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Historic Building Recording


Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**Edinburgh Road
Biggar
South Lanarkshire
Archaeological Evaluation**

**Data Structure Report
No. 3158**

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This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

**Edinburgh Road
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CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	4
3.	Archaeological Results	4
4.	Conclusions	5
5.	Recommendations	6
6.	References	6

Appendices

1.	Photographic Register	7
2.	Context Register	8
3.	Summary of Excavation Results	8
4	Drawing Register	9
4	Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry	10

Illustrations (bound at rear)

- Fig. 1 Location map and trench plan
- Fig. 2 Ordnance Survey First Edition map (1864)
- Fig. 3 Ordnance Survey Second Edition Map (1896)
- Fig. 4 Ordnance Survey Third Edition map (1909)
- Fig. 5 Ordnance Survey, Lanarkshire Sheet XXIV, SW-SE (1950)
- Fig. 6 Photograph of site prior to evaluation works looking south
- Fig. 7 West facing section of Tr. 2 showing depth of soil
- Fig.8 Feature **004** in Tr. 4 from the south west
- Fig.9 Tr. 14 post excavation, looking south
- Fig.10 Tr.22 post excavation, looking east
- Fig.11 Large stone from Tr. 44

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in May 2014 at Edinburgh Road, Biggar, South Lanarkshire. (NGR: NT 04272 38157) (Fig.1). The work was commissioned by Story Homes.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) covering this programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of Story Homes. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).

1.2 Background

A planning application (Ref. No. CL/12/0358) has been approved for the redevelopment of former nursery land into housing (Fig. 6). The planning approval was subject to an archaeological condition that required an archaeological evaluation. Ordnance Survey map editions dating to 1864 (Fig. 2) and 1896, (Fig. 3) show the land as open farmland. Subsequent OS map editions in 1909, (Fig. 4) and 1950 (Fig. 5) record the parcelling of the land and the development of the nurseries in the 20th century.

In 1952 J K St Joseph noted that a Roman site was traditionally assigned to Biggar and that the most advantageous position was a level platform extending for 220 yds from the fountain to where the High Street narrowed as it bended northwards at the NE end of the town. He noted that little of this area was open ground and the search for surface traces was correspondingly restricted but that a gentle swelling that ran through the kitchen-gardens some 75' N of North Back Road might mark the line of a rampart. It is suspected that this corresponds to the area of the nurseries. A trial excavation in 1968 identified the possible rampart as being entirely natural in origin.

The topography of the proposed development area consists of a ridge of higher ground in the north which drops towards the south before gently rising again at the south end of the area.

In connection with this development area an archaeological evaluation took place on land to the immediate north and east by AOC Archaeology in 2007. No archaeological remains were indentified. This report covers the evaluation which was undertaken in order to evaluate 8% (4264m²) of the unevaluated portion of the development area.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of works reported herein were:

- To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development areas through trial trenching evaluation;

- To establish the vulnerability of any archaeological features to the proposed development;
- To propose mitigation measures where appropriate to avoid, reduce or offset any predicted negative impacts on the archaeological resource.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.

2.2 Evaluation

The proposed development area available for trial trenching measured c.5.33ha). A total of 47 trenches (Fig. 1) were excavated amounting to c.4455m² (over 8.3% of the total area).

All trenches were excavated to the first archaeological horizon or to the top of the underlying geology.

Overburden was removed by a tracked 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a 2m wide smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the brief were carried out by hand.

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench positions were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment and all trenches were backfilled.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Numbers in bold refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 2. A summary of the trenches excavated is contained in Appendix 3. General trench shots are provided on Figs. 9 & 10.

The deposits across the entire proposed development area consisted of topsoil **001**, this was a constant 0.3m in depth across nearly every trench except in a few cases where it dropped to 0.25m. **001** overlaid the agricultural subsoil **002**. This varied greatly in depth across the site from 0.1m to 1.1m. Below **002** was the natural geology **003**, this was identified in all the trenches. It consisted mostly of an orange/brown

compact gritty sand and gravel. Areas of grey/grown sandy clay and bands of sands and gravels were also indentified in some trenches.

3.2 Trial Trenching

Only a single feature was identified within the trenches (Fig. 8). A small, 1.1m, sub circular pit like feature, **004**, was uncovered in Tr. 4. It was shallow sided and had a flat base. The fill, **005**, was the same as the overlying subsoil **002** and was possibly the remains of a stone hole. A number of medium to large irregular stones were removed from within the top of **003** in various trenches during excavation, (Fig. 11). The void created instantly filled with soils and were very similar to the appearance of **004/005**

The northern end of Tr. 17 contained a large dump of modern debris cut into **003**. It was made up of ash, brick and broken crockery. This was consistent with the debris found mixed within and in dumps on top of the topsoil on the long strip of land to the immediate east of Northcrofts Road back gardens.

A number of Trenches had their length or location slightly altered from the original layout due to modern services. Tr. 27 was shortened as a low slung telephone wire crossed its proposed path.

Scanning prior to excavation with a Cable Avoidance Detector picked up a line of signals from a possible service meaning that Tr. 41 and Tr.42 were both shortened on their eastern ends. This service probably served the now demolished greenhouses seen in Fig. 5. No upstanding evidence was noted for the greenhouses themselves though the topsoil in that area does contain brick, brick fragments and small sections of cast iron pipe indicating that they were demolished thoroughly.

Scanning also picked up another possible service that ran across the proposed path of Tr. 37 meaning that the trench was moved to the north.

Apart from the feature in Tr.4 the other trenches were archaeologically sterile and no other features were noted.

4. CONCLUSIONS

A programme of archaeological trial trenching was carried out at the former nurseries at Edinburgh Road, Biggar, South Lanarkshire. The trial trenches were positioned to provide a random spread across the area.

Only one feature was uncovered, a small pit **004** that was most likely a stone hole.

5. RECCOMENDATIONS

No further works are recommended however it is understood that the decision regarding further mitigation lies with the WoSAS.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with WoSAS Sites and Monuments Record.

On completion of the mitigation works a summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

6. REFERENCES

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey First Edition map, 6'' to 1 mile (1864).

Ordnance Survey Second Edition map, 6'' to 1 mile (1896).

Ordnance Survey Third Edition map, 6'' to 1-mile (1909),

Ordnance Survey, *Lanarkshire Sheet XXIV*, SE to SE, (1950)

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Photo Number	Contexts/Description	Taken From
1	General view of site pre excavation	N
2	Trench 1 post excavation	E
3	Trench 2 post excavation	N
4	Trench 2 west facing section showing trench depth	W
5	Trench 3 post excavation	N
6	Trench 4 post excavation	N
7	Trench 5 post excavation	N
8	Trench 6 post excavation	E
9	Trench 6 north facing section showing trench depth	N
10	Feature 004 plan	W
11	Feature 004 sections	SW
12	Trench 7 post excavation	W
13	Trench 8 post excavation	W
14	Trench 9 post excavation	SE
15	Trench 10 post excavation	SE
16	Trench 11 post excavation	SE
17	Trench 12 post excavation	S
18	Trench 13 post excavation	SW
19	Trench 14 post excavation	NE
20	Trench 15 post excavation	SW
21	Trench 16 post excavation	S
22	Trench 17 post excavation	N
23	Trench 18 post excavation	S
24	Trench 19 post excavation	S
25	Trench 26 post excavation	N
26	Trench 25 post excavation	N
27	Trench 24 post excavation	N
28	Trench 23 post excavation	W
29	Trench 22 post excavation	W
30	Trench 21 post excavation	SE
31	Trench 20 post excavation	SE
32	Trench 27 post excavation	S
33	Trench 28 post excavation	S
34	Trench 29 post excavation	E
35	Trench 31 post excavation	N
36	Trench 32 post excavation	S
37	Trench 33 post excavation	S
38	Trench 30 post excavation	E
39	Trench 37 post excavation	S
40	Trench 38 post excavation	NE
41	Trench 39 post excavation	S
42	Trench 40 post excavation	S
43	Trench 41 post excavation	E
44	Trench 34 post excavation	S
45	Trench 35 post excavation	N
46	Trench 36 post excavation	S
47	Trench 47 post excavation	NW
48	Trench 46 post excavation	E
49	Trench 45 post excavation	W
50	Trench 42 post excavation	SW
51	Trench 43 post excavation	NE
52	Trench 44 post excavation	N
53	Large stone from Trench 44	N/A
54	General view of backfilled trenches	S

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context No.	Area	Trench	Description
001	N/A	All	Topsoil
002	N/A	All	Subsoil
003	N/A	All	Natural geology
004	N/A	4	Cut of stone hole
005	N/A	5	Fill of 004

APPENDIX 3: Summary of Excavation Results

Trench Number	Trench Size	Depth of Trench	Description
Tr1	45.5m by 2m	0.6m	N/A
Tr2	52.5m by 2m	0.65m	N/A
Tr3	50m by 2m	0.4m at each end and 0.8m in the centre	N/A
Tr4	53m by 2m	0.5m at the N end and 0.9m at the S end	Stone hole 004
Tr5	52m by 2m	0.4m	N/A
Tr6	51.5m by 2m	1.1m	N/A
Tr7	50m by 2m	1.1m at the W end and 0.95 at the E end	N/A
Tr8	52m by 2m	0.8m at the W end and 0.6m at the E end	N/A
Tr9	54m by 2m	0.75m	N/A
Tr10	50m by 2m	0.7m at the NW end and 0.55m at the SE end	N/A
Tr11	53m by 2m	0.7m	N/A
Tr12	52m by 2m	0.55m	N/A
Tr13	51.5m by 2m	0.5m at the NE end and 0.3m at the SW end	N/A
Tr14	50m by 2m	0.5m at the NE end, 0.3m in the centre and 0.7m at the SW end	Plough scarring in 003 visible in the centre of the trench at crest of ridge
Tr15	51m by 2m	0.4m at the NE end then quickly drops to 1.4m and 0.8m by the SW end	N/A
Tr16	50m by 2m	0.8m at the N end and 0.3m at the S end	N/A
Tr17	52m by 2m	0.7m	Modern cut at the N end filled with ash, broken crockery and brick fragments
Tr18	55m by 2m	0.8m	N/A
Tr19	50m by 2m	0.6m at the N end and 0.8m at the S end	N/A
Tr20	52m by 2m	0.8m at the SE end, 1m in the centre and 0.6m at the NW	N/A
Tr21	50m by 2m	0.7m at the SE end and 0.9m at the NW end	N/A
Tr22	51m by 2m	0.8m	N/A
Tr23	49m by 2m	0.8m	N/A
Tr24	52m by 2m	0.8m	N/A
Tr25	51m by 2m	0.9m at the N end and 0.45m at the S end	N/A
Tr26	52m by 2m	0.6m	N/A
Tr27	18m by 2m	0.6m	N/A
Tr28	49m by 2m	0.8m	N/A
Tr29	50m by 2m	0.9m	N/A
Tr30	49 m by 2m	0.4m at the E end and 0.8m at the W end	N/A
Tr31	51.5m by 2m	0.3m at the S end and 0.95m at the N end	N/A
Tr32	52m by 2m	0.7m at the N end and 0.45m at the S end	N/A

Tr33	52m by 2m	0.9m	N/A
Tr34	52.5m by 2m	0.8m	N/A
Tr35	51m by 2m	0.5m at the N end and 0.7m at the S end	N/A
Tr36	50m by 2m	0.5m at the S end and 0.8m at the N end	N/A
Tr37	41m by 2m	0.6m	N/A
Tr38	52m by 2m	0.7m	N/A
Tr39	50m by 2m	0.8m at the S end and 1.2m at the N end	N/A
Tr40	51.5m by 2m	0.45m at the S end and 0.7m at the N end	N/A
Tr41	40.5m by 2m	0.9m at the W end and 0.7m at the E end	N/A
Tr42	45.5m by 2m	0.6m at the NE end and 1m at the SW end	N/A
Tr43	52.5m by 2m	0.6m at the NE end and 0.9m at the SW end	N/A
Tr44	49.5m by 2m	0.8m	N/A
Tr45	40.5m by 2m	0.6m	N/A
Tr46	51m by 2m	0.7m	N/A
Tr47	46.5m by 2m	0.6m	N/A

APPENDIX 4: Field Drawings Register





No.	Sheet No.	Trench No.	Description	Scale
1	1	4	004 , south facing section	1:10
2	1	4	Plan of 004	1:20
3	1	4	004 , west facing section	1:10

APPENDIX 5: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Edinburgh Road, Biggar, South Lanarkshire, Archaeological Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	ERBI
PARISH:	Biggar
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	G Carruthers
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 04272 38157
START DATE (this season)	April 2014
END DATE (this season)	May 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Excavation of a possible rampart reportedly belonging to a Roman Fort showed it to be entirely natural. Discovery and Excavation Scotland, p50, 1968.
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An evaluation took place on the site of a proposed development area on former nurseries at Edinburgh Road, Biggar, South Lanarkshire. 47 trenches were excavated covering 4455 m ² or 8% of the site. No archaeological remains were uncovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Story Homes
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	gcarruthers@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS, Reports lodged with SMR and NMRS.



Key:

-  Evaluation trenches
-  Site boundary
-  Service
-  Service buffer

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Fig. No: 1 Revision: A

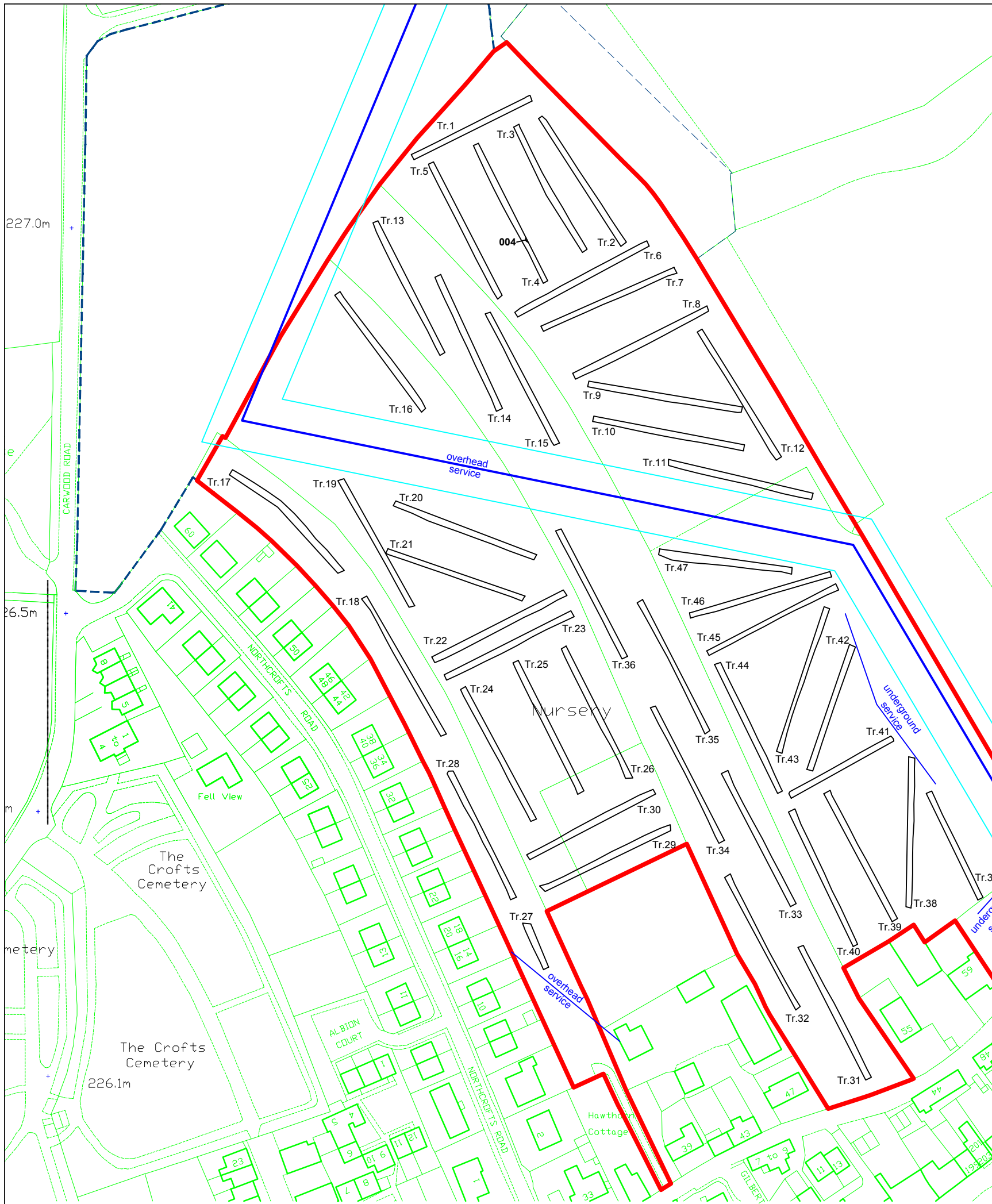
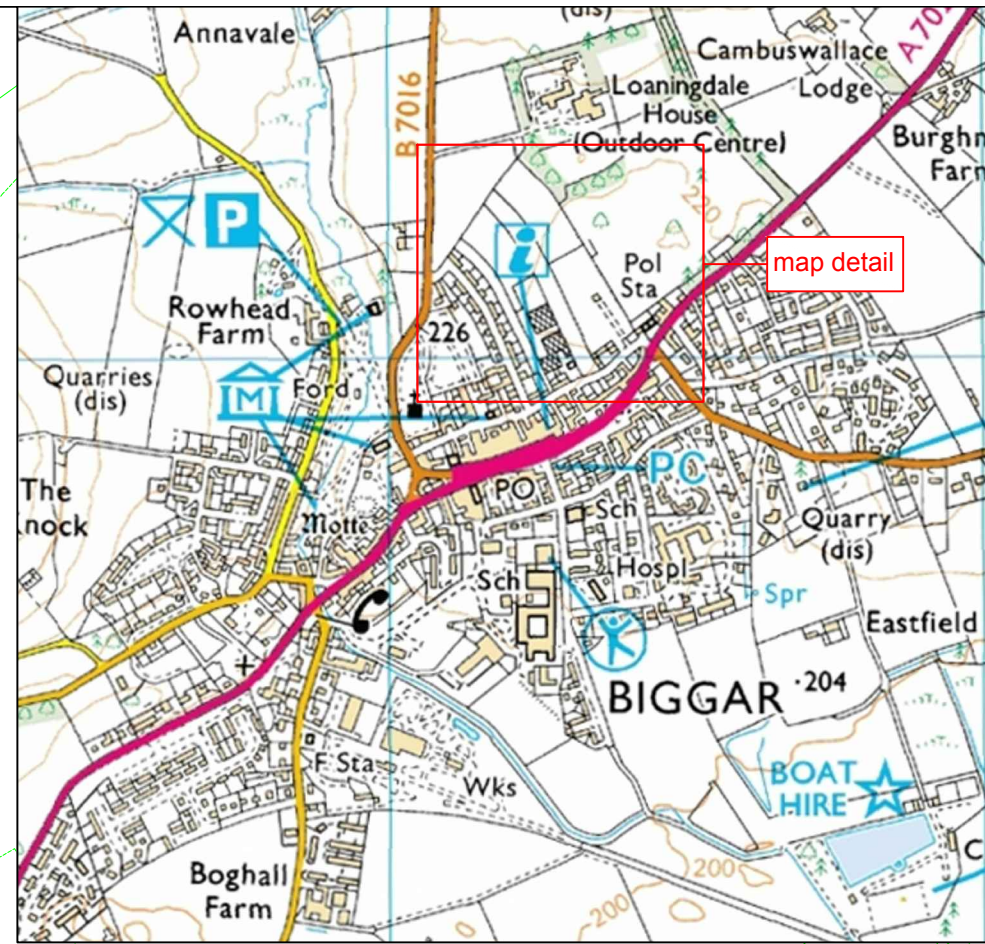
Title:
 Site Location and location
 of evaluation trenches

Project:
 Edinburgh Road, Biggar
 South Lanarkshire
 Archaeological Evaluation

Client:
 Story Homes

Scale at A3:
 1:1500

Drawn by: GC
 Checked: LW
 Report No: 3158



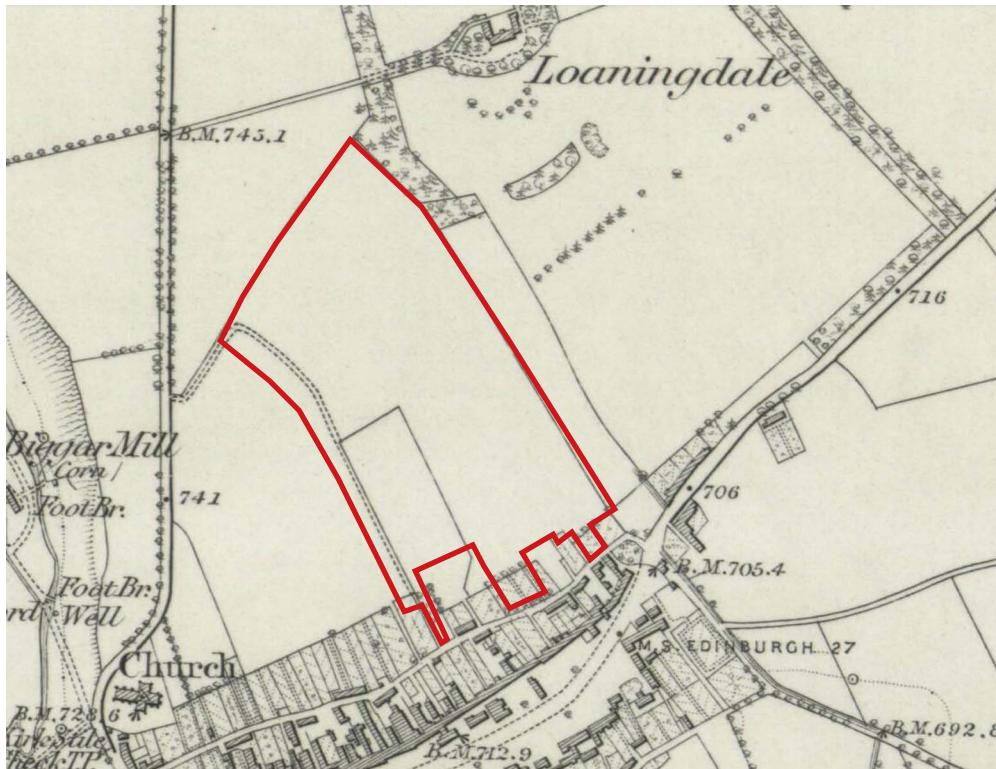


Fig. 2 - Ordnance Survey 1st Edition (1864)

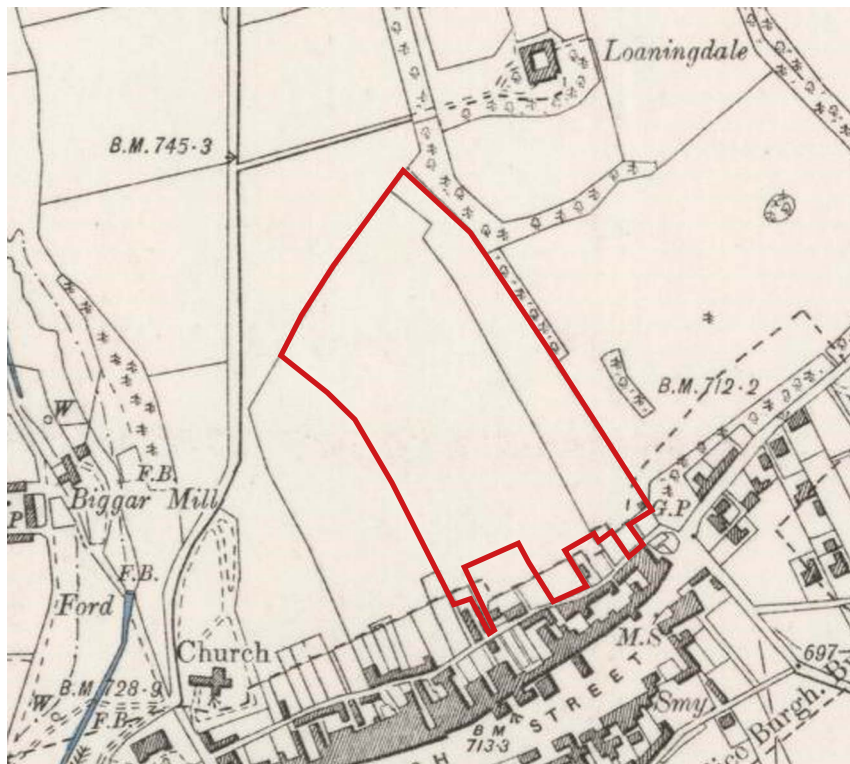




Fig. 3 - Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition (1896)

Fig. No: 2-3	Revision: A	Project: Edinburgh Road, Biggar, South Lanarkshire		
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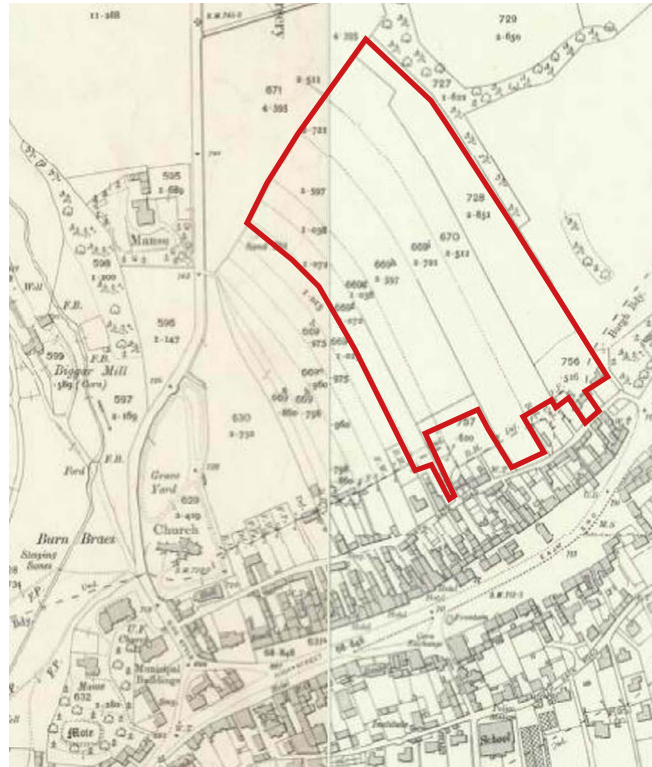


Fig. 4 - Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition (1909)

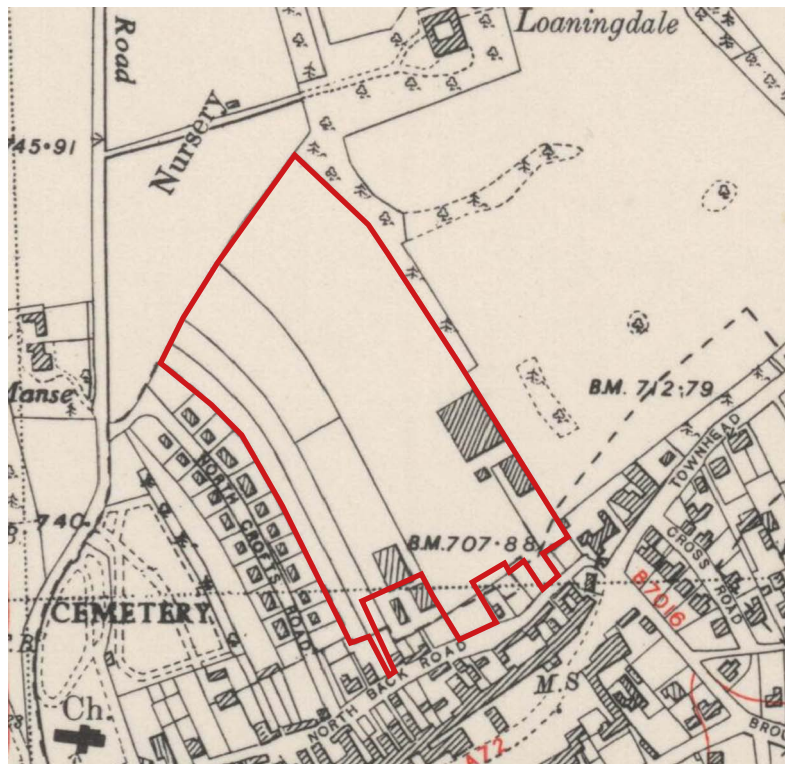


Fig. 5 - Ordnance Survey Lanarkshire Sheet XXIV, SE-SW (1950)

Fig. No: 4-5		Revision: A	Project: Edinburgh Road, Biggar, South Lanarkshire
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Fig. 6 - Photograph of site prior to evaluation works looking south



Fig. 7- West facing section of Tr. 2 showing depth of soil

Fig. No: 6-7		Revision: A	Project: Edinburgh Road, Biggar, South Lanarkshire		
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Fig. 8 - Feature 004 in Tr. 4 from the south west



Fig. 9- Tr. 14 post excavation, looking south

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Fig. 10 - Tr. 22 post excavation, looking east



Fig. 11- Large stone from Tr. 44

Fig. No: 10-11		Revision: A	Project: Edinburgh Road, Biggar, South Lanarkshire			CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ T: 0131 273 4380 F: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk
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