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Advice on Archaeology & Planning

Environmental Impact Assessment

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Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

Riggfoot Farm, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report

No. 2094

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Grid Ref	NS 5811 1311

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

**Riggfoot Farm, New Cumnock,
East Ayrshire
Archaeological Evaluation**

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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 July 2012 at Riggfoot Farm, near New Cumnock, East Ayrshire (NGR: NS 5811 1311) (Fig. 1) in advance of a proposed extension to the Braehead Surface Mine Operations. The work was commissioned by KIER Mining.

An addenda (Addenda 1, dated 15 November 2011) to the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) covering this part of the programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of KIER Mining. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). A trench plan for this evaluation was agreed in advance by WoSAS.

1.2 Background

Planning consent (Ref No. 10/0491/PP) has been granted for the recovery of coal using surface mining techniques at Braehead Farm, near New Cumnock. The planning consent was subject to a condition requiring a programme of archaeological mitigation

This part of the programme of works consisted of the evaluation of the footprint of the former Riggfoot Farmstead. The earliest identified appearance of the name Riggfoot (spelt 'Rigfoot') is on Andrew Armstrong's map of 1775. It is depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1860) with some differences to the layout of the recently demolished structures, but by the time of the Second Edition (1896) the differences are fairly minor. Further details relating to the farmstead are contained within a desk-based assessment and standing building survey produced by CFA in January 2012 (Mitchell 2012).

Previous work relating to the Stage 1 programme of works included the evaluation of the Haul Road and Detention Ponds BD2 and BD3 (Kirby 2011), and the watching brief during the realignment of the River Nith (Mitchell 2011). Both were carried out by CFA in July 2011. The evaluation of Area 1 to Area 8 was carried out in January and February 2012 (Kirby 2012a), the evaluation Area 9 and Area 10 was carried out in May 2012 (Kirby 2012c) and the evaluation of Site 5A situated immediately to the south of Area 9 was undertaken in April 2012 (Kirby 2012b).

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of works reported herein were to:

- Carry out a trial trenching evaluation within Riggfoot Farmstead;
- Identify if any earlier settlement remains survive beneath the present buildings, or if there is the potential for earlier settlement remains to survive elsewhere within the immediate locale;
- Establish their vulnerability to the proposed development;
- Produce report(s) outlining the results of the work and any further work that is required to mitigate the effects of the development.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

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

2.2 Evaluation

The excavation of the trenches was undertaken in accordance with a trenching plan devised in consultation with WoSAS. The trenches were targeted on areas of the farmstead where early settlement remains were likely to have survived later development, and to provide good overall coverage of the site. Slight alterations to the agreed plan were made due to the presence of an asbestos water main that still needed to be removed and that the client requested was avoided. Additional trenches were also excavated.

A total of thirteen trenches (Fig. 1) were excavated amounting to c.400m². This consisted of nine trenches (Trenches A – H and J) from the original trenching plan (360m²), and four additional trenches (K – N) (39.6m).

Topsoil and modern overburden were removed by a tracked 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.8m wide 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

Numbers in bold refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 2. A summary of the trenches excavated is contained in Appendix 4.

The deposits within the area of the farmstead (Trenches E to N) predominantly consisted of 0.05m to 0.55m of made-ground (**001**) overlying reddish-brown sandy-clay and sandy-gravel natural (**003**) (Fig.3) whereas those immediately outwith the farmstead (A to D) predominantly consisted of 0.3m to 0.4m of dark-brown silt topsoil (**002**) overlying natural of a similar nature. Considerably deeper deposits of made-ground with a depth of up to >2m were encountered at the northern end of Trench C and the extreme western end of Trench H where the natural topography dipped downwards onto the flood plain of the river. The deeper deposits were a direct result of material being dumped over the edge of the natural knoll on which the farmstead was situated. The walls of the recently demolished farmstead (Fig.7 and 8) were either founded directly onto the natural or into a shallow foundation trench of up to 0.2m deep cut into the natural.

All of the features identified during this evaluation (Fig.1) (with the possible exception of some of the field drains) are considered to relate to the recently demolished farmstead. These consisted of wall footings (**004**, **009**, **010** and **011**), a brick surface (**005**) (Fig.5), service pipes, drains, a brick built sump (**006**) (Fig.4) and a septic tank (**007**) (Fig.6). All of the brick-built structures were constructed from 'LANEMARK' bricks manufactured at the nearby brickworks of the aforementioned name. The wall footings (**004**, **009**, **010** and **011**) associated with the farmstead largely consisted of sandstone rubble (Fig.7 and 8). A horseshoe drain (**008**) identified within Trench G appeared to run underneath the farmstead suggesting that it pre-dated its construction, although this could simply have been installed for drainage immediately prior to the construction of the farmstead.

4. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Riggfoot Farm near New Cumnock as part of a programme of works associated with the Braehead extension to the Greenburn Surface Mine Operation. Previous work undertaken on the site included a standing building survey of the farmstead and the evaluation of the surrounding area.

The evaluation identified a number of features associated with the recently demolished farmstead including wall footings, a brick surface, service pipes, and a septic tank. There were also a number of field drains identified which may pre-date the construction of the farmstead. None of these features were considered to be archaeologically significant.

There was no evidence of any earlier settlement or activity either in terms of negative archaeological features or deposits. No finds were recovered and all of the observed material was 19th or 20th century in date.

Within the footprint of the farmstead horizontal truncation appeared to have taken place as disturbed/made ground lay directly over the natural. As a result it is considered that archaeological remains or deposits relating to any potentially earlier settlement do not survive within the evaluation area.

No further works are recommended in relation to Riggfoot Farm. However, it is recognised that the final decision on any mitigation required lies with the planning authority as advised by WoSAS.

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 WoSAS Sites and Monuments Record.

On completion of the mitigation works a summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

5. REFERENCE

Bibliographic

Kirby, M, 2012c *Greenburn OCCS, Braehead Farm Extension, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire, Archaeological Evaluation*, Unpublished CFA Technical Report 2055

Kirby, M, 2012b Site 5A, *Greenburn OCCS, Braehead Farm Extension, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire, Archaeological Evaluation*, Unpublished CFA Technical Report 2040

Kirby, M, 2012a *Greenburn OCCS, Braehead Farm Extension, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire, Archaeological Evaluation*, Unpublished CFA Technical Report 2019

Kirby, M, 2011 *Greenburn OCCS, Braehead Farm Extension, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire, Archaeological Evaluation*, Unpublished CFA Technical Report 1927

Mitchell, S, 2011 *Greenburn OCCS, River Nith Diversionary Works, Dalrieket, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire, Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation*, Unpublished CFA Technical Report 1931

Mitchell, S, 2012 *Riggfoot Farm, Dalrieket, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire, Desk-Based Assessment and Standing Building Survey*. Unpublished CFA Technical Report 1933

Cartographic

Armstrong, A 1775 *A New Map of Ayrshire*

Ordnance Survey 1860 First Edition Ayr Sheet XLI.12 6" to the mile

Ordnance Survey 1896 Second Edition Ayrshire Sheet XLI SE 25" to the mile

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital

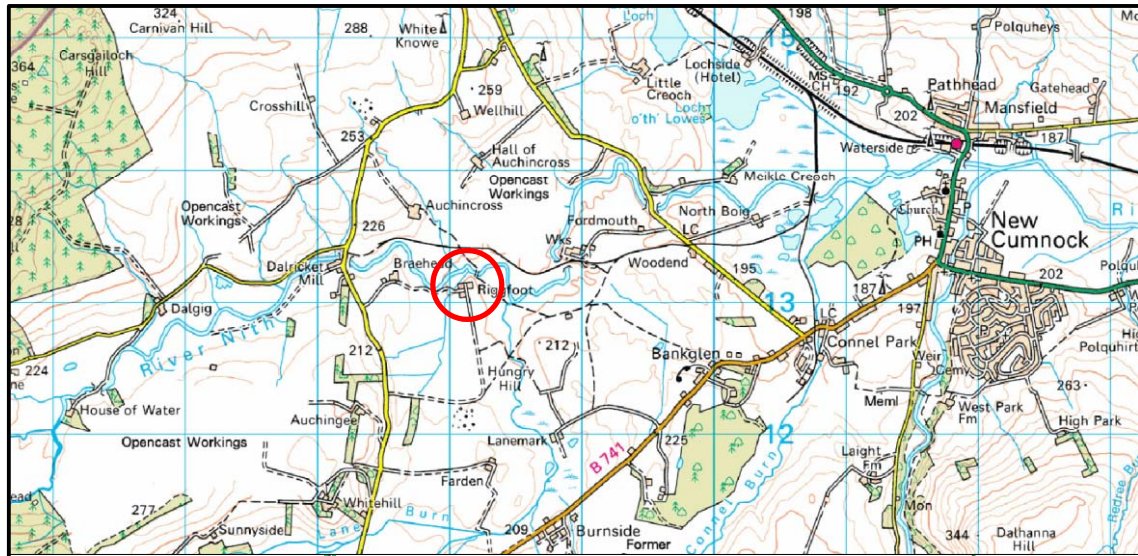
Shot No.	Summary or Description	Taken From	Conditions
1	Trench D, general view	W	Overcast
2	General view of site	SE	Overcast
3	General view of site	S	Overcast
4	General view of site	E	Overcast
5	Trench H, general view	E	Overcast
6	Trench H, wall footings 010	S	Overcast
7	Trench H, detail of brick sump 006	W	Overcast
8	Trench E, brick surface 005	NNW	Overcast
9	Trench E, detail of septic tank 007	S	Overcast
10	Trench E, general view	E	Overcast
11	Trench F, general view	NW	Overcast
12	Trench A, general view	W	Overcast
13	Trench G, general view	NNW	Overcast
14	Trench J, general view	W	Overcast
15-21	Trench C, sandstone blocks	NE	Overcast
22	Trench C, general view	S	Overcast
23	Five gallon milk container-stamped 'W. Riggfoot'	N/A	Overcast
24	Detail of milk container stamp on lid	N/A	Overcast
25	Detail of stamp on collar	N/A	Overcast
26	Trench B, single line of brick	S	Overcast
27	Trench B, general view	SW	Overcast
28	Trench K, general view	ENE	Overcast
29	Trench K, detail of wall footings 004	N	Overcast
30	Trench K, detail of wall footings 004	S	Overcast
31	Trench L, general view	E	Overcast
32	Trench L, detail of wall footings 009	E	Overcast
33	Trench M, general view	N	Overcast
34	Trench N, general view	NW	Overcast
35	Trench N, detail of wall footings 004	W	Overcast

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context No.	Area	Trench	Description
001	Riggfoot	C, E – N	Made ground
002	Riggfoot	A –D	Topsoil
003	Riggfoot	All	Natural subsoil; reddish brown sandy-gravel and sandy-clay
004	Riggfoot	H, K, M, N	Footings of farmhouse (sandstone blocks and rubble)
005	Riggfoot	E	Brick surface (Lanemark bricks)
006	Riggfoot	H	Brick-built sump
007	Riggfoot	E	Brick built septic tank
008	Riggfoot	G	Ceramic horseshoe drain (runs beneath farmstead)
009	Riggfoot	L, H, J	Footings of east range (sandstone blocks and rubble)
010	Riggfoot	H, J	Footings of west range (sandstone blocks and rubble)
011	Riggfoot	E	Footings of north range (sandstone blocks and rubble)

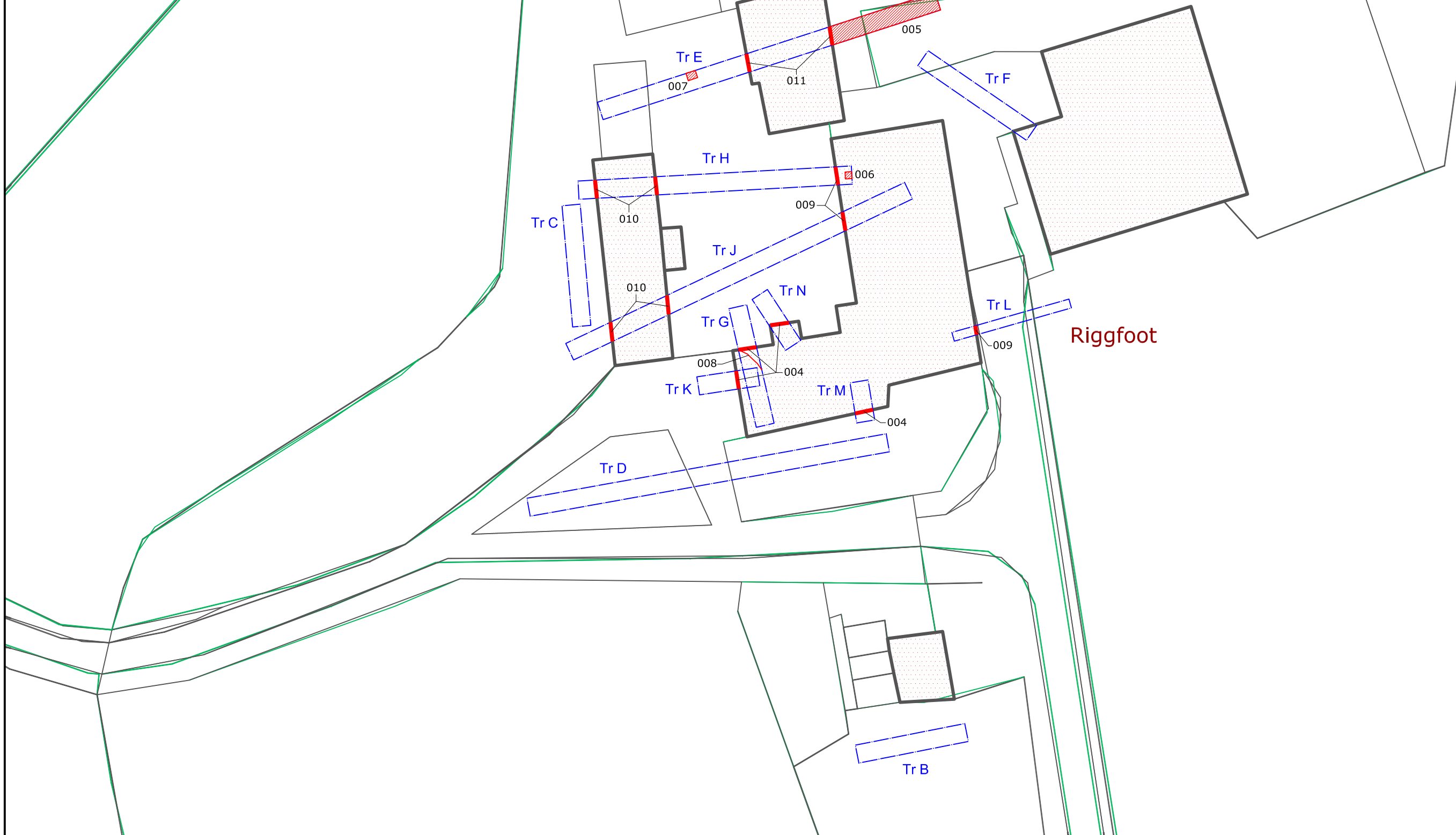
APPENDIX 3: Summary of Excavation Results

Trench No.	Area	Size (m)	Depth of Deposits (m)	Features
A	Riggfoot	17x1.8	0.35	Ceramic and rubble field drains
B	Riggfoot	11x1.8	0.4	Line of modern bricks
C	Riggfoot	12x1.8	0.65 - >2m	Three large red-sandstone blocks
D	Riggfoot	36x1.8	0.1 - 0.25	One drainage pipe
E	Riggfoot	35x1.8	0.1 – 0.55	One brick surface (005) One septic tank (007) Footings of north range (011)
F	Riggfoot	13x1.8	0.2m	Drainage ditches and drainage pipe
G	Riggfoot	12x1.8	0.5	Rubble field drains/modern drainage pipe Horse drain (008) Footings of west range (010) Footings of east range (009)
H	Riggfoot	27x1.8	0.5 – 1.5	Footings of east range (009) Footings of west range (010) Brick sump (006)
J	Riggfoot	37x1.8	0.05 -0.7	Ceramic and rubble drains Foundations of demolished farmstead (004)
K	Riggfoot	5x1.8	0-0.1m	Footings of farmhouse (004)
L	Riggfoot	8x1.8	0.15	Footings of east range (009)
M	Riggfoot	4 x 1.8	0.25	Footings of farmhouse (004)
N	Riggfoot	5x1.8m	0.55	Footings of farmhouse (004)



Key:

- Evaluation trench
- Feature



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Fig. No: 1 Revision: A

Title:
Location Map and trench plan

Project:
Greenburn Opencast Coal
Extraction Site.
Riggfoot Farm

Client:
Kier Construction Ltd

Scale at A3:
1:400







Fig. 2a - General view of site



Fig. 2b - General view of site

Fig. No: 2	Revision: A	Project: Rigfoot farm			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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Fig. 3 - Trench H from the east



Fig. 4 - Trench H, brick sump 006



Fig. 5 - Trench E, brick surface 005





Fig. 6 - Trench E, septic tank 007



Fig. 7 - Trench L, wall footings 009



Fig. 8 - Trench K, wall footings 004

Fig. No: 3-8		Revision: A	Project: Rigfoot farm			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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