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Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**Site Adjacent to Lochbridge Road,
North Berwick, East Lothian.
Archaeological Evaluation.**

**Data Structure Report,
No. 1872**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in February 2011 within the area of a proposed residential housing development on a green field site adjacent to Lochbridge Road, North Berwick, East Lothian (centred on NGR NT 5540 8453, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by East Lothian Council.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the evaluation was produced by CFA. This was based upon information supplied by East Lothian Council and was designed to fulfil the condition on the development. The WSI was approved in advance by the East Lothian Council Archaeology Officer.

The proposed development site is located on the north-west side of North Berwick Law, which is a Scheduled Monument (SM 3863). The Law is a known focus for prehistoric and later archaeological activity and thus the development area is considered to have significant archaeological potential.

No previous invasive archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place within the proposed development area prior to this evaluation.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the evaluation were:

- To determine the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.
- To establish whether any remains associated with North Berwick Law extend beyond the limits of the scheduled area.
- To propose mitigation measures where necessary.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

Work was conducted with regard to the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation and Code of Conduct*.

2.2 Archive Assessment

Historic map coverage for the area was examined together with other readily available cartographic information on pre-recent land use in the development area. The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS), the East Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest and the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (through Pastmap), and any other readily available bibliographic sources related to the area were consulted as appropriate. A range of aerial photographs held by the NMRS were consulted.

2.3 Evaluation Strategy

The total site area is 17,930m². Seventeen trial trenches (Fig. 1) were opened which examined 1815m², slightly over 10% of the total area.

Excavation constraints consisted of recently installed field drainage in the southern part of the site.

The trenches were excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and other soil deposits down to subsoil or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was reached first.

Samples of all features of archaeological interest were hand excavated in order to establish their likely date, nature, extent and condition.

All hand 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.

Trench locations were recorded using industry standard electronic surveying equipment and the trenches were backfilled daily on completion of recording.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Appendix 1 contains a tabulated summary of trench dimensions and a list of the features encountered. Context numbers appear below in bold, and a full description of these can be found in Appendix 2. Other site records are detailed in Appendices 3-4.

3.2 Archive Assessment

NMRS/SMR

The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and the East Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) do not record any known sites lying within the boundary of the proposed development.

A findsot (MEL1275) is recorded at Mill Burn to the south of the development site.

Cartographic

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854 shows the site as open fields, as does the 1896 Second Edition map. North Berwick Mains farm lies to the north of the development site.

Earlier maps, from Roy's Military Survey to John Thomson's Atlas of 1832 also show the site as open fields. The farm at North Berwick Mains is called Pod Hill on Roy's map and changes to 'Mains' on Forrest's map of 1802. Early maps such as Adair (1682) do not show sufficient detail.

The road to the west retains the same dog-leg layout as today throughout the historical mapping.

3.3 Evaluation

Seventeen trenches totalling an area of 1815m² were excavated (Fig. 1). The evaluation area comprised a slightly sloping arable field situated on the break of a low ridge with a southerly aspect and facing the north flank of North Berwick Law.

The site was surfaced with stubble. Topsoil (**000**) was heavy and clay-rich and was mostly 0.3m deep with a slightly shallower area close to the top of the slope. A subsoil (**002**) was present across most of the site, comprising of a clay-rich silt which merged with both the overlying topsoil and the underlying natural (**000**). The natural (**000**) varied from heavy stony boulder clay with occasional shattered bedrock outcropping in the east and south of the site to reddish sand towards the north and west. Extensive rubble and clay drainage systems were present on the slope.

Only those trenches containing archaeological remains are described in the narrative. Full descriptions of all trenches are presented in Appendix 1. Context numbers are in bold and in parentheses.

Trench 3

A small isolated sub-circular pit was discovered in Trench 3 (Fig. 2). The cut (301) had steep sides and a concave base and measured 0.5m in diameter and 0.36m deep. The fill (302) comprised firm dark grey clayey silt. Two fragments of bone from a pig were recovered from the base of the pit.

Stone Box Drain

A large and still-functioning stone box drain (004) was revealed in several trenches (Trenches 5-7, 14-17), running roughly ENE-WSW. A section was excavated through the drain in Trenches 5 and 12 (Figs. 3-4). It was cleaned in all other trenches in order to minimise potential disturbance to it as a significant flow of water was still present.

The box drain was roughly built and set into a vertical cut (003) in the subsoil and comprised rough drystone sides of large stones and orthostats capped by large boulders. There was no base or floor. The drain measured c.0.6m wide and 0.65m deep, with a channel measuring c.0.35m wide and 0.3m deep. The builders appear to have used conveniently available naturally occurring stones rather than imported or worked slabs.

A series of large rubble drains aligned north to south fed into the box drain along the field. As the box drain was still functional and had a significant flow of water, it was rebuilt following excavation to maintain its function.

Rubble Drain

A large rubble drain (005) crossed the area from ENE-WSW (Trenches 4-7, 11-12, 14-17), situated c.5m downslope and parallel to the box drain. It comprised a ditch measuring up to 1.2m wide and 0.6m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with loose and voided angular stones which contained small quantities of lime.

The drain was mostly dry, suggesting that it pre-dated the box drain, which, being upslope, prevented any significant water reaching the rubble drain. It had been emptied of stone and backfilled with sand and soil in several places, possibly for use in other rubble drains or the construction of the box drain.

Neither the box drain nor the rubble drain were visible to the east beyond Trench 4. It is likely that they continue parallel to Trenches 1 and 2 and, as the ground rises significantly to the east of Trench 4, it would seem unlikely that the drains would continue on the same alignment as previously as they would require very deep digging in unyielding ground.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Seventeen trial trenches were excavated covering 1815m². The results of the evaluation include:

- An isolated pit containing fragments of pig bone.
- A still functioning box drain running across most of the site.
- An obsolete rubble drain running parallel to the box drain.

The date and purpose of the pit is impossible to ascertain at present. It lay close to the base of the slope and was found in isolation.

The date of the box drain is unclear although its substantial flow suggests that it begins beyond the site boundary and pre-dates the construction of the main road.

The rubble drain most likely pre-dates the box drain and is possibly an earlier version of the main drain for the field which held an insufficient capacity and was thus replaced by the box drain.

The responsibility for deciding the scope of any further work lies solely with the East Lothian Council Archaeology Officer.

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 East Lothian Council.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 5).

5. REFERENCES

Adair, J 1682 East Lothian.

Ainslie, J 1821 Ainslie's Map of the Southern Part of Scotland.

Forrest, W 1802 Map of Haddingtonshire.

Ordnance Survey 1854 Haddingtonshire Sheet 2, 6" to the mile.

Ordnance Survey 1896 North Berwick Sheet 41, 1" to the mile.

Roy, W 1747-55 Military Survey of Scotland.

APPENDIX 1: Summary of Evaluation Trenches

| Trench No. | Dimensions (m) | Depth of topsoil (m) | Depth of subsoil (m) | Comments |
|------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1 | 50 x 2 | 0.3 | 0.1 | Clay drains |
| 2 | 50x 2 | 0.3 | 0.1-0.2 | Clay drains |
| 3 | 50x 2 + 15 x 3 box | 0.3 | 0.3-0.4 | Isolated small pit (301) filled with clayey silt (302). Two fragments of bone (pig) recovered. |
| 4 | 50 x 2 + 5 x 15 box | 0.3 | 0.2-0.4 | Cut of large drainage ditch, filled with sandy clay. |
| 5 | 40 x 2 | 0.3 | 0.2-0.4 | Drain aligned east to west. Cut of large rubble drain. Rubble drains and clay drains. |
| 6 | 40 x 2 | 0.3 | 0.2-0.4 | Drain aligned east to west. Cut of large rubble drain. Rubble drains and clay drains. |
| 7 | 40 x 2 | 0.3 | 0.1-0.3 | Drain aligned east to west. Cut of large rubble drain. Rubble drains and clay drains. |
| 8 | 120 x 2 | 0.2-0.3 | N/A | N/A |
| 9 | 50 x 2 | 0.3 | 0.1 | Clay drains. |
| 10 | 50 x 2 | 0.3 | 0.1 | Clay drains. |
| 11 | 50 x 2 | 0.3 | 0.1 | Clay drains. |
| 12 | 50 x 2 | 0.3 | 0.1-0.2 | Drain aligned east to west. Clay drains. |
| 13 | 75 x 2 | 0.3 | 0.2-0.3 | N/A |
| 14 | 50 x 2 | 0.3 | 0.1-0.2 | Drain aligned east to west. Cut of large rubble drain. Rubble drains and clay drains. |
| 15 | 50 x 2 | 0.3 | 0.1-0.2 | Drain aligned east to west. Cut of large rubble drain. Rubble drains and clay drains. |
| 16 | 40 x 2 | 0.3 | 0.1-0.2 | Drain aligned east to west. Cut of large rubble drain. Rubble drains and clay drains. |
| 17 | 30 x 2 | 0.3 | 0.1-0.2 | Drain aligned east to west. Cut of large rubble drain. Rubble drains and clay drains. |

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

| Context | Description |
|---------|------------------|
| 000 | Natural subsoil |
| 001 | Topsoil |
| 002 | Subsoil |
| 003 | Cut of box drain |
| 004 | Box drain |
| 005 | Rubble drain |
| 301 | Cut of pit |
| 302 | Fill of pit |

APPENDIX 3: Photographic Register

| Photo No. | Description | Taken from |
|-----------|---|------------|
| 1-3 | General view of evaluation area | N-NE |
| 4 | Trench 1 working shot | NE |
| 5-6 | Trench 1 | N |
| 7 | Trench 1 | E |
| 8 | Trench 2 | E |
| 9 | Trench 5 drain | S |
| 10-13 | Trench 5 detail of drain | W |
| 14 | Trench 3 section of pit | E |
| 15-16 | Trench 3 working shots | Various |
| 17 | Trench 6 | N |
| 18 | Trench 6 drain | N |
| 19-20 | Trench 6 drain cut by clay drain | W |
| 21 | Trench 7 rubble drain | N |
| 22 | Trench 7 intersection of drain and rubble drain | S |
| 23-24 | Trench 4 section of robbed rubble drain | W |
| 25 | Trench 8 working shot | E |
| 26-27 | General view of area | SW-W |
| 28 | Trench 9 | N |
| 29 | Trench 10 | N |
| 30 | Trench 12 drain pre-ex | W |
| 31-35 | Trench 12 drain section | E |
| 36 | Trench 12 detail of drain sides | N |
| 37-39 | Trench 12 section of drain | E |
| 40 | Trench 12 rebuilt drain | |
| 41 | Trench 14 | N |
| 42 | Trench 13 | W |
| 43 | Trench 16 | N |

Appendix 4: Drawings register

| Drawing No. | Scale | Description | Section/Plan |
|-------------|-------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 1:10 | Drain in Trench 5 | Section |
| 2 | 1:100 | Trench 5 | Plan |
| 3 | 1:10 | Pit (301) | Section |
| 4 | 1:20 | Pit (301) | Plan |
| 5 | 1:100 | Plan of Trench 3 | Plan |
| 6 | 1:10 | Drain in Trench 12 | Section |
| 7 | 1:100 | Trench 12 | Plan |

APPENDIX 5: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

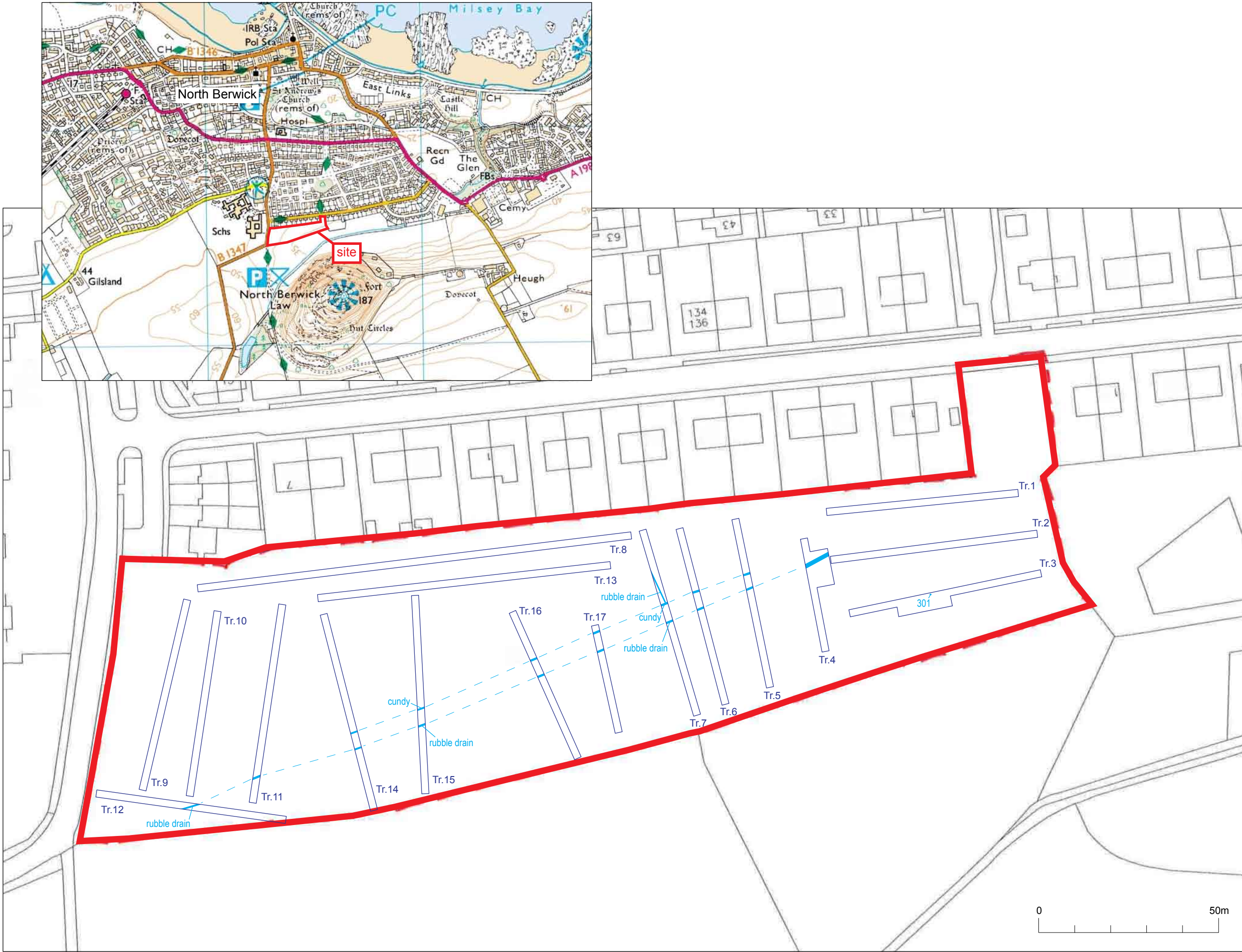
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|---|--|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | East Lothian |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | Land adjacent to Lochbridge Road, North Berwick |
| PROJECT CODE: | LOGE |
| PARISH: | North Berwick |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Stuart Mitchell |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | CFA Archaeology Ltd |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Evaluation |
| NMRS NO(S): | None |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | Pit, Field Drainage |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | - |
| NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures) | NT 5540 8453 |
| START DATE (this season) | 21/02/2011 |
| END DATE (this season) | 23/02/2011 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.) | - |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | <p>A trial trenching evaluation was carried out on a sloping field immediately to the north of North Berwick Law. A small isolated pit was discovered near the base of the slope. The fill contained two fragments of pig bone.</p> <p>A large drain was discovered running west to east across the area, roughly built and still functioning with a strong flow of water. A further main rubble drain was discovered downslope from the drain. No other archaeological remains were discovered.</p> |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | N/A |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | None |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | East Lothian Council |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR: | Old Engine House, Eskmills Business Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ |
| EMAIL ADDRESS: | cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk |
| ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited) | NMRS / East Lothian SMR |



- Key:
- Development area
 - Evaluation trenches
 - Archaeological features

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| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|------------|------|
| Fig. No: | 1 | Revision: | A |
| Title: | | | |
| Location map and trench layout | | | |
| Project: | | | |
| Lochbridge Road, North Berwick | | | |
| Scale: | | | |
| 1:1000 | | | |
| Client: | | | |
| East Lothian Council | | | |
| Drawn by: | GC | Report No: | 1872 |



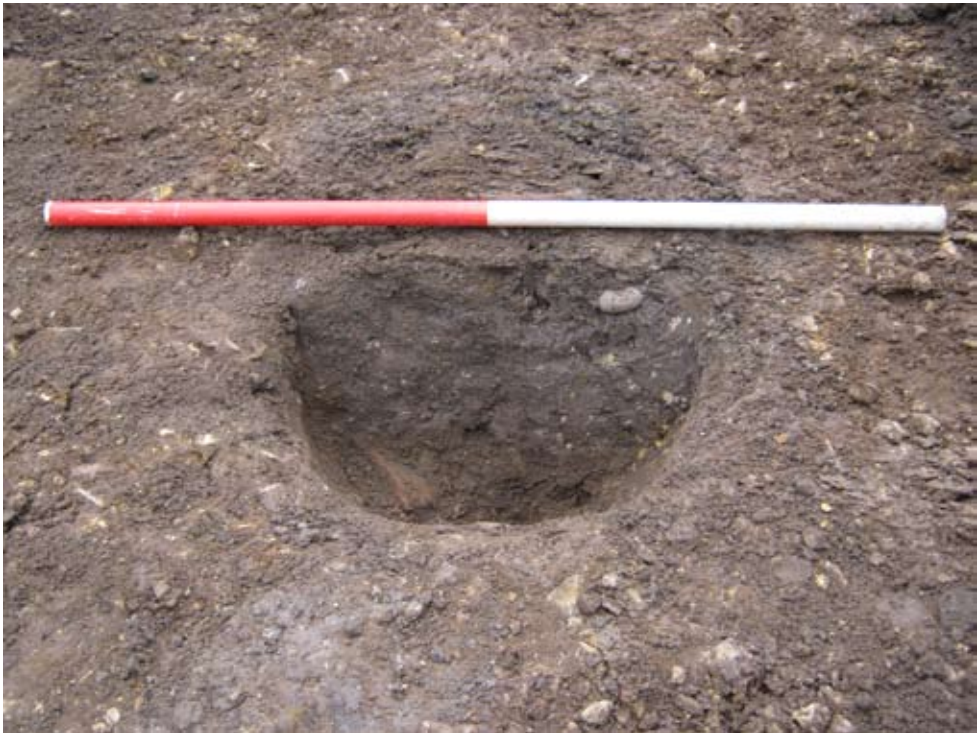


Fig. 2 Pit 301



Fig. 3 Stone box drain in Trench 5



| | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|---|
| Key: | Fig. No: | Revision: A | Client: East Lothian Council |  <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> |
| | Title: | | | |
| | Project: | | | |
| Scale: | Lochbridge Road, North Berwick | | | Drawn by: GC |
| | | | | Checked: LW |
| | | | | Report No: 1872 |



Fig. 4 Stone box drain in Trench 12



Fig. 5 General view of Trench 2

| | | | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|---|-------------|-----------------|
| Key: | Fig. No: | Revision: A | Client: East Lothian Council |  <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> | | |
| | Title: | | | | | |
| | Project: | | | | | |
| Scale: | Lochbridge Road, North Berwick | | | Drawn by: GC | Checked: LW | Report No: 1872 |