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Geophysical Survey

**Playground Extension
Leith Academy Primary School
3 St Andrews Place
Edinburgh**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3317

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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 an archaeological watching brief undertaken in July 2015 during groundworks for a playground extension at Leith Academy Primary School, 3 St Andrews Place, Edinburgh (NGR NT 2718 7590) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by The City of Edinburgh Council.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 10 July 2015 for this programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of The City of Edinburgh Council. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

1.2 Background

Planning Permission (15/00766/FUL) has been granted for the closure of the public road at 3 St Andrews Place immediately to the north and east of Leith Academy Primary School in order to create an enclosed extension to the school playground. The planning permission was subject to an archaeological condition requiring a watching brief during groundbreaking works. This programme of works was required because the playground extension lies in close proximity to the Victorian Mission Hall (now a boxing club) where a pit was discovered containing a number of 15th century burials, which had been previously disturbed and reburied at this location. The site also lies in close proximity to Leith Links where many of the victims of the Great Plague of 1645 (estimated to have been in the region of 3000 from the Port of Leith alone) were buried. Other previously recorded archaeological remains from the immediate vicinity include a hammer stone (Site Number NT27NE 13) from Wellington Place and a possible 16th century gun battery from the 1560 Siege of Leith (Site Number NT27NE 11) located on the nearby Leith Links.

When this watching brief was undertaken the area consisted of a length of former public road terminating at a cul-du-sac adjacent to Duncan Place. The road had a tarmac surface with raised pavements on either side. Pre-existing services were present below the road, including a large scale sewer which bisected the site from north to south.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were

- to conduct an archaeological watching brief on groundbreaking works;
- to undertake suitable mitigation if the results merited it;
- to provide a report on the results.

2. WORKING METHODS

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

All groundbreaking works were carried out by a back-acting excavator equipped with a smooth bladed bucket. This operation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Following the removal of the bulk of the overburden, any further cleaning required to fulfil the terms of the brief were carried out by hand.

The areas monitored consisted of a duct trench excavated adjacent to the northern edge of the area for a street-lighting cable, and a further two conjoining trenches excavated for surface water gullies. Due to the significant deposits of made-ground within the area, it was agreed in consultation with CECAS that kerb removal and other areas of surface excavation did not need monitored as these would not penetrate the modern made ground.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

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

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

The excavated duct and gully trenches were 0.4m wide and 0.6m deep (Fig.2), with occasional deeper areas of excavation for gully traps c.1.2m deep (Fig.3). In general, the excavated deposits consisted of c.0.06m of tarmac (**001**) overlying mixed sandy made-ground (**003**). At some locations, possible natural sand (**004**) (orangey-brown in colour) was identified at a depth of 0.6m (Fig.4), but at other locations, the made-ground continued down to a depth of over 1.2m (Fig.3). Stone setts (**002**) were visible in section underlying the tarmac (Fig.3) at the extreme western end of the gully-trench. The setts consisted of shaped blocks of stone measuring c.0.1m by 0.2m by 0.3m and were probably the remains of earlier cobbled road surface.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks for a playground extension at Leith Academy Primary School. A few stone setts were revealed immediately beneath the modern tarmac which indicate the presence of an earlier cobbled surface. No other archaeological features or were revealed.

CFA does not recommend any further archaeological work in relation to this programme of works. However the final decision on any further mitigation measures lies with CECAS.

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 Monuments Record.

A summary statement to be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) will be sufficient to disseminate the results of this programme of works. An OASIS Scotland entry will also be completed.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

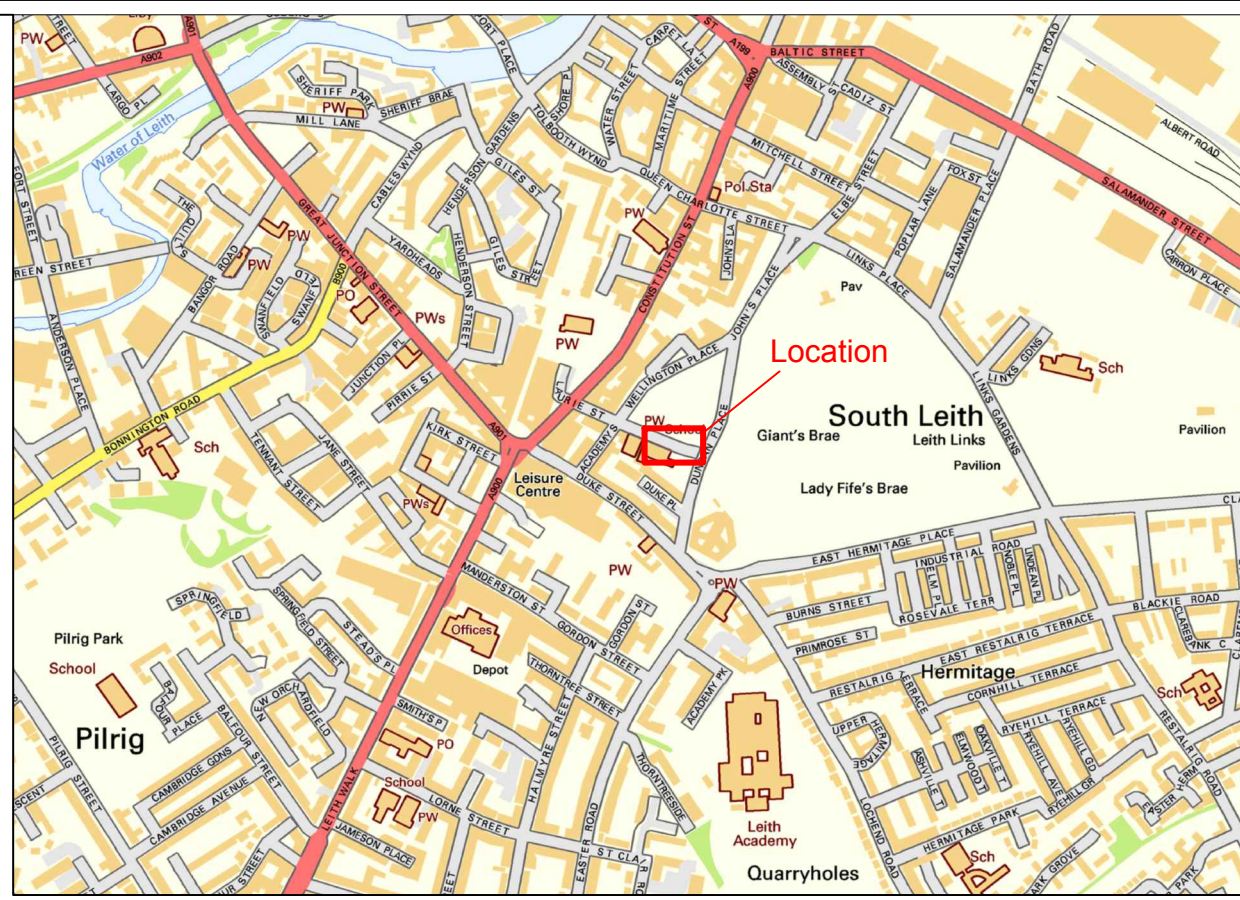
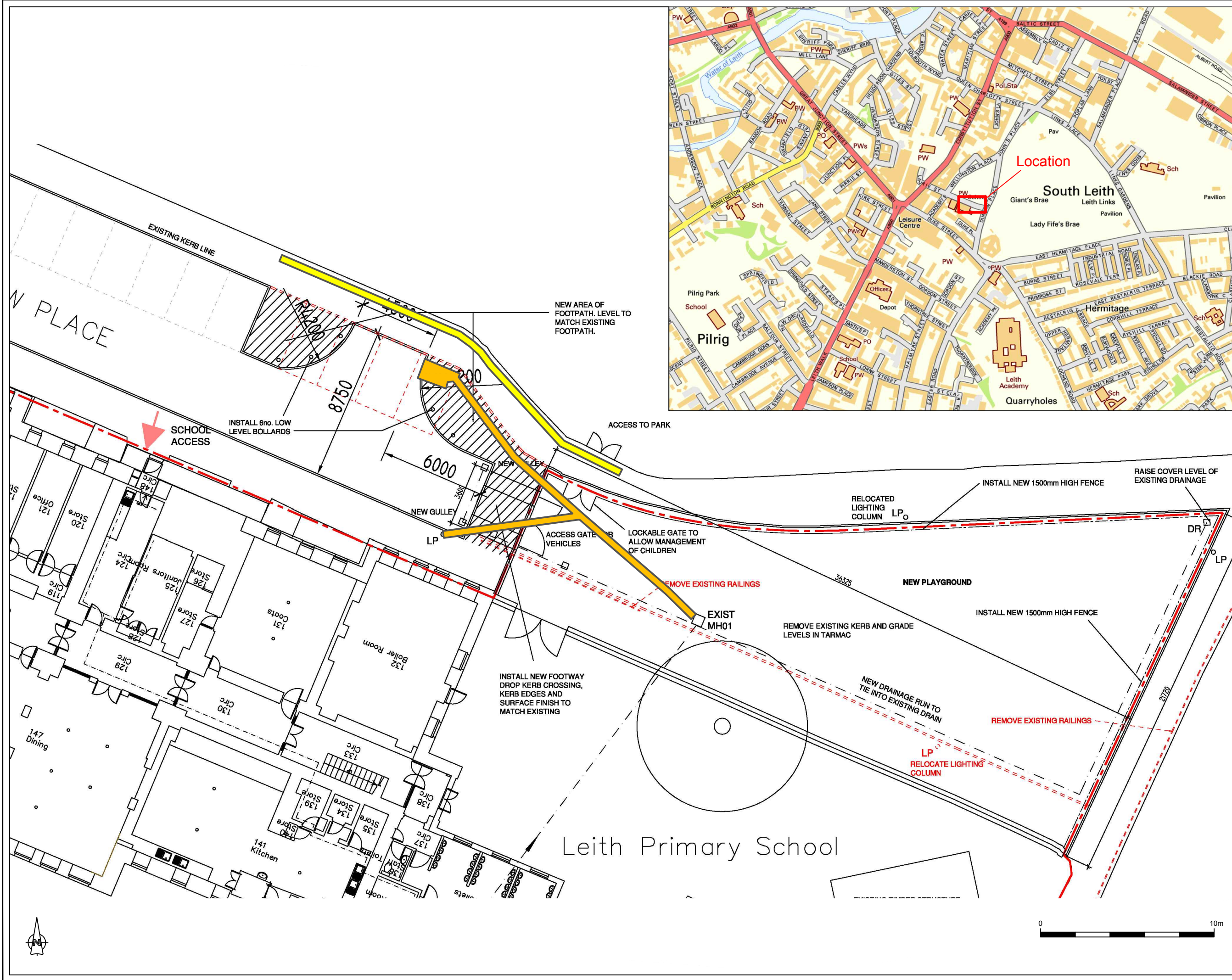
No	Description
001	Modern tarmac
002	Stone setts potentially representing evidence of earlier street surface
003	Mixed sandy made ground containing shell and pebbles
004	Clean orangey-brown sand (possibly natural)

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	General shot of western end of gully trench	North	Overcast
2-3	Section of western end of gully trench showing stone setts	East	Overcast
4-10	General working shots of gully trench under excavation	Various	Various
11-13	General working shots of duct trench	Various	Sun

APPENDIX 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Playground Extension, Leith Academy Primary School, 3 St Andrews Place, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	LESP
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Magnus Kirby
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR	NT 2718 7590
START DATE (this season)	July 2015
END DATE (this season)	July 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground-works for a playground extension at Leith Academy Primary School. The watching brief was required because the playground extension lay in close proximity to the former Victorian Mission Hall (now a boxing club) where a pit was previously discovered and contained a number of 15th century burials.</p> <p>However the watching brief only identified a few stone setts immediately beneath the modern tarmac which indicated the presence of an earlier cobbled surface. No other archaeological features or deposits were revealed.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	City of Edinburgh Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	RCAHMS City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record (Report)



Key:

Areas Monitored

- Duct Trench
- Surface Water Gully

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Fig. No: 1 Report No: 3317

Title:
 Location map showing area monitored

Project:
 Playground Extension
 Leith Academy Primary School
 3 St Andrews Place
 Edinburgh
 Archaeological Watching Brief

Client:
 City of Edinburgh Council

Scale at A3:
 1:200

Drawn by:	Checked:	Date:
TB	BG	27/08/2015

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Fig. 2 - General shot of duct trench



Fig. 3 - Deeper excavation for gully trap showing possible cobbled surface in section



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	Client: City of Edinburgh Council				
Project: Playground Extension, Leith Academy Primary School, 3 St Andrews Place, Edinburgh Archaeological Watching Brief					



Fig. 4 - Gully trench showing possible natural sand at base



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Title:	Fig. 4	Report: 3317	Drawn: TB	CKD: BG	Date: 27/08/15
Client:	City of Edinburgh Council				
Project:	Playground Extension, Leith Academy Primary School, 3 St Andrews Place, Edinburgh Archaeological Watching Brief				