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Loaning Road, Edinburgh

Archaeological Evaluation
Report No. 3595

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standard operating procedures.

**Loaning Road,
Edinburgh**

Archaeological Evaluation

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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 September 2017 for a proposed residential development on land at Loaning Road, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 28579 74682) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ryce Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 18 May 2016 covering this programme of works was produced by and approved by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

1.2 Background

When this evaluation was undertaken, the area consisted of a hardstanding plot which was formerly the site of a prefabricated annex to the adjacent school. Buried services were present around the four sides of the site; the space available for evaluation was therefore constrained.

CECAS identified that the site lay on the south side of Loaning Road and opposite the B-listed Craigentenny House. This historic house dated back to the 16th century and was developed from part of the historic settlement and estate of Restalrig centred upon the house and nearby medieval church. General Roy's 1750 Military survey showed the settlement of Restalrig as a small village running along Loaning Road probably as far as and including this application site. However by the 1st Edition OS survey the settlement had been cleared along Loaning Road towards the west, to form the formal grounds for Craigentenny House. CECAS therefore considered that groundbreaking associated with the development could reveal significant archaeological evidence for the development of the associated estates and settlements of Restalrig and Craigentenny dating back to the early medieval period. Accordingly it recommended that if consent was granted, that a programme of archaeological works was required. The first phase of this was the evaluation which is reported on under this cover.

1.3 Objectives

The aims and objectives of the archaeological work 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 as necessary.

2.2 Evaluation

Three trenches (Trench 1 to Trench 3) (Fig. 1) were excavated with a total combined area of 64.8m². This was greater than the agreed 10% sample

Tarmac surfaces and overburden were removed by a back-acting excavator equipped with a hydraulic breaker and a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

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

Trench 1 (Fig 2)

This trench measured 13m x 1.8m and was aligned NW-SE. The total trench depth to natural was 1.5m, with deep deposits of made ground recorded below the tarmac and overlying the natural substrate of green-grey smooth clay with occasional stones and boulders.

The surface tarmac (001) covered a modern brick manhole and concrete foundations. The modern brick manhole, (008) was partially demolished with modern deposits including plastics filling the actual hole. The modern concrete foundations, (009), were 0.5m wide by 0.3m deep and cut in to made ground (003).

Modern services (006 & 007) were identified at the northwestern end of the trench.

The made ground consisted of five different deposits, the upper deposit, (003) consisted of dark grey silt, below this was, (004) a light yellow sandy clay lens. The deposit below was primarily black ash (002). The lowest deposit, (005) was a black gritty ash deposit.

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.

Trench 2 (Fig 3)

This trench measured 13m x 1.6m and was aligned NW-SE. The total trench depth to natural was 1.6m, with deep deposits of made ground recorded below the tarmac and overlying the natural substrate of green-grey smooth clay with occasional stones and boulders.

The surface tarmac (001) covered modern concrete foundations, (016, 017 & 019) which were 0.5m wide by 0.3m deep and cut in to made ground (011).

A modern service (018) was identified at the northwestern end of the trench. This appeared to be a continuation of 007 in Trench 1.

The made ground consisted of three deposits. The upper deposit was dark silty clay, (011). Below this was sandy clay (012). Below this was (014) which only appeared in the southern end of the trench, this was a black gritty ash. Below this was (013) which was a peaty silt. This may have been buried topsoil material from before the ground surface was built up

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.

Trench 3 (Fig 4)

This trench measured 14.5m x 1.6m and was aligned NW-SE. The total trench depth to natural was 1.5m, with deep deposits of made ground recorded below the tarmac and overlying the natural substrate of green-grey smooth clay with occasional stones and boulders.

A modern service (027) was identified at the southeastern end of the trench and a brick surface (021) was identified at the northwestern end of the trench. The brick surface was a single course of bricks deep. It overlay a layer of rubble, (022).

The made ground consisted of three deposits (Fig 5). The upper deposit was a dark grey silty sand, (023). This overlay, (024), a light yellowish brown sandy clay. A black gritty ash deposit (025) lay below this. Below the made ground was (026) which was a dark grey silt this may have been buried topsoil material from before the ground surface was built up.

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.

4. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological trial trenching evaluation was carried out in advance of a residential development on Loaning Road, Edinburgh. The services and manhole that were identified were modern and most probably related to the recent development of the site (prefabricated school building). The concrete foundations were also recent and of no archaeological significance.

No features, deposits, or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified.

On this basis of the archaeological work, CFA does not recommend any further work in relation to this project. However, the final decision regarding any mitigation lies with City of Edinburgh Council as advised by their Archaeology Service.

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

A summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Photo Number	Contexts/Description	Taken From
1	Site pre-exc	N
2	Site pre-exc	S
3	Trench 1 working shot	NW
4	Trench 1	NW
5	Trench 1, detail of 009	NW
6	Trench 1, detail of 008	SW
7	Trench 1, soil profile	S
8	Trench 1	SE
9	Trench 2	NW
10	Trench 2	SE
11	Trench 2 soil profile	NE
12	Trench 2	NE
13	Trench 3, 021	NW
14	Trench 3, 025 and 026	NW
15	Trench 3 soil profile	NE
16	Trench 3 soil profile	NE
17	Trench 3	N
18	Trench 3	SE
19	Site, post-exc	W
20	Secured gate	-

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

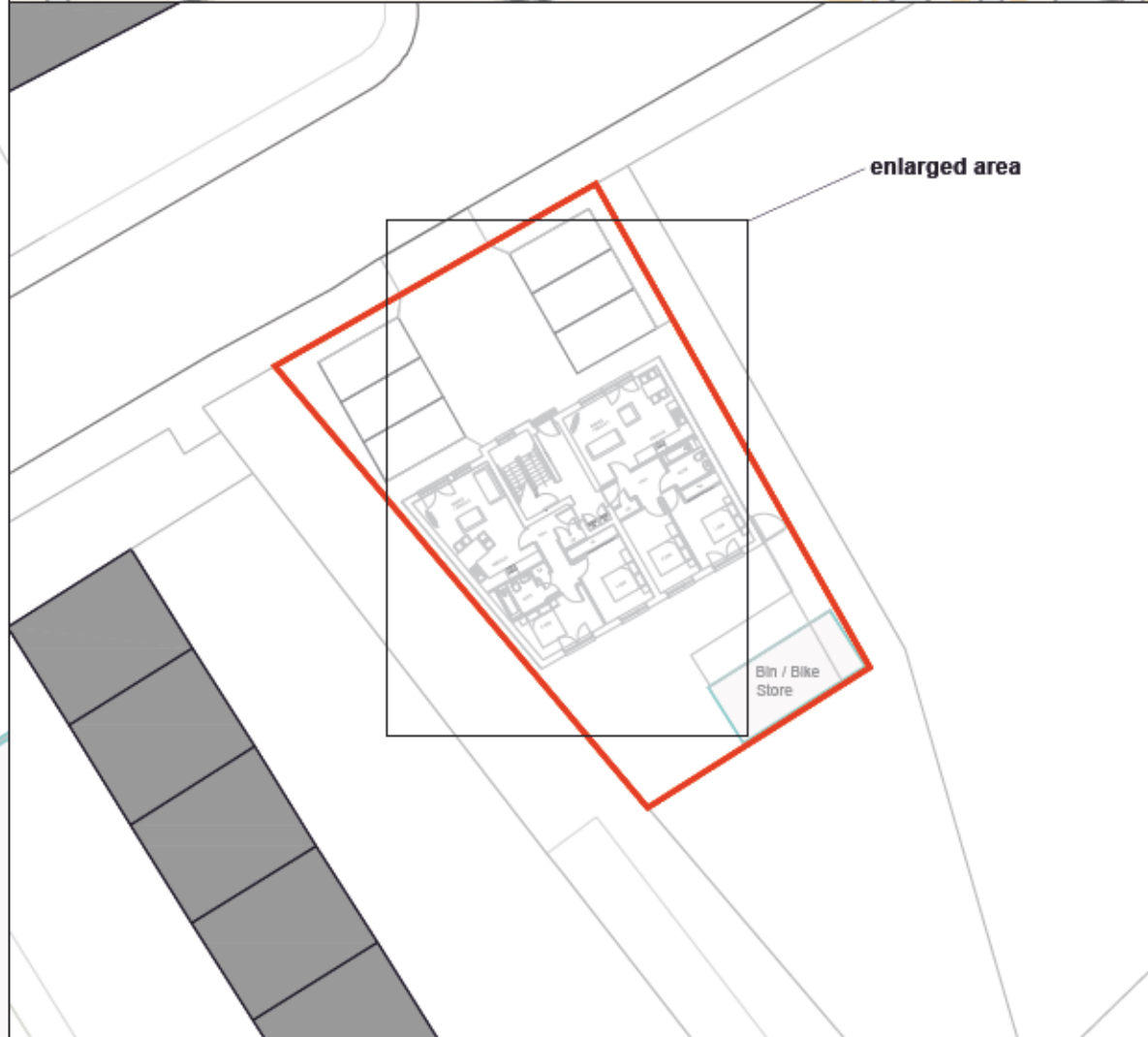
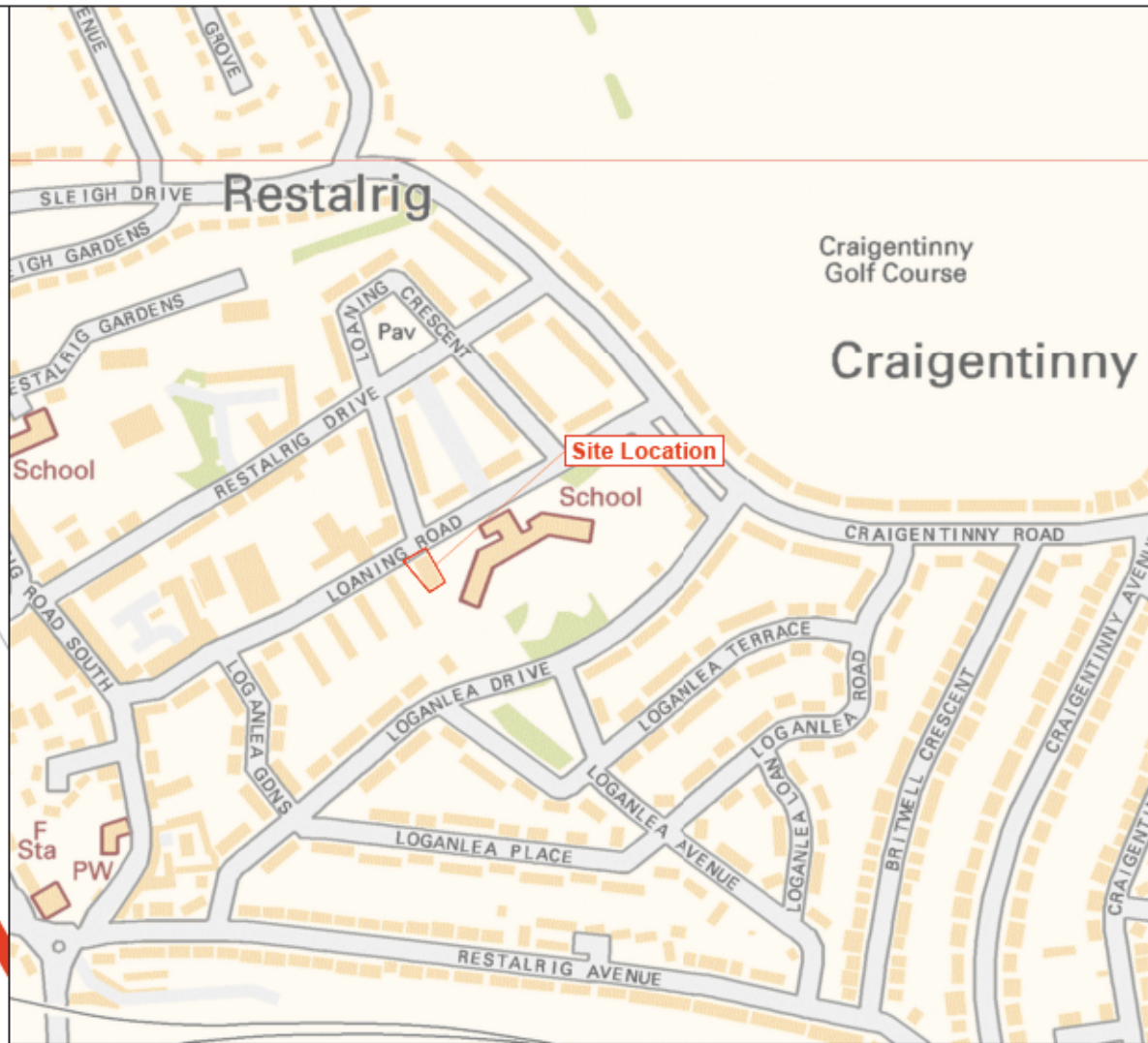
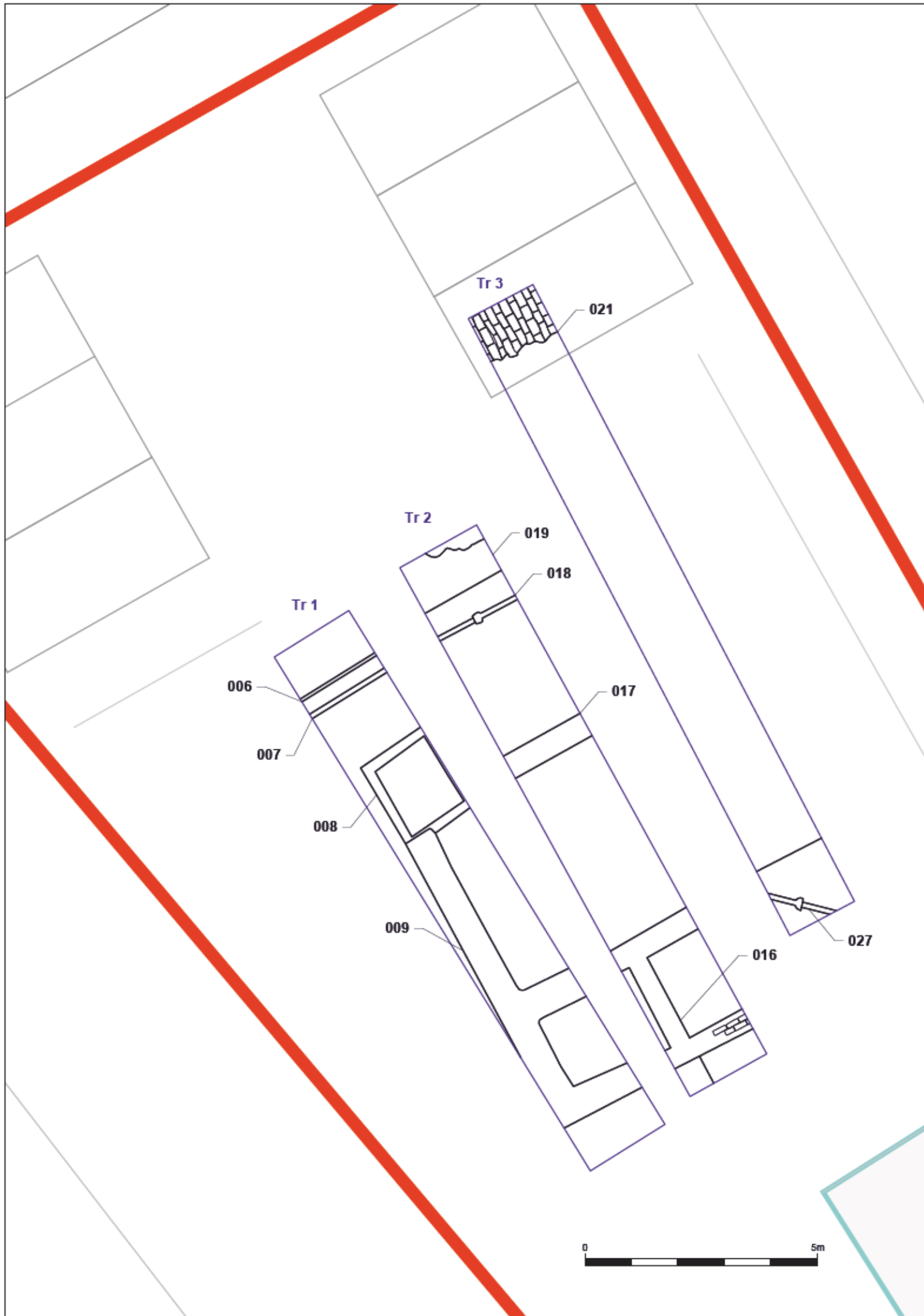
Context Number	Fill of	Trench	Description
000		All	Natural
001		All	Tarmac surface
002		1	Black ash, made ground
003		1	Dark grey silt, made ground
004		1	Yellow sand clay made ground
005		1	Black gritty ash made ground
006		1	Clay drain
007		1	Sewer pipe
008		1	Brick manhole
009		1	Concrete foundation
010		1	Dark silt/blaes/rubble made ground
011		2	Dark silt/clay made ground
012		2	Sand/clay made ground
013		2	Dark silt, buried topsoil?
014		2	Black gritty ash made ground
015		2	Clay drain
016		2	Concrete foundation
017		2	Concrete foundation
018		2	Sewer pipe
019		2	Concrete foundation
020		2	Blaes/rubble possible fill of cut for drain 018
021		3	Brick surface
022		3	Blaes/rubble made ground
023		3	Dark silt made ground
024		3	Sandy clay made ground
025		3	Black gritty ash lenses
026		3	Dark silt, buried topsoil?
027		3	Sewer pipe
028		3	Clay drain

APPENDIX 3: Drawings Register

Drawing No.	Description	Plan/Section	Scale
1	Trench 1	P	1:50
2	Trench 1	S	1:50
3	Trench 2	P	1:50
4	Trench 2	S	1:50
5	Trench 3	P	1:50
6	Trench 3	S	1:50

APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Loaning Road, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	LOAR
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Melanie Johnson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 8 figures)	NT 2857 7468
START DATE (this season)	September 2017
END DATE (this season)	September 2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	CECAS considered that groundbreaking associated with the development of the site could reveal significant archaeological evidence for the development of the estates and settlements of Restalrig and Craigentimmy, potentially dating back to the early medieval period. Therefore an archaeological trial trenching evaluation was carried out in advance of development. Three trenches were excavated across the footprint of the development. No features, deposits, or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Ryce Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited with NRHE, Reports lodged with SMR.



Key:

- Site Boundary
- Trench Outline

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Title:
Location map and trench plan

Project:
Loaning Road, Edinburgh

Client:
Ryce LTD

Scale at A3:
main inset: 1:100

Drawn by: MP	Checked: SW	Date: 04/10/2017
Report No: 3595	Fig. No: 1	



Fig. 2 - General View of Trench 1, showing foundations 009



Fig. 3 - General View of Trench 2, showing foundations 016, 017 and 019

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Loaning Road, Edinburgh



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Drawn by:	Checked:	Date:
MP	SW	29/09/17
Report No:	Fig. No:	
3595	2-3	



Fig. 4 - General View of Trench 3

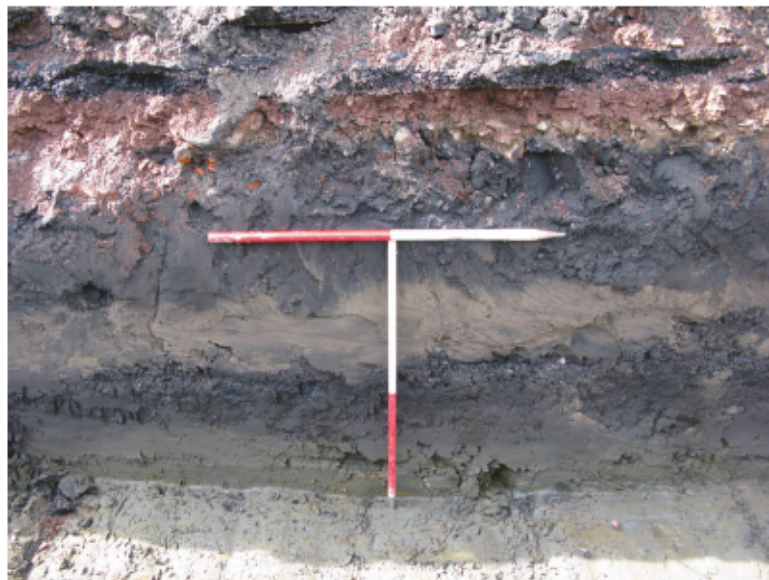


Fig. 5 - Section View of Trench 3, showing made ground

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Report No: 3595		Fig. No: 4-5



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