

**Birkwood Hospital, Lesmahagow:**  
**Evaluation Data Structure Report**

**On behalf of:** Caledonian Homes

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NS 8100 3897

**AOC Archaeology Project No:** 20341

**Prepared by:** Mike Roy

**Illustrations by:** Graeme Carruthers

**Timing:** Fieldwork - February 2007  
Reporting - February 2007

**Enquiries to:** AOC Archaeology Group  
Edgefield Industrial Estate  
Edgefield Road  
Loanhead  
Midlothian  
EH20 9SY

*Tel.* 0131 440 3593

*Fax.* 0131 440 3422

*Email.* [admin@aocscot.co.uk](mailto:admin@aocscot.co.uk)

## 1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the proposed area of a residential development lying to the south of Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire. Fifteen trial trenches totalling 1450 m<sup>2</sup> were excavated over 5.7 ha of former agricultural land and woodland. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified, though the robbed-out foundations for a small 19<sup>th</sup> century structure were encountered.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Project Background

- 2.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Caledonia Homes in respect to a proposed development at Birkwood Hospital, Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire. The proposed development site lies within the administrative area of South Lanarkshire Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). WoSAS recommended an intrusive archaeological evaluation of the development area prior to the determination of any planning application. The work is required in accordance with NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a), in order to determine the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
- 2.1.2 The proposed development site (Figure 1) is located to the south of the village of Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire and is centred on NGR: NS 8100 3897. The site is bounded by New Trows road to the west, a track to the south and east, and a field boundary to the north. The River Nethan runs to the east of the site. The proposed development covers an area of approximately 5.7 hectares. The site is covered by woodland and former agricultural land. To the west are several buildings associated with the former Birkwood Hospital. The ground is fairly level to the west, but slopes down fairly sharply from the centre of the site towards the east.

### 2.2 Archaeological and historical background

- 2.2.1 There are no known prehistoric archaeological remains within the proposed development. However, a small roofed building was recorded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey Map but is no longer visible on the ground (Olesky & Cook 2006).

### 3. OBJECTIVES

#### 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i)* to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- ii)* should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, to prepare a mitigation strategy compliant with NPPG 5 and PAN 42.

### 4. METHOD

#### 4.1 The scale of the trenching was determined at the 5% sample level (minimum 1450 m<sup>2</sup>). The location of trenches was agreed with WoSAS, but was also dependent upon avoiding mature tree cover. The trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard evaluation practice. Ground reduction was by means of one 15 tonne 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket with a width of 2.0 m. Excavation was carried out in shallow spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was encountered. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.

### 5. RESULTS

#### 5.1 The fieldwork was carried out from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> February 2007 in mixed weather conditions. A total of 15 trenches were excavated exposing a total basal area of 2850 m<sup>2</sup>. The topsoil across the site was generally 0.20 to 0.40 m in depth. A thin hillwash deposit (0.05 m) deep was present under the topsoil in Trenches 8 and 11, where the ground sloped fairly steeply down from west to east. The natural subsoil generally comprised light reddish brown boulder clay and gravel-rich slightly silty clay. The summary trench descriptions can be read in Appendix 1 with trench locations illustrated in Figure 2.

#### 5.2 Following very gradual reduction of the topsoil in shallow units until a clean subsoil surface was obtained, field drains (red ceramic tile and stone-filled), with a general approximate west to east orientation, were encountered in the majority of trenches. Modern detritus (not retained) in the form of white ceramic and bottle glass sherds occurred as occasional finds within the topsoil.

#### 5.3 Despite good archaeological visibility in the exposed subsoil surface no significant archaeological features were observed. Similarly no significant artefactual material was unearthed. The single feature of interest was a subsquare shallow gully feature, [1301] (Figure 3), with a topsoil-like fill, dated to the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century by ceramic evidence, at the south-west end of Trench 13. This



lay directly on the site of a small square structure visible on Ordnance Survey maps of the 1850s and 1890s (Olesky and Cook 2006) and represents the robbed-out foundation for this structure.

## 6. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Given the evaluation's negative findings the significant balance of probability is that the proposed development area is archaeologically sterile.
- 6.2 No further archaeological works are considered necessary.

## REFERENCES

Olesky, V & Cook, M 2006 *Birkwood Hospital, Lesmahagow; Archaeological Desk Based Assessment and Walkover Survey* AOC unpublished report.

Ordnance Survey 1854 *Lanarkshire* Sheet XXXI.12 1:2500

Ordnance Survey 1897 *Lanarkshire* Sheet XXXI.12 1:2500

SODD 1999 *National Planning Policy Guideline NPPG 18, Planning and the Historic Environment*. Scottish Office Development Department.

SOEnd 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and Planning* Scottish Office Environmental Department.

SOEnd 1994a *Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish Office Environmental Department.

## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

### **Trench 1**

*Orientation:* South to north  
*Size:* 115 m x 2.0 m  
*Topsoil depth:* 0.22 - 0.40 m  
*Excavation depth:* 0.40 m (max)  
*Subsoil:* Light reddish brown boulder clay  
*Modern features:* Field drains: stone-filled x 4  
*Significant features:* None  
*Artefacts:* None  
*Interpretation:* No significant archaeology present

### **Trench 2**

*Orientation:* NE to SW  
*Size:* 50m x 2.0 m  
*Topsoil depth:* 0.22 - 0.28 m  
*Excavation depth:* 0.28 m (max)  
*Subsoil:* Light reddish brown boulder clay; common gravel in centre  
*Modern features:* Field drains: ceramic tile x 1, stone-filled x 1  
*Significant features:* None  
*Artefacts:* None  
*Interpretation:* No significant archaeology present

### **Trench 3**

*Orientation:* North to south  
*Size:* 100 m x 2.0 m  
*Topsoil depth:* 0.25 - 0.30 m  
*Excavation depth:* 0.30 m (max)  
*Subsoil:* Light reddish brown boulder clay  
*Modern features:* Field drains: ceramic tile x 1, stone-filled x 2  
*Significant features:* None  
*Artefacts:* None  
*Interpretation:* No significant archaeology present

### **Trench 4**

*Orientation:* NW to SE  
*Size:* 50 m x 2.0 m  
*Topsoil depth:* 0.25 - 0.35 m  
*Excavation depth:* 0.35 m (max)  
*Subsoil:* Light reddish brown boulder clay  
*Modern features:* None  
*Significant features:* None  
*Artefacts:* None  
*Interpretation:* No significant archaeology present

### **Trench 5**

*Orientation:* East to west  
*Size:* 65 m x 2.0 m  
*Topsoil depth:* 0.20 - 0.22 m  
*Excavation depth:* 0.22 m (max)  
*Subsoil:* Dark reddish brown slightly silty clay with moderate subangular stone  
*Modern features:* None  
*Significant features:* None  
*Artefacts:* None  
*Interpretation:* No significant archaeology present

### **Trench 6**

*Orientation:* East to west  
*Size:* 110 m x 2.0 m  
*Topsoil depth:* 0.28 - 0.30 m  
*Excavation depth:* 0.30 m (max)  
*Subsoil:* Dark reddish brown slightly silty clay with moderate subangular stone  
*Modern features:* Field drain: stone-filled x 1  
*Significant features:* None  
*Artefacts:* None  
*Interpretation:* No significant archaeology present

### **Trench 7**

*Orientation:* SW to NE  
*Size:* 100 m x 2.0 m  
*Topsoil depth:* 0.35 - 0.40 m  
*Excavation depth:* 0.40 m (max)  
*Subsoil:* Light reddish brown boulder clay; slightly silty clay to NE  
*Modern features:* Partially silted-up field drainage ditch  
*Significant features:* None  
*Artefacts:* None  
*Interpretation:* No significant archaeology present

### **Trench 8**

*Orientation:* SW to NE  
*Size:* 100 m x 2.0 m  
*Topsoil depth:* 0.28 - 0.40 m  
*Excavation depth:* 0.40 m (max)  
*Subsoil:* Light reddish brown/grey boulder clay; thin silty clay hillwash desposit (0.05 m deep) under topsoil from in SW end of trench  
*Modern features:* Field drains; stone-filled x 2; subsoil-filled drain/service x 2  
*Significant features:* None  
*Artefacts:* None  
*Interpretation:* No significant archaeology present

### **Trench 9**

*Orientation:* SW to NE  
*Size:* 100 m x 2.0 m  
*Topsoil depth:* 0.25 - 0.35 m  
*Excavation depth:* 0.35 m (max)  
*Subsoil:* Light to mid reddish brown gravel-rich slightly silty clay to NE; boulder clay to SW  
*Modern features:* Field drains: stone-filled x 4  
*Significant features:* None  
*Artefacts:* None  
*Interpretation:* No significant archaeology present

### **Trench 10**

*Orientation:* SW to NE  
*Size:* 100 m x 2.0 m  
*Topsoil depth:* 0.22 - 0.25 m  
*Excavation depth:* 0.25 m (max)  
*Subsoil:* light to mid reddish brown gravel-rich slightly silty clay  
*Modern features:* Field drain: stone-filled x 1  
*Significant features:* None  
*Artefacts:* None  
*Interpretation:* No significant archaeology present

### **Trench 11**

*Orientation:* West to east  
*Size:* 100 m x 2.0 m  
*Topsoil depth:* 0.25 - 0.34 m  
*Excavation depth:* 0.34 m (max)  
*Subsoil:* Light reddish brown/grey gravel-rich slightly silty clay; boulder clay to east; thin silty clay hillwash deposit (0.05 m deep) under topsoil from 20 – 50 m from west end of trench  
*Modern features:* Field drains: stone-filled x 2  
*Significant features:* None  
*Artefacts:* None  
*Interpretation:* No significant archaeology present

### **Trench 12**

*Orientation:* NE to SW  
*Size:* 75 m x 2.0 m  
*Topsoil depth:* 0.20 - 0.28 m  
*Excavation depth:* 0.28 m (max)  
*Subsoil:* Light reddish brown gravel-rich silty clay  
*Modern features:* None  
*Significant features:* None  
*Artefacts:* None  
*Interpretation:* No significant archaeology present

### **Trench 13**

*Orientation:* SW to NE  
*Size:* 110 m x 2.0 m with a 5 m by 3 m extension  
*Topsoil depth:* 0.25 - 0.30 m  
*Excavation depth:* 0.30 m (max)  
*Subsoil:* Light to mid reddish brown gravel-rich silty clay  
*Modern features:* Robber trench  
*Significant features:* Subsquare gully (robber trench) in SW of trench (19/20<sup>th</sup> century date)  
*Artefacts:* 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> Century pottery  
*Interpretation:* No significant archaeology present

### **Trench 14**

*Orientation:* NE to SW  
*Size:* 40 m x 2.0 m  
*Topsoil depth:* 0.10 - 0.12 m  
*Excavation depth:* 0.15 m (max)  
*Subsoil:* Light reddish brown gravel-rich silty clay  
*Modern features:* None  
*Significant features:* None  
*Artefacts:* None  
*Interpretation:* No significant archaeology present

### Trench 15

<i>Orientation:</i>	NE to SW
<i>Size:</i>	202.5 m x 2.0 m
<i>Topsoil depth:</i>	0.25 - 0.30 m
<i>Excavation depth:</i>	0.30 m (max)
<i>Subsoil:</i>	Light reddish brown gravel-rich silty clay; boulder clay to SW
<i>Modern features:</i>	Stone dump at 100-102 m from NE end of trench
<i>Significant features:</i>	None
<i>Artefacts:</i>	None
<i>Interpretation:</i>	No significant archaeology present

## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Type	Description
1301	Cut (Robber trench)	Subsquare gully feature cut into natural subsoil. Measured 6.3 m E/W by 4.5 m N/S (external dimension); gully was up to 0.3 m wide and between 0.05 m and 0.10 m deep; irregular sides and irregular, flat base; 19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century cut for robbing of 19 <sup>th</sup> century structure.
1302	Fill	Mid to dark reddish grey clay silt with moderate gravel and organic inclusions

## APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

### Black & White Print and Colour Slide 1

Frame	Detail	From
1-2	Registration Shot	-
3-4	Ice house	NE
5-6	Trench 2	W
7-8	Trench 4	N
9-10	Trench 10	SW
11-12	Trench 11	SW
13-14	Trench 8	SW
15-16	Trench 9	SW
17-18	Trench 6	E
19-20	Feature [1301] pre excavation	SE
21-22	Feature [1301] post excavation	SE

### Black & White Print and Colour Slide 2

Frame	Detail	From
1-2	Registration shot	-
3-4	West of site following backfill	W
5-6	Feature [1301], east-facing section	NE
7-8	Trench 12	NE
9-10	Trench 14	SW
11-12	South-east of site	SW
13-14	East of site following backfill	SW

# Birkwood Hospital, Lesmahagow: Evaluation Data Structure Report

## Digital Photographs

Shot	Detail	From
1-2	Registration shot	-
3	Ice house	NE
4	Trench 2	W
5	Trench 4	N
6	West of site following backfill	W
7	Feature [1301], east-facing section	NE
8	Trench 12	NE
9	Trench 14	SW
10	South-east of site	SW

## APPENDIX 4: SAMPLE REGISTER

Context No.	Area	Type of Sample	No. of Bags
1302	Tr. 13	SBS	2

## APPENDIX 5: DRAWING REGISTER

Drawing No.	Area	Feature No.	Description	Scale
1	Tr. 13	1301	Plan of robber trench [1301]	1:20
2	Tr. 13	1301	Section (E.-facing) of [1301]	1:10
3	Tr. 13	1301	Section (N.-facing) of [1301]	1:10

## APPENDIX 6: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	East Lothian
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Birkwood Hospital, Lesmahagow; Evaluation
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 20341
<b>PARISH:</b>	Lesmahagow
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Mike Roy
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR</b>	NS 8100 3897
<b>START DATE</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> February 2007
<b>END DATE</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2007
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b>	An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the area of a proposed residential development lying to the south of Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire. Fifteen trial trenches totalling 2850 m <sup>2</sup> were excavated over 5.7 ha of former woodland and agricultural land. The robbed-out trench for a small 19 <sup>th</sup> century structure was encountered but neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified by the evaluation.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Caledonia Homes
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Edgefield road, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	miker@aocscot.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS.

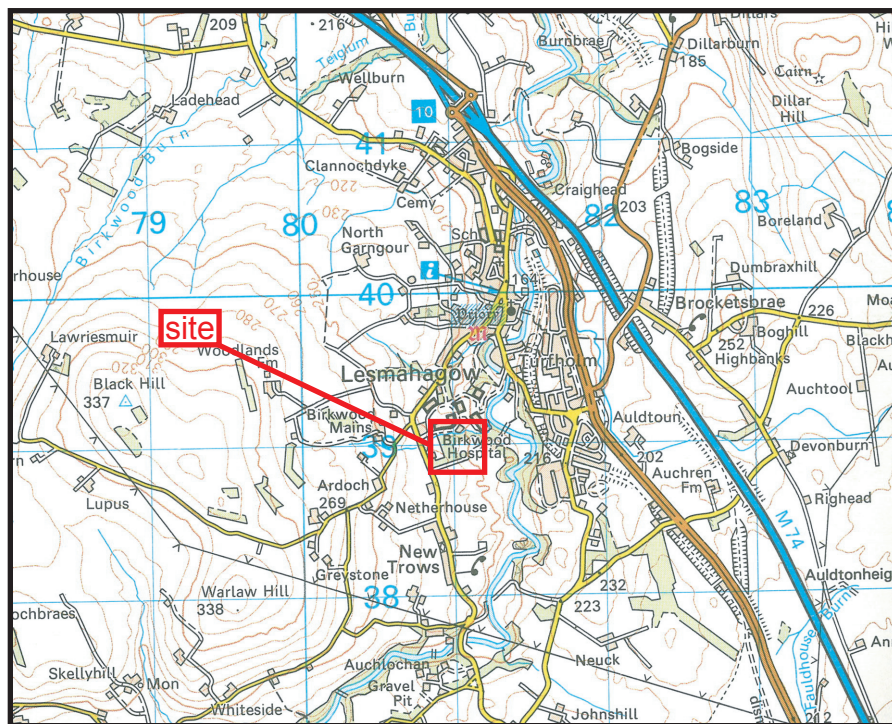
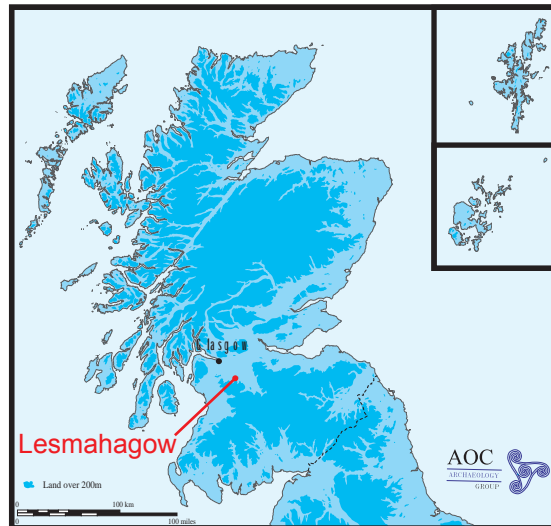
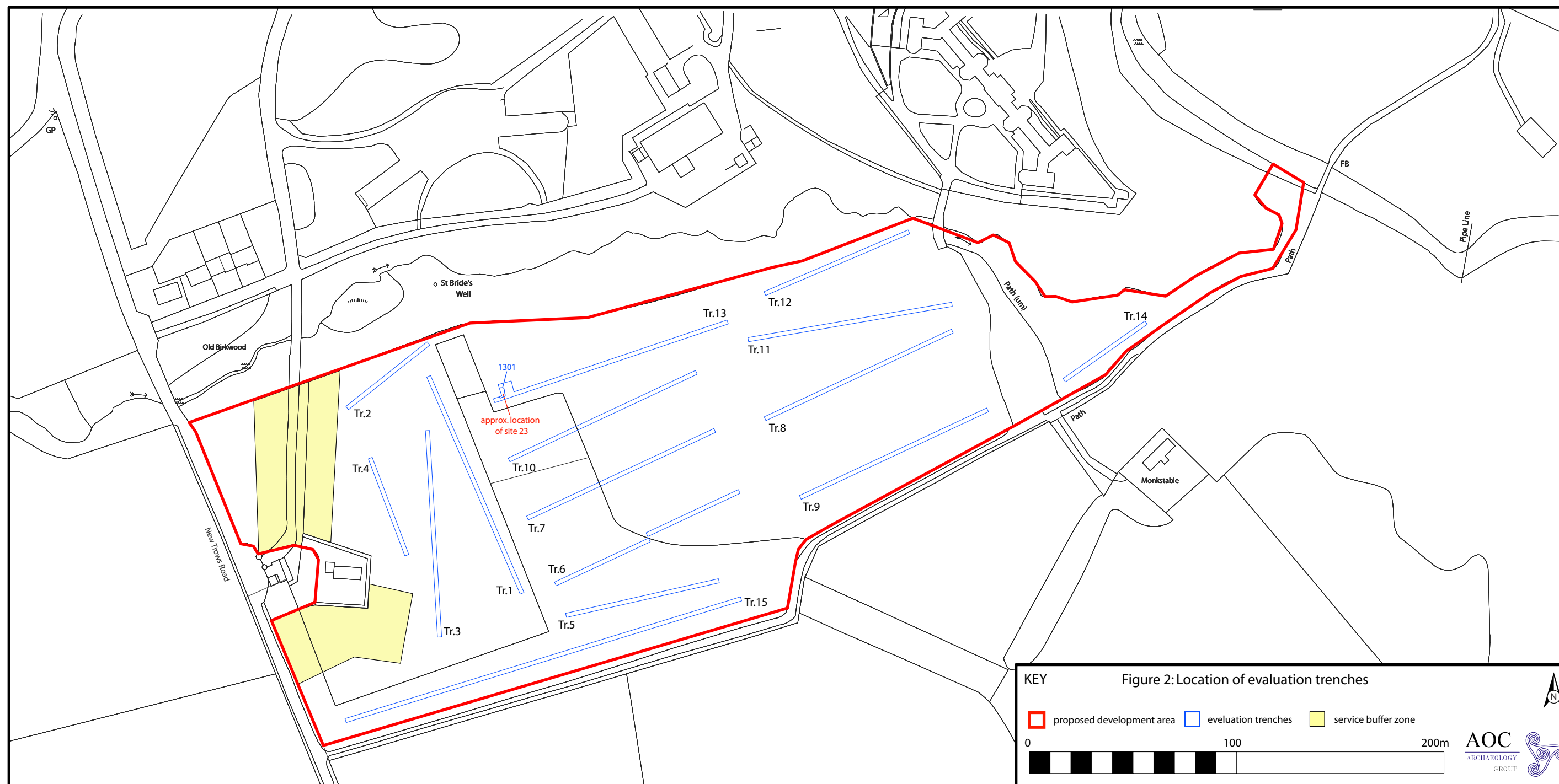


Figure 1: Site Location





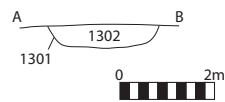
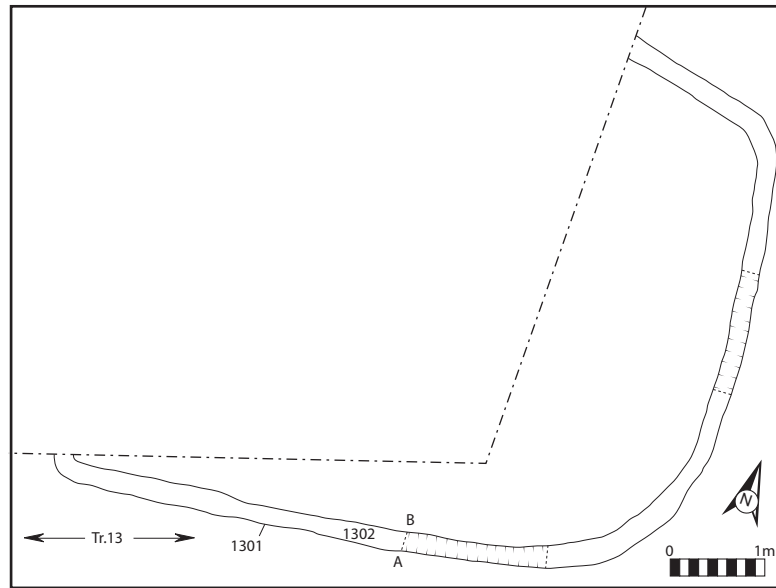


Figure 3: detail of feature in Tr.13