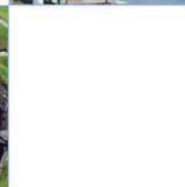
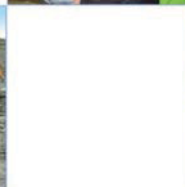
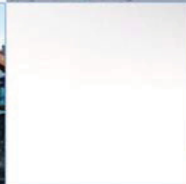


# Old Brae, Lesmahagow: Watching Brief Report

AOC Project 21650  
17<sup>th</sup> August 2010



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## Old Brae, Lesmahagow; Watching Brief Report

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**On Behalf of:** Mr Gary Miller  
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ML11 0EH

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NS 8115 3975

**AOC Project No:** 21650

**Prepared by:** Rob Engl

**Illustration by:** Stefan Sagrott

**Date of Fieldwork:** 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2010

**Date of Report:** 17<sup>th</sup> August 2010

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

<b>Authors:</b> Rob Engl	<b>Date:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2010
<b>Approved by:</b> John Gooder	<b>Date:</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> August 2010
<b>Draft Report Stage:</b> Draft	<b>Date:</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> August 2010

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## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
List of illustrations.....	1
List of appendices .....	1
List of Plates.....	1
Abstract.....	2
2 OBJECTIVES.....	3
3 METHODOLOGY.....	4
4 RESULTS.....	4
5 CONCLUSION .....	5
6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES.....	5
APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record .....	7
APPENDIX 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report.....	8

## List of illustrations

- Figure 1 Site location  
Figure 2 Location of ground-works

## List of appendices

- Appendix 1 Photographic Record  
Appendix 2 *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* Report

## List of Plates

- Plate 1 Foundation Trench 2 Showing Demolition in-fill and Made-ground.  
Plate 2 Foundation Trench 1 Showing Clay Drain

## **Abstract**

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This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Old Brae, Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire (centred NGR: NS 8115 3975). The watching brief monitored the excavation of seven foundation trenches and two service trenches for the construction of a new house on a vacant plot fronting New Trows Road.

No archaeologically significant features or finds of were unearthed.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology on ground breaking works associated with the construction of a single house development at Old Brae, Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire (NGR; NS 8115 3975). The watching brief was undertaken at the behest of Mr Gary Miller. The work was required by South Lanarkshire Council as advised by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service Archaeology (WoSAS).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (SG 2008) and *Planning Advice Note 42* (SOEnd 1994) in order to determine the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
- 1.1.3 No archaeologically significant features or finds were identified.

### 1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area is centred at NGR: NS 8115 3975 (Figure 1). The development area lies on a slope (181.0 m OD) overlooking the established centre of Lesmahagow with New Trows Road forming the northern boundary of the site with Old Brae Road to the north west. Existing properties mark the eastern and western boundaries to the site with the southern portion of the site overlooking Rookwood Walk, an area of green space on the north banks of the River Nethan. The site presently consisted of waste ground.

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The village derives its name from the Tironensian priory. This was founded around 1140-1144 AD, by David I as an adjunct of Kelso Priory which was dedicated to St Mahego, this later developed into Lesmahagow. The priory survived until the reformation with many of the priory buildings destroyed during the following 17<sup>th</sup> century (Smith, R 2001, 597). Roy's map of 1750 shows Lesmahagow as a substantial village. The 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the area subject to industrialisation with coal mining, railways and mills.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:
- i) to determine 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 archaeological mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, should significant archaeological remains be encountered that cannot be preserved *in situ*.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All ground breaking works associated with the development were monitored by an experienced field archaeologist. The ground-breaking was undertaken with a JCB excavator equipped with a toothless

ditching bucket. The Watching Brief was stopped when the required formation levels or clean natural subsoil were observed.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2010. The weather was overcast with rain showers, nevertheless archaeological visibility was good. The ground-works consisted of seven foundation trenches forming the foot-print of the building and two associated service trenches (Figure 2).

### 4.2 Foundation Trenches

4.2.1 Seven foundation trenches were excavated within a plot approximately 10.0 m by 20.0 m in size. The trenches reached a maximum depth of 1.20 m and were 0.60 m in width. Numerous services relating to the building previously situated on the site were revealed including clay drains and cables. Up to 0.90 m of demolition material and made ground was observed in Trenches F1 to F3 situated closest to the New Trows Road frontage. This material directly overlay a subsoil of orange sandy clay. Trenches F4 to F7 however revealed only 0.10 m of garden soil directly overlying the sub-soil. It would appear that the area under the previous building had been truncated, then in-filled and levelled off.



**Plate 1: Foundation Trench 2 showing demolition in-fill and made-ground**

### 4.3 Service Trenches

4.3.1 Two service trenches were also excavated these measured 12.0 m by 0.60 m and 4.0 m by 0.60 m respectively (Figure 2). Both of these trenches were connected with an existing man-hole. The trench running south from New Trows Road contained an existing service. The trenches revealed 0.60 m of made ground directly overlying the natural subsoil. Several white ceramic sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> century date were noted.



**Plate 2 Foundation Trench 1 showing clay drain**

## **5 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 No archaeologically significant features or finds were revealed during the Watching Brief. No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by WoSAS acting on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council.

## **6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

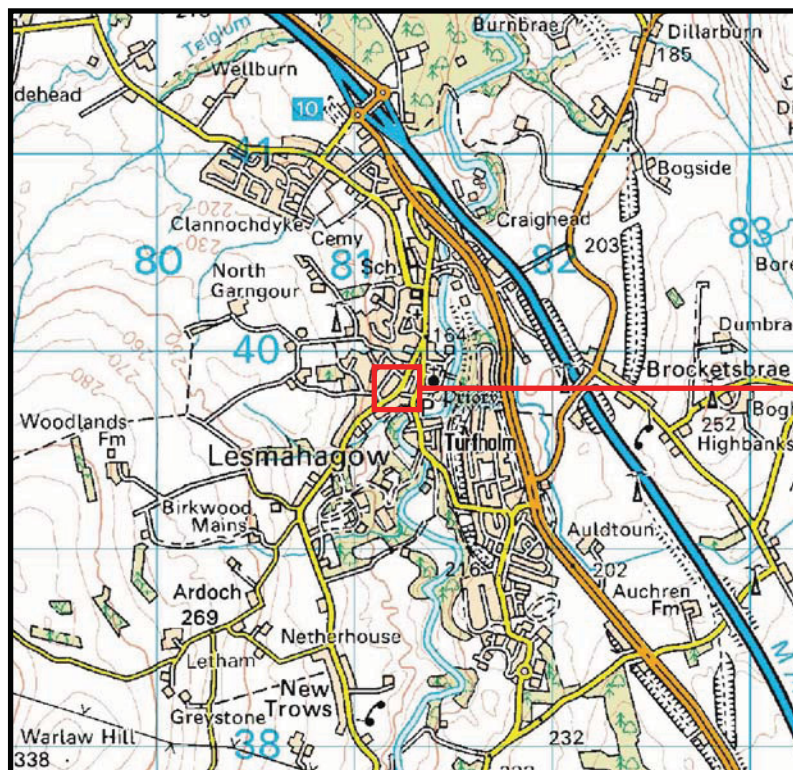
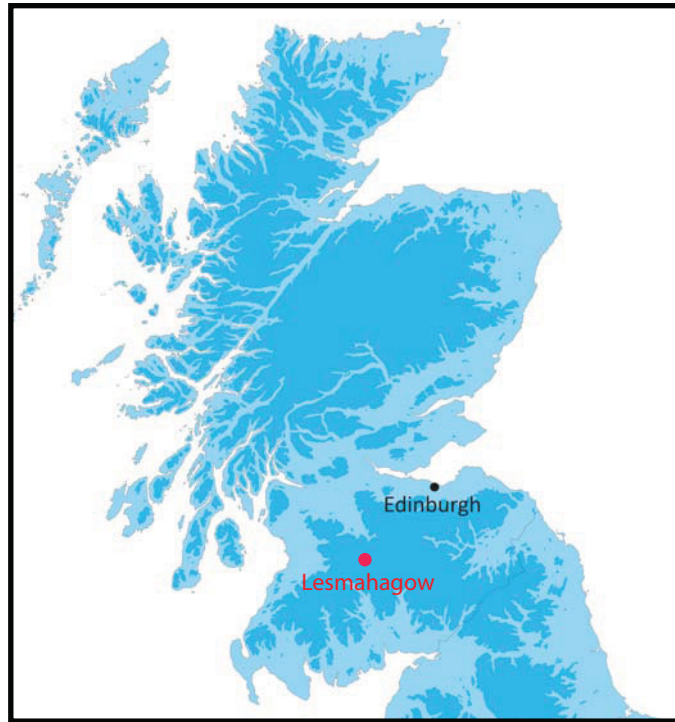
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Smith, R 2001 *The Making of Scotland* Canongate, Edinburgh

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Old Brae

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Figure 1: Location maps of the Old Brae site

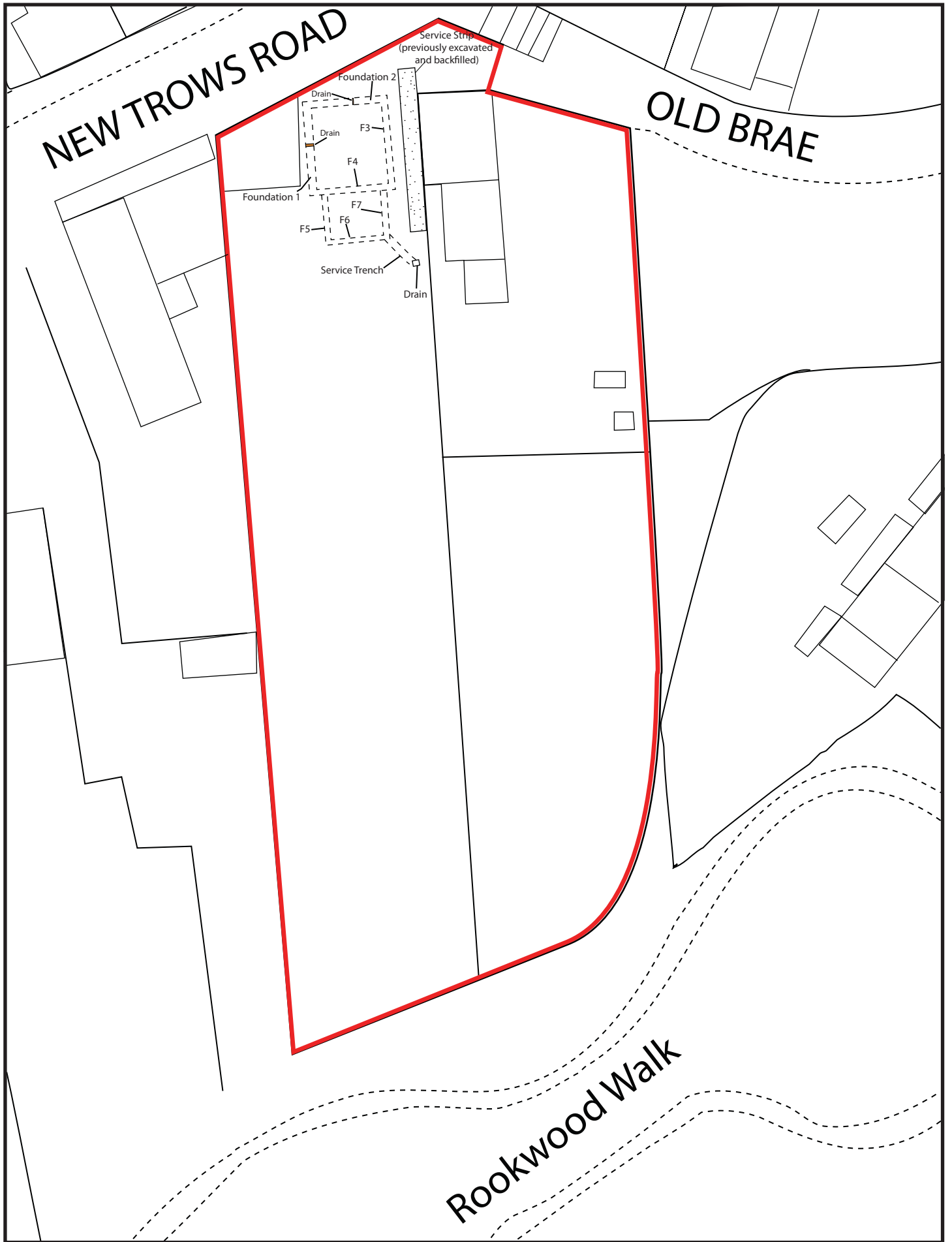
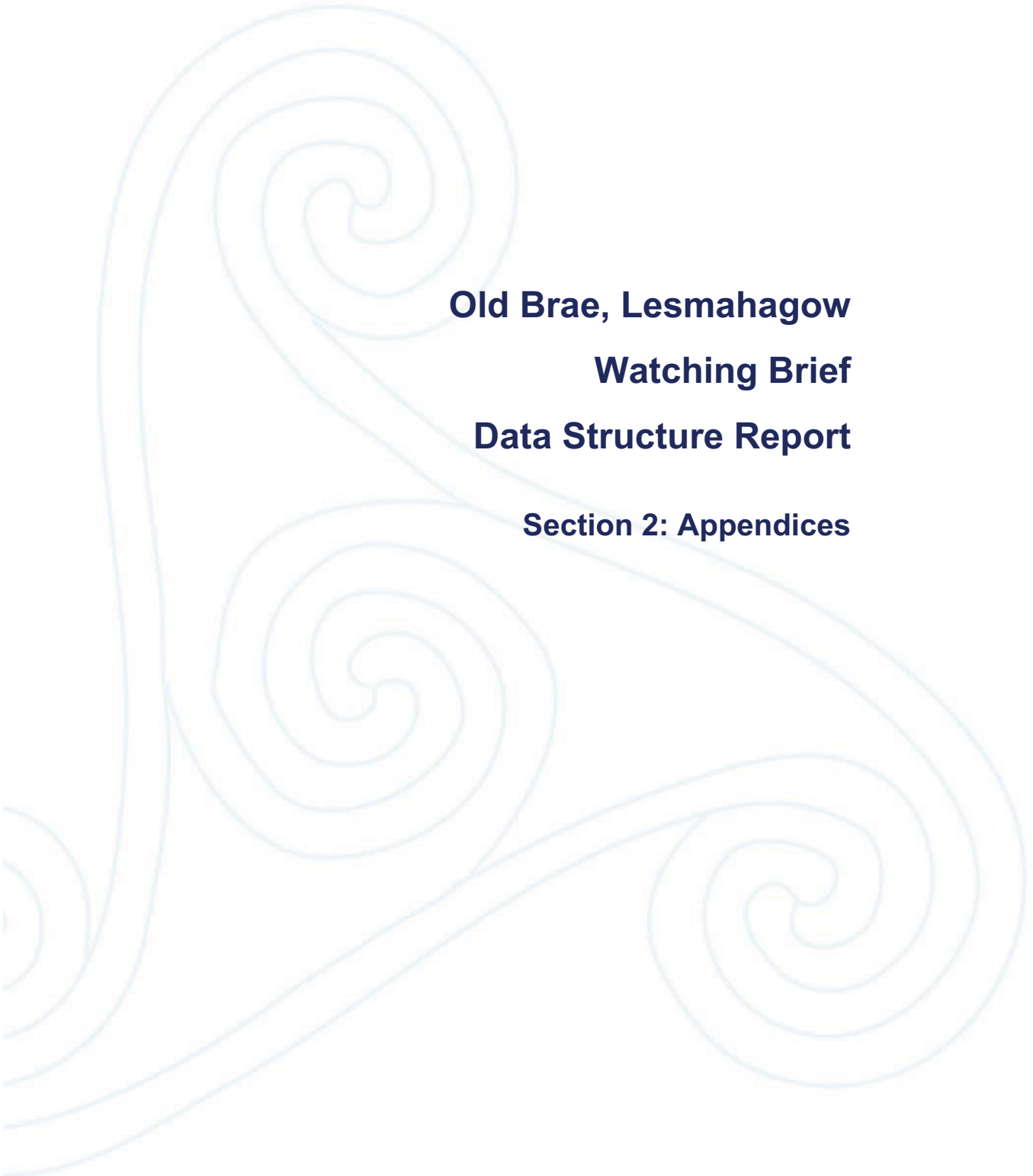


Figure 2: Plan of foundations uncovered during watching brief

Based on a drawing supplied by the client



**Old Brae, Lesmahagow  
Watching Brief  
Data Structure Report**

**Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

Black & White Print/ Digital Film 1

Frame	Area/Context	Description	From
1		Registration shots	
2		Pre-excavation shot of site	N
3	Trench 1	East Facing Section	E
4	Trench 1	Working shot	S
5	Trench 1/2	North-west Corner Showing Demolition Rubble	S
6		South of Site	NE
7		Drive-way	SW
8	Trench 2	Showing pre-existing concrete foundation	NW
9	Trench 2	Clay Drain	NW
10	Trench 3	Post-excavation Shot	N
11	Trench 2	Post-excavation Shot	SE
12	Trench 4	Post-excavation Shot	NW
13	Trench 4	Post-excavation Shot	E
14	Trench 5	Post-excavation Shot	NE
15	Trench 6	Post-excavation Shot	NW
16	Trench 7	Post-excavation Shot	N
17		Service Trench	N

**APPENDIX 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	South Lanarkshire Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Old Brae, Lesmahagow
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 21650
<b>PARISH:</b>	Lesmahagow
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Rob Engl
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NGR: NS 8115 3975
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	August 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2010
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	August 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2010
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)	None
<b>MAIN DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief monitored the excavation of seven foundation trenches and two service trenches during groundworks associated with the construction of new house on a vacant plot fronting New Trows Road.  No archaeologically significant features or finds of were recovered.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	--
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Mr Gary Miller, Old Brae, Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire, ML11 EH
<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



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