

## CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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*Commissioned by Quesberry Properties Limited*

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**1-3 Musselburgh Road, Dalkeith**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**Report No. 1460**

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## **Illustration (bound at rear)**

Fig. 1	Site Location Map and Site Plan Showing Trench Locations
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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of a evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in February 2008 (NGR: NT 3348 6765) (Fig 1). Queensberry Properties Limited commissioned the work.
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the project was produced by CFA. The WSI was based upon documents provided by Queensberry Property Ltd and discussions with David Connolly (Archaeological Officer, Midlothian Council).

### **1.2 Background**

- 1.2.1 The proposed development consists of the erection of new houses including access routes and parking facilities at the site of 1-3 Musselburgh Road, Dalkeith (Fig. 1). The proposed development site consists of a courtyard containing a number of upstanding buildings.
- 1.2.2 No previous invasive archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place within the proposed development area prior to this evaluation.
- 1.2.3 A standing building survey was conducted by CFA prior to the evaluation (Cressey 2008).

### **1.3 Objectives**

- 1.3.1 The aims of the field evaluation were to determine the location, character, extent and quality of any features or objects of archaeological importance that may survive within the application area, and which may be damaged or destroyed by this development and where appropriate provide mitigation measures.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

- 2.1.1 CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.

### **2.2 Trial Trenching**

- 2.2.1 The total development area is 3200m<sup>2</sup>. A series of trial trenches were excavated to assess no less than 5% of the total development area (160m<sup>2</sup>). Trenches were located to determine whether potential archaeological remains were located within the proposed development area. A desk-based assessment is included in the standing building survey report (Cressey 2008).
- 2.2.2 Modern overburden was removed by a JCB 3CX-type mechanical excavator, equipped with a 1.5m wide smooth-bladed ditching bucket. Excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. All further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.
- 2.2.3 The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.
- 2.2.4 Trench positions were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment and all trenches were backfilled.

## **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **3.1 Evaluation**

- 3.1.1 Five trial trenches totalling just over 5% of the development area were excavated (Fig. 1). Context numbers are in bold and parentheses and a full list provided in Appendix 1. Three hand dug test pits (Plate 8) were also dug to investigate an area that map evidence suggests was once occupied by a brick kiln.

#### *Trench 1 & 1.1 (5m x 2m & 25m x 2m)*

- 3.1.2 Trench 1 was located at the southern edge of the site in between a range of existing buildings and the southern boundary wall. A 5m long section (Trench 1) at excavated down to natural which was identified 2m below the modern site surface (Plate 1). A 0.2m thick surface of concrete (**100**) was removed to expose a 0.2m thick layer of red blaes (**101**). This overlay a 0.1m thick black layer of mixed charcoal, coal and silt (**102**). Beneath this lay a deep deposit (1.5m) of made up ground (**103**) including builders rubble, mortar, stone and late 19<sup>th</sup>/ early 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic and glass. Excavation of this trench had to cease as was not possible to step it along its entire length due to a general lack of space as containers and skips constricted the amount of room available.

- 3.1.3 The containers were moved the following day and a new trench (Trench 1.1) was positioned alongside that backfilled earlier. The stratigraphy remained the same as that recorded previously; concrete (100), red blaes (101), black charcoal etc (102) and made up ground featuring 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramic and glass (103). Natural was identified at c. 1.6m, below the current site surface, however, natural was not reached at the east end of the trench despite being excavated to a depth over 2m. Excavation had to be curtailed as there was not sufficient room to proceed safely below this depth.

*Trench 2 (16m x 2m)*

- 3.1.4 Trench 2 was positioned to cross a range of buildings and a courtyard depicted on an 1830 plan of the complex (Cressey 2008). A surface layer of red blaes (200) which was 0.2m deep overlay a thin layer of black Shale (204) 0.05-0.1m deep. Beneath this lay a 0.4m deep layer of compacted loam soil with large stone inclusions (201), below this was the natural undisturbed subsoil (202) which was a light brown sand and gravel. Towards the northern end of the trench a roughly built stone and mortar wall (203) extended about halfway across the trench and was aligned parallel to the boundary wall immediately to the north (Plate 2). The wall survived to a height of 0.4m and was 0.5m wide (plate 2).

*Trench 3 (16m x 2m) (Plate 3)*

- 3.1.5 Trench 3 was positioned, as trench 2 was to evaluate the courtyard area on the 1830 plan. The upper deposit was a 0.2m layer of red blaes (300) as in trench 2. Below this was a 0.05m layer of tarmac (301). Underlying (301) was a patchy 0.06m layer of topsoil like material. Beneath this the natural undisturbed subsoil survived (303). This was a light brown sand and gravel. Three features were apparently cut in to the subsoil surface: a pit [304]; and two smaller circular features [306] and [308] respectively.
- 3.1.6 The pit [304] was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.8m and was filled with a brown silty sand (305), which contained occasional flecks of charcoal. Both the smaller features [306 & 308] were circular in plan with a diameter of 0.3m. They were both filled with black mixture of charcoal, blaes and ash (307 & 309). A fragment of modern ceramic was also found within (309), which points to a modern date for these features.

*Trench 4 (5.5m x 3.5m)*

- 3.1.7 Trench 4 was positioned across a range of buildings that ran along the NE side of the site shown on the 1830 plan. On the west side of the trench 0.2m of red blaes (400) was removed to reveal dark brown silt loam (401). Beneath this lay (402) a small patch of brown silt that directly overlay the natural undisturbed subsoil (403).
- 3.1.8 The eastern side of the trench contained the remains of a structure represented by two parallel sandstone and lime mortar walls (404 & 405) (Plate 4) with an infilled void between them. These walls ran parallel to the boundary wall

immediately to the north. The material infilling the gap between the walls (**406**) was a mixture of stone, brick, tile, ceramic and glass fragments. This material was excavated to a depth of 1.4m at which point it was stopped due to the unstable nature of the fill and a lack of manoeuvring space which prevented the safe continuation of the excavation. A brick cavity was identified in the southern wall (Plate 5). The structure was 1.7m wide and a 4m length was exposed in the trench.

*Trench 5 (15m x 2m) (Plate 6 & 7)*

- 3.1.9 Trench 5 was positioned to evaluate an area parallel to the NW boundary wall, which contained numerous filled windows and doorways, indicating the past presence of tenement buildings. A surface deposit of dark brown topsoil (**500**) 0.3m deep was removed to reveal a demolition layer 0.1m thick (**501**). Directly under (**501**) was undisturbed natural subsoil (**502**), in order to confirm that this was natural it was excavated to a depth of 0.9m.

*Test pit 1 (3m x 0.4m & 1m x 0.4m)*

- 3.1.10 Black topsoil (**TP100**) 0.2 – 0.3m in depth containing modern ceramic fragments and plastic overlay natural undisturbed subsoil (**TP101**).

*Test pit 2 (0.5m x 0.5m)*

- 3.1.11 Black topsoil (**TP200**) containing modern material overlay natural undisturbed subsoil (**TP201**).

*Test pit 3 (0.5m x 1m)*

- 3.1.12 Black topsoil containing modern material (**TP300** directly overlay natural undisturbed subsoil (**TP301**). The corner of a small pit was uncovered at the northern edge of the test pit (Plate 9); this was filled with a deep deposit of ground mortar (**TP302**) and two iron bolts were found within the fill.

#### **4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 The site of the proposed development appears to have been extensively levelled at some point resulting in the removal of archaeological deposits across the site. However, the remains of structural features, possibly relating to buildings on the 1830 estate map of the site did survive along the northern side of the site (Trenches 2 and 4). Small modern pits were identified in Trench 3 and Test-pit 3.
- 4.2 The structural remains in Trenches 2 and 4 most likely represent what is left of a range of building shown on the 1830 estate map of the site. The structural remains in Trench 4 are likely to be what survives of a sawpit which is shown inside one of these buildings.
- 4.3 The three hand dug test pits revealed no evidence of structural remains relating to the kiln which occupied the area to the east of building 8. However, a small pit of relatively modern date was uncovered in test pit 3.
- 4.5 Based on the results of the evaluation, CFA recommend that the remains of the buildings identified along the northern side of the site are stripped and mapped and the fills of the sawpit are mechanically excavated to allow the saw pit to be properly planned and the elevations recorded. However, the final decision on any further mitigation measures lies with David Connolly, Archaeological officer for Midlothian Council.
- 4.6 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 Midlothian Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.7 A summary statement of the results of this evaluation, to be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 4), will be sufficient to disseminate the results of this evaluation.

#### **5. REFERENCES**

Cressey, M. 2008 *1-3 Musselburgh Road, Dalkeith. Standing Building Report.*

## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

No.	Trench	Description
100	1	Concrete.
101	1	Red blaes.
102	1	Charcoal and coal
103	1	Made ground, mid brown rubble.
200	2	Red shale.
201	2	Loan and stone.
202	2	Subsoil, sands and gravel.
203	2	Fragments of mortared stone wall.
300	3	Red blaes.
301	3	Tarmac.
302	3	Organic fill.
303	3	Light brown sand and gravel mix.
304	3	Cut of pit.
305	3	Silty sand fill of (304).
306	3	Cut of posthole.
307	3	Black modern fill of (306).
308	3	Cut of posthole.
309	3	Black modern fill of (308).
400	4	Red blaes.
401	4	Dark brown silt loam.
402	4	Brown silt.
403	4	Subsoil, brown sands and gravel.
404	4	Sandstone mortared wall.
405	4	Sandstone mortared wall.
406	4	Dark brown/ black, silty loam containing fragments of stone, tile, brick, ceramics and glass. Fill material between (404 & 406).
500	5	Topsoil.
501	5	Demolition layer, fragments of stone and mortar.
502	5	Subsoil, orange sands and gravel.

## APPENDIX 2: Field Drawings Register

Drawing No.	Description	Plan/Section	Scale
1	Plan of Trench 3.	P	1:20
2	South facing section of Trench 5.	S	1:20
3	West facing section of Trench 1.	S	1:20
4	Plan of Trench 4.	P	1:50

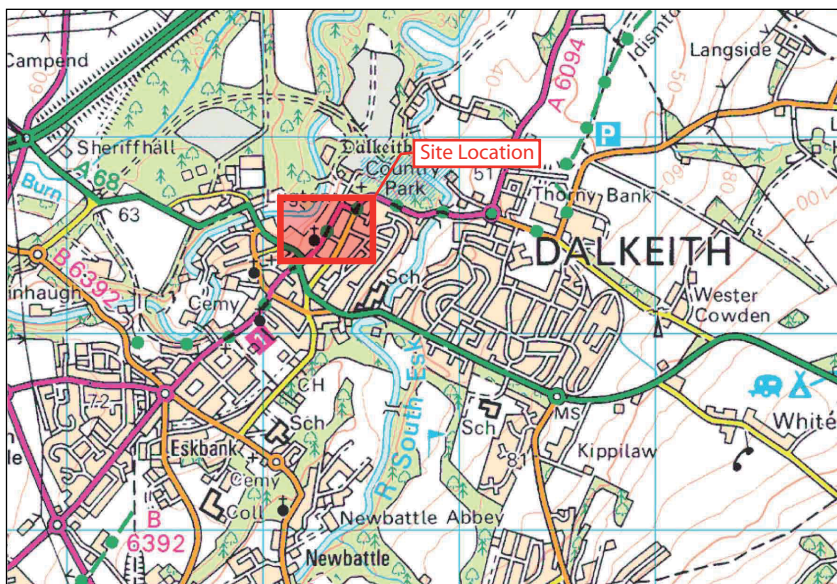


### APPENDIX 3: Photographic Register

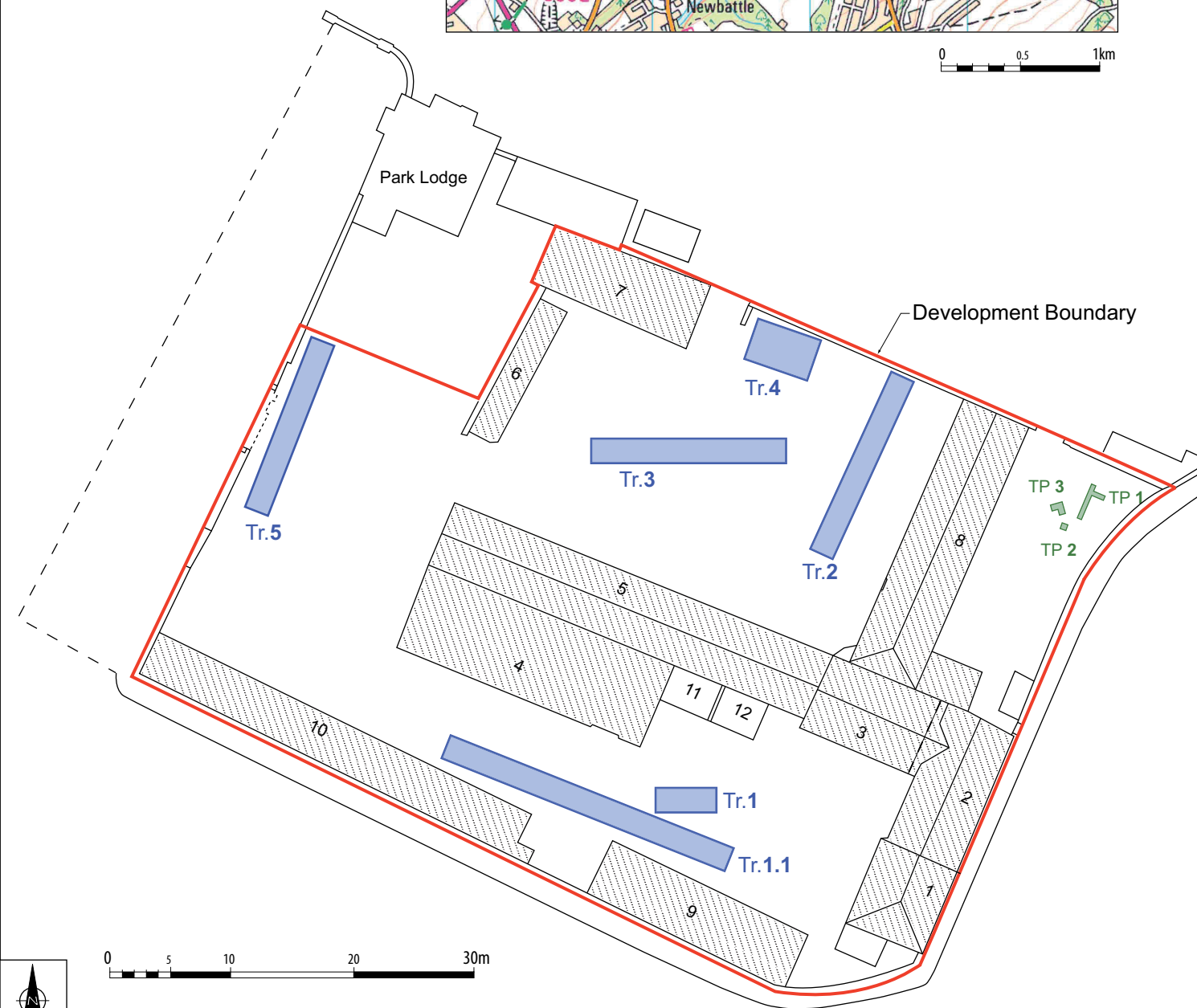
Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1	Trench 1 section.	South	Bright
2	Trench 1 section.	South	Bright
3	Trench 2, wall remains visible.	North	Bright
4	Trench 2, view of wall remains.	North-west	Bright
5	Trench 3, general view.	East	Bright
6	Trench 4, view of saw pit, mid excavation.	East	Bright
7	Trench 4, saw pit. Brick cavity against southern wall visible.	North	Bright
8	Trench 4, close up of brick cavity.	North	Bright
9	Trench 4, saw pit.	North	Bright
10	Trench 4, saw pit northern wall.	South	Bright.
11	Trench 5, general view.	North	Bright-sunny
12	Trench 5, general view.	South	Bright-sunny
13	Trench 5 section.	East	Bright-sunny
14	Test pit 1, general view.	South	Overcast
15	Test pits 1, 2 and 3. General view.	North-east	Overcast
16	Test pits 1, 2 and 3. General view.	South-west	Overcast
17	Test pit 3, mid excavation.	South	Overcast
18	Test pit 3, deep mortar layer visible.	South	Overcast

## APPENDIX 4: DES Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Midlothian Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	1 – 3 Musselburgh Road, Dalkieth.
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	DALK
<b>PARISH:</b>	Dalkieth
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Kieran Haines
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Standing Building Survey and Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR</b>	NT 3346 6765
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological standing building survey was conducted on the upstanding buildings on the site. Following this a 5% evaluation was conducted to investigate whether any subsurface archaeological deposits survived. Five machine trenches and three hand dug test pits were excavated. The results of the evaluation indicate that the site has been extensively levelled which has removed almost all traces of the previous use of the site. However, the remains of a range of buildings apparently shown on an 1830 estate plan of the area did survive along the northern side of the site.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	?
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Queensberry property Ltd.
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record of Scotland City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record



0 0.5 1km



Key:

Fig. No:

1

Revision:

A

Client:

Queensberry Property Ltd

Title:

Site Location Map

Project:

1-3 Musselburgh Road,  
Dalkeith.



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Plate 1 - East section of trench 1



Plate 2 - Trench 2, view south. Wall visible



Plate 3 - Trench 3, view south-west.

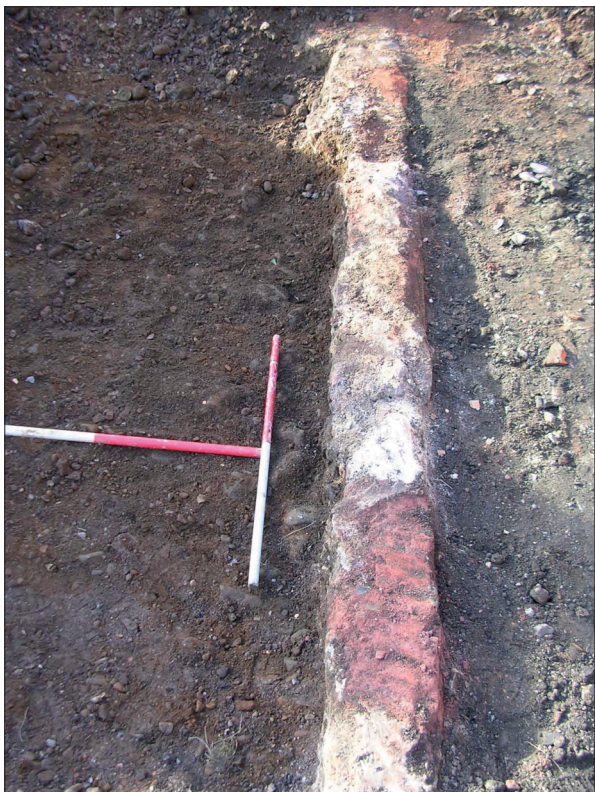


Plate 4 - Trench 4, saw-pit wall visible, mid-ex

Key:

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Plate Nos:	1-4	Revision:	A	Client:	Queensberry Property Ltd
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Plate 5 - Trench 4, saw-pit. Brick cavity visible.



Plate 6 - Trench 5, general view north.

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Plate 7 - Trench 5, west section



Plate 9 - Section of test-pit 3



Plate 8 - Kiln test-pits, general view, north-east

Key:

Scale:

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