

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

August 2008

Commissioned by Reiach and Hall on behalf of Murray International Holdings Ltd

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

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**Belmont Garden House, Murrayfield,
Edinburgh**

Archaeological Works

Report No. 1538

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological work undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in July and August 2008 during ground resurfacing work at Belmont Garden House, Murrayfield, Edinburgh (NGR: 21749 73317) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Reiach and Hall Architects on behalf of Murray International Holdings Ltd.
- 1.1.2 A scope of works was produced by CFA and agreed by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 A rubble-built well was discovered during topsoil stripping operations at Belmont Garden House at NGR NT 2174 7331. CECAS were informed and subsequently required a programme of archaeological works to record the well.
- 1.2.2 Belmont House is Category A Listed (HB Number 28032) and the current building is a 2-storey and attic Italianate villa dated to 1828 with later additions; an earlier building on the site was called Brucehill and was built for Charles Bruce in the 1720's. It was purchased by David Campbell in 1762, who renamed the house Belmont. In 1827, Lord MacKenzie purchased the estate and the following year employed William Henry Playfair to design a new house for the site. In 1853, the house was bought by the Hope family and remained in their possession until the 1930's when James Miller acquired the house and grounds.
- 1.2.3 There are no other recorded archaeological sites within the development area and no previous invasive archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place prior to this work.

1.3 Objectives

- 1.3.1 The aims of the project were:
- To record the well by scaled drawings and photography;
 - To determine the location, character, extent and quality of any associated features or objects of archaeological importance that may survive within the vicinity of the well, and which may be damaged or destroyed by this development.
- 1.3.1 The watching brief in the vicinity of the well was not required following discussions with John Lawson of CECAS.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 Desk-Based Assessment

- 2.1.1 Historic map coverage for the area was examined together with other readily available cartographic information on pre-recent land use in the development area. The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and bibliographic sources related to the area were consulted as appropriate.

2.2 Recording

- 2.2.1 CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.
- 2.2.2 All 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 Desk-Based Assessment

- 3.1.1 The Desk Based Assessment found no reference to a well at this location; however, the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (1855) has 'pump' annotated on it at the approximate location of the well found at Belmont House (Fig. 6). This annotation does not appear on the subsequent second and third editions of the Ordnance Survey maps.

3.2 Recording

- 3.2.1 The well was located in the grounds of Belmont Garden House in an area where road re-surfacing was taking place. It was found by the contractors during topsoil removal and capped with a temporary c.0.5m thick concrete capping with manhole cover fitted (Fig. 2), for health and safety reasons. The capping was removed to allow the recording of the well to take place (Fig. 3).
- 3.2.2 The well has an external diameter of c.1.7m and an internal diameter of c.1.25m and was rubble constructed; the depth is unknown. The stone construction of the well was repaired with brickwork to a depth of two courses and for a third of its circumference (Fig. 4). There was a metal pipe exiting through the wall of the well (Fig. 5). This pipe was orientated towards a stone trough, which had a similar metal standpipe attachment, probably providing the water supply for this trough.
- 3.2.3 The well will be re-capped and preserved in situ beneath the new driveway.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 A post-medieval rubble-built well discovered during resurfacing work at Belmont Garden House, Murrayfield Edinburgh has been recorded and preserved in situ. There were no other archaeological finds or features recovered.
- 4.2 The well is shown as a pump on the 1853 Ordnance Survey maps, indicating that it had been constructed by that date. It is likely to have supplied water for Belmont House or the earlier Brucehill and thus date to the 18th or early 19th century; Belmont House had extensive gardens (Fig. 6), including hot houses, in the 19th century for which a private well would have proved useful.
- 4.2 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.3 A summary statement of the results of this watching brief, to be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3), will be sufficient to disseminate the results of this work.

5. REFERENCES

Ordnance Survey 1st Ed (1853) Edinburghshire Sheet 2 (6'' to 1 mile)

Ordnance Survey 2nd Ed (1896) Edinburghshire Sheet 111.6 (1:2500)

Ordnance Survey 3rd Ed (1908) Edinburghshire Sheet 111.6 (1:2500)

APPENDIX 1: Digital Photographic Register

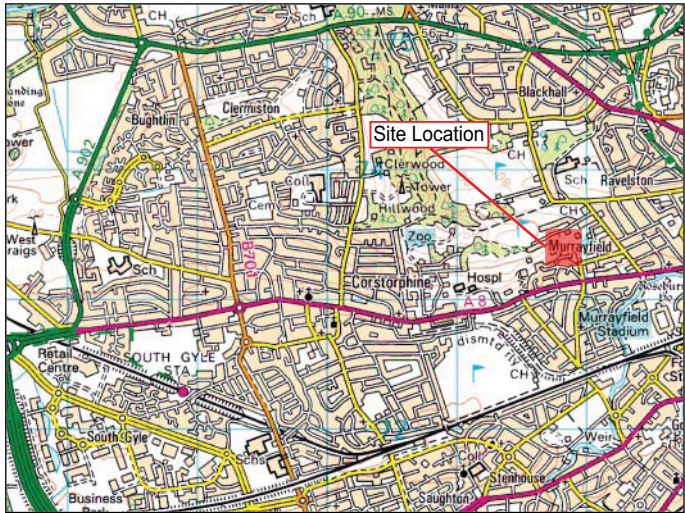
Shot	Description
1	View of inside of well taken through the manhole cover
2	View of inside of well taken through the manhole cover
3	General shot of manhole
4	Stone trough
5	Stone trough with standpipe
6	View of inside of well with pipe visible
7	View of inside of well with pipe visible
8	Internal view of well
9-14	Views of well with concrete capping removed

APPENDIX 2: Drawings Register

Drawing no.	Scale	Plan/ section	Description
1	1:20	Plan	Plan of well

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Belmont Garden House, Murrayfield, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	BEWE
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Chris O'Connell
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)	NT 2174 7331
START DATE (this season)	07/07/08
END DATE (this season)	07/08/08
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out during resurfacing work at Belmont Garden House, Murrayfield, Edinburgh. A post-medieval rubble-built well was discovered. The well had a metal pipe exiting through its wall. There were no other archaeological finds recovered and the well will be preserved in situ.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Murray International Holdings Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS) City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)



Scale: 1:1250

Key:



Fig. No:	1	Revision:	A	Client:	Murray International Holdings Ltd.
Title:					
Location Map					
Project:					
Belmont Garden House					



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Fig 2 - View of well with capping in place



Fig 3 - General view of well following removal of capping

Key:

Fig. No: 2 & 3

Revision: A

Client: Murray International Holdings Ltd.

Title: Figures 2 & 3

Project: Belmont Garden House

Scale:



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Drawn by: cae



Fig 4 - View of well showing brick repairs



Fig 5 - View of well showing metal water pipe



Key:	Fig. No:	4 & 5	Revision:	A	Client:	Murray International Holdings Ltd.	 <div>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</div>
	Title:	Figures 4 & 5					
	Project:	Belmont Garden House					
Scale:						Drawn by:	cae



Fig 6 - Extract from OS 1st Edition map (1853) showing 'pump'

Key:	Fig. No: 6	Revision: A	Client: Murray International Holdings Ltd.	<div><div>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</div></div>
	Title: Figure 6			
	Project: Belmont Garden House			
Scale:				<div>Drawn by: cae</div>