

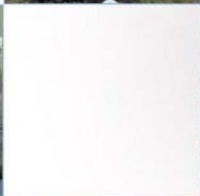
Glenshee Road, Braemar: Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 21906

Planning Reference APP/2002/0029

OASIS ID aocarcha1-102285

1st June 2011



Glenshee Road, Braemar: Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Springfield Properties Group
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NO 1517 9113
AOC Project No:	21960
OASIS No:	aocarcha1-102185
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Date of Fieldwork:	30 th May 2011
Date of Report:	1 st June 2011

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft Date: 1st June 2011

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of a residential development at Glenshee Road, Braemar.

Development works had commenced prior to the evaluation taking place and the majority of the site had already been stripped of overburden to natural subsoil. Elsewhere large areas were heavily rutted by plant movement and covered by standing water. As such it was not possible to excavate all the proposed trenches, but a walk over survey was implemented in previously stripped areas.

Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Springfield Properties Group to carry out a programme of archaeological works prior the construction of a residential development at Glenshee Road, Braemar. The development (Planning Ref. APP/2002/0029) lies within the administrative area of Aberdeenshire Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS). The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in Scottish Planning Policy (Scottish Government, February 2010) and Planning Advice Note 42 (SOEnD 1994) and in accord with Aberdeenshire Council requirements as advised by ACAS.
- 1.1.2 The objective of the archaeological works was to determine the existence of any buried archaeological remains within the development area by means of a programme of trial trenching. A Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2011) outlining the entire programme of archaeological works was agreed with ACAS in advance of the evaluation being undertaken.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area is centred on NGR NO 1517 9113 (Figure 1) and is located within a green field site bounded by a mixture of roads and existing residential properties. Glenshee Road marks the eastern extent of the site with Balnellan Road marking the south-western and western limits of the site. The southern boundary of the site backs onto a caravan park.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 No previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the development area and no known archaeological sites were known within its boundaries prior to the evaluation.
- 1.3.2 To the north-west of the development area, some 150 m distant, lies the edge of the Scheduled Ancient Monument around the 14th century Kindrochit Castle (NMRS NO19SE 01, SAM No. 2583). To the north lies Braemar Lodge Hotel (NMRS NO19SE 35) a C-listed building, whilst to the south-west the local SMR lists two buildings that were used during World War II (SMR Nos. NO19SE0027 and NO19SE0028).

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:
- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;

- ii) should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, to prepare a mitigation strategy compliant with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government, February 2010) and *PAN 42* (1994).

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Initially the evaluation was to comprise a 10% sample of the total development area of c.1.48 ha. However the access road for the site had previously been striped to subsoil and a site compound erected. Following discussions with ACAS it was decided to complete a 10% sample (750 m²) of the remaining area which totalled c.0.75 ha. However on arrival the unsupervised stripping was far greater than anticipated (with up to 0.5 m of subsoil removed in some areas) and areas were heavily rutted and covered by standing water. A number of large spoil heaps also covered the site. In addition the presence of two water courses running along the northern edge of the site also reduced the area available for trenching. Therefore it was only possible to carry out trenching totalling 210 m² (Figure 2). Due to the damaged nature of the site field walking was confined to the service buffer zone (Figure 2).
- 3.2 Stripping of the overburden was by means of a JCB type excavator equipped with a 2 m wide toothless ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.
- 3.3 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures. The trenches were carefully backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological works were undertaken on 30th May 2011. Overall the weather conditions were fair, and good archaeological visibility was present in undisturbed areas. The various data gathered from the evaluation is presented as a series of appendices,
- i) Appendix 1 contains the trench summaries
 - ii) Appendix 2 contains the photographic register
 - iii) Appendix 3 reproduces the *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* entry
- 4.2 The sections of the trenches and site baulks where topsoil remained *in situ* showed it to be a moderately compact dark grey sandy silt with an average depth of 0.3 m to 0.5 m. This overlay a natural subsoil of an orange clay / sand containing occasional large rounded boulders and intrusions of shattered bed rock

- 4.3 No features, deposits or finds of any archaeological significance were found during the evaluation or field walking.



Plate 1: Trench 1 From north



Plate 2: Trench 4 from north



Plate 3: Water courses at northern edge of site. Taken from east

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Neither significant features nor unstratified artefacts were encountered by the evaluation. The significant balance of probability is that the development area is archaeologically sterile.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by ACAS on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2011 *Glenshee Road, Braemar: Archaeological Evaluation, Written Scheme of Investigation* (20th May 2011). Unpublished AOC Method Statement.

SOEnD 1994 *Planning advice Note 42, Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish Office Environment Department.

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*. (February 2010)

Glenshee Road, Braemar: Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	50 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	Previously stripped
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.005
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange brown sand containing occasional large rounded boulders and patches of small and medium angular stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	50 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	Previously stripped
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.05
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange brown sand containing occasional large rounded boulders and patches of small and medium angular stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	20 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	40 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	Previously stripped
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.05 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Shattered bed rock
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	20 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	40 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.4 m at north; 0.1 m at 10 m from north to end of trench
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4 m to 0.2 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange clay sand containing frequent large rounded boulders
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	15 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	30m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.5 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.5 m

<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Mottled yellow brown sand and shattered bedrock
<i>Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Film 1

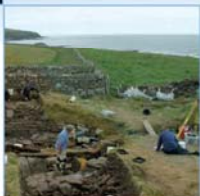
Frame	Trench	Description	From
1	-	Registration shot	-
2	1	General shot of trench	N
3		Southern baulk section	N
4	2	General shot of trench	E
5	3	General shot of trench	N
6	4	General shot of trench	N
7		Water course at northern edge of site	E

Black and White Film 1

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1	-	Registration shot	-
2	1	General shot of trench	N
3		Southern baulk section	N
4	2	General shot of trench	E
5	3	General shot of trench	N
6	4	General shot of trench	N
7		Water course at northern edge of site	E

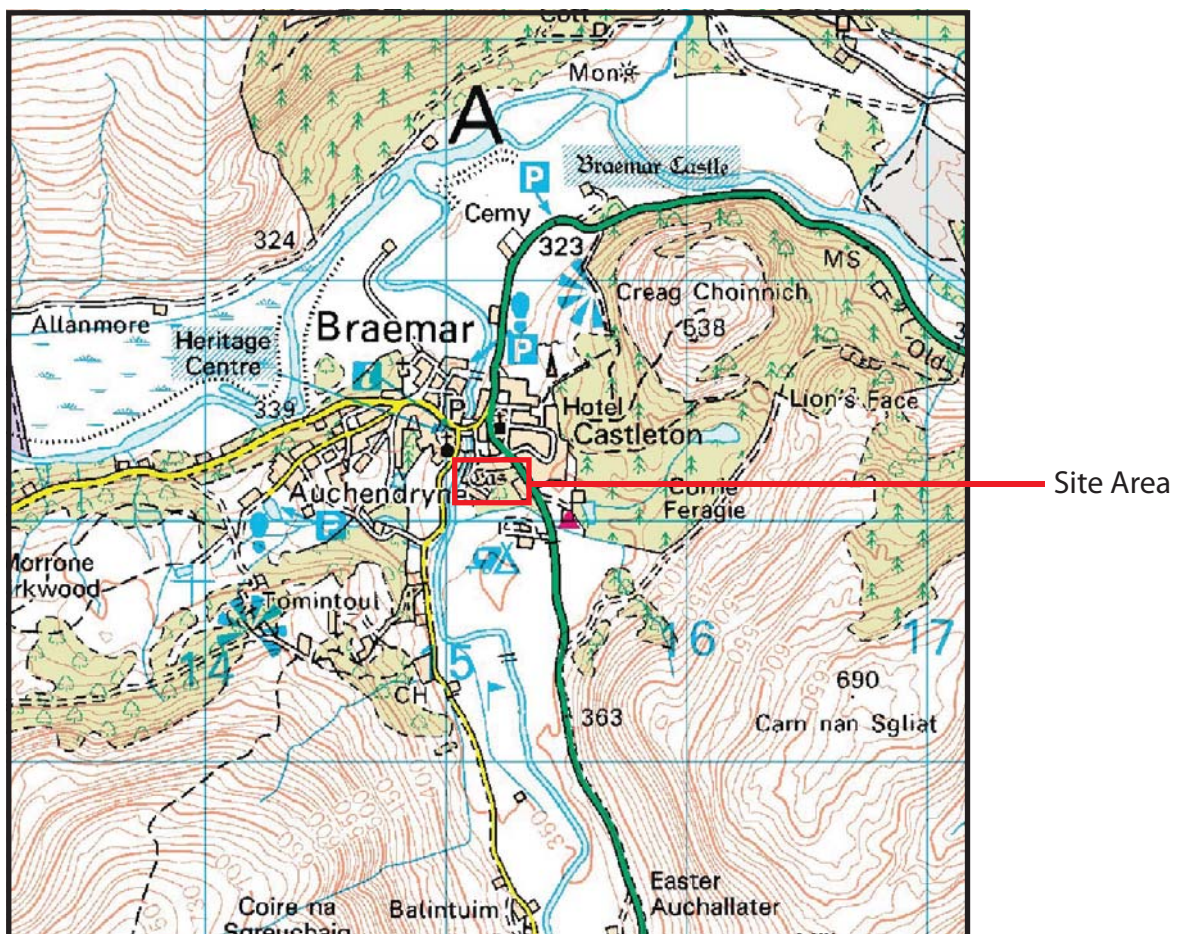
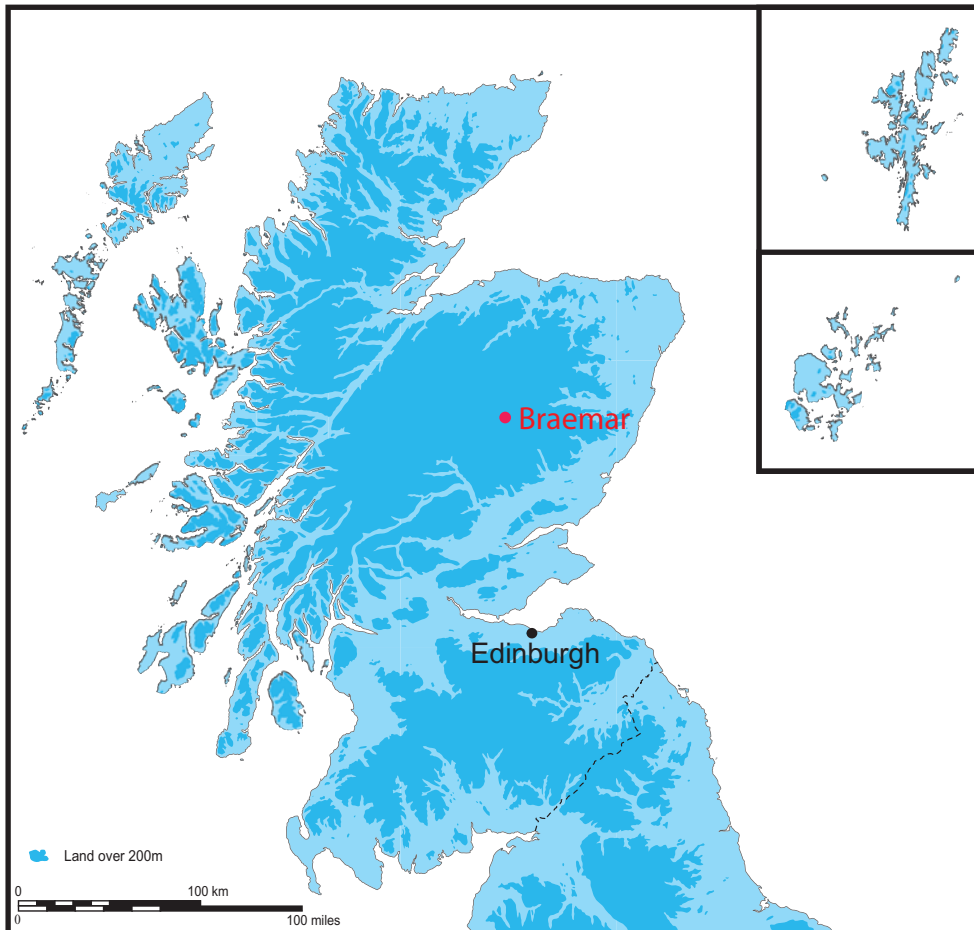
APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeenshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Glenshee Road, Braemar
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21906
PARISH:	Crathie and Braemar
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Erlend Hindmarch
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 1517 9113
START DATE (this season)	30 th May 2011
END DATE (this season)	30 th May 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was proposed prior to a new residential development at Glenshee Road, Braemar.</p> <p>Unfortunately, development works had commenced prior to the evaluation taking place with the majority of the site having been stripped of overburden to natural subsoil. Consequently it was not practical to excavate all the evaluation trenches with only 210 m² of trenching possible. Elsewhere a walkover survey of the previously stripped areas was undertaken.</p> <p>Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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Figure 1: Location of the site at Glenshee Road, Braemar

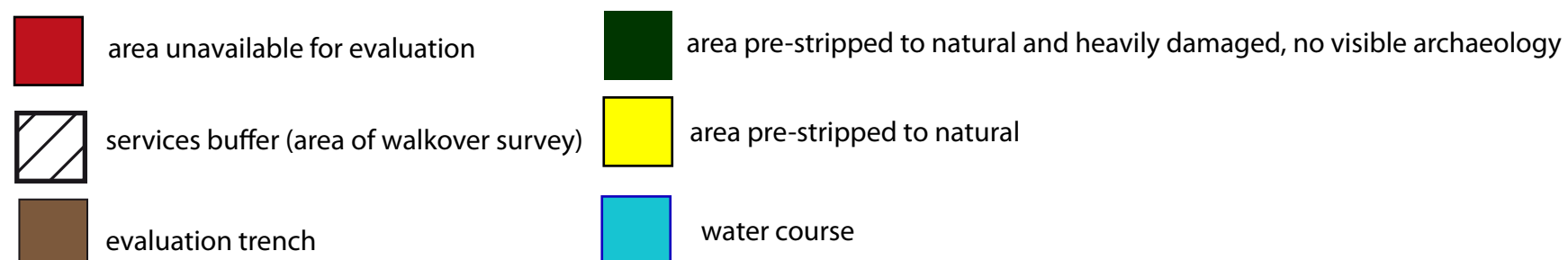
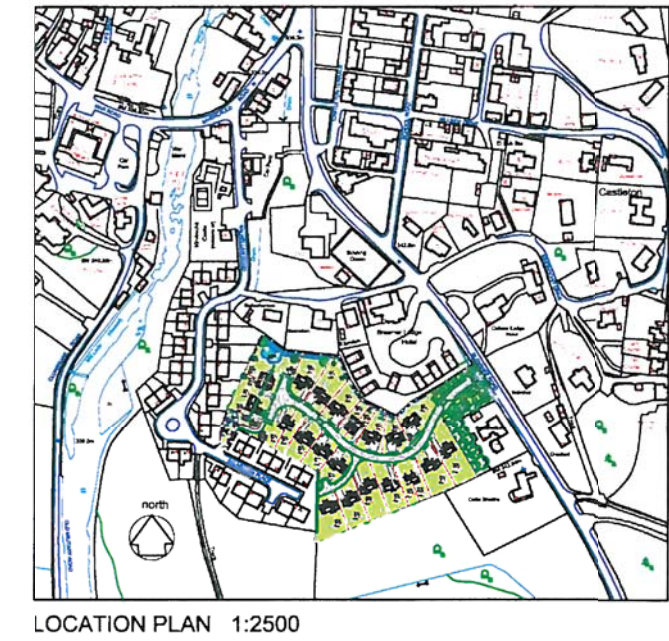
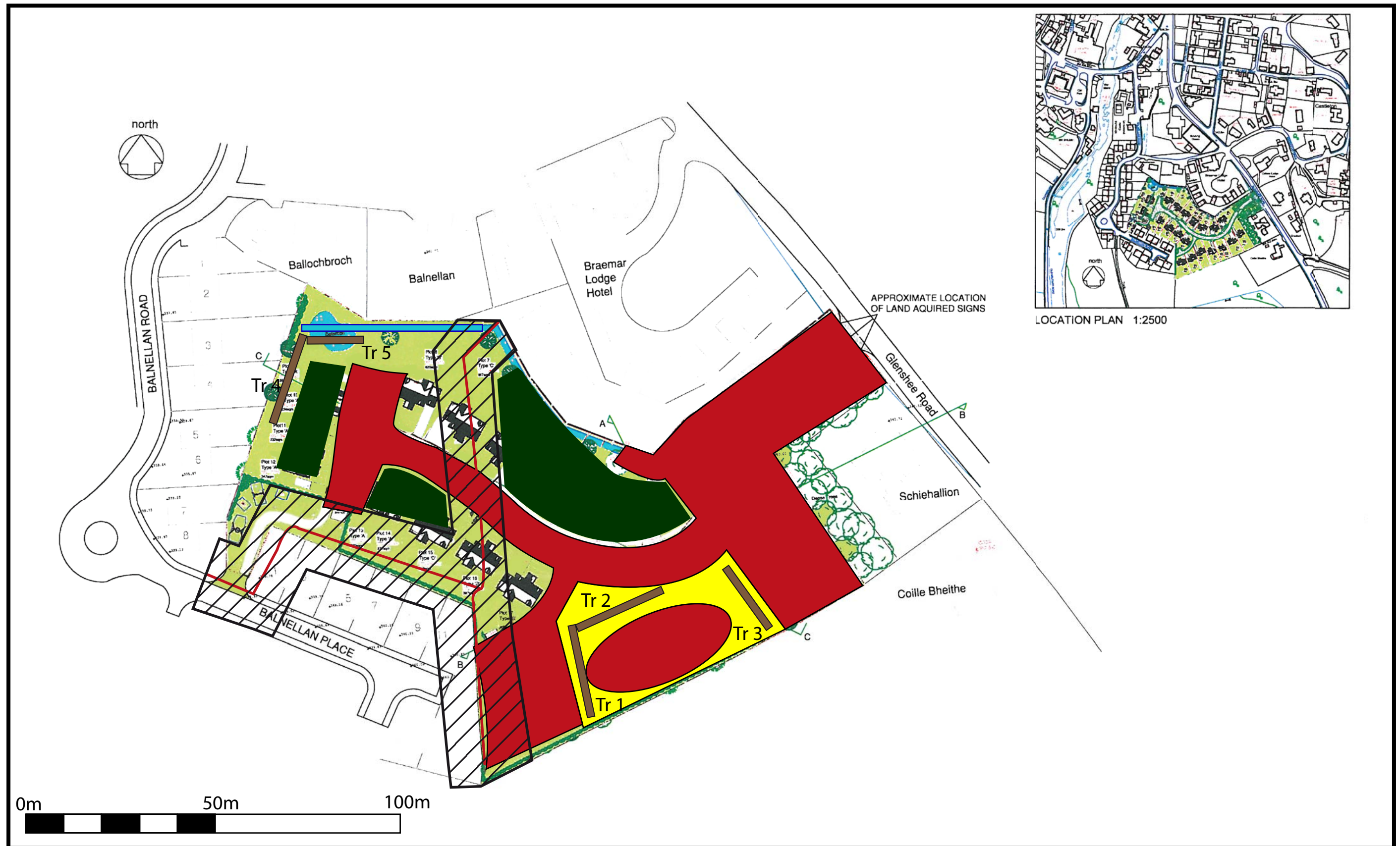


Figure 2: Evaluation trench locations