

The Arns, Bridge of Allan, Stirling: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 23461
16th May 2016



ARCHAEOLOGY

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The Arns, Bridge of Allan, Stirling: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Miss Laura Robertson Lemahamish Pendreich Road Bridge of Allan
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NS 7966 9835
AOC Project No:	23461
Planning Application No.	16/00009/FUL
OASIS No.	251659
Prepared by:	Kevin Paton
Date of Fieldwork:	12th May 2016
Date of Report:	16th May 2016

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

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Approved by: Lindsay Dunbar	Date: 16th May 2016
Draft/Final Report Stage: Final	Date: 16th May 2016

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Contents

	Page
List of Illustrations	3
List of Plates	3
List of Appendices	3
Abstract	4
1 INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Background	5
1.2 Location.....	5
1.3 Archaeological Background.....	5
2 OBJECTIVES	5
3 METHODOLOGY	5
4 RESULTS	6
5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	7
6 REFERENCES	7
APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions	9
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record	10
APPENDIX 3: ‘Discovery and Excavation in Scotland’ Report	11

List of Illustrations

- Figure 1 Site location
Figure 2 Trench locations

List of Plates

- Plate 1 General view of Trenches 1 & 2

List of Appendices

- Appendix 1 Trench Descriptions
Appendix 2 Photographic Record
Appendix 3 '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' Report

Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology in relation to the construction of an agricultural building and associated access at The Arns, near Lemahamish, Bridge of Allan, Stirling.

The evaluation consisted of five trenches covering 103 m² of the development area, encountering 0.3 m of topsoil overlying a stony clay subsoil or bedrock.

No further works are considered necessary within the development area. This recommendation requires the approval of the Stirling Council Planning Officer (Archaeology).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Miss Laura Robertson to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to the construction of an agricultural building and associated access at The Arns, near Lemahamish, Bridge of Allan, Stirling. The works were undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Stirling Council. The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2016) approved by Stirling Council and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The development area lies within established arable fields and is presently in use as a pasture field. It lies immediately southwest of Pendreich Road, near Lemahamish on the outskirts of Bridge of Allan (NGR NS 7966 9835; Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 Currently the site consists of an area of a pasture field lying immediately to the southwest of Pendreich Road, by Bridge of Allan. The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland does not list any known sites as existing within the site boundaries however a little over 100 m to the SE of the development area there lies a prehistoric cairn, the Scheduled Monument called 'Fairy Knowe' (NMRSNS79NE 1).

1.3.2 This cairn has been reduced to a mound now measuring 18.0 m in diameter and 2.2 m high. Excavations in 1868 revealed the main body of the mound to be earthen, but at its centre there was a small cairn covering a cist which had been built on the old ground surface and contained a large deposit of cremated bone and charcoal. In addition to a Beaker (now lost) found near the summit of the mound, fragments of an 'urn', 'half a dozen' arrowheads and what may have been a number of other cremation deposits were also discovered.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to determine and assess 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 mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The evaluation trenches were conducted using a 4 tonne tracked excavator with a 1.2 m wide ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and as

per the methodology within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2016). The trenches were backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological works were undertaken on 12th May 2016. A total of 103 m² of linear trench was opened, varying in alignment, length and width, and focussed over the development footprint (Figure 2). The topsoil within the trenches was a shallow mid brown sandy loam overlying an orangey brown sandy clay and/or bedrock. The topsoil measured 0.16 m thick over areas of bedrock and up to 0.3 m thick over the sandy clay subsoil.
- 4.3 No archaeological features or artefacts were located within the evaluation trenches.



Plate 1 – General view of Trenches 1 & 2

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 From the trenches excavated it has been demonstrated that the development area is most likely archaeologically sterile due to the presence of sub-surface bedrock and the undulating topography.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are deemed necessary within the development area. This recommendation will require the approval of the Planning Officer (Archaeology) for Stirling Council.

6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2016, *The Arns, Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished AOC project design

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*, 2014

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*

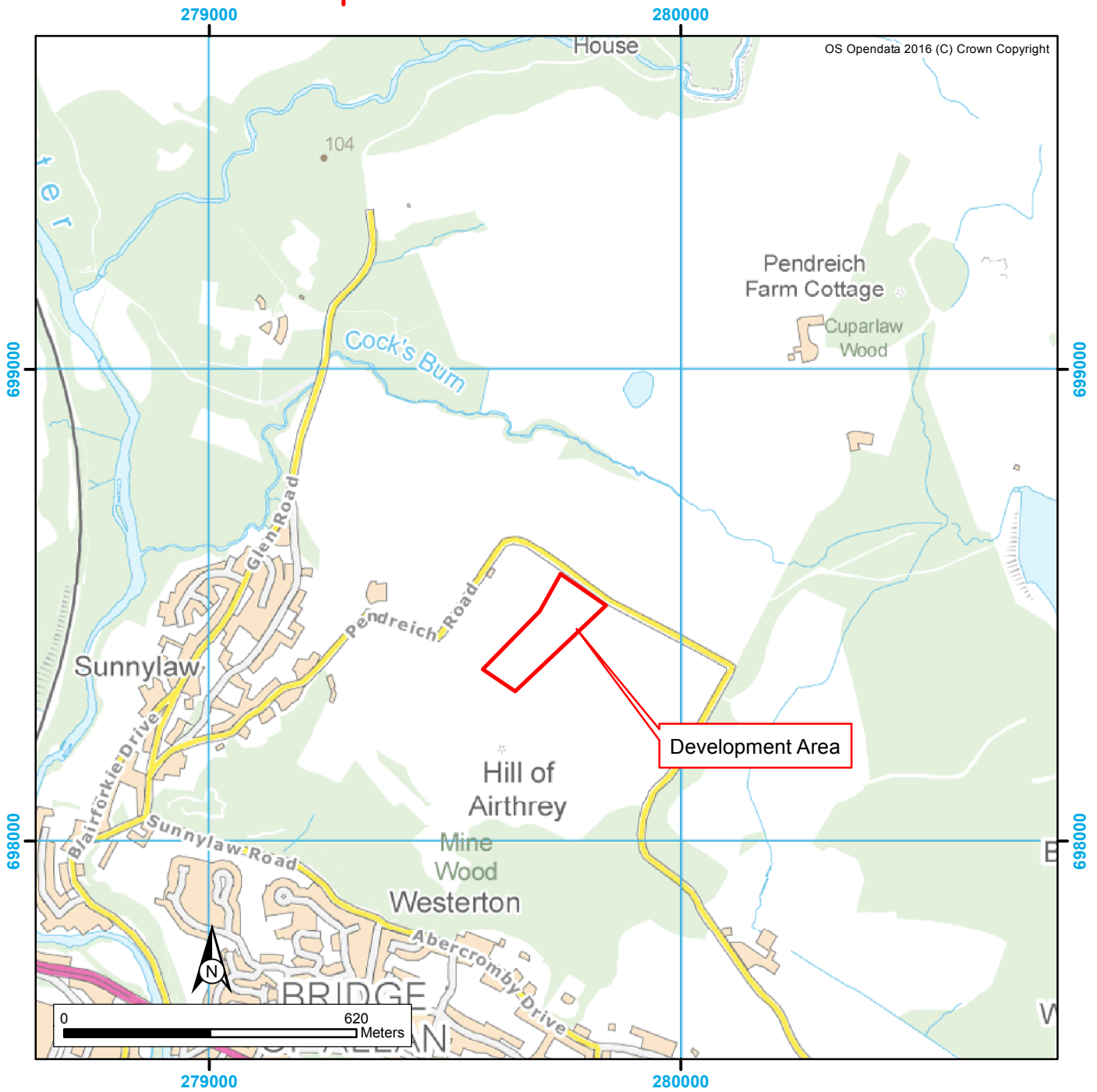
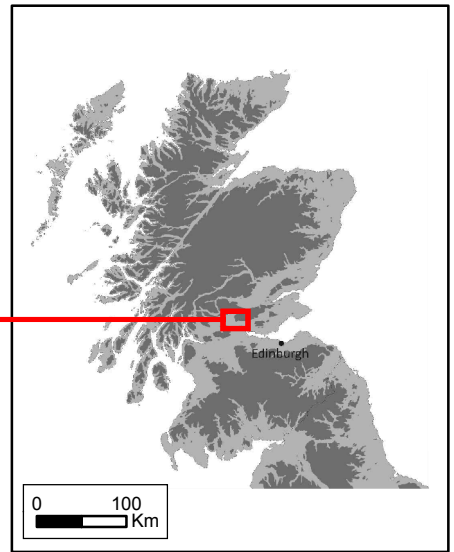
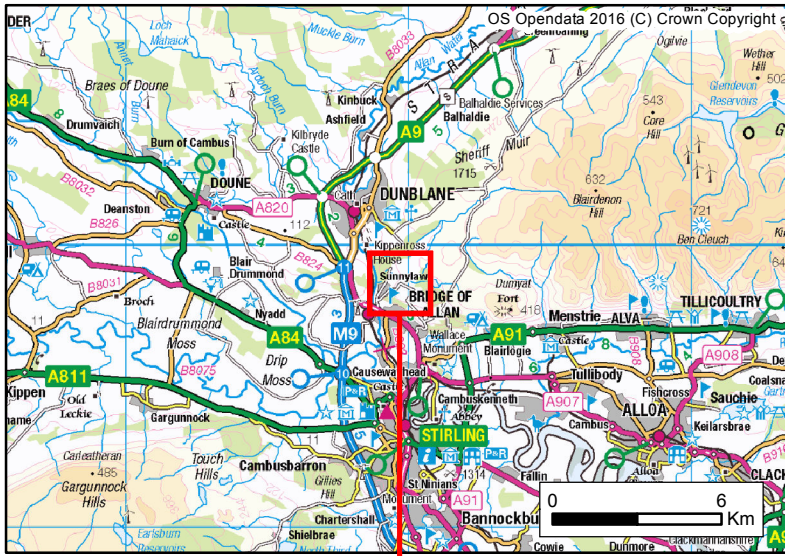
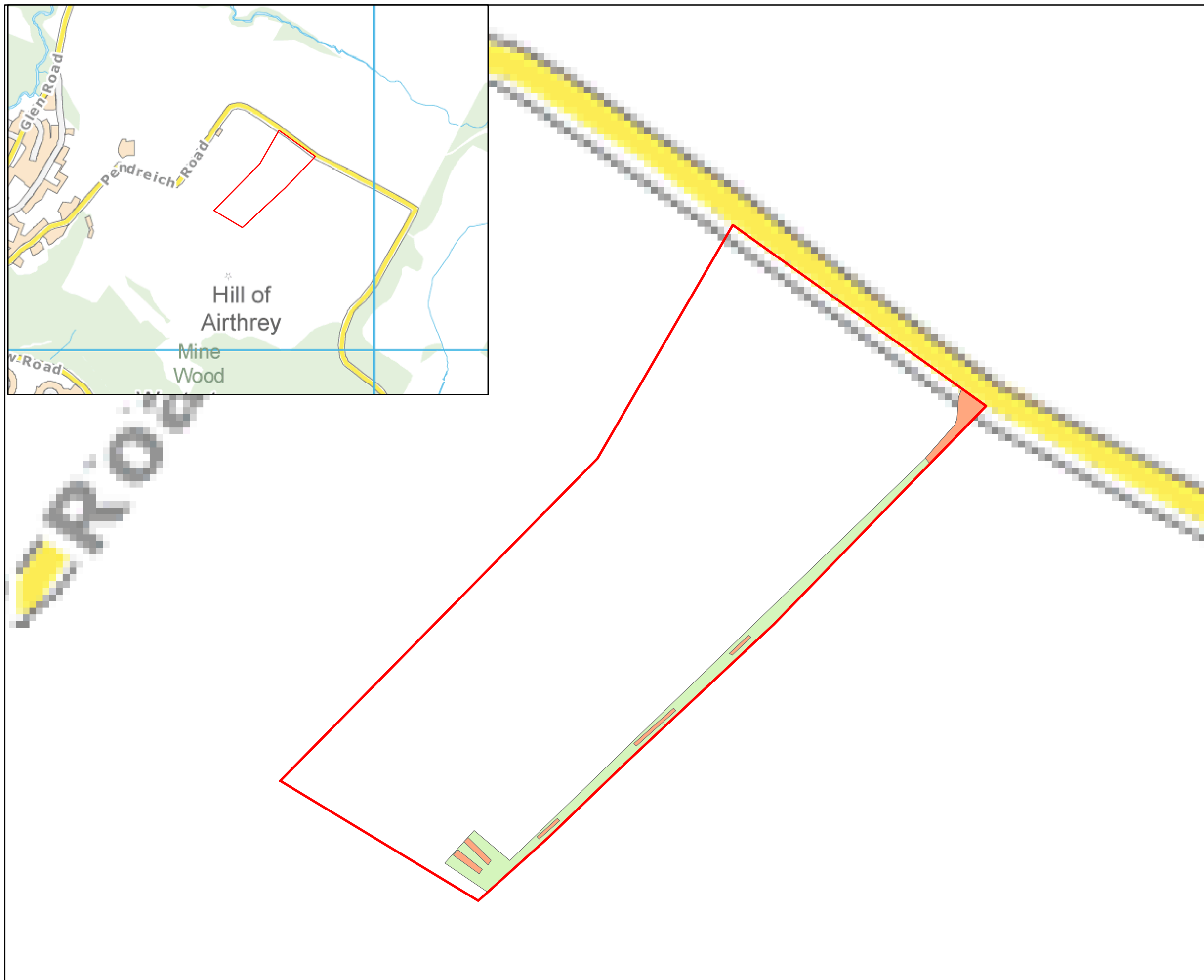


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

Figure 2-
Trench Locations

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Trenches
- Development footprint



0 10 20 30 40
Meters



Cartographic data derived from OS OpenData, Crown Copyright

Project No.:	23461
Date:	13.05.2016
Scale at A3:	1:1,398



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Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	12 m by 2.3 m
<i>Total Area</i>	27.6 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	W to E
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown sandy loam with occ. small stone inclusions – max depth 0.3 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey brown sandy clay with large boulder inclusions
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	12 m by 2.3 m
<i>Total Area</i>	27.6 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	W to E
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown sandy loam with occ. small stone inclusions – max depth 0.3 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey brown sandy clay with large boulder inclusions and bedrock protrusions
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 1.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	12 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	N to S
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown sandy loam with occ. small stone inclusions – max depth 0.32 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey brown sandy clay until 4 m then orangey brown sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	20 m by 1.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	24 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	S to N
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown sandy loam with occ. small stone inclusions – max depth 0.18 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Bedrock until 4 m then orangey brown sandy clay and stone inclusions until 9.2 m then bedrock
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

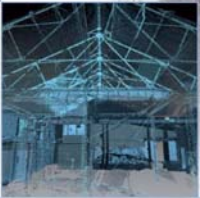
<i>Dimensions</i>	10 m by 1.2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	12 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	S to N
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown sandy loam with occ. small stone inclusions – max depth 0.18 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Bedrock
<i>Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Frame	Description	From	Date
1	View towards cairn from top of access track	NW	12/5/16
2	View down to shed and yard area	N	12/5/16
3	View down to field entrance	S	12/5/16
4	Post ex T1	E	12/5/16
5	Post ex T2	E	12/5/16
6	Views of cow shed and yard area with T1 and T2	SE	12/5/16
7	Post ex T3	N	12/5/16
8	Post ex T4	N	12/5/16
9	Post ex T5	N	12/5/16
10-22	Views from shed location along access track to entrance	Var	12/5/16

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	The Arns, Bridge of Allan
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 23461
PARISH:	Stirling
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 7966 9835
START DATE (this season)	12 th May 2016
END DATE (this season)	12 th May 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology in relation to the construction of an agricultural building and associated access at The Arns, near Lemahamish, Bridge of Allan, Stirling.</p> <p>The evaluation consisted of five trenches covering 103 m² of the development area, encountering 0.3 m of topsoil overlying a stony clay subsoil or bedrock.</p> <p>No further works are considered necessary within the development area. This recommendation requires the approval of the Stirling Council Planning Officer (Archaeology).</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Miss Laura Robertson
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EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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