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Field Evaluation & Excavation

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Site & Landscape Survey


Geophysical Survey


**Burnside Holding, Main Road, Woodside,
nr Coupar Angus,
Perth & Kinross
Archaeological Evaluation**

Report No. 1746

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Fig. 1 Site location and Trench Plan

Fig. 2 General shot of Trench 2

Fig. 3 General shot of Trench 11

Fig. 4 Shot of north-east facing section of probable field boundary **004**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in January 2009 within the area of a proposed housing estate at Burnside Farm, Burrelton, Perth & Kinross (NGR: NO 2027 3730 centred) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by KDM Architects LLP on behalf of Perthshire Housing Association.

1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CFA and approved by Oliver O’Grady, the Archaeological Officer for Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT) prior to the evaluation taking place.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 The proposed development site is situated on land previously used for arable farming. The site is bound to the west by a housing estate and the A94 public highway. To the north, the site is delimited by the perambulation of the Wellsies Burn. To the south the site is delimited by the Burrelton Burn. The eastern extent of the site is bound by the access track to Burnside Farm and the farm dwelling itself (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The site is situated on a knoll which crests toward the middle of the site. The site shelves in a north-easterly direction towards the A94 and the Wellsies Burn. Similarly to the south, the site shelves relatively steeply towards the Burrelton Burn (Fig. 1).

1.2.3 PKHT indicated that the development site may have archaeological potential given its proximity to a souterrain approximately 100m to the east and an enclosure at Woodside Holdings. There are other indications of past human settlement in the wider area of Woodside and Burrelton, largely identified as crop-marks of enclosures and structures. Significant remains of the Roman period are also found in the region, and the natural topographic and geographical location of the development site is conducive to past human settlement.

1.2.4 No previous invasive archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place within the proposed development area prior to this evaluation.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to evaluate the development area in order to establish the presence or absence, location, extent, date and character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the development site; and to establish their significance and vulnerability to the proposed development by way of trial trenching.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

2.1.1 Work was conducted with regard to the relevant Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) guidance.

2.2 Evaluation Strategy

2.2.1 The total site area is 14,600m² and a minimum of 5% evaluation was required (730m²). Fifteen trial trenches (Fig. 1) were excavated which had a combined basal area of 810m². Two small sondages totalling c. 17.4m² were excavated to evaluate possible archaeological features adjacent to Trenches 12 & 13. As a consequence the total area exposed was 827.4m² which equates to c. 5.67% of the total evaluation area. The area available for evaluation was restricted due to the presence of underground services. These comprised an underground foul water pipe which ran parallel to the Burrelton Burn to the south and a gas main which ran roughly north-east to south-west in front of Burnside Farm.

2.2.2 The trenches were excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and underlying deposits down to subsoil or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was reached first. All evaluation trenches measured 30m by 1.8m as standard.

2.2.3 Samples of all features of archaeological interest were hand excavated in order to establish their likely date, nature, extent and condition.

2.2.4 All hand excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures in this instance by drawing, digital photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

2.2.5 Trench locations were surveyed using industry standard surveying equipment and the trenches were backfilled on completion of recording.

3. RESULTS

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 Typically the soil profile within the site consisted of generally sterile, greyish-brown, slightly sandy silt, 0.35m deep (**001**). The topsoil was slightly deeper in trenches 4, 5 & 6, probably due to soil migration on the southern slope facing the Burrelton Burn. Further excavation in Trenches 4, 5 & 6 encountered an alluvial deposit of homogenous, sterile, reddish-brown, soft silty sand (**003**) with a maximum depth of 0.8m recorded in Trench 5.
- 3.1.2 The underlying natural substrate (**002**) varied (Fig 2 & 3), although the site can be broadly separated into two areas, north and south. The southern part of the site (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9) comprised compact clayey sand, pinkish red in colour, with common small gravels and occasional small to medium cobble inclusions. The northern part of the site (Trenches 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15) typically comprised compacted bands of reddish & yellowy orange medium grained sands, with occasional mottles of pinkish red laminated clay, iron pan and other mineral inclusions. Damp, medium-coarse greyish sand was noted at a depth of 1.2m in Trench 4, which may indicate past fluvial processes and the close proximity of the water table at this depth.
- 3.1.3 The truncated remains of rig-and-furrow cultivation were located in Trenches 10 and 14, surviving as shallow depressions c. 1.2m in width filled by yellowy-grey silty clay, <0.05m in depth. More recent agricultural practices were attested to by visible plough scars in most trenches and a series of field drains, which were largely confined to the north-east facing slope of the site, draining in the direction of the Wellsies Burn.

3.2 Archaeological Results

- 3.2.1 The truncated remains of a presumably linear, c. 2.8m wide, north-east to south-west orientated cut **004** could be seen in plan in Trenches 12 and 13 (Fig. 1 & 4). This feature was characterised by gently sloping sides, more gradual to the south-east, tapering to a concave base 0.30m in depth. The infilling deposit was homogenous, sterile, greyish-brown, soft clayey-silt (**005**). The feature in both trenches was heavily truncated by field drainage cuts, which in turn required small sondages to be excavated adjacent to both trenches in order to properly evaluate the remains.
- 3.2.2 The preferred interpretation of the cut, which ran roughly parallel to the Wellsies burn, is that this was the truncated remains of a narrow ditch which probably had a dual function as a drainage channel whilst possibly delimiting a boundary in this area. Although the precise date and function remain unclear, it is likely the feature is broadly post-medieval in date.
- 3.2.3 Close inspection of the north-east facing section of Trench 14 suggested **004** possibly continued in this area (Fig. 1). However, as no traces of the feature were visible in Trench 1, it is presumed that it had been truncated, probably by agricultural practices as the ground rises in this direction.

4. SUMMARY

- 4.1 A total of 15 trial trenches and two small sondages were excavated during the evaluation. This totalled 827.4m² or 5.67% of the proposed development site.
- 4.2 The evaluation discovered the truncated remains of a drainage or boundary ditch (**004**), of probable post-medieval origin, in Trenches 12 and 13, with the suggestion from section evidence in Trench 14 that it may have continued in a south-easterly direction prior to complete truncation.
- 4.3 No other archaeological deposits or features were discovered during the evaluation.
- 4.4 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 Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.
- 4.5 A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 2010*.

APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF EVALUATION TRENCHES

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth of topsoil/other soil min/max (m)	Features
1	30	1.8	0.35	No Archaeological Features
2	30	1.8	0.35	No Archaeological Features
3	30	1.8	0.35	No Archaeological Features
4	30	1.8	0.4	No Archaeological Features
5	30	1.8	0.4	No Archaeological Features
6	30	1.8	0.4	No Archaeological Features
7	30	1.8	0.35	No Archaeological Features
8	30	1.8	0.35	No Archaeological Features
9	30	1.8	0.35	No Archaeological Features
10	30	1.8	0.35	No Archaeological Features
11	30	1.8	0.35	No Archaeological Features
12	30	1.8	0.35	Probable field drainage / boundary ditch 004
13	30	1.8	0.35	Probable field drainage / boundary ditch 004
14	30	1.8	0.35	Possible continuation of field drainage / Boundary ditch 004 noted in NE facing section.
15	30	1.8	0.35	No Archaeological Features

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Trench	Fill of	Type	Description
001	All		Deposit	Topsoil
002	All		Deposit	Natural
003	4, 5, & 6		Deposit	Alluvium
004	12, 13		Cut	Cut of probable drainage / boundary ditch
005	12, 13	004	Deposit	Homogenous, sterile fill of cut 004

APPENDIX 3: DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1	E	Overcast
2	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2	E	Overcast
3	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3	S	Overcast
4	Shot of modern cut within Trench 3	SE	Overcast
5	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4	W	Overcast
6	Cut of field drain within Trench 4	W	Overcast
7	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5	SE	Overcast
8	Post-excavation shot of Trench 6	W	Overcast
9	Post-excavation shot of Trench 7	W	Overcast
10	Post-excavation shot of Trench 8	N	Overcast
11	Post-excavation shot of Trench 9	N	Overcast
12	Post-excavation shot of Trench 13	SW	Overcast
13	Post-excavation shot of Trench 10	NE	Overcast
14	Post-excavation shot of Trench 11	S	Overcast
15	Post-excavation shot of Trench 14	S	Overcast
16	Shot of possible cultivation furrow in Trench 14	NW	Overcast
17	Shot of possible cultivation furrow in Trench 14	NW	Overcast
18	Post-excavation shot of Trench 15	S	Overcast
19	Shot of test pit within Trench 15	-	Overcast
20	Shot of test pit within Trench 15	-	Overcast

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
21	Post-excavation shot of Trench 12	SE	Overcast
22	NE facing section of ditch 004 in Trench 12	NE	Overcast
23	NE facing section of ditch 004 in Trench 12	NE	Overcast
24	NE facing section of ditch 004 in Trench 12	NE	Overcast
25	NE facing section of ditch 004 in Trench 12	NE	Overcast
26	NE facing section of ditch 004 in Trench 12	NE	Overcast
27	Shot in plan of truncated ditch 004 in Trench 13	SW	Overcast
28	Shot in plan of truncated ditch 004 in Trench 13	SW	Overcast
29	Shot of possibly continuation of 004 in NE facing section of Trench 14	NE	Overcast
30	General shot of backfilled trench	SW	Overcast
31	General shot of site showing topography to the SW	NE	Overcast
32	General shot of backfilled trench	-	Overcast
33	General shot of site	W	Overcast
34	General shot of site	S	Overcast
35	General shot of site	NE	Overcast
36	General shot of machine site access	SE	Overcast
37	General shot of machine site access	SE	Overcast

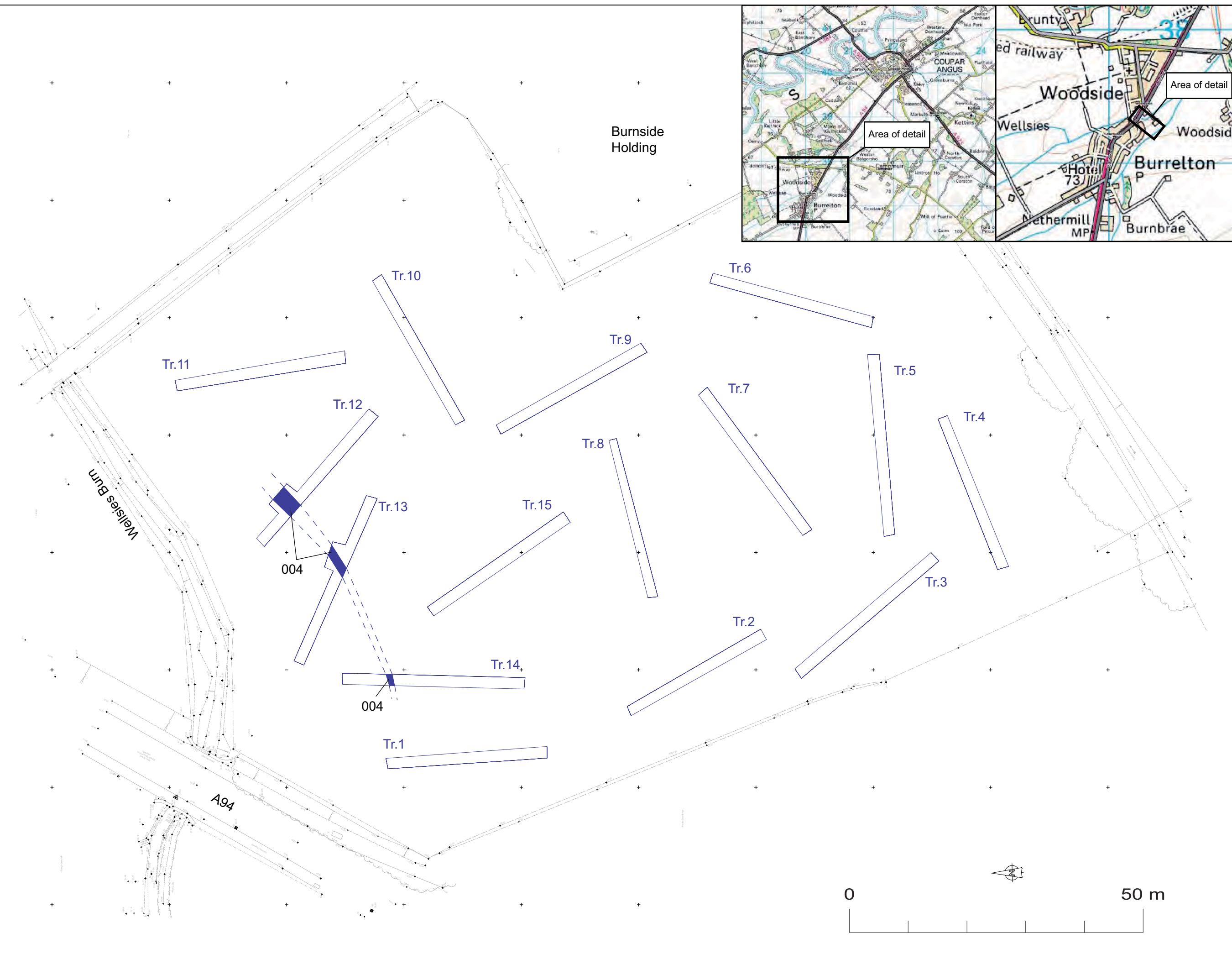
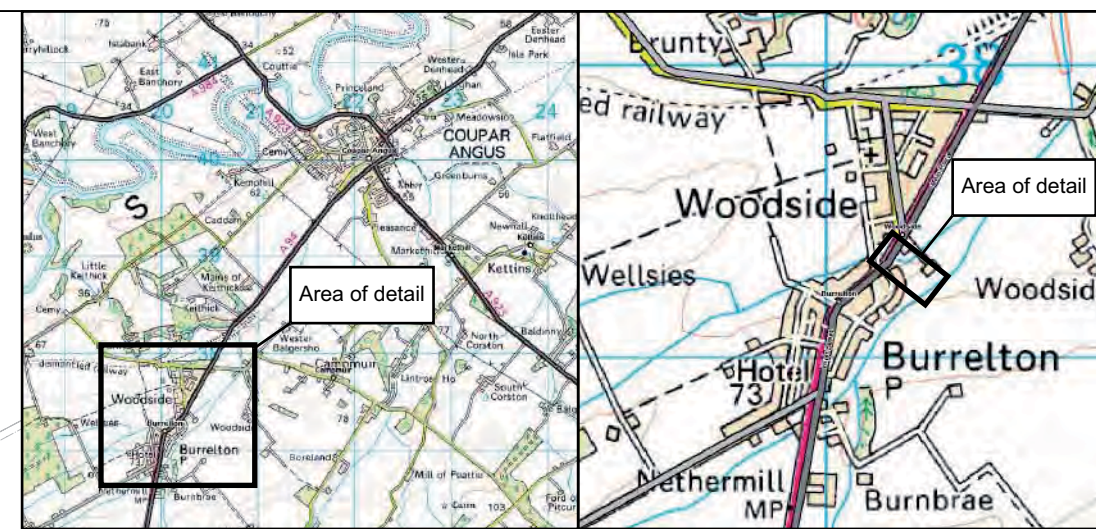
APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Burnside Holding, Main Road, Woodside, nr Coupar Angus, Perth & Kinross: Archaeological Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	ARPI
PARISH:	Cargill
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Phil Moore
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Post-medieval field boundary / drainage ditch
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 2027 3730
START DATE (this season)	January 2009
END DATE (this season)	January 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation by way of trial trenching at the proposed development site. In total 15 trenches amounting to 810m² were excavated which accounted for 5.6% of the total area.</p> <p>Only one archaeological feature was discovered and comprised the truncated remains of a shallow linear feature orientated NE-SW, and was interpreted as a post-medieval drainage or boundary ditch.</p> <p>No other features were identified.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Perthshire Housing Association
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Old Engine House, Eskmills Business Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NMRS / Perth & Kinross SMR



Key:

- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature



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Fig. No:	1	Revision:	A
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Title:
Site location and Trench layout

Project:
Burnside Holding, Main Road, Woodside, nr Coupar Angus, Perth and Kinross

Scale:

Client:
Perthshire Housing Association



Fig. 2 General shot of Trench 2



Fig. 3 General shot of Trench 11



Fig. 4 NE section of possible boundary ditch [004]

Key:



Fig. No: 2-4 Revision: A Client: Perthshire Housing Association

Title:

Project:

Burnside Holding, Main Road, Woodside,
nr Coupar Angus, Perth and Kinross



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