

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Advice on Archaeology & Planning*

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*Geophysical Survey*

**Land at Coupar Angus Road  
Blairgowrie  
Perth and Kinross**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**Report No. 1809**

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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**

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in August 2010 at Land at Coupar Angus Road, Blairgowrie, Perth and Kinross (NGR: NO 18694 43956) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Miller Homes.
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 30 July 2010 for this programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of Miller Homes. This WSI was produced in response to a verbal brief from Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT).

## **1.2 Background**

- 1.2.1 Planning consent (Ref No. 09/00741/OUT) has been granted for the construction of a residential development at Land at Coupar Angus Road, Blairgowrie, Perth and Kinross. The planning consent was subject to a condition requiring an archaeological evaluation prior to any groundbreaking works being undertaken.
- 1.2.2 A desk-based assessment (DBA) for the proposed development area was produced by CFA in December 2008 (O'Connell 2008) and submitted with the planning application. The DBA did not identify any cultural heritage sites within the proposed development area, but 42 sites were identified within a 1km study area centred on the proposed development area. Those of particular note include a series of later prehistoric cropmarks at Welton (SAM No. 7175, 7176 and 7177) located immediately to the east of the proposed development area.
- 1.2.3 The proposed development area (Fig. 1) measured c.4.9ha and was bordered by Coupar Angus Road to the south-west, Moyness Park Drive to the north-west, the line of a dismantled railway to the north-east and by Brucefield Road to the south-west. It was generally rectangular in shape with a protrusion to the south-west boundary, and consisted of former agricultural land containing scrub trees and chest-high grass. The available space for locating trial trenches was limited by a belt of mature trees alongside Coupar Angus Road which required a 30m stand-off zone from the canopy, and by a belt of semi-mature trees along the north-western edge of the area. Further restrictions on the location of trial trenches were imposed by the line of a sewerage pipe, which bisected the area from NNE to SSW.
- 1.2.4 The dismantled railway running along the north-east border of the proposed development was part of the Caledonian Railway branch line from Coupar Angus to Blairgowrie. It was opened in 1855 and although the regular passenger service ceased in 1955, it is understood to have operated as a freight line for a further c.10 years.

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

### **1.3 Objectives**

- 1.3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to evaluate the development area 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.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

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

### **2.2 Evaluation**

- 2.2.1 Fifty five trenches measuring 30m by 1.8m were excavated, amounting to 2970m<sup>2</sup> (6% of the proposed development area). In accordance with the terms of the WSI, a 30m stand-off zone was maintained from the canopy of the mature trees alongside Coupar Angus Road (as required by Perth and Kinross Council), and the line of an underground sewer that crosses the area was avoided.
- 2.2.2 Topsoil and modern overburden were removed by a tracked 360° mechanical excavator equipped with 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.
- 2.2.3 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.
- 2.2.4 The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.
- 2.2.5 Trench positions were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment and all trenches were backfilled.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

#### 3.1 Trial Trenches (Fig. 1)

- 3.1.1 Numbers in bold refer to contexts, a full list of which are contained in Appendix 2. A summary of the trenches excavated is contained in Appendix 3.
- 3.1.2 The deposits throughout the proposed development area predominantly consisted of 0.2m to 0.4m of grey-brown silt topsoil (**001**) overlying free-draining orange-brown sandy gravel natural (**002**) (Fig. 2). The free-draining nature of the subsoil was reflected in the fact that there were no field drains identified. Made ground (**003**) underlying the topsoil was identified within Trench 39, Trench 40 and Trench 43, which border the line of the dismantled Coupar Angus to Blairgowrie branch line. The made-ground is likely to represent redeposited material relating to the construction of the railway. A modern machine dug test pit was identified within Trench 1 and a shovel head (Fig. 3) was identified in Trench 43, but there were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance. The shovel head is likely to relate to the construction/maintenance of the railway line.

### 4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Land at Coupar Angus Road, Blairgowrie in advance of the construction of a residential development. A desk-based assessment carried out by CFA in 2008 identified a concentration of later prehistoric cropmarks within the surrounding area, suggesting that the proposed development area was an area of high archaeological potential. Trial trenching did not identify any features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance.
- 4.2 CFA does not recommend any further archaeological work in relation to this development. However, the final decision on any further mitigation measures lies with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.
- 4.3 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 PKHT Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.4 A summary statement to be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 4) will be sufficient to disseminate the results of this programme of works. The project will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

### 5. REFERENCES

O'Connell, C 2008 *Land at Coupar Angus Road, Blairgowrie, Perthshire: Desk-based Assessment* CFA Data Structure Report No. 1687.

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

### *Digital*

<b>Shot</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Conditions</b>
1-2	Trench 1, general shot	NE	Overcast
3-4	Trench 2, general shot	NW	Overcast
5-6	Trench 3, general shot	SW	Overcast
7-8	Trench 4, general shot	SW	Overcast
9-10	Trench 5, general shot	SW	Overcast
11-12	Trench 6, general shot	NW	Overcast
13-14	Trench 7, general shot	NW	Overcast
15-16	Trench 8, general shot	NW	Sun
17-18	Trench 9, general shot	NW	Overcast
19-20	Trench 10, general shot	SW	Overcast
21-22	Trench 11, general shot	SW	Overcast
23-24	Trench 12, general shot	NW	Sun
25-26	Trench 1, modern trial pit	NW	Overcast
27-28	Trench 13, general shot	NW	Sun
29-30	Trench 14, general shot	NW	Overcast
31-32	Trench 15, general shot	NW	Overcast
33-34	Trench 16, general shot	NE	Rain
35-36	Trench 17, general shot	NE	Sun
37-38	Trench 18, general shot	NW	Overcast
39-40	Trench 19, general shot	NW	Overcast
41-42	Trench 20, general shot	NW	Overcast
43-44	Trench 21, general shot	SW	Sun
45-46	Trench 22, general shot	NW	Overcast
47-48	Trench 23, general shot	SE	Sun
49-50	Trench 24, general shot	SE	Overcast
51-52	Trench 25, general shot	SW	Sun
53-54	Trench 26, general shot	SW	Overcast
55-56	Trench 27, general shot	NW	Overcast
57-58	Trench 28, general shot	NW	Rain
59-60	Trench 29, general shot	SW	Rain
61-62	Trench 30, general shot	NE	Overcast
63-64	Trench 31, general shot	SE	Overcast
65-66	Trench 32, general shot	SE	Rain
67-68	Trench 33, general shot	SW	Overcast
69-70	Trench 34, general shot	NE	Overcast
71-72	Trench 35, general shot	South	Overcast
73-74	Trench 36, general shot	SW	Overcast
75-76	Trench 37, general shot	SW	Overcast
77-78	Trench 38, general shot	West	Overcast
79-80	Trench 39, general shot	SE	Overcast
81-82	Trench 40, general shot	North	Overcast
83-84	Trench 41, general shot	SW	Overcast
85-86	Trench 42, general shot	South	Overcast
87-88	Trench 43, general shot	South	Overcast
89-90	Shovel found in Trench 43	N/A	Overcast
91-92	Trench 44, general shot	South	Overcast
93-94	Trench 45, general shot	South	Overcast
95-96	Trench 46, general shot	South	Sun
97-98	Trench 47, general shot	North	Sun
99-100	Trench 48, general shot	NE	Overcast
101-102	Trench 49, general shot	North	Overcast
103-104	Trench 50, general shot	NW	Sun

105-106	Trench 52, general shot	NW	Sun
107-108	Trench 52, general shot	North	Sun
109-110	Trench 53, general shot	SE	Sun
111-112	Trench 54, general shot	SE	Sun
113-114	Trench 55, general shot	SW	Sun

*Colour Slide Film 1*

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-2	Trench 1, general shot	NE	Overcast
3-4	Trench 2, general shot	NW	Overcast
5-6	Trench 3, general shot	SW	Overcast
7-8	Trench 4, general shot	SW	Overcast

*Colour Slide Film 2*

1-2	Trench 5, general shot	SW	Overcast
3-4	Trench 6, general shot	NW	Overcast
5-6	Trench 7, general shot	NW	Overcast
7-8	Trench 8, general shot	NW	Sun
9-10	Trench 9, general shot	NW	Overcast
11-12	Trench 10, general shot	SW	Overcast
13-14	Trench 11, general shot	SW	Overcast
15-16	Trench 12, general shot	NW	Sun
17-18	Trench 1, modern trial pit	NW	Overcast
19-20	Trench 13, general shot	NW	Sun
21-22	Trench 14, general shot	NW	Overcast
23-24	Trench 15, general shot	NW	Overcast
25-26	Trench 16, general shot	NE	Rain
27-28	Trench 17, general shot	NE	Sun
29-30	Trench 18, general shot	NW	Overcast
31-32	Trench 19, general shot	NW	Overcast
33-34	Trench 20, general shot	NW	Overcast
35-36	Trench 21, general shot	SW	Sun
37	Trench 22, general shot	NW	Overcast

*Colour Slide Film 3*

1-2	Trench 23, general shot	SE	Sun
3-4	Trench 24, general shot	SE	Overcast
5-6	Trench 25, general shot	SW	Sun
7-8	Trench 26, general shot	SW	Overcast
9-10	Trench 27, general shot	NW	Overcast
11-12	Trench 28, general shot	NW	Rain
13-14	Trench 29, general shot	SW	Rain
15-16	Trench 30, general shot	NE	Overcast
17-18	Trench 31, general shot	SE	Overcast
19-20	Trench 32, general shot	SE	Rain
21-22	Trench 33, general shot	SW	Overcast
23-24	Trench 34, general shot	NE	Overcast
25-26	Trench 35, general shot	South	Overcast
27-28	Trench 36, general shot	SW	Overcast
29-30	Trench 37, general shot	SW	Overcast
31-32	Trench 38, general shot	West	Overcast
33-34	Trench 39, general shot	SE	Overcast
35-36	Trench 40, general shot	North	Overcast



37	Trench 41, general shot	SW	Overcast
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### *Colour Slide Film 4*

1-2	Trench 42, general shot	South	Overcast
3-4	Trench 43, general shot	South	Overcast
5-6	Shovel found in Trench 43	N/A	Overcast
7-8	Trench 44, general shot	South	Overcast
9-10	Trench 45, general shot	South	Overcast
11-12	Trench 46, general shot	South	Sun
13-14	Trench 47, general shot	North	Sun
15-16	Trench 48, general shot	NE	Overcast
17-18	Trench 49, general shot	North	Overcast
19-20	Trench 50, general shot	NW	Sun
21-22	Trench 52, general shot	NW	Sun
23-24	Trench 52, general shot	North	Sun
25-26	Trench 53, general shot	SE	Sun
27-28	Trench 54, general shot	SE	Sun
29-30	Trench 55, general shot	SW	Sun
31-37	General shots of Brucefield Road	Various	Sun

### **APPENDIX 2: Context Register**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Description</b>
001	N/A	All	Topsoil (grey-brown silt)
002	N/A	All	Natural subsoil (orange-brown sandy gravel)
003	N/A	39/43	Made ground (mottled orange brown redeposited subsoil)

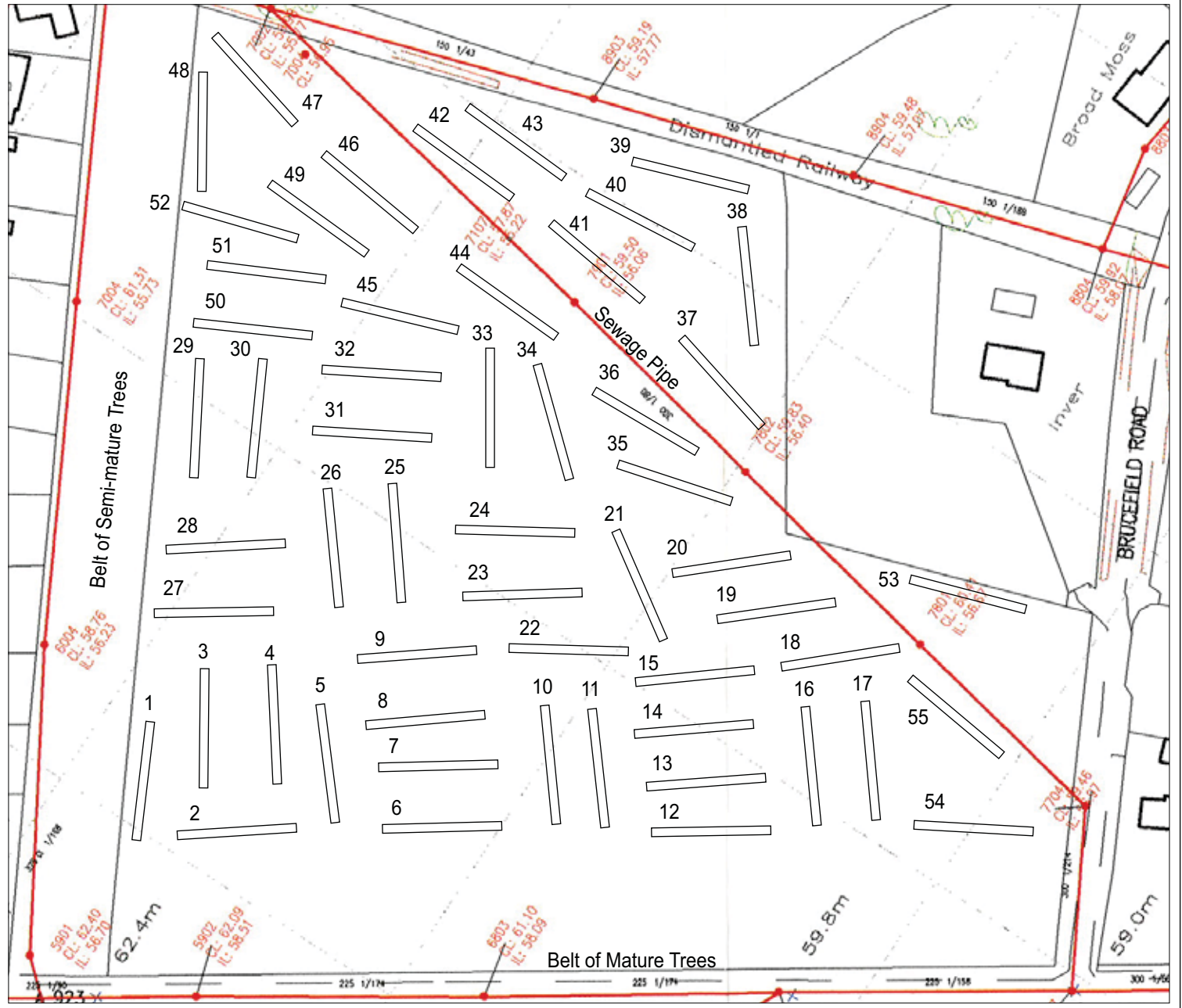
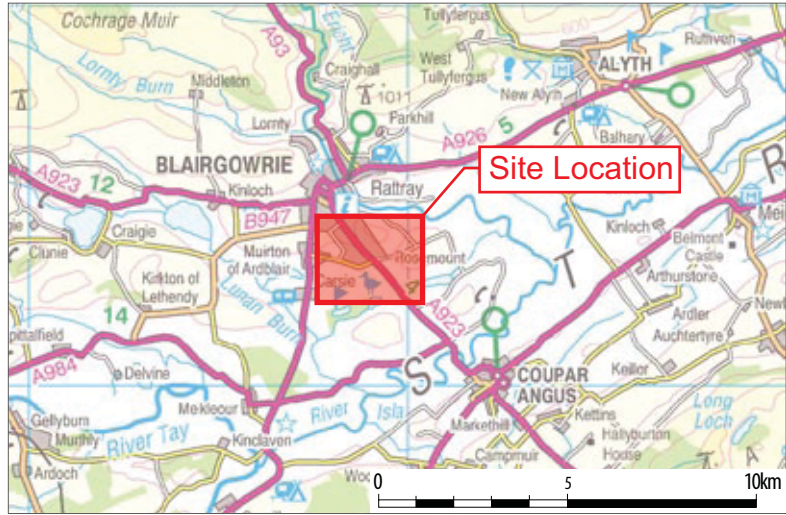
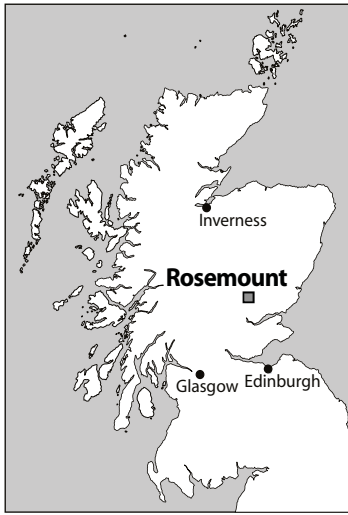
### **APPENDIX 3: Summary of Excavation Results**

<b>Trench No.</b>	<b>Size (m)</b>	<b>Depth of Deposits (m)</b>	<b>Features</b>
1	30 by 1.8	0.3	Modern machine cut test pit
2	30 by 1.8	0.3	
3	30 by 1.8	0.3	
4	30 by 1.8	0.3	
5	30 by 1.8	0.3	
6	30 by 1.8	0.3	
7	30 by 1.8	0.3	
8	30 by 1.8	0.3	
9	30 by 1.8	0.3	
10	30 by 1.8	0.3	
11	30 by 1.8	0.3	
12	30 by 1.8	0.3	
13	30 by 1.8	0.3	
14	30 by 1.8	0.2	
15	30 by 1.8	0.2	
16	30 by 1.8	0.2	
17	30 by 1.8	0.3	
18	30 by 1.8	0.3	
19	30 by 1.8	0.3	
20	30 by 1.8	0.3	
21	30 by 1.8	0.3	
22	30 by 1.8	0.3	
23	30 by 1.8	0.3	

24	30 by 1.8	0.3	
25	30 by 1.8	0.3	
26	30 by 1.8	0.3	
27	30 by 1.8	0.3	
28	30 by 1.8	0.3	
29	30 by 1.8	0.3	
30	30 by 1.8	0.3 – 0.4	
31	30 by 1.8	0.3 – 0.4	
32	30 by 1.8	0.3	
33	30 by 1.8	0.3	
34	30 by 1.8	0.3	
35	30 by 1.8	0.3	
36	30 by 1.8	0.3	
37	30 by 1.8	0.3	
38	30 by 1.8	0.3	
39	30 by 1.8	1.2	
40	30 by 1.8	0.3 – 0.6	
41	30 by 1.8	0.3	
42	30 by 1.8	0.3	
43	30 by 1.8	0.3 – 1.2	Shovel head
44	30 by 1.8	0.3	
45	30 by 1.8	0.3	
46	30 by 1.8	0.3	
47	30 by 1.8	0.3	
48	30 by 1.8	0.3	
49	30 by 1.8	0.3	
50	30 by 1.8	0.3	
51	30 by 1.8	0.3	
52	30 by 1.8	0.3	
53	30 by 1.8	0.3	
54	30 by 1.8	0.3	
55	30 by 1.8	0.3	

#### APPENDIX 4: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Perth and Kinross Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Land at Coupar Angus Road, Blairgowrie, Perth and Kinross
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	COUP
<b>PARISH:</b>	Blairgowrie
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Magnus Kirby
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR</b>	NO 18694 43956
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	August 2010
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	August 2010
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Land at Coupar Angus Road, Blairgowrie in advance of the construction of a residential development. A desk-based assessment carried out by CFA in 2008 identified a concentration of later prehistoric cropmarks within the surrounding area, suggesting that the proposed development area was an area of high archaeological potential. Trial trenching did not identify any features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Miller Homes
<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 (intended/deposited)</b>	National Monuments Record of Scotland, Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust Sites and Monuments Record



Key:

Scale: 1:1,500

Fig. No:	1	Revision:	A	Client:	Miller Homes
Title:	Location Map and Trench Plan				
Project:	Land at Coupar Angus Road, Blairgowrie				

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Fig 2 - Trench 45 from south



Fig 3 - Shovel Head found in Trench 43

Key:	Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	Miller Homes
	Title:					
	Project:	Land at Coupar Angus Road, Blairgowrie				
Scale:						 <p>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</p>
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