



**East Moat Hill
Community Excavation,
Cupar,
Fife,
Data Structure Report**

January 2019



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1 Introduction

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd and AKD Archaeology were commissioned by Fife Historic Buildings Trust to undertake a programme of community archaeological excavation and engagement at the East Moat Hill (Canmore ID: 31477) Cupar, Fife (NGR: NO 3725 1474). This Data Structure Report represents the findings of the community excavation as required by Fife Historic Buildings Trust.
- 1.1.2 The community excavation and engagement was created to be part of a larger scheme of Historic and Environment works known as the Cupar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI). This initiative was co-ordinated and operated by Fife Council and Fife Historic Buildings Trust, and core funded jointly by Historic Environment Scotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Fife Council. The five-year CARS/THI programme runs until March 2019 and has delivered a number of elements from building projects, public realm improvements to Cupar's streets, training, apprenticeships and community engagement.
- 1.1.3 East Moat Hill (Canmore ID: 31477) is located within the Cupar Archaeological Area of Regional Importance and also within the Cupar Conservation Area. The Hill itself is not covered by any specific historic environment controls or statutory legislation. The hill is owned by Fife Council and on behalf of the Council, permission was granted by the Council Archaeologist for the community excavation to take place.
- 1.1.4 The archaeological potential of the East Moat Hill was unknown and so assumed that the hill was unlikely to contain any deep or complex stratigraphy, but there was the potential for artefacts, deposits and structural remains of medieval date to exist on site.
- 1.1.5 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd and AKD Archaeology conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (hereafter CIfA) Code of conduct, and relevant Standards and Guidance documents produced by the CIfA.
- 1.1.6 A record of the work has been deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS ID archascu1-393050) and with Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland.

1.2 Site Location and Setting

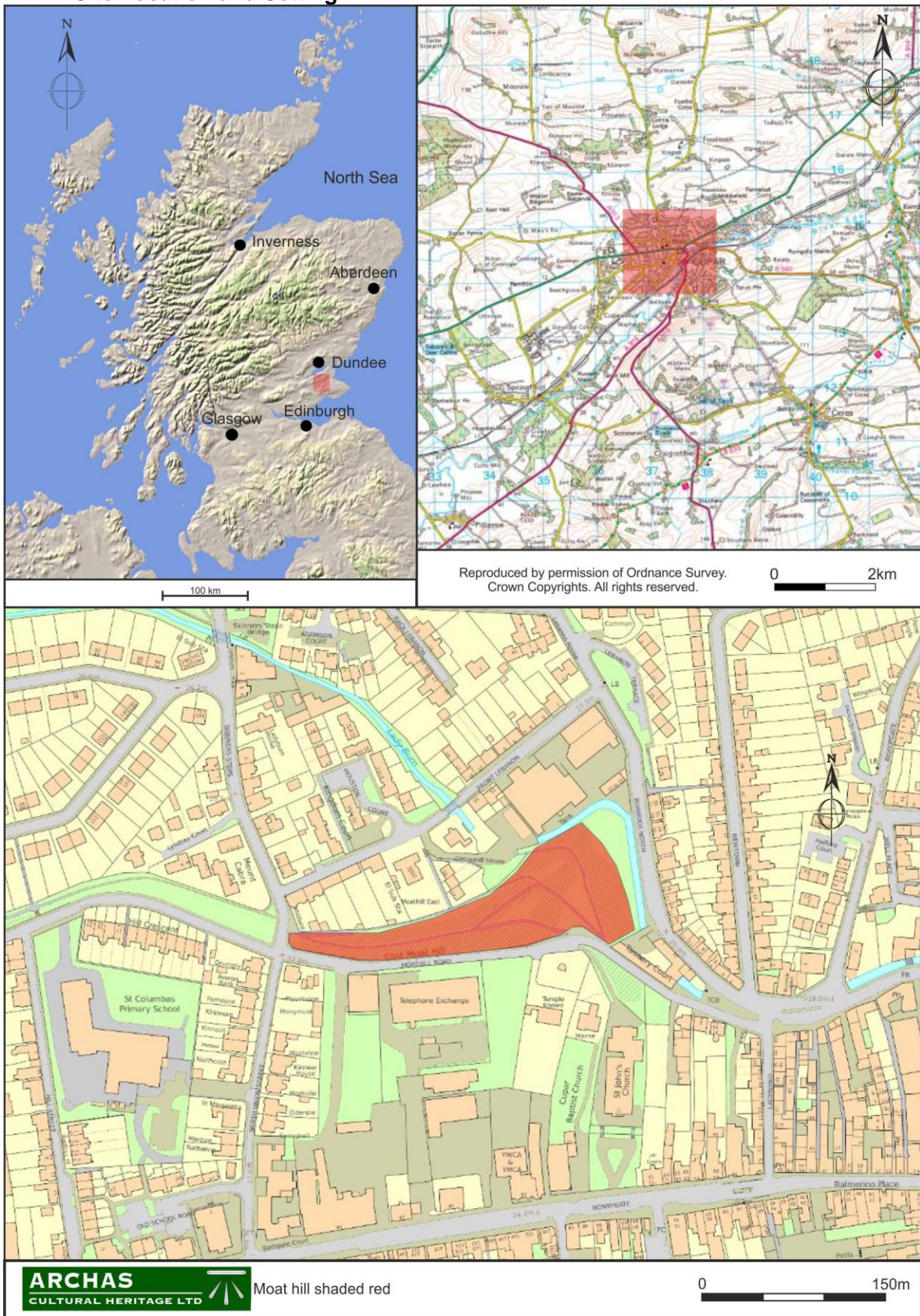


Figure 1: Site location

Study Area

- 1.2.1 The focus of the community excavations was the East Moat Hill located to the north of the town centre (**Error! Reference source not found.**) the site is owned and maintained by Fife Council as a Public Park. There are several paths and the park is used as a short cut to the town centre and as a dog exercising area. The town of Cupar was previously a Medieval Burgh and county market town located in north east Fife.
- 1.2.2 The Hill is a completely natural feature and specifically known as a 'Kaim/Kame' and glacial in origin. It has been truncated and quarried although the top of the hillock appears never to have been developed. The East Moat Hill is centred on NGR: NO 37238 14744.
- 1.2.3 Regarding the areas of focus for the archaeological investigations it is assumed that when operational as a medieval place of assembly, the courts or meetings were held and conducted in the open-air. Excavation will hopefully shed light on this assumption. Therefore, the principal focus of the excavations were the summit of the hillock (Figure 2, Plate 1) with secondary trenches located across the hillock to further study if archaeological remains were present.

Geology

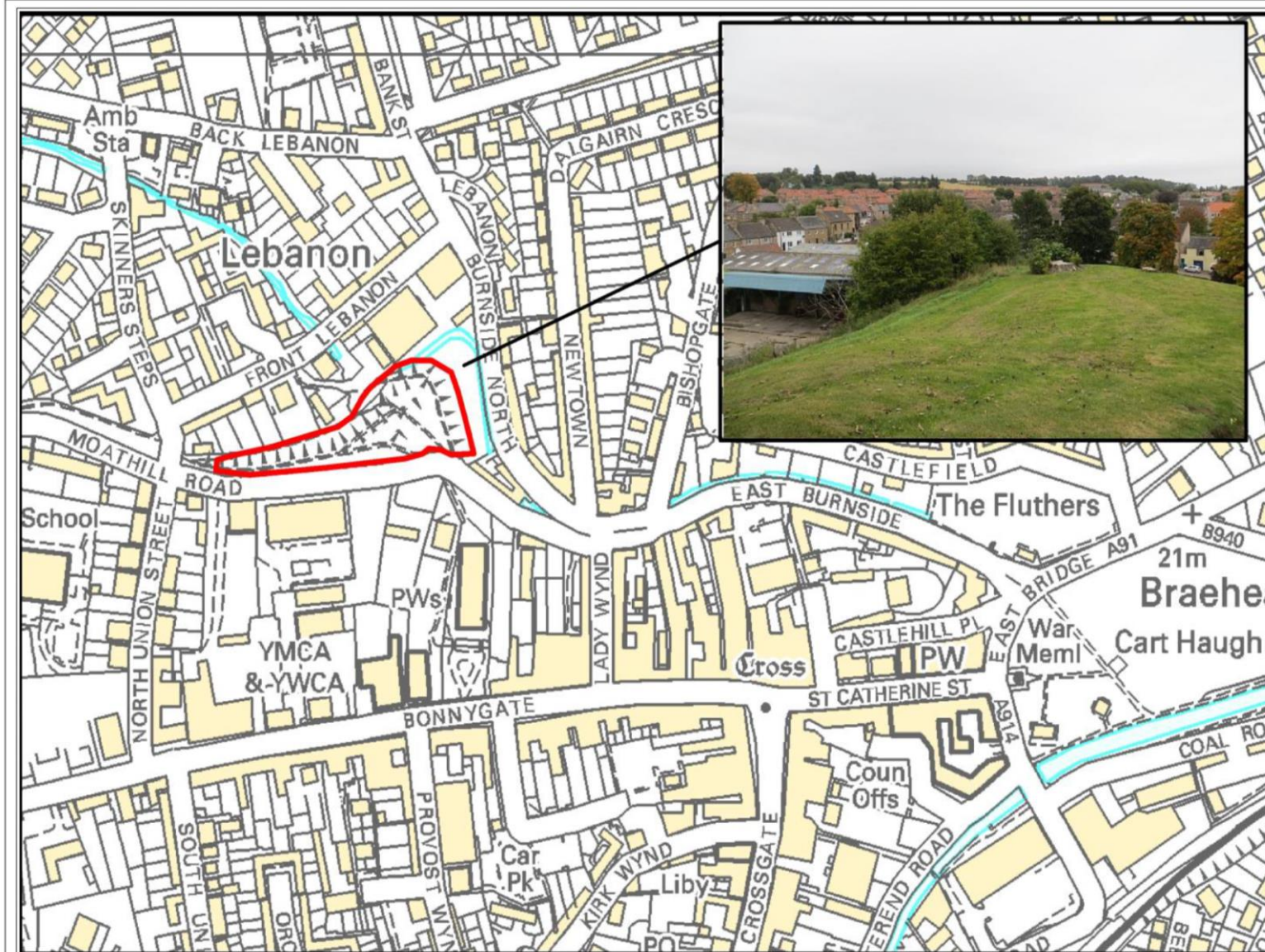
- 1.2.4 The Bedrock Geology is recorded as Glaciofluvial Sheet Deposits composing Burnside Sandstone Formation, a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 359 to 383 million years ago in the Devonian Period¹.
- 1.2.5 The Superficial deposits are recorded as Glaciofluvial Sheet Deposits composing of Gravel, Sand and Silt formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Formed in a local environment dominated by ice age conditions and generally coarse-grained, they form beds, channels, plains and fans associated with meltwater².
- 1.2.6 East Moat Hill is geologically known as a *Kame* and refers to a glacial landform of an irregularly shaped hill or mound composed of sand, gravel and till. The word *kame* is a variant of *comb* (*kame*, or *kaim* is the Old Scotch word for *comb*), which has the meaning "crest" among others. Kames were probably formed by streams of melting glacial ice that deposited mud and sand along the ice front. The subsequent retreat of the glacier left them as more or less isolated hills and ridges, ranging in height from a few feet to 100 ft (30 m) or more. Kames generally occur in clusters and are situated directly behind a mass of rock and soil called a terminal moraine. They are common in the glaciated valleys of the Scottish Lowlands, where the name originated.

Volunteer Engagement

- 1.2.7 Throughout the project a key motivator and consideration was the long term legacy that the volunteer participation in the East Moat Hill Community Excavation was to develop an information base that can act as grounding for subsequent learning and creative activities associated to the site. The development of amateur archaeologists with a shared engagement and experience of investigating their burgh was also a key objective to generate a base and enthusiasm for future endeavours.

¹ www.bgs.ac.uk –16/11/18

² www.bgs.ac.uk –16/11/18



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Date:	16/11/18
Scale:	1:3525
Illustrator:	PK

Figure 2: East Moat Hill, red line denotes area of study

2 Background

2.1 Historical Background

Cupar

2.1.1 Cupar is a Pictish place-name and before the 12th century it appears to have been the *caput* of either an early royal estate or the principal residence of the Mormaer of Fife. From the 12th century onwards Cupar acted as the head burgh of the medieval shire of Fife and was the seat of the Earl of Fife. The town is believed to have grown around the site of Cupar Castle, which was the seat of the sheriff and was owned by the earls of Fife (Martin 2006).

2.1.2 Towards the latter stages of the 13th century, the burgh became the site of an assembly of the three estates - clergy, nobility and burgesses - organised by Alexander III in 1276 as a predecessor of the Parliament of Scotland (Lamont-Brown 2002). By the middle of the 14th century, the burgh started to pay customs on taxable incomes, suggesting that Royal Burgh status was granted approximately between 1294 and 1328 (Martin 2006). The oldest document, referring to the Royal Burgh, was a grant by Robert II in 1381 to give a port at Guardbridge on the River Eden to help boost trade with Flanders (Pride 1999).

The Moat Hill

2.1.3 Known as a Moat Hill, these sites were associated with places of medieval assembly, where open-air councils were held and justice was dispensed (similar to Norse *Things*, English *Moot Hills* and Gaelic *Cuthills*). Moat Hills derive their name from the Scots word *mut(e)* 'a formal meeting or assembly', 'an action or case at law' or a 'cause or plea'. Moat Hills tend to be associated with feudal justice from the 12th century onwards although many probably have much earlier origins.

2.1.4 With specific reference the East Moat Hill of Cupar, it is a natural grass hill that was used as the setting for the head courts of Fife from at least the late 13th century and demonstrates a common aspect that centrally important judicial venues would utilise natural hills as settings for assemblies.

2.1.5 The East Moat Hill comprises a low ridge, aligned east-west, located to the south of and within a bend of the Lady Burn. The ridge slopes gradually from ground level on the west side, rising to the highest point approximately two thirds of the way along to the eastern side, with a small flattish area just to the east of the highest point (Plate 1). On the north and south of the higher part of the hill, the ground slopes away quite steeply, particularly on the northern side. On the eastern side of the hill there is an irregular shaped spur that extends northwards which itself has a lower-lying flat top that is detached from the main ridge and cut through by a modern path (Plate 2).

Documentary Sources

2.1.5 Historical references to courts at Cupar most likely relate to the site of East Moat Hill, which, during the late medieval period was also known as the Camehill. An inquest from 1400, refers to Sir John Erskine who protested the legality of a court held by the Duke of Albany and Earl of Fife, Robert Stewart, that was said to have been 'sedens apud montem qui vocatur Camehill de Cupro in Fyff', meaning 'seated upon the mound which is called the Camehill of Cupar in Fife' (Fraser 1888: vol. 2, no. 31; Dickinson 1928: xiii., fn. 5, from O'Grady 2008).



Plate 1: View of East Moat Hill Summit



Plate 2: View of 'Spur' on the northeast side of East Moat Hill and Trench 1 (Photograph 003)

- 2.1.6 Sibbald, writing in the 18th century, writes that the Mutehill was also known as the Camhill and suggest that 'Cam' derives from Gaelic meaning 'crooked' describing the form of the low ridge (Simpson and Stevenson 1981: 3-4). Although O'Grady (2008) confirms that Camehill is more likely to derive from the Scots noun 'Kame' meaning a 'comb, long narrow steep-sided ridge, crest of a hill'.
- 2.1.7 During the 18th century East Moat Hill was also known as the 'Castlehill ridge' because the feature was believed to have originally extended to Castlehill on the east side of the town and was thought to have constituted the 'northern rampart of the town' (Simpson and Stevenson 1981: 3-4). Again, O'Grady (2008) writes that this assertion of the hill extending further east to the area of Castle Hill in the first half of the 19th century is unlikely based on the 17th century illustration of the Mutehill (Figure 5).
- 2.1.8 Both historical references and cartographic evidence demonstrate the significance of the East Moat Hill as an area for the setting of courts from at least the 14th-15th centuries as well as a distinct and obvious topographic feature. The *Mons Placiti* (Mute Hill) of Cupar is mentioned in an entry of the Register of the Great Seal of Scotland dated 1497 (RMS 1882-1914: vol. 2, 502, no. 2360, From O'Grady 2008), and this can be identified as the Mutehill or Camehill of Cupar.
- 2.1.9 The significance of East Moat Hill when considered in association with its close proximity to the Castlehill and the old parish church of Cupar demonstrates the importance of the hill as a representation of the Earl of Fife's power centre at Cupar from the late 12th century. These three elements may have been the key features of a regional administrative centre at Cupar between the late 12th and 15th centuries, and potentially earlier (O'Grady 2008).
- 2.1.10 Lying to the west of the East Moat Hill is a smaller low ridge of a similar shape known as the *Moat Hill*. It is suggested that this feature may not be related to the assembly site and possibly derives its name from post-medieval tradition (O'Grady 2008). However, when looking at cartographic representations, notably modern Ordnance Surveys, both the physical characteristics of the East Moat Hill and Moat Hill have influenced the layout of this area of Cupar and potentially would have been a very noticeable and distinctive topographic feature prior to the area being urbanised and in the Prehistoric and early Medieval periods.

Previous Archaeological Work

- 2.1.11 In April 1996 an archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken on the East Moat Hill to monitor road widening. The results of the watching brief confirmed that the core of the hill is natural and fluvio-glacial in origin. The significant amount of Victorian dumped layers suggested that the hill was used as a local quarry and backfilled with household rubbish sometime in the 19th century (Coleman 1996). Only the west 'tail' of the ridge was affected by the road development, and the stratigraphic sequence identified in this location was not suggested as being repeated at the east end (Coleman 1996).

2.2 Map Regression

General

- 2.2.1 A number of historic maps were consulted to assess whether there was evidence of previously unrecorded structures or development. As the study area is relatively small, often the scale of the earlier historic maps is insufficient to reveal detail as to whether the site had been previously occupied or exploited in any way.

Pre-Ordnance Survey Maps

- 2.2.2 Robert Gordon's *An outline map of the Tay estuary round Fife Ness and on to Kirkcaldy* (1636-52) (Figure 3) is the first map to depict Cupar, spelt 'Cowpar' with the southwest-northeast aligned River Eden the main topographical feature depicted.
- 2.2.3 James Gordon's (1642) *Fyfe Shire, MDCXLII: Fife provincia noviter delineata / Auctore Jacobo Gordonio fo R.G. a Strathloch. Fife provincia noviter delineate, Fife shire* (Figure 4) depicts a larger town than that from Robert Gordon's survey with a bridge over the River Eden. The surrounding landscape is shown to contain numerous small settlements.
- 2.2.4 The significance of James Gordon's survey is the pictorial insert specifically of Cupar itself (Figure 5). This provides us with a detailed representation of the layout; streets, houses/shop frontages and their associated burgage plots. It is also the first to name the River Eden. Regarding the East Moat Hill, the added significance of the insert is that it is the first to depict and label the Moat Hill, spelt 'Mute Hill' (given the location number 19, top centre-right of the insert, Figure 5).
- 2.2.5 The inclusion and labelling of the hill demonstrates the significance that the Moat Hill still had in the mid-17th century and although the hill was not being used for assemblies, its historical associations and distinct topography and location rendered it certain significance within Cupar.
- 2.2.6 Publication of John Wood's (1820) *Plan of the Town of Cupar* (Figure 6) resulted in the first depiction of the physical shape of the East Moat Hill and also the West Moat Hill. This depiction noted the raised curving shape of the hill and accurately depicts the course of the Lady Burn along with the path running along the length the hill. By illustrating both the East and West Moat Hills, this is the first time that there is an appreciation in their topographic distinctiveness.

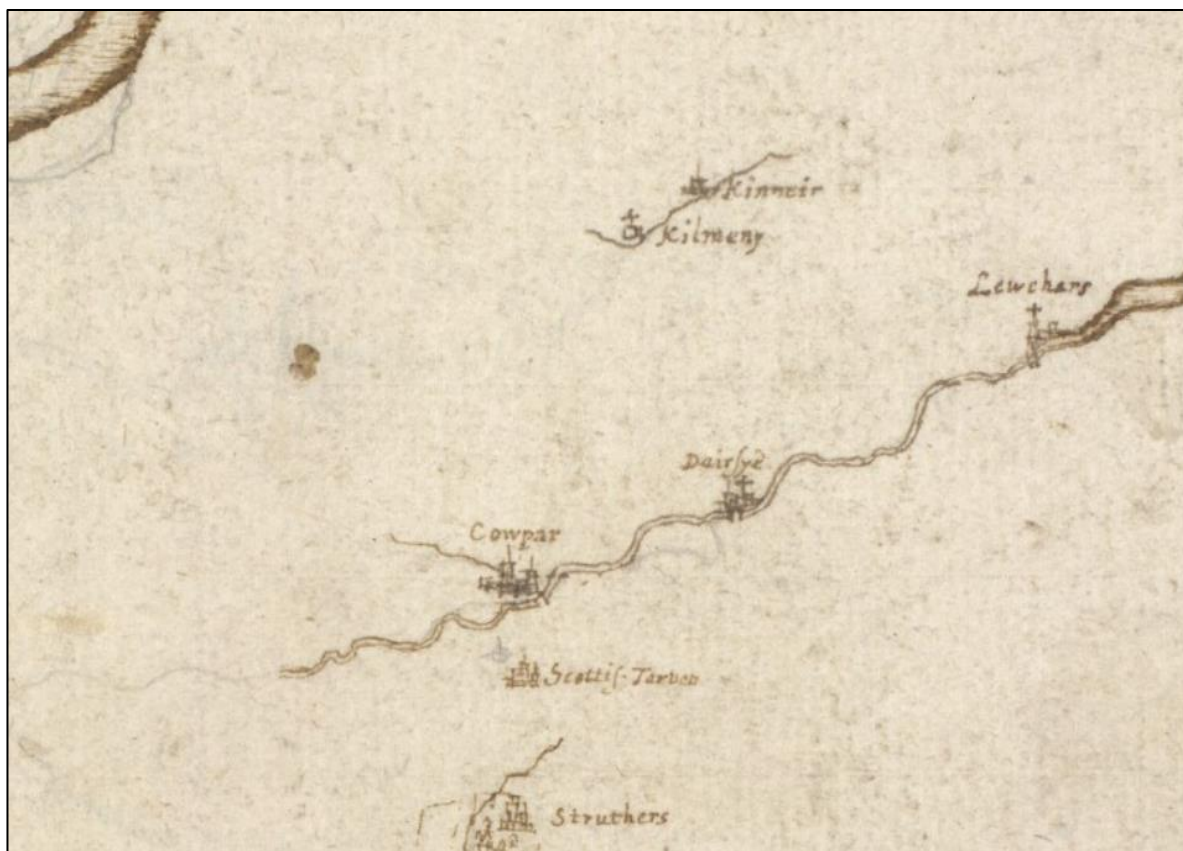


Figure 3: Extract from Robert Gordon's *An outline map of the Tay estuary round Fife Ness and on to Kirkcaldy* (1636-52), NLS.



Figure 4: Extract from James Gordon's (1642) Fyfe Shire, MDCXLII: Fife provincia noviter delineata / Auctore Jacobo Gordonio fo R.G. a Strathloch. Fife provincia noviter delineate, Fife shire. NLS.

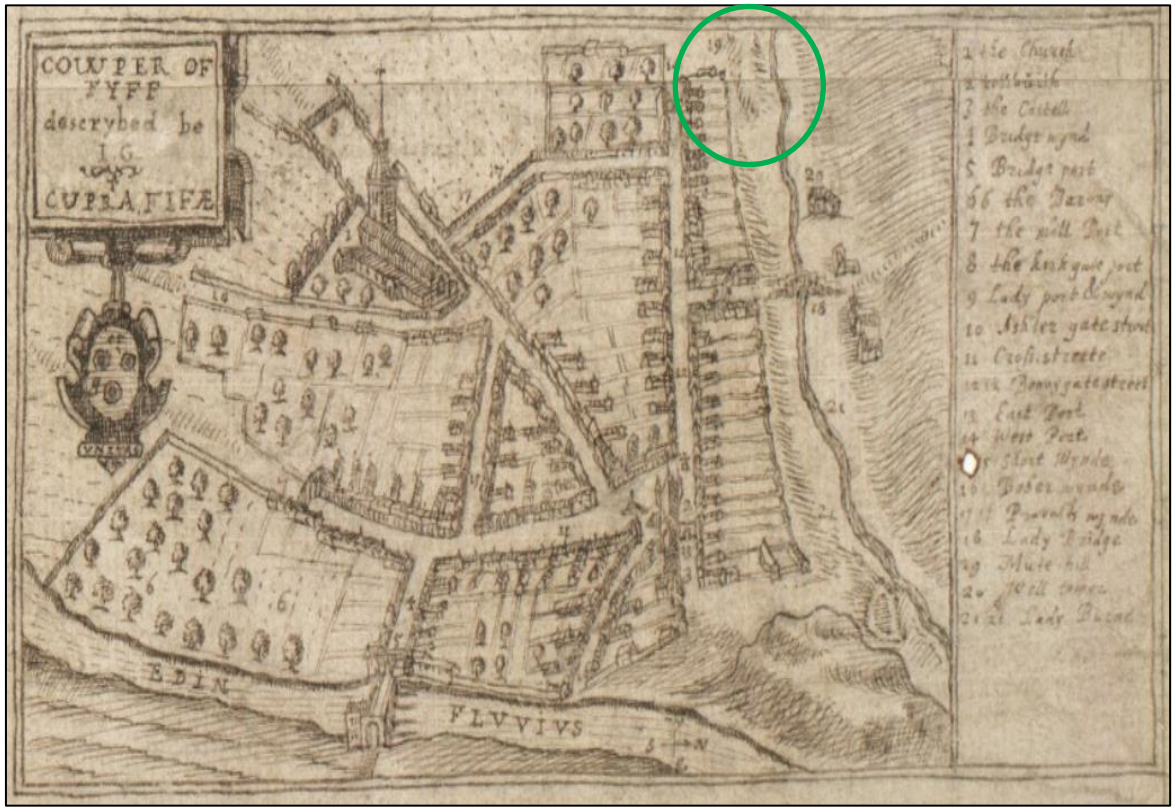


Figure 5: Pictorial insert plan of Cupar, first time the Moat Hill is depicted, called 'Mute Hill' (#19). From James Gordon's (1642) Fyfe Shire, MDCXLII: Fife provincia noviter delineata / Auctore Jacobo Gordonio fo R.G. a Strathloch. Fife provincia noviter delineate, Fife shire. NLS. Green circle denotes the 'Mute Hill'



Figure 6: Extract from John Wood's Plan of the Town of Cupar (1820). East Moot Hill to the right of the survey. NLS



Figure 7: Extract from the 6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey Five, Sheet 11 (1856) (includes: Ceres; Cupar; Dairsie; Kemback; Leuchars). East Moot Hill to the right of the survey. NLS



Figure 8: Extract from the Ordnance Survey large scale Scottish town plans, 1847-1895, Town Plan of Cupar Sheet 5, (1854). NLS (note positions of drying poles)

Ordnance Survey Maps

- 2.2.7 There is little change in the layout of the East Moat Hill from Wood's survey and the *6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey Fife, Sheet 11* (1856), however the Ordnance Survey provides much more detail on the form of the open summit area as well as noting the presence of the Trig point. The scale of growth of urban Cupar is notable from Wood's earlier survey and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.
- 2.2.8 The *Ordnance Survey large scale Scottish town plans, 1847-1895, Town Plan of Cupar Sheet 5* (1854) provides a great amount of detail regarding the location of the paths that are situated on the East Moat Hill and thus providing the earliest date and location for these paths and also on the use of the hill as a communal drying area. The small black dots located on the summit and the east side of the hill represent the poles used to hold up the drying lines. Still in existence is the last pole associated with the drying area (Plate 3).



Plate 3: Image showing the last of the drying poles still *in situ*

3 Excavation Results

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The community excavation and engagement comprised part of a five year ongoing programme of works called the Cupar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI). This was operated by Fife Council and Fife Historic Buildings Trust, and core funded jointly by Historic Environment Scotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Fife Council. Running until March 2019 there were a number of separate elements including building projects, improvements to Cupar's streets, training, apprenticeships and community engagement.
- 3.1.2 The principle objective of the community excavation was to promote and enable public participation in archaeology. For those most actively involved, this took the form of direct volunteering in field teams undertaking excavation and supported by on-site training.
- 3.1.3 Over a single period of 10 days; 03rd-07th and 10th-14th October 2018, a total of twenty volunteers were involved in excavating four trenches specifically located towards the east end of the East Moat Hill and on the summit.
- 3.1.4 All exposed surfaces were hand cleaned and investigated for archaeological features or deposits, with features investigated and planned to determine their archaeological significance. All works were conducted in accordance with Fife Council Archaeology Unit Standards of Fieldwork, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.
- 3.1.5 Any potentially significant archaeological features, structures or deposits encountered were recorded by the professional archaeologists and volunteers on site, using ARCHAS and AKD Archaeology standard methods. All contexts, small finds and environmental samples were given unique numbers with bulk finds collected by context. All context numbers are in bold and parentheses.

3.2 Archaeological Results

Topsoil

- 3.2.1 Context (**101**) comprised the topsoil across all four trenches; and was characterised by a compact, light brown fine silty soil with frequent roots and rootlets present. It extended across all trenches with an average depth of 0.20m. Within (**101**) in all four trenches and particularly Trenches 1 & 2, frequent small (0.02m-0.05m) rounded and sub-rounded stones were noted. Also recovered were frequent small finds in the form of pottery, glass, clay roof tiles, metal objects, coal fragments, ash and occasional coins.

Trench 1

- 3.2.2 Trench 1 was located on the south side of the northeast spur of the hill (Figure 9) and aligned north-south. Overall, the trench measured 18.0m in length by 1.30m wide (Plates 4 & 5). During the excavation, it was found that the depth of the topsoil (**101**) within Trench 1 increased from north to south from 0.30m at the northern end, 0.45m in the central part of the trench and 0.90m at the southern end.
- 3.2.3 Due to depth of topsoil at the southern end of Trench 1, three sondages were excavated to identify the actual depth of the natural subsoil (Plate 6). Sondage 1 was aligned north-south, measured 1.0m in length, 0.60m wide and 0.47m deep (Plate 7). Sondage 2 was aligned north-south and measured 0.97m in length, 0.50m wide and was 0.47m deep.

Sondage 3 was also aligned north-south and measured 1.0m in length, 0.60m wide and 0.43m in depth.

- 3.2.4 The upper north end of Trench 1 had a less complicated stratigraphic sequence than that of the lower southern end. Located at the upper north end, there was a distinct stone deposit (**102**) which represents a deliberate bank running roughly east to west along the northeast spur and using the natural stone (Plates 8, 9 & 10).
- 3.2.3 Context (**102**) comprised a moderately compacted light to mid grey silty loam and very frequent (approx. 80%) medium sized (0.01m-0.02m) rounded and sub-rounded stones. Roughly 4m in length north-south and width of the trench; 1.30m and 0.60m in height. It forms the upper 4m of the north of end of trench.
- 3.2.4 Context (**103**) was a natural subsoil formed by a moderately compacted light to mid grey silty loam with very frequent small to medium (20mm-200mm) rounded and sub-rounded stones. Throughout there were patches of compacted silt and sand. Context (**103**) was sterile of finds and formed the context for the remaining length of Trench 1.
- 3.2.5 Approximately located in the middle of Trench 1 was the rectilinear feature [**104**] and fill (**105**) (Plates 11 & 12). At first this was assumed to be a root bowl for a tree or bush. On further excavation [**104**] measured north-south 0.68m (long axis) by east-west 0.50m and was cut into (**103**). The depth on the north side was 0.28m and the south side 0.15m. The cut had a sharp break of slope top with the north, south and west sides all vertical with a flat base. The east side was formed by the side of the trench. Context (**105**) formed the fill of [**104**] and was formed by a moderately compacted dark brown sandy silt with charcoal, glass and CBM throughout.
- 3.2.6 With the presence of the last pole associated with the drying area (Plate 3) and the depiction of the communal drying area on the *Ordnance Survey large scale Scottish town plans, 1847-1895, Town Plan of Cupar Sheet 5 (1854)* (Figure 8). Feature [**104**] most likely represents where a base for a pole associated with the drying area once stood.
- 3.2.7 Context (**106**) was composed by a loose to moderately compacted, light grey brown friable silty loam with frequent small to medium (0.20m-0.15m) sized rounded and sub-rounded stones, 400mm thick and 4m wide. The distinct difference in the composition of (**106**) to (**102**); notably the size of stones used, suggests that (**106**) represents the core material of the bank (**102**) (Plate 10).
- 3.3.8 Without any dateable material recovered from the stone bank (**102**) it is not possible to conclude on the origin. However, the distinct difference in the core of the bank represented by (**106**) which utilises the natural glacial subsoil of (**103**) and the bank material of (**102**) which is characterised by medium to large stones would certainly suggest that the bank is not natural and represents anthropic activity. This is further supported by a distinct edge, noticeable on the south side which is formed by the bank material (**102**) overlying (**103**) and (**106**) (Plates 8 & 9).
- 3.2.9 The lower southern 8m of Trench 1 was characterised by a mixed homogenous soil/deposit of both topsoil (**101**) and the natural glacial deposit of (**103**). This was an area where a majority of the finds were recovered. Context (**107**) comprised a moderately compacted mid brown gravelly silt and likely represents a redeposited natural deposit along with material that has been brought in from elsewhere as a levelling deposit. The highly mixed nature of the matrix meant there was not a clear stratigraphic sequence from which the finds were recorded.
- 3.2.10 Below context (**107**), context (**108**) demonstrated a clear and distinct difference in its composition. It was much less mixed than (**107**) and also relatively sterile of finds.

Context **(108)** comprised a moderately compacted dark brown gravelly silt and occasional rounded small stones (200mm) with a thickness of 200mm and forming the lower half of Trench 1. Throughout the deposit there were frequent fragments of charcoal/ash and contaminated by burnt material that has been dumped. As well as general dump material from domestic use, it may also represent activity from the tanning work that was in the immediate vicinity.

- 3.2.11 The fact that **(107)** has been highly mixed and disturbed would suggest that it is potentially material that has been redeposited and essentially used as a levelling material to cover over the charcoal and ash rich material of **(108)**. Similarly the range of artefacts recovered in the mixed context of **(107)** further suggests that the area was most likely an area for dumping refuse material.
- 3.2.12 The only notable find that came from context **(108)** was a small piece of possibly worked quartz (Small finds number 2). The frequency in which charcoal/ash was recorded and further contaminated by burnt material would suggest the quartz is not in-situ and that context **(108)** represents material that has been dumped. As well as general hearth material from domestic use, context **(108)** may also represent activity from the tanning work that was in the immediate vicinity.
- 3.2.13 The final two contexts; **(109)** and **(110)** both represent another and different natural deposit to that of **(107)**. Context **(109)** was a moderately compacted light brown sand, 0.10m thick and 0.50m wide and 0.40m in length (this covers the exposed area of the Sondage 1 and is the same context in Sondages 2 & 3). Possibly represents a previously exposed natural deposit that has been buried and covered by **(108)** and leached into the sand of **(109)**.
- 3.2.14 Context **(110)** was characterised by a moderately compacted reddish brown sand, 0.10m thick and 50mm wide and 400mm in length (Plate 13) (this covered the exposed area of Sondage 1 and is the same context in Sondages 2 & 3) and represents the lowest and base natural sand deposit.
- 3.2.15 The slight difference in colouration of **(109)** to that of **(110)** may represent that it was open to the elements at some time and later became buried by **(108)** which itself would have leached into **(109)** and change in colour.
- 3.2.16 It is likely that the sand deposit **(110)** represents the overall basal deposits for the whole area and originally **(107)** would have formed an upper subsoil or horizon the same as **(103)**. From the trench it would seem that the upper half has had significantly less disturbance and is most likely due to the natural rise of the topography.
- 3.2.17 No finds were recovered from the Bank **(102)** with all the finds located in the southern approximately 8m of the trench. Overall the finds represented 19th-20th century activity and were represented by modern a modern white ceramic soup/desert bowl and a number of smaller sherds of modern ceramic, CBM material, fragments of glass, a handle from a gate, a .303 rifle cartridge and clay pipe fragments. Such material is what was to be expected in such an urban area. One notable find was that of a worked rectilinear shaped piece of flint recovered from the central area of Trench 1 and was concluded to be the flint from a flintlock pistol (Small Finds number 1).



Plate 4: Trench 1: Mid excavation (Photograph 057)



Plate 5: Trench 1: Fully excavated (Photograph 063)



Plate 6: Trench 1: Sondages 1&2 (Photograph 067)



Plate 7: Trench 1: Sondage 1 (Photograph 064)



Plate 8: Trench 1: possible stone bank (102) (Photograph 022)



Plate 9: Trench 1: possible stone bank (102) (Photograph 041)



Plate 10: Trench 1: possible stone bank (102) and (106) the core of the Bank (Photograph 044)



Plate 11: Trench 1: Context [104], base for a clothes drying pole (Photograph 035)

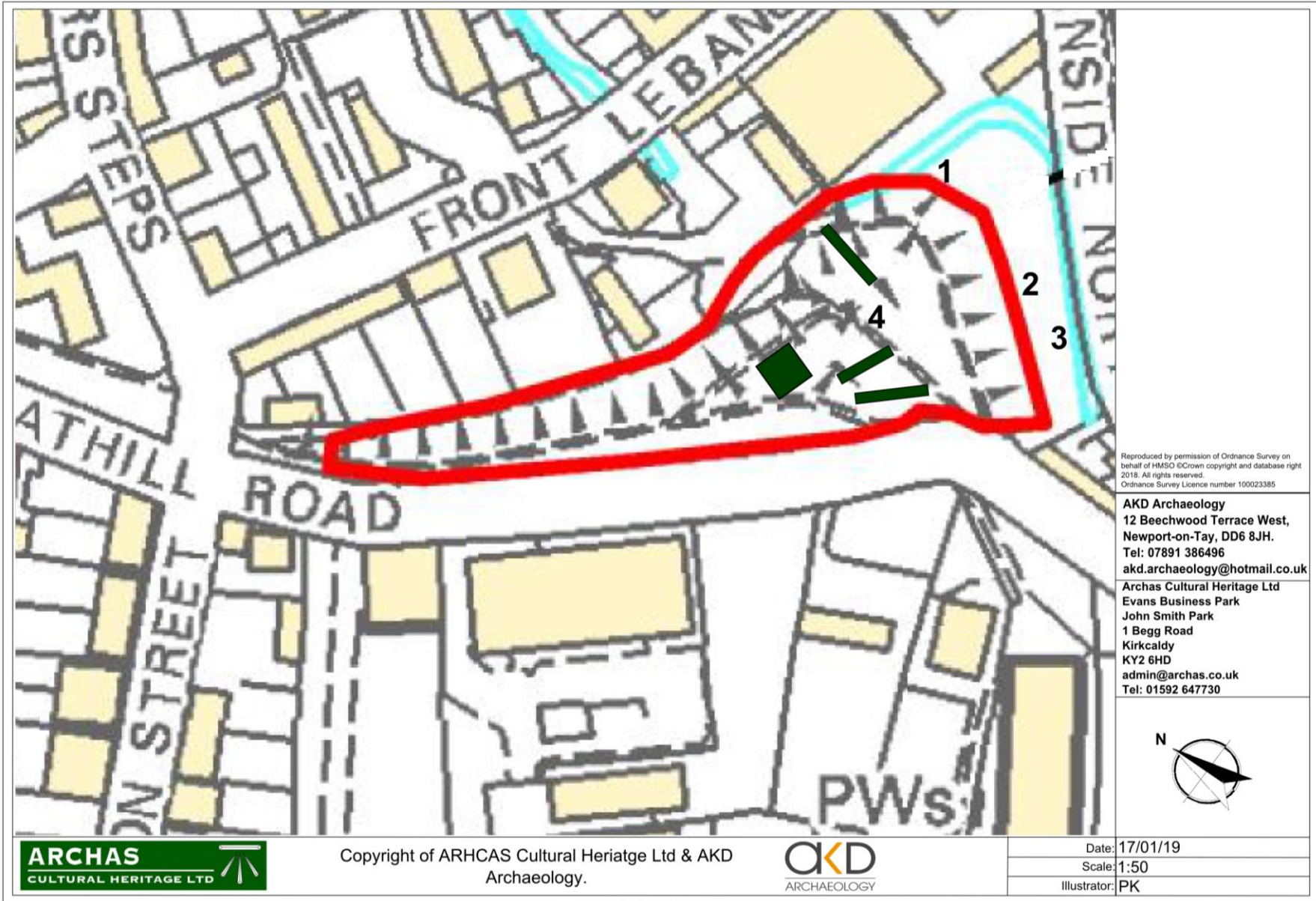


Figure 9: East Moat Hill trench locations



Plate 12: Trench 1: Context [104], base for a clothes drying pole (Photograph 090)



Plate 13: Trench 1: Sondage 1 showing base deposit (110) and contexts (101), (103), (107), (108) and (Photograph 087)

Trench 2

3.2.18 Trench 2 was located on the east facing slope of Moat Hill and descending from the summit of Moat Hill (Plate 14, Figure 9). Trench 2 was aligned east-west, 12m in length and 1.30m wide and 0.23m in depth. Modern anthropic material in the form of glass, ceramic and CBM were recorded throughout Trench 2.

3.2.19 Context (101) formed the topsoil across the whole trench with context (203) the natural subsoil composing a moderately compacted light to mid grey silty loam with very frequent small to medium (20mm-200mm) rounded and sub-rounded stones representing the base deposit and the same as (103).

Trench 3

3.2.20 Trench 3 was also located on the east facing slope of Moat Hill and descending from the hills summit (Plate 15, Figure 9). Trench 3 was aligned northwest-southeast, 18.30m in length and 1.30m wide and 0.30m in depth. As with Trench 2 context (101) formed the upper stratigraphic layer with context (303) representing the base deposit and the same as contexts (101) and (203). Throughout (101) and (303) modern anthropic material in the form of glass, ceramic and CBM were recorded throughout Trench 3.

3.2.21 No archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 2 and 3, only naturally occurring soil deposits were recorded. The natural deposits were characterised by topsoil; the same as (101) and the natural glacial subsoil which was the same as (103). As such work ceased on these two trenches at an early stage and focus was placed on Trenches 1 and 4.



Plate 14: Trench 2: Context (203) (Photograph 048)



Plate 15: Trench 3: Context (303) (Photograph 052)

Trench 4

- 3.2.22 Trench 4 was located on the summit of Moat Hill and measured 5m by 5m with the south side and northeast corner excavated to a depth of 0.30m and the northwest corner excavated to a depth of 0.58m (Plate 16, Figure 9). Context (401) covered the whole of the trench and was the same as topsoil (101).
- 3.2.13 Context (402) was a moderately compacted dark brown red silt and sand with frequent small to medium sized rounded and sub-rounded stones (20mm-100mm). Throughout there were modern inclusions of glass, ceramic and metal. The thickness on the north side was 0.24m and 0.13m on the south side.
- 3.2.24 Within Trench 4, as with Trenches 1, 2 and 3 there was a range of modern artefacts recovered. Some were recovered in the turf and topsoil (401) with the majority from context (402). The finds ranged from ceramic marble bottle stoppers, a key, slate writing pencils/stylus', sherds of ceramics and drinks cans.
- 3.2.25 Context (403) was a moderately compacted mid brown silt and sand with very frequent small to medium sized rounded and sub-rounded stones (20mm-100mm) (Plate 17). Modern anthropic material in the form of glass, metal and ceramics was recorded lying between the interface of (402) & (403). The thickness is not fully known. Potentially the northwest corner has been more disturbed as there is evidence the area has been cleared.
- 3.3.26 Originally it was assumed that (402) was the natural deposit, however it became clearer that there was a distinct stone rich area formed by (403). There were also some finds in the interface between (402) and (403). In general (402) had few stones (Figure 10) and so

(403) formed a distinct separate deposit. It was decided to concentrate in the northwest corner of Trench 4 to fully understand the underlying deposits.

- 3.3.27 With the removal of (402), context (405) was reached and to confirm if this was the natural subsoil a sondage 0.40m in width was excavated. It was through this process that the northern edge of a pit [404] was discovered. The edge was followed to its base and in turn the cremation deposit of (406) discovered. Context (405) represents the fill and therefore redeposited natural of (407).
- 3.2.28 Context (407) was a moderately compacted mid brown silt and sand with occasional small sized rounded and sub-rounded stones (0.10m-0.50m). This forms the natural subsoil deposit in the NW area and is cut into it by the cut/feature [404].
- 3.2.29 Through the excavation of the small sondage, context [404] was excavated 1.60m north-south and 0.40m east-west and 0.78-0.80m in depth (Figure 10) (Plates 18 & 19). The exposed area of [404] was approximately 1.60m by 1.60m and located in the northwest corner of Trench 4. There appeared to be a gradual break of slope top and bottom with the cut having gradual sloping sides, the base of the feature was not reached or recognised.
- 3.2.30 Context (405) is the fill of [404] and formed by a moderately compacted mid brown silt and sand with very frequent small to medium sized rounded and sub-rounded stones (0.20m-0.10m) with a maximum thickness of 0.78m-0.80m (Plate 20). This is most likely a redeposited material formed by (407).
- 3.2.31 Context (406) had been clearly sealed by (405) and located at the base of the pit [404]. Context (406) was of loose compaction and black with an almost humic composition and a very high concentration of burnt bone (Plates 21, 22 & 23). All extents and thickness are unknown. It was clear that context (406) represents a cremation deposit that has been deliberately deposited into the pit of [404].
- 3.2.32 It is not fully understood what the contexts (402) and the stone layer of (403) represent. It is possible that context (402) represents a redeposited natural subsoil; (407), that has been disturbed and so forming a second soil horizon above (407). Similarly, (403) represents material that is redeposited natural from the northwest corner and deposited when the pit [404] was originally excavated. It is also possible that (403) may represent a deliberate paved/stone area associated with the pit [404].

Small Finds

- 3.2.33 Although no archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 2 and 3 modern material in the form of glass and ceramics was noted. However, there were notable finds represented by five coins. Three were recovered from Trench 2 and located in the natural glacial base deposit of context (103).
- 3.2.34 The coins were a; Napoleon III Centime bronze coin and dated (1861) (Small Finds number 5), an Edward VII Penny coin dated (1908) (Small Finds number 6) and a Victorian Half-Penny with only the first three digits of the date legible (186?) (Small Finds number 7). Within Trench 3, two further coins were recovered including a George VI Farthing with the date (1943) and a George V Penny dated (1921) (Small Finds numbers 7 and 8).



Plate 16: Trench 5 and area of stones in the fore of the image (south side) (Photograph 080)



Plate 17: Trench 5: Showing Context (403); the distinct area of stone on the south side of the trench (Photograph 078)

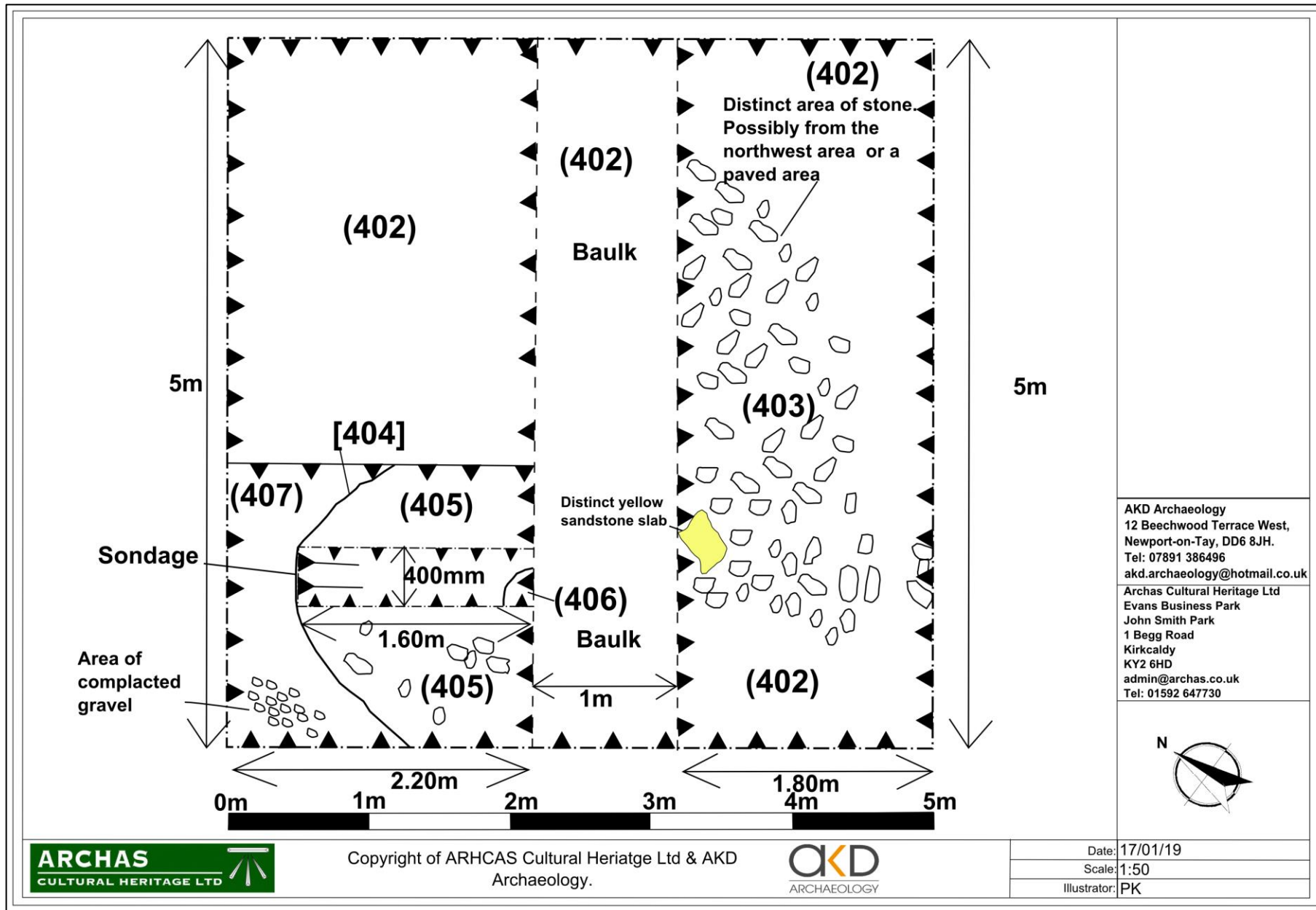


Figure 10: Plan of Trench 4



Plate 18: Trench 5: Sondage in the northwest corner (Photograph 082)



Plate 19: Trench 5: Sondage in the northwest corner (Photograph 088)



Plate 20: Trench 5: Context (405) in Sondage (Photograph 071)



Plate 21: Trench 5: Context (406), cremated bone bottom left in sondage.

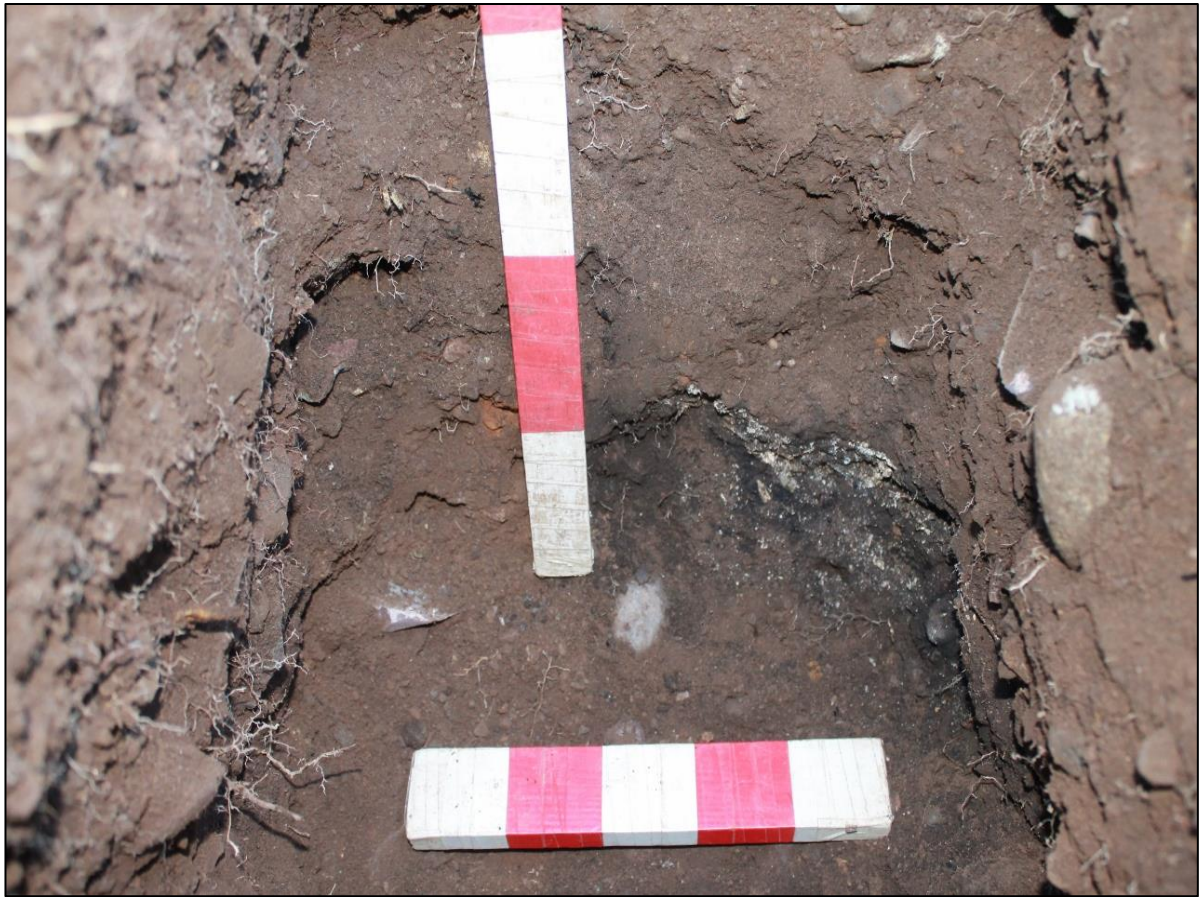


Plate 22: Trench 5: Context (406) (Photograph 071)

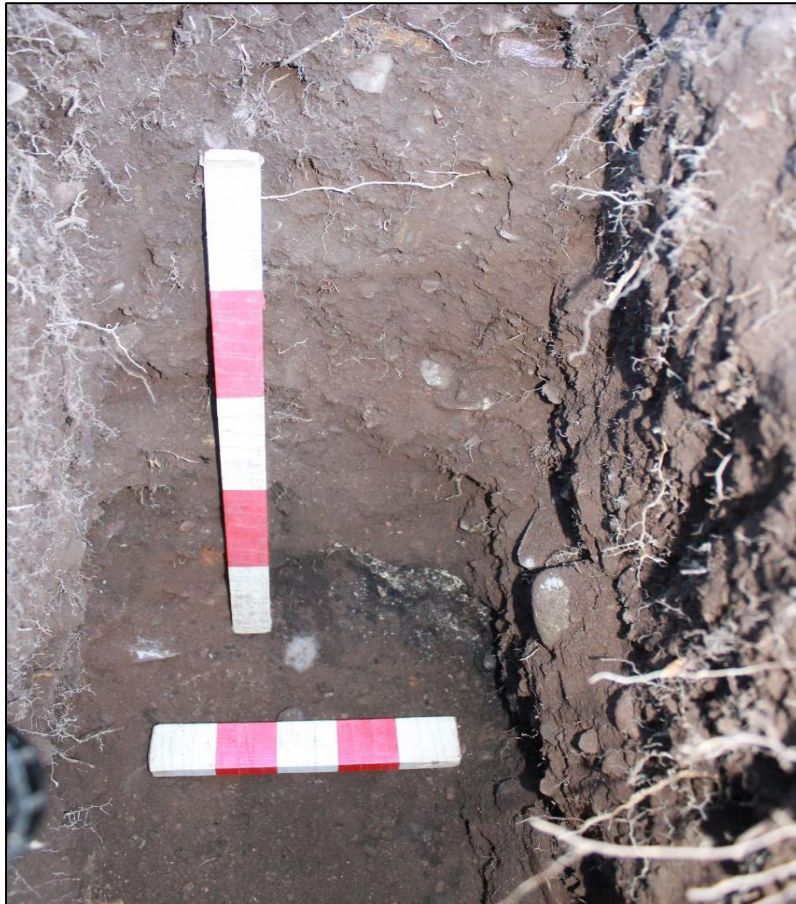


Plate 23: Trench 3: Context (406) (Photograph 072)

3.3 Cremation Deposit: Trench 4

Radiocarbon Date

- 3.3.1 From the cremation deposit (**406**) at the base of the pit [**404**] approximately 30g of bone were recovered both for further diagnostic work and for the C14 date. A sample of 4grams was sent to the SEURC Laboratory [Code: SUREC-83341 (GU49586)] in East Kilbride. A Radio Carbon date was achieved from the sample of bone with an uncalibrated Radio Carbon Age of **3407±29**. Once calibrated this provides a calendar date for the cremated bone of **1750BC** and placing it in the transition between the Early and Middle Bronze Age.
- 3.3.2 Throughout the cremation deposit (**406**) a small amount of bone was collected and overall was friable and lacking in any distinct diagnostic pieces. However, it was possible to retrieve fragments that were able to be diagnostically analysed for visual inspection. These were confirmed by Catherine Smith to be pig (*Sus*).
- 3.3.3 Evidence for the presence of pigs in funerary deposits during the Bronze Age is found in the form of pig bones accompanying human burials. Joints of pork, predominantly from the fore quarter, were clearly deposited in a short cist at Longniddry, East Lothian (McCormick 1991, 113–14). A pig humerus, radius and ulna were found among the human bones in the cist. It seems likely that they were in articulation at the time of burial and almost certainly represent the deposition of a joint of pork with the inhumation.
- 3.3.4 This is not an isolated example of such a practice in Scotland. At Uppermill, Cruden, Aberdeenshire; a cist discovered in the 19th century, contained the remains of an adult male and a child with an associated Beaker assemblage, and also produced the left humerus and radius of a pig (Harman 1977, 90). The bone was in the same state of fusion as that present in the Lochniddry pig bones (i.e. semi mature and articulated). Pig bones were also recorded in a cist from Gairneybank, Kinross-shire (Cowie & Ritchie 1991, 98)
- 3.3.5 It is not only pig that has been recorded in funerary deposits and the deposition of food joints seems occasionally to have formed part of the cremation ritual in Bronze Age Scotland. Burnt sheep bones were found in a cremation pit containing an adult and child at the multiple burial site at Horsbrugh Castle Farm in Peeblesshire (Denston 1974, 57). It is therefore, highly likely that within the remaining cremation deposit (**406**) there are further bones representing those from a human.
- 3.3.6 Along with the cremated bone a small sample of approximately 2.5 litres of the surrounding context (**406**) was collected for dry sieving. Within the sieved sample two very small fragments of metal were recovered. Their size is only 0.5cm in length and it is postulated that they may represent bronze rivets from a dagger. These would need further analysis to confirm if they are metal and specifically bronze rivets.
- 3.3.7 Also recovered within the sieved sample were three small fragments of stone which were all professionally analysed by Jacqui Smart to be quartz crystal. One fragment was confirmed as rock crystal and the other two are brown smokey quartz. Of special interest is the rock crystal as there are multiple conchoidal fractures on the stone surface and a probable bulb of percussion was detected, all very suggestive that the rock crystal has been worked. There was on the brown smokey quartz for having retouched edges and also worked.

3.4 Discussion

- 3.4.1 The excavation in the form of cremation deposits, on the summit of East Moat Hill is of considerable significance and importance. Within Scotland there have been no focused archaeological excavations associated with Moot Hills to identify earlier, i.e. Prehistoric activity or remains. As such the discovery on the East Moat Hill may suggest that on other Moot Hill sites across Scotland there is the potential for earlier use and activity.
- 3.4.2 As the cremation was only discovered via a small investigative keyhole sondage trench, it strongly suggests there are more features than the single cremation. For example is there more than one cremation in the single identified pit? Are there more than one cremation pit? Is there evidence of a Cairn covering the cremation pit or other associated features such as post holes or a Standing Stone socket?
- 3.4.3 Regarding the reuse of the site as a Moot Hill, there is the issue of continuity in use. Is it possible that the use of the East Moat Hill as an open air assembly was due to the known presence of earlier funerary remains? Was there still some aspect of an upstanding feature such as a cairn associated with the cremation pit still surviving? If so then this would add to a body of references/evidence that sites such as Moot Hills are reusing older Prehistoric sites as a way of connecting the past to the present and to some degree demonstrating and legitimating power and control (See O'Grady Chap 4 & Chap 5: 5.3.2 & 5.3.4).
- 3.4.4 Evidence for the reuse of prehistoric remains as the setting for early medieval and later courts has been studied by O'Grady (2008). His study highlighted that earlier prehistoric monuments utilised as open air assembly sites reused barrows, cairns, settlement mounds, remains of dry-stone fort enclosures, earthwork enclosures and megaliths; including single standing stones and stone circles.
- 3.4.5 It was concluded that the high percentage of medieval sites that reuse prehistoric remains for open air assemblies demonstrates that prehistoric remains were part and parcel in understanding the wider landscape through a range of traditional dialogues and cultural perceptions (O'Grady 2008:333).
- 3.4.6 However, there is also the possibility that no contemporary features ever existed or were associated with the cremation pit. Similarly, if there had been anything associated with the cremation pit this may have already gone by the late 13th century and its use was primarily due to the landscape/topographical location and physical appearance.

3.5 Recommendations

- 3.5.1 The results and success of the community excavation on Moat hill both in the number of volunteers involved and the range of artefacts from the mid-18th century to the mid-20th century recovered across all four trenches was considerable. Especially following the discovery of a Prehistoric cremation burial with a Radiocarbon date of 1750BC located on the summit of East Moat Hill.
- 3.5.2 During the excavation there was a great deal of interest from the local community covering a variety of ages. There was considerable excitement that an archaeological excavation was being carried out in Cupar as in general there has been very little. As such it is felt by AKD Archaeology and ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd that with this support from the local community a further stage of works to fully excavate the summit of the Moat Hill, would enhance the community of Cupar's understanding of their archaeology and the role of the East Moat Hill.

- 3.5.3 The significance of revealing Bronze Age burial activity in the form of cremation deposits, on the summit of East Moat Hill is of considerable significance. Within Scotland there have been no archaeological excavations associated with Moot Hills to discover if there has or is any earlier, i.e. prehistoric activity or remains. As such the discovery on the East Moat Hill may suggest that in other Moot Hill sites across Scotland there is the potential for earlier activity and deposits. This is a further reason why it is recommended that another phase of excavation is undertaken to record fully the identified pit and if there is any other associated activity.
- 3.5.4 A further phase of work would also provide a continued legacy in the fundamental objective of the community excavation, that was to promote and enable public participation in archaeology and provide training in archaeological techniques.
- 3.5.5 If money were also made available we would recommend the installation and erection of an interpretation board on the summit of East Moat Hill on the side of the path. This would have the benefit of explaining the geological formation of East Moat Hill, outline the archaeological work that has taken place along with the results and also how the hill had been used as an open air assembly or Moot Hill.

3.6 Conclusion

- 3.6.1 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd and AKD Archaeology were commissioned by Fife Historic Buildings Trust to undertake a programme of community excavation and engagement located at the East Moat Hill (Canmore ID: 31477), Cupar, Fife (NGR: NO 3725 1474). This Data Structure Report represents the findings of the community excavation Historic required by Fife Historic Buildings Trust.
- 3.6.2 The community excavation and engagement was part of a larger scheme of works forming the Cupar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) and operated by Fife Council and Fife Historic Buildings Trust, and core funded jointly by Historic Environment Scotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Fife Council. The five-year CARS/THI programme runs until March 2019 and has delivered a number of elements from building projects, public realm improvements to Cupar's streets, training, apprenticeships and community engagement.
- 3.6.3 The principle community objective of the community excavation was to promote and enable public participation in archaeology. For those most actively involved this took the form of direct volunteering in field teams undertaking excavation and supported by on-site training.
- 3.6.4 Over a single phase of 10 days; 03rd-07th and 10th-14th October 2018 a total of twenty volunteers were involved in excavating four trenches specifically located towards the east end of the East Moat Hill and on the summit.
- 3.6.5 The success of the community excavation was both in the number of volunteers that were involved and also that a range of artefacts from the mid-18th century to the mid-20th century were recovered across all four trenches and significantly a prehistoric cremation burial with a Radiocarbon date of 1750BC and located on the summit of East Moat Hill; Trench 4.
- 3.6.6 During the excavation there was a great deal of interest from the local community covering a variety of ages. There was considerable excitement that an archaeological excavation was being carried out in Cupar as in general there has been very little. As such it is felt by AKD Archaeology and ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd that with this support from the local community a further stage of works to fully excavate the Cremation Pit; [404] and (405), and

explore the possibility of further archaeological remains would enhance the Cupar communities understanding of local archaeology and the role of the East Moat Hill.

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Cartographic References

Maps consulted during the cartographic regression include:

Pre-Ordnance Survey

Date	Cartographer	Map
1636-52	Robert Gordon (1580-1661)	An outline map of the Tay estuary round Fife Ness and on to Kirkcaldy.
1642	James Gordon (1615-1686)	Fyfe Shire, MDCXLII: Fife provincia noviter delineata / Auctore Jacobo Gordonio fo R.G. a Strathloch. Fife provincia noviter delineate, Fife shire
1820	John Wood (1780-1847)	John Wood's Plan of the Town of Cupar.

Ordnance Survey

Date	Cartographer	Map
1856	Ordnance Survey	6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey Fife, Sheet 11 (includes: Ceres; Cupar; Dairsie; Kemback; Leuchars).
1854	Ordnance Survey	Ordnance Survey large scale Scottish town plans, 1847-1895, Town Plan of Cupar Sheet 5.

Images

Image No.	Direction Facing	Description	Date	Initials
001	N	Volunteers working	04/10/18	PK
002	N	Volunteers working	04/10/18	PK
003	N	Volunteers working	04/10/18	PK
004	E	Finding an artefact	04/10/18	PK
005	S	Volunteers working	04/10/18	PK
006	SE	Volunteers working	04/10/18	PK
007	SE	Volunteers working	04/10/18	PK
008	NW	Volunteers working	04/10/18	PK
009	SE	Volunteers working	04/10/18	PK
010	N	Volunteers working	04/10/18	PK
011	N	Volunteers working	04/10/18	PK
012	N	Volunteers working	04/10/18	PK
013	N	Site banner and set up	04/10/18	PK
014	E	Site photo	05/10/18	PK
015	S	Working shot	05/10/18	PK
016	SW	De-turfing	07/10/18	PK
017	S	Chatting	07/10/18	PK
018	W	Cleaning back Trench 4	07/10/18	PK
019	S	View south from top of East Moat Hill	07/10/18	PK
020	SE	Excavating a find	07/10/18	PK
021	S	Trench 1: possible stone bank (102)	07/10/18	PK
022	N	Trench 1: possible stone bank (102)	07/10/18	PK
023	W	Trench 1: possible stone bank (102)	07/10/18	PK
024	N	Trench 1: subsoil (103)	07/10/18	PK
025	S	Trench 1: subsoil (103)	07/10/18	PK
026	NA	Ceramic bottle stops (Trench 4)	07/10/18	PK
027	NA	Coins from 1742-20 th century	07/10/18	PK
028	NA	Metal detecting finds	07/10/18	PK
029	S	Volunteers excavating	07/10/18	PK
030	NA	Possible flint from a flint lock pistol	07/10/18	PK
031	NA	Slat pencils and key (Trench 4)	07/10/18	PK
032	N	Feature 1 Trench 1: Possible root bowl or base of a drying pole [104] & (105)	07/10/18	PK
033	E	Feature 1 Trench 1: Possible root bowl or base of a drying pole [104] & (105)	07/10/18	PK
034	E	Feature 1 Trench 1: Possible root bowl or base of a drying pole [104] & (105)	07/10/18	PK
035	N	[104] fully excavated	07/10/18	PK
036	E	[104] fully excavated	07/10/18	PK
037	N	Volunteers working	10/10/18	PK

Image No.	Direction Facing	Description	Date	Initials
038	S	Volunteers working	10/10/18	PK
039	S	Volunteers working	10/10/18	PK
040	E	(102) possible stone bank	10/10/18	AC
041	N	(102) possible stone bank	10/10/18	AC
042	S	(102) possible stone bank	10/10/18	AC
043	W	(102) possible stone bank	10/10/18	AC
044	E	(102) possible stone bank	10/10/18	AC
045	N	(102) possible stone bank	10/10/18	AC
046	SW	Trench 1: Post cleaning	11/10/18	AC
047	SW	Trench 1: Post cleaning	11/10/18	AR
048	W	Trench 2: Post cleaning	11/10/18	AR
049	W	Trench 2: Post cleaning	11/10/18	AR
050	E	Finds washing	11/10/18	AR
051	E	Metal detectorists on Moat Hill	11/10/18	AR
052	W	Trench 3: Post cleaning	11/10/18	AR
053	W	Trench 3: Post cleaning	11/10/18	AR
054	S	Volunteers working	11/10/18	AR
055	S	Volunteers working	14/10/18	AR
056	W	Volunteers working	14/10/18	AR
057	N	Trench 1: Post cleaning	14/10/18	AR
058	S	Trench 1: Post cleaning	14/10/18	AR
059	N	Stone bank (102)	14/10/18	AR
060	S	Stone bank (102)	14/10/18	PK
061	W	Stone bank (102)	14/10/18	PK
062	N	Upper area of Trench 1	14/10/18	PK
063	N	Lower area of Trench 1	14/10/18	PK
064	E	West facing section of sondage 1: Trench 1	14/10/18	PK
065	E	West facing section of sondage 2: Trench 1	14/10/18	PK
066	E	West facing section of sondage 3: Trench 1	14/10/18	PK
067	SE	Sondage 1& 2: Trench 1	14/10/18	PK
068	E	West facing section of sondage 1: Trench 1	14/10/18	PK
069	E	West facing section of sondage 2: Trench 1	14/10/18	PK
070	E	West facing section of sondage 3: Trench 1	14/10/18	PK
071	S	Burnt bone: In-situ within a block of humic material	14/10/18	PK
072	S	Burnt bone: In-situ within a block of humic material	14/10/18	PK
073	S	Burnt bone: In-situ within a block of humic material	14/10/18	PK
074	S	East side of Trench 4	16/10/18	PK
075	S	East side of Trench 4	16/10/18	PK
076	N	East side of Trench 4	16/10/18	PK
077	N	East side of Trench 4	16/10/18	PK
078	NW	General shot of Trench 4	16/10/18	PK

Image No.	Direction Facing	Description	Date	Initials
079	NW	General shot of Trench 4	16/10/18	PK
080	SE	General shot of Trench 4	16/10/18	PK
081	SE	General shot of Trench 4	16/10/18	PK
082	SW	Trench 4: western third	16/10/18	PK
083	SW	Trench 4: western third	16/10/18	PK
084	NE	Trench 4: western third	16/10/18	PK
085	NE	Trench 4: western third	16/10/18	PK
086	W	East facing section of [404] & (405)	16/10/18	PK
087	N	Plan of [404] and (405)	16/10/18	PK
088	E	West facing section of [404] & (405)	16/10/18	PK
089	N	Fully excavated [104]: base for a drying pole	16/10/18	PK
090	E	Fully excavated [104]: base for a drying pole	16/10/18	PK
091	N	Fully excavated [104]: base for a drying pole	16/10/18	PK

Context Register

Context #	Area/Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	1, 2, 3,	Deposit	Moderately compacted light brown silt with some clay and frequent roots and rootlets. Extends whole of trenches 1, 2 and 3, with an average depth of 200mm. In Trench 1 the south end of the trench has a depth of 550mm. Frequent small (20mm-50mm) rounded and sub-rounded stones and modern anthropic material on the form of pottery, glass, clay roof tiles, metal, coal, ash and occasional coins.	Topsoil & turf
102	1	Deposit	Moderately compacted to compacted light to mid grey silty loam and very frequent (approx. 80%) medium sized (100mm-200mm) rounded and sub-rounded stones. Roughly 4m in width and width of the trench; 1.30m. Forms the upper 4m of the north of end of trench. Potentially represents a deliberate bank running roughly east to west along the northeast spur and using the natural stone.	Stone Bank (?)
103	1, 2, 3,	Deposit	Moderately compacted light to mid grey silty loam with very frequent small to medium (20mm-200mm) rounded and sub-rounded stones. There are patches of compacted silt and sand and sterile of finds. Forms the context of the remaining length of the trench.	Subsoil (glacial)
104	1	Cut	Rectilinear in plan; north-south 680mm (long axis) by east-west 500mm. Depth of north side 280mm and south side 150mm. Sharp break of slope top with the north, south and west sides vertical with a flat base. The east side is formed by the side of the trench. Fill is of (105). Cut into (103).	Rectilinear feature, possible cut for clothes drying pole base
105	1	Fill	Moderately compacted dark brown sandy silt with charcoal, glass and CBM throughout. Forms extent of the cut; north-south 680mm (long axis) by east-west 500mm with a depth of	Fill of [104]

Context #	Area/Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			north side 280mm and south side 150mm.	
106	1	Deposit	Loose to moderately compacted, light grey brown friable silty loam with frequent small to medium (20mm-150mm) sized rounded and sub-rounded stones, 400mm thick and 4m wide. Roots are present in the upper 100mm. Possible natural deposit that has been used to form the bank of (102).	Core of bank material [102] and natural deposit (103)
107	1	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid brown gravelly silt. Recorded along the lower southern length of Trench 1; 8m long by width of trench 1.3m with a maximum depth of 400mm (possibly varies along the length). A heavily mixed deposit that is formed of (101), (102) redeposited and material that has been brought in from elsewhere as a levelling deposit.	Mixed homogenous soil: topsoil (101) and natural (103). Possibly representing a levelling material brought in from elsewhere to cover a former rubbish dump area to the east of Moat Hill.
108	1	Deposit	Moderately compacted dark brown with patches of black gravelly silt and occasional rounded small stones (200mm). Thickness is 200mm and forms the lower half of Trench 1. Throughout the deposit there were frequent bits of charcoal/ash and contaminated by burnt material that has been dumped. As well as general dump material from domestic use, it may also represent activity from the tanning work that were in the immediate vicinity.	Mix of ash/coal/hearth material
109	1	Deposit	Moderately compacted light brown sand, 100mm thick and 50mm wide and 400mm in length (this covers the exposed area of the Sondage 1 and is the same context in Sondages 2 & 3).	Possible buried sand horizon, Natural sand subsoil
110	1	Deposit	Moderately compacted reddish brown sand, 100mm thick and 50mm wide and 400mm in length (this covers the exposed area of the Sondage 1 and is the same context in Sondages 2 & 3). Unearthed at the lower south end of Trench 1.	Natural sand subsoil
401	4	Deposit	Moderately compacted light brown silt with some clay and frequent roots and rootlets. Extends whole of trenches 1, 2 and 3, with an average depth of 200mm. In Trench 1 the south end of the trench has a depth of 550mm. Frequent small (20mm-50mm) rounded and sub-rounded stones.	Topsoil & turf: same as (101)
402	4	Deposit	Moderately compacted dark brown red silt and sand with frequent small to medium sized rounded and sub-rounded stones (20mm-100mm). Throughout there was modern inclusions: glass, ceramic, metal. The thickness on the north side was 240mm and 130mm the south side. Possibly has been redeposited and disturbed and forming a soil horizon below (401) and above (407).	Natural subsoil (Horizon A)

Context #	Area/Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
403	4	Deposit	A moderately compacted mid brown silt and sand with very frequent small to medium sized rounded and sub-rounded stones (20mm-100mm). The silty material forms the bed into which the stones were located (Plate 17). Modern anthropic material in the form of glass, metal and ceramics was recorded lying between the interface of (402) & (403). The thickness is not fully known. Potentially the northwest corner has been more disturbed as there is evidence the area has been cleared. Context (403) possibly formed the original subsoil (407) into which [404] was cut and the stone has been cleared and dumped on the south side.	Natural subsoil (Horizon A). Potentially redeposited natural.
404	4	Cut	Small trial sondage was excavated 1.60m north-south and 400mm east-west and 780-800mm in depth. The exposed area of [404] is approximately 1.60m by 1.60m and located in the northeast area of Trench 4. There appears to be a gradual break of slope top and bottom with gradual sloping sides, the base is unknown. Fill is (405).	Pit for cremation
405	4	Fill	Moderately compacted mid brown silt and sand with very frequent small to medium sized rounded and sub-rounded stones (20mm-100mm) with a maximum thickness of 780mm-800mm. Most likely a redeposited material formed by (407).	Fill of [404]
406	4	Deposit	Loose compaction, black; almost humic material. All extents, thickness unknown. Very high concentration of burnt bone and sealed clearly in (405) and at the base of [404].	Cremation deposit
407	4	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid brown silt and sand with occasional small sized rounded and sub-rounded stones (10mm-50mm). Forms the deposit in the NW area and that is cut into by [404].	Natural subsoil

Small Finds Register

Find No.	Area/Trench	Context No.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
1	1	101	Stone	Worked rectilinear flint, dark brown in colour. Possibly flint from a flintlock pistol.	AL	05/10/18
2	1	108	Stone	Small fragment of white quartz that has possibly been worked.	SH	11/10/18
3	1	107	Metal	Shot from a pistol or musket	AM	11/10/18
4	2	202 (same as 103)	Metal	Napoleon III Centime bronze coin with date (1861).	GH	07/10/18
5	2	202 (same as 103)	Metal	Edward VII Penny coin with date (1908).	AL	10/10/18

6	2	202 (same as 103)	Metal	Victorian Half-Penny with date (186?).	AL	10/10/18
7	3	302 (same as 103)	Metal	George VI Farthing with date (1943).	DM	03/10/18
8	3	302 (same as 103)	Metal	George V Penny with date (1921).	BN	03/10/18
9	4	402	Stone	12 fragments of white quartz, possibly worked (recovered from the southern half of Tr4).	AC, DM, JM	12/10/18
10	4	402	Stone	Red brown quartz, evidence of flaking and retouch along edge.	DM	12/10/18
11	4	402	Stone	Sub-circular stone. Possibly shaped into a disc and polished. Gaming piece?	AC	13/10/18
12	4	402	Metal	Livery button with the image of an animal or a Griffin on the front side.	JM	13/10/18
13	4	402	Metal	Ring, plain with no markings.	AR	13/10/18
14	1	Unstratified		George II Hibernia Half-Penny with the date (1742) (recovered by metal detecting the spoil heap of Tr1, unstratified)	LA	11/10/18
15	1	Unstratified		George V Penny with date (1918). (recovered by metal detecting the spoil heap of Tr1, unstratified)	LA	11/10/18
16	1	Unstratified		George III Half-Penny (possible date 1799?) (recovered by metal detecting the spoil heap of Tr1, unstratified)	LA	11/10/18



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RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE

03 December 2018

Laboratory Code SUERC-83341 (GU49586)
Submitter Alastair Rees
ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd.
Suite B2, Merchants House
Laws Close
High Street
Kirkcaldy KY1 1JN
Site Reference East Moat Hill
Context Reference c.504
Sample Reference 1
Material Cremated bone : mammal
 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ relative to VPDB -26.7 ‰
Radiocarbon Age BP 3407 \pm 29

N.B. The above ^{14}C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Laboratory and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) *Radiocarbon* 58(1) pp.9-23.

For any queries relating to this certificate, the laboratory can be contacted at suerc-c14lab@glasgow.ac.uk.

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by : E. Dunbar

Checked and signed off by : P. Nayantub



The University of Glasgow, charity number SC004401



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Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	East Moat Hill Community Excavation
PROJECT CODE:	298
PARISH:	Kilcreggan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Peter Klemen and Alastair Rees
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	ARCHAS Heritage Ltd and AKD Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Community Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 37238 14744
START DATE (this season)	03 rd October 2018
END DATE (this season)	14 th October 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd and AKD Archaeology were commissioned by Fife Historic Buildings Trust to undertake a programme of community excavation and engagement located at the East Moat Hill (Canmore ID: 31477), Cupar, Fife (NGR: NO 3725 1474). The community excavation and engagement was part of a larger scheme of works forming the Cupar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI). Over a single phase of 10 days; 03rd-07th and 10th-14th October 2018 a total of twenty volunteers were involved in excavating four trenches on the East Moat Hill, Cupar</p> <p>The success of the community excavation was in the interest created and in the range of artefacts from the mid-18th century to the mid-20th century recovered. Significantly a prehistoric cremation burial with a Radiocarbon date of 1750BC was discovered on the summit of East Moat Hill.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Excavation: Opening Trench 4 and full excavation of Feature/Cut [404] and Fill (405); a cremation pit and fill.
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Fife Historic Buildings Trust
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	<p>ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd: Evans Business Park, John Smith Park, 1 Begg Road, Kirckaldy, KY2 6HD.</p> <p>AKD Archaeology: 12 Beechwood Terrace West, Newport-on-Tay, DD6 8JH</p>
EMAIL ADDRESS:	<p>ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd: admin@archas.co.uk</p> <p>AKD Archaeology: akd.archaeology@hotmail.com</p>
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Fife Archaeology Unit and archive to NRHE.