

Dumbarnie Links, Drumeldrie Fife

Archaeological Mitigation Works Report No. 3797

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This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

A series of archaeological watching briefs were carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd between July 2018 and October 2018 during the landscaping works undertaken for the construction of an 18-hole golf course, clubhouse and ancillary building at Dumbarnie Links, Drumeldrie (NGR: NO 4491 0250)(Fig. 1).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the work, dated 12 February 2018, was produced by CFA on behalf of Dumbarnie Golf Links Ltd to fulfil the requirements of Fife Council Archaeology Service (FCAS).

1.2 Background

An Environmental Statement was produced which included a chapter on cultural heritage. A raised beach terrace at the north of the development site was identified as archaeologically sensitive. A potentially prehistoric settlement (Canmore ID 32774) was recorded as cropmarks on the terrace and a geophysical survey was carried out for the ES to determine the possible nature of the remains. The results of the geophysical survey demonstrated a cluster of anomalies indicative of possible settlement features together with weaker, more ephemeral, responses likely of archaeological significance. Additional anomalies suggestive of larger enclosures were also detected. The variation in the nature and form of responses suggested the potential for different phases of activity across the site. The anomalies detected across the survey area show excellent correlation with the aerial photographs of the area while providing greater detail. The strongest responses were due to a gas pipe and rig and furrow cultivation. Several linear anomalies suggesting past field divisions were detected.

As a result, the golf course layout was redesigned to avoid, as far as practicable, direct impacts on the archaeological remains. The design of the proposed golf course was modified so as to minimise the potential impact on the archaeological resource by limiting the requirements for earthworks and landscaping in that area. The need for excavations for landscaping on the terrace was avoided and it was proposed to raise the ground level over the archaeology in order to accommodate a driving range to the west of the clubhouse.

1.3 Objectives

The archaeological work comprised of various mitigations, the aims of which were:

- To minimise movement of heavy plant within the area of known archaeological remains on the raised beach terrace by demarcating the extent of the remains and excluding all unnecessary plant movements;
- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) to monitor the upfilling of the area of archaeological remains on the raised beach terrace and to monitor all groundbreaking works across the raised beach area, including drainage, irrigation, roads, maintenance area and any other intrusive works; and

 To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features exposed during the work by excavation and recording and produce a report on them

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods.

The works monitored comprised the demarcation of the archaeologically sensitive area and the upfilling of several mounds, ridges and a practice tee area with spoil, in addition to the movement of heavy plant, within this area.

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

2.2 Demarcation

The area of archaeological sensitivity was located by GPS and fenced off with a visible barrier.

It was the responsibility of the Developer to provide durable, highly visible barrier fencing and fencing pins/wooden stakes. Fencing was undertaken by the Developer under archaeological supervision. The fencing remained in place for the duration of all construction works.

2.3 Monitoring During Upfill and Watching Brief

All works for the upfill of ground on the raised beach terrace within the area of archaeological sensitivity, and during any removal of surface vegetation within this area, occurred under constant archaeological supervision. This was to ensure that plant movements and vegetation removal did not damage the soft deposits below the existing ground surface.

In total, six mounds measuring c. 20m in diameter and up to 1m in height were established throughout the area west of the gas pipeline (Fig. 2). Two curvilinear ridges of material were upfilled along the southern extent of the archaeologically sensitive area, up to 2m in height (Fig. 3). A large platform measuring c. 40m by 100m was raised to the east of the gas pipeline to form a practice tee (Fig. 4).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Throughout the monitoring ground conditions were firm and generally dry. As such, the effect of plant movements was limited to the turf surface cover. The upfilled areas were completed under constant archaeological supervision and heavy plant movements did not impact deposits below the existing ground surface.

No archaeological features or deposits were disturbed during the course of the works.

4. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during landscaping works for the construction of Dumbarnie Links golf course, Drumeldrie (NGR: NO 4491 0250). This comprised demarcation and monitoring of the archaeologically sensitive area, ensuring that plant movements and upfill did not disturb sub-surface deposits. The works were carried out with no impact to deposits below the existing ground surface.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Record for the Historic Environment (NRHE) and copies of reports will be lodged with Fife Council Sites and Monuments Record.

A summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2) and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Facing
1	General area shot	N
2	General area shot	NW
3	Working shot showing soil on top of original ground surface	SE
4	Working shot	NE
5	Working shot	Е
6	General area shot	N
7	General shot showing area fenced off	NW
8	General shot showing area fenced off	WNW
9	General shot showing area fenced off	N
10	General shot showing area fenced off	Е
11	General shot showing area fenced off	Е
12	PX shot of area post upfilling	NW
13	PX shot of area post upfilling	SE
14	Area that no longer needs reduced	SE
15	Working shot of spoil mounds	S
16	Condition shot of general area + track to compound	N
17	General shot of upfilled mounds	W
18	General shot of upfilled mounds	W
19	General shot of upfilled ridge along southern extent of area	SW
20	Scale shot of southern ridge	W
21	Scale shot of southern ridge, completed works	W

APPENDIX 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife Council Archaeology Service	
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Dumbarnie Links, Archaeological Mitigation Works	
PROJECT CODE:	DULI	
PARISH:	Largo	
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Leah Watt & Oliver Rusk	
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd	
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Mitigation Works	
NMRS NO(S):	N/A	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A	
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 4491 0250	
START DATE (this season)	July 2018	
END DATE (this season)	October 2018	
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during landscaping works for the construction of Dumbarnie Links golf course, Drumeldrie (NGR: NO 4491 0250). This comprised demarcation and monitoring of the archaeologically sensitive area, ensuring that plant movements and upfill did not disturb subsurface deposits. The works were carried out with no impact to deposits below the existing ground surface.	
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Dumbarnie Golf Links Ltd	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.	
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk	
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited with NRHE, reports lodged with Fife Council SMR.	

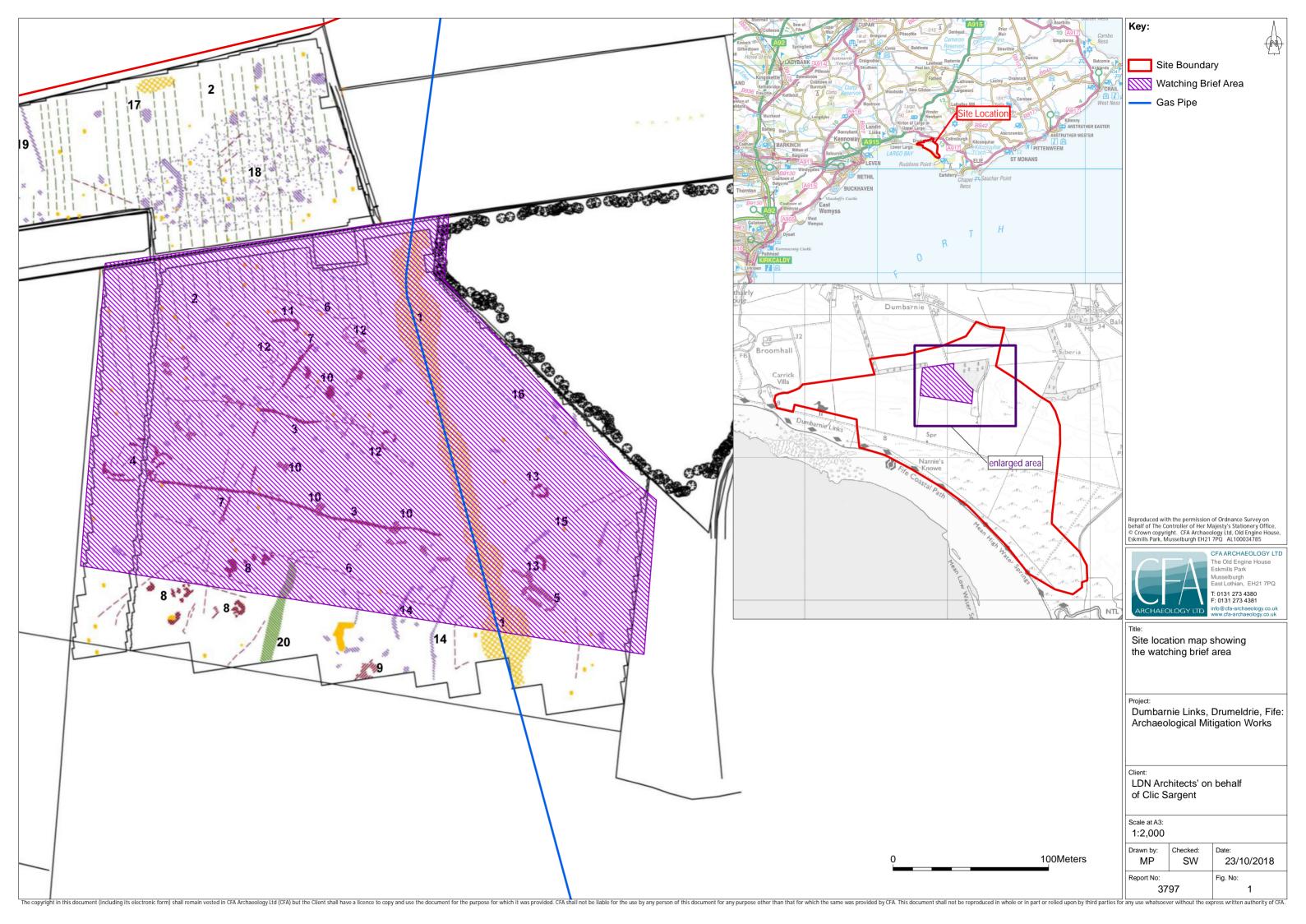




Fig. 2 - General shot of upfilled mounds, facing west



Fig. 3 - General shot of upfilled ridge along the southern extent of the area

Project:
Dumbarnie Links, Drumeldrie, Fife: Archaeological Mitigation Works



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LDN Architects' on behalf of Clic Sargent

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 SW
 23/10/18

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Fig. 4 - Working shot showing demarcation fence and practice tee platform, facing north

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