# Ardrossan Castle, Ardrossan, North Ayrshire: Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

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## Quality Assurance

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Checked		Date	

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## Introduction

- 1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for North Ayrshire Council in respect of the installation of a new fence around Ardrossan Castle, Castle Hill, Ardrossan (NGR <sup>2</sup>23237 <sup>6</sup>42290). The archaeological works were designed to monitor the excavation of the postholes for the fence to ensure that the installation could proceed while dealing appropriately with the identified adverse impact on the archaeological resource.
- 2. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by North Ayrshire Council to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological works during the installation of the fence. This report provides the results of the works (monitoring and exclusion) for the mitigation pertaining to all ground breaking works and hence the direct physical impact on buried sediments.

# Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3. From early accounts, there was an Ardrossan Castle from at least the early 12<sup>th</sup> century, held by Richard de Barclay of Ardrossan who was a vassal of Richard de Moreville, Lord of Cunninghame in the 1140s. The position of the castle on the shores of the Firth of Clyde, overlooking a good harbour, would have made it of strategic importance. The only modern analysis of the castle fabric has identified four apparent phases of construction of the castle (Caldwell 1974).
- 4. Phase I, dating from the late 13<sup>th</sup> century to the early 14<sup>th</sup> century, was a rectangular courtyard castle with a gatehouse block backed by the courtyard. Built from large hewn blocks of grey sandstone with occasional pink sandstone and basalt blocks, this phase survives in the bottom part of the gatehouse, part of the curtain wall and most of the building south of the gatehouse.
- 5. During the Wars of Independence (1296-1357) the castle came under English control and was supposedly partially destroyed by Sir William Wallace. Phase II represents the rebuilding of the castle on the same courtyard layout after this event, probably as the castle changed ownership falling to the Montgomeries through marriage. This included the rebuilding of the gatehouse from first floor up, though not to the height it is today, using smaller red sandstone blocks.
- 6. More substantial change came in the 15<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> century, Phase III, with the gatehouse heightened and remodeled as a towerhouse (the 'Read Tower'). New stone buildings appear along the curtain wall including a chapel, and a second tower in the southwest corner now surviving only as a large, open-ended vault.
- 7. The final stage, Phase IV, came later in the 16th century, and saw early gunports inserted and entrances blocked up. The castle is said to have been destroyed by Cromwell, with the stone carted off to build the citadel in Ayr; certainly it was ruinous by 1689 and was allowed to decay until 1911 when the Town Council had most of the debris cleared away and the surviving walls restored and pointed.

#### Designation

8. Ardrossan Castle is a scheduled monument (see Figure 1) under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 reflecting its National Importance, and a grade B Listed Building. Castle Hill is in the ownership of North Ayrshire Council; none of the works are programmed to occur within the scheduled area.

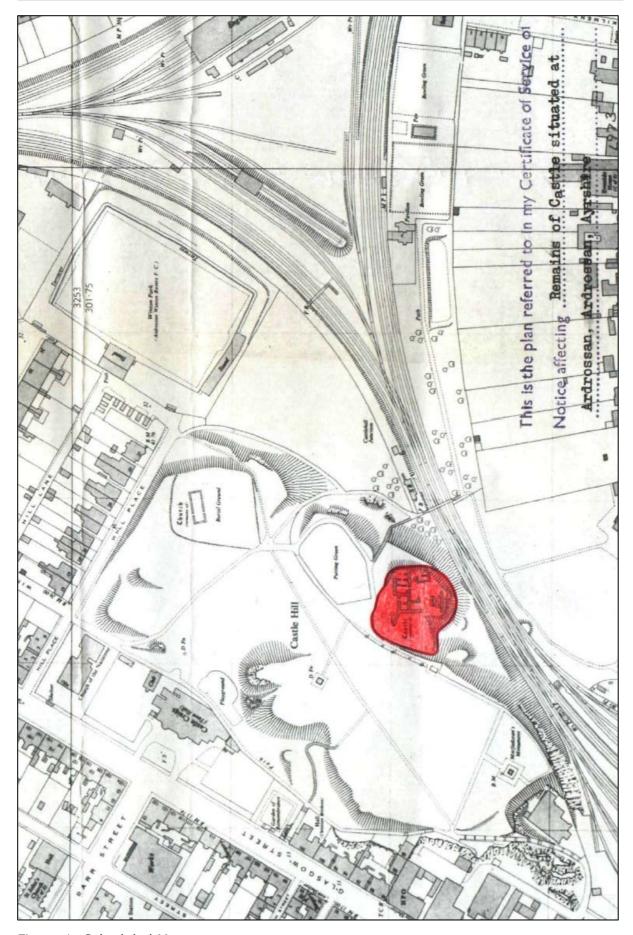


Figure 1: Scheduled Monument

#### **Current Condition**

- 9. The ruinous remains of the castle are dominated by the remaining walls of the Read Tower the gatehouse or keep. Specialist reports have highlighted the failure to protect the wallhead, visible through vegetation growth, with the likely consequent loss of integrity to the walls. This occurs because water enters the heart of the wall, washing out decayed lime mortar which is turn endangers the stability of the rubble masonry. There are also sections of the upper masonry on the north wall of the gatehouse where stones are unstable with the greatest identified concern being a large mass of overhanging stonework on the north-east corner which relies on cantilevered red sandstone 'steps' for stability.
- 10. Another iconic surviving portion of the site is the base of the southwest tower, surviving as an open vault. Urgent attention is required, particularly in the eastern vault where there are significant open joints. Vegetation growing from the vault roof indicates the requirement of maintenance and a possible waterproof screed to prevent further leaching of mortar which has already reduced the stability of the voussoirs.
- 11. Subterranean structures are also present on-site, including vaulted chambers at the base of the Read Tower and a long, stepped access to an underground well. The well lies beneath the surrounding moat which cuts off the castle from the rest of Castle Hill.
- 12. In general the castle site has become a focus for anti-social behaviour and, within the space screened by the historic fabric, illicit activity. The stepped character of some of the ruinous walls has also encouraged people, especially children, to attempt to climb the fabric. This presents an immediate personal danger to these individuals as well as a risk of damage to the historic fabric (either through cumulative minor impacts or catastrophic failure of unstable areas).

# **Project Works**

- 13. This Data Structure Report provides the findings of the archaeological monitoring carried out between the 8th and 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2012. The works consisted of monitoring the excavation of post-holes for the installation of a new fence. This also consisted of the monitoring of a 2m wide track to the E of the castle running NE to SW down slope to clear overgrown vegetation.
- 14. The area to the west of the castle is relatively flat with a NE to SW sloping hill to the east. The site is currently being used as a public park with frequent dog walkers and children who visit the play park north of the castle. Following initial monitoring to the SW of the castle, it was decided that monitoring should cease until works progressed to the NE and closer to the castle itself where the presence of archaeological remains was deemed more likely (see Figure 3).
- 15. 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.

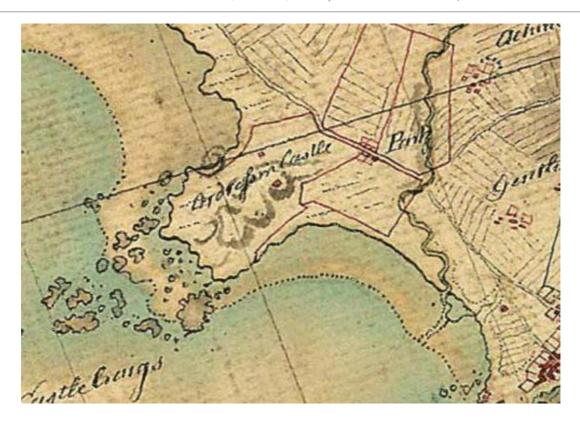


Figure 2a: Detail from Roy (1747-55)

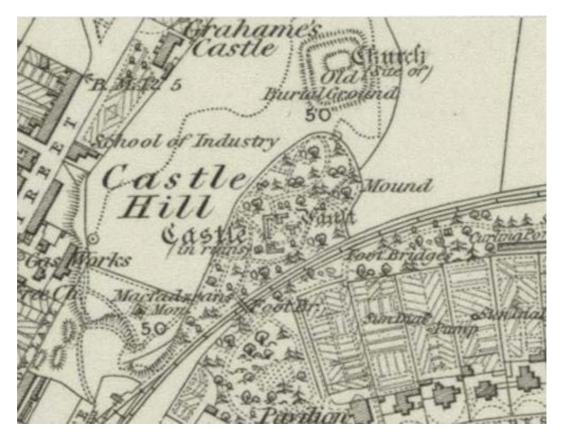


Figure 2b: Detail from 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1858)

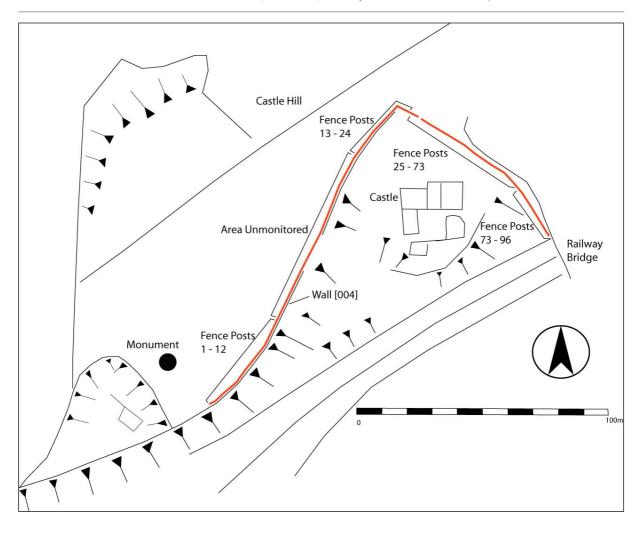


Figure 3: Location Map (New fence line in Red)

# **Findings**

- 16. Initial monitoring began at the SW extent of the existing NE to SW running wall [004] situated west of the castle (See Figure 3). The wall [004] currently delimits the site along the southeast portion, with the new fence following parallel along its entirety. In total 123 post holes were excavated, 96 of which were monitored. The majority of post holes were dug by hand using long handled shovels. For one day a small 5 ton 360° excavator was used to the NE of the castle to clear a 2m wide track through over grown vegetation. This was also used to excavate post holes 37–55 using a post hole auger.
- 17. The size of the post holes were 300mm x 300mm wide and 500mm to 700mm deep. Most were spaced 3m apart but as the fence progressed across the NE of the castle down the hill towards the railway bridge to the SE, these intervals became smaller (1m and then 0.75m) to compensate for the slope. This returned to larger intervals of 3m at the base of the hill where the ground was more level. Two fence posts were spaced 1m apart directly north of the castle for a gate to be placed.
- 18. During initial monitoring the majority of post holes (1–12) at the SW extent of wall [004] contained natural subsoil (003), a loose light brown silt sand with frequent small angular stone inclusions. This was sealed by a made ground deposit (002) composed of loose mid greyish brown silt/sand with abundant inclusions of ash, occasional modern glass, cloth, plastic and small stones. This was overlain by a loose topsoil (001) composed of a light brown silt/sand with small to medium stone inclusions. In some of the post-holes (6–12) the topsoil became more sand based (005), with some (6, 7, 8 and 12) containing thin bands of demolition material (006). The wall [004] is 1–1.4m high, composed of small, medium and large red sandstone blocks, bound with a sandy mortar and has 5–8 irregular courses (see Figure 4b). Also, it appears to have been repaired and rebuilt along its length and survives at its best condition at the SE.
- 19. Towards the NE of the castle, findings within post holes 13–24 continued to be largely consistent with previous work. Occasionally the post holes were placed directly against the wall [004] revealing its lower foundations ending directly above natural subsoil (003) at a depth of 400–450mm. Post hole 24, located approximately 6m NE of the end of wall [004], contained a possible wall foundation [008] below topsoil (001) (see Figure 4a). This was composed of large water-worn boulders and rough sandstone chunks and bound by a sandy mortar. There were also fragments of limpet, razor and periwinkle shells in the wall fabric. Wall [008] also appeared in post hole 25 approximately 3m SE of post hole 24 but nowhere else. Again, foundations for [008] ended above natural subsoil (003) at a similar depth seen previously with [004].
- 20. Post holes 26–73, (running NW to SE across the north of the castle down slope towards the railway bridge) revealed made ground deposit (009), a loose dark blackish brown silt/sand with frequent small to large pink sandstone fragments, occasional glass and fragments of brick and slate, sealed by topsoil (001). Beyond post hole 56, posts were being dug straight into (009) as the topsoil had been removed while clearing the overgrowth. Post holes 57–73 contained substantially more stone than previously seen with abundant small to medium sized sandstone blocks and fragments of animal bone.
- 21. The remainder of post-holes to the E of the castle and down towards the railway bridge (73–96) contained made ground material (011), loose dark brown silt with modern rubbish, coal, brick and sandstone fragments. This was sealed by a thin layer of disturbed topsoil material (010), a loose dark blackish brown silt/sand with abundant ash, roots, small stones, glass, sandstone, plastic and roofing slate (potentially medieval).
- 22. No significant archaeological deposits were revealed. The only anthropic material that was recovered is associated with the nineteenth and twentieth century such as glass, plastic and other general waste material. The roofing slates were found within the same context as such materials and is therefore of little use. No new deposits of significance were discovered during the course of these works.



Figure 4a: Shot of potential wall [008] within posthole 24.



Figure 4b: Shot of post holes running alongside upstanding wall [004] surrounding Ardrossan Castle.

## Discussion

23. During monitoring no archaeological features of any significance were discovered. The foundation wall within post-hole 24 and 25 [008] contained a sandy mortar that is relatively modern in date and sits above natural subsoil (003) sharing much of the same characteristics as wall [004]. The NE of the castle appears to have been heavily landscaped resulting in the discovery of made up ground deposits (009) and (011). This likely relates to work carried out in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to clear debris from the area and restore and point walls. Indeed, made ground deposit (009) contains abundant fragments of pink sandstone which is presumably the reuse of rubble fragments of the castle itself. The made ground deposit (002) found along wall [004] also likely relates to this period of restoration. Indeed, the wall [004] appears to have been repaired, rebuilt and re-pointed several times, and dates back to at least the mid 19th century as seen on the First Edition Ordinance Survey (1858) (see Figure 2b).

#### Recommendations

- 24. 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.
- 25. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with North Ayrshire Council and their advisors, West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

### Conclusion

- 26. A programme of archaeological monitoring works was carried out for North Ayrshire Council in respect of the installation of a new fence around Ardrossan Castle, Castle Hill, Ardrossan (NGR <sup>2</sup>23237 <sup>6</sup>42290). The archaeological works were designed to monitor the excavation of the post holes for the fence to ensure that the installation could proceed while dealing appropriately with the identified adverse impact on the archaeological resource.
- 27. No significant archaeological deposits were revealed. The only anthropic material that was recovered is associated with the nineteenth and twentieth century such as glass, plastic and other general waste material. No new deposits of significance were discovered during the course of these works.

#### References

#### Cartographic

1856 Ordnance Survey, 1st Edition1752-55 Roys Military Survey of Scotland

#### Documentary

Caldwell, D., 1974, Ardrossan Castle, Ayrshire: a preliminary account. The Proceedings of the Society of Antiquities in Scotland 1971 72.

Rees, T., 2012, Ardrossan Castle, Ardrossan, Ayrshire: 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

001	-	-	-	-	63	Shot of post-hole 1.	NW	08/06/2012
002	-	-	-	-	64	Shot of post-hole 2.	NW	08/06/2012
003	-	-	-	-	65	Shot of post-hole 1.	NW	08/06/2012
004	-	-	-	-	66	Shot of post-hole 1.	NW	08/06/2012
005	-	-	-	-	67	Shot of post-hole 2.	NW	08/06/2012
006	-	-	-	-	68	Shot of post-hole 3.	NW	08/06/2012
007	-	-	-	-	69	Shot of post-hole 4.	NW	08/06/2012
800	-	-	-	-	70	Shot of post-hole 5.	NW	08/06/2012
009	-	-	-	-	71	Shot of post-hole 6.	NW	08/06/2012
010	-	-	-	-	72	Shot of post-hole 7.	NW	08/06/2012
011	-	-	-	-	73	Shot of post-hole 8.	NW	08/06/2012
012	-	-	-	-	74	Shot of post-hole 9.	NW	08/06/2012
013	-	-	-	-	75	Shot of post-hole 10.	NW	08/06/2012
014	-	-	-	-	76	General shot.	E	08/06/2012
015	-	-	-	-	77	Shot of post-hole 11.	NW	08/06/2012
016	-	-	-	-	78	Shot of post-hole 12.	NW	08/06/2012
017	-	-	-	-	79	Shot of post-hole 13.	NW	08/06/2012

018	-	-	-	-	80	Shot of post-hole 14.	NW	08/06/2012
019	-	-	-	-	81	Shot of post-hole 15.	NW	08/06/2012
020	-	-	-	-	82	Shot of post-hole 16.	NW	08/06/2012
021	-	-	-	-	83	Shot of post-hole 17.	WNW	08/06/2012
022	-	-	-	-	84	Shot of post-hole 18.	WNW	08/06/2012
023	-	-	-	-	85	Shot of post-hole 19.	WNW	08/06/2012
024	-	-	-	-	86	Shot of post-hole 20.	WNW	08/06/2012
025	-	-	-	-	87	General Shot of [004].	WNW	08/06/2012
026	-	-	-	-	88	Shot of post-hole 21.	WNW	08/06/2012
027	-	-	-	-	89	Shot of post-hole 22.	WNW	08/06/2012
028	-	-	-	-	90	Shot of post-hole 23	WNW	08/06/2012
029	-	-	-	-	91	Shot of stone structure [008] Post-hole 24.	WNW	08/06/2012
030	-	-	-	-	92	General Shot of Works.	NE	11/06/2012
031	-	-	-	-	93	NE Facing section of [008].	NE	11/06/2012
032	-	-	-	-	94	SW Facing section of [008].	SW	11/06/2012
033	-	-	-	-	95	SE Facing section of [008].	SE	11/06/2012
034	-	-	-	-	96	SE Facing section of [008].	SE	11/06/2012
035	-	-	-	-	97	NNE Facing section of [008].	SSW	11/06/2012
036	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 26.	-	12/06/2012
037	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 27.	-	12/06/2012

038	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 25.	-	12/06/2012
039	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 25.	-	12/06/2012
040	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 25.	-	12/06/2012
041	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 26.	-	12/06/2012
042	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 27.	-	12/06/2012
043	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 28.	-	12/06/2012
044	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 28.	-	12/06/2012
045	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 29.	-	12/06/2012
046	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 30.	-	12/06/2012
047	-	-	-	-	-	Turf Clearance.	-	12/06/2012
048	-	-	-	-	-	Turf Clearance.	-	12/06/2012
049	-	-	-	-	-	General view.	-	12/06/2012
050	-	-	-	-	-	Turf Clearance.	-	12/06/2012
051	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 29.	-	12/06/2012
052	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 30.	-	12/06/2012
053	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 31.	-	12/06/2012
054	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 32.	-	12/06/2012
055	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 33.	-	12/06/2012
056	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 34.	-	12/06/2012
057	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 35.	-	12/06/2012

058	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 35.	-	12/06/2012
059	-	-	-	-	-	Shot of post-hole 36.	-	12/06/2012
060	-	-	-		-	Shot of post-hole 36	-	12/06/2012
061	-	-	-	-	-	Turf Removed – Looking upslope.	-	12/06/2012
062	-	-	-	-	-	As above.	-	12/06/2012
063	-	-	-	-	-	View of deposit (010)	-	12/06/2012
064	-	-	-	-	-	General view of turf stripping.	-	12/06/2012
065	-	-	-	-	-	View of deposit (010)	-	12/06/2012
066	-	-	-	-	-	General view of post-hole 28 – 36.	-	12/06/2012
067	-	-	-	-	33	Shot of post-hole 37.	W	25/06/2012
068	-	-	-	-	34	Shot of post-hole 38.	W	25/06/2012
069	-	-	-	-	35	Shot of post-hole 39.	W	25/06/2012
070	-	-	-	-	36	Shot of post-hole 40.	W	25/06/2012
071	-	-	-	-	37	Shot of post-hole 41.	W	25/06/2012
072	-	-	-	-	38	Shot of post-hole 42.	W	25/06/2012
073	-	-	-	-	39	Shot of post-hole 43.	W	25/06/2012
074	-	-	-	-	40	Shot of post-hole 44.	W	25/06/2012
075	-	-	-	-	41	Shot of post-hole 45.	W	25/06/2012
076	-	-	-	-	42	Shot of post-hole 46.	W	25/06/2012
077	-	-	-	-	43	Shot of post-hole 47.	W	25/06/2012

078	-	-	-	-	44	Shot of post-hole 48.	W	25/06/2012
079	-	-	-	-	45	Shot of post-hole 49.	W	25/06/2012
080	-	-	-	-	46	Shot of post-hole 50.	W	25/06/2012
081	-	-	-	-	47	Shot of post-hole 51.	W	25/06/2012
082	-	-	-	-	48	Shot of post-hole 52.	W	25/06/2012
083	-	-	-	-	49	Shot of post-hole 53.	W	25/06/2012
084	-	-	-	-	50	Shot of post-hole 54.	W	25/06/2012
085	-	-	-	-	51	Shot of post-hole 55.	W	25/06/2012
086	-	-	-	-	52	Working shot.	SE	25/06/2012
087	-	-	-	-	53	Working shot.	SE	25/06/2012
088	-	-	-	-	54	Shot of post-hole 56.	W	25/06/2012
089	-	-	-	-	55	Shot of post-hole 57.	W	25/06/2012
090	-	-	-	-	56	Shot of post-hole 58.		
091	-	-	-	-	57	Shot of post-hole 59	W	25/06/2012
092	-	-	-	-	58	Shot of post-hole 60.	W	25/06/2012
093	-	-	-	-	59	Shot of post-hole 61.	E	26/06/2012
094	-	-	-	-	60	Shot of post-hole 62.	W	26/06/2012
095	-	-	-	-	61	Shot of post-hole 63.	W	26/06/2012
096	-	-	-	-	62	Shot of post-hole 64.	W	26/06/2012
097	-	-	-	-	63	Shot of post-hole 65.	W	26/06/2012

098	-	-	-	-	64	Shot of post-hole 66	W	26/06/2012
099	-	-	-	-	65	Shot of post-hole 67.	W	26/06/2012
100	-	-	-	-	66	Shot of post-hole 68.	W	26/06/2012
101	-	-	-	-	67	Shot of post-hole 69.	E	26/06/2012
102	-	-	-	-	68	Shot of post-hole 70.	E	26/06/2012
103	-	-	-	-	69	Shot of post-hole 71.	E	26/06/2012
104	-	-	-	-	70	Shot of post-hole 72.	E	26/06/2012
105	-	-	-	-	71	Shot of post-hole 73	E	26/06/2012
106					72	Shot of post-hole 74.	E	26/06/2012
107					73	Shot of post-hole 75.	E	26/06/2012
108					74	Shot of post-hole 76.	E	26/06/2012
109					75	Shot of post-hole 77.	E	26/06/2012
110					76	Shot of post-hole 78.	E	26/06/2012
111					77	Shot of post-hole 79.	E	26/06/2012
112					78	Shot of post-hole 80	E	26/06/2012
113					79	Shot of post-hole 81.	E	26/06/2012
114					80	Shot of post-hole 82.	E	26/06/2012
115					81	Shot of post-hole 83.	E	26/06/2012
116					82	General Working Shot	N	28/06/2012
117					83	Shot of post-hole 84.	S	28/06/2012

118		8	34	Shot of post-hole 85.	S	28/06/2012
119		8	55	Shot of post-hole 86.	S	28/06/2012
120		8	6	Shot of post-hole 87	S	28/06/2012
121		8	57	Shot of post-hole 88.	S	28/06/2012
122		8	8	Shot of post-hole 90.	S	28/06/2012
123		8	9	Shot of post-hole 91.	S	28/06/2012
124		9	0	Shot of post-hole 92.	S	28/06/2012
125		9	)1	General Working Shot.	SE	28/06/2012
126		9	2	Shot of post-hole 93.	S	28/06/2012
127		9	3	Shot of post-hole 94.	S	28/06/2012
128		9	14	Shot of post-hole 95.	S	28/06/2012
129	 -	- 9	5	Shot of post-hole 96.	S	28/06/2012

# Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Туре	Description	Interpretation
001	Fence Post 1-4	Deposit	Loose, light brown silty sand with small to medium stone inclusions. The deposit is up to 200mm thick.	Topsoil.
002	Fence Post 1 – 7, 9 – 12.	Deposit	Loose, light to mid greyish brown silty sand. Abundant inclusions of ash, occasional modern glass, cloth, and abundant small stones. The deposit has a thickness of between 200 and 300mm.	Made Ground.
003	Fence Post 1 – 11.	Deposit	Loose, light brown silt sand with frequent small angular stone inclusions. Up to 200mm thick but appears to continue to a deeper depth beyond our limits of excavation.	Subsoil.
004	Site	Wall	Sandstone wall.	Sandstone wall
005	Fence Post 6 – 12	Deposit	Loose, light greyish brown very sandy silt with abundant rootlet inclusions. The deposit is up to 0.20m thick.	Topsoil.
006	Fence Post 6, 7, 8.	Deposit	Firm light grey/black demolition material with abundant crushed red brick/ash/shell/glass and gravel inclusions. The deposit is 0.10m – 0.15m thick.	Made Ground.
007	Fence Post 12	Deposit	Firm mixed brown/orange/grey sand with abundant very regular sorted small angular stones. The deposit is 200mm thick but appears to continue to a deeper depth beyond our limits of excavation.	Made Ground.
008	Fence Post 24	Wall	Possible sandstone wall foundation similar in character to [004]. Composed of worked sandstone blocks 0.10m x 0.10m x 0.15m – 0.25m x 0.10m in extent. Bonded by a sandy mortar, relatively modern in date.	Wall.

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Туре	Description	Interpretation
009	Fence Post 25.	Deposit.	Dark blackish brown silt/sand with abundant inclusions of pink sandstone fragments, occasional modern glass and frequent small stones.	Made Ground.
010	Fence Post 63 – 73.	Deposit.	Loose, dark blackish brown silt/sand with abundant root, small stone and ash inclusions. 0.10m to 0.20m thick.	Disturbed topsoil.
011	Fence Post 73 – 83.	Deposit.	Disturbed topsoil. Loose, dark blackish brown silt/sand with occasional sandstone, brick, coal and animal bone. Abundant modern rubbish. 0.70m thickness visible.	Disturbed topsoil.

# Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Ardrossan Castle.
PROJECT CODE:	RA 11067
PARISH:	Ardrossan
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)	NGR <sup>2</sup> 23237 <sup>6</sup> 42290
START DATE (this season)	8 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
END DATE (this season)	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by North Ayrshire Council to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological works during the installation of a new fence around Ardrossan Castle, Castle Hill, Ardrossan (NGR <sup>2</sup> 23237 <sup>6</sup> 42290). The archaeological works were designed to monitor the excavation of the postholes for the fence to ensure that the installation could proceed while dealing appropriately with the identified adverse impact on the archaeological resource.
	No significant archaeological deposits were revealed. The only anthropic material that was recovered is associated with the nineteenth and twentieth century such as glass, plastic and other general waste material. No new deposits of significance were discovered during the course of these works.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	No
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	North Ayrshire Council
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**

28. Rathmell Archaeology can be contacted at our Registered Office or through the web:

Rathmell Archaeology Ltd www.rathmell-arch.co.uk

Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops

Kilwinning t.: 01294 542848 Ayrshire f.: 01294 542849

KA13 6PU e.: contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk

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

West of Scotland Archaeology Service www.wosas.org.uk

Charing Cross Complex

20 India Street t.: 0141 287 8332/3 Glasgow f.: 0141 287 9259

G2 4PF e.: enquiries@wosas.glasgow.gov.uk

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