



KA01_ 40 General Working on Site

Archaeological Evaluation
22 Birch Road
Killearn
STIRLING COUNCIL
KA01

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
22 BIRCH ROAD
KILLEARN

KA01

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Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: Detailed Site Location Plan

Illustration 3: Location of Evaluation Trenches

Illustration 4: Plans and Sample Sections

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ABSTRACT

Stirling Council commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site for the erection of six new residential housing units at Birch Road, Killearn. The site, centred on NS 52260 85907, lies just south of the Killearn Old Parish Church and Graveyard. Three evaluation trenches were excavated to evaluate 100m² of the available area. It was considered possible that the development site may have contained buried remains associated with settlement or outlying burials associated with the nearby Killearn Old Parish Church.

Topsoil and subsoil revealed nothing of archaeological significance in any to the trenches and no finds were recovered. A few residual 19th – 20th C pottery sherds were found in the topsoil indicating some sort of activity, possibly horticulture on the site during those periods. A patch of black mineral (0305) over the subsoil in trench 03 was considered to be a natural occurrence and not archaeological. The natural rock, although having a relatively flat surface showed no signs of having been cut or terraced for construction. Bedrock was quite close to the surface in all the trenches which may have rendered the site poor for horticulture. The slope of the land here may have also deterred any building in the past. No further archaeological work is required on the site.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Stirling Council commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site for the erection of six new residential housing units at Birch Road, Killearn. The proposed development area was a parkland site, centred on NGR NS 52260 85907. The work (site code KA01) was undertaken on 23rd August 2012 in showery weather conditions. The requirement was to evaluate 5% of the available area, that is 100m². Special attention was to be paid to possible remains associated with settlement around the nearby Killearn Old Kirk.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 11/00599/Ful.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this evaluation was to establish the presence/absence, date, character and quality of any archaeological remains surviving within the development area, in particular any remains of settlement or activity such as outlying burials associated with the Killearn Old Kirk. 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 Stirling Council's Sites and Monuments Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This programme of archaeological works was designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition 2 on the planning consent for this development, Planning Application 11/00599/Ful, dated 10 Jan 2012.

1.5 Acknowledgements

Alder Archaeology wishes to thank Stewart Gillespie Architectural Technician, Housing, Stirling Council and Murray Cook, Archaeology and Environmental Services Stirling Council for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. The archaeological evaluation was entirely funded by Stirling Council.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1 and 2)

The development site lies near the centre of the village of Killearn, in the SW corner of an area of open parkland. It is currently well tended parkland. It lies to the W of the main street, and directly to the south of the ruins of Killearn Old Kirk and its associated graveyard. The site forms a rectangle approximately 80 x 25 m, aligned SE – NW and slopes from the N at 95m OD down to the S at 90m OD. Its S end is bounded by Crosshead Road cul de sac, and the N end is marked by a large oak tree (to be retained).

Its W side is bounded by a Telephone Exchange, and modern housing in Birch Road. Its E side is marked by a footpath running through the park, also to be retained with slight adjustments.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

Killearn Old Kirk, close by to the N of the development area, is a roofless ruin (SMR 552.01), standing to the wall head, and in its present form dates to the 18th century. However, there has been a church on the site since at least the 13th century, and there are possible medieval gravestones in the graveyard. Today the nucleus of the village and the present Parish Church lie to the N of the Old Kirk, but this may not always have been so. If there was any early development to the S of the Old Kirk, it may well have extended into the present development site, and it was considered that there was a good chance that traces may survive, since there is no record of the site being built on and disturbed in modern times.

The present development will consist of three pairs of single storey, semi-detached houses, intended for the use of elderly and disabled residents. The three pairs will be arranged side by side along the axis of the rectangular site, facing NE into the park. Access will be from a new road running beside the footpath which forms the NE edge of the site. At its N end this road will turn W and join the E end of the existing Birch Road. There will be off-street parking in front of each pair of houses. To the rear of the houses will be small clothes-drying areas and dustbin stores.

Deturfing will probably be required over the whole of the development site, and topsoil stripping to form the solum of the houses, the access road, and the car parking areas. It was considered most likely that these actions would expose and destroy any archaeological traces of settlement that may have potentially survived within the development site.

2.3 Archaeological Method

Prior to the evaluation a photographic record was made of the development site. The evaluation comprised the archaeological excavation of three trenches (Trenches 01-03) representing the required 5% sample of the development area. Each trench was excavated down to either natural subsoil or bedrock, cleaned and archaeologically recorded.

2.4 Results of Investigations (Illus 3 and 4)

Trench 01

Trench 01 was located at the SE end of the development area, it sloped down hill in a NW-SE direction. The trench was 23m in length and 1.50m wide and was 0.20-0.65m in depth. At the SE end of the trench a modern drain was found with a fill (0106) of type 1 stone chippings. Topsoil bottomed onto natural rock (0104) in the NW part of the trench and in the SE area. In the central area of the trench deeper sandy silt subsoil (0105) overlay the natural rock (0104). Some 19th -20th pottery sherds were found in the top soil but were not recovered. Nothing of archaeological significance was found in this trench.



Trench 01

Trench 02

Trench 02 was aligned NE-SW and located to the NW of trench 01. It was 23.50m in length and 0.150m wide. Below topsoil, subsoil (0203) was encountered. Excavation did not continue to bedrock. Trench depth varied between 0.46m and 0.56m. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were found in this trench.



Trench 02

Trench 03

Trench 03 was located to the NW of trench 02, it was 0.23m long, 1.50m wide and aligned NE-SW. Trench depth varied between 0.28m and 0.55m, being deepest at the trench SW end. A dark mineral patch (0305) was found on the subsoil 7m from the trench SW end. This was considered to be caused by tree or plant roots and not to be archaeological. Nothing of archaeological significance was found in this trench



Trench 03

3 Interpretation

3.1

Trenches 01-03

Topsoil and subsoil revealed nothing of archaeological significance in any to the trenches and no finds were recovered. Some 19th – 20th C pottery sherds were found in the topsoil indicating some sort of activity, possibly horticulture on the site during those periods. A patch of black mineral (0305) over the subsoil in trench 03 was considered to be a natural occurrence and not archaeological. The natural rock, although having a relatively flat surface showed no signs of having been cut or terraced for construction. Bedrock was quite close to the surface in all the trenches, which may have rendered the site poor for horticulture. The slope of the land here may have also deterred any building in the past.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusions

Although the site investigated appeared archaeologically barren it is quite possible that buried remains associated with the church site lie closer to the church itself. Such remains, if they exist, may lie below the present grave yard which appears to have been artificially raised around the S side of the church to provide sufficient depth for burials that otherwise would have to be cut through the natural bedrock.

4.2 Recommendations for Further Work

The 10% sample of site evaluated revealed nothing of archaeological significance and Alder Archaeology recommends that no further archaeological work is necessary for this development. However, the final decision with regard to further archaeological work ultimately rests with Murray Cook, Archaeologist for Archaeology and Environmental Services, Stirling Council.

5 References

- 5.1 Alder Archaeology *Land Adjacent to 22 Birch Road Killearn Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation* Perth Aug 2012

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>
	<i>Trench 01</i>
0101	Turf, grass and roots 0.04-0.08m thick
0102	Topsoil reddish and dk brown silty loam 0.07-0.24m thick
0103	Reddish dk brown clayey silt, sub soil, 0.09-0.23m thick
0104	Natural rock, sandstone flat surface, no undulations or deep cracks or fissures
0105	Red sandy silt, with 5% small fragments of sandstone, degrading from natural rock, 0.07-0.14m thick
0106	Deposit, fill of modern drain, type 1 stone fragments, probable plastic drain below, runs across the trench at the SE end where soil starts to get slightly waterlogged, 0.30m wide, not excavated
0107	Cut for 0106, 0.30m wide, straight sided, cut for fill 0106
	<i>Trench 02</i>
0201	Turf, grass and roots, 0.10-0.12m thick
0202	Topsoil, 0.19-0.23m thick
0203	Subsoil, 0.07-0.23m thick
	<i>Trench 03</i>
0301	Turf, 0.10-0.12m thick
0302	Topsoil 0.06-0.22m thick
0303	Subsoil, 0.19-0.30m thick
0304	Natural rock
0305	Patch of black mineral, area 0.33 X 0.25m c 0.03m thick, possibly made by tree roots, not considered archaeological

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
KA01_01-25	Photographic record of site prior to excavation	Various
26-27	Trench 01 excavated	SE
28-29	Trench 01 excavated	NW
30-31	Trench 01 excavated	SE - E
32-33	Trench 01 excavated	N
34	Trench 02 being excavated	NE
35-36	Trench 02 being excavated	N
37-38	Trench 02 excavated	SW
39	Trench 02	W
40	General working on site	N
41-42	Trench 03 excavated	N-NE
43-44	Trench 03 excavated	SW
45	Detail of deposit 0305	NE
46	General of deposit, 0305	N
47-49	General showing location of open trenches	S
50	General of development site open trenches with graveyard in foreground	S

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Permatrace sheet showing excavated trenches and context descriptions	1:100

Appendix 4 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Archaeological Evaluation, Land Adjacent to 22 Birch Road, Killearn, Stirling Council
PROJECT CODE:	KA01
PARISH:	Killearn
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Ray Cachart and Tamlin Barton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NS58NW7 Killearn Old Parish Church and Graveyard
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Killearn Old Parish Church and Graveyard
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Site centred on NS 52260 85907
START DATE	23 rd August 2012
END DATE	23 rd August 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Stirling Council commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site for the erection of six new residential housing units at Birch Road, Killearn. The requirement was to evaluate 5% of the available area, that is 100m². Three evaluation trenches were excavated. Special attention was to be paid to possible remains associated with settlement around the nearby Killearn Old Parish Church.</p> <p>Topsoil and subsoil revealed nothing of archaeological significance in any to the trenches and no finds were recovered. Some 19th – 20th C pottery sherds were found in the topsoil indicating some sort of activity, possibly horticulture on the site during those periods. A patch of black mineral (0305) over the subsoil in trench 03 was considered to be a natural occurrence and not archaeological. The natural rock, although having a relatively flat surface showed no signs of having been cut or terraced for construction. Bedrock was quite close to the surface in all the trenches which may have rendered the site poor for horticulture. The slope of the land here may have also deterred any building in the past.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Stirling Council

CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	None
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Director@AlderArchaeology.co.uk

Appendix 5 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

5.1 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.

5.2 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*.

5.3 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.

5.4 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.

5.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

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

5.6 General Conditions and Health and Safety

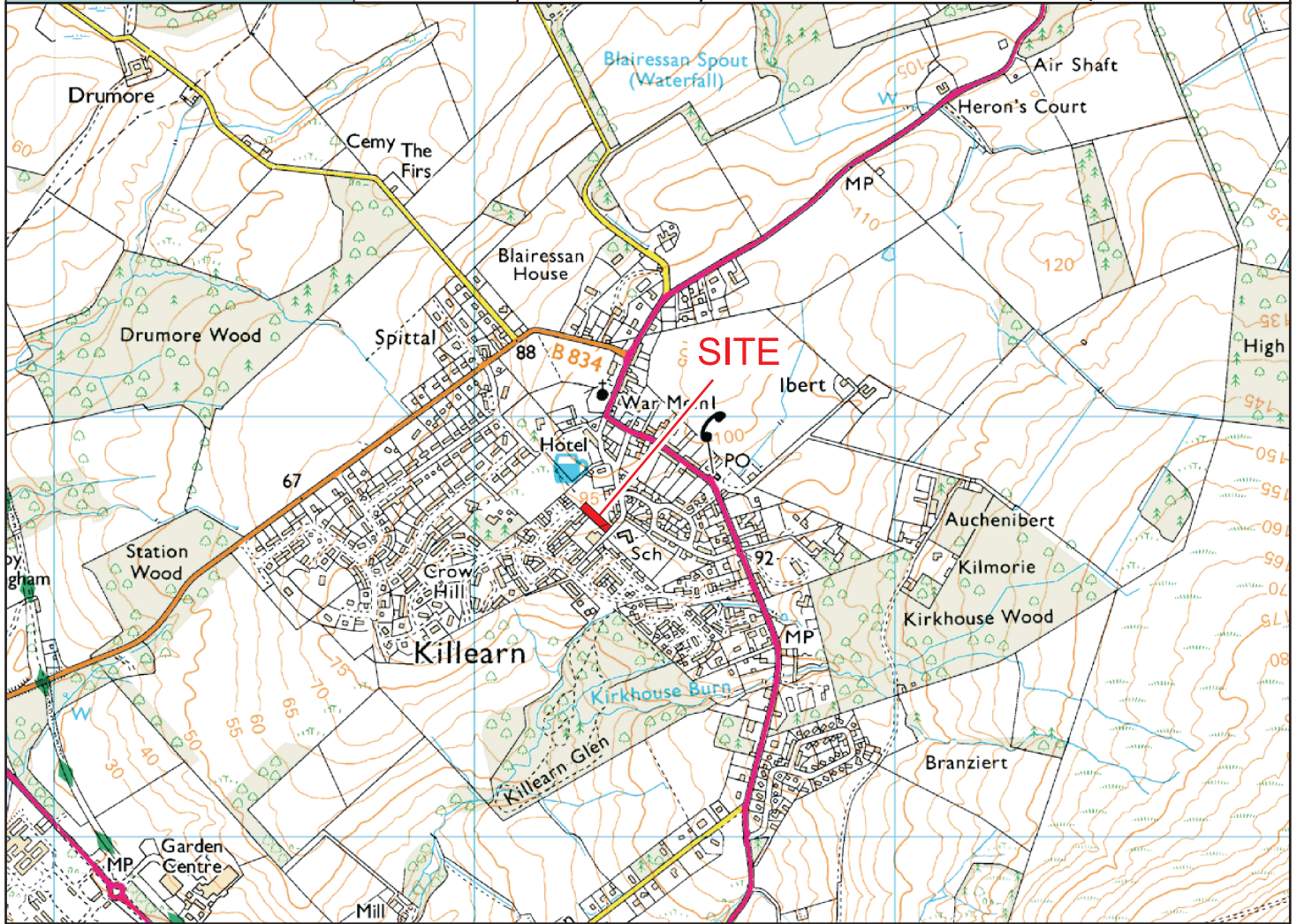
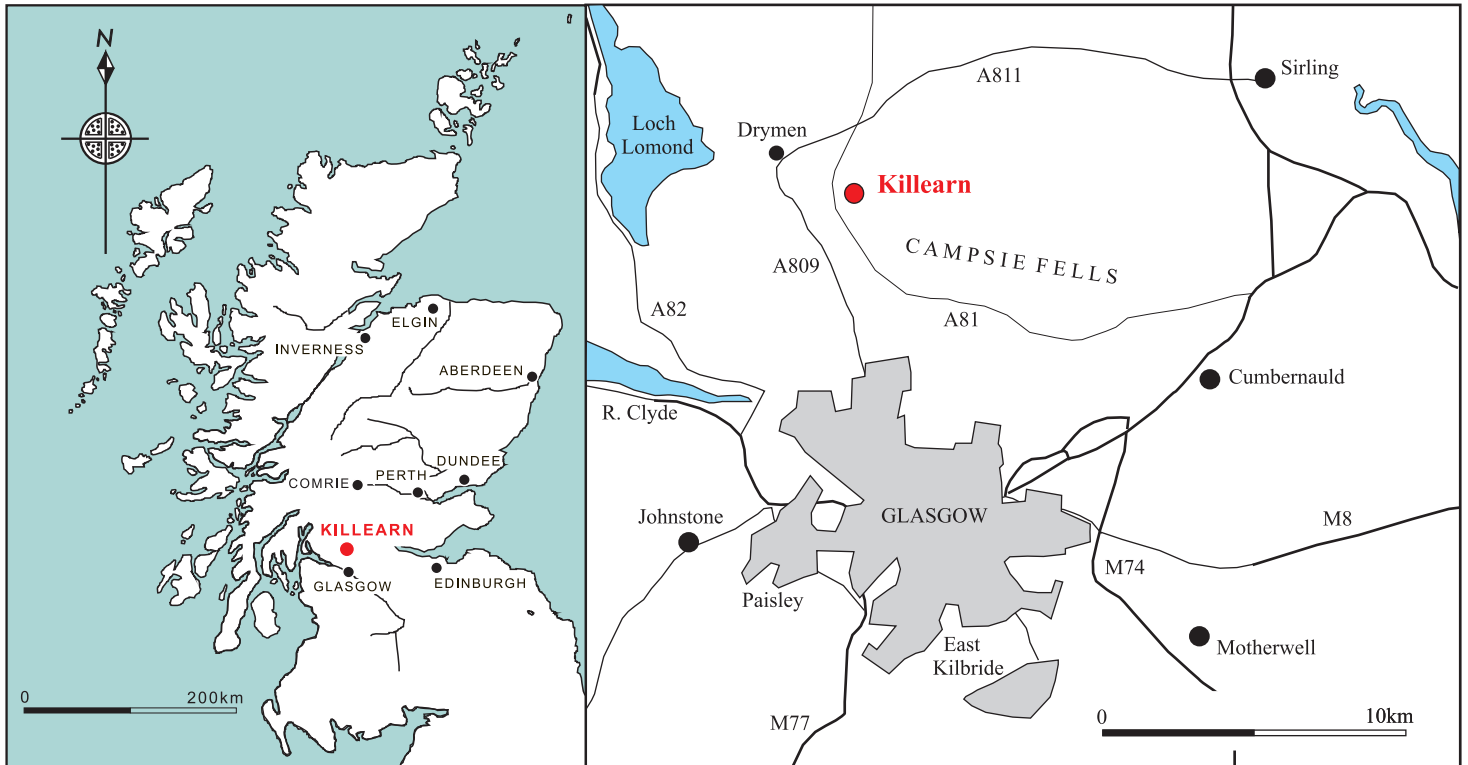
We adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists.

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.

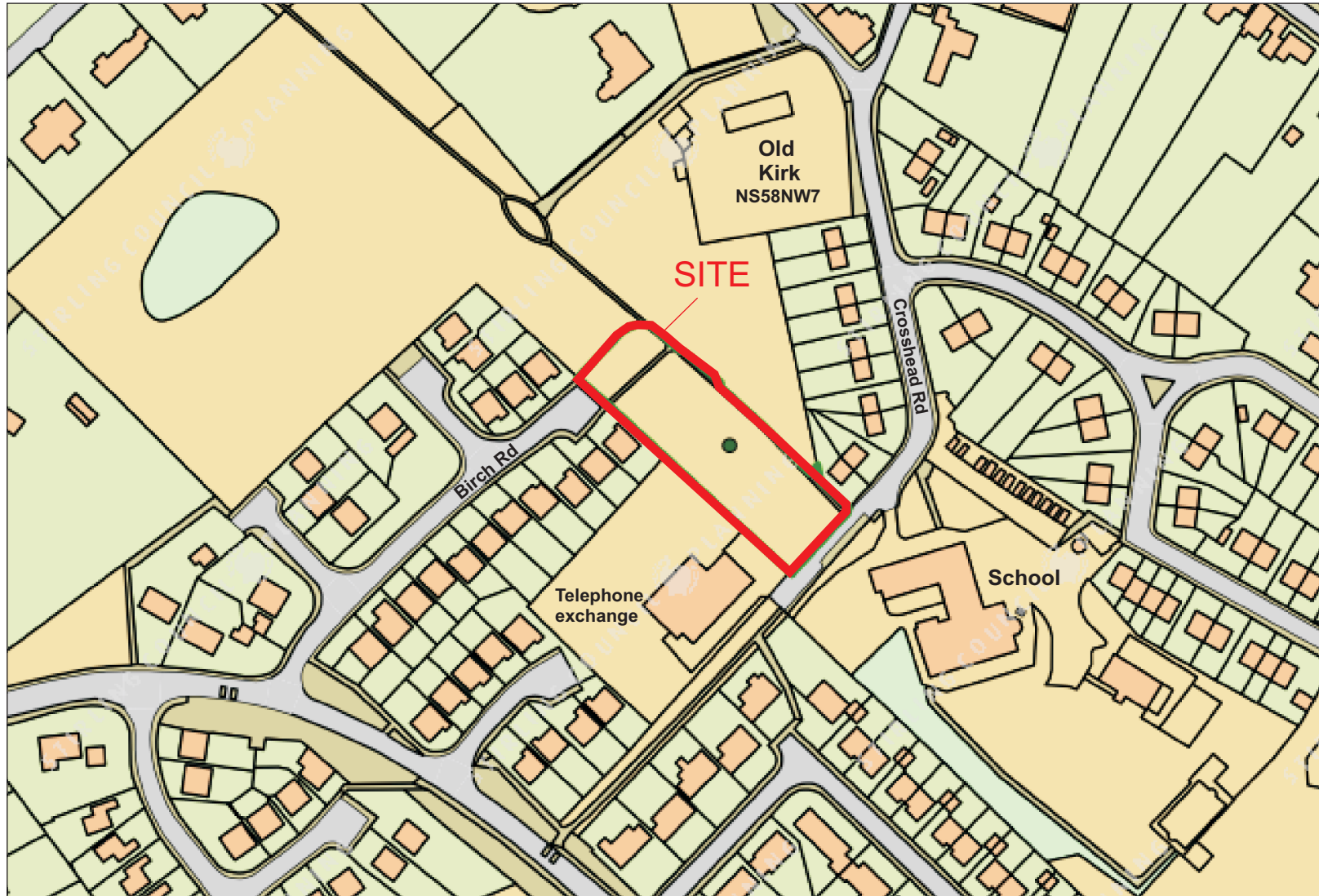
Alder Archaeology representatives will at all times wear protective footwear, high visibility clothing and other appropriate clothing. Hard hats will be worn if there is active plant on site or at all times if the site is deemed a hard hat area.

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.



Illus 2

Detailed Site Location Plan



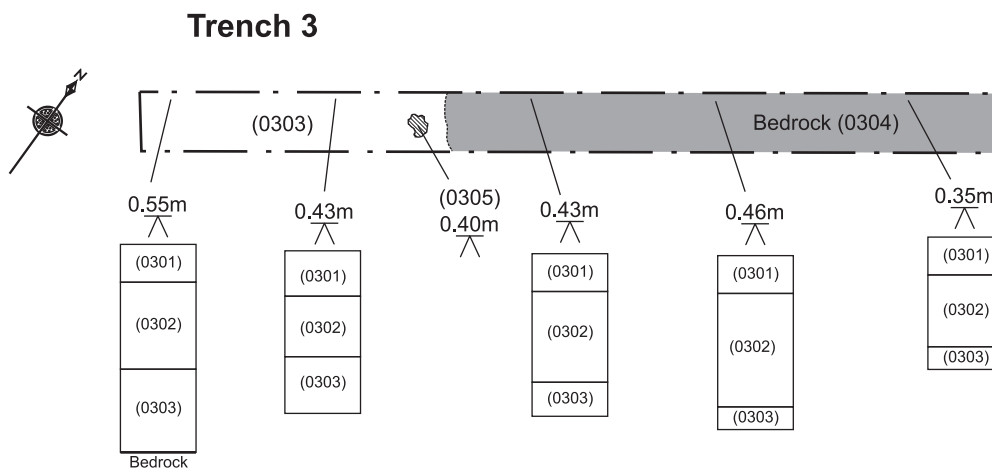
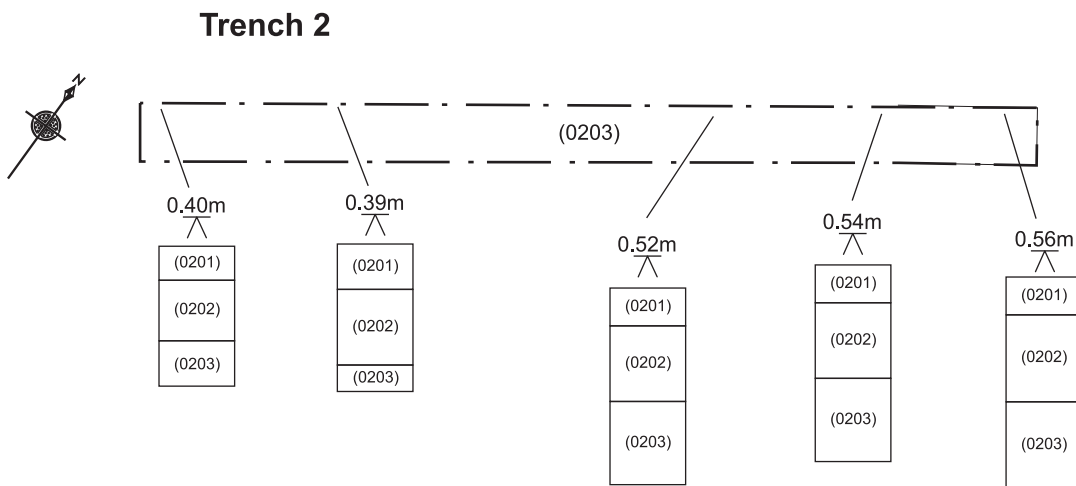
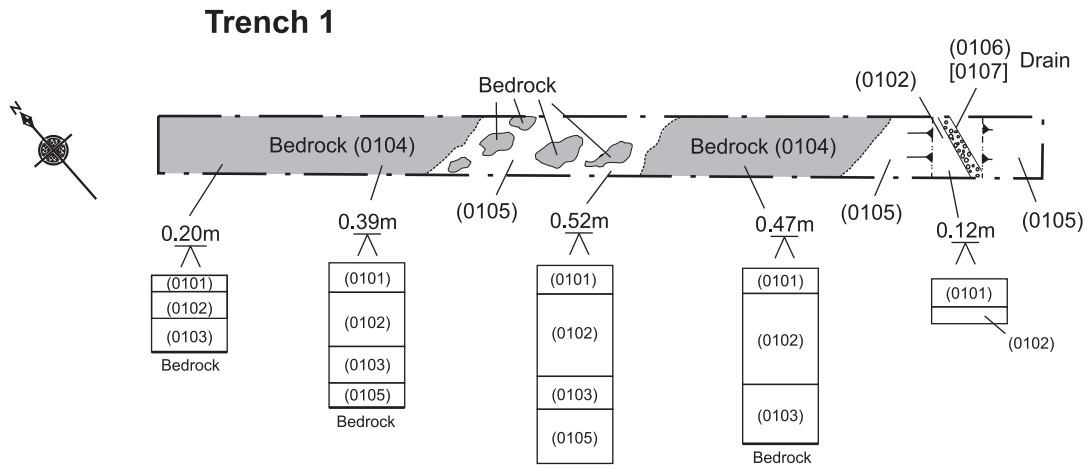
Illus 3

Location of Evaluation Trenches



Illus 4

Plans and Sample Sections



0 plans 1:200 10m

0 sections 1:40 2m

Depths taken down from site surface

KA01