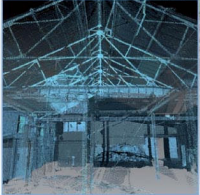
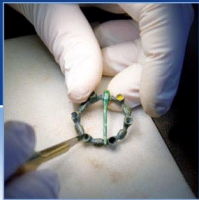


Greenan, Ayr, Archaeological Works: Data Structure Report

Oasis No: aocarcha1-287715

AOC Project 21622

May 2017



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Greenan, Ayr, Archaeological Works: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Mctaggart & Mickel Ltd. 1 Atlantic Quay 1 Robertson Street Glasgow G2 8JB
National Grid Reference [NGR]:	NS 3140 1877
AOC Project No:	AOC 21622
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Date of Fieldwork:	30th May – 5th June 2017
Date of Report:	12th June 2017

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Abstract

This report presents the results of archaeological works undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at the site of Greenan, Ayr (NGR: NS 3140 1877).

The works consisted of a monitored top-soil strip and subsequent excavation undertaken in May/June 2017. This was a continuation of the Phase 2 top-soil strip initiated in 2015.

A series of archaeological works has been ongoing at the development site since 2001. During this time a significant number of structures, features and artefacts have been uncovered relating to archaeological activity ranging from the Mesolithic to the Medieval/Post Medieval periods.

The current works revealed several large curvilinear ditch features of probable post-medieval date. These were an apparent continuation of features recorded during the 2015 archaeological works. A stone filled fire-pit and two post-holes were also revealed during the current works.

No small finds were recovered during the works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of phased archaeological works were required as a condition of planning consent (09/00683/OUT) prior to and during the development of a residential area at Greenan, Ayr. The development area consists of a green-field site covering approximately 30.34 ha and lies within the administrative area of South Ayrshire Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (Scottish Government 2011).
- 1.1.2 A series of archaeological works has been ongoing at the development site since 2001. During this time a significant number of structures, features and artefacts have been uncovered relating to archaeological activity ranging from the Mesolithic to the Medieval/Post Medieval periods.
- 1.1.3 This report details the results of a monitored topsoil strip and subsequent excavation undertaken within the development area during 2017. This was a continuation of the Phase 2 top-soil strip undertaken in 2015.
- 1.1.3 Several large curvilinear ditches of probable post-medieval date were recorded. These are an apparent continuation of features revealed in 2015. In addition two post-hole features and a stone lined fire-pit were recorded.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development site is located immediately to the north of Dunure Road, Greenan, Ayr, South Ayrshire (centred NGR: NS 3140 1877). The site is bounded to the east by a residential development and to the west by utilised agricultural land. Greenan Castle and utilised agricultural land bounds the site area to the north (Figure 1). The majority of the site is low-lying, undulating ground with a high point of 25 m OD. A marked ridgeline runs across the western edge of the Phase 1 boundary.
- 1.2.2 The site is composed of undulating former agricultural land underlain by drift geology of marly shale and cement-stone with occasional bands of sandstone (British Geological Survey 1949).
- 1.2.3 The current works are located to the immediate east of the 2015 works and consist of a single land parcel 0.9ha in area.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The development and the surrounding area have been subject to various archaeological investigations since 2001;

- Desk Based Assessment: Thomson, L. 2001 Greenan, Ayr: archaeological desk based assessment. AOC Archaeology Group.
- Fieldwalking Survey: Engl, R P & Cook 2001 Greenan, Ayr, South Ayrshire (Maybole parish), Fieldwalking. Discovery Excavation Scot. Vol 2 p 89.
- 5% evaluation 2010, Engl, R P 2010 *Greenan, Ayr: Evaluation Data Structure Report*. Unpublished AOC Archive Document.
- Targeted Topsoil Monitoring 2010, Engl, R P 2010a *Greenan, Ayr, Phase 1 Area Evaluation (Secondary Works): Data Structure Report*. Unpublished AOC Archive Document.
- Targeted Topsoil Monitoring 2012, Engl, RP *Greenan, Ayr, Phase 1 Monitored Topsoil strip: Data Structure Report*. Unpublished AOC Archive Document.
- Targeted Topsoil Monitoring 2015, Engl, RP *Greenan, Ayr, Phase 2 Monitored Topsoil strip: Data Structure Report*. Unpublished AOC Archive Document.

In addition, an evaluation and excavation of a large enclosure immediately to the east of the development area was conducted by AOC Archaeology in 2011.

1.3.2 The five phases of archaeological investigation have identified substantial evidence for the prehistoric occupation of the site. This includes structural evidence, linear ditches and pit features. This has so far generated between 800 and 1000 finds which includes a large assemblage of Mesolithic flints along with coarse stone artefacts, Neolithic and Iron Age ceramics and a Neolithic Langdale axe and axe fragment.

1.3.3 Linear features and associated pits and post-holes have also been uncovered which may relate to post-medieval farming. The features are the possible remains of boundary ditches, dykes and stock enclosures. A small assemblage of Scottish Reduced Ware was recovered from these features.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i. the identification, excavation, soil sampling and recording of all significant archaeological features within the identified zone of archaeological importance;
- ii. the retrieval of a representative artefact assemblage;
- iii. upon conclusion of the excavation, to prepare a post-excavation research design (*PERD*) to be agreed by WoSAS on behalf of City of South Ayrshire Council. This work may begin with an assessment stage, to establish the potential of the materials (soil samples & all artefact categories) recovered from the excavation. The post-excavation phase will address issues arising from the excavation. The *PERD* will be pertinent to the quantity, quality, character, date and condition of retrieved small finds and soil samples when considered against the series of research questions raised by the excavated features;
- iv. the post-excavation analysis of recovered material;
- v. publication/dissemination plan for the results of the excavations bringing the findings into the public and academic domain.

3 PROGRAMME OF WORKS

3.1 Monitored topsoil strip

- 3.1.1 The archaeological works, laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), were designed fully to meet the requirements of WoSAS and are in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy (2014)* and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology (2011)* in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which were present within the development area.
- 3.1.2 Working in conjunction with the contractor the monitored topsoil strip covered the area in locations where the development necessitated a physical impact on existing ground levels. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.

3.2 Excavation of features within the topsoil stripped area

- 3.2.1 Following surface cleaning and identification of features the excavation process involved:
 - the excavation of structural elements including posthole, pit and ring ditch comprised the removal of 100% of archaeological sediment by hand;
 - the excavation of non-structural elements and isolated features including posthole and/or pits comprised the removal of 50% of archaeological sediment by hand unless finds/material inclusions dictate otherwise;

- large linear features was subject to excavation by hand sufficient (minimum 10%) to characterize their significance, form, function, condition and date at the same time retrieving a fully representative artefact/ecofact assemblage;
- standard palaeoenvironmental samples (minimum 20 litres) was recovered where possible from every significant soil context.

3.2.2 This process of excavation, recording and sampling continued until drift geology is met. See WSI Appendix 9 for detailed description of general procedures.

3.2.3 Given the large area of the investigation and the widespread nature of the archaeological remains the features were grouped and recorded by survey base lines.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological works were undertaken between the 30th May and 5th June 2017. The works were conducted in predominantly fine weather conditions allowing for good archaeological visibility. The various data gathered is presented as a series of appendices:

- i) Appendix 1 the context register;
- ii) Appendix 2 the photographic record;
- iii) Appendix 3 the drawing register;
- iv) Appendix 4 the sample register;
- v) Appendix 5 reproduces the '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' entry

4.1.2 Overall weather conditions were generally fair and good archaeological visibility was present throughout the excavation. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-7, Figures 1-3 and Plates 1-2.

4.1.3 The excavation revealed topsoil comprising soft light brown silty clay with numerous small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. The top-soil ranged from 0.30 m to 0.50 m in depth. Occasional sherds of modern white ceramic and glass were observed throughout the topsoil. Natural subsoil consisted of sands and gravels.

4.1.3 Occasional tile field drains were encountered across the site. The drains ran approximately west to east draining from the high ground to the east. Several hand dug slots were excavated through these drains to confirm they were not of archaeological significance.

4.2 Archaeological Features

4.2.1 Five curvilinear ditches [1703-1705-1707-1709-1713], two post-holes [1701-1717] and a stone filled fire-pit [1715] were recorded within the southern bounds of the current top-soil strip. The cut features were relatively homogenous containing sterile, pale brown sandy silts with occasional sub-angular stones. The features were relatively truncated showing a similar range of restricted depths.

4.2.1 Pit/Post-holes [1701-1717]

4.2.1.1 Two truncated, circular cut features [1701-1717] were recorded between the curvilinear ditches [1709-1707]. The shallow pit [1701] measured 0.70m in diameter and 0.12m in depth. The pit had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. The post-hole [1717] was 0.40 m in diameter with a depth of 0.20m. The feature had steeply sloping sides and a gently rounded base. The fill of these features as with the majority of the other fills was a sterile, light brown sandy silt.



Plate 1 Fire-pit [1715] west facing section

4.2.2 Fire-pit [1715]

4.2.2.1 An isolated stone filled, oval fire-pit was recorded within the central portion of the area strip. This feature was 1.20m by 1.0m in size with a maximum depth of 0.15m. The feature had steeply sloping sides and a concave base, and was filled by a deposit of fire-cracked stones overlying a deposit of burnt, organic sandy silt with occasional flecks of charcoal.



Plate 2 Slots 1 & 2 [1705-1707-1709] from south

4.2.3 Curvilinear Ditches [1705-1707-1709-1713]

4.2.3.1 A group of curvilinear ditches were recorded within the south-western corner of the strip. Three of these ditches [1705-1707-1709] appeared to be associated and may represent the replacement of a single ditch over a period of time. All three of the ditches appeared to run parallel to each other and were aligned south-west to north-west. The ditch [1707] was the most ephemeral of the three possibly conjoined with ditch [1705] and ending in a rounded terminal to the north. The feature was 13.0m in length and 0.30m to 0.50m in width, with moderately sloping sides and a gently rounded base 0.12m in depth.

4.2.3.2 The ditches [1705-1709] were located to the immediate west of [1707]. These two curvilinear features appeared to run in tandem being 0.40m apart along the full length of their visible extent. The ditches were 23.0m in length with moderately sloping sides and gently rounded bases. Ditch [1705] was the larger of the two ranging between 1.0m to 1.40m in width. The ditch [1709] ranged from 0.50m to 0.80m in width. The depths of the ditches ranged between 0.20m to 0.30m. Both of the ditch features were filled with a single, sterile fill of light brown sandy silt.

4.2.4 Curvilinear Ditch [1703]

4.2.4.1 A further curvilinear ditch was recorded to the east of the ditch cluster. This feature was 16.0m in length with a width ranging from 0.50m to 1.20m. The ditch ran out of the area to the south-east where it was truncated by an existing haul road. To the north the ditch ended in a rounded terminal. The ditch was heavily truncated in places with a depth ranging between 0.07m and 0.22m. the ditch in profile was similar to ditches [1705-1709].

4.2.5 Curvilinear Ditch [1713]

4.2.4.1 A very ephemeral curvilinear ditch was recorded running out of the southern area boundary. This feature was 34.0m in length and appeared to be aligned in reverse to the ditch features [1705-1707-1709]. This feature was 0.50m to 0.60m in width with a gently rounded base.

The ditch was approximately 0.05m in depth and had been badly truncated. As with the other features, the ditch was filled with a single sterile fill of sandy silt.

- 4.2.5 The ditches represent boundary ditches or dykes possibly for stock management. The exact relationship of the curvilinear ditches however remains unclear. It is highly likely that these features are relatively contemporary and represent a continuation of the features recorded in 2017. As such they form the remnant of a larger field system of early post-medieval date.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The current phase of archaeological works at Greenan has revealed the continuation of the post-medieval field system revealed at Greenan in 2015. Taken together with later prehistoric evidence the material at Greenan provides a rare opportunity to study the almost complete chronological development of a Scottish archaeological landscape.
- 5.2 In order to ascertain a more in depth knowledge of the excavation results, a post-excavation research design will be prepared for approval by the planning authority's archaeological advisor. This will describe all necessary and appropriate assessment processes and consequent post-excavation analyses together with publication proposals for the final report. This report will integrate the stratigraphic, contextual and descriptive data from the excavation with specialist post-excavation analyses covering dating, palaeoenvironmental and economic issues, culminating in an article fit for academic publication.

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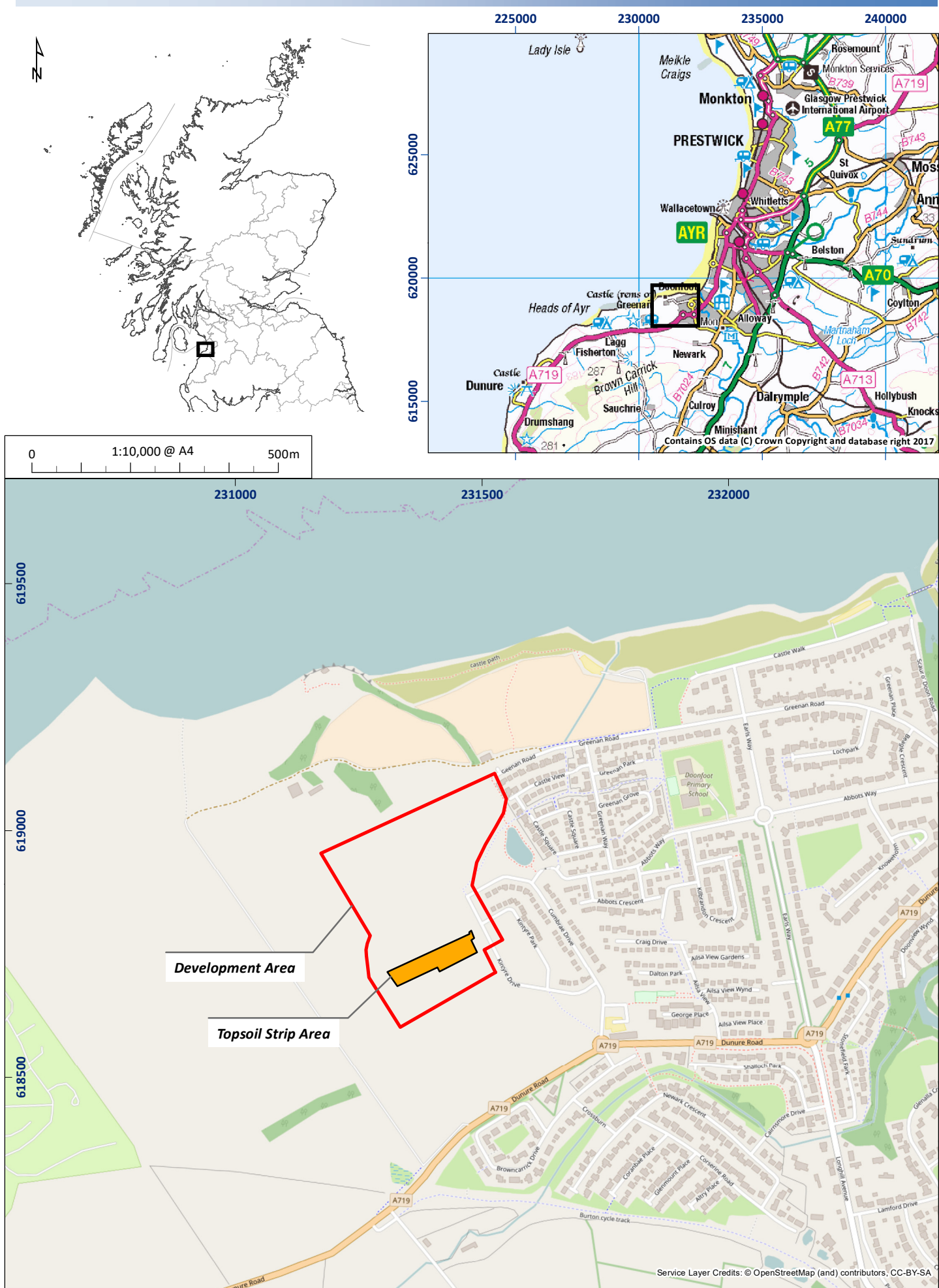


Figure 1: Site location plan

01/21622/REP/01/01

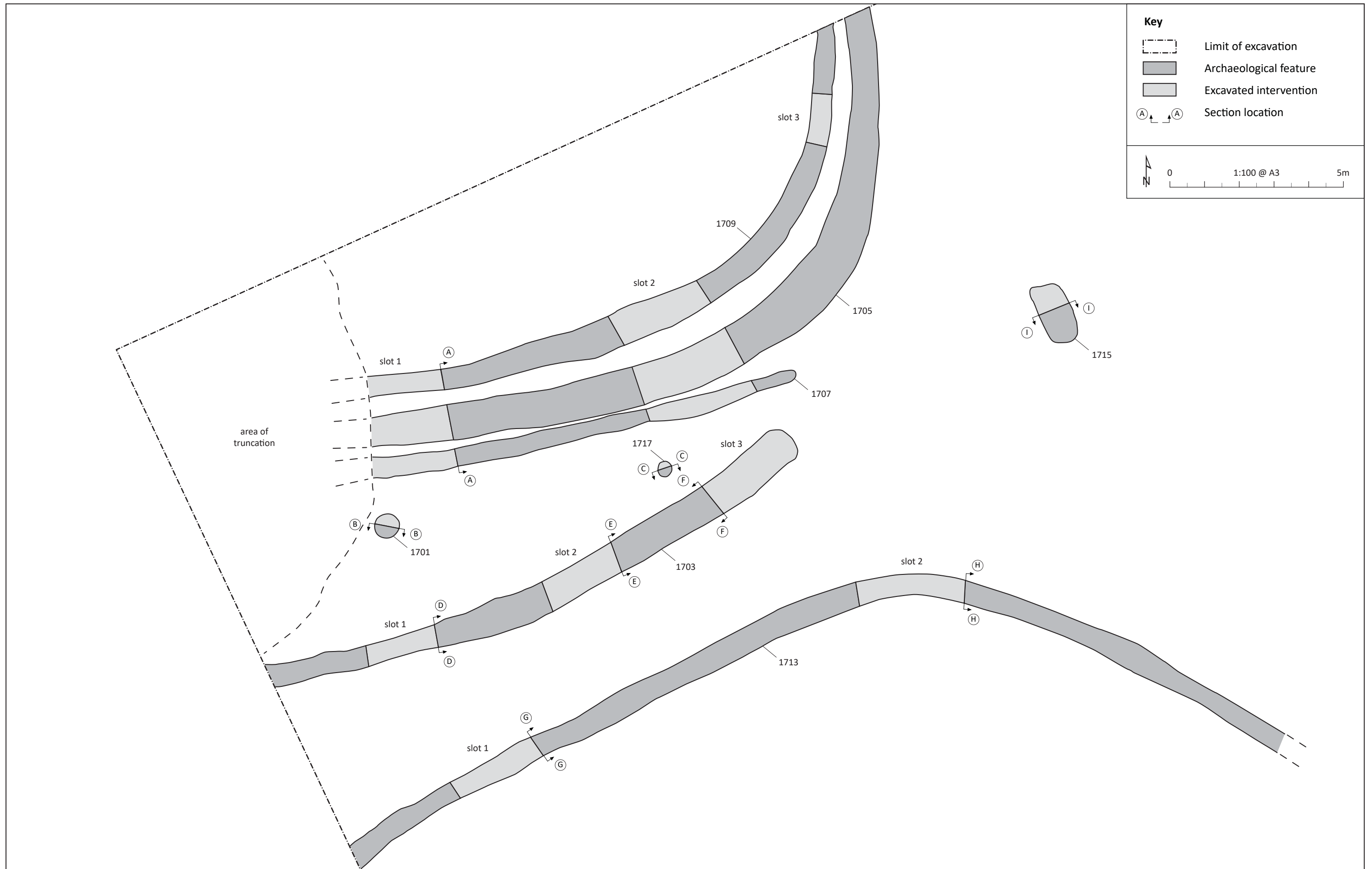
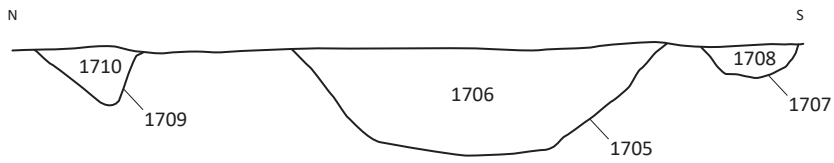
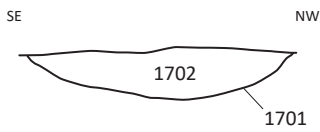


Figure 2: Area plan of features

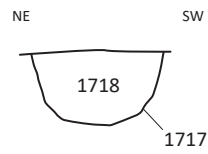
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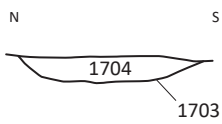
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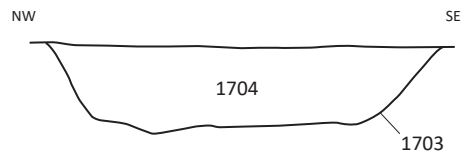
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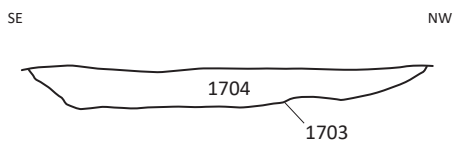
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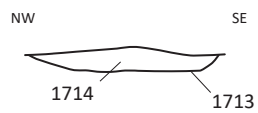
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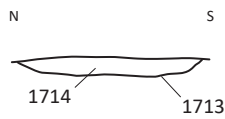
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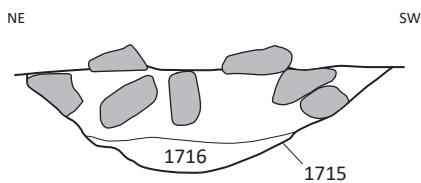
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
Section HH



Section II



Key

 Fire cracked stone



0 1:20 @ A4 1m

Figure 3: Sections

Greenan, Ayr, Archaeological Works: Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Area	Feature	Description and Interpretation
000	-	Deposit	Natural subsoil consisting of yellow/orange sand and fine gravel with frequent small pebble inclusions which extends across the site.
001	-	Deposit	Topsoil consisting of a mid to dark brown sandy silt with occasional small pebbles and medium stones. Depth ranges between 0.20m and 0.50m across the site.
002	-	Void	Void
1701	Phase 2	Cut	Cut of truncated, circular pit with gently sloping sides and a gently rounded base. Dimensions: 0.70m x 0.70m x 0.12m. Singular fill (1702).
1702	Phase 2	Fill	Sterile fill of [1701] consisting of a firm to compact mid brown/grey sandy silt with some small to medium sized stone inclusions.
1703	Phase 2	Cut	Truncated curvilinear cut feature with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Dimensions: 16.0m x 0.50m/1.0m x 0.07m/0.20m. Singular fill (1704). Boundary ditch/dyke of probable post-medieval date.
1704	Phase 2	Fill	Sterile fill of [1703] consisting of a firm to compact mid brown/grey sandy silt with occasional small to medium sized stone inclusions.
1705	Phase 2	Cut	Truncated curvilinear cut feature with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Dimensions: 23.0m x 0.50m/1.0m x 0.20m/0.30m. Singular fill (1706). Boundary ditch/dyke of probable post-medieval date.
1706	Phase 2	Fill	Sterile fill of [1705] consisting of a firm to compact mid brown/grey sandy silt with occasional small to medium sized stone inclusions.
1707	Phase 2	Cut	Truncated curvilinear cut feature with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Dimensions: 13.0m x 0.50m x 0.20m/0.30m. Singular fill (1706). Boundary ditch/dyke of probable post-medieval date.
1708	Phase 2	Fill	Sterile fill of [1707] consisting of a firm to compact mid brown/grey sandy silt with occasional small to medium sized stone inclusions.
1709	Phase 2	Cut	Curvilinear cut feature with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. Dimensions: 23.0m x 0.30/0.70m x 0.15m/0.30m. Singular fill (1710). Boundary ditch/dyke of probable post-medieval date.
1710	Phase 2	Fill	Sterile fill of [1707] consisting of a firm to compact mid brown/grey sandy silt with occasional small to medium sized stone inclusions.
1711	Void	Void	Void
1712	Void	Void	Void
1713	Phase 2	Cut	Truncated curvilinear cut feature with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Dimensions: 34.0m x 0.50/0.60m x 0.05m. Singular fill (1714). Boundary ditch/dyke of probable post-medieval date.
1714	Phase 2	Fill	Sterile fill of [1713] consisting of a firm to compact mid brown/grey sandy silt with occasional small to medium sized stone inclusions.
1715	Phase 2	Cut	Oval cut feature 1.20m x 1.0m x 0.15m with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. Filled by a deposit of fire-cracked stone and burnt organic sandy silt (1716). Probable prehistoric fire-pit .
1716	Phase 2	Fill	Fill of [1715] consisting of a firm to compact, burnt, dark brown organic sandy silt with occasional charcoal inclusions. The deposit contains numerous fire-cracked sub-rounded stones mixed with plough-soil in its upper reaches.
1717	Phase 2	Cut	Circular cut feature with steeply sloping sides and rounded base. Dimensions: 35.0m x 0.20m. Singular fill (1718). Post-hole of unknown date.
1718	Phase 2	Fill	Sterile fill of [1717] consisting of a firm to compact mid brown/grey sandy silt with occasional small to medium sized stone inclusions.

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digital Images

Frame	Area	Description	From	Date
1	Phase 2	Registration shot	-	
2-4	Phase 2	Site Pre-excavation	W	01/06/15
6	Phase 2	Curvilinear ditch features [1705-1707-1709] NE facing section Slot 1	NE	04/06/15
7	Phase 2	Curvilinear ditch feature [1709] S facing section Slot 2	S	04/06/15
8	Phase 2	Curvilinear ditch feature [1705] S facing section Slot 2	S	04/06/15
9	Phase 2	Curvilinear ditch feature [1709] SE facing section Slot 3	SE	04/06/15
10	Phase 2	Post-hole [1717] W facing section	W	04/06/15
11	Phase 2	Fire-pit [1715] W facing section	W	04/06/15
12	Phase 2	Curvilinear ditch feature [1703] N facing section Slot 3	N	04/06/15
13	Phase 2	Curvilinear ditch feature [1703] S facing section Slot 2	S	04/06/15

APPENDIX 3: Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Area	Details	Scale
1	Phase 2	NW-facing section of pit [1701]	1:10
2	Phase 2	W-facing section of post hole [1717]	1:10
3	Phase 2	S-facing section of curvilinear ditch [1713] Slot 1	1:10
4	Phase 2	SW-facing section of curvilinear ditch [1713] Slot 2	1:10
5	Phase 2	NW-facing section of curvilinear ditch [1703] Slot 1	1:10
6	Phase 2	S-facing section of curvilinear ditch [1703] Slot 2	1:10
7	Phase 2	S-facing section of curvilinear ditch [1703] Slot 1	1:10
8	Phase 2	S-facing section of curvilinear ditches [1707-1707-1709] Slot 2	1:10
9	Phase 2	SW-facing section of curvilinear ditches [1707-1707-1709] Slot 2	1:10
10	Phase 2	W-facing section of fire-pit [1715]	1:10

APPENDIX 4: Sample Register

Context No	Quantity	Notes
1716	20 L	-

APPENDIX 6: *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Ayrshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Greenan, Ayr, Archaeological Works
PROJECT CODE:	21622

PARISH:	Maybole
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitored top-soil strip & Archaeological Excavation
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Post-medieval field systems, pits.
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None.
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 3140 1877
START DATE (this season)	30/05/2017
END DATE (this season)	05/06/2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	<p>Fieldwalking Survey: Engl, R P & Cook 2001 <i>Greenan, Ayr, South Ayrshire (Maybole parish), Fieldwalking. Discovery Excavation Scot. Vol 2 p 89.</i></p> <p>5% evaluation 2010, Engl, R P 2010 <i>Greenan, Ayr: Evaluation Data Structure Report.</i> Unpublished AOC Archive Document.</p> <p>Targeted Topsoil Monitoring 2010, Engl, R P 2010a <i>Greenan, Ayr, Phase 1 Area Evaluation (Secondary Works): Data Structure Report.</i> Unpublished AOC Archive Document.</p> <p>Targeted Topsoil Monitoring 2012, Engl, RP <i>Greenan, Ayr, Phase 1 Monitored Topsoil strip: Data Structure Report.</i> Unpublished AOC Archive Document</p> <p>Targeted Topsoil Monitoring 2015, Engl, RP <i>Greenan, Ayr, Phase 2 Monitored Topsoil strip: Data Structure Report.</i> Unpublished AOC Archive Document</p>
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report presents the results of archaeological works undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at the site of Greenan, Ayr (NGR: NS 3140 1877).</p> <p>The works consisted of a monitored top-soil strip and subsequent excavation undertaken in May/June 2017. This was a continuation of the Phase 2 top-soil strip initiated in 2015.</p> <p>A series of archaeological works has been ongoing at the development site since 2001. During this time a significant number of structures, features and artefacts have been uncovered relating to archaeological activity ranging from the Mesolithic to the Medieval/Post Medieval periods.</p> <p>The current works revealed several large curvilinear ditch features of probable post-medieval date. These were an apparent continuation of features recorded during the 2015 archaeological works. A stone filled fire-pit and two post-holes were also revealed during the current works.</p> <p>No small finds were recovered during the works.</p>

PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	To be confirmed
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	The City of Edinburgh Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS