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Geophysical Survey

**Glasgow Road, Waterfoot,
East Renfrewshire:**

Archaeological Evaluation of Two Mounds

Report No. 3241

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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standard operating procedures.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in December 2014 on two tree-covered mounds within land proposed for development to the south of Waterfoot, East Renfrewshire (NS 56827 54401, centred) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Gladman Developments Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 26 November 2014 covering this programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of Gladman Development. The WSI was approved in advance by the West of Scotland Archaeological Service (WoSAS).

1.2 Background

A desk-based assessment (Hickman 2014) identified the known cultural heritage sites within the land proposed for development at Waterfoot. Amongst those sites are two tree-covered mounds, one of which is known as ‘Simon Law’. There is a tradition that one or both of the mounds may be a burial monument of prehistoric date.

1.3 Objective

The objective of the archaeological evaluation was to demonstrate the nature and antiquity of the two mounds.

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 Evaluation

Five trial trenches were excavated on the two mounds (Fig 1). The location of trenches was constrained by the need to respect the exclusion zones around the trees that grow on the mounds, which are protected by tree preservation orders (Motion 2014).

Topsoil was removed by a tracked 360° mechanical excavator, equipped with a 1.8m smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench positions were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment and all trenches were backfilled.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

A summary of the trenches excavated is presented as Appendix 1. Numbers in bold in the following text refer to contexts, a full list of which is presented as Appendix 2.

Mound 1 (Trenches 1 & 2; Fig. 2)

The deposits forming Mound 1 consisted of 0.3m to 0.6m of dark brown, very friable, undeveloped silty clay topsoil (**001**) either overlying bedrock (**003**) or mid-brown/reddish silty clay natural (**002**) (Figs 3 and 4). Bedrock was also visible protruding through the turf along the eastern edge of the mound.

Mound 2 'Simon Law' (Trenches 3, 4 & 5; Fig. 5)

The deposits of Mound 2 consisted of 0.1m to 0.4m reddish brown, undeveloped silty topsoil (**004**), which had been heavily disturbed by root action from the trees, overlying slightly lighter reddish brown, firm silty clay interspersed with approximately 35% medium to large angular stones (**005**) (Fig 6). The topsoil (**004**) was thinner towards the top of the mound and some of the larger stones were protruding through the turf. Towards the edge of the mound the subsoil was mottled greyish pink, firm silty clay (**006**) with degraded stone inclusions (Figs 7 and 8).

4. CONCLUSIONS

The deposits revealed by the excavation of the trial trenches were consistent with interpretation of the two mounds as natural features. No archaeological remains or deposits were identified on the mounds.

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 WoSAS SMR.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* and an online OASIS entry submitted on completion of the project.

5. REFERENCES

- Hickman, S. 2014 *Glasgow Road, Waterfoot, East Renfrewshire, Desk-Based Assessment*, CFA Archaeology Ltd, Unpublished Report No. 3136.
- Motion, A 2014 *Tree Survey and Arboricultural Constraints: Waterfoot*, unpublished report commissioned by Gladman Developments Ltd.

APPENDIX 1: Trench Summary

Mound	Trench	Dimensions (LxWxD)	Stratigraphic Description	Features
1	1	20mx2mx0.4 m	0.4m (max) dark brown very friable, undeveloped clayey silt topsoil (001) overlying bedrock (003) in the SE half and mid-brown/reddish silty clay natural (002) in the north-western half of trench.	No archaeological features
1	2	20mx2mx0.6 m(max)	Ranging between 0.3m and 0.6m of dark brown, very friable, undeveloped silty clay (001)topsoil overlying bedrock (003)	No archaeological features
2	3	30mx2mx0.7 m(max)	Southern half of the trench had 0.3m of root-disturbed reddish brown silty topsoil (004) overlying reddish brown, firm silty clay with angular rock inclusions (005). The northern half of the trench had reddish brown silty topsoil (004) overlying a grayish pink silty clay (006)	No archaeological features
2	4	20mx2mx0.4 m(max)	Ranging between 0.1m to 0.4m of reddish brown, undeveloped, silty topsoil (004) overlying reddish brown very firm silty clay with 30%-35% angular rock inclusions (005)	No archaeological features
2	5	30mx2mx0.7 m(max)	Between 0.1m and 0.3m of reddish brown, undeveloped silty topsoil (004) overlying reddish brown very firm silty clay interspersed with angular rocks (005) at the north-eastern end of the trench. Deposits at the south-western end of the trench (at the base of mound) consisted of 0.3m of dark brown silty clay topsoil (001) overlying greyish pink silty clay (006).	One NE-SW running stone-filled field drain. One NE-SW running clay pipe field drain.

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context	Trench	Description	Section	Photo
001	1 & 2	Dark brown clayey silt, friable topsoil	2 & 3	22-25
002	1& 2	Mid-brown/reddish silty clay natural	2 & 3	3
003	1 & 2	Bedrock	2 & 3	1
004	3-5	Reddish brown silty topsoil		
005	3-5	Reddish brown very firm silty clay interspersed with angular rocks	1	17
006	3 & 5	Greyish pink firm silty clay	4	26-30

APPENDIX 3: Drawing Register

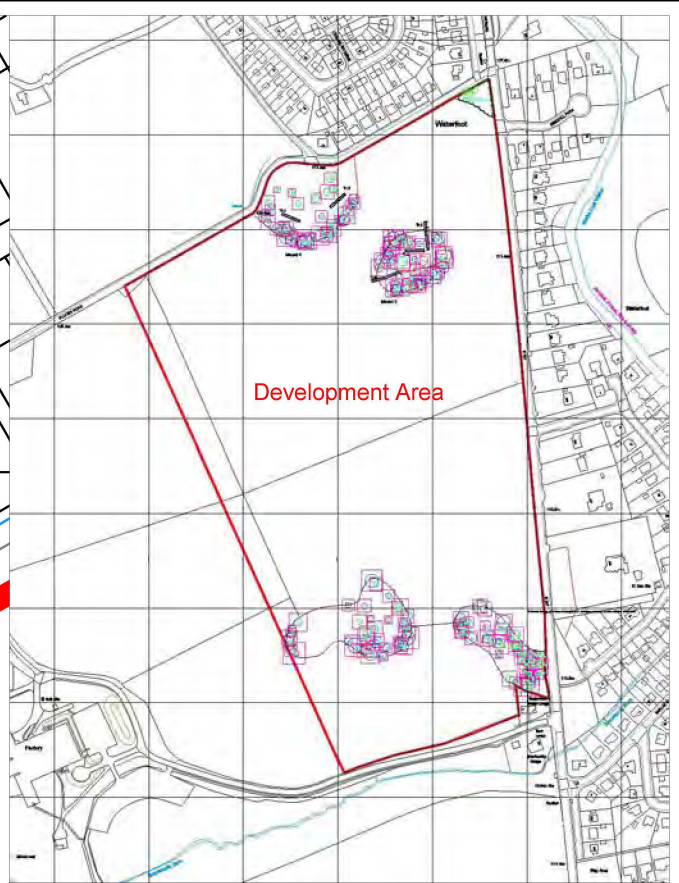
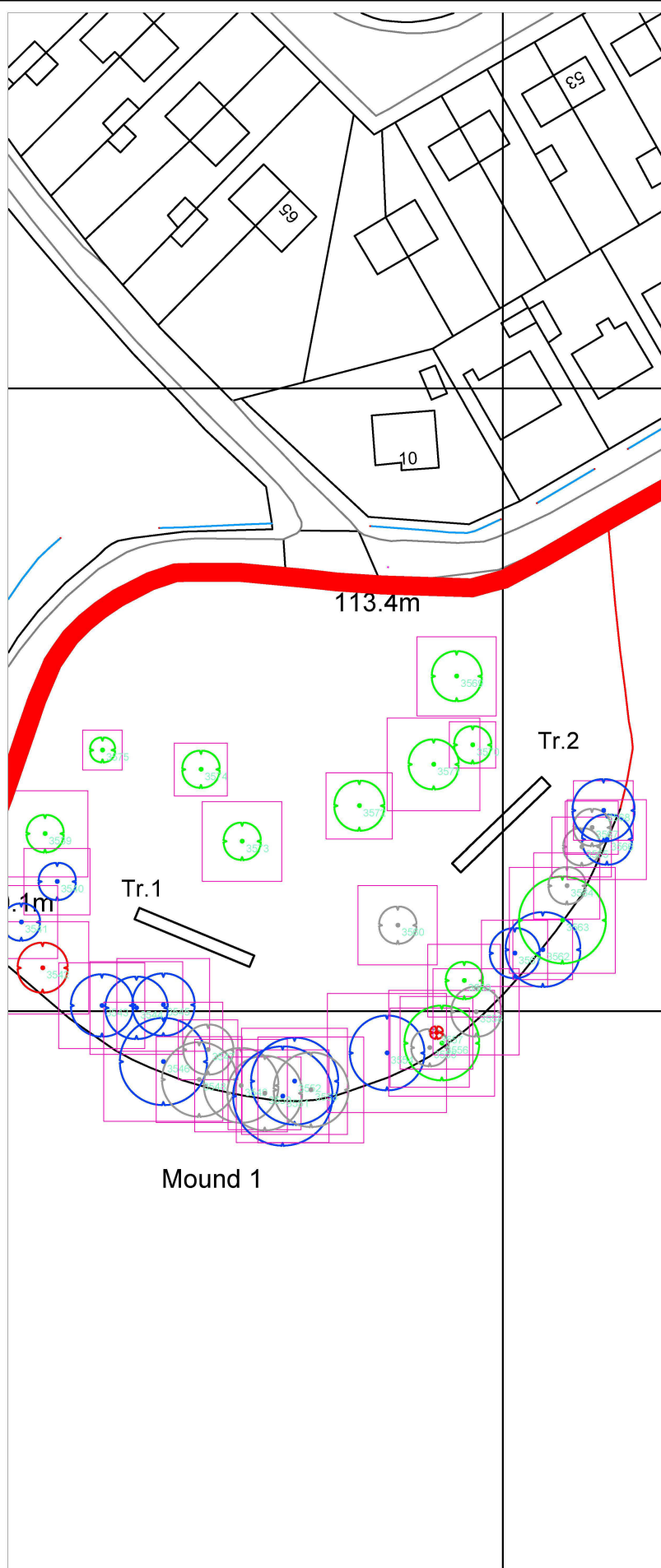
Number	Sheet	Description	Sec/Plan	Scale
1	1	North facing section of sondage in Trench 5	S	1:20
2	1	South-west facing section of Trench 1, south-eastern end	S	1:20
3	1	South-east facing section of Trench 2, north-eastern end	S	1:20
4	2	West facing section of Trench 3, northern end	S	1:20
5	2	South facing section of Trench 4, middle area	S	1:20

APPENDIX 4: Photographic Register

Photo No.	Description	Taken From
001	Trench 2, post-ex general shot	NE
002	Trench 2, post-ex general shot	SW
003	Trench 1, post-ex general shot	WSW
004	Trench 1, post-ex showing exposed bedrock underneath topsoil	ENE
005-006	Trench 3, post-ex general shot	SW
007-008	Trench 3, post-ex general shot	NE
009	Trench 5 (west end), post-ex general shot	W
010	Trench 5, post-ex showing outcrop of bedrock on crest of slope	W
011	Trench 4, post-ex general shot	E
012	Trench 4, post-ex general shot	W
013	Trench 5 (east end), post-ex general shot	E
014	Trench 5 extension, post-ex general shot	W
015	Trench 3 extension, post-ex general shot	NE
016	Trench 5 sondage, post-ex general shot	W
017	South facing section of Trench 5 in sondage	S
018-020	General working shots on site	Various
021	West-southwest facing section in Trench 3	WSW
022	South facing section in Trench 1 (east end)	S
023	South facing section in Trench 1 (east end) oblique shot	SE
024	South-East facing section in Trench 2	SE
025	Oblique shot of south facing section of Trench 2	E
026-028	South to north of west facing section of Trench 3	W
029	Oblique shot of west facing section of Trench 3, northern half	NW
030	Oblique shot of west facing section of Trench 3, northern half	SW
031	South facing section of Trench 4, eastern end	S
032	General shot of the Mound 1	SE
033	General shot of Mound 1 (closer) with outcrop visible	SE
034	General shot of backfilled Trench 2	SW
035	Detail shot of backfilled Trench 1	SE
036	General shot of Trench 5, backfilled	WSW
037	General shot of Trench 5 (ENE end), backfilled	ENE
038-039	Detail of wind-damaged branch next to Trench 3	S
040	General shot of Trench 5 showing the trees which were pushed aside.	N
041	Trench 5 showing no damage to trees adjacent to trench	S
042-043	Trees adjacent to Trench 5 damaged prior to work commencing	SW
044	Trees adjacent to Trench 5 damaged prior to work commencing	WSW
045	Detail of Trench 4, eastern half, backfilled	E
046	Simon Law after all work completed	E
047	Simon Law after all work completed	SE
048	Simon Law after all work completed	SW
049	Simon Law after all work completed	NW

APPENDIX 5: Discovery and Excavation In Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Renfrewshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Glasgow Road, Waterfoot, East Renfrewshire. Archaeological Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	GLAF7
PARISH:	Eaglesham
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	G Savory
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 56827 54401 (centred)
START DATE (this season)	December 2014
END DATE (this season)	December 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Desk-based assessment
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Two tree-covered mounds, one of which is known as ‘Simon Law’, were tested by trial trenching evaluation, since there was a tradition that one or both of the mounds may have been a burial monument of prehistoric date. The mounds were revealed to be natural features. No archaeological remains or deposits were identified on the mounds.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Gladman Developments Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	gsavory@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS, Reports lodged with SMR and NMRS.



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Title:
Location map and trench plan

Project:
Glasgow Road, Waterfoot,
East Renfrewshire

Fig No: 1 Report: 3241 Drawn by: KH CKD: TN Date: 05/12/14

Client:
Gladman Developments Ltd

Scale:
1:1000





Fig. 2 - Mound 1 from the south-east



Fig. 3 - Oblique shot of south-facing section in Trench 1 (eastern end)



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Title:	Fig. 2 - 3	Report: 3241	Drawn: GC	CKD: TN	Date: 08/12/14
Project:	Client: Gladman Developments Ltd Residential Development, Glasgow Road, Waterfoot, East Refrewshire, Archaeological Evaluation				





Fig. 4 - South-east facing section of Trench 2



Fig. 5 - Mound 2 (Simon Law) from the east



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Title:	Fig. 4 - 5	Report: 3241	Drawn: GC	CKD: TN	Date: 08/12/14
Project:	Gladman Developments Ltd Residential Development, Glasgow Road, Waterfoot, East Refrewshire, Archaeological Evaluation				



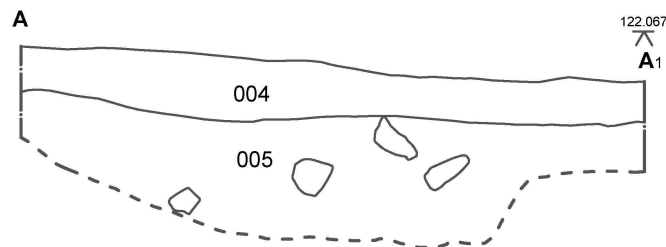


Fig. 6 - North-facing section of Trench 5 (eastern end)

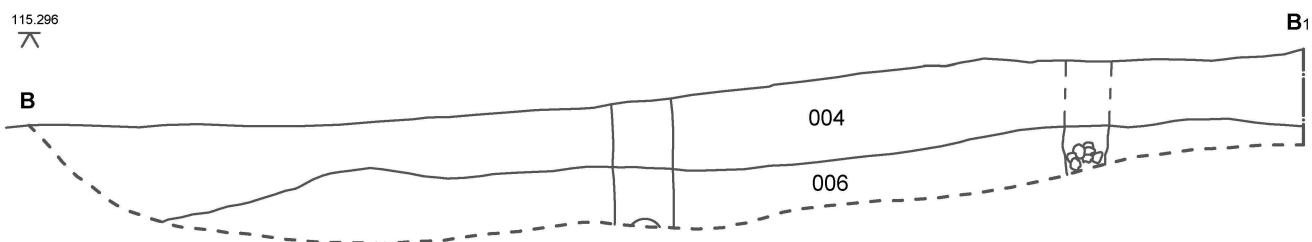


Fig. 7 - West-facing section of Trench 3 (northern end)



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Sections

Project:
**Glasgow Road, Waterfoot,
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Fig No: **6-7** Report: **3241** Drawn by: **GC** CKD: **TN** Date: **05/12/14**

Client:
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Scale:
1:1000





Fig. 8 - Trench 5 looking south-west



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Title:	Fig. 8	Report: 3241	Drawn: GC	CKD: TN	Date: 08/12/14
Client: Gladman Developments Ltd					
Project: Residential Development, Glasgow Road, Waterfoot, East Refrewshire, Archaeological Evaluation					

