19 Culzean Road, Maybole: Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report

by Alan Matthews

issued 11th June 2010

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	
	with the procedure of Rathmell Archaedave been reviewed and agreed by an ap		
Checked		Date	

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Introduction

- 1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Mr and Mrs Mair and Mr and Mrs Morrison, owners of the property, in respect of a proposed residential development at 19 Culzean Road, Maybole, South Ayrshire (Ref: 09/01455/APP). The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
- 2. South Ayrshire Council have requested additional information to clarify the nature of the archaeological potential of the ground prior to determining on the grant of planning consent. West of Scotland Archaeology Service, who advise South Ayrshire Council on archaeological matters, has provided guidance on the structure of the archaeological works; this structure has been outlined in a Method Statement (Matthews 2009).
- 3. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service have identified the potential that buried and unrecorded remains of archaeological significance survive across the proposed development area relating to the development of the medieval burgh of Maybole. The location of the development area on the northern edge of the burgh meant that the potential existed for remains relating to the northern edge of the burgh backplots.
- 4. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by Mr and Mrs Mair and Mr and Mrs Morrison to undertake the implementation of archaeological mitigation works in advance of the proposed development.

Historical and Archaeological Background

- 5. The proposed development area is in the approximate geographical centre of the modern town of Maybole. The north-west boundary of the site is Culzean Road and to the north-east is Crosne Street. To the south-east and west the proposed development area is surrounded by the urban build-up of Maybole. Beyond these buildings, to the south, is the High Street.
- 6. The development site has at its centre a large two storey house, with ancillary buildings (some derelict) to the rear (south). The majority of the reminder of the proposed development area exists as gently sloping garden containing a paved drive, a path and a number of substantial trees.
- 7. No significant archaeological sites are known to exist within the development area. However, the quantity and variety of archaeological and historic sites which exist within the immediately surrounding area means that there is potential for previously unrecorded remains to exist within the proposed development area.
- 8. The earliest cartographic depiction of Maybole from which we may understand the layout of streets is Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55) (Figure 1a). This depicts Maybole as constructed around two roads running south-west to north-east bisected by a third running roughly east to west (Figure 1). The furthest north of these being in the same location as the modern High Street. Running along the north side of the High Street are several buildings with plots.
- 9. By the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1854-59) the town has been expanded north to include Culzean Road and the line of the railway. There has been a corresponding increase in the size of the town with the area between Culzean Road and High Street being developed. Frontages of buildings face onto the High Street (called Main Street in the Ordnance Survey map) with the plots stretching up to Culzean Road.
- 10. There is limited evidence of prehistoric settlement of Maybole. The primary evidence comes from stray finds and associated remains in the surrounding landscape. A Late Bronze Age ribbed, socketed bronze axe was found near Maybole but no further information was found relating to its origins. Trial excavations and archaeological monitoring carried out by Headland Archaeology Ltd, SUAT Ltd and Addyman & Kay Ltd in Maybole found a high degree of modern disturbance which may have contributed to the loss of prehistoric material. Both the Headland Archaeology and SUAT Ltd

encountered shallow features, but none were thought to be no older than the 18^{th} century AD.

- 11. Maybole first appears in written records in the 12th century AD. The nature of these records indicates that Maybole, like Whithorn, was an Anglican settlement created during the period of Northumbrian supremacy (Dennison *et al* 2005, 18). Today the oldest surviving building in Maybole is the Old Collegiate Church (HB Number 37688, Monument No. 90212), built in AD 1371. The church was in use until the Reformation in AD 1560 and now stands much altered and roofless. The medieval settlement grew up around the Old Collegiate Church and the Parish Church (Strawhorn 1975).
- 12. Maybole was erected a burgh of barony in 14th November 1516 (Pryde 1965, 57) by James V. This was the first burgh in the district of Carrick. By the time of the Reformation in AD 1560 Maybole was described as a small market town with a number of trades and crafts. There was a deliberate extension of the burgh to the north centred on the High Street and the parish church. The parish church was demolished after AD 1808 but its surviving foundations were recorded, below ground, in AD 1927.
- 13. Two castles and their associated lands restricted the growth of the burgh. The first of these is the present castle to the north-east of the town centre. Maybole Castle (HB Number 37709) was probably constructed in the 16th century and then enlarged in the 19th century; originally the building was the house of the Earl of Cassillis. The second is now referred to as the Tolbooth (HB Number 37708) a rectangular plan 17th century house with various additions which was formally the town house of Laird of Blairquhan. However several additional historic buildings are listed and exist along the High Street and within the boundaries of the old town.
- 14. It is noteworthy that the proposed development area is, according to the Scottish Burgh Survey (Dennison *et al* 2005, 23) to the north, beyond the medieval settlement of Maybole; not included in the 16th century expansion and similarly not included in the 17th and 18th century expansion of the town. However, the later expansions are shown to extend around the proposed development area on three sides.
- 15. Cartographic sources suggest that the proposed development area is at the north-western limit of the town plots as shown on Roy and within the rear of the plots shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 1b). As such the possibility does exist for significant archaeological remains within the development area which have not been disturbed by recent development. However, it is uncertain, especially from modern depictions of the burgh expansion, if the rear most parts of the plots of the medieval town extend to within the development area.



Figure 1a: Roy's Military Survey 1747-55

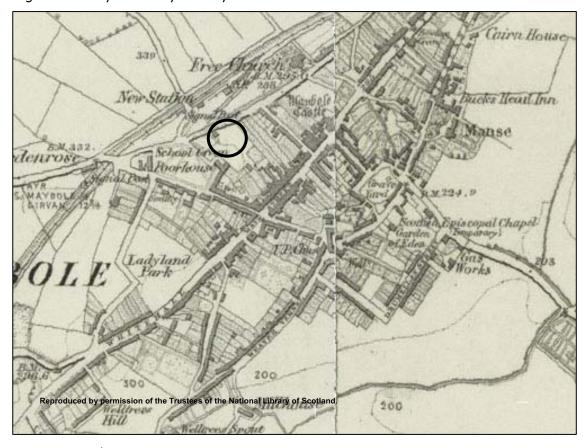


Figure 1b: 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map 1854-59

Project Works

- 16. The programme of works commenced with an archaeological evaluation undertaken via machine cut trenches, using a JCB 3cx excavator with a 1.6m toothless bucket, which were located, in agreement with West of Scotland Archaeology Service, to give the best possible coverage of the site while avoiding known services and structures. The layout of trenches was agreed as an element of the Method Statement (Matthews 2010) and then modified in accordance with the wishes of West of Scotland Archaeology Service.
- 17. Where possible the trenches were placed as had previously been agreed; however, after investigation of the development area had commenced, it became clear that several previously unmarked services existed and that some of the trenches would have to be moved in order to avoid risk to the excavator.
- 18. In total seven trenches (Figure 2) were opened although the first was a combination of Trenches 1 and 2 on the original plan and so will be referred to as Trench 1/2. Trenches were placed in order to give the best possible coverage of the site and reduced to the first significant archaeological horizon or archaeologically sterile natural soil in accordance with the terms of the agreed Method Statement.

Findings

- 19. All of the seven trenches excavated were reduced, where possible, to archaeologically sterile natural soil. The only exception to this was in Trench 4 where the presence of an electric cable and a spur water main prevented a short portion of the trench being excavated to the full depth. The depth of soil varied considerably across the site in correspondence with the natural topography.
- 20. Observation of the surrounding topography demonstrates that the ground generally slopes from north-west down to the south-east and towards the High Street. The steepness of this slope varies slightly depending on the location. When observing the depth of deposits in the seven evaluation trenches it is clear that some attempt has been made to bring the site to a single level.
- 21. Trench 1/2 (Figure 3a) was excavated to a depth of 900mm along its entire length. This surface in this area was partially paved and there was an initial depth of 200mm of topsoil (001) or bedding for paving (002). 700mm depth of deposit was composed of very humic silty sand with a large quantity of tree roots and small stones (003). This accumulation of material reflects the fact that beyond the south-eastern boundary of the development area the ground drops quickly into the back garden of other properties.
- 22. Trenches 3, 4 and 5 were excavated to a similar depth in order to reach archaeologically sterile drift geology; light orange brown silty sand (004) or light orange sandy clay (005). Trenches 3 and 5 (Figure 4a) were excavated through a large quantity of tree roots. In contrast, Trenches 6, 7 and 8 (Figure 4b) were excavated to between 700 and 300mm depth. The shallowest being Trench 8 which was the furthest to the north-west.

Significant Archaeological features

23. No significant archaeological features were observed during the course of the evaluation works. All potential archaeological features were investigated but nothing was recovered or observed to suggest any disturbance to the subsoil other than that resulting from the placement of modern services or disturbance by tree roots.

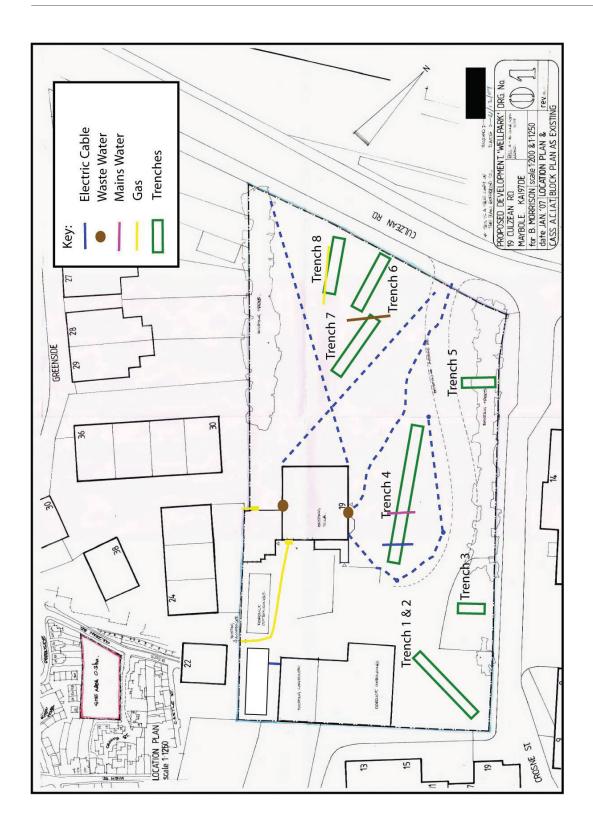


Figure 2: Trench layout, showing services. Bounding existing trees depicted are a conservative illustration of the scale and extent of these plantings.



Figure 3a: Trench 1/2



Figure 3b: Trench 4

Artefacts

24. No artefacts were recovered during the evaluation though modern detritus (20th century material) was occasionally observed within the topsoil in all parts of the site. Other than modern services material culture was absent from all excavated features; this may support the view that all of the features excavated resulted from modern disturbance or disturbance by tree roots.

Modern Disturbance

- 25. Very few features were located within the natural soil. A ceramic pipe was uncovered in a linear cut at the north end of Trench 7. This was interpreted as being a modern waste water pipe. A metal gas pipe (coated in yellow plastic) (Figure 5b) was located along the south-western edge of Trench 8. This unmarked service was buried to a depth of no more than 200mm and so only disturbed the subsoil at the north end. Any additional disturbance was the result of tree roots and contained no anthropic material.
- 26. In all trenches there was evidence of disturbance by tree roots. However, it was most pronounced in Trenches 1/2, 3, 5 and 8 which were closest to the existing large trees which border the development area. It is clear from the disturbance observed and from the stratigraphy of the site that the entire development area has been heavily planted at some time and more trees previously existed within the development area than do currently.
- 27. The services uncovered in Trench 4 (Figure 3b), a spur water main and an electric cable, were located at a depth of 400mm and 200mm respectively. These services ran approximately north-east to south-west through the centre of the development area but were not deep enough to disturb the natural drift geology. Two additional unmarked services were located using a CAT scanner (presumably electric cables) (Figure 5a) running across the north-western third of the site from the main house to Culzean Road. In order to minimize the risk to the excavator and staff trenches in this area were moved to avoid the services. Given how shallow the topsoil was in this area it is very likely that these services are excavated into the natural drift geology.

Discussion

Significant Archaeological Features

- 28. No significant archaeological features were uncovered in the course of the evaluation works and no anthropic material was recovered which would indicate use of the site prior to the 20th century. Although there was a great deal of disturbance from tree roots in places in the topsoil and in the accumulated b-horizon beneath the disturbance rarely continued into the subsoil and so when it did such features could be easily discounted by excavation.
- 29. In summary, the natural drift geology was reached in every trench and showed no sign of disturbance other than my modern services. No artefacts were recovered from the site other than those present in the topsoil and indicating modern use of the site.

Modern Disturbance

30. Other than the natural disturbance resulting from tree roots the only features observed in trenches were the result of the placement of modern services. It been established, either by excavation or by used of a CAT scanner that at least seven services disturb the sediments on site. This does not include gas and large electrical cables known to run north from the buildings. It should further be noted that additional services may still be unaccounted for. Aside from the services there has been very little modern disturbance to the development area out with the buildings in the southern third.



Figure 4a: Trench 5



Figure 4b: Trench 6



Figure 5a: Trench 6 and main building



Figure 5b: Trench 8 showing gas pipe

31. Given the varied depth to subsoil across the development area it is difficult to be definitive about the potential disturbance to subsoil resulting from the buildings on site. Certainly it is likely that placement of foundations for the main house has resulted in disturbance down to the level of natural drift geology and so removal of archaeological potential. At the southern corner of the development area where the subsoil is presumably at a slightly greater depth (no greater than 900mm by comparison with the Trench 1/2) the extent of potential disturbance is less clear. However is should be noted that the loose and heavily root laden deposit (002) would likely prove unsuitable for the placement of foundations and therefore disturbance may well extend to the level of the subsoil.

Recommendations

- 32. The archaeological fieldwork carried out at 19 Culzean Road, Maybole was intended to investigate the potential for survival of significant archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The most likely character for such remains were envisaged prior to the start of works as linear boundaries forming the backplots from properties to the west, south and east should these backplots have extended into the development area.
- 33. Seven trenches were excavated and although the layout on site differed from the original trench layout it was still possible to place them to give a comprehensive sample of the character of the site. No significant archaeological remains were uncovered in any of the trenches excavated, and there was no suggestion of linear boundaries. In addition, the disturbance in the southern third of the site resulting from the placement of buildings makes the potential for survival in that area extremely low.
- 34. It appears clear that the assessment of the Scottish Burgh Survey (Dennison *et al* 2005, 23) is sound, with the development area not having been an element of the urbanised form of Maybole until the 19th century. Based on the above findings Rathmell Archaeology Ltd would recommend that there is no indication of significant remains surviving on-site and hence that it would be inappropriate to require any further archaeological work to be carried out within the development area should development rights be released by the planning authority.
- 35. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with South Ayrshire Council and their advisors, West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Conclusion

- 36. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Mr and Mrs Mair and Mr and Mrs Morrison in respect of a proposed residential development at 19 Culzean Road, Maybole. South Ayrshire Council have requested additional information to clarify the nature of the archaeological potential of the ground prior to determining on the grant of planning consent. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource of the area. Specifically to evaluate the archaeological potential of the ground.
- 37. In all seven evaluation trenches were opened and were placed to give as comprehensive as possible a sample of the archaeological potential of the development area while avoiding known structures or services. No significant archaeological remains were uncovered anywhere within the development area and no anthropic material was recovered other than modern garden rubbish from the topsoil. Based on the results of the evaluation there seems to be very little chance of significant archaeological material being recovered from within the development area.

References

Documentary

Dennison, E.P. Gallagher, D. and Ewart, G., 2005, *Historic Maybole Archaeology and Development*, Historic Scotland, The Scottish Burgh Survey

Matthews, A, 2010, 19 Culzean Road, Maybole, Archaeological Evaluation: Method Statement, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

Pryde, G.S., 1965, The Burghs of Scotland, Oxford University Press

Scot Gov, 2008, SPP23 Planning and the Historic Environment.

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Strawhorn, J., 1975, *Ayrshire, The Story of a County*, Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey, 1854-59, 1st edition

Roy, 1747-55, Military Survey of Scotland

Appendix 1: Trench Details

Within this appendix a standardised set of data pertaining to the evaluation trenches is presented.

All measurement distances quoted along the trench measure based on the quoted orientation of the trench. See Figure 2 for trench locations.

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
01/02	South-west to north-east	10m by 1.6m	900mm	004 – Light orange brown silty-sand	None	None	None
03	North-east to south-west	3.5m by 1.6m	1.1m	004 – Light orange brown silty-sand	None	None	None
04	South-east to north-west.	21m by 1.6m	700mm to 900mm	005 – Light orange sandy-clay	Electrical cable and water pipe	None	None
05	North-east to south-west	4m by 1.6m	700mm to 800mm	004 – Light orange brown silty-sand	None	None	None
06	North to south	8m by 1.6m	500mm to 700mm	005 – Light orange sandy-clay	None	None	None
07	North-west to south-east	9m by 1.6m	400mm	005 – Light orange sandy-clay	Waste water pipe	None	None
08	North-west to south-east	7m by 1.6m	300mm	005 – Light orange sandy-clay	Gas pipe	None	None

Appendix 2: 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	Туре	Description	Interpretation
001	Site	Deposit	Very humic, lots of roots, dark brown silty-sand	Topsoil
002	Site	Deposit	Concrete slab and gravel bedding with some large fragments of concrete.	Slab and paving
003	Site	Deposit	Dark brown silty-sand, build-up of soil and roots, small flecks of charcoal and patches of clay, large tree roots,	b-horizon – large build up of topsoil and garden soil
004	Site	Deposit	Light orange brown silty-sand, occasional small flecks of charcoal on surface, small stones	Subsoil
005	Site	Deposit	Light orange sandy-clay with some small stones	Subsoil

Photographic Register

Image	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
No.	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
01	-	-	-	-	289	S-corner before excavation	N	27/5/10
02	-	-	-	-	290	S-corner before excavation	N	27/5/10
03	-	-	-	-	291	Central lawn before excavation	S	27/5/10
04	-	-	-	-	292	Central lawn before excavation	S	27/5/10
05	-	-	-	-	293	Area Tr 3 before excavation	W	27/5/10
06	-	-	-	-	294	Area Tr 3 before excavation	W	27/5/10
07	-	-	-	-	295	Tr 1/2	N	27/5/10

Image	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
No.	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
08	-	-	-	-	296	Tr 1/2	N	27/5/10
09	-	-	-	-	297	Tr 1/2	N	27/5/10
10	-	-	-	-	298	Tr 1/2	N	27/5/10
11	-	-	-	-	299	Tr 3	W	27/5/10
12	-	-	-	-	300	Tr 3	W	27/5/10
13	-	-	-	-	301	Tr 3	NW	27/5/10
14	-	-	-	-	302	Tr 3	NW	27/5/10
15	-	-	-	-	303	Tr 5	W	27/5/10
16	-	-	-	-	304	Tr 5	W	27/5/10
17	-	-	-	-	305	Tr 5	SW	27/5/10
18	-	-	-	-	306	Tr 5	SW	27/5/10
19	-	-	-	-	307	Tr 4	N	27/5/10
20	-	-	-	-	308	Tr 4	N	27/5/10
21	-	-	-	-	309	Tr 4	S	27/5/10
22	-	-	-	-	310	Tr 4	S	27/5/10
23	-	-	-	-	311	Tr 4	SE	27/5/10
24	-	-	-	-	312	Tr 4	SE	27/5/10
25	-	-	-	-	313	Tr 4 Cable	W	27/5/10
26	-	-	-	-	314	Tr 4 Cable	W	27/5/10
27	-	-	-	-	315	Tr 4 Water pipe	W	27/5/10
28	-	-	-	-	316	Tr 4 Water pipe	W	27/5/10
29	-	-	-	-	317	Tr 6	SW	27/5/10
30	-	-	-	-	318	Tr 6	SW	27/5/10

Image	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
No.	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
31	-	-	-	-	319	Tr 6	SW	27/5/10
32	-	-	-	-	320	Tr 6	SW	27/5/10
33	-	-	-	-	321	Tr 1 reinstated	N	27/5/10
34	-	-	-	-	322	Tr 1 reinstated	N	27/5/10
35	-	-	-	-	323	Flags marking services in north area	N	27/5/10
36	-	-	-	-	324	Flags marking services in north area	N	27/5/10
37	-	-	-	-	325	Flags marking services in north area	S	27/5/10
38	-	-	-	-	326	Flags marking services in north area	S	27/5/10
39	-	-	-	-	327	Tr 7	SW	27/5/10
40	-	-	-	-	328	Tr 7	SW	27/5/10
41	-	-	-	-	329	Tr 7 pipe	W	27/5/10
42	-	-	-	-	330	Tr 7 pipe	W	27/5/10
43	-	-	-	-	331	Tr 7	S	27/5/10
44	-	-	-	-	332	Tr 7	S	27/5/10
45	-	-	-	-	333	Tr 8	N	27/5/10
46	-	-	-	-	334	Tr 8	N	27/5/10
47	-	-	-	-	335	Tr 8	N	27/5/10
48	-	-	-	-	336	Tr 8	N	27/5/10
49	-	-	-	-	337	Tr 8 gas pipe	NE	27/5/10
50	-	-	-	-	338	Tr 8 gas pipe	NE	27/5/10
51	-	-	-	-	339	Tr 8 gas pipe	SE	27/5/10
52	-	-	-	-	340	Tr 8 gas pipe	SE	27/5/10
53	-	-	-	-	341	Tr 6,7,8 reinstated	SE	27/5/10

Image	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
No.	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
54	-	-	-	-	342	Tr 6,7,8 reinstated	SE	27/5/10
55	-	-	-	-	343	Tr 4 reinstated	S	27/5/10
56	-	-	-	-	344	Tr 4 reinstated	S	27/5/10

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
001	1	1/2	Plan	1:100	Plan of trench 1/2	AM	27/5/10
002	1	3	Plan	1:100	Plan of trench 3	AM	27/5/10
003	1	4	Plan	1:100	Plan of trench 4	AM	27/5/10
004	1	5	Plan	1:100	Plan of trench 5	AM	27/5/10
005	1	6	Plan	1:100	Plan of trench 6	AM	27/5/10
006	1	7	Plan	1:100	Plan of trench 7	AM	27/5/10
007	1	8	Plan	1:100	Plan of trench 8	AM	27/5/10

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	19 Culzean Road, Maybole, Ayrshire
PROJECT CODE:	10015
PARISH:	Maybole
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Matthews
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 301 101
START DATE (this season)	27 th May 2010
END DATE (this season)	27 th May 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	The archaeological works were designed to evaluate the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. In all seven evaluation trenches were opened and were placed to give as comprehensive as possible a sample of the archaeological potential of the development area while avoiding known structures or services. No significant archaeological remains were uncovered anywhere within the development area and no anthropic material was recovered other than modern garden rubbish from the topsoil. Based on the results of the evaluation there seems to be very little chance of significant archaeological material being recovered from within the development area.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr and Mrs Mair and Mr and Mrs Morrison
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

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.: <u>contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk</u>

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

www.wosas.org.uk

West of Scotland Archaeology Service

Charing Cross Complex

20 India Street t.: 0141 287 8332/3 Glasgow f.: 0141 287 9259

G2 4PF e.: enquiries@wosas.glasgow.gov.uk

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