

**Angle Park, Melville Extension, Fife:
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Data Structure Report

by Alan Matthews

issued 19th February 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

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

Introduction	3
Archaeological and Historical Background.....	3
Project Works.....	6
Findings.....	6
Discussion	10
Recommendations	10
Conclusion	10
References	11
Documentary.....	11
Cartographic.....	11
Appendix 1: Registers.....	12
Context Register	12
Photographic Register	12
Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland	17
Contact Details	18

Figures:

Figure 1a: Roy’s Military Map (1747-55).....	4
Figure 1b:1 st edition Ordnance Survey (1856).....	4
Figure 2: Site Layout and Area Monitored	5
Figure 3a: Work in Progress	7
Figure 3b: Showing (003)	7
Figure 4a: Work in Progress	8
Figure 4b: Work in Progress	8
Figure 5a: Area along northern boundary	9
Figure 5b: Stripped area and adjacent quarry	9

Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Angle Park Sand and Gravel Co. Ltd in respect to the archaeological watching brief in support of the extension of the existing Melville Gates Quarry, Ladybank, Fife. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the extraction area.
2. Fife Council has required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken as a requirement of full planning permission (09/00549/EFULL). Fife Council Archaeology Unit, who advise Fife Council on archaeological matters, has provided guidance on the structure of the archaeological works required on this site during extraction works; this structure been agreed between Fife Council Archaeology Unit, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd and Angle Park Sand and Gravel Co. Ltd.
3. Although no archaeological sites are known to exist within the extraction area previous archaeological work carried out in the immediately surrounding area has revealed the archaeological potential of the land. It is possible that additional buried and unrecorded remains of archaeological significance survive across the proposed extraction area, comparable to those identified nearby. The frequent recognition of cropmarks and discovery of prehistoric artefacts in the immediate vicinity suggests that further remains may be preserved within the proposed extraction area.
4. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by Angle Park Sand and Gravel Co. Ltd to undertake the implementation of archaeological mitigation works during the extraction at Melville Gates Quarry.

Archaeological and Historical Background

5. Although there are no known sites within the boundary of the planning application archaeological and historical work in the immediately surrounding area has demonstrated the archaeological potential of the landscape in the area of Melville Gates Quarry. Examination of historical mapping shown little change in the development area in at least the last two hundred years. Roy's Military Maps (1747-55) (Figure 1a) show the area as being on the edge of agricultural land to the south of Melville House. Examining the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 1b) shows that the area has changed very little until now. Even to the extent that the trees bordering the development area appear in broadly the same configuration.
6. Examination of the known archaeological sites in the area around the development area shows a great diversity of sites within a very small radius. To the north, as already suggested, exist the Melville House and grounds (Canmore ID: 30153) including the Dovecot (HB Number: 2486). The house itself was built in 1692 the surrounding ground has been landscaped in various configurations as garden and as an approach to the house. During the Second World War the house and its ground were used for the training of Special Units of the Home Guard (Rees 2008). The evidence of this use remains in the grounds.
7. Military use of the surrounding area during the Second World War is also evident to the south of the development area. Adjacent to the currently working portion of Melville Gates Quarry is the Annsmuir POW camp (Rees & Shaw 2007). Further to the south and east an archaeological walkover survey carried out by SUAT (Perry 2005) recorded the presence of Fife's anti-tank defences in the area of Ramornie House and designed landscape (Matthews 2009).
8. Given that there are no historical or cartographic records indicating upstanding remains within the development area the greatest archaeological potential is from prehistoric remains preserved as negative features. This potential is confirmed by a brief look at the immediate vicinity of the development area. Most notable is the souterrain recorded as Windmill Cottage (Canmore ID: 31669) on the other side of the A92. Work was carried

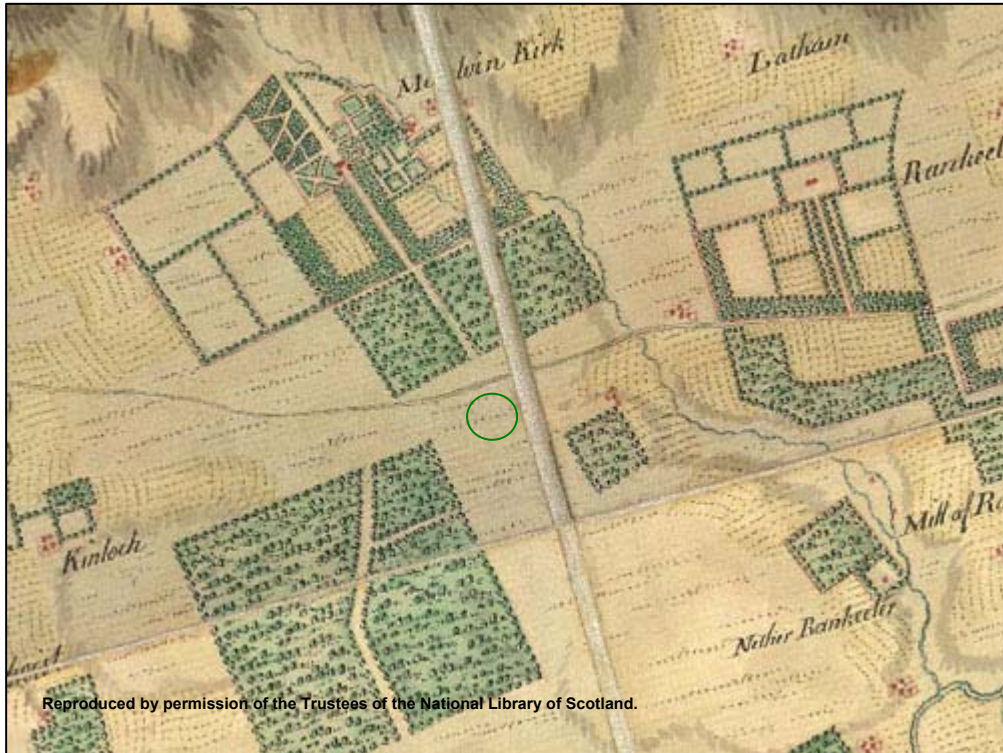


Figure 1a: Roy's Military Map (1747-55)

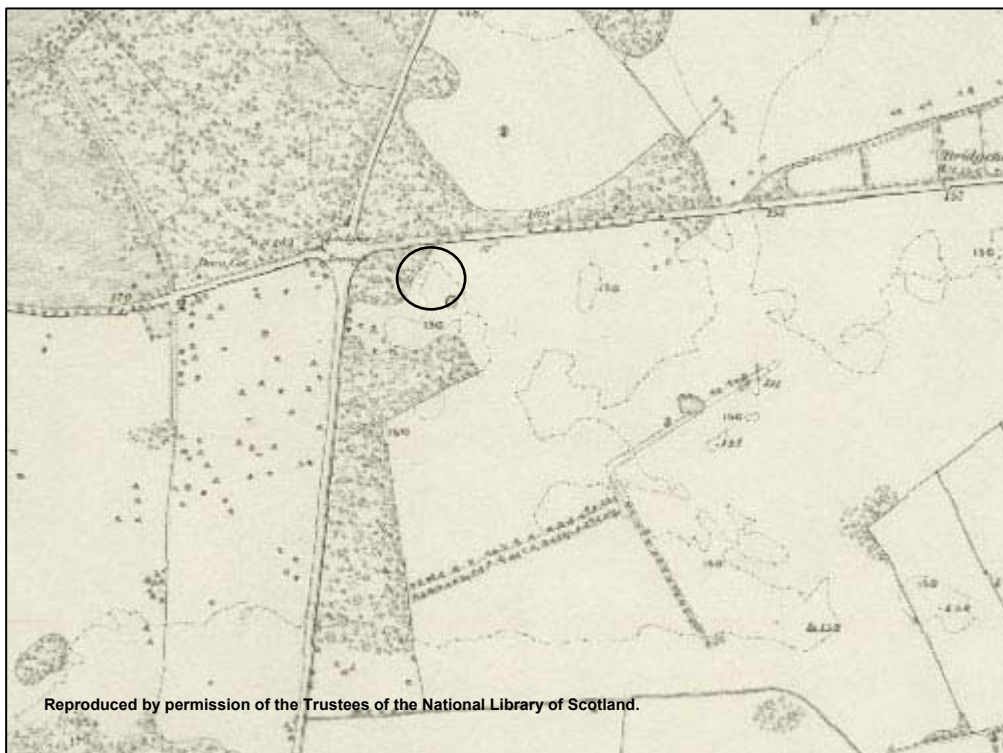


Figure 1b: 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1856)

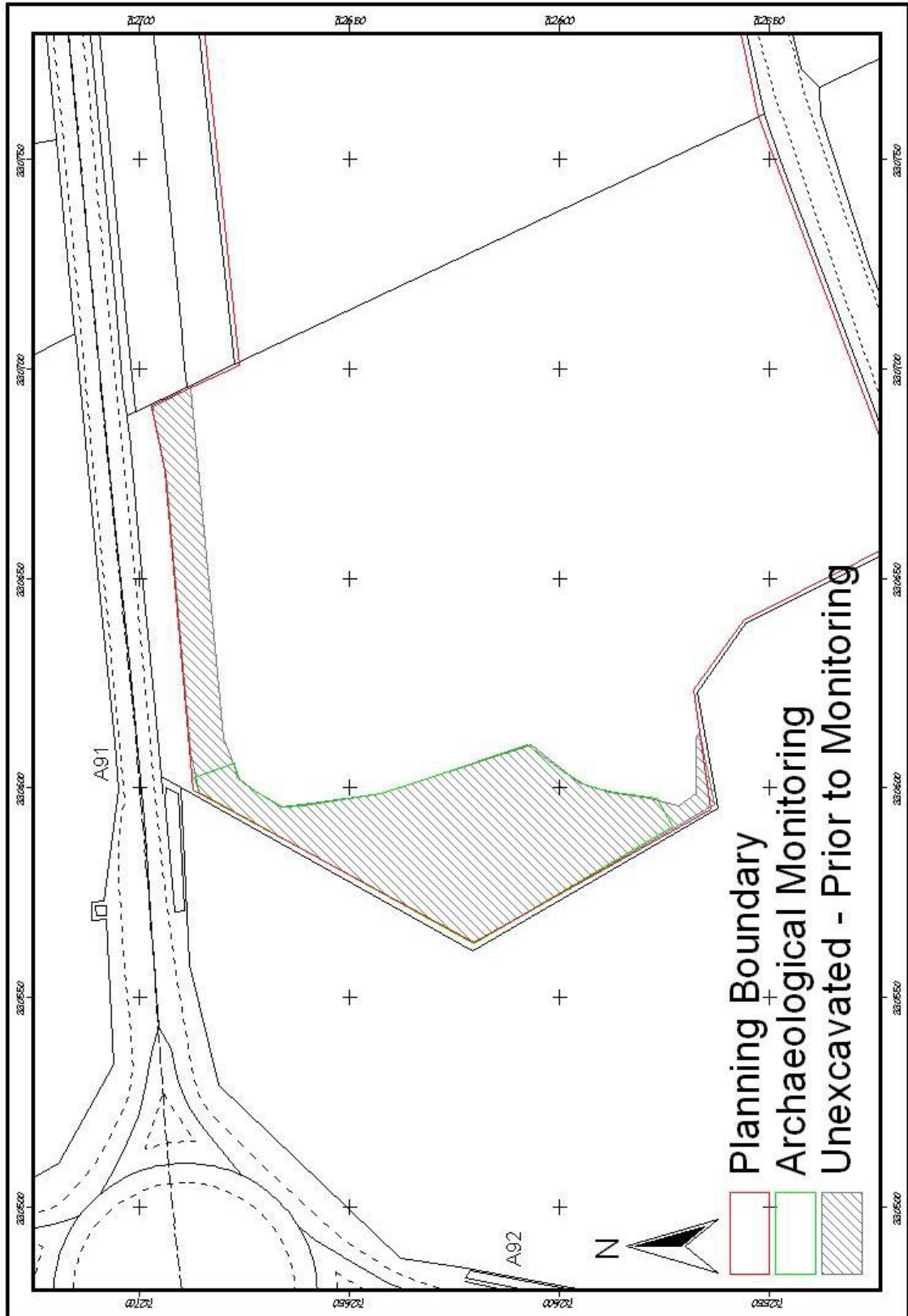


Figure 2: Site Layout and Area Monitored

out by the CFA in 1992 investigating these features and this revealed collapsed walling and packing material consistent with a souterrain. Other features in the immediate vicinity include a ring ditch (Canmore ID: 31673), and enclosure (Canmore ID: 31674) and a pit enclosure (Canmore ID: 31675).

Project Works

9. The programme of works commenced with an archaeological watching brief undertaken in the north-western corner of the extraction area (Figure 2). Although the extraction area, described by the redline of the planning application, was larger than the area monitored, it was agreed with Fife Council Archaeology Unit that only the area above the 45m contour, in the north-west corner was to be subject to archaeological monitoring. The area to the east of the 45m contour was known to have been disturbed in a previous extraction phase and therefore was unlikely to contain material of archaeological significance.
10. Any exposed features were investigated and evaluated to determine their archaeological significance, with the on-site works taking place from the 11th - 12th February 2010. All works were conducted in accordance with the Fife Council Archaeology Unit Standard Conditions, the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

11. Archaeological monitoring was carried out in the north western corner of the extension of Melville Gates Quarry. The area monitored, to the west of the 45m contour, was agreed between Rathmell Archaeology Ltd, Fife Council Archaeology Unit and Angle Park Sand and Gravel Co. Ltd. The remaining area, within the planning application boundary, is known to have previously been excavated to a depth of more than 2m. Knowing that the depth to archaeologically sterile natural is less than 500mm there is no reasonable possibility of archaeology surviving below the 45m contour.
12. The remaining area was stripped using a 25 tonne 360° excavator with a smooth ditching bucket (Figure 3a). The area was reduced in long strips running north-south, approximately 8m wide. This allowed the ground to be progressively cleared of archaeology while at the same time allowing safe access for the dumper to remove spoil. This process was in part observed by Fife Council Archaeology Unit.
13. The topsoil (001) was removed by mechanical excavator and, if necessary, selected areas were hand cleaned in order to investigate potential archaeological features. The typical topsoil depth was 400mm (Figure 3b) although it was deeper in patches at the north part of the monitored area, increasing to 500mm deep. Archaeologically sterile drift geology (003) was reached in almost all places where archaeological monitoring was carried out. This consisted of yellow/orange sand and gravel in some cases containing patches of large stones or patches of yellow silty sand. The only exception was along the eastern edge of the monitored area where the ground had previously been disturbed. Here excavation stopped at redeposited natural soil with inclusions of topsoil (002).
14. The entire western corner of the planning application boundary was excavated (Figure 4a & 4b) and monitored except for a small area to the south of only a few square meters. A strip along the north boundary was not excavated. This strip is approximately 8m wide and increases in height from west to east. Angle Park Sand and Gravel Co. Ltd have no plans to excavate within this area due to the height of the deposits relative to the rest of the quarry and therefore their inaccessibility (Figure 5a).
15. No significant archaeological features were uncovered in the course of the monitoring works. Any potential archaeological features were investigated and although disturbance from tree roots was noted no anthropic features were recorded. The only modern feature observed on the site was the disturbance relating to the previous quarry excavation. A few scattered pieces of modern rubbish were observed in the topsoil but no significant artefacts were recovered from anywhere on site.



Figure 3a: Work in Progress



Figure 3b: Showing (003)



Figure 4a: Work in Progress



Figure 4b: Work in Progress



Figure 5a: Area along northern boundary



Figure 5b: Stripped area and adjacent quarry

Discussion

16. No significant archaeological features were uncovered in the course of the monitoring works and no anthropic material was recovered which would indicate use of the site prior to the 20th century. The extent of disturbance due to trees or animal burrows did not hamper the archaeological monitoring works being frequently shallow and easily distinguishable in the subsoil.
17. Very little disturbance to the subsoil (003) was noted apart from that resulting from tree roots or ploughing. It was clear that prior to quarrying the area had been subject to agricultural use. Disturbance by quarrying was observable in the redeposited natural soil at the eastern edge of the monitored area. Relative heights of the depth of disturbance compared with the depth at which natural drift geology is reached confirm that there is no reasonable possibility of significant archaeology surviving within the previously quarried area (Figure 5b).
18. Those areas where no excavation, and therefore no monitoring, took place have not been archaeologically investigated. The southern portion is negligible being only a few square meters in size. The strip along the northern boundary remains untouched. Angle Park Sand and Gravel Co. Ltd have no intention of further quarrying in these areas as the logistics involved would make the process not economically viable.

Recommendations

19. The archaeological fieldwork carried out at Melville Gates Quarry was carried out in respect to the proposed mineral extraction work. The archaeological potential of the extraction area is known from the investigation of several sites in the immediately surrounding landscape. The primary archaeological potential came from the possibility of prehistoric negative features within the extraction area.
20. All of the area planned for extraction was topsoil stripped by machine and subject to archaeological monitoring. All potential archaeological features were investigated and no significant archaeological features were found. No artefacts were recovered other than modern detritus from the topsoil.
21. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommends no further archaeological work is necessary in the area which has been subject to archaeological monitoring. This area may be considered archaeologically sterile. The remaining area to the south of the monitored area is of small archaeological potential due to its size and the fact that so much of the immediately surrounding landscape and proven to be free of significant archaeology. The remaining strip along the north boundary has not been investigated archaeologically or disturbed by quarrying. This area should be subject to archaeological monitoring if quarrying activity is extended into it but no such extension is planned. The appropriateness of these recommendations is dependant on the approval of Fife Council.

Conclusion

22. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Angle Park Sand and Gravel Co. Ltd in respect to the archaeological monitoring in support of the mineral extraction at Melville Gates Quarry, Fife. Fife Council required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken as a requirement of the extraction proposal. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact of the proposed extraction on the archaeological resource of the area.
23. No anthropic material was recovered from anywhere on site and the lack of any significant archaeology suggests that there is no value in further archaeological work within the area which has been subject to archaeological monitoring. A strip along the northern boundary of the planning application has not been subject to archaeological investigation and Angle Park Sand and Gravel Co. Ltd has no plans for quarrying in this area.

References

Documentary

Matthews, A	2009	<i>Ramornie Quarry, Fife: Archaeological Evaluation, Data Structure Report.</i> Rathmell Archaeology Ltd
Perry, D	2005	<i>Desk-Based Archaeological Assessment and Walkover Survey, Ramornie, Ladybank, Fife.</i> SUAT Ltd
Rees, T	2009	<i>Approach Wood, Mountcastle Quarry, Fife: Archaeological Mitigation, Method Statement.</i> Rathmell Archaeology Ltd
Rees, T & Shaw, C	2007	<i>Melville Gates Quarry, Fife: Archaeological Assessment.</i> Rathmell Archaeology Ltd
Scot Gov	2010	Consolidated SPP.
SOEnv	1994	Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology, Scottish Office Environmental Department.

Cartographic

1747-1755	Roy	Military Survey of Scotland
1775	Ainslie, John	Counties of Fife and Kinross with the Rivers Forth and Tay
1827	Thomson, John	Fife with Kinross Shire.
1828	Sharp, Greenwood & Fowler	Map of the counties of Fife and Kinross
1856	Ordnance Survey	1 st edition Ordnance Survey, Fifeshire
1859	Ordnance Survey	2 nd edition Ordnance Survey, Fifeshire
1919	Ordnance Survey	3 rd edition Ordnance Survey, Fifeshire

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	-	Deposit	Dark brown to black, very humic silty sand with inclusions of roots and very occasional modern rubbish.	Topsoil
002	-	Deposit	A mixture of yellow/orange sand and gravel with very humic dark brown silty sand.	Backfill resulting from previous extraction within the monitored area.
003	-	Deposit	Yellow/orange sand and gravel with inclusions of large sub rounded stones and patches of yellow silty sand.	Subsoil – archaeologically sterile drift geology.

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
1	18	Work in progress	S	11/2/10
2	19	Work in progress	S	11/2/10
3	20	Work in progress	S	11/2/10
4	21	Work in progress	SW	11/2/10
5	22	Work in progress	SW	11/2/10
6	23	Work in progress	S	11/2/10
7	24	Work in progress	S	11/2/10
8	25	Work in progress	S	11/2/10
9	26	Work in progress	S	11/2/10
10	27	Work in progress	W	11/2/10

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
11	28	Work in progress	W	11/2/10
12	29	Area of quarry	W	11/2/10
13	30	Area of quarry	W	11/2/10
14	31	Work in progress	W	11/2/10
15	32	Work in progress	W	11/2/10
16	33	Work in progress	W	11/2/10
17	34	Work in progress	W	11/2/10
18	35	Work in progress	W	11/2/10
19	36	Work in progress	W	11/2/10
20	37	Area Stripped	N	11/2/10
21	38	Area Stripped	N	11/2/10
22	39	Area of quarry	NW	11/2/10
23	40	Area of quarry	NW	11/2/10
24	41	North corner	S	11/2/10
25	42	North boundary	SW	11/2/10
26	43	North boundary	SW	11/2/10
27	44	North boundary	W	11/2/10
28	45	Work in progress	S	12/2/10
29	46	Work in progress	S	12/2/10
30	47	Work in progress	S	12/2/10
31	48	Work in progress	S	12/2/10
32	49	Work in progress	S	12/2/10
33	50	Work in progress	S	12/2/10

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
34	51	Work in progress	S	12/2/10
35	52	Work in progress	S	12/2/10
36	53	Trees	N	12/2/10
37	54	Trees	N	12/2/10
38	55	Trees	N	12/2/10
39	56	Trees	N	12/2/10
40	57	Trees	N	12/2/10
41	58	Work in progress	S	12/2/10
42	59	Work in progress	S	12/2/10
43	60	Work in progress	S	12/2/10
44	61	Work in progress	S	12/2/10
45	62	Stripped area	N	12/2/10
46	63	Stripped area	N	12/2/10
47	64	Work in progress	W	12/2/10
48	65	Work in progress	W	12/2/10
49	66	Work in progress	W	12/2/10
50	67	Work in progress	W	12/2/10
51	68	Area of monitoring	S	12/2/10
52	69	Area of monitoring	S	12/2/10
53	70	Area of monitoring	SE	12/2/10
54	71	Area of monitoring	SE	12/2/10
55	72	Area of monitoring	SE	12/2/10
56	73	Area of monitoring	SE	12/2/10

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
57	74	Area of quarry	S	12/2/10
58	75	Area of quarry	S	12/2/10
59	76	Area of quarry and Area of monitoring	E	12/2/10
60	77	Area of quarry and Area of monitoring	E	12/2/10
61	78	Area of quarry north boundary	E	12/2/10
62	79	Area of quarry north boundary	E	12/2/10
63	80	Area of monitoring	NE	12/2/10
64	81	Area of monitoring	NE	12/2/10
65	82	North boundary	E	12/2/10
66	83	North boundary	E	12/2/10
67	84	Area of monitoring	NE	12/2/10
68	85	Area of monitoring	NE	12/2/10
69	86	North boundary	W	12/2/10
70	87	North boundary	W	12/2/10
71	88	Work in progress	S	12/2/10
72	89	Work in progress	S	12/2/10
73	90	Stripped area	NW	12/2/10
74	91	Stripped area	NW	12/2/10
75	92	Work in progress	S	12/2/10
76	93	Work in progress	S	12/2/10
77	94	Stripped area	SW	12/2/10
78	95	Stripped area	SW	12/2/10
79	96	Stripped area	NE	12/2/10

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
80	97	Stripped area	NE	12/2/10
81	98	Stripped area	NE	12/2/10

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Angle Park, Melville Extension
PROJECT CODE:	09038
PARISH:	Collessie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Matthews
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 306 127
START DATE (this season)	11 th February 2010
END DATE (this season)	12 th February 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	No anthropic material was recovered from anywhere on site and the lack of any significant archaeology suggests that there is no value in further archaeological work within the area which has been subject to archaeological monitoring.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Angle Park Sand and Gravel Co. Ltd
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 Fife Council Archaeology Unit and archive to National Monuments Record of Scotland.

Contact Details

24. Rathmell Archaeology can be contacted at our Registered Office or through the web:
- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Rathmell Archaeology Ltd | www.rathmell-arch.co.uk |
| Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops | |
| Kilwinning | t.: 01294 542848 |
| Ayrshire | f.: 01294 542849 |
| KA13 6PU | e.: contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk |
25. The Fife Council Archaeology Unit can be contacted at their office or through the web:
- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Archaeology Unit | www.fife.gov.uk |
| Fife Council | |
| Town House | t.: 08451 555555 |
| 2 Wemyssfield | f.: 01592 583638 |
| Kirkcaldy KY1 1XW | e.: douglas.speirs@fife.gov.uk |

End of Document