

**Brockwellmuir Farm, Dunlop, East Ayrshire:
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Data Structure Report

by Calum Henderson

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Rathmell
Archaeology Ltd

Quality Assurance

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Date

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for J & A Cedervall in respect of a residential development at Brockwellmuir Farm, Dunlop, East Ayrshire NS 24188 65116. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area to the agreement of the East Ayrshire Council.
2. East Ayrshire Council has conditioned the granted planning consent (07/0429/FL) with an archaeological watching brief condition for archaeological works. This condition was applied based on the advice of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service. They required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken during groundbreaking works associated with the works.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by Mr Ross Jones to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works at Brockwellmuir Farm, Dunlop, East Ayrshire.

Archaeological and Historical Background

4. The development area is centred on the historic farm buildings of Brockwellmuir Farm which stands some 1.5km northeast of Dunlop, East Ayrshire. The farm lies on a ridge of ground with two streams, the Black Burn to the southeast and an unnamed tributary to the northwest, defining its edges.
5. Brockwellmuir Farm is depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1858; see Figure 1b) as a combined U-plan steading and farmhouse, open to the south. A small walled garden is shown to the north of the courtyard and additional enclosed garden ground is shown to the south; there is an outbuilding to the west. The character and form of the structures strongly suggests an early 19th century origin to this complex.
6. The record held in the Sites & Monuments Record (WoSASPIN 52109) mentions the presence of rig (agricultural remains) in the fields around the farmstead. Also, a disused limekiln, shown on the modern Ordnance Survey, lies 225m to the southwest of the farm (WoSASPIN 63381).
7. While the current farm buildings are most likely early 19th century in origin, there is an identified settlement at Brockwellmuir Farm shown on Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55; see Figure 1a). This historic mapping has captured the rural settlement of the area before the improvements (especially enclosure and new farmsteads) of the late 18th and early 19th century. Roy depicts four structures and an associated enclosure, they are slightly dispersed and are unlikely to match the current Brockwellmuir Farm. However, the 1st edition Ordnance Survey shows a structure to the immediate northeast of the farm within a tree defined enclosure (see Figure 1b); this structure does not survive but may have been the survival of one of the mid 18th century structures into the late 19th century.
8. Other than the buildings discussed above, there are no additional known archaeological sites within the development area. However, the location of the structures suggests that there is the potential to reveal archaeological features relating to the origin and early development of Brockwellmuir Farm.

Project Works

9. This Data Structure Report provides the findings of the archaeological monitoring carried out on the 19th and 20th of April 2012. The works consisted of monitoring areas that required excavation, ground remodelling and road access improvements for redevelopment of the property.
10. 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.



Figure 1a: Detail from Roy (1747-55) Plan of Brockwellmuir



Figure 1b: Detail from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1858)

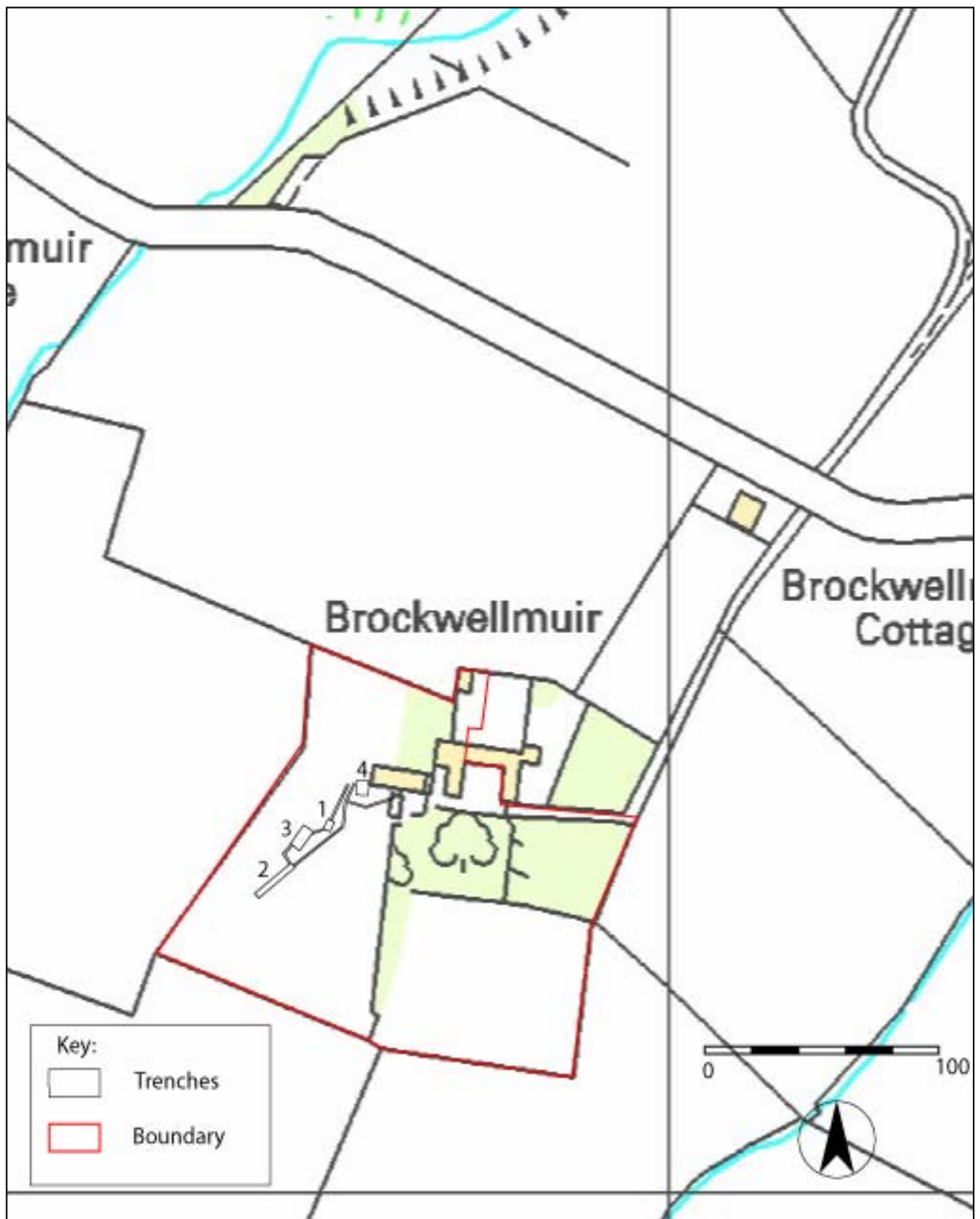


Figure 2: Site Plan

Findings

11. Prior to the commencement of archaeological monitoring no upstanding evidence for the original farm settlement depicted on Roys Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55; see Figure 1a) were visible. Some of the farm buildings depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1858; see Figure 1b), including the U-shaped steading and farm house and walled garden to the North were still in use. However, the outbuilding (although currently being renovated) to the west and walls of the enclosed garden to the south were still standing, but derelict.
12. The plant used for groundbreaking work was a small 5 ton 360⁰ excavator which used either an 1800mm or 800mm flat edged bucket depending on trench size and dimensions. In total three large trenches were dug in the field to the southwest of the steading and farmhouse in preparation for the installation of a septic tank, reed bed and drainage ditch (see Figure 2a).
13. The size of these trenches was 4m x 4m (Trench 1), 2m x 20m (Trench 2) and 5m x 4m (Trench 3). A small area approximately 6m x 4m (Trench 4) was also excavated to the west of the outbuilding (see Figure 2a). Approximately 5 pipe trenches 400mm wide connected these larger trenches to each other, the outbuilding, and the area stripped immediately west of the outbuilding mentioned above. Initially, all trenches were reduced to the upper surface of the underlying subsoil prior to further reduction (see Figure 4a and 4b).
14. The topsoil (001) was loose dark brown silt with frequent small/medium stones and varied in depth from 300mm to 700mm. This contained occasional modern pottery but was otherwise sterile. The natural subsoil (002) was a mixed orange brown clay/silt with bedrock appearing during excavation at the west of the outbuilding. The area immediately south of the outbuilding appears to have been recently levelled and covered with Type 1 material (004).
15. During the excavation of the area to the west of the outbuilding a small 1400mm x 400mm section of a modern red brick and concrete foundation wall (003) was uncovered (see Figure 3b). This was located approximately 2m southwest of the outbuilding and was aligned N-S with an E-W return. Two courses of brick were visible. This runs into the area recently levelled and covered with Type 1 material (004). A concrete base (005) was also found approximately 2m south of the SE extent of the outbuilding overlain by Type 1 material (004). Only 1500mm x 400mm was visible.
16. No significant archaeological deposits were revealed. The only anthropic material that was recovered is associated with the nineteenth and twentieth century such as modern white glaze ceramic pottery. No new deposits of significance were discovered during the course of these works.

Discussion

17. During monitoring no archaeological features relating to the origin and early development of Brockwellmuir Farm were found. The foundation wall (003) given its construction of red brick and concrete is likely a modern structure relating to the farm outbuilding as they share the same alignment and are in such close proximity (see Figure 2). As this wall (003) extends eastwards into the area recently levelled and covered in type 1 material (004) it may have been the foundation of a building recently demolished. Indeed, the concrete base (005) discovered 2m south of the south eastern extent of the outbuilding may have been part of the same structure.



Figure 3a: Working shot of area excavated to the west of outbuilding showing foundation wall (003)



Figure 3b: Shot of modern foundation wall (003).



Figure 4a: Trench 1 excavated down to subsoil (002).



Figure 4b: Trench 2 excavated down to subsoil (002).

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 East Ayrshire Council and their advisors, West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Conclusion

20. A programme of archaeological monitoring works was carried out for Mr Ross Jones in respect of a proposed residential development at Brockwellmuir Farm, Dunlop, East Ayrshire. The works consisted of monitoring areas that required excavation, ground remodelling and road access improvements for redevelopment of the property. Groundbreaking works primarily related to the installation of a septic tank system.
21. No significant archaeological deposits were revealed. The only anthropic material that was recovered is associated with the nineteenth and twentieth century such as modern white glaze ceramic pottery. No new deposits of significance were discovered during the course of these works.

References

Cartographic

- | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| 1857 | Ordnance Survey, 1st Edition |
| 1752-55 | Roys Military Survey of Scotland |

Documentary

Rees, T., 2012, Brockwellmuir Farm, Dunlop: Archaeological 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.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
1	1	4			237	ID Shot		
2	1	5			238	Shot of modern foundation wall [003]	E	CH 19/4/12
3					239	Working shot	SE	CH 19/4/12
4					240	Working shot	NE	CH 19/4/12
5					241	Shot of Trench 1	SW	CH 19/4/12
6					242	Shot of Trench 2	SW	CH 19/4/12
7					243	Shot of Trench 2	SW	CH 19/4/12
8					244	Shot of Trench 3	NW	CH 19/4/12
9					245	Working shot	SW	CH 19/4/12
10					246	Shot of Trench 3	E	CH 19/4/12
11					247	Shot of Trench 3 (working shot)	W	CH 19/4/12
12					248	Shot of Trench 4	NE	CH 19/4/12
13					249	Working shot	SW	CH 19/4/12
14					250	Shot of Trench 4	E	CH 19/4/12
15					251	Shot of Trench 4	NNE	CH 19/4/12
16					252	Shot of Trench 4	NE	CH 19/4/12

17					253	Shot of Trench 5	NE	CH 19/4/12
18					254	Shot of Trench 4	SW	CH 19/4/12
19					255	Shot of Trench 6 (between trench 3 and trench 1)	ENE	CH 19/4/12
20					256	Shot of Trench 7	SW	CH 19/4/12
21					257	Shot of Trench 8	NW	CH 19/4/12

Context Register

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Deposit	Loose dark brown silt with frequent small/medium sized stone inclusions. 300mm to 700mm deep.	Topsoil.
002	Deposit	Firm, mixed orange clay/silt with abundant small/medium and large stone inclusions/	Natural subsoil.
003	Structure	Modern foundation wall aligned NNE to SSW. Located 2m SW of SW farm building. 2 courses visible. Composed of red brick/concrete.	Modern Foundation Wall.
004	Deposit	Made ground immediately south of SW farm building. 'Type 1' building material. Looks recently placed. Loose mid grey composed of medium sized stone and demolition rubble. Inclusions of building waste, bags of hay, glass, rubbish etc.	Made Ground
005	Deposit	Modern concrete base. 1500mm – 300mm visible in North Eastern extent of Trench 4.	Concrete Base

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
1	1	Trench 1-3	Plan	1 to 100	Trench Plan of Trenches 1 - 3 and Sketch Location Plan	CH	19/4/2012
2	2	Trench 4 -8	Plan	1 to 50	Trench Plan of Trenches 4 - 8 and Sketch Location Plan	CH	19/4/2012

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Brockwellmuir Farm
PROJECT CODE:	RA 09054
PARISH:	Dunlop
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Calum Henderson
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 24188 65116
START DATE (this season)	19 th April 2012
END DATE (this season)	20 th April 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological monitoring works was carried out for Mr Ross Jones in respect of a proposed residential development at Brockwellmuir Farm, Dunlop, East Ayrshire. The works consisted of monitoring areas that required excavation, ground remodelling and road access improvements for redevelopment of the property. Groundbreaking works primarily related to the installation of a septic tank system. Monitoring of this work lasted two days between the 19th and 20th of April 2012.</p> <p>No significant archaeological deposits were revealed. The only anthropic material that was recovered is associated with the nineteenth and twentieth century such as modern white glaze ceramic pottery. No new deposits of significance were discovered during the course of these works.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	No
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Ross Jones
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

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

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