

**Poniel, Happendon, South Lanarkshire:
Archaeological Mitigation**

Data Structure Report

by Douglas Gordon

issued 19th December 2007



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

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Checked Date

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1 Overview

- 1.1 This Data Structure Report presents the findings of archaeological mitigation works required by James Barr in respect of the forthcoming industrial development on land at Poniel, Happendon, South Lanarkshire (NGR: NS 8028 34067). The archaeological works, carried out from the 3rd to the 12th December 2007, were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
- 1.2 Jacobs through negotiation with South Lanarkshire Council and their advisors, the West of Scotland Archaeological Service, agreed the structure of archaeological work required on this site during development works. A previous programme of works to inform the determination of planning consent comprised a desk-based assessment and an intrusive evaluation.
- 1.3 The findings of the evaluation informed the appropriateness of the development proposal and the need for subsequent archaeological works. The character of any further stages of work will need to be agreed by Jacobs with South Lanarkshire Council and the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.
- 1.4 Rathmell Archaeology Ltd was appointed to undertake the archaeological mitigation on behalf of James Barr. The overall archaeological response was led by the project consultant archaeologist, Mr Alastair Rees (Jacobs).

2 Background

2.1 *Findings from the desktop survey*

- 2.1.1 A desktop survey had been previously carried out by Entec UK Ltd in 2004 (Entec 2004) to establish the baseline for the cultural heritage section of an Environmental Statement for Scottish Coal. 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).
- 2.1.2 Nor were any sites identified that had 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).
- 2.1.3 However, several sites were identified in the vicinity of the study area; the three lying in closest proximity were Poniel Cairn or Cists (NMRS NS83SW3), Poniel Farmhouse (NMRS NS83SW10) and an area of Cropmarks (1946AP).
- 2.1.4 There are, in addition, the remains of a railway embankment running through the north eastern corner of the site. This represents the remains of the Douglas Branch of the Caledonian Railway, opened on the 1st April, 1864, which ran between Lanark and Douglas. It was subsequently extended to Muirkirk on the 1st January 1873 but this section was built only for the purpose of carrying freight (Thomas 1971). The Douglas Branch was closed in 1968.
- 2.1.5 Mapping for the study area shows it to have been made up of agricultural fields since at least the mid 1700's (Roy 1748-55). The 1st edition Ordnance Survey shows the pattern of enclosure which has remained relatively constant since this time. The railway (see above) is not depicted until the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1897.



Figure 1 a: Roy's Military Map 1748-55



Figure 1b: Thomson 1832



Figure 1c: 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897

2.2 *The archaeological evaluation*

- 2.2.1 The archaeological evaluation recorded that the study area was largely devoid of archaeology with the exception of the presence of four localised areas of archaeology. There were two possible scenarios put forward in the Data Structure Report from the evaluation (Gordon 2007), the first being that the area has never been settled or used with sufficient intensity to generate sites; the second that the level of truncation generated by ploughed agriculture has obliterated the majority of features. It couldn't be determined which was the more likely scenario.
- 2.2.2 The four areas of localised archaeology were spread across the site with the greater concentration to the east. Area A is in the south west corner of the development area contained a posthole feature [059], which was circular in plan with a diameter of 290mm and up to 90mm deep. Area B situated in the eastern half of the development area contained a curvilinear feature [034], which ran from south to north, and broadened markedly towards the north. From investigation, when sectioned, the feature was 880mm wide and up to 120mm deep with shallow sloping sides and a flat base. Areas C and D are situated in the eastern most field of the development area and were found to contain a curvilinear feature [024] and a posthole feature [019] respectively
- 2.2.3 The Data Structure Report identified recommended mitigation which focused solely on stripping and excavating the archaeology within the four defined archaeologically sensitive area, see Figure 2 for these areas (reproduced from Gordon 2007). These four areas are each 30m in diameter and centred on the identified archaeology. Given the nature of the archaeology exposed it cannot be confidently stated that additional archaeological features will be identified in association with those found during the evaluation. However, should there be the potential to find coherent archaeology this is most likely to lie in these locations.
- 2.2.4 The evaluation demonstrated that archaeologically significant features had been preserved within a relatively localised area of the evaluation area. It was clear that all these features had been truncated, although the evaluation demonstrated that archaeologically significant deposits have survived beneath the zone of truncation and are of a quality potentially suitable for post-excavation analyses.

3 Project Works

- 3.1 The programme of works commenced with the archaeological monitored topsoil stripping of the archaeologically sensitive areas identified during the evaluation stage. In total four areas A-D were opened, some 2835m².
- 3.2 These works were undertaken in keeping with the submitted Written Scheme of Investigation (Gordon 2007). The on-site works, which took place from the 3rd to the 12th December 2007, were led by Mr Douglas Gordon.
- 3.3 All of the exposed features were investigated and evaluated to determine their 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.

4 Findings: Topsoiled Areas

- 4.1 Four Areas (A-D) were opened across the development area, centred on archaeology identified during the preceding evaluation (Gordon 2007).
- 4.2 The topsoil across the opened areas ranged between 100mm and 530mm in depth, although typically it reached no deeper than 300mm. The natural subsoil was predominantly variable clay; although in some locations silt and sand subsoil was exposed.

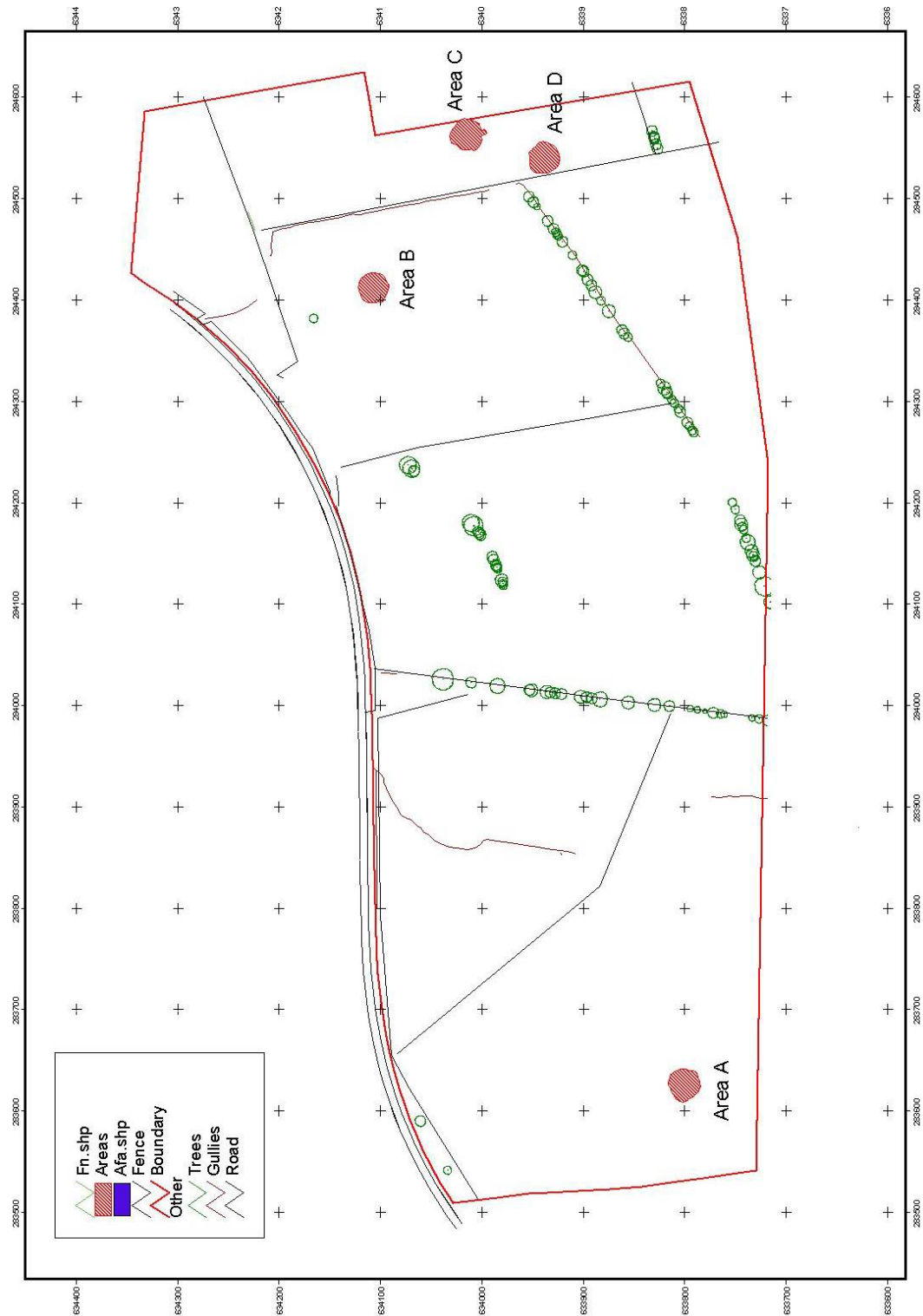


Figure 2: Plan of stripped areas

4.3 Area A

- 4.3.1 Three features [019], [020] and [021] were investigated in this area; each was circular in plan, 250-300mm in diameter, with a mid brown clay silt fill. Upon investigation they were discovered to be highly ephemeral as they were no more than 20mm in depth.
- 4.3.2 Five field drains [014] were also present within the bed of the area running northeast to southwest. Each had a mixed fill of topsoil [012] and subsoil [013] and were approximately 300mm wide.

4.4 Area B

- 4.4.1 The southwest quadrant of Area B contained a linear of mid to light brown sandy clay that ran northwest to southeast. The linear [018] was approximately 3m wide and up to 100mm deep, with an irregular cut and base.
- 4.4.2 Seven field drains [017] were also present running on a common alignment of roughly north to south. Each drain was approximately 300mm wide with a mixed topsoil and subsoil fill.

4.5 Area C

- 4.5.1 Two linears and a curvilinear were uncovered during the topsoil strip; linear [009] ran roughly southwest to northeast and measured 500mm wide and up to 100mm deep with a dark brown clay silt [010] with frequent inclusions of manganese. Linear [005] ran north northwest to south southeast and measured 6.3m long, 0.53m wide and up to 100mm deep. Its fill [006] was medium-loosely compact (though very wet) mid grey/brown silty clay with very occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions and frequent inclusions of manganese. Curvilinear [007] was 3m long from end to end, between 0.73m and 0.87m wide and up to 150mm deep. Its fill [008] was mottled mid brown silt clay with very occasional small stone inclusions and frequent inclusions of manganese.
- 4.5.2 Linear [005] appears to cut [007] at northern edge of its terminus, though the exact relation was uncertain. Five other linears were present within the area, which were field drains [003] on a roughly common alignment of southeast to northwest. Each drain measured 150mm wide and were >500mm deep.

4.6 Area D

- 4.6.1 Area D contained 10 linear field drains [003] running on a common alignment from northwest to southeast and measured 150mm wide and were >500mm deep. In addition there was a stone rubble field drain [011] running southwest to northeast with sub rounded stones and measured approximately 300mm wide.

4.5 Artefact Recovery

- 4.5.1 No artefacts were recovered during these works, in addition no modern detritus was observed. Which is *contra* the evaluation where there was a steady, but quite low volume, of nineteenth and twentieth century material, including sherds of glazed white earthenware pottery.

5 Discussion

- 5.1 The open area topsoil stripping confirmed the results from the evaluation, revealing areas largely devoid of archaeology and where archaeology was revealed, it was of a highly ephemeral nature. The only original feature from the evaluation to be found again was the curvilinear [007] [E024] in Area C; the others were of such an ephemeral nature as not to survive the open area topsoil stripping.
- 5.2 Of the archaeology that was uncovered, the three features from Area A [019], [020] and [021], the two linears [005] and [009] and curvilinear [007] from Area C appear to be relatively modern in origin, given their nature and fill. The Area A features had a fill that was exactly the same as the topsoil, while the Area C features maybe part of some industrial process, though there is no evidence to say what kind of process. It is possible that they may have some to do with the building of the railway, though the railway is some two hundred metres away.



Figure 3a: Area A



Figure 3b: Area B



Figure 3c: Area C

- 5.3 The paucity and ephemeral nature of the archaeology at Poniel was explained by two possibilities within the Data Structure report for the evaluation (Gordon 2007) (See also Section 2.2.1). Those being:
- ‘that the area around Poniel has never been settled or used with sufficient intensity to generate sites; or that the level of truncation generated by ploughed agriculture has obliterated the majority of features’
- 5.4 It still cannot be determined which of the two options is the more likely, though given the heavy clay subsoil which would have made it a hard, though not impossible, place to grow crops in the past and the evidence of the attempt to improve the land through field drains in recent times. It may be a combination of the two theories.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Given the highly ephemeral nature of the features recorded, their likely recent origin and from on site discussions with WoSAS (*pers comm.* Robbins) no further works are recommended.
- 6.2 The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with South Lanarkshire Council and their advisors, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service. Confirmation that the below recommendations are acceptable should be confirmed with these bodies prior to the implementation of any development works whose appropriateness may rely on these recommendations.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 A programme of archaeological investigative works were undertaken in respect of the forthcoming industrial development on land at Poniel, Happendon, South Lanarkshire (NGR: NS 8028 34067). Four areas centred on archaeology identified from previous works were topsoil stripped under archaeological supervision.
- 7.2 Several negative features were investigated during these works, however they were of ephemeral and modern nature. Therefore it has been concluded that the archaeology located by the evaluation did not represent elements of a larger archaeological site but were rather stray, ephemeral features.
- 7.3 On balance we consider that there is reasonably no probability of further sites of archaeological significance within the development area. Consequently, Rathmell Archaeology has recommended that no further works be carried out.

8 References

8.1 Documentary

Entect Uk Ltd	2004	<i>Poniel Mineral and Mixed Use Development, Environmental Statement</i> , unpublished commercial document.
Gordon, D	2007	<i>Poniel, Happendon, South Lanarkshire: Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report</i> , unpublished commercial document.
Gordon, D	2007	<i>Poniel, Happendon, South Lanarkshire: Archaeological Evaluation: Written Scheme of Investigation</i> , unpublished commercial document.
Rees, T	2007	<i>Poniel, Happendon, South Lanarkshire: Archaeological Evaluation: Method Statement</i> , unpublished commercial document.
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.
Thomas, J	1971	<i>A Regional History of the Railways of Great Britain, Volume VI Scotland: The Lowlands and the Borders'</i> Newton Abbot.

8.2 Cartographic

1747-55	Roy's Military Map	Area around Douglas
1832	Thomson	Southern Scotland
1862	1 st Edition Ordnance Survey	Lanarkshire Sheet
1897	2 nd Edition Ordnance Survey	Hamilton Sheet

Appendix 1: Registers

Context Register

No.	Area	Interpretation	Description
001	C & D	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt with frequent small-medium sized stone inclusions. Moderate compaction.
002	C & D	Subsoil	Very compact mottled orange/brown clay with frequent small to medium sized stone inclusions.
003	C & D	Field drain	Linear field drain running SE-NW. Vertical sides. Measures 0.15m wide and > 500mm deep.
004	C & D	Fill of field drain [003]	Compact mixture of dark grey/brown topsoil and mottled orange/brown/grey clay. Measures > 500mm deep.
005	C	Linear feature	Linear shaped cut in plan running NE-SW. Irregular side, near vertical, with an irregular flattish bottom. Measures 6.3m long, 0.58m wide and ≤ 100mm deep. Appears to cut feature [007] although exact relationship is unclear.
006	C	Fill of [005]	Medium-loosely compacted (very wet) mid grey/brown silty clay with very occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions. Frequent inclusions of manganese. Measures ≤ 100mm deep.
007	C	Curvilinear feature	Curvilinear shaped cut in plan with its main axis running NW-SE. Gently sloping sides with an irregular rounded base. Measures 3m long point to point, between 0.73m and 0.87m wide and 150mm deep. Appears to be cut by feature [005] although the exact relationship is unclear.
008	C	Fill of [007]	Mottled mid brown silt clay with very occasional small stone inclusions. Frequent inclusions of manganese.
009	C	Bunny burrow	Linear shaped cut running N-S.
010	C	Fill of [009]	Dark brown clayey silt with frequent small-medium sized stone inclusions. Moderate compaction. Frequent inclusions of manganese.
011	D	Field drain	Stone rubble drain. Linear shaped cut running SW-NE. Measures 300mm wide.
012	A	Topsoil	Moderately compacted mid brown clayey silt with frequent small-medium stone inclusions and occasional rootlets. Average depth of 280mm.
013	A	Subsoil	Quite compact mottled orange/grey/brown silty clay with patches of pale sand and frequent small-medium sized stone inclusions.
014	A	Field drain	Linear shaped cut in plan running SW-NE. Vertical sides. Measures 0.3m wide. Fill of mixed topsoil and subsoil.

015	B	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid-dark brown clayey silt with frequent small-medium sized stone inclusions. Average depth of 330mm.
016	B	Subsoil	Very compact mottled orange/brown/grey silty clay with patches of pale sand and frequent small-medium sized stones inclusions.
017	B	Field drain	Linear shaped cut in plan running SE-NW. Measures 0.3m wide. Fill of mixed topsoil and subsoil.
018	B	Natural band	Mottled mid brown/grey sandy clay with very frequent small-medium sized stone inclusions. Measures 1.8m wide and 21.1m long although runs outwith extent of area.
019	A	Possible Posthole	Circular in plan, measuring 260mm in diameter and up to 15mm in depth. Fill of topsoil
020	A	Possible Posthole	Circular in plan, measuring 300mm in diameter and up to 20mm in depth. Fill of topsoil
021	A	Possible Posthole	Irregular circle in plan, measuring 280mm in diameter and up to 20mm in depth, with a topsoil fill.

Photographic Register

Image	Description	From	Date
1	General shot of field drain [003] in Area D	NE	4/12/07
2	Close up of field drain [003] in Area D	NE	4/12/07
3	W facing section of [005]	W	4/12/07
4	General shot of Area D	S	5/12/07
5	General shot of Area D	SW	5/12/07
6	Working shot	-	5/12/07
7	General shot of Area C	NW	6/12/07
8	General shot of Area C	NW	6/12/07
9	General shot of Areas C & D	SW	6/12/07
10	General shot of Areas C & D	SW	6/12/07
11	General shot of Area A	S	10/12/07
12	General shot of Area A	SW	10/12/07
13	General shot of site	SW	10/12/07
14	General shot of site	S	10/12/07
15	General shot of Area B	NW	12/12/07
16	General shot of Area B	NW	12/12/07

Drawing Register

Sheet	No.	Area	Title	Scale	Date	Author
1	1	D	SW facing section of [007]	1:10	5/12/07	DG
1	2	D	Sketch plan of features [005] and [007]	-	5/12/07	DG
1	3	D	NW facing section of [005]	1:10	5/12/07	CW
1	4	D	Sketch plan of Area D	-	5/12/07	DG
2	5	C	Sketch plan of Area C	-	6/12/07	CW
3	6	A	Sketch plan of Area A	-	10/12/07	CW
4	7	B	Sketch plan of Area B	-	12/12/07	CW

Artefacts Register

No artefacts were recovered.

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Poniel, Happendon
PARISH:	Douglas
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Douglas Gordon
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Mitigation
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Curvilinear Feature
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	Centred on NS 802 340
START DATE (this season)	10 th September 2007
END DATE (this season)	28 th September 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Evaluation
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological investigative works were undertaken in respect of the forthcoming industrial development on land at Poniel, Happendon, South Lanarkshire (NGR: NS 8028 34067). Four areas centred on archaeology identified from previous works were topsoil stripped under archaeological supervision.</p> <p>Several negative features were investigated during these works, however they were of ephemeral and modern nature. Therefore it has been concluded that the archaeology located by the evaluation did not represent elements of a larger archaeological site but were rather stray, ephemeral features.</p> <p>On balance we consider that there is reasonably no probability of further sites of archaeological significance within the development area. Consequently, Rathmell Archaeology has recommended that no further works be carried out.</p>
PROJECT CODE:	07064
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	James Barr Ltd
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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