

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

May 2008

Commissioned by Queensberry Properties Limited

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Draft/Final Report Stage:	FINAL

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**1-3 Musselburgh Road
Dalkeith
Midlothian**

Archaeological Works

Report No. 1476

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Illustration (bound at rear)

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological works undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in April 2008 at 1-3 Musselburgh Road, Dalkeith, Midlothian (NGR: NT 3348 6765) (Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Queensberry Properties Limited.
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the project was produced by CFA and agreed in advance by the Midlothian Council Archaeological Officer. The WSI describes a further phase of work that was required following the initial evaluation of the site and the demolition of Building 3.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 This programme of archaeological works was carried out in advance of a proposed residential development at 1-3 Musselburgh Road, Dalkeith. The proposed development area is situated within a courtyard that forms part of the perimeter wall enclosing Dalkeith Park and is situated next to the Towngate. Immediately prior to this programme of works, a number of buildings within the courtyard had been demolished.
- 1.2.2 A standing building survey (Cressey 2008) and archaeological evaluation (Haines and McKinney 2008) were conducted by CFA prior to the demolition of the buildings. The evaluation identified the remains of a saw-pit and possible associated walls. The saw-pit is depicted inside a building on an estate plan dating to 1832.
- 1.2.3 During the demolition of Building 5, the remains of a stone built well were identified close to the foundation of the building.
- 1.2.4 It was decided in consultation with the Midlothian Council Archaeological Officer that a programme of further work was required in relation to the saw-pit and well. It was also decided that the area beneath the footprint of Building 3 represented the most probable location for the survival of medieval deposits. Consequently, it was decided that further trial trenching should be carried out within this location.

1.3 Objectives

- 1.3.1 The aims of this programme of fieldwork were:
- To record the remains of the well
 - To fully record the structural remains and saw-pit present along the northern edge of the site.
 - To determine if any features or objects of archaeological importance survived beneath the footprint of Building 3.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.
- 2.1.2 All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.
- 2.1.3 The positions of archaeological features and trial trenches were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment and all trenches were backfilled on completion of the fieldwork.

2.2 Well

- 2.2.1 The surface around the well was cleaned by hand; a photographic survey was undertaken using digital images and slide film, a written description was made and plan and profile drawings were taken.

2.3 Excavation

- 2.3.1 An area of modern overburden measuring c.18m by 7m was removed by a JCB 3CX equipped with a 1.5m wide smooth-bladed ditching in order to uncover the remains of the saw-pit and any associated structural remains. The rubble infill of the saw-pit was then mechanically removed under constant archaeological supervision. All further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the excavation was carried out by hand.

2.4 Evaluation

- 2.4.1 The trial trenching beneath the footprint of Building 3 was carried out using a JCB 3CX equipped with a 1.5m wide smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All groundbreaking was subject to constant archaeological supervision.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 Numbers in bold and parenthesis are contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 1.

3.2 Well (004)

- 3.2.1 The well **004** (Fig.2) (Plate 1 and Plate 2) was roughly circular in plan with an external diameter of c.1.8m and was constructed from rough-dressed sandstone blocks (**004**). It had been back-filled with building rubble (**005**) to a

depth of c.1.6m-1.9m below the current ground surface (**003**) and a maximum of fourteen courses of corbeled sandstone blocks were visible. Part of the northern side of the well survived to a level flush with the current ground surface, but much of the southern part of the structure had collapsed to a depth of c.0.75m below the current ground surface, possibly as a result of the demolition of Building 5. Internal measurements taken at a depth of c.0.75m below the current ground surface where the structure was complete showed that it was oval in shape, measuring 1.5m NE to SW by 1.2m NW to SE. There were no finds from the inside of the well.

- 3.2.2 A profile recorded across the well from NE to SW (Fig.3) showed a significant degree of corbeling on the NE side with the side of the well at a depth of 1.9m being 0.48m further to the NE than at the surface. This degree of corbeling was not present on the recorded NW to SE profile (Fig.4), where the NW side of the well at a depth of 1.4m was 0.1m further to the NW than at a depth of 0.15m below the surface. Where the profile was recorded on the SW and SE side, it was not possible to make an assessment of the degree of corbaling due to the poor survival of the southern part of the structure.

3.3 Excavation

- 3.3.1 The excavation uncovered the remains of the saw-pit (**006**) (Fig.5) (Plate 3 and Plate 4). The saw pit was rectilinear in shape with internal measurements of 10.5m north-west to south-east by 1.7m north-east to south-west by 1.75m deep and was constructed from rough-dressed sandstone blocks (**006**) held together with lime mortar. Two slots measuring c.0.25m by c.0.25m by c.0.2m deep were identified in the south-west facing elevation (Fig.6) of the structure and a larger brick-lined recess measuring 0.45m wide by 0.45m deep was identified in the north-east facing elevation (Fig.7). The stonework above the larger recess had collapsed making it impossible to determine its original size and shape. It is thought that the two smaller slots may have been to store bottles of oil for lubricating the saw.
- 3.3.2 Two lines of five flagstones (**009A - 009J**) (Fig.5) had been set into the natural sand (**002**) at the base of the saw-pit, one running along the base of the south west facing elevation and the other running along the base of the north east facing elevation. The two lines of flagstones sat directly opposite each other and the stones were fairly evenly spaced with a distance of c.1.3m between them. It is thought that the flags were post pads, which would have supported the uprights for a timber trestle onto which the logs for sawing would have been positioned. A line of end-set bricks (**008**) had also been set into the sand (**002**), running almost the full length of the pit down its centre, but the purpose of this is not known. Two glass bottles and two stoneware bottles were recovered from the base of the pit, although these are not thought to be associated with the use of the saw pit and are part of the backfilled material.
- 3.3.3 Slight traces of the wall (**013**) identified during the evaluation (Haines and McKinney 2008) were also uncovered. The wall ran parallel to the boundary wall, extending from the edge of Building 8 for a distance of c.5m. It was in

very poor condition, generally only surviving as a line of mortar. There were no other structural remains identified.

3.4 Evaluation

- 3.4.1 Two trenches (1A and 1B) (Fig.1) were excavated in a T-shape across the footprint of Building 3, extending c.4m beyond the footprint on either side. Trench 1A measured 15m by 1.5m and Trench 1B measured 4m by 1.5m. The deposits from the trenches consisted of 0.5m – 0.9m of made ground overlying orange brown natural sand, with the deeper deposits being located towards the south western end of Trench 1A. The depths of the deposits identified tie in with those from the evaluation and indicate that a considerable amount of made ground has been deposited within the south western part of the proposed development area in order to level out the site. There were no features or deposits of archaeological significance identified in either of the trenches.

4. Finds (Sue Anderson)

- 4.1.1 Two brown glazed stoneware blacking bottles and two mould-blown pale green glass bottles, one labelled Holbrook and Co, were recovered from the base of context **007**. They date to the late 19th/early 20th century.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 A programme of archaeological recording was carried out on the remains of a saw-pit that was identified during a previous evaluation undertaken by CFA and on a well that was identified during the demolition of Building 5. The saw-pit is depicted on an 1832 estate plan and the well is thought to date to a similar period.
- 5.2 Trial trenching was carried out within the footprint of the recently demolished Building 3, but no new features were identified.
- 5.3 A summary statement of the results of this evaluation, to be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 4), is considered sufficient to disseminate the results of this work.
- 5.4 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.

6. REFERENCES

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

Haines K and McKinney L, 2008, *1-3 Musselburgh Road, Dalkeith: Archaeological Evaluation*

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

No.	Feature	Description
001	N/A	Topsoil
002	N/A	Subsoil
003	N/A	Made ground
004	004	Stones forming well
005	004	Fill of well
006	006	Stones forming saw-pit
007	006	Fill of saw-pit.
008	006	Line of bricks
009A – 009J	006	Post-pads
010	006	Decayed timber
011A/ 011B	006	Slots in SW facing elevation of saw-pit
012	006	Brick recess in NE facing elevation of saw pit
013	013	Stone wall

APPENDIX 2: Field Drawings Register

Drawing No.	Description	Plan/Section/ Elevation/profile	Scale
1	Plan of well 004	Plan	1:20
2	Plan of saw-pit 006	Plan	1:50
3	SW facing elevation of saw-pit 006	Elevation	1:50
4	NE facing elevation of saw-pit 006	Elevation	1:50
5	NW facing elevation of saw-pit 006	Elevation	1:50
6	SE facing elevation of saw-pit 006	Elevation	1:50
7	NE to SW profile across well 004	Profile	1:20
8	NW to SE profile across well 004	Profile	1:20

APPENDIX 3: Photographic Register

Film 1

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-4	Well 004 general	South	Sun
5-6	Well 004 general	North	Sun
7-8	Well 004 close up of interior	SE	Sun
9-10	Well 004 close up of interior	South	Sun
11-12	Saw-pit 006 pre-excavation	NW	Sun
13-14	Trench 1A general	SW	Sun
15-16	Trench 1B general	SE	Overcast
17-20	Saw-pit 006 with backfilled material removed	NW	Overcast
21-24	Saw-pit 006 with backfilled material removed	SE	Overcast
25-34	Saw-pit 006 SW elevation, sequence of shots running from SE to NW	SW	Overcast
35-36	Saw-pit 006 SE elevation,	SE	Overcast

Film 2

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-12	Saw-pit 006 NE elevation, sequence of shots running from NW to SE	NE	Overcast
13-14	Saw-pit 006 NW elevation	NW	Overcast
15-18	Saw-pit 006 post excavation	NW	Overcast
19-22	Saw-pit 006 post excavation	SE	Overcast
23-24	Close up of slot 011A	SW	Overcast
25-26	Close up of slot 011B	SW	Overcast
27-28	General shots of back-filling	NW	Overcast

Digital

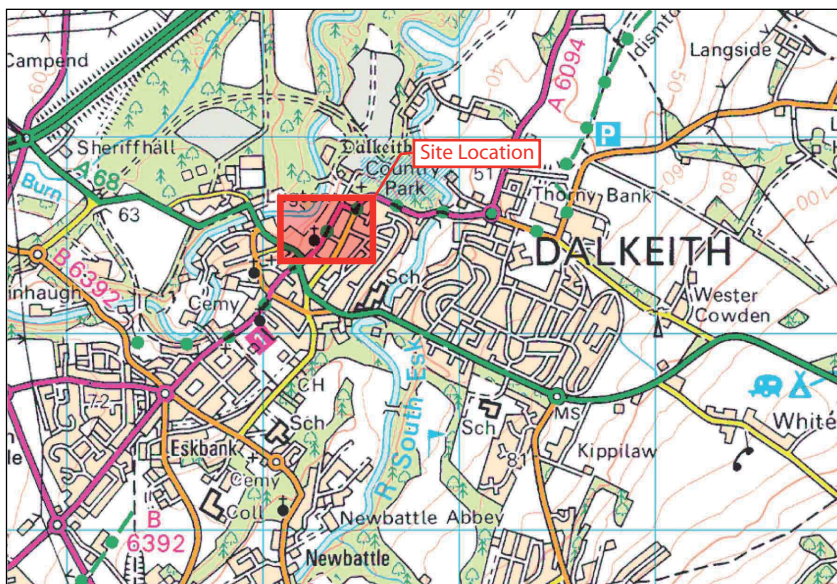
Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-4	Well 004 general	South	Sun
5-6	Well 004 general	North	Sun
7-8	Well 004 close up of interior	SE	Sun
9-10	Well 004 close up of interior	South	Sun
11-12	Saw-pit 006 pre-excavation	NW	Sun
13-14	Trench 1A general	SW	Sun
15-16	Trench 1B general	SE	Overcast
17-20	Saw-pit 006 with backfilled material removed	NW	Overcast
21-24	Saw-pit 006 with backfilled material removed	SE	Overcast
25-34	Saw-pit 006 SW elevation, sequence of shots running from SE to NW	SW	Overcast
35-36	Saw-pit 006 SE elevation,	SE	Overcast
37-48	Saw-pit 006 NE elevation, sequence of shots running from NW to SE	NE	Overcast
49-50	Saw-pit 006 NW elevation	NW	Overcast
51-54	Saw-pit 006 post excavation	NW	Overcast
55-58	Saw-pit 006 post excavation	SE	Overcast
59-60	Close up of slot 011A	SW	Overcast
61-62	Close up of slot 011B	SW	Overcast
63-64	General shots of back-filling	NW	Overcast

APPENDIX 4: Finds Register (Sue Anderson)

Context	Description	Spotdate
007	2 brown glazed blacking bottles	L19th C/E 20 th C
007	2 mould-blown pale green glass bottles	L19th C/E 20 th C

APPENDIX 5: DES Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Midlothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	1 – 3 Musselburgh Road, Dalkieth.
PROJECT CODE:	DALK
PARISH:	Dalkieth
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Magnus Kirby, Mike Cressey, Kieran Haines and Leonard McKinney
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Standing Building Survey, Evaluation and Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR	NT 3346 6765
START DATE (this season)	February 2008
END DATE (this season)	April 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological recording including a standing building survey, an evaluation and an excavation was carried out at 1-3 Musselburgh Road prior to a residential development. The proposed development area is set within a courtyard forming part of the perimeter wall circumnavigating Dalkith Park and comprised of a complex of derelict buildings.</p> <p>A saw-pit identified during the evaluation phase and a well identified during site demolition were subject to a programme of archaeological excavation and recording.</p> <p>The saw pit is depicted on an estate plan dating to 1832 and the well is thought to date to a similar period.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Queensberry property Ltd.
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	<p>National Monuments Record of Scotland</p> <p>Midlothian Council Sites and Monuments Record</p>



0 0.5 1km



Key:

Scale:

Fig. No:

1

Revision:

0

Client:

Queensberry Property Ltd

Title:

Site Location Map

Project:

1-3 Musselburgh Road,
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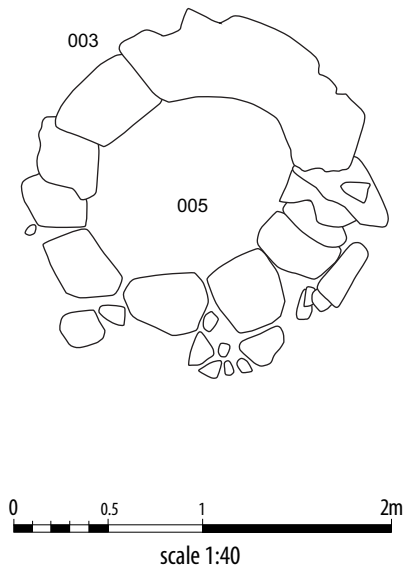


Fig. 2 - Plan of well 004

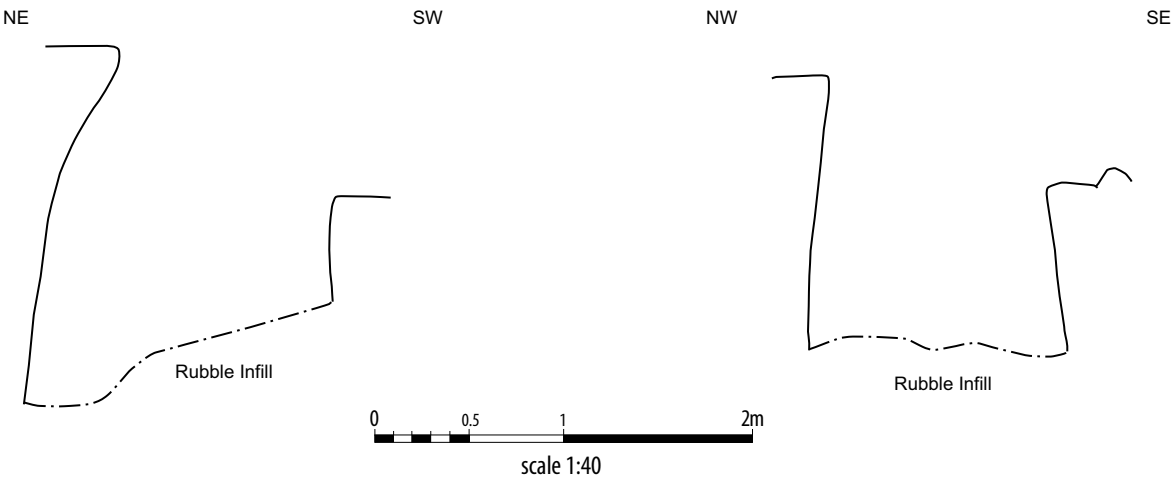


Fig. 3 - NE to SW profile across well 004

Fig. 4 - NW to SE profile across well 004

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Fig. Nos: 2 - 4

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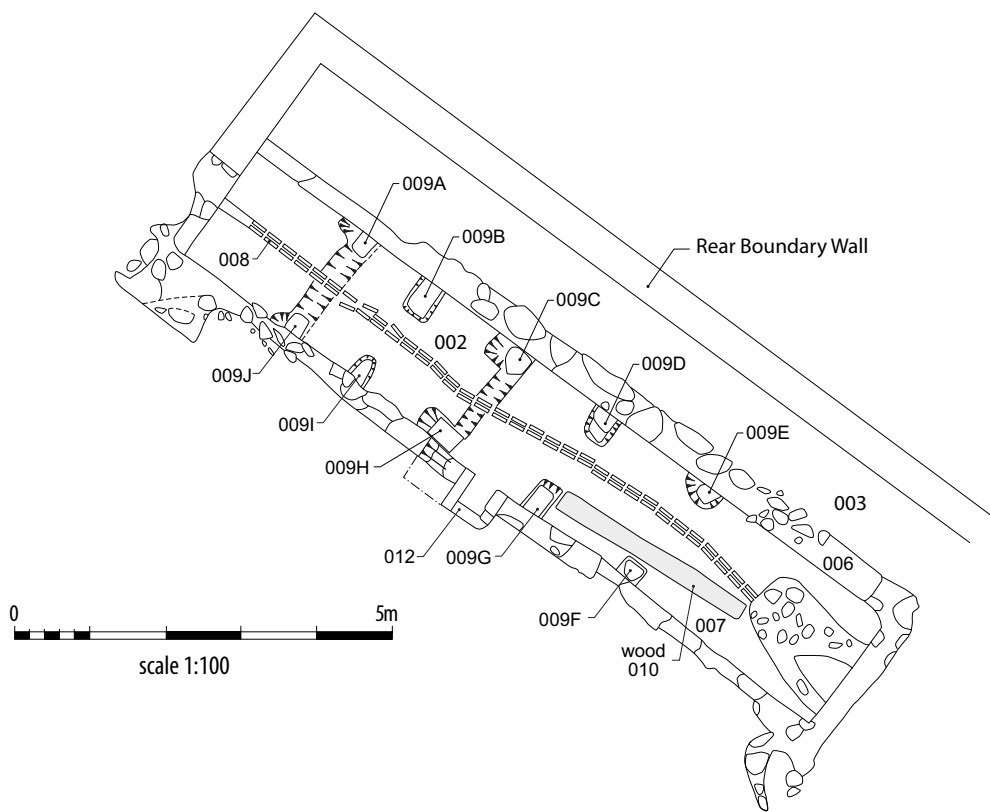


Fig. 5 - Plan of saw-pit 006

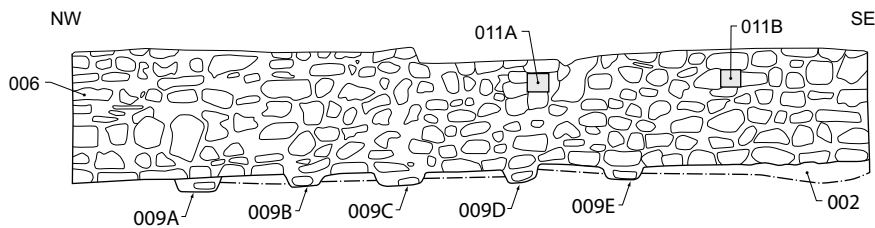


Fig. 6 - SW facing elevation of saw-pit 006

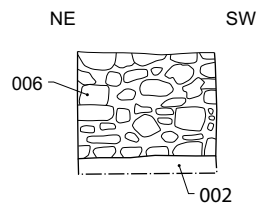


Fig. 8 - NW facing section of saw-pit 006



Fig. 7 - NE facing elevation of saw-pit 006

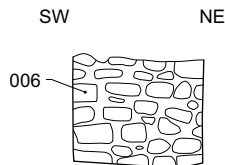


Fig. 9 - SE facing section of saw-pit 006

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Fig. Nos: 5 - 9

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Plate 1 - Well 004 from South



Plate 2 - Well 004 from SE


	Plate 2 - Well 004 from SE								
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	Title:	Plates							
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Plate 3 - Saw-pit 006 from NW



Plate 4 - Saw-pit 006 from SE

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