

Carrick Avenue, Saltcoats: Evaluation

Data Structure Report

On behalf of: McMillan & Cronin Architects,
24 Main Street,
Largs
KA30 8AB

National Grid Reference (NGR): NS 252 432

AOC Archaeology Project No: 20551

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Timing: May 2007

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0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by McMillan & Cronin in respect to a proposed development at Carrick Avenue, Saltcoats. The proposed development site lies within the administrative area of North Ayrshire Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). WoSAS recommended an intrusive archaeological evaluation of the development area prior to the determination of any planning application. The work was required in accordance with NPPG 5 (SOEnD 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnD 1994a). A programme of works designed to fully satisfy and meet the anticipated requirements of North Ayrshire Council, as advised by WoSAS, was outlined in a *Written Scheme of Investigation*, WSI (Cook 2007).
- 0.2 Stage 1 of the archaeological works as stated in the WSI (Cook 2007) was designed to determine the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area by means of an intrusive field evaluation.
- 0.3 The evaluation trenches uncovered no features of archaeological significance. The topsoil was found to contain later 19th Century and 20th Century ceramic and glass sherds with Later 20th Century debris, such as plastic also present lying across the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site location

- 1.1.1 The proposed development site is located to the north of Carrick Avenue, Saltcoats, North Ayrshire and centred on (NGR: NS 252 432). The site is bounded to the south by housing and to the north by Shaphill Industrial Estate, to the east is Dalry Road and to the west are open fields. The proposed development covers an area of approximately 2.96 hectares.

1.2 Archaeological background

- 1.2.1 There are no known archaeological remains within the area affected by the proposed development.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the Stage 1 evaluation were to:
- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area;

- ii) should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, to prepare a mitigation strategy compliant with NPPG 5 and PAN 42.

3 METHOD

- 3.1 The *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Cook 2007) proposed the excavation of trenches equating to at least 5% of the development area. The site covered 3 ha resulting in an evaluation requiring investigation of 1500 m². The proposed trench location as agreed prior to the works beginning with WoSAS required modification in the field in light of the current ground conditions. The presence of banded material along the eastern boundary and presence of areas of standing water meant that Trenches 9 and 10 had to be moved.
- 3.2 In total ten trenches were excavated totalling 1512 m² which equates to just over 5% of the proposed development area. Figure 1 shows the location of each trench.
- 3.3 All trenches were excavated with a 13 tonne tracked 360° excavator using a 2.0 m wide ditching bucket. The trench details are summarised in Appendix 1.
- 3.4 Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through the made ground to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits.
- 3.5 At all times the evaluation trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures detailed with the WSI (Cook 2007).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The weather conditions during the evaluation were mostly dry with occasional short showers in the early part of the evaluation. The works were conducted between 15th and 17th May 2007.
- 4.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as a series of appendices:

- i) Appendix 1 contains trench summaries;
- ii) Appendix 2 contains the photographic register;
- iii) Appendix 3 reproduces the Discovery & Excavation entry.

4.2 Overview

- 4.2.1 No archaeological significant features, deposits or artefacts were encountered during the evaluation. Examination of the spoil from trenches did not lead to the recovery of any archaeologically unstratified artefacts.
- 4.2.2 The eastern portion of the site has seen some modern disturbance either linked to the existing housing to the south of the site, Carrick Avenue or the industrial estate directly to the North of the site. Areas of standing water and sudden differences in ground topography across the eastern part of site appear to relate directly to services, such as drainage and water, serving the industrial estate.

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1. The evaluation trenching provided comprehensive coverage across the site and the trenches were adjusted in the field to ensure the most suitable topographic features were examined. However no archaeology was encountered. The lack of finds from the spoil would also suggest that no significant archaeology lies within the development area.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 We recommend that given the scale of the evaluation undertaken that no further works are required.

7. REFERENCES

Cook, M. 2007 *Carrick Avenue, Saltcoats Evaluation Written of Investigation*
AOC Archaeology Client Report

SOEnD 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline NPPG 5. Archaeology and Planning*. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

SOEnD 1994a *Planning Advice Note 42. Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	200 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth to Subsoil</i>	Between 0.31 m at E end and 0.20 m at W end
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology. 19 th /20 th century ceramics & modern/late 20 th century debris.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Total area</i>	200 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth to Subsoil</i>	Between 0.27 m at N end and 0.28 m at S end.
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology. Patches of burnt clay/brick, reddish orange running across trench N-S.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Total area</i>	200 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	ESE-WNW
<i>Depth to Subsoil</i>	Between 0.28 m at ESE end and 0.27 m at WNW end.
<i>Significant Features</i>	Possible posthole at 21.80m, centre 0.55m from N side of trench. Diameter=0.21, depth=0.18. Fill=mid greyish brown silty clay.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	100 m by 2 m
<i>Total area</i>	200 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth to Subsoil</i>	Between 0.25 m at E end and 0.26 m at W end
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology. Topsoil contains some modern cans, pottery & glass.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	50 m by 2 m
<i>Total area</i>	100 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	ENE-WSW
<i>Depth to Subsoil</i>	Between 0.23 m at ENE end and 0.25 m at WSW end
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	95 m by 2 m
<i>Total area</i>	190 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth to Subsoil</i>	Between 0.20 m at N end and 0.25 m at S end
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology. Bedrock encountered from 27m-31m on east side of trench.
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	70 m by 2 m
<i>Total area</i>	140 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NE-SW
<i>Depth to Subsoil</i>	Between 0.26 m at NE end and 0.22 m at SW end.
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology.

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Finds None

Trench 8

Dimensions 66 m by 2 m

Total area 132 m²

Orientation N-S

Depth to Subsoil Between 0.23 m at N end and 0.22 m at S end

Significant Features No archaeology. 40.10m -66m shallow linear feature running NNW-SSE, approx. 0.32m wide, curving slightly, contains modern glass, ceramics and plastic.

Finds None

Trench 9

Dimensions 40m by 2 m

Total area 80 m²

Orientation N-S

Depth to Subsoil Between 0.35 m at S end and 0.40 m at N end

Significant Features No archaeology. Trench stopped at 40m due to saturated ground.

Finds None

Trench 10

Dimensions 35 m by 2 m

Total area 70 m²

Orientation ENE-WSW

Depth to Subsoil Between 0.24 m at ENE end and 0.26 m at WSW end

Significant Features No archaeology.

Finds None

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Colour Slide and Black & White Print – FILM No.1

Shot No.	Area	Description	From
1-2	-	Registration shots	-
3-4	Tr3	View of Trench 3	E
5-6	Tr4	View of Trench 4	E
7-8	Tr5	View of Trench 5	E
9-10	Tr6	View of Trench 6	S
11-12	Tr7	View of Trench 7	SW
13-14	Tr8	View of Trench 8	N
15-22		View of site passing from N to NE to E – showing trenches 1-8 open and 10 under excavation	S-W
23-24		View of band along W edge of site	SE
25-26	Tr9	View of Trench 9	N
27-28	Tr10	View of Trench 10	ENE
29-31		General view of Saltcoats site with trenches 1-4 open – from NE corner	E/NE
32-33	Tr1	View of Trench 1	E
34-35	Tr2	View of Trench 2	E

APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Carrick Avenue, Saltcoats Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20551
PARISH:	Ardrossan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Lindsay Dunbar
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 252 432
START DATE (this season)	15 th May 2007
END DATE (this season)	17 th May 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A programme of archaeological works was required by McMillan & Cronin prior to the determination of any planning application for a greenfield development on the North side of Saltcoats. AOC Archaeology were commissioned to undertake a 5% archaeological evaluation. The evaluation consisting of ten trenches totaling 1512 m ² was conducted between 15 th May and 17 th May 2007. Across the western portion of the site was encountered modern dumped material and disturbance associated with existing housing and industrial estate either side of the development area. The evaluation uncovered no features or artefacts of archaeological significance.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	McMillan & Cronin
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	C/o AOC Archaeology Group
EMAIL ADDRESS:	ronant@aocscot.co.uk

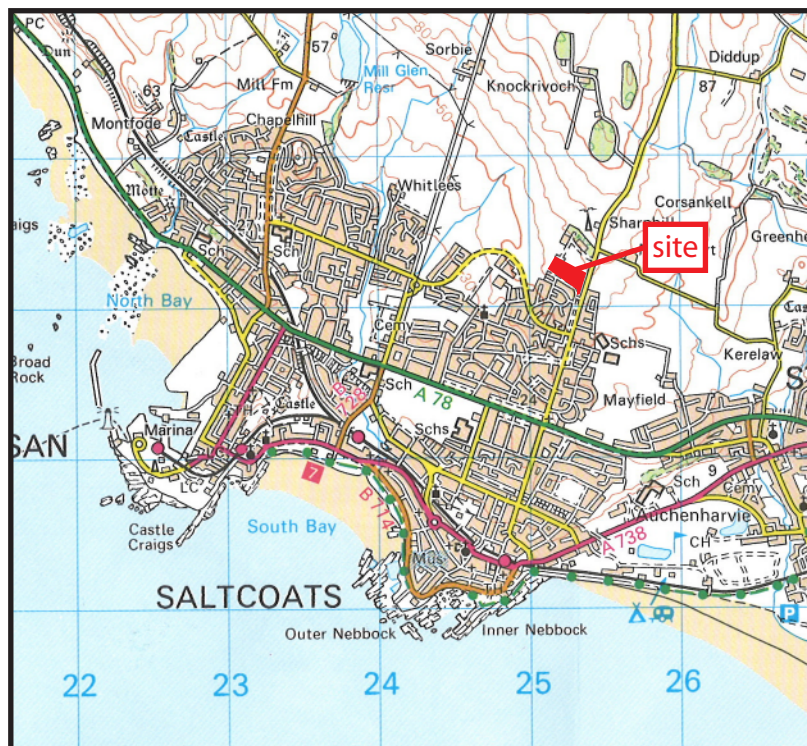
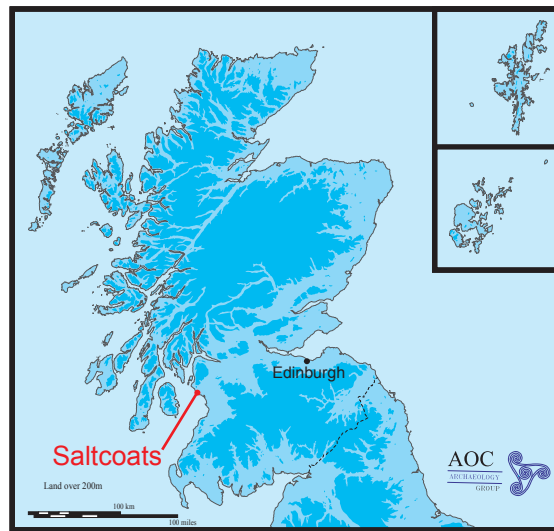


Figure 1: Site location

