

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Advice on Archaeology & Planning*

*Environmental Impact Assessment*

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*Geophysical Survey*

## **A9 Dualling: Tay Crossing to Killicrankie Archaeological Mitigation Works**

**Report No. 3508**

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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**

This report presents the results of archaeological mitigation works by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on the excavation of selected borehole starter pits and test-pits during the advanced ground investigation, for the A9 Dualling. The section monitored was between Tay Crossing and Killiecrankie, Perth and Kinross.

A method statement (MS) was prepared (Appendix 1) to describe how the requirements of Schedule 5, Clause 3.30AR of the site investigation contract would be met. This was forwarded to the employer's consultant for approval.

The selection of the borehole starter pits and test-pits for monitoring was undertaken by the employer's consultant. A limited number of other borehole starter pits were monitored as the watching brief archaeologist was on site.

### **1.2 Objectives**

The objectives of the project were:

- To avoid any negative impacts on the known archaeological resource through a targeted archaeological watching brief during site investigation works, and where this was not possible to propose and carry out mitigation measures where appropriate to avoid, reduce or offset any negative impacts.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

Work was conducted with regard to the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standards and Guidance as appropriate.

### **2.2 Archaeological Mitigation Works**

Initially the employer's consultant requested that the watching brief archaeologist undertook a visual inspection of the locations of a selection of borehole starter pits and test-pits where they were located in proximity to known archaeological sites. It was found that none of the selected borehole starter pits and test-pits were intruding upon any existing upstanding archaeological remains. Where bore-hole and test-pits were located in close proximity to known sites it was recommended by CFA that they be monitored by an archaeologist. Full monitoring of excavations took place until a schedule for further monitoring was received from the consultant.

Based on the CFA recommendations the consultant recommended that one test-pit required monitoring. The borehole starter pits and test-pits that were excavated under archaeological supervision (in line with the MS, Appendix 1) during this time are detailed below.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Six borehole starter pits (PKB) and one test-pit (PKT) were monitored during the site investigation works. The following table presents the results:

SI Intervention	NGR	Size	Depth of Topsoil	Comments
PKB 1028	292709, 759005	0.40m x 0.50m	0.10m	Mid brown silty-sand topsoil over light yellowish-brown silty sand subsoil over light yellowish-grey sand natural (located at a depth of 0.4m). Located in Fascally Wood. No Archaeology
PKB 1034	292349, 759332	0.40m x 0.50m	n/a	Removed vegetation (0.05m deep) straight onto bedrock and ceased excavations. Located in Fascally Wood. No Archaeology
PKB 1035	292375, 759347	0.40m x 0.40m	0.15m	Mid brown silty-sand topsoil over natural blue-grey silty-sand natural. Located in Fascally Wood. No Archaeology
PKB 1039	292251, 759455	0.60m x 0.60m	0.16m	Light brown sandy topsoil over Natural mid brownish orange sand. Located in Fascally Wood. No Archaeology
PKB 1041	292341, 759528	0.50m x 0.50m	n/a	Excavation in to forestry track - Made ground (0.30m deep) onto natural bedrock/ boulders. Located in Fascally Wood. No Archaeology
PKB 1046	292279, 759776	0.60m x 0.60m	0.18m	Mid brown sandy topsoil over mid-grey brown sandy silt over natural bedrock (located at a depth of 0.7m). Located in Fascally Wood. No Archaeology
PKT 1007	295058, 756722	3.50m x 1.05m	0.33m	Yellowish brown clayey sand topsoil over natural rounded cobbles and gravel. No Archaeology

Table 1 – Starter pit and Trial Pit excavation results

Photographs of the starter pits/ trial-pit are provided at the end of this report.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

The employer's consultant requested that one test-pit was monitored. An additional six borehole starter pits were monitored whilst the consultant's recommendations for monitoring were being formulated. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the works. No upstanding archaeological features were affected by the works.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with Historic Environment Scotland.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **A9 Dualling - Tay Crossing to Killiecrankie Archaeological Watching Brief**

#### **Method Statement**

##### **Introduction**

This Method Statement has been prepared by CFA Archaeology Ltd (Monitoring Archaeologist) for Fugro GeoServices Ltd (Contractor) for the watching brief required during ground investigation works. The Works shall be undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief'.

The works will also follow the Archaeological Requirements as provided in Schedule 5 "Additional Requirements" of the contract documents.

An archaeological watching brief will be required for all trial pits. A watching brief is also required for a number of inspection pits for boreholes in locations identified in S1.4 and Schedule 2. However, this may not cover all exploratory holes on site as some locations may change during the site operations.

##### **Methodology**

Excavation of trial pits will be carried out by the Contractor using an appropriate mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. These will be archaeologically monitored and will be undertaken in spits until either the first archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural deposits are encountered.

Excavation of borehole inspection pits selected for archaeological monitoring will be carried out by the Contractor using hand tools and will be undertaken in stages until either the first archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural deposits are encountered.

Where any archaeological remains are identified in the course of the monitoring work the Monitoring Archaeologist shall notify the Contractor and the Engineer or the Engineer's Archaeological Clerk of Works and shall investigate and record the remains by the methodology set out below, to the extent possible within the constraints set out below. Archaeological investigation and recording will be undertaken in such a manner as to minimise delay and disruption to the general Works; however, if necessary the Monitoring Archaeologist may instruct short suspensions of mechanical excavation, and may ask for backfilling to be delayed, to allow recording work to be undertaken.

Where significant archaeological remains are encountered, which in the judgement of the Monitoring Archaeologist, the completion of the excavation would cause an unacceptable impact, the Monitoring Archaeologist may instruct the abandonment of the mechanical excavation. In such instances, the exposed archaeological remains shall be positioned, covered and re-buried. The Engineer shall then be contacted immediately to move the exploratory hole position where possible, to avoid any further disruption, or where this is not possible, provision shall be made for the

Monitoring Archaeologist to record the remains in accordance with standard archaeological practice. Where there is any doubt or dispute about what to do, the Monitoring Archaeologist shall consult the Engineer and/or the Engineer's Archaeological Clerk of Works.

Irrespective of whether archaeological remains are identified, for each excavation a record will be made of the location, layout, depth, general stratigraphy, together with a sketch and a photographic record. Pro-forma recording sheets will be used and the Monitoring Archaeologist will ensure they have taken a GPS location of the pit. The Contractor shall be aware that the Monitoring Archaeologist in attendance will require the opportunity to undertake his own recording of the archaeological aspects of the excavation. The Contractor will allow the Monitoring Archaeologist sufficient time to record the archaeology. This will mean visual access to the pit sections to take digital photographs and, if required, make a drawn record of the pit. Access to the spoil heap to look for finds, unless restricted due to health and safety considerations, will also be required. Under no circumstances shall the Monitoring Archaeologist enter the pit or excavation without the prior clearance of Contractor.

All archaeological remains shall be investigated by hand-excavation of samples of the deposits where appropriate and possible, and where this is not possible by the examination of the excavated materials. Where sample excavation takes place, all excavated contexts shall be fully recorded by a descriptive written context record for each stratigraphic unit, giving details of location, composition, dimensions, relationships, textual description and interpretation, sketch (if appropriate) and cross-referencing to other parts of the site records such as drawings, photographs, artefacts and other finds, and soil or other samples.

Plans and sections of all archaeological features identified, and where possible, of individual features shall be produced at appropriate scales (usually 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections). Levels will be taken as "below ground level" then referenced back to the Ordnance Datum data supplied by the Contractor. Sections will be drawn showing the stratigraphic sequence, and accompanied by a full description of the deposits.

As the primary purpose of the trial pits is to gain geotechnical information and not for archaeological purposes, the movement of trial pits or the delay to allow the Monitoring Archaeologist to excavate will only be made in the most exceptional circumstances. During this recording period the trial pit(s) shall be demarcated by lightweight fencing, erected so as not to interfere with the Contractor's route.

It is intended that all archaeological remains uncovered during the Investigation will be left in situ. Should archaeological remains be recovered from the spoil heap or from the pits that need to be retained due to the probability of deterioration of organic materials, or potential high value goods which increase the possibility of looting after works are complete, the following approach will be adopted:

Any and all archaeological finds recovered as part of this work belong to the Crown and may be claimed by them under Common Law. All finds will be reported to the Treasure Trove Advisory Panel, then ownership will be passed to the museum which receives the finds at the end of the allocation process.



The archaeological finds will be collected, stored and processed in accordance with standard methodologies and guidelines. Any small finds will be recorded three dimensionally and surveyed in by the Monitoring Archaeologist.

Where necessary, the archaeological finds will be stabilised and stored in accordance with national guidelines. The finds will be properly conserved following excavation and made stable for storage. They will be stored in an appropriate location and in appropriate materials to minimise further deterioration.

Any archaeological remains which are to be left in situ will be covered with an appropriate material specified by the Monitoring Archaeologist which is to be provided by the Contractor. The covering and backfilling of the archaeological remains will be supervised and monitored by the Monitoring Archaeologist.

Soil samples will not be collected except as part of any more detailed investigations instructed by the Employer.

If any human remains are encountered, the appropriate procedures shall be adhered to, including notification of the local Police and if appropriate Historic Environment Scotland.

### **Archive Preparation and Deposition**

Archiving and post-excavation work shall be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief' and the requirements of the intended final depository for the archive. Where the Watching Brief forms part of a larger archaeological project, post-excavation assessment, analysis, reporting and archiving shall be integrated with that of the larger project and shall be undertaken to the same standards.

Any archaeological finds shall be deposited via the Treasure Trove Advisory Panel with a recipient museum who will have been contacted prior to the commencement of the works. The photographic and paper archive will be deposited separately with the 'National Monuments Record of Scotland' or the 'Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland', with copies of this record deposited with the archaeological finds.

### **Reporting**

Upon completion of the monitoring brief, the Monitoring Archaeologist will prepare a Report containing the following as a minimum:

- The Report shall utilise information collected during the fieldwork and from any other appropriate sources. It shall include a background section detailing the circumstances of the project, location, topography, geology and a description of the methodology employed. This section will also include the trial pit location plans and sections with scales, grid references, Ordnance Datum levels and photographs.
- For any pit with archaeological remains, a section will be written about each

- pit detailing what was found, possible dates (where appropriate), range of material,
- condition or survival of material and any other descriptive text necessary.
  - The Report shall contain a conclusion, summing up the fieldwork and a discussion of the remains or deposits encountered and a statement regarding the level of potential for archaeology along the route.
  - Any records taken by the Engineer's Archaeological Clerk of Works shall be collated and included within the Report. The format of the report shall be agreed with the Engineer, prior to printing.

A copy of the draft report, including a digital copy of the pro-forma sheets shall be submitted to the Engineer within two weeks of the completion of the on-site fieldwork for comment and final approval. The comments and amendments of the Engineer shall be taken into account when preparing the final Report. The final Report will be submitted no later than one week after receiving comments from the Engineer who will then forward the final Report to all relevant parties. The final Report shall also be submitted as part of the scheme's Ground Investigation Factual Report to be produced by the Contractor.

## APPENDIX 2 Photographic Register

<b>Photo No.</b>	<b>Contexts/Description</b>	<b>Taken From</b>
1	Pre-Ex PKB1035 in Fascally Forest	S
2	Pre-Ex PKB1035 in Fascally Forest	E
3	Post-Ex PKB1035 in Fascally Forest	S
4	North Facing section PKB1035	N
5	General shot of forestry bank, location for PKB 1046 and 48	NE
6	Pre-Ex PKB1046 in Fascally Forest	NNE
7	Pre-Ex PKB1028 in Fascally Forest	SE
8	West facing section PKB1028	W
9	Post-Ex PKB1028 in Fascally Forest	W
10	General shots of Site 1 - small raised bank	E
11	General shots of Site 1 - small raised bank	NE
12	General shots of Site 1 - small raised bank	N
13	General shots of Site 1 - small raised bank	N
14	Pre-Ex PKB1048	SW
15	East facing section PKB1046	E
16	Post-Ex PKB1046	E
17	South facing section PKB1039	S
18	Post-Ex PKB1039	S
19	South facing section PKB1041	S
20	Post-Ex PKB1041	S
21	PKB 1007 Plan view	E
22	PKB 1007 Section view	E



Fig. 1 - Post-excavation shot of PKB 1028, west-facing section



Fig. 2 - Post-excavation shot of PKB 1035

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Fig. 3 - Post-excitation shot of PKB 1039



Fig. 4 - Post-excitation shot of PKB 1041, south-facing section

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Fig. 5 - Post-excitation shot of PKB 1046



Fig. 6 - Post-excitation shot of Trial Pit PKT 1007

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