

Archaeological Evaluation and Metal Detector
Survey
Bore Row
West Plean
STIRLING
ST27



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

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BORE ROW, WEST PLEAN
STIRLING**

ST27

<i>1</i>	<i>Background.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Details of Work.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Interpretation.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>Conclusions and Recommendations</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>Bibliography.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Appendix 1</i>	<i>Context Register.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Appendix 2</i>	<i>Photographic Register</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Appendix 3</i>	<i>Drawing Register.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Appendix 4</i>	<i>Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Appendix 5</i>	<i>Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork</i>	<i>7</i>

Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: Site, trench and archaeological feature locations

Illustration 3: Features in NE end of Trench 01

Author Chris Fyles, MA, FSA Scot
Illustrator Chris Fyles, MA, FSA Scot
Editor David Bowler, BA, MPhil, FSA Scot, MCifA.

ABSTRACT

Alder Archaeology were commissioned by Firside Joinery Ltd to conduct an evaluation of a vacant plot at Bore Row, West Plean, in advance of the construction of a new build dwelling house. The site lay adjacent to a known Roman road and was on the periphery of the battlefield of Sauchieburn (1488), on the approach taken by the rebel army. A row of colliery cottages had formerly stood on the site, but these had been demolished to make way for modern housing.

The evaluation was carried out on 20th December, 2017. Two 10m long trenches were excavated under supervision in conditions of low light but clear weather. A metal detector survey was also conducted, while a full photographic record was made of the site. Neither the trenches nor the survey resulted in finds of archaeological significance.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Firside Joinery Ltd commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation and metal detector survey on the site of a new build dwelling house at Bore Row, West Plean. The proposed development area is an open plot, formerly occupied by derelict and ruinous housing, alongside four new build houses and centred on NGR NS 82011 86481. The work (site code ST27) was undertaken on 20th December 2017 in clear weather conditions but low light. The requirement was to excavate two 10m long trenches and carry out a metal detector survey of the whole site. A photographic record of the site under current conditions and within its setting was to be created prior to groundbreaking work. Special attention was to be paid to the possibility of Roman remains or artefacts associated with various armies making use of the road (see 2.2 *Archaeological Potential*).

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 15/00433/PPP/PM.

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 and create a permanent record of the site under current conditions. 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 and survey. Copies will be sent to the client, The National Record of the Historic Environment at Historic Environment Scotland, and Stirling Historic Environment Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This evaluation, survey and photographic record constitute a programme of archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank James Podmore of Firside Joinery for his assistance and guidance throughout this project. Firside Joinery Ltd funded this evaluation and survey.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

The site was a rectangle of open ground measuring 546m² on the W side of a known Roman road. The ground sloped down to the road from a low ridge at the back (W) of the house plot, where the site adjoined an area of open, undulating pasture. To the N

was a row of new houses constructed approximately 2 years previously, while to the S were two more undeveloped house plots awaiting planning consent. The ground had been scraped of vegetation and the surface cover was loose, loamy soil with frequent scatters of demolition rubble and debris.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The proposed development area lies alongside a known Roman road (NS88NW 42), a communication route of major importance constructed in the 1st Century AD and used for most Roman troop movements into Scotland, as well as the construction of the Antonine Wall. The road, which is of Regional Significance, was subsequently used by troops in every major campaign in Scotland including Bannockburn and the Jacobite Risings. In addition, the site lies within the area designated by Historic Scotland as the battlefield of Sauchieburn (1488), a battle in which King James III was killed fighting a coalition of rebels including his own son, the future James IV- the battlefield (NS88NW 107) is of National Significance, with the site lying on the approach route taken by the rebel army (the Sauchie Burn itself is approximately 4.4km NW of the site). Finally, the remains of a house on Bore Row constructed to serve East Plean Colliery (NS88NW 14) were of Local Significance and would have been impacted by the development; however, aside from the presence of demolition rubble in the topsoil, no traces of this building were evident at the time of the visit. Although a row of houses is depicted on a 1913 OS map of the area (published 1922), the majority of these had been demolished some time prior to the construction; it is unclear when exactly the remains on the site itself were demolished, although it is known that two outside lavatories were taken down immediately prior to the evaluation visit.

2.3 Archaeological Method

A full photographic record was made of the site and its setting under current conditions from various angles, taking in the adjacent Roman road and new build housing. The site was traversed repeatedly with a White's Spectrum XLT metal detector, with findspots being marked with tags for hand excavation. Two trenches measuring 10.00m x 2.00m were excavated under close archaeological supervision by a mechanical digger equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, one trench beginning 2.90m to the W of the road edge, the presence of a buried service pipe parallel to the road preventing closer positioning (see Illus 2 for trench locations).

2.4 Results of Investigations

As already noted, no standing remains were present on or near the site. The ground surface was found to be heavily disturbed and contaminated with modern nails and metallic debris, iron objects encountered during the metal detector survey including fence posts, pipes, banding strips, guttering fragments and slivers of boilerplate, much of this presumably deriving from the demolished buildings. None of these finds were retained and no objects originating earlier than the twentieth century were detected.

Trench 01 was aligned NE-SW and positioned 6.60m SE of the boundary with the new houses N of the site and 2.90m SW of the Roman road. The trench was a maximum of 0.50m deep with a gentle ascent from E-W. The E end of the trench contained a deposit (0103) of garden soil, up to 0.17m thick below churned loam topsoil (0102) and clay-silt make up (0104), which contained brick fragments and other modern debris. Deposits of large stones (0112) and crushed mortar (0113) were visible in section in

this part of the trench within the topsoil and deriving from the demolition of the colliery cottages. Extending SW for 1.90m, (0103) may have represented the remains of a front garden of one of the cottages. Between 2.20m and 3.00m from the SW end of the trench, a modern ceramic circular field drain (0110) extended across the full width of the trench on a NW-SE alignment, cut directly into the mottled orange-brown clay-silt subsoil (0109). No other features were exposed in this trench.

Trench 02 began 2.50m S of the SW end of Trench 01 and extended NNE-SSW into the S corner of the site, reaching a maximum depth of 0.60m with an ascent from NNE-SSW which became more gradual towards the SSW end. 2.10m from the this end, an irregularly-shaped cut [0204] in the base of the trench, containing a fill (0203) of dark grey sandy silt and evidence of root channels in its base was probably a small bush bole; 0.30m W of this and disappearing into the SSE-facing section was a small, shallow pit [0206], containing a very loose fill (0205) of cinders, coal fragments and charcoal and representing the disposal of debris from a small fire. Both features were probably the result of gardening behind the cottages. No other features were exposed.

3 Interpretation

No finds or features associated with the construction of the Roman road, troop movements along it or the Battle of Sauchieburn were encountered during either the metal detector survey or the excavation of the evaluation trenches. Rubble and debris scattered across the site and present within the topsoil probably represented demolition of the remains of the colliery cottage(s); no standing remains were present. The features noted within the trenches represented small-scale gardening activity and later agricultural use of the site.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

No finds or features of archaeological significance were exposed during the survey and evaluation. Alder Archaeology consider that the terms of the archaeological condition have been met and do not recommend further work on the site in connection with the present development. However, the final decision ultimately rests with Murray Cook, Stirling Council Planning Officer (Archaeology).

5 Bibliography

Ordnance Survey Six Inch 1st Edition, Stirlingshire Sheet XXIII, surveyed 1861, published 1865

Ordnance Survey Six Inch 2nd Edition, Stirlingshire Sheet XXIII.NE, revised 1896, published 1899

Ordnance Survey Six Inch 2nd Edition, Stirlingshire Sheet nXXIII, revised 1913, published 1922

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Trench</i>
0101	Wood in E end Tr01, modern plank	01
0102	Churned up black silt loam, covering entire site (=0201), moderately loose, inclusions of demolition debris, average 0.25m thick	01
0103	Black silt loam, 0.17m thick (max), possible former garden soil, moderately loose, few inclusions	01
0104	Grey silty clay make up, inclusions of brick and debris, moderately compact, 0.13m thick (max) between (0101) and (0103)	01
0105	Small fragments of coal within (0104)	01
0106	Clay fill over services along E edge of site by roadside	01
0107	Rectilinear cut for (0106) through (0103) and (0104)	01
0108	Coal fragments in (0106)	01
0109	Natural subsoil in base of trench, mottled brown-orange clay silt	01
0110	Field drain, modern circular, ceramic 0.10m diameter	01
0111	Cut for (0110), 0.18m wide in base of trench	01
0112	Large stones within (0101) in E end of trench, demolition rubble	01
0113	Band of crushed mortar abutting stones (0112), between (0101) and (0104) in E end of trench	01
0201	Topsoil over Tr02, same as (0102), up to 0.50m thick	02
0202	Light grey clay silt, 0.20m thick (max), same as (0104)	02
0203	Fill of bush bole [0204], dark grey sandy silt, moderately loose, 0.15m thick (max)	02
0204	Irregularly-shaped cut, generally dished with uneven base and root channels, 0.60m N-S x 0.25m E-W, 0.15m deep, small bush bole	02
0205	Fill of pit [0206], very loose mixture of cinders, coal, charcoal, 0.11m thick, disposal of fire debris	02
0206	Cut of disposal pit, scooped, sub-circular, 0.20m diameter, 0.11m deep, merges with S-facing section of trench	02

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
001-9	Location shots, site prior to trenching	NE, E, S, SW, W, N
010-11	Location shots, Roman road, from edge of site	N, S
012-13	Location shots, Trench 01, pre-ex	SW
014-15	Working shots, excavating Trench 01	SW
016-17	Trench 01, post-ex	

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Trenches 01 and 02, section and NE end of Tr01	1:100, 1:20, 1:10

Appendix 4 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Bore Row, West Plean
PROJECT CODE:	ST27
PARISH:	St Ninians
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	C Fyles
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NS88NW 14, NS88NW 42, NS88NW 107
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Colliery (disused), Roman Road, Battlefield
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 82011 86481
START DATE (this season)	20/12/2017
END DATE (this season)	20/12/2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An evaluation was conducted of a vacant plot in advance of the construction of a new build dwelling house. The site lay adjacent to a known Roman road and was on the periphery of the battlefield of Sauchieburn (1488), on the approach taken by the rebel army. A row of colliery cottages had formerly stood on the site, but these had been demolished to make way for modern housing. Two 10m long trenches were excavated under supervision in conditions of low light but clear weather. A metal detector survey was also conducted, while a full photographic record was made of the site. Neither the trenches nor the survey resulted in finds of archaeological significance.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
EMAIL ADDRESS:	director@alderarchaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	HES (intended)

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.

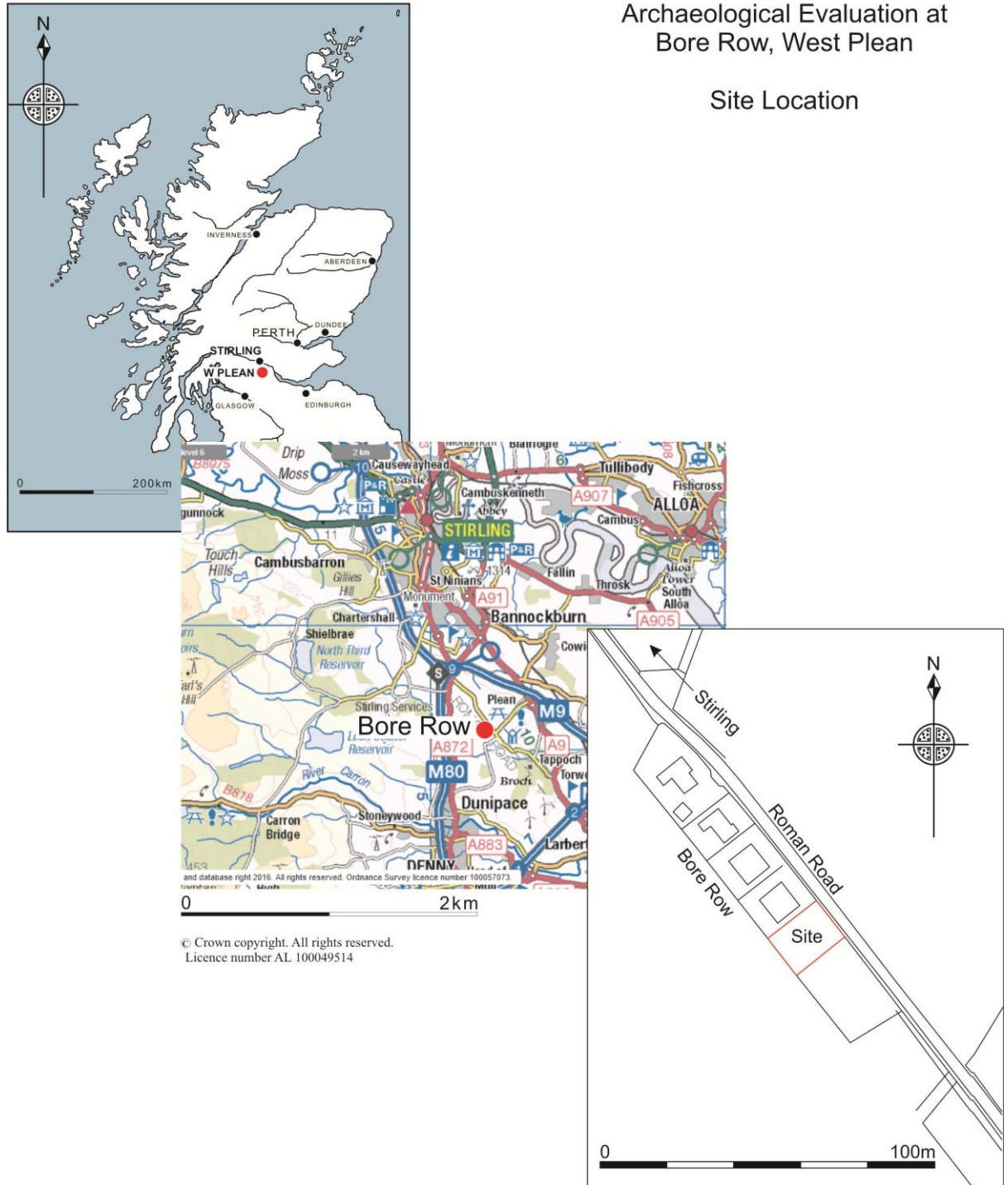
Alder Archaeology Ltd has public liability insurance of £2,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

We operate a strict health and safety policy that conforms to the Health and Safety at Work Act. We undertake 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.

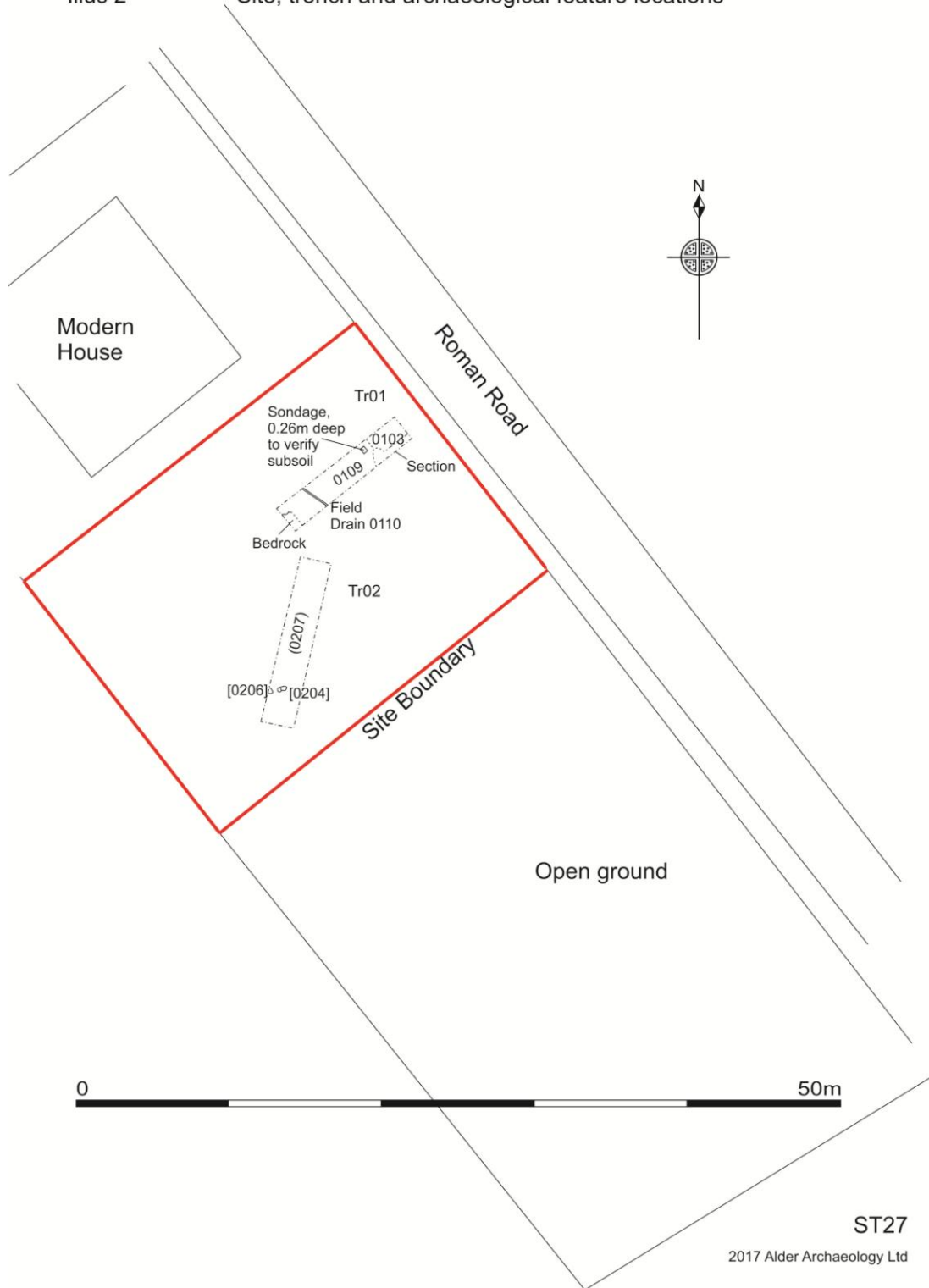
Illus 1



ST27

2017 Alder Archaeology Ltd

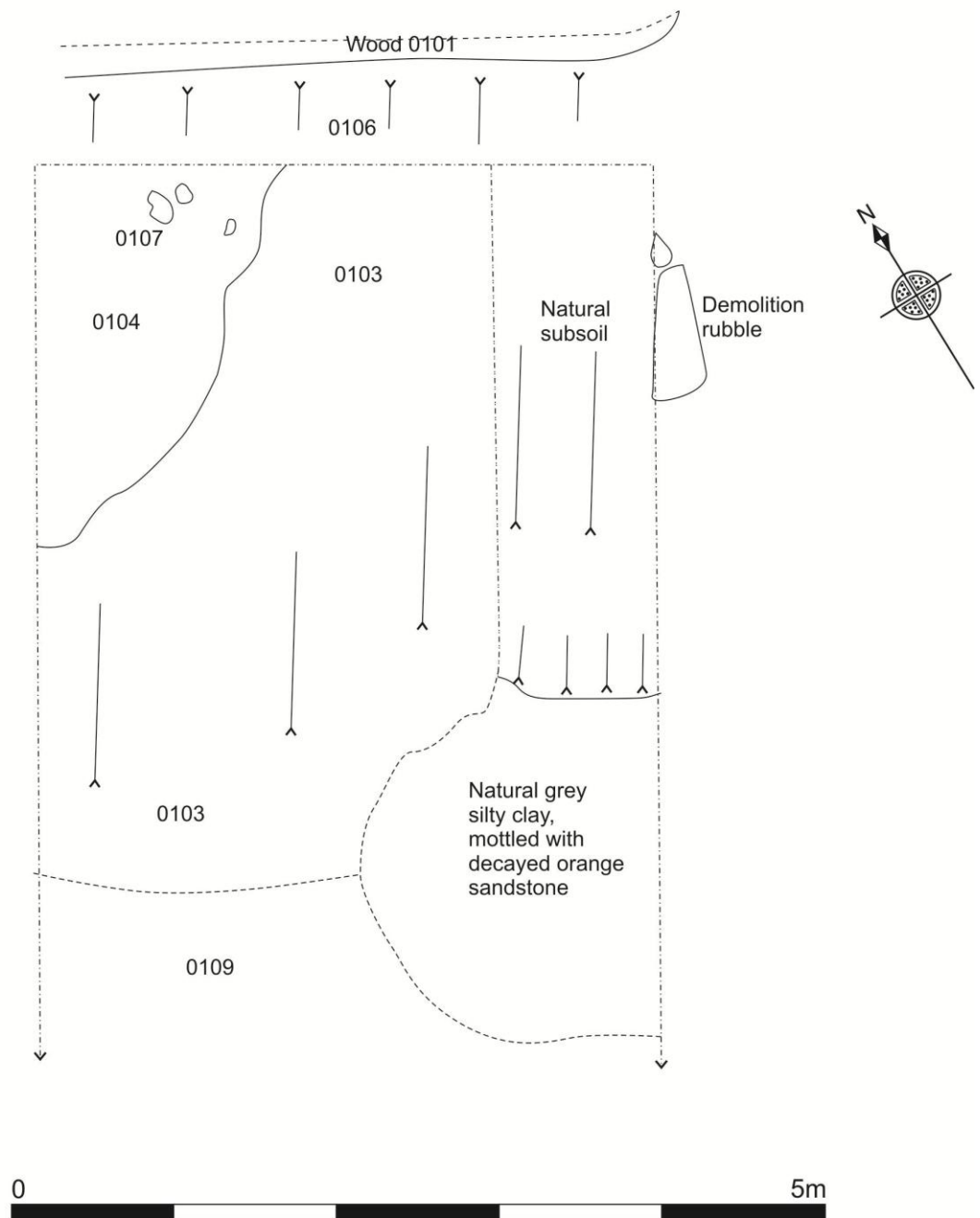
Illus 2 Site, trench and archaeological feature locations



ST27
2017 Alder Archaeology Ltd

Illus 3

Features in NE end of Trench 01



ST27

2017 Alder Archaeology Ltd