

**Carstairs Arms Hotel, Carstairs,
South Lanarkshire:
Archaeological Monitoring**

Data Structure Report

by Douglas Gordon

issued 16th March 2012



Rathmell
Archaeology Ltd

Quality Assurance

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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

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Mr John Bale in respect of the demolition of a former hotel and the erection of three houses at the Carstairs Arms Hotel, Carstairs (CL/11/0128) in South Lanarkshire. The archaeological works are designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area to the agreement of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service and South Lanarkshire Council.
2. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service who advises South Lanarkshire Council on archaeological matters requested an archaeological mitigation be undertaken to manage the potential impact on archaeological remains. They have provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required on this site during development works. South Lanarkshire Council have conditioned the granted consent with a negative suspensive condition for archaeology.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited was appointed by Mr John Bale to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works for the site investigation works designed to inform in respect of the demolition of a former hotel and the erection of three houses at the Carstairs Arms Hotel, Carstairs.
4. This Data Structure Report provides the detail of the findings of the archaeological monitoring of the intrusive site investigation works, designed to enable the development of the mitigation from the build and hence the direct physical impact on buried sediments.

Historical Background

5. The settlement at Carstairs achieved the formal status of a burgh in the 18th century, although the occupation of the settlement is likely to date from the medieval period. The village currently reflects the layout of a formally planned settlement with rows of tofts or building plots arranged around a village green. Indeed by William Roy's Military Survey in 1747-55 (Figure 1a) the structured layout of the village can be seen to be well established.
6. Throughout the 12th and 13th centuries AD the settlement has been known variously by the names of Casteltarres, Casteltarras and Casteltarris. The name is believed to have derived from a castle which is thought to have stood at the east end of the modern village. This suggested location is noted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1864 (Figure 1b). It is recorded that a castle was given to the Bishops of Glasgow in AD 1126, and that a new castle was commenced after AD 1286. Documentary evidence also shows that the church of St Mary at Carstairs was established by the twelfth century at least.
7. Medieval settlements often grew up around a high-status focus such as a castle or church, which could likely have been the case here with the establishment of a castle and parish church in the Carstairs area prompting the growth of a secular settlement. This suggests that it is possible that the church, castle and even the village itself may have been established contemporaneously as part of the twelfth century modernisation of Scotland led by King David I.
8. There are no specific known archaeological sites within the development area further than its location within Carstairs. The prompt for the archaeological condition was the potential for the presence of 18th century or earlier urban activity within the development footprint which has seen limited development in recent centuries.



Figure 1a: Detail from Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55)

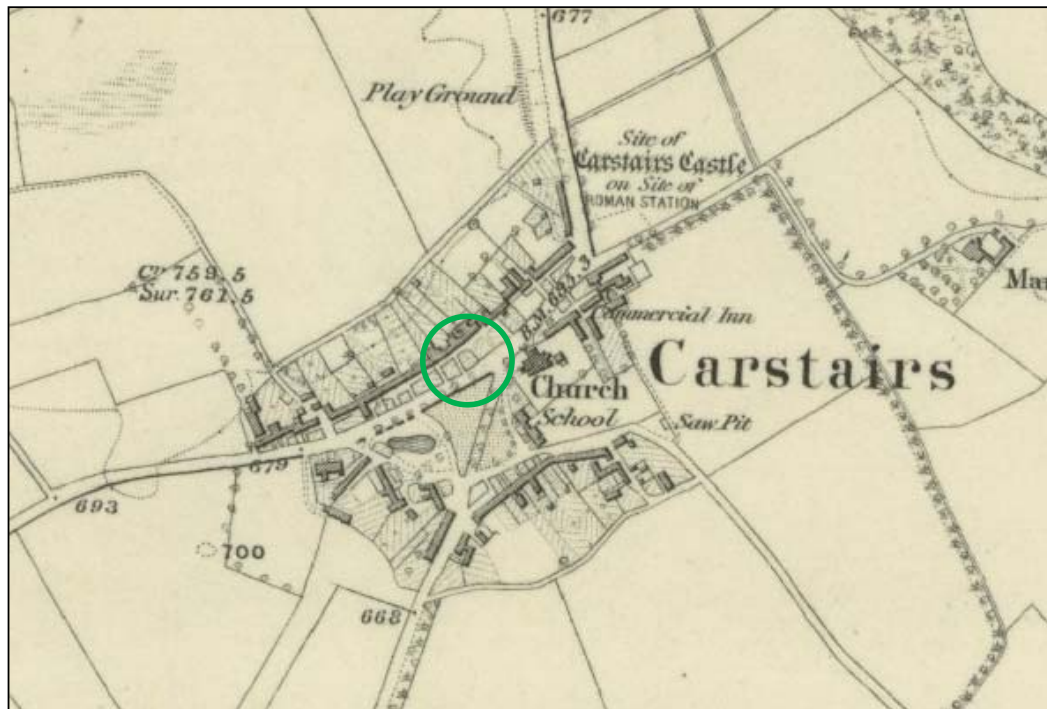


Figure 1b: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1859

Project Works

9. Archaeological monitoring was carried out on the 8th March 2012. The reduction of the footprint was monitored along with the partial reduction of the lowest terrace at the rear of the structure.
10. The site is bounded to the south east by Lanark Road, the main street through Carstairs, and to the northeast and southwest by houses. The site sits at the bottom of a slope which runs approximately southwest to northeast, the lower portion of the slopes have been terraced.
11. All archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the agreed Method Statement, the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

Monitoring

12. Upon the demolition of the walls it was found that there were no real foundations, the walls appear to be sat on slabs of sandstone (001), measuring approximately 500mm wide and 60mm deep. These slabs appear to overlay either hard packed orange brown sand (002) or black brown silty sand (003). During the course of the demolition these slabs were removed as part of the wall.
13. The monitoring of the ground reduction of the footprint of the building revealed natural orange brown hard packed sand (002) with occasional to frequent modern disturbance (Services). No significant archaeology was observed in the course of the monitoring.
14. The original building sat at the bottom of a slope, which rises to the immediate northwest, this slope had been terraced at least twice, the lowest terrace was situated to the immediate rear of the original building. This lower terrace (Figures 3a & 3b) was partially reduced to form a slope. The front edge of the terrace had concrete slabs (004) which overlay 150mm of pea gravel (005) which in turn overlay at least 500mm of mixed black and brown sand (006) with occasional inclusions of Ceramic Building Materials (CBM) and modern white glazed pottery.

Discussion

15. The archaeological monitoring of the works at the Carstairs Arms Hotel revealed no significant archaeological remains. The shallow nature of the foundations suggests that original structure was of a late to post medieval age and most likely is the same structure depicted on Roy's Military map (Figure 1a).
16. The slope to the rear of the structure prior to having been terraced appears to have continued through where the original structure stood, with the bottom of the slope finishing to the southeast, where the ground is slightly lower. To create a level area to build, the builders of the original structure would have had to dig into the slope to partially or wholly accommodate the building. As such any archaeology present would have been lost at that time.
17. The lowest terrace to the rear of the structure appears to have been created by modern made ground, this may indicate the original levelling for the building extended further into the slope and was later built up to create a terrace at some point in the recent past.



Figure 2a: Eastern third of site



Figure 2b: Western third of site



Figure 3a: Southeast facing section of Terrace



Figure 3b: Graded section through terrace

Recommendations

18. On balance, given that no significant archaeology was uncovered during the monitoring of the reduction of the footprint of the structure, which exposed natural subsoil. As well as the high likelihood that the ground has been reduced at the time of the original built thereby removing any possible surviving archaeology at that point. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommends that no further works are required. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with South Lanarkshire Council and their advisors, West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Conclusion

19. A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out for Mr John Bale in respect of the demolition of a former hotel and the erection of three houses at the Carstairs Arms Hotel, Carstairs (CL/11/0128) in South Lanarkshire. The monitoring failed to identify any significant archaeological features during the site investigation works. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd has made a recommendation in regard to future works, the appropriateness and acceptability of which rest with South Lanarkshire Council and their advisors, West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

References

Documentary

Scottish Government, 2011, PAN 02/2011: Planning and Archaeology, Edinburgh

Williamson, C, 2010, *Carstairs Arms Hotel, South Lanarkshire: Archaeological Monitoring. Written Scheme of Investigation*, unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeological Limited

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey, 1859, Six Inch *1st Edition Map of Lanarkshire, Sheet XXVI*

Roys' Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-55, Area around Lanark

Appendix 1: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site regardless of the process by which that information was gathered (e.g. evaluation or strip, map & sample).

Context Register

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Deposit	Sand stone slab approx 500mm wide and 60mm in depth	Slab Foundation
002	Deposit	Hard packed orange brown sand	Natural
003	Deposit	Black Brown silty sand	Modern disturbance
004	Deposit	Concrete slab 90mm thick	Modern terrace surface
005	Deposit	Pea gravel 150mm thick	Modern deposit
006	Deposit	Mixed black and brown sand with inclusions of red brick (CBM) and white glaze pottery	Modern made ground

Photographic Register

Image No.	Description	From	Date
1	South East facing section of Terrace	SE	08/03/12
2	Close up of foundation of retaining wall of terrace	SE	08/03/12
3	Eastern reduced third of the site	SE	08/03/12
4	SW facing section through the terrace	S	08/03/12
5	Western reduced third of the site	SW	08/03/12
6	Portion of the reduced terrace	S	08/03/12
7	Western reduced third of the site	WNW	08/03/12
8	Remaining portion of front wall with slab foundation	NNW	08/03/12
9	General view of slope with terracing	SE	08/03/12
10	General view of slope with terracing	SE	08/03/12
11	General view of slope with terracing	E	08/03/12
12	General view of slope with terracing	W	08/03/12
13	Middle reduced third of site	S	08/03/12

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Carstairs Arms Hotel, South Lanarkshire
PROJECT CODE:	RA11038
PARISH:	Carstairs
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Douglas Gordon
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, 6 figures)	NS 9382 4608
START DATE (this season)	8 th March 2012
END DATE (this season)	8 th March 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out for Mr John Bale in respect of the demolition of a former hotel and the erection of three houses at the Carstairs Arms Hotel, Carstairs (CL/11/0128) in South Lanarkshire. The monitoring failed to identify any significant archaeological features during the site investigation works. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd has made a recommendation in regard to future works, the appropriateness and acceptability of which rest with South Lanarkshire Council and their advisors, West of Scotland Archaeology Service
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Monitoring
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr John Bale
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

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

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Ayrshire	f.: 01294 542849
KA13 6PU	e.: contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk

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

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G2 4PF	e.: enquiries@wosas.glasgow.gov.uk

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