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**Land 17m north-west of 10 Forth Street,
Edinburgh**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 2126

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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

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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 August 2012 on a plot of land 17 metres north-west of 10 Forth Street, along Hart Street, Edinburgh, (NGR: NT 25918 74529) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Richard Murphy Architects.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the project was produced by CFA and was designed to fulfil the requirements of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

1.2 Background

Planning permission (Ref. 11/00076/FUL) has been granted at Land 17 metres north-west of 10 Forth Street, Edinburgh for the construction of a new dwelling house along Hart Street Lane.

The site is located within the limits of a UNESCO World Heritage site, within the southern limits of the medieval burgh of Broughton. Broughton predates the formal settlement of Edinburgh's Old Town, and was subsumed by the Georgian and Victorian expansion of Edinburgh's New Town. The site lay within the gardens for a Georgian tenement buildings built at the beginning of the 19th century, on the site of the 1730s settlement of Picardy established to house Huguenot silk weavers.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the project were to conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) during the excavation of all groundbreaking works associated with the construction of the house. These may include, but not be limited to, site stripping, foundation excavation and the excavation of services.

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 to a depth of approximately 2.5m for the laying of the house foundation.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Numbers in bold and parentheses refer to contexts (Appendix 1).

The development site was a disused garden. The excavated area for the building footprint measured 7m by 8.5m. It was excavated to a depth of 2.5m to accommodate the new building.

The work removed a stone wall (**119**) on the west side of the plot, which had been previously partially demolished and stood to a height of 0.4m above ground level within the building footprint; this wall remained standing to 2.1m in height outside of the footprint to the south.

A well (**118**) was known to survive in the south-west part of the garden, partially underlying the stone garden wall (**119**), and had been covered with a sheet of plywood. Its cut was exposed during the watching brief but it was not removed.

At a depth of 2.5m from existing ground surface was natural substrate (**117**), which was orange sandy clay with boulders. Overlying this was a 0.4m thick layer of dark brown-black boulder clay (**107**). To the east, deposit **107** was overlain by a 0.2m thick lens of grey-white chalky material, possibly mortar (**106**).

Overlying both **106** and **107** was deposit **100**, recorded at a depth of c.2m from existing ground level and measuring 0.4m thick. This deposit (**100**) of black, humic clayey silt is likely Georgian/Victorian in date on the basis of the finds it contained and was probably a levelling deposit brought in during the construction of the New Town rather than having been formed on site. This layer contained butchered animal bone, ceramics, shell, glass, and a clay pipe fragment.

Overlying deposit **100** was a grey-white chalky rubble deposit (**105**), possibly mortar, which was 0.2m thick and was very similar in composition to **106**.

In the eastern part of the site and cut into deposits **107** and **100** was a stone box drain (**110-114**) running N-S through the site and approximately 2m below the ground surface. The drain cut (**110**) was filled with yellow/orange sand (**111**) around the sides and was filled above the capstones (**112**) with dark grey silt (**109**), which was then overlain by deposit **105**. The drain had an aperture of 0.3m wide and was built using parallel dressed sandstone sides (**113**) and a slate base (**114**), topped by sandstone capstones (**112**). A fine, silty sediment was noted within the drain, though no finds were made. The drain was disused as no water or waste was present upon excavation.

Overlying deposits **100** and **105** was 0.5m of orange-grey sandy clay (**108**), followed by 0.5m of a light grey sandy rubble deposit containing stone and brick (**103**) and then 0.4m of dark brown, humic garden soil (**102**).

At the north-east end of the site, the foundation for the stone-built boundary wall (**101**) running parallel to Hart Street, was exposed in section. The wall was mortared to the base of deposit **102**, at a depth of 0.4m below existing ground level, with the un-mortared drystone foundation continuing below that to a depth of 1.2m. This

suggests that the original ground surface when this wall was built was 0.4m below the existing. The wall's foundation was cut into deposits **100**, **108** and **103**.

In the south-western corner of the site there was a circular stone well (**118**), approximately 1m in diameter, and extending to a depth of over 2m. Well **118** was cut into natural (**117**) and contexts **107**, **100**, **105**, **108** and **103**; it also partially underlay garden wall **119**, and so pre-dates the construction of this garden boundary wall.

The features and stratigraphy present on this site indicate levelling activities and drainage associated with the construction of Edinburgh's New Town. The levelling deposit (**100**) was likely shipped in from elsewhere as fill rather than having been formed on location.

4. CONCLUSION

No evidence pertaining to the medieval burgh of Broughton, nor Huguenot activity pertaining to the settlement of Picardy, was found within the area of development. The only archaeological deposits which were found were likely Georgian/Victorian in date, and were associated with activities relating to the construction of Edinburgh's New Town in the early 19th century. These appeared as levelling deposits and features associated with the construction of tenements on Hart Street including a stone box drain and a well.

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
100	Black humic clay-rich soil. Victorian levelling deposit
101	Mortared stone wall- parallel to hart street lane
102	Dark brown humic garden soil- topsoil
103	Light grey sandy soil- stone/ brick inclusions- rubble deposit
104	Same- as (108)
106	Grey-white chalky deposit
107	Dark brown black boulder clay? Possibly natural
108	Orange-grey sandy clay- stone inclusions <0.50m
109	Dark grey sandy soil- small stone inclusions
110	Cut for stone drain
111	Yellow/ orange granular sandy fill around stone drain
112	Sandstone cap on stone drain
113	Parallel sandstone walls to stone drain
114	Slate base to stone drain
115	Cut for possible pole hole
116	Black humic fill similar to (102)
117	Orange sandy clay with boulder inclusions
118	Stone/brick well, SW corner of site
119	Stone garden wall N/S, overlying (118)

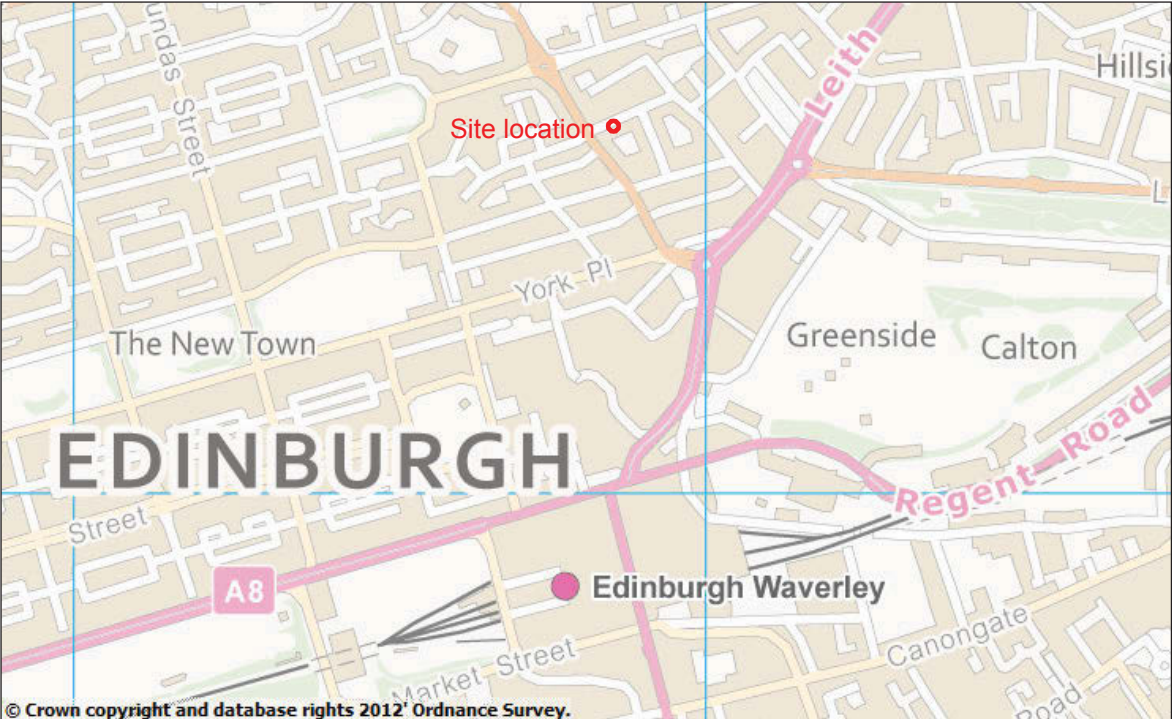
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register (Digital)

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1-2	Excavation area- pre-exc. general shot	NE-SE	Sun
3	Well location and garden wall	E	Sun
4	Excavation area, overall	S	Sun
5	Well location and garden wall	NNE	Sun
6	Garden wall. W-facing section	W	Sun
7	Test pit mid exc:N- facing section	N	Sun
8	As above, S-facing section	S	Sun
9	N-facing section down to levelling deposit (100)	N	Sun
10-11	E wall W-facing section showing levelling deposit (100)	W	Sun
12-13	Sondage depth and wall relationship (101)	W	O/C
14	Wall base/ sondage strat detail (101)	W	O/C
15-16	Sondage detail	S	O/C
17	Sondage detail	N	O/C
18-19	Overall, wall sondage	W	O/C
20-22	Wall and section relationship (101)	NW	O/C
23	Stone-lined drain, NE/SW (110)	W	O/C
24-25	Stone-lined drain, NE/SW (110)	S	O/C
26	Stone-lined drain, NE/SW (110)	N	O/C
27	Stone-lined drain, NE/SW (110)- detail	N	O/C
28	Stone-lined drain, NE/SW (110)	E	O/C
29	Stone-lined drain, detail (110)	W	O/C
30	Stone-lined drain (110)	S	O/C
31-32	Stone-lined drain (110)	N	O/C
33	Stone-lined drain (110)	N	O/C
34	Stone-lined drain- detail (110)	N	O/C
35	Stone-lined drain (110)	E	O/C
36	Stone-lined drain (110)	S	O/C
37	Stratigraphy, N-facing section	N	O/C
38	Stratigraphy, N-facing section showing drain (110)	N	O/C
39-40	Pipe hole (115)	W	O/C

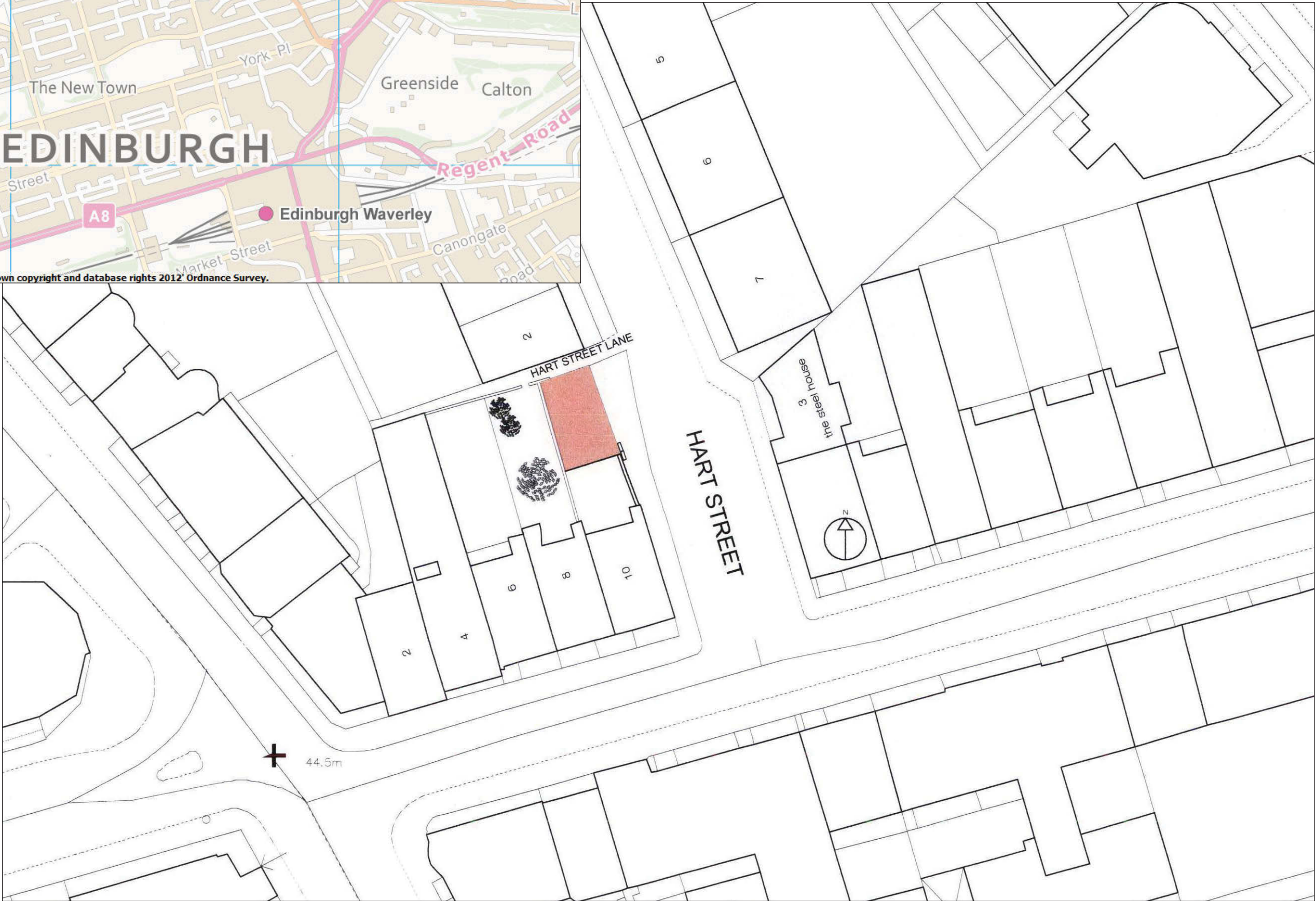
41	Stratigraphy, N-facing section	N	O/C
42	Stratigraphy, N- and E-facing section	NE	O/C
43-45	Stratigraphy and large stone well	NE	Sun
46	N-facing section	N	Sun
47-52	W-facing section and (115) shaft- strat relation	W	Sun
53-54	Detail- strat relation, w/ N-facing sections	NW	O/C
55-57	Stratigraphic detail, W-facing section	NW	O/C
58-60	E-facing section down to natural	E	O/C
61	SW corner down to level	NE	O/C
62	E-facing section and well down to level	N	O/C
63	Well (118) N-facing section	N	O/C
64	S-facing section	S	O/C
65	E/S-facing sections	SE	O/C
66	N/E-facing sections	NE	O/C

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Land 17m north-west of 10 Forth Street, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	HAST
PARISH:	Edinburgh, City of
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Andrew Morrison
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 25918 74529
START DATE (this season)	14 th August 2012
END DATE (this season)	16 th August 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	No evidence pertaining to the medieval burgh of Broughton, nor Huguenot activity pertaining to the settlement of Picardy, was found within the area of development. The only archaeological deposits which were found were likely Georgian/Victorian in date, and were associated with activities relating to the construction of Edinburgh's New Town in the early 19 th century. These appeared as levelling deposits and features associated with the construction of tenements on Hart Street including a stone box drain and a well.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Richard Murphy Architects
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



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Key

Development site

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Fig. No:	1	Revision	A
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Title

Site location map

Project

10 Forth Street, Edinburgh

Scale at A3

1:500

Client

Richard Murphy Architects



Drawn by:	Checked by:	Report No:
LW	LW	2126



Fig. 2 - Development site from south-east, looking towards Hart Street Lane



Fig. 3 - View of wall 101 and sondage in deposit 100 from the north-west, showing deposits 108, 103 and 102

Fig. No: 2-3		Revision: A	Project: 10 Forth Street, Edinburgh			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
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Fig. 4 - Drain 110 from the north



Fig. 5 - General site stratigraphy. North-west-facing section showing drain 110 and well 118 to the south-west

Fig. No: 4-5		Revision: A	Project: 10 Forth Street, Edinburgh			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
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