



The vibro piling rig at Dunfermline.

£6.6m Dunfermline ARC project ahead of schedule

Piling work on the £6.6 million project to replace the Army Reserve Centre (ARC) at Dunfermline started ahead of schedule.

350 piles are being driven into the ground at the rate of 60/70 per day using a vibro piling rig. Work had been due to start on 15 February, but began a day early on the 14th.

The good news followed setbacks caused by the discovery of hazardous materials during initial groundworks.

Additional works were undertaken to ensure there was nothing else of a historical nature buried on the site. This meant scanning the ground, then removing and replacing all of the potentially contaminated soil. The site was then backfilled to allow piling to begin.

The Bothwell House project had originally been due to get under way in March 2020. However COVID-19 hit, and the national lockdown that followed halted all projects that weren't already in progress.

In 2022 Henry Brothers won the contract to design and build the new ARC and demolish the original Bruce House. Mott MacDonald is acting as the technical service provider, supporting the Highland RFCA Estates team with project management. The Army-funded project is due to be completed in 2025.

The Dunfermline ARC serves as the Regimental Headquarters for 154 (Scottish) Regiment Royal Logistic Corps (RLC); and is home to 239 (Fife) Transport Squadron and the Dunfermline Detachment of The Black Watch Battalion Army Cadet Force (ACF).

The new building will provide first-class facilities, allowing all the units housed there a chance to grow, and will impact positively on training, recruitment and retention.



Extensive work to backfill the site followed the removal of all the soil.

FEBRUARY 2024

Newsletter highlights



MBE for Captain Bart Lucas of 1st Battalion The Highlanders ACF



Royal Navy STEM event

Reservists from 215 (Scottish) Multi-Role Medical Regiment appear on national news



Bart's dedication recognised with MBE

An Army Cadets volunteer has had their service in helping young people in the Highlands recognised. Captain Bart Lucas (76), from 1st Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force (ACF), was invested with his MBE on 17 January at the Palace of Holyrood House in Edinburgh by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, The Princess Royal. Bart (pictured, right) has been a volunteer with Army Cadets since December 1976, as well as prior service in the Royal Air Force and service with Northern Constabulary – now part of Police Scotland. Throughout his forty-seven years of volunteering with the cadets he has held almost every post you can think of, from Detachment Commander and Company Commander to Adventure Training Officer and Duke of Edinburgh Award Officer, some posts he's held several times over his long career. Prior to retirement Bart was also a full-time employee with Highland RFCA, as the Administration Officer for 1st Battalion The Highlanders at Battalion headquarters in Inverness. Bart is currently the Detachment Commander for Culloden Detachment and the Second-in-Command for the Battalion's Moray Company. Captain Lucas was recognised in last year's King's Birthday Honours for his long and devoted service to Army Cadets and the young people of the Highlands.



Visitors get hands-on at Royal Navy event

The range of exciting Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) opportunities available to women in the Royal Navy was highlighted during an event in Dundee. Visitors to the Reserve and Cadet Centre at Strathmore Avenue on 2 February heard from Commodore Jo Adey ADC, Commander Maritime Reserves, and Dr Marge Vilnay, Senior Lecturer in Structural Engineering at the University of Dundee. The University has signed the Armed Forces Covenant and is a Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Silver Award holder. Commodore Adey and Dr Vilnay (pictured, bottom right) shared their experiences and thoughts on STEM with guests. There was also an opportunity to get hands-on and try out some of the technology provided by the Royal Navy STEM team. This included an introduction to firefighting, robotics, drones and Airsoft weapons.



Personnel from 215 (Scottish) Multi-Role Medical Regiment (MMR) took part in Exercise Sim Serpent at the NHS Fife Simulation and Training Centre. The simulation trauma management training was filmed by STV News, resulting in national TV coverage that shone a spotlight on the work of the newly-formed Regiment. The 13 January exercise involved Point of Wounding and Pre-Hospital Treatment Team (PHTT) simulated casualty care. It brought members of 215 MMR and NHS Fife together, demonstrating the value of community partnerships. NHS Fife has signed the Armed Forces Covenant and is a Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Silver Award holder.

