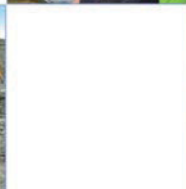
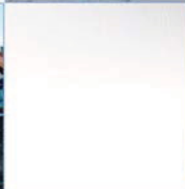
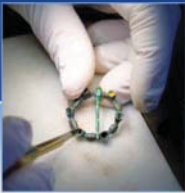


Crammag Head Lighthouse Watching Brief, Dumfries & Galloway: Data Structure Report

AOC 21291

October 2009



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Crammag Head Lighthouse Watching Brief, Dumfries & Galloway: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Northern Lighthouse Board
84 George Street
Edinburgh
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National Grid Reference (NGR): NX 0891 3404

AOC Project No: 21291

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

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Abstract

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on ground breaking works associated with the installation of new services during the construction of a new light house within the remains of a dun, a Scheduled Ancient Monument at Crammag Head, Dumfries and Galloway. No deposits, features or small finds of any archaeological significance were found.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB) to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundwork associated with the upgrading and rerouting of services associated with the construction of a new light house at Crammag Head, Dumfries and Galloway. As the area of the works lies within the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No.1964; NMRS NX03SE 1) of Crammag Fort, an Iron Age Dun the need for, and scope of archaeological works has been determined by Historic Scotland (HS). The works were conducted in accordance with a method statement prepared by NLB and were designed to satisfy the requirements of Scheduled Monument Consent (AMH/1964/1/1) granted by Historic Scotland.

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The area of investigation is centred on NGR NX 0891 3404 (Figure 1; Plate 1) on a small cliff top promontory overlooking the Irish Sea.



Plate 1: Crammag Head from south

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological remains situated at Crammag Head were first classified as a promontory fort in 1912 (RCAHMS 1912) but reclassified in 1963 as the remains of a dun or broch (Feachem 1963) and comprise a stone built circular structure surround by a ditch immediately to the east. These remains themselves are enclosed within an outer rampart with an external ditch about 20 m to the east

The remains of the dun/broch measure about 19.5 m in diameter. The western edge comprises the basal of the outer face built from granite stones measuring up to 1.0 m in length by 0.65 m wide and 0.65 m in height with up to three courses remain to the north-west. The eastern edge is marked by a thin scatter of stone debris. The interior of the structure to the west has been raised by about 1.8 m above the outer face with material derived from a ditch to the east and is now occupied by the base of the lighthouse built in the 1930's. The ditch is divided by a 2.5 m causeway faced with granite boulders. The outer rampart is little more than a scattering of stones at its northern end but to the south the remains are up to 4.4 m thick and 0.5 m high. The external ditch which is only visible at its southern end and measures 5.5 m wide by 0.3 m in depth (RCAHMS 1985)

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:
- i) to monitor ground breaking works associated with the insulation of new services and prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
 - ii) to undertake the immediate recording of isolated finds of moderately significant archaeological material that will be disturbed by the pole renewal program;
 - iii) given the discovery of highly significant archaeological material in quantity that will suffer an adverse impact from the construction works (i.e. preservation *in situ* is impractical), the recording of all archaeological features by means of a mitigation strategy to be formulated with NLB and HS.

3 Method

- 3.1 The position of the various pits associated with the development are shown on Figure 2. All ground breaking works was carried out using hand tools and were under the direct supervision of an archaeologist.

- 3.2 Trench 1 involved the digging of a small trench approximately 10.8 m in length by 0.3 m wide and 0.3 m deep immediately to the east of the concrete light house base for a new power cable. Trench 2 for a new BT cable was dug by splitting the turf with a spade and inserting the new cable directly into the split at a depth of 0.2 m and was dug for a distance of approximately 60 m from the south east and followed the edge of the promontory crossing the inner ditch via the causeway to the light house base. Two small pits were excavated to the west (Pit 1) and east (Pit 2) to accommodate earth plates and measured 0.8 m square by 0.6 m deep.

4 Results

- 4.1 The watching brief was conducted on 8th and 9th October 2009 in good weather conditions. The various data gathered from the evaluation are presented as a series of appendices:
- i) Appendix 1 contains the trench and pit summaries;
 - ii) Appendix 2 contains the photographic register;
 - iii) Appendix 3 reproduces the Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry.



Plate 2: Pit 2 from east

- 4.2 No archaeologically significant remains were seen with in Trench 1 which showed the turf and top soil of dark brown sandy silt containing frequent small angular stone to be 0.22 m deep and overly a layer of mottled light grey sandy clay which continued below the limits of excavation. A similar profile was seen in Pit 2 (Plate 2), to the east of the lighthouse foundations, but its greater depth revealed the grey layer to be 0.27 m in depth and overlay an orange brown clay natural. Pit 1 (Plate 3) however had an overburden of turf and topsoil to a depth of 0.14 m. This in turn overlay a subsoil of compact dark grey sandy silt which contained frequent large rounded boulders. These boulders were not tightly packed and it is not believed that they represent deliberate construction. They may originate from levelling of the ground prior to the construction of the lighthouse foundations immediately to the south or from tumble of an earlier stone built structure. The natural orange clay sand lay directly below the sub soil. Only the turf and upper portion of the topsoil was disturbed during the excavation of Trench 2 and only a very narrow slot was opened no more than 0.05 m wide and as such disturbance was minimal. No further deposits were seen.



Plate 3: Pit 1 from south (tape is extended to 1 m)

- 4.3 No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed within any of the pits.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 Apart from the possible tumble seen in Pit 1, no features, deposits or artefacts of any archaeological significance were recorded or disturbed during the watching brief.

6 Bibliography

- Feachem, R W 1963 *A guide to prehistoric Scotland*, London
- RCAHMS (1912) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions of Scotland. Fourth report and inventory of monuments and constructions in Galloway, 1, county of Wigtown, Edinburgh 54-5, No. 143
- RCAHMS The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The archaeological sites and monuments of West Rhins, Wigtown District, Dumfries and Galloway Region, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series no 24, Edinburgh 18, No. 97



Crammag Head
Watching Brief Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

Appendix 1: Excavation Summaries

| | Dimensions | | | Summaries | |
|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Descriptions | Depth (m) |
| Trench 1 | 10.8 N/S | 0.2 E/W | 0.3 | Turf and Topsoil Compact dark brown sandy silt Frequent inclusions of small and medium sized angular stones. | 0.24 |
| | | | | Subsoil Compact light grey sandy clay Occasional small angular stones | >0.6 |
| | | | | Natural Not seen | |
| Trench 2 | 60.0 E/W | 0.05 N/S | 0.15-0.2 | Turf and Topsoil Compact dark brown sandy silt Frequent inclusions of small and medium sized angular stones | >0.2 |
| | | | | Subsoil Not seen | |
| | | | | Natural Not seen | |
| Pit 1 | 0.7 N/S | 0.7 E/W | 0.6 | Turf and Topsoil Compact dark brown sandy silt Frequent inclusions of small and medium sized angular stones | 0.14 |
| | | | | Subsoil Compact dark grey clay sandy silt Frequent inclusions of large rounded and angular boulders, loosely packed. Not believed to be deliberately placed. Possible tumble or clearance. | 0.27 |
| | | | | Natural Compact orange clay sand | |
| Pit 2 | 0.8 N/S | 0.8 E/W | 0.6 | Turf and Topsoil Compact dark brown sandy silt Frequent inclusions of small and medium sized angular stones | 0.3 |
| | | | | Subsoil Compact light grey sandy silt | 0.27 |
| | | | | Natural Compact orange clay sand | |

Appendix 2: Photographic Register

Colour slide film 1

| Number | Trench/Pit | Description | From |
|--------|------------|--------------|------|
| 1 | | Registration | |
| 2 | Pit 1 | General view | W |
| 3 | Pit 1 | General view | N |
| 4 | Pit 1 | General view | S |
| 5 | Pit 2 | General view | S |
| 6 | Pit 2 | General view | E |
| 7 | Pit 2 | General view | N |

Digital images

| Number | Trench/Pit | Description | From |
|--------|------------|------------------------|------|
| 1 | | Registration | |
| 2 | Trench 1 | General view of trench | N |
| 3 | Trench 1 | General view of trench | S |
| 4 | | General view of site | ESE |
| 5 | | General view of site | SE |
| 6 | | General view of site | S |
| 7 | Pit 1 | General view | W |
| 8 | Pit 1 | General view | N |
| 9 | Pit 1 | General view | S |
| 10 | Pit 2 | General view | S |
| 11 | Pit 2 | General view | E |
| 12 | Pit 2 | General view | N |

Appendix 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | Dumfries and Galloway |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | Crammag Head |
| PROJECT CODE: | 21291 |
| PARISH: | Kirkmaiden |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S): | Hindmarch, Erlend |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | AOC Archaeology Group |
| TYPES(S) OF PROJECTS: | Watching brief |
| NMRS NO(S): | NX 03SE 1 |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | Crammag Head Dun |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | None |
| NGR: | NX 0891 3404 |
| START DATE: | 08/10/2009 |
| END DATE: | 09/10/2009 |
| PREVIOUS WORK: | None |
| MAIN DESCRIPTION: | This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on ground breaking works associated with the installation of new services during the construction of a new light house within the confines of a <i>dun</i> , a Scheduled Ancient Monument Crammag Head, Dumfries and Galloway. No deposits, features or small finds of any archaeological significance were found. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING | Northern Lighthouse Board |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR: | AOC Archaeology Group Edgefield Industrial Estate Edgefield Road Loanhead Midlothian EH20 9SY |
| EMAIL ADDRESS: | Erlend.Hindmarch@aocarchaeology.com |
| ARCHIVE LOCATION: | NMRS |

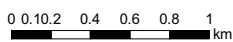
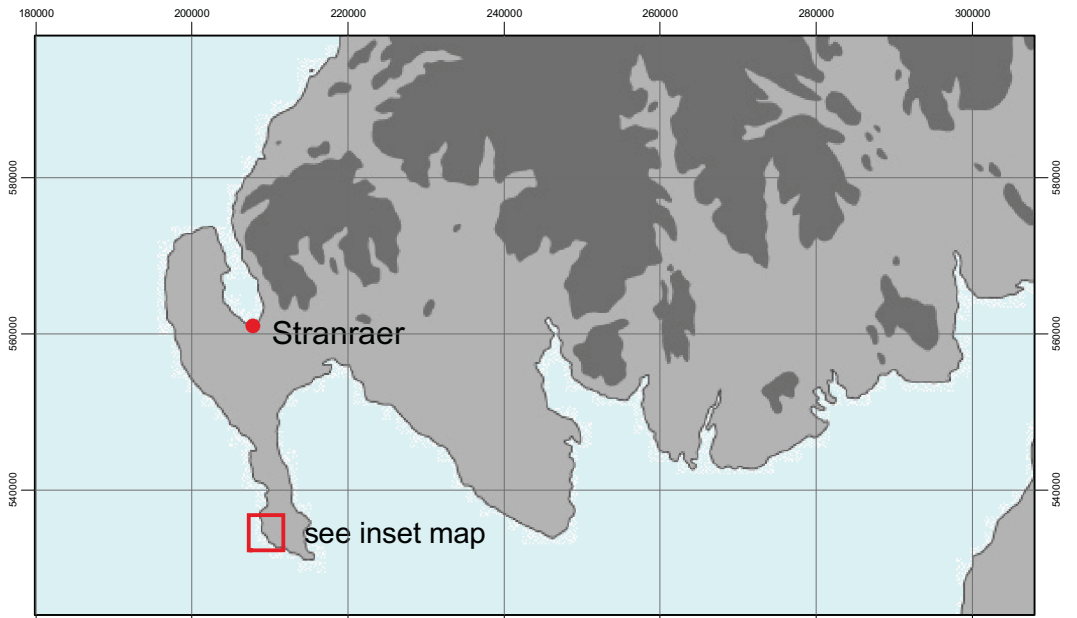
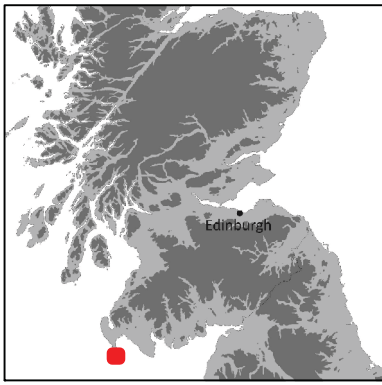


Figure 1: Site Location



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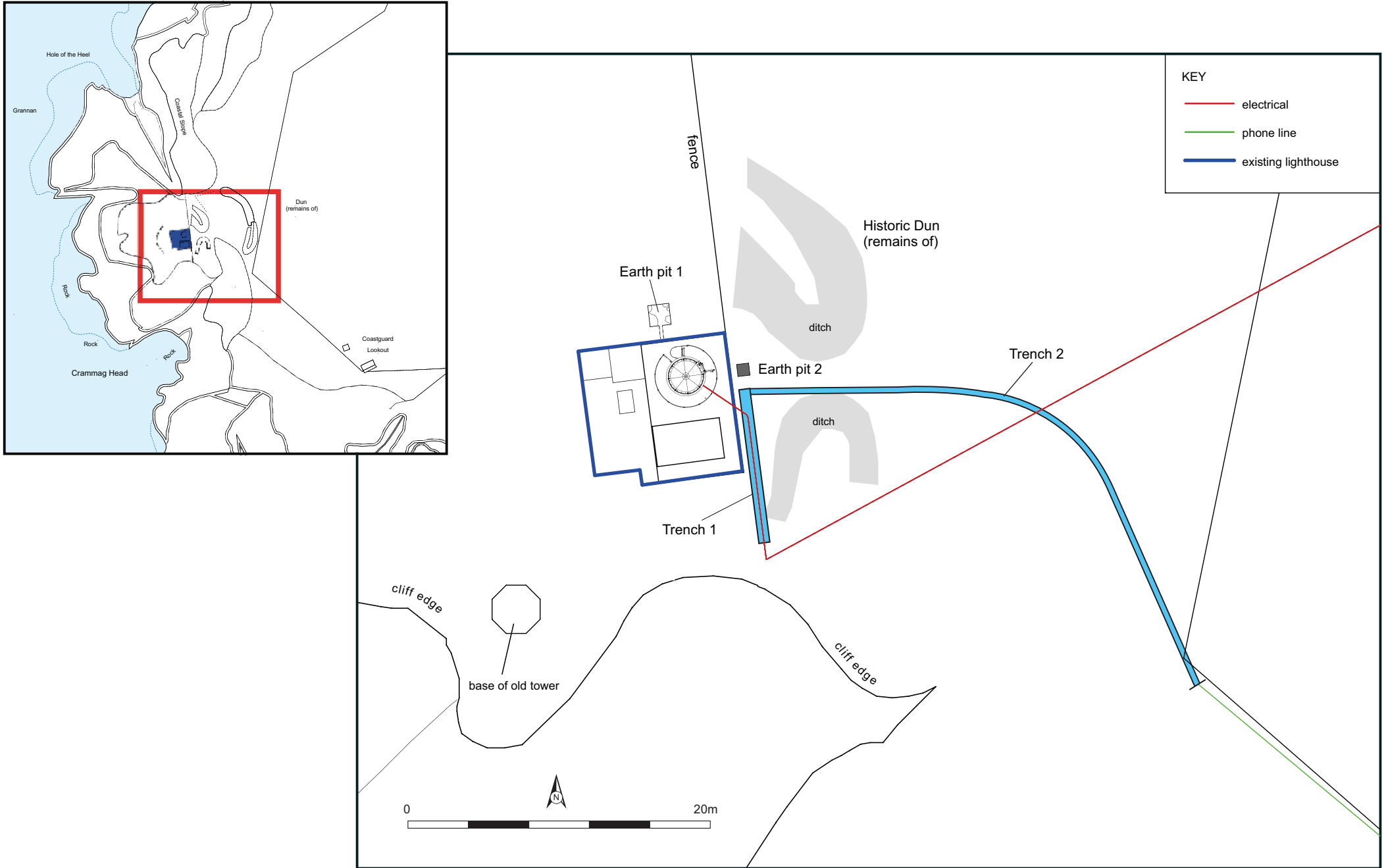
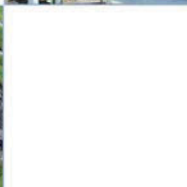
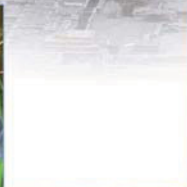
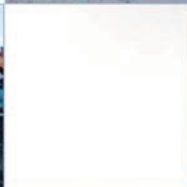


Figure 2: Site detail and location of new services



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