### Monument Cottage, Alloway, Ayr, South Ayrshire: Archaeological Mitigation

Data Structure Report



by Katie Sludden
issued 15th July 2014
on behalf of The National Trust for Scotland



### Quality Assurance

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Signed Claire Williamson Date ..15th July 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 hours hees. Date ..15th July 2014...

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### Introduction

- 1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for the National Trust for Scotland for archaeological works required in support of the renewal of drainage at Monument Cottage, Allloway, Ayr, South Ayrshire. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
- The National Trust for Scotland provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works appropriate on this site. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by the National Trust for Scotland to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works for the renewal of drainage at Monument Cottage, Allloway, Ayr, South Ayrshire.
- 3. The Method Statement (Matthews 2014) provided the detail of the works (archaeological monitoring, exclusion, excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication) for the mitigation pertaining to ground-breaking within the development area and hence the direct physical impact on buried sediments.

### Historical and Archaeological Background

- 4. The development area lies on the eastern side of the B7024 just to the north of Burns Memorial Gardens and to the southeast of the remains of Alloway Kirk. The site is currently occupied by a small cottage (Canmore ID: 201804) which is also a Category B listed building (Ref: 21485). The archaeological works were carried out to monitor improvements to the services adjacent to this building.
- 5. The cottage is a single storey, 3-bay, rectangular-plan classical cottage with pedimented Corinthian-columned entrance porch dated to between 1868 and 1869. The entry in the Listed Buildings register describes it in the following terms:-
  - Squared, rock-faced sandstone to entrance elevation. Base course; wreathed frieze; dentils to blocking course; margins to window openings. W (ENTRANCE) ELEVATION: square-headed opening to entrance porch; glazed timber door; letterbox fanlight; flanking single windows. S ELEVATION: gabled; lean-to conservatory to ground floor.E ELEVATION: not seen 1999.N ELEVATION: gabled; blank. 4-pane timber sash and case windows. Slate roof; rooflight; stone skews; dentilled, corniced gablehead stacks; polygonal cans.
  - The gates, gatepiers, railings, drinking fountain and boundary wall are also included as elements of the listing.
- 6. The cottage does not appear on Roy's Military survey of Scotland (1752-55) (Figure 1a) but the road south from Ayr is clearly marked, with a single bridge shown over the Doon (the 'Old' bridge) and the Old Kirk on the opposite side of the road from the site. Ainslie's map of 1810 also shows a single bridge over the Doon (not illustrated), and a few additional structures are also worth noting. Buildings can be seen butting onto the road to the north (corresponding to the historic core of modern Alloway), and the Old Kirk and Burns Monument are also depicted, the latter recently constructed. There is, however, no trace of the cottage, which does, however, appear on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1860 (Figure 1b). By this time, the church to the north-west is in ruins and the hotel is now present to the south, suggesting an increasing focus upon the area's link with Robert Burns.
- 7. Arguably, the historical importance of the area is primarily its association with the life of Robert Burns and there was the potential for the recovery of material contemporary with his lifetime (i.e. mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> century). However, it was also evident that there was, in addition, the potential to uncover previously undiscovered archaeology dating from the prehistoric to the Post-medieval periods, with evidence of prehistoric and early medieval activity already identified throughout the wider area around Alloway.

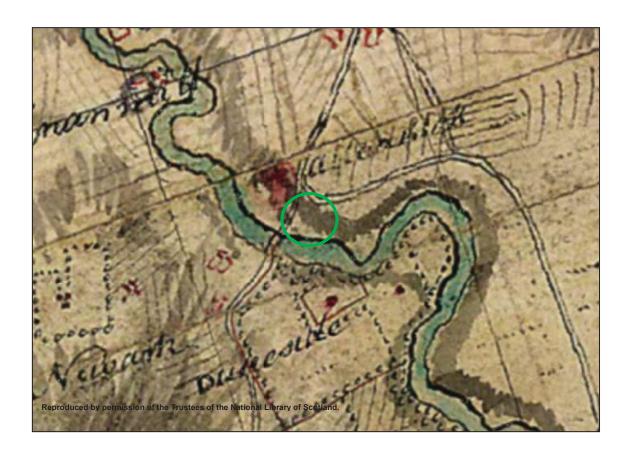
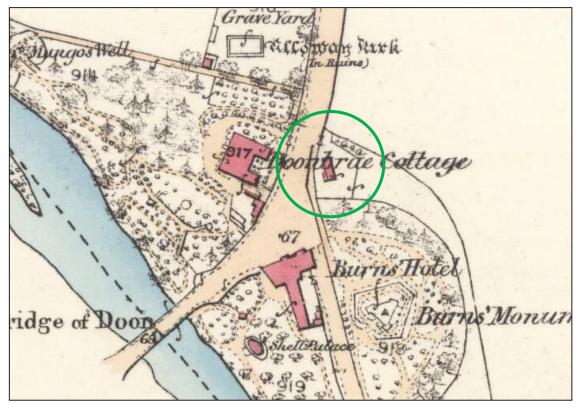


Figure 1a: Roy's Military Survey (Lowlands 1752-55)



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Figure 1b: 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1860) Ayr

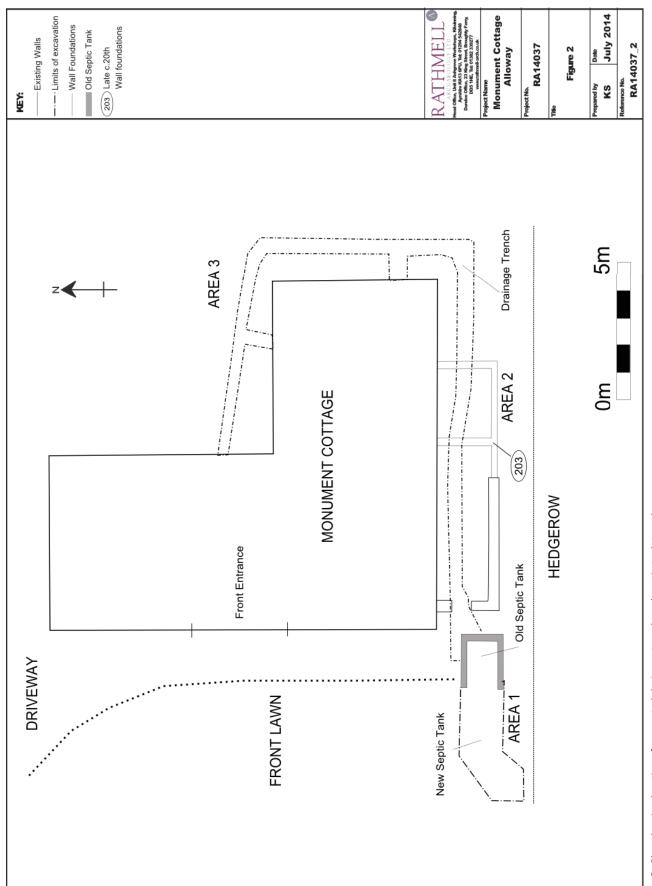


Figure 2: Plan showing location of excavated drainage trench and septic tank trench

### **Project Works**

- 8. The programme of works comprised the archaeological monitoring of a drainage trench which ran around the southern and eastern elevations of Monument Cottage. The trench was dug using a combination of hand- and machine-digging to a maximum depth of 600mm below ground level. A new septic tank was placed at the western end of the existing brick-built tank (mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> century), within a trench measuring 1.75m by 6m by 2m (in depth).
- 9. In compliance with the Method Statement (Matthews 2014) any potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded, with the on-site works taking place from the 30<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014. 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

10. Monument Cottage faces west, and is situated on the eastern side of the B7024, just to the north of Burns Memorial Gardens and to the south-east of the remains of Alloway Kirk. A public pavement separates the property and garden from the road. The new septic tank was placed within the front lawn in the south-western corner of the property. The new drainage trench ran eastwards from this location along the southern edge of the cottage then turned to follow the eastern elevation. The renewal works ceased at the cottage's north-eastern corner, covering an area measuring approximately 23m².

### Drainage works

- 11. Figure 2 depicts all excavation works onsite. A trench was excavated for the renewal of a septic tank in the south-western corner of the front lawn (Figure 3a and Figure 3b). The trench measured 1.75m by 6m by 2m in depth. Turf / topsoil (101) extended to a depth of 100mm and was removed to reveal a re-deposited natural subsoil (102). (102) extended to a maximum of 640mm in depth above natural subsoil (103). Modern glazed white earthenware was recovered from the topsoil deposit. The eastern end of the new septic tank trench abutted the existing red-brick septic tank, which measured 2m by 1.5m by up to 1.2m in depth. The eastern side of this tank was removed during ground-works to allow access for the new drainage pipe.
- 12. The ground level was reduced around the old tank including the ground immediately adjacent to the southwest corner of the cottage building to a maximum depth of 600mm. The foundations of the cottage extended to a depth of at least 600mm but were not fully exposed. This comprised Area 1 of excavations onsite.
- 13. The new drainage trench ran eastwards from the east end of the old septic tank in Area 1, passing through an entrance gap in the wall of an extension abutting the south elevation of the cottage. This latter feature comprised a low rectangular yellow sandstone wall with square holes in the coping and evidence of a raggle in the adjacent gable end wall of the cottage above. It appears to represent the remains of a greenhouse or glasshouse, contemporary with the cottage and taking the form of a leanto structure.
- 14. Area 2 comprised the section of drainage pipe that ran through the largely extant greenhouse structure described above. It also cut a smaller, later, extension (203) which abutted the greenhouse along its eastern edge. Together, these ancillary structures measured a total of 9m in length and extended beyond the south elevation of the cottage for a distance of 2.25m. The original extant extension had substantial foundations extending to a depth of at least 600mm, not fully exposed by groundworks, while the later extension (203) was encountered as reduced foundations, which extended to a maximum depth of 500-600mm in depth, visible within the pipe trench running east (see Figure 4a). The drainage trench measured 400mm wide by 600mm deep by up to 32m in length through the 3 Areas.
- 15. In Area 2 the ground surface comprised of a disturbed demolition deposit (202) which extended to a depth of 200mm above (203); a mixed re-deposited natural or possible buried garden soil extending to a depth of 500mm. Natural subsoil (205) was encountered at a depth of 600mm below ground level. No previously unknown features were encountered within the natural subsoil here.



Figure 3a: General Shot Post Ex of New Septic Tank Trench Area 1



Figure 3b: General shot looking East towards Area 2 Pipe Trench



Figure 4a: Oblique of North Facing Section of Pipe Trench in Area 2 showing Wall founds of 'Green House' (East side)



Figure 4b: General Working Shot looking North-northeast along N-S leg of Pipe Trench Area  ${\bf 3}$ 

16. Area 3 comprised the section of drainage trench running north and northwest towards the cottage's north-eastern elevation. The deposits in this area were consistent with those in Area 2. The ground comprised 200mm of a mixed gravel pathway (301) above a re-deposited natural (302) up to a depth of 500-600mm. The drainage trench in Area 3 encountered previously unmapped sub-ground service cables, pipes and lines; a total of 8 including those from the periphery of Area 2. None were disturbed or broken by excavations.

### Artefacts

17. A few fragments of ceramic pottery were discovered during the course of the works. These comprised blue-and-white transfer-printed glazed white earthenwares of late 19<sup>th</sup> century or 20<sup>th</sup> century date. All finds were recovered from topsoil (101) and disturbed re-deposited natural (202) and (302).

### Discussion

18. The excavation works failed to identify any unidentified significant archaeological features within the area of the drainage track or septic tank trench. Indeed the presence of artefacts dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> or possibly 20<sup>th</sup> century in the disturbed deposits suggests that the area may have been significantly affected by building works and the laying of services in close proximity to the cottage since the mid-19th century. The nature of the deposits and number of services encountered suggests that the area immediately surrounding the cottage has been frequently altered by alterations to both the cottage itself and the associated garden outbuildings.

### Recommendations

- 19. No new significant archaeological features were uncovered during the monitoring, and no further archaeological works are recommended as a direct consequence of these works. It is also recommended that shallow works carried out within the area lying immediately beyond the external walls of the cottage will not require monitoring in the future. However, there remains a potential for archaeological features to survive in the balance of the grounds surrounding Monument Cottage, and also at greater depths within the area covered during the current phase of works described here, and this should be taken into account during the planning of future works on-site.
- The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with the National Trust for Scotland.

### Conclusion

- 21. Archaeological monitoring works were carried out in respect to the renewal of drainage at Monument Cottage, Alloway, Ayr, South Ayrshire. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area.
- 22. The works failed to identify the presence of any significant archaeological features within the drainage trench, and the presence of late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>, century ceramics within the deposit which underlies the current ground surface suggests that the area has been subject to significant disturbance at some point since the construction of the cottage in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century. This disturbance probably took place during the construction of at least two phases of extension abutting the southern and eastern elevations of the cottage.

### Acknowledgements

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

### References

Matthews, A, 2014, *Monument Cottage, Alloway, Ayr: Archaeological Mitigation, Method Statement.* Unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd.

### Cartographic

1752-1755	Roy, W	Military Survey of Scotland
1810	Ainslie, J	Map of the Southern Part of Scotland

1859 Ordnance Survey 1st edition Ordnance Survey, Ayrshire

Appendix 1: Registers

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

Context Register

Context	Context   Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
NO.				
101	<b>~</b>	Deposit	Dark brown humic silty sand. 100mm thick with few small stone inclusions. Contains occasional modern white glazed ceramic. Covers lawn area at the front of the Cottage.	Topsoil, formed in late 20th Century after construction of present cottage and likely postdates construction of extensions also.
102	~	Deposit	Loosely compact grey-brown silty sand with occasional stone chunks (0.05m each). Contains occasional salt-glazed ceramic. Extends to a depth of 640mm covering an area of approximately 2.7m by 2.7m.	Re-deposited natural as a result of Cottage extensions. Late 20th Century.
103	~	Deposit	Mid grey-brown sandy clay with frequent rounded stones. Encountered on average at a depth of 600mm. Existed mainly on the north side of the new septic tank trench. Within this deposit, leeching from the old sewage pipe occurred, discolouring the southern half of the trench.	Natural Subsoil, alluvial deposit.
104	<del>-</del>	Deposit	Mid grey-brown sandy clay with frequent rounded stones. Encountered on average at a depth of 600mm-800mm under leeching.	Natural Subsoil, alluvial deposit.
201	2	Surface	Concrete slabs covering an area of 2.7m by 3m in a single layer. Very compact. Removed by machine. Each approximately 450mm by 450mm by 80mm each.	Paving / Surface of 20th Century Green House
202	2	Deposit	Mid brown loose sand. Disturbed deposit containing sandstone chunks up to a depth of 200mm. Found directly beneath 201 slabs.	Bedding for slabs consisting of levelled demolition/construction debris from 20th century extensions.
203	2	Structure	Yellow sandstone blocks (200mm by 300mm by 100mm by 800mm each) similar to kerbing. Forms an 'L' shape in plan. 2.7m long extending from the south elevation of the cottage abutting the Green House.	Extension post-dating the Green House. Late 20th Century.
204	2	Deposit	Loose dark brown silt containing few white glazed ceramic fragments. Encountered at eastern end of the pipe trench.	Possibly a re-deposited natural like that of (102) or a buried garden soil. Late 20th

Context No.	Context Area/ Trench No.	Туре	Description	Interpretation
			Its upper limits are heavily disturbed by (202). 100-200mm thick across pipe trench.	Century.
205	2	Deposit	Mid brown moderately compact stony silt with frequent rounded stones. Encountered at eastern end of pipe trench at 500-600mm depth.	Natural Subsoil, alluvial deposit.
301	п	Deposit	Mixed moderately compact dark grey stony gravels and frequent mixed stones. 100-200mm thick along north to south leg of pipe trench along eastern elevation. Forms upper surface of gravel pathway around cottage.	20th Century path and driveway surface.
302	е	Deposit	Mid brown moderately compact stony silt with rounded stones. Its upper limits are heavily disturbed. Found at 100-200mm and extends to 600mm depth. Contains white glazed ceramic.	Like (102) an (204) possibly a re-deposited natural from 20th century alterations to the cottage.

# Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
01	1	From West, North side of Cottage	M	30/06/14
02	2	Cottage – North elevation	MN	30/06/14
03	3	Driveway, North side	MN	30/06/14
04	4	Rear of Cottage and extension	z	30/06/14
90	5	Ground to the south	Ш	30/06/14
90	9	Ground to the south	M	30/06/14
20	2	Front lawn	MNN	30/06/14
80	8	Lifting c.19th slate manhole cover	SE	30/06/14
60	6	Exposed Victorian manhole	SE	30/06/14

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
10	10	Exposed Victorian manhole	S	30/06/14
11	11	Exposed Victorian manhole	S	30/06/14
12	12	Exposed Victorian manhole	S	30/06/14
13	13	Slot 1 Post excavation	SW	30/06/14
14	14	Trench 1 E facing section	Ш	30/06/14
15	15	Trench 1 General shot	ΝN	30/06/14
16	16	Trench 1 General shot	ΝN	01/07/14
17	17	General shot of Green House	WSW	01/07/14
18	18	General shot of Green House	MSM	01/07/14
19	19	General shot Area 2 add-on (202)	ESE	01/07/14
20	20	General shot Area 2 add-on (202)	Ш	01/07/14
21	21	Cable Trench Area 1	SW	01/07/14
22	22	New Septic Tank Trench Area 1	SW	01/07/14
23	23	New Septic Tank Trench Area 1 200mm deep	SW	01/07/14
24	24	New Septic Tank Trench Area 1 600mm deep	SW	01/07/14
25	25	New Septic Tank Trench Area 1 1m deep	SW	01/07/14
26	26	S Facing section of New Septic Tank Trench Area 1 1m deep	S	01/07/14
27	27	General shot of removal of bricks of Old septic tank	SW	01/07/14
28	28	General shot of removal of bricks of Old septic tank	SW	01/07/14
29	29	General shot of removed bricks of Old septic tank	SW	01/07/14
30	30	S Facing section of new tank trench	S	01/07/14
31	31	General shot of new tank trench	SE	01/07/14
32	32	S Facing section of new tank trench	S	01/07/14

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
33	33	General shot of new tank trench	SW	01/07/14
34	34	Working shot of pipe trench	SW	01/07/14
35	35	Working shot of pipe trench	8	01/07/14
36	36	Working shot of pipe trench	SW	01/07/14
37	37	Pipe trench running eastwards	SW	01/07/14
38	38	Pipe trench running eastwards	WSW	01/07/14
39	39	Pipe trench running eastwards	8	01/07/14
40	40	Pipe trench running eastwards	8	01/07/14
41	41	Pipe Trench with scale	8	01/07/14
42	42	Pipe Trench with scale	×	01/07/14
43	43	Pipe Trench with scale	<b>X</b>	01/07/14
44	44	N Facing section of pipe trench	z	01/07/14
45	45	N Facing section of pipe trench	z	01/07/14
46	46	N Facing section of pipe trench	z	01/07/14
47	47	General shot of septic tank trench	ΝN	01/07/14
48	48	General shot of septic tank trench	M	01/07/14
49	49	General shot of septic tank trench	Ш	01/07/14
20	50	Pipe trench	z	01/07/14
51	51	Pipe trench	S	01/07/14
52	52	Pipe trench	ENE	01/07/14
53	53	Pipe trench	NE	01/07/14
54	54	General shot of front of cottage	SW	01/07/14
22	55	General shot of south side of cottage	WSW	01/07/14

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
26	26	Installed Tank	SW	01/07/14
25	22	Bricks from (203)	1	01/07/14
58	58	Bricks from (203)	1	01/07/14
26	59	Bricks from (203)	ı	01/07/14
09	09	Wall by (203) N Facing Section of wall and founds	z	01/07/14
61	61	Wall by (203) N Facing Section of wall and founds	IJ.	01/07/14
62	62	Wall by (203) N Facing Section of wall and founds	MN	01/07/14
63	63	General shot of pipe trench	ESE	01/07/14
64	64	General shot of pipe trench	Ш	01/07/14
65	65	General shot of pipe trench	Ш	01/07/14
99	99	N Facing section of SE corner of pipe trench	z	01/07/14
29	29	General shot looking west to new septic tank trench	ENE	02/07/14
89	89	Pre-ex pipe trench Area 3	SSW	02/07/14
69	69	Pre-ex pipe trench Area 3	SSW	02/07/14
20	70	General shot Area 3 N-S leg of pipe trench	SSW	02/07/14
71	71	W Facing Section of Area 3 N-S leg of pipe trench	M	02/07/14
72	72	Founds at SW corner of cottage 'green house'	SW	02/07/14
73	73	Founds at SW corner of cottage 'green house'	SW	02/07/14
74	74	Founds at SW corner of cottage 'green house'	S	02/07/14
75	75	Founds at SW corner of cottage 'green house'	SW	02/07/14
92	92	Pre-ex Area 3 NE Corner	ENE	02/07/14
22	2.2	Pre-ex Area 3 NE Corner	Ш	02/07/14
78	78	Services in SE corner of pipe trench	ESE	02/07/14

Image No.		Digital Description	From	Date
62	62	Along N-S pipe trench Area 3	S	02/07/14
80	80	T junction of pipe trench- offshoot to down-pipe	Ш	02/07/14
81	81	General shot looking westward along last leg of pipe trench	Ш	02/07/14
82	82	General shot looking south along last leg of pipe trench - downpipe	z	02/07/14
83	83	Post ex last section of pipe trench	ESE	02/07/14
8	84	N facing section of last leg of pipe trench	SE	02/07/14
85	85	Post ex General shot	SE	02/07/14
98	86	Post ex General shot	SE	02/07/14

### Finds Register

Find A No. T	Area/ Trench	Context No.	Material Type	Description	Excavator Date	Date
_		101	Ceramic	2 x blue-and white transfer-printed glazed white earthenware	KS	01/07/14
7		202	Ceramic	3 x blue-and-white transfer-printed glazed white earthenware	KS	01/07/14
က		302	Shell	1 x fragmentary oyster shell	KS	02/07/14

## Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Area/ Trench	Туре	Description	Drawer	Date
001	1	Plan	Measured Sketch Plan of Excavations	KS	01/07/14

### Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Monument Cottage, Alloway, Ayr, South Ayrshire
PROJECT CODE:	RA14037
PARISH:	Ayr
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Katie Sludden
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NS31NW 86
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Cottage
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 33233 18000
START DATE (this season)	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2014
END DATE (this season)	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	Archaeological monitoring works were carried out in respect of the renewal of drainage at Monument Cottage, Alloway, Ayr. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area.
	The works failed to identify the presence of any significant archaeological features within the excavated drainage trench, with the presence of late 19 <sup>th</sup> , and 20 <sup>th</sup> , century ceramics within the deposit underlying the current ground surface suggesting that the area has been subject to disturbance since the construction of the cottage in 1868-9.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	The National Trust for Scotland
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to The National Trust for Scotland, West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to RCAHMS Collections

### **Contact Details**

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

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