

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Environmental Impact Assessment*

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*Field Evaluation & Excavation*

*Historic Building Recording*


*Site & Landscape Survey*


*Geophysical Survey*

**184 Woodhall House,  
Woodhall Road,  
Edinburgh**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**Report No. 3055**

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standard operating procedures.

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## **CONTENTS**

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	4
3.	Archaeological Results	4
4.	Conclusions	5
5.	References	5

## **Appendices**

2.	Context Register	6
3.	Photographic Register	6

## **Illustrations (bound at rear)**

Fig. 1 Site location and trench plan

Fig. 2 Wall (014) in Trench 1

Fig.3 Wall (014) in Trench 1 with Woodhall House in background

Fig. 4 Wall (014) in Trench 2

Fig.5 Wall (014) in Trench 4

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation of a proposed sunken garden undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) at 184 Woodhall Road, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 19717 68352, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Lorn MacNeal Architects.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the work was produced by CFA and agreed by Mr John Lawson, City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Services (CECAS).

### **1.2 Background**

Planning permission (ref. 10/02702/FUL) has been granted for the construction of a new extension, garages, services and for landscaping (including a new sunken garden) to the rear of the Category B listed house at 184 Woodhall House, Woodhall Road. Woodhall House is of 17th century origins. It is rubble-built and had 3-storeys, but was recast as a late Georgian castellated 2-storey and basement mansion in c.1815.

As the location of the landscaping and new sunken garden is on the site of the garden of Woodhall House, an archaeological evaluation was required.

The ground breaking works required for the new extension, garage and service trenches are subject to an archaeological monitored strip, which is still ongoing and will be reported on under a separate cover.

### **1.3 Objectives**

The project's aims and objectives were:

- To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area through trial trenching evaluation;
- To establish the vulnerability of any archaeological features to the proposed development;
- To propose mitigation measures.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations.

### **2.2 Archaeological Evaluation**

A 10% evaluation (50m<sup>2</sup>) of the available site (500m<sup>2</sup>) was required. Four trenches were excavated (Fig 1), which covered an area of c.65m<sup>2</sup>. The presence of large tree roots and wood piles precluded the excavation of trenches along the northwest.

Trenches were excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and modern deposits down to subsoil or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was reached first. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

Samples of features of archaeological interest were excavated in order to establish their likely date, nature, extent and condition. All such sample excavation was conducted by hand. The samples were limited to the removal of only such deposits as was necessary to achieve the evaluation objectives.

## **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **3.1 General**

Numbers in bold and parentheses refer to contexts (Appendix 1). The numbers in the context register follow on from those identified in the monitored strip hence they do not start at 001.

### **3.2 The Evaluation**

*Trench 1 (aligned NNE to SSW; 10m long by 1.5m wide, 2.5m deep at NNE, 0.4m deep at SSW; Figs 1, 2 & 3)*

At the NNE end topsoil with a depth of c.0.2m (**015**) overlay a deep deposit of black sand with modern inclusions, including oil drums (**017**).

At the SSW end topsoil with a depth of 0.2m (**015**) overlay 0.2m of subsoil (**016**) which in turn overlay natural. Towards this end of the trench the remains of a wall (**014**) were identified. This was sealed by the topsoil and cut in to the subsoil. The wall was aligned c. NE-SW and extended beyond both sides of the trench and was 0.94m wide. The wall was constructed of a mixture of un-worked rounded igneous and flat sandstone rocks bonded with white sandy mortar.

*Trench 2 (aligned NE to SW; 10m long by 3m wide, 0.6m deep; extension at NW end 1.5m by 1.5m; Fig 1)*

Topsoil with a depth of 0.2m (015) overlay 0.4m subsoil (016) which in turn overlay natural. The continuation of the wall (014) was found.

*Trench 3 (aligned NE-SW; 10m long by 1.5m wide, 0.4m deep; Fig 1)*

Topsoil with a depth of 0.2m (015) directly overlay a deep layer of made ground (017) which in turn overlay natural. No archaeological deposits or features were revealed in this trench.

*Trench 4 (1.5m by 1.5m, 0.6m deep; Fig 1)*

Trench 4 was excavated c.0.8m to the NW of Trench 2 to test whether the wall (014) continued beyond the end of Trench 2. The wall was observed continuing along the same alignment. Topsoil with a depth of 0.2m topsoil (015) overlay subsoil (016) which in turn overlay natural.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The area of the sunken garden was investigated by trial trenching evaluation.

The trial trenching evaluation revealed the footings of a broad stone wall sealed by the topsoil and cut in to the subsoil. It ran to the south of, and parallel to, the current garden wall that is first shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1895. No wall is shown at this location on the Ordnance survey map of 1853 and it seems probable that the wall footings relate to an earlier garden boundary. It is not considered that this wall relates to any earlier residential structures in this area. No other archaeological deposits or finds were revealed.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

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.

#### **5. REFERENCES**

Ordnance Survey 1853 (surveyed 1852) *Edinburghshire*, Sheet V, 6 inch to 1 mile.

Ordnance Survey 1895 (revised 1892) *Edinburghshire*, Sheet V11.NW, 6 inch to 1 mile.

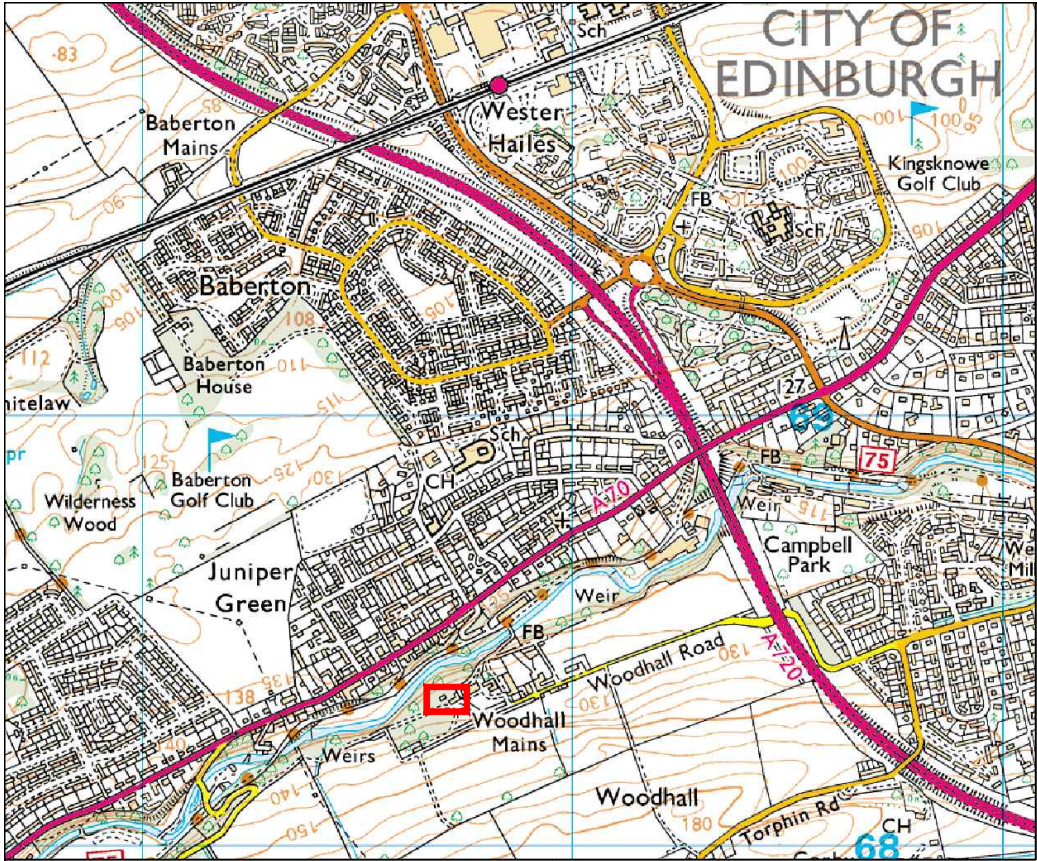
## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Description
014	Wall
015	Topsoil
016	Subsoil
017	Made ground Trench 1

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	Trench 1	SSW	Sun
2	Trench 2	NE	Sun
3	Trench 3	NE	Sun
4	Wall 014 in Trench 1	SW	Sun
5	Wall 014 in Trench 1	NE	Sun
6-7	General site view	E & NE	Sun
8	View along Wall alignment (ranging rod marking the line)	SW	Sun
9	Wall 014 in Trench 2	SE	Sun
10	Wall 015 in Trench 4	SE	Sun





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Title: Site location and trench plan			Project: 184 Woodhall House, Woodhall Road, Edinburgh Archaeological Evaluation		Scale at A3: 1:250









*Fig. 2 - Wall (014) in Trench 1*



*Fig. 3 - Wall (014) in Trench 1 with Woodhall House in background*

Fig. No: <b>2-3</b>		Revision: <b>A</b>	Project: 184 Woodhall House, Woodhall Road, Edinburgh, Archaeological Evaluation			<b>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD</b> 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 - Wall (014) in Trench 2*



*Fig. 5 - Wall (014) in Trench 4*