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Advice on Archaeology & Planning

Environmental Impact Assessment

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Field Evaluation & Excavation

Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**Area 5, 3 Smeaton Grove, Inveresk,
Musselburgh,
East Lothian**

Archaeological Works

Report No. 1798

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standard operating procedures.

Area 5
3 Smeaton Grove
Inveresk
Musselburgh
East Lothian

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief and evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in July 2010 at 3 Smeaton Grove, Inveresk, Musselburgh, East Lothian (NGR: NT 3495 7150) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Caughey and represents part of an ongoing programme of archaeological works to be undertaken on this site.
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 01 July 2010 for this programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of Mr and Mrs Caughey. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the East Lothian Council Archaeology Officer.
- 1.1.3 The site has been split up into five areas (Area 1 – Area 5) (Fig. 1). This report presents the results from Area 5. The findings from a pre-determination evaluation are contained within CFA Report No. 1416 (Hill 2007) and further mitigation required for each of the areas is described within the WSI. This report should be read in conjunction with the two aforementioned documents.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 Planning consent (Ref No. 07/00668/FUL) has been granted for the construction of three dwelling houses, a garage and access on the site of 3 Smeaton Grove, Eskbank, Musselburgh. The planning consent was subject to a condition requiring a programme of archaeological works.
- 1.2.2 The proposed development area is located on the south side of Smeaton Grove and lies c.50m to the west of the scheduled area associated with Pinkiehill Roman field system (SAM No. 3611). Other archaeological remains identified within the area include Mortonhall Junction Roman camps and prehistoric settlement (SAM No. 3610). This group of sites includes a Bronze Age Cursus monument.
- 1.2.5 A pre-determination archive assessment and evaluation undertaken by CFA in November 2007 (Hill 2007) (Fig. 1) identified archaeological remains from the Roman period. Consequently, a programme of further fieldwork was required in order to allow the development of three individual house plots to progress. This phase of the programme of works consisted of a watching brief undertaken following the demolition of an existing house on the site and the trial trench evaluation of Area 5, with trenches being targeted on the footprints of the proposed new houses.
- 1.2.5 The evaluation undertaken by CFA in 2007 (Fig. 1) was situated immediately to the south-east of the area where this programme of works was undertaken. It identified the remains of two ditches potentially of Roman date, three apparently linear features which are undated, two pits of unknown date, and a modern feature containing building debris. Pottery of Roman date was found

in the two ditches and in the topsoil. These ditches may be boundary ditches associated with nearby Roman field systems.

1.3 Objectives

- 1.3.1 The objectives of the project are to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area; to establish their vulnerability to the proposed development; and to propose mitigation measures.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

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

2.2 Watching Brief

- 2.2.1 The terms of the WSI required a watching brief during the removal of the foundations of the building that formerly occupied the site. The building measured 27m by 10m. This work was carried out using a 360° tracked excavator under constant archaeological supervision.

2.3 Evaluation

- 2.3.1 The terms of the WSI required the excavation of 5% of Area 5 (c.48m²). Four trenches (1A – 4A) were excavated amounting to c.63m² (c.6.6% of Area 5).
- 2.3.2 Topsoil and modern overburden were removed by a JCB 3CX type mechanical excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.
- 2.3.3 All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.
- 2.3.4 The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.
- 2.3.5 Trench positions were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment and all trenches were backfilled.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Watching Brief

- 3.1.1 The removal of the building foundations reduced the ground level by c. 0.2m. Natural subsoil was not reached and no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified. The subsequent trial trenching undertaken identified the natural subsoil c. 0.5m below the level reached during the watching brief.

3.2 Trial Trenches (Fig. 1)

General

- 3.2.1 The deposits within Area 5 predominantly consisted of 0.3m – 0.5m of fine grey silt topsoil (**001**) and 0.2m of slightly reddish brown subsoil (**002**) overlying reddish brown sandy gravel natural (**003**).
- 3.2.2 Numbers in bold and parentheses refer to contexts (Appendix 2).

Trench 1A

- 3.2.3 Trench 1A (Fig. 4) measured 23m by 1.5m. The deposits within this trench consisted of 0.3m of fine grey silt topsoil (**001**) and 0.2m of slightly reddish brown subsoil (**002**) overlying reddish brown sandy gravel natural (**003**). One large circular or oval pit (**004**) (Fig. 2, Fig. 3) was identified within this trench and within the adjoining Trench 3A. The pit, which had steeply sloping sides and a flat base, measured 3.9m south-west to north-east and had been cut into the natural to a depth of 0.9m. A further trench (Trench 3A) excavated to identify the extent of this feature uncovered the north-western edge and showed that it measured >2.5m south-east to north-west. Although the south-eastern edge of the pit was not identified, the fact that it did not extend into Trench 1 from the 2007 evaluation would appear to preclude the possibility that this feature represents the terminal of a linear ditch.
- 3.2.4 The fill of the pit from the base upward consisted of dark-brown gravelly silt (**005**), brown silty gravel (**006**) and reddish-brown silty gravel (**008**). Within and immediately overlying deposit **006**, three lenses of redeposited natural (**007**, **009** and **010**) were identified. The primary deposit (**005**) is likely to represent natural silting, but the generally homogenous nature of deposits **006** and **008** appear to represent two distinct episodes of fairly rapid backfilling. Two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the interface between deposit **006** and deposit **008**. These both had fairly sharp unabraded edges, suggesting that they were deposited in the pit shortly after breakage. The pit is likely to have been a borrow-pit for the quarrying of the sandy-gravel subsoil.

Trench 2A

- 3.2.5 Trench 2A (Fig. 5) measured 11m by 1.5m. The deposits within this trench consisted of 0.3m of fine grey silt topsoil **(001)** and 0.2m of slightly reddish brown subsoil **(002)** overlying reddish brown sandy gravel natural **(003)**. One sewerage pipe was identified within this trench, but there were no features, artefacts or deposits of archaeological significance.

Trench 3A

- 3.2.6 Trench 3A (Fig. 6) measured 4m by 1.5m and was excavated to determine the extent of Pit **004** (see Trench 1 above). The deposits within this trench consisted of 0.3m of fine grey silt topsoil **(001)** and 0.2m of slightly reddish brown subsoil **(002)** overlying reddish brown sandy gravel natural **(003)**. There were no other features, artefacts or deposits of archaeological significance.

Trench 4A

- 3.2.7 Trench 4A measured 6m by 1.5m. The deposits within this trench consisted of 0.3m of fine grey silt topsoil **(001)** and 0.2m of slightly reddish brown subsoil **(002)** overlying reddish brown sandy gravel natural **(003)**. There were no features, artefacts or deposits of archaeological significance.

3.3 Finds (Sue Anderson)

- 3.3.1 Two sherds of Roman period pottery weighing 7g were recovered from Pit **004** at the interface between deposit **006** and deposit **008**. They consisted of one plain and one decorated sherd of greyware or black burnished ware. Both had fairly sharp and unabraded edges suggesting that they were deposited shortly after breakage

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 An archaeological watching brief and evaluation was carried out at 3 Smeaton Grove, Inveresk in advance of the construction of a residential development. Trial trenching identified a large pit containing two sherds of Roman period pottery. The pottery was comparatively unabraded suggesting that it was deposited shortly after breakage. The pit is likely to have been a borrow-pit for the quarrying of the sandy gravel subsoil within this area. There were no other features identified during this phase of the programme of works, but a pre-determination evaluation carried out in 2007 within the proposed development area identified a series of ditches and linear features containing Roman period pottery.
- 4.2 The decision regarding all mitigation measures lies with the East Lothian Council Archaeology Officer.
- 4.3 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 East Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record.

- 4.4 A summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* and the project will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

5. REFERENCES

Hill, I (2007) *3 Smeaton Grove, Inversek, Musselburgh: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Evaluation*. CFA Data Structure Report No 1416

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-6	Sequence of shots showing SE-facing section of pit 004	SE	Sun
7-8	General shot of pit 004	East	Sun
9-10	Trench 1A general shot	NE	Sun
11-12	Trench 2A general shot	SE	Sun
13-14	Trench 3A general shot	SE	Sun
15-16	Trench 4A general shot	SE	Sun

Colour Slide

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-6	Sequence of shots showing SE-facing section of pit 006	SE	Sun
7-8	General shot of pit 006	East	Sun
9-10	Trench 1A general shot	NE	Sun
11-12	Trench 2A general shot	SE	Sun
13-14	Trench 3A general shot	SE	Sun
15-16	Trench 4A general shot	SE	Sun

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context No.	Area	Trench	Description
001	5	All	Topsoil (fine grey-brown silt)
002	5	All	Subsoil (slightly reddish-brown sandy silt)
003	5	All	Natural (orange-brown sandy gravel)
004	5	1A/3A	Cut of pit in Trench 1
005	5	1A/3A	Primary fill of pit 004 (dark-brown gravelly silt)
006	5	1A/3A	Fill of pit 004 (brown silty gravel)
007	5	1A/3A	Fill of pit 004 (orange-brown redeposited natural)
008	5	1A/3A	Upper fill of pit 004 (reddish-brown silty gravel)
009	5	1A/3A	Fill of pit 004 (orange-brown redeposited natural)
010	5	1A/3A	Fill of pit 004 (orange-brown redeposited natural)

APPENDIX 3: Field Drawings Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Description	Plan/Section	Scale
1	1	Pit 004, SE-facing section	S	1:20

APPENDIX 4: Finds List

Trench	Context	Findtype	No	Wt	Notes	Date
1A	006/008	Pot	2	7g	Greyware or BB1	Roman



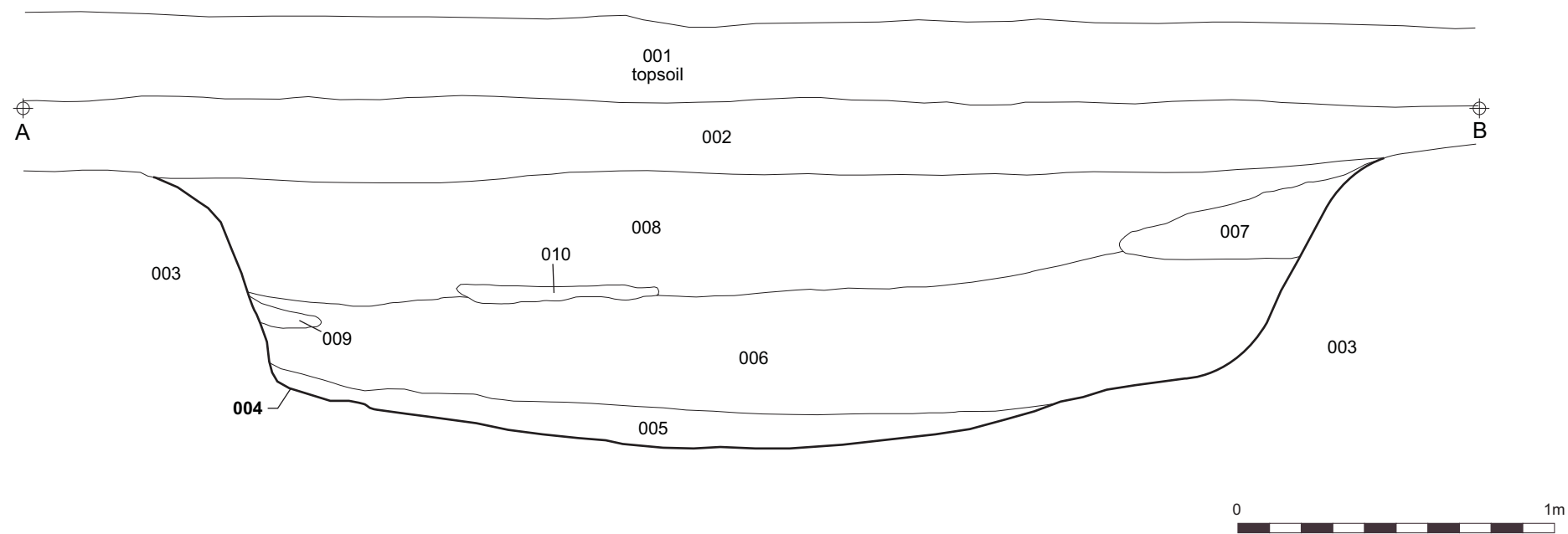
Key:

- Evaluation trenches
- Features uncovered
- 2007 evaluation trenches
- 2007 archaeological features





- Key:
- Cultural heritage site (point)
 - Cultural heritage site (line)
 - Development Area





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Fig. No:	2	Revision:	A
Title:	Pit 004 south east facing section		
Project:	Smeaton Grove, Inveresk.		
Scale:	1:20 @ A3		
Client:	Mr and Mrs Caughey		
Drawn by:	GC	Page No:	0
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Fig. 3 General shot of Pit 004



Fig. 4 General shot of Trench 1A



Key:	Fig. No:	3-4	Revision:		Client:	Mr and Mrs Caughey					
	Title:					 <div>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</div>					
	Project:						Smeaton Grove, Inveresk.				
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Fig. 5 General shot of Trench 2A



Fig. 6 General shot of Trench 3A

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	Title:						
	Project:	Smeaton Grove, Inveresk.					
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