



# Heriot Watt Student Residence, Riccarton, Edinburgh Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

**On Behalf of:** CgMs Consulting,  
9-10 St Andrew Square  
Edinburgh  
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**National Grid Reference (NGR):** centred on NT 317000 669200

**AOC Project No:** 22714

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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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## Abstract

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This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in respect to a proposed development at Heriot Watt University, Riccarton, Edinburgh (centred on NGR: NT 317000 669200).

The development area measures approximately 4.0 ha in total. A 5% (750 linear metres) sample of the available area (3.0ha) was investigated by the evaluation.

The evaluation confirmed that the majority of the site had been denuded of topsoil in the relatively recent past and this disturbance extended down to the surface of glacial till. Around the perimeter of the site around 0.2m of topsoil survived. Evidence for some improvement in the 19th or 20th centuries in the form of rubble drains and manuring was noted. No significant archaeological remains were recorded within the development area and no further works are considered necessary.



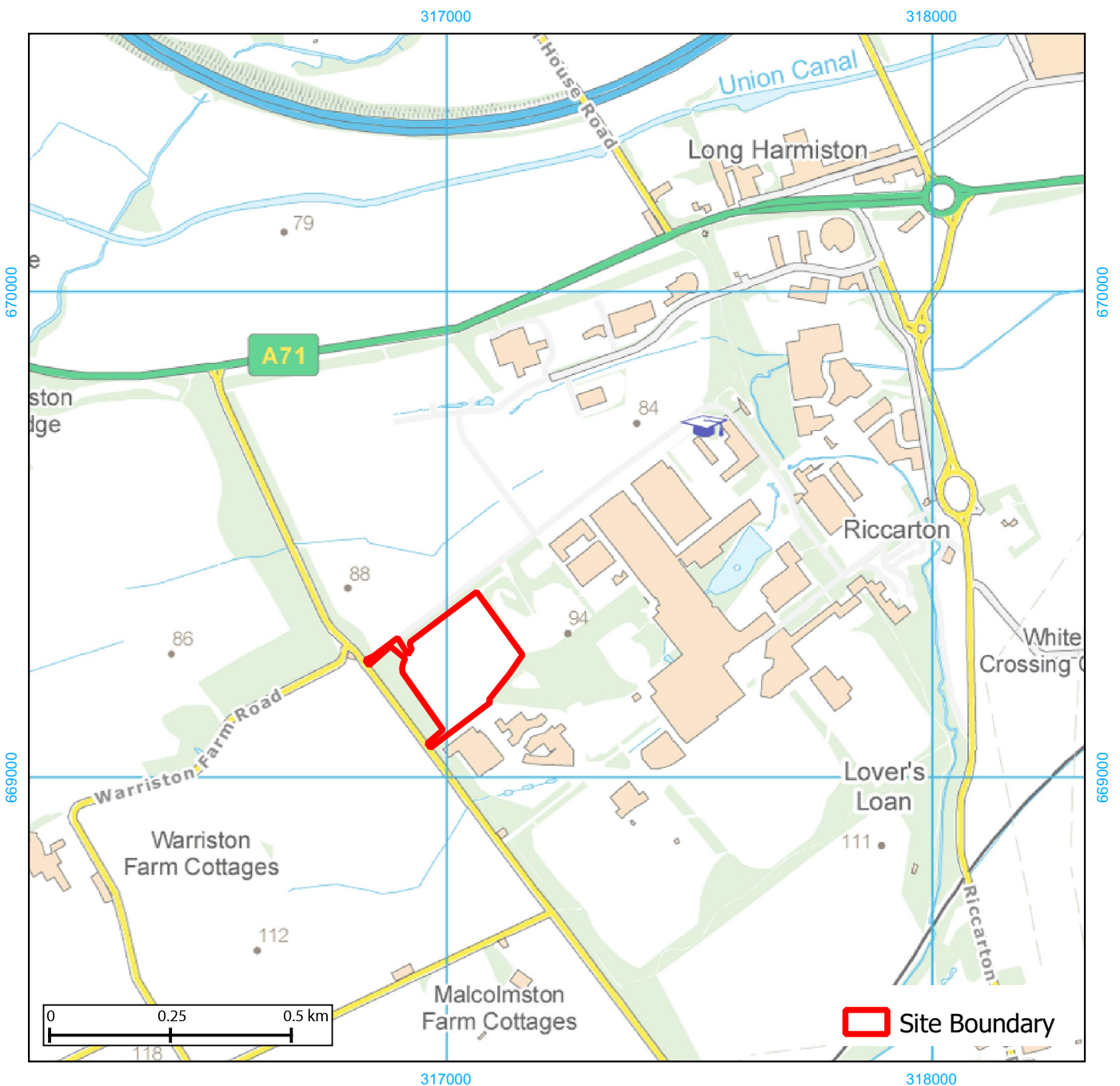
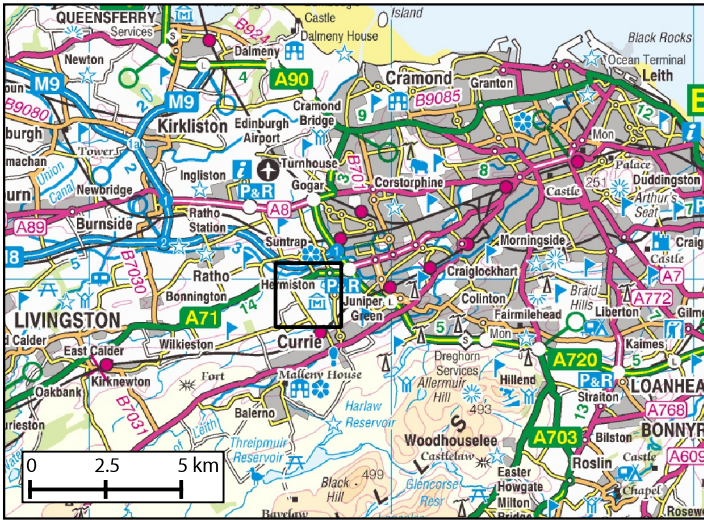


Figure 1: Site location

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was undertaken by AOC Archaeology at Heriot Watt University, Riccarton, Edinburgh. The works were commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Watkin Jones prior to the construction of student accommodation (Planning Ref: 14/02256/FUL). The site lies within the administrative area of the City of Edinburgh Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by CECAS. The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles as set out in *Scottish Planning Policy (2014)* and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (2011)* and consisted of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching. They were undertaken in response to a planning condition and in accordance with a WSI produced by CgMs (2014) and agreed with CECAS. The planning application had been supported by an archaeological desk based assessment (CgMs 2014), which informed the work.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development area (centred on NGR: NT 317000 669200; Figure 1) measures 4.0 ha in total. Around 1.0ha of this was covered by bunds of topsoil and it was agreed in the WSI that these would not be subject to evaluation; hence, approximately 3.0 ha was available for evaluation. The entire area was comprised of poorly drained fallow land.
- 1.1.3 No significant archaeological features or finds were revealed during the evaluation.

### 1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development lies on the western edge of Edinburgh (Figure 1, centred on NT 317000 669200). At the time of evaluation the area was lying fallow. The site is within the Heriot Watt Riccarton campus.

### 1.3 Archaeological background (Based on CgMs DBA Report)

- 1.3.1 There are no designated or undesignated previously recorded archaeological remains within the site boundary. Sub-surface remains of prehistoric and early medieval period occur within the locale. These are not in close proximity to the development.
- 1.3.2 The site was formerly part of the Riccarton Estate and was first mapped in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. The area was used as parkland and this continued throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The site was used as pasture and an open watercourse crossed the area.
- 1.3.3 No archaeological works are known to have been undertaken within the site area.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:
- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area through evaluation trenching;
  - ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation strategy compliant with *Scottish Planning Policy (2014)* and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (2011)*, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of

preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The details of the archaeological evaluation, laid out below, were designed to meet the requirements of City of Edinburgh Council as advised by CECAS and agreed through the submission of a WSI (CgMs 2014).
- 3.2 The project was based on the trenching of a 5% sample. Of the original area of 4.0 ha approximately 1.0 ha was covered by topsoil bunds. This left 3.0 ha considered available for evaluation. This amounted to a linear meterage of 750 m. The WSI set out a contingency for a further 2% sample of trenching; this was not used and was formally agreed with CECAS (email of 20 October 2014).
- 3.3 The evaluation was undertaken by a single tracked excavator equipped with 2.0 m wide bladed ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or geological deposits were reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and the methodology within the agreed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (CgMs 2014).

### 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Overall weather conditions were dry and archaeological visibility was good.
- 4.2 The proposed development area consisted of a single large poorly drained field with a pronounced slope along the southern and eastern perimeter. The field ranged from 55m to 65m OD in height. The majority of the development area had been previously denuded of top-soil and was covered by a relatively shallow deposit of made ground 0.10 m to 0.05 m in depth. An *in situ* top-soil of red-brown clay loam was recorded in a 10.0 m wide strip around the eastern and southern perimeter. This was 0.20 m in depth. The top-soil had been improved by manuring in the relatively recent past and occasional sherds of modern ceramics and glass were observed. The deposits of top-soil and made-ground directly overlay geological deposits of orange brown sandy clay with numerous boulders (glacial till).
- 4.3 Rubble field drains were recorded within Trench 6 excavated along the southern perimeter. These drains were orientated north to south and ran down-slope. A single main rubble drain was observed within Trench 12 also orientated north to south.





**Plate 1: Trench 3 Post-excavation from south**



**Plate 2: Trench 5 post-excavation from west**

## **5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 The proposed development site was subject to an archaeological evaluation as per the agreed WSI (CgMs 2014). The evaluation confirmed that the majority of the site had been denuded of topsoil in the relatively recent past and this disturbance extended down to the surface of glacial till. Around the perimeter of the site around 0.2m of topsoil survived. Evidence for some improvement in the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in the form of rubble drains and manuring was noted but no significant archaeological features or artefacts pre-dating the late 19<sup>th</sup>/ early 20<sup>th</sup> century were identified.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation has also been confirmed by Mr John Lawson Archaeological Officer for the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service (CECAS) on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council (email of 20 October 2014).

## **6 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

CgMs Consulting 2014 *Heriot Watt Student Residence, Riccarton, Edinburgh: Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished client report

CgMs Consulting 2014 *Heriot Watt Student Residence, Riccarton, Edinburgh: Archaeological Desk based Assessment* Unpublished client report

*Scottish Planning Policy SPP23. Archaeology and Planning.* Scottish Government April 2014.

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011*

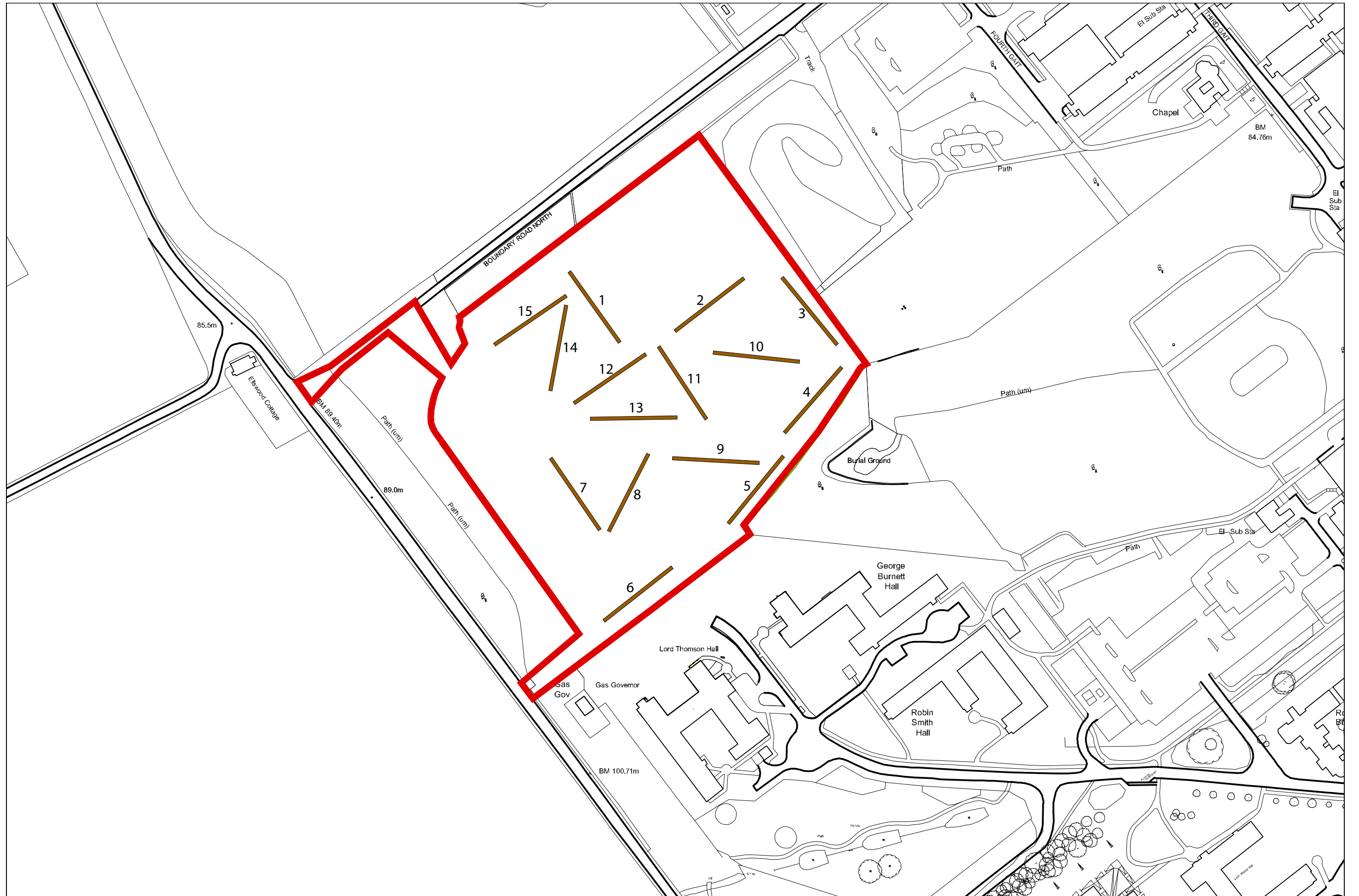


Figure 2: Trench Location Plan. Based on a drawing supplied by the client

**Heriot Watt Student Residence, Riccarton,  
Edinburgh:  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Data Structure Report**

**Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

### Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	S-N
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.10 m – 0.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.10 m – 0.25 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Compact orange brown sandy clay with occasional boulders.
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	W-E
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.10 m – 0.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.10 m – 0.25 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Compact orange brown sandy clay with occasional boulders.
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.20 m – 0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.25 m – 0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Compact orange brown sandy clay with occasional boulders.
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 4

### Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	W-E
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.10 m – 0.30 m (made ground)
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.20 m – 0.50 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Compact orange brown sandy clay with occasional boulders.
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.25 m

<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble drains at 4.0 m intervals aligned N-S
<i>Subsoil</i>	Compact orange brown sandy clay with occasional boulders.
<i>Finds</i>	None

#### **Trench 7**

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	S-N
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.10 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.20 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Compact orange brown sandy clay with occasional boulders.
<i>Finds</i>	None

#### **Trench 8**

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.10 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.10 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Compact orange brown sandy clay with occasional boulders and exposed shattered bedrock.
<i>Finds</i>	None

#### **Trench 9**

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.10 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.20 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Compact orange brown sandy clay with occasional boulders.
<i>Finds</i>	None

#### **Trench 10**

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.10 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.15 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange sands and gravels with plough scars and stone holes
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

#### **Trench 11**

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.10 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.12 m – 0.20 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Compact orange brown sandy clay with occasional boulders.



*Finds* None

#### **Trench 12**

*Dimensions* 50 m by 2.0 m

*Orientation* W-E

*Top-soil* 0.20 m (made ground)

*Depth of Excavation* 0.25 m

*Significant Features* None

*Other Features* None

*Subsoil* Compact orange brown sandy clay with occasional boulders.

*Finds* None

#### **Trench 13**

*Dimensions* 50 m by 2.0 m

*Orientation* W-E

*Top-soil* 0.10 m (made ground)

*Depth of Excavation* 0.20 m

*Significant Features* None

*Other Features* None

*Subsoil* Compact orange brown sandy clay with occasional boulders.

*Finds* None

#### **Trench 14**

*Dimensions* 50 m by 2.0 m

*Orientation* SW-NE

*Top-soil* 0.20 m (made ground)

*Depth of Excavation* 0.20 m

*Significant Features* None

*Other Features* None

*Subsoil* Compact orange brown sandy clay with occasional boulders.

*Finds* None

#### **Trench 15**

*Dimensions* 50 m by 2.0 m

*Orientation* W-E

*Top-soil* 0.10 m (made ground)

*Depth of Excavation* 0.10 m

*Significant Features* None

*Other Features* None

*Subsoil* Compact orange brown sandy clay with occasional boulders.

*Finds* None

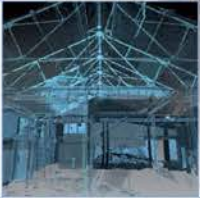
## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

### Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration	-
2	Trench 1 post-excavation	N
3	Trench 2 post-excavation	W
4	Trench 3 post-excavation	S
5	Trench 4 post-excavation	W
6	Trench 5 post-excavation	W
7	Trench 6 post-excavation	W
8	Trench 7 post-excavation	N
9	Trench 8 post-excavation	NE
10	Trench 9 post-excavation	SE
11	Trench 10 post-excavation	NE
12	Trench 11 post-excavation	S
13	Trench 12 post-excavation	W
14	Trench 13 post-excavation	E
15	Trench 14 post-excavation	NE
16	Trench 15 post-excavation	W

### APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	City of Edinburgh Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Heriot Watt Student Residence, Riccarton, Edinburgh
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 22714
<b>PARISH:</b>	Currie
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Rob Engl
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 317000 669200
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2014
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2014
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN DESCRIPTION (NARRATIVE)</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in respect to a proposed development at Heriot Watt, Riccarton, Edinburgh (centred on NGR: NT 317000 669200).</p> <p>The development area measures approximately 4.0 ha in total. A 5% (750 linear metres) sample of the available area (3.0ha) was investigated by the evaluation.</p> <p>The evaluation confirmed that the majority of the site had been denuded of topsoil in the relatively recent past and this disturbance extended down to the surface of glacial till. Around the perimeter of the site around 0.2m of topsoil survived. Evidence for some improvement in the 19th or 20th centuries in the form of rubble drains and manuring was noted. No significant archaeological remains were recorded.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	---
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	CgMs Consulting
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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