

# 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*



**Orocco Pier Hotel  
17 High Street  
South Queensferry**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. 1764**

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

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Fig 2a. Shot of north-facing section through wall

Fig 2b. 1:10 north-facing section through wall

Fig 3. Close up shot of north-facing section of wall

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) at the Orocco Pier Hotel, 17 High Street, South Queensferry (NGR: NT 1298 7837) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by KB Architecture + Design Ltd (KBA+D).
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010 was produced by CFA on behalf of KBA+D. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of Mr John Lawson, City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

### **1.2 Background**

- 1.2.1 The NMRS mentions that the hotel stands on the site of the former Glenforth Distillery (NMRS No. NT17 NW 82) (established 1828). However, this is incorrect; the hotel (formerly the Queensferry Arms Hotel) adjoined the distillery and is an earlier Category B-Listed building (HB No. 40376).
- 1.2.2 Previously, planning permission was granted by the City of Edinburgh Council (Ref No. 06/03332/FUL) for the alteration and extension of the Orocco Pier Hotel, subject to a condition requiring a programme of archaeological works. The agreed programme of archaeological works consisted of a desk-based assessment, a standing building survey and an evaluation. The results of the evaluation are contained in CFA Data Structure Report No. 1376 (Suddaby 2007), and the results of the desk-based assessment and standing building survey are contained in CFA Data Structure report No. 1379 (Cressey 2007). Based on the results of the evaluation, the requirement for a watching brief was attached to the alteration of walls and the excavation of foundations associated with a new extension to the rear of the hotel.
- 1.2.3 The current application (Ref No. 09/02406/FUL) required a watching brief to be undertaken during the construction of a doorway to create access from the conference room within the hotel to the garden/patio area to the east (Fig. 1). This was required in order to record any architectural features which may relate to the maltings buildings that are not apparent on the external elevations.

## **2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **2.1 General**

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

2.1.2 A full list of contexts is provided in Appendix 1; numbers are in bold and parentheses in the following text.

### **2.2 Watching Brief**

2.2.1 A watching brief was conducted during the removal of masonry to create access from the existing hotel complex to the external area to the west (Fig. 1).

2.2.2 The construction process removed masonry up to a height of 3.1m from the external ground surface, with the width being 1.06m. The watching brief was able to record two distinct phases of construction through the complete width of the fabric of the wall.

#### *Phase 1*

2.2.3 The west-facing, external elevation of the current building is faced with large, roughly hewn sandstone blocks (**5**). These stones are close fitted and bonded by a yellow, hard, lime-rich mortar. At the base of the wall the blocks increased in size, with examples measuring 0.56m in width by 0.2m in height. These blocks are backed by a rubble core in a crumbly, pale yellow mortar (**6**). The mortar is lime-rich and contains very occasional charcoal and very rare quartz inclusions. The width varied between 0.12m and 0.2m, depending on the width of the larger sandstone blocks protruding externally from (**5**) (Fig. 3). The dimensions and characteristics of the rubble core varied from small to medium-large, sub-rounded to sub-angular sandstone cobbles and fragments. The height of the masonry was c. 1.9m and continued into the fabric of the wall above. The opposite wall face is missing and has been replaced or repaired at some point with the Phase 2 materials.

#### *Phase 2*

2.2.4 Phase 2 commences with an ad-hoc use of poorly sorted medium to medium-large sized, angular to sub-rounded sandstone fragments bonded by a crumbly greyish white mortar (**7**), which is deposited on the large basal stones belonging to Phase 1 (**3**). The deposit contained one fragment of handmade brick. Deposited over this was a series of bonded, handmade un-frogged brick. (**4**); this brickwork continued into the fabric of the wall to the south, but did not continue to the north. A rubble deposit (**3**) overlay the bricks (**4**) and could be seen to abut the Phase 1 fabric. The composition of this deposit was similar in composition to (**7**). The deposit was c. 0.2m wide and continued vertically into the fabric of the building.

- 2.2.5 Masonry deposits (3), (4) and (7) are distinct from Phase 1 deposits (3) and (6). This is evidenced by the abutment of Phase 2 deposits to the Phase 1 wall fabric, and the overlying physical relationship of deposits (7) and (5) (Fig. 2a, 2b & 3).
- 2.2.6 The Phase 2 wall fabric provides the internal wall of the existing conference suite. This wall face is comprised of large, roughly coursed angular to sub-angular sandstone fragments, with occasional more rounded cobbles noted. The masonry was bonded by whitish crumbly mortar. The wall face was c. 0.2m thick, and was wider towards the base, particularly below the internal floor where a width of c. 0.35m was recorded (Fig. 3). The wall face forming the internal elevation of the room was lime-wash rendered and painted.
- 2.2.7 The space between (1) and (3) was filled by a rubble core of small to medium, sub-rounded to sub-angular stone cobbles (2). Lumps of whitish-grey mortar had been randomly included within the deposit. Other inclusions noted within (2) were a concentration of window glass, very occasional fragments of tile, a single fragment of bottle glass and clumps of loose straw (Fig. 3). The preferred interpretation is that (2) represents a rapid infilling of the cavity created between (1) and (3/4), which has incorporated debris into its fabric. The mortar deposits either represent waste mortar thrown in to make up the fill, or were added as a 'token gesture' to provide some bonding material to an otherwise randomly assembled deposit.

### 3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 A watching brief was carried out during the construction of an access at the Orocco Pier Hotel. This required the demolition of a section of the existing wall to provide access from the existing conference suite to the external gardens to the west.
- 3.2 A record of the wall section was able to ascertain that two distinct phases of building had taken place.
- 3.3 Phase 1 was seen externally as the surviving elevation of the hotel exterior wall, which had the partial remains of a rubble core. The Phase 1 build appears to have no remaining internal wall face, although its proposed thickness can be estimated by the large basal stones at the foot of the wall (c. >0.65m). This interpretation is confirmed by the findings of Cressey 2007, which concluded that the external west-facing elevation currently visible was previously an internal wall of the distillery building.
- 3.4 It is unclear from the watching brief whether Phase 2 construction work removed the external wall face of the Phase 1 wall immediately prior to construction, or whether it was butted up to the surviving Phase 2 masonry following its collapse or disrepair. In any case, its primary functions were to stabilise the structure and provide an internal elevation for the hotel.
- 3.5 The Phase 2 building fabric was constructed in a more ad hoc manner and appears to have used whatever was at hand to raise elevations and fill cavities. This is seen by way of re-used bricks, and the roughly coursed nature of the wall face and the poorly sorted nature of the cavity fill.
- 3.6 Unlike the faced, external elevation of Phase 1 which comprised dressed sandstone blocks, the 'rough' internal elevation of Phase 2 was not dressed and possibly was never intended to be seen, as evidenced by the interior lime washed surface applied for aesthetic purposes.
- 3.7 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
- 3.8 A summary statement to be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* 2010 (Appendix 3) will be sufficient to disseminate the results of this watching brief.

#### 4. REFERENCES

Cressey, M, 2007 *Orocco Pier Hotel, South Queensferry: Standing Building Recording*. CFA Data Structure Report 1379.

Kirby, M 2008 *Orocco Pier Hotel, 17 High Street, South Queensferry, Archaeological Watching Brief*. CFA Data Structure Report No. 1711.

Suddaby, I 2007 *Extension to Orocco Pier Hotel, 17 High Street, South Queensferry: Archaeological Evaluation*. CFA Data Structure Report 1376.



## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

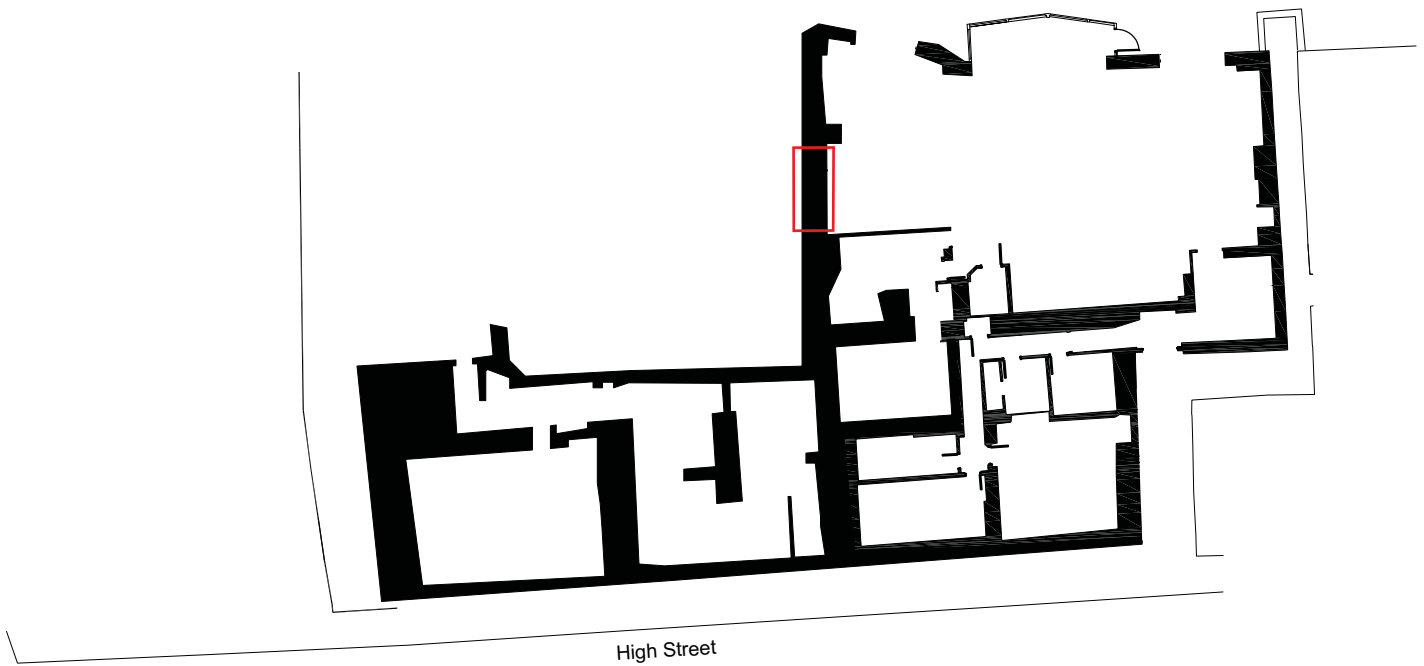
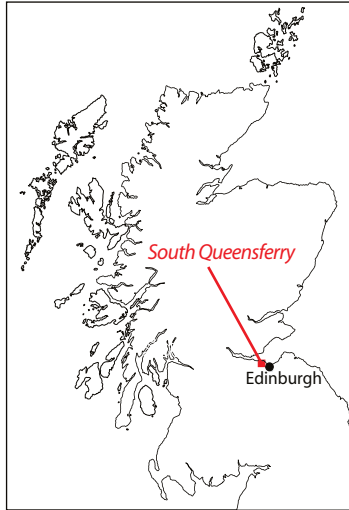
Context no.	Trench/Area	Fill of	Type	Description
1	Phase 2	-	Masonry	Internal, rendered east facing elevation of wall comprising large, roughly coursed angular to sub-angular sandstone fragments in whitish-grey mortar, occasional smaller more rounded cobbles noted.
2	Phase 2	-	Masonry	Rubble core of sub-angular to sub-rounded cobbles with window glass, bottle glass, tile and straw noted within. Lumps of mortar deposited within a poorly sorted context.
3	Phase 2	-	Masonry	Ad-hoc bonded sandstone fragments forming the western elevation of Phase 2 work. 7 is more or less a continuation of this, although it is separated by brickwork 4.
4	Phase 2	-	Masonry	Roughly coursed stack handmade, bonded brickwork separating similar deposits 3 and 7.
5	Phase 1	-	Masonry	External west facing elevation of current building, comprising faced, dressed sandstone blocks.
6	Phase 1	-	Masonry	Interpreted as the remnants of the rubble core of the Phase 1 wall. Sandstone cobbles and fragments in a whitish-yellow mortar.
7	Phase 2	-	Masonry	Similar in composition and function to 3, although building materials are larger.

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digi No	Contexts/description	Taken from	Conditions
1	Working shot of north-facing section of wall	North	Overcast
2	Working shot of south-facing section of wall	South	Overcast
3	Close up shot of north-facing section of wall	North	Overcast
4-5	General shot of north-facing section of wall	North	Overcast
6-7	Shot of north-facing section of wall	North	Overcast
8	Shot of basal segment of south-facing section	South	Overcast
9	Oblique shot of south-facing section	South-west	Overcast
10	Shot of detail in south-facing section	South	Overcast
11	Shot of external wall elevation after stone removal	West	Overcast
12-15	Detailed shots of north-facing section of wall	North	Overcast
16	Shot of top of south-facing section of wall	South	Overcast
17-18	Detailed shots of south-facing section of wall	South	Overcast
19	Working shot of external wall elevation	West	Overcast
20	Working shot of external wall elevation	South-west	Overcast
21	Detailed shot of external wall before work commenced	West	Overcast
22	Shot of external wall from distance before stone removal	West	Overcast

### APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	City of Edinburgh
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Orocco Pier Hotel, 17 High Street, South Queensferry
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	SQUE2
<b>PARISH:</b>	Dalmeny
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Phil Moore
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)</b>	NT 1298 7837
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	February 2009
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	February 2009
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	Cressey, M, 2007 <i>Orocco Pier Hotel, South Queensferry: Standing Building Recording</i> CFA Data Structure Report 1379 Kirby, M 2008 <i>Orocco Pier Hotel, 17 High Street, South Queensferry, Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CFA Data Structure Report No. 1711 Suddaby, I 2007 <i>Extension to Orocco Pier Hotel, 17 High Street, South Queensferry: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CFA Data Structure Report 1376
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out by CFA Archaeology during alterations to the fabric of the Orocco Pier Hotel, South Queensferry. This construction work removed a section of stonework to provide a door, allowing the watching brief to record a complete section through the fabric of the wall. Two phases of construction were recorded. In 2007 CFA (Cressey 2007) confirmed the west-facing, external elevation of the hotel was the remnant of an internal wall belonging to the distillery that once occupied the area to the west. The remains of this earlier Phase 1 masonry were abutted by a second phase of rebuild/repair which now forms an internal wall face of the hotel. The construction of Phase 2 was relatively ad hoc, evidenced by the fluctuating thicknesses of the masonry deposits, a weakly bonded rubble core and the inclusion of glass and tile debris. The wall face of Phase 2, which now comprises an internal wall of the hotel conference suite, was finished with lime-wash render.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	KB Architecture + Design 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 (intended/deposited)</b>	National Monuments Record of Scotland City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record



Key:

area of wall removed to insert new doorway

Scale:

Fig. No: 1    Revision: A    Client: KB Architecture and Design Ltd

Title: Site location and plan

Project: Orocco Pier Hotel, 17 High Street, South Queensferry

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Fig. 2a Shot of north-facing section through wall



Fig. 2b Detail of north-facing section

Key:

Fig. No: 2a-2b    Revision: A    Client: KB Architecture and Design Ltd

Title:

Project:  
Orocco Pier Hotel, 17 High Street,  
South Queensferry

Scale:

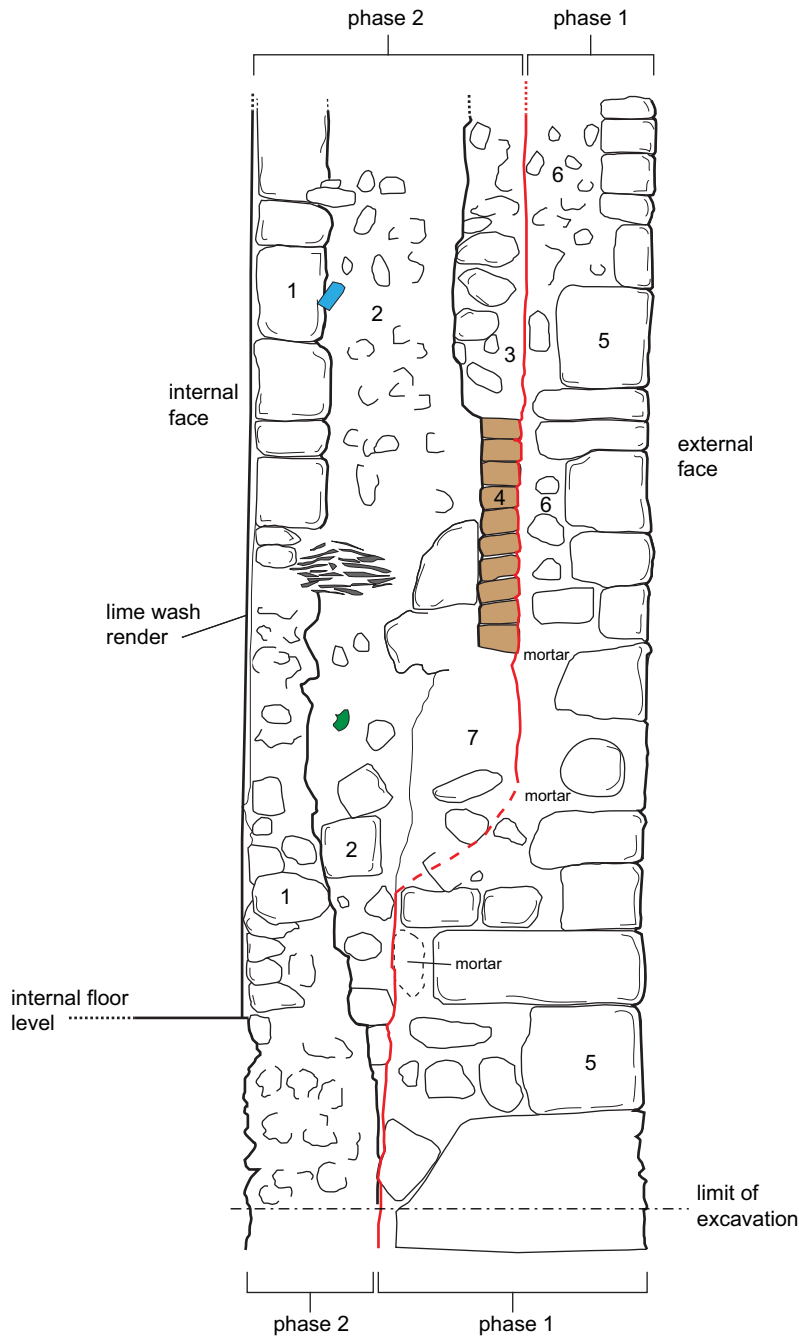


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- Key:
- brick
  - window glass
  - bottle glass
  - tile

Scale: 1:20@A4

Fig. No:	3	Revision:	A	Client:	KB Architecture and Design Ltd
Title:	North-facing section of stone wall				
Project:	Orocco Pier Hotel, 17 High Street, South Queensferry				



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