

Archaeological Evaluation Ground to West of Smithy, Rait, Perth and Kinross

RT03



Rait Burn and evaluation site

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
GROUND WEST OF SMITHY
RAIT, PERTH AND KINROSS

RT03

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Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: Trenches 01 and 02 Plans and Sections

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ABSTRACT

Alder Archaeology was commissioned by Morgan Homes Scotland Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation (site code RT03) on land to the west of the Smithy, Rait, in advance of development. Rait has been the location of a church and settlement since the early medieval period (for over 1000 years). The site was considered to be potentially archaeologically significant as it lies within the core of the historic settlement, approximately 100m to the W of church ruins. The work was undertaken 19th July 2012 in good weather conditions. Two trenches were excavated and recorded. Finds of note included residual medieval pottery, post medieval pottery, modern pottery and early modern wine bottle fragments. A ditch or trench feature was found in trench 01 which was considered to be either a roadside drainage ditch or a horticultural feature. A ditch feature was also located in trench 02 which was considered to be for drainage or horticulture. These features were considered to be early modern or modern. No deposits or features relating to the medieval period were positively identified.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Morgan Homes Scotland Ltd commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed house on land to the west of the Smithy, Rait. The proposed development area is open ground, a former garden area, centred on NGR NO 2261 2684. The work (RT03) was undertaken 19th July 2012 in good weather conditions. The requirement was to evaluate 6% of the available area, which amounted to 20sq m. Special attention was to be paid to locating deposits and features revealing the development of the settlement of Rait.

The evaluation was part of the work designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 10/01030/FLL. As well as an evaluation the condition required building recording of three standing buildings on the development site. The building recording was the subject of a separate report which has the same Alder site code (RT03).

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this investigation was to establish the presence/absence, date, character and quality of any archaeological remains surviving within the development area. The results of this investigation will be used to inform future mitigation strategies for the proposed development.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this evaluation. Copies will be sent to the client, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and Perth and Kinross Sites and Monuments Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This evaluation is part of a programme of archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development, planning application 10/01030/FLL. The archaeological condition on the planning application also includes building recording which is subject to a separate report with the same site code (RT03).

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Mr Robert Morgan of Morgan Homes Scotland Ltd and Sarah Malone of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. The evaluation was fully funded by Morgan Homes Scotland. Ltd.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

The site of the evaluation is to the W of the smithy on the location of a proposed new house. The development area comprises 320sq m of open ground which required a 6% evaluation. The ground lies between the Rait Burn to the S and the road fronting the smithy to the NE. The evaluation trenches were approximately 24m to the W of the smithy W gable end. The W boundary of the site is formed by a chainlink fence. The N boundary is formed by a chainlink fence along the roadside. Prior to the evaluation the ground had been scraped clear of vegetation. Excavation of the trenches revealed that the ground was extremely waterlogged with trench 01 completely flooding within 30 minutes.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

Rait has been the location of a church and settlement since the early medieval period (for over 1000) years). The remains of the medieval parish church of Rait are located approximately 100m east from the development site, illustrating the central location of the development site at the core of the historic settlement. It was considered that the development site for the new house could well contain buried archaeological deposits associated with the historic settlement. On the Ordnance Survey plans published in 1867 and 1901 this site is shown to be garden ground.

2.3 Archaeological Method

Two trenches were excavated for the evaluation, trench 01 and trench 02.

Trench 01 measured 5.5m E-W and was 2.5m wide (widened due to ingress of water to further examine the trench S side). It was located on the N side of the area, 6m to the E of the N-S fence line and between 1.20m and 1.80m to the S of the E-W fenceline by the road. Excavation was commenced moving from W to E but due to flooding the trench was finished by excavation from the W end in a westward direction. After recording the trench soon became fully flooded.

Trench 02 was located on the S side of trench 01 between 5.30m and 6.35m from the NS fenceline and 2m from the W end of trench 01. It measured 6.5 X 2m. It was extended at the N end to record a ditch feature. The location of trench 02 was slightly different from that shown on the proposed trench plan due to fact its intended location was waterlogged.

2.4 Results of Investigations

Trench 01

Below a dark topsoil (0101), at a depth of 0.30m, was a moderate amount of large cobbles which were considered to be inclusions from the natural deposit. Around the cobbles was a black silty clay loam (0102) containing modern pottery. A sub circular pit (fill 0103) was found at the W end of the trench which measured 0.50 X 0.50m. The pit fill was redeposited natural gravel and topsoil. The pit was considered to be recent, probably an engineer's test pit for the proposed new build. Also below the topsoil at the W end of the trench was a brown silty clayey layer (0104) which was considered to

be a layer of makeup 0.20m thick. Below (0104) was a further layer of makeup (0105) of mixed silt and sandy silt with finds of modern pottery. Below (0105) was a deposit of black silty loam (0106) which was either a makup layer over natural gravel or a former top soil, this deposit also contained modern pottery. On the S side of the trench it could be seen that the natural had been cut or scarped away to the N forming what was considered to be the S edge of an E-W aligned ditch or trench filled by (0104), (0105) and (0106). The ditch/trench was most likely for roadside drainage or possibly a garden or horticultural feature. The excavation and recording of this trench was much hampered by the rapid ingress of water but it was considered that the features and deposits were the result of early modern/ modern activity.



Trench 01 start of excavation



Trench 01 general, water ingress

Trench 02

The topsoil in trench 02 was the same as in trench 01. Below topsoil (0201) was a thin layer of orange gravel, (0202), 0.03-0.05m thick. Below the gravel (0202) was a layer of pebbles mixed with dark grey clay (0203), 0.10-0.05m thick. A machine cut sondage was made across the trench through (0203) and established that it was a natural deposit. The sondage was 0.25m in depth and bottomed onto a lower natural layer of orange gravelly sand and cobbles (0204). Towards the W end of the trench a ditch feature was found cut into deposit (0203). The ditch cut (0206) was 0.70m wide and about 0.20m deep and aligned NE-SW, running down towards Rait Burn. The NW side of the ditch cut was a shallow slope while the SE side was cut almost vertical. It appeared as though the NW edge of the ditch had been recut. The main fill of the ditch (0205) comprised organic black silty clay which contained wine bottle fragments and some sherds of post medieval pottery.



Trench 02 showing natural deposit 0202



Trench 02 sondage into ditch deposit 0205

3 Interpretation

3.1 Trench 01

Excavation of trench 01 showed made up ground or fill in a shallow cut feature which ran parallel to the roadway. The fill contained modern pottery and a residual sherd of medieval pottery. The cut feature was interpreted as a ditch at the side of the road or possibly a horticultural feature. Dating evidence indicates infilling of the ditch took place in early modern or modern times. The residual medieval pottery most likely indicates manuring of the land for horticulture during that period.

3.2 Trench 02

Trench 02 revealed a ditch feature towards its NW end. The fill of the ditch contained residual medieval pottery, post medieval pottery and wine bottle fragments dating the fill to early modern times. This ditch appears to have been for drainage into the Rait Burn. The residual medieval pottery, as in trench 01, most likely derives from manuring of the land.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations for Further Work

4.1 Conclusions

It is concluded that the evaluation revealed either a roadside ditch feature or a horticulture feature dating from the early modern or the modern period in trench 01. Trench 02 revealed an early modern or modern ditch feature most likely draining into the Rait Burn. Both trenches revealed residual medieval/post medieval, pottery most likely derived from manuring.

4.2 Recommendations for Further Work

Alder Archaeology considers that while the evaluation revealed early modern features and residual medieval pottery these findings were not of sufficient importance as to warrant further archaeological work. However, the final decision with regard to further archaeological work on the site rests with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust as archaeological advisors to Perth and Kinross Council.

5 References

Alder Archaeology *Rait Smithy, Smithy House and Sheiling House Archaeological Evaluation and Building Recording Written Scheme of Investigation* Perth 2012

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust *Terms of Reference for Standing Building Recording and Archaeological Evaluation Rait Smithy, Smithy and Sheiling House* Perth 2012

Ordnance Survey Map, 25 inch *Perth and Clackmannanshire, Sheet 087.14* Published 1867

Ordnance Survey Map, 25 inch *Perth and Clackmannanshire, Sheet 087.14* Published 1901

Appendix 1 Context Register

No:	Description	Phase
0101	Deposit, black topsoil, abundant 19/20 th pottery one residual sherd of medieval pottery some stone 0.25-0.30m thick	
0102	Deposit, large rounded natural cobbles below 0101 in dark silty loamy deposit, may have formed drain at E end of trench, as water flowed in from here, modern pottery in matrix	
0103	Deposit, fill of pit, sub circular 0.50m diameter, cut into subsoil at least 0.30m thick	
0104	Deposit, brown silty clay made up ground, 0.20m thick	
0105	Deposit, mixed silt and sandy silt, modern finds, 0.12m thick	
0106	Deposit, black silty loam over natural gravel, made up ground, former top soil over natural gravels, modern pottery 0.20m thick.	
0201	Deposit, black topsoil same as 0101	
0202	Deposit orange gritty gravel, thin layer, 0.03-0.05m thick	
0203	Deposit, medium pebbles in matrix of dark clay, 0.10-0.15m thick	
0204	Deposit, orange sandy grit, with cobbles natural below 0203	
0205	Deposit, fill of cut 0206, black silty clay, possible residual medieval pottery (2 sherds) and one sherd post med pot, wine bottle fragments	
0206	Cut, for deposit 0205, through 0203 onto 0204, bottom of cut is 0.66m down from site surface, runs N-S, 0.70m wide, probable drainage cut.	
0207	Deposit, fill, primary ditch silting, similar to 0205 but with some orange brown gravel mixed in no finds	
0208	Cut, recut for ditch fill 0205, located 0.10m forward of primary cut 0206	

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
01	Ground to W of Smithy	NW
02	Ground to W of Smithy	N
03	Ground to W of Smithy	W
04	Ground to W of Smithy	SW
05	Ground by W part of Smithy	S
06	Start of excavation of evaluation trench 01	NW
07	Start of water ingress in trench 01	NE
08	Waterlogged trench 01	NE
09	Stones of 0102	N
10	Stones of 0102	NE
11	West extension to trench 01	SW
12	West extension to trench 01	NE
13	General of trench 01	W
14	General of trench 02 after removal of topsoil	NW
15	General of trench 02 being excavated	NW
16	General showing deposit 0202	NW
17	Sondage into ditch deposit 0205	W
18-19	Sondage into ditch deposit 0205	N
20	General view of excavated trenches	NW
21	General view of excavated trenches	W
22	General view of excavated trenches	W
23	Rait burn and evaluation site	NW

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

Sheet No.	Description	Scale
1	Context descriptions; plan of trench 01 1:100; section, part of S facing section 1:10; plan of trench 02 1:100, section of ditch cut 0206, 1:10; trench location plan not to scale.	various

Appendix 4 Finds Register

Context	Material type	Details
0101	Pottery	<p>1 sherd TGE: teapot spout/strainer, white fabric, glazed white</p> <p>1 sherd TGE: plate, white fabric, glazed white 2 rim sherds TGE: plate, white fabric, glazed white</p> <p>2 sherds TGE: white fabric, glazed white</p> <p>1 sherd TGE: glazed brown, red fabric</p> <p>1 rim/neck sherd TGE: glazed blue and white, pinky-white fabric; ?painted</p> <p>1 base sherd TGE: blue and white transfer printed; pinky-white fabric</p>
0101	Clay pipe	1 stem
0101	Glass	<p>2 thick green bottle body sherds</p> <p>3 thin green glass bottle body sherds</p>
0101	Animal Bone	1 calcined fragment, probably sheep rib
0103	Pottery	<p>1 body sherd TGE: white fabric, glazed white</p> <p>1 rim sherd TGE: white fabric, glazed white with blue painted rim</p>
0104	Pottery	<p>1 body sherd TGE: glazed brown, red fabric</p> <p>1 rim sherd TGE: glazed yellow, red fabric</p>
0104	Glass	<p>1 heavy base sherd green glass bottle; slightly denatured</p> <p>1 body sherd thin green glass bottle</p>
0105	Pottery	1 body sherd TGE; white glaze, white fabric

		1 sherd TGE; blue and white transfer printed, white fabric
0105	Glass	1 neck and shoulder green glass bottle; hand drawn string rim; slightly denatured 1 green multi-facetted (broken octagonal 'eight-square') bottle base; heavy, hand blown; pontil mark in base; probably 18th-c (cf Wills 1974, 41; Wills 1977, 48–9)
		1 thin green bottle sherd
0106	Pottery	1 small abraded medieval sherd: redware fabric, spotty green glaze 1 TGE base: red fabric; glazed brown (18th-c?) 4 TGE body sherds: red fabric; glazed brown
0205	Pottery	1 body sherd late medieval/post-medieval: grey fabric, spotty green glaze 1 rim sherd post medieval: lustrous green-brown glaze, red fabric; rim with 5 lines of varying depth incised around it 1 sherd post-medieval redware: glazed green on 4 faces, and dripped on to further face. Possibly skillet handle?
0205	Glass	1 neck and shoulder green glass bottle with hand-drawn string rim 1 heavy green glass bottle base with deep kick-up 1 other green glass bottle base
0205	Stone	2 natural agate/chalcedony nodules, unworked but broken
0205	Wood	Carbonised roundwood fragment; ?unworked
0206	Glass	1 green glass neck and shoulders; hand-drawn string rim 1 green glass rim sherd with hand-drawn string rim 1 green glass bottle base; heavy, irregular, with deep kick-up

References

Wills, G 1974 *English Glass Bottles for the Collector*. Edinburgh.

Wills, G 1977 *The Bottle-Collector's Guide*. Edinburgh and London.

Appendix 5 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Archaeological Evaluation Ground West of Smithy, Rait, Perth and Kinross
PROJECT CODE:	RT03
PARISH:	Kilspindie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Ray Cachart
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Medieval Settlement
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Post medieval pottery
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NGR NO 2261 2684
START DATE	19 th July 2012
END DATE	19 th July 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Alder Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation (site code RT03) to the west of the Smithy, Rait, in advance of development. The site was considered to be potentially archaeologically significant as Rait has been the location of a church and settlement since the early medieval period. Two trenches were excavated and recorded. Post medieval pottery, modern pottery and wine bottle fragments were recovered. Fill or makeup deposits were found in trench 01 which seemed to represent a post medieval or early modern horticultural feature or a roadside ditch. In trench 02 a ditch feature was located which was considered to be related to post medieval or early modern drainage. No deposits or features relating to the medieval period were positively identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Watching Brief
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Developer
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS

EMAIL ADDRESS:	Director@AlderArchaeology.co.uk
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Appendix 6 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

6.1 Recording Methodology

Alder Archaeology employs a Single Context Recording System that allows full cross-referencing of stratigraphy, finds and environmental samples, as well as site-wide phasing. All features will be planned at scale 1:20, and sections drawn at scale 1:10. Sections and profiles will be drawn and all features will be photographed with metric scale included. Environmental samples will be taken from archaeologically significant contexts, if the analysis of these samples would aid significantly in the interpretation of any features identified.

6.2 Human Remains

If human remains are encountered they will be left in situ and the local police will be informed. If removal is required this will take place in compliance with Historic Scotland's Policy Paper *The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology*.

6.3 Products and Reporting

A Data Structure Report will normally be prepared within a period agreed within the Written Scheme of Investigation/ Project Design, after the completion of the fieldwork. This forms the basic level of reporting. Further reporting may be required on the basis of discoveries made during excavations.

A copy of the report and the project archive will be deposited in the NMRS. Further copies will be sent to the client, LAAO and others, as appropriate.

6.4 Artefacts

Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia*. We will report such finds, if recovered, with supporting documentation to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel for disposal to the appropriate museum.

6.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

6.6 General Conditions and Health and Safety

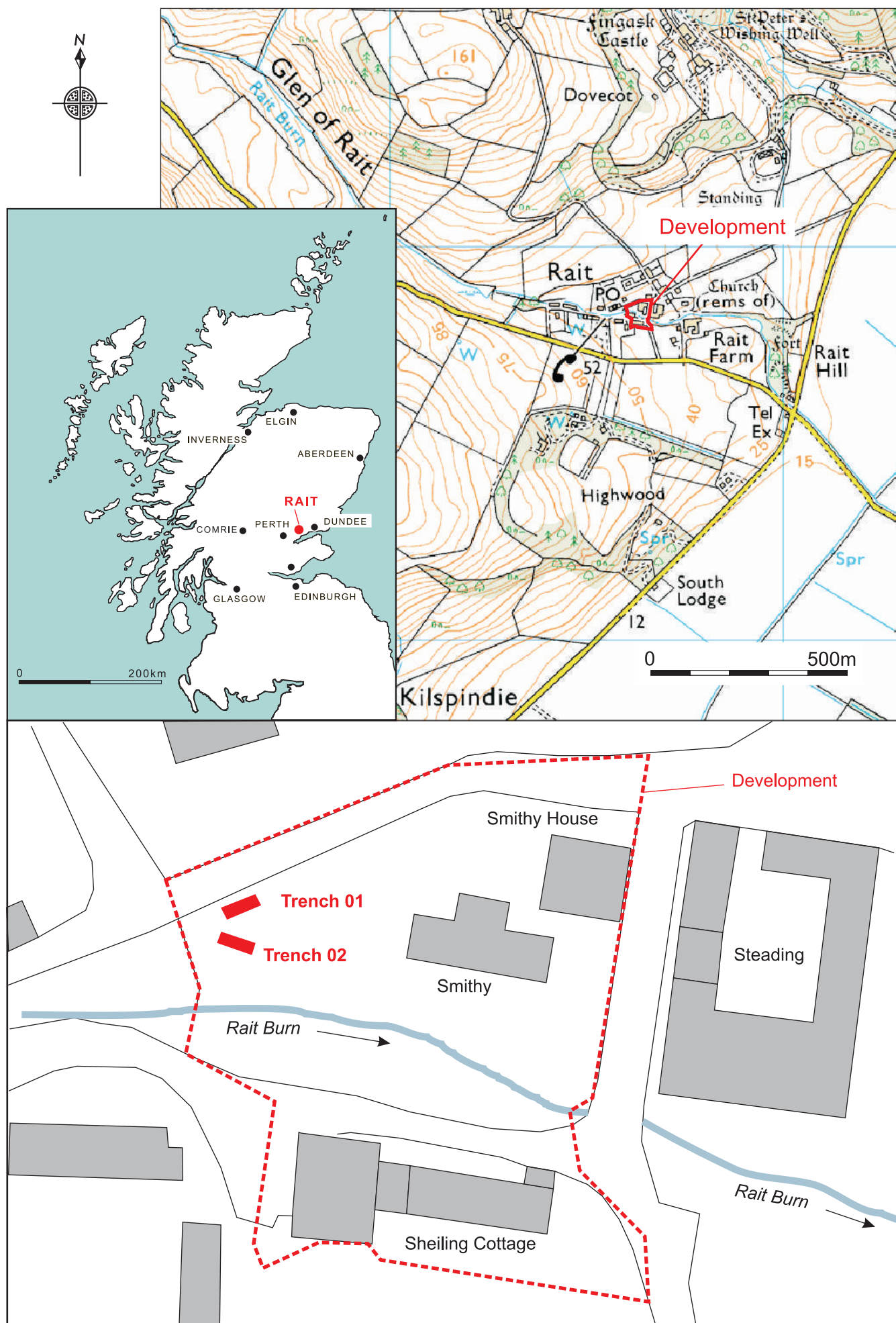
We adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists.

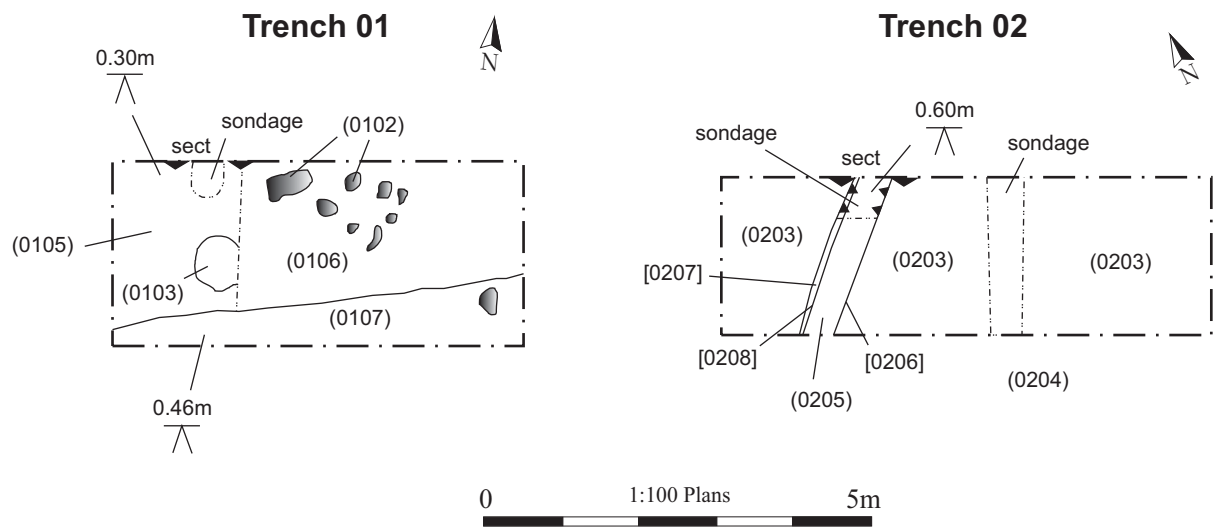
Alder Archaeology Ltd has public liability insurance of £2,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

We operate a strict health and safety policy and conforms to the Health and Safety at Work Act. We undertakes Risk Assessments on all fieldwork carried out.

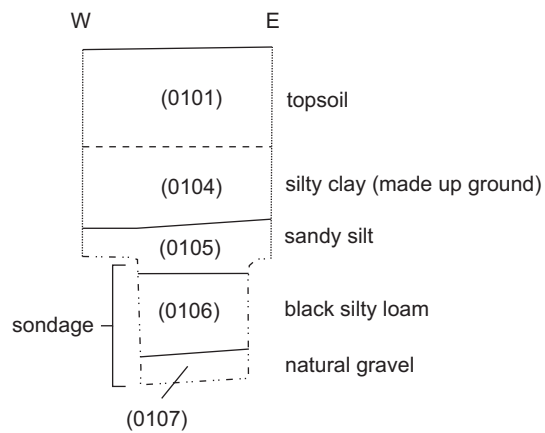
Alder Archaeology representatives will at all times wear protective footwear, high visibility clothing and other appropriate clothing. Hard hats will be worn if there is active plant on site or at all times if the site is deemed a hard hat area.

If lightly contaminated deposits are uncovered disposable boiler suits and gloves will be worn. A source of clean water will be made available for staff to clean hands with. If the health risk posed by site contamination is felt to be too high all further archaeological work will stop in that area.





Trench 01 part of S facing section with sondage



Trench 02 SW facing section of ditch cut 0206

