

Largs Campus, North Ayrshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report

AOC Project 23140

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Largs Campus, North Ayrshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed development at Largs Campus, North Ayrshire. An 8% evaluation was required of the available 6.5ha site involving the machine excavation of linear trenches. The work was completed in advance of the submission of a planning application on the intended development, to satisfy any archaeological conditions which may be imposed on the application.

A total of 35 evaluation trenches were excavated, revealing archaeological features on a small knoll at the top of a steep slope in the centre of the development area. Most of the features were small pits, with another possible two small linear features. No artefacts were recovered from the excavated features, and only small flecks of charcoal were noted within the deposits.

None of the pits appeared to form structures at this stage, with the probability being that the pits relate to prehistoric activity on a vantage point at the top of the hill, with related settlement areas located elsewhere.

Further archaeological works may be required in accordance with the principles set out in Scottish Planning Policy (2014) and Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (2011). These works will be defined by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), who advise North Ayrshire Council on archaeological planning matters.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology on behalf of Morrison Construction Scotland as part of a programme of archaeological works related to a proposed development at Largs Campus, Largs, North Ayrshire. The site lies within the administrative area of North Ayrshire Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (2011).

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The development area is located within the grounds of the Sports Scotland Inverclyde National Sports Centre and is centred on National Grid Reference NS 21171 60110 (Figure 1). The sports complex lies to the north-east of Largs town centre and the proposed development site is currently used as part of a golf school and driving range. The site is bounded by residential properties to the south and west, with further driving range, golf school and sports centre facilities to the north and east.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) identify no known archaeological sites within the immediate development area. However, to the east of the site there are two farmsteads, Hangingheugh Farm (NMRS No. NS26SW 18) and Cauld Rocks (NMRS No. NS26SW 30). Both are described as being abandoned farmsteads with Cauld Rocks marked on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. Also listed in the NMRS is a hut circle at Wooy Hill (NMRS No. NS26SW 11), although later investigations of the site suggest there are no features in this location.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- i. to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any sub-surface archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
 - ii. should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, to liaise with the client and WoSAS in preparing an appropriate form of mitigation compliant with *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (2011).

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Due to the presence of a number of services within the development area, mainly focussed to the west and south edges of site, the available development area that could be evaluated was reduced to 6.5ha from its original size. Upon consultation with WoSAS this reduced the required trenching, and due to an area of trees along the east edge of the site, together with some golf bunkers, greens and trees within the area that were requested to be left untouched, the available area only allowed for approximately 1,700 linear metres of trenching.
- 3.2 The evaluation was undertaken by a 13-tonne excavator with a 2m wide bladed ditching bucket. All 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 at the end of each day.

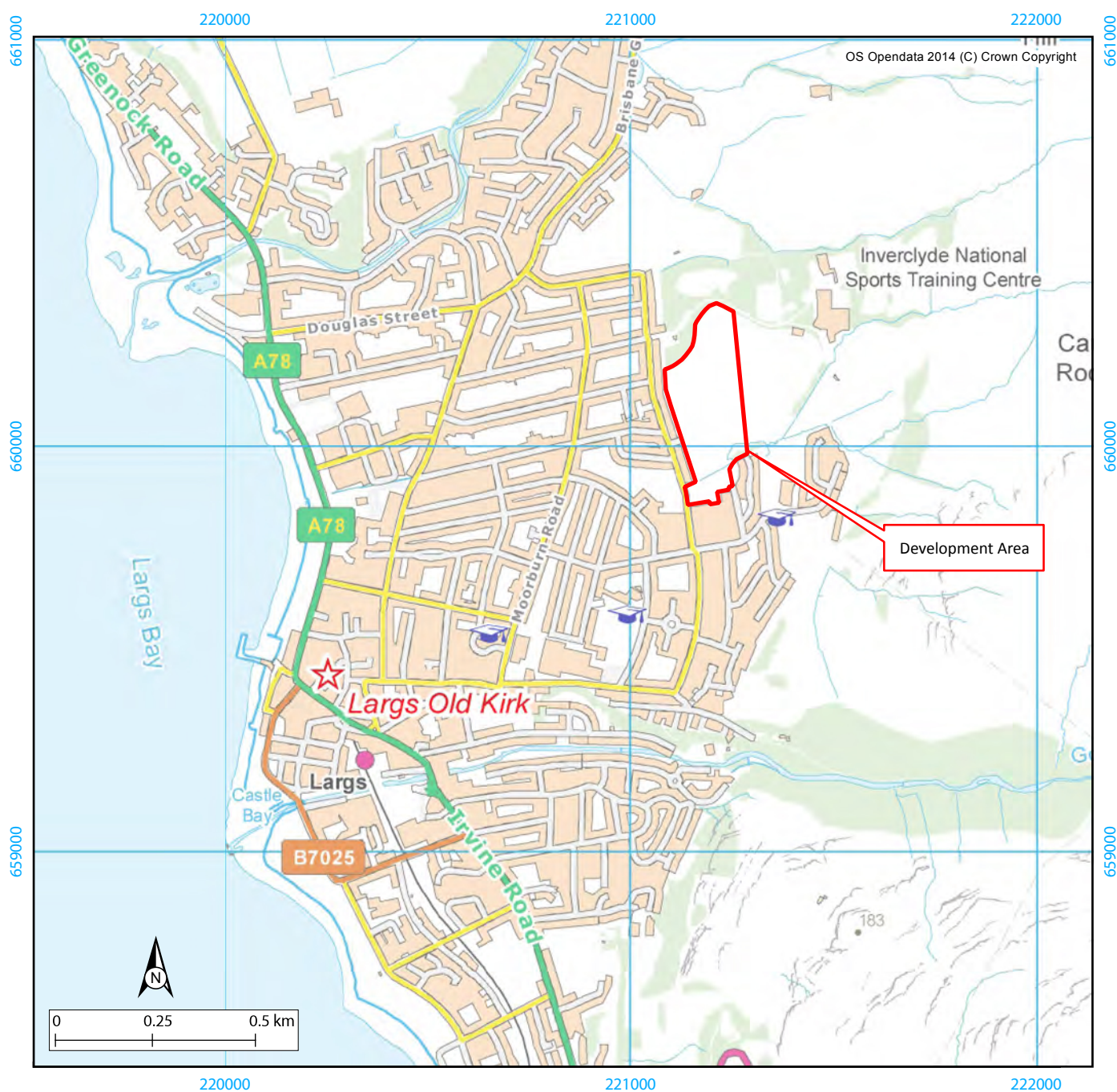
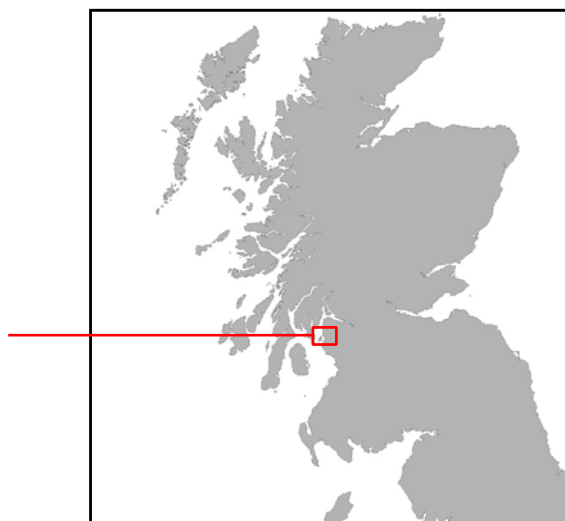
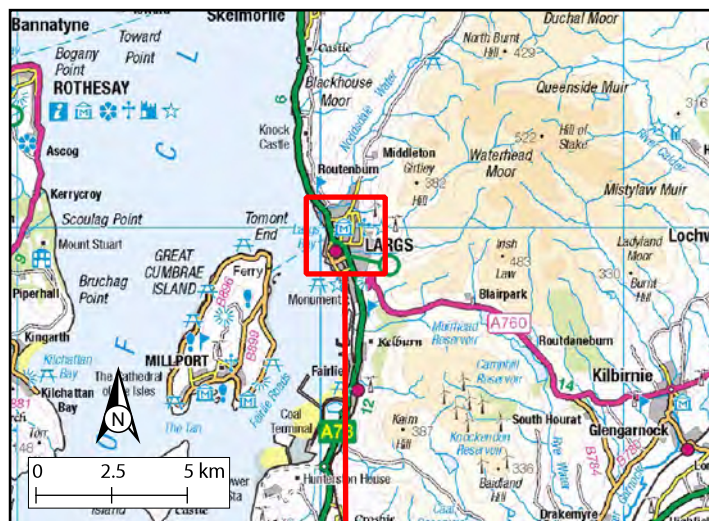


Figure 1: Site location plan

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The weather during the evaluation was generally fair allowing for good archaeological visibility. In total, the evaluation involved the excavation of 35 trenches, totalling 1,705 linear metres, with trenches focussing more on topographically advantageous areas with a higher potential for containing archaeological remains (Figure 2).
- 4.2 The soil make-up throughout the development area consisted of approximately 0.35m of dark brown clay loam topsoil overlying predominantly red boulder clay with some colluviums and orange gravel noted at the base of the slopes along the west edge of site (Plate 1). A number of ceramic tile drains, as well as modern plastic ducts, were revealed throughout the trenches, and plough scarring was evident along the west edge ridge line.
- 4.3 A cluster of archaeological features were revealed at the highest point of the development area, surrounding a modern landscaped golf green. Features were revealed in five trenches (Trenches 20 - 22, 24 and 26) surrounding the top of the hill and extending out onto the gentler slopes to the east and south (Figure 3). One other feature, a probable field boundary ditch [101], was revealed in Trench 1 at the far south end of site, aligned east/west and measuring 0.95m by 0.16m (Figure 4).
- 4.4 The features revealed in Trenches 20, 21 and 22, to the north and north-east of the landscaped area consisted of six pits and an elongated pit or possible ditch (Figure 4). Two large circular pits [2001] and [2003] were thought to be potentially structural, both being similar in size (0.9m by 0.8m and 0.7m by 0.5m respectively) and positioned close together. However, no further features were located of a similar size nearby. During an extension of Trench 20 to the north-west a further two pits, much smaller in size (0.35m diameter) were located that are most likely contemporary with [2001] and [2003].
- 4.5 Trench 21, located 5m to the south-east did not show any indications of a continuation of features similar to that in Trench 20, although it did reveal another pit [2102] together with a possible linear or elongated pit [2103] (Figure 4; Plate 2). A further pit [2201] was revealed a further 5m south-east that contained a potentially ash rich deposit with a lot of stone, measuring 0.4m in depth (Figure 4; Plate 3). It is most likely that all of these features are contemporary with each other and would probably continue to the apex of the hill under the current golf green. This interpretation is further evidenced by the features found in Trenches 24 and 26. At the south end of the golf green, Trench 24 exposed a further pit [2403] measuring 1.05m by 0.3m (visible) as well as a narrow linear [2401], both of which continue southwards beyond the trench into an area containing an old tree line for a field boundary (Figure 4). Further pits were also revealed in Trench 26, with two pits [2601] and [2603] located on the gentle slope further south of the golf green that are similar in size to [2001] and [2003] (Figure 5). Finally, a large oval shaped and stone filled pit [2605] was revealed to the south-west edge of the golf green measuring 1.8m by 0.82m by 0.14m (Figure 5; Plate 4).



KEY

- = area of golf school landscaping
- = area of trees and overgrowth
- = trench and trench number

Figure 3: Site plan showing archaeological evaluation trenches within the development area

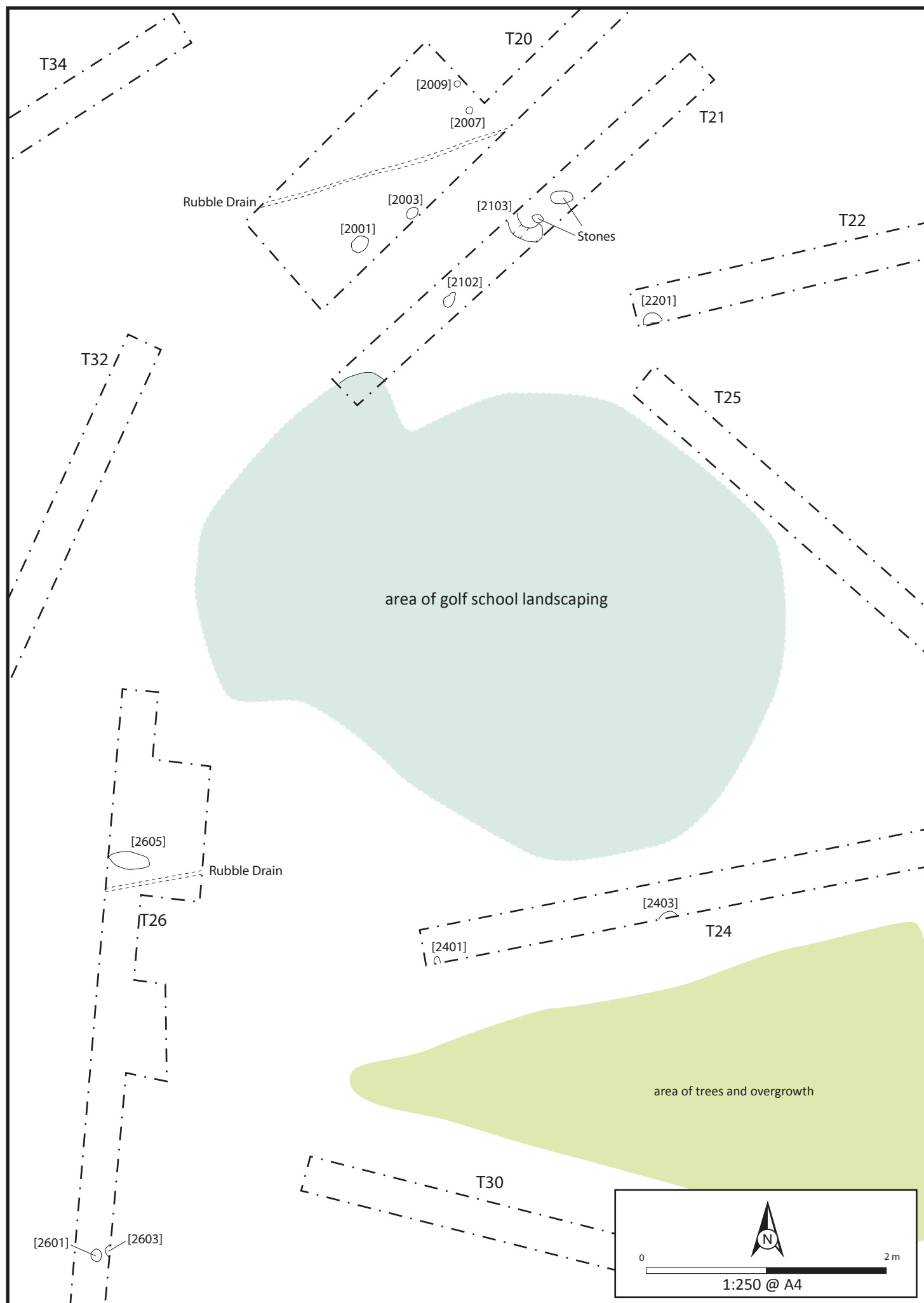
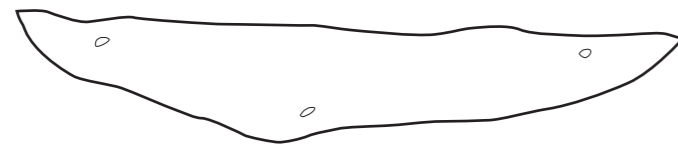
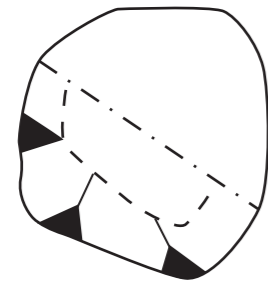


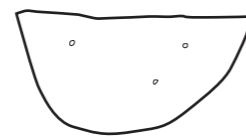
Figure 3: Site plan showing archaeological features



West-facing section of Ditch [101]



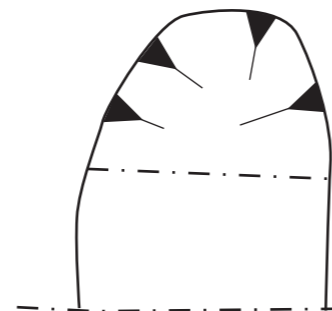
Plan of Pit [2007]



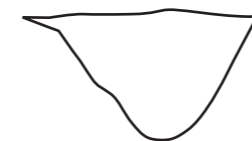
South-West facing section of Pit [2007]



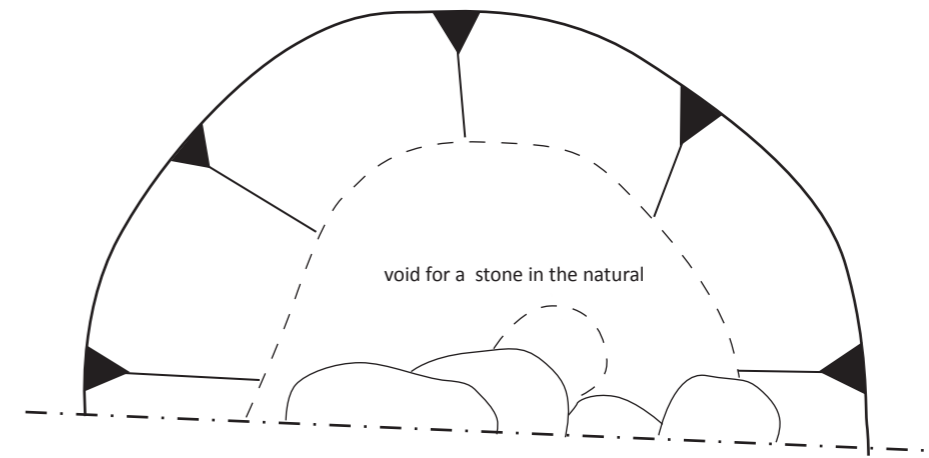
South-facing section of Feature [2103]



Plan of Feature [2401]



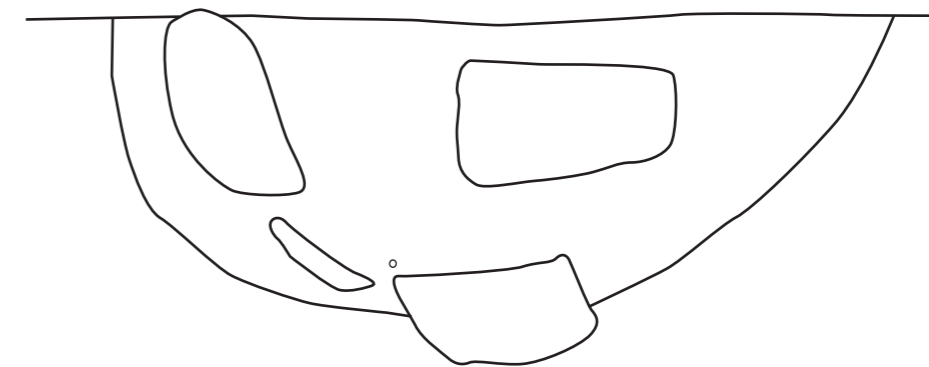
North-facing section of Feature [2401]



Plan of Pit [2201]



topsoil



North-facing section of Pit [2201]

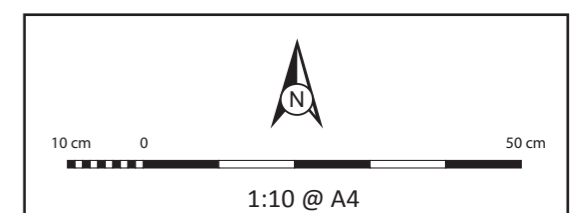
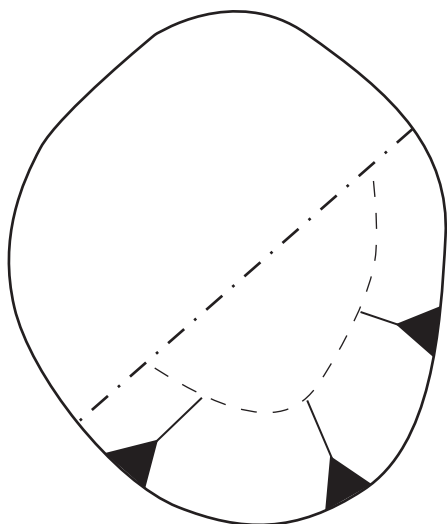


Figure 4: Plan and Section drawings of archaeological features in Trenches 1, 20, 21, 22 & 24



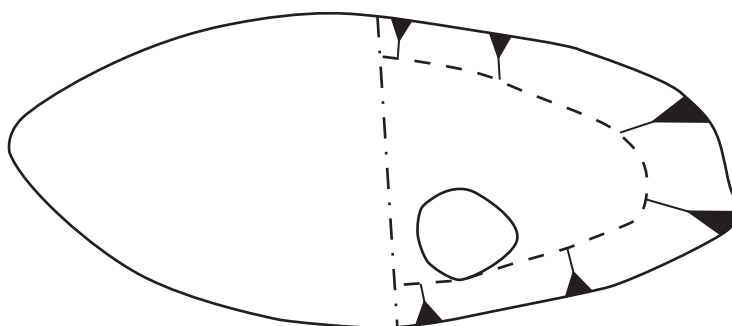
Plan of Pit [2601]



South-East facing section of Pit [2601]



East-facing section of Feature [2603]



Plan of Pit [2605]



East-facing section of Pit [2605]



Figure 5: Plan and Section drawings of archaeological features in Trench 26



Plate 1: Trench 21, general post-excitation showing high point and golf green to the left



Plate 2: Detail of possible linear feature [2103]



Plate 3: Pit [2201], detail of north-facing section



Plate 4: Pit [2605], detail of east-facing section

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological works conducted have been successful in locating an area of previously unknown archaeology. As no artefacts were retrieved from the excavations conducted it is difficult to interpret or date the features found. However, given the lack of knowledge of any archaeology in this area from historic sources, and the lack of artefactual material normally found in abundance within medieval and later sites, it is likely that the features found relate to prehistoric activity.
- 5.2 The presence of these archaeological features within the development area may require further archaeological works be conducted. The details of such works will be defined by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) who advise North Ayrshire Council on archaeological planning matters.

6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology Group 2015 *Largs Campus, North Ayrshire: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpublished Client Report

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014)

Scottish Government 2011 PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SSE to NNW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.46 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Ditch [101] – cut Fill of [101] – (102)
<i>Other Features</i>	Ceramic field drain, 17.5 m N-S
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Red-orange sandy gravel, frequent stones, small-medium. Darker brown gravel with small-medium stones in patches.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SSE to NNW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam - 0.25 m Alluvial deposits – at around 30 m, light brown-orange sandy silt gravel – c.0.15 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ce field drain, 2.3 m, E-W; Ce field drain, 7.8 m, E-W; Ce field drain, 11.6 m, E-W; Ce field drain, 12.9m, E-W; Ce field drain, 18.3 m, E-W; Rubble field drain, 26.4 m, NE-SW
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Red gravel with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	75 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	150 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SW to NE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.25 m Alluvial deposits – light orange-brown sandy silt – 0.11 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Red/orange gravel with frequent small to medium stones, changes to red sand with gravel inclusions at 58 m then back to gravel at 65 m
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	S to N
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.2 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange/red gravel with frequent small to medium sub angular stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	S to N
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam 0.35 m Alluvial deposits – Light orange-brown silty sand with occasional stones – 0.15 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Field drain, 9-10.7m, NE-SW
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange/red gravel with frequent small to medium sub angular stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SSW to NNE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ce field drain, 24.7m – 25.10 m, E-W, 0.25 m wide; Rubble field drain, 30.1 m – 45.3 m, N-S, 0.4 m wide
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange/red gravel with frequent small to medium sub angular stones. Boulder clay at 43.4 m to end of trench
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SSE to NNW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.32 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Red/orange sandy gravel, some patches of clayey gravels with frequent small to medium sub angular stones, occasional large stones.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 8

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	S to N
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ce field drain, 24.4m – 25.4 m, SE-NW, 0.5m wide; Rubble field drain 28.8m – 31m, SE-NW, 0.4m wide; Ce field drain 30.5m – 31.5m, SE-NW, 0.3m wide.
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey red gravel clay, frequent small to medium sub angular stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 9

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SE to NW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.35 m Alluvial deposit – Light brown silty sand and gravel with small to medium stones, starts at c.41m – 0.56 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ce field drain, 33.7 m – 34.8 m, E-W, 0.25 m wide
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Red/orange gravel with frequent small to medium sub angular stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 10

<i>Dimensions</i>	90 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	180 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	WSW to ENE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.4 m Alluvial deposit – Light brown silty sand and gravel with small to medium stones, starts at c.16 m – 0.38 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ce field drain, 55.6m – 26.2 m, E-W, 0.28 m wide with slag in fill; Ce field drain, 74.4m – 75.6 m, E-W, 0.28 m; Ce field drain, 84m – 86.6 m, NE-SW, 0.4m wide
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey brown gravel with frequent small to large stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 11

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	60 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SE to NW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.35 m Alluvial deposit – Orange brown sandy clay with stones – 0.42 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ce field drain, 12.2 m – 13.2 m, NW-SE; Ce field drain, 15.9 m – 16.8m, NW-SE; plough scarring evident in last 5 m, NE-SW
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid orangey brown sandy clay and gravels, frequent small stones changing to pinkish red gravel sand at 3 m.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 12

<i>Dimensions</i>	60 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	120 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E to W
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.32 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Modern duct, 49 m – 49.6 m, NE-SW; Old sand bunker from golf course from 55 m to 60 m
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Reddish pink sandy clay at E, becoming gravelly to W, Frequent small sub angular stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 13

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	80 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	N to S
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drain, 25.6 m – 26.1 m, E-W, 0.2 m wide; Ce field drain, 29.6 m – 30.2 m, E-W, 0.2 m wide; Ce field drain, 34.1m – 34.5 m, 0.2 m wide; Ce field drain, 38.2 m – 38.4 m, E-W, 0.2 m
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pinky orange clayey gravel with frequent small to medium sub angular stones with occasional grey patches
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 14

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	W to E
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Duct, 0 m-1 m, NW-SE, 0.2 m wide; Duct, 8.2 m – 9.6 m, NW-SE, 0.2 m wide; Ce field drain, 10.8 m – 17.2 m, NE-SW, 0.3 m wide; Duct, 17.3 m – 19.7 m, NW-SE, 0.2 m wide; Ce field drain, 23.2 m – 24.2 m, NW-SE, 0.35 m wide; Duct, 27.1 m – 29.1 m, NW-SE, 0.2 m wide; Ce field drain 41.1 m – 47 m, NE-SW, 0.25 m wide.
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Reddish brown clayey gravel with frequent small to medium stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 15

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.3 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ce field drain, 6.6 m – 7.5 m, SE-NW; Ce field drain, 22.4m – 23.9 m, SE-NW; Ce field drain, 26.2 m – 36.9 m, E-W; Ce field drain, 40.2 m – 40.8 m, E-W; Ce field drain, 48.1 m – 48.6 m.
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pinky orange sandy gravel with frequent small stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 16

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.3 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Duct, 23.7 m, NW-SE; Duct, 30.1 m, NW-SE; Duct, 36.1 m, NW-SE; Duct, 43.7 m, NW-SE
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid pinky orange sandy clay with frequent small to medium stones
<i>Finds</i>	Golf ball

Trench 17

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.34 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Duct, 40.9 m, NW-SE; Duct, 47.2 m, NW-SE
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Light pink/orange sand and gravel with frequent stone inclusions
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 18

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.32 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ce field drain, 16.6 m – 19 m, N-W, 0.4m wide; Duct, 32.4m, NW-SE, 0.15m; Duct, 37.9 m, NW-SE, 0.15 m; Duct, 43.1 m, NW-SE, 0.15m; Duct, 50 m, NW-SE, 0.15 m
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey pink sandy clay with frequent small to medium stones, occasional boulder sized stones
<i>Finds</i>	Golf balls, mud glass sherds

Trench 19

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.32 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ce field drain, 0.1 m – 4 m, E-W; Duct, 16 m – 17 m, NW-SE; Duct 23 m, NW-SE; Duct, 38 m, NW - SE
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid pink orange sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions
<i>Finds</i>	Golf balls x 5

Trench 20

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m; 15 m by 3 m
<i>Total Area</i>	145 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SE to NW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.34 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Pit – [2001] Pit – [2003] Possible pit – [2005] Small pit (excavated) – [2007] Small pit – [2009]
<i>Other Features</i>	Duct, 20.7 m – 23.6 m, E-W; Duct, 42.1 m – 45.4 m, E-W; Duct, 46.4 m, NW-SE; Rubble drain, 3.5 m – 13.5 m, E-W
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Reddish brown sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 21

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	50 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.38 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Pit - [2101] Linear – [2101], NW-SE
<i>Other Features</i>	Duct, 22 m – 26 m, E-W
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Reddish sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 22

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	50 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	W-E
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.38 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Pit – [2201]
<i>Other Features</i>	Duct, 16m – end, EW; Ce field drain, 16m, N-S
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Reddish brown sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 23

<i>Dimensions</i>	35 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	70 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NNW to SSE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Duct, 0m – 8m, N-S; Duct, 9.6m – 12.5m; Duct, 12.1m, E-W; Rubble drain, 14.1m, E-W; Duct, 18.1 m, E-W; Duct, 23.9 m, E-W; Duct, 29.5 m, E-W
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange sandy clay and stone
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 24

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	80 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	W to E
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.38 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Linear terminus [2401] Pit – [2403]
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Red/orange gravel with frequent small to medium sub angular stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 25

<i>Dimensions</i>	20 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	40 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NW to SE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.6 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Reddish brown sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 26

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m; 5 m by 2 m; 11 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	112 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	S to N
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.39 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Pit – [2603] Pit – [2603] Oval pit – [2605]
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drain, 14.5 m, E-W; Rubble field drain, 20 m, E-W; Rubble field drain, 24.5 m, E-W
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Reddish brown sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 27

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	S to N
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.38 m Alluvial deposit – Mid brown sandy silt, - 0.25 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Ditch/furrow
<i>Other Features</i>	Ce field drain, 10.8 m, E-W; Ce field drain, 15.2 m, E-W; Ce field drain, 19.7 m, E-W; Ce field drain, 24.4 m, E-W; Ce field drain, 28.8 m, E-W; Ce field drain, 30.3 m, E-W; Ce field drain, 37.3 m, E-W; Ce field drain, 41.6 m, E-W; Ce field drain, 46 m, E-W; Ce field drain, 50 m, E-W.
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange coarse clayey sand and gravels
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 28

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SW to NE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.39 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Plough scars at 26 m
<i>Other Features</i>	Ce field drain, 0 m – 2.6 m, E-W; Ce field drain, 8.4m – 12 m, E-W; Ce field drain, 44.2 m – 47 m, E-W
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Reddish sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 29

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NNE to SSW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.35 m Alluvial deposit – 0.17 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ce field drain, 1.1m to 2 m, E-W; Ce field drain, 3.4 m – 7 m, N-S
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey brown gravels
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 30

<i>Dimensions</i>	45 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	90 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	WNW – ESE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.36 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Reddish clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 31

<i>Dimensions</i>	55 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	110 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SE to NW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.36 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Red clay, orange sandy clay and stone at 20 m – 30 m
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 32

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	80 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NNE to SSW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Duct, 23.1 m – 25 m, E-W
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Red clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 33

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SSE - NNW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Duct, 8.8 m – 15 m, E-W; Duct, 29.1 m – 34.9 m, E-W
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Red clay and stone
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 34

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.36 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Duct, 2 m, SE-NW; Duct, 8.5m, SE-NW
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Red clay until 38 m turns to orange clayey sand
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 35

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	80 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown clay loam – 0.38 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Duct, 1 m, SE-NW; Ce field drain, 3 m – 7.5m, E-W; Duct, 7 m, SE-NW; Duct, 18.2m – 19.4 m, N-S
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Red clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context No.	Area	Description and Interpretation
101	T1	Linear cut with steep and shallow sides onto a flattish, concave base. Aligned E-W and measures 0.94 m by 0.16 m. Located close to the burn at the S end of site. Field boundary ditch
102	T1	Mid to dark orangey brown silty sand with frequent small stone inclusions measuring 0.94 m by 0.16 m. Fill of ditch [101]
2001	T20	Circular cut filled by deposit [2002] measuring 0.9 m by 0.8 m. W of similar pit [2003]. Possible prehistoric pit – unexcavated
2002	T20	Greyish brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions. Measures 0.9 m by 0.8 m. Fill of pit [2001]
2003	T20	Sub-circular feature to W of pit [2001] measuring 0.7 m by 0.5 and filled by deposit [2004]. Possible prehistoric pit – unexcavated
2004	T20	Greyish brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions. Measures 0.9 m by 0.8 m. Fill of pit [2003]
2005	T20	VOID – charcoal rich deposit that is actually part of modern drain
2006	T20	VOID
2007	T20	Circular cut with steep sides and concave base measuring 0.32 m diameter by 0.15 m. Similar small it located to the N and only a few metres from pits [2001] and [2003]. Filled by deposit [2008]. Possible prehistoric pit
2008	T20	Greyish brown silty clay with occasional stone and charcoal flecks. Measures 0.32 m diameter by 0.15 m. Fill of pit [2007]
2009	T20	Circular pit measuring 0.35 m diameter to the N of pit [2007]. Filled by deposit [2010]. Possible prehistoric pit – unexcavated
2010	T20	Greyish brown silty clay with occasional stone and charcoal flecks. Measures 0.35 m diameter. Fill of pit [2009]
2101	T21	Light brown sandy clay with some areas of charcoal flecking present on the surface. Fill of pit [2102]
2102	T21	Sub-circular cut aligned NE-SW measuring 0.8 m by 0.5 m and filled by deposit [2101]. Possible prehistoric pit – unexcavated
2103	T21	Curvilinear cut with steep shallow sides and a flat base with possible concave centre. Measures 0.58 m by 0.06 m, and was visible for 2 m within the trench. Possible elongated pit or small ditch
2104	T21	Dark grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and stone measuring 0.58 m by 0.06 m. Fill of feature [2103]
2201	T22	Sub-circular pit in S edge of T22. Measures 0.52 m by 1.03 m by 0.4 m within trench, with more to the S out with the trench edge. Filled by deposit [2202]. Possible prehistoric pit
2202	T22	Dark grey sandy silt with frequent medium and large stone inclusions measuring 1.03 m by 0.52 m (visible) by 0.04 m. Fill of pit [2201]
2401	T24	Probable linear cut with steep sides and pointed base (V-Shaped) measuring 0.38 m by 0.28 m by 0.18 m. Continues S into former hedge line boundary but not seen in T30. Filled by deposit [2402]. Possible linear feature
2402	T24	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and small stone inclusions measuring 0.38 m by 0.28 m by 0.18 m. Fill of feature [2401]
2403	T24	Probable sub-circular cut at the S edge of the trench with more to the S. Measures 1.05 m by 0.35 m. Possible prehistoric pit – unexcavated
2404	T24	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and small stone inclusions measuring 1.05 m by 0.35 m.

		Fill of pit [2403]
2601	T26	Sub-circular cut with steep sides and flattish concave base immediately SW of pit [2603]. Filled by deposit [2602] and measures 0.7 m by 0.6 m by 0.1 m. Possible prehistoric pit
2602	T26	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent medium and large stone inclusions measuring 0.7 m by 0.6 m by 0.1 m. Fill of pit [2601]
2603	T26	Sub-circular pit 0.4 m NE of pit [2601] measuring 0.7 m by 0.3 m. Filled by deposit [2604]. Possible prehistoric pit – unexcavated
2604	T26	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent medium and large stone inclusions measuring 0.7 m by 0.3 m. Fill of pit [2603]
2605	T26	Oval shaped pit aligned E-W with moderate sides and concave base measuring 1.8 m by 0.82 m by 0.14 m. Filled by deposit [2606]. Possible prehistoric pit
2606	T26	Dark grey silty sand with abundant large stone inclusions measuring 1.8 m by 0.82 m by 0.14 m. Fill of pit [2605]

APPENDIX 3: Photographic Register

Digital Images

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-3	Views of field to S of driving range	Var	3/8/15
4-6	Views of far southern area containing services	Var	3/8/15
7	T1 Post-ex	NNW	3/8/15
8	W-facing section of ditch [101]	W	3/8/15
9	T2 Post-ex	NNW	3/8/15
10	T1 backfilled	NNW	3/8/15
11	T2 backfilled	SSE	3/8/15
12	T3 Post-ex	NE	3/8/15
13	T4 Post-ex	N	3/8/15
14	Waterlogged area along E edge of site	N	3/8/15
15	View along E edge	S	3/8/15
16	View of site to N of fence	E	3/8/15
17	T5 Post-ex	N	3/8/15
18	T6 Post-ex	NNW	3/8/15
19	T7 Post-ex	NNW	3/8/15
20	T8 Post-ex	N	4/8/15
21	T9 Post-ex	NW	4/8/15
22	T10 Post-ex	ENE	4/8/15
23-25	View of backfilled trenches in S field	Var	4/8/15
26	T11 Post-ex	SSE	4/8/15
27	Plough scars in T12	W	4/8/15
28	T12 Post-ex showing bunker	W	4/8/15
29	T13 Post-ex	N	4/8/15
30-31	Backfilled trenches to N end	Var	5/8/15
32	T14 Post-ex	E	5/8/15
33	T15 Post-ex	S	5/8/15
34	T16 Post-ex	SW	5/8/15
35	T23 Post-ex	S	5/8/15
36	View towards archaeological area	SE	6/8/15
37	T22 Post-ex	W	6/8/15
38-40	N-facing section of pit [2201]	N	6/8/15
41	T21 Post-ex	NE	6/8/15
42-43	N-facing section of ditch [2401]	N	6/8/15
44	Pit [2403]	W	6/8/15
45	Pit [2403]	N	6/8/15
46	T24 Post-ex	E	6/8/15
47	T25 View of linear [2103]	SE	6/8/15
48	View of pit [2101]	NW	6/8/15
49	View of linear [2103]	SW	6/8/15
50	View of linear [2103]	NE	6/8/15
51	SE-facing section of pit [2007]	SE	6/8/15
52	Pits [2007] and [2009]	S	6/8/15
53	Pits [2007] and [2009]	NE	6/8/15
54	NE-facing section of pit [2007]	NE	6/8/15
55	View of pit [2003]	NE	6/8/15
56	View of pit [2003]	NW	6/8/15

57	Field drain in T26	W	7/8/15
58	Field drain in T26	W	7/8/15
59	Pit [2601]	SE	7/8/15
60	Pit [2601]	SE	7/8/15
61	T26 Post-ex	S	7/8/15
62	View of high point from T26	SW	7/8/15
63	View along field boundary	W	7/8/15
64	Furrow [2701]	SW	7/8/15
65	Section of T27 showing colluviums	E	7/8/15
66	T27 Post-ex	N	7/8/15
67	T28 Post-ex	NE	7/8/15
68	E-facing section of pit [2605]	E	7/8/15
69	T29 Post-ex	S	7/8/15
70-74	Panoramic views from green where features surround	Var	7/8/15
75	View of backfilled trenches to N	S	7/8/15
76	T30 Post-ex	ESE	10/8/15
77	T31 Post-ex	W	10/8/15
78	T33 Post-ex	NNW	11/8/15
79	T34 Post-ex	SW	11/8/15
80	T35 Post-ex	SW	11/8/15

APPENDIX 4: Drawing Register

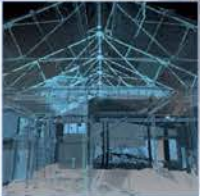
Drawing No.	Details	Scale
1	W-facing section of ditch [101]	1:10
2	N-facing section of pit [2201]	1:10
3	Plan of Trench 22	1:50
4	Plan of Trench 21	1:50
5	Plan of Trench 24	1:50
6	S-facing section of linear [2103]	1:10
7	Plan of Trench 20	1:50
8	SW-facing section of pit [2007]	1:10
9	Plan of Trench 26	1:50
10	E-facing section of pit [2603]	1:10
11	SE-facing section of pit [2601]	1:10
12	N-facing section of linear [2401]	1:10

APPENDIX 5: Samples Register

Context No.	Quantity
102	10 litres
2007	5 litres
2104	10 litres
2202	10 litres
2602	5 litres
2606	10 litres

APPENDIX 6: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Largs Campus
PROJECT CODE:	23140
PARISH:	Largs
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 21171 60110
START DATE (this season)	3 rd August 2015
END DATE (this season)	11 th August 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>(NARRATIVE)</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed development at Largs Campus, North Ayrshire. An 8% evaluation was required of the 6.5ha site involving the machine excavation of linear trenches. The work was required as a condition of planning consent on the structures.</p> <p>A total of 35 evaluation trenches were excavated, revealing archaeological features on a small knoll at the top of a steep slope in the centre of the development area. Most of the features were small pits, with another possible two small linear features. No artefacts were recovered from the excavated features, and only small flecks of charcoal were noted within the deposits.</p> <p>None of the pits appeared to form structures at this stage, with the probability being that the pits relate to prehistoric activity on a vantage point at the top of the hill, with related settlement areas located elsewhere.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	To be confirmed
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Morrisons Construction
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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