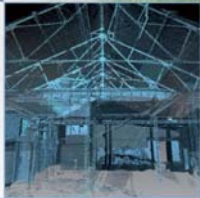


# Balvalachlan Cemetery, Callander, Stirling: Archaeological Works Data Structure Report

AOC 23555  
18<sup>th</sup> November 2016



**AOC**  
Archaeology  
Group



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

# Balvalachlan, Callander, Stirling: Archaeological Works Data Structure Report

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**On Behalf of: Stirling Council**  
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**National Grid Reference (NGR): NN 63509 05532**

**AOC Project No: 23555**

**OASIS Entry No: 269042**

**Prepared by: Kevin Paton**

**Date of Fieldwork: November 2016**

**Date of Report: November 2016**

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

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**Date: November 2016**

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**Date: November 2016**

**Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft**

**Date: November 2016**

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## ABSTRACT

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An archaeological evaluation and monitored topsoil strip was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group prior to the construction of a new cemetery at Balvalachlan, Callander.

The evaluation over the way leave around a proposed pipe leading from the cemetery to the River revealed no significant archaeology. Two trenches were located at the top of the slope through the location of a former unroofed building. An area of stones that may have constituted hard standing or a rough floor surface was revealed but no walls or any other structural elements were revealed.

The monitored topsoil strip over the location of a previously evaluated area revealed one large post medieval pit near the eastern edge, and several rubble and ceramic tile drains along the western edge. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation and monitored topsoil strip was required by Stirling Council prior to the construction of a new cemetery and associated drainage at Balvalachlan, Callander. The scope of the works was determined by The Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, 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 2016), approved on behalf of the National Park Authority by WoSAS and in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning And Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

### 1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The proposed development area is situated on agricultural land within the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park, approximately 2 km south of Callander (centred on NGR: NN 63509 05532; Figure 1). The site is bounded to the north by Claish Farm, and to the east by the River Teith. The south is bounded by further open agricultural land and the west by the A81.

### 1.3 Historical Background

1.3.1 The area around the proposed site is known for prehistoric activity. There are four Scheduled Monuments to the north of the site; two of which are palisaded enclosures; the Lots of Callander (SM6972) and The Claish (SM6966) & (SM6967). There is also a palisaded enclosure and Timber Hall (SM6968) at Claish Farm.

1.3.2 The NRHE records the presence of an unroofed building on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (1866) (NN60NW 80) to the east of the site, and within the location of the proposed pipe way leave. This building is still depicted until the 1940's but its purpose is unclear. Kirkdale Archaeology recorded the upstanding remains of a clearance cairn and two field banks to the north east of the site (Hill 2011).

1.3.3 The area surrounding the proposed development has also been subject to archaeological and geophysical survey in the past (WoSAS ID 4586 and 4607). Previous archaeological work on the proposed development site was undertaken in 2011 by Heritage Archaeological Research Practice (HARP). This evaluation recorded the previously known field banks of 19th century date as well as a possible ditch and two pits of unknown date (Hill, 2011).

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area through evaluation trenching;
- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

2.2 The objectives of the monitored topsoil strip were:

- i) to fully record and excavate any significant features located within the stripped area

### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The evaluation and monitored topsoil strip were both conducted utilising a 14 tonne tracked excavator equipped with a bladed ditching bucket and operating under the constant supervision of an experienced field archaeologist. All of the six evaluation trenches were recorded using AOC *pro forma* trench record sheets. Any potential features from the evaluation were investigated further to assess their character and date. All features within the monitored topsoil area were excavated and recorded using AOC *pro forma* record sheets.

### 4 RESULTS

#### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All archaeological works were conducted in November 2016. Weather conditions were generally fair throughout the course of the work conducted meaning that archaeological visibility was good.
- 4.1.2 The various data gathered from the evaluation and monitored topsoil strip are presented as a series of appendices:

Appendix 1: Evaluation trench descriptions  
Appendix 2: Context Register;  
Appendix 3: Photographic Register;  
Appendix 4: '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' entry

#### 4.2 Evaluation

- 4.2.1 A total of six trenches were placed within the pipe way leave area totalling 195 m of linear trench (Figure 2). Trench 1 was placed through a possible cut to the W of a clearance cairn. It revealed turf overlying a 0.1 m layer of small to medium rounded stones, overlying a 0.25 m layer of large and very large stones, varying in size from 0.3 m diameter to 1 m by 0.7 m (Plate 1). No walls were revealed that may have suggested the stones were an internal surface, however a break of slope to the north indicates a possible cut containing the hard standing on one side.
- 4.2.2 Trench 2 was placed through the clearance cairn. No structural remains were found that may have indicated it was the former 1866 unroofed building. The cairn stones overlay the grey clay loam topsoil. Trenches 3 to 6 did not reveal any post medieval or earlier features with an average of 0.3 m of topsoil overlying a pale greenish brown sandy clay at the top of the slope, and an orange and brown gravel on the lower part of the site next to the river.

#### 4.3 Monitored Topsoil Strip

- 4.3.1 The monitored topsoil strip was conducted over an area covering 75 m by 75 m (Figure 2; Plate 2). The topsoil in the area consisted of a grey clay loam overlying a mainly pale greenish brown and orange/brown sandy clay with more clay along the west edge.
- 4.3.2 Neither of the two pit features previously located and recorded by HARP were able to be found, most likely due to the re-excavation of the overgrown trenches by the excavator. One large pit [001] was revealed near the SE corner of the stripped area that measured 1.5 m diameter and 0.27 m deep (Plate 3). The pit was filled by a topsoil like deposit that contained coal lumps and 19<sup>th</sup> century white ceramic fragments. Rubble and ceramic tile drains along the west edge were the only other features revealed. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were recovered within the stripped area.



Plate 1 - General view of stones in Trench 1



Plate 2 - General view of eastern edge of stripped area





Plate 3 - NW-facing section of pit [001]

## 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation and monitored topsoil strip have revealed that the development area is devoid of significant archaeological features or artefacts. The only features found by the works were related to post-medieval drainage or other agricultural activity. As such, the two previous pits found in the HARP evaluation can also be interpreted in this way, as the descriptions of the deposits within the pits are similar to the deposit of pit [001].
- 5.2 It is recommended that no further works be conducted within the development area. This recommendation will require approval of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service who advise the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs Park Authority on archaeological matters.

## 8 REFERENCES

AOC 2016 *Balvalachlan Cemetery, Callander: Archaeological Works Written Scheme of Investigation* unpublished client report

Hill, I 2011 *Proposed Cemetery – Land East of Braes of Greenock, Balvalachlan, Callander: Archaeological Evaluation* Unpublished grey literature report

Scottish Government 2014 Scottish Planning Policy.

Scottish Government 2010 PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology.

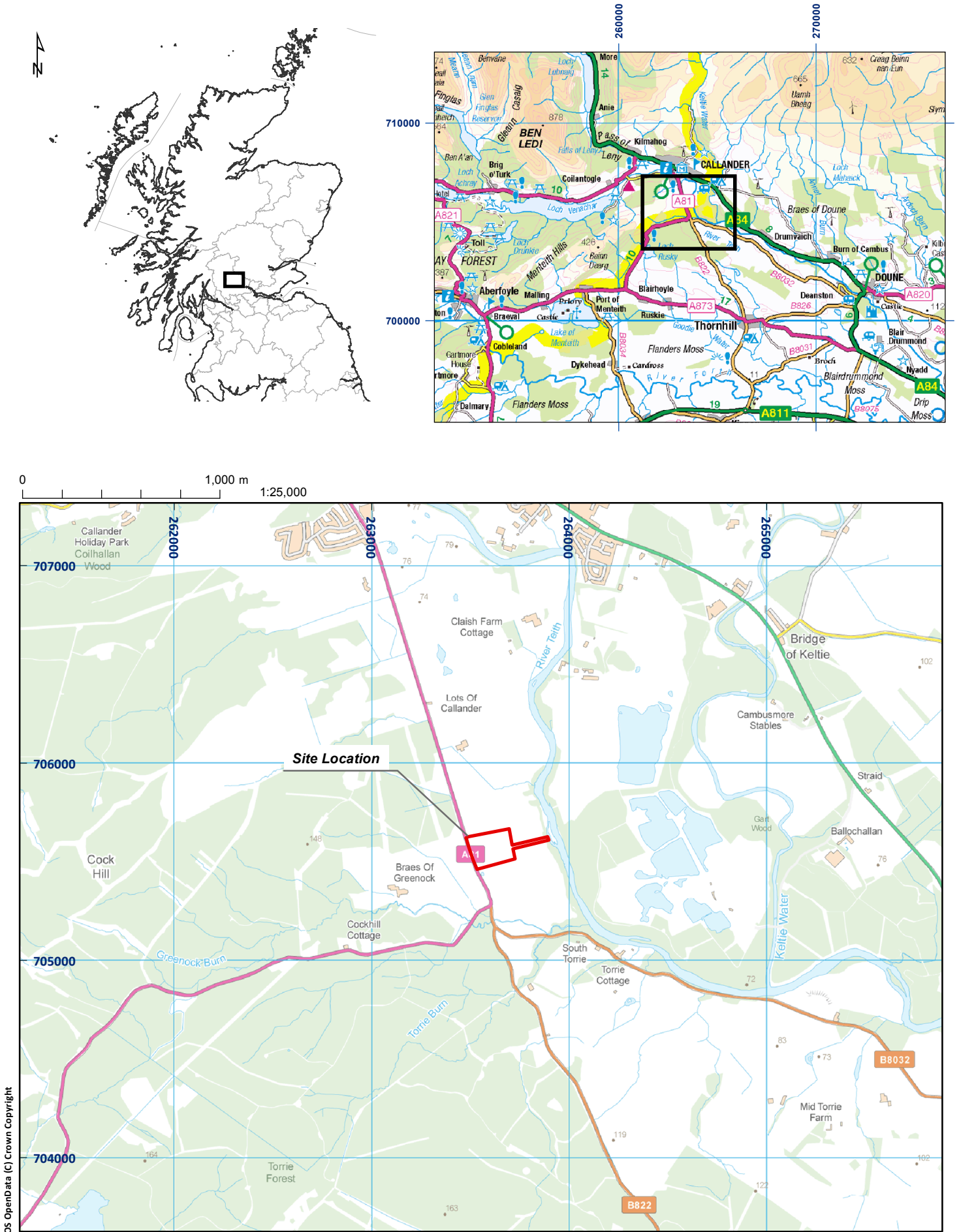
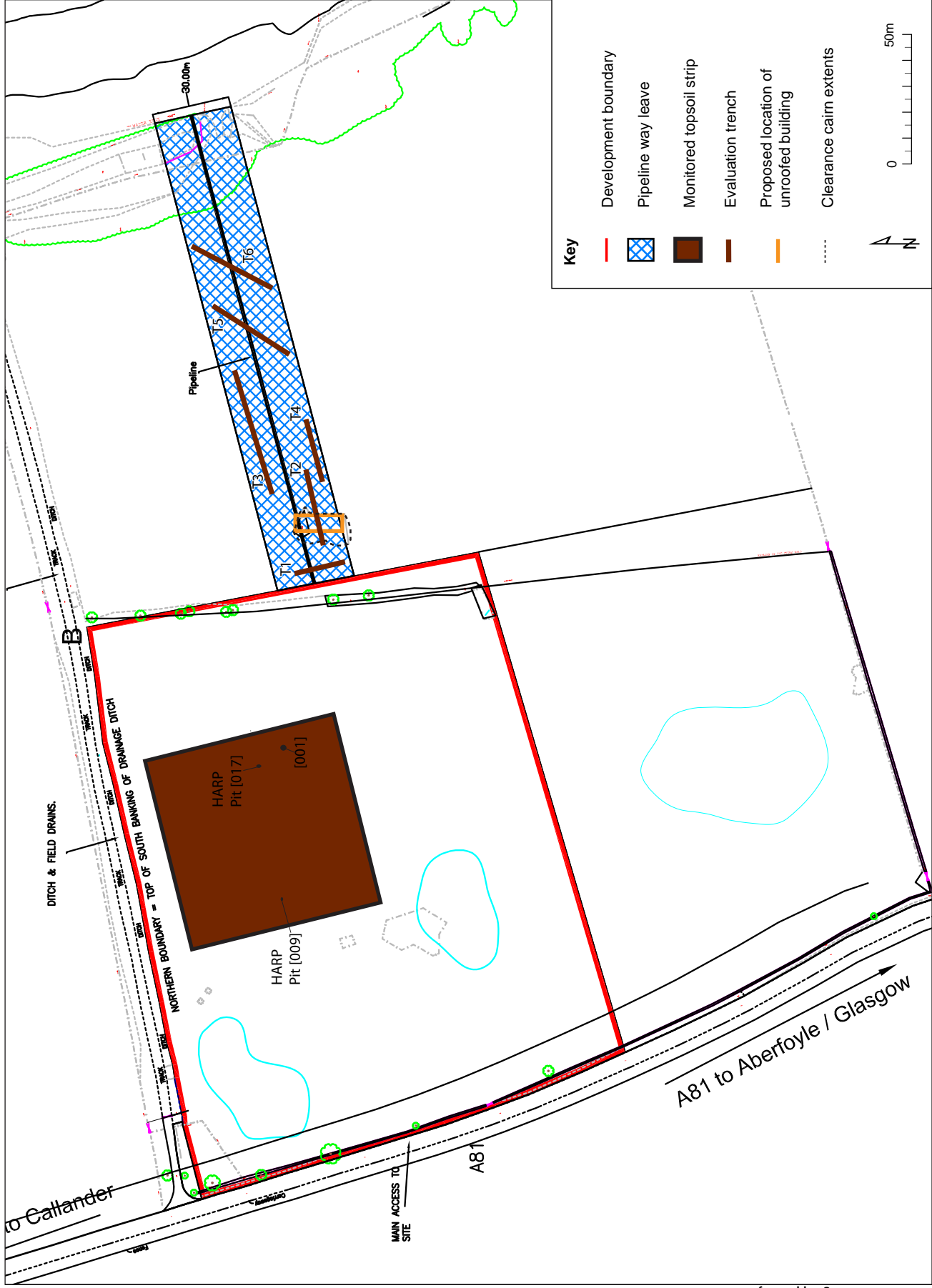


Figure 1: Site location plan



Based on a drawing supplied by the client

Figure 2 - Location of archaeological works

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**Balvalachlan Cemetery,  
Callander, Stirling:  
Archaeological Works  
Data Structure Report**

**Section 2: Appendices**

**APPENDIX 1: EVALUATION TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS****Trench 1**

<i>Dimensions</i>	20 m by 2 m
<i>Excavated Area</i>	40 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	S to N
<i>Soil make-up</i>	Made ground from 0 m to 13 m – Two layers of stone rubble under 0.15 m of turf – 0.56 m Topsoil from 13 m to 20 m – grey clay loam – 0.28 m
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale greenish brown sandy clay
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 2**

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
<i>Excavated Area</i>	60 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	W to E
<i>Soil make-up</i>	Made ground from 0 m to 2 m - Two layers of stone rubble under 0.15 m of turf – 0.63 m Cairn stone from 2 m to 10 m – mixture of moss covered medium to large stones – 0.3 m Topsoil from 2 m to 30 m – grey clay loam – 0.31 m
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale greenish brown sandy clay
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 3**

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Excavated Area</i>	100 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	W to E
<i>Soil make-up</i>	Topsoil – grey clay loam – 0.29 m Colluvium – brown silty sand with rounded stones from 40 m to end of trench – 0.7 m
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale greenish brown sandy clay until 21 m then brown gravel until 38 m then pale greenish brown sandy clay
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 4**

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Excavated Area</i>	50 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	W to E
<i>Soil make-up</i>	Topsoil – grey clay loam – 0.31 m Colluvium – brown silty sand with rounded stones from 40 m to end of trench – 0.25 m
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Pale greenish brown sandy clay
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None

**Trench 5**

<i>Dimensions</i>	35 m by 2 m
<i>Excavated Area</i>	70 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SW to NE
<i>Soil make-up</i>	Topsoil – grey clay loam – 0.55 m Colluvium – brown silty sand with rounded stones from 40 m to end of trench – 0.5 m
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange clayey sand until 8.5 m then orange and brown gravel
<i>Significant Features</i>	None

## Balvalachlan Cemetery, Callander, Stirling

*Other Features* Plastic drain at 0 m then NW-SE  
*Finds* None

### Trench 6

*Dimensions* 35 m by 2 m  
*Excavated Area* 70 m<sup>2</sup>  
*Excavated Orientation* NE to SW  
*Soil make-up* Topsoil – dark grey clay loam – 0.6 m  
*Natural Subsoil* Orange and brown gravels  
*Significant Features* None  
*Other Features* None  
*Finds* None

## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT REGISTERS

Context No.	Area	Description and Interpretation
001	MTS	Circular shaped cut with steep sides onto a concave base measuring 1.5 m diameter by 0.27 m. <b>Post medieval pit</b>
002	MTS	Grey clay loam with rare inclusions of coal and white ceramic. <b>Fill of pit [001]</b>

## APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTERS

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-10	Panoramic views of area to be stripped	Var	7/11/16
11-12	NW corner stripped	Var	7/11/16
13-14	Central box stripped	Var	7/11/16
15-16	Views of E edge strip	Var	7/11/16
17-18	Views of W edge strip	Var	7/11/16
19	NW-facing section of pit [001]	NW	9/11/16
20-21	General view of pit [001]	NE	9/11/16
22-24	Next strip along W edge	Var	14/11/16
25-26	Views of way leave	Var	14/11/16
27	Final strip	S	15/11/16
28	View of large boulders in T1	S	16/11/16
29	Post-ex view of T2	E	16/11/16
30	Post-ex view of T3	E	16/11/16
31	Post-ex view of T1	S	16/11/16
32	Post-ex view of T4	E	16/11/16
33	Post-ex view of T5	NE	16/11/16
34	Post-ex view of T6	SW	16/11/16
35-37	Views of evaluation trenches backfilled	Var	16/11/16
38-41	Views of MTS area	Var	16/11/16

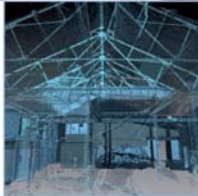
**APPENDIX 4: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	The Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Balvalachlan Cemetery, Callander
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	23555
<b>PARISH:</b>	Callander
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Kevin Paton
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Evaluation & Monitored Topsoil Strip
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR</b> (2 letters, 6 figures)	NN 63509 05532
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	November 2016
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	November 2016
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (inc DES)	Archaeological Evaluation (HARP 2011)
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation and monitored topsoil strip was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group prior to the construction of a new cemetery at Balvalachlan, Callander.</p> <p>The evaluation over the way leave around a proposed pipe leading from the cemetery to the River revealed no significant archaeology. Two trenches were located at the top of the slope through the location of a former unroofed building. An area of stones that may have constituted hard standing or a rough floor surface was revealed but no walls or any other structural elements were revealed.</p> <p>The monitored topsoil strip over the location of a previously evaluated area revealed one large post medieval pit near the eastern edge, and several rubble and ceramic tile drains along the western edge. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	No
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Stirling Council
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group Edgefield Road Industrial Estate Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	admin@aocarchaeology.com

**Balvalachlan Cemetery, Callander, Stirling**

<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS
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