

CFA Archaeology Ltd

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Advice on Archaeology & Planning

Environmental Impact Assessment

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Finds/ Environmental Analysis

Field Evaluation & Excavation

Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey


Geophysical Survey

**1a Ladywell Road
Corstorphine
Edinburgh**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3523

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| Commissioned by | Dr Narud Fowdar |
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| Planning Ref. | 16/02979/FUL |
| Grid Ref | NT 19686 72593 |

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 by CFA Archaeology Ltd in January and February 2017 for a single house development at 1a Ladywell Road, Corstorphine, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 19686 72593, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Dr N Fowdar.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 31st October 2016 was produced by CFA on behalf of Dr Fowdar. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) on behalf of the planning authority, and was agreed by CECAS in advance of works.

1.2 Background

Planning permission (Ref. No. 16/02979/FUL) has been granted for the construction of a new dwelling house at 1a Ladywell Road, Edinburgh. The planning permission was subject to an archaeological condition requiring a watching brief during groundbreaking works.

The watching brief was required because the site is thought to lie on the south-eastern edge of the medieval village of Corstorphine overlooking the shoreline of the former Corstorphine Loch. Corstorphine Loch was formed at the end of the last Ice Age (c.12000BC), but had been largely drained by the 17th/18th century. The area around the edges of the loch appears to have been settled during the prehistoric period, with a number of burials being discovered. These burials were predominantly in short cists and are thought to date to the Early-mid Bronze Age (c.2500-1250BC). The location of this site on the edge of a known medieval village combined with the aforementioned discoveries meant that it was considered to be an area of archaeological potential in terms of the medieval development of Corstorphine and for possible prehistoric burials/settlement.

Early Ordnance Survey map editions suggest that the surrounding area remained undeveloped until c.1930 when the existing houses to the immediate north of the development area were constructed. On maps dating to the late 19th century, Ladywell Road is made up of Lady Bank and Well Road, but these two names had been combined by the early 20th century to make the current name. Ladywell Avenue is annotated Broom Road on late 19th century maps, and Broom House Road on early 20th century maps.

When this watching brief was undertaken in January/February 2017, the area consisted of the former garden of the c.1930s house situated immediately to the north. A recently built wall divided this plot from the aforementioned property and a degree of vegetation/tree removal had been undertaken (Fig. 2).

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Watching Brief) to monitor all topsoil stripping, ground reduction and excavation of foundations and services and other infrastructure elements that are likely to expose natural subsoil. This will ensure that if any 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.
- To prepare suitable a report on the findings.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance and Code of Conduct as appropriate.

2.2 Monitored Strip

Excavations to remove topsoil and overburden down on to natural subsoil were undertaken with a mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. All discoveries, including soil profiles and subsoil characteristics, were recorded using standard CFA recording forms and digital photography.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.2 Monitored Strip

Context numbers are in bold and described in Appendix 1. General site photos are provided in Figs 2-5.

The foundation trenches typically had a width of 0.65m (Fig. 3-4), but were widened out to c.1.6m (Fig. 6) within the area of the two bay-windows along the eastern edge of the proposed house. They were excavated to a depth of up to 0.8m. Natural deposits were encountered at a depth of c.0.4m-0.6m below the current ground surface.

Up to 0.3m of heavily root-disturbed dark brown silty topsoil (**001**) overlay a subsoil (**002**) comprising up to 0.35m of mid-brown silty sandy clay. The natural substratum (**003**) predominantly comprised of rather wet mottled slightly orange-brown sandy clay, but drier sandier deposits were encountered at the southern end of the plot within close proximity to the larger trees.

One ceramic drain of the horseshoe type (Fig. 5) was observed during ground reduction works running NNW to SSE along the edge of the trench. The drain was cut into the natural subsoil (**003**). Two further rubble field drains aligned NW to SE were also noted. This would suggest that the area had been agricultural land prior to the construction of the adjoining house in c.1930.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the archaeological monitoring.

4. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 1a Ladywell Road, Edinburgh during the construction of a dwelling house. Several field drains were identified indicating agricultural improvements during the 19th century, but 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 Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) and copies of reports will be lodged with the CECAS Sites and Monuments Record.

A summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

5. REFERENCES

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey 25", 1895, *Edinburghshire Sheet III.9*

Ordnance Survey 25", 1908, *Edinburghshire Sheet III.9*

Ordnance Survey 25", 1914, *Edinburghshire Sheet III.9*

Ordnance Survey 25", 1933, *Edinburghshire Sheet III.9*

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

| Context No. | Description |
|-------------|--|
| 001 | Topsoil, a dark brown moderately compact slightly clayey silt measuring from 0.20m to 0.30m deep. Very rooted. |
| 002 | Subsoil. Moderately compact, mid-brown silty sandy clay. Encountered at 0.20m to 0.30m depth and typically 0.25m thick. |
| 003 | Natural Subsoil. Moderately compact, mottled slightly orange-brown sandy clay. Encountered at 0.50m to 0.60m depth and full excavation depth extended up to 0.80m into this deposit. |

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

| Number | Description | From |
|--------|--|---------|
| 1 | Pre-excavation shots of area | Various |
| 2 | Pre-excavation shots of area | Various |
| 3 | Pre-excavation shots of area | Various |
| 4 | Pre-excavation shots of area | Various |
| 5 | Pre-excavation shots of area | Various |
| 6 | General working shots | NW |
| 7 | General working shots | NW |
| 8 | Foundation trench showing soil depths in NW corner of Site | E |
| 9 | Soil profile with rubble drain at base | E |
| 10 | Example of foundation trench | S |
| 11 | General pre-ex at eastern part of site | S |
| 12 | General working shot | N |
| 13 | General working shot | N |
| 14 | General site shot | S |
| 15 | Wider foundation trench from bay window | N |
| 16 | Soil profile showing horseshoe drain | E |
| 17 | General site shot | S |
| 18 | Wider foundation trench for bay window | S |

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

| | |
|---|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | City of Edinburgh |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | 1a Ladywell Road, Edinburgh, Archaeological Watching Brief |
| PROJECT CODE: | LARO |
| PARISHES: | Edinburgh (City of Edinburgh) |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Magnus Kirby |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | CFA Archaeology Ltd |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Watching Brief |
| NMRS NO(S): | None |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | None |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | None |
| NGR (2 letters, 6 figures) | NT 19686 72593 |
| START DATE (this season) | 31 st January 2017 |
| END DATE (this season) | 10 th February 2017 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.) | None |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 1a Ladywell Road, Edinburgh in advance of the construction of a dwelling house. Several field-drains were identified indicating agricultural improvements during the 19 th century, but there were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | None |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Dr Narud Fowdar |
| 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 NRHE, Reports lodged with City of Edinburgh SMR and NRHE. |

Planning Application
Reference Number:
16/02055/FUL

New 1200mm
high masonry
boundary wall

Existing trees removed

New trees

Existing boundary wall
& fencing retained

New pedestrian
entrance

Concrete
paving to
& paths

New trees

Solid Waste

Driveway

Existing boundary
fence retained

New tree

Existing boundary wall
& fencing retained

Key:

- Site Boundary
- Foundation Trench



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Title:
**Site location plan showing
foundation trenches**

Project:
**1a Ladywell Road, Edinburgh,
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Client:
Dr N Fowdar

Scale at A3:
1:150

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| Drawn by: MP | Checked: SW | Date: 23/02/2017 |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|

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| Report No: 3523 | Fig. No: 1 |
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Fig. 2 - Pre-excitation shot of area from north-west



Fig. 3 - Example of foundation trench from south

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| Report No: 3523 | | Fig. No: 2-3 |



Fig. 4 - General site shot from south

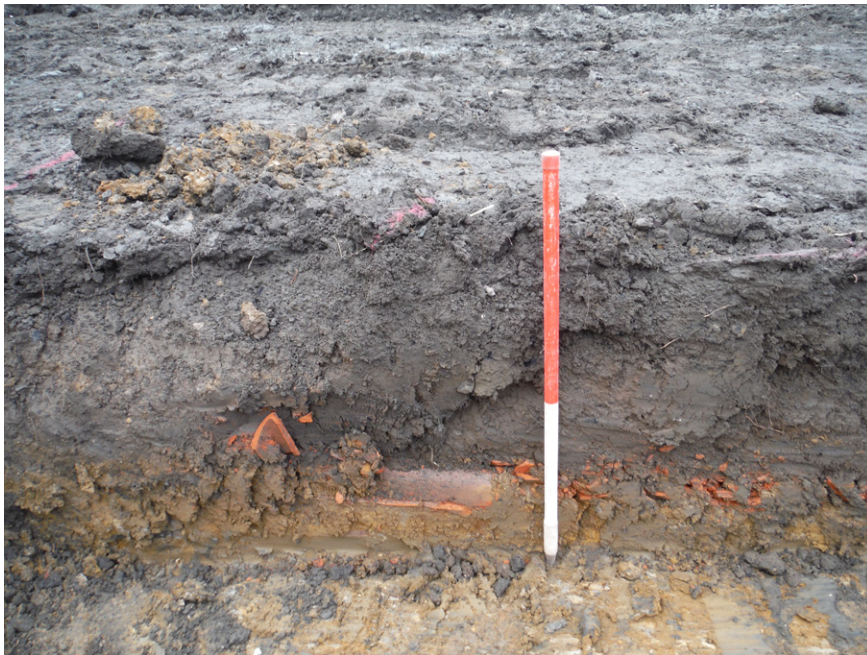


Fig. 5 - Soil profile showing horseshoe drain

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Fig. 6 - Wider foundation trench for bay window from south

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| Report No: 3523 | | Fig. No: 6 |