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Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**52-52A Annandale Street
Edinburgh
Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation**

Report No. 3336

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Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief and evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in August and September 2015 for the redevelopment of 52-52A Annandale Street, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 2607 7491) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Westpoint Homes Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 16 April 2015 covering this programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of Westpoint Homes Ltd. The WSI was approved by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

1.2 Background

Planning approval for the demolition of existing office building and construction of a flatted residential development with associated parking and landscaping at 52-52A Annandale Street, Edinburgh (Ref No. 14/04044/FUL) has been granted. The planning permission was subject to an archaeological condition requiring a watching brief and trial trenching evaluation.

Until the 20th century the site appeared to have remained open (farmland) ground, with the surrounding area gradually being developed with a mix of housing and industry through the Victorian Period. The site was first developed in 1909 with the construction of the Olympia Skating Place. This building opened on the 8th September 1909 was constructed to meet the craze of (American) roller skating but also designed for other public uses. The building was converted into a cinema in 1912 which operated until 1915 when it was converted into garages. Unviewed plans held by RCAHMS indicate that air-raid shelters were constructed on the site during 1942 (Information from CECAS). However, an assessment of the available historic mapping suggests that the air raid shelters were probably just to the northwest of the development area in what was and in filled quarry and under what is now housing. The map assessment indicated that the area of the development also lay within the in-filled remains of the former quarry.

1.3 Objectives

The project's aims and objectives are:

- To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits (specifically the remains of the skating place and the WWII air raid shelters) within the proposed development areas through archaeological watching brief and trial trenching evaluation;
- To establish the vulnerability of any archaeological features to the proposed development; and
- To propose and undertake 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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.

2.2 Watching Brief

A watching brief was undertaken during the lifting of the concrete floor slab and removal of the ring beam foundations of the former Standard Life building that once occupied the site.

2.3 Evaluation

Following the watching brief a 10% (400m²) evaluation of the total site area (4000m²) was required. However, the total site was not available due to the presence of hard standings for cabins and offices and access. However the area that were not available were for soft and hard landscaping areas so were not to be subjected to significant excavation. Five trenches were excavated with a total area of 408m².

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.

Trench positions were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment and all trenches were backfilled.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Numbers in bold and parenthesis refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 2.

3.1 Watching Brief

No features or deposits of interest were identified during the watching brief.

3.2 Trial Trenching

Trench 1 (30m x 2m) (Fig. 1)

Below modern demolition and levelling deposits that covered the site (0.4m deep) the quarry infill deposits were identified. These were tested in places and exceeded 4m before natural sand was identified. Nothing relating to the Olympia Skating Place was identified.

Trench 2 (50m x 2m) (Figs. 1 & 2)

Below the modern demolition and levelling deposits (0.4m deep) the quarry infill deposits were identified. These were tested in places and exceeded 3m before natural sand was identified. One of the brick shuttered walls from the recent Standard Life building was present in the middle of the trench. Nothing relating to the Olympia Skating Place was identified.

Trench 3 (20m x 2m) (Figs. 1 & 3)

Below the modern demolition and levelling deposits (0.4m deep) the quarry infill deposits were identified. These were not bottomed as the depth had become apparent through the excavation of Trenches 1 and 2. The trench was excavated to a depth of 1m to ensure nothing of interest survived. Nothing relating to the Olympia Skating Place was identified.

Trench 4 (30m x 4m) (Figs. 1 & 4)

Below the modern demolition and levelling deposits (0.4m deep) the quarry infill deposits were identified. These were not bottomed as the depth had become apparent through the excavation of Trenches 1 and 2. The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.2m to ensure nothing of interest survived. Nothing relating to the Olympia Skating Place was identified.

Trench 5 (22m x 4m) (Figs. 1, 5 & 6)

Modern demolition and levelling deposits were present across the trench. Below these and at the east end of the trench a large concrete plinth (**004**) with a steel H-beam set in to it was present. The cut through the quarry infill material for the plinth was clearly visible. At the west end of the trench a concrete surface (**003**) overlying a brick foundation course (**006**) (Frogged and stamped Winchburgh) was visible in the section. This lay below modern demolition material and above the quarry infill deposits. These structural remains are considered to be part of the former Standard Life building that most recently occupied the site. The trench was excavated to 1.2m deep so 0.7m in to the quarry infill deposits to ensure that no remains of the Olympia Skating Place were present.

4. CONCLUSIONS

A watching brief and evaluation took place on the site. No remains of the Olympia Skating Place were identified and it is considered that the WW11 air raid shelters were not present on this site but on an adjacent site. Evidence for the infilling of the quarry that was once present on the site was identified in the form of deep made ground.

Following the on-site works it was agreed with CECAS that no further work was required in relation to this development.

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 CECAS Sites and Monuments Record.

On completion of the programme of archaeological works a summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 4) and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Photo Number	Contexts/Description	Taken From
1-2	Trench 1 general	NW
3	Section of Trench 1	SW
4	Trench 2 general	NW
5	Trench 2 brick shuttering wall of recently demolished building	NW
6	Trench 2 general	SW
7	Section of Trench 2	NNE
8	Trench 3 general	NW
9-11	General site shots post completion of Phase 1 evaluation	VARIOUS
12-15	General site shots pre commencement of Phase 2 evaluation	VARIOUS
15-17	Trench 4 general	NW
18-19	Section of Trench 4	NE
20	Trench 4 general	SE
21-22	Trench 5 general	W
23	Concrete plinth Trench 5	SE
24	Concrete plinth Trench 5 showing girder	SE
25	Concrete surface (003)	S
26-27	Concrete surface (003)	SW

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

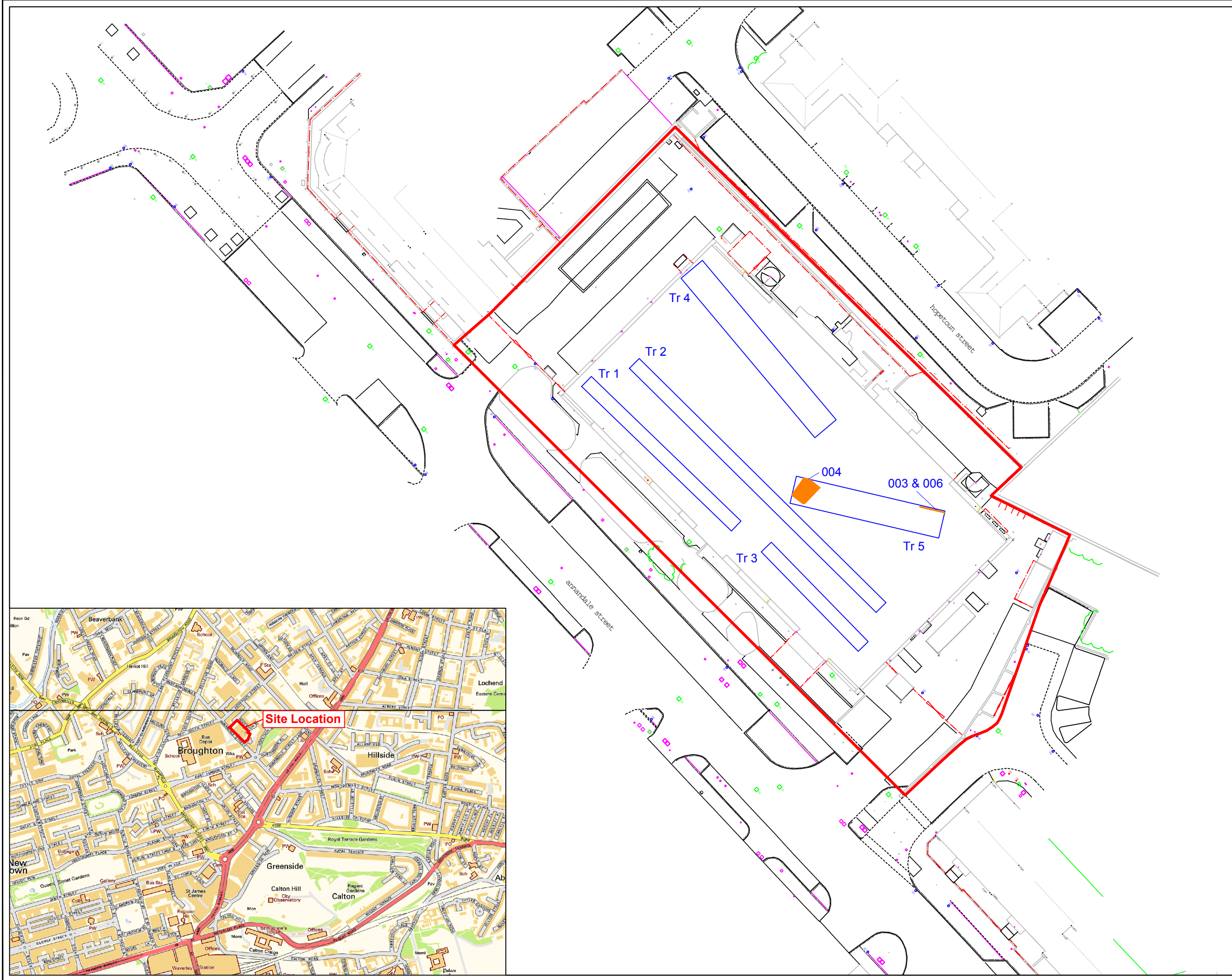
Context No.	Trench	Description
001	all	Modern demolition and levelling for former cast concrete floor of Standard Life Building
002	all	Quarry infill deposits
003	5	Concrete surface over brick foundation course
004	5	Concrete Plinth at West end of trench
005	5	Cut for 004
006	5	Brick foundation course below concrete surface

APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	52-52A Annandale Street, Edinburgh, Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	ANNA
PARISH:	Edinburgh (City of)
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Bruce Glendinning
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Bruce Glendinning
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 2607 7491
START DATE (this season)	August 2015
END DATE (this season)	September 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Prior to the redevelopment of 52-52A Annandale Street, Edinburgh a program of watching briefs and evaluation was required. The reason for the requirement was that this was the site of the former Olympia Skating Place and the proposed location of WW2 air raid shelters. However, map evidence indicated that this was an unlikely site for the air raid shelters which were most likely located on an adjacent site.</p> <p>Five trenches were excavated amounting to 10% of the site and no evidence of the skating place was found. It is considered that this was comprehensively demolished during an earlier phase of redevelopment.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Westpoint Homes Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS, Reports lodged with SMR and NMRS.



- Key:**
- Planning Application Boundary
 - Trench Location
 - Features Discussed in Report



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Fig. No: 1 Report No: 3336

Title:
Location map and Trench plan

Project:
**52-52A Annadale Street,
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 Archaeological Watching Brief
 and Evaluation**

Client:
Westpoint Homes Ltd

Scale at A3:
1:500

Drawn by:	Checked:	Date:
SW	BG	08/10/2015

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Fig. 2: Section of Trench 2 showing tip lines in quarry infill (002)



Fig. 3: Trench 3, post-excitation



Fig. 4: Section of Trench 4 showing tip lines in quarry infill (002)



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Client: Westpoint Homes Ltd					

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Fig. 5: Trench 5, concrete plinth (004)



Fig. 6: Trench 5, Concrete surface (003) over brick foundation course (006)



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Title:	Fig. 5 - 6	Report: 3336	Drawn: SW	CKD: BG	Date: 08/10/15
	Client: Westpoint Homes Ltd				
Project: 52-52A Annandale Street, Edinburgh, Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation					