

CFA Archaeology Ltd

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Advice on Archaeology & Planning

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Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

65 Salamander Street, Leith, Edinburgh

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3481

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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Commissioned by	Europcar Group UK Ltd
Date issued	November# 2016
Version	2
OASIS Reference	cfaarcha1-264054
Planning Application No	15/02997/FUL
Grid Ref	NT 27930 76232

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

65 Salamander Street, Leith, Edinburgh

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ILLUSTRATIONS (bound at rear)

Fig. 1 Location map and site plan

Fig. 2 South-west-facing section of trench

Fig. 3 Plan view of the trench (from NE)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in August 2016 at 65 Salamander Street, Leith, Edinburgh (NT 27930 76232) (Fig.1) during ground works for a car wash bay. The work was commissioned by Europcar Group UK Ltd.

A Written Schemes of Investigation (WSI), dated 30 October 2015, was produced by CFA on behalf of Capita Property and Infrastructure. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the imposed planning conditions for archaeological mitigation works, and to meet the requirements of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

1.2 Background

Planning permission (15/02997/FUL) was granted for the construction of a car wash bay within the existing car park of 65 Salamander Street. The planning permission was subject to a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief during all ground breaking operations.

The site was developed during the early/mid 19th century for industry. Kirkwood's plan of 1817 shows the western boundary of the site overlaying the site of Mr Geddes's Crystal (glass) Works, the last in a chain of national glass works stretching along Salamander Street which had started in the 18th century. By the 1st Edition OS map of 1849 the site had become fully developed with a Bone Mill but principally a large Chemical Works which remained in operation into the 20th century.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the watching brief were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Watching Brief) to monitor the groundbreaking required for the development to ensure that if any remains of the former industrial buildings or other archaeologically significant features are uncovered, they are carefully exposed within the area affected by the development so as to allow further excavation and recording work to take place
- To record (by excavation) any surviving remains of archaeological importance that may be present prior to their removal to allow construction to proceed.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance and Code of Conduct. Recording of all elements followed the established CFA methods, as detailed in the approved WSI.

2.2 Watching Brief

Excavations were undertaken using a tracked mini-digger equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.

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.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

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

The only ground breaking work required for the wash bay was the excavation of a petrol interceptor pit. This measured 1.7m by 1.3m and was orientated north-west to south-east (Fig. 2). The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.8m at which point the water table was reached and excavation was halted.

The deposits within the trench consisted of 0.1m of concrete (**001**) overlying 0.45m of rubble and sandstone stones (**002**) (Fig. 3). Underlying this was 1.35m of furnace ash and gravel (**003**). The natural subsoil was not exposed at any time. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were discovered.

4. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was carried during ground breaking operations for the construction of a car wash bay at 65 Salamander Street, Leith, Edinburgh. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were discovered.

No evidence was found within the monitored area to indicate any surviving remains of the industrial buildings which previously occupied the site. Appraisal of the online georeferenced map collection held by the National Map Library of Scotland indicates that the excavation area lay just beyond the very northern edge of the former Chemical and Manure Works complex, lying beneath the railway lines which ran along the coast edge at that time (OS Town Plans 1849, 1876). Extensive reclamation of land pushes the coastal edge further out to the north by the time of the 1893 OS Town Plan; at which time the excavation area is depicted as lying inside of the industrial buildings of the chemical works. Subsequent map editions show no change to this general layout. It is likely that the ashy deposits recorded within the excavation area comprise made ground deposits either relating to the construction of the railway lines in the mid 19th century, or as a consequence of the reorganisation of the site in the later 19th century due to the expansion of Leith Docks and the extensive reclamation of land and construction of railway lines and other industrial buildings to the north.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and report will be deposited with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and copies of reports lodged with City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record.

A summary statement on the archaeological watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*. This work will also be also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

5. REFERENCES

Kirkwood, R. 1817 *This plan of the City of Edinburgh and its environs*, Sheet 2. Edinburgh.

Ordnance Survey Six Inch 1853 *Edinburghshire*, Sheet 2

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context no.	Fill of	Description
001	N/A	Concrete surface
002	N/A	Rubble/Type 2 levelling material
003	N/A	Dark grey furnace ash and sandy gravel
004	N/A	Large fragment of concrete, possible surface
005	N/A	Modern concrete drain

APPENDIX 2: Photograph Register

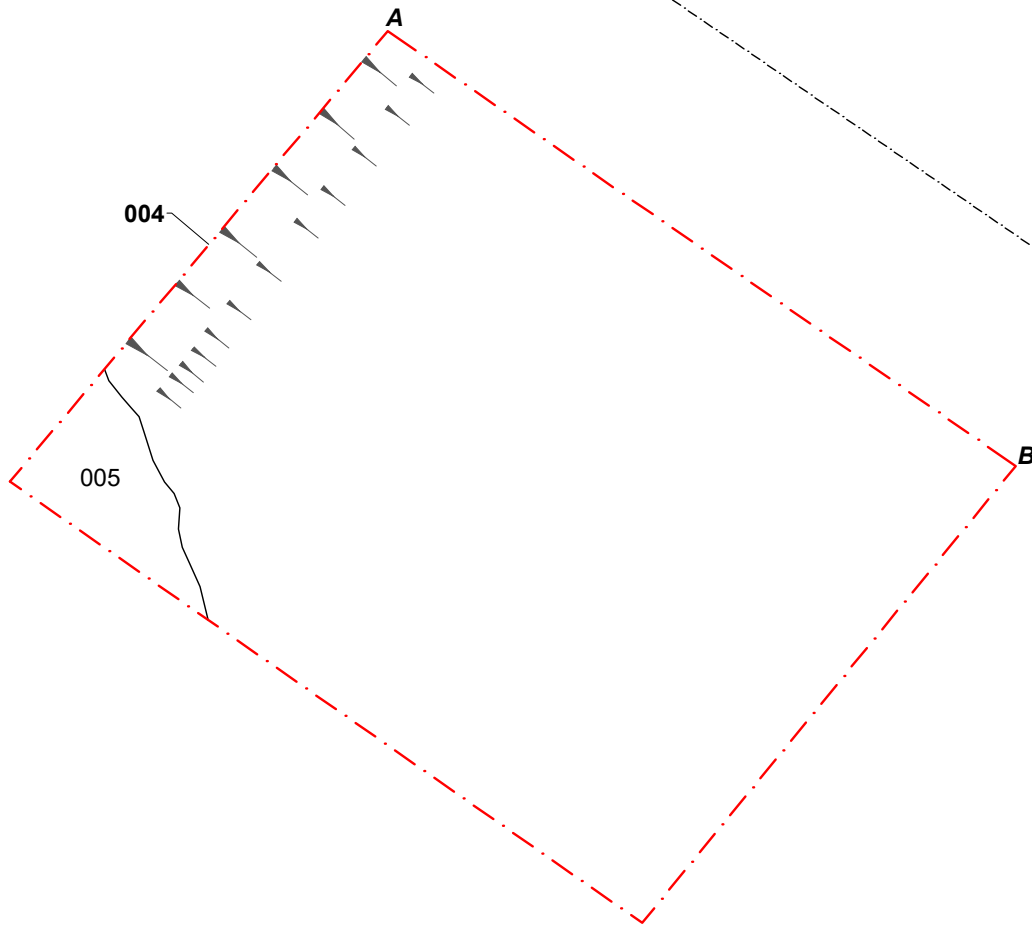
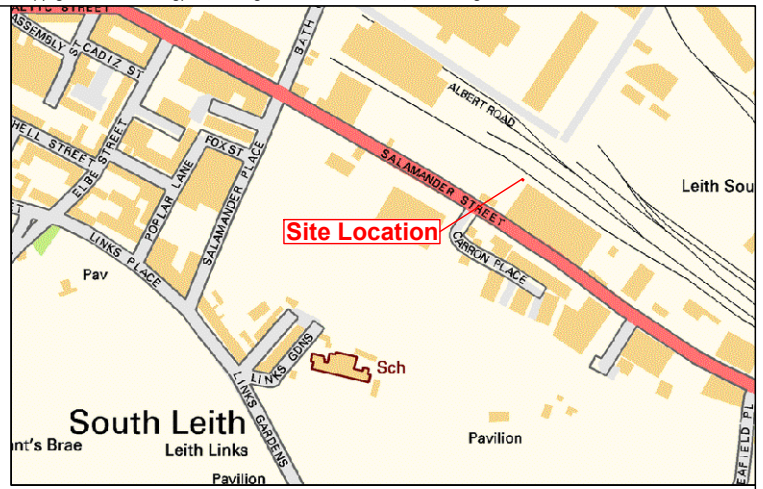
Photo No.	Summary description of subject	Taken from
1	SW-facing section of excavated trench	SW
2	As above	SW
3-4	NW-facing section of trench	NW
5-6	SE-facing section of trench	SE
7	As above	SE
8	Plan view of trench	NE

APPENDIX 3: Drawings Register

Dwg No.	Sheet No.	Scale	Plan / Section	Description/contexts
1	1	1:20	Plan	Detailed trench plan
2	1	1:20	Section	SW-facing section of trench
3	1	1:50	Plan	Location of trench

APPENDIX 4: DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	65 Salamander Street, Leith, Edinburgh, Archaeological Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	EURO
PARISH:	City of Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Gary Savory
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
RCAHMS Site No.	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NT 27930 76232
START DATE (this season)	September 2016
END DATE (this season)	September 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd during ground breaking operations associated with the excavation of a car wash bay at 65 Salamander Street, Leith. The site was developed during the early/mid 19th century for industry. Kirkwood's plan of 1817 shows the western boundary of the site overlaying the site of Mr Geddes's Crystal (glass) Works, the last in a chain of national glass works stretching along Salamander Street which had started in the 18th century. By the 1st Edition OS map of 1849 the site had become fully developed with a Bone Mill but principally a large Chemical Works which remained in operation into the 20th century.</p> <p>The trench measured 1.7m x 1.3m, and 1.9m deep. The deposits within the trench consisted of 0.1m of concrete overlying 0.45m of rubble and sandstone stones. Underlying this was 1.35m of furnace ash and gravel. The natural subsoil was not exposed at any time. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were discovered.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Capita Property and Infrastructure
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Historic Environment Scotland (archive) City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record (report)



Key:

Limit of Excavation



Title:
Location map and site plan

Client:
Europcar Group UK Ltd

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Project:
65 Salamander Street, Leith, Edinburgh, Archaeological Watching Brief

Scale at A4:
1:20

Drawn by:
MP

Checked:
SW

Date:
29/09/2016

Report No:
3481

Fig. No:
1



Fig. 2 - SW-facing section of trench



Fig. 3 - Plan view of trench (from NE)

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65 Salamander Street, Leith, Edinburgh, Archaeological Watching Brief



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Drawn by: MP	Checked: SW	Date: 29/09/16
Report No: 3481		Fig. No: 2-3