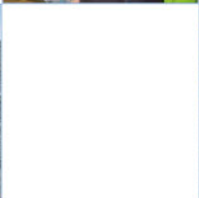
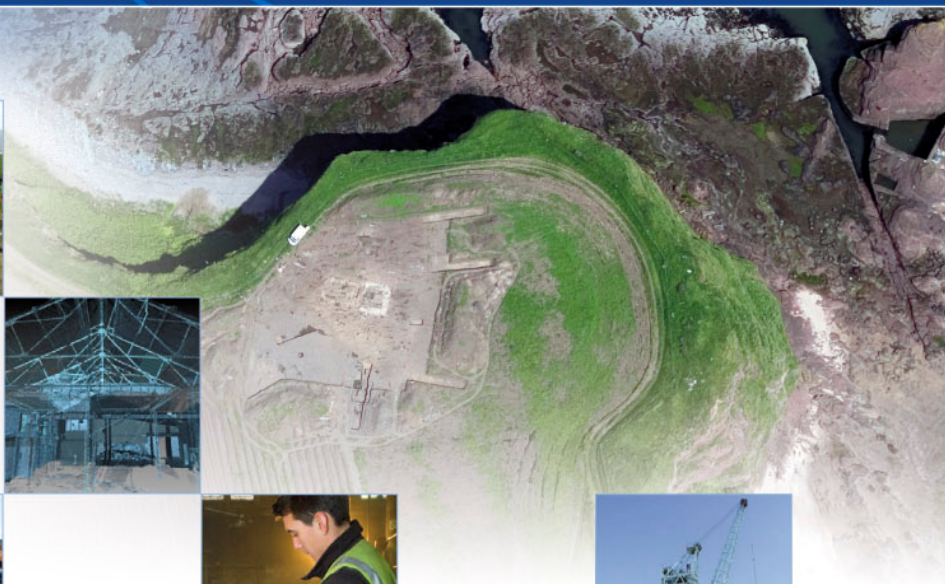
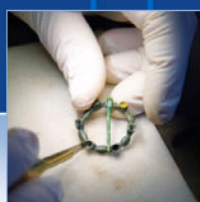


Shillinghill, Tobermory, Mull Evaluation: Data Structure Report

20872
May 2008



ARCHAEOLOGY

| HERITAGE

| CONSERVATION

Shillinghill, Tobermory, Mull Evaluation: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Beaton & McMurphy Architects Ltd The Studio Tigh Na Glaic Taynuilt Argyll PA35 1JW
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NM 503 545
AOC Project No:	20872
Prepared by:	Sarah Lynchehaun & Victoria Clements
Illustration by:	Alan Hunter Blair
Date of Fieldwork:	26th - 29th May 2008
Date of Report:	June 2008

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

Authors: Sarah Lynchehaun & Victoria Clements Date: 02/06/08

Approved by: John Gooder Date: 02/06/08

Draft Report Stage: Draft Date: 02/06/08

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Edgefield Industrial Estate
Edgefield Road
Loanhead
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
e-mail. admin@aocarchaeology.com



www.aocarchaeology.com

Contents

	Page
List of illustrations	1
List of appendices.....	1
Abstract.....	2
1 INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 Background	3
1.2 Location	3
1.3 Archaeological background	3
2 OBJECTIVES	3
3 METHODOLOGY	4
4 RESULTS	4
5 CONCLUSION.....	5
6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES.....	5
APPENDIX 1.....	8
Trench Descriptions.....	8
APPENDIX 2.....	12
Photographic Record	12
APPENDIX 3.....	13
Finds Register.....	13
APPENDIX 4.....	13
<i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report</i>	<i>13</i>

List of illustrations

- Figure 1 Site location plan
Figure 2 Location of evaluation trenches

List of appendices

- Appendix 1 Trench Descriptions
Appendix 2 Photographic Record
Appendix 3 Finds Register
Appendix 4 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Shillinghill, Tobermory, Mull, (centred NGR: NM 503 545). The work was commissioned by Beaton & McMurchy Architects Ltd on a proposed residential development. The archaeological works were designed to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, as advised by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), and are in accordance with the principles inherent in NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994), NPPG 18 (SODD 1999) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a).

The objective of the work was to evaluate the archaeological potential of the development area. The evaluation consisted of fourteen trenches totalling 1,032 m² and thereby comprising an 8% sample of the development area.

The evaluation revealed no features of archaeological significance. Five fragments of flint were recovered from the topsoil which may indicate prehistoric activity in the general area. No further archaeological works are recommended.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Beaton & McMurchy Architects on a proposed residential development at Shillinghill, Tobermory, Isle of Mull. The need for, and scope of archaeological works had been determined by the Argyll and Bute Council, as advised by WoSAS. The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994), NPPG 18 (SODD 1999) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a)

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area is centred at NGR: c. NM 503 545 and extends over an area of nearly 1.3 ha. The development area lies immediately to the east of the A848 as it leaves Tobermory heading south towards Salen. The ground falls rapidly to the west where a boggy area associated with a small burn is located. The solid geology of the site comprises Tertiary basalts which are overlain by shallow drift deposits (Soil Survey of Scotland 1982). The subsoil visible during excavation was light orange brown sandy clay. The location and extent of the site is shown in Figures 1 and 2.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The development site lies within an area of gently undulating rough grazing. There is no cartographic evidence to suggest that the land has ever been developed or disturbed beyond its recent use as agricultural ground.
- 1.3.2 Whilst no archaeological sites are known to exist within the site boundaries there exists the possibility that hitherto unknown archaeological deposits could be present within the development area. Investigations prior to a housing development at Fascaidale in 2004 (Addyman Associates 2004, Roy 2005) demonstrated a presence of prehistoric activity in the form of a small discrete features and a small assemblage of prehistoric pottery and lithics. Unfortunately post-medieval agricultural activity had considerably truncated and disturbed the prehistoric remains. To the west of the site lie the remains of a prehistoric stone alignment at Baliscate (*NMRS NM45SE 1*), while a putative stone-built corn-drier lies to the south-east (*NMRS NM45SE 7* see Figure 2).

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:
- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
 - ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Fourteen trenches (Figure 2) totalling 1032 m², an 8% sample of the site were excavated.
- 3.2 The trial trenching aimed to establish the extent, condition, character, quality, significance and date of any archaeological features present. The trenches were of varying lengths and set on varying orientations (Figure 2). The south-western corner of the development area was very wet and boggy and was excluded from trenching as the excavator was unable to work there. The fieldwork was undertaken with a field team of two archaeologists. Weather conditions during the evaluation were dry and fine rendering good archaeological visibility.
- 3.3 Stripping of the overburden was by means of a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket approximately 2.00 m wide. 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.
- 3.4 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures. Stratigraphy was recorded in all trenches even where no deposits of archaeological significance were discovered. The trenches were backfilled on completion of excavation.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between 26th and 29th May 2008. Fourteen trenches, approximately 2.00 m wide were machine excavated (Figure 2).
- 4.2 The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-4 and Figures 1-2.
- 4.3 The excavation of all the trenches revealed topsoil comprising soft mid brown silty clay with occasional small angular stones and very occasional fragments of modern white ceramic. Underlying the topsoil, natural subsoil consisted of soft light orange brown clayey silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones and very occasional larger boulders. Towards the western edge of the site the subsoil was soft yellow clay and blue/grey clay, but this area was quickly submerged with water. Natural bedrock was frequently encountered directly under the topsoil in the trenches.
- 4.4 In three of the Trenches, 2, 3 and 4, stone field drains were observed cutting the natural subsoil. The low-lying and very damp nature of the ground in these areas probably accounts for the presence of these drains.
- 4.5 In Trenches 1 and 2 large thin patches of dark grey/black organic peaty silt were observed of approximately 10 m in length but less than 0.15 m deep. These spreads of material were observed in the same area of the development as similar spreads found in the 2005 excavation (Roy 2005), directly to the north of Trench 2. The 2005 excavation identified these spreads as areas of dumped topsoil used to fill boggy hollows or spreads having been formed during ploughing. No finds were recovered from the spreads during this evaluation and the above interpretation seems probable.

- 4.6 Occasional fragments of modern white ceramic and modern glass were observed scattered throughout the topsoil in all of the trenches and in Trench 10 a fragment of clay pipe bowl was recovered.
- 4.7 In Trenches 1, 3 and 11 five fragments of flint were recovered from the topsoil along with a small piece of slag. The flints consisted of a bipolar core remnant [SF 6], a split pebble [SF 8], a tertiary flake [SF 4.1] and two chunks [SF 4.2 & SF 3]. The flint was a uniform pale grey in colour, with a cream patination present on both of the chunks. Heavily abraded cortex was present on [SF 4.1] whereas the split pebble was water rolled. The presence of the flints within the topsoil can tell us little more than that early prehistoric activity occurred within the general vicinity of the proposed development area (*Engl pers com*).
- 4.8 No significant archaeological features were encountered.

5 CONCLUSION

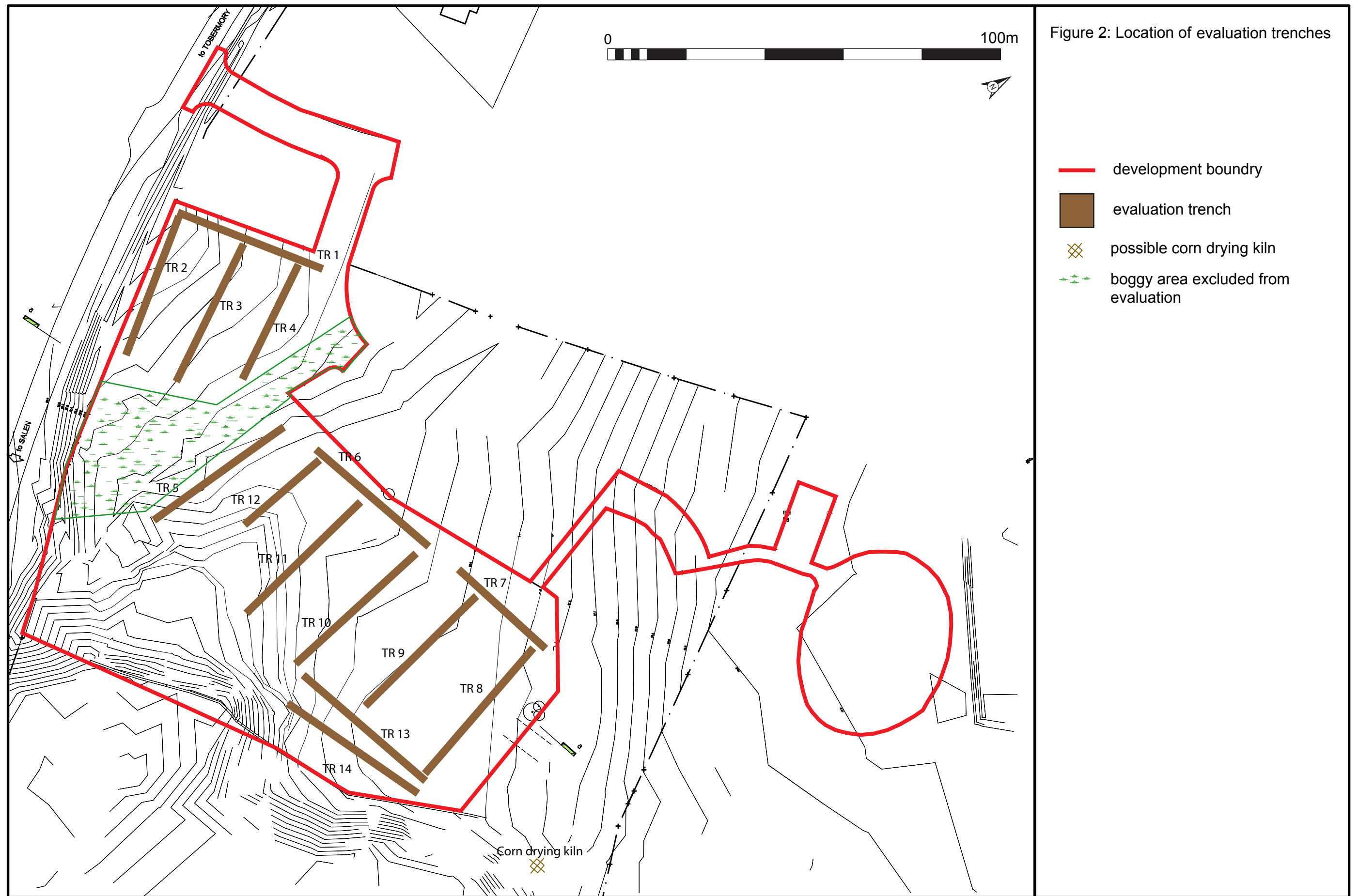
- 5.1 No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified. The fragments of flint recovered from the site corroborate the conclusions of previous works, undertaken in the near vicinity (Addyman Associates 2004, Roy 2005), that there was prehistoric activity in the vicinity. However given the presence of bedrock in many of the trenches, the thin nature of the topsoil and general farming disturbance, it is not surprising that no features were observed within the development area. No further works are recommended.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

- Addyman Associates 2004 *Fascadale, Tobermory, Isle of Mull; Archaeological Watching Brief* (sic), November 2004
- AOC 2008 *Shillinghill, Tobermory, Isle of Mull: Written Scheme of Investigation*. AOC unpublished client document.
- Roy, M 2005 *Excavation of House Plot 5, Fascadale, Tobermory, Isle of Mull*. AOC unpublished client report.
- SOEnd 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline 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.
- SOEnd 1999 *National Planning policy Guideline 18, Planning and the Historic Environment*. The Scottish Office Development Department.

Soil Survey of Scotland 1982 *Soil and Land Capability for Agriculture Western Scotland*. The
Macauley Institute for Soil Research, Aberdeen





Shillinghill, Tobermory, Mull Evaluation: Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	80 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	SE/NW
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.16-0.44 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.16-0.44 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	From 26.6 m to 33.15 m from the south-east end a layer of organic peaty silt between the topsoil and subsoil was observed.
<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid brown loose silty clay with occasional small angular pebbles.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Bedrock from 0-8.5 m abutted by yellow silty clay with occasional small stones and very occasional larger boulders.
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional sherds of modern glass and pottery and one fragment of flint in the topsoil.

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	80 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NW/SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.10-0.32 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.12-0.83 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Large stone drain 22.1 m from north-west end of trench oriented E/W. Large stone drain 24 m from north-west end of trench oriented SE/NW. At 20-40 m from north-west end of trench a layer of organic peaty silt was visible between topsoil and subsoil.
<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid brown loose silty clay with occasional small angular pebbles.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Bedrock from 0-21.1 m abutted by yellow/grey silty clay.
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional sherds of modern glass and pottery in the topsoil.

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	80 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NW/SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.20-0.44 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.25-0.44 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Large stone drain at 28.6 m from the north-west end of trench oriented SE/NW.
<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid brown loose silty clay with occasional small angular pebbles.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Soft light orange brown sandy clay with occasional small stones and very occasional large boulders. Changing to soft sticky orange grey clay at 19.75 m from north end.
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of modern white ceramic and one fragment of flint in the topsoil.

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	30 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	60 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	NW/SE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.27-0.38 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.27-0.38 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Large stone drain 30 m from the north-west end of the trench, orientation unknown as only just clipped by the end of the excavation.

<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid brown loose silty clay with occasional small angular pebbles.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Firm light orange brown sandy clay with occasional small stones and very occasional large boulders.
<i>Finds</i>	Very occasional fragments of modern white ceramic throughout topsoil.

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	80 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N/S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.45-0.73 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.45-0.73 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology
<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid brown loose silty clay with occasional small angular pebbles.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Light red brown clayey gravel with lenses of dark grey gravel with occasional medium stones and very occasional boulders.
<i>Finds</i>	Very occasional fragments of modern white ceramic through topsoil.

Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	80 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E/W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.23-0.35 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.23-0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology
<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid brown loose silty clay with occasional small angular pebbles.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Bedrock from 0-24.15 m abutted by soft light orange brown sandy clay with moderate small stones and patches of bedrock showing through.
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of modern white ceramic throughout topsoil.

Trench 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	80 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	E/W
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.24-0.33 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.24-0.33 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology.
<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid brown loose silty clay with occasional small angular pebbles.
<i>Subsoil</i>	From 0-10 m soft light orange brown sandy clay with occasional small stones, after 10 m patches of bedrock showing through.
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of modern white ceramic throughout topsoil.

Trench 8

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	80 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N/S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.18-0.40 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.18-0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology.
<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid brown loose silty clay with occasional small angular pebbles.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Bedrock from 0-6 m abutted by soft light orange brown sandy clay with occasional small stones and very occasional large boulders.
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of modern white ceramic through topsoil.

Trench 9

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	80 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N/S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.28-0.34 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.36-0.42 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology.
<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid brown loose silty clay with occasional small angular pebbles.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Soft yellow orange silt abutting undulating bedrock.
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of modern white ceramic through topsoil.

Trench 10

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	80 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N/S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.24-0.56 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.30-0.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology.
<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid brown loose silty clay with occasional small angular pebbles.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Light orange brown friable sandy clay silt with occasional stones and patches of bedrock showing through.
<i>Finds</i>	Rare fragments of modern white ceramic and clay pipe throughout topsoil. One flint fragment recovered.

Trench 11

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	80 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N/S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.14-0.39 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.14-0.43 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology.
<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid brown loose silty clay with occasional small angular pebbles.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Bedrock from 0-35 m abutted by soft light orange brown clayey silt.
<i>Finds</i>	Very rare fragments of modern white ceramic throughout topsoil. One flint fragment recovered.

Trench 12

<i>Dimensions</i>	25 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	50 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	N/S
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.22-0.25 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.22-0.25 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	At 9.40-14.70 m from north end of trench a deposit of modern ash and coal with frequent fragments of modern pottery and glass observed between topsoil and turf.
<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid brown loose silty clay with occasional small angular pebbles.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Bedrock with patches of light orange brown clayey silt.
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of modern white ceramic throughout topsoil and frequent fragments in ash deposit as above.

Trench 13

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
-------------------	-------------

<i>Total Area</i>	80 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	SW/NE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.20-0.40 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.32-0.70 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology.
<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid brown loose silty clay with occasional small angular pebbles.
<i>Subsoil</i>	From c. 25-40 m a mixed horizon of topsoil and subsoil was observed overlying the mid orange brown clayey silt with occasional large boulders.
<i>Finds</i>	Very occasional fragments of modern white ceramic.

Trench 14

<i>Dimensions</i>	40 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	80 m ²
<i>Orientation</i>	SW/NE
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.26-0.80 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.38-0.80 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	No archaeology.
<i>Topsoil</i>	Mid brown loose silty clay with occasional small angular pebbles.
<i>Subsoil</i>	From c. 25-35 m a mixed horizon of topsoil and subsoil was observed overlying the mid orange brown clayey silt with occasional small angular stones and very occasional larger boulders.
<i>Finds</i>	Occasional fragments of modern white ceramic through topsoil.

APPENDIX 2

Photographic Record

Black & White Print Film 1

Frame	Area	Description	From
1-2		Registration shots	
3-4		General site shot pre-excavation	SE
5-6		General site shot pre-excavation	S
7-8	TR 1	General shot Trench 1	W
9-10	TR 2	General shot Trench 2	N
11-12	TR 3	General shot Trench 3	S
13-14	TR 4	General shot Trench 4	S
15-16	TR 6	General shot Trench 6	W
17-18	TR 7	General shot Trench 7	W
19-20	TR 8	General shot Trench 8	S
21-22	TR 9	General shot Trench 9	S
23-24	TR 10	General shot Trench 10	S
25-26	TR 11	General shot Trench 11	S
27-28	TR 12	General shot Trench 12	S
29	TR 13	General shot Trench 13	E
30		Corn drying kiln (just outside area of development)	N
31	TR 14	General shot Trench 14	E
32-36		General shots of site – post evaluation	

Colour Slide Film 1

Frame	Area	Description	From
1-2		Registration shots	
3-4		General site shot pre-excavation (with 2005 excavation in background)	SE
5-6		General site shot pre-excavation (with 2005 excavation in background)	S
7-8	TR 1	General shot Trench 1	W
9-10	TR 2	General shot Trench 2	N
11-12	TR 3	General shot Trench 3	S
13-14	TR 4	General shot Trench 4	S
15-16	TR 6	General shot Trench 6	W
17-18	TR 7	General shot Trench 7	W
19-20	TR 8	General shot Trench 8	S
21-22	TR 9	General shot Trench 9	S
23-24	TR 10	General shot Trench 10	S
25-26	TR 11	General shot Trench 11	S
27-28	TR 12	General shot Trench 12	S
29	TR 13	General shot Trench 13	E
30		Corn drying kiln (just outside area of development)	N
31	TR 14	General shot Trench 14	E
32-36		General shots of site – post evaluation	

APPENDIX 3

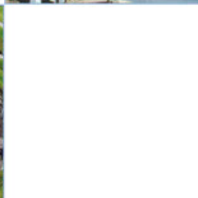
Finds Register

Find Number	Context	Area	Description
01	Topsoil	TR 10	Clay pipe bowl
02	Topsoil	TR 1	Fragments of modern pottery
03	Topsoil	TR 1	Fragment of flint
04	Topsoil	U/S	Fragment of flint
05	Topsoil	U/S	Slag
06	Topsoil	TR 3	Fragment of flint
07	Topsoil	TR 11	Fragment of flint
08	Topsoil	U/S	Fragment of flint

APPENDIX 4

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Argyll and Bute Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Shillinghill, Tobermory, Mull Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20872
PARISH:	Kilninian and Kilmore
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Sarah Lynchehaun & Victoria Clements
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NM 503 545 (centred)
START DATE (this season)	26 th May 2008
END DATE (this season)	29 th May 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of a proposed residential development. Fourteen trenches (covering an area of 1,032 m ²) were opened. No features of archaeological significance were identified. Four flint fragments were recovered from the topsoil.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Beaton & McMurchy Architects Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY
 tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: admin@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com