

# Cairnhouse, Blackwaterfoot, Isle of Arran: Archaeological Mitigation

Data Structure Report



by Liam McKinstry

issued 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014

on behalf of John Thomson Construction Ltd.


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## Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for John Thomson Construction Ltd in respect of the construction of a new residential development, including dwellings, garages and associated roads and footpaths, at Cairnhouse in Blackwaterfoot, Isle of Arran (12/00624/PP). These archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area to the agreement of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.
2. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service, which advises North Ayrshire Council on archaeological matters, provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works appropriate on this site. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd has been appointed by John Thomson Construction Ltd to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works.
3. The Written Scheme of Investigation (Williamson & Matthews 2014) provided the detail of the works (archaeological evaluation and 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.
4. The archaeological works were divided into two elements. The first was an evaluation carried out across the greenfield areas surrounding the farmyard (Figure 4); the second, monitoring of ground breaking works within the farmyard itself (Figure 5) covering the final stages of demolition (lifting floor slab, grubbing out foundations etc) and the ground breaking works required for construction (general reduction, foundations, service tracks etc).
5. It was the aim of the archaeological evaluation works to provide information on the presence of any significant archaeological remains within the proposed development area. In the event that no significant archaeological remains were uncovered that information would be used to support the removal of the archaeological issue from the proposed development. If significant archaeological remains were uncovered, the evaluation works would inform on the appropriate mitigation measures should the development take place. The main aims of the watching brief were to ascertain the nature of the ground beneath the farmyard's concrete surface and locate any surviving sub-surface remains.

## Archaeological and Historical Background

6. The proposed development area mostly comprised of enclosed agricultural ground to the east of Cairnhouse in Blackwaterfoot, bounded by the A841 to the north. The development area also included the farmyard and associated structures at Cairnhouse itself. These structures had been demolished prior to the watching brief stage.
7. The location of the farmyard at Cairnhouse sits on the site of an earlier cairn (Canmore ID: 39203, WoSAS Site ID: 3794). This was previously a very large cairn, which in the late 18th century was described as being a 'stupendous cairn' of 'vast height'. In the 19th century the cairn was robbed and a number of cists were uncovered with a further cist being found in c.1900 (MacMillan 1834-45). This cist measured 1.3m by 0.73m and 0.80m in depth and was covered by a large capstone which was roughly 2m by 1.5m and contained an Early Bronze Age dagger and a gold pommel-mount. It is noteworthy that within this area, the cairn would have in effect dominated the landscape as it sits on the seaward ridge of the main phase of isostatic lift.
8. The site of the cairn is marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey in 1868 (Figure 1) by a dashed line covering an oval shaped area measuring approximately 55m NW-SE by 37m SW-NE. It seems likely that this depiction is indicative as the cairn is likely to have been partially or wholly removed by this date, but it does mark the site of the cairn as lying under the location of the current farmyard. The 3rd edition Ordnance Survey in 1924 (Figure 2) also marks this area as the find spot of the 'Bronze Blade & Gold Fillet found AD 1900'.

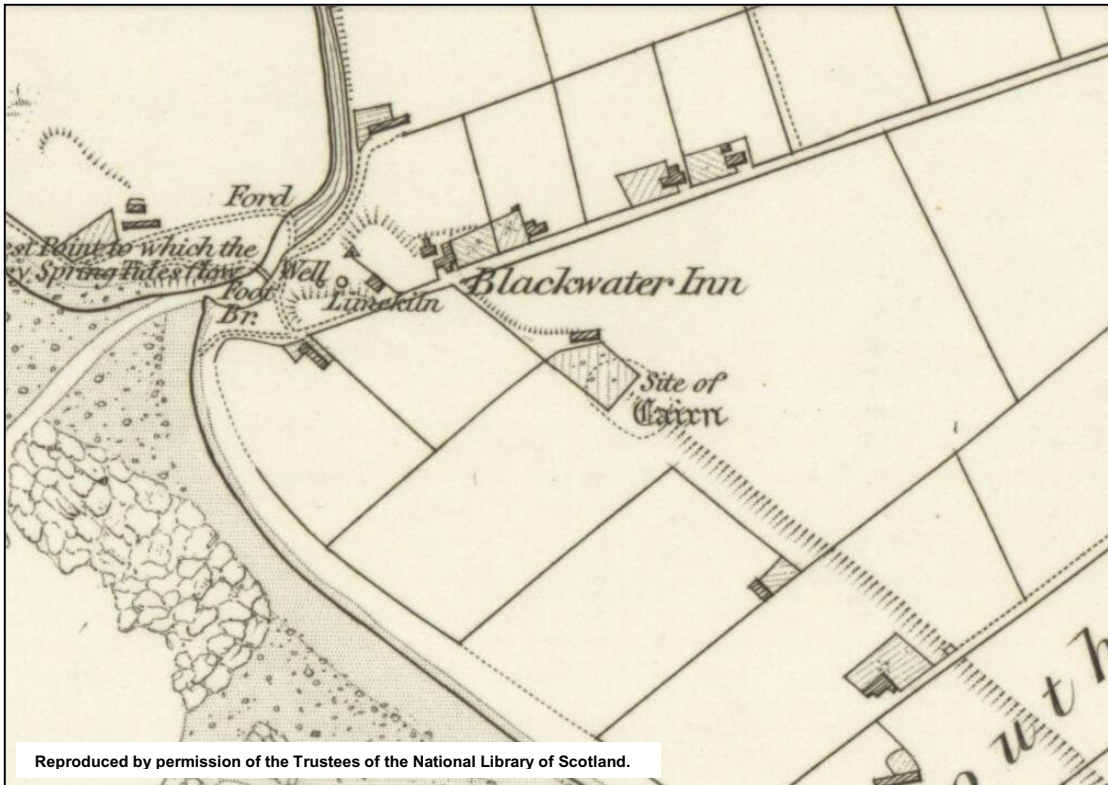


Figure 1: Extract from 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 1868

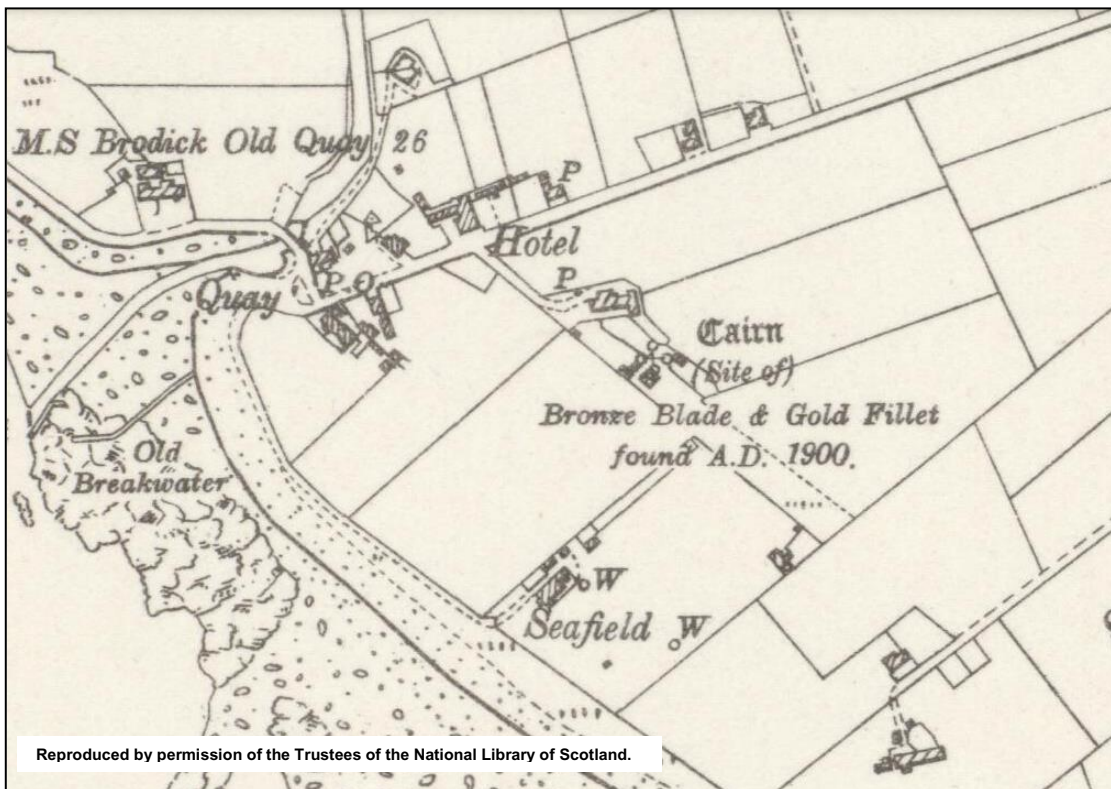


Figure 2: Extract from 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 1924

9. Previous archaeological evaluations have been carried out within the surrounding area. In 2006, two phases of archaeological evaluation were carried out by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd in the fields to the southwest at Kinloch Court (Shaw 2006a and 2006b; WoSAS Event ID: 3674 and 3511) in respect to earlier residential developments. In 2007 Rathmell Archaeology Ltd carried out an evaluation in the field to the south at Seafield Cottage, also prior to a housing development (Shaw 2007; WoSAS Event ID: 3799). No significant archaeological features were found during any of the works.
10. Two mounds have also been recorded within the nearby surrounding landscape to the southwest of the development area at South Feorline (WoSAS Site ID: 22783 and 22784). The latter of these was investigated during the earlier works at Seafield and found to be of no archaeological significance (Shaw 2007). It was suggested that it may indicate a sand dump relating to the construction of the houses which form Blackwaterfoot. The other mound has not been excavated.
11. While no other known sites were present within the development area, the site of the cairn suggested a high potential for further archaeological features to be present. As evidence of prehistoric burials was still being uncovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century after the original destruction of the cairn, it suggested that not all traces were removed and it was likely that other remains could still be present. Furthermore, the southwest of Arran in general shows much evidence for prehistoric occupation and it was likely that further remains could be discovered.

## Project Works

12. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2014, in keeping with the terms of the Written Scheme of Investigation (Williamson and Matthews 2014). The evaluation consisted of the excavation of a series of fourteen intrusive trenches for the purposes of exposing an 8% sample of the available ground (roughly 1.5ha) within the development area to be archaeologically examined.
13. The trenches (Figure 3) were placed in accordance with the terms of the Written Scheme of Investigation (Williamson and Mathews 2014). In total 1298m<sup>2</sup> of trenching was excavated in the evaluation area, slightly exceeding the 1200m<sup>2</sup> needed for the purposes of this investigation. The position of the trenches is depicted in the site plan below (Figure 3).
14. The monitoring works took place intermittently over two phases: 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2014 and 30<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014. The initial phase comprised the monitoring of the lifting of the concrete yard surface across the already partially demolished farmyard. In the second phase, five larger areas (A-E) were opened up within the farmyard area (Figure 3) to assess the underlying deposits. The first of these areas (A) was excavated over the site thought to be the most likely location for the cairn.
15. During the two phases, the monitoring failed to identify any significant archaeological features and, after discussion with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, it was agreed that monitoring works should be halted at this point and that no further monitoring works on-site would be required.
16. All works were conducted in accordance with West of Scotland Archaeology Service Standard Conditions, the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

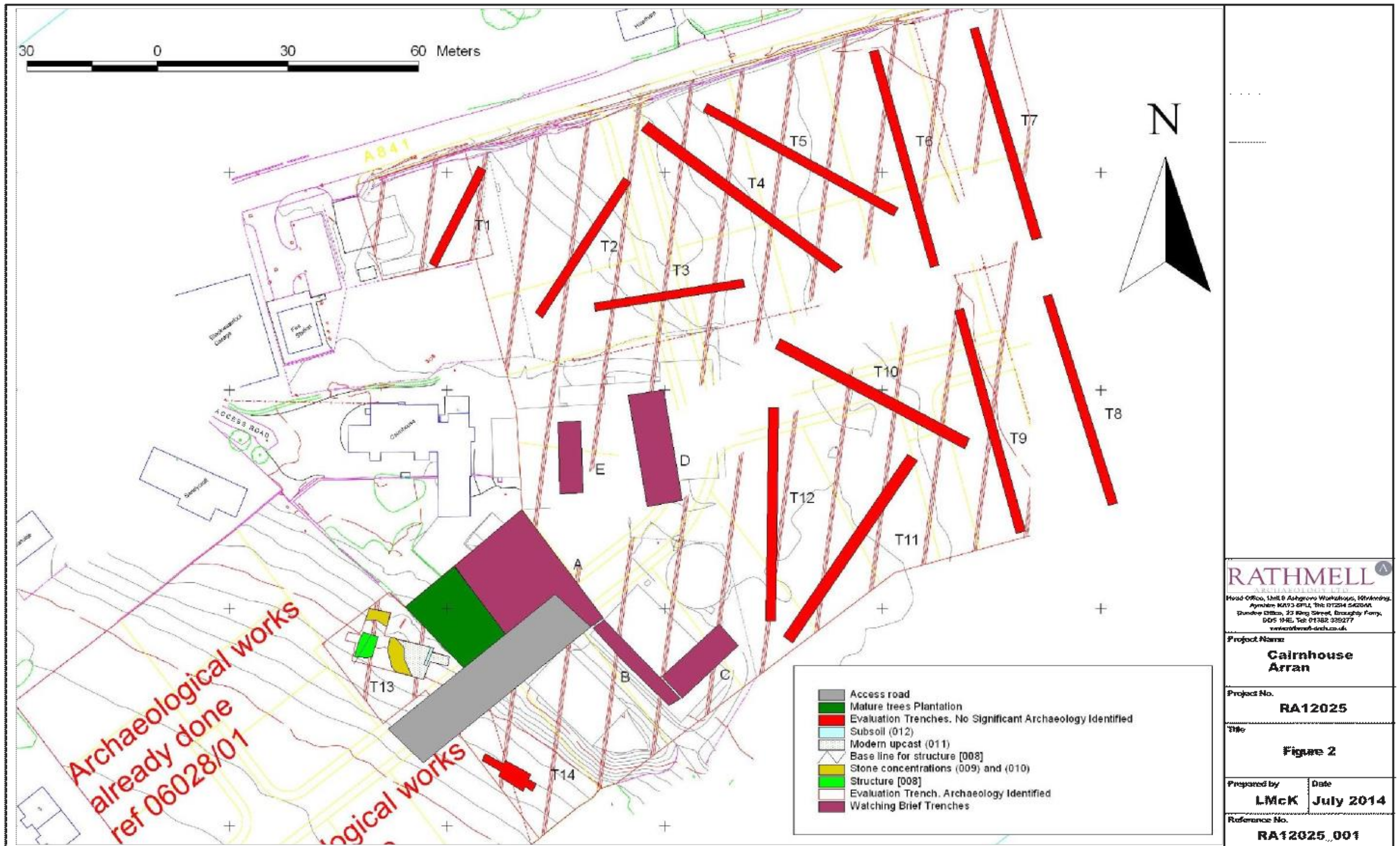


Figure 3: Site plan showing Evaluation and Farmyard trench locations.



## Findings

### *Evaluation*

17. In all, fourteen evaluation trenches (Figure 3) were excavated using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless 2m ditching bucket. The details of the trenches may be found in Appendix 1 within this document. Included below is a synthesis of the findings and interpretation from these trenches.
18. Trenches T1-12 (See Appendix 1 for details) were situated within two fields to the immediate north and east of the partially demolished farmyard (Figure 5). The north eastern edges of these fields were bounded by the main road into Blackwaterfoot and the boundaries consisted of a low bank and ditch with a hedge. There was also an electric wire and post fence there which formed the fields other boundaries. The fields were in use as pasture and sloped gently downwards towards a sub-linear natural hollow located to the north which was severely waterlogged.
19. The topsoil covering the trenches (001) consisted of moderately compacted mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small stone and gravel inclusions. The topsoil had a thickness range of 0.3 to 0.4m across the site. The waterlogging in the northern part of the fields seemed to be caused by one of the underlying subsoils, (002), which consisted of firmly compacted red-brown/grey-brown iron pan/sand with moderate to frequent small decayed stones and pebbles. This layer was located in the majority of the northeast and east trenches with the exception of T1 and T2 and had a thickness range of 0.04 to 0.11m. Other naturally occurring subsoils identified in other trenches included a mid to dark grey sand with frequent decayed yellow-white small stones and pebbles (003), located in T4, T6, T8, T9, and T11; a mid-dark grey-brown sand (004) located in T3, T4 and T5 and a dark grey-brown/yellow sand with occasional decayed small yellow stones (006) located in T1 to T4. In low lying areas a loosely compacted dark grey brown peat (005) with sandy patches and no inclusions was identified within T2 and T4. This layer was most likely the result of the build-up of the iron pan layer (002) throughout the site which caused bad drainage within the fields (Figure 6).
20. A large number of stone filled drains, most probably of modern date, were identified in the majority of the trenches with the exception of T11. This was most likely due to the badly drained nature of the north eastern and eastern fields. The drains (015) were narrow linear features with a stone and topsoil-like fill within the cut (Figure 6). The drains measured 0.25m to 0.35m wide and 0.25 to 0.32m deep. The majority of the drains had a northeast-southwest orientation though there were a few which had other orientations, such as northwest-southeast, and these were most likely feeder drains. The majority of the drains ran towards the sub-linear shaped depression in the extreme northern part of the site, close to T2 and T4.
21. Other than the stone filled drains, which were most likely of a modern date, no significant archaeology was identified within T1 to T12.
22. Trenches T13 (Figure 8) to T14 (See Appendix 1 for details) were situated within two fields to the immediate southwest and south of the partially demolished farmyard. Part of a northwest-southeast orientated stone boundary wall and bank ran between the farmyard and the north eastern edge of the field. Within and surrounding this boundary was part of a mature tree plantation which continued to the north and northeast. A previously constructed access road ran northeast to southwest through the field, between trenches T13 and T14, towards a small housing development under construction to the southwest. The field was bounded by either wooden or wire and post fencing. The north western end of the field sloped moderately to sharply from northeast-southwest. The higher north eastern part of the field had a higher stone/boulder content than other parts of the field and may have been an area of rough grazing. This high stone content was most likely the tumble from the boundary wall/bank or up cast from recent demolition within the farmyard or construction from the housing estate to the southwest.
23. The topsoil (001) covering Trench T13 had a thickness range of 0.05 to 0.46m across the trench. In the eastern part of the trench a layer of up-cast material (011) was identified.

This layer was most likely thrown up from the excavation of the access road and consisted of moderate to firmly compacted dark grey, with light yellow patches, sand with frequent small to large stone and occasional modern brick and plastic inclusions. The layer measured 11m east-west, 4.5m N-S and had a thickness of 0.32m to 0.6m. There were two naturally occurring subsoils, (007) and (012), within the trench. The first subsoil (007) consisted of loose to moderately compacted mid to dark grey-brown sandy gravel with frequent small stone and cobble and occasional larger stone inclusions. The second subsoil (012), which underlay the recent up-cast material (011), consisted of a moderately compacted dark grey, with lighter yellow patches, sandy gravel with moderate small stone and cobble inclusions.

24. One feature which had the potential to be archaeologically significant was identified within trench T13 (Figure 3). It was a rectangular shaped stone feature [008] which consisted of a wall or foundation with at least one course of dry-stone construction enclosing a rectangular shaped area (Figures 9 and 10). The wall or foundation was constructed of sub oval/angular shaped stones. The majority of the stones were medium to large in size (0.4m by 0.3m by 0.2m) with a few smaller stones (0.2m by 0.14m by 0.1m). The overall size of the outer edge of the structure was c.3m wide (east-west) and c.3.7m long (north-south) with only the inner width of c.2.4m surviving. A small 0.5m by 0.5m exploratory trench was placed in the northwest, interior, corner of the structure and revealed two deposits/layers (Figure 11). The upper layer (013) consisted of loose to moderately compacted mid grey-brown sandy gravel with frequent cobble and pebble inclusions. The thickness of this layer within structure was between 0.03 to 0.06m. The lower layer (014) consisted of loose to moderately compacted mid to dark grey brown peat with very occasional sand and gravel pockets within it. The thickness within the structure was 0.06 to 0.08m. A sherd of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery (Find No. 4) was also recovered from this layer.
25. Also identified within trench T13 were two stone concentrations which were initially thought to be potential features but upon excavation proved to be naturally occurring. The first of these stone concentrations (009) consisted of moderate to firmly compacted mid to dark grey sandy gravel with frequent small stone (0.3m by 0.2m by 0.13m) and boulder (0.5m by 0.4m by 0.4m) inclusions covering an extent measuring c.3m (north-south) by c.5m (east-west) east and west. The second stone concentration (010) consisted of moderate to firmly compacted, mid to dark grey sandy gravel with frequent small stone (0.31m by 0.18m by 0.15m) and boulder (0.6m x 0.5m x 0.4m) inclusions covering an extent measuring c.4.5m (north-south) by c.3.5m (east-west).
26. The topsoil (001) covering trench T14 had a thickness range of 0.34 to 0.36m across the trench which came down on to subsoil (007). No significant archaeological features were identified within T14.

### *Monitoring Works*

27. The monitoring works (Figure 3) were centred on the partially demolished concrete covered farmyard (020) (Figure 4). The concrete surface had varying thicknesses of between 0.06 to 0.25m. Some areas contained reinforced steel possibly indicating where farm buildings had been located whereas other thinner sections of concrete most likely indicated open yard areas. Beneath the concrete surface was a layer of made up material (021) which consisted of moderately compacted mid to dark grey-brown (with occasional lighter patches) sandy gravel with frequent inclusions of small stones and cobbles, moderate brick fragments and occasional metal/plastic fragments. This layer had a depth range of 0.28m to 0.75m with deepest area located in the western and south western part of the farmyard.
28. A series of five large areas (A-E) were opened up within the farmyard area to further investigate the soil horizon beneath the concrete surface (020).
29. Area A (Figure 7) was situated to the immediate northeast of the stone boundary wall and bank with its accompanying area of mature trees. It covered an area of 532m<sup>2</sup>. Only one feature was identified within the area, a sub-oval shaped spread of loosely compacted mid-dark grey brown silt with moderate small stone and gravel inclusions



Figure 4: Pre excavation view of farmyard area. From southwest.



Figure 5: Pre excavation view of evaluation area. From west.



Figure 6: Post excavation view of T10 showing iron pan layer (002) and modern stone filled drains (015). From southeast.



Figure 7: Post excavation view of Trench A within western part of watching brief area. From northeast.

(017). The spread also included frequent inclusions of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century glass and ceramic sherds. The feature measured 1.3m x 1.7m x 0.08-0.15m deep.

30. Area B was located to the immediate southwest of A and covered an area of 84m<sup>2</sup>. Area C was located to the immediate northeast of B and covered an area of 128m<sup>2</sup>. Area D was located in the northeast corner of the farmyard and covered an area of 192m<sup>2</sup>. Area E was located in the northwest corner of the farmyard and covered an area of 64m<sup>2</sup>. The trenches had a depth range of 0.18 to 0.77m and were excavated down to the naturally occurring subsoil (022) which consisted of moderately compacted mid grey brown to mid-light brown sandy gravel with frequent small to medium sized stone and cobbles (70-80%). No significant archaeological features were identified within any of the stripped areas across the farmyard.

## Discussion

31. The results of the majority of the evaluation trenching (T1-12 and T14) yielded no evidence of significant archaeological remains whatsoever but only modern stone filled drains (015).
32. The only area where a potentially significant feature [008] was identified was within trench T13. One small fragment of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (Find No. 4) was recovered from one of the layers (014) within the rectangular shaped structure. The overall physical appearance of the structure along with the recovered find would strongly suggest a relatively recent, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century, date. Due to the lack of finds associated with this structure it seems reasonable to suggest that it may have functioned as a byre or farm outbuilding rather than a domestic dwelling. The two concentrations of stone, (009) and (010), to the north and east of structure [008] upon excavation proved to be naturally occurring, possibly part of a raised beach.
33. There was also no evidence of significant archaeological remains within the stripped farmyard areas (Trenches A to E). In the made up layer (021) beneath the concrete farmyard surface there were only fragments of modern ceramics, brick and plastic (Find No. 1) but no features. Within the underlying subsoil (022) where it was exposed only one feature was identified. This feature consisted of the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century rubbish spread (017) which contained a number of modern ceramic, brick and glass finds (Find No. 2). Modern finds were also recovered from the across the surface of the surrounding subsoil (Find No. 3) and this would strongly suggest that the farmyard area had been levelled prior to the laying of the made up surface (021) and the concrete surface (020), meaning that there was little chance of surviving sub-surface archaeological remains within the farmyard area.

## Recommendations

34. No significant archaeological remains were located within the northern and south-eastern parts of the development area, with trenches T1-12 and 14 containing only modern field drains. In these areas it is recommended that no further archaeological work should take place. Within the farmyard area, a thick layer of made up material with modern building debris within it was identified under the concrete farmyard surface. No significant archaeological features were identified within this made up layer or within the natural subsoil. As such, it is recommended that no further work should be carried out as a direct consequence of these works.
35. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with North Ayrshire Council and their advisors, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

## Conclusion

36. A programme of archaeological works was required by John Thomson Construction Ltd. in respect to the development of residential housing at Cairnhouse, Blackwaterfoot, Arran. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
37. The archaeological investigative works consisted of an intrusive evaluation which was

designed to assess an 8% sample of the greenfield portions of the proposed development area. A watching brief was also conducted within a partially demolished farmyard. The watching brief was concerned with the removal of the yards concrete surface and also involved stripping five large areas dispersed across its extent. No significant archaeological features were discovered in the majority of the evaluation trenches and within the watching brief area centred on the farmyard, however a rectangular structure and two stone concentrations were identified within Trench T13. Upon investigation it was revealed that the structure was 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century in date and that the two stone concentrations were naturally occurring features.

## Acknowledgements

38. The author would like to thank the client John Thomson Construction Ltd and the West of Scotland Archaeology Service who gave support and guidance for these archaeological works. I would also like to thank Claire Williamson for her contributions as senior archaeologist on the project.

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### *Documentary*

- |                               |         |   |
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### *Cartographic*

- |                 |      |  |
|-----------------|------|--|
| Ordnance Survey | 1868 | 6-inch 1 <sup>st</sup> edition, Argyllshire Sheet CCLIII     |
| Ordnance Survey | 1924 | 6-inch 1 <sup>st</sup> edition, Argyll and Bute Sheet CCLIII |



Figure 8: Post excavation view of the east southeast end of T13.



Figure 9: View of rectangular shaped structure [008] within T13. From west northwest.



Figure 10: Close up view of northwest corner of rectangular shaped structure [008]. From south.



Figure 11: View of west facing section of interior layers (013) and (014) within Structure [008]. From west.



## Appendix 1: Trench and Area Summary

Within this appendix a standardised set of data pertaining to the evaluation trenches and the stripped areas in the farmyard is presented.

All measurement distances quoted along the trench measure based on the quoted orientation of the trench/area.

Evaluation Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
1	Southwest to Northeast	2m by 25m 50m <sup>2</sup>	350mm to 400mm	Moderately compacted dark grey-brown/yellow sand with occasional decayed small yellow stones (006).	Modern stone filled Drains (005). Mainly NE-SW orientated and spaced 2.5m-4.7m apart. One of these drains, at 20m from the SW was N-S orientated and may have represented a later drain, though it was similar in makeup and dimensions to the others. Nine drains in total.	None	None
2	Southwest to Northeast	2m by 40m 80m <sup>2</sup>	370mm to 440mm	From 0m-8m moderately compacted dark grey-brown/yellow sand with occasional decayed small yellow stones (006). From 8m-14.5m firmly compacted red-brown/grey-brown iron pan/sand with moderate to frequent small decayed stones and pebbles (002). From 14.5m-23m (006). From 23m-30m loosely compacted dark grey brown peat with sandy patches. No inclusions (005).	Modern stone filled Drains (005). Mainly N-S orientated and spaced 3m-9m apart. Four drains in total.	None	None

<b>Evaluation Trench</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Topsoil Depth</b>	<b>Subsoil Character</b>	<b>Modern Features</b>	<b>Significant Features</b>	<b>Artefacts</b>
3	West Southwest to East Northeast	2m by 35m 70m <sup>2</sup>	350mm to 380mm	From 0m-11.5m moderately compacted dark grey-brown/yellow sand with occasional decayed small yellow stones (006). From 11.5m-18.5m firmly compacted red-brown/grey-brown iron pan/sand with moderate to frequent small decayed stones and pebbles (002). From 18.5m-29m loosely compacted dark grey brown peat with sandy patches. No inclusions. (005). From 29m-35m moderately compacted mid-dark grey-brown sand with no inclusions (004).	Two modern stone filled Drains (005). One located 4.5m from WSW and orientated NE-SW. The second located 33m from WSW and orientated NW-SE.	None	None
4	Southeast to Northwest	2m by 57m 114m <sup>2</sup>	370mm to 380mm	From 0m-6.5m firmly compacted red-brown/grey-brown iron pan/sand with moderate to frequent small decayed stones and pebbles (002). From 6.5m-20.7m moderately compacted mid to dark grey sand with frequent decayed yellow-white small stones and pebbles (003). From 20.7m-32.7m moderately compacted dark grey-brown/yellow sand with occasional decayed small yellow stones (006). From 32.7m-36.4m moderately compacted mid-dark grey-brown sand with no inclusions (004). From 36.4m-47m (002). From 47m-57m loosely compacted dark grey brown peat with sandy patches. No inclusions. (005).	One modern stone filled drain (005). Located 24.5m from SE and orientated NE-SW.	None	None
5	Northwest to Southeast	2m by 50m 100m <sup>2</sup>	370mm to 390mm	Firmly compacted red-brown/grey-brown iron pan/sand with moderate to frequent small decayed stones and pebbles (002).	Modern stone filled Drains (005). Majority NE-SW orientated and spaced 3m-5m apart with one NW-SE orientated. Seven drains in total.	None	None

Evaluation Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
6	South Southeast to North Northwest	2m by 50m 100m <sup>2</sup>	370mm to 390mm	From 0m-45m firmly compacted red-brown/grey-brown iron pan/sand with moderate to frequent small decayed stones and pebbles (002). From 45m-50m moderately compacted mid to dark grey sand with frequent decayed yellow-white small stones and pebbles (003).	Modern stone filled Drains (005). All NE-SW orientated and spaced 2.5m-4m apart. Fourteen drains in total.	None	None
7	North Northwest to South Southeast	2m by 50m 100m <sup>2</sup>	360mm to 370mm	Firmly compacted red-brown/grey-brown iron pan/sand with moderate to frequent small decayed stones and pebbles (002).	Modern stone filled Drains (005). All NE-SW orientated and spaced 2.5m-4m apart. Eleven drains in total.	None	None
8	North Northwest to South Southeast	2m by 50m 100m <sup>2</sup>	360mm to 380mm	From 0m-6.7m moderately compacted mid to dark grey sand with frequent decayed yellow-white small stones and pebbles (003). From 6.7m-50m firmly compacted red-brown/grey-brown iron pan/sand with moderate to frequent small decayed stones and pebbles (002).	Modern stone filled Drains (005). All NE-SW orientated and spaced 4m-5m apart. Ten drains in total.	None	None
9	South Southeast to North Northwest	2m by 50m 100m <sup>2</sup>	350mm to 400mm	From 0m-6m moderately compacted mid to dark grey sand with frequent decayed yellow-white small stones and pebbles (003). From 6m-50m firmly compacted red-brown/grey-brown iron pan/sand with moderate to frequent small decayed stones and pebbles (002).	Modern stone filled Drains (005). All NE-SW orientated and spaced 4m-5m apart. Eleven drains in total.	None	None

<b>Evaluation Trench</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Topsoil Depth</b>	<b>Subsoil Character</b>	<b>Modern Features</b>	<b>Significant Features</b>	<b>Artefacts</b>
10	East Southeast to West Northwest	2m by 50m 100m <sup>2</sup>	360mm to 370mm	From 0m-20m firmly compacted red-brown/grey-brown iron pan/sand with moderate to frequent small decayed stones and pebbles (002). From 20m-47m loosely compacted dark grey brown peat with sandy patches. No inclusions. (005). From 47m-50m (002).	Modern stone filled Drains (005). All NE-SW orientated and spaced 5.5m-9m apart. Four drains in total.	None	None
11	Northeast to Southwest	2m by 50m 100m <sup>2</sup>	360mm to 390mm	From 0m-4m moderately compacted mid to dark grey sand with frequent decayed yellow-white small stones and pebbles (003). From 4m-13m loosely compacted dark grey brown peat with sandy patches. No inclusions. (005). From 13m-21.6m (003). From 21.6m-41m firmly compacted red-brown/grey-brown iron pan/sand with moderate to frequent small decayed stones and pebbles (002). From 41m-50m moderately compacted mid-dark grey-brown sand with no inclusions (004).	None	None	None
12	South Southwest to North Northeast	2m by 50m 100m <sup>2</sup>	380mm to 390mm	From 0m-11m moderately compacted mid-dark grey-brown sand with no inclusions (004). From 11m-50m compacted red-brown/grey-brown iron pan/sand with moderate to frequent small decayed stones and pebbles (002).	Modern stone filled Drains (005). All NW-SE orientated and spaced 13m-13.5m apart. Three drains in total.	None	None

Evaluation Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
13	West Southwest to East Northeast	2m by 25m 50m <sup>2</sup>	50mm to 460mm	From 0m-11m loose to moderately compacted mid to dark grey-brown sandy gravel with frequent small stone and cobble and occasional larger stone inclusions (007). From 18.9m-20.1m moderately compacted dark grey, with lighter yellow patches, sandy gravel with moderate small stone and cobble inclusions (012).	From 14.5m-25m moderate to firmly compacted dark grey, with light yellow patches, sand with frequent small to large stone and occasional modern brick and plastic sheet fragment inclusions. Modern up cast (011). From 3.5m-7m stone structure [008] and associated layers. From 10.7m-14m curvilinear stone concentration (010).	None	None
13 (N Ext)	West Northwest to East Southeast	5m by 6m 30m <sup>2</sup>	320mm to 390mm	From 0m-3.5m loose to moderately compacted mid to dark grey-brown sandy gravel with frequent small stone and cobble and occasional larger stone inclusions (007).	From 3.5m-6m stone concentration (009).	None	None
13 (S Ext)	West Southwest to East Northeast	2.5m by 18m 45m <sup>2</sup>	80mm to 450mm	From 0m-11m loose to moderately compacted mid to dark grey-brown sandy gravel with frequent small stone and cobble and occasional larger stone inclusions (007). From 16.7m-17.8m moderately compacted dark grey, with lighter yellow patches, sandy gravel with moderate small stone and cobble inclusions (012).	From 13m-18m moderate to firmly compacted dark grey, with light yellow patches, sand with frequent small to large stone and occasional modern brick and plastic sheet fragment inclusions. Modern up cast (011). From 0.7m-4.4m stone structure [008] and associated layers. From 9.5m-13m curvilinear stone concentration (010).	None	None
14	Northwest to Southeast	2m by 25m 50m <sup>2</sup>	340mm to 360mm	Loose to moderately compacted mid to dark grey-brown sandy gravel with frequent small stone and cobble and occasional larger stone inclusions (007).	None	None	None

Evaluation Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
14 (NE Ext)	Northwest to Southeast	1m by 4.5m 4.5m <sup>2</sup>	360mm	Loose to moderately compacted mid to dark grey-brown sandy gravel with frequent small stone and cobble and occasional larger stone inclusions (007).	None	None	None
14 (SW Ext)	Northwest to Southeast	1m by 4.5m 4.5m <sup>2</sup>	360mm	Loose to moderately compacted mid to dark grey-brown sandy gravel with frequent small stone and cobble and occasional larger stone inclusions (007).	None	None	None

Area in Farmyard	Orientation	Size	Depth of Made Ground (021)	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
A	Northwest to Southeast	25m by 30m 532m <sup>2</sup>	180mm to 770mm	Moderately compacted mid grey brown – mid-light brown sandy gravel with frequent small to medium sized stone and cobbles (022).	Modern Spread (017) which contained frequent modern artefacts	None	None
B	Northwest to Southeast	3m by 28m 84m <sup>2</sup>	390mm to 500mm	Moderately compacted mid grey brown – mid-light brown sandy gravel with frequent small to medium sized stone and cobbles (022).	None	None	None
C	Northeast to Southwest	8m by 16m 128m <sup>2</sup>	400mm to 320mm	Moderately compacted mid grey brown – mid-light brown sandy gravel with frequent small to medium sized stone and cobbles (022).	None	None	None
D	North to South	8m by 24m 192m <sup>2</sup>	280mm to 310mm	Moderately compacted mid grey brown – mid-light brown sandy gravel with frequent small to medium sized stone and cobbles (022).	Row of four concrete/steel piles which ran in a N-S direction through Trench D.	None	None

Area in Farmyard	Orientation	Size	Depth of Made Ground (021)	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
E	North to South	4m by 16m 64m <sup>2</sup>	230mm to 350mm	Moderately compacted mid grey brown – mid-light brown sandy gravel with frequent small to medium sized stone and cobbles (022).	None	None	None

## Appendix 2: Registers

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

### *Context Register*

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Evaluation Area	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small stone and gravel inclusions. Thickness range of 0.3-0.4m.	Topsoil within the evaluation area.
002		Deposit	Firmly compacted red-brown/grey-brown iron pan/sand with moderate to frequent small decayed stones and pebbles. Thickness range 0.04-0.11m.	Naturally occurring iron pan layer found throughout the evaluation area.
003	Evaluation Area	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid to dark grey sand with frequent decayed yellow-white small stones and pebbles. Excavated to a thickness of 0.06m.	Naturally occurring subsoil.
004	Evaluation Area	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid-dark grey-brown sand with no inclusions. Thickness of c.0.04m where excavated.	Naturally occurring subsoil.
005	Evaluation Area	Deposit	Loosely compacted dark grey brown peat with sandy patches. No inclusions. Thickness unknown.	Naturally occurring subsoil.
006	Evaluation Area	Deposit	Moderately compacted dark grey-brown/yellow sand with occasional decayed small yellow stones. Thickness unknown.	Naturally occurring subsoil.
007	T13 and T14	Deposit	Loose to moderately compacted mid to dark grey-brown sandy gravel with frequent small stone and cobble and occasional larger stone	Naturally occurring subsoil. Possibly raised beach material.

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			inclusions. Thickness unknown.	
008	T13	Structure	Rectangular shaped stone feature. Consists of a wall or foundation with at least one course of dry-stone construction. The wall or foundation was constructed of sub oval/angular shaped stones. The majority of the stones were medium to large in size (0.4m x 0.3m x 0.2m) with a few smaller stones (0.2m x 0.14m x 0.1m). The overall size of the outer edge of the structure was c.3m wide (E-W) and c.3.7m long (N-S) with only the inner width of c.2.4m surviving. A small 0.5m x 0.5m exploratory trench was placed in the northwest, interior, corner of the structure and revealed two deposits, an upper gravel and stone layer (013) and a lower silt/peat layer (014).	Rectangular shaped structure. The overall physical appearance of the structure along with the recovered find of a modern pottery sherd (Find No. 4) would strongly suggest a relatively recent, 18 <sup>th</sup> or 19 <sup>th</sup> century, date. Due to the lack of finds associated with this structure it seems reasonable to suggest that it may have functioned as a byre or farm outbuilding rather than a domestic dwelling.
009	T13	Deposit	Moderate to firmly compacted mid to dark grey sandy gravel with frequent small stone (0.3m x 0.2m x 0.13m) and boulder (0.5m x 0.4m x 0.4m) inclusions. Located 3.5m to the north of structure [008]. The concentration measured c.3m N-S and c.5m E-W. The thickness is unknown.	Naturally occurring concentration of stone and boulders within a sandy gravel layer.
010	T13	Deposit	Moderate to firmly compacted mid to dark grey sandy gravel with frequent small stone (0.31m x 0.18m x 0.15m) and boulder (0.6m x 0.5m x 0.4m) inclusions. Located 4.5m to the east of structure [008]. The concentration extended c.4.5m N-S and c.3.5m E-W. The thickness is unknown.	Naturally occurring concentration of stone and boulders within a sandy gravel layer.
011	T13	Deposit	Moderate to firmly compacted dark grey, with light yellow patches, sand with frequent small to large stone and occasional modern brick and plastic sheet fragment inclusions. Layer extended 11m E-W, 4.5m N-S and had a thickness of 0.32m -0.6m. The layer was located at the eastern end of trench 13.	Possible modern up cast from the excavation of a recent, NE-SW orientated, access road leading to a housing development under construction to the immediate SW of the development area.
012	T13	Deposit	Moderately compacted dark grey, with lighter yellow patches, sandy gravel with moderate small stone and cobble inclusions. Depth unknown.	Naturally occurring subsoil. Possibly raised beach material.
013	T13	Deposit	Loose to moderately compacted mid grey-brown sandy gravel with frequent cobble and pebble inclusions. Thickness within structure [008] was 0.03m-0.06m.	Upper layer within structure [008].



Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
014	T13	Deposit	Loose to moderately compacted mid to dark grey brown peat with very occasional sand and gravel pockets within it. Thickness within structure [008] was 0.06m-0.08m.	Lower peat layer within structure [008]. Overlies large boulders similar in nature to the main structure but not clear if that was the base or not.
015	Evaluation Area		Narrow linear features with stone and topsoil-like fill. Features measured 0.25m-0.35m wide and 0.25-0.32m deep. Were located in the majority of the test trenches with the exception of T13 and T14. The majority of the features had a NE-SW orientation though there were a few which had other orientations such as NW-SE and these were most likely feeder drains. The majority of these drains ran into a sub-linear shaped depression in the extreme north western part of the site, close to trenches 2 and 4.	Modern stone filled drains.
016	T13	Deposit	Very firmly compacted dark grey brown sandy gravel with frequent small to large stone inclusions.	Natural subsoil within interior of structure [008].
017	Farmyard	Deposit	Loosely compacted mid-dark grey brown silt with moderate small stone and gravel inclusions. Also included frequent inclusions of 19 <sup>th</sup> or 20 <sup>th</sup> century glass and ceramic sherds. Measured 1.3m x 1.7m x 0.08-0.15m deep. Located within trench A in the watching brief area.	19 <sup>th</sup> or 20 <sup>th</sup> century spread
018	Farmyard	Structure	Series of four concrete and steel footings or piles associated with a recently demolished barn or farm out building. The footings/piles were square shaped and measured 1m x 1m. They were spaced out in 4m intervals and orientated approximately N-S.	Very modern concrete footings or piles for barn or farm out building.
019	T13	Deposit	Very firmly compacted mid grey brown sandy gravel with frequent small to large stone inclusions.	Natural subsoil within interior of structure [008].
020	Farmyard	Deposit/structure	Concrete surface of varying thicknesses (0.06m-0.25m). Some areas contained reinforced steel possibly indicating where farm buildings had been located whereas other thinner sections of concrete which most likely indicated open yard areas.	Modern concrete farmyard surfaces.
021	Farmyard	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid to dark grey-brown (with occasional lighter patches) sandy gravel with frequent inclusions of small stones and cobbles, moderate brick fragments and occasional metal/plastic fragments. Depth across the watching brief area varied from 0.28m to	Variable layer of foundation material underlying the concrete farmyard surface (020).

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			0.75m. Extended across the entire watching brief area though it was less thick in the eastern and north eastern parts of the farmyard (where depth could be observed).	
022	Farmyard	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid grey brown – mid-light brown sandy gravel with frequent small to medium sized stone and cobbles (70-80%). Observed within test trench (a) and in certain areas in the NE and E part of the farmyard. No archaeology observed within these areas.	Naturally occurring subsoil. Possibly raised beach material. Similar to natural subsoil identified within trench 13.

### Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
001	001	General pre excavation view of the farmyard watching brief area. View of most likely location of the cairn within the farmyard.	S	11/06/14
002	002	General view of the evaluation area before excavation.	W	11/06/14
003	003	General pre excavation view of the farmyard watching brief area.	SW	11/06/14
004	004	View of the start of the removal of the concrete surface in the western part of the farmyard. Also shows difference in level between yard surface and recently excavated access road which led towards a housing development under construction.	SE	11/06/14
005	005	SSE facing section from recent access road showing made up ground level, modern disturbance and the naturally occurring subsoil.	S	11/06/14
006	006	SSE facing section from recent access road showing made up ground level, modern disturbance and the naturally occurring subsoil.	S	11/06/14
007	007	View of western area of farmyard after removal of concrete surface. This area was at or near to the location of the cairn.	NE	11/06/14
008	008	View of part of the western end of the farmyard with the concrete surface removed.	ENE	11/06/14
009	009	View of part of the eastern end of the farmyard with the concrete surface removed.	NE	11/06/14

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
010	010	View of T12 Post exc.	SSE	11/06/14
011	011	View of T11 post exc.	SE	11/06/14
012	012	View of eastern and north eastern ends of the farmyard as the concrete was being removed.	SW	12/06/14
013	013	View of T10 post exc.	SE	12/06/14
014	014	View of T10 post exc.	SE	12/06/14
015	015	View of T9 post exc.	NNW	12/06/14
016	016	View of T6 post exc.	SSE	12/06/14
017	017	View of T7 post exc.	SSE	12/06/14
018	018	View of T8 post exc.	SSE	12/06/14
019	019	View of north eastern end of the farmyard as the concrete was being removed.	NW	12/06/14
020	020	View of T5 post exc.	SE	12/06/14
021	021	View of T4 post exc.	SE	12/06/14
022	022	View of T3 post exc.	ENE	12/06/14
023	023	View of T2 post exc.	SW	12/06/14
024	024	View of T1 post exc.	SW	12/06/14
025	025	View of northern and north eastern ends of the farmyard as the concrete was being removed.	NNE	12/06/14
026	026	Close up view of the made up ground layer (021) in the centre of the farmyard.	N	13/06/14
027	027	View of the made up ground layer (021) in the western end of the farmyard.	E	13/06/14
028	028	View of the made up ground layer (021) in the western end of the farmyard.	E	13/06/14
029	029	Close up view of the made up ground layer (021) in the north western end of the farmyard. Shows modern brick in makeup.	-	13/06/14
030	030	Close up view of the made up ground layer (021) in the western end of the farmyard.	-	13/06/14

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
031	031	View of test trench (a) excavated into the made up ground in the north western end of the farmyard.	E	13/06/14
032	032	Northwest – southeast orientated boundary wall or bank which runs between T13 and test trench (a) within the farmyard.	SSE	13/06/14
033	033	View of T13 post exc.	W	13/06/14
034	034	View of T13 post exc.	W	13/06/14
035	035	Close up of exploratory trench through modern up cast layer (011) at the eastern end of T13.	SW	13/06/14
036	036	View of T13 post exc.	E	13/06/14
037	037	View of rectangular shaped structure [008].	S	13/06/14
038	038	View of rectangular shaped structure [008].	W	13/06/14
039	039	Close up view of rectangular shaped structure [008].	S	13/06/14
040	040	View of rectangular shaped structure [008].	E	13/06/14
041	041	View of rectangular shaped structure [008].	S	13/06/14
042	042	View of curvilinear shaped stone concentration (010) to the east of structure [008].	N	13/06/14
043	043	View of curvilinear shaped stone concentration (010) to the east of structure [008].	S	13/06/14
044	044	View of stone concentration (009) to the north of structure [008].	S	13/06/14
045	045	View of stone concentration (009) to the north of structure [008].	E	13/06/14
046	046	View of T14 post exc.	W	13/06/14
047	047	W facing section through layers (013) and (014) within structure [008]	W	13/06/14
048	048	Test trench within NW corner of structure [008].	S	13/06/14
049	049	View of modern access road leading to housing development still under construction.	NE	30/6/14
050	050	Pre excavation view of Trench/area A.	SE	30/6/14
051	051	Pre excavation view of Trench/area A.	NE	30/6/14
052	052	View of modern spread (017) within Trench/Area A.	NE	30/6/14

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
053	053	View of SW and S part of Trench/Area A stripped.	NE	30/6/14
054	054	View of E part of Trench/Area A stripped.	NW	30/6/14
055	055	View of NW and W part of Trench/Area A stripped.	NE	30/6/14
056	056	View of NW and W part of Trench/Area A stripped.	SW	30/6/14
057	057	View of Trench/Area B stripped.	NW	30/6/14
058	058	View of Trench/Area C stripped.	NE	30/6/14
059	059	View of Trench/Area D stripped.	S	30/6/14
060	060	View of Trench/Area E stripped.	N	30/6/14
061	061	View of structure [008] with the NW corner trench extended.	W	01/7/14
062	062	View of structure [008] with the NW corner trench extended.	S	01/7/14
063	063	Close up of NW corner	S	01/7/14
064	064	W facing section (N end)	W	01/7/14
065	065	W facing section (S end)	W	01/7/14

### *Drawing Register*

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
1	1	T1	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan T1	PK	29/05/14
2	1	T2	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan T2	PK	29/05/14
3	1	T3	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan T3	MB	29/05/14
4	1	T4	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan T4	MB	29/05/14
5	1	T5	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan T5	LMcK	12/06/14

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
6	1	T6	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan T6	LMcK	13/06/14
7	1	T7	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan T7	LMcK	13/06/14
8	1	T8	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan T8	LMcK	13/06/14
9	2	T9	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan T9	LMcK	13/06/14
10	2	T10	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan T10	LMcK	13/06/14
11	2	T11	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan T11	LMcK	13/06/14
12	2	T12	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan T12	LMcK	13/06/14
13	2	T13	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan T13	LMcK	13/06/14
14	2	T14	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan T14	LMcK	13/06/14
15	2	T13	Section	1:20	W facing section through modern rubble/up cast layer (012).	LMcK	13/06/14
16	2	T13	Section	1:10	W facing section through interior layers (013) and (014) in the NW corner of structure [008].	LMcK	13/06/14
17	3	T(a)	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan T(a)	LMcK	13/06/14

### *Finds Register*

Find No.	Area/Trench	Context No.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
1	Farmyard	021	Ceramic/CBM	Modern brick and plaster fragment and sherd of modern pottery.	LMcK	12/06/14
2	Farmyard	017	Ceramic/CBM/Glass	Modern material recovered from spread in Area A	LMcK	01/07/14
3	Farmyard	Surface Finds	Ceramic/CBM/Glass	Modern material recovered from surface of subsoil, overspilled from made up layers	LMcK	01/07/14
4	T13	014	Ceramic	Modern sherd recovered from layer within structure [008].	LMcK	01/07/14

## Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	North Ayrshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Cairnhouse, Blackwaterfoot, Arran
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	RA12025
<b>PARISH:</b>	Kilmory
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Liam McKinstry
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Evaluation/Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NR82NE 3
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Bronze Age cairn (demolished)
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR</b> (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NR 8980 2811 (centre point)
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2014
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2014 (intermittently)
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological works was required by John Thomson Construction Ltd. in respect to the development of residential houses at Cairnhouse, Blackwaterfoot, Arran. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area. The archaeological investigative works consisted of a watching brief within the partially demolished farmyard and an evaluation which was designed to assess an 8% sample of the greenfield areas surrounding the farmyard. The watching brief and archaeological evaluation were undertaken between the 11<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014.</p> <p>The farmyard was situated over a known cairn site (NR82NE 3) which was demolished in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century though its original extent was marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map for Arran and a number of stone lined cists were found. Later excavations were carried out in 1900 which uncovered another stone lined cist and a Bronze Age dagger and gold pommel-mount was also recovered. During the demolition in the 19<sup>th</sup> century a number of stone lined cists were exposed.</p> <p>The watching brief was concerned with the removal of the farmyards concrete surface and the stripping of large areas dispersed across its extent. The evaluation comprised of fourteen trenches located in greenfield areas surrounding the farmyard. No significant archaeological features were discovered in the majority of the evaluation trenches and within the watching brief area centred on the farmyard, however a rectangular structure, of dry stone construction, and two stone concentrations were identified within T13 in the south western part of the development area. Upon investigation the structure proved to be 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century in date after a pottery sherd of that date was recovered from a layer within the structure.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None

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<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	John Thomson Construction Ltd
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to RCAHMS Collections.



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