

Archaeological Evaluation
Moulin Bowling Club
Moulin
PERTH & KINROSS

PL07



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
MOULIN BOWLING CLUB
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Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: Location of archaeological evaluation trenches

Photographs: Trench 1, Trench 5, site overview

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ABSTRACT

Alder Archaeology conducted an evaluation of a disused former bowling green, in advance of the construction of two new dwelling houses. The site lay within the conservation area of the village of Moulin. Five trenches were excavated; no finds or features of archaeological interest resulted. The work (site code PL07) was carried out on 4th September 2020.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Fearn Macpherson Chartered Architects, on behalf of Mr Aubyn Stewart-Wilson, commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of the planned construction of two new detached houses. The planned development area was a former bowling green, within the village of Moulin, centred on NGR NN 94487 59294. The work (site code PL07) was undertaken on 4th September 2020 in weather conditions ranging from overcast to bright sunshine. The requirement was to evaluate 10% of the available area, that is 126m².

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 20/00841/FLL.

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.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this evaluation. Copies will be sent to the client, The National Record of the Historic Environment at Historic Environment Scotland, and Perth & Kinross Historic Environment Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This evaluation constitutes archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Rob Macpherson for his assistance and guidance throughout this project. Mr Aubyn Stewart-Wilson funded this evaluation.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

The former bowling green was a level area of close-cropped turf, almost square at 35.00m x 36.00m, on the NW side of Manse Road and surrounded by housing on all sides. The A924 road to Blairgowrie-Pitlochry road ran past the NW side of the green, descending a steep slope into Moulin in the process. The green was terraced into the side of the same slope. The former Moulin Kirk, now a heritage centre, stands to the SW of the site, beyond Moulin Square.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The village of Moulin is a conservation area, focused on the former Kirk. The earliest known church in Moulin was reputedly founded by St Colm and variously dated to 490, 590 or 670AD. Colm is sometimes identified with St Columba (521-597AD), but may be a different person entirely: hence the widely varying suggested dates of the

foundation. In any case, a church was present in Moulin from a relatively early date and was presumably established in an existing secular settlement, as well as (also presumably) being accompanied by a monastic foundation. In the 12th Century, the lands of Moulin were gifted to the Benedictine Abbey of Dunfermline by King William the Lion, which may have led to medieval development in the area including the construction of a mill (“*moulin*”). There are also prehistoric remains in the vicinity, including the Dane Stone (SM1534) and a possible burial cairn (MPK1614), both to the west of the village.

2.3 Archaeological Method

Five trenches, each measuring at least 20.00m long x 1.30m wide, were excavated under close archaeological supervision by a mechanical digger equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. In order to minimise disturbance to the surface of the green, a relatively light 3 tonne digger was employed and turf was replaced upon completion of the backfill of spoil. The trenches were positioned across the footprints of both of the planned new houses and also an area of car parking/hard standing (see Illus 2). Excavation proceeded to the first archaeological horizon, undisturbed natural subsoil or the planned formation level for the development, whichever was encountered first. Features encountered were measured and located and recorded photographically.

2.4 Results of Investigations

Trench 1

This was aligned NNW-SSE and excavated parallel with the W edge of the site. The N end was located 4.00m S of the NE edge of the site, 12.00m E of the W edge; the S end was 10.70m N of the S edge, 11.40m E of the W edge. 0.45m deep N end, 1.20m deep S end (sondage).

Trench 2

Aligned NNW-SSE, to the SW of T1, close to the W site edge. The N end was 12.80m S of the N edge of site, 4.00m E of the W edge; the S end was 2.20m N of the S edge, 4.30m E of the W edge. 0.30m deep N end, 1.20m deep S end.

Trench 3

Aligned WSW-ENE, S of T1 and E of T2. The W end was 6.10m N of the S edge of site, 10.50m E of the W edge; the E end was 5.80m N, 6.30m W of the E edge. Sondages into natural gravel at 6.00m E (1.20m deep), 9.00m E (0.70m deep) and 16.00m E (1.70m, natural not reached, formation level at 0.60m).

Trench 4

Aligned NNW-SSE, E of T1 and N of T3, parallel with the E edge of site. The N end was located 4.70m S of the N edge of site, 11.70m W of the E edge; the S end was 11.40m N of the S edge, 11.60m W of the E edge. Maximum depth 1.20m (sondage into grey sand natural).

Trench 5

Aligned NNW-SSE in the SE corner of the site and parallel with the hedge along the E edge. The N end was 13.20m S of the N edge of site, 2.90m W of the E edge; the S end was 3.20m N of the S edge, 2.10m W of the E edge.

Field drains were exposed within all five trenches, generally spaced approximately 5.00m apart and running either E-W or NE-SW. All but one were modern ceramic drains, the one exception being a rubble-lined drain (505) within T5. No other features were exposed. It was observed that topsoil was thin across the N of the site and much thicker across the S; this is assumed to have been due to deliberate levelling of the area to create the bowling green. Anecdotal evidence suggests the site may have been a garden attached to the nearby Moulin Hotel, prior to use as a green. Certainly, topsoil was rich and humic, although very few porcelain fragments or other indications of garden or plough soil were exposed (none retained). The subsoil in the N of the site was an orange-yellow sand-gravel mix, becoming sandier, darker and greyer towards the S. Along the E edge of the site, a grey-green or grey-brown sand intervened between the topsoil and harder sand-gravel, at undulating depths of 0.40m-0.90m below the top of the turf. The greatest depth of topsoil was in the S centre of the site, up to 1.70m thick. As this was well below the formation level of the development (which across the S was for an area of garden and car parking), sondages were cut to reach natural subsoil in the S end of T1, T2, T4 and T5, and spaced at intervals along T3 (which ran E-W across the planned hardstanding).

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were exposed.

3 Conclusions and Recommendations

3.1 Recommendations for Further Work

Alder Archaeology consider that the evaluation was conducted correctly and do not recommend further work on site in connection with the present development. However, the final decision ultimately rests with Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust.

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Trench</i>
101	Fine light brown loam topsoil and turf. 0.2 m thick.	1
102	Pale grey-green clay silt. Up to 0.25m thick.	1
103	Orange brown coarse sand and gravel. Natural. 0.45m-1.20m bpgs.	1
104	Red terracotta field drain in NE corner. Aligned NW – SE. 20 th cent.	1
105	Drain, as 104, 4 m S of trench N end.	1
106	Drain, as 104, 8 m S of trench N end. 0.6 m bpgs.	1
107	Drain, as 104, 12 m S of trench N end.	1
108	Drain, as 104, at S end of trench.	1
201	Fine light brown sandy loam topsoil and turf. 0.2 m thick.	2
202	Pale grey-green clay silt, up to 1.00m thick. Very infrequent porcelain (not retained).	2
203	Orange brown coarse sand and gravel. Coarse boulders. Natural. 1.2 m bpgs at S end of trench.	2
204	Red drain, as 104, but aligned E – W. 2 m N of S end of trench. 0.6 m bpgs.	2
205	Drain, as 104, aligned NW – SE. 8 m N of trench S end.	2
206	Drain, as 104, aligned NW – SE. 13 m N of trench S end. 0.5 m bpgs.	2
301	Fine light brown loam topsoil and turf. 0.2 m thick.	3
302	Pale grey-green clay silt, 0.30m thick	3
303	Drain at W end of trench, 0.5 m bpgs.	3
304	Ceramic drain, NW – SE, 6 m E of trench W end.	3
305	Natural gravelly sandy silt at 0.5 m bpgs. Appears 6 m E, seems to fade out by 8 m E. Redeposited?	3
401	Turf and topsoil, 0.2 m deep.	4

402	Mixed subsoil to 1 m down.	4
403	Mixed subsoil with boulders.	4
404	Drain aligned SW – NE. Small rounded cobbles over red ceramic pipe. 20 th cent. From 2.5 m N to 4 m N. 0.7 m down. Occasional chips of tile.	4
405	Drain. Red ceramic. 12 m N. Rounded cobbles on top. 0.6 m down.	4
406	Natural gravel appears at 14 m N, 0.5 m down.	4
501	Turf and topsoil	5
502	Subsoil, hard compact yellow-orange sand-gravel	5
503	Grey-brown fine sand with ‘rubbery’ feel. Natural at N end. 0.65 m depth.	5
504	Drain. 1.5 m S, 0.5 m down. Red ceramic, 20 th cent.	5
505	Drain. Cobbles only, no ceramic pipe. Aligned SW – NE. 5 m S, 0.6 m bpgs.	5

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
001-16	Location shots, bowling green and surroundings	W, SW, S, NW, N, NE, E, SE
017-18	Location shot, T1	S
019-21	Working shots, excavating T1	S
022	Ceramic field drain in T1	E
023-25	T1, post-ex	S, N
026-30	Location shots, T2	S, N
031-35	Working shots, excavating T2	N
036	Ceramic field drain in T2 (balk left)	N
037-38	Boulders/cobbles in subsoil 203, base of trench	NE, E
039-40	T2, post-ex	S

041-43	Location shots, T3	E, NE
044-50	Working shots, excavating T3	E, SE, NE
051-54	T3, post-ex	E, W
055-57	Location shots, T4	N, NE, NW
058-60	General overviews of site	W, NW, SW
061	Location shot, T4	S
062-66	Working shots, excavating T4	N, NW
067-68	Rubble top of field drain (ceramic core)	N
069	Ceramic core of field drain	N
070-71	T4, post-ex	S
072-79	Location shots, T5	N, S
080-87	Working shots, excavating T5	S
088-91	Rubble drain in T5	S, W
092-96	Working shots, excavating T5	S, SW
097-99	T5, post-ex	N, S
100-108	General overviews of site, post-ex	NW, SE, S
109	Monument facing Square, Queen's Jubilee 2012.	E
110	Information panels at Church entrance. Founded 670 AD?	S
111-116	Church bell, 1749	-
117	Parish Church, E end.	WNW
118	Churchyard	W
119	Churchyard	NW
120	Crusader Graves?	W
121	Tree at W end of Church.	N

122	Graves at W end of Church.	W
123-124	W end of Church. Stump of Jougs Tree?	S
125	N side of Church facing Square.	S

Appendix 3 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth & Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Moulin Bowling Club
PROJECT CODE:	PL07
PARISH:	Moulin
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	C Fyles
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Field Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NN95NW 159
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Church
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NN 94487 59294
START DATE (this season)	September 4 th 2020
END DATE (this season)	September 4 th 2020
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An evaluation was conducted of a disused former bowling green, in advance of the construction of two new dwelling houses. The site lay within the conservation area of the village of Moulin. Five trenches were excavated, no finds or features of archaeological interest resulted.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Aubyn Stewart-Wilson
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
EMAIL ADDRESS:	director@alderarchaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	HES (intended)

Appendix 4 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

4.1 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.

4.2 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*.

4.3 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.

4.4 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.

4.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

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

4.6 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.

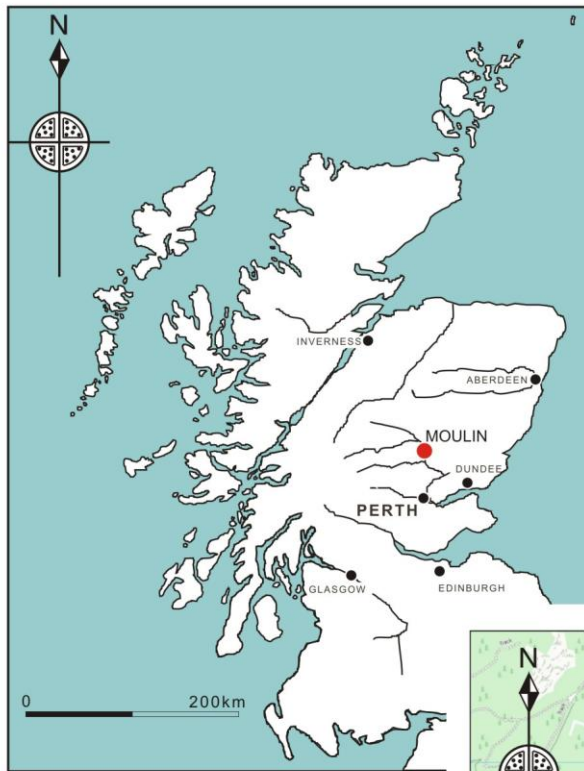
We operate a strict health and safety policy that conforms to the Health and Safety at Work Act. We undertake Risk Assessments on all fieldwork carried out.

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.

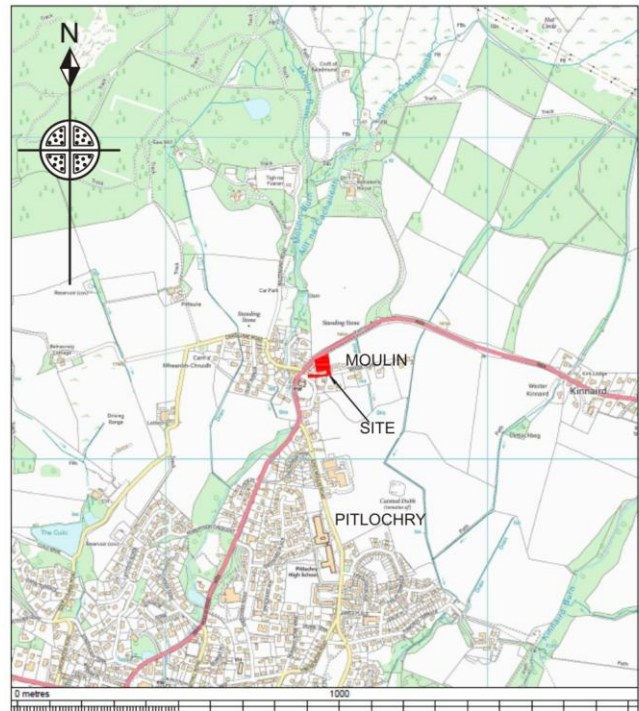
If lightly contaminated deposits are uncovered disposable boiler suits and gloves will be worn. A source of clean water will be made available for staff to clean hands with. If the health risk posed by site contamination is felt to be too high all further archaeological work will stop in that area.

Illus 1

Moulin Bowling Club Site Location



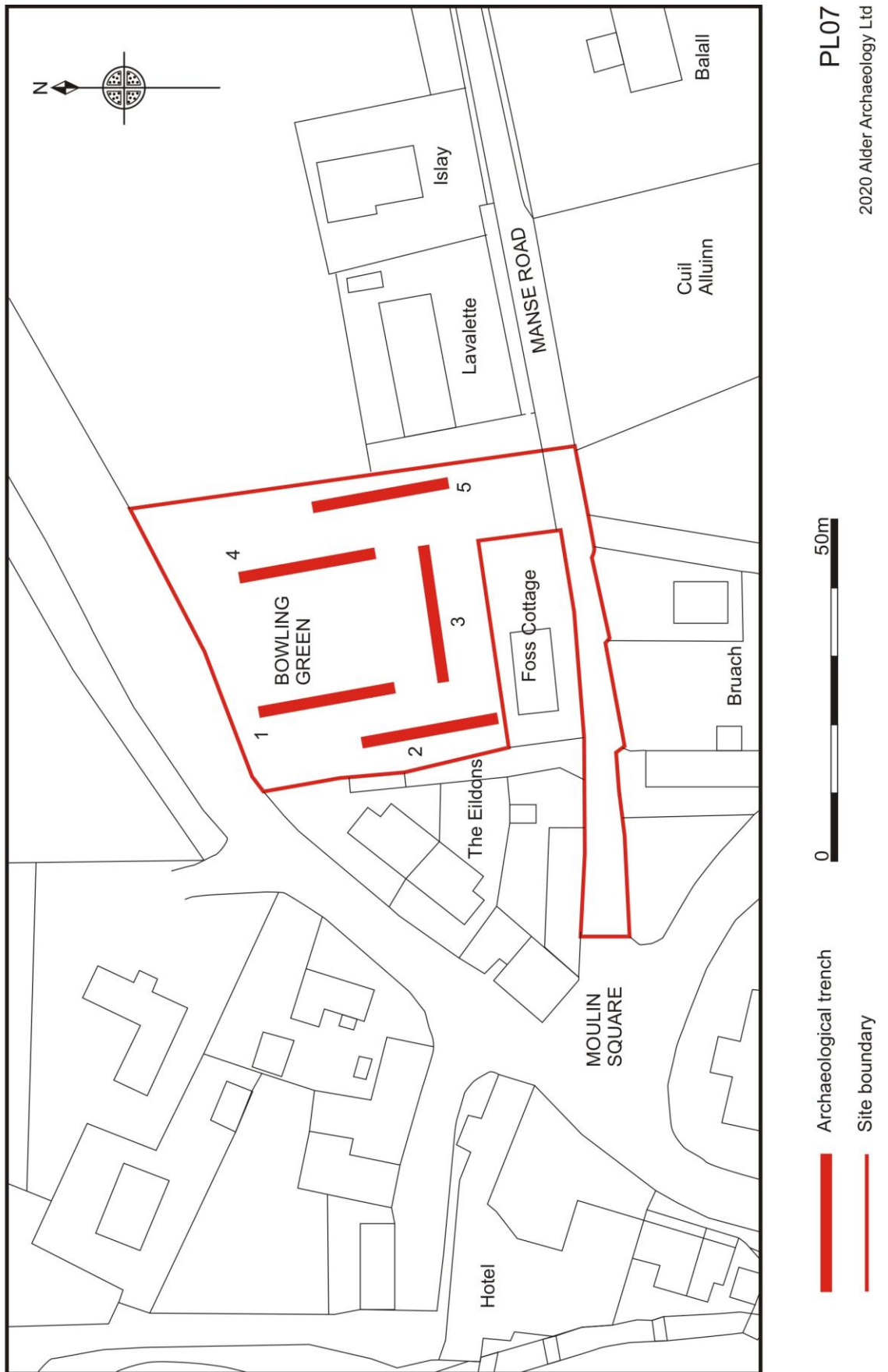
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Illus 2 Moulin Bowling Club, location of archaeological evaluation trenches





Trench 1, completed



Trench 5, completed



Overview of site, all trenches completed