



# CFA ARCHAEOLOGY

Professional cultural heritage consultants - branches nationwide  
enquiries@cfa-archaeology.co.uk



CAPABILITY  
FLEXIBILITY  
ASSURANCE

## Former Tesco Store and Adjacent Land, Mall Avenue, Musselburgh East Lothian

Archaeological Evaluation  
Report No. 3809

Author:  
Magnus Kirby MA FSA (Scot) ACIfA



## **CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

The Old Engine House  
Eskmills Business Park  
Musselburgh  
East Lothian  
EH21 7PQ

Tel: 0131 273 4380  
Fax: 0131 273 4381  
email: [info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk)  
web: [www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk](http://www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk)

Authors	Magnus Kirby MA FSA Scot ACIfA
Illustrators	Marta Perlińska MA PCIfA
Approver	Bruce Glendinning Bsc PgDip MCIfA
Commissioned by	Dundas Estates and Developments Co. Ltd
Date issued	October 2018
Version	1
Oasis No.	cfaarcha1-331552
Planning Application No	16/01029/AMM
Grid Ref	NT 34220 72490

This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd  
Quality Procedures.

**Former Tesco Store and Adjacent Land  
Mall Avenue, Musselburgh  
East Lothian**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**Report No. 3809**

## CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	4
3.	Archaeological Results	5
4.	Conclusions	6

## Appendices

1.	Photographic Register	7
2.	Context Register	8
3.	Drawings Register	8
4.	Summary Trench Records	8
5.	DES Entry	10

## Illustrations (bound at rear)

- Fig. 1 Location map and site plan
- Fig. 2 General shot of development area from east
- Fig. 3 Trench 2, general shot
- Fig. 4 Trench 4, general shot
- Fig. 5 Trench 6, general shot
- Fig. 6 Trench 8, general shot
- Fig. 7 Trench 11, general shot
- Fig. 8 Trench 2, NE-facing section
- Fig. 9 Trench 8, SW-facing section
- Fig. 10 Trench 8, linear features 006 and 008

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in September and October 2018 for the development of residential flats at the Former Tesco Store and Adjacent Land, Mall Avenue, Musselburgh, East Lothian (NGR: NT 34220 72490) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Dundas Estates and Developments Co. Ltd (Dundas).

A Method Statement (MS) dated 19 September 2018 was produced by CFA on behalf of Dundas. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS) and was agreed by ELCAS in advance of works.

## 1.2 Background

The application for the construction of a proposed flatted development (06/00770/OUT) was approved in principle, with conditions. This application (16/01029/AMM) was submitted in response to matters raised. This application was granted permission subject to the conditions of the planning permission in principle.

The archaeological condition was required because this area of Musselburgh contained a significant concentration of Roman remains centred around Inveresk Roman Fort and Vicus (Site No. NT37SW 8). Recent work on the site of the Musselburgh Primary Care Centre to the south of the development area identified archaeological remains (Site No. NT37SW 1195) dating from the Mesolithic through to the Roman period. These remains consisted of burials from the Iron Age and Roman periods along with a Roman period field system, midden material, a cobbled surface, a large quantity of Roman period bone and pottery and a significant Mesolithic flint scatter.

The site was a brownfield site having once been occupied by the Brunton Wire Works, then more recently by a superstore development which had since been demolished. However, it was considered that the site retained good archaeological potential. Previous evaluation on the site was undertaken in 1993, precise details of this intervention were not available, but it was thought that it took place within the footprint of the area affected by the former supermarket building. What were described as Medieval deposits which were likely agriculturally derived and indicating evidence of backlot activity were identified. These were dated by artefactual evidence as being 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century in date. An earlier intervention took place in 1985, when construction work within one of Brunton Wirework buildings uncovered what was interpreted as evidence of Roman burials. However, conditions at the time were far from perfect which hampered positive identification. A collection of human bone, from a single individual, a range of animal bone, some of which showed signs of butchery and fifteen sherds of 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD ceramics were recovered. Additionally, in the section of the trench, five U-shaped cuts were observed cutting in to a deposit of Brown sand. These were interpreted as possible grave cuts.



When this trial trenching evaluation was undertaken in September and October 2018, the site was the hard landscaped former parking lot for the supermarket. The natural regeneration of plant species since the closure of the former Tesco store meant that some areas were considerably overgrown (Fig.2). A water main along the north-eastern edge of the site meant that this part of the area was not available for trial trenching. The area of the former Tesco filling station was also avoided as the ground had been heavily disturbed by the removal of the fuel tanks.

### **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 as necessary.

### **2.2 Evaluation**

Eleven trenches (Tr1-11, Fig. 1) were excavated with a total combined area of c.834m<sup>2</sup>. (c.10% of the 8300 m<sup>2</sup> site).

Modern overburden was removed by a 360° 13 ton mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.8m wide smooth-bladed ditching bucket. Due to the depth of the deposits, all of the trenches had to be stepped in order to reduce the chance of section collapse. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by 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 at the end of each working day.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

#### 3.1 General

Numbers in bold refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 2. .

#### 3.2 Trial Trenching

Trial trenches (Figs.3-7) excavated across the proposed development ranged from 1.65m - 2.7m in depth. The deposits from the top downwards consisted of 0.1-0.15m of either tarmac or setts (**001**), 0.35m of modern Type 1 hardcore (**002**), and 1.2-2.2m of made-ground (**003** and **004**) which directly overlay orange or orangey-beige natural sands and gravels (Figs.8 and 9). The deeper made-ground deposits occurred at the northern end of the site, where the base of the trenches filled with water (Figs. 5 and 9). Flooding occurred within all parts of the trenches with a depth of >c.2m indicating that this was the level of the ground-water. Consequently, a greater number of trenches were concentrated towards the southern end of the site where it was considered that the archaeological potential was higher.

Almost all of the features uncovered were associated with the Brunton Wireworks and consisted of service pipes, creosote soaked timber sleeper beams, concrete foundations and surfaces, and brick walls. The concrete surfaces occurred at a depth of c. 1m below the current ground surface, overlying made-ground deposit **004**, but overlain by made-ground **003**. Similarly, many of the service pipes had been cut through deposit **004**, but the cuts were overlain by made-ground **003**. Based on these observations it is considered that **004** was a levelling deposit associated with the construction of the wireworks buildings, whereas **003** was a capping deposit introduced post-demolition of the wireworks in order to further level the site for the construction of the supermarket. The presence of made ground right down to the level of the natural suggests that the site had been stripped and the area levelled prior to the construction of the wireworks, potentially removing any earlier features which may otherwise have survived.

At the south-eastern end of Trench 8, two shallow parallel linear features (**006** and **008**) were identified (Fig.10). These features were ENE to WSW aligned, measured 0.5m in width, had depths of 0.09 and 0.06m respectively, and had fills (**007** and **009**) consisting of greyish-brown gravely silty-sand. They were directly overlain by later made-ground deposit **003**, with earlier made-ground deposit **004** not being present within this location. There was no finds recovered from these features meaning that their date and function are unknown, and they did not continue into the adjacent trenches.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological trial trenching evaluation was carried out in advance of the development of residential flats at the Former Tesco Store and Adjacent Land, Mall Avenue, Musselburgh. The proposed development lies within the area formerly occupied by mid 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings associated with the Brunton Wireworks.

Although this area was considered to be one of reasonable archaeological potential the evidence from this evaluation would suggest that significant disturbance at least to the level of the natural had taken place across the development area prior to the construction of the wireworks. If any archaeological remains had been present they would have potentially been destroyed by this earlier phase of construction. A number of features associated with the wireworks were identified (drainage pipes, creosote soaked timber sleeper beams, brick walls, concrete foundations etc). The only other features were two shallow parallel linear features of undetermined date and function. No evidence for the type of deposit identified in the 1985 intervention was identified; all the deposits identified were recent. It is considered that the intervention in 1993 that identified Medieval deposits must have been restricted to the store site which was immediately to the south of this site as nothing of that nature was identified either.

CFA does not recommended any further mitigation measures in relation to this development. However, it is understood that the final decision regarding mitigation lies with East Lothian Council as advised by ELCAS.

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 East Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record.

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

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Facing
1	Location of trench 1, pre-excavation	NW
2	Trench 1, general shot	SE
3	Trench 1, SW facing section	NE
4	Trench 1, pit 105 containing barrel	NW
5	Trench 2, general shot	SE
6	Trench 2, NE facing section	SW
7	Trench 2, concrete structure associated with wire works	NW
8	Trench 2, general shot	NW
9	Trench 3, general shot	NW
10	Trench 3, SW facing section	NE
11	Trench 3, general shot	NW
12	Trench 4, general shot	SE
13	Trench 4, general shot	NW
14	Trench 4, brick structure	NW
15	Trench 4, SW facing section	NE
16	Trench 5, general shot	NE
17	Trench 5, general shot	SW
18	Trench 5, NW facing section	SE
19	Trench 5, NW facing section, showing brick building	SE
20	Trench 5, SE facing section showing ceramic pipe	NW
21	Trench 6, general shot	NW
22	Trench 6, NE facing section of the SE end of the trench	SW
23	Trench 6, NE facing section of the mid area of the trench	SW
24	Trench 6, NE facing section of the mid area of the trench	SW
25	Trench 6, general shot	SE
26	Trench 7, general shot	SE
27	Trench 7, NW facing section at the NE end of the trench	SW
28	Trench 7, general shot	NW
29	Trench 7, SW facing section at the SE end of the trench	NE
30	Trench 7, SW facing section at the centre of the trench	NE
31	Trench 8, general shot	NW
32	Trench 8, linear features	E
33	Trench 8, SW facing section at the SE end of the trench	NE
34	Trench 8, general shot	SE
35	Trench 8, SW facing section at the NW end of the trench	NE
36	Trench 8, linear W facing section	E
37	Trench 8, linear W facing section	E
38	Trench 9, general shot	NW
39	Trench 9, SW facing section at the SE end of the trench	NE
40	Trench 9, general shot	SE
41	Trench 9, NE facing section at the NW end of the trench	SW
42	Trench 10, general shot	NW
43	Trench 10, SW facing section at the SE end of the trench	NE
44	Trench 10, SW facing section at the NW end of the trench	NE
45	Trench 10, general shot	SE
46	Trench 11, general shot	NW
47	Trench 11, NE facing section at the SE end of the trench	SW
48	Trench 11, SW facing section at the NW end	NE

49	Trench 11, general shot	SE
----	-------------------------	----

## APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context no.	Fill of	Type	Description
001	N/A	Modern Surface	Tarmac and modern setts associated with former Tesco car park
002	N/A	Modern levelling deposit	Modern type 1 associated with former Tesco car park
003	N/A	Made-ground	Mixed mottled sandy-silt made ground. Post demolition capping deposit post dating wireworks
004	N/A	Made-ground	Clayey silt made ground associated with the construction of the former Brunton Wireworks
005	N/A	Natural	Sand and gravel natural. Very hard in places with evidence of iron panning
006	N/A	Cut	Cut of linear feature in Trench 8
007	006	Fill	Greyish-brown gravely silty-sand
008	N/A	Cut	Cut of linear feature in Trench 8
009	008	Fill	Greyish-brown gravely silty-sand

## APPENDIX 3: Drawings Register

Dwg No.	Sheet No.	Scale	Plan / Section	Description/contexts
1	1	1:20	Plan	Plan of linear features 006 and 008 within Trench 8
2	1	1:10	Section	Linear 006, W-facing section
3	1	1:10	Section	Linear 008, W-facing section

## APPENDIX 4: Summary Trench Records

Trench	Size (m)	Total Depth (m)	Depth of 003 (m)	Depth of 004 (m)	Features
1	24 x 1.8	2m	1.35	N/A	Concrete surface, remains of wooden barrel
2	34 x 1.8	1.9-1.7	0.7-1	0.3-0.4	Concrete surfaces associated with wireworks
3	28 x 1.8	2.2-2.6	1.2-1.6	0.4	Services associated with wireworks
4	42 x 1.8	2-2.2	0.9-1.1	0.5	Concrete and brick structures associated with wireworks
5	60 x 2.5	1.6-1.9	0-1.4	0-1.1	Concrete and brick structure and service pipes associated with wireworks
6	68 x 1.8	2-2.5	1.1-1.5	0-0.9	Brick walls and service pipes associated with wireworks
7	45 x 1.8	2.7	1.7-2.2	0-0.5	N/A
8	29 x 1.8	1.8-2.5	1.3-2	N/A	Two parallel linear features, brick structure and services associated with wireworks
9	40 x 1.8	1.8-2.3	1.35-1.85	N/A	Brick walls and surfaces associated with wireworks
10	40 x 1.8	1.7-1.9	0.7-0.9	0.5	Concrete surfaces, foundations and plinths, brick wall, wooden sleeper beams

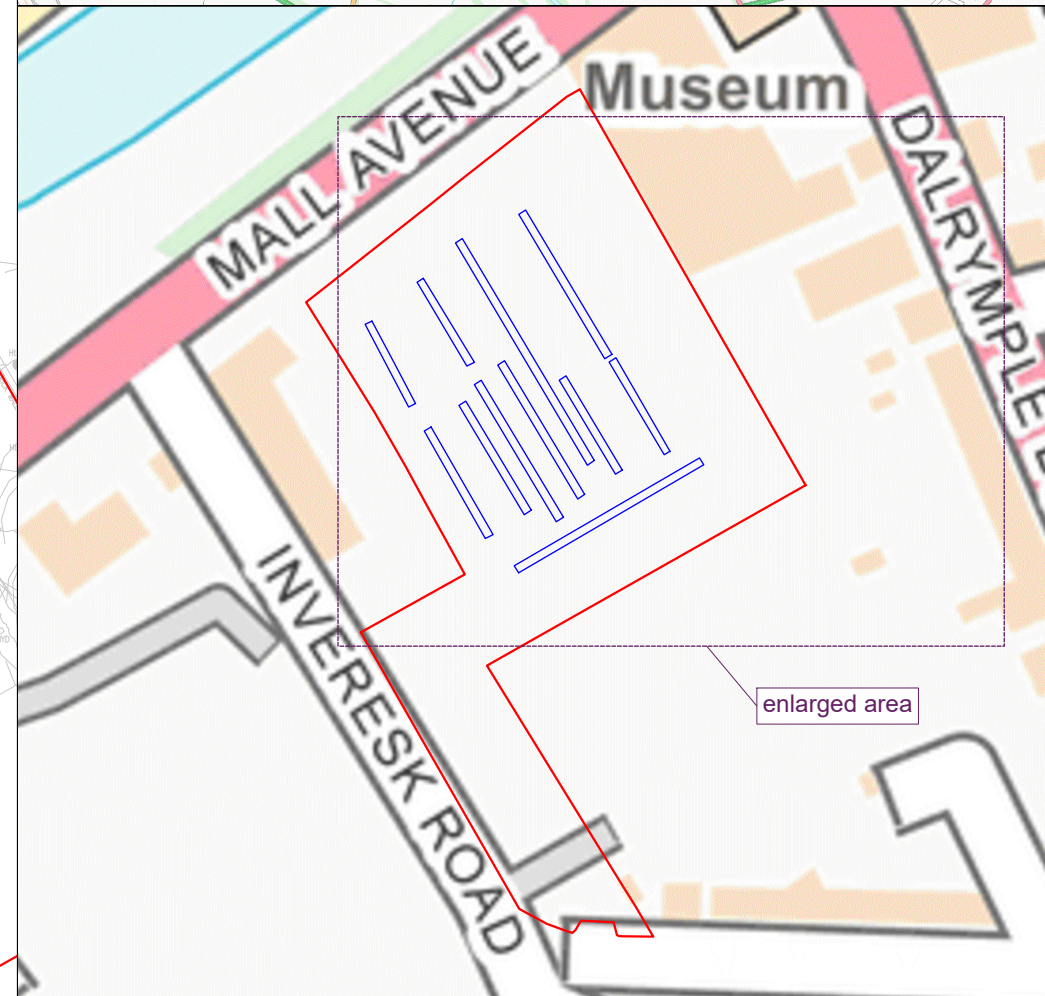
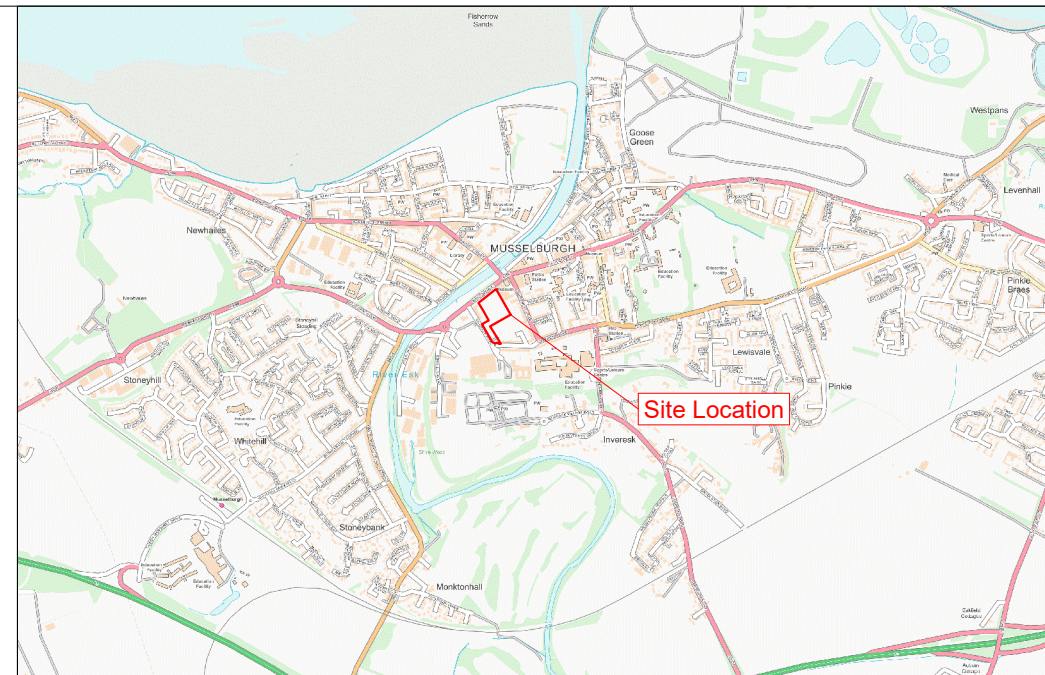


<b>Trench</b>	<b>Size (m)</b>	<b>Total Depth (m)</b>	<b>Depth of 003 (m)</b>	<b>Depth of 004 (m)</b>	<b>Features</b>
11	30 x 1.8	1.65-1.9	1.2->1.45	N/A	Services associated with wireworks

## APPENDIX 5: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	East Lothian Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Former Tesco Store and Adjacent Land, Mall Avenue, Musselburgh, East Lothian
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	FOTE
<b>PARISH:</b>	Inveresk
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Magnus Kirby
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd,
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Trial Trenching Evaluation
<b>NHRE NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 34220 72490
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	September 2018
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	October 2018
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological trial trenching evaluation was carried out in advance of the development of residential flats at the Former Tesco Store site, Mall Avenue. Musselburgh.</p> <p>Previous work on the site had apparently identified potential roman burials and medieval deposits. However, the evidence from this evaluation would suggest that significant disturbance at least to the level of the natural had taken place prior to the construction of the wireworks. If any archaeological remains had been present they would have potentially been destroyed by this earlier phase of construction. A number of features associated with the wireworks were identified (drainage pipes, creosote soaked timber sleeper beams, brick walls, concrete foundations etc). The only other features were two shallow parallel linear features of undetermined date and function.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Dundas Estates and Developments Co. Ltd
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Old Engine House, Eskmills Business Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Report Lodged with East Lothian Council SMR. NHRE intended archive





**Key:**

- Site Boundary
- Trench Outline
- Excavated Feature



Reproduced with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright. CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh EH21 7PQ AL100034785

**CFA** ARCHAEOLOGY LTD  
 The Old Engine House  
 Eskmills Park  
 Musselburgh  
 East Lothian, EH21 7PQ  
 T: 0131 273 4380  
 F: 0131 273 4381  
 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk  
 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Title:  
**Location map and site plan**

Project:  
**Former Tesco Store and Adjacent Land, Mall Avenue, Musselburgh, East Lothian**

Client:  
**Dundas Estates and Developments Co. Ltd**

Scale at A3:  
**1:500**

Drawn by: <b>MP</b>	Checked: <b>SW</b>	Date: <b>24/10/2018</b>
------------------------	-----------------------	----------------------------

Report No: <b>3809</b>	Fig. No: <b>1</b>
---------------------------	----------------------





Fig. 2 - General shot of development area from east



Fig. 3 - Trench 2, general shot

Project:  
Former Tesco Store and Adjacent Land, Mall Avenue, Musselburgh, East Lothian



**CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**  
The Old Engine House  
Eskmills Park  
Musselburgh  
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ  
T: 0131 273 4380  
F: 0131 273 4381  
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk  
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Client:  
Dundas Estates and Developments Co. Ltd

Drawn by: MP	Checked: SW	Date: 24/10/18
Report No: 3809		Fig. No: 2-3





Fig. 4 - Trench 4, general shot



Fig. 5 - Trench 6, general shot

Project:  
Former Tesco Store and Adjacent Land, Mall Avenue, Musselburgh, East Lothian



**CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**  
The Old Engine House  
Eskmills Park  
Musselburgh  
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ  
T: 0131 273 4380  
F: 0131 273 4381  
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk  
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Client:  
**Dundas Estates and Developments Co. Ltd**

Drawn by: <b>MP</b>	Checked: <b>SW</b>	Date: <b>24/10/18</b>
Report No: <b>3809</b>		Fig. No: <b>4-5</b>





Fig. 6 - Trench 8, general shot



Fig. 7 - Trench 11, general shot

Project:  
Former Tesco Store and Adjacent Land, Mall Avenue, Musselburgh, East Lothian



**CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**  
The Old Engine House  
Eskmills Park  
Musselburgh  
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ  
T: 0131 273 4380  
F: 0131 273 4381  
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk  
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Client:  
**Dundas Estates and Developments Co. Ltd**

Drawn by: <b>MP</b>	Checked: <b>SW</b>	Date: <b>24/10/18</b>
Report No: <b>3809</b>		Fig. No: <b>6-7</b>



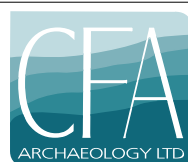


Fig. 8 - Trench 2, NE-facing section



Fig. 9 - Trench 8, SW-facing section

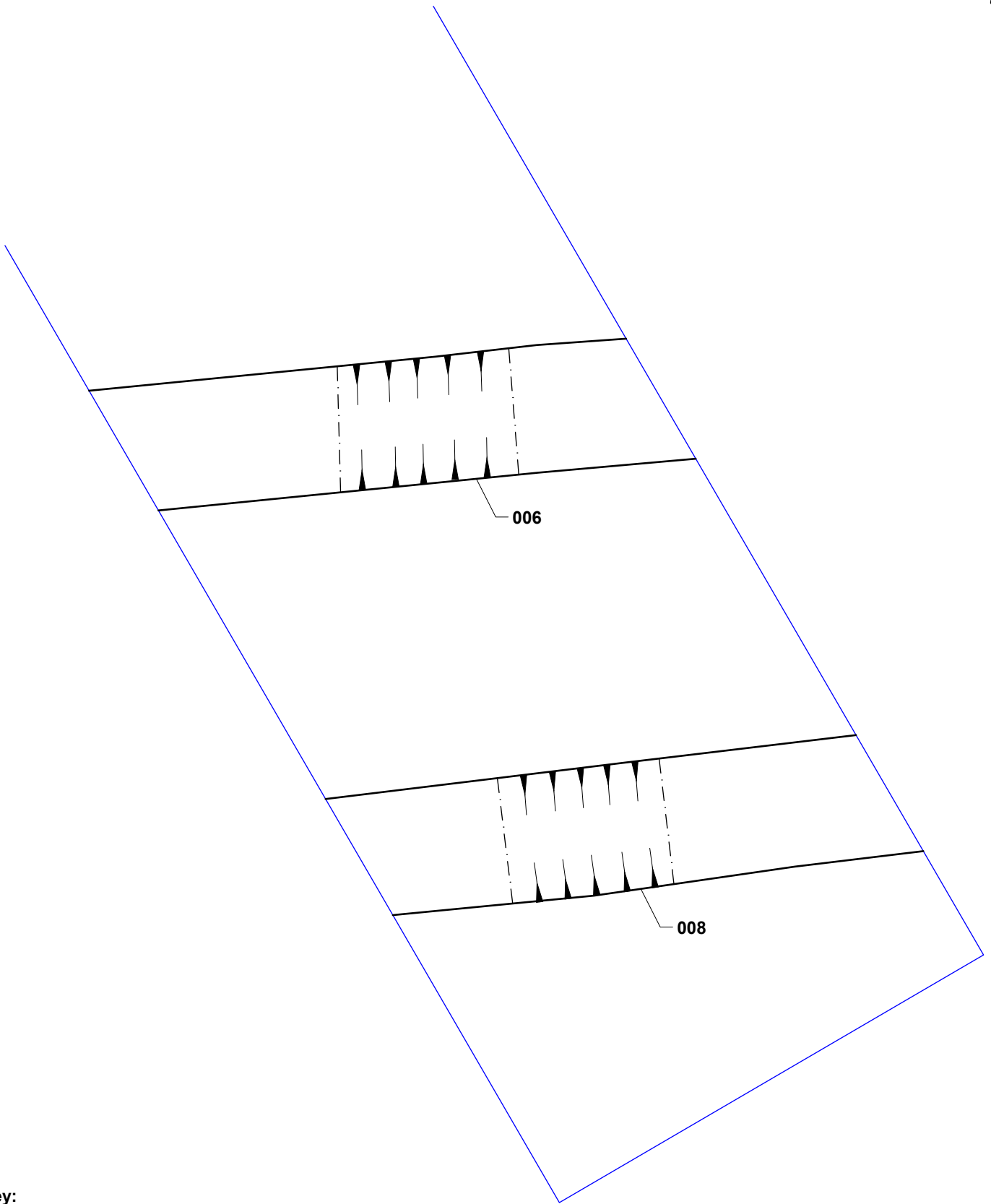
Project:  
Former Tesco Store and Adjacent Land, Mall Avenue, Musselburgh, East Lothian



**CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**  
The Old Engine House  
Eskmills Park  
Musselburgh  
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ  
T: 0131 273 4380  
F: 0131 273 4381  
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk  
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Client:  
Dundas Estates and Developments Co. Ltd

Drawn by: MP	Checked: SW	Date: 24/10/18
Report No: 3809		Fig. No: 8-9



006

008

**Key:**

 Trench Outline

Title:  
Trench 8, linear features 006 and 008

Client:  
Dundas Estates and Developments Co. Ltd



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD  
The Old Engine House  
Eskmills Park  
Musselburgh  
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ  
T: 0131 273 4380  
F: 0131 273 4381  
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk  
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Project:  
Former Tesco Store and Adjacent Land, Mall Avenue, Musselburgh, East Lothian

Scale at A4:  
1:10

Drawn by:  
MP

Checked:  
SW

Date:  
29/10/2018

Report.No:  
3809

Fig. No:  
10



**CFA** ARCHAEOLOGY  
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

**HEAD OFFICE - Musselburgh**

Old Engine House  
Eskmills Park, Musselburgh  
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ

t: +44 (0) 131 273 4380  
e: enquiries@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

**Leeds**

Offices C1 & C2  
Clayton Business Centre, Midland Road  
Leeds, LS10 2RJ

t: +44 (0) 113 271 6060  
e: yorkshire@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

**Manchester**

44G9, Europa Business Park  
Bird Hall Lane, Cheadle Heath  
Manchester, SK3 0XA

t: +44 (0) 161 428 8224  
e: manchester@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

**Milton Keynes**

Suite 11, Letchworth House  
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall  
Milton Keynes, MK6 1NE

t: +44 (0) 1908 226 124  
e: miltonkeynes@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

**Carlisle**

Warwick Mill Business Village  
Warwick Bridge, Carlisle  
Cumbria, CA4 8RR

t: +44 (0) 1228 564 531  
e: cumbria@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

**Sheffield**

Office 5, Ecclesfield Business Centre  
46 Stocks Hill, Ecclesfield  
Sheffield, S35 9YT

t: +44 (0) 114 327 1108  
e: sheffield@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

**Leicester**

Business Box  
3 Oswin Road, Brailsford Industrial Estate  
Leicester, LE3 1HR

t: +44 (0) 116 279 5156  
e: leicestershire@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

**Hertfordshire**

Amwell House  
9 Amwell Street, Hoddesdon  
Hertfordshire, EN11 8TS

t: +44 (0) 845 017 9847  
e: herts@cfa-archaeology.co.uk