

**Plot 1, Golf Road, Millport
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Data Structure Report

by Douglas Gordon

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Rathmell

Archaeology Ltd

Quality Assurance

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1 Overview

- 1.1 This Data Structure Report presents the findings of an archaeological watching brief undertaken on behalf of Mr McFarlane in respect to proposed groundworks in support of the development of House Plot No. 1 on Golf Road, Millport. The archaeological works are designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
- 1.2 The site is located towards the western end of the town of Millport on the northern outskirts of the Outstanding Conversation Area within the bounds of a former green field site. This field has been developed by its former owner into 37 individual housing plots as the initial phase of the self build complex. Archaeological monitoring was restricted to plot 1 (NGR NS1586 5497).
- 1.3 There are no known archaeological sites within the proposed development site; the site is situated to the immediate north of the defined boundary for the historic burgh of Millport. North Ayrshire Council has required a programme of archaeological monitoring in relation to each stage of the development, including watching brief condition on any ground breaking works to address any potential archaeological deposits.
- 1.4 Rathmell Archaeology Ltd (Rathmell) was appointed by Mr McFarlane, to act with regard to the archaeological issues. The program of archaeological monitoring was designed to mitigate any adverse impact on any archaeology revealed during ground breaking works. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service who advises North Ayrshire Council on archaeological matters, provided guidance on the character of archaeological works required on this site.

2 Project Works

- 2.1 The programme of works agreed with North Ayrshire Council and the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), comprised of the identification of those works that could generate adverse physical impact that may impact on the archaeological resource and the monitoring of those works. These works were undertaken over a two day period; from the 9th to the 10th of April 2007. In compliance with the Method Statement (Gordon 2007) all groundbreaking works within the development were observed on these dates.
- 2.2 All works were carried out using a JCB 3CX machine with 0.9m & 0.6m wide toothed buckets and a 1.6m toothless bucket. Any potential archaeological features were investigated. However, no significant archaeological features were observed during the on-site works and no archaeological material was recovered. All features impacted by the ground reduction were of relatively modern or natural origin.
- 2.3 All works were conducted in accordance with the Method Statement, WoSAS Standard Conditions, the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

3 Historical Background

3.1 *Cartographic evidence*

- 3.1.1 The development site is situated to the immediate north-west of the town within an agricultural field which appears to have been used for pasture. The earliest source of sound cartographical evidence that illustrates a basic level of detail of the island dates to the eighteenth century with the pre-Ordnance Survey map by Roy (1747-1755) (Figure 2a). Thereafter it is the 1st and 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey maps (1856 and 1899 respectively) that provide accurate detail of the island.



Figure 1: Roy's Military Map 1747-55

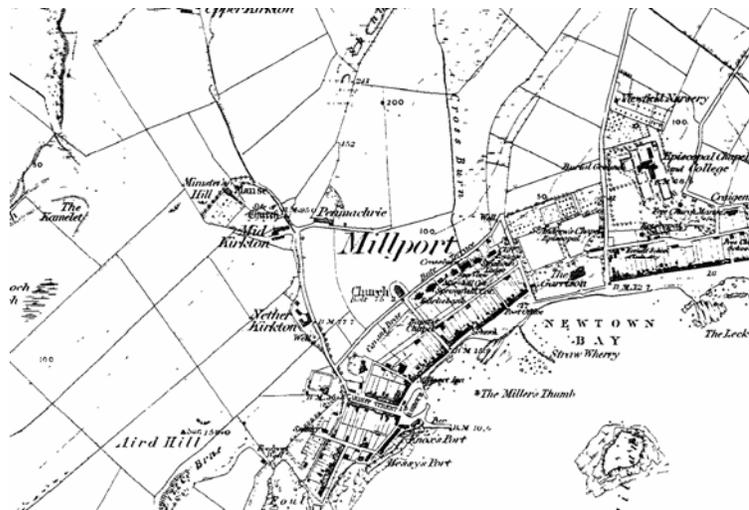


Figure 2: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1856

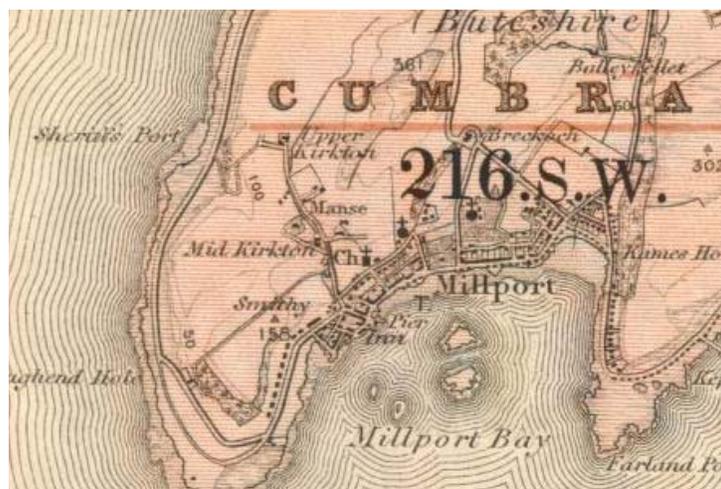


Figure 3: 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1899

- 3.1.2 Roy's map of Millport (Figures 2a) shows the somewhat dispersed layout of farms and settlements spread throughout the island. It illustrates extensive areas under tillage, with vast areas which appear to be uncultivated. It can be seen that a moderately sized settlement of Kirkton has been depicted to the north of the area under investigation. This settlement/hamlet is comprised of nine buildings, including a large building that may be interpreted as the parish church. It can be seen that the land to the immediate south of this settlement is uncultivated and it is believed that this is the location of the development site.
- 3.1.3 On the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1856) it can be seen that the infrastructure on the island has developed considerably. The site is shown to be defined by a road to the south and west and a farm (Penmachrie) to the north (Figure 2b), indicating the land is used for agricultural purposes.
- 3.1.4 By the second edition Ordnance Survey (1899) it we can see that the town of Millport has expanded within its coastal limits, extending into undeveloped areas. The land upon which the current development is taking place on can be seen to be continued in use for agricultural purposes, allowing us to establish that there are no 18th to 19th century remains on site. However from this alone we can not dismiss the potential for earlier archaeological deposits.

3.2 *Documentary and Archival Sources*

- 3.2.1 There are no archaeological 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) *within* the study area. The National Monuments Record of Scotland identified three archaeological sites within the vicinity of the development site were noted. One sited the small barony of Penmachrie (NS15NE 22) to the north, a series of stone coffins at the farm in Kirkton (NMRS NS15NE 13) and a Roman coin (NMRS NS15SE 24) (Alexandrian bronze coin of Hadrian) found during digging works at the bowling green to the south.
- 3.2.2 Both the Old Statistical Accounts 1791-99 (OSA) and New Statistical Accounts 1834-45 (NSA) were consulted for Cumbrae and it was noted that very little reference was made in relation to activity in the area. The only point stated in regards to the development area was made in the NSA outlining the early land divisions, implying that the area concerned was part of one of the many small baronies (Penmachrie) which formed the island (NSA, 74-75).

4 Findings: Monitoring Works

- 4.1 The site is located within a self-build complex to the immediate north of the town of Millport. The majority of the site had compacted type 1 hardcore across it, as it had been the site of the site office during the road laying works. The southwest area of the site nearest the road appears to have been reduced at some point to lessen the size of the bank that runs along the road (*pers comm*). Work consisted of the digging of the foundations for the house, topsoil stripping for the footprint of the garage, the soakaway and the driveway. There was no need to strip the footprint of the building as the area will be raised rather than reduced.
- 4.2 A common stratigraphy was evident across the site with up to 250mm of type 1 hardcore [101], which contained ceramic building material, over a brown silty clay [103] that was up to 100mm in depth, though in general was much less. This in turn overlay a brown red clay subsoil [102] which lay on a yellow brown clay subsoil. The exception to this was the area of the soakaway which had little or no [101] but instead had a 100mm of dark brown humic topsoil [104] over [102].
- 4.3 No significant archaeology or artefacts were recovered



Figure 4a: Foundations



Figure 4b: Footprint for the Garage



Figure 4c: Driveway

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out from the 9th to 10th of April 2007 for Mr McFarlane in respect of the building of a residence on Plot 1 at Golf Road, Millport.
- 5.2 During the monitoring works of the foundation trenches and ancillary buildings no features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed.

6 References

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Drummond, Rev. J | 1834-45 | <i>New Statistical Account of Scotland, 1834-45. Cumbray, County of Bute, Vol.5.</i> University of Glasgow and Edinburgh, 69-82 |
| Graham, Rev. H | 1791-99 | <i>Old Statistical Account of Scotland, 1791-99. Island and Parishes of Cimbriaes, Vol.11.</i> University of Glasgow and Edinburgh, 391-396. |
| Gordon, D | 2007 | Golf Road, Millport: archaeological Watching Brief <i>unpublished commercial document.</i> |
| 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. |
| <i>Cartographic</i> | | |
| 1747-55 | Roy | Military map of Greater Cumbrae – sheet 13/5f |
| 1856 | Ordnance Survey | 1 st edition map 1:10560 |
| 1899 | Ordnance Survey | 2 nd edition map, sheet 21 1:10560 |

Appendix 1: Record summaries

Context Summaries

Context No	Interpretation	Description
101	Hardcore	Angular grey stones ≤60mm with inclusions of Ceramic Building Material
102	Subsoil	Brown Red Clay
103		Brown silty soil
104	Topsoil	Dark Brown Silty Soil
105	Subsoil	Yellow Brown Clay

Photographic Record

Image No.	Description	From	Date
1	Footprint of Soakaway	WSW	10/04/07
2	Driveway	N	10/04/07
3	Footprint of Garage	W	10/04/07
4	Foundations	E	10/04/07
5	Foundations	ESE	10/04/07
6	General Scene Shot	NNE	10/04/07
7	Section of Foundations	E	10/04/07
8	Section of Founds showing hardcore	N	10/04/07

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Golf Road, Millport
PARISH:	Cumbrae
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Douglas Gordon
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Monitoring
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS1582 5498
START DATE (this season)	09/04/07
END DATE (this season)	10/04/07
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out from the 9th to 10th of April 2007 for Mr McFarlane in respect of the building of a residence on Plot 1 at Golf Road, Millport.</p> <p>During the monitoring works of the foundation trenches and ancillary buildings no features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed.</p>
PROJECT CODE:	07027
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to National Monuments Record of Scotland.

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