

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

*archaeological consultants*

*Advice on Archaeology & Planning*

*Environmental Impact Assessment*

*Interpretation, Design & Display*

*Finds/ Environmental Analysis*

*Field Evaluation & Excavation*

*Historic Building Recording*


*Site & Landscape Survey*


*Geophysical Survey*

**9 West Harbour Road, Granton,  
Edinburgh**

**Trial Trenching Evaluation**

**Data Structure Report  
No. 3036**

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Edinburgh**

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## **CONTENTS**

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Methods	3
3.	Evaluation Results	4
4.	Conclusion	5
5.	References	6

## **APPENDICES**

1.	Trench register	7
2.	Context Register	7
3.	Photograph Register	8

## **ILLUSTRATIONS (Bound at rear)**

Fig. 1 Site Location map

Fig. 2 Archaeological Features

Fig. 3 Evaluation trenches with map by Ordnance Survey Town Plan 1849

Fig. 4 Plan of Trench 1

Fig. 5 Great Reform Act Plan 1832

Fig. 6 Ordnance Survey Town Plan 1877

Fig. 7 Trench 1 wall footings from the north

Fig. 8 Trench 1 interior dividing wall detail

Fig. 9 Trench 3

Fig. 10 View of Walls 502 & 503 from the north-west

## **1: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of a trial trenching evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd at 9 West Harbour Road, Granton, Edinburgh (NGR: 23628 77094 Fig. 1) during June 2013. The work was commissioned by Cruden Homes Ltd. A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by CFA and approved by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

A standing building survey was previously carried out on a single-storey brick-built building that had occupied the site. The report on this was provided under separate cover (Cressey 2013).

### **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. METHODS**

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

A series of trial trenches to a strategy agreed with CECAS were excavated (Fig. 1). Trenches were to cover a maximum of 144m<sup>2</sup> (10% of 1443m<sup>2</sup>) and provide good overall coverage of the development site.

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

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

The locations of all trenches were recorded using industry standard electronic surveying equipment.

Trenches were backfilled on completion of excavation

### 3. EVALUATION RESULTS

The evaluation area measured 1443m<sup>2</sup> and had a level surface of compacted overburden, demolition debris and patches of thin tarmac. Six trenches totalling an area of 146m<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 2) were excavated to give good overall coverage and to target potentially surviving building remains depicted on early maps.

Full trench descriptions are contained in Appendix 1. Only Trenches 1 and 4 which contained archaeological remains are described in narrative below. Context numbers are provided in bold and parentheses.

#### **Trench 1 (Figs 1, 2, 3, 4 7 & 8)**

Trench 1 measured 20m by 2m and was aligned north to south. The upper surface was compacted rubble and overburden (**111**) to a depth of 0.6m and overlay a 0.6m deep homogenous mid brown silt (**112**). Natural was sand (**000**) and was identified at a depth of 1.2m beneath the current site surface.

The remains of two parallel walls (**101 & 102**) set 1.6m apart ran the full length of the trench. The west wall (**102**) was not fully exposed in the trench but was visible in the section. It survived to a height of 0.9m and was founded onto the surface of the natural (**000**). It was built of large rough-hewn sandstone blocks and had poorly preserved mortar bonding near its top.

The east wall (**101**) was fully exposed in plan and was of identical character to **102**. It measured 0.45m thick and was founded in a shallow foundation cut (**107**) running along the base of the wall.

A series of five walls (**103, 104, 105, 106 & 110**) ran perpendicular between walls (**101 & 102**), subdividing the structure as exposed into 6 individual units. These walls survived to a height of 0.7m and were 0.3m thick. They abutted the two bounding walls and were set directly onto the surface of the natural (**000**). Wall **110** had a foundation trench (**108**) but the others all appear to have been built directly on the natural with no foundation trench.

A deposit of stiff grey clay (**109**) was present at the north end of the trench. It was exposed for an extent of 3.2m and overlay the natural (**000**). Where present it underlay the walls.

#### **Trench 4 (Figs 1, 2, 3, 4 & 10)**

Trench 4 measured 20m by 2.5m and included a 2m by 3m box extension. Modern overburden (**401**) 0.6m deep overlay a 0.7m thick homogenous mid brown silt (**404**). Natural (**000**) was sand and was identified at a depth of 1.3m below the current site surface.

The remains of two wall footings were revealed. Wall (**402**) (Fig. 10) was aligned east to west and was exposed for an extent of 3.2m. It survived as a single course of large rough ashlar blocks forming the base of a double-skinned wall with a rubble core. It measured 0.5m wide. It was founded directly onto the surface of the silt deposit (**404**).

A shorter section of wall (403) (Fig. 10) was aligned north to south and abutted the south side of 402. It was 0.7m wide and was of the same build, and also founded on the silt deposit (404).

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The evaluation has identified that the foundation courses of earlier buildings survive within the development area. The remains in Trench 1 correspond to buildings mapped on the 1849 Ordnance Survey Town Plan (Fig. 3). Only the foundation courses of the walls survive and no contemporaneous internal deposits were identified. In Trench 4 the basal course of the foundations of another structure were identified; these roughly correspond to the location of a Smithy that is depicted on the 1849 map (Fig. 3). The earlier Great Reform Act Plan (1832) (Fig 5) indicates that the site was undeveloped so these buildings are early - mid 19<sup>th</sup> century in date. The later Town Plan of 1877 (Fig 6) shows some further development on the site with later alterations having taken place to both structures. The structure in Trench 1 was remodelled at its northern end and along its eastern frontage and the Smithy building was extended to the north with 3 additional structural elements.

The areas mapped as containing no buildings were identified as archaeologically sterile.

The fragmentary remains in Trenches 1 and 4 are interpreted as representing early - mid 19th century building remains. However, no in situ floor levels or deposits were identified and only the foundation courses survived in a fragmentary state. Further to this the buildings that they relate to are mapped by the Ordnance Survey so the shape and size of the buildings, which is all that could be recovered from the surviving remains, is already known. Therefore it is considered that the remains as they survive are not archaeologically significant. CFA recommends no further excavation; however, any decision rests wholly with John Lawson, City of Edinburgh Council Archaeologist.

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 CECAS.

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.

## 5. REFERENCES

### *Bibliographic*

Cressey, M. 2013. *9 West Harbour Road, Granton, Edinburgh, Historic Building Survey*. CFA unpublished Report 2167.

### *Cartographic*

Ordnance Survey 1896 Second Edition, *Edinburghshire* Sheet 001 & 15 25" to the mile

## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH REGISTER

Trench No.	Dimensions	Depth to Natural	Key Archaeological Features / Sequence of deposits
1	20 x 2	1.2m	Building walls (101,102,103, 104, 105, 106, 110), Recent made ground (111) 0.6m Mid brown silt (112) 0.6m
2	15 x 1.5	1.2m	None Recent made ground (201) 0.6m Mid brown silt (202) 0.6m
3	15 x 1.5	1.2m	None Recent made ground (301) 0.6m Mid brown silt (302) 0.6m
4	20 x 2.5 + 2 x 3	1.3m	Building walls (402, 403) Recent made ground (401) 0.6m Mid brown silt (404) 0.7m
5	10 x 1	1.3m	None Recent made ground (501) 0.6m Mid brown silt (502) 0.7m Sondage excavated into natural to 1m, natural sand overlies hard estuarine mud

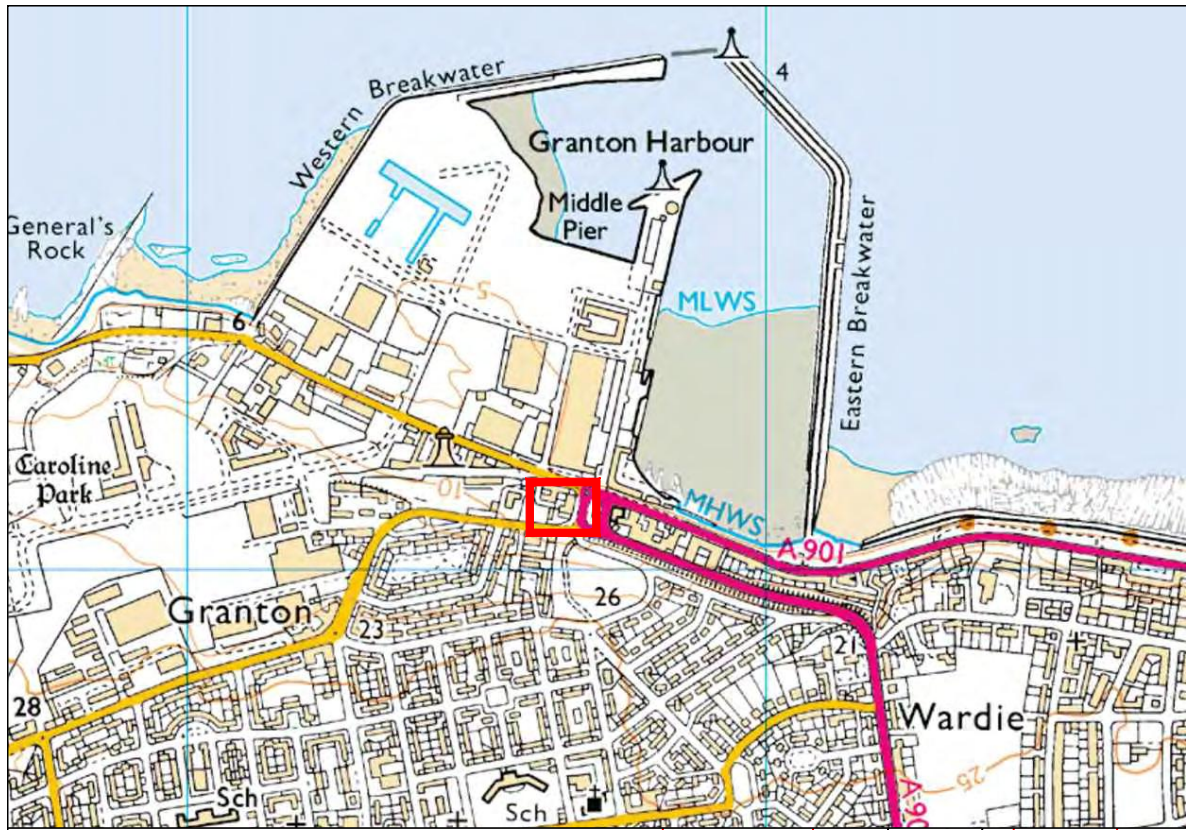
## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Description
000	Natural: sand overlying estuarine mud rock
101	Eastern wall of structure
102	Western wall of structure
103	Internal dividing wall
104	Internal dividing wall
105	Internal dividing wall
106	Internal dividing wall
107	Foundation cut for 101
108	Foundation cut for 110
109	Re-deposited clay
110	Recent surface deposits
111	Recent made ground
112	Mid brown silt deposit
201	Recent made ground
202	Mid brown silt deposit
301	Recent made ground
302	Mid brown silt deposit
401	Recent made ground
402	East to west aligned wall
403	North to south aligned wall
404	Mid brown silt deposit
501	Recent made ground
502	Mid brown silt deposit



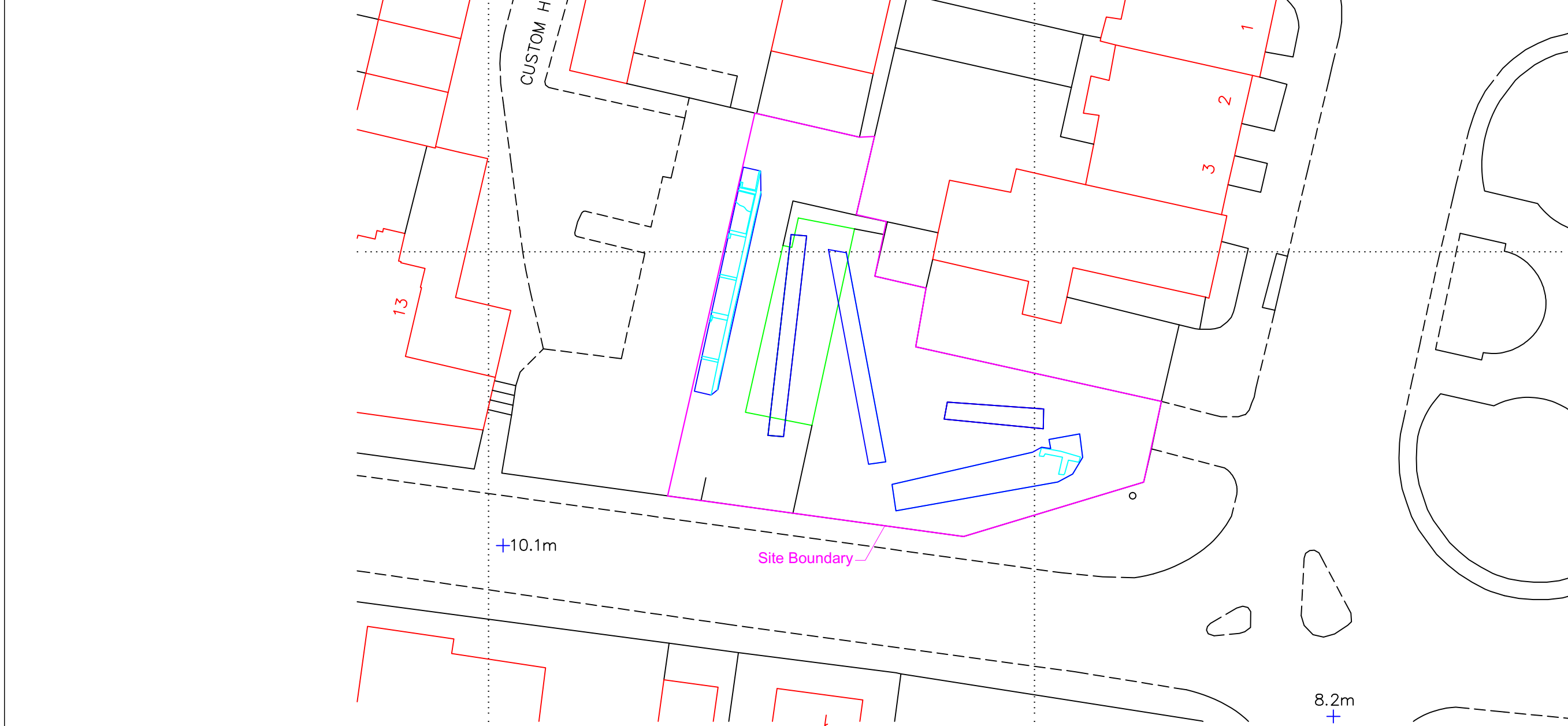
### APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Photo No.	Description	From
1	Trench 2 working shot	NW
2	Trench 2 working shot	NE
3	Trench 2 working shot	N
4	Trench 2 service	N
5	Trench 2 service	N
6	Trench 2 section	W
7	Trench 1 general view	SE
8	Trench 2	N
9	Trench 3 working shot	NE
10	Trench 1	S
11	Trench 1 dividing wall (103) detail	S
12	Trench 1 dividing wall (103) detail	S
13	Trench 1 dividing wall (103) detail	S
14	Trench 1 dividing wall (103) detail	S
15	Trench 1 dividing wall (103) detail	S
16	Trench 1 dividing wall (103) detail	S
17	East wall (101) detail	W
18	West wall (102) detail	E
19	Trench 3	S
20	Trench 3 section	W
21	East wall (101) detail	W
22	Trench 1 dividing wall (103) detail	S
23	Trench 1 dividing wall (110) and re-deposited clay (109) detail	S
24	Trench 4 working shot	E
25	Trench 4 working shot	E
26	Trench 4 wall footings (402,403)	N
27	Trench 4 wall footings (402,403)	N
28	Trench 4 wall footings (402,403)	W
29	Trench 4 wall footings (402,403)	S
30	Trench 4 wall footings (402,403)	E
31	Trench 4 wall footings (402,403)	NE
32	Trench 5	E
33	Trench 5 section	S
34	Trench 5 sondage	E



Key:

- Site boundary
- Evaluation Trenches
- Archaeological features
- Demolished building



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Fig. No: 1      Revision: A

Title:  
 Site location plan, trench location and archaeological features

Project:  
 9 West Harbour Road,  
 Granton, Edinburgh  
 Archaeological Evaluation

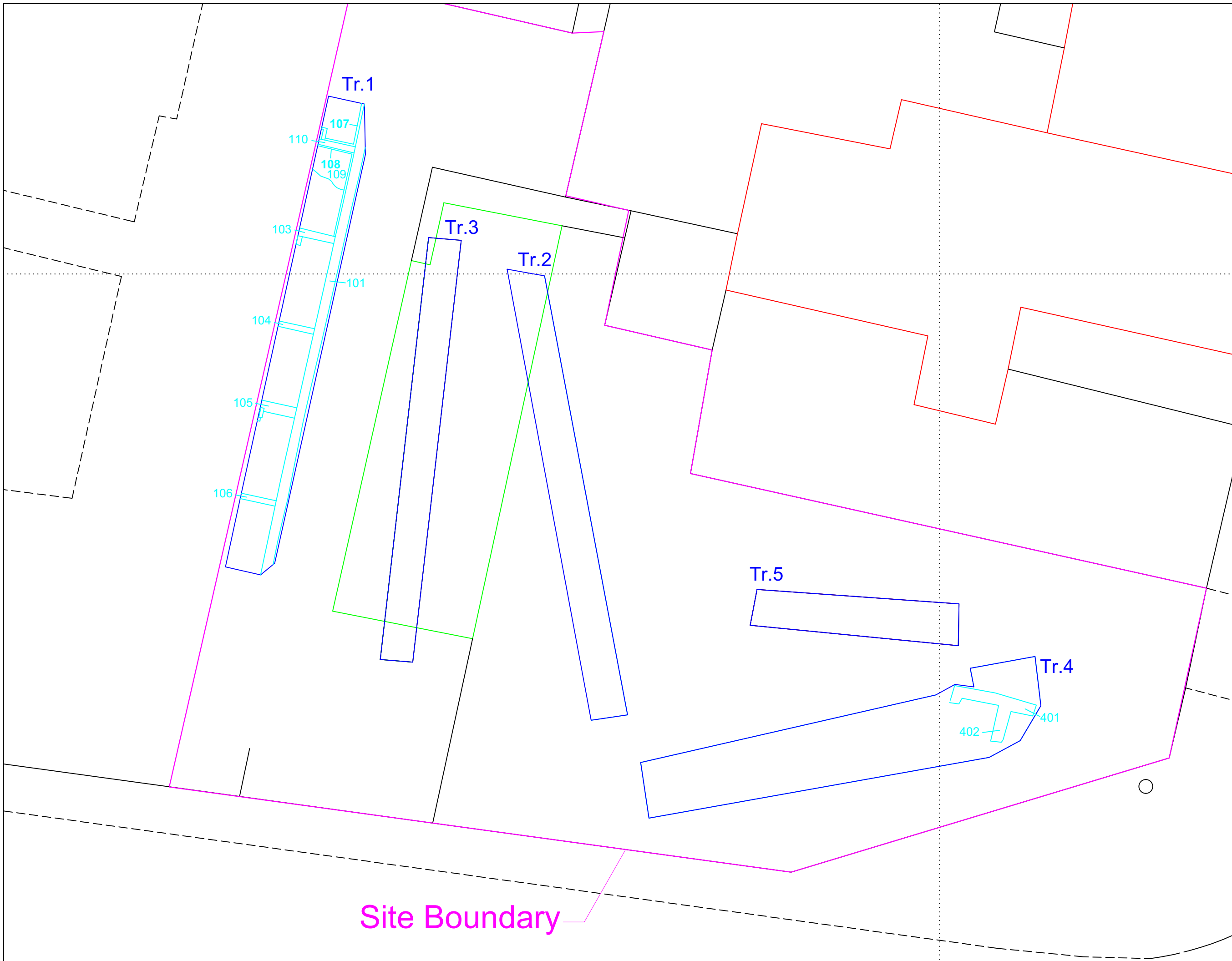
Client:  
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Scale at A3:  
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Key:

- Site boundary
- Evaluation Trenches
- Archaeological features
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Fig. No:	2	Revision:	A
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Title:  
Archaeological features

Project:  
9 West Harbour Road,  
Granton, Edinburgh  
Archaeological Evaluation

Client:  
Cruden Homes Ltd

Scale at A3:  
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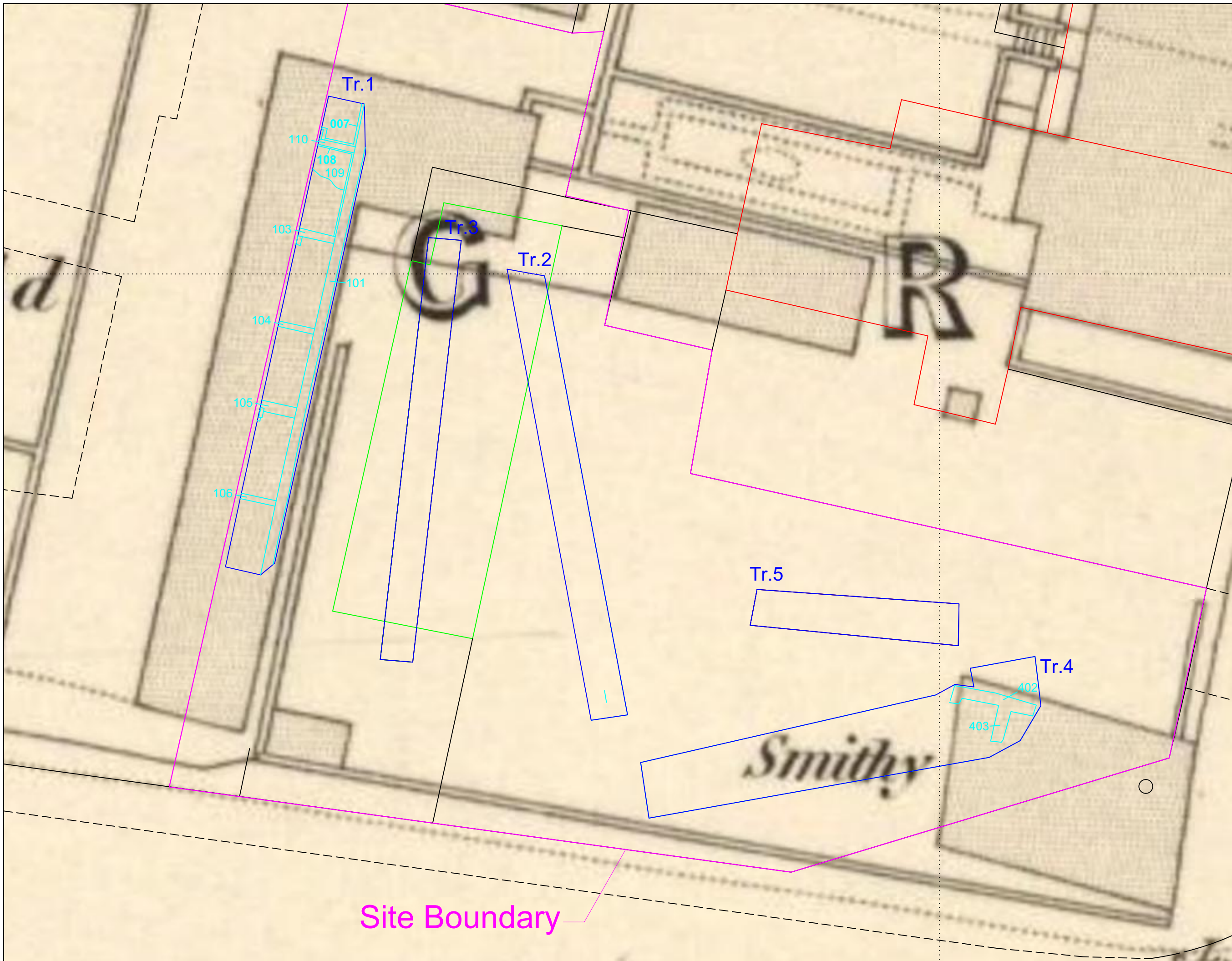






Key:

- Site boundary
- Evaluation Trenches
- Archaeological features
- Demolished building



Site Boundary

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Fig. No:	3	Revision:	A
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Title:  
**Evaluation trenches over map  
 by Ordnance Survey, Town  
 Plan, 1849**

Project:  
**9 West Harbour Road,  
 Granton, Edinburgh  
 Archaeological Evaluation**

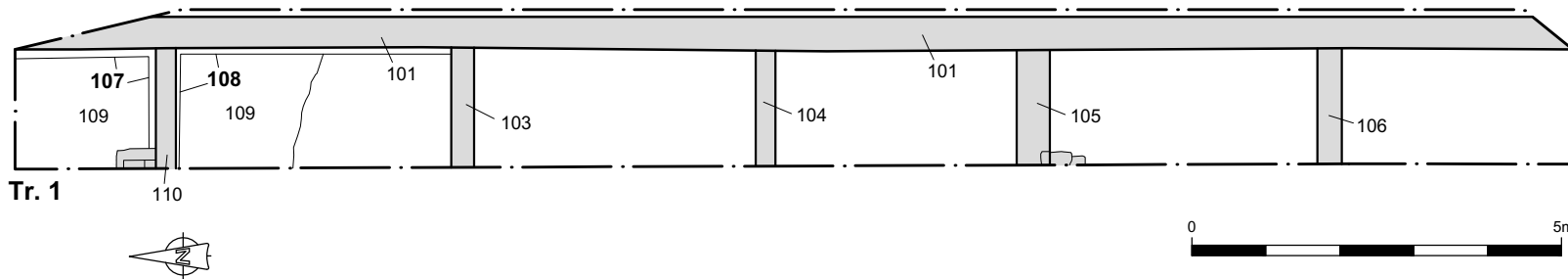
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**Cruden Homes Ltd**

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**1:150**





Key:



Tr. 1

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Fig. No: 4 Revision: A

Title:  
Plan of Trench 1

Project:  
9 West Harbour Road,  
Granton, Edinburgh  
Trial Trenching Evaluation

Client:  
Cruden Homes

Scale at A4:  
1:100

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Fig. 5. - Great Reform Act Plan, 1832

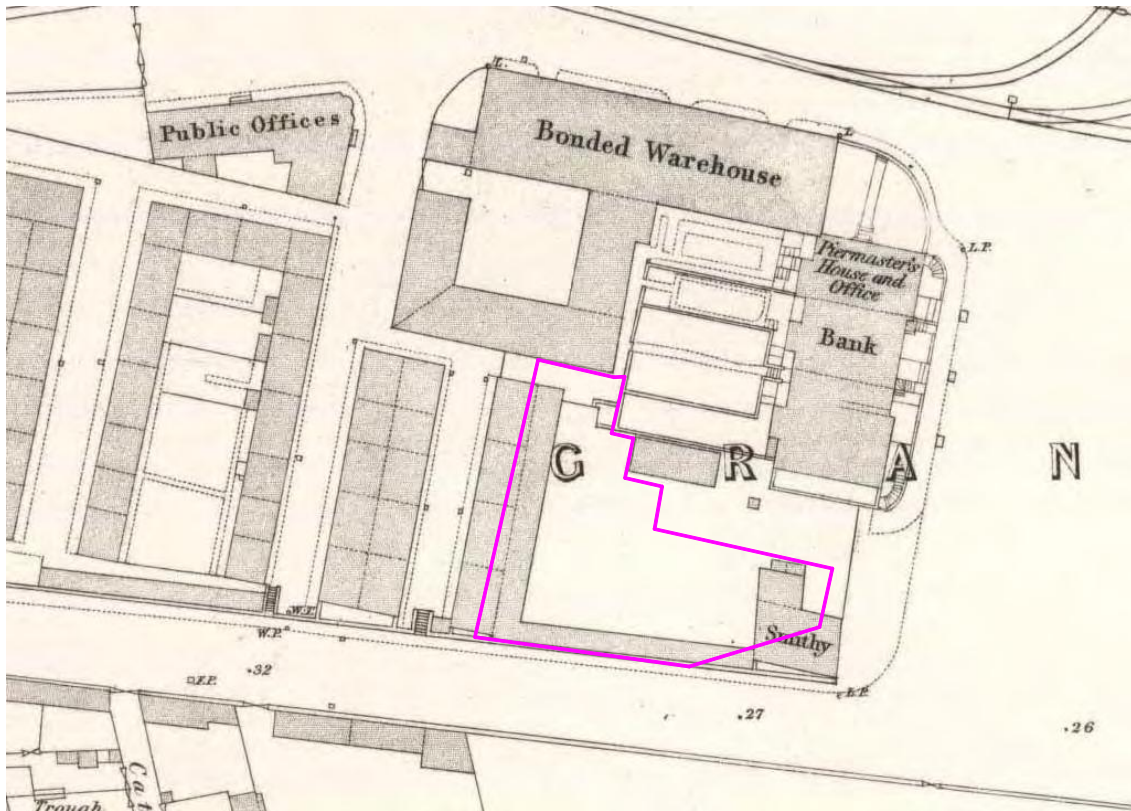


Fig. 6 - Ordnance Survey Town Plan, 1877




 Site boundary

Fig No: <b>5-6</b>	Revision: <b>A</b>	Project: <b>9 West Harbour Road, Granton, Edinburgh Trial Trenching Evaluation</b>			<b>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD</b> 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. 7. - Trench1 wall footings from the north



Fig. 8 - Trench 1 interior dividing wall detail

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Fig. 9. - Trench 3



Fig. 10 - View of 402 & 403 from the north-west

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