

Archaeological Evaluation  
Inchture Primary School  
Inchture  
PERTH & KINROSS  
JH10



**Alder Archaeology Ltd**  
**55 SOUTH METHVEN STREET**  
**PERTH PH1 5NX**  
Tel: 01738 622393  
Director@AlderArchaeology.co.uk

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
INCHTURE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
PERTH & KINROSS**

**JH10**

<i>1</i>	<i>Background.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Details of Work.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Interpretation.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>Conclusions and Recommendations .....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Appendix 1</i>	<i>Context Register.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Appendix 2</i>	<i>Photographic Register .....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Appendix 3</i>	<i>Discovery &amp; Excavation in Scotland Entry .....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Appendix 4</i>	<i>Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork .....</i>	<i>7</i>

*Illustration 1: Site location plan*

*Illustration 2: Location of archaeological trenches*

**Author** Chris Fyles, MA, PCIfA  
**Illustrator** Chris Fyles, MA, PCIfA  
**Editor** David Bowler, BA, M Phil, MCIfA, FSA Scot

**ABSTRACT**

*An evaluation was conducted in advance of the construction of a new nursery building at Inchture Primary School, Moncur Road. The work (site code JH10) was carried out on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2019. Three trenches measuring 10.00m x 1.50m were excavated down to natural subsoil across the planned building footprint. Field drains and a deposit of demolition rubble were exposed. No finds or features of archaeological significance resulted.*

# **1 Background**

## **1.1 Introduction**

Perth & Kinross Council commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of a planned new build nursery block at Inchture Primary School. The proposed development area is a playing field, centred on NGR NO 28132 28846. The work (site code JH10) was undertaken on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2019, in fine weather conditions. The requirement was to excavate three 10.00m x 1.50m trenches across the planned building footprint.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 19/00243/FLL.

## **1.2 Aims and Objectives**

The main aim of this investigation was to establish the presence/absence, date, character and quality of any archaeological remains surviving within the development area.

## **1.3 Reporting**

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this evaluation. Copies will be sent to the client, The National Record of the Historic Environment at Historic Environment Scotland, and Perth & Kinross Historic Environment Record.

## **1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues**

This evaluation constitutes archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development.

## **1.5 Acknowledgements**

We wish to thank Jennifer Rooney of ECD Architects for her assistance and guidance throughout this project. Perth & Kinross Council funded this evaluation. Guidance was provided by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

# **2 Details of Work**

## **2.1 The Site (Illus 1)**

Inchture Primary is located on the N side of Moncur Road at the NE end of the village of Inchture, across the road from the parish church. The planned footprint of the nursery block occupied the N end of an area of grass currently used as the school play area. The street front was fringed by four mature giant redwood trees, part of an avenue leading E towards Rossie Priory, a mansion constructed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century by Charles, 8<sup>th</sup> Lord Kinnaird. Other trees bordered the NE and SW sides of the grass, with a NW-SE boundary wall also to the E and a path leading to the school to the W. The main school buildings lay to the NW of the grass, across a tarmac playground. The grassed area sloped slightly to the S, towards Moncur Road.

## **2.2 Archaeological Potential**

The area of Inchture is considered archaeologically sensitive and includes a nationally significant prehistoric settlement and medieval enclosure (SM7505) located 500m SE of the primary school site. In 2006, work by SUAT Ltd demonstrated that remains extended beyond the scheduled area into the Glebe Field to the SW; evaluation trenches exposed features including the stone foundations of a medieval building, boundary ditches and pits and postholes presumed to be part of the prehistoric settlement. This extensive area lies 400m S of the proposed footprint of the new nursery building.

## **2.3 Archaeological Method**

Three trenches, each measuring 10.00m x 1.50m, were excavated by a wheeled mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. It had been intended that one of these trenches would run diagonally across the building footprint from the SE corner; however, the presence of a mature beech tree with numerous overhanging branches behind the boundary wall close to this corner meant that the excavator could not operate without causing serious damage to the tree. Moreover, a giant redwood in the SE corner of the school site, although rather more distant, was nevertheless at some risk of root damage from the excavation. In consultation with PKHT, it was accordingly decided to reverse the position and orientation of the trenches, with Trench 1 now running SW from the NE corner of the footprint, Trench 2 on an E-W orientation across the centre and Trench 3 running NE from the SW corner.

## **2.4 Results of Investigations**

T1: surface rubble including fragments of brick and concrete was noted at the NE end of the trench; this continued in topsoil (0101), a dark grey/brown clay silt 0.10m thick. The topsoil merged into a mid-brown clay silt (0102) 1.40m- 1.50m thick; as a result of this depth, the trench was stepped at the NE end to permit safe access. Occasional fragments of white porcelain were noted (not retained). Ceramic field drains crossed the base of the trench on general E-W alignments. Below (0102), undisturbed natural subsoil (0103) was a smooth, yellow or mottled grey-yellow sand. No finds or features of archaeological significance were exposed.

T2: debris including an aluminium frame and plastic sheeting were exposed within topsoil (0201) at the E end of the trench. Below (0201), at a depth of 0.10m, subsoil (0202) descended to a maximum depth of 1.20m below the present ground surface, before giving way to undisturbed natural subsoil (0203); all these deposits were of identical composition to their counterparts in T1. In the base of the trench, a deposit of stone and brick rubble, concrete dust and crushed mortar (0204) extended from the W end for 2.40m to the E and was up to 0.15m thick. A sondage through this deposit exposed slivers of modern window glass. (0204) appeared to represent a modern dump of demolition rubble. Ceramic field drains crossed the trench at various depths but generally in subsoil (0202), on NE-SW alignments. No finds or features of archaeological significance were exposed.

T3: occasional stone and brick rubble was present within topsoil (0301); as this gave way to silt subsoil (0302), a broken concrete drain setting was exposed 3.00m from the SW end of the trench. This was part of the general rubble spread. (0302) was of a maximum thickness of 0.90m, below which lay natural subsoil (0303). Again, all three

deposits were of the same composition as in T1. 2.20m from the SW end of the trench, a rubble field drain (0304) was exposed, cut into natural subsoil (0303) and composed of fragments of local red sandstone. This measured 0.30m-0.40m wide, 0.40m deep within a matrix of dark grey silt and extended across the trench on a roughly E-W alignment. N and S of this feature were two ceramic field drains. No finds or features of archaeological significance were exposed, although the rubble drain suggested improvement of the site as far back as the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

### **3 Interpretation**

The presence of several field drains and considerable depths of what was essentially ploughsoil indicated the use of the site for agricultural purposes prior to its conversion to a school. Quantities of rubble and other debris, including dump (0204) may have resulted from the importation of material for levelling, represent waste from the construction of the school or perhaps indicate the former presence of an earlier building, demolished to make way for the present school. No such building is depicted on the site on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map of Perthshire (1867, surveyed 1861/2), or the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (1901, surveyed 1898); however, the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century Old Manse serving Inchture Church stood to the N of the site and was demolished in c.1980 to make way for the school. It is quite possible that some of the rubble derived from this demolition, although the presence of concrete suggests an alternative and more recent origin.

No finds or features of archaeological significance were exposed on the site.

## **4 Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **4.1 Recommendations for Further Work**

Alder Archaeology consider that the evaluation was conducted correctly and do not recommend further work in connection with the present development. However, the final decision ultimately rests with Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust.

## Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Trench</i>
0101	Topsoil, 0.10m thick, dark grey/brown clay-silt, moderately compact, occasional pebbles, some surface debris (bricks, concrete) in NE end	T1
0102	Mid-brown clay-silt, 1.40m- 1.50m thick, moderately compact, occasional pebbles, white porcelain fragments (not retained)	T1
0103	Natural subsoil in base of trench, smooth yellow/mottled grey-yellow sand	T1
0201	Topsoil, 0.10m thick, dark grey/brown clay-silt, moderately compact, occasional pebbles, surface debris including aluminium, plastic, in E end	T2
0202	Mid-brown clay-silt, 1.10m thick (max), moderately compact, occasional pebbles, white porcelain fragments (not retained)	T2
0203	Natural subsoil in base of trench, smooth yellow/mottled grey-yellow sand	T2
0204	Deposit of stone and brick rubble, concrete dust and crushed mortar at least 2.40m long, 1.50m wide, 0.15m thick in base of W end of trench, demolition rubble, containing modern glass fragments	T2
0301	Topsoil, 0.10m thick, dark grey/brown clay-silt, moderately compact, occasional pebbles, surface debris, bricks, concrete, boulders, in SW end	T3
0302	Mid-brown clay-silt, 0.90m thick (max), moderately compact, occasional pebbles, white porcelain fragments (not retained), concrete, brick and stone boulder rubble	T3
0303	Natural subsoil in base of trench, smooth yellow/mottled grey-yellow sand	T3
0304	Rubble field drain cut into subsoil (0303), 2.20m from SW end of trench, 0.30m-0.40m wide, 0.40m deep, spanning trench on E-W alignment, red sandstone fragments in dark grey silt matrix	T3

## Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
01-3	Location shots, N of site	NW, N, NW
04-5	Location shots, S of site	SE, S
06	Location shot, T1	SW
07-9	Working shots, excavating T1	SW
10-11	T1, post-ex	SW
12	Sample SE-facing section, T1	NW

13	T1, post-ex	NE
14-15	Location shots, T2	E, W
16-18	Working shots, excavating T2	W
19	Brick fragments and debris in (0202)	W
20	Plastic sheeting in spoil, T2	NW
21	Ceramic field drain in T2	W
22	T2, post-ex	W
23-24	Location shots, T3	NW, N
25	Working shot, excavating T3	NW
26-27	Ceramic field drain	NW
28-29	Concrete pipe setting in (0302)	NW
30	Working shot, excavating T3	NW
31-33	T3, post-ex	NW, SE
34-35	Rubble deposit (0204)	W, E
36	Concrete from (0204) in N-facing section of T3	S
37-38	Deposit (0204)	N, W
39-41	Rubble drain (0304)	W, NW
42-43	Sample SW-facing section, T3	NE
44-45	General overview of trenches, post-ex	N, NE
46	Ceramic field drain, T3	N

### Appendix 3 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Perth & Kinross
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Inchture Primary School
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	JH10
<b>PARISH:</b>	Inchture
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	C Fyles
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Alder Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NO22NE 17, 30
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Settlement (prehistoric) enclosure (medieval) church (19 <sup>th</sup> C) cemetery (medieval) burial vault (17 <sup>th</sup> C)
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NO 28132 28846
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2019
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2019
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	Evaluation, excavation 2006/7 (SUAT Ltd) WB 2016 (Alder Archaeology, DES Vol 18)
<b>MAIN DESCRIPTION:</b> (NARRATIVE) (May include information from other fields)	An evaluation was conducted in advance of the construction of a new nursery building at Inchture Primary School, Moncur Road. Three trenches measuring 10.00m x 1.50m were excavated down to natural subsoil across the planned building footprint. Field drains and a deposit of demolition rubble were exposed. No finds or features of archaeological significance resulted.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	-
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Perth & Kinross Council
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:director@alderarchaeology.co.uk">director@alderarchaeology.co.uk</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	HES (intended)

## Appendix 4 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

### 4.1 Recording Methodology

Alder Archaeology employs a Single Context Recording System that allows full cross-referencing of stratigraphy, finds and environmental samples, as well as site-wide phasing. All features will be planned at scale 1:20, and sections drawn at scale 1:10. Sections and profiles will be drawn and all features will be photographed with metric scale included. Environmental samples will be taken from archaeologically significant contexts, if the analysis of these samples would aid significantly in the interpretation of any features identified.

### 4.2 Human Remains

If human remains are encountered they will be left in situ and the local police will be informed. If removal is required this will take place in compliance with Historic Scotland's Policy Paper *The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology*.

### 4.3 Products and Reporting

A Data Structure Report will normally be prepared within a period agreed within the Written Scheme of Investigation/ Project Design, after the completion of the fieldwork. This forms the basic level of reporting. Further reporting may be required on the basis of discoveries made during excavations.

A copy of the report and the project archive will be deposited in the NMRS. Further copies will be sent to the client, LAAO and others, as appropriate.

### 4.4 Artefacts

Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia*. We will report such finds, if recovered, with supporting documentation to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel for disposal to the appropriate museum.

### 4.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

### 4.6 General Conditions and Health and Safety

We adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists.

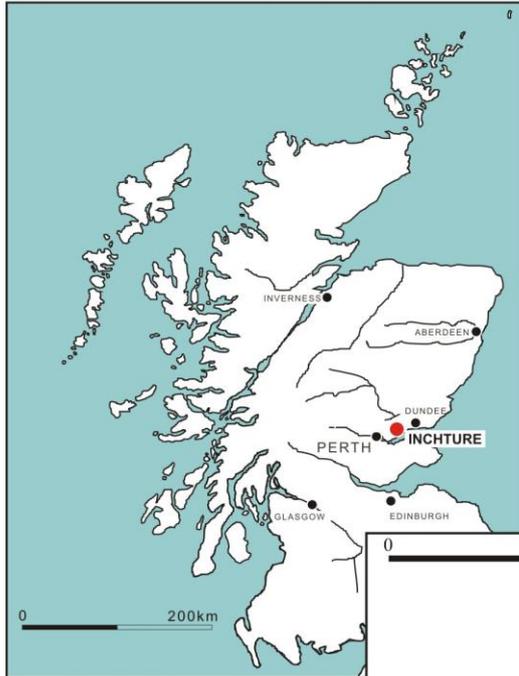
Alder Archaeology Ltd has public liability insurance of £2,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

We operate a strict health and safety policy that conforms to the Health and Safety at Work Act. We undertake Risk Assessments on all fieldwork carried out.

Alder Archaeology representatives will at all times wear protective footwear, high visibility clothing and other appropriate clothing. Hard hats will be worn if there is active plant on site or at all times if the site is deemed a hard hat area.

If lightly contaminated deposits are uncovered disposable boiler suits and gloves will be worn. A source of clean water will be made available for staff to clean hands with. If the health risk posed by site contamination is felt to be too high all further archaeological work will stop in that area.

Illus 1

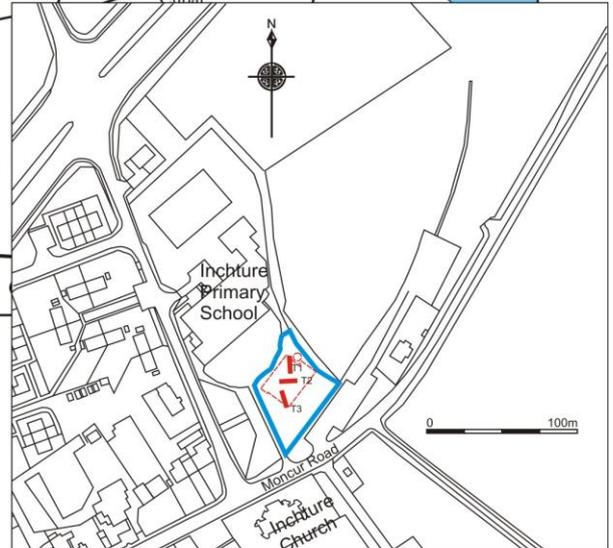
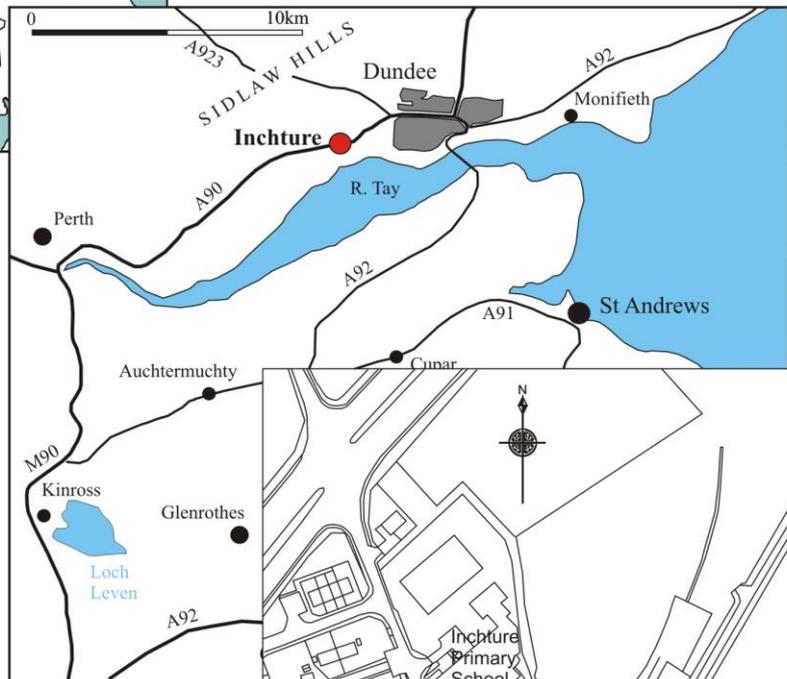


© Crown copyright. All rights reserved.  
Licence number AL 100049514

## Archaeological Evaluation

### Inchture Primary School

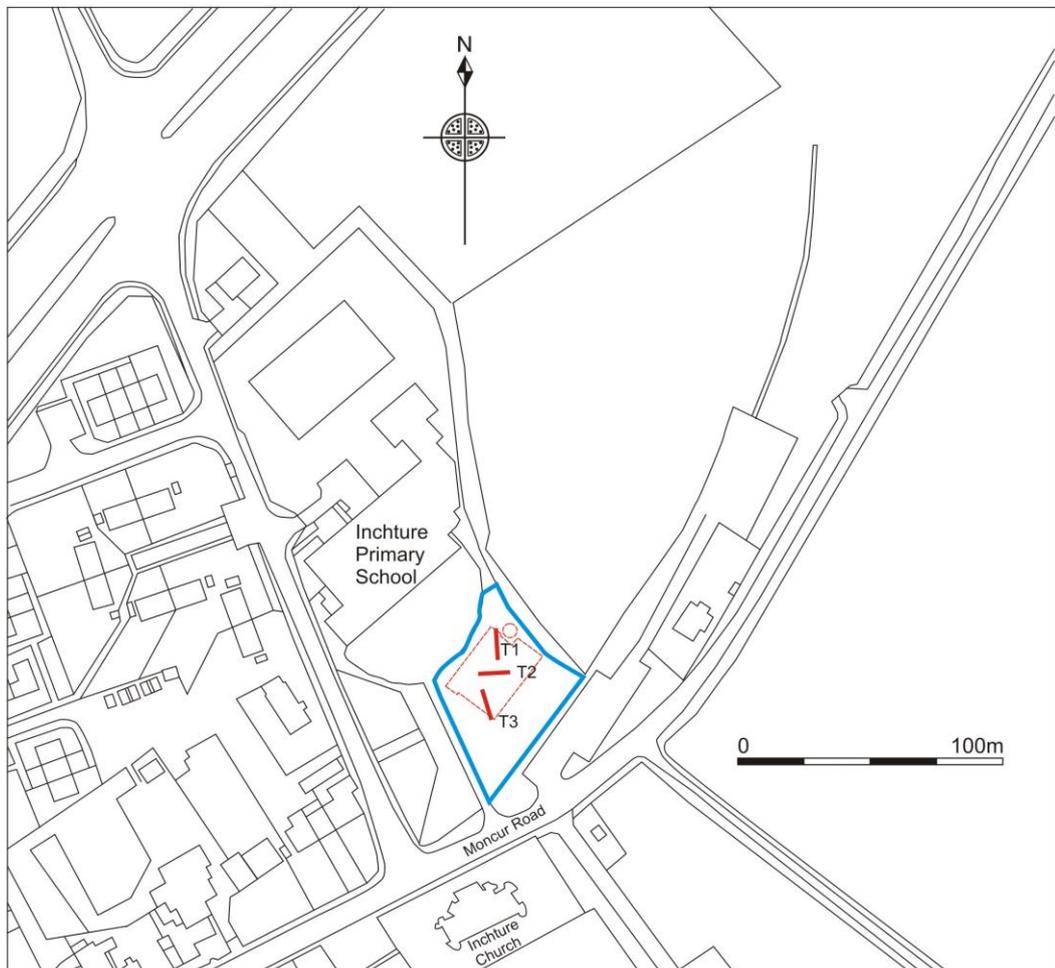
#### Site Location



JH10

2019 Alder Archaeology Ltd

Illus 2 Location of Archaeological Trenches



- =Archaeological Trench
- =New building footprint
- =Site boundary

JH10

2019 Alder Archaeology Ltd