

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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**New Tennis Club,  
The John Johnston Coupar Recreation Park,  
Blairgowrie, Perth & Kinross.  
Archaeological Evaluation**

**Report No. 1815**

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Commissioned by	Blairgowrie Tennis Club
Date issued	September 2010
Version	0
OASIS Reference	cfaarcha1-82355
Planning Application No	08/01657/OUT
Grid Ref	NO 186 443

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

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Fig. 2 Section of 101

Fig. 3 Section of 103

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Fig. 5 Trench 3 from south-east

Fig. 6 Ditch 103, west-facing section

## **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 within the area of a proposed new Tennis Club at John Johnston Coupar Recreation Park, Blairgowrie (NGR: NO 2027 3730 centred) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Blairgowrie Tennis Club.

1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CFA and approved by Sarah Winlow, 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 public parkland. The site is bound to the west by a cricket pitch, the south by housing and the north and east by a disused railway, waste ground and arable farmland (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The site is situated on a river terrace of the River Ericht, this then flows into the River Isla and then into River Tay. The site is found on predominately flat land..

1.2.3 PKHT indicated that the development site may have archaeological potential given its proximity to numerous archaeological sites on the river terrace some of which are regarded as nationally important and have been protected by Scheduled Ancient Monument status. Most of these sites have been identified by aerial photography and, given the site's previous utilisation as parkland with a ground covering not conducive to identification by aerial photography, they considered there to be a need for assessing whether archaeological remains survive.

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 project are 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 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 approximately 2975m<sup>2</sup> and a minimum of 6% evaluation was required (178m<sup>2</sup>). Four trial trenches and a boxed out extension to Trench 1 (Fig. 1) were excavated across the site, giving 202.5m<sup>2</sup> (6.8%).

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. The evaluation trenches measured 30m by 1.6m 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 topsoil, 0.4m deep **(001)**.
- 3.1.2 The underlying natural substrate **(002)** consisted of loose sand with gravel and rounded pebbles, highlighting the river terrace nature of the site.

#### **3.2 Archaeological Results**

- 3.2.1 The truncated remains of two parallel and presumably linear features, **(103)** and **(201)**, both 2.1m wide and 0.6m deep, were uncovered in Trenches 1 and 2 (Fig. 3-4). These features did not extend as far as Trenches 3 and 4, where no evidence of them was encountered. These features were characterised by steep sloping sides with a rounded base. They each had a single fill which consisted of a heavily bioturbated mid brown sandy silt which showed evidence of root incursions (Fig. 6).
- 3.2.2 A linear feature 2.2m wide and 0.2m deep **(203)** consisting of ash and tarmac rubble was uncovered at the northern end of Trench 2.
- 3.2.3 A small circular pit **(101)**, 0.3m in diameter, was also uncovered in Trench 1 to the immediate south of **(103)** (Fig. 2). The fill was similar to **(103)**. An area 3m by 3.5m was extended around the pit but no other features were uncovered.
- 3.2.4 The preferred interpretation of the cuts **(103)** and **(203)** are that they are relatively recent boundaries, possibly previous field boundaries. The lower fill matrix of **(103)** produced two finds of broken 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century glazed ceramic. Linear feature **(203)** appears to be a modern track way possibly made to take wheeled vehicles during the construction of the Recreation Park. Pit **(101)** was probably a stone hole.

#### 4. SUMMARY

- 4.1 A total of 4 trial trenches and a small boxed out area were excavated during the evaluation. This totalled 202.5m<sup>2</sup> which is 6.8% of the proposed development site.
- 4.2 The evaluation discovered the remains of two parallel boundary ditches approximately 22m apart, (103) and (201), of probable post-medieval or modern origin. A small pit to the immediate south of (103) was probably a stone hole. A linear trackway (203) was uncovered and this is probably of modern date and may relate to the construction of the Recreation Park.
- 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	1.6	0.4	Probable boundary ditch <b>103</b> and pit <b>101</b>
2	30	1.6	0.4	Probable boundary ditch <b>203</b> and feature <b>201</b>
3	30	1.6	0.4	No Archaeological Features
4	30	1.6	0.4	No Archaeological Features

## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Trench	Fill of	Type	Description
001	All		Deposit	Topsoil
002	All		Deposit	Natural
101	1		Cut	Cut of small pit
102	1	101	Deposit	Fill of cut 101
103	1		Cut	Cut of probable boundary ditch
104	1	103	Deposit	Fill of cut 103
201	2		Cut	Cut of probable boundary ditch
202	2	201	Deposit	Fill of cut 201
203	2		Cut	Cut of probable modern track way
204	2	203	Deposit	Fill of cut 203

## APPENDIX 3: DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

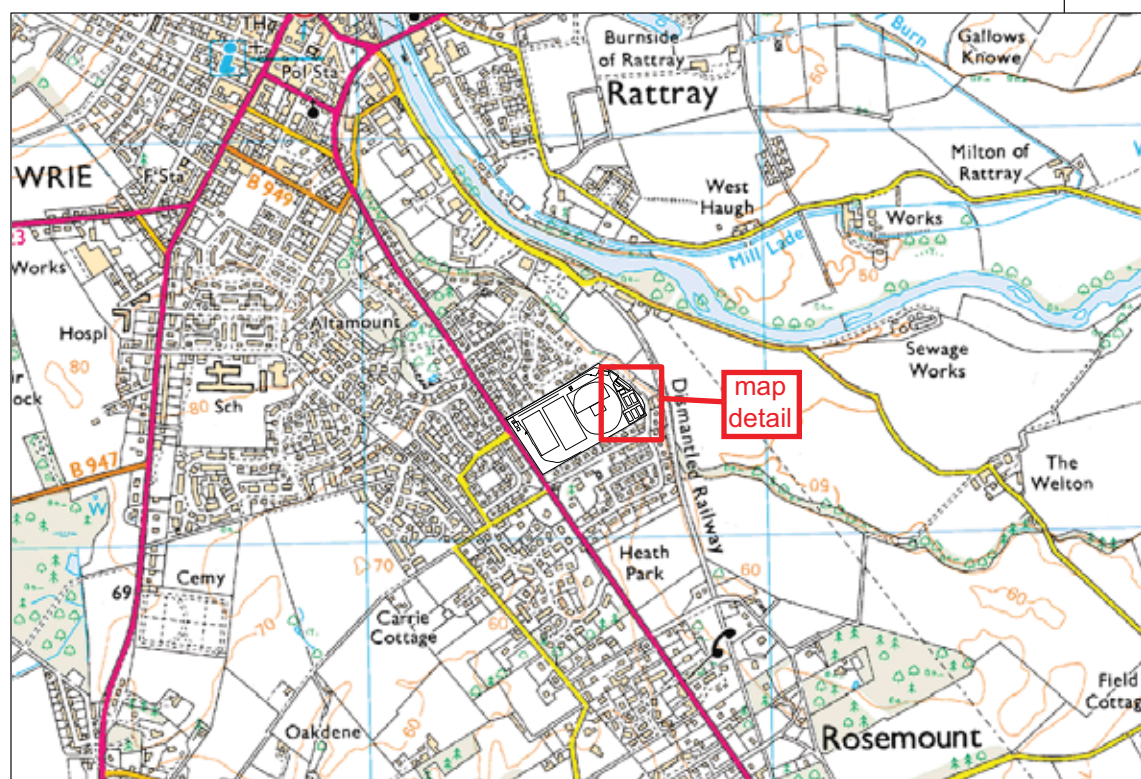
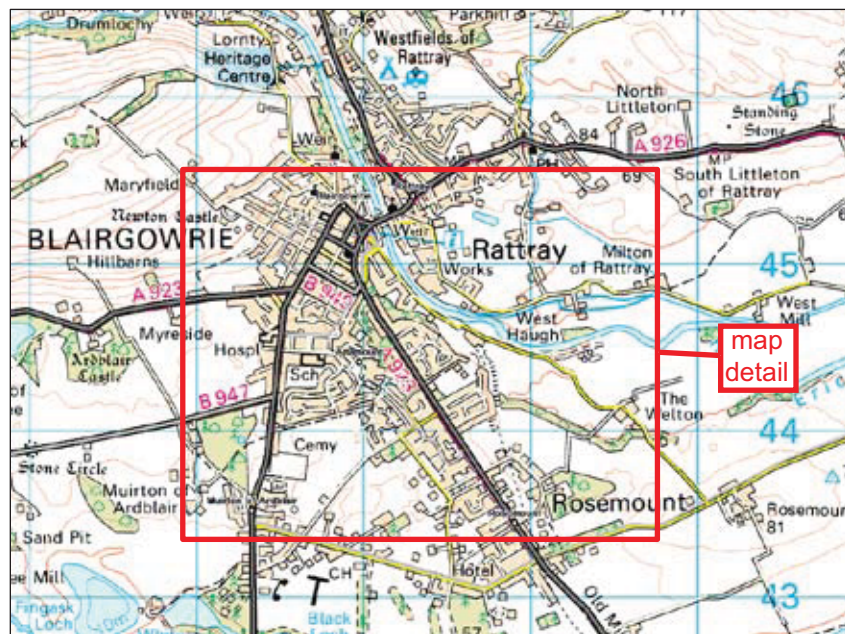
Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1	Registration shot		
2	General site shot	W	Overcast
3	101 pre ex shot	S	Overcast
4	101 east facing section	W	Overcast
5	103 pre ex shot	W	Overcast
6	103 SW facing section	NE	Overcast
7	Area of tree root damage to the SE OF 101	S	Overcast
8	Post ex shot of Trench 2	N	Overcast
9	?	W	Overcast
10	Post ex shot of Trench 3	S	Overcast
11	Post ex shot of Trench 4	S	Overcast
12	201 NE facing section	SW	Overcast
13	Section of Track way 203 in section	SW	Overcast
14	General shot of backfilled trenches	S	Overcast
15	General shot of backfilled trenches	S	Overcast



## APPENDIX 4: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Perth and Kinross
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	New Tennis Club, John Johnston Coupar Recreation Park, Blairgowrie
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	TECL
<b>PARISH:</b>	Blairgowrie
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Graeme Carruthers
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Post-medieval field boundary ditches
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NO 186 443
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	August 2010
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	August 2010
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (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 4 trenches amounting to 202m<sup>2</sup> were excavated which accounted for 6.8% of the total area.</p> <p>Three archaeological features were discovered and consisted of the remains of two parallel linear ditch features 22m apart and orientated NE-SW. These are interpreted as post-medieval boundary ditches due to the inclusion of modern ceramic at the base of the fills. A single small pit was uncovered adjacent to one of the ditches and is interpreted as a stone hole.</p> <p>No other archaeological features were identified.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	N/A
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Blairgowrie Tennis Club
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Old Engine House, Eskmills Business Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	Info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	NMRS / Perth & Kinross SMR

Key:  
 proposed new tennis courts  
 evaluation area  
 evaluation trenches



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Fig. No: 1 Revision: A

Title:  
 Location map and plan

Project:  
 The JJ Coupar Recreation Park,  
 Blairgowrie, Perth and Kinross

Scale:  
 1:500 @ A3

Client:  
 Blairgowrie Tennis Club

Drawn by: GC Report No: 1815

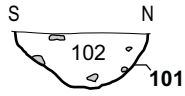


Fig. 2 East-facing section of 101

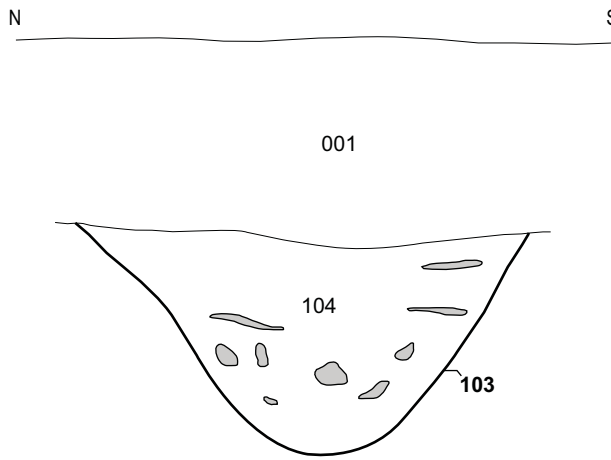


Fig. 3 West-facing section of 103

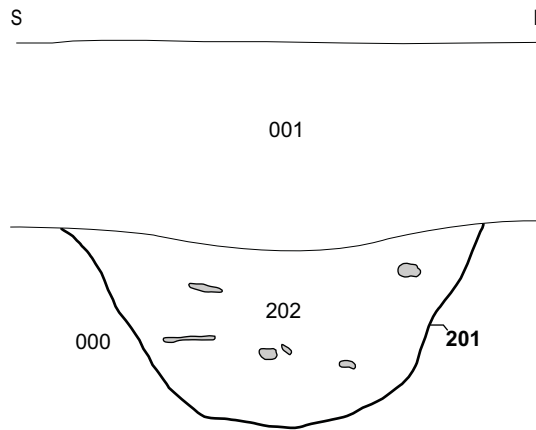


Fig. 4 East-facing section of 201



Key:  
 stone

Scale: 1:20@A4

Fig. No:	2-4	Revision:	A	Client:	Blairgowrie Tennis Club
Title:					
Project:	The JJ Coupar Recreation Park, Blairgowrie, Perth and Kinross				


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			1815



Fig. 5 Trench 3 from south-east



Fig. 6 Ditch 103, west-facing section

Key:	Fig. No:	5-6	Revision:	A	Client:	Blairgowrie Tennis Club
	Title:					
	Project:	The JJ Coupar Recreation Park, Blairgowrie, Perth and Kinross				
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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