

**An Archaeological Evaluation along the route of
RP13 Spine Road (SEW Development:**

Data Structure Report

For: Ironside Farrar
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Edinburgh
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on behalf of

Turner Townsend

National Grid Reference (NGR): NGR: NT 3166 6922 and NT 3184 6927

AOC Archaeology Project No: 20628

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Timing: Fieldwork September 2007
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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out on a land parcel ('Block O & Phase 4 Spine Road') associated with the South Eastern Wedge (SEW) development near Danderhall, Midlothian (NGR: NT 3188 6941). Sixteen trenches totalling 1,535 m² were excavated in an area adjacent to known or possible archaeological remains (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The work followed on from an earlier archaeological evaluation to the immediate south (Cook 2007) which was completed on two areas of the proposed RP13 spine road associated with the same development.
- 1.3 The archaeological evaluation was successful in identifying a demolition layer associated with the Woolmet Mains Farmstead as well as material associated with the coal working industry of the area (Longthorn: *NMRS* NT36NW63). Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were unearthed.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

- 2.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Ironside Farrar on behalf of Turner & Townsend in meeting the terms of a condition on planning consent (05/00863/FUL) in respect to the SEW development near Danderhall, Midlothian (NGR: NT 3188 6941; Figure 1). The area investigated, 'Block O', constitutes a discrete land parcel within the overall SEW development. A small area to the south along the route of the Phase 4 Spine Road was also investigated. The evaluation area was bounded by roads to the north and west, agricultural land to the south and a commercial property to the east (Figure 1).
- 2.1.2 The development area lies within the administrative area of Midlothian Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the Mr. David Connolly, Assistant Archaeological Officer with Community Services, East Lothian Council. The work required was in accordance with NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994), NPPG 18 (SODD 1999) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a) in determining the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the development area.
- 2.1.3 The development area comprises an undulating field which is currently being used to grow arable crops.

2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1 The archaeological potential of the overall SEW development has been set out in an environmental impact assessment (Part 3, Chapter 9 *Cultural Heritage*) (Headland 2002). Two known sites lie wholly or partly within Block O:

Site 22 Aerial photographs show cropmarks related to coal workings spread of Block O ('Longthorn' - NMRS NT36NW 63) centred at NGR: NT 319 692 (Figure 1). The cropmarks spread into the fields to the south-west;

Site 20 Woolmet Mains Farmstead, now demolished (OS 1853) lies wholly within Block O (Plate 1).



Plate 1: Extract of OS (1853) showing location of Woolmet Mains farmstead

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE INVESTIGATION

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any as yet undiscovered 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 a minimum 1,535 m² (*Written Scheme of Investigation - AOC 2007*). The trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard evaluation practice. Ground reduction was by means of one JCB 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.
- 4.2 The trench location was altered in the field to avoid a service (which had previously been identified, but was further south than had been noted in the service plans). The most easterly trench in the plan provided in the *Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2007)* was not excavated as AOC had no means of entering the enclosed area. The shortfall in the required sample size was added to Trenches 14 and 15.
- 4.3 Mr. David Connolly, Assistant Archaeological Officer with Community Services, East Lothian Council, was notified prior to the commencement of works. Mr. Connolly was unable to visit the site during the excavation of the trenches, but continued to be kept informed of the progress of the archaeological works throughout.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The fieldwork was undertaken between 3rd and 8th October 2007. Generally the weather conditions remained dry, but cold. A total of fifteen evaluation trenches were excavated exposing a total basal area of 1,535 m². The various data gathered from the evaluation is presented in the Appendices; trench descriptions (Appendix 1); photographic record (Appendix 2) and *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* entry (Appendix 3).
- 5.2 The topsoil across the site varied in depth from 0.30 to 0.40 m, and comprised a high quality agricultural soil (well sorted - it contained almost no stones) of rich, fine silt, which directly overlay the natural subsoil composed of varying sands and gravels in the north and west to a thick, compact clay in the east. The subsoil appeared re-deposited over large areas and it seems probable that much of the

evaluated area had been previously disturbed. This possibility of disturbance of the subsoil is supported by the occurrence of gas taps across the site, which are used in areas of re-deposition (for examples the dump at Kaimes Hillfort) to allow dangerous gases to distribute safely.

- 5.3 Trenches 1 - 3 were excavated across known area of the now demolished *Woolmet* Mains Farmstead (Site 20) which dated to at least the 19th century, if not earlier (OS 1853). Although no up-standing remains were identified, a demolition layer of building debris and white ceramic was identified in the topsoil and overlying the natural subsoil in the general area of the farmstead.
- 5.4 Trenches 9-12 were excavated in the south-west of the evaluation area, across the possible cropmarks related to the post-medieval coalmining industry of the area (Site 22 - Longthorn' - *NMRS* NT36NW 63 (centred at NGR: NT 319 692; Figure 1). Although no features were identified in this area, the topsoil in the vicinity site contained fragments of coal and waste material as well as sandstone slabs, possibly derived from the superstructure around a mine shaft. Various modern cut features containing coal debris and modern white ceramic were observed in these trenches, for example Trench 4.
- 5.5 Despite good archaeological visibility in the exposed subsoil surface no significant archaeological features were observed. Similarly no significant artefactual material was unearthed.

6 CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological evaluation completed on the Block O & Phase 4 Spine Road land parcel associated with the SEW development near Danderhall, Midlothian identified neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts.
- 6.2 As no significant archaeological remains were identified, no further works are considered necessary.

7. REFERENCES

AOC 2007 *SEW Block O & Phase 4 Spine Road, Archaeological Evaluation: Written Scheme of Investigation*, unpublished AOC document.

Cook, M. 2007 *SEW RP13 Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report*, unpublished AOC document.

Headland Archaeology 2002 Part 3 Impact Assessment: Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage in *SE Wedge – Environmental Statement*, Ironside Farrar, Sept 2002.

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: North to south
Size: 50 m x 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.30 m
Excavation depth: 0.32 m (max)
Subsoil: Mixture of sands & gravels and clay
Modern features: Building debris identified in trench
Significant features: None
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeology present

Trench 2

Orientation: North to south
Size: 50 m x 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.30 m
Excavation depth: 0.33 m (max)
Subsoil: Mixture of gravels and clay
Modern features: Building debris identified in trench
Significant features: None
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeology present

Trench 3

Orientation: North to south
Size: 50 m x 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.25 m
Excavation depth: 0.29 m (max)
Subsoil: Mixture of sands and gravels
Modern features: None
Significant features: None
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeology present

Trench 4

Orientation: North to south
Size: 50 m x 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.30 m
Excavation depth: 0.32 m (max)
Subsoil: Orange sand/gravel
Modern features: Modern cut containing white ceramic
Significant features: None
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeology present

Trench 5

Orientation: North to south
Size: 50 m x 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.30 m
Excavation depth: 0.32 m (max)
Subsoil: Sands and gravels
Modern features: None
Significant features: None
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeology present

Trench 6

Orientation: North-east to south-west
Size: 50 m x 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.30 m
Excavation depth: 0.32 m (max)
Subsoil: Sands and gravels
Modern features: Rectilinear cut with mining debris within it
Significant features: None
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeology present

Trench 7

Orientation: North-east to south-west
Size: 20 m x 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.30 m
Excavation depth: 0.33 m (max)
Subsoil: Clay
Modern features: None
Significant features: None
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeology present

Trench 8

Orientation: North-west to south-east
Size: 50 m x 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.30 m
Excavation depth: 0.33 m (max)
Subsoil: Clay
Modern features: Rubble drain
Significant features: None
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeology present

Trench 9

Orientation: North-west to south-east
Size: 50 m x 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.30 m
Excavation depth: 0.33 m (max)
Subsoil: Orange sand/gravel
Modern features: None
Significant features: None
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeology present

Trench 10

Orientation: North-west to south-east
Size: 50 m x 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.31 m
Excavation depth: 0.33 m (max)
Subsoil: Orange sand/gravel
Modern features: Sandstone slabs recovered from topsoil
Significant features: None
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeology present

Trench 11

Orientation: North-east to south-west
Size: 50 m x 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.30 m
Excavation depth: 0.33 m (max)
Subsoil: Dark brown silt
Modern features: None
Significant features: None
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeology present

Trench 12

Orientation: North-west to south-east
Size: 50 m x 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.30-0.40 m
Excavation depth: 0.45 m (max)
Subsoil: Dark brown silt and orange sand
Modern features: None
Significant features: None
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeology present

Trench 13

Orientation: East to west
Size: 50 m x 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.30 m
Excavation depth: 0.34 m (max)
Subsoil: Dark brown silt and orange sand
Modern features: None
Significant features: None
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeology present

Trench 14

Orientation: North-east to south-west
Size: 50 m x 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.30-0.40 m
Excavation depth: 0.45 m (max)
Subsoil: Dark brown silt and orange sand
Modern features: None
Significant features: None
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeology present

Trench 15

Orientation: North-east to south-west
Size: 57 m x 2.0 m
Topsoil depth: 0.30-0.40 m
Excavation depth: 0.45 m (max)
Subsoil: Dark brown silt and orange sand
Modern features: None
Significant features: None
Artefacts: None
Interpretation: No significant archaeology present

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Evaluation Black & White Print and Colour Slide 1

Frame	Detail	From
1-2	Registration	
3-8	General shot of excavated trenches	SW
9-10	Post-excavation shot of Trench 14	E
11-12	Post-excavation shot of Trench 8	S
13-14	Post-excavation shot of Trench 6	SE

APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Midlothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	South-Eastern Wedge (Block O & Phase 4 Spine Road)
PROJECT CODE:	20628
PARISH:	Danderhall
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Cook, Martin
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPES(S) OF PROJECTS:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NT36NW 63
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	19 th century Woolmet Farm (OS 1858) & cropmarks suggesting mine working
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR:	NT 3188 6941
START DATE:	03/10/2007
END DATE:	08/10/2007
PREVIOUS WORK:	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION:	<p>A programme of archaeological works was required by Ironside Farrar on behalf of Turner & Townsend in meeting the terms of a condition on planning consent (05/00863/FUL) in respect to a land parcel associated with the SEW development near Danderhall, Midlothian. A 5% sample evaluation consisting of 15 trenches totalling 1,535 m² located disturbed building debris probably associated with the Woolmet Mains Farmstead, but no intact walls or floors. Waste material found within the topsoil and cut features were indicative of the former use of the area by the coalmining industry.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING	Ironside Farrar on behalf of Turner & Townsend
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	<p>AOC Archaeology Group Edgefield Industrial Estate Edgefield Road Loanhead Midlothian EH20 9SY</p>
EMAIL ADDRESS:	martinc@ocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION:	NMRS

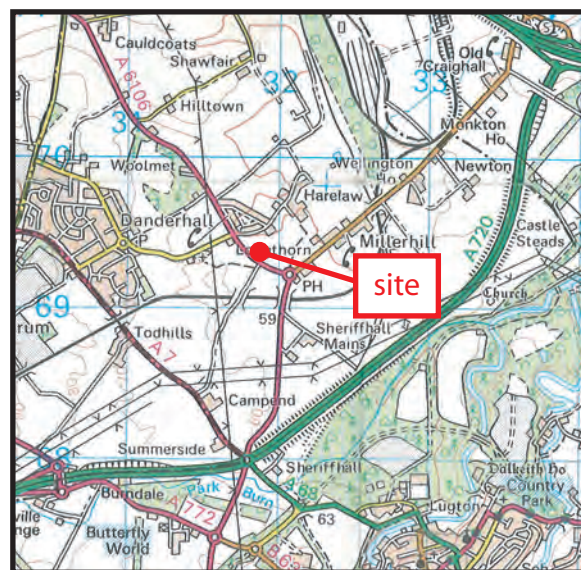
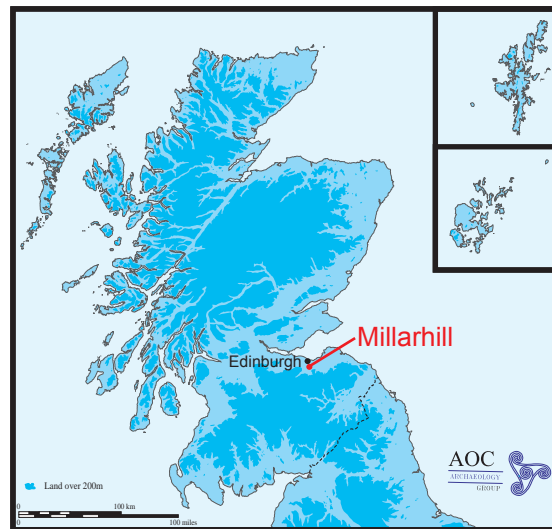


Figure1: Site location

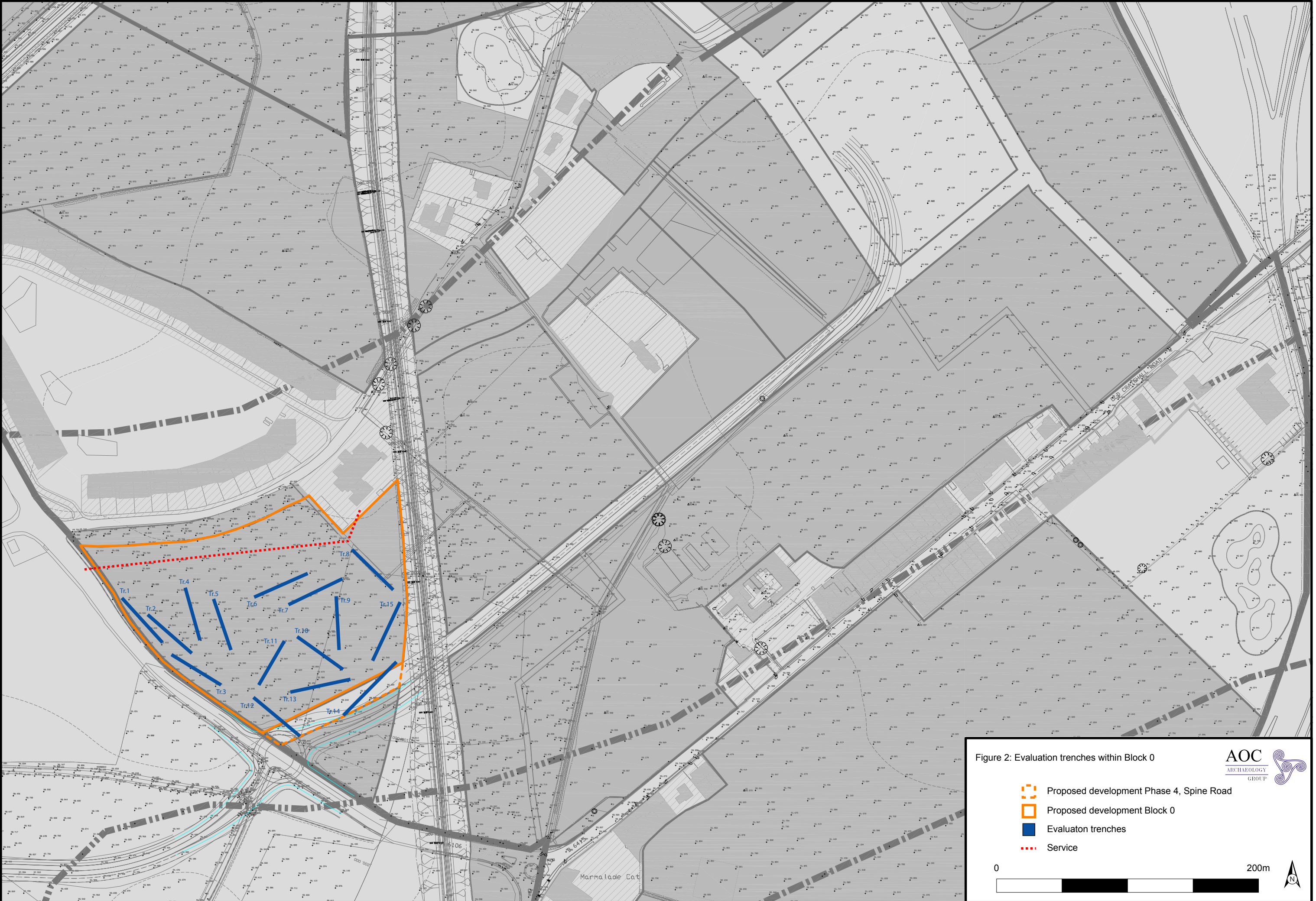


Figure 2: Evaluation trenches within Block 0