

**Kilmarnock Academy Playing Fields,
Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire:
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Data Structure Report

by Peter Klemen and Claire Williamson

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Rathmell

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Signed Claire Williamson

Date25th May 2012....

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

Checked Thomas Rees

Date25th May 2012....

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for East Ayrshire Council in respect of the archaeological site works undertaken in support of the development of the new sports facilities at Kilmarnock Academy Playing Fields (NGR 243860 636718).
2. The Data Structure Report is structured to meet the advice of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service who recommended to the planning authority that archaeological issues should be addressed. Rathmell Archaeology Limited was appointed by URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited on behalf of East Ayrshire Council to undertake the implementation of archaeological works during the development. The scope of these works was defined by a Method Statement developed by URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited (Copp 2011) and approved with the planning authority and their archaeological advisers, West of Scotland Archaeology Service. This Data Structure Report provides the detail of the works for the mitigation pertaining to relevant ground breaking works and hence the direct physical impact on buried sediments.
3. Archaeological monitoring was carried out over two areas involving five stages of monitoring from the 7th June 2011 to the 11th May 2012. Three areas were to be monitored (A, B, C after Copp 2011), however, Area A which encompasses the proposed running track and associated buildings was withdrawn as a result of an early start to the groundworks that occurred before a programme of archaeological investigation had been designed. Therefore, archaeological investigations were only required in Areas B and C (Copp 2011).

Project Works

4. The whole development area encompasses an area of over 7ha and is located between the A735/Queens Drive and the River Irvine (NGR 243860, 636718) with a freight railway line to the west. Areas B and C formed the primary focus of monitoring over two phases and five stages of monitoring from 7th June 2011 to the 11th May 2012.
5. The first phase of monitoring was carried out on the 7th June 2011 and took one day focusing on Area B. Area B measures 215.51m² and forms a narrow rectangular block of ground to the north of the River Irvine and running parallel with it. Monitoring was carried out within Area C over five site visits between 17th April and the 11th May 2012. Area C covers an area of 0.6ha and is located further to the east, also on the north bank of the river (see Figure 1 for location plan). This area is comprised of green fields and was developed to create a replacement ecology habitat area (see Figure 2b). The excavation plant used for the works was a Zaxis 135 US with a 2m flat edged bucket.
6. All works were conducted and undertaken according to the terms of the Method Statement (Copp 2011) and complied with West of Scotland Archaeology Service's Standard Conditions, the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

7. Within Area B ground breaking works removed approximately only 300mm with the topsoil (001) being shallow at 100-200mm. Below this the ground had been heavily disturbed by modern activity and revealed made-ground containing frequent modern inclusions of glass, pottery and brick across the whole area. The NE and SW ends have had greater disturbance with a mid brown compact sandy clay (see Figure 2a) with frequent inclusions (002) to the NE, and to the SW a compact dark green sandy clay again with frequent modern inclusions (006). The central area is characterised by a compact mid brown sandy clay with modern inclusions (004).
8. The remains of a roadway (003) ran along the SW edge of Area B and was characterised by Type 1 aggregate. A linear feature (005) filled by compacted dark grey/black fine gravel appeared to be the basal remains of a modern service/drainage trench that cuts into the made-ground. The presence of a large modern man-hole cover located in the SE area points to considerable disturbance within this area from its insertion and particularly

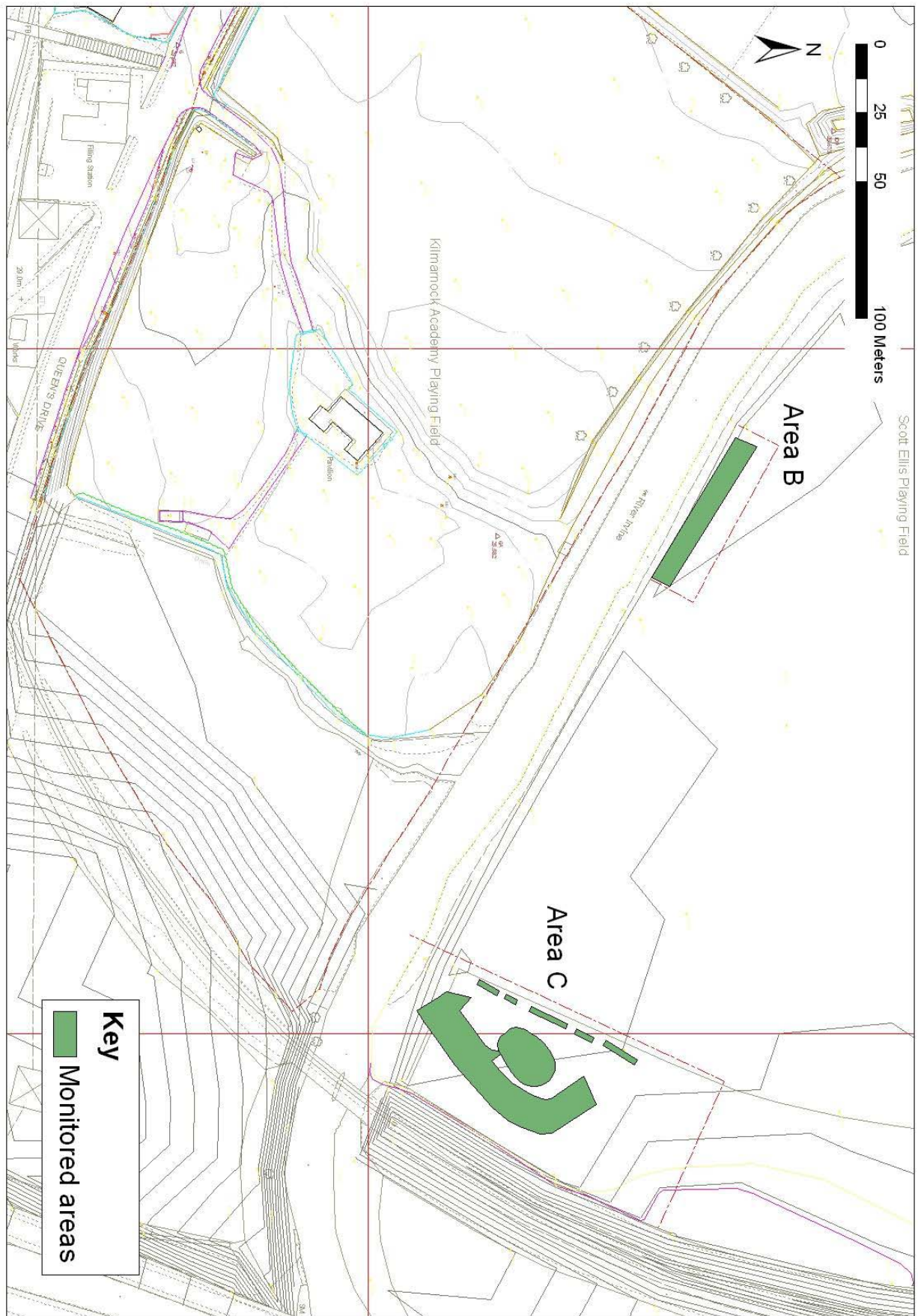


Figure 1: Layout of Monitored Areas



Figure 2a: Area B from SE part stripped.



Figure 2b: Area C from the E prior to commencement of works.



Figure 3a: Area C, excavated areas represent a burn and pond, from SW.



Figure 3b: Image showing the central core of the bank/levee made up of modern demolition material and the surrounding bank material.

the creation of deposit (006).

9. The topsoil (007) in the habitat area (Area C; Figure 2b) is a dark brown sandy clay mix with frequent roots and ranges in depth from 300-350mm across the areas stripped. The subsoil (008) is a light brown moderately compacted sandy loam (see Figure 3a) with patches of small gravel areas. Throughout all the areas excavated charcoal flecks were visible sitting on surface of the context. Within (007) and lying on top of (008) frequent modern inclusions of white glaze, glass and brick were recovered.
10. Removal of the bank/levee represented the final phase of monitoring and was characterised by a loosely compacted dark grey sand with modern demolition material forming the core of the bank/levee (011) (see Figure 3b). Below (011) was a loosely compacted yellow sand (012) forming the river bank. In areas below the bank/levee the movement of the river has heavily truncated it and the construction of the bank/levee has heavily disturbed the area. Therefore, the underlying matrix is characterised by a mix of (008), (011) and (012).

Discussion

11. Although no sites were recorded within the development area, there was the potential for unknown archaeological features to survive below ground level. The paucity of any features/sites having been recorded within the monitored areas may be the result of heavy disturbance, as demonstrated in Area B. The frequent flooding that occurs across the fields to the north of the river and within Area C may have acted as a deterrent against settlement. It could also have disturbed any features that may otherwise have been present.
12. Within both Areas B and C inclusions of nineteenth and twentieth century pottery (white glaze), glass, metal and brick were recovered representing modern activity and disturbance.

Conclusion

13. A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out over five phases from the 7th June 2011 to the 11th May 2012 on behalf of URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited and East Ayrshire Council in respect to the development of the new sports facilities at Kilmarnock Academy Playing Fields (NGR 243860 636718).
14. No significant archaeological deposits were revealed, the only anthropic material was recovered is associated with nineteenth and twentieth century material ranging from ceramics, drainage, glass and metal. No new deposits of significance were discovered during the course of these works.

References

Copp, A. 2011. *Kilmarnock Academy Playing Fields, Queens Drive, Kilmarnock: A Method Statement for the Watching Brief*. Unpublished report by URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited

Appendix 1: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Kilmarnock Academy Playing Fields
PROJECT CODE:	RA11033
PARISH:	Kilmarnock
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Peter Klemen and Claire Williamson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 243860 636718
START DATE (this season)	7 th June 2011
END DATE (this season)	10 th May 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological works were carried out on appointment by URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited for East Ayrshire Council in respect to the development of new sports facilities at Kilmarnock Academy Playing Fields (NGR 243860 636718).</p> <p>No significant archaeological deposits were revealed, the only anthropic material recovered is associated with nineteenth and twentieth century material ranging from ceramics, drainage, glass and metal. No new deposits of significance were discovered during the course of these works.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited
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