

CFA Archaeology Ltd

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Advice on Archaeology & Planning

Environmental Impact Assessment

Interpretation, Design & Display

Finds/ Environmental Analysis

Field Evaluation & Excavation

Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

Residential Development, Crathes, Aberdeenshire Archaeological Evaluation

Report No. 3106

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

The Old Engine House
Eskmills Business Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian
EH21 7PQ

Tel: 0131 273 4380
Fax: 0131 273 4381
email: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	Gary Savory MA
Illustrator	Kevin Hicks MA
Editor	Bruce Glendinning BSc PGDip MifA
Commissioned by	Stewart Milne Homes Ltd
Date issued	December 2013
Version	0
Oasis No.	cfaarcha1-165894
Planning Application No	APP/2013/1175
Grid Ref	NO 74961 96212 (centred)

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

**Residential Development,
Crathes,
Aberdeenshire
Archaeological Evaluation**

Report No. 3106

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in November 2013 at land to the south of Crathes, Aberdeenshire (NO 74961 96212, centred) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Stewart Milne Homes Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 25 October 2013 covering this programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of Stewart Milne Homes Ltd. The WSI approved in advance by the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeological Service (ACAS).

1.2 Background

Stewart Milne Homes Ltd has submitted a planning application (Ref. No. APP/2013/1175) for a residential development at Crathes, Aberdeenshire.

The development site is located on the southern outskirts of Crathes, bounded on the east by the A957 and to the south by the River Dee. The site lies on a south facing river terrace overlooking a wide floodplain.

Local archaeological groups and amateur archaeologists have undertaken fieldwalking and collected a large number of prehistoric Flint and Chert artefacts from the adjacent floodplain. Numerous knowledgeable locals involved in the fieldwalking visited the evaluation whilst it was underway and all of them indicated very few artefacts were recovered from the location of the development site.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives were:

- to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area; to establish their vulnerability to the proposed development; and 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 Fieldwork. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods, as detailed in the approved WSI.

2.2 Evaluation

Due to the presence of flint scatters in the local area a programme of fieldwalking had been considered as part of the evaluation process, however, following consultation with ACAS it was agreed that fieldwalking was not required as part of the evaluation as the site was a pasture field and there was no intention to plough the area prior to development. This situation rendered the technique of no use in recovering surface artefacts. Rather, topsoil was to be removed in shallow spits from the evaluation trenches, with each spit inspected for lithics. Any lithics recovered from the topsoil during this process were to be collected and bagged by the trench.

Topsoil was removed by a tracked 360° mechanical excavator, equipped with a 1.8m smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

The terms of the WSI required the excavation of a minimum of 4900m² of trial trenches amounting to 7% of the total development area. If significant archaeological remains were identified a contingency of trial trenches up to a further 3% of the area could be requested by ACAS. In the end the results were not thought to merit further evaluation and Fifty-five trenches (Figs 1-3) were excavated within the proposed development area, amounting to 5450m². A summary of the trenches excavated is contained in Appendix 4.

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

Trench positions were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment and all trenches were backfilled.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Numbers in bold refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 2. A summary of the trenches excavated is contained in Appendix 4.

The deposits throughout the proposed development area predominantly consisted of between 0.3m and 0.7m of dark brown sandy silt topsoil (**001**). The natural geology consisted of free-draining sand and gravels varying in colour from light brown to mid-brown/orange (**000**). The deposits were slightly deeper on the southern facing slope of the river terrace.

Numerous modern plough scars were observed during the evaluation, generally orientated north to south.

One small sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from Trench 3 and a small piece of burnt flint was recovered from the spoil of Trench 51. Other than the two isolated finds, no archaeological remains or deposits were identified.

4. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at land on the southern outskirts of Crathes, Aberdeenshire. Two isolated finds of potentially prehistoric date were recovered. Otherwise, no archaeologically significant features or deposits were identified.

CFA recommend that no further work is required in mitigation but understand that the final decision rests with the council as advised by ACAS.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the ACAS SMR.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* and an online OASIS entry submitted on completion of the project

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Shot No.	Summary or Description	Taken From
1	TR1, Post-ex, E - W	W
2	TR2, post-ex, E - W	W
3	TR3, post-ex, N - S	S
4	TR4, Post-ex, N - S	S
5	TR5, Post-ex, E - W	E
6	TR6, Post-ex, E - W	E
7	TR7, Post-ex, E - W	E
8	TR8, Post-ex, E - W	E
9	TR11, Post-ex, N - S	S
10	TR10, Post-ex, N - S	S
11	TR9, Post-ex, N - S	S
12	TR12, Post-ex, E - W	E
13	TR13, Post-ex, E - W	E
14	TR14, Post-ex, E - W	E
15	TR19, Post-ex, N - S	N
16	TR17, Post-ex, E - W	W
17	TR18, Post-ex, ENE - WSW	WSW
18	TR16, Post-ex, NW - SE	NW
19	TR15, Post-ex, ENE - WSW	ENE
20	TR20, Post-ex, E - W	E
21	TR21, Post-ex, NNW - SSE	SSE
22	TR23, Post-ex, E - W	W
23	TR24, Post-ex, E - W	E
24	TR25, Post-ex, E - W	E
25	TR26, Post-ex, N - S	S
26	TR22, Post-ex, N - S	S
27	TR27, Post-ex, N - S	S
28	TR28, Post-ex, E - W	E
29	TR29, Post-ex, E - W	W
30	TR30, Post-ex, E - W	S
31	TR31, Post-ex, E - W	E
32	TR32, Post-ex, E - W	E
33	TR33, Post-ex, N - S	S
34	TR40, Post-ex, N - S	S
35	TR39, Post-ex, N - S	S
36	TR36, Post-ex, E - W	W
37	TR35, Post-ex, N - S	S
38	TR34, Post-ex, N - S	S
39	TR38, Post-ex, N - S	S
40	TR37, Post-ex, N - S	S
41	TR41, Post-ex, W - E	W
42	TR42, Post-ex, W - W	W
43	TR43, Post-ex, N - S	S
44	TR44, Post-ex, N - S	S
45	TR45, Post-ex, N - S	S
46	TR46, Post-ex, W - E	W
47	TR47, Post-ex, E - W	E
48	TR48, Post-ex, E - W	E
49	TR51, Post-ex, N - S	S
50	TR52, Post-ex, E - W	W
51	TR50, Post-ex, N - S	S
52	TR49, Post-ex, N - S	S
53	TR49, W-facing section of trench showing (003) & (004); possible evidence	W

	of burning activities.	
54	TR53, Post-ex, N – S	S
55	TR54, Post-ex, N – S	N
56	TR55, Post-ex, N – S	S

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Number	Small Finds Number	Context	Trench	Description
1	301	002	3	Sherd of prehistoric pottery
2	5101	001	51	Piece of burnt flint

APPENDIX 3: Finds Register

Context	Trench	Description
000	All	Natural - mid brown/orange sandy gravel
001	All	Topsoil – dark brown silty sand
002	3	Mid to light brown sand

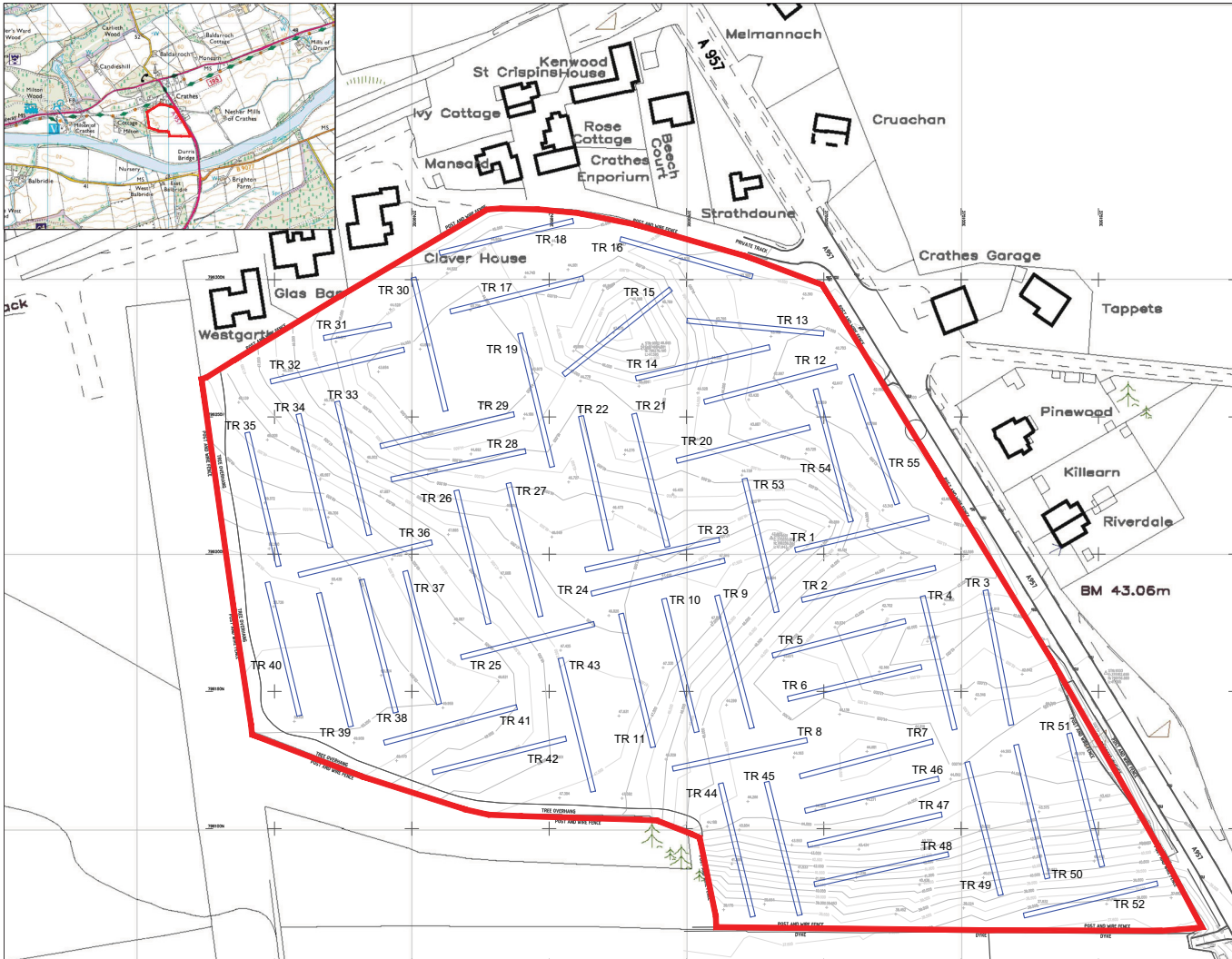
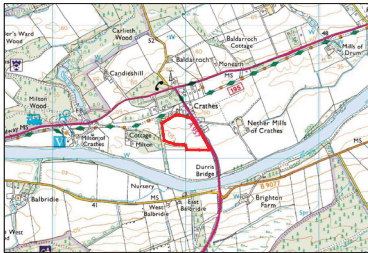
APPENDIX 4: Trench Descriptions


Trench No.	Size (m)	Depth of topsoil (m)	Depth of subsoil (m)	Features
1	50 x 2.0	0.3 - 0.45		No archaeological features
2	50 x 2.0	0.50	0.25	No archaeological features
3	50 x 2.0	0.6	0.1	One sherd of prehistoric pottery
4	50 x 2.0	0.35		No archaeological features
5	50 x 2.0	0.35 - 0.7		No archaeological features
6	50 x 2.0	0.8		No archaeological features
7	50 x 2.0	0.3		No archaeological features
8	50 x 2.0	0.45		No archaeological features
9	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 1.0		No archaeological features
10	50 x 2.0	0.4 – 0.7		No archaeological features
11	50 x 2.0	0.35		No archaeological features
12	50 x 2.0	0.4		No archaeological features
13	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.75		No archaeological features
14	50 x 2.0	0.4		No archaeological features
15	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.7		No archaeological features
16	50 x 2.0	0.4		No archaeological features
17	50 x 2.0	0.5		No archaeological features
18	50 x 2.0	0.34 – 0.4		No archaeological features
19	50 x 2.0	0.45		No archaeological features
20	50 x 2.0	0.35		No archaeological features
21	50 x 2.0	0.5		No archaeological features
22	50 x 2.0	0.5 – 0.65		No archaeological features
23	50 x 2.0	0.3		No archaeological features
24	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.45		No archaeological features
25	50 x 2.0	0.4 – 0.6		No archaeological features
26	50 x 2.0	0.4 – 0.5		No archaeological features
27	50 x 2.0	0.5		No archaeological features
28	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.6		No archaeological features
29	50 x 2.0	0.6		No archaeological features
30	50 x 2.0	0.3		No archaeological features
31	25 x 2.0	0.4		No archaeological features
32	50 x 2.0	0.3		No archaeological features

Trench No.	Size (m)	Depth of topsoil (m)	Depth of subsoil (m)	Features
33	50 x 2.0	0.3		No archaeological features
34	50 x 2.0	0.3		No archaeological features
35	50 x 2.0	0.35		No archaeological features
36	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.4		No archaeological features
37	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.6		No archaeological features
38	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.6		No archaeological features
39	50 x 2.0	0.24		No archaeological features
40	50 x 2.0	0.3		No archaeological features
41	50 x 2.0	0.3		No archaeological features
42	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.5		No archaeological features
43	50 x 2.0	0.12 – 0.35		No archaeological features
44	50 x 2.0	0.4 – 0.55		No archaeological features
45	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.4		No archaeological features
46	50 x 2.0	0.28		No archaeological features
47	50 x 2.0	0.35		No archaeological features
48	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.7		No archaeological features
49	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.5		No archaeological features
50	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.85		No archaeological features
51	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.5		One small burnt flint found in spoil
52	50 x 2.0	0.55		N-S clay pipe field drain
53	50 x 2.0	0.3 – 0.7		No archaeological features
54	50 x 2.0	0.4		No archaeological features
55	50 x 2.0	0.3		No archaeological features

APPENDIX 5: Discovery and Excavation In Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeenshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Residential Development at Crathes, Aberdeenshire
PROJECT CODE:	CRAT
PARISH:	Banchory-Ternan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	G Savory
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 74961 96212 (centred)
START DATE (this season)	November 2013
END DATE (this season)	November 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A trial trenching evaluation was carried out in advance of a proposed residential development. Fifty five trenches were excavated amounting to 5450m ² were excavated. One sherd of prehistoric pottery and one piece of burnt flint were recovered from the topsoil.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Stewart Milne Homes Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	gsavory@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS, Reports lodged with SMR and NMRS.






REGISTRED ORGANISATION

Key:

- Development boundary
- Evaluation trench



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
The Old Engine House
Lambie Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian, EH21 1PG
© 0131 275 6285
F 0131 275 6381
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Fig. No: 1	Revision: A
Title: Location map and trench plan	
Project: Residential Development, Crathes, Aberdeenshire Archaeological Evaluation	
Client: Stewart Milne Homes Ltd	
Scale at A3: 1:1250	
Drawn by: KH	Checked: BG
Report No: 3106	



Fig. 2 – Trench 21



Fig. 3 – Trench 43

Fig. No: 2-3		Revision: A	Project: Residential Development, Crathes, Aberdeenshire. Archaeological Evaluation
Drawn by: KH	Checked: BG	Report No: 3106	Client: Stewart Milne Homes Ltd



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 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

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