

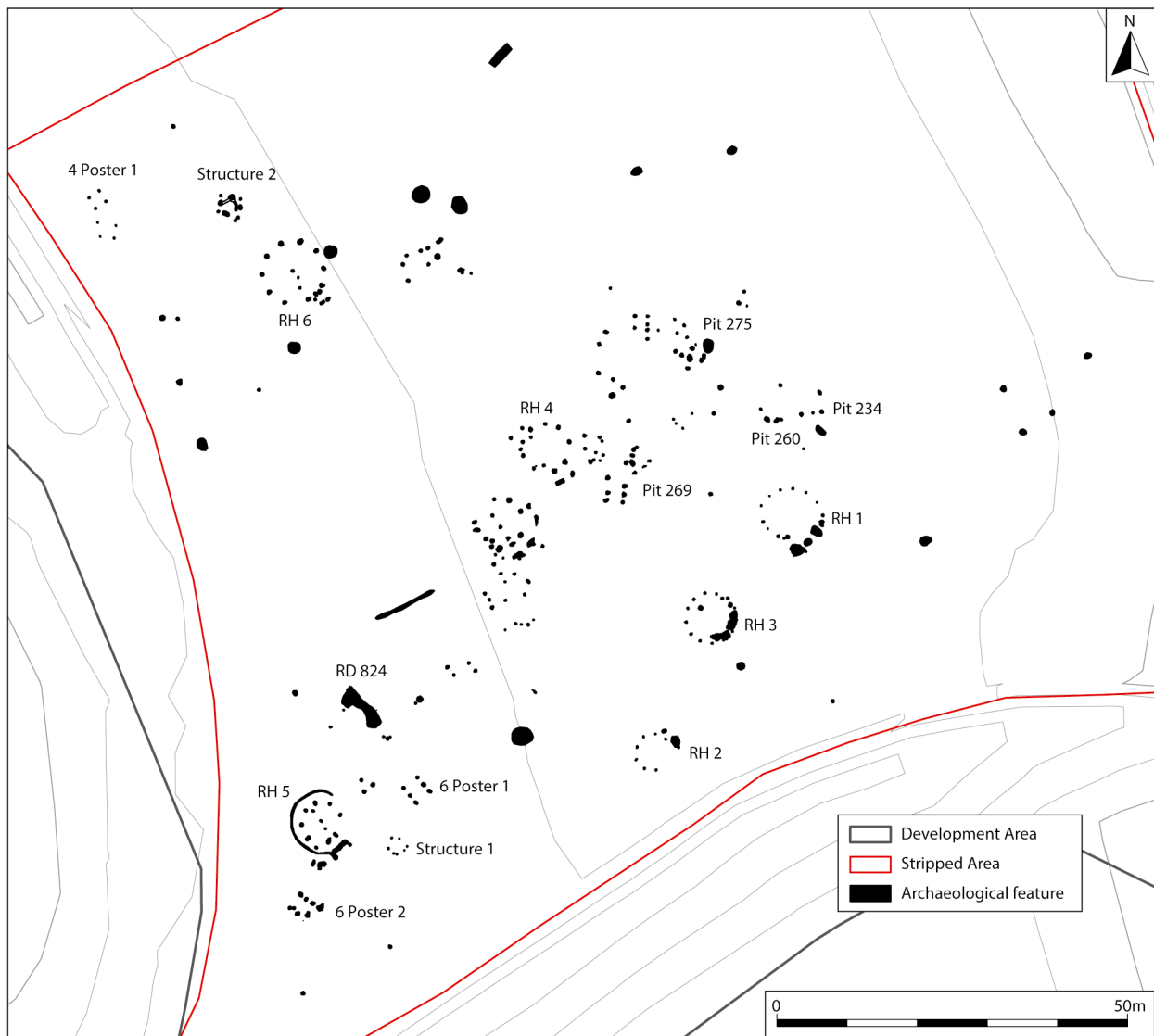
Illus 1 Site location map

## 2. INTRODUCTION

In March 2019, CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) was commissioned by RPS Group Ltd (formerly CgMs Consulting) on behalf of Breedon Trading Ltd to undertake a monitored topsoil strip for a borrow pit supplying aggregate materials for the dualling of the Luncarty to Birnam section of the A9 trunk road. The site lay to the south of Loak Farm, between Bankfoot and Newmill, Perth and Kinross (Illus 1) within an area of gently undulating improved farmland at an altitude of *c* 50m above OD (NGR: NO 07400 33200). It was situated on free-draining sands and gravels within close proximity to the Ordie Burn, and had extensive panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. Cropmarks identified

on aerial photographs suggested that there were two pit alignments of possible prehistoric date (NHRE ID: [27032](#) and NHRE ID: [92608](#)) within the borrow pit area. Further significant prehistoric features within the immediate vicinity included the Loak standing stone (NRHE ID: [27014](#)) and Court Hill barrow (NRHE ID: [27025](#)). Consequently, this area was considered to have excellent archaeological potential for the discovery of features of prehistoric date.

The monitored topsoil strip was carried out within two conjoined areas (Area 1 and Area 2, Illus 2 and 3 respectively) and led to the identification of numerous archaeological features within both areas (NHRE ID: [370116](#)). Mitigation measures agreed with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT)

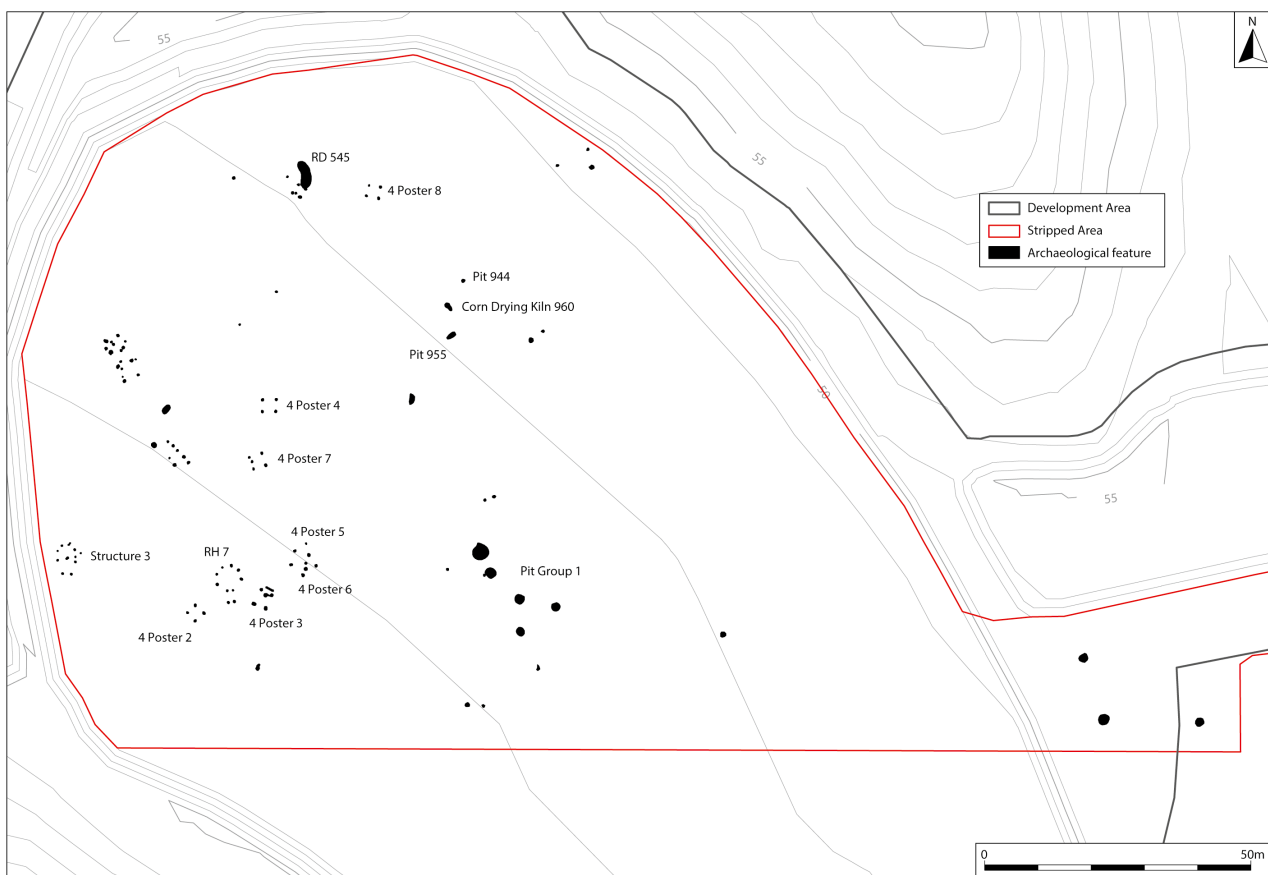


Illus 2 Plan of Area 1

required all of these features to be excavated, and the monitored topsoil strip proceeded directly into an open area excavation. The site was found to consist of seven roundhouses, eight four-post structures, two six-post structures, two ring ditches, an oval post-built structure, a lightweight post-built structure, a post- and post-trench structure, and numerous isolated pits and groups of pits. All of these features, and the associated radiocarbon dating, are consistent with this having been a fairly extensive settlement of later prehistoric date. In addition, several features, including a kiln, returned

dates in the very early medieval period, indicating some continuity of settlement into the second half of the first millennium AD.

Additional work at the borrow pit, to the immediate south of Area 2 discussed in this paper, was undertaken in 2019 and 2020–21 by AOC Archaeology Group (MacIver & Demay 2025). This work uncovered Neolithic, Bronze Age, early Iron Age and early medieval features, alongside several 12th–15th-century corn-drying kilns, indicating that the extent of archaeological features extended beyond the areas monitored by CFA.



**Illus 3** Plan of Area 2