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Field Evaluation & Excavation

Historic Building Recording


Site & Landscape Survey


Geophysical Survey

**Land to North of Seafield Road
Bilston
Midlothian**

Archaeological Evaluation

Report No. 1959

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standard operating procedures.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in September 2011 at Land to North of Seafield Road, Bilston, Midlothian (NGR: NT 26260 65080) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey East Scotland (Taylor Wimpey).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 21 April 2011 covering this programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of Taylor Wimpey. This WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS), who have jurisdiction over Midlothian.

1.2 Background

Taylor Wimpey has applied for planning consent (Ref No. 10/00135/DPP) for the construction of a residential development at Land to North of Seafield Road, Bilston, Midlothian. The proposed development consists of the erection of 152 dwelling houses along with the formation of associated roads, car parking areas and sustainable urban drainage systems. As part of the planning process, ELCAS requested a programme of archaeological works including an archive assessment (desk-based assessment) and a trial trenching evaluation covering not less than 5% of the proposed development area.

The desk-based assessment (DBA) for the proposed development was produced by CFA in October 2009 (Jones 2009). It identified four sites (Site 1 – 4 in DBA) (Fig. 1) within the proposed development area. These consisted of a cist containing a battleaxe (1), a nonconformist meeting house (2), an under bridge (3), and two buildings (4). The exact locations of Site 1 and Site 2 are unknown, with information obtained from the National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS) only citing a grid reference relating to a 1km grid square. Site 3 is depicted on the Ordnance Survey First Edition map (1854) on the south-eastern boundary of the site alongside the A 701, and Site 4 is depicted on an early map by Greenwood, Sharpe and Fowler (1828), lying to the south-west of Site 3 alongside the same part of the site boundary. A reconnaissance visit carried out as part of the DBA confirmed that the under bridge (3) survived as an upstanding feature, but there was no evidence of the other three sites.

The proposed development area (Fig. 1) is situated on the north-eastern outskirts of Bilston and is bordered by agricultural land to the north, residential development to the south and west, the Pentland Nursery to the north-east, and the A701 to the south-east. It measured 10.23ha and consisted of undulating former agricultural land (Fig. 5) containing knee-high grass and areas of chest-high vegetation. A number of the low lying parts of the field were very wet indicating possible pooling water during periods of heavy rain. A network of well trodden footpaths present throughout the area suggested that it was being used for recreational purposes.

No previous invasive archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place within the proposed development area prior to this evaluation.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the project were to evaluate the development area to establish the presence or absence, location, extent, date and character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the development site; and to establish their significance and vulnerability to the proposed development.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

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

2.2 Evaluation

Fifty-nine trenches were excavated amounting to 5220m² (5.1% of the proposed development area). Trenches 1 – 57 measured 50m by 1.8m and trenches 58 and 59 measured 25m by 1.8m.

Topsoil and modern overburden were removed by a tracked 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench positions were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment and all trenches were backfilled.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Trial Trenching

Numbers in bold refer to contexts, a full list of which are contained in Appendix 2. A summary of the trenches excavated is contained in Appendix 3.

The deposits throughout the proposed development area predominantly consisted of 0.3m of mid grey-brown silt topsoil overlying orangey-brown sandy clay natural (**002**). Deeper topsoil deposits of up to 0.6m were identified within some of the hollows in the field. Slightly orangey-brown slope-wash deposits (**003**) with a depth of up to c. 0.2m were identified between the topsoil (**001**) and natural (**002**) within Trench 36, Trench 38, Trench 41, and Trenches 55 – 57.

Numerous field drains were uncovered throughout the proposed development area. The majority of these were either of the stone-filled type, or of the ‘horseshoe’ or ‘mug-tile’ ceramic type. The horseshoe drain was superseded in 1843 by the one-piece cylinder type indicating that this area was probably extensively drained and improved for agricultural purposes during the first half of the 19th century. Some of the stone-filled drains contained rounded stones which are most likely to have been collected from the immediate vicinity, whereas others contained fragments of shattered rock, which are likely to have been quarried elsewhere prior to being brought into the area.

Within Trench 31 (Fig. 2), the traces of six cultivation furrows (**004**, **006**, **008**, **010**, **012** and **014**) (Fig. 1) were identified. The furrows were aligned SW to NE, measured c. 2m across and were situated c. 4m apart. Slots excavated across furrows **004** (Fig. 3) and **006** showed that they survived to a maximum depth of 0.1m. The fill (**005**, **007**, **009**, **011**, **013** and **015**) of the furrows consisted of slightly orangey-brown silty-clay. A possible continuation of this area of cultivation furrows was identified within Trench 32. Trench 32 contained the possible remains of two heavily truncated furrows (**016** and **018**), which survived to a depth of less than 0.05m. A single possible furrow (**020**) was also identified within Trench 50. It was aligned W to E, measured c. 1m wide by 0.06m deep, and the fill consisted of orangey-brown silty clay.

4. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Land to North of Seafield Road, Bilston in advance of a proposed residential development. A desk-based assessment carried out by CFA in November 2009 identified that a cist, a nonconformist meeting house and two buildings may have been present within the area. Trial trenching identified numerous field drains and a few vestigial traces of rig-and-furrow cultivation, but did not identify any features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance.

CFA does not recommend any further archaeological work in relation to this development. However, the final decision on any further mitigation measures lies with ELCAS.

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 the Midlothian Council Sites and Monuments Record.

A summary statement to be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 4) will be sufficient to disseminate the results of this programme of works. The project will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

5. REFERENCES

Greenwood J, Sharp T and Fowler W 1828 *Map of the county of Edinburgh*

Jones C, 2009 *Proposed Housing Development, Bilston, Midlothian: Desk-Based Assessment and Reconnaissance Field Survey* CFA Unpublished Data Structure Report No. 1692.

Ordnance Survey 1854 Edinburgh Sheet 12 six inch to one mile

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1	Trench 1, general shot	NW	Rain
2	Trench 2, general shot	NW	Rain
3	Trench 3, general shot	SW	Rain
4	Trench 4, general shot	SE	Rain
5	Trench 5, general shot	SE	Rain
6	Trench 6, general shot	SE	Rain
7	Trench 7, general shot	SW	Rain
8	Trench 8, general shot	SW	Rain
9	Trench 9, general shot	SW	Sun
10	Trench 10, general shot	SW	Sun
11	Trench 11, general shot	SW	Sun
12	Trench 12, general shot	SW	Overcast
13	Trench 13, general shot	SW	Overcast
14	Trench 14, general shot	NW	Overcast
15	Trench 15, general shot	SE	Overcast
16	Trench 16, general shot	SE	Overcast
17	Trench 17, general shot	SE	Sun
18	Trench 18, general shot	NE	Overcast
19	Trench 19, general shot	NE	Overcast
20	Trench 20, general shot	SE	Sun
21	Trench 21, general shot	SE	Sun
22	Trench 22, general shot	SE	Sun
23	Trench 23, general shot	NE	Sun
24	Trench 24, general shot	NE	Sun
25	Trench 25, general shot	SW	Sun
26	Trench 26, general shot	SE	Sun
27	Trench 27, general shot	SE	Sun
28	Trench 28, general shot	SE	Sun
29	Trench 29, general shot	SW	Sun
30	Trench 30, general shot	SW	Shade
31	Trench 31, general shot	SE	Sun
32	Trench 32, general shot	SE	Sun
33	Trench 33, general shot	SW	Sun
34	Trench 34, general shot	NW	Sun
35	Trench 35, general shot	NW	Sun
36	Trench 36, general shot	SW	Sun
37	Trench 37, general shot	SW	Sun
38	Trench 31, Slot 1, SW-facing section of cultivation furrow	SW	Sun
39	Trench 31, Slot 2, SW-facing section of cultivation furrow	SW	Sun
40	Trench 31, Slot1, oblique shot of cultivation furrow	SE	Sun
41	Trench 31, Slot1, oblique shot of cultivation furrow	SE	Sun
42	Trench 38. General shot	SW	Overcast
43	Trench 39. General shot	SE	Overcast
44	Trench 40, General shot	SE	Overcast
45	Trench 41, General shot	NE	Overcast
46	Trench 42, General shot	SE	Overcast
47	Trench 43, General shot	SE	Overcast
48	Trench 44, General shot	NW	Rain
49	Trench 45, General shot	SE	Overcast
50	Trench 46. General shot	NW	Overcast
51	Trench 47, General shot	NW	Overcast
52	Trench 48, General shot	NW	Overcast

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
53	Trench 49, General shot	SW	Overcast
54	Trench 50, General shot	SW	Overcast
55	Trench 50, possible furrow	West	Overcast
56	Trench 51, General shot	SE	Sun
57	Trench 52, General shot	NW	Overcast
58	Trench 52, main drain	NW	Overcast
59	Trench 53, General shot	NE	Sun
60	Trench 54, General shot	SE	Overcast
61	Trench 55, General shot	NE	Sun
62	Trench 56, General shot	NE	Overcast
63	Trench 57, General shot	NE	Overcast
64	Trench 58, General shot	SW	Overcast
65	Trench 59, General shot	NE	Sun
66-73	General shots of area	Various	Sun

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context No.	Area	Trench	Description
001	N/A		Topsoil (mid grey-brown silt)
002	N/A		Natural subsoil (orangey-brown sandy clay)
003	N/A		Slopewash (orangey-brown silty-clay)
004	N/A	31	Cut of cultivation furrow
005	N/A	31	Fill of cultivation furrow 004 (orangey-brown silty-clay)
006	N/A	31	Cut of cultivation furrow
007	N/A	31	Fill of cultivation furrow 006 (orangey-brown silty-clay)
008	N/A	31	Cut of cultivation furrow
009	N/A	31	Fill of cultivation furrow 008 (orangey-brown silty-clay)
010	N/A	31	Cut of cultivation furrow
011	N/A	31	Fill of cultivation furrow 010 (orangey-brown silty-clay)
012	N/A	31	Cut of cultivation furrow
013	N/A	31	Fill of cultivation furrow 012 (orangey-brown silty-clay)
014	N/A	31	Cut of cultivation furrow
015	N/A	31	Fill of cultivation furrow 014 (orangey-brown silty-clay)
016	N/A	32	Cut of cultivation furrow
017	N/A	32	Fill of cultivation furrow 016 (orangey-brown silty-clay)
018	N/A	32	Cut of cultivation furrow
019	N/A	32	Fill of cultivation furrow 018 (orangey-brown silty-clay)
020	N/A	50	Cut of cultivation furrow
021	N/A	50	Fill of cultivation furrow 020 (orangey-brown silty-clay)

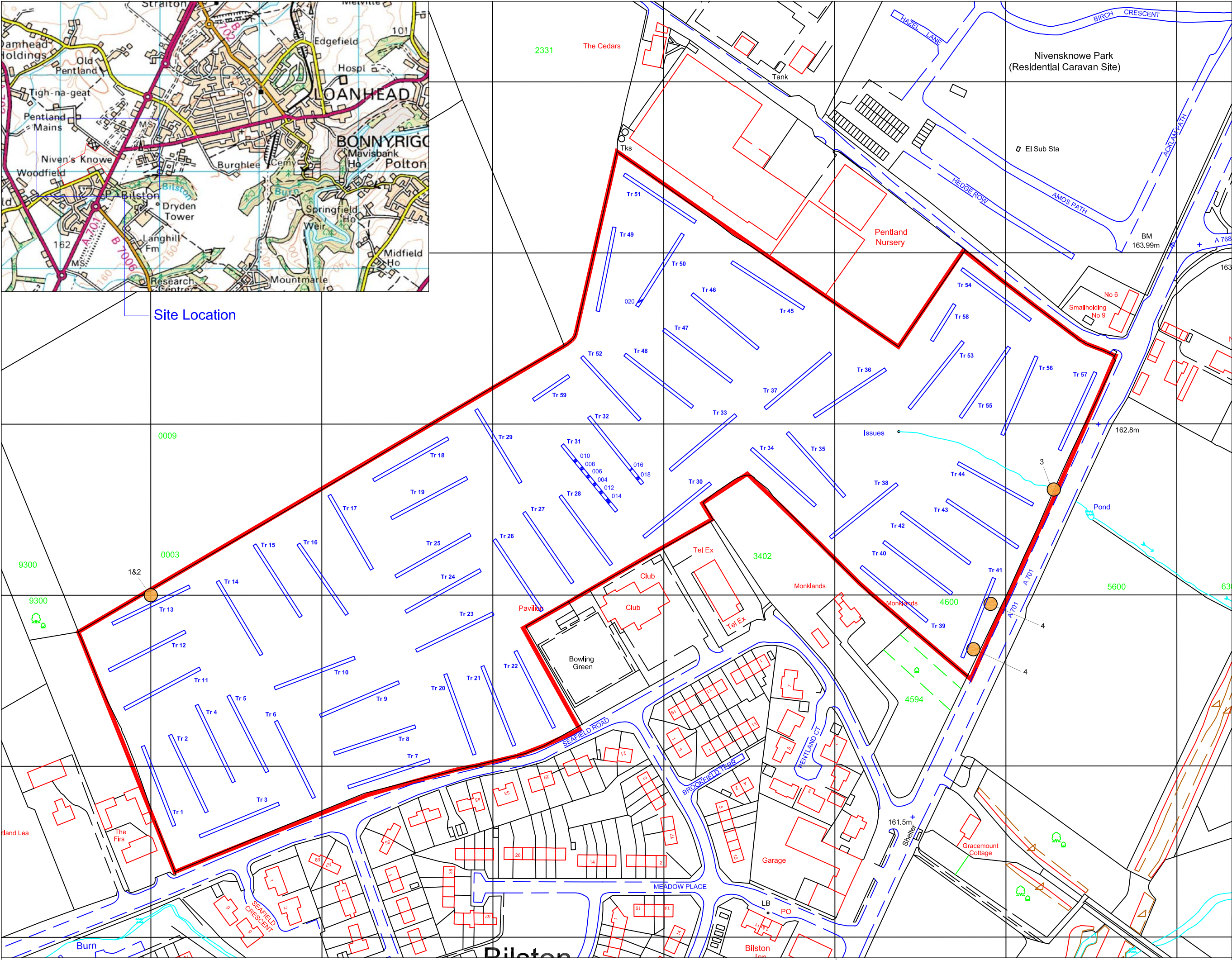
APPENDIX 3: Summary of Excavation Results

Trench No.	Area No.	Size (m)	Depth of Deposits (m)	Features
1	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	1 field drain
2	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	9 field drains
3	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	2 field drains
4	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	7 field drains
5	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	4 field drains
6	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	5 field drains
7	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	3 field drains
8	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	4 field drains
9	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	2 field drains
10	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	4 field drains
11	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	2 field drains
12	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	N/A
13	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	1 main field drain
14	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3 – 0.5	8 field drains and 1 main field drain
15	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	5 field drains
16	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	7 field drains
17	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3 – 0.5	6 field drains
18	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3 – 0.6	2 field drains
19	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	1 field drain
20	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	3 field drains
21	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	N/A
22	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	1 field drain
23	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3 – 0.5	1 field drain
24	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3 – 0.5	N/A
25	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	1 field drain
26	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3 – 0.5	1 field drain
27	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	N/A
28	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	3 field drains
29	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	2 field drains
30	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3 – 0.6	7 field drains
31	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	Cultivation furrows
32	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	Possible cultivation furrows
33	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	4 field drains
34	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3 – 0.5	1 main field drain and 1 field drain
35	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3 – 0.4	1 main field drain
36	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3 – 0.5	4 field drains and slopewash deposits
37	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	3 field drains
38	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3 – 0.5	4 field drains and slopewash deposits
39	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	4 field drains
40	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	3 field drains
41	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3 – 0.4	1 field drain and slopewash deposits
42	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	4 field drains
43	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	6 field drains and 1 modern test-pit
44	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	3 field drains
45	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	8 field drains and 1 main field drain
46	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3 – 0.4	7 field drains and 1 main field drain
47	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	7 field drains and 1 main

Trench No.	Area No.	Size (m)	Depth of Deposits (m)	Features
				field drain
48	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	4 field drains and 1 main field drain
49	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	7 field drains
50	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	1 field drain and 1 possible cultivation furrow
51	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	7 field drains
52	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	1 main field drain
53	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	3 field drains
54	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3	7 field drains
55	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3 – 0.5	3 field drains and slopewash deposits
56	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3 – 0.5	1 field drain and slopewash deposits
57	N/A	50 x 1.8	0.3 – 0.5	1 field drain and slopewash deposits
58	N/A	25 x 1.8	0.3	N/A
59	N/A	25 x 1.8	0.3	6 field drains

APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Midlothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Land North of Seafield Road, Bilston, Midlothian
PROJECT CODE:	WIBI2
PARISH:	Lasswade
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Magnus Kirby
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Trial Trenching Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NT26NE 24, NT26NE 25
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 26260 65080
START DATE (this season)	12 th September 2011
END DATE (this season)	20 th September 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Land to North of Seafield Road, Bilston in advance of a proposed residential development. A desk-based assessment carried out by CFA in November 2009 identified that a cist, a nonconformist meeting house and two buildings may have been present within the area. Trial trenching identified numerous field drains and a few vestigial traces of rig-and-furrow cultivation, but did not identify any features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Taylor Wimpey East Scotland
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Old Engine House, Eskmills Business Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NMRS/Midlothian SMR



Site Location



- Key:
- Trenches
 - Features
 - Cultural Heritage Features

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Fig. No: 1	Revision: A
Title: Location map and trench plan	
Project: Land to North of Seafield Road Bilston Midlothian Archaeological Evaluation	
Client: Taylor Wimpey East Scotland	
Scale: 1:2000 @ A3	



Fig.2 - Trench 31 from the south-east



Fig.3 - Trench 31 section through furrow 004



Key:	Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	Taylor Wimpey East Scotland		 <div>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</div>
	Title:							
	Project:	Land to North of Seafield Road, Bilston, Midlothian Archaeological Evaluation						
Drawn by:		Checked:		LW	Report No:		1959	



Fig.4 - Trench 38 from the south-west



Fig.5 - General shot of area from east

Key:	Fig. No:	4-5	Revision:	A	Client:	Taylor Wimpey East Scotland	 <div>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</div>
	Title:						
	Project:	Land to North of Seafield Road, Bilston, Midlothian Archaeological Evaluation					
Drawn by:		Checked:		LW	Report No:		1959