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Car Park Lighting Castle Park, Dunbar East Lothian

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 1633

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standard operating procedures.

**Car Park Lighting
Castle Park
Dunbar
East Lothian**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between May and July 2009 at Dunbar Leisure Pool car park, Castle Park, Dunbar, East Lothian (NGR: NT 6785 7916) (Fig.1). The work was to monitor excavation to trace faults in the underground cabling between the lamp posts within the car park and around the leisure centre. The work was commissioned by East Lothian Council.
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the watching brief was produced by CFA on behalf of East Lothian Council. The work to be undertaken lies wholly within the scheduled area associated with Dunbar Castle Park (SAM No. 5960) and consequently the WSI was produced in support of an application for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC). SMC was granted by Historic Scotland on the 27th March 2009 (HS Ref. AMH/5960/1/1). During the works it became clear that the faults were not as localised as first thought and a limited extension to the scheme of works was requested and granted by Historic Scotland.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 East Lothian Council have undertaken a programme of works to repair the external lighting for the car park at Dunbar Leisure Pool.
- 1.2.2 The location of the works lay within Dunbar Castle Park, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No. 5960). What is thought to be part of a Native British promontory fort uncovered within Dunbar Castle Park suggest that it has been occupied since at least the Iron Age. Further archaeological features uncovered within the Scheduled Area include two timber structures of possible Anglian date, a medieval phase associated with Dunbar Castle consisting of structures and a graveyard and a French fort dating to the 16th century (NMRS No's. 141.00 – 141.05)
- 1.2.3 A previous watching brief carried out by CFA in June 2006 (Kirby 2006) during the replacement of the car park lamp posts identified a small quantity of human bone along with a number of modern finds. The bones were not in situ and the material from which they were recovered is thought to have been redeposited during landscaping works.

1.3 Objectives

- 1.3.1 The aims of the mitigation measures were to record any features archaeological importance that may survive within the cable trenches which may be damaged or destroyed by this development and to ensure that human remains were properly treated and re-buried according to Historic Scotland's Operational Policy Paper No 5 *The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology*.

2. WORKING METHODS

- 2.1.1 All work was conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and with Historic Scotland's standard requirements.
- 2.1.2 The excavation of human remains followed the policies described in Historic Scotland's Operational Policy Paper No 5 *The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology*. Section 3.6 of the policy states: Where human remains are discovered truncated by excavation i.e. where part of the remains lie outside the excavation trench, in cases where a significant proportion of the remains lie within the trench or the site is threatened with destruction HS would normally expect that the trench would be extended so that the remains can be fully excavated and completely removed. In cases where only a small proportion of the remains projects into the trench or the site is not threatened with destruction, the buried remains should not be disturbed and any associated remains removed during excavation of the trench should, at the end of the excavation, be re-interred where they were found.
- 2.1.3 The initial programme of works involved the excavation of two linear trenches running between pairs of lamp posts (Tr 1 & Tr2). The later excavation took the form of two extended pits around the bases of two lamp posts (Tr 3 & Tr 4). This work has carried out using hand-tools and hydraulic concrete breakers.
- 2.1.4 The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded, whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.
- 2.1.5 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.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Trench 1 (Fig 1 & Fig 2)

- 3.1.1 Trench 1 measured c. 16m long by 0.4m – 0.5m wide by 0.4m deep and was located in the public park situated to the west of the car park between Dunbar Leisure Pool and Lauderdale House. The excavation took place almost completely within the confines of the previously excavated cable trench so the excavated material was mixed (**001**).
- 3.1.2 During the course of the watching brief eleven fragments of human bone were recovered from Trench 1. These included long-bones, pelvic fragments, knee and arm fragments, and skull fragments. Two fragments of diagnostic human bone were removed by Lothian and Borders Police for forensic investigation but were not returned in time to be re-buried. All of this bone was disarticulated and had been previously exhumed when the cable trench was first dug.

Trench 2 (Fig 1 & Fig 3)

- 3.1.3 Trench 1 measured c. 16m long by 0.4m wide by 0.5m – 0.7m deep and was located to the east of the leisure pool on the edge of the footpath leading to the castle and harbour. The excavation took place almost completely within the confines of the previously excavated cable trench so the excavated material was mixed **(002)**.
- 3.1.4 During the course of the watching brief two fragments of possible human pelvic bone were identified. All of this bone was disarticulated and had been previously exhumed when the cable trench was first dug.

Trench 3 (Fig 1)

- 3.1.5 An irregular trench was excavated around the south-west side of the lamp post which was located within a planting bed. Apart from a thin skim of topsoil **(003)** the rest of the material removed from the trench was concrete **(004)**. This trench was extended in to the road in order to locate a cabling duct through which the new cable could be run to the opposing lamp post. Within the road the trench was 1.4m long x 0.6m wide x 0.9m deep. Within this extension of the trench the deposits removed were tar **(005)** and hardcore **(006)**.
- 3.1.6 Two fragments of human bone were recovered from around the lamppost base and these were re-buried within that trench. All of this bone was disarticulated and had been previously exhumed when the cable trench was first dug.

Trench 4 (Fig 1)

- 3.1.5 An irregular trench was excavated around the east side of the lamp post to expose the cable. Apart from a thin skim of topsoil **(007)** the rest of the material removed from the trench was concrete **(008)**. This trench was extended in to the road in order to locate to other end of the cabling duct exposed in Tr 3. Within the road the trench was 1.1m long x 1m wide x 1 deep. Within this extension of the trench the deposits removed were tar **(005)** and hardcore **(006)**.
- 3.1.6 No human bone was recovered from this trench.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Repair work to the external lighting of Dunbar Leisure Pool car park was carried out within the scheduled area associated with Dunbar Castle Park (Scheduled Monument No.5960). The programme of works involved the hand excavation of four trenches in order to enable the replacement of electrical cable. All the ground that was excavated had been previously disturbed by either the erection of the lamp posts or the construction of the car park.
- 4.2 During the course of the watching brief, a number of fragments of human bone presumably derived from disturbed medieval burials were recovered the majority of these fragments were re-buried on site. Two diagnostic fragments of human bone were retained by Lothian and Borders Police for forensic investigation, these have since been returned and will be subject to the Scots Law of Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia*, and will be reported to the Crown Agent for disposal.
- 4.3 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and a copy of the report will be lodged with the East Lothian Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.4 A summary statement of the results of this watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2).

5. REFERENCES

Kirby, M. 2006, *Dunbar Leisure Pool, Castle Park, Dunbar: Archaeological Watching Brief* CFA Data Structure Report No. 1215

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital

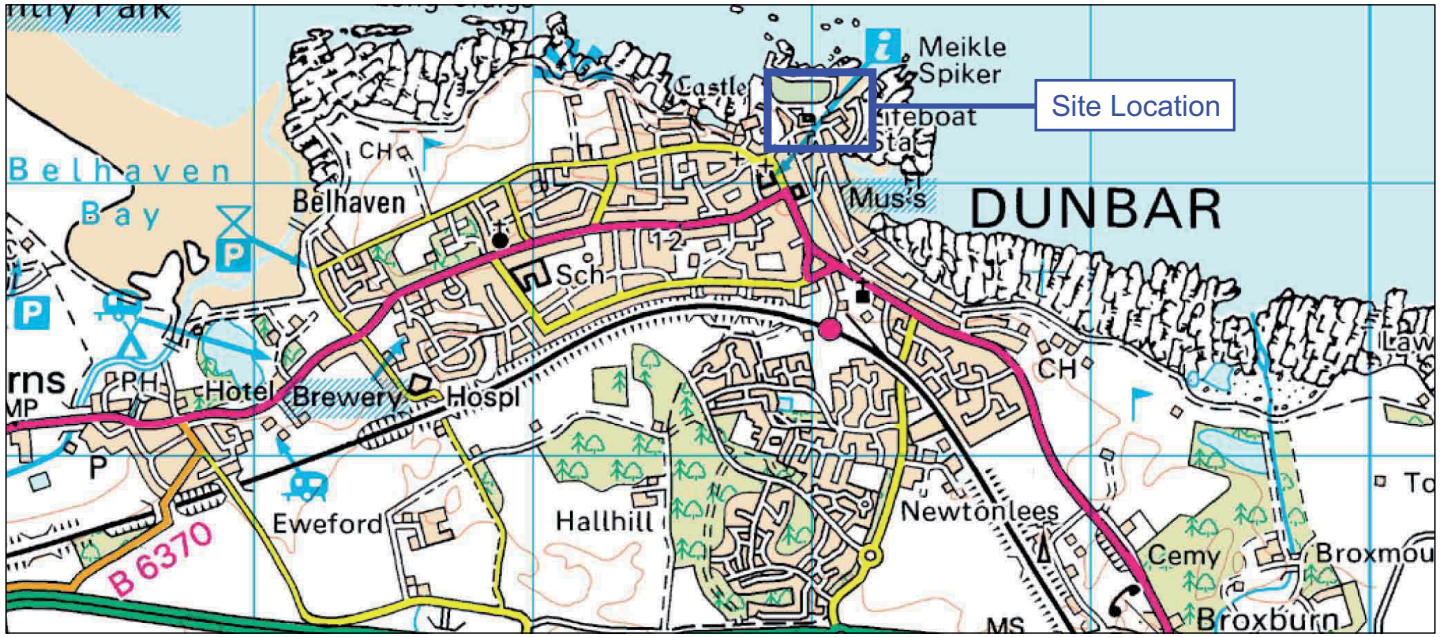
Shot	Description
1	Trench 1, general shot
2	Trench 1, general shot
3	Trench 2, general shot
4	Trench 1, northern lamp post base
5-6	Trench 1, section
7	Trench 2, section
8	Trench 1, southern end
9	Trench 2, southern end
10	Trench 1, southern lamp post base
11	Trench 2, southern lamp post base
12	Trench 1, general shot
13	Trench 2, general shot
14	Trench 3 lamp post base
15-17	Trench 3 trench extension in to road
18-19	Trench 4 trench extension in to road

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context	Trench	Description
001	1	Mixed backfill of the existing cable trench.
002	2	Mixed backfill of the existing cable trench.
003	3	Mixed backfill of the existing cable trench.
004	3	Concrete
005	3 & 4	Tar road surface
006	3 & 4	Hardcore bottoming for Tar
007	4	Mixed backfill of the existing cable trench.
008	4	Concrete

APPENDIX 2: DES Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Car Park Lighting, Castle Park, Dunbar, East Lothian
PROJECT CODE:	DUCL
PARISH:	Dunbar
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Magnus Kirby
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT67NE 141
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Multi-Period Site
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Human Bones
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 6785 7916
START DATE (this season)	May 2009
END DATE (this season)	July 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Moloney, C. J. 1992, 'Castle Park, Dunbar (Dunbar parish), Multit-period settlement', <i>Discovery Excav Scot</i> , 1992 50 Kirby M. 2006, 'Castle Park, Dunbar (Dunbar Parish), Watching brief/recovery of human bone, <i>Discovery Excav Scot</i> , Vol. 7 60
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Repair work to the external lighting for Dunbar Leisure Pool car park was carried out within the scheduled area associated with Dunbar Castle Park (Scheduled Monument No.5960). The programme of works involved the re-excavation of a number of trenches in order to enable the replacement of electrical cable. During the course of the watching brief, a number of fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered. These were presumably derived from disturbed burials belonging to the known early medieval cemetery located within the development area. These remains were re-buried on site.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	East Lothian Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	The National Monuments Record of Scotland East Lothian Sites and Monuments Record



Key:



Fig. No:	1	Revision:	A	Client:	East Lothian Council
Title: Trench Location Plan					
Project: Car Park Lighting, Castle Park, Dunbar, East Lothian Archaeological Watching Brief					



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Fig.2 - General shot of Trench 1



Fig.3 - General shot of Trench 2 facing North

Key:

Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	East Lothian Council
Title:					
Project:	Car Park Lighting, Castle Park, Dunbar, East Lothian Archaeological Watching Brief				

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