

**ABERFELDY COMMON GOOD FUND COMMITTEE****1 May 2013****QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS 2012 CHALLENGE IN PERTH AND KINROSS****Report by Depute Director (Environment)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report seeks the approval of the Aberfeldy Common Good Fund Committee to designate the common good land referred to in this report as a Queen Elizabeth II (QE II) Field for the use and enjoyment of the inhabitants of Perth and Kinross. The opportunity has arisen following on from a challenge promoted by the National Playing Fields Association to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in 2012.

**1. BACKGROUND/ MAIN ISSUES**

- 1.1 The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge, headed by its Patron Prince William, was promoted by the National Playing Fields Association, operating as Fields in Trust (FIT), to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in 2012. Local authorities were asked to nominate areas to be designated by public recognition for their importance for sport, play or recreation. A wide range of sites were sought by FIT, including gardens, children's play areas, bicycle trails, nature reserves and sports pitches, with the requirement that all must be owned by the person or body making the nomination.
- 1.2 The sites given this designation are to be seen as the heart of the community and offering facilities or space for the improvement of general health and wellbeing. The key benefits of the scheme are:
  - i. Making an express and recognisable commitment to local people to safeguard land, facilities and opportunities for sport, play and outdoor recreation both now and forever
  - ii. Protecting public access to valued public outdoor space
  - iii. Providing reassurance to potential investors regarding viability and sustainability
  - iv. Ensuring that in the case of sale, proceeds are reapplied to replacement facilities, with a priority on new outdoor facilities
  - v. Raising awareness of the importance of such facilities in the context of quality of life, health, the environment and amenity
- 1.3 It is considered that the ethos of the scheme, and the benefits which inclusion in it can bring, are consistent with the concept of common good land provided for public recreation.

- 1.4 One of the aims of the scheme was to protect 2,012 fields by 2012 across the UK for the future. Perth and Kinross nominated 15 sites, all of which were successfully designated as QE11 Fields through public voting undertaken by FIT. Perth and Kinross Council was recognised at the prestigious FIT awards ceremony in London on 29 November 2012 as being the land owner with the largest acreage of land dedicated as QE11 Fields in Scotland. This reflects the high level of public support for the scheme within communities.
- 1.5 At the time of the applications, no financial assistance was being offered by FIT in Scotland to designated QE11 fields but subsequently funding has been offered. The Riverside Park in Perth was successful in the first round of applications in September 2012. It was awarded £6,500 for restoration of the round house and development of a planting area in conjunction with young people in the local community.
- 1.6 All successfully nominated sites have acquired Queen Elizabeth II Fields status. They can use any badging associated with this, but there is no requirement for any name change.

## **2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.2 Now that FIT have confirmed all the parks have been successfully awarded QE11 Fields status, the Council is required to enter into a legal agreement, or separate legal agreements, with FIT. These include an undertaking by the Council not to use the designated land for any purpose other than public recreation unless FIT agree. This helps to protect the land for community use. When the examination of the title deeds indicated that many areas were part of the common good of several former burghs, it became clear that the approval of the relevant Common Good Committee was essential.

## **3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The scheme gives the Council an opportunity to raise the profile of Birks of Aberfeldy and Victoria Park (see Appendices 1 & 2) and safeguard its future for the use and enjoyment of the residents of Aberfeldy and the wider community of Perth and Kinross. It was also considered an appropriate way for the Council to celebrate the Golden Jubilee in 2012 and acknowledge the value of key parks to our communities.
- 3.2 The Committee is asked to agree that Birks of Aberfeldy and Victoria Park Common Good sites be designated as QE11 Fields for the use and enjoyment of the inhabitants of Perth and Kinross in perpetuity, as part of the legacy project and is included in the Agreement which is to be entered into with FIT.

### **Author(s)**

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**Approved**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Signature</b>
Barbara Renton	Depute Director (Environment)	Barbara Renton
<b>Date</b> 19 April 2013		

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

*The undernoted table should be completed for all reports. Where the answer is 'yes', the relevant section(s) should also be completed*

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes / None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	<b>Yes</b>
Corporate Plan	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	<b>None</b>
Workforce	<b>None</b>
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	<b>None</b>
Strategic Environmental Assessment	<b>None</b>
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	<b>Yes</b>
Legal and Governance	<b>Yes</b>
Risk	<b>None</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	<b>Yes</b>
External	<b>None</b>
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	<b>None</b>

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan

1.1 The draft Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2013-2023 sets out the five strategic objectives. This report contributes to:

- Giving every child the best start in life
- Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
- Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

#### Corporate Plan

1.2 This report supports the Council's Corporate Plan 2013-18 objectives of:

- Giving every child the best start in life
- Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

## **2. Resource Implications**

### Financial

- 2.1 There are no resource implications arising directly from this report, future site improvements and refurbishment will be identified and contained within the future capital budgets. Site maintenance will continue to be met from within the current revenue budgets.

### Workforce

- 2.2 The proposals in this report have no workforce implications for the Council.

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 The proposals in this report has direct land and property implications. The Depute Director (Environment) has been consulted, and has indicated agreement with the proposals.

## **3. Assessments**

### Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.
- 3.2 The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:
- Assessed as **not relevant**.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.3 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.
- The matters presented in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

### Sustainability

- 3.4 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act,

the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.

- 3.5 The proposals have been assessed in terms of the requirements to manage the Council's Greenspace assets in a sustainable long term way. The designation, protection and promotion of the public parks and open spaces contributes to the overall environmental quality of Perth and Kinross is considered a sustainable use of resources.

#### Legal and Governance

- 3.6 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted.

#### Risk

- 3.7 There is no risk to the Council arising from this proposal. The parks and open spaces are highly unlikely to be used for alternative purposes in the future and provision is made within the designation should this occur.

### **4. Consultation**

#### Internal

- 4.1 The Heads of Legal Services, Democratic Services, Planning and Regeneration, Property and Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report

#### External

- 4.2 There was no External consultation in the preparation of this report

### **5. Communication**

- 5.1 There will be some communication about the designation of the sites. The type and format of the communication will be tailored to suit the particular circumstances.

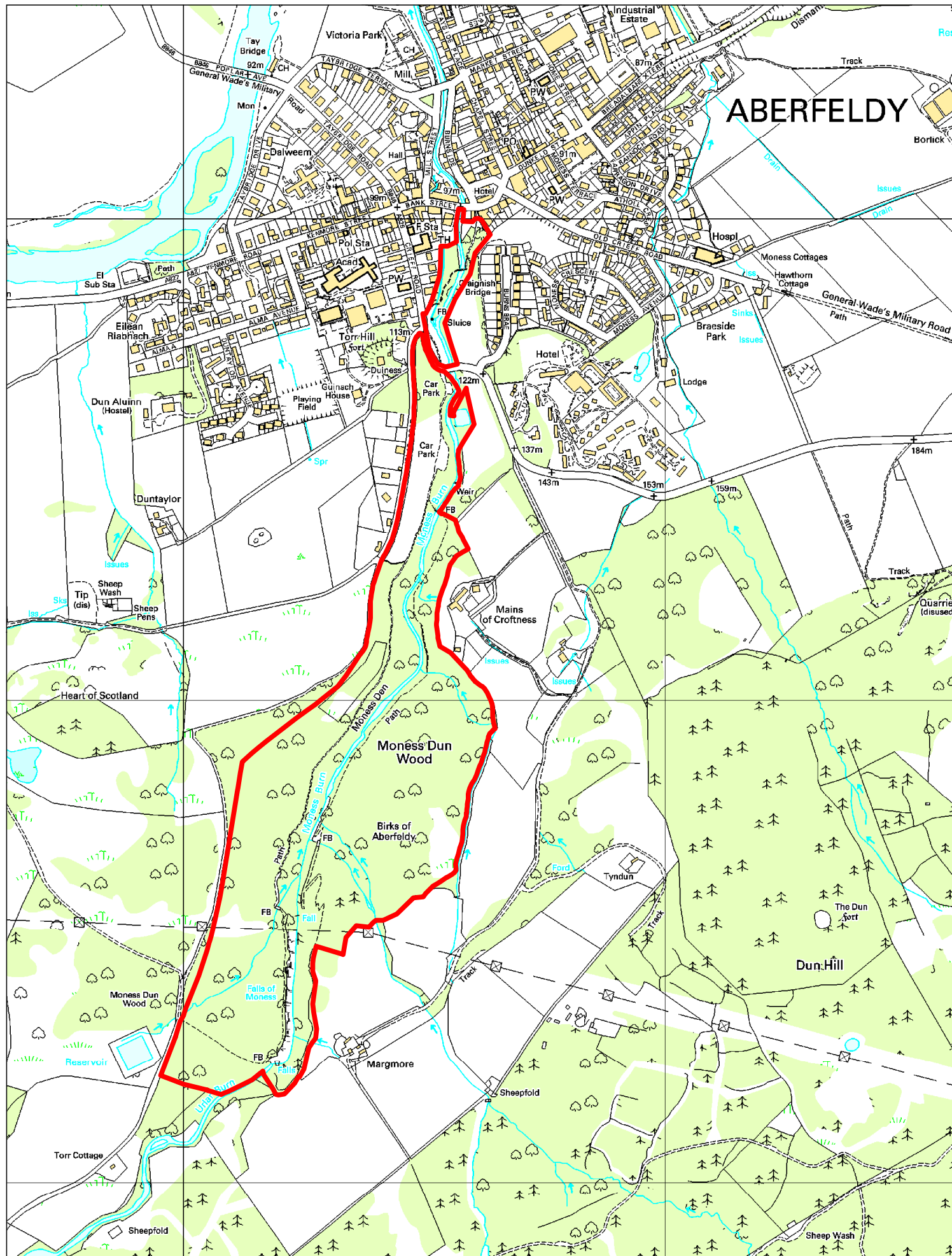
### **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report; (list papers concerned)

- Report to the Environment Committee on 8 June 2011 (Report Number: 11/302)

### **7. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Site Plan



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## Birks of Aberfeldy

Contact: J Evans

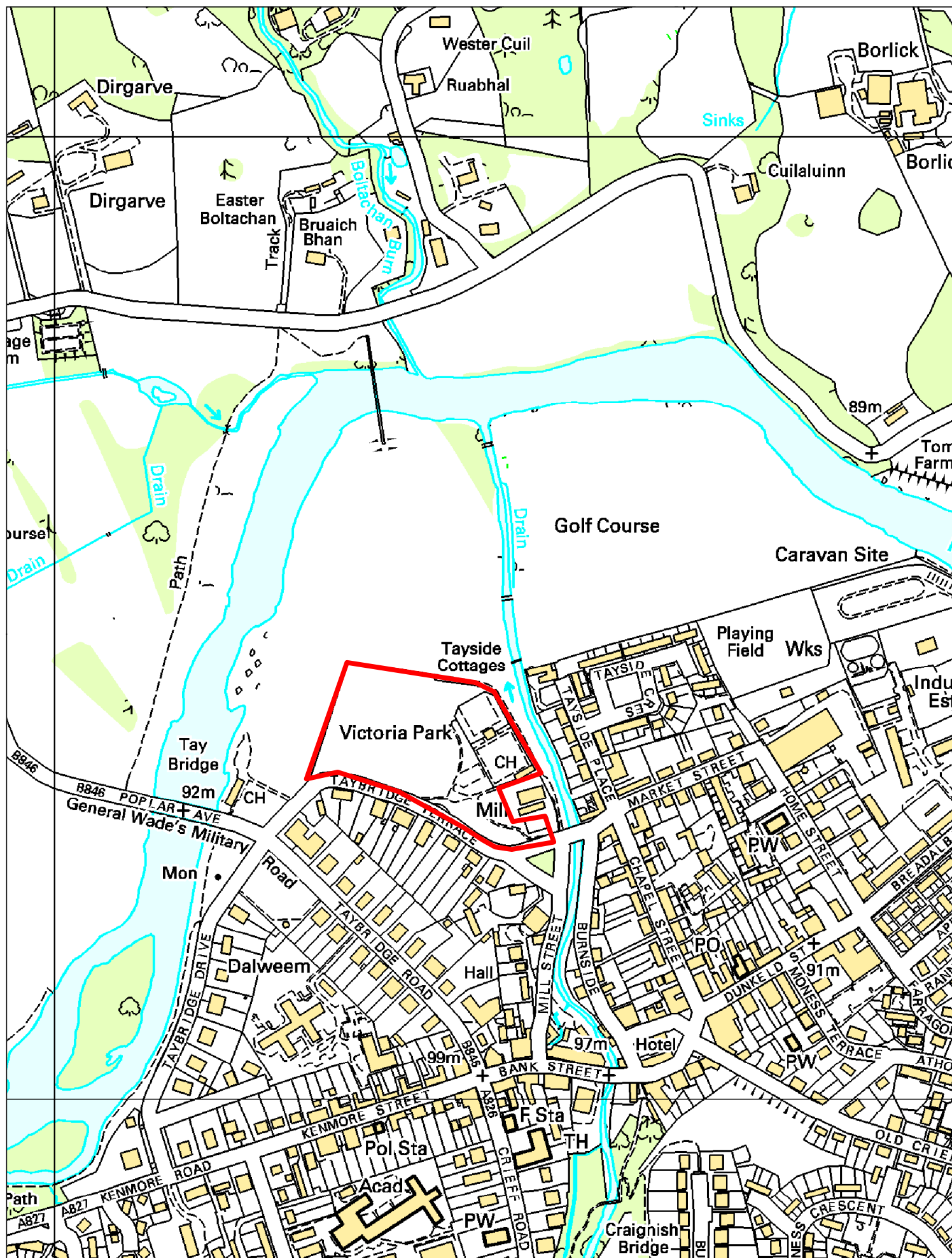
Date: 06/07/11

Map for use in connection with Council duties  
under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003

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## Victoria Park (Aberfeldy)

Contact: J Evans

Date: 06/07/11

Map for use in connection with Council duties  
under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003

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