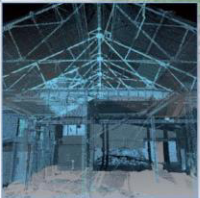
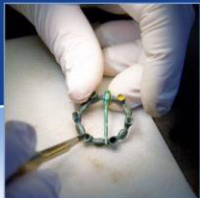


# Park Road, Biggar, South Lanarkshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report

26<sup>th</sup> January 2017

OASIS ID: 1-276686

AOC Project No: 23676



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## Park Road, Biggar, South Lanarkshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report

**On Behalf of:** DTA Chartered Architects Ltd.,  
9 Montgomery Street,  
The Village,  
East Kilbride,  
Glasgow  
G74 4JS

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NT 0468 3764

**Planning Application No:** CL/16/0167

**AOC Project No:** 23676

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**Date:** January 2017

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

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**Date:** January 2017

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**Date:** January 2017

**Draft/Final Report Stage:** Final

**Date:** August 2017

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## Summary

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*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in relation to a residential development at Park Road, Biggar, South Lanarkshire.*

*The evaluation required an 8% trenching sample of the 1.3ha development area. The presence of services and surface water reduced the area by 1250m<sup>2</sup>. This equated to 470 linear metres. Ten evaluation trenches were excavated totalling 471 linear metres, and archaeological monitoring was undertaken on 5 test pits.*

*No archaeological features or deposits were encountered; therefore no further archaeological works are required. This recommendation will require the approval of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was required by DTA Chartered Architects on behalf of their client ahead of a small residential development consisting of three detached properties, a detached ancillary private leisure facility and vehicular access routes (Planning Ref: CL/16/0167). The need for, and scope of, the archaeological works has been determined by the South Lanarkshire Council who are advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeological Service (hereafter referred to as WoSAS). The programme of archaeological works required is in keeping with best practice outlined in current planning policy and guidelines: *Scottish Planning Policy (2014)* & *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology (2011)*.

## 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Site Location

- 2.1.1 The proposed development area is located on the south side of the town of Biggar, South Lanarkshire, and is centered on NGR: NT 0468 3764 (Figure 1). The site is currently primarily a greenfield site with established residential properties to the north and west. To the east there is an unmarked road and to the south lies open farmland.

### 2.2 Archaeological Background

- 2.2.1 Neither the HES NMRS archives or the WoSAS Sites and Monuments Records have any sites located within the site boundaries. There is a single WoSAS entry for a late 13<sup>th</sup> century William Wallace battlefield site, (WoSAS Pin No. 10883, NMRS NT03NW 29) but the exact location is unclear and the reference to the battle comes from a single source. The battlefield is reputedly in the vicinity of the development.
- 2.2.2 To the northeast of the site less than 500 m away there is a Scheduled Monument, Burghmuir Farm (SM5492) which consists of an archaeological site, probably that of a prehistoric settlement, identifiable solely from the air due to changes in the pattern of crop growth. The site is situated on the N side of Broughton Road, Biggar, 550m S of Burghmuir Farm, and is currently under pasture. No upstanding remains are visible. Features identifiable from the air include a sub-circular ditched enclosure which measures about 45m from N to S by 35m transversely. Contiguous with this enclosure on its SW arc is a smaller, sub-square enclosure, about 12m in diameter. Adjacent to the smaller enclosure, some 5m further to the W, is a smaller circular feature about 10m in diameter. Although none of these features have been excavated, comparison with excavated sites elsewhere suggests that they represent a settlement complex of enclosures, round-houses and associated pits, probably of prehistoric date.
- 2.2.3 The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the present field boundaries around the site were established by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and that the entire development comprises arable land. As a greenfield site there does exist the possibility that the site contains hitherto unknown subsurface prehistoric remains.

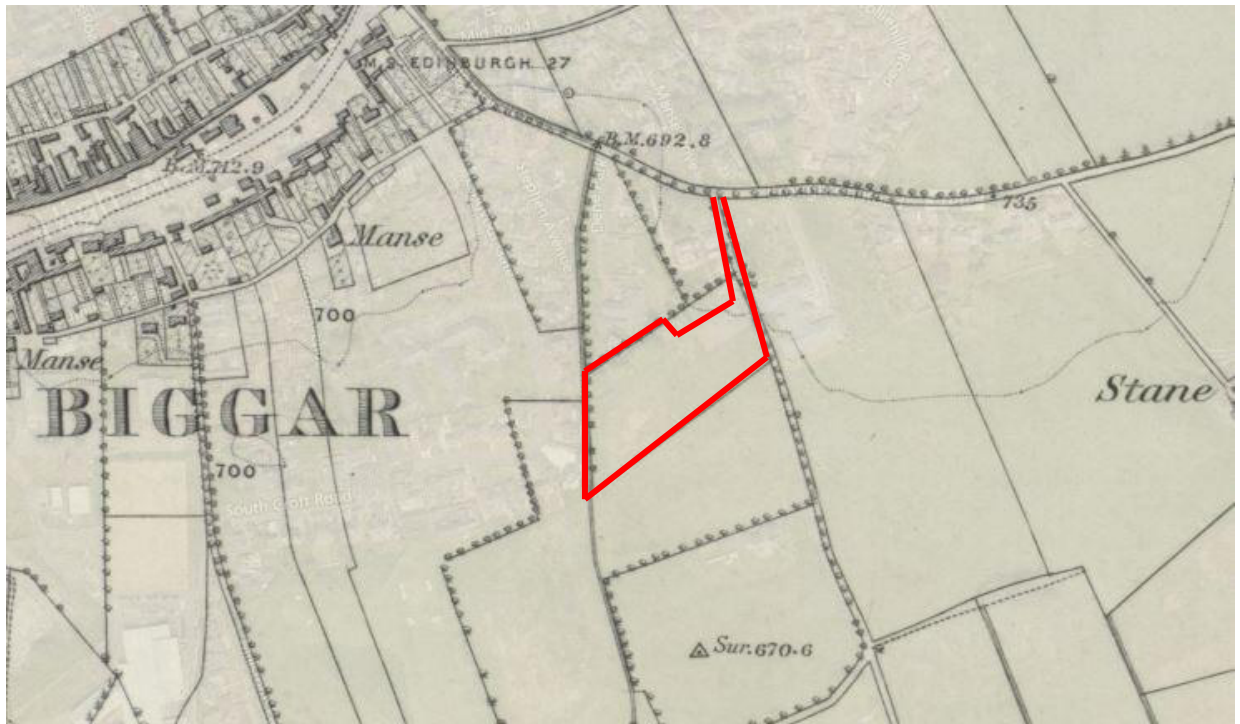


Figure 2: Extract from 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map

## 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 overhead and underground electricity services and free flowing surface water in the west of the development area, the 1.3ha sites available trenching area was reduced by 1250m<sup>2</sup>. The council required an 8% evaluation of the site, equating to 470 linear metres of trenching. In total, ten trenches totalling 471 linear metres were excavated. In addition, archaeological monitoring was undertaken on five test pits throughout the site.

3.2 The evaluation was undertaken by a 16-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.



## 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 10 trenches, totalling 471 linear metres, with trenches focussing more on topographically advantageous areas with a higher potential for containing archaeological remains.
- 4.2 The topsoil make-up throughout the development area consisted of a dark brown grey silty sand and varied greatly in depth from 0.15m in depth across the higher areas, to up to 0.7m in depth in the lower lying areas. The subsoil on site varied also, with higher areas comprising a light grey brown clay with a 90% inclusion of weathered bedrock and lower areas consisting mostly of a light orange to grey waterlogged clay with occasional stones. A number of rubble field drains were evident across the site, running predominantly in a NE-SW direction, aiding the drainage to the lower edge of the site towards a burn which runs along the western edge of the site.
- 4.3 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the evaluation.



Plate 1: Post Ex Trench 1



## 5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological works conducted revealed no significant features or traces of archaeology.
- 5.2 Therefore no further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will need approval by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), who advise the South Lanarkshire Council on archaeological matters.

## 6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology Group 2016 *Park Road, Biggar, South Lanarkshire: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpublished Client Report

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014)

Scottish Government 2011 PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology

### 6.2 Cartographic references

1860	Ordnance Survey	<i>Lanarkshire, Sheet XXXIII</i>
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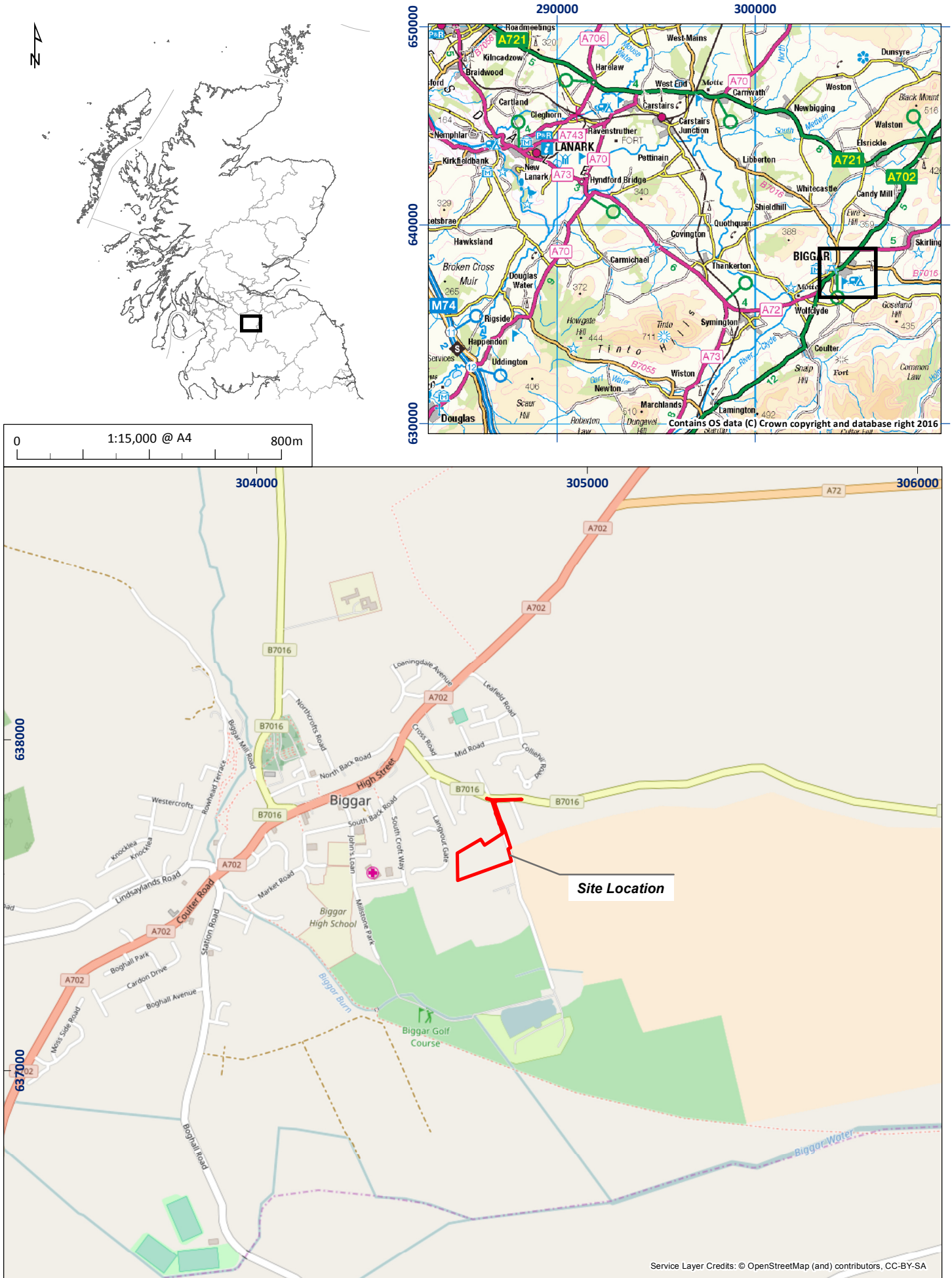


Figure 1: Site location plan

01/23676/REP/01/01

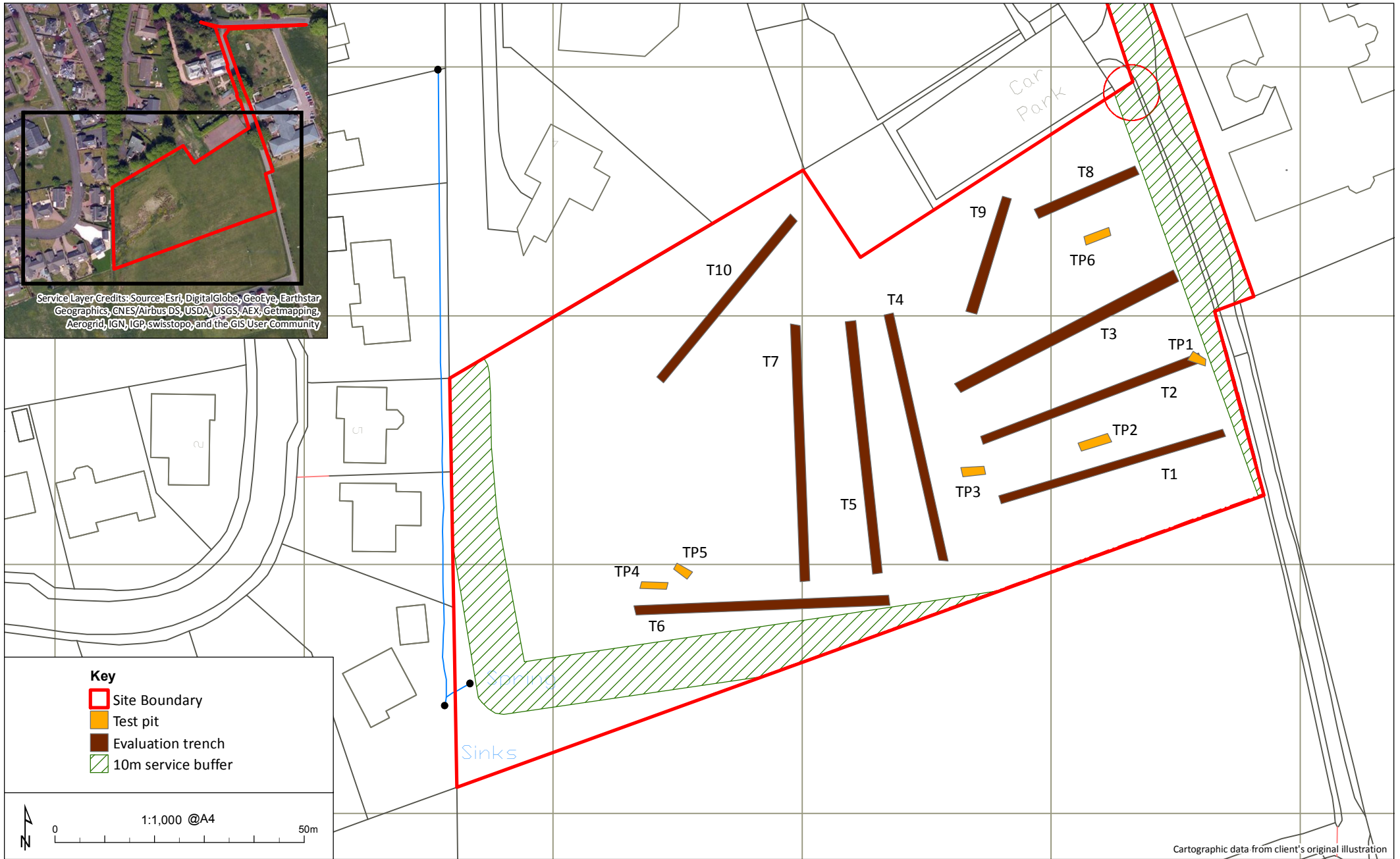


Figure 2: Trench location plan

## APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

### Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	52 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	104 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E - W
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown grey silty sand – 0.45m to 0.5m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drains running NE - SW, 2m – 7m, 26m – 33m
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Light orange grey silty clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	52 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	104 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E - W
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown grey silty sand – 0.3m to 0.4m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drains running NE - SW, 1m – 5m, 35m – 38m
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Light orange grey silty clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	52 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	104 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E - W
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown grey silty sand – 0.45m to 0.5m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Modern SI pit at 2m
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Light orange grey silty clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NNE - SSW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown grey silty sand – 0.4m to 0.7m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Light orange grey silty clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	55 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	110 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NNE to SSW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown grey silty sand – 0.15m to 0.35m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Light grey brown clay with 90% weathered bedrock
<i>Finds</i>	None

### Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E - W
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – Dark brown grey silty sand – 0.3m to 0.45m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None

<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drains running NE - SW, 10.5m - 14.5m, 24m - 25m, 37m - 38m. Rubble field drains running NW - SE 14.5m - 17.5m
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Light grey brown clay with 90% weathered bedrock
<i>Finds</i>	None

#### **Trench 7**

<i>Dimensions</i>	55 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	110 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	N - S
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil - Dark brown grey silty sand - 0.4m to 0.55m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	At 17m 3 rubble field drains converge into one heading SW
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Light grey brown clay with 90% weathered bedrock
<i>Finds</i>	None

#### **Trench 8**

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	150 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E - W
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil - Dark brown grey silty sand - 0.2m to 0.35m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange grey sandy gravel and stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

#### **Trench 9**

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	100 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE - SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil - Dark brown grey silty sand - 0.2m to 0.4m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange grey sandy gravel and stones
<i>Finds</i>	None

#### **Trench 10**

<i>Dimensions</i>	55 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	110 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	WSW to ENE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil - Dark brown grey silty sand - 0.2m to 0.5m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange grey sandy gravel and stones, giving way to light orange grey silty clay further west
<i>Finds</i>	None

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

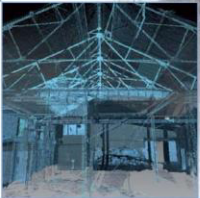
### Digital Images

Frame	Description	From	Date
1	Post ex Trench 1	E	19/1/17
2	Post ex Trench 2	E	19/1/17
3	Post ex Trench 3	E	19/1/17
4	Post ex Trench 4	SSW	19/1/17
5	Swampy area in W of site	E	19/1/17
6	Post ex Trench 5	SW	19/1/17
7	Post ex Trench 6	E	19/1/17
8	Post ex Trench 8	NNE	20/1/17
9	Post ex Trench 10	W	20/1/17
10	Post ex Trench 9	SW	20/1/17
11	Post ex Trench 7	N	20/1/17
12	Box out of Trench 3	N	20/1/17
13	Back filled trenches	NE	20/1/17



**APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	South Lanarkshire Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Park Road, Biggar
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	23676
<b>PARISH:</b>	Biggar
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Jessica Lumb
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 0468 3764
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	19/1/2017
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	20/1/2017
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p><b>(NARRATIVE)</b> An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC in relation to a residential development at Park Road, Biggar, South Lanarkshire.</p> <p>The evaluation required an 8% trenching sample of the 1.3ha development area. The presence of services and surface water reduced the area by 1250m<sup>2</sup>. This equated to 470 linear metres. Ten evaluation trenches were excavated totalling 471 linear metres, and archaeological monitoring was undertaken on 5 test pits.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were encountered; therefore no further archaeological works are required. This recommendation will require the approval of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	To be confirmed
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	DTA Chartered Architects
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	admin@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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