



# Land Adjacent to Larkhall Academy, Larkhall, South Lanarkshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

**On Behalf of:** Lovell Partnerships  
Lovell House  
Parkway Court  
271 Springhill Parkway  
Glasgow  
G69 6GA

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NS 762 506

**Planning Application Ref:** HM/14/0298

**OASIS No:** 211323

**AOC Project No:** 23054

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**Date of Fieldwork:** 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015 – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015

**Date of Report:** 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015

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

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**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015

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**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015

**Draft/Final Report Stage:** Draft

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015

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## Summary

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*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken prior to a proposed 48 plot housing development on a grass park adjacent to Larkhall Academy, Larkhall, South Lanarkshire.*

*The evaluation required an 8% trenching sample of the development area, which would have comprised a total evaluated area of 1,440m<sup>2</sup>, although this figure had to be significantly reduced due to the presence of public paths, steep slopes, and buried services.*

*The evaluation found that the entire area had been significantly altered in modern times, removing the chance of finding any surviving archaeology. In addition, the field furthest from the academy was found to contain a deep deposit of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century rubbish suggesting that the area had been used as a town dump prior to its conversion to grassy parkland.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Lovell Partnership Ltd to undertake a programme of phased archaeological works prior to the proposed development of 48 dwelling house plots and associated infrastructure on land adjacent to Larkhall Academy, Larkhall, South Lanarkshire (Planning Ref: HM/14/0298). The evaluation was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, South Lanarkshire Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2015) and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

### 1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The proposed development lies to the south of Larkhall Town Centre and consists of public open space with maintained grass and a pedestrian footpath leading from Margaretvale Drive, centred on NGR: NT NS 762 506. The site is rectangular in shape and extends to approximately 1.8 hectares and is bounded to the west by Larkhall Academy and associated running track/sports field and to the east by Margaretvale Drive. Existing housing forms the northern boundary whilst further public space lies to the south.

### 1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The proposed development lies in close proximity to significant prehistoric archaeology. In 2006 archaeological works were undertaken prior to the development of the existing running track (Atkinson 2006). This revealed Neolithic settlement evidence in the form of pits, post-holes and gullies. A total of 117 carinated bowl ceramics were also recovered from that excavation.

1.3.2 Further Neolithic material in the form of several ceramic producing pits was recorded during an archaeological evaluation undertaken on land to the immediate west of Larkhall Academy (Mitchell 2011). A hearth or oven of uncertain prehistoric date was also revealed. This evaluation was undertaken over the position of a Roman Catholic Chapel reported to have been in the area until 1724. No sign of the Chapel was identified, however.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works are:

- 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 liaise with WoSAS 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.

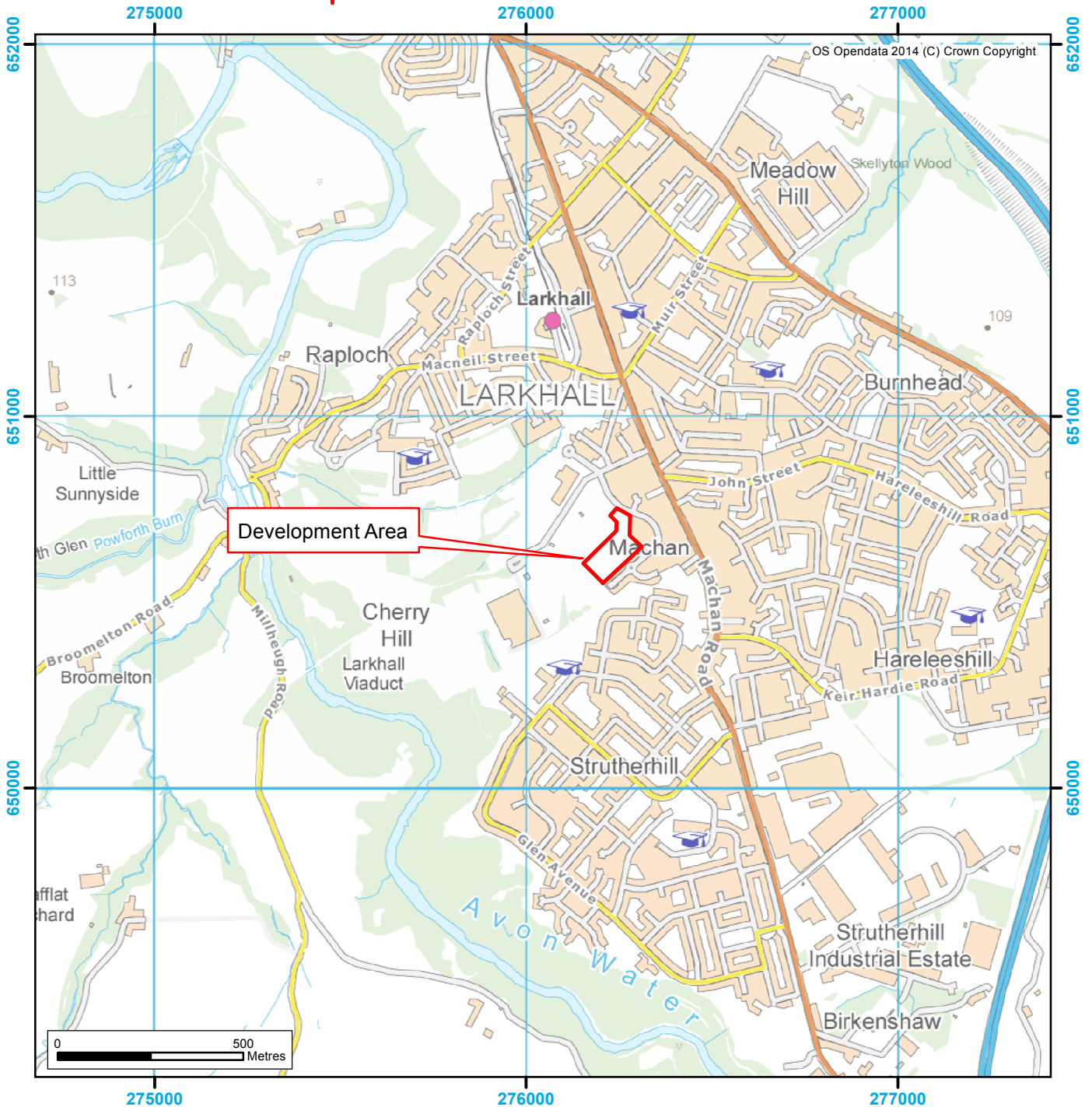
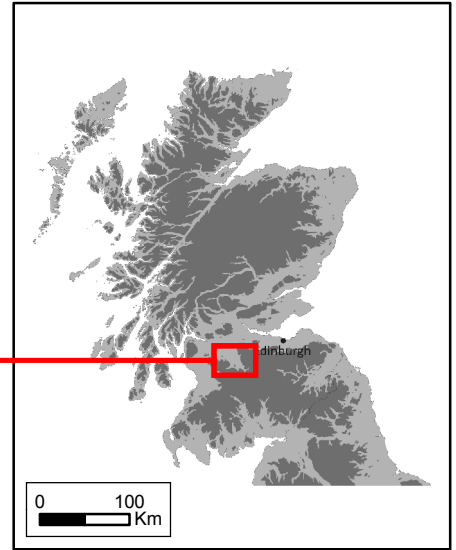
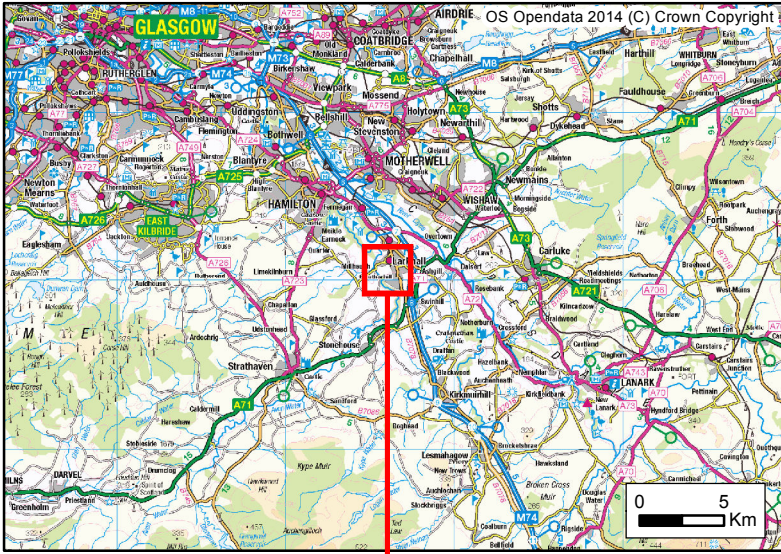


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The evaluation requirements set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2015) required an 8% trenching sample of the 1.8 ha site. This equated to a total area of 1,440m<sup>2</sup> which (with a typical bucket size of 2.0m) would have required 720 linear meters of trenching to be opened. However, on arrival on site it was discovered that the actual area available for trenching was significantly smaller. This was due to a number of factors including steep landscaped slopes and bunds, iron railings, public footpaths, and buried services. As such the area trenched was smaller than the original target, but still comprehensively covering the site.
- 3.2 The evaluation was undertaken by a JCB excavator with a 2m wide bladed ditching bucket. All trench areas were surveyed using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT). Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. 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 2015). The trenches were backfilled immediately after excavation due to the public access to the site.

### 4 RESULTS

#### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015. Overall weather conditions were generally wet with fairly constant rain. This caused some water-logging of site but archaeological visibility remained good throughout. In total, 515m of linear trenching was opened varying in alignment and length. Some of these were restricted to short test pits due to the significant depth of deposits.
- 4.1.2 The site on arrival was separated into three fields by iron railings, fences, and landscaped slopes. Each of these fields provided a different set of results and as such the results are best presented by field (Figure 2):

#### 4.2 Field 1 (Trenches 18 and 19)

- 4.2.1 Field 1 lay to the east of Larkhall Academy and it was clear from the current landscaping that it had been significantly altered in recent times. The field was flat and surrounded by machine-made bunds with a patch of landscaped young trees next to the road. Both trenches in this area (18 and 19) were very shallow, 0.3m deep, with a thin topsoil full of construction debris over a thin band of made ground [004]. The natural subsoil was a pale brown/pink boulder clay with an uneven/scarred surface likely from previous machine stripping of the area. As such it is likely that this area was stripped and re-instated during the construction of Larkhall Academy.

#### 4.3 Field 2 (Trenches 1, - 5 & 13 - 17)

- 4.3.1 As with Field 1, the second field also appeared to have been significantly altered in modern times. The field was uniformly flat with a machine bund around its perimeter and a public foot path running across its North West side with buried services on either side. A further buried service also ran up the eastern side of the field and a recently felled patch of young trees was located between the path and the schoolyard fence.
- 4.3.2 The result of this field were fairly similar to those of field one, only with much deeper deposits between 0.5m and 1.5m deep. The same pink/brown natural boulder clay natural was found in this field under a deposit of up to four episodes of made ground [002], [004], [006] and [007]. All these deposits of made ground included modern building demolition material and rubbish and so may represent a single phase of land alteration (Plate 1).
- 4.3.3 Within the sequence of deposits was no sign of any buried topsoil and within the upper horizon of the natural subsoil were numerous impressed fragments of broken ceramic field drain. This would suggest that the whole area had been previously stripped to a significant depth prior to being built up with made ground. As such it is very unlikely that any archaeological remains could have survived within this area.



4.3.4 A sequence of modern pea gravel field drains were also located within this field, cut into the made ground. These were spaced at intervals of 5m apart and orientated north/south.

#### **4.4 Field 3 (Trenches 6 - 12)**

4.4.1 The third field to be evaluated displayed less initial appearance of substantial modern landscaping, consisting of a rolling hill of grass surrounded by felled young trees and fly-tipped rubbish. Across the middle of this field the path and services from Field 2 continued off to the west.

4.4.2 The results from the trenching within this field again presented substantial interference with the site. At the top of the slope the topsoil was very shallow over a pale brown/orange sandy boulder clay. Broken ceramic fragments within the natural horizon similar to Field 2 suggest that the area had previously been substantially reduced and re-instated with imported materials.

4.4.3 Further down the slope beneath an occasional thin layer of cinder [005] and a capping layer of re-deposited natural material [002] was a dump of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century rubbish and cinder [003]. This deposit was full of broken ceramics, glass bottles, rusted iron, shoes, decayed textiles, etc. A sample of these finds was kept to provide dating evidence for the deposit. Two deep soundings were dug into this material in Trenches 10 & 11 which - at 2.2m below the topsoil - did not reach the base of the deposit (Plate 2). At this level water began to seep into the trench and so further excavation was considered unsafe. To the west of the field the western extent of the dump was located in Trench 8.

4.4.4 Due to the substantial depth of this deposit and the large quantity of refuse material within it, it is likely that [003] represents a town-wide dumping ground. Given the extent of this deposit and the shallow disturbed deposits at the top of the field it is again very unlikely that any archaeological deposits have survived within this area.

## **5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 It has been demonstrated that the entire area has been significantly disturbed in modern times. Within Fields 1 & 2 it is clear that the entire area has previously been reduced to the natural subsoil and re-instated with imported materials. This will have removed any potential for surviving archaeological deposits. In Field 3 the natural subsoil was impossible to locate beneath the deep 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century dump. As such neither significant archaeological remains nor artefacts were encountered.

5.2 No further field work is considered necessary. These recommendations will have to be approved by WoSAS on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council.

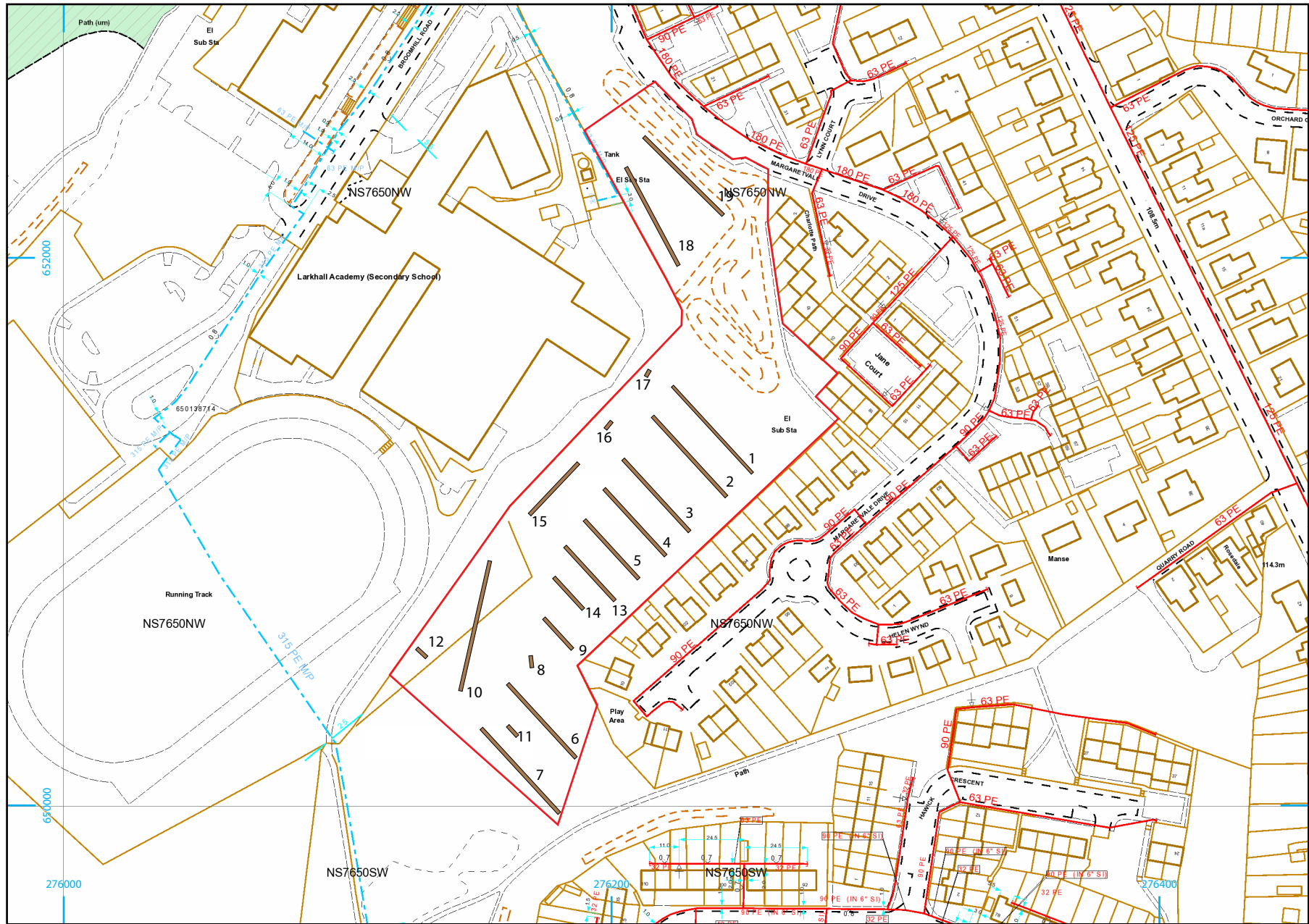


Figure 2: Trench location plan

- Archaeological trench
- Site boundary



Plate 1: Trench 4 (Field 2), general post-excitation shot



Plate 2: Trench 10 (Field 3), general view of dump [003]

## 6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2015 *Land Adjacent to Larkhall Academy, Larkhall, South Lanarkshire, Written Scheme of Investigation*.

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*, February 2010.

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*.

# **Land Adjacent to Larkhall Academy, Larkhall, South Lanarkshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

### Trench 1

<i>Length</i>	40m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.3m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.7m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Pea gravel field drains every 5m orientation N-S
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale brown/orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	2

### Trench 2

<i>Length</i>	35m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.3m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.6m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Pea gravel field drains every 5m orientation N-S
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale brown/orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	2

### Trench 3

<i>Length</i>	35m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.3m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.6m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Pea gravel field drains every 5m orientation N-S
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale brown/orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	2

### Trench 4

<i>Length</i>	30m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.4m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.5m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Pea gravel field drains every 5m orientation N-S
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale brown/orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	2

### Trench 5

<i>Length</i>	30m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.3m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Pea gravel field drains every 5m orientation N-S
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale brown/orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	2

**Trench 6**

<i>Length</i>	35m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.3m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.3m - 1m (natural not reached)
<i>Significant Features</i>	Dump [003]
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale brown/orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	3

**Trench 7**

<i>Length</i>	40m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.2m - 1m (natural not reached)
<i>Significant Features</i>	Dump [003]
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale brown/orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	3

**Trench 8**

<i>Length</i>	5m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.3m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.5m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Edge of Dump [003]
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale brown/orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	3

**Trench 9**

<i>Length</i>	15m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.2m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale brown/orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	3

**Trench 10**

<i>Length</i>	45m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.5m -2.2m (natural not reached)
<i>Significant Features</i>	Dump [003]
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Natural not reached across entire trench
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	3

**Trench 11**

<i>Length</i>	5m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.2m (natural not reached)
<i>Significant Features</i>	Dump [003]
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Natural not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	3

**Trench 12**

<i>Length</i>	5m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Dump [003]
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Natural not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	3

**Trench 13**

<i>Length</i>	25m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.4m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Pea gravel field drains every 5m orientation N-S
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale brown/orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	2

**Trench 14**

<i>Length</i>	15m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.2m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Pea gravel field drains every 5m orientation N-S
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale brown/orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	2

**Trench 15**

<i>Length</i>	25m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.3m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale brown/orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	2



**Trench 16**

<i>Length</i>	5m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.1m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale brown/orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	2

**Trench 17**

<i>Length</i>	5m
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.5m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale brown/orange boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	2

**Trench 18**

<i>Length</i>	60m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.3m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale brown/pink boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	2

**Trench 19**

<i>Length</i>	60m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.3m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale brown/pink boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None
<i>Field</i>	2

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

### Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration Shot	-
2	Trench 1 post excavation	E
3-5	Trench 1 post excavation	E
6	Trench 2 post excavation	various
7-12	Trench 3 demolition material and section	various
13	Trench 3 post excavation	NW
14	Trench 5 post excavation	E
15	Trench 4 post excavation	NW
16	Shallow topsoil in trench 6	W
17	Cinder deposit trench 6	S
18-22	Dump [003] in trench 6	E
23-24	Trench 6 post excavation	S
25-32	Dump [003] in trench 6	various
33-35	Shallow topsoil in trench 7	W
36-38	Trench 7 post excavation	S
39	Dump [003] in trench 7	S
40-44	Shots of finds (not kept) in trench 7	various
45-47	East facing section in trench 7	W
48-50	Dump [003] in trench 7	S
51-54	Trench 8 partially excavated	various
55-56	Trench 8 post excavation	various
57-59	East facing section of dump [003] in trench 8	various
60-62	Trench 9 post excavation	various
63-64	Trench 10 post excavation	S
65	Dump [003] in trench 10	E
66-73	Sounding into dump [003] in trench 10	E
74-78	Trench 11 post excavation	S
79-80	Trench 12 post excavation	S
81-83	Depth of topsoil in trench 13	W
84	Field drain fragments in the natural in trench 13	W
85	Trench 13 post excavation	NW
86	Trench 14 post excavation	SE
87-89	Depth of deposits in trench 15	S
90-92	Trench 15 post excavation	E
93-94	Depth of deposits in trench 15	S
95-96	Trench 16 post excavation	N
97-98	Depth of deposits in trench 16	N

99-101	Trench 17 post excavation	N
102	Trench 18 post excavation	N
103	Trench 19 post excavation	N

### APPENDIX 3: Context Register Record

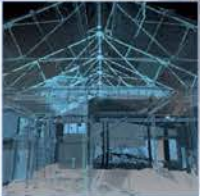
Context Number	Description	field
000	Pale brown/orange/pink boulder clay <b>Natural Subsoil.</b>	All
001	Topsoil of dark grey/brown sandy clay and silt with occasional rocks, and rubbish. Approximately 0.2-0.4m thick <b>Topsoil.</b>	All
002	Deposit of re-deposited natural subsoil. Pale brown/orange sandy clay and rocks. Occasional ceramic and glass fragments. Overlies dump [003] Underlies topsoil [001] and cinder [005] Thickness varies 0.2m to 0.4m Similar to [006] in fields 1 and 2 <b>Re-deposited natural subsoil. Cap material over dump.</b>	3
003	Mixed deposit of dumped material: Grey cinder, black decayed organic silty/clay, various clay, glass bottles, broken ceramics, iron objects, shoes, animal bone, etc. 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century domestic refuse and cinder. Excavated to thickness of 1.5m, base not reached. Below the water level. Underlies [002] <b>19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century dump.</b>	3
004	Deposit of made ground. Mix of brown/grey silt, sand and clay with charcoal, building demo, rocks, and modern rubbish. 0.1m to 0.4m thick. <b>Modern made ground.</b>	1 and 2
005	Deposit of grey cinder. Possibly re-deposited [003]. Deposit is very patchy, occasionally found below topsoil in field 3. Overlies [002]. 0.05m -0.1m thick <b>Made ground.</b>	3
006	Deposit of re-deposited natural subsoil. Pale brown/orange sandy clay and rocks. Occasional ceramic and glass fragments. Thickness varies 0.2m to 0.4m Similar to [002] in field 3 <b>Re-deposited natural subsoil</b>	1 and 2
007	Deposit of made ground. Mix of brown/grey silt, sand and clay with charcoal, building demo, (red brick, re-bar, mortar, etc rocks), and modern rubbish. 0.1m to 0.4m thick. <b>Modern made ground.</b>	1 and 2

**APPENDIX 4: Finds Record**

Find Number	Context	Description
1	[003]	Glass Bottles
2	[003]	Glass bottles
3	[003]	Glass bottles
4	[003]	Ceramic fragments
5	[003]	Ceramic fragments
6	[003]	Hob nail boots
7	[003]	Possible stone objects
8	[003]	Metal bowls

## APPENDIX 5: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	South Lanarkshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Land Adjacent to Larkhall Academy
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 23054
<b>PARISH:</b>	South Lanarkshire
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Nicholas Johnstone
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NS 762 506
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2015
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> May 2015
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in relation to a proposed 48 plot housing development on a grass park next to Larkhall Academy, Larkhall, South Lanarkshire.</p> <p>The evaluation required an 8% trenching sample comprising of 1,440m<sup>2</sup>. However, this had to be significantly reduced due to public paths, steep slopes, and buried services.</p> <p>The evaluation found that the entire area had been significantly altered in modern times, removing the chance of finding any surviving archaeology. In addition the field furthest from the academy was found to contain a deep deposit of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century rubbish suggesting that the area had been used as a town dump prior to its conversion to grassy parkland.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	---
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Lovell Partnerships
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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