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Erection of a Primary School on land at Elsrickle, Biggar, South Lanarkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

Report No. 3639

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Planning Application No	CL/17/0383
Grid Ref	NT 0587 4326 (centre)

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

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in February 2018 in advance of the construction of a new primary school at Elsrickle, South Lanarkshire (CL/17/0383). The work was commissioned by South Lanarkshire Council.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the evaluation was produced by CFA, (18 January 2018), and agreed in advance with the West of Scotland Archaeological Service, (WoSAS), on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the project were:

- To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area 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

Work was conducted with regard to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance as appropriate.

2.2 Evaluation Strategy

An 8% (1360m²) trial trenching evaluation was required by the planning authority as advised by WoSAS and a total of 15 trenches were excavated to provide a total trenched area of 1362m² (Fig. 1). An appropriate stand-off zone was maintained around an underground septic tank and its connection to a nearby cottage.

The trenches were excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and other soil deposits down to natural subsoil or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was reached first.

Samples of all features of archaeological interest were hand excavated in order to establish their likely date, nature, extent and condition.

All hand 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.

Trench locations were recorded using industry standard surveying equipment.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

A single linear feature running north-east to south-west across Trench 1 was identified, (Fig. 2). An unmarked cast iron water pipe, was uncovered running across Trenches 1, 2 and 3. (Fig. 4). Trench 2 was staggered so as not to cut across the service.

Appendix 1 contains a tabulated summary of all the trench dimensions and a description of the trench. Numbers in bold and parentheses are context numbers and are described in Appendix 3.

Topsoil (**001**) was generally 0.3m to 0.4m deep. This overlay an orange-brown sandy silt subsoil layer of 0.2m to 0.3m in depth, (**002**); this in turn overlay the natural substrate (**003**), which generally comprised compact beige gritty sand and gravels.

In Trench 1, a probable ditch (**103**) was identified. This feature was aligned north-east to south-west and had sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 4) It had a width of 0.6m and a depth of 0.26m. The fill (**104**) was a dark brown sandy silt. This was indistinguishable from the topsoil.

No field drains were encountered during the evaluation, probably due to the free draining nature of the sandy geology.

No archaeologically significant features or deposits were identified.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Fifteen evaluation trenches were excavated which covered 1362m², slightly exceeding the 8% scheduled for evaluation.

No features other than a single linear feature (**103**) were identified. The fill was identical to the topsoil and it is likely that the feature was agricultural in origin and of no great antiquity.

Based on the results of the evaluation CFA recommend no further work; however, it is recognised that the final decision lies with South Lanarkshire Council as advised by WoSAS.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with the NHRE and copies of reports will be lodged with the SMR.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* and an online OASIS entry submitted on completion of the project.

APPENDIX 1: Summary of Evaluation Trenches

Trench No.	Size (m)	Depth of Trench (m)	Topsoil Depth (m)	Subsoil Depth (m)	Description
1	51 x 1.8	0.5	0.3	0.2	Cast iron water pipe and linear feature (103)
2	52 x 1.8	0.45	0.3	0.15	Cast iron water pipe
3	51 x 1.8	0.4	0.3	0.1	Cast iron water pipe
4	52 x 1.8	0.6	0.35	0.25	
5	50 x 1.8	0.45	0.35	0.1	
6	50 x 1.8	0.5	0.35	0.15	
7	50 x 1.8	0.5	0.35	0.15	
8	50 x 1.8	0.5	0.35	0.15	
9	50 x 1.8	0.5	0.3	0.2	
10	51 x 1.8	0.6	0.4	0.2	
11	50 x 1.8	0.5	0.3	0.2	
12	50 x 1.8	0.4	0.2	0.2	
13	50 x 1.8	0.5	0.3	0.2	
14	50 x 1.8	0.5	0.35	0.15	
15	50 x 1.8	0.4	0.3	0.1	

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Facing
1	General view of evaluation area	W
2	Trench 8	SE
3	Trench 7	NW
4	Trench 6	W
5	Trench 5	W
6	Trench 4	SE
7	Trench 3	NW
8	Cast iron pipe, Trench 3	SE
9	Trench 2	NW
10	Trench 1	SW
11	Trench 1, linear 103	NE
12	Trench 1, SW-facing section of 103	NE
13	Trench 9	N
14	Trench 10	E
15	Trench 11	W
16	Trench 12	SE
17	Trench 13	SW
18	Trench 14	E
19	Trench 15	W
20	General view of evaluation area after back filling of trenches	W

APPENDIX 3: Context Register

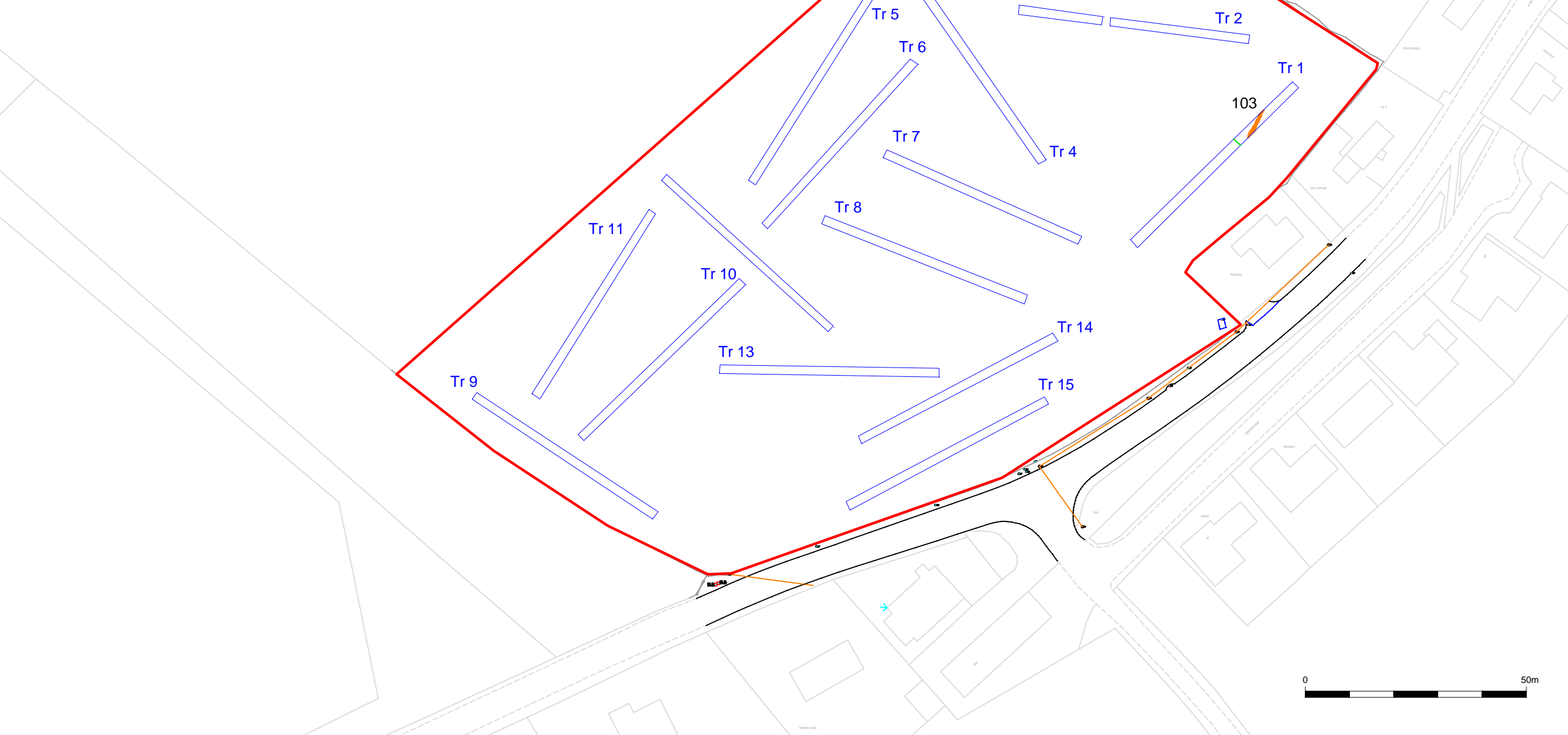
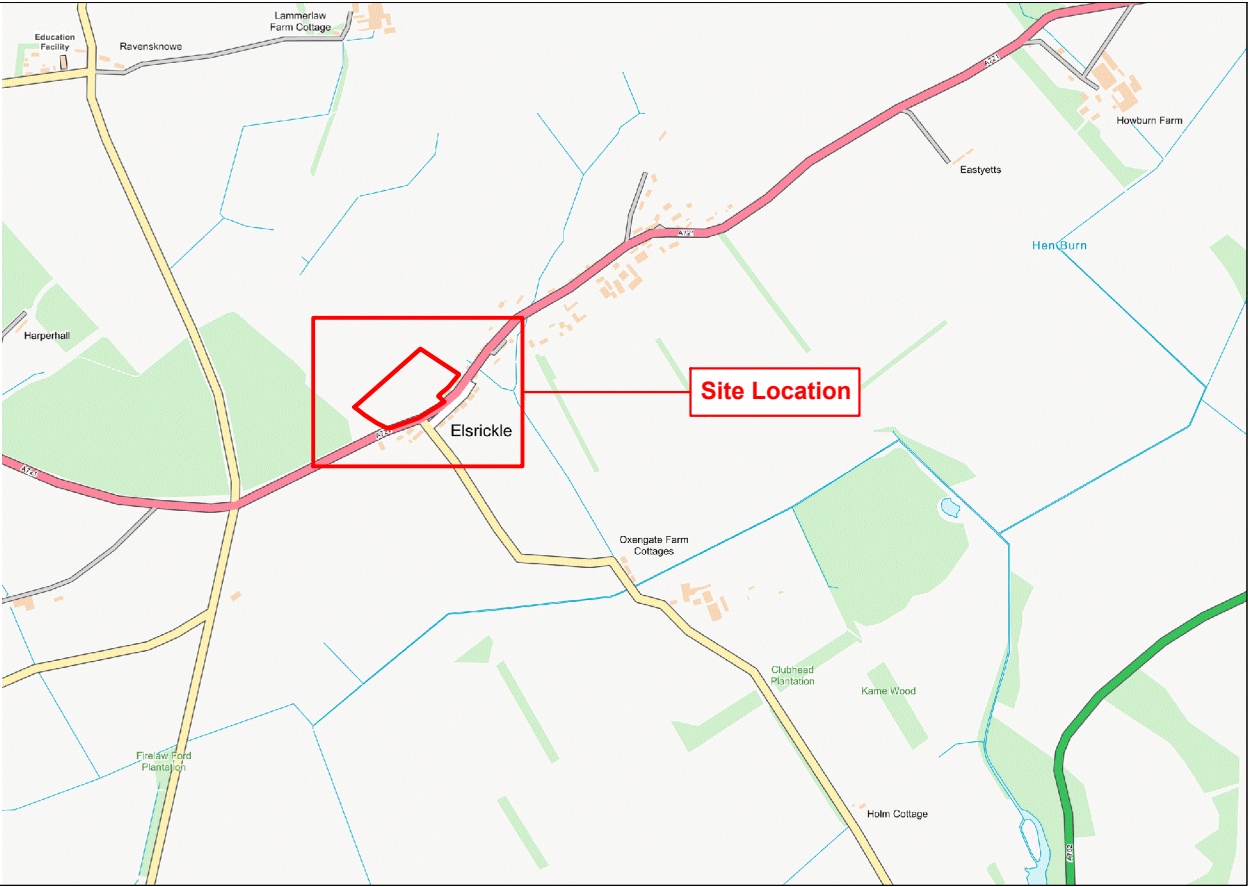
Context no.	Fill of	Type	Description
000		Deposit	Natural - compact, beige, gritty sand
001		Deposit	Topsoil
002		Deposit	Subsoil.
003		Cut	Cut of linear ditch
004	003	Fill	Dark brown silty sand, no different from topsoil

APPENDIX 4: Drawing Register

Drawing number	Sheet	Description	Section/Plan	Scale
001	1	SW-facing-section of linear 103	S	1:10

APPENDIX 5: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Erection of a Primary School on land at Elsrickle, Biggar, South Lanarkshire. Archaeological Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	ELPS
PARISH:	Walston
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Bruce Glendinning
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 0587 4326
START DATE (this season)	February 2018
END DATE (this season)	February 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Fifteen evaluation trenches were excavated which covered 1362m², slightly exceeding the 8% scheduled for evaluation.</p> <p>No features other than a single linear feature were identified. The fill was identical to the topsoil and it is likely that the feature was agricultural in origin and of no great antiquity.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	South Lanarkshire Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	bglendinning@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NHRE, Reports lodged with SMR.



Key:

- Site Boundary
- Trench location
- Archaeological feature
- Service Pipe

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Title:
Site location and location of trenches

Project:
**Erection of a Primary School on land at Elsrickle, Biggar
Archaeological Evaluation**

Client:
South Lanarkshire Council

Scale at A3:
1:1,000

Drawn by: SW	Checked: BG	Date: 27/02/2018
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Fig. 2 - Trench 1, linear feature **103**



Fig. 3 - Trench 1, south-west-facing section through **103**

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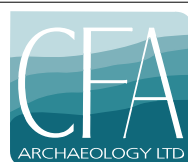
Drawn by: SW	Checked: BG	Date: 27/02/18
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Fig. 4 - Trench 3, cast iron service pipe

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