

Long Walk Stables, Kilmartin:

Watching Brief Report



On behalf of: O-Fish-Shell Ltd
Ardwork
Ardfern
Argyll
PA31 8QN

National Grid Reference (NGR): NR 8272 9587

AOC Archaeology Project No: 20392

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Timing: February 2007

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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of O-Fish-Shell Ltd during ground-breaking works associated with the construction of a stable block, field shelter and generator shed at a field south of Long Walk, Kilmartin, Lochgilphead, Argyll (Figures 1 & 2). The archaeological works were designed to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Argyll and Bute Council, as advised by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS – case officer Mr. Paul Robbins) and are in accordance with the principles inherent in NPPG 5 (Scottish Office 1994) and PAN 42 (Scottish Office 1994a).
- 1.2 The watching brief was conducted on 15th February 2007. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning background

- 2.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by O-Fish-Shell Ltd during ground-breaking works associated with a stable development to meet the terms of a planning condition. The local authority, Argyll and Bute Council, is advised by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) with the required works being in accord with NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a).

2.2 Location

- 2.2.1 The development site is located at a field south of Long Walk, Kilmartin, Argyll (NGR: NR 8272 9587) (Figure 1). The development site adjoins an area of open ground incorporating an oval arena, hard-standing and areas of grazing (Figure 2).

2.3 Archaeological background

- 2.3.1 The Kilmartin Valley represents one of the richest archaeological landscapes in Scotland. The extraordinary concentration and diversity of monuments, particularly ritual sites, distinguishes the Kilmartin valley as an area of outstanding archaeological importance.
- 2.3.2 Prior to the watching brief no known archaeological sites lay within the proposed development area. However, there existed the possibility that the remains of unrecorded archaeological features surviving within the development area; as yet unknown in the historical, cartographic or aerial photographic record.

3. OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- i) to monitor ground-breaking works associated with the development and to prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
- ii) to undertake the immediate recording of isolated finds of moderately significant archaeological material that would be disturbed by construction activities;

4. METHOD

4.1 Stripping and excavation

- 4.1.1 The entire area of the stable building (c. 240 m²) was machine stripped using a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditchless bucket with a width of 1.8 m under constant archaeological direction. All stripping was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures. Machine excavation was carried out in shallow spits and ceased on the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil.
- 4.1.2 All significant archaeological features were cleaned and fully defined and were fully excavated and recorded in order to determine their character, function, condition, nature and date.
- 4.1.3 Finds and archaeological features readily demonstrable as being of 19th or 20th century date were not considered archaeologically significant.
- 4.1.4 A photographic record of all invasive works was compiled (Appendix 1).

5. RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 15th February 2007 in predominately wet and dull weather conditions. The area of the stable building was excavated to the natural subsoil. The area of excavation covered c. 240 m². An evaluation trench (18 m²), aligned north-east to south-west, was placed across the area for a field shelter to the south of the stables.

5.2 Soils

- 5.2.1 The topsoil across the site varied from a minimum of 0.40 m to a maximum of 0.90 m. It consisted of dark brown peat layers with few inclusions. The natural subsoil was composed of compact, mid brown sandy clay with occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions. No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The watching brief on ground-breaking works found neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts.
- 6.2 Given the above findings, the significant balance of probability is that the development area is archaeologically sterile. No further archaeological works are considered necessary.

7. REFERENCES

SOEnd 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish Office Environment Department.

SOEnd 1994a *Planning advice Note 42, Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish Office Environment Department.

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Black and White Print 1

Frame	Detail	From
1	Sample stratigraphy of the stable building development area	E
2	General shot of the stable building development area	SE
3	General shot of the stable building development area	SE
4	Shot of trench across area for field shelter	NE

APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Argyll and Bute Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Long Walk Stables, Kilmartin
PARISH:	Kilmichael Glassary
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Robert McMorran
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	Centred NR 8272 9587
START DATE	15 th February 2007
END DATE	15 th February 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief during ground-breaking works associated with the construction of a stable block, field shelter and generator shed at a field south of Long Walk, Kilmartin, Lochgilphead, Argyll, observed neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts.
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20392
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	O-Fish-Shell Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
ARCHIVE LOCATION	National Monuments Record of Scotland

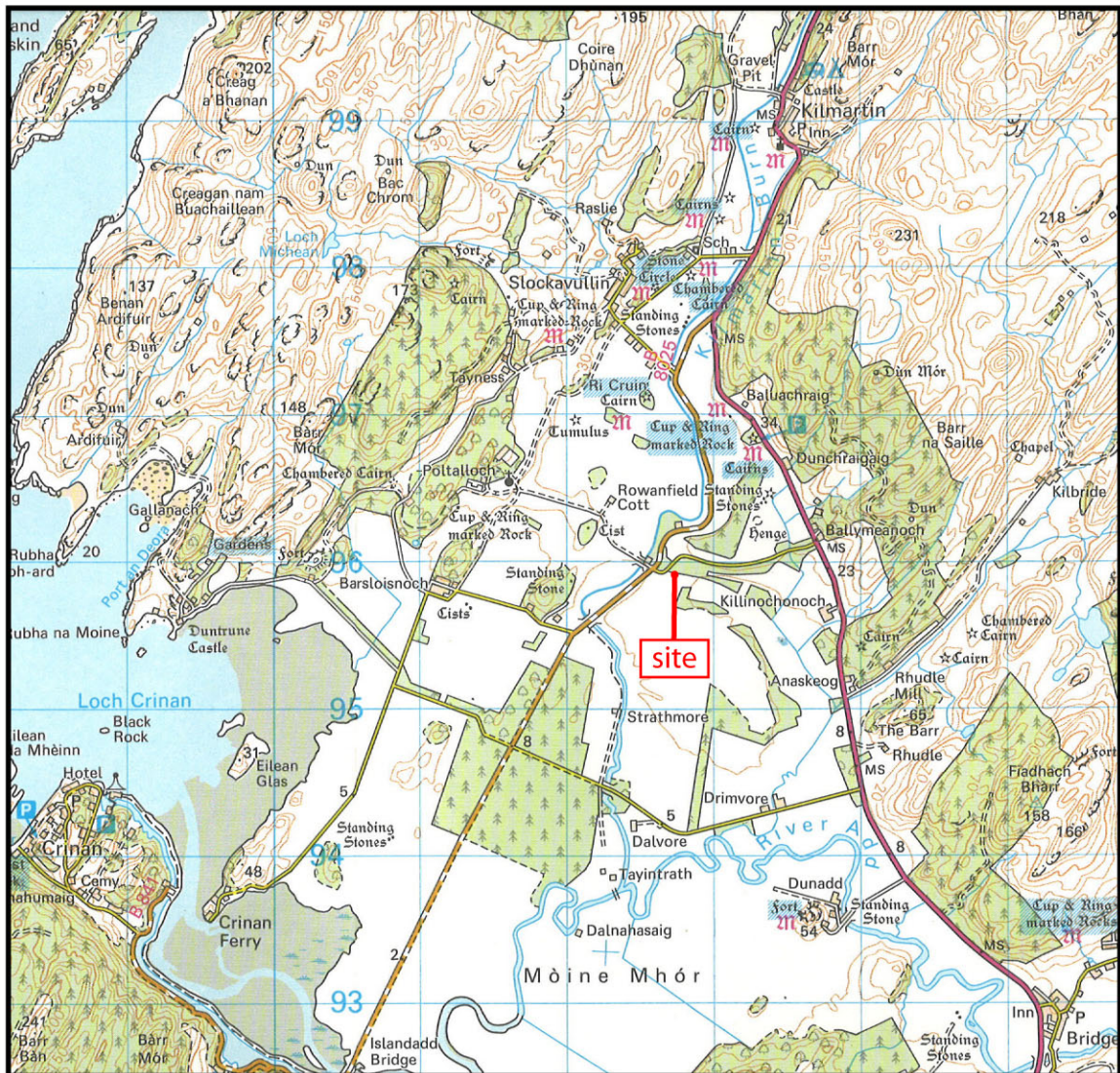
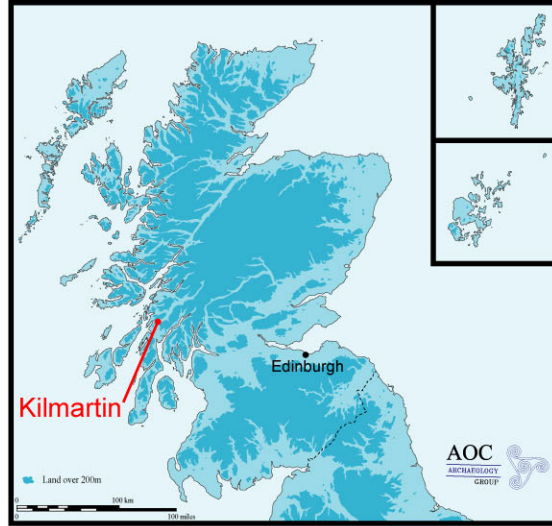


Figure 1: Site location

