

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Geophysical Survey*

**Easter Bush Campus,  
Bush, Midlothian.**

**Main Site Archaeological Evaluation**

**Report No. 3291**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of a pre-application archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in April 2015 within an available area of the Easter Bush Campus Development Masterplan, Bush, Midlothian (NGR: NT 2542 6396, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the University of Edinburgh.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 17 February 2015 was produced by CFA and agreed in advance by East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS), who act on behalf of Midlothian Council. The WSI covered the pre-application evaluation of areas of the Easter Bush Campus Development Masterplan. These were called the *Main Site* area and *Nursery* area in the WSI.

This evaluation covered an area of the Main Site that was available for evaluation. The remainder of the Main Site and the Nursery will be evaluated when they become available. Given the nature of the land use it is possible that this will happen in several phases as not all of the land can necessarily be made available at the same time. Reports on this work future will be provided under a separate cover.

### **1.2 Background**

The site of a consented Energy Centre (Reference: 14/00713/DPP) was recently evaluated (Suddaby 2015) within the campus area. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified.

There are a number of archaeological sites within around 1km of the Masterplan area. To the west of the site, a watching brief by CFA Archaeology on the Edinburgh Drinking Water pipeline (EEL693) uncovered a prehistoric cooking pit, a possible Roman shale bracelet and cultivation remains dating from both the pre and post-improvement periods. Around 500m to the east at Most Cottage are the remains of an upstanding rectangular earthwork (MEL8152) and a possible enclosure; a Roman coin and a flintstone axe have also been found in the area. There are further cropmark enclosures recorded from aerial photographs at Gowkley Moss (MEL8726) and New Milton (MEL8136); by form these are likely to be prehistoric in date.

### **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 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**

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations.

### **2.2 Archaeological Evaluation**

The total area available for evaluation was 49,100m<sup>2</sup> and the WSI anticipated that a 5% sample would be investigated, equating to 2,455m<sup>2</sup>. Twenty-eight trial trenches were excavated, covering 2,520m<sup>2</sup>.

All trenches were excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and any 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 were recorded using industry standard surveying equipment.

## **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

The evaluated area formed the majority of a large field (Fig. 1). The remainder of the same field was recently evaluated with the results being described in Suddaby 2015. The field was roughly level ground and was in grass at the time of the evaluation (Fig. 2). Shelter belt woodland bordered the area to the south and the north-east.

Examples of the excavated trenches are shown in Figs 3-5. Over the whole site, topsoil (**001**) with an average depth of between 0.4m and 0.5m overlay natural subsoil. The natural subsoil (**002**) was a light orange-brown sandy clay with some inclusions of shale and coal and patches of both orange clay and sandy gravel.

A linear ditch (**003**) (Figs. 1 & 6) was recorded in Trench 14. Aligned north-east to south-west, this feature had a width of 0.8m and a depth of 0.35m. It was filled with greyish-brown sandy silt (**004**). No finds were recovered.

In the remainder of the field no archaeological features or deposits were found in any of the trenches. Field drains with both clay pipes and rubble fills were recorded. No samples were taken and no artefacts were recovered. Descriptions of individual trenches are included in Appendix 1.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

The evaluation of part of the Main Site of the Easter Bush Campus Development Masterplan was successfully completed. A total of twenty-eight trenches covering 2520m<sup>2</sup> were excavated. A single linear ditch feature (**003**) was found. This is considered to probably be agricultural in origin and not of any archaeological significance.

No further work is recommended in this area in advance of any development proposals that may be brought forward for planning consent. However, it is understood that the final decision lies with ELCAS on behalf of Midlothian Council.

A summary statement covering the results of the evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* on completion of the evaluation of the remaining masterplan area.

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 East Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record.

#### **5. REFERENCES**

Suddaby 2015 Easter Bush Campus, Proposed Energy Centre, Bush, Midlothian. Archaeological Evaluation. Report No. 3283. Commissioned by University of Edinburgh

## APPENDIX 1: Summary of Evaluation Trenches

Trench No.	Size (m)	Depth of topsoil / subsoil	Description
12	1.8mx50m	0.5m at south-west end, 0.4m at centre, 0.5m at north-east.	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 2 ceramic pipe field drains and 2 rubble filled drains.
13	1.8mx50m	0.4m at south-west end, 0.4m in centre, 0.4m at north-east end	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 2 ceramic pipe field drain and 1 rubble filled drain.
14	1.8mx50m	0.4m at north-west end, 0.5m at centre, 0.4m at south-east end.	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002 - with one shallow linear ditch 003 filled by topsoil/natural mix 004. 1 ceramic pipe field drain.
15	1.8mx50m	0.5m throughout trench	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 1 ceramic pipe field drain and 1 rubble filled drain
16	1.8mx50m	0.4m at north-east end, 0.4m at centre, 0.45m at south-west end	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 1 ceramic pipe field drain.
17	1.8mx50m	0.5m throughout trench	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 1 rubble filled drain
18	1.8mx50m	0.4m throughout trench.	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 3 ceramic pipe field drains.
19	1.8mx50m	0.4m throughout trench.	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 3 ceramic pipe field drains.
20	1.8mx50m	0.5m at south-east end, 0.5m at centre, 0.6m at north-west end	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 3 ceramic pipe field drains, 1 rubble filled drain
21	1.8mx50m	0.5m throughout trench	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 4 ceramic pipe field drains
22	1.8mx50m	0.5m throughout trench	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 4 ceramic pipe field drains.
23	1.8mx50m	0.5m at south-west end, 0.4m at centre, 0.5m at north-east end.	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 4 ceramic pipe field drains, 2 rubble filled field drains.
24	1.8mx50m	0.4m at north-west end, 0.4m at centre, 0.5m at south-east end	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 4 ceramic pipe field drains, 1 rubble filled drain.
25	1.8mx50m	0.6m throughout trench	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 5 ceramic pipe field drains, 1 rubble filled drain
26	1.8mx50m	0.4m at south-west end, 0.5m in centre, 0.4m at north-east end	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 3 ceramic pipe field drains, 1 rubble filled drain.
27	1.8mx50m	0.5m throughout trench	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 2 ceramic pipe field drains.
28	1.8mx50m	0.5m at north end, 0.5m at centre, 0.4m at south end	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 6 ceramic pipe field drains, 2 rubble filled field drains.
29	1.8mx50m	0.5m throughout trench.	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 4 ceramic pipe field drains, 2 rubble filled field drains.
30	1.8mx50m	0.5m throughout trench	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 4 ceramic pipe field drains, 2 rubble filled field drains.
31	1.8mx50m	0.45m at south-west end, 0.5 at centre, 0.4m at north-east end	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 2 rubble filled field drains.
32	1.8mx50m	0.5m throughout trench.	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 4 ceramic pipe field drains
33	1.8mx50m	0.45m at south-west	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 6

		end, 0.45m at centre, 0.5m at north-east end	ceramic pipe field drains, 1 rubble filled drain.
34	1.8mx50m	0.5m throughout trench	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 5 ceramic pipe field drains, 1 rubble filled drain
35	1.8mx50m	0.5m throughout trench	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 5 ceramic pipe field drains.
36	1.8mx50m	0.4m at south-west end, 0.45m at centre, 0.5m at north-east end.	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 6 ceramic pipe field drains, 2 rubble filled field drains.
37	1.8mx50m	0.5m throughout trench	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 7 ceramic pipe field drains, 2 rubble filled drains.
38	1.8mx50m	0.5m throughout trench	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002. 4 ceramic pipe field drains, 1 rubble filled drain
39	1.8mx50m	0.4m at north end, 0.5m at centre, 0.5m at south end.	Topsoil 001 directly overlying natural 002.

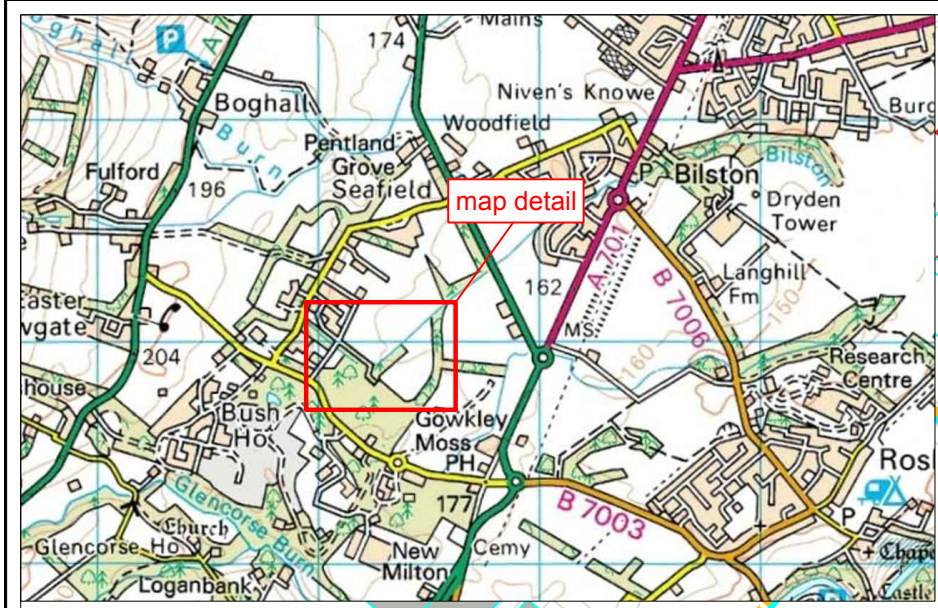
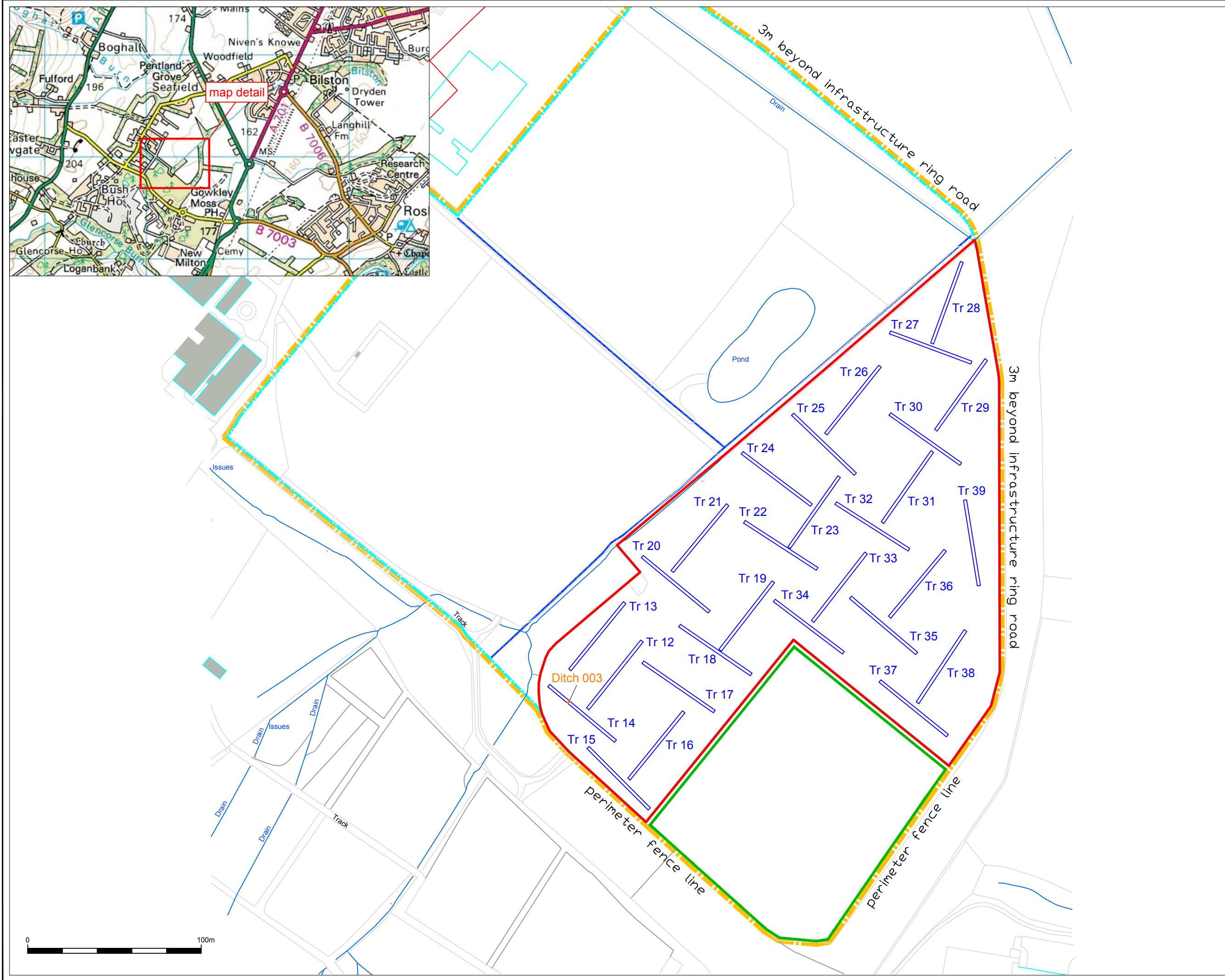
## APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context	Trench	Description
001	All	Topsoil
002	All	Natural subsoil. Light brown sandy clay with some coal and shale inclusions. Localised deposits of sand and gravel
003	14	Cut for shallow linear feature
004	14	Mixed topsoil/re-deposited natural fill of 003



### APPENDIX 3: Photographic Register

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	Trench 12 post-ex	SW	Bright
2	Trench 13 post-ex	NE	Bright
3	Trench 14 post-ex	SW	Bright
4	Section through linear/ditch 003 in trench 14	SW	Bright
5	Trench 15 post-ex	SE	Bright
6	Trench 16 post-ex	NE	Bright
7	Trench 17 post-ex	SE	Bright
8	Trench 18 post-ex	NW	Overcast
9	Trench 19 post-ex	NE	Overcast
10	Trench 20 post-ex	NW	Overcast
11	Trench 21 post-ex	SW	Overcast
12	Trench 21 drain	NE	Overcast
13	Trench 22 post-ex	NW	Bright
14	Trench 23 post-ex	SW	Bright
15	Trench 24 post-ex	NW	Bright
16	Trench 25 post-ex	SE	Bright
17	Trench 26 post-ex	NE	Bright
18	Trench 28 post-ex	S	Bright
19	Trench 29 post-ex	SW	Bright
20	Trench 30 post-ex	NW	Bright
21	Trench 31 post-ex	NE	Bright
22	Trench 32 post-ex	SE	Bright
23	Trench 33 post-ex	NE	Bright
24	Trench 34 post-ex	SE	Bright
25	Trench 35 post-ex	NW	Bright
26	Trench 36 post-ex	NE	Bright
27	Trench 37 post-ex	NW	Bright
28	Trench 38 post-ex	NE	Bright
29	Trench 39 post-ex	S	Bright



**Key:**

- Area 3
- Area previously evaluated (Suddaby 2015)
- Trench Location
- Possible Archaeological Feature

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Title:  
**Location plan and trench plan**

Project:  
**Easter Bush Campus, Bush, Midlothian. Main Site. Archaeological Evaluation**

Client:  
**University of Edinburgh**

Scale at A3:  
**1:2000**

Drawn by:	Checked:	Date:
SW	IS	28/04/2015

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Fig. 2 General view of the western side of the evaluation area pre-evaluation



Fig. 3 Trench 21 from the south-west



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	Client: University of Edinburgh				
Project: Easter Bush Campus, Bush, Midlothian. Main Site. Archaeological Evaluation					



Fig. 4 Trench 28 to the west



Fig. 5 Trench 32 from the north-west



Fig. 6 Trench 14, ditch 003 section from the south-west