

Dalry Road, Ardrossan: Evaluation

Data Structure Report

On behalf of: McMillan & Cronin Architects,
24 Main Street,
Largs
KA30 8AB

National Grid Reference (NGR): NS 252 432

AOC Archaeology Project No: 20551

Prepared by: Lindsay Dunbar

Illustrations by: Graeme Carruthers

Timing: May 2007

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology
Edgefield Industrial Estate
Edgefield Road
Loanhead
Midlothian
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
Email. admin@aocscot.co.uk

0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by McMillan & Cronin in respect to a proposed development at Dalry Road, Ardrossan. The proposed development site lies within the administrative area of North Ayrshire Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). WoSAS recommended an intrusive archaeological evaluation of the development area prior to the determination of any planning application. The work was required in accordance with NPPG 5 (SOEnD 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnD 1994a). A programme of works designed to fully satisfy and meet the anticipated requirements of North Ayrshire Council, as advised by WoSAS, was outlined in a *Written Scheme of Investigation*, WSI (Cook 2007).
- 0.2 Stage 1 of the archaeological works as stated in the WSI (Cook 2007) was designed to determine the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area by means of an intrusive field evaluation.
- 0.3 The evaluation trenches uncovered no features of archaeological significance. The topsoil was found to contain later 19th Century and 20th Century ceramic and glass sherds with Later 20th Century debris, such as plastic also present lying across the site. The presence of both stone rubble drains and a variety of ceramic field drains indicates that numerous attempts have been made to improve this area of land.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site location

- 1.1.1 The proposed development site is located to the west of Dalry Road, Ardrossan, North Ayrshire and centred on (NGR: NS 235 441). The site is bounded to the south by housing and to the north by an industrial area, to the east is the Mill Burn and to the west is Dalry Road. The proposed development covers an area of approximately 2.764 hectares. However, the development area subject to evaluation trenching covers approximately 2 ha.

1.2 Archaeological background

- 1.2.1 There are no known archaeological remains within the area affected by the proposed development.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the Stage 1 evaluation were to:

- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- ii) should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, to prepare a mitigation strategy compliant with NPPG 5 and PAN 42.

3 METHOD

- 3.1 The *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Cook 2007) proposed the excavation of trenches equating to at least 5% of the development area. The site covered 2 ha resulting in an evaluation requiring investigation of 1000 m². The proposed trench location as agreed prior to the works beginning with WoSAS required modification in the field in light of the current ground conditions. For example, Trenches 7 and 8 had to be shortened due to the presence of standing water and the trenches becoming inundated by water.
- 3.2 In total ten trenches were excavated totalling 1000 m² which equates to 5 % of the proposed development area. Figure 1 shows the location of each trench.
- 3.3 All trenches were excavated with a 13 tonne tracked 360° excavator using a 2.0 m wide ditching bucket. The trench details are summarised in Appendix 1.
- 3.4 Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through the made ground to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits.
- 3.5 At all times the evaluation trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures detailed with the WSI (Cook 2007).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The weather conditions during the evaluation were dry. The works were conducted between 14th and 16th May 2007.
- 4.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as a series of appendices:
 - i) Appendix 1 contains trench summaries;
 - ii) Appendix 2 contains the photographic register;
 - iii) Appendix 3 reproduces the Discovery & Excavation entry.

4.2 Overview

- 4.2.1 No archaeological significant features, deposits or artefacts were encountered during the evaluation. Examination of the spoil from trenches did not lead to the recovery of any archaeologically unstratified artefacts.
- 4.2.2 The entire development area was crossed by a variety of drainage features. There were a few examples of rubble drains with a much greater quantity of ceramic field drains. The subtle differences in alignments and differing forms of the ceramic drains would suggest more than one attempt at was made at improving this land over the last century or so.

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1. The evaluation trenching provided comprehensive coverage across the site and the trenches were adjusted in the field to ensure the most suitable topographic features were examined. However no archaeology was encountered. The lack of finds from the spoil would also suggest that no significant archaeology lies within the development area.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 We recommend that given the scale of the evaluation undertaken that no further works are required.

7. REFERENCES

Cook, M. 2007 *Dalry Road, Ardrossan Evaluation Written of Investigation*
AOC Archaeology Client Report

SOEnD 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline NPPG 5. Archaeology and Planning*. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

SOEnD 1994a *Planning Advice Note 42. Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	52 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	104 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth to Subsoil</i>	Between 0.28 m at E end and 0.45 m at W end
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology. 8 N-S aligned ceramic field drains & 1 rubble field drain between 39m-43.50
<i>Finds</i>	20/19 th century white ceramic and late 20 th century debris (noted)

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	52 m by 2 m
<i>Total area</i>	104 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth to Subsoil</i>	Between 0.33 m at E end and 0.45m at W end
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology. Burnt material spread 4m-6m & stone rubble drain between 41m-42m
<i>Finds</i>	1 clear glass sherd (noted)

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	52 m by 2 m
<i>Total area</i>	104 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth to Subsoil</i>	Between 0.44 m at E end and 0.20 m at W end
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology. 8 ceramic drains aligned N-S
<i>Finds</i>	19 th /20 th century glass & ceramics & late 20 th century debris (noted)

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	55 m by 2 m
<i>Total area</i>	110 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth to Subsoil</i>	Between 0.30 m at SE end and 0.32-0.45 m at NW end
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology. 1 ceramic drain aligned N-S & 1 stone drain aligned c. NE-SW. Plough scarred E-W
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NNW-SSE
<i>Depth to Subsoil</i>	Between 1 m at SSE end and 0.35 m at NNW end
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology. 10 ceramic drains aligned N-S & 1 stone rubble drain aligned E-W
<i>Finds</i>	None, redeposited topsoil & building debris

Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	49 m by 2 m
<i>Total area</i>	98 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth to Subsoil</i>	Between 0.31 m at SE end and 0.34 m at NW end
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology. 6 ceramic drains, aligned N-S
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	42 m by 2 m
<i>Total area</i>	84 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NNW-SSE

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Depth to Subsoil Between 0.31 m at SSE end and 0.41 m at NNW end.
Significant Features No archaeology. 1 ceramic drain aligned N-S
Finds None

Trench 8

Dimensions 43 m by 2 m
Total area 86 m²
Orientation E-W
Depth to Subsoil Between 0.28 m at W end and 0.36 m at E end
Significant Features No archaeology. Building debris & upper surface of subsoil.
Finds None

Trench 9

Dimensions 51m by 2 m
Total area 102 m²
Orientation c. NW-SE
Depth to Subsoil Between 0.34 m at NW end and 0.31 m at SE end
Significant Features No archaeology.
Finds None

Trench 10

Dimensions 54 m by 2 m
Total area 108 m²
Orientation NW-SE
Depth to Subsoil Between 0.24 m at NW end and 0.26 m at SE end
Significant Features No archaeology. Layer of burnt ash/blaze type material 0.05 deep along NE side of trench. At c. 27m-35m increase of building debris within topsoil/upper surface of subsoil, i.e. brick & concrete
Finds None

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Colour Slide and Black & White Print – FILM No.1

Shot No.	Field	Description	From
1-2	-	Registration shots	-
3-4		General view of Ardrossan site from SE corner	SE
5-6	Tr1	View of Trench 1 – during excavation	E
7-8	Tr1	Rock filled drain running SE-NW	SE&N W
9-10	Tr2	Rock feature running N-S	N&S
11	Tr2	Overview looking E	W
12-13	Tr3	General view of Trench 3	E
14-15	Tr4	General view of Trench 4	SE
16-17	Tr5	General view of Trench 5	SE
18-19	Tr6	General view of Trench 6	SE
20-21	Tr7	General view of Trench 7	SSE
22-23	Tr8	General view of Trench 8	W
24-25	Tr9	General view of Trench 9	NW
26-27	Tr10	General view of Trench 10	NW

APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Dalry Road, Ardrossan Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20551
PARISH:	Ardrossan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Lindsay Dunbar
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 235 441
START DATE (this season)	14 th May 2007
END DATE (this season)	16 th May 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A programme of archaeological works was required by McMillan & Cronin prior to the determination of any planning application for a greenfield development on the North side of Ardrossan. AOC Archaeology were commissioned to undertake a 5% archaeological evaluation. The evaluation consisting of ten trenches totaling 1000 m ² was conducted between 14 th May and 16 th May 2007. The development area showed considerable evidence for improvement with numerous stone rubble drains and a variety of forms of ceramic field drain present. The evaluation uncovered no features or artefacts of archaeological significance.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	McMillan & Cronin
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	C/o AOC Archaeology Group
EMAIL ADDRESS:	ronant@aocscot.co.uk

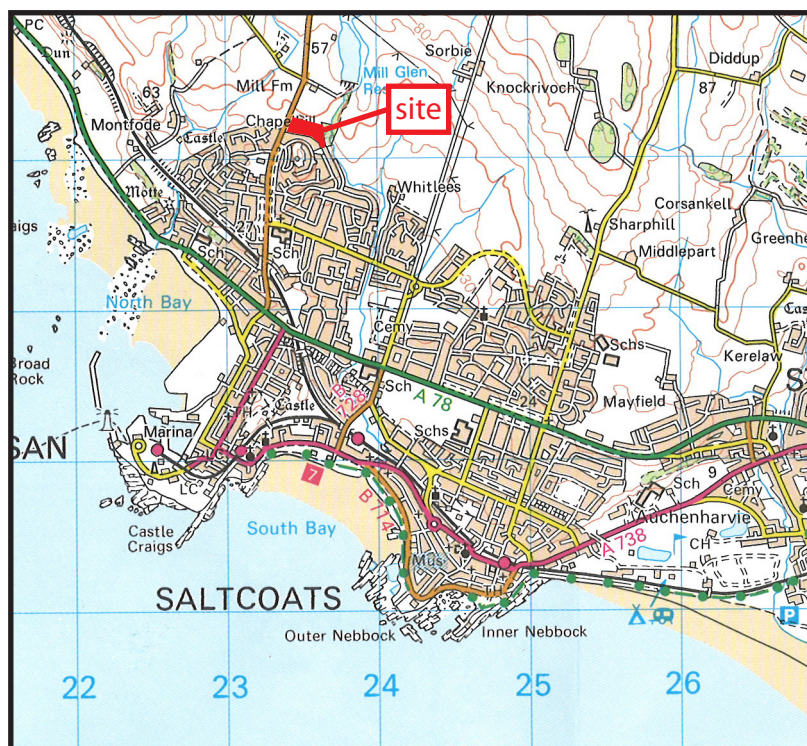
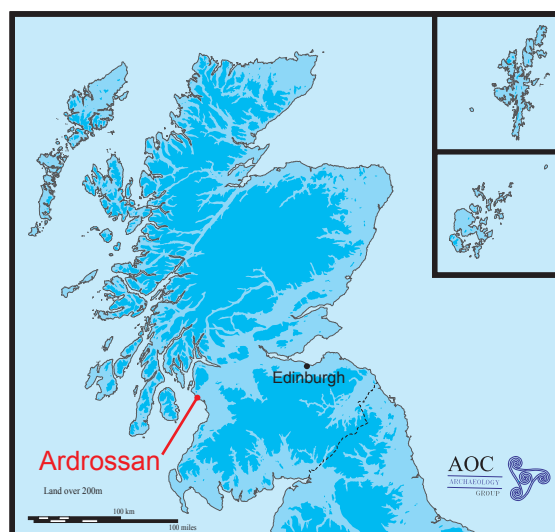


Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches



- marshy ground
- services
- proposed development area
- area within proposed development area not being developed
- evaluation trenches