

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Advice on Archaeology & Planning*

*Environmental Impact Assessment*

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*Finds/ Environmental Analysis*

*Field Evaluation & Excavation*

*Historic Building Recording*


*Site & Landscape Survey*


*Geophysical Survey*

**National Performance Centre for Sports,  
Heriot-Watt University,  
Riccarton Mains Road, Edinburgh**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**Report No. 3264**

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standard operating procedures.

**National Performance Centre for Sports,  
Heriot-Watt University,  
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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 February 2015 within the development area for the proposed National Performance Centre for Sports, Heriot-Watt University, Riccarton Mains Road, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 1777 6929, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Heriot-Watt University.

### **1.2 Background**

The National Performance Centre for Sports has been granted Planning Permission (Ref. No.1012/P/05). A Design and Access Statement has been produced and this gives details of the development. It also includes a history of the site within the Riccarton Estate and is illustrated with a series of historic maps.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 14 January 2015 was produced by CFA covering the evaluation of the building footprint. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) and was approved by them prior to the evaluation.

The building footprint straddles part of the wall forming the Walled Garden (NMRS NO. NT16NE 57) associated with the former Riccarton House (NMRS NO. NT16NE 10). The Walled Garden is shown on the Ordnance Survey First Edition map (Fig. 2) and on subsequent maps. Greenhouses and structures are shown along the north-western wall outside the building footprint and paths are shown bisecting the interior and around the perimeter, parallel to the wall. Trees and what may be flower beds are depicted. In recent years the area was used as sports pitches and is currently used for parking. To the south of the Walled Garden are playing fields, created in 1972, which are associated with the Heart of Midlothian Training Ground.

A Level 1 Building Survey of the Garden Wall will be produced under separate cover.

### **1.3 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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation and Code of Conduct*.

### **2.2 Evaluation Strategy**

A 10% trial trenching evaluation was required in the area of the playing fields (total area c.10,311m<sup>2</sup>) and a 5% evaluation was required within the Walled Garden (total area c.2766m<sup>2</sup>).

The area available in both locations was reduced by the presence of buried services. In the playing fields, water pipes, electricity cables and an IT cable greatly reduced the available area. Within the Walled Garden, an electricity cable ran through the northern part of the site. Fenced exclusion zones around these services were put in place for the duration of the fieldwork. All of these constraints are shown on Fig. 1.

Eleven trenches (Trenches 1-11), covering 938m<sup>2</sup> (9% of the area), were excavated in the playing fields and five trenches (Trenches 12-16) covering 140m<sup>2</sup> (5% of the area) were excavated in the Walled Garden (Fig. 1).

All 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 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. Before and after condition photos were taken.

### **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 2-4.

Eleven trenches (Fig. 1) were excavated within the playing fields (Fig. 3) to the south of the Walled Garden. Five trenches (Fig. 1) were excavated within the Walled Garden itself (Fig. 8).

No features of archaeological significance were identified. What may be the foundations of a path within the Walled Garden was recorded in Trench 13 and a stone-filled drain on the same alignment was recorded in Trenches 12 and 14. The full height of the garden wall was revealed in Trenches 13 and 14. A modern system of drains consisting of gravel fills over ceramic pipes was present in both areas. Earlier ceramic and rubble drains were also recorded.

#### **3.2 Evaluation, Playing Fields (Figs. 3-7)**

In the playing fields (Figs. 1, 3), a network of gravel and ceramic pipe drains date to 1972 when the playing fields were formed. Cut into made ground, these were removed to reveal the underlying layers.

Made ground varied in depth from 0.3m at the south-western corner of the area to 3.5m at the north-eastern corner. A patchy buried ploughsoil, still containing visible straw, was recorded under the made ground in the north-western half of the area. The made ground was waterlogged in places and the trench sides were often extremely unstable. No features other than field drains were recorded.

Examples of the trenches and the made ground within them are shown in Figs. 4-7.

#### **3.2 Evaluation, Walled Garden**

In the Walled Garden (Figs. 1, 8), a network of gravel and ceramic pipe drains underlay the parking area gravel surface. These cut the blaes which formed the surface of earlier sports pitches. These drains were not removed.

The blaes overlay around 0.6m of made ground which overlay a buried soil and, in Trench 13, a cobbled path foundation. Rubble-filled drains were recorded in Trenches 12 and 14. Figs. 9-10 show the above sequence of deposits in Trenches 12 and 15. The above sequence of deposits abutted the garden wall.

##### *Trench 12*

A quarried rubble filled drain (**1205**) was recorded at the same distance from the wall (Fig. 9 next to the ranging rod) as the identical drain (**1402**) in Trench 14 and the path foundation (**1302**) in Trench 13. A second drain, cut from a higher level (**1203**) was recorded against the garden wall. This was filled with smaller sandstone slabs and a cut wooden plank.

### *Trench 13*

In Trench 13, made ground (010) overlay a linear cobble feature (1302). This had a width of 1.4m (Fig. 11) and the feature was 0.8m below the current surface. Dark soil (007), with a depth of 0.2m, was recorded on either side of the cobbles and this may be allotment or garden soils.

At the south-eastern end of the trench, the stone base (1301) of the garden wall was revealed.

### *Trench 14*

In Trench 14, the stonework of the garden wall (1401) measured 1.35m in height, with 1.2m of this being below current ground level (Fig. 12). Above this, the brickwork had a height of 4.3m.

A quarried rubble filled drain (1402) was recorded at the same distance from the wall as the drain (1205) in Trench 12 and the path foundation (1302) in Trench 13.

## **4. CONCLUSIONS**

Sixteen trenches were excavated, eleven on the playing fields (938m<sup>2</sup>) and five in the Walled Garden (140m<sup>2</sup>).

No features of archaeological significance were identified. It is likely that the path shown on historic maps as running around the edge of the Walled Garden concentric with the wall equates to the cobble foundations recorded in Trench 13. It is also likely that these foundations overlie the drain that was recorded in Trenches 12 and 14.

Based on the results of the evaluation CFA recommend no further work be undertaken. However, it is understood that the final decision rests with CECAS 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 the City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record.

A summary statement of the results from this project will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 5). An online OASIS entry will also be completed.

## APPENDIX 1: Summary of Evaluation Trenches

Trench No.	Size (m)	Trench Depth min / max	Features
1	50 x 1.8	0.6m / 0.9m	Clay pipe and rubble field drains
2	50 x 1.8	0.7m / 1.5m	Clay pipe and rubble field drains
3	50 x 1.8	0.5m / 2.1m	Clay pipe and rubble field drains
4	50 x 1.8	0.5m / 2.1m	Clay pipe and rubble field drains
5	50 x 1.8	0.4m / 3.5m	Clay pipe and rubble field drains
6	50 x 1.8	0.5m / 2.1m	Clay pipe and rubble field drains
7	50 x 1.8	0.6m / 2.1m	Clay pipe and rubble field drains
8	50 x 1.8	0.4m / 2.3m	Clay pipe and rubble field drains
9	50 x 1.8	3.2m	Clay pipe and rubble field drains
10	50 x 1.8	0.3m / 2.1m	Clay pipe and rubble field drains
11	50 x 1.8	2.4m / 3.2m	Clay pipe and rubble field drains
12	50 x 1.8	1.25m	Rubble drains
13	50 x 1.8	1.1m	Rubble and cobble path foundation
14	50 x 1.8	1.1m	Rubble drain
15	50 x 1.8	1.5m	Clay pipe drains
16	50 x 1.8	1.4m	Clay pipe drains

## APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context	Fill of	Trench	Description
001		1-11	Grass and topsoil. Playing pitches.
002		1-11	Made ground. Mixed boulder clay
003		1-11	Natural subsoil. Yellow or grey boulder clay
004		12-16	Gravel. Parking area surface in Walled Garden
005		12-16	Blaes. Former football pitch surface under 004
006		13	Greenish-grey clay-silt
007		12-16	Grey-black soils under 010
008		12-16	Red-brown soils under 010
009		1-11	Buried ploughsoil under 002. Contains straw.
010		12-16	Made ground. Mixed boulder clay over 007, 008
1201		12	Garden wall. Same as 1301, 1401
1202	1203	12	Wooden plank. Possibly seals drain 1204
1203		12	Cut for possible drain alongside wall
1204	1204	12	Smaller sandstone chunks. Not the same as 1206, 1403
1205		12	Cut for drain. Same as 1402
1206	1205	12	Quarried sandstone chunks. Same as 1403
1301		13	Garden wall. Same as 1201, 1401
1302		13	Rounded cobbles. Path foundations or surface
1401		14	Garden wall. Same as 1201, 1301
1402		14	Cut for drain. Same as 1205
1403	1402	14	Quarried sandstone chunks. Same as 1206

### APPENDIX 3: Photographic Register

Photo No.	Contexts/Description	Taken From	Conditions
1-7	Pre-excavation views of the playing fields area	Various	Sun/Shade
8	Trench 1 general view	NW	Sun/Shade
9	Trench 2, general view	SE	Sun/Shade
10	Trench 2, soil profile including playing field drain	SW	Sun
11-12	Straw in buried ploughsoil 009	-	Sun
13	Trench 3, general view	NW	Sun/Shade
14-15	Trench 3, section at NW end	SW & NW	Sun/Shade
16	Trench 3 general view	SE	Sun/Shade
17	Trench 4, general view	SE	Overcast
18	Trench 4 collapsing section at NW end	NW	Overcast
19-24	Pre-excavation views of the Walled garden area	Various	Overcast
25-29	Working shots showing the fenced working area	Various	Overcast
30-34	Trench 5, collapse at NW end	NW	Overcast
35	Trench 5 general view	SE	Overcast
36	Trench 6 general view	SE	Overcast
37	Trench 6 trench profile at NW end	SE	Overcast
38-39	Trench 7 views of deep made ground at NW end of trench	ESE	Overcast
40	Trench gravel drains	S	Overcast
41-42	Trench 7 general view	SE & ESE	Overcast
43	Trench 7, quarried stone field drain	SE	Overcast
44	Trench 8, trench section at NW end	SW	Overcast
45	Trench 8 general view	NW	Overcast
46-47	Trench 8, clay-piped field drain bending around boulder	NE	Overcast
48	Trench 8 general view	SE	Overcast
49	Trench 9 trench section at SW end	NW	Overcast
50-51	Trench 9 collapsing trench sides	NE	Overcast
52	Heriot-Watt car parking notice	-	Overcast
53	Trench 10 general view	NW	Overcast
54	Trench 10 general view	SE	Overcast
55	Trench 11 collapsing trench sides	SE	Overcast
56-59	Walled Garden. Fences erected	Various	Overcast
60-62	Trench 12 drain 1203	NE & N	Overcast
63-64	Trench 12 general view	NW	Overcast
65-66	Trench 12 drain 1205 and trench section	NE & E	Overcast
67-68	Trench 14 general view	NW	Overcast
69-70	Trench 14, garden wall 1401	NW	Overcast
71	Trench 14 garden wall 1401 base showing roots growing under the wall from trees outside	NW	Overcast
72	Trench 14 drain 1402	NE	Overcast
73	Trench 14 general view	ESE	Overcast
74	Trench 14 general view	NNW	Overcast
75-76	Trench 13 path foundation 1302	NE	Overcast
77-78	Trench 13 general view		Overcast
79	Trench 13 path foundation 1302 plan view	NE	Overcast
80	Trench 13 path foundation 1302	ESE	Overcast
81-83	Trench 13 garden wall	NW	Overcast
84-85	Trench 15 general view	NE	Overcast
86	Trench 15 general view	SW	Overcast
87-88	Trench 15 trench section	SE & S	Sun/Shade
89-91	Trench 16 working shots	-	Overcast
92	Trench 15 general view	SW	Overcast
93-94	Trench 15 trench section. Same as 87-88, better light	SE & S	Overcast

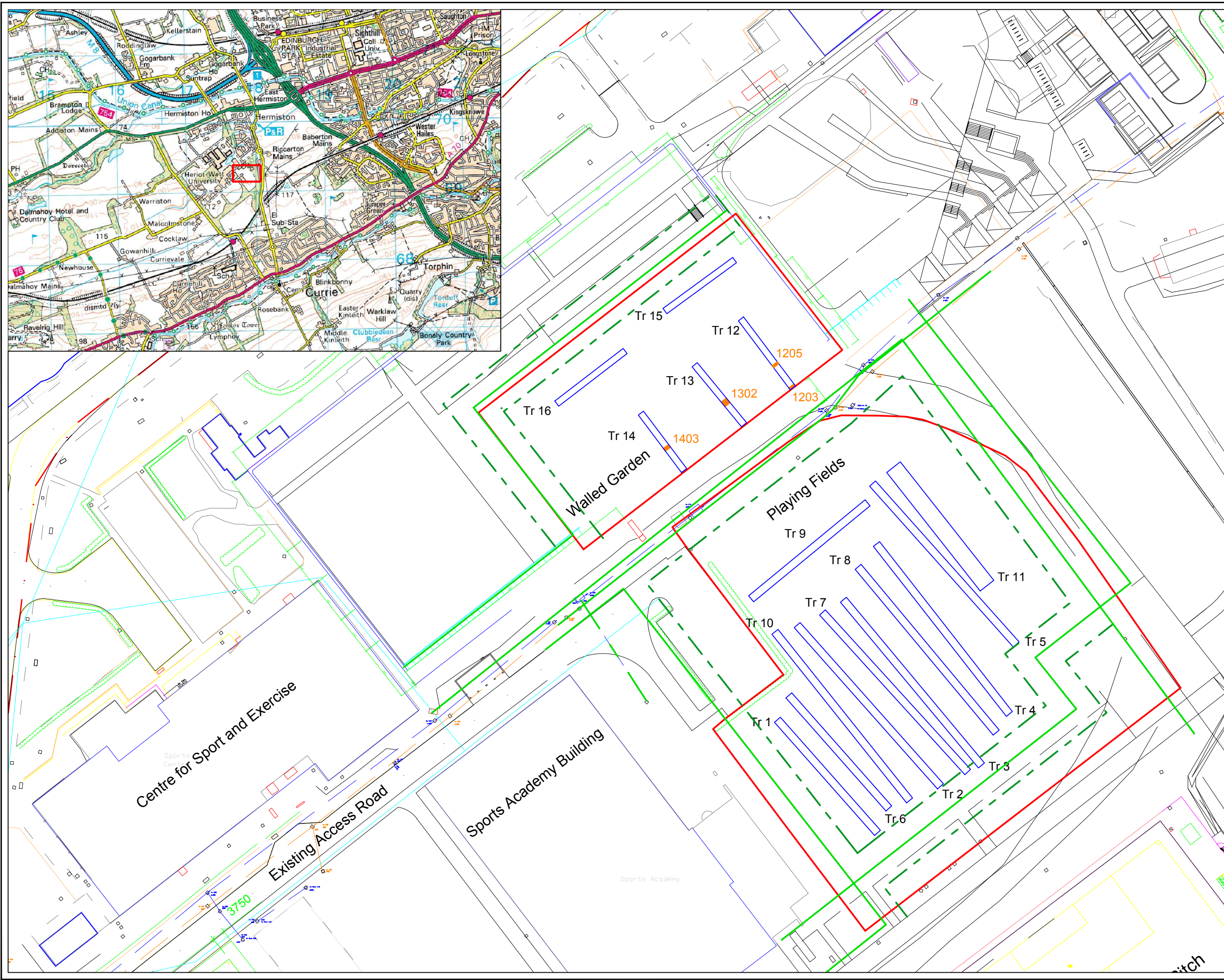
<b>Photo No.</b>	<b>Contexts/Description</b>	<b>Taken From</b>	<b>Conditions</b>
95-106	Playing field area. Post-excavation condition shots	Various	Bright
107	Trench 16 general view	SW	Sun/Shade
108	Trench 16 trench section, SW end	SE	Sun/Shade
109-110	Trench 16 general view	NE	Sun/Shade
111-121	Walled garden area. Post-excavation condition shots with the fence removed	Various	Overcast

#### **APPENDIX 4: Field Drawing Register**

<b>Drawing No.</b>	<b>Sheet No.</b>	<b>Description/Contexts</b>	<b>Section/Plan</b>	<b>Scale</b>
1	1	Trench 12 showing wall 1201 and drains 1203, 1206	Plan	1:40
2	1	Trench 12 NE facing section showing wall 1201 and drains 1203, 1206	Section	1:40
3	2	Trench 14 showing drain 1402	Plan	1:40
4	2	Trench 13 showing path foundations / surface 1302	Plan	1:40
5	2	Trench 13 NE facing section showing path foundations / surface 1302	Section	1:40

## APPENDIX 5: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	City of Edinburgh
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	National Performance Centre for Sports, Heriot-Watt University, Riccarton Mains Road, Edinburgh
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	HEWC2
<b>PARISH:</b>	Kirkliston
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Ian Suddaby
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NT16NE 57
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Walled Garden
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR</b>	NT 17773 69297
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	February 2015
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	February 2015
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An invasive evaluation took place prior to the construction of the National Performance Centre for Sports, at Heriot-Watt University, Riccarton Mains Road, Edinburgh. Sixteen trenches were excavated, eleven on the playing fields (938m <sup>2</sup> ) adjacent to the Hearts Training Ground and five in the Walled Garden (140m <sup>2</sup> ), once associated with Riccarton House. No features were recorded in the area of the playing fields. In the Walled Garden, a cobble foundation may equate to a path shown within the garden on historic maps. Other than a network of drains, no other features were recorded.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Heriot-Watt University
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record of Scotland (archive) City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record (report)

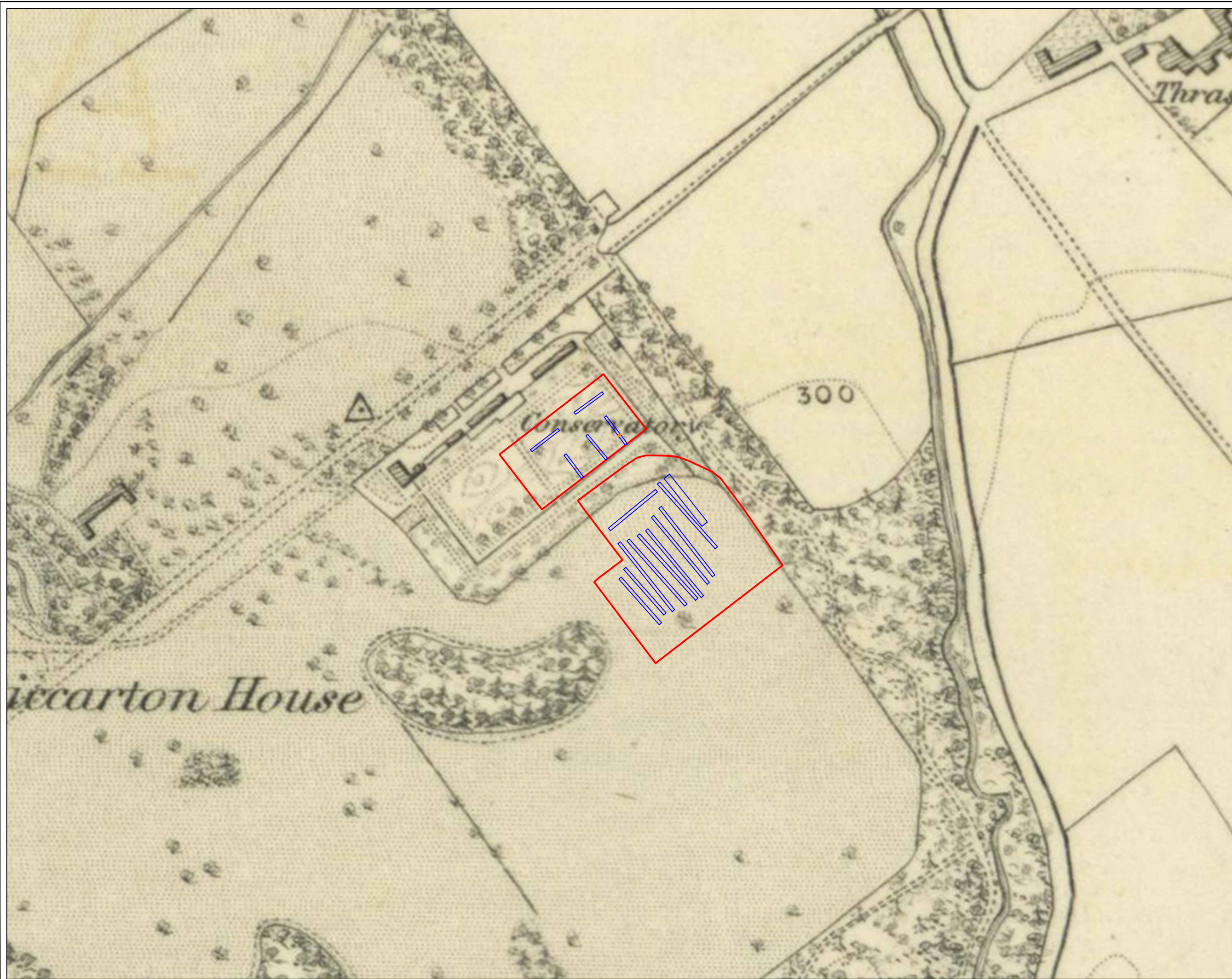


**Key:**

- Development Area
- Services
- Service Buffer
- Evaluation Trench
- Archaeological Feature

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Fig. No:	1	Report No:	3264
Title: Location map and trench plan			
Project: National Performance Centre for Sports, Heriot-Watt University, Riccarton Mains Road, Edinburgh			
Client: Heriot-Watt University			
Scale at A3: 1:800			
Drawn by:	Checked:	Date:	
SW	BG	18/02/2015	
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**Key:**

Development Area

Evaluation Trench

Archaeological Feature



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Fig. No:	2	Report No:	3264
Title: Extract from the OS First Edition map showing the development area and the Walled Garden			
Project: National Performance Centre for Sports, Heriot-Watt University, Riccarton Mains Road, Edinburgh			
Client: Heriot-Watt University			
Scale at A3: 1:2,000			
Drawn by:	Checked:	Date:	
SW	BG	18/02/2015	
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Fig 3 - General view of the playing fields from the south-east



Fig 4 - Trench 4, general view



Fig 5 - Trench 7, general view



Fig 6 - Trench 8, soil profile at north-west end



Fig 7 - Trench 9, collapsing sides



Fig 8 - General view of the Walled Garden



Fig 9 - Trench 12, general view



Fig 10 - Trench 15, trench section



Fig 11 - Trench 13, path foundations 1302



Fig 12 - Trench 14, garden wall 1401 below current ground level



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Title:	Fig. 9 - 12	Report: 3264	Drawn: SW	CKD: BG	Date: 18/02/15
Client:	Heriot-Watt University				
Project:	National Performance Centre for Sports, Heriot-Watt University, Riccarton Mains Road, Edinburgh				