



## OUR LADY OF THE WAVES – CARPARK, DUNBAR.

JUNE 2015

Carried out on behalf of **Mrs M Blair**

 **archaeology**  
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## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken due to planning application requirements for 10/00401/P at the site previously occupied by the Bass Rock Art Gallery, Dunbar, in advance of the creation of a carpark with tarmac surface.
- 1.2 The work consisted of visual inspection of the insertion of a boundary wall foundation and the stripping of the overlying concrete for the final tarmac covering on the proposed carpark.
- 1.3 The work was required by the archaeological officer for East Lothian Council due to the presence of medieval cist burials within metres of the proposed carpark.
- 1.4 The OASIS ID for this project is: connolly1-214249
- 1.5 Further work is not expected as no significant archaeological features or human remains were uncovered during the works. However, the final decision rests with Mr Andrew Robertson, the East Lothian Council Archaeological Officer.

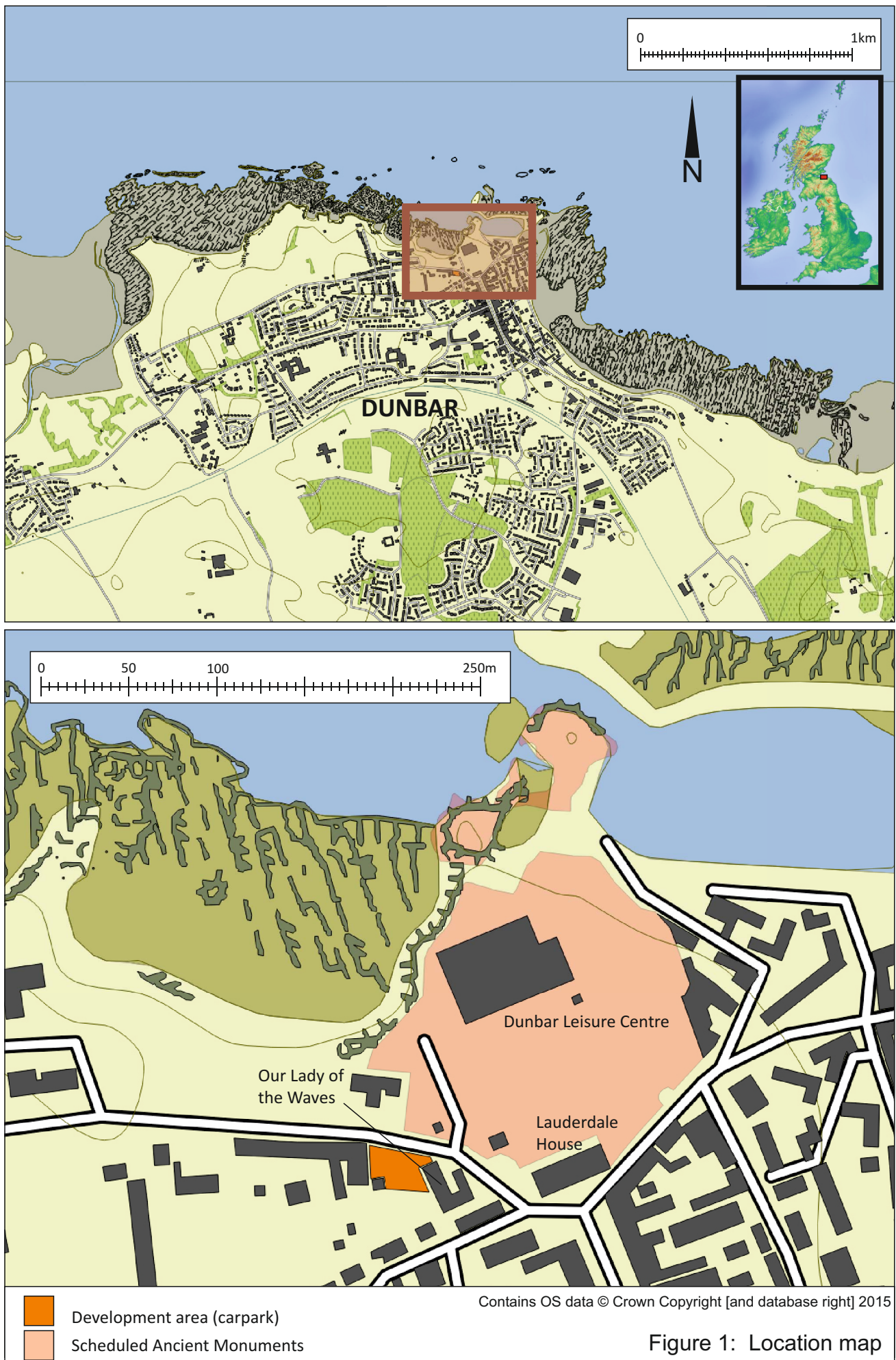


Figure 1: Location map

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1.1 The site is located at the east end and to the south out Bayswell Road, Dunbar. The Church Hall of Our Lady of the Waves is to the east and the area was open – though precious structures including a gallery had been located this location of concrete hard standing, The Development site is centred on NT 67745 79104.

### 2.2 SITE HISTORY

- 2.3 In 1994, Limited was undertaken on the area of Castle Park in advance of development of the Dunbar Leisure Pool. A long cist and inhumation cemetery was uncovered, comprising 25 long cist burials, and 19 inhumations. Long cist cemeteries usually date between the 4th to 9th centuries AD. When excavations were carried out to the front of Lauderdale House one complete cist skeleton was recovered together with eight partial cist skeletons and four partial skeletons from inhumations. Some 16 other cist and 15 other inhumations were observed in the sides of the trenches. Work on street lighting across the road from the current development site uncovered Human remains in June 2006 and further human remains were encountered during groundbreaking works for more lampposts.
- 2.4 See [NT67NE 141.04](#) centred on 6783 7912 and also [NT67NE 141.02](#) and [NT67NE 141.05](#) for further details from the RCAMHS.
- 2.5 Map regression was undertaken on the area (Figure 2), which highlighted some development in the 1750s (Roy's Military Survey). The first sign of activity appears in the 20<sup>th</sup> century with a wooden church hall and other wooden buildings ( one becoming the Bass Rock Gallery ( now demolished) on an area of concrete.
- 2.6 Given the pattern of human remains encountered at locations only a few metres from this development and at a depth just below the surface, the potential for uncovering human remains was high. And provide further evidence regarding the extend of this early cemetery.



### 3 OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The basis for investigation is to examine the presence of any substantive remains that may survive in the area of trenching – with care taken to examine the ground breaking for any disturbance of human remains
- 3.2 As no archaeological works had been carried out in this area before, and the extent of the known early medieval cemetery was unknown, this provided an opportunity to ensure no human remains were disturbed and further investigate the limit of the burials.

### 4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 In keeping with the format and approved ClfA guidance on carrying out watching briefs, the machine used a smooth bladed ditching bucket removed the overburden prior to filling with hardcore.
- 4.2 The concrete was stripped and any signs of activity or subsurface cut features such as graves were examined. In some locations, the required depth was more than 250mm for the laying of hardcore and tarmac and these areas were excavated to 700mm.
- 4.3 Sides were visually inspected for any signs of cut features and the spoil was examined for artefacts and human remains.
- 4.4 A series of digital images were taken to record the process

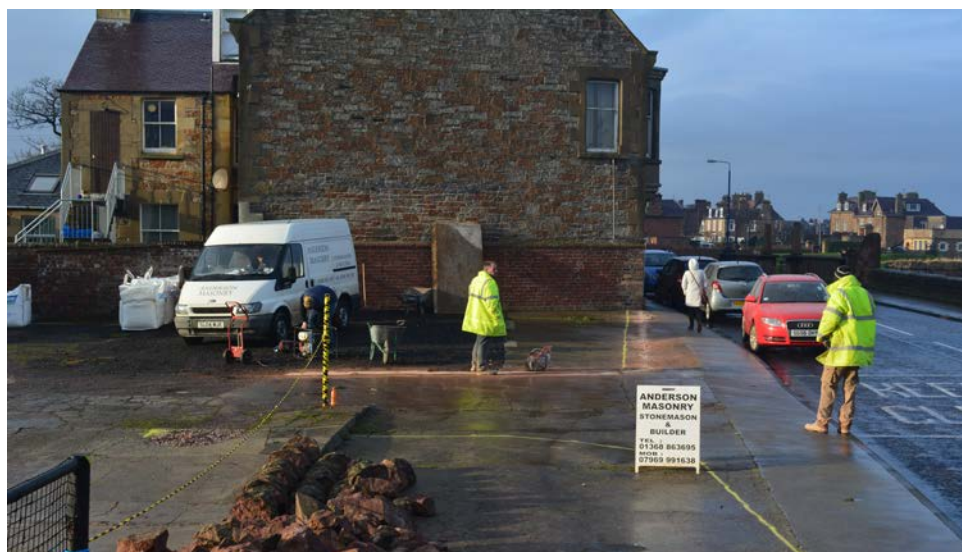
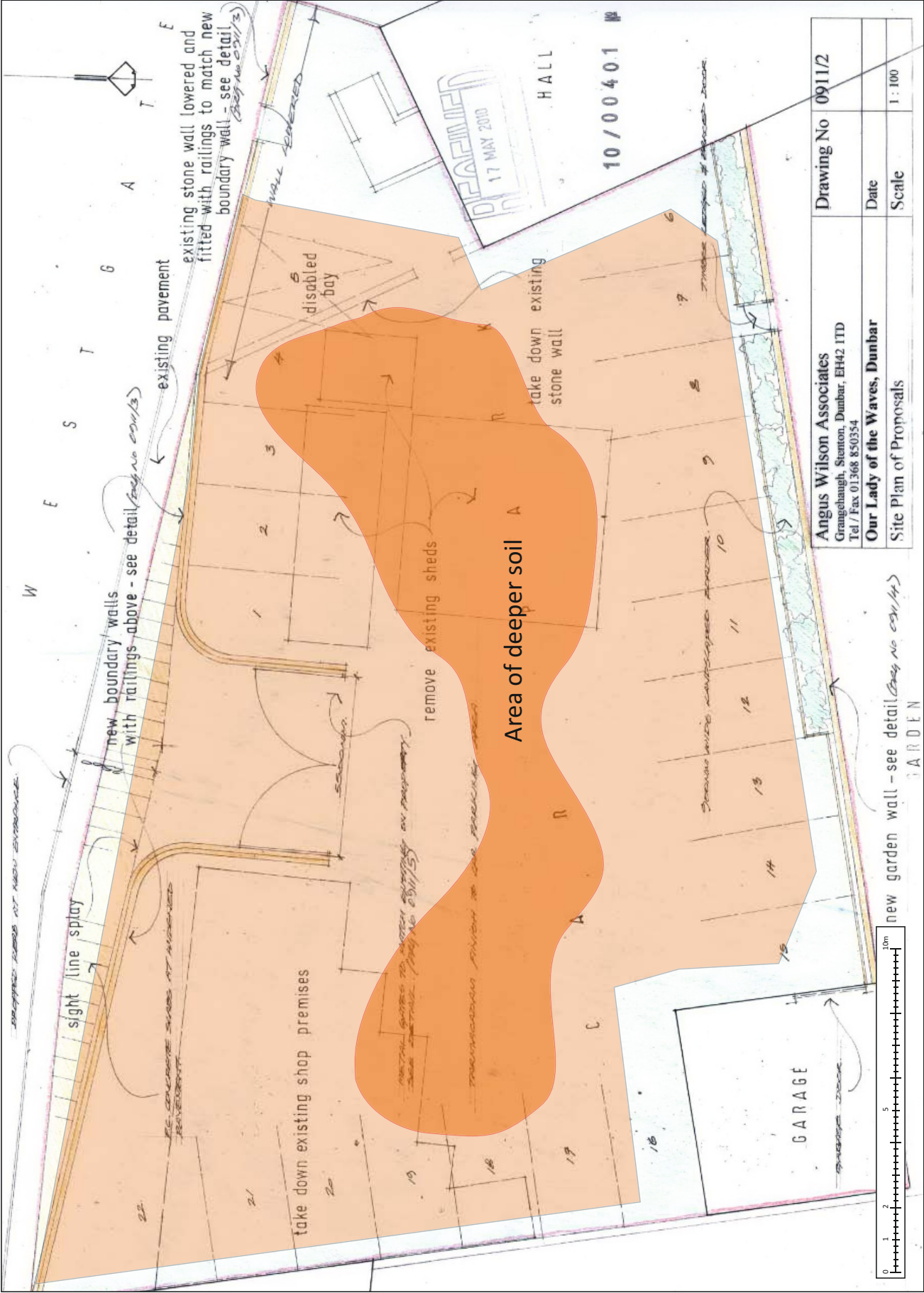


Plate 1: Site prior to removal of concrete and construction of wall



Development area (carpark) and area of watching brief

Figure 2: Sitemap

## 5 RESULTS

### Fieldwork

- 5.1 The work was undertaken over a number of days, ranging from dry to heavy rain, however weather conditions did not impeded the investigation.
- 5.2 In general the concrete was taken down to a hard-core surface which was deemed sufficient for the laying of a tarmac surface.
- 5.3 Where soil was encountered ( see Figure 2) this was taken down to a depth of up to 700mm beneath the present surface to a hard lightbrown sandy clay The made up soil contained frequent brick fragments and occasional 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramics (*not collected*). Suggesting this area had been filled with garden soils in the 19<sup>th</sup> century which would match the evidence from the earlier OS maps.
- 5.4 No human remains were recorded, and in the areas where intrusive excavation took place, nothing was older than the 19<sup>th</sup> century in date.
- 5.5 This does however explain the height difference on the opposite side of the road (north) where burials had been located.



Plate 2: Removal of deeper soils.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The programme of evaluation has shown that in the areas of investigation there are no archaeological features present. It is clear the burials ( if present in this area have either been truncated in antiquity prior to the dumping of later garden soils or that the cemetery does not extend any further to the southwest than those previously recorded.

### APPENDIX 1 PHOTO REGISTER (DIGITAL)

Photo ID	Description	Date
DSC_1981	General view from site to Lothian plain	14/01/2014
DSC_1982	Record shot of beginning excavation	14/01/2014
DSC_1983	Record shot of beginning excavation with Moorcock Hall cottage and Dod Hill behind	14/01/2014
DSC_1984	Record shot of entire trench excavated	14/01/2014
DSC_1985	Record shot of sample section of trench side	14/01/2014
DSC_1986	Record shot of turbine base cut	14/01/2014
IMAG1054	Composite view of site after completion with Lammermuirs behind	04/05/2015

### MAPS:

Ordnance Survey Map 1843 and 1888

General Roy Military Map, surveyed 1750-55

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Castle Park, Dunbar: two thousand years of a fortified headland By David R. Perry. Pp. 338, illustrated throughout. ISBN 0 903903 14 8 Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Monograph Series Number 16. 2000 (p283-311)



# Our Lady of the Waves – Carpark, Dunbar

## DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Our Lady of the Waves Carpark
PROJECT CODE:	OLW15
PARISH:	Dunbar
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	David Connolly
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Connolly Heritage Consultancy
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	-
<b>NGR</b> (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 67745 79104
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	4 <sup>th</sup> May 2015
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	-
<b>MAIN DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	Watching brief on the excavation of the area being turned into a formal tarmac surfaces carpark. No Archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mrs M. Blair
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b>	RCAHMS (int), CHC