



# CFA ARCHAEOLOGY

Professional cultural heritage consultants - branches nationwide  
[enquiries@cfa-archaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cfa-archaeology.co.uk)



CAPABILITY  
FLEXIBILITY  
ASSURANCE

## Minor Archaeological Services Call-Off Contract Dundonald Castle, South Ayrshire (PIC194)

Floodlighting Removal, Watching Brief, August  
2018

Report No. [HES-PIC194-2018-02](#)

Authors:

Bethan Gray MA PCIfA



## 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](mailto:info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk)

web: [www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk](http://www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk)

Authors	Bethan Gray MA PCifA
Illustrator	Shelly Werner BA MPhil PhD MCifA
Approver	Melanie Johnson MA PhD FSA Scot MCifA
Commissioned by	Historic Environment Scotland
Date issued	October 2018
Version	1
Grid Ref	NS 3636 3415
Oasis Reference	Cfaarcha1-330305
PIC No.	PIC194
HES Report No.	HES-PIC194-2018-02
CFA Report No.	3795

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

### **Minor Archaeological Services Call-Off Contract**

#### **Dundonald Castle, South Ayrshire (PIC194)**

#### **Floodlighting Removal Watching Brief, August 2018**

**Report No. HES-PIC194-2018-02**

## **CONTENTS**

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

## **Appendices**

1.	Photographic Register	5
2.	Context Register	5
3.	Discovery and Excavation in Scotland	6

## **Illustrations (bound at rear)**

1.	Plan of Floodlighting around Dundonald Castle
2.	Pre-excavation of Floodlighting
3.	Plan of Floodlight base 9/10
4.	Plan of Floodlight base 1
5.	Plan of Floodlight base 4

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

Archaeological monitoring was required at Dundonald Castle, South Ayrshire (NGR: NS 3636 3415), a Property in Care in the guardianship of Historic Environment Scotland. An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground breaking works for the removal of redundant floodlighting. Work was undertaken under the terms of the Minor Archaeological Services Call-off Contract.

### **1.2 Background**

The ruins of Dundonald Castle occupy a prominent position on the summit of a hill overlooking the village of Dundonald.

The hilltop has been used for settlement since at least the Bronze Age, with major fortifications built in the Iron Age and Early Historic periods.

The present castle comprises the well preserved remains of a 14th century tower house together with the remains of a barmkin enclosure and a later wing to the south.

The main block is roughly rectangular in plan (17.9m by 12.1m within walls up to 2.15m thick) and comprises three principal storeys with halls on the first and second floors. The tower house is unusual in that it comprises two feasting halls, one above the other, with originally, no residential provision. A wing was added on the south in the 15th century to provide additional private chambers and a prison.

The castle appears to have been abandoned by the mid-17th century, with stone robbed to build nearby Auchans House at the same time. Further robbing and landscaping were carried out in the 18th and 19th centuries.

### **1.3 Objectives**

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were:

- A watching brief during all ground breaking works undertaken for the removal of the lighting
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through their 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.

## **2.2 Watching Brief**

All ground breaking work for the removal of the redundant floodlights was monitored by an appropriately qualified archaeologist.

The aspects of the work monitored included:

- Removal of the concrete block / slab bases of the floodlights
- Cutting back of armoured cables below the bases in previously disturbed ground (c.200mm below ground surface) or pulling short length of cables out of ground to sever, leaving cables in situ with ends cut back below turf / gravel.
- Pulling out of any local earth rods at light fitting positions or cutting off (c.200mm below ground surface) and leaving in situ.

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

## **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

Floodlights 1-6 and 11 were all outwith the barmkin wall, with 7-10 on the interior of the castle (Fig. 1). The floodlights were bolted to concrete slabs (Fig. 2). The cables were not contained within ducting.

The excavation at each location measured generally no more than 0.6m by 0.6m in size (Fig. 4-5), apart from the combined area of bases 9 and 10 (Fig. 3) which measured 1.5m by 1m, and they were all no more than 0.2m in depth.

The watching brief on the floodlight bases outwith the castle and base 9/10 within the barmkin wall revealed turf and topsoil only (001). Loose stone within a silty deposit (002) was noted below the topsoil within bases 1-4.

Floodlights 7 and 8 within the barmkin revealed levelling deposits of gravel and sand below the slab (003).

## **4. CONCLUSION**

The archaeological watching brief during the removal of floodlighting around and within Dundonald Castle revealed no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts.

A summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

## APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

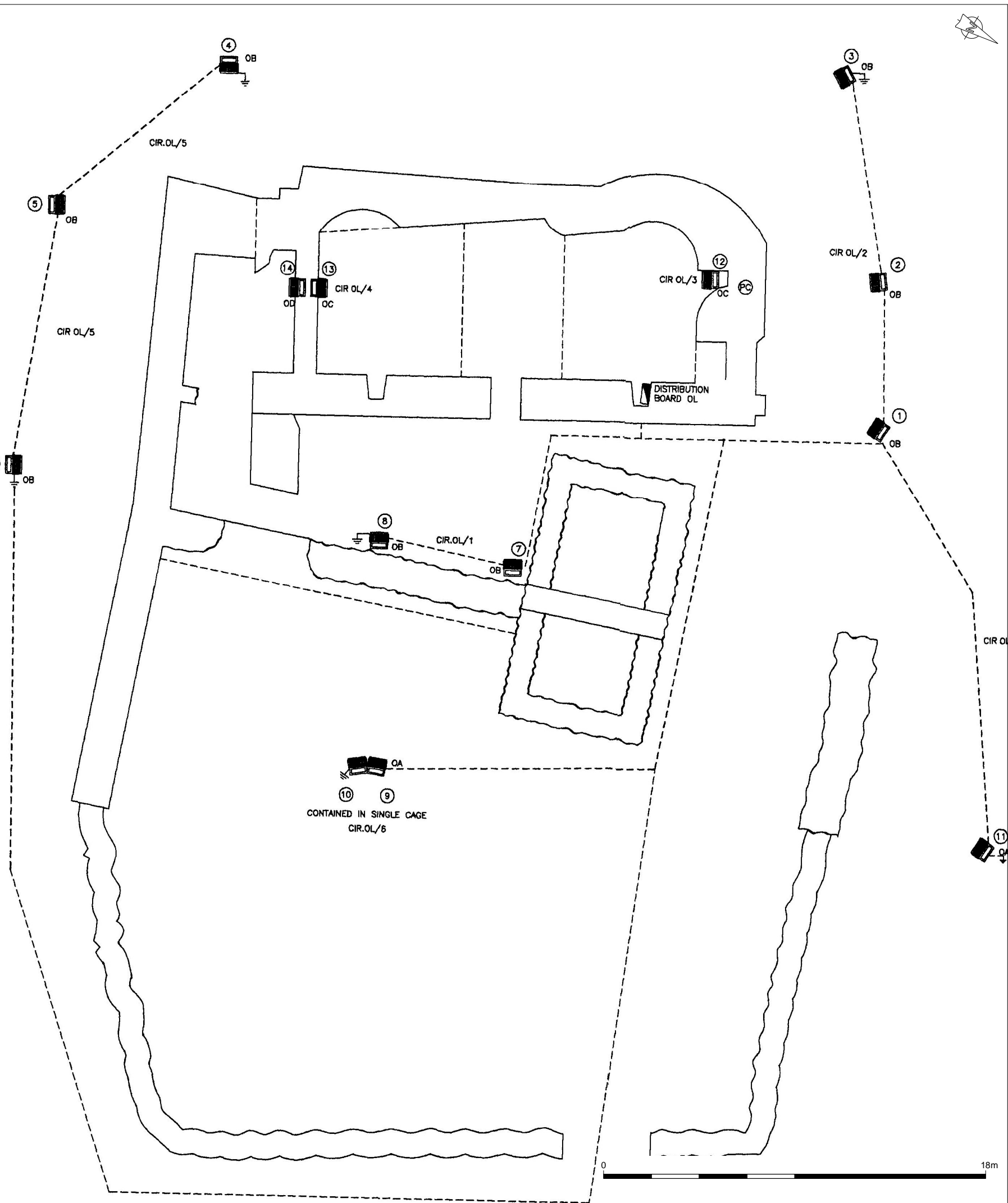
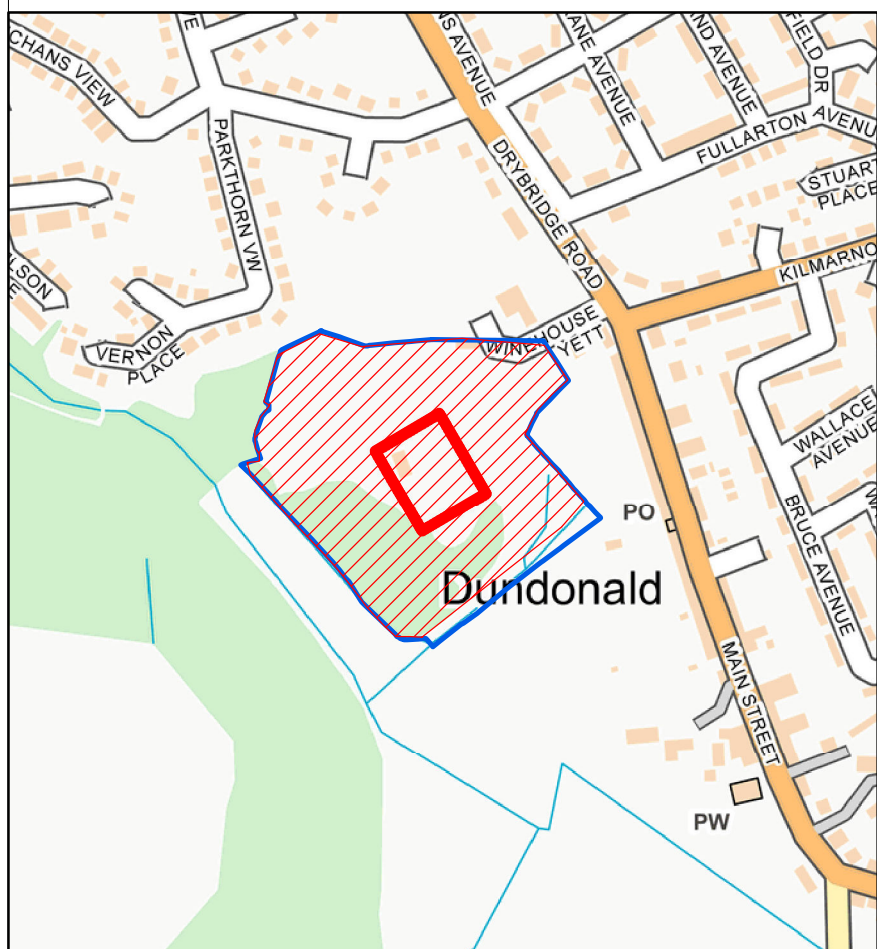
Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Facing
001	Plan of FL 10	W
002	Pre ex of FL 7	N
003	Pre ex of FL 8	N
004	Plan of FL 7	N
005	Plan of FL 8	N
006	Plan of FL 11	NW
007	Plan of FL 11	E
008	Plan of FL 1	E
009	Plan of FL 2	W
010	Plan of FL 3	SE
011	Plan of FL 4	W
012	Plan of FL 4	W
013	Plan of FL 5	W
014	Plan of FL 6	W

## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context no.	Fill of	Type	Description
001		Deposit	Topsoil
002		Deposit	Silty stony deposit
003		Deposit	Levelling Deposit of sand and gravel

### APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	South Ayrshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Dundonald Castle: Floodlighting Watching Brief
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	MINA71
<b>PARISH:</b>	Dundonald
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Bethan Gray
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	SM90112
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Castle
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NS 3636 3415
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	August 2018
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	August 2018
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b>	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Dundonald Castle during the removal of redundant floodlighting. It revealed no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	-
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	-
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Historic Environment Scotland
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk">cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited with NRHE, reports lodged with South Ayrshire Council SMR.



**Key:**

- Scheduled Monument
- PIC Boundary

Contains Historic Environment Scotland data  
 © Historic Environment Scotland  
 © Crown copyright and database rights [2017] Ordnance Survey [100057073]. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form

**CFA** ARCHAEOLOGY LTD  
 The Old Engine House  
 Eskmills Park  
 Musselburgh  
 East Lothian, EH21 7PQ  
 T: 0131 273 4380  
 F: 0131 273 4381  
 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk  
 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Title:  
**Plan of Floodlighting around Dundonald Castle**

Project:  
**Dundonald Castle, South Ayrshire (PIC194), Floodlighting Removal. Watching Brief**

Client:  
**Historic Environment Scotland**

Scale at A3:  
**1:200**

Drawn by: <b>MP</b>	Checked by: <b>MJ</b>	Date: <b>05/10/2018</b>
------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------

Report No: <b>3795</b>	Fig. No: <b>1</b>
---------------------------	----------------------





Fig. 2 - Pre Excavation of Floodlighting



Fig. 3 - Plan of Floodlight base 9/10

Project:  
Dundonald Castle, South Ayrshire (PIC194), Floodlighting Removal. Watching Brief



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD  
The Old Engine House  
Eskmills Park  
Musselburgh  
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ  
T: 0131 273 4380  
F: 0131 273 4381  
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk  
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Client:  
Historic Environment Scotland

Drawn by: MP	Checked: SW	Date: 05/10/18
Report No: 3795		Fig. No: 2-3



Fig. 4 - Plan of Floodlight base 1



Fig. 5 - Plan of Floodlight base 4

Project:  
Dundonald Castle, South Ayrshire (PIC194), Floodlighting Removal. Watching Brief



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD  
The Old Engine House  
Eskmills Park  
Musselburgh  
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ  
T: 0131 273 4380  
F: 0131 273 4381  
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk  
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Client:  
Historic Environment Scotland

Drawn by: MP	Checked: SW	Date: 05/10/18
Report No: 3795		Fig. No: 4-5



**CFA** ARCHAEOLOGY  
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

**HEAD OFFICE - Musselburgh**

Old Engine House  
Eskmills Park, Musselburgh  
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ

t: +44 (0) 131 273 4380  
e: enquiries@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

**Leeds**

Offices C1 & C2  
Clayton Business Centre, Midland Road  
Leeds, LS10 2RJ

t: +44 (0) 113 271 6060  
e: yorkshire@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

**Manchester**

44G9, Europa Business Park  
Bird Hall Lane, Cheadle Heath  
Manchester, SK3 0XA

t: +44 (0) 161 428 8224  
e: manchester@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

**Milton Keynes**

Suite 11, Letchworth House  
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall  
Milton Keynes, MK6 1NE

t: +44 (0) 1908 226 124  
e: miltonkeynes@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

**Carlisle**

Warwick Mill Business Village  
Warwick Bridge, Carlisle  
Cumbria, CA4 8RR

t: +44 (0) 1228 564 531  
e: cumbria@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

**Sheffield**

Office 5, Ecclesfield Business Centre  
46 Stocks Hill, Ecclesfield  
Sheffield, S35 9YT

t: +44 (0) 114 327 1108  
e: sheffield@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

**Leicester**

Business Box  
3 Oswin Road, Brailsford Industrial Estate  
Leicester, LE3 1HR

t: +44 (0) 116 279 5156  
e: leicestershire@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

**Hertfordshire**

Amwell House  
9 Amwell Street, Hoddesdon  
Hertfordshire, EN11 8TS

t: +44 (0) 845 017 9847  
e: herts@cfa-archaeology.co.uk