

# CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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*Commissioned by Cruden Homes (East) Ltd*

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**Mauricewood Mains, by Penicuik,  
Midlothian:**

**Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment  
and Evaluation**

**Report No. 1503**

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# **1. INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 General**

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment and evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in May 2008 at Mauricewood Mains, near Penicuik, Midlothian (NGR: NT 231 621) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Cruden Homes (East) Ltd.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development is for new houses to be built at Mauricewood Mains. A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by CFA and approved by Bidy Simpson, Heritage Officer for East Lothian Council.

## **1.2 Background**

- 1.2.1 The proposed development site is located just off Mauricewood Road, to the north of Penicuik. The site itself was most recently used as a tree nursery, and some modern buildings had been demolished prior to CFA arriving on site, but the nursery area was untouched since abandonment.
- 1.2.2 No previous invasive archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place within the proposed development area.

## **1.3 Objectives**

- 1.3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area; to establish their vulnerability to the proposed development; and to propose mitigation measures.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

2.1 CFA undertakes all work in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidelines.

### **2.2 Desk-Based Assessment**

2.2.1 Historic map coverage for the area was examined together with other readily available cartographic information on pre-recent land use in the development area. The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS Historic Environment Record/Sites and Monuments Record, Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest and the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes were examined, which included a consultation of the *Pastmap* website.

### **2.3 Evaluation**

2.3.1 The total application area measured 14,750m<sup>2</sup> and a series of trial trenches were to be excavated with a total area of c.738m<sup>2</sup> (5% of the area of the proposed scheme). In practice, five trenches, numbered 1 to 5, were opened with a combined area of 740m<sup>2</sup>. It was agreed in discussions with the Midlothian Council Archaeologist that the trenching would be limited to the area to the SW of the existing buildings, once occupied by the nursery. This area occupies around half of the site thereby giving an evaluation of this area of around 10%.

2.3.2 Topsoil was removed using a 13-tonne 360° mechanical excavator equipped with 1.8m wide smooth-bladed ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

2.3.3 The trenches were backfilled on completion of excavation and the location of the trenches was recorded using industry standard surveying equipment.

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

#### **3.1 Desk-Based Assessment**

##### *NMRS*

- 3.1.1 The NMRS holds no records of archaeological sites within the development area. However, the proposed development area lies immediately adjacent to the grounds of Mauricewood Mains farmhouse (NMRS no. NT26SW 67.02). A sandstone axehead was found at Mauricewood (NMRS no. NT26SW 16) and purchased for the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland in 1911. The Rullion Green road (NMRS no. NT26SW 34), which is the present A702, passes to the north of the development site. The remains of Marchwell stone circle (NMRS no. NT26SW 12) are recorded as lying approximately 200m to the W of the development site.
- 3.1.2 Belwood House is a B-listed house, built around 1800 (NMRS no. NT26SW 86), which lies across the road from Mauricewood Mains. Another B-listed house, Martyr's Cross House (NMRS no. NT26SW 27), lies approximately 200m to the north of the site.
- 3.1.3 The battle of Rullion Green took place approximately 1km to the NW of the site in 1666 (NMRS no. NT26SW 10). This battle was fought between Royalists and Covenanters, with the Royalists being the victors.

##### *Cartographic*

- 3.1.4 On Roy's Military Map (1745) the development site is shown as being within ploughed fields. The land use does not change until Knox's 1816 map, which depicts the current Mauricewood Road and the school which became Martyr's Cross House. The development site is still shown as open ground but the area around the site displays the beginnings of land improvement. A building is first shown, but not named, at the Mauricewood Mains site, probably the farmhouse, on Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler's 1828 map. The Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition map of 1854 shows several roofed buildings on the development site, where the present farmhouse is located.
- 3.1.5 No cartographic evidence was found showing anything other than field systems within the development area, however it was possible that earlier or prehistoric features would be present.

#### **3.2 Evaluation**

- 3.2.1 A brief summary of all the trenches excavated is contained in Appendix 1. Context numbers are shown in bold, with full context descriptions given in Appendix 2.
- 3.2.2 The overgrown nature of the site (Figs. 5 and 6) and the presence of well-established large trees and bushes, somewhat dictated where trenches could be positioned. For instance, the trenches all had to be aligned NW to SE due to

the foliage. The subsoil across the site was a moderately compacted light orange silty sand with 10% inclusions of angular and sub-angular shattered pebbles. The topsoil across the site varied in depth from 0.25m to 0.4m.

- 3.2.3 Trench 1 revealed a 0.45m deep deposit of loose compacted mid to dark brown sandy loam containing frequent inclusions of modern rubbish (**102**). This lay on the natural subsoil (**101**) and was sealed by the topsoil (**100**). This deposit is likely to be a levelling deposit, laid to provide the nursery with a flat surface on the sloping subsoil. This deposit was not identified in any other trench.
- 3.2.4 The five excavated trenches revealed no deposits of archaeological significance.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The evaluation of the proposed development site at Mauricewood Mains revealed no features of archaeological significance.
- 4.2 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS).
- 4.3 A summary statement of the results of the evaluation, to be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 2008* and OASIS, will be sufficient to disseminate the results of the work undertaken.

#### **5. REFERENCES**

##### *Cartographic*

Greenwood, C., Fowler, W., & Sharp, T. 1828. *Map of the county of Edinburgh*. London.

Knox, J. 1816. *Map of the shire of Edinburgh*. Edinburgh.

Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1:10560 Map. 1854. *Edinburghshire - Sheet 12*.

Roy, W. 1747-55. *Military Survey of Scotland*

## APPENDIX 1: Trial Trenching Results Summary

Trench Number	Dimensions (m)	Topsoil Depth (m)	Orientation	Comments
1	51 x 1.8	0.25	NW – SE	Modern levelling deposit identified below topsoil
2	60 x 3.6	0.26	NW – SE	No archaeological remains
3	50 x 3.6	0.4	NW – SE	No archaeological remains
4	50 x 3.6	0.38	NW – SE	No archaeological remains
5	40 x 1.8	0.36	NW – SE	No archaeological remains

## APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context No.	Trench No.	Description
100	1	Topsoil
101	1	Moderately compacted light orange silty sand with 10% inclusions of angular and sub-angular shattered pebbles – natural subsoil
102	1	0.45m deep deposit of loose compacted mid to dark brown sandy loam containing frequent inclusions of modern rubbish – interpreted as a levelling deposit for the nursery

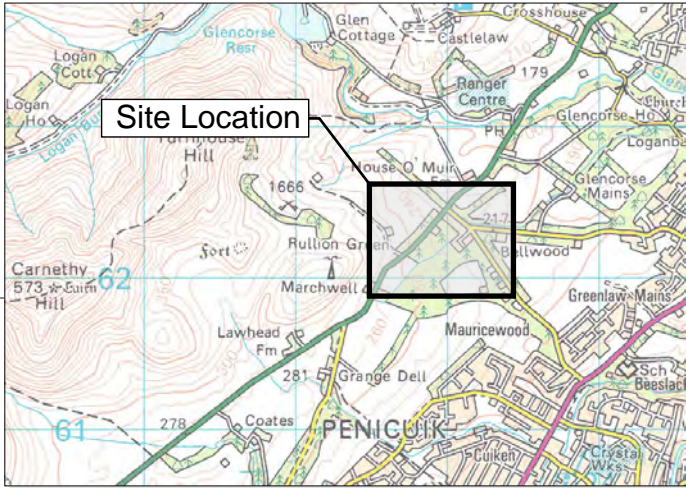
## APPENDIX 3: Photographic Register




Shot No.	Description	Taken From	Conditions	Digital Shot No.
1	Film registration shot			
2-3	General shot of Trench 1	NW	Bright	1
4-5	General shot of Trench 2	NW	Bright	2
6-7	General shot of site	NE	Bright	3
8-9	General shot of site	E	Bright	4
10-11	General shot of Trench 3	NW	Bright	5
12-13	General shot of site	N	Bright	6
14-15	General shot of Trench 4	NW	Bright	7
16-17	General shot of Trench 5	NW	Rain	8

## APPENDIX 4: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Midlothian
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Mauricewood Mains, by Penicuik, Midlothian
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	MAMA
<b>PARISH:</b>	Glencorse
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Ross White
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 231 621
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	29 May 2008
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	30 May 2008
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment and evaluation in May 2008 in advance of a proposed housing development at Mauricewood Mains, by Penicuik. The desk-based assessment revealed that the NMRS held no information on sites within the development area. Cartographic analysis showed that the land had historically been used for field systems, and no development had taken place until the building of the farmhouse at Mauricewood Mains in the middle 19 <sup>th</sup> century. Following discussions with the local authority archaeologist, it was agreed that only 10% of the area of the nursery in the SW of the site needed to be evaluated. Five trenches with a combined area of 740m <sup>2</sup> were excavated, and revealed no remains of archaeological significance.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Cruden Homes (East) Ltd
<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>	National Monuments Record of Scotland Midlothian Council Sites and Monuments Record





	Trench
	Evaluation Area
	Site Boundary

Scale: 1:1250 @A4

Fig. No: 1	Revision:	Client: Cruden Homes (East) Ltd
Title: Trench Location Plan.		
Project: Mauricewood Mains.		

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Key:

Fig. No: 2

Revision: A

Client: Cruden Homes (East) Ltd

Title:  
Trench 2 from NW.

Project:  
Mauricewood Mains.

Scale:



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Key:

Fig. No: **3** Revision: **A** Client: **Cruden Homes (East) Ltd**

Title:  
**Trench 3 from NW.**

Project:  
**Mauricewood Mains.**

Scale:



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Fig. 4 - Trench 5 from South East.



Fig 5 - General Site Photo from South East.

Key:

Scale:

Fig. No: 4 & 5

Revision: A

Client: Cruden Homes (East) Ltd

Title:

Project:  
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Key:

Fig. No: **6**      Revision: **A**      Client: **Cruden Homes (East) Ltd**

Title:  
**General site photo from N**

Project:  
**Mauricewood Mains.**

Scale:



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