

Cloquhairnan Farm, South Ayrshire: Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

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1 Overview

- 1.1 This Data Structure Report presents the findings of an archaeological monitoring exercise undertaken, on behalf of Mr James Kerr in respect to proposed groundworks in support of the construction of an underground slurry storage tank as an element of an existing farm building at Cloquhairnan Farm, Coylton, South Ayrshire. The archaeological works are designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
- 1.2 The area concerned measures roughly 96m² in extent, a trench 30m long by 3.2m wide. The farmstead is currently a working dairy farm with several existing buildings consisting of mainly stone-built and corrugated iron barns as well as the main residence.
- 1.3 South Ayrshire Council required archaeological monitoring to be undertaken as a requirement of the issued planning consent. The archaeological works were designed to address the general ground reduction relating to the new storage tank. This condition was in keeping with the issued planning guidance (SODev 1994; SOEnd 1994) and was based on the guidance provided by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.
- 1.4 Rathmell Archaeology Ltd was appointed to act with regard to the archaeological condition for Mr Kerr. The terms of the monitoring were agreed through a Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees, 2008) agreed in advance with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service on behalf of South Ayrshire Council.

2 Historical Background

- 2.1 In the area immediately around Cloquhairnan Farm several sites of historical or archaeological significance are known. The farmhouse and steading at Cloquhairnan Farm are shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1860) and are to a comparable plan surviving to date, although there is a well mapped in the vicinity of the development area.
- 2.2 The name Cloquhairnan relates to a commemorative stone to Saint Ernan (also known as St Marnock) (NMRS No.: NS41NW 18) (Kerr, J, 1978). A 'well' called the chapel or a possible Carnel is probably located in the area surrounding the farm (NMRS No.:NS41NW 5) (Duncan, 655) but neither of these are identifiable within the landscape.
- 2.3 The nearest known site is Mill of Shield (NMRS No.:NS41NW 19) which is first referenced in the 14th century. It is highly likely then that within proximity to the farmhouse and steading there is the potential for precursor agricultural activity and settlement.
- 2.4 There is therefore, due to the amount of archaeology around the development, a hazard of significant archaeological features being present.

3 Project Works

- 3.1 The monitoring took place on the 23rd October 2008; the works consisted of the stripping and reduction of a trench within one of the existing sheds at Cloquhairnan Farm. The area can be seen in Figure 1. This included the removal of the working surface followed by general ground reduction until the subsoil was encountered.
- 3.2 In compliance with the Written Scheme of Investigation any potential archaeological features were investigated. All features impacted by the ground reduction appeared to be of relatively modern or natural origin, and throughout the course of the investigation no artefacts were
- 3.3 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.

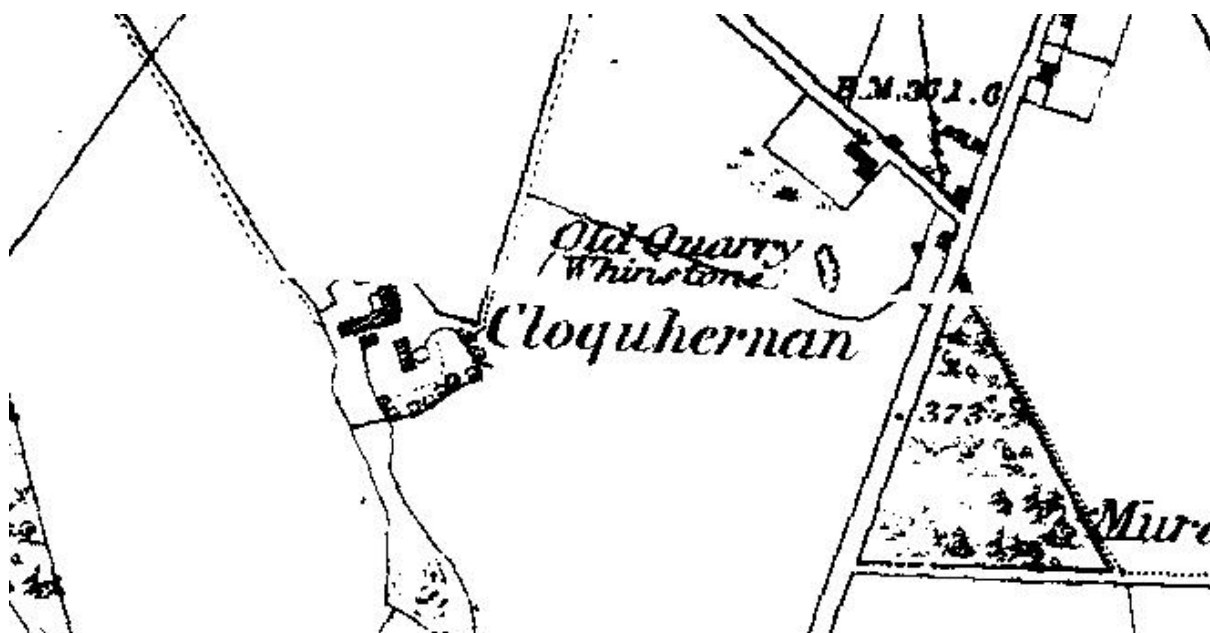


Figure 1a: Ordnance Survey 1:10,560, 1860 one inch to the mile.

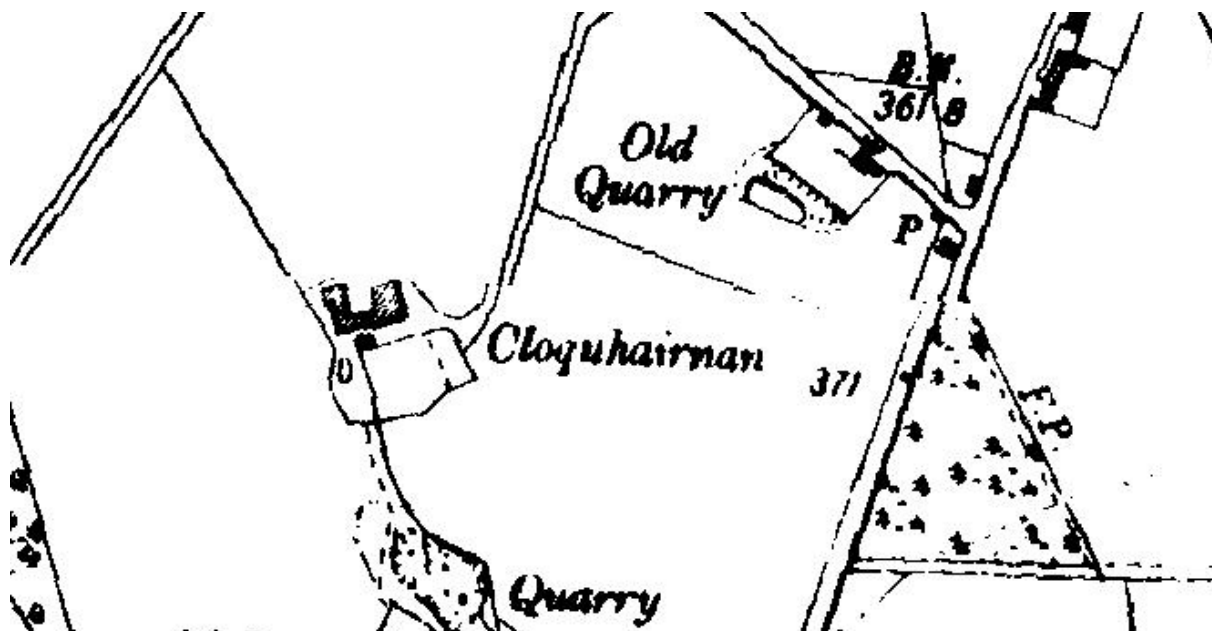


Figure 1b: Ordnance Survey 1:10,560, 1910 one inch to the mile.

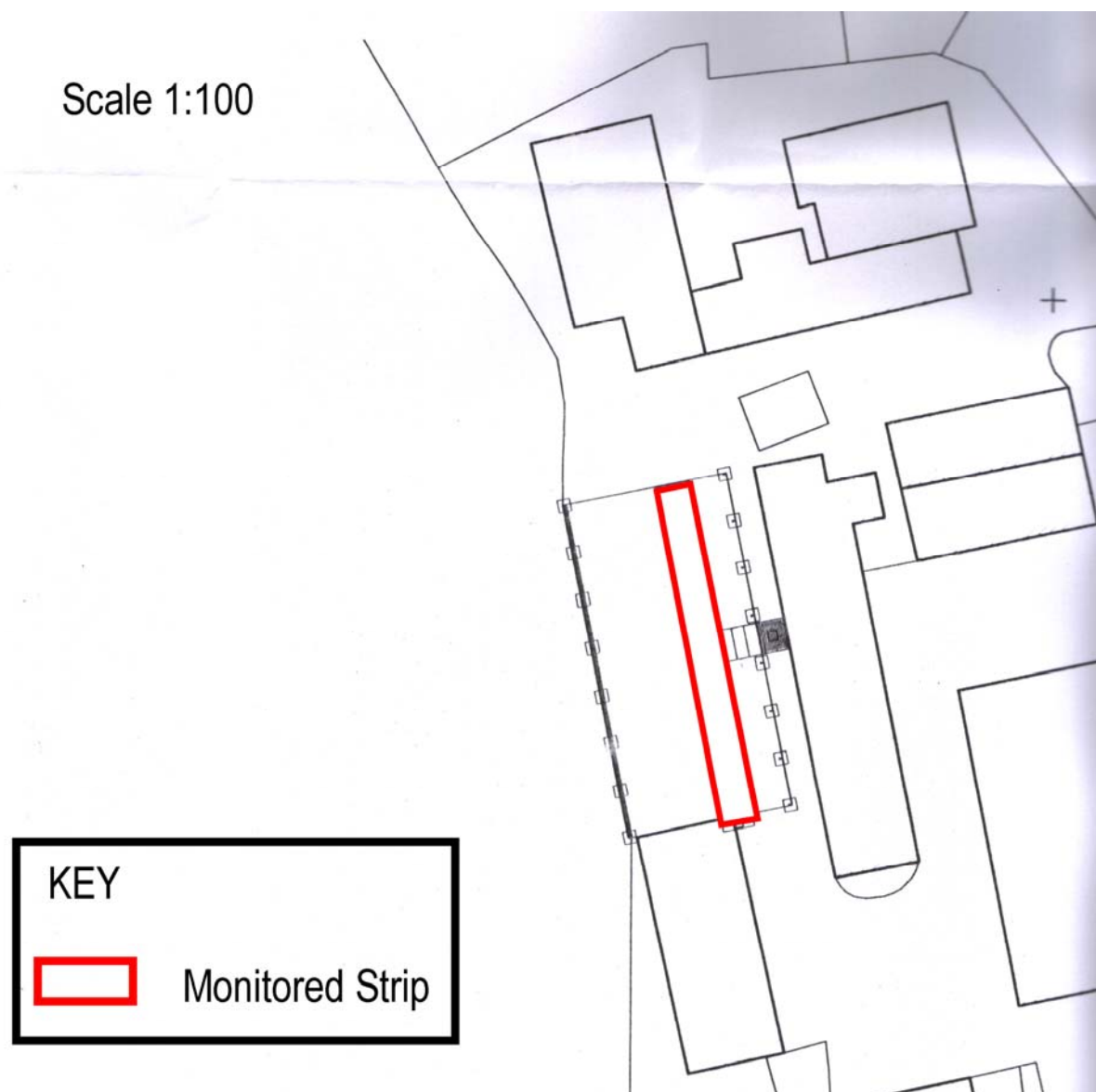


Figure 2: Location of Monitored Strip for Slurry Storage Tank

4 Findings

- 4.1 The development area is centred NS 432 174 and can be seen in Figure 3a and 3c before archaeological works took place. The site is located on top of undulating farmland, surrounded on all sides by agricultural fields, which slope down to the north where the access road is located.
- 4.2 The development area lies within the existing farmstead of Cloquhairnan Farm. One visit was required to observe groundworks for the new slurry storage tank. There was one area stripped for the slurry storage tank which was contained within an existing shed to the west of the farm. This area ran south to north and was rectangular in plan view, 30m long by 3.2m wide (96m²) by 200mm to 800mm deep.
- 4.3 The stripping was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket. The top surface deposits were removed prior to the exposure of natural subsoils in order to assess the extent of disturbance caused by the concrete surface (003) on the north side of the strip. This concrete was removed and the strip cleaned over once more to evaluate the underlying subsoils.
- 4.4 The surface of the shed was made up of a levelling deposit of orange gravels (002) above natural subsoil (004) and the concrete deposit (003), and finished by a tarmac and stone deposit (001). This extended to 200mm to 300mm deep across the strip. The concrete was 200mm thick under 300mm of surface and levelling deposits. Beneath this the subsoil consisted of both mixed grey and brown compact clay (005) and hard igneous bedrock (006) which both sat at 800mm deep under the concrete.
- 4.5 There is little chance of preceding archaeological structures existing here because of the shallow and hard natural deposits and if there was they would have been severely truncated by the construction of the 19th century farmstead as well as the later 20th century tarmac and concrete working surfaces. Looking at the early Ordnance Survey mapping evidence the Chapel or Carnel may be congruent to the early boundary and structures on the 1860 map. If this is the case the Chapel may have lain under the eastern buildings and structures of Cloquhairnan Farmhouse rather than the shed in question.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 The archaeological monitoring failed to identify any significant archaeological features or artefacts within the development area. Moreover the survival of any archaeological structure would have been undermined by the 19th and 20th century alterations and expansion of the farmstead. Consequently, we recommend that no further archaeological works are appropriate.
- 5.2 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 monitoring exercise was undertaken on the 23rd October 2008, on behalf of Mr Kerr in respect to proposed groundworks in support of the construction of an underground slurry storage tank as an element of an existing farm building at Cloquhairnan Farm, Coylton, South Ayrshire. Archaeological monitoring failed to identify any significant archaeological features within the development area.
- 6.2 On balance we have illustrated that this development has not adversely impacted on any significant archaeological remains and we recommend that no further archaeological works are appropriate.



Figure 3a: General Post Ex Shot from the Northeast



Fig 3b: Post Ex Running Shot at South End



Figure 3c: Post Ex Running Shot at 15m.



Figure 3d: Post Ex Running Shot at north end.

7 References

Bibliographic References

Duncan, Rev. A.	1834-45	Coylton, Ayrshire, <i>New Statistical Accounts of Scotland</i> , p655
Retter, J	1978	<i>Droangan: the story of a mining village</i> , Lugar, 74
Rees, T	2008	<i>Cloquhairnan Farm: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>
Shaw, Rev. David	1791-99	Coylton, Ayrshire, <i>Statistical Accounts of Scotland</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.

Cartographic Evidence

Ordnance Survey	1860	<i>Ayrshire</i> , 1:10,560
Ordnance Survey	1910	<i>Ayrshire</i> , 1:10,560

Appendix 1: Record summaries

Context Summaries

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001		Deposit/ Surface	Mixed tarmac and stone. Hay and mud on surface. Extends 150-180mm in depth on (002) Contains occasional metal and plastic. Very compact.	Modern working surface
002		Deposit	Mixed orange and tarmac gravels with frequent plastic and metal inclusions sits under (001). Loosely compact. South end of strip.	Levelling deposit. Modern.
003		Deposit/ Surface	200mm thick at 300mm deep from surface. Very compact concrete. Located at north end of strip. Sub dips under this to 800mm deep.	Surface/ Base or founds for farm structure. 20 th century.
004		Deposit	Mixed Orange Stoney Clays. Very compact. Disturbed by plastic drain at 5m from south end. Extends 8m long by 3.2m wide by 300mm deep..	Natural Subsoil
005		Deposit	Mixed grey and brown compact clays. 22m long by 3.2m wide by 300mm-800mm deep. Truncated by upper deposits and concrete.	Natural Subsoil
006		Deposit	Very compact igneous blue-grey rock and sand. 800mm deep at north end of strip.	Natural Subsoil

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
01	Daybook	-	Plan	1:50	Measure sketch plan of area strip under shed	KS	23/10/08

Photographic record

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
1	1	1	1	6		Pre-Ex Shots (of shed)	SSE	23/10/08
2	1	2	1	7		Pre-Ex Shots (of shed)	SSE	23/10/08
3	1	3	1	8		Pre-Ex Shots (of shed)	N	23/10/08
4	1	4	1	9		Post Ex Running from South to North	W	23/10/08
5	1	5	1	10		Post Ex Running from South to North	W	23/10/08
6	1	6	1	11		Post Ex Running from South to North	W	23/10/08
7	1	7	1	12		Post Ex Running from South to North	W	23/10/08
8	1	8	1	13		Post Ex Running from South to North	W	23/10/08
9	1	9	1	14		Post Ex Running from South to North	W	23/10/08
10	1	10	1	15		Post Ex Running from South to North	W	23/10/08
11	1	11	1	16		General Post Ex Shot	NNW	23/10/08
12	1	12	1	17		General Post Ex Shot	NNW	23/10/08
13	1	13	1	18		General Post Ex Shot	SSE	23/10/08
14	1	14	1	19		General Post Ex Shot	SSE	23/10/08
15	1	15	1	20		General Post Ex Shot	SSE	23/10/08
16	1	16	1	21		General Post Ex Shot	SSE	23/10/08

GPS Points

Point Id.	NS	BNG	Elevation	Accuracy	Description
01	43211	17433	144	+/- 6m	South End of Strip.
02	43206	17469	127 (inaccuracy?)	+/- 5m	North End of Strip

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Cloquhairnan Farm, Coylton
PARISH:	Coylton
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Katie Sludden
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitoring
NMRS NO(S):	NMRS No.: NS41NW 18, NMRS No.: NS41NW 5
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Commemorative Stone/ Carnel/ Well
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 432 174
START DATE (this season)	23 rd October 2008
END DATE (this season)	23 rd October 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	An archaeological monitoring was undertaken on the in respect to the construction of an underground slurry storage tank at Cloquhairnan Farm, Coylton, South Ayrshire. The works failed to identify any significant archaeological features.
PROJECT CODE:	RA 07076
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr. James Kerr
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 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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