	Checked: LW	Report No: 2028