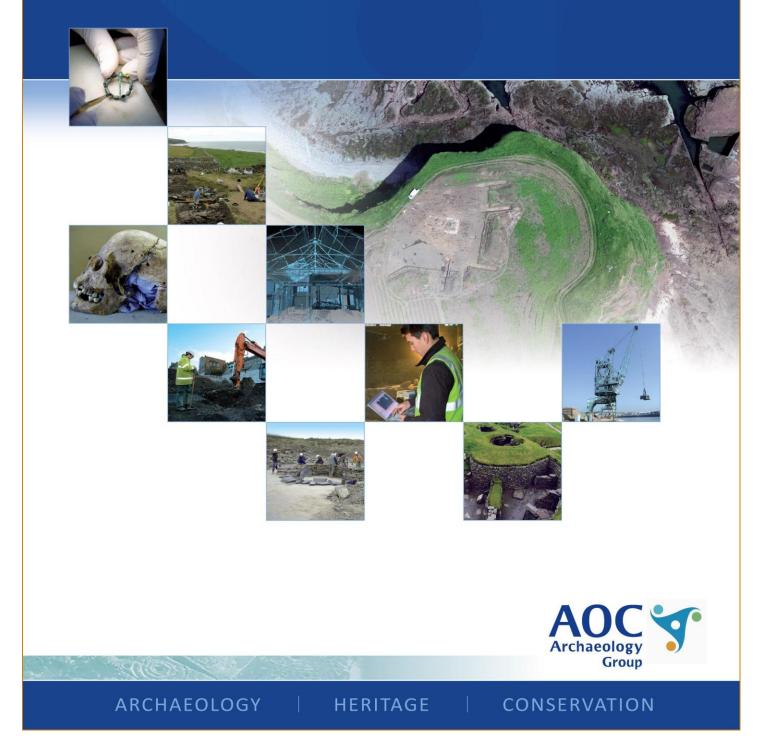
Craibstone South (Phase 1), Aberdeen: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

> AOC 23449 24thMay 2017



Craibstone South (Phase 1), Aberdeen Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Cala Homes (North) Limited Anderson House 1 Kingshill Park Venture Drive Arnhall Busines Park Westhill AB32 6FL
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NJ 87061 10677 (Centred)
AOC Project No:	23449
OASIS ID:	aocarcha1-261210
Planning Application No:	P140470
Prepared by:	Alexander Wood
Illustration by:	Gemma Hudson
Date of Fieldwork:	22 nd – 24 th August 2016
Date of Report:	25 th August 2016

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

Author: Alexander Wood

Approved by: Ross Murray

Draft/Final Report Stage: Final

Date: 25th August 2016

Date: 30th August 2016

Date: 24th May 2017

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Summary

AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by CALA homes Ltd. to conduct and archaeological evaluation as a condition of planning consent for the first phase ('Phase 1') of a new development at Craibstone South (NJ 87061 10677) (Planning Ref. No. P140470).

A 7% evaluation of the available 26,381m² site (once services were taken into account) was conducted comprising of 940 linear metres of trenching. The evaluation revealed a heavily plough damaged sub-soil cut with improvement drainage, some possible rig and furrow and a large circular rock/root removal pit.

No significant archaeological features or finds were discovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by CALA Homes LTD to undertake an archaeological evaluation as a condition of planning consent for the first phase ('Phase 1') of a new development at Craibstone South, to the north-west of the city of Aberdeen (Planning Ref: P140470). The site lies within the administrative area of the Aberdeen City Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the Aberdeen City Council Archaeology Service.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in Scottish Planning Policy (2010) & Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (2011).

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The development site at Craibstone South was located at NGR: NJ 87061 10677 and lay within the SRUC Agricultural campus at Aberdeen to the south of the A96, west of Bucksburn (Figure 1). It is bounded to the north by the A96, the east and south by the Gough Burn and the west by the C89C Chapel of Stoneywood, Fairley Road. The development was allocated for 700 units and is split into four phases. The initial works were carried out in Phase 1 of the development, which lay in the eastern portion of the full site allocation (Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The only Scheduled Monument near to the development area is the 14th century St Mary's Chapel and Graveyard located at Chapel of Stoneywood to the north-west close to the A96 (Ref: SM 10446). No known sites from the earlier medieval or prehistoric period are noted in the NMRS on or near the development site.

2 **OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:
 - to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the Phase 1 development area through evaluation trenching.
 - ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of archaeological mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, should significant archaeological remains be encountered that cannot be preserved *in situ*.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Archaeological Evaluation

- 3.1.1 The evaluation was originally to comprise machine trenching of a 7% sample of the 48,158m² Phase 1 area, which equates to 3,371m², or 1,686m linear metres based on each trench being 2m in width. However, due to electrical, water and sewage services crossing the proposed development area only 26,381m² were accessible once safety buffer zones were taken into account. As a result, the evaluation comprised of machine trenching of a 7% sample of the available 26,381m² area which equated to 1,846m², or 923m linear metres.
- 3.1.2 A total of 940 linear meters of evaluation trenching were excavated, evenly spaced across the development area. They comprised seventeen 100m trenches, two 25m trench, a 6m² extension trench around possible archaeology in Trench 15 and two 20m trenches either side of Trench 15 to locate any further possible archaeology (Trenches 20 and 21 see Figure 2).
- 3.1.3 Excavation was undertaken in units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and as per the methodology within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2016). All trenches were backfilled with the removed material before leaving the site.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All archaeological works were conducted between the 22nd July and the 24th August 2016. Weather conditions were mostly bright and dry with some light rain and the archaeological visibility remained good throughout.
- 4.1.2 The various data gathered from the evaluation and excavations are presented as a series of appendices:

Appendix 1: Evaluation Trench Descriptions; Appendix 2: Photographic Register; Appendix 3: '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' entry

4.2 Archaeological Evaluation

4.2.1 On arrival on site the field to be evaluated was found to be gentle rolling hill slopes with grass cover, not overgrown with the A96 running NW to SE to the NE of the development area. The underlying natural subsoil was found to consist primarily of orange/pale brown sand and gravel with some rock inclusions and clay patches. Linear plough scars were located in nearly every trench across the site, as well as numerous stone holes filled with topsoil. This natural was very hard packed and fairly damp and did not drain well due to a clay layer beneath. Over the course of the evaluation it became clear that the field system was the result of land improvement works, likely 19th-20th century in date, primarily in the form of drainage ditches and pits.

- 4.2.2 Across the entire site the field was covered with a layer of agricultural topsoil ranging from 0.25m to 0.4m deep composed of dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks. This contained occasional fragments of 19th and 20th century ceramics/glass and infrequent broken fragments of field drain.
- 4.2.3 Within Trenches 1 and 2 a series of shallow depressions aligned NE to SW, filled with the overlying dark brown sandy silt topsoil, were found at 5.5 m intervals. These may be have been the remains of rig and furrow however due to the nature of the topsoil fill and the high frequency of improvement drains throughout the rest of the site they could be much more recent (within the last 200 years). In Trench 3, three possible post holes were located, however upon excavation these were identified as stone holes as they were filled by the overlying topsoil. Additionally a substantial drain 0.65m in depth was also located in Trench 3, likely from the 19th-20th centuries due to the brown glazed ceramic and pipe bowl found within.
- 4.2.4 The only other feature discovered during the evaluation was a large circular pit 5m from the S end of Trench 15 (Plate 3). The pit measured 1.7m by 2m and 0.4m deep. The circular shape and shelving within the edges before dropping to its full depth in the centre suggests that the pit was likely formed by the removal of a stone, likely contemporaneous with improvement ditches across the site as suggested by the topsoil fill containing fragments of orange field drain and tiny fragments of white glazed ceramic. A 6m² area was opened up on the NE side of the S end of Trench 15 to catch the full extent of the pit and locate any associated features, of which none were found. An additional two 20m linear trenches were opened up on either side of Trench 15 in order to locate any additional features, none were located.



Plate 1 - General view of Trench 1



Plate 2 – Plough scars in Trench 3



Plate 3 – Pit- half sectioned in Trench 15

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The proposed development site (Phase 1) was subject to a full and comprehensive archaeological evaluation in which no significant archaeology was found, only plough damage, improvement drainage and pits with some possible rig and furrow in Trenches 1 and 2. No further archaeological works are deemed necessary within the (Phase 1) development area. This recommendation will require the approval of Aberdeen City Council Archaeology Service on behalf of Aberdeen City Council.

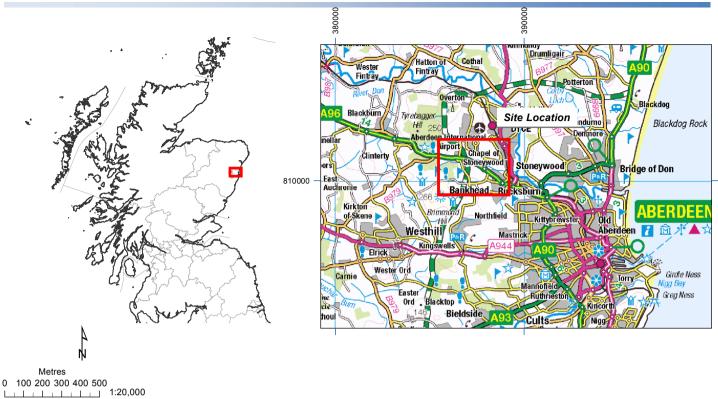
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CRAIBSTONE SOUTH (PHASE1), ABERDEEN: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION DATA STRUCTURE REPORT



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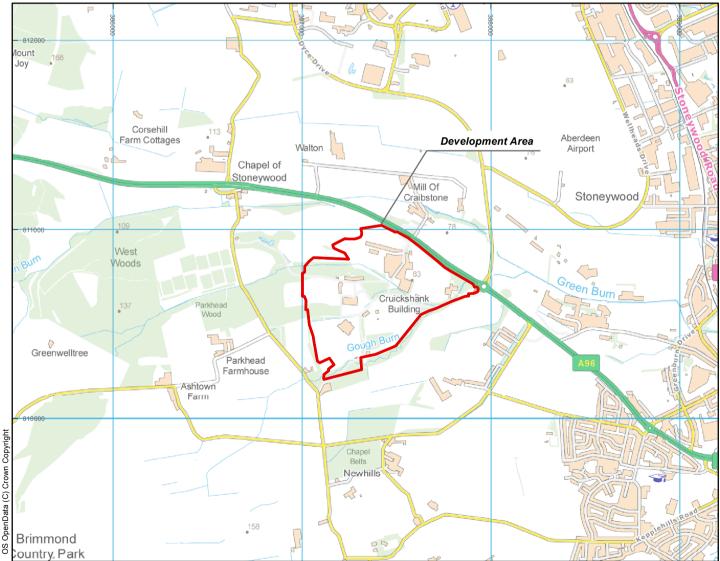


Figure 1: Site location map

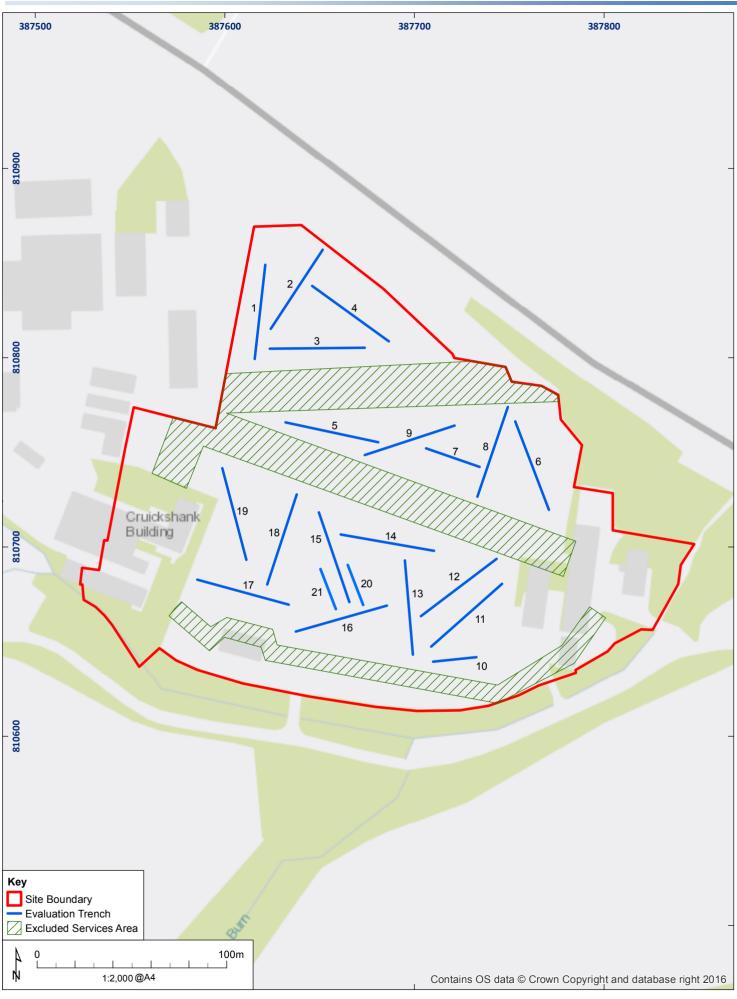


Figure 2: Evaluation trench layout

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Craibstone South (Phase 1), Aberdeen: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

Trench 1	
Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Total Area	100 m ²
Field Area	A
Excavated Orientation	N to S
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks, very few fragments of 19 th /20 th century ceramics and glass and few broken fragments of field drain – 0.25-0.3 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – 0.2 m in depth
Significant Features	Very shallow depressions – topsoil filled every 5.5 m – orientated NE to SW – possibly remains of rig and furrow
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural
Natural Subsoil	Orange/pale brown sand/gravel/rocks/some clay – very hard packed. Fairly damp – does not drain well – likely clay layer beneath
Finds	None
Trench 2	
Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Total Area	100 m ²
Field Area	A
Excavated Orientation	NE to SW
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks, very few fragments of 19 th /20 th century ceramics and glass and few broken fragments of field drain – 0.3 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – 0.1 m in depth
Significant Features	Shallow rig and furrow from TR1 visible
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural
Natural Subsoil	Orange/pale brown sand/gravel/rocks/some clay – very hard packed. Fairly damp – does not drain well – likely clay layer beneath
Finds	None
Trench 3	
Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Total Area	100 m ²
Field Area	A
Excavated Orientation	E to W
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks – 0.3 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – 0.1-0.2 m in depth
Significant Features	Three possible small post holes investigated and found to be 3 stone holes within deep plough score. Linear excavated and found to be a stone drain of substantial size – contained brown glazed ceramic and pipe bowl found near the bottom – orientated NE to SW
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural
Natural Subsoil	Orange/pale brown sand/gravel/rocks/some clay – very hard packed. Fairly damp – does not
	drain well – likely clay layer beneath
Finds	Broken modern plough blade found in topsoil
Trench 4	
Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Total Area	100 m ²
Field Area	A
Excavated Orientation	NW to SE
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks – 0.3-0.4 m in depth

B-Horizon Make-up Significant Features	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – 0.2-0.3 m in depth None
•	
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural. Shallow linear furrows as before – probably from modern cultivation, similar to old rig and furrow. Ceramic drain – orientated N to S at 45 m from NW end
Natural Subsoil	Orange/pale brown sand/gravel/rocks/some clay – very hard packed. Fairly damp – does not drain well – likely clay layer beneath
Finds	None
Trench 5	
Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Total Area	100 m ²
Field Area	B
Excavated Orientation	E to W
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks, very few fragments of 19 th /20 th century ceramics and glass and few broken fragments of field drain – 0.3 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – 0.2 m in depth
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural. 20 m and 28 m from W end – rubble drain orientated NWW to SEE – located in a dip in the natural – 0.5 m wide. 50 m rubble drain as above orientated NEE to SWW
Natural Subsoil	Orange/pale brown sand/gravel/rocks/some clay – very hard packed. Fairly damp – does not drain well – likely clay layer beneath – lots of larger rocks resulting in numerous irregular stone holes
Finds	None
FILIUS	None
Trench 6	
Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Total Area	100 m ²
Field Area	В
Excavated Orientation	NE to SW
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks – 0.3-0.4 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – $0.1-0.2$ m in depth
-	
Significant Features	None Franzuszt slavski szere is astural. Basular subble desise (see SW) and
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural. Regular rubble drains from SW end:
	- 5 m – E to W (matches with drain in TR5)
	- 7 m – SEE to NWW (matches with drain in TR5)
	- 19 m – N to S
	- 24 m – E to W
	- 40 m - N to S (wide drain similar to one found in
	TR3)
Natural Subsoil	Orange/pale brown sand/gravel/rocks/some clay – very hard packed. Fairly damp – does not drain well – becomes grey/blue and yellow/orange clay/sand to NE half of trench
Finds	None
Trench 7	
Dimensions	25 m by 2 m
Total Area	50 m ²
Field Area	B
	E to W
Excavated Orientation	
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks $-0.3-0.4$ m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – 0.1-0.2 m in depth
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural

Natural Subsoil Finds	Orange/brown and grey/blue sandy clay and rocks – very wet None
Trench 8	
Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Total Area	100 m ²
Field Area	B
Excavated Orientation	N to S
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks – 0.25-0.3 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – 0.2 m in depth
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural. Rubble drains from S end:
	- 35 m – NW to SE
	- 40 m – NE to SW
Natural Subsoil	Orange sandy clay and large rocks – very solid changing to brown/ornage sandy clay and
	rocks. Large rocks (bedrock) in natural
Finds	None
Trench 9	
Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Total Area	100 m ²
Field Area	В
Excavated Orientation	NW to SE
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks – 0.3 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural, lots of black/dark brown organic material
	in deeper areas – 0.1-0.2 m in depth
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural
Natural Subsoil	Orange/brown sand/gravel/rocks/clay
Finds	None
T	
Trench 10	
Dimensions Total Area	25 m by 2 m 50 m²
Field Area	C
Excavated Orientation	E to W
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks – 0.25-0.3 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	None
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural orientated E to W
Natural Subsoil	Orange/brown sand/gravel/rocks/clay
Finds	None
Trench 11	
Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Total Area	100 m ²
Field Area	C
Excavated Orientation	NE to SW
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks – 0.3 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – 0.1 m in depth
, Significant Features	None
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural orientated E to W
Natural Subsoil	Pale brown/orange sand/gravel/rocks/clay
Finds	None

Trench 12

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Total Area	100 m²
Field Area	C
Excavated Orientation	NE to SW
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks – 0.3 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – 0.2-0.3 m in depth
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural. Ceramic drains from NE end:
	- 5 m – E to W
	- 8 m – E to W
Natural Subsoil	Orange/brown sand/gravel/rocks/clay
Finds	None
Trench 13	
Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Total Area	100 m ²
Field Area	
Excavated Orientation	N to S
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks – 0.3 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – 0.1-0.2 m in depth
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural.
Natural Subsoil	Orange/brown sand/gravel/rocks/clay
Finds	None
Trench 14	
Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Total Area	100 m ²
Field Area	С
Excavated Orientation	E to W
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks – 0.3 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – 0.1 m in depth
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural. Stone/rubble drain 2 m from E end orientated NW to SE and ceramic drain 40 m from E end orientated E to W

Natural Subsoil Finds

Trench 15

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Total Area	100 m ²
Field Area	C
Excavated Orientation	N to S
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks – 0.3 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – 0.1-0.2 m in depth
Significant Features	Large circular feature at 45 m from N end - investigated and likely to be a stone or root
	removal hole, likely similar in age to rubble drains – non-archaeological
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural
Natural Subsoil	Orange/brown sand/gravel/rocks/clay
Finds	None

Orange/brown sand/gravel/rocks/clay

None

Trench 16

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Total Area	100 m²
Field Area	C
Excavated Orientation	NE to SW
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks – 0.3 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – 0.1-0.3 m in depth
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural. Ceramic drains from SW end:
	- 30 m – N to S
	- 38 m – N to S
Natural Subsoil	Orange/brown sand/gravel/rocks/clay
Finds	None
Trench 17	
Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Total Area	100 m ²
Field Area	C
Excavated Orientation	E to W
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks – 0.3 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – 0.1 m in depth
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural.
Natural Subsoil	Orange/brown sand/gravel/rocks/clay
Finds	None
Trench 18	
Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Total Area	100 m ²
Field Area	C

Total Area	100 m²
Field Area	С
Excavated Orientation	NE to SW
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks – 0.3 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – 0.2 m in depth
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural. Ceramic drain 45 m from NE end orientated E to W
Natural Subsoil	Orange/brown sand/gravel/rocks/clay
Finds	None

Trench 19

Dimensions	50 m by 2 m
Total Area	100 m²
Field Area	C
Excavated Orientation	NW to SE
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks – 0.3 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – 0.1 m in depth
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural
Natural Subsoil	Orange/brown sand/gravel/rocks/clay
Finds	None

Trench 20

Dimensions	20 m by 2 m
Total Area	40 m ²
Field Area	C
Excavated Orientation	N to S
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks - 0.3 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	None
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural
Natural Subsoil	Orange/brown sand/gravel/rocks/clay
Finds	None
Trench 21	

Dimensions	20 m by 2 m
Total Area	40 m ²
Field Area	С
Excavated Orientation	N to S
Soil Make-up	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks – 0.3 m in depth
B-Horizon Make-up	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – 0.1 m in depth
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Frequent plough scars in natural. Ceramic drain 0 m $-$ 5 m from S end orientated N to S
Natural Subsoil	Orange/brown sand/gravel/rocks/clay
Finds	None

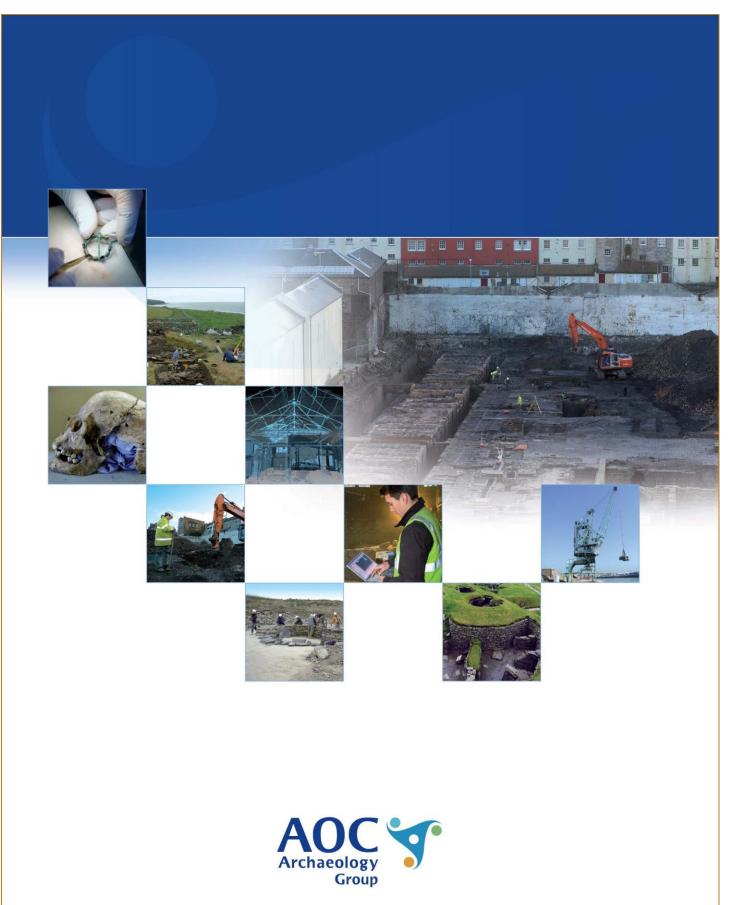
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Colour Digital:

No.	Area	Description	Taken From
1	А	Registration Shot	-
2	А	TR1 post excavation	N
3-4	Α	Rig and furrow in TR1	Var.
5	Α	TR2 post excavation	NE
6	Α	TR3 post excavation	W
7-8	А	Pit group in TR3 – half sectioned	Var.
9	Α	TR4 post excavation	NW
10-11	Α	SW facing section of field drain in TR3	S
12-13	А	Plough scars in natural in TR3	Var.
14	В	TR5 post excavation	SE
15	В	TR6 post excavation	W
16	В	TR7 post excavation	NW
17	В	TR8 post excavation	S
18	В	TR9 post excavation	N
19	С	TR10 post excavation	E
20	С	Plough scars in natural in TR11	N
21	С	TR11 post excavation	NE
22	С	TR12 post excavation	NE
23	С	TR13 post excavation	N
24	С	TR14 post excavation	W
25	С	Pit/tree hole in TR15	NW
26	С	TR15 post excavation	S
27-34	С	Pit/tree hole in TR15 half sectioned – not archaeological	Var.
35	С	TR20 post excavation	N
36	С	CE drain in TR21	W
37	С	TR21 post excavation	N
38	С	TR17 post excavation	W
39	С	TR18 post excavation	N
40	С	TR19 post excavation	SE
41-46	A,B,C	Site after backfill – as left	Var.

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeen City Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Craibstone South (Phase 1), Aberdeen
PROJECT CODE:	23449
PARISH:	Newhills
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alexander Wood
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NJ 870 106
START DATE (this season)	22 nd August 2016
END DATE (this season)	24 th August 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)	None
	AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by CALA homes Ltd. to
DESCRIPTION:	conduct and archaeological evaluation as a condition of planning
(May include information from other fields)	consent for the first phase ('Phase 1') of a new development at
other helds)	Craibstone South (NJ 87061 10677) (Planning Ref. No. P140470).
	A 7% evaluation of the available 26,381m ² site (once services were
	taken into account) was conducted comprising of 940 linear metres of
	trenching. The evaluation revealed a heavily plough damaged sub-soil
	cut with improvement drainage, some possible rig and furrow and a
	large circular rock/root removal pit.
	No significant archaeological features or finds were discovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR	N/A
ILLUSTRATIONS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING	CALA homes Ltd.
BODY:	
	AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead,
CONTRIBUTOR:	Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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