

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

*archaeological consultants*

*Advice on Archaeology & Planning*

*Environmental Impact Assessment*

*Interpretation, Design & Display*

*Finds/ Environmental Analysis*

*Field Evaluation & Excavation*

*Historic Building Recording*

*Site & Landscape Survey*

*Geophysical Survey*

## **Edinburgh Military Tattoo Grandstand Works, Fencing to North of Esplanade: Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. 1968**

## **CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

The Old Engine House  
Eskmills Business Park  
Musselburgh  
East Lothian  
EH21 7PQ

Tel: 0131 273 4380  
Fax: 0131 273 4381  
email: [info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk)  
web: [www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk](http://www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk)

Author	Gary Savory MA and Hana Kdolska
Illustrator	
Editor	Tim Neighbour BSc FSA Scot MifA
Commissioned by	Edinburgh Military Tattoo Ltd
Date issued	21 October 2011
Version	1
OASIS Reference No.	cfaarcha1-78685
SMC Reference No.	AMH/90130/1/3
Grid Ref	NT 25315 73530 (centre)

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

**Edinburgh Military Tattoo Grandstand Works,  
Fencing to North of Esplanade:  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. 1968**

## **CONTENTS**

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	3
3.	Archaeological Results	4
4.	Conclusion	4
5.	References	5

## **Appendices**

1.	Context Register	5
2.	Photograph Register	5
3.	Summary of Excavation Results	6

## **Figures (Bound at Rear)**

1.	Location Map	
2	Plan of new fence enclosing stand bases within Princes Street Gardens.	
3.	Plan view of posthole H12	

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in September 2011 on land to the north of Edinburgh Castle, within Princes Street Gardens, during the erection of new fencing (Figs 1-2). The work was undertaken for Sir Robert McAlpine on behalf of Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), dated 25 February 2010, was prepared by CFA on behalf of Thomas and Adamson in support of an application for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC E) for the works. The WSI provided the methods statement for an archaeological watching brief and photographic recording to be carried out by CFA.

The utilities installation methodology is outlined in Sir Robert McAlpine's (SRM) Methods Statement.

This work is part of a larger project which was undertaken over two years and was commissioned by Sir Robert McAlpine on behalf of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Ltd. The aim of the larger project was to provide newly designed temporary grandstands on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle to replace the existing structures.

### **1.2 Historical & Archaeological Background**

Edinburgh Castle and the Esplanade are protected as a Scheduled Monument (SM No. 90130) and lie within the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site, which was inscribed in 1995. Edinburgh Castle and the Esplanade are, therefore, of international importance. The Castle and Esplanade is a Property in the Care and Ownership of Historic Scotland.

### **1.3 Objectives**

The objectives of this phase of archaeological works were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological (Watching Brief) to monitor any ground breaking works that were required.
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording and production of a report.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods, as detailed in the approved WSI.

## 2.2 Watching Brief

A watching brief was maintained during all ground breaking works associated with the erection of permanent postholes, designed to house the temporary fencing, to the north of the Esplanade in Princes Street Garden (Fig 1). Excavation was undertaken using hand shovels under constant archaeological supervision.

The postholes required for the temporary fencing were c.0.45 x 0.45m, reaching a maximum depth of 0.9m.

## 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 3.1 General

In the text below, context numbers are in bold and parentheses. These are further described in Appendix 1.

A summary of the excavation results of the postholes, with the prefix H, is contained in Appendix 3 and their locations shown on Fig. 2.

The excavated topsoil generally consisted of dark brown to mid-brown sandy-silt (**001**) and ranged in depth from 0.02m at the top of the slope to 0.25m at the foot of the slope. The subsoil (**002**) generally consisted of loose to medium compacted silty-clay with degraded brick, sandstone and mortar inclusions. Due to the depth of the postholes, the natural substrate was not reached in any of the excavations.

Posthole H12 contained a stone feature (**1201**) located under the topsoil (**001**) at a depth of 0.26m (Fig. 3). The three courses of flat, angular/sub-angular masonry blocks, measuring 0.30m in height, possibly formed part of a revetment wall at the bottom of the slope. Assuming that the feature was on an east-west alignment, continuations of the wall would have been expected in H11 and H13. However, due to the keyhole nature of the excavations the absence of associated remains in H11 and H13 does not mean that the feature in H12 was not part of longer masonry feature; slight deviations to its route and/or differential survival could account for its absence from H11 and H13. The feature did not underlie the western extent of modern kerbstones, which were also exposed during excavation, and respected the north-south alignment of the modern kerb.

Excavation of several postholes (H23-31, H32-34 and H37-39) revealed patches of medium to large angular and sub-angular stone rubble.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of postholes prior to the erection of a temporary, re-usable fence. One possible archaeological feature, consisting of three courses of masonry blocks, was uncovered. It is considered possible that this feature formed part of a revetment wall at the bottom of the slope, similar to that found on the south side of the Esplanade (Suddaby 2011, 12-13 and Figs. 30, 32, 34).

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 Edinburgh City 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 4).

## 5. REFERENCE

Suddaby, I, Johnson, M, Mitchell, S & Moore, P 2011 *Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Grandstand Works, Edinburgh Castle Esplanade. SMC E: Utilities Outside of Esplanade. Archaeological Watching Brief & Photographic Survey*. CFA Archaeology Ltd. Data Structure Report No. 1830v2.

### APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Fill	Trench	Description
001			Topsoil –dark brown to mid-brown sandy-silt
002			Silty-clay, loose to medium compaction, with degraded brick, mortar and sandstone inclusions
1200		H12	Clay silt component of dry stone feature
1201		H12	Stonework component of a stone feature
1202		H12	Clay silt deposit

### APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

H = posthole

No	Description	From	Conditions
1	Pre-ex general shot of the area looking south	N	Fair
2	Pre-ex shot looking north	S	Fair
3	Pre-ex shot looking west	E	Fair
4	Pre-ex shot looking west	E	Fair
5	Pre-ex shot of western end of the site towards south	N	Fair
6	H1 E. facing section	E	Fair
7	H2 S. facing section	S	Fair
8	H4 S. facing section – detail with concrete and stone kerb/wall	SSW	Fair
9	H12, stone feature in the pit/hole 12 and path/kerbs	NNW	Fair
10	H12, stone feature in the pit/hole 12 and path/kerbs	NNW	Fair
11	H12, stone feature in the pit/hole 12 and path/kerbs	NNW	Fair
12	H12, stone feature in the pit/hole 12 and path/kerbs	NNW	Fair
13	H12, stone feature in the pit/hole 12 and path/kerbs	E	Fair
14	Stone detail - from stone feature after removal	W	Fair
15	H12, W. facing section showing stone feature abutting stone and mortar kerb associated with the modern pathway	W	Fair
16	H15 – NNW section	NNW	Fair
17	H15 – NNW section	NNW	Fair
18	H 20, H21 and fence line – general shot from west to east	W	Fair
19	H23 – S. facing section and detail of the modern masonry (kerb, stone and mortar)	S	Overcast
20	H24 – general shot of masonry wall	W	Overcast
21	H24 – general shot of masonry wall	S	Overcast
22	H25 – S. facing section – masonry wall with kerb of pathway	S	Overcast
23	H30 – N. facing section, post-ex	N	Overcast
24	H32 – detail of post-ex W. facing section	W	Overcast
25	H33 – N. section, post-ex	N	Overcast
26	H34 – post-ex shot of N. facing section	N	Overcast

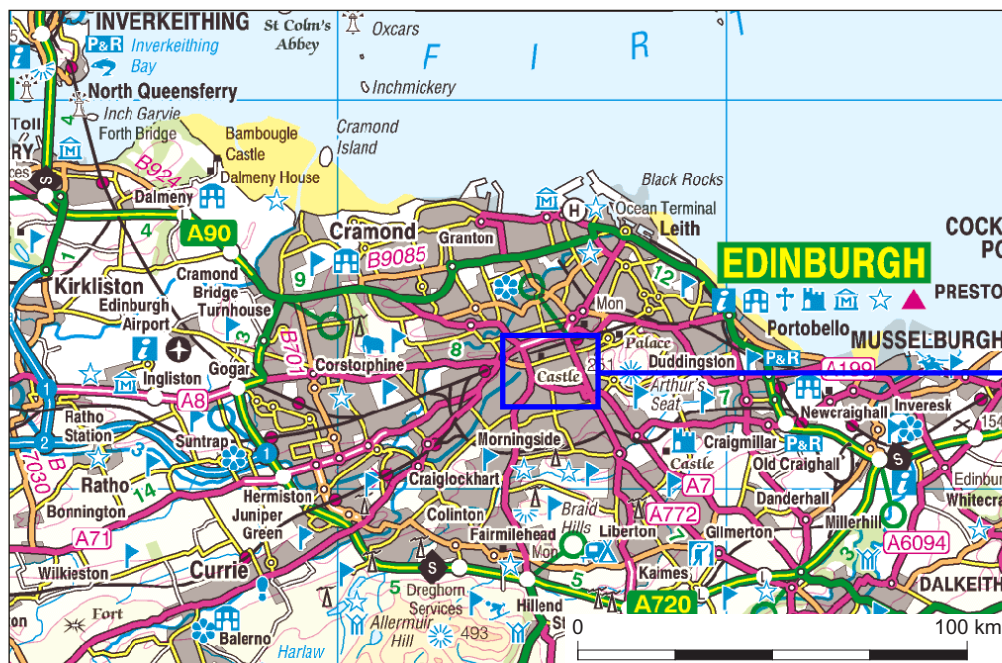
No	Description	From	Conditions
27	H34 – detail of subsoil - degraded mortar and stone	N	Overcast
28	H35 – post-ex shot of N. facing section	N	Overcast
29	H37 – post-ex shot of tree root detail	N	Overcast
30	H38 – post-ex shot of W. facing section	W	Overcast
31	H39 – post-ex shot of W. facing section	W	Overcast
32	H41 – post-ex detail of tree roots and grey clay inclusions	S	Fair
33-34	H44 – post-ex detail of N. half of the hole with tar and grey clay	N	Fair
35	H45 – general shot of hole and the footpath and slight varied area adjacent to H45	NNE	Fair
36	General shot of H45 with fence post and the footpath/track leading up the slope	NNE	Overcast
37-38	H46 – post-ex showing stone and mortar	NNW	
39	H46 - post-ex showing stone and mortar	N	Overcast
40-41	H47 – post-ex shot showing stone and mortar	NNW	Overcast
42	H51 – post-ex shot stone and mortar detail	N	Overcast
43-44	H52 – post-ex shot showing detail of mortar and clay silt	S, W	Overcast
45-46	H54 – post-ex shot	W, E	Overcast
47-48	H59 – post-ex shot	N	Overcast
49-50	H60 – post-ex shot of N. facing section, detail	N	Overcast
51	H62 – post-ex shot with yellow plastic inclusions	S	Overcast
52	General shot of a fence line with post in H54 and standing stone monument	SSW	Overcast
53-55	H66 - post-ex detail of Espl. Wall and pipe in the hole	NNW	Overcast

### APPENDIX 3: Summary of Excavation Results

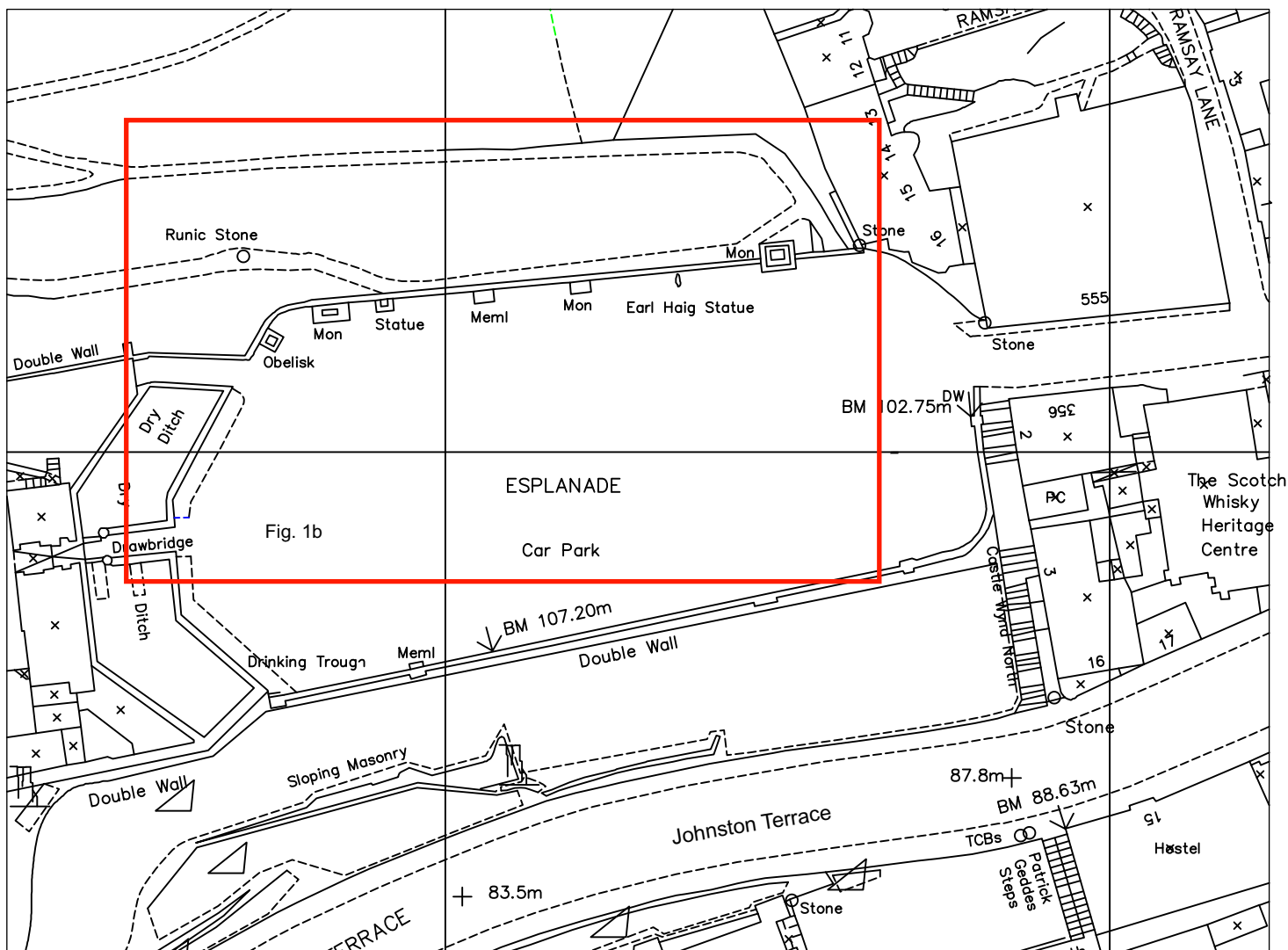
No.	Topsoil Depth	Deposits
H1	0.02m	0.24m deep; dark brown silty sand with clay inclusions. Angular stones <8cm
H2	No topsoil	0.17m of silty sand containing deep red sandstone and clay inclusions. 0.38m of dark brown silt with clay inclusions
H3	No topsoil	As before
H4	No topsoil	0.58m medium loose, brown silty sand with clay and charcoal inclusion
H5	No topsoil	0.52m medium loose, brown silty sand with clay and charcoal inclusion
H6	No topsoil	0.55m medium loose, grey/dark brown silty sand with clay and charcoal inclusion
H7	No topsoil	0.53m 0.55m medium loose, grey/dark brown silty sand with clay and charcoal inclusion
H8	0.1m	As before
H9	0.25m	0.39m mid-dark brown, very compact silty clay
H10	0.25m	0.37m mid-dark brown, very compact silty clay
H11	0.3m	0.4m medium compact dark brown silty sand. 0.1m orange/brown clay
H12	0.25m	0.40m mid to dark brown clay loam 0.2m mid-brown silty clay
H13	0.15m	0.25m dark brown, compact clay silt 0.15m brown clay silt
H14	0.15m	0.26m dark brown, compact clay silt 0.1m brown clay silt
H15	0.2m	0.35m dark brown, compact clay silt 0.38m brown clay silt
H16	0.15m	0.59m medium dark brown, medium compaction, silty sand
H17	0.26m	0.5m Mid-brown, loose, silty sand
H18	0.23m	0.32m, medium compaction, mid-dark brown silty sand
H19	0.2m	0.6m, medium compaction, mid-dark brown sandy silt
H20	0.2m	0.24m, medium compaction, mid-brown sandy silt
H21	0.2m	0.5m, mid-dark brown, medium compaction, sandy silt
H22	0.18m	0.54m mid-dark brown, medium compaction, sandy silt

No.	Topsoil Depth	Deposits
H23	0.15m	0.64m greyish-brown sandy silt
H24	0.21m	0.57m greyish-brown/mid-dark brown, compacted clay silt
H25	0.15m	0.65m greyish-brown/mid-dark brown, compacted clay silt
H26	0.15m	0.49m dark brown clay silt, very compact
H27	0.15m	0.65m mid-dark brown, medium compaction, clay silt
H28	0.15m	0.5m light brown/purple clay silt, medium compaction
H29	0.2m	0.61m light-brown/purplish clay silt, medium compaction
H30	0.15m	0.55m mid-purple/brown, loose sandy silt
H31	0.16m	0.52m loose, mid to light purple/brown
H32	0.1m	0.67m mid to light greyish brown, loose, sandy silt with high percentage of stones
H33	0.13m	0.5m very loose, light greyish brown sandy silt
H34	0.2m	0.35m very loose, light brown sandy silt
H35	0.24m	0.4m loose, mid-dark brown sandy silt 0.08m mid-light brown clay silt, medium compaction
H36	0.22m	0.38m light brown, loose silty sand
H37	0.15m	0.3m mid-dark brown, loose sandy silt
H38	0.25m	0.45m mid-brown, loose sandy silt
H39	0.22m	0.51m mid to light greyish brown, loose sandy silt
H40	0.22m	0.4m mid to light greyish brown, medium compaction, clay silt
H41	0.24m	0.48m mid to light greyish brown, medium compaction, clay silt with reddish clay inclusions
H42	0.24m	0.53m mid-dark to light greyish brown clay silt with pockets of grey and light brown clay
H43	0.2m	0.5m mid-dark to light brown, medium compaction, clay silt
H44	0.24m	0.39m mid-dark to light brown, medium compaction, clay silt
H45	0.2m	0.45m mid-dark to light brown, medium compaction, clay silt
H46	0.31m	0.40m mid-brown to light brown silt
H47	0.3m	0.5m purple/brown, medium compaction, silty clay with stone and mortar inclusions
H48	0.3m	0.41m mid to light grey, medium compaction, sandy silt with stone and mortar inclusions
H49	0.25m	0.12m dark brown to brown, medium compaction, sandy silt
H50	0.25m	0.37m dark to mid-dark brown, medium to loose compaction, sandy silt
H51	0.3m	0.44m mid to light brown, medium to loose compaction, sandy silt
H52	0.26m	0.4m light brown, medium compaction silt with pockets of clay silt
H53	0.19m	0.49m mid to dark greyish brown, medium compaction clay silt
H54	0.1m	0.43m medium to light reddish brown, medium compaction, clay loam
H55	0.24m	0.4m medium to light reddish brown, medium compaction, clay loam
H56	0.18m	0.45m medium to light reddish brown, loose compaction, sandy silt with some pockets of clay silt.
H57	0.3m	0.27m mid-dark brown, medium compaction, sandy silt with pockets of light brown clay
H58	0.28m	0.29m mid-dark brown sandy silt with pockets of grey clay
H59	0.11m	0.42m light brown, medium compaction, clay silt
H60	0.3m	0.09m light grey, very loose, shy silt 0.26m mid-brown, medium compaction, sandy silt
H61	0.15m	0.5m brown sandy silt
H62	0.15m	0.5m light brown, very loose, silty sand
H63	0.16m	0.49m brown, medium compaction, sandy silt
H64	0.13m	0.40m dark brown, loose, sandy silt
H65	No topsoil	0.17m reddish orange sand 0.15m black clay silt 0.2m grey brown silty sand
H65b	No topsoil	0.58m mid-brown, loose, sandy silt
H66	As H65	As H65





Edinburgh Castle  
Esplanade



Key:



Fig. No:

1a

Revision:

A

Client: Sir Robert Mc Alpine on behalf of  
Edinburgh Military Tattoo Ltd

Title:

Plan of Esplanade showing the location of  
Fig. 1b and the Johnston Terrace water main

Scale at A4: 1:1000



Project:

Edinburgh Military Tattoo Grandstand Works



Drawn by:

LW

Checked:

LW

Report No:

1968



- Key:
- New fence
  - Post-hole

**CFA** ARCHAEOLOGY LTD  
The Old Engine House  
Eskmills Park  
Musselburgh  
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ  
t: 0131 273 4380  
f: 0131 273 4381  
e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk  
w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Fig. No:	2	Revision:	A
----------	---	-----------	---

Title:  
**Plan of new fence enclosing  
stand bases within Princes  
Street Gardens**

Project:  
**Edinburgh Military Tattoo  
Grandstand Works**

Client:  
**Sir Robert Mc Alpine on behalf of  
Edinburgh Military Tattoo Ltd**

Scale at A3:  
**1:300**







Key:



Fig. No:

3

Revision:

A

Client: Sir Robert Mc Alpine on behalf of  
Edinburgh Military Tattoo Ltd

Title:

Plan view of posthole H12

Scale at A4: nts

Project:

Edinburgh Military Tattoo Grandstand Works



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD  
The Old Engine House  
Eskmills Park  
Musselburgh  
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ

t: 0131 273 4380  
f: 0131 273 4381  
e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk  
w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Drawn by:

LW

Checked:

LW

Report No:

1968