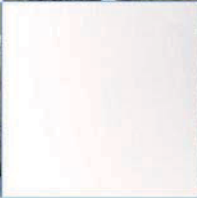
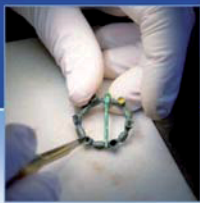


# St Cuthbert's Street, Catrine, Ayrshire

## Watching Brief Report

AOC 21417

28<sup>th</sup> July 2009



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## St Cuthbert's Street, Catrine, Ayrshire: Watching Brief Report

---

**On Behalf of:** Scotia Gas Network  
95 Kilbirnie Street  
Glasgow  
G5 8JD

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NS 533 260

**AOC Project No:** 21417

**Prepared by:** Victoria Clements

**Illustration by:** Douglas Park

**Date of Fieldwork:** 6<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009

**Date of Report:** 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009

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

**Author:** Victoria Clements

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009

**Approved by:** John Gooder

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009

**Draft Report Stage:** Draft

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009

**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](mailto:admin@aocarchaeology.com)

## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
List of illustrations .....	4
List of plates .....	4
Summary.....	5
1 INTRODUCTION .....	6
2 OBJECTIVES .....	6
3 METHODOLOGY .....	6
4 RESULTS .....	7
5 CONCLUSION.....	10
6 BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	10
APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record .....	12
APPENDIX 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report.....	13

## List of illustrations

Figure 1: Site Location and Scheduled Area

Figure 2: Location of Test-pits and Trenches

## List of plates

Plate 1: Sandstone block, forming part of the covered lade, with void below

Plate 2: Mortar bonded sandstone blocks in Trench 3

Plate 3: Mortar bonded sandstone blocks with iron bar in background

## Summary

---

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on ground in St Cuthbert's Street, Catrine associated with the Scheduled Area of Catrine Mill. The work was undertaken to monitor the potential impact on the archaeological resource by the re-direction of a gas main around the Scheduled mill lade. The work was commissioned by Scotia Gas Network.

Several blocks of bonded red sandstone which may relate to the covered lade were identified during the works. The route of the gas main was diverted to avoid any impact on the Scheduled mill lade.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Scotia Gas Network commissioned AOC Archaeology Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the re-direction of a gas main which currently runs through the roof of a Scheduled lade associated with Catrine Mill, in St Cuthbert's Street, Catrine, Ayrshire. The works consisted of archaeological monitoring of all ground breaking works involved in the re-direction.

### 1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The two trial pits and five trenches were located in the centre of St Cuthbert's Street above the Scheduled lade (NGR: NS 5332 2603). The location of the ground breaking works are shown in Figures 1-2.

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The diverted route of the gas main lies above a Scheduled covered lade (Index No. 5670; NMRS NS52NW20) associated with the water works for Catrine Mill (NMRS NS52NW 19). The monument comprises the water supply system from the River Ayr to the covered aqueduct leading to the Catrine Cotton Mill. The area includes the basins, channels and their banks, covered lade and associated boundary walls and fences. It excludes all road surfaces. Scheduled ground around these sites affords them statutory protection under the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (AM & AAA 1979)*.
- 1.3.2 Catrine Mill was built in 1747; a good example of an early industrial cotton twist mill, it was partially surveyed for the National Buildings Record in 1960. The mill was noted as being demolished in 1967 (Butt 1967). In 1976 JR Hume described the mill as architecturally the finest in Scotland, most of the original two-storey rubble housing survived, together with the weir, approach spans to the wheel-house, and the tail-race installed in 1827 for the great 50ft wheels built by William Fairburn (Hume 1976). Remains of the stone-lined lade were observed during a photographic survey in October 2002. The western portion of the lade was culverted until it was excavated during a housing development in 2002 and then backfilled. The lade previously provided water power to Catrine Mill, taking water from the River Ayr and then returning it to the west.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- i) to safeguard to archaeological resource, specifically the Scheduled mill lade, from inadvertent damage;
  - ii) to report on the results of the watching brief.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Two trial pits were excavated by hand to determine the location of the existing gas main (Figure 2). Five small trenches were then excavated by mini-digger in order to re-direct the existing gas main around the covered lade. Each trial pit and trench was excavated until the existing gas main was identified or a maximum depth of 0.90 m was reached. All ground breaking was monitored by an

experienced field archaeologist. All recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practices.

- 3.2 A black and white print and digital photographic record of the archaeological works was taken (Appendix 1).

## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The ground breaking works were excavated between Monday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009 in variable weather conditions. Archaeological visibility was good throughout.
- 4.2 Trial pit 1 measured 1.3 m long and 0.5 m wide with a maximum depth of 0.5 m at which point the existing gas main was located. Trial pit 2 measured 1.4 m long and 0.5 m wide with a maximum depth of 0.6 m where the gas main was identified. Both trial pits showed approximately 0.1 m of tarmac road surface overlying made ground of dark grey and black ashy material with frequent fragments of sandstone and brick rubble. At the western limit of Trial pit 2 a red sandstone block was observed within the section which appeared to be an *in situ* block of the lade. A void directly below this block clearly showed the existing gas main running through the lade (Plate 1).



**Plate 1: Sandstone block, forming part of the covered lade, with void below**

- 4.3 Trench 1 ran roughly N/S from Trial pit 1 towards Trial pit 2 (Figure 2). The trench was 3.4 m long, 0.85 m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.8 m. Trench 2 continued along the same alignment starting approximately 1 m to the north of Trial pit 2 and continuing for 3.6 m. The trench had a maximum width of 1.2 m and maximum depth of 0.75 m. Both of these trenches exposed the line of the existing gas main to allow it to be diverted. Both trenches revealed 0.1 m of tarmac road surface over approximately 0.25 m of broken sandstone rubble and medium sized sub-rounded stones (<0.3

m diameter) which in turn overlay firm mid red brown very sandy clay natural subsoil with moderate small to medium (0.05 - 0.3 m diameter) sub-rounded and rounded stones.

- 4.4 Trench 3 was excavated from the mid point of Trench 1 along an E/W alignment for approximately 3 m (Figure 2). It was 0.45 m wide and a maximum of 0.9 m deep. This trench revealed 0.1 m of tarmac road surface overlying 0.6 m of rough red sandstone rubble and yellow brick fragments in a matrix of dark grey sandy material with frequent small to medium rounded and sub-rounded stones. This in turn overlay around 0.20 m of mid red brown sandy clay natural subsoil. At the west end of the trench several long sandstone blocks were observed, sloping to the north-west and bonded with a coarse light yellow mortar (Plate 2). These blocks appeared to be *in situ* however they were located well away from the predicted line of the covered lade and while they may relate to the structure it is unlikely that they form part of the lade. In order to avoid damage to this area the junction with Trench 5 was diverted to the north-east (Figure 2).



**Plate 2: Mortar bonded sandstone blocks in Trench 3**

- 4.5 Trench 4 was excavated from mid way along Trench 2 (Figure 2). It was begun on an E/W alignment for a length of c.1.4 m; however at this point several roughly squared blocks of red sandstone bonded with light creamy mortar with an iron bar encased in the centre were encountered (Plate 3). Although this was some way from the predicted line of the covered lade the blocks seem likely to be a structure related to the lade. The trench was, therefore, diverted to the north-east to avoid this



structure. The trench thus ran 2.2 m to the north-east before turning to run E/W for 1.25 m, avoiding the sandstone structure and revealing 0.1 m of tarmac road surface, overlying 0.5 m of hardcore and brick rubble. This in turn overlay firm mid red brown sandy clay natural subsoil. A large reinforced concrete post which was clearly not related to the lade was removed from the west end of Trench 4 close to the junction with Trench 5; this post appears to be related to the modern road construction.



**Plate 3: Mortar bonded sandstone blocks with iron bar in background**

- 4.6 Trench 5 was excavated from the end of Trench 4 along a N/S alignment for 8 m before turning to the south-west for 1.5 m and joining Trench 3 (Figure 2). The trench was approximately 0.4 m wide and 0.7 m deep with 0.2 m of tarmac road surface overlying c. 0.5 m of hardcore and brick rubble with occasional loose dressed sandstone blocks. As with all the trenches the loose sandstone appears to be part of the general make-up layer for levelling the road and probably represents rubble from the demolition of the lade being re-used.

## 5 CONCLUSION

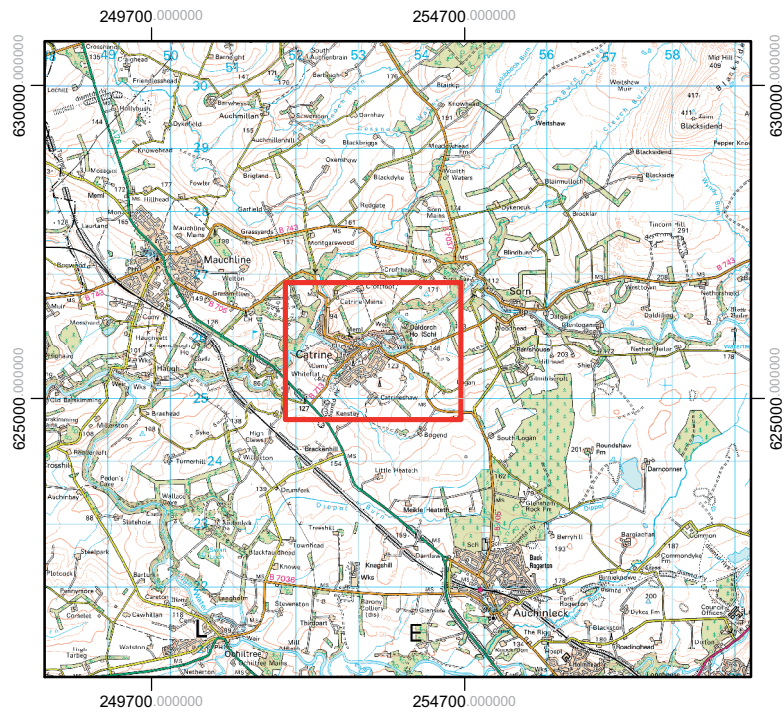
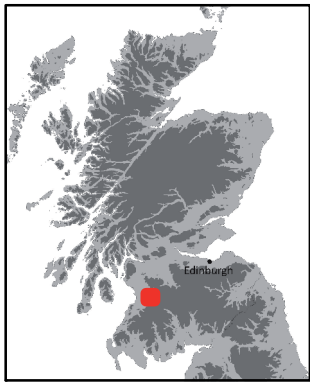
- 5.1 The watching brief identified three areas of *in situ* mortar bonded sandstone structure, however, only one of these, that in Trial pit 2, was identified as being part of the scheduled covered lade. The other two areas of sandstone may be related to the lade but are not obviously connected to it. As the entire area excavated revealed frequent fragments and dressed blocks of red sandstone irregularly situated within the road make-up layer, it seems likely that remnants of the lade from its excavation/demolition during previous construction works in the area have been used to try and form a compact level for the modern tarmac road construction. No damage was caused to the scheduled structure during the ground breaking works and when possible structures were encountered the works were diverted around them.


## 6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AM & AAA 1979 *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*.

Butt, J 1967 *The Industrial Archaeology of Scotland: The Industrial Archaeology of the British Isles Series*. Newton Abbot.

Hume, JR 1976 *The Industrial Archaeology of Scotland, 1, Lowlands and Borders*. London.



 Scheduled Area

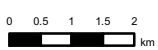
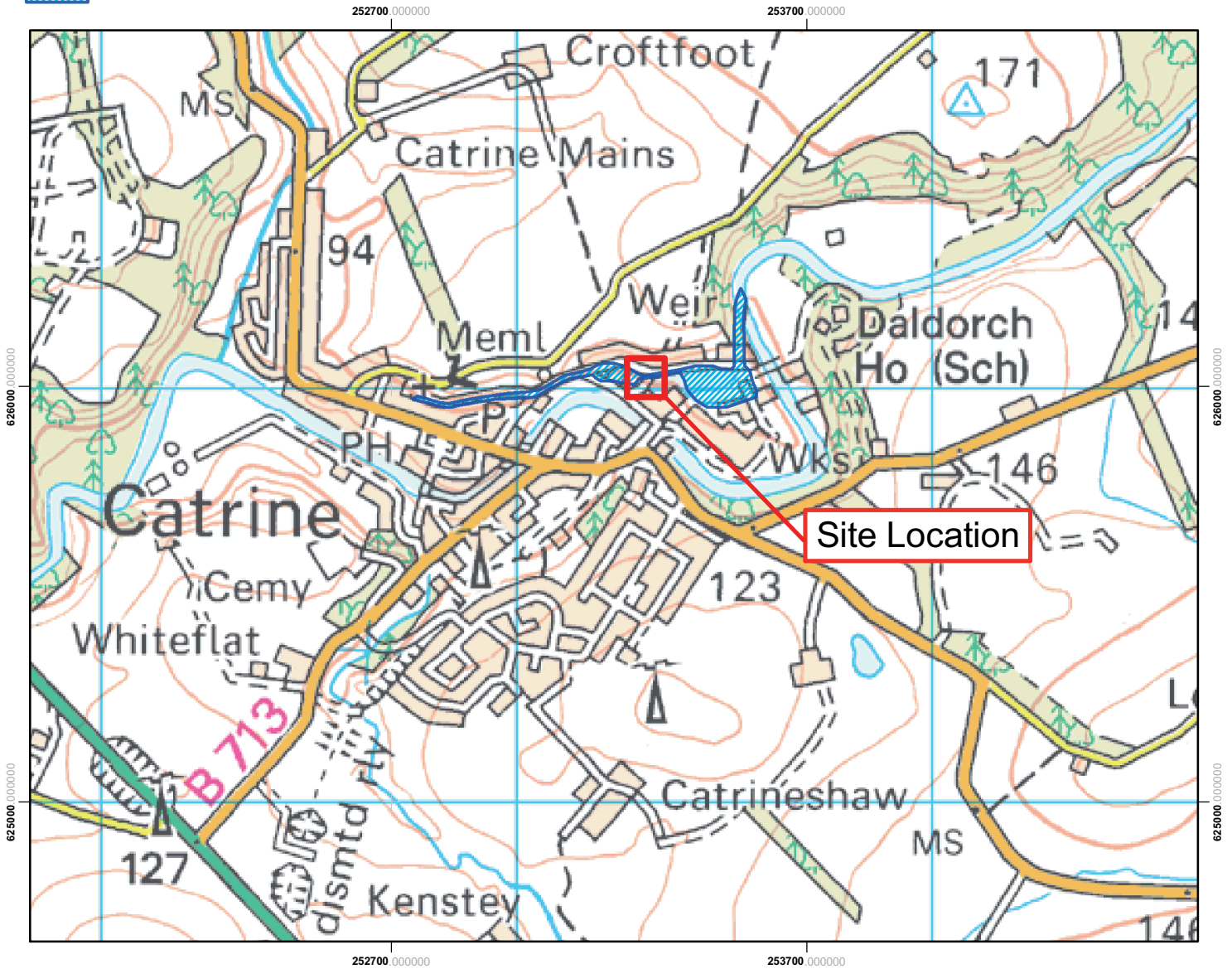


Figure 1: Site Location (showing scheduled areas)



(c) AOC Archaeology 2009

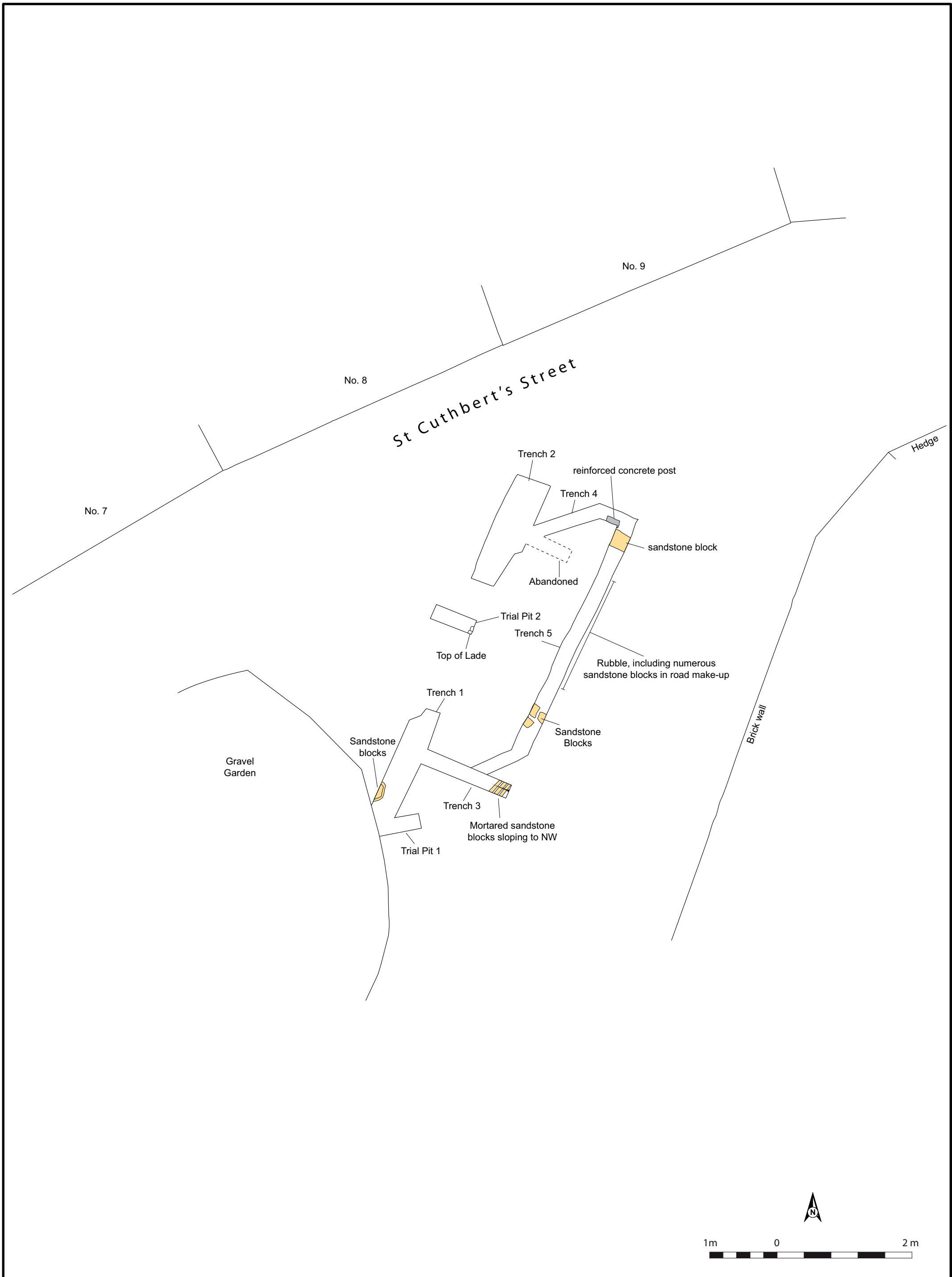


Figure 2: Location of Trial Pits and Trenches

# **St Cuthbert's Street, Catrine, Ayrshire: Watching Brief Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

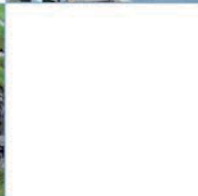
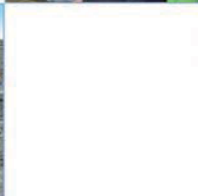
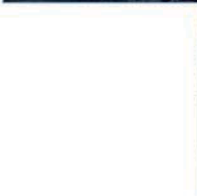
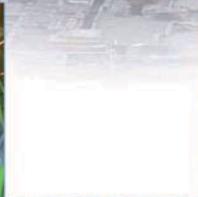
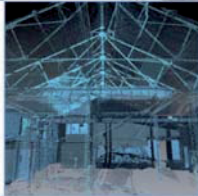
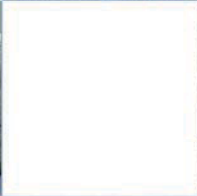
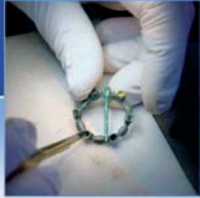
## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

Black & White Print and Digital Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Registration shots	
3	Trial Pit 1 General view showing gas pipe	NE
4	Trial Pit 2 showing sandstone block of lade with void below	W
5	Trench 1 general view post-excavation	NE
6-7	Trench 2 general view post-excavation	S
8-9	Trench 3 general view post-excavation	W
10-11	Abandoned section of Trench 4 showing possible sandstone structure with iron bar running through it	W
12-15	Trench 3 extension showing bonded sandstone blocks in east end	W
16-19	Junction between Trenches 3 & 5 showing loose sandstone blocks in the road make-up layer	S
20-21	Trench 5 general view post-excavation	N

## APPENDIX 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	East Ayrshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	St Cuthbert's Street, Catrine, Ayrshire
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 21417
<b>PARISH:</b>	Sorn
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Victoria Clements
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	NS52NW 19
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Cotton Mill
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NS 533 260
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	6 <sup>th</sup> July 2009
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2009
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)	
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on ground breaking works associated with the re-direction of a gas main in the area of the scheduled lade associated with Catrine Mill in St Cuthbert's Street, Catrine, Ayrshire.</p> <p>Part of the roof of the covered lade was identified, all ground breaking works were diverted around any <i>in situ</i> sub-surface built structures.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	--
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Scotia Gas Network
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:admin@aocscot.co.uk">admin@aocscot.co.uk</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (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](mailto:admin@aocarchaeology.com)

[www.aocarchaeology.com](http://www.aocarchaeology.com)