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Geophysical Survey

Castle Stuart Golf Course, Inverness

Archaeological Watching Brief.

Report No. 1328

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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

May 2007

Commissioned by Castle Stuart Golf LLP

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

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Approved by: Date

Draft/Final Report Stage: Final

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

1.1.1 This report presents the results of a watching brief and limited excavation carried out during ground-breaking works, in preparation for the building of a maintenance compound and its associated access road, at Castle Stuart Golf Course, Inverness (NGR: NH 7414 5015, Fig 1) during May 2007.

1.1.2 The work was carried out in response to meet the planning recommendation on application 05/00316/FULIN. The work was commissioned by Castle Stuart Golf LLP. This phase of work followed a programme of archaeological evaluation carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd in June 2006 (Johnson 2006) and September 2006 (O'Connell 2006).

1.2 Objectives

1.2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were to identify and record any archaeological remains uncovered during the groundbreaking work, in order to formulate a mitigation response if necessary.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

2.1.1 CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods, principally by drawing, photography and completion of standard recording forms.

2.2 Watching Brief

2.2.1 The watching brief focussed on an area to the north of Castle Stuart that had been used as a grass nursery prior to its reduction for use as a site compound. This phase of the work ran from the 4/5/07-16/5/07.

2.2.2 Excavation was carried out by a team of four between 14/5/07 and the 18/5/07, where hand cleaning was carried out and features were excavated in Area 1.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

3.2 For the purposes of recording, the site was subdivided into four areas. In area 1 circa 80 features were identified during the watching brief and another 60 features were discovered during hand cleaning of area 1. If this principle is applied to the other areas then the number of estimated features would be:

- Area 2, 30 features seen 50 predicted.
- Area 3, 50 features seen 90 predicted
- Area 4, 7 features seen 10 predicted.

3.3 The features were sealed by a 1m-1.8m depth of overburden and topsoil, and all were cut into the subsoil which varied from a sandy silt in the southern half to a stony-gravelly sandy silt in the northern half. The two halves of the site were divided by a hollow which had a fine white-grey sand heavily stained with manganese, within which may be archaeological features.

3.4 The following text presents the results of the watching brief and the excavations in Area 1. Context numbers are given in bold and parentheses; full descriptions can be found in Appendix 1.

Area 1

3.5 A total of 140 features were discovered after cleaning, of which 17 were excavated (Fig. 1) (**41, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 58, 59, 66, 72, 75, 82, 83, 84** and **85**). The features in this area were isolated round or oval pits or groups of double pits, with **F85** containing Bronze Age pottery sherds and fragments of burnt bone. No evidence for structures was seen during the excavation, but it is plausible that future work will reveal spatial patterning indicating structures. The features were truncated and varied in size from 0.32m x 0.25m x 0.2m deep to 0.8m x 0.79m x 0.2m.

Area 2

3.6 Features in Area 2 included:

- A putative roundhouse, circa 6-8 diameter defined by an arc of pits, within which was a possible occupation layer containing burnt wood and ash.
- A 6m by 1.5m linear gully was recorded with associated post-holes flanking its edges.
- A 5m wide hollow running east-west across Area 2 contained a high degree of manganese staining; however, there is the possibility that this staining was masking further archaeological features as small test excavations revealed charcoal within the this feature.
- A scatter of isolated pits similar in form to those found in Area 1.

Area 3

3.7 Area 3 contained a suite of pits and linear features. This area had a sandier subsoil than Area 1 and 2 and was more prone to wind blown sand masking many of the features. During the watching brief the following features were recorded;

- An arc pits possibly outlining a roundhouse (circa 8-10m diameter).
- Four pits of circa 2m diameter, at least one of which contained a high percentage of marine mollusc shells, and one pit of circa 4m diameter; an array of smaller pits averaging 0.5m diameter, two of which were linked by a curvilinear gully circa 3m x 0.5m.
- Two kidney bean shaped features circa 2.5m x 1m.
- A number of isolated pits.

Area 4

3.8 Seven features were recorded in this area including;

- 6 pits varying in size from 0.6m diameter to 1m x 0.7m, two of which contained marine mollusc shells and one containing fire cracked stone.
- A linear gully running east-west, at the southern end of the area contained unworked stone debris, possibly a relict field boundary.

4. DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The watching brief and limited excavation enabled an approximate quantification and preliminary description of the archaeological remains to be made. The features uncovered are of probable prehistoric date. Preliminary analysis indicates that there are two roundhouses, five linear features, and a great number of pits varying in size and distributed across the site. It seems probable that further analysis and excavation will enhance the range and number of these features considerably.
- 4.2 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS).
- 4.3 It is suggested that a summary statement, to be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 2007*, represents a sufficient level of reporting for this project.

5. REFERENCES

Johnson, M 2006 *Castle Stuart, Castle Stuart Golf Links, Old Petty, Inverness, Archaeological Evaluation*. CFA Archive Report 1177. Commissioned by Cornerstone Golf Development International.

O'Connell, C 2006 *Castle Stuart Golf Links, Old Petty, Inverness, Archaeological Evaluation*. CFA Archive Report 1237. Commissioned by Castle Stuart Golf LLP

Fig. 1 - Site location plan.

APPENDIX 1

Gazetteer of Excavated Features

Feature Number	Shape in plan	Sides	Base	Dimensions (in Metres)	Fill/Comment
41	Circular	Steeply sloping	Slightly concave	0.32 diam x 0.07	A mid orange brown sand with 4% small sub-angular stone and fibrous root inclusions.
46	Circular	Gently sloping	Concave	0.76 diam x 0.15	A dark brown/black silty sand with 10% medium sub-angular stone, fibrous root and charcoal inclusions. Contained pre-historic pottery and a possible hammer stone
47	Circular	Steeply sloping	Flat	0.73m diam x 0.18	A dark brown/black charcoal rich sandy silt with small fibrous root inclusions. Contained flecks of burnt bone
48	Circular	Steeply sloping	Flat	0.6 diam x 0.14	A dark brown charcoal rich silty sand with infrequent small sub-rounded stone and root inclusions. This feature was cut by F49
49	Circular	Gently sloping	Concave	0.58 diam x 0.09	A medium to dark brown silty sand with 5% small sub-rounded stone, fibrous root and infrequent charcoal fleck inclusions. This feature cut F48
50	Oval	Shallow sloping	Flat	0.5 x 0.4 x 0.05	A black organic charcoal rich sandy silt
51	Oval	Shallow sloping	Flat	0.5 x 0.4 x 0.05	A black organic charcoal rich sandy silt
52	Circular	Gently sloping	Concave	0.36 diam x 0.07	Two contexts, (52/002) a post-pipe comprising of a black charcoal rich silty sand with dark brown mottling and (52/003) a primary fill of a mid brown silty sand with 5% small sub-angular stone inclusions
58	Sub-circular	Shallow sloping	Flat	0.62 x 0.6 x 0.07	A mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks
59	Sub-circular	Gently sloping	Flat	0.8 x 0.79 x 0.2	A mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and pebble inclusions
66	Sub-circular	Gently sloping	Concave	0.5 x 0.4 x 0.1	A light brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and stone inclusions
72	Oval	Shallow sloping	Concave	0.78 x 0.68 x 0.08	A mid brown silty sand with very occasional charcoal flecks and <4% small sub-angular stone inclusions
75	Triangular	Steeply sloping	Conical	0.3 x 0.25 x 0.2	A dark brown sand with occasional charcoal flecks
82	Sub-circular	Sloping	Concave	0.9 x 0.8 x 0.2	A mid brown silt with occasional charcoal flecks
83	Oval	Shallow sloping	Concave	0.9 x 0.8 x 0.1	A mid brown silty sand with very occasional charcoal flecks and <2% small sub-rounded pebble inclusions
84	Circular	Steeply sloping	Flat	0.5 x 0.46 x 0.18	A mid brown silty sand with very occasional charcoal flecks
85	Circular	Sloping	Concave	0.5 x 0.15	A dark brown charcoal rich silty sand. Contained burnt bone and pottery spot dated to the 2 nd half of the 2 nd millennium BC. Possible cremation burial.

APPENDIX 2

Photographic Register

Shot	Description	Taken from
Film 1		
1	Registration shot	
2-3	Area cleaned 14/5/07	NW
4-7	Area cleaned 15/5/07	NW
8-9	Area cleaned 15/5/07	NE
10-13	F85 pre-ex	S
14-15	F83 pre-ex	S
16-17	F85 south facing section	S
18-19	F83 south west facing section	SW
20-21	F85 post-ex	S
22-23	F48 and F49 pre-ex	S
24-25	F83 post-ex	S
26-27	F72 pre-ex	SE
28-29	F72 south east facing section	SE
30-31	F48 and F49 east facing section	E
Film 2		
1	Registration shot	
2-3	F72 post-ex	SE
4-5	Souterrain pre-ex	NW
6-7	Souterrain pre-ex	SW
8-9	F84 pre-ex	SE
10-11	F84 south east facing section	SE
12-13	F48 and F49 post-ex	E
14-15	F84 post-ex	SE
16-17	F82 pre-ex	S
18-19	F52 pre-ex	S
20-21	F82 south facing section	S
22-23	F52 north facing section	N
24-25	F75 pre-ex	SE
26-27	F 52 post-ex	S
28-29	F75 south facing section	S
30-31	F82 post-ex	S
32-33	F75 post-ex	S
34-35	F60 pre-ex (stone hole)	SE
36-38	General working shot	

Film 3		
1	Registration shot	
2-3	F47 pre-ex shot	NE
4-5	F61 pre-ex	SE
6-7	F66 pre-ex	S
8-9	F61 south west facing section	SW
10-11	F66 south facing section	S
12-13	F47 south facing section	S
14-15	F61 post-ex	SW
16-17	F66 post-ex	S
18-19	F51 pre-ex	SW
20-21	F47 post-ex	S
22-23	F46 pre-ex	S
24-25	F59 pre-ex	SW
26-27	F58 west north west facing section	WNW
28-29	F59 south east facing section	SE
30-31	F58 west north west facing section	WNW
32-33	F46 west facing section	W
34-35	F59 post-ex	SE
36-37	F58 post-ex	WNW
Film 4		
1	Registration shot	
2-3	F51 south facing section	S
4-5	F46 post-ex	S
6-7	F51 post-ex	S
8-9	F50 pre-ex	S
10-11	F50 south south west facing section	SSW
12-13	F41 south facing section	S
14-15	F50 post-ex	SSW
16-17	F41 post-ex	S
18-19	F42 pre-ex	S
20-21	F42 west facing section	W
22-23	F42 post-ex	W
24-25	F40 pre-ex	S
26-27	F37 pre-ex	SE
28-29	F73, F53 and F54 pre-ex	SW
30-31	F40 north east facing section	NE
32-33	F37 south east facing section	SE
34-35	F40 post-ex	NE
36-37	F37 post-ex shot showing packing stone (37/003) in base of posthole	NW
Film 5		
1	Registration shot	
2-3	F39 pre-ex	E
4-5	F35 pre-ex	N
6-7	F39 east facing section	E
8-9	North east facing section F53 cut by F73	NE
10-11	F39 post-ex	E
12-13	F35 south facing section	S
14-16	General working shot	NW
17-18	General working shot	SE
19-20	F35 post-ex	N
21-22	F62 pre-ex	N

APPENDIX 3
Drawing Register

Drawing Number	Description	Scale
1	F85 pre-ex plan	1:20
2	F85 south facing section	1:10
3	F85 post-ex plan	1:20
4	F83 pre-ex plan	1:20
5	F83 south west facing section	1:10
6	F72 pre-ex plan	1:20
7	F72 south east facing section	1:10
8	F84 pre-ex plan	1:20
9	F84 south east facing section	1:10
10	F48 and F49 pre-ex plan	1:20
11	F48 and F49 east facing section	1:10
12	F48 and F49 post-ex plan	1:20
13	F52 pre-ex plan	1:20
14	F52 north facing section	1:10
15	F52 post-ex plan	1:20
16	F75 pre-ex plan	1:20
17	F75 south facing section	1:10
18	F82 pre-ex plan	1:20
19	F82 south facing section	1:10
20	F60 pre-ex plan (stone hole)	1:20
21	F61 pre-ex plan	1:20
22	F61 south west facing section	1:10
23	F47 pre-ex plan	1:20
24	F47 south facing section	1:10
25	F47 post-ex plan	1:20
26	F46 pre-ex plan	1:20
27	F46 west facing section	1:10
28	F46 post-ex plan	1:20
29	F58 pre-ex plan	1:20
30	F58 west north west facing section	1:10
31	F59 pre-ex plan	1:20
32	F59 south east facing section	1:10
33	F66 pre-ex plan	1:20
34	F66 south facing section	1:10
35	F51 pre-ex plan	1:20
36	F51 south facing section	1:10
37	F50 pre-ex plan	1:20
38	F50 south south west facing section	1:10
39	F41 pre-ex plan	1:20
40	F41 south facing section	1:10
41	F42 pre-ex plan	1:20
42	F42 west facing section	1:10
43	F37 pre-ex plan	1:20
44	F73, F53 and F54 pre-ex plan	1:20
45	F40 pre-ex plan	1:20
46	F40 north east facing	1:10
47	F37 south east facing section	1:10
48	F39 pre-ex plan	1:20
49	F35 pre-ex plan	1:20
50	F35 south facing section	1:10
51	F39 east facing section	1:10
52	North east facing section F53, cut by F73	1:10

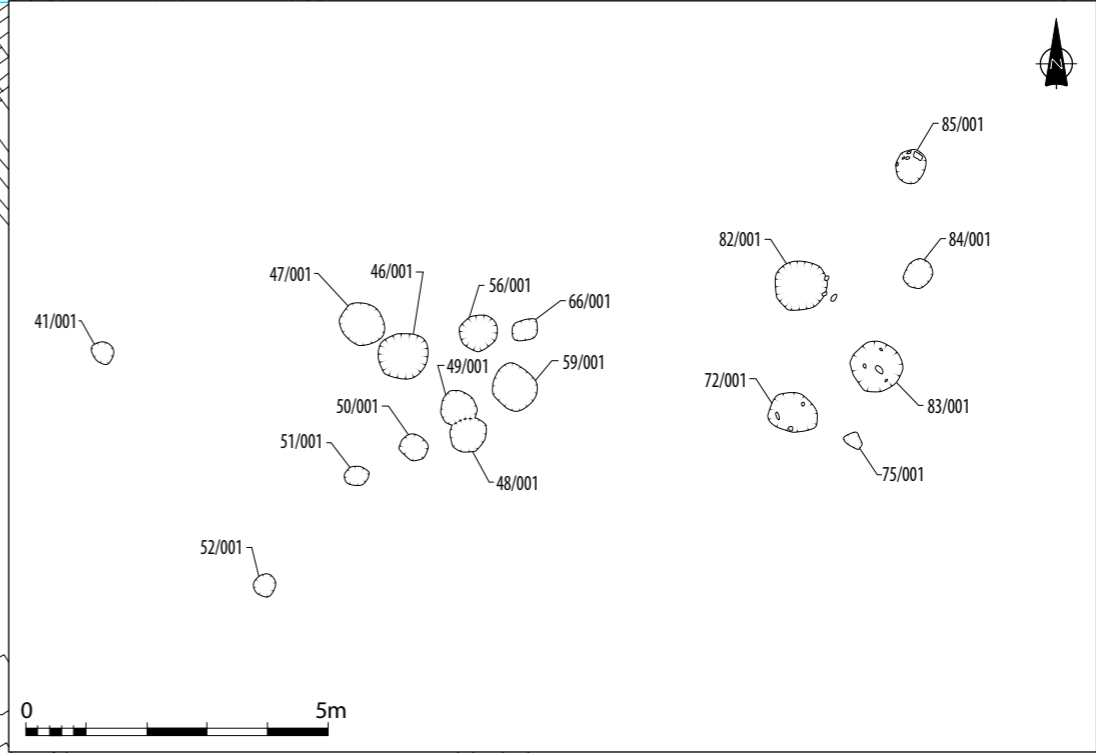
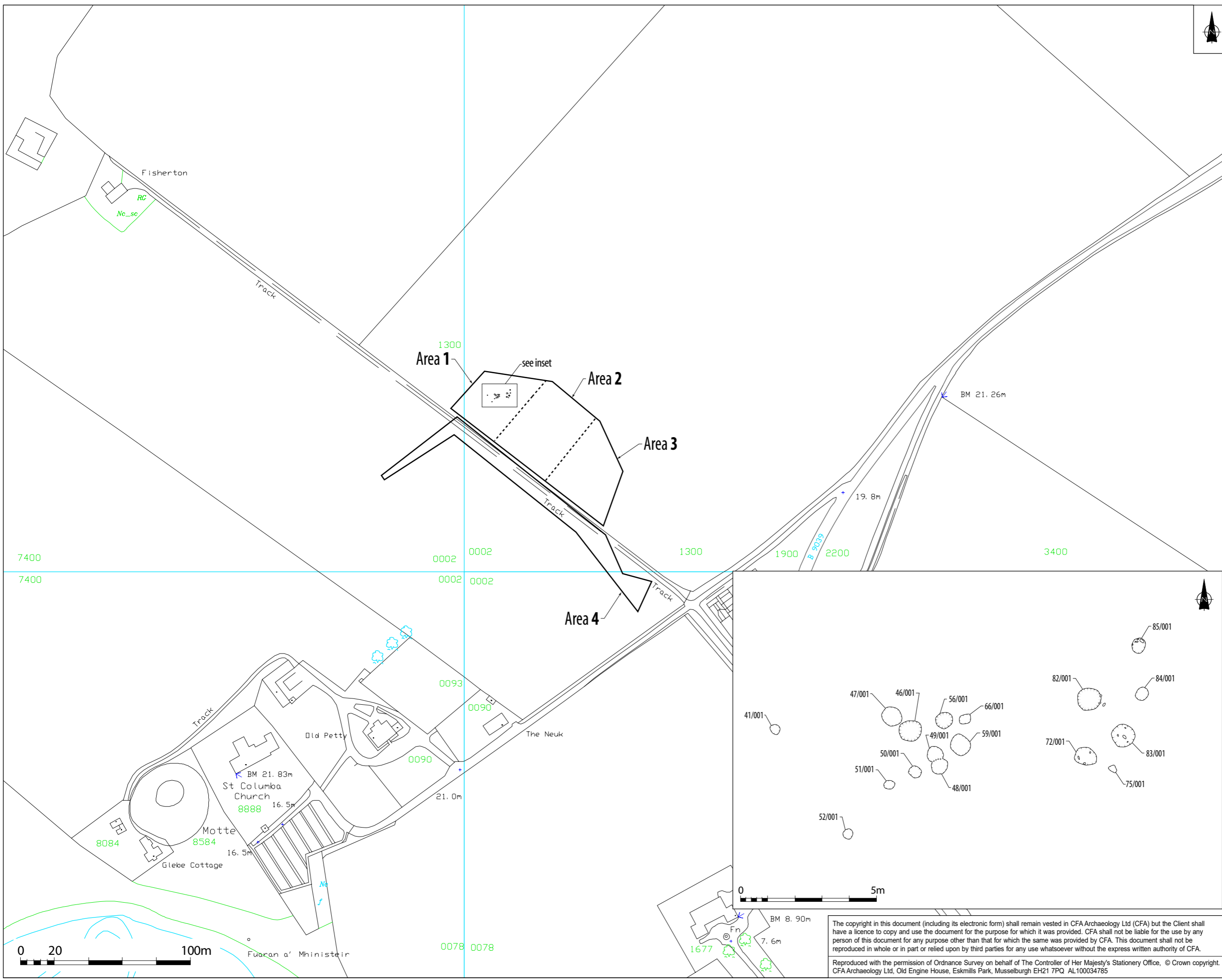
APPENDIX 4

DES Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Highland
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Castle Stuart Golf Course, Inverness
PROJECT CODE:	CAST
PARISH:	Petty
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alisdair Curtis, Chris O'Connell
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NH 741 501
START DATE (this season)	May 2007
END DATE (this season)	May 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief and limited excavation was carried out during ground reduction work associated with the construction of a compound and access road at Castle Stuart Golf Course, Inverness. Preliminary results indicate that the site contains 2 roundhouses, five linear features and a great number of pits of various sizes distributed across the site.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Castle Stuart LLP
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record of Scotland City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service Sites and Monuments Record



Key:



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Fig. No: 1 Revision: 0

Title: Watching brief area.

Project: Castle Stuart

Scale of main figure: 1: 2000

Scale of inset: 1: 125

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