Kilchoan House

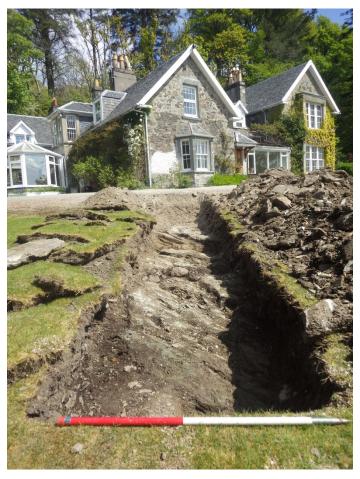
Kilmelford, Oban; Argyll and Bute

Archaeological Evaluation : May 2017

for

Kilchoan Management Ltd

May 2017



Trench 2 and Kilchoan House

Addyman Archaeology

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Kilchoan House

Kilmelford, Oban, Argyll and Bute

	Archaeol	logical	Eval	luation	:	May	2017
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Job number 2266.00

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by Philip Karsgaard

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For Addyman Archaeology, project management was by Liz Jones; fieldwork was undertaken by Antoine Ruchonnet and Philip Karsgaard, with finds management by Andrew Morrison.

Kilchoan House Kilmelford, Oban, Argyll and Bute

Archaeological Evaluation

Executive Summary

Addyman Archaeology was contracted by Simpson & Brown Architects on behalf of Kilchoan Management Ltd to engage in the archaeological mitigation associated with the construction of a new dwelling on the site of the existing Kilchoan House, Kilmelford, Argyll & Bute (NGR NM 79612 13350; planning ref: 16/00269/PP). This Data Structure Report summarises the results of the first stage of that archaeological mitigation, a programme of archaeological evaluation undertaken in May 2017 in the grounds immediately surrounding Kilchoan House. The evaluation was designed to inform on the extent, depth and nature of any buried archaeology in the vicinity of the existing house in advance of its demolition, given its setting in a sensitive archaeological landscape and in the attested finds of human remains during the house's initial construction.

A programme of trial trenching using a 7-tonne flat-bladed tracked excavator was therefore undertaken at Kilchoan House from $8^{th} - 12^{th}$ of May 2017. Five trenches were excavated on the west, south and east sides of the existing house. All trenches were excavated to the underlying geological strata. Trench 1, on the west flank of the house, revealed linear drainage features associated with the existing house and a linear ditch of uncertain date. Trenches 2-4 were excavated to the south of the house. Trench 2 was excavated to bedrock without revealing significant features. Trench 3 exposed a single linear feature of uncertain date, and Trench 4 a possible stone concentration and modern asphalt feature probably associated with the house road construction. Trench 5, sited on the slope to the east of the house, revealed a c.0.80m thick charcoal and animal-bone rich garden soil or midden deposit, sealing two linear features, from one of which a rotary-quern fragment was recovered. No direct evidence of the early Christian burial ground or chapel was revealed by the evaluation.

1. Introduction

i. General

Simpson & Brown Architects were contracted by Kilchoan Management Ltd for the construction of a new dwelling on the site of the existing Kilchoan House, Kilmelford, Argyll & Bute (NGR NM 79612 13350; planning ref: 16/00269/PP). Because of the archaeological sensitivity of the area, the possibility of a preserved chapel and burial ground on the site of the existing house, and the possibility of the re-use of mediaeval building materials incorporated in to the fabric of the existing house, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), acting on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council, required archaeological investigation for the planning application. Addyman Archaeology therefore prepared the required Written Scheme of Investigation for the initial archaeological investigation, and after approval from WoSAS began the initial phase of archaeological evaluation around the existing house, prior to demolition, on 8th – 12th May 2017. This report contains the results of the initial trial trenching and recommendations for future mitigation in the light of the evaluation's results.

A record of the evaluation (*OASIS ID: addymana1-286146*) has been deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service and with *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland.

ii. Location and Setting

Kilchoan House is located on the banks of Kilchoan Bay, on the north shore of Loch Melfort. It is approximately 5km west of Kilmelford, on the A816 between Oban and Lochgilphead (*figure 1*). The site slopes gently downwards from north to south towards the water; the house itself is terraced into the rising ground to the south, and the flat area immediately south of the house frontage suggests levelling works undertaken with the construction of the house.

The house is of interest primarily because it is recorded as located on the site of an early Christian burial ground and chapel, associated with the 8th century Saint Comphan.

Kilchoan House lies in a geological zone typically complex for Argyll and Bute. The highlands immediately to the north of the site are dominated by lavas, with streaks of the Mull Dyke-Swarm of basalt and micrograbbo, the igneous bedrock forming approximately 23 to 66 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period, appearing against the backdrop of the Lorn Plateau volcanic formation of andesite bedrock, having formed approximately 398 to 419 million years ago in the Devonian and Silurian Periods, both characterised by intrusions of silica-poor magma. Immediately around the House, the bedrock is dominated by the Craignish Phyllite Formation of semipelite. This metamorphic bedrock formed approximately 542 to 1000 million years ago and were originally sedimentary rocks formed in shallow lime-mud seas, later altered by low-grade metamorphism. The superficial geology here consists of raised marine deposits -- sands and gravels formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. ¹.

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¹ Data from the British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer: http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html accessed 04/05/2017

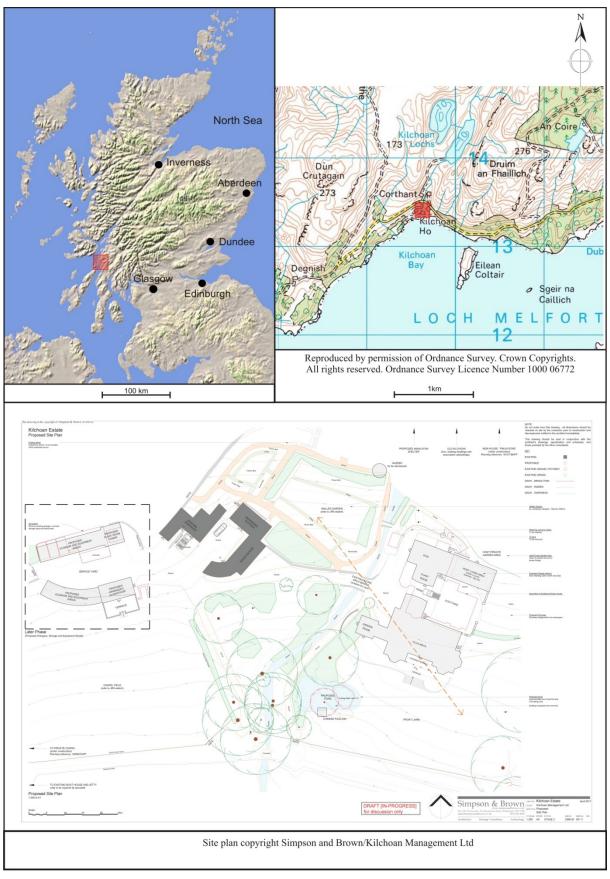


Figure 1 Site location

2. Historical Background

i. Setting

In order to inform on the archaeological sensitivity of the area around Kilchoan House, an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) was undertaken (Addyman Archaeology 2017). The following account derives from this DBA. The Assessment included an analysis of readily available sources was undertaken to identify sites of cultural heritage significance within a 1km-radius area of the House. These included:

- The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS)
- The Argyll & Bute Historic Environment Record (HER) as maintained by WoSAS
- Historic Environment Scotland (HES) database of Scheduled Monuments
- The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland
- The Inventory of Historic Battlefields in Scotland
- Aerial imagery as held by the National Library of Scotland (NLS) and online platforms
- Map resources available from the NLS including all available OS maps

All sources consulted were the most up to date available.

Five known sites were identified within the development area as recorded in the Argyll & Bute Historic Environment Record (HER); these sites are identified by their unique HER numbers and are detailed in *Table 1*; their locations in relation to Kilchoan House is shown on *figure 2*.

Table 1 shows that in the immediate vicinity of Kilchoan House, there are 2 probable prehistoric sites: site 2, an enclosure or burnt mound, most likely dating to the Bronze Age; and site 5, a dun or small hillfort, undated but possibly of prehistoric, most likely Iron Age, date. Sites 3 and 4, a building and an estate landscape, are post-mediaeval in date; and site 1, the House itself, which has been associated with early Christian activity, as discussed further below.

Table 1 Sites and Cultural Heritage Assets identified (1km radius)

Site	Name	OS NGR	Reference	Classification	Description
No.					
I	Kilchoan House / Melfort Cottage	NM 79610 13350	HERWOSAS 874 RCAHMS/Canmore ID: 22636 Site Number NM71SE 8	Chapel; Burialground	This site is now occupied by Kilchoan House, formerly known as Melfort Cottage, built in the mid 19th century. When it was being built, graves containing human remains were found on the site (ONB 1871). The name 'Kilchoan' probably derives from the chapel associated with this burial ground. In a charter of 1313, the name appears as 'Kilcongen', the dedication of the chapel being to St Congan or Comghan. Name Book 1871; RCAHMS 1975, visited July 1970. There are no remains visible of the burial ground or chapel Visited by OS (DWR) 30 September 1971.
2	Kilchoan House	NM 79150 13320	HERWOSAS 859 RCAHMS/Canmore 22621 Site number NM71SE 12	Enclosure/Burnt Mound	A horse-shoe shaped enclosure with an entrance to E, near (unnamed) stream. Not located during 1971 site visit.

4	Lorn, Nether Lorn Estate, South Part	NM 79210 13140 (Centred on) NM 79000 14000	HERWOSAS 44544 RCAHMS 152028 RCAHMS 269569	Building Estate (period unassigned)	One unroofed building is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Argyllshire 1875, sheet cxxx), but it is not shown on the (1976).edition of the OS 1:10000 map Estate grounds – improved land?
5	Kilchoan Lochs	NM 79600 14300	HERWOSAS 871 RCAHMS 22633	Dun (possible)	Situated on the highest part of a ridge to the West of Kilchoan Loch and at a height of about 170m OD there are the last remains of a stone-walled enclosure which may possibly have been a dun. It originally would have measured about 25.7m N to S by 17.5m transversely within a wall which is now represented on the N and S sides by a band of debris about 3.3m wide. Only a few stones of the wall survive on the W side and on the E where it overlooked the loch, it has been completely destroyed. RCAHMS 1975, visited May 1969. As described.

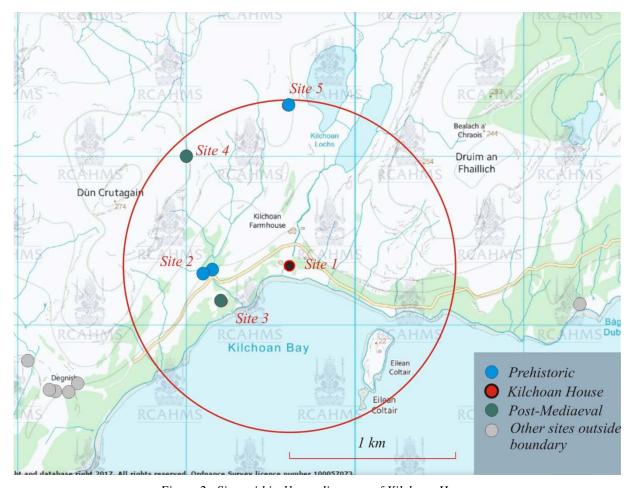


Figure 2 Sites within 1km radius area of Kilchoan House

ii. Map Regression

a. Pre-Ordinance Survey

Maps produced before the first Ordnance Survey of the area in the mid-19th century are by their very nature extremely varied with regards to accuracy, scale, and level of detail presented. Non-OS maps of this age were produced by diverse groups of individuals who often possessed differing skill-sets, and often held very specific goals that their maps were intended to achieve or portray. The proposed development area at Kilchoan House is both small in comparison to the scale that many of the consulted maps represent, and is further relatively isolated; as a result, many of the available maps do not show the area in sufficient detail to be of particular use in this instance.

The Kilchoan place-name, however, appears on early maps. The first instance found appears on Joan Blaeu's Atlas of Scotland of 1654, on the sheet entitled *Lorna cum insulis vicinis et provinciis eidem conterminis (figure 3)*, as a settlement.

Roy's military map of 1747-55 (*figure* 4) shows the Kilchoan place name, and the area under cultivation at the site of the house. Cultivation also appears around the location of the boat house and jetty, to the west of the house. The Kilchoan place name appears applied to the farm just north of the existing Kilchoan House.

Admiralty maps tend to have the most detailed views of the more isolated Argyll coastline areas, though the focus is less on inland settlements. An Admiralty map of 1776 (*figure 5*), however, shows Kilchoan as a prominent feature along the coast, with a building lying to the west. It is notable that the structures so depicted appear to lie further inland and probably apply to the Kilchoan farmhouse area, higher in the hills, than any buildings at the site of Kilchoan House.



Figure 3 Extract from Blaeu's 1654 Atlas of Scotland. NLS.



Figure 4 Extract from Roy's Military Map of Scotland. NLS.

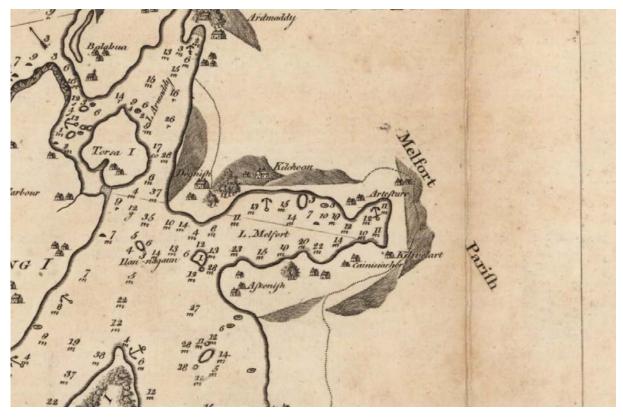


Figure 5 Extract from Admiralty map by Mackenzie (Senior) 1776. NLS.

b. Ordnance Survey Maps

No coverage was found of the Ordnance Survey 25-inch to the mile series –which would provide greater detail of individual buildings – of Kilchoan House; the map coverage focusses on Kilchoan to the east, at the head of Loch Melfort. Kilchoan House does appear on the OS 1st Edition 6-inch map of 1871, however (*Figure 6*) in its rough present form, with a more formal garden plot to its west. The Kilchoan place-name is here clearly associated with the farmstead to the north. Little alteration to the house – with the possible exception of a south-elevation addition – is seen on the 1898 2nd Edition (*figure 7*).

The map regression shows that the area of Kilchoan House/Melfort Cottage has not undergone drastic modification or development since the 17th century. A farmstead to the north of the existing House, on higher ground, bears the Kilchoan name first. The construction of Kilchoan House itself, then called Melfort Cottage, and its associated outbuildings, is the salient change in the 19th century. The resolution of the maps does not allow a detailed inspection of additions or alterations to the House itself beyond its gradual expansion.

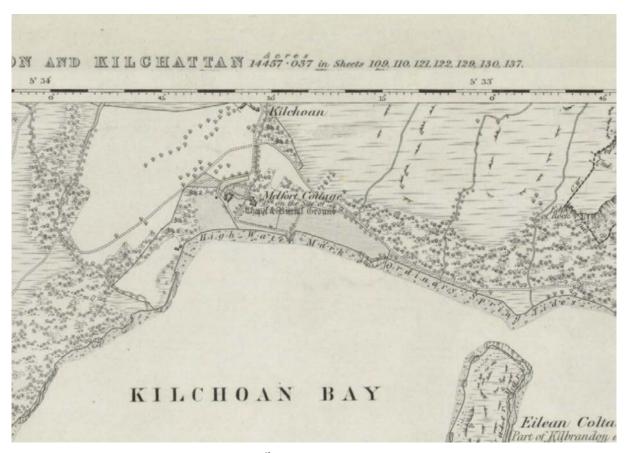


Figure 6 Extract from OS 1st Edition 6 inch map, sheet CXXX (1871). NLS

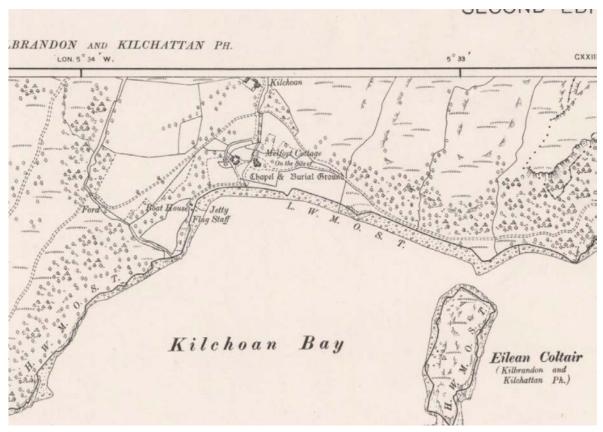


Figure 7 Extract from OS 2nd Edition 6 inch map, (1898). NLS

iii. Kilchoan House

Kilchoan House itself was built in the 19th century, on an original L-shaped plan, and has since been enlarged with several additions. At construction it was called Melfort Cottage. It was during the Ordnance Survey's initial map-making that an entry was made in the Ordnance Survey Name Book for Melfort Cottage, that the then-resident, Mrs. F. Campbell, reported that human remains had been found during the initial construction of the Cottage. This led to the insertion on the 1st Edition OS maps of the 'site of chapel and burial ground' label. The Name Book contains no further details as to the possible structure encountered with the human remains²; the designation of 'chapel' may therefore have been due to an element of speculation on the part of the map-makers, given the known tradition around the coast of Argyll for early Christian burial grounds and cashels.

Neither the *Old* nor *New Statistical Accounts* of the parish of Kilbrandon and Kilchattan (nor the neighbouring Kilmelford parish) makes mention of any upstanding ruins at the site of Kilchoan House.

During the evaluation, a full photographic survey of the existing House, internally and externally, was undertaken (thumbnail images are presented in *Appendix E*) with the particular aim of identifying any reused mediaeval masonry in the fabric of the House. None was immediately apparent, though internal walls were, of course, still in the main concealed by remaining surface treatments. A fuller recording and assessment of the House is, however, reserved until (a) further stripping-out works commence at the House; and (b) demolition works begin, when both wall and building-element phasing may be more apparent, and complete monitoring for re-used medieval stone in the building fabric can take place. Any required more detailed analysis and reporting on the House is reserved until those works are undertaken.

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² The OS Name Book reference may be seen at http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/ordnance-survey-name-books/argyll-os-name-books-1868-1878/argyll-volume-53/179 -- Accessed May 2017.

iv. Summary and Discussion

This brief examination of the area around Kilchoan House demonstrates the degree of archaeological sensitivity of the landscape in which the house sits. Prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval activity is attested around the house. The map regression may also suggest that the name Kilchoan, associated with the church of St. Comghan, is first applied to the higher hinterland behind Kilchoan House – perhaps around the farmstead buildings – rather than the site of the House itself, the former Melfort Cottage. If so, there may be a possibility that the early Christian kirktown, settlement, church or other structures are situated further inland than at the present House (though this has not been previously suggested). The Ordnance Survey Name Book does not give any further details as to the nature or extent of the human remains encountered during the construction of Melfort Cottage, nor is there any indication of upstanding or buried structures also found at the time.

3. Archaeological Evaluation

i. Methodology

Five trenches were excavated around Kilchoan House from 8th – 12th of May 2017. Their locations are shown in *figure* 8 below. All trenches were excavated with a 7-tonne tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological direction. All site recording was undertaken using standard *pro-forma* sheets for the recording of archaeological contexts, finds and samples and for drawings and photographs produced during the archaeological works, which become part of the archaeological record. These records are produced to *CIfA* standards, and Addyman Archaeology adheres to the *CIfA*'s principals and codes of conduct at all times. Standard recording drawings were undertaken at 1:20 scale (in plan) with details and sections drawn at 1:10. In the following account, contexts are given as numbers in round brackets for fills, deposits and layers, and in square brackets for features, cuts and structures or structural elements. Summary lists of contexts, drawings and photographs are given in the Appendices. Appendix B provides a discussion of the finds retrieved during the evaluation.

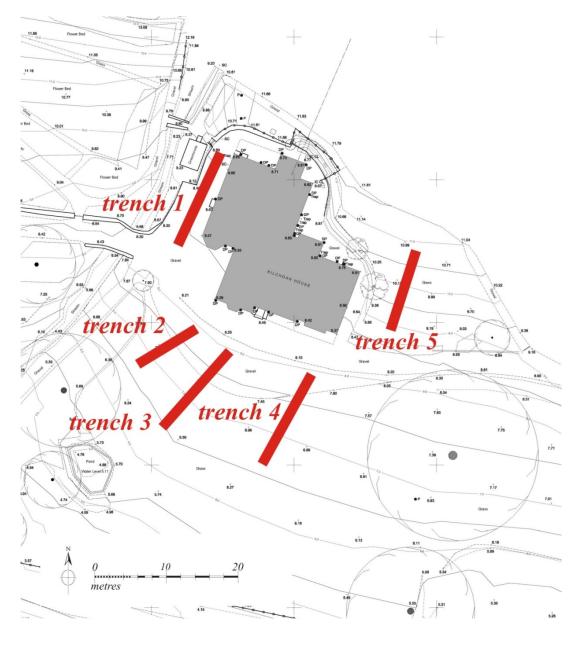


Figure 8 Trench location plan.

ii. Results

a. Trench 1

Trench 1 was located on the west side of Kilchoan House (*figure 8, plates 1-4*), and measured 11.25m x 1.40m. The trench was set in the area of compacted gravels forming the drive around the south and west sides of the House; this was designated (101) in Trench 1 and averaged 0.14m deep.

Trench 1 revealed three linear features: [102], [104], and [106] (figure 9), sealed by the gravel deposit (101). Two of these linear features, [102] and [106] are stone-capped drainage features. Drain [102], at the north end of Trench 1, ran roughly east-west, and was up to 0.50m wide, V-shaped in section with sharply sloping sides. It was cut in to the underlying bedrock, and capped with large sub-angular stones [109] and an upper loose pale grey sandy fill (103), 0.10m in depth. Capping stones [109] were removed in the section excavated across Ditch [102], revealing a thin, 0.05m thick deposit of the basal fill (111): loose sands and gravels accumulated through water-action in the otherwise empty drain channel.

Drain [106], running roughly north-south along the western side of Trench 1, was substantially similar and almost certainly contemporary. A section across this feature was excavated to the top of its capping stones [110]; excavation ceased at that level but probing between the capping stones indicated a depth of c. 0.51m. The drain itself was 0.51m wide and continued south beyond the trench's edge-of-excavation.

Linear Feature [104] may be distinguished from the other two drains in its form and construction. It was oriented approximately north-south and extended from its terminal end, revealed half-way along Trench 1, southwards. A slot excavated at the terminal end revealed it to be sub-rectangular in plan with rounded corners, gently rounded sides and base, 0.62m wide and 0.20m deep. A second slot excavated across the feature also revealed its rounded sides and flat or gently rounded base. This ditch was filled with a single homogeneous fill (105), loose mid-brownish grey sandy silt with frequent small sub-angular stones. No finds or dateable material were recovered from this fill.

Ditch [104], therefore, is distinct in shape and construction from the two stone-capped drains revealed in Trench 1. Ditch [104] may also be related to the construction of Kilchoan House, as a garden boundary, planting bed, or drainage feature, though the possibility that it predates the House cannot on present evidence be ruled out.

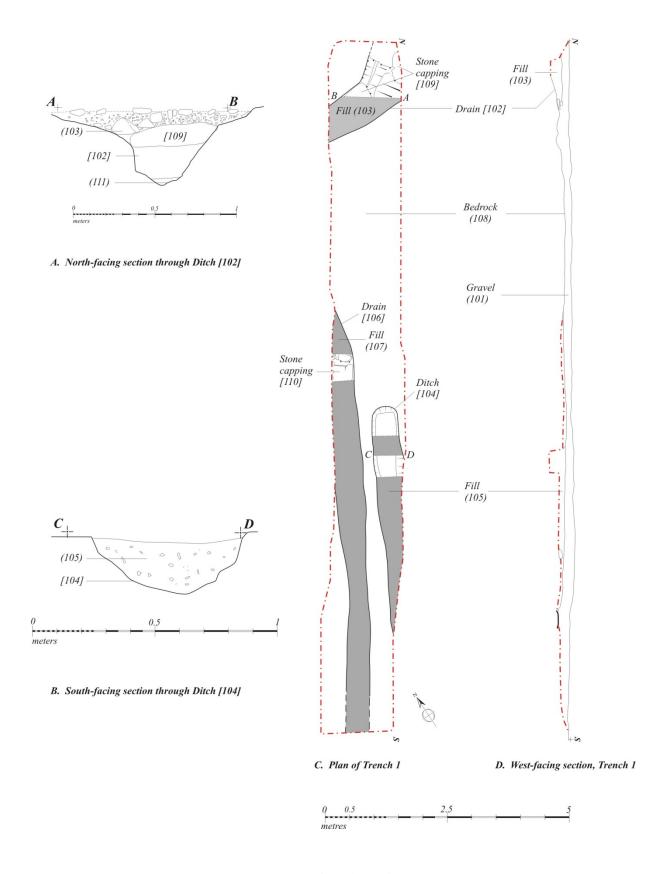


Figure 9 Trench 1, plan and sections



Plate 1 Trench 1, Drain [102] with capping stones [109]. Facing south-east



Plate 2 Trench 1, Drain [102] post-excavation. Facing north



Plate 3 Trench 1, general view Drain [104] (left) and Drain [106] (right) pre-ex. Facing south



Plate 4 Trench 1, general view Drain [104] post-ex. Facing south

b. Trench 2

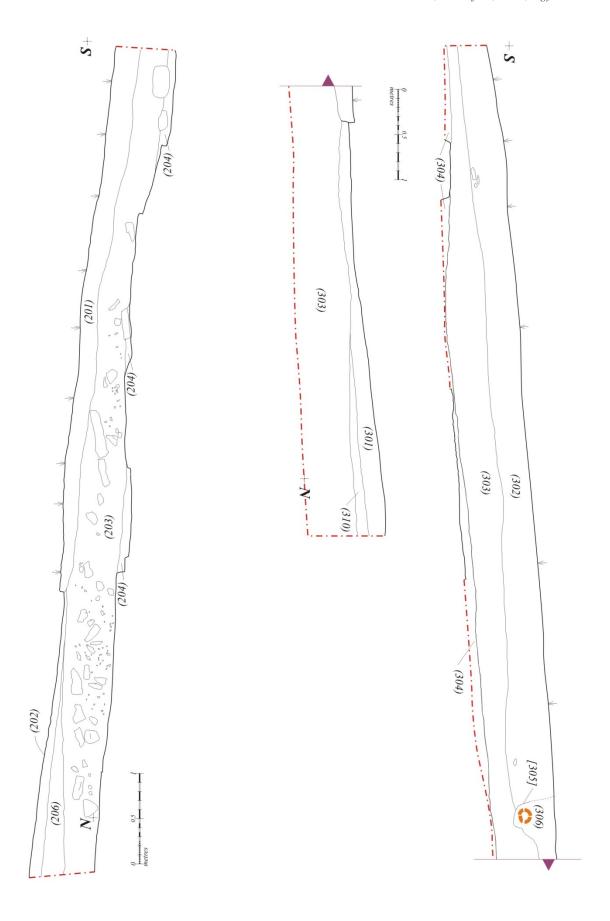
Trench 2 (figure 10a and plates 5-6) was situated on the south side of Kilchoan House, the most westerly of the trenches on the south side (figure 8). It measured 9.50m x 1.40m and was maximally 0.80m deep. The trench was excavated across the boundary of the gravel drive and the lawn; the gravels at the north end of the trench, here designated (202), were 0.15m thick, and overlay a roadlevelling deposit (206), 0.40m thick. The turfed topsoil was up to 0.25m deep and overlay a mid to dark-brown sandy silt subsoil (203). This subsoil contained a high frequency of large sub-angular slate and whin stone fragments derived from the underlying bedrock. At the base of the trench, dark grey-black humic silt (204), filled the irregularities in the underling bedrock. The geology here was characterised by mottled mid yellowish-orange sandy clay (205) above more solid bedrock.

No archaeological features were detected in Trench 2. One small fragment of a 19th or 20th century ceramic vessel was recovered from Deposit (204) (as was a general light background scatter of ceramic fragments from Subsoil (203), including a clay pipe stem fragment). This sherd is small, and may be contamination brought down into Deposit (204) through root-, animal-, or water-action; in this case no conclusions could be drawn from its presence. If it is in-situ, however, it indicates that all deposits overlying it -- that is, all deposits above the bedrock in Trench 2 – are of relatively recent date any may be the result of terracing and infilling associated with the construction of Kilchoan House, and the landscaping around it. This may also explain the large bedrock fragments contained in Subsoil (203). If this is the case, any Early Christian remains in this area have been truncated away.





Plate 5 Trench 2, general view post-ex. Facing north- Plate 6 Trench 2, general view post-ex. Facing south-



A. Trench 2, West-facing section

B. Trench 3, East--facing section

Figure 10 Trenches 2 and 3, sections

c. Trench 3

Trench 3 was located to the east of Trench 2 (*figure 8*), oriented similarly roughly north-east to southwest. It measured 14.50m x 1.40m and was 0.80m deep (*plate 10b* and *plates 7-10*). This trench was also excavated across the gravel drive and turf to the south of House. Gravels (301) and (310) made up the surfacing and levelling layers of the gravel drive respectively at the north end of the trench, together 0.32m deep. To the south of the gravels, the turfed topsoil (302) overlay Subsoil (303), pale greyish-brown gravelly and sandy silt. This subsoil lacked the large bedrock debris seen in Trench 2. At the junction of the turf and gravel, a brick and cement-mortar drain and associated ceramic pipe field drain (306) were encountered, certainly associated with the House. The bricks of the drain were stamped 'P&M Hurrll Glasgow' and therefore post-date 1887³.

At the northern end of the Trench, a linear ditch feature was partially revealed, oriented roughly north-south. Only the western side of this linear feature, Cut [307], was exposed; it was at least 0.70m wide and continued for 3m length in the trench. Two slots excavated through the feature exposed its stepped sides and irregular flattish base. Cut [307] was filled with Fill (308), dark brown sandy silt with frequent small rounded pebbles. No datable finds were retrieved from this fill.





Plate 7 Trench 3, general view post-ex. Facing northeast

Plate 8 Trench 3, general view post-ex. Facing southwest

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³ The P&M Hurrl Partnership was formed c. 1887, and exploited the Birkhill Clay Mine deposits in Bo'ness. The partnership was liquidated in 1980. -- http://www.scottishbrickhistory.co.uk/p-m-hurll/, accessed May 2017.





Plate 9 Trench 3, Cut [307] south-facing sections. Facing north

Plate 10 Trench 3, stamped brick from drain.

d. Trench 4

Trench 4 was the most easterly of the trenches placed across the drive and lawn to the south of the House (*figure 8*). It measured 14.35m x 1.40m and was maximally 0.95m deep (*figure 11a* and *plates 11-12*). The southern extent of the trench was excavated through the turf and topsoil (401), 0.40m thick. Underlying the topsoil, Subsoil (403) was a mid to dark brown sandy silt containing a high density of rounded beach cobbles. The northern extent of the trench was again characterised by the gravel drive surfacing (402), 0.20m thick, overlying a thick deposit of loose coarser pebbles and gravel (406), interpreted as drive levelling. At the base of this deposit (406), a concentration of larger subrounded and sub-angular stones was revealed, designated [405]. At the western edge of this stone concentration, a sub-rectangular pad of asphalt [404], 0.56m x 0.30m x 0.08m, was also revealed (*figure 11b*).

Stone concentration [405] was unmortared and not obviously faced or coursed, but constituted a distinctive concentration of larger stones; it may, with the asphalt [404], represent road footings. If so these features again suggest that the area south of the House to the Loch Melfort waterline was substantially stripped and landscaped with the construction of Kilchoan House, truncating all earlier deposit down to the level of the sterile geology.

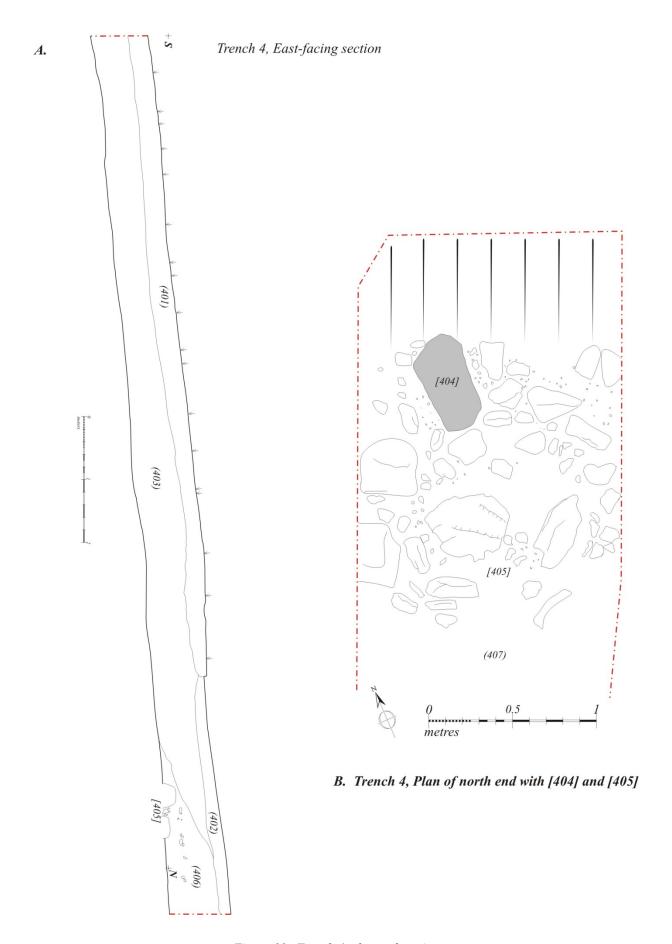


Figure 11 Trench 4, plan and section





Plate 11 Trench 4, general view post-ex. Facing north

Plate 12 Trench 4, general view post-ex with asphalt [404] and stone concentration [405] in foreground.

Facing south

e. Trench 5

Trench 5 was located on the east flank of Kilchoan House (*figure 8*), on the sloping bank of the garden. The trench measured 11.70m x 1.40m and was 1.20m deep (*figure 12* and *plates 15-16*). The topsoil (501), 0.50m thick, extended across the length of the trench. Underlying the topsoil, and also extending across the trench, was Deposit (502), a dark-grey firm sandy silt subsoil, containing frequent angular shale and bedrock fragments, as well as frequent charcoal flecks. Fragments of poorly preserved animal bone were also retrieved from this deposit, which appears to represent garden soil or midden activity. This thick deposit sealed several features cut into the underlying natural geology, discussed below.

At the south end of the trench, one of these features sealed by Subsoil (502) was an east-west oriented linear feature, Ditch [505]. This ran across the width of the trench, and was 0.86m wide north-south, with sloping sides and a gently rounded base, cut 0.30m deep into the natural. It was filled with a single homogeneous fill (506), dark grey sandy silt containing frequent small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones, frequent charcoal flecks, and small animal bone fragments. It appeared compositionally very similar to the overlying Subsoil (502). Against the south side of the Ditch a partial slate rotary-quern, broken in antiquity, was recovered. See Appendix B for further discussion of the quern fragment.

To the north of Ditch [505], a shallower and less well-preserved linear feature [507] was exposed, oriented roughly northeast-south-west. It was up to 0.90m wide, with a flat base and sloping sides, cut into the surrounding natural gravels and the solid bedrock at its northernmost exposed extent. Its terminal end at its southern extent was rounded, and at this extent very shallow, c. 0.05m deep; the Ditch grew slightly deeper to the north, upslope, where it reached a maximal depth of 0.10m. Ditch [507] was filled with a single homogeneous fill (508), dark grey gritty silt with frequent charcoal flecks.

At the north end of the trench, a sounding was excavated in order to determine the depth of solid bedrock (overlain in the rest of the trench by coarse gravels). This sounding quickly flooded with groundwater.

Trench 5 therefore appeared to preserve more cultural material than the other four trenches. The thick layer of subsoil (502), may be related to maddening or garden activity associated with the lifetime of the Kilchoan House, but may also represent a pre-existing deposit into which the House had been terraced. Two linear features were also identified which could predate the House.



Plate 13 Trench 5, general view post-ex., with Ditch [505] in foreground. Facing north



Plate 14 Trench 5, general view of linear feature [507] post-ex. Facing north



Plate 15 Trench 5, Ditch [505] post-ex. Facing north



Plate 16 Trench 5, west-facing section of Ditch [505]. Facing east

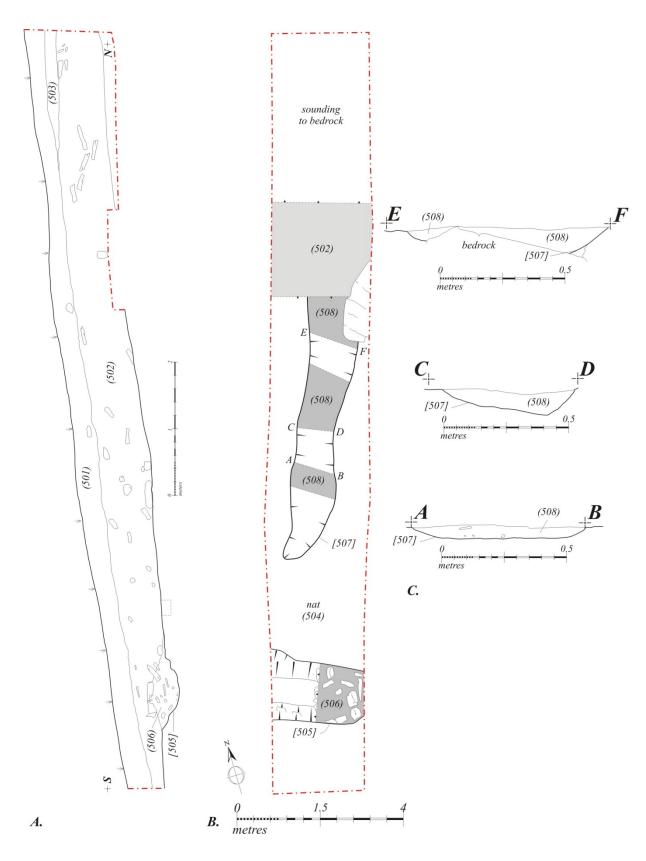


Figure 12 Trench 5, plan and sections

iii. Discussion and Recommendations

The five trenches excavated around Kilchoan House revealed a scatter of features across the area investigated. Trenches 1, 3 and 5 revealed linear features cut in to the underlying natural geology. In Trench 1, two of these are clearly 19th century drain features related to the construction and use of Kilchoan House. A third linear feature in Trench 1 is undated thus far; it may be a similar drainage, garden-bed or boundary feature related to the House, or may predate it. The linear feature in Trench 3 is also undated but likely related to drainage in the garden/lawn area to the south of the House.

Trench 5, placed to the east of the house in the sloping garden area, revealed a substantial garden soil or midden deposit containing charcoal flecks and animal bone. This midden or garden soil material may be related to the early use of Kilchoan House, as material was discarded from the kitchen area and used to improve the garden soils (see further discussion below). This deposit sealed a scatter of features cut in to the underlying geology, most notably the east-west running Ditch [505], from which a fragment of rotary quern was derived. The midden deposits, if of $19^{th} - 20^{th}$ century date, will preserve some record of the domestic economy of the House in the remains of kitchen and household discarded material

On present evidence it remains difficult to date the deposits and features in Trench 5. Further soil stripping in the area around the House may well clarify the midden deposits relationship to the House, given the terracing of the House to the surrounding slope. The buried soil deposit, (502), in Trench 5, extends from the low terrace wall to the east of the House (visible as the dotted line on *figure 3*) eastwards to the edge of the lawn/garden area, where a second terrace walls runs in an arc around the north end of the house (also visible in *figure 3*). The presence of this northern terrace wall suggests that the whole garden area may have been flattened for the construction of Melfort Cottage, and the buried soil (502) therefore relates to the use of the house and its gardens, as middening activity. It is clear that the hosue has been terraced into the slope to some degree, as shown in plates *17-18*, below.





Plate 17 View of Kilchoan House showing extent of terracing-in. Facing west from Trench 5 location

Plate 18 Stone-faced terrace wall, north side of Kilchoan House. Facing east

The light scatter of 19th and early 20th century ceramics from the various subsoils in Trenches 1-5 (and the presence of the asphalt in Trench 4) appear to suggest that the area south of House has been profoundly altered in the construction of Kilchoan House, with the area having been stripped more or less to the underlying geology – beach cobbles and gravels or solid bedrock – and that therefore any Early Christian remains have been lost in this area.

Trench 1 demonstrates that, in the area immediately around the House, the bedrock has been terraced flat in the construction of the House. There remains the possibility, therefore, that negative features (such as grave shafts) might be preserved in the footprint of the House, though this will depend on the nature of the wall footings and foundations. Upstanding or subsurface deposits are unlikely to be preserved.

Given the possibility of early Christian activity in the area, the Archaeology Response to the planning application as delivered by WoSAS has stipulated a Watching Brief for the demolition of Kilchoan House and in ground-breaking works around it. The brief Desk-Based Assessment has also highlighted that the area of the estate is one of some archaeological sensitivity, which groundbreaking works will need to take account. It is also possible that, given the application of the Kilchoan place name to settlements in the uplands behind Kilchoan House, that early Christian settlement or remains are preserved in the area of the Kilchoan Farmhouses or indeed elsewhere on the estate.

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Appendix A Context Register

Context No.	Recorded by	Date	Trench	Description
101	AR	09/05/2017	1	Compacted pale grey gravel road surface
102	AR	09/05/2017	1	SW-NE linear drain cut with stone capping [109], filled by (103) and (111)
103	AR	09/05/2017	1	Loose, pale grey sandy fill of [102] overlying stone capping [109]
104	AR	09/05/2017	1	NW-SE linear cut with steep sides and flat base, filled by (105)
105	AR	09/05/2017	1	Loose mid-brownish grey sandy silt fill of [104]
106	AR	09/05/2017	1	NW-SE linear cut with stone capping [110], filled by (107)
107	AR	09/05/2017	1	Loose pale grey sand, fill of drain [106]
108	AR	09/05/2017	1	Bedrock. Mid reddish-brown
109	AR	09/05/2017	1	Large flat subangular unbonded stone capping of drain [102]
110	AR	09/05/2017	1	Large flat subangular unbonded stone capping of drain [106]
111	AR	09/05/2017	1	Loose dark brown sands and gravel; lower fill of drain [102]
201	PK	10/05/2017	2	Topsoil. Light to mid orangey-brown sandy silt
202	PK	10/05/2017	2	Comapcted pale grey gravel road surface
203	PK	10/05/2017	2	Mid to dark-brown sandy silt subsoil with high density large angular bedrock fragments
204	PK	10/05/2017	2	Dark grey-black humic silt overlying bedrock
205	PK	10/05/2017	2	Mottled mid yellowish-orange sandy clay natural above bedrock
206	PK	10/05/2017	2	Mid-grey loose small rounded pebbles below (202), road levelling
301	AR	11/02/2017	3	Compacted pale grey gravel road surface
302	AR	11/02/2017	3	Topsoil. Light to mid orangey-brown sandy silt
303	AR	11/02/2017	3	Pale brownish-grey sandy silt subsoil with gravel and occasional large angular bedrock fragments
304	AR	11/02/2017	3	Dark orangey-brown gravelly sand. Natural overlying bedrock.
305	AR	11/02/2017	3	N-S linear cut for ceramic pipe drain (306) and brick drain
306	AR	11/02/2017	3	Ceramic pipe drain
307	AR	11/02/2017	3	NW-SE linear cut with sloping sides and flat base; filled by (308)
308	AR	11/02/2017	3	Dark brown sandy silt fill of cut [307]
309	AR	11/02/2017	3	Bedrock
310	AR	11/02/2017	3	Loose yellowish-orange gravel and sand levelling below (301)
401	PK	11/02/2017	4	Topsoil. Light to mid orangey-brown sandy silt
402	PK	11/02/2017	4	Comapcted pale grey gravel road surface
403	PK	11/02/2017	4	Mid to dark-brown sandy silt subsoil with high density small to medium rounded beach cobbles
404	PK	11/02/2017	4	Asphalt pad at N end
405	PK	11/02/2017	4	Stone concentration at N end. Large undressed unbonded whin stones and med subrounded cobbles abutting (404).
406	PK	11/02/2017	4	Loose gravels underlying (402), overlying (405). Road levelling.
407	PK	11/02/2017	4	Mid orangey-brown gravels and sandy clay natural.
		10/0=:=:		
501	PK	10/05/2017	5	Topsoil. Light to mid orangey-brown sandy silt
502	PK	10/05/2017	5	Dark grey firm sandy silt subsoil with frequent angular shale and bedrock/whin stone fragments and frequent charcoal flecks
503	PK	10/05/2017	5	Mid yellowish-brown clay with shale fragments, N end
504	PK	10/05/2017	5	Mid orangey-brown gravel natural

Context No.	Recorded by	Date	Trench	Description
505	PK	10/05/2017	5	E-W linear cut with sloping sides and flat or gently rounded base. Filled by (506)
506	PK	10/05/2017	5	Dark grey sandy silt with high density subangular and subrounded cobbles and frequent charcoal flecks
507	PK	10/05/2017	5	N-S shallow linear cut with sloping sides and flat base
508	PK	10/05/2017	5	Dark grey sandy silt with high density small rounded pebbles and frequent charcoal flecks

Appendix B Finds (by Andrew Morrison)

A small assemblage of 24 artefacts was recovered during the archaeological evaluation at Kilchoan House. The assemblage is mostly made up of small ceramic sherds and faunal remains, and also contains a fragment of ceramic building material (CBM), clay tobacco pipe, glass, and worked stone (see Table 2). The artefacts are all domestic in nature, and for the most part relate to the construction and occupation of Kilchoan House, from the mid-19th century onwards, though two of the artefacts (a small ceramic sherd and a fragment of a rotary quern) may be dateable to the medieval or early postmedieval period.

Table 2 Artefact quantity by type

Artefact Type	Quantity	Artefact Type	Quantity
CBM	1	Faunal Remains	10
Ceramic	10	Glass	1
Clay Tobacco Pipe	1	Worked Stone	1
		Total:	24

Trench 1 yielded a small number of artefacts from the upper gravel deposit (101), including a brick fragment (SF001), a small sherd of blue decorated white ware ceramic (SF002), and fragments of a salt-glazed ceramic drain pipe (SF003); two additional fragments of salt-glazed ceramic drain pipe (SF004) were recovered from the fill of drain [102]. All of the finds from Trench 1 are dateable to the mid-19th century or later, and relate to the period of construction and use of Kilchoan House.

Further finds of a late 19th- early 20th century date relating to the occupation period of Kilchoan House include: from Trench 2- an unstratified clay tobacco pipe nib fragment (SF005) with small bore and diamond-shaped cross-section towards the mouthpiece end; a shard of green wine bottle glass (SF006) and small ceramic body sherd of decorated white ware (SF007) with a light blue external glaze, both recovered from the subsoil (203); a small ceramic sherd (SF008) from either the same vessel or same set as (SF007) from the soil overlying bedrock (204); from Trench 3- a small ceramic body sherd of decorated white ware (SF009) with a brown, blue, yellow, and white banded design recovered from the subsoil (303); and from the topsoil within Trench 5- an undecorated white ware ceramic base sherd (SF010).

Artefacts recovered from the midden soils (502) within Trench 5 included a number of faunal remainstooth fragments from a sheep or goat (SF011), and small fragments of burnt rib (SF012)- as well as a small, possibly medieval, unglazed ceramic body sherd with a pinkish-buff coloured fabric (SF013). The fill of a linear ditch (506), sealed below the midden soils (502), contained four tooth fragments from a sheep or goat (SF014), as well as a fragment of a Rotary Quern (SF015).

The fragment of Rotary Quern, pictured below (*Plate 19*), represents approximately ½ of the total circumference of the quern's top grinding stone. A horizontal fracture along the stone has led to the loss of the working surface; the top surface of the quern remains intact. The quern fragment measures approximately 142-149mm in width, with a surviving depth of 40mm, and an external circumference of 400mm and an internal circumference of 80mm. The quern has been shaped along the inner edge of the aperture to assist in funnelling the grain through the opening, and has been shaped and smoothed along the outer face likely both during manufacture and through use. Tool marks can also be seen along the inner face of the aperture, as well as a linear tool mark along the sloping top surface of the quern. Further analysis of the quern will be required in order to assign an appropriate date to the object, as this type of domestic grain processing technology was in use, and remained relatively unchanged, from the Iron Age up to the early 20th century.



Plate 19 SF015, Rotary Quern fragment

Finds	Context	Trench	Material	Quantity	Description	Comments
No.	No.	No.			-	
001	101	1	CBM	1	Brick x1, frag. Hand-formed,	
002	101	1	Ceramic	1	Body sherd, small, blue and white	
003	101	1	Ceramic	2	Ceramic Drain fragments, salt-glazed	
004	103	1	Ceramic	2	Ceramic Drain fragments, salt-glazed	
005	Unstrat	2	Clay Tobacco Pipe	1	Nib fragment, Diamond-shaped section	
					at mouthpiece	
006	203	2	Glass	1	Bottle glass, green body shard	
007	203	2	Ceramic	1	Body sherd, small, light blue outer glaze	Same as SF007
008	204	2	Ceramic	1	Body sherd, small, light blue outer glaze	Same as SF006
009	303	3	Ceramic	1	Body sherd, small, Brown, blue, yellow,	North end
					white bands	
010	501	5	Ceramic	1	Base sherd, Undecorated white ware	
011	502	5	Faunal Remains	4	Tooth fragments	
012	502	5	Faunal Remains	2	Burnt bone, rib frags	
013	502	5	Ceramic	1	Body sherd, poss. Medieval	
014	506	5	Faunal Remains	4	Tooth fragments	
015	506	5	Worked Stone	1	Rotary Quern fragment	

Appendix C Drawings Register

Dwg No.	Sheet	Scale	Туре	Date	Drawn by	Description
1	1	1:20	P		AR	Tr. 1 Plan of Drain [102] with stone capping [109]
2	1	1:10	S		AR	Tr.1 N-facing section of Drain [102]
3	1	1:10	S		AR	Tr. 1 S-facing section through linear feature [104]
4	1	1:10	S		AR	Tr. 1 S-facing section of Drain [106]
5	1	1:20	P		AR	Tr. 1 Plan of linear feature [104]
6	2	1:50	P		PK	Tr. 5 Plan of Trench 5
7	2	1:10	S		PK	Tr. 5 SW-facing of linear feature [507], slot 1
8	2	1:10	S		PK	Tr. 5 SW-facing of linear feature [507], slot 2
9	2	1:10	S		PK	Tr. 5 SW-facing of linear feature [507], slot 3
10	1	1:10	S		AR	Tr.3 S-facing section of linear feature [307], south
11	1	1:10	S		AR	Tr.3 S-facing section of linear feature [307], north
12	2	1:20	P		PK	Tr. 4 Plan of stone concentration [405] and feature [404]
13	1	1:50	P		AR	Tr. 1 Plan of Trench 1
14	2	1:20	S		PK	Tr. 2 W-facing section
15	1	1:20	S		AR	Tr. 1 W-facing section
16	3	1:20	S		PK	Tr. 3 E-facing section
17	3	1:20	S		PK	Tr. 4 E-facing section
18	4	1:20	S		PK	Tr. 5 E-facing section

Appendix D Photograph Register

Image No.	Direction Facing	Date	Description	Initials
001 051	var	08/05/2017	External view of Kilchoan House	PK
052 098	var	08/05/2017	Kilchoan House, ground floor internal views	PK
099	S	09/05/2017	Tr. 1 general view pre-ex	AR
100	N	09/05/2017	Tr. 1 general view pre-ex	AR
101	NE	09/05/2017	Tr. 2 general view pre-ex	AR
102	NE	09/05/2017	Tr. 3 general view pre-ex	AR
103	NE	09/05/2017	Tr. 4 general view pre-ex	AR
104	N	09/05/2017	Tr. 5 general view pre-ex	AR
105	S	09/05/2017	Tr. 1 general view	AR
106	S	09/05/2017	Tr. 1 general view	AR
107	N	09/05/2017	Tr. 1 general view	AR
108	N	09/05/2017	Tr. 1 general view	AR
109	SW	09/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [102] and fill (103) pre-ex	AR
110	SW	09/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [102] and fill (103) pre-ex	AR
111	S	09/05/2017	Tr. 1 Linear Cut [104] with fill (105) pre-ex	AR
112	N	09/05/2017	Tr. 1 Linear Cut [104] with fill (105) pre-ex	AR

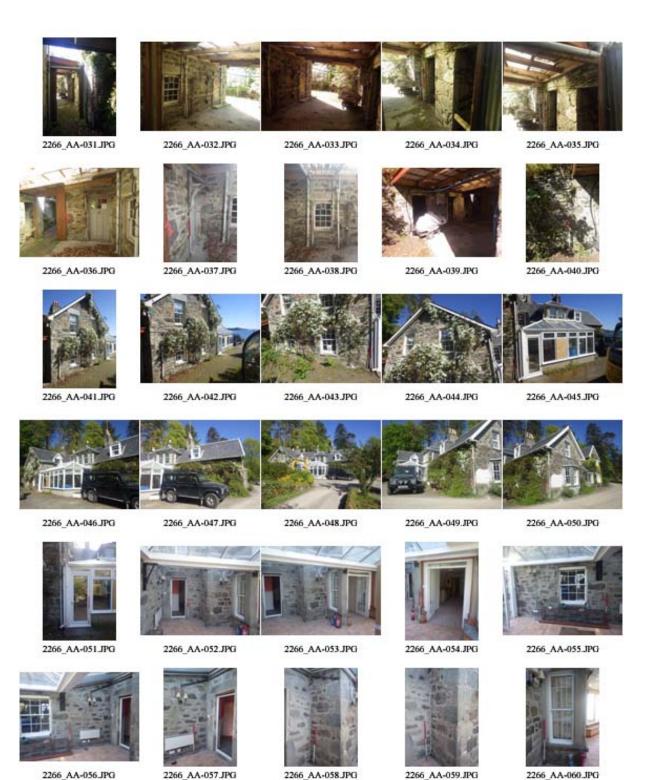
Image No.	Direction Facing	Date	Description	Initials
113	S	09/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [106] with fill (107) pre-ex	AR
114	S	09/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [106] with fill (107) pre-ex	AR
115	N	09/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [106] with fill (107) pre-ex	AR
116	S	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [102] with stone capping [109]	AR
117	SW	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [102] with stone capping [109]	AR
118	W	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [102] with stone capping [109]	AR
119	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [102] with stone capping [109]	AR
120	S	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [102] with stone capping [109]	AR
121	NW	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [102] with stone capping [109] post-ex	AR
122	NW	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [102] with stone capping [109] post-ex	AR
123	NW	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [102] with stone capping [109] post-ex	AR
124	NW	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [102] with stone capping [109] post-ex	AR
125	S	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [102] with stone capping [109] post-ex	AR
126	S	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [102], N-facing section	AR
127	S	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [102], N-facing section	AR
128	W	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [102], detail of base	AR
129	SW	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [102], internal detail	AR
130	S	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Linear Cut [104], central slot post-ex	AR
131	S	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Linear Cut [104], central slot post-ex	AR
132	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Linear Cut [104], central slot post-ex	AR
133	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Linear Cut [104], central slot post-ex	AR
134	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 S-facing section, linear cut [104]	AR
135	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 S-facing section, linear cut [104], detail	AR
136	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 S-facing section, linear cut [104]	AR
137	Е	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [106] with stone capping [110]	AR
138	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [106] with stone capping [110]	AR
139	S	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [106] with stone capping [110]	AR
140	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [106], S-facing section	AR
141	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [106], S-facing section	AR
142	W	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [106] with stone capping [110]	AR
143	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 5 general view post-ex	PK
144	S	10/05/2017	Tr. 5 general view post-ex	PK
145	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 5 general view N-S linear [507] pre-ex	PK
146	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 5 general view N-S linear [507] pre-ex	PK
147	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 5 general view N-S linear [505] pre-ex	PK
148	S	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [102], N-facing section	AR
149	S	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [102], N-facing section	AR
150	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [106], S-facing section	AR
151	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [106], S-facing section	AR
152	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Drain [106], S-facing section	AR
153	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Linear Cut [104], S-facing section	AR
154	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Linear Cut [104], S-facing section	AR
155	Е	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Linear Cut [104], terminal end slot post-ex	AR
156	S	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Linear Cut [104], terminal end slot post-ex	AR
157	S	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Linear Cut [104], terminal end slot post-ex	AR
158	S	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Linear Cut [104], terminal end slot post-ex	AR
159	S	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Linear Cut [104], N-facing section	AR
160	W	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Linear Cut [104], terminal end slot post-ex	AR
161	S	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Linear Cut [104], N-facing section	AR
162	S	10/05/2017	Tr. 1 Linear Cut [104], N-facing section	AR
163	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 5, general view post-ex	AR

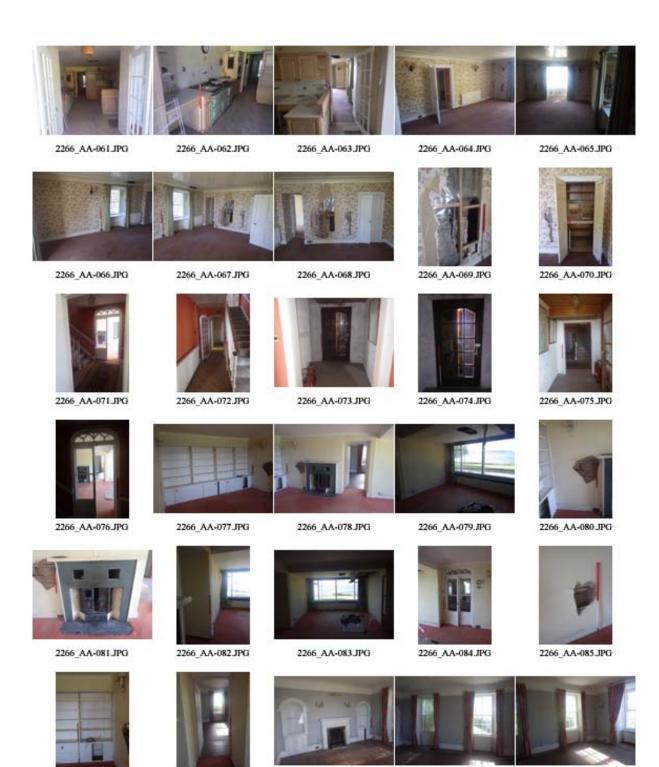
Image No.	Direction Facing	Date	Description	Initials
164	N	10/05/2017	Tr. 5, Ditch [505] slot post-ex	PK
165	Е	10/05/2017	Tr. 5, Ditch [505], W-facing section	PK
166	NE	10/05/2017	Tr. 5, N-S Linear Cut [507] post-ex	PK
167	NE	10/05/2017	Tr. 5, Linear Cut [507], SW-facing section, slot 1 (south)	PK
168	NE	10/05/2017	Tr. 5, Linear Cut [507], SW-facing section, slot 2 (central)	PK
169	NE	10/05/2017	Tr. 5, Linear Cut [507], SW-facing section, slot 2 (north)	PK
170	SW	10/05/2017	Tr. 5, N-S Linear Cut [507] post-ex	PK
171	W	10/05/2017	Tr.5, Ditch [505], E-facing section	PK
172	W	10/05/2017	Tr.5, Ditch [505], E-facing section	PK
173	S	11/05/2017	Tr. 3 general view post-ex	AR
174	S	11/05/2017	Tr. 3 general view post-ex	AR
175	N	11/05/2017	Tr. 3 general view post-ex	AR
176	N	11/05/2017	Tr. 3 general view post-ex	AR
177	NE	11/05/2017	Tr. 2 general view post-ex	AR
178	NE	11/05/2017	Tr. 2 general view post-ex	AR
179	SW	11/05/2017	Tr. 2 general view post-ex	AR
180	SW	11/05/2017	Tr. 2 general view post-ex	AR
181	var	11/05/2017	Tr. 3 detail of Drain [305] stamped brick	AR
182	var	11/05/2017		
183	var	11/05/2017	Tr. 3 detail of Drain [305] stamped brick	AR AR
184	var	11/05/2017	Tr. 3 detail of Drain [305] stamped brick	+
185	var	11/05/2017	Tr. 3 detail of Drain [305] stamped brick	AR
186	var	11/05/2017	Tr. 3 detail of Drain [305] stamped brick	AR
187	N	11/05/2017	Tr. 3 detail of Drain [305] stamped brick	AR
188	N	11/05/2017	Tr. 2 general view post-ex	AR
189	S	11/05/2017	Tr. 2 general view post-ex	AR
190	S	11/05/2017	Tr. 2 general view post-ex	AR
191	S	11/05/2017	Tr. 3 general view post-ex	AR
191	S	11/05/2017	Tr. 3 general view post-ex	AR
192	N	11/05/2017	Tr. 3 general view post-ex	AR
193	N	11/05/2017	Tr. 3 general view post-ex	AR
			Tr. 3 general view post-ex	AR
195	N	11/05/2017	Tr. 3, linear Cut [307], S-facing section, S slot	AR
196	N	11/05/2017	Tr. 3, linear Cut [307], S-facing section, S slot	AR
197	N	11/05/2017	Tr. 3, linear Cut [307], S-facing section, N slot	AR
198	N	11/05/2017	Tr. 4, general view post-ex	PK
199	S	11/05/2017	Tr. 4, general view post-ex	PK
200	N	11/05/2017	Tr. 4, stone concentration [405] detail	PK
201	Е	11/05/2017	Tr. 4, stone concentration [405] detail	PK
202	S	11/05/2017	Tr. 4, stone concentration [405] detail	PK
203	N	11/05/2017	Tr. 1 general view post-ex	AR
204	N	11/05/2017	Tr. 1 general view post-ex	AR
205	N	11/05/2017	Tr. 1 general view post-ex	AR
206	S	11/05/2017	Tr. 1 general view post-ex	AR
207	S	11/05/2017	Tr. 1 general view post-ex	AR
208	S	11/05/2017	Tr. 1 general view post-ex	AR
209 220	Е	12/05/2017	Tr. 1, W-facing section, N-S	AR
221 232	W	12/05/2017	Tr. 1, E-facing section, S-N	AR
233 240	Е	12/05/2017	Tr. 2, W-facing section, N-S	AR
241 249	W	12/05/2017	Tr. 2, E-facing section, S-N	AR

Image	Direction	Date	Description	Initials
No.	Facing			
250	Е	12/05/2017		
261			Tr. 4, W-facing section, N-S	AR
262	W	12/05/2017		
274			Tr. 4, E-facing section, S-N	AR
275	E	12/05/2017		
287			Tr. 5, W-facing section, S-N	AR
288	W	12/05/2017		
299			Tr. 5, E-facing section, N-S	AR
300	E	12/05/2017		
313			Tr. 3, W-facing section, S-N	AR
314	W	12/05/2017		
327			Tr. 3, E-facing section, N-S	AR
328	var	12/05/2017		
349			Jetty general views	AR
350	var	12/05/2017		
351			Small stone and concrete-mortar structure W of chapel	AR
352	var	12/05/2017		
358			Petroglyphs on shore bedrock	AR
359	var	12/05/2017		
360			General views Kilchoan House from jetty area	AR
361	var	12/05/2017		
455			Kilchoan House, internal views	AR/PK

Appendix E Photograph Thumbnails







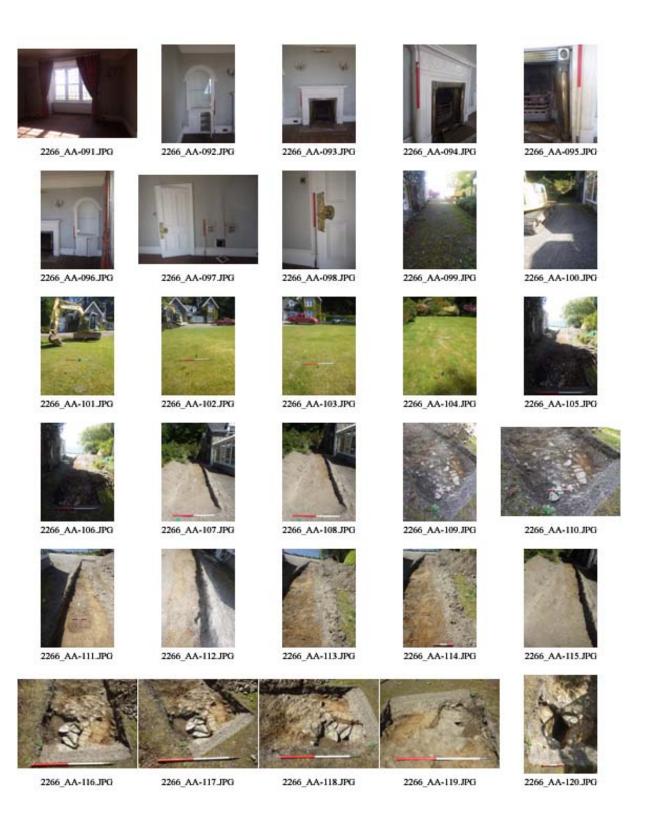
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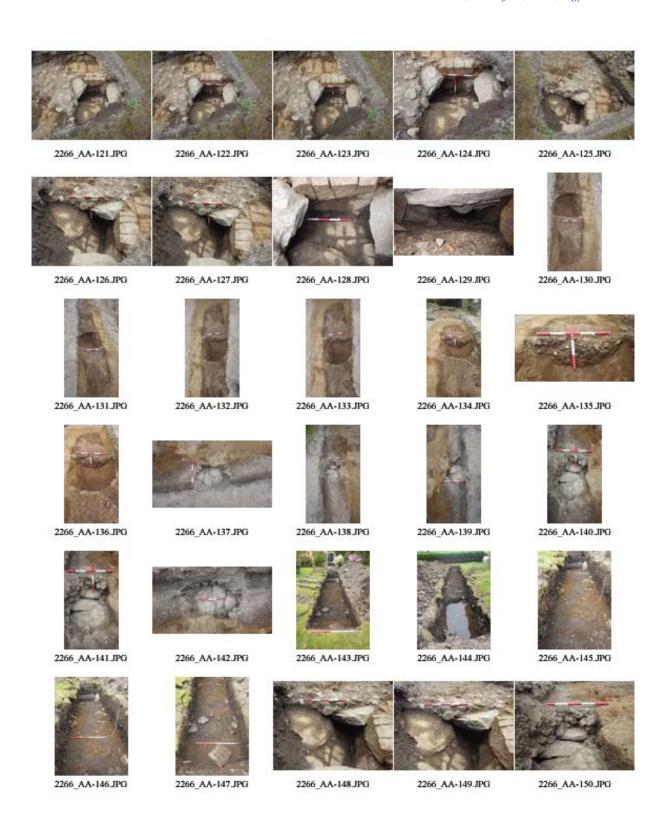
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2266_AA-086.JPG

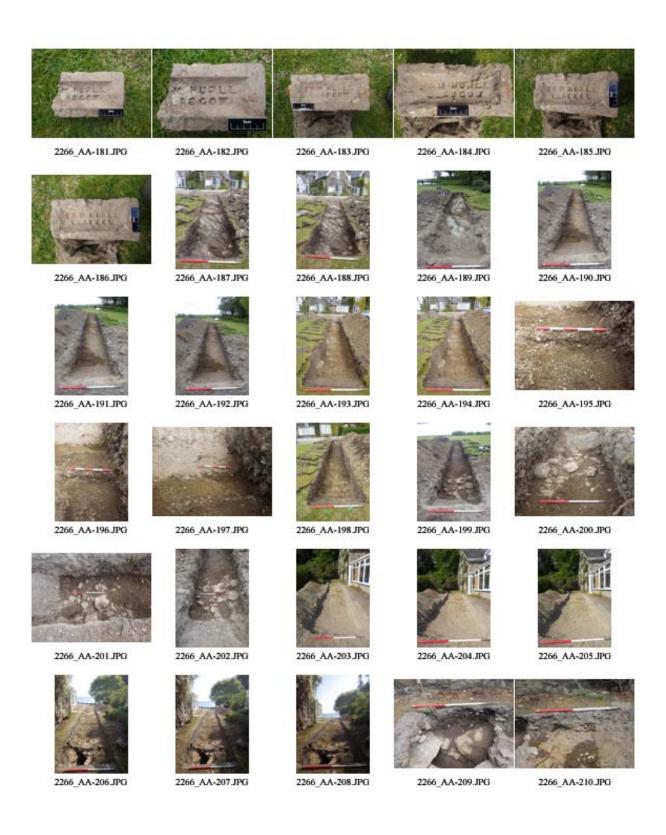
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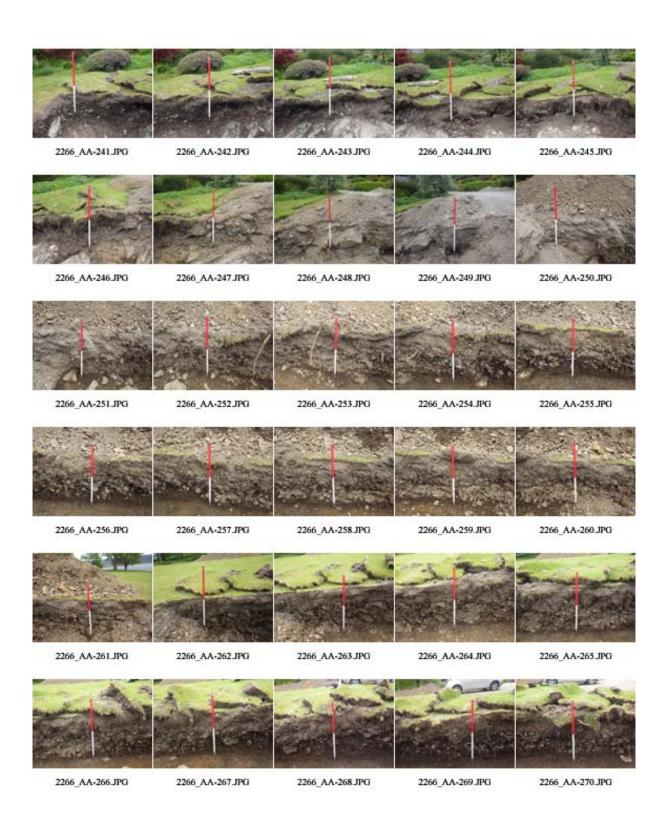


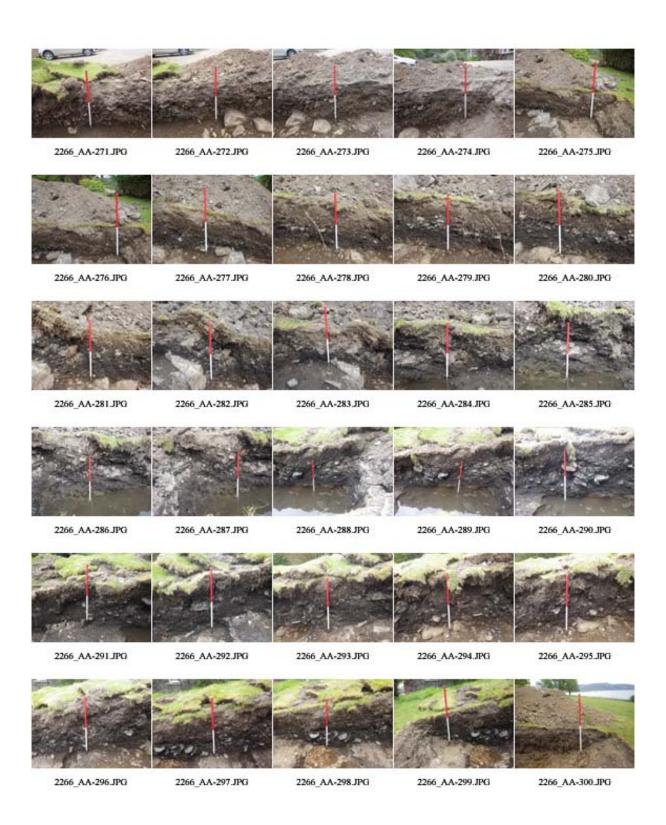




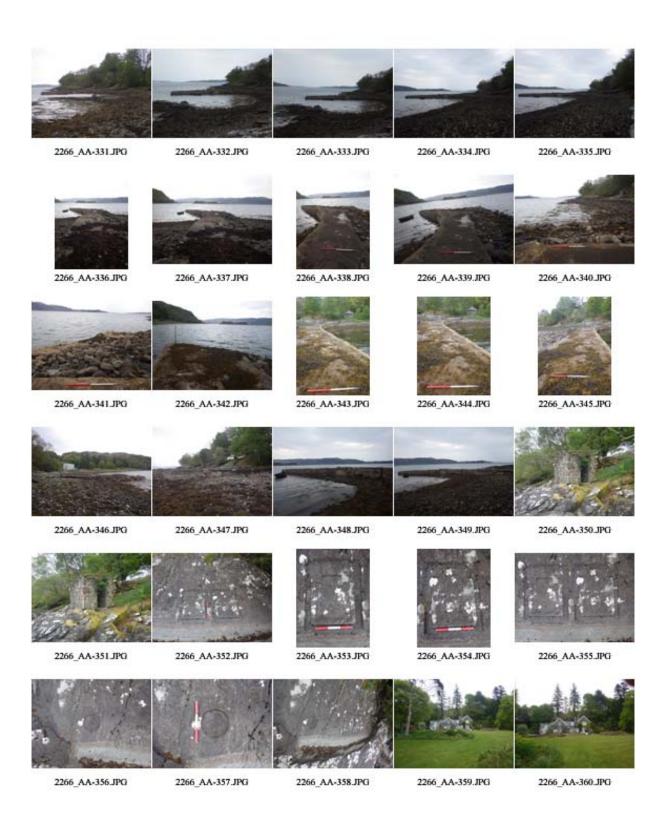
























2266_AA-362.JPG 2266_AA-363.JPG







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2266_AA-368.JPG





2266_AA-371.JPG











2266_AA-376.JPG





2266_AA-382.JPG

2266_AA-377.JPG







2266_AA-381.JPG











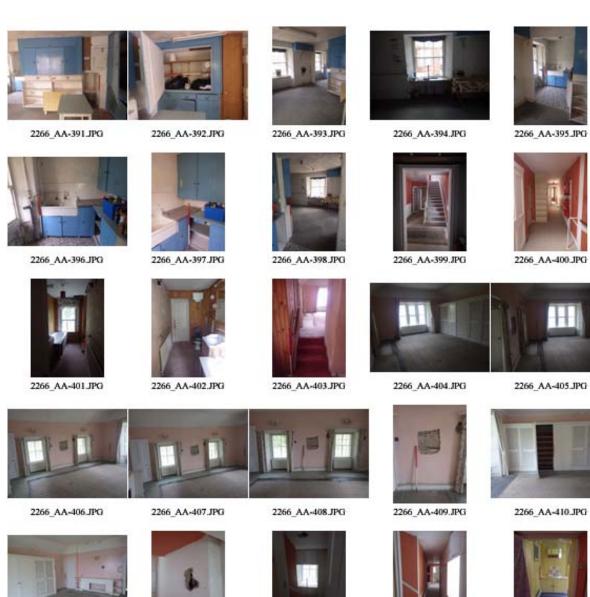
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Appendix F DES Entry

Appendix F DES Entry	T	
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Argyll & Bute	
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Kilchoan House, Kilmelford, Oban	
PROJECT CODE:	AA 2266	
PARISH:	Kilbrandon and Kilchattan	
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Philip Karsgaard	
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Addyman Archaeology	
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological evaluation	
NMRS NO(S):	NM71SE 8	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Building	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Rotary quern fragment	
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NM 7961 1335	
START DATE (this season)	08/05/2017	
END DATE (this season)	12/05/2017	
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	-	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Addyman Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation and historic building recording associated with the construction of a new dwelling on the site of the existing Kilchoan House, Kilmelford, Argyll & Bute. The evaluation was designed to inform on the extent, depth and nature of any buried archaeology in the vicinity of the existing house in advance of its demolition, given its setting in a sensitive archaeological landscape and in the attested finds of human remains during the house's initial construction. A programme of trial trenching using a 7-tonne flat-bladed tracked excavator was therefore undertaken at Kilmelford House from 8 th – 12 th of May 2017. Five trenches were excavated on the west, south and east sides of the existing house. All trenches were excavated to the underlying geological strata. Trench 1, on the west flank of the house, revealed linear drainage features associated with the existing house and a linear ditch of uncertain date. Trenches 2-4 were excavated to the south of the house. Trench 2 was excavated to bedrock without revealing significant features. Trench 3 exposed a single linear feature of uncertain date, and Trench 4 a possible stone concentration and modern asphalt feature probably associated with the house road construction. Trench 5, sited on the slope to the east of the house, revealed a c.0.80m thick charcoal and animal-bone rich garden soil or midden deposit, sealing two linear features, from one of which a rotary-quern fragment was recovered. No direct evidence of the early Christian burial ground or chapel was revealed by the evaluation.	
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Watching brief on downtakings	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:		
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Kilmelford Estate Ltd	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Printworks, 77a Brunswick Street Edinburgh EH7 5HS	
EMAIL ADDRESS:	philkarsgaard@addyman-archaeology.co.uk	
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NRHE at HES	