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Geophysical Survey

**Corstorphine Primary School,
Manse Street, Edinburgh**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 2105

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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

**Corstorphine Primary School,
Manse Street, 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) in July and August 2012 at Corstorphine Primary School, Manse Street, Edinburgh, (NGR: NT 19782 72741) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by The City of Edinburgh Council's City Development, Roads & Transport Design department.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the project was produced by CFA. The WSI was based upon documents provided by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

1.2 Background

Planning permission (REF. APP 11/03043/FUL) has been granted at Corstorphine Primary School to construct a two-storey extension to the rear of the existing school comprising three new classrooms and dining and kitchen facilities.

The site is located within the north-west limits of the historic medieval village of Corstorphine and thus is in an area of archaeological interest. Due to the location of the site the planning consent was subject to a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during ground breaking works.

1.3 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 extension including any demolition activities.

1.4 Acknowledgements

The project was managed by Mr John Lawson of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

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

2.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

The terms of the WSI required an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief). Excavation was undertaken with a smooth edged ditching bucket and the ground was reduced by approximately 0.9m at the south end and 1m at the north end of the site.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Numbers in bold and parentheses refer to contexts (Appendix 1). Prior to works starting, the site was a play area attached to the Corstorphine Primary School and covered an area of approximately 397m².

The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of tarmac and hardcore (**001**) which overlay 0.7m of topsoil (**002**). Below this was 0.28m of orange-brown subsoil (**003**), and this overlay the natural geology of orange sand and gravels.

Six pits (**005**, **006**, **009**, **010**, **014** and **016**), one modern wall foundation (**004**) and two modern field drains were identified during the watching brief (Fig. 2, 3). All of the pits dated to the late Post-Medieval period, 19th to early 20th century, and the wall was found within **002** and thus dated to the 20th century. The field drains were not excavated: however, the fill of the drains contained a quantity of 19th century pottery and red tile.

Phase 1

Pit **005** (Fig. 5) was a sub-rectangular pit which measured 0.78m long, 0.75m wide and 0.23m deep. The pit was filled with dark grey-brown sandy silt (**007**) and contained 19th century pottery and clay pipe stem.

Approximately 2m west of this pit was a shallow sub-rectangular pit (**006**), aligned east-west and which measured 0.92m long, 0.7m wide and 0.06m deep. It contained dark grey brown sandy silt (**008**) with no finds.

Pit **009** was an irregular circular in plan and measured 0.65m by 0.65m and 0.05m deep. It contained dark grey sandy silt (**013**), with no finds.

Located 2.5m east of Pit **009** was a trapezoidal pit **010**. It was orientated north-west-south-east and measured 1m long, and was 0.3 wide at the south-east side and 0.8m wide at the north-west side. The pit was filled with dark grey sandy silt (**012**) which contained 19th century pottery and glass.

Pit **014** was a small shallow circular pit and measured 0.35m in diameter and 0.05m deep. The pit was filled with dark grey black sandy silt (**015**) contained 19th century pottery.

Approximately 2.5m north-west of pit **014** was a sub-square pit (**016**) (Fig. 4) which truncated an earlier 19th century field drain. The pit measured 0.72m by 0.72m and 0.28m deep. It contained dark grey black silty clay (**017**) within which was found a piece of red tile.

Phase 2

Wall foundation **004** was located in the north-west of the site and truncated the subsoil (**003**). It is undoubtedly of fairly recent construction, likely having been constructed within the last hundred years. It was aligned east-west and the west end was truncated by a water pipe. The wall measured 5.5m long, 0.58m wide and 0.25m high and was constructed of thin un-worked sandstone bonded with yellow-brown sandy lime mortar.

4. CONCLUSION

No evidence for medieval activity was found within the area of development. The only archaeological deposits which were found dated to the late Post-Medieval period (19th and early 20th century). These appeared to be pits probably used to dispose of refuse. Considering the location of the site on the north-west edge of the medieval settlement it is surprising that no archaeological deposits from this period were found. It is likely that the medieval settlement did not extend this far as during that time, immediately beyond this location, the land was known to be a marsh (Lawson *pers comm*).

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

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.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

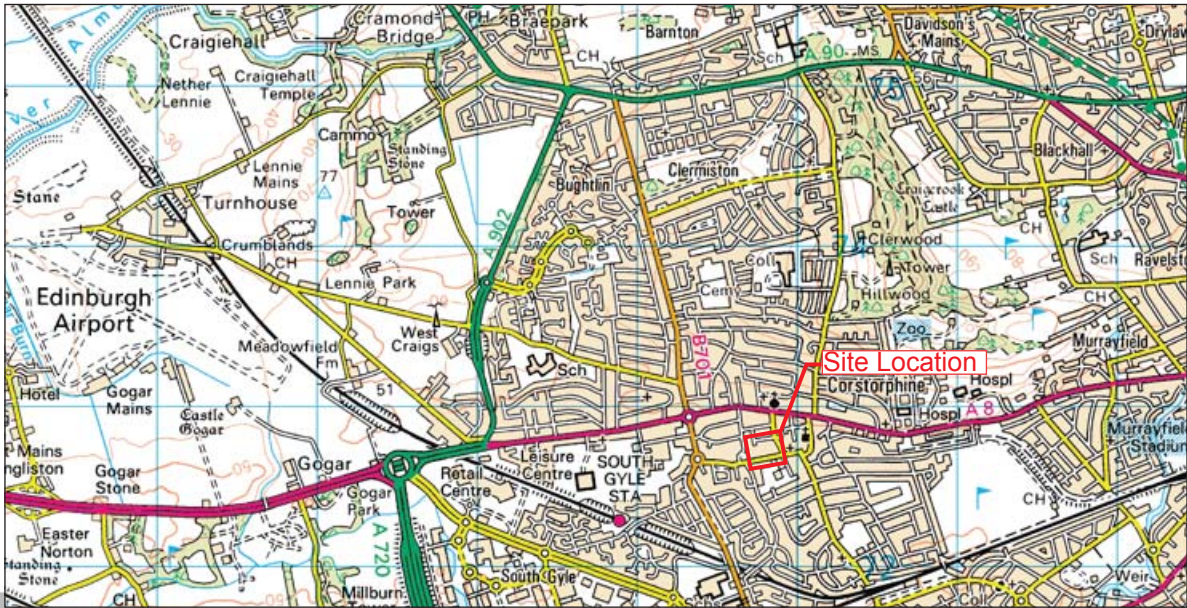
Context No.	Description
001	Tarmac and hard core
002	Buried topsoil
003	Subsoil
004	Wall
005	Pit
006	Pit
007	Fill of 005
008	Fill of 006
009	Pit
010	Pit
011	Void
012	Fill of 010
013	Fill of 009
014	Pit
015	Fill of 014
016	Pit
017	Fill of 016

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register (Digital)

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	Western area of the site view	SW	Dull
2	Modern 19 th and 20 th century finds from 002	-	Dull
3	Wall foundation	E	Dull
4	Wall foundation within western area of the site	SE	Dull
5	Stripped area (south central)	N	Dull
6	Stripped area (south central)	SW	Dull
7	Pit 005 (west-facing section)	W	Dull
8	Pit 006 (south-facing section)	S	Dull
9	Stratigraphy of 001, 002 and 003 (north-facing section)	N	Dull
10	Area in front of the west side of the building	E	Dull
11	East side of site	S	Dull
12	Pit 009 (east-facing section)	E	Dull
13	Pit 010 (north-east-facing section)	E	Dull
14	Pit 014 (south-facing section)	S	Dull
15	Pit 016 (south-facing section)	S	Dull
16	Pit 016 within the east side of site	S	Dull
17	Site overview	SE	Dull
18	Site overview	S	Dull
19	Site overview	SW	Dull
20	Area of excavation at the southern end of the site	N	Dull
21	Detail of school building construction	E	Dull

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Corstorphine Primary School, Manse, Street, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	CORP
PARISH:	Edinburgh, City of
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	James Lewis
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NT 19782 72741
START DATE (this season)	24 th July 2012
END DATE (this season)	1 st August 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 the ground reduction for a new extension at the school. The site lies on the periphery of the historic medieval village of Corstorphine. The only features were a wall footing and a number of pits, all likely to date to the 19th and 20th centuries.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	The 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



Key:
Extent of excavations

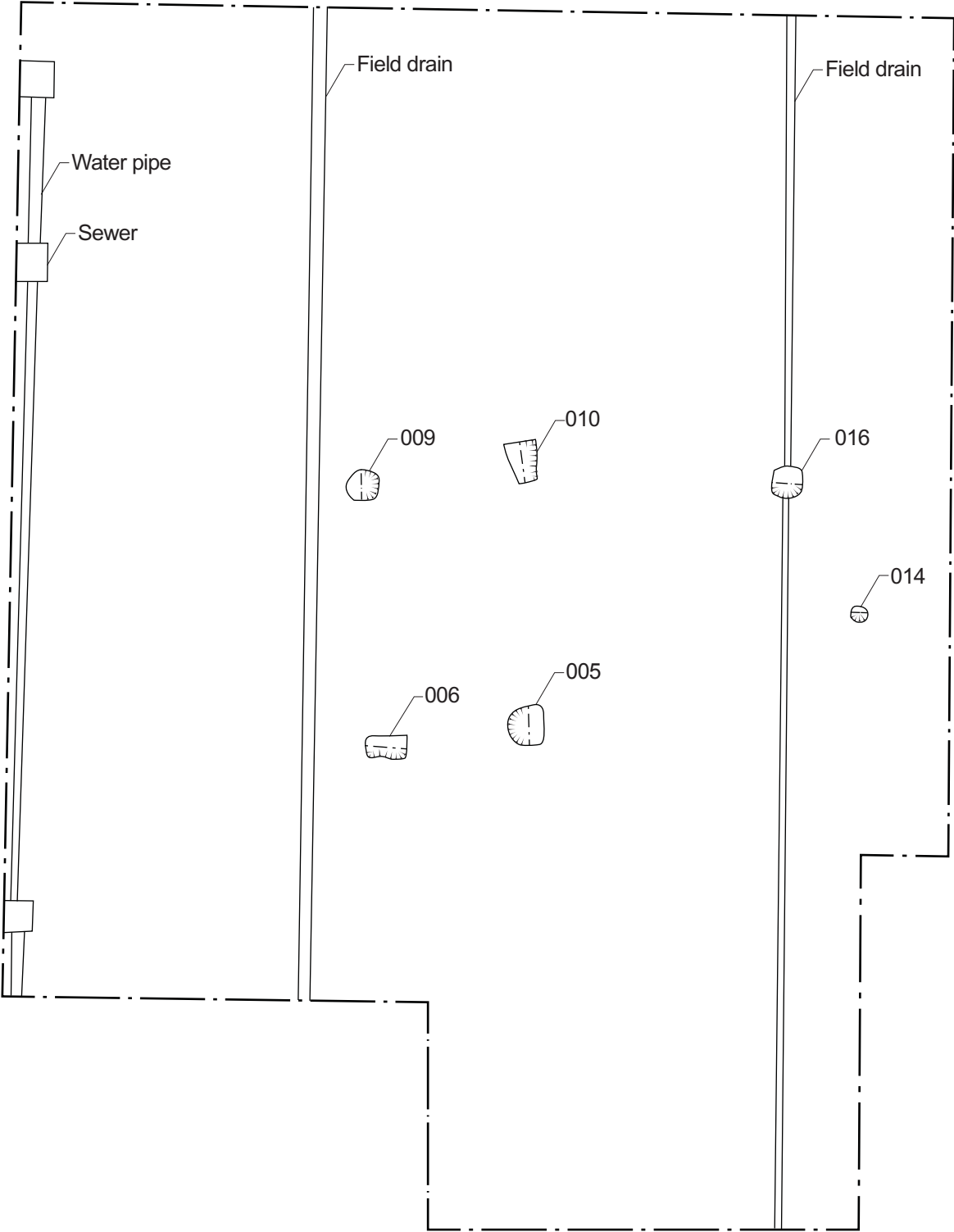


Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: The City of Edinburgh Council
Title: Site location and detailed site plan
Project: Corstorphine Primary School

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Scale at A4: 1:800

Drawn by: SW Checked: LW Report No: 2105



Key:



Scale at A4: 1:125

Fig. No:	2	Revision:	A	Client:	The City of Edinburgh Council
Title:	Plan of excavated features				
Project:	Corstorphine Primary School				



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Drawn by:	SW	Checked:	LW	Report No:	2105
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Fig 3 - Site overview taken from the south-east



Fig 4 - Pit 016, south-facing section



Fig 5 - Pit 005, west-facing section

Fig. No: 3-5		Revision: A	Project: Corstorphine Primary School			CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ T: 0131 273 4380 F: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk
Drawn by: SW	Checked: LW	Report No: 2105	Client: The City of Edinburgh Council			

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