



**Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services**

**Sands of Luce Holiday Park,  
Sandhead, Stranraer, Wigtownshire:  
Archaeological Monitoring Works**



**Data Structure Report  
by Rebecca Shaw  
11<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

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## 1 Introduction

This Data Structure Report presents the findings of archaeological monitoring works undertaken in respect of proposed works at Sands of Luce Holiday Park, Sandhead, Stranraer, Wigtownshire (NGR: NX 10261 50963) (Figures 1 & 2). The proposed works comprise: change of use of agricultural land to form extension to existing holiday park for the siting of an additional 59 static caravans, formation of access tracks, installation of sewage treatment plant and lighting bollards and associated works (planning application no. 18/1143/FUL) (Figure 3).

The proposal is for the extension of the current holiday park to the south-west, towards Sandhead. Although there is no known archaeology on the site, recent aerial surveys undertaken by HES (and RCAHMS prior to that) in the areas west and south of the application area over the last seven years have revealed a number of prehistoric sites, visible as cropmarks, in the fields above the raised beach overlooking Luce Bay. Furthermore the Archaeologically Sensitive Area to the north at the head of Luce Bay was designated to cover a large number of prehistoric finds, including a significant number of cremation burials, in the dune system around the bay. A planning application (15/P/1/0134) at Altain Glen immediately south of Sandhead, in an area not marked as an archaeological zone on the HER mapping, revealed twenty-six archaeological features of prehistoric date through archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping (Shaw & Pickin, 2016). Recent metal detector finds around Sandhead include an early medieval sword pommel and decorated mount.

As the proposals involve extensive ground breaking works which may uncover archaeological finds or features, Dumfries & Galloway Council required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken as a condition of the issued planning consent. Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Officer provided guidance on the nature of archaeological works required.

In order to access the potential for archaeological remains within the proposed development Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Service asked for a watching brief be undertaken during all ground breaking works for the road; caravan bases within the southern area and the septic tank (Figure 3). The archaeological monitoring works were required to ensure appropriate archaeological recording of any features that are uncovered as well as recovering of any finds and based on the results the necessity for further works. No significant archaeological finds or features were uncovered during monitoring of the ground reduction works.

Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services was appointed to carry out the works by Jack Cooper.

## 2 Project Works

The works at Sands of Luce Holiday Park were undertaken from the 2nd - 6th & 11th August 2019. The works agreed with Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Service in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Shaw, May 2019, updated June 2019) were amended slightly during progression of the works.

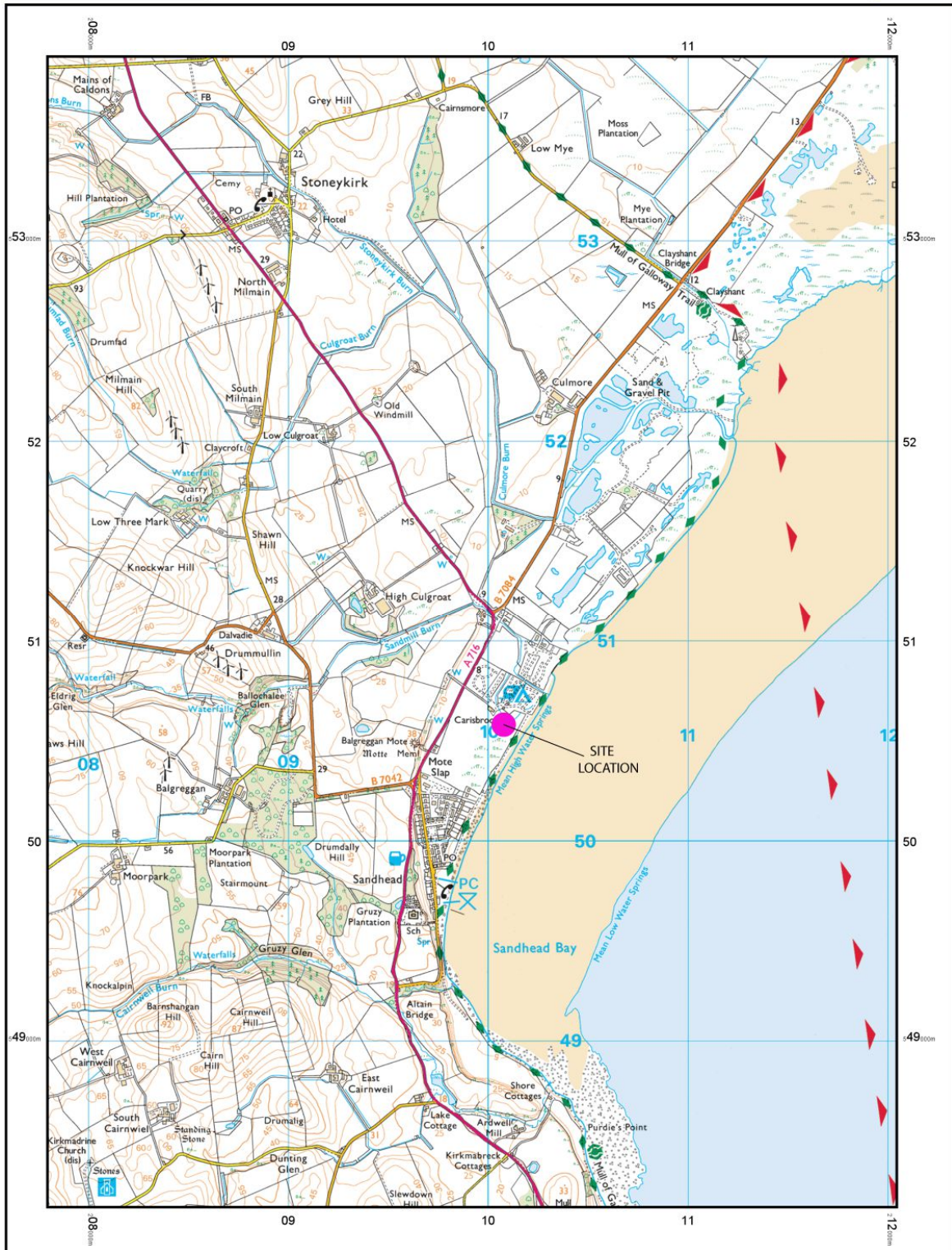
The agreed works were for monitored ground reduction during the excavation for each separate caravan base, however, after the monitoring of four bases it was decided to undertake a complete topsoil strip of the entire phase 1 area. This was to allow scope for movement of the caravan bases within the proposed development area. The entire road route was monitored with no archaeology uncovered and subsequently it was determined the area for the septic tank did not require to be monitored.

All works complied with the Chartered Institute for Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct (2014), and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements (2019).

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Sands of Luce Holiday Park



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1000m  
Scale 1:25000



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Figure 1 - location map

### 3 Findings

The archaeological works comprised monitoring of a topsoil strip for the entire phase 1 area as well as monitoring of the complete road loop in the southwest half of the proposed (full) development (Figures 3; 5a-b & 10).

#### **Area for caravan bases**

The open area strip measured 85m (NE / SW) by 45m (SE / NW) (approx) (Figure 10). In general the topsoil mostly comprised a mid brown very sandy silt [101] which measured between 250mm (SE edge) and 350mm (NW edge) in depth. The subsoil comprised a fairly fine pale orangey brown sand [102] - it was heavily rooted in sections from whins (Figures 6a-c). Located at the base of the slope was a discreet area of small rounded pebbles mixed with sand [103] (Figure 10) and towards the western corner sixteen unglazed redware ceramic sherds were uncovered within a small 1m (approx) area (NX 10011 50386).

#### **Road**

The road measured 420m in length (approx) and averaged 5m-6m in width. It was excavated to a depth of between 300mm to 400mm - except in one area (Figure 10) which contained a concrete / brick infill mixed with a brownish black sand [104], this section was excavated to 1m (approx). In general the topsoil varied between a mid brown very sandy silt [101]; a mid brown sandy silt [105] and a dark brown slightly sandy silt [106] (organic from roots and brambles). The subsoil varied between a fairly fine brown sand [107] (Figures 8a & c & 9a-b); an orangey brown slightly coarse sand [108] (Figure 8b) and a fine pale orange sand [109] (Figure 9c). Two areas of sandy gravels were noted at NX 10103 50569 and NX 10005 50487 and debris from the recent demolition of a toilet block was observed in the eastern corner of the road.

### 4 Discussion

Early sound mapping sources indicate that the proposed development area has remained undeveloped since at least the mid eighteenth century (Figures 4a-d).

In general the monitored ground excavations indicated a very sterile sandy topsoil above a sandy subsoil. The only visible disturbance was from whin bushes and where modern debris had been dumped. The sixteen ceramic sherds that were uncovered in the southern corner have been identified as two basal angles with internal foot rings and eight rimsherds in an unglazed redware fabric. These sherds come from at least two plain undecorated vessels with internal footings that are either flowerpots or pieces of ceramic garden 'furniture'. They are liable to be no earlier in date than the 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (Derek Hall pers comm).

Although there was potential during the monitoring works to uncover features or finds from the prehistoric to medieval periods, no significant archaeological remains were uncovered during the monitoring works.

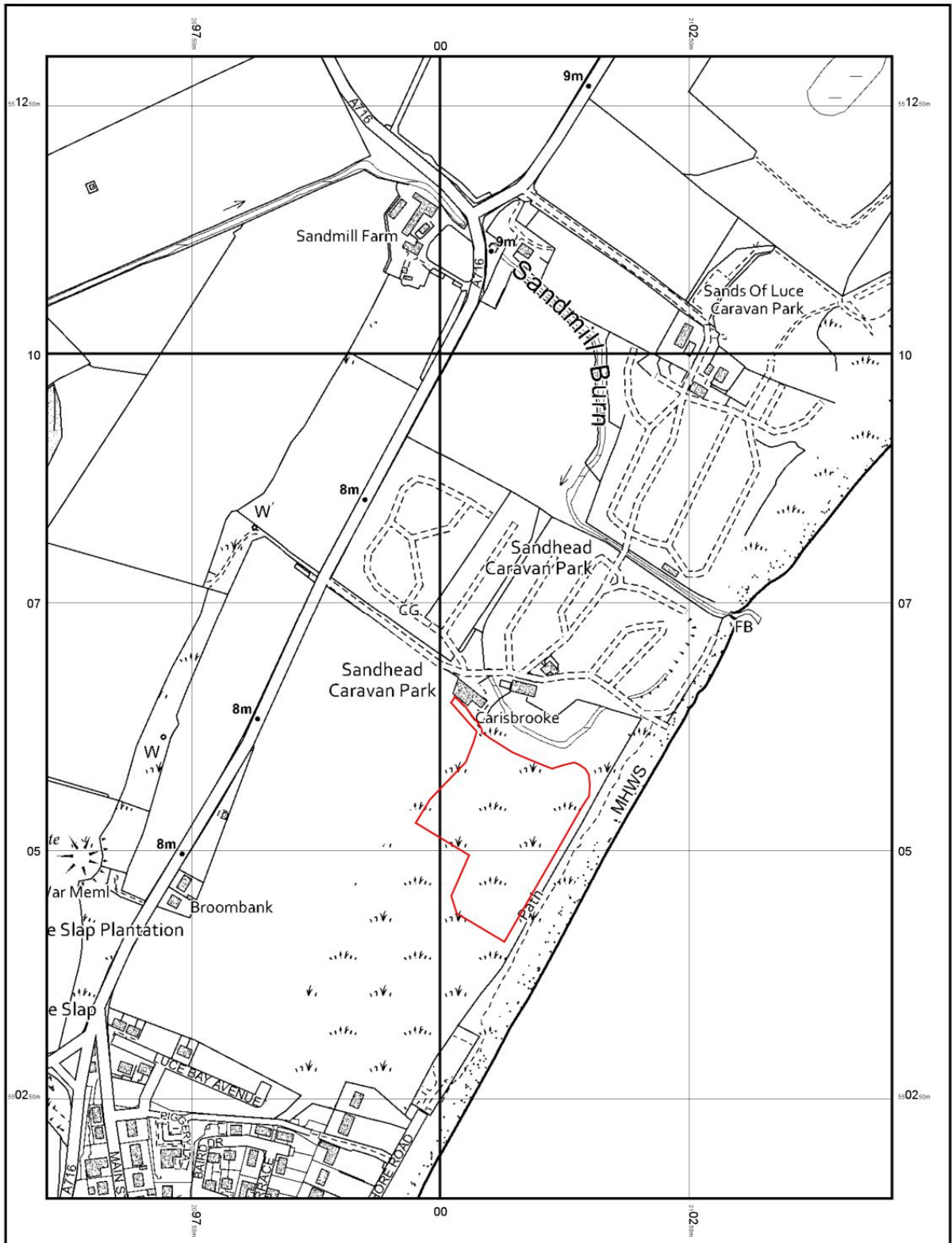
### 5 Conclusion

This Data Structure Report presents the findings of archaeological monitoring works undertaken in respect in respect of proposed works at Sands of Luce Holiday Park, Sandhead, Stranraer, Wigtownshire, Dumfries & Galloway. The proposed works comprise: change of use of agricultural land to form extension to existing holiday park for the siting of an additional 59 static caravans, formation of access tracks, installation of sewage treatment plant and lighting bollards and associated works.

Archaeological works were required due to recent aerial surveys undertaken west and south of the application area, which revealed a number of prehistoric sites visible as cropmarks. Furthermore a significant number of cremation burials have been recorded in the dune system around the head of Luce Bay.

However, no significant archaeological finds or features were uncovered during the course of the monitoring works.

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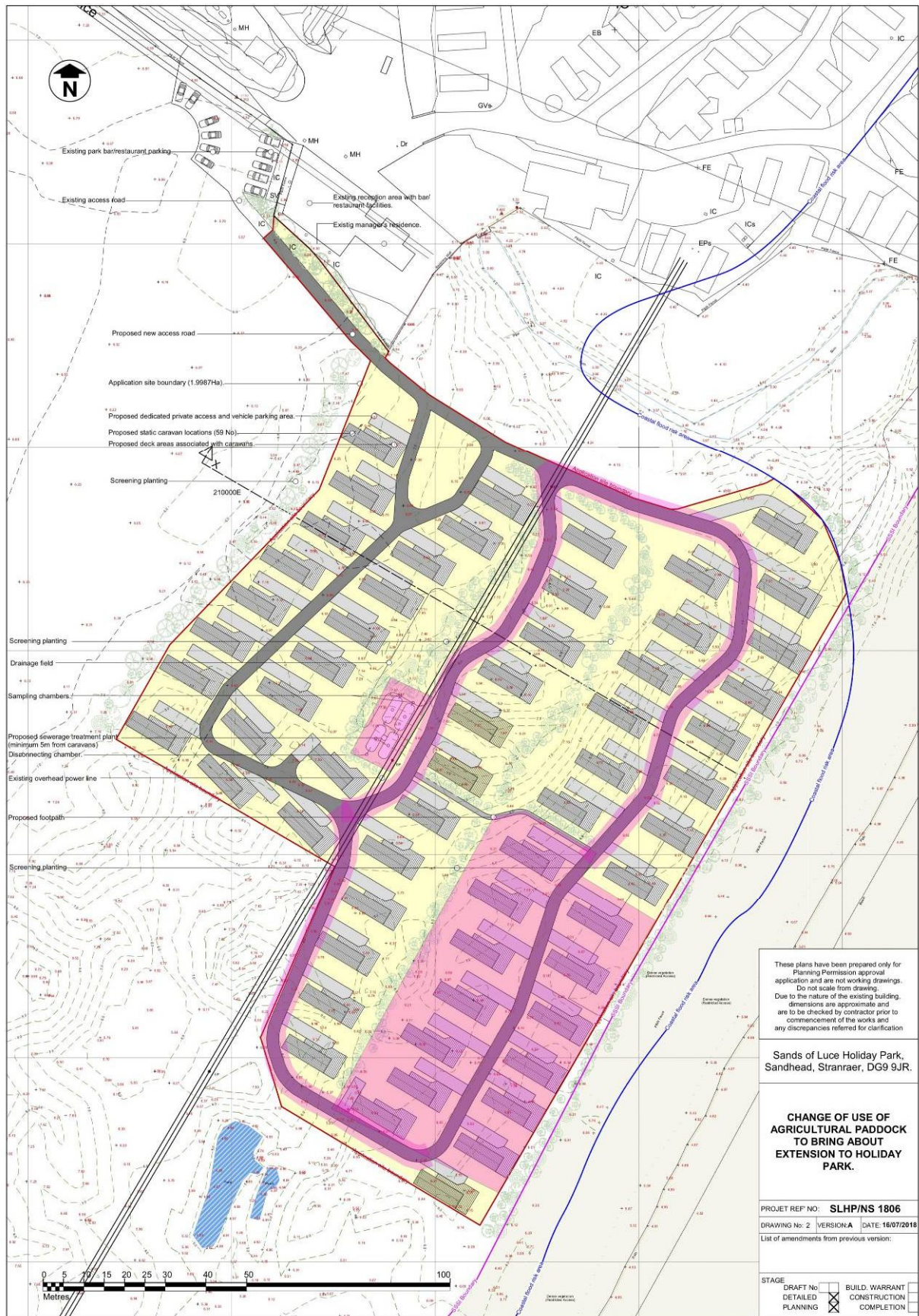
200m  
Scale 1:5000



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Figure 2 - map showing detailed location of proposed works and extent of planning application area

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PROPOSED BLOCK PLAN SCALE 1:400.

Figure 3 – plan showing proposed development (phase 1) the areas subject to archaeological monitoring works are depicted in pink (road and caravan bases in southern area - the septic tank area was not monitored) (base plan kindly provided by Jack Cooper on behalf of Sands of Luce Holiday Park)



Figure 4a – Roys Military Survey Map of Scotland (1752-55) (c) National Library of Scotland

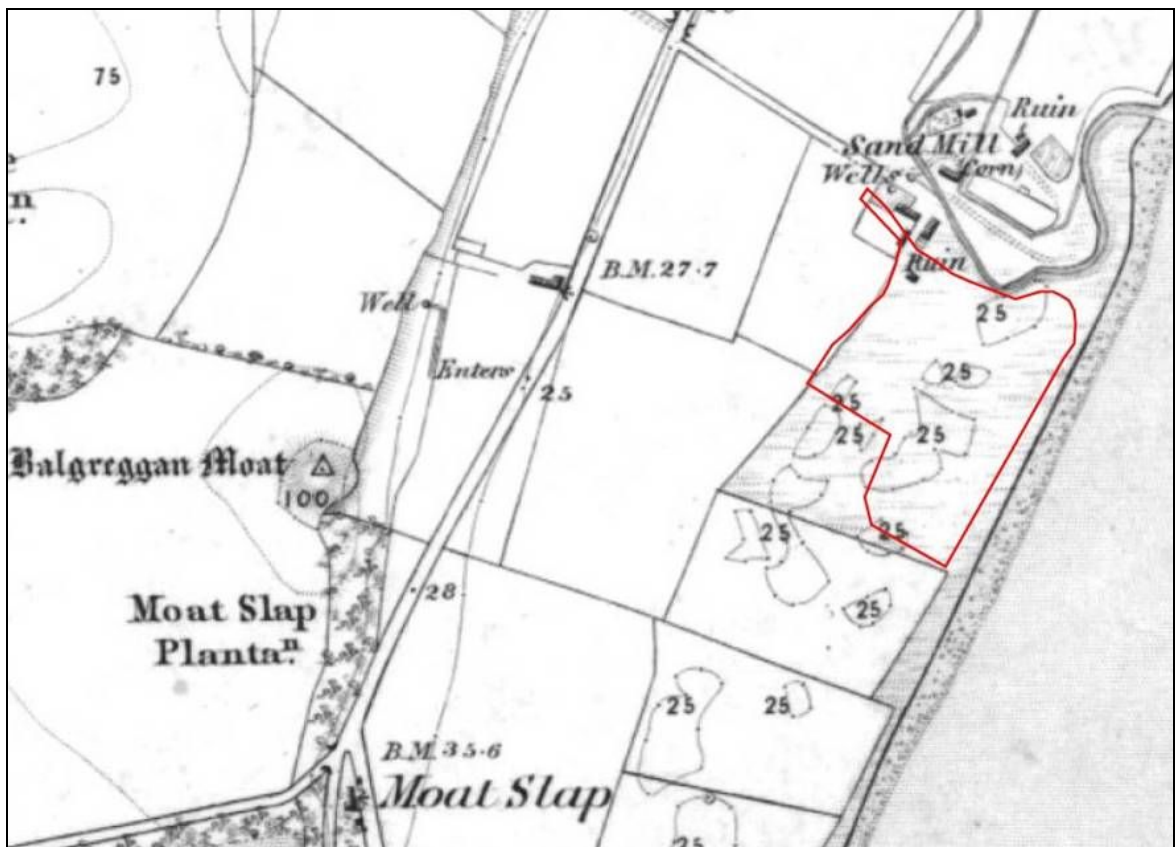


Figure 4b – 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1850) 1:2500 © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group – not to be reproduced without permission (673542376).



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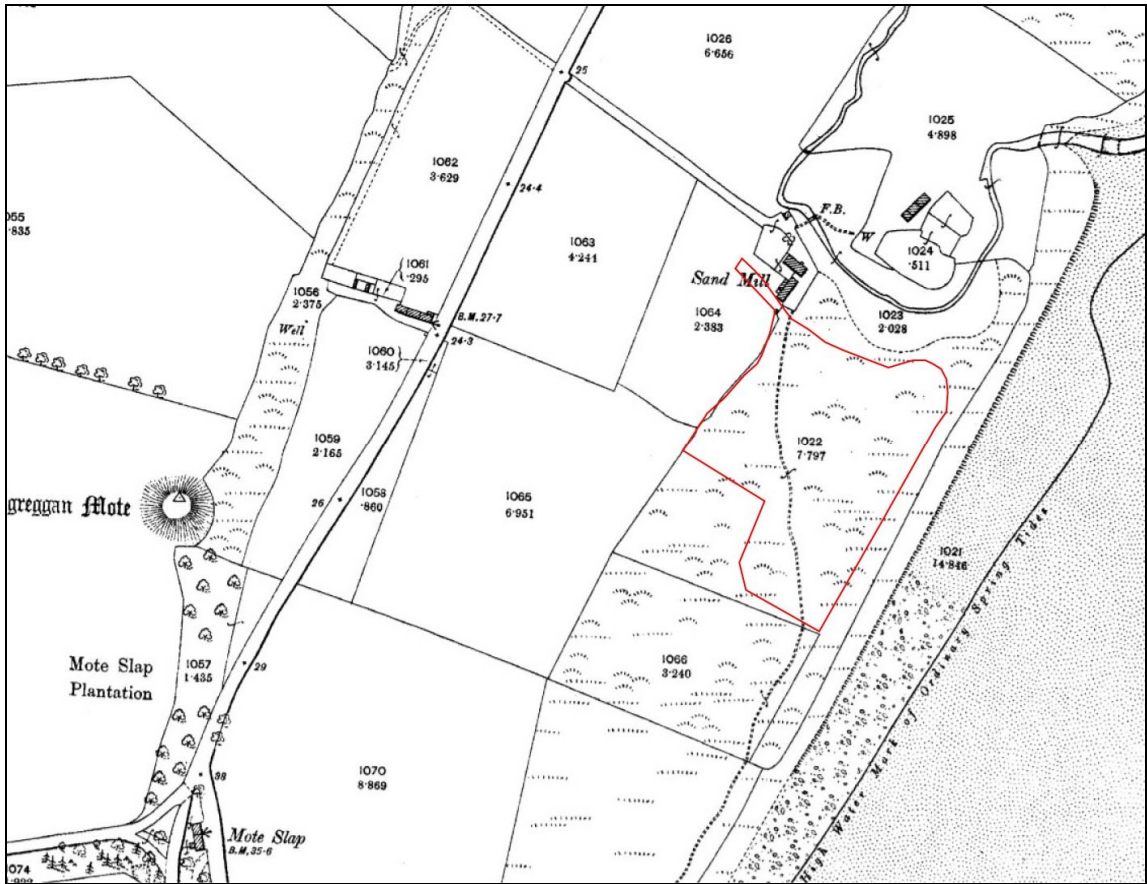


Figure 4c – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1899) 1:2500 © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group – not to be reproduced without permission (673542376)

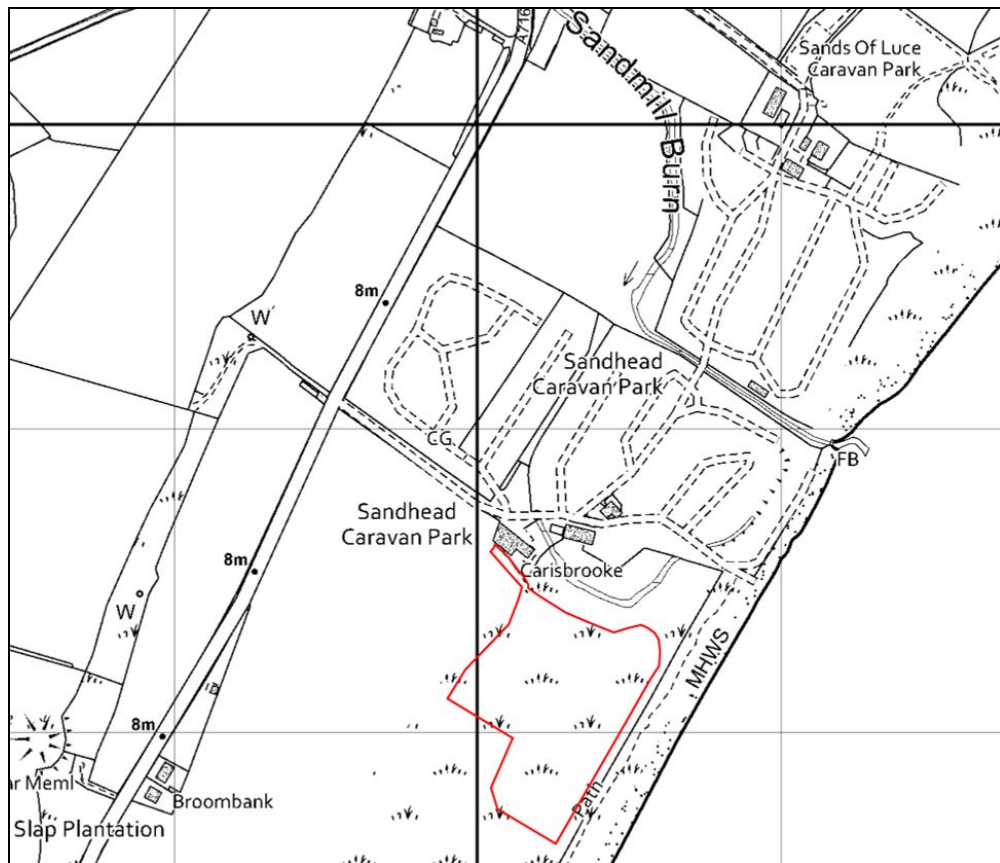


Figure 4d – Current Ordnance Survey Map (2019)

## References

<i>Documentary</i>		
SOEn	2010	Scottish Planning Policy (SPP). <i>Archaeology</i> , Scottish Office Environmental Department.
SOEn	2011	<i>PAN 2/2011</i> , Planning & Archaeology Scottish Office Environmental Department.
HES	2019	Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement May 2019
CifA	2014	Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.
<i>Cartographic</i>		
Roy	1752-55	Military Survey Map of Scotland
Ordnance Survey	1850	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map, Wigtownshire ( <a href="http://www.old-maps.co.uk">www.old-maps.co.uk</a> )
Ordnance Survey	1894	2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map, Wigtownshire ( <a href="http://www.old-maps.co.uk">www.old-maps.co.uk</a> )
Ordnance Survey	2019	Ordnance Survey Map ( <a href="http://www.ukmapcentre.com">www.ukmapcentre.com</a> )

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Paul Torbet (Torbet Plant Hire Ltd) and all his patient operators for undertaking the ground reduction & movement works. Many thanks also to Jack, Amy, Richard and their staff for their kind hospitality, much appreciated. Many thanks also to Derek Hall for looking at the ceramics that were recovered and to Andy Nicholson for provision of photographs.



Figure 5a – general pre-ex for open area strip (I) (from N)



Figure 5b – general pre-ex for open area strip (II) (from N)



Figure 6a - general post-ex of open area strip (from S)



Figure 6b - general post-ex of open area strip (from W)



Figure 6c - general post-ex of open area strip (from E)



Figure 7a - road section A (from SW)



Figure 7b - road section A (from NE)



Figure 7c - road section B (from WNW)



Figure 8a - road section B (from ESE)



Figure 8b - road section C (I) (from NNE)



Figure 8c - road section C (II) (from SW)



Figure 9a - road section C (IV) (from SSW)



Figure 9b - road section C (V) (from SE)



Figure 9c - SSE end of road section (from NNW)

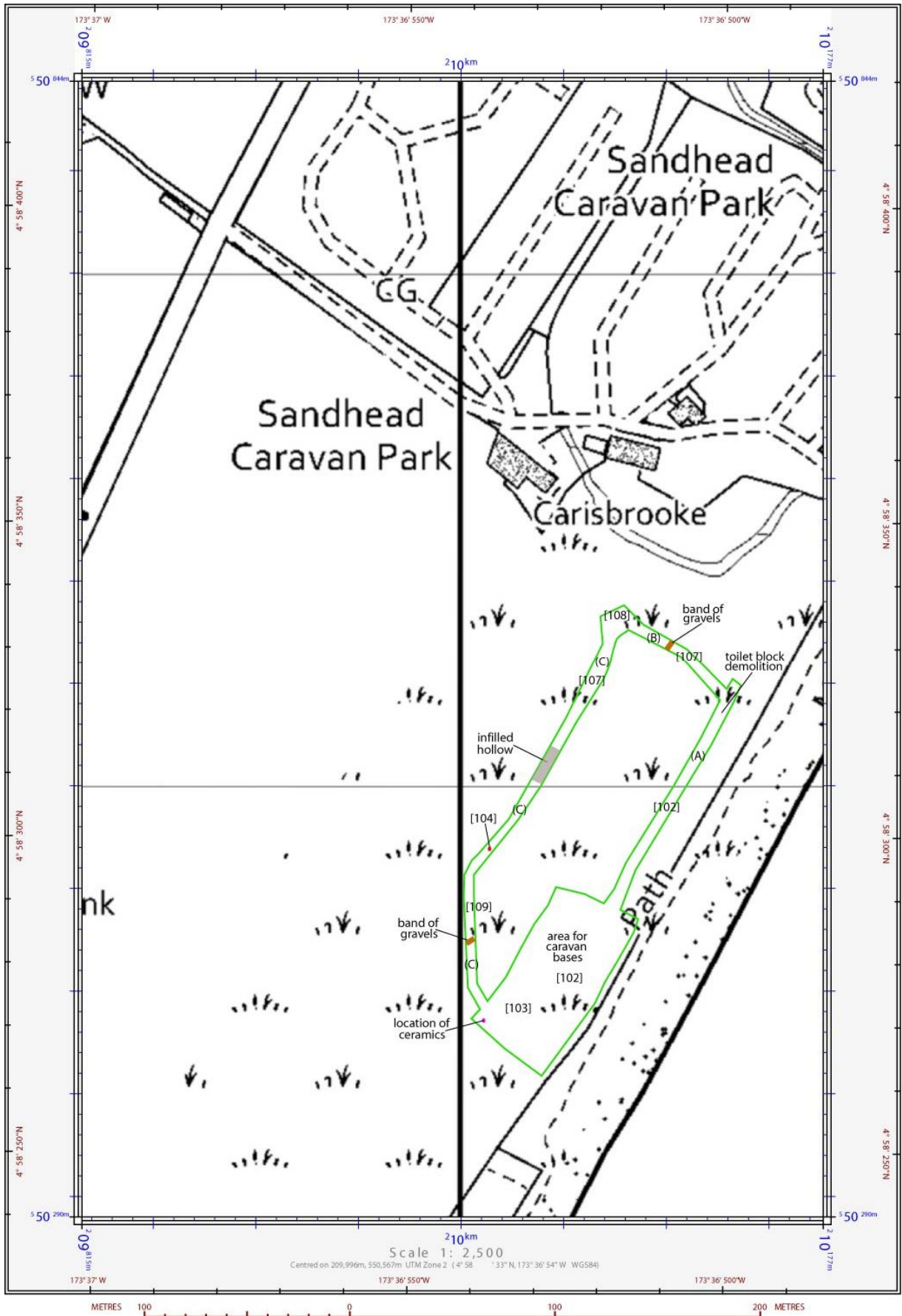


Figure 10 - post-ex sketch plan



## Appendix 1: Record Summaries

### Context Summaries

No.	Interpretation	Description
101	Topsoil	Mid brown very sandy silt - between 250mm and 350mm in depth.
102	Subsoil	Fairly fine pale orangey brown sand - heavily rooted in sections from whins.
103	Natural deposit	Natural band of small rounded pebbles mixed with sand.
104	Infill	Concrete / brick infill mixed with a brownish black sand.
105	Topsoil	Mid brown very sandy silt.
106	Topsoil	Dark brown slightly sandy silt (organic from roots and brambles).
107	Subsoil	Fairly fine brown sand.
108	Subsoil	Orangey brown slightly coarse sand.
109	Subsoil	Fine pale orange sand.

### Photographic Record 1

No.	Disc No.	Digital No.	Description	From	Date
1	1	1	General pre-ex	-	2/09/2019
2	1	2	Base 6 pre-ex	ESE	2/09/2019
3	1	3	Base 6 post-ex	WNW	2/09/2019
4	1	4	Base 5 pre-ex	ESE	2/09/2019
5	1	5	Base 5 post-ex	WNW	2/09/2019
6	1	6	Base 4 pre-ex	ESE	2/09/2019
7	1	7	Base 4 post-ex	WNW	2/09/2019
8	1	8	Base 3 pre-ex	ESE	2/09/2019
9	1	9	Base 3 post-ex	WNW	2/09/2019
10	1	10	General pre-ex of area for caravan bases (I)	N	2/09/2019
11	1	11	General pre-ex of area for caravan bases (II)	N	2/09/2019
12	1	12	Open area strip of area for caravan bases - end of day 1	WNW	2/09/2019
13	1	13	Open area strip of area for caravan bases - end of day 2	S	3/09/2019
14	1	14	Open area strip of area for caravan bases - end of day 2	E	3/09/2019
15	1	15	Open area strip of area for caravan bases - end of day 3	S	4/09/2019
16	1	16	Open area strip of area for caravan bases - end of day 3	W	4/09/2019

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17	1	17	General post-ex of open area strip for caravan bases	S	5/09/2019
18	1	18	General post-ex of open area strip for caravan bases	W	5/09/2019
19	1	19	General post-ex of open area strip for caravan bases	E	5/09/2019
20	1	20	General post-ex of open area strip for caravan bases	N	5/09/2019
21	1	21	Road section A - partially excavated	SW	5/09/2019
22	1	22	Road section A - partially excavated	NE	5/09/2019
23	1	23	Road section A post-ex	NE	6/09/2019
24	1	24	Road section B post-ex	WNW	6/09/2019
25	1	25	Road section B post-ex	ESE	6/09/2019
26	1	26	Road section C (I) post-ex	SW	6/09/2019
27	1	27	Road section C (II) post-ex	NNE	6/09/2019
28	1	28	Road section C (III) post-ex	SW	11/09/2019
29	1	29	Road section C (IV) post-ex	SSW	11/09/2019
30	1	30	Road section C (V) post-ex	NNE	11/09/2019
31	1	31	SSE end of road section C	NNW	11/09/2019

## Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Dumfries & Galloway Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Sand of Luce Holiday Park, Sandhead
<b>PARISH:</b>	Stoneykirk
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Rebecca Shaw
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Monitoring Works
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)</b>	NGR: NX 10261 50963
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	2nd August 2019
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	11th August 2019
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>DESCRIPTION:</b>	This Data Structure Report presents the findings of archaeological monitoring works undertaken in respect in respect of proposed works at Sands of Luce Holiday Park, Sandhead, Stranraer, Wigtownshire, Dumfries & Galloway. The proposed works comprise: change of use of agricultural land to form extension to existing holiday park for the siting of an additional 59 static caravans, formation of access tracks,

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	<p>installation of sewage treatment plant and lighting bollards and associated works.</p> <p>Archaeological works were required due to recent aerial surveys undertaken west and south of the application area, which revealed a number of prehistoric sites visible as cropmarks. Furthermore a significant number of cremation burials have been recorded in the dune system around the head of Luce Bay.</p> <p>However, no significant archaeological finds or features were uncovered during the course of the monitoring works.</p>
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	019019
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Mr Jack Cooper
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	9 Earl Place, Ranfurly, Bridge of Weir, PA11 3HA
<b>E MAIL:</b>	rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended)	Report to Dumfries & Galloway Council Sites and Monuments Record and archive to Historic Environment Scotland Archives.

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