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Historic Building Recording

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Geophysical Survey

Residential Development, West Huxterstone, Kingswells, Aberdeen Archaeological Evaluation

Report No. 3114

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

**Residential Development,
West Huxterstone, Kingswells, Aberdeen
Archaeological Evaluation**

Report No. 3114

CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	4
3.	Archaeological Results	4
4.	Conclusions	5

Appendices

1.	Photographic Register	6
2.	Context Register	6
3.	Drawings Register	6
4.	Trench Descriptions	6
5.	Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry	8

Illustrations (bound at rear)

Fig. 1 Location map and site plan

Fig. 2 Trench 6

Fig. 3 Trench 14

Fig. 4 Linear feature (003)

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in December 2013 at West Huxterstone, Kingswells, Aberdeen (NJ 87091 06465, centred) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Stewart Milne Homes Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 03 December 2013 covering this programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of Stewart Milne Homes Ltd. The WSI was approved in advance by the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeological Service (ACAS).

1.2 Background

Stewart Milne Homes Ltd has submitted a planning application (Ref. No. P130912) for a residential development at Wester Huxterstone, Aberdeenshire. The consent was granted with a condition for archaeological evaluation attached.

The development site was located on the south-eastern outskirts of Kingswells, approximately 4 miles to the west of Aberdeen City Centre. The development area consisted of undeveloped agricultural land which sloped steeply from north to south. The site was bounded on the south by the Den Burn, by the Langstracht to the north and by undeveloped agricultural land to the east and west.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives were:

- to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area; to establish their vulnerability to the proposed development; and to propose mitigation measures.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods.

2.2 Evaluation

Topsoil was 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.

The terms of the WSI required the excavation of a minimum of 2069m² of trial trenches amounting to 7% of the total development area. If significant archaeological remains were identified a contingency of trial trenches up to a further 3% of the area could be requested by ACAS. In the end the results were agreed not to merit further evaluation and twenty-two trenches (Fig 1) were excavated within the proposed development area, amounting to 2100m². A summary of the trenches excavated is contained in Appendix 3. Examples of excavated trenches are shown in Figs. 1-2.

There were a number of on-site constraints which limited the area available for trenching. Overhead power lines crossed the development site and no dig zones were secured around these. Similarly a no dig zone was secured around a water pipe that crossed the site and the southern end of the site was an ecologically sensitive area where no trenching was allowed.

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.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

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 3.

The deposits throughout the proposed development area consisted of between 0.3m and 0.8m of dark brown silty topsoil (**001**) directly overlying the natural (**000**). The natural geology consisted of sandy clays and clayey sands varying in colour from grey to mid-brown/red. The deposits were slightly deeper towards the southern extent of the development site.

A vestigial linear feature (**003**) (Fig.4) was identified in the northern end of Trench 3 running on a NE to SW alignment. It was poorly defined with a depth of c. 0.2m, and

by 0.9m in width. It contained a single fill (**002**) which was indistinguishable from the topsoil. This was interpreted as a recent agricultural feature.

Numerous modern plough scars were observed during the evaluation, generally orientated north to south. In addition, a herringbone pattern of field drains was also observed. These predominantly consisted of field drains of either the stone rubble type or the ceramic type.

4. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at land on the south-eastern outskirts of Kingswell, Aberdeenshire. No archaeologically significant features or deposits were identified.

Following the conclusion of the evaluation ACAS on behalf of the council agreed that no further work was required.

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 SMR.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* and an online OASIS entry submitted on completion of the project

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Photo Number	Contexts/Description	Taken From
1 - 3	linear feature 003	S
4 - 5	Section of linear feature 003	S
6	Trench 1, Post-Ex, N - S	N
7	Trench 2, Post-Ex, N - S	N
8	Trench 3, Post-Ex, N - S	N
9	Trench 4, Post-Ex, N - S	N
10	Trench 5, Post-Ex, ENE - WSW	WSW
11	Trench 6, Post-Ex, E - W	W
12	Trench 7, Post-Ex, E - W	W
13	Trench 8, Post-Ex, E - W	W
14	Trench 9, Post-Ex, NE - SW	SW
15	Trench 10, Post-Ex, ENE - WSW	WSW
16	Trench 11, Post-Ex, ENE - WSW	WSW
17	Trench 12, Post-Ex, N - S	S
18	Trench 13, Post-Ex, N - S	N
19	Trench 14, Post-Ex, N - S	N
20	Trench 15, Post-Ex, N - S	N
21	Trench 16, Post-Ex, N - S	N
22	Trench 17, Post-Ex, N - S	N
23	Trench 18, Post-Ex, WNW - ESE	ESE
24	Trench 19, Post-Ex, ENE - WSW	WSW
25	Trench 21, Post-Ex, NW - SE	NW
26	Trench 20, Post-Ex, NW - SE	NW
27	Trench 22, Post-Ex, NNW - SSE	NNW

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context	Trench	Description
000	Site	Natural - mid brown/orange/grey sandy clay
001	Site	Topsoil – dark brown silt
002	3	Fill of 003 – dark brown silt
003	3	Cut of linear feature

APPENDIX 3: Drawings Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Description	Plan/Sect (P/S)	Scale
1	1	S-facing section of 003	S	01:20

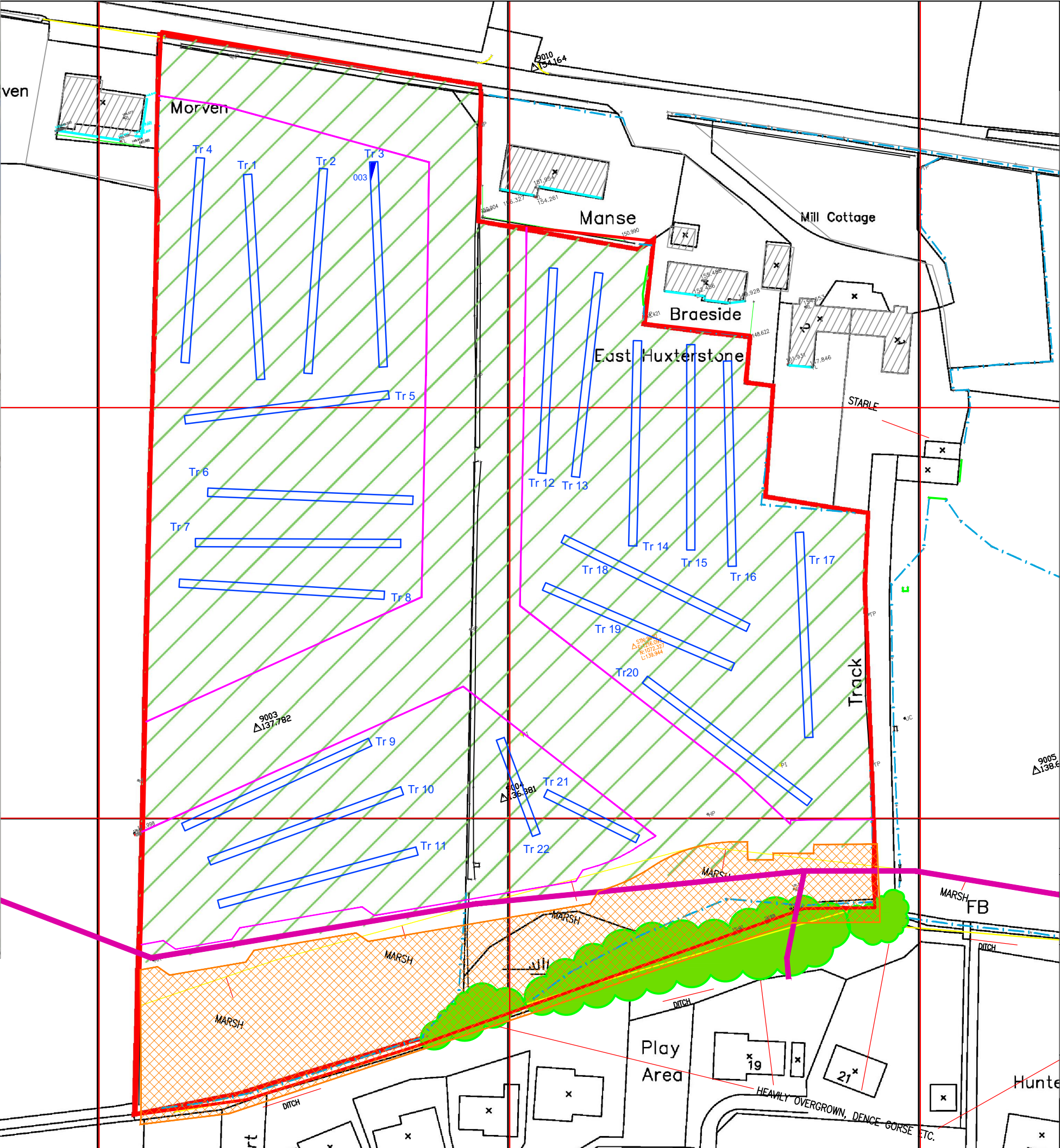
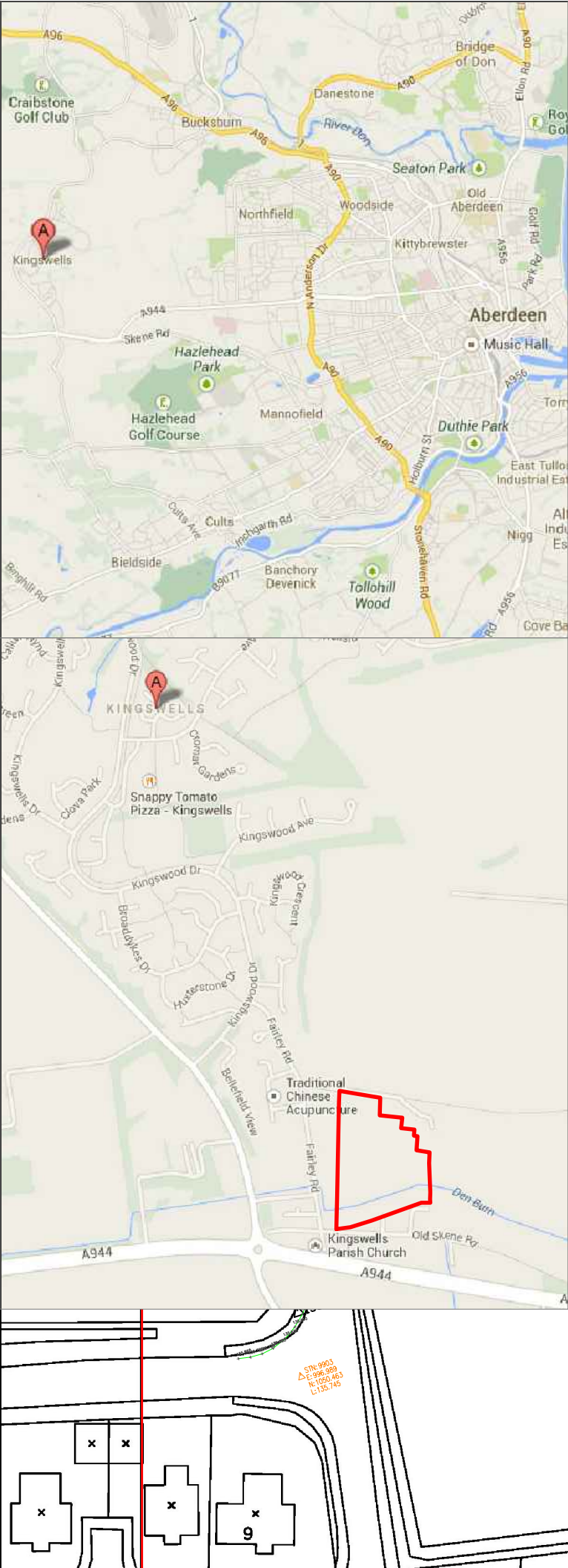
APPENDIX 4: Trench Descriptions


Trench No.	Size (m)	Depth of topsoil (m)	Features
1	50 x 2.0	0.5 – 0.7	No archaeological features
2	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.6	No archaeological features
3	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.7	Linear feature 003
4	50 x 2.0	0.4 – 0.55	Stone filled field drain
5	50 x 2.0	0.3	Stone filled field drains, criss-crossing, in herringbone pattern
6	50 x 2.0	0.3	No archaeological features
7	50 x 2.0	0.4	No archaeological features
8	50 x 2.0	0.4	Three stone filled field drains
9	50 x 2.0	0.3	Two stone filled field drains
10	50 x 2.0	0.4 – 0.7	Stone filled field drain
11	50 x 2.0	0.3	No archaeological features

Trench No.	Size (m)	Depth of topsoil (m)	Features
12	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.7	No archaeological features
13	50 x 2.0	0.4	No archaeological features
14	50 x 2.0	0.35 – 0.4	No archaeological features
15	50 x 2.0	0.4	No archaeological features
16	50 x 2.0	0.35	No archaeological features
17	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.8	No archaeological features
18	50 x 2.0	0.4	No archaeological features
19	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.6	No archaeological features
20	50 x 2.0	0.2 – 0.8	Stone culvert for modern clay pipe.
21	25 x 2.0	0.2 – 0.7	No archaeological features
22	25 x 2.0	0.5	No archaeological features

APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation In Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeen City
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Residential Development, West Huxterstone, Kingswells, Aberdeen: Archaeological Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	HUXT
PARISH:	Aberdeen City
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Gary Savory
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NJ 87091 06465, centred)
START DATE (this season)	December 2013
END DATE (this season)	December 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A trial trenching evaluation was carried out in advance of a proposed residential development. Twenty-two trenches amounting to 2100m ² were excavated. No archaeologically significant features or deposits were identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Stewart Milne Homes Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	gsavory@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS, Reports lodged with SMR and NMRS.





Key:

- Development Area
- Water Pipe
- Buffer Zones
- Ecologically Sensitive Area
- Trench Locations

Fig. No: 1

Revision: A

Title: Location map and site plan

Project: Residential Development, West Huxterstone, Kingswells, Aberdeen: Archaeological Evaluation

Client: Stewart Milne Homes Ltd

Scale at A3: 1:1000

Drawn by: LW

Checked: LW

Report No: 3114

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Fig. 2 - Trench 6



Fig. 3 - Trench 14



Fig. 4 - Linear feature (003)

Fig. No: 2-4		Revision: A	Project: Residential Development, West Huxterstone, Kingswells, Aberdeen			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
Drawn by: LW	Checked: LW	Report No: 3114	Client: Stewart Milne Homes Ltd			

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