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Plot 1, 3 Smeaton Grove, Inveresk, East Lothian

Archaeological Watching Brief
Report No. 3783

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Inveresk,
East Lothian**

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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 July and August 2018 for a single house development on Plot 1 at 3 Smeaton Grove, Inveresk, Musselburgh, East Lothian (NGR: NT 34926 71518; Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Rachel Caughey.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 19th July 2018 was produced by CFA on behalf of Ms Caughey. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS).

1.2 Background

Planning permission (Ref. No. 14/00698/P) has been granted for the construction of a new dwelling house on Plot 1 at 3 Smeaton Grove, Musselburgh. The planning permission was subject to an archaeological condition requiring a watching brief during groundbreaking works. This house formed part of a small development of four houses, three of which had been previously built. The site had formerly been a residential plot with a large garden.

The proposed development area was located on the south side of Smeaton Grove and lies c.50m to the west of the scheduled area associated with Pinkiehill Roman field system (SAM No. 3611). Other archaeological remains identified within the area include Mortonhall Junction Roman camps and prehistoric settlement (SAM No. 3610). This group of sites includes a Bronze Age Cursus monument.

A pre-determination archive assessment and evaluation was undertaken by CFA in November 2007 (Hill 2007). This covered the majority of the site apart from the frontage where the existing residential property was located. This identified archaeological remains from the potentially from the Roman period. It identified the remains of two ditches potentially of Roman date, three apparently linear features which were undated, two pits of unknown date, and a modern feature containing building debris. Pottery of Roman date was found in the two ditches and in the topsoil. These ditches may have formed boundary ditches associated with nearby Roman field systems.

Following the demolition of the existing house on the site additional trial trench evaluation was undertaken with trenches being targeted on the footprints of the proposed new houses in this area (Kirby 2010). The work identified a large pit containing two sherds of Roman period pottery. The pottery was comparatively unabraded suggesting that it was deposited shortly after breakage. The pit is likely to have been a borrow-pit for the quarrying of the sandy gravel subsoil within this area. There were no other features identified during this phase.

Based on the results of the evaluation the development outside of the house foundations was designed in such a way to seek to preserve the identified archaeology *in situ*.

A watching brief was undertaken in 2011 during the insertion of services. No features of archaeological significance were identified. No finds were recovered (Glendinning 2011).

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (monitored strip) to monitor all groundbreaking.
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording and produce a report on them.
- To prepare a suitable 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 Watching Brief

The terms of the WSI required a watching brief during the excavation of foundations for the new dwelling house. Topsoil and overburden were removed to foundation depth by a JCB 3CX type 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

3.1 General

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

The footprint of the proposed dwelling house covered a total area of 16m by 10.5m, orientated NW-SE.

3.2 Excavation of Foundation Trenches

The foundation trenches typically had a width of 0.60m (Fig. 3), but were widened out to c.1.6m (Fig. 4) where bay-windows were to be constructed on the north-west and south-east edges of the proposed house, and where the door was to be present on the south-west edge. The foundations were excavated to a depth of 0.8m. Natural deposits were encountered at a depth of c.0.8m below the current ground surface.

Up to 0.3m of modern mixed deposits (**001**) overlay a firm topsoil (**002**) comprising up to 0.3m of dark grey-brown silty sand. A subsoil (**003**) of up to 0.2m of deep mid orange-brown silty sand with black inclusions lay beneath this. The natural undisturbed subsoil (**004**) was a mid orange sandy gravel.

Two features were identified as cutting into the natural subsoil. The first, situated centrally on the north-east edge of the proposed house, was later shown to be the ephemeral result of recent disturbance or demolition (Fig. 5). The second feature (**005**) was 1.75m wide, however, this was a modern cut excavated from the site surface (Fig. 6) and filled (**006**) with the same material as the mixed surface deposit (**001**). This feature extended to a maximum of 0.1m into the natural subsoil.

No trace of the unexcavated remains of the large pit recorded during trial (Kirby 2010) were identified. This is due to the fact that foundation trenches did not cross any point where the surviving limits of the feature might be perceptible at foundation depth. The remains of it were therefore preserved *in situ*.

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

4. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Plot 1, 3 Smeaton Grove, Inveresk, during the construction of a dwelling house. A modern cut feature and disturbance likely related to recent demolition works were observed, but there were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified.

Given the results CFA recommended that no further work is required in relation to the watching brief, however, it understood that the final decision lies with ELCAS on behalf of the planning authority

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 East Lothian Council 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

Glendinning, B 2011 3 *Smeaton Grove, Inveresk, Musselburgh, East Lothian. Archaeological Watching Brief*. CFA Archaeology Ltd Report No. 1882.

Hill, I 2007 3 *Smeaton Grove, Inveresk, Musselburgh. Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Evaluation*. CFA Archaeology Ltd Report No. 1416.

Kirby, M 2010 Area 5. 3 *Smeaton Grove, Inveresk, Musselburgh, East Lothian. Archaeological Works*. CFA Archaeology Ltd Report No. 1798.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

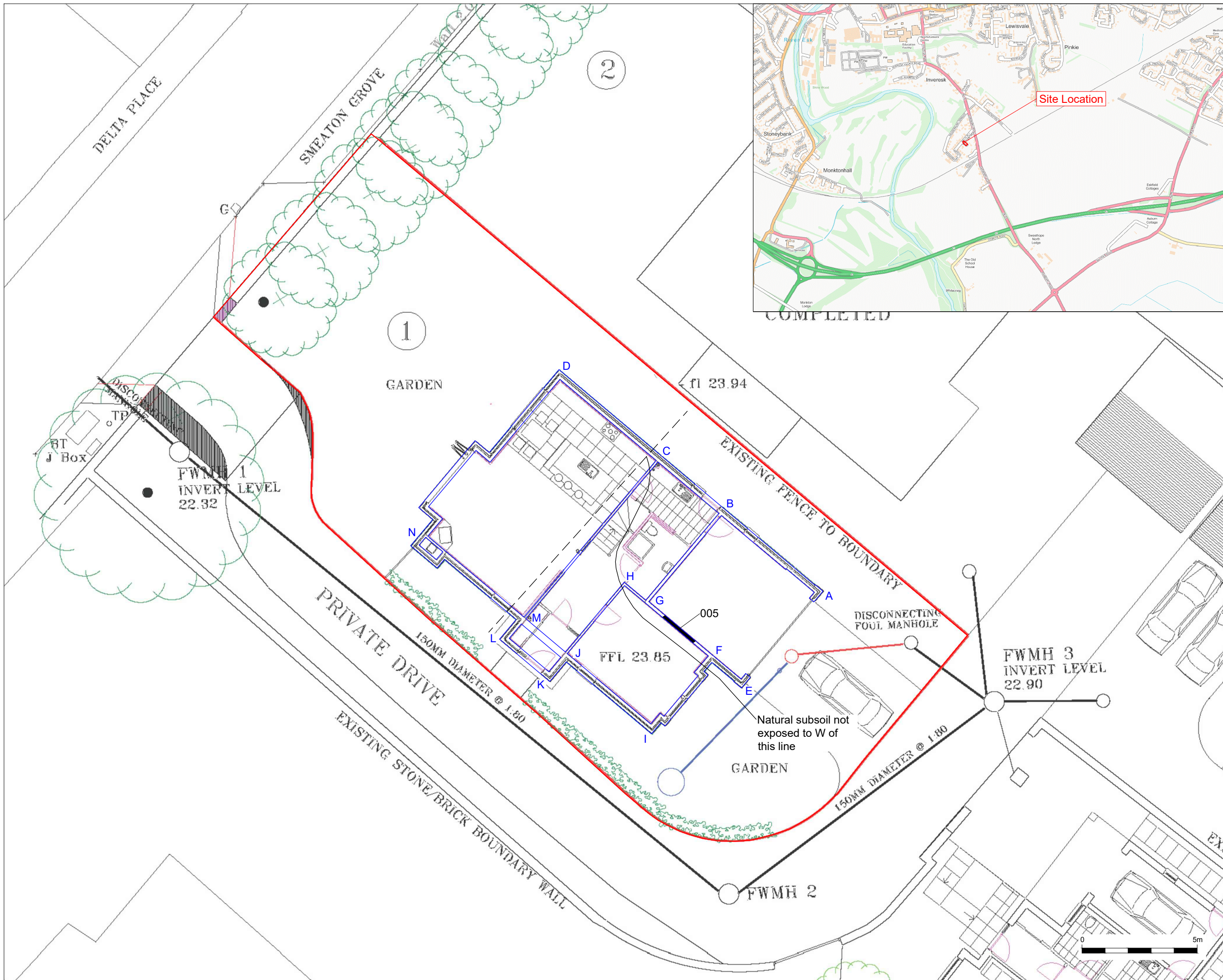
Context no.	Type	Description
001	Deposit	Surface of mixed materials / topsoil and building debris
002	Deposit	Dark grey-brown silty sand
003	Deposit	Mid orange-brown silty sand
004	Deposit	Natural subsoil; orange sandy gravel
005	Cut	Recent cut feature
006	Fill	Fill of 005, re-deposited 001

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Facing
1-4	Pre-excavation views of Plot 1	SE & NW
5-6	Feature 005 in Foundation Section F-H	SE
7-8	Possible ditch feature in Foundation Section B-C	NW
9-11	General site views with the SE portion of the foundations excavated	SE
12	Foundation Section A-B excavated	SE
13	Foundation Section I-F excavated	NE
14	Foundation Section M-I excavated	SE
15	Foundation Section M-C excavated	NE
16-18	Feature 005 in Foundation Section F-H	NE
19-21	Trench section in Foundation Section B-C cleaned and the possible excavated. No feature is present	NE
22-23	Soil profile 001-004 in Foundation Section I-F	NW
24	Trench along western side of footprint	N
25	Electric hazard tape below in trench at W side	N
26	General shot, trench on S side of footprint	E
27	General shot, trench on S side of footprint	N
28	General shot, trench on S side of footprint	NW
29	General shot, trench on S side of footprint	E
30	S facing section in trench on S side	N
31	New electric cable joint showing proximity to the surface	E
32	Trench on W side of footprint	N
33-34	NW facing section of NW edge of footprint	SE
35-36	Northern corner of foundation trenches	SE
37-38	NW facing section of widened trench at NW edge	SE
39-40	General shot, NW edge of foundations	NE
41	General shot, N corner completed	S
42	Looking along foundation trench, W corner	NW
43	NE facing section of foundation trench	SW

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Plot 1, 3 Smeaton Grove, Inveresk, East Lothian: Archaeological Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	SMEA3
PARISHES:	Inveresk
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Oliver Rusk
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 34926 71518
START DATE (this season)	July 2018
END DATE (this season)	August 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	DES 2008. Vol 9, p62 <i>DBA and Evaluation</i> – Ian Hill DES 2010. Vol 11, p61 <i>Archaeological Works</i> – Magnus Kirby DES 2011. Vol 12, p68 <i>Watching Brief</i> – Bruce Glendinning
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 3 Smeaton Grove, Inveresk, during the construction of a dwelling house. A modern cut feature and disturbance likely related to recent demolition works were observed, 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:	Ms Rachel Caughey
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EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NRHE, Reports lodged with East Lothian Council SMR and NRHE.



Key:

- Site Boundary
- Trench Outline

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Title:
 Site location plan showing foundation trenches

Project:
 Plot 1, 3 Smeaton Grove,
 Inveresk, East Lothian.
 Archaeological Watching Brief

Client:
 Rachel Caughey

Scale at A3:
 1:150

Drawn by: MP	Checked: SW	Date: 31/08/2018
Report No.: 3783	Fig. No.: 1	



Fig. 2 - Pre-excitation shot of area from the north



Fig. 3 - Post-excitation view of the south-eastern foundation trenches

Project:
Plot 1, 3 Smeaton Grove, Inveresk, East Lothian. Archaeological Watching Brief



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Rachel Caughey

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Fig. 4 - Wider foundation trench for entranceway to the south-west



Fig. 5 - Soil profile showing feature discounted as recent disturbance, facing north-east

Project:
Plot 1, 3 Smeaton Grove, Inveresk, East Lothian. Archaeological Watching Brief



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Fig. 6 - Close-up of modern cut feature in soil profile, facing south-west



Fig. 7 - Soil profile in south-east facing section

Project:
Plot 1, 3 Smeaton Grove, Inveresk, East Lothian. Archaeological Watching Brief



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Report No: 3783		Fig. No: 6-7



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