

**2 Hamilton Gardens, Stewarton, Ayrshire:
Archaeological Monitoring**

Data Structure Report

by Alan Matthews

issued 11th June 2010



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

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for East Ayrshire Council Roads Department in respect of the demolition of existing structures and forming of a carpark to the rear of 2 Hamilton Gardens, Stewarton. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area to the agreement of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service and East Ayrshire Council.
2. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service who advises East Ayrshire Council on archaeological matters requested archaeological mitigation be undertaken to manage the potential impact on archaeological remains. They provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required on-site during development works. East Ayrshire Council conditioned the granted consent (09/0706/PP) with a negative suspensive condition for archaeology.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited was appointed by East Ayrshire Council Roads Department to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works for the build at the 2 Hamilton Gardens, Stewarton in support of their contractors. This was agreed through a Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2010).

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. The earliest references to Stewarton come from the twelfth century when Stewarton was part of an extensive grant to Hugh De Morville, who in turn gave the lands of Stewarton to his vassal Godfrey De Ross. The origins of the name Stewarton are uncertain, though it is believed to be connected to the High Steward of Scotland's inheritance of the lands in 1283.
5. Stewarton changed hands through a variety of families until reaching the Montgomeries in 1545, with whom it remained with for the next two hundred years. The Montgomeries are understood to have held the lands around Stewarton for 200 years until it passed to the Cunninghames in the eighteenth century.
6. The date of the establishment of a settlement at Stewarton is uncertain. Some settlement must have been established by 1630 when the bonnet makers of Stewarton entitled Sir Alexander Cunninghame of Corsehill as the 'Deacon Heritable'. In addition a minute book of the bonnet makers is known to date from 1666 – 1773 survives, with meetings held either in Stewarton or at the Bonnet Court of Corsehill.
7. The earliest viable mapping evidence comes from Roy's military survey of 1747-55 (Figure 1a) which shows the Main Street with buildings fronting along the street, with back plots running off behind the frontage. The development site lies within these back plots to the north of the Main Street (see green circle on Figure 1a).
8. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1858 (Figure 1b) shows defined backplots with a building within the study area (see green circle). The form of the land boundaries defining the back of the plots can still be recognised within the modern survey of the ground. In 1868 Stewarton became a Police Burgh and took over its own administration of local affairs.
9. There are no specific known archaeological sites within the development area further than its location within Stewarton. The prompt for the archaeological condition was the potential for the presence of 18th century or earlier urban activity.



Figure 1a: Detail from Roys' Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55)



Figure 1b: Detail from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1858)

Project Works

10. The programme of works comprised the archaeological monitoring of the removal of a concrete surface and ground reduction. Typically reduction was carried out to a depth of between 400 and 500mm below current ground level. Removal of the concrete surface was carried out using a machine breaker and ground reduction was carried out progressively using a 13t 360° excavator and a JCB 3cx. Typically the actual reduction work was carried out by the 360° excavator while the JCB 3cx removed spoil.
11. In compliance with the Method Statement (Rees 2010) all ground breaking works were monitored and any potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded, with the on-site works taking place from the for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

12. The development area was located to the north-west of Stewarton High Street on an area of ground measuring approximately 480m². The development area sloped very gently from the north-west to the south east and upon commencement of the archaeological works constituted an area of roughly paved concrete. Multiple structures are known to have existed on the site in modern times (20th century) and so some degree of disturbance or truncation was anticipated.
13. Ground reduction was carried out over the entire development area. The ground reduction was carried out in a broadly uniform fashion. That is stripping the site from north to south; typically removing the paving first and then reducing the area beneath to the required depth. The only exception to this was in the north of the development area where approximately 10% of the overall area had been contaminated with diesel and oil (003). After consultation with West of Scotland Archaeology Service this area was not monitored to the full depth of reduction.
14. Typically within the development area the paved surface was less than 100mm thick and easily removed by the 360° excavator (001). The paving was bedded on made ground composed of modern industrial or building debris (002). The made ground contained many modern bricks and occasionally fragments of sandstone in a matrix of dark brown to black sandy silt. Anthropogenic material observed within the made ground included modern rubbish, fragments of metal (including car parts), modern services and structures. All of the material observed within the made ground was modern (20th century).
15. Made ground continued to a depth of at least 300mm however in some places the disturbance continued deeper. Generally the base of the made ground was uneven however in some places greater depth of disturbance resulted from the placement of sunken structures. The first of these structures was a large brick lined pit in the approximate centre of the development area which had been infilled with modern rubbish. The second was two lines, forming an L-shape, of bricks and stone cemented together in the south centre of the site and sitting on top of the natural soil.
16. The archaeologically sterile natural drift geology on site was yellow brown silty clay with occasional small stones (004). Several spot heights were taken on (004) using DGPS (Figure 2). This deposit was immediately beneath the made ground and disturbed only by modern material. All services on site were no longer live. Occasionally services were set in the subsoil however both gas pipes and electrical cables were in the made ground.

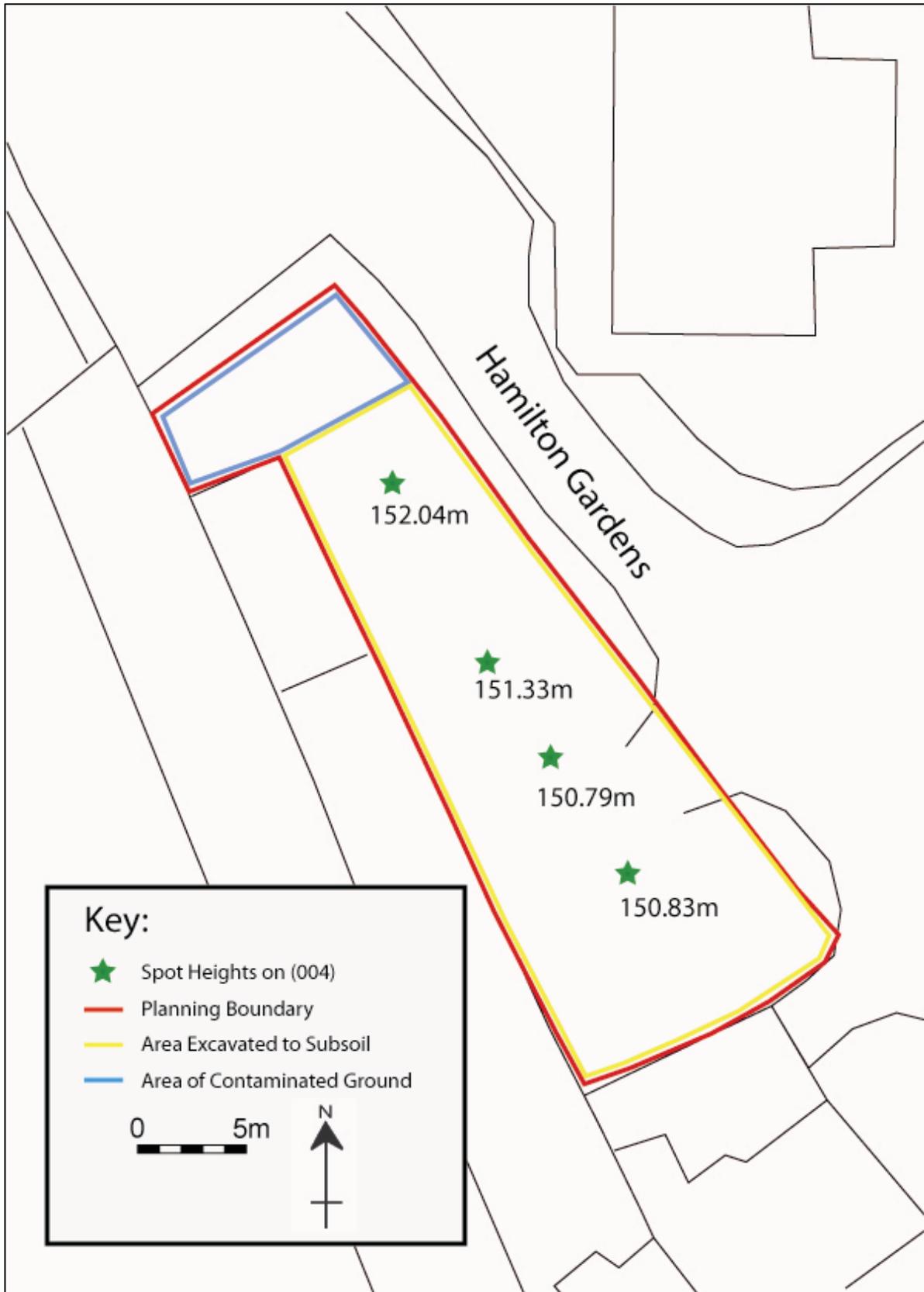


Figure 2: Site Layout



Figure 3a: Site prior to ground reduction



Figure 3b: Removing the paving

17. No significant archaeological material was recovered from anywhere on site and all the anthropic material recovered was modern (20th century) in origin. Any disturbance to the natural drift geology resulted from modern services or structures and only modern structures were observed during the course of the monitoring.
18. The north approximately 10% of the development area was monitored to a depth of 300mm from existing ground level. At the time of completion of the archaeological monitoring this portion of the site was still at the depth of made ground. However, due to the level of contamination (diesel and oil) in this area and the fact that the remainder of the development area shown no indication of significant archaeology it was agreed with West of Scotland Archaeology Service that no further archaeological works were required.

Discussion

19. No significant archaeological features were uncovered during the archaeological monitoring works and no anthropic material was observed other than that relating to the modern use of the site. Observation of the build up of sediments on site suggests that there has been some truncation of the natural drift geology before the construction of those buildings which preceded the development works.
20. The quantity of building material contained within the made ground suggests that it, at least partially, results from the demolition of structures which previously occupied the site. Presumably an element of those structures was the sunken structures described in the findings. It is certainly true that these structures were composed of similar modern brick as was present in quantity in the made ground.
21. Modern services were present both in the subsoil and in the made ground, however, their placement seemed to be after the truncation of the subsoil and the build up of the made ground. Given that almost the entire site was monitored to the surface of archaeological sterile drift geology we can say definitively that there is no further potential of significant archaeological remains within the development area.

Recommendations

22. The archaeological monitoring failed to identify any significant archaeological features or artefacts within the development area. Approximately 90% of the site was reduced to archaeological sterile drift geology and there is little reasonable change of significant archaeology surviving in the remaining portion. Consequently, we recommend that no further archaeological works are appropriate with regard to this site.
23. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with East Ayrshire Council and their advisors, West of Scotland Archaeology Service.



Figure 4a: Paving removed, brick structure exposed



Figure 4b: Gas services exposed at south end



Figure 5a: Subsoil partially exposed



Figure 5b: Contaminated area at north end

Conclusion

24. An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the groundbreaking works required for the creation of a car park at 2 Hamilton Gardens, Stewarton. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
25. Approximately 90% of the development area was reduced by at least 400mm to natural drift geology and the remainder was reduced by 300mm through made ground. No significant archaeological material was observed during the course of the archaeological works and the only anthropic material observed was that relating to 20th century use of the site.

References

Documentary

Rees, T	2010	<i>2 Hamilton Gardens, Stewarton, Ayrshire: Archaeological Watching Brief, Written Scheme of Investigation</i> , Rathmell Archaeology Ltd
Scot Gov	2008	SPP23 Planning and the Historic Environment.
SOEnv	1994	Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology, Scottish Office Environmental Department.

Cartographic

1747-1755	Roy	Military Survey of Scotland
1775	Armstrong	A new map of Ayrshire
1858	Ordnance Survey	1 st edition Ordnance Survey, Ayrshire
1897	Ordnance Survey	2 nd edition Ordnance Survey, Ayrshire
1911	Ordnance Survey	3 rd edition Ordnance Survey, Ayrshire
1938	Ordnance Survey	4 th edition Ordnance Survey, Ayrshire

Appendix 1: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site regardless of the process by which that information was gathered (e.g. evaluation or strip, map & sample).

Context Register

Context No.	Area/Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Site	Deposit	Concrete slab or paving placed on a shallow accumulation of type 1 gravel.	Paving
002	Site	Deposit	Very dark brown or black sandy silt with frequent modern bricks and other building material and other modern rubbish including, metal, services and structural remains	Made ground containing demolition material.
003	North of Site	Deposit	See 002 – with the addition of contamination due to the presence of diesel and oil in the soil	Made ground with contamination
004	Site	Deposit	Yellow brown compact silt clay with occasional small or moderate sub rounded stones	Natural subsoil

Photographic Register

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
01	-	-	-	-	4887	Site on arrival	NW	18/5/10
02	-	-	-	-	4888	Site on arrival	NW	18/5/10
03	-	-	-	-	4889	Site on arrival	N	18/5/10
04	-	-	-	-	4890	Site on arrival	NE	18/5/10
05	-	-	-	-	4891	Site on arrival	SE	18/5/10
06	-	-	-	-	4892	Site on arrival	SE	18/5/10
07	-	-	-	-	4893	Site on arrival	SE	18/5/10

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
08	-	-	-	-	4894	Site cabin	SE	18/5/10
09	-	-	-	-	4895	Site cabin	SE	18/5/10
10	-	-	-	-	4896	Begin stripping concrete	N	18/5/10
11	-	-	-	-	4897	Begin stripping concrete	N	18/5/10
12	-	-	-	-	4898	Begin stripping concrete	N	18/5/10
13	-	-	-	-	4899	Begin stripping concrete	N	18/5/10
14	-	-	-	-	4900	Stripping and pecking concrete	N	18/5/10
15	-	-	-	-	4901	Stripping and pecking concrete	N	18/5/10
16	-	-	-	-	4902	Removing concrete	NW	18/5/10
17	-	-	-	-	4903	Removing concrete	NW	18/5/10
18	-	-	-	-	4904	Removing concrete	N	18/5/10
19	-	-	-	-	4905	Removing concrete	N	18/5/10
20	-	-	-	-	4906	Removing concrete	N	18/5/10
21	-	-	-	-	4907	Removing concrete	N	18/5/10
22	-	-	-	-	4908	Pecking concrete	NW	18/5/10
23	-	-	-	-	4909	Pecking concrete	NW	18/5/10
24	-	-	-	-	177	Stripping continues	NE	19/5/10
25	-	-	-	-	178	Stripping continues	NE	19/5/10
26	-	-	-	-	179	Stripping continues	NE	19/5/10
27	-	-	-	-	180	Stripping continues	NE	19/5/10
28	-	-	-	-	181	Stripping continues	NE	19/5/10
29	-	-	-	-	182	Stripping continues	NE	19/5/10
30	-	-	-	-	183	Stripping s-end	S	19/5/10

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
31	-	-	-	-	184	Stripping s-end	S	19/5/10
32	-	-	-	-	185	Sink in centre	S	19/5/10
33	-	-	-	-	186	Sink in centre	S	19/5/10
34	-	-	-	-	187	Sink and pipes in s-end	S	19/5/10
35	-	-	-	-	188	Sink and pipes in s-end	S	19/5/10
36	-	-	-	-	189	Sink and pipes in s-end	S	19/5/10
37	-	-	-	-	190	Sink and pipes in s-end	S	19/5/10
38	-	-	-	-	191	Sink and pipes in s-end	S	19/5/10
39	-	-	-	-	192	Sink and pipes in s-end	S	19/5/10
40	-	-	-	-	193	Pecking n-end	SW	19/5/10
41	-	-	-	-	194	Pecking n-end	SW	19/5/10
42	-	-	-	-	195	Sink and pipes s-end	W	19/5/10
43	-	-	-	-	196	Sink and pipes s-end	W	19/5/10
44	-	-	-	-	197	Stripping n-end	SW	19/5/10
45	-	-	-	-	198	Stripping n-end	SW	19/5/10
46	-	-	-	-	199	Stripping n-end	SW	19/5/10
47	-	-	-	-	200	Stripping n-end	SW	19/5/10
48	-	-	-	-	201	Stripping n-end	W	19/5/10
49	-	-	-	-	202	Stripping n-end	W	19/5/10
50	-	-	-	-	203	Stripping n-end	W	19/5/10
51	-	-	-	-	204	Stripping n-end	W	19/5/10
52	-	-	-	-	205	Stripping n-end	N	19/5/10
53	-	-	-	-	206	Stripping n-end	N	19/5/10

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
54	-	-	-	-	207	Sunken structure n-end	N	19/5/10
55	-	-	-	-	208	Sunken structure n-end	N	19/5/10
56	-	-	-	-	209	Stripping s-end	S	19/5/10
57	-	-	-	-	210	Stripping s-end	S	19/5/10
58	-	-	-	-	211	Sunken structure n-end	NW	19/5/10
59	-	-	-	-	212	Sunken structure n-end	NW	19/5/10
60	-	-	-	-	213	Sunken structure n-end	NW	19/5/10
61	-	-	-	-	214	Sunken structure n-end	N	19/5/10
62	-	-	-	-	215	Site	N	19/5/10
63	-	-	-	-	216	Site	N	19/5/10
64	-	-	-	-	217	NW corner stripping	SE	20/5/10
65	-	-	-	-	218	NW corner stripping	SE	20/5/10
66	-	-	-	-	219	Loading centre and reduction	NW	20/5/10
67	-	-	-	-	220	Loading centre and reduction	NW	20/5/10
68	-	-	-	-	221	Loading centre and reduction	N	20/5/10
69	-	-	-	-	222	Loading centre and reduction	N	20/5/10
70	-	-	-	-	223	Loading centre and reduction	NE	20/5/10
71	-	-	-	-	224	Loading centre and reduction	NE	20/5/10
72	-	-	-	-	225	Reduction SW corner	N	20/5/10
73	-	-	-	-	226	Reduction SW corner	N	20/5/10
74	-	-	-	-	227	Reduction s-end	S	20/5/10
75	-	-	-	-	228	Reduction s-end	S	20/5/10
76	-	-	-	-	229	Reduction centre	S	20/5/10

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
77	-	-	-	-	230	Reduction centre	S	20/5/10
78	-	-	-	-	231	Reduction n-end	S	20/5/10
79	-	-	-	-	232	Reduction n-end	S	20/5/10
80	-	-	-	-	233	Reduction nw-corner	SE	20/5/10
81	-	-	-	-	234	Reduction nw-corner	SE	20/5/10
82	-	-	-	-	235	NW corner oil	SW	20/5/10
83	-	-	-	-	236	NW corner oil	SW	20/5/10
84	-	-	-	-	237	Remove sunken structure	NW	20/5/10
85	-	-	-	-	238	Remove sunken structure	NW	20/5/10
86	-	-	-	-	239	Remove sunken structure	W	20/5/10
87	-	-	-	-	240	Remove sunken structure	W	20/5/10
88	-	-	-	-	241	Reduction centre	N	20/5/10
89	-	-	-	-	242	Reduction centre	N	20/5/10
90	-	-	-	-	243	Reduction centre	N	21/5/10
91	-	-	-	-	244	Reduction centre	N	21/5/10
92	-	-	-	-	245	Se corner	W	21/5/10
93	-	-	-	-	246	Se corner	W	21/5/10
94	-	-	-	-	247	Cutting pipe	N	21/5/10
95	-	-	-	-	248	Cutting pipe	N	21/5/10
96	-	-	-	-	249	Stripping centre	W	21/5/10
97	-	-	-	-	250	Stripping centre	W	21/5/10
98	-	-	-	-	251	S-end	W	21/5/10
99	-	-	-	-	252	S-end	W	21/5/10

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
100	-	-	-	-	253	S-end	S	21/5/10
101	-	-	-	-	254	S-end	S	21/5/10
102	-	-	-	-	255	S-end	W	21/5/10
103	-	-	-	-	256	S-end	W	21/5/10
104	-	-	-	-	257	Site Stripping	N	21/5/10
105	-	-	-	-	258	Site Stripping	N	21/5/10
106	-	-	-	-	259	Site Stripping	N	21/5/10
107	-	-	-	-	260	Site Stripping	N	21/5/10
108	-	-	-	-	261	Site Stripping	N	21/5/10
109	-	-	-	-	262	Site Stripping	N	21/5/10
110	-	-	-	-	263	Site Stripping	N	21/5/10
111	-	-	-	-	264	Site Stripping	N	24/5/10
112	-	-	-	-	265	Beginning work	N	24/5/10
113	-	-	-	-	266	Beginning work	N	24/5/10
114	-	-	-	-	267	Stripping centre	N	24/5/10
115	-	-	-	-	268	Stripping centre	N	24/5/10
116	-	-	-	-	269	Stripping centre	N	24/5/10
117	-	-	-	-	270	Stripping centre	N	24/5/10
118	-	-	-	-	271	S-end	S	24/5/10
119	-	-	-	-	272	S-end	S	24/5/10
120	-	-	-	-	273	Stripping centre	N	24/5/10
121	-	-	-	-	274	Stripping centre	N	24/5/10
122	-	-	-	-	275	Stripping centre	S	24/5/10

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
123	-	-	-	-	276	Stripping centre	S	24/5/10
124	-	-	-	-	277	Stripping last wedge	W	25/5/10
125	-	-	-	-	278	Stripping last wedge	W	25/5/10
126	-	-	-	-	279	Stripping last wedge	N	25/5/10
127	-	-	-	-	280	Stripping last wedge	N	25/5/10
128	-	-	-	-	281	Stripping last wedge	N	25/5/10
129	-	-	-	-	282	Stripping last wedge	N	25/5/10
130	-	-	-	-	283	Contaminated area	E	25/5/10
131	-	-	-	-	284	Contaminated area	E	25/5/10
132	-	-	-	-	285	Whole site	N	25/5/10
133	-	-	-	-	286	Whole site	N	25/5/10
134	-	-	-	-	287	Last work at centre	W	25/5/10
135	-	-	-	-	288	Last work at centre	W	25/5/10

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	2 Hamilton Gardens, Stewarton, Ayrshire
PROJECT CODE:	10005
PARISH:	Stewarton
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Matthews
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitoring
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 422 461
START DATE (this season)	18 th May 2010
END DATE (this season)	25 th May 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the groundbreaking works required for the creation of a car park at 2 Hamilton Gardens, Stewarton. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area. Approximately 90% of the development area was reduced by at least 400mm to natural drift geology and the remainder was reduced by 300mm through made ground. No significant archaeological material was observed during the course of the archaeological works and the only anthropic material observed was that relating to 20 th century use of the site.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	East Ayrshire Council Roads Department
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 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

26. Rathmell Archaeology can be contacted at our Registered Office or through the web:

Rathmell Archaeology Ltd	www.rathmell-arch.co.uk
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Ayrshire	f.: 01294 542849
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27. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service can be contacted at their office or through the web:

West of Scotland Archaeology Service	www.wosas.org.uk
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Glasgow	f.: 0141 287 9259
G2 4PF	e.: enquiries@wosas.glasgow.gov.uk

End of Document