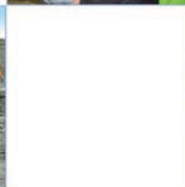
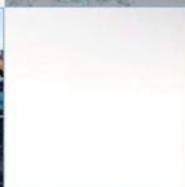
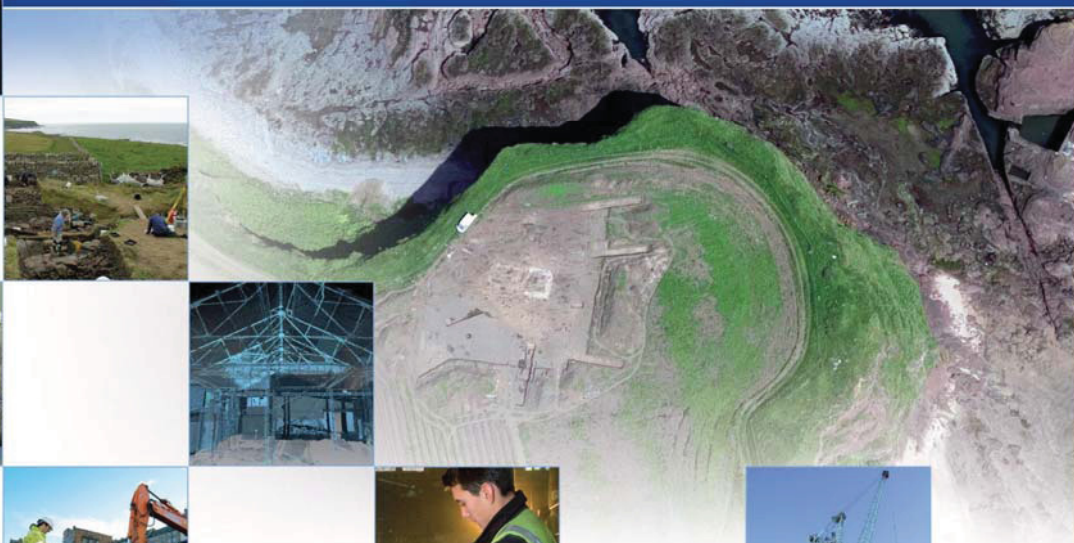


# Newhouse Farm Evaluation, Kilbirnie, North Ayrshire: Data Structure Report

AOC 21339  
February 2010



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## Newhouse Farm, Kilbirnie, North Ayrshire

### Data Structure Report

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<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>Baronial Properties,</b> Mansion House, 1 Ardgowan Square, Greenock PA16 8NG
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>NS 3143 5372</b>
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	<b>21339</b>
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<b>Date of Fieldwork:</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010</b>
<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> February 2010</b>

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

<b>Author: Lindsay Dunbar</b>	<b>Date: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010</b>
<b>Approved by: John Gooder</b>	<b>Date: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010</b>
<b>Draft Report Stage:</b>	<b>Date: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010</b>

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## Abstract

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An archaeological evaluation was required by Baronial Properties Ltd to address the potential archaeological impact of a proposed care home at Newhouse Farm, Kilbirnie, North Ayrshire. The evaluation equating to an 8% sample (440 m<sup>2</sup>) of the 0.55 ha development area.

The presence of a number of utility services and standing buildings limited the spatial spread of the trenching. Only 20<sup>th</sup> century features were encountered, including the buried remains of a brick-built garage, two large reinforced brick foundations and numerous service trenches and a few small pit features. The features and topsoil contained a variety of modern detritus including building debris, plastic, metal and wood.

Neither significant archaeological features nor unstratified artefacts were uncovered by the evaluation.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1 An archaeological evaluation was required by Baronial Properties Ltd to address the potential negative archaeological impact of a proposed care home at Newhouse Farm, Kilbirnie, North Ayrshire (Figure 1). The area lies within the administrative jurisdiction of the North Ayrshire Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by West of Scotland Archaeology Service, (WoSAS). The archaeological works were required in accordance with SPP (2010) and PAN 42 (SOEnD 1994).

### 1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed development area is centred at c. NGR: NS 3143 5372 (Figure 1) and covers a total area of c. 0.55 ha. The development area is surrounded by existing estates and access roads. Predominately open space the development area has been occupied by buildings associated with Newhouse Farm (NMRS NS35SW132) built from the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

### 1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 Kilbirnie Parish Kirk and cemetery (Category A-listed and still in use; NMRS NS35SW2) lies to the immediate south of the development area. It allegedly stood on the site of a 6<sup>th</sup> century chapel of St. Brendan (Sanctus Birinius), and there are records of a ministry at Beith from 1127. A pre-Reformation building, the tower attached to the western gable was built in 1490, the aisle in 1597, and the northern aisle added in 1642. The church had comprehensive repairs undertaken in 1854-5 then numerous skeletons were unearthed below the old earthen floor. In the churchyard lies the tomb of Thomas Crawford (1594).

1.3.2 Given the juxtaposition of Kilbirnie Kirk the possibility arose that associated features as yet unknown - perhaps a kirktoon or predecessors to the existing church and cemetery - may have survived as subsurface features within the development area.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the evaluation works 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 METHOD

- 3.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (Dunbar 2010) proposed the excavation of trenches equating to an 8% sample of the development area. The site covered approximately 0.55 ha resulting in evaluation trenching with a total basal area of 440 m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 1).
- 3.2 The presence of a number of utility services, coupled with very extensive areas of hard standing and tarmac as well as the presence of standing buildings limited the spatial spread of the trenching.
- 3.3 All trenches were excavated with a 3CX JCB excavator using a 1.8 m wide ditching bucket. The trench details are summarised in Appendix 1. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil/overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits. The evaluation trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Dunbar 2009).

### 4 RESULTS

#### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken between 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010 in generally fair weather conditions which rendered good archaeological visibility. As noted above large tracts of the development area were covered by long established standing water and in general the soils were saturated. The various data gathered from the evaluation are presented as a series of appendices

- i) Appendix 1 contains Trench Summaries;
- ii) Appendix 2 contains the Photographic Register;
- iii) Appendix 3 reproduces the *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* entry.

#### 4.2 Overview

- 4.2.1 In all eight trenches totalling some 441 m<sup>2</sup> were opened within the development area equating to a little over the required 8% sample. The trenching did not uncover any features of archaeological significance. Careful study of the topsoil removed during trenching did not yield any unstratified artefacts of archaeological significance.





**Plate 1: Trench 1 showing cast iron drain and tarmac**

- 4.2.3 The majority of the trenches followed a similar stratigraphy of vegetative cover over c.0.2 m of dumped rubble material consisting of crushed sandstone, mortar and 20<sup>th</sup> century debris which overlay a dark topsoil layer, 0.15 m to 0.30 m deep, which itself overlay natural geology. In Trench 3 and 4 the rubble layer consisted of a more homogenous layer of hardcore and in a few areas the buried topsoil layer was not present.
- 4.2.2 There were a number of obviously modern features cut into the natural geology. Trench 1 contained a rubble drain, a cast iron service pipe and cast iron drain (see Plate 1), whilst Trench 4 was crossed by water and gas service trenches supplying the derelict property in the north-east corner of site. Both Trench 1 and Trench 6 contained modern pit features, square in plan, similarly sized at approximately 1.0 m<sup>2</sup> and both containing brick, glass and mortar.



- 4.2.3 Trench 7 contained the remains of a small brick structure, present immediately under the turf. It overlies a bed of ash and cinder-like material and had a concrete floor with brick walls. Given the scale and size of the structure it is presumed to have been a garage.
- 4.2.4 Trench 8 contained two substantial brick-built foundations one of which was strengthened with rebar. These two large foundations measured more than 1 m<sup>2</sup> in size and may have served as the base and foundation for a large piece of machine plant (?).

## 5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The existing buildings and hardstanding still extant within the development area give an indication of the past use of the site. The evaluation illustrated further the 20<sup>th</sup> century occupation of the site, as demonstrated by the structure in Trench 7 and the foundations in Trench 9. Almost all of the trenches revealed the existence of dumped building rubble overlying the original ground surface which itself had been truncated across portions of the development area.

## 6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The site at Newhouse Farm, Kilbirnie has been substantially altered and disturbed by later 20<sup>th</sup> century development of the surrounding land and as such the archaeological potential of the site has been much compromised. No archaeological features or unstratified artefacts were uncovered by the evaluation. As such the significant balance of probability is that the development area is archaeologically sterile.
- 6.2 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by WoSAS acting on behalf of the planning authority.

## 7 REFERENCES

Dunbar L, 2010 *Newhouse Farm Evaluation, Kilbirnie, North Ayrshire Written Scheme of Investigation*, AOC Archaeology Unpublished Client report

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

SPP 2010. *Scottish Planning Policy Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish Government Feb.2010.

**Newhouse Farm Evaluation, Kilbirnie,  
North Ayrshire:  
Data Structure Report**

**Appendices**

## Appendix 1

### Trench Summaries

#### Trench 1

Dimensions	61.0 m by 1.8 m
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.21 m to 0.30 m
Depth of excavation	0.38 m to 0.51 m
Features	Subsoil covered in most places by a buried topsoil. The buried topsoil, truncated in places, is covered by a thin layer, c.0.15 m of building rubble consisting of crushed sandstone and mortar which in turn was covered by a thin layer of turf/vegetation. At the north end of Trench 1 the building rubble was covered by a thin tarmac layer which itself was covered by turf/vegetation. Trench 1 was crossed by a rubble drain, a cast iron service pipe and a large cast iron drain.
Subsoil	Orange/mid-brown clay rich matrix with patches of gravel
Finds	Unstratified 20 <sup>th</sup> century glazed pottery, glass, plastic, wood and metal noted within building rubble layer and buried topsoil.

#### Trench 2

Dimensions	15.0 m by 1.8 m
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.15 m to 0.27 m
Depth of excavation	0.35 m to 0.45 m
Features	Subsoil covered in most places by a buried topsoil. The buried topsoil, truncated in places, is covered by a thin layer, c.0.15 m of building rubble consisting of crushed sandstone and mortar. This was covered by a thin tarmac layer which itself was covered by turf/vegetation.
Subsoil	Orange/mid-brown clay rich matrix with patches of gravel
Finds	Unstratified 20 <sup>th</sup> century glazed pottery, glass, plastic, wood and metal noted within building rubble layer and buried topsoil.

#### Trench 3

Dimensions	34.0 m by 1.8 m
Orientation	NE-SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.20 m to 0.29 m
Depth of excavation	0.35 m to 0.45 m
Features	Subsoil covered in most places by a buried topsoil. The buried topsoil, truncated in places, is covered by a thin layer, c.0.15 m of building rubble consisting of crushed sandstone and mortar. This was covered by a thin tarmac layer which itself was covered by turf/vegetation. The NE end of the trench saw the rubble layer become a homogenised layer of hardcore.
Subsoil	Orange/mid-brown clay rich matrix with patches of gravel
Finds	Unstratified 20 <sup>th</sup> century glazed pottery, glass, plastic, wood and metal noted within building rubble layer and buried topsoil.

#### Trench 4

Dimensions	33 m by 1.8 m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.12 m to 0.26 m
Depth of excavation	0.39 m to 0.48 m
Features	Subsoil covered in most places by a buried topsoil. The buried topsoil, truncated in places, is covered by a thin layer, c.0.15 m of building rubble consisting of crushed sandstone and mortar

with, like Tr.3, increasing amounts of hardcore. This was covered by a thin tarmac layer which itself was covered by turf/vegetation. Trench crossed by both gas and water service pipes leading to derelict house.

Subsoil Orange clay rich matrix  
 Finds Unstratified 20<sup>th</sup> century glazed pottery, glass, plastic, wood and metal noted within building rubble layer and buried topsoil.

#### Trench 5

Dimensions 15.0 m by 1.8 m  
 Orientation NE-SW  
 Depth of Topsoil 0.12 m to 0.23 m  
 Depth of excavation 0.37 m to 0.43 m  
 Features Subsoil covered in most places by a buried topsoil. The buried topsoil, truncated in places, is covered by a thin layer, c.0.15 m of building rubble consisting of crushed sandstone and mortar which in turn was covered by a thin layer of turf/vegetation.  
 Subsoil Orange clay rich matrix  
 Finds Unstratified 20<sup>th</sup> century glazed pottery, glass, plastic, wood and metal noted within building rubble layer and buried topsoil.

#### Trench 6

Dimensions 30.0 m by 1.8 m  
 Orientation NE-SW  
 Depth of Topsoil 0.18 m to 0.26 m  
 Depth of excavation 0.37 m to 0.49 m  
 Features Subsoil covered in most places by a buried topsoil. The buried topsoil, truncated in places, is covered by a thin layer, c.0.15 m of building rubble consisting of crushed sandstone and mortar. This was covered by a thin tarmac layer which itself was covered by turf/vegetation. The NE end of the trench saw the rubble layer become a homogenised layer of hardcore.  
 Subsoil Orange/mid-brown clay rich matrix with patches of gravel  
 Finds Unstratified 20<sup>th</sup> century glazed pottery, glass, plastic, wood and metal noted within building rubble layer and buried topsoil.

#### Trench 7

Dimensions 29.0 m by 1.8 m  
 Orientation NE-SW  
 Depth of Topsoil 0.20 m to 0.27 m  
 Depth of excavation 0.36 m to 0.49 m  
 Features Subsoil covered in most places by a buried topsoil. The buried topsoil, truncated in places, is covered by a thin layer, c.0.15 m of building rubble consisting of crushed sandstone and mortar which in turn was covered by a thin layer of turf/vegetation. At NE end of Trench 1 lay the remains of a small brick structure with cement floor immediately below the turf.  
 Subsoil Orange/mid-brown clay rich matrix with patches of gravel  
 Finds Unstratified 20<sup>th</sup> century glazed pottery, glass, plastic, wood and metal noted within building rubble layer and buried topsoil.

#### Trench 8

Dimensions 28.0 m by 1.8 m  
 Orientation NW-SE  
 Depth of Topsoil 0.20 m to 0.29 m

Depth of excavation	0.37 m to 0.53 m
Features	Subsoil covered in most places by a buried topsoil. The buried topsoil, truncated in places, is covered by a thin layer, c.0.20 m of building rubble consisting of crushed sandstone and mortar which in turn was covered by a thin layer of turf/vegetation. At the mid point of the trench were two 1m <sup>2</sup> brick foundations strengthened by rebar. Trench 8 was also crossed by a cast iron service pipe.
Subsoil	Orange/mid-brown clay rich matrix with patches of gravel
Finds	Unstratified 20 <sup>th</sup> century glazed pottery, glass, plastic, wood and metal noted within building rubble layer and buried topsoil.

## Appendix 2

### Photographic Register

#### Black & White Print Film No.1

Number	Area	Description	From
1-2	Tr.1	General view of Trench 1 under excavation	S
3-4	Tr.4	General view of site from SW corner	SW
5-6	-	Registration shots	-
7	Tr.1	View of drain and tarmac within Trench 1	S
8	Tr.1	View of drain and tarmac within Trench 1	SW
9-10	Tr.1	Post Excavation view of Trench 1	N
11-12	Tr.2	Post Excavation view of Trench 2	W
13-14	Tr.3	Post Excavation view of Trench 3	NE
15	Tr.3	NW facing section of Trench 3 showing hardcore under tarmac	NW
16-17	Tr.4	General view of Trench 4 under excavation	N
18	Tr.4	Post Excavation view of Trench 4	S
19-20	Tr.5	General view of Trench 5 under excavation	E
21-22	-	Near to Trench 1 and Trench 6 areas of hardstanding	W
23-24	Tr.6	Post Excavation view of Trench 6	W
25-26	Tr.7	General view of Trench 7 under excavation	SW
27-28	Tr.8	Post Excavation view of Trench 8	S
35	Tr.8	Detail of brick foundations in Trench 1	S

#### Digital Film No.1

Number	Area	Description	From
1	Tr.1	General view of Trench 1 under excavation	S
2	Tr.4	General view of site from SW corner	SW
3	-	Registration shots	-
4-5	Tr.1	View of drain and tarmac within Trench 1	S
6	Tr.1	View of drain and tarmac within Trench 1	SW
7	Tr.1	Post Excavation view of Trench 1	N

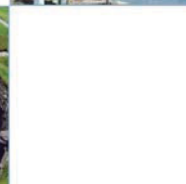
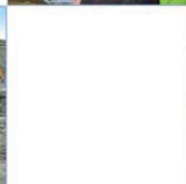
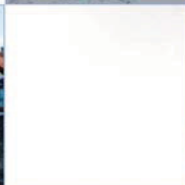
8	Tr.2	Post Excavation view of Trench 2	W
9	Tr.3	Post Excavation view of Trench 3	NE
10	Tr.3	NW facing section of Trench 3 showing hardcore under tarmac	NW
11	Tr.4	General view of Trench 4 under excavation	N
12	Tr.4	Post Excavation view of Trench 4	S
13	Tr.5	General view of Trench 5 under excavation	E
14	-	Near to Trench 1 and Trench 6 areas of hardstanding	W
15	Tr.6	Post Excavation view of Trench 6	W
16	Tr.7	General view of Trench 7 under excavation	SW
17	Tr.8	Post Excavation view of Trench 8	S
18	Tr.8	Detail of brick foundations in Trench 1	S
19	-	SW corner of site after backfilling	NE
20	Tr.3	Trench 3 after backfilling	NE
21	Tr.4	Trench 4 after backfilling	NW

## Appendix 3

### 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Newhouse Farm Evaluation, Kilbirnie
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21339
PARISH:	Kilbirnie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Lindsay Dunbar
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:	NS 3143 5372
START DATE (this season)	27 <sup>th</sup> January 2010
END DATE (this season)	29 <sup>th</sup> January 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to this care home development. The 8% sample led to the excavation of trenches totalling 441m<sup>2</sup>. The eight trenches revealed a number of 20<sup>th</sup> century features including the remains of a brick-built garage, two large reinforced brick foundations, numerous service trenches and modern pits. The features and topsoil contained a variety of modern material with building debris, plastic, metal and wood present.</p> <p>Neither significant archaeological features nor unstratified artefacts were uncovered by the evaluation.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Baronial properties Ltd.
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (Intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS





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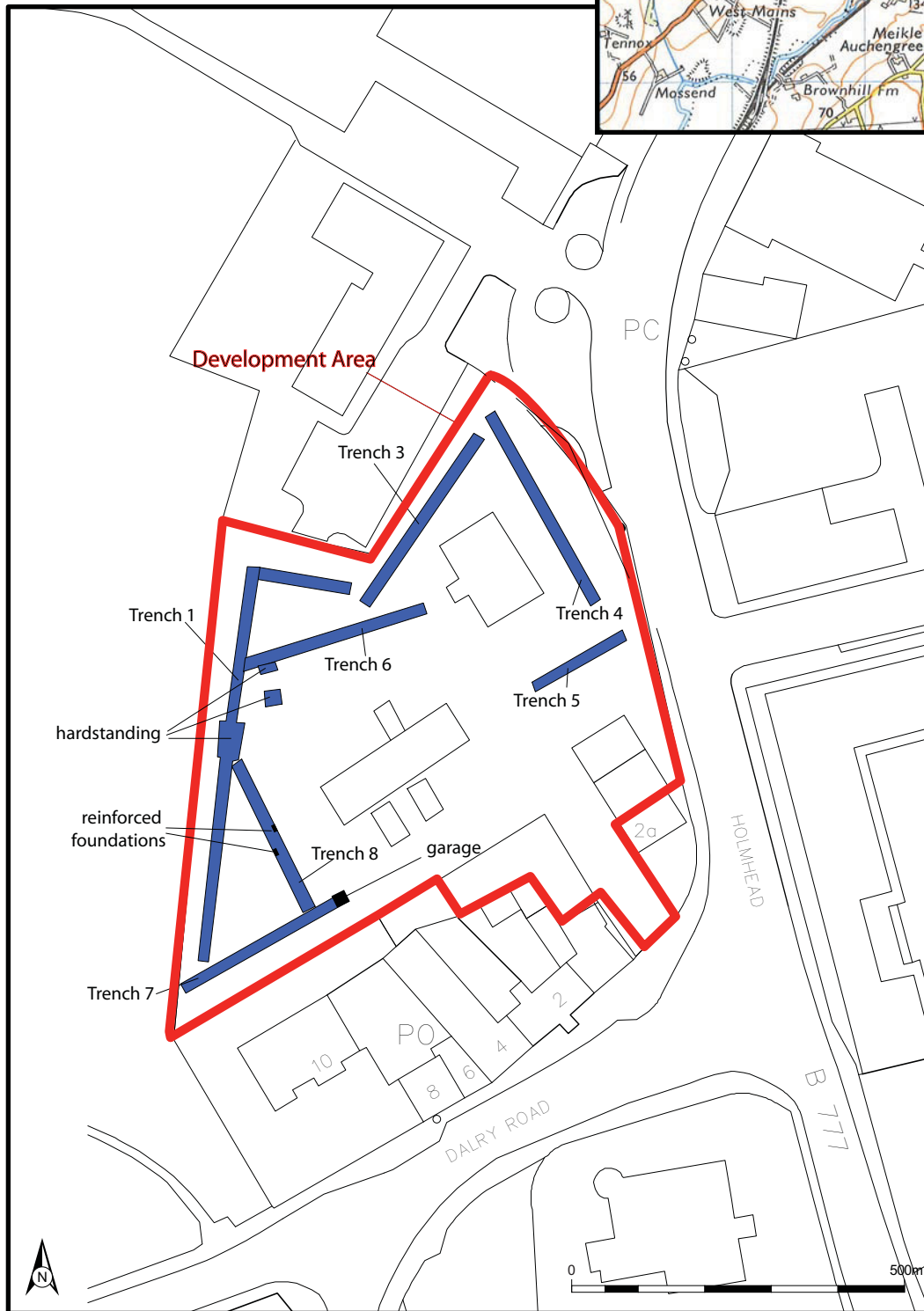
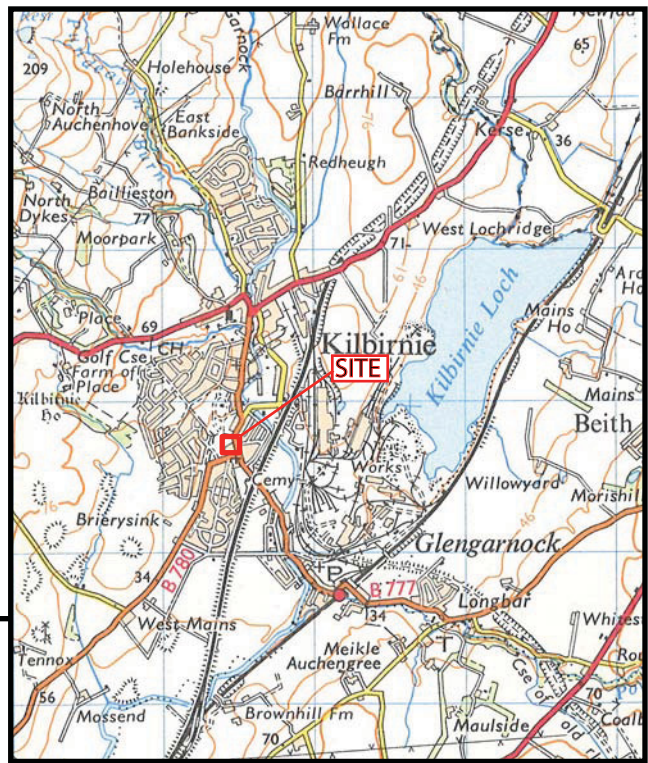
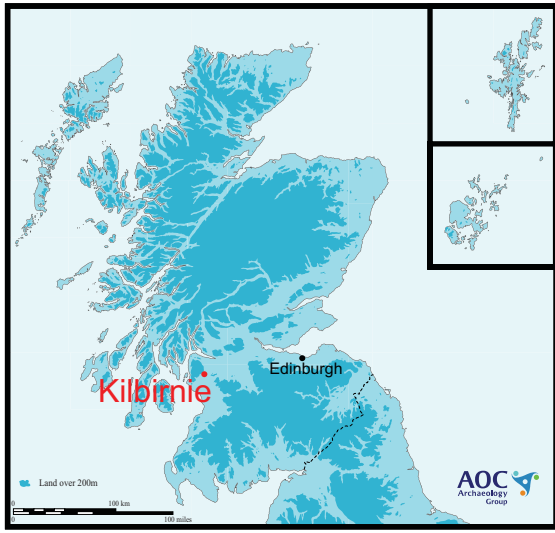


Figure 1: Site location map showing position of trenches