

The logo for Biggar Archaeology Group is a square with a dark brown background and a white border. The text "Biggar Archaeology group" is written in white, with "Biggar" on the top line, "Archaeology" in the middle, and "group" on the bottom line. Below the square, the tagline "Bringing the past to the present" is written in a smaller font.

Biggar
Archaeology
group

Bringing the past to the present

A landscape photograph showing a grassy hillside with a few trees in the distance under a blue sky. The bottom of the image is a solid green gradient.

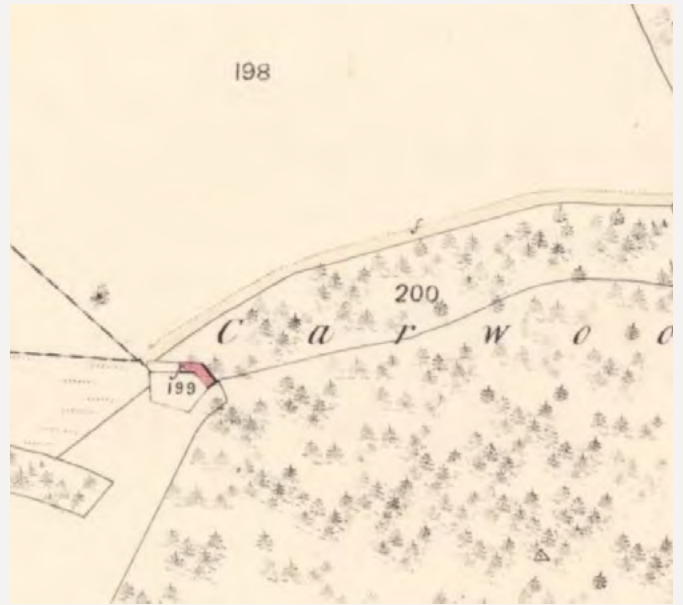
Braehead Cottage, Carwood, Biggar

Biggar Archaeology Group

2014-2016

Braehead Cottage, Carwood Hill

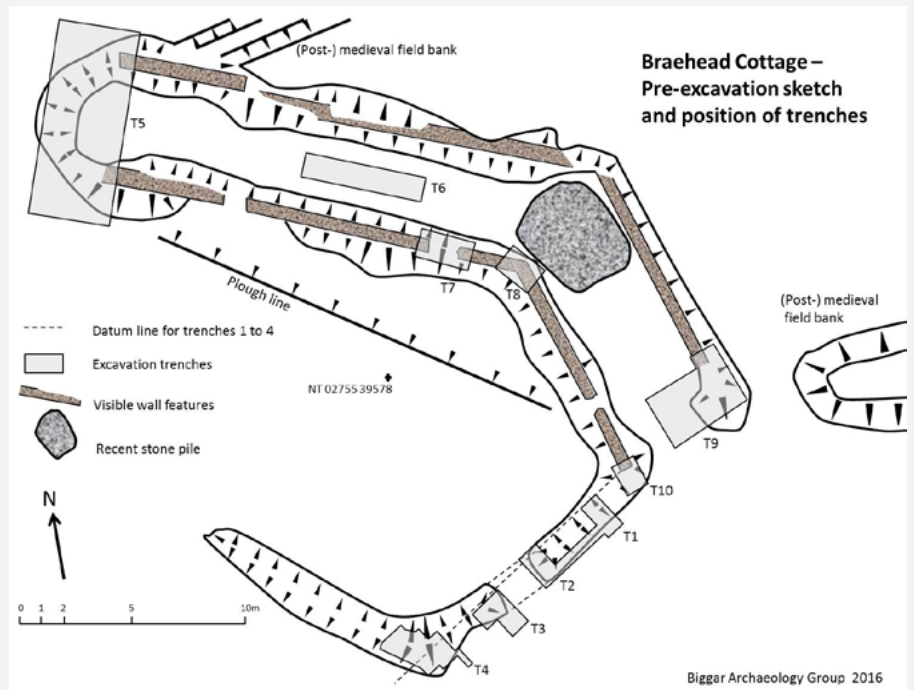
The remains of a mid-18th century building on Carwood Farm, Biggar, South Lanarkshire, are shown on the 25" OS map 1858-88 and are identified on Roy, 1747 as Braehead Cottage. The outline is clearly seen to this day at NT 02754 39590 and is formed of two sections connected at an obtuse angle. Field banks extend from the NW and SE ends of the building.



Braehead Cottage on OS 25" 1858



North unexcavated wall of building looking SE



Between 30 Nov 2014 and 01 Sep 2016 an investigation was carried out with an initial plane table survey followed by a series of exploration trenches.

The survey indicated gaps in the remains of the mortared wall and suggested entrances on the south wall, the west end and east end.

The southern coursed and mortared wall was of 0.4m in height and 0.6m width, and at a dip in the wall, a trench (T7) exposed a 1.4m wide space with both sides having neatly squared returns. The inner, eastern corner of the gap revealed a 10cm square recess up the height of the wall and dark staining at the original ground surface (o.g.s.) indicated that a wooden post had been present and that this was a doorway entrance.



Dip in south wall showing possible entrance



Trench 7 excavated entrance in south wall



Trench 7 interior door post setting

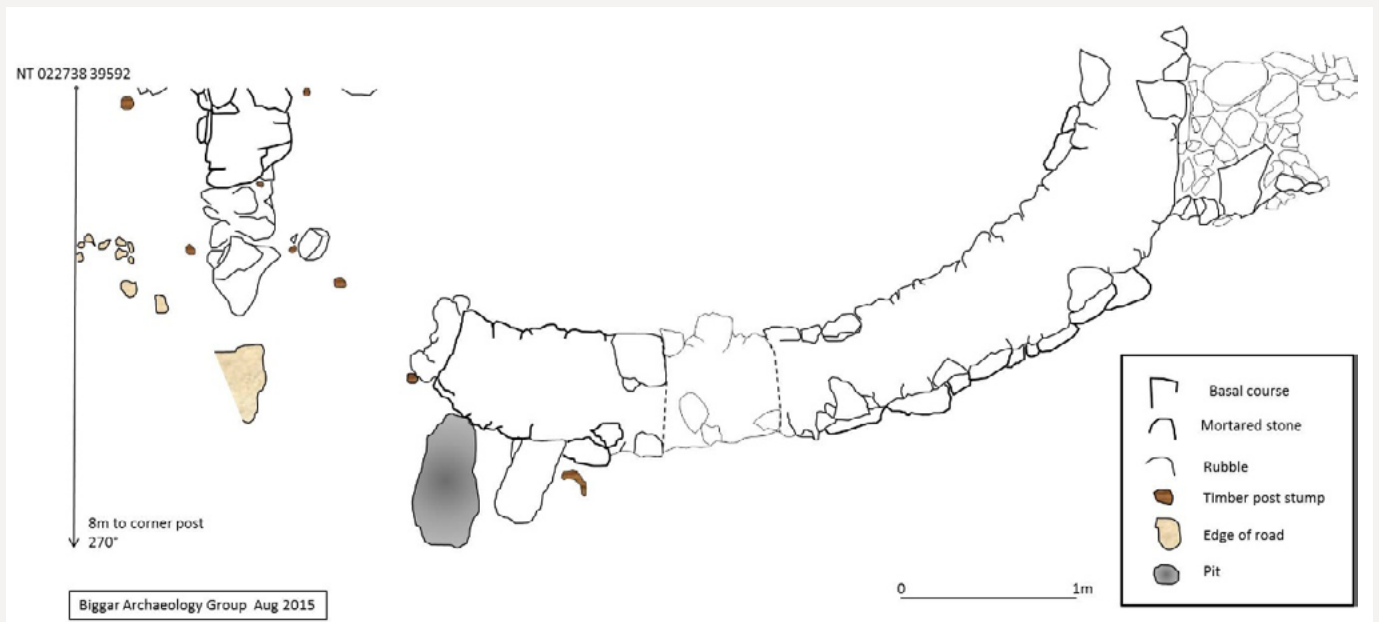
At the south-east section of the building, the ends of the two lime mortared walls were exposed. On the eastern wall a trench (T9) of 2.5m x1.3m was excavated and revealed a wall of 0.6m width and 0.4m height with a squared return. On the 0.4m wide western wall of the building, a trench (T10) also exposed a good, squared return to the wall. At a slightly lower level, an abutted bank wall 0.6m wide, was revealed, made of consolidated stone, and formed the northeast end of the 'garden' bank.



Trench 9 showing end of wall and rough bobbled floor to left



Trench 10 western wall terminal with abutted bank



Trench 5

At the west end of the building, a trench (T5) revealed a partially damaged semi-circular wall resembling what might be found in a building accommodating a gin mill. The trench revealed a substantially built mortared wall with 0.7m width and 0.3m height, and 7m in length. The semicircle had been breached at the northern corner and the remains of 6 modern fenceposts indicated demolition and a loose fill at this point. At the centre point of the curved wall a gap of 0.7m wide with good, squared returns had been built but had been infilled with substantial stones. The original purpose of the gap was unclear. The possibility of a pony powered gin mill, or drain was investigated by searching for a pad or similar at the radial centre of the circle, but nothing was found.



Curved end of wall at T5



Gap in curved end of building, T5



Trench 8 exterior obtuse corner looking SW

The survey had confirmed an obtuse corner join between the two wings of the building and to determine the nature of the wall joints and look for evidence of an internal dividing wall, a trench (T8) was excavated. The two wings of the building met at an angle of 120° but showed no interlocking stones and there was no evidence of an internal wall.

To investigate the internal floor surface, and because the OS 25" 1858-88 map indicated a roofed building at the eastern section, a longitudinal trench (T6) was excavated in the centre of the larger part of the building. There was no evidence of a dividing wall, a paved surface or drain. The floor surface in T8 was of packed earth with a small amount of stone.

A search of the south-east building for paved surfaces or drains which might indicate the purpose, was conducted by extending T9. The bottom of the trench was of poorly compacted stone and soil and showed no evidence of a formalised floor surface, drain or door.

A curved bank found at the southern end of the building continued in a south westerly direction for approximately 12m and then turned in a north westerly direction for 10m enclosing a 'garden' area. Four trenches were dug along the bank exposing a constructed wall on a mortar foundation of a possible earlier building which had been covered over by a mound of loose stone.

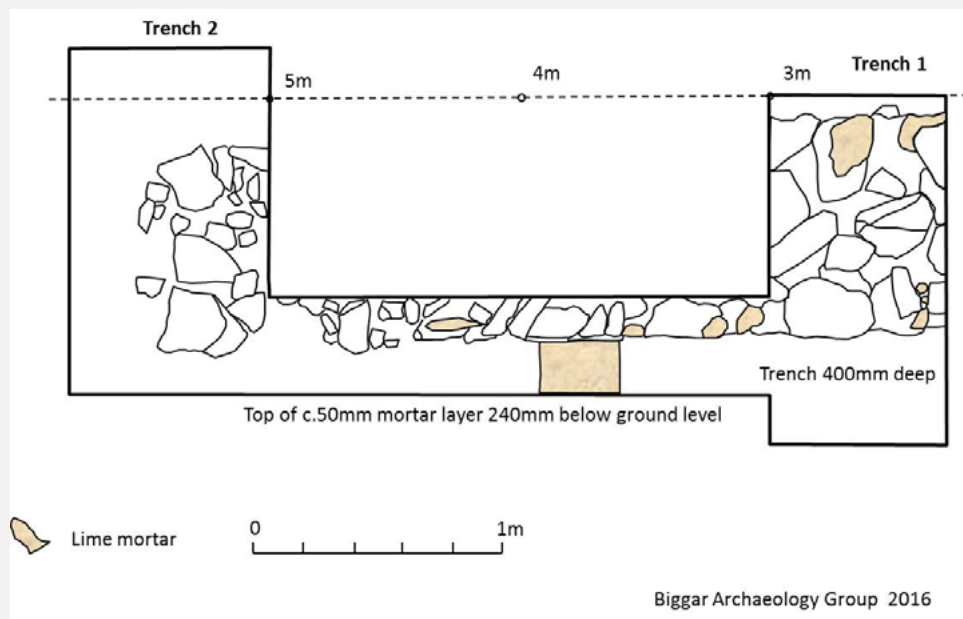
At T1, a straight edged wall 0.9m wide and 0.4 deep was exposed after the removal of the loose stone mound. The wall consisted of reused stone with mortar fragments attached and was loosely consolidated with soil and not mortar bonded. The southeastern, outer edge of the wall was exposed by a 0.2m wide trench between T1 and T2. A substantial rectangular spread of mortar was underlying the middle part of the exposed wall. The southern corner of the bank was excavated 2.0m from T3 at trench 4.



Trench 1 showing earlier building underlying garden bank



Trench 2 showing mortared wall underlying stone 'garden bank'



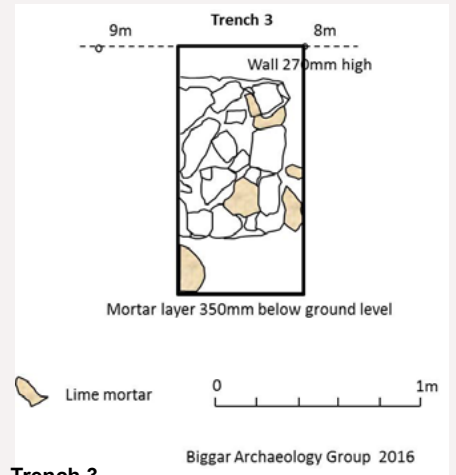
Trench 2

Where dips in the bank were surveyed, trenches T2 and T3 were excavated to explore a possible entrance. Removal of the loose stone mound at T3 revealed a good, squared return on a lime mortared wall 0.6m wide, 0.27m high. A spread of lime mortar extended below the base of the wall into the base of the trench. Trench 2 exposed an un-mortared setting of stone 0.4m northeast of T3 which formed the ragged end of a more poorly consolidated section of the bank wall. This appears to indicate the presence of a building pre-dating the garden bank.

The wall at T4 was variable in the quality of construction, being more uniform on the northwest wing. The corner joint appeared to be of loose infill to a robbed or damaged area. A substantial lime mortar patch of 1.5m x 0.6 m and 0.2m thick underlay a part of the northeastern wing of wall, being present on both sides of the wall. Trench 4 – contrasting building remains beneath garden bank



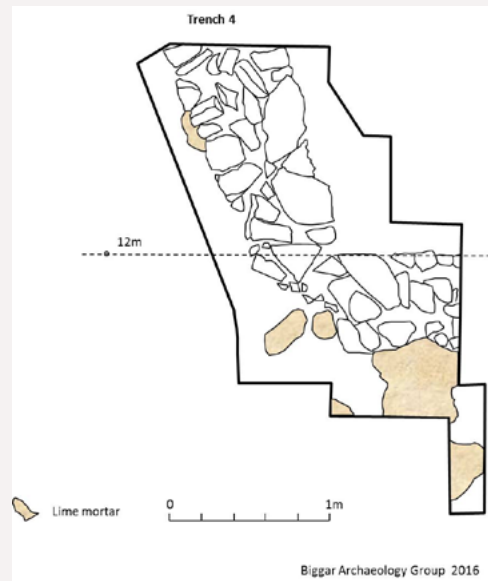
Trench 3 looking SW; entrance to building pre-dating garden bank



Trench 3



Trench 4 – contrasting building remains beneath garden bank



Trench 4

The plane table survey showed probable medieval or post-medieval field earth banks on 3 sides of the building. A bank 2.25m wide and 0.2m high, met the building wall at the northwest corner and ran in an easterly direction. Another, 2m east of the south-eastern corner of the building also ran in an easterly direction for approximately 100m. These banks together with two more distant banks were agriculturally ploughed out during the excavation before they could be investigated further.

Appendix

Braehead Cottage Finds

3 small pieces of chert, one a possible sparking flint, and 2 small of canal coal

Metal finds within the building walls consisted of 3 pieces of clog/shoe heel or toe caps. 9 squared shank, handmade nails above 100mm length, 25 square shank, handmade nails 70mm length, 10 square shank, handmade, blunt ended nails 40mm length and a 7mm square shank rod 400mm length tapered to a point at one end and curved and tapered to a point at the other end.

30 pieces of glass from at least 4 different items including 2 string neck bottle tops and 1 piece showing mould marks.

21 small sherds of ceramic of a domestic type including 15 pieces with transfer decorations and 6 of earthenware from 3 different items. 1 clay pipe bowl 23mm diameter rim and a piece of stem 20mm length with the mouth piece intact.

GLASS	# of pieces	description	Location
CarG 1	6	clear (blueish) from a sub rectangular bottle c.60mm wide, 35mm deep all corners rounded and thickened; string course neck/collar; ext diam of 25mm at lip. Base and top present.	
CarG 2	1	clear (yellowy-green) small piece 4mm thick.	
CarG 3	23	From dark green bottle, tapered string course neck/collar 27mm ext diam at lip. 21 small pieces and 1 larger piece. Suggestion of moulding present on 2 pieces.	
CarG 4	15	From mid green glass bottle, 10 small sherds, 5 slightly larger. 1 piece possibly showing a moulding line.	
CarG5	4	from dk green bottle inc bottom shard 60x23x20	Garden bank 2016
CERAMICS (P)			
CarP 1	14	White bodied vessel, base foot c.80mm diam, blue bands, wobbly green decoration-might be hand applied, 7 body pieces, 3 base pieces, also 4 pieces with same blue bands and wobbly pattern but pink.	
CarP 2	6	3 plain white high glaze pieces, fine matrix, one with rim. 1 brown glaze with white matrix, 2 blue and white transfer patterned glaze with rough matrix.	
CarP 3	2	Complete clay pipe bowl, ext rim 23mm diam some faint indents outside rim also the mouth piece section of the stem, shaped and 20mm long.	
CarP4	9	Fragments of blue/white pottery from 35x12 to 10x6	Garden bank
CarP5	1	Sm fragment of cream on terra cotta pottery 15x4	Garden bank
CarP6	10	small pot sherds, 5 blue/white transfer ware inc 2 rims 40x25x4 to 15x12x4. 1 blue/red/white trans ware 27x20x4. 3 brown glazed whiteware inc 1 handle 35x25x10. 1 sm pipe stem	
carp 7	1	neolithic pot rim sherd	
LITHIC			
CarL 1	5	1 chert flake with percussion marks from outer core; possible nibbling on one edge. One chert squarish flake with sharp leading edge; a possible striking flint. One small chert chunk..	
METAL			
CarM 1	3	"horseshoe" shaped heel and/or toe pieces for clogs or shoe, different sizes, complete but one is in two parts.	
CarM 2	9	6 large nails c.100mm length, hand made, squared shanks and tapered ends. 3 partial large nails	
CarM 3	25	25 squared shank nails c.70mm length hand made with tapered ends	
CarM 4	10	squared shank, hand made nails c.40mm length, blunt ended	
CarM 5	3	3 small roundish rusted conglomerations not identifiable visually	
CarM 6	1	7mm squared shank rod c.400mm length. Straight and tapered to point at one end, curved and tapered to point at the other end with a rusted conglomeration at the curved end	
CarM 7	16	square shank hand made nails, various size	NT 027395
Mortar	1	lump of mortar with embedded stone	

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