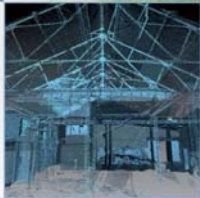


Cairnhill, Rosehearty, Fraserburgh Archaeological Evaluation:

Data Structure Report

AOC 21185

February 2009



AOC
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ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Cairnhill, Roseheart, Fraserburgh Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Colaren Properties Ltd
Abbey View
Old Deer
Aberdeenshire
AB42 5LB

National Grid Reference (NGR): NJ 9282 6682

AOC Project No: AOC 21185

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Date of Report: February 2009

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

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Contents

	Page
List of illustrations	2
List of appendices	2
Abstract	3
1 INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 Development Background	4
1.2 Site Location.....	4
1.3 Archaeological Background	4
2 OBJECTIVES	5
3 METHOD	5
4. RESULTS	5
5 CONCLUSION	6
6 REFERENCES	6
APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions	8
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register	10
APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT	11

List of illustrations

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Location of Evaluation Trenches

List of appendices

Appendix 1: Trench Descriptions

Appendix 2: Photographic Register

Appendix 3: *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* Report

Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Cairnhill, Rosehearty, Fraserburgh (centred NGR: NJ 9282 6682). The evaluation was commissioned by Colaren Properties Ltd on a proposed residential development. The archaeological works were designed to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, as advised by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS) and are in accordance with the principles inherent in SPP 23 (2008) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a).

The objective of the work was to evaluate the archaeological potential of the development area. The evaluation consisted of nine trenches totalling 935 m² and thereby comprising a 7% sample of the development area.

The evaluation revealed neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance. No further archaeological works are recommended.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Development Background

1.1.1 Archaeological works comprising a 7% sample archaeological evaluation was required by Colaren Properties Ltd prior to a proposed development (APP/2008/1311) at Cairnhill, Rosehearty, Fraserburgh. The need for and scope of archaeological works had been determined by Aberdeenshire Council who are advised on archaeological matters by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS). The work required was in accordance with SPP 23 (2008) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a), in order to determine the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The development by Colaren Properties Ltd involves the construction of 22 houses with associated access and landscaping (APP/2008/1311). The site covers an area of c. 13,630 m² and is presently greenfield, lying to the immediate south-west of Rosehearty (NGR: NJ 9282 6682). It is bounded to the north-east and south-east by existing residential properties and gardens. To the north-west the boundary is marked by Pitsligo Street (B9031), whilst to the south-west lies undeveloped arable farm land. The site slopes quite steeply from south-east to north-west and also from north-east to south-west towards a low point in the field near the south-western end at which point the land begins to rise again; this low area is very wet and marshy. The location and extent of the site is shown in Figure 1.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The settlement of Rosehearty was founded in the 14th century by Danish fishermen with the village illustrated as '*Rasard*' on Pont's map of 1601 and as '*Rassarty*' on Gordon's map (pre 1642). The development area lies on the south-western side of the village, away from the historical core of the town.

1.3.2 Whilst the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) archives do not list any sites within the development area or immediate vicinity, the Aberdeenshire Council's Sites and Monuments Records record a few sites close to the development area. Lying at the south-west corner of the development area just beyond the site boundary, on the verge of the B9031, is a marker stone (SMR No. NJ96NW0037) which marked the boundary of the Burgh of Rosehearty. Two other boundary stones lie close to the development area, further south, approximately 100 m away lies SMR No. NJ96NW0038 whilst SMR No. NJ96NW0039 lies a similar distance to the east. All three marker stones were shown on First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping (1867).

1.3.3 Given that the site was previously undeveloped there was always the possibility that the evaluation would uncover previously unknown significant archaeological remains.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) to determine the character, condition, extent, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of archaeological mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, should significant archaeological remains be encountered that cannot be preserved *in situ*.

3 METHOD

3.1 The evaluation was achieved through the excavation of linear trenches using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a 2 m wide ditching bucket. The trenches covered a 7% sample (935 m²) of the development area.

3.2 The trenches were of varying lengths and set on varying orientations (Figure 2). The precise location of the trenches was determined on receipt of utility service information and following consultation with ACAS.

3.3 Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural drift geology was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.

3.4 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures. Stratigraphy was recorded in all trenches even where no deposits of archaeological significance were discovered. The trenches were backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

4. RESULTS

4.1 The archaeological evaluation was conducted between 2nd and 3rd February 2009. The weather conditions during the evaluation were variable ranging from rain and snow showers to dry and cold; overall archaeological visibility was good. Nine trenches approximately 2.0 m wide were excavated. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-3 and Figure 2.

4.2 The excavation of all the trenches revealed topsoil comprising soft dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded stones and rare fragments of modern white pottery and ceramic tile. Underlying the topsoil, natural subsoil consisted mainly of friable mixed grey and orange sandy clay with moderate small to medium sub-rounded stones and occasional large sub-rounded boulders. In some areas, particularly in the north-eastern end of the site, soft light orange sand with large patches of gravel were present.

- 4.3 All the trenches featured rubble field drains cut into the natural subsoil. These were on various alignments but appeared mainly to drain towards the low-lying marshy area of the site. One ceramic field drain was noted in Trench 8.
- 4.4 In a number of the trenches (1, 4, 5, 8 & 9) a thick layer (0.05-0.30 m) of soft wet dark grey/brown organic peaty material was observed between the topsoil and underlying natural subsoil. This material was only observed in those trenches which were located across the low-lying marshy hollow within the site. It seems likely that this material has formed due to the very wet environment of the area, together with ploughing and/or natural hillwash forming a greater depth of soil within the hollow.
- 4.5 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified during the evaluation. The balance of probability is that the area is archaeologically sterile and therefore no further archaeological works are recommended. However this recommendation will ultimately require the endorsement of Aberdeenshire Council following advice from ACAS.

6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology Group 2009 *Cairnhill, Rosehearty, Fraserburgh: Written Scheme of Investigation* AOC unpublished client document.

The Scottish Office Environment Department 1994a. *Planning Advice Note 42. Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. January 1994.

SSP 23 2008 *Scottish Planning Policy SPP 23: Planning and the Historic Environment: Consultative Draft*. The Scottish Government.

Cairnhill, Rosehearty, Fraserburgh Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	200 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NNE/SSW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.28-0.35 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.30-0.65 m
<i>Features</i>	A thick layer of soft wet dark grey/brown organic/peaty material was observed within natural hollow area between topsoil and subsoil. Fills base of hollow, maximum 0.30 m deep. Two rubble field drains observed aligned NW/SE at 41 m and 61-68 m from SSE end of trench.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Mixed light grey and orange sandy clay with frequent small stones and occasional large boulders, becoming sandier towards NNW end.
<i>Finds</i>	Rare fragments of modern white pottery in topsoil.

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	50 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	ENE/WSW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30-0.50 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.36-0.55 m
<i>Features</i>	One rubble field drain observed at 13.5-19.7 m from WSW end of trench, aligned NE/SW.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid orange friable sandy clay with frequent small stones, moderate medium stones and occasional large boulders, changes to sandy gravel further upslope from c. 18 m from WSW end of trench.
<i>Finds</i>	None observed.

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	45 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	90 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	ENE/WSW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.28-0.39 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.35-0.43 m
<i>Features</i>	Two rubble field drains observed at 6.5-9.5 m and 11.5 m from ENE end of trench, aligned NNW/SSE and NE/SW respectively.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid orange friable sandy clay with frequent small and medium stones and occasional larger boulders, patch of sandy gravel between 24-30 m from ENE end of trench.
<i>Finds</i>	Rare fragments of modern white pottery and a fragment of ceramic tile observed in topsoil.

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	200 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NNE/SSW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.28-0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.35-0.65 m
<i>Features</i>	A thick layer of soft wet dark grey/brown organic/peaty material observed within natural hollow area between topsoil and subsoil. Fills base of hollow, maximum 0.20- 0.30 m deep. Two rubble field drains observed aligned ENE/WSW at 74 m and 83 m from NNW end of trench.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None

<i>Subsoil</i>	Light-mid orange sandy clay with moderate small and medium stones and occasional larger boulders, mixed orange and grey sandy clay at SSE end of trench.
<i>Finds</i>	Rare fragments of modern white pottery observed in topsoil.
Trench 5	
<i>Dimensions</i>	20 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	40 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	ENE/WSW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.23-0.31 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.28-0.40 m
<i>Features</i>	Thin layer of soft wet dark grey/brown organic/peaty material observed (at edge of marshy hollow area) between topsoil and subsoil, between 0.05-0.10 m deep. One rubble field drain observed at 18.3-20 m from ENE end of trench aligned NNW/SSE.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Mixed light orange and grey friable sandy clay with moderate small and medium stones and occasional large boulders.
<i>Finds</i>	None observed.
Trench 6	
<i>Dimensions</i>	45 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	90 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E/W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.23-0.38 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.27-0.44 m
<i>Features</i>	Three rubble field drains observed at 13-19 m (aligned NW/SE), 27-36 m (aligned WNW/ESE) and 39 m (aligned NW/SE) from W end of trench.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Mixed light grey and orange friable sandy clay (with patches of sand in small areas) with moderate small and medium stones and occasional large boulders.
<i>Finds</i>	None observed.
Trench 7	
<i>Dimensions</i>	45 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	90 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NNE/SSW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.32 m
<i>Features</i>	One rubble field drain aligned ENE/WSW at 40 m from SSW end of trench.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Light grey sandy clay with moderate small and medium stones and occasional large boulders at SSW end and light orange sand with occasional small stones and boulders at NNE end of trench.
<i>Finds</i>	None observed.
Trench 8	
<i>Dimensions</i>	45 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	90 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	SSE/NNW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25-0.35 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.34-0.60 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	A thick layer of soft wet dark grey/brown organic/peaty material observed within natural hollow area between topsoil and subsoil. Fills base of hollow, maximum 0.20- 0.30 m deep. Two

rubble field drains observed aligned NW/SE and E/W at 11-13.5 m and 15 m from SSE end respectively. One ceramic field drain at 29.6 m from SSE end of trench aligned E/W.

Significant Features

None

Subsoil

Light grey and orange friable sandy clay with moderate small and medium stones and occasional large boulders.

Finds

None observed.

Trench 9*Dimensions*

45 m by 2 m

*Total Area*90 m²*Orientation*

SSE/NNW

Depth of Topsoil

0.22-0.35 m

Depth of Excavation

0.30-0.46 m

Features

A thick layer of soft wet dark grey/brown organic/peaty material observed within natural hollow area between topsoil and subsoil. Fills base of hollow, maximum 0.20 m deep. Three rubble field drains observed aligned NW/SE and NNE/SSW at 17 m, 20.4 m and 22.8-27.9 m respectively from SSE end of trench.

Significant Features

None

Subsoil

Light grey and orange friable sandy clay with moderate small and medium stones and occasional large boulders.

Finds

Rare fragments of modern white pottery and one fragment of modern tile observed in topsoil.

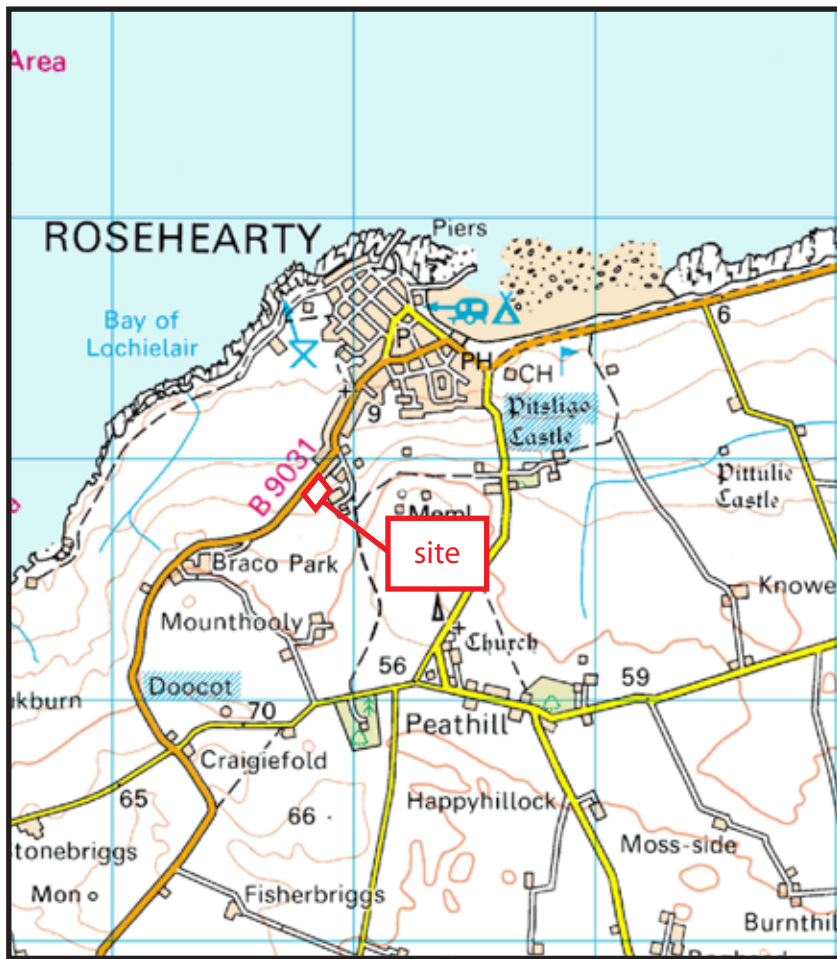
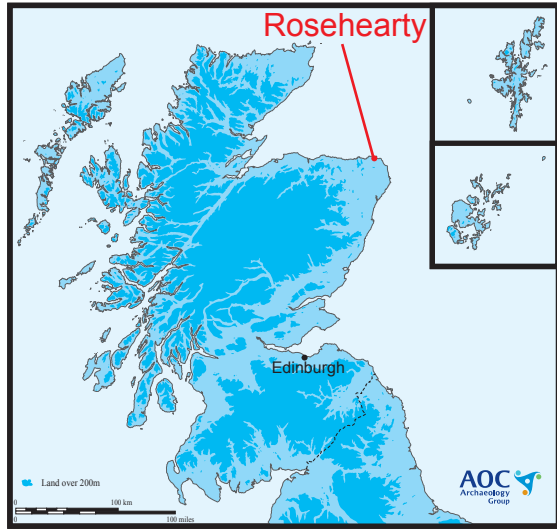
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Black and White Print, Colour Slide and Digital Film 1

Frame	Area/Trench	Description	From
1-2		Registration shots	
3-4	Trench 1	General trench shot	NNE
5-6	Trench 2	General trench shot	WSW
7-8	Trench 3	General trench shot	WSW
9-10	Trench 4	General trench shot	NNE
11-12	Trench 5	General trench shot	ENE
13-14	Trench 6	General trench shot	E
15-16	Trench 7	General trench shot	SSW
17-18	Trench 8	General trench shot	NNW
19-20	Trench 9	General trench shot	NNW
21-22		General shot of site post-excavation	NW
23	(Digital only)	General shot of site post-excavation	NW

APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeenshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Cairnhill, Rosehearty, Fraserburgh Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21185
PARISH:	Pitsligo
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Victoria Clements
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	
NGR:	NJ 9282 6682
START DATE (this season)	2 nd February 2009
END DATE (this season)	3 rd February 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of a proposed residential development. Nine trenches (covering an area of 935 m ²) were opened. No archaeologically significant features or artefacts were identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Colaren Properties Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	C/o AOC Archaeology Group
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Lindsay.Dunbar@aocarchaeology.com



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Figure 1: Site location

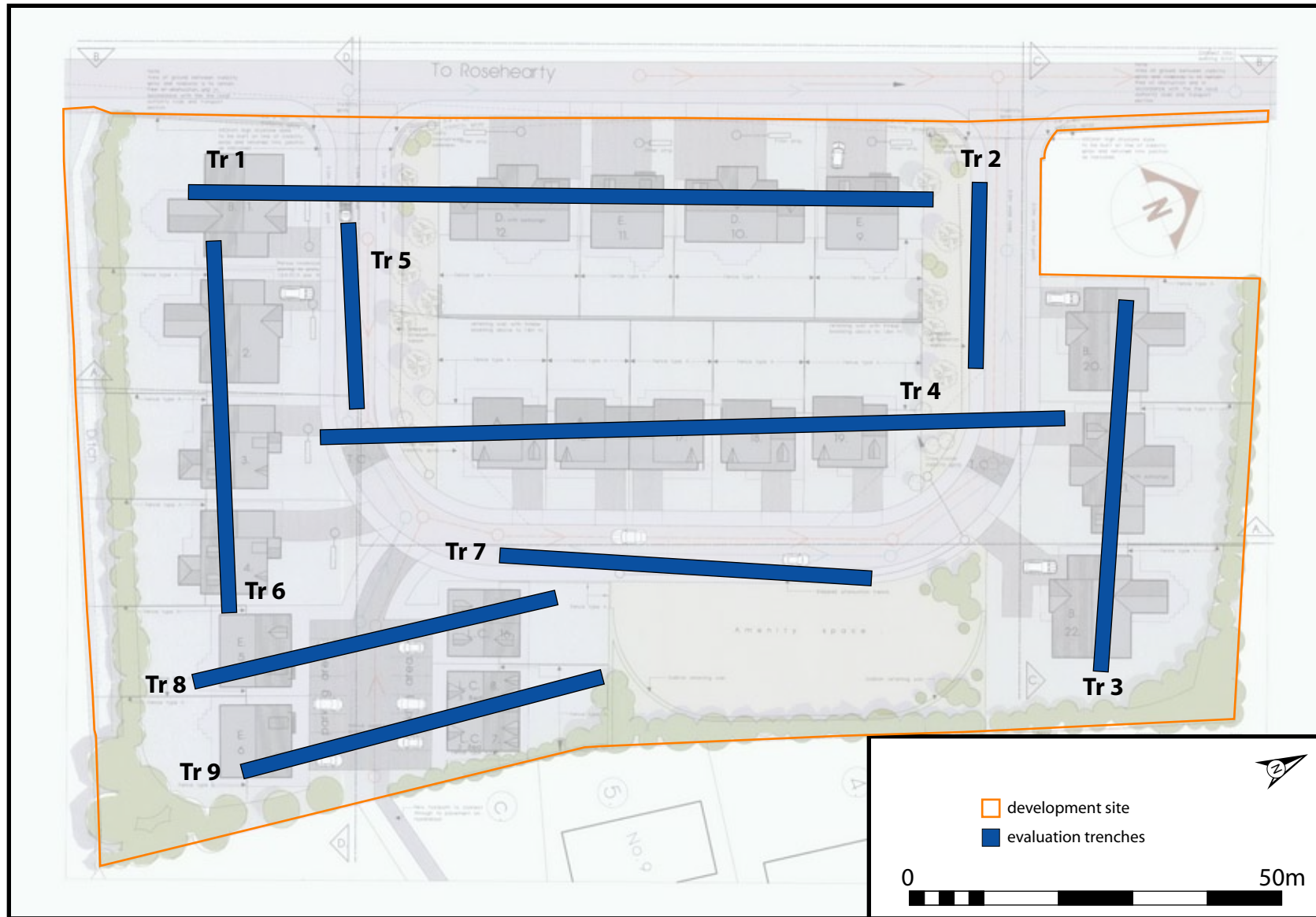
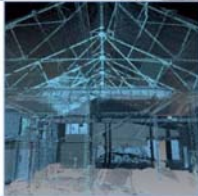


Figure 2: Trench location plan



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