

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Geophysical Survey*

## **Dalgig Farm, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire Archaeological Evaluation**

### **Data Structure Report**

**No. 2023**

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East Ayrshire  
Archaeological Evaluation**

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# **1 INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in January and February 2012 at Dalgig Farm, near New Cumnock, East Ayrshire (NGR: NS 5577 1295) (Fig. 1) in advance of a proposed extension to the Greenburn Surface Mine Operations. The work was commissioned by KIER Mining.

An addenda (Addenda 1, dated 28 July 2011) to the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) covering this part of the programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of KIER Mining. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).

## **1.2 Background**

Planning consent (Ref No. 06/0538/FL) has been granted for an extension to the Greenburn Surface Mine Operations, near New Cumnock. The planning consent was subject to a condition requiring a programme of archaeological mitigation based on that proposed within the Cultural Heritage chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) prepared for this development.

This part of the programme of works consisted of the evaluation of Dalgig Farmstead. The present farmstead is depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1860) and is thought to be 19<sup>th</sup> century in date, but Dalgig first appears as a placename on Blaeu's atlas of 1654 suggesting an earlier settlement with possible Medieval origins.

The demolition of the farmstead was undertaken immediately prior to CFA arriving on site. Archaeological monitoring was not required during this operation because the footings of the buildings were left in situ and no disturbance occurred below ground level.

Previous work carried out within the immediate vicinity of Dalgig include a trial trenching evaluation of the surrounding area (Mitchell 2011a), a level 1 standing building survey of Dalgig Bridge (Mitchell 2011b) and a level 3 standing building survey of Dalgig Farmstead (Mitchell 2011c).

## **1.3 Objectives**

The objectives of the programme of works reported herein were to:

- Carry out a trial trenching evaluation within Dalgig Farmstead;
- Identify if any earlier settlement remains survive beneath the present buildings, or if there is the potential for earlier settlement remains to survive elsewhere within the locale;
- Establish their vulnerability to the proposed development;
- Produce report(s) outlining the results of the work and any further work that is required to mitigate the effects of the development.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.

Building numbers relate to those contained within the standing building survey (Mitchell 2011c).

### **2.2 Evaluation**

The excavation of the trenches was undertaken in accordance with a trenching plan devised in consultation with WoSAS. The trenches were targeted on areas of the farmstead where early settlement remains were likely to have survived later development, and to provide good overall coverage of the site. Any additional trenches excavated were positioned to either provide additional coverage of targeted areas or to target specific features identified during the course of the evaluation.

A total of twenty-one trenches (Fig. 1) were excavated amounting to 815m<sup>2</sup>. This consisted of fourteen trenches (Trenches A – H and K – P) from the original trenching plan (412m<sup>2</sup>), two additional trenches (Trenches U and V) (20m<sup>2</sup>) excavated to ensure a good spread of trenches along the edge of Building 6, and five additional trenches (Trench Q – T and W) (383m<sup>2</sup>) excavated to identify the extent of a wall line originally identified within Trench A. Due to safety issues relating to the proximity of existing mining operations, it was not possible to excavate Trench I and Trench J.

Topsoil and modern overburden were removed by a tracked 360° mechanical excavator equipped with 2m wide smooth-bladed ditching buckets. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench positions were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment and all trenches were backfilled.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Numbers in bold refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 2. A summary of the trenches excavated is contained in Appendix 4.

The deposits throughout the proposed development area predominantly consisted of 0.2m to 0.4m of made-ground (**001**) overlying reddish-brown sandy-clay and sandy-gravel natural (**002**). Considerably deeper deposits of made-ground of up to 2m in depth were encountered at the north-western end of the site within Trench F and at the north-western end of Trench G and of Trench H (Fig. 1). The sharp fall of the natural (**002**) part way along trenches G and H would indicate that this area had been quarried away and then back-filled with modern debris. All of the buildings (Building 1 – Building 7) associated with the current farmstead had been constructed directly on top of the natural subsoil (**002**).

The excavation of the trenches on the pre-agreed trenching plan led to the discovery of a wall footing (**004**) and cobbled/brick surfacing (**008** and **009**) immediately below the surface within Trench A, and a cobbled surface (**010**) within Trench K. Further trenches (Trench Q – T and W) were then excavated in order to establish the full extent of the wall footing identified within Trench A. Details of these features are contained within the following paragraphs.

#### *Enclosure Wall (003/004/005/006/007)*

Evaluation of the wall footings identified within Trenches A, R, T and Q indicated that they enclosed a roughly rectangular area (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2) measuring c. 34m NW to SE by 20m SW to NE. Given the size of this area, it is unlikely that they represent the remains of a roofed structure and are more likely to have been the walls of an open garden area or yard.

The walls in Trenches A and R were c.0.5m wide and consisted of rough-dressed mortared sandstone blocks set on top of a single foundation course of rough stone. The foundation course sat directly on top of the natural subsoil (**002**) (Fig. 3 and Fig. 5) The entire south-eastern wall (**004**) along with the south-easternmost 8m of wall **003** and the south-easternmost 9.5m of wall **006** were upstanding to a height of 0.4m to 0.5m (Fig. 6) above the natural, but the remainder of wall **006** appeared to have been entirely grubbed out leaving a broken wall end, and the remainder of wall **003** survived only as foundation stones.

Trench T and Trench Q established the location of the north-western wall (**007**), which survived in variable condition, measuring 0.4m high at the south-western end, but petering out and disappearing entirely at the north-eastern end. There was no evidence of a return running from the end of wall **007** (Fig. 2) towards the broken end of wall **006**, but a line of bricks (**014**) was identified running perpendicular with wall **007**. This line of bricks was also identified at the extreme southern end of Trench S. The alignment of bricks **014** was slightly to the south of the projected line of wall **006** and was probably a more recent addition. Further brickwork (**013**) was identified extending from the north-eastern end of wall **004** running in the direction of Building 6. Trench Q and Trench W were located to target the interior of the enclosure, but

other than a short length of wall (005) running perpendicular with wall 004 (Trench R) (Fig. 2) there were no internal features identified.

#### *Surfaces 008 and 009*

Fragmentary remains of cobble (008) and brick (009) surfaces were identified within the NW end of Trench A (Fig. 2 and Fig. 7). Some of the bricks were stamped 'LANEMARK' indicating that they were manufactured at the nearby Lanemark Brickworks. The surfaces sat on top of made ground (003) containing a high proportion of crushed ceramic field drain fragments. The fact that the surfaces overlay the made ground would indicate that they were fairly recent and are likely to represent the same phase of usage as the current buildings.

#### *Surface 010*

A fragmentary cobbled surface (010) (Fig. 4 and Fig. 8) was identified within Trench K, occupying the alleyway between Building 1 (011) and Building 2 (012). Close in to Building 1 the cobbles were small and neatly laid, but further towards the centre of the alleyway they were much larger and rougher. Building 1, Building 2, and the cobbled surface all sat directly on top of the natural subsoil (002) and all appear to date from the same phase of usage.

## **4. CONCLUSIONS**

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Dalgig Farm near New Cumnock as part of a programme of works associated with an extension to the Greenburn Surface Mine Operation. Previous work undertaken on the site included a standing building survey of the farmstead and the evaluation of the surrounding area.

The evaluation identified an enclosure wall and a number of cobble/brick surfaces. The enclosure wall appeared to be of the same sandstone and mortar construction as the current farmstead and is likely to have been a garden or yard wall relating to the same phase of development. The surfaces identified either respected the existing buildings or were constructed on top of recent made ground, indicating that they also were contemporary with the current buildings.

No further works are recommended in relation to Dalgig Farm. However, it is recognised that the final decision on any mitigation required lies with the planning authority as advised by WoSAS.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the WoSAS Sites and Monuments Record.

On completion of the mitigation works a summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

## 5. REFERENCES

Mitchell, S 2011(a) *Dalgig Farm, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire: Archaeological Evaluation*, CFA Report no. 1863

Mitchell, S 2011(b) *Dalgig Bridge, Dalgig Farm, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire: Level 1 Standing Building Survey*. CFA Report no. 1864

Mitchell, S 2011(c) *Dalgig Farm, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire: Level 3 Standing Building Survey*. CFA Report no. 1865



## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

*Digital*

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1	Trench L, general shot	SE	Overcast
2-3	Trench L, foundations of Building 1	SW	Overcast
4	Trench B, general shot	SW	Overcast
5	Trench C, general shot	SE	Overcast
6	Trench C, close up of inspection chamber for drainage pipes	W	Overcast
7	Trench K, cobbled 010	NE	Low light
8	Trench K, cobbled 010	SW	Low light
9	Trench K, general shot	SE	Sun
10	Trench K, general shot	NW	Into sun
11	Trench K showing wall of Building 1 sitting directly on natural subsoil 002	NW	Into sun
12	Trench N, general shot	SE	Sun
13	Trench N, section of trench showing concrete overlying made ground	NW	Sun
14-15	Trench K, cobbled surface 010 fully cleaned	SW	Sun
16-17	Trench K, cobbled surface 010 fully cleaned	NE	Sun
18	Trench O, general shot	NE	Sun
19	Trench D, general shot	NE	Sun
20	Trench M, general shot	SE	Sun
21	Trench E, general shot	NW	Into sun
22	Trench R, wall 006	SE	Sun
23	Trench R, wall 006	E	Sun
24	Trench P, general shot	SW	Sun
25	Trench H, general shot	SE	Overcast
26	Trench G, general shot	SE	Overcast
27	Trench F, general shot	SW	Overcast
28	Trench Q, general shot	NW	Sun
29	Trench A, general shot	NW	Sun
30	Trench A, close up of wall 004, NE end	SE	Sun
31	Trench R, NE corner of wall 004/006	S	Sun
32	Trench R, close up of wall 006	SE	Sun
33	Trench R, wall 003 showing SE corner	SE	Sun
34	Trench S, general shot	SW	Sun
35	Trench R, wall 003/004 showing SE corner	NE	Sun
36	Trench R, wall 006/004 showing NE corner	NW	Sun
37	Trench T, wall 004	NE	Sun
38	Trench T, general shot	SW	Sun
39	Trench R, wall 006	W	Sun
40	Trench U, general shot	SE	Sun
41	Trench V, general shot	SE	Sun
42	Trench R showing wall 003 and 004	NW	Sun
43	Trench R, general shot	NW	Sun
44	Wall 003 showing drawn elevation; taken obliquely due to sun	W	Sun
45	Wall 003 showing drawn elevation; taken obliquely due to sun	S	Sun
46	Trench W, general shot	NW	Sun

## APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context No.	Area	Trench	Description
001	Dalgig	All	Made ground/topsoil
002	Dalgig	All	Natural subsoil; reddish brown sandy-gravel and sandy-clay
003	Dalgig	R	South-western wall of enclosure (rough dressed sandstone and mortar)
004	Dalgig	R	South-eastern wall of enclosure (rough dressed sandstone and mortar)
005	Dalgig	R	Short length of internal wall within enclosure (rough dressed sandstone and mortar)
006	Dalgig	R	North-eastern wall of enclosure (rough dressed sandstone and mortar)
007	Dalgig	T	North-western wall of enclosure (rough dressed sandstone and mortar)
008	Dalgig	A	Cobbled surface
009	Dalgig	A	Brick surface
010	Dalgig	K	Cobbled surface
011	Dalgig	K	Footings of Building 1
012	Dalgig	K	Footings of Building 2
013	Dalgig	A	Brick continuation of Wall 004
014	Dalgig	T	Footings of brick wall perpendicular to 007

## APPENDIX 3: Field Drawings Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Section/Plan	Description
1	1	1:100	P	Plan of enclosure wall
2	2	1:20	P	Plan of cobbled surface 010
3	3	1:50	P	Plan of Trench A
4	4	1:10	Elevation	2m length of SW facing elevation of wall 006

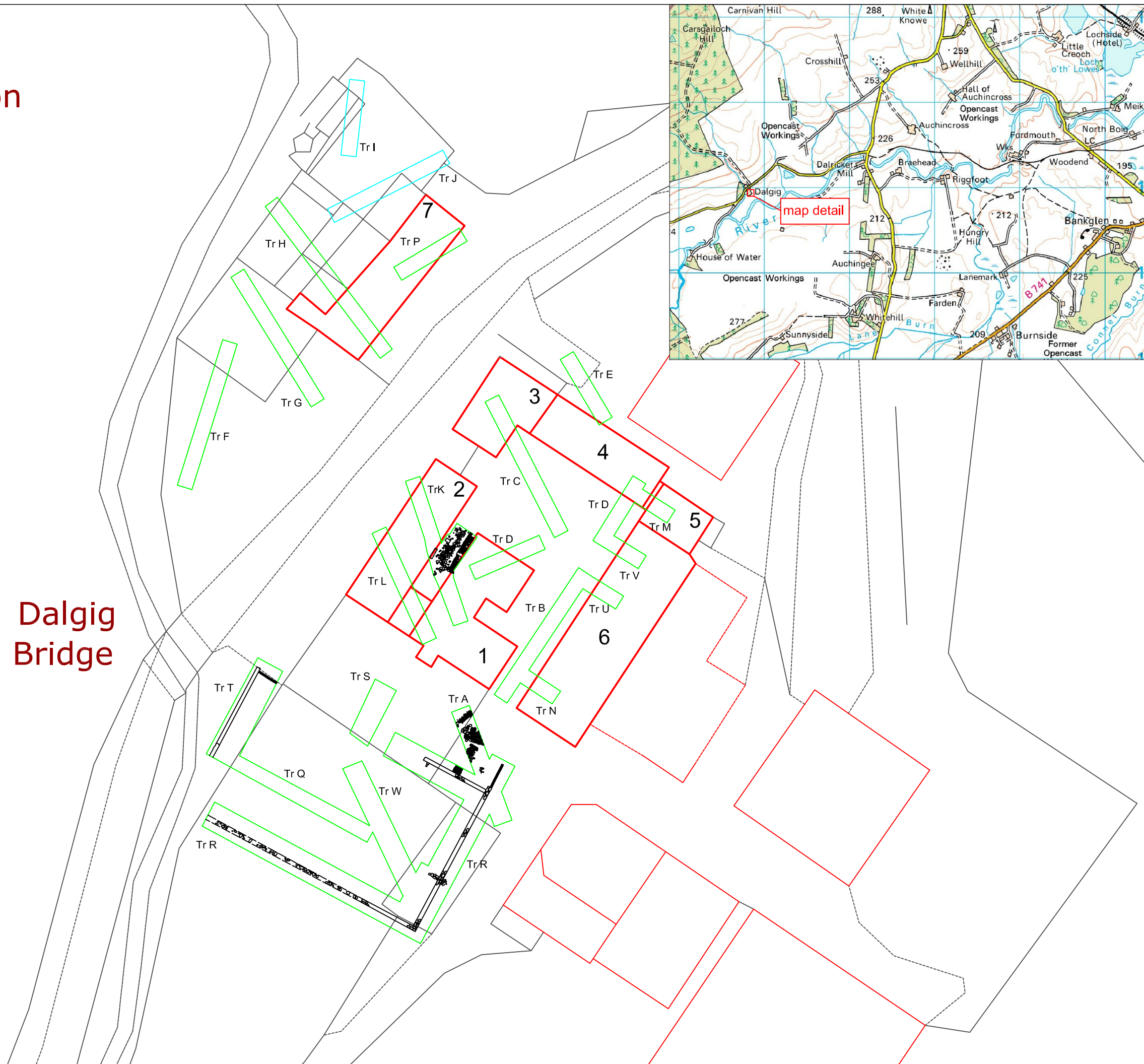
#### APPENDIX 4: Summary of Excavation Results

Trench No.	Area	Size (m)	Depth of Deposits (m)	Features
A	Dalgig	15x2	0.3	Wall footings 004 Cobbled surface 008 Brick surface 009
B	Dalgig	20x2	0.4	Five ceramic drainage pipes
C	Dalgig	20x2	0.3	Footings of Building 3 Two ceramic drains and one inspection chamber
D	Dalgig	10x2	0.25	Footings of Building 4
E	Dalgig	10x2	0.2	N/A
F	Dalgig	20x2	>2	Large diameter metal pipe and large diameter concrete pipe.
G	Dalgig	20x2	0.4 - >2m	Large diameter concrete pipe; thought to be associated with a hydro electric scheme.
H	Dalgig	25x2	0.4 – 0.8	Footings of Building 7 Large diameter metal pipe
I	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
J	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
K	Dalgig	20x2	0.4	Footings of Building 1 and Building 2 Cobbled surface 010
L	Dalgig	16x2	0.4	Footings of Building 1 and Building 2 Metal tank containing kerosene
M	Dalgig	5x2	0.25	Footings of Building 6
N	Dalgig	5x2	0.4	Footings of Building 6
O	Dalgig	10x2	0.3 – 0.6	Footings of Building 1 Ceramic drainage pipe
P	Dalgig	10x2	0.4	Footings of Building 7
Q	Dalgig	20x2	0.5	Wall 007
R	Dalgig	12x3.5 26.5x3.5 28x 3.5	0.55	Wall 003, 004, 005 and 006
S	Dalgig	8x2	0.9	Line of bricks 014 Ceramic drainage pipe
T	Dalgig	14x4	0.5	Wall 007 Line of bricks 014
U	Dalgig	5x2	0.6	Footings of Building 6
V	Dalgig	5x2	0.4	Footings of Building 6
W	Dalgig	20x2	0.6	N/A

# Dalgig Plantation

## Dalgig Bridge

Plantation



- Key:
- evaluation trenches
  - evaluation trenches not dug
  - demolished buildings

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Fig. No: **1**      Revision: **A**

Title:  
**Site location and location of evaluation trenches**

Project:  
**Dalgig Farm, New Cumnock**

Client:  
**Kier Mining**

Scale at A3:  
**1:500**

Drawn by: **GC**      Checked: **LW**      Report No: **2023**



Key:

evaluation trenches

demolished buildings

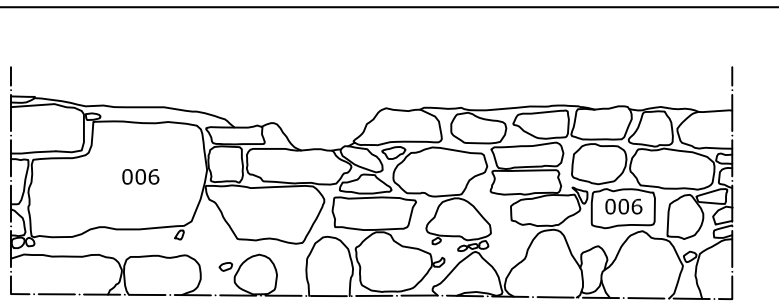
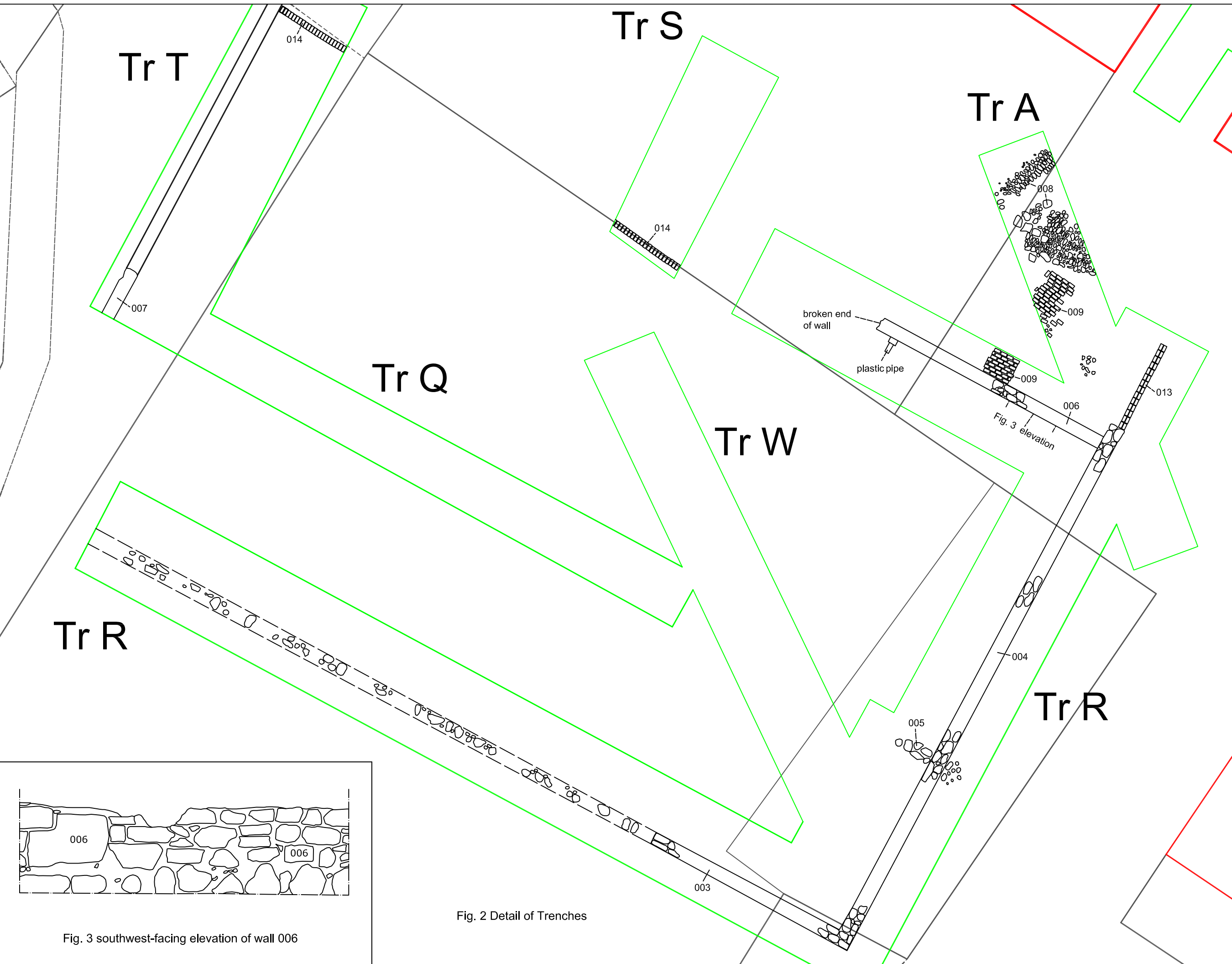


Fig. 3 southwest-facing elevation of wall 006

Fig. 2 Detail of Trenches

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Fig. No: 2 & 3 Revision: A

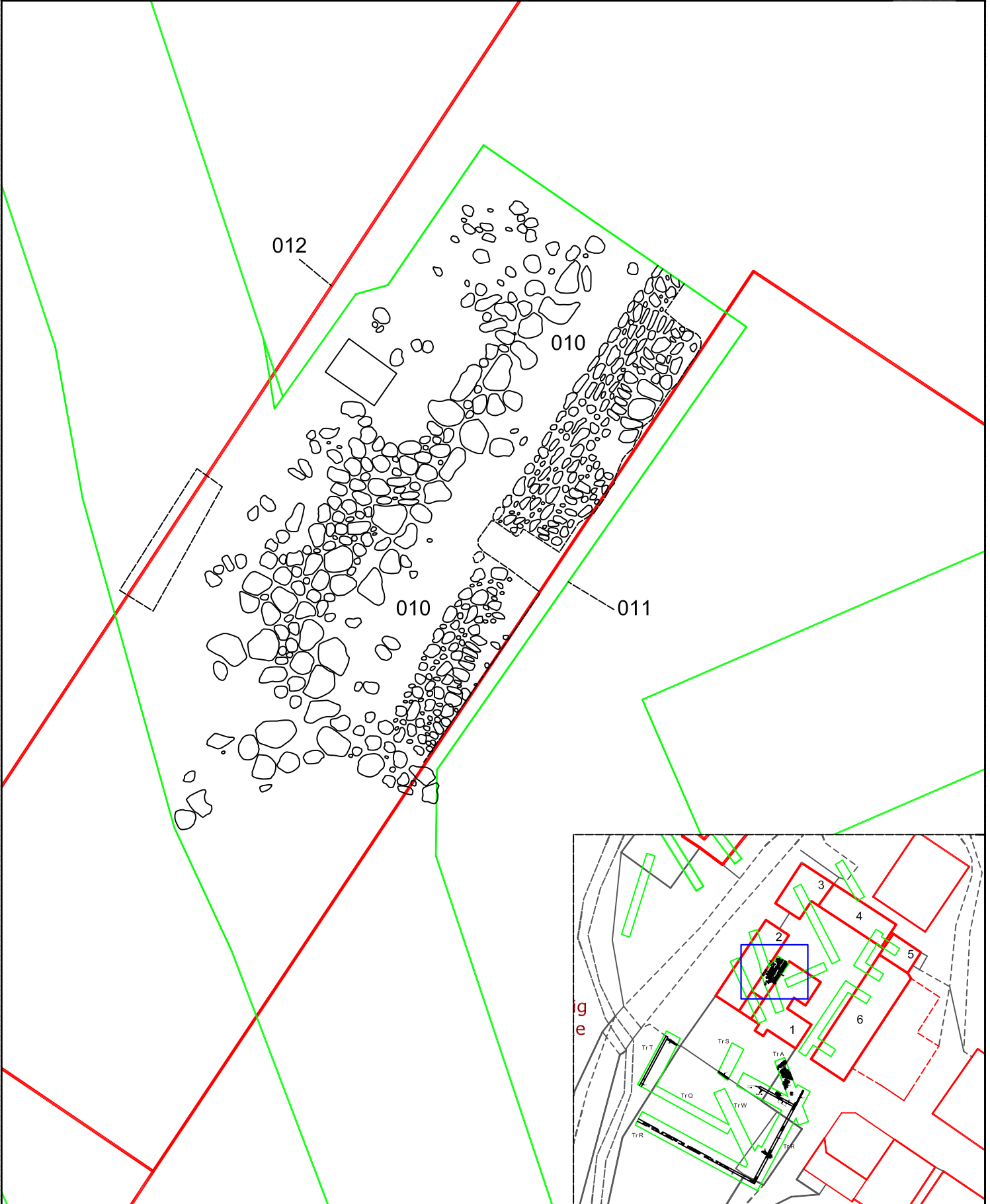
Title: Detail of Trenches A, R, S, W, Q and T and wall elevation

Project: Dalgig Farm, New Cumnock

Client: Kier Mining


Scale at A3: Fig. 2 1:125 Fig. 3 1:20

Drawn by: GC Checked: LW Report No: 2023



Key:

- evaluation trenches
- demolished buildings



Scale at A4: 1:50

Fig No: 4	Revision: 1	Client: Kier Mining
Title: Plan of cobbles 010		
Project: Dalgig Farm, New Cumnock		



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Fig. 5 Wall 006/004 from the south -east



Fig. 6 Wall 006 from the south-west

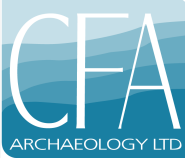

Key:	Fig. No:	5-6	Revision:	A	Client:	Kier Mining Group	 <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmillis Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p>
	Title:						
Scale:	Project:	Dalgig Farm, New Cumnock				Drawn by: GC Checked: LW Report No: 2023	



Fig. 7 Trench A showing cobbles 008 and brick surface 009



Fig.8 Cobbled surface 010

Key:	Fig. No:	7-8	Revision:	A	Client:	Kier Mining Group	 <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmillis Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p>
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