CCEE11

CARNWATH CEMETERY EXTENSION, CARNWATH, SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Archaeological Excavation

for South Lanarkshire Council

CL/10/0013

November 2011

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY (UK) Ltd

REGISTERED IFA ORGANISATION

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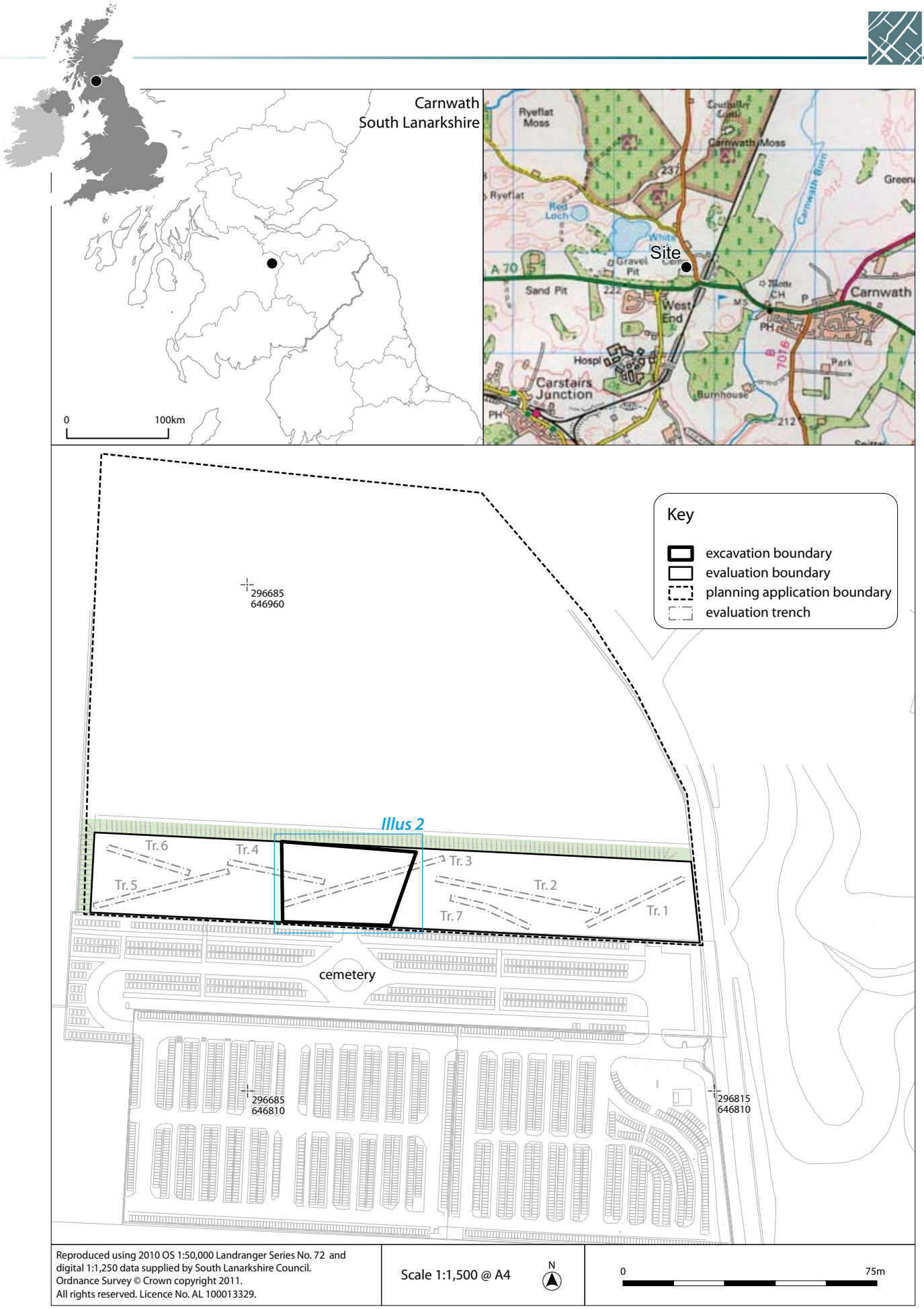


Illus 1

Site location

CARNWATH CEMETERY EXTENSION, CARNWATH, SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Archaeological Excavation

An evaluation was undertaken on land to the north of Carnwath Cemetery in response to an application for planning consent for an extension to the cemetery. A number of prehistoric finds have been made in the area and there was some potential for the discovery of buried remains. Five features were recorded in Trench 3: three small possible postholes and two pits. The largest pit was 0.9m in diameter, 0.23m deep and was filled with charcoal rich silt. Subsequently an area measuring 40m by 23m was opened centred on these features. This revealed a series of charcoal rich irregular features within a linear band of mottled brown sand, apparently heavily disturbed by roots. These features have been interpreted as a burnt out hedge line. Finds of white china and green glass were recovered from two of these features. The only other features were a posthole and an adjacent pit both filled with similar charcoal-rich material. The pit appeared to have been enlarged through root action and may have a similar origin to the pits described above. The posthole did not form part of a structure. Two lithics were also recovered from the site; one while cleaning and the other from the section: these have been dated to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an evaluation and excavation carried out on land to the north of Carnwath Cemetery, South Lanarkshire (NS 96686 46850; Illus 1 & 2) following an application for planning consent (CL/10/0013) for an extension to the existing cemetery. The application applies to an area covering most of the filed to the north of the present cemetery (Illus 1); this report covers an initial phase of work on a strip 23m wide at the southern end of the area. The work was undertaken on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council and followed a Written Scheme of Investigation submitted by Headland Archaeology and agreed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS); Paul Robins from WoSAS monitored the works on behalf of the Council as Local Planning Authority.

The site is located to the west of the village of Carnwath and is bounded by the cemetery to the south, the B7016 to the east and fields to the north and west. At the time of the work the field was used for pasture. The evaluation was undertaken on 4th October 2011 in wet and windy weather; the excavation was undertaken from 18th–20th October 2011.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

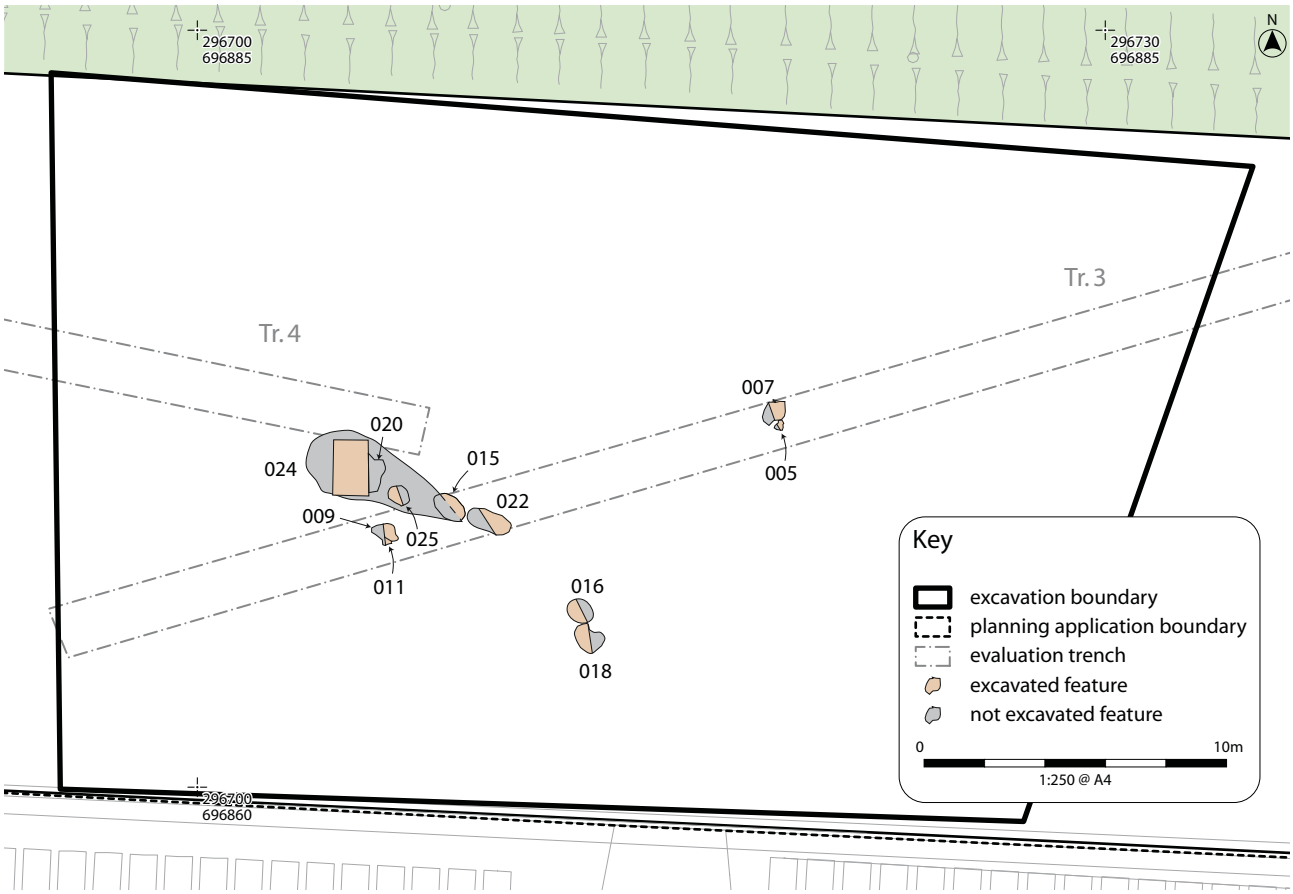
The proposed new cemetery is located in an area of some archaeological sensitivity and has reasonable potential to produce buried deposits. Several prehistoric finds have been made in the area, including a polished stone axe, a socketed bronze axe, a stone ball and a bronze spearhead. There are two Scheduled Monuments within 1km of the site. The 12th century Couthally Castle (SAM 3909) lies to the north and the 14th century Carnwath motte (SAM 1145) lies to the east, on Carnwath golf course just outside the village. The historic settlement of Carnwath, granted burgh status in 1514, lies to the east of the site. The cemetery is dated to the early 20th century from historic maps (Ordnance Survey 1898, 1911). An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Woodend farm, Carnwath (north of Couthally Castle), although no archaeological features were recorded (WoSASPIN 1526). An archaeological evaluation and eight watching briefs are recorded in Canmore as having been undertaken within the burgh of Carnwath.

3. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to identify, excavate and record any archaeological remains revealed; to report on the results of the work and to determine whether there is a requirement for further mitigation. Mitigation required excavation in order to determine the extent of the features revealed; to excavate and record the features and to report on the results of the work.

4. METHOD

An 8% sample of the development area was excavated as part of the evaluation. This comprised seven trenches, measuring 250 linear metres in total (400m^2), spread



Illus 2

Excavation area

across the evaluation area. The subsequent excavation trench measured 939m² (Illus 1 & 2). A 7-ton rubber tracked excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket was used to strip the topsoil, under direct archaeological supervision. Machine excavation ceased at the top of the natural geology or the first significant archaeological horizon.

All identified features were investigated by hand. All archaeological features were sample excavated and recorded. Evaluation trenches and features were located using a Trimble pole-mounted dGPS and the excavation area and features were located using a Total Station linked to a field computer running TheoLT software: all were tied into the National Grid and Ordnance Datum. Sections were drawn at 1:10 and plans at 1:20. Digital, colour slide and black and white print photographs were taken using a metric scale. Bulk samples, measuring 10 litres at a minimum, were taken from archaeological features. Samples were processed in laboratory conditions using a standard floatation method (*cf* Kenward *et al* 1980). All plant macrofossil samples were analysed using a stereo-microscope at magnifications of x10 and up to x100 where necessary to aid identification. Identifications were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers *et al* (2006).

5. RESULTS

A full description of all contexts and trenches can be found in the Appendices; a summary description is presented here.

5.1 Evaluation

Topsoil [001] comprising mid brown silty sand was recorded in all trenches and measured between 0.1–0.5m in depth. This generally overlay natural yellow brown sand [003] in the west of the site, changing to orange brown till towards the eastern end. Topsoil was shallower at the top of the rise at the east end of the site. In trench 5 the topsoil overlay dark brown sandy silt [027] at the western end of the trench. This was up to 0.3m in depth and was identified as buried topsoil, of relatively recent date. This and the shallow nature of the topsoil in the higher areas suggested that the topsoil had been subject to some movement in the recent past.

Features were recorded only in Trench 3. The trench was located in an area of lower ground and contained topsoil up to 0.6m in depth at the centre. The deeper area of the trench contained light brown sand subsoil [002] up to 0.25m in depth. The subsoil partly sealed two features,

[005] and [007]. These were initially revealed as patches of charcoal and burnt sand. On excavation feature [005] appeared to be a small posthole, measuring 0.4 by 0.23m and 0.25m deep (Illus 3). It was filled with light greyish brown gravelly sand [012]. The upper fill comprised dark grey sand and charcoal [004], representing a possible post-pipe. Immediately adjacent was pit [007] (Illus 3). On the surface the feature appeared as a small patch of charcoal and burnt sand with indistinct edges. On excavation this material occurred in patches within clean yellow sand [006] and extended beneath what was originally thought to be natural. The resulting excavated feature measured 0.88 by 0.6m, was 0.22m in depth and had a flat base but was fairly irregular in shape in plan. The patchy nature of the fill of the feature is indicative of the reworking of charcoal-rich material through root action, suggesting the feature may be a tree pit.

To the west of these features were three further features. These were located slightly higher up the slope and were sealed by topsoil. Pit [015] was sub-oval in plan and located at the edge of the trench (Illus 4). The pit was filled with brownish black sandy silt and charcoal [014], derived from *in situ* burning. The pit had also been subject to disturbance, visible on the south and west sides of the pit (see Illus 4) and this had resulted in a light brown sand [013] forming a thin upper fill of the feature. Two small pits with identical fills were recorded to the west of [015]. Pit [009] measured 0.75 by 0.6m and was 0.14m in depth. It was sub-oval with fairly irregular sides with a U-shaped profile (Illus 5). It was filled with brown sandy silt and gravel [008], with few inclusions. To the south was a possible posthole [011], which sloped from south to north and was 0.25m in diameter and 0.18m deep; it was filled with dark brown gravelly sand [010] and appeared to truncate pit [009] (Illus 5).

Most of the trenches contained narrow (0.03-0.05m wide) lines crossing roughly east to west and north to south (Illus 6). These are thought to be the result of recent cultivation or soil improvement; it has also been

Illus 3

Posthole [005] and pit [007] looking west

Illus 4

Pit [015] looking west

Illus 5

Possible postholes [011] and [009] looking west

Illus 6

Trench 4 showing cultivation marks/earth moving marks

Illus 7

Features [016] and [018] looking east

suggested they may be the result of earth moving. Several of the trenches contained irregular shaped features filled with material similar in texture to the topsoil. These were investigated and found to contain thick root matter and they are thought to be the remains of tree boles or roots.

5.2 Excavation

The excavation uncovered a number of features close to pit [015] discovered during the evaluation (Illus 2). Two features were found to the north-east of [015]. In plan the features appeared as separate blackish spreads, however on excavation the features appeared to have been intercut and had also been disturbed by roots and/or burrowing (Illus 7). Pit [016] was roughly oval in shape and measured 0.7 by 0.54m and was 0.1m deep. It was filled with dark brownish grey sand [017] with charcoal and shale flecks. To the east the feature had been heavily disturbed by roots and this edge of the feature and its relationship with [018] was unclear. Feature [018] was also roughly oval in shape. The feature formed a funnel shape in section and measured 0.45m in diameter at the top and 0.25m at the base. It was filled with dark blackish brown sand [019], containing flecks of charcoal. A small fragment of modern pottery, which may be intrusive due to its small size, was recovered from the sample. The fill continued beneath the southern edge of the feature, through root action or burrowing.

Associated with pit [015] were three similar features, all filled with black sand and containing shale and charcoal fragments (Illus 8 & 9). Pit [022] to the north was sub-oval in plan and measured 1.1 by 1m and was 0.19m at its deepest point (Illus 8). The relationship to [015] was unclear as they appeared to merge into each other. It was filled with black loamy sand [023] with occasional charcoal fragments; a piece of modern (19th–20th century) white glazed china was recovered from the fill. Pit [025] was smaller, measuring approximately 0.5m in diameter and 0.23m in depth. The pit sloped gradually from the eastern side to a sloping base and a vertical

western side. It was filled with dark brown-black loamy sand [023] (Illus 8). All these features were surrounded by a mottled brown sandy spread [024]. A slot was cut across this material and feature [020] (Illus 9). The spread was revealed to have very unclear edges and sides; the interface between it and the natural sand was very diffuse. Pit [020] was visible as another oval shaped feature in the section, measuring 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep. The southern edge of the feature was not defined. It was filled with black loamy sand with charcoal [021] and a fragment of modern green glass was found within the fill; a small fragment of modern pottery was recovered from the samples.

Two lithics were recovered from the site. The first was an overshot flake of chert, which was recovered while cleaning around deposit [024]. The second was discovered in topsoil on the northern section and was a scraper of possible Yorkshire flint, which had later been reused as a bipolar core (Julie Lochrie, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd, pers comm.). Both are thought to be of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES ASSESSMENT

6.1 Evaluation results

Soil samples were taken from four features for palaeoenvironmental assessment. A single sample, the fill [014] from pit [015] was processed at this stage and was assessed. The sample (01) contained a moderate amount of charcoal fragments with both oak and non-oak fragments present. The ring curvature suggests the charcoal comprised of both large trunk/branch wood and small branch wood. There also appears to be a small quantity of charred cereal grain in the sample as the occasional oat grain was noted. The charcoal fragments were up to 2–3cm in size which would suggest either *in situ* burning or deliberate discard.

Illus 8
Slot through feature [020] showing extent of spread [024]

Illus 9
Feature [025] and features [015] and [022] to east

6.2 Excavation results

Nine samples were taken during the excavation at and five were processed for palaeoenvironmental assessment. The samples were taken from pit and posthole features discovered during the excavation. The assessment aims to look at what the palaeoenvironmental potential of the material is and what evidence this material is showing us for the activities which once took place at the site.

Modern pottery fragments (<10mm) were recovered during processing but were not retained (see Appendix 2, Table A2.1). Natural black shale was also recovered from the majority of the samples in roughly equal amounts.

The concentration of charred plant remains recovered from the samples was very low and only amounted to rare instances of charred indeterminate cereal grain and small quantities of sedge nutlets. The indeterminate grain was identified in sample (006) was from the fill [019] of posthole [018] along with occasional sedges and oak and non-oak wood charcoal remains. The frequency of these charred plants suggests they may have been incorporated into the posthole by secondary depositional methods such as surface water run-off or root damage.

Pit [016] contained a common amount of mostly oak charcoal up to a maximum of 1cm in its fill [017] which may have been intentionally deposited or entered via secondary deposition. Pits [020, 022 and 025] are thought to be derived from an *in situ* burning event, these features all contained charcoal remains in their fills [021, 023 and 026] up to a maximum size of 0.8cm and ranging from rare to common instances which may indicate either *in situ* burning or the deliberate disposal of charcoal. Wood charcoal remains from the pit features were of a very poor and fragmentary condition and this along with their size suggests they may have become incorporated into the pits by accident.

7. DISCUSSION

The spread of features [015], [020], [022] and [025] associated with the deposit [024] are thought to be derived from an *in situ* burning event, as suggested by the size of the charcoal fragments recovered from the soil processing. The amorphous nature of the sand deposit and the diffuse edges of some of the features are indicative of action by tree roots and it is suggested that the features represent a burnt out hedge line, with concentrations of charcoal (the 'pit' features) perhaps representing areas where fires were set. The features [016] and [018] to the south are a little more enigmatic, however the similarity in the fills of the features and the level of root disturbance may suggest that they have a similar origin: if not wholly 'natural' in creation.

The features to the north and east contain similar fills and display evidence of root disturbance suggesting they may have a similar origin. The burnt sand associated with features [005] and [007] also suggests a burning event and the patchy nature of the fill of [007] demonstrates this may have been a surface burning of vegetation similar to that described above, with the feature representing the remains of a tree pit rather than a deliberately dug and filled pit. The possible posthole [005] does not form part of any obvious structure and, with the exception of [007] is isolated and it is therefore difficult to speculate as to its function. The features [016] and [018] appear a little more deliberate in their creation; however interpretation is hampered by the disturbance both on the surface and the apparent 'burrowing' into the sides of the features. In conclusion, there is evidence on site for some human activity in this area but this may be modification of existing natural features, such as hedges or trees than of deliberately constructed or 'dug' features. The dating evidence recovered from the features suggests they may be of relatively recent date. However, the area has been subject to recent ploughing, which may have incorporated later material into the features and there are no hedge lines in this area shown on 19th or early 20th century maps, suggesting an earlier origin. It remains possible that the disturbance may be related to recent soil movement in the area (see below). However, the presence of lithics on the site means that a prehistoric origin of the features cannot be discounted.

During the evaluation a cemetery worker stated that the area subject to evaluation had previously been covered in a soil bund and that the area immediately to the north was a former quarry. Consultation of maps from the first edition Ordnance Survey up until 1978 do not show a quarry in this area, although there is a sand quarry immediately adjacent to the west at West End Wood Quarry and there are contours shown on the map of 1978, although the area is now flat. However, a map from a 2006 thesis shows West End Wood Quarry immediately north and west of the cemetery, extending to the edges of the White Loch and eastwards to the edge of the B7016 (Phillips 2006, Figure 1), although the map may not be particularly accurate. Consultation with the quarry itself may resolve this matter.

8. REFERENCES

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Phillips, ER 2006 'Micromorphology of a debris-flow deposit', *Quaternary Science Reviews* Vol 25, issues 7–8, pp720–738. <http://nora.nerc.ac.uk/213/1/phillips_2006_QSR_paper.pdf> accessed 05/10/11.

8.1 Maps

1898 Ordnance Survey *Lanarkshire,* 1: 1056.
1911 Ordnance Survey *Lanarkshire,* 1: 1056.
1978 Ordnance Survey *Lanarkshire,* 1: 10, 000.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Site registers

Context register

Context no.	Trench no.	Description	Dimensions (m)
001	All	Mid brown sandy silt loam; topsoil	D: 0.3–0.6
002	3	Light brown silty sand; subsoil	D: 0–0.25
003	All	Light reddish brown sand and gravel – light brown sand; natural	–
004	3	Dark grey sand with frequent charcoal; possible post-pipe in [005]	D: 0.13
005	3	Sub oval cut with fairly steep sides and concave base; posthole	L: 0.4 , W: 0.23, D: 0.25
006	3	Light brown sand with patches of grey sand and charcoal towards top and sides and occasional reddish sand patches on top; fill of [007]	D: 0.22
007	3	Sub oval cut with steep sides and flat base; pit	L: 0.88 , W: 0.6 D:0.22
008	3	Dark brown sandy silt with 40% stones/gravel; fill of [009]	D: 0.14
009	3	Sub oval cut with irregular sides and un even base, slight V-shape in section; possible pit	L: 0.75, W: 0.6, D: 0.14
010	3	Light brown gravelly sand; fill of [011]	D: 0.18
011	3	Sub rounded cut with steep sides, slightly undercut to N, rounded base; possible posthole	Ø: 0.25, D: 0.18
012	3	Light greyish brown slightly gravelly sand; primary fill of [005]	D: 0.1
013	3	Light greyish brown sand with occasional charcoal; upper fill/disturbance of pit [015]	D: 0.07
014	3	Brownish black sandy silt with abundant charcoal; fill of [015]	D: 0.23
015	3	Sub oval cut with near vertical sides and flat base; pit	L: 0.9, W: 0.8, D: 0.23
016	Exc	Irregular shaped cut with gently sloping sides and flattish base, sloping to S with root disturbance; pit/tree pit	L: 0.7, W: 0.54, D: 0.1
017	Exc	Dark brownish grey sand with occasional small charcoal fragments; fill of [016]	D: 0.1
018	Exc	Irregular shaped cut with initial gentle slope becoming near vertical to a rounded/tapered base with root disturbance; possible posthole	Ø: 0.45, D: 0.65
019	Exc	Dark blackish grey sand with occasional small charcoal fragments; fill of [018]	D: 0.65
020	Exc	Irregular shaped cut with unclear sides and uneven base forming concentration of charcoal within [024]; possible tree pit	L: 0.58 (N-S), W: >0.45, D: 0.15
021	Exc	Black loamy sand with occasional small stones and charcoal, contained modern glass; fill of [020]	D: 0.15
022	Exc	Sub-oval cut with steep sides to SE, more gradual at NW with uneven base; possible tree pit	L: 1.1, W: 1, D: 0.19
023	Exc	Black loamy sand with occasional charcoal and fragment of white china; fill of [022]	D: 0.19
024	Exc	Mid brown – dark grey mottled sand with charcoal and shale fragments; linear spread of material associated with [015], [020], [022], [025]; possible remains of hedge line	L: 6.6, W: 2.3' D: 0.1
025	Exc	Oval/irregular cut with vertical sides to NW and gradually sloping to SE with uneven base, slightly rounded at NE; pit, similar to [022]	L: 0.6, W: 0.56D: 0.23
026	Exc	Dark brown-black loamy sand with moderate stones	D: 0.23
027	5	Dark brown sandy silt; buried topsoil	D: 0-0.3

Photographic register

Photo no.	Direction	Description
1	–	ID shot
2	N	General shot of cemetery with extension are in background
3	W	General shot showing cemetery extension to the right
4	SE	General shot of area during evaluation
5	W	Trench 1 from eastern end
6	W	Trench 2 from eastern end
7	W	Burnt features [005] and [007] in Trench 3 – pre-ex (20cm scale)
8	W	Burnt features [005] and [007] in Trench 3 – post-ex (20cm scale)
9	NW	Trench 7 general shot
10	W	Trench 3 features [011] and [009] (20cm scale)
11	W	Trench 3 pit [015] (20cm scale)
12	W	Trench 4
13	W	Trench 5
14	W	Trench 5 – excavated tree hole
15	W	Trench 6
16	W	Trench 6 – excavated tree hole
17	NW	Trench 7 general shot
18	W	Trench 3 pit [015] in section
19	NE	General view of initial strip
20	E	West facing section of [020] and slot through [024]
21	NE	Working shot – second strip
22	E	General view second strip
23	NE	SW facing section of [016]
24	E	W facing section of [018]
25	E	SW/W facing section of [016] and [018]
26	Not used	Not used
27	Not used	Not used
28	Not used	Not used
29	Not used	Not used
30	E	Possible hedge line – working shot
31	E	Possible hedge line – working shot (with scale)
32	SW	NE facing section through [022]
33	NE	SW facing section through [025]
34	SE	Deposit [024] and features [020], [025], [015], [022]

Sample register

Sample no.	Context no.	Description
001	004	Upper fill of posthole [005]
002	006	Charcoal rich fill of pit [007]
003	008	Fill of pit [009]
004	014	Fill of pit [015]
005	017	Fill of pit [016]
006	019	Fill of posthole [018]
007	021	Fill of pit [020]
008	023	Fill of pit [022]
009	026	Fill of pit [025]

Drawing register

Drawing no.	Plan	Section	Description
1	–	1:10	East facing section through posthole [005]
2	–	1:10	East facing section through pit [007]
3	–	1:10	East facing section through features [011] and [009]
4	–	1:10	East facing section through pit [015]
5	1:20	–	Plan of pit [015]
6	–	1:10	West facing section of [016] and [018]
7	–	1:10	W facing section of [020]
8	–	1:10	NE facing section of [022]
9	–	1:10	SW facing section of [025]
10	–	1:10	SW facing profile through [018]

Trench register

Trench no.	Description	Dimensions (m)
001	NE-SW, topsoil 0.1–0.5m, becoming deeper at W end; plough (?) scars running E-W; tree bowl, containing white ceramic at E end	30 x 1.6

Trench no.	Description	Dimensions (m)
002	NW-SE, topsoil 0.1–0.3m, deeper at E end and 0.1m at top of hill; plough scars	50 x 1.6
003	NE-SW, topsoil 0.3–0.6m becoming deeper to W; subsoil [002] from 7m–30m up to 0.25m in depth at base of dip in field; contains features [005], [007], [009], [011], [015]	50 x 1.6
004	NW-SE, topsoil 0.2–0.3m; field drain NE-SW; plough scars E-W and N-S	30 x 1.6
005	NE-SW, topsoil 0.2–0.3m average, deepening to 0.7m at extreme W end; buried (recent) soil [016] evident at W end of trench; tree bowl at E end	40 x 1.6
006	NW-SE, topsoil 0.3m; tree root disturbance at E end; plough scars	25 x 1.6
007	NW-SE; topsoil 0.2–0.3m; plough scars	25 x 1.6

Finds register

Finds no.	Context no.	Description	Dimensions (mm)
1	u/s	Grey chert, overshot flake; possible Yorkshire flint	L: 37mm W: 21mm Th: 10mm LN/EBA
2	u/s	Dark brownish grey flint scraper, later reused as a bipolar core	L: 20mm W: 20mm Th: 6mm LN/EBA

Appendix 2 – Environmental sample results

Context no.	Sample no.	Sample vol (l)	Ceramic		Stone	Shale	Comments
			Pottery				
			Medi-PM	Modern	Lithics		
017	005	30	–	–	–	++	Coal not retained
019	006	30	–	+	–	–	–
021	007	30	–	+	–	++++	Coal not retained
023	008	20	–	–	–	+++	Coal not retained
026	009	30	–	–	–	++++	Coal not retained

Table A2.1

Retent sample table

Context no.	Sample no.	Total flot vol (ml)	Cereal grain		Charcoal		Material available for AMS	Comments
			Cerealia indet.	Other plant remains	Qty	max size (cm)		
017	005	125	–	–	+++	1	Charcoal +	Mostly oak charcoal
019	006	200	+	*Carex* sp. ++	++	1	Charcoal +	Oak and non-oak charcoal
021	007	125	–	–	+++	0.8	–	Oak and non-oak charcoal
023	008	50	–	*Carex* sp. +	+	<0.5	–	Oak and non-oak charcoal
026	009	75	–	–	++	<0.5	–	Oak and non-oak charcoal

Table A2.2

Flotation sample table

Key + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant.

NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating.

Appendix 3 – Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY	South Lanarkshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Carnwath cemetery extension
PROJECT CODE	CCEE11
PARISH	Carnwath
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S)	Elizabeth Jones
NAME OF ORGANISATION	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT	Evaluation and Excavation
NMRS NO(S)	–
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S)	Pit
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	–
NGR	NS 96686 46850
START DATE (this season)	4th October 2011
END DATE (this season)	20th October 2011
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK	None
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited at RCAHMS. Reports to be deposited at RCAHMS and WoSAS.
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY	South Lanarkshire Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR	Headltand Archaeology Ltd 13 Jane St Edinburgh EH6 5HE
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