

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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**Land to the North of Moray Street,
Doune**

Archaeological Evaluation

Report No. 1554

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Fig.1 Site Location Map showing Trenches 1-14

Fig. 2 Plan of Trenches 15-17

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Plate 1. Trench 15 showing Standing Stone and 008

Plate 2 Trench 17 section

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology (CFA) in September 2008 at land to the north of Moray Street, Doune (NGR: NN 7270 0182) in advance of a proposed residential development. The work was commissioned by Miller Homes Ltd.
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the evaluation was produced by CFA. The WSI was based upon documents supplied by Miller Homes Ltd, and on an Archaeological Appraisal (dated 08/10/06) and verbal brief from the Stirling Council Archaeological Officer.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 A prior desk-based assessment carried out by CFA in 2005 (Badger 2005) identified that the majority of the proposed development area had been subject to quarrying and that only a small area of the site appeared to remain largely undisturbed. The findings of the desk-based assessment were supported by ground investigation works. It was therefore recommended that the evaluation was restricted to the small undisturbed area towards the southern end of the site (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 Doune Standing Stone (NMRS No. NN70SW 30) is situated towards the south-western corner of the proposed development area. Information obtained from the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) indicated that in 1863, it was situated about 100 yards to the north of Doune Railway Station, but a 1954 article in the *Stirling Observer* recorded that this standing stone ‘rests in the debris of a long disappeared sawmill beside the railway’. This information has led to the suggestion that the stone was removed and later relocated to its current position. Local resident Robert Campbell recalls the stone being situated c.30m to the north-east when he was a child c.70 years ago.
- 1.2.3 No previous invasive archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place prior to the evaluation.

1.3 Objectives

- 1.3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were;

- To attempt to establish whether the standing stone that is present within the proposed development area has been relocated from elsewhere;
- To test if any archaeological remains are associated with the standing stone;

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

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 CFA expresses thanks to Robert Campbell for local information on the stone and Kevin Stevenson the machine driver for his assistance.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

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

2.2 Evaluation

2.2.1 Fourteen trenches were excavated by machine with a total area of 1160 m² (c. 10% of the evaluation area). Trenches were located so as to provide a representative spread across the area available for evaluation. A further three trenches, each measuring 3m by 1m were excavated by hand in the area around the standing stone in the west of the development area. One (Trench 15) was placed to expose a portion of the socket of the stone.

2.2.2 The trenches were excavated by machine 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 Samples of any features of archaeological interest were excavated in order to establish their likely date, nature, extent and condition. All such sample excavation was conducted by hand. The samples were limited to remove only such deposits as necessary to achieve the evaluation objectives.

2.2.4 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 was recorded even if no deposits of archaeological significance were discovered. The trenches were backfilled on completion of excavation. The location of the trenches was recorded using industry standard surveying equipment.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 Only those trenches containing features are described in full. A summary of the trial trenching results is contained in Appendix 1. Context numbers are in bold and in parentheses (Appendix 2).

3.2 Trial Trenching

Trenches 1-14 (Machine excavated)

- 3.2.1 Fourteen trenches were excavated within three fields of rough pasture. Topsoil (**001**) varied between 0.3m and 0.4m deep. Natural subsoil (**000**) consisted of firm sand and gravel. Two trenches revealed features of anthropogenic origin.
- 3.2.2 A narrow slot (**002**) measuring c.0.2m wide and containing blaes, ash, coal and brick fragments was discovered in Trench 4. The slot was aligned roughly east to west.
- 3.2.3 A curvilinear feature (**003**) measuring 1.2m by 0.35m by 0.15m deep was identified in Trench 7. The fill of this feature consisted of mid-brown silt containing rare stones (**004**). It is probable that it was formed by the dragging action of a plough on a stone set within the subsoil.

Trenches 15-17 (Hand excavated)

- 3.2.4 Three trenches (Trenches 15 to 17) (Fig. 2) were excavated around the standing stone. The surface had been recently landscaped and comprised a 0.1m thick layer of soil and type 1 hardcore (**005**) overlying a layer of plastic sheeting (**006**). Topsoil (**007**) containing frequent fragments of brick, glass and modern pottery underlay **006** to a depth of 0.65m. It is unclear if this layer represents evidence of the stone having been relocated, or if it was brought in when the landscaping was carried out. The topsoil overlay natural subsoil (**000**) which was firm orange sandy gravel.
- 3.2.5 Trench 15 (Fig. 2) (Plate 1) was excavated around the base of the standing stone, known locally as “The Deil’s Heid” (Lorna Main: pers comm.) A cut (**008**) for the stone’s socket was revealed c.0.1m beyond the edge of the stone. It was filled with hard packed dark stony soil (**009**). It was not excavated further in the interests of the stone’s stability, so it is uncertain from the cut alone whether or not the stone has been moved or is in its original position.
- 3.2.6 Trenches 16 and 17 (Plate 2) shared the same characteristics as Trench 15. A shallow indistinct hollow (**010**) was discovered in the base of Trench 16, possibly representing a cut into the natural subsoil. It was filled with loose dark soil, and is most likely of recent origin. A blue plastic water pipe crossed the surface of the natural subsoil in Trench 17. No other features were discovered.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of a proposed residential development. One of the specific aims of the evaluation was to try to determine if Doune Standing Stone had been relocated to its current position in the recent past.
- 4.2 The evaluation did not identify any clear evidence that suggested that the standing stone had been relocated to its current position in the recent past and cartographic information suggests that it has been in its current location since at least 1862 (Ordnance Survey 1862). It is possible that the reference to a disused sawmill in the *Stirling Observer* could imply that the stone had been covered over with sawmilling debris within its current location, and confusion regarding its exact position would relate to significant landscape changes with the removal of the railway and the construction of additional housing and associated infrastructure.
- 4.3 The evaluation did not identify any other features of archaeological significance.
- 4.4 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, plans and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of the report will be lodged with the Stirlingshire Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.5 A summary statement of the results of this evaluation, will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 5) and the evaluation will be reported using the *OASIS* protocol.
- 4.6 CFA recommends that Doune Standing Stone is protected during development works and that a suitable buffer zone is established. However, the final decision regarding mitigation lies with the Stirlingshire Council Archaeological Officer.

5. REFERENCES

Badger, S. 2005 *Moray Street/Station Wynd, Doune – Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*. CFA Report 1129, commissioned by Miller Homes Ltd.

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition, 1862, 25 inch to 1 mile, *Perthshire Sheet CXXV.13*

APPENDIX 1: Summary of Evaluation Results

Trench no.	Size (m)	Topsoil depth (m)	Features
1	30 x 2	0.4	None
2	30 x 2	0.4	None
3	30 x 2	0.4	None
4	30 x 2	0.4	Narrow slot. C. 0.2m wide containing blaes, ash, coal and brick fragments
5	30 x 2	0.4	None
6	50 x 2	0.3	None
7	50 x 2	0.3- 0.4	(003) possible stone hole
8	50 x 2	0.3	None
9	50 x 2	0.3	None
10	50 x 2	0.3	None
11	35 x 2	0.4	None
12	55 x 2	0.4	None
13	50 x 2	0.4	None
14	40 x 2	0.4	None
15	3 x 1	0.7	Standing stone and cut of socket
16	3 x 1	0.7- 0.9	(010) cut into natural, probably modern disturbance
17	3 x 1	0.6- 0.8	Plastic pipe

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

No	Description
000	Natural
001	Topsoil
002	Linear feature filled with blaes and ash
003	Curvilinear pit (1.2m x 0.35m x 0.16m) with sloping sides and a concave base; trench 7
004	Fill of (003), mid grey finely compacted silt with small gravel
005	Surface; hardcore, soil and weeds; trenches 15-17
006	Layer of plastic sheet under (005); trenches 15-17
007	Fine grained soil with frequent pebbles towards base. Contained fragments of brick, glass and modern pottery; trenches 15-17
008	Ill defined cut of stone socket; trench 15
009	Fill of socket- dark stony soil; trench 15
010	Indefinite cut into natural; trench 16
011	Fill of (010), dark loose soil with redeposited natural; trench 16

APPENDIX 3: Photographic Register

Colour Slide Film 1

Shot	Description	From
1-2	Trench 6, general shot	W
3-4	Trench 7, general shot	W
5-6	Trench 4, general shot	N
7-8	Trench 3, general shot	N
9-10	Trench 2, general shot	N
11-12	Trench 1, general shot	N
13-14	(003)	N
15-16	Trench 8, general shot	W
17-18	Trench 9, general shot	W
19-20	Trench 10, general shot	W

21-22	Trench 11, general shot	S
23-24	Trench 12, general shot	E
25-26	Trench 13, general shot	E
27-28	Trench 14, general shot	W
29-30	(003)	N
31-32	Trench 15, general shot	W
33-34	Trench 17, general shot	S
35-36	Trench 16, general shot	S

Digital

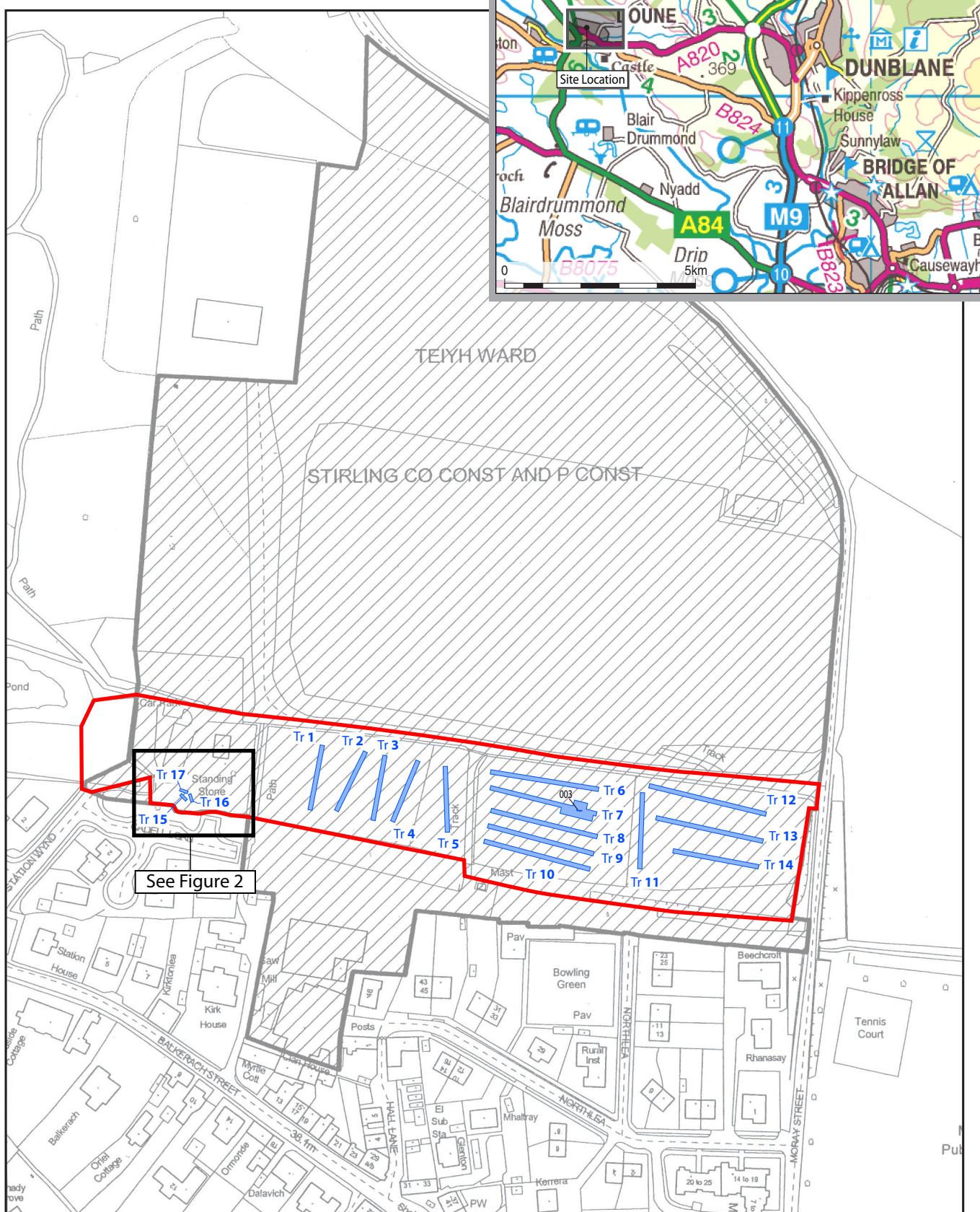
Shot	Description	From
1-2	General shots of standing stone, pre-ex	
3	General work shot	N
4	Trench 5, general shot	N
5	Trench 6, general shot	W
6	Trench 4, general shot	N
7	Trench 3, general shot	N
8	Trench 2, sondage	N
9	Trench 1, general shot	N
10	(003)	N
11	Trench 8, general shot	W
12	Trench 9, general shot	W
13	Trench 10, general shot	W
14	Trench 11, general shot	S
15	Trench 12, general shot	E
16	Trench 13, general shot	E
17	Trench 14, general shot	W
18	(003)	N
19	Trench 15, general shot	W
20	Trench 15, showing standing stone	W
21	Trench 15, showing standing stone	W
22	Trench 15, showing standing stone	W
23	Trench 17, general shot	S
24	Trench 16, general shot	S

APPENDIX 4: Drawings Register

No	Description / Section	Sec / Plan	Scale
1	Trench 7	Plan	1:50
2	Trench 15	Section	1:20
3	Trench 15	Plan	1:20
4	Trench 16	Section	1:20
5	Trench 16	Plan	1:20
6	Trench 17	Section	1:20
7	Trench 17	Plan	1:20

APPENDIX 5: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirlingshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Land to the North of Moray Street, Doune
PROJECT CODE:	NOMO
PARISH:	Kilmadock
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Linda Somerville
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NN70SW 30
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Standing Stone
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NN 7256 0182
START DATE (this season)	22/09/08
END DATE (this season)	24/09/08
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was carried out at land to the north of Moray Street, Doune in advance of a proposed housing development. One of the aims of the evaluation was to try to determine if Doune Standing Stone had been relocated to its current location in the recent past. The evaluation did not identify any clear indication that the standing stone had been relocated and cartographic evidence suggests that it has been in its current location since at least 1862. There were no other features of archaeological significance identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Miller Homes Ltd
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



Scale:

0 100m

Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: Miller Homes Ltd

Title: Site Location Map

Project:
Land to the North of Moray Street, Dounie
Archaeological Evaluation.

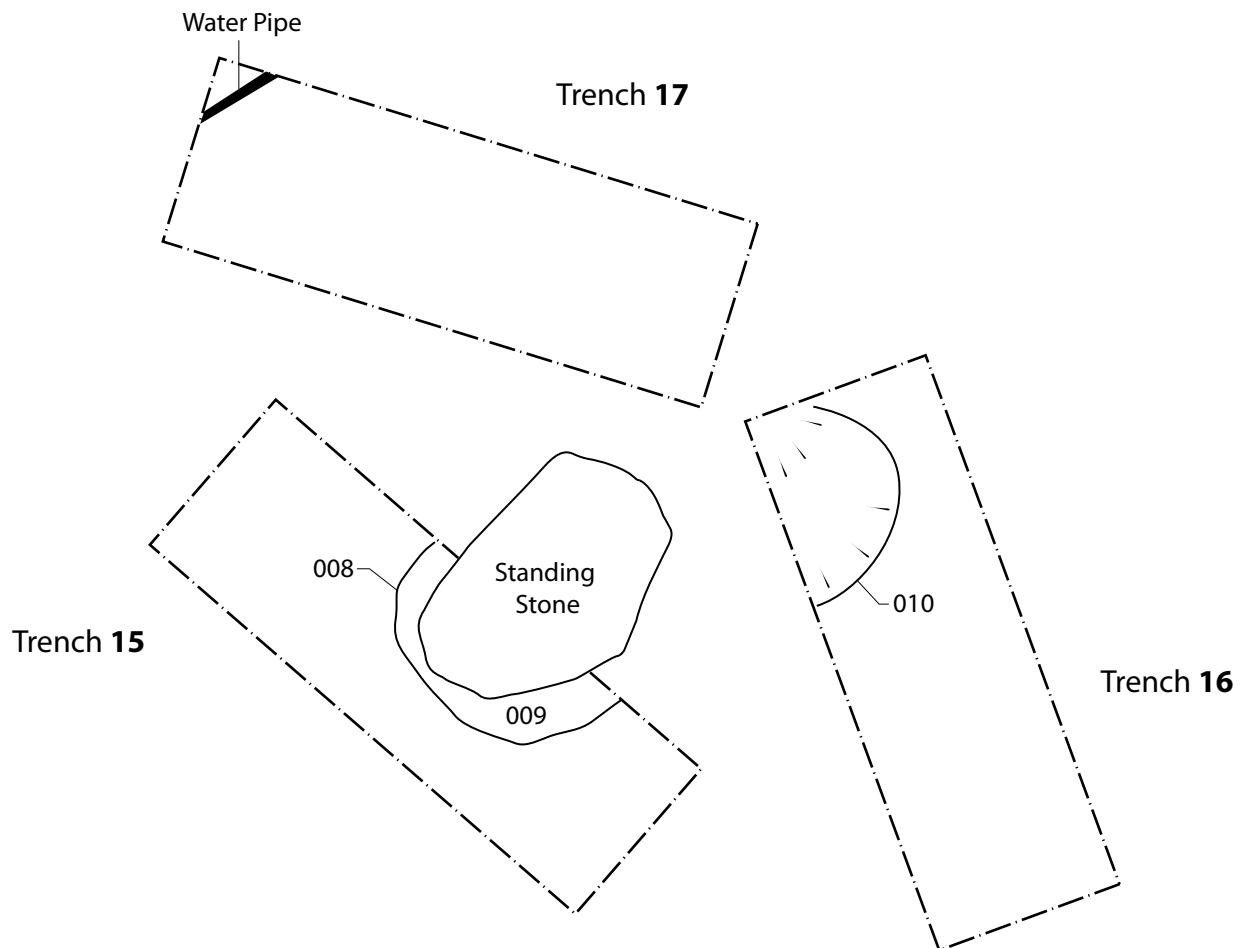


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Key:



Fig. No: 2 Revision: A Client: Miller Homes Ltd

Title: Plan of Trenches 15, 16 & 17

Project:

Land to the North of Moray Street, Doune
Archaeological Evaluation.

Scale: 0 0.5 1 2m



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Plate 1 - Trench 15 showing Standing Stone and 008



Plate 2 - Trench 17 section

Key:	Fig. No:	Revision: A	Client: Miller Homes Ltd	CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Esknills 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
	Title: Plates 1 & 2			
Scale:	Project: Land to the North of Moray Street, Doune Archaeological Evaluation.		Drawn by: LW	Page No: