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Minor Archaeological Services Call-Off Contract Kinneil House, Falkirk (PIC152) Drainage Installation

Watching Brief, December 2017
Report No. HES-PIC152-2017-02

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Minor Archaeological Services Call-Off Contract

**Kinneil House, Falkirk
PIC152**

**Drainage Installation
Watching Brief, December 2017**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on 19 December 2017 within the grounds of Kinneil House, Falkirk (Fig. 1) (NGR: NS 9822 8059). The work was commissioned by Historic Environment Scotland as part of the Minor Archaeological Services Call-off Contract.

The works involved the installation of a sump for drainage alongside a newly reconstructed garden wall, outside of the scheduled area, comprising the excavation of a small trench.

1.2 Background

The A-Listed Kinneil House forms the focal point of a large public park which contains a reconstruction of a Roman fortlet, a museum set in a range of restored B-Listed 18th century farm buildings, a walled garden, a ruined medieval church and part of an original James Watt steam engine.

Kinneil House is a well preserved example of a defensive tower that was gradually converted to more palatial living in the 17th century. The palace range has significant wall and ceiling painted decoration. It is approached from a now truncated avenue to the east.

The tower house was probably begun by James, 1st Lord Hamilton in the 1470s and was frequently remodelled, and it was later said to have been blown up by the Earl of Morton in 1570; part of it is incorporated, much altered, in the central block of the house and the west walling, overhanging the ravine, still partly remains, containing several large gunloops.

An L-shaped house was then built, a little to the N, to replace it. This still forms the N wing of the mansion. The large palace range attached to the north-east corner of the tower, was probably constructed around 1553 to 1555. It is likely that the second Marquess of Hamilton extended it in the 1620s. Anne, Duchess of Hamilton began a further phase of work in the 1670s, remodelling the tower as a formal centrepiece on the remains of the original keep and adding the linking towers with pyramidal roofs of what was intended to be a U-plan symmetrical building. The proposed south-east block to balance the earlier north-east palace block was never begun.

Kinneil House remained the property of the Hamiltons until 1936 when the building was sold to the burgh of Bo'ness who gave permission for it to be demolished. The main tower having been gutted, was saved from total demolition when painted decoration were found in the palace range. . Some restoration work was carried out to the wall and ceiling paintings in 1936-8 by John Houston.

James Watt carried out some of the development of the steam engine here. The workshop he used is now an A-Listed roofless ruin, beside it is the cylinder of an engine used to drain the Schoolyard Pit, Bo'ness, preserved in Watt's memory. The

workshop is unique as the only surviving building in Scotland that can be directly associated with Watt and his pioneering experiments.

The medieval church of Kinneil, to the west, is a Scheduled Monument.

Part of the Antonine Wall, which is both scheduled and part of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, runs through Kinneil House and parkland. The tower sits on the line of the Antonine Wall. Kinneil fortlet is situated approximately 415m west-south-west of Kinneil Church. A lengthy section of the ditch is visible as a broad, gentle hollow running WSW through the open meadow between Kinneil House and Kinneil fortlet. As a result of medieval cultivation, nothing remains visible of the rampart although excavations in this area have demonstrated that buried remains of the wall base survive.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) to monitor groundbreaking works.
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified during the watching brief by excavation and recording and to produce a report on them.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

All work was conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 'Code of Conduct' (CIfA 2014), and other relevant CIfA Standards and Guidance.

2.2 Watching Brief

All ground-breaking works were carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

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

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Numbers in bold refer to contexts. The watching brief area prior to excavation was a grassed area adjacent to the newly reconstructed garden wall (Fig. 2).

Plastic drainage pipe was to be inserted along the southern edge of the new wall, leading into a sump located at the eastern end of the wall.

A trench measuring 2.1m by 1.8m by 0.7m deep was excavated by machine. A sloped area was cut back from the edge of the sump to the wall to allow for the installation of the drainage pipe to flow into the sump (Fig. 3-4).

The deposits removed consisted entirely of topsoil containing rubble. This rubble was composed of large sandstone blocks, similar to those visible lying on the ground surface in the surrounding area and presumably originate from the demolished garden wall. The blocks were loose within the topsoil.

Natural was not reached.

No artefacts were recovered.

4. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd at Kinneil House. No archaeological features, finds or deposits were identified.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Record for the Historic Environment Scotland (NRHE) and copies of reports will be lodged with the West Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record.

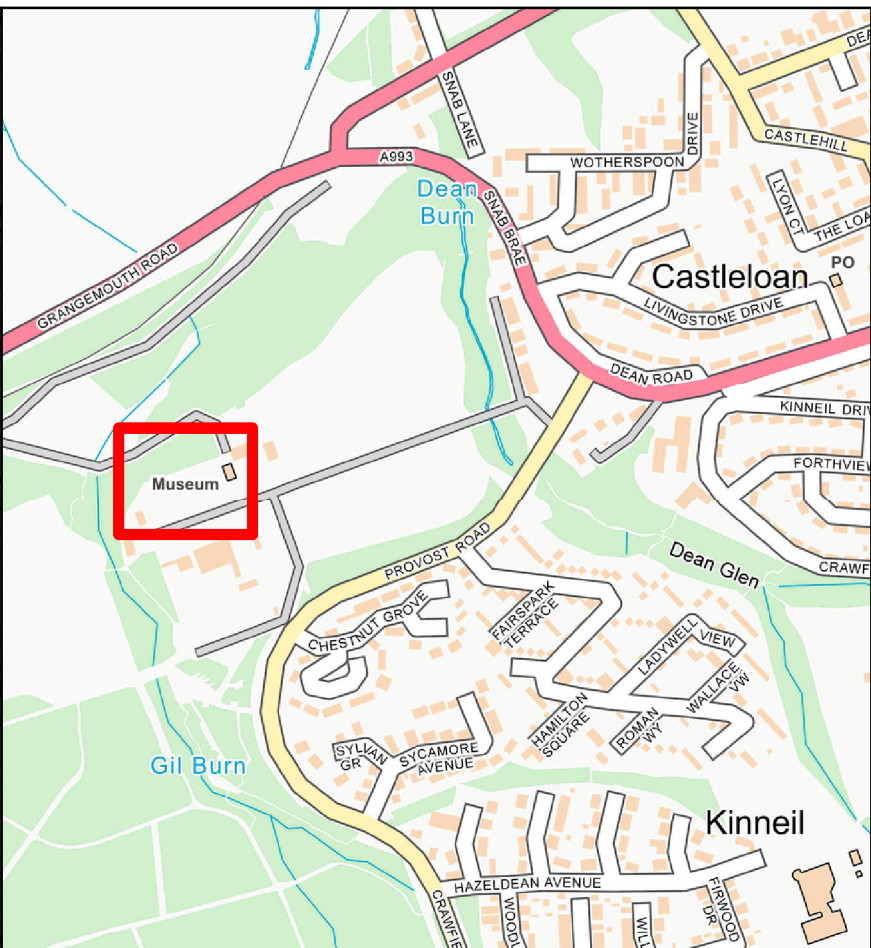
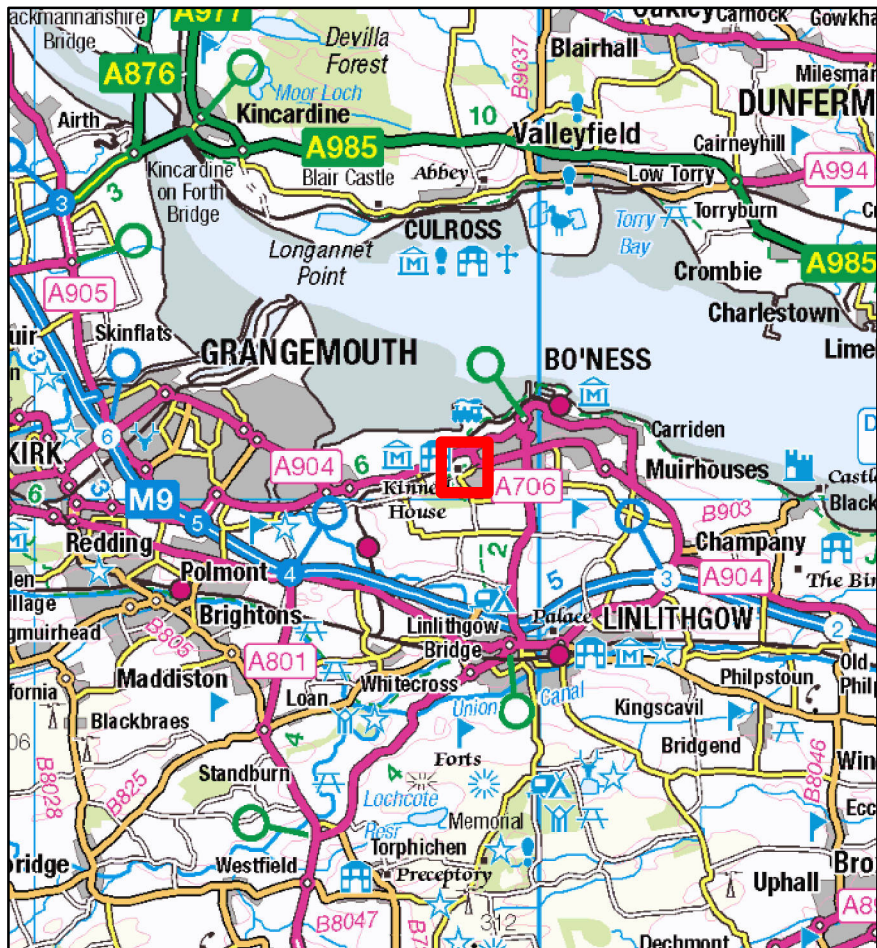
A summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2) and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Facing
1	Pre-excavation view of watching brief area	NW
2	Pre-excavation view of watching brief area	NW
3	Pre-excavation view of watching brief area	N
4	Completed sump excavation	W
5	Completed sump excavation	N
6	Completed sump excavation, detail of soil profile	N
7	Completed sump excavation	NE
8	Completed sump excavation	NE
9	Post-excavation view of watching brief area	W
10	Post-excavation view of watching brief area	W

APPENDIX 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Falkirk
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Kinneil House
PROJECT CODE:	MINA36
PARISH:	Bo'ness and Carriden
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Melanie Johnson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 9822 8059
START DATE (this season)	December 2017
END DATE (this season)	December 2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd within the grounds of the A-Listed Kinneil House as part of the Minor Archaeological Services Call Off Contract, during the installation of drainage adjacent to a newly reconstructed garden wall. The work involved the excavation of a small trench for a sump. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Environment Scotland
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 with NRHE, reports lodged with SMR.



Key:

- PIC Boundary
- Watching Brief Area

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Title:
Location map and watching brief area

Project:
Kinneil House

Client:
Historic Environment Scotland

Scale at A3:
1:400

Drawn by: SW	Checked by: MJ	Date: 05/02/2018
Report No: 3622	Fig. No: 1	



Fig. 2 - Pre-excitation view of watching brief area



Fig. 3 - Excavated area for sump and drainage pipe



Fig. 4 - Post-excitation view of watching brief area

Project:
Kinneil House



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Report No: 3622		Fig. No: 2 - 4



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