

Metal detector survey and  
Archaeological Evaluation  
to the rear of Nos 1 and 2 Haugh Road, Stirling



General view of proposed house plots looking North East, Wallace monument just visible through trees



1<sup>st</sup> March 2012

## **Introduction**

This metal detector survey, photographic record and archaeological evaluation of the proposed footprints of two new houses and access road was carried out for Mr Albert Stewart to satisfy the archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development, as noted by Stirling Council Archaeology Service in the condition attached to Planning Application 11/00544/FULL dated 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011. It was undertaken by the author on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012, weather conditions were dry and over cast on the first day and occasionally bright and sunny on the second.

## **Archaeological Background (Illus 1-4)**

The proposed development area comprises garden ground that lies within the approximate area of the main engagement of the Battle of Stirling Bridge (1297) as defined by the Battlefields Trust, and has not been subject to previous development. The site therefore has the potential to contain previously undiscovered archaeological objects or remains that have survived beneath the active plough-zone from the battle as well as a variety of periods in Scotland's history and prehistory. The proposed development has the potential to damage or destroy such remains. The site is marked as open ground on both Roy's Military Survey of Scotland and the 1898 Ordnance Survey map.

## **Photographic Survey (Illus 7 – 10)**

As a first step a photographic record was made of the entire site including location shots that showed its relationship to the Wallace monument, Stirling Bridge and Stirling Castle.

## **Metal Detector Survey (Illus 5 and 11)**

The main part of the site was gridded out on two baselines measuring 23metres in length that lay 20m apart. The entire area, including the course of the site access road, was then scanned with a Lander XDPro 100 detector in 2m wide tracks running North to South. All anomalies were located on the ground using wooden pegs which were then numbered up in sequence to match their locations as logged by a hand held GPS. A working record plan of all anomalies was maintained on site to check any apparent patterns in their distribution.

All of the detected points were concentrated in the northern part of the site and were then checked by a combination of further more detailed metal detecting and hand dug test pits. All of the anomalies recorded proved to relate to the former use of the site as a garden area behind number 1 Haugh Road. The metal detected readings all represented either iron nails, burnt aluminium foil or chicken wire. Nothing relating to the battlefield of Stirling Bridge was located.

## **Site Evaluation (Illus 12 – 14)**

As requested by Stirling Councils archaeologist a 5% sample of the proposed footprint of the two new houses (211 square metres) was trenched by mechanical excavator. This entailed the opening of a single trench measuring 6 metres by 2 metres that was laid out on a South West to North East alignment. A dark grey brown silty clay was encountered to a depth of 0.30m below modern ground level which then overlay a compact damp yellow brown clay which appeared to be natural. No archaeological deposits or features were located.

## **Discussion and Conclusions**

Despite this site being located at the North Western corner of the Battlefield Trust's suggested position of the English Deployments at the Battle of Stirling Bridge nothing relating to the battle was found at all. The author feels that no further archaeological work needs to take place on site prior to the development proceeding.

## **Cartographic Sources (<http://www.nls.uk/maps>)**

General Roy's Military Survey of Scotland 1747-55

Ordnance Survey Maps - Six-inch 1st edition, Scotland, 1898

## **Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank Albert Stewart and Gary for their help and interest in this exercise.

## **Illustration List**

Illus 1 Site Location marked in red, (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2012. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

Illus 2 site (red dot) as shown on General Roy's Military Survey of Scotland of 1747-55 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

Illus 3 Site (marked with red dot) as shown on 1898 Ordnance Survey map (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

Illus 4 Plan of Battle of Stirling Bridge by The Battlefield Trust, site is marked with green dot at top left hand end of 'English Deployments' (©The Battlefields Trust 2005)

Illus 5 Site plan showing metal detected objects (proposed house plots shown as broken red lines)

Illus 6 Site plan showing location of evaluation trench (house plots shown by broken red lines)

Illus 7 General view of Western end of site of proposed new houses

Illus 8 General view of Eastern end of site for proposed new houses

Illus 9 General view of Eastern end of site with Stirling Castle visible in background

Illus 10 General view of course of proposed access road to site from Haugh Road looking North West

Illus 11 Detail view of layer of chicken wire encountered just below ground surface

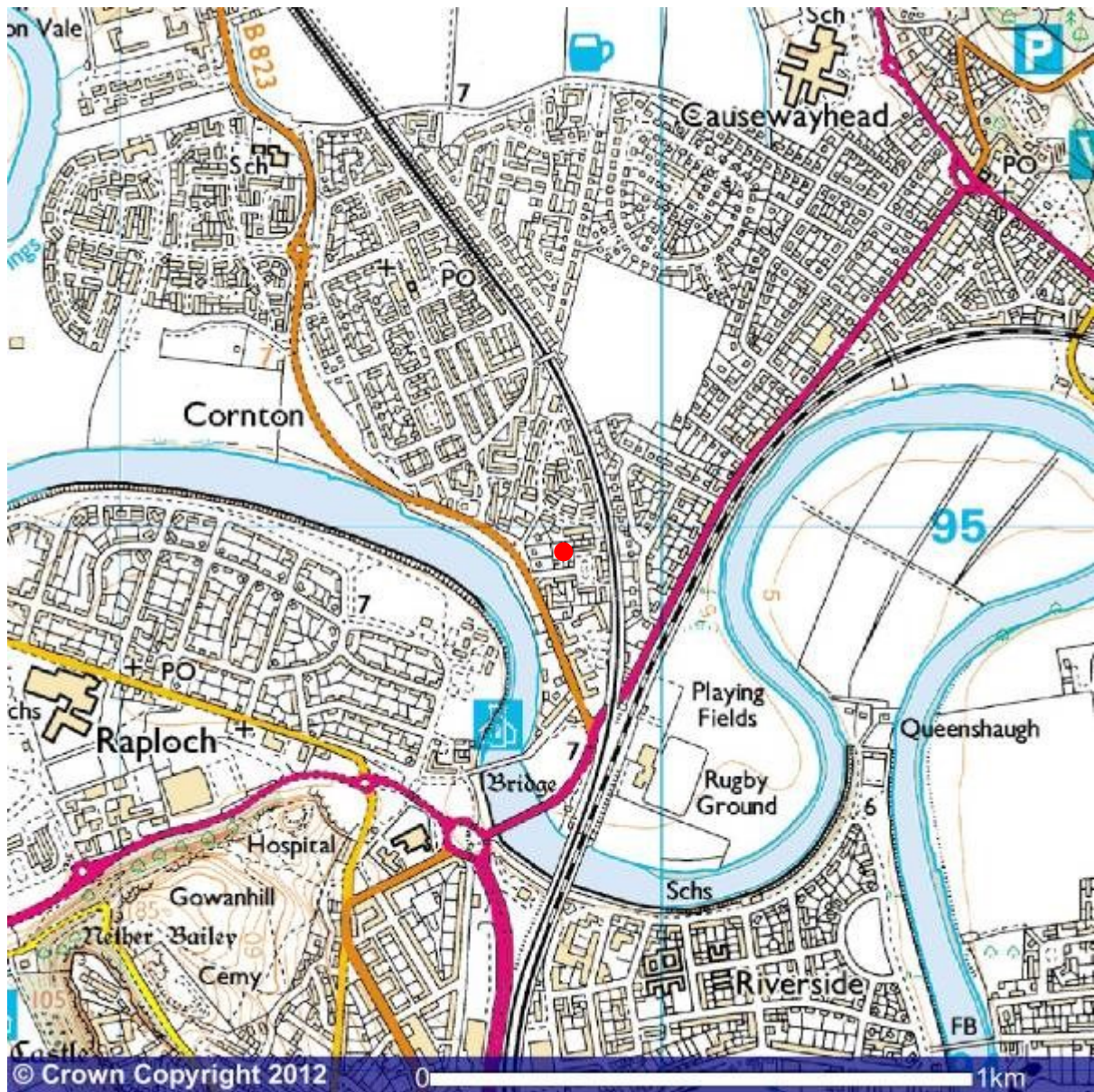
Illus 12 General view of location of evaluation trench (marked by ranging rods)

Illus 13 General view of evaluation trench looking West, natural clay visible in base.

Illus 14 Detail view of Eastern end of evaluation trench showing shallow depth of soil above natural clay.

## Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Redevelopment of land to the rear of Nos 1 and 2 Haugh Road, Stirling
PROJECT CODE:	HAU01
PARISH:	Stirling
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Derek Hall
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Metal detector survey and archaeological evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 797 949
START DATE	29 <sup>th</sup> February 2012
END DATE	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A metal detector survey of the entire development site and a 5% evaluation of two new house plots located nothing relating to the Battle of Stirling Bridge (1297).
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Albert Stewart
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	N/A
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	34 Glenfarg Terrace, Perth, PH2 0AP
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Derek.hall1@blueyonder.co.uk



Illus 1 Site Location marked in red, (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2012. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

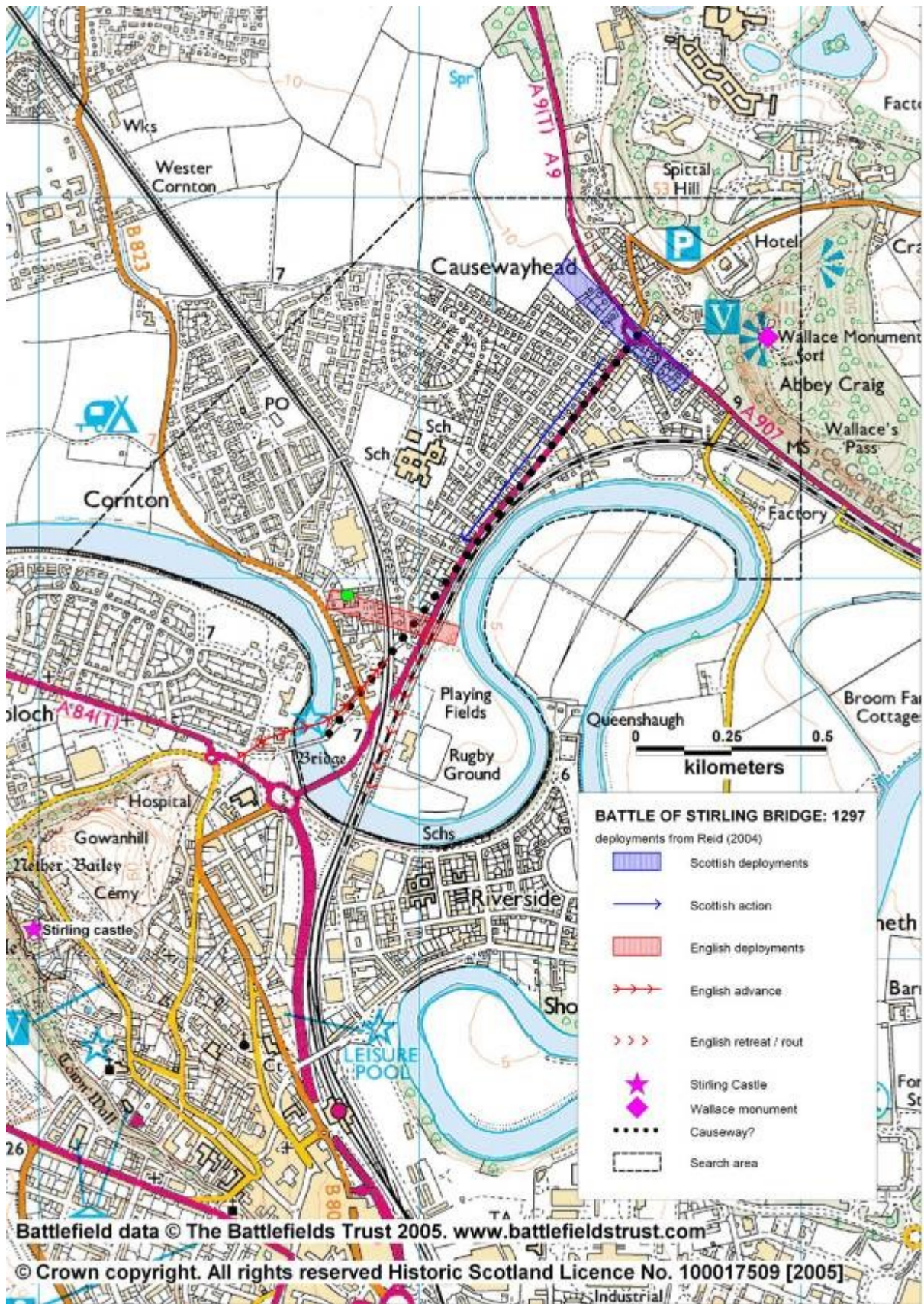


Illus 2 site (red dot) as shown on General Roy's Military Survey of Scotland of 1747-55 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

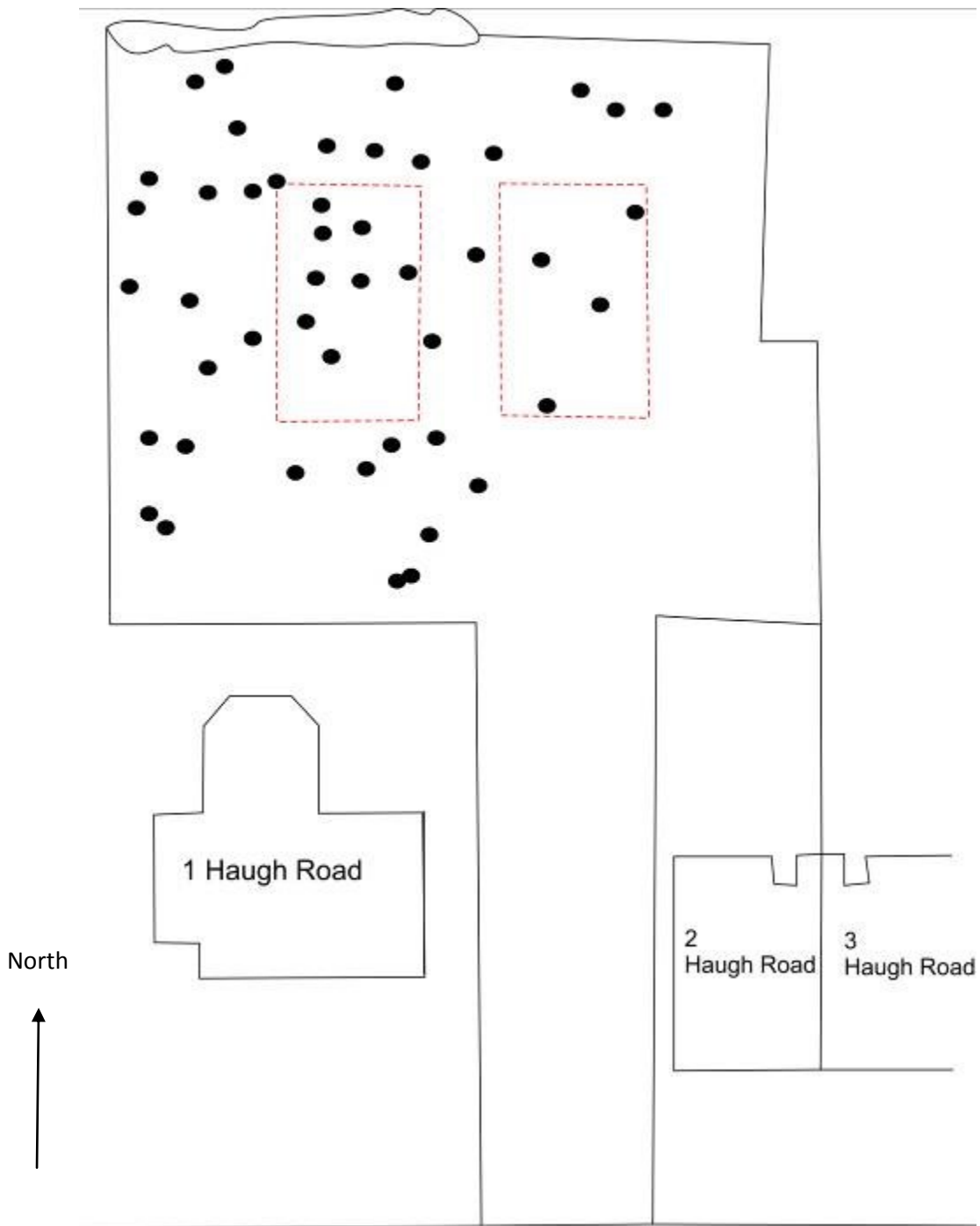


Illus 3 Site (marked with red dot) as shown on 1898 Ordnance Survey map (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

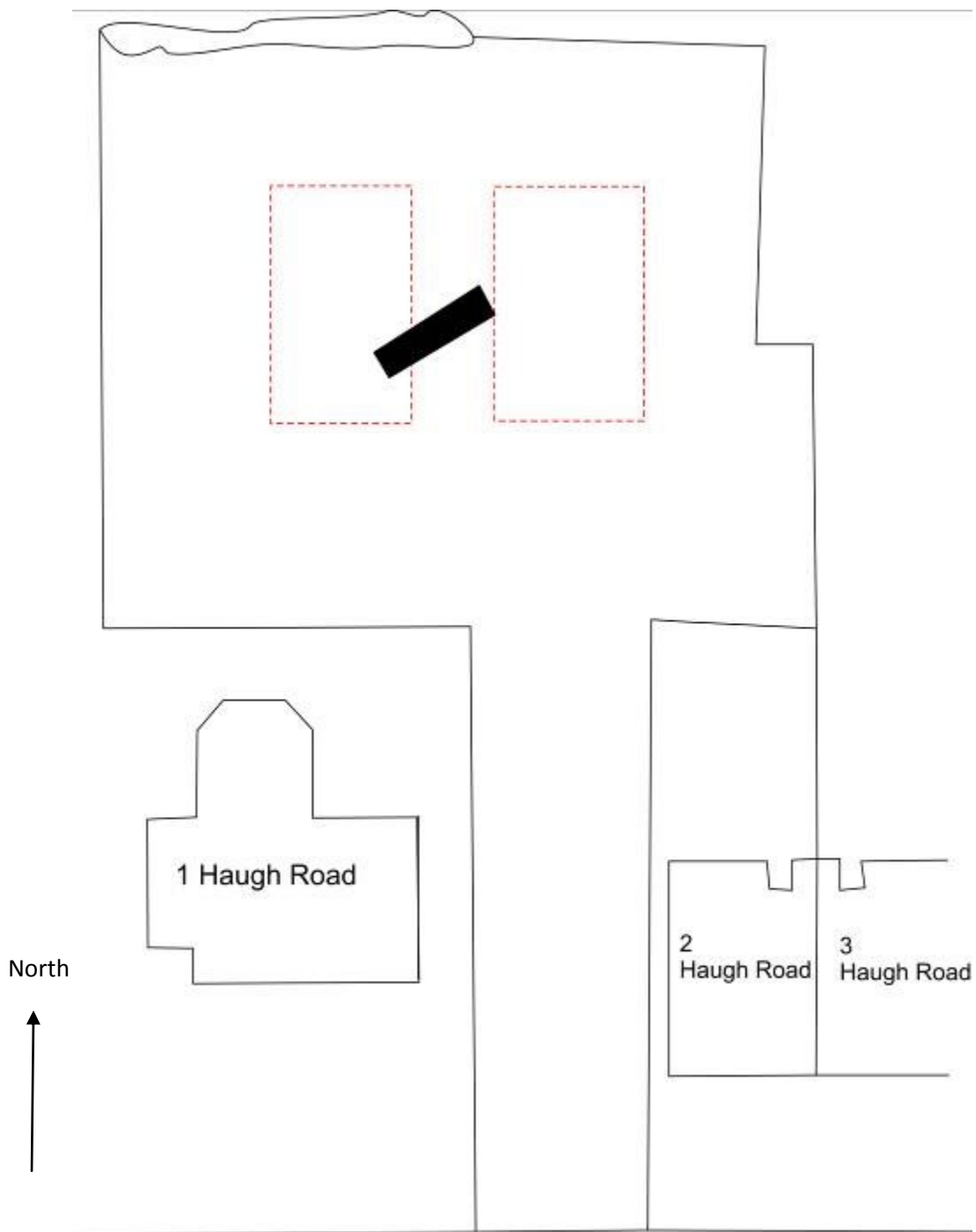




Illus 4 Plan of Battle of Stirling Bridge by The Battlefields Trust, site is marked with green dot at top left hand end of 'English Deployments' (©The Battlefields Trust 2005)



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Scale 1:300



Illus 6 Site plan showing location of evaluation trench (house plots shown by broken red lines) Scale 1:300



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