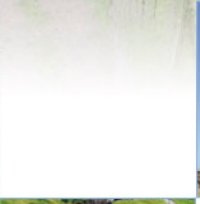
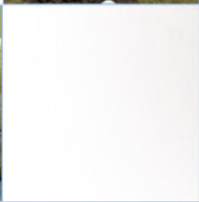


Rora, Longside Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

20858
April 2008



Rora, Longside Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	VG Willox Ltd 6 Roodside Croft Crimond Fraserburgh AB43 8YP
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NK 040 495
AOC Project No:	20858
Prepared by:	Victoria Clements
Illustration by:	Graeme Carruthers
Date of Fieldwork:	7th February & 28th April 2008
Date of Report:	29th April 2008

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

Author: Victoria Clements

Date: 29th April 2008

Approved by: John Gooder

Date: 29th April 2008

Draft Report Stage: Final

Date: 5th June 2008

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

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
e-mail. admin@aocarchaeology.com



Contents

	Page
List of illustrations	1
List of appendices.....	1
Abstract.....	2
1 INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 Background.....	3
1.2 Location	3
1.3 Archaeological background.....	3
2 OBJECTIVES.....	3
3 METHODOLOGY	4
4 RESULTS	4
5 CONCLUSION.....	5
6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES.....	5
APPENDIX 1.....	7
Photographic Record	7
APPENDIX 2.....	8
Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report	8

List of illustrations

- Figure 1 Site location
Figure 2 Location of areas of watching brief

List of appendices

- Appendix 1 Photographic Record
Appendix 2 *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* Report

Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Rora, Longside, Aberdeenshire (centred NGR: NK 040 495). The work was commissioned by Baxter Design on behalf of VG Willox Ltd on a site proposed for residential re-development. The archaeological works were designed to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, as advised by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS), and are in accordance with the principles inherent in NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a).

The objective of the work was to monitor all groundbreaking works associated with the development. The work was carried out during February and April 2008 and was conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2008) which was agreed by ACAS on behalf of the planning authority.

The watching brief revealed neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance. No further archaeological works are recommended.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Baxter Design on behalf of VG Willox Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a site proposed for residential re-development at Rora, Longside. The archaeological works were designed to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, as advised by ACAS and consisted of archaeological monitoring of topsoil or overburden stripping, foundation and service trench excavation and landscaping.

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed re-development area is located to the south-west of Rora and north of Longside (NGR: NK 040 495). The site is bounded by agricultural land on all sides. The site was previously occupied by buildings that have been recently demolished, and 'The Laggan' a small unoccupied house has been retained in the south-west corner of the development area. The site is characterised by a slight slope from west to east. The location and extent of the site is shown in Figure 1.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 Several sites of archaeological interest lie in close proximity to the development area. The Bridge of Rora (*SMR No.* NK04NW0028 - Category B Listed) lies just to the south-east of the development where it crosses the North Ugie Water. Mill of Rora House (*NMRS NK04NW 56*) to the north is a B - Listed early 19th century, two storey house of coursed granite. The mill itself is gutted, with an asbestos roof kiln roofless wheel removed, the lade is still in use driving a water turbine generator. Millbank House (*NMRS NK04NW 61*) is a B - listed early 19th century house constructed before 1828. It was associated with the former woollen mill, which closed in 1828, and of which no remains survive.

1.3.2 An enclosure with a drystone wall is situated in flat agricultural land at Millbank (*SMR No.* NK04NW0037). At Knaps of Auchlee (*SMR No.* NK04NW0039) are the remains of a small farmstead situated on a gentle east-facing slope in agricultural ground. At Woodside to the south of the development site is an area of rig and furrow on the east side of Ardlaw Hill (*SMR No.* NK04NW0033).

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to record the character, extent and quality of any archaeologically significant remains in the proposed development area prior to any adverse impact deriving from construction works;

- ii) given that highly significant archaeological deposits, features or artefacts are discovered in large quantities, and where preservation *in situ* proves infeasible, the preparation of a mitigation strategy compliant with NPPG 5, NPPG 18 and PAN 42 will be undertaken.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All groundbreaking works undertaken within the development area (Figure 1) were carried out using a 360° excavator or mini-digger equipped with a ditching bucket. Machine excavation was monitored by an experienced field archaeologist. All recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practices.
- 3.2 A black and white print and colour slide photographic record of the archaeological works was taken (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by a single archaeologist in mixed weather conditions on 7th February and 28th April 2008. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1 and 2 and Figures 1 and 2.
- 4.2 The groundbreaking works involved the excavation of foundation trenches, drainage trenches and two pits for a septic tank and storm drain (Figure 2).
- 4.3 The foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of between 0.40 m and 0.60 m. External wall foundations for the house were approximately 1.00 m wide, internal foundations approximately 0.60 m wide and the garage foundations 0.80 m wide. The trenches showed a thin layer of demolition debris overlying natural mid orange brown sandy gravel with occasional larger sub-rounded and sub-angular boulders and light orange brown soft sand with very occasional boulders.
- 4.4 The drainage trenches were excavated to a depth of approximately 0.60 m and were between 0.30 m and 0.40 m wide. The trenches revealed around 0.20 - 0.25 m of recently laid Type 1 material, overlying 0.10 m of mid orange brown sandy gravel, overlying 0.25 m of light orange brown soft sand with very occasional boulders.
- 4.5 The pit for the septic tank, located 10 m to the north of the house, was 4.00 m long, 2.80 m wide and approximately 3.00 m deep. It revealed 0.08 m of mid grey brown sandy clay silt topsoil, overlying 2.90 m of light orange brown soft clean sand.
- 4.6 The pit for the storm drain was located directly to the south-west of the septic tank and comprised a pit 5.2 m long, 1.4 m wide and 1.55 m deep. Approximately 0.10 m of topsoil overlay 1.45 m of light orange brown soft clean sand.

- 4.7 Very occasional small fragments of modern white ceramic and modern glass were observed, but not retained. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered by the watching brief.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified. No further works are recommended.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

AOC 2008 *Rora, Longside: Written Scheme of Investigation*. AOC unpublished client document.

SOEnd 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline 5: Archaeology and Planning*. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

SOEnd 1994a *Planning Advice Note 42. Archaeology – The Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

**Rora, Longside Watching Brief:
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Photographic Record

Black & White Print Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Registration shots	
3-4	General site shot pre-excavation	S
5-6	South main foundation	SE
7-8	East main foundation	SW
9-10	West main foundation	NE
11-12	North main foundation	NW
13-14	Internal east/west foundation	SE
15-16	Internal east foundation	SW
17-18	Internal west foundation	SW
19-20	Northern extension foundation	NW
21-22	North garage foundation	SE
23-24	West garage foundation	NE
25-26	East garage foundation	NE
27-28	South garage foundation	SE
29-30	General site shot (house) post-excavation	S

Black & White Print Film 2

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Service trench front of house (east)	SE
3-4	Service trench east side of house	SW
5-6	Service trench front of house west	NW
7-8	Septic tank pit	NE
9-10	Service trench west side of house	NE
11-12	Storm drain pit and service trench	NE
13-14	Service trench leading to septic tank	NW

Colour Slide Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Registration shots	
3-4	General site shot pre-excavation	S
5-6	South main foundation	SE
7-8	East main foundation	SW
9-10	West main foundation	NE
11-12	North main foundation	NW
13-14	Internal east/west foundation	SE
15-16	Internal east foundation	SW
17-18	Internal west foundation	SW
19-20	Northern extension foundation	NW
21-22	North garage foundation	SE
23-24	West garage foundation	NE
25-26	East garage foundation	NE
27-28	South garage foundation	SE

29-30	General site shot (house) post-excavation	S
-------	---	---

Colour Slide Film 2

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Service trench front of house (east)	SE
3-4	Service trench east side of house	SW
5-6	Service trench front of house west	NW
7-8	Septic tank pit	NE
9-10	Service trench west side of house	NE
11-12	Storm drain pit and service trench	NE
13-14	Service trench leading to septic tank	NW

APPENDIX 2

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeenshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Rora, Longside Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20858
PARISH:	Longside
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Victoria Clements
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NK 040 495 (centred)
START DATE (this season)	7 th February 2008
END DATE (this season)	28 th April 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was carried out on the groundbreaking works associated with a small residential re-development of a site at Rora, Longside. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	VG Willox Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

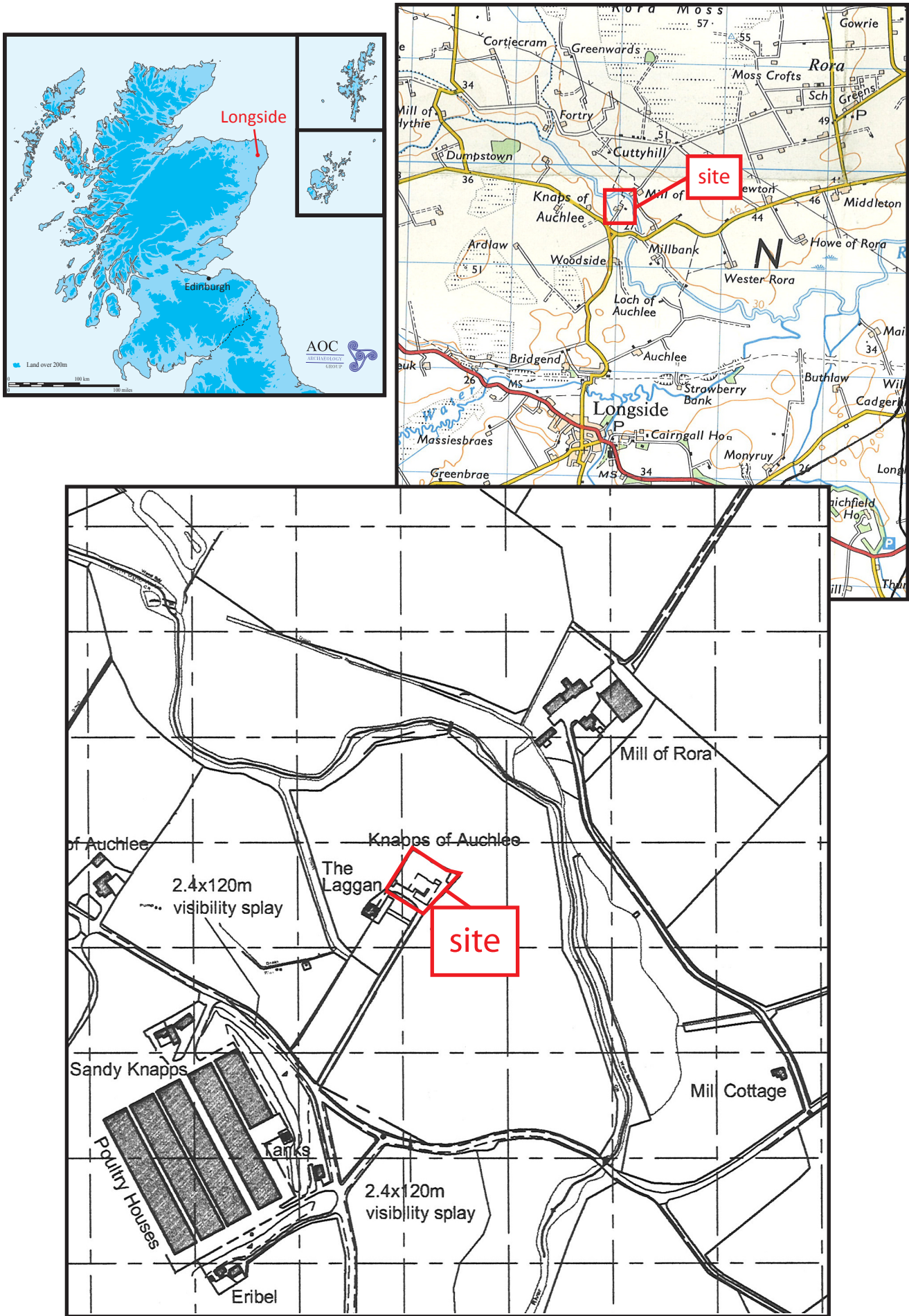


Figure 1: Site location

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:50000 scale map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Officer. Crown copyright. AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH 20 9SY. OS Licence no. 100023757

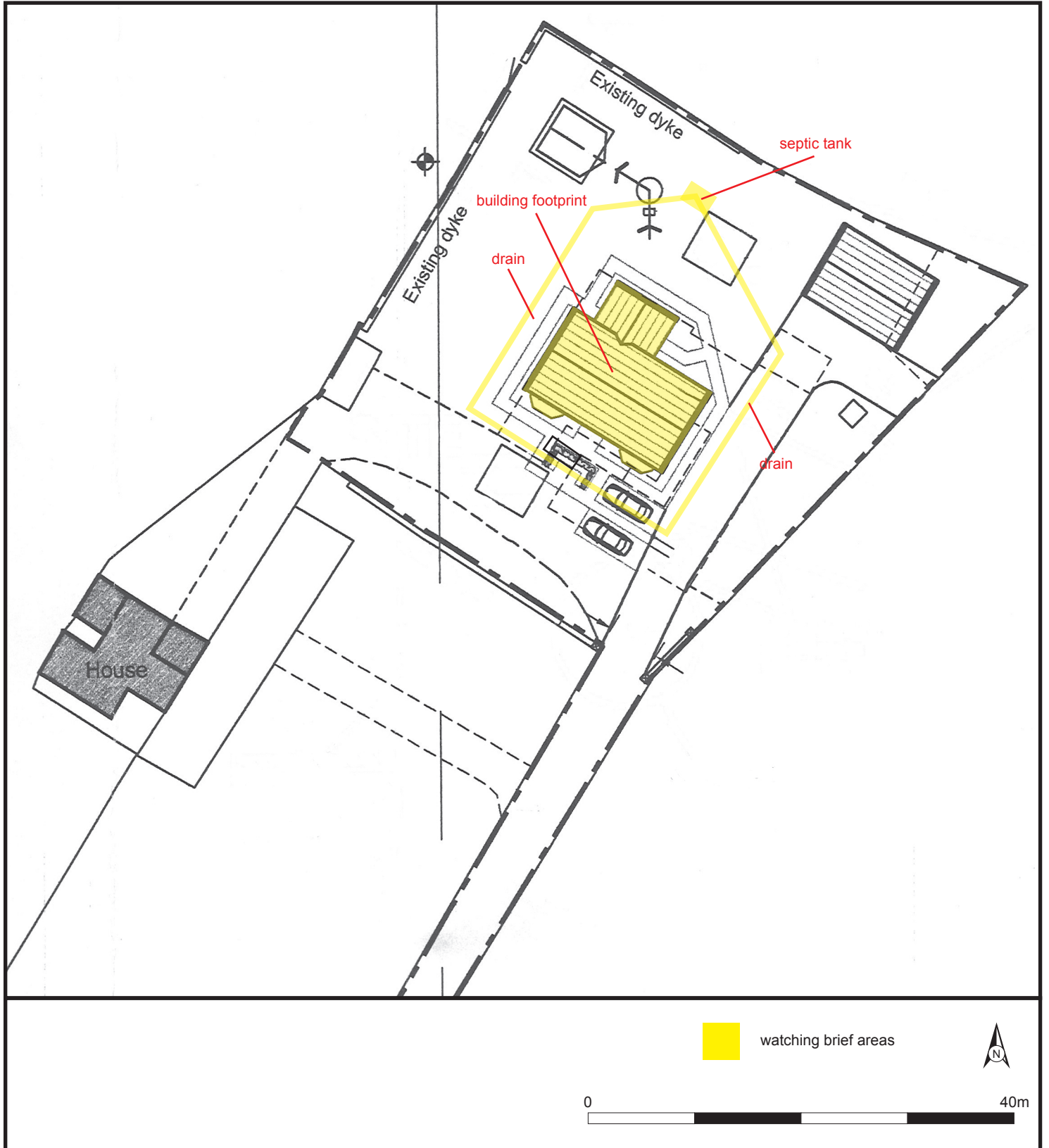


Figure 2: Location of Areas of Watching Brief



AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY
tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: admin@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com