

# 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*

**Land to the East of East Suffolk Road,  
Edinburgh**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**Report No. 3485**

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Commissioned by	Miller Homes
Planning Application No.	14/03632/FUL
Date issued	September 2016
Version	1
Oasis No.	cfaarcha1-264036
Grid Reference	NT 27178 71459

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 an archaeological evaluation carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in September 2016 ahead of a proposed housing development on land to the east of East Suffolk Road, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 27178 71459) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Miller Homes.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), dated 12 July 2016, was produced by CFA Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Miller Homes. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) on behalf of the planning authority.

### **1.2 Background**

The site currently consists of overgrown playing fields and contains the C-Listed Sports Pavilion (Ref. LB47605). The land is bounded to the west by East Suffolk Road, to the north by the Pow Burn and to the south by the Iqra Academy grounds.

The site was undeveloped farmland until 1895 when the land was leased to Craigmillar Park Golf Club, at which point it became a nine hole golf course. The Pavilion was built in the same year, designed by Alexander Lorne Campbell and was used as the clubhouse. When the golf club moved to another site in 1906 the land was sold to Edinburgh Northern Hockey Club which used the land for two pitches. The facilities were also used by various rugby clubs and the nearby St. Margaret's School.

The playing fields and Pavilion has not been in use since 2008. Currently, the playing fields have become overgrown and the Pavilion has suffered from vandalism.

A Level 3 historic building survey was completed on the Pavilion in August 2016, as per a WSI agreed with CECAS dated 21 June 2016. This was reported under separate cover (Cressey 2016) and the report formally agreed by CECAS.

### **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**

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods.

### **2.3 Evaluation**

The terms of the WSI required the excavation of 880m<sup>2</sup> (10% of the 8,800m<sup>2</sup> development area). A total of 18 trenches were excavated within the development area amounting to 906m<sup>2</sup>.

Two Scottish Water pipes run across the site from east to west and a 10m buffer zone was set up on either side of the two pipes. Therefore, a large area within the middle of the site was not trial trenched in order to avoid these services.

Topsoil and subsoil were removed by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a 2m wide, smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All the groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Any further excavations required to fulfil the objectives of the excavation were carried out by hand.

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

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

Trench positions were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment and all trenches were backfilled.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

#### 3.1 General

Numbers in bold refer to contexts, a full description of each can be found in Appendix 2 at the rear of this report. A full summary of each trench excavated is included in Appendix 3.

#### 3.2 Trial Trenching

The topsoil (**001**) across the site consisted of dark brown to greyish-brown silt and sandy silt, with the depth varying between 0.2m and 0.4m.

Subsoil (**002**), consisting of reddish-brown to orange-brown sandy silt or silty sand, was identified in the trenches located towards the southern fringe of the site (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11). However, the subsoil became shallower from south to north.

The deposits in the remainder of the trenches consisted of topsoil overlying re-deposited made ground (**003**). The re-deposited made ground generally consisted of bricks and rubble within a matrix of extremely compacted sandy silt, furnace ash and pockets of sandy clay. The re-deposited made ground contained glass, plastic, and 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The depth of the re-deposited made ground increased from south to north as well.

The natural (**000**) across the site mostly consisted of reddish to orange-brown sandy silt changing to more sandy clay towards the north of the site (Figs. 2-4). The natural was not identified in Trench 16-18 as extremely deep deposits of re-deposited made ground were encountered down to a depth of at least 3.8m as recorded in Trench 16. It was clear in the section of Trench 16 that the natural land formation sloped extremely sharply (c.45°) in a northerly direction down towards the Pow Burn (Fig. 5).

A number of NE-SW aligned rubble and clay pipe field drains were identified during trial trenching which were associated with the agricultural use of the land prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Modern plastic irrigation pipes were also encountered throughout the site.

Therefore, it appears that the land had originally sloped from south to north and was levelled to accommodate the playing fields.

No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified during the evaluation.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd, on behalf of Miller Homes, on land to the east of East Suffolk Road in Edinburgh ahead of a housing development.

No archaeologically significant remains were discovered. However, the final decision regarding any further mitigation lies with CECAS.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with Historic Environment Scotland and copies of reports will be lodged with the City of Edinburgh Sites and Monuments Record.

A summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 4) and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

#### **5. REFERENCES**

Cressey, M 2016 *East Suffolk Road Sports Pavilion. Historical Building Survey*. CFA Archaeology Ltd, Report No 3472.

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Number	Description	From
1	Post-ex of Trench 1	W
2	Post-ex of Trench 2	S
3	Post-ex of Trench 3	S
4	Post-ex of trench 4	S
5	Post-ex of Trench 5	S
6	Post-ex of Trench 6	NW
7	Post-ex of Trench 7	NW
8	Post-ex of Trench 8	NW
9	Post-ex of Trench 9	S
10	Post-ex of Trench 10	E
11	Post-ex of Trench 11	SE
12	Post-ex of Trench 12	SSW
13	Post-ex of Trench 13	SW
14	Post-ex of Trench 14	WSW
15	Post-ex of Trench 15	WSW
16	Trench 16, showing stratigraphy of made ground deposits	NE
17	Trench 16, showing angle of the re-deposited soil overlying the natural slope	SE
18	Trench 16 showing re-deposited soil	N
19	Trench 17, 1m depth, all made ground	ESE
20	Trench 18, 1m depth of made ground	ESE
21	Access point with concrete blocks replaced	W
22	Condition photo showing backfilled trenches	NW

## APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context no.	Description
000	Natural - reddish to orangey brown sandy silt changing to more sandy clay
001	Topsoil - varies from dark brown to greyish brown silt and sandy silt
002	Subsoil – varies from reddish brown to orangey brown sandy silt or silty sand
003	Re-deposited - bricks and rubble within a matrix of extremely compacted sandy silt, furnace ash and pockets of sandy clay

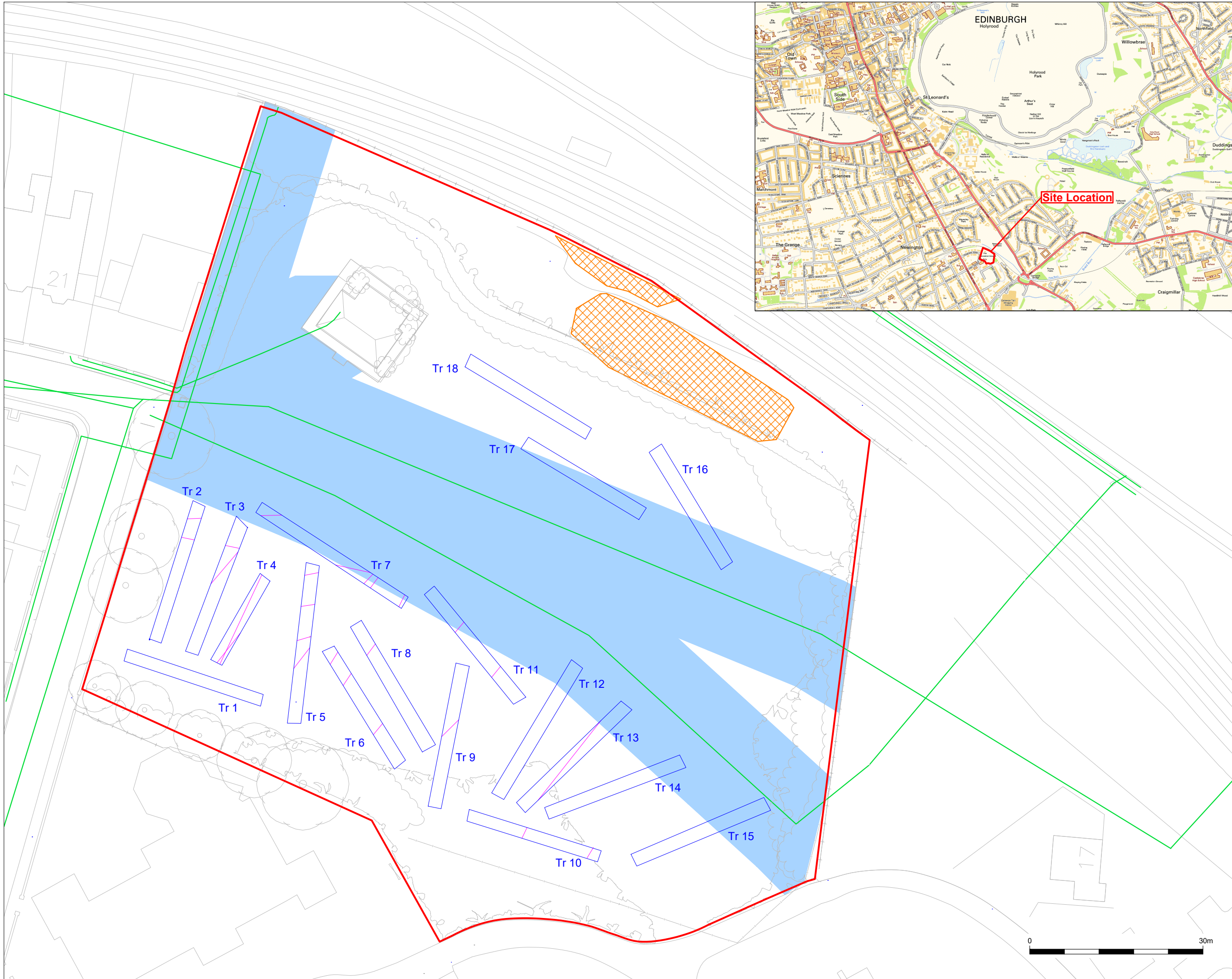


### Appendix 3 – Trench Descriptions

Trench	Dimensions	Depth of deposits	Features
1	25m x 2m	0.4m-0.6m	
2	25m x 2m	0.4m-0.6m	2 E-W rubble field drains
3	25m x 2m	0.4-0.6m	1 rubble field drain, 1 clay pipe field drain
4	18m x 2m	0.3m-0.45m	1 NE-SW clap pipe field drain
5	30m x 2m	0.35m-0.55m	1 NE-SW rubble field drain
6	25m x 2m	0.5m-0.6m	1 NE-SW rubble field drain, 1 NE-SW clay pipe field drain
7	30m x 2m	0.6m-0.7m	
8	25m x 2m	0.5m-0.55m	1 NE-SW field drain
9	25m x 2m	0.35m-0.55m	1 NE-SW field drain
10	25m x 2m	0.45m-0.6m	
11	25m x 2m	0.65m-0.75m	2 NE-SW field drains
12	25m x 2m	0.5m-0.9m	1 N-S field drain
13	25m x 2m	0.6m-1.0m	1 NNW-SSW field drain and 1 N-S modern service trench
14	25m x 2m	0.6m-1.0m	
15	25m x 2m	0.9m-1.0m	
16	25m x 2m	3.8m	
17	25m x 2m	>1m	
18	25m x 2m	>1m	

## Appendix 4 – Discovery & Excavation In Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	City of Edinburgh
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Land to the East of East Suffolk Road, Edinburgh
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	EASR
<b>PARISH:</b>	City of Edinburgh
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Gary Savory
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>RCAHMS Site No.</b>	-
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	-
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)</b>	NT 27178 71459
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	September 2016
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	September 2016
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological trial trenching evaluation was carried out at land to the east of East Suffolk Road in advance of a housing development. A total of 18 trenches amounting to 906m <sup>2</sup> (over 10% of the development area of 8,800m <sup>2</sup> ) were excavated. Only modern field drains and irrigation pipes were identified. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were discovered.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Miller Homes
<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 (intended/deposited)</b>	Historic Environment Scotland (archive) City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record (report)



- Key:**
- Site Boundary
  - Trench Location
  - Field Drain
  - Services
  - Japanese Knotweed Exclusion Zone
  - 10m Services Buffer Zone



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Title:  
**Trench layout and location plan**

Project:  
**Land to the East of East Suffolk Road, Edinburgh, Archaeological Evaluation**

Client:  
**Miller Homes**

Scale at A3:  
**1:600**

Drawn by: <b>MP</b>	Checked: <b>SW</b>	Date: <b>29/09/2016</b>
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Report No: <b>3485</b>	Fig. No: <b>1</b>
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Fig. 2 - Post-excitation shot of Trench 2



Fig. 3 - Post-excitation shot of Trench 8

Project:  
Land to the East of East Suffolk Road, Edinburgh, Archaeological Evaluation

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Report No: <b>3485</b>		Fig. No: <b>2-3</b>



Fig. 4 - Post-excavation shot of Trench 12



Fig. 5 - SE-facing section of Trench 16

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Report No: <b>3485</b>		Fig. No: <b>4-5</b>