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Field Evaluation & Excavation

Canongate Car Park, Jedburgh, Scottish Borders

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 1762

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Canongate Car Park Jedburgh, Scottish Borders

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken in March 2010 by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA), at Canongate Car Park, Jedburgh, Scottish Borders (NT 6512 2050) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Scottish Borders Council.
- 1.1.2 An archaeological consultation was provided by the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer, Dr Christopher Bowles, recommending an archaeological watching brief.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 Planning permission has been granted by Scottish Borders Council (Ref No. 09/00273/FUL) for the alteration and extension to Cannongate Car Park, Jedburgh subject to a condition requiring a programme of archaeological works. The agreed programme of archaeological works consisted of a watching brief. This report contains the results of the watching brief.
- 1.2.2 The site is located approximately 100m to the SSW of Jedburgh Abbey and adjacent to Murray's Green to the SW. The watching brief was undertaken during ground works which comprised of topsoil stripping, excavation into any sub-soils to a depth of 1m below the current car park surface and drainage works to a maximum depth of 2m.
- 1.2.3 No previous invasive archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place within the proposed development area prior to this watching brief. However, the car park is known to be situated on the site of Wilson's Mill, demolished in the mid 20th century and in existence from at least 1750. A number of cist burials were found during ground works undertaken at nearby Murray's Green dating to the Early Medieval period (c. 500-1100 AD).

1.3 Objectives

- 1.3.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:
 - To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Watching Brief) to monitor topsoil stripping and further excavation in the archaeologically sensitive area
 - To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation, to ensure the proper recording of any archaeological remains encountered and the subsequent production of a report on them.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

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

2.2 Watching Brief

- 2.2.1 The area to be developed was stripped of topsoil including the removal of a modern bund located to the north of the site. The sub soil was subsequently excavated to a depth of 1m below the level of the existing car park using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth bladed ditching bucket. A north-south running drainage ditch, terminating at the south in a 2m deep soakaway, was dug across the site, with a 2m deep excavation for a manhole connected to two drainage gullies taking place at its northern terminus (Fig. 1). In situ remains of the latest phases of Wilson's Mill were encountered during the excavation of the drainage ditch and associated works. The remains, consisting largely of concrete foundations, were removed using a narrow bucket and pecker. Excavations for the soak away and manholes took place using a ditching bucket.
- 2.2.2 All on site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by photography and completion of standard CFA record forms.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Watching Brief

- 3.1.1 The removal of topsoil and the modern bund revealed made ground with frequent inclusions of demolition debris from Wilson's Mill (Fig. 2 & 6). This deposit was intermingled with modern detritus such as plastic and has been interpreted as a post-demolition accumulation of material prior to the area's use as a car park. This deposit spread across the entirety of the site and measured up to 0.8m in thickness. The majority of the excavation was conducted to a depth of 1m or less resulting in this being the only exposed deposit across the majority of the site.
- 3.1.2 Excavations for the drainage ditch and associated features reached a depth of up to 2m, revealing in situ concrete foundations and brickwork of Wilson's Mill (Fig. 2). The concrete foundations were located at a depth of 1.5m below ground level, were 0.2m in thickness, and extended from the south of the soakaway for 31m. The foundations were largely intact apart from in the south-facing section of the soak away where some in situ brickwork was found truncating the concrete foundations (Fig. 4). Overlying the foundations was a layer of demolition material between 0.15m and 0.3m thick which lacked any soil content and did not contain modern detritus as seen in the post-demolition accumulation deposit (Fig. 3). Further to the north, a patch of in situ brickwork was located overlying the concrete foundations which may relate to a circular chimney or machine base, given the curving nature of the brickwork (Fig. 5). The remains of a tarmac road were noted in the drainage ditch 34m from the south of the soakaway.
- 3.1.3 The drainage works required sections of the foundations and in situ brickwork of Wilson's Mill to be removed using a narrow bucket and pecker. Recording in the form of section and plan drawings and photographs took place prior to the removal of in situ remains. Natural subsoil was found directly underlying all of the concrete foundations so it appears that the latest phases of Wilson's Mill have truncated any potential earlier archaeological features or deposits. Natural subsoil was not encountered towards the north of the trench outwith the extent of the concrete foundations and the potential for archaeological features or deposits exists in these areas.
- 3.1.4 The construction methods and materials encountered during the watching brief indicate that all archaeological remains found date to the 20th century and the last phase of the mill's use.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 A watching brief was carried out for an alteration and extension to Canongate Car Park, Jedburgh. The extended area is located on the site of Wilson's Mill which dates to at least 1750 and was in use into the mid-20th century and all archaeological remains encountered relate to the latest phases of the mill.
- 4.2 The watching brief identified the remains of a large mill building, represented by the concrete foundations with a possible curved brickwork machine or chimney base located within the mill itself. Towards the north of the site the remains of an asphalt surface, most likely a road, were located and it is likely that the remains seen represent an exterior yard or roadway.
- 4.3 Although the mill building has completely truncated any potential archaeological remains in the exposed extent of the drainage works, there exists the possibility that archaeological remains may survive outwith the mill buildings themselves and may be encountered during any future ground works in the area.
- 4.4 No further work is recommended in relation to the watching brief.
- 4.5 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 Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.6 A summary statement of the results of this watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2). An *OASIS Scotland* entry will be completed.

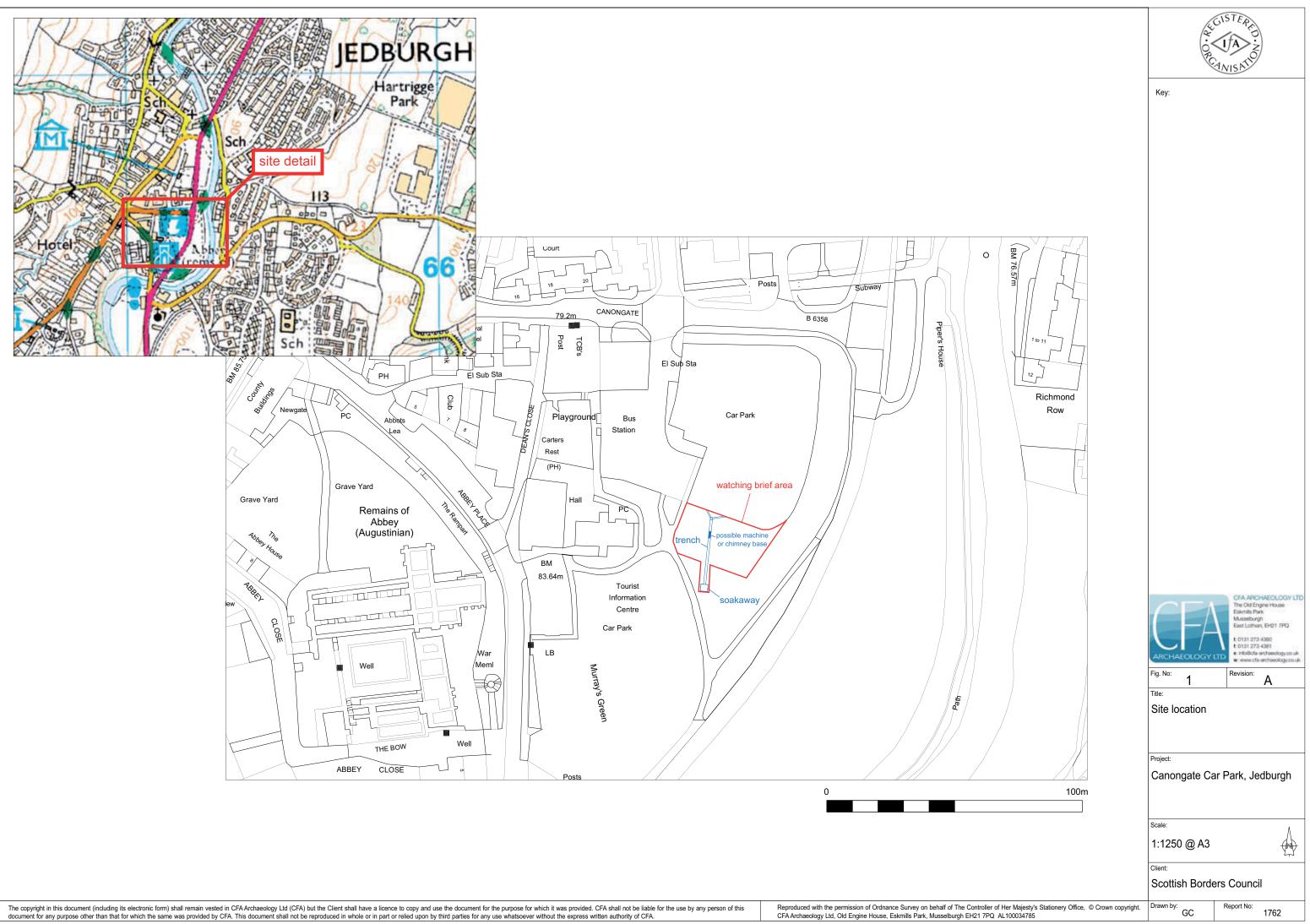
APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital Images

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1	General pre-excavation shot of site	East	Sun
2	General pre-excavation shot of site	North-east	Sun
3	Shot of modern drain cover situated under bund	North	Sun
4-7	General shot of site after topsoil stripping	East	Sun
8	Shot showing possible differences in made ground	East	Sun
9	Working shot showing excavation of made ground	South-west	Sun
10	Mid excavation shot of north facing section of made ground	North	Sun
11	Shot of north facing section showing (003) and demolition layer (004)	North	Sun
12	General shot showing excavation to desired level – mid way through demolition layer (004)	East	Sun
13	General shot showing excavation to desired level – mid way through demolition layer (004)	South	Sun
14	Shot showing large pieces of brick and concrete being extracted from the upper levels of (004)	East	Sun
15	General shot of site showing excavation to desired level	East	Sun
16	General shot of site showing excavation to desired level	North-east	Sun
17	General working shots showing site location in relation to Jedburgh Abbey	East	Sun
18	General working shots showing site location in relation to Jedburgh Abbey	South-east	Sun
19	General working shots showing site location in relation to Jedburgh Abbey	North-east	Sun
20	General working shots showing site location in relation to Jedburgh Abbey	South-east	Sun
21	Shot of soakaway mid excavation showing concrete surface	South-east	Sun
22	Shot of soakaway mid excavation showing concrete surface	East	Sun
23	Shot of soakaway mid excavation showing concrete surface	East	Sun
24	Shot of west-facing section of soakaway modern drain	West	Sun
25	Shot of east-facing section of soakaway at finished depth	East	Sun
26	Detail of demolition layer in east-facing section of soakaway	East	Sun
27-29	Shot of south-facing section of soakaway showing in situ brickwork	South	Sun
30	Natural subsoil at bottom of soakaway	East	Sun
31	Bottom of drain trench at north of site	East	Sun
32	Section detail of drain trench	East	Sun
33	Plan view of in situ brickwork seen in soak away	East	Sun
34	Shot of concrete base of 20 th century mill	South	Sun
35	West-facing section of pipe trench showing demolition layer and intact brick and concrete foundations	West	Overcast
36	General working shot showing work on drain trench	South	Overcast
37	General shot of drain ditch at desired depth	South	Overcast
38	Shot of east-facing section of drain ditch at desired depth	East	Overcast
39	Shot of east-facing section of drain ditch at desired depth	East	Overcast
40	Shot of west-facing section of drain ditch showing concrete at bottom	West	Overcast
41	Working shot showing backfilling of drain ditch	North	Overcast
42	Working shot showing backfilling of drain ditch	North-east	Overcast
43	Shot of soakaway and manhole base after in filling	North	Overcast
44	Shot of potentially older brickwork underlying concrete base	South	Overcast
45	Section through asphalt/tarmac road (north half)	West	Overcast
46	Section through asphalt/tarmac road (south half)	West	Overcast
47-50	General post-excavation shot of drain ditch – north half	North	Overcast

51	West-facing section showing removed brickwork and concrete foundation	West	Overcast
52	General shot of site from Jedburgh Abbey	West	Overcast
53	Post-excavation shot of removed brickwork and concrete foundation	East	Overcast
54	Working shot showing removal of concrete foundation	South	Overcast
55	Post-excavation shot of drain ditch - north end	South	Overcast
56	West-facing section of drain ditch showing concrete foundation	West	Overcast
57	Working shot showing backfilling of drainage ditch	North	Overcast
58	Location shot for drain trench showing manhole at south end	North-west	Overcast
59	Location shot for drain trench showing manhole at north end	South-east	Overcast
60	General working shot showing excavation of (004)	North-west	Sun
61	General working shot showing excavation of (004)	North-east	Sun
62	Post-excavation shot of car park area	West	Sun
63	Post-excavation shot of car park area	South-west	Sun
64	Post-excavation shot of car park area	North-west	Sun
65	West-facing section in north-east of site cut through modern bund showing layers (001) and (004)	West	Sun
66	Post-excavation shot of remaining material to be removed	South-east	Sun
67	Shot of south-west-facing section of gully ditch showing (004) and natural sub-soil	South-west	Overcast
68	Shot of south-facing section of gully ditch showing car park layer and (004)	South	Overcast
69	Shot of south-facing section of gully ditch showing car park layer and (004)	South	Overcast
70	General post-excavation shot of gully ditch	South-east	Overcast
71	Shot of rough tarmac/foundation layer in gully	South-west	Overcast
72	Shot of rough tarmac/foundation layer in gully and south- west-facing section	South-west	Overcast
73	General post-excavation shot of gully ditch	South-west	Overcast
74	General post-excavation shots of site	South-west	Overcast
75	General post-excavation shots of site	South	Overcast
76	General post-excavation shots of site	South-east	Overcast
77	General post-excavation shots of site	North-east	Overcast

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Canongate Car Park
PROJECT CODE:	CACA
PARISH:	Jedburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Fraser MacRae
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	20 th century Mill
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Mill foundations
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NT 6512 2050
START DATE (this season)	1/3/10
END DATE (this season)	11/3/10
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	During an archaeological watching brief the remains of Wilson's Mill were encountered on ground works for a car park extension. The remains consisted of concrete foundations, a possible machine or chimney base and a tarmac road. All remains appeared to be 20 th century in origin and relate to the latest phase of the mill's use prior to its demolition in the mid-20 th century.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record of Scotland Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record



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Fig. 2 General shot of site under excavation



Fig. 3 East-facing section of soakaway showing foundations and demolition layer of mill

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Fig. 4 South-facing section of soakaway showing in situ brickwork



Fig. 5 Possible mill machine or chimney base

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Fig. 6 Eastern half of site following excavation

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