

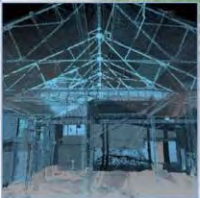
Mid Brackenridge Farm, Strathaven, South Lanarkshire: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

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Mid Brackenridge Farm, Strathaven, South Lanarkshire, Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Mr James Russell

National Grid Reference (NGR): NS 6695 4393

AOC Project No: 24197

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Illustration by: Jamie Humble

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

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Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in respect of a proposed development at Mid Brackenridge Farm, Strathaven, South Lanarkshire (NGR: NS 6695 4393).

The evaluation was undertaken within a single land parcel of 0.4 ha. An 8% (320 m²) sample of the evaluation area was required to be investigated by trial trenching. The scope of the works was agreed in a WSI approved by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).

The proposed development area lies on an established farm and was until recently mainly occupied by ruinous cowsheds, silage stores and outbuildings. The evaluation revealed that most of the development area had been disturbed by the construction of these outbuildings. Outwith these previously developed areas a thin topsoil overlying the natural geology was revealed.

No archaeologically significant features or material were recorded during the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was required by Mr James Russell ahead of a proposed residential development at Mid Brackenridge Farm, Strathaven, South Lanarkshire (NS 6695 4393 centred). The proposed development lies within the administrative area of South Lanarkshire Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by West of Scotland Archaeological Service (hereafter referred to as WoSAS). A programme of archaeological evaluation was required to be undertaken pre-planning condition and with best practice, as outlined in current planning guidelines *Scottish Planning Policy (2014) & Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (2011)* and The South Lanarkshire Local Plan Vol.1 (2006).
- 1.1.2 The objective of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the existence of any buried archaeological remains within the development area by means of a programme of trial trenching; this was to comprise an 8% sample of the available development area. Due to the location of overhead and underground services along with the presence of two silage stores, the original remit of 320 m² of trenching was not possible. As such 300 m² of trenching were completed (see Fig 2) providing coverage of the available area.
- 1.1.3 The proposed development area lies on an established farm and was until recently mainly occupied by ruinous cowsheds, silage stores and outbuildings. The evaluation revealed that most of the development area had been disturbed by the construction of these outbuildings. Outwith these previously developed areas a thin topsoil overlying the natural geology was revealed.
- 1.1.4 No archaeologically significant features, deposits or small finds were recovered during the evaluation.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area (0.4ha) (NS 6695 4393 centred) lies on the established farm of Mid Brackenridge and comprises a number of recently demolished ruinous outbuildings. The proposed development area does not include the farmhouse and former cow shed of Mid Brackenridge Farm. The site lies c 2km west of Strathaven in South Lanarkshire to the north of A71 with access via an unclassified road. The site is surrounded by agricultural land.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The Roy's mid-18th century Lowlands map shows a number of small farming settlements lying to the west of Strathaven. It specifically depicts farm buildings at sites called 'Up Brackenrigg' and 'Low Brackenrigg' (Figure 3). These two adjacent clusters of buildings lie

between 'Little Unthank' to the north, 'Windyends' to the northeast, 'Unthank' to the east and 'Little Bent' to the south. The later mid-19th century 1st Edition map which shows 'Mid Brackenridge' in its current location also shows 'West Brackenridge' and 'East Brackenridge' (Figure 4). Given the relative positions of the surrounding settlements such as 'High Unthank', 'Windegde', 'Laigh Unthnak' and 'Little Bent' which appeared to be the same farms as shown on Roy though with slight derivations of names it can be concluded that there was a high chance that the proposed development site may well have been the Roy site of 'Low Brackenrigg'



Figure 3: Extract from Roy's Lowlands map 1752-55



Figure 4: Extract from 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map

- 1.3.2 A detailed view of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map shows three buildings however the current plan of the site would suggest that the larger two buildings are still present on site though the third smallest structure has been demolished (Figure 5). These buildings are the current farmhouse (square building to SW) with former cowshed (long building to N) which lie outside the current development area and are to be unaffected by the proposed development.



Figure 5: Detail of extract from 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map

2 OBJECTIVES

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

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The details of the archaeological evaluation, laid out below, were designed to meet the requirements of South Lanarkshire Council as advised by WoSAS, and agreed through the submission of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AOC Archaeology 2018).

- 3.2 The original area covered by the proposed development area was c.0.4ha. An 8% sample of the area amounted to 320 m² of archaeological trenching. As noted above, this was not possible once live services and two silage storage areas were taken into account; as such 300 m² of trenches were excavated.
- 3.3 The evaluation trenches were distributed in order to achieve greatest coverage of the available area.
- 3.4 The trenches were opened by a single tracked excavator equipped with 2.0 m wide bladed ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or geological deposits were reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and the methodology within the agreed WSI.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 16th February 2018. Weather conditions during the evaluation were clear and dry and the archaeological visibility was good. A total of five archaeological trenches were excavated (Figure 2) with a total area of 300 m² these were situated to cover the available areas of the proposed development. The following presents a summary of the results, full details can be found in the appendices.



Plate 1: Silage store terraced into hillside at north of site

- 4.2 The site consisted of the north-western half of Mid Brackenridge Farm, the area of the proposed development comprised various farm outbuildings, cow sheds and two silage stores. These had been demolished prior to the evaluation aside for the silage stores. The site sloped gently up from south-east to north-west with the silage stores at the rear (NW) of the site terraced into the hillside.
- 4.3 The evaluation revealed that the majority of the development area had been heavily impacted by modern development during the construction of the various outbuildings of the farm. Only Trench 1 at the west of the development was excavated through undisturbed ground. Trench 1 revealed a simple soil profile of a shallow topsoil lying directly over glacial till deposits.



Plate 2: Trench 1 post excavation, from southeast

- 4.4 Rubble field drains were revealed in Trenches 1 and 3 on an east west and north south alignment respectively. This would suggest that the area has been under cultivation at some time in the past.



Plate 3: Trench 3 post excavation & partially backfilled to prevent flooding, from southwest

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The proposed development site was subject to an archaeological evaluation as per the agreed WSI (AOC Archaeology 2018) under conditions set out by WoSAS. The evaluation revealed that the proposed development had been heavily impacted by the construction of now demolished modern cow sheds, farm outbuildings and silage stores. No archaeologically significant deposits, features or small finds were discovered during the trial trenching.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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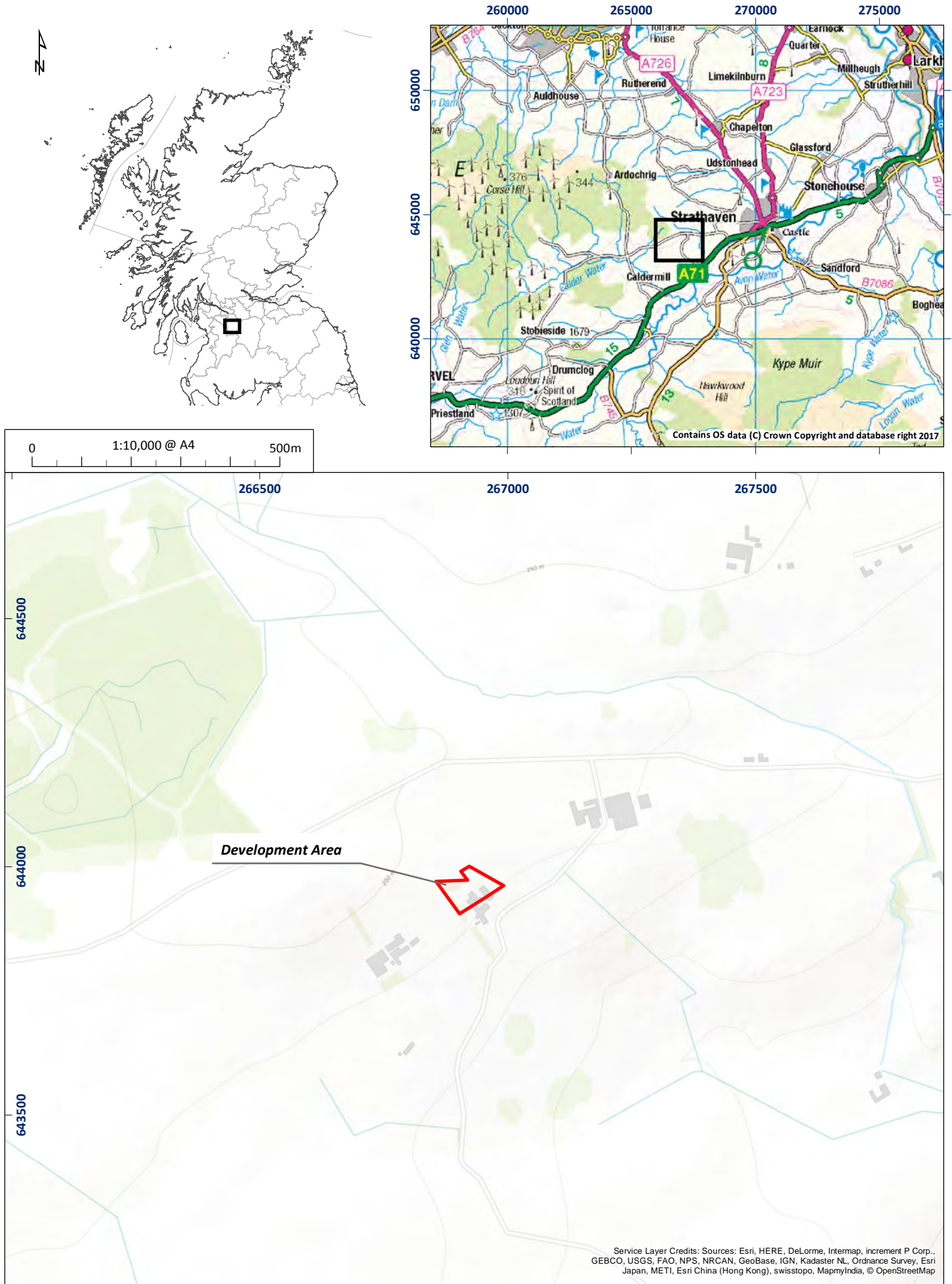
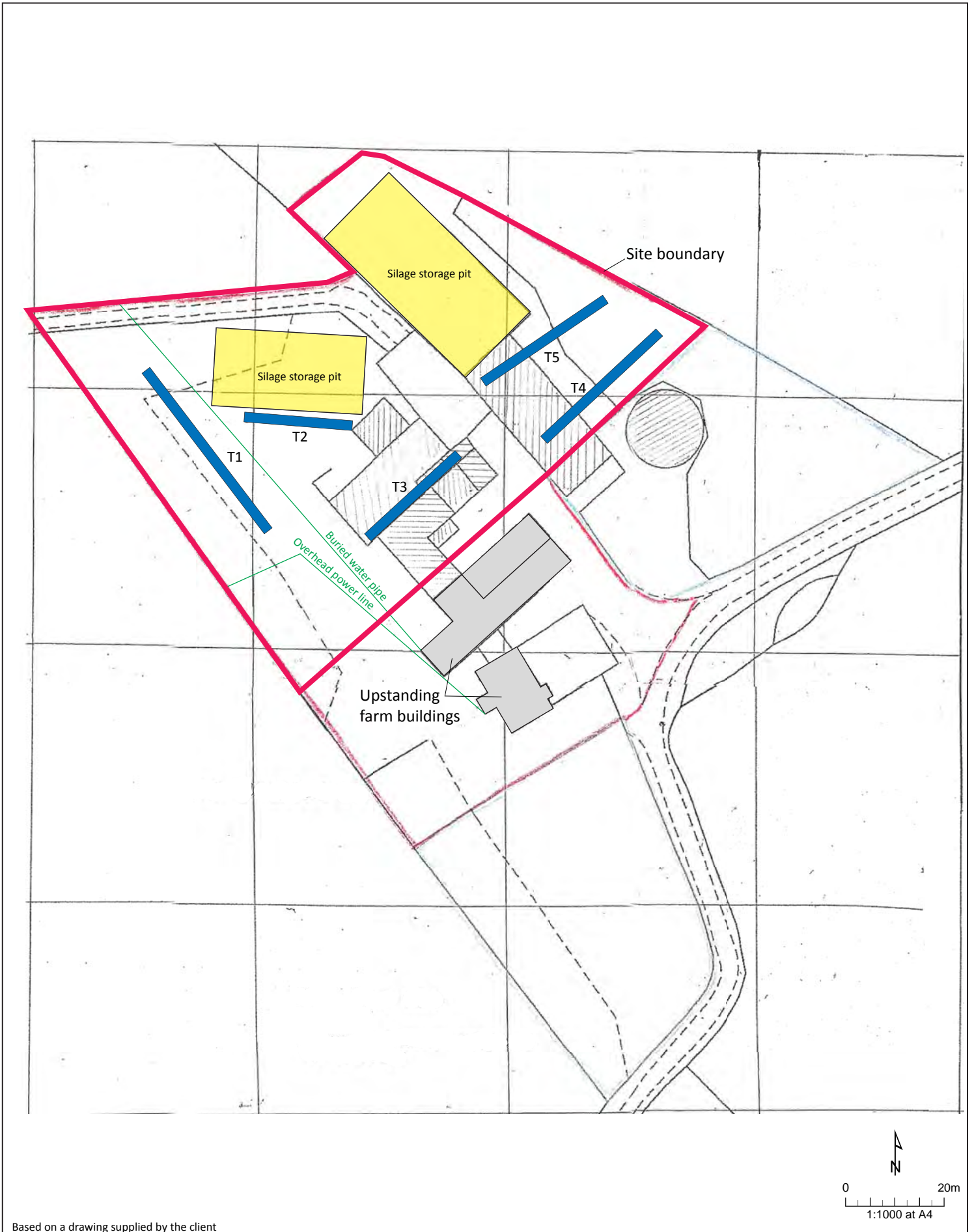


Figure 1: Site location plan

01/24197/DSR/01/01



Based on a drawing supplied by the client

Figure 2: Trench location plan

01/24197/DSR/02/01

Mid Brackenridge Farm, Strathaven, South Lanarkshire: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	41 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	82 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Excavation Depth</i>	0.2m deepening to 0.5 at SE end
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid to dark brown humic sandy clay
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange brown sandy clay glacial till with occasional sub-rounded stone up to 0.3m by 0.3m by 0.2m in size.
<i>Unstratified Finds</i>	None
<i>Drains</i>	Running E/W 3m from SE end.

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	22 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	44 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	ESE-WNW
<i>Excavation Depth</i>	0.2m deepening to 0.4m at ESE end
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid to dark brown humic sandy clay
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange brown sandy clay glacial till with occasional sub-rounded stone up to 0.3m by 0.3m by 0.2m in size.
<i>Unstratified Finds</i>	None
<i>Drains</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	50 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Excavation Depth</i>	0.4
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Topsoil</i>	Concrete slab with crushed building rubble foundation lying directly on subsoil
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange brown sandy clay glacial till with occasional sub-rounded stone up to 0.3m by 0.3m by 0.2m in size.
<i>Unstratified Finds</i>	None
<i>Drains</i>	Rubble drain running N-S 25m from SW end.

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	32 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	64 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Excavation Depth</i>	1.2 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Topsoil</i>	0.7m of crushed building rubble overlying up to 0.5m of mid to dark brown humic sandy clay buried topsoil.
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange brown sandy clay glacial till with occasional sub-rounded stone up to 0.3m by 0.3m by 0.2m in size.
<i>Unstratified Finds</i>	None
<i>Drains</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	60 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Excavation Depth</i>	0.2
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid to dark brown humic sandy clay with frequent crushed building rubble.
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange brown sandy clay glacial till with occasional sub-rounded stone up to 0.3m by 0.3m by 0.2m in size.
<i>Unstratified Finds</i>	None
<i>Drains</i>	None

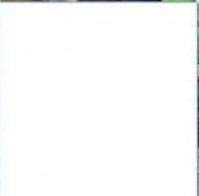
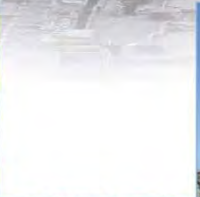
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

No.	Description	Taken From	Date
1	Post excavation shot of Trench 1	SE	16/02/18
2	Post excavation shot of Trench 2	ESE	16/02/18
3	Silage store at NE of development area	E	16/02/18
4	Silage store at N of development area	SW	16/02/18
5	Post excavation shot of Trench 4	WSW	16/02/18
6	Post excavation shot of Trench 5	WSW	16/02/18
7	Post excavation shot of Trench 5	NE	16/02/18
8	General view of site	NE	16/02/18
9	Silage store at NE of development area	E	16/02/18
10	General view of site	NW	16/02/18
11	Post excavation shot of Trench 3 partially backfilled to prevent flooding	W	16/02/18
12	General view of site	SW	16/02/18
13	Farm buildings to S of development area	NW	16/02/18
14	Farm buildings to S of development area	SE	16/02/18

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Mid Brackenridge Farm, Strathaven, South Lanarkshire: Archaeological Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 24197
PARISH:	Avondale
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jamie Humble
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 6695 4393
START DATE (this season)	16 th February 2018
END DATE (this season)	16 th February 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>AOC Archaeology Ltd were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation undertaken in respect of a proposed development at Mid Brackenridge Farm, Strathaven, South Lanarkshire (NGR: NS 6695 4393).</p> <p>The evaluation was undertaken within a single land parcel of 0.4 ha. An 8% (320 m²) sample of the evaluation area was required to be investigated by trial trenching. The scope of the works was agreed in a WSI approved by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).</p> <p>The proposed development area lies on an established farm and was until recently mainly occupied by ruinous cowsheds, silage stores and outbuildings. The evaluation revealed that most of the development area had been disturbed by the construction of these outbuildings. Outwith these previously developed areas a thin topsoil overlying the natural geology was revealed.</p> <p>No archaeologically significant features or material were recorded during the evaluation.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	No
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr James Russell
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EMAIL ADDRESS:	Jamie.humble@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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