

An Archaeological Evaluation at Plot 1, Axis Business Park, Newbridge, Edinburgh: Data Structure Report

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An Archaeological Evaluation at Plot 1, Axis Business Park, Newbridge, Edinburgh.

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Eastern Holdings Limited 8 Westerton Road Broxburn West Lothian EH52 5BE
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NS 1207 7290
AOC Project No:	20814
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Abstract

An Archaeological Evaluation was carried out at Plot 1, Axis Business Park, Newbridge, Edinburgh. No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the works.

1. NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the proposed development site at Plot 1, Axis Business Park, Newbridge, Edinburgh (NGR: NS 1207 7290). The work was commissioned by Yeoman McAllister on behalf of Eastern Holdings Ltd, and was designed to satisfy the requirements of the City of Edinburgh Council as advised by Mr John Lawson of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).
- 1.2 Neither archaeological features nor artefacts were identified during the course of the works.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

- 2.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Yeoman McAllister on behalf of Eastern Holdings Ltd, in advance of a proposed development at Plot 1, Axis Business Park, Newbridge, Edinburgh.
- 2.1.2 The proposed development area lies within the administrative area of the City of Edinburgh Council. The works required were a condition of a planning condition, planning ref: 06/02987/FUL, imposed on the development by the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service, as advised by Mr John Lawson of CECAS. The work required was in accord with NPPG 5 (SOEnD 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnD 1994a), in determining the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

2.2 Location and Geology

- 2.2.1 The proposed development site lies near to the interchange of the M8 and M9 motorways at Newbridge, within the parish of Kirkliston, Edinburgh. (NGR: NS 1207 7290) It occupies flat ground at the northern foot of the Pentland Hills near the eastern bank of the River Almond. The site is bounded to the south by the A89 (Edinburgh Road), to the north and east by further development plots and to the west by the River Almond and further afield open ground. (Figure 1)
- 2.2.2 The solid geology of the development area comprises carboniferous and Old Red Sandstone sedimentary rocks, with some volcanic porphyries from the nearby Pentlands (Brown & Shipley 1982)

2.3 Archaeological Background

- 2.3.1 There are no confirmed archaeological sites within the proposed development area. However Newbridge has traditionally been associated with a battle between Malcolm II and Constantine in 995 AD. Nearby prehistoric remains include funerary, ritual and settlement activity dating back to 450 BC.

2.4 Prehistoric & Roman (pre-AD 410)

- 2.4.1 Following on from an evaluation in 2002 which recorded a variety of archaeological features: small ring gullies, ditches, pits, and stone structures (Heawood 2003), a recent excavation has unearthed plough truncated remains indicative of prehistoric settlement as well as a possible Roman road to the east of Plot 1 (Hunter Blair forthcoming). Importantly, any continuation in the survival of this road feature was considered likely to cross the southern part of Plot 1 (Figure 2).
- 2.4.2 In addition there are a number of known Prehistoric remains within the immediate environs of Newbridge village. Huly Hill (NMRS NT17SW 8) lies immediately to the south of the development. This a Bronze Age funerary site situated to the immediate south-west of the proposed development area. The site of Huly Hill is statutorily protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It was first scheduled in 1931.
- 2.4.3 The hill has been called a cairn by the RCAHMS it is more properly classified as a tumulus with a slightly hollowed summit. It is presently surrounded by a modern wall. Wilson (1863) states that it was opened in 1830 and contained a “bronze spearhead”, along with fragments of bone and charcoal. Wilson’s “spearhead” has been considered to be a rivetted dagger (Anderson 1878).
- 2.4.4 The tumulus is presently surrounded by three standing stones varying in height between 1.0 m and 2.0 m. One of the stones appears broken. The first Statistical Accounts of Scotland (OSA 1794) first records the presence of standing stones surrounding the tumulus. Twelve such stones were noted by Fyfe in 1852, yet the Ordnance Survey Name Book of the same year described only the three currently standing today.
- 2.4.5 The tumulus is not centrally placed within the three stones and both V G Childe (1935) and F R Coles (1903) suggest that there may have originally been two concentric circles of stones surrounding the tumulus. A fourth stone situated at NT 1265 7262 may be an outlier to the above circles.
- 2.4.6 An archaeological watching brief (NMRS NT 1245 7255) was undertaken during groundbreaking activities located some 200 m from Huly Hill. No archaeological features were encountered. In 2002 evaluation works on Bridge Street to the west unearthed an undated ditch on a north-west to south-east alignment (Brown 2002). While at 2A Kirkliston Road (NGR: NT 121 733) an evaluation, recorded a variety of archaeological features dispersed across the southern part of the evaluation area. These comprised parts of a small ring gully, probably associated either with a grave or timber structure, ditches, pits, and a stone structure which was perhaps an area of hard standing (Heawood 2003).
- 2.4.7 Other prehistoric sites within the general area include the complete Iron Age cart burial discovered during the construction of the Interchange Park Industrial Estate at the interchange of the M8 and M9 motorways (Baker & Hunter 2001). A number of other prehistoric features were also discovered including pits, postholes, a human cremation and a group of Bronze Age ring-ditch houses. The cart burial is exceptional as it is the first example recorded in Scotland. The closest parallels are found in North-east France and Belgium where complete burials of this type are commonplace. The only other known area for cart burials in Britain is in East Yorkshire yet here almost all the burials are of dismantled carts.

- 2.4.8 Within the wider area a cylindrical Roman milestone with cut text was discovered in two separate pieces. The milestone was found near Ingliston, not far from Huly Hill (Sibbald 1707) and was erected in AD 140-44. Maxwell, (1984) considers that the east-west Roman road may well have followed the ridge on which the standing stones of Huly Hill are standing and that the milestone may have stood within a quarter of a mile to the east of them.

2.5 Medieval (AD 410-1700)

- 2.5.1 The local area is the alleged site of a 10th century battle (*NMRS NT17SW 24*) between the armies of Malcolm II and the usurper Constantine. The catstane situated within Edinburgh Airport is said to mark the spot of his death and internment. Hutchison (1868) has noted cists found at Newbridge and Lochend and has linked these with the battle.
- 2.5.2 Newbridge is first shown on the Adair map ca 1682 together with the Edinburgh road and bridge over the River Almond. Local place-names suggest that an earlier bridge and mill had existed but had been replaced by around 1600 (Smith 2001) Newbridge is one of the principal villages of Kirkliston parish. This parish is divided between the counties of West and Midlothian with the river Almond forming the boundary.
- 2.5.3 The parish of Kirkliston was made a burgh of regality sometime after 1451 and placed in the diocese of St Andrews. Prior to this the area was part of the barony of Liston popularly thought to have been owned by the Knights Templar religious order. It is probable that by 1631 Newbridge was part of the barony of Ingliston.
- 2.5.4 The recent investigative work by AOC Archaeology has identified medieval field systems and a corn-drying kiln to the immediate east (Hunter Blair forthcoming).

2.6 Post-Medieval and Modern (post-1700)

- 2.6.1 Newbridge appears to have undergone little development prior to the 1700s. The Knox map of 1816 shows development around the crossroads of the Old Liston road and Bridge Street (the old Edinburgh Road). The Newbridge Inn situated on Bridge Street to the immediate south-west of the development bears the date 1683 however the building only appears on the 2nd edition of the OS map series (1898). Much of the current development both within the village and on the fringes of the development occurs after this date.
- 2.6.2 The Newbridge area was transferred to Edinburgh district in 1975. Industrial development within the area has included office real estate and chicken packing during the 1970's along with whisky blending and food distribution.
- 2.6.3 Also appearing during the 1970's was the large tyre and plastic plant was established at Locharbriggs. This closed in 1995.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE INVESTIGATION

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 details of the archaeological works, laid out below, were designed to fully meet the works agreed by CECAS.
- 4.2 The evaluation was achieved through the excavation of three linear trenches using a mechanical excavator (JCB) equipped with a 1.6 m wide, toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were 3 m wide and between 43 m to 46 m long. All the trenches were laid out in a north-south orientation and all were located towards the southern end of Plot 1 thereby specifically designed to target the potential section of Roman Road. (Figure 2) in this area. Total basal trench area totalled 402 m².
- 4.3 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedure's (WSI Appendix 7, 7.1 to 7.29). Spoil was placed to the side of the evaluation trenches. No attempt was made to separate topsoil, made ground and subsoil. Trench descriptions can be found in Appendix 1. Black and white print and colour slide photographs were taken during the course of the works (Appendix 2).

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 The topsoil/overburden comprised redeposited topsoil and general building rubble, overlying subsoil comprising very light brown sands and gravels. The boundary between the overburden and subsoil was very sharp, indicating relatively modern truncation. During the course of the works no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were recorded.
- 5.2 The absence of archaeological remains (specifically the Roman Road) within the development area might be explained by either truncation, or the fact that the road deviates away from it's proposed route at this point.
- 5.3 The depth of overburden within the development area, up to 1.40 m is explained by the fact that this depth is artificial, and reflects the level to which the made ground has been made-up to.

6. FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

- 6.1 Mr John Lawson (CECAS) has requested further archaeological works. These additional works will take the form of a watching brief during ground breaking works along the western and northern perimeters of the development area, where he feels significant in-situ archaeological deposits may survive. The western perimeter was avoided during the evaluation phase of the works due to the

presence of a culvert which runs parallel to the river Almond and which was noted on the supplied service information plan. The northern half of the development was “out of bounds” during the evaluation due to the presence of insulation-board asbestos, which is deemed a significant Health and Safety issue.

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Data Structure Report Section 2: Appendices

APPENDICES

8.1. Trench Records

Trench 1

Dimensions: 46m x 3m
Total Area: 138 m²
Alignment: North-south
Depth of Overburden: 0.70 m– 1.30 m
Significant Features: None
Other Features: None

Trench 2

Dimensions: 43m x 3m
Total Area: 129 m²
Alignment: North-south
Depth of Overburden: 0.74 m– 1.20 m
Significant Features: None
Other Features: None

Trench 3

Dimensions: 45m x 3m
Total Area: 135 m²
Alignment: North-south
Depth of Overburden: 0.74 m– 1.20 m
Significant Features: None
Other Features: None

8.2 Photographic Record

Black & White Print and Colour Slide

Frame No.	Detail
1	Registration
2 & 3	Trench 1 from the north
4 & 5	Trench 1 from the south
6 & 7	Trench 2 from the south
8 & 9	Trench 2 from the north
10 & 11	Trench 3 from the north
12 & 13	Trench 3 from the south
14 & 15	General view of development area from south-west
16 & 17	General view of development area from north-west

8.3 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Plot 1, Axis Business Park, Newbridge, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	20814
PARISH:	Kirkliston
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Duffy
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 1207 7290
START DATE (this season)	21 st February 2008
END DATE (this season)	22 nd February, 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	Heawood, R. 2003 <i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland</i> , 75. Hunter Blair, A & Engl, R <i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland</i> , forthcoming.
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Prior to commercial re-development an Archaeological Evaluation was carried out at Plot 1, Axis Business Park, Newbridge, Edinburgh. No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the works.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Archaeological watching brief works during ground breaking work along the western and northern perimeters of the development area.
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Eastern Holdings Limited
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Ronan.Toolis@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

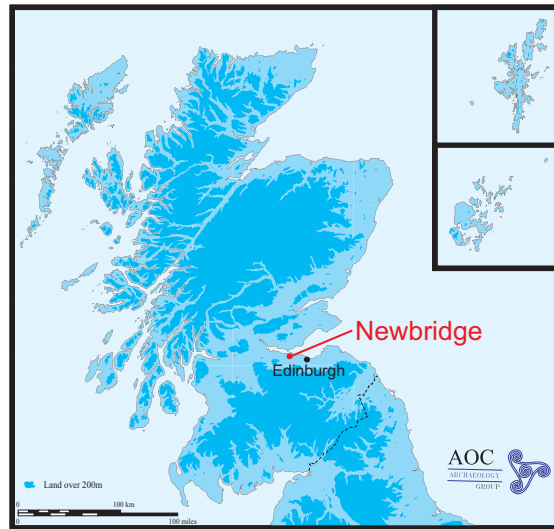


Figure 1: Site location

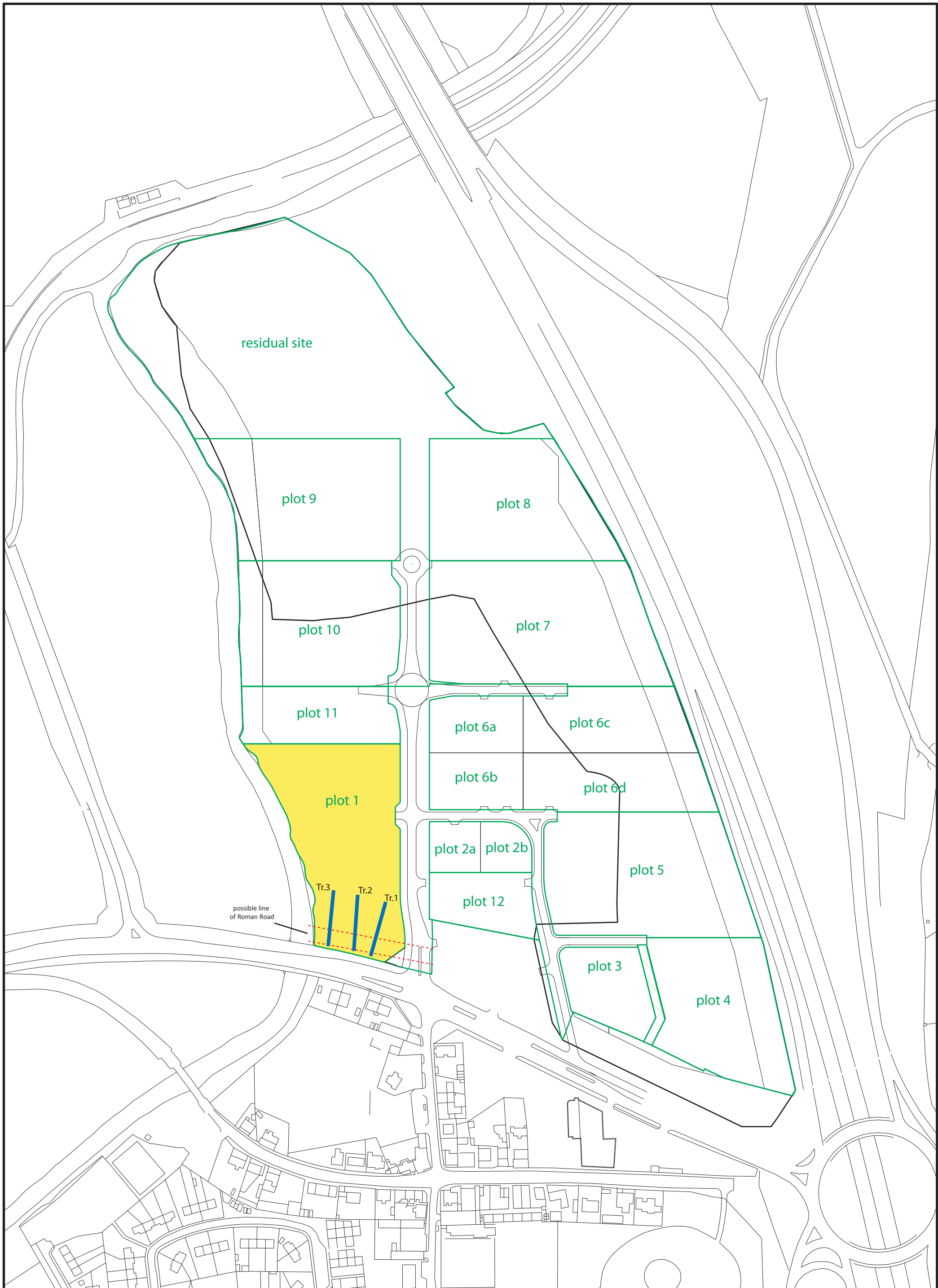
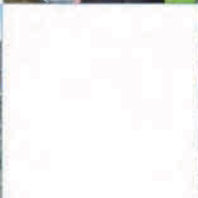
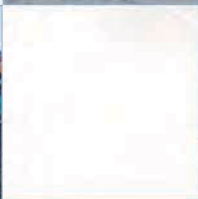


Figure 2: Area of proposed development plots and location of evaluation trenches

proposed development plots
area of evaluation
evaluation trenches





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