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Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**The Bowerhouse,
Spott, Dunbar
East Lothian**

**Archaeological Archive Assessment
& Monitored Strip**

Report No. 3072

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological monitored strip and archive assessment undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on 09 May and 14 August 2013 on land at The Bowerhouse, Spott, Dunbar (NT 66714 76626) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Bain, Swan Architects on behalf of Mrs Rebecca Tyndall.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 26 April 2013 was produced by CFA Archaeology Ltd. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS).

1.2 Background

Initial construction works were undertaken on site without archaeological monitoring; this included a shallow soil strip which did not penetrate the topsoil and the excavation of foundations. An on-site appraisal carried out by CFA Archaeology did not identify any archaeological deposits or features that might have been disturbed. It was concluded that it was unlikely that anything of significance had been affected.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (monitored strip) to monitor remaining groundbreaking works such as the excavation of service tracks and septic tanks to ensure works are cleared of topsoil and other modern overburden to identify either undisturbed natural subsoil or archaeological features (whichever comes first).
- 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 Fieldwork. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods, as detailed in the approved WSI.

2.2 Archive Assessment

A desk-based assessment was conducted to put this work within the local context. The NMRS and Historic Environment Record site databases were consulted. Readily available historical mapping were also consulted. Sites with statutory designations were identified.

2.3 Monitored Strip

The terms of the WSI required an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Monitored Strip) to monitor ground breaking works. Excavation was undertaken with a small mechanical excavator with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision, and the spoil removed with a dumper truck.

The ground breaking works consisted of the excavation of a trench for drainage services around the SE, NE and NW facing sides of the new building and a soakaway from the septic tank to an already-established pipeline.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Archive Assessment

General

The landscape within which the Bowerhouse is situated is rich in cropmark enclosures and appears to have been densely settled in the prehistoric period. A number of these sites are deemed to be of sufficient significance to be Scheduled.

Historic Scotland

The Bowerhouse is A listed and built c.1840 on the site of an earlier house. The 18th century double lectern dovecot in the policies of the property is A listed and was presumably associated with the earlier property that was demolished to make way for the current house.

The closest Scheduled Monument (SAM No 5833) is c. 250m to the north-west of the house. It is a semi-circular enclosure with a diameter of 150m and is presumably a prehistoric settlement site.

SMR / NMRS

A possible prehistoric pit alignment identified by cropmarks (MEL 1497 / NT67NE 132) is located to the immediate south-east of the gardens of the house. It runs approximately NW-SE, not into the property boundary itself. A linear cropmark (NT67NE 131) running roughly NE-SW, has been recorded on oblique aerial photography to the south of Bowerhouse.

Historic Maps

Roy's Military Map (1752-55) shows the presence of a building within landscaped policies but the depiction of the building and its location is schematic. Forrest's map (1799) appears reasonably accurate and shows a rectangular plan building, which is presumably the earlier building that was demolished to make way for the current Bowerhouse (which is on a different floor plan), the dovecot and an ice house, and the building is shown as owned by the Rev Rt Cunningham. Other early maps (Ainslie 1821, Thompson 1832 and Sharp, Greenwood & Fowler 1824) all show "Bowerhouses" but appear schematic in depiction.

The Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile editions from 1853 to 1938, show the house and policies in a very similar form to that of today.

3.2 Monitored Strip

Numbers in bold in the following text refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 1.

A trench was excavated around the SE, NE and NW-facing sides of the new building. The trench measured up to 1m wide and included extended boxes to accommodate

manholes which were up to 1.5m wide. Topsoil **(001)** was 0.4m deep and overlay stiff red sandy clay natural **(000)**. Several existing drainage and telecoms services were encountered (Fig. 2). No archaeological features or deposits were identified.

The soakaway was orientated on a SSW-NNE alignment, and the trench for it measured 40m in length. The grass was removed to a width of 2m to allow for machine tracking, and the topsoil **(001)** was removed in a strip measuring 1.2m wide to a depth of 0.14m down onto made ground **(002)**. The made-ground consisted of mid red-brown gritty silt with degraded sandstone chunks and 20th century detritus of pottery, glass and tile (not retained). It was likely laid down as part of the landscaping of the formal gardens and existed to a depth of 0.1m to 0.4m where the natural dipped in the north-west. This made ground was in turn removed to formation depth for the trench; it lay directly on the natural **(000)** which consisted of degraded red sandstone and clay (Fig. 3). No archaeological features or deposits were found.

4. CONCLUSION

A monitored strip was carried out during groundbreaking works for the installation of drainage services and a soakaway at Bowerhouse, Spott, Dunbar.

Topsoil **(001)** was stripped to a depth of 0.14m to reveal made ground **(002)** of a depth of 0.1-0.4m, lying directly on top of natural **(000)**. No archaeological features were identified.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, plans and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland and copies of reports lodged with the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS).

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

5. REFERENCES

Cartographic

Ainslie, J, 1821 Ainslie's Map of the Southern Part of Scotland

Forrest, W, 1799 Map of Haddingtonshire

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition Haddingtonshire, Sheet 6, Surveyed 1853, Published 1854

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition Haddingtonshire, Sheet 11, Surveyed 1853, Published 1855

Ordnance Survey Haddingtonshire VI.SE published 1895, revised 1893

Ordnance Survey Haddingtonshire VI.SE published 1908, revised 1906

Ordnance Survey Haddingtonshire VI.SE published 1935, revised 1932

Ordnance Survey Haddingtonshire VI.SE published 1948, revised 1938

Roy, W 1752 -55 Military Map, Lowlands

Sharp, T Greenwood, G & Fowler, W 1824, Map of the County of Haddington

Thompson, J 1832, John Thompson's Atlas of Scotland

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

| Context No. | Description |
|-------------|---|
| 000 | Natural: mid yellow-red degraded sandstone and clay |
| 001 | Topsoil: mid red-brown silty soil |
| 002 | Made ground: mid red-brown gritty silt with degraded sandstone chunks and modern detritus |

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

| No. | Description | From |
|-----|---|------|
| 1 | Working shot, SE side of building | S |
| 2 | Working shot, SE side of building | S |
| 3 | Working shot, SE side of building | S |
| 4 | Working shot, NE side of building | SE |
| 5 | Detail of trench and live service | NE |
| 6 | Working shot, NE side of building | SE |
| 7 | Trench section | SE |
| 8 | Working shot, NW side of building | SW |
| 9 | Pre-excavation of soakaway pipeline (grass removed) | NNE |
| 10 | Sample of finds from topsoil (001) and made ground (002) | - |
| 11 | Soakaway pipeline with topsoil (001) removed | NNE |
| 12 | Post excavation of Hollow 1 | SE |
| 13 | Post-excavation of soakaway pipeline, down to natural (000) | NNE |

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

| | |
|---|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | East Lothian Council Archaeology Service |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | The Bowerhouse, Spott, Dubar |
| PROJECT CODE: | BOWE |
| PARISH: | Spott |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Rebecca Hunt |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | CFA Archaeology Ltd |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Watching Brief |
| NMRS NO(S): | - |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | - |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | - |
| NGR (2 letters, 10 figures) | NT 66714 76626 |
| START DATE (this season) | |
| END DATE (this season) | 14 August 2013 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.) | N/A |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | A watching brief was carried out during groundbreaking works for the installation of drainage services and a soakaway at the Bowerhouse, Spott, Dunbar. No archaeological features were revealed. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | N/A |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Mrs Rebecca Tyndall |
| 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 (archive) East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (report) |

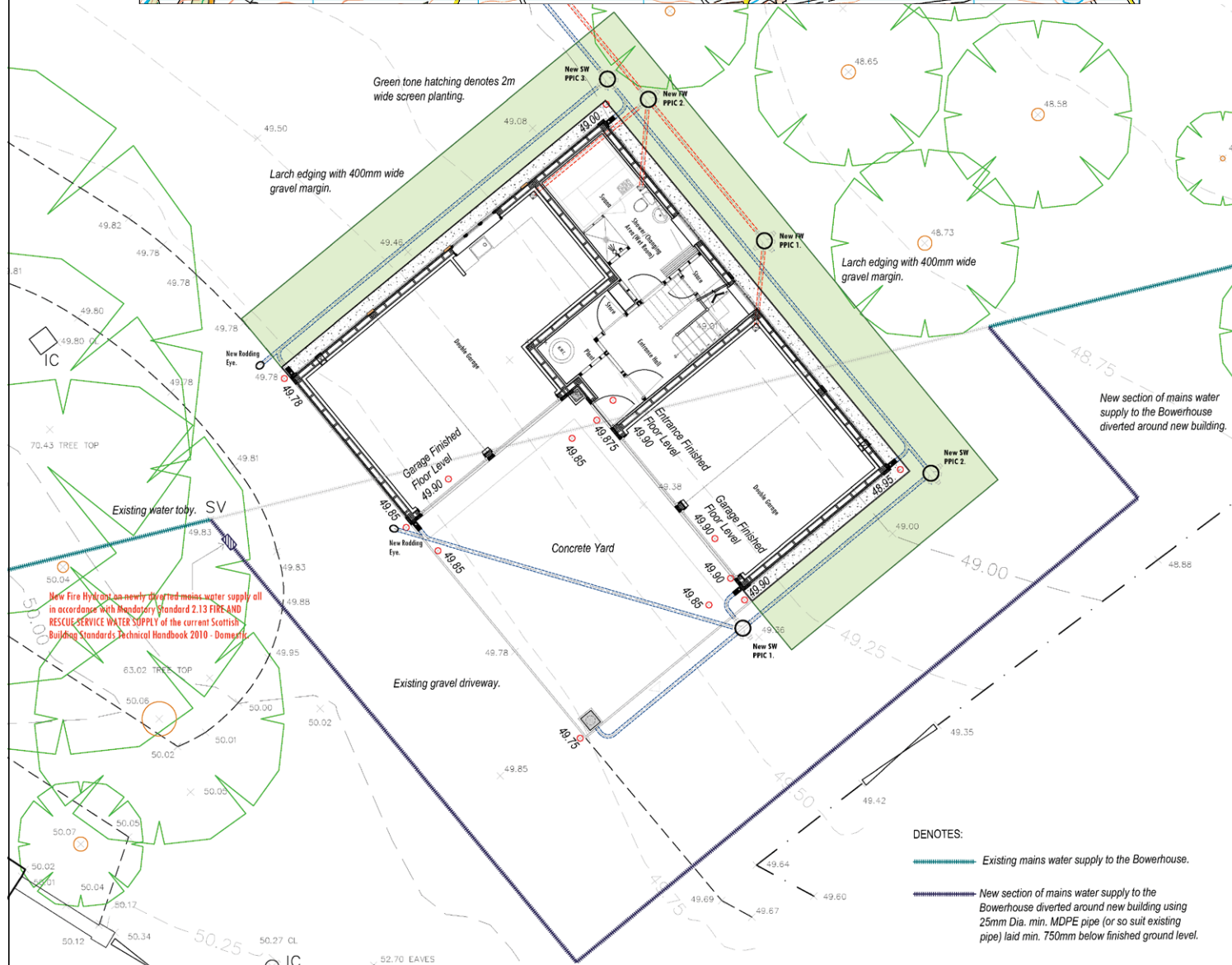
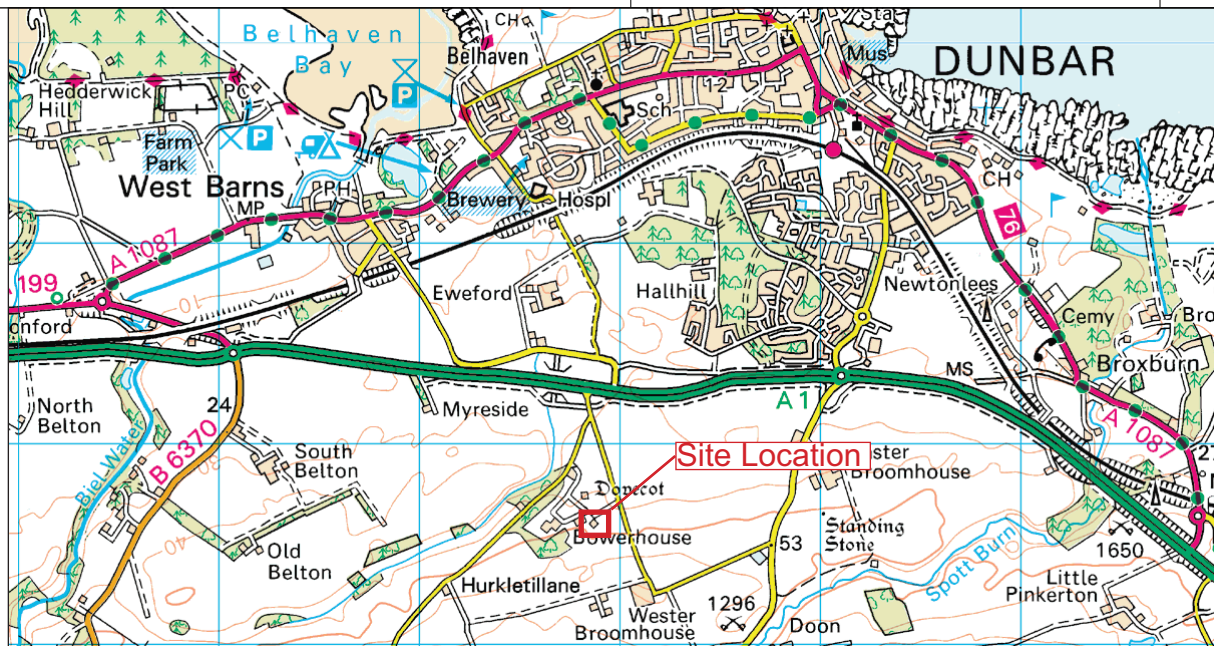






Fig. 2 View of drainage trench post-excavation



Fig. 3 View of soakaway trench post-excavation

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Fig. No: 2-3 | | Revision: A | Project: The Bowerhouse, Spott, Dunbar |  |  | 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: TB | Checked: MJ | Report No: 3072 | Client: Mrs Rebecca Tyndall | | | |

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