

Shillingworth, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 23256
Oasis No. aocarcha1-232157
20th November 2015



Shillingworth, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire

Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Persimmon Homes
Persimmon House
Parkway Court
180 Findochty Street
Glasgow
G33 5EP

National Grid Reference (NGR): NS 38629 64778

Planning Application Ref: 14/0831/PP

AOC Project No: 23256

Prepared by: Stuart Wilson

Illustration by: Kevin Paton

Date of Fieldwork: 17th November 2015 – 19th November 2015

Date of Report: 20th November 2015

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

Author: Stuart Wilson

Date: 20th November 2015

Approved by: Martin Cook

Date: 30th November 2015

Draft/Final Report Stage:

Date:

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Edgefield Industrial Estate
Edgefield Road
Loanhead
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
e-mail. admin@aocarchaeology.com

Group

www.aocarchaeology.com

Contents

	Page
List of Illustrations	3
List of Plates	3
List of Appendices	3
Abstract.....	4
1 INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Background	5
1.2 Location.....	5
1.3 Archaeological background	5
2 OBJECTIVES	5
3 METHODOLOGY	5
4 RESULTS	6
5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	7
6 BIBLIOGRAPHY	8
APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions	10
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record	13
APPENDIX 3: ‘Discovery and Excavation in Scotland’ Report.....	14

List of Illustrations

- Figure 1 Site location
Figure 2 Evaluation trench locations

List of Plates

- Plate 1: Trench 4 showing boulder clay and deposits of tarmac and concrete.
Plate 2: Trench 8 showing natural consisting of boulder clay and bedrock.

List of Appendices

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

Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in relation to a proposed 43 plot housing development on a grass field on the northern boundary of Shillingworth Steadings, Kilgraston Road, Bridge of Weir.

The evaluation required an 8% trenching sample comprising of 2024m². Location and positioning of trenches was determined based upon the best chance of encountering archaeological features and to avoid various active underground services.

The evaluation found that the entire area had been significantly altered in modern times, with only a shallow covering of topsoil overlying a mixture of bedrock and boulder clay remaining. This essentially removed the chance of finding any surviving archaeology. In addition the eastern most extent of the field was found to contain deposits of tarmac and concrete most likely from a previous construction yard during the last developments.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Persimmon Homes to undertake a programme of phased archaeological works prior to the proposed development of 43 dwelling house plots and associated infrastructure bordering Shillingworth Steadings, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire (Planning Application No. 14/0831/PP) centred NGR: NS 38629 64778. The evaluation was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Renfrewshire Council. The Council is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2015) and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed development (NGR: NS 38629 64778) is located on the northern boundary of Shillingworth Steadings off of Kilgraston road and bounded by the Old Ranfurly golf course along its southern and western extent. The site consists of a predominantly sloping landscape, previously used as a grazing area for cattle. The total area comprises of 2.53ha.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 Although there are no record archaeological features within the development area the site lies to the immediate South and West of the Ranfurly conservation area as designated by Renfrewshire Council. Ranfurly was built as a commuter dormitory on elevated land above Bridge of Weir from the 1880s to 1910s.

1.3.2 The site also lies to the immediate south-east of Castle Hill Motte (NMRS No. NS36NE 18) where previous works revealed a number of artefacts including a single sherd of Roman pottery. Further to the North-West lies the site of Ranfurly castle (NMRS No. NS36NE 17), which superseded Castle Hill Motte and was a typical 15th/16th century tower which has now fallen into ruin.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 The objectives of the archaeological works are:

- 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 liaise with WoSAS and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and /or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The evaluation requirements set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2015) required an 8% trenching sample of the 2.53 ha site. This equated to a total area of 2024 m² or 1012 linear meters of trenching to be opened.

- 3.2 The trenching was located around existing live services. Upon Inspection of the site a single trench was required to be moved further down the slope to avoid a previously unidentified underground service in the area. The required target was still met and an appropriate coverage of the area was still achieved.
- 3.3 The evaluation was undertaken by a 13 tonne 360 excavator with a 2 m wide bladed ditching bucket. All trench areas were surveyed using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) prior to excavation. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. 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 *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2015). The trenches were backfilled immediately after excavation to prevent potential flooding.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between the 17th November 2015 and the 19th November 2015. Overall weather conditions were generally wet with heavy rain and high winds. This caused some water-logging of site but archaeological visibility remained good throughout. Trenches were immediately backfilled after being opened to prevent potential flooding from adverse weather conditions.
- 4.2 No archaeological features were observed during the evaluation. It is the conclusion that the site is ultimately sterile with in some cases the topsoil barely reaching 0.20 m in depth. This most likely due to a variety of modern farming and housing developments as observed in the Eastern extent of the site. In this corner tarmac and concrete deposits were encountered indicating the remains of a construction yard probably associated with the nearby houses adjacent to the site (Plate 1).



Plate 1: Trench 4 showing boulder clay and deposits of tarmac and concrete.



Plate 2: Trench 8 showing natural consisting of boulder clay and bedrock.

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 From the trenches excavated within the development area, it has been demonstrated that the entire area is archaeologically sterile. This is possibly due to a combination of modern farming and housing developments. As such neither significant archaeological remains nor artefacts were encountered.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are required at this time. These recommendations will have to be approved by WoSAS on behalf of Renfrewshire Council.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*, February 2010.

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*.

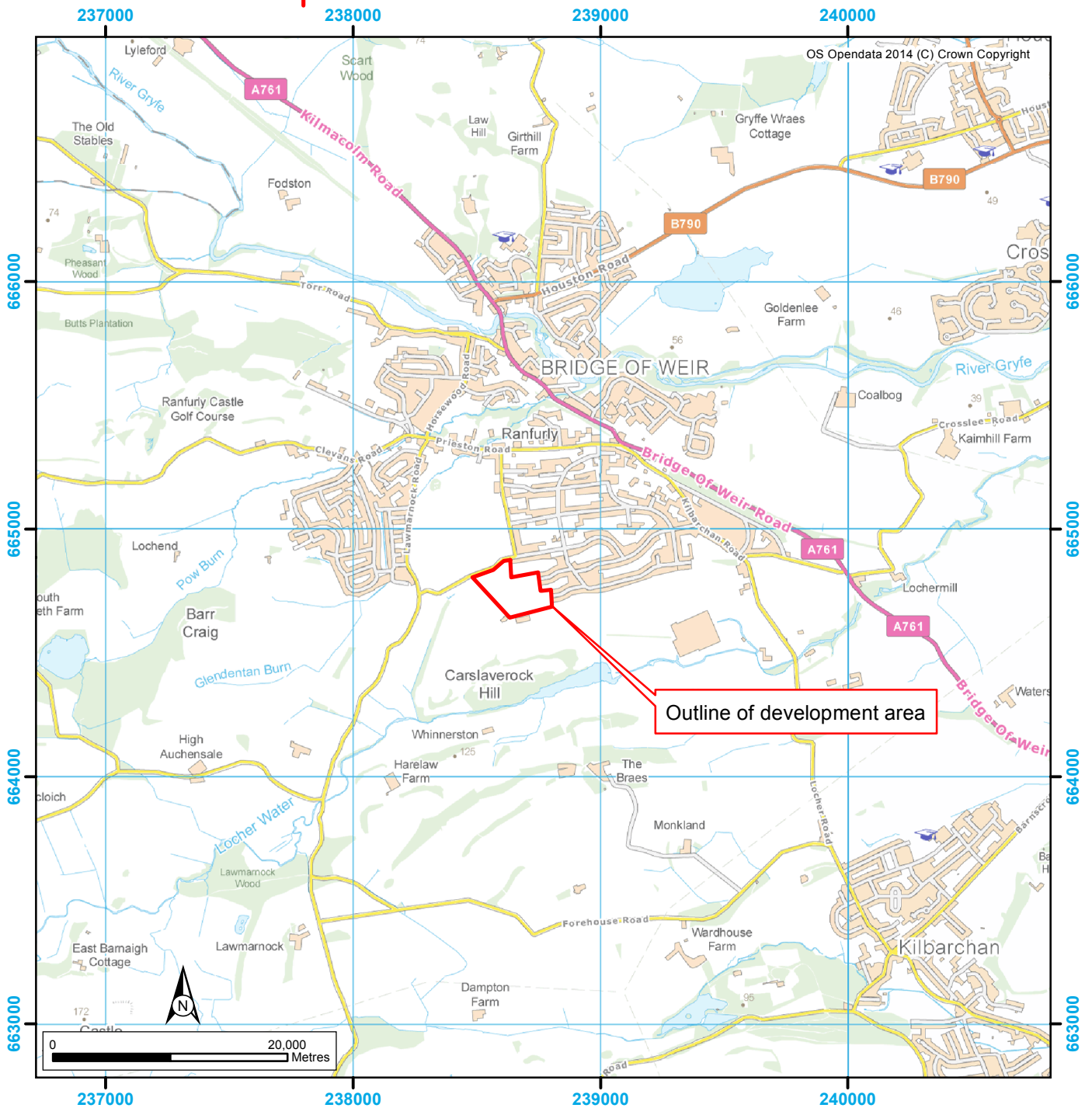
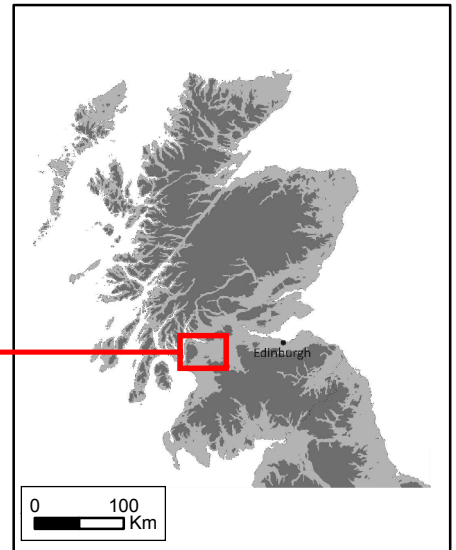
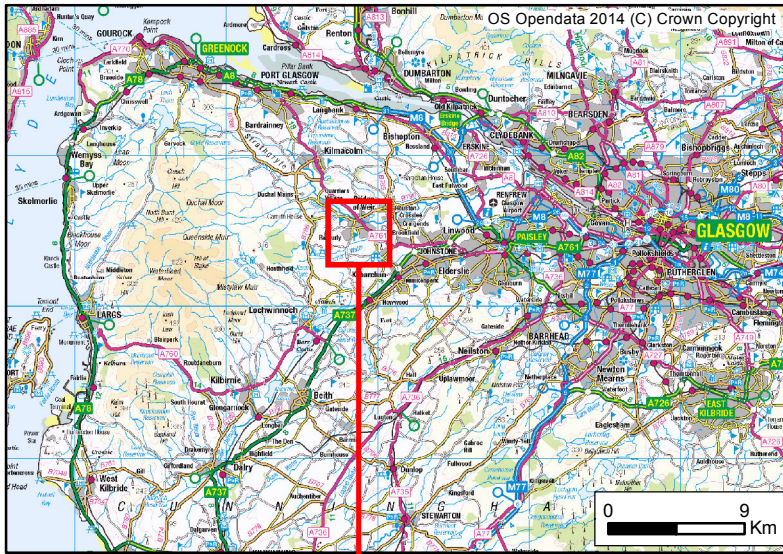


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

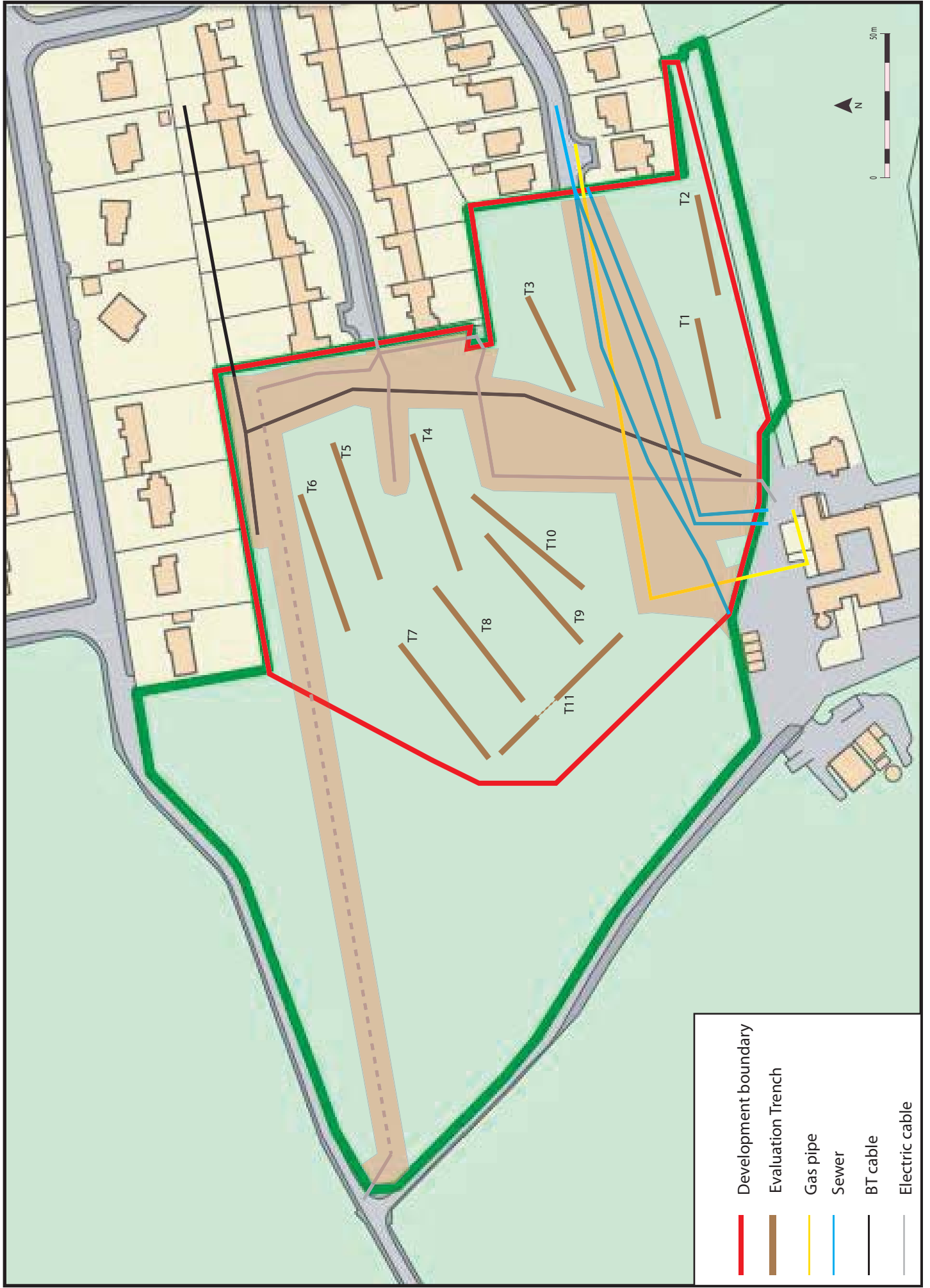


Figure 2 - Evaluation trench locations

Shillingworth, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Length</i>	50m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.5 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Tarmac & Concrete
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Unknown
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Length</i>	50m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.5m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.8m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Length</i>	50m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.29m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.31m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Length</i>	50m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.32m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.39m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Length</i>	50m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.27m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.38m

<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 6

<i>Length</i>	50m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.44m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.48m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 7

<i>Length</i>	54m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.29m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 8

<i>Length</i>	50m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.30m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid brown boulder clay and bedrock
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 9

<i>Length</i>	50m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.26m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.33m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid brown boulder clay and bedrock
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 10

<i>Length</i>	50m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.26m

<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.31m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid brown boulder clay and bedrock
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 11

<i>Length</i>	50m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.26m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.31m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

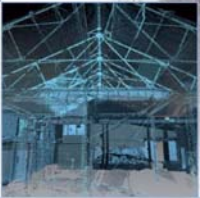
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From
1	Post excavation shot of trench 1	NE
2	Shot showing no access to site from no access from Kilgraston Road	N
3	Shot Showing no access to site from no access from Kilgraston Road	N
4	Post excavation shot of trench 2	NE
5	Post excavation shot of trench 3	NE
6	Post excavation shot of trench 4	E
7	Post excavation shot of trench 5	E
8	Post excavation shot of trench 6	E
9	Post excavation shot of trench 7	NW
10	Post excavation shot of trench 8	NW
11	Post excavation shot of trench 9	SW
12	Post excavation shot of trench 10	SW
13	Post excavation shot of trench 11	S

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Renfrewshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Shillingworth
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 23256
PARISH:	Renfrewshire
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Stuart Wilson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 38629 64778
START DATE (this season)	17 th May 2015
END DATE (this season)	19 th May 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in relation to a proposed 43 plot housing development on a grass field on the northern boundary of Shillingworth Steadings, Kilgraston Road, Bridge of Weir.</p> <p>The evaluation required an 8% trenching sample comprising of 2000m². Location and positioning of trenches was determined based upon the best chance of encountering archaeological features and to avoid various active underground services.</p> <p>The evaluation found that the entire area had been significantly altered in modern times, with only a shallow covering of topsoil overlying a mixture of bedrock and boulder clay remaining. This essentially removed the chance of finding any surviving archaeology. In addition the eastern most extent of the field was found to contain deposits of tarmac and concrete most likely from a previous construction yard during the last developments.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Persimmon Homes
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY
tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: admin@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com