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Geophysical Survey

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

**Monitored Strip
Report No. 3162**

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

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Woodhall Road,
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of a monitored strip undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between the 18th of June 2013 and the 15th of May 2014 at 184 Woodhall Road, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 1969 6833, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Lorn MacNeal Architects on behalf of Mr and Mrs Martin Robertson.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 22 May 2013 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 and services around 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.

The ground breaking works required for the new extension, garage and service trenches were subject to the archaeological monitored strip. A separate archaeological investigation was conducted on a proposed sunken garden and was reported on under a separate cover (Lewis 2013).

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the project were to conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Monitored Strip) during the excavation of all groundbreaking works associated with the construction of the extension, garages, services and landscaping to the rear of the house and any other groundbreaking associated with the application.

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 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 tracked mechanical excavator with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.

All discoveries, including soil profiles and subsoil characteristics, were recorded using standard CFA recording forms and digital photography.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Numbers in bold and parentheses refer to contexts (Appendix 1). Other site records are included as Appendices 3-4.

3.2 The Monitored Strip

The extension, garage and service connections were observed during this phase of work.

Extension (Figs.1, 2, & 3)

The ground breaking works for a small extension to the rear of the main house was observed. A trench c.9.5m by 0.9m wide was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.75m. A brick surface (**001**), c. 0.05m thick overlay 0.1m thickness of type 1 (**002**), below which was made ground (**003**). Various modern and 19th century services were observed but no significant archaeological deposits or features were revealed.

Garage (Figs.1, 2, 4, 6 & 7)

The ground breaking works for the new garage was monitored. Modern deposits were revealed including layers and drainage associated with a former garage (**004**, **005**, **006**, **007** and **008**). Excavation of the foundation trench for the north side of the new garage revealed modern levelling deposits (made ground) (**009** and **010**) to the full 0.90m depth of the trench, indicating that large quantities of modern material had been dumped to level out the natural downhill slope. The foundation trenches for the south side the garage revealed two earlier dumped layers (**011/013** and **012**) which contained domestic refuse (oyster shell, coal and charcoal) and lime mortar, possibly from early renovations of the hall. The lack of 20th century material in these levelling deposits formed to the rear of the house suggests a 19th century or earlier date.

Services (Figs.1, 2, 8 & 9)

Trenches for various services were excavated during the development. These included a gas pipeline around the back of woodhall house, as well as water and cable trenches for electric lighting further to the west. Deposits revealed along the East side of Woodhall house were found to have been heavily disturbed by an earlier waste water pipe. Further west however, made up ground (**023**) was revealed in the trench extending along towards a manhole where it was truncated by modern services. This mortar-rich deposit was similar to layers (**011/013**) in the garage trench and it was probably laid down during renovations to the house in early 19th century. A stone box drain (**024**) had been cut into this layer. Further to the west the gas pipe trench encountered dumped layer (**011/013**) again and two more modern levelling layers (**026**) and (**028**). A narrow water pipe trench was excavated from the garage towards the tennis courts. Deposits in this trench largely comprised disturbed topsoil (**032**) and made up ground (**017**) above natural gravels and bedrock (**000**). At the far western end of this trench the foundations for a wall (**031**) running at an angle to the trench

were found cut into the natural ground. Shallow trenches for cable lighting were also viewed but these revealed only disturbed topsoil (032).

4. CONCLUSION

The monitored strip has shown that various deposits of made ground have been dumped to the North of Woodhall house over the last two centuries. This essentially extended the house grounds by levelling up an area which naturally would have sloped down to the water of Leith. As the natural geology was not encountered on this side of the house it appears that this slope was originally very steep. The lower dumped deposits that contained domestic refuse (oyster shell, coal and charcoal) and lime mortar appear to be levelling deposits created in the 19th century or earlier. It seems likely that they relate to renovations when the house was converted into a late Georgian mansion.

The stone wall revealed in the water pipe trench east of the house may have been part of a garden boundary in this part of the grounds.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation 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 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

Bibliographic

Lewis, J 2013. 184 Woodhall House, Woodhall Road, Edinburgh, Archaeological Evaluation. CFA unpublished technical report No. 3055

Cartographic

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
000	Natural geology of gravel terraces, yellowish-brown sands and gravels with large pieces of rock
001	Modern concrete brick surface behind Woodhall house, 5cm thick
002	Type 1 below 001, 5-15cm thick
003	Made ground rear of extension, heavily disturbed by services. Dark brown sands and gravels with frequent sub-rounded cobbles, 15-65cm thick
004	Yellowish-beige fine sand above (009), shallow. Relates to surface N of old garage.
005	Fill of 008, a mid-brown clayey sandy silt. Contains drain pipe. Drain for old garage.
006	Type 1 for old garage
007	Lens of topsoil within 006, SW end of stripped area for new garage.
008	Cut for drainage channel behind former garage
009	Made ground – modern levelling. Mixed light brown sands, clays and grits with frequent small-med sub-angular stones, more than 40cm thick. Contains plastic.
010	Made ground – modern levelling. Mid to dark brown clayey sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular to sub-rounded stones. Contains concrete and roof slate fragments.
011	Made ground. Same as 013. A light brown, slightly clayey sandy silt, moderate compaction, with occasional lumps of charcoal and small pieces of coal.
012	Made ground above (013/011). An orange grey-brown clayey silt, moderate to loose, with 80% angular to sub-rounded stones. Contains charcoal lumps and whole oyster shells.
013	Made ground. Same as 011. At the east end, this layer becomes increasingly gravelly with frequent inclusions of pieces of crushed plaster and lime mortar.
014	Wall found in evaluation trenches 1, 2 and 4. Rounded and flat igneous rocks bonded in a white sandy mortar. Measures 0.94m wide
015	Topsoil W of new garage in area of evaluation
016	Subsoil W of new garage in area of evaluation
017	Made ground in area of evaluation, below (017)
018	Concrete slabs at N side of Woodhall house, noted in gas pipe trench
019	Green sand over slabs (018), noted in gas pipe trench
020	Concrete below slabs (018) N of Woodhall house, noted in gas pipe trench
021	Fill of cut for electric cable, purple-brown silt, noted in gas pipe trench
022	Electric cable found in gas trench, noted in gas pipe trench
023	Made ground N of Woodhall house. A light brown reddish clayey sand and silt with fragments of charcoal and plaster. Occasional medium stones. Probably the same as layer (011/013), noted in gas pipe trench
024	A small box drain in gas pipe trench.. Measures 0.7cm wide, 0.4cm high.
025	A dark grey brown loose ash and coal deposit inside box drain (024)
026	A 19 th century dumped layer above (011/013). Mid to dark brown clayey sand with coal frags and 19 th century ceramic, discarded. More than 60cm thick, noted in gas pipe trench
027	Possible subsoil below (011/013), a light brown clayey silt containing frequent rounded stones 5-10cm dia and occ angular frags, noted in gas pipe trench
028	A orangey-yellow brown layer of dumped stones, modern levelling W of new garage, noted in gas pipe trench
029	Cut for flue (024)
030	Cut for foundation trench of wall (031).
031	Foundation for wall, a grey-brown clayey sand with frequent sub-rounded stones, 10-30cm diameter. Fill of [030]. Roughly 1m wide.
032	A heavily disturbed topsoil to the W of Woodhall house noted in water pipe trench. Dark brown silty loam with occ pieces of plastic and large stones. Contains 19 th century pottery, discarded. 50cm+ thick

APPENDIX 3: Drawing Register

No.	Description	Sheet No	Scale
1	Plan of extension foundation trench	1	1:100
2	Plan of new garage foundations	2	1:50
3	Sample section, garage foundations	2	1:10
4	Sample section, garage foundations	2	1:10
5	Section of layer (009) and (011), garage foundations	2	1:20
6	Sample section, garage foundations	2	1:20
7	Section of layers (010), (012) and (013), garage foundations	3	1:20
8	Plan of wall (015) in evaluation trench 1	4	1:20
9	Plan of wall (015) in evaluation trench 2	4	1:20
10	Plan of wall (015) in evaluation trench 4	4	1:20
11	Plan of trench for gas pipe	5/6	1:100
12	Sample section, gas pipe trench	5	
13	Sample section, gas pipe trench	5	
14	Sample section, gas pipe trench	5	
15	Sample section, gas pipe trench	5	1:10
16	Sample section, gas pipe trench	5	1:10
17	Sample section, gas pipe trench	6	1:10
18	Sample section, gas pipe trench	6	1:10
19	Sample section, gas pipe trench	6	1:10
20	Section of drain (024)	6	1:10
21	Plan of wall foundation (031)	7	1:20
22	SE facing section of wall foundation (031)	7	1:20

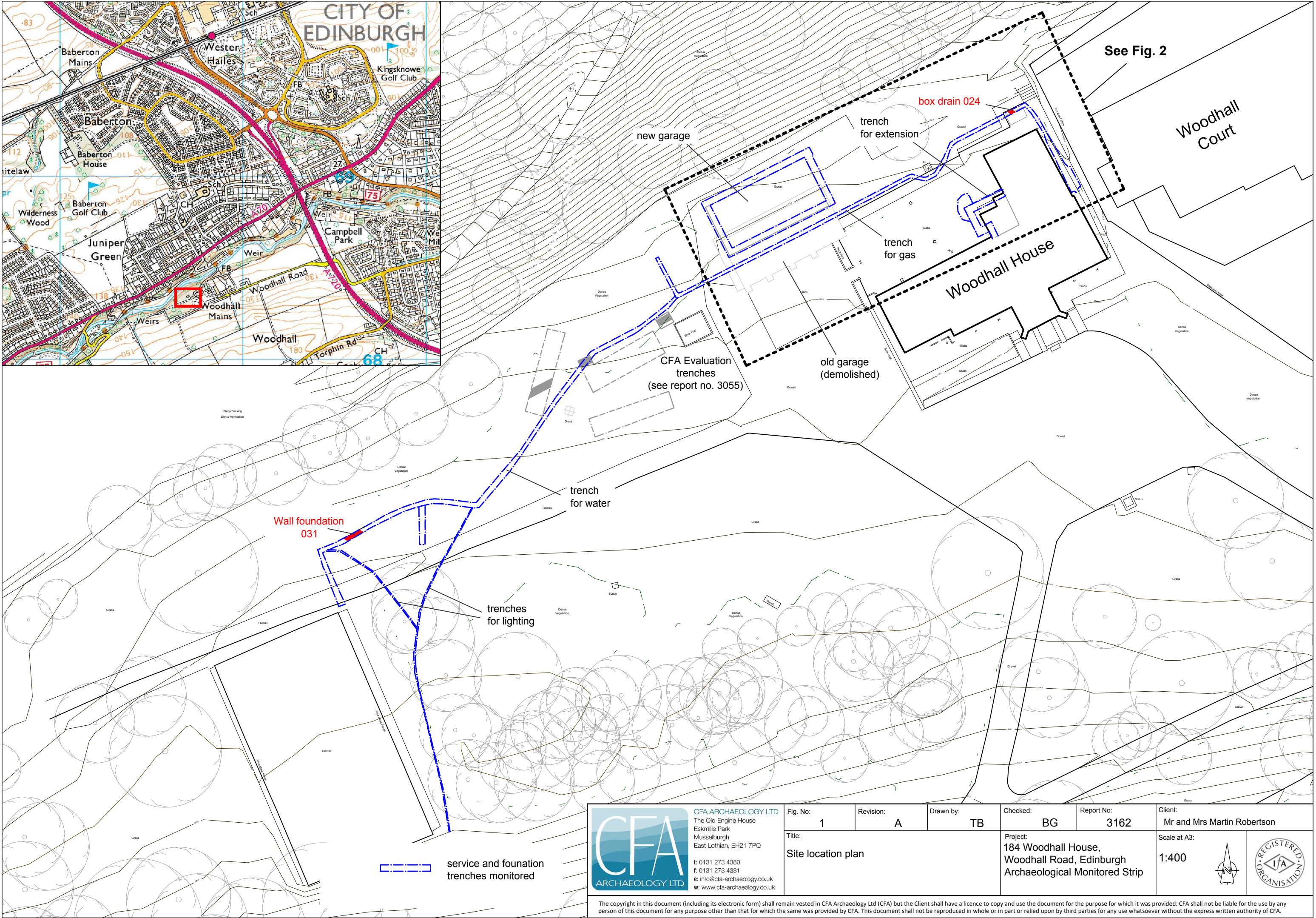
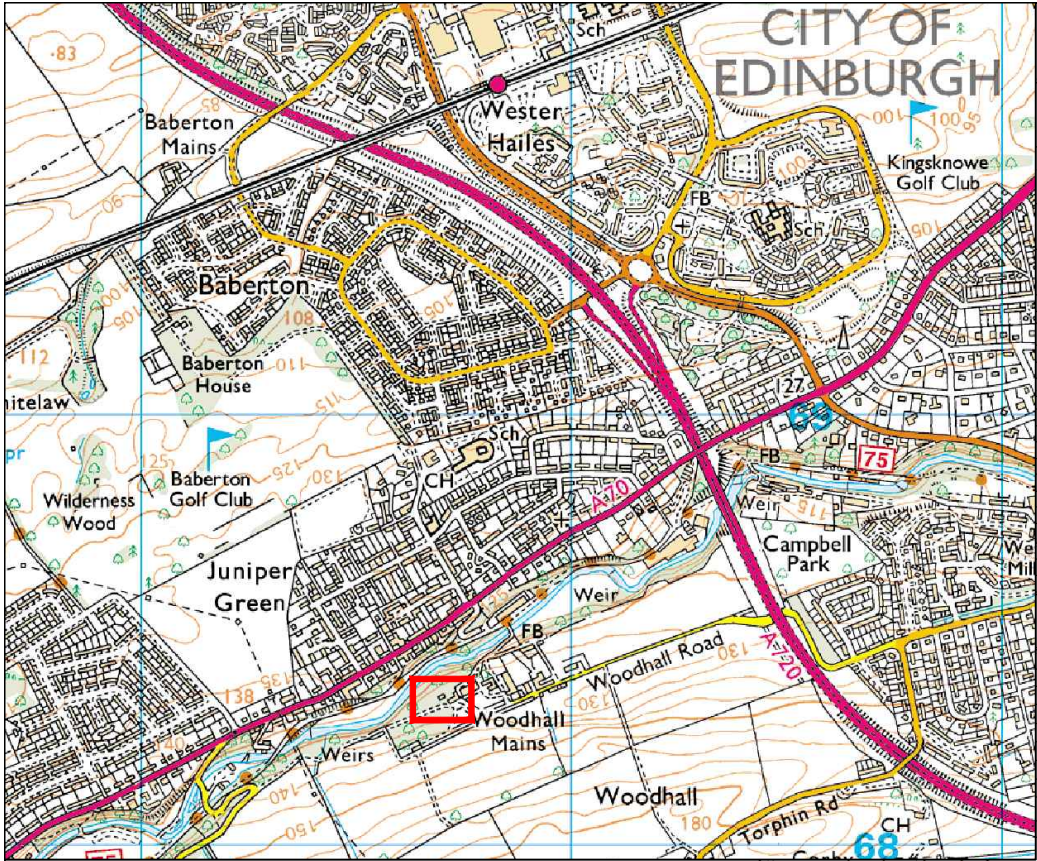
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	General view of extension foundation trench	W	Sun
2	E facing section of above trench	NE	Sun
3	N extension foundation trench	NE	Sun
4	General shot of garage area after surface scraped back	SE	Overcast
5	General shot of garage area after surface scraped back	NE	Overcast
6-7	Shot scraping back garage area	NE	Overcast
8	Shot excavating garage area revealing drain [008]	N	Overcast
9	Starting to excavate rear foundation trench of garage	NE	Overcast
10	General shot excavating rear foundation trench of garage	NE	Overcast
11	Shot showing made up ground (009) and (010)	SE	Overcast
12	Shot showing large piece of brick wall found in layer (009)	E	Overcast
13	Demolition rubble found at W end of foundation trench in layer (009)	NE	Overcast
14	Photo excavating W foundation trench for garage	NW	Overcast
15	Photo showing layer (011/013) in W foundation trench	NW	Overcast
16	Photo showing section of W foundation trench showing possible post-medieval layer (011/013) below (009)	NE	Overcast
17	Starting to excavate the E foundation trench for garage	NW	Overcast
18	Excavating past drain [018]	NW	Overcast
19	Photo of E foundation trench of garage showing layer (012)	NW	Overcast
20-1	Shots of W-facing section in E foundation trench showing layer (012), N end	W	Overcast
22-3	Shots of W-facing section in E foundation trench showing layer (012), S end	W	Overcast
24-5	Excavation the S trench for garage foundations	NE	Overcast
26	General shot of trench for gas pipe	NE	Overcast
27	Excavating trench for gas pipe	NE	Overcast
28	Excavating through wall of former garage	NE	Overcast

No.	Description	From	Conditions
29-30	Box drain (024) in gas trench	NW	Overcast
31	Shot of gas trench in front of new garage	NE	Overcast
32	Layer (027), possible subsoil, below (011/013)	NE	Overcast
33	Photo of NE end of trench for gas pipe showing layer (028)	N	Rain
34	General shot of excavated gas trench	SW	Rain
35	Excavating lighting cable trenches	NE	Patchy cloud
36	Shot of lighting cable trench	NE	Patchy cloud
37	Excavating cable and water trench near the new garage	E	Patchy cloud
38	Excavating cable and water trench near the new garage	E	Patchy cloud
39	Made ground (017) encountered when excavating water pipe trench	SW	Patchy cloud
40	Drainage for lawn, water trench	S	Patchy cloud
41	Subsoil below disturbed topsoil (032)	S	Patchy cloud
42	General shot excavating water trench	E	Patchy cloud
43	Shot excavating through wall foundation (031)	E	Patchy cloud
44	Shot excavating through wall foundation (031)	E	Patchy cloud
45	S facing section of wall foundation (031)	S	Patchy cloud
46	S facing section of wall foundation (031)	S	Patchy cloud
47	N facing section of wall foundation (031)	N	Patchy cloud

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	184 Woodhall House, Woodhall Road, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	WOOH
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Barton, T
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Monitored Strip
NMRS NO(S):	NT16NE 111
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NT 1969 6833
START DATE (this season)	18 th June 2013
END DATE (this season)	15 th May 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A monitored strip was carried out during construction of a new extension, garages and services in the grounds of Woodhall House. Dumped deposits were discovered which contained domestic refuse (oyster shell, coal and charcoal) and lime mortar. They are considered likely to be levelling deposits associated with renovations to Woodhall House when it was rebuilt as a late Georgian mansion. A wall revealed to the west of the house was thought to be part of an early garden wall.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr and Mrs Martin Robertson
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

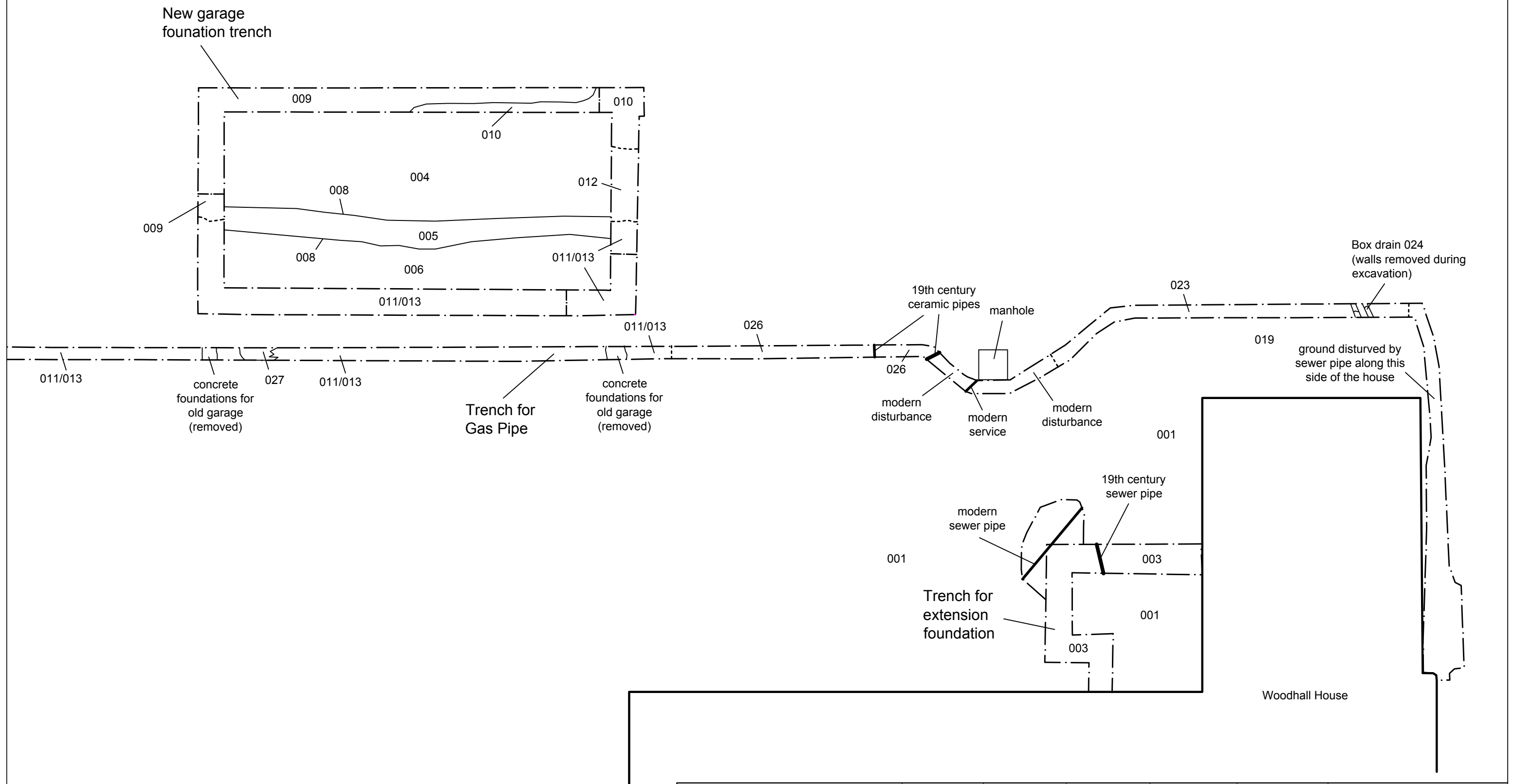


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Fig. No: 1	Revision: A	Drawn by: TB	Checked: BG	Report No: 3162	Client: Mr and Mrs Martin Robertson
Title: Site location plan			Project: 184 Woodhall House, Woodhall Road, Edinburgh Archaeological Monitored Strip		Scale at A3: 1:400



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	Title: Deposits and features around Woodhall House and Garage			Project: 184 Woodhall House, Woodhall Road, Edinburgh Archaeological Monitored Strip		Scale at A3: 1:125 





Fig. 3 - Shot of trench for extension foundations



Fig. 4 - Shot showing stripping of topsoil for garage foundations



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Project:
**184 Woodhall Road, Edinburgh,
Archaeological Monitored Strip**

Fig. No: 3-4 Report: 3162 Drawn: TB CKD: BG Date: 30/05/14

Client:
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Scale:



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Fig. 5 - Photo of box drain 024 in gas Trench



Fig. 6 - Photo showing mortar-rich deposit 013 in garage foundation trench



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Fig. 7 - Photo showing dark made up ground 010 at the rear of the garage



Fig. 8 - Excavating trenches for lighting



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*Fig. 9 - Wall foundation **031** discovered in the water pipe trench*



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