

**67-73 Nelson Street, Largs
North Ayrshire:
Archaeological Mitigation**

Data Structure Report

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1 Overview

- 1.1 This Data Structure Report presents the findings of archaeological investigative works required by Lochview Developments in respect of a forthcoming residential development at 67-73 Nelson Street, Largs, North Ayrshire (centred NGR: NS 205 596). This comprised the demolition of existing structures on the site, and the subsequent erection of nineteen flats with associated road and car parking (Planning application no. N/06/01276/PP). The archaeological works, carried out between 5th-11th June and the 2nd-5th July respectively, were designed to mitigate the impact of this development.
- 1.2 The findings presented below describe the character of those archaeologically significant features identified within the development area. A consideration of the appropriateness of any further post-excavation analytical works is also included below. The character of any such work will need to be agreed with North Ayrshire Council and the West of Scotland Archaeology Service Archaeology Service.
- 1.3 The area concerned comprised two derelict houses of late nineteenth/early twentieth century date and their associated backland areas. The houses were part of a terraced row which together formed the street frontage that occupies the north side of Nelson Street. A vennel ran between the two properties, allowing access to the gardens and backlands beyond.
- 1.4 The site was considered worthy of archaeological investigation on account of finds recorded around 100 years previously, during ground-breaking operations undertaken in the east part of the site. These works revealed evidence of Bronze Age ritual and funerary activity, including a circular stone-lined cist containing multiple urned cremations, and a series of individual urn-burials.
- 1.5 Rathmell Archaeology Ltd was appointed by Lochview Developments to act with regard to archaeological matters. Prior to the commencement of works a Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2007) was agreed with North Ayrshire Council which defined the extent of works to be undertaken.

2 Project Works

- 2.1 The programme of works comprised two phases of archaeological investigations, undertaken on different parts of the site (Figure 1). Due to the known sensitivity of the location, a complete removal of topsoil from the future building footprint was required, with a view to identifying and locating, if possible, the location of the earlier findspots as well as mitigating the impact on any hitherto unknown archaeology. Topsoil stripping was undertaken by a tracked machine working under archaeological supervision, with a toothless ditching bucket fitted to minimise damage to the underlying subsoil.
- 2.2 The first area to be investigated (Trench 1) lay to the north of the then-upstanding house structures. It comprised an L-shaped area extending across almost the entire width of the plot, its maximum extent measuring 23m from east-west and 30m from north-south. The remaining portion of the site, which was to be examined at a later date, comprised the building footprint and foundations of the late nineteenth/early twentieth century house structures which were as-yet upstanding on the site, and which were to be demolished as part of the works carried out.
- 2.3 These works were undertaken in keeping with the submitted Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2007). They were to be carried out in two phases between 5th-11th June and the 2nd-5th July, 2007 respectively.
- 2.4 All the exposed features were investigated to determine their archaeological significance, and the works conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct, and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.



Figure 1: Plan Showing Location of Site And Extent of Development

3 Findings: Desktop Study

- 3.1 The desktop study did not identify the presence within the study area of any sites protected for their archaeological or historical merit under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The upstanding buildings which were to be demolished as part of the development were, however, protected under the Town and Country Planning Act 1997 (Historic Scotland 1998), under the category C(S). This grading was more reflective of the structures' collective contribution to the streetscape rather than a reflection of their architectural merit *per se*, and no standing building recording works were required prior to their demolition.
- 3.2 The site also had the potential to reveal human skeletal material. Previous works carried out here had already recovered human remains; there was therefore the potential for committing the crime of violation of sepulchre (the common law crime of unlawful interference with human remains). Staff on site were, however, aware of the possibility and fully prepared to deal with the circumstances in the appropriate manner.
- 3.3 Early maps of Largs show it to be somewhat dispersed in terms of its settlement character, with two main focuses of occupation evident. Roy's Military Map of Scotland, surveyed between 1747 and 1755, shows a cluster of houses lying immediately to the north of the Gogo Water, with a second cluster lying further to the north (Figure 2a). Assuming that the cruciform-shaped structure is Largs Parish church (built in 1812 on the site of an earlier structure, and now represented by only the Skelmorlie Aisle), then it can be argued that the northern cluster of settlement at this time was located along the thoroughfare now known as Gateside Street. At this time, the town had not expanded northwards as far as Nelson Street.
- 3.4 By the time the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of Argyllshire was surveyed in 1857 much of Nelson Street had already been built up (Figure 2b). Around two thirds of the house plots, on both the north and south sides of the street, show structures occupying the frontages at this time. The name 'Nelson Street' would suggest an origin around the time of the Napoleonic Wars (i.e. very late 18th or early 19th century). However, a symbolic re-naming of the street to commemorate such a memorable event as the Battle of Trafalgar or the Battle of the Nile cannot be discounted, and it is possible that the development of this area started at an earlier date, perhaps as far back as the mid to late 18th century. It was hoped that further insights into the history of occupation on this site might be obtained during the works here, even if this particular aspect was not the prime focus of investigation.
- 3.5 The main focus of interest on this site was an earlier discovery which took place in the earlier 20th century, when workmen carrying out ground-disturbing works to the rear of the recently-built house structures, uncovered a number of Bronze Age urn burials. These were subsequently reported in detail by Robert Munro, in a paper published in the journal *Archaeologia* (Munro, 1910).
- 3.6 When considering the Nelson Street find in its wider context, it is evident that the area of low-lying land now occupied by modern Largs was a focus for occupation and activity in the later prehistoric period. The primary centre of this activity appears to lie further south, in the vicinity of the Gogo Water. Here the remains of a Neolithic chambered tomb, two round cairns, a standing stone and a Beaker burial have all been recorded. In addition, at least one, and possibly two, Middle Bronze Age flanged axes have been recovered from 'Largs'.



Figure 2a: Roy's Military Map, 1747-1755, Map of Largs

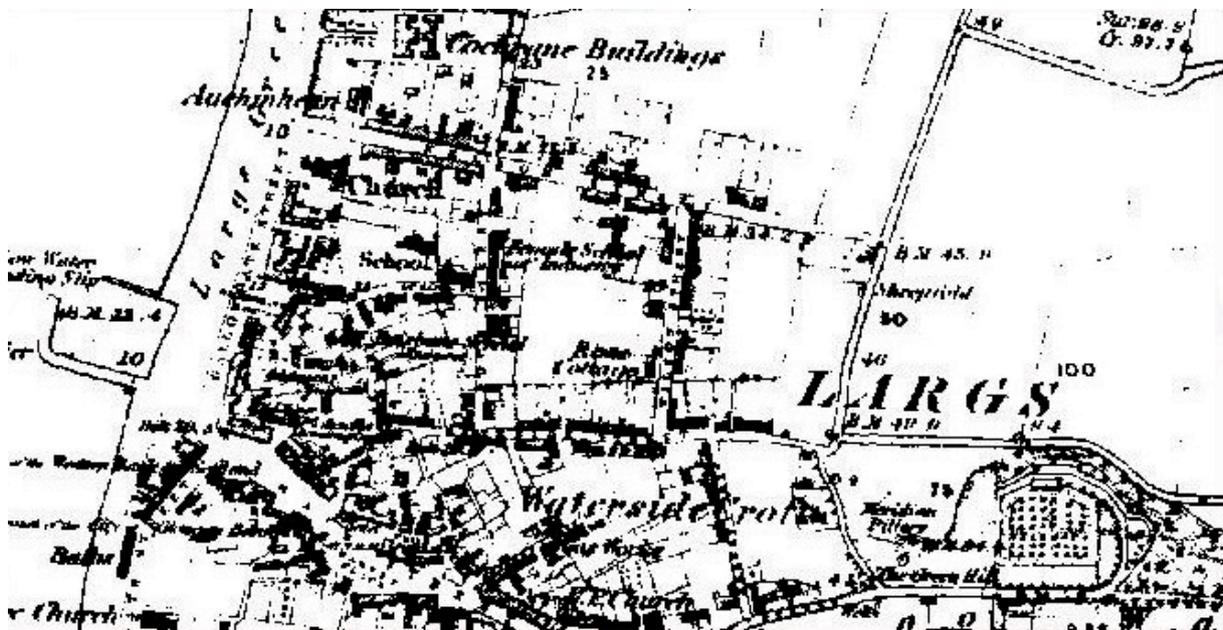


Figure 2b: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey, 1857, Map of Largs, showing Nelson Street

- 3.7 Immediately north of the Gogo Water, the density of known prehistoric activity diminishes. In this area, only one known monument of Bronze Age date has been recorded, a round cairn which was located some 350m to the south-southwest of the Nelson Street findspot. This monument was an artificial feature built to receive the dead; by contrast, the Nelson Street burials made use of a site which was instead entirely natural in origin; a gravel mound situated on the 3m raised beach some 350m east of the shoreline. Within this gravel mound was found a central, stone-lined cist, unusual in two respects. Firstly, it was circular in plan, contrasting with the square or rectangular cists that are almost universally encountered throughout Scotland. Secondly, it contained a number of urned cremations, representing what appear to have been multiple acts of cremation, buried together in what was, apparently, one coherent period of deposition. This initial find provoked the interest of local antiquarians, one of whom, Robert Munro, wrote a report of the findings later published in the journal *Archaeologia*. Further finds were subsequently brought to Munro's attention; they comprised 'a few' isolated urned cremations and a perforated stone hammer recovered from a cartload of spoil. Munro suggests that the hammer may itself have been buried in association with an urn (Munro, 1910, 243).
- 3.8 Munro's account gives a clear idea of the circumstances of the discovery, and it also yields detailed insights into nature of the ground from which these finds were recovered. Munro suggests that the discovery was made on cultivated ground, though it is unclear whether this means farmland or just a cultivated area to the rear of an existing house structure. The finds, we are told, were discovered lying roughly a foot beneath cultivated ground. Finally, Munro tells us that no discoveries were made during the construction of the actual house structure itself; it was only during succeeding works to the rear of the property that the Bronze Age remains were unearthed. Certain aspects of Munro's report did, however, require clarification. The exact location of the gravel mound was uncertain, as was the location of the cist itself and the accompanying burials. It was also unclear whether the gravel mound had even survived the works described by Munro, or whether it was entirely cleared away during the process of the discoveries.
- 3.9 The archaeological investigative works were therefore approached with a series of established research questions in mind. Could the location and extent of the gravel mound be identified within the area subject to topsoil stripping? If so, could the original findspots of the cist and its accompanying urn burials be identified within its limits? The possibility of there being hitherto unknown features surviving undisturbed on the site could not be excluded, either. While the presence of additional satellite burials was not beyond the realms of possibility, it was also possible that the site would reveal features contemporary with the Bronze Age finds that could improve our knowledge of the wider landscape beyond the limits of the gravel mound. Lastly, though attention undoubtedly focussed on land use and occupation during the later prehistoric period, it was hoped that the works carried out on site would improve our understanding of the long-term history of this site, from the earliest times right up to the present.

4 Findings: Trench 1

- 4.1 Trench 1 was opened during the initial phase of work to be undertaken on the site, prior to the demolition of the late 19th/early 20th century house structures. It comprised an L-shaped block of ground, with a roughly rectangular area at its northern end, measuring 23m east-west by 14m north-south was uncovered. On its eastern edge, this area was extended south along the east edge of the site towards the rear of the east house structure, uncovering a strip measuring up to 9m in width that extended west from the adjacent boundary wall.
- 4.2 Along the east edge, over an area extending around 5m west of the boundary wall, the topsoil was very compact (049), with occasional fragments of coal and charcoal occurring. Very few finds were recovered, and these were modern in date, comprising only one or two sherds of glazed white earthenware. Further west, the topsoil was quite different in character (001). It was black in colour, very loose and humic, and produced vast quantities of burnt crushed shell and a large quantity of ceramic fragments, including transfer-printed glazed white

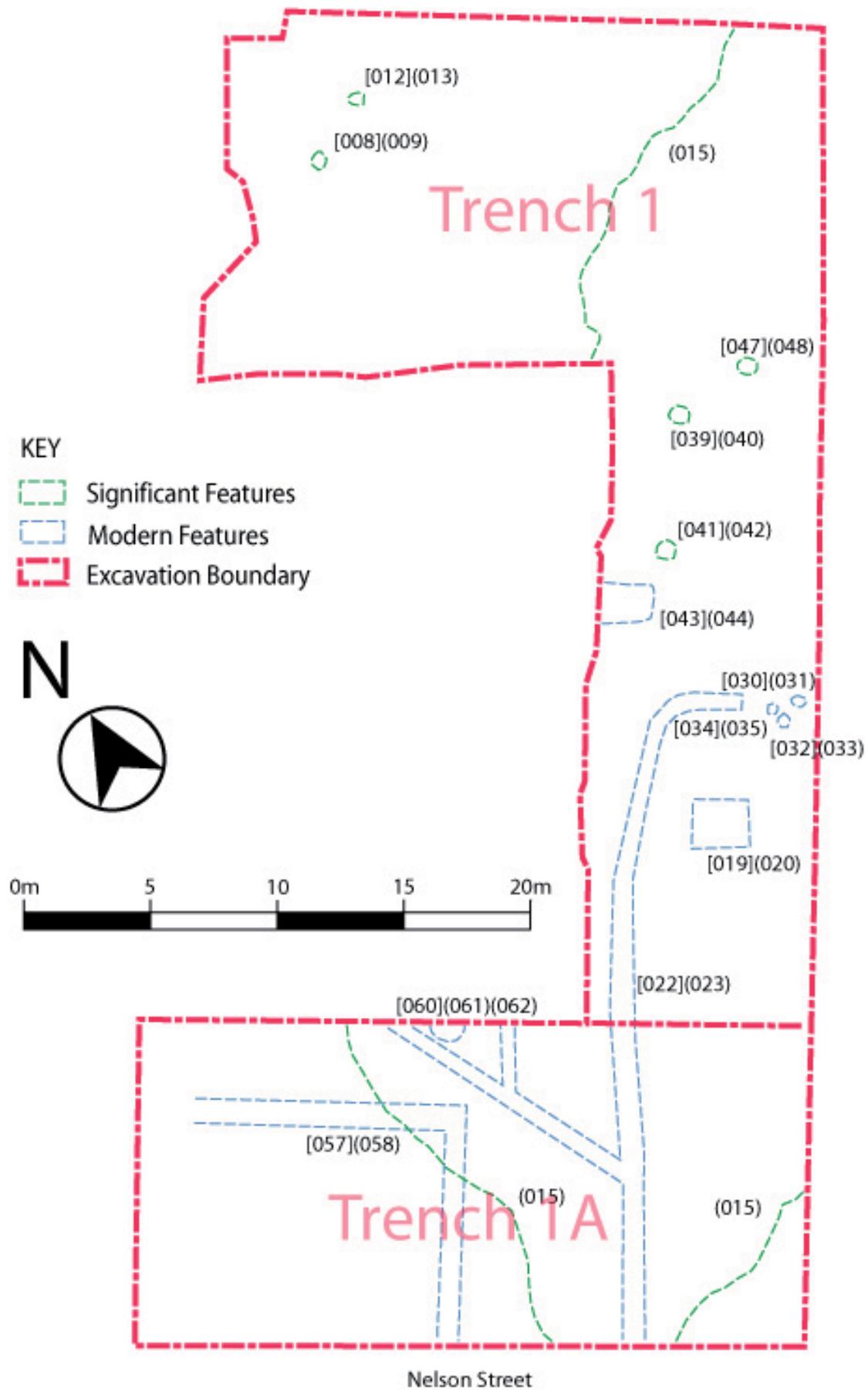


Figure 3: Site Plan, showing significant and modern features

earthenware, stoneware, lustre ware and clay tobacco pipes. The contrast was easily explained; in the east portion, the topsoil had lain beneath a strip of concrete and hard-standing, whereas in the west it had been subject to vigorous re-working in recent times, having been subject to regular improvement for horticultural purposes. The presence of significant quantities of burnt shell suggested that seaweed had been imported from the nearby shoreline and burnt for application as a fertiliser.

- 4.2 Towards the west edge of Trench 1, topsoil (001) appeared to overlie an earlier cultivation horizon, comprising a more compact mid-brown deposit with occasional charcoal flecks (002) that produced occasional sherds of glazed white earthenware. Survival of this earlier layer was limited, however, and it appeared to have been almost entirely removed towards the eastern side of the site. Cut into its extent, however, were occasional postholes [e.g. 018/019] that appear to have marked a modern boundary feature, running north-south down the length of the site. This would have formed the division between the two adjacent properties that now make up the modern building plot.
- 4.3 Following the removal of (002), the underlying subsoil was revealed. Over the west half of the site, it consisted of a silty-sand with frequent inclusions of cobbles and small stones (003). However, at a point roughly 15m east of the west edge of the trench, a spread of gravel (015) was uncovered, running northeast across the site and disappearing into the northern baulk at a point roughly 1m west of the eastern edge (Figure 2a). This appeared to be the remains of the gravel mound referred to by Munro; it therefore represented the likely location of the cist and satellite burials uncovered in the early twentieth century. Flanking the west edge of the gravel mound (015) was a broad band of sand (014), measuring up to 1.5m in width. Despite its sterile appearance, this was subject to further investigation, in case it proved to be artificial, perhaps representing the remains of a ditch dug around the exterior of the mound. It turned out to be no more than 20mm deep, and of entirely natural origin.
- 4.4. The gravel mound itself could be traced throughout the length of the easterly north-south extension of the trench. Towards its south end, a significant amount of modern disturbance was evident, caused in particular by the insertion of buried services [022](023) and the construction of structural elements from outbuildings associated with the 20th century occupation of this site. These included an extant inspection pit (020)[021], and a series of modern postholes ([030](031); [032](033) and [034](035)) which, while demonstrating no clear structural purpose, were located close to the point where the modern/drain sewer terminated. There was, in addition, a substantial rectangular pit measuring at least 2m from east-west by 1.5m transversely and extending for a depth of at least 300mm below the surface of the subsoil [043](044). While it was recognised that the early 20th century discoveries described by Munro would now be characterised by the presence of modern fills in prehistoric features, all pits and postholes described above were discounted as possible locations for the earlier finds. The postholes were all too small, measuring on average around 0.35m in diameter, and the large rectangular pit, which was at first interpreted as a possible contender for the cist site, was discounted as being too large (the original cist is described as measuring only 2 to 3 feet in diameter and 18 inches deep). In addition, the fills of all those features described above were extremely consistent in character and very distinctive, comprising a loose black, ashy soil which contained frequent fragments of ceramic marmalade jars, occasional fragments of lustre ware and chamber pots. The domestic nature of the contents, and the similarity between the fills of pit and postholes and a spread of midden material (029) located between the rear of the north-south extension that once abutted the rear of the east property and brick platform (038), suggested that this material had accumulated throughout the long-term occupation of this property.
- 4.5 The dismissal of these modern features as likely contenders for the Bronze Age urn-burial sites was further supported by the discovery of three circular pits located slightly to the north of the modern features described in Section 4.4 above. These pits [039](040), [041](042) and [047](048) had been dug directly into the gravel mound. Excavation revealed the fills of these features (Figure 2b) to be similar in character, comprising a compact grey-brown sandy-silt which produced occasional finds of glazed white earthenware and clay tobacco pipe fragments. The locations of these pits – between 11 and 18m south of the north end were

roughly consistent with the location of the central cist as shown in the photograph published in *Archaeologia* 62, and their shape and dimensions – circular to oval on plan, and measuring between 0.7 and 0.8m in diameter – would not have been inconsistent with the satellite urn burials described by Munro in his article. They were, however, very shallow, measuring between 0.15 and 0.3m in depth, suggesting that the gravel mound had indeed been largely levelled during the ground works undertaken at this time. No finds of prehistoric date were recovered from these features, so it was impossible to obtain conclusive proof that these were indeed the original urn-pits. However, on the balance of probabilities, it seems highly likely that they were.

- 4.6 Though no unequivocal evidence of prehistoric activity on the gravel mound itself was identified, beyond its limits a further two features were identified for which a late prehistoric date seemed highly likely. These comprised two circular postholes, [008](009) and [012](013). Both had similar dimensions, measuring approximately 0.7m in diameter, and 0.2m in depth. In one of these features, [009](010), packing stones remained *in situ* (Figure 2c). This feature also produced a fairly convincing piece of worked quartz. The other posthole, [012](013), had no *in situ* packing stones remaining, but there were one or two large stones present in the fill that could have been dismantled packing stones. Disturbance of the feature in the northwest quadrant suggests that the timber post that once stood here was actually dismantled, while it seems more likely that the post in nearby (008)[009] was left instead to rot *in situ*, though no post pipe was identified which could further strengthen this argument. Both features could have functioned as component parts of a timber setting which served to accentuate the timber mound within its wider landscape context, though it must be remembered that the features may not have been contemporaneous in their usage.
- 4.6 In addition to the features described above, which are likely to have their origins in the late prehistoric period, there were several features identified which attested to land-use on this site during the medieval and later periods. Evidence for medieval occupation was minimal; one sherd of green-glazed pottery was recovered from a possible cultivation furrow (016), but there were no other features or artefacts which could be linked with this period. This would suggest that the area comprised agricultural land during the medieval and early modern periods, a possibility supported by the presence of a cultivation horizon in the west portion of the site. Agricultural or horticultural use continued in this location until very recent times; Munro refers to the Nelson Street site as ‘a plot of cultivated land’, while the loose, humic nature of topsoil (001) attests to its having been subject to double-digging and constant improvement throughout much of the twentieth century. Two gravel-filled field drains crossed the site at the west and east ends; these appeared to have cut through the cultivation horizon from the existing topsoil, indicating a 20th century origin.
- 4.7 One final observation regards two vaguely discernible features [071] and [072] that were investigated as being of potential prehistoric date but later discarded. With their irregular edges and sterile fill, they appeared to be tree or shrub-holes and further investigation supported that possibility. It was likely that these features marked the line of a hedge which crossed the site in an east-west direction at a point roughly 10m south of the north baulk (Figure 2a). Such a feature would once have served to divide the garden, used for growing vegetables, from an area which perhaps functioned as an area set aside for drying laundry. Map evidence shows that a number of the properties in Nelson Street still have their plots subdivided in this way, with recent editions of the Ordnance Survey 1:10000 map showing just a subdivision still extant at the 67-73 Nelson Street site. The concrete foundation of a drying-pole was also uncovered in the process of stripping the topsoil from the ‘back green’ area lying to the south of this hedge-line.



Figure 4a: View looking east across Trench 1 towards Gravel Mound (015) (Tree/Shrub Hole (072) marked by blue flag in foreground)



Figure 4b: Trench 1, Pit [039](040) half-sectioned



Figure 4c: Trench 1, Posthole [009](010) half-sectioned, packing stones *in situ*

5 Findings: Trench 1a

- 5.1 Trench 1a, which was situated in the southernmost portion of the site, consisted of the area once occupied by the footprint of the house structures demolished during the course of this development. Also included in this area was an additional buffer zone extending some 3.5m north of the rear east-west wall of the houses. The primary reason for this extension was to enable the complete removal of the foundations for the rear stairway. Since the northeast corner of this trench abutted the southeast corner of Trench 1, with some features extending between both trenches, the separate numbering of features and contexts was considered unnecessary.
- 5.2 Much of the west portion of this trench was taken up with the south end of gravel mound (015), but no additional discoveries of prehistoric features were made in this area. No previously-explored archaeological features were identified either. It therefore seems likely that Munro's statement in *Archaeologia* 62 was quite correct, namely that while 'digging the foundations of proposed villa nothing of an archaeological character attracted attention' (Munro, 1911, 239)
- 5.3 The only features of interest noted in this area were contemporary with the house structures themselves, and therefore of comparatively recent date. It was noted previously that evidence from the excavation of Trench 1 suggested that the single plot examined throughout these investigative works had, in comparatively recent times, been subdivided into two. This observation was further supported by the house structures themselves; prior to demolition, two stairways were noted to the rear of the building, one serving the west portion, the other serving the east structure. Following demolition, it became apparent that while the east and west house structures had looked outwardly similar in terms of finish and architectural detail, the foundations were quite different in character. The east house structure had very slight foundations, which made so little impact below ground that they were not even recorded. By contrast, the west house structure sat upon a broad foundation 0.6m wide, made up of massive stone blocks that appeared to have been roughly worked but which also showed evidence of substantial weathering and water-rolling (Figure 3a). Most were irregular in shape, though some appeared to have been roughly squared off prior to weathering, thus giving the possibility that they were removed to this site from an earlier structure, perhaps a maritime location close to the shore or harbour.
- 5.4 It seemed likely that the west house structure represented a different phase of building, and that it was pre-existent to the adjacent east structure. While it is possible that the west structure re-used earlier footings, it is equally likely that the massive stone foundation was part of the same build. However, even if the presence of these footings did indicate re-use of an earlier phase of construction, it must still have been comparatively modern in date, of perhaps early-mid 19th century as opposed to late 19th/early 20th century, as the amount of artefactual remains pre-dating the mid-19th century recovered from this site was negligible.
- 5.5 The floors in each property were also very different in character, the east house structure being floored in concrete while the west house structure had timber floorboards directly overlying earth. At some point, this minimal flooring resulted in unwelcome house guests for the occupants of the west property; an area of sandy subsoil in the southwest corner of the structure revealed a feature which was thought at first to be a series of intercutting post holes, but which after further investigation was dismissed as a probable rats' nest [070].
- 5.4 The most impressive feature identified in Trench 1a was also found in association with the west house structure. This was well [060](061)(062), measuring 3.6m in depth and possessing a drystone rubble lining of large, sea-rolled stones each measuring up to 0.4m by 0.4m in extent. The top three courses had been mortared into place, and the fill of the surrounding cut [062] produced a find of plain glazed white earthenware, providing further evidence that this feature was modern in date. The method of the build, the size and character of the stones employed and the nature of the mortar bore similarities to the foundations encountered across the original building footprint. The well had been capped with a block of blonde sandstone [063], this event having perhaps occurred in the late 19th or



Figure 5a: View looking east towards east boundary wall, showing modern midden material (029)



Figure 5b: Foundation of west house structure [057](058)(059)



Figure 5c: Well [060](061)(062)

early 20th century, at the time when the ‘modern’ services were put into the site, and at a date perhaps contemporary with the finding of the Bronze Age urns to the rear of the east house structure.

6 Discussion

- 6.1 The primary focus of these investigative works, namely the identification of the gravel mound described by Munro, was achieved, and information regarding its original location and extent obtained. In addition, three circular pits were identified within the limits of the gravel mound. The dimensions and general characteristics of these pits were consistent with what one would expect from one of the Bronze Age satellite urn-burials described by Munro, and the fact that they produced finds of late 19th /early 20th century date only served to confirm the suspicion that these were indeed the original prehistoric features that had been originally discovered and excavated in the early 20th century.
- 6.2 In addition to the putative Bronze Age features identified within the limits of the mound, isolated features of likely prehistoric –and perhaps even Bronze Age – date were discovered in its immediate vicinity. These comprised two probable post-holes, one of which still retained packing stones within its fill, the presence of which tended to suggest that the post within had rotted *in situ*. This posthole also produced a piece of worked quartz, which strengthened the possibility of a prehistoric origin for the feature. The second posthole produced several large stones from its fill, but no formal arrangement of packing stones could be seen, which could indicate that the post within was dismantled, rather than left to decay *in situ*. These features could conceivably have formed part of a larger timber setting, which perhaps served to define the gravel mound within its wider landscape context. However, despite careful examination of the surrounding ground surface, no further features were identified which could support this possibility. It is also possible that both postholes are not contemporary; we can, for example, envisage the possibility that the mound was marked out from its surrounding landscape by a single timber post which was subsequently replaced by an adjacent similar feature.
- 6.3 Evidence for occupation and land use throughout the medieval and early modern period was extremely scarce upon this site. Only one sherd of medieval pottery was recovered, from a linear feature that was interpreted as a possible cultivation furrow. The presence of this feature, along with evidence for the survival of an earlier cultivation horizon on the western half of the site, suggested that throughout these periods, the predominant land use in this location was agricultural. The presence of isolated fragments of glazed white earthenware and clay tobacco pipe fragments (and a possible late 18th century hand-painted pottery fragment) suggested that this continued until at least the early 18th century.
- 6.4 While not the primary focus for the archaeological investigations, further information relating to the final phases of land use and occupation on the site was forthcoming from these investigations. There was evidence that the buildings that once occupied the front of the plot had been built in two phases, though it is highly likely that the intervening time between these building episodes comprised years or decades, as opposed to generations. The west structure had massive mortared foundations, and a drystone, rubble-built well located in the vicinity of the rear stair. Its floor comprised little more than timber flooring over packed sand or earth, and there was evidence that vermin such as rats or mice had once nested under the floorboards in the southwest corner. The east structure, by contrast, had virtually negligible foundations, but a substantial concrete floor.
- 6.5 The well described above had been capped by a single block of blonde sandstone, similar to the material used to build both house structures. It can be surmised that the well was blocked at the same time as the modern services were introduced to the site, perhaps using materials left over from the build of the eastern house.
- 6.6 Further evidence that the site was originally composed of two adjacent plots was found in the rear garden area, where a line of north-south postholes cutting into the earlier cultivation horizon indicated that an earlier boundary feature once subdivided what is now one single building plot. Also identified were traces of an east-west boundary feature, comprising a

hedge, which would once have further subdivided the backland area. It is suggested that this additional boundary, which is shown on both the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map and recent editions of the 1:10000 map, served to divide a vegetable garden from a back green/drying area. This suggestion was supported by the discovery of an old concrete base of a clothes pole in the south drying area, dug into a compact, poorly worked topsoil. The topsoil to the north, by contrast, was very loose and humic, with numerous fragments of burnt seashell present and numerous fragments of clay tobacco pipe and other ceramic fragments. It appeared to have been subject to constant improvement through thorough double-digging and the addition of burnt seaweed as a fertiliser.

- 6.7 While the west portion of the site was devoted to horticulture, the east side, adjacent to the boundary wall, was set aside as hard standing. In addition to the north-south outhouse abutting the east house structure, it is conceivable that additional outbuildings once stood in this area. Amongst the features identified as contemporary with the occupation of this east structure, there was a spread of black, ashy midden material (029) which produced a wide range of artefacts, including sponge-decorated glazed white earthenware, mass-produced transfer-printed glazed white earthenware (including chamber-pots, some originating from the Middle East), occasional fragments of lustre ware, and a quantity of ceramic marmalade jars. No clay tobacco pipes were encountered, which contrasted greatly with the garden area, where finds of clay tobacco pipes were common. This midden material was very distinctive in character (Figure 3a), and it occurred at a very high level in the soil profile, its very recent date further supported by the late date of the artefacts, which ranged in date from potentially early to mid 19th century (sponge-decorated glazed white earthenware) to late 19th or even 20th century (lustre ware). The identification of this midden material was important, as a number of features uncovered in the vicinity of the putative urn-pits could be distinguished by the fact that they were filled with this distinctive black, artefact-rich ashy soil. These modern features included a series of small postholes, and a substantial rectangular pit.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 The archaeological works identified some of the features first described by Munro, allowing them to be properly located and also subject to further investigation. From this re-appraisal it was possible to establish that the features had already been fully investigated, the gravel mound itself severely reduced and the entire area subject to significant alteration of the ground level since the finds were made a century previously.
- 7.2 In addition, some isolated features were identified outwith the gravel mound which may have been contemporary with the use of this site as a focus for Bronze Age funerary activity, and further insights yielded on various aspects of the modern occupation of the site. Since the features themselves were fairly insignificant and the finds recovered from them negligible, it is recommended that no post-excavation analysis of the material recovered from the site is required.
- 7.3 The site itself was examined in detail over the entire footprint of the new building and in its immediate environs, and all features encountered fully investigated and recorded. Consequently, we recommend that there are no grounds to consider archaeology a further material consideration within the development process and hence we consider that no further archaeological mitigation works are necessary.
- 7.4 The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rests with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service and North Ayrshire Council. Confirmation that the above recommendations are acceptable should be sought from these bodies.

8 Conclusion

- 8.1 A programme of archaeological investigative works was undertaken in respect of a forthcoming residential development on a plot located on the north side of Nelson Street, Largs. (centred NGR: NW982628). The archaeological works were carried out between the

5th-11th June and the 2nd-5th July respectively. The works comprised two abutting trenches, one L-shaped on plan, the other rectangular, which together comprised the footprint of the proposed development and extending beyond this to give an additional margin around the new building's final extent.

- 8.2 The investigations revealed the remains of a gravel mound from which a Bronze Age cist and several satellite urn burials were recovered in the early 20th century. Also identified were three roughly circular pits which probably represented the surviving remnants of the satellite urn burials mentioned above. Ground-breaking activities contemporary with the original discoveries had severely truncated the gravel mound, and the features occurring within it. Two additional features of probable prehistoric date were also found in the area immediately beyond the mound's extent.
- 8.3 Only one sherd of medieval pottery was found, in a feature interpreted as a linear plough furrow. This suggested that throughout the medieval period, this area was in use as agricultural land, and that this land use may have continued right up to the late 18th or early 19th century. This is supported by Munro's description of the site as having been 'cultivated land' prior to house-building.
- 8.4 Examination of the house footings suggested that the development area had once existed as two discrete plots, and that the construction of the west and east house structures may not have taken place at the same time. However, artefactual evidence demonstrates that the earliest phases of building and occupation on the site probably occurred during the early 19th century, with a complete lack of datable material (i.e. ceramics) dating to the late 18th century or earlier.
- 8.5 A well uncovered in the vicinity of the west house structure appears to be contemporary with the building of the foundations of this structure. It was later blocked with a cap of blonde sandstone, an action which probably took place at a time contemporary with the provision of modern services to the site, something which probably occurred in the late 19th or early 20th century, at a time perhaps contemporary with the building of the west house structure or the activities in the backland area behind it (which led, of course, to the discovery of the cist and associated finds).
- 8.6 Additional insights were gained in the various land use practices occurring in the backland area throughout the twentieth century, with the site divided into a vegetable plot in the north and a drying area/back green in the south. Midden deposits immediately to the rear of the east house structure were also identified, dating to the early twentieth century. These yielded a rich and diverse range of modern artefacts including chamber pots, marmalade jars and poison bottles.

9 References

- 9.1 *Documentary*
- | | | |
|---------------|------|---|
| SODev | 1994 | <i>National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and planning</i> , Scottish Office Development Department. |
| SOEnv | 1994 | <i>Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology</i> , Scottish Office Environmental Department. |
| Munro, Robert | 1910 | 'On a Bronze Age Cemetery and Other Antiquities at Largs, Ayrshire'. In <i>Archaeologia</i> 62 |
| Rees, T | 2007 | <i>67-73 Nelson Street, Largs: Written Scheme of Investigation</i> , unpublished commercial report |
- 9.2 *Cartographic*
- | | | |
|---------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1747-55 | William Roy | Roy Military Survey of Scotland |
| 1857 | Ordnance Survey | Ayrshire, 1:10560 |

Appendix 1: Registers

Context Register

Context No.	Interpretation	Description
001	Topsoil – improved in recent times.	Loose, black, silty sand, with occasional inclusions of small stones (up to 8 x 4cm in extent). A large quantity of burnt, crushed sea-shells was identified (cockles, razor shell, mussels, periwinkles, etc.) Varied in depth between 20 and 30 cm across its extent. Restricted to W half of Trench 1.
002	Cultivation horizon	Medium compact, dark-brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small stones (up to 6 x 4cm in extent). Varies in depth between 15 and 20 cm, and occurred only in the W portion of Trench 1. Produced finds of modern ceramic (plain glazed white earthenware, hand-painted glazed white earthenware)
003	Subsoil - natural	Mixed deposit dominated by reddish-brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of rounded and subangular stones up to 10 x 7 cm in extent. (80% sand, 20% stones/gravel)
004	Cut of field drain [004](005)	Shallow, 'u'-shaped cut, 8cm deep (maximum), cutting into (002), forming linear feature running NNE-SSW.
005	Fill of field drain [004](005)	Rounded, river-rolled pebbles up to 2 x 2cm in extent – probably imported, but possibly re-deposited from elsewhere on the site.
006	Cut of field drain [006](007)	Shallow, 'u'-shaped cut, 8cm deep (maximum), cutting into (002), forming linear feature running NNE-SSW.
007	Fill of field drain [006](007)	Rounded, river-rolled pebbles up to 2 x 2cm in extent – probably imported, but possibly redeposited from elsewhere on the site.
008	Cut of stone-lined pit/posthole [008](009)	Oval on plan, measuring 68cm from N-S by 58cm transversely, and 20cm. The sides were steeply sloping, the base flat. Probably truncated.
009	Fill of stone-lined pit/posthole [008](009)	Medium compact, mid-brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of small stones/pebbles (rounded, up to 6 x 4cm in extent). Several large stones were evident – three appeared to have been set vertically around the W and N edges, forming packing or a stone lining. Another large stone lying at the E side may have been a similar, displaced example. Numerous flecks of charcoal were present, along with some larger chunks, and also flecks of burnt bone.
010	?Cut of possible posthole [010](011)	Very shallow, circular ?cut measuring 15cm in diameter, and 3cm deep. Either a truncated posthole, or a natural feature.
011	Fill of possible posthole [010](011)	Dark brown, silty sand, no inclusions.
012	Cut of pit/posthole [012](013)	Oval on plan, measuring 70cm from NE-SW x 65cm transversely, and reaching a maximum depth of 29cm. The sides are steeply sloping, with a flat base.
013	Fill of posthole [012](013)	Medium compact, dark-brown silty sand, with frequent inclusions of small rounded cobbles (up to 10cm x 6cm in extent). There was one sizeable stone (30 x 20cm in extent) which may have been all that was left of a dismantled stone packing or lining. Flecks and occasional lumps of charcoal present.
014	Band of sand	Broad band of pale sand, 3cm deep, which along with (016) defines the W edge of gravel mound (015). Disappears under S baulk of Trench 1, and obscured at N end by linear furrow 016.
015	Gravel mound, glacial in origin, used in Bronze Age as burial site.	Deposit of reddish-brown rounded pebbles, varying in size, with spreads of larger examples (up to 10 x 5cm in extent) present, interspersed with lenses of pea gravel (80% gravel/stones, 20% sand).
016	Surviving furrow from medieval or post-medieval rig-and-furrow	Linear feature, running from NE to SW across the N part of the trench. Measured 60cm in width, and 5cm in depth, and could be traced intermittently for a distance of 6m. Produced one sherd of medieval pottery, in a compact, mid-brown sandy silt similar in

	cultivation.	character to (002).
017	Natural subsoil	Mixed deposit of sands and gravels, red-brown in colour (50% gravel, 50% sand).
018	Cut of modern pit/posthole [018](019), possibly representing a modern boundary feature.	Circular on plan, 20cm in diameter, 8cm deep. Cut into cultivation horizon (002)
019	Fill of modern pit/posthole [018](019)	Black, humic, very loose. Produced fragments of glazed white earthenware and also a fragment of decorative plaster moulding, possibly part of a drape or swag.
020	Cut of modern inspection pit [020](021)	Rectangular on plan, measuring 2.4m x 1.8m in extent, depth unknown.
021	Fill of modern inspection pit [020](021)	Edge of cut revetted with concrete, interior filled with demolition debris, e.g. slates, masonry, plaster.
022	Cut of modern service trench [022](023).	Runs N-S from entrance of pend (i.e. throughout entire extent of Trench 1a) to 25m S of N end of Trench 1. Varies in width from 0.6 to 1m.
023	Fill of modern service trench [022](023).	Mid-brown clay-silt, surrounding a salt-glazed earthenware pipe (water) and, at the S end, a cast iron gas pipe.
024	Cut of S branch off main service trench [022](023).	Runs NE-SW off main service trench [022]/(023) in S end of trench. Measured 0.6m in width, disappearing beneath building.
025	Fill of S branch off main service trench [022](023).	Contained a salt-glazed earthenware pipe, set within a matrix of mid-brown clay-silt.
026	Cut of N branch off main service trench [022](023)	Runs E-W off main service trench [022]/(023) at 25m S of N end., 0.6m in width.
027	Fill of N branch off main service trench [022](023)	Mid-brown clay-silt, surrounding a salt-glazed earthenware pipe (water).
028	Re-deposited gravel, probably used to level the ground during construction activities.	Spread of gravel, set within a mid-brown clay silt matrix (70% stone, 30% soil). Has a faint, dark purplish hue which sets it apart from the underlying gravel 015. Occurs over the S end of the trench, in the vicinity of the main service trench [022]/(023) and the floor of the N-S building which once stood here.
029	Modern midden deposit.	Spread of black, loose silty sand, with coal and ash present. Produced large amounts of modern finds, including broken chamber pots (transfer-printed), sponge-decorated glazed white earthenware, bone china teacups, brown-glazed red earthenware teapot fragments, occasional sherds of lustre ware, and at least 8 broken ceramic marmalade jars.
030	Cut of modern posthole [030](031).	Circular on plan, 40cm in diameter, depth unknown (at least 20cm, not fully excavated).
031	Fill of modern posthole [030](031).	Loose black silty sand with high ash content. Produced a fragmentary transfer-printed chamber pot.
032	Cut of modern posthole [032](033)	Circular on plan, measuring 40cm in diameter. Depth unknown, but at least 20cm deep (not fully excavated)
033	Fill of modern posthole [032](033)	Loose black silty sand, with fragments of modern ceramic present.
034	Cut of modern posthole [034]/(035)	Circular on plan, measuring 35cm in diameter. Depth unknown, but reaches at least 20cm (not fully excavated)
035	Fill of modern posthole [034](035)	Loose black silty sand, with fragments of modern ceramic present.
036	Cut of modern service trench	Runs N-S on similar course to [022]/(023), but at a slightly higher level (20cm below current ground surface).

	[036](037)	
037	Fill of modern service trench [036](037)	Mid-brown clay-silt, with plastic-coated copper cable set within it.
038	Brick platform, forming layer of hard-standing	Layer of modern bricks (marked 'Kerseland') measuring 9.5m from N-S by 5m transversely.
039	Cut of pit [039](040) (possible findspot of satellite urn burial), probably truncated.	Oval on plan, measuring 86cm from SW-NE by 75cm transversely, reaching a maximum depth of 25cm. 'U'-shaped cut, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base.
040	Fill of pit [039](040) (possible findspot of satellite urn burial), probably truncated.	Medium compact grey-brown sandy-silt, with frequent inclusions of small stones up to 6 x 3cm in extent (50% stone, 30% sand, 20% silt) and frequent flecks of charcoal, with some more sizeable pieces. Produced finds of glazed white earthenware
041	Cut of pit [041](042) (possible findspot of satellite urn burial), probably truncated.	Oval on plan, measuring 90cm from NE to SW by 76cm transversely, and reaching a maximum depth of 18cm.
042	Fill of pit [041](042) (possible findspot of satellite urn burial), probably truncated.	Medium compact grey-brown sandy-silt, with frequent inclusions of small stones up to 6 x 3cm in extent (50% stone, 30% sand, 20% silt) and frequent flecks of charcoal, with some larger pieces. Produced finds of iron nails, white-glazed earthenware and one fragment of clay tobacco pipe.
043	Cut of modern pit [043](044)	Cut of pit, rectangular on plan, measuring 2m (maximum) from E-W x 1.6m transversely. The E extent of the feature was not established as it disappears under the W baulk. Not fully excavated, so depth unknown. Judging by the character of the feature and its contents, it seems more likely to be a modern pit cut in recent times, than the recent infilling of an excavated earlier feature (c.f. [039]/(040), [041]/(042) and [046]/(047))
044	Fill of modern pit [043](044)	Loose black silty sand, with high ash content. Produced a quantity of moder glass and ceramic finds, very similar in character to those recovered in midden deposit 029, i.e. glazed white earthenware (sponge decorated and transfer-printed), and ceramic marmalade jars.
045	Cut of ?natural feature [045](046)	Initially interpreted as a feature (truncated pit similar to [039]/(040), etc.) but excavation shed doubt on this. Very amorphous on plan, with poorly defined edges, measuring 55cm from NW to SE by 45cm transversely, and reaching a maximum depth of 9cm.
046	Fill of natural feature [045](046)	Medium compact grey-brown silty sand, with occasional charcoal flecks. Produced finds of glazed white earthenware and clay tobacco pipe.
047	Cut of pit [047](048) (possible findspot of satellite urn burial) probably truncated.	Cut of pit, oval on plan, measuring 80cm from E-W by 60 cm transversely. 'U'-shaped cut, with steeply-sloping sides and flat base, reaching a maximum depth of 16cm.
048	Fill of pit [047](048) (possible findspot of satellite urn burial) probably truncated.	Fill of pit, comprising a medium-brown silty-sand with no inclusions. No finds recovered.
049	Topsoil, probably equivalent to (001), but occurring in S and E of site. Subject to less intensive improvement and cultivation in recent times.	Compact, dark-brown sandy-silt with occasional inclusions of small stones up to 6 x 3cm in extent. Produced finds of glazed white earthenware and occasional flecks of charcoal and coal.
050	Layer of concrete/hard-	8cm thick, overlying topsoil along W edge of site. Stretched from N edge of brick platform 038 to N baulk, and extended for

	standing	approximately 5m W of the E baulk.
051	Concrete floor	Layer of concrete 6cm deep.
052	Layer of cobbles	Single layer of water-rolled cobbles (measuring approximately 10cm x 7cm x 6cm) laid beneath concrete (051)
053	Bedding for cobbles	Black ashy sand up to 5cm deep, laid as bedding for cobbles (052) and concrete (051).
054	Sand/gravel subsoil (SE corner)	Mixed deposit dominated by reddish-brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of rounded and subangular stones up to 10 x 7 cm in extent. (80% sand, 20% stones/gravel)
055	Construction debris	Thin layer of powdered blond sandstone, found sporadically across S end of site. Probably represents debris from the construction of the late 19 th /early 20 th century house.
056	Hard-standing (20 th century)	Deposit dominated by whin chips (80%) set in a black ashy matrix
057	Cut of foundation trench [057](058)	Forms the bedding trench for foundation wall (059). It is L-shaped on plan and 0.7m in with, extending over a distance of 13m from E-W by 9m transversely. Reached depth of 40cm below modern floor level. Restricted to W half of site.
058	Fill of foundation trench [057](058)	Red-brown clay-silt with frequent inclusions of small stones (up to 6cm x 4cm x 3cm). Very similar to adjacent (049) but much looser in character and slightly darker in hue. Produced a sherd of glazed white earthenware. Restricted to W half of site.
059	Foundation	Comprises between 1 and 2 courses of stones and boulders, some very massive (up to 60cm x 40cm x 40cm). Many appear water-worn, but one or two appear to have been roughly squared and then subject to water-erosion, so it is possible that these stones were moved from an earlier coastal location. Restricted to W half of site.
060	Cut of well [060] (061)(062)	Circular or oval on plan (only half of its extent exposed), projected diameter 1m in extent and reaching a depth of at least 3.4m.
061	Fill of well cut [060]	Dark reddish-brown sandy-gravel, with gravel element dominated by tiny pebbles up to 0.5 x 0.5cm in extent. Some sherds of glazed white earthenware in upper levels.
062	Lining of well [060] (061)(062)	Comprises 15 courses of large, water-worn stones, i.e. unworked rubble), measuring up to 35 x 30 x 30 cm in extent. The upper two or three layers have occasional patches of mortar adhering which may indicate that they were re-used, or that the masonry was subject to stabilisation works.
063	Sandstone capstone	Large block of blonde sandstone, placed over well opening as a capstone. Measured at least 1m x 80cm in extent, and 10cm in thickness.
064	Earthen floor	Layer of compact clay-silt, few stones present, laid as levelling beneath timber floor of late 19 th /early 20 th century house. (E house structure, Trench 1a)
065	Levelling layer	Black ashy deposit, adjacent to foundation [058](059)(060). May represent additional levelling material for floor of late 19 th /early 20 th century house.
066	Earthen floor	Layer of compact clay-silt, few stones present, laid as levelling beneath timber floor of late 19 th /early 20 th century house (W house structure, Trench 1a).
067	Subsoil	Lens of brown coarse sand/ gravel. The grains are too fine to be pure gravel but much coarser than the sand grains seen in, for example, context nos. (014), (068) and (069).
068	Subsoil	Orange sand with occasional gravel inclusions (95% sand, 5%) gravel.
069	Subsoil	Mixed deposit dominated by reddish-brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of rounded and subangular stones up to 10 x 7 cm in extent. (80% sand, 20% stones/gravel)
070	Animal burrow	Series of circular chambers (30 x 30cm in extent) adjoining a channel (50cm N-S x 15cm transversely). They were thought at first to be anthropic in origin but initial exploration revealed a stony

		sterile fill very similar to surrounding sandy subsoil. Dismissed as an animal burrow (rat burrow beneath timber flooring of house)
071	Tree/hedge planting hole	Area of red-brown silty sand, roughly circular on plan but with irregular edges. Very similar in appearance to subsoil but slightly more humic in character. Forms a linear arrangement with (072), running in an E-W manner across the site. Investigated but not recorded.
072	Tree/hedge planting hole	Area of red-brown silty sand, roughly circular on plan but with irregular edges. Very similar in appearance to subsoil but slightly more humic in character. Forms a linear arrangement with (072), running in an E-W manner across the site. Investigated but not recorded.

Artefact Register

Find No.	Context No.	Material Type	Description
1	001	Ceramic	10 x clay tobacco pipe (19 th /20 th century, stamped bowl & stem fragments)
2	002	Ceramic	5 x modern ceramic
3	052	Other	2 x moulded plaster fragments (adjoining)
4	016	Ceramic	1 x medieval pottery
5	009	Stone	1 x worked quartz
6	028	Ceramic	5 x ceramic marmalade jars
7	028	Ceramic	4 x modern ceramic
8	040	Ceramic	2 x modern ceramic
9	042	Ceramic	3 x modern ceramic
10	048	Ceramic	3 x modern ceramic

Samples Register

Sample No.	Context	Sample Type	Description
1	(009)	1 x large bag	Fill of Pit/Posthole 008/009
2	(013)	1 x large bag	Fill of Pit/Posthole 012/013

Drawing Register

Sheet	No.	Title	Scale	Date	Author
1	001	S-Facing Section of Pit/Posthole [008](009)	1:10	05/06/07	CLT
1	002	NE-Facing Section of Pit/Posthole [012](013)	1:10	06/06/07	CLT
1	003	Sample Section #1, Trench 1, SW Corner (N-Facing Section)	1:20	06/06/07	CLT
1	004	Sample Section #2, Trench 1, SE Corner	1:20	06/06/07	CLT
2	005	Site Plan – N end, Trench 1	1:100	07/06/07 11/06/07	CLT
2	006	Site Plan – S end, Trench 1	1:100	11/06/07	CLT
2	007	Putative Urn-Hole [039](040) Half-Sectioned (S-Facing Section)	1:10	08/06/07	CLT

2	008	Putative Urn-Hole [041](042) Half-Sectioned (S-Facing Section)	1:10	08/06/07	CLT
2	009	Feature [045](046) Half-Sectioned (SW-Facing Section)	1:10	08/06/07	CLT
2	010	Putative Urn-hole [047](048) Half-Sectioned (S-Facing Section)	1:10	08/06/07	CLT
2	011	Sample Section #3, Trench 1, 21.20 m S of N end (E-Facing Section) – Showing Cut of [043](044)	1:20	11/06/07	CLT
3	012	Sample Section #4, Trench 1, 24.65m S of N end (W-Facing Section)	1:20	11/06/07	CLT
3	013	Sample Section #5, Trench 1, NE Corner (W-Facing Section)	1:20	11/06/07	CLT
3	014	Sample Section #6, Trench 1, 12.70 m S of N End (E-Facing Section)	1:20	11/06/07	CLT
3	015	Sample Section #7, Trench 1, SE Corner (W-Facing Section)	1:20	11/06/07	CLT
3	016	Sample Section #8, Trench 1, SW Corner (E-Facing Section)	1:20	11/06/07	CLT
4	017	Site Plan – Trench 1a (S end of site)	1:100	03/07/07	CLT
4	018	Sample Section #9, Trench 1a, 10m N of SE corner (NNW-Facing Section)	1:20	03/07/07	CLT
4	019	Sample Section #10, Trench 1a, 3m W of E end (N-Facing Section)	1:20	03/07/07	CLT
4	020	Sample Section #11, Trench 1a, 9m W of E end (S-Facing)	1:20	03/07/07	CLT
4	021	Sample Section #12, Trench 1a, 21m W of E end (S-Facing)	1:20	03/07/07	CLT
4	022	Sample Section #13, Trench 1a, 7.5m N of S end (E-Facing)	1:20	03/07/07	CLT
4	023	Sample Section #14, Trench 1a, 17m N of S end	1:20	03/07/07	CLT
4	024	S-Facing Section Through Upper Layers of Well [060](061)(062)	1:20	03/07/07	CLT
4	025	Sketch Showing Drystone Rubble Lining of Well (062)	1:20	03/07/07	CLT
4	026	Plan of Well [060](061)(062)	1:20	03/07/07	CLT

Photographic Register- Film 1

Image	Description	From	Date
1	General View of Site, following removal of vegetation	SE	05/06/07
2	General View, following removal of vegetation	NE	05/06/07
3	General View, following removal of vegetation	NW	05/06/07
4	General View, following removal of vegetation	SW	05/06/07

Photographic Register- Film 2

Image	Description	From	Date
1	Pit/Posthole [008](009) – Pre-Excavation	NW/ vert	05/06/07

2	Pit/Posthole [008](009) – Pre-Excavation	SW/vert	05/06/07
3	Pit/Posthole [008](009) Half-Sectioned	SW/vert	05/06/07
4	Pit/Posthole [008](009) – Stone Packing Revealed	SW/vert	05/06/07
5	Pit/Posthole [008](009) – Fully Excavated	SW/vert	05/06/07
6	Trench 1, General View, showing extent of stripping, 04/06/07	NW	05/06/07
7	Trench 1, General View, showing extent of stripping at 04/06/07, with gravel mound 015 taking up most of frame, 04/06/07	N	05/06/07
8	Trench 1, General View, showing extent of stripping at 04/06/07, with curvilinear sandy spread (014) and gravel mound (015) to left of shot	NE	05/05/07
9	Trench 1, General View, showing extent of stripping at 04/06/07, with Pit/Posthole [008](009) to right of frame	NW	05/06/07
10	Feature [010](011) – Pre-Excavation	SE	06/06/07
11	Pit/Posthole [012](013) – Pre-Excavation	SE	06/06/07
12	Pit/Posthole [012](013) – Half-Sectioned	NE	06/06/07
13	Feature [010](011) – Fully-excavated	SW	06/06/07
14	Pit/Posthole [012](013) – Fully excavated	SE	06/06/07
15	Pre-Excavation Shot of Sandy Spread (014)	S	06/06/07
16	Sample Section #1, Trench 1, SW Corner	N	06/06/07
17	View of Sandy Spread (014) Following Digging of Machine-Cut Slot	W	06/06/07
18	View of Sandy Spread (014) Following Digging of Machine-Cut Slot	SW	06/06/07
19	View showing concrete floor (051) of N-S Building following removal of Timber Floor	SW	06/06/07
20	View showing concrete floor (051) of N-S Building following removal of Timber Floor	S	06/06/07
21	View showing site of N-S Building following removal of Timber Floor	SE	06/06/07
22	Sample Section #2, Trench 1, SE corner	W	06/06/07
23	View across S end of Trench 1, showing gravel subsoil and area of adjacent disturbance (Concrete-lined inspection pit [020](021) in centre of picture)	SW	06/06/06
24	Looking S down S end of Trench 1, with N-S service track [022](023) clearly visible.	N	06/06/07
25	Looking E towards E boundary wall, with 20 th century midden deposit (029) overlying redeposited gravel (028).	W	06/06/07
26	Looking N along S end of Trench 1, with N-S service track [022](023) clearly visible.	S	06/06/07
27	Putative 'Urn-pit' [039](040) – Pre-Excavation	W	07/06/07
28	Putative 'Urn-pit' [039](040) – Pre-Excavation	W	07/06/07
29	Putative 'Urn-pit' [039](040) – Half-Sectioned	S	07/06/07
30	Putative 'Urn-pit' [041](042) – Pre-Excavation	SE	07/06/07
31	Putative 'Urn-pit' [041](042) – Half-Sectioned	S	07/06/07

32	Possible Pit [045](046) – Pre-Excavation	E	07/06/07
33	Looking N along E side of Trench 1 with modern pits [030](031), [032](033) and [034](035) to left of picture. The blue flags show the location of possible pit [045](046) and putative 'Urn-pit' [047](048), with the half-sectioned 'Urn-pit' [043](044) shown a little to the left.	S	07/06/07
34	Looking S along E side of Trench 1 with gravel mound in foreground. The blue flags mark the location of possible pit [045](046) and putative 'Urn-pit' [047](048)	N	07/06/07
35	Possible Feature [045](046) – Pre-Excavation	E	07/06/07

Photographic Register- Film 3

Image	Description	From	Date
1	Putative 'Urn-pit' [047](048) – Fully Excavated	SW	11/06/07
2	Putative 'Urn-pit' [039](040) – Fully Excavated	SW	11/06/07
3	Putative 'Urn-pit' [041](042) – Fully Excavated	SW	11/06/07
4	Sample Section #3, Trench 1, Showing Section of Modern Pit [043](044)	E	11/06/07
5	Sample Section #4 , Trench 1, Showing Modern Midden Deposit (029)	W	11/06/07
6	Sample Section #5, Trench 1, NE corner	W	11/06/07
7	Sample Section #6, Trench 1, 12.70m S of N end	E	11/06/07
8	Sample Section #7, Trench 1, Re-deposited Gravel (028)at SE corner	W	11/06/07
9	Sample Section #8, Trench 1, Re-deposited Gravel (028) at SW Corner	E	11/06/07
10	Trench 1, General View across E side of site, showing location of 'urn-pits' [039](040), [041](042) and [047](048)	N	11/06/07
11	General View along E side of site, showing location of 'urn-pits' [039](040), [041](042) and [047](048)	S	11/06/07

Photographic Register- Film 4

Image	Description	From	Date
1	Trench 1a, foundation [057]/[058] in the process of removal (N-S portion)	E	03/07/07
2	View looking W across Trench 1a, with foundation [057](058) (N-S portion) still in situ	E	03/07/07
3	View looking W across Trench 1a following removal of foundation [057](058) (N-S portion)	E	03/07/07
4	View looking E across E half of Trench 1a	W	03/07/07
5	Foundation [057](058) exposed in W baulk of Trench 1a	E	03/07/07
6	Trench 1a, SW Corner, Animal burrow (070)	W	03/07/07
7	General view looking NE across Trench 1a	SW	03/03/07
8	General view looking SE across Trench 1a	NW	03/07/07

9	General view looking NW across Trench 1a	SE	03/07/07
10	General view looking SW across Trench 1a	NE	03/03/07
11	View of Well [060](061)(062) with capping stone (063) in situ	S	03/03/07
12	View of Well [060](061)(062), with capping stone (063) in situ	S	03/03/07
13	Sample Section #9, Trench 1a, 10m N of SE corner (NNW-Facing Section)	NNW	03/04/07
14	Sample Section #10, Trench 1a, 3m W of E end (N-Facing Section)	N	03/07/07
15	Sample Section #11, Trench 1a, 9m W of E end (S-Facing)	S	03/07/07
16	Sample Section #12, Trench 1a, 21m W of E end (S-Facing)	S	03/07/07
17	Sample Section #13, Trench 1a, 7.5m N of S end (E-Facing)	E	03/07/07
18	Sample Section #14, Trench 1a, 17m N of S end, with Foundation [057](058) in situ	N	03/07/07
19	Looking N towards Well [060](061)(062)	S	03/07/07
20	View of Well [060](061)(062) on plan	E/vert	03/07/07
21	View of Well [060](061)(062) on plan	N/vert	03/07/07
22	Trench 1a, W Edge following topsoil stripping	S	03/07/07
23	Trench 1a, W Edge following topsoil stripping	N	03/07/07

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	67-73 Nelson Street, Largs
PARISH:	Largs
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Louise Turner
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitoring
NMRS NO(S):	NS25NW9
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Cist; Urns; Human Remains
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 205 596
START DATE (this season)	5 th June, 2007
END DATE (this season)	5 th July, 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Excavated first by workmen in the 1900's, and described in detail by Robert Munro in <i>Archaeologia</i> 62.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation carried out in response to proposed building works at 67-73 Nelson Street, Largs, revealed traces of a gravel mound previously described by Munro in the 1900's (<i>Archaeologia</i> 62) as the location of a Bronze Age cist and associated satellite urned cremations.</p> <p>The original find was described as a circular, stone-lined cist containing 'at least' seven cremations (all associated with bucket-shaped urns). Following the excavation of this cist, later groundworks revealed several outlying satellite urn burials (in this case, associated with collared urns). A perforated stone hammer was also recorded as having been found within spoil being removed from the site.</p> <p>During the current ground works on site, the original location of the gravel mound described by Munro was identified and much of its extent uncovered. Three pits were interpreted as the probable remains of satellite urn burials excavated previously. They yielded finds of late 19th/early 20th century date with no traces of earlier fills remaining. Lying to the northwest of the mound, in area apparently undisturbed by the early 20th century groundworks, two postholes of probable prehistoric date were identified. One had packing stones in situ and produced a fairly convincing piece of worked quartz.</p> <p>Also uncovered to the rear of the west house structure was a drystone, rubble-built well measuring 3.6m in depth. It appears to have been associated with the house and was probably contemporary, of early-mid 19th century date.</p>
PROJECT CODE:	07021

SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Lochview Developments
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	10 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
E MAIL:	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to National Monuments Record of Scotland.

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