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Advice on Archaeology & Planning

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Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

Dalgig Farm, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire Archaeological Evaluation

**Data Structure Report
No. 1863**

 0131 273 4380

 0131 273 4381

 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

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

web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	Stuart Mitchell MA AIfA
Illustrator	Leeanne Whitelaw BSc MAAIS
Editor	Melanie Johnson MA PhD FSA Scot MIfA
Commissioned by	Kier Mining Ltd
Date issued	February 2011
Version	0
OASIS Reference	cfaarcha1-94193
Planning Application No	06/0538/FL
Grid Ref	NS 558 129

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

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East Ayrshire
Archaeological Evaluation**

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Fig. 3 Ditch (201) in section

Fig. 4 Wall footing remains (2201)

Fig. 5 Trench 2

Fig. 6 Trench 6

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on land surrounding Dalgig Farm, near New Cumnock, South Ayrshire (NGR NS 558 129; Fig. 1) in advance of a proposed extension to the Greenburn surface mining operation.

The work was carried out during February 2011 and was commissioned by Kier Mining.

The evaluation forms part of a multiphase response to required mitigation based on that proposed within the Cultural Heritage chapter of the Environmental Statement prepared for the Dalgig Extension. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the evaluation was produced by CFA and approved by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).

1.2 Background

Dalgig farmstead is depicted as a settlement on Roy's map (1747-55), although the present buildings date to the mid-19th century as depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map. It was considered possible that buried remains of earlier occupation may survive in the immediate vicinity of the present farm buildings.

The farmstead has been subjected to a Level 3 Historic Building Survey (Mitchell 2011).

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to conduct a programme of trial trenching in the immediate environs of Dalgig Farm (Site 25), to provide information on the potential for the preservation of any remains of earlier settlement and if possible date and function of any remains identified.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 General

CFA follows the Institute for Archaeologists Code of conduct, Standards and Guidelines as appropriate.

2.2 Trial Trenching

Trial trenching amounted to 2710m². All trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth bladed ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision.

Trenches were excavated down to either natural subsoil or the first archaeological horizon, whichever was reached first. All excavation thereafter was carried by the archaeologist using appropriate hand tools.

The positions of the trial trenches were recorded using industry standard total station surveying equipment.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Trial trenching was carried out in fields to the south-west, south and east of Dalgig Farm (Fig. 2). No trial trenching was carried out to the north of the road as the bulk of the area was no longer available for trial trenching. The small remaining area to the immediate north of Dalgig was inaccessible due to low overhead cables. Significant areas of the evaluated fields also had overhead cables, however comprehensive trial trenching coverage was achieved a safe distance away from the services.

The trial trenches are listed in Appendix 1. Only those trenches containing archaeological features are described in the narrative. Archaeological contexts have been assigned a unique context number, and these are included in the text in bold and parentheses and listed in Appendix 2.

3.2 Trial Trenches

General

Trenches 1 to 16 were excavated on an exposed gentle slope with a south-east facing aspect, situated on the edge of the floodplain of the river Nith. Natural subsoil (**000**) was orange to pale grey sandy clay with frequent gravel and stones and occasional large rounded boulders. Topsoil (**001**) in the trenches varied from 0.3m to 0.4m thick. No archaeological remains or deposits were discovered in any of those trenches except Trench 2, which contained a linear ditch.

Trenches 17 to 21 and 23 to 28 were excavated on the floodplain to the south and south-east of Dalgig. Topsoil varied from 0.3m to 0.4m, and overlay a slopewash deposit (**002**) which varied in depth from 0.1m to 0.3m. natural subsoil varied from stony clay to coarse gravel (**000**). No archaeological remains or deposits were discovered in any of those trenches.

Trench 22 was excavated in the former front garden of Dalgig Farm. Topsoil comprised rich garden soils varying in depth from 0.2 to 0.4m. Natural subsoil was sandy clay and was heavily bioturbated by root action from the surrounding large mature trees. The remains of a wall footing were revealed.

No evidence of ploughing was observed in any trenches. Clay field drains were present across the site and occasional large rubble drains comprising loose stones with running water were revealed.

Trenches 1-3

A 1.2m wide linear ditch (**201**) was revealed in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 (Fig. 2). Trench 2 was boxed out to give sufficient view of the ditch's character. A section showed the ditch to be 0.25m deep with sloping sides and a slightly concave base (Fig. 3). The fill (**202**) was compact grey silt indistinguishable from the base of the topsoil. Several fragments of 19th century pottery were recovered from the fill. Most pottery fragments came from a depth within the fill which was sufficiently secure to suggest that the

ditch was not of great or significant antiquity. It is likely to have been a ditch dug for drainage as it was aligned at roughly 45° to the slope.

Trench 22

The footing of a garden wall (2201) was revealed in Trench 22 (Fig. 4). It comprised a single surviving course of loose rough stones set onto the surface of the natural subsoil. No mortar residues were identified so it is likely that the shallow foundation and the dry construction of the footing, if not the former wall, indicate an insubstantial and decorative garden wall.

4. CONCLUSION

The evaluation carried out at Dalgig Farm revealed a single linear ditch and the footing of a decorative garden wall. A total of 2710m² was excavated.

A linear ditch, most likely associated with drainage and probably dating to the 19th century, was revealed. The footing of an insubstantial garden wall was also discovered. No other archaeological remains or deposits were revealed. The evaluation has demonstrated that the land immediately around Dalgig Farm has low archaeological potential.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*. The project will be reported through the OASIS protocol.

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 East Ayrshire Council Sites and Monuments Record.

5. REFERENCES

Mitchell, S 2011 *Dalgig Farm, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire: Level 3 Standing Building Survey*. CFA Report no. 1865.

APPENDIX 1: Trial Trench Register

Trench No.	Dimensions (m)	Topsoil Depth (m)	Features
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2	50 x 2 + 10 x 5 box	0.35-0.4	Linear ditch (201) cut by clay drain. Aligned E-W. Fill (202) contained modern pottery.
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5	50 x 2	0.3-0.35	
6	50 x 2	0.3-0.35	
7	50 x 2	0.3-0.35	
8	50 x 2	0.35	
9	50 x 2	0.3-0.35	
10	50 x 2	0.35	
11	50 x 2	0.3-0.35	
12	50 x 2	0.3-0.35	
13	50 x 2	0.3-0.35	
14	50 x 2 + 6 x 5 box	0.35	Suspected pit, shown to be a stone hole.
15	50 x 2	0.2-0.4	
16	25 x 2	0.35	
17	25 x 2	0.35-0.4	
18	25 x 2	0.35-0.4	
19	25 x 2	0.35-0.4	
20	25 x 2	0.35-0.4	
21	25 x 2	0.35-0.4	
22	30 x 2	0.2-0.4	Wall footing (2201)
23	40 x 2	0.3-0.4	
24	50 x 2	0.3-0.4	
25	50 x 2	0.3	
26	50 x 2	0.3	
27	100 x 2	0.3	
28	80 x 2	0.3	

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context No.	Trench No.	Description
000	All	Topsoil
001	All	Natural subsoil
002	17-21, 23-28	Slopewash
201	2	Cut of linear ditch, 1.2m wide by 0.25m deep
202	2	Fill of ditch 201, compact grey silt
2201	22	Wall footing of loose rough stones set onto natural subsoil

APPENDIX 3: Photograph Register

Photo No.	Description	Taken from
1	Trench 21 sondage	N
2	Trench 20	N
3	Trench 19	N
4	Trench 18	N
5	Trench 17	N
6	Trench 16	N
7	Trench 15	N
8	General view of Trenches 15 to 21	N
9	General view of Trenches 15 to 21	NE
10	Working shot	
11	Trench 2	NW
12	Trench 2, ditch pre-excavation	W
13	Trench 1	E
14	Trench 3	NE
15	Trench 6	N
16	Trench 2, section of ditch	E
17	Trench 7	
18	Trench 4	W
19	Trench 10	W
20	Working shot	
21	Trench 5	S
22	Trench 14, suspected feature in section	S
23	Trench 14, working shot boxing out trench	N
24	Trench 14, fully excavated feature	S
25	Trench 14, fully excavated feature	E
26	Garden of Dalgig, location of Trench 22	SW
27	Trench 22, working shot	SW
28	Trench 22, working shot	SW
29	Trench 22, clay drain detail	NE
30	Trench 22, working shot	SW
31	Trench 22, wall footing	SW
32	Trench 22, section of wall footing, working shot showing rapid flooding	S
33	Trench 24, working shot	
34	Trench 23	N
35	Trench 28	NW
36	Trench 26, working shot	N
37	Trench 25, working shot	N
38	Trench 26, detail of rubble drain	
39	Trench 26	NW
40	Trench 27	NW

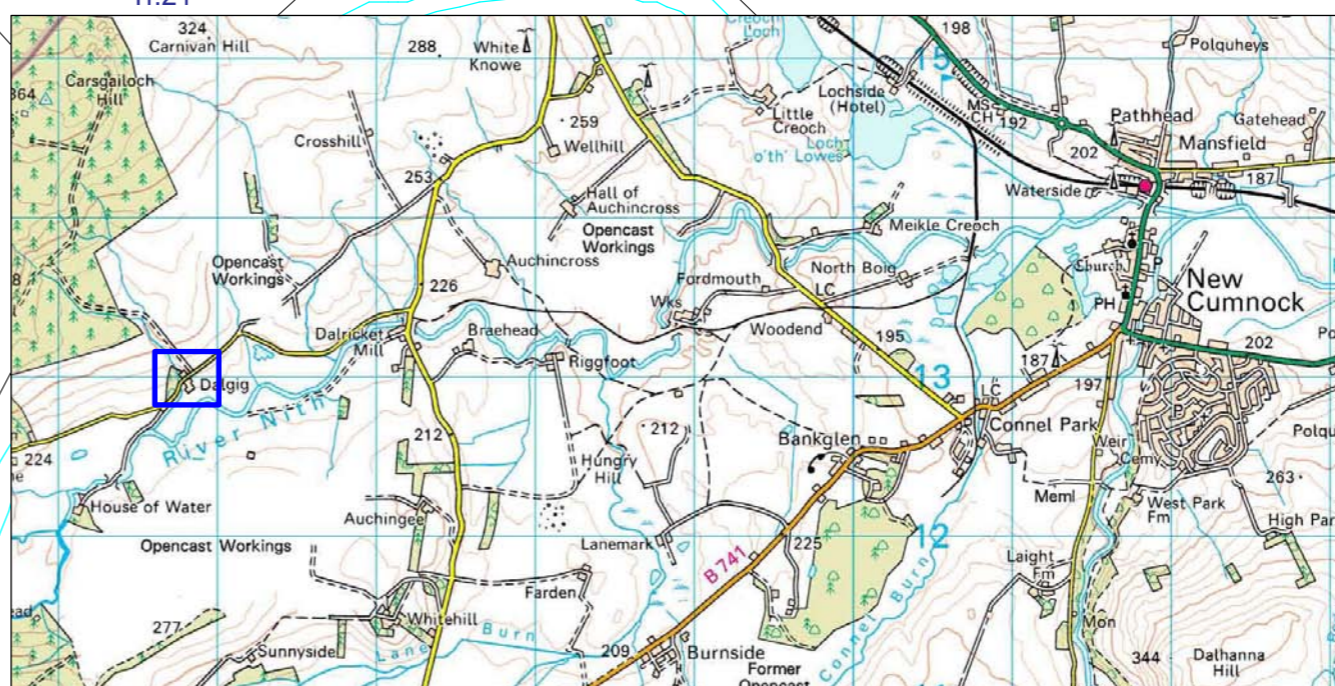
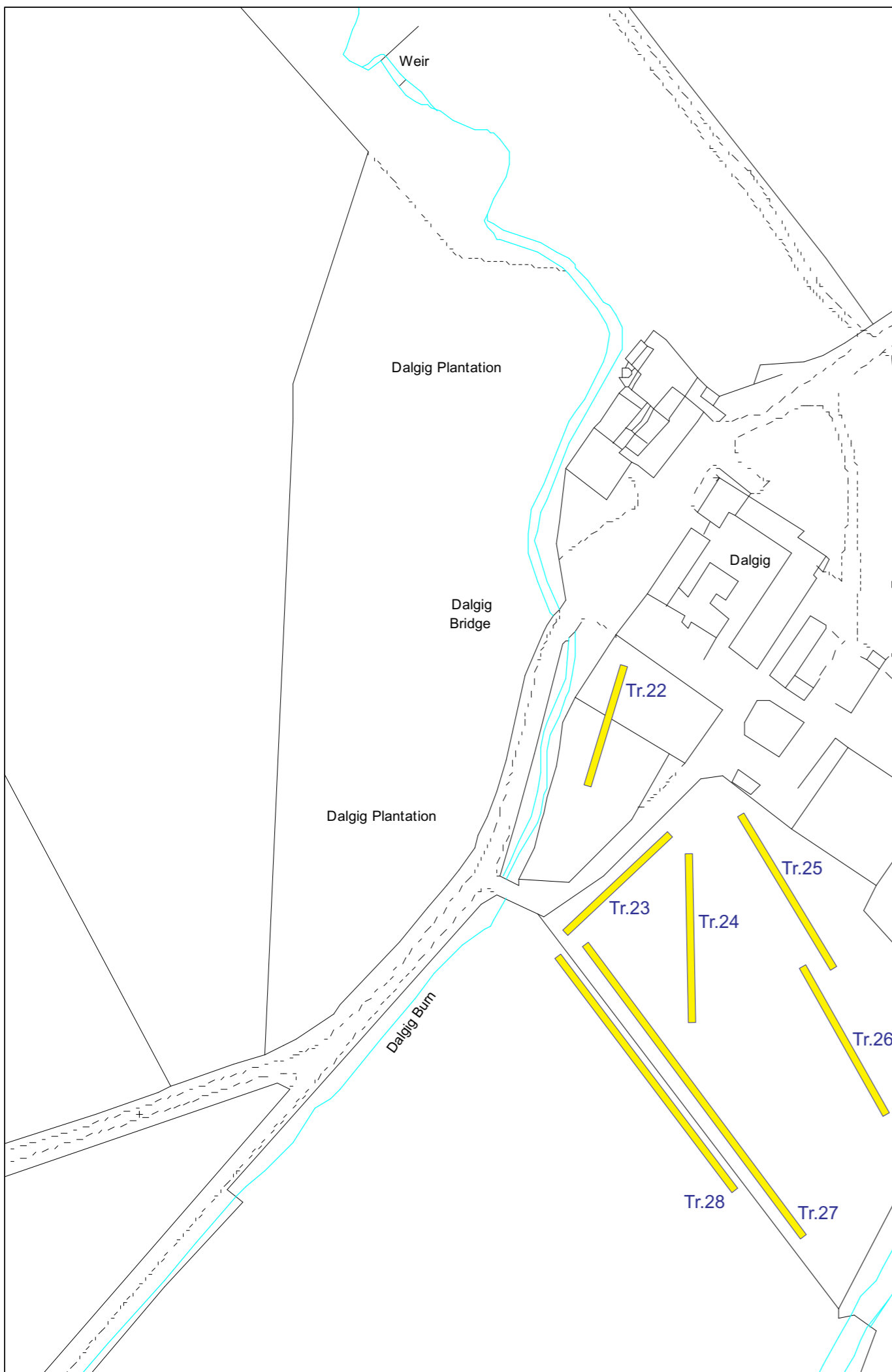
APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Greenburn Opencast Mine: Dalgig Extension
PROJECT CODE:	KIMI2
PARISH:	New Cumnock
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	S Mitchell
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 558 129
START DATE (this season)	February 2011
END DATE (this season)	February 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	The evaluation carried out at Dalgig Farm revealed a single linear ditch, most likely associated with drainage and probably dating to the 19 th century, and the footing of an insubstantial decorative garden wall. A total of 2710m ² was excavated. No other archaeological remains or deposits were revealed.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Kier Mining Ltd.
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	smitchell@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS, Reports lodged with SMR and NMRS.



Key:

Evaluation Trenches



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

Fig. No: 1 Revision: A

Title: Site plan with trench layout

Project: Greenburn Surface Mine, Dalgig Extension

Scale: 1:1500 @ A3

Client: Kier Mining Ltd

Drawn by: GC Report No: 1863



Fig. 2 Ditch (201) pre-excavation



Fig. 3 Ditch (201) in section


Key:	Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	Kier Mining Ltd	 <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p>
	Title:						
Scale:	Project: Greenburn Surface Mine, Dalgig Extension					Drawn by: GC	



Fig. 4 Wall footing remains (2201)



Fig. 5 Trench 2



Key:	Fig. No:	4-5	Revision:	A	Client:	Kier Mining Ltd
	Title:					
Scale:	Project:	Greenburn Surface Mine, Dalgig Extension				
						CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk
Drawn by: GC						Page No: Report No: 1863



Fig. 6 Trench 6



Fig. 7 Trench 13

Key:	Fig. No:	6-7	Revision:	A	Client:	Kier Mining Ltd
	Title:					
Scale:	Project:	Greenburn Surface Mine, Dalgig Extension				
			Drawn by:	GC	Page No:	Report No:
						CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk
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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

The Old Engine House
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APPENDIX 3: Photograph Register


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2	Trench 20	N
3	Trench 19	N
4	Trench 18	N
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6	Trench 16	N
7	Trench 15	N
8	General view of Trenches 15 to 21	N
9	General view of Trenches 15 to 21	NE
10	Working shot	
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13	Trench 1	E
14	Trench 3	NE
15	Trench 6	N
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17	Trench 7	
18	Trench 4	W
19	Trench 10	W
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21	Trench 5	S
22	Trench 14, suspected feature in section	S
23	Trench 14, working shot boxing out trench	N
24	Trench 14, fully excavated feature	S
25	Trench 14, fully excavated feature	E
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27	Trench 22, working shot	SW
28	Trench 22, working shot	SW
29	Trench 22, clay drain detail	NE
30	Trench 22, working shot	SW
31	Trench 22, wall footing	SW
32	Trench 22, section of wall footing, working shot showing rapid flooding	S
33	Trench 24, working shot	
34	Trench 23	N
35	Trench 28	NW
36	Trench 26, working shot	N
37	Trench 25, working shot	N
38	Trench 26, detail of rubble drain	
39	Trench 26	NW
40	Trench 27	NW

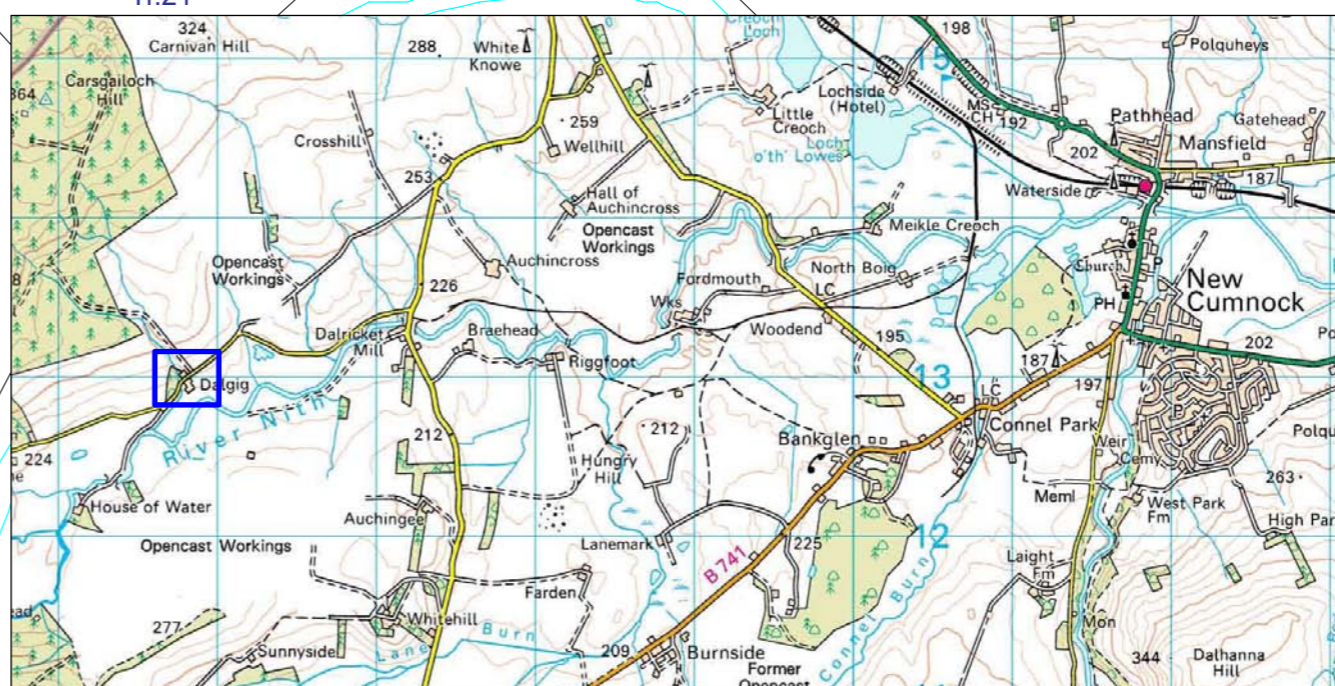
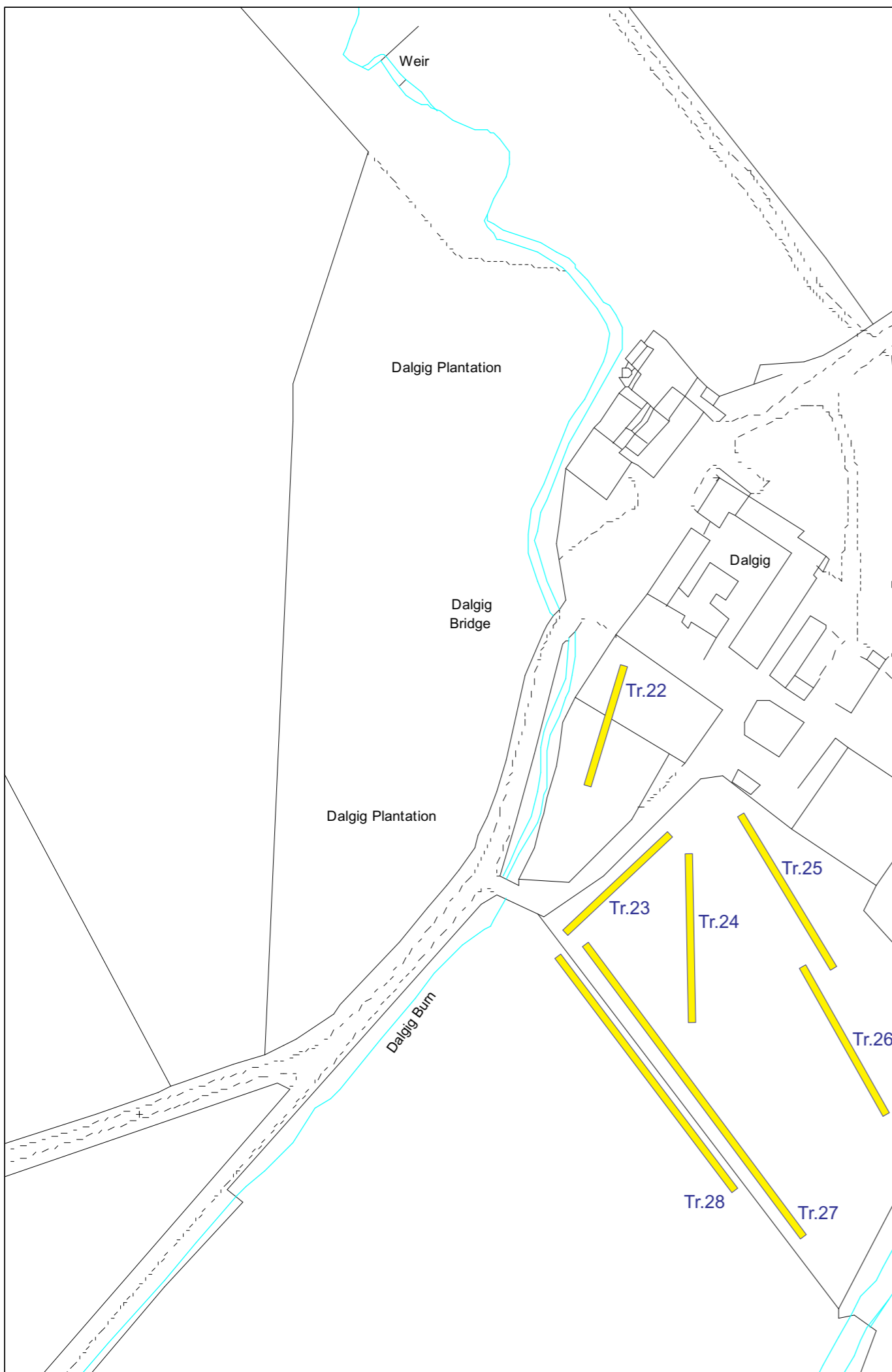
APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Greenburn Opencast Mine: Dalgig Extension
PROJECT CODE:	KIMI2
PARISH:	New Cumnock
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	S Mitchell
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 558 129
START DATE (this season)	February 2011
END DATE (this season)	February 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	The evaluation carried out at Dalgig Farm revealed a single linear ditch, most likely associated with drainage and probably dating to the 19 th century, and the footing of an insubstantial decorative garden wall. A total of 2710m ² was excavated. No other archaeological remains or deposits were revealed.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Kier Mining Ltd.
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS, Reports lodged with SMR and NMRS.



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 Evaluation Trenches



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Fig. No: 1 Revision: A

Title: Site plan with trench layout

Project: Greenburn Surface Mine, Dalgig Extension

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Fig. 2 Ditch (201) pre-excavation



Fig. 3 Ditch (201) in section


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Fig. 4 Wall footing remains (2201)



Fig. 5 Trench 2



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Fig. 6 Trench 6



Fig. 7 Trench 13

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