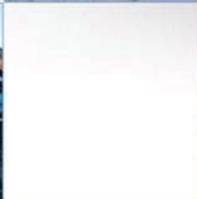


# Rachan Woods House, Rachan, Broughton Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

OASIS No. aocarcha1-149272

1<sup>st</sup> May 2013



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

# Rachan Woods House, Rachan, Broughton Archaeological Evaluation

## Data Structure Report

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**On Behalf of:** **D&H Farmer Chartered Architects,**  
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**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NT 0124 342

**Planning Ref No.** 10/01419/FUL

**AOC Project No:** 22396

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**Date of Fieldwork:** 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013

**Date of Report:** 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013

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

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**Date:** 01/05/2013

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**Date:** 01/05/2013

**Draft Report Stage:**

**Date:** 01/05/2013

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## Abstract

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AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by D&H Farmer Chartered Architects, acting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a proposed development site at Rachan Woods, Rachan, Broughton, Scottish Borders. Rachan Woods covers an area some 8.0 ha and within this established woodland there was a clearing in which a single house was to be built covering an area c.2500 m<sup>2</sup> (Planning Reference No. 10/01419/FUL). A 10% evaluation was undertaken across the house footprint with a total of 5 trenches covering 250 m<sup>2</sup> opened. The evaluation trenching did not uncover any significant archaeological features. A simple stratigraphic sequence of thin topsoil over gravel rich subsoils was noted. The northeastern edge of the clearing had been artificially built up to create a larger level area. At some time distant the clearing had been partially stripped of topsoil which was banded along the eastern side of the clearing. In summary, no significant archaeological finds or features were encountered during the evaluation.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by D&H Farmer Chartered Architects, acting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a proposed development site at Rachan Woods, Rachan, Broughton, Scottish Borders (Fig.1). The total development area measured some 8.0 ha, of which only c.2500 m<sup>2</sup> was to be impacted upon by the development proposal and as such requiring archaeological evaluation (Planning Ref. No. 10/01419/FUL).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development lies within the administrative area of Scottish Borders Council which is advised on archaeological matters by Dr. Chris Bowles, Archaeology Officer, Scottish Borders Council. Dr. Bowles requested a 10% evaluation of the main area of development impact be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). The advice is in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy (2010)* and *PAN 2/2011 Planning And Archaeology (2011)*.
- 1.1.3 The objective of the archaeological works was to determine the existence of any buried archaeological remains within the investigated area by means of a programme of trial trenching. A Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC, 2013) outlining the programme of archaeological works was agreed with Dr. Bowles on behalf of Scottish Borders Council in advance of the evaluation being undertaken.

### 1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area covers an area of woodland, Rachan Wood, which measures approximately 8.0 ha. The woodland lies to the immediate north of the B712 a few miles south of the village of Broughton, Scottish Borders. The development area is centred on NGR NT 124 342. Farmland surrounds the development site to the north and west with existing housing along the eastern edge of the site.

### 1.3 Site & Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The development comprises a residential development of a single detached property with associated driveway and landscaping. The house has been positioned to take advantage of a natural clearing within the woods and along with some careful tree clearance an area some 0.5 ha in size.
- 1.3.2 The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland does not list any known archaeological sites as lying within the development boundaries. To the immediate east is Rachan House and walled garden (NMRS No. NT13SW.55). They are depicted upon the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey maps.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works 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.

### 3 METHOD

3.1 To adequately evaluate the development site it was proposed to undertake a 10% sample archaeological evaluation of the building footprint and access track. The building footprint and access track comprise a total area of c.2500 m<sup>2</sup> which equated to a minimum evaluation sample of 250 m<sup>2</sup> (total basal trench dimensions). This equated to 125 linear metres excavated with a standard 2.0 m ditching bucket. Trenches were 2.0 m wide and a maximum of 25 m long.



Plate 1 - Trench 1 Post-excitation showing topsoil bund to east

- 3.2 In total five trenches were excavated which totalled 250 m<sup>2</sup> which equates to a 10% sample of the investigated area. The trench positioned over the proposed access track was moved and placed over the house footprint as it was found that on site the track was an existing trackway. The track shown on the proposed development drawings was in fact utilising an existing older track and would only be built up further with no actual excavations required.
- 3.3 All trenches were excavated with a JCB 3CX excavator using a ditching bucket measuring 2.0 m. 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 and as detailed within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2013).



Plate 2 - Trench 3 Post-excavation

## 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 works were conducted on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013. The weather conditions during the evaluation were warm with occasional showers. Overall archaeological visibility was good. In total five trenches were opened totalling 250 m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 2).
- 4.3 On arrival it was evident that the site had been partially stripped with subsoil visible in patches and a large bund of predominantly topsoil lying along the eastern edge of the house plot (See Plate 1). Where the original topsoil profile survived it appeared as a dark coloured sandy organic rich topsoil lying over a subsoils consisting of arrange/brown coloured sands and gravels. The topsoil varied in depth from 0.05 m to 0.25 m in depth.
- 4.4 The northern end of Trenches 1 and 5 showed the presence of dumped material including lots of organic material which had been deposited to increase the flat area of ground. The natural ground surface sees the ground fall away to the north. The track bordering the northern edge of the site and the fields beyond are some 3-4 m lower in height than the clearing within the woods.





Plate 3 – General view across the site from the East

- 4.5 No archaeological features were identified during the evaluation with the area examined proving to be archaeologically sterile. It is also of note that careful examination of the topsoil spoil as it was excavated did not yield any unstratified finds of significance, with only very sporadic modern, 19<sup>th</sup> /20<sup>th</sup> century white glazed ceramics noted. The lack of any archaeologically significant unstratified finds was suggestive that little activity, other than agriculture, had occurred in this area.

## 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The evaluation has not uncovered any significant *in situ* archaeological deposits or features. The evaluation revealed that the flat woodland clearing had suffered previous disturbance. This was clearly visible due to the presence of a large topsoil bund. This was grassed over and had clearly occurred sometime earlier. The evaluation trenches showed that the topsoil had been stripped across much of the site and it was presumably this material which formed the bund. Trench 1 and Trench 5 also revealed that the northern edge of the flat clearing had been artificially created and the flat area increased through the dumping of mixed material including lots of vegetation, gravel and topsoil.
- 5.2 The absence of any unstratified finds of archaeological significance suggests that the site has not been previously settled. Also, it is suggested that any plough truncation occurring over the site has not led to the disturbance and complete removal of any significant archaeological features. The balance of probability is that the development area is archaeologically sterile and the evaluation is concluded to have established an absence of archaeological remains. No further works are considered necessary, although this will have to be confirmed by Dr. Chris Bowles of the Scottish Borders Council.

## 6 REFERENCES

AOC 2013 *Rachan Wood, Broughton Written Scheme of Investigation*, unpublished client report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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

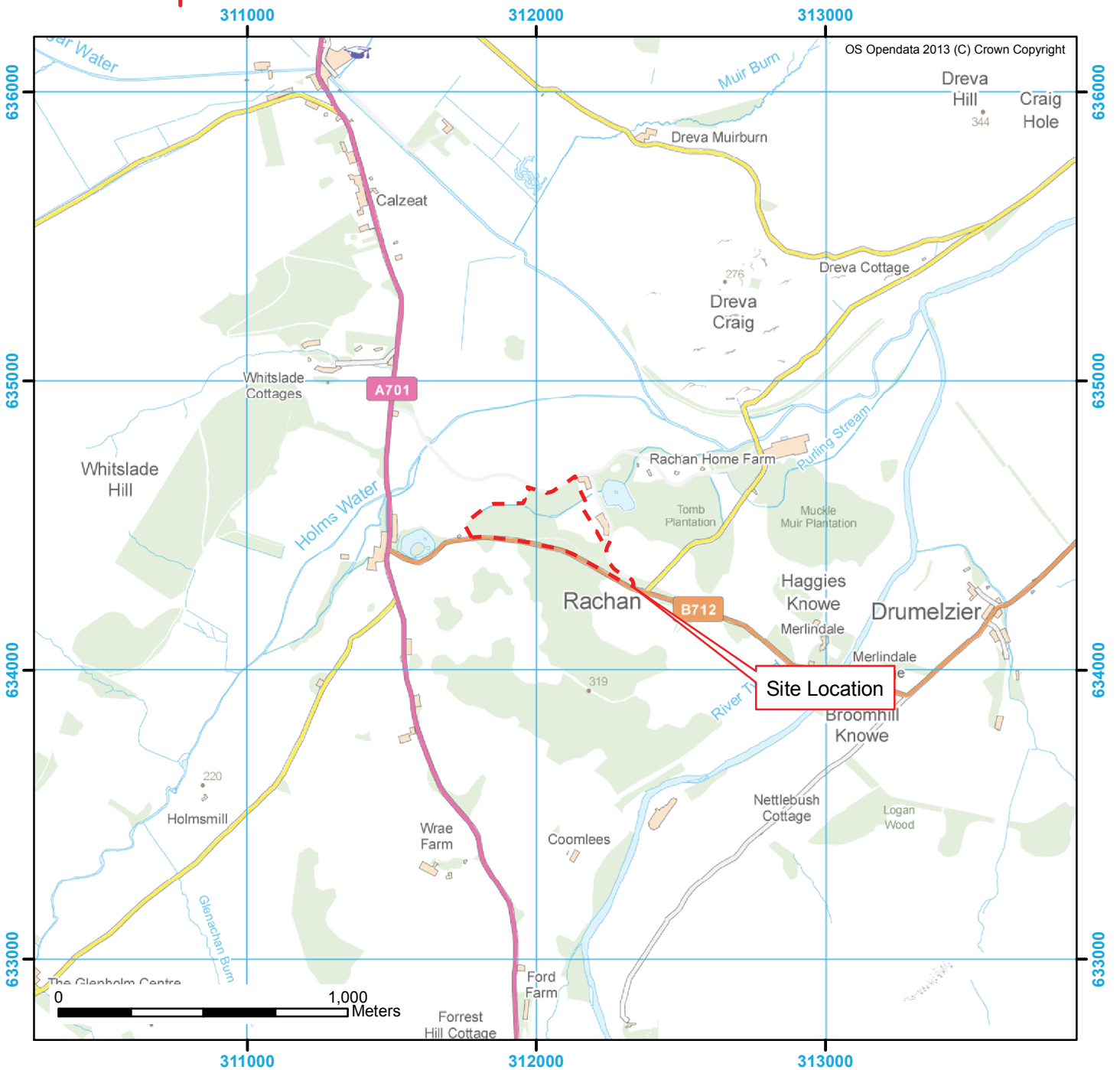
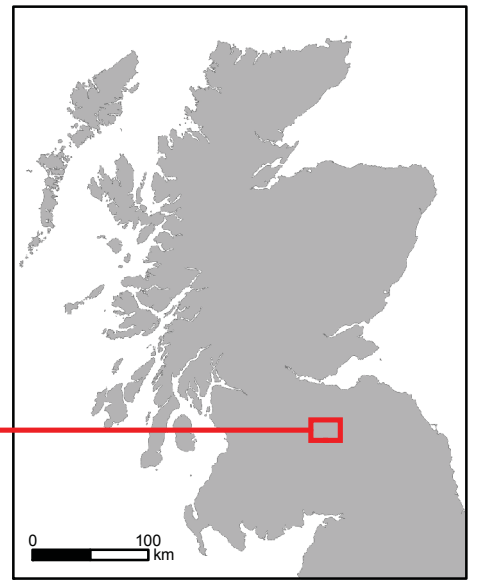
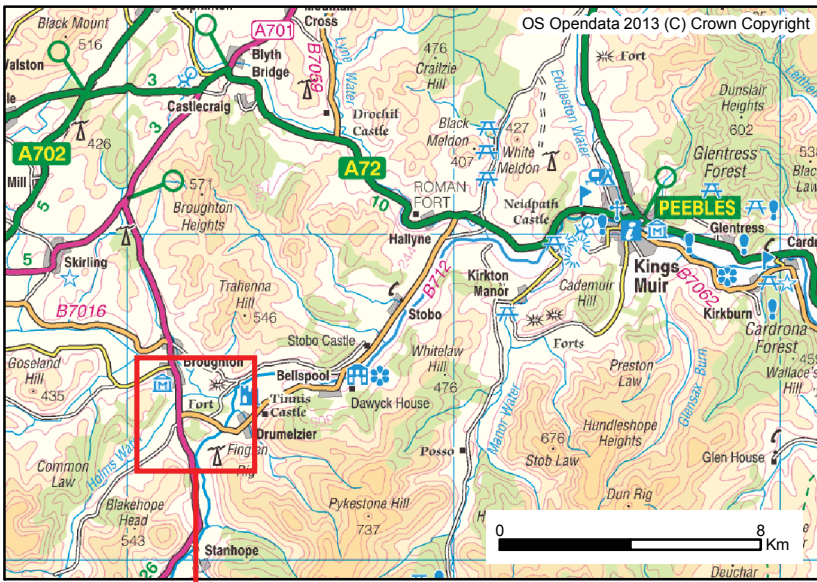
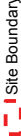
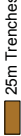
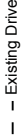
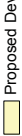



Figure 1: Site Location Plan

Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

- Legend**
-  Site Boundary
  -  25m Trenches
  -  Existing Driveway
  -  Proposed Development
  -  Existing Woodland

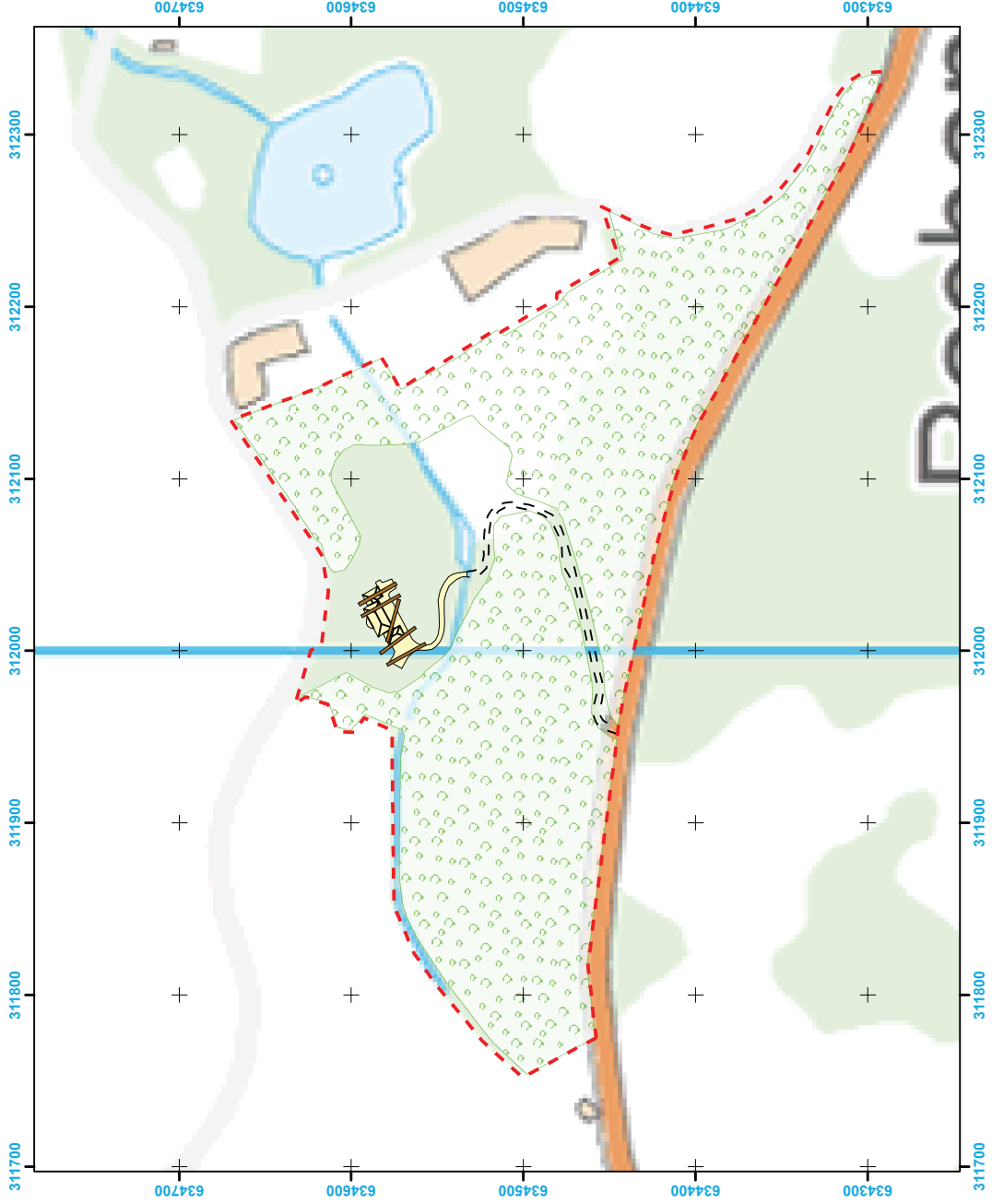


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<b>Date:</b>	18/04/13
<b>Scale at A4:</b>	1:3,000



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# **Results of Rachan Woods, Rachan, Broughton Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

### Trench 1

Dimensions	25 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.05 m to 0.10 m
Features	The first 6.0 m of trench from north end show presence of dumped organic rich material to build up ground level. Much of the topsoil stripped from trench.
Subsoil	Orange/brown sandy gravels
Finds	None

### Trench 2

Dimensions	25 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.05 m to 0.25m
Features	Topsoil partially stripped
Subsoil	Orange/brown sandy gravels
Finds	None

### Trench 3

Dimensions	25 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.10 m to 0.25 m
Features	Topsoil partially stripped
Subsoil	Orange/brown sandy gravels
Finds	None

### Trench 4

Dimensions	25 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.12 m to 0.25 m
Features	Topsoil partially stripped
Subsoil	Orange/brown sandy gravels
Finds	None

### Trench 5

Dimensions	25 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.08 m to 0.25 m
Features	Topsoil partially stripped
Subsoil	Orange/brown sandy gravels
Finds	None

## APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

### Digital Film

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1-2	Tr.1	Post-Excavation views of Trench 1 showing bund to East	SW
3	Tr.1	Post-excavation view of Trench 1 showing made ground at North end	SW
4	Tr.2	Trench 2 under excavation viewed from the North	N
5	Tr.2	Trench 2 under excavation viewed from the Northwest showing bund	NW
6-7	Tr.3	Post-Excavation view of Trench 3 from the Northwest showing bund	NW
8-9	Tr.4	Trench under excavation viewed from the North	N
10-11	Tr.4	General view of site from West during excavation of Trench 4	W
12-14	Tr.1 to Tr.4	General view of Trench 1 to 4 from atop the bund	E
15-16	Tr.4	Post-Excavation views of Trench 4 from South	S
17	Tr.5	Trench 5 under excavation viewed from the North	N
18-19	Tr.5	Post-Excavation views of Trench 5 from South	S

**APPENDIX 3: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Scottish Borders Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Rachan Wood, Rachan Evaluation
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 22396
<b>PARISH:</b>	Broughton, Glenholm and Kilbucho
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Lindsay Dunbar
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological 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 120 345
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2013
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2013
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by D&H Farmer Chartered Architects, acting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a proposed development site at Rachan Woods, Rachan, Broughton, Scottish Borders. Rachan Woods covers an area some 8.0 ha and within this established woodland there was a clearing in which a single house was to be built covering an area c.2500 m <sup>2</sup> (Planning Reference No. 10/01419/FUL). A 10% evaluation was undertaken across the house footprint with a total of 5 trenches covering 250 m <sup>2</sup> opened. The evaluation trenching did not uncover any significant archaeological features. A simple stratigraphic sequence of thin topsoil over gravel rich subsoils was noted. The northeastern edge of the clearing had been artificially built up to create a larger level area. At some time distant the clearing had been partially stripped of topsoil which was banded along the eastern side of the clearing. In summary, no significant archaeological finds or features were encountered during the evaluation.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	n/a
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	CgMs Ltd on behalf of Walker Group Ltd.
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group; Edgefield Road Industrial Estate; Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	Lindsay.dunbar@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS





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