

Evergreen, Brodick, North Ayrshire: Archaeological Monitoring

Data Structure Report



by Alan Matthews

issued 18th February 2014

on behalf of Armitage Groundworks Ltd

RATHMELL 
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Quality Assurance


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Signed

Date ...18th February 2014.....

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Checked

Date ...18th February 2014.....

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Armitage Groundworks Ltd in support of construction work on land to the SW of Evergreen, Brodick, North Ayrshire (13/00349/PP). The archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
2. No known archaeological sites exist within the development area however, the development area lies at the heart of a wider historic landscape around Glen Cloy and Brodick Bay. The area of Glen Cloy shows evidence of repeated and sustained use throughout the later prehistoric and historic periods. Often this evidence exists only in the form of subsurface features.
3. The Data Structure Report is designed to meet the requirement of Armitage Groundworks Ltd and West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). This Data Structure Report provides the details of the work carried out for the mitigation pertaining to ground breaking works and hence the direct physical impact on buried sediments.

Archaeological and Historical Background

Archaeological Interventions

4. Since 2000 there have been a series of archaeological interventions in Glen Cloy in support of development work which had the potential to generate adverse impacts on the archaeological resource. These have progressively examined some 5ha of ground in the vicinity of the proposed development area.
5. Most relevant are the archaeological investigations at the Auchrannie Spa Resort which commenced with the monitoring of topsoil-stripping on some 2.55ha. These culminated in the excavation of elements of two Iron Age roundhouses and the evaluation of an associated souterrain (Mudie 2007). The same intervention identified a quantity of early prehistoric material (in particular lithics) which appeared to be residual in this portion of the landscape. Of particular interest, the identified significant archaeological features lay within an area of sand subsoil.
6. Additional investigations undertaken elsewhere within the valley, but these have failed to reveal features of archaeological significance (e.g. GUARD 1996; White 2004; Macleod 2006; Gow & Matthews 2006, Williamson & Klemen 2012). These interventions have included archaeological evaluations and monitoring of ground breaking works. The common factor for all these interventions is that they are located within the valley floor of Glen Cloy. They have (with the inclusion of the Resort Spa work) examined to the satisfaction of the planning authority some 5.16ha of ground. Within this area only one significant archaeological site which warranted excavation was noted – the Iron Age settlement.

Early Prehistoric Activity

7. In the area around Glen Cloy, occupation throughout the Neolithic and Bronze Age is widely attested by the surviving remnants of monuments associated with ritual and funerary practice. Elements of a ritual landscape dating to the Early Bronze Age are more numerous, with individual monuments still surviving throughout the area. Isolated standing stones occur in the vicinity of Brodick Bay; some were placed on the shelf formed by the raised beach deposit which runs roughly parallel to the shoreline and upon which the modern road (A841) now runs. Others were erected on the higher ground which overlooks Brodick Bay (e.g. the standing stone at Mayish).
8. It is also possible that additional standing stones once survived here prior to the expansion of Brodick in the 19th and 20th centuries. Antiquarian accounts (e.g. McArthur, 1873) describe several such features as having once been present in the vicinity of Brodick Bay. Antiquarian writings also suggest that funerary monuments also stood in this general area, with reports of a barrow at Brodick and further finds of cists and 'tumuli' at Glen Cloy Cottages.

9. Further inland, prehistoric funerary monuments appear to be associated with the higher ground overlooking Glen Cloy. The earliest of these is a chambered cairn dating to the Neolithic period at Glenrickard, which occupies high ground to the SW of the development area. The important role played by this monument within the landscape continued after its active use as a burial place came to an end, with the construction of a Bronze Age burial cairn in close proximity. A flat axe of 'Migdale' type (Schmidt & Burgess, 1981) of roughly contemporary date was also found nearby. This unusual find of an Early Bronze Age object, which was probably abandoned deliberately as an offering to gods or ancestors, serves as further indication that the area was considered important beyond the Neolithic and well into the Bronze Age.
10. To the north of the development area, further evidence for prehistoric activity survives, though in some respects it is more ambiguous in character. Two groups of rock carvings have been identified on exposed stretches of rock outcrop located in higher ground in Stronach Wood. The purpose and meaning of these carvings remains unknown, but it may not be coincidental that they are in close proximity to an area where Arran pitchstone was worked in prehistoric times.

Later Prehistoric Activity

11. To the immediate south of the proposed development area is the site of a Late Iron Age settlement which comprises a large roundhouse, a multi-cellular souterrain and another smaller roundhouse. A watching brief on controlled topsoil stripping of an area of 2.55ha revealed the two roundhouses and souterrain in the south-west corner (Mudie 2000; Mudie 2007) on slightly elevated ground with sand subsoil. The largest roundhouse and souterrain were the subject of a formal investigation including partial excavation (Mudie 2007, 1). The northern elements of the roundhouse which could not be preserved *in situ* were fully excavated while limited excavation (two sondages) was carried out on the souterrain to establish the nature, character and condition of its remains (Mudie 2007, 4). Since then the balance of this site has been excavated (Williamson *forthcoming*).
12. The roundhouse measured 14m internal diameter and was radiocarbon dated to no earlier than the mid-late 4th century BC while the multi-cellular souterrain had considerable parallels to examples of broadly contemporary date in Angus and eastern Scotland (Mudie 2007, 27). Contemporary finds from the site included two cannell coal bracelets and a bronze spiral finger ring indicating on site manufacturing and local craftsmanship, potentially highlighting this site as a "prestigious high status settlement at the mouth of Glen Cloy" (Mudie 2007, 27).
13. Beyond this evidence for occupation towards the end of the Iron Age, there is a paucity of sites and monuments relating to this period in the immediate landscape. There are, however, antiquarian reports relating to finds of three copper cauldrons from a moss at Glen Cloy (McArthur 1873). Though one must view such unsubstantiated reports with caution, from the descriptions given (round-bottomed, with 'ring-handles') it seems quite likely that these vessels could have been of Late Bronze Age or perhaps Early Iron Age date. Deposits of substantial quantities of metalwork dating to the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age are not unknown in the west of Scotland; some finds such as the Lugtonridge hoard of 5 sheet-bronze shields indicate that these could sometimes comprise very lavish offerings. The Glen Cloy cauldrons could be another example of such an elaborate display; if so, it might indicate that the area was particularly wet and marshy at the time, for such votive hoards tend to be placed in areas of bog or even bodies of water (Bradley 1982).
14. Settlement and cauldron findspot aside, evidence for later prehistoric activity again tends to be focussed on the higher ground overlooking the valley bottom. While none of these sites occur within the proposed development area or in close proximity, examples include an Iron Age fortified settlement or 'dun' which has been identified nearby, lying just to the southwest of Glenrickard at 'Bruce's Castle'.

Medieval or Later Rural Settlement

15. Documentary sources link Glen Cloy with the Fullarton family, who were traditionally

granted the land in return for having sheltered Robert the Bruce when he fled to Arran during the Wars of Independence. There are medieval sites located in the general vicinity of the development area; the remains of a medieval chapel are said to have stood at Kilmichael, near Glenrickard, until the 19th century, and Brodick Castle still remains extant as a surviving, though much modified, example of a fortified stronghold that has its origins in the medieval period. The development area itself, however, is likely to have been used as agricultural land, perhaps used for pasture on account of its low-lying, riverine location.

16. Map evidence suggests that this land-use continued throughout much of the post-medieval period. Blaeu's map of 1654 shows isolated settlements nearby at Kilmichael and Glencloy, so the inference must be that the area around modern Glen Cloy comprised agricultural land associated with these settlements and farmed by their occupants.
17. Archaeological evidence supports this; Mudie (2001) notes that traces of rig and furrow cultivation were found across the Resort Spa site during topsoil stripping, and ascribes these remains to pre-Improvement agricultural activities within the area, perhaps dating back to the medieval period. Isolated sherds of medieval pottery also support the possibility that cultivation took place as far back as the medieval period.
18. From the late 18th century onwards, the landscape became much more formally ordered with the onset of the agricultural improvements. Such improvements would typically have included the imposition of systems of enclosure, large-scale drainage schemes and the improvement of soils through the formal and regularised introduction of lime and fertilisers. It is unclear, however, when these new methods were introduced in the area around Glen Cloy. Comparison between maps by Moll (1745) and Ainslie (1821) shows remarkably little change between the two; in the latter, the place-names are more closely recognisable to those we see today, with settlements evident at Killmichael, Maysh and Glencloy (i.e. Kilmichael, Mayish and Glencloy).
19. Earlier maps such as Moll's map of 1745, Ainslie's map of 1820 and even Bartholomew's map of c.1860 do not depict any field boundaries whatsoever within the study area; this may, however, be a reflection of the fact that the maps themselves were insufficiently detailed to show such information. It may also be an indication that in this part of Arran, the agricultural improvements that had such a profound effect upon the face of the countryside were not undertaken until well into the 1800s.
20. Additional evidence of this late date may be provided by the reference to the building of the 'new village' of Glencloy in the mid-19th century. The undertaking of such a large construction project (the building of which revealed at least five prehistoric burial cists) probably indicates that a period of investment was well underway throughout the wider area. Once again, the watching brief and subsequent excavation undertaken at Auchrannie Resort Spa in 2001 provided ample evidence from this post-Improvement phase of land use, including field drains and boundary walls (Mudie 2001). Excluding the area occupied by Auchrannie and its associated grounds, the layout of the fields in Glen Cloy remained largely consistent throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

Summary

21. The development area lies at the heart of a wider landscape around Glen Cloy and Brodick Bay which shows evidence of repeated and sustained use throughout the later prehistoric and historic periods. Ritual and funerary monuments of the earlier Bronze Age are particularly abundant, something which is attested by both the number of monuments which have survived to the present as upstanding remains and the numerous antiquarian accounts which relate to other similar examples which were destroyed during the 19th century.



Figure 1a: 1st edition Ordnance Survey

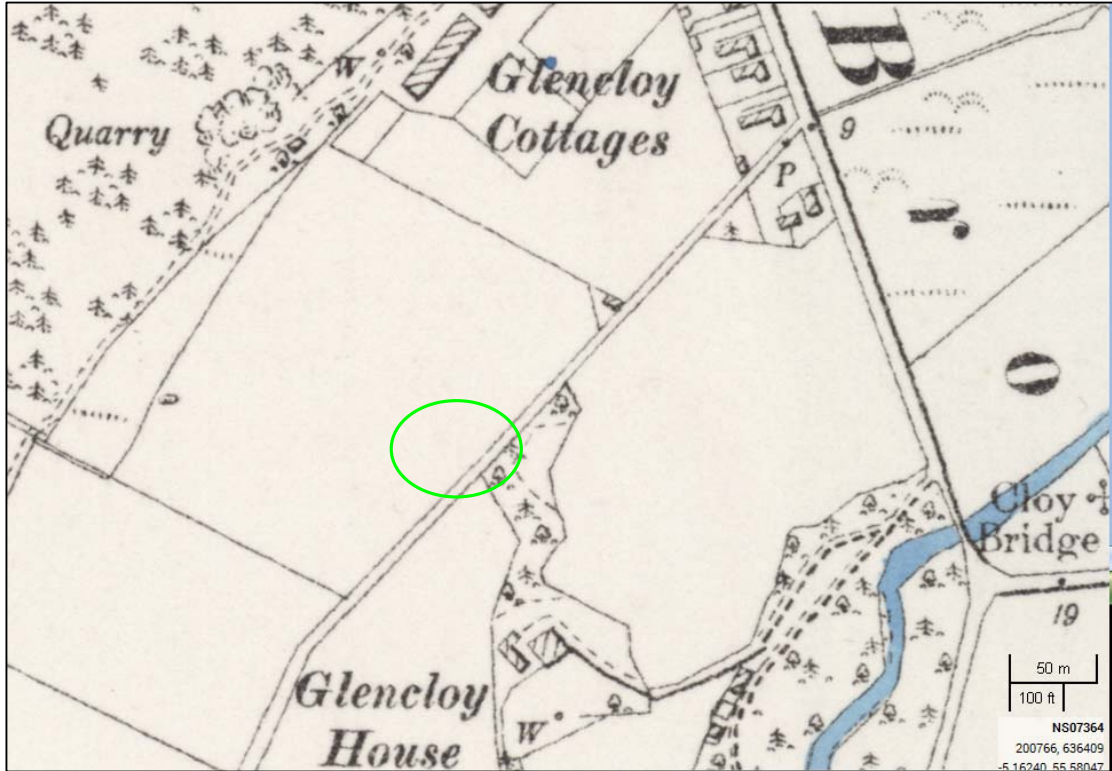


Figure 1b: 2nd edition Ordnance Survey



Figure 2a: The site from the E vegetation partially removed



Figure 2a: Stripping the south-western third of the site

22. Map evidence strongly suggests that the area remained largely unchanged by the agricultural improvements until a comparatively late date (early-mid 19th century) (Figure 1a and 1b). The development area itself, which lies in the base of the river valley, represents an area of more marginal land which with its heavier silty/sandy clay soils and propensity to waterlogging, was unlikely to represent a favourable site for occupation or intensive use of any kind until the onset of more ambitious agricultural improvements from the late 18th century onwards.
23. This is illustrated particularly well in the Late Bronze Age/Iron Age, where land use and occupation in this part of Glen Cloy is attested by, on the one hand, an isolated though substantial domestic settlement site, located on slightly elevated, free-draining sands (Mudie 2007, 23), and, on the other, potentially, by an area of 'moss' which became a focus for the votive deposition of fine metalwork. The excavations on the site of the Auchrannie Spa Resort which revealed the souterrain also indicated a less intensive pattern of use during the Neolithic and Bronze Age period, with isolated pits and postholes identified but no coherent pattern evident (Mudie 2001); again, these features appear to be associated with a sand, as opposed to a subsoil with a more pronounced clay content.

Project Works

24. Archaeological monitoring works took place on the 12th of February 2014. It had been agreed with Armitage Groundworks Ltd that due to the small size of the development area the most favourable course of action was to strip the entire development area down to natural subsoil. This was carried out as a continuous archaeological watching brief. The site was stripped using a 13t 360° tracked excavator and the soil was loosely banded on site. The weather was overcast with frequent heavy showers.

Findings

25. Archaeological work was completed on the 12th of February 2014. Due to the limited space available the development area was stripped in sections. Each section was assessed for the presence of potentially significant archaeological material. When an area was deemed to be clear of significant archaeological material spoil was relocated onto that area and work progressed across the site. Broadly speaking the site was stripped in three sections, south-west, central and north-east.
26. At the commencement of archaeological monitoring vegetation had already been stripped from the south-western third of the site (Figure 2a). The vegetation was shallow turf to a depth of 50mm or less (001). After the turf had been set aside the topsoil was stripped. This was composed of a light brown layer of humic soil approximately 300mm to 400mm thick (002) (Figure 2b). The subsoil (003) was reached at a depth of between 350mm and 450mm and consisted of light orange-brown sand (Figure 3a). The entire development area was stripped and the boundary of the stripped area was recorded by handheld GPS (Figure 4).
27. Only modern (20th and 21st century) material was recovered during the archaeological monitoring work. This consisted of modern rubbish (crisp packets and cans) and other miscellaneous material (a golf ball and small mirror). No upstanding remains were observed anywhere on site. The only negative features were small linear features (Figure 3b) running parallel across the site, these features were bunched together in groups and the groups ran either north-west to south-east or sometimes east to west. These features were very shallow, being no more than 20mm to 40mm deep and were filled with topsoil (002). These features are consistent with shallow industrial cultivation or ploughing in the area immediately prior to its use as a garden. No anthropic material was associated with these features. The only other disturbance to the subsoil was the result of tree roots.



Figure 3a: Preparing to strip the north-eastern third of the site



Figure 3b: The north-eastern third showing possible shallow possible ploughmarks



Figure 4: Plan of area monitored (stripped ground depicted as green bounded area)

28. No anthropic material was uncovered during the archaeological work and no structural remains were uncovered. Archaeological monitoring work stopped as the entire site had been stripped down to natural subsoil.

Discussion

29. During monitored stripping of the site no anthropic material was uncovered and no structural remains were encountered. Shallow linear marks were observed in parallel groups in different areas of the site. After investigation these marks have been interpreted as shallow plough or harrow marks. No artefacts were associated with these features and they were not deep enough to contain distinct archaeological deposits.
30. The development area was fully investigated and no significant archaeological remains were uncovered.

Recommendations

31. No significant archaeological deposits were uncovered and no anthropic material was recovered. The entire site has been excavated to natural subsoil. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd therefore recommend that no further archaeological monitoring works are required on site in relation to this development.
32. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with WoSAS and North Ayrshire Council.

Conclusion

33. A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out in support of development works at Evergreen, Brodick, North Ayrshire. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within their development area. The wider area of Glencloy shows evidence of repeated and sustained use throughout the later prehistoric and historic periods. The works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area and took place on the 12th of February 2014.
34. No archaeologically significant deposits were uncovered during the course of this work and no anthropic material was recovered. As the entire site was stripped down to natural subsoil Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommends that no further archaeological work is required with regards to this development.

References

Documentary

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- White, R.H.M. 2004 *Proposed Housing Development, Glencloy, Brodick, Isle of Arran*. Unpublished Data Structure Report by CFA Archaeology Ltd
- Williamson, C & Klemen, P. 2012 *Montrose House, Brodick: Archaeological Evaluation, Data Structure Report*, unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

Cartographic

Ainslie	1821	Map of the Southern Part of Scotland
Bartholomew, J.G.	1860	Bute and Arran
Blaeu	1654	Atlas of Scotland
Moll, H.	1745	The Shire of Bute

Appendix 1: Registers

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

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
1	5227	Site upon arrival	E	12/2/2014
2	5228	Site upon arrival	E	12/2/2014
3	5229	Site upon arrival	E	12/2/2014
4	5230	Site upon arrival	S	12/2/2014
5	5231	Site upon arrival	S	12/2/2014
6	5232	Stripping SW third of site	S	12/2/2014
7	5233	Stripping SW third of site	S	12/2/2014
8	5234	Stripping SW third of site	S	12/2/2014
9	5235	Stripping SW third of site	S	12/2/2014
10	5236	Stripping SW third of site	S	12/2/2014
11	5237	Stripping SW third of site	S	12/2/2014
12	5238	Stripping NW edge of site	S	12/2/2014
13	5239	Stripping NW edge of site	S	12/2/2014
14	5240	Stripping NW edge of site	S	12/2/2014
15	5241	Stripping NW edge of site	S	12/2/2014
16	5242	Stripping central third of site	S	12/2/2014
17	5243	Stripping central third of site	S	12/2/2014
18	5244	Stripping central third of site	S	12/2/2014
19	5245	Stripping central third of site	S	12/2/2014
20	5246	Stripping NE third of site	E	12/2/2014
21	5247	Stripping NE third of site	E	12/2/2014
22	5248	Stripping NE third of site	E	12/2/2014
23	5249	Stripping NE third of site	E	12/2/2014
24	5250	Stripping NE third of site	E	12/2/2014
25	5251	Stripping NE third of site	E	12/2/2014
26	5252	Stripping NE third of site	E	12/2/2014
27	5253	Stripping NE third of site	E	12/2/2014
28	5254	Stripping NE third of site	E	12/2/2014
29	5255	Stripping NE third of site	E	12/2/2014
30	5256	Stripping completed	S	12/2/2014
31	5257	Stripping completed	S	12/2/2014

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
32	5258	Glencloy Road	E	12/2/2014
33	5259	Glencloy Road	E	12/2/2014
34	5260	Glencloy Road	NE	12/2/2014
35	5261	Glencloy Road	NE	12/2/2014
36	5262	Glencloy Road	SE	12/2/2014
37	5263	Glencloy Road	SE	12/2/2014

Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Whole site	Deposit	A shallow layer of vegetation only about 50mm thick.	Turf
002	Whole site	Deposit	300mm to 400mm thick. Humic, light brown loose sandy soil. Frequent small stones and roots.	Topsoil
003	Whole site	Deposit	Compact light orange brown sand. Some root disturbance. Well drained.	Subsoil

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Evergreen, Brodick
PROJECT CODE:	RA14004
PARISH:	Brodick
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Matthews
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitoring
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 00884 36112
START DATE (this season)	12 th February 2014
END DATE (this season)	14 th February 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out. No archaeologically significant deposits were uncovered during the course of this work and no anthropic material was recovered. The entire site was stripped down to natural subsoil.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Armitage Groundworks Ltd
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 North Ayrshire Council, West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to RCAHMS Collections.

Contact Details

35. 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	
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Ayrshire	f.: 01294 542849
KA13 6PU	e.: contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk

36. 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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