

CFA Archaeology Ltd

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Geophysical Survey

Bankton House Steading, East Lothian. Archaeological Metal Detector Survey and Watching Brief

Report No. 1681

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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Commissioned by	Ginger Developments Ltd
Date issued	October 2009
Version	0
Planning Application No	02/01395/FUL
Grid Ref	NT 39452 73651

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

Bankton House Steading, East Lothian. Archaeological Metal Detector Survey and Watching Brief

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

1.1.1 This report presents the results of an Archaeological Metal Detector Survey (MDS) and Watching Brief carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in September 2009 on the excavation a septic tank trench for the redevelopment of Bankton House Steading, Prestonpans, East Lothian (NGR: NT 39452 73651 Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Atisreal UK Ltd on behalf of Ginger Developments Ltd to fulfil a planning condition. A Written Scheme of Investigation was approved by East Lothian Council's Heritage Officer (dated 12 June 2007).

1.2 Background

1.2.1 The proposed development comprises the alteration of the former Bankton House Steading into five houses and the erection of a building containing four car ports together with associated site works. The steading is closely connected to Bankton House, which has historical connections with the Battle of Prestonpans (1745).

1.2.2 A Desk-based Assessment together with a site visit to record any surviving features of the former steading was previously carried out by CFA (Cressey 2007).

1.3 Objectives

1.3.1 The remaining objectives of the programme of archaeological works were:

- to conduct a MDS along the route of the service trench and septic tank site.
- following the MDS, conduct an archaeological watching brief along the proposed service trench and the site of the septic tank to identify and record any buried archaeological remains.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 General

2.1.1 An effective standard for this type of project has been established by previous metal detector surveys and watching briefs carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd. Recording of all elements was carried out following established CFA methodology. CFA follows the Codes and appropriate Standards of the Institute for Archaeologists.

2.2 Metal Detector Survey

2.2.1 The MDS was undertaken using a C-Scope CS1220XD metal detector set to maximum sensitivity and no discrimination. All finds including those potentially associated with the battle were recovered. Each find was given a unique number. Finds had their location plotted to an accuracy of 1m using a Leica GS50 differential GPS and the depth below the surface was measured.

2.3 Watching Brief

2.3.1 The institute for Archaeologists have produced a Standard for archaeological watching briefs. This states that watching briefs are intended to allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits which could not be established in advance of development, and to provide an opportunity for the archaeologist to signal to all interested parties if an archaeological find is made before its destruction.

2.3.2 The archaeological watching brief was conducted over the proposed route of the service trench (as excavated) and the septic tank pit.

2.3.3 During the watching brief, the excavated spoil was checked for metal objects using the metal detector.

2.3.4 All topsoil stripping down to natural subsoil or the first archaeological horizon was done using a tracked excavator fitted with a smooth bladed ditching bucket.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

3.1.1 The MDS and WB were carried out on an area of rough grass parkland. Topsoil varied between 0.2 and 0.3m deep. Natural subsoil was stiff grey boulder clay.

3.2 Metal detector Survey

3.2.1 Only two metal finds were discovered by the MDS. They are described below:

Number	Description	NGR.	Depth
1	Horseshoe	339443.09 673681.19	5 cm
2	Door hinge	339456.62 673680.48	10 cm

3.2.2 The horseshoe is most likely modern and associated with the nearby stables. The door hinge may have come from the steading or another estate building. It appears to be of 19th to 20th century date.

3.3 Watching Brief

3.3.1 No archaeological features or deposits were revealed by the watching brief. However, a decommissioned metal water pipe was identified indicating that ground breaking work had occurred in the past in this area prior to the current development works.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1.1 The work did not identify any significant archaeological remains or finds although the area in question had been disturbed in the past.
- 4.1.2 CFA recommends that no further work is required, however, the final decision remains with the East Lothian Heritage Officer.
- 4.1.3 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 East Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.1.4 A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3).

5. REFERENCES

Cressey, M 2007 *Bankton House Steading: Desk Based Assessment CFA*
Report No. 1358

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context no.	Description
001	Natural subsoil
002	Topsoil
003	Metal service pipe

APPENDIX 2: Photograph register

Colour Slides


Photo No.	Description	From
1	Registration	
2	Working shot, service trench	N
3	Working shot, service trench	N
4	Working shot, septic tank	N
5	Working shot, septic tank	N
6	General view	E
7	General view	E
8	General view	N
9	General view	N

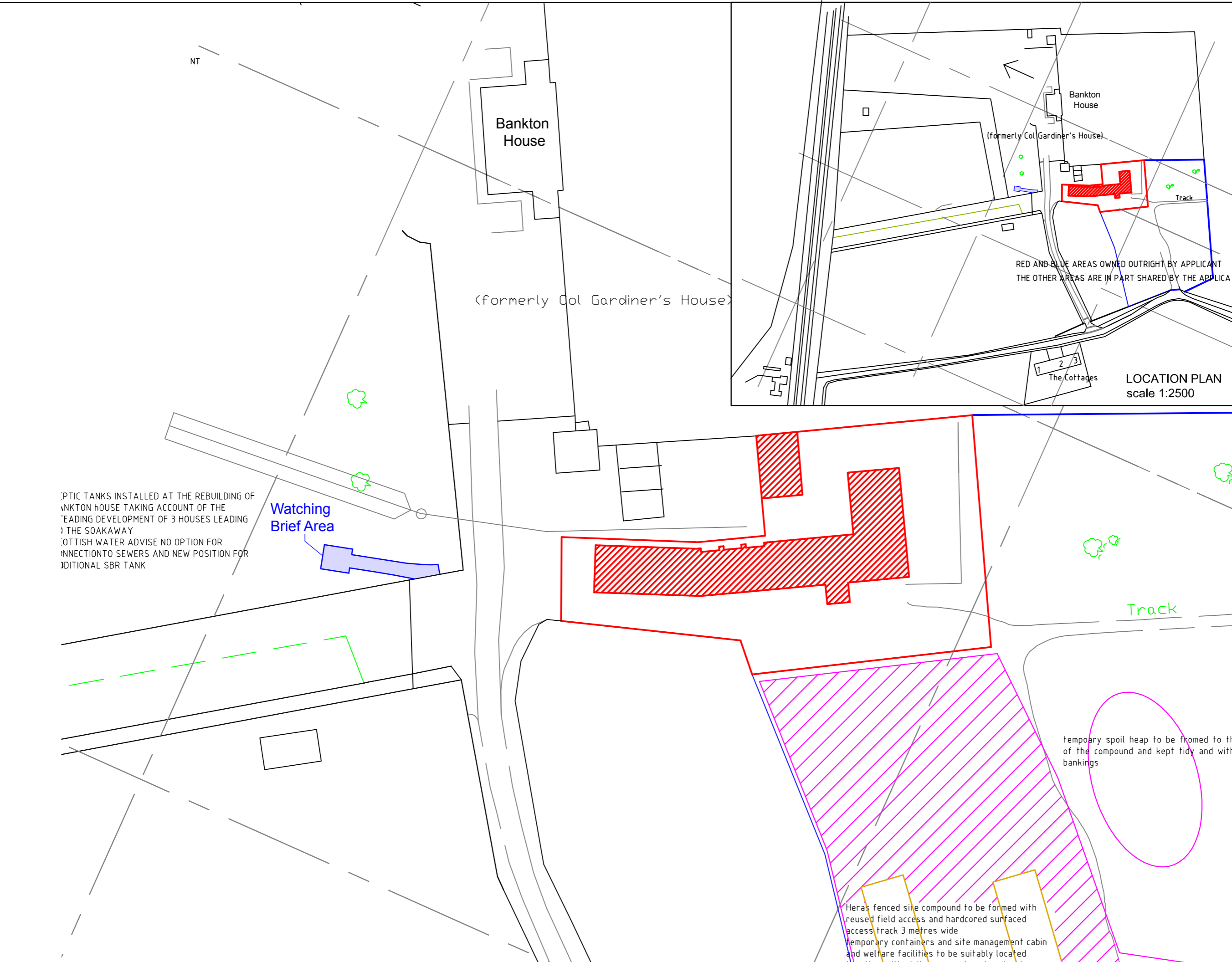
APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Bankton House Steading
PROJECT CODE:	BOUS
PARISH:	Prestonpans
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	S Mitchell
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Metal Detector Survey and Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Historic Building and Battlefield
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	No
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 3950 7368
START DATE (this season)	September 2009
END DATE (this season)	September 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A metal detector survey and watching brief were carried out during the construction of a septic tank. No archaeologically significant finds or remains were discovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	No
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	East Lothian Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS, Reports lodged with SMR and NMRS.



Key:

 Watching Brief Area



SEPTIC TANKS INSTALLED AT THE REBUILDING OF BANKTON HOUSE TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE LEADING DEVELOPMENT OF 3 HOUSES LEADING TO THE SOAKAWAY
COTTISH WATER ADVISE NO OPTION FOR CONNECTION TO SEWERS AND NEW POSITION FOR ADDITIONAL SBR TANK

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Fig. No: **1** Revision: **A**

Title: **General location map**

Project: **Bankton House Steading, East Lothian. Archaeological Metal Detector Survey and Watching Brief**

Scale: **1:500 @ A3**

Client: **Ginger Development Ltd**