

# Forfar Academy, Taylor Street, Forfar, DD8 3LB Report on the Archaeological Evaluation



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## CONTENTS

1	BACKGROUND .....	3
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND .....	4
3	THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION .....	4
4	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	6
5	REFERENCES .....	7
6	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	7
	APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS .....	8
	APPENDIX 2 MAPS.....	10

## ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover: Top: Trench 2 location; Bottom: Trench 2 showing redeposited subsoil with medium grey silty clay with clinker and china above light grey silty clay natural; facing N

Illus 1	Location plan .....	3
Illus 2	Site plan showing proposed development site .....	5
Illus 3	Trench 1 showing reddish brown redeposited natural layer.....	5
Illus 4	Trench 4 showing topsoil has been replaced .....	6
Illus 5	The terracing for the current school with Trench 1 extreme right; facing W .....	6
Illus 6	Pont map c1583-96 showing Forfar .....	10
Illus 7	Thomson 1825 showing approximate area of site in red .....	10
Illus 8	First Edition OS map showing approximate site outlined in red. ....	11
Illus 9	Second Edition OS map showing approximate outline of site in red. ....	11
Illus 10	Third Edition OS map showing approximate outline of site in red.....	12
Illus 11	1988 aerial photograph showing Forfar Academy (centre).....	12

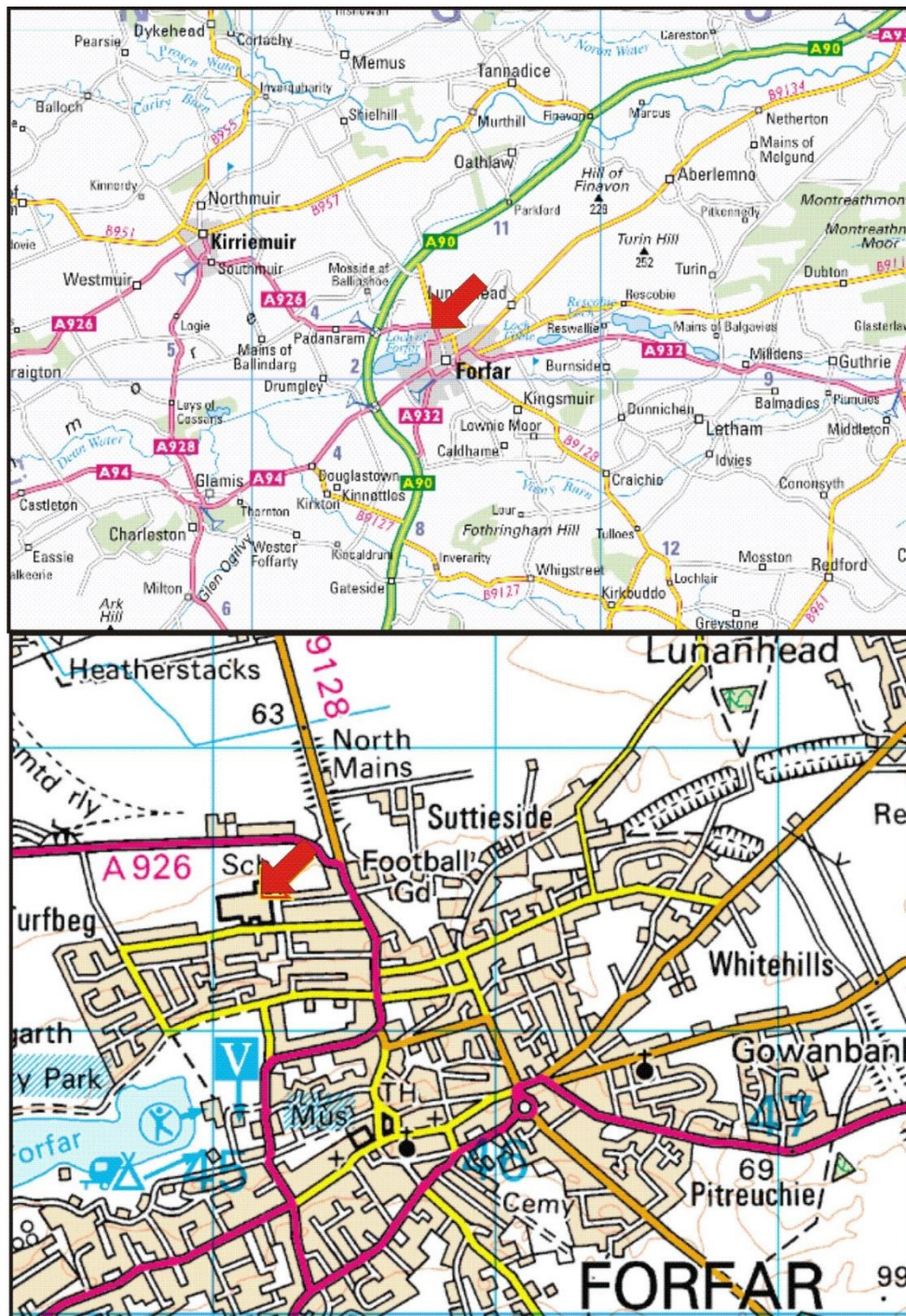
## SUMMARY

The evaluation revealed that the terracing observed for the current school had involved stripping topsoil from the entire site and landscaping, moving sand and silty clay subsoil from the upper (southern) parts of the site and raising the level of the northern half of the site for the playing fields. The site is very wet and several phases of field drains were also encountered. As the site has been previously disturbed it is recommended that not further archaeological work is required during the current development.



# 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site is located on the south side of the A926 on the north-west side of Forfar. It is centred on NGR NO 45165 51462, at 60-70m OD and in the parish of Forfar.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned Kevin Malone, Robertson Construction Tayside for Angus Council. A planning application (Ref No 14/00143/FULM) was passed on 6.6.14 for Erection of New Community Campus with associated hard and soft landscaping, car parking, sports pitches, associated outbuildings and external lighting with archaeology condition (condition 3) requiring a 5-7% archaeological evaluation.
- 1.3 All the archaeological work was carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) and Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed.



Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2014)

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

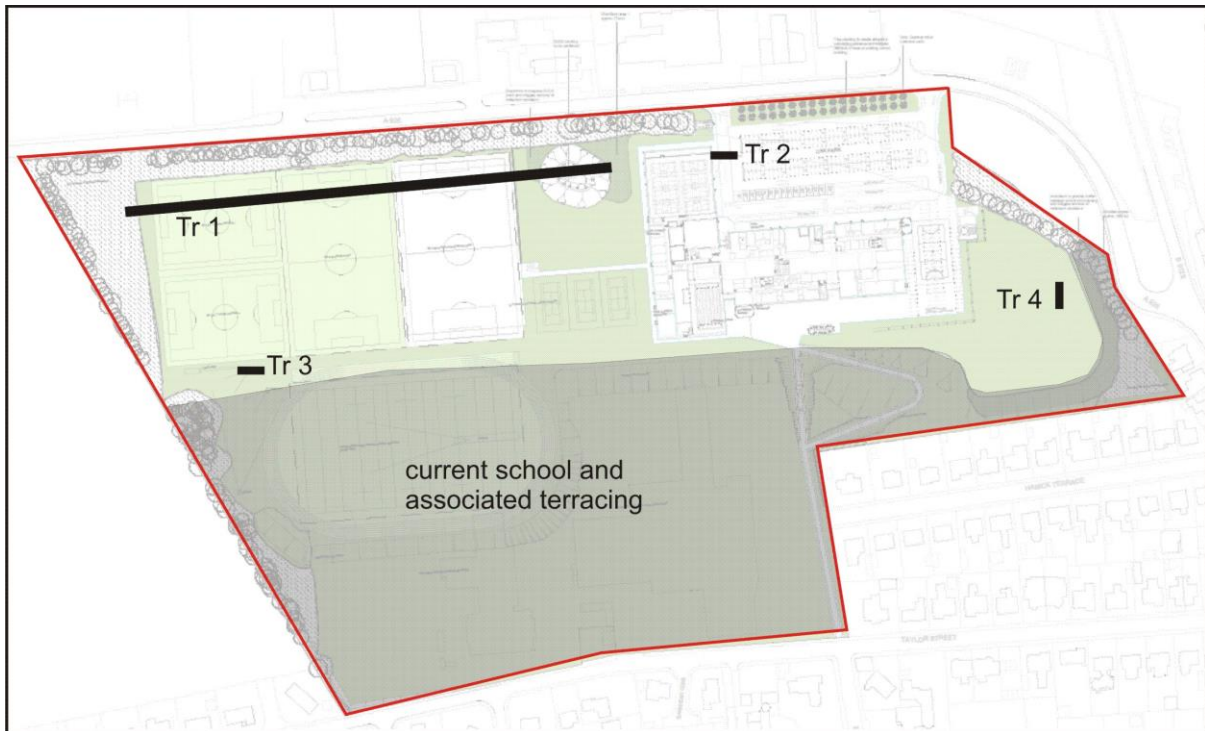
- 2.1 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within 1km of the proposed site. The town of Forfar became a royal burgh by the mid-12th century (NO45SE80).
- 2.2 Immediately south of the proposed site is the remains of a windmill, dating from 18 - 19th century (NO45SE81). The windmill is a tall tapered tower, 12.3m high and 6m in diameter at the base, constructed of sandstone rubble. At 6.5m above the ground level there is a course of stone slabs, 10cm thick and projecting 90cm, which formed a reefing stage. The windmill was attached to a 2-storey threshing barn on its north side, with several openings into the building. At the time of the survey, the tower was open to the elements, but recent photographs show a new cap has been fitted and some re-pointing work has been carried out. The windmill was part of a large mill/farm complex (Bankhead Farm NO45SE 81.01), depicted on the 1st edition OS map as an L-plan threshing barn, with what appears to be a horse-engine attached to the SW corner, and an L-plan and rectangular steading to the S. By the 2nd edition map, the L-plan threshing barn has been enlarged, as have the buildings to the S. These buildings all appear to survive, alongside the windmill, but have been converted to residential accommodation (NO45SE 81) (Donnachie and Stewart 1967, 292; Douglas, Oglethorpe and Hume 1984, 2; Hume 1977, 135).
- 2.3 0.3km south of the proposed site is the site of a brewery shown on both the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps (c.1867 and c.1888). By the 2nd edition map it is described as disused (NO45SE0101). It was described by Hume in 1974 as of the -mid 19th century. Two ranges of one- and two-storey rubble buildings, forming an L. The roofs have full-length louvred ventilators. The 2006 map shows that the site has been levelled, but it is not redeveloped. The exteriors of the buildings were photographed by the RCAHMS in 1998.
- 2.4 Immediately west of the proposed site is a parcel of land; a desk based assessment (2004 and 2013) and walkover survey (2003) was carried out by AOC in 2003 on an area proposed for a possible development. This identified a possible enclosure visible as a faint cropmark on a 1965 aerial photograph (NO45SW0055).
- 2.5 0.3km west of the proposed site is the site of a farmstead depicted on historic OS maps, and shown on maps from at least the mid 1600s when it was known as Torbeg or Tarbeg (NO45SW0056). The OS 1st edition shows a U-plan steading, open to the south, with an attached horsemill on the west side. To the south is house and garden, to the east a small rectangular structure. By the time of the 2nd edition there had been considerable changes: the original steading court had been infilled and new buildings added to west. On the east side there is now another U-plan range open to the south. The farmstead has since been demolished, the site now within a housing estate. Site visit by AOC in October 2003 noted that at that time the farmstead comprised large corrugated iron barns, a 2-storey harled farmhouse building, a 2-storey barn, and a single storey stone outhouse building.
- 2.6 Forfar Academy was built on a green field site and opened in 1965. The new campus is proposed for the playing fields of the existing school (Illus 8).

## **3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Four trenches were excavated over the former playing fields prior to the construction of the new Forfar Academy. Trench 1 indicated that the topsoil had been previously removed from the site and up to 0.4m of redeposited natural laid with a topsoil covering. Above the light grey



silty clay natural was a 0.1m deep layer of medium grey silty clay with clinker, coal and small sherds of china (Illus 3). Trenches 2-4 were placed at the east and west extremities of the site and they showed the same disturbance (Illus 4). By agreement with Claire Herbert the evaluation was therefore terminated.



Illus 2 Site plan showing proposed development site (in red) (copyright JM Architects)



Illus 3 Trench 1 showing reddish brown redeposited natural layer above the light grey clayey silt natural subsoil; with modern clay field drain in trench with pea gravel; facing E





Illus 4 Trench 4 showing topsoil has been replaced over scarp sand and stone natural subsoils; facing E



Illus 5 The terracing for the current school with Trench 1 extreme right; facing W

#### **4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The evaluation revealed that the terracing observed for the current school had involved stripping topsoil from the entire site and landscaping, moving sand and silty clay subsoil from the upper (southern) parts of the site (Illus 5) and raising the level of the northern half of the site for the playing fields. The site is very wet and several phases of field drains were also encountered.

As the site has been previously disturbed it is recommended that not further archaeological work is required during the current development.

## 5 REFERENCES

**Donnachie and Stewart, I L and N K** 1967 'Scottish windmills: an outline and inventory', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, vol.98, 92.

**Douglas, Oglethorpe and Hume, G, M and J R** 1984 *Scottish windmills: a survey*, Glasgow, 2, 22.

**Hume, J R** 1977 *The industrial archaeology of Scotland*, 2, the Highlands and Islands London, 135.

<http://www.forfaracademy.angus.sch.uk/> accessed 1.10.14

## 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo no	Description	Facing
DSCF1-3	Trench 1 left Trench 2 centre background	W/WNW/N W
DSCF4-5	Trench 2	N
DSCF6	Trench 2 location	W
DSCF7-8	Current school showing terracing created by moving natural subsoil from south end of site to north	S/SW
DSCF9-10	Trench 4 location	E
DSCF11-12	Current school showing terracing created by moving natural subsoil from south end of site to north	SW/W
DSCF13-14	Trench 4 showing replaced topsoil on top of layers of sand and stone natural subsoil	E
DSCF15-18	Current school showing terracing created by moving natural subsoil from south end of site to north	W/WNW/N W
DSCF19	Trench 1	W
DSCF20-23	Trench 2 location with current school	S
DSCF24-26	Trench 3 with current school in background	WNW
DSCF27-28	Trench 1 location from trench 3	NNW/N
DSCF29-30	Trench 3 with current school in background	ESE
DSCF31-36	Location photos with Tr3 Left and Tr 1 centre	W/NW/N
DSCF37-51	Trench 1 showing redeposited natural and replaced subsoil	



DSCF (38).JPG



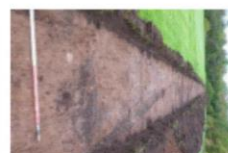
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DSCF (40).JPG



DSCF (41).JPG



DSCF (42).JPG



DSCF (43).JPG



DSCF (44).JPG



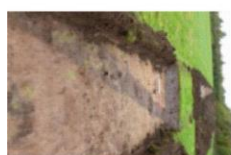
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DSCF (48).JPG



DSCF (49).JPG



DSCF (50).JPG



DSCF (51).JPG





DSCF (1).JPG



DSCF (2).JPG



DSCF (3).JPG



DSCF (4).JPG



DSCF (5).JPG



DSCF (6).JPG



DSCF (7).JPG



DSCF (8).JPG



DSCF (9).JPG



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DSCF (15).JPG



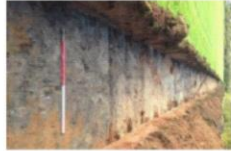
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DSCF (18).JPG



DSCF (19).JPG



DSCF (20).JPG



DSCF (21).JPG



DSCF (22).JPG



DSCF (23).JPG



DSCF (24).JPG



DSCF (25).JPG



DSCF (26).JPG



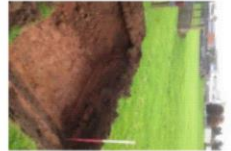
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DSCF (36).JPG



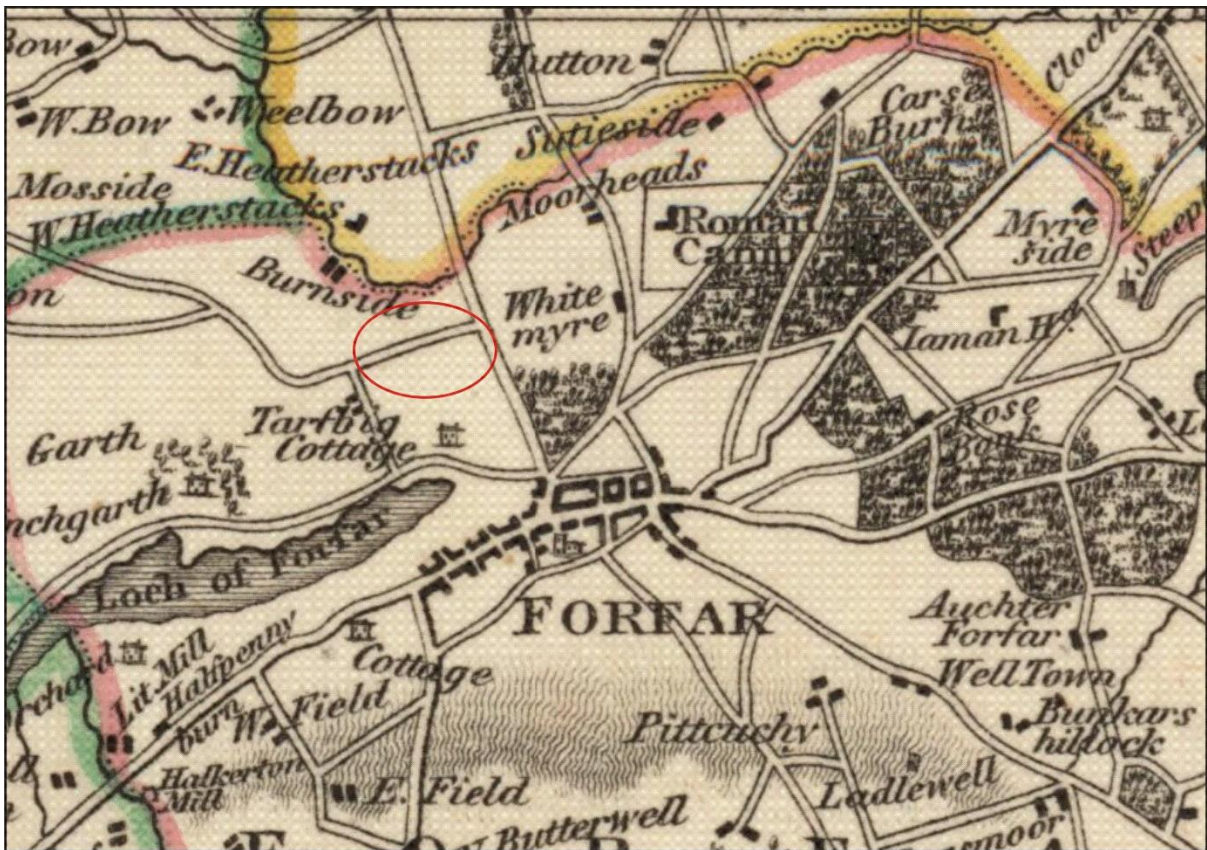
DSCF (37).JPG



APPENDIX 2 MAPS

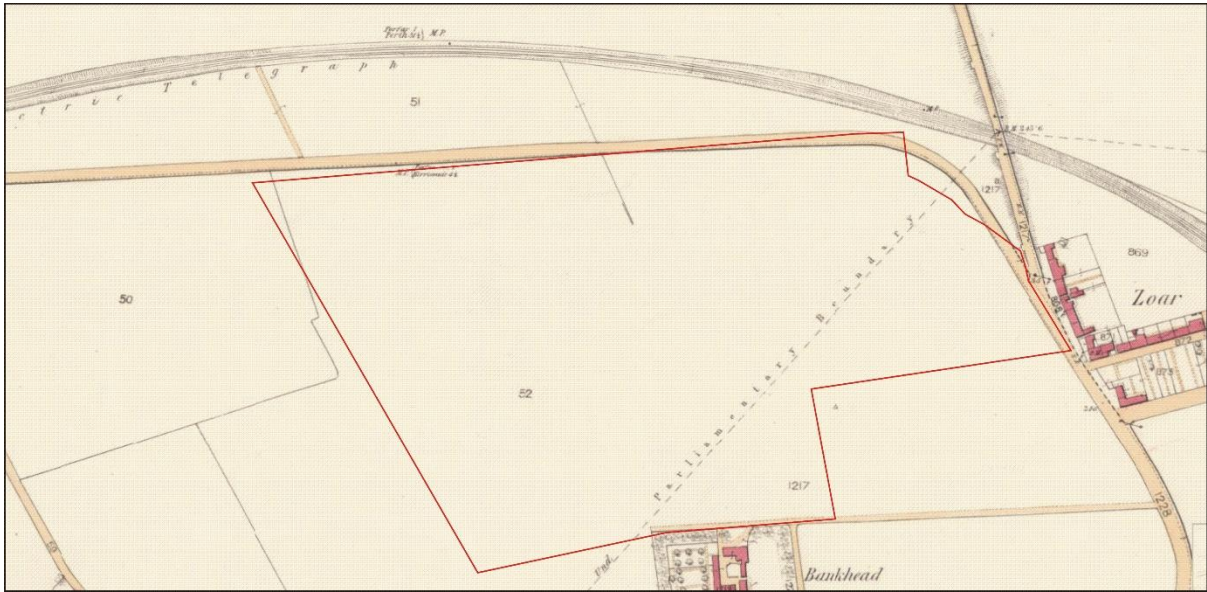


Illus 6 Pont map c1583-96 showing Forfar (copyright National Library of Scotland)

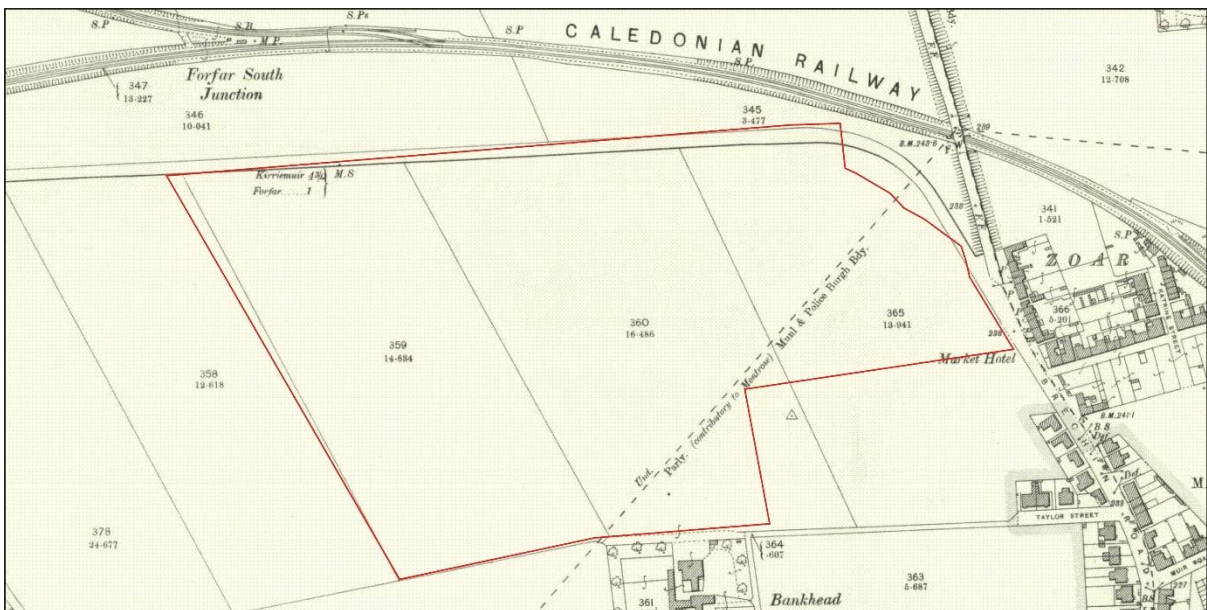


Illus 7 Thomson 1825 showing approximate area of site in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



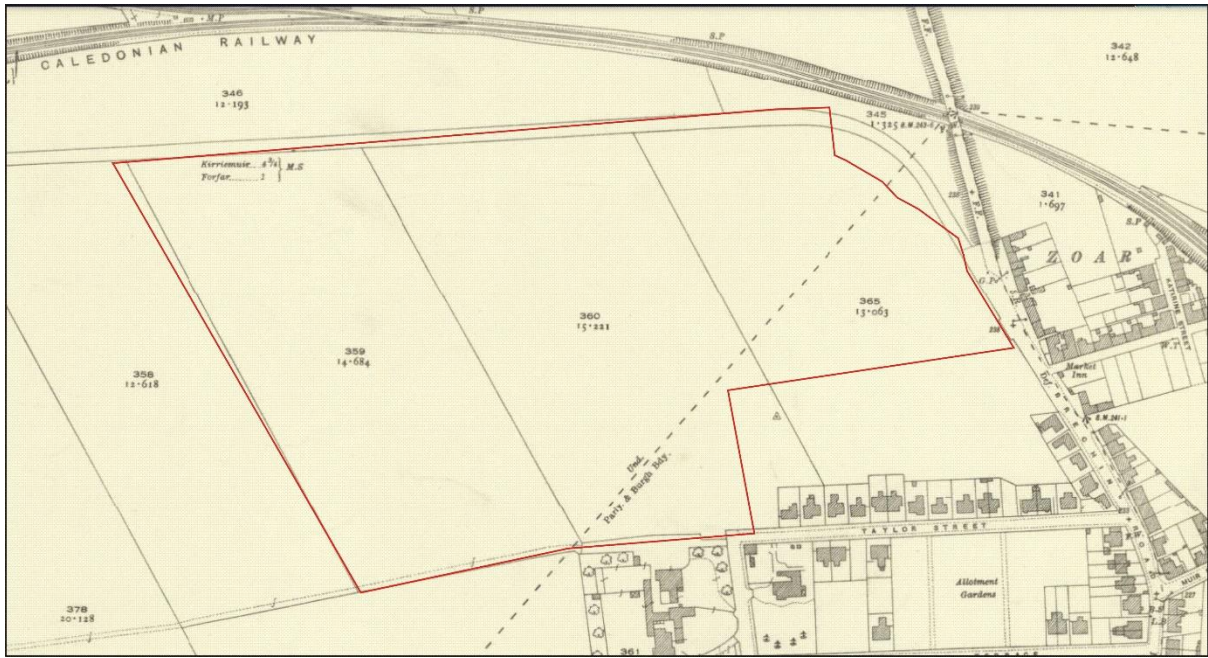


Illus 8 First Edition OS map showing approximate site outlined in red. Forfar Sheet XXXVIII.3 (Forfar)  
 Survey date: 1861 Publication date: 1865 (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 9 Second Edition OS map showing approximate outline of site in red. Forfarshire, Sheet 038.03 Publication date: 1902 Revised: ca. 1901 (copyright National Library of Scotland)





Illus 10 Third Edition OS map showing approximate outline of site in red. Forfarshire, Sheet 038.03 Publication date: 1923 Revised: ca. 1922 Levelled: 1901 (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 11 1988 aerial photograph showing Forfar Academy (centre) and proposed development site on the playing fields immediately to the north (copyright NCAP; NCAP-000-000-139-112).