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Site & Landscape Survey

**Towerbank Primary School,** Figgate Bank, Edinburgh

**Archaeological Watching Brief** 

Report No. 2092

# **CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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# Towerbank Primary School, Figgate Bank, Edinburgh

Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation

Report No. 2092

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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 Towerbank Primary School, Figgate Bank, Portobello (NGR: NT 3061 7409) (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 11/01304/FUL) has been granted at Towerbank Primary School for the construction of a three storey classroom extension, a single storey nursery with a dedicated outside play area and the erection of a new flag pole within the present play area. The planning consent was subject to a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during ground breaking works.

The site lies on the periphery of the former industrial potteries area of Portobello and as such had potential for the recovery of pottery dumps. A previous archaeological evaluation in the south-west area of the site found no archaeological features of any date (Johnson 2011).

# 1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the project is to conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) during the excavation of all groundbreaking works associated with the construction of the extensions.

# 1.4 Acknowledgements

The project was managed by Mr John Lawson of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service and his site visit and assistance during the works is gratefully acknowledged.

# 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 Watching Brief

The terms of the WSI required an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) to monitor all ground breaking works. The ground breaking works consisted of the excavation of drainage ditches and associated manhole trenches; surface level reduction around the area of the classroom extension building concrete piles, and stripping of the ground surface in the footprint of the new nursery building. All of this activity was monitored.

As a result of archaeological discoveries made during the watching brief, and following on site discussions with John Lawson, an open area excavation was undertaken on part of the site.

All discoveries including soil profiles and subsoil characteristics were recorded using standard CFA recording forms and digital photography.

# **3.** ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Numbers in bold and parentheses below refer to contexts (Appendix 1). In general, stratigraphy across the site consisted of 0.1m of hardcore overlying 0.5m of rubble and overburden (001). Below this was buried garden soil (002), 0.3m thick, overlying black and orange sand (004), 0.2-0.4m thick. In most cases, 004 overlay the natural clean orange sand extending across the site (000).

The excavation of drainage trenches exposed two stone-lined wells (**003** and **006**), while the ground reduction for the Nursery Building revealed an architectural complex which was then excavated and recorded. These are described below.

#### 3.1 The Wells

#### Well 003

Well **003** was located in the south-eastern area of the site (Fig. 1). Cutting through **004** but located below **002** was a stone-lined circular well (**003**). The well was empty to a depth of 2.7m, below which were silts. It was constructed of random un-coursed sandstone, 0.2m thick, and measured 0.85m in diameter. No cut for the well was observed.

The well had been covered by a single piece of almost rectangular sandstone (Fig. 11) and capped by an iron girder which extended beyond the limit of excavation. A ceramic drain pipe exited into the top of the well.

The well was infilled with pea gravel by the contractors and preserved in situ.

#### Well 006

Well (006) was located just west and south of the southern corner of the main school building (Fig. 1). Underlying the hardcore surfacing and rubble (001), a dark sandy and brick-rubble-filled layer (007) overlay and abutted the preserved remnants of Wall 005 (Figs. 3, 5). Wall 005, constructed of machine-made brick and bonded in concrete, ran roughly NE-SW across the aperture of Well (006). A rectangular sandstone structure abutted wall 005, forming a rectangular aperture over one half of the top of the circular well (Fig. 3), while the other half was covered with a concrete cap. These structures were removed and the upper part of the well exposed for recording. These structures relate to the modification of the well in a secondary phase of use.

Well **006** itself was lined with three upper courses of brick, overlying random subangular sandstone blocks, preserved to a depth of at least 2.8m, below which was water and silts.

The well was infilled with pea gravel by the contractors and preserved in situ.

# **3.2** The Structural Remains

An architectural complex, shown on Fig. 2, was located in the north-west corner of the site (Fig. 4), below the previous school garden area, and could be divided into three broad phases. Phase 1 relates to activity on the site prior to the construction of the buildings, Phase 2 relates to the construction and occupation of the buildings, and Phase 3 relates to more recent modifications and abandonment of the buildings.

# 3.2.1 Phase 1: Pre-structural remains

# Layer 041

A deposit of dark brown-orange sand (041) was found over the NW and NE parts of the site. This layer measured on average about 0.2m. A similar buried soil (051) was also found on the NW side of Wall 010 and this measured 0.16m thick. No finds were recovered. Lying above this layer was dark brown-orange sand (050), 0.2m thick and also without finds, and topsoil. These layers represent the land used for agricultural activity before the buildings were constructed. Deposit 041 was cut by Wall 010 (see below).

#### Pit 040

Pit **040** was a linear pit which measured at least 0.8m long, 0.6m wide and 0.43m deep. It contained a single fill (**039**) which comprised of white-brown sandy mortar with small stone inclusions. It was cut by the foundation for wall **022** (**037**, see below).

# 3.2.2 Phase 2: Structural remains

Phase 2 witnessed the initial development of the site, with the construction of a complex of buildings in the later 19th century. A central spine wall (Wall **010**) has the remnants of a building on its northern side (formed of Walls **011** and **013**) while to the south a further series of walls (**008**, **009**, **014**, **033**) form at least one building with a complete room present (Room 1), one wall of another building, property divisions and an outside yard space.

# 3.2.3 Phase 2a

# Wall 010

Wall **010** was aligned NE-SW and continued beyond the NE and SW limit of the excavation area. The wall was abutted on its NW side by walls **011** and **013** and on the SE side by walls **009**, **022** and **033**.

Wall **010** was uncovered for a length of c.17.5m; its width varied between 0.4-0.69m with the widest section lying between Walls **011** and **013**. It survived to a height of between 0.5-0.7m and was constructed of irregular, shaped, sandstone blocks and these survived to three to four courses high. The blocks were bonded together with yellow-brown sandy mortar.

The wall was built into a foundation trench cut (062) which ran the length of the wall. The trench was 0.1m deep and contained loose dark brown sand (063).

#### Northern Structure: Walls 011 & 013

Walls **011** and **013** were parallel, 6m apart and aligned NW-SE, probably forming two side walls of the same structure with Wall **010** forming a third wall. Both walls continued beyond the NW limit of excavation. The SE end of both walls **011** and **013** were bonded into Wall **010**, with Wall **010** widened between its junction with Walls **011** and **013**. No floor surfaces were preserved associated with this structure.

Wall **011** measured at least 1.6m long, 0.77m wide and survived to a height of 0.35m. It was constructed with irregular shaped sandstone blocks which survived to a single course high. The blocks were bonded with yellow sandy mortar.

Wall **013** measured at least 1.96m long, 0.60m wide and survived to a height of 0.66m. The wall was constructed of irregular sandstone blocks and survived to three courses high. The blocks were bonded with yellow sandy mortar. Abutting this wall were the remains of a small return wall (**061**). It was aligned NE-SW and measured 0.37m long, 0.2m wide and survived to a height of 0.32m. It was constructed of irregular shaped sandstone and red tile which was bonded with yellow sandy mortar.

#### Southern Complex: Walls 008, 009 and 033

Wall **008** was parallel to Wall **010** (aligned NE-SW) and 5m to its SE. It measured 4.75m long, 0.44m wide and *c*.0.2m high. The SW end had been truncated by a drain (**065**) which destroyed its relationship to Wall **009** and other contemporary features. Its NW end appeared to have been robbed out. The wall only survived to a single course and was constructed in a foundation trench (cut **023** and fill **024**) cutting buried soil horizon **041**. The robbed-out foundation trench turned SE (cut **025** and fill **026**) where after about 0.5m it became untraceable. Though direct stratigraphic links are lacking it remains highly likely that Wall **008** is contemporary with the other walls and structures in the area.

Wall **009** was perpendicular to Wall **010** (aligned NW-SE) and measured 4.2m long, 0.36m wide and survived to a height of 0.43m. The NW end of the wall abutted Wall **010** and its SE end was truncated away. The wall was constructed of irregular sandstone blocks and these survived to three courses high. The blocks were bonded with yellow-brown sandy mortar. Its relationship to Wall **008**, which runs perpendicular to Wall **009**, has been destroyed by the cuts and disturbance of later drainage channels (**065**) and modern concrete-set metal pipes but it is likely they formed a corner return.

Wall **033** was perpendicular to Wall **010** (aligned NW-SE) and measured 7.9m long, between 0.24m and 0.38m wide and survived to a height of 0.8m. The NW end of the wall abutted Wall **010** and its SE end is abutted by a later wall **052** (see below). The wall was constructed with shaped sandstone blocks three courses high, built on a foundation course (**046**) projecting 0.3m NE from the face of the wall. The blocks were bonded with a cream-yellow lime sand mortar. On the NE face of the wall patches of lime plaster were also observed and these were *c*.4cm thick.

On the NE side, Wall **033** returns with walls **014** and **043**; with which it is bonded (see below, the outhouse complex) and is abutted by Wall **042** and floor **045** which form part of an outhouse complex on Wall **033**'s SE face.

#### Southern Complex: Room 1

Room 1 is the only part of the excavated remains where all four walls forming a coherent structure could be discerned. There is an entrance into Room 1 between Wall **009** and perpendicular Wall **014**.

The room was formed by parts of Walls **010**, **009**, and **033**, with the fourth side provided by partition Wall **014**. This was aligned NE-SW and measured 5m long, 0.4m wide and survived to a height of 0.78m. The SW end of the wall returned with wall **033** and the NE end terminated to form an entrance way, with Wall **009**, into Room 1. It was constructed of irregularly-shaped sandstone with areas of red brick repair. It was two courses wide and survived to a height of between three to four courses. On its NW face patches of plaster survived and these were c.4cm thick. Approximately 0.6m from its SW end, a metre-wide cut truncates the wall and is attributable to the laying of a later pipe.

Floors **035** and **056** were part of the same feature and comprise the remains of a floor within Room 1 (Fig. 9). The floor survived in patches the largest of which was 0.9m long, 0.7m wide and 0.02m thick. The floor was constructed of small stones and a plaster rendering contiguous with the plaster facing of Wall **010**. It abutted walls **009**, **010**, **014** and **033** and part of the fireplace **055**. Underneath the floor was brown grey sand (**036**), 0.05m thick. This sand was probably a foundation deposit laid down to level the floor and it was deposited straight over the natural sand (**000**).

Approximately 3m from the NW end and on the NE side of wall **033**, in Room 1, was an in-built fireplace (Fig. 7). The base of the fireplace (**053**) was constructed of red brick and its edge was demarcated by two courses of brick lying side by side. Between this point and the back wall (**033**) the base of the fireplace was constructed using pieces of bricks and cobbles placed in a random order. At least at one point during its use the size of the fireplace was reduced (**054**, see below) as part of a repair or intentional narrowing/cladding of the hearth walls.

Subsequently, the fireplace was either modified or repaired. At the NW end of the fireplace, abutting wall **053**, a small red brick construction (**054**) was installed. The bricks were machine-made and bonded with yellow lime mortar. The small construction measured 0.4m long, 0.38m wide and survived to a height of 0.3m.

In front of the fireplace was a large slate flagstone which measured 0.5m long by 0.36m wide, probably one of two originally in place. Surrounding these flagstones was a boundary of red brick (055) of which five were visible and continued under the surviving floor (056, see below).

#### Southern Complex: Floor 058 and wall 057

Floor **058** abutted Walls **010** and **033** at the juncture of the walls, outside of Room 1 to the SW. It was constructed of red brick and it covered an area of 1.2m by 0.9m. It is preserved at a higher elevation than that of Floor **055/035** in Room 1.

Leading off from the SE edge of the floor was a wall (057). The wall was aligned NW-SE and measured 1.20m long, 0.20m wide and survived to height of 0.10m. It was one course wide and high and may be related to sub-floor drainage.

#### Southern Complex: Floor 059

Located on the SW side of the entrance to Room 1 was a damaged brick floor (059). It was constructed of red brick and measured *c*.2.6m long, *c*.0.96m wide and 0.08m thick. It abutted a worn stone threshold stone leading into Room 1. The floor appears to be the remains of an outside courtyard and possibly covered the whole area to the SE of Wall **014**; it was set into a black ashy deposit (**047**).

Context **047** was dark brown ashy silt layer which was observed between the area bounded by walls **009**, **014** and **033** and measured between 0.22m to 0.33m thick. The layer contained charcoal and melted glass nodules, some adhering to heated brick. This ash layer underlay brick surface (**059**) and with the heated glass inclusions represents industrial detritus perhaps from the surrounding area.

# 3.2.5 Phase 2b

This phase sees the addition of ancillary structures and modifications in the area.

#### Southern Complex: The Coal Bunker

A coal bunker (Fig. 8) was located in the corner formed by Walls **010** and **009**, within a probable unroofed courtyard area. Overall, it was trapezoidal in shape, measuring 4m long.

Wall **022** was L-shaped, forming the external wall of the bunker, running N-S from wall **010** and then turning NE-SW where it abutted wall **009**. The wall was constructed of large, unfaced, irregular sandstone blocks and red bricks. The wall was bonded with lime mortar and was constructed within foundation cut **037** which cut natural sand (**000**).

The floor of the bunker was red brick and cobble (**015**). The bricks were irregularly laid with no bonding present. They were laid upon a thin 0.02m thick foundation layer (**028**) of soft brown sand, within which was found a 19th-century clay pipe bowl.

Located at the SE end of the floor was a small ramp and at the base of the ramp was a small wall (021). This wall measured 0.24m long, 0.12m wide and 0.07m thick. It was constructed of a single course of red brick laid head to head and bonded with lime sand mortar. Set at the base of the small ramp, it may have functioned as a sort of door-stop for barrows being tipped and emptied into the bunker.

Overlying floor (015) was a thin brown lens of sandy silt (016), 0.03m thick, containing pottery and some metal detritus (not retained). Between walls 010 and 022 and overlying 016 was a 0.17m thick layer of yellow-white plaster (019). This plaster was probably deposited during the demolition of the buildings. Directly above this was a layer of firm charcoal (017); overlying 017 and covering the whole of the bunker floor was firm dark grey-brown, sandy silt (018) from which 19th/20th-century pottery and tile were recovered. Overlying this was a modern deposit (020) containing loose charcoal, pottery and glass, at least 0.12m thick.

#### Southern Complex: Outhouse

An outhouse complex was found in the corner formed by Walls **014** and **033** and bounded by Wall **043**. This space was divided by Wall **042** into two chambers, with openings to the NE.

Wall **042** was aligned NE-SW and measured 1.14m long, 0.25m wide and survived to a height of 0.3m. It was constructed of irregular shaped sandstone and red bricks, was poorly preserved and was a less substantial and less well-preserved wall than any other in this complex.

Wall **043** was aligned NE-SW and measured 1.4m long, 0.35m wide and survived to a height of 0.45m. The SW end of the wall forms a bonded return with Wall **033**. It was constructed of large irregularly-shaped sandstones. It was built within foundation trench **048**. The foundation trench was recorded on the NE and SE side of the wall and was filled with dark brown silty sand (**049**), 0.15m thick.

The NW chamber was a toilet, measuring 1.2m by 0.8m. A foul water pipe and a part of the floor plaster (044) had survived in poor condition. South-east of the toilet was a bounded space, perhaps a laundry, and this covered an area of 1.2m by 1m. The base of the laundry was furnished with a substantial floor of large paving stones (045). Overlying this was a large patch of plaster (060), 0.07m thick.

#### Southern Complex: Wall 029

Wall **029** was aligned NE-SW and its SW end abutted wall **009**. The wall measured 1.20m long, 0.25m wide and survived to a height of 0.49m high. It was constructed of irregular shaped sandstone which was one course wide and high. It is abutted and truncated by a later brick-lined drain (**065**) and may represent the truncated remnants of a small ancillary building destroyed by later modifications.

#### Wall 052

Wall **052** was aligned NW-SE, continuing the line of Wall **033**, and measured 2m long, 0.3m wide and survived to a height of 0.25m. It was constructed of small shaped sandstone blocks and machine-made red brick. The wall survived to a height of two courses and was bonded with yellow sandy lime mortar. On the SW face of the wall were found patches of 0.01m thick concrete render.

The NW terminus of the wall where it joins wall 033 was distinguished by a large block of slate, and abutting the wall on its SW side was a concrete floor (064) faced with slate and furnished with a fixed copper or copper-alloy boot-scraper.

The concrete floor thus represents an exterior surface and threshold, and Wall **052** an exterior wall dividing plots to the street edge, perhaps later refurbishments to existing buildings.

#### Southern Complex: Brick Abutment 012

A brick structure (012) abutted the SE face of Wall 010 at the wall's NE end (Fig. 6). It measured 0.7m by 0.63m, standing 0.32m high. Aligned NW-SE, it was constructed of red machine-made bricks ( $0.22 \times 0.12 \times 007m$ ) surviving 4 courses high and two-three courses wide. Its NE end was truncated by modern concrete-set downpipes. 012 overlay the buried soil horizon (041) but any surfaces associated with this structure were not preserved.

#### 3.2.6 Phase 3

Phase 3 represents the latest phase on the site and relates to later activity in the area, including the demolition of existing structures.

#### Pit 030

Pit **030** was sub-rectangular and measured 1.3m long, 1m wide and 0.65m deep. It contained grey-brown silty sand (**031**) with c.80% red brick inclusions and finds including chimney fragments, glass and metal (not collected). The function of the pit is unclear; it may contain the remains of a demolished structure or be a rubbish pit for the left over material from the main phase of construction.

#### Destruction Layers 032, 034

Deposit (032), a thick layer of rubble, mortar and brick, extended from Wall 014 southwards across the courtyard, overfilling Walls 042, 043 and 052 and represents demolition, infilling and abandonment. It was rich in discarded ceramics, and contained half of an enamel advertising sign, the joining section of which was recovered in layer (034) some metres away.

Layer **034**, near identical to (**032**), was a thick layer of yellowish-white, mortar-rich rubble which filled Room 1 to the tops of the demolished walls. It was at least 0.4m thick, was deposited during the demolition of the building, and comprised of crushed stone, red brick, mortar, and discarded ceramic, glass, and metal finds. From the top of this deposit, in the corner formed by Walls **009** and **010**, was retrieved one half of the enamelled advertising sign (see below).

#### 3.3 Summary and Discussion

The wells may be related to the dwellings depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map along Maryfield street, lying within the properties' back gardens.

Coherent remains of four probably domestic structures were recovered running alongside Wilson's Park in the NE part of the site. Wall **010** forms the main structural element, a linear plot boundary running parallel to Wilson's Park and which would have continued to the NE and SW. To its north lies the remains of a rectangular building aligned NW-SE and recorded on the 1894 map (Fig. 11), formed by Walls **010**, **011** and **013**. No floor surfaces were associated with this building.

South of Wall **010** is a building complex which included one building aligned NE-SW defined by Wall **008** and Wall **010**, with an open yard to its SW bounded by Wall **009** and containing a coal bunker.

The building comprising Room 1 was aligned NE-SW and had an outhouse complex to the exterior of Wall **014**, formed of two small rooms, one clearly a toilet, lying in a courtyard area paved with a brick surface (**059**).

To the SW of this complex is a possible further separate structure, divided from Room 1 by Wall **033**. Its original flooring may be represented by brick surface **058**, and its entranceway, leading NW from the street and furnished with a boot-scraper and concrete paving, is a more recent refurbishment, although along lines well established by previous architecture.

The lines of the streets Maryfield, Towerbank and Wilson's Park, were established probably around 1804; Mr. Wilson was a sub-feuar from Mr Jamieson of parts of the lands of Figget, and Maryfield was named for his wife (Baird 1898 cited in Watson nd). Maryfield appears on John Wood's 1824 map, as do streets along the lines of Wilson's Park (unnamed) and Towerbank (named Flower Bank on Wood's map, an error?); Ramsay Lane appears as Tower Lane (Fig. 12). The map also shows a cluster of buildings in the NE corner of the development area, with open land NE of Maryfield and its cottages. These buildings may form the core of a complex of buildings which remain in this NE sector throughout its history.

By 1854, these buildings are recognizably consistent with our excavated structures; they appear on the First Edition OS map of that date (Fig. 13). This includes the main wall, **010**, forming a boundary between two buildings and their plots; Walls **011** and **013** form the eastern and western faces of the north-easterly building, the interior of which was not preserved. At this time the buildings still abutted open land below the present school building.

By 1888, the first school building had been founded; it appears on Johnston's map of that date. By 1894, the north-easterly building had been subdivided, and extensions added to the SE face (our Wall **008** may belong here); and, most clearly visible in the 1894 OS map, the coal bunker and outhouse complex was added. The excavated remains thus most clearly match this later phase of the building complex (Fig. 10) which had stood in the NE corner of the development since 1804.

#### **3.4** The finds, by Sue Anderson

Table 1 shows the quantities of finds recovered by type. A full list by context is included in Appendix 3.

Find type	No.	Wt (g)
pot	42	4347
CBM	22	11559
mortar	2	150
clay pipe	2	15
glass	17	5683
copper alloy	4	34
iron	2	-
other ceramic	1	8
slate	1	4

Table 1. Finds quantities.

#### Pottery

Probably the earliest pottery in this assemblage was a fragment of a creamware base from **044**. This is likely to be of late 18th-century date and may be a product of one of the local kilns. However it shows no evidence of being a waster.

The refined whitewares comprise various table wares including a pedestal-based oval tureen with the word 'NURSERY' on one side (018), an ointment pot containing a black deposit (020), a saucer with greenish transfer printed decoration (032), a cup rim with a blue handpainted design (034), a rim fragment with blue sponge and black slip line decoration (035) and several other body and base fragments with transfer-printed or spongeware decoration. One fragment of porcelain with gold lining was found in (034).

Redwares included some bowls, a large handled jar and a small jar with all-over internal or trailed slip. These were made by many production sites both in Scotland and elsewhere, although the small jar with trailed slip lines on the upper half is typical of the local producers. A few redware sherds without slip decoration were also found, and some unglazed plantpots were collected, including a complete bowl with the words E.P. SANKEYS repeated several times in a strip around the body (**032**).

Stonewares included several small, complete bottles in a white fabric. These may have been made at the Portobello potteries, but none has a maker's mark or transfer printed label.

Table 2 shows the quantification of pottery by fabric group.

Fabric	Code	No.	Wt (g)
Creamware	CRW	1	10
Refined factory-made whitewares	REFW	21	974
Porcelain	PORC	1	2
Refined factory-made redwares	REFR	4	156
Late slipped redwares	LSRW	6	1708
British stonewares	BRSW	5	831
Late post-medieval unglazed red earthenwares	LPME	3	581

Table 2. Pottery quantities by fabric.

#### Ceramic building material (CBM) and mortar

Four fragments of pantiles were recovered, one of which had a black slip coating externally.

Three bricks were collected from (031). Two of these were in handmade red-firing fabrics and measured >210 x 122 x 72mm. Both had coarse buff-coloured lime mortar adhering to them. The third was a compressed shale brick (233 x 120 x 60mm) with a shallow frog but no maker's stamp.

Two fragments of compressed shale chimney pots were also recovered from (031), and three brown glazed drainpipe fragments in similar fabrics came from (032).

Several fragments of toilet bowls were collected from (032), most of which were in a refined whiteware fabric, but one fragment was in a cream-coloured coarse fabric with thick white glaze. The bowls appear to be early cone-shaped types with simple inturned rims. Fragments of cementitious mortar and render were also found in (032).

#### Clay pipes

Two clay pipe bowls were recovered from (028) and (035). Both were simple wide bowls with spurs and probably date to the early to mid 19th century. The fragment from (035) was heavily burnt.

#### Glass

All glass vessel fragments were collected from (020). Two complete green bottles with string rims and deeply kicked bases were found, and several fragments of similar bottles were also collected. There were also a few body shards of pale green bottles.

Ash layer (047) contained two large pieces of melted glass/cullet attached to possible fragments of kiln lining in compressed shale fabrics. Also with these was a large chunk of green glass.

#### Metal

Four copper alloy objects were recovered. Two of these were unidentified fittings from (018), a short solid cylinder with a hole at one end and a hollow cone with a wood fragment inside. The other two were a possible coin which had lost its surfaces and a five cent piece, both from (034).

Two halves of an enamelled steel sign were found in demolition layer (032) and (034). The sign bore the words THE AUSTRALIAN / WINE COMP / EMU BRAND, around a picture of an emu on an oval yellow background. According to an article in the Adelaide Advertiser of 29 October 1952, this company was founded in London in 1871, but the 'Emu brand' trademark was not registered until 1883, so this sign can probably be dated to the late 19th or early 20th century.

#### Miscellaneous

A fragment of a Y-shaped kiln prop in a white-firing clay with yellowish glaze was found in (035) and is probably related to the nearby industrial potteries.

A fragment of a slate or graphite pencil was found in layer (034).

# 4. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during construction works in the grounds of Towerbank Primary School. This monitoring revealed evidence of two domestic water wells probably associated with the 19th century houses existing on Maryfield before the construction of the first school building. Further coherent structural remains comprising a series of walls and in some cases floor deposits and installations such as outhouses and a fireplace were recorded in the north-eastern part of the site. These relate to buildings on Wilson's Park depicted on the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Town Plan. No structural traces of the Portobello ceramic industries were uncovered in this area.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 4).

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.

#### 5. **REFERENCES**

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# **APPENDIX 1: Context Register**

Context No.	Description
000	Natural yellow sand
001	Crushed red blaes and hardcore
002	Buried garden soil
003	Well
004	Made ground –black and orange sand containing rubble, brick fragments
005	Cement-mortared brick wall capping Well 006
006	Stone-lined well
007	Mid-brown silty sand with brick-fragment inclusions abutting Well 006
008	Lime-mortar bonded irregular sandstone wall, NE-SW
009	Lime-mortared sandstone wall, SE-NW return to Wall 010
010	NE-SW lime-mortared sandstone wall, plaster-faced, forming main boundary
011	NW-SE return wall to 010
012	Brick abutment on S face of Wall 010
013	Wall, NW-SE, return to Wall 010 on West
014	Wall, NE-SW, return to Wall 009
015	Cobble and brick floor bounded by Walls 009, 010, 021, 022
016	Thin brown lens of sandy silt above Floor 015
017	Charcoal layer above Floor 015
018	Dark grey-brown sandy silt above-floor deposit containing rubble and pottery
019	Layer of mortar above Floor 015
020	Compact dump of charcoal, glass, rubble against Walls 009, 021, 022
021	Red brick lime-mortared cross-wall above Floor 015, abutting Walls 009 and 022
022	N-S rough sandstone wall foundations abutting Wall 010
023	Cut for foundation trench of Wall 008
024	Fill of 023 in robbed-our stretches of Wall 008
025	Cut for robbed-out foundation trench, returns at E end of Wall 008
026	Mottled yellow-brown silty sand fill of 025
027	Rubble deposit abutting Wall 009
028	Dark brown constructional layer below Floor 015
029	Rough stone wall, one course wide, abutting Wall 009
030	Sub-rectangular pit cut
031	Fill of 030
032	Rubble destruction layer above Walls 042, 043
033	NW-SE sand/lime-mortared sandstone wall, returns with Wall 010
034	Rubble destruction layer in Room 1
035	Sand-lime floor in Room 1
036	Brown-grey sandy levelling deposit below floor 35
037	Cut for foundation trench of wall 022
038	Fill of 037
039	Fill of cut 040
040	Sub-rounded pit cut E of Wall 022
041	Dark orangey-brown sand, buried soil horizon
042	NE-SW Mortared brick and sandstone wall abutting Wall 033
043	NE-SW mortared sandstone wall, forming return with Wall 033
044	Plaster floor bounded by Walls 014 and 042
045	Stone paving bounded by Walls 033, 042, 043
046	Foundation course or rubble for Wall 033
047	Dark brown ashy silt bounded by Walls 014 and 033
048	Cut of foundation trench for Wall 043
049	Fill of 048
050	Dark brown-orange sand, buried soil horizon on NW side of Wall 010
051	Orangey-brown sand, buried soil horizon on NW side Wall 010
052	Later brick and sandstone wall abutting Wall 033
053	Fireplace installation in Room 1

Context No.	Description		
054	Red brick lining/abutment to fireplace 053		
055	Brick surface/levelling associated with fireplace 053		
056	Brick subfloor levelling in S corner of Room 1		
057	NW-SE stone wall		
058	Late phase brick surface abutting walls 010 and 033		
059	Brick surface in courtyard area SE of Wall 014		
060	Plaster floor remnants bounded by Walls 033, 042, 043		
061	Short NE-SW wall stub abutting Wall 013		
062	Cut for foundation trench of Wall 010		
063	Fill of 062		
064	Concrete exterior flooring abutting Wall 052		
065	Cut for brick-lined drain cutting Wall 008		
066	Black ashy fill of drain 065		
067	Brick lining of drain cut 65		

# **APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register (Digital)**

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	General view of excavated area around Well 003	SW	Dull
2-8	View of Well 003	Var.	Dull
9-13	Detail views of Well 003	Var.	Dull
14-18	General views of Well 0031	Var.	Dull
19-21	General view of excavated areas, 10/07/12	Var.	Dull
22	NW-facing section	NW	Dull
23-4	Areas excavated near Well 003	SE	Dull
25	Section of box excavation for sewerage showing proximity to well with temp concrete cap	S	Dull
26	Well 003 with cover removed	S	Dull
27	Detail of Well 003 with cap in place	S	Dull
28-9	Well 003 with cap removed showing sandstone construction and later pipe	S	Dull
30	Well 003 filled with pea-gravel	S	Dull
31-2	North-facing section of sewerage trench with mortared wall stub	NE	Cloudy
33	West-facing section of drainage trench to site huts with concrete paving	W	Cloudy
34	Location shot of concrete paving	NW	Cloudy
35	West-facing section of drainage trench with brick wall	W	Cloudy
36	Location shot for 35	NW	Cloudy
37	West-facing section showing modern wall remnants with rubble to south	W	Cloudy
38	East-facing section showing modern wall remnants	Е	Cloudy`
39	General views of modern wall remnants	Ν	Cloudy
40-1	Working shot of areas excavated, 19/07/12	NE	Sunny
42	General views of areas excavated 19/07/12	NW	Sunny
43	General views of areas excavated 19/07/12	SE	Sunny
44-5	Modern wall remnants, NE-SW wall	Е	Rain
46-7	East-facing section of drainage trench	Е	Rain
48-9	Modern wall remnants in drainage trench	SW	Rain
50	Location shot of wall remnants	S	Rain
51-2	Wall 005, Well 006	NE	Cloudy
53	Wall 005, Well 006	SE	Cloudy
54	Wall 005, Well 006 detail	SE	Cloudy
55-6	Wall 005, Well 006	SW	Cloudy
57	Wall 005, Well 006	NW	Cloudy
58	Wall 005, Well 006	SW	Cloudy

No.	Description	From	Conditions
59	Wall 005, Well 006 detail	SW	Cloudy
60	Wall 005, Well 006 location shot with main school building	SW	Cloudy
61-2	Wall 005, Well 006 location shot with main school building	SE	Cloudy
63-5	Wall 005, Well 006 with capping exposed	SE	Cloudy
66	Wall 005, Well 006 with capping exposed	SE	Cloudy
67-8	Wall 005, Well 006 with capping exposed	NW	Cloudy
69-70	Well 006, capping removed	SE	Cloudy
71	Well 006, capping removed	NE	Cloudy
72-3	Well 006 with pea-gravel backfill	NE	Cloudy
74	General view areas excavated 24/07/12 near Well 006	SW	Cloudy
75-6	Wall 008, general view	SW	Sunny
77	Wall 008, general view	NE	Sunny
78	Wall 008, robbed-out stretch	SE	Sunny
79-80	SE-facing section of sondage against Wall 008	SE	Sunny
81-2	Section against E face of Wall 008	E	Sunny
83-4	Wall 009 with foundation course	NE	Sunny
85-8	Wall 010 SE-facing elevation	SE	Sunny
89	Wall 009	SE	Sunny
90	Wall 009 abutting E face Wall 010	SE	Sunny
91	Sondages against Walls 009, 010	SE	Sunny
92	Sondages against Walls 009, 010	SW	Sunny
93	Walls 009 and 010 with mortar surface 35 (bottom) and cobble	SW	Sunny
)5	surface 015 (top) abuttting	5 11	Sunny
94-5	Walls 009 and 010 with mortar surface 35 (left) and cobble	SE	Sunny
77 5	surface 35 (right)	SL	Sunny
96-7	Wall 010 with Wall 011 abutting and brick abutment 012	NE	Sunny
98-100	Wall 011 abutting Wall 010	SW	Sunny
101-3	Wall 011 abutting Wall 010	NW	Sunny
101 5	Brick abutment 012 against Wall 010	SW	Sunny
104	Brick abutment 012 against Wall 010	SE	Sunny
105	Brick abutment 012 against Wall 010 Brick abutment 012 against Wall 010	NE	Sunny
107-8	West-facing section with cobble surface 15 and 16, 17, 18, 19,	W	Sunny
	20	**	Sumy
109	Cobble surface 15 bounded by Walls 010, 009, 021, 022	SE	Sunny
110	Cobble surface 15 with Walls 21, 22	NW	Sunny
111-2	Cobble surface 15 bounded by Walls 010, 009, 021, 022	NW	Sunny
113-4	Sondage against E face Wall 009 with rubble 027	SE	Sunny
115	E-facing section of Wall 9 with return 029	SW	Sunny
116-7	Sondage through cobble surface 015 with natural sand 000	NE	Sunny
118	Areas excavated around piles against main school building	SW	Sunny
119	E-facing section of Wall 9 with return 029	NE	Sunny
120	Cut 030	W	Sunny
121	South-facing section of cut 030 with fill 031	S	Sunny
122	Mortar floor 35 and rubble 34 in Room 1	SE	Sunny
123	Mortar floor 35 and rubble 34 in Room 1	SW	Sunny
124	Mortar floor 35 and rubble 34 in Room 1	S	Sunny
125	Areas excavated along main school building façade, 02/08/12	W	Sunny
126	NE-facing section through 34, 35, 36, Room 1	NE	Sunny
120		NW	Sunny
120	Sondage through 34, 35, 36 showing natural sand 000	1444	
127	Sondage through 34, 35, 36 showing natural sand 000 NE-facing profile of Wall 22 with FT		
127 128-30	NE-facing profile of Wall 22 with FT	NE	Sunny
127 128-30 131	NE-facing profile of Wall 22 with FT     Areas machine excavated 02/08/12	NE SW	Sunny Sunny
127 128-30 131 132-3	NE-facing profile of Wall 22 with FTAreas machine excavated 02/08/12Walls 033, 014 and 042 with floor 44	NE SW NE	Sunny Sunny Clear
127 128-30 131 132-3 134	NE-facing profile of Wall 22 with FTAreas machine excavated 02/08/12Walls 033, 014 and 042 with floor 44Walls 033, 014 and 042 with floor 44	NE SW NE SE	Sunny Sunny Clear Clear
127 128-30 131 132-3 134 135	NE-facing profile of Wall 22 with FTAreas machine excavated 02/08/12Walls 033, 014 and 042 with floor 44Walls 033, 014 and 042 with floor 44Sondage against Walls 033 and 043 with 046	NESWNESESE	Sunny Sunny Clear Clear Clear
127 128-30 131 132-3 134	NE-facing profile of Wall 22 with FTAreas machine excavated 02/08/12Walls 033, 014 and 042 with floor 44Walls 033, 014 and 042 with floor 44	NE SW NE SE	Sunny Sunny Clear Clear

No.	Description	From	Conditions		
140-1	General working shots	S	Clear		
142	General working shot	N	Clear		
143	Floor 045	W	Clear		
144	Floor 045	Е	Clear		
145	Sondage against Wall 014 with fill 047	NE	Clear		
146-7	Sondage against Wall 014 with fill 047 and modern pipes	SE	Clear		
148	Wall 013 footings with 050	SW	Clear		
149	Wall 013	SW	Clear		
150	Fireplace 053 with 054, 055	NE	Clear		
151	Fireplace 053 with 054, 055	S	Clear		
152	Wall 057 with brick floor 058	S	Clear		
153	Floor 058	S	Clear		
154	Wall 057 and fireplace 053, 054, 055	SW	Clear		
155	Wall 061 NE-facing elevation	NE	Clear		
156	Walls 061 and 013	S	Clear		
157-8	General site shots	SW	Clear		
159-60	General site shots	N	Clear		
161	General site shots	NE	Clear		
162	General view Walls 008, 010, 022	NE	Clear		
163	General view of eastern courtyard area	NE	Clear		
164	General view of Wall 057 SE				
165	General site view	SW	Clear		

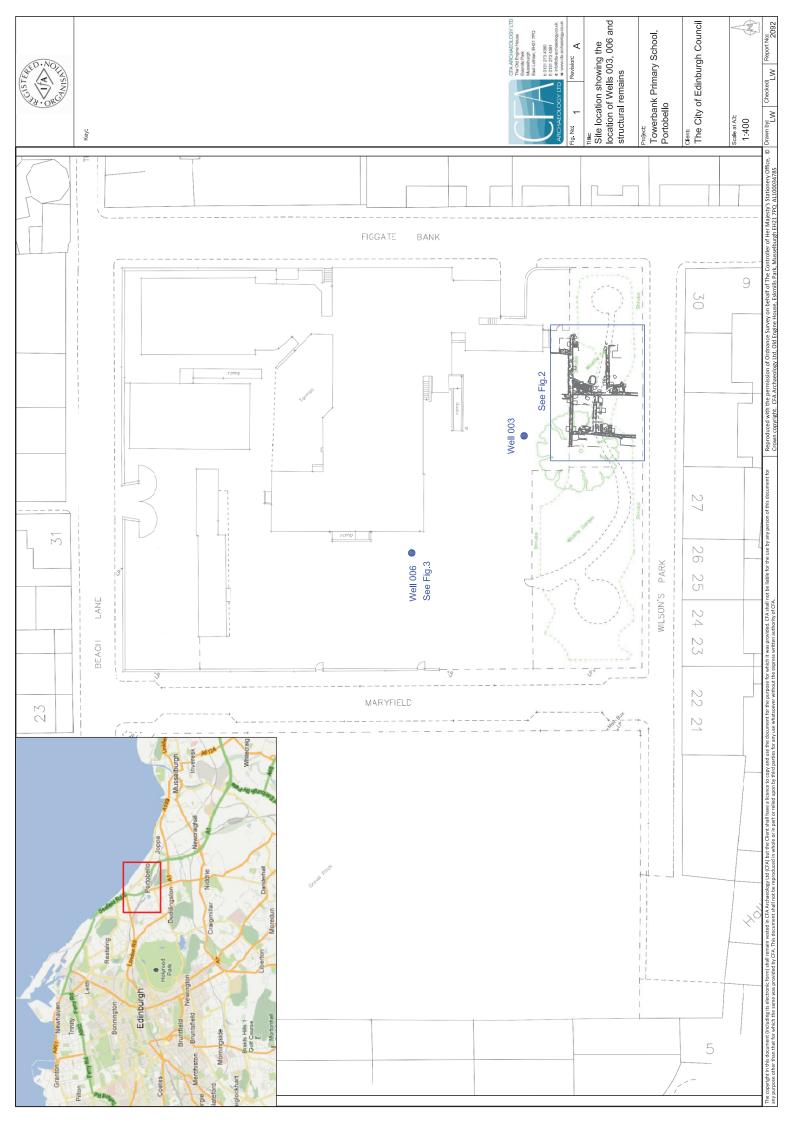
# **APPENDIX 3: Finds**

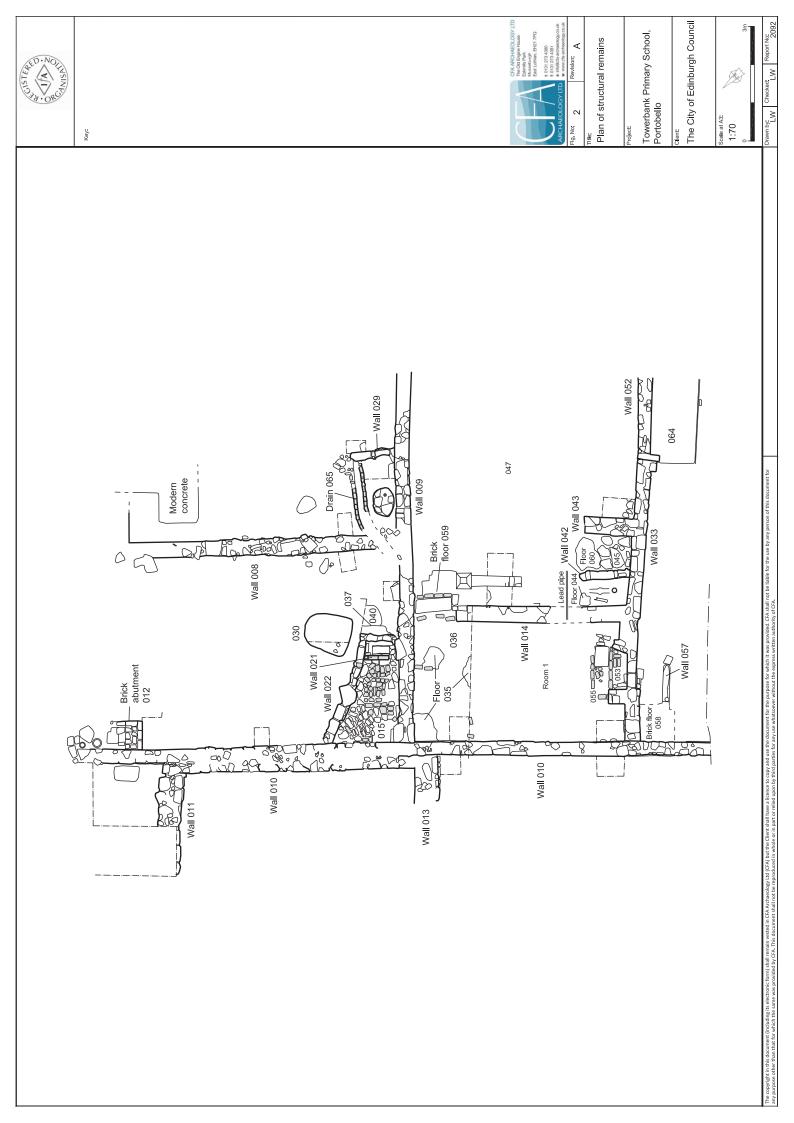
Context	Find type	No.	Wt (g)	Fabric	Notes	Spotdate
16	pot	3	22	REFW	blue hand-painted dec	19th c.
18	pot	6	1708	LSRW	bases, bodies of bowls and a storage jar with handle	L.18th-19th c.
18	pot	5	676	RFW	pedestal-based tureen, blue TP 'NURSERY' on side	19th c.
18	pot	1	83	BRSW	jar body frag	19th/20th c.
18	pot	1	244	BRSW	complete bottle, white fabric	19th/20th c.
18	CBM	1	83		pantile	pmed
18	copper alloy	2	24		unident fittings, one hollow with wooden centre	pmed
20	pot	1	145	REFW	ointment pot containing black deposit	19th/20th c.
20	pot	1	41	REFW	base	L.18th-19th c.
20	glass	7	130		green & pale green bottle body and base shards	19th/20th c.
20	glass	1	1116		complete green bottle, string rim, deep kick in base	19th c.
20	glass	1	931		complete green bottle, string rim, deep kick in base	19th c.
20	glass	5	363		base, neck and body frags of similar bottles	19th c.
26	pot	2	84	REFR	slip dec small jar	L.18th-19th c.
26	CBM	1	131		pantile	pmed
28	clay pipe	1	10		bowl/stem with spur	1820-60
31	CBM	2	650		comp chimney frags, sooted internally	19th/20th c.
31	CBM	1	3113		comp shale frogged brick, 233 x 120 x 60mm	19th/20th c.

31	CBM	1	3282		red brick, coarse buff mortar, >212 x 120 x 70mm	19th/20th c.
31	CBM	1	2869		red brick, coarse buff mortar, >210 x 122 x 72mm	19th/20th c.
31	CBM	1	334		black slipped pantile	19th/20th c.
32	pot	1	25	REFR	base	L.18th-19th c.
32	pot	1	46	LPME	plantpot rim	19th/20th c.
32	pot	1	23	REFW	waster base frag	19th/20th c.
32	pot	1	20	REFW	saucer base	19th/20th c.
32	pot	1	487	LPME	shallow plantpot with 'E.P. SANKEYS' repeated around body	19th/20th c.
32	pot	1	85		blue transfer-printed rim, chamber pot?	19th/20th c.
32	CBM	1	75		rim of toilet, compressed white fabric, thick white glaze	19th c.
32	СВМ	1	177		comp shale drainpipe frag, brown glazed	19th/20th c.
32	CBM	9	677		whiteware toilet frags, early type	19th c.
32	CBM	2	70		comp shale drainpipe frags, brown glazed	19th/20th c.
32	mortar	1	116		cementitious render frag with brick adhering	20th c.
32	mortar	1	34		cement-type mortar/moulding	19th/20th c.
32	Fe	1	-		half enamel sign	20th c.
34	pot	1	152	BRSW	complete small bottle, narrow, white fabric	19th/20th c.
34	pot	1	342	BRSW	complete bottle, white fabric	19th/20th c.
34	pot	2	15	REFW	cup rim, blue handpainted	19th/20th c.
34	pot	1	2	PORC	rim, gold lines	19th/20th c.
34	slate	1	4		pencil	19th/20th c.
34	Fe	1	-		half enamel sign	20th c.
34	Ae	1	5		coin? 26mm diam, surfaces lost	18th-20th c.
34	Ae	1	5		coin, 5 cents	19th/20th c.
35	pot	3	18	REFW	rim, blue sponged top, black line underneath	L.18th-19th c.
35	clay pipe	1	5		heavily burnt bowl with spur	E.19th c.?
35	ceramic	1	8		Y-shaped kiln prop frag	19th/20th c.
36	pot	1	1	REFW	blue transfer print	19th/20th c.
36	pot	1	47	REFR	storage jar?	L.18th-19th c.
44	pot	1	10	CRW	base	18th c.
44	pot	3	13	REFW	blue transfer print base, spongeware rim, body	19th/20th c.
44	pot	1	10	BRSW	base, white fabric	19th/20th c.
44	CBM	1	98		pantile	pmed
47	glass	3	3143		melted glass/cullet waste, two pieces stuck to comp shale kiln lining	pmed
50	pot	1	48	LPME	base	19th/20th c.

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Towerbank Primary School, Figgate Bank, Portobello, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	TOWE
PARISH:	Edinburgh, City of
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Philip Karsgaard and James Lewis
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NT 3061 7409
START DATE (this season)	09 July 2012
END DATE (this season)	03 August 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was conducted during construction works in the grounds of Towerbank Primary School. This monitoring revealed evidence of two domestic water wells probably associated with the 19th century houses existing on Maryfield before the construction of the first school building. Further coherent structural remains comprising a series of walls and in some cases floor deposits and installations such as outhouses and a fireplace were recorded in the north-eastern part of the site. These relate to buildings on Wilson's Park depicted on the late 19 <sup>th</sup> century Town Plan.
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

# **APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry**





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Key:	Fig No: 3 Revision: A Client:   Title: The City of Edinburgh Counci   Plan of Wall 005 and Well 006   Project:	Eskmils Park Musseburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 t: 0131 273 4381
Scale at A4: 1:20	Towerbank Primary School, Portobello	ARCHAEOLOGY LTD   e: info@cfs.archaeology.co.uk     W   www.cfs.archaeology.co.uk     Drawn by:   Checked:     LW   Report No:     2092

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Fig. 5 - Well 006



Fig. 7 - Fireplace 053, room 1



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Fig. 6 - Walls 010 and 011 with brick abutment 012



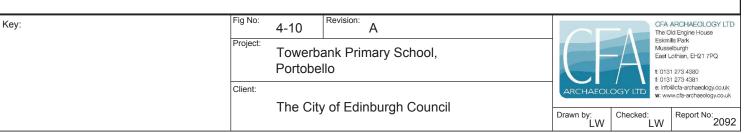
Fig. 8 - The coalbunker: Floor 015 with walls 009 and 022

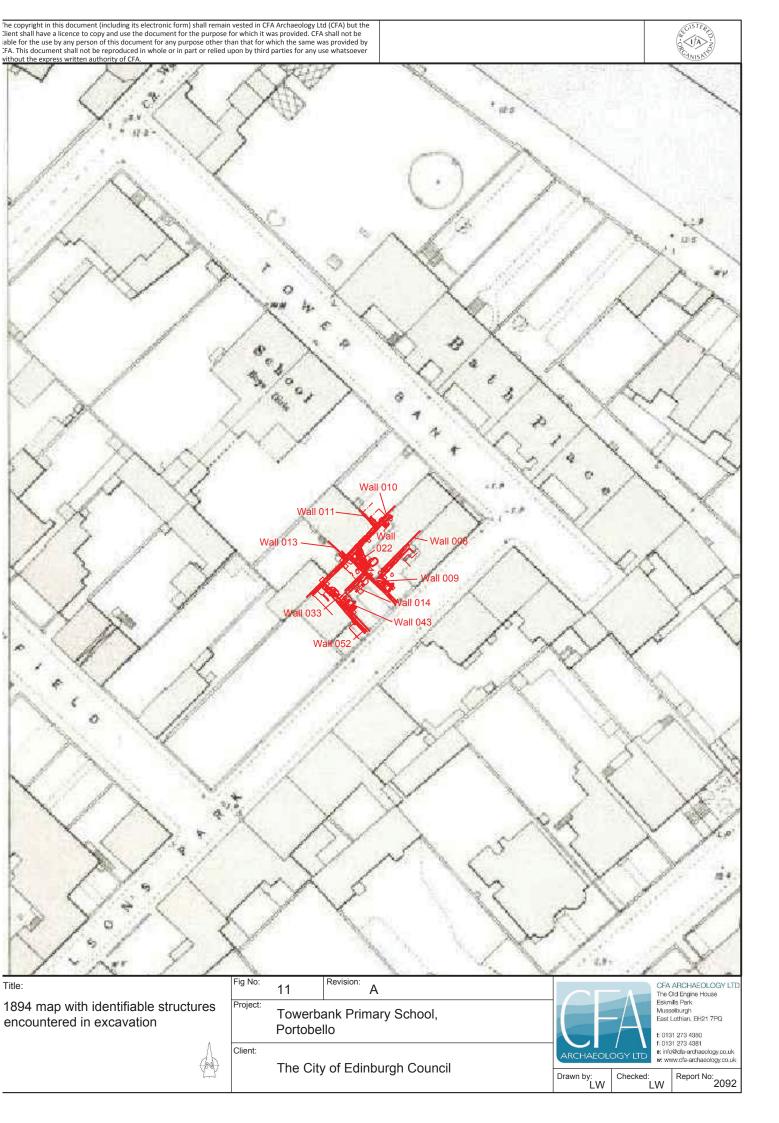


Fig. 9 - Room 1, floor 035

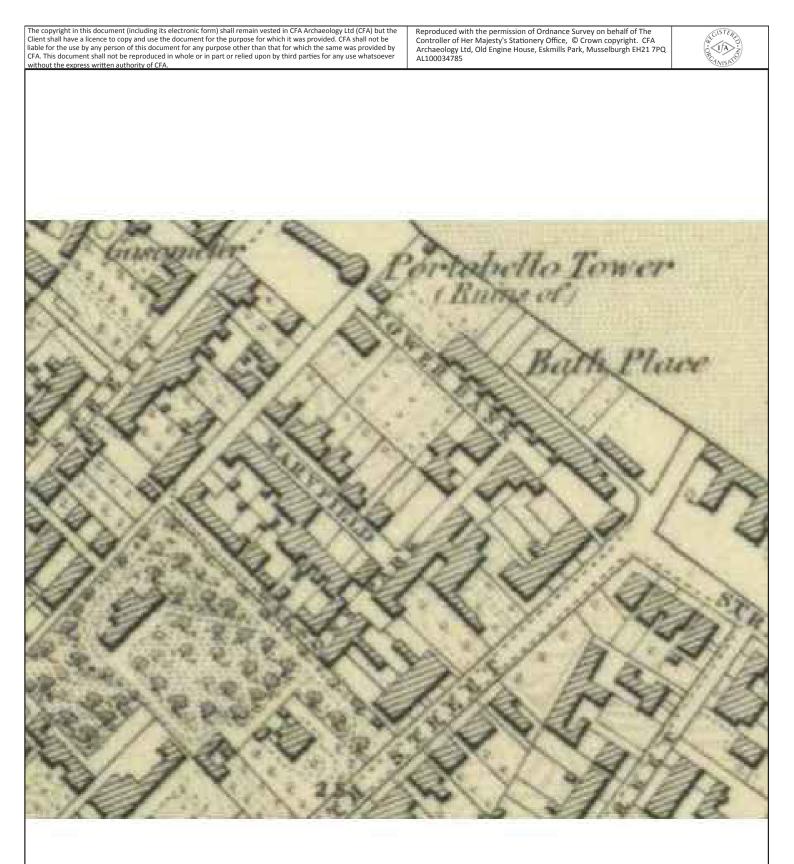


Fig. 10 - Well 003





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Title:	Fig No:	1		ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
Extract from map by John Wood, 1824 showing earliest	Project: Towerbank Primary Scho Portobello			e Old Engine House kmills Park isselburgh st Lothian, EH21 7PQ 0131 273 4380
structures	Client: The City of Edinburgh Co	buncil		0131 273 4381 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk



Title:

Extract from map by Ordnance Survey, 1st Edition, 1854 showing first identifiable structures

Revision: 13

0

Fig No:

Project: Towerbank Primary School Portobello Client: The City of Edinburgh Council



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