

**Beechcroft, Galston, East Ayrshire:
Archaeological Evaluation
Housing Plots; 1 and 2**

Data Structure Report

by Claire Shaw

issued 23rd March 2007



Rathmell

Archaeology Ltd

Quality Assurance

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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 archaeological investigative works required by Mr. David Bone in respect of proposed residential development at Beechcroft, Galston, East Ayrshire (centred on NGR ref: NS 5281 3181). This phase of work is specifically concerned with plots 1 and 2. The archaeological works, carried out on the 16th of March 2007, were designed to inform any necessary mitigation of impact on the archaeological remains within the development area. The land was previously used for agricultural purposes and left fallow in preparation of the evaluation works and covers an area of 5.76 ha.
- 1.2 The findings presented below inform on the character of any archaeologically significant features within the proposed development area. These investigative works were sufficient to inform on archaeological hazard and allow the development of any necessary subsequent mitigation. The character of such further stages of work will need to be agreed with West of Scotland Archaeology Service.
- 1.3 Rathmell Archaeology Ltd was appointed by required by Mr. David Bone to act with regard to the archaeological condition. Mr. Paul Robins of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), who advises East Ayrshire Council on archaeological matters, provided guidance on the character of archaeological investigations required on this site.

2 Project Works

- 2.1 The programme of works commenced with an archaeological evaluation through machine cut trenches in accordance with the specified coverage as stipulated by WoSAS. This involved the cutting of two 10m by 1.6m trenches within the footprint of each housing plot (plots 1 and 2) and a trench extending the length of each access road. These works were undertaken in keeping with the submitted Written Scheme of Investigation with the on-site works taking place on the 16th of March 2007.
- 2.2 On arrival to site there was no need to set out the location of the trenches as they had been restricted within the footprints of the two housing plots and the access roads (Figure 1). These plots had been marked out by the developer prior to arrival.
- 2.3 The majority of exposed features were investigated and evaluated to determine archaeological significance. All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

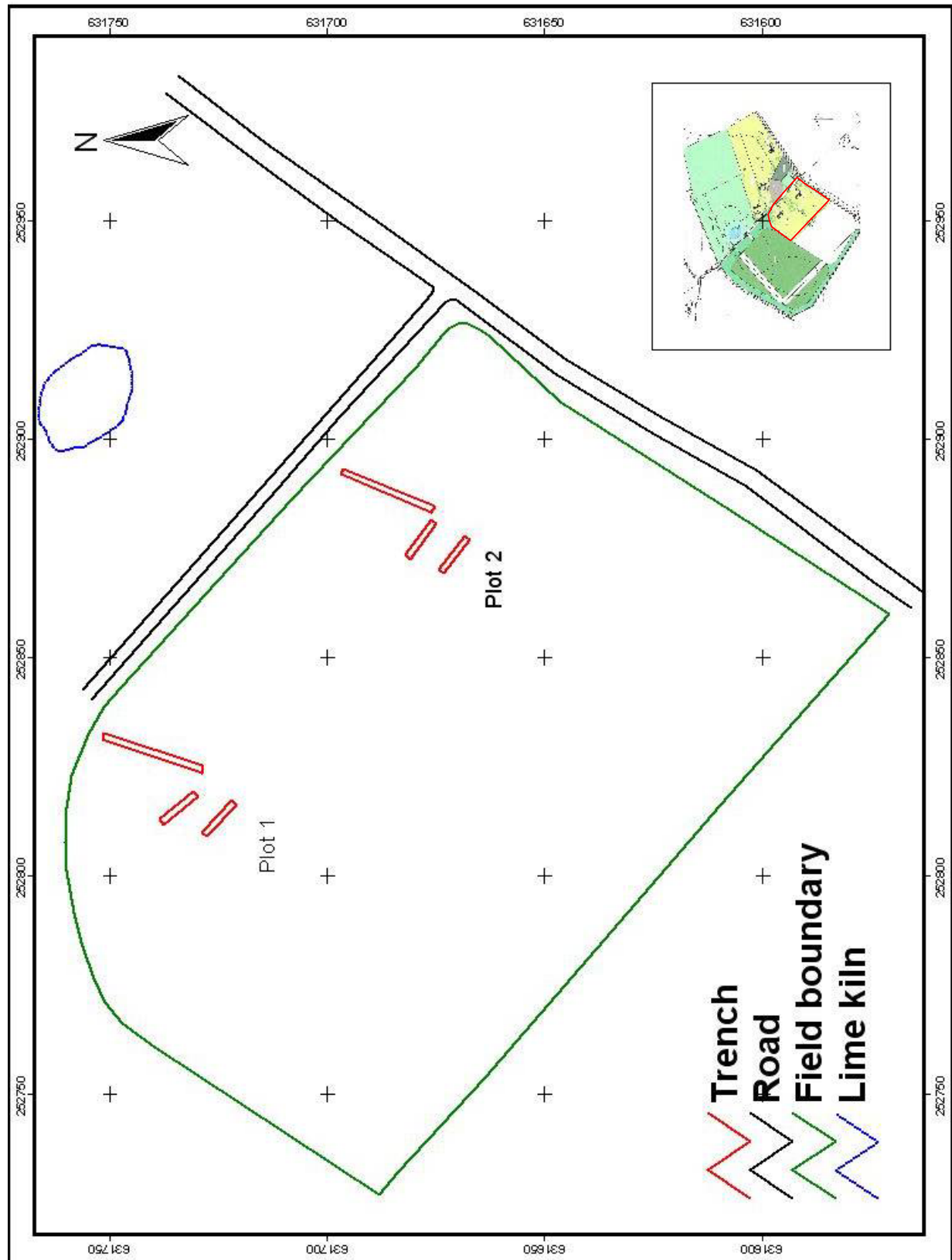


Figure 1: Trench location plan

3 Findings: Desktop study

3.1 *Statutory protected sites*

3.1.1 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 or buildings protected under the Town and Country Planning Act 1997 (Historic Scotland 1998).

3.1.2 Nor were any sites identified that have the potential to contain the burial of human skeletal material, and hence raise the difficulties of the crime of violation of sepulchre (the common law crime of unlawful interference with human remains).

3.2 *Cartographic evidence*

3.2.1 The earliest source of sound cartographical evidence that illustrates a basic level of detail of the area concerned dates to the eighteenth century with the pre-Ordnance Survey map by Roy (1747-1755) (Figure 2a). This is followed by the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (1860 Figure 2b) that illustrate accurate detail of the area concerned.

3.2.2 Roy's map of the area (Figure 2a) shows a somewhat crowded landscape with numerous small settlements forming a patchwork of rig and furrow. Presumably this concentration of small holdings is exploiting the rich agricultural lands that are fed by the network of rivers and burns that extend throughout this landscape. It can be seen that the area concerned falls within a cultivated area of rig and furrow and partially within what appears to be an enclosed field system (depicted by a squiggly line).

3.2.3 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1860) (Figure 2b) illustrates that there has been significant development in the area, predominantly with the establishment of a road network. It can also be seen that the level of settlement in the area has considerably reduced. In regards to the development area the dominating feature to the north-east is the Auchencloigh limestone quarry and adjacent lime kiln. Presently the remains of the kiln (Figure 3a and b) can be seen and the adjacent quarry has been partially backfilled.

3.3 *Documentary and Archival Sources*

3.3.1 Both the Old Statistical Accounts 1791-99 (OSA) and New Statistical Accounts 1834-45 (NSA) were consulted for the parish of Sorn. Only one reference was made in the NSA regarding the land owner of Auchencloigh as Esq Thomas Falkner and no specific reference was made in relation to the quarry and lime kiln within this estate.



Figure 2a: Roy's Military Map



Figure 2b - 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1860



Figure 3a: Upstanding remains of Lime Kiln at Auchencloigh



Figure 3b: Double relieving arch of Lime Kiln

4 Findings: Evaluation trenches

- 4.1 All six trenches exhibited a fairly common stratigraphic sequence with a mid brown/orange silty/sand topsoil with occasional small-medium rounded stones with an average depth of 400mm, overlying a distinct orange/cream silty/sand with frequent degraded fragments of red and blonde sandstone
- 4.2 Within Trench 6 a distinct band of cream coloured clay with frequent fragments of possible bedrock was revealed. This was determined to be nothing other than a natural feature. All other trenches were entirely blank of any feature including field drains.

5 Discussion

- 5.1 No significant archaeological features were identified during the course of the archaeological evaluation undertaken in relation to building plots 1 and 2 at Beechcroft, Galston. The evaluation trenching as stipulated by WoSAS allowed an assessment to be made in regards to the character of the land.
- 5.2 The general lack of archaeological features indicates that the ground in question has either been left uncultivated or utilized for agricultural purposes. This can be seen in the cartographic evidence, where Roy in the mid 18th century illustrates the ground as cultivated.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The archaeological works failed to identify any significant archaeological features or artefacts within the study area. Consequently, we recommend that no further archaeological works are appropriate with regard to the construction of residential properties on plots 1 and 2.
- 6.2 From the cartographic evidence, it can be seen that the location of the site once formed part of a densely occupied medieval agricultural landscape. However the distinct lack of material evidence within the excavated trenches indicates the likelihood of the occurrence of a settlement within the immediate area of the housing to be remote. Looking at the area in a wider setting, consideration has to be made to the spot find of a corroded 17th century sword found at Little Carleith to the northeast, the proximity of the 12th-13th century Castle Daffin and the influence that the medieval monastery at Fail had on the surrounding land in relation to land improvement.
- 6.2 Further, given the completion of the substantive adverse impacts from the development (woodland and pond) it is reasonable that the other three plots within this proposed development, are unlikely to encounter archaeology, therefore we recommend that WoSAS consider discharging this condition entirely.
- 6.3 The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with West of Scotland Archaeology Service. Confirmation that the above recommendations are acceptable should be confirmed with these bodies.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 A programme of archaeological investigative works was undertaken in respect of the proposed development on land at Beechcroft, Galston, Ayrshire (centred on NGR ref: NS 5281 3181). An evaluation was carried out on the 16th of March 2007. The evaluation comprised of six trenches located within the footprints of housing plots one and two of the development area.
- 7.2 A representative sample, as agreed with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, of all of the uncovered features with archaeological potential was investigated. All six trenches exhibited a fairly common stratigraphic sequence with a mid brown/orange friable silty/sand topsoil with occasional small-medium rounded stones with an average depth of 400mm, overlying a distinct orange/cream silty/sand with frequent degraded fragments of red and

blonde sandstone

- 7.3 No significant archaeological features were identified during the course of the archaeological evaluation.



Figure 4a: Trench 1



Figure 4b: Trench 3



Figure 4c: Trench 4



Figure 4d: Trench 6

8 References

- 8.1 *Documentary*
- | | | |
|-----------------|---------|---|
| Gordon, Rev. G | 1791-99 | Old Statistical Account of Scotland, 1791-99. Ayrshire, Parish of Sorn, Vol.5. University of Glasgow and Edinburgh, 138-174. |
| Stewart, Rev. J | 1834-45 | New Statistical Account of Scotland, 1834-45. Ayrshire, Parish of Sorn, Vol.20. University of Glasgow and Edinburgh, 126-147. |
| Shaw, C | 2007 | Beechcroft, Galston, Archaeological Mitigation. <i>Unpublished Commercial Written Scheme of Investigation</i> . |
| 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. |
- 8.2 *Cartographic*
- | | | |
|---------|------------------|---|
| 1860 | Ordnance Survey | Ayrshire, 1 st edition map 1:10560 |
| 1745-55 | Roy Military map | Military Map of Ayrshire Sheets 04/6e and 04/6f |

Appendix 1: Trench Details

Within this appendix a standardised set of data pertaining to the evaluation trenches is presented.

All measurement distances quoted along the trench measure based on the quoted orientation of the trench. See Figure 15 for trench locations.

Trench 1

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Orientation: | Northwest to Southeast |
| Size: | 10m by 1.6m (16m ²). |
| Topsoil depth: | 360mm to 390mm. |
| Subsoil character | Distinct orange/cream clay like subsoil. Compact silty/sand with numerous degraded fragments of red and blonde sandstone throughout. The soil is not one uniform colour and has a slight marl effect [102]. |
| Modern features: | None. |
| Significant features: | None. |
| Artefacts: | None. |

Trench 2

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Orientation: | Northwest to Southeast |
| Size: | 10m by 1.6m (16m ²). |
| Topsoil depth: | 370mm to 400mm. |
| Subsoil character | Distinct orange/cream clay like subsoil. Compact silty/sand with numerous degraded fragments of red and blonde sandstone throughout. The soil is not one uniform colour and has a slight marl effect [202]. |
| Modern features: | None. |
| Significant features: | None. |
| Artefacts: | None. |

Trench 3

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Orientation: | Northeast to Southwest |
| Size: | 24m by 1.6m (38.40m ²). |
| Topsoil depth: | 370mm to 410mm. |
| Subsoil character | Distinct orange/cream clay like subsoil. Compact silty/sand with numerous degraded fragments of red and blonde sandstone throughout. The soil is not one uniform colour and has a slight marl effect [302]. |
| Modern features: | None. |
| Significant features: | None. |
| Artefacts: | None. |

Trench 4

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Orientation: | Northwest to Southeast |
| Size: | 10m by 1.6m (16m ²). |
| Topsoil depth: | 350mm to 420mm. |
| Subsoil character | Distinct orange/cream clay like subsoil. Compact silty/sand with numerous degraded fragments of red and blonde sandstone throughout. The soil is not one uniform colour and has a slight marl effect [402]. |
| Modern features: | None. |
| Significant features: | None. |
| Artefacts: | None |

Trench 5

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Orientation: | Northwest to Southeast |
| Size: | 10m by 1.6m (16m ²). |
| Topsoil depth: | 350mm to 410mm. |
| Subsoil character | Distinct orange/cream clay like subsoil. Compact silty/sand with numerous degraded fragments of red and blonde sandstone throughout. The soil is not one uniform colour and has a slight marl effect [502]. |
| Modern features: | None. |
| Significant features: | None. |
| Artefacts: | None |

Trench 6

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Orientation: | Northwest to Southeast |
| Size: | 23m by 1.6m (36.80m ²). |
| Topsoil depth: | 380mm to 420mm. |
| Subsoil character | Distinct orange/cream clay like subsoil. Compact silty/sand with numerous degraded fragments of red and blonde sandstone throughout. The soil is not one uniform colour and has a slight marl effect [602]. |
| Modern features: | None. |
| Significant features: | None. |
| Artefacts: | None |

Appendix 2: Record Summaries

Context Summaries

| No. | Trench | Interpretation | Description |
|-----|--------|----------------|--|
| 101 | 1 | Topsoil | Mid brown fine silty/sand, friable with occasional small to medium sized rounded stones throughout. Between 360mm and 390mm in depth. |
| 102 | 1 | Subsoil | Distinct orange/cream clay like subsoil. Compact, silty/sand with numerous degraded fragments of red and blonde sandstone throughout. The soil is not one uniform colour and has a slight marl effect. |
| 201 | 2 | Topsoil | Mid brown fine silty/sand, friable with occasional small to medium sized rounded stones throughout. Between 370mm and 400mm in depth. |
| 202 | 2 | Subsoil | Distinct orange/cream clay like subsoil. Compact, silty/sand with numerous degraded fragments of red and blonde sandstone throughout. The soil is not one uniform colour and has a slight marl effect. |
| 301 | 3 | Topsoil | Mid brown fine silty/sand, friable with occasional small to medium sized rounded stones throughout. Between 370mm and 410mm in depth. |
| 302 | 3 | Subsoil | Distinct orange/cream clay like subsoil. Compact, silty/sand with numerous degraded fragments of red and blonde sandstone throughout. The soil is not one uniform colour and has a slight marl effect. |
| 401 | 4 | Topsoil | Mid brown fine silty/sand, friable with occasional small to medium sized rounded stones throughout. Between 350mm and 420mm in depth. |
| 402 | 4 | Subsoil | Distinct orange/cream clay like subsoil. Compact, silty/sand with numerous degraded fragments of red and blonde sandstone throughout. The soil is not one uniform colour and has a slight marl effect. |
| 501 | 5 | Topsoil | Mid brown fine silty/sand, friable with occasional small to medium sized rounded stones throughout. Between 350mm and 410mm in depth |

| | | | |
|-----|---|---------|--|
| 502 | 5 | Subsoil | Distinct orange/cream clay like subsoil. Compact, silty/sand with numerous degraded fragments of red and blonde sandstone throughout. The soil is not one uniform colour and has a slight marl effect. |
| 601 | 6 | Topsoil | Mid brown fine silty/sand, friable with occasional small to medium sized rounded stones throughout. Between 380mm and 420mm in depth |
| 602 | 6 | Subsoil | Distinct orange/cream clay like subsoil. Compact, silty/sand with numerous degraded fragments of red and blonde sandstone throughout. The soil is not one uniform colour and has a slight marl effect. |

Drawing Register

| Sheet | No. | Title | Scale | Date | Author |
|-------|-----|--------------------------|-------|------|--------|
| 1 | 001 | Post-ex plan of trench 1 | 1:100 | | CS |
| 1 | 002 | Post-ex plan of trench 2 | 1:100 | | CS |
| 1 | 003 | Post-ex plan of trench 3 | 1:100 | | CS |
| 1 | 004 | Post-ex plan of trench 4 | 1:100 | | CS |

Photographic Register- Film 1

| Image | Description | From | Date |
|-------|---------------------|------|----------|
| 1 | General of Trench 1 | NW | 16/03/07 |
| 2 | General of Trench 2 | SE | 16/03/07 |
| 3 | General of Trench 3 | SW | 16/03/07 |
| 4 | General of Trench 4 | NW | 16/03/07 |
| 5 | General of Trench 5 | SE | 16/03/07 |
| 6 | General of Trench 6 | NE | 16/03/07 |

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

| | |
|--|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | East Ayrshire |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | Beechcroft |
| PARISH: | Sorn |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Claire Shaw |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | Rathmell Archaeology Limited |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Evaluation |
| NMRS NO(S): | - |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | - |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | None |
| NGR (2 letters, 6 figures) | NS 5281 3181 |
| START DATE (this season) | 16 th March 2007 |
| END DATE (this season) | 16 th March 2007 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.) | None |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields) | <p>A programme of archaeological investigative works was undertaken in respect of the proposed development on land at Beechcroft, Galston, Ayrshire (centred on NGR ref: NS 5281 3181). An evaluation was carried out on the 16th of March 2007. The evaluation comprised of six trenches located within the footprints of housing plots one and two of the development area.</p> <p>A representative sample, as agreed with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, of all of the uncovered features with archaeological potential was investigated. All six trenches exhibited a fairly common stratigraphic sequence with a mid brown/orange friable silty/sand topsoil with occasional small-medium rounded stones with an average depth of 400mm, overlying a distinct orange/cream silty/sand with frequent degraded fragments of red and blonde sandstone</p> <p>No significant archaeological features were identified during the course of the archaeological evaluation.</p> |
| PROJECT CODE: | 07022 |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | David Bone |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR: | 10 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU |
| E MAIL: | contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk |
| ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited) | Report to Dumfries and Galloway Archaeology Service and archive to National Monuments Record of Scotland. |

Contact Details

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