

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

*archaeological consultants*

*Advice on Archaeology & Planning*

*Environmental Impact Assessment*

*Intpretation, Design & Display*

*Finds/ Environmental Analysis*

*Field Evaluation & Excavation*


*Historic Building Recording*

*Site & Landscape Survey*

*Geophysical Survey*

**Kingsinch School, Gilmerton Road,  
Edinburgh  
Archaeological Evaluation**

**Data Structure Report  
No. 1666**

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## **CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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

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

Fig. 1 Site plan showing location of trial trenches

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by CFA Archaeology (CFA) at Kingsinch School, Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh (NT 2745 7068) during August 2009. The work was commissioned by Graham Construction.

The evaluation area comprised the former grounds of the recently demolished Kingsinch School, which lies to the east of Nether Liberton and the south-west of Inch Park. The evaluation area was located on and around an artificial knoll and was mostly surfaced with demolition rubble and overburden from a recently demolished tarmac playground. Lawn and garden areas and several mature trees were present around the edges.

A standing stone known as the Cat Stane previously stood within the evaluation area. A desk-based assessment (Haines 2008) and Conservation Assessment Report (Boyes 2008) were undertaken on the Cat Stane. The stone was removed prior to the evaluation and will be reinstated at the site following completion of the new care home.

### **1.2 Objectives**

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 the proposed development.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.

### **2.2 Trial Trenching**

Eight trenches were excavated with a total area of 310m<sup>2</sup>. Whilst trench location was restricted by the presence of trees and a live service, good overall coverage was achieved by the trial trenching layout (Fig. 1).

Topsoil and modern overburden was removed by a JCB 3CX equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded, whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench positions were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Eight trenches with a total area of 310m<sup>2</sup> were excavated. Two trenches on top of the knoll were not excavated to natural due to the depth of the made ground deposits, which were in excess of 3.3m. Natural elsewhere across the evaluation area was coarse sand, gravel and clay, and was reached at depths as shallow as 0.3m towards the south of the site and up to 2m towards the north of the site. No archaeological remains were discovered.

Full descriptions of the trenches are presented in Table 1, below.

Trench No.	Dimensions (m)	Depth to Natural (m)	Description
1	25 x 2	1.0 – 1.5	Demolition rubble and imported soils forming made ground overlay natural. Clay drain with concrete capping cut into natural.
2	20 x 2	N/A	Made ground to beyond 3.3m depth, comprising compact gravel, soils and clay. Natural not reached.
3	15 x 2	N/A	Made ground to beyond 3.3m depth, comprising compact gravel, soils and clay. Natural not reached.
4	25 x 2	1.4	Made ground deposits comprising sandy gravels and rubble with bands of soil overlying natural. Dead services including concrete encased clay drainpipe. Natural comprised coarse sand with occasional lignite. Surface of natural probably reduced.
5	20 x 2	0.3 – 0.4	Brick rubble from manhole revealed at south end of trench. Turf and topsoil overlay natural.
6	20 x 2	0.3	Turf and topsoil overlay natural. Several recently cut services revealed.
7	15 x 2	2.0	Made ground comprising clay, gravel and soil overlay a buried turf surface at 1.7m below site surface. 0.3m of original turf and topsoil overlay natural.
8	15 x 2	0.3 – 0.5	Turf and topsoil overlay natural.

*Table 1: Trial Trenching Results*

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Eight trenches with a combined total area of c.310m<sup>2</sup> were excavated within the grounds of the recently demolished Kingsinch School. No archaeological features were revealed. Large depths of modern made ground were revealed, together with dead services. It is suggested that there is little likelihood of any surviving archaeological remains or deposits within the proposed development area.

CFA Archaeology recommends that no further archaeological work is required within the proposed development area at Kingsinch School. However, the final decision rests with John Lawson, the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeologist.

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.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2).

#### 5. REFERENCES

- Boyes, N 2008 *Catstane, Kingsinch School, Edinburgh: Conservation Assessment Report*. Nic Boyes Stone Conservation Report.
- Haines, K 2008 *The Cat Stane, Kingsinch School, 233 Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh: Desk-based Assessment*. CFA Report No. 1551.

## Appendix 1: Photographic Register

### Colour Slides

Photo No.	Description	From
1	Registration	
2-3	General pre-excavation of Cat Stane location	S
4-5	Tr.1	E
6-7	Tr.1	E
8-9	Tr.2 sondage section	S
10-11	Tr.3 sondage	SW
12-13	Tr.3 sondage	SE
14-15	Tr.4 work shot	SW
16-17	Tr.4 section	NW
18-19	Tr.4 general	W
20-21	Tr.5 general	SE
22-23	Tr.6 sondage section	NW
24-25	Tr.7 sondage	NE
26-27	Tr.7 work shot	NE
28-29	Tr.8 work shot	NW
30-31	Tr.8	S

### Digital Images

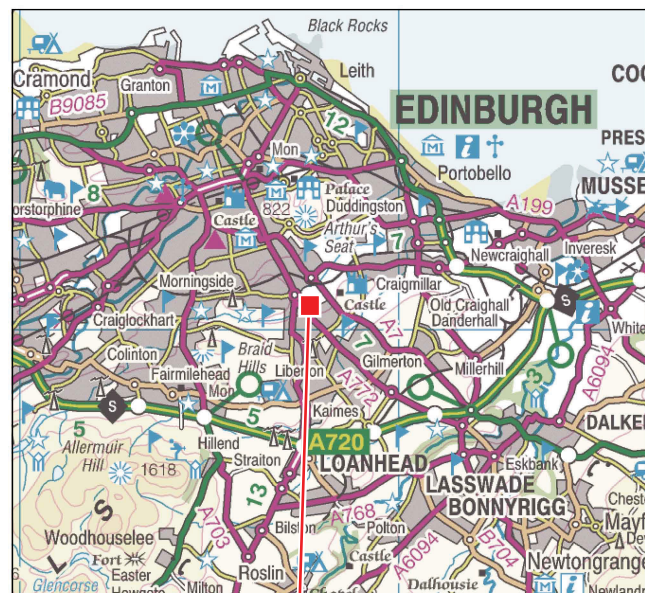
Photo No.	Description	From
1	Trench 1 work shot	S
2	Trench 2 sondage section	W
3	Trench 4 work shot	W
4	Trench 4 work shot	W
5	Trench 4 section	NW
6	Trench 4 general shot	W
7	Trench 5 general shot	W
8	Trench 6 sondage section	E
9	Trench 8 work shot	W

## APPENDIX 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	City of Edinburgh
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Kingsinch School, Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	KISC
<b>PARISH:</b>	Edinburgh, City Of
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Stuart Mitchell
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 2745 7068
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	August 2009
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	August 2009
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the construction of a residential care home in the grounds of the former Kings Inch School. Eight trenches with a combined total area of c.310m<sup>2</sup> were excavated. Deep deposits of made ground were revealed. No archaeological deposits or remains were discovered.</p> <p>The Cat Stane standing stone which stood in the grounds was removed for conservation prior to the demolition of the school, and will be reinstated following completion of the new care home. A desk-based assessment established that the stone is not in its original position and there is some doubt as to the antiquity of the stone. The stone was erected in its current position in Inch Park some time between 1931 and 1949 according to the cartographic evidence.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Graham Construction
<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 (intended/deposited)</b>	National Monuments Record of Scotland City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record



Key:



Scale 1:200,000

SITE LOCATION



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Fig. No:	1	Revision:	A
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Title:  
Site plan showing location of trial trenches

Project:  
Kingsinch School, Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh  
Archaeological Evaluation

Scale:  
1:400@ A3

Client:  
Graham Construction