

Kelton Mains Farm, Threave: Archaeological Mitigation

Data Structure Report



by Claire Williamson and Katie Sludden

issued 8th April 2013

on behalf of The National Trust for Scotland

RATHMELL 
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Quality Assurance

This report covers works which have been undertaken in keeping with the issued brief as modified by the agreed programme of works. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance of Rathmell Archaeology Limited on the preparation of reports. All works reported on within this document have been undertaken in keeping with the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed Claire Williamson

Date ..7th May 2013..

In keeping with the procedure of Rathmell Archaeology Limited this document and its findings have been reviewed and agreed by an appropriate colleague:

Checked Thomas Rees

Date .. 7th May 2013..

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for the National Trust for Scotland in relation to archaeological works carried out in support of the refurbishment works at Kelton Mains Farm, Threave. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
2. The National Trust for Scotland provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works appropriate on this site. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by the National Trust for Scotland to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works for the refurbishment at Kelton Mains Farm, Threave.
3. The Method Statement (Klemen 2012) provided the detail of the works (archaeological monitoring, exclusion, excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication) for the mitigation pertaining to ground breaking within the development area and hence the direct physical impact on buried sediments.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. A recent standing building recording survey by CFA (2008) identified four key phases to the building characterised by eighteenth to twentieth century activity, with the primary phase relating to the eighteenth century. Cognisance of this document is assumed within this Data Structure Report hence no separate archaeological or historical assessment is included. For a detailed background please refer to Cressey & Richardson, 2008, *Kelton Mains, Threave, Dumfries and Galloway, Historic Building Survey*.

Project Works

5. The programme of works comprised the archaeological monitoring of a trench running along the front of Kelton Mains House to enable the surface finish to the exterior wall to be applied. The trench was hand dug to a maximum depth of 350mm below the present ground level.
6. In compliance with the Method Statement (Klemen 2012) any potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded, with the on-site works taking place on the 6th February 2013. 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

7. Kelton Mains Farm faces southeast, directly onto the road and carpark used for access to Threave Castle. A narrow grassed garden area and drystone wall separates the front of the Farmhouse from the road. The trench was located along the front elevation of the Farmhouse at Kelton Mains Farm (Figure 1), covering an area measuring approximately 7m².

Rendering Works

8. A trench was excavated as part of the rendering works which were to extend below the present ground level, along the southeast facing elevation of Kelton Mains Farmhouse (Figures 1 and 2a). The trench measured 350mm wide, 300mm-350mm deep and was approximately 21.7m long including the section running round the central porch access (Figures 2b, 3a and 3b).
9. Prior to excavation, the area of the trench was covered by turf and topsoil (001). The topsoil comprised compact dark brown silty clay with frequent root inclusions and small to medium sized stones. Two concrete settings (003) were set into the topsoil on either side of the doorway into the front porch access. These were semi-circular in shape, open in the centre with the round cobbles set into the edge. The settings measured 110mm wide, 60mm deep and each spanned an area between 490 to 520mm in diameter. These

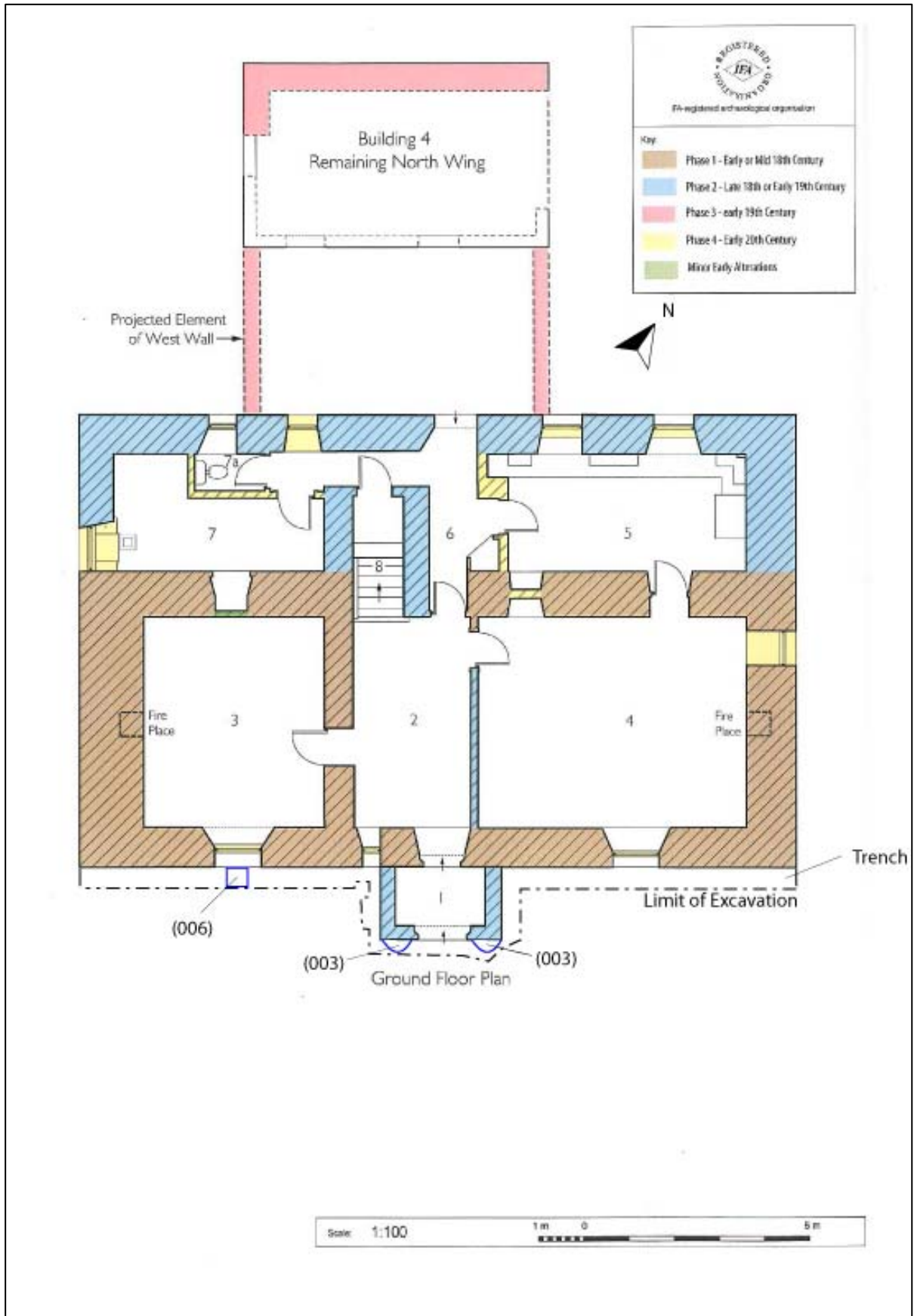


Figure 1: Plan showing location of excavated trench reproduced from Cressey & Richardson 2008, Fig. No. 8.

are likely to have been used as settings for garden features flagging either side of the doorway. The phase of construction for the porch is dated from the late 18th century to the early or mid 19th century (Cressey & Richardson 2008) so the settings must either be contemporaneous with the construction of the porch or be a later addition.

10. Rectangular vent (006) was also set into topsoil (001). This comprised a small brick box attached to the front southeast elevation of the main house, at ground level below the window in the northwest half. It measured 380mm by 240mm and reached a height of 170mm above the current ground level. The removal of topsoil (001) revealed this to sit atop sandstone rubble which extended 300mm below ground level. This may extend deeper as the base of the feature was not exposed within the trench. The brick box contained a cream circular ceramic pipe running vertically, presumably under the wall and into the building. The bricks of (006) had been rendered / whitewashed along with the exterior of the building itself. A metal grate was also set into the front (southeast side) of the bricks.
11. The concrete settings (003) and the majority of vent (006) were removed during the removal of topsoil deposit (001). Several sherds of ceramic pottery and fragments of animal bone were recovered from within (001) (Finds <1> and <2>). Topsoil (001) was removed to reveal subsoil (004), a compact mid-orange sandy clay deposit at the base of the trench. (004) appears to represent natural subsoil, although not enough of the deposit was revealed during the works to confirm this and it is also possible that it may be re-deposited. (004) appears to run under the foundations of the front of the building (002) and (005).
12. The removal of topsoil (001) revealed foundation courses (002) and (005) underlying the front porch and the front wall of the main house respectively. They both had a similar composition of a single course of grey rubble boulders and stones sat mainly flush with the overlying walls of the building. (002) was quite shallow, reaching to a depth of 160mm below the current ground level with the stones measuring an average size of 160mm by 100mm (Figure 4a). (005) was deeper reaching a maximum depth of 350mm below the current ground level with the size of the stones being ≤300mm by 560mm (Figure 4b). The differences in size between the foundation courses will likely relate to them being from different phases in the construction of the house. While foundation course (002) will date to the construction of the front porch in the late 18th century to the early or mid 19th century, (005) appears to signify the earliest foundations for the early to mid 18th century building phase of the main section of the Kelton Mains Farmhouse.

Artefacts

13. As mentioned, a few fragments of ceramic pottery and animal bone were discovered during the course of the works from within topsoil (001). One of the fragments of animal bone had small cut marks on it.
14. The ceramic pottery included sherds of creamware which date from the late 18th century onwards, sherds of transfer printed glazed white earthenware from the mid 19th century onwards, a sherd of hand-painted porcelain or bone china which dates from the late 18th to early 19th century and a sherd of slipware decorated red earthenware which is likely 19th century but could possibly have late 18th century origins.

Discussion

15. The excavation works did not identify any new significant archaeological features within the area of the trench.
16. The removal of topsoil (001) revealed one main deposit (004) which was present across the base of the trench. This deposit appeared very similar to the deposit which ran below the foundation courses (002) and (005) underlying the house. This deposit appeared likely to have been natural subsoil, but with only a small area of the deposit exposed it is difficult to be certain, and it is possible that it may have been re-deposited during the construction works on the house.



Figure 2a: General working shot from the southeast



Figure 2b: General shot of trench along northeast half of front elevation from the southwest



Figure 3a: General shot of trench along front of porch from the southwest



Figure 3b: General shot of trench along southwest half of front elevation from the northeast



Figure 4a: Foundations (002) from the east



Figure 4b: Foundations (005) from the southeast

17. Set into the topsoil were concrete settings (003) and vent (006). The location of the settings (003) flagging the doorway into the front porch places their date as being either contemporaneous with the construction of the porch in the late 18th or early 19th century or a later addition. The vent (006) may also date to this same period. The presence of vents has been known to correspond to the use of gas lighting within the interior of a property. If this is the case here, then this may date the vent as being mid 19th century in origin, placing it as a later alteration to the main house which was originally constructed during the 18th century.
18. The works exposed the foundation course underlying the front wall of the main section of the house (005) and the front porch (002). While the foundation courses were composed of similar material, they varied in depth, with the foundation for the porch walls quite shallow in comparison. This difference likely reflects the difference in date between the two structures. While the main section of the house is the original structure dating from the early to mid 18th century, the porch has been recorded as a later addition during the late 18th century to early 19th century. The difference in their depths may also reflect the difference in size between the overlying walls: the smaller single storey porch may not have required a foundation course as substantial as the front wall of the larger three storey house.
19. The pottery fragments recovered from within the topsoil (001) date to the late 18th and 19th centuries, placing them as resulting to the use of the house during the later phases after it had been altered from the original construction. The presence of the animal bone with cut marks and the close proximity of the artefacts to the front wall of the house may also imply that their presence is from domestic waste, possibly discarded out of the front windows of the property. Indeed, the room at the front northeast side of the ground floor (No. 4 in Figure 1) is marked as a kitchen in architectural plans of Kelton Mains drawn by Schomberg Scott in 1952 (Cressey & Richardson 2008), which would correspond with the location of the bone fragments which were found within the northeast half of the trench.

Recommendations

20. The excavation works carried out at Kelton Mains Farm as part of the refurbishment of the house will have added greatly to the maintenance of the structure.
21. As no new significant archaeological features were uncovered during the monitoring, no further archaeological works are recommended as a direct consequence of these works. However, the high potential for archaeological features in the remainder of the area surrounding the house should still be considered whenever any future works are to be carried out. Any new architectural features or artefacts which may be uncovered would add to what has already been surveyed of the house, and could further any understanding of the different phases, and their respective dates, covering the house's original construction and subsequent alterations.
22. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with the National Trust for Scotland.

Conclusion

23. Archaeological monitoring works were carried out in respect to the refurbishment of Kelton Mains Farm, Threave. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area.
24. The works comprised the hand digging of a trench along the front external elevation of the house. No new archaeological features were identified within the trench. Concrete settings for garden features were removed during the works alongside a small vent which sat at ground level and it likely that these date to the 19th century. The foundation courses underlying the front wall and the front porch were also exposed, each comprising a single rubble course. They varied in depth reflecting the differing size of their overlying walls and the fact that they will be from different phases in the house's construction.
25. Artefacts recovered from within the topsoil included a number of pottery fragments which

dated from the late 18th to 19th centuries alongside some fragments of animal bone, and were likely discarded their from domestic waste.

Acknowledgements

26. We are grateful to the National Trust for Scotland who gave support and guidance for these archaeological works. We would also like to thank Dr Louise Turner for her analysis of the finds recovered from the site.

References

- Klemen, P. 2012 *Kelton Mains Farm, Threave: Archaeological Mitigation, Method Statement*. Unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd.
- Cressey, M. & Richardson, P. 2008 *Kelton Mains Farm, Threave, Dumfries and Galloway, Historic Building Survey*. Report No. 1522. Unpublished commercial report by CFA Archaeology Ltd.

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	Compact dark brown silty clay with a thin layer of turf on top. Frequent root inclusions and small to medium sized stone inclusions. Measures 300-350mm in depth. Contains fragments of animal bone and ceramic pottery.	Topsoil.
002		Structural	Single course of grey rubble stones with an average size of 160mm by 100mm. Maximum depth of course below ground level is 160mm.	Foundation course for porch which dates to the 19 th century.
003		Structural	Concrete settings/surrounds set into ground level around exterior of porch. Two semi-circular settings are located each on either side of the doorway on the SE side of the porch. Round cobbles are set into the concrete which measures 110mm wide and 60mm deep. A thin layer of concrete also extends out from the NE setting around the E corner of the porch. How far this extends to the SE and NE was not exposed, but it doesn't extend further NW than just past the SE end of the NE wall of the porch, with another line of round cobbles set into the concrete at its NW edge.	Concrete settings/surrounds for garden features (possibly plants) which would have sat on either side of the front door of the porch. The line of cobbles on the NE side of the porch may have been the edging for a flower bed which would have ran parallel to the wall. Uncertain if they were put in during the original construction of the porch in the late 18 th to 19 th century or if they are a later addition. Removed during excavation of the trench for rendering works.
004		Deposit	Compact mid orange sandy clay with frequent small stone inclusions. Present at base of trench excavated for rendering and not fully excavated. Unknown depth and runs outwith the area of the trench.	Possible natural subsoil although may be redeposited, not enough exposed to be certain.
005		Structural	Single course of rubble boulders measuring \leq 560mm by 300mm in size. Measures up to 350mm in depth below ground level.	Foundations for front (SE facing) wall of house which dates to the 18 th century.
006		Structural	Rectangular box for vent located at base of exterior of SE facing wall of house, below SW ground floor window. Constructed of brick above ground which had been rendered and painted white with a grate in the SE face,	Vent at base of exterior of SE facing wall of house. Removed during excavation of trench for rendering works.

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			sat on top of rubble sandstone fragments below ground. Measures 380mm by 240mm by 170mm high above ground level. Extends approximately 300mm below ground level. Contains a circular cream glazed ceramic pipe which runs vertically downwards and continues further below the base of the trench as dug.	

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
01	1	Shot of front of house, pre ex prior to digging trench for rendering (SW half)	ESE	06/02/13
02	2	Shot of front of house, pre ex prior to digging trench for rendering (NE half)	SSW	06/02/13
03	3	Shot of front of house, pre ex prior to digging trench for rendering (NE half)	SE	06/02/13
04	4	Shot of (003)	ESE	06/02/13
05	5	Shot of (003)	SE	06/02/13
06	6	Shot of (003)	SE	06/02/13
07	7	Shot of (003) (SW setting)	SE	06/02/13
08	8	Shot of (003) (SW setting)	NE	06/02/13
09	9	Shot of (003) (NE setting)	SE	06/02/13
10	10	Foundations (002) (SE wall)	SE	06/02/13
11	11	Foundations (002) (NE wall)	ESE	06/02/13
12	12	Working shot – excavating trench for rendering	ESE	06/02/13
13	13	Working shot – excavating trench for rendering	SE	06/02/13
14	14	Settings (003) at E corner of porch	E	06/02/13
15	15	Post ex of trench (NE half)	SW	06/02/13

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
16	16	Post ex of trench (NE half)	SW	06/02/13
17	17	Shot of foundations (005)	SSW	06/02/13
18	18	Shot of foundations (005)	ESE	06/02/13
19	19	Shot of foundations (005)	SE	06/02/13
20	20	Shot of (003) (SW setting)	SE	06/02/13
21	21	Shot of foundations (002)	E	06/02/13
22	22	Shot of foundations (005)	SE	06/02/13
23	23	Shot of modern vent (006) partially removed	SE	06/02/13
24	24	Shot of modern vent (006) partially removed	SE	06/02/13
25	25	Shot of modern vent (006) partially removed	S	06/02/13
26	26	Shot of modern vent (006) partially removed	S	06/02/13
27	27	General setting shot of house	S	06/02/13
28	28	General setting shot of house	SE	06/02/13
29	29	General setting shot of house	S	06/02/13
30	30	General setting shot of house	SE	06/02/13
31	31	General setting shot of house	SE	06/02/13
32	32	General setting shot of house	SE	06/02/13
33	33	General setting shot of house	SE	06/02/13
34	34	Post ex of trench (NE half)	SSE	06/02/13
35	35	Working shot	SE	06/02/13
36	36	(003) removed from original location	-	06/02/13
37	37	Post ex of trench along SW side of porch	SE	06/02/13
38	38	Post ex of trench along SW half of house	NE	06/02/13

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
39	39	Post ex of trench along SW half of house	NE	06/02/13
40	40	Step at front door	SE	06/02/13
41	41	Step at front door	SE	06/02/13
42	42	Post ex of trench along SE side of porch	SW	06/02/13
43	43	Post ex of trench along NE side of porch	SE	06/02/13
44	44	General post ex shot (NE half)	S	06/02/13
45	45	General post ex shot (SW half)	E	06/02/13
46	46	Shot after box for vent (006) has been removed	NE	06/02/13
47	47	Shot after box for vent (006) has been removed	ESE	06/02/13
48	48	Shot after box for vent (006) has been removed	NE	06/02/13

Finds Register

Find No.	Area/Trench	Context No.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
1	-	001	Animal Bone	3 fragments of bone, one with cut marks	CW	06/02/13
2	-	001	Ceramic	41 sherds creamware plate or dish; 3 sherds transfer printed glazed white earthenware lid from dish; 1 sherd slipware decorated red earthenware lid from dish; 1 sherd handpainted porcelain or bone china saucer.	CW	06/02/13

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries & Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Kelton Mains Farm, Threave
PROJECT CODE:	RA12065
PARISH:	Kelton
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Claire Williamson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NX76SW 60
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Farmstead (Post Medieval)
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NX 74569 61708
START DATE (this season)	6 th February 2013
END DATE (this season)	6 th February 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	Cressey, M. 2008 'Kelton Mains Farm, Threave Estate, Standing building recording' <i>DES</i> Vol. 9, 2008 p. 53
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological monitoring works were carried out in respect to the refurbishment of Kelton Mains Farm, Threave. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area.</p> <p>The works comprised the hand digging of a trench along the front external elevation of the house. No new archaeological features were identified within the trench. Concrete settings for garden features were removed during the works alongside a small vent which sat at ground level and it likely that these date to the 19th century. The foundation courses underlying the front wall and the front porch were also exposed, each comprising a single rubble course. They varied in depth reflecting the differing size of their overlying walls and the fact that they will be from different phases in the house's construction.</p> <p>Artefacts recovered from within the topsoil included a number of pottery fragments which dated from the late 18th to 19th centuries alongside some fragments of animal bone, and were likely discarded their from domestic waste.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	The National Trust for Scotland
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 The National Trust for Scotland and Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Service, and archive to RCAHMS Collections

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