

**Castlehill House, Ayr:
Archaeological Evaluation**

Data Structure Report

by Katie Sludden & Claire Williamson

issued 31st March 2008



Rathmell

Archaeology Ltd

Quality Assurance

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

Signed Date

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

Checked Date

Copyright Rathmell Archaeology Limited. All rights reserved.

No part of this report may be copied or reproduced by any means without prior written permission from Rathmell Archaeology Limited. If you have received this report in error, please destroy all copies in your possession or control and notify Rathmell Archaeology Limited.

This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of the commissioning party and unless otherwise agreed in writing by Rathmell Archaeology Limited, no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of the report. No liability is accepted by Rathmell Archaeology Limited for any use of this report, other than the purposes for which it was originally prepared and provided.

Opinions and information provided in the report are on the basis of Rathmell Archaeology Limited using due skill, care and diligence in preparation of the same and no explicit warranty is provided as to their accuracy. It should be noted and it is expressly stated that no independent verification of any of the documents or information supplied to Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been made.

Contents

1 Overview	4
2 Historical Background	4
3 Project Works	11
4 Findings	13
5 Recommendations	17
6 Conclusion	17
7 References	18
Appendix 1: Record Summaries	19
Appendix 2: Trench Descriptions	22
Appendix 3: Survey Details	24
Appendix 4: Discovery and Excavation Scotland	25
Contact Details	26

1 Overview

- 1.1 This Data Structure Report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken, on behalf of South Ayrshire Council in respect of a possible barrel vaulted chamber exposed at Castlehill, Ayr. The discovery was made when ground within a public park collapsed and was subsequently identified by West of Scotland Archaeology Service as archaeologically significant. The archaeological works are designed to identify the potential full extent of the archaeological remains and characterise them.
- 1.2 The area concerned is currently open ground (including a play ground) within a forested park on land at Castlehill, centred NGR: NS 352 202 (Figure 4). The exposed vault consists of a 0.4m wide void revealing a stone built subterranean structure extending to at least 1m in depth. The cavity is currently fenced off with Heras fencing panels which form a buffer of at least 3 metres around the feature.
- 1.3 The vaulted chamber is in close proximity to the known site of Castlehill House, constructed in 1804 to designs by David Hamilton (Strawhorn, 1989, 234) and subsequently demolished in *circa* 1970. It is possible that the chamber relates to the 1804 house, although comparable structures designed by Hamilton (e.g. Dunlop House) did not have barrel vaulting (Historic Scotland, 1995) which was an archaic style. Alternatively the chamber may be an incorporation of an element of an earlier house (or it may be the earlier house if it is not on the site of the 1804 mansion).
- 1.4 South Ayrshire Council has required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service who advise South Ayrshire Council on archaeological matters has provided guidance on the structure of archaeological mitigation required on this site.
- 1.5 Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by South Ayrshire Council to undertake the implementation of archaeological mitigation works at Castlehill House, Ayr. The findings of the evaluation will inform the appropriateness of the remediation proposal and, if progressed, the need for subsequent archaeological works. The character of such further stages of work will need to be agreed with South Ayrshire Council and WoSAS although the consent for the investigation has already been conditioned for archaeology.

2 Historical Background

- 2.1.1 Castlehill is linked to a theory of a thirteenth century or earlier fortification associated with the Crown control of Kyle. The River Doon is attested as being the likely boundary between the kingdoms of Scots and Galloway in the early twelfth century (Brooke 1994, Strawhorn 1989). Castlehill, in South Kyle, constituted a border zone with Carrick to the south, over the Doon.
- 2.1.2 After the suppression of Galloway and the subsequent peace agreement of 1186, a series of early ringworks were erected including Greenan, built by Roger de Scalebroc, Dunduff, by Walter de Champenais and Alloway Mote (Hendry) as part of the royal strategy of suppression and feudalisation. The significance of these sites may have been very short lived though, with the new castle at Ayr, erected in 1197. This construction re-aligned the military and judicial focus onto the proto-burgh and castle at Ayr. It is possible that Castlehill was an element within this control network. It has been proposed that this theory, of a timber then stone fortification from c.1307, has been discredited (Strawhorn, 1989, 6).
- 2.1.3 Castlehill is known to exist (as a name and a distinct landholding) from 1592 when the ground is feuded to David Bannatyne of Bute (Strawhorn, 1989, 116). The form of this name strongly suggests that either a castle (of some form) stood thereabouts at the time or there was a popular contemporary perception that one had stood there in the past.



Fig. 1.1: Bleau's Map showing the tower at Castlehill (Bleau's Map, 1654).

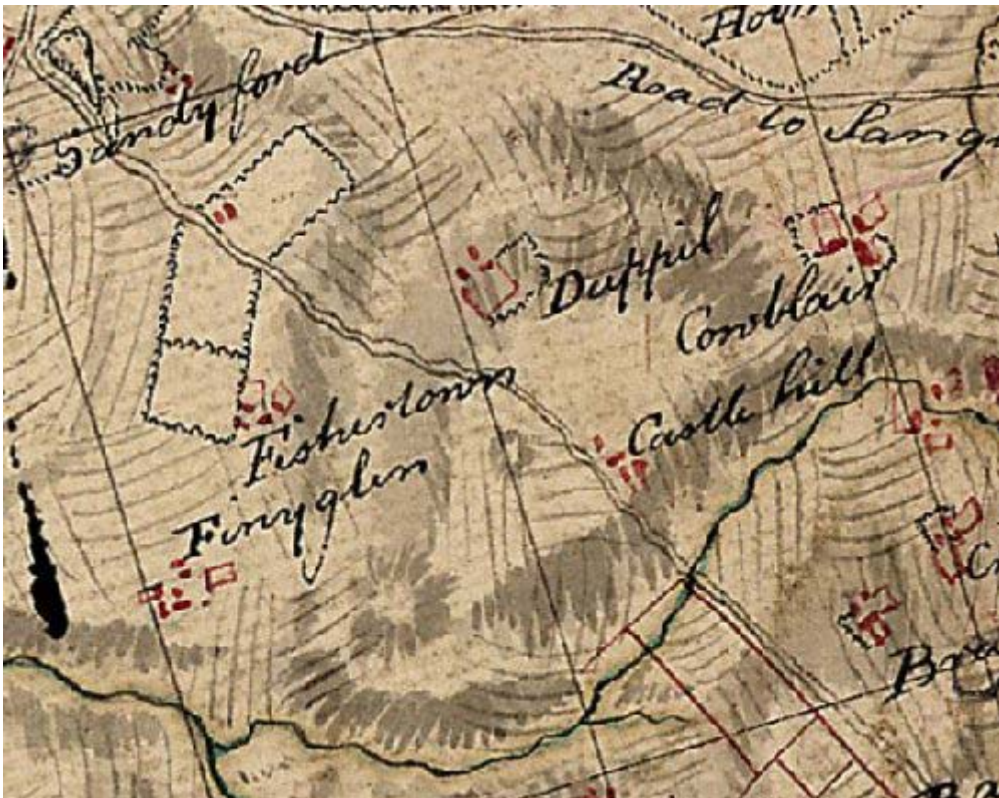


Fig. 1.2: Roy's Map showing Castlehill (Roy, 1755)

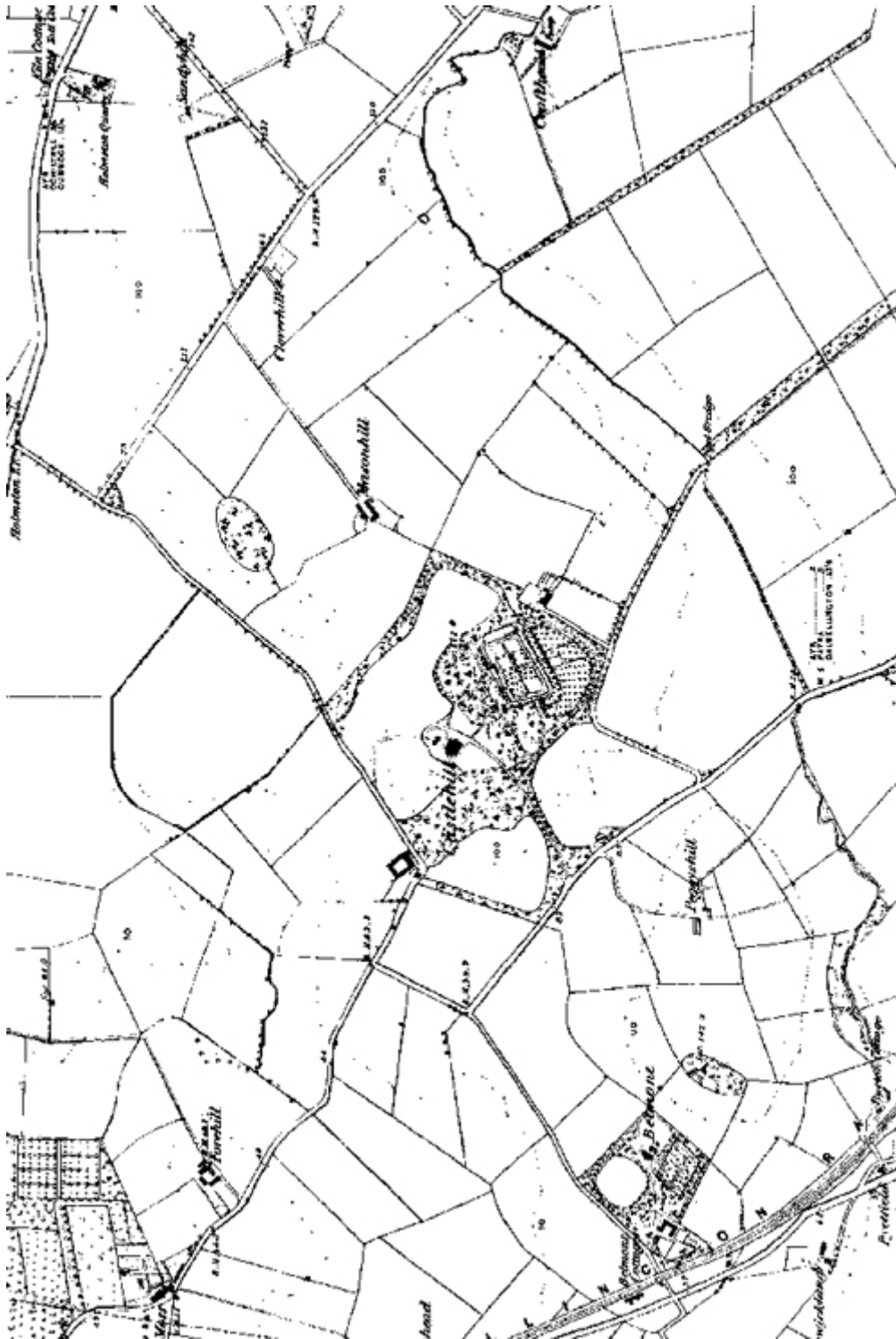


Fig.1.3: First Edition OS Map, 1856

2.2 *Historical Maps*

- 2.2.1 The earliest cartographic evidence of occupation on Castlehill is the map evidence from Bleau's Map of 1654 which names and depicts a significant house at this location. By 1656 the Castlehill estate is held by Agnes Lockhart, relict of William Kelso, and was acquired in 1676 by the Fergussons. From 1776 to 1779 the owner was Robert Fergusson who suffered severely because of the collapse of the Ayr Bank, disposing of the estate to cover his liabilities. Until 1791 the estate may have been tenanted by David Fergusson. However, before the end of the century the estate was disposed of to Patrick Ballantine.
- 2.2.2 Throughout the period between the mid seventeenth century and the start of the nineteenth there appears to have been respectable property. This may have originated as an even earlier structure. The character of this structure is uncertain; it may have originated as a tower house which would have commonly had a ground/sub floor which was a barrel vaulted chamber – although this is speculative. It would certainly have been altered, repaired and extended through its occupation.
- 2.2.3 Roy (Fig. 1.2) depicts a settlement at Castlehill in the mid eighteenth century. It comprises four structures to the immediate north-east of a roadway. The absence of enclosures or obvious gardens may suggest that the principle house (whichever it was) may have fallen on bad times at this point in time. The location of the structures cannot be confidently matched to modern mapping, although its association with the road is of interest. The roadway has been diverted by the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (see Fig 1.3) but its route can still be traced through the later policies and gardens. Hence it can be estimated that the Roy structures lay roughly in the same portion of the landscape as the Ordnance Survey house and its immediate grounds.
- 2.2.4 Before the end of the eighteenth century Patrick Ballantine acquired the estate and commissioned, from David Hamilton, the new Castlehill House in 1804. The estate was subsequently inherited by his brother, John Ballantine, in 1810 who promptly died unmarried in 1812.
- 2.2.5 The architectural plans of Castlehill House are held within the Hamilton Papers deposited within the Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery. While it is not certain that the plans and elevations held are as built, they are certainly as proposed. The main structure is a single block standing to four storeys: two main floors, an attic and a subterranean basement (see Figs 1.4 to 1.6). There is a rectangular portico to the front and a bowed extension to the rear. Furthermore there are a range of subterranean vaults for storage to the right of the house (when facing the front).
- 2.2.6 The Ordnance Survey Name Book describes the house as '*... a fine old mansion standing on the hill from which its name is derived. It is traditionally said that a castle stood near this house, but no-one in the neighbourhood can point out the site.*'
- 2.2.7 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey depicts such a structure as Castlehill in 1856, with the front of the house as built facing south-east. This would place the subterranean vaults (if built) to the north-east. Another structure is visible to the north-east, set away from the house. This ancillary structure is of uncertain purpose, no record was found in the Hamilton Papers. It may also derive from the nineteenth century, or it may be an earlier structure or house which has been retained for an ancillary purpose.
- ## 2.3 *David Hamilton; the architect*
- 2.3.1 David Hamilton was commissioned in 1804 as the architect of Castlehill House. He was, for thirty years, Glasgow's leading architect and undoubtedly the most important architect in the west of Scotland and amongst the most notable nationwide during the first part of the 19th century. Born in Glasgow in 1768, his father William Hamilton was a mason. David was incorporated to the guild of masons in 1800. Very little is known



Fig. 2.1: Front Elevation of Hamilton's Castlehill House

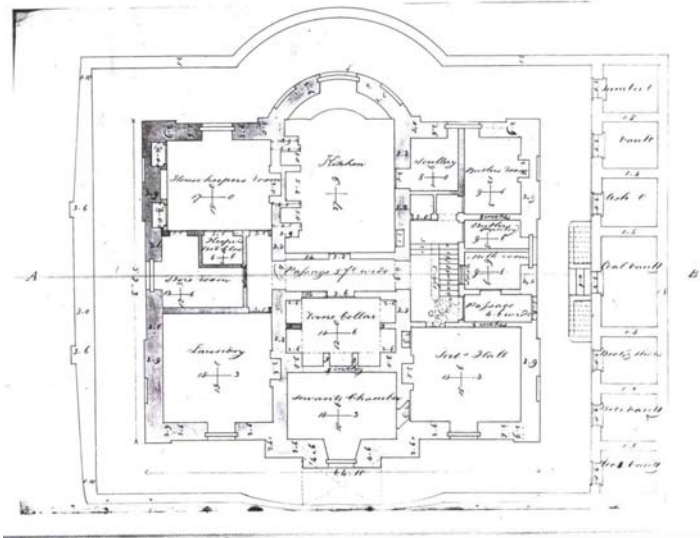


Fig. 2.2: Ground plan including vaults of Hamilton's Castlehill House



Fig. 2.3: Side Elevation of Hamilton's Castlehill House

about his early life. He appears to have worked as a mason. His earliest recorded building was designed when he was in his twenties. His first sizeable project appears to have been Ardenconnel House, *circa* 1790.

- 2.3.2 The late 18th and early 19th centuries saw massive growth in the Scottish economy – between 1750 and 1800 Scots overseas commerce grew by some 300%. Glasgow saw a near tripling in population in the thirty years up to 1830, a period of massive expansion westwards and the construction of the Blythswood new town from *circa* 1804 onwards (Gomme, 69). With this expansion came the demand for an array of public buildings and monuments matching Glasgow's new found status, and Hamilton was responsible for many of the most important. It is for public buildings and civic work for which Hamilton is most noted.
- 2.3.3 Hamilton's early career seems to have brought him into contact with Robert Adam, although the nature of this relationship is unclear he did make copies of Adam's drawings (MacKechnie, 7) and some examples of his early work seem to reproduce Adam's own style to a considerable extent (Glendinning, 571). Hamilton's public and civic work was without exception classical, although a broad range of styles were employed. Despite this, Hamilton employed an almost exclusively classical language to interiors. Ornate plasterwork, often involving coffered ceilings, is typical and found at a number of buildings including Hutcheson's Hospital, Royal Exchange, and Dunlop House.
- 2.3.4 Despite this emphasis on civic projects, domestic work continued to play an important strand in Hamilton's portfolio and once again an array of different styles was employed. Earlier buildings, until around 1810, were in an Adam-inspired castellated style – for example as at Airth Castle, however the following decade saw the development of a more complex, asymmetrical neo-Gothic style such as that employed at Castle House, Dunoon. Later still saw increasing eclecticism ranging from the Jacobean of Dunlop House (1831-34), the Neo-Romanesque/Norman of Lennox (1837-41), and the Classical of St. Fillans (1843).
- 2.3.5 Probably the best-known part of Hamilton's practice consisted of private housing - from the small suburban villa to the huge country mansions of wealthy landowner. They are in many and varied styles. In some, the influence of Robert Adam is apparent, with that architect's love of circular and elliptical rooms, often expressed externally in symmetrical curved bays. Hamilton's approach, however, was more robust than Adam's, and his ornamentation shows a boldness of detail which is absent from the earlier master's style. Many of these houses have been mistakenly attributed to Adam, owing to the similarity between both architects' external styles.
- 2.3.6 Hamilton's practice was the training ground for many of Glasgow's Victorian architects including Charles Wilson, J. T. Rothead, and to a lesser extent the likes of Thomas Gilard. He died on December 5th 1843, his obituary in *The Builder* reporting *the lamented death of one our most eminent architects*. Much of Hamilton's work has been demolished, whilst many of those remaining have been subject to major alterations. Those surviving buildings are therefore of considerable value in demonstrating Hamilton's important contribution to the architecture of the period, particularly those which demonstrate key periods in the evolving style of one of Scotland's most important nineteenth century architects.



Figure 3.1 Castlehill House also showing subterranean levels, after Dane Love's Pictorial history of Ayr, 1995.



Figure 3.2: Ayrshire Post photograph, basis for the illustration above

3 Project Works

- 3.1 The evaluation commenced on the 26th March 2008; the works included three separate trenches placed within ten metres of the exposed vault, comprising a total of 15 metres of linear trenches. The site sits atop a raised plateau where the slope breaks down to the northwest following the original facia of Castlehill House (Figure 4). The vault is part of a range of subterranean storage chambers built in 1804 aligned north to south to part of the Hamilton design to the east of the house.
- 3.2 The lack of drainage in the park combined with the natural clay subsoils meant that the surface topsoil was very wet and pliable. As a result of these conditions there was a high level of disturbance due to the movements of the JCB 3CX used to open up the trenches. The machine had to spend some time re-instating the ground surface as it moved Southeast across the park reducing the number of trenches that could be completed. The reduction in trenching did not affect the investigation however. The questions asked in the Method Statement had been answered by the first three trenches. The last three trenches were not dug so that further disturbance to the parkland could be avoided.
- 3.3 In compliance with the Method Statement any potential archaeological features were investigated. All features impacted by the ground reduction appeared to relate to Castlehill House, throughout the course of the investigation two stamped yellow bricks were recovered. These seem to relate to internal wall divisions and supports of the 19th century building.
- 3.4 All works complied with WoSAS Standard Conditions, the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Evaluation Trenches

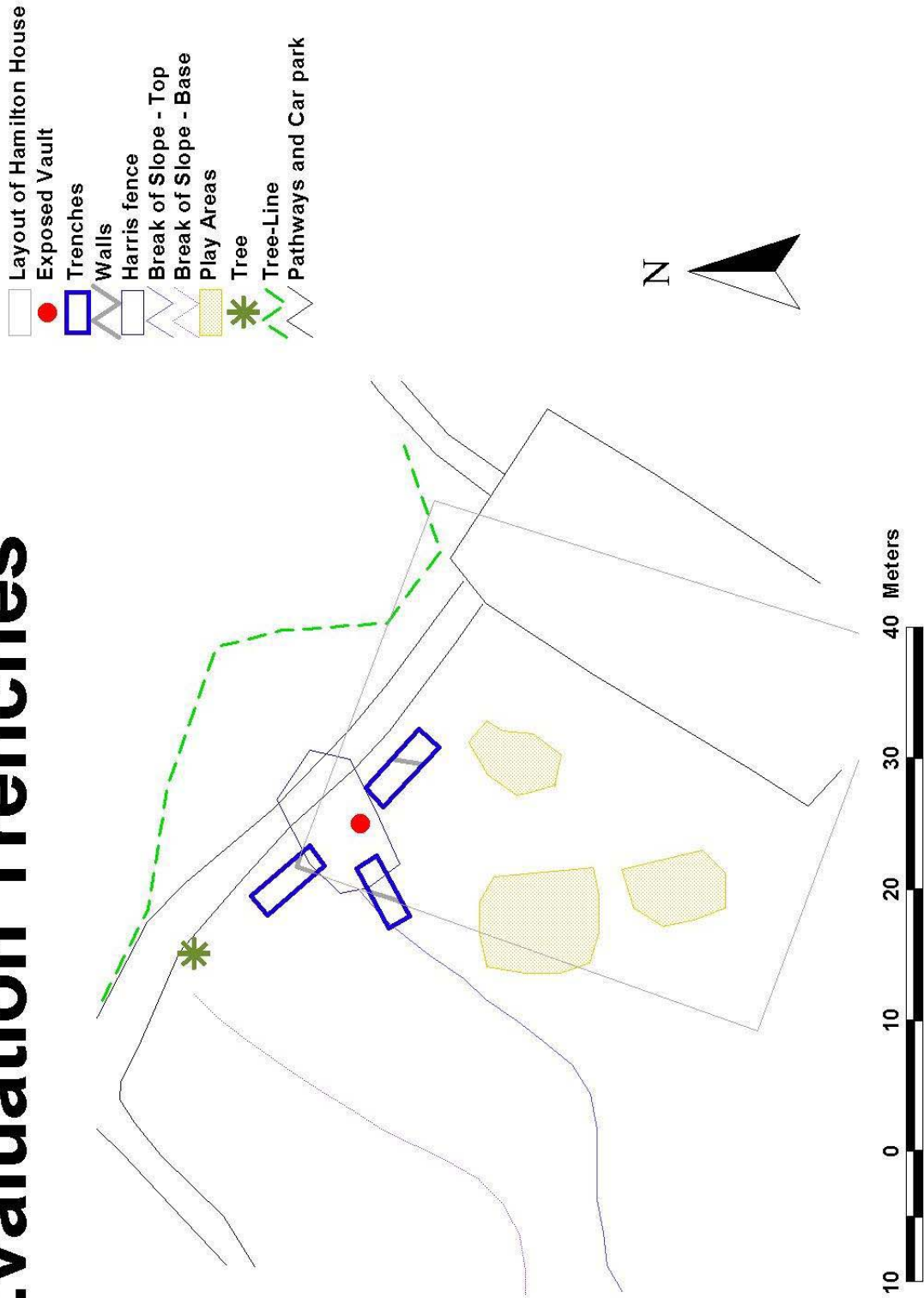


Figure 4: Trench Layout within the Park (Leica GPS Survey)

4 Findings

4.1.1 The exposed vault is centred NGR: NS 352 202 within the public parkland at a children's play area on Castlehill, Ayr (Figure 4). The cavity is located about 3 metres from a public footpath and 15 metres north of the children's monkey bars in an opening of the forested parkland. The site is accessible via a tarmac road (known as Roman Road) from the southwest which leads up to a car park at the play area within the opening.

4.1.2 Although the vaults of Castlehill House are part of the residence, it is simpler to refer to them as part of the surrounding underground retaining wall which does not have other levels above it. The main house is enclosed within this outer wall and can be seen in Figures 2.1-2.3. When considering the northeast corner of the house then this will be referred to as the outer retaining wall.

4.2 *The trenches*

4.2.1 The stripping was undertaken using a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. Here, mixed waste materials were removed to reveal mixed demolition debris that comprised of a white mortar, yellow sandstone and brick waste within sandstone wall foundations that cut at least 1.2m into the natural. These comprise the northwest outer retaining wall. The underlying natural sediments (003) were fairly uniform in depth and texture, found at a maximum depth of 400mm. These consisted of orange and brown clay. Sample section Figure 6.2 shows the depth and nature of the sediments in relation to the walls uncovered.

4.2.2 Three trenches were dug within 10m of the exposed vault (Figure 6.1-6.2). The first trench uncovered two walls ([005] and [017]) probably comprising the Northwest corner of the outer retaining wall of Castlehill House since the north side of the walls comprised of natural clay (003) at a depth of 400mm. The interior of the building extended significantly deeper than that of the natural subsoil on the exterior of the walls which is strong evidence that these walled structures are the vaults of the 1804 Castlehill House.

4.2.3 The waste deposit (004) in Trench 1 was taken down to a depth of 1.2m and was still remaining; suggesting that the vaults survive to their original height, possibly up to 2.5m in depth. The second trench contained a wall ([012] which is probably a continuation of [005] to the southeast and had a clean-cut face on its' southwest side suggesting that this was the front wall of Castlehill House. The third trench contained a wall of a possible further vault to the southeast also but it survives mainly as rubble and did not have the clear form that [005] and [012] had. The two vaults surrounding that of the exposed vaults contained rubble in-fill and had no surviving roof structure. It seems then that the risk posed may only stem from this singular cavity.

4.3 *The structures*

4.3.1 The archaeological structures were found at a very shallow depth under an average of 150mm of topsoil and the infilling deposits of rubble contained very modern materials of plastic, glass, ceramic and metal along with demolition debris relating to the building itself. The deepest demolition deposit within the building extended to 1.2m within the walls of the vault discovered in Trench 1. There was no indication that these deposits or structures predated the Hamilton designed 1804 Castlehill House.

4.3.2 The survival of the Northeast range of vaults can now be confirmed. The outer retaining wall and therefore the extents of the building itself extends up to 30m wide by 39m long according to Hamilton's original drawings (Fig.2.2). The subterranean structures exist on plans within the main building as well as along its' northeast side and may represent a further risk of collapse. The exposed vault can be identified as the second vault from the northeast corner of the retaining wall. Each subterranean vault would have been roughly 3m long (internally) by 3.5m breadth with 600mm thick walls dividing each room.

4.3.3 The nature of the exposed vault presents an obvious danger to other site users especially with its' proximity to a children's play area. One of the aims of this exercise was to assess any further danger to the public and since the discovery of the Northwest vault has been

made, the danger can now be measured. It seems safe to assume that the internal subterranean structure would have been in-filled or levelled during the demolition of Castlehill House. The northeast corner room did not have a surviving barrel vault so does not pose a danger to other site users. The southeast range of the building sits under the present car park due to a continuous use of this ground over time with heavy vehicles it therefore poses minimal risk of collapse. The serious risk of hazard may then be restricted to that of the area around the second exposed vault in the northeast corner of the building.

4.3.4 There was evidence from the evaluation trenches of the character and extent of the nineteenth century structures extending across the play area. There is no further evidence that additional voids exist within the vaults of Castlehill House. Equally there were no identifiable anthropic sediments that could be taken to confidently predate this known sequence of construction.

4.4 *Archaeological Value*

4.4.1 The archaeological value of this nineteenth century structure is lessened by the fact that the building has been well documented with its' extents and the history of the architect recorded. It seems appropriate to proceed with a view to reinstating the ground at the collapsed site without any further intrusive archaeological exploration.

4.4.2 One of the questions asked in the Method Statement was whether or not any features related to the medieval Tower House or an even earlier timber fortification. This putative Tower House was possibly located near to or within the area in question, but the materials recovered from the walls along with the form and make up of the building itself suggests strongly a nineteenth century building, especially with relation to internal brick walls bonded with well preserved cement. It seems that any medieval structure may have either been destroyed by the construction of this building or could survive elsewhere on the Castlehill site. It is important to note then that any mediation onsite may infringe upon this structure if works extend beyond the exposed cavity.



Fig. 5.1: Pre-Excavation Shot



Fig.5.2: Inside the Vault



Fig. 5.3: General Shot of Trench 1



Fig. 5.4: Walls in Trench 1



Fig. 5.5: Walls in Trench 2



Fig. 5.6: General Shot of Trench 2



Fig. 5.7: General Shot of Trench 3



Fig.5.8: Close up of Rubble in Trench 3

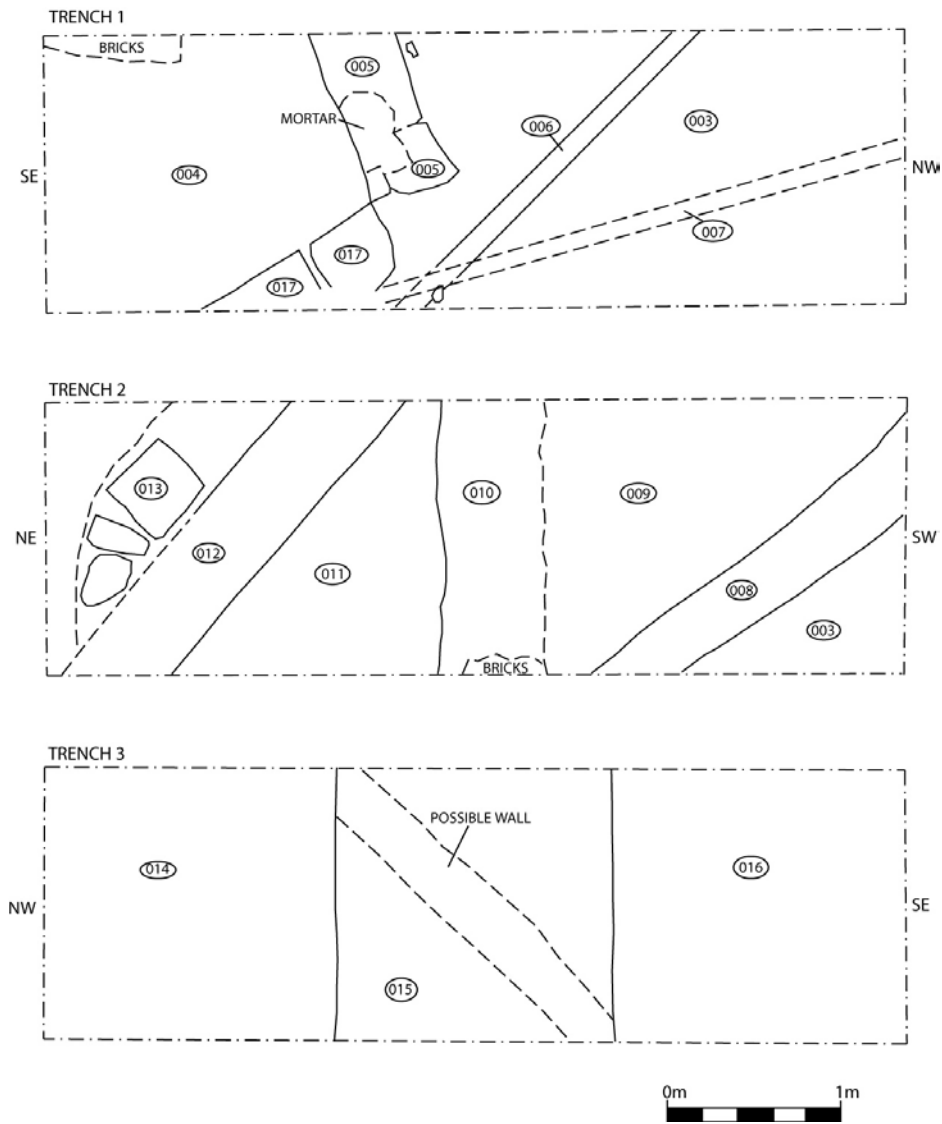


Figure 6.1: Plan of Evaluation Trenches, Sale: 1:20.

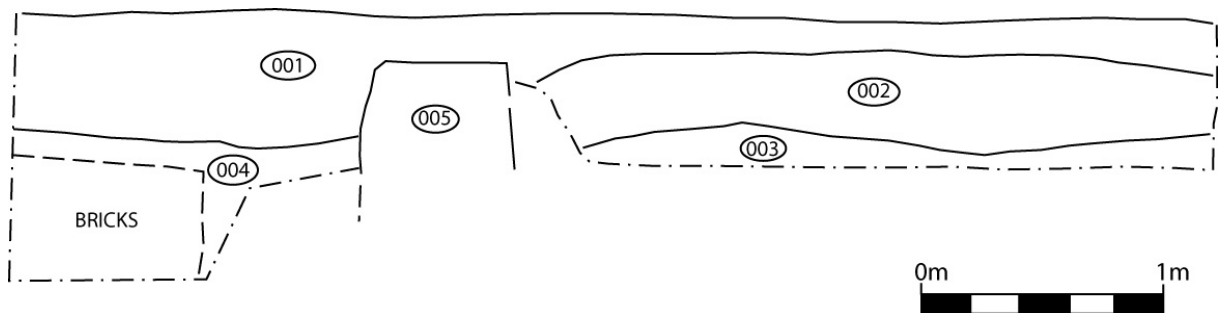


Figure 6.2: NE Facing Section of Trench 1, Scale: 1:20.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation identified several significant archaeological features relating to the 1804 Castlehill House. The evidence on-site indicates that the lower level of the known nineteenth century house may survive as upstanding intact structures up to and over a depth of 1.2m. However, with regard to the eastern vaults, the rooms investigated did not have surviving roof structures and the subterranean structure had been in-filled with demolition debris. It can be inferred that the vault identified by the void is the sole intact roofed structure on-site and hence presents the only high risk to site users.
- 5.2 In consideration of the potential risk to site users it seems appropriate that remediation takes place. There is not sufficient archaeological value to the vault to warrant its protection or preservation as the building has already been well documented with its extents now well established – rather we recommend that any remediation to make this structure safe should be monitored by an archaeologist.
- 5.3 The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with South Ayrshire Council and the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, their advisors. Confirmation that the above recommendations are acceptable should be confirmed with these bodies prior to the implementation of any development works whose appropriateness may rely on these recommendations.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 An archaeological evaluation exercise was carried on the 26th March 2008 on behalf of South Ayrshire Council in respect of a possible barrel vaulted chamber exposed by a void at Castlehill, Ayr. The works were designed to determine the character and date of the exposed vault and to determine whether there were further associated archaeological structures either of significance or at hazard from collapse.
- 6.2 The desk-based assessment and evaluation revealed the existence of the lower level of subterranean vaulted storage chambers to the east of the main element of Castlehill House, built by David Hamilton in 1804. The exposed vault is one of these nineteenth century structures, which had not been competently demolished when the main house was cleared in the 1970s. Based on the evaluation no other vault is believed to have survived with an intact roof structure. Further the semi-intact vault is not an element of any pre-nineteenth century structure.
- 6.3 On balance we have illustrated that the exposed semi-intact vault can be treated as a single entity, with little risk of additional collapse from the archaeological subterranean structures as they exist. Further the vault is not of a significance to warrant preservation and we have recommended that the appropriate mitigation of any remedial engineering works to make the site safe is for archaeological monitoring. If the works should extend beyond the exposed vault it must be noted that earlier remains may be impinged upon and therefore some care must be taken during further mitigation.

7 References

7.1 Bibliographic References

Love, D	1995	<i>Pictorial History of Ayr</i> , Alloway Publishing.
Sludden, K	2007	<i>Castlehill, Ayr: DBA & Method Statement</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.
Strawhorn, John	1989	<i>The History of Ayr: Royal Burgh and County Town</i> , John Donald Publishers Ltd.

7.2 Cartographic References

Ordnance Survey	1855	<i>Town Plan of Ayr</i> , 1:10,560
Ordnance Survey	1897	<i>Ayrshire</i> , 1:10,560
Ordnance Survey	1858	<i>Ayrshire</i> , 1:2,500
Ordnance Survey	1860	<i>Ayrshire</i> , 1:10,560
Ordnance Survey	1938	<i>Ayrshire</i> 1:10,560
Wood, John	1818	Plan of the Town and Parishes of Ayr, Newton upon Ayr & St. Quivox.

Appendix 1: Record summaries

Context Summaries

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Topsoil	Compact mid brown clayey silt with frequent rootlets.	Topsoil
002	1	Subsoil	Very compact mottled pale brown/orange clay with frequent small stone inclusions.	Subsoil
003	1	Subsoil	Compact dark orange clay.	Subsoil
004	1	Deposit	Dark grey/black loosely compacted clayey gravelly silt with frequent small, medium and large rubble inclusions and frequent finds of modern pottery, glass, cloth, rubble and brick.	Very modern demolition debris
005	1	Structural	Wall running NNW-SSE. Constructed of large sandstone blocks (mortar bonded), average size of 400mm x 300mm x 150mm each. 2 courses wide. Minimum depth of wall is 1.2m and measures 0.58m wide. Joins with wall (017) at Northern end.	Wall, possibly forming northern corner of the vaults under Castlehill House with wall (017)
006	1	Feature	Drain running E-W. Measures 150mm wide and sits at 200mm deep.	Field drain
007	1	Feature	Circular iron pipe. Measures 70mm wide and sits at 600mm deep.	Iron down pipe
008	2	Structural	Wall running S-N. Constructed of rounded subangular sandstone, average size 350mm x 200mm. One course wide. Wall measures average width of 400mm and 2.8m long. Unknown depth.	Wall, possibly related to Castlehill House
009	2	Deposit	Rubble with pale grey coarse sandy gravel with mortar and frequent small stones with brick and sandstone fragments frequent. Measures 2.1m long and 1.6m wide. Sits between walls (010) and (008).	Demolition debris
010	2	Structural	Wall running SE-NW. Constructed of square subangular yellow sandstone, average size 250mm x 300mm. 2 courses wide.	Wall, possibly related to Castlehill House
011	2	Deposit	Rubble with pale grey coarse sandy gravel with mortar and frequent small stones with brick and sandstone fragments frequent. Measures 1.5m x 1.6m. Same as (009).	Demolition debris
012	2	Structural	Wall running S-N. Constructed of sandstone, very regular, average size 200mm x 500mm. Wall facing on W facing side. Measures 2.5m long and 0.6m wide.	Wall, possible related to Castlehill House
013	2	Structural	Yellow brick walling. Five bricks running along E side of wall (012), average size 200mm x 100mm, curving slightly. Measures 0.7m long and 0.2m wide. Unknown depth.	Wall, possible interior wall for Castlehill House
014	3	Deposit	Mixture of large blocks (average 600mm x 250mm x 300mm) and pale grey coarse sand with frequent metal and lead inclusions. Measures 200mm deep.	Demolition debris

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
015	3		Large sub-angular square blocks of sandstone with brick fragment inclusions. Possible wall on the diagonal. Measures 2m x 1.6m x 300mm deep.	Possible disturbed wall, relating to Castlehill House
016	3		Very compact mid brown silt clay with frequent large stone inclusions. Measures 1m x 1.6m.	Demolition debris
017	1	Structural	Wall running WSW-ENE. Constructed of large sandstone blocks (mortar bonded), average size of 400mm x 300mm x 150mm each. 2 courses wide. Minimum depth of wall is 1.2m and measures 0.8m long and 0.4m wide. Joins with wall (005) at Eastern end.	Wall, possibly forming northern corner of the vaults under Castlehill House with wall (005)

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
01	01	1	Plan	1:20	Trench One	CW	26/03/2008
02	01	2	Plan	1:20	Trench Two	CW	26/03/2008
03	01	3	Plan	1:20	Trench Three	KS	26/03/2008
04	01	1	Section	1:20	NE Facing section of Trench One	CW	26/03/2008

Finds register

Find No.	Area/ Trench	Context No.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
001	1	004	Yellow Brick	From rubble deposit. Is 200mm by 100mm by 150mm. Is stamped "Gilmour..Kilmarnock" ". One end of it is glazed white-external surface. 19 th century brickworks.	CW/KS	26/03/2008
002	2	013	Yellow Brick	From [013] wall. Is 200mm by 100mm by 150mm. Is stamped "Gilmour..Kilmarnock " 19 th century brickworks	KS	26/03/2008

Photographic record

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
1	1	13	1	1	1	Pre-Ex Shot of Site	ESE	26/03/2008
2	1	14	1	2	2	Pre-Ex Shot of Site	S	26/03/2008
3	1	15	1	3	3	Pre-Ex Shot of Site	W	26/03/2008
4	1	16	1	4	4	General shot of Trench 1	SE	26/03/2008
5	1	17	1	5	5	General shot of Trench 1	NW	26/03/2008

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
6	1	18	1	6	6	NE Facing Section of Tr 1	NE	26/03/2008
7	1	19	1	7	7	SW Facing Section of Tr 1	SW	26/03/2008
8	1	20	1	8	8	NW Facing Section of Tr 1	NW	26/03/2008
9	1	21	1	9	9	Shot of Wall [005]	NE	26/03/2008
10	1	22	1	10	10	General shot of Trench 2	NE	26/03/2008
11	1	23	1	11	11	Close up of yellow brick wall [013] in Tr 2	NW	26/03/2008
12	1	24	1	12	12	Close up of Wall [012] in Tr 2	NE	26/03/2008
13	1	25	1	13	13	General shot of Trench 2	SW	26/03/2008
14	1	26	1	14	14	SE Facing section of Trench 2	SE	26/03/2008
15	1	27	1	15	15	General Shot of Hole/ Cavity/ Exposed Vault	NE	26/03/2008
16	1	28	1	16	16	Close up of Hole/ Cavity/ Exposed Vault	NE	26/03/2008
17	1	29			17	Close up of Hole/ Cavity/ Exposed Vault	NE	26/03/2008
18					18	Digital Shot inside Hole/ Cavity/ Exposed Vault	N/A	26/03/2008
19					19	Digital Shot inside Hole/ Cavity/ Exposed Vault	N/A	26/03/2008
20					20	Digital Shot inside Hole/ Cavity/ Exposed Vault	N/A	26/03/2008
21					21	Digital Shot inside Hole/ Cavity/ Exposed Vault	N/A	26/03/2008
22					22	Digital Shot inside Hole/ Cavity/ Exposed Vault	N/A	26/03/2008
23					23	Digital Shot inside Hole/ Cavity/ Exposed Vault	N/A	26/03/2008
24	1	30	1	17	24	General Shot of backfilled Tr 1 and 2	SW	26/03/2008
25	1	31	1	18	25	General Shot of backfilled Tr 1 and 2	NW	26/03/2008
26	1	32	1	19	26	General Shot of Trench 3	SE	26/03/2008
27	1	33	1	20	27	NE Facing Section of Trench 3	NE	26/03/2008
28	1	34	1	21	28	SW Facing Section of Trench 3	SW	26/03/2008
29	1	35	1	22	29	General shot of deposits (014)-(016)	W	26/03/2008
30	1	36	1	23	30	Close up Sample section (NE Facing) of Tr 3	NE	26/03/2008
31					31	General shot of Backfilled Trench 3	SE	26/03/2008
32					32	General shot of Backfilled Trench 3	SSE	26/03/2008

Appendix 2: Trench Descriptions

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
01	North-west to South-east	5m long by 1.6m wide by up to 1.2m deep	Average 150mm	Mixed brown and orange mottled clay with frequent stone inclusions- (002) over compact dark orange clay- (003) at a depth of 400mm	Modern plastic drain runs E-W across trench into corner of walls [005] and [017]. An Iron down-pipe related to Castlehill House runs E-W from the corner of walls [005] and [017] to the NW corner of Trench 1. It was severely rusted and malleable, at a depth of 600mm, 70mm-150mm wide. Deposit (004) sits inside the walls of the house a t [005] and [017].	Two large walls meet to form what may be the North corner of the vaults under Castlehill House. These are [005] and [017]. [005] is yellow sandstone (Mortar bonded) runs NNW-SSE, large blocks 400mm wide by 300mm by 150mm each. Minimum depth of wall is 1.2m. 2 courses wide. [017] is the same as [005] but runs WSW-ENE from the N end of [005]. Wall cut not clear.	From deposit (004)- One yellow brick with one end glazed white and covered in cement mortar, it is also stamped with a maker's mark -“
02	Southwest to Northeast	5m long by 1.6m wide by 150mm deep	Average 150mm	Compact dark orange clay- (003) at a depth of 150 at the SW corner of the trench.	None	One clearly defined wall [012] and] three partially surviving walls [013], [008] and [010]. [012] is a yellow sandstone wall with a clearly define facia on its' SW side. It is 2.5m long by 600mm wide, 2 courses thick. Each block 250mm by 300mm, with mortar bonding. [008] is a yellow sandstone wall with rounded sandstone blocks. It is 2.8m long	On yellow brick retained from wall [013] with makers' mark “

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
						by 300mm wide, one course thick. Each block 250mm by 300mm, no bonding apparent. [013] is a yellow brick wall partially disturbed - exists as 4 bricks set side to side with cement bonding. These also have a maker's mark “, is 1m by 200mm wide. {010} may comprise a wall but is severely disturbed and consists of packed rubble extends 600mm wide by 1.6m long surrounded by rubble deposits (011) and (009).	
3	North-west to South-east	5m long by 1.6m wide by	Average 150mm	(016) is a mid brown silty clay with frequent large sandstones extends 1m by 1.6m at a depth of 300mm	None	A large rubble deposit (015) sits in the middle of the trench and may comprise a wall similar to those in Trench 1. It is 1.4m long by 1.6m wide. (014) consists of a large rubble deposit with modern materials in it such a lead sheets, plastics and metal cans etc. It is 1.5mlong by 1.6m wide.	None

Appendix 3: Survey Details

Level Survey : done in relation to height of car park at North pathways.

Level No.	Height	Description
01	1.27	Road
02	1.39	Path
03	1.43	Path
04	1.32	Exposed vault at surface
05	1.34	Trench 1- SE End- Top
06	2.56	Trench 1- SE End- Base
07	1.76	Wall [005]
08	1.93	Wall [017]
09	2.33	Bottom Interior of wall
10	1.89	Trench 1 NW end Top
11	1.34	Trench 2 N end-Top
12	1.53	Yellow brick wall [013]
13	1.55	Walls [012]
14	1.53	Walls [008]
15	1.56	Walls [010]
16	1.42	S End Trench 2- Top
17	1.35	NW End Trench 3- Top
18	1.84	NW End Trench 3- Base
19	1.70	Trench 3 Wall [015]
20	1.68	Trench 3 Clay (016)
21	1.42	SE Trench 3- Top

GPS (Handheld) Points on Trench-ends

Details	NS	BNG	Elevation	Accuracy
Trench 01	35206	20278	48m	+/- 4m
Trench 01	35201	20276	47m	+/- 5m
Trench 02	35207	20270	49m	+/- 4m
Trench 02	35202	20271	50m	+/- 4m
Trench 03	35212	20269	53m	+/- 6m
Trench 03	35215	20267	52m	+/- 6m

Appendix 4: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Castlehill House, Ayr
PARISH:	Ayr
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Katie Sludden
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Early 19 th Century Mansion House
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Castlehill House
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 352 202
START DATE (this season)	26 th March 2008
END DATE (this season)	26 th March 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Archaeological Monitoring of Remedial works.
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation exercise was carried on the 26 th March 2008 on behalf of South Ayrshire Council in respect of a possible barrel vaulted chamber exposed at Castlehill, Ayr. The evaluation revealed the existence of the lower level of Castlehill House built by David Hamilton in 1804.
PROJECT CODE:	07026
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	South Ayrshire Council
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.

Contact Details

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

Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

10 Ashgrove Workshops
Kilwinning
Ayrshire
KA13 6PU

www.rathmell-arch.co.uk

t.: 01294 542848
m.: 07817 334907

f.: 01294 542849
e.: contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk

The West of Scotland Archaeology Service can be contacted at their office or through the web:

West of Scotland Archaeology Service

Charing Cross Complex
20 India Street
Glasgow
G2 4PF

www.wosas.org.uk

t.: 0141 287 8332-3

f.: 0141 287 9259
e.: enquiries@wosas.glasgow.gov.uk

End of Document