

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

New Upper Primary School, Dunbar, **East Lothian: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment** and Evaluation.

> **Data Structure Report** No. 1595







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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment and evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in January 2009 at the site of the proposed new Upper Primary School in Dunbar (NT 6712 7827). The work was commissioned by East Lothian Council.
- 1.1.2 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) and indicative trenching plan were produced by CFA in consultation with East Lothian Council for an 8% evaluation of the development area amounting to 2860m².

1.2 Objectives

- 1.2.1 The aims of the evaluation were:
 - To determine the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development and to provide mitigation measures where necessary;
 - To determine if the medieval occupation of the local area extends to the development site.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

2.1.1 Work was conducted with regard to the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards. Recording of all elements was done following established CFA methods.

2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 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.

2.3 Trial trenching

2.3.1 The proposed development area covered 4.2 hectares; however, the whole area was not available for evaluation due to the presence of an underground water mains and an overhead electrical transmission line. In accordance with HSE guidelines, no dig areas were set up around these. The evaluation covered 8% of the remaining area amounting to 2860m2. The area was defined to encompass the footprint of the building and the proposed access route to the building.

- 2.3.2 An indicative trenching plan was formulated so as to provide good overall coverage of the area. This was followed were possible during the fieldwork, although obstacles on site meant that Trenches 24, 25 and 26 were repositioned during the evaluation. Re-positioned trench locations, and the position of the two culverts described in the text below were surveyed using industry standard GPS equipment.
- 2.3.3 The trenches were excavated by machine under constant archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and modern deposits down to subsoil or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was reached first. The trenches were backfilled at the end of the evaluation on completion of recording.
- 2.3.4 Samples of all features of archaeological interest were hand excavated in order to establish their likely date, nature, extent and condition.
- 2.3.5 All hand excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by 35mm and digital photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Desk-Based Assessment

NMRS

- 3.1.1 The earliest evidence of human occupation in the area dates to the prehistoric period, much of it surviving as cropmark evidence. At West Barns Mains two pit alignments and a pit-defined enclosure are known (NMRS No NT67NE 129). Evaluation and excavation work (MacGregor and Shearer 2002) demonstrated these to be Neolithic in date. A short cist was excavated at Eweford in 1975 (NT67NE 65). Further to the south-west a cairn, cist, cupmarked stone and mortuary enclosure (NT67NE 474) and a pit-circle (NT67NE 151) are recorded.
- 3.1.2 Situated to the south-west of the development is the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Eweford Cottages enclosures and ring-ditches (SAM No 5835). The site was partially excavated during a watching brief in 2002, which confirmed the presence of a later prehistoric enclosed settlement. A second Scheduled Ancient Monument at Eweford Cottages also comprises an enclosed settlement (SAM no. 5834).
- 3.1.3 Other prehistoric evidence for the area is rather more circumstantial. A Food vessel of Tripartite form (NMRS No. NT67NE 41) and fragments of E type beaker (NMRS No. NT67NE 67) were unearthed near Dunbar, although the precise location of these find spots is unknown.
- 3.1.4 To the south of Lochend Wood at Hallhill Farm an archaeological evaluation discovered a long cist cemetery and the remains of an enclosure (Glendinning 2003; Curtis and Johnson 2005), and the remains of a rural medieval

- settlement, which led to further excavation (Mitchell 2004) (NMRS No. NT67NE 125 & 515).
- 3.1.5 Medieval descriptions note that Dunbar had a harbour by the 12th century; an association with the fishing industry which continued into the 20th century. In 1370 David II made Dunbar a Royal Burgh by Charter. During the medieval period Dunbar played an important role in local regional affairs, largely due to its strategic position. The castle, now a ruin, was an important Scottish fortress, standing guard over the towns twinned harbours. John Da Warenne at the head of an army sent by Edward I of England defeated a Scottish force here in 1296, and the castle also sheltered Mary Queen of Scots on her flight from Edinburgh in the mid 16th century. Findspots from this period include a hoard of 290 silver coins (MNRS No. NT67NE 66) recovered in 1773 and minted in the reign of Elizabeth I (1558-1603).
- 3.1.6 The Battle of Dunbar saw Oliver Cromwell's parliamentary army occupy the town in 1650. The ensuing battle two miles south of Dunbar was decisive and saw the Scottish Covenanter army defeated.
- 3.1.7 Lochend House (A-Listed; HB no. 1514), to the south-east of the development site, dates to 1684 and was destroyed by fire in 1859. It was the seat of Sir George Warrender, once a baillie property. There are associated cottages, steadings, a walled garden and gardener's house (NT67NE 16).

Cartographic Evidence

- 3.1.8 Adair's map (1682) shows the house at Lochend to the east of the development site situated in a formal designed garden or landscape running north-west towards Belhaven. Cartographic evidence from Roy's mapping (1747-1755) shows the estate named as Lochford. The surrounding area is given over to rig-and-furrow agriculture, apart from an area to the immediate west of Lochend encompassing what is now Lochend Wood, with the small rural settlements of Hallhill and Eweford marked. Further detail is supplied on Forrest's map of 1802, again showing the development site as open land to the west of the estate with some formal woodland present. Thomson's map of 1822 shows Lochend House with tree-lined avenues but provides little detail.
- 3.1.9 By the time of the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1854; Fig. 6), the railway line to the north of the development site has been constructed and a large proportion of the land is given to mixed woodland, which remains unnamed. To the south-west of the site, a structure annotated 'kennel' can be seen situated amidst woodland. A modern building still survives on this site bearing the name Lochend Kennels. Throughout the woodland, a series of trackways and/or fire breaks orientated north to south and east to west are present. The map also shows boundaries to the north of the kennels which are annotated 'RH, which refers to 'Root of Hedge', and 'FW', which refers to 'Face of Wall', indicating some form of landscaping was present at this time.

- 3.1.10 By the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map (1894) the development area is annotated Lochend Wood. The trackways or avenues visible on the First Edition are still visible.
- 3.1.11 By 1903, Ordnance Survey maps show the land has changed very little, with the development area still under tree cover. However, a roughly square clearing has been made in the woods. The avenues or trackways running north to south visible on earlier mapping are not depicted, although the east to west oriented track still exists, providing access from Lochend Kennels through the woodland to Hallhill Cottages. There is no change on the 1926 OS map.
- 3.1.12 Modern mapping shows that Lochend Wood has receded after the post-war period. At present, most of the development area is not wooded but is arable field. This field is bound to the north by the railway line and by arable fields to the west. The southern boundary of the site is delimited by a line of trees forming the boundary of Lochend Wood, at the western end of which is situated Lochend Kennels.

Aerial Photography

3.1.13 Cropmarks visible on aerial photographs taken in 1989 (Fig. 1) were recorded as a trackway (NMRS No. NT67NE 144) running northwards from Lochend Kennels. This feature is probably one of several trackways noted throughout Lochend Wood from the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition onward. A large cropmark running east to west across the north of the site represents disturbance caused by utility services (Fig. 1). Other linear cropmarks are noted running into the south-west corner of the development site.

3.2 Evaluation

General

- 3.2.1 Twenty-six trenches amounting to c. 2860m² were excavated within the evaluation area (Fig. 1). No archaeologically significant features were identified. However, numerous ceramic field drains and two large culverts were discovered, suggesting that the ground is naturally poorly drained. Trench descriptions are provided in Appendix 1. This appendix contains a tabulated summary of trench dimensions and topsoil depths as well as details of the ceramic field drains and culverts that were recorded within the trenches.
- 3.2.2 The topsoil (**001**) was c. 0.3m deep and overlay a yellow-orange sand and gravel subsoil with deposits of blue-grey boulder clay (**002**).
- 3.2.3 Trenches 24 and 25 were re-positioned because of the presence of a large grassed-over bund (see Fig. 2).

Results

- 3.2.4 There were no archaeological deposits or features discovered during the evaluation.
- 3.2.5 Two ceramic culverts were uncovered. The culvert in Trench 4, c. 0.3m diameter, was found to be in a cut measuring 2m wide by 0.5m deep (003) which had been backfilled with a mid-brown silt (004). The culvert in Trench 23 (006), c. 0.3m diameter, was found to be in a cut measuring 1.6m wide by 0.5m deep (007) which had been backfilled with a mid-brown silt mixed with re-deposited natural and boulder clay (008) (Fig. 2). The culvert in Trench 23 was also seen in Trenches 18 and 20 (Fig. 3).
- 3.2.6 Multiple ceramic field drains were encountered during the evaluation (for details see Appendix 1), the majority of which were aligned north-east/ southwest. The ceramic field drains were cut into the subsoil (002).
- 3.2.7 A linear cropmark north-east/south-west running into the western portion of the site was intersected by Trench 13 and may be a result of a geological anomaly such as an ice-wedge filled with boulder clay.
- 3.2.8 Other cropmarks visible (Fig. 1) are a result of the culverts (**003** and **007**), and a ceramic field drain in Trench 14 which was found to be in an especially large cut measuring 1.6m wide by 0.6m deep (**010**) (Fig. 4).

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The desk-based research established that there was potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the proposed development area, with scope for prehistoric remains, medieval remains, and post-medieval remains. However, the evaluation found no archaeological remains within the trial trenches and the area was found to have been extensively wooded in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- 4.2 Twenty-six trial trenches were excavated within the evaluation area, covering 2860m², c. 8% of the defined area.
- 4.3 The responsibility for deciding whether further work is required lies with East Lothian Council.
- 4.4 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS).
- 4.5 A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 2009* (Appendix 5). An OASIS Scotland entry will also be completed.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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MacGregor, G and Shearer, I 2002 'Eweford, East Lothian (Dunbar parish), Neolithic alignments and mortuary structures', *Discovery Excav Scot*, 3, 2002, 35.

Mitchell, S 2004 *Hallhill Farm, Dunbar, East Lothian. Archaeological Excavation.* CFA Report no. 853.

Cartographic

Adair, J 1682 'East Lothian'

Forrest, W 1802 'Map of Haddingtonshire'

Ordnance Survey 1854, First Edition, 6" to 1 mile, Haddingtonshire Sheet 6

Ordnance Survey 1894, Second Edition, 1" to the mile, Haddingtonshire Sheet 33

Ordnance Survey 1903, Third Edition, 1" to the mile, Haddingtonshire Sheet 33

Ordnance Survey 1926, 1" to the mile, Haddingtonshire Sheet 75

Roy, W 1747-1755 'Military Survey of Scotland' Sheet 4

Thomson, J 1822 'Haddington'

APPENDIX 1: Trench Summary

Trench	Length	Width	Trench area	Topsoil depth	Features
No.	(m)	(m)	(m2)	(m)	
1	50	2.2	110	0.30	
2	50	2.2	110	0.35	
3	50	2.2	110	0.35	
4	50	2.2	110	0.50-0.30	Culvert aligned E-W
5	50	2.2	110	0.40	3 ceramic field drains (CFD) aligned SW-NE
6	50	2.2	110	0.32	4 CFD aligned SW-NE
7	50	2.2	110	0.38	4 CFD aligned SW-NE
8	50	2.2	110	0.35	2 CFD aligned SW-NE
9	50	2.2	110	0.35	4 CFD aligned SW-NE
10	50	2.2	110	0.40	3 CFD aligned SE-NW
11	50	2.2	110	0.37	
12	50	2.2	110	0.30	
13	50	2.2	110	0.40-0.50	
14	50	2.2	110	0.40	4 CFD aligned SW-NE
15	50	2.2	110	0.35	4 CFD aligned SW-NE
16	50	2.2	110	0.35	3 CFD aligned SW-NE
17	50	2.2	110	0.38	1 CFD aligned SW-NE
18	50	2.2	110	0.35	Culvert aligned E-W
19	50	2.2	110		Culvert aligned E-W
20	50	2.2	110	0.40	
21	50	2.2	110	0.40	
22	50	2.2	110	0.45	
23	50	2.2	110	0.45	Culvert aligned E-W
24	30	2.2	66	0.30	2 CFD aligned SW-NE
25	35	2.2	77	0.30	2 CFD aligned N-S
26	85	2.2	187	0.40	2 CFD aligned SE-NW

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context	Trench	Feature	Description
001	All	Topsoil	Mid brown silt
002	All	Subsoil	Yellow-orange sandy gravel with patches of mixed boulder
			clay
003	4	Cut of culvert	Linear cut
004	4	Fill of 003	Mid-brown silt
005	4	Pipe within culvert	Ceramic pipe
006	23	Pipe within culvert	Ceramic pipe
007	23	Cut of culvert	Linear cut
008	23	Fill of 007	Mid-brown silt mixed with re-deposited natural and boulder
			clay
009	14	Cut for CFD	Linear trench for CFD

APPENDIX 3: Colour Slide Film

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-2	Registration shots		
3-5	Trench 23 culvert	N	Overcast
6-7	North facing section of tree bowl	N	Overcast
8	General shot of Trench 5	W	Overcast
9	General shot of Trench 9	SW	Overcast
10	General shot of Trench 14 showing field drain	NE	Overcast
11-12	VOID		
13-14	General shot of Trench 13	S	Overcast
15-16	General shot of Trench 26	S	Overcast
17-18	General shot of Trench 3	W	Overcast
19-20	General shot of Trench 6	Е	Overcast

APPENDIX 4: Digital Photograph Register

Photo	Contexts/description	Taken	Conditions
No.		from	
1	Shot of culvert [007] in Trench 23	N	Clear
2	Shot of culvert [007] in Trench 23	NE	Clear
3	General shot of Trench 15 after topsoil removal	NE	Bright
4	Working shot of topsoil removal in Trench 17	SE	Bright
5	Shot of linear cut for culvert [007] in Trench 20	W	Bright
6	General shot of Trench 10 after topsoil removal	SW	Clear
7	General shot of Trench 8 after topsoil removal	N	Cloudy
8	Post excavation shot of clay pipe field drain within Trench 14	NE	Cloudy
9	Post excavation shot of cut for clay pipe field drain within	NE	Cloudy
	Trench 14		
10	Shot of section within Trench 19	N	Cloudy
11	Shot of silted depression within Trench 13	W	Overcast
12	Shot of proposed location of Trench 26	W	Overcast
13	Shot of earthwork bund at the north-eastern end of Trench 25	N	Overcast
14	General shot of Trench 25 with earthwork bund in the distance	SW	Overcast

APPENDIX 5: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	New Upper Primary School, Dunbar. Archaeological Desk-based Assessment and Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	DUPS
PARISH:	Dunbar
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Chris O'Connell
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 6712 7827
START DATE (this season)	12-01-09
END DATE (this season)	15-01-09
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	East Lothian Council required an 8% evaluation by trial trenching in an arable field, prior to construction of a proposed primary school. No archaeological features were encountered. The aerial photographs of the site indicated a series of linear crop marks orientated east to west, some of these may be explained by the presence of large culverts running across the site.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	East Lothian Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, East Lothian EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited with NMRS; reports to be deposited with East Lothian SMR and NMRS

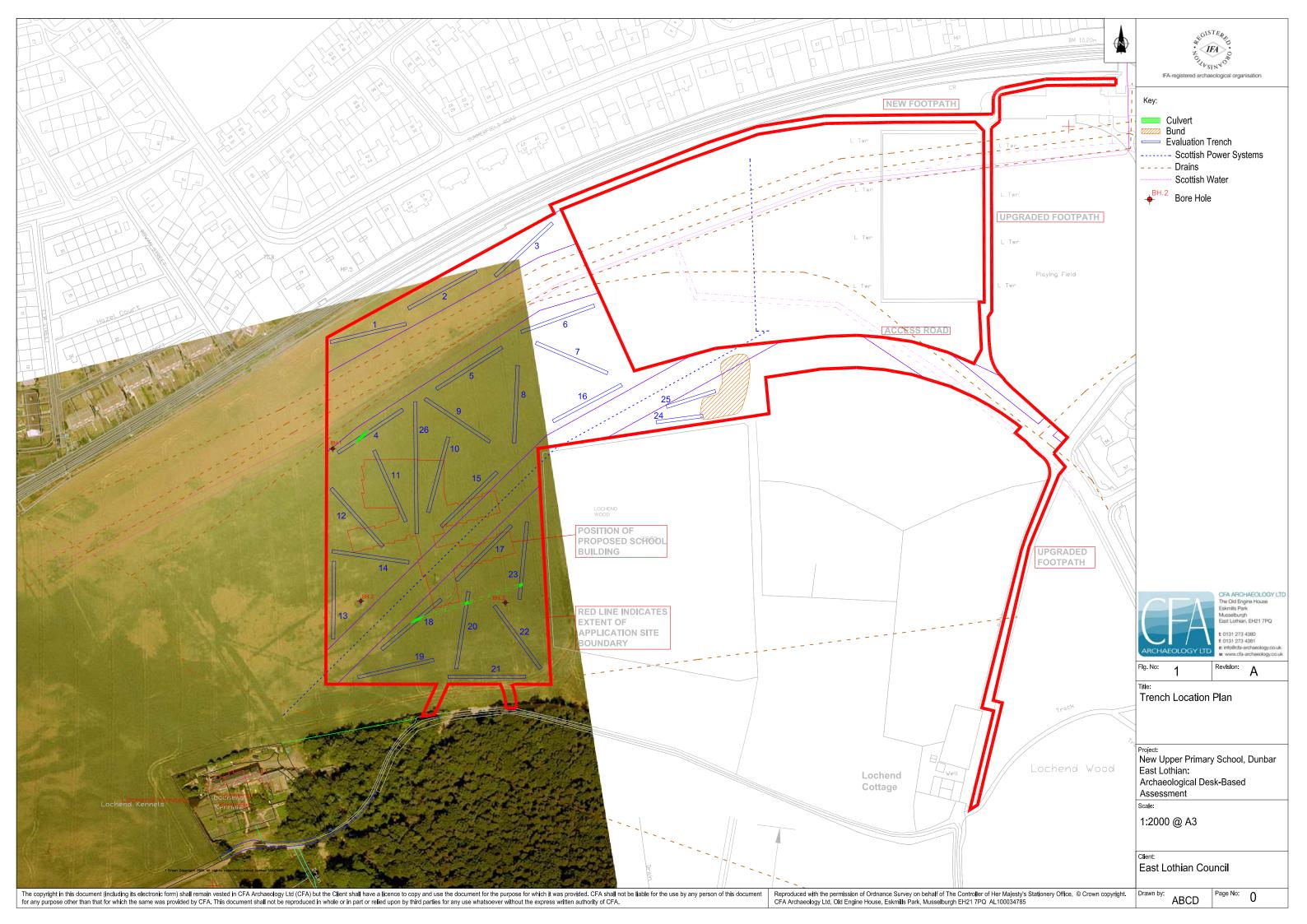






Fig. 2 Culvert (007) in Trench 23



Fig. 3 Linear cut for Culvert (007) in Trench 20

Key:

Fig. No:

2-3

Α

East Lothian Council

Title:

New Upper Primary School, Dunbar, East Lothian



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskinits Park

£ 0131 273 4381

Drawn by:

ΚH





Fig. 4 Clay pipe field drain within Trench 14



Fig. 5 General shot of Trench 8

Fig. No: Revision: Key: East Lothian Council Title:

New Upper Primary School, Dunbar, East Lothian

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NTS





Extract from Ordnance Survey First Edition map (1854)

Key:	Fig. No:	6	Revision:	Α	Client: East Lothian Council	CEA	CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Did Engine House
	Title:						Esknills Park Musseburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
	Project:					ARCHAEOLOGY LTD	t. 0131 273 4360 f. 0131 273 4361 e. infollicta-archaeology.co.uk
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