

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

*archaeological consultants*

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*Environmental Impact Assessment*

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*Field Evaluation & Excavation*

*Historic Building Recording*

*Site & Landscape Survey*

*Geophysical Survey*

**Land between Canongate,  
Holyrood Road & St John Street,  
City of Edinburgh**

**Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 3)  
Report No 3058**

## **CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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

**Land between Canongate,  
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# **1. INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of phase 2 of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in May 2013 on land between Canongate, Holyrood Road & St John Street in the City of Edinburgh (NGR: NT 26295 73690) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Balfour Beatty.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 25 March 2013 covering this evaluation was produced by CFA. This WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

## **1.2 Background**

Balfour Beatty has been granted planning permission from the City of Edinburgh Council for a student housing development on land between Canongate, Holyrood Road & St John Street, Edinburgh. The terms of the planning consent required a programme of archaeological works including a trial trenching evaluation and a photographic survey of the southern boundary wall fronting Holyrood Road.

The programme of works as identified in the WSI was carried out on a phased basis because not all of the areas earmarked for evaluation were available at the same time. The Phase 1 area was covered by a series of portacabins and hardstanding areas to the south of the site (Suddaby 2013). The Phase 2 area was a car park and turning area to the north of the site (Kirby 2013). This report covers the targeted evaluation of an area below the former St Mary's Land building and of part of the footprint of the proposed Block K, specifically a section of this building requiring pilling. This area coincided with an area previously evaluated (Suddaby 2013).

## **1.3 Objectives**

The 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 where appropriate to avoid, reduce or offset any predicted negative impacts on the archaeological resource.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

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

### **2.2 Evaluation**

Two trenches 6 & 7 (numbers following from Phase 1) were excavated.

The overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.8m wide smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

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

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified and trench positions were surveyed using industry standard surveying equipment.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

#### 3.1 General

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

#### 3.2 Trial Trenches

##### *Trench 6*

Trench 6 was 14.4m long by 1.8m wide and was 1.7m deep at its easternmost end and 2m deep at its westernmost end. It was targeted to cover part of the footprint of the former St Mary's Land building to identify what level of disturbance had taken place during its construction. The natural was a soft mudstone like material and overlying this for the full depth of the trench was a mixed deposit containing re-deposited natural, brick and sandstone rubble and re-deposited black silty clay with some occasional oyster shell fragments. The silty clay was obviously the re-deposited remains of the garden soil which were found in situ in other parts of the site. It was clear that this area had been comprehensively disturbed during the construction of St Mary's Land and that no in situ deposits survived at this location. At the east end of the trench a reinforced concrete pile extended for the full depth of the trench and down in to the natural.

##### *Trench 7*

Trench 7 was 12m long by 1.8m wide although at its southern end for the last 4m it was widened to 5m. At its northern end natural soft mudstone like material and grey clay was identified. The base for a set of modern stairs had been removed from this area and these had been founded on to this natural so there were no overlying deposits. The grey clay gave way to a pinkish brown clay (**010**) with black mottles throughout and containing frequent degraded stone. It is not clear whether this deposit was natural or not. This was in turn overlain by 0.17m deep deposit of dark grey clay (**009**) with black mottles throughout and containing frequent degraded stone. This immediately underlay the remains of structures associated with the brewery buildings some of which had been previously located in Trench 3. Numbers provided below are new context numbers, where equivalences exist they are provided in Appendix 1.

The concrete surface (**006**) overlying the cobbled surface (**007**) was exposed for about another metre to the north where it ended. This surface had two concrete plinths overlying it (**005 & 008**) which had also previously been exposed. Plinth 005 had 4 tie down bolts on its upper surface. Either side of the concrete surface were sandstone built walls (**003 & 004**). These had been previously recorded and were not exposed in their entirety but formed the sides of the trench. A modern concrete encased pipe (also previously recorded) ran parallel with Wall 003. The wall tops were present on the current site surface and the concrete floor survived at a depth of 1.00m below the current site surface

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

This phase of evaluation has confirmed that:

- foundations and discontinuous interior surfaces of the 19th century brewery buildings survive in the eastern side of the southern end of the site close to the surface. The remains have been extensively damaged through their demolition and the later use of the site. No in situ deposits were identified and the building remains were mostly covered in demolition material.
- the depth to the natural subsurface varies across the site. The evidence from the evaluations support that of the site investigation which suggests that the natural subsurface rises towards the present day surface quite rapidly as one moves north from the southern boundary wall. The evaluation also supports the theory that the deeper soil deposits are constrained to the southernmost part of the site.

The earlier phase of evaluation identified that what are interpreted as garden soils of potentially medieval to post-medieval date are present between 1.44m and 2m below the site surface and are present to depths greater than 3m below the current site surface. This phase of evaluation has identified that the survival of these deposits is not uniform across the southern part of the site and that where previous structures were located the foundations could have comprehensively disturbed these deposits. In Trench 6 no in situ deposits were identified although there was evidence that they had been present prior to the last phase of construction on the site.

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 on completion of the project.

Following the completion of this project, a summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, and an online entry within OASIS Scotland will be submitted.

#### 5. REFERENCE

Kirby, M, 2013 *Land between Canongate, Holyrood Road & St John Street, City of Edinburgh Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 2)*. CFA Data Structure Report No. 3018

Suddaby, I, 2013 *Land between Canongate, Holyrood Road and St John Street, City of Edinburgh: Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 1)*. CFA Data Structure Report No. 3010.

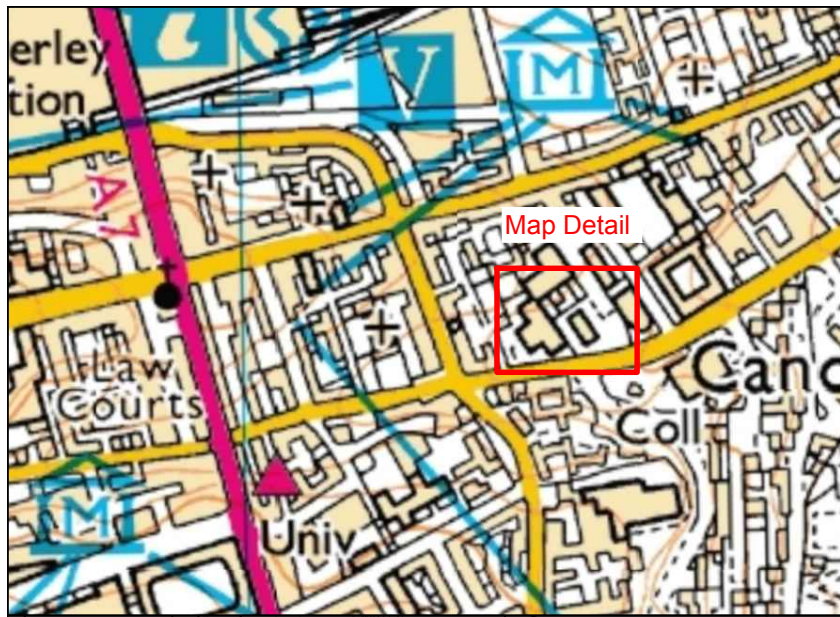
## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context	Trench	Description
001	6	Mixed overburden in Trench 6
002	6 & 7	Natural consisting mudstone and clean grey clay
003	7	Sandstone wall 0.55m wide x 0.67 m high (Same as 308)
004	7	Sandstone wall 0.22m wide x 1.00 m high (Same as 306)
005	7	Concrete plinth set on to concrete floor 006. 1.2m x 0.76m x 0.17 high. 4 tie down bolts present on upper surface
006	7	Poured concrete floor (Same as 304)
007	7	Cobble and flagstone surface underlying concrete floor (Sane as 305)
008	7	Concrete plinth set on to concrete floor 006. 1.2m 0.17 high.
009	7	Dark grey clay overlying 010. 0.17m deep.
010	7	Pinkish brown clay – possibly natural

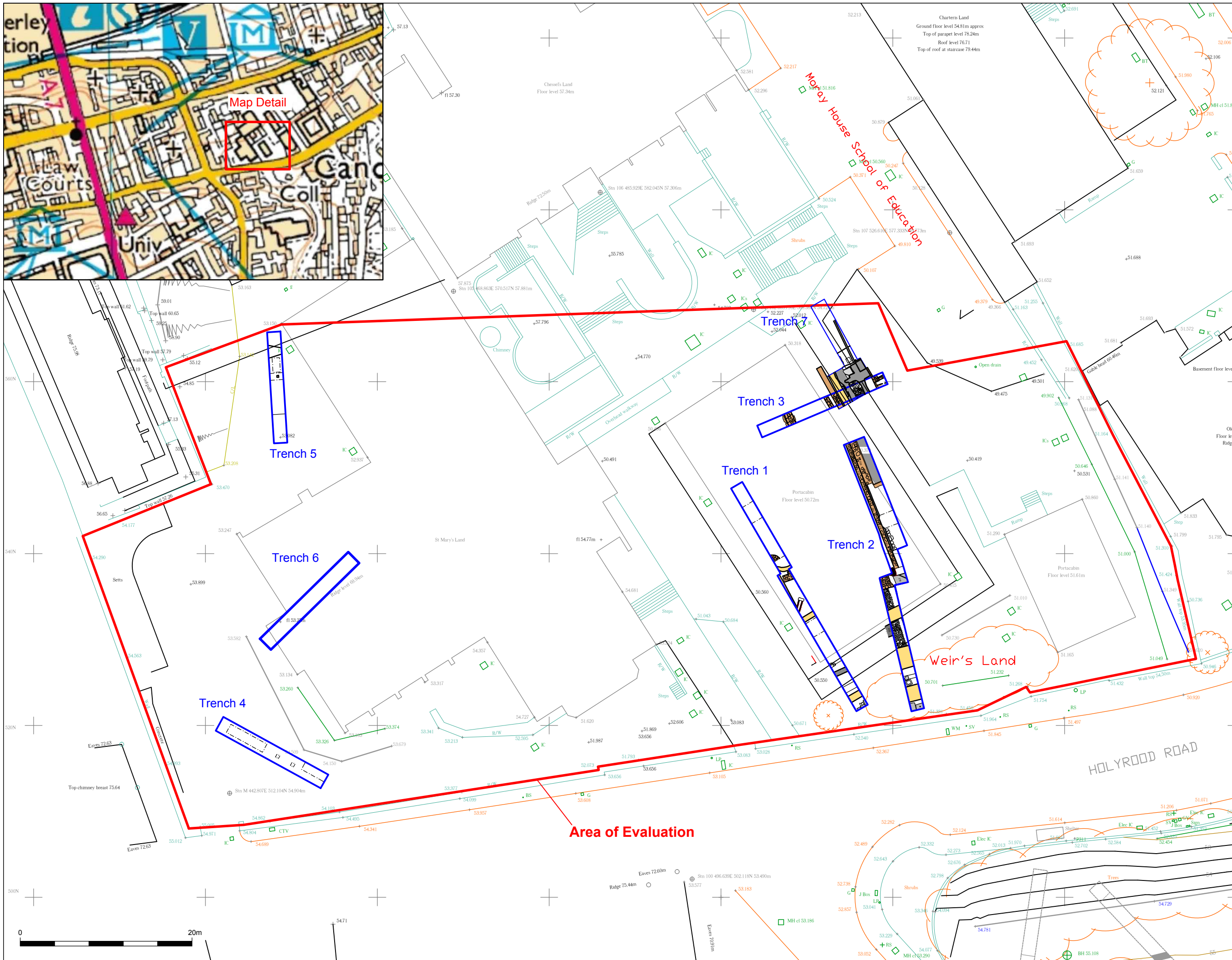
## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Photo No.	Contexts/Description	Taken From	Conditions
1-2	General shot of Trench 6	W	Sunny
3	Section of West end of Trench 6	S	Sunny
4	Section of West end of Trench 6	S	Sunny
5-6	Section of West end of Trench 6	S	Sunny
7	General shot of Trench 6	W	Sunny
8-9	South End of Trench 7	S	Sunny
10-11	South End of Trench 7	E	Sunny
12-13	South End of Trench 7	E	Sunny
14-16	South End of Trench 7	W	Sunny
17-18	Elevation of Wall 004	W	Sunny
19-20	Elevation of Wall 003	E	Sunny
21-22	North end of Trench 7	S	Sunny





Map Detail



Key:  
 Site Boundary  
 Evaluation Trench

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Fig. No: 1 Revision: A

Title:  
 Location map and site plan showing trenches

Project:  
 Land between Canongate, Holyrood Road and St John Street, Edinburgh

Client:  
 Balfour Beatty

Scale at A3:  
 1:400

Drawn by: TB  
 Checked: KH  
 Report No: 3058

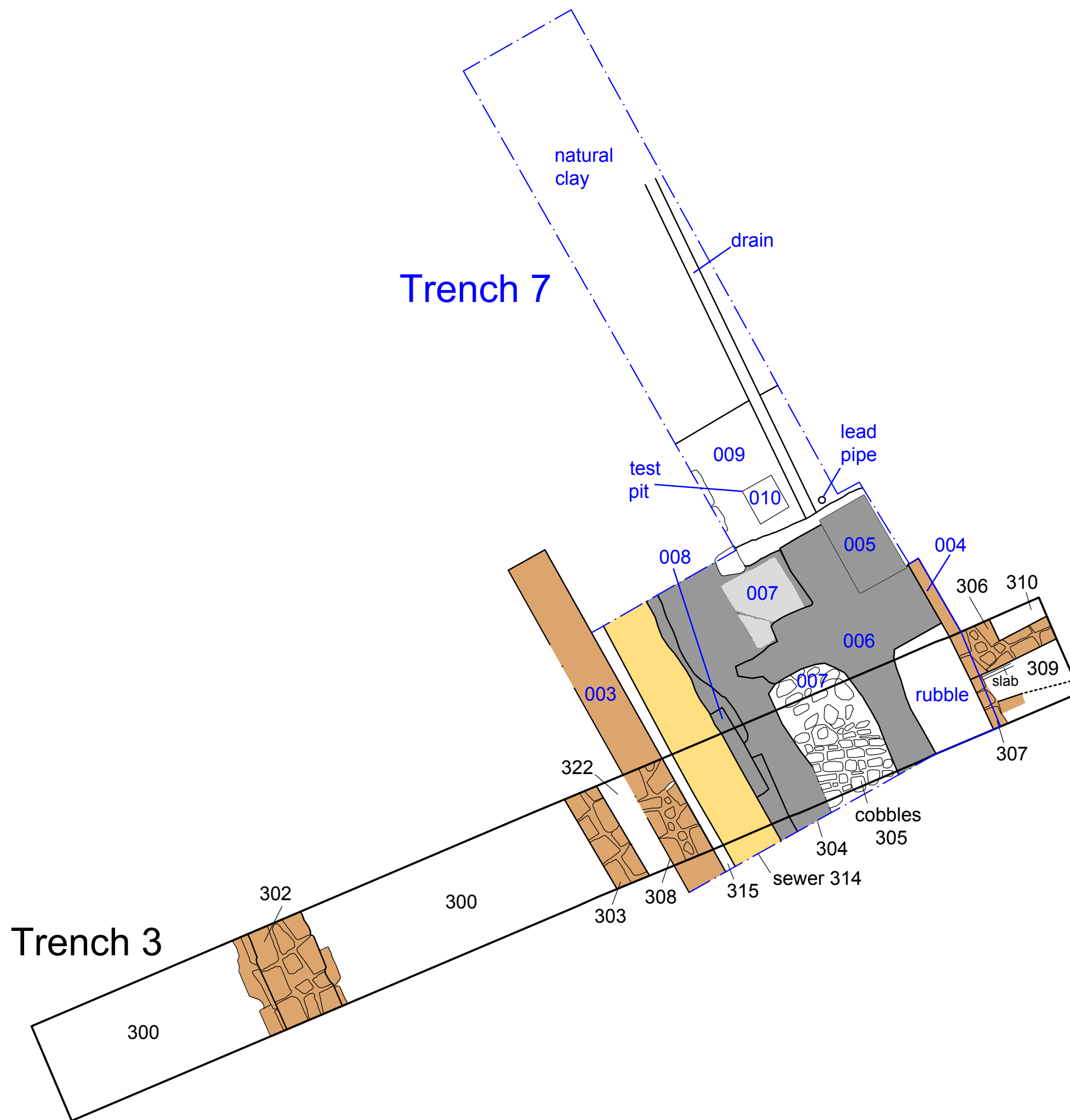
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Key:

- Sewers
- Paving
- Walls
- Concrete



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Fig. No:	2	Revision:	A
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Title:  
**Plan of Trench 7 and previous Evaluation Trench 3**

Project:  
**Land between Canongate, Holyrood Road and St John Street, Edinburgh**

Client:  
**Balfour Beatty**

Scale at A3:  
**1:60**





Fig.3 - Trench 6 from the west



Fig.4 - Section of Trench 6 from the south

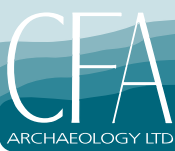
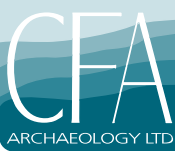
Key:	Fig. No:	3-4	Revision:	A	Client:	Balfour Beatty	 <b>CFA</b> ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ T: 0131 273 4380 F: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk				
	Title:										
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Fig.5 - Southern end of Trench 7 from the south



Fig.6 - Northern end of Trench 7 from the south

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	Title:										
Scale at A4:	Project:	Land between Canongate, Holyrood Road and St John Street, Edinburgh				Drawn by:	GC	Checked:	KH	Report No:	3058