

# Land at South Mayfield, Dalkeith, Midlothian Archaeological Evaluation: Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22265

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29<sup>th</sup> October 2012



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# Land at South Mayfield, Dalkeith, Midlothian

## Archaeological Evaluation:

### Evaluation Data Structure Report

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<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>Persimmon Homes</b>
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>NT 35166 63852</b>
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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## Abstract

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This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of a proposed housing development, on behalf of Persimmon Homes Ltd.

The archaeological evaluation consisted of the machine trenching of 1244 m<sup>2</sup>. Due to the presence of boggy ground and dense scrub forest, a large portion of the site was inaccessible, reducing the total area available for evaluation.

Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Persimmon Homes Ltd to carry out a programme of archaeological works prior to the development of land at South Mayfield, Dalkeith (Planning Ref: 12/00339/DPP). The development lies within the administrative area of the Midlothian Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS). The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principals set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *Planning & Archaeology* (2011) and in accordance with Midlothian Council requirements as advised by ELCAS.

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 2012) outlining the entire programme of archaeological works was agreed with ELCAS in advance of the evaluation being undertaken.

## 1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed quarry extension comprises a land parcel 2.67 Ha in area, located to the South of Westhouses Road, Mayfield. Formerly agricultural land, the area has been disused for some years, with dense tree coverage now taking over the central portion of the site. Several natural springs were noticed during excavation, with the westernmost corner inaccessible to the machine due to water logging.

## 1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The development area contains no known sites of archaeological interest. There are, however, several archaeological sites nearby including a large earthwork enclosure at Campwood 500 metres from the site boundary, with other pit alignments and cropmark sites also sharing the uplands south of Mayfield. Previous excavations have recorded prehistoric pit alignments and linear features in the wider landscape around Dalkeith, such as at Salters Row (Duffy 2002).

1.3.2 Preliminary visits to site and study of recent satellite imagery suggested that a large portion of the site (approximately 60% or 1.6 Ha) was covered in scrub woodland, dense enough to seriously disrupt any in-situ archaeological material and impede movement of a tracked excavator, and that a further 2000m<sup>2</sup> (13% of the site) was inaccessible to the machine due to severe waterlogging around a natural spring. In short, digging in this area would have been tantamount to flooding the cottage downslope. Trenches amounting to the 5% sample advised by ELCAS were therefore excavated, covering as much of the development area as was judged possible given the time and conditions on the ground.

## 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)* to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as, excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered. After excavation, trenches were backfilled and

## 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The archaeological works completed between 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October 2012. The evaluation trenching was undertaken using a tracked 360 excavator fitted with a 2.0m wide toothless ditching bucket. The 5% evaluation required the excavation of trenching totalling 1244m<sup>2</sup>. Excavation took place in cloudy conditions, with mist and fine rain falling on the morning, but clearing towards the beginning of the afternoon. Good archaeological visibility was maintained throughout. Trenches were recorded using digital photography and hand measurement and subsequently backfilled and tracked-over by the machine.
- 3.2 The heavy tree coverage and presence of a flooded bog area (Figure 2) meant large parts of the site were unavailable for evaluation. The trenching was altered in the field accordingly.





**Plate 1 - Trench 4 Post-Ex**

## **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 The entire site was covered in a thin layer of topsoil, comprising an orange brown silt, overlying natural bands of clayey sands and gravels. In the western part of the site, bedrock was exposed as little as 0.20 m below the existing ground surface.
- 4.3 Human activity was represented by a small number of rubble and terracotta field drains crossing the gradient of the slope.
- 4.4 Neither archaeological features nor unstratified artefacts were found in any of the trenches.



**Plate 2 - Trench 8 Post-Ex**

## **5 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 No significant archaeological finds or features were encountered, despite the proximity of archaeological sites, and the general trend of prehistoric human activity in the landscape around the development area.

5.2 The significant balance of probability is that area is now archaeologically sterile.

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by ELCAS on behalf of Midlothian Council.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cook M (2012) *Land at South Mayfield, Dalkeith, Archaeological Evaluation: Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished Client Report.

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**Land at South Mayfield, Dalkeith, Midlothian**  
**Archaeological Evaluation:**  
**Evaluation Data Structure Report**

**Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

### Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	101m by 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	202 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	NW/SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.4m at NW; 0.45m at SE
<i>Depth of Alluvium</i>	0.0m at NW; 0.35m at SE
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.5 m at NW; 0.80 m at SE
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Clayey Sand and gravels
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	43m by 2m
<i>Total Area</i>	86 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	N/S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.45 m at N; 0.5m at S
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.45 m at N; 0.4m at S
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Clayey Sand and gravels
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	52m by 2m
<i>Total Area</i>	104 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.4m at E; 0.5m at W
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4m at E; 0.5m at W
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Clayey Sand and gravels
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	80m by 2m
<i>Total Area</i>	160 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.4m at SE; 0.44m at NW
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4m at SE; 0.44m at NW
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Clayey Sand and gravels
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	76m by 2m
<i>Total Area</i>	152 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.4m at SE; 0.45m at NW
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4m at SE; 0.50m at NW

<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Clayey Sand and gravels
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 6**

<i>Dimensions</i>	74m by 2m
<i>Total Area</i>	148 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.4m at SE; 0.55m at NW
<i>Depth of Alluvium</i>	0.0 at SE; 0.25 at NW
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4m at SE; 0.80 m at NW
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Clayey Sand and gravels
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 7**

<i>Dimensions</i>	102m by 2m
<i>Total Area</i>	204 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.45m at S; 0.55m at N
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.45m at S; 0.55m at N
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Clayey Sand and gravels – Bedrock outcropping (coal bearing sandstone from 40-60m)
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 8**

<i>Dimensions</i>	104m by 2m
<i>Total Area</i>	208 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.40m at N; 0.50m at S
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40m at N; 0.57m at S
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Clayey Sand and gravels – Bedrock outcropping (coal bearing sandstone from 66-90m)
<i>Finds</i>	None

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

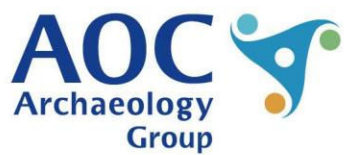
Digital Film 1

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1	1	Trench 1 Post-Ex	NW
2	2	Trench 2 Post-Ex	N
3	3	Trench 3 Post-Ex	NE
4	4	Trench 4 Post-Ex	SE
5	5	Trench 5 Post Ex	SE
6	5	Rubble drain, Trench 5	SE
7	6	Trench 6 Post ex	SE
8	7	Trench 7 Post -Ex	N
9	8	Trench 8 Post-Ex	S
10	7	Trench 7 Post-Ex	S

**APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report**

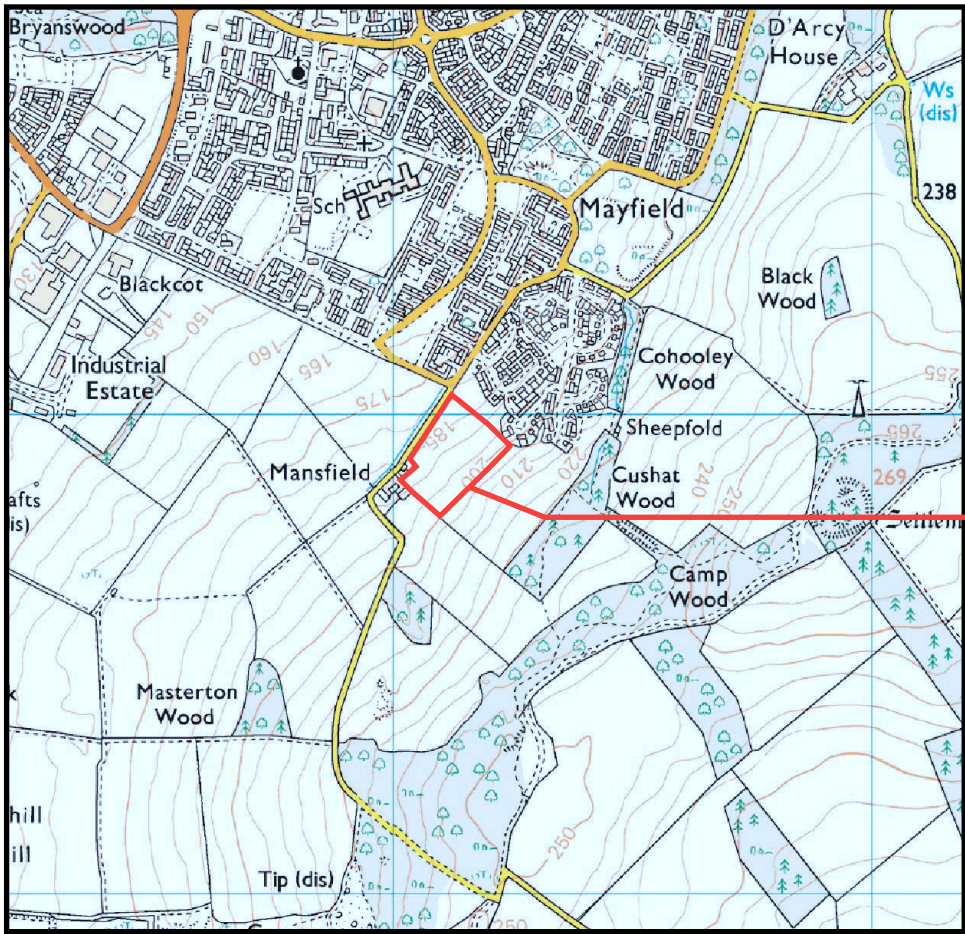
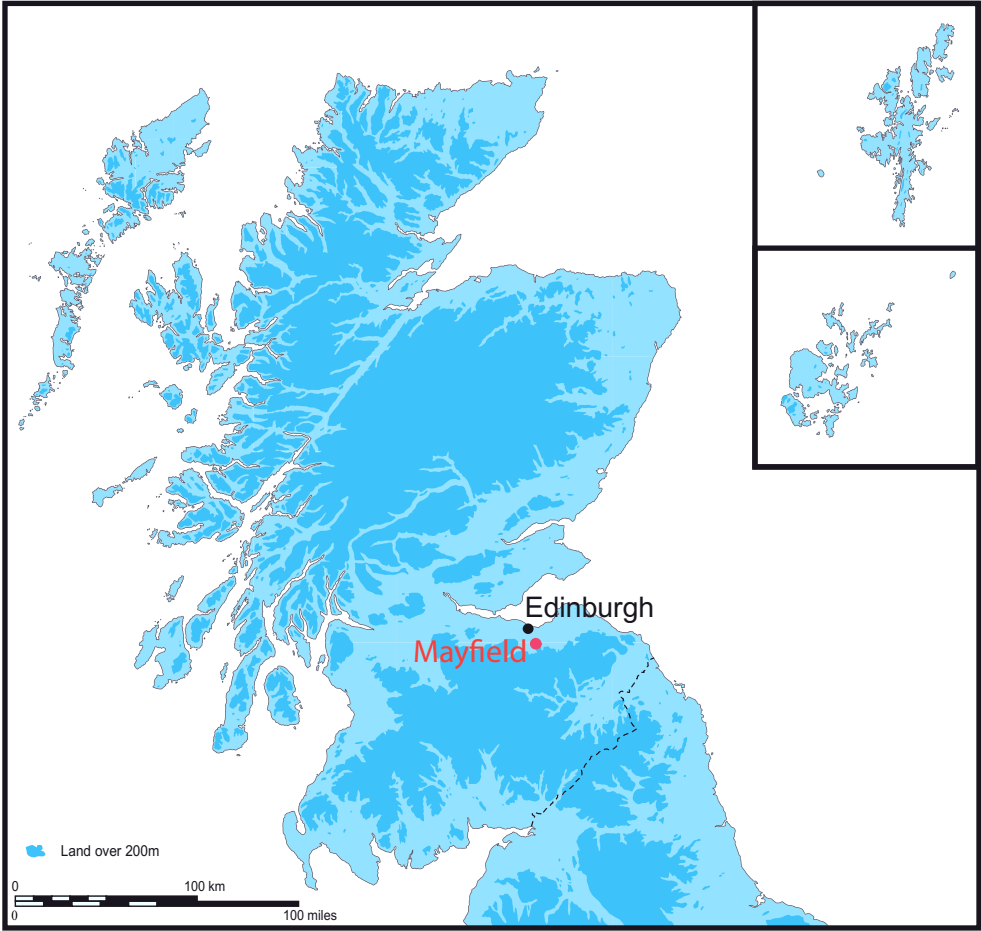
<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Midlothian Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Land at South Mayfield, Dalkeith, Midlothian Archaeological Evaluation
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	22265
<b>PARISH:</b>	Mayfield
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Streatfeild-James, Jake
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 352 639
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	24/10/2012
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	24/10/2012
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was required on land south of Mayfield, Dalkeith, East Lothian, on behalf of Persimmon Homes Ltd. The total area sampled amounted to 1244 m2. No significant archaeological features or material were encountered.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Persimmon Homes
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	admin@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	NMRS





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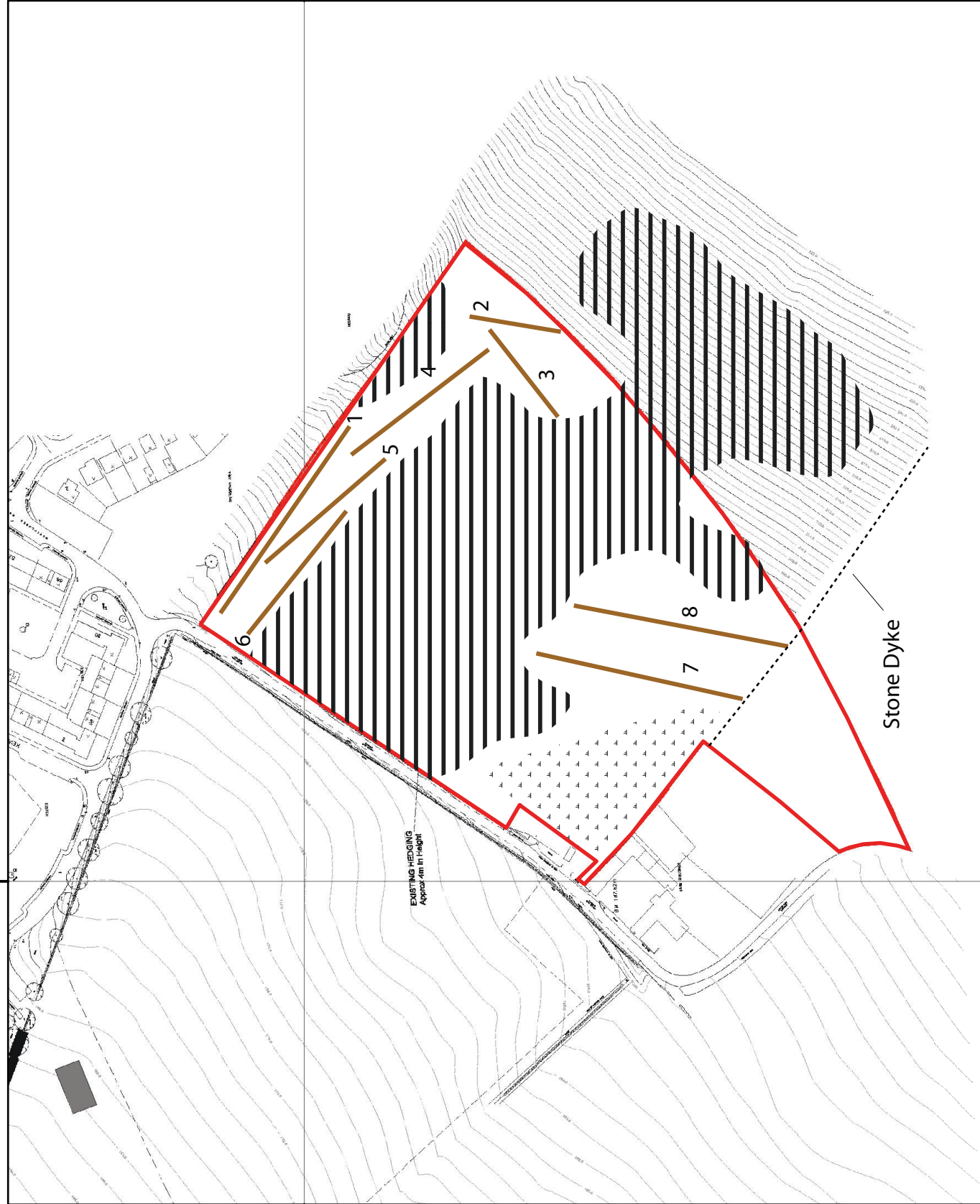


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Figure 1: Location of the site at Mayfield, Dalkeith



335000 0000







664000 0000

664000 0000

**Figure 1: Proposed evaluation trench layout, Mayfield, Dalkeith**

**Legend**

-  Evaluation Trench
-  Site Boundary
-  Wooded Area
-  Waterlogged Ground



Cartographic data derived from O.S. Open Data, Crown Copyright.

<b>Project No.:</b>	22265
<b>Date:</b>	25.10.2012
<b>Scale at A4:</b>	1:2,500



(c) AOC Archaeology 2010

Stone Dyke

335000 0000