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Proposed footpath Craigmillar Castle City of Edinburgh

Archaeological Metal Detector Survey and Trial-Pit evaluation

Report no. 3129

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Proposed footpath Craigmillar Castle City of Edinburgh

Archaeological Metal Detector Survey and Trial-Pit evaluation

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological metal detector survey and trial-pit evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in February 2014 (Figs. 1, 2a & 2b). This work was carried out in advance of the proposed construction of a new footpath by the City of Edinburgh Council. The work was required by Historic Scotland as a condition of the Council's Scheduled Monument Consent as the proposed development lay within the Scheduled Craigmillar Castle and Gardens (Scheduled Monument 90129).

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The objectives of the programmes of archaeological works were

1. To conduct a metal detector survey (MDS) across the proposed development area, in order to detect and recover artefacts of archaeological or historical origins.
2. To excavate by hand five trial-pits in locations provided in the brief and establish if there were any features or deposits of archaeological interest.
3. To produce a report on the results of the fieldwork.

1.3 Weather Conditions

Mild, overcast, with occasional short showers weather conditions prevailed over the two days of the works.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 Metal detecting Survey

Trained CFA staff carried out the metal detector survey of the site. The footprint of the new footpath was divided into 10m x 3m blocks each of which was divided into three 1m wide transects (Figs. 2a & 2b). These were detected systematically to ensure that the whole area was covered.

Professional standard equipment was used and no discrimination was set on the equipment. The positions of the grids were recorded using industry-standard surveying equipment.

All metal finds were retained for recording by a finds specialist. All finds were bagged according to which block and transect they came from.

2.2 Trial-pit Evaluation

The trial-pits were set out on the ground using DGPS equipment at locations provided by CECAS. Five trial-pits each measuring 1.5m x 1m were dug by hand down to the either the depth of the natural undisturbed deposits underlying topsoil.

The trial-pits were recorded by planning, drawing a significant elevation and by photography.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Metal Detector Survey

The metal detecting survey resulted in the recovery of 12 Iron objects and 1 Lead object. The Iron finds include 6 nails and 5 other unknown, corroded fittings as well as one probable button front. The Lead object is a flat circle with an irregular perforation which could be a seal or tag from a seed bag. All the metal detected finds are post-medieval to modern in date.

3.2 Trial Pit Evaluation

Five trial-pits, 1.5m x 1m, were hand dug to establish if there were any underlying features or deposits of archaeological interest.

Trial-pit 1

This pit contained between 0.45m to 0.5m of topsoil which lay on a natural geology of broken stone and hard compact gritty sand.

Trial-pit 2

This pit contained between 0.34m and 0.45m of topsoil which lay on a large slab of smooth natural bedrock. The bedrock had one fissure on the western side of the trial pit.

Trial-pit 3

This pit contained between 0.25m and 0.45m of topsoil lying on a fractured stone natural geology.

Trial-pit 4

This pit contained 0.35m of topsoil overlying a compact gritty sand natural geology

Trial-pit 5

This pit contained 0.45m to 0.5m of topsoil overlying a compact gritty sand natural geology

No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the excavation of the trial-pits.

Artefactual material recovered from the trial-pits is noted by trial-pit number in the Appendix 2

3.3 The Finds

The finds from the trial-pit evaluation were all post medieval or modern. These mainly consisted of 105 sherds of pottery. Other finds included a mixture of clear and green bottle glass, 3 clay pipe stems and one bowl fragment, 2 pieces of CBM and a lump of slag. Fourteen Iron objects were also recovered from the evaluation, the assemblage was similar to that recovered during the metal detecting and consisted of five nails and nine miscellaneous fittings, all of which were modern.

4. CONCLUSIONS

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified in the trial-pits. It appeared as if natural undisturbed geology lay directly below the topsoil and that this comprised of bedrock and fractured bedrock towards the top of the slope giving way to gritty sand further down the slope.

The material recovered from both the metal detector survey and evaluation was post medieval to modern date. This material was likely to have come from modern discard and manuring from the adjacent Craigmillar Mains Farm. Trial-pit 1 contained the most material and was situated at the edge of the field next to the Farm. The material thinned out within the trial-pits as they got progressively further away from the farm. This conforms exactly with the pattern of artefact distribution expected when evaluation takes place around a settlement such as the farm.

As the finds assemblage is all post-medieval/modern and of little archaeological value, it is recommended that the material is discarded, subject to it being disclaimed by the Treasure Trove Unit following normal notification procedures.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS). A summary statement of the results of this programme of work will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* 2014 (Appendix 3). An OASIS Scotland entry will also be completed.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

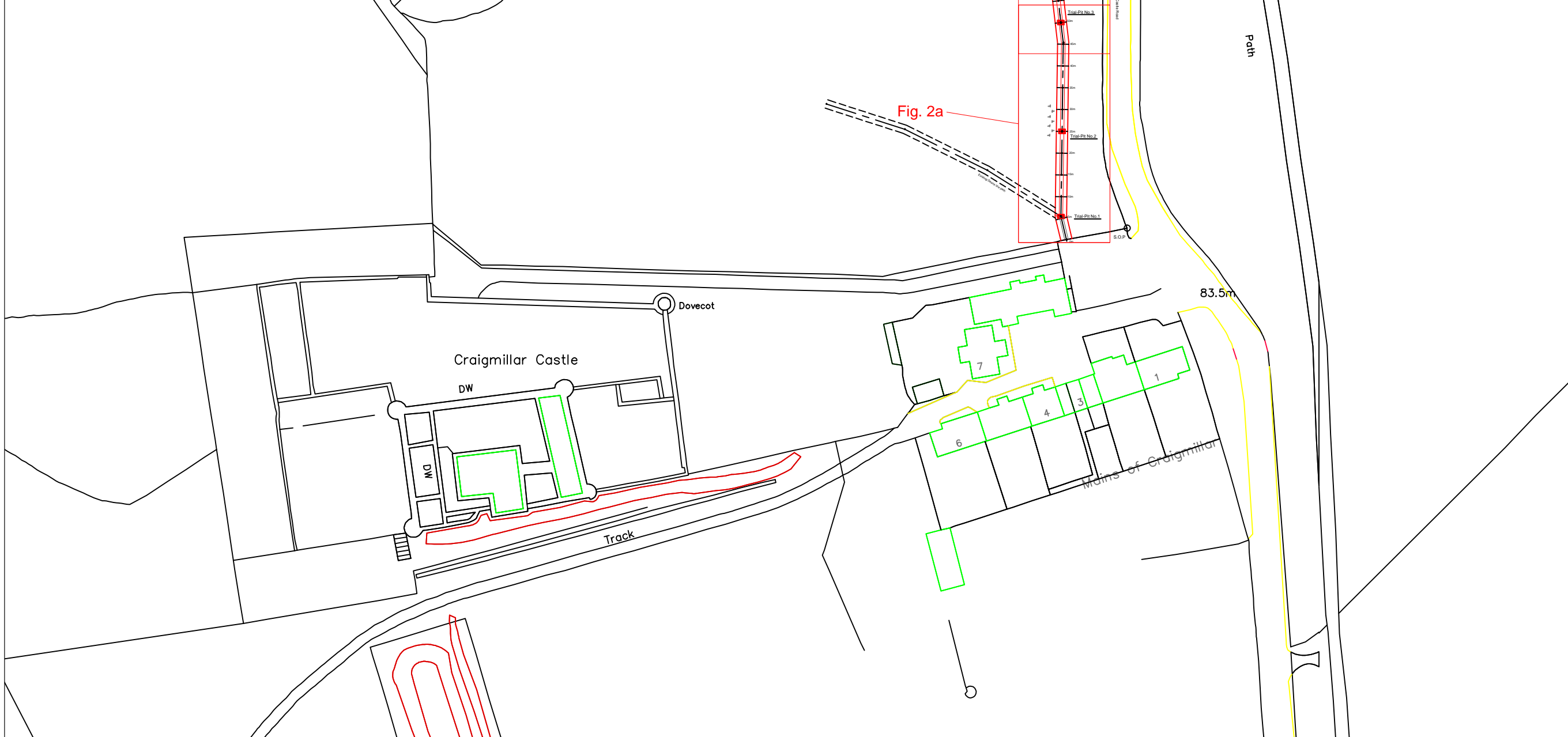
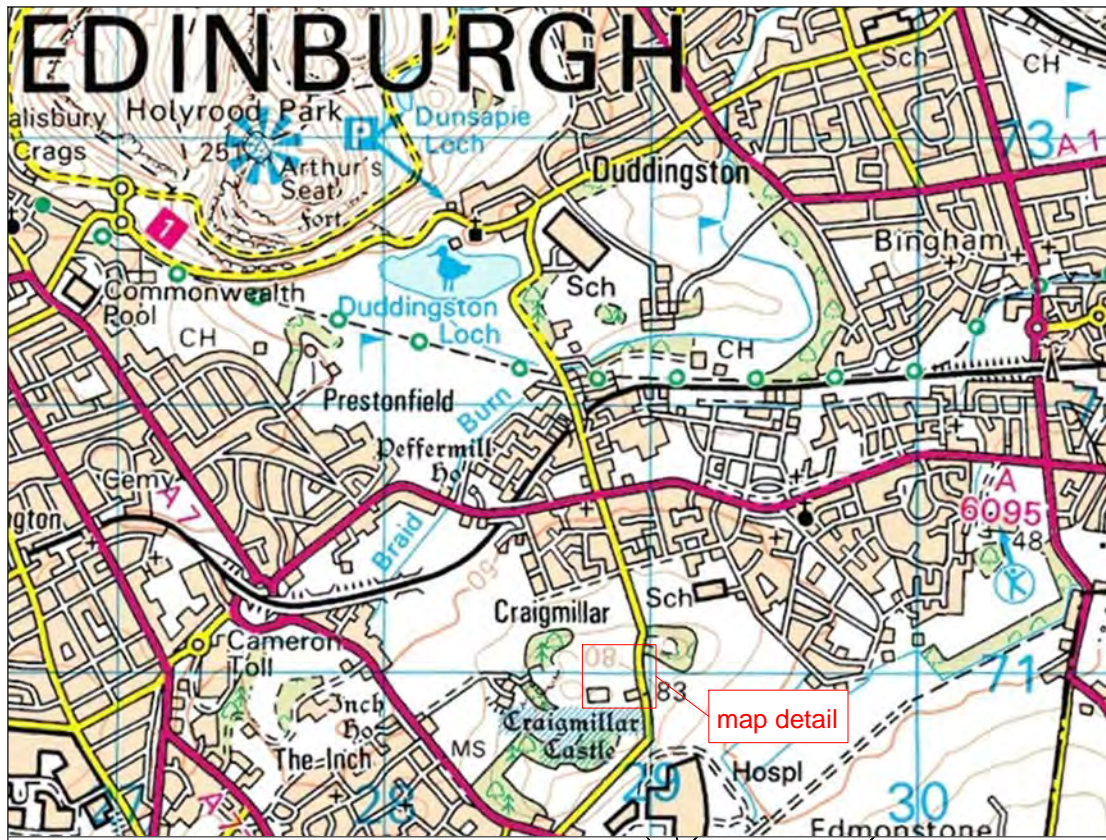
Photo Number	Contexts/Description	Taken From
1-2	Test Pit 1 showing natural geology	S
3	General view of site looking North	S
4	Test Pit 2 showing bedrock	N
5	Test Pit 3 showing natural geology	S
6	Test Pit 4 showing natural geology	S
7	Test Pit 5 showing natural geology	S

APPENDIX 2: Finds Register

MD Square	Test Pit	Find type	No.	Wt (g)	Notes	Spotdate
	1	Glass	2	73	Green+clear bottle/decorative	Modern
	1	Animal Bone	6	23		Modern
	1	Clay Pipe	2	6	Stem+bowl fragments	Post-med
	1	Slag	1	4		Modern
	1	Pottery	75	366		Modern
	1	Stone	1	6	Quartz-unworked	Modern
	1	CBM	2	63	Tile and mortar	Modern
	1	Iron	1	17	Nail	Modern
	1	Iron	1	33	Nail	Modern
	1	Iron	1	35	Nail	Modern
	1	Iron	1	15	Nail	Modern
	1	Iron	1	54	Curved sheet	Modern
	1	Iron	1	41	Unknown fitting- strap	Modern
	1	Iron	1	70	Unknown fitting- corroded	Modern
	1	Iron	1	4	Wire?	Modern
	2	Iron	4	130	Unknown fitting	Modern
	2	Pottery	11	77		Modern
	3	Clay Pipe	1	3	Stem-stamped	Post-med
	4	Glass	1	1	Green bottle	Modern
	4	Pottery	7	64		Modern
	4	Iron	1	13	Nail shaft?	Modern
	5	Clay Pipe	1	3	Stem	Post-med
	5	Glass	1	25	Clear bottle	Modern
	5	Pottery	12	33		Modern
	5	Iron	1	14	Unknown fitting	Modern
A1		Iron	1	19	Nail	Modern
C1		Iron	1	5	Bar- circular in section	Modern
C1		Iron	1	3	Button front?	Modern
C2		Iron	1	45	Nail	Modern
C2		Iron	1	25	Nail	Modern
C2		Iron	1	10	Nail	Modern
D1		Iron	1	10	Nail	Modern
D1		Iron	1	45	Bar- tapered	Modern
D2		Lead	1	9	Flat circular object with irregular perforation	Modern
D3		Iron	1	8	Wire- corroded	Modern
F2		Iron	1	17	Ring- broken	Modern
F2		Iron	1	4	Bar- broken	Modern
I3		Iron	1	7	Nail	Modern

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Craigmillar Castle and Gardens Archaeological Metal Detector Survey and Trial-Pit Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	CAFO
PARISH:	Edinburgh (Edinburgh, City Of)
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Graeme Carruthers
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Metal Detector Survey and Trial-Pit Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 28933 70940
START DATE (this season)	February 2014
END DATE (this season)	February 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:	<p>An archaeological metal detector survey and trial-pit evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in February 2014. This work was carried out in advance of the proposed construction of a new footpath by the City of Edinburgh Council. The work was required by Historic Scotland as a condition of the Council's Scheduled Monument Consent as the proposed development lay within the Scheduled Craigmillar Castle and Gardens (Scheduled Monument 90129)</p> <p>The finds recovered from both the metal detector survey and trial-pit evaluation was post medieval and modern in date. This material is likely to have come from modern discard and manuring from the adjacent Craigmillar Mains Farm. No deposits or features of archaeological significance were identified.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	City of Edinburgh Council
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)	<p>NMRS</p> <p>Historic Scotland (Report)</p> <p>City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (report)</p>



- Key:
- Area of metal detector survey blocks and transects
 - Trial-pits

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Fig. No:	1	Revision:	A
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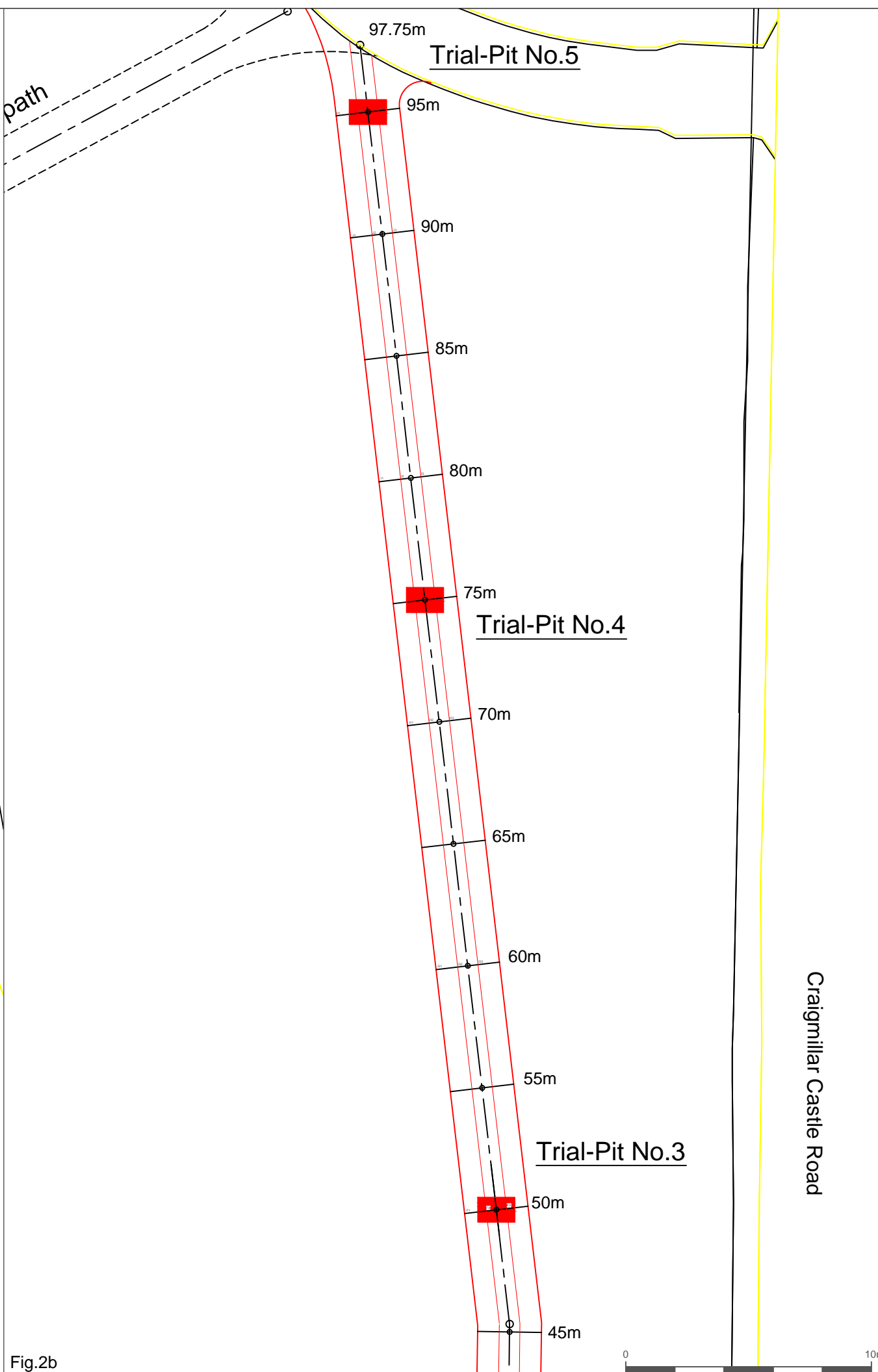
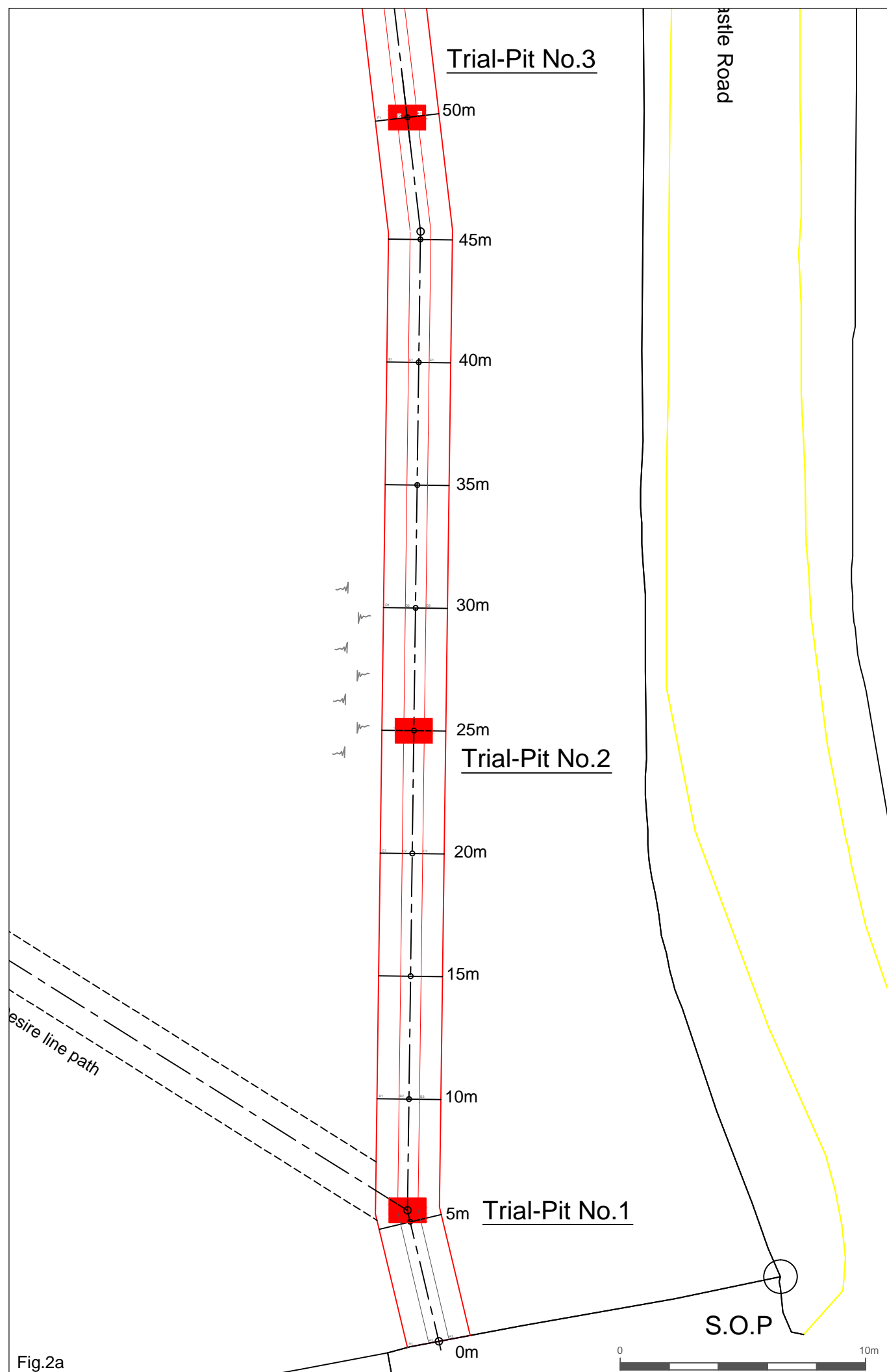
Title:
Site location

Project:
Craigmillar Castle and Gardens, Archaeological Metal Detector Survey and Trial-pit evaluation

Client:
City of Edinburgh Council

Scale at A3:
1:1000

Drawn by:	Checked:	Report No:
GC	LW	0000



Key:

□ Area of metal detector survey blocks and transects

■ Trial-pits

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Fig. No: 2a, 2b Revision: A

Title:
 Location of Trial-pits and metal detector blocks and transects

Project:
 Craigmillar Castle and Gardens, Archaeological Metal Detector Survey and Trial-pit evaluation

Client:
 City of Edinburgh Council

Scale at A3:
 1:200





Fig.3 General view of site showing line of proposed new footpath, looking north



Fig.4 Post excavation view of Trial-Pit 1 showing fractured stone natural geology



Fig. No: 3-4		Revision: A	Project: Craigmillar Castle and Garden, Archaeological Metal Detector Survey and Trial-pit evaluation
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Fig.5 Post excavation view of Trial-Pit 2 bedrock natural geology



Fig.6 Post excavation view of Trial-Pit 3 showing fractured stone natural geology





Fig. No: 5-6		Revision: A	Project: Craigmillar Castle and Garden, Archaeological Metal Detector Survey and Trial-pit evaluation			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
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Fig.7 Post excavation view of Trial-Pit 4 gritty sand natural geology



Fig.8 Post excavation view of Trial-Pit 5 showing gritty sand natural geology

Fig. No: 7-8		Revision: A	Project: Craigmillar Castle and Garden, Archaeological Metal Detector Survey and Trial-pit evaluation		
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