

CFA Archaeology Ltd

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Advice on Archaeology & Planning

Environmental Impact Assessment

Interpretation, Design & Display

Finds/ Environmental Analysis

Field Evaluation & Excavation

Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey


Geophysical Survey

**New Primary School,
Broich Road, Crieff.**

Archaeological Evaluation

Report No. 2071

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

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Broich Road, Crieff.**

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in May 2012 at land to the north of Broich Road, Crieff, Perth and Kinross (NGR: NN 8646 2094 centred) (Fig. 1) in advance of the construction of a new primary school. The work was commissioned by Perth and Kinross Council.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 9 February 2012 was produced by CFA on behalf of PKHT. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of the Terms of Reference from PKHT for an evaluation of the site.

1.2 Background

PKHT have indicated that the development site has archaeological potential as it is on a greenfield site in an area known for prehistoric archaeological remains. The site is located adjacent to Broich Cursus, the southern part of which is a Scheduled Monument (SM no. 9135). Aerial survey and excavation in 2007-8 revealed the line of the cursus and other remains dating to the Bronze Age in the field to the east of the current development site.

An evaluation covering 5% of the area was requested on the site of the proposed development.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives the programme of works reported herein 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. The results of the evaluation can be used to develop a mitigation strategy, if needed, for preservation of remains either in situ or by record.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods, as detailed in the approved WSI.

2.2 Evaluation

The terms of the WSI required the excavation of a minimum of 2018 m² amounting to 5% of the total evaluation area measuring 4.035ha. A total of 24 trenches were excavated within the proposed development area, amounting to 2380m² (5.9% of the area) (Fig. 1). A summary of the trenches excavated is contained in Appendix 5.

Topsoil was removed by a tracked 360° mechanical excavator, equipped with a 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.

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.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench positions were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment and all trenches were backfilled.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

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 5.

The deposits throughout the proposed development area predominantly consisted of 0.3m to 0.7m of dark brown silty loam topsoil (**001**) overlying light brown sandy gravel natural (**000**).

3.2 Archaeological Features

Trial trenching led to the identification of one certain and two probably cremation burials situated in the north-eastern sector of the proposed development area, all within Trench 12 (Fig. 2-3). The cremation burials were initially identified as three pits (**002**, **006** and **008**) cut into the natural subsoil (**000**), measuring up to 0.9m by 0.7m with evidence of cremated bone and pottery on the surface.

Pit **002** was disturbed by the machine and thus was excavated in its entirety. It consisted of an oval pit (0.9m by 0.7m by 0.2m deep) containing an inverted vessel (**004**) which contained fragments of cremated bone and charcoal (**005**), with the surrounding pit fill consisting of mid brown silt (**003**) (Fig. 4).

The two other pits (**006**, **008**) contained mid brown silt fills with fragments of cremated bone and pottery visible on the surface of each pit (Figs. 5 and 6). The pits measured 0.9m by 0.7m and 0.4m by 0.32m respectively. These two features were left in situ.

The evidence from Pit **002** would suggest that the other two pits (**006** and **008**) are likely to contain cremations, and possibly funerary vessels.

No other archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were discovered.

3.3 The Finds, by Melanie Johnson

A quantity of pottery from a single vessel was recovered from Pit **002** (35 sherds weighing 1464g, recorded as context **004**). This included rim sherds and body sherds, decorated on both the exterior and on the inside of the rim with geometric whipped cord impressions; evidence for a single cordon survives. The fabric is thick and coarse and the vessel belongs in the Early Bronze Age Cordoned Urn tradition. The vessel was inverted and there were no surviving base sherds.

4. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological trial trenching evaluation was carried out at Broich Road, Crieff, covering 2380m², amounting to c.5.9% of the total area of the proposed development site.

Three pits were identified in Trench 12, one of which contained a cremation burial within an inverted Cordoned Urn, dating to the Early Bronze Age (c.2000-1500 BC). The other two are also likely to contain cremations given the evidence from Pit **002** and the pottery fragments and cremated bone visible on the surface of the remaining two pits (**006, 008**) and were left in situ.

No other archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were recorded.

Any further mitigation works will be decided by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust on behalf of Perth and Kinross Council planning department.

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 Historic Environment Record.

APPENDIX 1: Digital Photographic Register

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1	Trench 1	ENE	Sunny
2	Trench 2	ENE	Sunny
3	Trench 3	NNE	Sunny
4	Trench 4	NNE	Sunny
5	Trench 5	NNE	Sunny
6	Trench 6	ESE	Sunny
7	Trench 7	ESE	Sunny
8	Trench 8	N	Sunny
9	Trench 9	E	Sunny
10	Trench 10	SE	Overcast
11	Trench 11	SE	Overcast
12	Trench 12, burial 1, pre-excavation	NE	Overcast
13	Trench 12, burial 1, pre-excavation	SW	Overcast
14-15	Trench 12, burial 1, partially-excavated	NE	Overcast
16-17	Trench 12, burial 1, partially-excavated	SW	Overcast
18	Trench 13	SW	Overcast
19	Trench 14	SW	Overcast
20	Trench 15	SE	Overcast
21	Trench 16	SE	Overcast
22	Trench 17	S	Overcast
23	Trench 18	SW	Overcast
24	Trench 19	SE	Overcast
25-26	Trench 12, general shots showing the three cremations	E	Overcast
27-28	Trench 12, detail of burial 3	SW	Overcast
29-30	Trench 12, detail of burial 2 with burial 1 on LHS	SW	Overcast
31	Trench 12, burial 2 - detail	SW	Overcast
32	As above	NE	Overcast
33-34	Trench 12, burial 1 post-excavation	NE	Overcast
35-36	Trench 12, general shot of all three burials	W	Overcast
37-38	Trench 12, burial 1 post-excavation	SW	Overcast
39	General shot of location within trench	NW	Overcast
40-42	Detail of burial 2, trench 12, pre-excavation	SW	Overcast
43	Trench 20	E	Overcast
44	Trench 21	SE	Overcast
45	Trench 22	ENE	Overcast
46	Trench 23	ENE	Overcast
47	Trench 24	SSW	Overcast

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context	Trench	Description
000	All	Natural subsoil – light brown sandy gravel with medium sized rounded stones
001	All	Topsoil – dark brown silty loam
002	12	Cut of pit for burial 1
003	12	Fill of pit (002) – mid-brown silt
004	12	Pottery vessel
005	12	Fill of pottery vessel
006	12	Cut of pit for burial 2
007	12	Fill of pit (006) – mid-brown silt with flecks of cremated bone
008	12	Cut of pit for burial 3
009	12	Fill of pit (008) – mid-brown silt with flecks of cremated bone

APPENDIX 3: Field Drawing Register

Sheet	Drawing	Description	Plan/Sect	Scale
1	1	Plan of trench 12	Plan	1:20
1	2	Profile of (002)	Section	1:20

APPENDIX 4: Samples Register

Number	Context	Fill of	Type	Reason	Vol
001	003	002	bulk	Sample of cremation pit fill (outside pottery vessel)	10L
002			bulk	Mixture of (003-005)	10L
003	004 & 005		bulk	Contents of pottery vessel	15L

APPENDIX 5: Summary of Excavation Results

Trench No.	Size (m)	Depth of topsoil (m)	Depth of subsoil (m)	Features
1	50 x 2.0	0.35	0.15	No archaeological features
2	50 x 2.0	0.25	0.05	No archaeological features
3	50 x 2.0	0.5	0.2	No archaeological features
4	50 x 2.0	0.6	0.15	No archaeological features
5	50 x 2.0	0.45	0.15	No archaeological features
6	50 x 2.0	0.5	0.1	No archaeological features
7	50 x 2.0	0.4	0.15	No archaeological features
8	50 x 2.0	0.4	0.1	No archaeological features
9	50 x 2.0	0.4	0.1	No archaeological features
10	50 x 2.0	0.4	0.1	No archaeological features
11	50 x 2.0	0.35	0.15	No archaeological features
12	50 x 2.0	0.4		Three cremation burials
13	50 x 2.0	0.25	0.05	No archaeological features
14	50 x 2.0	0.3	0.1	No archaeological features
15	40 x 2.0	0.3	0.25	No archaeological features
16	50 x 2.0	0.4	0.3	No archaeological features
17	50 x 2.0	0.4	0.2	No archaeological features
18	50 x 2.0	0.35	0.25	No archaeological features
19	50 x 2.0	0.5	0.1	No archaeological features
20	50 x 2.0	0.4	0.1	No archaeological features
21	50 x 2.0	0.55	0.2	No archaeological features
22	50 x 2.0	0.4	0.2	No archaeological features
23	50 x 2.0	0.3	0.1	No archaeological features
24	50 x 2.0	0.3	0.2	No archaeological features

APPENDIX 6: Finds Quantification

Context	Find type	No.	Wt (g)	Notes	Spot-date
004/005	Pottery	27	1143	Inc. rim, decorated Cordoned Urn	Late Neolithic
004/005	Burnt bone	-	2		
003-005	Pottery	8	321	Decorated Cordoned Urn	Late Neolithic
003-005	Burnt bone	6	12		

APPENDIX 7: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth & Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Broich Road, Crieff
PROJECT CODE:	BROI
PARISH:	Crieff
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Gary Savory
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Pit
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Grooved Ware pottery
NGR	NN 8646 2094
START DATE (this season)	May 2012
END DATE (this season)	May 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation (2380m ² , 5%) was carried out at Broich Road, Crieff. Three pits were identified, one of which contained a cremation in an inverted Cordoned Urn dating to the Early Bronze Age. The other two are likely to contain cremations given that pottery fragments and cremated bone were visible on the surface of the pits. Broich Cursus lies to the east of the proposed development site. No other archaeological remains were recorded.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	-
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Perth & Kinross Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record of Scotland Perth & Kinross Sites and Monuments Record



Key:



-  CFA Trenches
-  10m Buffer for utilities



Fig. No: 1 Revision: A

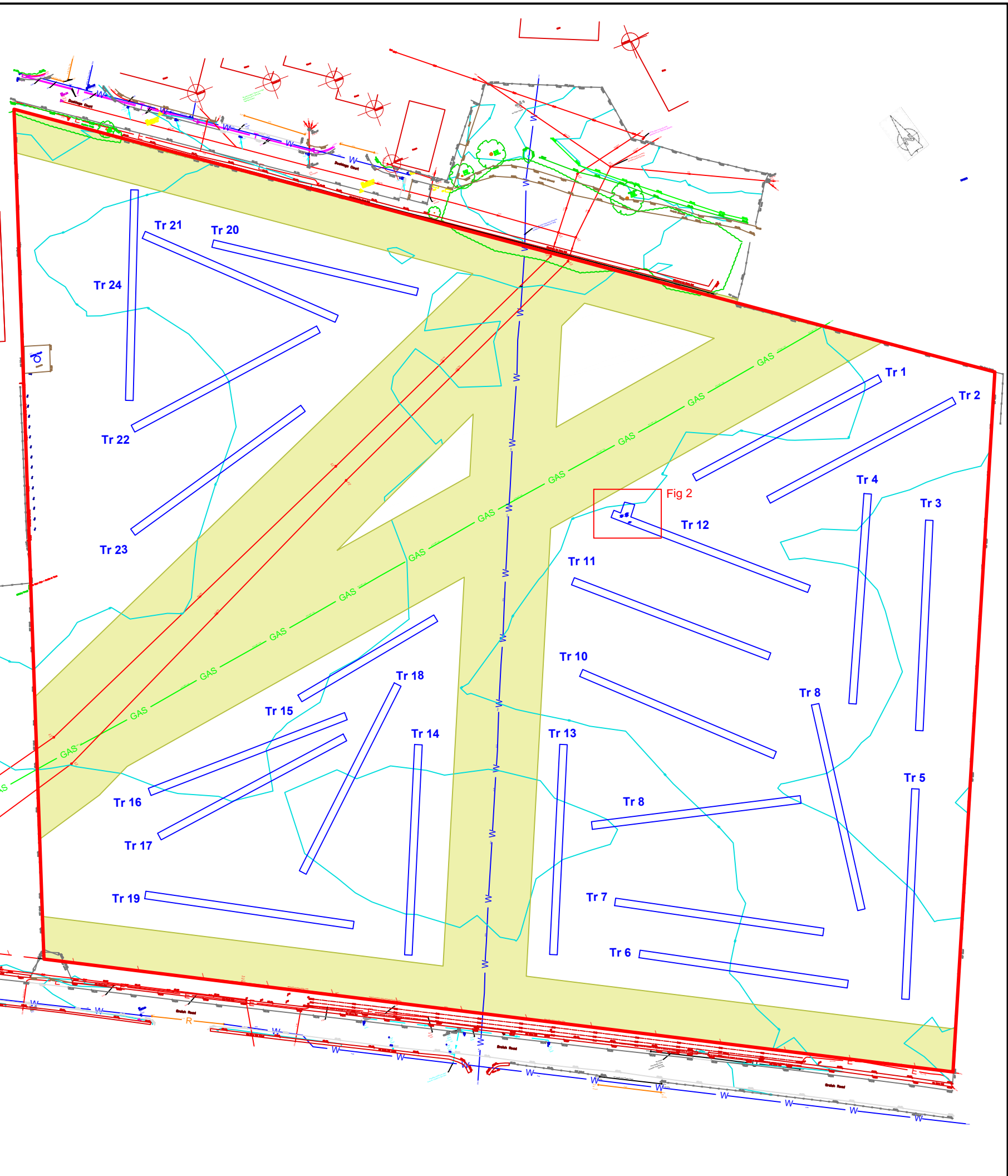
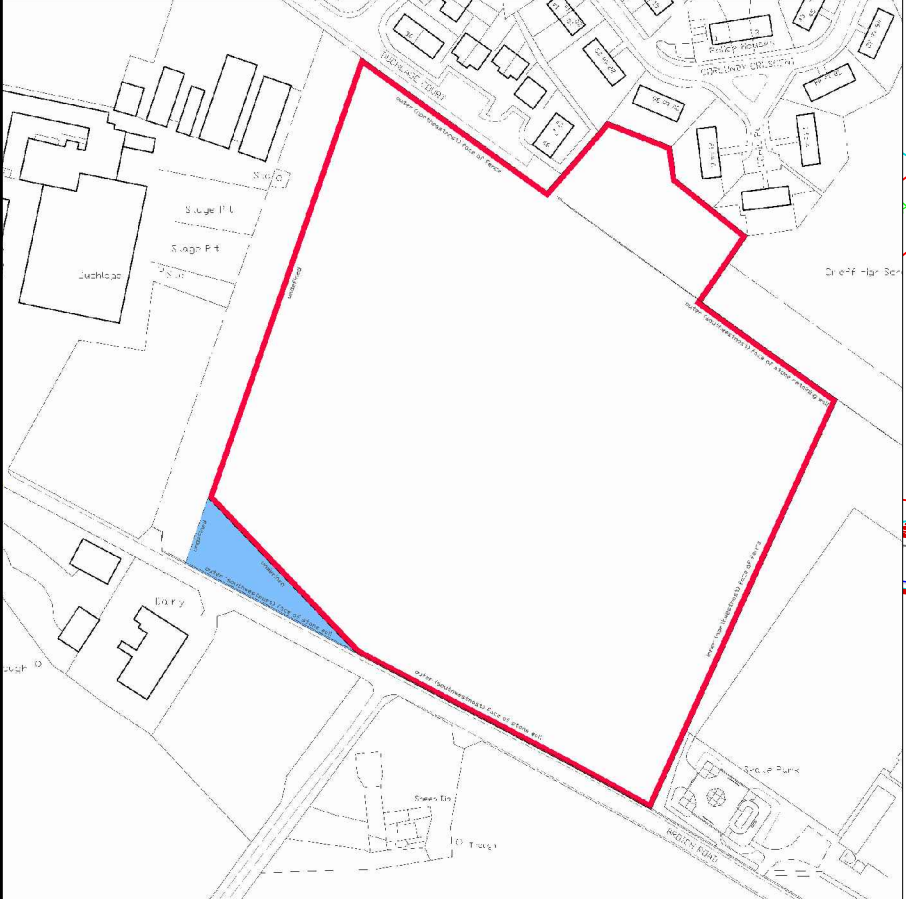
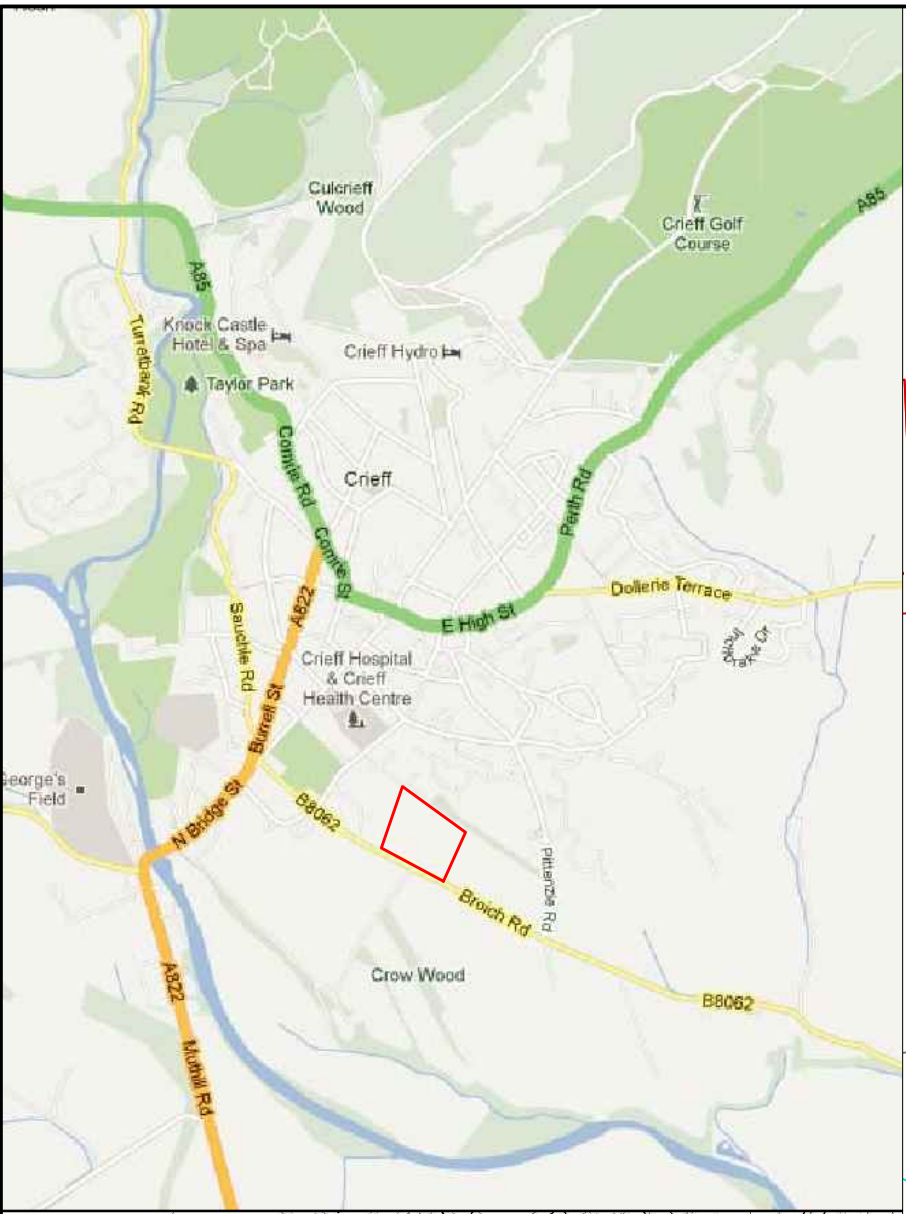
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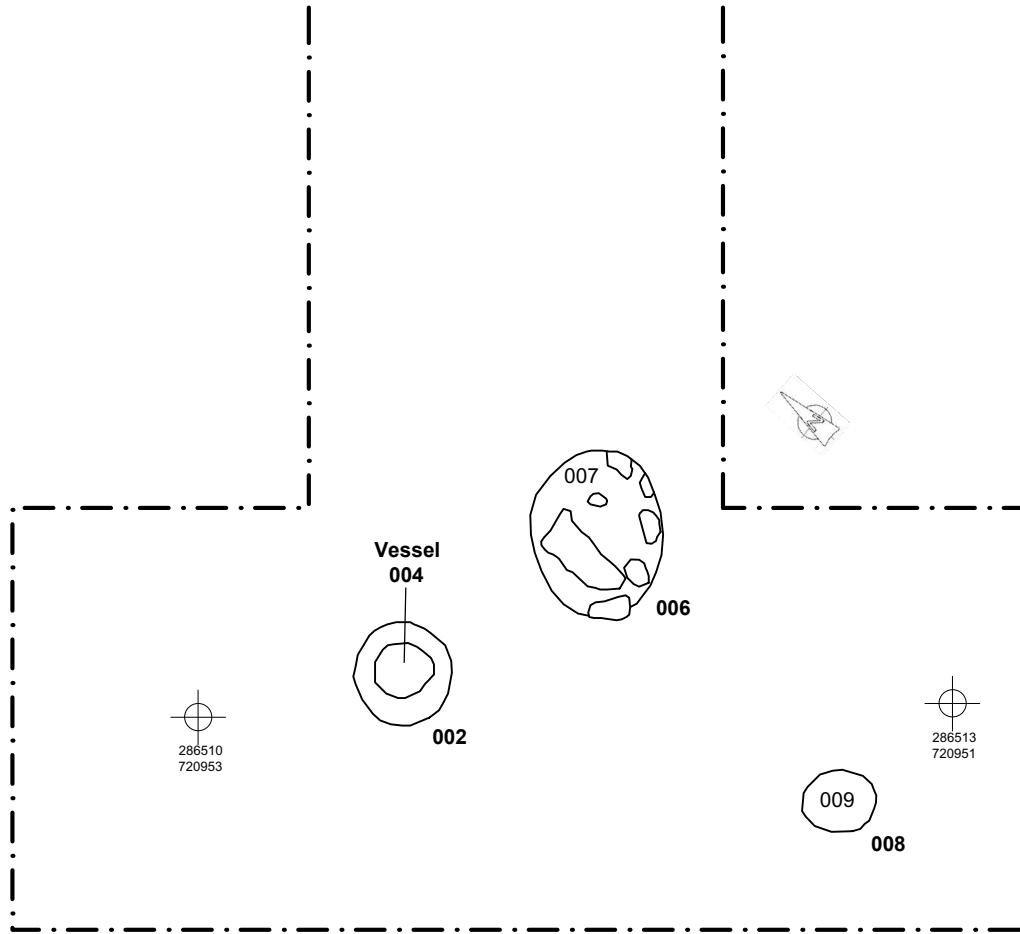
Project: New Primary School, Broich Road, Crieff, Perth & Kinross Archaeological Evaluation

Client: Perth and Kinross Council

Scale at A3: 1:1000

Drawn by: LW Checked: LW Report No: 2071






Key:	Fig No: 2	Revision: A	Client: Perth and Kinross Council	 <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>
	Title: Plan of pits (002, 006 and 008) in Trench 12			
Scale at A4: 1:40	Project: New Primary School, Broich Road, Crieff: Archaeological Evaluation			
Drawn by: LW		Checked: LW		Report No: 2071



Fig. 3 - North-western end of Trench 12 with 002, 006 and 008





Fig. 4 - Pit 002, partially excavated



Fig. 5 - Pit 006



Fig. 6 - Pit 008

Fig. No: 3-6		Revision: A	Project: New Primary School, Broich Road, Crieff
Drawn by: LW	Checked: LW	Report No: 2071	Client: Perth and Kinross Council
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