

AOC Project: 22548



Dovesdale Farm, Stonehouse, South Lanarkshire; Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Wm Hamilton & Sons Limited Dovesdale Farm Carlisle Road Stonehouse ML9 3PR
National Grid Reference	(NGR): NS 77577 46251
Planning Ref No.	Hm/10/0345
AOC Project No:	22548
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Date of Fieldwork:	4 th - 6 th November 2013
Date of Report:	12 th November 2013

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

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Date: 7th November 2013

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Date: 12th November 2013

Draft Report Stage: Final

Date: 12th November 2013

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Summary

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Wm Hamilton & Sons Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a proposed development site at Dovesdale Farm, Stonehouse, South Lanarkshire. An 8% (6,800m²) archaeological evaluation of this area amounting to 3,400 linear metres was required by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) and - whilst not a condition of the planning permission - Wm Hamilton & Sons agreed to undertake this work. However, the presence of a high pressure gas main running across the east end of the site reduced the available investigation area to 3,510m². A curtailed 8% evaluation consisting of 20 trenches covering a total of 1,920 linear metres was therefore undertaken.

The evaluation trenching did not uncover any archaeological features. A simple stratigraphic sequence of thin topsoil over clay natural sub-soils was noted. Areas of poor drainage and the presence of numerous field drains suggest that, historically, the ground has been relatively poorly drained.

No further archaeological investigations are required on this site prior to development.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Wm Hamilton Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a site at Dovesdale Farm, Stonehouse in South Lanarkshire (Planning Ref: Hm/10/0345). The total area of development is 52,000m², and had been granted planning consent. The proposed development lies within the administrative area of South Lanarkshire Council which is advised on archaeological matters by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). WoSAS had advised that a programme of archaeological works be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) agreed with them on behalf of the South Lanarkshire Council. WoSAS stated that the work should comprise an evaluation by trial trenching of an 8% sample of the application area. The advice is in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011).

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The investigated area is a greenfield site of open pasture to the south of the town of Stonehouse, South Lanarkshire and is centred on NGR: NS 77577 46251 (Figure 1). The area is bounded to the east by the B7078. The investigated area occupies two agricultural fields separated by post and wire fencing. External boundaries were formed by a combination of hedges and post and wire fences. The topography is gently sloping from east to west and ranges from 180m to 175m OD.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 There are no known sites of archaeological or historical interest recorded in the National Monuments Record for Scotland within or around the development area. Dovesdale Farm, to the west of the development, is now the location of a landfill site, although the original buildings appeared on the First Edition 1860s Ordnance Survey map. It also sat adjacent to the Overwood Mineral Branch Mineral line, now removed.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- i) to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains that could be subject to disturbance during development;
 - ii) if present to determine the nature, extent and significance of any remains in order to inform an appropriate mitigation strategy (likely to be preservation by record, ie, excavation, analysis and dissemination of results).

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 To provide suitable coverage across the area of investigation, the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2013) proposed the excavation of trenches equating to an 8% (6,800m²) sample of the total development area (52,000m²). However, the presence of a high pressure gas main running through the eastern part of the site necessitated a reduction in the area available for evaluation to 30,000m² and therefore a subsequent reduction in trenching to 3,000m², or 1500 linear metres.
- 3.2 In total 20 trenches were excavated which totalled 1,920m² which equates to a little over an 8% sample of the investigated area. Whilst there were few impediments to trenching across the site as a whole, the fields had relatively poor drainage.

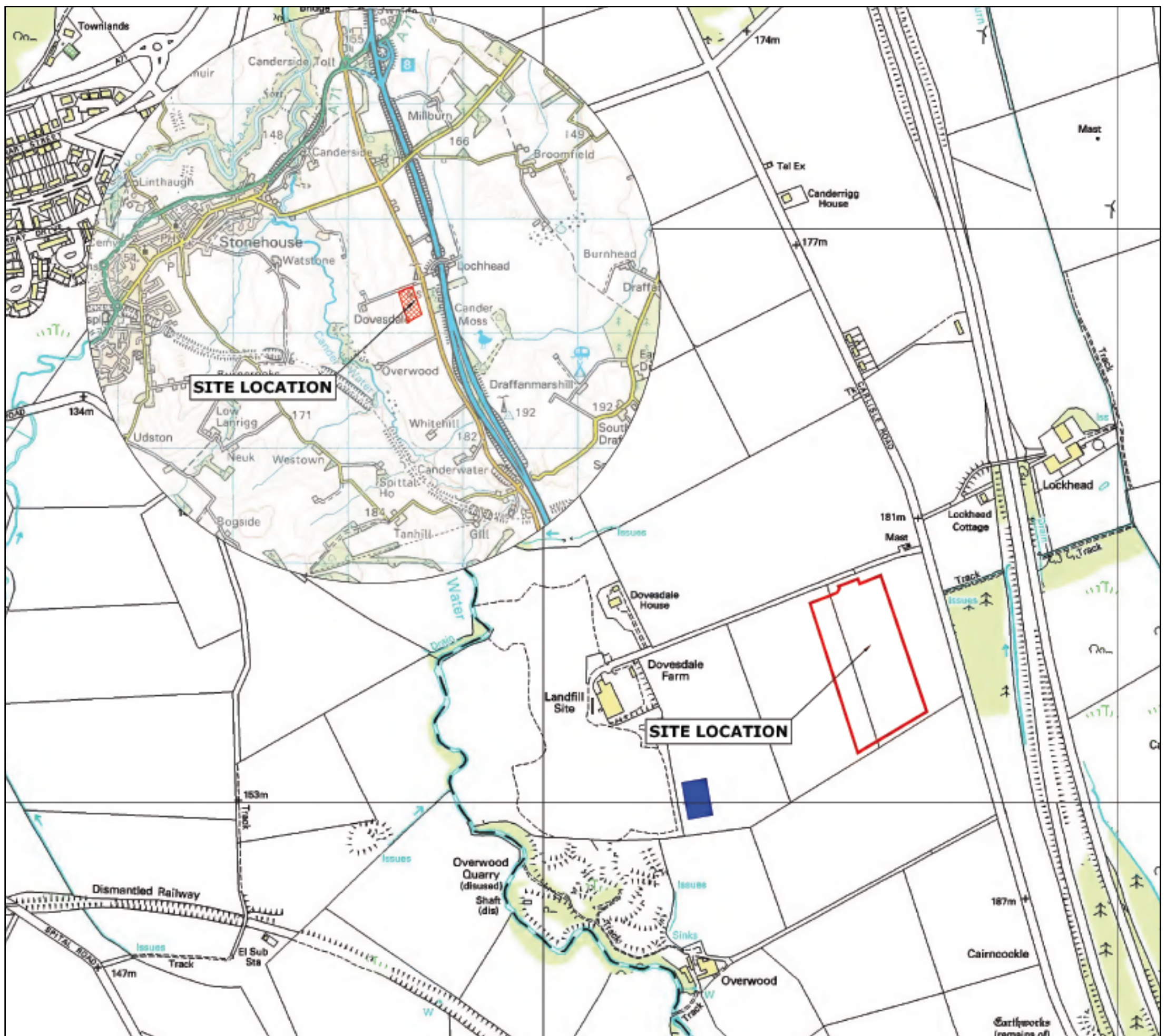


Figure 1: Site location (provided by client)

- 3.3 All trenches were excavated with a 20 tonne tracked excavator using a ditching bucket measuring 2.2m. 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).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The various data gathered from the evaluation is presented as a series of appendices, and a site plan showing the position of each trench can be found in Figure 2:
- 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 between 4th - 6th November 2013. The weather conditions during the evaluation were cold with rain showers. Figure 2 presents the location of the trenches.
- 4.3 The site was covered by clay rich agricultural topsoil varying in depth from 0.20 – 0.35m in depth, and the topsoil was generally shallower on the higher ground to the east. Extensive plough scarring was visible across most of the trenches (Plate 1). The geological subsoil was predominantly pale brown boulder clay with patches of pinker material and occasional boulders.



Plate 1: Trench 10, general post-excavation shot

- 4.4 The site was found to contain numerous clay tile drains running downslope east to west. The nature of the underlying subsoil meant the ground across much of the site, and especially the lower lying western area would be susceptible to saturation and during the evaluation, there were pockets and puddles of standing water across the site.

- 4.5 No archaeological features were identified during the evaluation with the area examined proving to be archaeologically sterile. Numerous unstratified finds of late 18th – 20th century white glazed ceramics were observed within the top-soil suggesting that the area had been a former improved plough-soil

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The evaluation did not uncover any significant *in situ* archaeological deposits or features.
- 5.2 Numerous unstratified white ceramics of late 18th – 20th century date suggest that the area was a former plough soil before being put under pasture. This is reinforced by the presence of plough scars within the sub-soil.
- 5.3 The generally thin topsoil over firm and poorly draining, glacial till appears to have limited any prehistoric and later activity on the site. 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.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The evaluation has established an absence of archaeological remains within the investigated area. Therefore, it is recommended that no further archaeological works are undertaken in connection with the planning application associated with the area. This will have to be confirmed by West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

7 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2013 *Dovesdale, Stonehouse; Written Scheme of Investigation*. AOC Archaeology client method statement

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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

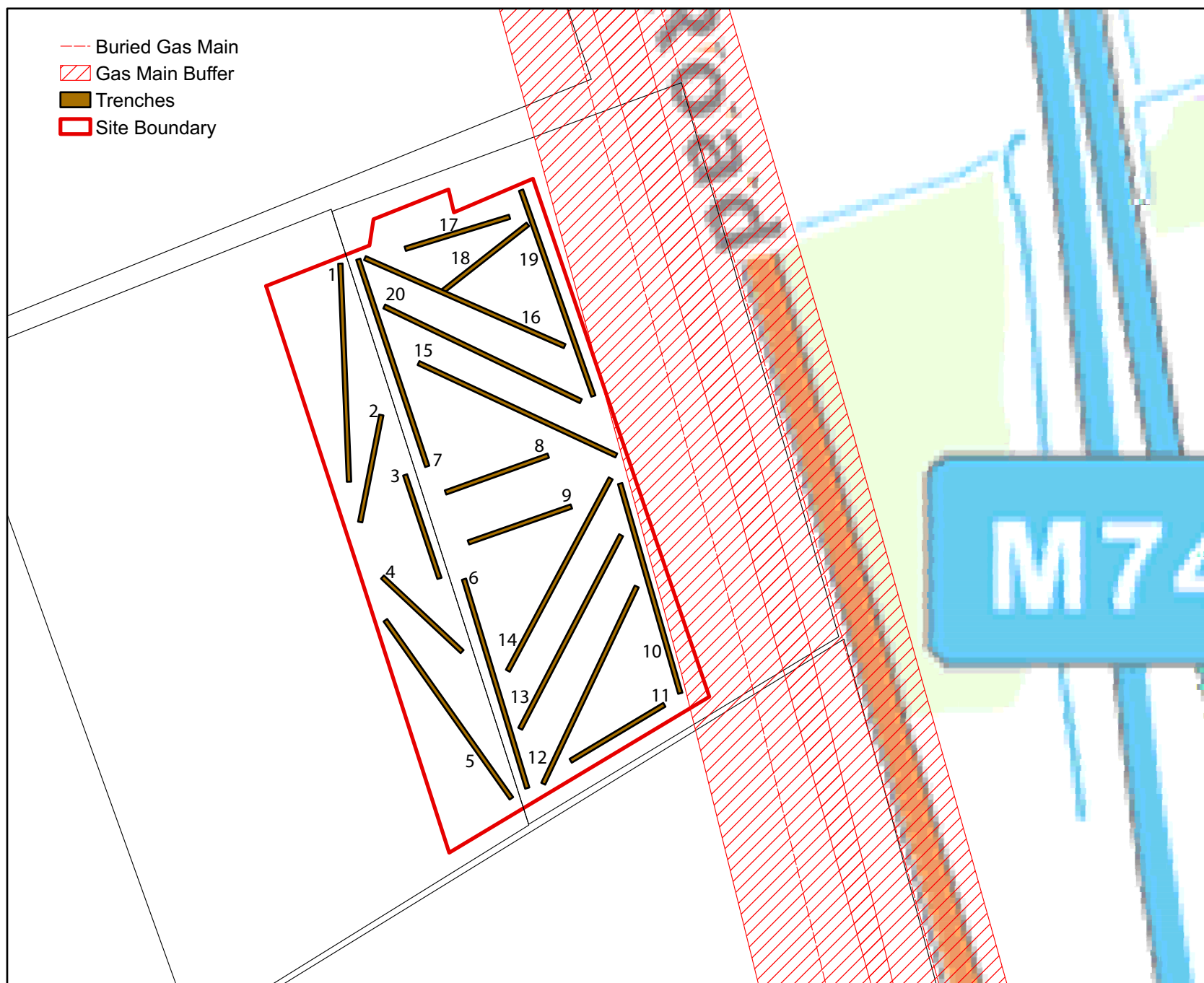


Figure 2: Site plan showing position of trenches

Dovesdale Farm, Stonehouse, South Lanarkshire; Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 2

Dimensions	50m by 2.2m
Orientation	NNE/SSW
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 3

Dimensions	50m by 2.2m
Orientation	NNW/SSE
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 4

Dimensions	50m by 2.2m
Orientation	NW/SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 5

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NW/SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 6

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NNW/SSE
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 7

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NNW/SSE
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 8

Dimensions	50m by 2.2m
Orientation	W/E
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 0.0m E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay with occasional boulder
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 9

Dimensions	50m by 2.2m
Orientation	W/E
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 10

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NNW-SSE
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.35m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay with occasional boulders
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 11

Dimensions	50m by 2.2m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay with occasional boulders
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 12

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay with occasional boulders
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 13

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay with occasional boulders
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 14

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay with occasional boulders
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 15

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	SE-NW
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay with occasional boulders
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 16

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	SE-NW
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay with occasional boulders
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 17

Dimensions	50m by 2.2m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay with occasional boulders
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 18

Dimensions	50m by 2.2m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay with occasional boulders
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 19

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NNW-SSE
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay with occasional boulders
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

Trench 20

Dimensions	100m by 2.2m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.20m to 0.30m
Features	None
Drains	Clay drains at 5.0m intervals E/W
Subsoil	Pale brown/yellow clay with occasional boulders
Finds	White ceramics in top-soil

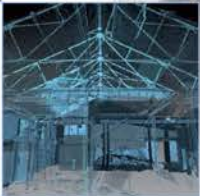
APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Black & White Print Film 1 & Digital

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1	-	Registration Shot	-
2	Tr.1	Post-excavation view of Trench 1	N
3	Tr.2	Post-excavation view of Trench 2	NNE
4	Tr.3	Post-excavation view of Trench 3	N
5	Tr.4	Post-excavation view of Trench 4	E
6	Tr.5	Post-excavation view of Trench 5	SE
7	Tr.6	Post-excavation view of Trench 6	S
8	Tr.7	Post-excavation view of Trench 7	NE
9	Tr.8	Post-excavation view of Trench 8	W
10	Tr.9	Post-excavation view of Trench 9	S
11	Tr.10	Post-excavation view of Trench 10	W
12	Tr.11	Post-excavation view of Trench 11	SW
13	Tr.12	Post-excavation view of Trench 12	SW
14	Tr.13	Post-excavation view of Trench 13	SW
15	Tr.14	Post-excavation view of Trench 14	NW
16	Tr.16	Post-excavation view of Trench 16	N
17	Tr.17	Post-excavation view of Trench 17	W
18	Tr.18	Post-excavation view of Trench 18	SW
19	Tr.19	Post-excavation view of Trench 19	N
20	Tr.15	Post-excavation view of Trench 15	NW
21	Tr.20	Post-excavation view of Trench 20	NW

APPENDIX 3: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Dovesdale, Stonehouse, South Lanarkshire
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22548
PARISH:	Stonehouse, South Lanarkshire
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 77577 46251
START DATE (this season)	4 th November 2013
END DATE (this season)	6 th November 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Wm Hamilton & Sons Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a proposed development site at Dovesdale Farm, Stonehouse, South Lanarkshire. An 8% (6,800m²) archaeological evaluation of this area amounting to 3,400 linear metres was required by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) as a condition of planning consent on the development. However, the presence of a high pressure gas main running across the east end of the site reduced the available investigation area to 3,510m². A curtailed 8% evaluation consisting of 20 trenches covering a total of 1,920 linear metres was therefore undertaken.</p> <p>The evaluation trenching did not uncover any archaeological features. A simple stratigraphic sequence of thin topsoil over clay natural sub-soils was noted. Areas of poor drainage and the presence of numerous field drains suggest that, historically, the ground has been relatively poorly drained.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Wm Hamilton Ltd
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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