

**Kirkoswald Mains Rehabilitation, South Ayrshire:  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Data Structure Report

by Peter Klemen

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**Rathmell**

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Archaeology Ltd

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## Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Scottish Water Shared Services Delivery in support of the Kirkoswald Mains Rehabilitation work in proximity to Crossraguel Abbey, South Ayrshire. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area to the standards expected under the release of Permitted Development rights.
2. The Data Structure Report is structured to meet the advice of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service who recommended to South Ayrshire Council that archaeological issues should be addressed. Rathmell Archaeology Limited was appointed by Scottish Water Shared Services Delivery to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological works during the development.

## Archaeological and Historical Background

3. The proposed study area at Crossraguel Abbey, South Ayrshire covers ground that is predominantly the roadway and margins of the A77, though some works were carried out to the north of this in an agricultural field. Within the agricultural ground to the north of the A77 is the recorded findspot for a number of stone implements from early prehistory and a large number of sherds of medieval pottery (WoSAS Site 5392). However, this was not an area of focus for archaeological monitoring.
4. The A77 itself, running to the north of the main cloistral buildings of Crossraguel Abbey, is mapped in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century on this alignment (see Figure 1a) and subsequently, under the 1774 Ayr Road Act, became a turnpike road. The 18<sup>th</sup> century turnpike road remained an important route as demonstrated by its inclusion in the Ordnance Survey (see Figure 1b) and its continued use to this day. There is the potential for historic road surfaces to survive at this location, although earlier monitoring work on the resurfacing of the A77 (WoSAS Event 995) in 1995 failed to find any significant archaeological material.

### *Crossraguel Abbey*

5. In *circa* 1214 Duncan the Earl of Carrick granted extensive lands in Carrick to the monks at Paisley Abbey, on the provision that they built him a sister abbey at Crossraguel. The monks though, only built him a small oratory so they could retain most of the revenue from the lands. However, in 1244 the Bishop of Glasgow decreed that a Cluniac monastery had to be built at Crossraguel (though not fully functional until 1286).
6. The name of Crossraguel was thought to have come from an early Christian cross, the *Cross of Riaghail* (Irish) or *Royal Cross* which was thought to have stood nearby. The original abbey, which was cruciform in shape, was almost completely destroyed during the Wars of Independence (early 14<sup>th</sup> century) - the only surviving substantial remains of the original building are the two west angles of the nave. The abbey was rebuilt in its present form in the late 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, with a new nave, chapter house, sacristy, refectory, and infirmary all forming part of the abbey buildings. The nave in the new abbey was rather unusual in that it was long and narrow without aisles or transepts and had a three-sided apse or chevet (a style found on the continent). In the 16<sup>th</sup> century the abbey church was divided in two with the western section becoming the Lady Chapel.
7. During the Reformation in 1561 some of the buildings were partially damaged - the addition of two structures in the 16<sup>th</sup> century: *the abbots tower* and *the gatehouse* being indicative of the troubled times. The dovecot, which is almost entirely intact, was also built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The monks continued to occupy the abbey until at least 1592, though by this time it was long past its hey-day of a wealthy institution.
8. Crossraguel Abbey is a Scheduled Monument (AMH 90087) protected under the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* and under guardianship of Historic Scotland. The current works lie to the west and northwest of the designated area and will not impact upon this area. However, the monastic activity at Crossraguel will have been more extensive, potentially encompassing the works area.



Figure 1a: Roy's Military Survey of Scotland 1752-55. Green circle represents area of monitoring.

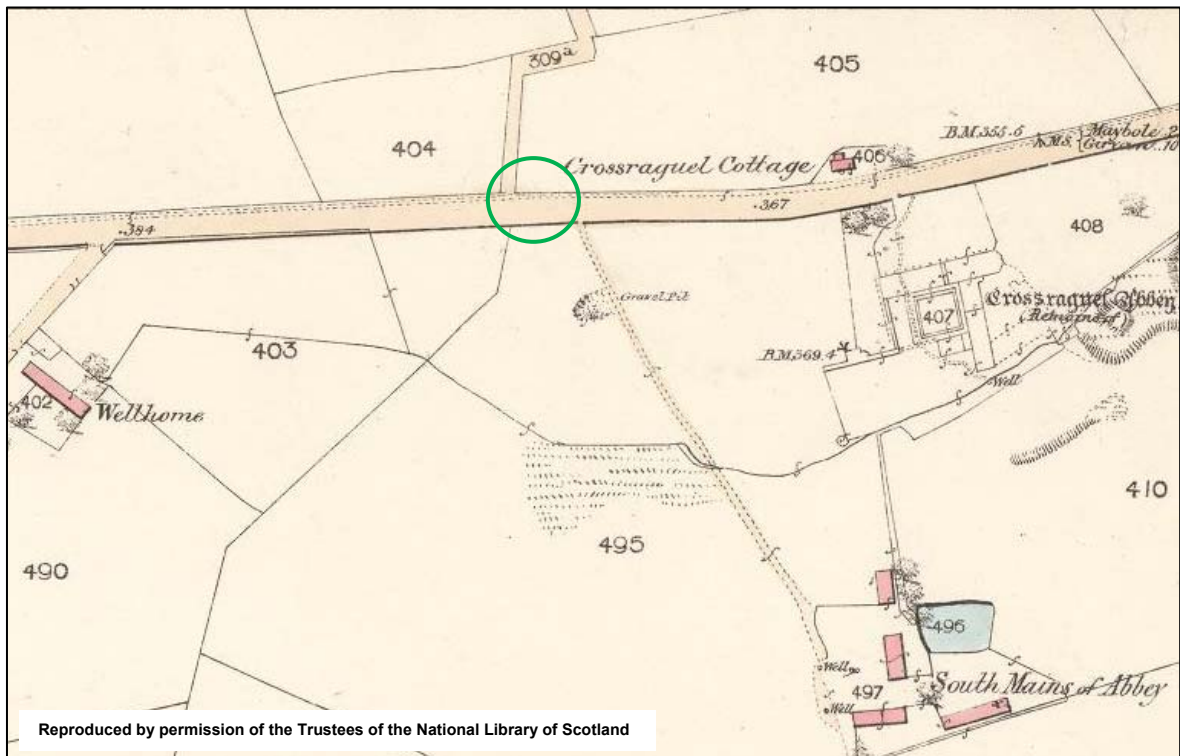


Figure 1b: 25 Inch First Edition Ordnance Survey 1859 (surveyed 1857). Green circle represents area of monitoring.

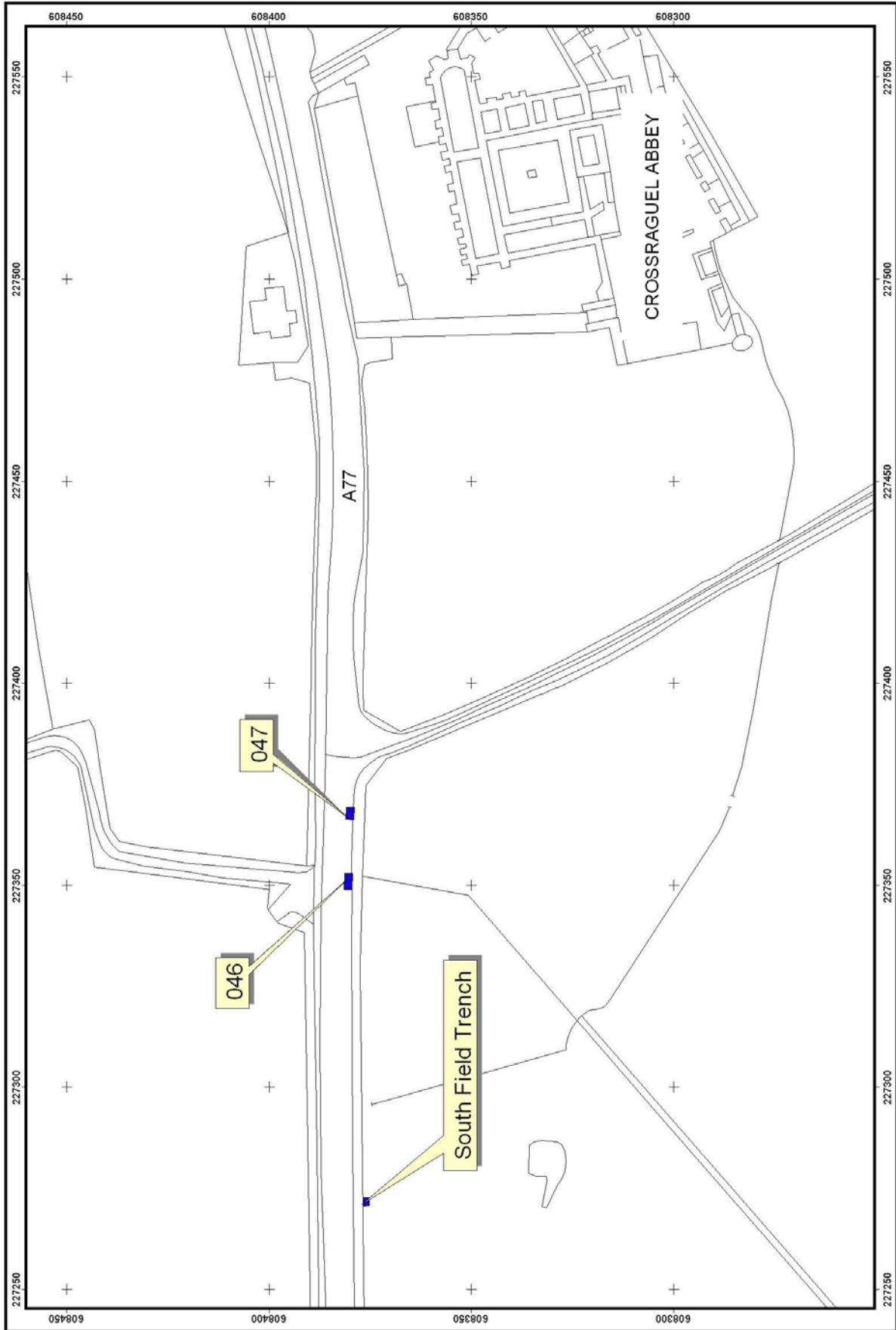


Figure 2: Site plan showing location of works

## Project Works

9. The character and scope of the archaeological resource within the development area was uncertain. The archaeologically sensitive area was taken to be the ground affected by work elements along the southern edge of the A77 (covering trenches 046 and 047 and any immediately adjacent activities such as the excavation where a new bend was to be installed to the west of 046 – see Figure 2) where there was the potential for medieval to 19<sup>th</sup> century archaeological features. Archaeological monitoring was carried out over two phases: the first phase from 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012 to 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012 and the second phase on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2012.
10. All works were conducted and undertaken according to the terms of the Method Statement (Gordon 2012) 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

11. Trenches 046 and 047 were excavated using a Kubota KX 080.3 with a 300mm wide flat edged bucket and had dimensions of 2m by 4m and 2m by 3m respectively (see Figure 3a). Trench 046 was excavated to a depth of approximately 2m to the depth of the mains pipe while 047 was approximately 1.5m in depth. A third trench (south field trench) was excavated for the installation of a new bend located in a waterlogged field to the south of the A77 which runs parallel with the road (see Figure 4a). This trench was excavated using a Kubota KX 61-3, with dimensions of 2m by 1.5m and to a depth of 1m.
12. Both 046 and 047 were located on the road and southern edge of the A77 with 047 extending into the grass verge. Sited approximately 10m apart and excavated down through the road surfaces, both had the same underlying contexts. The surface course (001) was formed of tarmac with a depth of 100mm which overlay (002), a black and compacted layer with sub-rounded and sub-angular stones and tarmac mix measuring approximately 200mm deep. Below (002), (003) was a grey loosely compacted stone fill of Type 1 material (crushed stone used as a construction aggregate) with a thickness of approximately 200mm. The natural subsoil (004) was formed of a yellow/orange clay and sand with frequent angular medium sized stones (see Figure 3b).
13. The south field trench was located at the base of the southern verge of the A77 within the field boundary. The topsoil (005) was formed of moderately compacted and waterlogged light grey clay to a depth a 300mm with frequent roots. This directly overlay subsoil (006) which was formed of a waterlogged humic peat and comprised the lower 700mm of the trench (see Figure 4b). Due to the waterlogged nature of the field the trench quickly became filled with water.

## Discussion

14. During monitoring no significant archaeological deposits or features were recorded. The lack of any significant archaeology is most likely due to the site having been heavily disturbed from the construction of a number of modern road surfaces. This formed the only anthropic material recorded.
15. Although no significant deposits were recovered, the location of the A77 close to Crossraguel Abbey and it having been an important thoroughfare since the 18<sup>th</sup> century and earlier, supports the possibility for older historic road surfaces to still survive along its course. Similarly, the large number of sherds of medieval pottery (WoSAS Site 5392) recorded from the field to the north of the A77 demonstrates the potential for further material remains to be recovered from within the surrounding vicinity.





Figure 3a: Opening trench 047.



Figure 3b: Trench 047 demonstrating contexts and road surfaces.





Figure 4a: Location photo of the south field trench and the surrounding topography



Figure 4b: Showing contexts (005) and (006), also the high water table

## Recommendations

16. 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.
17. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with South Ayrshire Council and their advisors, West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

## Conclusion

18. A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out on behalf of Scottish Water Shared Services Delivery in support of the Kirkoswald Mains Rehabilitation work in proximity to Crossraguel Abbey, South Ayrshire. The works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area and occurred over two phases on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012 and the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2012.
19. No new deposits of archaeological significance were discovered during the course of these works. The only anthropic material recovered was associated with modern 20<sup>th</sup> century road surfaces.

## References

### *Cartographic*

1747-1755	Roy	Military Survey of Scotland
1857	Ordnance Survey	25 inch Ordnance Survey 1st Edition

### *Documentary*

Gordon, D., 2012, *Kirkoswald Mains Rehabilitation, South Ayrshire: Archaeological Monitoring, Method Statement*. 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.	Digital	Description	From	Date
01	1	Trench 47 backfilled	W	03/07/12
02	2	Working shot in trench 46	E	03/07/12
03	3	As above	E	03/07/12
04	4	Looking south onto area excavated for trench to locate pipe in north field	N	03/07/12
05	5	Plant in operation	NE	03/07/12
06	6	Pipe trench in north field	E	03/07/12
07	7	Trench and pipe in north field	SW	03/07/12
08	8	West facing section of trench in north field	W	03/07/12
09	9	South facing section trench 46	S	03/07/12
10	10	Re-opening trenches 46 and 47	NW	04/07/12
11	11	Working shot trench 47	W	04/07/12
12	12	South facing section trench 47	S	04/07/12
13	13	North facing section trench 46	N	04/07/12
14	14	East facing section trench 47	E	04/07/12
15	15	South facing section trench 47	S	04/07/12
16	16	North facing section trench 47	N	04/07/12
17	17	West facing section trench 47	W	04/07/12
18	18	Demonstration photo of the field south of the A77	W	07/08/12
19	19	Demonstration photo of the field south of the A77	W	07/08/12
20	20	Spoil from the trench in field south of the A77	SW	07/08/12

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
21	21	Trench in field south of the A77 showing high water table	S	07/08/12
22	22	Trench in field south of the A77, south facing section	S	07/08/12
23	23	Trench in field south of the A77, south facing section	S	07/08/12
24	24	Re-opening and extending trench 46 to the west	N	07/08/12
25	25	Working shot	N	07/08/12
26	26	South facing section of trench 46 extension	S	07/08/12
27	27	North facing section of trench 46 extension	W	07/08/12

### Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	46 & 47	Deposit	Compacted, black tarmac	Tarmac (Surface course)
002	46 & 47	Deposit	Moderately compacted, black tarmac and stone mix, approximately 200mm in thickness. Stone size range from 30-40mm.	Road Binder course
003	46 & 47	Deposit	Loose compacted, grey stone and sand mix, stones are approximately 40-50mm in size. Thickness of deposit is approximately 200mm.	Road Sub-base (Type 1 material)
004	46 & 47	Deposit	Loose compacted, yellow/orange clay and sand with frequent medium sized stones with a total thickness of 1.5m.	Natural subsoil
005	South field	Deposit	Moderately compacted, light grey clay with frequent roots, 300mm thick.	Topsoil
006	South field	Deposit	Moderately compacted, black humic peat, heavily waterlogged, 700mm thick.	Peat



## Appendix 2: Discovery &amp; Excavation in Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	South Ayrshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Kirkoswald Mains Rehabilitation
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	RA12040
<b>PARISH:</b>	Kirkoswald
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Peter Klemen
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NA
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	NA
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NS 27354 08379
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2012
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (may include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological monitoring works were required by Scottish Water Shared Services Delivery in support of the Kirkoswald Mains Rehabilitation work in proximity to Crossraguel Abbey, South Ayrshire. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area to the standards expected under the release of Permitted Development rights.</p> <p>During monitoring no significant archaeological deposits or features were recorded. The lack of any significant archaeology is most likely due the site having been heavily disturbed due to the construction of a number of modern road surfaces. This formed the only anthropic material recorded.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Scottish Water Shared Services Delivery
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
<b>E MAIL ADDRESS:</b>	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	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:

Rathmell Archaeology Ltd	<a href="http://www.rathmell-arch.co.uk">www.rathmell-arch.co.uk</a>
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Kilwinning	t.: 01294 542848
Ayrshire	f.: 01294 542849
KA13 6PU	e.: <a href="mailto:contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk">contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk</a>

21. 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>
Charing Cross Complex	
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Glasgow	f.: 0141 287 9259
G2 4PF	e.: <a href="mailto:enquiries@wosas.glasgow.gov.uk">enquiries@wosas.glasgow.gov.uk</a>

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