
Excavations at Craigie Hill, Fife, 1991

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with a contribution by Peter Connelly

The background

The work at Craigie Hill was part of a wider research programme initiated by Dr (now Professor) Trevor Watkins of the Dept of Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh. This programme attempted, through the excavation of selected crop-mark sites, to elucidate the basic elements of the prehistoric and medieval landscape of NE Fife. As Driscoll (1990) expressed it, the broader research programme of this project was designed to address two immediate issues:

- (i) the improvement, through excavation, of a future ability to interpret visually crop-mark sites with greater confidence;
- (ii) the collection of evidence, from both on- and off-site sampling, for the reconstruction of the environmental history, both natural and human-made, in this part of Fife.

Craigie Hill was the third site to be explored in this programme. Other sites which have been investigated are North Straiton (1987–1988) and Easter Kinnear (1989–1990: Driscoll and Watkins 1990).

In 1991 the site selected for investigation lay on Craigie Hill (NO 446248) which had been revealed on aerial photographs taken by the RCAHM(S) in 1989 (Illus 3 and 6). The general locality had been subjected to archaeological fieldwork in late 1990 when the consultancy Archaeological Projects Glasgow (APG, now GUARD) was invited to assess the archaeological implications for a proposed golf course and attached leisure complex development in the area of Drumoig (APG 1991). As part of that exercise APG staff produced transcriptions of the crop marks previously photographed, as well as undertaking a geophysical resistivity survey of them, and also undertook some limited excavation of a group of marks in a field adjacent to the one which became the focus of the SFSA project. The results of APG's November 1990 trenching were inconclusive apart from demonstrating the presence of archaeological

features, some of which were plough truncated.

In light of the proposed golf course development, the Craigie Hill site was chosen as the site for the 1991 SFSA season. From a larger complex of crop marks, the particular set selected for excavation comprised a sub-rectangular 'ditched' enclosure, approximately 10m N-S by 7m E-W, within which lay an amorphous dark circular feature (c 5m in diameter: Illus 3). The initial interpretation of this mark was that it was the vestiges of a dwelling with surrounding enclosure. It was the purpose of the excavation to confirm this hypothesis and in the process to recover secure dating and environmental evidence. As this excavation was as much a training exercise as a research project, this objective influenced the excavation strategy. That strategy was to minimise as far as possible the type of mistakes that come with using relatively inexperienced labour.

The site

Lying off the B945 St Michael's – Tayport road, Craigie Hill is approximately 1.5km north of the village of St Michael's and at an approximate height of 40m asl (there is an OS triangulation point of 50m, some 200m south-west of the site: Illus 1).

Geologically the area in which Craigie Hill is situated is complex (Illus 2). The bedrock morphology lies on a boundary between sedimentary deposits (mainly sandstone) and stretches of igneous formations. Craigie Hill itself is one such igneous deposit and is overlain with a compact sandy clay containing clasts of local rocks and far travelled erratics. As part of the surface geology, the crop marks under investigation sit on glacial meltwater deposits such as sands and gravels. This often gives rise to a mounded and kettled terrain. These characteristics also make for a free-draining site. Its relative dryness and sandy nature also mean that it is highly susceptible to wind-driven



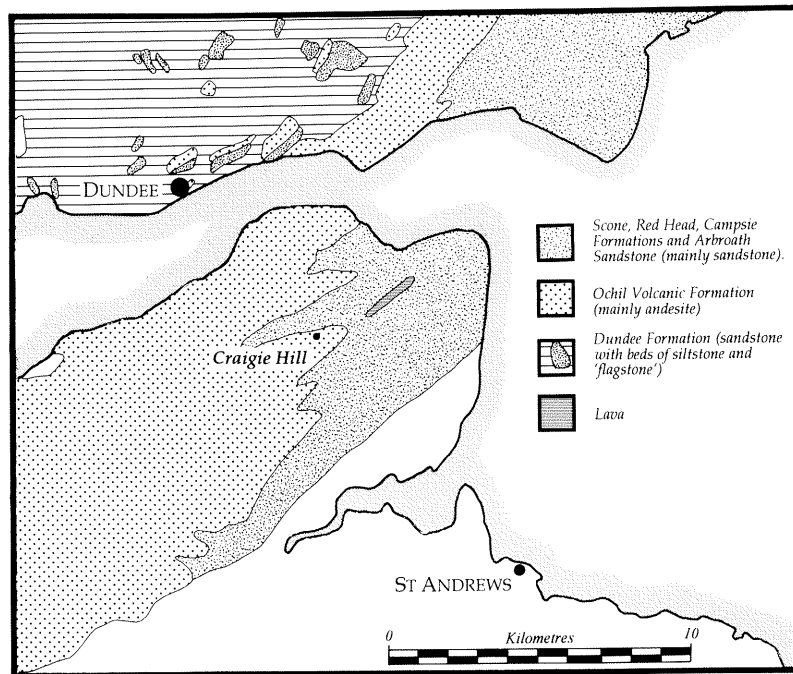
Illus 1. The location of Craigie Hill, Fife.

erosion. The east-west linear feature noted on the aerial photographs which lay slightly to the north of the area under excavation was an intrusive geological feature most probably of permo-Carboniferous quartz-dolerite, where, as at the summit of Craigie Hill, the bedrock is very close to the surface.

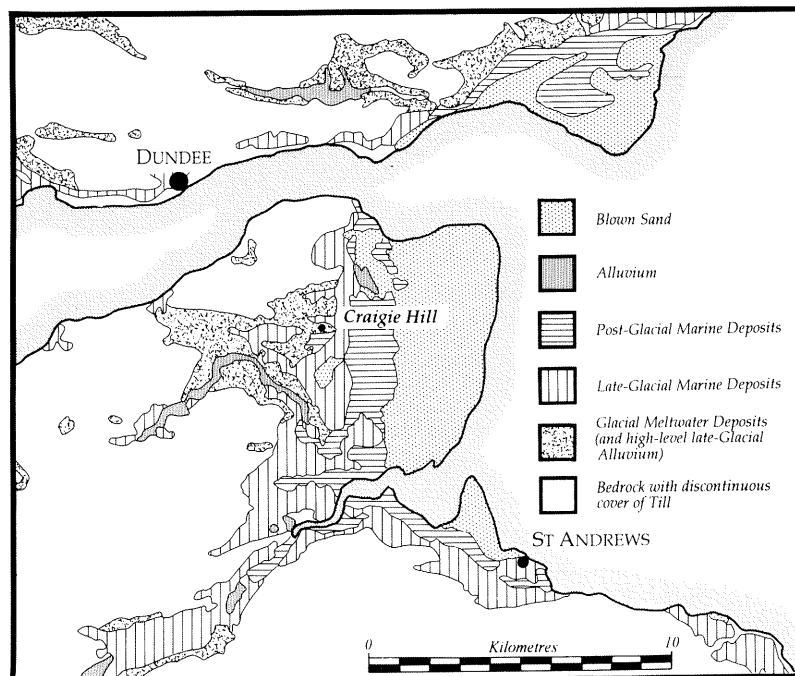
Previous archaeological work at Craigie Hill

From the study of the aerial photographs and their transcribed ground plans (Illus 3) it was evident that the site excavated lay within an area of extensive crop marks, which suggests that the land has been relatively intensively exploited in the past.

Distribution of Principal Lower Devonian Formations



Distribution of Quaternary Features and Deposits



Illus 2. The Geology of Craigie Hill, Fife.

Although at present very few of the crop marks have any date attributed to them, the fragment of an undecorated shale bangle that was recovered from cleaned and planned features at Pickletillem in 1991 (NO438248, 1km west of Craigie Hill) along with work since 1992 suggests prehistoric exploitation of the area. The only other documented discovery on Craigie Hill was in 1808 when an earthen jar containing nearly a hundred silver

coins was exposed. The coins themselves were evidently in perfect condition and were minted under Antoninus and Faustina, and Severus, pointing to a 3rd-century date for their deposition.

Other than the information derived from the 1989 air photographs and the assessment work undertaken by APG in 1990 there is little evidence of other archaeological activity in the area before 1989.



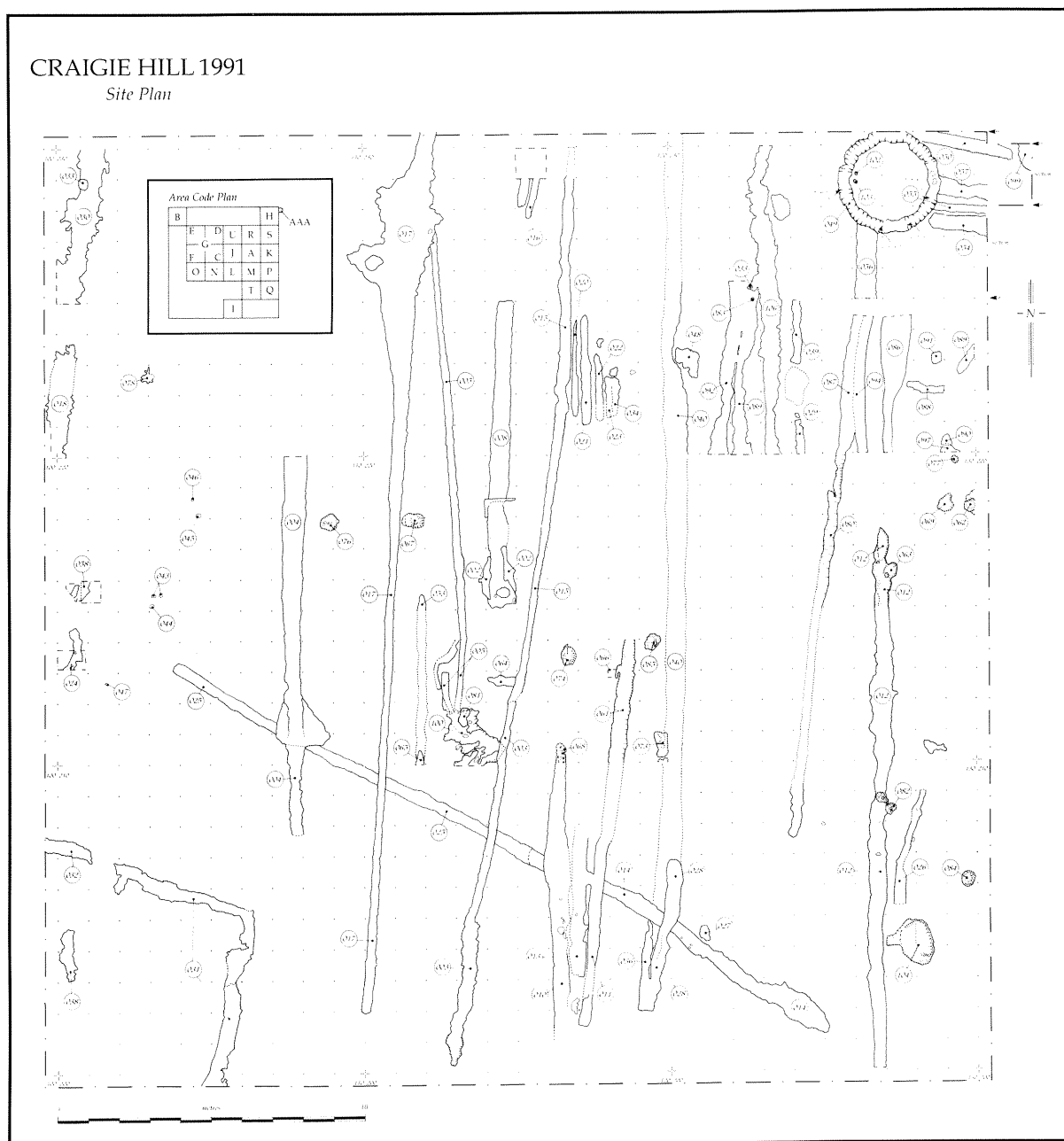
Illus 3. Craigie Hill 1991 – location of the excavation site.

Approximately 1.5km due north of the Craigie Hill site lie the ruins of the old parish church of Forgan, dedicated to St Fillans (NO445259). The church belonged to the Priory of St Andrews and was in use until 1841 when the new parish church was constructed (Scott 1925, 203–205; Hows 1982, 91). Late-19th-century investigations provisionally dated the original building of the church to the beginning of the 14th century. In 1971 60 fragments of medieval floor tile were exposed during work being carried out outside the south wall of the church. Records kept in the NMR at the RCAHM(S) report that in late 1971–early 1972 St Fillans was surveyed and a ground plan of the church drawn up. From this work it was discovered that the earliest part of the church still standing (the east wall) dated to the late 12th century or early 13th

century. The other remains date to the 16th century and the late medieval period with a few modern intrusions.

Another 100m north of St Fillans lie the remains of Kirkton House (NO446260). The house dates to the 16th century. The lintel to the hall fireplace was removed and reused in the building of a barn at the adjacent farm at Kirkton Barns. This lintel was inscribed with the initials D B (David Balfour) and C C (Catherine Crichton), his wife, with the date of 1585. It is known that Kirkton was formerly called Balledmond and once belonged to the Balfours, as John Balfour of Balledmond appears as a witness to a charter in 1585 (on the Balfours of Fife: RCAHM(S) 1933.xliii).

With St Fillans and Kirkton House along with other place-names such as Vicarsford (Cowbakie



Illus 4. Craigie Hill 1991 – site plan.

on the 1855 OS map), Priorfield and Easter and Wester Friarton, it would appear that the area of land surrounding Craigie Hill and ultimately Craigie Hill itself probably had close links with the Forgan church and/or the Priory at St Andrews during the medieval period.

The excavation strategy

As has already been explained, the site selected for excavation was a component of a larger complex of crop marks. Excavation commenced on 28th June and concluded on 26th July. In the hope that much, if not all, of it would be exposed, a mechanically dug trench, 30.5m by 30.5m, was opened in the area where the site was estimated to lie. This was

calculated by a combination of the transcribed air photographs prepared by the APG survey and, more simply, by counting off the number of field posts visible on the photograph against those on the ground surface. After the removal of c 900 sq m of topsoil by a JCB machine, excavation by hand proceeded.

Because of an unexpected delay in starting the area stripping of the site, which meant that the bulk of the excavation team would have been left unemployed, four small trenches (each 2m by 2m) were opened in the corners of what was to become the main trench. These sondages were meant to give some indication of the depth of the modern agricultural horizon, which could in turn help in the stripping of the main trench. The results from

this preliminary exercise were useful. On the western side of the site, the sondages in both corners showed that the depth of topsoil and ploughsoil was c 0.5m. On the eastern side, however, the depth was up to 1.5m. The discrepancies in depth might be attributed to the fact that the prevailing winds blow in an easterly direction and that on the eastern side of the area there lies a 'modern' field boundary against which the light brown sandy soil has built up. Towards the conclusion of this part of the trial excavation, in the extreme north-east corner of the main trench, an extension was cut in order to investigate a number of archaeological features which had complicated this area. This extension (Area AAA) eventually cut beneath the field boundary. Knowing the approximate date when this wall was constructed in turn provided some indication of the rate of the soil build-up against the field wall (see below).

After mechanical stripping, the main trench was then divided up into a grid of 5m squares, with a 0.5m buffer around the total area exposed. Labelling of the squares, as they were progressively opened up, was alphabetical. All finds, other than isolated small pieces of charcoal, were afforded especial treatment and allotted separate finds numbers.

As will become apparent, whilst initially at least the excavation had little difficulty in identifying features, with time the slow progress in the elucidation of these, coupled with the suspicion that virtually all those features identified by then were relatively modern, meant that towards the end of the third week of the season a more aggressive excavation strategy was adopted. In those parts of the main trench where it was proving difficult to isolate definite archaeological features or where none could be or had been identified, then a policy of stripping that area was initiated. As and when features were identified, context numbers were allocated to them. However, as finds were recovered for which precise features were not found, then the finds were bagged with their three-dimensional location and simply given an area code. The size of the areas excavated in this manner was determined by the 5m by 5m grid which had been superimposed across the site. Whilst the disadvantage of this method was that it meant that immediate control in relating finds to contexts was lost, it did speed up the excavation. Equally, there was the fact that when features were located, there was a good chance that earlier unprovenanced finds could be placed in contexts with some certainty.

The excavations

Illustration 4 shows that the majority of archaeological deposits found were 'linear' features orientated in an approximately north – south direc-

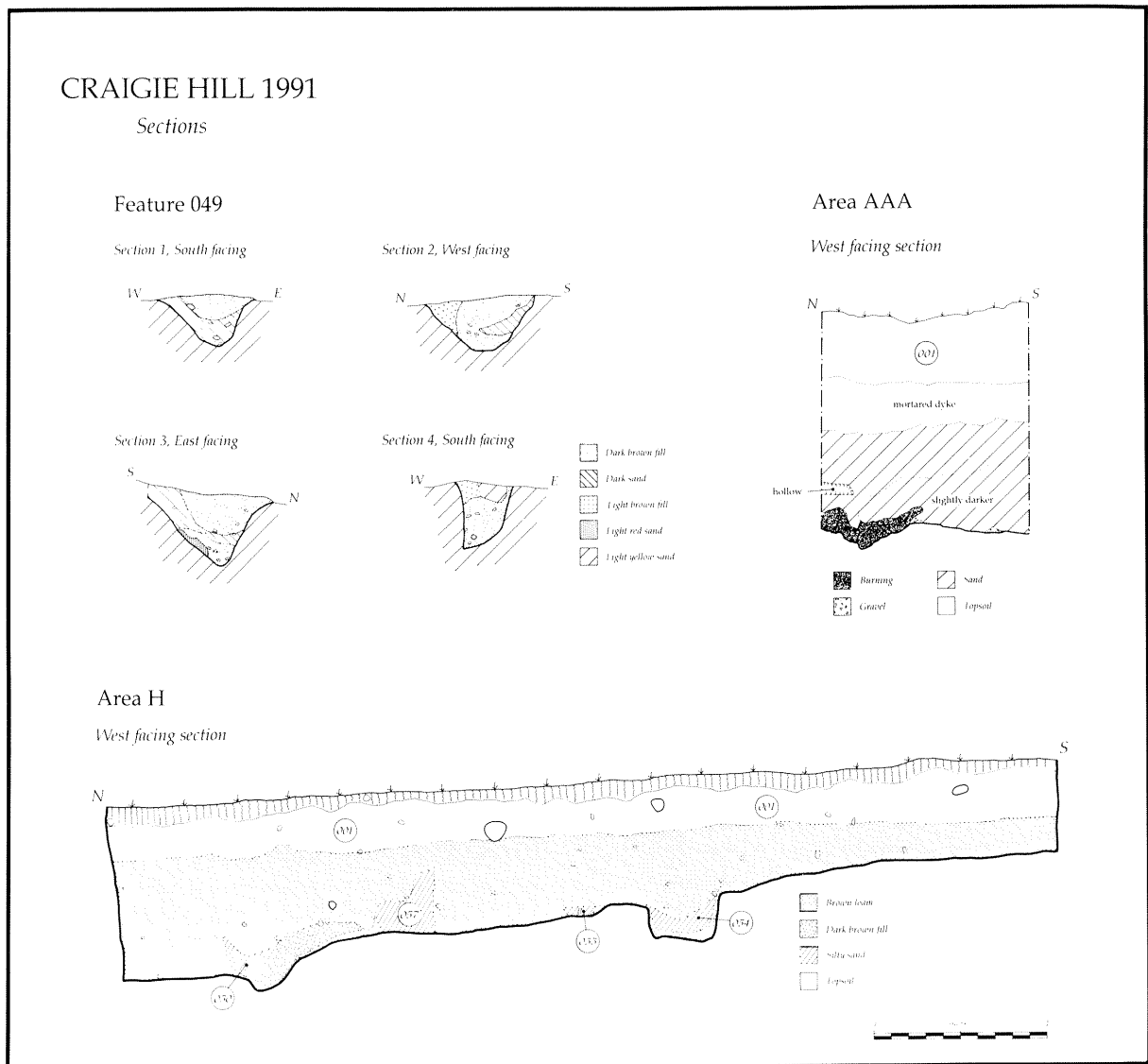
tion. Before discussing the date and significance of these we may consider those deposits which are demonstrably earlier.

In the first instance there is the structure 032/031/060 in the south-west corner of the excavation trench which constituted the severely truncated ditches of a rectangular enclosure whose northern side was interrupted for an entrance. The dimensions of the enclosure were 7.30m E-W by 6m N-S. Along the E-W edge the entrance gap was 1.96m wide. The ditches were, as surviving, between 30 and 50cm wide and 15–20cm deep. Unfortunately, no surfaces were identified within the interior of this structure, nor finds from it or the ditches. The possibility of stakeholes etc in the bottom of the ditch was considered but no evidence for them was found.

Diagonally opposite this complex, in the north-east corner of the trench, a ring ditch (049) with a diameter of 2.5m was uncovered. The ditch, U-shape in profile and cut into sand, was between 30 and 35cm wide. Again severely truncated, on the inner edge of its western side, there were the possible remains of two stakeholes (102 and 103), which may have formed part of some sort of perimeter fence. The area within the ditch failed to produce any other structures or finds. The ditch (049) of this structure (Illus 4 and 5) showed signs of having been re-cut at some stage in its history. In the upper fill of the ditch a piece of prehistoric pottery was recovered. It was clear, however, that part of 049 had been subsequently cut by a number of later linear features, including 056 (N-S) and 055 (NW-SE).

Finally a group of substantial post holes (076, 067, 074, 085 and 073) was isolated roughly midway between these two structures. Attempts at locating more in the group as well as surfaces failed to produce any evidence that these constituted part of a single timbered structure.

These elements represent, archaeologically, the earliest features. Other than them the main group of features exposed by the excavation were two sets of linear features or striations which, generally speaking, could be traced or projected as parallel lines across the excavation area: (i) running NW-SE and represented by only 014/025; and (ii) the vast majority of striations oriented N-S. A closer examination of this second group suggests that it is in fact made up of two discrete sets: one running at a slight angle to the other. Those running 'true' north include 004, 010/068, 040, 039/029, 012 and 106. Those running NNE include 030, 017, 015, 016, 080/087, 106, 061 and 092. The significance of 020, 021, 022, 065/053 and 023/034 is not certain. The dimensions of the first group were in the range 40 to 50cm wide and between 8 and 15cm deep. The widths of those in the second group (which would substantiate the idea of a second discrete group),



Illus 5. Craigie Hill 1991 – sections.

were in the range 20 to 35cm (although 106 was measured as approximately 55cm wide and 20cm deep) and they were a depth of between 3 to 10cm deep. The date of all these features is unclear, although most of those which produced finds had pottery identified as 'medieval' and/or modern in them. Only 025 of this group contained a sherd of 'prehistoric' pottery. The other end of it, 014, produced two pieces of prehistoric material, at its SE end. However, excavation did show that both sets of the N-S features cut across 014, as demonstrated by 004, 010/068, 013, 061 and 028, which at the very least suggests that 014 represents the earliest stratigraphically demonstrable event on the site.

Interpretation and discussion

The most striking but at the same time disappointing aspect of the excavation was the scale of

destruction across all the archaeological deposits. There were extensive remains of animal burrowing throughout the site, unsurprising given the nature of its geology. Added to this were the consequences of ploughing, modern and not so recent. This was apparent not only in the severely truncated ditches of the south-west enclosure and the consequent inability to recover any surfaces or finds from it, but in the way the ring ditch feature in the north-east corner, which we interpreted as a burial monument, had been damaged. The evidence of the linear features across the site, and in particular the mixed-up pottery in them, also reflects the continual reuse of the land.

Bearing in mind these comments, the following observations might be made.

- (i) A stratigraphic relationship between the south-west enclosure (032/031/060) and the north-south striations could not be established.

Nor could the date or function of the former be determined. If one assumes that the enclosure was in its total extent regularly shaped and that its southern and western sides turned immediately under the edge of the excavation trench, then this would give it a minimum area within its ditches of about 20 sq m. It is tempting to see the comparable alignment of the linear feature 014/025 as having a relationship with 031/032/060, although this must remain speculation.

- (ii) The north-east ring (049) ditch has the characteristics that one would associate with a prehistoric burial. Unfortunately, the absence of any finds from its interior does not permit secure dating of it. The presence of a fragment of Iron Age pottery in the upper fill of the ditch, which had been re-cut at least once in its history, must be seen as likely to have been redeposited. Continuing work in the vicinity of Craigie Hill (see below) has produced considerable evidence of a Late Neolithic – Early Bronze Age settlement.
- (iii) The excavations revealed the existence of one, if not two, distinct set of linear features oriented in an approximately north-south direction. Given their uniformity of dimensions and direction they would all seem to be of the same (approximate) date and function. They have been interpreted as agricultural and, more precisely, the remains of plough furrows rather than the remnants of a system of field drains and/or strip-field boundaries. There would be two groups if we count all the N-S lines as one set with the different alignment a consequence of different periods of ploughing and the NW-SE furrow as the other 'group'. Conversely the N-S group could represent two separate sets of plough marks which would better explain their slightly different alignments. The evidence favours the former of these two explanations in so much that a re-examination of the aerial photographs shows a series of parallel linear features running approximately N-S. Given their visibility on the photographs and the fact that they appear to be spaced approximately 15m apart, it may well be that these are the vestiges of the field ditches/boundaries separating a series of strip fields. Within these the ploughing occurred, producing the linear features found by the excavation. This would leave, as the third element, the NW-SE marks, which, as we have seen, appear to pre-date all the N-S lines.

In turn, at an unknown date, we have stratigraphic proof that the N-S set(s) cut the NW-SE series. It is tempting to interpret this latter group

as evidence of earlier plough marks although why so few of them are visible is puzzling. However, if all the linear marks represent plough marks and if it can be said that the ploughing was parallel to longitudinal boundaries, then, prior to the creation of the modern field, there were at least two earlier field orientations here, the earlier NW-SE one and the later N-S set(s). Subsequent conversations with the landowner, Mr Foster, revealed that the modern field boundaries date to c 1850 when Craigie Farm was laid out.

The earliest published map to show the place name Craigie is the 1654 map 'The Sherifdome of Fyfe' by J Blaeu, but at this scale only the location of Craigie itself is apparent. A map of this part of Fife from General Roy's survey of c 1755 may provide further clues to the evolution of this landscape. His map indicates that the earlier road between St Michael's and Tayport followed a different course from the modern road (the B945). The early road ran through what has subsequently become the abandoned quarry of Craigie Hill, referred to as Whinstone Quarry and Old Quarry as far back as 1855, close to the modern triangulation point. In turn, upon reaching the top of the hill it would have made its way north, either to the vicinity of Cross Green, Tayport and in doing so skirted what is now the western edge of Kirkton Wood or more likely, has been picked up by the modern road close to Vicarsford Cottage or further up, at Law Houses. Either way, aerial photographs of the area show a parch mark where the road would have run relative to the excavation site, that is south-east of it. In turn it is possible to trace a course for this earlier road in the junctions and alignments of what are now farm tracks. Roy's map also records a series of strip fields oriented north-south and east-west in this vicinity, both east and west of the old road, parallel and at right angles to his road. It is tempting to equate Roy's north-south fields with the ploughing evidence uncovered by the excavation. If this is so, then Roy's map would provide a terminus ante quem of at least c 1760 for these fields. If so, the NW-SE plough furrows would thus be at least pre-1760. In this respect, we should note that the furrow of this group produced nothing but prehistoric pottery. As already indicated, it is also attractive, although ultimately impossible to prove, to link the general orientation of 014/025 with the comparable alignment of the SW corner enclosure 031/032/060.

Craigie Hill appears on John Ainslie's 1775 map of the county of Fife as Craigie, although again the scale is too small to depict it in detail. Nor does it show the road which now runs past Craigie Hill. Ainslie's update of 1801 adds no new information on this part of Fife. By the time of Thompson's map of 1827 the general direction and line of the modern road becomes evident. Again, Craigie Hill



Illus 6. Aerial photograph of crop marks at Craigie Hill, Fife with the excavation site highlighted (Copyright RCAHM(S) and published here with permission).

and its surrounding fields are not indicated. Nothing new was added to the knowledge of Craigie Hill and its environs in Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler's 1828 'Map of the Counties of Fife and Kinrosshire'. It is not until the first Ordnance Survey of 1855 that Craigie Hill and its surrounding fields are represented. Examination of this map and subsequent editions shows that there has been no change in the route of the St Michael's - Tayport road. Therefore, it would appear that the field in which the excavations took place have been oriented north-west/south-east by north-east/south-west since at least 1855.

It is not immediately obvious why the course of the road should have moved some time after 1755.

Extension of the quarries on Craigie Hill may have been the reason. However, if the argument presented so far is accepted then the outcome of the SFSA excavations is evidence for the medieval use of the land around Craigie Hill. Coincidentally, at about the time that Craigie Hill was under investigation, Yeoman published an article which highlighted how poor was the understanding of the medieval (ie 12th century - 17th century) utilisation of the (Scottish) countryside. In summarising some of the potential avenues for future research as well as some of the recent accomplishments, he observed that 'no one has ever set out to excavate fields with the sole aim of retrieving information concerning their construction, develop-

ment and dating, although excavation does occasionally occur by accident when the fields happen to overlie earlier sites, or when encountered beneath later sites' (Yeoman 1991, 119). He also pointed out how many medieval rural settlements in eastern Scotland often lie atop earlier Late Neolithic – Early Bronze Age settlements. The evidence which is accumulating from Craigie Hill, albeit slight from the SFSA excavations and more substantially by the work currently being undertaken in the area by GUARD, would appear to bear out this observation.

In truth the SFSA excavations at Craigie were not intended to address Yeoman's agenda, and it has to be admitted that the environmental samples taken at the time of the excavations have not been analysed. However, the results of the 1991 season illustrate the problems highlighted in Yeoman's recommendations. The results of the excavations indicate a medieval date for the activity exposed at Craigie Hill. Unfortunately, on present evidence, it is not possible to associate it with a specific settlement or settlement type, such as a *fermtoun*. As equally likely is that the use of the land in this period – certainly before 1559 and the Reformation – lies with the estates of St Andrews Cathedral/Priory and/or the nearby St Fillans Church.

Irrespective of the preceding discussion, the fact remains that the 1991 excavation did not find the crop marks which had occasioned it. An explanation for this is desirable. There are five potential explanations for the failure, none of which is decisive:

- (i) In the period between when the site was last photographed from the air and the excavation the marks were destroyed. The landowner has said that the field was last ploughed in 1989, the year it was recorded from the air.
- (ii) The features apparent on the photographs which were interpreted as archaeological were in reality not, but were entirely or in part the remnants of recent agricultural activity, nature unknown.
- (iii) The excavation trench was placed in the wrong location and the crop mark is still to be found either north or south of it. However, the extent of the trench and the calculations on where to place it makes this unlikely.
- (iv) In the initial mechanical stripping of the trench the crop mark was inadvertently removed. Again this is unlikely as a close watch was kept on the machine operator, who was already well familiar with this sort of work.
- (v) By the time the excavation ended, digging had still not gone deep enough. This is difficult to accept given that (a) the excavation started with a minimum depth of 0.5m and a maximum of 1.5m and by the time of its close ex-

cavation had removed another 0.5m across the central and eastern sectors of the trench; (b) the initial mechanical stripping of the trench came down onto natural sand in the western sector, which selected cleaning eventually showed to be uniform across the site; and (c) at the close of the excavations an exploratory sondage (2m x 4m) was dug in the NW corner of the trench which went down to a final depth of 2m. This cut through consistently undisturbed bands of water deposited sands.

At present there is little to recommend (iii) to (v). The distribution of finds showed a concentration along the eastern edge of the excavation area, which happens to be where the heart of the crop mark complex was expected to be. The concentration of finds in this locality suggests that there was once something here and that it has been destroyed or that it was not as substantial as the aerial photographs might have suggested.

The finds

In the years since the excavations were concluded, the excavation finds have suffered badly. A considerable volume of environmental samples were taken and were wet-sieved in the months after the excavation. The processing of the residues has not yet been undertaken. Likewise, in the interim the metalwork, admittedly mostly modern, has not been conserved. The site pottery assembly has also fared poorly. Sometime in the intervening years but before this report was composed, it was removed from the site archive. I have been unable to find its current whereabouts. The following comments are based on the field notes that were made at the time of the excavation (Appendix 2).

The pottery

Apart from some corroded iron objects, the only artefacts recovered were pottery. There were three distinct chronological groups. The most recent was a cluster of sherds dating to the early 19th century (and lacking the late Victorian to early 20th-century component common on other sites in the district). As found on other sites, Craigie Hill produced significant numbers of sherds of the now familiar Gritty White ware characteristic of the late 12th century, 13th century and 14th century (Will, in Driscoll and Yeoman 1997). These two groups of sherds are believed to have originated as midden material spread as low-grade fertiliser on arable land. The earliest group of sherds are of prehistoric date, belonging to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. Few features produced pottery of only one period, except for some N-S linear features, which consistently produced 19th-century sherds.

Conclusion

In summary, whilst the 1991 results might be described as a disappointment in several respects, with the failure to elucidate the date and character of the crop-mark complex, they were a success in another. Not only did they reveal something of the history of the field systems in the locality as well as proof of prehistoric occupation at or near the site, the level of destruction and reorganisation of the landscape demonstrated the hitherto unexpected intensity of use of the land in this part of Fife, from prehistoric times onwards.

Since the completion of the SFSA work at Craigie Hill and after a hiatus, work on the golfing complex in the Drumoig area has, as from 1995, recommenced. This has necessitated a watching brief on the area, again conducted by GUARD, directed by Heather James. As this work is on-going it is difficult to provide an accurate resumé of its results so far. However, this work is showing that there are considerable Neolithic and Bronze Age deposits immediately north of the SFSA site. If this is so then it would add some validity to the identification of the severely damaged prehistoric burial excavated in 1991.

Acknowledgements

The success of any excavation is due to the help it receives not only from its on-site personnel but also from those in the 'background'. Acknowledgements are due to the officers and other committee members of the SFSA at the time of the excavations, notably Margaret Dixon, Dave Easton and Edwina Proudfoot. The owner of the Craigie Hill site, Mr Foster, generously allowed the work to take place and in turn furnished logistical help. Over the four week season, approximately 35 'students' and other volunteers were employed full-time along with at least 10 occasional visitors. To all these individuals are owed thanks for enthusiastically and cheerfully contributing to what proved, to be, in some respects, a difficult site to excavate as a training project. Judith Robertson and John Atkinson, as site supervisors, kept the excavations moving and the 'troops' happy. Dr Steve Driscoll provided advice and help, both administrative and practical.

The excavations were sponsored by Historic Scotland, the former Fife Regional Council where thanks are particularly due to Peter Yeoman, its Archaeological Officer, the SED (Special Grants), the Russell Trust, Edinburgh University and Glasgow University. The Dept of Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh and APG/GUARD at the University of Glasgow provided additional equipment. The writing-up of this report has been

made possible by grant from Historic Scotland, to which grateful acknowledge is made.

Whilst Dr Watkins was the Project Director, responsibility for the excavation season was the task of the author and who, with the winding-up of the affairs of the SFSA, subsequently agreed to see the excavation into print. This has been an extremely difficult report to prepare. Its writing was facilitated by the out-going Committee of the SFSA and in particular its Chairperson, Anne Kahane. Gordon Barclay, Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Historic Scotland, has taken a friendly interest in its progress. The illustrations were originally prepared by Beth Bartley. Lorraine McEwan showed heroic patience and no little skill in the subsequent correcting and completion of them. I am grateful to the anonymous reader for his/her comments and demands for greater precision in explanation. The excavation archive has been deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland.

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Appendix 1: CH 1991 list of contexts

The excavation eventually identified 106 contexts. Of these the following, after filtering, are deemed to be significant. Those contexts in brackets

represent numbers which were inadvertently given to the same context.

Context	Interpretation	Equates with	Context	Interpretation	Equates with
001	topsoil		055	linear feature	
002	area of burning		056	linear feature	
003	linear feature	(= 093)	057	linear feature	
004	linear feature		058	linear feature	
005	linear feature		060	linear feature/bottom of ditch	
008	linear feature	= 093	061	linear feature	= 011
009	area of burning	= 081 = 070	062	linear feature	= 069
010	linear feature		063	post hole ?	
011	linear feature	= 061	064	linear feature/burrow ?	
012	linear feature		065	linear feature	= 053
013	linear feature		066	linear feature	
014	linear feature	= 025 = 072	067	post hole	
015	linear feature		068	linear feature	
016	linear feature		069	linear feature	= 062
017	linear feature		070	area of burning	= 009 = 081
018	linear feature	= 030	071	deposit	
020	linear feature		072	linear feature	= 025 = 014
021	linear feature		073	linear feature/burrow ?	
022	linear feature		074	post hole	
023	linear feature		075	linear feature/deposit ?	
024	linear feature		076	post hole	
025	linear feature	= 072 = 014	077	post hole	
026	linear feature		080	linear feature	
027	linear feature		081	area of burning	= 070 = 009
028	linear feature		082	burrow/post hole ?	
029	linear feature	= 039 (= 019)	083	post hole	
030	linear feature	= 018	084	post hole	
031	linear feature/bottom of ditch		085	post hole	
032	linear feature/bottom of ditch		086	linear feature	
033	post hole		087	linear feature	
034	linear feature		088	burrow/linear feature ?	
036	linear feature		089	burrow/linear feature ?	
039	linear feature	= 029 (= 019)	091	deposit	
040	linear feature		092	linear feature	
041	post hole - burrow ?		093	linear feature	= 008
043	stakehole		094	linear feature	
044	stakehole		096	linear feature	
045	stakehole		099	area of burning	
046	stakehole		100	linear feature	
047	stakehole		102	stakehole	= 103
048	deposit		103	stakehole	= 102
049	ditch		104	pit	
050	linear feature		105	stakehole	
053	linear feature	= 065	106	linear feature	
054	linear feature				

Appendix 2: CH 1991 list of finds

Virtually all finds were given a separate catalogue number. Where possible their three-dimensional position in the excavation area was obtained. The following 'significant' finds were made along with their location and provisional dating. Finds expressed as a letter are those which came from the

top-soil of particular 5m x 5m square, as explained in the Excavation Strategy section above. Finds with a context number followed by a letter (eg, 040Q) denote finds which were recovered from a context which crossed a number of the squares.

Number	Context	Description	Number	Context	Description
1	008	piece of iron	6	014	Late Bronze/Iron Age pot
2	011	fragment of lead	7	053	Late Bronze/Iron Age pot
3	018	medieval pot	8	059	medieval pot
4	040	medieval pot	9	K	medieval pot
5	014	Late Bronze/Iron Age pot	10	K	Late Bronze/Iron Age pot

Number	Context	Description	Number	Context	Description
11	056	modern pot	66	012	?medieval pot
12	K	modern pot	67	012	bone
13	K	modern field drain	68	012	bone
14	K	?medieval pot	69	012K	modern field drain
15	A	modern glass	70	012K	pot
16	K	medieval pot	71	040Q	modern field drain
17	K	Iron Age pot	72	004	modern pot
18	063	modern field drain	73	087	iron nail
19	063	medieval pot	74	012	glazed pot
20	050	Late Bronze/Iron Age pot	75	N	bone
21	063	Iron Age pot	76	087	modern pot
22	K	Iron Age pot	77	K	Iron Age pot
23	K	Iron Age pot	78	012	modern pot
24	J	medieval pot	79	K	burnt clay
25	040	Iron nail fragment	80	057	prehistoric pot
26	005	medieval pot	81	070	?hammer stone
27	071	Burnt wood/bone	82	039/092K	medieval pot
28	068	modern pot	83	K	modern pot
29	012	modern pot	84	039/092K	pot
30	J	medieval pot	85	049	Iron Age pot
31	069	modern pot	86	K	medieval pot
32	K	Iron Age pot	87	K	modern pot
33	K	modern pot	88	086S	glass
34	K	Iron Age pot	90	094	bone
35	K	medieval pot	91	089	modern tile/drain
36	K	modern field drain	92	S	bone/tooth
37	K	medieval pot	93	V	modern pot
38	K	Iron Age pot	94	104	Iron Age pot
39	AAA	clay pipe, glass, mixed pottery	95	H	Iron Age pot
40	AAA	modern pot	96	H	Iron Age pot
41	061	medieval pot	99	007	Iron Age pottery
42	061	pot	100	012	medieval pot
43	061	medieval pot	101	040	modern pot
44	015	glass	102	004	medieval pot
45	069	pot	103	006	prehistoric pot
46	012	medieval pot	104	019A	prehistoric pot
47	012	medieval pot	105	019A	prehistoric pot
48	K	pot	106	019A	prehistoric pot
49	N	modern pot	107	019A	prehistoric pot
50	061	pot	108	019A	prehistoric pot
51	012	piece of iron	109	019A	prehistoric pot
52	012	medieval pot	110	019A	prehistoric pot
53	012	clay pipe	111	019A	prehistoric pot
54	A	prehistoric pot	112	019A	prehistoric pot
55	K	pot	113	019A	prehistoric pot
56	061	medieval pot	114	019A	prehistoric pot
57	061	modern pot	115	019A	prehistoric pot
58	012	medieval pot	116	019A	prehistoric pot
59	012	medieval pot	117	019A	prehistoric pot
60	012	medieval pot	118	019A	prehistoric pot
61	012	piece of iron nail	119	019A	prehistoric pot
62	012	piece of iron	120	019A	prehistoric pot
63	Q	modern pot	121	019A	prehistoric pot
64	049	modern pot	122	019A	prehistoric pot
65	040	pot	123	019A	prehistoric pot
			124	019A	prehistoric pot

Abstract

This report summarises the results of the 1991 excavations by the Scottish Field School of Archaeology (SFSA) at Craigie Hill, otherwise known as Drumoig, in Fife. The report is divided into three parts. The first section is a summary of the background to the excavations. The second portion summarises the features uncovered and the finds recovered. The third and final part offers an interpretation of that material along with a consideration of its significance.

Keywords: Fife, air photography, landscape archaeology, medieval settlement

