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Advice on Archaeology & Planning

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Intpretation, Design & Display

Finds/ Environmental Analysis

Field Evaluation & Excavation

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Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey


**New Student Accommodation,
Heriot Watt University, Riccarton Campus,
Edinburgh**

**Archaeological Evaluation
Report No. 1831**

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Illustrations (bound at rear)

Fig. 1 Trench plan showing the location of the rig and furrow with an inset showing the site location

Fig. 2 Panorama of the site from the existing student accommodation (Lord Home Hall) to the east

Fig. 3 Rig and furrow (**501**) exposed in Trench 5

Fig. 4 Rig and furrow (**801**) exposed in Trench 8

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) from the 6-7 October 2010 on the site of proposed residential student accommodation and associated landscaping within the existing Heriot-Watt Campus at Riccarton (NGR: NT 1730 6890, Fig. 1 inset). The project was commissioned by Capita Symonds on behalf of Heriot-Watt University.

1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CFA based upon documents supplied by Capita Symonds. The WSI was approved by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) prior to the fieldwork.

1.2 Archaeological Background

1.2.1 The site lies within the south-western corner of the historic grounds of the former late medieval Riccarton House which stood at the centre of the current Heriot-Watt University Riccarton Campus. Due to the undeveloped nature of the site it was considered to have potential for containing significant archaeological remains relating to the occupation of the estate and possibly earlier prehistoric occupation (both early Christian and prehistoric remains are known from the area centred around Gowanhill to the west).

1.3 Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were:

- To evaluate the development area to establish the presence or absence, location, extent, date and character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the development site; and to establish their significance and vulnerability to the proposed development;
- To produce a report on the findings.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

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

2.2 Trial Trenching

2.2.1 A summary of the trenches is presented in Appendix 1.

2.2.2 All trenches were excavated by tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All machine work was undertaken under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and modern deposits down to 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.

2.2.3 The stratification of all trenches was recorded, whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

2.2.4 Trench locations were recorded using DGPS surveying equipment and the trenches were backfilled and compacted on completion of recording.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 A summary of all the trenches excavated is contained in Appendix 1. Numbers in bold and parentheses refer to context numbers, a full list of which is available in Appendix 2.
- 3.1.2 Twelve trenches were excavated, covering 1101m² (Fig. 1). This represents slightly over 10% of the 1.05 hectare site.
- 3.1.3 The site (Fig. 2) is currently uncultivated grassland. A moderate north-west facing slope in the north-western half of the site gives way to a slight slope to the south-east. Existing student accommodation lies to the north-east, with shelter belt woodland to the north-west. The remaining boundaries are undefined.
- 3.1.4 Topsoil (**001**) across the area was generally of 0.35m depth and consisted of a mid greyish-brown firm clayey silt with infrequent small sub-rounded inclusions. Very few modern finds were present. An orange or yellow grey-brown clay-silt subsoil (**002**) with a depth of up to 0.35m was present in most trenches. The natural (**003**) was varied, consisting either of a creamy-yellow boulder clay with a notable coal-shale content or a firm, more homogeneous clay.

3.2 Trial Trenching

- 3.2.1 The truncated remains of rig-and-furrow cultivation were recorded in Trenches 5 and 8 (Fig. 1). Field drains were commonplace. Unrecorded live utility services (Fig. 1) were located in Trenches 1, 6-7 and 11.
- 3.2.2 Trench 5 (Figs. 1, 3) contained a single furrow (**501**). This was aligned NNW-SSE and measured 1.1m in maximum width and 0.1m in depth. It was filled (**502**) with a yellow-grey-brown clay-silt and was sealed by the subsoil (**002**). No finds were recovered.
- 3.2.3 Trench 8 (Figs. 1, 4) contained 5 furrows (**800, 801, 804, 806, 808**). These were aligned NNW-SSE and varied between 1m and 2.75m in width. Furrow (**801**) was 0.1m deep. Distances between individual furrows (centre to centre) were around 7m. All the furrow features were filled with a yellow-grey-brown clay-silt and were sealed by the subsoil (**002**) where this was present. No finds were recovered.
- 3.2.4 A multi-phase network of field drains was recorded, cutting subsoil (**002**). Fills varied from small rounded cobbles presumably derived from field clearance to angular broken quarried sandstone. Both two-piece arched and one-piece circular ceramic drains were present.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out within the area of proposed student residential accommodation and associated works at the Riccarton Campus of Heriot-Watt University. Twelve trenches were excavated, amounting to 1101m² in total.
- 4.2 The truncated remains of rig-and-furrow agriculture were identified in Trenches 5 and 8. These had a wavelength of around 7m. Field drains were frequent across the site. Previously unidentified utility services were present.
- 4.3 No significant archaeological features were identified during the evaluation.
- 4.4 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record. A *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* entry (Appendix 5) and an OASIS Scotland entry will be completed for the project.

APPENDIX 1: Evaluation Trench Summary

Trench	Dimensions	Total Area (m ²)	Topsoil /subsoil depth (m)	Description
1	50m x 2m	100	0.35/0.1	1 unrecorded service trench containing a metal duct pipe
2	50m x 2m	100	0.35/0.1-0.2	10 field drains
3	50m x 2m	100	0.35/0.1-0.2	7 field drains
4	25m x 2m	50	0.35/0.1	3 field drains
5	50m x 2 with extension 3m x 3m	109	0.35/0.1	1 linear furrow feature (501) 4 field drains
6	50m x 2m	100	0.35/0.15	4 field drains 1 unrecorded service trench containing a cable under wooden planking
7	54m x 2m	108	0.35/0.3	5 field drains 1 unrecorded service trench containing a cable under wooden planking
8	55m x 2m	110	0.35/0.15	5 linear furrow features (800, 801, 804, 806, 808) 6 field drains
9	54m x 2m	108	0.35	11 field drains Plough scores
10	40m x 2m	80	0.3/0.35	5 field drains
11	37m x 2m	74	0.3/0.35	1 unrecorded service trench containing a blue plastic water pipe 3 field drains
12	31m x 2m	62	0.3/0.2	3 field drains
Total		1101		

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context No.	Trench	Context Type	Description
001	All	Topsoil	Mid grey brown loose silty sand with <1% small sub-rounded stones, to mid orange brown loose sandy silt. 0.3-0.67m deep
002	All	Subsoil	Yellow or Orange grey-brown gritty clay-silt with flecks of coal-shale, small stones and soft black silty lumps
003	All	Natural Subsoil	Varied. Areas of creamy yellow sandy clay with sandstone and whinstone cobbles and boulders and coal shale lumps. Also areas of smooth yellow-grey clay, some with a hexagonal-type weathering pattern
501	5	Linear furrow cut	SSE-NNW aligned. 1.1m wide, 0.1m deep
502	5	Fill of 501	Orange-brown gritty clay-silt with flecks of coal-shale, small stones and soft black silty lumps
800	8	Linear furrow cut	SSE-NNW aligned. 2m wide
801	8	Linear furrow cut	SSE-NNW aligned. 1m wide, 0.1m deep
802	8	Fill of 801	Orange-brown gritty clay-silt with flecks of coal-shale, small stones and soft black silty lumps
803	8	Fill of 800	Orange-brown gritty clay-silt with flecks of coal-shale, small stones and soft black silty lumps
804	8	Linear furrow cut	SSE-NNW aligned. 2.75m wide
805	8	Fill of 804	Orange-brown gritty clay-silt with flecks of coal-shale, small stones and soft black silty lumps
806	8	Linear furrow cut	SSE-NNW aligned. 1m wide
807	8	Fill of 806	Orange-brown gritty clay-silt with flecks of coal-shale, small stones and soft black silty lumps
808	8	Linear furrow cut	SSE-NNW aligned. 2.5m wide
809	8	Fill of 808	Orange-brown gritty clay-silt with flecks of coal-shale, small stones and soft black silty lumps

APPENDIX 3: Photographic Register

Digital

Number	Description	From	Conditions
1-2	Pre-excavation site views	SW	Overcast
3-5	Pre-excavation site views	S	Overcast
6-7	Concrete marker (stamped with W P) on alignment of metal duct pipe	W	Dull
8	Trench 1 general view	NNW	Sun/shade
9	Trench 1 metal duct containing (?) cable	NNE	Sun/shade
10-11	Trench 1 soil profile at NNW end	WSW	Sunny
12-17	Site views from student halls	ENE	Overcast
18	Trench 2 general view	ENE	Sun/shade
19	Trench 3 general view	SW	Sun/shade
20	Trench 4 general view	SSW	Overcast
21-22	Trench 5 linear feature [501] in trench extension	SSE	Overcast
23	Trench 5 SSE facing section of [501]	SSE	Overcast
24	Trench 5 linear feature [501]	N	Overcast
25	Trench 5 general view	NNE	Bright
26	Trench 5 soil profile at feature [501]	SSW	Sunny
27	Trench 6 general view	NW	Overcast
28	Trench 6 soil profile, SE end	NE	Overcast
29	Trench 6 stone-filled field drain, near SE end	SE	Bright
30	Trench 8 general view	SSW	Bright
31	Trench 8 furrow at SSW end, aligned SSE-NNW	NNW	Bright
32	Trench 8 sectioned furrow	SSW	Bright
33	Trench 8 furrow, plan view of section	NNW	Bright
34	Trench 8 furrow, view of section	SSE	Bright
35	Trench 8, soil profile NNE end	ESE	Bright
36	Trench 8 general view	NNE	Bright
37	Trench 7 general view	SE	Bright
38-40	Trench 7 cable (?) below wooden plank in unrecorded service trench	Various	Bright
41-42	Trench 7 soil profile at NW end	SW	Bright
43	Trench 7 general view	NW	Bright
44	Trench 9 general view	SSW	Bright
45	Trench 10 general view	SSE	Bright
46	Trench 10 soil profile, SSE end	WSW	Bright
47	Trench 10 soil profile, NNW end	WSW	Sun/shade
48-49	Trench 11 photos of repaired water pipe	SE/SSE	Sun/shade
50	Trench 11 general view	SSE	Sun/shade
51-52	Trench 12 general view	SW	Sun/shade
53-61	General site views and backfilled trenches	Various	Sunny

Colour Slide Film 1

Number	Description	From	Conditions
1-2	Trench 5 linear feature [501] in trench extension	SSE	Overcast
3-4	Trench 5 SSE facing section of [501]	SSE	Overcast
5-6	Trench 5 linear feature [501]	N	Overcast
7-8	Trench 5 general view	NNE	Bright
9-10	Trench 5 soil profile at feature [501]	SSW	Sunny
11-12	Trench 8 general view	SSW	Bright
13-14	Trench 8 furrow at SSW end, aligned SSE-NNW	NNW	Bright
15-16	Trench 8 sectioned furrow	SSW	Bright
17-18	Trench 8 furrow, plan view of section	NNW	Bright
19-20	Trench 8 furrow, view of section	SSE	Bright
21-22	Trench 8 general view	NNE	Bright

APPENDIX 4: Drawings Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Description	Plan/section	Scale
1	1	Trench 5 showing furrow 501	Plan	1:50
2	1	Trench 5, SSE facing section through furrow 501 and overlying soil profile	Section	1:10
3	2	Trench 8 showing furrows 800, 801, 804, 806, 808 and fills 802-3, 805, 807, 809	Plan	1:50
4	2	Trench 8, SE facing section through furrow 801 and overlying soil profile	Section	1:20
5	2	Trench 8, NNW facing section through furrow 801	Section	1:20
6	DB	Trench 2	Plan	1:100
7	DB	Trench 3	Plan	1:100
8	DB	Trench 1	Plan	1:200
9	DB	Trench 4	Plan	1:100
10	DB	Trench 6	Plan	1:100
11	DB	Trench 7	Plan	1:100
12	DB	Trench 9	Plan	1:100
13	DB	Trench 10	Plan	1:100
14	DB	Trench 11	Plan	1:100
15	DB	Trench 12	Plan	1:100

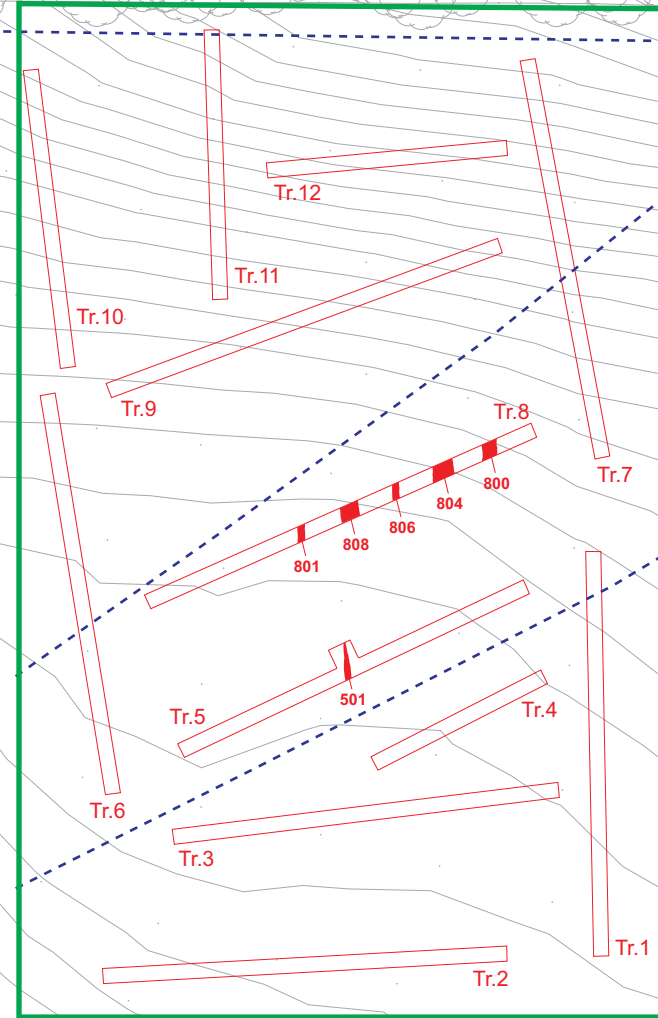
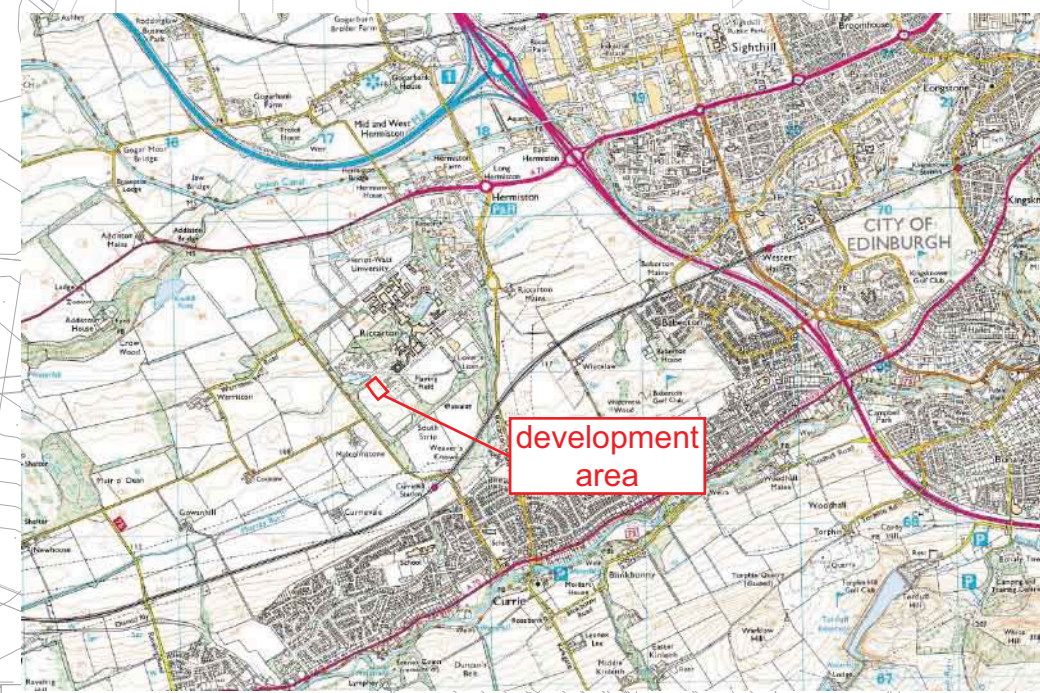
APPENDIX 5: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	New Student Accommodation, Heriot-Watt University, Riccarton Campus, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	HEWA
PARISH:	Currie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Ian Suddaby
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Rig and furrow
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NT 1730 6890
START DATE (this season)	6 October 2010
END DATE (this season)	7 October 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd on the site of proposed student accommodation within Heriot-Watt University's Riccarton Campus. Twelve trenches were excavated, amounting to 1101m ² in total (10%). The truncated remains of rig-and-furrow cultivation were recorded in two trenches. No other archaeological features except field drains were recorded.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Capita Symonds on behalf of Heriot-Watt University
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record of Scotland City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record



Key:

- development area
- evaluation trenches
- archaeological features
- services



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Fig. No:	1	Revision:	A
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Title:
Site location and the location of the archaeological features uncovered

Project:
New student accomodation, Heriot Watt University, Riccarton Campus, Edinburgh

Scale:
1:1,000 @ A3

Client:
Capita Symonds on behalf of Heriot-Watt University

Drawn by:	GC	Report No:	1831
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Fig. 2 Panorama of the site from the existing student accomodation to the east


Key:	Fig. No:	2	Revision:	A	Client:	Capita Symonds on behalf of Heriot-Watt University
	Title:					
Scale:	Project:	New student accomodation, Heriot-Watt University, Riccarton Campus, Edinburgh				
						 <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD. The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p>
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Fig. 3 Rig and furrow 501 from the north



Fig. 4 Rig and furrow 801 from the south

Key:

Scale:

Fig. No:

3-4

Revision:

A

Client: Capita Symonds on behalf of Heriot-Watt University

Title:

Project:

New student accomodation,
Heriot-Watt University, Riccarton
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