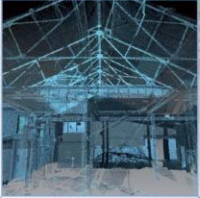


Falahill Farm Wind Turbines Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

AOC 22122

OASIS ID - aocarcha1-127889

1st June 2012



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Falahill Farm Wind Turbines Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: **NRG Applications (North) Limited,**
2 Friar Place,
Scotlandwell,
KY13 9WN

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 38224 56126

AOC Project No: 22122

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Illustration by: Jake Streatfeild-James

Date of Fieldwork: 1st June 2012

Date of Report: 2nd June 2012

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

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Date: 01st June 2012

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Abstract

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by NRG Applications (North) Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a windfarm development at Fala Farm near Heriot in the Scottish Borders. The development area consists of c. 1 ha of agricultural land situated on the East slope of Fala Hill, overlooking Middleton Moor. In total 12 trenches totalling 240 m² were excavated. Despite the proximity of Falahill Fort, (NMRS: NT35NE 18), no significant archaeological remains or artefacts were uncovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by NRG Applications (North) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a wind farm development at Fala Farm, Heriot. The proposed development lies within the administrative area of the Scottish Borders, and the remit of Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer, Dr. Christopher Bowles. A programme of archaeological works had been specified by SBC in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning And Archaeology* (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The proposed development area covers c.1 ha of agricultural land on the eastern slope of Falahill (centred NT 38224 56126, Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The proposed development contained no known sites of archaeological interest, however the possible fort, listed by the Royal Commission as Falahill (NMRS NT35NE18) is close by.

1.3.2 No other sites of archaeological significance were identified within the proposed development.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by the proposed development works;
- ii) to liaise with Dr. Christopher Bowles and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and /or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.

3 METHOD

3.1 The *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2012) proposed a trenching scheme to investigate the impact of each of six turbine bases on the archaeological record. Two 10x2m trenches were therefore excavated perpendicular (where permitting) to each turbine base.

- 3.2 All trenches were excavated with a JCB back-hoe 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 *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2012).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 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 Trial trenching was undertaken on the first of June 2012 in overcast, but dry conditions. Archaeological visibility was good throughout the operation.



Figure 1 View of Trench 2

- 4.3 Neither archaeological features nor artefacts were recovered from any of the trenches. Topsoil and 'B' horizon depths were mostly uniform across site, both consisting of a sandy loam with small

fragments of coarse shale gravel being the major inclusion. The natural subsoil was comprised of vivid orange sandy gravel made up of material weathering from the bedrock. An exploratory sondage was excavated through this material at the W end of trench 5, revealing solid bedrock after only 0.1 metres.



Figure 2 View of Trench 7

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 Despite the presence of archaeological activity in the vicinity and the wider area, neither significant archaeological features nor unstratified artefacts were encountered during the evaluation. However, the absence of archaeological remains should not be considered as proof that no anthropogenic activity has taken place here. Rather it may to serve to highlight the impact of modern agricultural regimes on the archaeological record.

5.2.1 The significant balance of probability is that the development area is archaeologically sterile.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. The recommendation will require confirmation by Dr. Christopher Bowles, Borders Council.

7 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2012 *Falahill Farm Wind Turbines, Written Scheme of Investigation*. AOC Archaeology Project Design. .

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology*.)

**Falahill Farm Wind
Turbines
Archaeological Evaluation:
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1

Dimensions	10 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m to 0.35 m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Gravels
Finds	None

Trench 2

Dimensions	10 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Gravels
Finds	None

Trench 3

Dimensions	10 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.25 to 0.30 m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Gravels
Finds	None

Trench 4

Dimensions	10 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.37 to 0.43 m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Gravels
Finds	None

Trench 5

Dimensions	10 m (including extensions) by 2.0 m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Gravels

Finds None

Trench 6

Dimensions 10 m by 2.0 m
 Orientation N-S
 Depth of Topsoil 0.30 m
 Features None
 Drains None
 Subsoil Orange Sandy Gravels
 Finds None

Trench 7

Dimensions 10 m by 2.0 m
 Orientation N-S
 Depth of Topsoil 0.25 to 0.40 m
 Features None
 Drains None
 Subsoil Orange Sandy Gravels
 Finds None

Trench 8

Dimensions 10 m by 2.0 m
 Orientation N-S
 Depth of Topsoil 0.20 to 0.30 m
 Features None
 Drains None
 Subsoil Orange Sandy Gravels
 Finds None

Trench 9

Dimensions 10 m by 2.0 m
 Orientation N-S
 Depth of Topsoil 0.30 m
 Features Foundation deposits at 10 m – 16 m
 Drains None
 Subsoil Orange Sandy Gravels
 Finds None

Trench 10

Dimensions 10 m by 2.0 m
 Orientation N-S
 Depth of Topsoil 0.40 m
 Features None
 Drains None

Subsoil	Orange Sandy Gravels
Finds	None

Trench 11

Dimensions	10 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.25 m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Gravels
Finds	None

Trench 12

Dimensions	12 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.20 m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Gravels
Finds	None

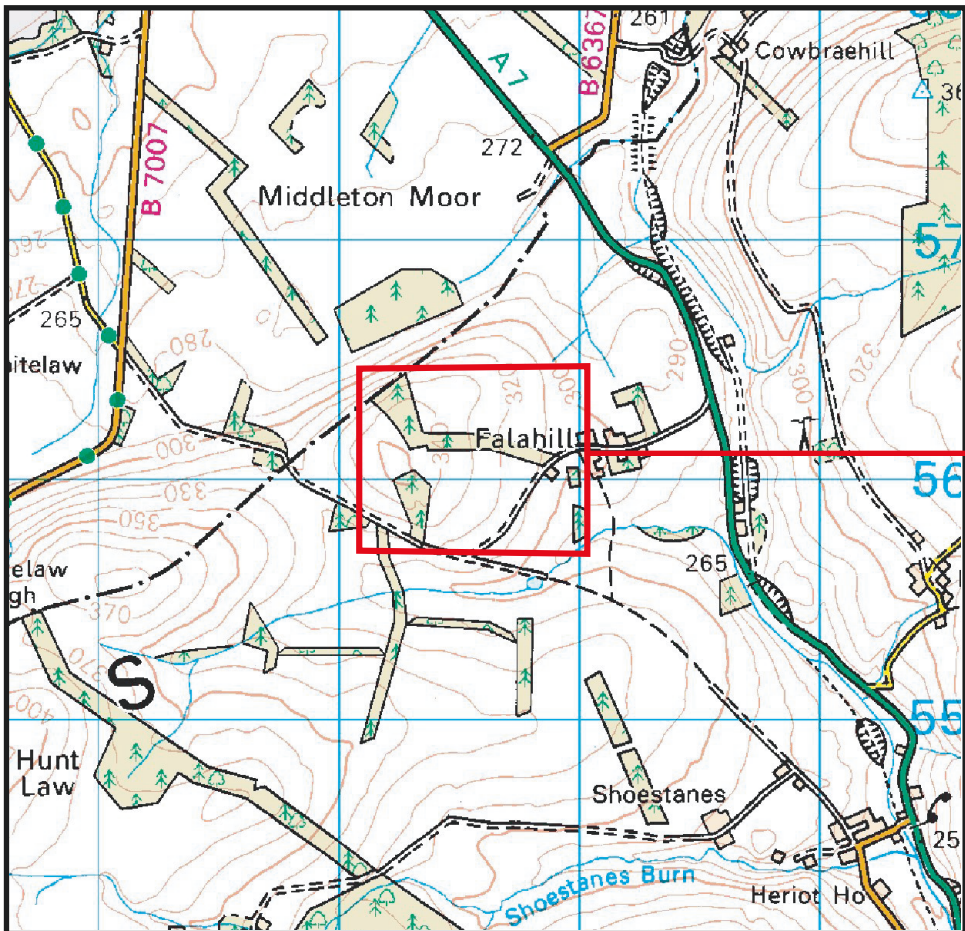
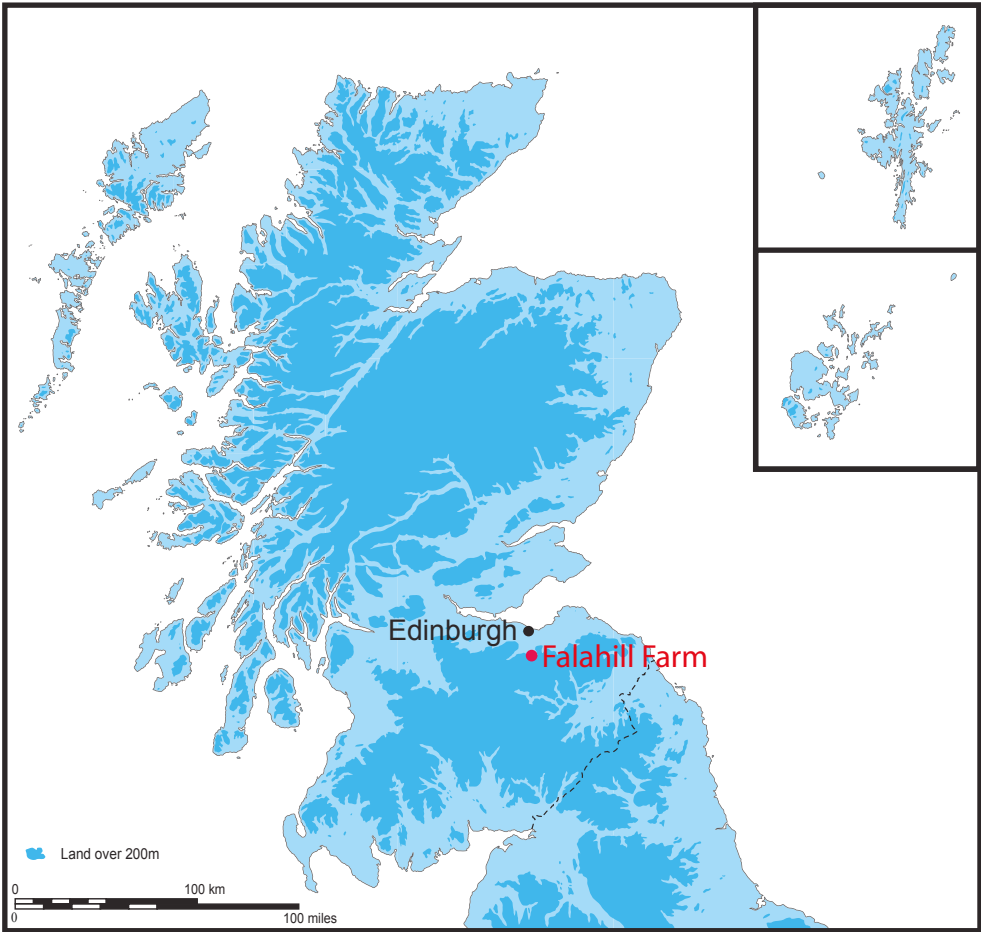
APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Digital

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1	4	Trench under excavation	E
2	1	Trench 1 post ex	W
3	2	Trench 2 post ex	N
4	3	Trench 3 post ex	E
5	4	Trench 4 post ex	E
6	5	Trench 5 post ex	E
7	6	Trench 6 post ex	E
8	7	Trench 7 post ex	NE
9	8	Trench 8 post ex	S
10	9	Trench 9 post ex	W
11	10	Trench 10 post ex	W
12	11	Trench 11 post ex	N
13	12	Trench 12 post ex	W

APPENDIX 3: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Falahill Farm Wind Turbines
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22122
PARISH:	Heriot
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jake Streatfeild-James
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	NMRS NT35NE18 (Falahill Fort)
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 38224 56126
START DATE (this season)	01 st June 2012
END DATE (this season)	01 st June 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was carried out to assess the impact on the archaeological record of a six-turbine wind farm lying within an area of agricultural land situated on the East slope of Fala Hill, overlooking Middleton Moor, near Heriot, Scottish Borders . In total 12 trenches totalling 240 m ² were excavated with two trenches excavated at each turbine base. However no archaeological features or unstratified finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	NRG Applications (North) Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group; Edgefield Road Industrial Estate; Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	jake.streatfeildjames@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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Figure 1: Location of the site at Falahill Farm

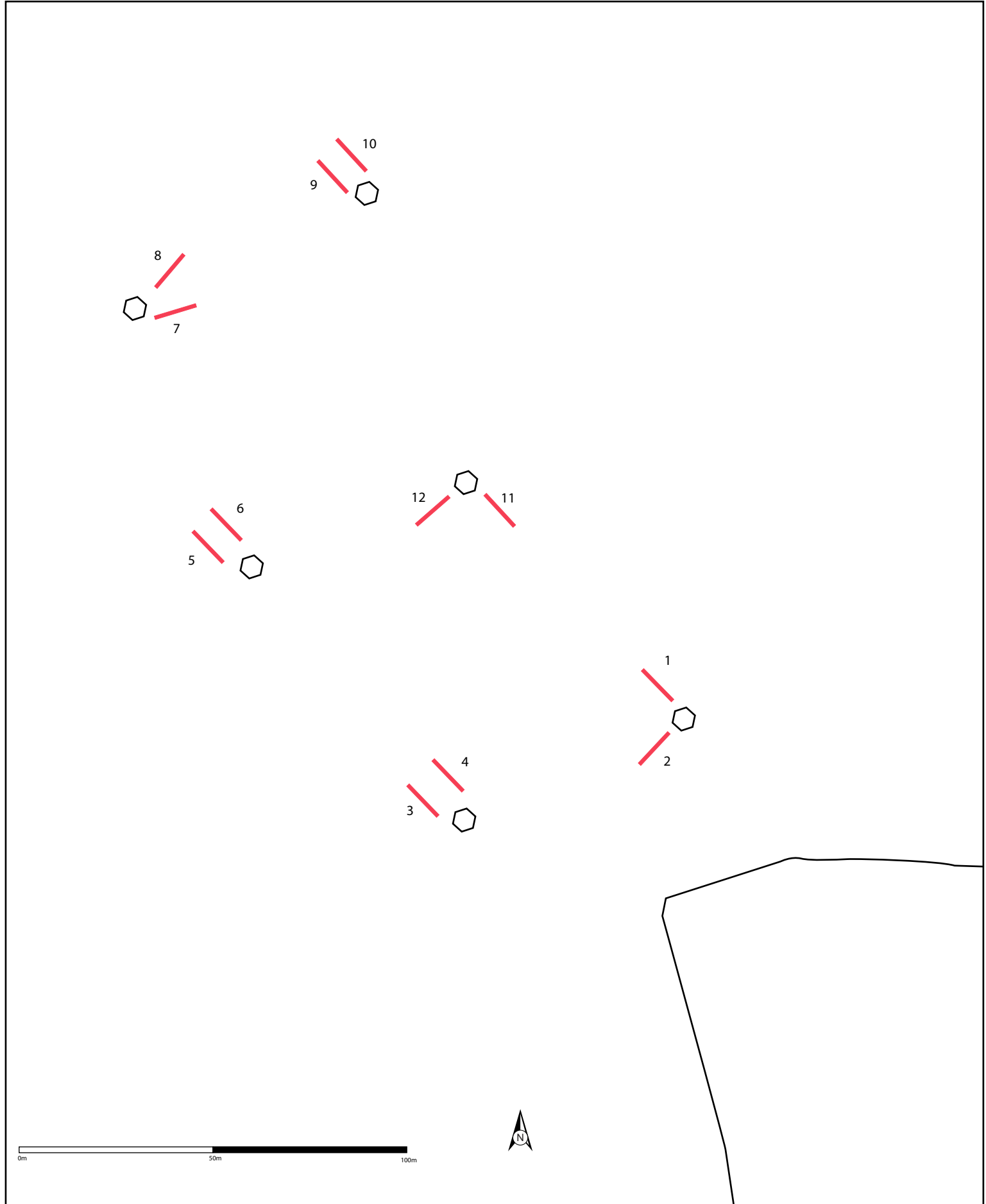
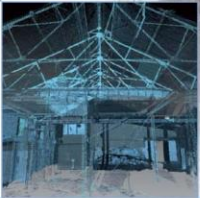


Figure 2: Trench positions



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