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Geophysical Survey

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

Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 2)

Report No. 3018

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

The Old Engine House
Eskmills Business Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian
EH21 7PQ

Tel: 0131 273 4380
Fax: 0131 273 4381
email: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	Magnus Kirby MA FSA Scot AIfA
Illustrator	Graeme Carruthers MA MIfA
Editors	Bruce Glendinning BSc Pg Dip MIfA
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This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

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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).

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.

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 WSI identified two areas requiring evaluation. These were the area covered by St Mary's Land and a series of portacabins and hardstanding areas to the south of the site (Phase 1), and the car park and turning area to the north of the site (Phase 2). This report covers the evaluation of the car park and turning area (Phase 2). The results of the Phase 1 works are contained in CFA Data Structure Report No.3010 (Suddaby 2013), and the results of the photographic survey will form the basis of a forthcoming report.

The Ordnance Survey Town Plan of Edinburgh dated 1852 (Sheet 36) shows the Phase 2 evaluation area lying at the southern end of Playhouse Close and Old Playhouse Close, and at the northern end of the Edinburgh and Leith Brewery.

Prior to the evaluation, the Phase 2 area consisted of a tarmac car park and turning area. The area available for trial trenching was limited by the presence of a portacabin and building materials, as well as by services located towards the southern end of the area.

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

Three trenches (Trenches 1-3) were excavated amounting to 55.5m² (10.47% of the evaluation area).

The overburden was removed by a JCB 3CX type machine equipped with a 1.5m 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

Three 1.5m wide trenches (Trench 1 to Trench 3) measuring 17m, 13m and 7m in length respectively were excavated (Fig. 2-4). The deposits within these trenches consisted of tarmac and made ground (**001**) directly overlying red-brown/purple clay natural (**002**).

A deeper sondage excavated c.0.5m into deposit **002** confirmed that it was in situ natural rather than representing re-deposited clay material. At the north-west end of the trenches the made-ground deposits measured 0.6m to 0.7m in depth, whereas at the south-east ends they measured 0.3m to 0.4m in depth. The fact that the made-ground lay directly on top of the natural would suggest that the area had been levelled prior to the construction of the car park.

4. CONCLUSIONS

A trial trenching evaluation was carried out at land between Canongate, Holyrood Road and St John Street within a car park and turning area at the northern end of the development site. The area was found to consist of modern made-ground directly overlying natural. There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified.

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.

CFA does not recommend any further work in relation to this evaluation. However, it is understood that the decision regarding any further mitigation measures lies with CECAS.

5. REFERENCE

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

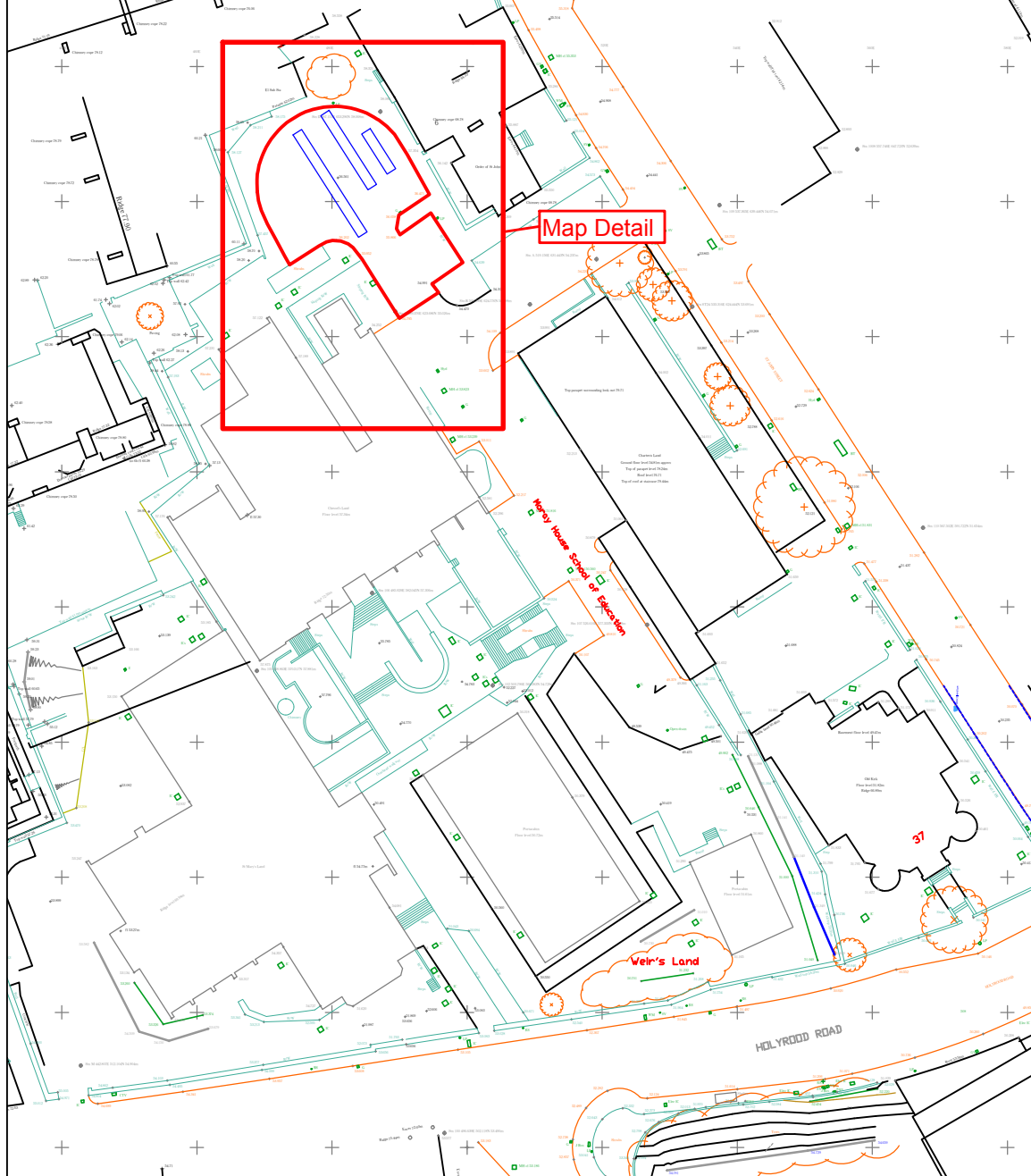
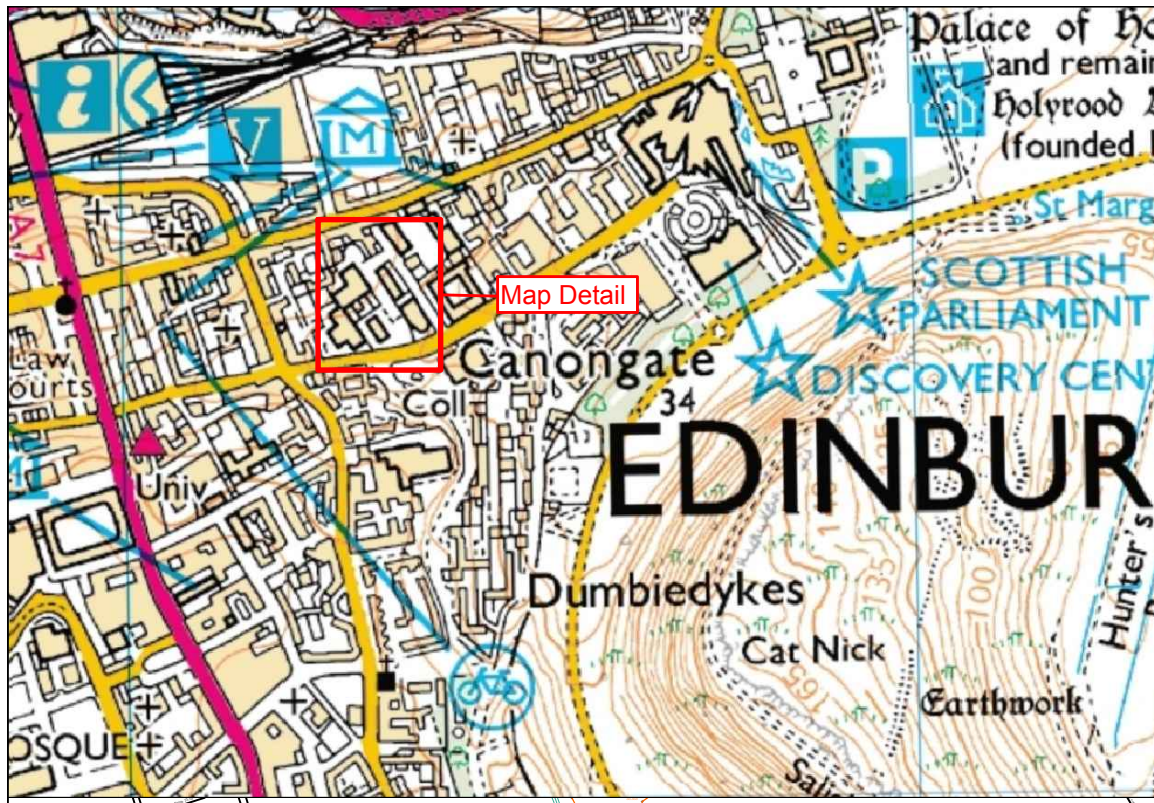
Context	Fill of	Trench	Description
001		All	0.08m of tarmac overlying modern made-ground hardcore deposits
002		All	Natural consisting of red-brown/purple clay


APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Photo No.	Contexts/Description	Taken From	Conditions
1	Trench 1, general shot	SE	Sun
2	Trench 1, deep sondage at NW end	SW	Sun
3	Trench 1, general shot	NW	Overcast
4	Trench 2, general shot	NW	Overcast
5	Trench 2, section of trench	NE	Overcast
6	Trench 2, general shot	SE	Overcast
7	Trench 3, general shot	NW	Overcast
8	Trench 3, trench section	NE	Overcast
9	Trench 3, general shot	SE	Overcast
10-12	General site shots	Various	Overcast

APPENDIX 3: Trench Summary


Trench No.	Size (m)	Depth of Made Ground (m)	Features
1	17x1.5	0.3 - 0.6	N/A
2	13x1.5	0.3 – 0.55	N/A
3	7x1.5	0.4 – 0.6	N/A





Key:

- Site Boundary
- Evaluation Trench



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 East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
 t: 0131 273 4380
 f: 0131 273 4381
 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
 w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

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: 1:200	
Drawn by: GC	Checked: KH
Report No: 3018	



Fig.2 - Trench 1 from the south-east



Fig.3 - Trench 2 from the north-west


Key:	Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	Balfour Beatty	 CFA 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:										
Scale at A4:	Project:	Land between Canongate, Holyrood Road and St John Street, Edinburgh				Drawn by:	GC	Checked:	KH	Report No:	3018



Fig.4 - Trench 3 from the south-east



Fig.5 - General site shot

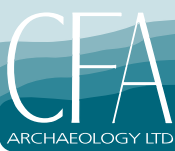

Key:	Fig. No:	4-5	Revision:	A	Client:	Balfour Beatty	 CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ T: 0131 273 4380 F: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk				
	Title:										
Scale at A4:	Project:	Land between Canongate, Holyrood Road and St John Street, Edinburgh				Drawn by:	GC	Checked:	KH	Report No:	3018



Fig.6 - General site shot

Key:	Fig. No:	6	Revision:	A	Client:	Balfour Beatty	
	Title:						
Scale at A4:	Project:	Land between Canongate, Holyrood Road and St John Street, Edinburgh					
			Drawn by:	GC	Checked:	KH	Report No:



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