



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY

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Erection of a marquee stand and associated services trenches at Duntarvie Castle, Winchburgh, West Lothian

Archaeological Watching Brief
Report No. 3669

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**Erection of a marquee stand and associated services trenches at
Duntarvie Castle, Winchburgh,
West Lothian**

Watching Brief

Report No. 3669

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of a watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in April and May 2018 in advance of a marquee stand, associated service trenches and an access road at Duntravie Castle, West Lothian. The work was commissioned by GTHC Pension Fund.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CFA (dated 04 April 2018), and agreed in advance with West of Scotland Archaeological Service (WoSAS), on behalf of West Lothian Council.

Duntarvie Castle is a 16th century house comprising of a rectangular central block of four stories. At either end of the main block sat square, five story towers, however the eastern tower collapsed in 1995. The Castle was probably built for James Durham who was given the lands in 1588. The house then passed through a series of owners and by the 1840s was uninhabited and by the 20th century the Castle was a roofless ruin. Work began in 1994 to restore the house and is still ongoing to this day. The castle is a Scheduled Monument, (SM1905).

The Watching Brief areas are to the north of the castle and along the exterior of the eastern side of the modern fence which surrounds the castle, see Fig 1.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the project were:

- To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area through a watching brief;
- To record (by excavation) any surviving remains of archaeological importance that may be present prior to their removal to allow construction to proceed in the affected area;
- To prepare a suitable report on the findings.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

Work was conducted with regard to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CifA) Standard and Guidance as appropriate.

2.2 Watching Brief

All groundbreaking, including turf / vegetation removal associated with this application was considered to have the ability to disturb archaeological remains. As a result all

groundbreaking, including turf / vegetation removal, was monitored by an archaeologist to ensure that if archaeologically significant features were uncovered that they were carefully exposed within the area affected by the development.

Samples of all features of archaeological interest were hand excavated in order to establish their likely date, nature, extent and condition.

All hand excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

The Watching Brief locations were recorded using industry standard surveying equipment.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

The watching brief was performed on four main areas; an area for the marquee stand, the access/delivery road up to and around the marquee stand and two linear trenches for water and electrical services. No other groundbreaking was required to construct this development. Numbers in bold and parentheses are context numbers and are described in Appendix 1.

The area of the marquee stand was approximately 50m by 15m. The turf and a small amount of underlying topsoil, **(001)**, was removed down to between 0.15m and 0.3m across the area, (Fig. 3). Natural undisturbed subsoil was not exposed as the development formation level did not require excavation to penetrate that deep.

The 4m wide access road also had the turf and a small amount of topsoil, **(001)**, removed down to between 0.15m to 0.3m across the area, (Fig. 4). Natural undisturbed subsoil was not exposed as the development formation level did not require excavation to penetrate that deep.

The electricity service trench was 0.4m wide and 0.6m deep. It went through the topsoil, **(001)**, and subsoil, **(002)**, and exposed the underlying undisturbed subsoil, **(003)**, in places (Fig. 6).

The water service trench was 0.4m wide and between 0.7m to 0.8m deep. It went through the topsoil, **(001)**, and subsoil, **(002)**, and exposed the underlying undisturbed subsoil, **(003)**, along its length. Where the trench ran along the north-eastern corner of the fence surrounding Duntarvie Castle the trench also cut through a bund of modern made ground, **(004)**, (Figs. 1 & 5).

No archaeologically significant features or deposits were identified in any of the areas of Watching Brief.

4. CONCLUSIONS

A watching brief was carried out on ground breaking works to the immediate north and east of Duntarvie Castle. Very little of the development features required excavation that exposed the underlying natural undisturbed subsoil, which was largely left protected by the remains of the topsoil and the subsoil. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified.

Based on the results of the evaluation CFA recommend no further work; however, it is recognised that the final decision lies with West Lothian Council as advised by WoSAS.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with the NHRE and copies of reports will be lodged with the 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.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

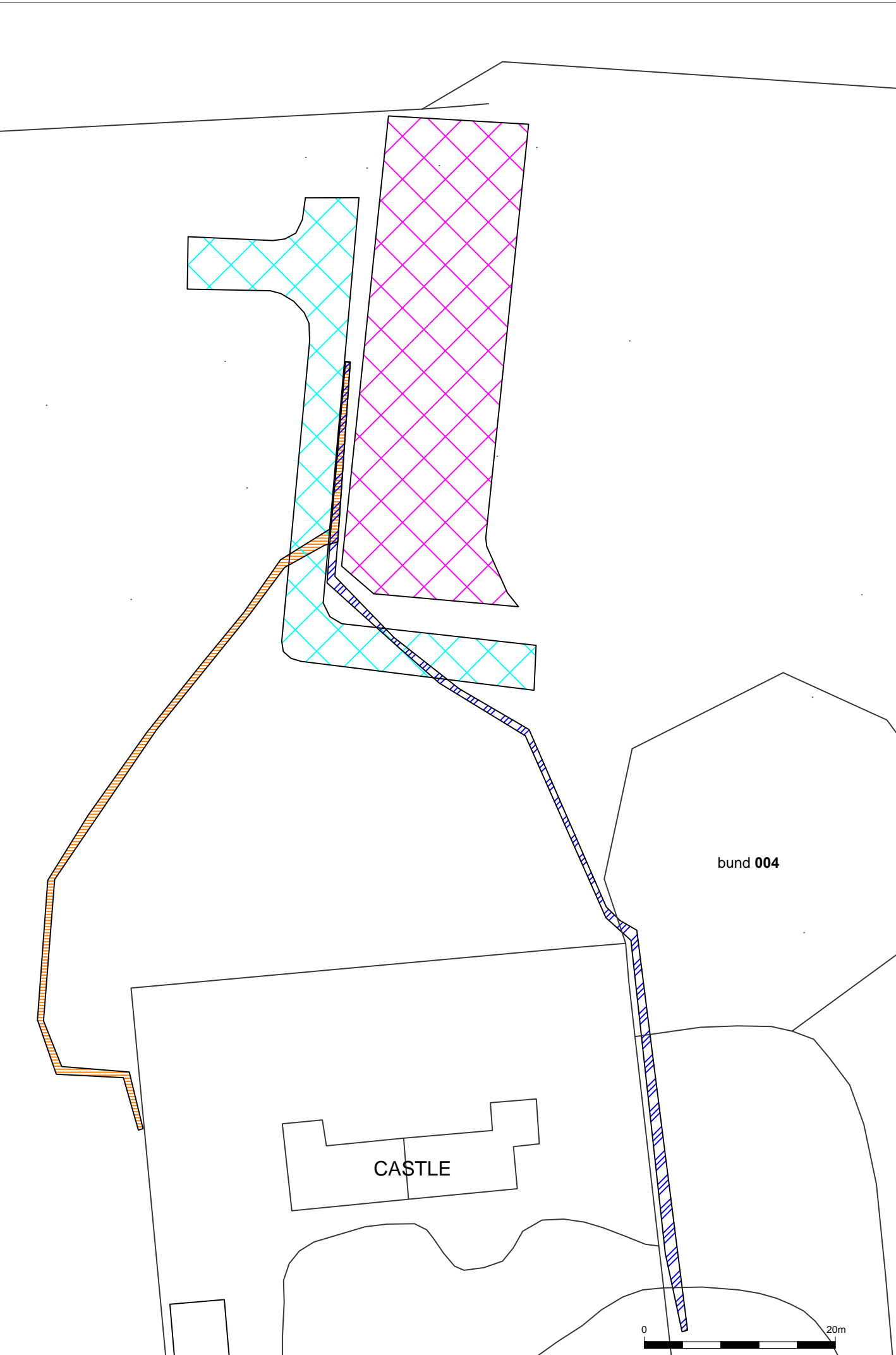
Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Facing
1	General view of Watching Brief area	N
2	General view of electricity service trench	N
3	General pre-excavation shot of area of marquee stand	N
4	Post-excavation shot of marquee area	N
5	East facing shot of edge of marquee stand	W
6	Area of water service trench pre-excavation with bund, comprising of 004 , in the background	N
7	Delivery access track on western edge of marquee stand	N
8	West-facing section of delivery access road	N
9	Made ground 004 in water service trench	E
10	Bellmouth on delivery road, post-excavation	N
11	Delivery access road at the southern end of marquee stand	E
12	Water service trench along the edge of the castle fence	N

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context no.	Fill of	Type	Description
001		Deposit	Topsoil, mid to dark brown with numerous medium to large rounded and sub rounded stones, 0.35 to 0.5m deep
002		Deposit	Subsoil: mid brown silty clay with numerous medium to large rounded and sub rounded stones, 0.25 to 0.4m deep
003		Deposit	Natural. Orange to grey stiff boulder clay
004		Deposit	Made ground, a mix of topsoil, general rubbish, bricks and fragments of metal

APPENDIX 4: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	West Lothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Erection of a marquee stand and associated services trenches at Duntarvie Castle, Winchburgh, West Lothian.
PROJECT CODE:	DUMA
PARISH:	Abercorn (West Lothian)
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Bruce Glendinning
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 0384 6497
START DATE (this season)	May 2018
END DATE (this season)	May 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A watching brief was carried out on ground breaking works to the immediate north and east of Duntarvie Castle. The works were undertaken during groundworks for a marquee platform, and for the access road and service connections to the marquee.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	GTHC Pension Fund
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	bglendinning@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NHRE, Reports lodged with SMR.



Key:

- Marquee stand
- Access/delivery road
- Water service trench
- Electricity service trench

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Title:
**Site location and location of
Watching Brief Areas**

Project:
**Erection of a marquee stand
and associated services
trenches at Duntarvie Castle,
Winchburgh, West Lothian.**

Client:
Geoffrey Nicholsby

Scale at A3:
1:10 000 and 1:500

Drawn by: GC	Checked: SW	Date: 04/05/2018
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Report No.: GC	Fig. No.: 1
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Fig.2 Area of Watching Brief prior to works



Fig.3 Area of marquee stand, post excavation

Project:
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Fig.4 Access/delivery road during excavation



Fig.5 Water service trench during excavation

Project:
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Fig.6 Electricity service trench during excavation

Project:
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