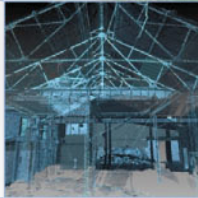
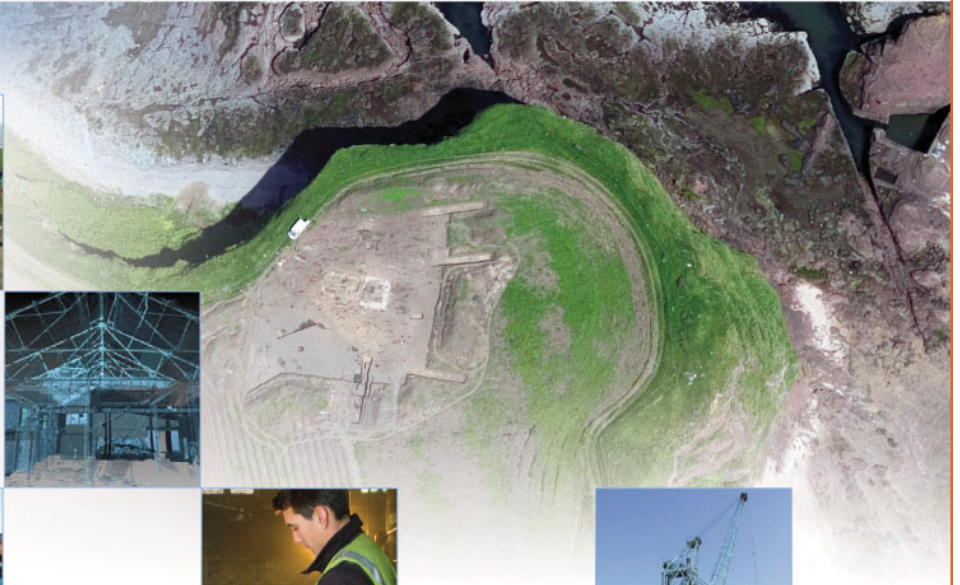
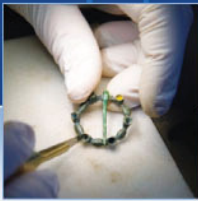


Townend Terrace, Symington, South Ayrshire: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC 21085
September 2008



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Townend Terrace, Symington Evaluation: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: **Mactaggart and Mickel**
1 Atlantic Quay,
1 Robertson Street.
Glasgow,
G2 8JB

National Grid Reference (NGR): **NS 3808 3183**

AOC Project No: **21085**

Prepared by: **Lindsay Dunbar**

Illustration by: **Graeme Carruthers**

Date of Fieldwork: **8th - 11th September 2008**

Date of Report: **19th September 2008**

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

Author: Lindsay Dunbar

Date: 19th September 2008

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Date: 19th September 2008

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Abstract

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Mactaggart and Mickel to undertake a programme of archaeological works on a proposed housing development at Townend Terrace, Symington, South Ayrshire. The objective of this work was to inform a planning application in respect to the scale and significance of any archaeological material that may have survived with the proposed development area. The scope of these archaeological works was advised by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), the archaeological advisors to South Ayrshire Council.

An 8% sample of the c.3.5 ha development area was required and 19 trenches were excavated during the course of the evaluation totalling more than the required 2800 m². No archaeological remains were uncovered by the evaluation.

0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Mactaggart and Mickel to undertake a programme of archaeological works on a proposed housing development at Townend Terrace, Symington, South Ayrshire. The objective of this work is to inform a planning application in respect to the scale and significance of any archaeological material that may have survived with the proposed development area. The necessary archaeological works have been recommended by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), the archaeological advisors to South Ayrshire Council.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 The proposed development site is located on the western side of Symington, South Ayrshire (NGR: NS 3808 3183). The site is bounded to the west and north by a rough grazing farm land, to the west by a residential area and to the south by Symington's Main Street. The development area amounts to approximately 3.5 ha and presently consists of rough grazing for livestock in the westernmost area, and an overgrown communal amenity area with remains of foundations in the easternmost area.

1.2 Archaeological background

- 1.2.1 It was possible that the evaluation may have uncovered remains of sites associated with the adjacent medieval village of Syminton - 'Symontoun' in the 1584 Register Privy Council (Nicolaisen 2001) the origins of which date to the time of Norman Knight Simon Loccard in the 12th century. Symington was the fee of Simon Loccard (Lockhart) under Walter Stewart (about 1136-77), the name 'Symington' representing an original 'Simundestun' (Barrow 1973).
- 1.2.2 Tradition has it that a round mound or motte (NMRS NS33SE 8; NGR: NS 382 316) called the Law Hill, which was partly natural and partly artificial, formerly stood at the foot of Symington Village. It was levelled by the proprietor in the early 19th century when making improvements; several iron arrowheads and horn combs were found (Dunlop 1845). Today there are no visible remains of this feature which allegedly stood on the north-west side of Symington village (RCAHMS 1985).
- 1.2.3 Within the village itself, Symington's Norman Church (NMRS NS33SE 21.00; NGR: NS 3843 3141) was founded in 1160. This church stands within a walled burial-ground and although altered on a number of occasions, heavily restored in 1919 and 1920, *it retains much of its late 12th-or early 13th-century character.*

1.3 Curatorial control

- 1.3.1 National planning policies and planning guidance, NPPG5 (SOEnD 1994) and PAN42 (SOEnD 1994a), as well as the local plan policies, require a mitigation response that is designed to

investigate the potential for archaeological sites within the development area and thence allow the preservation or recording of any significant remains.

- 1.3.2 The site is located within the Local Authority administrative area of South Ayrshire Council. The Council is advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). A programme of evaluation works that fully met the advice rendered by WoSAS was undertaken.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the development area;
 - ii) the evaluation was also designed to inform a mitigation scheme involving an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3. METHOD

- 3.1 The Method Statement (Dunbar 2008) proposed the excavation of trenches equating to an 8% sample of the development area. The site covered approximately 3.5 ha resulting in evaluation trenching with a total basal area of 2,800 m².
- 3.2 The nineteen trenches excavated correspond to a little over the 8% sample specified in the Method Statement (Dunbar 2008).
- 3.3 All trenches were excavated with a 13 tonne tracked excavator using a 2.1 m wide ditching bucket. The trench details are summarised in Appendix 1. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil/overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits. The evaluation trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed with the Method Statement (Dunbar 2008).

4. RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The works were conducted between 8th and 11th September 2008. The weather conditions during the evaluation were mixed, dry and sunny initially with predominantly wet weather following resulting in some localised flooding of trenches due to the frequency of showers. Overall archaeological visibility was good.

4.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as a series of appendices:

Appendix 1 contains trench summaries;

Appendix 2 contains the photographic register;

Appendix 3 reproduces the *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland* entry.

4.2 Overview

4.2.1 The topsoil depth across the evaluation area varied considerably from 0.14 m to 0.75 m. The deep areas of topsoil were in the areas of dumped modern material. The excavation of all the trenches revealed topsoil comprising mid brownish grey compact clay with occasional small angular stones, very occasional fragments of modern white ceramic and burnt flint throughout. Underlying the topsoil, natural subsoil consisted of compact, sticky light brown clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones and very occasional larger boulders. Towards the eastern edge of the site the trenches were quickly submerged with water.

4.2.2 In Trenches 1, 2 and 3, ceramic field drains were observed cutting the natural subsoil. The clay subsoil and very damp nature of the ground in these areas probably accounts for the presence of these drains.

4.2.3 The evaluation trenches did not uncover any remains of the medieval village and no *in situ* remains that could be interpreted as archaeologically significant or relating to the respective structures as described in the SMR or NMRS records were found either.

4.2.4 The evaluation demonstrated that a portion of the eastern part of the site, closest to Symington Village, had been witness to modern dumping. The south-eastern end of Trenches 1 and 2 both saw extensive areas of disturbance in the form of large cut features containing a variety of late 20th century detritus and building debris. It is presumed that these disturbances are associated with the construction of the seven houses that form the south-eastern boundary of the site.

4.2.5 To the north of these properties lie two areas of concrete foundations and surfaces that are known to be associated with the construction of those seven houses. No trenching was conducted in these areas given the obvious recent disturbances caused during their construction.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified. Whilst a small amount of unstratified flint was recovered from topsoil during the evaluation it is indicative of later agricultural fertilising practises, as almost of all of the noted pieces were large unworked, burnt nodules - the typical residue of 'liming'.

- 5.2 The ceramic drains that were uncovered show that at least one phase of land improvement works have been carried out on this site in recent times.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The evaluation trenching provided comprehensive coverage across the site and the trenching distribution also ensured that all areas of topographic advantage were examined. However no significant archaeology was encountered across the site. The lack of finds, distinctly earlier than 19th century from the topsoil would also suggest that no concentrations of significant archaeology lie within the development area.
- 6.2 We recommend that no further archaeological works are required given the scale of the evaluation undertaken and the absence of any significant deposits, features or artefactual material from the development area. This recommendation will require the confirmation of South Ayrshire Council.

7. REFERENCES

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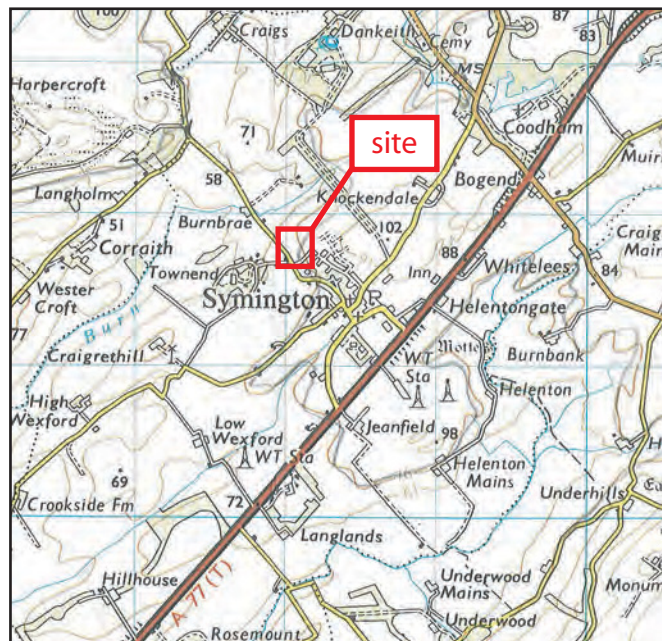
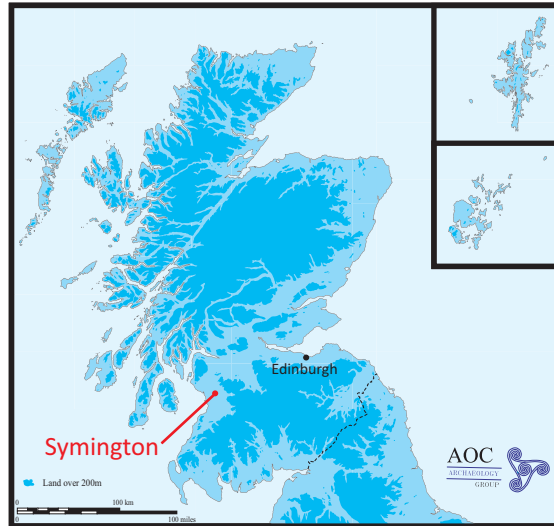


Figure 1: site location

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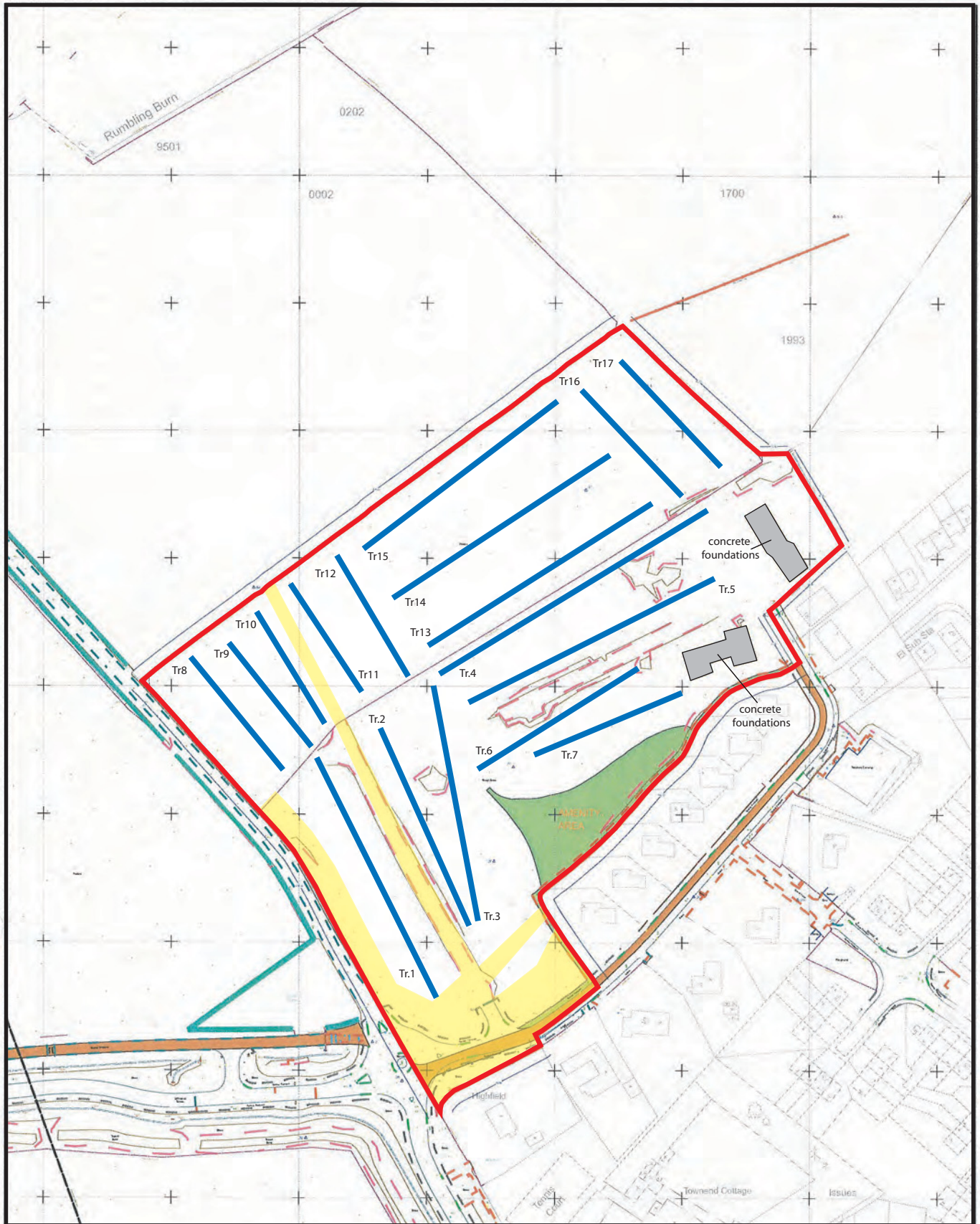


Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches



- evaluation trenches
- proposed development area
- services buffer zone



APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1

Dimensions	102 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	214 m ²
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.42 m
Features	Three 3 field drains present on a variety of orientations throughout this trench along with a substantial quantity of modern dumped material.
Subsoil	Compact mid light brown gritty clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint.

Trench 2

Dimensions	85 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	178 m ²
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.31 m
Features	Two field drains present within this trench along with modern dumped material at the SE end of the trench.
Subsoil	Compact mid light brown gritty clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint.

Trench 3

Dimensions	95 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	199 m ²
Orientation	N-S
Depth of Topsoil	0.47 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Compact mottled mid light brown sticky clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint.

Trench 4

Dimensions	121 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	254 m ²
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.32 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Compact mid light brown gritty clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint.

Trench 5

Dimensions	107 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	224 m ²
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.44 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Compact mid light brown gritty clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint.

Trench 6

Dimensions	75 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	158 m ²
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.31 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Compact mid light brown gritty clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint.

Trench 7

Dimensions	70 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	147 m ²
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.44 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Compact mid light brown gritty clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint.

Trench 8

Dimensions	53 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	111 m ²
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.33 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Compact mid light brown gritty clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint

Trench 9

Dimensions	56 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	117 m ²
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.32 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Compact mid light brown gritty clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint.

Trench 10

Dimensions	50 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	105 m ²
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.36 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Compact mid light brown gritty clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint.

Trench 11

Dimensions	107 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	225 m ²
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.31 m

Features	None
Subsoil	Compact mid light brown gritty clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint.

Trench 12

Dimensions	52 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	109 m ²
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.29 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Compact mid light brown gritty clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint.

Trench 13

Dimensions	57 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	119 m ²
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.30 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Compact mid light brown gritty clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint.

Trench 14

Dimensions	55 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	115 m ²
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.35 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Compact mid light brown gritty clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint.

Trench 15

Dimensions	105 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	220 m ²
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.51 m
Features	None
Subsoil	Compact mid light brown gritty clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint.

Trench 16

Dimensions	105 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	220 m ²
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.36 m
Features	Nil
Subsoil	Compact mid light brown gritty clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint.

Trench 17

Dimensions	105 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	220 m ²
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.34 m
Features	Nil
Subsoil	Compact mid light brown gritty clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint.

Trench 18

Dimensions	32 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	67 m ²
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.44 m
Features	Nil
Subsoil	Compact mid light brown gritty clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint.

Trench 19

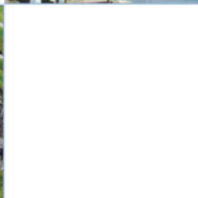
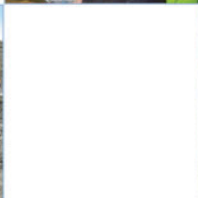
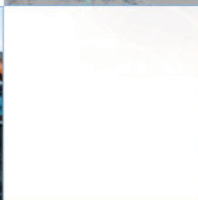
Dimensions	33 m by 2.1 m
Total Area	69 m ²
Orientation	E-W
Depth of Topsoil	0.34 m
Features	Nil
Subsoil	Compact mid light brown gritty clay with occasional small angular pebbles throughout.
Finds	Modern white ceramics and burnt flint.

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER**Black & White Print & Digital: Film 1**

Frame	Area	Detail	From	
0-1	-		Registration	
2-3	Tr.1		General view	SE
4-5	Tr. 2		General view	NW
6	Tr. 2		View of modern debris within the trench	NW
7-8	Tr. 3		General view	N
9-10	Tr. 4		General view	E
11-12	Tr. 5		General view	N
13-14	Tr. 6		General view	N
15-16	Tr. 7		General view	E
17-18	Tr. 8		General view	NW
19-20	Tr. 13		General view	W
21-22	Tr.14		General view	N
23-24	Tr. 15		General view	N
25-26	Tr. 16		General view	N
27-28	Tr. 17		General view	N
29-36			General views of backfilled trenches	Various
37			Concrete area at the NW area of the site	N

APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Ayrshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Townhead Terrace, Symington Archaeological Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21085
PARISH:	Symington (Kyle and Carrick)
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Lindsay Dunbar
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	NS 3808 3183
START DATE (this season)	8 th September 2008
END DATE (this season)	11 th September 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in informing a planning application for a proposed housing development at Townhead Terrace, Symington, South Ayrshire. In total 19 trenches totalling just over 2,800 m ² were excavated during the course of the evaluation. This 3.5 ha greenfield site proved to be archaeologically sterile.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mactaggart and Mickel
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	C/o AOC Archaeology Group
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