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Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**Carron Den
Stonehaven
Aberdeen
Archaeological Evaluation**

**Data Structure Report
No. 3204**

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

**Carron Den
Stonehaven
Aberdeenshire
Archaeological Evaluation**

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CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	4
3.	Archaeological Results	5
4.	Conclusions	6
5.	Recommendations	6
6.	References	6

Appendices

1.	Photographic Register	7
2.	Context Register	8
3.	Summary of Excavation Results	8
4.	Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry	11

Illustrations (bound at rear)

- Fig. 1 Location map and trench layout
Fig. 2 Ordnance Survey First Edition map (1868)
Fig. 3 Ordnance Survey Third Edition Map (1923)
Fig. 4 The northern field prior to trenching, looking north
Fig. 5 The southern field prior to trenching, looking towards the A90
Fig. 6 General post excavation shot of Tr.12, looking north
Fig. 7 General post excavation shot of Tr.60 showing bands of sand and gravel, looking north
Fig. 8 Disturbed natural 004 in the base of Tr.40, looking north west
Fig. 9 Height difference between western edge of southern field indicated by fenceline and western edge of A90 indicated by treeline on horizon
Fig. 10 Ceramic field drain in Tr.4
Fig. 11 Rubble field drain in Tr.59, looking south west

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in August 2014 at Carron Den, Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire. (NGR: NO 86000 85220) (Fig.1). The work was commissioned by Stewart Milne Homes Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) covering this programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of Stewart Milne Homes Ltd. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeological Service (ACAS).

1.2 Background

A planning application (Ref. No. KM/APP/2007/4949) has been approved for the redevelopment of former agricultural land into housing. The planning approval was subject to an archaeological condition that required an archaeological evaluation. The evaluation will initially cover 7% (c.5460m²) of the site that is available for evaluation (7.8ha). As a result of consultation with ACAS the route of an access road into the development was removed from the evaluation as there were a number of constraints that prevented the evaluation of this area.

The site was split into a northern and a southern field. The northern field was flat and bounded on the north and west by the River Carron and to the south by a steep slope which lead up to the southern field, (Fig. 4).

The larger southern field, (Fig. 5), was bounded on the north and north east by steep slopes that lead down to the River Carron and its flood plain. On the east and south-east steep slopes lead down to the Toucks Burn and on the western side the site was bounded by the A90 Stonehaven Bypass. Topographically the southern field dropped to the north east and gently rose to a shallow central ridge. The western side of the southern field was almost flat.

Ordnance Survey map editions dating to 1868, (Fig. 2), and 1924, (Fig. 3), show the site and its environs as open farmland and it is reasonable to believe that that land has always served this purpose.

Although no recorded archaeological sites lay within the development area to the north of the site the hill of Farrodine was the site of prehistoric activity including a cairn with an inhumation that was removed in 1795, a number of cist burials and cremations and beaker and food vessel burials. To the south of the site is Marischall Aisle a church dated to 1582, this sits next to Dunnottar Parish Church which was built in 1782.

Historic mapping also depicted a 'Corn Mill', with a lade which connected to the River Carron, to the immediate north of the site, (Figs. 2&3). This structure still stands and is now a private dwelling.

In the early 1980s the construction of the A90 Stonehaven bypass destroyed two farms which lay to the immediate west of the site. Both Kirkland and Sheelgreen farms appear on the 1st Edition map by the Ordnance Survey (Fig. 2).

No archaeological work is known to have taken place within the development area

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of works reported herein were:

- To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development areas through trial trenching evaluation;
- To establish the vulnerability of any archaeological features to the proposed development;
- To propose mitigation measures where appropriate to avoid, reduce or offset any predicted negative impacts on the archaeological resource.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

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

2.2 Evaluation

The proposed development area available for trial trenching measured c.7.8ha. ACAS required and archaeological evaluation of 7% of the available area, to be raised to 10% if features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified in the first 7%. Ultimately a total of 67 trenches (Fig. 1) were excavated amounting to c.6091m² (over 7.8% of the total area).

All trenches were excavated to the first archaeological horizon or to the top of the underlying geology.

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

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 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

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 3. General trench shots are provided in Figs. 6 & 7.

No archaeological deposits were found.

The deposits across the entire proposed development area consisted of topsoil **001**, this ranged in depth from 0.25m to 0.45m across the site. **001** overlaid the agricultural subsoil **002**. This varied greatly in depth across the site from 0.1m to 1m. Below **002** was the natural geology **003**, this was identified in all the trenches. It consisted mostly of an orange/brown compact, gritty, sandy clay or a pink/brown coarse gritty sand in the southern field. The northern field consisted of a yellow/brown coarse sand with bands of rounded cobbles forming paleochannels consistent with the area being part of a flood plain for the River Carron. In eight trenches along the western edge of the site adjacent to the A90 Bypass there was no subsoil below the topsoil which lay directly on disturbed natural, **004**. This disturbed natural was an orange/brown sandy clay similar to the natural geology across the rest of the field but it was loose and mottled by patches of topsoil. It also had scarring from toothed machine buckets and contained broken modern wooden posts and pieces of plastic sheeting, (Fig. 8). The western edge of the southern field appears to have suffered from ground reduction during the construction of the bypass. This may explain the disturbed nature of geology and the lack of field drains in this area. The height of the land on the western side of the A90 bypass is considerably higher than on the western edge of the southern field indicating that this removal of material may have taken place (Fig. 9).

Field drains of both the rubble and ceramic pipe varieties were noted on trenches in the southern field on its northern and eastern flanks, (Fig. 1 & 10). A single rubble drain was noted in the northern field, this drained away from a low, wet area in the field, (Fig. 1 & 11).

4. CONCLUSIONS

A programme of archaeological trial trenching was carried out on agricultural land at Carron Den, Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire. The trial trenches were positioned to provide a random spread across the area.

A sample of just over 75 of the total area of was excavated and features of archaeological significance were identified. As a result there was no requirement to increase the sample size to 10%.

Previous construction work apparently associated with the building of the adjacent A90 had lead to the disturbance of the western edge of the southern field.

5. RECCOMENDATIONS

No further works are recommended however it is understood that the decision regarding further mitigation lies with 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 ACAS Sites and Monuments Record.

On completion of the mitigation works a summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

6. REFERENCES

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey First Edition map, 6" to 1 mile (1868).

Ordnance Survey Third Edition map, 6" to 1 mile (1924).

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Photo Number	Contexts/Description	Taken From
1	General view of lower northern field	S
2	General view of upper southern field	N
3	Trench 1 post-ex	SE
4	Trench 2 post-ex	S
5	Trench 3 post-ex	E
6	Trench 4 post ex showing field drain	E
7	Trench 4, field drain in base of trench 4	N
8	Trench 5 post-ex	N
9	Trench 6 post-ex	N
10	Trench 12 post-ex	S
11	Trench 7 post-ex	SW
12	Trench 8 post-ex	SW
13	Trench 9 post-ex	E
14	Trench 10 post-ex	S
15	Trench 11 post-ex	E
16	Trench 13 post-ex	E
17	Trench 14 post-ex	N
18	Trench 15 post-ex	N
19	Trench 16 post-ex	N
20	Trench 17 post-ex	SW
21	Trench 18 post-ex	S
22	Trench 19 post-ex	SW
23	Trench 20 post-ex	SW
24	Trench 21 post-ex	SW
25	Trench 21, west facing section showing modern debris layer	W
26	Trench 22 post-ex	SW
27	Trench 23 post-ex	S
28	Trench 24, post-ex	S
29	Trench 25, post-ex	E
30	Trench 26, post-ex	E
31	Trench 27, post-ex	S
32	Trench 28, post-ex	E
33	Trench 29, post-ex	E
34	Trench 30, post-ex	E
35	Trench 31, post-ex	E
36	Trench 32, post-ex	E
37	Trench 33, post-ex	N
38	Trench 34, post-ex	N
39	Trench 35, post-ex	N
40	Trench 36, post-ex	E
41	Trench 37, post-ex	E
42	Trench 38, post-ex	N
43	Trench 39, post-ex	E
44	Trench 40, post-ex	E
45	Trench 40, disturbed mottled natural in base of trench 40	N
46	Trench 41, post-ex	N
47	Trench 42, post-ex	E
48	Trench 43, post-ex	S
49	Trench 44, post-ex	S
50	Trench 45, post-ex	E
51	Trench 46, post-ex	E
52	Trench 47, post-ex	N
53	Trench 47, disturbed mottled natural in section and trench base	
54	Trench 48, post-ex	N

55	Trench 49, post-ex	W
56	Trench 50, post-ex	W
57	Trench 51, post-ex	S
58	Trench 52, post-ex	E
59	Trench 53, post-ex showing palaeochannel at eastern end	E
60	Trench 54, post-ex	E
61	Trench 55, post-ex	W
62	Trench 56, post-ex	E
63	Trench 57, post-ex	N
64	Trench 58, post-ex	NW
65	Trench 59, post-ex	N
66	Trench 60, post-ex	S
67	Trench 61, post-ex	E
68	Trench 62, post-ex	W
69	Trench 63, post-ex	W
70	Trench 64, post-ex	N
71	Trench 65, post-ex	E
72	Trench 66, post-ex	N
73	Trench 67, post-ex	NW
74	General view of trench backfilling	
75	General view of trench backfilling	

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context No.	Area	Trench	Description
001	N/A	All	Topsoil - Mid-dark brown silty sand
002	N/A	All	Subsoil – Orange-brown topsoil/natural mixture
003	N/A	All	Natural geology – Orange-brown gravels, clays and sands
004	N/A	21,22,40,42,47,49, 50, 51 & 52	Re-deposited and heavily disturbed natural layer most probably from construction of A90 bypass bordering the site

APPENDIX 3: Summary of Excavation Results

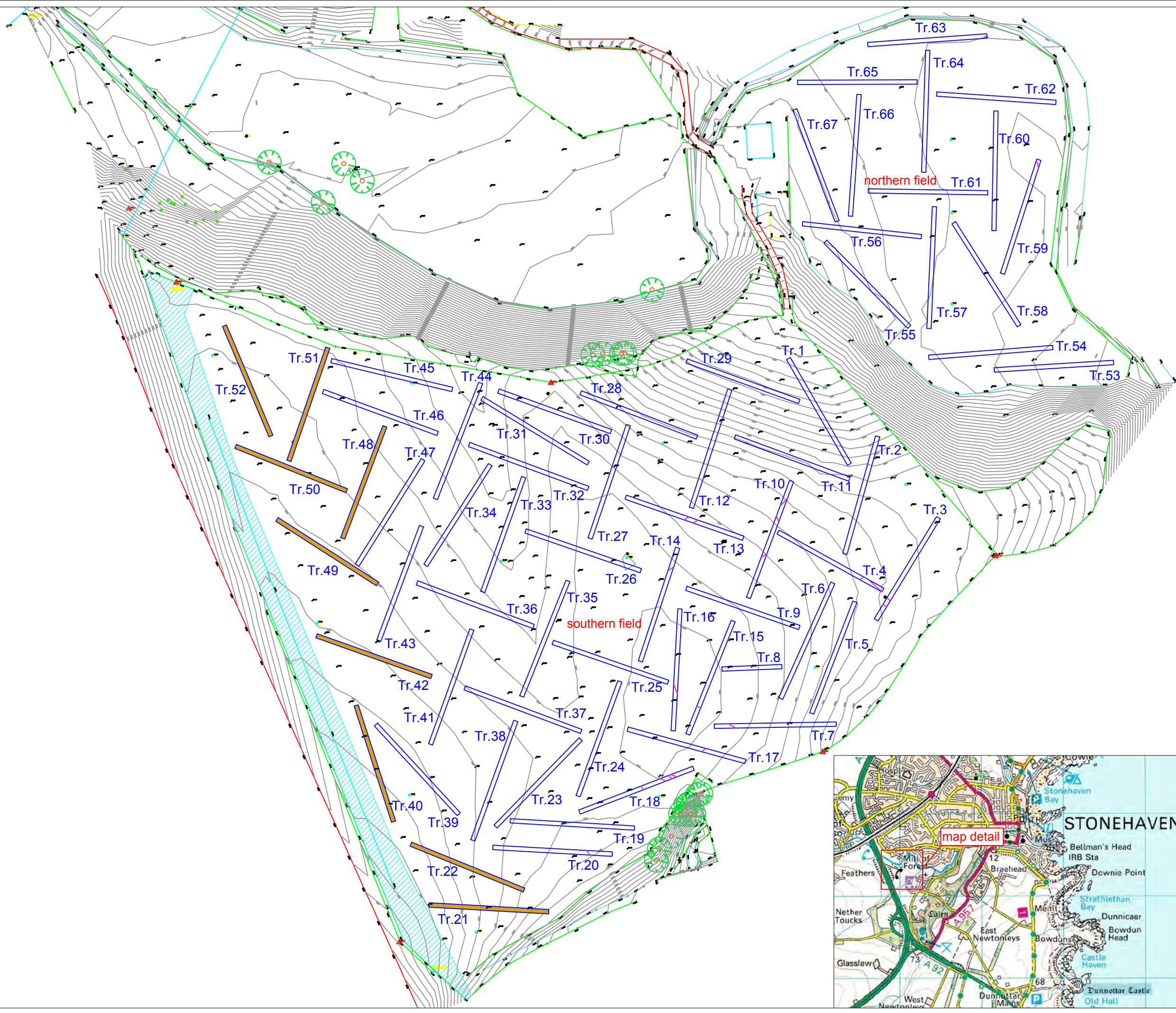
Trench Number	Trench Size	Depth of Trench	Description
Tr1	51m by 1.8m	1m at NW end and 0.4m at SE end	N/A
Tr2	51m by 1.8m	1.2m at N end, 0.25m in the centre crest, and 0.5m at the S end	N/A
Tr3	50m by 1.8m	0.45m	Ceramic field drain running E to W, 1m from S end of trench
Tr4	50m by 1.8m	0.6m	2 ceramic field drains at W end of trench
Tr5	50m by 1.8m	0.5m	N/A
Tr6	53m by 1.8m	0.4m	N/A
Tr7	51m by 1.8m	0.4m at SW end and 1.1m at NE end	N to S running rubble drain, 6m from SW end of trench
Tr8	25m by 1.8m	0.6m	2 ceramic field drains
Tr9	50m by 1.8m	0.5m	N/A
Tr10	52m by 1.8m	0.5 – 0.6m	3 ceramic field drains
Tr11	51m by 1.8m	0.4m	N/A
Tr12	52m by 1.8m	0.5m	N/A
Tr13	52m by 1.8m	0.5m	2 parallel ceramic field

			rains running SW to NE
Tr14	50m by 1.8m	0.5m	A single rubble drain running SW to NE
Tr15	51m by 1.8m	0.5m	A single ceramic field drain
Tr16	51m by 1.8m	0.55m	A single ceramic field drain
Tr17	51m by 1.8m	0.6 – 0.7m	A single rubble field drain
Tr18	51m by 1.8m	0.5 to 0.7m	Two ceramic and two rubble field drains
Tr19	52m by 1.8m	0.4m	N/A
Tr20	50m by 1.8m	0.4m	A single ceramic field drain
Tr21	50m by 1.8m	0.5m	Disturbed and re-deposited modern/natural layer (004) throughout trench
Tr22	51m by 1.8m	0.4m – 0.5m	Disturbed and re-deposited modern/natural layer (004) throughout trench
Tr23	51m by 1.8m	0.4m	N/A
Tr24	51m by 1.8m	0.5m	N/A
Tr25	51m by 1.8m	0.5m	N/A
Tr26	51m by 1.8m	0.35 – 0.4m	N/A
Tr27	52m by 1.8m	0.4m	N/A
Tr28	52m by 1.8m	0.4m	N/A
Tr29	50m by 1.8m	0.6m	N/A
Tr30	50m by 1.8m	0.4m	N/A
Tr31	52m by 1.8m	0.4m	N/A
Tr32	53m by 1.8m	0.4m	N/A
Tr33	51m by 1.8m	0.4m	N/A
Tr34	50m by 1.8m	0.3m	N/A
Tr35	52m by 1.8m	0.4m	N/A
Tr36	52m by 1.8m	0.4m	N/A
Tr37	52m by 1.8m	0.5m	N/A
Tr38	53m by 1.8m	0.4m	N/A
Tr39	51m by 1.8m	0.5m	N/A
Tr40	51m by 1.8m	0.4m	Disturbed and re-deposited modern/natural layer (004) throughout trench No modern debris
Tr41	51m by 1.8m	0.4 – 0.5m	N/A
Tr42	51m by 1.8m	0.5m	Disturbed and re-deposited natural layer (004) throughout trench
Tr43	51m by 1.8m	0.4m	N/A
Tr44	52m by 1.8m	0.5m	N/A
Tr45	52m by 1.8m	0.5m	N/A
Tr46	51m by 1.8m	0.3m	N/A
Tr47	52m by 1.8m	0.5 – 0.8m	N/A
Tr48	50m by 1.8m	0.4m	Disturbed and re-deposited modern/natural layer (004) throughout trench
Tr49	50m by 1.8m	0.7m	Disturbed and re-deposited





			modern/natural layer (004) throughout trench
Tr50	50m by 1.8m	0.7m	Areas of re-deposited layer (004)
Tr51	50m by 1.8m	0.5m	Disturbed and re- deposited modern/natural layer (004) throughout trench
Tr52	50m by 1.8m	0.75m	Disturbed and re- deposited modern/natural layer (004) throughout trench
Tr53	50m by 1.8m	0.5m	Palaeochannel/river gravels crosses the trench at E end
Tr54	50m by 1.8m	0.5m	N/A
Tr55	50m by 1.8m	0.7m	N/A
Tr56	50m by 1.8m	0.6m	N/A
Tr57	51m by 1.8m	0.5m	N/A
Tr58	51m by 1.8m	0.4m	N/A
Tr59	50m by 1.8m	0.5m	Blue/grey clay natural at extreme N end of trench, changes to orange/brown sands and gravels. Rubble field drain cuts through clay area
Tr60	50m by 1.8m	0.6m	N/A
Tr61	50m by 1.8m	0.7m	N/A
Tr62	50m by 1.8m	0.5m	N/A
Tr63	50m by 1.8m	0.7m	N/A
Tr64	51m by 1.8m	0.5m	N/A
Tr65	50m by 1.8m	0.3m	N/A
Tr66	51m by 1.8m	0.3m	N/A
Tr67	50m by 1.8m	0.4m	N/A

APPENDIX 5: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeenshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Carron Den, Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire, Archaeological Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	CADS
PARISH:	Dunnottar
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	G Carruthers
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 86000 85220
START DATE (this season)	August 2014
END DATE (this season)	August 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An evaluation took place on the site of a proposed development area on agricultural land at Carron Den, Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire. 67 trenches were excavated covering 6091 m ² or 7.8% of the site. No archaeological remains were uncovered.
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:	gcarruthers@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS, Reports lodged with SMR and NMRS.



Key:

-  Service buffer
-  Trenches
-  Disturbed ground
-  Field drains



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Fig. No: 0 Report No: 0

Title:
Site location and trench layout

Project:
Residential development at Carron Den, Stonehaven, Archaeological Evaluation

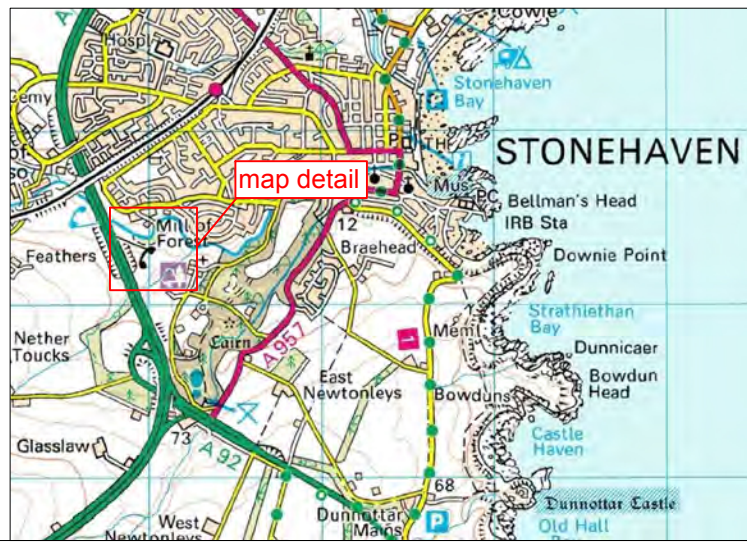
Client:
Stewart Milne Homes Ltd

Scale at A3:
1:1500

Drawn by: GC Checked: LW Date: 06/08/2014

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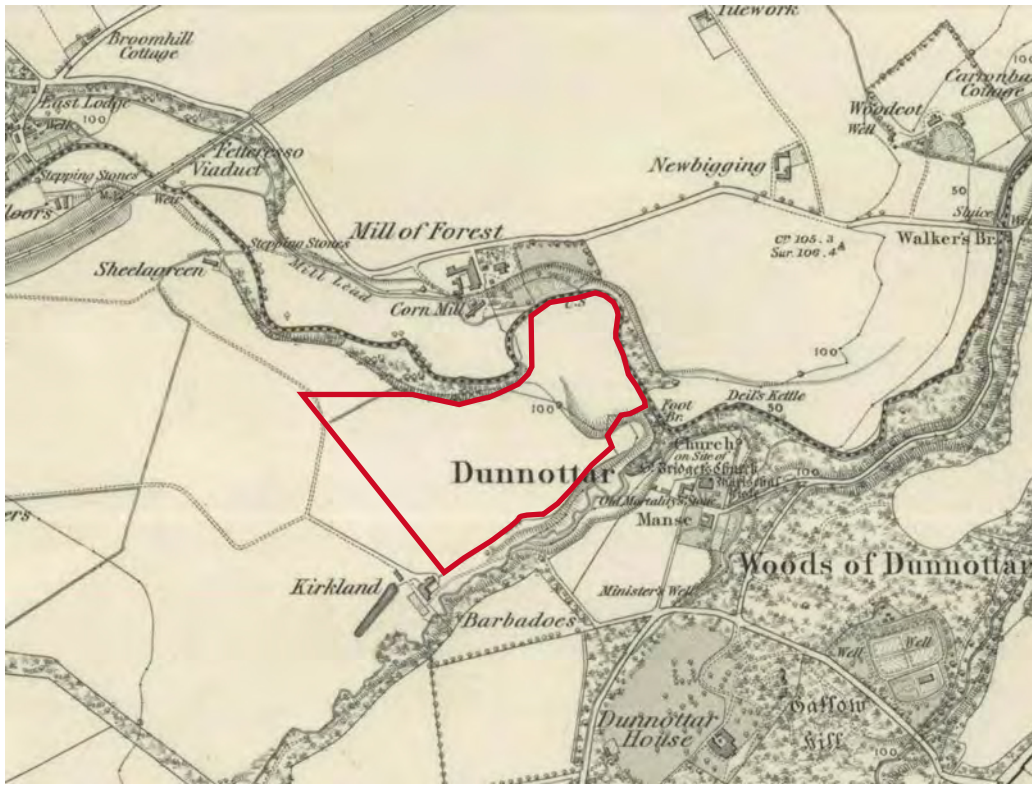


Fig.2 Extract from map by Ordnance Survey, 1st Edition, 1868

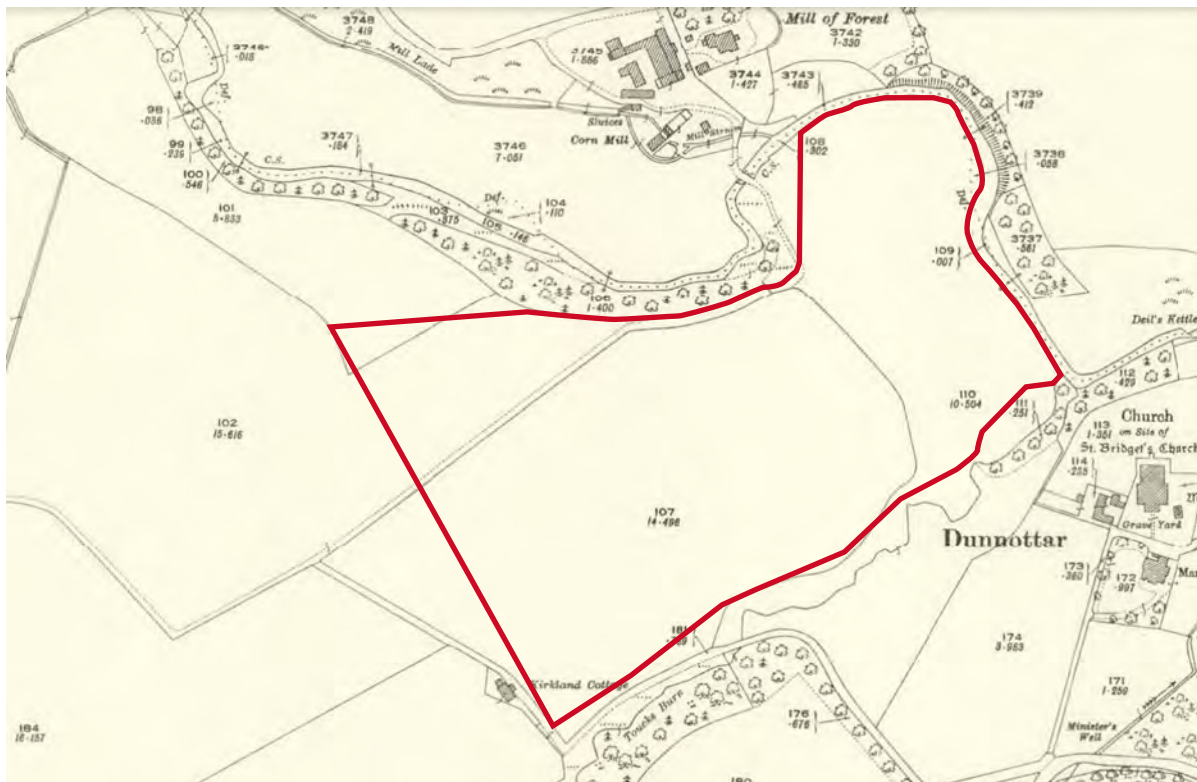


Fig.3 Extract from map by Ordnance Survey, 3rd Edition, 1923



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Title:
 Site Boundary
 Project:
 Carron Den, Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire,
 Archaeological Evaluation

Fig. 2-3	Report: 3204	Drawn: GC	CKD: LW	Date: 02/09/14
Client: Stewart Milne Homes Ltd				

Scale:





Fig.4 The northern field prior to trenching, looking north



Fig.5 The southern field prior to trenching, looking south towards the A90



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Title:	Fig. 4-5	Report: 3204	Drawn: GC	CKD: LW	Date: 02/09/14
Client:	Stewart Milne Homes Ltd				
Project:	Carron Den, Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire, Archaeological Evaluation				
Scale:					





Fig.6 General post excavation shot of Tr.12, looking north



Fig.7 General post excavation shot of Tr.60 showing bands of sand and gravel, looking north



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Fig. 6-7	Report: 3204	Drawn: GC	CKD: LW	Date: 02/09/14
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Fig.8 Disturbed natural **004** in the base of Tr.40, looking north west



Fig.9 Height difference between western edge of southern field indicated by fenceline and western edge of A90 indicated by treeline on horizon



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Fig. 8-9	Report: 3204	Drawn: GC	CKD: LW	Date: 02/09/14
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Scale:




Fig.10 Ceramic field drain in Tr.4



Fig.11 Rubble field drain in Tr.59, looking south west



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Fig. 10-11	Report: 3204	Drawn: GC	CKD: LW	Date: 02/09/14
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