

**Mossplatt Farm, Cleghorn, South Lanarkshire:
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Data Structure Report

by Claire Williamson

issued 10th June 2011



Rathmell
Archaeology Ltd

Quality Assurance

This report covers works which have been undertaken in keeping with the issued brief as modified by the agreed programme of works. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance of Rathmell Archaeology Limited on the preparation of reports. All works reported on within this document have been undertaken in keeping with the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed

Date

In keeping with the procedure of Rathmell Archaeology Limited this document and its findings have been reviewed and agreed by an appropriate colleague:

Checked

Date

Copyright Rathmell Archaeology Limited. All rights reserved.

No part of this report may be copied or reproduced by any means without prior written permission from Rathmell Archaeology Limited. If you have received this report in error, please destroy all copies in your possession or control and notify Rathmell Archaeology Limited.

This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of the commissioning party and unless otherwise agreed in writing by Rathmell Archaeology Limited, no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of the report. No liability is accepted by Rathmell Archaeology Limited for any use of this report, other than the purposes for which it was originally prepared and provided.

Opinions and information provided in the report are on the basis of Rathmell Archaeology Limited using due skill, care and diligence in preparation of the same and no explicit warranty is provided as to their accuracy. It should be noted and it is expressly stated that no independent verification of any of the documents or information supplied to Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been made.

Contents

Introduction	3
Historical and Archaeological Background.....	3
Project Works.....	3
Findings.....	6
Square Trenches for base of Wind Turbine	6
Cable Trench	6
Discussion	9
Recommendations	9
Conclusion	9
References	9
Documentary	9
Cartographic.....	9
Appendix 1: Registers.....	10
Context Register	10
Photographic Register	10
Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland	13
Contact Details	14

Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for A & W Orr in support of the ground works associated with the installation of a new wind turbine within the ground of Mossplatt Farm, Cleghorn in South Lanarkshire. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area to the agreement of the South Lanarkshire Council.
2. South Lanarkshire Council has conditioned the granted planning consent (CL/10/0412) with an archaeological watching brief condition for archaeological works. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service who advises South Lanarkshire Council on archaeological matters has provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required on this site during development works.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by A & W Orr to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works at Mossplatt Farm, Cleghorn.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. The development area lies to the north of the current Mossplatt Farm within open agricultural fields associated with the farm. Two existing turbines lie to the immediate south of the existing development site. There are no historic environment designations within the development area but there is one known significant archaeological site that may be impacted on by the construction.
5. The location of the new turbine stands at the approximate location of an L plan structure and associated enclosure that is accessed by a track from the northwest shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (WoSAS Site: 22231). This structure is named Mossplatt (see Figure 1b) and this farm is the precursor to the modern Mossplatt Farm that was built later. The site of this farm is now agricultural land with no visible traces of the structures.
6. Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55) also shows a series of eight structures at this location. Named 'Hillomouseplatt' the structures also have some enclosures around them and appear to constitute a significant fermtoun. That so little of this settlement survived to the 1st edition Ordnance Survey in the mid nineteenth century suggests that the process of enclosure led to the decline and ultimate abandonment of this settlement.

Project Works

7. The programme of works comprised the archaeological monitoring of two square trenches and a linear cable trench for the construction of a wind turbine. The trenches were all machine dug, the square trenches to a depth of 800mm while the cable trench to a depth of 600-700mm.
8. In compliance with the Method Statement (Rees 2011) any potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded, with the on-site works taking place on the 2nd June 2011. All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.



Figure 1a: Detail from Roy (1747-55) of Mossplatt Farm

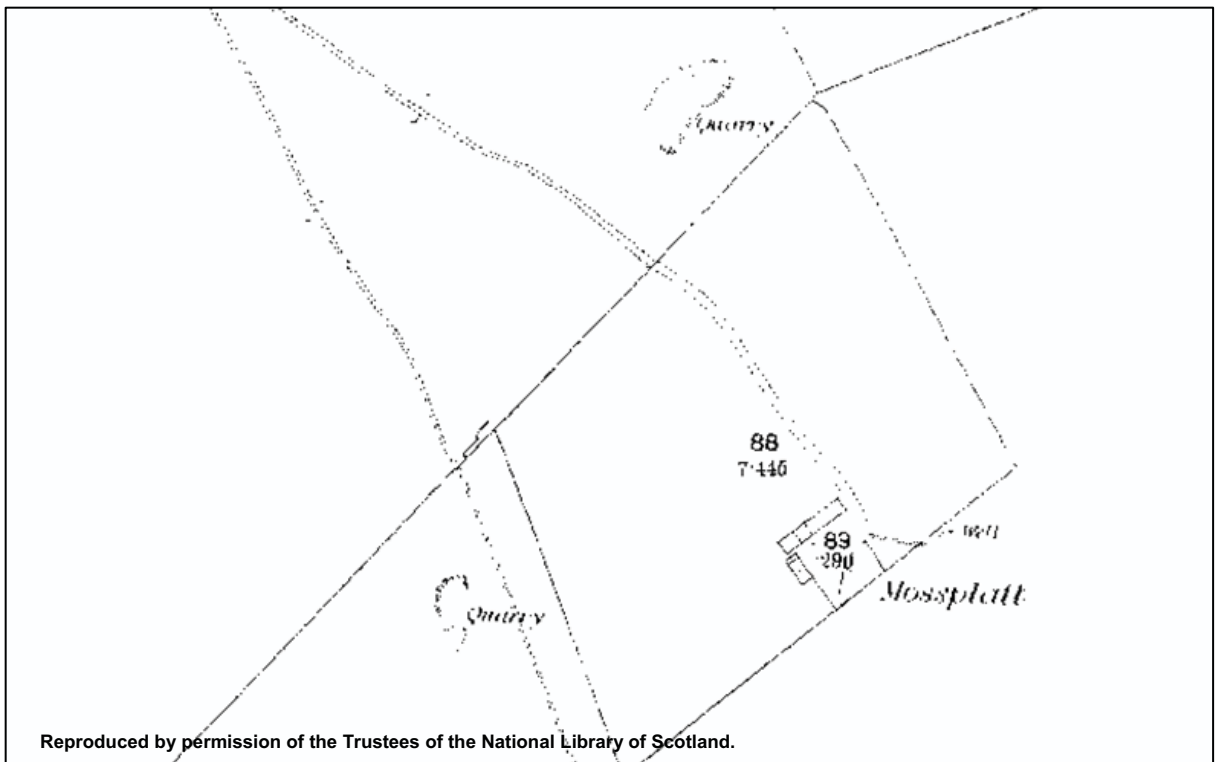


Figure 1b: Detail from 1st edition Ordnance Survey

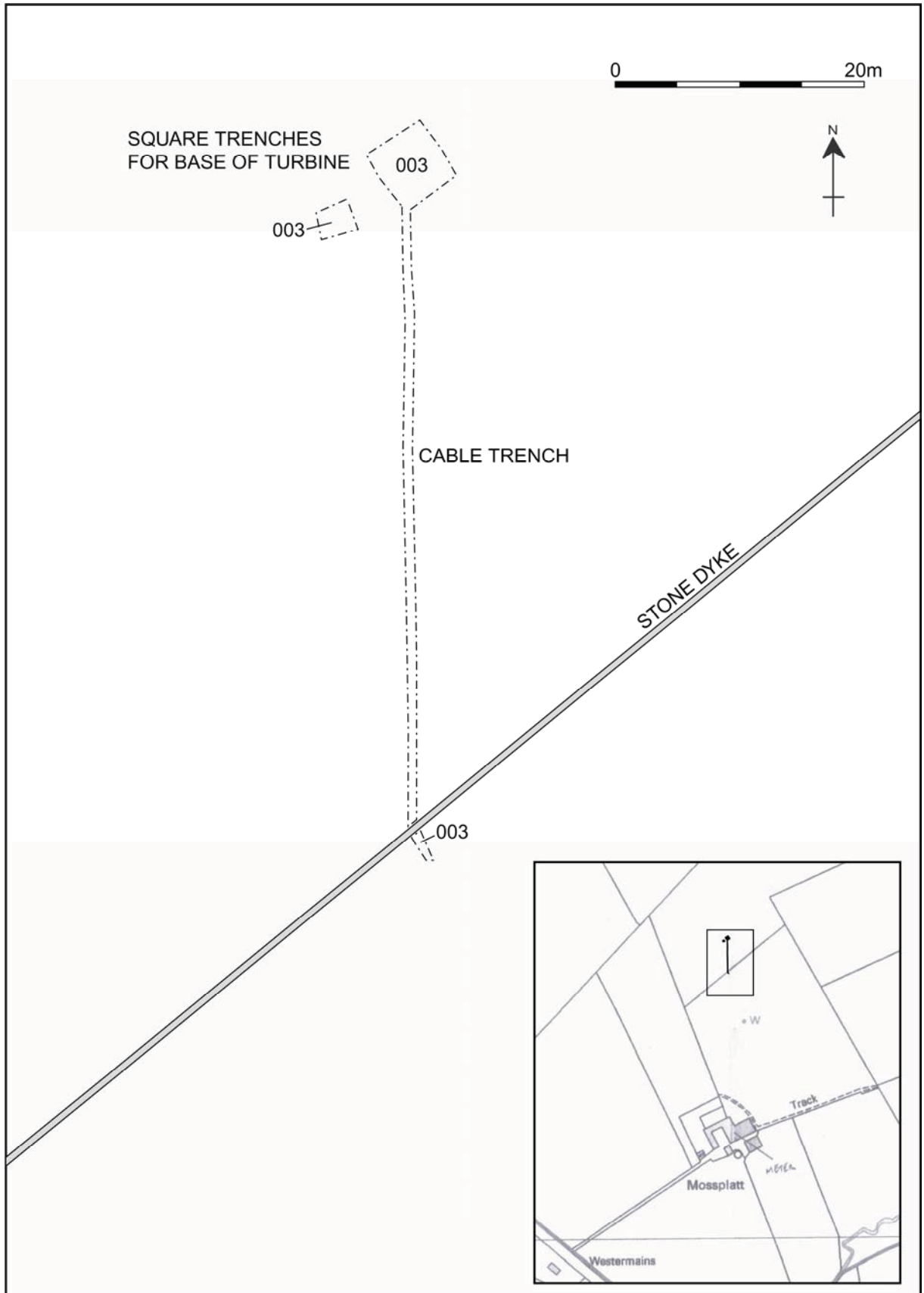


Figure 2: Site Plan

Findings

9. The development area was located in open agricultural land to the north of Mossplatt Farm and covered an area totalling approximately 57m².

Square Trenches for base of Wind Turbine

10. Two square trenches were excavated to a depth of 800mm to form the bases for the wind turbine and its support (Figure 2). The larger of the two trenches (Figure 3b) measured approximately 5.1m square while the smaller trench (Figure 4a), located 3.8m to the southeast of the larger trench, measured 2.4m (NE-SW) by 2.3m (NW-SE). Both trenches sat on the same alignment.
11. Prior to excavation the site was covered by a layer of turf on topsoil (001). This comprised a mid-dark brown sandy clay with occasional inclusions of small stones and frequent roots and was revealed to measure 250mm thick. Underlying this was a thin layer of natural subsoil (002) which comprised a red clayey sand with frequent small stone inclusions and measured 100-150mm thick. Underlying this at the base of the trenches was very loose broken bedrock (003) which sat in a pale grey sand matrix. The base of this deposit was not reached.
12. These deposits were present across the whole of the site. No archaeological features were exposed within either of the trenches.

Cable Trench

13. A narrow linear trench was excavated for the laying of cables which ran from the south corner of the larger square trench towards the northeast wind turbine already standing in the adjacent field to the southeast (Figure 2; Figure 4b). A stone dyke separating the two fields caused a break in the trench close to its southern end. The section of the trench which sat to the north of this dyke measured approximately 49m long, 0.5m wide and 600-700mm deep. The section to the south measured 2.2m long, 0.6m wide and 500mm deep.
14. The cable trench revealed the same stratigraphy as the square trenches although both the topsoil (001) and the upper sandy subsoil (002) were seen to be thicker in depth. Topsoil (001) measured 300-600mm thick, deepest towards the southern end of the trench, while subsoil layer (002) measured 200-300mm thick. This change in depth most likely relates to the topography of the site as the cable trench runs downhill from the location of the two square trenches.
15. The cable trench also failed to reveal any archaeological features. Topsoil (001) contained some sherds of modern white glazed pottery within the area of cable trench which may relate to the presence of the building shown on 20th century Ordnance Survey mapping, but no remains of this structure were met by the groundbreaking works.



Figure 3a: General shot of site from the north-north-east



Figure 3b: Larger square trench from the west



Figure 4a: Smaller square trench from the southwest



Figure 4b: Cable trench from the north

Discussion

16. No significant archaeological features were uncovered during the groundbreaking works. Ordnance Survey mapping shows the presence of a single building in this area into the second half of the 20th century but the works failed to reveal any traces of it.
17. A higher concentration of modern white glazed pottery sherds within the topsoil surrounding the area of the cable trench may relate to this structure, either during its use or its demolition, but no other evidence was found. While remains of this building may still be present nearby, they were not met during this phase of works.

Recommendations

18. The archaeological monitoring failed to identify any significant archaeological features or artefacts within the development area. Consequently, we recommend that no further archaeological works are appropriate with regard to this site.
19. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with South Lanarkshire Council and their advisors, West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Conclusion

20. An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the groundbreaking works required for the installation of a wind turbine in fields to the north of Mossplatt Farm. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
21. The groundbreaking works failed to reveal any archaeological features. While Ordnance Survey mapping shows the presence of an earlier farmstead in this area in the 19th century and a single building which existed until the second half of the 20th century, the trenches failed to meet any remains. It is still possible that remains of the structures still exist on site but were missed due to the small extent of the works.

References

Documentary

- | | | |
|---------|------|---|
| Rees, T | 2011 | <i>Mossplatt Farm, Cleghorn, South Lanarkshire: Archaeological Mitigation, Method Statement</i> , unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd for A & W Orr |
|---------|------|---|

Cartographic

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--|
| 1747-1755 | Roy | Military Survey of Scotland |
| 1864 | Ordnance Survey | 1 st edition Ordnance Survey, Lanarkshire |
| 1898 | Ordnance Survey | 2 nd edition Ordnance Survey, Lanarkshire |
| 1912-13 | Ordnance Survey | 3 rd edition Ordnance Survey, Lanarkshire |
| 1957-58 | Ordnance Survey | 4 th edition Ordnance Survey, Lanarkshire |

Appendix 1: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site during the watching brief.

Context Register

Context No.	Area/Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001		Deposit	Compact mid-dark brown sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions and frequent roots. 250-600mm thick. Contained inclusions of modern pottery within the area of the cable trench.	Topsoil
002		Deposit	Loose red clayey sand with frequent small stone inclusions. 100-300mm thick.	Natural subsoil
003		Deposit	Very loose broken bedrock rubble in a pale grey sand matrix.	Natural subsoil

Photographic Register

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
1	-	-	-	-	1	Working shot – excavating NE trench	N	02/06/11
2	-	-	-	-	2	Working shot – excavating NE trench	NNW	02/06/11
3	-	-	-	-	3	Working shot – excavating NE trench	N	02/06/11
4	-	-	-	-	4	Working shot – excavating NE trench	N	02/06/11
5	-	-	-	-	5	Working shot – excavating NE trench	W	02/06/11
6	-	-	-	-	6	Working shot – excavating SW trench	WNW	02/06/11
7	-	-	-	-	7	Working shot – excavating SW trench	WNW	02/06/11
8	-	-	-	-	8	Working shot – excavating NE trench	WNW	02/06/11
9	-	-	-	-	9	Working shot – excavating NE trench	WNW	02/06/11
10	-	-	-	-	10	NW facing section of NE trench	NW	02/06/11
11	-	-	-	-	11	NW facing section of NE trench	WNW	02/06/11

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
12	-	-	-	-	12	General shot of NE trench, fully excavated	SE	02/06/11
13	-	-	-	-	13	General shot of NE trench, fully excavated	SE	02/06/11
14	-	-	-	-	14	General shot of SW trench, fully excavated	NW	02/06/11
15	-	-	-	-	15	General shot of SW trench, fully excavated	NW	02/06/11
16	-	-	-	-	16	General shot of SW trench, fully excavated	SW	02/06/11
17	-	-	-	-	17	General shot of SW trench, fully excavated	SW	02/06/11
18	-	-	-	-	18	NW facing section of SW trench	NW	02/06/11
19	-	-	-	-	19	NW facing section of SW trench	NW	02/06/11
20	-	-	-	-	20	Working shot – excavating cable trench	WNW	02/06/11
21	-	-	-	-	21	Working shot – excavating cable trench	NNW	02/06/11
22	-	-	-	-	22	General setting shot	SSE	02/06/11
23	-	-	-	-	23	General setting shot	SSE	02/06/11
24	-	-	-	-	24	Sample of W facing section of cable trench	NW	02/06/11
25	-	-	-	-	25	Sample of W facing section of cable trench	W	02/06/11
26	-	-	-	-	26	Shot of S end of cable trench, fully excavated	S	02/06/11
27	-	-	-	-	27	Shot of S end of cable trench, fully excavated	W	02/06/11
28	-	-	-	-	28	Shot of NE trench, fully excavated	W	02/06/11
29	-	-	-	-	29	Shot of NE trench, fully excavated	W	02/06/11
30	-	-	-	-	30	Shot of cable trench, fully excavated	N	02/06/11
31	-	-	-	-	31	Shot of cable trench, fully excavated	N	02/06/11
32	-	-	-	-	32	General setting shot	NNE	02/06/11
33	-	-	-	-	33	General setting shot	NNE	02/06/11
34	-	-	-	-	34	Shot of cable trench, fully excavated	S	02/06/11

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
35	-	-	-	-	35	Shot of cable trench, fully excavated	N	02/06/11
36	-	-	-	-	36	Shot of cable trench, fully excavated, S end	N	02/06/11

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Mossplatt Farm
PROJECT CODE:	RA11029
PARISH:	Carstairs
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Claire Williamson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitoring
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 91565 51478
START DATE (this season)	2 nd June 2011
END DATE (this season)	2 nd June 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the groundbreaking works required for the installation of a wind turbine in fields to the north of Mossplatt Farm. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.</p> <p>The groundbreaking works failed to reveal any archaeological features. While Ordnance Survey mapping shows the presence of an earlier farmstead in this area in the 19th century and a single building which existed until the second half of the 20th century, the trenches failed to meet any remains. It is still possible that remains of the structures still exist on site but were missed due to the small extent of the works.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	A & W Orr
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
E MAIL:	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to RCAHMS Collections

Contact Details

22. Rathmell Archaeology can be contacted at our Registered Office or through the web:

Rathmell Archaeology Ltd	www.rathmell-arch.co.uk
Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops	
Kilwinning	t.: 01294 542848
Ayrshire	f.: 01294 542849
KA13 6PU	e.: contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk

23. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service can be contacted at their office or through the web:

West of Scotland Archaeology Service	www.wosas.org.uk
Charing Cross Complex	
20 India Street	t.: 0141 287 8332/3
Glasgow	f.: 0141 287 9259
G2 4PF	e.: enquiries@wosas.glasgow.gov.uk

End of Document