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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

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

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 1711.1

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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

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Illustrations (bound at rear)

Fig 1. General location map and site plan

Fig 2. Area after removal of bank of sand (photograph)

Fig 3. Foundation trench of retaining structure (photograph)

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) on behalf of Renaissance Ecosse.
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (dated 18th November 2008) for the project was produced by CFA on behalf of KBA+D. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the 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 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 dountaking of walls and excavation of foundations associated with a new extension to the rear of the hotel. To date this part of the development has not been built.
- 1.2.3 The current application (08/03527/FUL) for an extension of the hotel into adjacent properties was granted with a condition for an archaeological watching brief on all groundbreaking works and on internal and external structural alterations, a WSI for this was provided to CECAS and agreed in advance of works starting. However, a watching brief was only carried out on groundbreaking for the construction of a retaining structure within the lower ground floor (Fig. 1). Photographs of the structural alterations were taken by the main contractor and a selection of these will be submitted to CECAS under separate cover by KBA+D.

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.

2.2 Watching Brief

- 2.2.1 A watching brief was conducted on the lower ground floor of the extension where a retaining structure was constructed along the front of the building (Fig. 1).
- 2.2.2 The building appeared to have been terraced in to the natural slope with the front wall foundations being cut in to sand. In order to construct the retaining structure a bank of compacted sand had to be removed from behind the front wall, this bank of sand was presumably left *in situ* at the time of the original construction to retain the wall. A foundation trench then had to be excavated along the front wall.
- 2.2.3 Over 1m of laminated windblown sands containing occasional thin soil horizons was removed from up against the wall to get the working area down to the current floor level of the lower ground floor. The foundation for the new retaining wall was then excavated to c. 1m below that. All the deposits identified consisted of laminated sand containing occasional thin soil horizons (Fig. 3 & 4). There were no features, artefacts or deposits of archaeological significance identified.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 A watching brief was carried out during the construction of a retaining wall along the front of the extension to the Orocco Pier Hotel. The watching brief established that the foundations of the hotel had been cut into laminated windblown sands containing occasional thin soil horizons. Whilst such deposits can mask archaeological layers none were present within the area that was monitored.
- 3.2 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 CECAS.
- 3.3 A summary statement to be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 1) will be sufficient to disseminate the results of this watching brief. An OASIS project record form will also be submitted.

4. REFERENCES

Cartographic

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

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

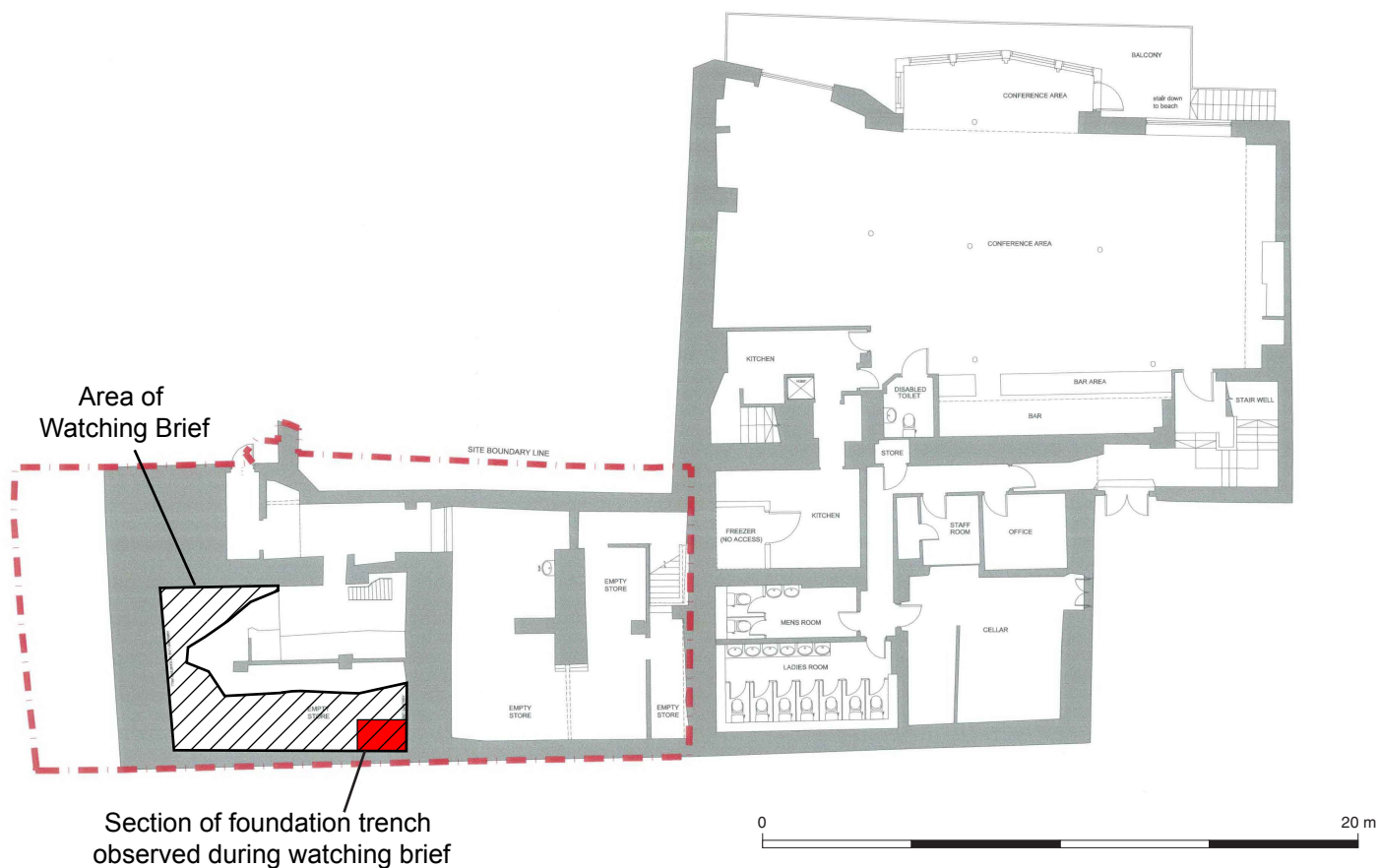
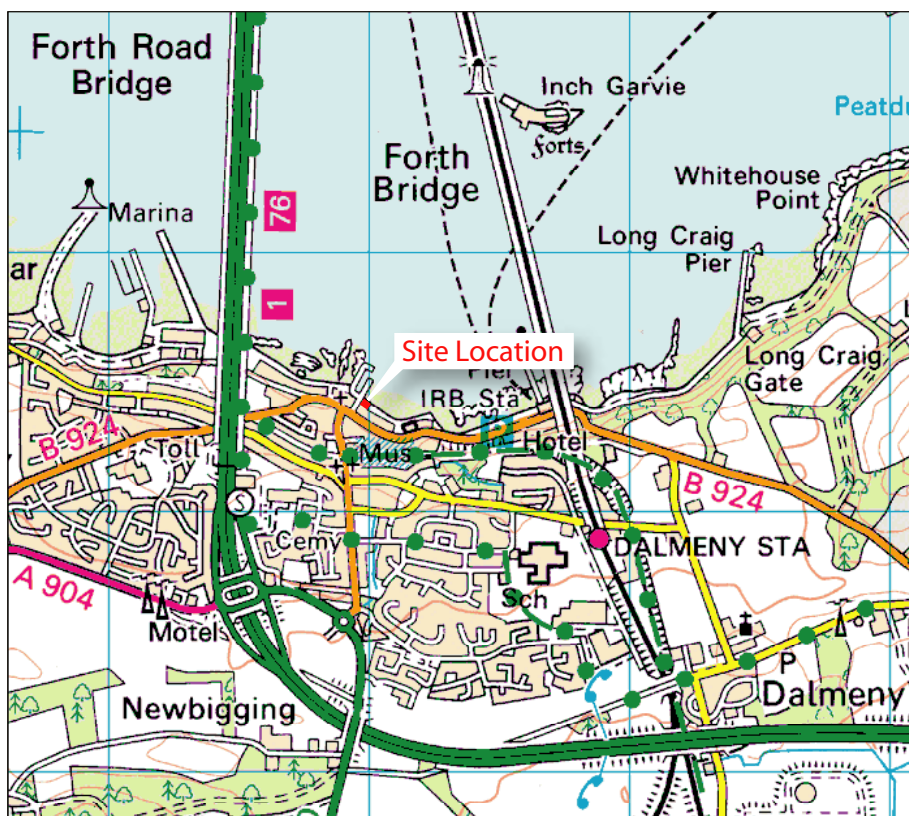
APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital

Shot	Description
1-3	Section through bank of sand removed from behind front wall
4	Section through bank of sand removed from behind front wall
5	General view
6	Section of foundation trench through banded sand deposits
7	Section through bank of sand removed from behind front wall
8	Section of foundation trench through banded sand deposits
9	Section of foundation trench through banded sand deposits
10	General view
11	General view
12	Section of foundation trench through banded sand deposits
13	Section of foundation trench through banded sand deposits
14	Section of foundation trench through banded sand deposits

APPENDIX 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Orocco Pier Hotel, 17 High Street, South Queensferry
PROJECT CODE:	SQUE
PARISH:	Dalmeny
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Magnus Kirby
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NT 1298 7837
START DATE (this season)	February 2009
END DATE (this season)	February 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	Desk-based assessment, standing building survey and evaluation Cressey M, Rix P, and Suddaby I, 'Extension to Orocco Pier Hotel, 17 High Street, South Queensferry' in <i>Discovery and Excavation 2007</i> , p.81
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out during alterations to the lower ground floor of the Orocco Pier Hotel. The watching brief established that the foundations of the hotel had been cut into laminated windblown sands containing occasional thin soil horizons. There were no features, artefacts or deposits of archaeological significance identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Renaissance Ecosse
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record of Scotland City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record



Key:



Fig. No:

1

Revision:

A

Client:

Renaissance Ecosse

Title:

General Location Map and Site Plan

Project:

Oroco Pier Hotel



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Fig. 2 - Area after removal of bank of sand



Fig. 3 - Foundation trench of retaining structure

Key:	Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	Renaissance Ecosse		 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			
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