

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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**Water of Leith Flood Prevention Scheme,  
Warriston Road, Edinburgh**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. 1729**

## **CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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Commissioned by	City of Edinburgh Council
Date issued	December 2009
Version	0
OASIS Reference	cfaarcha1 - 60521
Planning Application No	-
Grid Ref	NT 25279 75244

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

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in August and September 2009 at Warriston Road (NGR: NT 25279 75244). The work was commissioned by The City of Edinburgh Council.
- 1.1.2 John Lawson of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) requested an archaeological watching brief during groundbreaking works at Warriston Road (Fig. 1). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the project was produced by CFA based upon documents provided by CECAS.

### **1.2 Background**

- 1.2.1 The groundbreaking works at Warriston Road were associated with advance works for the Water of Leith Flood Prevention Scheme which proposes to build flood defences on both sides of the river. The Warriston Road section covers the stretch from Huntly Street downstream to the B-Listed former railway bridge.
- 1.2.2 The archaeological watching brief monitored groundbreaking work along sections of Warriston Road, which was required to allow the moving of buried utility services in advance of flood defence construction works.

### **1.3 Objectives**

- 1.3.1 The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were to conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) and produce a report on its findings.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

- 2.1 CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.
- 2.2 Overburden removal was conducted using a mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.
- 2.3 All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 3.1 The following text presents the results of the watching brief. Context numbers are given in bold and parentheses, full descriptions of which can be found in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The uppermost deposits along Warriston Road consisted of 0.05m of tarmac surface (**001**) which overlay a uniform cobbled surface (**002**). The cobbled surface (**002**) was deposited on a bedding layer of coarse grained sand (**003**) which covered an indurated deposit of concrete (**004**) that varied in depth from 0.2 to 0.25m in depth.
- 3.3 Under the concrete surface, a series of deposits were uncovered which either constituted modern made-ground or the backfill of existing service trenches (**005**), all of which was interpreted as modern activity which continued to c. 1.1m below the level of the road surface. These deposits comprised reddish-brown mixed sands, silts and gravel. Occasional fragments of tile, brick and 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic were found within this layer.
- 3.4 A number of buried services were encountered, which included gas and water pipes as well as electric cabling. The services were located between c. 0.6m and 1.2m below the road surface.
- 3.5 A mixed deposit of ash, coal and clinker (**006**), that varied in compaction and colour and contained inclusions of tile and brick, was typically found at depths of >0.8m and probably constitutes further made ground or service trench backfill.
- 3.6 Deposit **006** overlay a >0.2m deep, dark-brown silty-sand (**007**) which continued beyond the limit of excavation. Deposit **007** contained small, commonly occurring round to sub-rounded cobbles. The deposit was not interpreted as a natural substrate although the cobble element may indicate this material contained re-deposited natural within the matrix.
- 3.7 The watching brief also noted a rectangular brick-built, sandstone-capped inspection chamber c. 2m in depth by 1.5m in width. The brickwork elevations contained two c. 1m diameter arched water conduits, one of which continued northward in the direction of Warriston Road, while the other ran north-west in the direction of the burn, where it probably discharges.

#### **4. SUMMARY**

- 4.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundbreaking works along Warriston Road. The work was associated with the Water of Leith Flood Prevention Scheme.
- 4.2 The excavation uncovered a cobbled surface which overlay a concrete raft. The uniform cobbles were probably re-laid in the recent past, given the high level of sub-surface disturbance caused by the modern services below.
- 4.3 Disturbance from a network of underground services between the current ground surface and the limit of excavation rendered the preservation of in situ archaeological remains as highly unlikely. Further evidence of ground disturbance / make up was the mixed sequence of made-ground or service trench backfill which formed the bulk of the recorded deposits during the watching brief.
- 4.4 All the above activity is interpreted as 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century evidence of infrastructure improvements.
- 4.5 No archaeological features were uncovered.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 An entry for Discovery and Excavation in Scotland will be submitted on completion of all works on the scheme.

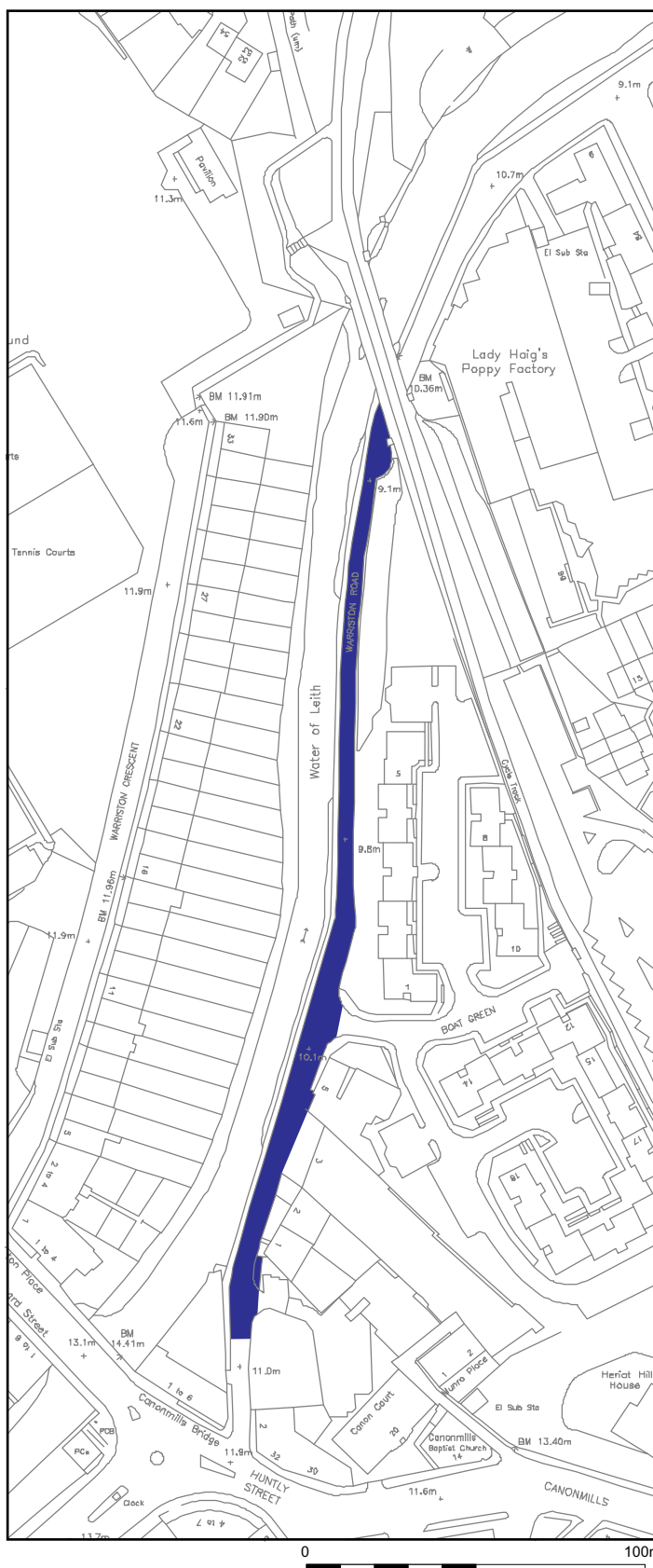
## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context no.	Type	Description
001	Deposit	Modern tarmac road surface
002	Deposit	Re-lain cobble surface
003	Deposit	Coarse sandy bedding layer for 002
004	Deposit	Layer of concrete
005	Deposit	Made ground / service trench backfill
006	Deposit	Ash & cinder comprising made-ground / service trench backfill
007	Deposit	Possible make-up layer of re-deposited natural

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

### *Digital*

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1	Shot of modern service and cobble surface (002)	North	Sunny
2	Working shot of tarmac removal and cobbled surface (002)	East	Sunny
3	Working shot of tarmac removal and cobbled surface (002)	East	Sunny
4	Working shot of tarmac removal and cobbled surface (002)	East	Sunny
5	Working shot of exposed cobble surface (002)	East	Sunny
6	Shot of exposed cobble surface (002)	East	Sunny
7	Shot of made ground deposits 004 & 005	-	Sunny
8	Shot of made ground deposits 004 & 005	-	Sunny
9	Working shot of trench extension showing made ground and buried services	North	Sunny
10	Close up of made ground deposits 004 & 005	-	Sunny
11	Close up of made ground deposits 004 & 005	-	Sunny
12	General shot of excavation showing made ground and services	East	Sunny
13	General shot of excavation showing made ground and services	West	Sunny
14	General shot of excavation showing made ground and services	East	Sunny
15	Shot of sandstone capping for brick manhole chamber	South-east	Sunny
16	Working shot of excavation and buried services	East	Sunny
17	Working shot of excavation and buried services	East	Sunny
18	General shot of trench section, made ground and buried services	South-east	Sunny
19	Working shot of excavation within trench	East	Sunny
20	Deposits comprising made ground	-	Sunny
21	Shot of services within excavated trench	North	Cloudy
22	Shot showing continuing excavations along Warriston Road	East	Cloudy
23	Shot of area to be opened up	East	Cloudy
24	Close up of underground services	-	Cloudy



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Fig. 2 Working shot of excavation at Warriston Road



Fig. 3 General shot of excavation at Warriston Road



Fig. 4 Shot of buried services and underlying deposits

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	Title:										
	Project:										
Scale:	Water of Leith FPS						Drawn by:	GC	Page No:	Report No:	1729