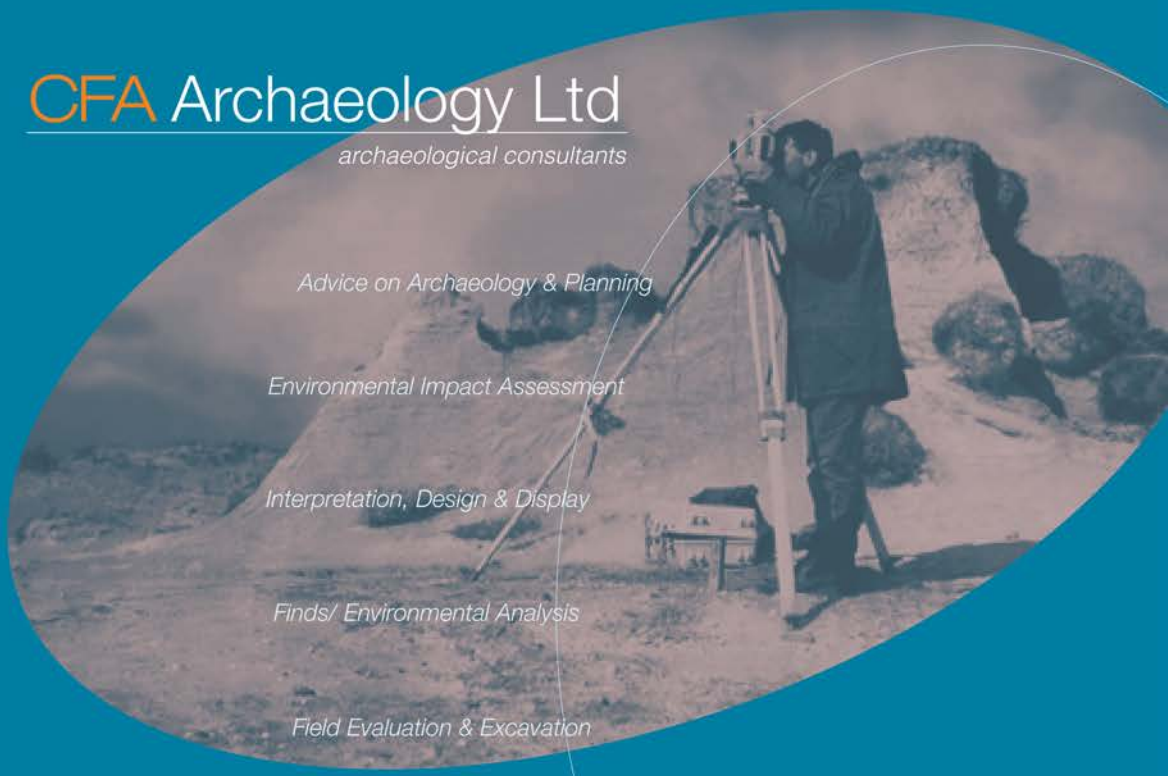
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Path Brae, Kirkliston
Standing Building Recording
&
Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3273

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Path Brae, Kirkliston
Standing Building Recording
&
Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3273

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of a standing building recording survey and archaeological watching brief carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between February and March 2015, at Path Brae, Kirkliston (NGR: NT 12250 74270;Fig 1).The work was commissioned by Cruden Homes (East) Ltd.

Cruden Homes (East) Ltd are redeveloping part of the former distillery site at Path Brae Kirkliston. The planning applications for the site are 08/01455/FUL and 13/02965/FUL. The 08/01455/FUL application was an application for a material change to a prior application for the development of this site (01/01855/FUL).

A condition for archaeological works was secured against the original application (01/01855/FUL). A programme of standing building survey, evaluation and excavation was undertaken by AOC archaeology and reports were lodged with the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

Following discussions between John Lawson of City of Edinburgh Archaeological Service (CECAS), Cruden Homes (East) Ltd and CFA, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a standing building survey on a derelict distillery still house and a watching brief on a drainage track associated with new housing development was prepared by CFA and approved by CECAS prior to the work commencing.

1.2 Previous work

AOC Archaeology Ltd carried out a desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluations following the demolition of the Pathbrae distillery in 2005. The work uncovered a wealth of archaeological remains mainly dating from the post-medieval period (Hindmarch 2008) included the structural remains of a water-wheel plinth and various other brick-built structures. The archaeologist concluded that the earliest archaeological remains may date from the 17th century, associated with Lamb's Mill, which is recorded on a map drawn by Blaeu in 1654.

In 2012 CFA carried out a Level 3 historic building survey of the Category C Listed four storey malting building (NMRS NT 17SW 182.03) prior to its demolition (Cressey 2012). As the building was unsafe to enter a watching brief was also carried out to record the interior during demolition.

Approximately 50m to the east of the malting building stood a four storey still house that formerly held a vertical Coffey Still. This Category C Listed building was not surveyed in 2012. The former still house is now to be converted into a modern dwelling requiring an archaeological building survey prior to its alteration.

A comprehensive historical assessment was undertaken (Cressey 2012 op. cit.) as part of the previous archaeological works on site.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the project were:

- to undertake a Level 2 standing building survey of the former still house prior to its conversion to a modern dwelling.

- to conduct an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a drainage track;

- to monitor the depth of building footprint excavations and assess the likely impact to any potential archaeological remains surviving underneath.

- to produce an illustrated survey report presenting the results of the survey and watching brief.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

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

2.2 Standing Building Survey

Work was conducted with regard to CIfA *Standard and Guidelines* (2014) and the recording levels outlined in *Descriptive Specification for Recording Historic Buildings* (English Heritage 2006).

Photographs of the interior and exterior elevations of the Still House were taken using a Nikon D300. A series of floor plans (Fig 2a-e) show the orientation at which each shot was taken and these are produced as Appendix 1.

A descriptive summary of all the elevations were recorded onto CFA building recording sheets.

2.3 Archaeological Watching Brief

The excavation of the drainage track was undertaken by a 360^{o} tracked excavator. Feature recording followed standard CFA recording methodologies and the watching brief results are described in Section 5 below.

3. BUILDING SURVEY RESULTS

3.1 Interior elevations

Ground Floor (Fig 2a, Figs 4-5)

The ground floor measured 6m by 5.1m and was accessed by a doorway at its north-east corner. The fenestration included a small blocked window on the west wall and a large central boarded doorway on the south wall. The doorway measured 2.4m by 2.4m. The ceiling and floor was concrete. The ceiling was supported on a lattice work of steel I-beams. On the east side of the room was the remains of a part of steel staircase. Its main stair had been removed leaving a scar of its position on the east wall. On the east side of the north wall a waste pipe ran up the full length of the building. All the walls had been whitewashed.

First Floor (Fig 2b, Figs 6-8)

The first floor measured 5.8m by 5m and had been partitioned on its west side to form a small office. Boarded windows were situated on the south and west walls. The partition wall between the two rooms was formed using a thin sheets of galvanised tin fixed to a timber wall. A two-paned door was present towards the north end. The interior of the office had whitewashed plaster walls. A pair of horizontal lagged pipes was situated on the south wall. A vertical pipe ran down the corner of the north wall.

Second Floor (Figs 2c, Figs 9-10)

The second floor measured 6m by 5.1m and was lit on its west and south walls by two square windows and a large rectangular window. All three had splayed reveals. The north wall had a steel staircase leading to the third floor. The floor comprised a suspended metal grate floor with openings that housed part of the vertical Coffey Still. On the east wall there were two vertical slots cut into the wall. The function of the slots is not clear but they may have been related to some form of pulley or shutter mechanism associated with the still. No ceiling in the formal sense was present on this floor instead there were three large rolled I beams running east to west above the room. These were stamped *Lanarkshire Steel Coy 10" x 4"* (250mm x 155mm). All four walls were whitewashed.

Third Floor (Figs 2d, Figs 12-14)

The third floor measured 5.9m by 5.1m and it was lit on its east and south wall by three square windows set within splayed reveals. The north wall contained a steel staircase leading to the fourth floor. The east wall was scarred with an array of fixtures and fittings that had since been robbed. Features that were still *in situ* included a valve and electric light switch connected to a length of electric wire conduit.

Set within the shuttered concrete floor were two large rectangular voids. The void on the north side was protected by a tubular steel hand rail running round it, whereas the other handrail had been removed. The voids measured roughly 4m long and 1.5m wide. The voids were openings for the Coffey Still chambers.

The ceiling comprised a series of steel beams with shuttered concrete running between them. This arrangement had been designed to create two square openings on the floor above.

Fourth Floor (Figs 2e Figs 15-17)

The fourth floor measured 5.9m by 5.1m and was lit on the south and north walls by four square windows. A single central square window was situated on the west wall and all five windows were set within splayed reveals. The walls were all whitewashed and featureless. The ceiling was combed and had two small hatch vents at its centre. Above the hatch vents led up to the pagoda that formerly had louver vents but these had been boarded over when a new roof was added.

The concrete floor contained two square openings that measured c.2m by 2m (Fig 17). On the west side of the square openings an opening for a pipe had been created in the floor adjacent to two blocked circular openings. These features probably contained the main inlet feed pipe and outlet pipe associated with the Coffey Still.

3.2 Exterior Elevations

General

The Still House measured c.17m high and 7m wide. All the exterior elevations were constructed using coursed sandstone blocks with ashlar dressings on each corner. Stugging was present on most of the stonework with droving around the original window openings. Both the main slate roof and its pagoda were pyramidal.

South-facing elevation (Fig 18)

The first floor window was original. The second floor window was a more recent inserts. The third and fourth windows were original but had been reduced to half their original size. The lower sections of these windows had been blocked up and this was clearly visible in the contrasting stonework.

West-facing elevation (Fig 19)

The fenestration on the west elevation contained an original ground floor door. This was flanked by a barred and bricked-up window that is probably a later insert. The second floor window had its stone lintel replaced by a section of I-beam. The third and fourth floor windows had been reduced in size as on the south elevation.

North-facing elevation (Fig 20)

The two windows were original but had been reduced in size in keeping with the south and west elevations. A line of whitewash paint was present on the west side of the wall and there was a distinct margin between this and a line of missing stonework that appeared to have fallen from the main wall face revealing interior hearting. On the east side of the elevation there was a small blocked arched window.

East-facing elevation (Fig 21)

The east-facing elevation had no fenestration. A roof raggle confirmed that this elevation had a building with a pitched roof attached to it. This building can be seen on the vertical photograph of the distillery (Fig 3). The voids and alignment scar where this building was attached were visible on the left hand side (facing) of the elevation. Below the roofline there was an earlier roof raggle that had a much steeper pitch than the roofline above. A small brick-blocked opening, possibly representing a small window (or vent ?) was situated on the right hand side of the wall (facing). The likely explanation for this opening is that it was contemporary with the original construction of the Still House and it was bricked up when the earlier pitched roof building was added.

4. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

4.1 General

The site was surfaced with red blaes (**001**) which had been levelled and compacted.

4.2 Drainage Track

A 40m section of drainage track for foul and rainwater drains was monitored (Figs. 1 & 22). The track was excavated to a depth of 3.5m and was 1.8m wide. The blaes (**001**) deepened markedly to the south.

The remains of a concrete bonded wall (**003,** Fig 23) sealed beneath the blaes was indentified in the south and west sections of the track and was exposed for 4m running east to west. It was set on a foundation of large boulders and unhewn blocks and was bonded with coarse concrete. A flat-based clay cylinder drain (**004**) (Fig 24) ran along the edge of the wall. The wall was set within a steep sided cut (**005**) in the bedrock which was filled with compact dark grey soil (**006**). The wall survived to a height of c. 0.8m. Its width was not established but the wall appeared to be of substantial build and is likely to be associated with prior industrial activity on the site. No other archaeological remains were identified.

4.3 Housing Plots

The housing plot foundations (Figs 1 & 25) for plots 16 to 19 were checked. The foundations were excavated into the surface of the red blaes overburden (**001**) to a depth of c.0.3m. The base of the overburden was not reached so any surviving archaeological deposits below these buildings will be preserved *in situ*.

5. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The building survey recorded the interior and exterior elevations of the former Still House prior to its conversion. The building was dated to the mid to-late nineteenth century and once contained a so-called Coffey Still that had two copper chambers (an analyser and rectifier) running up through the floor openings present on the second, third and fourth floors. The building had been internally altered with the introduction of the rolled I-beam steelwork that was early 20th century in date. Exterior alterations to the fenestration was attested by both reduction and more recent installation work. The Still House once stood at the west end of a large rectangular building which when demolished, left a large pitched roof scar where the building was attached to the east elevation. Evidence for a smaller building was attested is by an earlier roofline immediately below.

The watching brief recorded a 4m length of sandstone wall in the section of the drainage track. The presence of a drainage pipe on its outside edge suggested it was the outside face of the wall. The drainage track was the deepest excavation required on the site. The remaining services and building foundations were all designed to lie within the recent blaes formation deposit that sealed the surviving archaeological remains.

Based on the results of the building survey and watching brief CFA recommend no further work be undertaken. However, it is understood that the final decision rests with CECAS on behalf of the planning authority.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record.

A summary statement of the results from this project will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland.* An online OASIS entry will also be completed.

6. REFERENCES

English Heritage 2006 ‘Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice’.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014a *Code of Conduct.*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014b *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological recording of buildings or structures.*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014c *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological watching brief.*

Cressey, M 2012 ‘Pathbrae Maltings Building, Kirkliston Historic Building Survey & Demolition Watching Brief’ CFA Report No. 2007 Unpublished.

Hindmarch E 2008 ‘Distillery Company Works: Kirkliston: AOC Excavation Data Structure Report No. 20233’ Unpublished.

APPENDIX 1: Building Survey Photographic Register

Shot No.	Description	From
01	Ground floor, internal north wall	S
02	Ground floor, internal east wall	W
03	Ground floor, internal south wall	N
04	Ground floor, internal west wall	E
05	Ground floor, ceiling detail	Oblique
06	Ground floor, concrete floor	Oblique
07	First floor, north wall	S
08	First floor, east wall	W
09	First floor, south wall	N
10	First floor, west wall partition	E
11	First floor office, north wall	S
12	First floor office, south wall	N
13	First floor office window on east wall	NW
14	Second floor, north wall and staircase	S
15	Second floor, east wall with slot features	W
16	Second floor, south wall with large window opening	N
17	Second floor, west wall with windows	E
18	Second floor, steel framed ceiling and staircase	W
19	Second floor, steel framed ceiling at the south end	W
20	Second floor, steel grid floor plate in situ	W
21	Second floor, bottom of the steel staircase to third floor	W
22	Third floor, north wall	S
23	Third floor east wall	W
24	Third floor south wall	N
25	Third floor west wall	E
26	Third floor, rectangular opening in the floor, south end	E
27	Third floor, rectangular opening in the floor with steel hand rail	E
28	Third floor, steel staircase to fourth floor	W
29	Fourth floor, north wall	S
30	Fourth floor, east wall	W
31	Fourth floor, south wall	N
32	Fourth floor, west wall	E
33	Fourth floor, ceiling detail	Oblique
34	Fourth floor, rectangular and circular openings	Oblique
35-41	External north elevation, general shots	N
42-51	External west elevation, general shots	W
52-58	External south-east corner, general shots	SE
59-62	External south-east corner, general shots	SW
63-67	External south wall, fenestration detail	S

68	External south west corner	SW
69-76	External east elevation, general shots	E
77	External east elevation, roof detail	E
78	External east elevation, upper section	E
79-82	External north elevation, general shots	N
83-85	External west elevation, fenestration	W
86-90	External south elevation, general shots	S

APPENDIX 2: Watching Brief Photographic Register

Shot No	Description	From
1	Drainage track working shot	E
2	Drainage track working shot	E
3	Plot B foundation trench	S
4	Plot B foundation trench	W
5	Drainage track working shot	E
6	Drainage track working shot	E
7	Plots B&A foundation trenches	W
8	Plot B foundation trench	W
9	Plot B foundation trench	N
10	Plot B foundation trench	N
11	Drainage track working shot	E
12	Drainage track working shot	E
13	Plot A foundation trench	W
14	Plot A foundation trench	W
15	Plot B foundation trench	N
16	Plot B foundation trench	E
17	Drainage track side branch	NE
18	Drainage track side branch	NE
19	Drainage track side branch	NW
20	Plots A&B completed foundations	N
21	Plots A&B completed foundations	NE
22	Plots A&B completed foundations	SE
23	Plots A&B completed foundations	SE
24	Plot B working shot	S
25	Plot B&A working shot	SW
26	Plot B&A working shot	S
27	Drainage track working shot	NE
28	Drainage track working shot	NE
29	Drainage track showing slope of blaes	E
30	Manhole at west of drainage track, working shot	N
31	Wall footings within manhole	N
32	Wall footings within manhole	N
33	Wall footings within manhole	N

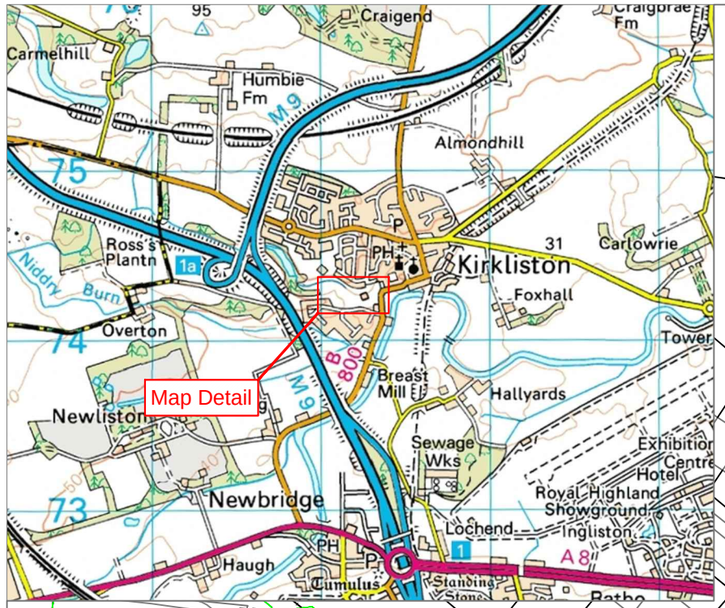
34	Wall footings within manhole	N
35	Wall footings detail	N
36	Wall footings detail	E
37	Wall footings detail	E
38	Detail of blaes and natural shale	SE
39	Fully excavated manhole	N

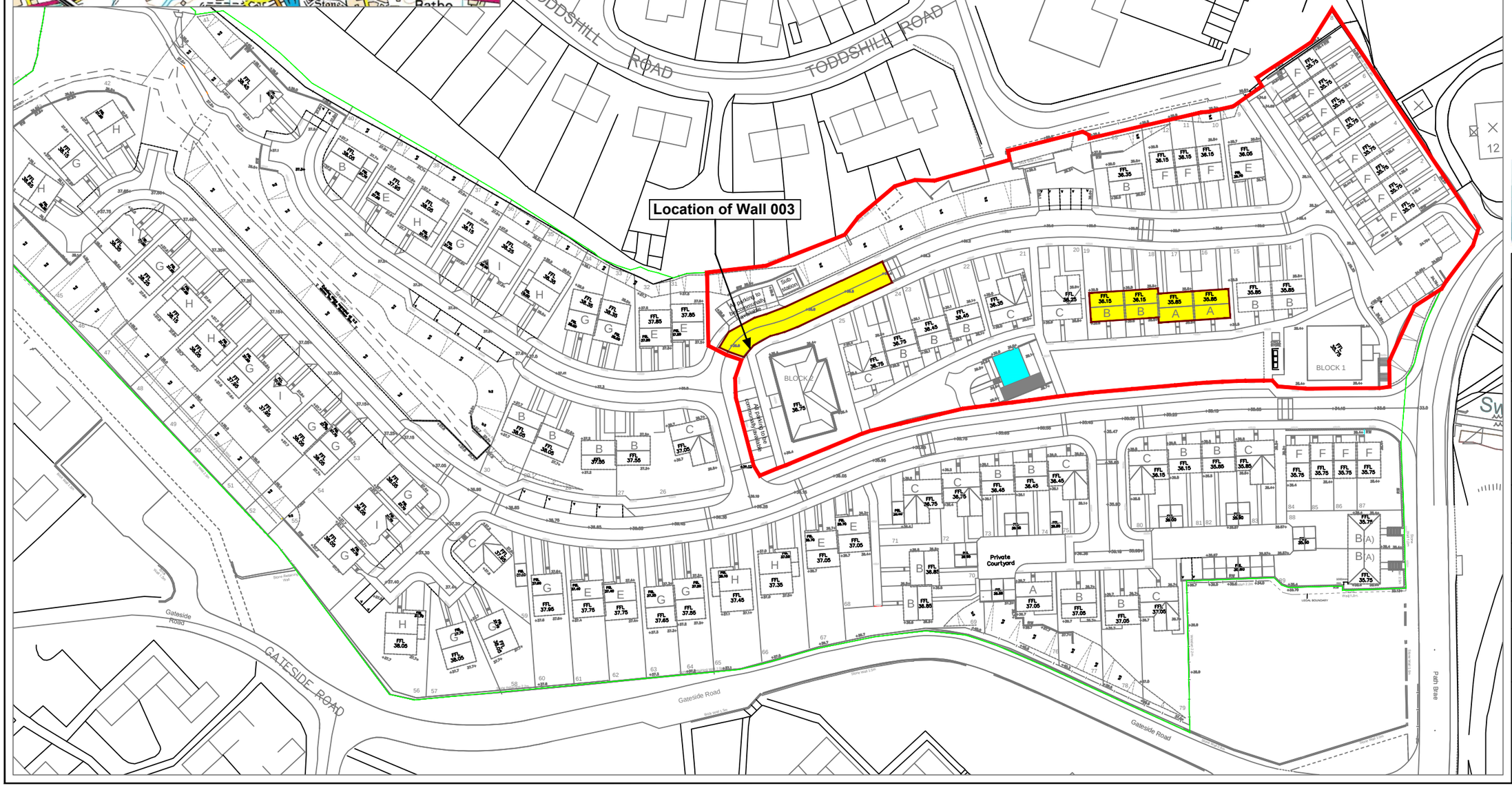
APPENDIX 3: Watching Brief Context Register

Context No.	**Description**
001	Red blaes overburden
002	Dark grey-green shale bedrock
003	Concrete bonded stone wall
004	Clay cylinder drain
005	Foundation cut for stone wall
006	Compact dark grey soil fill within 005

APPENDIX 4: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh City Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Path Brae, Kirkliston Standing Building Recording & Archaeological Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	MAKI
PARISH:	Kirkliston
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Michael Cressey & Stuart Mitchell
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd,
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Standing Building Recording & Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT17SW 182.02 Still House Only
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Former Coffey Still House
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 12250 74270
START DATE (this season)	February 2015
END DATE (this season)	March 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. *DES* ref.)	Hindmarch E 2008 'Distillery Company Works, Kirkliston Excavation Data Structure Report, AOC Archaeology Ltd. Report No. 20223. Unpublished Report (Hindmarch, E 2008c) 'Former Distillery Company Works, Kirkliston, City of Edinburgh (Kirkliston parish), excavation', *Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol.9* Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England. Page(s): 81 Cressey, M 2012 'Pathbrae Maltings Building, Kirkliston Historic Building Survey & Demolition Watching Brief' CFA Report No. 2007 Unpublished.
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A level 2 building survey was conducted on a Category C listed former Still House The original rubble-built walls of the structure date to the mid to late -19th century. The five storey building had openings in the second to fourth floor to accommodate a Coffey Still that had two large vertical chambers running between these floors. The exterior east-facing elevation had evidence of two phases of building additions which had been demolished in 2006. A watching brief that was carried out to monitor the main drainage track recorded a section of wall. It also confirmed that the site had been built up to create a construction platform using oil shale waste (blaes) to a considerable depth. Apart from the main drainage track the development was designed not to penetrate the layer of blaes thus protecting any surviving archaeological remains in situ.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Cruden Homes (East) Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Old Engine House, Eskmills Business Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report Lodged with Edinburgh Council SMR NMRS intended archive





Key:

- Cruden Homes (East) Development Area
- Millar Homes Developement Area
- Still House
- Watching Brief Area

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Fig. No:	Report No:
1	3273

Title:
Site location map and Development Area Plan

Project:
Path Brae, Kirkliston, Standing Building Survey and Archaeological Watching Brief

Client:
Cruden Homes (East) Ltd

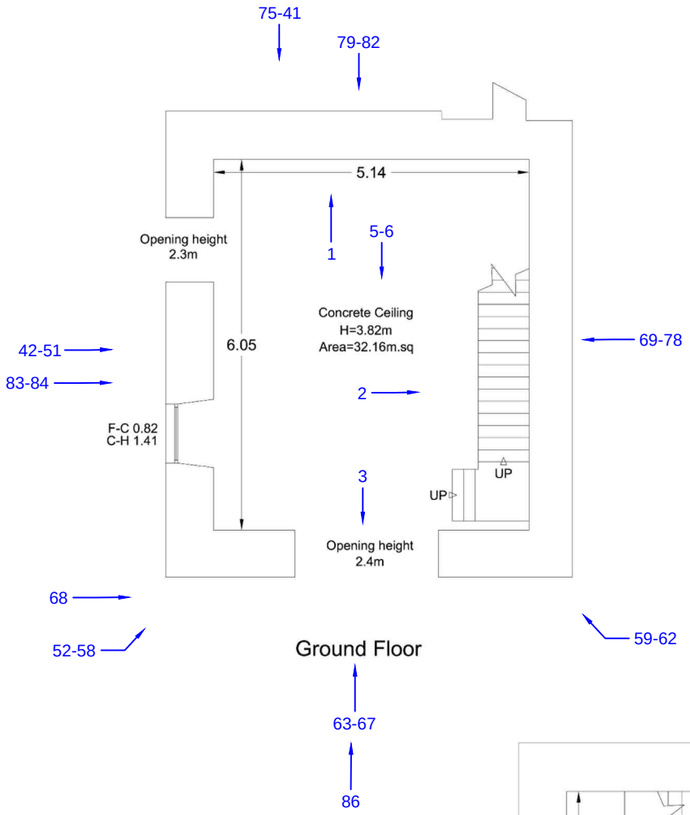
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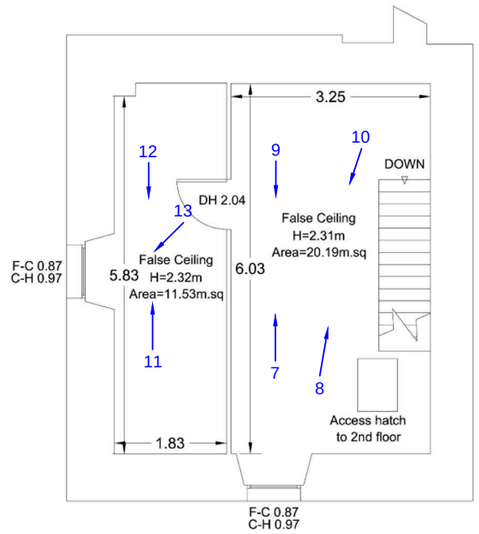
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Fig. 2A



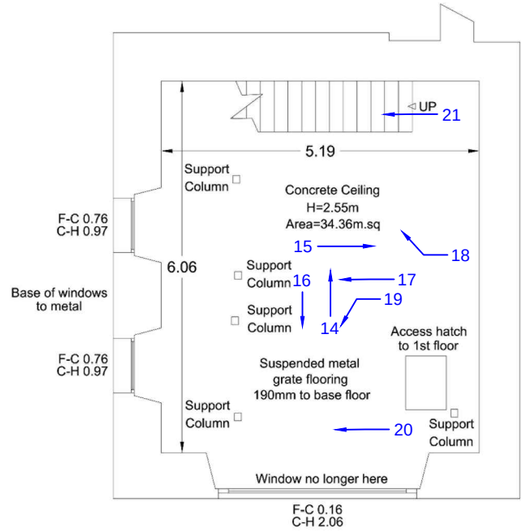
Ground Floor

Fig. 2B

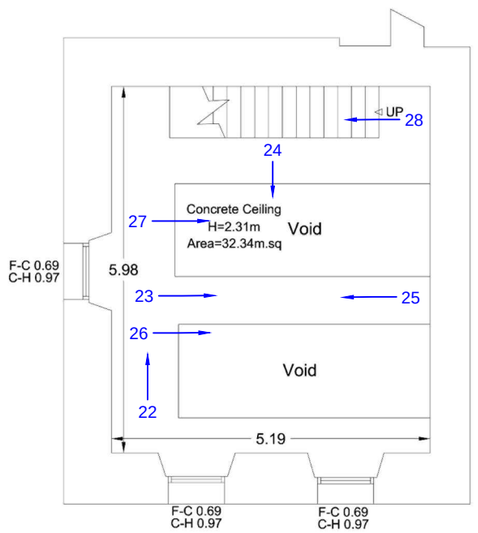


First Floor

Fig. 2C

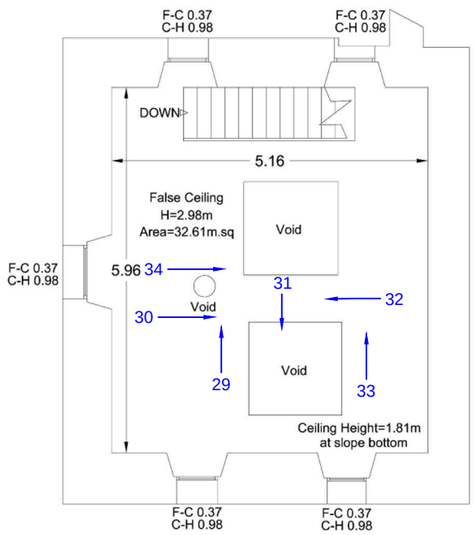


Second Floor



Third Floor

Fig. 2D



Fourth Floor

Fig. 2E

0 5m

Key:

59-62 Photo number and direction

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Fig. No:	Report No:
2A-2E	3273

Title:
Still House floor plans

Project:
Path Brae, Kirkliston,
Standing Building Survey and
Archaeological Watching Brief

Client:
Cruden Homes (East) Ltd

Scale at A3:
1:100

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Fig. 3 Aerial view of the Path Brae Distillery showing the position of the Still House (Google Earth)



Fig. 4 Ground floor, south wall, general view 03



Fig. 5 Ground Floor, west wall, door and window 04



Fig. 6 First floor, north wall 07

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Title:	Fig. 3 - 6	Report: 3273	Drawn: GC	CKD: SW	Date: 31/03/15
	Client: Cruden Homes (East) Ltd				
Project: Path Brae, Kirkliston, Standing Building Survey and Archaeological Watching Brief					

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Fig. 7 First floor, south wall 09



Fig. 8 First floor, north, east and west walls 11



Fig. 9 Second floor, north wall and staircase 14



Fig. 10 Second floor, south wall and large window 16

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Title:	Fig. 7 - 10	Report: 3273	Drawn: GC	CKD: SW	Date: 31/03/15
	Client: Cruden Homes (East) Ltd				
Project: Path Brae, Kirkliston, Standing Building Survey and Archaeological Watching Brief					

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Fig. 11 Second floor, west wall and windows 17



Fig. 12 Third floor, north wall and stair to fourth floor 22



Fig. 13 Third floor, south wall windows 24



Fig. 14 Third floor, rectangular opening in the floor 27

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Fig. 15 Fourth floor, north wall boarded windows and floor opening 29



Fig. 16 Fourth floor south wall, boarded windows and floor opening 31



Fig. 17 Fourth floor rectangular openings for the Coffey Still



Fig. 18 Exterior south elevation 90

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Fig. 19 Exterior west elevation (45)



Fig. 20 Exterior north elevation (41)

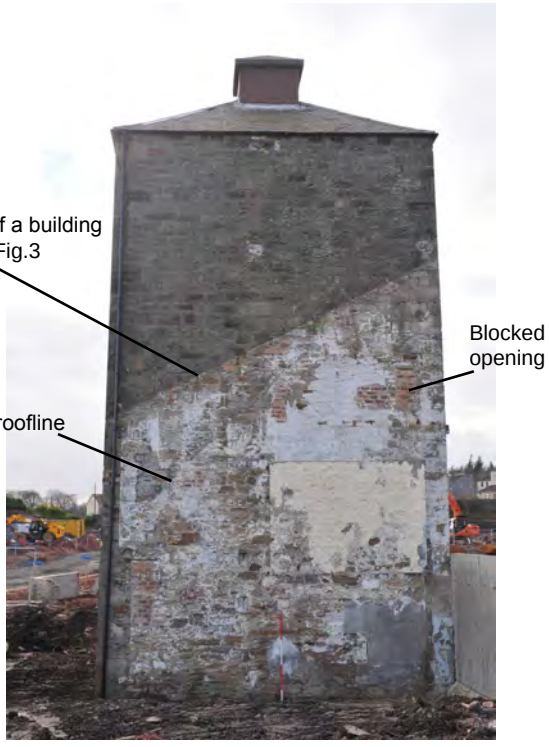


Fig. 21 Exterior east elevation (76)



Fig. 22 Working shot of the drainage track

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Fig. 23 Detail of wall remains

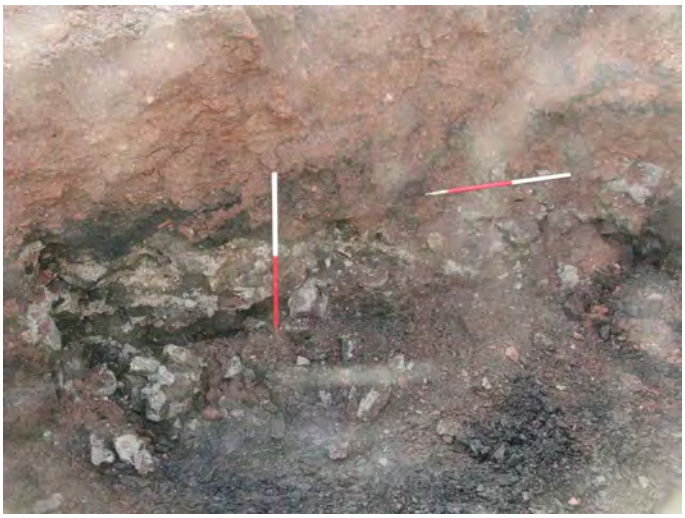


Fig. 24 Detail of wall remains showing foundation slot and cylinder drain



Fig. 25 House plot foundations

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