

GUARD ARCHAEOLOGY



Ladywell, Girvan
Data Structure Report
Project 3698

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Ladywell, Girvan Data Structure Report

On behalf of: William Grant & Sons Distillers

NGR: NS 20427 00402

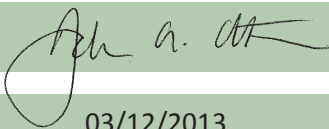
Project Number: 3698

Report by: Kevin Mooney

Illustrations: Fiona Jackson and Gillian McSwan

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Approved by:


03/12/2013

Date:

*This document has been prepared in accordance
with GUARD Archaeology Limited standard operating procedures.*

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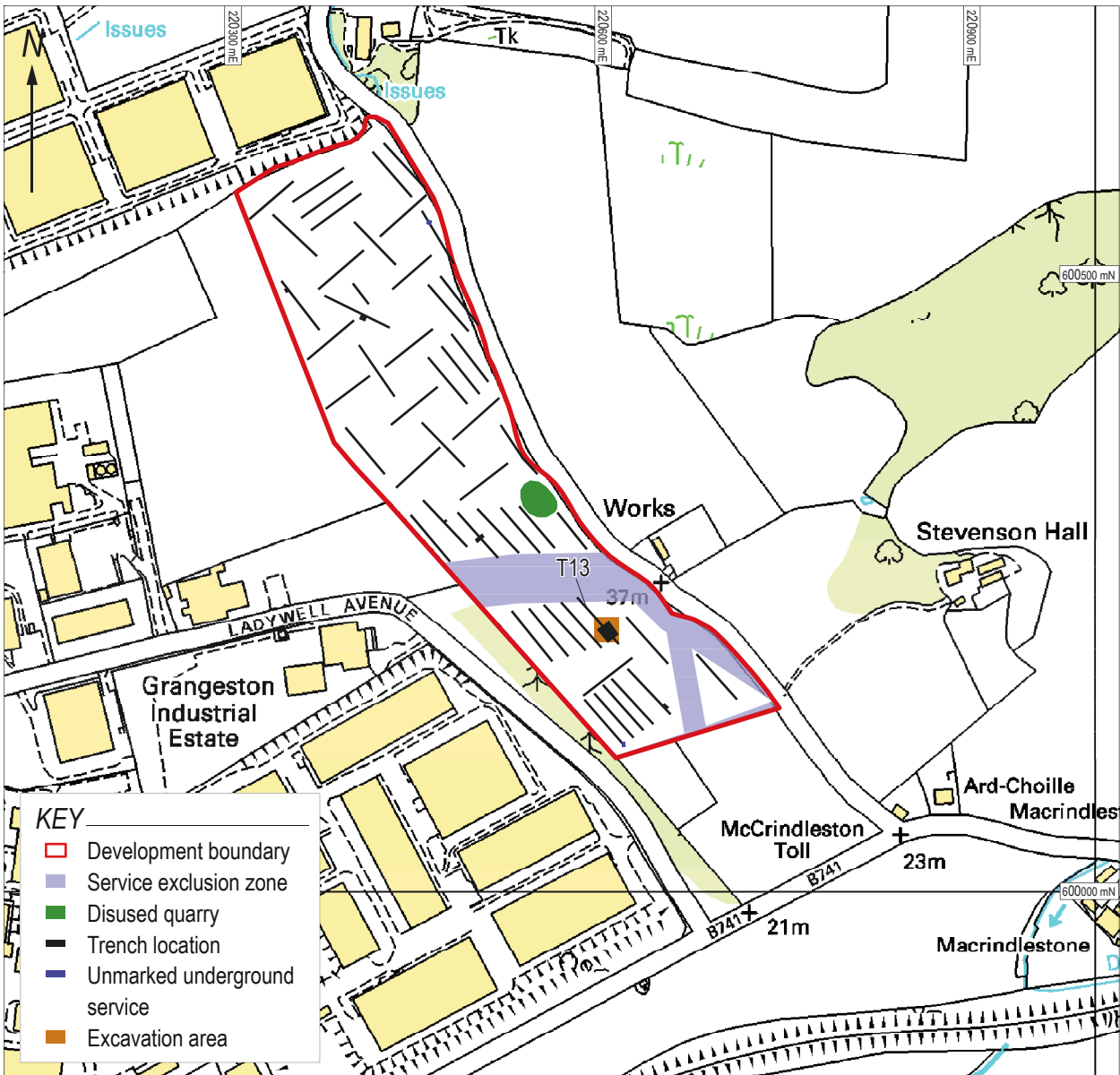
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- KEY**
- ▭ Development boundary
 - Service exclusion zone
 - Disused quarry
 - Trench location
 - Unmarked underground service
 - Excavation area

Figure 1:
Site location.



Executive Summary

- 1.1 GUARD Archaeology Limited were commissioned by William Grant & Sons Distillers to undertake a small scale excavation around an area of archaeology, previously encountered during evaluation trenching. This work was undertaken between 28th October 2013 and 4th November 2013 and revealed a series of small part-excavated features – with no further associated features in the vicinity.

Introduction

- 2.1 This report sets out the results of an archaeological excavation undertaken by GUARD Archaeology, on behalf of William Grant & Sons Distillers on a site proposed for the commercial development of buildings and infrastructure associated with whisky distilling. During the course of the excavation a number of previously identified features were further excavated with no other associated features visible in the immediate area. GUARD Archaeology undertook this programme of work between 28th October 2013 and 4th November 2013.

Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 3.1 The site of the proposed commercial development lies approximately 3km to the NNE of the town of Girvan and covers approximately 82,645 square metres and sits between 30m and 50m AOD. It consists of arable fields facing in a south-westerly direction. The site area is defined by William Grant & Sons Distillers warehouses at Ladywell to the north, agricultural fields to the east and the Grangestone Industrial Estate to the south and west (Figure 1).
- 3.2 The excavated area lies to the south-east of the development area and encompasses a 20 metre by 20 metre excavation around archaeology highlighted in a previous evaluation trench (trench 13).

Archaeological Background

- 4.1 Previous desk based assessments in advance of the Ladywell warehouses and the Curragh developments show the general area to be rich in archaeological sites and monuments. Although no sites are known within the boundary of the proposed development area several sites have been identified during previous archaeological monitoring work in the surrounding area. This includes a site known as Ladywell (NGR : NS 2040 0075) (NMRS site NS20SW 35), where a watching brief was carried out in July 1996 during which two flints were recovered (Shearer & Sneddon 2007, 11).
- 4.2 A phase of evaluation was undertaken at the Curragh, in advance of a planning application for three new warehouses at Ladywell. This identified, at one location, an area of potentially significant archaeological remains (Maguire 2008).
- 4.3 In February 2010 a phase of trial trench evaluation was conducted across the warehouse footprints covering a 10% sample of the main Curragh development area to the north. This revealed several archaeological features including a probable burnt mound trough and pit containing prehistoric artefacts. The prehistoric remains were clustered along the west-facing side of the burn that bisects the warehouse development and were accompanied by stratified environmental deposits. Further investigation work was recommended for both areas in the form of a strip, map and sample and environmental sampling (Sneddon 2010).
- 4.4 In December 2012 a phase of strip, map and sample excavation was conducted within the area of the attenuation pond at the Curragh and revealed the presence of a palisaded enclosure and at least three roundhouses, together with evidence of early Neolithic use of the same landscape (Spence & Kilpatrick 2013).

4.5 In March 2013 an archaeological evaluation comprising of an 8 % evaluation of the Ladywell area was undertaken. In a series of 51 trenches, a number of archaeological features were encountered and part excavated. The most significant of which being a possible hearth and associated features in the south-east corner of the site – located in trench 13. A possible microlith was also located in the area of these features. Due to the nature and sensitivity of the potential for Mesolithic activity, a 20 metre by 20 metre excavation around these features was requested by WoSAS as suitable mitigation (Blair 2013).

Aims and Objectives

5.1 The general aim of the phase of excavation was to

- Locate a 20 m by 20 m excavation trench over the largest hearth in Trench 13 and fully excavate the remains encountered;
- Confirm the presence of significant archaeological resources elsewhere within the site by conducting an archaeological watching brief during site clearance works;
- Determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits;
- Excavate and record any significant archaeological remains encountered;
- Undertake funded post-excavation analysis and publication of the results on the archaeological works if merited.

Methodology

- 6.1 Excavation of the site was focused within one large area (20 metre by 20 metre) located by survey enclosing the original hearth part-excavated during the evaluation phase of work in March Blair 2013). The 20 metre by 20 metre area was stripped of topsoil by machine under close archaeological supervision. The area was then fully cleaned by hand to identify any further or associated archaeological features (Figure 2).
- 6.2 The features identified during the strip were mapped and investigated to determine their age extent and significance. All recording was done on pro-forma sheets, with drawings and photographs. The significant features were fully excavated and recorded in line to Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) standards.
- 6.3 The written record of all archaeological features, deposits and finds excavated during the work were again recorded via pro-forma sheets. Scaled hand drawn plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10 were produced. Black and white and colour digital record photographs were taken.
- 6.4 All work was conducted and complied to WoSAS standard conditions for archaeological fieldwork.

Results

- 7.1 The initial stripping of the 20 metre by 20 metre trench revealed the original hearth feature located in the evaluation phase of work. The area had been covered by a layer of terram allowing easy identification of the previously part excavated features. The extended area, after full cleaning revealed only one other possible small feature and a large number of rubble field drains crossing the site.
- 7.2 The hearth itself – although partially disturbed during the clearance works – appeared to be of a single charcoal-rich and burnt stone fill (005). A number of kubiena samples were taken from this fill, which varied in depth from 50 mm to at the deepest point 0.12 m. No evidence existed pertaining to any type of stone lining or setting for the hearth itself other than the cut (010), however the presence of burnt and firecracked stone fragments suggest intense burning did take place at this location (Figure 3).

7.3 No material culture was recovered from the feature itself during this excavation or within the immediate vicinity of the feature. However prior investigations of this feature had yielded a possible microlith – indicating potential Mesolithic activity in or around this area (see Blair 2013). The presence of quantities of charcoal within the fill of hearth 010 will permit suitable samples for radiocarbon dating to be selected and processed.

7.4 A smaller less significant feature was also excavated directly to the south-east of hearth 010. This appeared to be a small concentration of charcoal-rich material accumulated around a series of stones set into the natural subsoil. No cut existed for this feature and it is likely to be a build-up of material around a stone pocket.

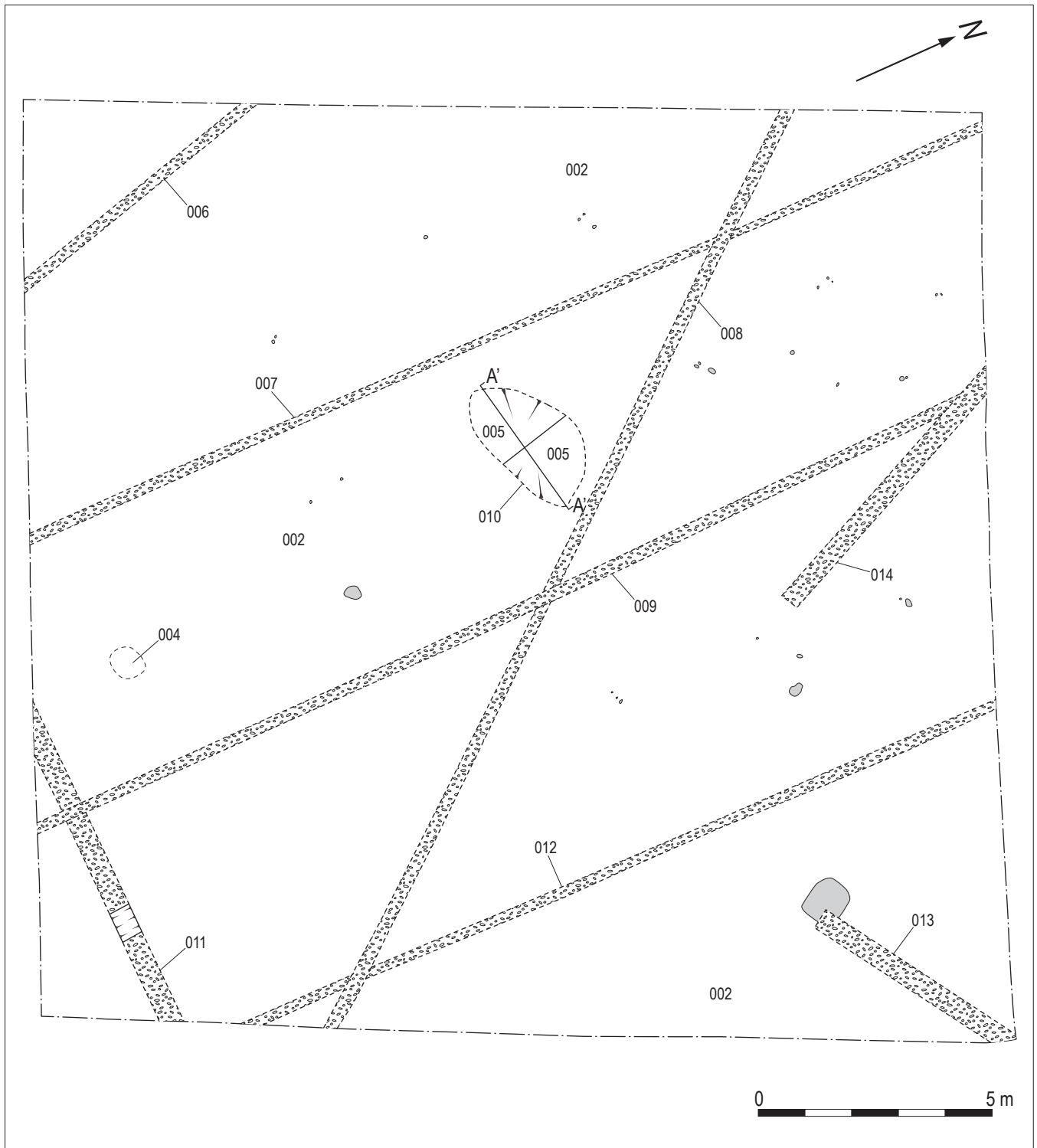


Figure 2: Plan of area in Trench 13.

- 7.5 A number of kubierna samples were taken in the trench edge at the north-east side of the site, where the topsoil and hillwash appeared to be at the deepest – directly to the north-east of the hearth feature.

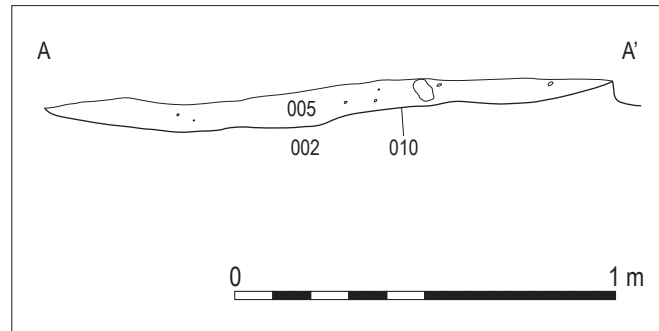


Figure 3: North-east facing section through 010.

Discussion

- 8.1 The expansion and excavation of the area around the hearth uncovered no other archaeological features of any significance. The remains of the original hearth were excavated fully, and during excavation no additional material culture was recovered. Soil micromorphology samples were taken in an attempt to provide more insight into the deposition of the hearth material itself, and to ascertain if there was any evidence of repeated use.

Recommendations

- 9.1 The expansion of the area around hearth 010 in trench 13 yielded no other significant archaeology, however further archaeology was noted in other evaluation trenches throughout the field (see Blair 2013). A watching brief is earmarked for the full strip of the area itself, so any other significant archaeology will be noted during this further phase of work.
- 9.2 Although no further evidence of Mesolithic occupation of trench 13 was forthcoming, the results of the evaluation phase investigation together with the samples recovered from this excavation may warrant limited post-excavation analysis and publication in due course.
- 9.3 While the recommended mitigation strategy was developed following consultation with WoSAS final decisions on the nature and extent of any future archaeological work rest with the planning authority.

Acknowledgements

- 10.1 GUARD Archaeology would like to thank Drew Wilson and Sam Cameron of Barr Construction for their assistance. Plant and drivers were supplied by Barr Construction. Technical support was from Aileen Maule and John Kiely. A survey of the trench location was conducted by Fiona Jackson. The illustrations were produced by Gillian McSwan. The report was desk top published by Gillian McSwan. The project was managed for GUARD Archaeology Limited by John Atkinson.

**Ladywell, Girvan
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices



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Appendices

Appendix A: List of Contexts

Context No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
001	-	Topsoil Deposits, medium/loose and heavily contaminated due to heavy ploughing – Varying in depth across site from 0.40m to 0.50m.	Topsoil deposits, heavily disturbed and contaminated do to agriculture
002	-	Subsoil Deposit, medium compaction – a light orange brown sterile clay/gravel deposit	Sterile clay/gravel subsoil deposits
003	-	Hillwash Deposits, medium compaction orange/grey silty clay. Varying in depth across site from 0.30m to 0.10m.	Band of silty/clay hill wash seen across the site
004	-	Small deposit of charcoal rich sandy silt. Does not appear to have a definitive cut – appears more likely to be a concentration of material trapped between stones.	Small concentration of charcoal rich sandy silt, trapped between stones.
005	-	Sub oval feature – possible hearth remains. 1.65m by 0.70m, containing a dark grey/black silty clay with large concentrations of charcoal present. The presence of fragments of heat shattered or burn stone was also noted within the fill.	Singular fill of possible hearth base – previously located in earlier evaluations.
006	-	Rubble field drain, 6.4m exposed in trench, running N-S across the South West corner of the excavation.	Rubble field drain
007	-	Rubble field drain, 22.5m exposed in trench, running N-S across the centre west of the trench.	Rubble field drain
008	-	Rubble field drain, 22.2m exposed in trench, running NW-SE across the centre of excavation	Rubble field drain
009	-	Rubble field drain, 22m exposed in trench, running N-S across the trench.	Rubble field drain
010	-	Shallow cut of possible hearth base 005 – 0.12m at deepest, shallow sided with undulating base and sides. Singular fill.	Shallow cut for possible hearth, 005
011	-	Rubble field drain, 6.9m exposed in trench, running NE-SW across the SE corner of excavation	Rubble field drain
012	-	Rubble field drain, 16.9m exposed in trench, running N-S across the centre east of the excavation.	Rubble field drain
013	-	Rubble field drain, 5m exposed in trench, running SW across the excavation from the NE of the site.	Rubble field drain
014	-	Rubble field drain, 6.5m exposed in trench, running SE from the north side of the excavation	Rubble field drain

Appendix B: List of Samples

Sample No.	Area	Context No.	Size	Volume (litres)	% of deposit	Reason for Sampling					Applications/ comments
						Pot	Bone	Lithics	Botanics	Other	
1	-	Many	NA	NA	NA					Soil micromorphology	Kubiena sample of soil profile NE corner of excavation
2	-	Many	NA	NA	NA					Soil micromorphology	Kubiena sample of soil profile NE corner of excavation
3	-	Many	NA	NA	NA					Soil micromorphology	Kubiena sample of soil profile NE corner of excavation
4	-	Many	NA	NA	NA					Soil micromorphology	Kubiena sample of possible hearth / firepit
5	-	Many	NA	NA	NA					Soil micromorphology	Kubiena sample of possible hearth / firepit
6	-	004	1xM	>1L	50%	x	x	x	x	Charcoal rich	Charcoal rich fill of possible feature

Sample No.	Area	Context No.	Size	Volume (litres)	% of deposit	Reason for Sampling					Applications/ comments
						Pot	Bone	Lithics	Botanics	Other	
7	-	005	2xL	>15L	40%	x	x	x	x	Charcoal rich	Charcoal rich fill of possible hearth/firepit.

Appendix C: List of Drawings

Drawing No.	Area	Sheet No.	Feature Nos	Subject	Scale
1	-	-	Many	Pre Excavation plan of trench indicating feature and field drain locations	1:50
2	-	-	001,002,003	South facing section of soil profile – indicating sample locations	1:10
3	-	-	005,010	North facing section of possible firepit/hearth	1:10
4	-	-	005,010	Post excavation plan of possible firepit/hearth	1:10
5	-	-	004	South East facing section through deposit	1:10
6	-	-	004	Post excavation plan of small deposit	1:20

Appendix D: List of Photographs

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
1	-	Gen	General shots after cleaning of site.	W
2	-	Gen	General shots after cleaning of site.	NW
3	-	Gen	General shots after cleaning of site.	N
4	-	Gen	General shots after cleaning of site.	NE
5	-	Gen	General shots after cleaning of site.	NE
6	-	Gen	General shots after cleaning of site.	E
7	-	Gen	General shots after cleaning of site.	SE
8	-	Gen	General shots after cleaning of site.	S
9	-	Gen	General shots after cleaning of site.	SW
10	-	Gen	General shots after cleaning of site.	W
11	-	005	Mid ex photo of feature	W
12	-	005	Mid ex photo of feature	N
13	-	004	Pre ex photo of feature	W
14	-	004	Pre ex photo of feature	N
15	-	Gen	General working shots	N
16	-	Gen	General working shots	NE
17	-	Gen	General working shots	NW
18	-	Gen	General working shots	SW
19	-	Gen	General working shots – planning	S
20	-	Gen	General working shots – planning	S
21	-	(001)(002)(003)	South facing section of trench edge	S
22	-	(001)(002)(003)	South facing section of trench edge	S
23	-	(001)(002)(003)	South facing section of trench edge	S
24	-	(001)(002)(003)	South facing section of trench edge	W
25	-	(001)(002)(003)	South facing section of trench edge	SW
26	-	005	Pre ex photo of part excavated feature	NE
27	-	005	Pre ex photo of part excavated feature	NE
28	-	005	Pre ex photo of part excavated feature	W
29	-	(001)(002)(003)	Location shot of kubiena tins samples 1,2,3	SE
30	-	(001)(002)(003)	Location shot of kubiena tins samples 1,2,3	SE
31	-	(001)(002)(003)	Location shot of kubiena tins samples 1,2,3	SE
32	-	004	Pre excavation shot of feature	NE
33	-	005	Location shot of kubiena tins samples 4,5	N
34	-	005	Location shot of kubiena tins samples 4,5	NW
35	-	004	South facing section of deposit	S
36	-	004	Post excavation shot of deposit	SE

Appendix E: Discovery And Excavation Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Ayrshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Ladywell Girvan
PROJECT CODE:	3698
PARISH:	Girvan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Kevin Mooney
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	GUARD Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	--
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	--
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	--
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 20427 00402
START DATE (this season)	28 th October 2013
END DATE (this season)	4 th November 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	--
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological excavation was carried out by GUARD Archaeology on arable land at Ladywell, Girvan on behalf of Barr Construction prior to developing the site for William Garnt & Sons Distillers Ltd. The excavation centred on features located during evaluation trenching of the area. In specific – a 20 metre by 20 metre excavation around a hearth feature in which a possible microlith was recovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	--
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Barr Construction
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	GUARD Archaeology Limited 52 Elderpark Workspace 100 Elderpark Street Glasgow G51 3TR
EMAIL ADDRESS:	John.atkinson@guard-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

Appendix F: Addendum to a Written Scheme Of Investigation

LADYWELL, GIRVAN, SOUTH AYRSHIRE

ADDENDUM to a WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

PROJECT 3698

LADYWELL, GIRVAN, SOUTH AYRSHIRE

ADDENDUM to a WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

PROJECT 3698

by

John Atkinson

Non-Technical Summary

- 1.1 This document acts as an addendum to a scheme of archaeological works on land proposed for development at Ladywell, Girvan, South Ayrshire (see Appendix 1 for original WSI). The commercial development will include development of buildings and infrastructure associated with whisky distilling on behalf of Willam Grant & Sons (Distillers) Limited and forms part of a planning application (reference: 13/00528/APPM).
- 1.2 This document covers the secondary phase of mitigation works (stage 2) associated with the discovery of archaeological features during the initial (stage 1) phase of archaeological investigations in March 2013. Stage 2 will include stripping of all topsoil from the site which will warrant an archaeological watching brief and excavation of an area known to contain traces of Mesolithic occupation. Stage 3, should it be necessary, will include the analysis of any significant materials recovered during stages 1 and 2 and the preparation of a final publication report. It is unlikely that the Planning Authority will not formally discharge the archaeological condition on Planning Consent until it is satisfied that the appropriate and necessary scope of work has been secured.

Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The site of the proposed commercial development lies approximately 3 kms to the NNE of Girvan and covers approximately 82,645 square metres and sits between 30 m and 50 m AOD. It consists of arable fields facing in a south-westerly direction. The site area is defined by William Grant and Sons Distillers Ltd warehouses at Ladywell to the north, agricultural fields to the east and the Grangestone Industrial Estate to the south and west.

Background to Mitigation

- 3.1 The area proposed for development was subject to a trial trench evaluation in March 2013. This evaluation recorded two linear features and numerous pits all with similar fill types, some yielded finds of flint, shell and possibly slag although no pottery was recovered from any of the features excavated. The discovery of hearth remains, charcoal-rich pits and numerous fragments of flint within the topsoil is suggestive of prehistoric occupation. A microlith recovered from one of several hearths in Trench 13 may narrow the prehistoric period down to the Mesolithic in this particular instance. However some of the pits are undoubtedly stone holes and others with scant charcoal present in their fills must be regarded with caution, but a proportion of the pits may well be associated with anthropogenic activity on the site.
- 3.2 Given the potential presence of Mesolithic activity in Trench 13 and its location within the development, a phase of excavation and post-excavation analysis is required to permit preservation by record to occur.
- 3.3 The disparate nature of the other potential features encountered on site and the presence of material culture within some of them (and scattered throughout the topsoil) also requires further mitigation measures to be put in place. Given that there is little clarity on period or clustering of these features a mitigation strategy based around a watching brief methodology was deemed as appropriate in this case.

Stage 2 Objectives

- 4.1 The project objectives are:
 - Locate a 20 m by 20 m excavation trench over the largest hearth in Trench 13 and fully excavate the remains encountered;
 - confirm the presence of significant archaeological resources elsewhere within the site by conducting an archaeological watching brief during site clearance works;
 - determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits;
 - excavate and record any significant archaeological remains encountered;

- undertake funded post-excavation analysis and publication of the results on the archaeological works.

Methodology

Excavation Trench (Stage 2)

- 5.1 Excavation at the site will be focussed within one large area, which will be stripped of all topsoil, so that all archaeological features can be mapped, sampled and then excavated and recorded should they prove to be significant. Stripping of topsoil will be limited to a 20 m by 20 m area centred over trench 13 from the evaluation project. Excavation will initially be by machine under close archaeological supervision. The exposed area will then be cleaned to identify any archaeological features.
- 5.2 Any features that are identified during the excavation will be mapped and investigated to determine their age, extent and significance. Recording will be by pro-forma sheets, drawings and photographs. Potentially significant features will be partly excavated to determine the date of the deposits and their extent.
- 5.3 All significant features will be fully excavated and recorded in line to Institute of Archaeology (IfA) standards.
- 5.4 The written record of all archaeological features, deposits and finds will be by means of conventional pro-forma sheets. Scaled hand-drawn plans will also be made at 1:20 and sections at 1:10. Black and white and colour record photographs will also be taken, along with digital images. The locations and dimensions of all features will be recorded in such a way as to tie them to the Ordnance Survey grid and National Datum.
- 5.5 All work will be conducted to comply with WoSAS standard conditions for archaeological fieldwork.
- 5.6 The significance of any archaeological remains encountered will be determined by the planning authority as advised by WoSAS who will advise on any further requirements, so that the development meets the terms of the archaeological planning condition.

Watching Brief (Stage 2)

- 5.7 The strategy to be employed during the watching brief will consist of the following:
- 5.8 All ground disturbances will be monitored by an archaeologist assisted, where necessary, by further archaeologists under the overall guidance of an archaeological project manager.
- 5.9 The number of archaeologists required during the works will be dependent on the number of areas being stripped simultaneously and the number of mechanical excavators being deployed.
- 5.10 All plant will be fitted with toothless ditching buckets for removal of any previously undisturbed topsoil layers to ensure the subsoil interface is not disturbed and any archaeological features can be clearly identified. A toothed bucket may be used for previously disturbed layers.
- 5.11 Topsoil will be removed in spits to the first archaeological horizon or, where none is found, to the natural subsoil. Any archaeological features encountered will be cleaned by hand to determine the date of the deposits, their character and extent. Such features will be recorded by written description on pro forma recording sheets, by photograph and by measured drawing.
- 5.12 Any significant archaeological features encountered will be dealt with by the on-site archaeologist(s). Should negative-cut features be encountered they will be 50% excavated in order to determine their significance, date and function. In the event that they are deemed to be important discoveries, they will be fully excavated. Recording will include pro forma sheets, drawings and photographs.
- 5.13 Suitable down time, up to a maximum of two hours per significant small feature, will be provided to the on-site archaeologists in order to fully recover any archaeological evidence encountered.
- 5.14 Should more substantial remains be encountered, downtime may be required in excess of two hours per feature. This will be agreed in writing with the client and Planning Authority archaeologists prior to proceeding.

- 5.15 In the event that particularly significant features, special finds or complex groups of features are encountered the client and Planning Authority archaeologists will be alerted, so that a mitigation strategy can be agreed to deal with them.
- 5.16 All archaeological finds will be dealt with by the on-site archaeological team. The general practice will be to bulk recover all artefacts by context which are recovered from the topsoil or from 19th century or later layers or deposits. Should finds be encountered that are securely stratified from earlier occupation phases they will be three-dimensionally recorded prior to up-lifting.
- 5.17 All excavated feature fills and horizons will be sampled for palaeo-environmental evidence. This may also include micromorphological sampling in order to address key issues on soil development.
- 5.18 A representative section will be recorded for each section of trench denoting depth of overburden, any stratigraphy present and the nature of the soil. This information will be logged in the day book together with a sketch drawn to scale and a photographic record of deposits.

Monitoring

- 5.9 WoSAS, acting on behalf of South Ayrshire Council will have a formal monitoring role. The on-site project team will be happy to accommodate monitoring visits to the site during fieldwork, whether pre-arranged or otherwise. Any site visitors will also be expected to conform to the health and safety regime in place during the project. Internal monitoring will be conducted by John Atkinson.

Reporting, Archive & Small Finds Arrangements

- 6.1 Following completion of archaeological fieldwork, GUARD Archaeology will prepare a report, outlining the main results and including lists of all features, finds, samples, photographs and drawings. This report will also include recommendations for any further mitigation measures appropriate to any remains encountered. A short report detailing the results will also be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, with the results of the fieldwork also being submitted through OASIS. In the event that stage 3, analysis and publication are required a PERD and costing will be produced for agreement and subsequent discharging of the planning condition. Publication, where required, would normally be sought in a suitable academic journal.
- 6.2 Copies of the fieldwork report will be provided to the client, to South Ayrshire Council, to WoSAS and to the National Monuments Record for Scotland. Further copies can be distributed to other recipients if requested and specified.
- 6.3 The archaeological fieldwork report will be prepared to the standard of a Data Structure Report as defined by Historic Scotland, in their "Project Design, Implementation and Archiving" document (Historic Scotland Archaeological Procedure Paper 2, 1996). Archaeological reporting and archiving will in all respects be compliant with WoSAS standard conditions.
- 6.5 The laws relating to Treasure Trove and Bona Vacantia in Scotland apply to all finds where the original owner cannot be identified. This includes all material recovered during archaeological fieldwork. Accordingly, all assemblages recovered from archaeological fieldwork are claimed automatically by the Crown and must be reported to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel through the Treasure Trove Unit. GUARD Archaeology will insure this process of reporting is undertaken and temporarily store any finds until a decision has been made by the Panel regarding the museum which will be allocated the finds for permanent curation. All finds will be transferred to the appropriate museum within six months of completion of the fieldwork, if no post-excavation work is required, or at the end of the latest finishing post-excavation programme.

Timetable

- 7.1 Stripping of the topsoil to permit the excavation over trench 13 will commence on Monday 28 October 2013. The excavation is estimated to last for three weeks. Topsoil stripping in advance of construction will be commissioned at some point after excavation is completed.
- 7.2 On completion of the excavation a report to data structures level will be completed within two weeks.

- Should post-excavation analysis and reporting be merited, a Post-Excavation Research Design will be produced within one month of completion of all fieldwork at the site. Submission of final publication reports, should they be warranted, will be undertaken within a year of agreement of the PERD.

Personnel

- 8.1 The programme of work will be conducted by professional archaeologists from GUARD Archaeology. The project will be directed by Kevin Mooney, Project Officer.

Health and Safety

- 9.1 The project will be conducted in line with all current legislation and with the IFA approved SCAUM document "Health and Safety in Field Archaeology". Prior to fieldwork commencing a risk assessment of the project would be undertaken, giving rise to a project-specific safety plan.

Appendix –Written Scheme of Investigations

Written Scheme of Investigation - see following pages.

LADYWELL, GIRVAN, SOUTH AYRSIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

PROJECT 3625

LADYWELL, GIRVAN, SOUTH AYRSIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

PROJECT 3625

by
John Atkinson

Executive Summary

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation forms the method statement for the archaeological works associated with the development of the site known as Ladywell, Girvan, South Ayrshire. This document acts as an overall project design for the development and provides specific scope for conducting an 8% trial trench evaluation of the proposed development site as required for approval by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), the archaeological advisers to South Ayrshire Council.

Introduction

- 2.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) sets out the scope and methodology for the archaeological mitigation works for the proposed development site known as Ladywell, Girvan in South Ayrshire. A programme of archaeological work, based on an initial trial trench evaluation of the development area will be undertaken to establish the presence, extent and nature of any significant archaeological remains. Should significant remains be identified, further mitigation measures may be necessary to ensure preservation in situ of significant remains or preservation by record is achieved.
- 2.2 This WSI outlines the programme of archaeological works that are needed to mitigate the effects of the development. It details the methodology to be employed during stage 1 (evaluation) of archaeological investigations into the development area. Further stages of mitigation will be specified in *addenda* to this document should they be necessary. These *addenda* will be submitted for agreement of the archaeological advisers to South Ayrshire Council, prior to the commencement of any further archaeological work. All phases of work will be funded by the developer as required by the Planning Authority.

Site Location

- 3.1 The development area lies approximately 3 kms to the NNE of Girvan and covers approximately 82,645 square metres and sits between 30 m and 50 m AOD. It consists of arable fields phasing in a south-westerly direction. The site area is defined by William Grant and Sons Distillers Ltd warehouses at Ladywell to the north, agricultural fields to the east and the Grangestone Industrial Estate to the south and west.

Archaeological Background

- 4.1 Previous desk-based assessments in advance of the Ladywell warehouses and the Curragh development show the general area to be rich in archaeological sites and monuments. Although no sites are known within the boundary of the proposed development area a cluster of remains are known from surrounding areas. This includes a site known as Ladywell ((NGR: NS 2040 0075) (NMRS site NS20SW 35)), a watching brief carried out in July 1996 during which only two flints were recovered (Shearer & Sneddon 2007, 11).
- 4.2 A phase of evaluation was undertaken at the Curragh, in advance of a planning application for three new warehouses at Ladywell. This identified, at one location, an area of potentially significant archaeological remains (Maguire 2008).
- 4.3 In February 2010 a phase of trial trench evaluation was conducted across the warehouse footprints covering a 10% sample of the main Curragh development area to the north. This revealed several archaeological features including a probable burnt mound trough and pit containing prehistoric artefacts. The prehistoric remains were clustered along the west-facing side of the burn that bisects the warehouse development (area E) and were accompanied by stratified environmental deposits within area G. Further investigation work was recommended for both areas in the form of strip, map and sample for area E and environmental sampling in area G (Sneddon 2010).
- 4.4 In December 2012, a phase of strip, map sample excavation was conducted within the area of the attenuation pond at the Curragh and revealed the presence of a palisaded enclosure and at least

three roundhouses, together with evidence of early Neolithic use of the same landscape (Spence and Kilpatrick 2013).

Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The aim of the archaeological work is:
- to identify any archaeological features and deposits within the development area;
 - to ensure that any previously unknown archaeological remains within the development area are sampled to inform suitable mitigation of the site.
- 5.2 The objectives are therefore to:
- Conduct an 8% trial trench evaluation of the development area to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains, and their character, date and extent if surviving;
 - Submit a report to data structure level to support a planning application for the site, which includes an outline of the scope of any further archaeological mitigation works should significant archaeology be encountered.

Methodology

- 6.1 Evaluation of the site will be focussed within the limits of the undisturbed areas of the development and exclude any areas where deposits are inaccessible, where topography is unsuited to settlement or lies under or above site services. Trenching will cover approximately 8% of the application area. All trenches will be one bucket in width, but may be widened if archaeological remains are uncovered. Trenches will be 50 m long by 2 m broad and distributed in a random pattern. Prior to trenching all trench locations will be scanned for services. Excavation will initially be by machine under close archaeological supervision. The exposed areas will then be cleaned by hand to identify any archaeological features.
- 6.2 Any features that are identified during the evaluation will be investigated to determine their age, extent and significance. Recording will be by pro-forma sheets, drawings and photographs. Potentially significant features will be partly excavated to determine the date of the deposits and their extent. This information will inform any mitigation strategies for any further work that may be required.
- 6.3 The written record of all archaeological features, deposits and finds will be by means of conventional pro forma sheets. Scaled hand-drawn plans will also be made at 1:20 and sections at 1:10. Black and white and colour record photographs will also be taken, along with digital images. The locations and dimensions of all features will be recorded in such a way as to tie them to the Ordnance Survey grid and the National Datum.
- 6.4 In the event that no significant remains are encountered, the findings of the evaluation will be notified, verbally and in writing, to Barr Technical Services and WoSAS, so that the area can be signed-off as quickly as possible.

Further Mitigation (Stage 2)

- 6.5 Should significant archaeological deposits be encountered, preservation in situ of deposits or excavation (stage 2) and post-excavation phase of work (Stage 3) may be necessary. In this scenario, an amendment (addendum) to the written scheme of investigation will be produced to accompany any further fieldwork, with further costs outlined at this stage.
- 6.6 If required, the methodology to be employed during Stage 3 (post-excavation analysis and publication), would be specified in an addendum to this document known as a Post-Excavation Research Design (PERD). This addendum, will be submitted by the applicant for the approval of South Ayrshire Council, prior to the commencement of any Stage 3 archaeological work. It is expected that the Planning Authority will not discharge any potential planning condition which requires the programme of archaeological work, until such time as it is satisfied that all stages of

archaeological fieldwork have been completed (in the case of Stages 1 and possibly 2), or secured by contract (in the case of Stage 3).

Human Remains

- 6.7 Though there is nothing to suggest their discovery is likely, should human remains be encountered, GUARD Archaeology will notify the local police and WoSAS immediately and thereafter follow prescribed procedures for their treatment, in accordance with legal requirements.

Report Preparation and Contents

- 7.1 A report detailing the results of the archaeological fieldwork will be submitted to the client within two weeks of completion of fieldwork and, subject to client approval, then submitted to WoSAS for their comment. The report will take the form of a Data Structure Report and will contain an analysis of the results of the archaeological evaluation. The report will include a full descriptive text that will characterise the date and extent of any archaeological deposits. It will also include plans at an appropriate scale showing the area subjected to ground-breaking works, environmental sampling, archaeological features and archiving lists of all finds, samples, field drawings and photographs.
- 7.2 If appropriate, the report will also include an addendum to this WSI for further archaeological fieldwork, should significant archaeology have been encountered.
- 7.3 The report will include the following:
- executive summary;
 - a site location plan to at least 1:10,000 scale with at least an 8 figure central grid reference;
 - OASIS reference number; unique site code;
 - Planning application number;
 - contractor's details including date work carried out;
 - nature and extent of the proposed development, including developer/client details;
 - description of the site history, location and geology;
 - a site plan to a suitable scale and tied into the national grid so that features can be correctly orientated;
 - discussion of the results of field work;
 - context & feature descriptions;
 - features, number and class of artefacts, spot dating & scientific dating of significant finds presented in tabular format;
 - plans and section drawings of the features drawn at a suitable scale;
 - initial assessment of relevant finds/samples if appropriate;
 - recommendations regarding the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological work such as excavation (Stage 2) and Post-excavation finds analysis, conservation & publication (Stage 3);
 - bibliography
- 7.4 An appropriate number of hard copies and digital pdf copies of the report will be prepared for the client and sent to the archaeological adviser for agreement.
- 7.5 The hard copy report will be presented in an ordered state and bound within a protective cover/sleeve. The report will be page numbered and supplemented with section numbering for ease of reference.

Copyright

- 8.1 Unless otherwise agreed copyright for any report resulting from the archaeological work undertaken as part of the project will be deemed the intellectual property of GUARD Archaeology Ltd.

Publication

- 9.1 A summary of the project results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*. In the event of minor archaeological remains being encountered during the archaeological fieldwork, it is proposed that a comprehensive report submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, will form the final publication of the site. A copy of this will be included in the Data Structure Report.

Archive

- 10.1 The archive for the project, including a copy of the report, will be submitted to the National Monuments Records for Scotland within three months of completion of all relevant work.
- 10.2 The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be completed within 3 months of completion of the work. Once the Data Structure Report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, the archaeological adviser to the planning authority will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.

Finds Disposal

- 11.1 The arrangement for the final disposal of any finds made in connection with the archaeological work, will be deposited in keeping with Scottish legal requirements as set out in the Treasure Trove Code of Practice published by the Scottish Government in December 2008. The laws relating to Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia* in Scotland apply to all finds where the original owner cannot be identified. This includes all material recovered during archaeological fieldwork. Accordingly, all assemblages recovered from archaeological fieldwork are claimed automatically by the Crown and must be reported to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel through its secretariat, the Treasure Trove Unit. In the event of the discovery of small finds, a filled-out copy of the form "Declaration of an Archaeological Assemblage from Fieldwork" and two copies of the pertinent Data Structure Report will be submitted to the Panel at the conclusion of the fieldwork. The Panel will then be responsible for recommending to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer which museum should be allocated the finds. All artefacts will be temporarily stored by GUARD until a decision has been made by the panel.

Personnel and Liaison

- 12.1 The GUARD team will comprise the following qualified and experienced GUARD archaeologists:
- Project Manager: John Atkinson
 - Project Director (on-site Archaeologist): Alan Hunter Blair
 - Finds and Environmental Support and Conservation: Aileen Maule
 - Illustrator: Gillian McSwan
- 12.2 The GUARD Project Manager, John Atkinson, will be the point of contact for the archaeological works. A full CV for individuals concerned can be made available on request.

Timetable

- 13.1 GUARD Archaeology aim to begin work on as soon as the WSI has been agreed. The programme of evaluation during phase one is estimated to last up to twelve working days depending on the extent of the archaeology. On completion of the works a report to data structures level will be completed within three weeks.

- 13.2 Should post-excavation analysis and reporting be merited, a Post-Excavation Research Design will be produced within one month of completion of all fieldwork at the site. Submission of final publication reports, should they be warranted, will be undertaken within a year of agreement of the PERD.

Monitoring

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- 14.1 WoSAS, acting on behalf of the Planning Authority will have a formal monitoring role. John Atkinson, GUARD Archaeology's Managing Director will act as project manager for all the works outlined above and will be the sole point of contact for any project-related liaison with WoSAS and the developer or the developer's agent. In the event that a change in project manager is required during the works, this will be notified in writing to all parties prior to the change occurring. The on-site project team will be happy to accommodate monitoring visits to the site during fieldwork, whether pre-arranged or otherwise. Any site visitors will also be expected to conform to the health and safety regime in place during the project.

Health & Safety and Insurance

- 15.1 GUARD Archaeology Ltd adheres to the guidelines and standards prescribed for archaeological fieldwork set down in the Institute for Archaeologists approved Health and Safety in Field Archaeology document. It is standard GUARD policy, prior to any fieldwork project commencing, to conduct a risk assessment and to prepare a project safety plan, the prescriptions of which will be strictly followed for the duration of all archaeological fieldwork. Copies of the resultant project safety plan and of GUARD's Fieldwork Safety Policy Statement may be viewed upon request.
- 15.2 GUARD Archaeology Ltd also possesses all necessary insurance cover, proofs of which may be supplied upon request.

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