

**The Beeches, Lanark, North Lanarkshire;**

**Watching Brief:**

**Phase II**

**Data Structure Report**

**On behalf of:**

Redrow Homes (Scotland) Ltd  
Redrow House  
3 Central Park Avenue  
Larbert  
Falkirk  
FK 5 4RX

**National Grid Reference (NGR):**

NS 8891 4296

**AOC Archaeology Project No:**

4352

**Prepared by:**

Rob Engl

**Illustration by:**

Graeme Carruthers

**Timing:**

Watching Brief – October 2006 / May 2007  
Report – May 2007

## 0. NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group prior to the proposed construction of a residential development at The Beeches, Lanark. The work represents Phase 2 of the development and was commissioned by Redrow Homes (Scotland) Ltd. The watching brief works were designed to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, as advised by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) and are in accordance with the principles inherent in NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a). The work was completed between October 2006 and May 2007. The watching brief covered an area totalling approximately 5 ha and encountered evidence for a historical field system of probable late medieval or early post-medieval date.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 The second phase of a 20 ha housing development is taking place approximately 1 km to the south-east of Lanark town centre. The area amounted to roughly 5 ha of former pasture-land. AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Redrow Homes (Scotland) Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief in response to the requirements of South Lanarkshire Council. Previous to this phase of works an archaeological evaluation and watching brief had taken place on the Phase 1 area for which separate *Data Structure Reports* (Engl 2004a; Wilson 2005) have been prepared.

1.1.2 The watching brief monitored topsoil stripping in the Phase 2 area of the residential development. Previous work undertaken in this area during the laying of sewer pipes in 1990 revealed late medieval pottery and a 13<sup>th</sup> century coin (NMRS: NS84SE 93).

### 1.2 Site location

1.2.1 The Phase 2 development was centred on NGR: NS 8891 4296 (Figure 1). The site was bounded to the north by a cemetery, St Kentigern's burial ground (NMRS: NS 84 SE 15). To the west lay arable land, the future Phase 3 of the development, Phase 1 lay to the east. The avenue known as The Beeches crossed the site on a rough north-west/south-east alignment.

1.2.2 The topography of the area was gently undulating with a general slope down from north to south from roughly 210.6 m OD to 200.2 m OD.

### **1.3 Archaeological background**

- 1.3.1 A single archaeological findspot (NMRS: NS84SE 93) was previously identified within the Phase 1 area of the residential development. This lay near the junction of the A73 Hyndford Road and The Beeches (at NS 8934 4308). The findspot yielded late medieval pottery sherds and a cut half-penny of Henry I of England, minted between 1247 and 1272. These artefacts were found during the digging of a sewage pipeline. An evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by AOC in 2004 on the Phase 1 area and in 2005 a watching brief was carried out on the access road to this area (Wilson 2005). Neither of these phases of work encountered significant archaeological deposits or features.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were to:
- i) determine the character, extent and quality of any archaeologically significant remains in the development.
  - ii) should significant archaeological material be discovered, the preparation of a mitigation strategy compliant with NPPG 5, and PAN 42 would be undertaken.

## **3. METHOD**

- 3.1 An archaeological officer was present during the stripping of topsoil down to the natural subsoil deposits in the Phase 2 area.
- 3.2 The Phase 2 area was stripped of topsoil with a tracked 360<sup>0</sup> excavator equipped with a 2.0 m wide ditching bucket and box scrapers. The topsoil was removed until the first archaeological sediments or natural geology was encountered.
- 3.3 The machine excavation was followed by hand cleaning where necessary.
- 3.4 Black and white print and colour slide photographic record shots were taken during the watching brief (Appendix 5).
- 3.5 The work was undertaken from October 2006 to May 2007.



#### 4. RESULTS

- 4.1 The fieldwork was undertaken with a field team of one archaeologist. The weather conditions during the watching brief were mixed with both light rain and dry spells.
- 4.2 The various field records (Appendices 1 to 5) and *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* report (Appendix 6) are presented in the Appendices.
- 4.3 The area stripped of topsoil covered approximately 5 ha (Figure 1). The area lay to the west of the Phase 1 area and east of Phase 3. The track known as the Beeches lay to the immediate south of the Phase 2 area.
- 4.4 The topsoil comprised mid to dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded or sub-angular stone inclusions and was between 0.20 m and 0.50 m in depth (most commonly 0.30 to 0.40 m). The topsoil contained a moderate amount of modern white pottery, glass fragments and clay pipe fragments. The natural alluvial deposits were recorded below the topsoil. This comprised a mix of reddish or yellowish brown coarse silty sand and sandy silt with angular stone (including large boulders).
- 4.5 A triangular area of contaminated made ground of approximately 3500 m<sup>2</sup> was removed to natural along the northern boundary of Phase 2. This deposit consisted of top-soil, ash, brick and other building materials. The contaminated ground was approximately 0.40 m in depth and overlay 0.20 m of re-deposited natural. This in turn periodically overlay the original ground surface. The stripping of the contaminated deposit revealed numerous modern building foundations and cellarge aligned east to west across the area. These are the remains of known plant nursery buildings.
- 4.6 An ENE/WSW-aligned linear gully or ditch base [001] was identified crossing the centre of the Phase 2 area, with a single silt fill [002], which had common angular stone inclusions. This was probably a drainage and boundary feature associated with a historical field layout. It was tentatively dated by the presence of a single sherd of late medieval/early post-medieval pottery. There was, however, also modern (19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century) pottery in the fill.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The presence of a linear silt and stone-filled ditch demonstrated the existence of a historical field system, probably dating to the late medieval/early post-medieval period.

6. REFERENCES

Engl R. 2004a *The Beeches, Lanark : Archaeological evaluation Data Structure Report* AOC Archaeology Group unpublished report

Engl R. 2004b *The Beeches, Lanark: Written Scheme of Investigation*. AOC Archaeology Group unpublished report.

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

Wilson D. 2005 *The Beeches, Lanark: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report* AOC Archaeology Group unpublished report

## The Beeches, Lanark Watching Brief – Data Structure Report

### APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

| Context No. | Type       | Description  | Date                            |
|-------------|------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 001         | Ditch cut  | WSW/ENE-aligned linear cut into subsoil; gently sloping concave sides and flat base; 45 m+ long; 0.6 – 1.2 m wide; 0.25 m deep | Late Medieval/<br>Post-medieval |
| 002         | Ditch fill | Single fill of ditch [001]; mid to dark reddish brown sandy silt with common small to large angular stone                      | Late Medieval/<br>Post-medieval |

### APPENDIX 2: FINDS REGISTER

| Finds No. | Context No. | Material | Description             | Date                            |
|-----------|-------------|----------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1         |             | Ceramic  | Single sherd of pottery | Late Medieval/<br>Post-medieval |

### APPENDIX 3: SAMPLE REGISTER

| Context No. | Sample type          | Quantity           |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 002         | Standard Bulk Sample | 4 bags = 20 litres |

### APPENDIX 4: DRAWING REGISTER

| Drawing No. | Area/Context No.               | Description                                | Scale |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--|-------|
| 1           | Phase 2 Centre/<br>Ditch [001] | East-facing section of ditch [001], Slot 1 | 1:10  |
| 2           | Phase 2 Centre/<br>Ditch [001] | Plan of ditch [001], Slot 1                | 1:20  |
| 3           | Phase 2 Centre/<br>Ditch [001] | ENE-facing section of ditch [001], Slot 5  | 1:10  |
| 4           | Phase 2 Centre/<br>Ditch [001] | WSW-facing section of ditch [001], Slot 4  | 1:10  |
| 5           | Phase 2 Centre/<br>Ditch [001] | ENE-facing section of ditch [001], Slot 3  | 1:10  |
| 6           | Phase 2 Centre/<br>Ditch [001] | ENE-facing section of ditch [001], Slot 2  | 1:10  |
| 7           | Phase 2 Centre/<br>Ditch [001] | Plan of ditch [001]                        | 1:200 |
| 8           | Phase 2 Centre/<br>Ditch [001] | Plan of ditch [001], Slot 2                | 1:20  |
| 9           | Phase 2 Centre/<br>Ditch [001] | Plan of ditch [001], Slot 3                | 1:20  |
| 10          | Phase 2 Centre/<br>Ditch [001] | Plan of ditch [001], Slot 4                | 1:20  |

# APPENDIX 5: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

## Black and White Print Film No.1

| Frame No | Area         | Description                                  | From |
|----------|--------------|--|------|
| 0        | Centre       | General shot of stripped area                | E    |
| 1        | Centre       | General shot of stripped area                | SE   |
| 2        | Centre       | General shot of stripped area                | SSE  |
| 11-12    | Centre/south | Working shot of Phase 2 excavation           | E    |
| 13-14    | Centre/south | General shot of Centre/south of Phase 2 area | E    |
| 15-16    | -            | Registration shot                            | -    |
| 17-18    | Centre       | East-facing section of [001] (Slot 1)        | E    |
| 19-20    | Centre       | General shot of ditch [001]                  | W    |
| 21-22    | Centre       | West-facing section of [001] (Slot 2)        | W    |
| 23-24    | Centre       | West-facing section of [001] (Slot 3)        | W    |
| 25-26    | Centre       | West-facing section of [001] (Slot 4)        | W    |
| 27-28    | Centre       | General shot of ditch [001]                  | SW   |

## Colour Slide Film No.1

| Frame No | Area         | Description                                  | From |
|----------|--------------|--|------|
| 1        | Centre       | General shot of stripped area                | E    |
| 2        | Centre       | General shot of stripped area                | SE   |
| 3        | Centre       | General shot of stripped area                | SSE  |
| 4        | Centre       | Untouched area in south                      | S    |
| 5        | Centre       | Untouched area next to cemetery              | S    |
| 6        | Centre       | Untouched area next to cemetery              | N    |
| 7        | Centre       | Untouched area next to cemetery              | N    |
| 11       | Centre/south | Working shot of Phase 2 excavation           | E    |
| 12-13    | Centre/south | General shot of Centre/south of Phase 2 area | E    |
| 14-15    | -            | Registration shot                            | -    |
| 16-17    | Centre       | East-facing section of [001] (Slot 1)        | E    |
| 18       | Centre       | General shot of ditch [001]                  | W    |
| 19-20    | Centre       | West-facing section of [001] (Slot 2)        | W    |
| 21-22    | Centre       | West-facing section of [001] (Slot 3)        | W    |
| 23-24    | Centre       | West-facing section of [001] (Slot 4)        | W    |
| 25-26    | Centre       | General shot of ditch [001]                  | SW   |

## Colour Slide Film No.1

| Frame No | Area              | Description                          | From |
|----------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| 0-2      | Contaminated area | Culvert                              | E    |
| 3-4      | Contaminated area | Registration                         |      |
| 5-6      | Contaminated area | South facing section through culvert | S    |
| 7-8      | Contaminated      | General shots                        | E    |

## The Beeches, Lanark Watching Brief – Data Structure Report

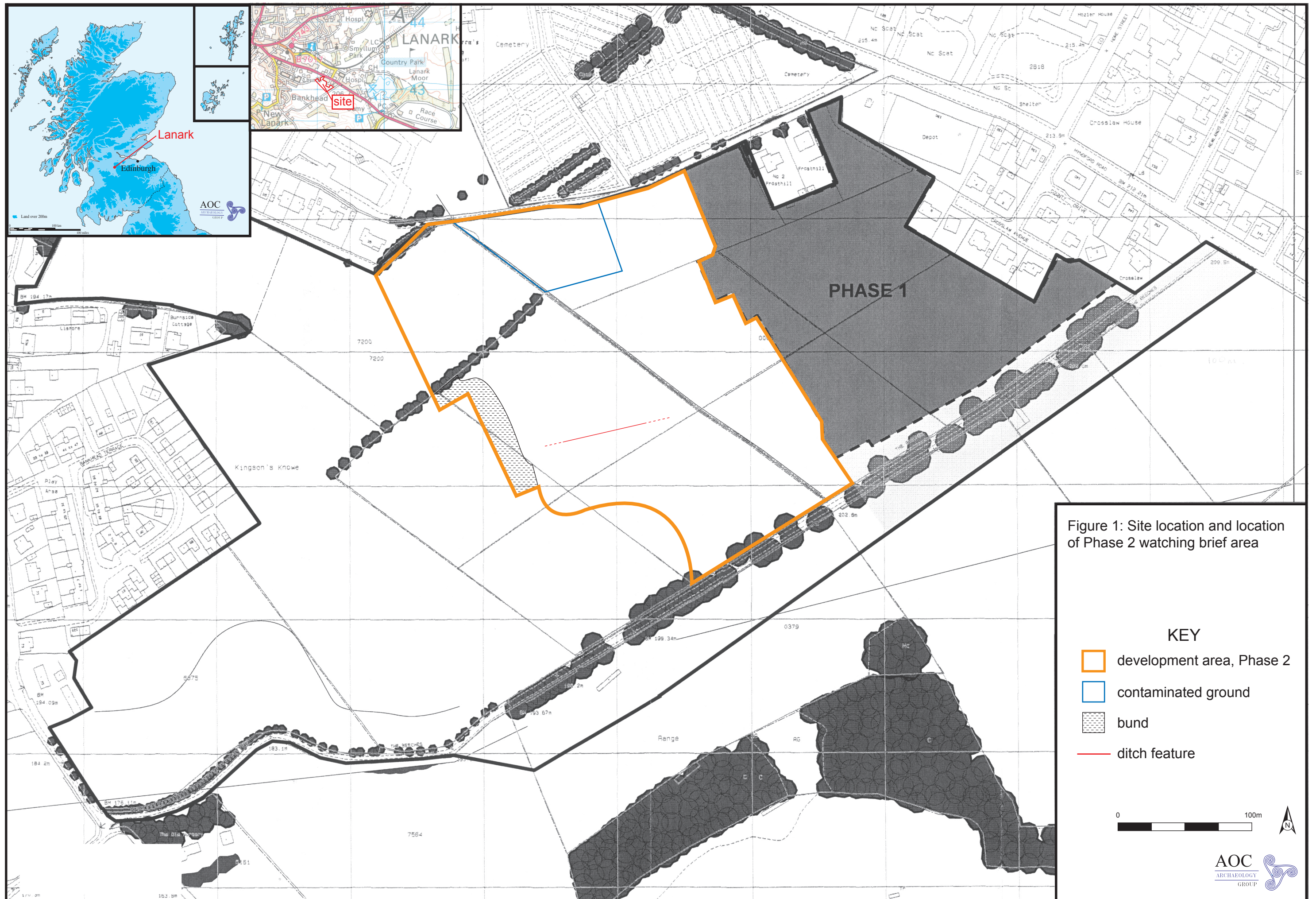
|       |                   |                       |    |
|-------|-------------------|-----------------------|----|
|       | area              |                       |    |
| 9-10  | Contaminated area | Excavation of cellar  | NW |
| 11-12 | Contaminated area | Stripped area to east | NW |

## The Beeches, Lanark Watching Brief – Data Structure Report

### APPENDIX 6: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>   | South Lanarkshire Council   |
| <b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>   | The Beeches, Lanark   |
| <b>PROJECT CODE:</b>  | AOC 4352  |
| <b>PARISH:</b>  | Lanark  |
| <b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>   | Mike Roy & Rob Engl   |
| <b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>  | AOC Archaeology Group   |
| <b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>  | Archaeological watching brief   |
| <b>NMRS NO(S):</b>  | NS84SE93  |
| <b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>   | Medieval Findspot   |
| <b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>   | Medieval/Post-medieval field system   |
| <b>NGR</b> (2 letters, 6 figures)   | NS 889 429  |
| <b>START DATE</b> (this season)   | October 2006  |
| <b>END DATE</b> (this season)   | May 2007  |
| <b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)  | Watching Brief  |
| <b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b><br>(May include information from other fields) | Due to the archaeological potential of the area (including the proximity of a known medieval find-spot) a watching brief was carried out on all ground breaking works associated with Phase 2 of the residential development at The Beeches, Lanark. The Phase 2 area comprised arable land on the eastern outskirts of Lanark and lay south of a cemetery. Topsoil stripping of an area of 5 ha was watched. Evidence for a late medieval/post-medieval field system was identified. |
| <b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>  | None  |
| <b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>   | n/a   |
| <b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>   | Redrow Homes (Scotland) Ltd   |
| <b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>   | c/o AOC Archaeology Group   |
| <b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>   | admin@aocscot.co.uk   |







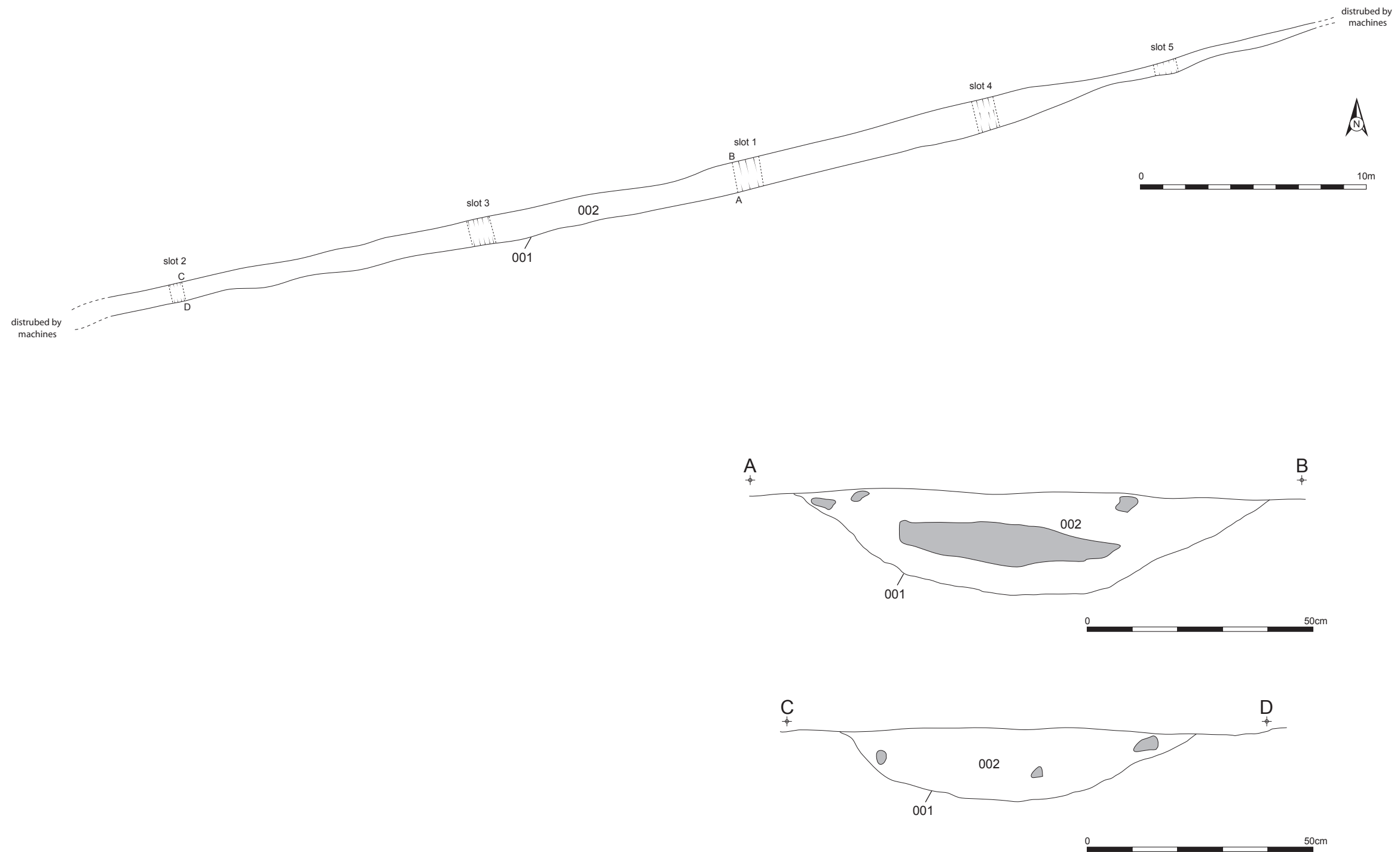


Figure 2: Plan and sections through ditch feature