

# **Clay Croft, Stoneykirk: Archaeological Watching Brief**

Data Structure Report

by Rebecca Shaw

issued 20<sup>th</sup> February 2007



**Rathmell**

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Archaeology Ltd

## Quality Assurance

This report covers works which have been undertaken in keeping with the issued brief as modified by the agreed programme of works. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance of Rathmell Archaeology Limited on the preparation of reports. All works reported on within this document have been undertaken in keeping with the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed ..... Date .....

In keeping with the procedure of Rathmell Archaeology Limited this document and its findings have been reviewed and agreed by an appropriate colleague:

Checked ..... Date .....

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## 1 Overview

- 1.1 This Data Structure Report presents the findings of an archaeological watching brief undertaken for George Smith on behalf of Mr & Mrs Hainey, in respect to a proposed construction of a new dwelling with detached garage, driveway, septic tank and soakaway. The proposed development is to be undertaken at a site known as Clay Croft, Stoneykirk, Stranraer (NGR: NX 088 519).
- 1.2 Dumfries & Galloway Council required an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken as a requirement of the issued planning consent (approval no. 06/P/1/0372). The archaeological works are designed to address the general ground reduction and foundations relating to the new buildings. This condition was in keeping with the issued planning guidance (SODev 1994; SOEnd 1994) and based on the guidance provided by the Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service.
- 1.3 Although there were no observable archaeological remains with the proposed development area, cartographic evidence indicates that there has been settlement within the general proximity since at least the late eighteenth century (Figure 1a-b, Ainslie 1782, Thompson 1820).
- 1.4 However, the first sound evidence we have is from the 1<sup>st</sup> edition ordnance survey (1850) (Figure 2a) which depicts three structures, two with attached enclosures (the westernmost structure is marked as a ruin). It is probable that the non-ruined structure with the attached enclosure was an occupied dwelling at the time of survey, with the other structure being a field barn. Although all three structures were no longer mapped by the time of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (1896) there is still the potential for ephemeral remains, such as footings or related structural / occupation remains, to be present below the current ground surface.
- 1.5 Rathmell Archaeology Ltd was appointed to act with regard to the archaeological condition by George Smith on behalf of Mr & Mrs Hainey. The terms of the watching brief were agreed through a Method Statement (Gordon 2007) agreed in advance with Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service on behalf of Dumfries & Galloway Council.

## 2 Project Works

- 2.1 The watching brief took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2007. The groundbreaking works that were observed on this date included the removal of topsoil across the whole building plot, garage, driveway and septic tank / soakaway.
- 2.2 In compliance with the Method Statement any potential archaeological features which were revealed were to be investigated. However, no archaeological features were observed during the on-site works and no material was recovered. All features impacted by the ground reduction were of relatively modern or natural origin.
- 2.3 All works complied with the Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service Standard Conditions, the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

## 3 Findings

- 3.1 The development area (centred NGR: NX 088 519) lay to the west of a main road on relatively flat ground at the bottom of a steeply rising hill. Prior to ground breaking the site was an open grass field that has been used for a number of decades for the production of crops.
- 3.2 The house plot was stripped first; this was comprised of a very fine mid brown silty topsoil (slightly clayey) containing occasional stones [001] and measured between 250mm to 400mm in depth. The subsoil was a mix of a reddish orange slightly stony silt and a very loosely compacted very stony reddish brown silt [002]. There were some very large shattered



Figure 1a: Ainslie (1782)



Figure 1b: Thompson (1820)



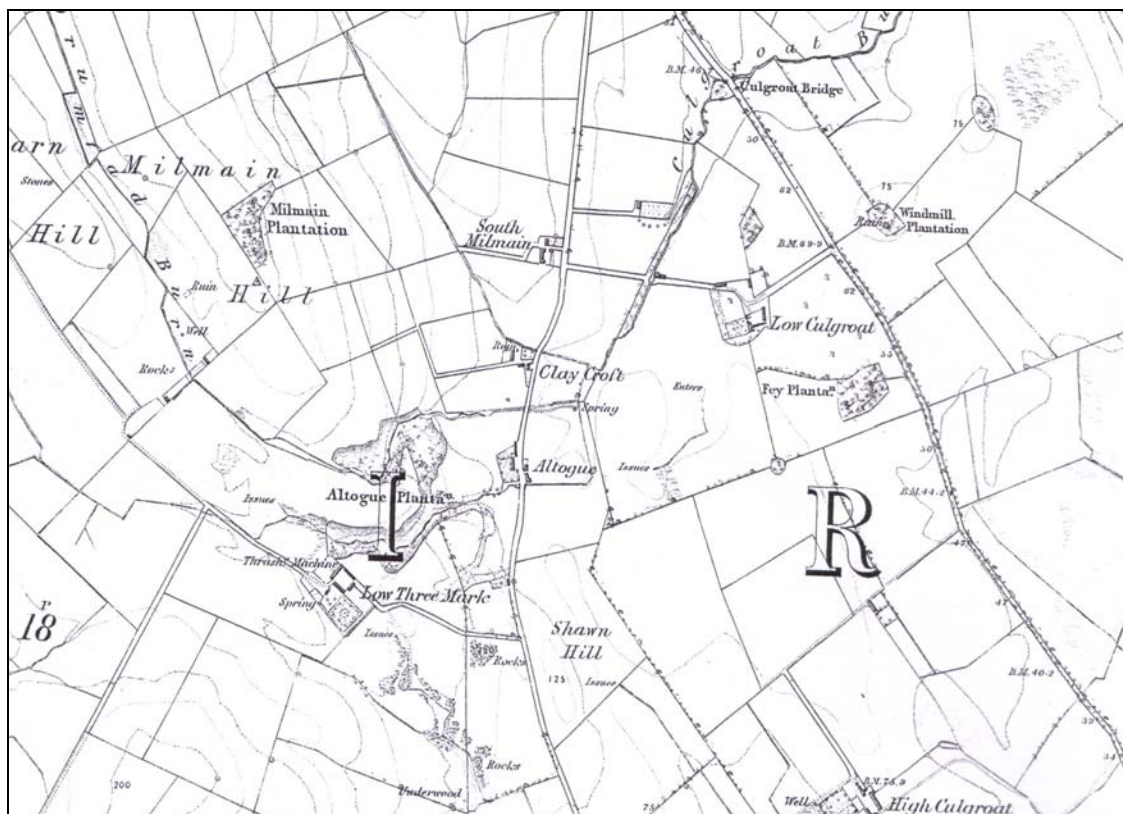


Figure 2a: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (1850)



Figure 2b: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (1850) (detail)

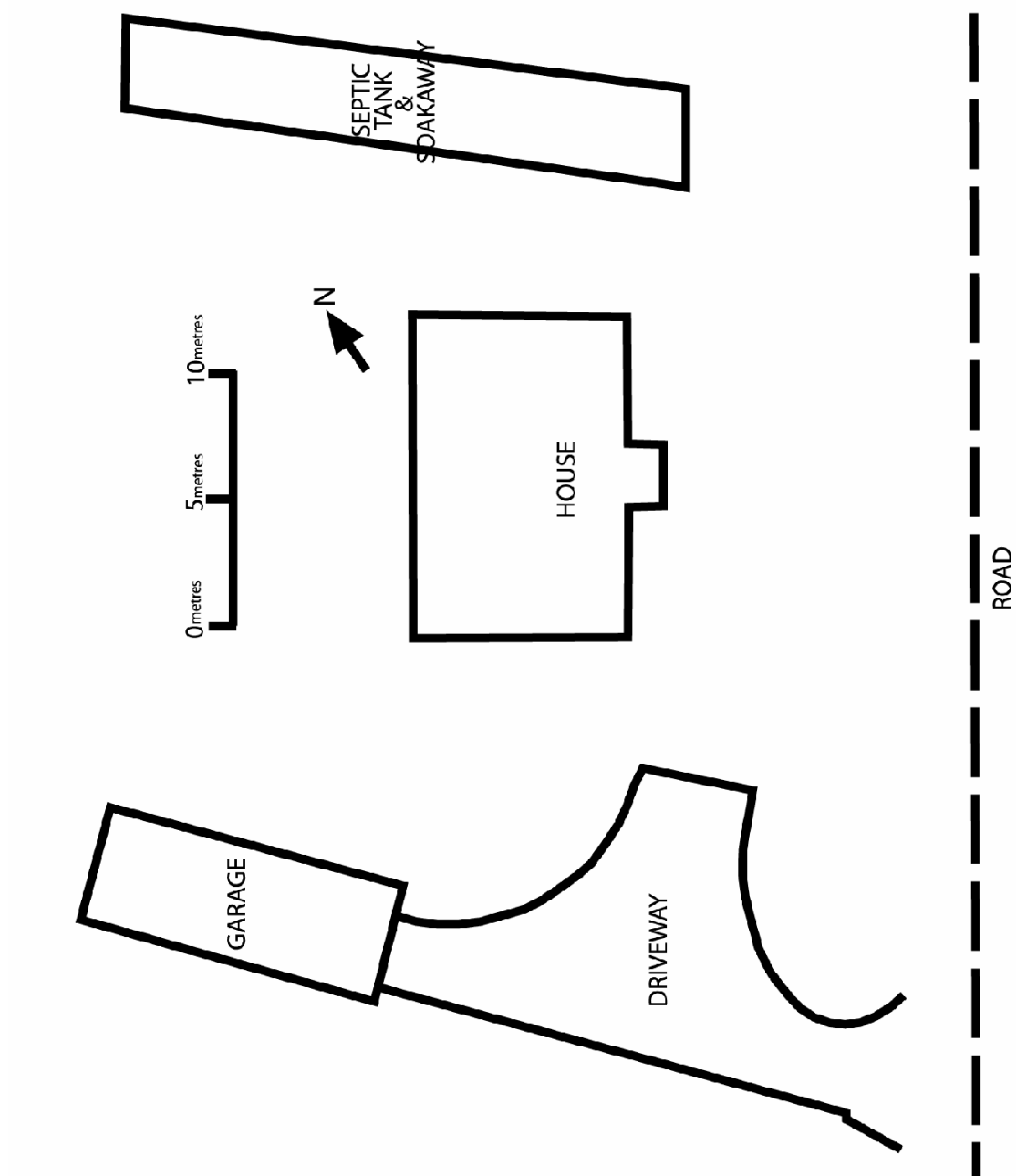


Figure 3: Plan showing excavated areas



Figure 4a – Septic tank / soakaway area



Figure 4b – House plot



Figure 4c – Eastern end of driveway



angular and sub-angular stones within the subsoil and one small patch of what appeared to be degraded mortar. Occasional pieces of nineteenth century ceramics were visible within the topsoil and a red ceramic tiled field drain was located at the southern end of the house plot (aligned southeast/northwest). A pinky orange sandy deposit was apparent at the far north northeast end [003].

- 3.3 The septic tank and soakaway area, which was located roughly to the north of the house, measured 22m by 4m. In this area the topsoil was a mid to dark brown very stony silt [004] with a depth of up to 600mm. There were three distinct subsoils within this area: a pinky orange fine sandy clay with very occasional small sub-angular stones [005] was visible along the southern edge; a mid-brown stony silt containing a moderate amount of sub-angular stones [006] was observable over the majority of the trench; a mid-brown fairly fine (wettish) silt with occasional charcoal smears and stones [007] was apparent at the western end only. The base of a telegraph pole was found within [006].
- 3.4 At the eastern end of the driveway the topsoil was comprised of a very rich looking mid brown very fine silt [008] with a depth of 500mm and only very occasional small stones. The subsoil comprised a very bright orangey red very stony gravelly silt [009] with numerous small angular & sub-angular stones. At the upper (western) end the topsoil was consistent, though only 380mm in depth. The subsoil was also more or less comparable, except for larger stones and occasional patches of a dark grey silt. The red ceramic tiled field drain visible in the house trench was also observable at the protruding northern section of the driveway.
- 3.5 The garage (and pad for where the oil tank will sit) contained a mid brown fine silt with occasional small gravel like stones [010] and an average depth of 300mm. The subsoil was a reddish brown loosely compacted gravelly silt [011] comprising a moderate to frequent amount of various sized sub-angular stones.
- 3.6 No significant (i.e. pre-nineteenth century) artefacts were exposed during the monitoring programme. The entire site was stripped to a layer of natural sediment without exposing any significant archaeological features.

## 4 Recommendations

- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief failed to identify any significant archaeological features or artefacts within the development area. Consequently, we recommend that no further archaeological works are appropriate.
- 4.2 The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with Dumfries & Galloway Council and the Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service, their advisors. Confirmation that the above recommendations are acceptable should be confirmed with these bodies prior to the implementation of any development works whose appropriateness may rely on these recommendations.

## 5 Conclusion

- 5.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2007 for George Smith on behalf of Mr & Mrs Hainey in respect to the construction of a new dwelling, detached garage, driveway and septic tank on as site known as Clay Croft, Stoneykirk, Stranraer. The watching brief identified no archaeological material during the stripping during the ground breaking works.
- 5.2 On balance we have illustrated that this development has not adversely impacted on any archaeological remains and we recommend that no further archaeological works are appropriate.

## 6 References

SODev	1994	<i>National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and planning</i> , Scottish Office Development Department.
SOEnd	1994	<i>Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology</i> , Scottish Office Environmental Department.
Ainslie	1782	A map of the County of Wigton
Ordnance Survey	1850	1 <sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, Wigtownshire
Ordnance Survey	1896	2 <sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, Wigtownshire
Thompson	1820	County of Wigtown or Shire of Galloway

## Appendix 1: Record summaries

### *Context Summaries*

No.	Interpretation	Description
001	Topsoil	Very fine mid brown silty topsoil (slightly clayey) containing occasional stones and between 250mm to 400mm in depth.
002	Subsoil	Mix of a reddish orange slightly stony silt and a very loosely compacted very stony reddish brown silt
003	Deposit	Pinkly orange sandy deposit
004	Topsoil	Mid to dark brown very stony silt with a depth of upto 600mm
005	Subsoil	Pinky orange fine sandy clay with very occasional small sub-angular stones
006	Subsoil	Mid-brown stony silt containing a moderate amount of sub-angular stones
007	Subsoil	Mid-brown fairly fine (wettish) silt with occasional charcoal smears and stones
008	Topsoil	Very rich looking mid brown very fine silt with a depth of 500mm and only very occasional small stones
009	Subsoil	Very bright orangey red very stony gravelly silt with numerous small angular & sub-angular stones
010	Topsoil	Mid brown fine silt with occasional small gravel like stones and an average depth of 300mm
011	Subsoil	Reddish brown loosely compacted gravelly silt comprising a moderate to frequent amount of various sized sub-angular stones.

*Photographic Record*

<b>Film</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	1	General of driveway and garage areas	ESE	14/2/07
1	2	General of driveway area	NW	14/2/07
1	3	General of garage area	W	14/2/07
1	4	General of house area	NNE	14/2/07
1	5	General of house area	SSE	14/2/07
1	6	General of septic tank/soakaway area	ESE	14/2/07
1	7	General of septic tank/soakaway area	ESE	14/2/07

## Appendix 2: Discovery &amp; Excavation in Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Dumfries & Galloway
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Clay Croft, Stoneykirk, Stranraer
<b>PARISH:</b>	Stoneykirk
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Rebecca Shaw
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NX 088 519
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2007
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2007
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (may include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was carried on the 14 <sup>th</sup> of February 2007 for George Smith on behalf of Mr & Mrs Hainey in respect to the construction of a new dwelling, detached garage, driveway and septic tank on as site known as Clay Croft, Stoneykirk, Stranraer. The watching brief identified no archaeological material during the stripping during the ground breaking works.
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	07002
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Mr & Mrs Hainey
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	10 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
<b>E MAIL:</b>	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Report to Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service and archive to National Monuments Record of Scotland.

## Contact Details

Rathmell Archaeology can be contacted at its Office or through the web:

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