



FE02_43 Walls 03 and 04 and metalling 06 view N

Archaeological Watching Brief
Skernieland Road, Fenwick
East Ayrshire

FE02

Alder Archaeology Ltd
55 SOUTH METHVEN STREET
PERTH PH1 5NX
Tel: 01738 622393
Fax: 01738 631626
Director@AlderArchaeology.co.uk

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
SKERNIELAND ROAD, FENWICK
EAST AYRSHIRE**

FE02

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Author Ray Cachart
Illustrator Tamlin Barton MA
Editor David Bowler BA (Hons), M Phil, FSA Scot, MIFA

ABSTRACT

Alder Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Mansell Partnership Homes to undertake an archaeological watching brief (FE02) on a green field site at Skernieland Road, Fenwick, East Ayrshire, centred on NGR NS 4659 4375, in advance of residential development. The site was considered to have archaeological potential based on the presence of sites and finds of medieval and later date in the surrounding landscape. Of particular concern was the close proximity of the post medieval steading of Creelsheugh, located just outside the S end of the development area.

Previously, during the period 16th-19th January 2012, Alder had undertaken an evaluation (FE01) on the site. The evaluation did not find any significant archaeology. However, what was considered to be road edging and metalling was found at the SW end of the site, in trench 01, which was interpreted as the roadway into the site of the Creelsheugh steading from the N.

It was considered possible that the steading buildings which are shown on 1st edition OS may in fact lie within the southernmost edge of the development, and could be impacted upon by groundworks for the SuDS area which was to extend southwards from the southwest corner of the main development. A watching brief was therefore required on groundworks at the S edge of the SuDS area in order to record any deposits or features relating to the settlement of Creelsheugh which might be revealed. The SuDS area was centred on NGR NS 4665 4355

The watching brief (FE02) was undertaken during the period 27th-28th February 2012. Excavation revealed two parallel walls or alignments of field stones with road metalling on the western side. The stone walls appeared to represent the sides of an open drain channel on the E side of the road entering Creelsheugh from the N. Pottery found in association with the drain was mainly late 18th and 19th C, although three conjoining sherds of residual late medieval pottery were recovered. It is concluded that the roadway on the watching brief is shown on the 1st edition OS and that the main structures of Creelsheugh farmstead buildings are located further to the S outwith the SuDS area. No further archaeological work will be required on the site.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Mansell Partnership Homes commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief (site code FE02) on the site of a SuDS pond (sustainable urban drainage system) centred on NGR NS 4665 4355, required for residential development at Skernieland Road, Fenwick. The main area of the development was a greenfield site having an area of 2.488ha, centred on NGR NS 4659 4375 to the N of SuDS. At the time of the watching brief the main area of the development was being stripped of topsoil.

Previously, during the period 16th-19th January 2012, Alder Archaeology had carried out an evaluation (FE01) on the site. The evaluation did not find any significant archaeology. However, what was considered to be road edging and metalling were found at the SW end of the site, in the area of the SuDS, in evaluation trench 01. These features were interpreted as the roadway into Creelsheugh steading from the N. The Creelsheugh steading is depicted on the OS 1st edition and is mapped on Roy's map of c.1755, along with a field system and is likely to be post medieval or earlier.

The watching brief was undertaken during the period 27th to 28th February 2012 in wet weather conditions. The requirement was for a watching brief on groundworks for the SuDS area to the S of evaluation trench 01. Special attention was paid to finding and recording any deposits or features relating to the site of the former farmstead of Creelsheugh which lies in close proximity to S boundary of the SuDS area.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this investigation was to record any archaeology revealed by the contractor's excavations, especially any archaeology relating to the steading of Creelsheugh.

1.3 Reporting

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

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This watching brief is part of a programme of archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development, planning application 11/0160/PP.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Alan Arnott of Mansell Homes for his assistance throughout this project. We also thank Paul Robins of West of Scotland Archaeology service for his on-site advice and general guidance during the evaluation and this watching brief. The work was fully funded by Mansell Homes.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1 and 2)

The main area of development is located in Fenwick on the S side of Skernieland Road between house number 20 and the cemetery; it is centred on NGR NS 4659 4375. It was formerly a greenfield site gently sloping S from 149.28m OSD down to 136.31m OSD towards Fenwick Water. At the time of the watching brief the main site area was in the process of being topsoiled, but topsoiling in the SuDS area had not started.

The watching brief took place within the SuDS area which was to be formed outwith the main development area, off the SW corner and centred on NGR NS 4665 4355. This area is irregular in shape and has axial dimensions of 57m N-S and 36m E-W. The site of the farmstead of Creelsheugh, shown on the OS 1st edition, is located between the S edge of the proposed SuDS area and the steep bank down to Fenwick Water.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The proposed development falls within an area of some archaeological sensitivity based on the presence of sites and finds of medieval and later date in the surrounding landscape. The application involved a substantial greenfield area which does not appear to have been previously developed.

Only one recorded archaeological site lies in close proximity to the proposed development area. This is the site of a former farmstead of Creelsheugh named on the OS 1st Edition which is likely to be the farmstead shown on Roy's map of c.1755, along with a field system. This site is located very close to the SE part of the development area, just to the S of the SuDS area.

The evaluation failed to find any significant archaeology. However what was considered to be road edging and metalling was found at the S end of the site, in the E end of trench 01, which was interpreted as the roadway into the site of the Creelsheugh steading from the N.

It was considered possible that the steading buildings which are shown on 1st edition OS may in fact lie within the southernmost edge of the development, and could be impacted upon by groundworks for the SuDS area which is extending southwards from the main development. In mitigation a watching brief was therefore required on groundworks at the S side of the SuDS area to record any further deposits or features relating to the settlement of Creelsheugh which might be revealed.

2.3 Archaeological Method

The watching brief took place on the S side of evaluation trench 01 which was within the southernmost part of the proposed SuDS area. It was in evaluation trench 01 that part of the roadway extending into Creelsheugh from the N had been identified. The watching brief was in fact more like an evaluation, in that the area of archaeological sensitivity was opened up for inspection prior to the commencement of the contractor's groundworks for the SuDS. The area investigated was to be reduced for an outer pathway around the SuDS pond feature.

The area of the watching brief was trapezoid in shape, measuring 25m in length, 5m wide at the W end and 2m wide at the E end. This area was on the S side of evaluation

trench 01 and encompassed the S edge of a proposed internal pathway around the SuDS pond. There was to be no ground disturbance S of the trapezoid shaped WB area.

After finding two stone alignments representing a channel feature and a spread of road metalling, a larger area was opened up to the N, on the advice of WoSAS. The purpose of opening up this area was to investigate the extent of the channel feature. The area opened up crossed evaluation trench 01 and extended up to the S edge of evaluation trench 02, measuring 16.40m N-S, 3.50m wide at the N end and 5.60m wide at the S end.

The area where the Creelsheugh steading is located has now been fenced off for the duration of the construction project in order to protect any underlying remains from damage by heavy plant.

2.4 Results of Investigations (Illus 3 and 4)

2.4.1 Channel Structure

Towards the W end of the excavation 0.30m below topsoil two parallel lines of medium/large field stones (03) and (04) were uncovered which appeared to form side walls for a channel. The walls were aligned N-S and formed a channel 0.60-0.80m wide. The western alignment (04) had a length of 5.80m to a point where the stones abruptly ended. The eastern alignment (03) was 7.50m in length and curved to the E for a distance of 1.30m where it entered the excavation baulk. The inner edges of both alignments had been set to form a well defined straight edge.

2.4.2 Channel Fill

A 0.70m wide sondage was excavated across the channel towards its S end. It reached a depth of 0.20m. Within the channel was a fill of silty clay loam fill (05), which had a maximum depth of 0.20m where it bottomed onto the natural boulder clay. Deposit (05) contained a moderate amount of medium sized field stone. A sherd of modern, possibly 18th-century, pottery was recovered from within the fill (05).

2.4.3 Roadway

On the W side of the channel was a spread of small-medium cobbles and fractured stone (06), 2.80m in width which extended northwards for around 9m. This stone spread was considered to be metalling for the road entering Creelsheugh from the N.

2.4.4 Field Drains

In the area opened up between evaluation trenches 01 and 02 two field drains were found, one ceramic (07) and the other an earlier cobble drain (08).

3 Interpretation

The stone alignments or walls (03) and (04) appeared to represent a channel or drain on the E side of the road entering Creelsheugh from the N. Pottery found in association with the drain, on the upper surface of (05) was mainly late 18th and 19th century in date. The three conjoining sherds of residual late medieval pottery that were recovered most likely emanated from an earlier phase of the Creelsheugh steading located slightly further to the S. These sherds were considered to be residual as they were found in the same context as the later pottery.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusions

It is concluded that the roadway found on the watching brief is that shown on the 1st edition OS plan, extending northwards from the Creelsheugh steading. The E edge of the channel (03) turns to the E and this turn is also seen on the OS plan. The actual drain or channel found on the watching brief is not indicated as a separate feature on the OS plan. Unfortunately the transcription from the OS 1st edition plan does not coincide exactly with the position of the features excavated on the watching brief.

4.2 Recommendations for Further Work

In consultation with WoSAS, Alder recommends that no further archaeological work is required on the SuDS area of the development site. It was recommended that the area of the site of the Creelsheugh steading be fenced off to avoid machine damage during the development works, this was done during the watching brief.

5 References

Alder Archaeology Ltd, 2011 *Skernieland Road, Fenwick, East Ayrshire Archaeological Works (Evaluation) Written Scheme of Investigation*

Alder Archaeology Ltd, 2012 *Archaeological Evaluation, Skernieland Road, Fenwick, East Ayrshire, FE01*

OS 25 inch, 1st edition, Ayrshire Sheet X111.15 published 1856, Scale 1:2500

OS six-inch 1st edition, Ayrshire, Sheet X111 published 1858, Scale 1:10,560

OS six-inch 2nd edition, Ayrshire, Sheet X111 SE, revised 1895, published 1897, scale 1:10,560

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>
01	Turf and topsoil 0.30-0.35m thick dark silty clay loam
02	Subsoil, 0.05-0.10m thick, orange brown clayey silt
03	Structure, N-S wall, alignment of medium to large field stones, with a definite straight inner line, one or two stones high as seen in sondage, 7m in length and curving to the E for 1.40m where it enters the baulk, max width 0.38m, height in sondage 0.25m; E wall of drain feature
04	Structure, N-S wall, alignment of medium to large field stones, stones more rounded than those of 03, 5.80m in length and then stop, max 0.30m wide, inner edge not so well defined as in 03; W wall of drain feature
05	Deposit, grey and grey brown silty clay with abundant small-medium stone in sondage 0.40m deep, seems to be fill of drain between wall 03 and wall 04; bottoms onto natural boulder clay
06	Deposit, abundant small-medium stone, spread c 2.30m wide on W side of 04, roadway metalling, extends beyond 04, northern part has covering of silt
07	Red ceramic field drain in N part of area opened for WB, aligned EW
08	Cobble field drain, N of 07 but seems to be cut by 07 aligned NE – SW, considered to predate 07

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
01-02	General view towards site of Creelsheugh and WB area	S
03-05	General towards main site from S, site stripping in progress	N
06	General	W
07	General	NW
08-09	Start of excavating for WB	NE
10-12	Excavation in progress	NW
13	Modern disturbance in E end of trench	NE
14-15	Excavation in progress	NE
16-18	Two parallel lines of fieldstones being revealed	N
19-20	Stone alignments partly cleaned	S
21	Detail of 03, 04	N

22-23	General of 03 and 04	N
24-25	Detail of 03, 04	N
26	Detail of 03 towards N end	N
27	Detail of 03 turning to E	E
28	General of area opened between evaluation trench 01 and 02	N
29-30	Detail of 03 turning to E	E
31	General of 03 and 04	N
32	Detail of 04 at its N end	S
33	Detail of 04, mid way	S
34-35	Detail of 04 at S end	S
36	03 and 04 at N end	S
37	Detail part of 03	S
38	Detail part of 03	S
39	Detail part of 03 at N end	S
40	Detail part of 03 at N end	S
41-42	Road metalling 06 on W side of 04	N
43	General of road metalling 06 with 03 and 04	N
44	Detail of 05 in sondage	S
45	Detail of 05 in sondage	SE
46-47	Detail of 05 in sondage	S
48-49	Detail of 05 in sondage	E
50	Detail of 05 in sondage	W
51	Ceramic field drain 07, detail	E
52	Ceramic field drain 07	NE
53-54	Rubble field drain	NE

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Plan 1: trench and feature locations	1:100
2	Plan 2: stone alignments 03 and 04 ; Section 1, sondage showing 05	1:20 and 1:10
3	Plan 2 continued, N end of 03	1:20

Appendix 4 Finds Register

<i>Context</i>	<i>Material Type</i>	<i>Details</i>
Topsoil	Pottery	1 body sherd Tin-glazed earthenware (TGE); white glaze, white fabric
05 Sondage	Pottery	1 body sherd TGE; blue and white glaze, painted decoration; pinkish fabric. ?18th-century
05 Sondage	Industrial heated residue	1 large lump partly vitrified, partly coarse-textured burnt material
05 Surface	Pottery	3 conjoining rim sherds; olive-green speckled glaze; reduced redware fabric. Late medieval/post-medieval 3 conjoining rim sherds TGE plate; blue/white glaze, transfer-printed; white fabric. 19th/20th-century 1 body sherd TGE; pink transfer-printed floral design on white glaze. 19th/20th-century 1 TGE base sherd; dark brown glaze internally; red fabric 1 TGE body sherd; dark brown glaze internally; red fabric 1 TGE body sherd; dark brown glaze internally and externally; dark brown fabric 1 TGE body sherd; dark brown and buff glaze; red fabric 1 stoneware base sherd; white glaze externally and internally
05 Surface	Clay pipe	1 stem
05 Surface	Ceramic building material	Fragment fire brick; cream fabric

Appendix 5 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Ayrshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Archaeological Watching Brief, Skernieland Road, Fenwick
PROJECT CODE:	FE02
PARISH:	Fenwick
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Ray Cachart
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	none
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Post medieval settlement
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Roadway, drain, post medieval pottery
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	WB site centred on NS 4665 4355
START DATE	27 February 2012
END DATE	28 February 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	Evaluation of same site January 2012
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Alder Archaeology Ltd undertook a watching brief at Skernieland Road, Fenwick, East Ayrshire, in advance of residential development. Of particular concern was the close proximity of the post medieval steading of Creelsheugh, located just outside the S boundary of the development area. The watching brief (FE02) revealed two parallel walls or alignments of field stones with road metalling on the western side. The stone walls appeared to represent the sides of an open drain channel forming the E side of the road entering Creelsheugh from the N. Pottery found in association with the drain feature was mainly late 18 th and 19 th C, although three conjoining sherds of residual late medieval pottery were recovered. It is concluded that the roadway on the watching brief is shown on the OS 1 st edition plan and that the main buildings of Creelsheugh farmstead are located further to the S and will not be affected by the development.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	No further archaeological work will be required on the site.
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mansell Homes
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	N/A
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 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

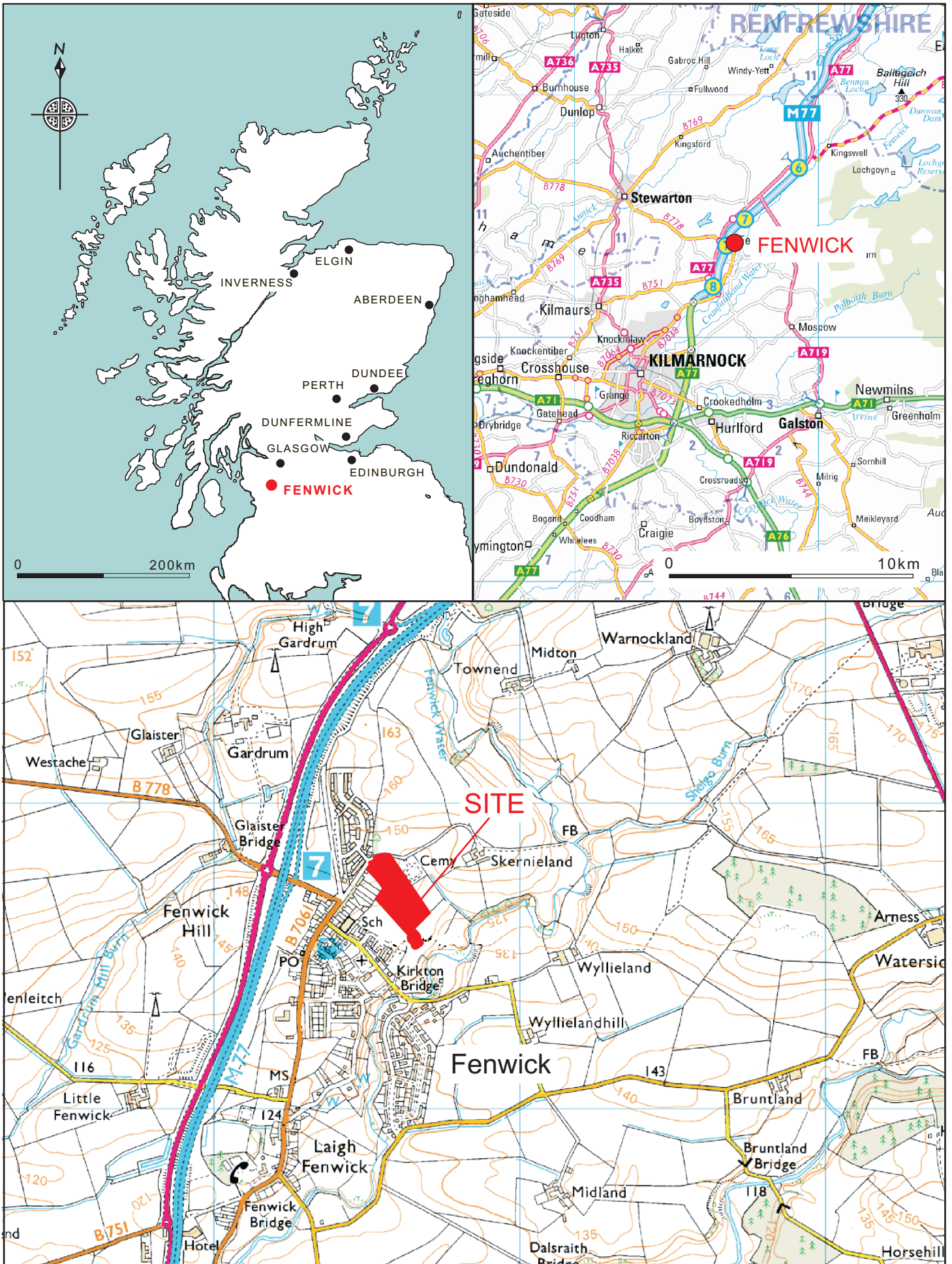
We adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists.

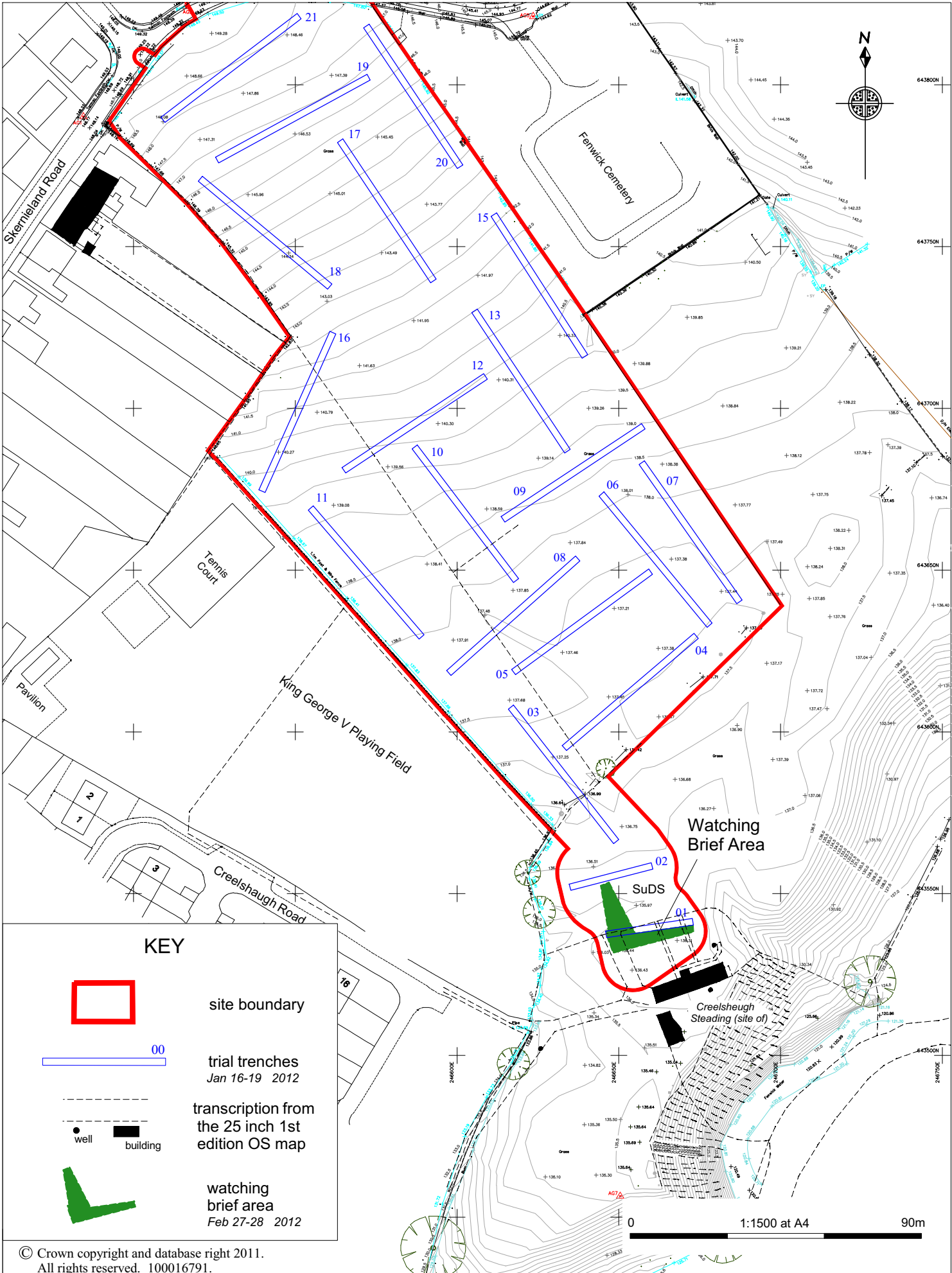
Alder Archaeology Ltd has public liability insurance of £2,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

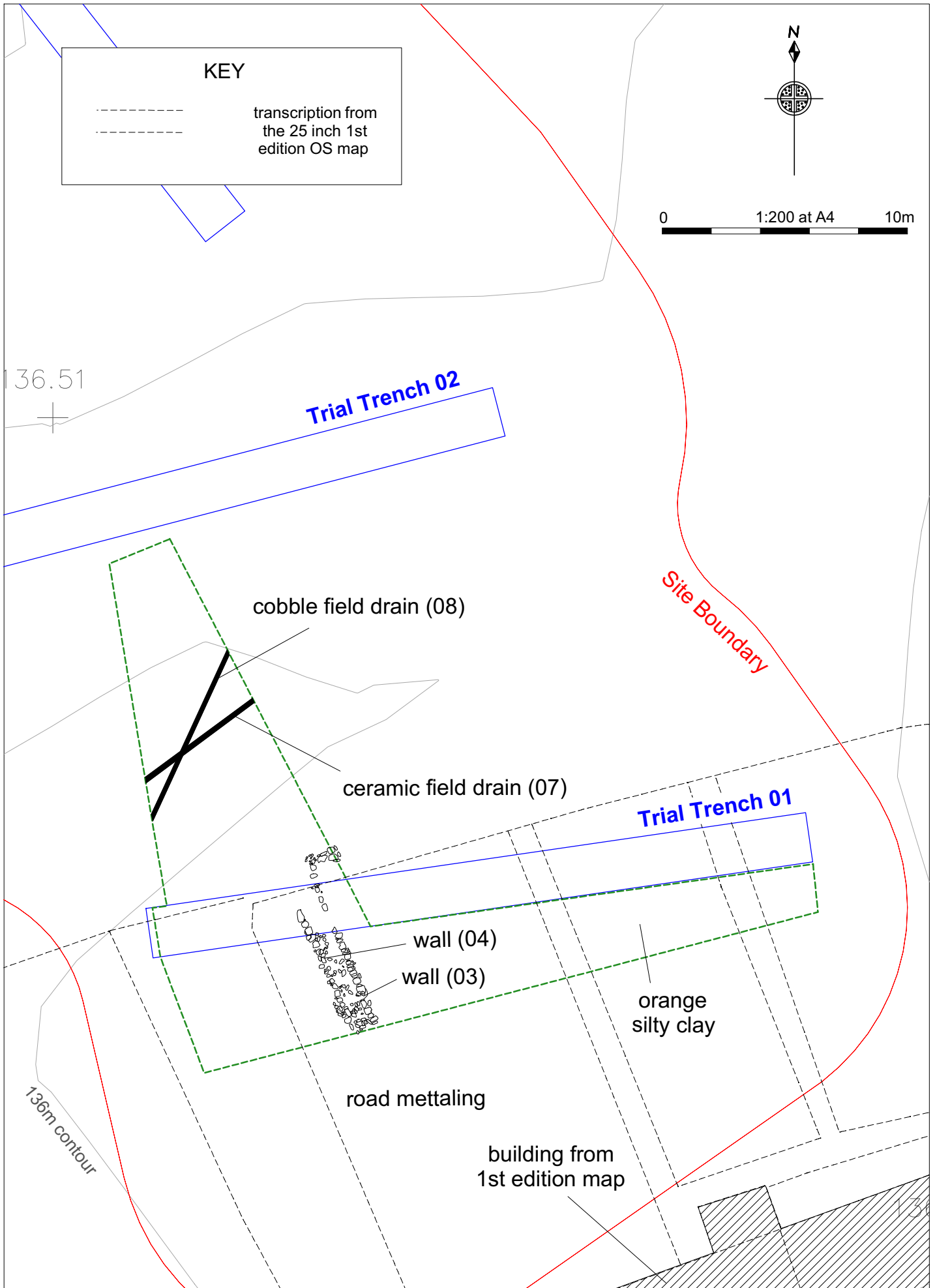
We operate a strict health and safety policy and conform to the Health and Safety at Work Act. We undertakes Risk Assessments on all fieldwork carried out.

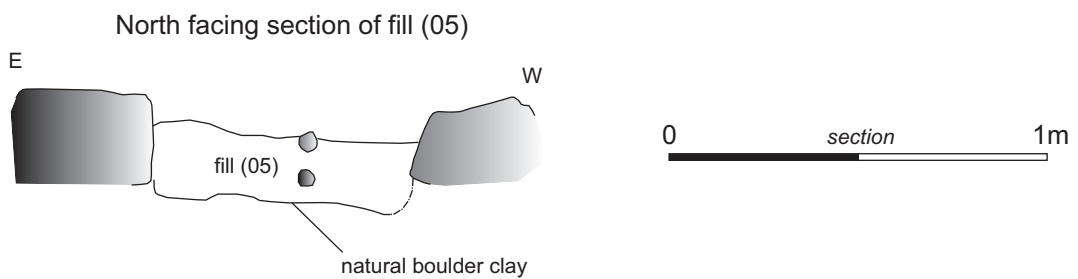
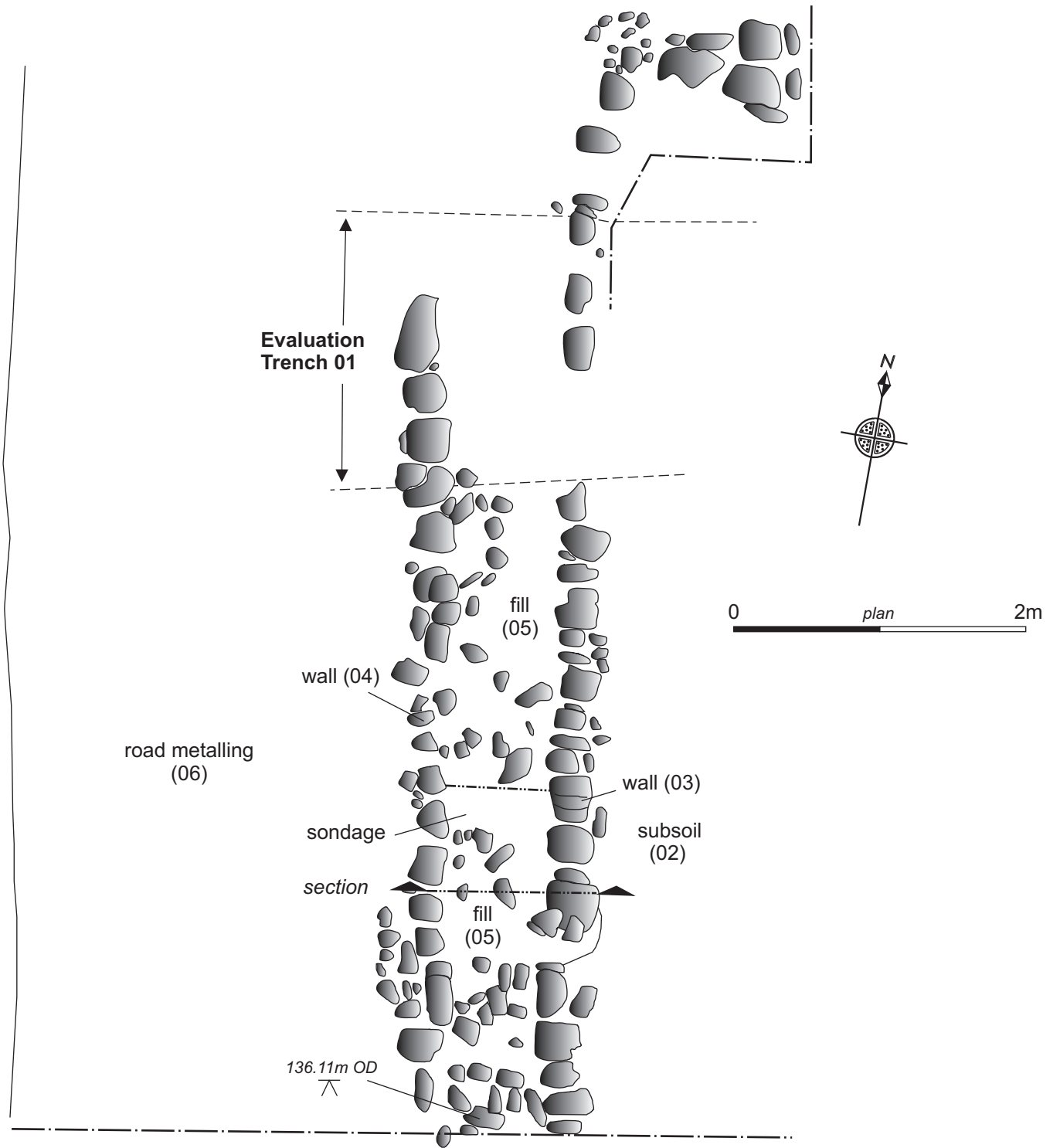
Alder Archaeology representatives will at all times wear protective footwear, high visibility clothing and other appropriate clothing. Hard hats will be worn if there is active plant on site or at all times if the site is deemed a hard hat area.

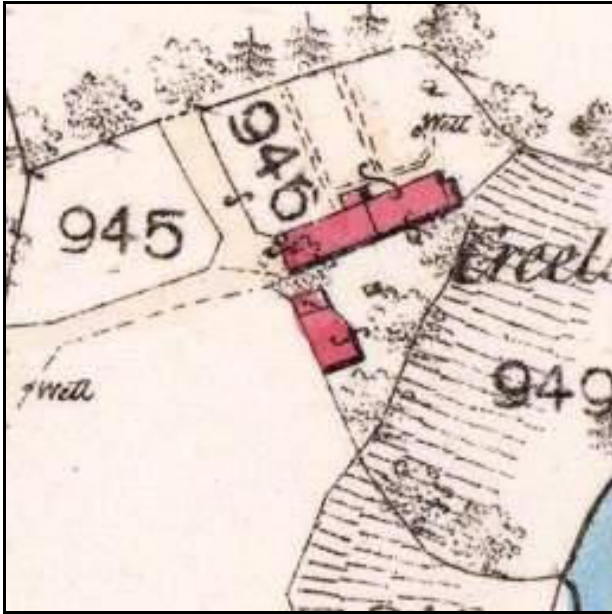
If lightly contaminated deposits are uncovered disposable boiler suits and gloves will be worn. A source of clean water will be made available for staff to clean hands with. If the health risk posed by site contamination is felt to be too high all further archaeological work will stop in that area.











Illus 5: Creelsheugh Steading, OS 25inch 1st edition



Illus 6: machining in progress, view NW



Illus 7: stone walls 03 and 04 partially cleaned, view S



Illus 8: detail of 03 and 04, view N



Illustration 9: detail of 03 turning to the E, view E



Illustration 10: general of 03 and 04, view N



Illustration 11: detail of 05 in sondage, view SE