

**Lamlash Community Hall, Arran:  
Archaeological Mitigation**

Data Structure Report

by Douglas Gordon

issued 25th November 2011



**Rathmell**  
Archaeology Ltd

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## Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for North Ayrshire Council in support of the redevelopment of Lamlash Community Hall, Arran. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area to the agreement of the North Ayrshire Council.
2. North Ayrshire Council conditioned the granted planning consent (11/00269/LBC) with an archaeological watching brief condition for archaeological works. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service who advises North Ayrshire Council on archaeological matters provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required on this site during development works.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by North Ayrshire Council to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works at Lamlash Community Hall, Arran.

### *Archaeological and Historical Background*

4. The Lamlash Community Hall was a Category C(S) Listed Building, which is situated to the southern side of Park Terrace, Lamlash adjacent to the Arran High School. To the north and north-east of the Community Centre is an area of open space belonging to the school with facilities including a football pitch, athletics track, playground and a skateboard track.
5. The hall was originally built in 1914 by the Admiralty as accommodation for the fleet arriving at Lamlash on agricultural land (see Figure 1 for the original agricultural landscape). In 1917 the hall was converted into a convalescent hospital for soldiers.
6. The hall is adjacent to the site of a Bronze Age cemetery. Antiquarian records from the 19<sup>th</sup> century recorded the exposure of cists (stone lined graves) and the recovery of cinerary urns (pottery vessels holding cremated bone) from the fields to the west of the Whitehouse.
7. Intrusive evaluation works prior to the construction of the new Arran High School identified the cemetery, comprising burials in both cists and urns, underneath the old school's playing fields. These important archaeological remains were fully excavated prior to the construction of the new school.
8. There is the potential that associated prehistoric burial activity may extend into the ground upon which the hall stands. However, the Arran High School excavations did not locate any features extending from that site towards the hall.



Figure 1: Detail 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1868)



Figure 1b: Detail Popular edition Ordnance Survey (1926)

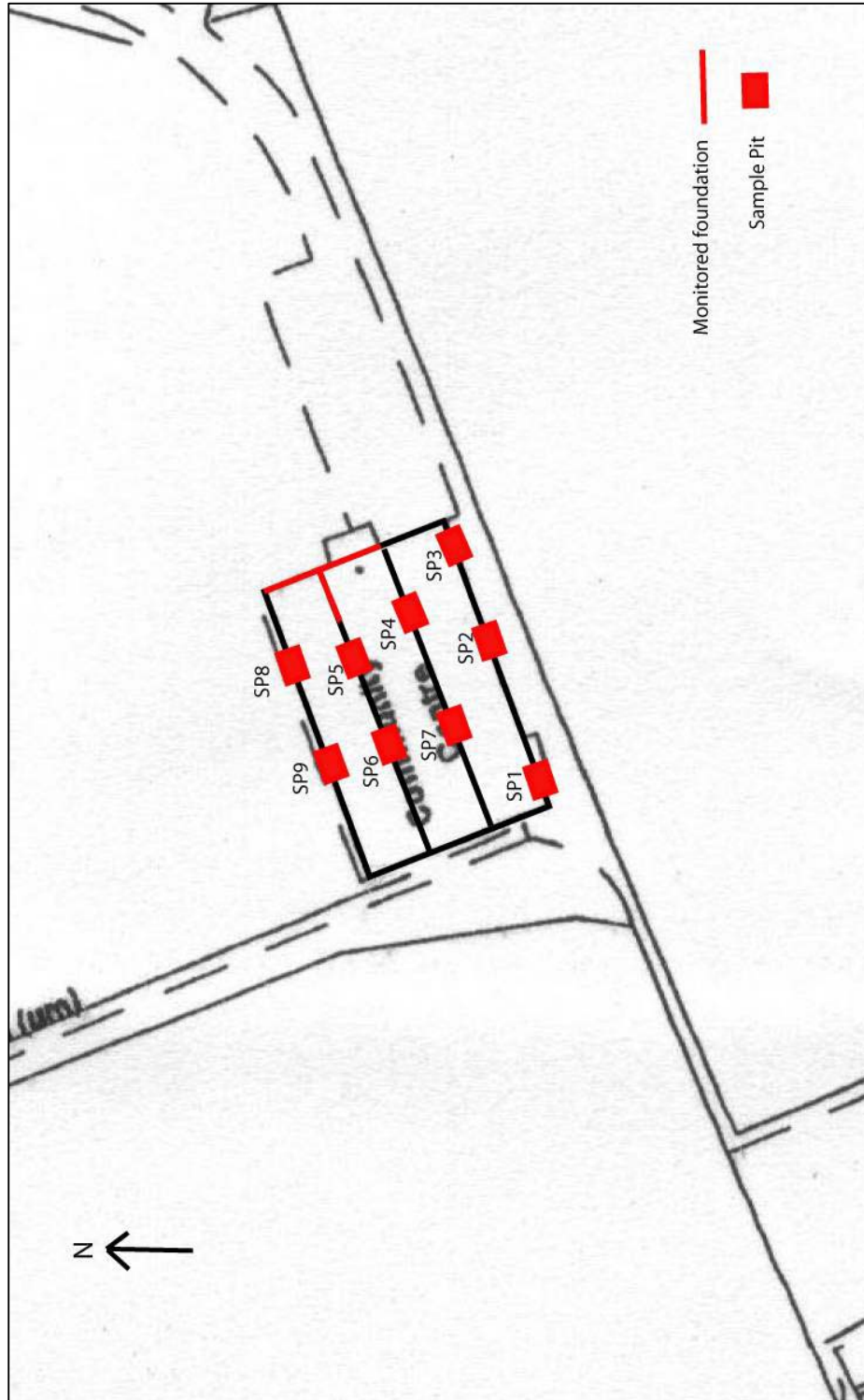


Figure 2: Site Plan

## Project Works

9. The programme of works was to comprise the monitoring of the grubbing out of the foundations of the hall. However, approximately 90% of the foundations of the hall had been removed prior to the arrival of the archaeologist. After conferring with WoSAS a strategy was agreed that would meet the archaeological condition. This consisted of monitoring the remaining foundations being grubbed out and the excavation of sample pits along the line of the foundations already dug.
10. In total approximately 16m of foundations were monitored along with nine sample pits. This covered approximately 80-85% of the site. All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

## Findings

11. The development area was located in open recreational ground to the north of Arran High School and covered an area totalling approximately 810m<sup>2</sup>.

### *Monitored Foundations*

12. The monitored grubbing out of the foundations revealed strip concrete foundations (003) 450mm wide and 200mm thick, which overlay directly orange sand natural (004). The monitored foundations were situated in the North corner of the hall and ran NNW-SSE and ENE-WSW. The foundations running NNW-SSE had a red brick retaining wall (005) on its northern half. To the west of this wall was mid grey brown silty sand (002) with inclusions of red brick and metal pipe which was roughly level with the top of the foundation. While to the east the retaining wall held back 500-650mm of black silt sand topsoil (001) which had modern detritus including red brick and white glazed pottery within it. The southern half of the foundation was not removed due to being overlain by tarmac, which would have been disturbed had the foundation been removed.
13. The foundations running ENE-WSW sat in approximately 100mm of (002) and overlay (004).

### *Sample Pits*

14. In total nine sample pits were excavated and recorded along the lines of the grubbed out foundations. The pits were generally 1.5-2m long and 1.2m wide, which revealed a similar strata to the monitored foundations, with the orange sand natural (004) present under the mid grey brown silty sand (002) with red brick, ceramic pipe and building detritus inclusions. The level of the (002) varied from 100mm to 350mm in depth but this was due to the demolition crew using demolition rubble to level off areas within the site.
15. In both the monitoring of the grubbing out of the foundations and the excavation of the sample pits no archaeological features were observed. A walk over inspection was made over the whole area but only modern detritus was observed.

## Discussion

The only thing of note was the presence of the mid grey brown silty sand (002). This deposit had the appearance of highly disturbed ground/made ground, which, while obviously disturbed again by the demolition works, would seem to have been in existence prior to the works taking place. From what was observed during the grubbing out of the foundations and the excavation of the samples pits it appeared that the footprint of the hall may have been topsoil stripped during its construction with (002) being deposited after the foundations were laid.

No significant archaeological features were observed during the monitoring.



Figure 3a: Sample Pit 4



Figure 3b: Sample Pit 8



## Recommendations

16. The archaeological mitigation works did not reveal any significant archaeological features or artefacts within the development area. Consequently, we recommend that no further archaeological works are appropriate with regards to this site.
17. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with North Ayrshire Council and their advisors, West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

## Conclusion

18. Archaeological mitigation works were carried out in relation to the grubbing out of the foundations of the Lamlash Community Hall, Arran .The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
19. The mitigation works did not reveal any significant archaeological features or artefacts.

## References

### *Documentary*

Gordon, D                      2011                      *Lamlash Community Hall, Arran: Archaeological Mitigation, Method Statement*, unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd for NAC

### *Cartographic*

1868	Ordnance Survey	1 <sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, Lanarkshire
1926	Ordnance Survey	Popular edition, Isle of Arran

## 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	mid-dark brown silt sand with occasional red brick and white glaze pottery inclusions. 250-600mm thick.	Topsoil
002		Deposit	Mid grey brown silt sand with frequent red brick and other modern detritus	Made ground/demolition rubble
003		Foundation	Grey concrete strip foundation 450mm in width and 200mm in depth	Foundation
004		Natural	Dark- pale orange sand	Natural
005		Wall	Linear feature consisting of re brick and mortar two brick wide and several courses high	Retaining Wall
006		Deposit	Black bitumen	Tarmac

### *Photographic Register*

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
1	1	General Shot of Site	E	18/11/11
2	2	General Shot of Site	SE	18/11/11
3	3	General Shot of Site	N	18/11/11
4	4	Grubbing out of Foundations	NNE	18/11/11
5	5	Grubbing out of Foundations	NW	18/11/11
6	6	Grubbing out of Foundations	NNW	18/11/11
7	7	Grubbing out of Foundations	ENE	18/11/11
8	8	Grubbing out of Foundations	SSW	18/11/11

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<b>Image No.</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Date</b>
9	9	Grubbing out of Foundations	N	18/11/11
10	10	Grubbing out of Foundations	NW	18/11/11
11	11	General Shot of Site	E	18/11/11
12	12	Sample Pit 1	ENE	18/11/11
13	13	Sample Pit 1	NNW	18/11/11
14	14	Sample Pit 2	SSE	18/11/11
15	15	Sample Pit 2	ENE	18/11/11
16	16	Sample Pit 3	ENE	18/11/11
17	17	Sample Pit 3	NNW	18/11/11
18	18	Sample Pit 4	WSW	18/11/11
19	19	Sample Pit 4	NNW	18/11/11
20	20	Sample Pit 5	NNW	18/11/11
21	21	Sample Pit 5	WSW	18/11/11
22	22	Sample Pit 6	ENE	18/11/11
23	23	Sample Pit 6	SSE	18/11/11
24	24	Sample Pit 7	ENE	18/11/11
25	25	Sample Pit 7	NNW	18/11/11
26	26	Sample Pit 8	ENE	18/11/11
27	27	Sample Pit 8	SSE	18/11/11
28	28	Sample Pit 9	ENE	18/11/11
29	29	Sample Pit 9	NNW	18/11/11

## Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	North Ayrshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Lamlash Community Hall
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	RA11044
<b>PARISH:</b>	Lamlash
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Douglas Gordon
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Monitoring
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR</b> (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 0226 3081
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	18 <sup>th</sup> November 2011
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	18 <sup>th</sup> November 2011
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (may include information from other fields)	Archaeological mitigation works were carried out in relation to the grubbing out of the foundations of the Lamlash Community Hall, Arran .The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.  The mitigation works did not reveal any significant archaeological features or artefacts.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	North Ayrshire Council
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
<b>E MAIL:</b>	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (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:

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KA13 6PU	e.: <a href="mailto:contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk">contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk</a>

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

West of Scotland Archaeology Service	<a href="http://www.wosas.org.uk">www.wosas.org.uk</a>
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