

**Drumcross Cottage, Bishopton, Renfrewshire:
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Data Structure Report

by Peter Klemen

issued 16th May 2012



Rathmell

Archaeology Ltd

Quality Assurance

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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

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Mr Peter Anderson on behalf of Mr & Mrs I & S Graham in respect to the construction of new buildings at Drumcross Cottage, Renfrewshire (11/0049/PP and 11/0448/PP) (NGR NS 44791 71332). 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.
2. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service who advises Renfrewshire Council on archaeological matters requested archaeological monitoring to manage the potential impact on archaeological remains. They provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required on this site during development works.
3. This Data Structure Report provides the detail of the works for the mitigation pertaining to all ground breaking works and hence the direct physical impact on buried sediments. The works consisted of monitoring areas in which foundations for the new dwellings were to be located and in this process monitoring the removal of any foundations from the previous dwellings. Monitoring for the removal of foundations and the excavation of areas in which new foundation trenches were to be located commenced on 7th March 2012 and lasted for one day.

Archaeological and Historical Background

4. Within the immediate vicinity of Drumcross Farm two enclosures are visible on aerial photographs (taken 1977) and are located to the north and south of the track leading to Drumcross Farm (enclosure 1: Canmore no. NS47SW 43, enclosure 2: Canmore No. NS47SW 44).
5. Scheduled in 08/03/2011 enclosure 1 is ovoid in shape and measures up to 25m N-S by about 30m E-W. A clear entrance, or break in the enclosure ditch, is visible at the W end, measuring at least 4m in width. Possibly dating from the later prehistoric period. The monument is located in rolling farmland at 30m OD and around 2km WSW of the River Clyde (WoSAS pin 7917).
6. Enclosure 2 measures approximately 25m WNW-ESE by 30-35m NNE-SSW. There are possibly two external ditches in the NW quadrant, however, as the cropmark is very faint it is suggested that the original colour copy should be referenced. The surrounding area features many dark spots, a few metres across, which could be pits (Wosas pin 7918)
7. The six inch 1857 Ordnance Survey map of Renfrewshire shows four structures and the course of the farm track that leads from Drumcross road to the farm area. The present course of the farm track follows the same route and the area in which the structures were recorded will be the area in which the new dwellings are to be located (Figure 1a).
8. The farm and surrounding landscape was owned by the Parke family and was one of the wealthiest in the area. A receipt for the selling of potatoes dated to 1900 was discovered by the building contractor, Mr Peter Anderson, and priced at £120 000.
9. Previous works within the area of Drumcross Farm was a Historic Building Recording Survey (Turner 2010). The works were designed to create a competent record of the surviving elements of a Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery dating to the Second World War (Canmore No. NS47SE 80) prior to the partial demolition of the historic structures and the construction of new agricultural buildings.
10. Batteries like Drumcross, usually incorporating four guns within a single gunsite (though sometimes including up to six or eight guns) were created to provide cover for 'Gun Defended Areas'. Drumcross formed part of the Clyde GDA, and the first evidence for its use was in 22 June, 1942.

Project Works

11. This Data Structure Report provides the findings of the archaeological monitoring carried out on the 7th March 2012. The works consisted of monitoring areas in which foundations for new dwellings were to be located and in this process monitoring the removal of any foundations from the previous dwellings.
12. All the previous dwellings associated with the farm had been demolished before the commencement of archaeological monitoring (Figure 1b) and the stone kept for re-use in the construction of the new buildings. The barns have all been re-roofed and are continuing to be used. Figure 2a shows the structures of Drumcross Farm still standing, but derelict. The plant used for the removal of the foundations was a CASE CX130 with an 800mm flat edged bucket.
13. All works were conducted and undertaken according to the terms of the Method Statement (Rees 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

14. In total thirty-one foundation trenches were excavated, seven for the footprint of the smaller dwelling and twenty-four for the larger new farm manager's house. These trenches also included the foundations for the internal walls for the larger of the two dwellings (to be the farm manager's house) which are to be load bearing. The width of the trenches was 800mm and down to a depth of 700-800mm. Trenches were deliberately taken down to a low level, after pausing at a natural subsoil surface, to establish that no foundations were present from previous builds and to check assumptions about the subsoil given the narrow trenches.
15. Topsoil (001) depth varied across the site from 100-500mm. And contained large quantities of modern material mixed in with it. In the area to the north of the site, in the footprint of the smaller of the dwellings, there was only one substantial sandstone foundation which was left in situ with the new foundation trench located running parallel to it.
16. No substantial cut foundations were uncovered from the previous dwelling within the footprint of the larger dwelling (farm manager's house). Within the trenches associated with the larger dwelling the topsoil was heavily disturbed and mixed with modern ceramic and broken ceramic drainage pipes. What was present were medium to large rounded boulders filled in with yellow sand (003) (Figure 2b). This formed a floating base on top of the red pink sandy clay natural (002) on which the previous dwelling had been built on and formed the foundations.

Discussion

17. The only feature of note was the floating foundation base (003), this however relates to a nineteenth century structure. 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.

Recommendations

18. The archaeological mitigation works revealed no significant archaeological features or artefacts within the development area and as such no further works are recommended as a direct consequence of this phase of monitoring.
19. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with Renfrewshire Council and their advisors, West of Scotland Archaeology Service.



Figure 1a: 1st Ordnance Survey Edition (Surveyed 1857)



Figure 1b: Post-excavation shot over the area for the new farm manager's house and where one of the previous dwellings had been located



Figure 2a: Historic photo illustrating the standing but derelict dwellings of Drumcross Farm (after © Copyright James T M Towill and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence www.geograph.org.uk/photo/2639553)



Figure 2b: Trench showing the stone and yellow sand mix of the floating foundations (003) sitting on top of the red pink sandy clay natural (002).

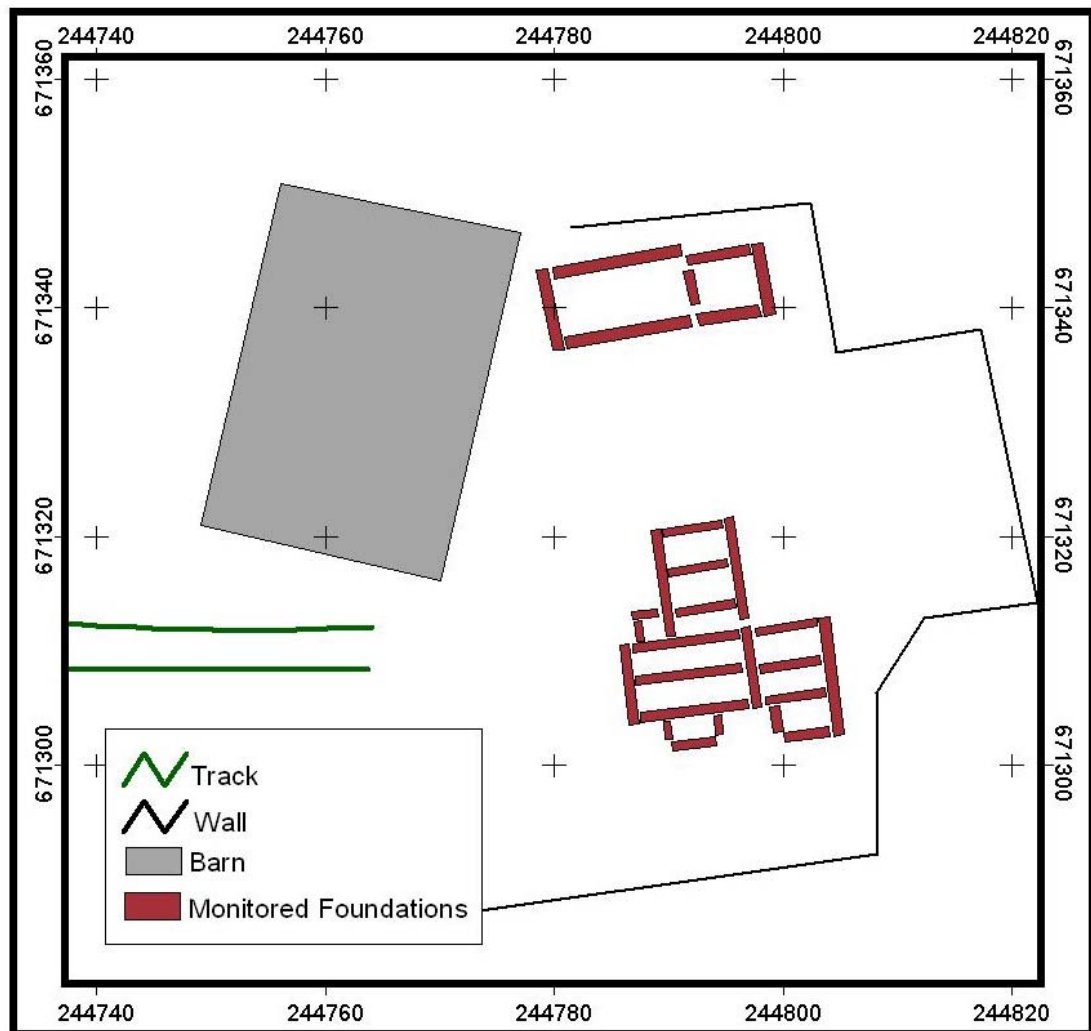


Figure 3a: Plan illustrating the areas of new foundations monitored during works

Conclusion

20. A programme of archaeological monitoring works were carried out on for Mr Peter Anderson on behalf of Mr & Mrs I & S Graham in respect to the construction of new buildings at Drumcross Cottage, Renfrewshire (11/0049/PP and 11/0448/PP) (NGR NS 44791 71332). The works consisted of monitoring areas in which foundations for the new dwellings were to be located and in this process monitoring the removal of any foundations from the previous dwellings.
21. 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

Cartographic

1857 Ordnance Survey Ordnance Survey 1st Edition

Documentary

Rees, T., 2012, *Drumcross Cottage, Bishopton, Renfrewshire: Archaeological Mitigation Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

Turner, L., 2010, *Drumcross Farm, Bishopton, Renfrewshire: Historic Building Recording Data Structure Report*. Unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

Appendix 1: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site during the archaeological mitigation.

Photographic Register

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
1					1	Pre-ex shot over area where the larger replacement house is to be (new farm managers house)	E	07/03/12
2					2	Pre-ex for area where smaller house will be located	E	07/03/12
3					3	Small house: north wall trench section illustrating the natural sub-soil	S	07/03/12
4					4	North wall foundation trench of small house	W	07/03/12
5					5	West wall foundation trench of small house with modern drainage pipe	N	07/03/12
6					6	As above, with ranging rod for scale	N	07/03/12
7					7	West wall trench of small house, modern line of red brick, approx 1m down	N	07/03/12
8					8	As above	W	07/03/12
9					9	Plant in operation	E	07/03/12
10					10	Tr 8, outside 'E' wall on larger house (farm manager)	N	07/03/12
11					11	Tr 8, outside 'E' wall with internal walls (tr's 10 (L) & 11 (R))	E	07/03/12
12					12	Excavating tr 23	S	07/03/12
13					13	Tr 18 large house	N	07/03/12
14					14	Tr 12 large house	W	07/03/12
15					15	Tr 13 large house	W	07/03/12
16					16	Tr 14 large house	W	07/03/12

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
17					17	Tr 15 large house	W	07/03/12
18					18	Tr16 large house	W	07/03/12
19					19	Post-ex shot over whole site	SW	07/03/12

Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Whole site	Deposit	Loose, black grey soil	Topsoil with modern material
002	Whole site	Deposit	Moderately compacted, red sandy clay with occasional sub-angular and rounded stones	Natural glacial drift
003	Farm manager's house	Deposit	Moderately compacted, medium to large rounded boulders (300-600mm in size) filled in with yellow sand	Floating foundation base

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Renfrewshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Drumcross Cottage
PROJECT CODE:	RA 11066
PARISH:	Erskine
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Peter Klemen
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NA
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	NA
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 44791 71332
START DATE (this season)	7 th March 2012
END DATE (this season)	7 th March 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken for Mr Peter Anderson on behalf of Mr & Mrs I & S Graham in respect to the construction of new buildings at Drumcross Cottage, Renfrewshire (11/0049/PP and 11/0448/PP). The works consisted of monitoring areas in which foundations for the new dwellings were to be located and in this process monitoring the removal of any foundations from the previous dwellings.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr & Mrs Graham
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
E MAIL ADDRESS:	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Renfrewshire Council 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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