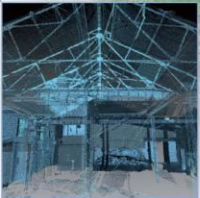
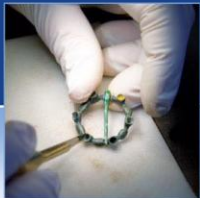


# Cowal Golf Course, Dunoon Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

AOC Project 21170  
29<sup>th</sup> April 2011



# Cowal Golf Course, Dunoon

## Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

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<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>Argyll Properties Ltd.</b> 10 Newton Place, Glasgow G3 7PR
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>NS 1781 7826</b>
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	<b>21170</b>
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<b>Date of Fieldwork:</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> April – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2011</b>
<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> April 2011</b>

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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**Date: 25/04/2011**

**Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft**

**Date: 25/04/2011**

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## Abstract

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This report represents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of a proposed residential development at Cowal Golf Course, Dunoon, Argyll & Bute.

The archaeological evaluation, as outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation, consisted of the machine trenching of an 8% sample of the development area. However, after a meeting with WoSAS, and in light of the on-site conditions (areas of hard standing, terraced landscaping, Japanese Knotweed, services and boggy ground), the scope of the evaluation was reduced. In the end trenching totalling 270 m<sup>2</sup> was opened revealing a long history of land improvement.

Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Argyll Properties Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake a programme of archaeological works prior to a residential development at Cowal Golf Course, Dunoon, Argyll & Bute (Planning Reference No. 07/02508/DET).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development lies within the administrative area of Argyll & Bute Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). WoSAS recommended a programme of phased archaeological works in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government February 2010), *Planning Advice Note 42* (SOEnd 1994) and the protocols set out in the West of Scotland Archaeology Service's 'Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork'.
- 1.1.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2011) outlining the entire programme of archaeological works was agreed with WoSAS in advance of the evaluation being undertaken. The evaluation was initially designed around an 8% trenching sample however after an on site meeting with WoSAS this was significantly reduced given the current site conditions and initial evaluation findings.

### 1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area comprises an approximately rectangular-shaped land parcel amounting to c.1.7 ha in size (Figure 1). The site is mostly taken up with the current 18<sup>th</sup> green of Cowal Golf Course along with two areas of carparking and some open green space with mature trees (NGR NS 1781 7826). It is bounded by Ardenslate Road along the southern side with the continuation of the golf course to the north. A bowling green forms the eastern boundary with residential properties and the Cowal Golf Course Clubhouse along the western boundary.
- 1.2.2 The proposed development consists of the construction of flats/housing units, access roads/carparking and infrastructure associated with Cowal Golf Course including a new 18<sup>th</sup> green and greenkeepers' sheds.

### 1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 There were no confirmed archaeological sites within the development area and a brief review of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey maps showed the development area to have been undeveloped from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century. The closest archaeological site lies a little over 300 m to the north; here the RCAHMS records the presence of a large mound, a possible motte (NMRS NS17NE 2) and disturbed stone building remains. Beyond the site within the urban setting there are a number of listed buildings including a school and church.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as evaluation, excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The trenching was designed to establish the extent, condition, character, quality, significance and date of any archaeological features present within the site area. Stripping of overburden was by means of a single wheeled excavator equipped with a 2 m wide toothless ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.
- 3.1 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures. The trenches were carefully backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

### 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The evaluation was undertaken between 18<sup>th</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2011. Overall weather conditions were generally fair, and good archaeological visibility was present throughout the evaluation. In total 270 m<sup>2</sup> of trenching was opened across the least disturbed parts of the site. From these trenches it was possible to gain a clear picture of the geology and underlying sub-surface conditions of the site.
- 4.2 Excavation of the trenches revealed a very thin turf / topsoil layer comprising soft, dark brown sticky clay loam with a high organic content. Beneath this lay a deposit of peat which ranged from a few centimetres in the western ends of Trenches 2a/b and 3 to nearly 0.60 m in Trench 1. Below the peat the natural subsoil consisted of glacial clays in greys and oranges.
- 4.3 The main feature encountered by all of the trenches was field drains. This highlighting how wet the area must have been prior to land improvement. The field drains came in a number of guises with rubble/stone drains the earliest, followed by a variety of ceramic tile field drains and lastly modern plastic field drains. The vast majority of the drains were aligned simply east to west presumably draining into the north/south burn. A few drains were aligned north-east to south-west. Along the entire length of Trench 1 a drain was encountered on average every metre, and given the depth of peat in this part of the site the drains were located within the peat rather than cut into the natural subsoil as found in the western ends of Trenches 2a/b and 3.



**PLATE 1** Typical section showing thin topsoil/turf, over peat over glacial clays

- 4.4 The area immediately east of the 18<sup>th</sup> green and towards the burn was extremely waterlogged, and it appears that the development area has been heavily landscaped with artificial flattened areas created for the 18<sup>th</sup> green, the fairway, a putting green and a carpark obscuring the natural topography of the site. However the trenching revealed the natural slope was a gradual incline from a high point at the clubhouse in the west to the burn in the east. The immediate areas of the clubhouse and the burn had probably been modified and subject to landscaping, but the general west to east slope was confirmed by Trenches 2b and 3. It seems very probable that the areas of both putting green and carpark have been terraced into the natural slope to such an extent that any archaeology would have been removed.
- 4.5 The trenching revealed no features of archaeological significance and examination of the topsoil and peat deposits removed did not reveal any unstratified artefacts of significance.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Neither significant features nor unstratified artefacts were encountered by the evaluation. Given the typical soil profile encountered and the inherent drainage issues it is likely that this area has always been of poor agricultural and settlement potential.

## **6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) on behalf of Argyll & Bute Council.



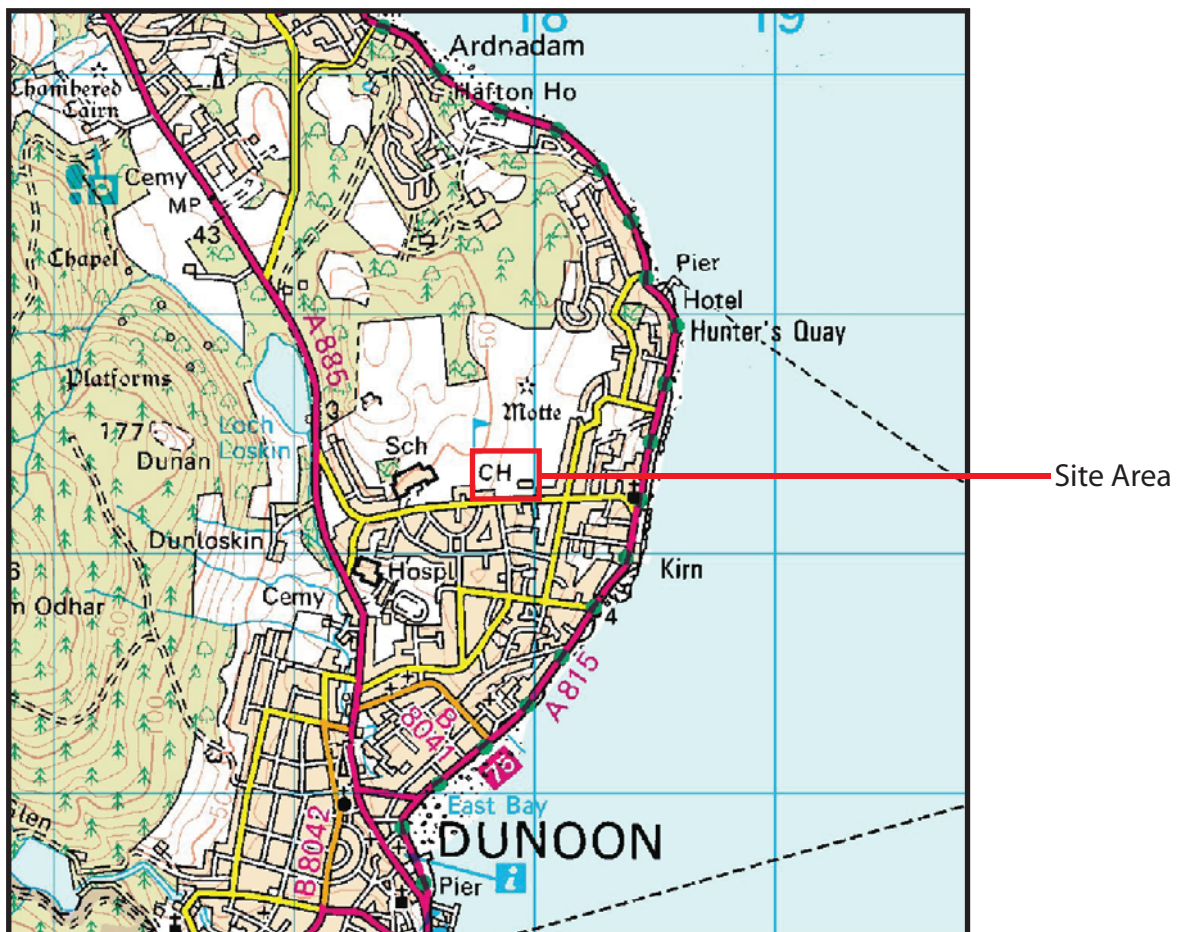
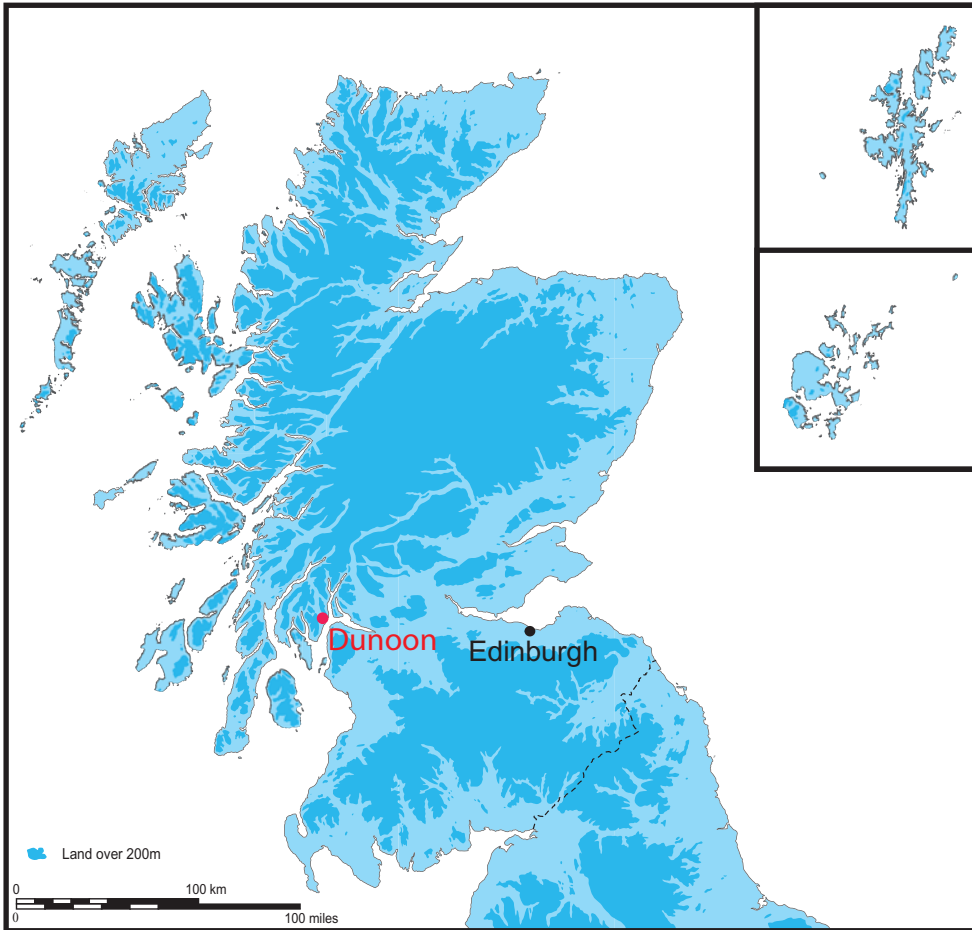
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Figure 1: Location of the site at Cowal Golf Club, Dunoon



Figure 2: Evaluation trench layout at Cowal Golf Club, Dunoon

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**Cowal Golf Course, Dunoon, Argyll & Bute**  
**Archaeological Evaluation:**  
**Data Structure Report**

**Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

### Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	80 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.05 m to 0.12 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.50 m to 0.65 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Peat under topsoil, up to 0.60 in depth.
<i>Other Features</i>	Numerous field drains, mostly aligned E-W. Rubble drains, ceramic drains and plastic drains.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Glacial/boulder clay, light grey to orange in colour.
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 2a

<i>Dimensions</i>	7 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	14 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.05 m to 0.12 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.30 m to 0.42 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ceramic and stone/rubble drains
<i>Subsoil</i>	Glacial/boulder clay, light grey to orange in colour
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 2b

<i>Dimensions</i>	46 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	92 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.05 m to 0.11 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.30 m to 0.45 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Some made ground of ashy material mixed with redeposited clay lying between topsoil and subsoil to raise ground level at western end of trench. Peat under topsoil up to 0.30 in depth at eastern end of trench.
<i>Other Features</i>	Ceramic and stone/rubble drains
<i>Subsoil</i>	Glacial/boulder clay, light grey to orange in colour
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	42 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	84 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.05 m to 0.15 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.32 m to 0.45 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Some made ground of ashy material mixed with redeposited clay lying between topsoil and subsoil to raise ground level at western end of trench. Peat under topsoil up to 0.28 in depth at eastern end of trench.
<i>Other Features</i>	Ceramic and stone/rubble drains
<i>Subsoil</i>	Glacial/boulder clay, light grey to orange in colour
<i>Finds</i>	None

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

### Black & White Print Film 1

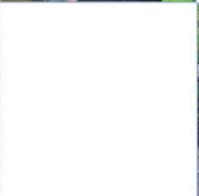
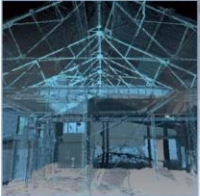
Frame	Trench	Description	From
1-2	-	Registration shot	-
3-4	Trench 1	E-Facing section of Trench 1 showing topsoil over peat over clay	E
5	Trench 1	Trench 1 under excavation	S
6-7	Trench 2b	Trench 2b post excavation	W
8	Trench 3	Trench 3 under excavation	W
9-10	Trench 3	Trench 3 post excavation	W
11	Various	General view of 18 <sup>th</sup> green and fairway showing Trenches 1, 2a, 2b & 3	NW

### Digital Film 1

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1-2	-	Registration shot	-
3-4	Trench 1	E-Facing section of Trench 1 showing topsoil over peat over clay	E
5	Trench 1	Trench 1 under excavation	S
6-7	Trench 2b	Trench 2b post excavation	W
8	Trench 3	Trench 3 under excavation	W
9-10	Trench 3	Trench 3 post excavation	W
11	Various	General view of 18 <sup>th</sup> green and fairway showing Trenches 1, 2a, 2b & 3	NW
12-15	Trench 1	Various views of backfilling around Trench 1	S

### APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Argyll & Bute Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Cowal Golf Course, Dunoon
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 21170
<b>PARISH:</b>	Dunoon
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Lindsay Dunbar
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NS 1781 7826
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2011
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> April 2011
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to a proposed residential development covering 1.7 ha at Cowal Golf Course, Dunoon.</p> <p>In light of the prevailing on-site conditions (areas of hard standing, terraced landscaping, Japanese Knotweed, utility services and boggy ground) the scope of the evaluation, in agreement with WoSAS, was reduced to trenching totalling 270 m<sup>2</sup>. This work revealed a long history of land improvement consisting of several phases of field drains cut through peat.</p> <p>Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	---
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Argyll Properties Ltd.
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:admin@aocarchaeology.com">admin@aocarchaeology.com</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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