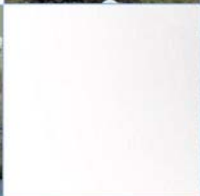
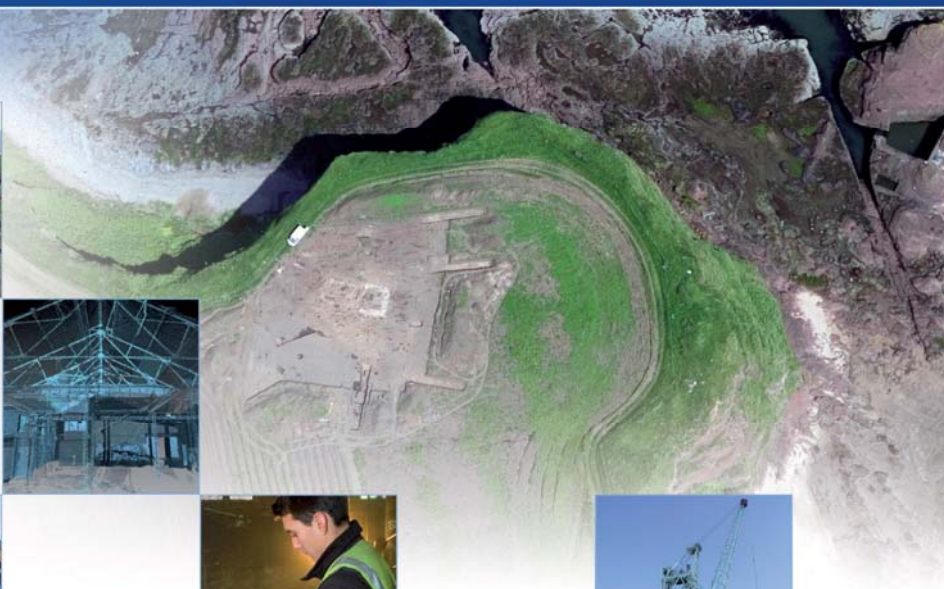


University of Stirling, Stirling: Metal Detecting Survey & Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 23298
18th December 2015



University of Stirling, Stirling: Metal Detecting Survey & Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Faithful & Gould Canning Exchange 10 Canning Street Edinburgh EH3 8EG
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NS 80736 96079
AOC Project No:	23298
Planning Application No.	15/00523/FUL
OASIS No.	236692
Prepared by:	Kevin Paton
Date of Fieldwork:	17 th December 2015
Date of Report:	18 th December 2015

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

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Date: 18th December 2015

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Date: 18th December 2015

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Date: 18th December 2015

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Abstract

A metal detecting survey and archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology in relation to a new car park development within the grounds of the University of Stirling, Stirling.

The main car park area was the only available area for the archaeological works as the proposed access road went through an existing car park and woodland. The metal detecting survey encountered one modern drinks can throughout the entire area surveyed. The evaluation consisted of 114 m of trench encountering made ground between 0.4 m to 2 m deep throughout the majority of the site. It is likely that the entire area had been stripped and used as a dumping area during the extension of the adjacent hotel.

No further works are considered necessary within the development area. This recommendation requires the approval of the Stirling Council Planning Officer (Archaeology).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Faithful & Gould to undertake a metal detecting survey and archaeological evaluation prior to a car park development in the University of Stirling, Stirling. The works were undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Stirling Council. The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2015) approved by Stirling Council 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 proposed development lies within the grounds of the University of Stirling. The site is surrounded by a thin band of woodland to the immediate S of the Stirling Court Hotel, and with Innovation Park to the E. The development is centred on NGR: NS 80736 96079 (Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The proposed development site lies within the 18th/19th century designed landscape of Airthrey Castle (Ref: GDL00010). The landscape was changed in the late 20th century with the creation of the existing university campus. Airthrey has 16th century associations with the Earls of Montrose but there is little documentary evidence for the development of the designed landscape during this period.
- 1.3.2 Early references suggest that during the medieval period the lands of Airthrey belonged to the Monks of Cambus, Kenneth & Dunfermline. It was the seat of the first Earl of Montrose in the early 16th century. The Roy map of 1747 shows little sign of a designed landscape during the early 18th century. The designed landscape was begun by Robert Haldane in the late 18th century and carried on in the 19th century by Sir Robert Abercrombie.
- 1.3.3 Within the wider area lie a number of archaeological sites reflecting activity from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods. Within the grounds of the castle lies a large standing stone of prehistoric date (NS89NW12) and county boundary marker stones of unknown date (NS89NW11). To the south of the area lies the possible vitrified fort of Abbey Craig (NS89NW10) and to the northwest is the ruined medieval church of Logie (NS89NW8) which contains two hog-backed stones. A Romano-British copper-alloy trumpet brooch (NS89NW93) was found in the grounds of Stirling University by a metal detectorist in 1999.

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 archaeological works were initially proposed to include the main car park area and the access road. However, the access road area included part of a current tarmac car park and dense woodland, and was therefore unable to be surveyed or evaluated.
- 3.2 The metal detecting survey was conducted using a Minelab x terra, with the area walked in transects of 2 m wide. Transects were marked out prior to the survey beginning and find spots marked prior to excavation.
- 3.3 The evaluation trenches were conducted using a 14 tonne tracked excavator with a ditching bucket. 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 *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2015). The trenches were backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological works were undertaken on 17th December 2015. The metal detecting survey did not encounter any significant archaeological material, with only one modern drinks can being located by the survey work.
- 4.2 During the evaluation, a total of 228 m² of linear trench was opened, varying in alignment and length (Figure 2). Within Trenches 1 to 3 and Trench 8 along the northern and eastern edge of the development area, the topsoil revealed was a mid brown clay loam measuring 0.3 to 0.4 m deep overlying a pale orange sandy clay with occasional large stones and boulders. In the remaining areas, the site was covered in made ground between 0.4 m to 2 m deep directly overlying the natural subsoil. The made ground was a mixture of mid brown sandy clay and imported stone as well as dark grey clay with modern rubbish and stone.
- 4.3 It had been known from previous work within the university that the site had been used as a dumping area for material from the Stirling Court Hotel extension (circa 2009). However, it was not known to what extent the area had been used, but the trenches excavated suggest the majority of the site had been stripped and dumped on.
- 4.4 No archaeological features or artefacts were located within the evaluation trenches.



Plate 1 - General view of Trench 1



Plate 2 - Made ground depth in Trench 12

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 From the trenches excavated it has been demonstrated that the development area has been previously truncated by stripping and dumping related to the Stirling Court Hotel extension. As for the access road area the current car park and woodland would most likely have removed any potential archaeology in these areas as well.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are deemed necessary within the development area. This recommendation will require the approval of the Planning Officer (Archaeology) for Stirling Council.

6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2015, *University of Stirling, Archaeological Works: Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished AOC project design

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*, 2014

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology* 2/2011

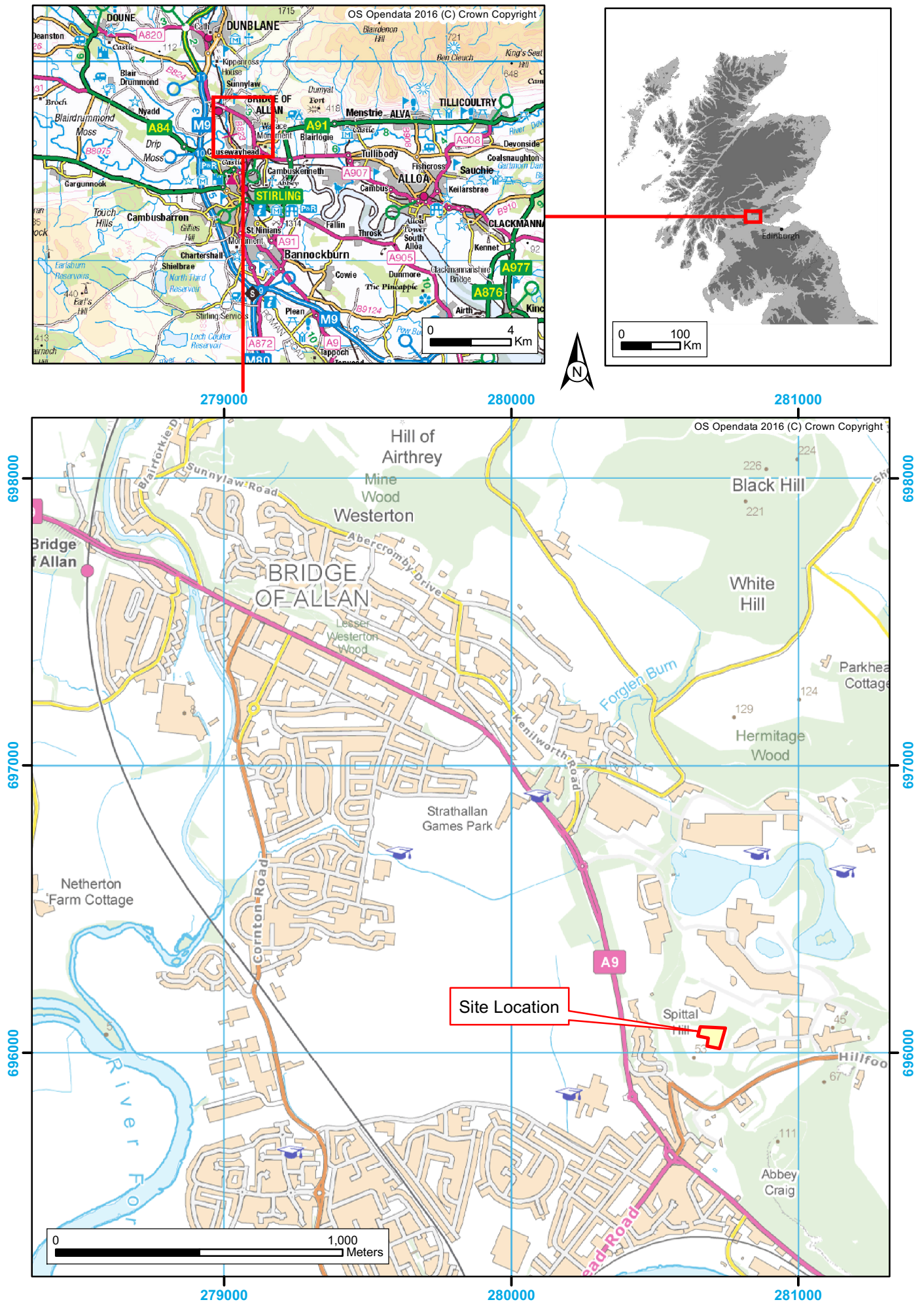


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

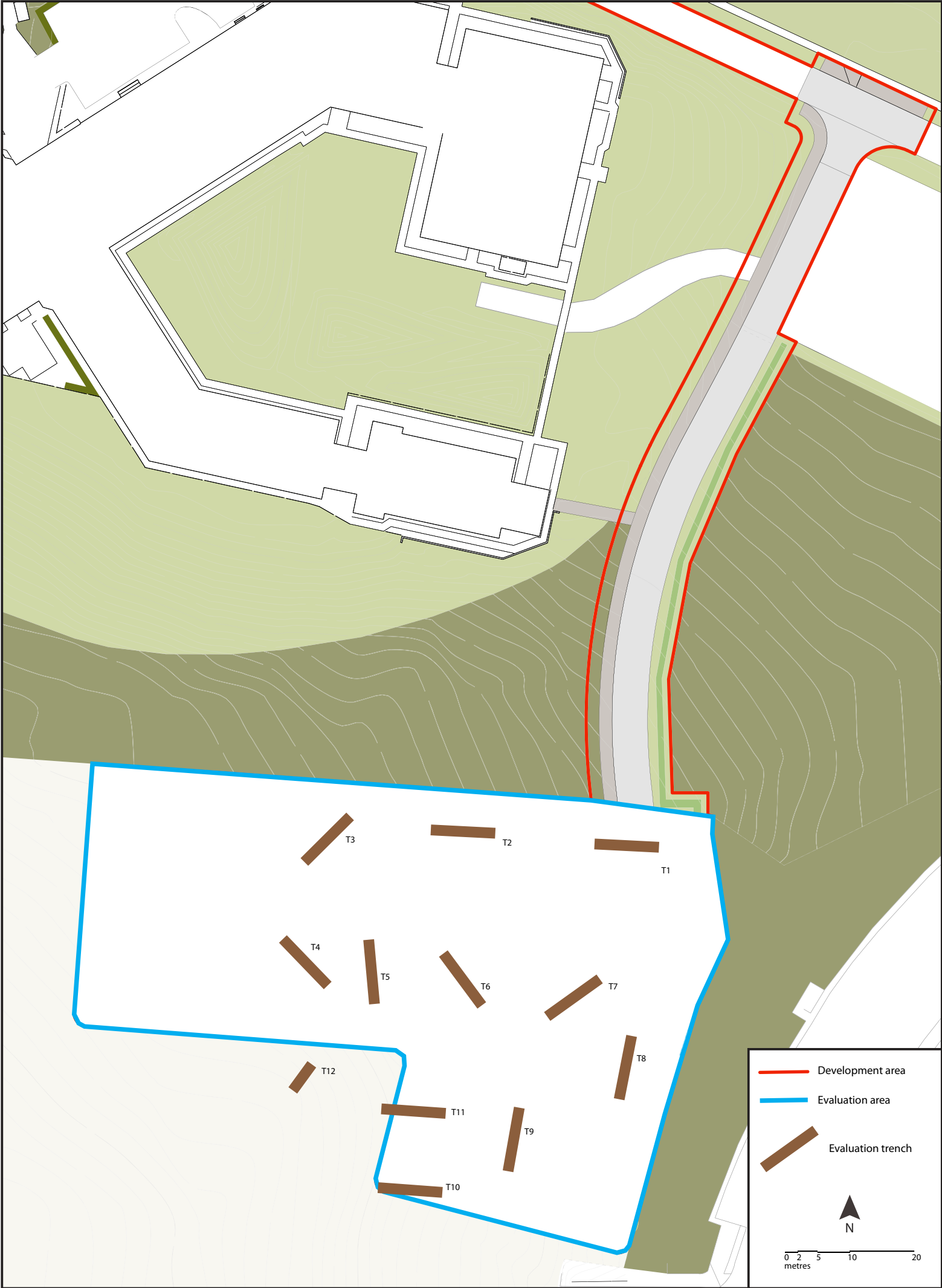


Figure 2 - Evaluation trench location plan

University of Stirling, Stirling: Metal Detecting Survey & Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	20 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E to W
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown clay loam - 0.31 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orange sandy clay and occasional large stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	20 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E to W
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown clay loam - 0.33 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orange sandy clay and occasional large stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	20 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E to W
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown clay loam - 0.4 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ceramic tile drain at 0 m to 4 m aligned E-W
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orange sandy clay and occasional large stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	20 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SE to NW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made ground – mid brown sandy clay and dark grey clay and stone - 0.65 m to 1.1 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orange sandy clay and occasional large stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	20 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	S to N
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made ground – mid brown sandy clay and dark grey clay and stone - 0.6 m to 1.05 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orange sandy clay and occasional large stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 2 m
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<i>Total Area</i>	20 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SE to NW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made ground – mid brown sandy clay and dark grey clay and stone - 0.5 m to 0.85 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orange sandy clay and occasional large stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	20 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SW to NE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made ground – mid brown sandy clay and dark grey clay and stone - 0.4 m Topsoil – mid brown clay loam - 0.4 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orange sandy clay and occasional large stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 8

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	20 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	S to N
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown clay loam - 0.4 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orange sandy clay and occasional large stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 9

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	20 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	S to N
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made ground – mid brown sandy clay and dark grey clay and stone - 0.75 m to 0.9 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orange sandy clay and occasional large stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 10

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	20 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	W to E
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made ground – mid brown sandy clay and dark grey clay and stone - 0.5 m to 0.7 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orange sandy clay and occasional large stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 11

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	20 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	W to E
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made ground – mid brown sandy clay and dark grey clay and stone - 0.9 m to 1.35 m

<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orange sandy clay and occasional large stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 12

<i>Dimensions</i>	4 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	8 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made ground – mid brown sandy clay and dark grey clay and stone - 2 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale orange sandy clay and occasional large stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

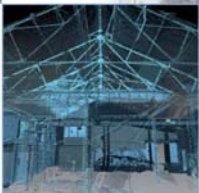
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-4	General views of car park area	Var	17/12/15
5	View of proposed road through trees	S	17/12/15
6	Trench 1 Post-ex	W	17/12/15
7	Trench 2 Post-ex	W	17/12/15
8	Trench 3 Post-ex	SW	17/12/15
9	Trench 4 Post-ex	NW	17/12/15
10-12	General views of car park area bund	Var	17/12/15
13	View of access gap in trees towards hotel extension	S	17/12/15
14	Trench 5 Post-ex	N	17/12/15
15	Made ground in T6	SE	17/12/15
16	Trench 6 Post-ex	NW	17/12/15
17	Trench 7 Post-ex	NE	17/12/15
18	Trench 8 Post-ex	N	17/12/15
19	Trench 9 Post-ex	N	17/12/15
20	Trench 10 Post-ex	E	17/12/15
21	Trench 11 Post-ex	E	17/12/15
22	Trench 12 section	NE	17/12/15
23-24	View of proposed access road	N	17/12/15
25	View of car park area where road goes	S	17/12/15
26-27	Landscaped area to W of car park	Var	17/12/15

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	University of Stirling, Stirling
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 23298
PARISH:	Stirling
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Metal Detecting Survey and Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 80736 96079
START DATE (this season)	17 th December 2015
END DATE (this season)	17 th December 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A metal detecting survey and archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology in relation to a new car park development within the grounds of the University of Stirling, Stirling.</p> <p>The main car park area was the only available area for the archaeological works as the proposed access road went through an existing car park and woodland. The metal detecting survey encountered one modern drinks can throughout the entire area surveyed. The evaluation consisted of 114 m of trench encountering made ground between 0.4 m to 2 m deep throughout the majority of the site. It is likely that the entire area had been stripped and used as a dumping area during the extension of the adjacent hotel.</p> <p>No further works are considered necessary within the development area. This recommendation requires the approval of the Stirling Council Planning Officer (Archaeology).</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Faithful & Gould
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



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