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Geophysical Survey

The Hill Enhancements, Kirriemuir, Angus

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 1813

 0131 273 4380

 0131 273 4381

 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

The Old Engine House
Eskmills Business Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian
EH21 7PQ

Tel: 0131 273 4380
Fax: 0131 273 4381
email: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	Graeme Carruthers MA(Hons) MAA1S
Illustrator	Graeme Carruthers MA(Hons) MAA1S
Editor	Melanie Johnson MA PhD FSA Scot MIfA
Commissioned by	Angus Council
Date issued	August 2010
Version	0
OASIS Reference	cfaarcha1 – 81518
Planning Application No	09/01278/FUL
Grid Ref	NO 389 546

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

**The Hill Enhancements,
Kirriemuir, Angus**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in August 2010 on the site of a new children's play area and signage at The Hill, Kirriemuir, Angus (Fig. 1, NGR: NT 389 546 centred). The work was commissioned by Angus Council.

1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 15th July 2010 for this watching brief was produced by CFA on behalf of Angus Council. It was designed to meet the requirements of the Angus Council Archaeological Advisor.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 Permission (Ref: 09/01278/FUL) has been granted to build a new children's play area on Kirriemuir Hill. A number of sites of archaeological interest lie on Kirriemuir Hill including three mounds, one of which has been destroyed, one of which may be a natural feature and one which may be the remains of a Motte. Antiquarian records indicate that a souterrain was found on the Hill but no trace of this survives. A scheduled standing stone, which may be the remains of a stone circle, is located in the eastern corner of the park and the cropmark of a scheduled enclosure borders the park on its eastern side. A condition for an archaeological watching brief on ground breaking work was therefore secured against the permission.

1.3 Objectives

1.3.1 The objectives of the project were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Watching Brief) to monitor the removal of topsoil from the footprint of the new children's park and signage and any other groundbreaking that is required.
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording and produce a report on them.

2. WORKING METHODS

- 2.1 CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.
- 2.2 The removal of topsoil was carried out using a wheeled excavator equipped with a flat-bladed ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The B Horizon of subsoil was left in place on all but the eastern extent of the site as the western and central areas were to be built up slightly, using the material from the eastern side, in order to level the area.
- 2.3 All on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, in this case by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 3.1 The new children's play area is situated in landscaped, well maintained grassed parkland to the east of an existing car park on the top of Kirriemuir Hill, which slopes away to the north of the site (Fig. 1).
- 3.2 The grass and a 2m wide area along the edge of a section of hazel bushes was removed from an irregular area measuring approximately 35m-40m across which was to form the children's play area. The depth of the topsoil was 0.1m at the southern and western sides (Fig. 2) rising to 0.4m at the north-east corner in the area of the hazel bushes (Fig. 3). Topsoil overlay a B horizon of dark brown silty subsoil. Natural subsoil consisted of a sandy/gravel matrix with inclusions of sub-rounded medium clasts (Fig. 3).
- 3.3 The two sign post bases measured 0.6m by 2.3m by 0.8m deep (Figs. 4-5). Topsoil of depth 0.2-0.3m overlay sandy/gravel natural subsoil.
- 3.4 No archaeological features or deposits were identified and no finds were recovered.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 A watching brief was carried out at Kirriemuir Hill, Kirriemuir during the removal of topsoil prior to the building of a new children's play area and installation of two sign posts. No archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered.
- 4.2 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 Angus Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.3 Summary statements of this work will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2) and for inclusion on the OASIS website.

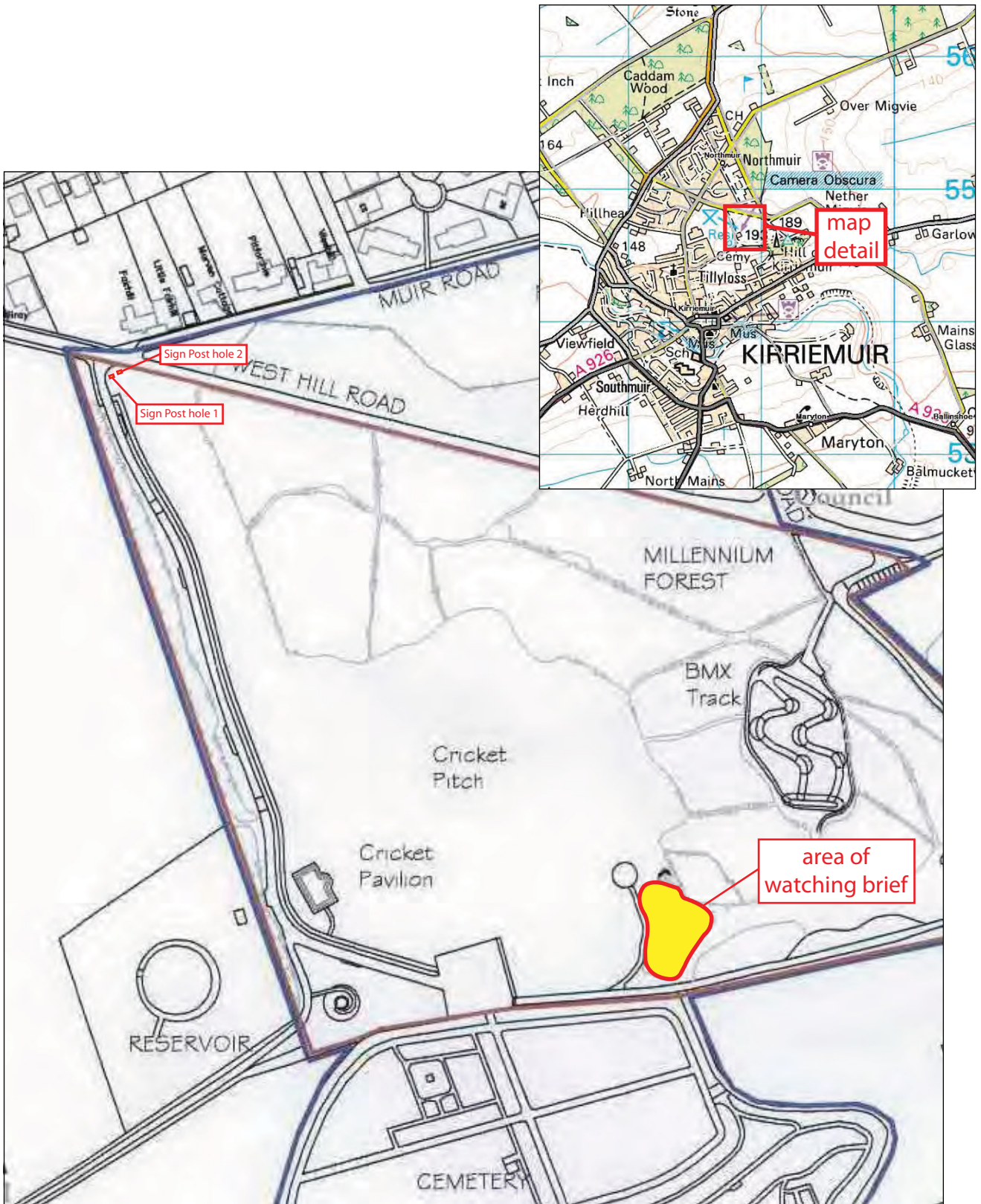
APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1	Site with the vegetative covering removed	W	Bright
2	The removal of an area of Hazel Bushes	S	Bright
3	General view from the site looking north	S	Bright
4	SW corner showing the thin layer of topsoil and the brown B horizon	NE	Sunny
5	E edge of site showing the deeper topsoil and the brown B Horizon	W	Sunny
6	Eastern side of site showing the orange natural subsoil exposed	N	Sunny
7	Centre of site showing the brown B Horizon and the area to the right that will be built up	N	Sunny
8	Signpost hole 1 with topsoil removed	E	Sunny
9	Signpost hole 1 to 0.8m depth	E	Sunny
10	Signpost hole 2 with topsoil removed	E	Sunny
11	Signpost hole 2 to 0.8m depth	E	Sunny

APPENDIX 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Angus Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	The Hill Enhancements, Kirriemuir, Angus
PROJECT CODE:	KIRR
PARISH:	Kirriemuir
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Graeme Carruthers
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	NO 389 546 centred
START DATE (this season)	August 2010
END DATE (this season)	August 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was undertaken during the removal of topsoil from the site of a new children's play area and two sign post bases at Kirriemuir Hill, Kirriemuir, Angus. The watching brief was undertaken due to the nearby presence of three Mounds, a Scheduled Standing Stone, a Scheduled Cropmark Enclosure and a mention of a now lost Souterrain. No features and no finds were recovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Angus 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 Angus Council Sites and Monuments Record



Key:
 watching brief area



Fig. No:	1	Revision:		Client:	Angus Council
Title:	Site location and location of Watching Brief Area				
Project:	Hill Enhancement, Kirriemuir, Angus				

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

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Fig. 2 Photo showing the shallow topsoil and brown B Horizon in the south west end of the site



Fig. 3 Photo of the eastern end of the site showing the topsoil stripped and the exposed orange natural and the brown B Horizon

Key:

Scale:

Fig. No: **2-3**

Revision:

Client: **Angus Council**

Title:

Project: **Hill Enhancement, Kirriemuir, Angus**



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Fig. 4 Topsoil removed from hole for Sign Post 1, from the east



Fig. 5 Topsoil removed from hole for Sign Post 2, from the east

Key:	Fig. No:	4-5	Revision:		Client:	Angus Council
	Title:					
	Project:	Hill Enhancement, Kirriemuir, Angus				
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