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The Renaissance Club Golf Course, Dirleton, East Lothian

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 1938

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

The Old Engine House
Eskmills Business Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian
EH21 7PQ

Tel: 0131 273 4380
Fax: 0131 273 4381
email: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	Gary Savory MA
Illustrator	Shelly Werner BA MPhil PhD
Editor	Melanie Johnson MA PhD FSA Scot MIfA
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standard operating procedures.

**The Renaissance Club Golf Course,
Dirleton, East Lothian**

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CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	4
3.	Archaeological Results	4
4.	Conclusion	5
5.	Reference	5

Appendices

1.	Context Register	6
2.	Photographic Register	6
3.	Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry	7

Figures (bound at rear)

1. Location map and plan showing development area
2. General shot of the development area
3. Gateway and cobbled surface
4. Linear feature with sandstone boulders
5. The dry stone dyke with section to be dismantled in background
6. Dry stone dyke showing section after partially dismantled

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between July and September, 2011 during ground breaking works at The Renaissance Club Golf Course, Dirleton (NGR: NT 49569 85668) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by The Renaissance Club (TRC).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), dated 13 July 2011, was produced by CFA on behalf of TRC. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS).

1.2 Background

TRC has been granted planning permission (Ref 09/00364/FUL) for the construction of additional holes at The Renaissance Club Golf Course. The planning permission was subject to a condition requiring a programme of archaeological work.

The proposed development site is located adjacent to the dunes to the north of the Renaissance Golf Club, which is situated on the old Archerfield Estate to the north-west of Dirleton. The area of development is immediately to the east of the area marked as Sandy Knowe on Ordnance Survey mapping.

The location of the proposed development is within an area of considerable archaeological importance and which is exceptionally dense with archaeological remains, especially dating from the prehistoric, medieval and World War II period. Some of the known sites in close proximity to the proposed development include a series of somewhere between 4 and 13 burial cairns, presumed to be Iron Age, which lie to the west of the proposed development area. Within the current golf course, to the immediate south-east of the proposed new holes, lie the remains of Eldbottle Medieval Village. However, the closest known archaeological remains relate to a coastal battery/look out station from the Second World War. A number of features and structures relating to this are extant in and around the proposed development.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the watching brief were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Watching Brief) to monitor all ground breaking work that is required.
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording and production of a report.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods, as detailed in the approved WSI.

2.2 Watching Brief

The terms of the WSI required an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) to monitor all ground breaking works. Excavation was undertaken using a tracked excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket.

An initial strip of the buckthorn root mass was carried out prior to the removal of deposits of wind-blown sand, which were removed down to a maximum depth of 2m to landscape the greens and tees at the new holes. All work was carried out under archaeological supervision.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Numbers in bold in the following text refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 1.

The majority of the area of proposed development was covered by a thin layer of vegetation which consisted of sea buckthorn and associated root mass **(005)** (Fig. 2). Underlying this was a layer of wind-blown sand of varying depth. The natural siltstone substrate was only exposed along the western extremity of the development area, primarily along the coastal cliffs. Otherwise, the natural substrate was not exposed during ground works down to formation level.

The remains of a gateway **(006)** through a drystone wall **(011)** were discovered during the initial vegetation strip (Fig. 3) (NT 49883 85691, centred). This consisted of a rough, ashlar gate pier, measuring 0.6m by 0.6m by 0.7m high, with an in situ iron gatepost and a wrecked, rusty iron gate lying in close proximity. In addition, there was a rough cobbled surface **(008)** on the northern side of the gate pier, measuring 2.7m north to south and 0.8m east to west. At the northern end of the cobbled surface was the stub of another iron gatepost **(007)**, 2.7m apart from the first post. In close proximity to the cobbled surface, and lying unstratified in the wind blown sand, were several small pieces and one large example of reinforced concrete **(009)**, most likely of World War II date.

A drystone dyke **(011)**, orientated NNE-SSW, continued for approximately 200m along the western side of the development area, before turning NE-SW for a further 50m (Fig. 5). The upstanding wall was visible prior to any groundbreaking works but part of it was removed and reinstated in a different part of the course. A section through this wall was recorded (Fig. 6). There were no visible remains of a foundation cut in the section. Therefore, it would appear the wall had been built directly on top of the sand.

A concentration of angular boulders, aligned WSW-ENE (NGR: NT 49813 85613, centred), possibly representing a collapsed wall, proved after investigation to most likely be a dump of boulders used in the construction/maintenance of the dyke as there was no clear form to the mass of stones.

At the eastern end of the development area, north of the 10th hole, was a linear feature **(010)** consisting of four large sandstone boulders (NGR NT 49996 85765 – NT 49985 85756) (Fig. 4). Two were smooth and un-worked, and the remaining two were roughly worked. The largest (most westerly) stone had an iron staple set into it. This feature probably represented a former continuation of the main drystone dyke **(011)** because it extended from the line of the existing wall.

4. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was carried out during all ground breaking work for the construction of new holes at The Renaissance Club Golf Course. The few features all appear to date to the early modern and WWII period. No artefacts of archaeological significance were identified during the watching brief.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the East Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record.

A summary statement of the results of this watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) and an online OASIS form will be completed.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context	Description
001	Orange sand deposit
002	Mixture of sand and roots with high concentration of large angular stones
003	Rich dark grey silt/soil, bioturbation, clear horizon with (002) and (004)
004	Layer of windblown sand, pale, well sorted
005	Surface topsoil and vegetation
006	Rough ashlar pier
007	Iron gate post
008	In-situ cobbling
009	Concrete with re-bar. Floating
010	Four in-situ large sandstone boulders
011	Dry stone dyke
012	Natural siltstone substrate

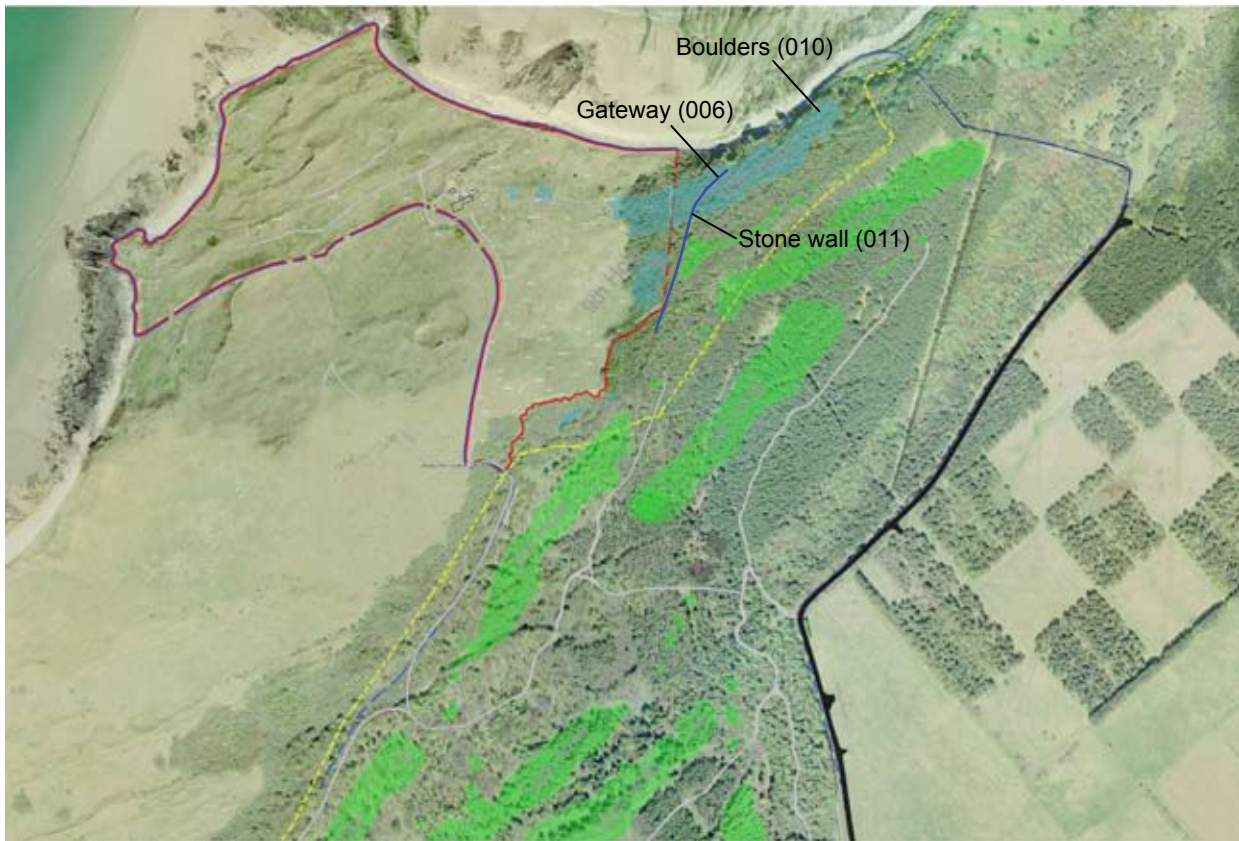
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digital Images

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1-3	General shots of the area to be stripped	S, SSE, SW	Overcast
4-6	Dry stone dyke running approx NNE-SSW through area to be stripped	SW, W, SW	Rain
7-9	General pre-excavation shots of area to be stripped	E, SE, E	Rain
10	Dry stone dyke	E	Rain
11-13	Pre-stripped shots of area around the greens	E, S, S	Rain
14-15	Possible collapsed dry stone dyke/field boundary running NE-SW	SW	Overcast
16-20	SW facing section through possible collapsed dry stone dyke NW-SE	SW	Overcast
21-22	Oblique of SW facing section through possible collapsed dyke	S	Overcast
23	Oblique of SW facing section through possible collapsed dyke	W	Overcast
24-25	Gateway surface	N	Overcast
26	Sandstone (010) with iron staple	N	Overcast
27	Sandstone (010) with iron staple	E	Overcast
28	Alignment of stones (010)	E	Overcast
29	Detail of iron staple	E	Overcast
30	Area of previously stripped area outwith area of watching brief	SE	Overcast
31-33	Section showing base of dry stone dyke	NE	Overcast
34	10th Tee prior to work commencing		Overcast
35	10th Tee during excavation showing windblown dune sand		Overcast
36	10th Tee post excavation		Overcast

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	The Renaissance Club Golf Course, Dirleton, East Lothian.
PROJECT CODE:	RENA
PARISH:	Dirleton
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Gary Savory
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NT 49569 85668 (centred)
START DATE (this season)	July 2011
END DATE (this season)	August 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out during all ground breaking work for the construction of three new holes at The Renaissance Club Golf Course. The features recorded all appear to date to the early modern and WWII period and include a drystone dyke and gateway. No artefacts of archaeological significance were identified during the watching brief.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	The Renaissance Club
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record of Scotland East Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record



Key:
Areas of Archaeological Investigation



Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: The Renaissance Club

Title: Site location and plan showing the development area.

Project: The Renaissance Club Golf Course, Dirleton, East Lothian Archaeological Watching Brief

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
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t: 0131 273 4380
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w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

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Fig 2 - General shot of the development area.



Fig 3 - Gateway and cobbled surface




Fig 4 - Linear feature with sandstone boulders

Key:	Fig. No:	2-4	Revision:	A	Client:	The Renaissance Club					
	Title:										
Scale at A4:	Project:						 <div>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</div>				
	The Renaissance Club Golf Course, Dirleton, East Lothian Archaeological Watching Brief										
Drawn by:							SW	Checked:	LW	Report No:	1938



Fig 6 - Drystone dyke showing section after partially dismantled

Key:	Fig. No:	5-6	Revision:	A	Client:	The Renaissance Club			 <div>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Esmonds Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</div>
	Title:								
Scale at A4:	Project: The Renaissance Club Golf Course, Dirleton, East Lothian Archaeological Watching Brief								Drawn by: SW Checked: LW Report No: 1938