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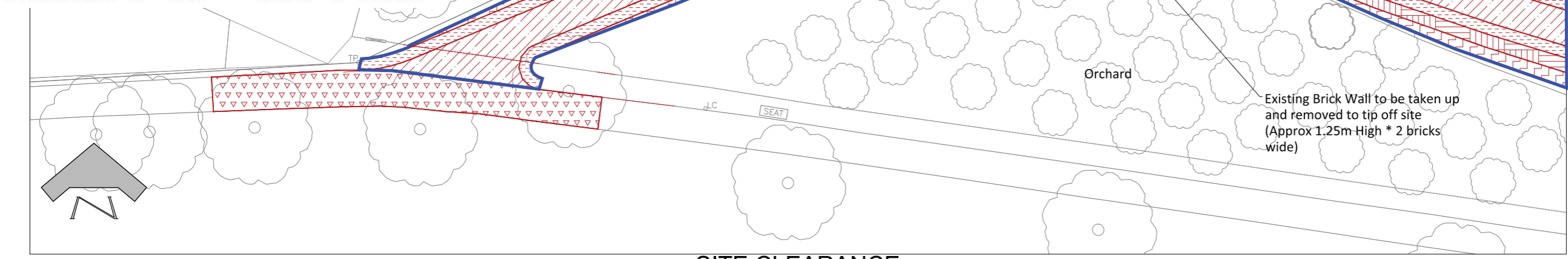
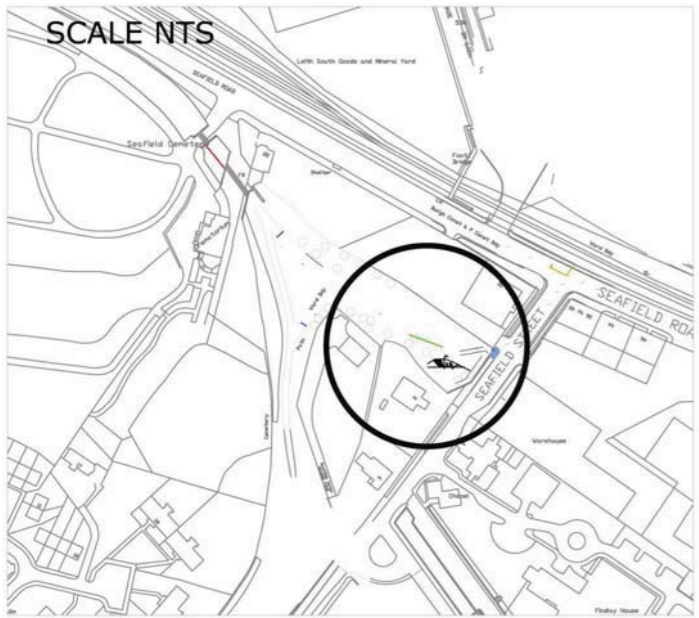
Geophysical Survey

**Portobello to Sandport Cycleway,
Section 3, Leith Links to Seafield Street,
Edinburgh**

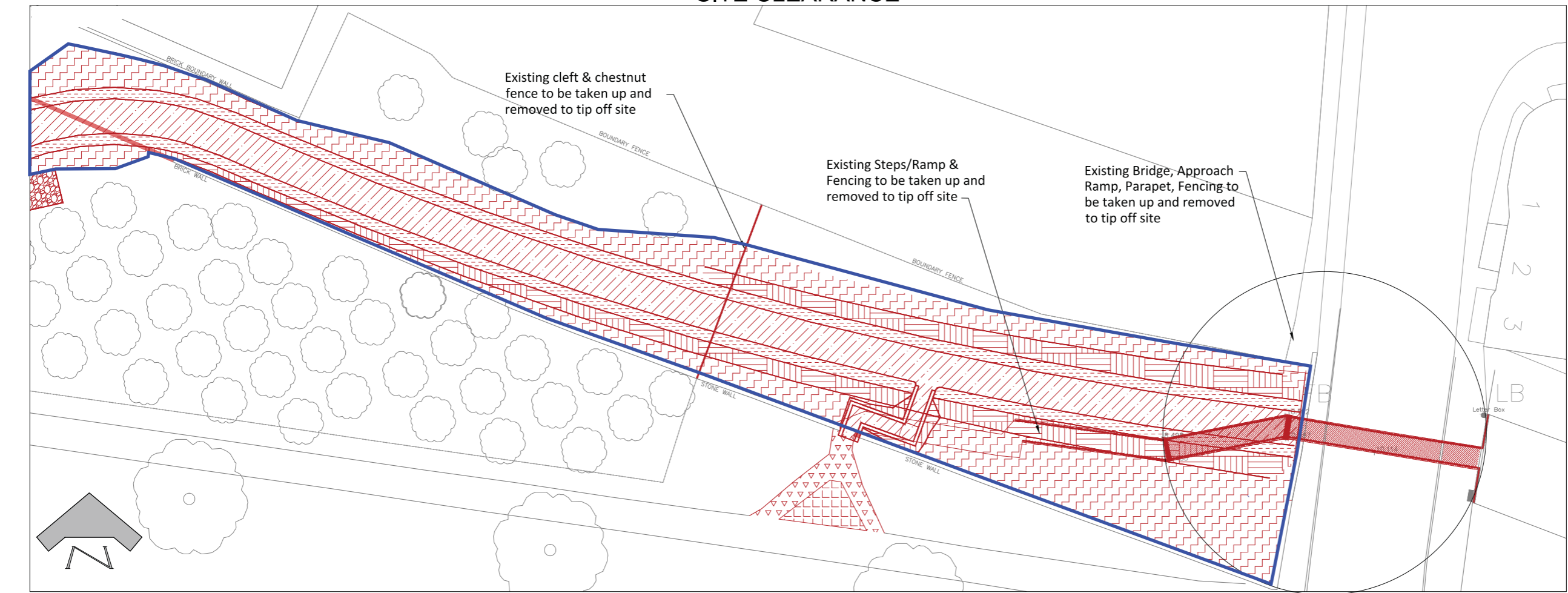
Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report No. 2052

Key:
 Watching Brief



SITE CLEARANCE



SITE CLEARANCE

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Fig. No: 1 Revision: A

Title:
Location map and site plan showing the Watching Brief area

Project:
Portobello to Sandport Cycleway, Section 3, Leith Links to Seafield Street

Scale at A3:
1:400

Client:
City of Edinburgh Council





Fig. 2 - The boundary wall on the left with the section through the railway embankment on the right



Fig. 3 - The excavated trench for one of the tensor retaining wall foundations



Fig. 4 - View over the demolished boundary wall with the topsoil removed from the cycleway within Leith Links

Fig. No: 2-4	Revision: A	Project: Portobello to Sandport Cycleway, Section 3, Leith Links to Seafield Street		
Drawn by: LW	Checked: LW	Report No: 2052		
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This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

**Portobello to Sandport Cycleway,
Section 3, Leith Links to Seafield Street,
Edinburgh**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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- Fig. 2 The boundary wall on the left with the section through the railway embankment on the right
- Fig. 3 The excavated trench for one of the tensar retaining wall foundations
- Fig. 4 View over the demolished boundary wall with the topsoil removed from the cycleway route within Leith Links

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in March and April 2012 during the construction of a portion of the Portobello to Sandport Cycleway. This portion lies to the west of Seafield Place and extends westwards up to Leith Links, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 541 756; Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CFA and agreed by John Lawson of City of Edinburgh Council Archaeological Service (CECAS) prior to the fieldwork.

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 are to conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) during the excavation of all groundbreaking works associated with the construction of the ramp.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

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

A watching brief was required during all ground breaking works.

The work was conducted using tracked excavators. A flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove topsoil within the area of the orchard adjacent to Leith Links.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

In the text below, context numbers are in bold and parentheses (see Appendix 2).

The existing railway bridge over Seafield Place was demolished and removed from site. Much of the material forming the railway embankment within the site boundary was also removed. A previously demolished brick-walled building with a concrete floor (**004-5**) was broken up and removed from site.

Further to the west, an east/west aligned brick boundary wall was demolished to allow the cycleway to cut across the orchard and join up with existing paths across Leith Links.

Trenches for the foundations of tensor retaining walls were excavated following initial ground reduction.

3.2 Watching Brief

To the north of the brick boundary wall (**001**), made ground (**002**) associated with the railway and its embankment (Fig. 2) were encountered to a depth of approximately 0.7m. Ground levels were reduced but natural subsoil was not exposed.

A previously demolished brick-walled building with a concrete floor (**004-5**) was removed. The floor was 0.1m thick and it overlay a deposit of brown and black silt (**002**) which overlay natural yellow sand subsoil (**003**).

The trenches for the tensor retaining wall (Fig. 3) were excavated. These were 1.8m wide and up to 1.2m deep and exposed yellow sand and orange gravelly sand natural subsoil.

To the south of the brick boundary wall (**006**) within the orchard, 0.2m of topsoil (**007**) was removed within the orchard over a width of 5m (Fig. 4). Other than modern services (**008-9**), no features were recorded and natural subsoil was not exposed.

4. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundbreaking works for a new cycleway to the west of Seafield Place, Edinburgh. This is part of the Portobello to Sandport Cycleway.

Features associated with the sidings leading to the Edinburgh Roperie & Sailcloth Works were demolished and much of the embankment material was removed. These sidings were constructed between 1896 and 1908.

A previously demolished building with a brick wall and a concrete floor was removed. It is possible this was part of Eastfield, a group of buildings most of which fronted Salamander Street. Other buildings to the rear of these underlie the late 19th to early 20th century railway sidings and may lie within the area of the cycleway development.

The brick boundary wall along the south side of the railway was cut through.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present.

A summary statement of the results will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 2012* (Appendix 3) and an online OASIS record will be completed.

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: Digital Photographic Register

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-4	General site views	Various	Overcast
5	Pre-ex of demolished building before cycleway was formed	SE	Sunny
6	Area of boundary wall to be knocked down	NE	Sunny
7	View of cycleway	NW	Sunny
8	Foundation trench for tensar retaining wall	W	Sunny
9	General site view	E	Sunny
10	Foundation trench for tensar retaining wall	E	Sunny
11	General site view	E	Sunny
12	Machine demolishing brick boundary wall	W	Sunny
13	Route of cycleway through orchard pre-ex	SW	Sunny
14	Working shot of soil stripping in orchard	SW	Sunny
15	Route of cycleway through orchard post-ex	NE	Sunny

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

No.	Description
001	Made ground, grey silt & rubble
002	Mid-brown and black silt overlying natural
003	Natural subsoil, yellow sand
004	Wall of brick building
005	Concrete floor of building
006	Brick boundary wall
007	Topsoil in orchard
008	Cut for modern piped services
009	Brick-lined manhole & pipe

APPENDIX 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Portobello to Sandport Cycleway, Section 3, Leith Links to Seafield Street Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	LIEP
PARISH:	Edinburgh
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
START DATE (this season)	March 2012
END DATE (this season)	March 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundbreaking works for a new cycleway to the west of Seafield Place, Edinburgh. This is part of the Portobello to Sandport Cycleway</p> <p>Features associated with the sidings leading to the Edinburgh Roperie & Sailcloth Works were demolished and much of the embankment material was removed. These sidings were constructed between 1896 and 1908.</p> <p>A building with a brick wall and a concrete floor was demolished. It is possible this was part of Eastfield, a group of buildings most of which fronted Salamander Street. The brick boundary wall along the south side of the railway was cut through.</p> <p>No archaeological remains were present. .</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	City of Edinburgh Council
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