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NEW LOCH PARK STADIUM, CARLUKE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Paul Masser
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PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

<i>Client</i>	SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
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<i>Address</i>	N/A
<i>Parish</i>	CARLUKE
<i>Council</i>	SOUTH LANARKSHIRE
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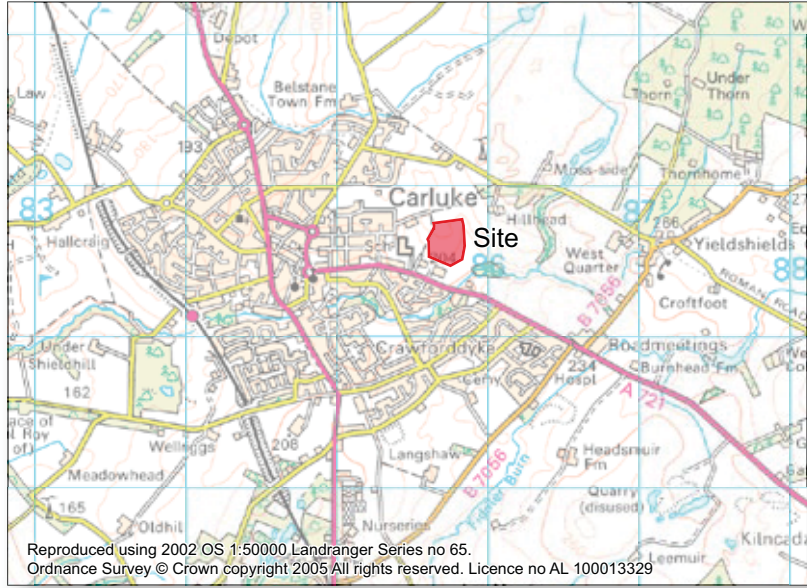
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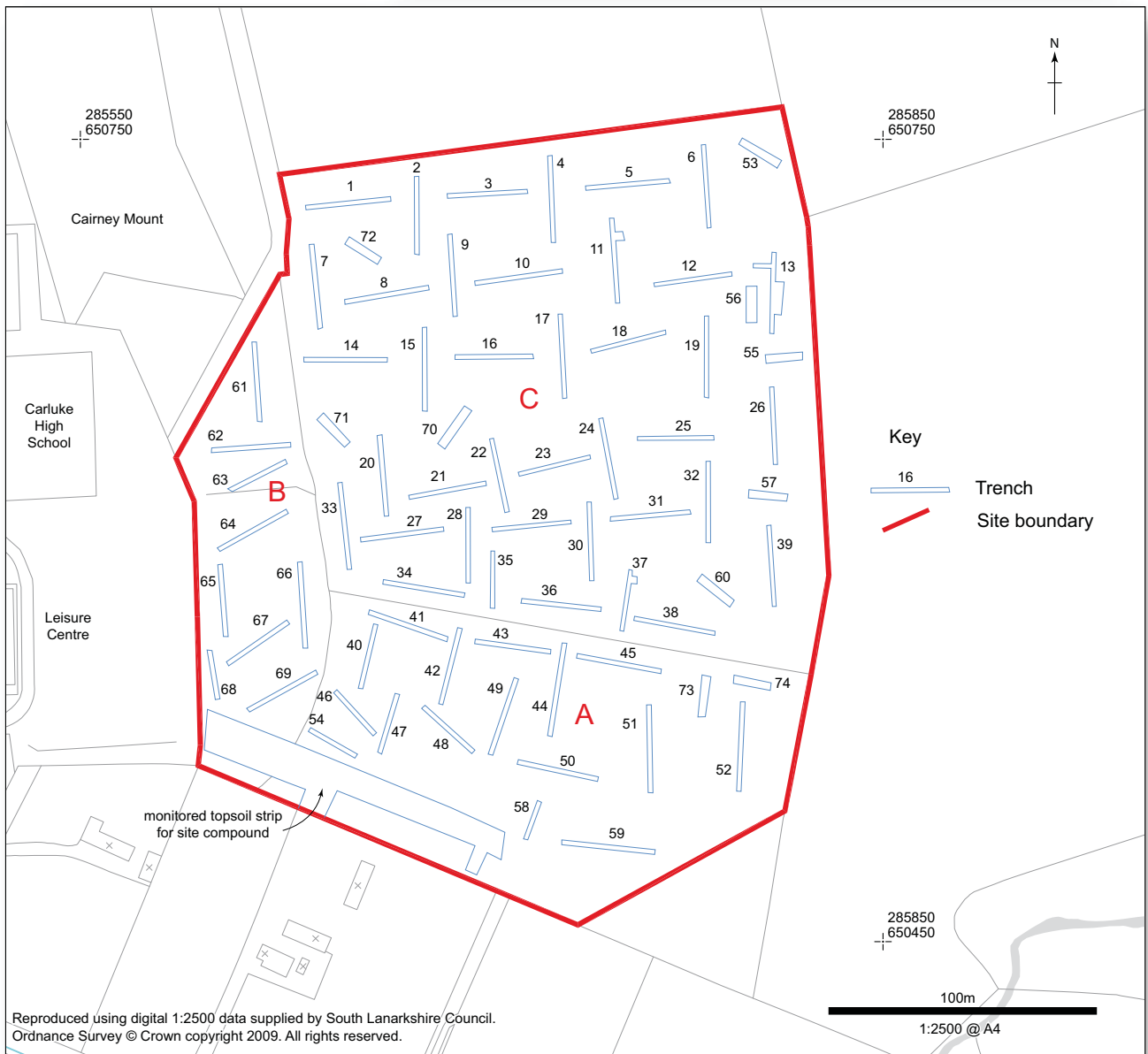
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Illus 1
Site location

NEW LOCH PARK STADIUM, CARLUKE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

by Paul Masser

Trial trenches were excavated within a 5.87ha site where planning permission has been granted for construction of a sports stadium. Evaluation was prompted by 19th century reports of Bronze Age cists found in the vicinity. Nothing of archaeological interest was found.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning background

South Lanarkshire Council propose to build a new sports stadium in fields to the east of Carluke High School (Planning ref. CL/08/0744). The development is being managed by Professional Sportsturf Design Ltd (PSD) on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council and the main contractor for construction works is Marshall Construction Ltd.

The development has been granted planning permission. A condition on planning consent requires a programme of archaeological work to be carried out, subject to approval by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), who provide advice on archaeological matters to South Lanarkshire Council Planning Department.

An archaeological evaluation, comprising excavation of trial trenches, was carried out by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd following a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared in consultation with WoSAS. This report details the results of the evaluation and is intended to provide WoSAS with sufficient information to assess the need for any further archaeological mitigation works.

1.2 Archaeological background

The development site covers three fields (labelled A-C on Illus 1) with a total area of 5.87 ha. The fields are currently used as pasture, divided by fences and mature hedgerows, on a gentle south-facing slope, bounded to the east by a small dry valley. The solid geology consists of Carboniferous Millstone Grit (Namurian). The soil comprises imperfectly drained non-calcareous gleys of the Caprington Series and Rowanhill Association (Soil Survey of Scotland, Sheet 23).

Three prehistoric sites/findspots are recorded in the vicinity of the development site in the NMRS, all of which

relate to 19th century discoveries. Early Bronze Age cists were found in the area of the existing school buildings (NMRS ref. NS85SE6, WoSAS SMR ref. 10318, NGR NS 855 507). One cist contained a food vessel and associated cremation deposits. Reference to further cists within the same area is given in the New Statistical Account (NSA, 1845). A standing stone which was removed in the 19th century is also recorded in the NMRS at NS 852 505 (NMRS ref. NS85SE4, WoSAS SMR ref. 10316). A stone axe/hammer was found nearby at NS 852 505 (WoSAS SMR ref. 10317).

A horseshoe, allegedly of Roman date, was found by Hillhead, to the NE of the site (NS 860 508; NMRS ref. NS85SE1, WoSAS SMR ref. 10313).

Coal mining took place nearby in the 19th century. An area of open-cast coal mining is depicted on the 1st edition OS map (1858) near the present-day Carluke High School, and coal workings are known to extend beneath the site from the south.

2 AIMS AND METHODS

The aim of the investigation was to evaluate the potential for previously undiscovered archaeological remains within the development site. In particular it was considered possible that prehistoric remains associated with the previously documented cists might be present.

A total of 74 trenches, with a combined area of 4439m², were excavated. 3831m² of this area was excavated as 64 linear trenches, 2 x 30m long on average, evenly distributed across the site. Some of these trenches were widened to more fully expose features of potential interest. An additional ten double-width (15 x 4m approx) trenches with a combined area of 608m² were then placed to target areas of higher potential. The trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a 2m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. Machine excavation continued until undisturbed natural subsoil or features of archaeological potential were revealed. At the same time as the trial trenching, an area

20m wide along the SW edge of the development site was stripped for construction of a site compound: this work was continuously monitored by an archaeologist.

A basic record of each trench, including a 1:100 scale measured plan, was made on pro forma trench record sheets by the archaeologist directing the machine. Features of potential archaeological interest were tested by partial hand-excavation. Where features proved not to be archaeologically significant, this was noted on the trench record sheets. Archaeologically significant deposits, cuts and other stratigraphic units were assigned unique context numbers and recorded on pro forma context sheets. A list of context descriptions is included in Appendix 1.2.

Trench outlines were surveyed using a Total Station linked to an on site computer running AutoCAD LT and TheoLT software. No features were identified which required recording in plan/section, either digitally or by hand, hence no site drawings were produced and the digital survey represents the complete drawn record for the investigation.

A full photographic record was taken, using colour slide and black and white print film and also a digital camera. A photo catalogue is included as Appendix 1.3.

No artefacts of archaeological interest were found. Modern material from the topsoil was noted on trench record sheets but has not been kept.

No deposits with potential for environmental analysis were encountered, therefore no environmental samples have been taken.

3 RESULTS

The topsoil was generally found to be around 0.2-0.3m deep, and in places overlay a paler brown soil layer, up to 0.1m thick, indicating that the site has not been subjected to modern deep ploughing. In a few trenches, notably Tr 51 and 59, slight traces of possible relict rig and furrow were seen, in the form of broad linear features spaced approximately 8m apart, aligned with the slope of the field. One of the furrows, Context [004], was excavated within Trench 51: it was found to be 1.1m wide and 0.05m deep, with very gradually sloping sides, consistent with this interpretation. The subsoil in almost all parts of the site was a pale greyish-yellow clayey silt, with moderately frequent stones of all sizes. In the valley on the east edge of the site, this was generally overlain by sandy/gravelly deposits which are thought to derive from fluvio-glacial deposition.

In Trench 13, a patch of fine-grained sandy silt some 15 x 5m wide was encountered. A fragment of possible prehistoric pot (Small Find 1) was retrieved from this deposit, but closer examination has confirmed that it is a stone and it has been discarded. The trench was extended and hand-cleaned in this location, but no archaeological features were identified.

Field drains of 19th-20th century date were observed in almost all the trenches. Where the drains themselves were exposed, these were found to be round ceramic pipes. The

drains are not shown on Illus 1, but their locations have been recorded on trench record sheets.

In many trenches, particularly in the central part of the site, high concentrations of coal dross were present in the topsoil, which presumably results from dumping of waste from nearby coal workings. In the same area, quantities of 19th/20th c ceramic sherds were also seen in the topsoil, probably deriving from use of the spoil heaps for dumping general domestic refuse. This activity does not appear to have caused any significant disturbance or truncation below the level of the topsoil, however.

4 DISCUSSION

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered. The site has not been significantly disturbed by modern agricultural activity or coal extraction, so there is potential for cists or other prehistoric features to survive, but none was seen.

Medieval/post-medieval cultivation of the site is indicated by the presence (in limited areas) of relict rig and furrow, and 19th/20th century cultivation by the provision of field drains. More recently the area seems to have been used for dumping waste from coal workings as well as domestic refuse, before being returned to agricultural use for pasture.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation was funded by South Lanarkshire Council and the assistance of John McKibbin (Marshall Construction) and Len Rooney (PSD) in organising the fieldwork is appreciated.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Site Registers

1.1 Trench Register

Trench No	Field	Area (m ²)
1	C	64
2	C	59
3	C	60
4	C	66
5	C	64
6	C	63
7	C	64
8	C	63
9	C	61
10	C	66
11	C	62
12	C	60
13	C	107
14	C	62
15	C	63
16	C	58
17	C	64
18	C	59
19	C	62
20	C	60
21	C	60
22	C	60
23	C	60
24	C	60
25	C	58
26	C	60
27	C	60
28	C	60
29	C	58
30	C	60
31	C	62
32	C	64
33	C	65
34	C	62
35	C	42
36	C	60

Trench No	Field	Area (m ²)
37	C	67
38	C	62
39	C	60
40	A	50
41	A	64
42	A	59
43	A	58
44	A	71
45	A	64
46	A	44
47	A	52
48	A	50
49	A	60
50	A	61
51	A	66
52	A	68
53	C	60
54	A	40
55	C	58
56	C	56
57	C	60
58	A	30
59	A	70
60	C	66
61	B	60
62	B	60
63	B	48
64	B	59
65	B	54
66	B	64
67	B	56
68	B	38
69	B	58
70	C	68
71	C	58
72	C	58
73	A	64
74	A	60
Total		4439

1.2 Context Register

Context No	Trench No	Description
1	43	Deposit of fine coal fragments and gravel filling [002]
2	43	Linear cut 0.73 m wide, 0.11 m deep, with gently sloping edges, aligned NW-SE, containing deposit [001]
3	51	Dark grey/brown silty/stony clay, fill of [004]
4	51	Furrow – linear feature 1.12 m wide, 0.06 m deep, with gently sloping edges, oriented NW-SE, containing deposit [003]

1.3 Photographic Register

Photo No	Colour Slide	B&W Print	Digital	Direction facing	Description
1	1/1	1/1	4427	–	ID shot
2	1/2	1/2	4428	S	Trench 40
3	1/3	1/3	4429	E	Trench 41
4	1/4	1/4	4430	S	Trench 42
5	1/5	1/5	4431	SE	Feature 002
6	1/6	1/6	4432	SE	Trench 43
7	1/7	1/7	4433	S	Trench 44
8	1/8	1/8	4434	E	Trench 45
9	1/9	1/9	4435	NW	Furrow [004]
10	1/10	1/10	4436	E	Trench 54
11	1/11	1/12	5370	S	Trench 51
12	1/12	1/13	5371	S	Trench 52
13	1/13	1/14	5372	W	Trench 54
14	1/14	1/15	5373	W	Area stripped for compound along SW edge of site – NW end
15	1/15	1/16	5374	NW	Trench 49
16	1/16	1/17	5375	S	Trench 58
17	1/17	1/18	5376	NW	Trench 48
18	1/19	1/19	5377	S	Trench 47
19	1/20	1/20	5378	NW	Trench 46
20	1/21	1/21	5379	NW	Trench 61
21	1/22	1/22	5380	W	Trench 62
22	1/23	1/23	5381	SW	Trench 63
23	1/24	1/24	5382	W	Trench 64
24	1/25	1/25	5383	S	Trench 65
25	1/26	1/26	5384	S	Trench 66
26	1/27	1/27	5385	SW	Trench 67
27	1/28	1/28	5386	E	Area stripped for compound along SW edge of site
28	1/29	1/29	5387	NW	Trench 68
29	1/30	1/30	5388	NE	Trench 69

Photo No	Colour Slide	B&W Print	Digital	Direction facing	Description
30	1/31	1/31	5389	W	Trench 1
31	1/32	1/32	5390	S	Trench 2
32	1/33	1/33	5391	E	Trench 3
33	1/34	1/34	5392	N	Trench 4
34	1/35	1/35	5393	E	Trench 5
35	1/36	1/36	5394	S	Trench 6
36	2/1	2/1	–	–	ID shot
37	2/2	2/2	5395	S	Trench 13
38	2/3	2/3	5396	E	Location of small find 1
39	2/4	2/4	5397	N	Location of small find 1
40	2/5	2/5	5398	S	Trench 7
41	2/6	2/6	5399	NW	Trench 72
42	2/7	2/7	5400	W	Trench 8
43	2/8	2/8	5401	N	Trench 9
44	2/9	2/9	5402	W	Trench 10
45	2/10	2/10	5403	S	Trench 11
46	2/11	2/11	5404	E	Trench 12
47	2/12	2/12	5405	S	Trench 56
48	2/13	2/13	5406	W	Trench 14
49	2/14	2/14	5407	N	Trench 15
50	2/15	2/15	5408	NE	Trench 70
51	2/16	2/16	5409	E	Trench 16
52	2/17	2/17	5410	N	Trench 17
53	2/18	2/18	5411	E	Trench 18
54	2/19	2/19	5412	N	Trench 19
55	2/20	2/20	5413	E	Trench 55
56	2/21	2/21	5414	NW	Trench 53
57	2/22	2/22	5415	NW	Trench 71
58	2/23	2/23	5416	S	Trench 20
59	2/24	2/24	5417	E	Trench 21
60	2/25	2/25	5418	N	Trench 22
61	2/26	2/26	5419	E	Trench 23
62	2/27	2/27	5420	S	Trench 24
63	2/28	2/28	5421	E	Trench 25
64	2/29	2/29	5422	N	Trench 26
65	2/30	2/30	5423	E	Trench 57
66	2/31	2/31	5424	N	Trench 32
67	2/32	2/32	5425	W	Trench 31
68	2/33	2/33	5426	N	Trench 30
69	2/34	2/34	5427	W	Trench 29

Photo No	Colour Slide	B&W Print	Digital	Direction facing	Description
70	2/35	2/35	5428	S	Trench 28
71	2/36	2/36	5429	E	Trench 27
72	3/1	3/1	5430	N	Trench 33
73	3/2	3/2	5431	E	Trench 34
74	3/3	3/3	5432	N	Trench 35
75	3/4	3/4	5433	E	Trench 36
76	3/5	3/5	5434	N	Trench 37
77	3/6	3/6	5435	E	Trench 38
78	3/7	3/7	5436	SE	Trench 60
79	3/8	3/8	5437	N	Trench 39
80	3/9	3/9	5438	E	Area stripped for compound along SW edge of site - SE end
81	3/10	3/10	-	-	ID shot
82	-	-	4414	S	Pre-ex view of site from NW corner of Field C
83	-	-	4415	E	Pre-ex view of site from NE corner of Field C
84	-	-	4416	E	Pre-ex view of site from NE corner of Field C
85	-	-	4417	N	Pre-ex view of site from E side of Field C
86	-	-	4418	N	Pre-ex view of site from S end of Field C
87	-	-	4419	E	Pre-ex view of site from S end of Field C
88	-	-	4420	NW	Pre-ex view of site from S end of Field C
89	-	-	4421	E	Pre-ex view of site from N edge of Field A
90	-	-	4422	SE	Pre-ex view of site from N edge of Field A
91	-	-	4423	SW	Pre-ex view of site from N edge of Field A
92	-	-	4424	S	Pre-ex view of site from N edge of Field A
93	-	-	4425	E	Pre-ex view of site from N edge of Field A
94	-	-	4426	N	Pre-ex view of site - Field B