

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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## **Pencaitland Parish Church, Pencaitland, East Lothian**

### **Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. 3088**

## **CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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**Pencaitland Parish Church,  
Pencaitland, East Lothian**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of a watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in October 2013 at Pencaitland Parish Church, Pencaitland, East Lothian (NGR: NT 44383 68930) (Fig. 1), during the excavation of two shallow trenches on either side of the wall that forms the south-eastern boundary of the churchyard. The trenches were excavated for the laying of a new electrical cable.

The work was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 1st November 2011, produced by CFA on behalf of Chalmers & Co. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS). It consisted of archaeological monitoring during the excavation of trenches for drainage, groundbreaking works associated with the upgrading of footpaths, minor surface alterations in the churchyard, and the installation of electricity cabling and lighting columns. During these excavations, human remains were expected to be retrieved and reburied.

### **1.2 Background**

Pencaitland Parish Church and Burial Ground (RCAHMS No. NT46NW 16) is situated between the old settlements of Easter and Wester Pencaitland. The Church is A Listed (HB num. 18933) and is still in use as an ecclesiastical building.

The church dates from the late 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century, with a complicated history of major alterations with a number of blocked openings visible: the pre-reformation nave was probably built on medieval foundations, the addition of the Winton Aisle, the addition of the west bell tower and the Saltoun Aisle was in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and alterations to the church grounds took place in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The main church building is surrounded by its associated burial-ground, and may have been the site of a pre-Reformation seminary: the Pre-reformation church belonged to the monks of Dryburgh Abbey. The graveyard contains a selection of fine gravestones, including ornately carved table-tombs, and there are a number of wall monuments. The gate house is probably 18<sup>th</sup> century, and two Offertory Houses are probably 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The results of a more extensive archaeological watching brief at the church have been reported under separate cover (Karsgaard 2012).

### **1.3 Objectives**

The objectives of the watching brief were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Monitored Strip) to monitor all ground breaking works.
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording; to recover human remains and re-inter them appropriately; 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 Archaeological Watching Brief**

The two trenches (Fig 1) were excavated by a tracked mini-digger with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket or by hand under constant archaeological supervision. The depth of the trenches was limited to that required for the laying of the electrical connectors. All work was recorded using standard CFA recording forms, plans and digital photography.

## **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

The trench within the churchyard was c.3m long by 0.2m wide and up to 0.3m deep. Firm stony clay subsoil was revealed. The trench outside the churchyard was c.2.8m long by 0.5m wide and 0.7m deep. Subsoil was not reached by the excavation of this trench, which revealed only the topsoil profile. A hole was excavated below the wall to connect the two trenches.

No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed and no human remains were present.

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 East Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record.

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

## **4. REFERENCE**

Karsgaard, P 2012 *Pencaitland Parish Church, Pencaitland, East Lothian: Archaeological Watching Brief*, CFA Report No. 2099.

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register (Digital)

Photo no.	Description	From
1	Pre-ex of new cable trench location inside graveyard	E
2	Pre-ex of new cable trench location inside graveyard	NE
3	Working shot, inside graveyard	N
4	Working shot, inside graveyard	N
5	Working shot, inside graveyard	NE
6	Working shot, inside graveyard	NW
7	Detail of excavation under wall	N
8	Working shot, outside graveyard	S
9	Working shot, outside graveyard	S

## APPENDIX 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	East Lothian
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Pencaitland Parish Church, Pencaitland
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	PECH
<b>PARISH:</b>	Pencaitland
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Stuart Mitchell
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NT46NW 16
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Church and burial ground
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)</b>	NT 44383 68930
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	October 2013
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	October 2013
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was conducted in the grounds of Pencaitland Parish Church. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed and no human remains were discovered within the two shallow trenches that were excavated for an electrical cable at the south-western side of the churchyard.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	East Lothian Council
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	RCAHMS (archive) Midlothian Historic Environment Record (report)



Key

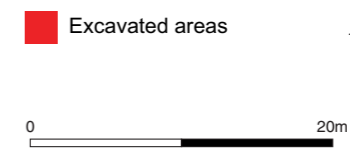
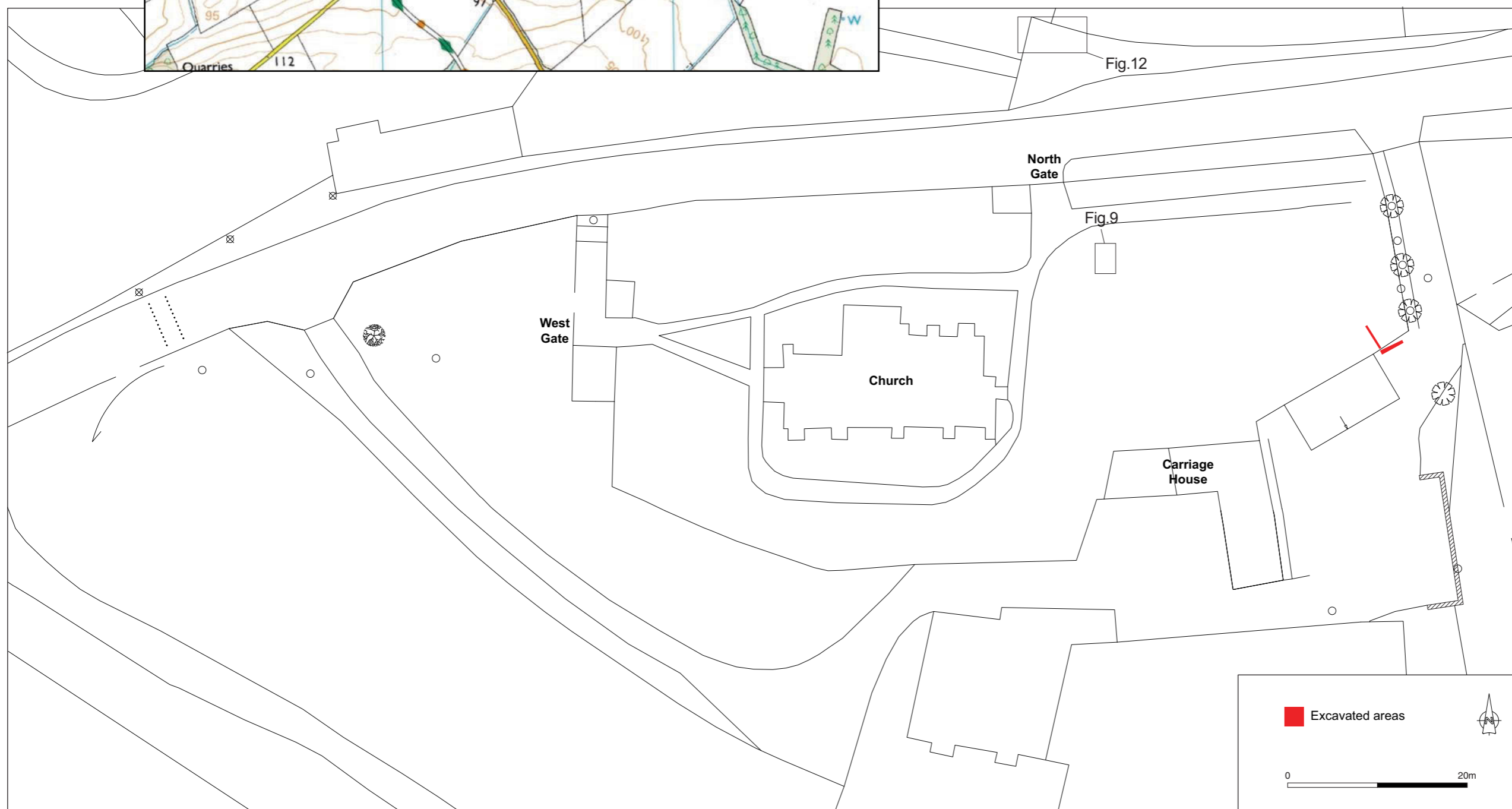


Fig. No:	1	Revision	A
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Title  
**Watching Brief Location Map**

Project  
**Pencaitland Parish Church**

Scale at A3  
**1:1500**

Client  
**East Lothian Council**