

# **Kiln Court, East Road, Irvine: Archaeological Mitigation**

## **Data Structure Report**



by Claire Williamson & Alan Matthews

issued 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014

on behalf of North Ayrshire Council

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## 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 ...18<sup>th</sup> September 2014...

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

Checked Loise Turner

Date ...18<sup>th</sup> September 2014...

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## Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for North Ayrshire Council in respect to the demolition consent (Planning Ref: 14/00174/CAC) for Kiln Court, a single storey structure in Irvine. The archaeological works were designed to accumulate sufficient information to determine the nature, form and extent of any significant archaeological features present within the area. This information was to be used to inform the appropriate mitigation to facilitate the anticipated redevelopment of the site.
2. North Ayrshire Council required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken in support of the planning consent. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), which advises North Ayrshire Council on archaeological matters, has provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required on this site during development works. The nature of these works comprised a targeted intrusive evaluation after demolition was complete.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by North Ayrshire Council to undertake the development and implementation of the archaeological investigation works. The project works have been defined by a Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2014) that was agreed with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

## Historical and Archaeological Background

4. A full and detailed Archaeological and Historical Background can be found in the Desk Based Assessment submitted on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014 (Rees & Matthews 2014). The Desk Based Assessment identified no historic environment assets located within the redevelopment area. In general terms it should be noted that the development area is within the polygon for the medieval and post-medieval burgh. This supports the consultation response from the West of Scotland Archaeology Service that also identified no known historic environment assets.
5. Based on available sources of information the site has been heavily disturbed by modern development. However, there was the potential for survival of significant archaeological remains in islands of survival or below the level of the existing structures on site.

## Project Works

6. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014. This consisted of the excavation of a series of intrusive trenches targeting areas of ground which sat within the footprint of the demolished building, specifically, those sections which lay between the building's foundations and within the open internal courtyards (see Figure 1).
7. Prior to the evaluation, the building had been demolished but the foundations had been left *in situ*. The area had been covered by demolition material from the recent works so that the top of the foundations were not visible (Figure 2a). Across the site, the concrete slab which formed the base of the service duct had been left exposed (Figure 2b), and this was avoided when deciding the placement of the trenches.
8. As already stated, the trenches were placed within the footprint of the demolished building. The boundary areas around the exterior of the building had several known services running through them so these areas were avoided while trenching. It is likely that the work involved in the placement of these services will also have caused a lot of disturbance to these areas.
9. The foundations for the demolished building which remained *in situ* were exposed at frequent points throughout the trenching (Figure 3a). Surviving brick foundations were removed by the machine, but concrete foundations were left in place. Not only would their removal would have been difficult for the machine, it is also likely that their initial construction would have caused much disturbance to the underlying subsoil, removing any possibility for the survival of features.

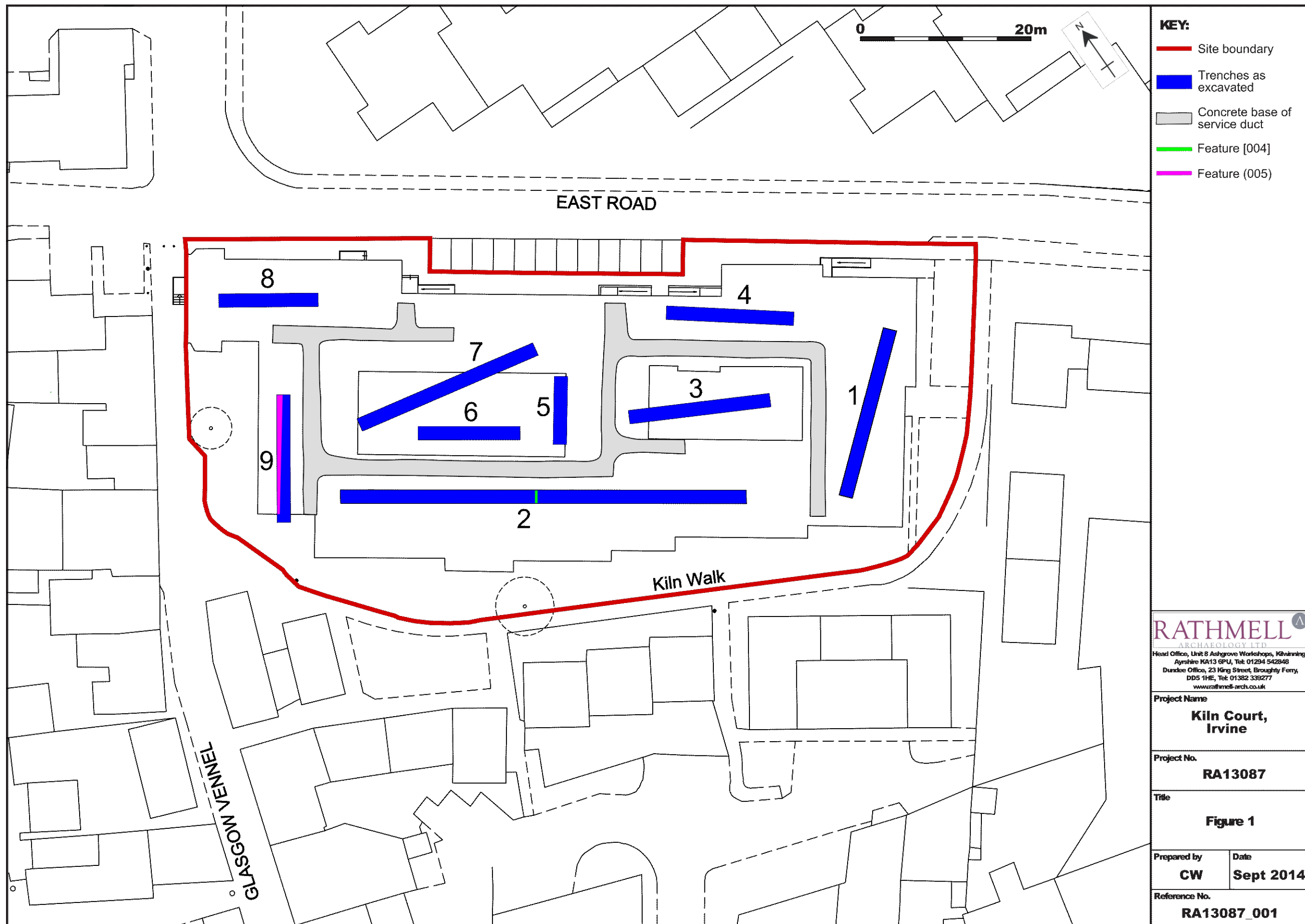


Figure 1: Plan of trenches as excavated, overlain on plan of Kiln Court prior to demolition





Figure 2a: General pre-excavation shot of the site from the southeast



Figure 2b: Shot showing the exposed concrete base of the service duct from the northwest

10. In total 168.9 linear metres were excavated with a 1.6m wide bucket equalling an area of 270.24m<sup>2</sup>. The position of the trenches is depicted in the site plan above (Figure 1).
11. 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

12. In all, 9 evaluation trenches were excavated using a JCB 3cx with a smooth 1.6m ditching bucket; details of the trenches may be found in Appendix 1 of this document. Included below is a synthesis of the findings and interpretation from these trenches.
13. The trenches were excavated through a layer of modern overburden/demolition material (001) which comprised a loosely compacted dark brown clayey sand with frequent gravel inclusions and modern demolition material, including brick, concrete, plastic pipe, glass, metal etc. This was present across the whole of the development area and measured between 500mm to 1m in depth.
14. Underlying (001), sat topsoil layer (002) which comprised a moderately compact mid to dark brown silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks. This was also present across the whole of the development area and measured between 100 to 350mm in depth.
15. Underlying this sat natural subsoil (003) which comprised a loose to moderately compact dark orange/yellow silty sand (slightly mottled) (Figure 3b). This was the natural subsoil present across the whole site.
16. The only place where natural subsoil wasn't exposed within the trenching was in the northwestern 8m of Trench 8, where the trench was taken down to the maximum safe working depth of 1.2m without reaching it. The southeastern end of the trench (separated by the presence of a concrete foundation) reached the natural subsoil at a depth of 750mm however, suggesting that the rest of the trench had been heavily disturbed, truncating the natural subsoil in this area.
17. Only two features were exposed which had the potential to be significant.
18. In Trench 2, linear feature [004] was present which was orientated NE-SW and extended beyond the limits of the trench in both directions. It measured 0.3m wide and 100mm deep, with gradual sloping sides and a rounded base (Figure 4a). It was filled by topsoil (002), which also overlay it. No artefacts were recovered from its fill.
19. In Trench 9, an area of disturbance (005) was recorded which ran for most of the length of the trench orientated SW-NE (Figure 4b). Roughly linear in plan, its sides and base were irregular in shape, and it measured up to 0.7m wide and 200mm deep. It was filled by disturbed and darkened natural subsoil. No artefacts were recovered, although what appeared to possibly be a tiny fragment of brick was spotted within the fill. The irregular nature of the sides and base suggests that it is more likely to represent an area of disturbance than a cut feature.
20. No other archaeological features were uncovered on site, and the only artefacts observed were frequent inclusions of modern demolition material within (001).

## Discussion

21. No significant archaeological features were uncovered. The development area appeared to have been heavily affected by the construction of the preceding building on the site during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The remaining foundations exposed across the site were indicative of this, with frequent concrete and brick foundations present. The concrete foundations were quite substantial and their construction appeared likely to have disturbed any features which may otherwise have survived in the underlying subsoil.
22. There were in addition areas of the site where the natural subsoil had been heavily truncated. This was demonstrated in Trench 8 by the contrast in subsoil depth between one end of the trench and the other. The disturbed area appeared to respect the line of a

foundation which crossed the trench, suggesting that the disturbance was likely to be contemporary with, and related to, the construction of the building itself.

23. As described previously, two features were recorded during the works: [004] and (005). The nature of linear feature [004] suggests that it is likely to be modern in date. It had a very regular shape and contained a topsoil fill with no artefacts. There were no other features still remaining in the surrounding area, and the fact that (004) was also fairly insubstantial in size points to it being unlikely as part of a structural feature. It is possible that it is the truncated remains of an old service track leading to the houses which sat to the southwest.
24. (005) was quite irregular in shape and contained what appeared to be re-deposited natural subsoil. What appeared to be a tiny fragment of brick was visible within its fill, and it ran adjacent to a foundation which ran along the side of Trench 9, so it could potentially represent an area of modern disturbance related to the construction. However, its irregular shape and subsoil-like fill suggests that it could also possibly represent the site of an old hedgerow. Looking at the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey dating to 1860, the line of a boundary is visible in this area which runs on a similar alignment, and it is possible that this is the remains of that boundary.
25. As mentioned, foundations were present across most of the area. The areas where they appeared less frequently were within the internal courtyards (Trenches 3, 5, 6 and 7). These trenches allowed for a better chance to see a larger area of the natural subsoil undisturbed, although none of these trenches produced any features.
26. It is also worth noting the lack of artefacts across the site. While frequent modern material, mainly in the form of demolition debris, was met throughout the trenching, nothing pre-dating the 19<sup>th</sup> century was discovered.
27. The findings of the desk-based assessment reported that the location of the development area sat outwith the boundary of the medieval burgh, and although it did sit within the boundaries of the post-medieval extension of the burgh, this area was consistently depicted on historic mapping as being predominantly undeveloped during that period (Rees & Matthews 2014).
28. Nothing found during the evaluation works directly contradicts these findings, and it is possible that this was indeed an area which was never developed in medieval and early modern times, possibly remaining in use as agricultural land. Either that, or whatever remains which may have survived there have been removed by the more recent disturbance on site.

## Recommendations

29. No significant archaeological remains were located within the development area and the only anthropic material observed related to modern use of the site.
30. On balance, given the lack of significant archaeological material recovered in the course of the evaluation works, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommends that no further archaeological work be carried out within this development area.
31. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with North Ayrshire Council and their advisors, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

## Conclusion

32. A programme of archaeological works was required by North Ayrshire Council in respect to the demolition consent (Planning Ref: 14/00174/CAC) for Kiln Court, a single storey structure in Irvine. The archaeological works were designed to accumulate sufficient information to determine the nature, form and extent of any significant archaeological features present within the area. This information was to be used to inform the appropriate mitigation to facilitate the anticipated redevelopment of the site.





Figure 3a: Trench 2 from the northwest showing *in situ* concrete foundations



Figure 3b: Trench 6 from the southeast located within area of internal courtyard





Figure 4a: Feature [004] from the northeast



Figure 4b: Trench 9 from the southwest showing feature (005) running along the left hand side

33. No significant archaeological features were uncovered. The only remains identified appeared to relate to the use of the land within the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. This either suggests that this area existed as mainly agricultural and undeveloped land, or that more recent developments on the site have removed any trace of earlier features.

## Acknowledgements

34. We are grateful to Linda Martin and everyone at North Ayrshire Council for giving us the opportunity to carry out these works, and also to Martin O'Hare at the West of Scotland Archaeology Service who gave support and guidance throughout. We would also like to thank Nicholson (Contracts) and Ashleigh Scotland for all their help, and we are grateful to Dr Louise Turner for her editing of this report.

## References

### *Documentary*

Rees, T. 2014 *Kiln Court, East Road, Irvine: Archaeological Mitigation, Written Scheme of Investigation*, unpublished commercial document by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

Rees, T. & Matthews, A. 2014 *New Build Sheltered Housing Unit, Kiln Court, East Road, Irvine, Desk Based Assessment*, unpublished commercial document by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

### *Cartographic*

Ordnance Survey	1860	6-inch 1 <sup>st</sup> edition Ayrshire Sheet XVII
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## Appendix 1: Trench Details

Within this appendix a standardised set of data pertaining to the evaluation trenches is presented.

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

Trench	Orientation	Size	Depth of subsoil below ground surface	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
1	Northeast to southwest	1.6m by 20.3m 32.48m <sup>2</sup>	850 to 1000mm	Loose to moderately compact dark orange/yellow silty sand (slightly mottled) (003).	Modern concrete foundation present at +2.8m, +6.4m, +10.2m, +14.5m and +18.6m all with common orientation (NW-SE), and one at +11.2m orientated NE-SW.	None	None
2	Southeast to northwest	1.6m by 47.7m 76.32m <sup>2</sup>	700 to 1200mm	Loose to moderately compact dark orange/yellow silty sand (slightly mottled) (003).	Modern concrete foundation present at +3.2m, +7.1m, +10.9m, +14.7m +18.8m, +22.5m, +26.2m, +30.7m, +34.1m, +37.9m, +41.6m and +45.5m, all with common orientation (NE-SW).  Linear feature [004] present at +24.5m orientated NE-SW.	None	None
3	West-north-west to east-south-east	1.6m by 16.7m 26.72m <sup>2</sup>	1000 to 1100mm	Loose to moderately compact dark orange/yellow silty sand (slightly mottled) (003).	Modern concrete foundation present at +2.3m orientated N-S.	None	None
4	Northwest to southeast	1.6m by 15m 24m <sup>2</sup>	900 to 950mm	Loose to moderately compact dark orange/yellow silty sand (slightly mottled) (003).	Modern concrete foundation present at 0m, +6.8m and +10.8m all with common	None	None

Trench	Orientation	Size	Depth of subsoil below ground surface	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
					orientation (NE-SW).		
5	Northeast to southwest	1.6m by 8m 12.8m <sup>2</sup>	850 to 1050mm	Loose to moderately compact dark orange/yellow silty sand (slightly mottled) (003).	Modern concrete foundation running full length of trench along SE edge.	None	None
6	Southeast to northwest	1.6m by 12m 19.2m <sup>2</sup>	850mm	Loose to moderately compact dark orange/yellow silty sand (slightly mottled) (003).	None	None	None
7	East to west	1.6m by 22.5m 36m <sup>2</sup>	700 to 900mm	Loose to moderately compact dark orange/yellow silty sand (slightly mottled) (003).	Modern concrete foundation present at +4.5m orientated SE-NW.	None	None
8	Southeast to northwest	1.6m by 11.7m 18.72m <sup>2</sup>	750 to >1200mm	Loose to moderately compact dark orange/yellow silty sand (slightly mottled) (003).	Modern concrete foundation present at +3.4m orientated SW-NE.	None	None
9	Southwest to northeast	1.6m by 15m 24m <sup>2</sup>	700 to 800mm	Loose to moderately compact dark orange/yellow silty sand (slightly mottled) (003).	Modern concrete foundation present at 0m orientated SE-NW.  Possible hedgerow (005) present at +1m orientated SW-NE.	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	All	Deposit	Loosely compacted dark brown clayey sand with frequent gravel inclusions and modern demolition material including brick, concrete, plastic pipe, glass, metal etc. Present across whole of development area. Measured between 500mm and 1m in depth.	Modern overburden/demolition material
002	All	Deposit	Moderately compact mid to dark brown silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks. Present across whole of development area. Measured between 100 and 350mm in depth.	Topsoil
003	All	Deposit	Loose to moderately compact dark orange/yellow silty sand (slightly mottled).	Natural subsoil
004	2	Cut	Linear shaped feature orientated NE-SW. Shallow U-shaped profile – gradual sloping sides and rounded base. Measured 0.3m wide and 100mm deep. Exposed for a length of 1.6m but continued outwith the limits of the trench in both directions. Filled by (002).	Cur of linear shaped feature, possibly the truncated remains of an old service track
005	9	Feature	Linear disturbance orientated SW-NE. Irregular sides and base. Exposed along the NW side of the trench, running adjacent to a brick foundation which sat within the edge of the trench. It was exposed for a length of 14m although appeared to continue outwith the trench to the NE. Stopped at modern foundation at its SW end. Measured up to 0.5m wide and up to 200mm deep. Fill is natural subsoil which has been disturbed and darkened.	Linear shaped area of disturbance, possibly site of an old hedgerow

### *Photographic Register*

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
1	886	General pre-ex shot (NW half)	E	02/09/14

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
2	887	General pre-ex shot (SE half)	NW	02/09/14
3	888	General pre-ex shot	SSE	02/09/14
4	889	Working shot	-	02/09/14
5	890	General pre-ex shot	SE	02/09/14
6	891	Shot of exposed 'live' water pipe	W	02/09/14
7	892	Shot of exposed service duct	NW	02/09/14
8	893	Trench 1	NE	02/09/14
9	894	Working shot	E	02/09/14
10	895	Trench 1	SW	02/09/14
11	896	Trench 1	SW	02/09/14
12	897	Trench 3	WNW	02/09/14
13	898	Trench 3	WNW	02/09/14
14	899	Trench 3	ESE	02/09/14
15	900	Trench 3	ESE	02/09/14
16	901	Trench 2	NW	02/09/14
17	902	Trench 2	NW	02/09/14
18	903	Linear feature [004]	NE	02/09/14
19	904	Linear feature [004]	NE	02/09/14
20	905	Trench 2	SE	02/09/14
21	906	Trench 2	SE	02/09/14
22	907	SE half of site backfilled	NW	02/09/14
23	908	SE half of site backfilled	NW	02/09/14
24	909	NW half of site backfilled	E	02/09/14

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
25	910	NW half of site backfilled	E	02/09/14
26	911	Site in the morning	N	03/09/14
27	912	Site in the morning	N	03/09/14
28	913	Site in the morning	E	03/09/14
29	914	Site in the morning	E	03/09/14
30	915	Trench 4	NW	03/09/14
31	916	Trench 4	NW	03/09/14
32	917	Trench 4	SE	03/09/14
33	918	Trench 4	SE	03/09/14
34	919	Trench 5	NE	03/09/14
35	920	Trench 5	NE	03/09/14
36	921	Trench 5	SW	03/09/14
37	922	Trench 5	SW	03/09/14
38	923	Trench 6	SE	03/09/14
39	924	Trench 6	SE	03/09/14
40	925	Trench 6	NW	03/09/14
41	926	Trench 6	NW	03/09/14
42	927	Trench 7	E	03/09/14
43	928	Trench 7	E	03/09/14
44	929	Trench 7	W	03/09/14
45	930	Trench 7	W	03/09/14
46	931	Trench 7	SE	03/09/14
47	932	Trench 7	SE	03/09/14

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
48	933	Trench 7	NW	03/09/14
49	934	Trench 7	NW	03/09/14
50	935	Trench 7	NE	03/09/14
51	936	Trench 7	NE	03/09/14
52	937	Trench 7	SW	03/09/14
53	938	Trench 7	SW	03/09/14
54	939	Site in afternoon	W	03/09/14
55	940	Site in afternoon	W	03/09/14

### *Drawing Register*

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
1	1	1	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 1	CW & AM	02/09/14
2	1	3	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 3	CW & AM	02/09/14
3	1	2	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 2	CW & AM	02/09/14
4	1	4	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 4	AM & CW	03/09/14
5	1	5	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 5	AM & CW	03/09/14
6	1	6	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 6	AM & CW	03/09/14
7	1	7	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 7	AM & CW	03/09/14
8	1	8	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 8	AM & CW	03/09/14
9	1	9	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 9	AM & CW	03/09/14

## Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	North Ayrshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Kiln Court, East Road, Irvine
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	RA13087
<b>PARISH:</b>	Irvine
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Claire Williamson & Alan Matthews
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR</b> (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 32437 38872 (centred on)
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2014
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2014
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological works was required by North Ayrshire Council in respect to the demolition consent (Planning Ref: 14/00174/CAC) for Kiln Court, a single storey structure in Irvine. The archaeological works were designed to accumulate sufficient information to determine the nature, form and extent of any significant archaeological features present within the area. This information was to be used to inform the appropriate mitigation to facilitate the anticipated redevelopment of the site.</p> <p>No significant archaeological remains were uncovered. The only remains identified appeared to relate to the use of the land within the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. This either suggests that this area existed as mainly agricultural and undeveloped land, or that more recent developments on the site have removed any trace of earlier features.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	North Ayrshire Council
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to RCAHMS Collections.



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