

**Cardingmill Cottage, Oban:
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Data Structure Report

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Rathmell

Archaeology Ltd

Quality Assurance

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Signed Date

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Checked Date

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1 Overview

- 1.1 This Data Structure Report presents the findings of archaeological investigative works required by Mr Finlo Cottier, in respect of groundworks carried out in support of the extension of Cardingmill Cottage, Oban. The archaeological works are designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area. The area concerned consists of landscaped ground located immediately to the south of the existing cottage. This ground, which is bordered to the west by a freshwater burn and to the east by Glenmore Road, has been terraced into a garden.
- 1.2 The findings presented below inform on the character of any archaeologically significant features within the development area. A consideration of the appropriateness of post-excavation analytical works is also contained below. The character of such further stages of work will need to be agreed with Argyll and Bute Council and the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.
- 1.3 Rathmell Archaeology Ltd was appointed by Mr Finlo Cottier to act with regard to archaeological matters. Prior to the commencement of works a Method Statement was agreed with West of Scotland Archaeology Service which defined the extent of works to be undertaken.

2 Project Works

- 2.1 The programme of works was to consist of archaeological monitoring of the disturbance of all soft sediment within the development footprint. However, through consultation with West of Scotland Archaeology Service, it was agreed that if sufficient area and depth of sediment was exposed so as to be able to demonstrate the absence of archaeology on site then the monitoring of any further excavations could be avoided.
- 2.2 A single L-shaped trench was opened which enclosed the southern and eastern perimeter of the development area (Figure 2). The inner edge of this corresponded to the position of the foundation trenches for the extension to the Cottage while the outer edge marked, approximately, the intended position for the new garden retaining wall. Examining the base and sections of this trench provided profiles running both north/south and east/west across the development area.
- 2.3 These works were undertaken in keeping with the submitted Method Statement, the on-site works took place on the 16th July 2007.
- 2.4 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.

3 Findings: Desktop Study

- 3.1 In the area immediately around Cardingmill Cottage several sites of historical or archaeological significance are known. Of particular interest is the previous work undertaken to the west of the site, where at least two Mesolithic middens (formed of shell, fishbone and animal bone) have been excavated from clefts or rock shelters at the base of the relict cliff line which stands to the rear of the development area. The development area sits at the base of this cliff line, where the slope of the land shallows towards the shore; an ideal area for finding Mesolithic material.
- 3.2 Two middens (Cardingmill Bay I and II) confirm a continuation of the exploitation of the littoral zone during the late Mesolithic from the better known area of such activity in the centre of Oban. Furthermore, the nearer midden (Cardingmill Bay II) had sunk into its upper surface a stone lined Bronze Age ossuary (burial chamber for disarticulated human bone). This evidences a long term exploitation of the surrounding area during early prehistory. It also emphasises the potential danger of disturbing human remains.

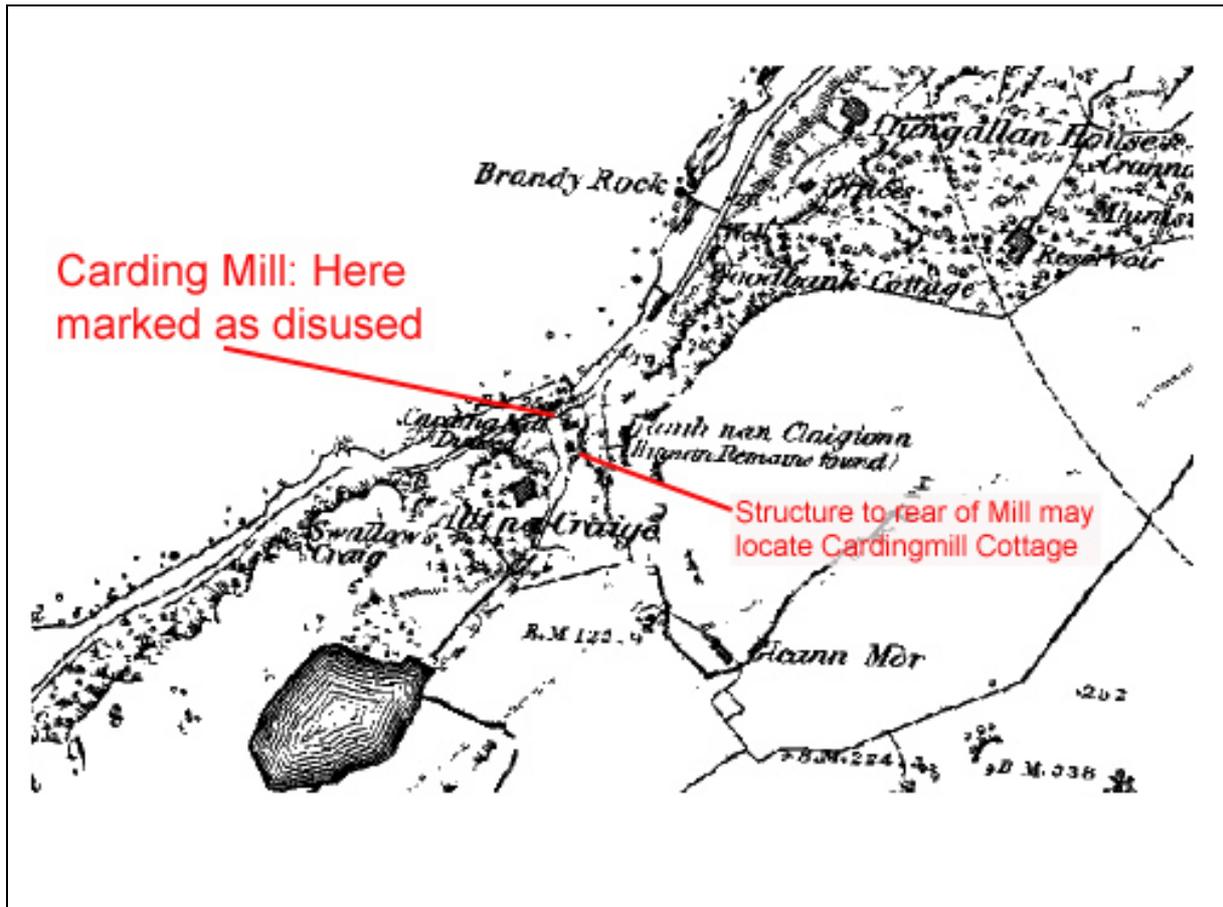


Figure 1a: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey showing Mill and Cottage



Figure 1b: Showing Cottage on left and Mill building on right

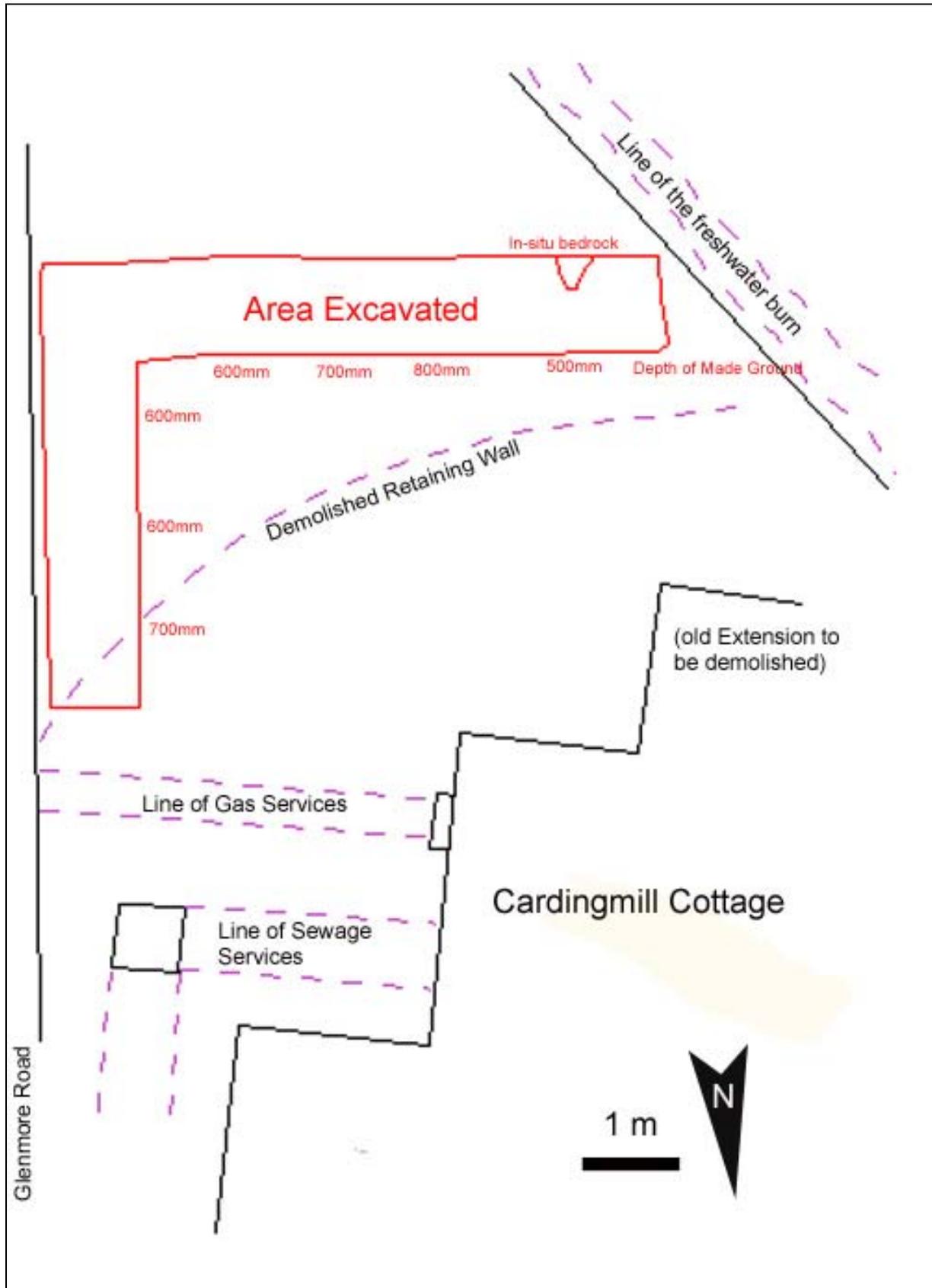


Figure 2: Site plan with trench positions

- 3.3 There was therefore, due to the amount of archaeology around the development, a hazard of significant archaeological features being present. The concern regarding archaeology, while predominantly focussing on early prehistory, was not solely orientated to this period. The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey shows a disused Carding Mill in proximity to the development area and another upstanding structure in the approximate position of the development site, to the south (Figure 1a).
- 3.4 Consultation with local sources indicated that the building (now a house) immediately to the north of Cardingmill Cottage was the Carding Mill building and that the cottage itself was the Mill manager's cottage (Figure 1b). This seemed to confirm the supposition that the structures shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey matched the location of the development area. It is unclear how the industrial development on the site had affected the development area. It is possible that later industrial development has removed any trace of prehistoric archaeology.

4 Findings: Trenches

- 4.1 One trench was opened, and it exhibited a very simple stratigraphic sequence in which a landscaped surface deposit came down directly onto natural soils. There was very little variation in the natural soil (002) beyond the rare instances where in-situ bedrock was located very near the surface. For the most part the natural subsoil was made up of degraded bedrock and a loose matrix of clay. The surface deposit (001) was a combination of very humic topsoil and garden rubbish. All of this rubbish was of recent date.
- 4.2 No features were uncovered during this excavation. The nature of the subsoil was uniform throughout the uncovered area with only made ground above. Excavation closer to the existing Cottage would, on the west, have come close to the foundation excavations for the existing extension and on the east impacted on service trenches for gas and sewage (Figure 2).
- 4.3 No features or finds were recovered during the course of the excavation. The Trench was cleaned, examined and recording according to the terms of the Method Statement.

5 Discussion

- 5.1 No archaeological features were noted within the excavated area. It seems likely, from the modern artefacts recovered, that the development area had been completely remodelled by the landscaping of the garden and any archaeological deposits which may once have existed there have been removed.
- 5.2 The landscaped surface deposit was composed entirely of made ground. The artefacts recovered within this were of 20th century date, suggesting that the current state of the ground resulted from the construction of the garden (Figure 3a). It was clear from examination of this sediment that the entire depth of the development area had been excavated in recent times (Figure 4a and b).
- 5.3 However, we might also consider that the construction of the Mill and Cardingmill Cottage would have removed the soft sediment from most of the immediate area. It would seem safe to suppose, judging from cartographic and local evidence, that the construction of the Mill and Cottage were roughly contemporary events. The construction of Glenmore Road may also have involved the removal or re-deposition of sediments from the immediate area.
- 5.4 | The obvious interpretation of the profile of sediments across the site is that, as a result of one event or several, all archaeological deposits which may have existed within the development area have been removed. Following this construction the area was remodelled as a garden in the 20th century, with the result that that evidence of any previous impact has been removed down to the level of natural soils and bedrock.



Figure 3a: Pre-Excavation shot of site



Figure 3b: Post-Excavation shot of site



Figure 4a: Trench running north/south



Figure 4b: Trench running east/west

5.5 No archaeological features were uncovered anywhere on site and no finds were recovered.

6 Recommendations

6.1 The archaeological works failed to identify any features of archaeological significance. Consequently, we recommend that there are no grounds to consider archaeology at risk from this development. Hence we consider that no further archaeological mitigation works are necessary and that the development may continue without archaeological monitoring.

6.2 The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rests with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service and Argyll and Bute Council. Confirmation that the above recommendations are acceptable should be sought from these bodies.

7 Conclusion

7.1 Archaeological investigative works were required by Mr Finlo Cottier in respect of groundworks in support of the extension of Cardingmill Cottage, Oban. The archaeological works are designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within their development area. The area concerned consists of landscaped ground to the south of the existing cottage. This ground, which has been terraced into a garden, is bordered to the west by a freshwater burn and to the east by Glenmore Road.

7.2 An L-shaped area was opened, measuring approximately 12m by 1m in extent, which corresponded to the southern and eastern limits of the development area. This trench exhibited a very simple stratigraphic sequence, with between 500 and 800mm of made ground overlying natural subsoil and bedrock.

7.3 No archaeological significant features were recorded during the archaeological works.

8 References

- 8.1 *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. |
| Connock, K. D., et al | 1991 | <i>Excavation of a shell midden site at Carding Mill bay near Oban, Scotland</i> , Glasgow Archaeological Journal. |
| Bonsall, C | <i>in prep.</i> | Excavations at Cardingmill Bay II |
- 8.2 *Cartographic*
- | | | |
|------|-----------------|--|
| 1849 | Ordnance Survey | Argyllshire, 1 st edition map 1:10560 |
|------|-----------------|--|

Appendix 1: Trench Details

Orientation:	L-shaped north/south and east/west
Size:	12m by 1m (12m ²)
Topsoil depth:	500mm to 800mm
Subsoil character	Natural Clay Subsoil and Bedrock. Very loose, light grey, clay matrix made up the minority of the subsoil. Broken bedrock constituted the majority of the natural sediments. In places there was exposed, in-situ bedrock. No inclusions.
Modern features:	None
Significant features:	None
Artefacts:	None

Appendix 2: Registers

Context Register

No.	Trench/Area	Interpretation	Description
001	Whole site	Topsoil and Made Ground	A mix of topsoil and modern rubbish. Black to very dark brown. Very humic. Very loose. Inclusions of charcoal and modern rubbish.
002	Whole site	Natural Clay and Rock	Natural Subsoil and bedrock. Loose, light grey, clay matrix. Broken bedrock. In places exposed, in-situ bedrock. No inclusions.

Photographic Register

Image	Description	From	Date
1	Front of Cardingmill Cottage	NE	16/7/07
2	Cottage and Burn	N	16/7/07
3	Cottage and Burn	N	16/7/07
4	Pre-Excavation shot of the site.	W	16/7/07
5	Pre-Excavation shot of the site.	W	16/7/07
6	Pre-Excavation site and Cottage	S	16/7/07
7	Pre-Excavation shot of the site.	E	16/7/07
8	Pre-Excavation shot of the site.	E	16/7/07
9	View from front of Cottage showing Old Mill	S	16/7/07
10	View from front of Cottage showing Old Mill	S	16/7/07
11	Work in progress	E	16/7/07
12	Work in progress	E	16/7/07

13	Trench running north/south	N	16/7/07
14	Trench running north/south	N	16/7/07
15	Trench running north/south	N	16/7/07
16	Trench running east/west	W	16/7/07
17	Trench running east/west	W	16/7/07
18	Trench running east/west	W	16/7/07
19	Post-Excavation of the site	NW	16/7/07
20	Post-Excavation of the site	S	16/7/07
21	Post-Excavation of the site	S	16/7/07
22	Post-Excavation of the site	S	16/7/07
23	Trench running east/west	E	16/7/07
24	Trench running east/west	E	16/7/07
25	Post-Excavation of the site	N	16/7/07
26	Front of Cardingmill Cottage	N	16/7/07
27	View from the front of Cottage	S	16/7/07
28	Showing Cardingmill Cottage and Old Mill	W	16/7/07
29	Carding Mill Cottage and Glenmore Road	N	16/7/07

Drawing Register

Sheet	No.	Trench/Area	Title	Scale	Date	Author
1	1	1	Plan of Site	1:50	AM	16/7/07

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Argyll and Bute
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Cardingmill Cottage
PARISH:	Kilmore and Kilbride
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Matthews
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NM 848 293
START DATE (this season)	16 th July 2007
END DATE (this season)	16 th July 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	Archaeological investigative works were required in respect of the extension of Cardingmill Cottage, Oban. The area concerned consists of landscaped ground at to the south of the existing cottage. An I-shaped area was opened of approximately 12m by 1m which corresponded to the southern and eastern limits of the development area. This Trench made ground above natural subsoil and bedrock. No archaeological significant features were recorded during the archaeological works.
PROJECT CODE:	07018
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Finlo Cottier
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	10 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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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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