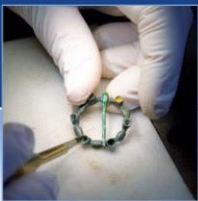


Craibstone South, Aberdeen

Phase 2: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC 23449
Planning Ref. No. P140470
13th November 2018



Craibstone South, Aberdeen, Phase 2: Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

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Date of Excavations	5th - 12th November 2018
Date of Report:	13th November 2018

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

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Date: 13th November 2018

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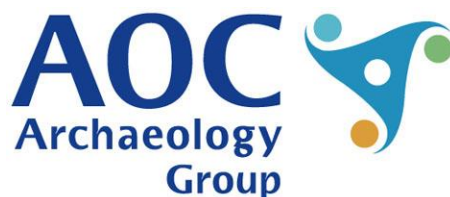
Date: 16th November 2018

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date: 16th November 2018

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Abstract

This report presents the results of archaeological works undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at the site of Craibstone South, Aberdeen. The works represent phase two of a new housing development and continue from works completed in May 2017.

The archaeological works revealed a shallow topsoil that had been greatly affected by plough scars and other farming activities.

No archaeological features were present.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Cala Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to a new development at Craibstone South, Aberdeen (Planning Ref: P140470). The evaluation represents phase 2 of a series of planned works and follows on from phase 1 which was conducted in May 2017 and consisted of an evaluation of the eastern portion of the Site. Phase 2 covers the southwest of the site.
- 1.2 The site lies within the local authority administrative area of Aberdeen City Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by the Aberdeen City Council Archaeology Service. These works are required in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011), in order to expose, excavate and record any archaeological remains that would be subject to an adverse impact by the development proposals.
- 1.3 The development area at Craibstone South (hereafter 'the Site') is located within the SRUC Agricultural campus at Aberdeen to the south of the A96, west of Bucksburn (Figure 1). It is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) NJ 87061 10677. It is bounded to the north by the A96, the east and south by the Gough Burn and the west by the C89C Chapel of Stonewood, Fairley Road. The development has been allocated for 700 units and is split into six phases.

2 Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The only Scheduled Monument near to the development area is the 14th century St Mary's Chapel and Graveyard located at Chapel of Stonewood to the north-west close to the A96 (Ref: SM 10446). No known sites from the earlier medieval or prehistoric period are noted in the NMRS on or near the development site.



Figure 3: Extract from Gordon & Bleu's map 1662

- 2.2 A settlement at Craibstone appears in the historic mapping as early as the 17th century, noted on Gordon & Blaeu's map of 1662 (Figure 3). It is then represented in more detail in Roy's map of ca. 1747 -1755 as a rectangular house surrounded by a rectangular plot of land (Figure 4), and as a simple rectangular house in the more schematic 1822 map by James Robertson (Figure 5). By the mid-19th century, the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1869 shows the development area in detail (Figure 6). Craibstone House is depicted, now set within a large expanse of grounds, and a planned courtyard steading has been constructed to its north-east with a defined and clear roadway leading to the Mill of Craibstone, which is just to the north-east of the development area.



Figure 4: Extract from Roy's map, ca.1747-1755

- 2.3 By the beginning of the 20th century, the 1901 Ordnance Survey map shows that Craibstone House has been heavily enlarged and new buildings, mostly glasshouses, have been constructed in the estate. Craibstone Steading to the north-east has also been largely extended and a new range of L-shaped cottages has appeared to its south-east (Figure 7). By 1925, the central barn built in the centre of the courtyard of Craibstone Steading is depicted as unroofed, and more buildings have appeared to its south-east, including small extensions to the L-shaped cottages and another large rectangular barn (Figure 8).



Figure 5: Extract from Robertson's map, 1822



Figure 6: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1869

- 2.4 Between 1946 and 1959, SRUC Agricultural Campus took over the area, and since that time new buildings have been added to the Campus, incorporating the former Craibstone House and adapting the farm buildings on the site.

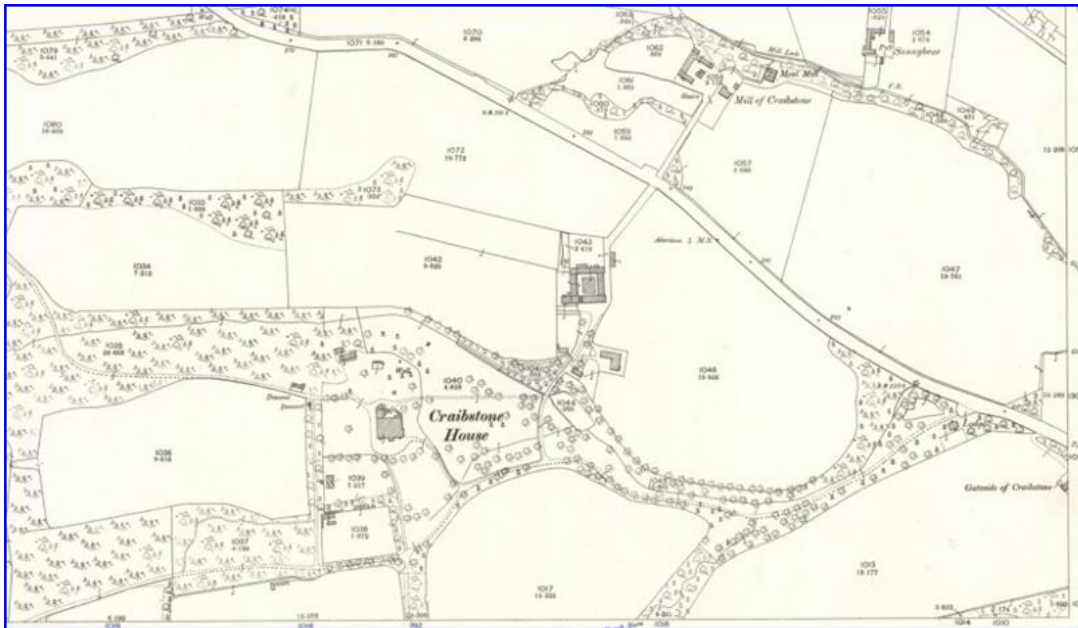


Figure 7: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1901

- 2.5 During the Phase 1 works, which comprised a 7% archaeological evaluation of the western portion of the Site, no significant archaeological features or finds were identified. The evaluation revealed a heavily plough damaged sub-soil cut with improvement drainage, some possible rig and furrow and a stone hole.



Figure 8: Extract from Ordnance Survey map 1925

3 Objectives

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area through 10% evaluation trenching;

- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered;
- iii) to prepare a final Data Structure Report and project archive.

4 Methodology

- 4.1 The development area consisted of a partially sloping pasture field measuring 5.96 ha. The required evaluation area of 4,172m² could not be met due to most of the northwest corner of the site being occupied by upstanding greenhouses. Services within the Site included an underground cold-water pipe running parallel to the entire southern boundary and an overhead electric cable cutting through the site. A triangular patch of dense pine trees was found towards the southwest corner of the site. The combination of these obstacles had reduced the available area for trenching to approximately half.
- 4.2 A 17 tonne tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket was used to excavate sixteen trenches within the development area measuring either 100m or 50m in length. Trench locations were determined based on the opportunity to ensure best coverage of the available area. These trenches were excavated to the natural sub-stratum, fully recorded and backfilled at the end of the archaeological works.



Plate 1: Post-excavation view of Trench 8

5 Results

- 5.1 The archaeological works were undertaken between the 5th and 12th November 2018 in mostly dry weather allowing for good visibility. The site was covered by a dark brown sand clay topsoil measuring between 0.26m – 0.38m in depth. The subsoil consisted of a yellow sandy clay towards the flat area of the site located in the south and an orange sandy clay on the sloping side towards the north.
- 5.2 The evaluation revealed an extremely disturbed topsoil that had been heavily scarred by ploughing and other related farming activities such as clay drains (See Plate 2). Several rubble field drains were noted to run on site predominantly orientated southwest to northeast on the deeper areas at the base of the slope.



Plate 2: Post excavation shot of Trench 13 showing plough scarring of subsoil

- 5.3 A small number of 19th/20th century white ceramics were found during the evaluation works, mostly recovered from the backfill of clay field drains (these were not retained).
- 5.4 No significant archaeological features were discovered

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 The evaluation revealed that these fields had undergone several attempts at improvement in the form of the insertion of clay pipe field drains. This suggests that historical that this ground had been subject to issues with drainage. It also became apparent during the evaluation that the topsoil across these fields was consistently shallow and consequently repetitive modern machine ploughing had led to truncation of the subsoil as demonstrated by the numerous plough scars evident.

- 6.2 The combination of the lack of finds from the topsoil, the complete lack of surviving cut features and the history of drainage and plough truncation issues suggests that the evaluation area is devoid of archaeological features. Although the evaluation was unable to access some areas of development for trenching, the findings from the evaluated portion are such that it is considered that no further works will be required. This will require confirmation from ACAS.

7 References

AOC, 2016. *Craibstone South (Phase 1), Aberdeen Historic Building Recording & Archaeological Evaluation: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished client report.

AOC, 2016. *Craibstone South (Phase 1), Aberdeen: Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report*. Unpublished client report.

AOC 2017 *Craibstone South (Phase 2), Aberdeen: Archaeological Evaluation: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished client report

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology*.

APPENDIX 1: Evaluation Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NW to SE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks, very few fragments of 19 th /20 th century ceramics and glass and few broken fragments of field drain – 0.47-0.65 m in depth
<i>B-Horizon Make-up</i>	N/A
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Frequent plough scars in natural and clay drain orientated NE-SW 2m from NW end
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange/pale brown sand/gravel/rocks/some clay – very hard packed. Fairly damp – does not drain well – likely clay layer beneath.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NW to SE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks measuring between 0.3m – 0.58m in depth
<i>B-Horizon Make-up</i>	N/A
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Frequent plough scars in natural and clay drain orientated N-S 26m from NW end
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange/pale brown sand/gravel/rocks/some clay – very hard packed. Fairly damp – does not drain well – likely clay layer beneath
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks measuring between 0.3 m to 0.44m in depth.
<i>B-Horizon Make-up</i>	N/A
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Frequent plough scars in natural, rubble drain orientated N-S 4m from NW end
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange/pale brown sand/gravel/rocks/some clay – very hard packed. Fairly damp – does not drain well – likely clay layer beneath
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NW to SE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks measuring between 0.44m to 0.46 m in depth
<i>B-Horizon Make-up</i>	N/A
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Frequent plough scars in natural.

Natural Subsoil Orange/pale brown sand/gravel/rocks/some clay – very hard packed. Fairly damp – does not drain well – likely clay layer beneath

Finds None

Trench 5

Dimensions 50 m by 2 m

Total Area 100 m²

Excavated Orientation NW-SE

Soil Make-up Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks, very few fragments of 19th/20th century ceramics and glass measuring between 0.34m to 0.46m in depth

B-Horizon Make-up N/A

Significant Features None

Other Features Frequent plough scars in natural.

Natural Subsoil Orange/pale brown sand/gravel/rocks/some clay – very hard packed. Fairly damp – does not drain well – likely clay layer beneath – lots of larger rocks resulting in numerous irregular stone holes

Finds None

Trench 6

Dimensions 50 m by 2 m

Total Area 100 m²

Excavated Orientation NW-SE

Soil Make-up Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks measuring between 0.38m to 0.62m in depth

B-Horizon Make-up N/A

Significant Features Possible pit 49m from NW later found to be stone hole

Other Features Frequent plough scars in natural. Clay drain orientated NE-SW 30m from NW and

Natural Subsoil Orange/pale brown sand/gravel/rocks/some clay – very hard packed. Fairly damp.

Finds None

Trench 7

Dimensions 50 m by 2 m

Total Area 100 m²

Excavated Orientation NW-SE

Soil Make-up Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks measuring between 0.31m -0.46 m in depth

B-Horizon Make-up N/A

Significant Features None

Other Features Frequent plough scars in natural

Natural Subsoil Orange/pale brown sand/gravel/rocks/some clay – very hard packed. Fairly damp.

Finds None

Trench 8

Dimensions 100 m by 2 m

Total Area 200 m²

Excavated Orientation SW-NE

Soil Make-up Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks measuring between 0.38m to 0.41m in depth.

B-Horizon Make-up N/A

Significant Features None

<i>Other Features</i>	Frequent plough scars in natural. Clay drain orientated E-W 40m from SW end. Clay drain orientated NW-SE 80m from SW end.
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid yellow sandy clay with sub angular stones throughout. Very hard packed. Poorly drained.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 9

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	200 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks measuring 0.38 m to 0.42m in depth.
<i>B-Horizon Make-up</i>	N/A
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Frequent plough scars in natural. Field drain runs E-W 55m from SW end
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid yellow sandy clay with sub angular stones throughout. Very hard packed. Poorly drained
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 10

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	200 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SW to NE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks measuring between 0.31m to 0.39 in depth.
<i>B-Horizon Make-up</i>	N/A
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Frequent plough scars in natural.
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid yellow sandy clay with sub angular stones throughout. Very hard packed. Poorly drained
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 11

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	200 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NNE-SSW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks measuring between 0.27 m to 0.42m in depth.
<i>B-Horizon Make-up</i>	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural – 0.81m in depth.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Frequent plough scars in natural throughout NNE and SSW extents but not middle of trench
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid yellow sandy clay with sub angular stones throughout. Very hard packed. Poorly drained
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 12

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	200 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SSW to NNE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks measuring 0.43m to 0.53m in depth
<i>B-Horizon Make-up</i>	Colluvium – similar to topsoil but mixed with natural - 0.69m in depth.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Frequent plough scars in natural at the SSW and NNE extents.
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid yellow sandy clay with sub angular stones throughout. Very hard packed. Poorly drained. Changes to orange colour after 22m at start of slope.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 13

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	200 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SSW to NNE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks measuring between 0.31m– 0.42 m in depth
<i>B-Horizon Make-up</i>	N/A
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Frequent plough scars in natural. Field drain orientated NE-SW 30m from SSW end.
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid yellow sandy clay with sub angular stones throughout. Very hard packed. Poorly drained. Changes to an orange colour after 36m.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 14

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SSW-NNE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks measuring between 0.34m to 0.42m in depth.
<i>B-Horizon Make-up</i>	N/A
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Frequent plough scars in natural.
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid yellow sandy clay with sub angular stones throughout. Very hard packed. Poorly drained
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 15

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks measuring between 0.32m to 0.38m in depth.
<i>B-Horizon Make-up</i>	N/A
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Frequent plough scars throughout SW half.
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid yellow sandy clay with sub angular stones throughout. Very hard packed. Poorly drained.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 16

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SW - NE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Dark brown sandy silt with few small/medium rocks measuring between 0.26m to 0.35m in depth.
<i>B-Horizon Make-up</i>	N/A
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Frequent plough scars in natural.
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid yellow sandy clay with sub angular stones throughout. Very hard packed. Poorly drained.
<i>Finds</i>	None

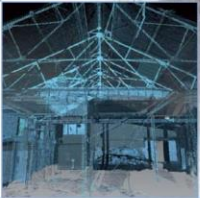
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digital Images

Frame	Trench	Description	From	Date
1	1	Post ex shot of trench 1	NW	05/11
2	2	Post ex shot of trench 2	NW	05/11
3	3	Post ex shot of trench 3	NW	05/11
4	4	Post ex shot of trench 4	NW	05/11
5	5	Post ex shot of trench 5	NW	05/11
6	6	Post ex shot of trench 6	NW	05/11
7	7	Post ex shot of trench 7	NW	05/11
8	8	Post ex shot of trench 8	SW	05/11
9	9	Post ex shot of trench 9	SW	06/11
10	10	Post ex shot of trench 10	SW	06/11
11	11	Post ex shot of trench 11	SSW	06/11
12	12	Post ex shot of trench 12	SSW	06/11
13	13	Post ex shot of trench 13	SSW	06/11
14	14	Post ex shot of trench 14	SSW	07/11
15	15	Post ex shot of trench 15	SW	07/11
16	16	Post ex shot of trench 16	SW	07/11
17	-	Shots showing backfilled trenches	N	09/11
18	-	Shots showing backfilled trenches	SW	09/11
19	-	Shots showing backfilled trenches	SE	09/11
20	-	Shots showing backfilled trenches	E	09/11
21	-	Shots showing backfilled trenches	NE	09/11
22	-	Shots showing backfilled trenches	E	09/11
23	-	Shots showing backfilled trenches	E	09/11

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeen Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Craibstone South (Phase 2), Aberdeen: Archaeological Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	23449
PARISH:	Aberdeen
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Stuart Wilson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NGR: NJ 87490 10501 (center)
START DATE (this season)	05/11/18
END DATE (this season)	12/11/18
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Archaeological evaluation 2017 (Phase 1)
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report presents the results of archaeological works undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at the site of Craibstone South, Aberdeen. The works represent phase two of a new housing development and continue from works completed in May 2017.</p> <p>The archaeological works revealed a shallow topsoil that had been greatly affected by plough scars and other farming activities.</p> <p>No archaeological features were present.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	To be confirmed
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Cala Homes Ltd
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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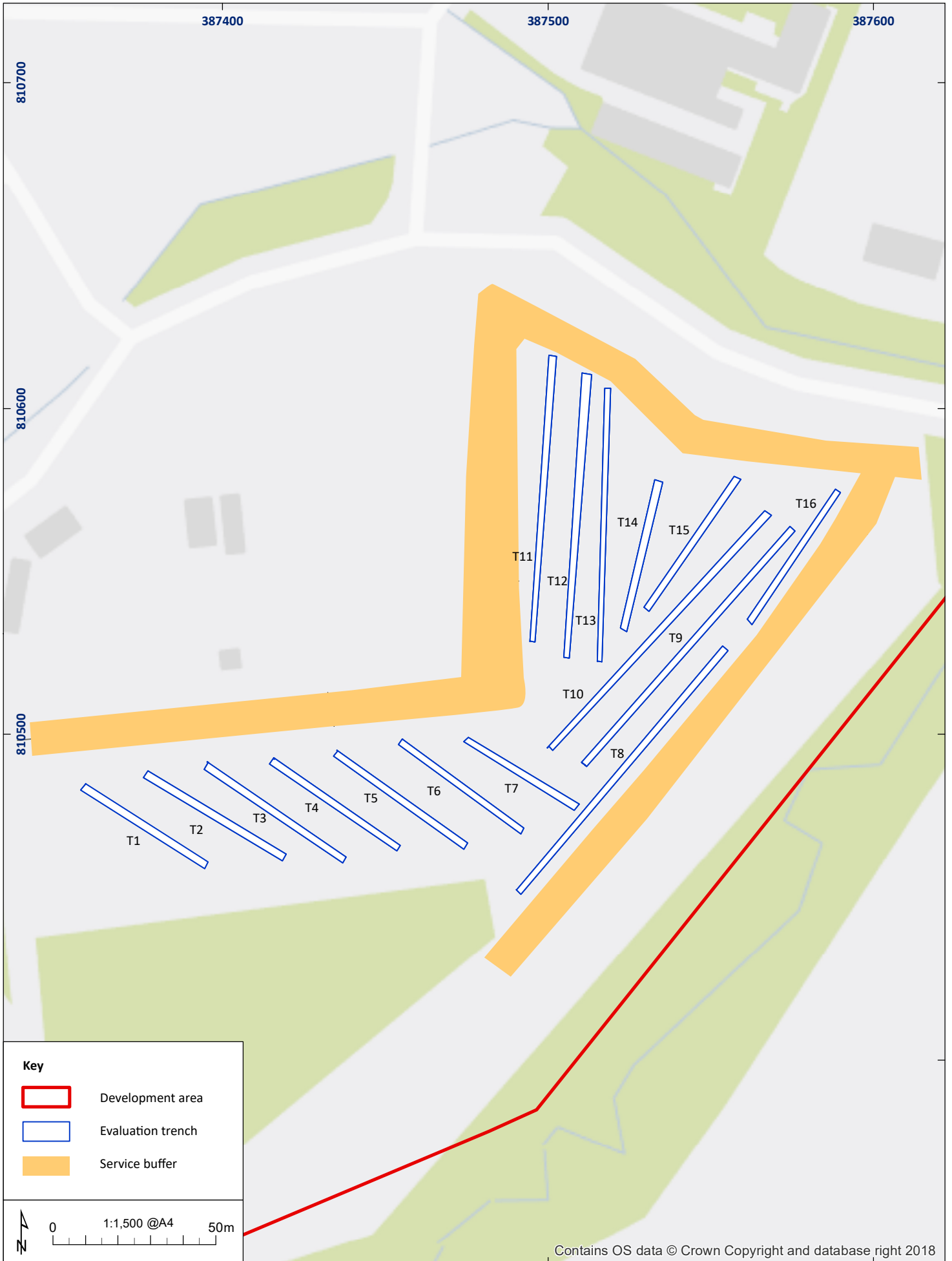


Figure 2: Evaluation trench layout

01/23449/DSR/02/01