

Easter Happrew Farm Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

AOC 21465
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Blyth Bank Farm Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: **Glenrath Farms Ltd.,**
Peebles,
Peebleshire
EH45 9JW

National Grid Reference (NGR): **NT 1895 3923**

AOC Project No: **21465**

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

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Abstract

A programme of archaeological works was required by Glenrath Farm Ltd in respect to a proposed poultry farm development at Easter Happrew Farm, Peebleshire, Scottish Borders. The proposed development will include the construction of a poultry sheds with associated access roads and landscaping works within existing arable farmland. A programme of archaeological works was required in keeping with the policies outlined in SPP23 (2008) and PAN42 (1994), in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

The footprint of a single large poultry shed was evaluated by means of five trenches totalling, approximately 450 m². The majority of the trenches contained no archaeological features although, the basal remains of a hearth containing fragments of prehistoric pottery was recorded at the north-eastern end of the proposed building footprint.

0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Glenrath Farm Ltd in respect to a proposed commercial development at Easter Happrew Farm, Peebleshire, Scottish Borders. The proposed development at Easter Happrew Farm will include the construction of a poultry shed with associated access roads and landscaping works within improved arable farmland. The proposed development lies within the administrative area of Scottish Borders Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Dr. Christopher Bowles. A programme of archaeological works was required in keeping with the policies outlined in SPP23 (2008) and PAN42 (1994), in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 The proposed development area is located south of the farm of Easter Happrew, Peebleshire (centred NGR: NT 1895 3923). The site is bounded by open pasture land on all sides and comprises open agricultural land at approximately 200 m OD. Topographically the ground slopes gradually downhill from north-west to south-east, although the proposed building occupies part of a flattish terrace to the west of the River Tweed. The geology of the area comprises Lower Devonian and Dinantian Carboniferous rock (British Geological Survey 1986). The site contains till derived mainly from gravels and sands resulting predominately from greywackes, but with some additions of granitic materials in Galloway. The deposits are principally fluvioglacial in origin. Soils are of the Yarrow/Fleet Association comprising brown forest soils developed on fluvioglacial and upper river terrace gravels and alluvial soils on river flood plains (Bown 1971, 129)

1.2 Development proposal

- 1.2.1 The proposed development at Easter Happrew will include the construction of a single poultry shed with associated access roads and landscaping works.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The earliest evidence for human activity within the vicinity of Easter Happrew is the remains of two possible burnt mounds (*NMRS* NT13NE58, NGR: NT 1890 3976 & *NMRS* NT13NE48, NGR: NT 1808 3959) located north of the farm. The mounds are thought to date to the Bronze Age and are interpreted as either being associated with cooking meat or use as sweat-houses or saunas (*RCAHMS* 1967). A scooped settlement (*NMRS* NT13NE63, NGR: NT 1895 3990), possibly of late prehistoric date, was recorded in close proximity to the burnt mounds. The possible remains of a circular fort or enclosure (*NMRS* NT13NE25, NGR: NT 194 396) were recorded on a knoll east of Easter Happrew in 1775

- (Armstrong 1775). The remains of a low turf bank were identifiable in 1967 (RCAHMS 1967) but no surface traces of the site now remain.
- 1.3.2 The most numerous Early Iron Age monuments in Peeblesshire are hill-forts, of which one example lies in the vicinity of the present site. The remains of a multivallate fort occupy the summit of Kerr's Knowe (NMRS NT13NE7, NGR: NT 1825 3845). The remains of a Roman fort (NMRS NT14SE1, NGR: NT 1940 4010) are located north of Easter Happrew Farm (RCAHMS 1967, 169).
- 1.3.4 Medieval activity in close proximity to the site is evidenced by the charter of Simon of Scrogs of about 1208, in which reference is made by David de Lyne to a grain mill at Hallyne (NT14SE28, NGR: NT 19 40), located north of the proposed development area (Buchan & Paton 1927). Mungo's Well (NMRS NT13NE 21, NGR: NT 1867 3908) which gives its name to one of the fields on Easter Happrew Farm, is a natural spring now covered over and draining into the Cloy burn. It is possible that the name is medieval in origin (*ibid*).
- 1.3.5 Early cartographic sources provide no detail regarding the use of the proposed development area at this time, although the existence of a farm in the area is indicated by the annotation of 'Hoprew' in the vicinity of the proposed development area. Blaeu (1654) marks 'E Hoprew' and also indicates that a mill (NT14SE28) formerly stood on the haugh beside the Hallyne and this may represent the site of the original mill. Indeed, in 1647, when the Earl of Tweeddale had confirmation of his lands and barony of Lyne, there was both a corn and a walk mill (Buchan & Paton 1927).
- 1.3.6 Records of the joint Presbyteries of Peebles and Biggar make reference to meetings held within the house of Easter Happrew (NMRS NT13NE 44). It was at Easter Happrew, in 1688, after the interval of Stuart Episcopacy, that the ministers constituted themselves into the first presbytery under the Revolution settlement. '*In the ben, of the old farm house at Easter Happrew M. William Russel (1689-1699) was ordained*' (Buchan & Paton 1927).
- 1.3.7 Roy's map of 1747-55 indicates a farm in the same location of that at Easter Happrew associated with fields to the north and south. The proposed development area is shown as open moorland south of the farm. The relative size and status of the farm at East Happrew in the 18th century is reflected on Armstrong's map (1775) which shows the farm to consist of three structures much larger than the farms in the surrounding area. There is no indication of any structures within the proposed development area on this map. The Statistical Account of 1791 makes no specific reference to Easter Happrew Farm or the surrounding area and indicates that much of the parish was under pasture for cattle and sheep (Ker 1791, 329).

- 1.3.8 The farmhouse at Easter Happrew was constructed in 1800 by a 'Mr Alexander', a tenant farmer and carried out at his own expense. The house forms the north side of a cobbled square. Various ranges of offices are grouped around the remaining sides of this courtyard. The house exemplifies the type of two-storeyed slate-roofed farmhouse first introduced into Peeblesshire towards the end of the 18th century (Buchan & Paton 1927, 521). A tower house (NT13NE22, NGR: NT1917 3958) is alleged to have been located south of the farmhouse but no trace survives.
- 1.3.9 The lands of Easter Happrew remained part of the Neidpath estate until 1801 when they were sold to Sir James Montgomery and have since been part of the estate of Stobo (Buchan and Paton 1927). Thomson and Johnson (1820) depict Easter Happrew north of the proposed development area and the woodland to the south with no indication of any structures within the site itself. Ordnance Survey maps of 1859 provide the first detailed depiction of the proposed development area and show it to be open agricultural land. The configuration of the field boundaries on this map are the same as those shown on modern maps.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the development area by means of an intrusive field evaluation;
 - ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3 METHOD

- 3.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2009) proposed the excavation of 5 trenches within the footprint of the proposed shed and surrounding hardstanding (the shed covered an area of approximately c. 5950 m²). Three trenches, each measuring roughly 55 m by 2 m, were orientated along the long axis of the shed and two, each measuring 30 m by 2 m, were aligned transversely.
- 3.2 All trenches were excavated with a JCB excavator using a 2.0 m wide ditching bucket. The trench details are summarised in Appendix 1. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil/overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits. The evaluation trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed with the Method Statement (AOC 2009).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The works were carried out on 28th September 2009. The weather conditions during the evaluation were dry with occasional showers. Overall archaeological visibility was good. In total 5 trenches were opened totalling approximately 2250 m² (Figure 1).

4.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as a series of appendices:

Appendix 1 contains trench summaries;

Appendix 2 contains the photographic register;

Appendix 3 contains the context register;

Appendix 4 contains the finds register;

Appendix 5 reproduces the '*Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*' entry.

4.1.3 Turf and topsoil varied in depth from 0.24 m to 0.46 m in depth according to the topography of the land. Deeper areas of topsoil were found lying in gentle undulations of the underlying natural sands and gravels.

4.2 Hearth remnant [1000] (Figure 1 and 2, Plate 1)

4.3.1 Trench 1e contained a sub-oval shallow deposit of grey/brown silty sand [1001] with a discrete concentration of charcoal staining. This lay within a notional cut [1000]. Two sherds of prehistoric pottery, including a rim sherd, were recovered from the "fill" deposit [1001]. An area, measuring *circa* 10 m by 6 m, opened around the feature in establishing the presence of further associated features proved unrewarding.

4.3 Rubble drain [1002] (Figure 1, Plate 2)

4.3.1 Towards the north-eastern end of Trench 1e, a rubble-filled field drain was encountered aligned north-west to south-east. This measured 0.4 m wide and was filled by medium sized angular and rounded stones. The feature was recorded in plan but not investigated further.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 The evaluation unearthed the basal remains of a hearth feature [1000], dated on the basis of the pottery finds of some of great antiquity. The presence of domestic debris, ie. broken pottery suggests the feature may be associated with a nearby prehistoric settlement.

5.2 The rubble filled drain [1002] is likely to be associated with land improvement probably carried out during the late post-medieval period.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The evaluation has revealed a significant prehistoric feature within the development area. Despite the exposure of an area around the feature failing to reveal any further archaeological material it may be worthwhile undertaken a watching brief during construction ground-breaking works in the local area of the hearth discovery. This recommendation must be viewed as being provisional. Ultimately, the scope and scale of the any further archaeological works would be defined by Dr Bowles of behalf of Borders Council.

7 REFERENCES

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SOEnd 1994 *Planning Advice Note 42: Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. January 1994. The Scottish Office.

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Appendices

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1a

Dimensions	56.0 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.24 m to 0.38 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Sand and gravel
Finds	None

Trench 1b

Dimensions	31.8 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NW - SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.32 m to 0.38 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Sand and gravel
Finds	None

Trench 1c

Dimensions	54.5 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.36 m to 0.4 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Sand and gravel
Finds	None

Trench 1d

Dimensions	31.3 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NW - SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.36 m to 0.4 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Sand and gravel
Finds	None

Trench 1e

Dimensions	77.4 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.36 m to 0.4 m
Features	Hearth remnant [1000], rubble drain [1001]
Subsoil	Sand and gravel
Finds	2 prehistoric pot sherds

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Frame Area	Detail	From	
1	-	Registration	
2-3	Tr.1a	General view Tr.1a	SW
4-5	Tr.1b	General view Tr.1b	NW
6-7	Tr.1c	General view of Tr.1c	NE
8-9	Tr.1d	General view of Tr.1d	NW
10-11	Tr.1e	Rubble drain [1002]	NW
12-15	Tr.1e	Hearth base [1000] NW-facing section	NW

APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Area	Description
[1000]	Tr.1e	Notional pit cut: Sub-circular in plan, aligned NE-SW. Broad, shallow sides with an uneven base. Measured 0.85 m long by 0.56 m wide by 0.07 m deep
[1001]	Tr.1e	Notional cut of hearth filled by [1001] Fill of hearth [1000] A moist, firm mid grey/brown silty sand with moderate inclusions of small angular heat-blackened stones (individually <60 mm diameter). A discrete concentration of charcoal staining was visible towards the north-eastern end of this deposit. Two ceramic sherds were recovered from this layer during excavation. Measured 0.07 m deep
[1002]	Tr. 1e	Fill of notional cut [1000] Rubble drain Aligned north-west to south-east. Measured 1.8 m long (continued below trench edges to the north-west and south-east) by 0.4 m wide. Filled with random rounded and angular stones (individually <150 mm diameter).

APPENDIX 4: FINDS REGISTER

Find No.	Trench	Context	Description
1	Tr.1e	[1001]	Prehistoric pot sherds (heavy coarse, dark brown fabric) 1 rim sherd - 55 mm by 28 mm with 22 mm wide rim. 1 body sherd - 29 mm by 23 mm by 18 mm thick

APPENDIX 5: SAMPLE REGISTER

Context	Trench	Quantity
1001	Tr.1e	10 litres

APPENDIX 6: DRAWING REGISTER

- NW-facing section of hearth base [1000], scale: 1:10
- Plan of hearth base [1000], scale 1:20

APPENDIX 7: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Easter Happrew Farm Archaeological Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21465
PARISH:	Stobo
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Hunter Blair
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Hearth containing prehistoric pottery
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 1895 3923
START DATE (this season)	28 th September 2009
END DATE (this season)	28 th September 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A programme of archaeological works was required by Glenrath Farm Ltd in respect to a proposed poultry shed development at Easter Happrew Farm, Peebleshire. The footprint of a large shed was evaluated by means of five trenches totalling, approximately 450 m ² . The evaluation identified the basal remains of a hearth containing fragments of prehistoric pottery.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Proposed watching brief
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Glenrath Farms Ltd.
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	C/o AOC Archaeology Group
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Alan.Hunter-Blair@aocarchaeology.com

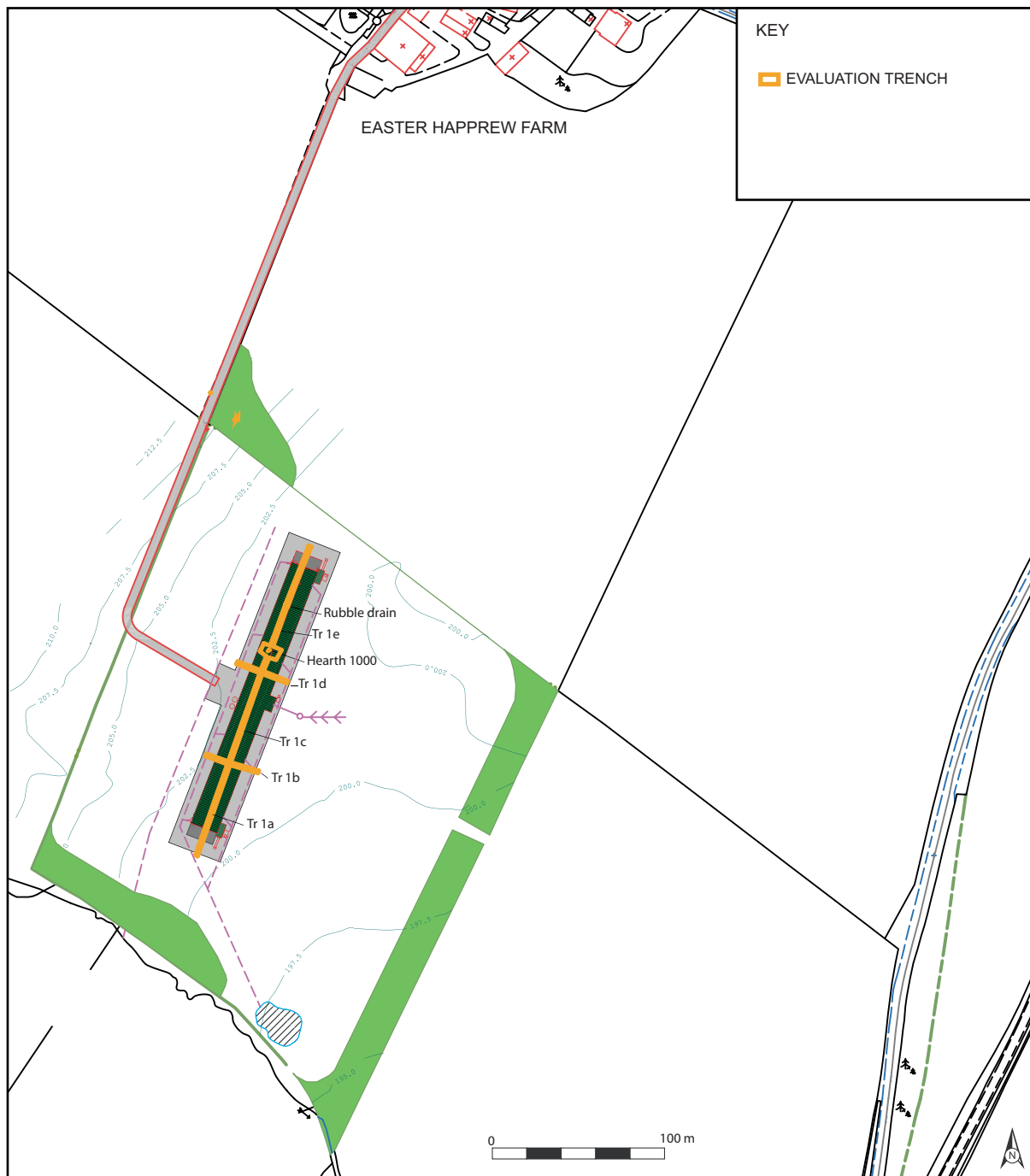
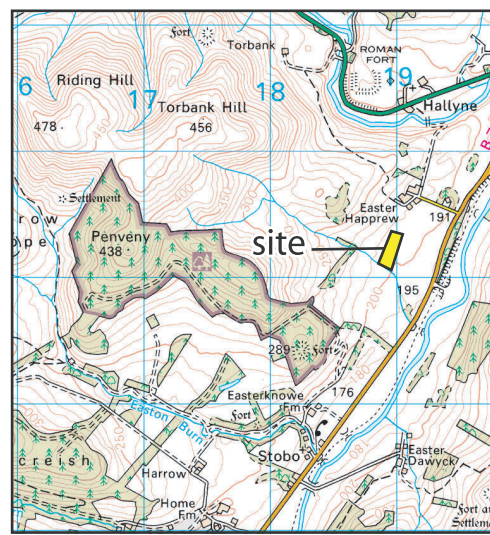
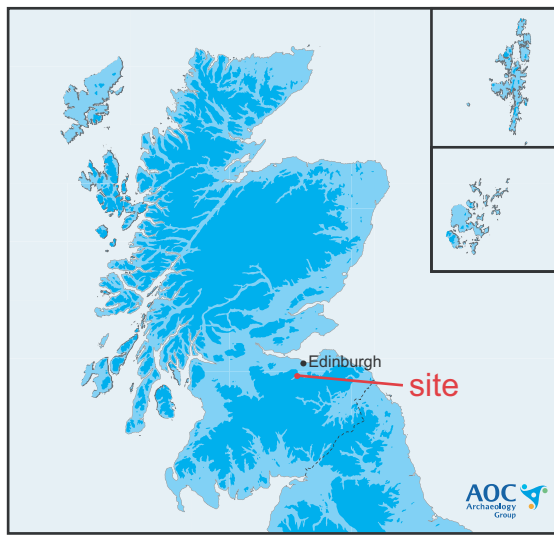
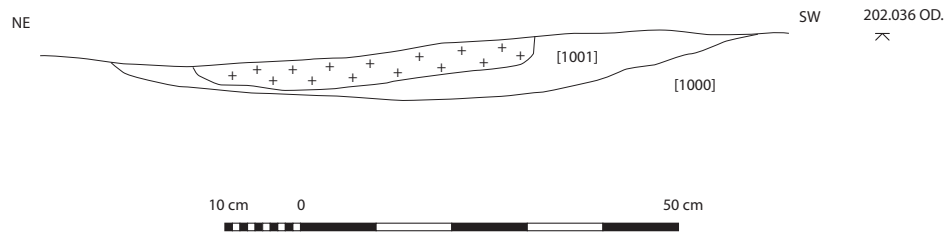
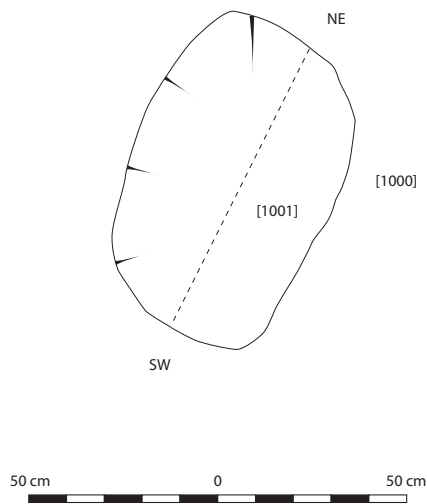


Figure 1: Site location and position of features within evaluation trenches

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North-west facing section through hearth base [1000]



Plan of hearth base [1000]

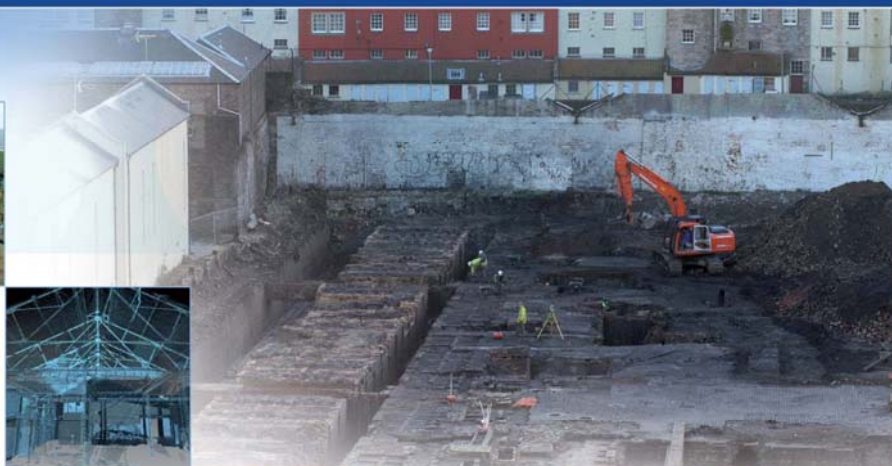
Figure 2: Plan and section of hearth base [1000] in Trench 1e



Plate 1: North-west facing section across hearth base [1000]



Plate 2: Rubble drain [1002] in Trench 1e from the north-west



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