

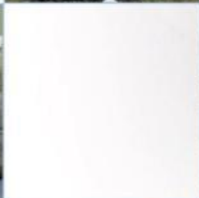
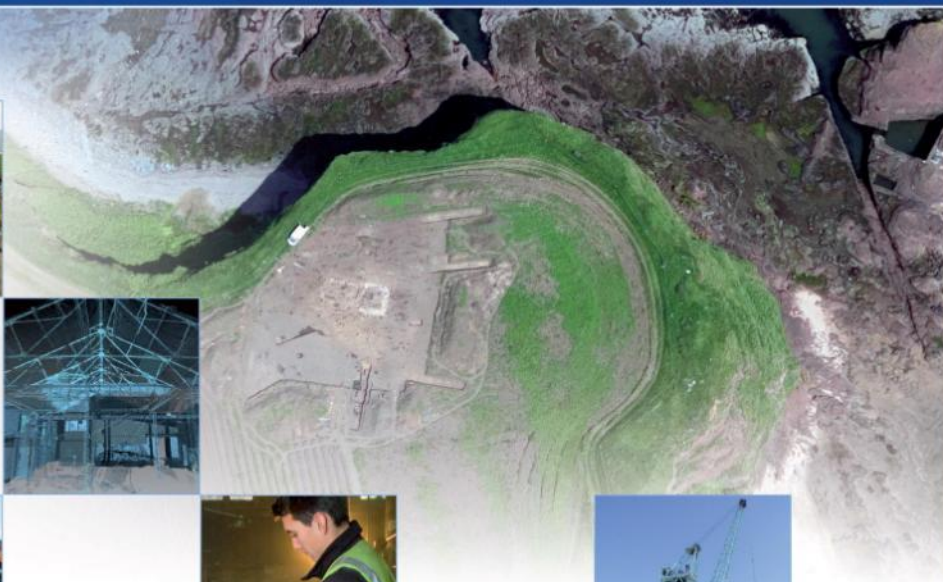
New Housing, Leachkin Road, Inverness

Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report

AOC Project Number: 70416

June 2019



ARCHAEOLOGY

| HERITAGE

| CONSERVATION

New Housing, Leachkin Road, Inverness

Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	The Highland Council
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NH 64419 44962
Planning Reference	18/03655/FUL
AOC Project No:	70416
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Abstract

This report details the findings of an 8% archaeological evaluation carried out at a residential development site at Leachkin Road, Inverness. The evaluation was required because there was potential for buried archaeological remains to be present on the site.

Fieldwork was carried out on 17th-18th June 2019, where 10 trenches were excavated across the site. No archaeological features were present in any of the trenches. The site showed signs of modern disturbance with debris and type 1 hard-standing within the topsoil and upper layers, numerous ceramic and plastic field drains and large topsoil bunds across the site. No further archaeological work is recommended.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An 8% archaeological evaluation was required by the Highland Council in advance of the construction of new housing at Leachkin Road, Inverness (Planning reference 18/03655/FUL). The requirement for the evaluation arose because the development site is located in an area with the potential for the survival of buried archaeological deposits.
- 1.2 The site lies within the administrative area of the Highland Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Kirsty Cameron, Archaeologist, Historic Environment Team, Highland Council. A programme of trial trenching across the site was specified in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.
- 1.3 The fieldwork was carried out on 17th-18th June 2019 where ten evaluation trenches were excavated. No archaeological features were present in any of the trenches. The site showed signs of modern disturbance with debris and type 1 hard-standing within the topsoil, numerous ceramic and plastic field drains and large topsoil bunds across the site. No further archaeological work is recommended.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed development site is situated on the south side of Leachkin Road in Inverness, centred on NGR NH 64419 44962 (**Figure 1; Plates 1-2**). The archaeological evaluation investigated the part of the development area that was outwith the footprint of the building which had previously been present on the site and was recently demolished.
- 2.2 No previously known archaeological features were present on the site, but the site is located in an area where archaeological discoveries have been made. The site lies within 500m of Craig Phadrig fort, an Iron Age fort with evidence for reuse in the Pictish period. The fort is often linked with the Pictish King Bridei and his conversion to Christianity by St Columba in AD565. Other nearby sites include Craig Phadrig hospital and a medieval chapel and burial ground. In the wider Inverness area there has been significant evidence for prehistoric settlement uncovered through development works at Torvean and the new West Link Road.
- 2.3 Historic maps show that the site was open, probably agricultural land, until at least the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition maps of the early 20th century. Thus there is potential for buried archaeological remains to be present in the area of Leachkin Road.



Plate 1: The development site pre-works



Plate 2: The development site pre-works

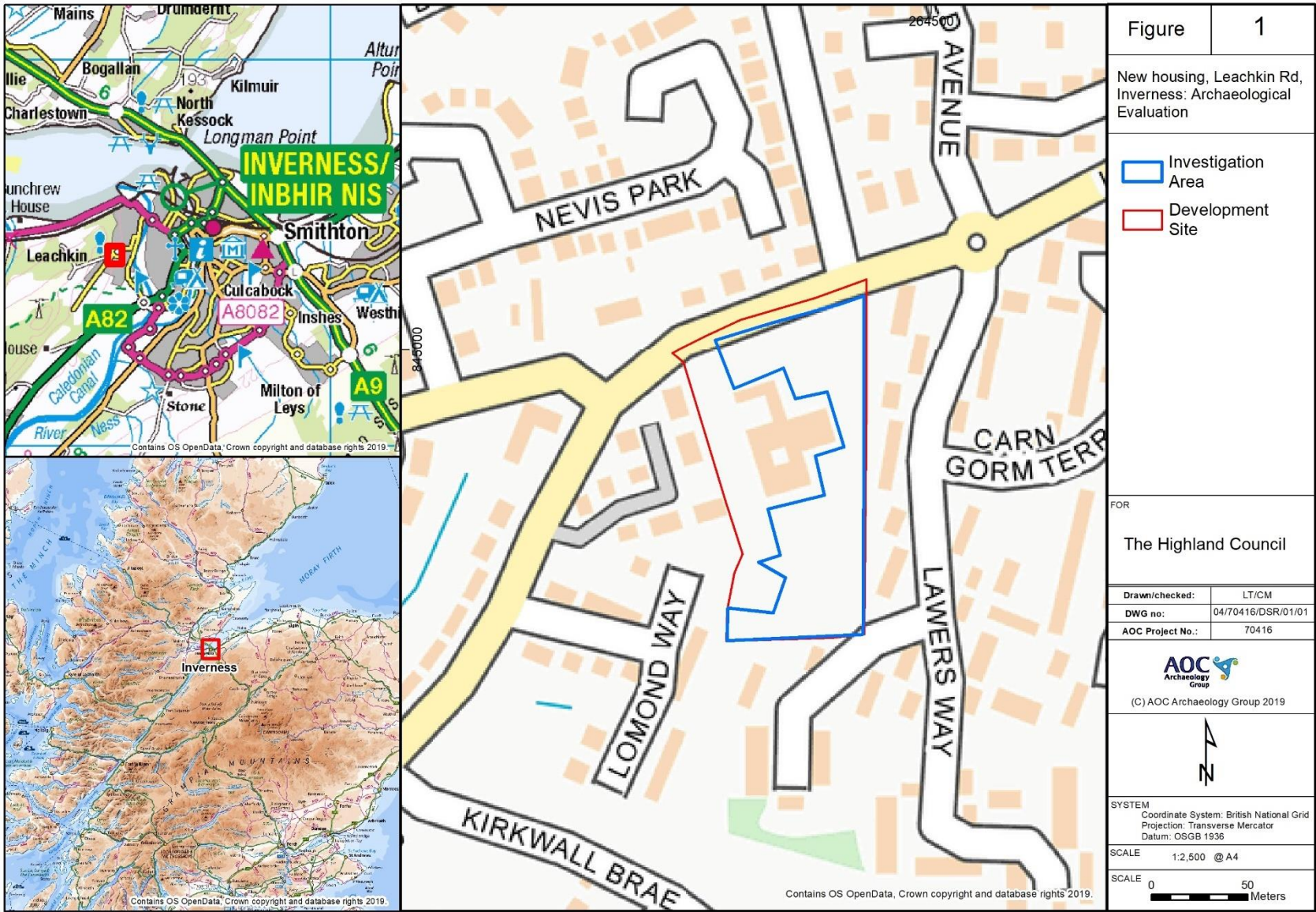


Figure 1: Site location map

3.0 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 A desk-based assessment was conducted prior to commencement of the evaluation in order to assess the archaeological potential of the area based on previously recorded sites and any historical documentation. A full check of all available historical and archaeological records, aerial photographs and historical maps was conducted using the Highland Historic Environment Record (HER), the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE), Ordnance Survey Name Books, Historic Environment Scotland's databases, the National Library of Scotland, statistical accounts and other available records, literary sources or online resources about the site.

3.2 Cartographic Sources

- 3.2.1 Historical maps were consulted online at the National Library of Scotland (NLS 2019).

a) Roy Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-1755

Several small settlements are shown in the current area of Leachkin Road, including *Kinnyliss*, *Muirtown* and *Scorgue* (**Figure 2**) The surrounding landscape is shown as cultivated land.

b) Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map

Inverness-shire (Mainland), Sheet XII

Survey date: 1868-70 Publication date: 1874

This map depicts the development site as an open field to the south of a main road (the predecessor of the modern Leachkin Road) (**Figure 3**).

c) Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map

Inverness-shire – Mainland, Sheet XII

Publication date: 1906 Date revised: 1902

There are only minor changes evident on this map compared to the 1st edition (**Figure 4**).



Figure 2: Excerpt from Roy's map (1752)

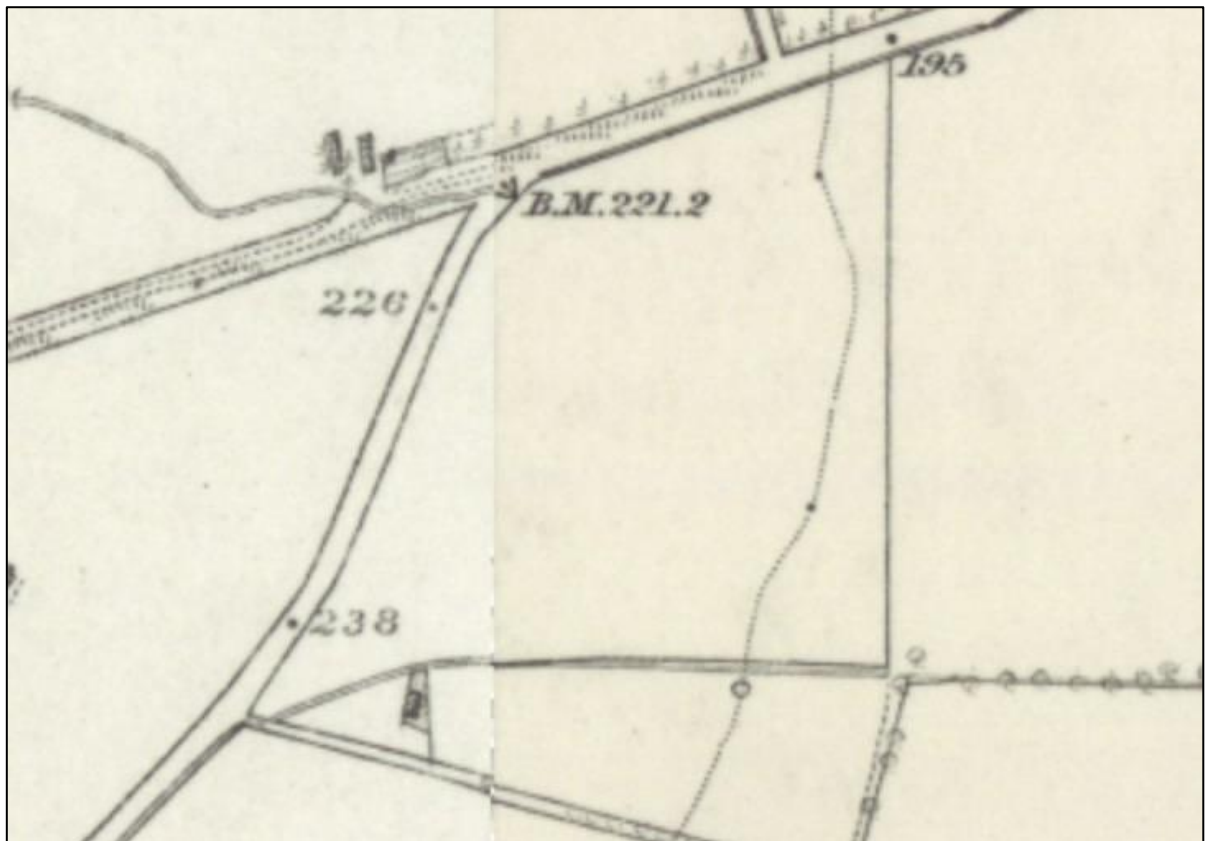


Figure 3: Excerpt from the OS Six inch-mile 1st Edition map



Figure 4: Excerpt from the OS Six inch-mile 2nd Edition map

3.3 Historic Environment Sources

- 3.3.1 A full search of the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE), via Canmore, and Highland Historic Environment Record was carried out. No previously known sites are located within the development area, however several sites are located in the nearby area. The following sites lie within 500m of the development:

**HHER ID: MHG3809 NH 6400 4528 Craig Phadrig Fort
Scheduled Monument 2892**

An Iron Age vitrified fort with evidence for re-use as a manufacturing site during the Pictish period. The fort is reputed to have been the site of the Pictish king Bridei's conversion to Christianity by St Columba in AD 565, although this is doubtful. There is evidence for early medieval bronze working, including the only firm evidence for the manufacture of hanging bowls. High status imported French pottery testifies to the importance of the site in the early medieval period.

HHER ID: MHG29949 NH 6409 4450 Craig Phadrig Hospital

A Re Provision of Craig Phadrig Hospital was carried out around 1998. The survey included a photographic record of all the buildings in the complex.

**HHER ID: MHG3748 NH 6462 4450 Medieval chapel and possible
associated cemetery, Kinmylies**

The possible site of a pre-reformation chapel and associated cemetery at Kinmylies near Inverness. Known only through documentary sources and unconfirmed C19 chance finds of human skeletal material. Late C20 investigations prior to site redevelopment proved unfruitful.

3.4 Other Sources

- 3.4.1 The Old and New Statistical Accounts of Scotland (1791-1845) were consulted online and the site lies within the parish of Inverness and Bona. The Statistical Accounts provide information on the parish, including sections on antiquities, however no specific mention is made of the development area.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists* (CIfA) defines an archaeological evaluation as 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land...field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate (2014).'
- 3.2 The aims of the archaeological works were:
- i) To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area

- ii) To remove by hand any overburden in order to expose the archaeological deposits
- iii) To excavate, sample and record any features or to propose arrangements for their safeguarding, where possible
- iv) To sample deposits for post-excavation work, including environmental analysis and dating
- v) To make recommendations for further measures necessary to mitigate the impact of the development
- vi) To make recommendations for post-excavation work

4.0 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Due to the potential for buried archaeological remains a trial trenching evaluation of 8% of was required across the proposed site. Ten trenches were excavated comprising 600m², which covers 8.41% of the total area of 7127m² (**Figure 5; Appendix 1**).
- 4.2 Trenches were excavated under the supervision of an archaeologist using a mechanical excavator with 2m wide straight-edged bucket in order to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains. Trenches were laid out as per the proposed trench plan set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Teufel 2019), with some minor alterations due to ground conditions (service manholes).
- 4.3 All features of archaeological significance were excavated by hand in order to establish the date, nature, extent and state of preservation of the deposits. Archaeological features and deposits were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and section drawings were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All significant archaeological features were sampled, in the event post-excavation analysis is deemed necessary.
- 4.4 The location of the trenches and all archaeological findspots and features were plotted using a Trimble Geo-XR Rover capable of centimetre accuracy. The archaeological monitoring was recorded using high resolution digital photography in order to record the process as well as any archaeological features or finds of interest.

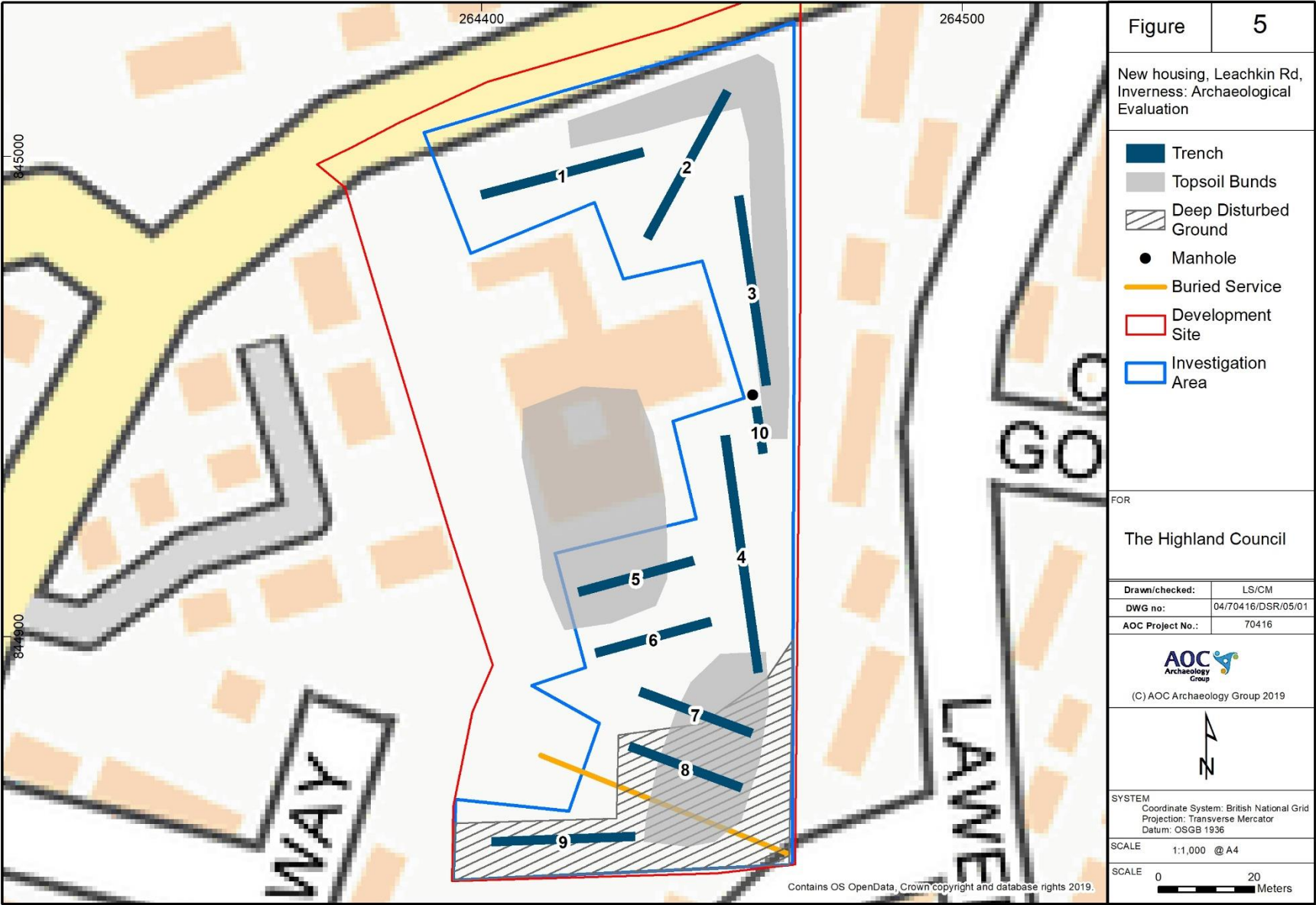


Figure 5: Location of the evaluation trenches

5.0 EVALUATION RESULTS

- 5.1 The evaluation was carried out on 17th-18th June 2019. A total of ten trenches were excavated across the site (**Figure 5; Plate 3; Appendix 1**). Topsoil across the site was mixed, mid-brown, sandy silt, which had been redeposited on top of type 1, compact hard-standing (**Plate 4**). There was a lot of modern debris and construction waste in this soil and in some places it was well over 1m deep. Subsoil across the site was generally mid orange-brown silty sand with occasional stones (**Plate 5-6**). Several large topsoil bunds were present on site and these were moved and excavated below, confirming similar stratigraphy to the rest of the site.
- 5.2 There were no archaeological features observed in any of the trenches. Most of the trenches showed signs of modern disturbance in the form of ceramic or gravel and plastic field drains (**Plate 7**). In some trenches there were also old water pipes, manholes and hazard tape warning of buried services. Where warning tape was encountered the trenches were not excavated any deeper at that point.

6.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological evaluation at Leachkin Road revealed no buried archaeological deposits. Much of the site showed evidence of disturbed ground from previous building and demolition works. No further archaeological work is recommended in the area.

7.0 REFERENCES

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Plate 3: The development site after trial trenching



Plate 4: Site stratigraphy as seen in Trench 2



Plate 5: Post-excavation image of Trench 7



Plate 6: Post-excavation image of Trench 8



Plate 7: View of Trench 10 showing gravel field drain

Appendix 1 List of Trenches

Trench No.	Dimensions (m)	Depths (m)	Alignment	Description/Comments	Archaeology
1	35m by 2m	0.7-0.8m	ENE-WSW	Topsoil: mixed/redeposited, mid-brown, sandy silt over very compact type 1 and hard-standing. Subsoil: mid orange-brown fine silty sand with occasional small stones. Disturbance from type 1/hard-standing and hazard tape for a buried BT service cable.	1 rubble field drain and 1 ceramic field drain.
2	35m by 2m	0.36-0.9m	NE-SW	Topsoil: mixed/redeposited, mid-brown, sandy silt. Subsoil: mid orange-brown fine silty sand with occasional small stones. Topsoil contained disturbed material and hazard tape for buried water services.	1 rubble field drain and 1 ceramic field drain.
3	40m by 2m	0.42-0.6m	N-S	Topsoil: mixed/redeposited, mid-brown, sandy silt. Subsoil: mid orange-brown fine silty sand with occasional small stones.	2 gravel and plastic field drains.
4	50m by 2m	0.28-0.6m	N-S	Topsoil: mixed/redeposited, mid-brown, sandy silt. Subsoil: mid orange-brown fine silty sand with occasional small stones.	3 gravel and plastic field drains.
5	25m by 2m	0.32-0.45m	ENE-WSW	Topsoil: mixed/redeposited, mid-brown, sandy silt. Subsoil: mid orange-brown fine silty sand with occasional small stones. Disturbance from an old steep manhole.	1 ceramic field drain.
6	25m by 2m	0.18-0.63m	ENE-WSW	Topsoil: mixed/redeposited, mid-brown, sandy silt. Subsoil: mid orange-brown fine silty sand with occasional small stones.	1 ceramic field drain.
7	25m by 2m	0.29-1.3m	WNW-ESE	Topsoil: mixed/redeposited, mid-brown, sandy silt. Subsoil: mid orange-brown fine silty sand with occasional small stones.	2 ceramic field drains.
8	25m by 2m	0.95-1.1m	WNW-ESE	Topsoil: mixed/redeposited, mid-brown, sandy silt with lots of modern debris. Subsoil: mid orange-brown fine silty sand with occasional small stones.	1 ceramic field drain.

Trench No.	Dimensions (m)	Depths (m)	Alignment	Description/Comments	Archaeology
9	30m by 2m	1.2-1.7m	E-W	Topsoil: mixed/redeposited, mid-brown, sandy silt with lots of modern debris. Subsoil: mid orange-brown fine silty sand with occasional small stones.	None.
10	10m by 2m	0.39-0.46m	N-S	Topsoil: mixed/redeposited, mid-brown, sandy silt. Subsoil: mid orange-brown fine silty sand with occasional small stones.	2 gravel and plastic field drains.

Appendix 3 List of Site Photographs

Photo No.	Trench No.	Description	Direction Facing	Date
1	-	Overlooking the N end of the site pre-works	SE	17/06/2019
2	-	Overlooking the N end of the site pre-works	SE	17/06/2019
3	-	Overlooking the N end of the site pre-works	SE	17/06/2019
4	-	Overlooking the N end of the site pre-works	SE	17/06/2019
5	-	Overlooking the N end of the site pre-works	SE	17/06/2019
6	-	Overlooking the N end of the site pre-works	SE	17/06/2019
7	T1	Post-excavation image of trench 1	WSW	17/06/2019
8	T1	Post-excavation image of trench 1	WSW	17/06/2019
9	T2	NW-facing section of trench2 showing site stratigraphy	SE	17/06/2019
10	T2	Post-excavation image of trench 2	NE	17/06/2019
11	T3	Mid-excavation image of trench 3 showing modern gravel field drain	S	17/06/2019
12	T3	Post-excavation image of trench 3	N	17/06/2019
13	-	Overlooking the S end of the site pre-works	SW	17/06/2019
14	-	Overlooking the S end of the site pre-works	SW	17/06/2019
15	-	Overlooking the S end of the site pre-works	SW	17/06/2019
16	-	Overlooking the S end of the site pre-works	SW	17/06/2019
17	-	Overlooking the S end of the site pre-works	SW	17/06/2019
18	-	Overlooking the S end of the site pre-works	SW	17/06/2019
19	T10	Post-excavation image of trench 10 showing field drains	S	17/06/2019
20	T4	Post-excavation image of trench 4	S	17/06/2019
21	-	Working shot of moving large topsoil bund	NW	18/06/2019

Photo No.	Trench No.	Description	Direction Facing	Date
22	T5	Post-excavation image of trench 5	WSW	18/06/2019
23	-	Post-reinstatement of heras fencing after excavation of trench 5 and topsoil bund	NW	18/06/2019
24	-	Post-reinstatement of heras fencing after excavation of trench 5 and topsoil bund	NW	18/06/2019
25	-	Post-reinstatement of heras fencing after excavation of trench 5 and topsoil bund	NW	18/06/2019
26	-	Post-reinstatement of heras fencing after excavation of trench 5 and topsoil bund	NW	18/06/2019
27	-	Post-reinstatement of heras fencing after excavation of trench 5 and topsoil bund	NW	18/06/2019
28	T6	Post-excavation image of trench 6	ESE	18/06/2019
29	T7	Post-excavation image of trench 7	ESE	18/06/2019
30	T8	Post-excavation image of trench 8	ESE	18/06/2019
31	T9	Post-excavation image of trench 9	ESE	18/06/2019
32	-	Overlooking site post-excavation of trenches	NE	18/06/2019
33	-	Overlooking site post-excavation of trenches	NE	18/06/2019
34	-	Overlooking site post-excavation of trenches	NE	18/06/2019
35	-	Overlooking site post-excavation of trenches	NE	18/06/2019
36	-	Overlooking site after backfilling	S	18/06/2019
37	-	Overlooking site after backfilling	S	18/06/2019
38	-	Overlooking site after backfilling	S	18/06/2019
39	-	Overlooking site after backfilling	S	18/06/2019



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