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Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**66 Buccleuch Street,
Edinburgh
Odeon Cinema Fly Tower,
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Report No 3263

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3. Test Pit 2 showing the depth of natural clay approximately 0.9m below ground level.
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out 66 Buccleuch Street, Edinburgh on behalf of Cruden Homes (East). The work followed on from a programme of building recording work carried out between March and November 2014; this report should be read in conjunction the results of that work presented in CFA Report Nos 3140 and 3225 (Cressey & Mitchell 2014; Cressey 2014).

1.2 Background

A re-development scheme for 18 student flats required the demolition of the fly tower and the single storey queue shelter and associated structures to the rear of the auditorium (Fig 1) of the former A Listed Odeon cinema (formerly the 1930s New Victoria Cinema) on Clerk Street, Edinburgh.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological recording works were:

1. To carry out a watching brief following the demolition of the fly tower.
2. Record photographically the structural 1930s steel framework on the auditorium wall following the demolition of the fly tower.
3. Record the presence of any archaeological remains pre-dating the sites use as a cinema.
4. Produce a succinct report on the results of the watching brief.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

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

2.2 Watching Brief

The area occupied by the site of the fly tower and queue shelter was monitored through targeted watching briefs. This included recording exposed sections revealed in engineers test pits during earth removal by a mechanical excavator.

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, photography and by completing standard CFA recording forms.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Exposed wall of Odeon Cinema (Plate 1)

During the initial building survey of the interior of the fly tower (Cressey & Mitchell 2014) the partition wall between the fly tower and the Odeon Cinema was found to contain a large horizontal composite bessumer beam supported by a stanchion at each end. Later building recording during the demolition of the fly tower roof (Cressey 2014) confirmed the presence of a series of pulley wheels that hoisted the auditorium curtains. Owing to the constraints of recording this large wall whilst the fly tower was still standing it was decided to photograph it once the tower had been demolished. As the wall incorporating the 1930s steel frame was now unsupported it was braced by purpose-built steel buttresses. Plate 1 shows the full extent of the 1930s steel framework.

3.2 Watching brief results

Excavation was monitored within three discrete areas (Areas 1-3, Fig 1).

Area 1 (Fig 1)

Two engineer's test-pits were excavated between the footprint of the demolished queue shelter and the gable wall of a tenement building. Test pit 1 (Plate 2) revealed a deposit of mixed rubble above natural yellow sandstone bedrock at 0.4m below the present ground level. Test pit 2 (Plate 3) revealed a deposit of mixed clay over natural yellow clay at a depth of 0.9m below the present ground level.

Below the tenement gable a supporting cast-iron beam was revealed, resting on natural sandstone at a depth of 0.3m below the present ground level.

Area 2 (Fig 1)

Area 2 incorporated the foundations of the north wall of the fly tower, which were found to have a depth of 1m. The wall footings were 0.6m wide and constructed of brick resting on concrete foundations. On the east side of the wall was a large deposit of rubble used to infill the cellar below the fly tower.

Area 3 (Fig 1)

Area 3 comprised the basement foundation wall (Plate 4) which was c.3.5m high and 0.6m wide, and built of five courses of brick. No construction trench was present, but immediately behind the foundation, an assortment of concrete, brick and rubble back-fill capped with thick concrete was found to be present.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Monitoring of the engineer's test pits below the footprint of the queue shelter revealed the presence of made ground to a depth of 1.0m resting on bedrock, and cellarge in excess of 2.5m deep was found to be present beneath the fly-tower. Earlier geotechnical test pitting, which had not been monitored archaeologically, had also demonstrated that made-ground varied from 0.9m to 2.5m in depth directly onto bedrock across the whole site.

The results of the watching brief and the geotechnical test pitting indicated that there was no potential that deposits or archaeological features were preserved within the development footprint.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the RCAHMS and copies of reports will be lodged with the City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monument Record.

A summary statement on the archaeological recording of the cinema complex will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2) and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

5. REFERENCES

- Cressey, M & Mitchell, S 2014. *66 Buccleuch Street, Odeon Cinema, Edinburgh, Historic Building Survey* Report No 3140.
- Cressey, M 2014. *66 Buccleuch Street, Edinburgh Odeon Cinema Fly Tower, Historic Building Survey* Report No 3225.

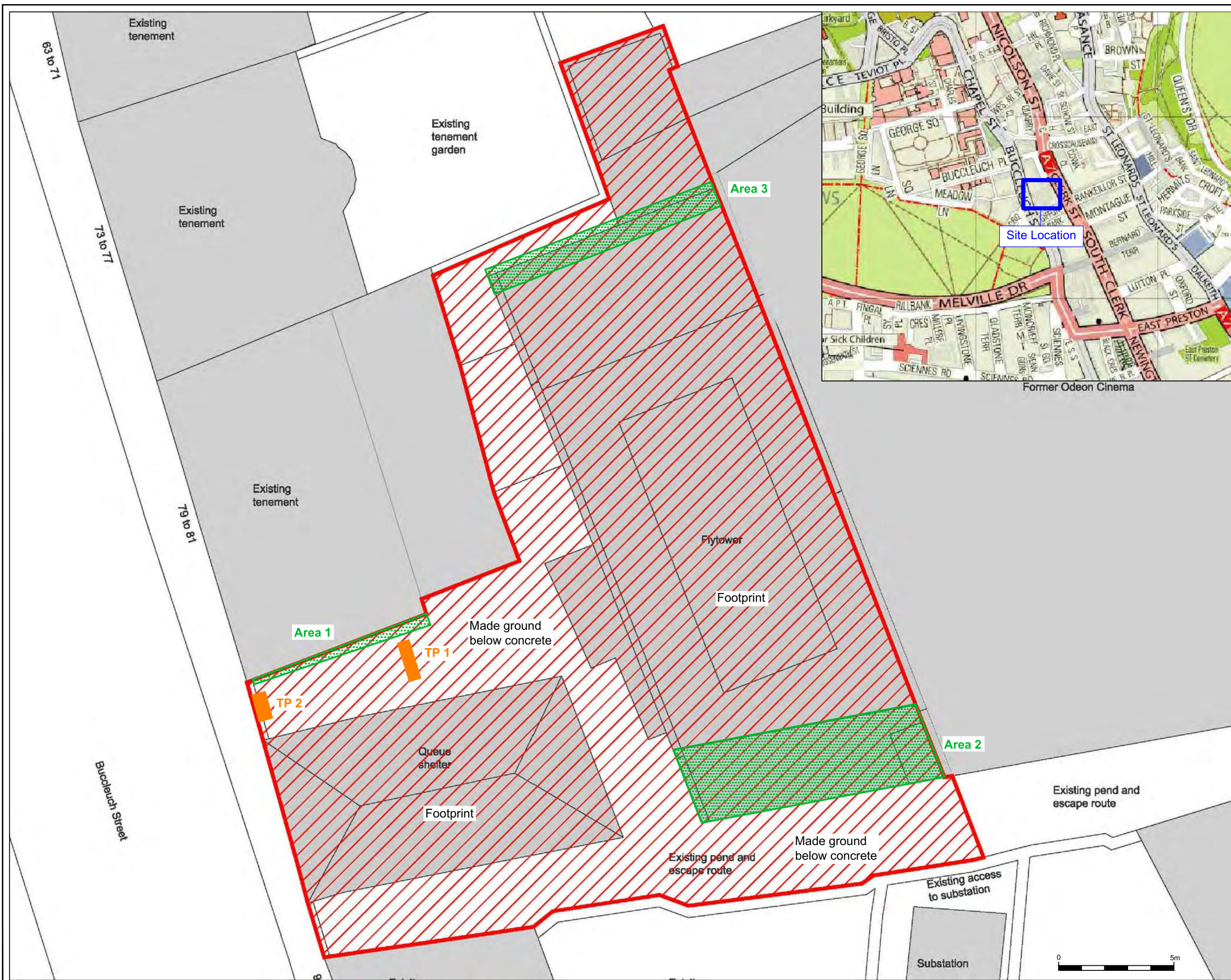
APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Photo Number	Contexts/Description	Taken From
1-3	Rear W-facing wall of the fly tower showing bressumer beam	NW
4	General rubble dump at the centre of the site	N
5	Concrete demolition material infilling cellar void	N
4	Demolition rubble dumped at the centre of the site	N
5	Looking north on the centre of the site	S
6-9	Looking west on the site of the former queue shelter	E
10	Steel buttresses supporting the exposed elevation following the demolition of the fly tower and 1930's and modern brickwork	SW
11-12	Riveted scansion on the south side of the Odeon Cinema	W
13	Demolition infill within the fly tower cellar	N
14	Cast-iron beam resting on natural bed rock below the tenement gable wall	S
15	Cast-iron beam supporting the tenement gable wall	SW
16-21	Natural sandstone exposed below the wall of the tenement gable	
22-23	Natural sandstone close to the present ground level	W
24	General view of the buttressed wall of the Odeon Cinema	W
25	Natural sandstone exposed below the wall of the tenement gable with footings trench marked out	S
26-29	Engineers test pit close to the tenement gable	W
30	Natural sandstone exposed in the engineers trench	S
31-32	Natural exposed near the pavement below the queue shelter	N
33	Remains of south-west corner of the fly tower at basement level	N
34	Remains of the southern fly tower wall at basement level with made ground behind	N
35-36	Supported Odeon Cinema wall and contrasting brickwork	W
37	Natural outcropping sandstone close to the tenement gable	S
38-40	Detailed shot of the cast-iron beam running below the tenement gable	S
41	General shot of the site	S
42-43	Made ground close to the tenement building	S
44	Upstanding corner of the brick-built fly tower	N
45	Middle of the fly tower wall at basement level showing made ground behind	N
46	General view of the site	S
47	Basement level below the fly tower showing made ground	W
48	Buttressed wall of the Odeon Cinema	N
49	Wall footings of the fly tower's north wall	S
50	Return wall scar of the north wall of the fly tower	W
51-52	Made ground and concrete floor surfaces on line with the west wall of the fly tower	S
53	Mid-section of the basement wall of the fly tower	N
54	General view of the site facing Buccleugh Street	E
55	General view of the site looking northwards	S

APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	66 Buccleuch Street, Edinburgh: Odeon Cinema Fly Tower Historic Building Survey.
PROJECT CODE:	BUCC
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	M Cressey
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Historic Buildings Survey and watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT27SE 1636 (Odeon Cinema)
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Queue Shelter and Cinema/theatre fly tower
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/a
NGR	NT 2612 7279
START DATE (this season)	May 2014
END DATE (this season)	February 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>The cinema on Buccleuch Street was built in 1930 and originally named as the New Victoria Theatre, later being renamed the Odeon. In the 1980s the cinema was converted into a multiplex cinema and the original theatre fly tower was converted into Cinemas 4-5.</p> <p>The brick-built fly tower was originally built to carry an array of stage lights and pulley systems that allowed the main auditorium curtains to rise and fall. The ground floor of the fly tower also housed a large number of dressing rooms, which were removed when Cinema 4 was installed. The interior east facing elevation of the fly tower was masked by an internal steel staircase and other structural infilling related to Cinemas 4 and 5. Stripping out this 1980s steelwork allowed access to the roof space of the fly tower where the 1930s composite roof was exposed. This was found to comprise two main supporting Pratt trusses built into the fly tower walls. The trusses carried two longer load-bearing Pratt trusses that supported the attic floor of the mansard roof. The sloping angle of the mansard jack-trusses were fixed to the end of the main attic floor beams to form the low angled profile of the roof. The purlins were timber and supported on the jack-trusses by a series of angled cleats. Other features recorded included stairs and window; a blocked doorway; both original entrances into the fly tower; and a sprinkler riser pipe with shut-off valve and gauges made by Mather and Platt, Engineers, Manchester.</p> <p>The queue shelter was built a year after the New Victoria was opened in 1930. The shelter was a simple functional building. Its construction using plate steel frames and stanchions for the walls and angle iron for the composite roof was typical of the period when this type of steelwork was widely used in industrial buildings and agricultural sheds. The elevation fronting Buccleuch Street was constructed using ashlar stonework and quoins. The elevation supported a sign board lit by electric lights that depicted 'The New Victoria Front Stalls Entrance'.</p> <p>A watching brief revealed the deep foundations of the fly tower and its basement and bedrock close to the current ground level. No archaeological features that predated the cinema complex were revealed.</p>

PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Cruden Homes (East) Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	mccressey@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS, Reports lodged with SMR and NMRS.



Key:

- Development Area
- Watching Brief Area
- Test Pit

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Fig. No:	1	Report No:	3263
Title: Location Map showing Areas 1-3			
Project: 66 Buccleuch Street Odeon Cinema Fly Tower Archaeological Watching Brief			
Client: Cruden Homes (East) Ltd			
Scale at A3: 1:150			
Drawn by:	SW	Checked:	MC
		Date:	19/02/2015
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Plate 1 - Exposed wall of the Odeon Cinema with modern infilling between the 1930 rivetted steel frame



Plate 2 - Test Pit 1 and exposed sandstone bedrock close to ground level



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Title:	Plate. 1 - 2	Report: 3263	Drawn: SW	CKD: MC	Date: 19/02/15
Project:	Client: Cruden Homes (East) Ltd 66 Buccleuch Street, Odeon Cinema Fly Tower, Archaeological Watching Brief				



Plate 3 - Test Pit 2 showing the depth of natural clay approximately 0.9m below ground level



Plate 4 - Area 3 showing the depth of the fly tower basement walls and made ground behind



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Title:	Plate: 3 - 4	Report: 3263	Drawn: SW	CKD: MC	Date: 19/02/15
	Client: Cruden Homes (East) Ltd				
Project: 66 Buccleuch Street, Odeon Cinema Fly Tower, Archaeological Watching Brief					