

Kilhenzie Castle, Maybole, South Ayrshire: Archaeological Mitigation

Data Structure Report



by Claire Williamson
issued 25th August 2014
on behalf of Mr Briggs

RATHMELL 
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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 ...25th August 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 Louise Turner Date ...25th August 2014...

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Mr Briggs in respect to the proposed erection of an agricultural shed at Kilhenzie Farm, Maybole, South Ayrshire (Planning Ref: 14/00680/APP). The archaeological works were designed to deliver the appropriate archaeological mitigation to facilitate the development.
2. South 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 South Ayrshire Council on archaeological matters, has provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required on this site during development works. They have proposed an initial evaluation at a 10% sample level of the available ground.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by Mr Briggs 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. Kilhenzie Farm is located to the south of the late 16th century Kilhenzie Castle (WoSAS ID: 6085, Canmore ID: 41510). A late 17th century account describes Kilhenzie as 'the chief' estate in the Parish of Maybole, having good buildings, gardens, orchards and all other accommodations. *Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1752-55)* depicts the house within a walled and tree-lined garden, with small parks to the west and woodland to the east (Figure 1a).
5. The castle is a typical example of a small late 16th century tower-house, with 17th century additions. The original tower is oblong on plan, rubble-built, and rises to two storeys with an attic forming the top level. The 17th century addition changes the overall plan to an L-shape, and had three storeys but did not equal the tower in height. Prior to the mid-17th century, Kilhenzie was owned by a branch of the Baird family, but thereafter passed to the Kennedies (MacGibbon. D & Ross. T 1889, Tranter. N 1965). The house lay in a ruined state until it was restored in the 1850s by Sir James Ferguson.
6. Associated with Kilhenzie Castle are a lodge (WoSAS ID: 21309, Canmore ID: 121928), a sundial (WoSAS ID: 6086 Canmore ID: 41511), a walled garden (WoSAS ID: 21040, Canmore ID: 121929) and the possible location of a chapel dedicated to St Cainnech's (WoSAS ID: 6089, Canmore ID: 41514). There are a further two buildings (WoSAS ID: 41971, Canmore ID: 169893 and WoSAS ID: 41970, Canmore ID: 169894) associated with Kilhenzie Castle which are most likely to be relatively modern in origin and associated with agricultural activities. Both are depicted as unroofed buildings on the *6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1859)*. Neither is shown on the current edition of the Ordnance Survey.
7. Within the wider landscape there have been a number of archaeological investigations. To the northeast a desk-based assessment was undertaken for the *Maybole to Girvan High Pressure Natural Gas Pipeline* (Lingard 2010). Resulting from this desk-based assessment and associated construction works within a kilometre of the development area, a range of archaeological material was recovered, indicating a landscape that has been inhabited from the prehistoric through to the modern periods.
8. To the north of Kilhenzie Farm and Castle a watching brief was carried out between May to September 2007 on two sections of the gas pipeline works. Two sites of archaeological significance were encountered during the course of the watching brief (Wosas ID: 61751, Canmore ID: 296416) with all features and deposits within the routeway subsequently excavated in full. The investigations revealed several pits and postholes with associated pottery, lithic and nutshell finds. Initial assessment suggested that the site was probably of early Neolithic date.
9. Located to the northeast and associated with the Maybole to Girvan gas pipeline, further archaeological works were carried out during April to June 2011. These also involved a

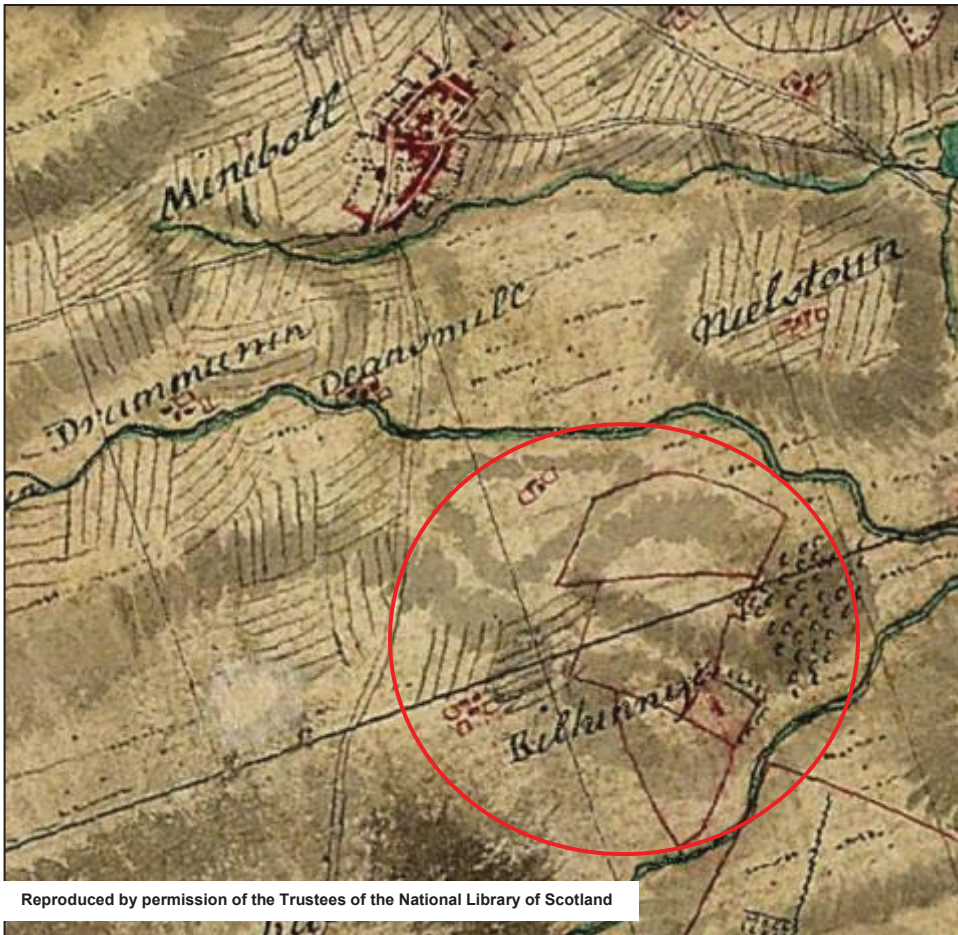


Figure 1a: Extract from Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1752-55)

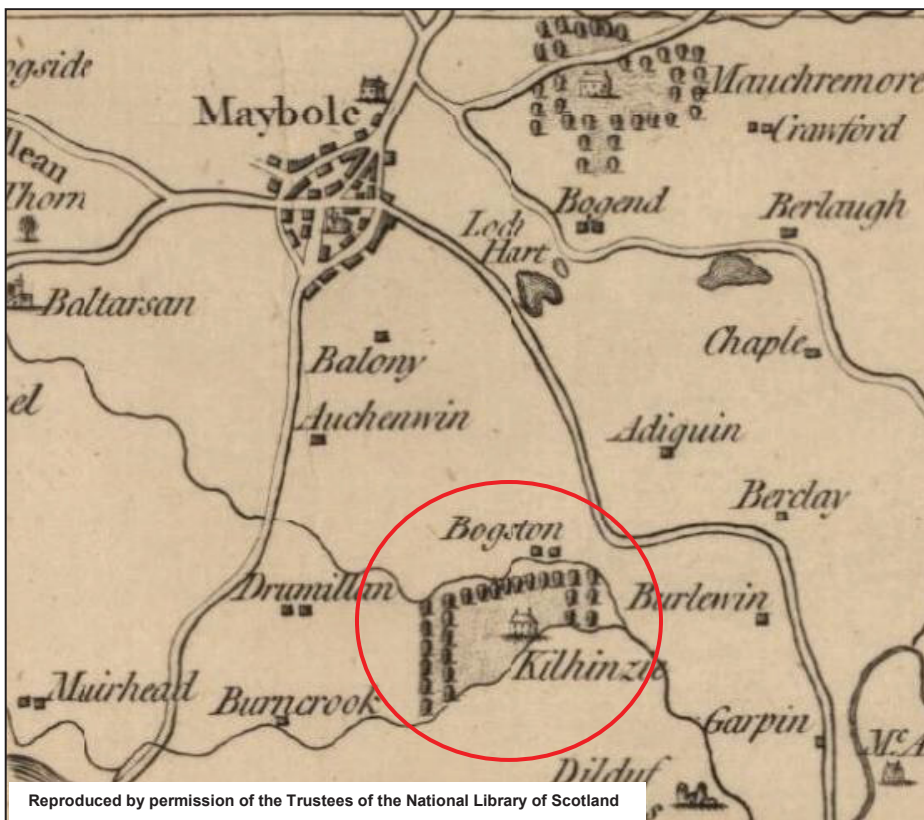


Figure 1b: Extract from Armstrong's A New Map of Ayrshire (1775)

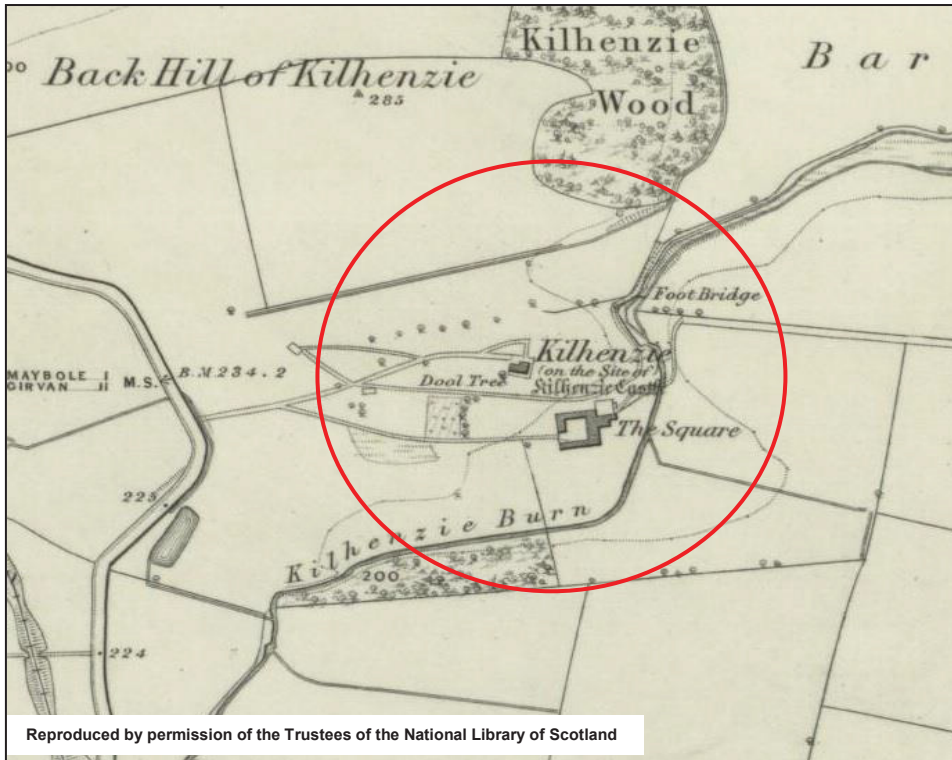


Figure 2a: Extract from the 6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1859)

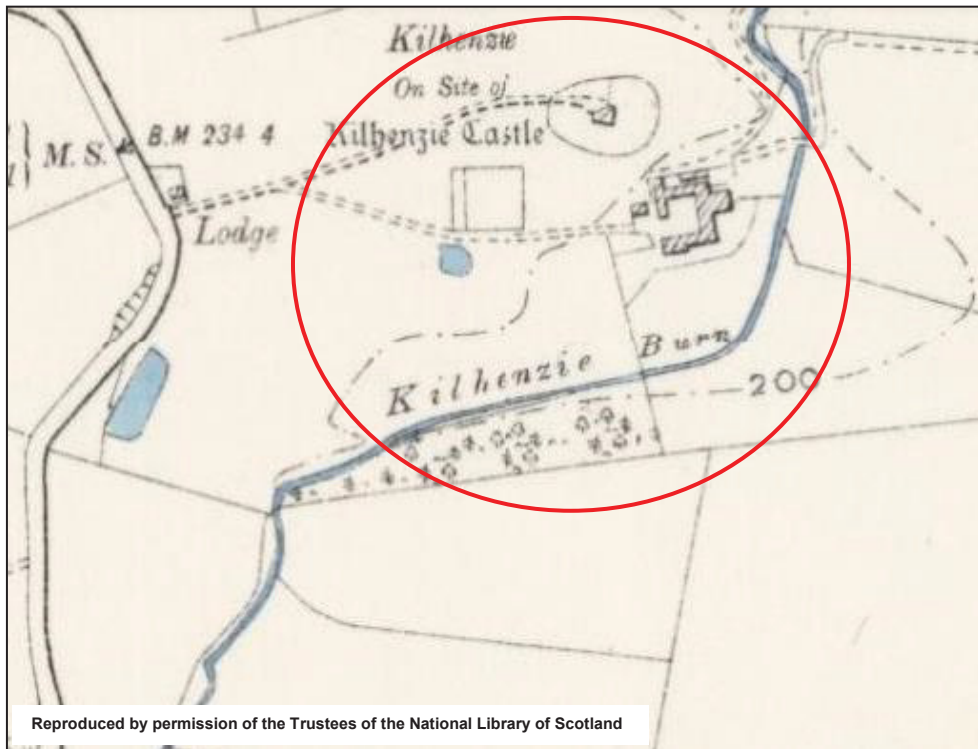


Figure 2b: Extract from the 6-inch 2nd edition Ordnance Survey (1897)

watching brief along with a controlled topsoil strip and evaluation. The features recorded included a range of field boundaries and drainage ditches, possible trackways, a stone box drain and a small number of isolated pits (WoSAS ID: 4894 Canmore ID: 320590). The majority of the features were assessed to represent post-medieval to recent agricultural use of the landscape. None of the pits contained any dating evidence in the way of artefacts and as such are of uncertain date but some of these are likely to also be post-medieval to recent in date or stone holes rather than being archaeological in origin.

Historical Sources

10. As mentioned, *Roy's Military Survey of Scotland* (1752-55) (Figure 1a) depicts Kilhenzie Castle (spelt Kilhinnye) within a walled and tree-lined garden, with small parks to the west and woodland to the east. Sited outside of the gardens to the west are three structures and three open square areas that may represent walled gardens; also associated with this and lying directly to the north is an area of agricultural activity. The name of this small farmstead/estate is not labelled. The north-south course of the present day B741 is also depicted to the west with Kilhenzie Castle set back from the road.
11. Andrew Armstrong's *A New Map of Ayrshire* (1775) (Figure 1b) simply depicts Kilhenzie Castle (spelt Kilhinzie) set within a tree-lined landscape but there are no other associated structures. The farmstead to the west is depicted with two structures and labelled 'Drumillan'. It is possible that this is the small range depicted by Roy (1752-55). The course of the road is also still in existence and depicted by Armstrong.
12. Both John Ainslie's *Map of Southern Part of Scotland* (1821) (not shown) and John Thomson's *Northern Part of Ayrshire, Southern Part* (1832) (not shown) only depict Kilhenzie Castle and none of the surrounding features associated with the castle. Both label and depict 'Drumillan' and the present day B741.
13. By the time of the *6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey* (1859) (Figure 2a) Kilhenzie Castle had been bought by Sir James Ferguson and restored from the ruined state into which it had fallen. The survey depicts a single L-shaped block set within several tracks leading to the castle. There are two unroofed structures depicted to the west and a surviving walled garden that has trees planted along the east side and planting within the interior. This is the first time that a substantial square building, with access to the central courtyard from the west and labelled 'The Square', is depicted. There is no mention of this building in the WoSAS Historic Environment Record or Canmore.
14. The only change in the *6-inch 2nd edition Ordnance Survey* (1897) (Figure 2b) and the *6-inch 3rd edition Ordnance Survey* (1910) (not shown) is that the walled garden to the west is shown as empty. The two unroofed structures from the *6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey* (1859) have gone. The building labelled 'The Square' is also depicted on both surveys. On current mapping the area in which 'The Square' was sited now holds six roofed buildings which form the present day Kilhenzie Farm.

Project Works

15. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 14th August 2014. This consisted of the excavation of a series of intrusive trenches for the purposes of exposing a 10% sample of the development area (roughly 2324m²) to be archaeologically examined.
16. The proposed development area was located within open agricultural land currently used for grazing. The western side rose to form a mound with a steep slope along its southern side (Figure 4a). At its southern end, south of this slope, a section of heavily waterlogged ground crossed the area WSW-ENE, perhaps the result of a broken field drain.
17. Where possible the trenches were placed in accordance with the terms of the Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2014). Trench 4 had to be moved slightly further to the north to avoid running it along the side of the steep slope in the south (between Trenches 4 and 5; Figure 4a), which in turn required the angle of Trenches 2 and 3 to also be shifted slightly to allow for space. The western end of Trench 5 had to be shifted

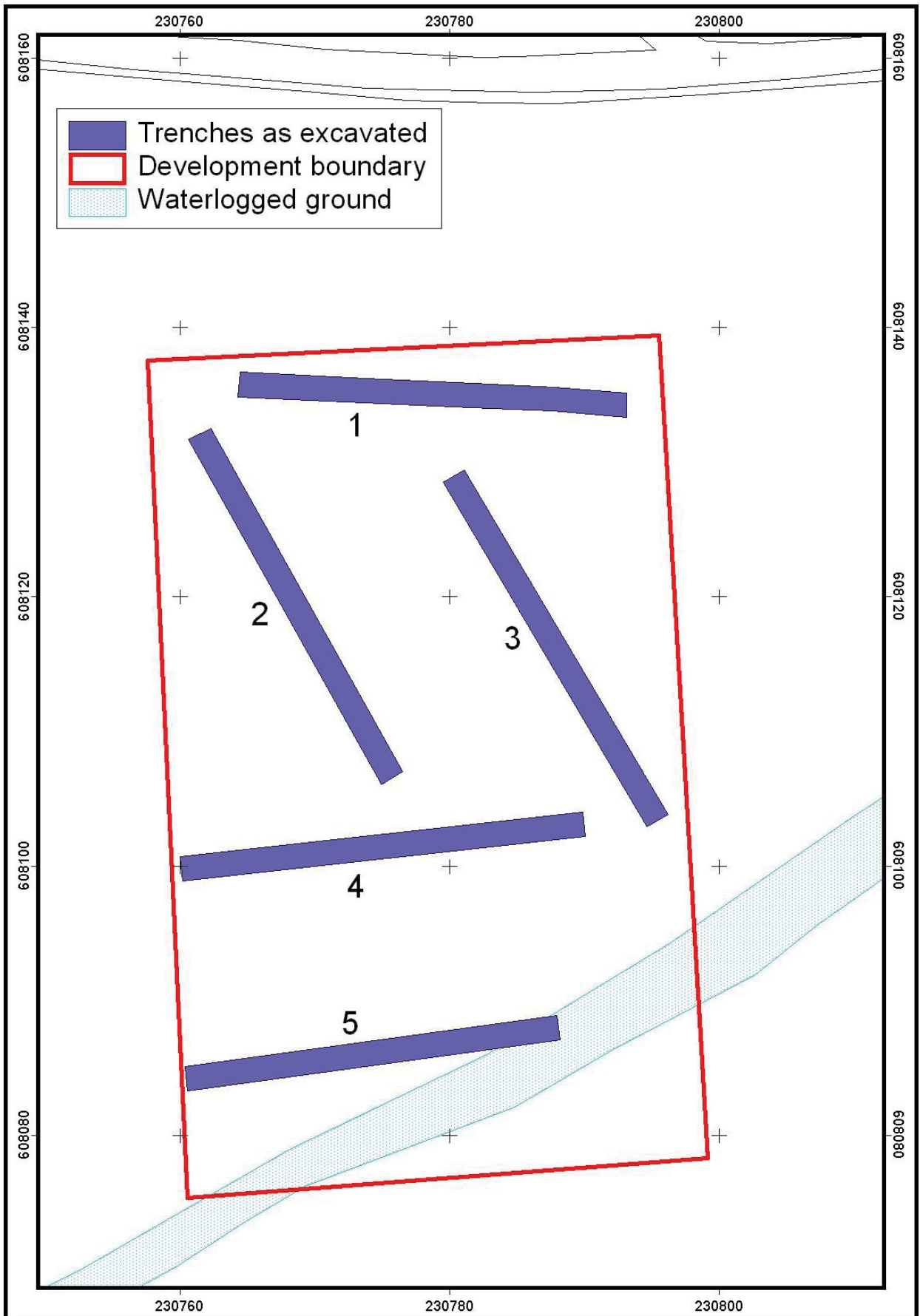


Figure 3: Layout of trenches as machined

slightly northwards in order to avoid the entire of this trench being within the waterlogged area mentioned above. This was to prevent the trench from filling up quickly with water along its entire length once it was opened.

18. In total 146.3 linear metres were excavated with a 1.85m wide bucket equalling an area of 270.66m². This exceeded the 232m² required for the purposes of this investigation. The position of the trenches is depicted in the site plan above (Figure 3).
19. 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

20. In all, 5 evaluation trenches were excavated using a 13 tonne 360° tracked excavator with a smooth 1.85m 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.
21. The trenches were excavated through turf and topsoil (001) which was a compact mid brown silt clay with frequent rootlets and small stone inclusions. Natural subsoil was encountered at depths of between 130 to 470mm below the top of the current ground surface.
22. At the centre of the site across the top of the mounded area (as shown within Trenches 2, 3 and 4), the natural subsoil consisted predominantly of a very compact pale white/brown bedrock (003) which sat just below the topsoil (Figure 4b). Where bedrock was not exposed in these trenches, Trench 2 revealed a moderately compact mid orange brown gravel in a silty clay matrix (004) to be the natural subsoil in its northwestern half, while Trench 4 revealed a small area of quite compact mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions (002) at its eastern end.
23. Trenches 1 and 5, which ran along the northern and southern ends of the area respectively, and did not cross the top of the mounded area, revealed the natural subsoil to be a compact pale grey (with some orange patches) silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions (005) (Figure 5a). As already mentioned the southern end of the site was heavily waterlogged and, indeed, the presence of a clay subsoil in this area would not allow for much natural drainage of this ground.
24. It is also within this clay subsoil (005), that two field drains were uncovered. (006) consisted of a rubble drain orientated NW-SE near to the eastern end of Trench 1 (Figure 5b). It consisted of angular and sub-angular sandstones measuring an average size of 100mm by 140mm by 100mm and sat within a linear cut measuring 0.4m wide. (007) was a red tile drain orientated SW-NE and located roughly in the centre of Trench 5. The drain measured approximately 0.1m in diameter and sat approximately 400mm below the upper surface of the natural subsoil, within a linear cut measuring 0.35 to 0.4m wide.
25. No other archaeological features were uncovered on site and the only artefacts observed were occasional fragments of modern glass and metal within the topsoil (001).

Discussion

26. No significant archaeological features were uncovered during the course of the archaeological works. The only features present related to the use of the land for agriculture and comprised two field drains. These represent attempts to improve the drainage of the ground in order to prevent standing bodies of water. The waterlogged area which ran through the southern end of the site may have been caused by the presence of a similar field drain which has failed, perhaps through breakage or silting. The field drains came in the form of both rubble and red tile suggesting more than one phase of improvement works throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
27. Cartographic evidence shows the area as undisturbed open ground throughout recent history, with the layout and use of the ground appearing the same now as it was when depicted on the *6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey* of 1859 (refer to Figure 2a). As

stated above, Kilhenzie Castle has been recorded as 'the chief' estate in the parish during the 17th century with extensive grounds including good buildings, gardens, orchards and all other accommodations. Being in such close proximity to the castle, it is likely that the site of the proposed development would have been incorporated within these grounds during that time. The lack of any structural evidence within the evaluation trenches suggests that this area will have sat within one of the many open areas of land which are depicted as surrounding the castle at several points in the available historical mapping.

28. The area itself is dominated by the presence of a mound which is formed by a natural rock outcrop, and it is possible that this mound may have been a deterrent for the building of any structures.

Recommendations

29. No significant archaeological remains were located within the development area and the only anthropic material observed suggested modern agricultural 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 South Ayrshire Council and their advisors, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Conclusion

32. A programme of archaeological works was required by Mr Briggs in respect to the proposed erection of an agricultural shed at Kilhenzie Farm, Maybole, South Ayrshire (Planning Ref: 14/00680/APP). The archaeological works were designed to deliver the appropriate archaeological mitigation to facilitate the development.
33. No significant archaeological remains were uncovered. The only remains identified were field drains which relate to the continued use of the area for agriculture.

Acknowledgements

34. I am grateful to our client Mr Briggs for giving us the opportunity to carry out these works and also to the West of Scotland Archaeology Service who gave support and guidance throughout. I would also like to thank Dr Louise Turner for her editing of this report.



Figure 4a: General shot of site from the southeast



Figure 4b: Trench 4 from the east showing bedrock (003)



Figure 5a: Trench 1 from the west showing clay subsoil (005)



Figure 5b: Rubble drain (006) in Trench 1 from the southeast

References

Documentary

Becket. A. & Innes. L. 2007b. 'Girvan Reinforcement, Gas Pipeline, South Ayrshire (Ayr and Maybole parish), watching brief'. Discovery Excav Scot, vol.8 Cathedral Communications Limited. Wiltshire: England. Page(s): 179.

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Lingard. C. 2010. *Maybole to Girvan High Pressure Natural Gas Pipeline: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. Network Archaeology.

Rees, T. 2014 *Kilhenzie Castle, Maybole, South Ayrshire: Archaeological Mitigation, Written Scheme of Investigation*, unpublished commercial document by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

Tranter. N. 1962-70. '*The fortified house in Scotland*'. Edinburgh. Page(s): Vol.3, 32-3 Held at RCAHMS F.5.21.TRA

Cartographic

Roy, W.	1752-55	Military Survey of Scotland
Armstrong, A.	1775	A new map of Ayrshire
Ainslie, J.	1821	Map of Southern Part of Scotland
Thomson, J.	1832	Northern Part of Ayrshire, Southern Part
Ordnance Survey	1859	6-inch 1 st edition Ordnance Survey sheet XLV
Ordnance Survey	1897	6-inch 2 nd edition Ordnance Survey sheet XLV
Ordnance Survey	1910	6-inch 3 rd edition Ordnance Survey sheet XLV

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	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
1	East to west	1.85m by 28.8m 53.28m ²	320 to 370mm	Compact pale grey (with some orange patches) silty clay (005).	Rubble field drain [006] present at +3.6m orientated NE-SW.	None	None
2	Southeast to northwest	1.85m by 29.7m 54.95m ²	150 to 300mm	Very compact pale white/brown bedrock (003) present until +11.6m before changing to moderately compact mid orange brown gravel in a silty clay matrix (004).	None	None	None
3	North-north-west to south-south-east	1.85m by 29.4m 54.39m ²	280 to 470mm	Moderately compact mid orange brown gravel in a silty clay matrix (004) present until +8.5m before changing to very compact pale white/brown bedrock (003). This was present until +23.8m before changing back to (004), until +25m, when it changed to compact pale grey (with some orange patches) silty clay (005) for the rest of the trench.	None	None	None
4	East to west	1.85m by 30.6m 56.61m ²	130 to 400mm	Compact mid orange brown silty clay (002) present until +3.7m before changing to very compact pale white/brown bedrock (003).	None	None	None
5	West-south-west to east-north-east	1.85m by 27.8m 51.43m ²	300 to 380mm	Compact pale grey (with some orange patches) silty clay (005).	Red tile field drain [007] present at +9m 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	Compact mid brown silty clay with frequent rootlets and small stones.	Topsoil
002	4	Deposit	Compact mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions.	Natural subsoil
003	2,3,4	Deposit	Very compact pale white/brown bedrock.	Natural bedrock
004	2,3	Deposit	Moderately compact mid orange brown gravel in a silty clay matrix.	Natural subsoil
005	1,3,5	Deposit	Compact pale grey (with some orange patches) silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions.	Natural subsoil
006	1	Feature	Rubble drain running NW-SE containing angular and sub-angular sandstones measuring an average size of 100mm by 140mm by 100mm. Linear cut which measured 0.4m wide.	Rubble field drain
007	5	Feature	Red tile drain running SW-NE. Drain sat approximately 400mm below upper surface of natural subsoil. Sat within linear cut which measured 0.35 to 0.4m wide, while drain itself measured approximately 0.1m in diameter.	Red tile field drain

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
1	8	General pre ex shot of site	NNE	14/08/14
2	9	General pre ex shot of site (northern end)	ENE	14/08/14
3	10	General pre ex shot of site (northern end)	ENE	14/08/14

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
4	11	Trench 4	E	14/08/14
5	12	Trench 4	E	14/08/14
6	13	Trench 2	SE	14/08/14
7	14	Trench 2	NW	14/08/14
8	15	Southern slope (to south of Trench 4)	ESE	14/08/14
9	16	General pre-ex shot of southern end (Trench 5)	WSW	14/08/14
10	17	General pre-ex shot of southern end – waterlogged dip	SW	14/08/14
11	18	General pre-ex shot of southern end – waterlogged dip	NW	14/08/14
12	19	Working shot	WSW	14/08/14
13	20	General shot of farm	WSW	14/08/14
14	21	Trench 5	ENE	14/08/14
15	22	Trench 5	WSW	14/08/14
16	23	Trench 3	SE	14/08/14
17	24	Trench 3	NW	14/08/14
18	25	Trench 1	W	14/08/14
19	26	Trench 1	E	14/08/14
20	27	General post-ex shot of site	NE	14/08/14
21	28	General post-ex shot of site	NNE	14/08/14
22	29	General post-ex shot of site	SE	14/08/14
23	30	Shot of rubble drain (006), Trench 1	SE	14/08/14
24	31	General post-ex shot of site	SW	14/08/14
25	32	General post-ex shot of site	SSW	14/08/14
26	33	General shot along slope continuing to west of area	W	14/08/14

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
27	34	General shot towards area	NW	14/08/14
28	35	General post-ex shot of site	NW	14/08/14
29	36	General post-ex shot of site	NW	14/08/14
30	37	General post-ex shot of site	WNW	14/08/14
31	38	General post-ex shot of site	SE	14/08/14

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
001	1	4	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 4	CW	14/08/14
002	1	2	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 2	CW	14/08/14
003	1	3	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 3	CW	14/08/14
004	1	5	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 5	CW	14/08/14
005	1	1	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 1	CW	14/08/14

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Kilhenzie Castle, Maybole
PROJECT CODE:	RA14044
PARISH:	Maybole
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Claire Williamson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NS30NW 10; NS30NW 10.01; NS30NW 10.02; NS30NW 10.03; NS30NW 39; NS30NW 40;
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Garden, Tower House; Sundial; Lodge; Walled Garden; Building; Building
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 30778 08109 (centred on)
START DATE (this season)	14 th August 2014
END DATE (this season)	14 th August 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological works was required by Mr Briggs in respect to the proposed erection of an agricultural shed at Kilhenzie Farm, Maybole, South Ayrshire. The archaeological works were designed to deliver the appropriate archaeological mitigation to facilitate the development.</p> <p>No significant archaeological remains were uncovered. The only remains identified were field drains which relate to the continued use of the area for agriculture.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Briggs
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to RCAHMS Collections.

Contact Details

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