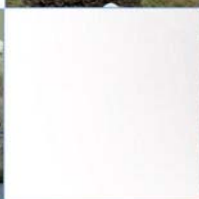
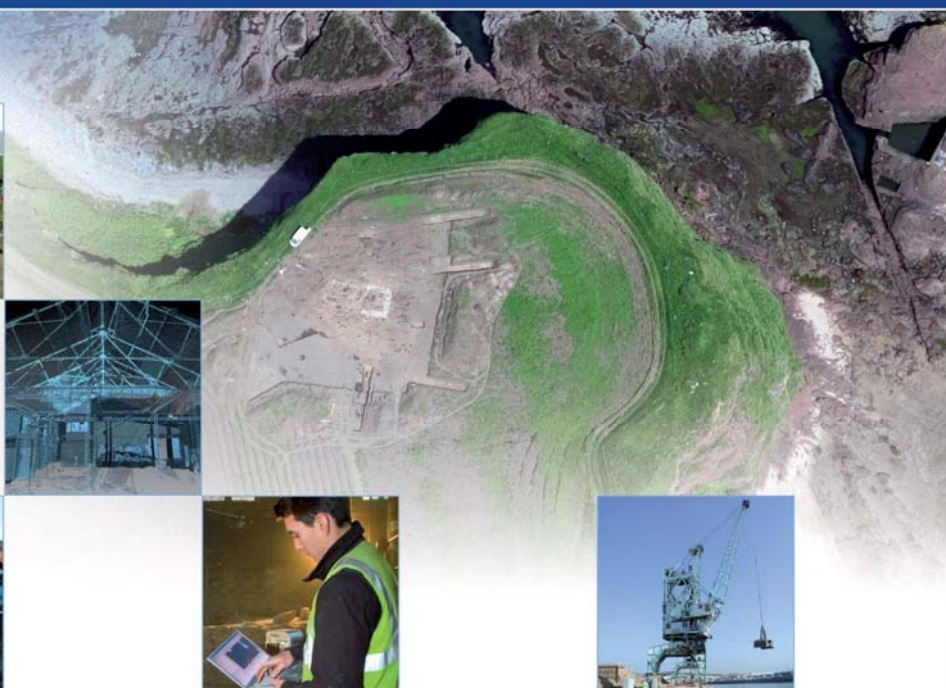


Brechin Business Park, Brechin, Angus: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Oasis No. 1-178996

AOC 22764

13th May 2014



Brechin Business Park, Brechin, Angus: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Angus Council
County Buildings
Market street
Forfar
Angus
DD8 3WR

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 5822 6050

OASIS No: 1-178996

AOC Project No: 22764

Prepared by: Rob Engl

Date of Fieldwork: 13th May 2014

Date of Report: 15th May 2014

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

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Summary

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Angus Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the proposed extension of the Brechin Business Park, Brechin, Angus (NGR: NO 5822 6050).

Works consisted of an archaeological evaluation of eleven trenches totalling 550 linear metres.

The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological remains. It was apparent that the area available for archaeological evaluation had been heavily truncated by modern activity. No further archaeological investigations are therefore recommended. This will require confirmation by, and be at the discretion of the Aberdeenshire County Archaeology Service (ACAS).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology was commissioned by Angus Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to a proposed extension to Brechin Business Park, Brechin, Angus (NGR: NO 5822 6050). The site lies within the administrative area of Angus Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeological Service (ACAS). The archaeological works were required in keeping with best practice requirements outlined in current planning guidelines *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) & *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

1.1.2 The evaluation showed that the area had undergone significant localised truncation and disturbance with apparent infilling and modern pit cuts. No significant archaeological finds or features were observed.

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The proposed development area covers an area of approximately 1.825 hectares of open farm land. The site is centred at NO 5822 6050 and lies to the southwest of the town of Brechin, Angus (see Figure 1). The site is bounded on the northern side by the A90 Dundee to Aberdeen dual carriageway. To the south lies the existing Brechin Business Park whilst to the east there is a bank of existing trees and Dubton Farmhouse. To the west there are further trees which back on the 'Pictavia' tourist attraction.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, RCAHM and the Aberdeenshire Council's Sites and Monuments Records for Angus both show that the development whilst free from any known archaeological remains actually lies within an area extremely rich in Neolithic activity and Iron Age settlement.

1.3.2 Ahead of the construction of the original Brechin Business Park, on land belonging to Dubton Farm, an evaluation and subsequent excavation in 1998 and 1999 respectively uncovered a wealth of prehistoric features (NMRS No. NO56SE 83, SMR No. NO56SE0047). The site is described in the SMR as,

"Cropmarks of possible ring-ditches and souterrains, were recorded by the RCAHMS during aerial reconnaissance in 1982. In 1998 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Headland Archaeology. Larger scale excavations followed in 1999 by CFA. Excavation revealed well preserved features dating to the Neolithic, in two phases, and Iron age, and included pits, hearths a possible occupation layer and souterrains. Over 200 vessels of pottery were recovered from different features and this, along with flint artefacts provides an early Neolithic date for many features. Some later, possibly Iron age pottery was also recovered. The botanical evidence recovered from the site also suggests multi phased activity. With the recovery of Emmer wheat, (which was not cultivated after

the Neolithic) consistently associated with features that produced Neolithic pottery. This is the largest assemblage of Neolithic plants and seeds counted. Oats, cultivated in the late Iron age, were retrieved from the souterrain.”

- 1.3.3 Although Land to the east of Dubton Farm, was investigated in 2010 and revealed further prehistoric settlement remains (NMRS No. NO56SE 303, SMR No. NO56SE0108). The SMR describes the site as,
“A trial trenching evaluation was undertaken at this site in November 2010 by CFA in advance of a proposed residential development. In total, 95 trenches were excavated, equivalent to 7% of the total site area. A scatter of generally shallow pits and linear features was recorded. Rig and Furrow cultivation furrows were also recorded across parts of the site, generally aligned NW-SE. Two suites of archaeological remains were exposed and tested. The first of these comprised the remains of a post-built roundhouse with a diameter of 6m. The second suite of features comprises the remains of a souterrain with associated post-built roundhouse. The souterrain, a curved underground passage, appears to follow the curve of an arc of pits along its inner edge, which is likely to be the remains of a timber built roundhouse with which the souterrain was associated.”
- 1.3.4 A little further to the south of the current development area further evidence for the rich archaeological landscape is evident from more cropmark sites of possible prehistoric settlement with a souterrain (NMRS No. NO55NE 69) and a ring-ditch roundhouse (NMRS No. NO56SE 77) identified.
- 1.3.5 The presence of such a nationally important site as Dubton Farm within metres of the proposed development area means that there was a strong possibility that archaeological features associated with this settlement may have extended into the development area.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objective of the archaeological works were to
- i) assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area through evaluation trenching;
 - ii) To advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation (Phase 2), post-excavation analyses and publication (Phase 3), given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC Archaeology 2014) was agreed with ACAS which proposed the excavation of trenches equating to a 5% sample of the development area. The site covered approximately ca. 1.825 ha resulting in evaluation trenching with a total basal area of ca. 450 linear metres. However, the area was extended to the east by a further 100 m. Therefore an extra 100 linear metres were excavated. Due to the presence of live services the south western corner of the site was unavailable for evaluation. A trenching total of 550 linear metres was achieved.
- 3.2 All trenches were excavated with a tracked 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 the overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits. The trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2014).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The entire evaluation area was covered with a mixture of grass and scrub bush. Drainage was very poor especially along the southern boundary of the site. A sandy topsoil of well sorted, medium brown, clay loam 0.20 m to 0.70 m thick covered the site. This in-turn directly overlay a natural subsoil of orange sands and gravels with occasional small boulders and stone drags. The site has obviously undergone considerable disturbance in the form of levelling and ground build up especially along the northern perimeter. No significant archaeology was observed.



Plate 1: Trench 4 showing in-filling re-deposited topsoil



Plate 2: Trench 10 post-excavation from south-east

5 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological remains. Given the nature of the existing topography it is probable that no *in situ* deposits remain within the proposed area. No further archaeological investigations are therefore recommended. This will require confirmation by, and be at the discretion of ACAS.

6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2014. Brechin Business Park, Brechin, Angus, Written Scheme of Investigation: Unpublished client Report.

Scottish Planning Policy SPP23. Archaeology and Planning. Scottish Government Nov.2008.

Scottish Government 2011 Planning and Archaeology 2/2011

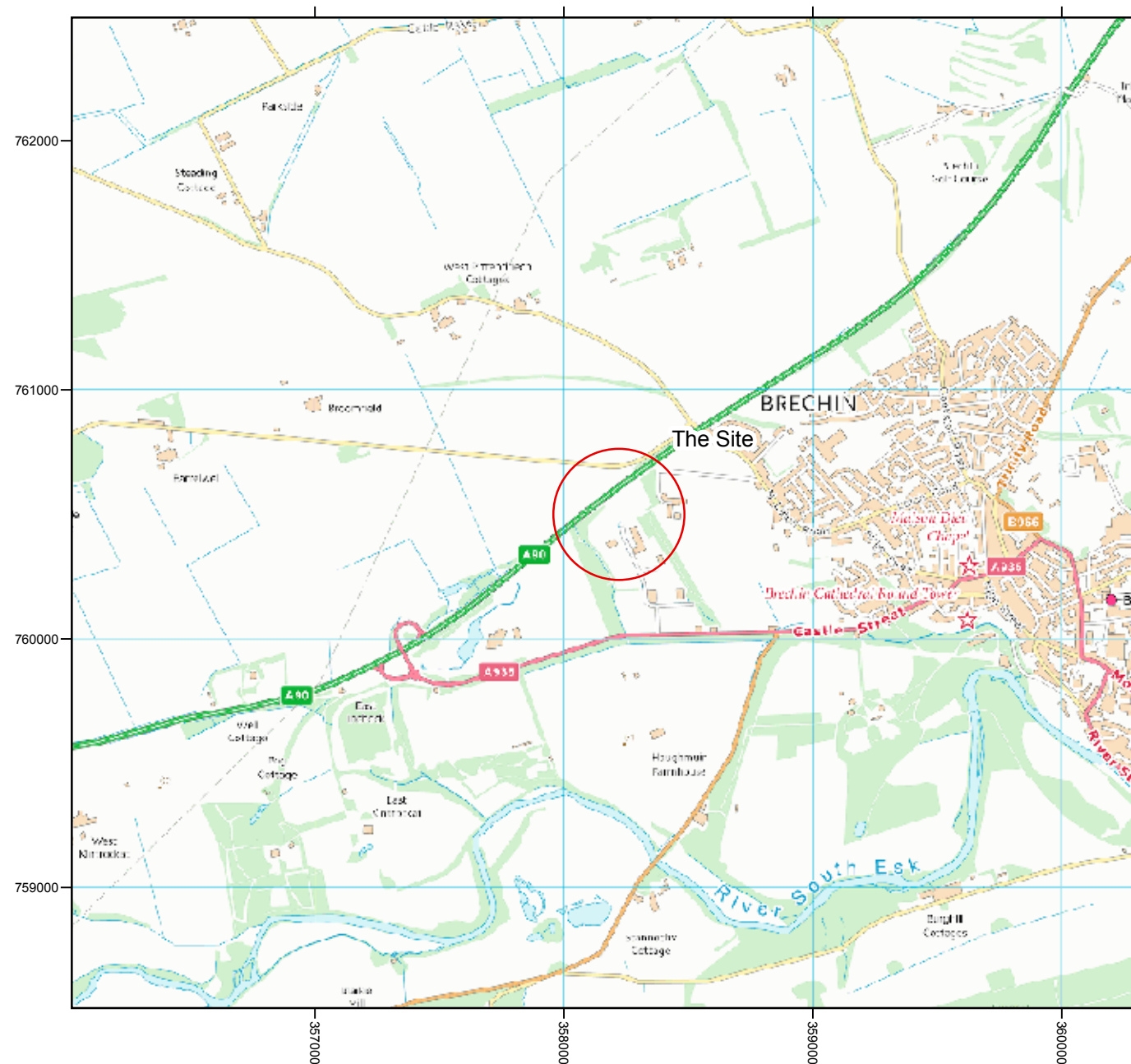
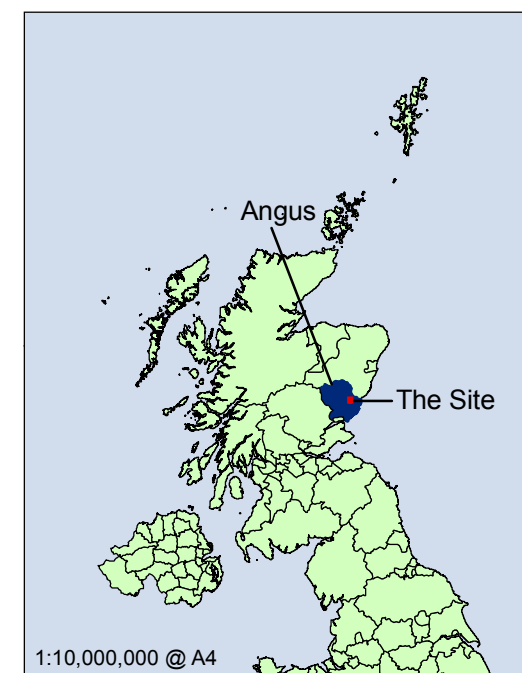
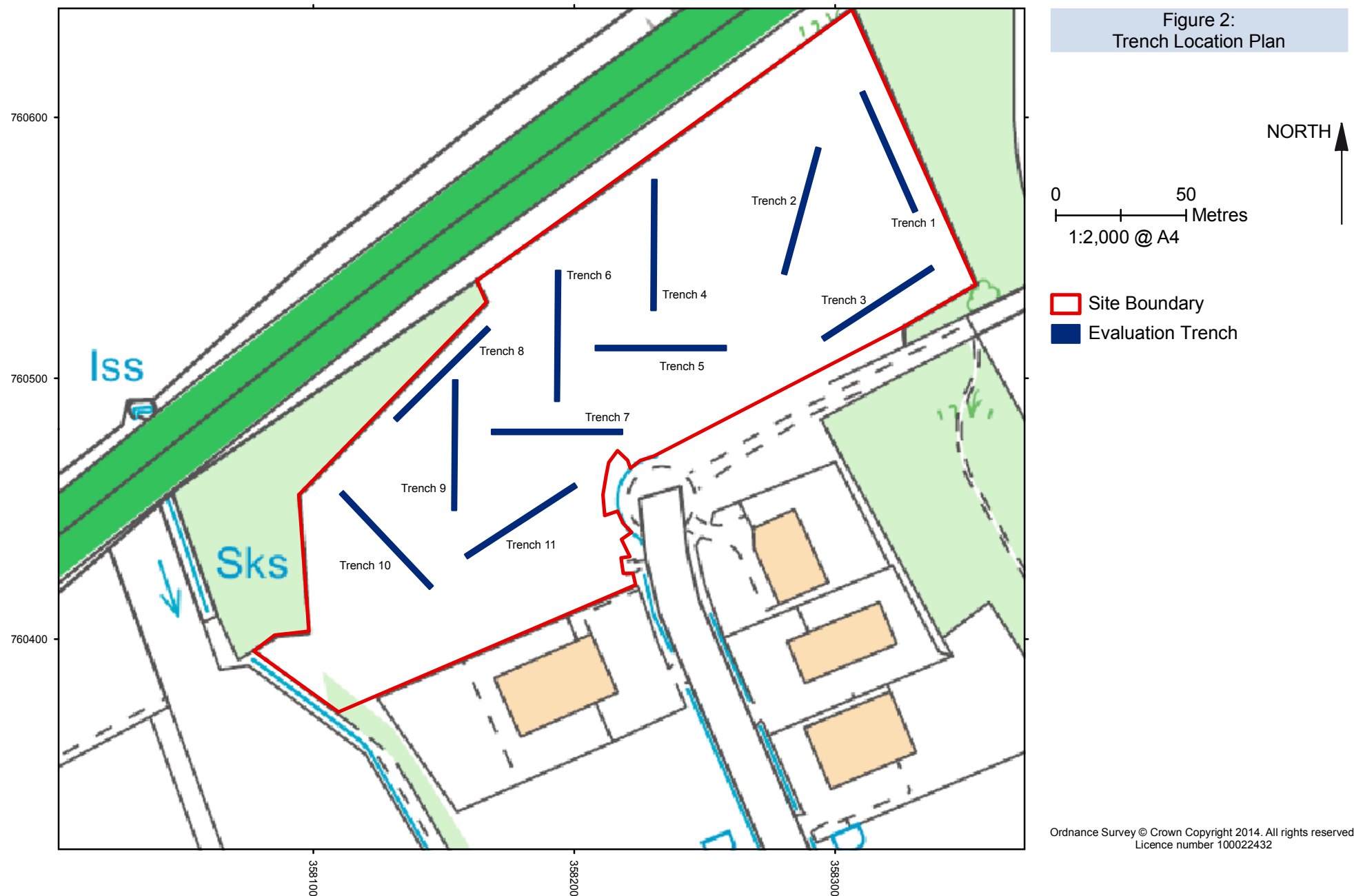


Figure 1: Site Location



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Brechin Business Park, Brechin, Angus; Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Appendices

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1

Dimensions	50.0m by 2.0 m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m – 0.50 m
Made Ground	None
Depth of Excavation	0.35 m – 0.60 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Pink sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 2

Dimensions	50.0m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.25 m – 0.40 m
Made Ground	None
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m – 0.45 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Orange sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 3

Dimensions	50.0m by 2.0 m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.20 m – 0.45 m
Made Ground	None
Depth of Excavation	0.30 m – 0.50 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Pink sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 4

Dimensions	50.0m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.20 m – 0.70 m
Made Ground	None
Depth of Excavation	0.50 m – 1.0 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Pink sands and gravels dug out from 0.0 m to 15.0 m and replaced by top-soil to depth of 0.70 m.
Finds	None

Trench 5

Dimensions	50.0m by 2.0 m
Orientation	W-E
Depth of Topsoil	0.40 m
Made Ground	None
Depth of Excavation	0.50 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Pink sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 6

Dimensions	50.0m by 2.0 m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.40 m
Made Ground	None
Depth of Excavation	0.50 m
Features	Modern, rectangular machine cut pits filled with hay.
Subsoil	Pink sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 7

Dimensions	50.0m by 2.0 m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.40 m
Made Ground	None
Depth of Excavation	0.50 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Pink sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 8

Dimensions	50.0m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.40 m
Made Ground	None
Depth of Excavation	0.50 m
Features	Plastic drain at 17.0 m running N/S. Modern machine cut filled with hay.
Subsoil	Pink sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 9

Dimensions	50.0m by 2.0 m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.40 m
Made Ground	None
Depth of Excavation	0.50 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Pink sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 10

Dimensions	50.0m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.20 m - 0.40 m
Made Ground	None
Depth of Excavation	0.50 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Pink sands and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 11

Dimensions	50.0m by 2.0 m
Orientation	SW-NE
Depth of Topsoil	0.20 m - 0.40 m
Made Ground	None

Depth of Excavation 0.50 m
Features None
Subsoil Pink sands and gravels
Finds None

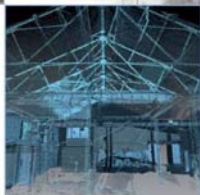
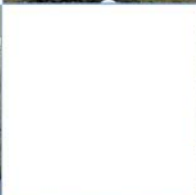
APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Digital Register

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1	-	Registration	-
2	1	West facing section	W
3	1	Post-excavation shot	N
4	2	East facing section	E
5	2	Post-excavation shot	S
6	3	Trench post-excavation	E
7	4	Truncation of sub-soil within Trench 4	SW
8	5	Trench post-excavation	W
9	6	Trench post-excavation	S
10	7	Trench post-excavation	E
11	8	Trench post-excavation	SW
12	9	Trench post-excavation	S
13	10	Trench post-excavation	SE
14	11	Trench post-excavation	NE

APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Angus Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Brechin Business Park, Brechin, Angus
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22764
PARISH:	Brechin
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)	NO 5822 6050
START DATE (this season)	13 th May 2014
END DATE (this season)	13 th May 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (NARRATIVE) (May include information from other fields)	<p><i>AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Angus Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the proposed extension of the Brechin Business Park, Brechin, Angus (NGR: NO 5822 6050).</i></p> <p><i>Works consisted of an archaeological evaluation of eleven trenches totalling 550 linear metres.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological remains. It was apparent that the area available for archaeological evaluation had been heavily truncated by modern activity. No further archaeological investigations are therefore recommended This will require confirmation by, and be at the discretion of the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS).</i></p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Angus Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group; Edgefield Road Industrial Estate; Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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