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Winchburgh Masterplan Area Block M

Archaeological Evaluation

Report No. 3011

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	Tamlin Barton MA
Editor	Bruce Glendinning BSc PGDip MifA
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Winchburgh Masterplan Area Block M

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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 April 2013 within the Winchburgh Masterplan Area Block M (Planning ref: 1012/P/05) (Fig.1). The work was commissioned by Sigma Capital Group Ltd on behalf of Regenco Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CFA for Blocks AA, Q1, Q3 & M. The WSI was agreed in advance by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). An 8% trial trenching evaluation was required. This report covers the results of the works in accordance with the WSI.

Trial trenching within the other Blocks will be reported under separate cover.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the project were:

- To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area through trial trenching evaluation;
- To establish the vulnerability of any archaeological features to the proposed development;
- To propose mitigation measures where appropriate to avoid, reduce or offset any predicted negative impacts on the archaeological resource.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

Work was conducted with regard to the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation and Code of Conduct*.

2.2 Evaluation Strategy

An 8% trial trenching evaluation was required. Block M total area amounted to 4.21ha with an 8% sample covering 3368m².

Thirty nine trenches (Trenches 1-39) amounting to 3420m² were excavated (Fig.1).

The trenches were excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and other soil deposits down to subsoil or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was reached first.

Samples of all features of archaeological interest were hand excavated in order to establish their likely date, nature, extent and condition.

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

Trench locations were recorded using industry standard surveying equipment and the trenches were backfilled on completion of recording.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Appendix 1 contains a tabulated summary of all the trenches. The remainder of the site records are described in Appendices 2-3

Topsoil was generally 0.3-0.35m deep, with clayey-silt subsoil present in most parts of the site. Natural substrate consisted of sandy clay and clayey sands.

Thirty-nine trenches (Fig. 1) were excavated within this area (Trenches 1 – 39. See Figs 3 -4 for examples).

No features of archaeological significance were identified. North - South aligned furrows from rig-and-furrow cultivation were identified in Trenches 35, 38 & 39.

3.2 Evaluation

Trench 35

In Trench 35, four parallel linear features (**3501, 3503, 3505, 3507**) were recorded. All the features were filled with an homogeneous yellow-brown sterile clay-silt (**3502, 3504, 3506, 3508**). Feature (**3501**) (Fig. 5) was 1.6m wide by 0.13m deep, feature **3503** was 1.2m wide, feature **3505** was 2.6m wide and feature **3507** extended outside of the trench so a true width was not identified.

Trench 38

In Trench 38, two parallel linear features (**3801, 3803**) were recorded these were filled with a homogeneous yellow-brown sterile clay-silt (**3802, 3804**). Feature **3803** was 2m wide and feature **3801** extended outside of the trench so a true width was not identified.

Trench 39

In Trench 39, a single linear feature (**3901**) was recorded. The feature was 4.5m in width. It was filled (**3902**) with a homogeneous yellow-brown sterile clay-silt.

Discussion

Although the identified linear features were not continuous, i.e they were not identified in multiple trenches, the alignment, spacing and size of these features suggests that they are the remains of furrows from rig-and-furrow cultivation. The fact they were all on the same alignment and that the fills were all identical suggests that they probably belonged to the one phase of cultivation. Where multiple furrows were identified in a single trench they tended to exhibit a wavelength of 11m from centre to centre. Although the gap between **3505** and **3503** was more like 22m. It is possible that plough truncation may have removed a furrow in between or one may never have been present. Certainly **3503** was the narrowest of the surviving furrows in

that trench suggesting that it had been more truncated than the others possibly indicating greater truncation to that side of the trench.

If these features are furrows then the lack of their presence between the trenches where they were observed can only be considered to be due to truncation through modern ploughing. Certainly the surviving ones were not very deep and they were of varying widths even in the same trench so plough truncation has obviously affected them.

The lack of furrows across the rest of the site could indicate that the rest of the area was not cultivated in this manner but given the presence of furrows elsewhere it seems inconceivable that the remaining area would not also have been under similar cultivation. So it is fair to presume that the lack of furrows elsewhere is also due to plough truncation.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Thirty-nine trenches were excavated amounting to 3420m² or slightly greater than 8% of the area evaluated.

No features of archaeological significance were identified but what have been interpreted as North - South aligned furrows from rig-and-furrow cultivation were identified in Trenches 35, 38 & 39.

Based on the results of the evaluation and the development proposals CFA recommend no further work be undertaken. However, it is understood that the final decision rests with WoSAS on behalf of the planning authority.

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

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: Summary of Evaluation Trenches

Trench No.	Size (m)	Depth of topsoil	Description
1	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.2-0.3m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
2	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.15-0.35m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
3	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.2-0.3m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
4	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.2-0.3m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
5	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.1-0.35m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
6	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.1m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
7	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.1m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
8	40 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.1m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
9	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.1m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
10	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.1m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
11	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.05m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
12	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.1m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
13	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.3m of subsoil at N end	No Archaeological remains
14	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.1m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
15	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.05m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
16	50 x 1.8	0.4m topsoil / 0.1m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
17	50 x 1.8	0.3m topsoil / 0.2m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
18	50 x 1.8	0.3m topsoil / 0.2m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
19	50 x 1.8	0.3m topsoil / 0.2m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
20	50 x 1.8	0.3m topsoil / 0.1m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
21	50 x 1.8	0.3m topsoil / 0.2m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
22	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.2m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
23	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.15m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
24	50 x 1.8	0.3m topsoil / 0.2m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
25	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.2m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
26	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.1-0.2m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
27	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.1-0.2m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains

Trench No.	Size (m)	Depth of topsoil	Description
28	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.2m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
29	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.05m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
30	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.05m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
31	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.05m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
32	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.05m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
33	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.05m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
34	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.2m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
35	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.1m of subsoil	4 furrows (3501, 3503, 3505, 3507) N-S aligned
36	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.05m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
37	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.2m of subsoil	No Archaeological remains
38	50 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.1m of subsoil	2 furrows (3801, 3803) N-S aligned
39	26 x 1.8	0.35m topsoil / 0.1m of subsoil	1 furrow (3901) N-S aligned

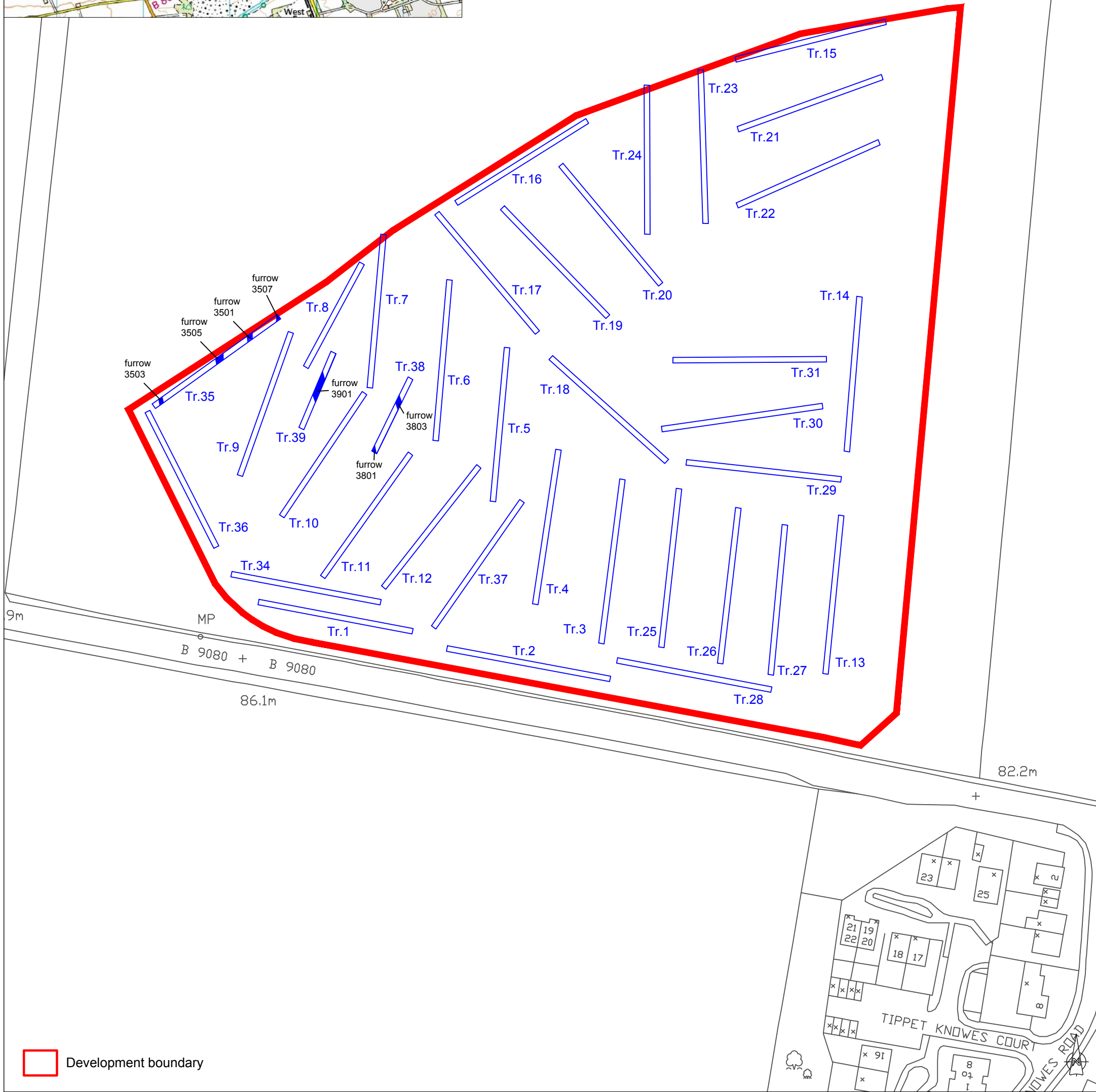
APPENDIX 2: Context Register:

Context	Fill of	Trench	Description
3501		35	Cut for furrow
3502	3501	35	Dark orange-brown clay silt with occasional stones
3503		35	Cut for furrow
3504	3503	35	Dark orange-brown clay silt with occasional stones
3505		35	Cut for furrow
3506	3505	35	Dark orange-brown clay silt with occasional stones
3507		35	Cut for furrow
3508	3507	35	Dark orange-brown clay silt with occasional stones
3801		38	Cut for furrow
3802	3801	38	Dark orange-brown clay silt with occasional stones
3803		38	Cut for furrow
3804	3803	38	Dark orange-brown clay-silt with occasional stones
3901		39	Cut for furrow
3902	3901	39	Dark orange-brown clay silt with occasional stones

APPENDIX 3: Photographic Register

Photo No.	Contexts/Description	Taken From	Conditions
1	Tr. 1 general view	W	o/c
2	Tr. 2 general view	W	o/c
3	Tr. 2: South facing trench section	S	o/c
4	Tr. 3 general view	S	Bright
5	Tr. 3 general view	S	Bright
6	Tr. 3 general view	S	Bright
7	Tr. 4 general view	N	Sunny
8	Tr. 5 general view	S	o/c

9	Tr. 6 general view	S	Sunny
10	Tr. 7 general view	S	Sun/shade
11	Tr. 8 general view	S	Sun/shade
12	Tr. 9 general view	NNE	Sun/shade
13	Tr. 10 general view	NE	Sun/shade
14	Tr. 11 general view	NE	Sun/shade
15	Tr. 12 general view	SW	Sun/shade
16	Tr. 13 general view	S	Sun
17	Tr. 14 general view	S	Sun
18	Tr. 15 general view	ENE	Sun/shade
19	Tr. 16 general view	SW	o/c
20	Tr. 17 general view	SE	o/c
21	Tr. 18 general view	NW	o/c
22	Tr. 19 general view	SE	o/c
23	Tr. 20 general view	SE	o/c
24	Tr. 21 general view	W	Rain
25	Tr. 22 general view	W	Rain
26	Tr. 23 general view	N	Rain
27	Tr. 24 general view	N	Rain
28	Tr. 25 general view	S	o/c
29	Tr. 26 general view	S	o/c
30	Tr. 27 general view	S	o/c
31	Tr. 28 general view	E	o/c
32	Tr. 29 general view	E	o/c
33	Tr. 30 general view	W	o/c
34	Tr. 31 general view	E	o/c
35	Tr. 32 general view	NNE	o/c
36	Tr. 33 general view	ENE	o/c
37-39	Views of HP gas main route around areas Q1 and Q3	E and N	o/c
40	Boundary marker	S	o/c
41-42	General site views Area M	W	o/c
43	Tr. 36 general view	SSE	o/c
44-45	Tr. 35; furrow [3501] and fill (3502) pre-ex	W and SW	o/c
46	Tr. 37 general view	NE	o/c
47	Tr. 37; rubble drain	S	o/c
48	Tr. 37; rubble drain	S	o/c
49	Tr. 34 general view	E	o/c
50	Tr. 38 general view	SW	o/c
51-52	Tr. 38; trench section SW end	NW	o/c
53-54	TR. 38; furrow [3803]	NE and N	o/c
55	Tr. 39 general view	NE	o/c
56	Tr. 35; furrow [3501] (3502)	NNE	o/c
57	Tr. 35; furrow [3501] (3502)	E	o/c
58-59	Tr. 35; furrow S facing section	S	o/c
60-61	Tr. 35; furrow S facing section	S	o/c
32-64	Tr. 35; furrow N facing trench section	N	o/c



Development boundary



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. No:

1

Revision:

A

Drawn by:

TE

Checked:

KH

Report No:

3011

Scale at A3:

1:1250

Title:

Site location and location of evaluation trenches

Project:

Winchburgh Masterplan Block M - Archaeological Evaluation

Client:	
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Sigma Capital Group Ltd per
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Fig. 2 - General View of Block M from the east



Fig. 3 - Trench 4, general view



Fig. No: 2-3		Revision: A	Project: Winchburgh Masterplan Block M - Archaeological Evaluation
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Fig. 4 - Trench 14, general view



Fig. 5 - Section through furrow 3501 in Trench 35

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