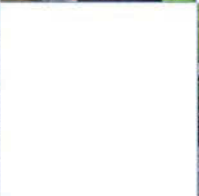
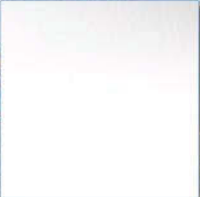


# Doonholm Road, Alloway, South Ayrshire: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22897  
Oasis No. aocarcha1-191779  
6<sup>th</sup> October 2014



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**On Behalf of:** CgMs Consulting Ltd.  
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**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NS 338 181

**AOC Project No:** 22897

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

**Author:** Kevin Paton **Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014

**Approved by:** Martin Cook **Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014

**Draft/Final Report Stage:** Draft **Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014

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## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
List of Illustrations .....	3
List of Plates .....	3
List of Appendices .....	3
Abstract.....	4
<b>1 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 Background .....	5
1.2 Location.....	5
1.3 Archaeological Background.....	5
<b>2 OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3 METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4 RESULTS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6 REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3: ‘Discovery and Excavation in Scotland’ Report.....</b>	<b>12</b>

## List of Illustrations

- Figure 1      Site location  
Figure 2      Evaluation trench locations

## List of Plates

- Plate 1      Post-ex view of Trench 1 along southern edge of site

## List of Appendices

- Appendix 1    Trench Descriptions  
Appendix 2    Photographic Record  
Appendix 3    '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' Report

## Abstract

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This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in relation to a proposed residential development at Doonholm Road, Alloway, South Ayrshire.

The evaluation required an 8% trenching sample of the development area. A total of five trenches of varying lengths and alignments were excavated throughout the site, encountering some modern field drains. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed.

No further works are considered necessary within the development area.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to a planning application for a proposed development at Doonholm Road, Alloway, South Ayrshire. The evaluation was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, South Ayrshire Council who are advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The works were conducted according to the terms of an *Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation* (Stronach 2014) approved on behalf of South Ayrshire Council by WoSAS and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

### 1.2 Location

1.2.1 The site (centred on NGR NS 338 181) is situated within a triangular parcel of land to the N and E of Murdoch's Loan. The site is bounded by Doonholm Road to the E and the former Maidens and Dunure Light Railway to the North (Figure 1).

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 An archaeological desk based assessment was conducted prior to the fieldwork commencing (Stronach 2013). A summary of the assessment is provided below.

1.3.2 The site lies 50m to the north of a Scheduled Monument known as Alloway Mote. It has been interpreted as a defensive enclosure of varying dates (prehistoric, early medieval and medieval). Regardless of the monument's date there is some potential for associated remains around its periphery. This potential has been tested by archaeological fieldwork to the monument's north, between the site and the monument, and the results were negative. It remains possible that the site does contain previously unrecorded archaeological features but the potential is concluded to be low and, on the grounds of poor drainage, concentrated on higher areas within it.

## 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.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The evaluation was to comprise machine trenching of an 8% sample of the 0.336 hectare development area, totaling 270 m<sup>2</sup>. However, due to the presence of a water main running through the eastern edge of the site, the available evaluation area was reduced to approximately 0.22 hectares. An 8% sample of this area would have comprised 170 m<sup>2</sup>. In total, 132 metres of linear trench was excavated using a JCB 3CX with a 1.7 m wide ditching bucket, equating to 225 m<sup>2</sup>, with the majority of trenches being positioned as close to the mote as possible.

- 3.3 Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and as per the methodology within the *Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation* (Stronach 2014).

## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014. Weather conditions were fair allowing for good archaeological visibility throughout the evaluation. In total, 132 m of linear trench was opened, varying in alignment and length (Figure 2).
- 4.2 The topsoil throughout the development area was a mid brown sandy clay loam with occasional small stone inclusions varying in depth from 0.2 m to 0.44 m. Over areas where field drains had been excavated the topsoil contained re-deposited clay with inclusions of modern rubbish as well as some occasional 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramics (the drains are therefore assumed to be modern in date).
- 4.3 The underlying geology throughout the majority of the site was an orangey brown clay with frequent small stone inclusions, interpreted as glacial till, with an approximately 15 m wide seam of orange clayey sand running from the SW corner to the NE corner of site.
- 4.4 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed.

## 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The trenching encountered a simple stratigraphic sequence of topsoil derived from glacial till. The only features encountered were rubble and ceramic tile field drains of modern date. Given the nature of the underlying geology and the presence of field drains throughout the site the area may have suffered from poor drainage. There was no evidence for any activity (including cultivation) on the site prior to the insertion of drains in the modern period.
- 5.2 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed throughout the evaluation and no further archaeological works are deemed necessary within the development area. These recommendations will have to be approved by WoSAS on behalf of South Ayrshire Council.

## 6 REFERENCES

Stronach, S 2013, *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment: Doonholm Road, Alloway, South Ayrshire* CgMs Consulting Ltd.

Stronach, S 2014, *Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation: Land at Doonholm Road and Murdoch's Lone, Alloway, South Ayrshire* CgMs Consulting Ltd.

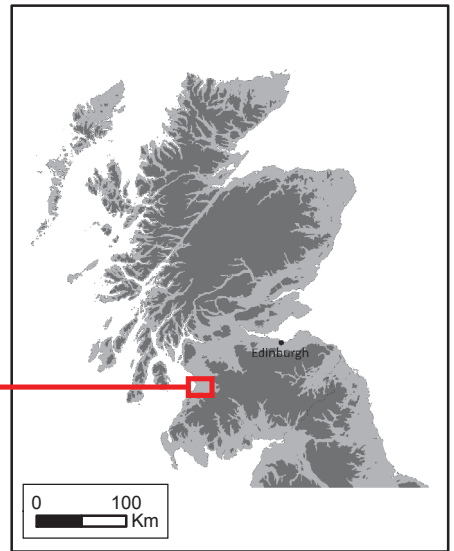
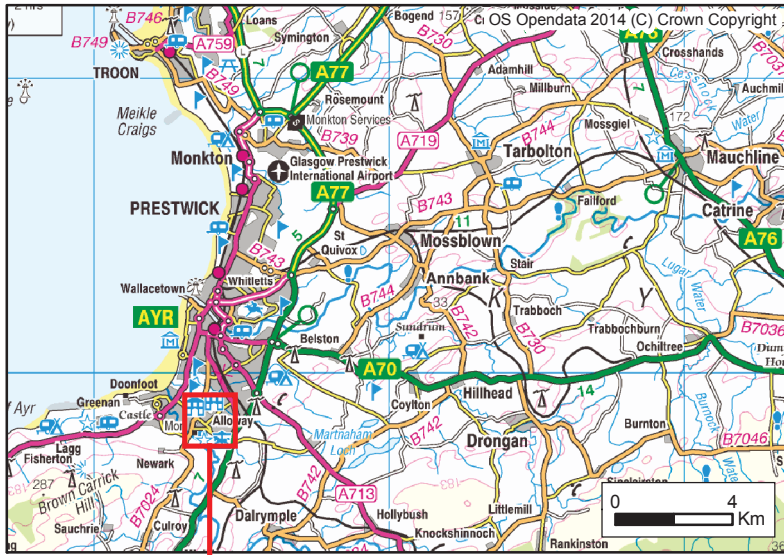
Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy 2014*

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*

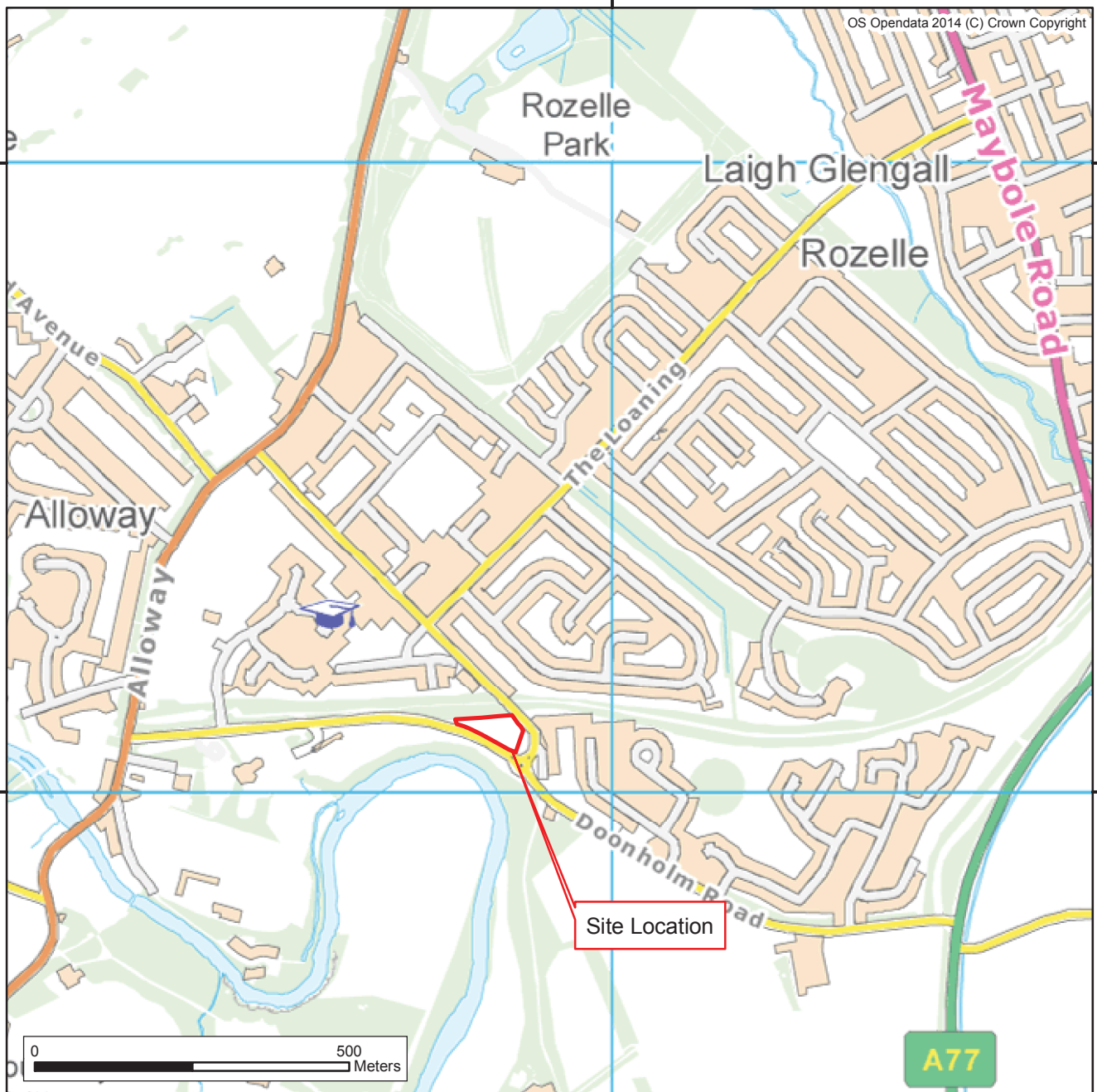




Plate 1 - Post-ex view of Trench 1 along southern edge of site



234000



234000

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

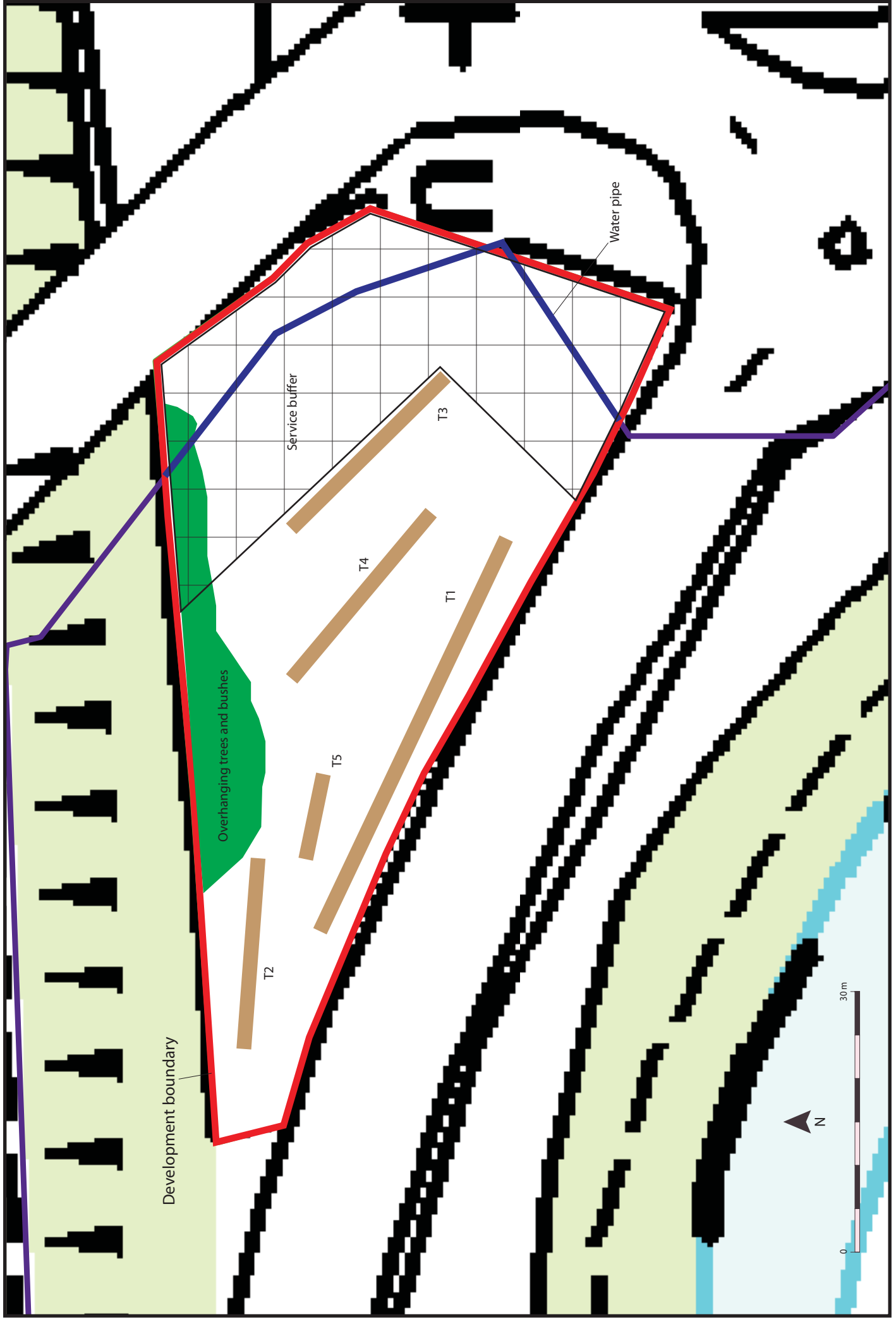


Figure 2 - Trench location plan

# **Doonholm Road, Alloway, South Ayrshire: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

### Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 1.7 m
<i>Total Area</i>	85 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	ESE to WNW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown sandy clay loam with occ. small stone inclusions – max depth 0.44 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.44 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Machine excavated pit with vertical sides and modern construction materials within the fill. Measured 3 m long by 0.6 m wide at 3.6 m to 7.6 m. Modern drain (type 1 rubble drain) at 17 m to 17.7 m aligned N-S and at 27 m to 41 .3 m aligned E-W
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey brown clay with frequent small stone inclusions until 14 m then orange clayey sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	22 m by 1.7 m
<i>Total Area</i>	37.4 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	W to E
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown sandy clay loam with occ. small stone inclusions – max depth 0.31 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.31 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey brown clay with frequent small stone inclusions
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 1.7 m
<i>Total Area</i>	42.5 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SE to NW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown sandy clay loam with occ. small stone inclusions – max depth 0.32 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.32 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Modern drain (Ce) at 13 m to 14.3 m aligned E-W
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey brown clay with frequent small stone inclusions until 11 m then orange clayey sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 1.7 m
<i>Total Area</i>	42.5 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NW to SE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown sandy clay loam with occ. small stone inclusions – max depth 0.34 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.34 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Modern drain (type 1 rubble drain) at 5.3 m to 6.7 m; 12 m to 13.7 m aligned N-S, and 10.6 m to 11.3 m aligned NE-SW
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey brown clay with frequent small stone inclusions
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 1.7 m
<i>Total Area</i>	17 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E to W
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown sandy clay loam with occ. small stone inclusions – max depth 0.33 m

<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.33 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Modern drain (Ce) at 0 m to 2.6 m aligned NE-SW and at 4.6 m aligned N-S
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey brown clay with frequent small stone inclusions
<i>Finds</i>	None

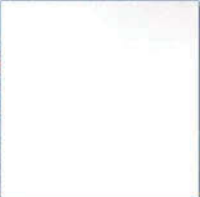
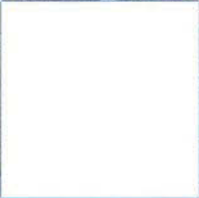
## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

### Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-2	Pre-ex view of site from access	W	3/10/14
3	View of overhanging trees at N edge	W	3/10/14
4	View of water distribution line route	NW	3/10/14
5	View of water distribution line route	SE	3/10/14
6	View of water main route	NE	3/10/14
7	View of site	E	3/10/14
8	Post-ex view of T1	NW	3/10/14
9	Post-ex view of T2	E	3/10/14
10	Post-ex view of T3	NW	3/10/14
11	Post-ex view of T4	SE	3/10/14
12	Post-ex view of T5	W	3/10/14

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

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	South Ayrshire Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Doonholm Road, Alloway
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 22897
<b>PARISH:</b>	Ayr
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Kevin Paton
<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>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NS 338 181
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2014
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2014
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in relation to a proposed residential development at Doonholm Road, Alloway, South Ayrshire.</p> <p>The evaluation required an 8% trenching sample of the development area. A total of 5 trenches of varying lengths and alignments were excavated throughout the site, encountering some modern field drains. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed.</p> <p>No further works are considered necessary within the development area.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	---
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	CgMs Consulting Ltd.
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	Kevin.paton@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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