

# Hill of Banchory, Banchory: Data Structure Report

(in respect to Planning App 2008/1000)



ARCHAEOLOGY

| HERITAGE

| CONSERVATION

# Hill of Banchory, Banchory: Evaluation Data Structure Report

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<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>Tesco Stores Ltd</b>
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>N0 7187 9667</b>
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	<b>AOC 21635</b>
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<b>Date of Fieldwork:</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010</b>
<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> May 2010</b>

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

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**Date: 26<sup>h</sup> May 2010**

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**Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft**

**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

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## Abstract

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This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on ground near Hill of Banchory, Banchory, Aberdeenshire. The evaluation was commissioned by Tesco Stores Ltd. The works, undertaken prior to a retail development, consisted of a 7% sample intrusive evaluation (2690 m<sup>2</sup>) of a 3.8 ha land parcel. The land parcel was situated on rough pasture centred at NGR: N0 7187 9667.

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

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Development Background

1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Tesco Stores Ltd / Santon Group in respect to a proposed development (retail development, petrol-filling station, access routes, car-parking, landscaping and ancillary works) on land at the junction of the A93 at Hill of Banchory East, Banchory (centred NGR: NO 7187 9667). The development area consists of a greenfield site covering approximately 3.8 ha. The proposed development lies within the administrative area of Aberdeenshire Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS). A programme of archaeological works had been specified by ACAS in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government, February 2010) and *PAN 42* in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

## 1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 Prior to the evaluation no archaeological sites were known within this greenfield development area. The development lies to the west of the designed landscape associated with Crathes Castle. It is renowned for its gardens (started in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century). The wider 18<sup>th</sup> designed landscape of parkland and woodland provides an imposing situation for the A-listed Castle. The designed landscape is rated as having an 'outstanding' value in terms of architecture, history, as a work of art and horticulture.

1.3.2 A number of Mesolithic flint scatters are known in the local area adjacent to the River Dee for example NMRS NO79NW 12 (NGR: NO 7180 9620), a small flint scatter recovered approximately 470 m NE of Birkwood Farmhouse. Between 1906 and 1941 a large assemblage of lithics (NMRS NO79NW 9; NGR centred NO 7103 9569) was recovered over a wide area. The collection is mainly the result of fieldwalking surveys of ploughed fields on two terraces of the River Dee (approximately on the 200ft contour line) between the confluence of the river with the Water of Feugh and two miles downstream to Knappach - including the grounds of Beltcraigs, Birkwood, Mayfield and Knappach but is also derived from an excavation at NGR: NO 7103 9569. The collection, which includes flakes, blades, scrapers, micro-burins and cores, is also rich in microliths (RCAHMS 1984).

1.3.3 Given the degree of early prehistoric activity in the local area there remained a significant possibility of similar material occupying the proposed development area.

# 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the evaluation were:

- i) to assess the character, condition, extent, quality, date and significance of any as yet undiscovered archaeological remains within the proposed evaluation areas;
- ii) should significant archaeological features/deposits be discovered to prepare and implement an appropriate mitigation strategy compliant with *Scottish Planning Policy* and *PAN 42*.

### **3 METHOD**

3.1 The evaluation was achieved through the excavation of linear trenches using a tracked 360° excavator equipped with a 2 m wide ditching bucket. The trenches covered a 7% sample of the development area, shown in Figure 1. The development area covers 3.8 ha with the evaluation therefore requiring trenches totalling a minimum of 2,660 m<sup>2</sup>.

3.2 The trenches were of varying lengths and set on varying orientations. 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. All potentially significant archaeological features were cleaned and defined prior to sample excavation to determine their significance.

### **4 RESULTS**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 The evaluation was conducted between 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010. The weather conditions during the evaluation were mostly overcast with showers; overall archaeological visibility was good. Nineteen trenches, with a combined basal area of 2,690 m<sup>2</sup>, were excavated. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-3, Figure 2 and Plates 1 & 2.

4.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as a series of appendices: Appendix 1 contains the trench summary descriptions; Appendix 2 contains the photographic register and Appendix 3 reproduces the '*Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*' entry.

#### **4.2 Evaluation Overview**

4.2.1 The development area, which was divided into three separate fields (Fields A, B and C; Figure 2), was subjected to a walkover survey on arrival. This survey did not identify any surface features that warranted investigation with a trench. The topsoil across the site was generally shallow between 0.20 and 0.35 m deep and contained rare sherds of modern ceramics and

glass. It overlay a natural subsoil comprising light brown/yellow gritty sands and gravels with occasional large boulders.

- 4.2.2 The only features encountered derived from phases of late agricultural improvement: both a series of red clay tile field drains and, presumably, a suite of earlier rubble/stone drains. No significant archaeological features were identified and no unstratified artefactual material of any significance was observed.



**Plate 1: General shot of Field A (in foreground) & B (beyond hedge)**



**Plate 2: General shot of Field C**



## 5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The evaluation has revealed that the ground directly impacted upon by the development is apparently free from any significant archaeological material. Neither archaeologically significant features nor artefacts were uncovered by the trenching. The balance of probability is that the development area is effectively archaeologically sterile.

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The results of the evaluation suggest that the development area has no or very limited archaeological potential, given that no significant archaeological features or any unstratified significant artefacts were uncovered by the evaluation.
- 6.2 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by Aberdeenshire Council as advised by ACAS.

## 7 REFERENCES

RCAHMS 1984 *The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The archaeological sites and monuments of North Kincardine, Kincardine and Deeside District, Grampian Region, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series no 21* Edinburgh Page 7, No. 2.

SOEnD 1994 *Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish Office Environment Department.

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*. (February 2010)

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# **Hill of Banchory, Banchory: Evaluation Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

### Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	60 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	120 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.23 m to 0.30m
<i>Features</i>	None
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	60 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	120 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	E_W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.27 m to
<i>Features</i>	1 x rubble drain
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	75 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	150 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.31 m to 0.35 m
<i>Features</i>	1 x rubble drain; 2 x tile drain
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	90 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	180 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.28
<i>Features</i>	None
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	95 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	190 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30
<i>Features</i>	1 x rubble drain
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 6**

<i>Dimensions</i>	80 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	160 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.37 m to 0.40 m
<i>Features</i>	None
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 7**

<i>Dimensions</i>	65 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	130 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.27 m to 0.30 m
<i>Features</i>	1 x rubble drain
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 8**

<i>Dimensions</i>	65 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	130 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m to 0.30 m
<i>Features</i>	1 x rubble drain
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 9**

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	200 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Features</i>	3 x rubble drain
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 10**

<i>Dimensions</i>	65 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	130 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.23 m to 0.32 m
<i>Features</i>	1 x rubble drain
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 11**

<i>Dimensions</i>	35 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	70 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.28 m to 0.37 m
<i>Features</i>	4 x rubble drain
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 12**

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	60 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.19 m to 0.40 m
<i>Features</i>	2 x rubble drain; 1 x tile drain
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 13**

<i>Dimensions</i>	75 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	150 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.27 m to 0.32 m
<i>Features</i>	1 x tile drain
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 14**

<i>Dimensions</i>	75 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	150 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m to 0.37 m
<i>Features</i>	None
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 15**

<i>Dimensions</i>	75 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	150 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m to 0.36 m
<i>Features</i>	None
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 16**

<i>Dimensions</i>	75 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	150 m <sup>2</sup>

<i>Orientation</i>	SE-NW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.23 m to 0.30 m
<i>Features</i>	None
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 17**

<i>Dimensions</i>	75 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	150 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.26 m to 0.40 m
<i>Features</i>	1 x tile drain
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 18**

<i>Dimensions</i>	75 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	150 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.30 m to 0.45 m
<i>Features</i>	None
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 19**

<i>Dimensions</i>	75 m x 2.0 m
<i>Total Area</i>	150 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.20 m to 0.30 m
<i>Features</i>	1 x rubble drain
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	
<i>Finds</i>	None

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

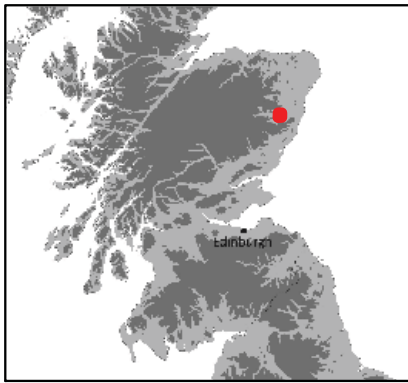
Colour Print and Digital Film 1

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1-2		Registration	
3-4		General view of Trenches 13, 14 and 15	W
5-6		General view of Field C	NW
7-8		General view of Field A	W
9-10		General view of Field A & B	N
11-12		General view of Field C	NE

**APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report**

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeenshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Evaluation at Hill of Banchory, Banchory, Aberdeenshire
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21635
PARISH:	Banchory - Ternan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Duffy
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:	NO 7187 9667
START DATE (this season)	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2010
END DATE (this season)	21 <sup>st</sup> May 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to a retail development on a greenfield site near Hill of Banchory, Banchory, Aberdeenshire. The works consisted of a 7% sample evaluation (19 trenches totalling 2690 m<sup>2</sup>) on 3.8 ha of rough pasture.</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:	Tesco Stores Ltd.
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	C/o AOC Archaeology Group
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Admin@aocarchaeology.com





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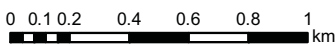
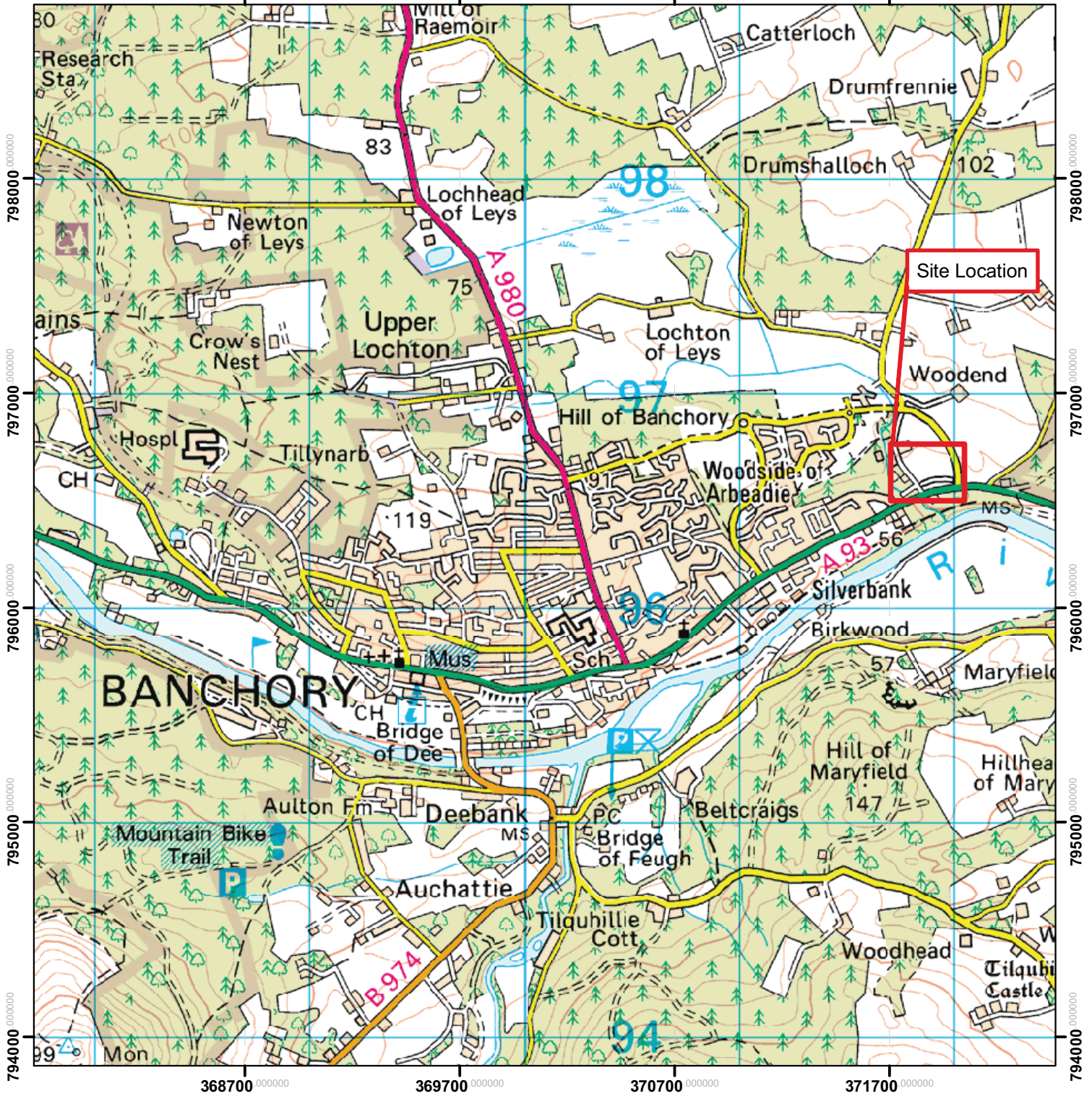


Figure 1: Site Location



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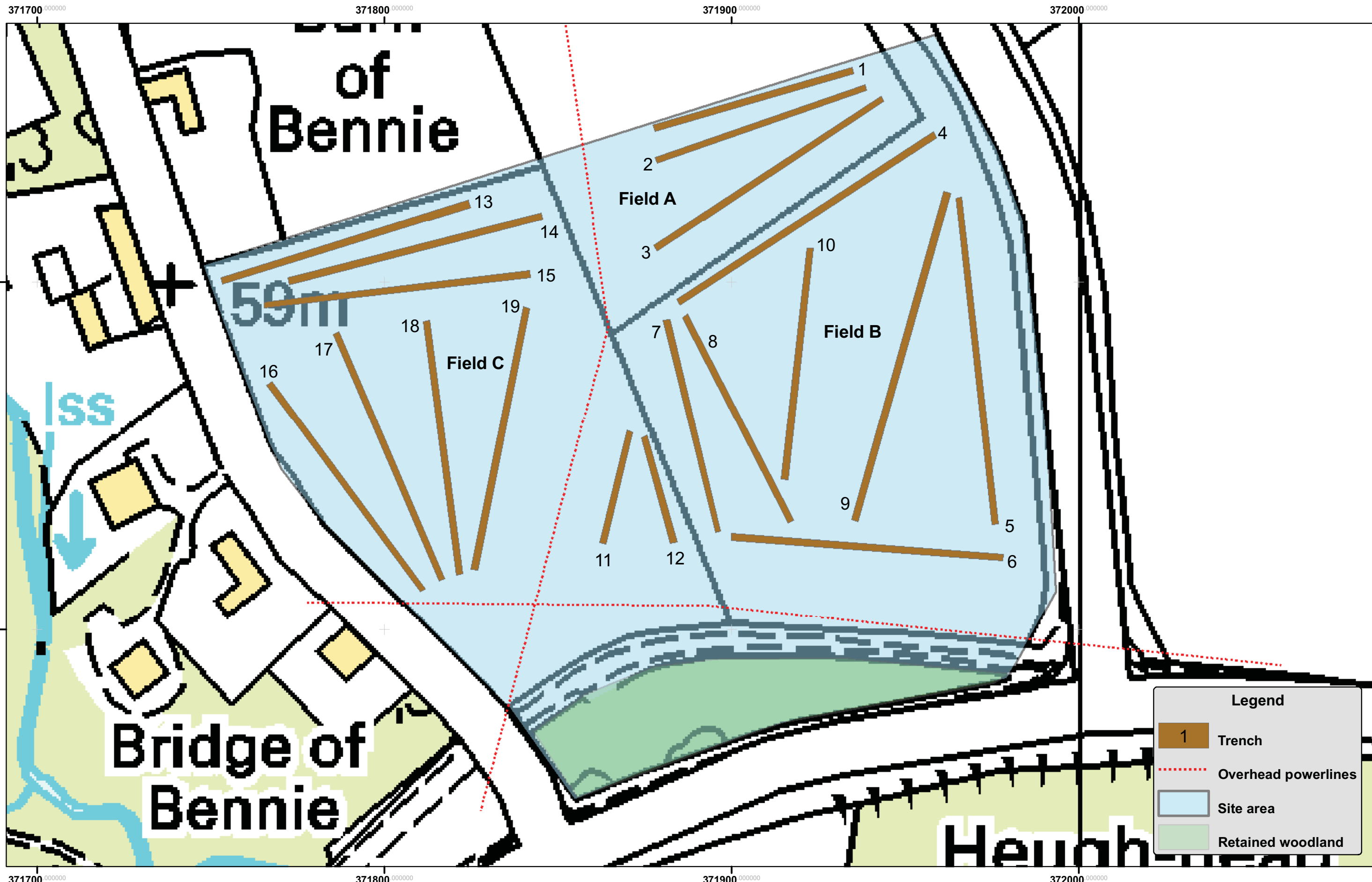
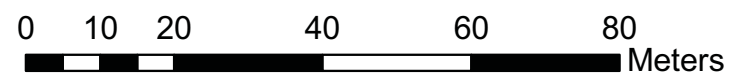
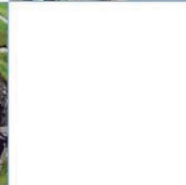
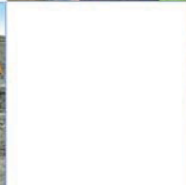
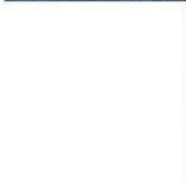
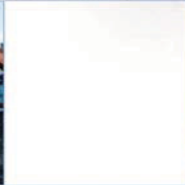


Figure 2: Trench Location Plan





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