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Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**Area M1, School Road,
Newburgh,
Aberdeenshire.**

**Archaeological Evaluation
Report No. 3192**

 0131 273 4380

 0131 273 4381

 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

The Old Engine House
Eskmills Business Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian
EH21 7PQ

Tel: 0131 273 4380
Fax: 0131 273 4381
email: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	Ian Suddaby MA FSA Scot MifA
Illustrator	Leeanne Whitelaw BSc MifA
Editor	Bruce Glendinning BSc PgDip MifA
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Grid Ref	NJ 9935 2510

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

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of a archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in August 2014 on the site of a proposed residential housing development to the south of School Road, Newburgh (NGR: N NJ 9935 2510, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Stewart Milne Homes Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 03 July 2014 was produced by CFA and agreed by Bruce Mann, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeologist.

1.2 Background

Planning permission (APP/2013/2482) has been granted, subject to Section 75 agreement, for a residential housing development on a green field site (Figs. 1-2) on the western edge of Newburgh. Area M1 lies to the south of School Road and to the west of Airyhill View.

The NMRS records three poorly located artefact findspots (RCAHMS Nos. NJ92NE 9, NJ92NE 11 and NJ92NE 123). The potential was for these to have been found within the current development and for them to have been part of an unrecorded archaeological site. These consisted of an Axe Hammer, some flint objects and an arrowhead.

1.3 Objectives

The project's aims and 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 Evaluations.

2.2 Archaeological Evaluation

The total area of the site as described above is 28347m² and the WSI anticipated that a 5% sample would be investigated, equating to 1418m².

Eighteen trial trenches were excavated. Their locations were determined on site and took account of the local topography, constraints such as water pipes and areas of standing water. In the event, trenching totalled 1467m².

All trenches were excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and modern deposits down to natural subsoil or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was reached first. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

The stratification of all trenches was recorded, even when no archaeological deposits were identified.

The location of all trenches was recorded using industry standard surveying equipment.

All trenches were backfilled daily on completion of recording.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

The site was bisected west to east into two roughly equal halves by a small stream. The area to the north of this was undulating, but generally south facing. The area to the south was steeper and was almost entirely north facing. Both fields were in grass. Standing water was present on either side of the stream at the west of the site and trenching avoided this. Figure 2 shows the site and many of the trenches from the north-west corner.

In general, topsoil (**001**) with a depth of between 0.3m and 0.4m overlay natural subsoil. A peaty subsoil (**002**) was preserved in localised hollows, several of which were not apparent from the current topography. The natural subsoil (**003**) was very varied, although the majority of the site contained a very compact pink or orange sandy silt with frequent cobbles. Localised natural deposits included creamy clay and mixed sandy gravels.

Trenches were positioned to investigate ridges, knolls, terraces and hollows within the site, as well as for good overall coverage (Figs. 3-6).

Other than field drains, no archaeological features or deposits were found in any of the trenches. No samples were taken and no artefacts were recovered. Descriptions of individual trenches are included in Appendix 1.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation of Area M1 at School Road, Newburgh was successfully completed. A total of eighteen trenches covering 1467m² were excavated. No archaeological deposits or features were found.

No further work is recommended. However, it is understood that the final decision lies with Aberdeenshire Council.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 4).

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the Aberdeenshire Council Sites and Monuments Record.

APPENDIX 1: Summary of Evaluation Trenches

Trench No.	Size (m)	Depth of topsoil / subsoil	Description
1	50m x 1.8m	0.3m / 0.1m	Trench ran from a low ridge at the W end into a slight hollow to the E. No archaeology
2	50m x 1.8m	0.35m	Trench ran from a low ridge at the W end into a slight hollow to the E. No archaeology
3	50m x 1.8m	0.3m / 0.2m	Trench ran along a low ridge. Deeper deposits at the E end were not apparent on the surface. No archaeology
4	50m x 1.8m	0.3m / 0.2m	Trench ran along a low ridge. Clay-piped field drain located in a slight dip at the E end. No other archaeology
5	50m x 1.8m	0.35m	Trench ran downhill along a slight ridge. No archaeology.
6	50m x 1.8m	0.35m	Trench ran along a low ridge. Clay-piped field drain located in a slight dip at the E end. No other archaeology
7	50m x 1.8m	0.3m / 0.2m	Trench ran along a low ridge. Deeper deposits at the E end were not apparent on the surface. No archaeology
8	40m x 1.8m	0.4m	Trench ran obliquely across a gentle slope. No archaeology
9	50m x 1.8m	0.35m	Trench ran obliquely across a gentle slope. No archaeology
10	30m x 1.8m	0.4m	Trench ran across the southern end of a low ridge then obliquely across a gentle slope. No archaeology.
11	50m x 1.8m	0.3m / 0.25m	Trench ran from a low knoll at the N end by the stream through a slight depression then gently uphill. No archaeology
12	50m x 1.8m	0.3m / 0.3m	Trench ran from a level platform in the slope at the NW end through a slight depression then gently uphill. No archaeology.
13	50m x 1.8m	0.3m	Trench ran gently uphill from the stream onto a level platform in the N facing slope. No archaeology.
14	50m x 1.8m	0.3m	Trench ran gently uphill from an area of standing water by the stream onto a level platform in the N facing slope. Stone-filled field drain located. No other archaeology
15	40m x 1.8m	0.3m / 0.3m	Trench ran across the N facing slope. Clay-piped field drain. No other archaeology
16	50m x 1.8m	0.3m	Trench ran through a slight dip between two more elevated areas. No archaeology.
17	25m x 1.8m	0.3m	Trench ran downhill along a slight ridge to the S. No archaeology.
18	40m x 1.8m	0.35m	Trench ran across the base of the N facing slope. No archaeology.

APPENDIX 2: Context Registers

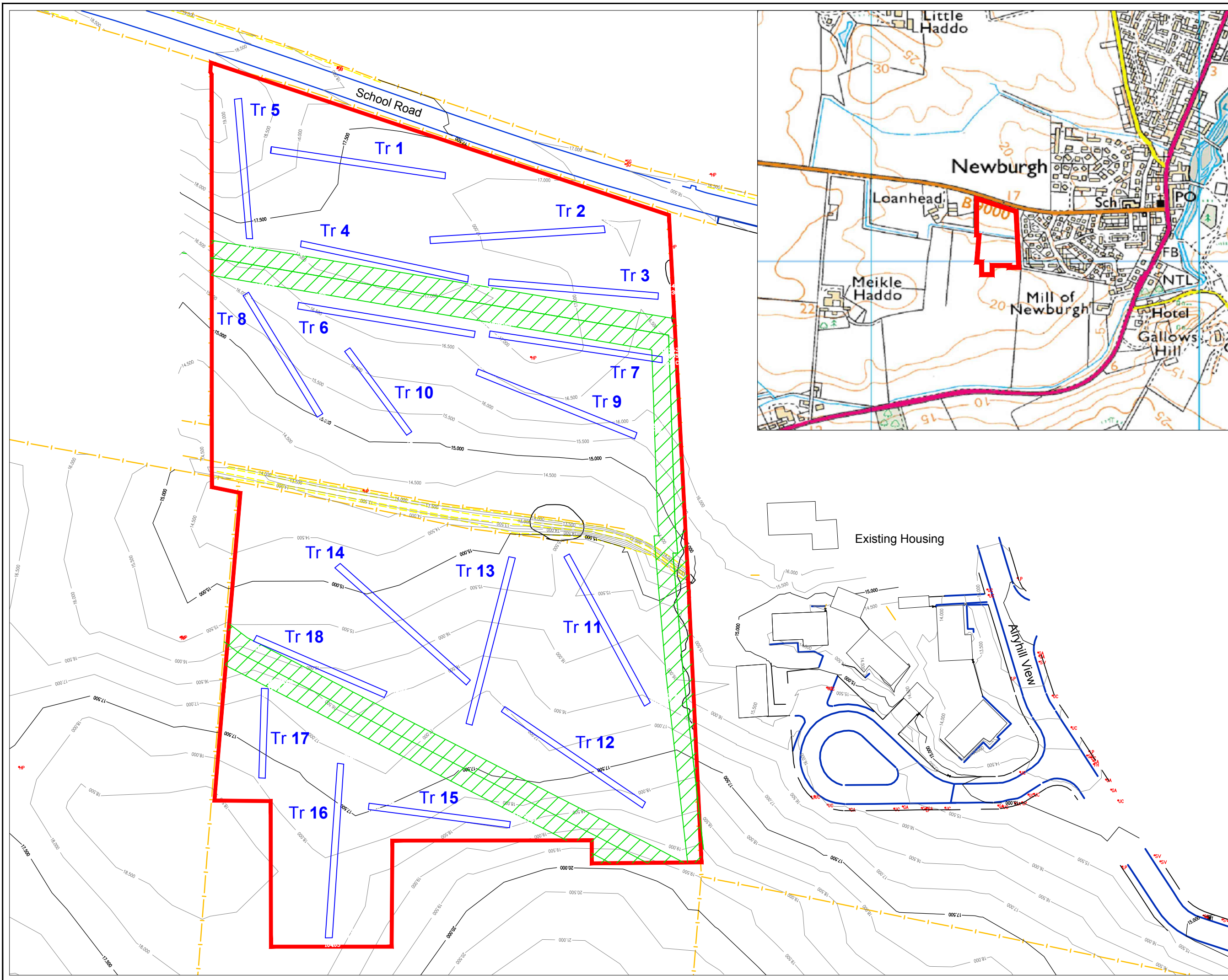
Context	Trench	Description
001	All	Topsoil
002	11, 12, 15	Subsoil. Grey-black or black mottled peaty silt and stones preserved in a hollow. Natural deposit
003	All	Natural subsoil. Very varied across the site but in general consisted of a very compact pinkish clayey sand with frequent cobbles

APPENDIX 3: Photographic Register

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1-5	General pre-excavation views from the northern edge of the site	N	Sunny
6	Trench 1, soil section at west end	S	Sunny
7	Trench 1, working shot	W	Sunny
8	Trench 1, general view	W	Sunny
9	Trench 2, plough scores in mid-trench	W	Sunny
10	Trench 2, general view	W	Sunny
11	Trench 2, general view	E	Sunny
12-13	Trench 3, general view	ESE	Bright
14-15	Trench 4, general view	ESE	Sunny
16	Trench 4, clay-piped field drain	ESE	Sunny
17	Trench 5, general view	S	Sunny
18	Trench 5, general view	N	Sunny
19	Trench 6, general view	WNW	Sunny
20	Trench 7, general view	WNW	Sunny
21	Trench 7, soil section at ESE end	NNE	Sunny
22-28	Access to the southern area from Meikle Haddo Farm. Condition shots	-	Overcast
29	Working shot	-	Sunny
30	Trench 8, general view	NNW	Sunny
31	Trench 8, general view	SSE	Sunny
32	Trench 10, general view	SSE	Sunny
33-34	Trench 9, general view	SE	Sunny
35	Trench 9, general view	NW	Sunny
36-37	General site views from the southern boundary of the site	S	Sunny
38-40	Southern area from the eastern end of the stream	-	Sunny
41	Trench 12, general view	NW	Sunny
42	Trench 12, general view	SE	Sunny
43	Trench 12, soil section at south-east end	W	Sunny
44-45	Trench 13, general view	NNE	Sunny
46	Trench 13, general view	SSW	Sunny
47	Trench 14, general view	SE	Sunny
48	Trench 14, general view	NW	Sunny
49-50	Trench 11, general view	NNW	Sunny
51-52	Trench 11, general view	SSE	Sunny
53-54	Trench 15, general view	E	Overcast
55-56	Trench 15, general view	W	Overcast
57	Trench 15, stained natural gravels	E	Overcast
58	Trench 15, soil profile at east end	S	Overcast
59	Trench 16, general view	N	Overcast
60	Trench 16, general view	S	Overcast
61-62	Trench 17, general view	S	Overcast
63	Trench 18, general view	WNW	Overcast
64	Trench 18, general view	ESE	Overcast
65-69	General site views from the north-west corner	-	Overcast

APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeenshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Area M1, School Road, Newburgh, Aberdeenshire
PROJECT CODE:	SCRO
PARISH:	Foveran
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Ian Suddaby
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NJ 9935 2510
START DATE (this season)	04 August 2014
END DATE (this season)	06 August 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation took place prior to development within Area M1 at School Road, Newburgh. Eighteen trenches were excavated, covering 1467m ² . No archaeological remains were recorded and no finds recovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Stewart Milne Homes Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland Aberdeenshire Council Sites and Monuments Record



Key:

- Development Area
- Water Services
- Trenches



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
 Old Engine House
 Eskmills Park
 Musselburgh
 East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
 T: 0131 273 4380
 F: 0131 273 4381
 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Fig. No: 1 Report No: 3192

Title:
 Location map and site plan
 showing the trenches

Project:
 Area M1, School Road,
 Newburgh, Aberdeenshire

Client:
 Stewart Milne Homes Ltd

Scale at A3:
 1:1000



Drawn by: LW Checked: LW Date: 22/07/2014

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Fig. 2 - General views of the site with trenching in progress



Fig. 3 - Trench 1 from the west



Fig. 4 - Trench 6 from the west



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
 Old Engine House
 Eskmills Park
 Musselburgh
 East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
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 F: 0131 273 4381
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 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Title:
Site photographs

Fig. No: **1-4** Report: **3192** Drawn: **LW** CKD: **LW** Date: **11/08/14**

Client:
Stewart Milne Homes Ltd

Project:
Area M1, School Road, Newburgh, Aberdeenshire





Fig. 5 - Trench 13 from the northeast



Fig. 6 - Trench 16 from the south

CFA
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
Old Engine House
Ekmills Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ

T: 0131 273 4380
F: 0131 273 4381
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Title:
Site photographs

Fig. No: 5-6	Report: 3192	Drawn: LW	CKD: LW	Date: 11/08/14
Client: Stewart Milne Homes Ltd				

Project:
Area M1, School Road, Newburgh, Aberdeenshire

