

Land 50 m SW of Woodend, Balfron, Stirlingshire

Archaeological Evaluation, Test-Pitting & Metal Detecting

Data Structure Report

AOC 23390

Planning Ref. No. 15/00031/FUL
25th April 2016



AOC
Archaeology
Group

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Land 50m SW of Woodend, Balfroun, Stirlingshire Archaeological Evaluation, Test-pitting & Metal Detecting Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	John & Catriona Paterson, Woodend Farm, Fintry Road, Balfroun G63 0QB
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NS 5575 8870 (centre)
AOC Project No:	23390
Planning Application No.	15/00031/FUL
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Prepared by:	Alex Wood
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation, test-pitting investigation and metal detecting survey was undertaken by AOC Archaeology in relation to a new house construction within an arable field lying immediately to the south of Dunmore Road on the eastern edge of the village of Balfron, Stirlingshire.

The metal detecting survey encountered five modern farm machinery parts throughout the entire area surveyed. The evaluation consisted of 250 m² of trench through uniform topsoil throughout the site.

A series of five 1 m by 1 m test-pits were hand excavated with the spoil subsequently sieved and metal detected. Only one piece of modern farm machinery, one piece of modern white ceramic and one piece of modern glass were found.

No significant archaeological features or finds were discovered.

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 Mr & Mrs Paterson in respect to a proposed development of land 50 m SW of Woodend, Balfron, Stirlingshire (Planning Ref. No. 15/00031/FUL). The proposed development lies within the administrative area of Stirling Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Mr. Murray Cook, Stirling Council's Archaeologist. A programme of archaeological works was specified by Mr Cook 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.

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The site consists of an area of arable field lying immediately to the south of Dunmore Road on the eastern edge of the village of Balfron, Stirlingshire (Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The site consists of an area of arable field lying immediately to the south of Dunmore Road on the eastern edge of the village of Balfron, Stirlingshire (Figure 1). The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland does not list any known sites as existing within the site boundaries however there are a few nearby sites listed. Firstly, the development area lies opposite Woodend Farm, (NMRS No. NS58NE 28) a large farm with numerous outbuildings and farmhouse. Secondly, even closer is Kilfasset Lodge Cottage, also known as 'White Yett Lodge' (NMRS No. NS58NE 24) which lies adjacent to the western side of the development area.

1.3.2 To the west of the development area around 50 m away lies Neil's Burn which is aligned c. north to south and lies within a steep gully. To the west of Neil's Burn, less than 200 m from the development area there is the Scheduled Monument of Woodend Motte (NMRS No. NS58NE 1). Woodend Motte has been fashioned from a natural mound. It stands to an average height of 2.0 m to 3.0 m around most of its circumference but reaches 10.0 m in height on the SE where the ground falls away. Its oval top measures 40.0 m from East to West by 34.0m transversely. The heads of two natural gullies which flank the mound on the SE have been linked by an artificial ditch to form a continuous defence around its base. The level summit of the mound is featureless and been planted with firs. The Motte would have controlled movement along the Edrick Water valley with the surrounding landscape consisting of fields and small scale agricultural settlements. The Motte would also have been a focal point for military activity.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) to undertake an initial photographic record of the site conditions before and after backfilling of the evaluation trenching;
- ii) to hand excavate five 1 m² test-pits within the footprint of the proposed dwelling the contents of which are to be sieved;
- iii) to conduct a metal detecting survey during the evaluation trenching of the development area;

- iv) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area through 10% evaluation trenching;
- v) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered;
- vi) to prepare a final Data Structure Report and project archive.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The metal detecting survey was conducted using a Minelab x terra, with the area walked in transects of 2 m wide. Transects were marked out prior to the survey beginning and find spots marked prior to excavation.
- 3.2 The evaluation trenches were conducted using a JCB with a 2m 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.
- 3.3 A total of five 1.0 m x 1.0 m test pits were excavated within the footprint of the proposed dwelling house (see Figure 2). All test pits were then excavated by hand according to AOC standard operating procedures.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological works were undertaken on 18-19th April 2016. The metal detecting survey did not encounter any significant archaeological material, with only five modern tractor machinery parts being located by the survey work.
- 4.2 During the evaluation, a total of 250 m² of linear trench was opened consisting of five 25m by 2m trenches, varying in alignment. Within all of the trenches in the development area, the topsoil revealed was a mid brown clay loam measuring 0.3 to 0.36 m deep overlying a pink clay sand with occasional small rounded stones. Rocky outcrops of red sandstone were located at 15m heading east in Trench 3 and 15m heading SW in Trench 5.
- 4.3 A total of five 1.0 m x 1.0 m test pits were excavated by hand according to AOC standard operating procedures. The spoil was subsequently metal detected and sieved with no significant archaeological finds recorded (modern farm machinery in Test-Pit 2, modern white ceramic and glass in Test-Pit 5).
- 4.4 No archaeological features or artefacts were located within the evaluation trenches or test-pits.



Plate 1 - General view of Trench 4



Plate 2 – SE facing section of Test-Pit 1

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 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, *Land 50m SW of Woodend, Balfron, Stirlingshire: Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished AOC project design

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*, 2014

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*

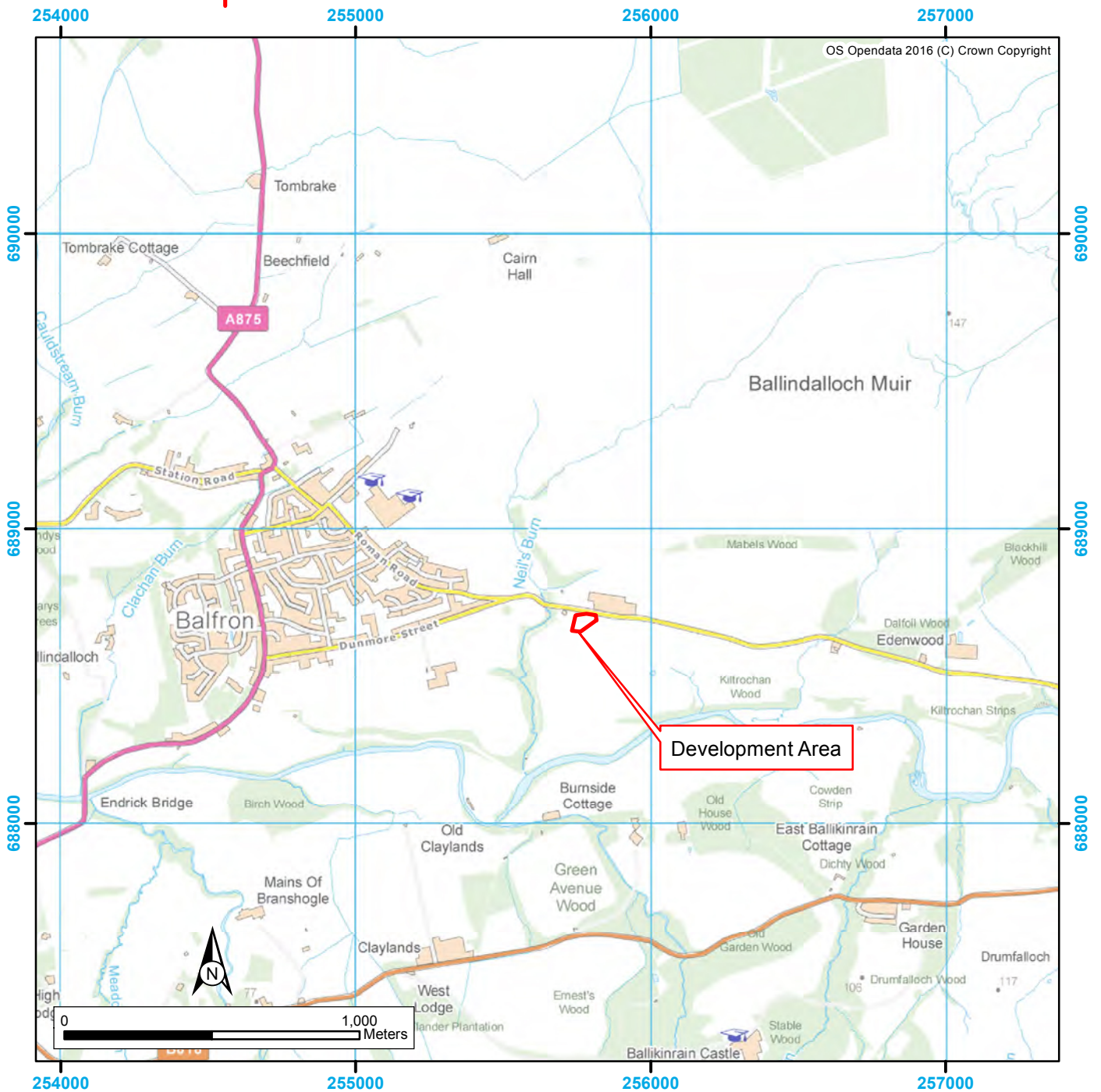
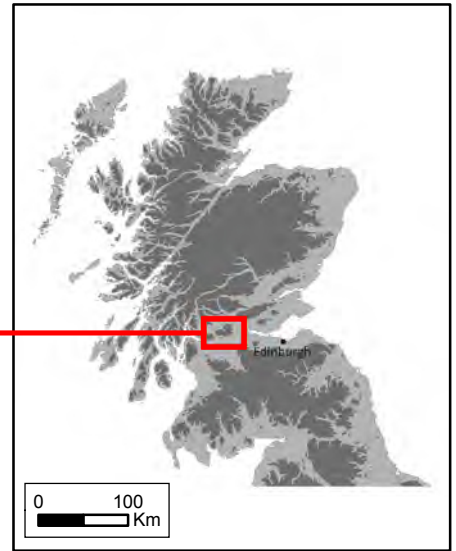
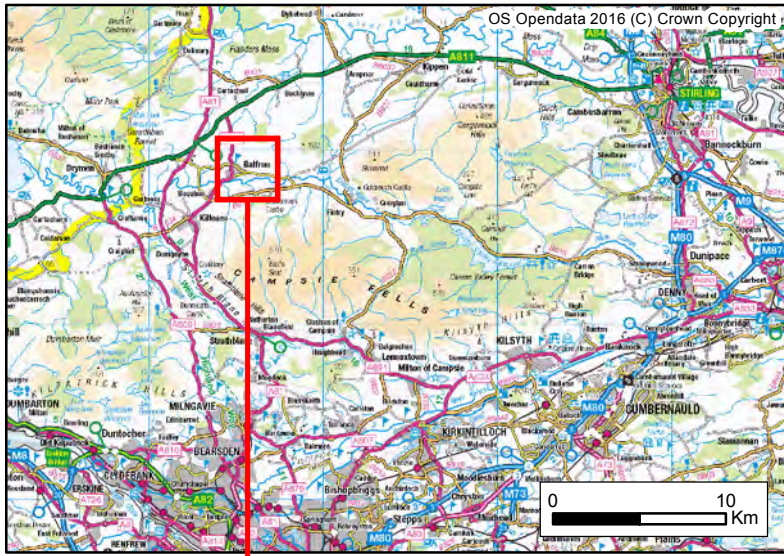


Figure 1: Site location plan

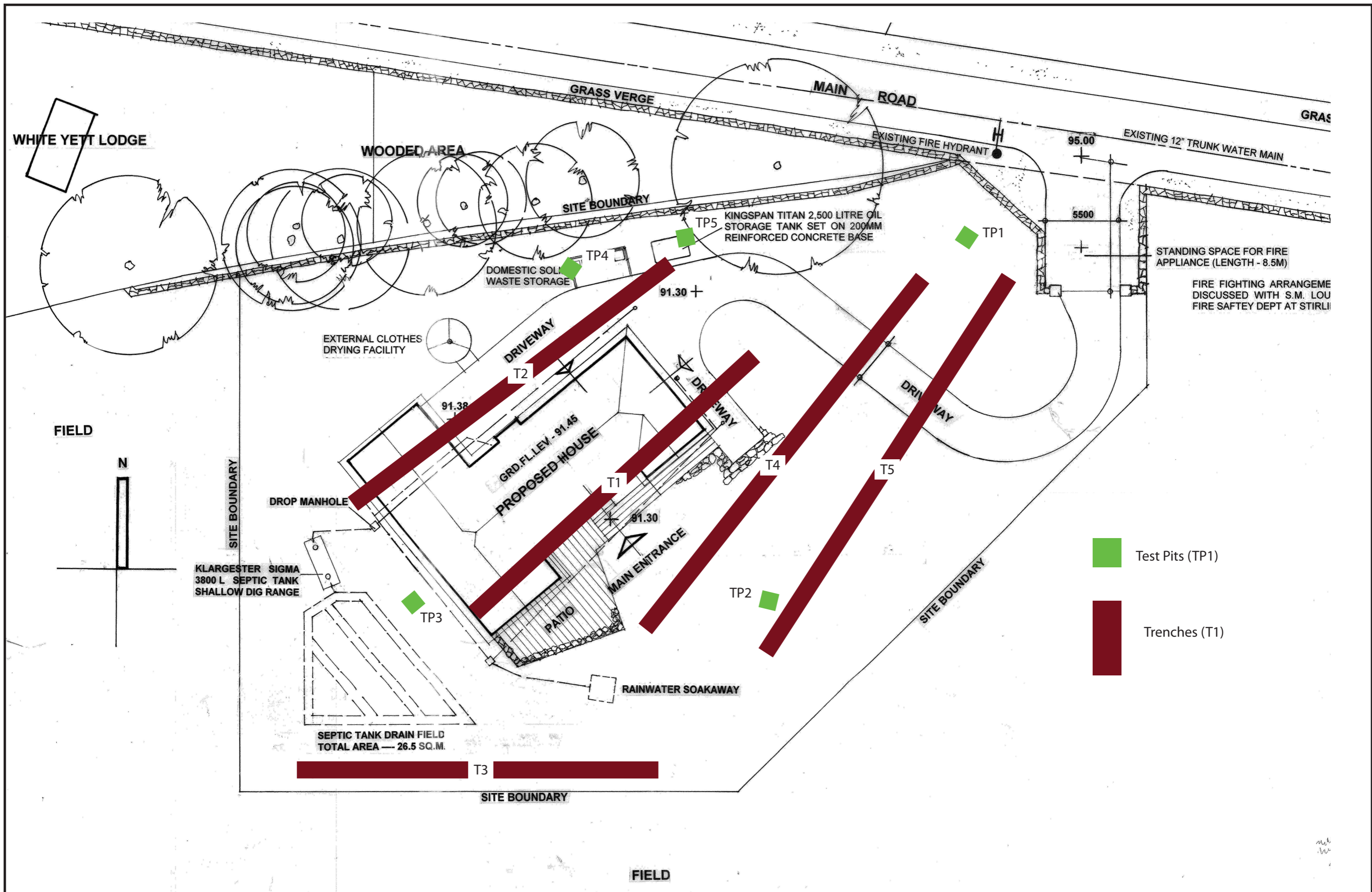


Figure 2- Site Plan (provided by James M Kerr Architects), showing Test Pit and Trench Locations

**Land 50 m SW of Woodend, Balfron,
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Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	50 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SW to NE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown clay loam - 0.32 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pink clay sand with occasional small rounded stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	50 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SW to NE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown clay loam - 0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pink clay sand with occasional small rounded stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	50 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E to W
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown clay loam - 0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pink clay sand with occasional small rounded stones, at 15 m heading E to W outcrop of red sandstone
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	50 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown clay loam - 0.34 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pink clay sand with occasional small rounded stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	50 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SW to NE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown clay loam - 0.32 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pink clay sand with occasional small rounded stones, at 15 m heading NW to SE outcrop of red sandstone
<i>Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: Test-Pit Descriptions

Test-Pit 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	1 m by 1 m
<i>Total Area</i>	1 m ²
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown clay loam - 0.3 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pink clay sand with occasional small rounded stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test-Pit 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	1 m by 1 m
<i>Total Area</i>	1 m ²
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown clay loam - 0.32 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pink clay sand with red sandstone outcrop
<i>Finds</i>	Modern farm machinery

Test-Pit 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	1 m by 1 m
<i>Total Area</i>	1 m ²
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown clay loam - 0.26 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pink clay sand with occasional small rounded stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test-Pit 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	1 m by 1 m
<i>Total Area</i>	1 m ²
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown clay loam - 0.3 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pink clay sand with occasional small rounded stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test-Pit 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	1 m by 1 m
<i>Total Area</i>	1 m ²
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – mid brown clay loam - 0.34 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pink clay sand with occasional small rounded stones
<i>Finds</i>	Modern white ceramic and modern glass

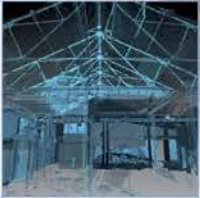
APPENDIX 3: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

No.	Trench	Description	Taken From
1		General view of Trench 1	SW
2		General view of Trench 2	SW
3		General view of Trench 3	W
4		General view of Trench 4	SW
5		General view of Trench 5	NE
6		SE Facing Section of Test-Pit 1	SE
7		SE Facing Section of Test-Pit 2	SE
8		SE Facing Section of Test-Pit 3	SE
9		SW Facing Section of Test- Pit 4	SW
10		NW Facing Section of Test-Pit 5	NW

APPENDIX 4: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Land 50 m SW of Woodend, Balfron, Stirling
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 23390
PARISH:	Balfron
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alex Wood
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation, Test-Pitting & Metal Detecting
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 5575 8870
START DATE (this season)	18 th April 2016
END DATE (this season)	19 th April 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation, test pitting investigation and metal detecting survey was undertaken by AOC Archaeology in relation to a new house construction within an arable field lying immediately to the south of Dunmore Road on the eastern edge of the village of Balfron, Stirlingshire.</p> <p>The metal detecting survey encountered five modern farm machinery parts throughout the entire area surveyed. The evaluation consisted of 250 m of trench through uniform topsoil throughout the site.</p> <p>A series of five 1 m by 1 m test-pits were hand excavated with the spoil subsequently sieved and metal detected. Only one piece of modern farm machinery, one piece of modern white ceramic and one piece of modern glass were found.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or finds were discovered.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	John & Catriona Paterson
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Woodend Farm, Fintry Road, Balfron G63 0QB
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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