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Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**Ailsa Lodge, Erskine Ferry Road
Bishopton, Renfrewshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 2156

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

The Old Engine House
Eskmills Business Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian
EH21 7PQ

Tel: 0131 273 4380
Fax: 0131 273 4381
email: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	Jamie Lewis MA
Illustrator	Graeme Carruthers MA MifA
Editor	Melanie Johnson MA PhD FSA Scot MifA
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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 a watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on the 20th and 21st of November 2012 at Ailsa Lodge, Erskine Ferry Road, Bishopton (NGR: NS 44747 71965) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Quigley Architects.

The Terms of Reference dated 8th of October 2012 was produced by CFA and agreed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) on behalf of Renfrewshire Council.

1.2 Background

Planning permission (Ref No. 05/0394/PP and 05/0462/LB) was granted by Renfrewshire Council for the construction of two conservatories and a sitting area at Ailsa Lodge, Bishopton. At present, only one of the two proposed conservatories is being constructed, which is the subject of this report (Fig. 2).

Ailsa Lodge is a former Church of Scotland manse and is C(s) Listed (HB No. 10893). The present building dates to the mid-19th century, but it is believed that the incumbent of Erskine Parish Church lived in a building on this spot after Paisley Presbytery was set up in 1590. This site is also thought to lie close to a 7th century river crossing on the way to Iona.

The Lodge is also close to the Old Erskine Parish Church and graveyard. The Old Church dates to at least the 12th century when in 1169 it was given to Paisley Abbey by Walter Fitz-alan. It is thought that a small informal settlement probably grew up around it. Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55) depicts a small settlement or kirk town of about ten structures within an enclosure to the south and west of the church. By the early 19th century Church had fallen into disrepair and was torn down in 1813. The present church stands to the west of where the Old Parish Church was located.

Previous watching briefs have been conducted at Ailsa Lodge during earlier extensions in 2006 and 2009 (Kirby 2006, Moore 2009). In 2006, within foundation trenches for an extension on the west, findings included a north to south orientated ditch with a width of c.1.8m and a maximum depth of 0.9m (Fig. 2).

In 2009, within foundation trenches for an extension on the east, findings included: a north-south orientated garden wall; the fragmented sandstone remains for the foundations of the recently demolished eastern annexe; and the remains of a sandstone foundation footing, within which was found a fragment of re-used cornice incorporated into its fabric (Fig. 2).

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) to monitor all groundbreaking works
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording, and produce a report on them.

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

Topsoil and modern overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed bucket. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. All further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the WSI was carried out by hand.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded, whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

The numbers in bold and parentheses refer to contexts, a list of which is contained in Appendix 1. The watching brief monitored the excavation for the foundation of the conservatory (Figs. 2 & 4), the details of which are discussed below.

The Conservatory

The foundation extended 5m from the northern side of the lodge and measured approximately 20m². The stratigraphy comprised of between 0.2-0.3m of topsoil (**000**), which overlay 0.2m of subsoil (**001**) and beneath this was the natural bedrock (**004**) (Fig. 4).

An area extending approximately 2.5m from the northern wall of the existing building was comprised entirely of services with gravel infill (Fig. 3). Extending 0.8m beyond this was exposed subsoil (**001**) and the final 1.8m of the open area was exposed bedrock (**004**) (Fig. 3).

Walls 002 and 003

Located at the east side of the area, and extending beyond the eastern limit of excavation, the remains of a curvilinear feature, possibly a vestigial wall (**002**), were found. This was aligned approximately north-east/south-west and measured 1.2m long, 0.4m wide and 0.25m high. It comprised a single course of sandstone blocks; no bonding material was observed within the wall and, similar to the other wall (**003**, see below), it was sat directly upon the natural bedrock (**004**). The wall was covered by topsoil (**000**).

Located at the west side of the exposed area, and extending beyond the western excavation boundary, the remains of a wall (**003**) were found (Fig. 3). The wall was aligned east-west and measured 1m long, 0.45m wide and 0.25m high (Fig. 5). It consisted of two courses of large sandstone blocks bonded with yellow sand mortar and directly sat upon the bedrock (**004**). The wall was covered by topsoil (**000**).

4. CONCLUSION

The watching brief fulfilled the requirements of the Terms of Reference. No artefacts were found during the excavation for the footings for the conservatory and much of the monitored area had been disturbed by utility services.

Two vestigial walls were found during the investigation; Wall **003** is probably the remains of the garden wall depicted on the 1st and 2nd edition 25" Ordnance Survey maps, just to the north of the manse and parallel with it, and therefore dates to at least the mid-19th century. Wall **002** is not depicted on any of the OS maps, which might suggest that it is older than **003** or represents an insubstantial garden wall which was not worth depicting.

No other archaeological deposits from an earlier date were found during the watching brief.

A summary statement of the results of this watching brief 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 RCAHMS and copies of reports will be lodged with the Renfrewshire Council Sites and Monuments Record.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Kirby, M 2006 *Ailsa Lodge, Erskine Ferry Road, Bishopton, Renfrewshire. Archaeological Watching Brief*. CFA Archaeology Ltd, Report No. 1212.

Moore, P 2009 *Ailsa Lodge, Erskine Ferry Road, Bishopton. Archaeological Watching Brief*. CFA Archaeology Ltd, Report No. 1596.

Ordnance Survey 1863 Renfrewshire Sheet IV.13. 25" to 1 mile.

Ordnance Survey 1897 Renfrewshire Sheet IV.13. 25" to 1 mile.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

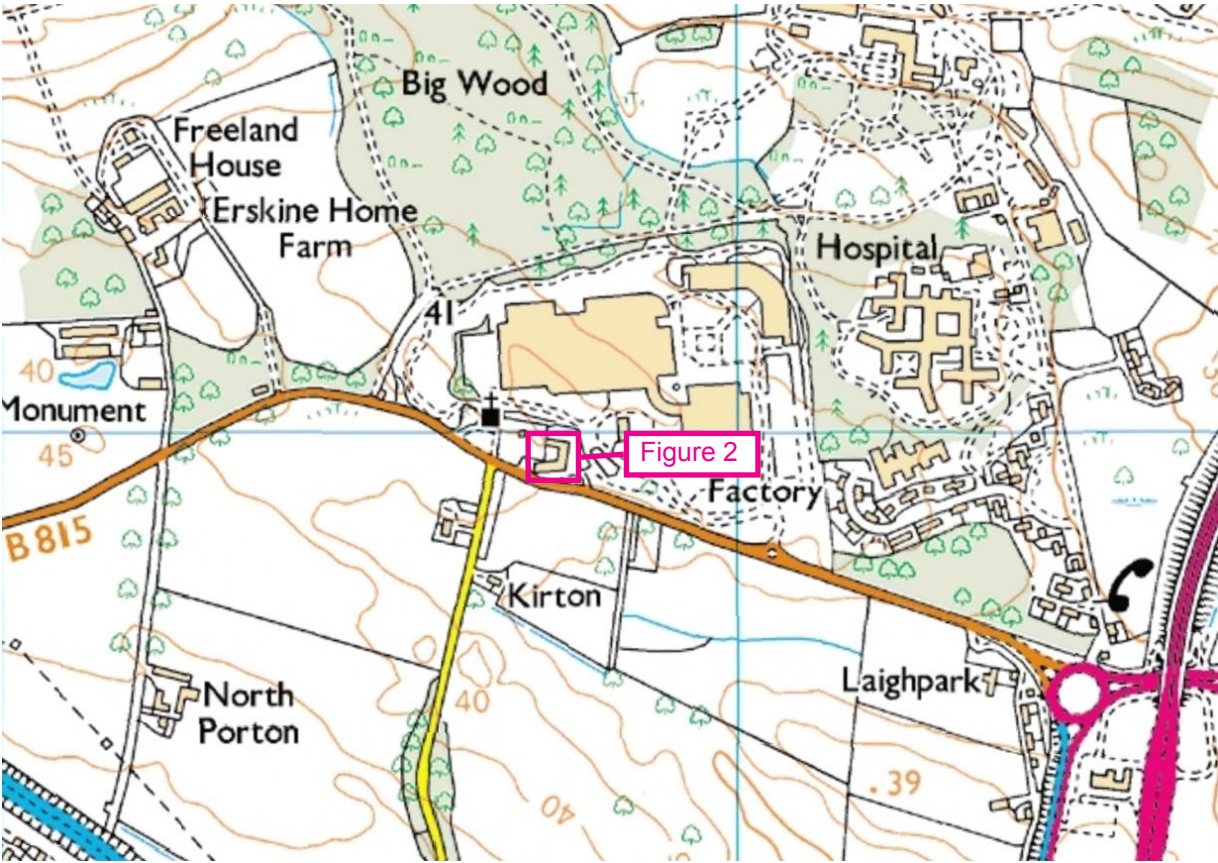
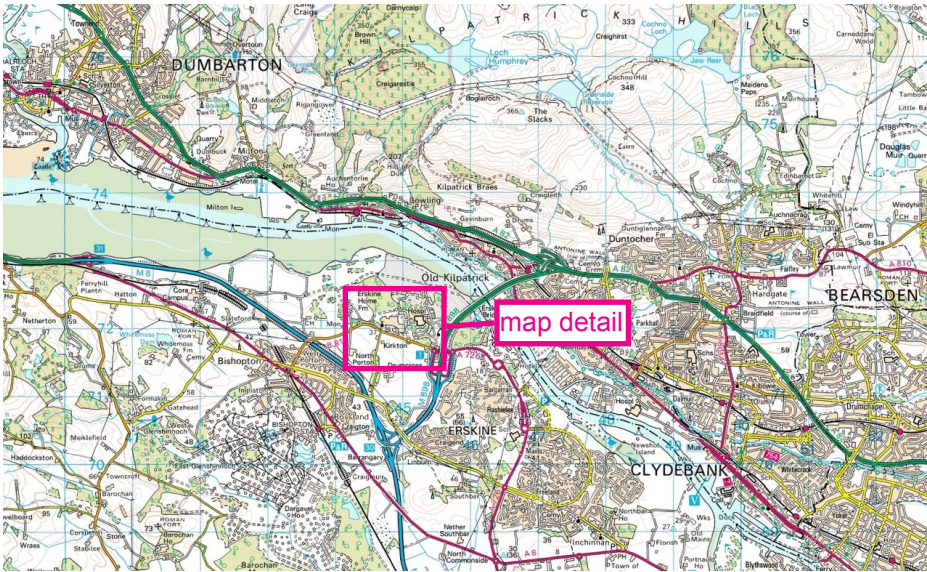
Context No.	Description
000	Topsoil
001	Subsoil
002	Wall
003	Wall
004	Bedrock

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	View of site	SE	Sun
2-3	View of site	NE	Sun
4	View of site and wall 003	W	Sun
5	Detail of wall 003	E	Sun

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Renfrewshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Ailsa Lodge, Bishopton, Renfrewshire
PROJECT CODE:	QUIG
PARISH:	Erskine
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	James Lewis
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Monitored Strip
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NS 44747 71965
START DATE (this season)	20 th November 2012
END DATE (this season)	21 st November 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Kirby 2006, and Moore 2009
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief monitored the excavation for the foundations for a new conservatory. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were recovered during the watching brief. The remains of two walls were found: however, these are both likely to date to the mid-19 th century and are probably the remains of previous garden walls.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Quigley 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)	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland Renfrewshire Council Sites and Monuments Record



Key:



Scale at A4:

Fig. No: 1	Revision: A	Client: Quigley Architects
Title: Site location		
Project: Ailsa Lodge, Bishopton		



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: GC	Checked: LW	Report No: 2156
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Key:

- area of watching brief
- area to be excavated at a later date
- 2009 watching brief
- 2006 watching brief



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

Fig. No:	2	Revision:	A
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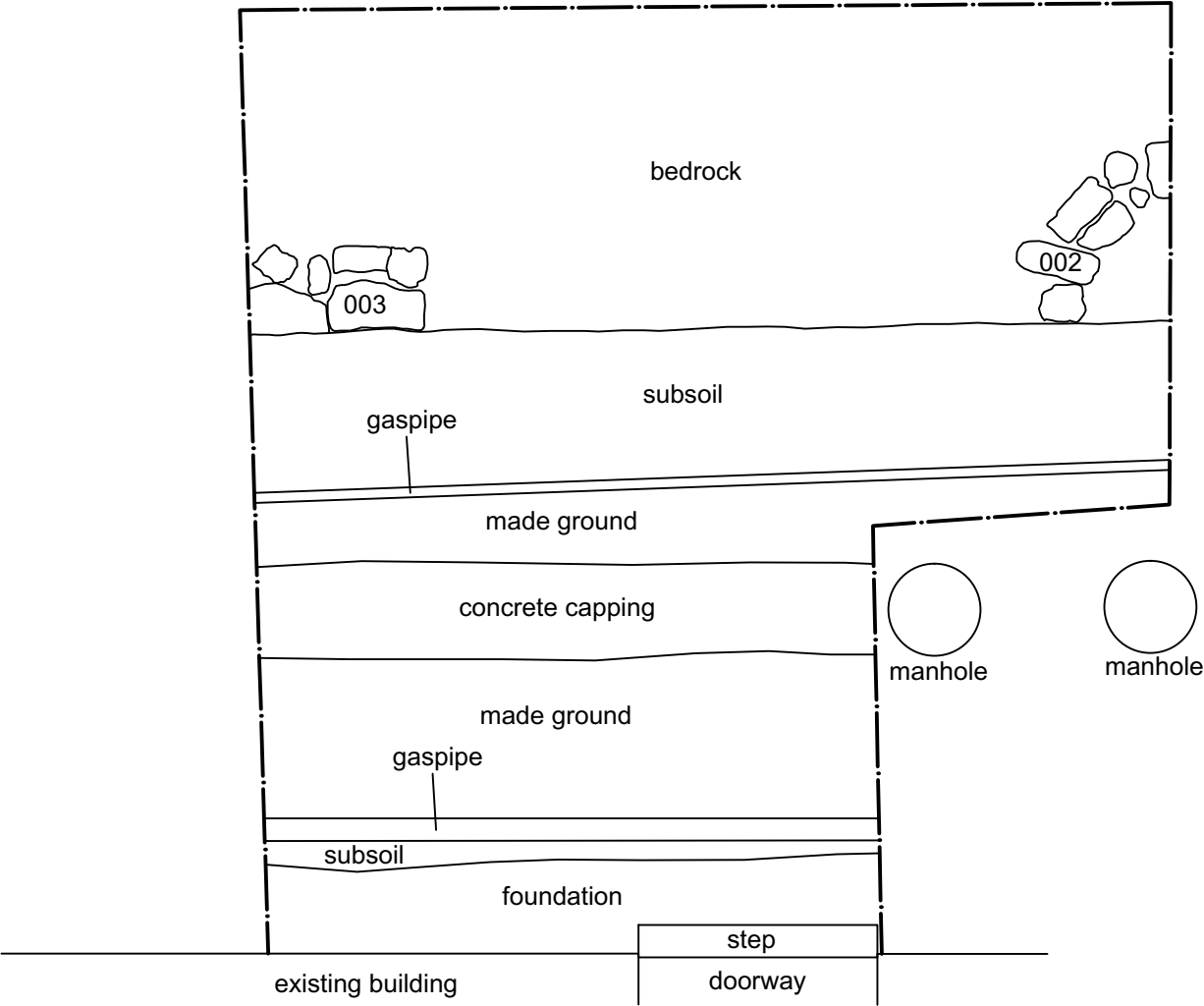
Title:
Location of watching brief area
and location of previous work

Project:
Ailsa Lodge, Bishopston

Scale at A3:
1:200

Client:
Quigley Architects

Drawn by:	Checked by:	Report No:
GC	LW	2156



Key:



Fig No:

3

Revision:

A

Client:

Quigley Architects

Title:

Plan of watching brief area

Project:

Ailsa Lodge, Bishopston

Scale at A4:

1:40



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 : General view of site



Fig.5 : Detailed view of wall 003

Fig. No: 4-5		Revision: A	Project: Ailsa Lodge, Bishopton			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: GC	Checked: LW	Report No: 2156	Client: Quigley Architects			

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