

Archaeological Evaluation  
Mill Glen  
Moulin

PL06

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**  
**MILL GLEN**  
**MOULIN**  
**PL06**

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*Illustration 1: Site location plan*

*Illustration 2: Trench Location Plan*

*Illustration 3: Sections*

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## ***ABSTRACT***

*Alder Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation (site code PL06) at Mill Glen, Baledmund Road, Moulin, on sloping garden ground centred on NN 94420 59340 in advance of residential development. The area was considered to have potential archaeological significance as it was situated in close proximity to the village of Moulin thought to date from the Pictish Period. Four evaluation trenches, each measuring 20 X 2m were opened up over the 2500m<sup>2</sup> site, that is 6.4% of the available area. The trenches revealed fluvial-glacial deposits comprising gravels with a high content of medium-large stone, underlying, in places, a deep subsoil. The only archaeological features encountered were of modern date. As the evaluation found nothing of archaeological significance no further archaeological work will be required on the site.*

# **1 Background**

## **1.1 Introduction**

Mr W Forsyth commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of garden ground at Mill Glen, Moulin. The proposed development area is a green field site 2500m<sup>2</sup> in size located on the S side of Mill Glen house, and centred on NGR NN 94420 59340. The work (site code PL06) was undertaken on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2010 in good weather conditions. The requirement was to excavate 4 evaluation trenches each 20 X 2m over the footprints of two proposed houses. Special attention was to be paid to identifying archaeological remains that could date from the Pictish period.

## **1.2 Aims and Objectives**

The main aim of this investigation was to establish the presence/absence, date, character and quality of any archaeological remains surviving within the development area. The results of this investigation will be used to inform future mitigation strategies for the proposed development.

## **1.3 Reporting**

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this evaluation. Copies will be sent to the client, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and Perth and Kinross Historic Environment Record.

## **1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues**

This evaluation is the final part of a programme of archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development. The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 08/00938/FUL

## **1.5 Acknowledgements**

We wish to thank Mr W Forsyth of Mill Glen for his assistance and on site guidance and also Sarah Winlow of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust for her help and advice during this project. The project was fully funded by the developer.

# **2 Details of Work**

## **2.1 The Site (Illus 1)**

The site is a 2500m<sup>2</sup> plot of land having axial dimensions of 50m NE-SW and 40m NW-SE on the N side of the village of Moulin which until recently formed a large part of the garden on the S side of Mill Glen. It is accessed from the A294 at the SE corner. The rear of residences and garden ground form the SW and W sides of the plot while an open field forms the E side. On the N side is the garden of Mill Glen. The ground slopes down to the S and SW from Ordnance Survey datum 163.00m to 158.50m. In the central area of the plot are four old apple trees. The S end of the plot close to the

road and abutting properties forms a relatively flat area. A ridge exists on the higher ground to the NW just above the plot which is most likely part of the old course of the nearby Moulin Burn. Recently, at the SE corner of plot, an access has been made from the A294 and hardcore has been laid for a driveway part way along the E side of the plot. It is proposed to erect a 2 bedroomed house in the mid N part of the site and a 3 bedroomed house at the S end. The centre of the site is only 100m to the N of the historic Moulin Kirk and burial ground.

## 2.2 Archaeological Potential

The development site is considered to have archaeological potential given its situation in close proximity to the historic village of Moulin. Moulin is thought to date to the Pictish period with St Colm founding the first church here in 490AD. It is likely that the church was accompanied by an early monastic and secular settlement. In the late 12<sup>th</sup> century the church and lands of Moulin were granted to the Abbey of Dunfermline. No trace of the early history of the village has been recorded as yet, but the area around Moulin abounds with prehistoric remains – for example, the scheduled Dane Stone and possible burial cairn, both to the immediate west of the village. The discovery of a prehistoric Food Vessel in the 19<sup>th</sup> century is a possible indication of an Early Bronze Age cemetery. Unfortunately the findspot of the vessel is unknown.

Archaeological research and investigation at other historic settlements and early church sites in Perthshire and further afield – for example, Abernethy, Dunning, Fortingall and Portmahomack (Highland) – has recovered evidence for the origins, character and industry of what would have been busy hubs of Pictish and medieval life. Analysis of historic maps shows that the development site has not been impacted upon in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. That the development site has been within the garden Millglen adds to the potential for better survival of remains as the site has not been subject to modern ploughing

## 2.3 Archaeological Method

The evaluation trenches focused on the two proposed house plots. Four evaluation trenches, 01-04, were machine excavated under constant archaeological supervision utilizing a straight edged ditching bucket. Two trenches arranged in a T formation were excavated over each of the proposed house plots, trenches 01 and 02 over the northern house plot and trenches 03 and 04 over the southern house plot. The trenches were each 20m long and 2m wide giving an overall evaluation area of 160m<sup>2</sup>. Each trench was excavated, cleaned by hand and then archaeologically recorded.

## 2.4 Results of Investigations

### *Trench 01*

Trench 01 was located over the proposed N house plot and aligned NW-SE. The trench was recorded from the E end starting at 0m. Turf and topsoil, 0101, were 0.25-0.30m thick. A few sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> c pottery and one possible late medieval sherd, were found in the topsoil. Below turf and topsoil at the E end was a thin layer of subsoil 0102, similar to topsoil but a lighter brown, which increased in thickness in a westward direction. Below the subsoil was a natural glacial deposit comprising mainly loose gravel with cobbles and fractured small-large stone. At the trench E end a 2m wide

sondage was made into the natural deposit, to a depth of 0.80m which confirmed the composition of the natural gravel and stone deposit.

At 7m from the trench E end a massive boulder, 0103, at least 2 X 2m and 1.30m thick was encountered below the subsoil. The boulder formed part of the E edge of natural infilled gully which was aligned in a N-S direction. On the W side of the stone 0103 the gully had been naturally infilled by subsoil which had a maximum depth of 1.20m against the W edge of the boulder. In the gully the natural gravels below the subsoil rose in a westerly direction and at the trench W end were reached at a depth of 1.10m below the site surface, overlain by 0.50m of subsoil.

On the N side of the trench at the W end, just below the turf was an uneven shallow pit, cut 0105, 0.28m deep containing modern ash, charcoal and charred wood remains 0104. A sherd of 19/20<sup>th</sup> c glass was found in fill 0104. Nothing of archaeological significance was found in this trench.

#### *Trench 02*

Trench 02 formed a junction on the S side of trench 01, 7.50m to the W of trench the E end of trench 01. It was aligned in a NNW-SSE direction. Part of the gully edge found in trench 01 appeared at the N end of trench 02 on the W side. Turf and topsoil, 0201, averaged 0.30m in thickness. Below turf and topsoil was subsoil, 0202, varying in depth of between 0.30m, at the trench N end, and 1m at the S end. The subsoil contained abundant small-large cobbles and stone fragments. One stone in the subsoil located 6m from the trench N end was 1.20m long and 0.50m wide. Two sondages at 8.5m and 14.5m from the trench N end were made through the subsoil into the glacial deposits below to confirm their makeup. Below the subsoil were gravel and stone glacial deposits as found in trench 01. Occasional sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> pottery were found in the topsoil and on the surface of the subsoil. No archaeological features were found in this trench.

#### *Trench 03*

Trench 03 was aligned SW-NE and was located over the proposed new build at the S end of the site. In this trench topsoil averaged 0.30m thick and subsoil between 0.44m and 0.60m thick. Occasional 19<sup>th</sup> pottery sherds were found in the topsoil. Below the subsoil at the trench E end was a natural glacial deposit of loose sand and gravel as found in trenches 01 and 02. At 4.50m from the trench E end the natural comprised a mix of subsoil, sand and gravel with a higher content of larger stone, large cobbles and fractured stone. At 6.50m from the trench E end was a large boulder measuring 0.62 X 0.92m. At 13m from the trench E end the natural contained a deposit of abundant small-large cobbles and fractured stone mixed with a darker subsoil, 0304, this darker, subsoil was 0.58m thick. A sondage at the W end of the trench reached a depth 1.15m and bottomed onto sand and gravel. At 8.50m from the trench E end a lead pipe crossed the trench at a depth of 0.50m below the site surface and continued into trench 04.

#### *Trench 04*

Trench 04 was aligned NNW and SSE and formed a junction trench 03, 3.50m from the E end of trench 03. Topsoil averaged 0.30m in thickness. The subsoil increased in depth towards the S, being 0.36m deep at the N end of the trench and 0.60m thick at the S end of the trench. Below the subsoil natural comprised stony, sand and clay. Two archaeological features were found in this trench the fill 0403 and cut 0404 for the lead

water pipe found in trench 03 and the fill 0405 and cut 0406 for a slight indentation or scoop into natural which contained one sherd of 19<sup>th</sup> c pottery and a 19<sup>th</sup> c nail. The fill and cut for the indentation was most probably the result of horticultural activity. No significant archaeological features were found in this trench.

### **3 Interpretation**

- 3.1 None of the evaluation trenches contained any significant archaeological features only one unglazed sherd of possible late medieval pottery from the topsoil in trench 01 indicated transient activity predating the 19<sup>th</sup> c. Only three archaeological features were found 0104/0105, pit with burnt wood, 0403/0404, lead water pipe and 0405/0406 possible horticultural. These appeared to relate to 19<sup>th</sup> century or later activity on the site. Geological features indicated glacial action creating, moving and sorting clay, sand, gravel and stone. A natural gully mainly revealed in trench 01 would have been caused by water action cutting into the ground slope. This water was no doubt part of the system of the nearby Moulin Burn (only 35m to the W of the site) which in former times supplied water to operate a sawmill close to the site's W boundary.

### **4 Conclusions and Recommendations**

#### **4.1 Conclusions**

Alder Archaeology concludes that no archaeological features relating to Pictish settlement associated with the first church founded by St Colm around 490 were found in the evaluation. No significant archaeology dating to any other period was found.

#### **4.2 Recommendations for Further Work**

As the evaluation trenches did not reveal any significant archaeological features or deposits of any period, it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required for this development. However, the final decision with regard to further work ultimately rest with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

### **5 References**

*Terms of Reference For Archaeological Evaluation Millglen Baledmund Road, Moulin Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust 2010*

*Millglen, Baledmund Road, Moulin Archaeological Evaluation, Written Scheme of Investigation Alder Archaeology 2010*

## Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>
	<b>Trench 01</b>
0101	Turf and topsoil dark brown-black silty loam C 0.20-0.30m thick
0102	Deposit, subsoil, silt, some stone, similsar to 0101 but lighter in colour, not really evident at trench E end where topsoil is very shallow, but in a natural gully in the centre of the trench and extending towards the trench W end it is up to 1.40 in thickness over natural gravel
0103	Stone, very large erratic, in situ at edge of geological gully, c 1.30 thick X 2m X 2m
0104	Deposit, burnt wood with charcoal and ash in cut just below topsil, modern burning event, modern glass
0105	Cut, for deposit 0104, 1.70m wide , 0.28m deep, uneven bottom and sides, modern
	<b>Trench 02</b>
0201	Turf and topsoil dark brown-black silty loam C 0.20-0.30m thick
0202	Deposit subsoil same as in trench 01 and up to 0.96m thick in the S end of the trench stone content increasing with depth over natural gravel
	<b>Trench 03</b>
0301	Turf and topsoil dark brown-black silty loam C 0.20-0.30m thick
0302	Deposit, subsoil 0.44-0.66 thick same as in trenches 1 and 2, moderately stony
0303	Deposit, dark subsoil, similar to 0302 but darker, towards W end of trench, 0.58m thick
0304	Deposit, large-small cobbles and fractured stone, mixed with dark subsoil natural deposit, c 0.40m thick, natural deposit close to the surface
0305	Lead water pipe crossing the trench the trench, 8.50m from the trech E end, 0.50m below the site surface.
	<b>Trench 04</b>
0401	Turf and topsoil dark brown-black silty loam C 0.20-0.30m thick
0402	Deposit, subsoil , maximum depth 0.75m at S end of trench
0403	Dark subsoil backfill of trench for lead water pipe, c 0.30m wide, modern, pipe continues from trench 03
0404	Cut for lead waterpipe
0405	Depoist, fill of small dished area containong dark silt loam subsoil with modern TGE pot sherd and modern nail, probably small cultivation feature, c 0.05m thick



0406	Cut for fill 0405, shall dish shaped , 2m long and 1m wide extending into W section
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## Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
01-03	General of site	S-SW
04	General of site	NW
05	General working T01, starting	W
06-07	Detail of section at E end of trench	NE
08	Detail of section in mid trench with large eratic stone on E side	NE
09-10	Detail of section in mid trench with larg eratic stone on E side	E
11	Detail of section in mid trench with large eratic	NE
12	Detail of section in mid trech ctx 0102	NE
13-14	Detail of large eratic 0103	NNE
15-16	Detail of modern burning at W end of T01	NE
17-18	General of T01 from W end	E
19	General of T01 from E end	W
20	General of T02 from N end	S
21	General of T02 from S end	N
22-23	Detail of section ctx 0202 in sondage	NW
24-25	Detail of section ctx 0202 in sondage	NE
26-27	General of site showing open trenches	SW
28	General of T03	SW
29	General of T03	NE
30	General of site with open trenches	NNE
31-32	Detail of sondage at W end of T03, ctx 0303	N
33-35	Detail of stone in dark subsoil ctx 0304	N,NW.NE
36	General of T04	SE
37	General of T04	NW

38-39	Detail of modern pipe trench ctx 0403 with lead pipe	W, NW
40-41	Detail of modern cut feature 0405	NW, NNW
42-46	Detail of section, ctx 0402	W, SW

### Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Plan trenches 01 and 02 at 1:100 sections 01-04 at 1:20, S1 S facing, contexts 0101 and 0102 at trench W end; S2 mid trench S facing of contexts 0101, 0102, and 0103; S3 S facing, of burning in pit, contexts 0101, 0104, 0102; S4 NE facing of 0201 and 0202.	1:100; 1:20
2	Plan trenches 03 and 04: S5, S facing, ctx 0303 at E end of trench	1:100; 1:20
3	Plan N part trench 04 showing 0403 and 0405; S6 SW facing of 0401 and 0402 and natural; S7 of 0401 and 0402 and natural W facing at S end of trench	1:100; 1:20

### Appendix 4 Finds Register

<i>Context</i>	<i>Material Type</i>	<i>Details</i>
0101	Pottery	2 body sherds white glaze TGE (tin glazed earthenware) 1 body sherd green and orange pattern TGE 1 sherd, rim, base, or handel TGE 1 body sherd, very abraded no glaze, possible redware, possible late medieval
0104	Glass	1 body sherd, 07mm thick, green, heat affected
0201	Pottery	1 base sherd, blue and white transfer pattern, TGE 1 rim sherd, TGE 1 body sherd stoneware white glaze
0403	Pottery	1 body sherd orange and white transfer pattern TGE
0403	Iron	1 heavily corroded nail, square shaft, 78mm long
0405	Pottery	1 body sherd, white TGE



## Appendix 5 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Archaeological Evaluation, Mill Glen, Moulin
PROJECT CODE:	PL06
PARISH:	Moulin
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Ray Cachart
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Possible pictish
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Site centred on
START DATE	26 Aug 2010
END DATE	26 Aug 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Alder Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation at Mill Glen, Baledmund Road, Moulin, on sloping garden ground centred on NN 94420 59340 in advance of residential development. The area was considered to have potential archaeological significance as it was situated in closed proximity to the village of Moulin thought to date from the Pictish Period. Four evaluation trenches, each measuring 20 X 2m were opened up over the 2500m <sup>2</sup> site, that is 6.4% of the available area. The trenches revealed glacial deposits comprising gravels with a high content of medium-large stone, underlying, in places, a deep subsoil. The only archaeological features encountered were of modern date.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Developer
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	None
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS

EMAIL ADDRESS:	<a href="mailto:Director@AlderArchaeology.co.uk">Director@AlderArchaeology.co.uk</a>
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## Appendix 6 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

### 6.1 Recording Methodology

Alder Archaeology employs a Single Context Recording System that allows full cross-referencing of stratigraphy, finds and environmental samples, as well as site-wide phasing. All features will be planned at scale 1:20, and sections drawn at scale 1:10. Sections and profiles will be drawn and all features will be photographed with metric scale included. Environmental samples will be taken from archaeologically significant contexts, if the analysis of these samples would aid significantly in the interpretation of any features identified.

### 6.2 Human Remains

If human remains are encountered they will be left in situ and the local police will be informed. If removal is required this will take place in compliance with Historic Scotland's Policy Paper *The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology*.

### 6.3 Products and Reporting

A Data Structure Report will normally be prepared within a period agreed within the Written Scheme of Investigation/ Project Design, after the completion of the fieldwork. This forms the basic level of reporting. Further reporting may be required on the basis of discoveries made during excavations.

A copy of the report and the project archive will be deposited in the NMRS. Further copies will be sent to the client, LAAO and others, as appropriate.

### 6.4 Artefacts

Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia*. We will report such finds, if recovered, with supporting documentation to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel for disposal to the appropriate museum.

### 6.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

### 6.6 General Conditions and Health and Safety

We adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists.

Alder Archaeology Ltd has public liability insurance of £2,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

We operate a strict health and safety policy and conforms to the Health and Safety at Work Act. We undertakes Risk Assessments on all fieldwork carried out.

Alder Archaeology representatives will at all times wear protective footwear, high visibility clothing and other appropriate clothing. Hard hats will be worn if there is active plant on site or at all times if the site is deemed a hard hat area.

If lightly contaminated deposits are uncovered disposable boiler suits and gloves will be worn. A source of clean water will be made available for staff to clean hands with. If the health risk posed by site contamination is felt to be too high all further archaeological work will stop in that area.