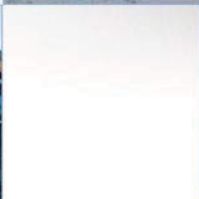
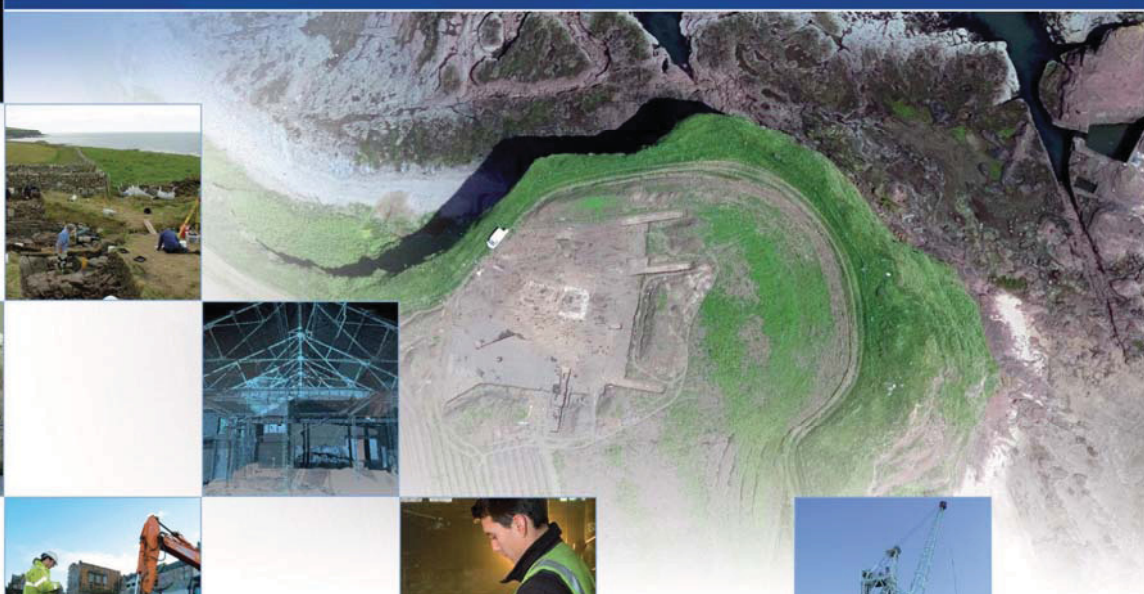


Fochabers (R1) Site Investigation Works: Watching Brief Report

AOC 21298
27th April 2009



Fochabers (R1) Site Investigation Works: Watching Brief Report

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| For: | Woolgar Hunter on behalf of the Crown Estates |
| National Grid Reference (NGR): | NJ 3436 5804 |
| AOC Project No: | 21298 |
| Prepared by: | Graeme Carruthers |
| Illustration by: | Graeme Carruthers |
| Date of Fieldwork: | March 2009 |
| Date of Report: | 27th April 2009 |

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

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
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| Approved by: John Gooder | Date: 27th April 2009 |
| Draft Report Stage: Draft | Date: 27th April 2009 |

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Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at the Fochabers (R1) development site (centred NGR: NT 25727 73472). The work was commissioned by Woolgar Hunter on behalf of the Crown Estates to address the potential adverse archaeological impact of site investigation (SI) works. The archaeological works were designed in accordance with the principles inherent within SPP23 (2008) and PAN42 (1994).

The objective of the work was to monitor all groundbreaking works associated with SI works. The monitoring work, carried out during March 2009, failed in identifying any significant archaeological material.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works comprising an archaeological Watching Brief was required by Woolgar Hunter on behalf of the Crown Estates during Site Investigation (SI) works within Crown Estates land at Fochabers. The scope of the works was determined by the Moray Council as advised on archaeological matters by the Aberdeen Council Archaeology Service (ACAS). The work undertaken was in keeping with the policies outlined in PAN42 and SPP23 order to gauge and safeguard any significant archaeological remains within ground impacted by the SI works.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The site lies in open ground (NGR: NJ 3436 5804) on the southern side of Fochabers. A school lies to the north with Ordiquish Road forming the eastern boundary to the site with open ground to the immediate west and south, with the River Spey beyond.
- 1.2.2 Prior to the watching brief there were no known archaeological remains within the development site. The village of Fochabers was chartered as a burgh of barony in 1598-88 and shown on Pont's sketch map of *circa*.1600 as a single row of houses next to the '*Kirk of Bolly*' (Smith 1999, 356).

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:
- i) to determine the character, extent, quality, date and condition of any archaeologically significant remains that may be disturbed by the proposed development works;
 - ii) to liaise with local authority's archaeological; advisor and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and / or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1. The details of the archaeological works were designed to meet the requirements of the planning authority as advised by ACAS. The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of ground disturbance undertaken in order to conduct all SI works.
- 3.2 The excavation of all SI works was under constant archaeological supervision. It was a basic assumption that in the event of archaeological deposits being recognised that SI pits would be moved in allowing preservation of archaeological material *in situ*. All recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practice. A black and white print and digital photographic record of the archaeological works was taken (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by a single archaeologist in predominantly dry bright weather conditions between 23rd and 25th March 2009. Overall archaeological visibility was good.

4.2 Boreholes

- 4.2.1 Five grounding pits (approx 0.5 m²) for the boreholes were excavated by hand by the SI works contractor to depths of between 0.3 to 0.6 m. Topsoil consisted of dark brown sandy slit. The exposed natural subsoil was a orange/yellow coarse sand. No significant archaeological features were observed.

4.3 Test-pits and Soakaways

- 4.3.1 Five initial test-pits (each measuring approximately 0.5 by 2.5 m) were excavated by the SI works contractor using a JCB equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. The test-pits were initially reduced to the level of the natural subsoil and then further reduced to depths of approximately 2.5 to 3.0 m. Five additional test-pits/soakaways, each measuring approximately 1.5 - 2.0 m, were similarly excavated by the SI contractor. No significant archaeological features were observed. White ceramics occurred are rare inclusions within the topsoil with one small fragment of clay pipe stem observed – probably incorporated during pre-modern manuring of fields adjacent to Fochabers.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Neither significant archaeological features nor artefactual material were encountered by the watching brief.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

PAN42 1994 *Planning Advice Note 42; Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. The Scottish Office, 1994.

Smith, R 1999 *The Making of Scotland*. Canongate.

SPP23 2008 *Scottish Planning Policy SPP23. Archaeology and Planning*. The Scottish Government, Nov.2008.

Fochabers (R1) Site Investigation Works: Watching Brief Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Black & White Print Film 1

| Frame | Description | From |
|-------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 -2 | Registration | east |
| 3-4 | TP 1 | east |
| 5-6 | TP 2 | east |
| 7-8 | TP 3 | east |
| 9-10 | TP 4 | east |
| 11-12 | TP 6 | east |
| 13-19 | TP 7 | east & north |
| 21-22 | TP 8 | west |
| 23-24 | TP 9 | west |
| 25-26 | TP10 | east |
| 27-28 | Soakaway 1 | east |
| 29-30 | Soakaway 2 | east |
| 31-32 | Soakaway 3 | east |
| 33-34 | Soakaway 4 | east |
| 35-36 | Soakaway 5 | east |

APPENDIX 2: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT

| | |
|--|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | Moray Council |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | Fochabers (R1) Site Investigation Works Watching Brief |
| PROJECT CODE: | AOC 21299 |
| PARISH: | Bellie |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Graeme Carruthers & John Gooder |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | AOC Archaeology Group |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Archaeological Watching Brief |
| NMRS NO(S): | None |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | None |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | |
| NGR (2 letters, 6 figures) | NJ 3436 5804 |
| START DATE (this season) | 23 rd March 2009 |
| END DATE (this season) | 25 th March 2009 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.) | |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | A watching brief was undertaken to address the potential negative archaeological impact of site investigation works (coring and test-pitting) at a 2.5 ha development site lying to the immediate south of Fochabers. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | n/a |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Crown Estates |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR: | c/o AOC Archaeology Group |
| EMAIL ADDRESS: | admin@aocarchaeology.com |

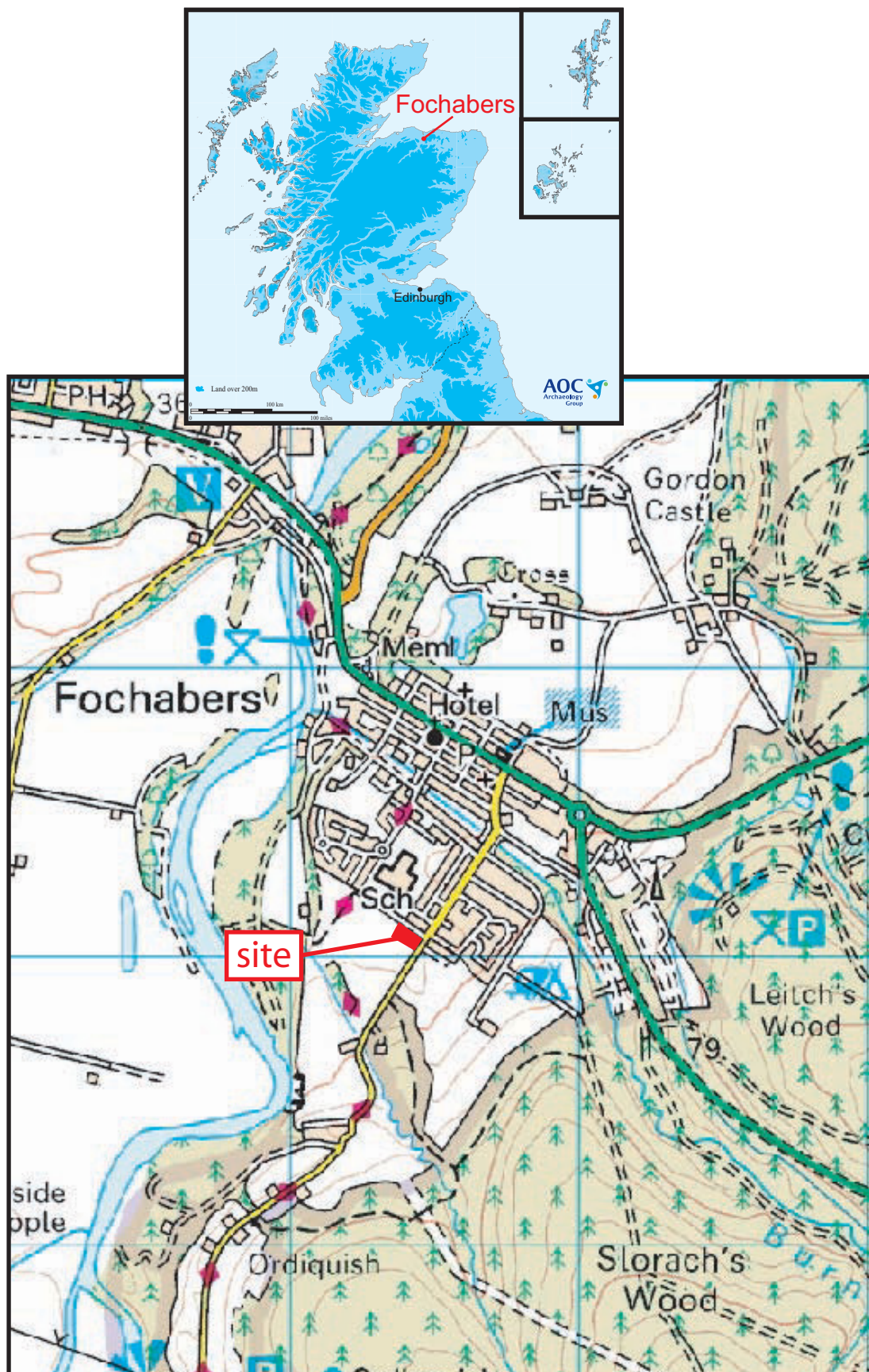


Figure 1: Site location

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:50000 scale map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Officer. Crown copyright. AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH 20 9SY. OS Licence no. 100023757

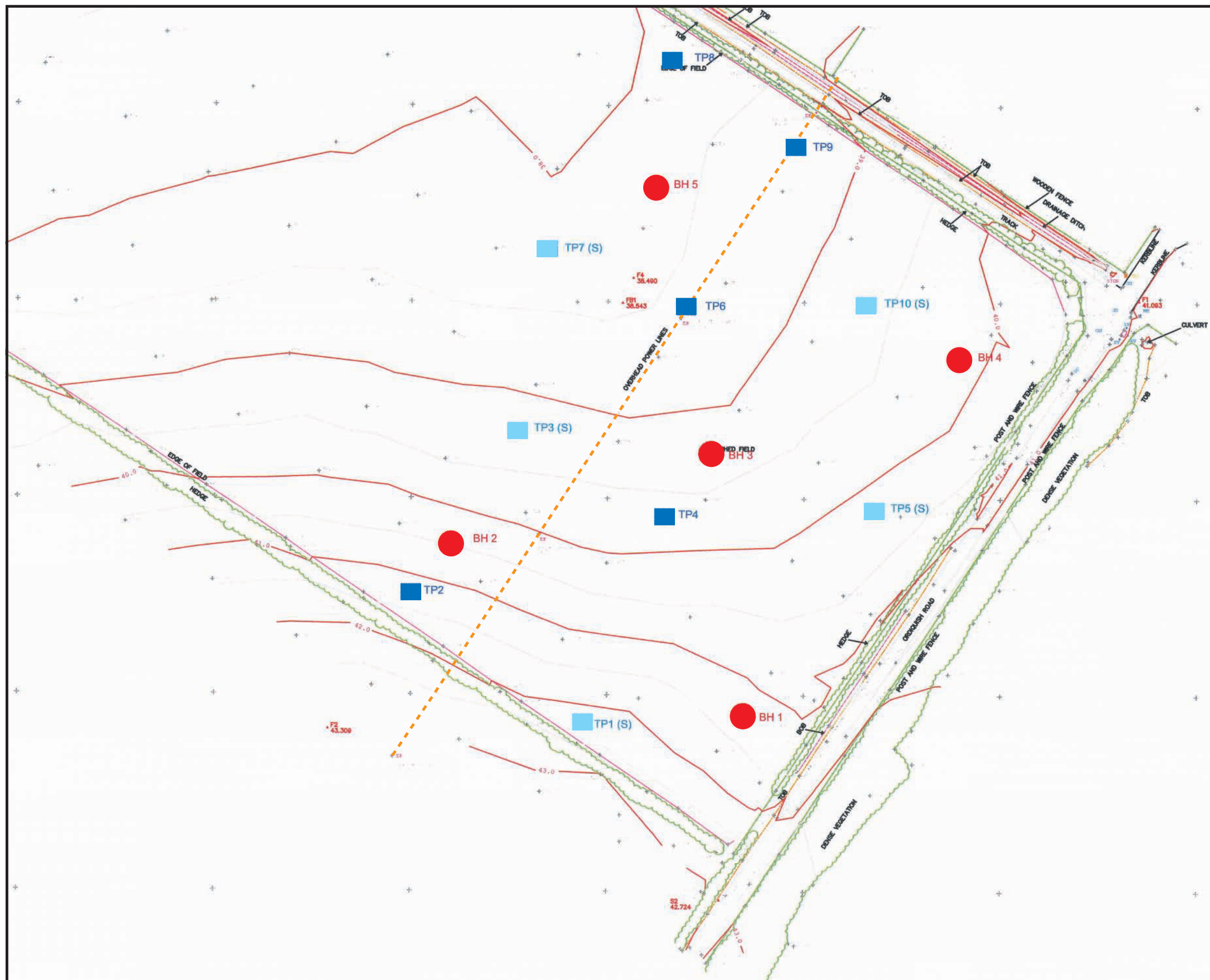


Figure 2: Location of boreholes and test pits

- test pit
- test pit with soakaway
- borehole
- overhead electric cable





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