

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Geophysical Survey*

**Proposed New House Plot  
Gowston Farm  
Buchlyvie, Stirling**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**Report No. 3050**

## **CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on 9 July 2013 at the proposed new house plot at Gowston Farm, Buchlyvie, Stirling, (NS 55938 92842, centred) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by G1 Architects on behalf of Messrs James Risk.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 10 June 2013 was produced by CFA and agreed by Mr Murray Cook, Archaeology Officer for Stirling Council.

### **1.2 Background**

A planning application (Ref No. 12/00202/PPP) has been granted by Stirling Council for the erection of a new house dwelling on land 170m south-west of Gowston Farm Steading, Buchlyvie.

The site of the proposed new house plot lies in the immediate vicinity of the Keir of Cashley, a scheduled ancient monument (SMR 473). The Keir of Cashley is interpreted as a motte; an early form of castle dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The possibility existed that the remains of associated outbuildings, tracks and field systems survived within the vicinity of the monument and within the area occupied by the proposed development. Additionally, as the proposed development is situated within an area of undisturbed greenfield, there was a possibility of archaeological remains surviving undisturbed beneath ploughing depth.

### **1.3 Objectives**

The project's aims and objectives are:

- to produce a photographic record of the site prior to ground breaking works
- to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area
- to establish the vulnerability of any archaeological features to the proposed development
- to propose mitigation measures.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.

### **2.2 Archaeological Evaluation**

The overall site is c. 500m<sup>2</sup>, and the evaluation was required to investigate a 5% sample (25m<sup>2</sup>). In light of the proposed site plan provided by G1 Architects, four trenches were specifically located to maximise coverage given the sample size (Fig. 1). These trenches were excavated to 4-4.5m long and 1.5m wide.

All trenches were excavated with a JCB 3CX equipped with a smooth bladed ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil, down to subsoil or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was reached first. All trenches were excavated to natural. Further excavation required to fulfil the objectives was carried out by hand.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded, whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms. The positions of trenches were recorded using industry standard electronic surveying equipment.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Four trenches were excavated during the evaluation (Fig. 1), covering 25.8m<sup>2</sup>. The numbers in bold and parentheses refer to contexts (Appendix 1). All trenches were 1.5m wide.

#### *Trench 1*

Trench 1 was aligned north-north-west/south-south-east and measured 4.3m long and 0.85m deep. It was excavated in an area of waste ground with surrounding grass on the edge of hard standing.

The stratigraphy comprised 0.55m of topsoil **(001)**, overlying 0.3m of subsoil **(002)**, below which was the natural geology **(000)**. The deposits were deeper at the base of the gentle NW-facing slope (Fig. 3).

No archaeological features or deposits were found.

#### *Trench 2*

Trench 2 was aligned north/south and measured 4.5m long and c. 0.44m deep. It was excavated in an area of grass on a gentle NW-facing slope.

The stratigraphy comprised of 0.34m of topsoil **(001)**, overlying 0.1m of subsoil **(002)**, below which was the natural geology **(000)** (Fig. 4).

No archaeological features or deposits were found.

#### *Trench 3*

Trench 3 was aligned west-south-west/east-north-east and measured 4m long and 0.46m deep. It was excavated in a flat terraced area of grass.

The stratigraphy comprised 0.3m of topsoil **(001)**, overlying 0.16m of subsoil **(002)**, below which was the natural geology **(000)** (Fig. 5).

No archaeological features or deposits were found.

#### *Trench 4*

Trench 4 was aligned north-west/south-east and measured 4.4m long and 0.5m deep. It was excavated in a flat terraced area of grass with some slight undulation.

The stratigraphy comprised 0.3m of topsoil **(001)**, overlying 0.2m of subsoil **(002)**, below which was the natural geology **(000)** (Fig. 6).

No archaeological features or deposits were found.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

A trial trenching evaluation was undertaken at Gowston Farm, Buchlyvie, covering 5% of the proposed house plot.

No archaeological features or deposits were found in any of the trenches.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) and online via OASIS Scotland.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with RCAHMS and copies of reports will be lodged with Stirling Council Sites and Monuments Record.

## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Description
000	Natural – dark brick red clay
001	Topsoil – mid brown clay silt
002	Subsoil – dark-mid red silty clay

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	Area of footprint of house, pre-strip	NE	Sunny
2	Area of footprint of house, pre-strip	W	Sunny
3	Looking down towards housing plot at Trench 3 and 4	S	Sunny
4	Trench 4 Post-ex	NW	Sunny
5	Trench 4 oblique	S	Sunny
6	SW-facing section of Trench 4	SW	Sunny
7	Trench 3 general post-ex shot	SE	Sunny
8	Trench 2 general post-ex shot	SSW	Sunny
9	Trench 1 general post-ex shot	NE	Sunny



### APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Stirling Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Proposed New House Plot, Gowston Farm, Buchlyvie, Stirling
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	BUCH
<b>PARISH:</b>	Drymen
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Rebecca Hunt
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)</b>	NS 55938 92842
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	9 July 2013
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	9 July 2013
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A trial trenching evaluation was undertaken at Gowston Farm, Buchlyvie, covering 5% of the proposed house plot. No archaeological features or deposits were found.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	N/A
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Messrs James Risk
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland (archive)  Stirling Council SMR (reports)





Fig.2 - General view of site from the south



Fig.3 - Trench 1 from the north east



Fig.4 - Trench 2 from the south west


Key:	Fig. No:	2-4	Revision:	A	Client:	Mr Risk	 <div>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ  T: 0131 273 4380 F: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</div>		
	Title:								
	Project:	Gowston Farm, Buchlyvie							
Scale at A4:							Drawn by: GC	Checked: KH	Report No: 3050






Fig.5 - Trench 3 from the south east



Fig.6 - Trench 4 from the north west

Key:	Fig. No:	5-6	Revision:	A	Client:	Mr Risk	 <div>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ T: 0131 273 4380 F: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</div>	
	Title:							
	Project:	Gowston Farm, Buchlyvie						
Scale at A4:						Drawn by: GC	Checked: KH	Report No: 3050