

# **6 Main Street, Dundonald: Archaeological Mitigation**

Data Structure Report



by Louise Turner

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

on behalf of Simon Scott

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## Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Dundonald Homes, on behalf of Mr Simon Scott, in support of an extension to the rear of an upstanding building at 6 Main Street, Dundonald, South Ayrshire (Planning Ref. No. 12/00164/APP). The archaeological works detailed in the following report have been designed to mitigate any adverse impact on archaeological remains within the development area.
2. This report covers the removal of those sediments located to the rear of the house, outwith the footprint of a now-demolished extension which immediately abutted the rear wall of the extant building. This work took place on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. Also included is the recording of a well uncovered beneath the footprint of the former extension; this was subject to a later monitoring visit on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014.
3. South Ayrshire Council required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken in support of any planning consent which may be granted by the planning authority. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service, who advise South Ayrshire Council on archaeological matters, provided guidance on the structure of archaeological mitigation required on this site prior to and during development works.
4. A Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2014) provided the detail of the works (archaeological monitoring, 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

5. The development area lies on the west side of the Main Street as it passes through Dundonald, sitting immediately adjacent to, and slightly to the south of, the access road which runs up to Dundonald Castle and the modern visitor centre. Located to the rear, sitting west and upslope of the property, is Dundonald Castle which is protected as a Scheduled Monument under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. This statutory designation starts outwith the building plot at 6 Main Street, commencing to the immediate west of its boundary.
6. Dundonald Castle (WoSAS 90112, 6541, 6532) has been subject to an extensive series of excavations (see *Scottish Archaeological Journal* Vol 26.1-2, *Dundonald Castle Excavations 1986-1993*). These have shown continuity in the use of the summit of the hill as settlement, fortified settlement, and latterly, castle, from at least c. 500BC. The most obvious remains which are now visible relate to the radical rebuilding of the castle in the 13<sup>th</sup> century AD with Dundonald being best known as the Ayrshire country retreat of Robert II and Robert II. Abandoned as a residence in 1638, the castle passed into state care in 1953.
7. The 'Kirkton of Dundonald' (WoSAS 12766), an adjacent civil settlement, was erected as a Burgh of Barony in 1638, at the point the castle was abandoned. This is likely no coincidence: its formal recognition as such would have given legal status to an earlier irregular settlement that would have accumulated around the castle in order to service its needs.
8. It is the nature and extent of this earlier settlement, and the pattern of its growth, which was to be addressed in the works detailed here. With regards to cartographic sources, our understanding is constrained by the detail and the accuracy of the historic mapping which is available. In this particular instance, the first reliable source can be dated to the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, and is provided by Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1752-55).
9. Roy's map depicts the Kirkton as centred on the Parish Church (see Figure 1a). The church itself is cruciform on plan – this is the precursor to the modern church, built in the early 1480s and dedicated to St Giles (Canmore ID: 41973). By the time Roy's map was surveyed, a formal street frontage had been established along both sides of the Main Street in close proximity to the church, the core of this historic settlement lying a significant distance to the south of the development area.

10. This same map show the castle as located within a large enclosure which encompasses both the structure itself and the hill upon which it sits. This is one of several enclosures depicted upon Roy's map which together encircle the hill and the intervening ground that fronts onto Main Street. The ground within these enclosures appears to have been used as either pasture or parkland, with the cultivated ground and rigs being located on the opposite, east, side of Main Street. This might indicate, then, that the area in the immediate vicinity of the castle was either used as parkland or common land during the late medieval and early modern periods.
11. In addition, we should note the presence of additional settlements to the west and northwest of the castle. One is named 'Burnside,' while the other, apparently unnamed, sits to the southwest of Auchans Castle, the successor to Dundonald Castle built by the Earls of Dundonald in 1644. The presence of these settlements suggests that settlement patterns in the area at this time largely took the form of dispersed 'fermtouns' with the transition to the modern nucleated village with its more formal street plan only just beginning at this time.
12. Detailed mapping of the area is sadly lacking between the mid-18<sup>th</sup> and mid-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, but it is possible to obtain some insights into the way settlement patterns changed in the intervening period. Key to our understanding is Thomson's map of 1832 (Figure 1b): it is difficult to make out the details of the village's layout at this time, but it is clear that there has been a transformation in the way in which the land surrounding the castle was organised. The putative 'fermtouns' noted previously have been removed: the only structures evident in the area surrounding the castle are now Auchans Castle and the Mains Farm, presumably built to serve the needs of the household at Auchans.
13. The rest of the castle environs has been transformed into a designed landscape. We perhaps see the start of this process in the woodland shown to the west of the castle on Roy's map; by 1832 the transformation is complete. The area surrounding the castle is now utilised as a deer park, with additional plantations (in the form of roundels) evident in the wider landscape. There are also indications that the formal layout of the village of Dundonald is being extended through the creation of house and garden plots along the line of Main Street. These, however, seem to be restricted to its east side. If any similar development was taking place on the west side of Main Street, this is not shown: it is not however clear whether this represents the actual street plan or an omission on the part of the surveyor, as the buildings clearly shown as being present along the west side near the church on Roy's map are no longer featured on Thomson's.
14. Several decades after the publication of Thomson's *Atlas of Scotland*, the area was mapped by the Ordnance Survey (Figure 2a). Their 1<sup>st</sup> edition map in 1860 shows that the core of the historic village is now established, with the building and backland strip at 6 Main Street, Dundonald forming the penultimate landholding in a row of plots which abut the west side of Main Street. The plot at 6 Main Street has been laid out in the customary fashion, with a low one storey or one-storey-and-attic cottage built with front elevation directly abutting the street and a strip of land extending to the rear. The shape of the rear plot is broader and shorter than those located further to the south, which suggests that this particular plot has been laid out within an already established street layout at a comparatively late stage, to the apparent benefit of the leaseholder as the area of ground available both as a frontage and as garden/backland plot appears more substantial than that seen in those properties to the south.
15. Shown as occupying the plot at this time is an 'L'-shaped structure which abuts its neighbour on the southeast. This building corresponds to the extant cottage which currently occupies the site (Figure 3a). The footprint of the cottage extends northeastwards across roughly two-thirds the full breadth of the house plot, with the rear elevation of the cottage and the northeast elevation of the outshot overlooking a yard which has, presumably, been levelled.



Figure 1a: Extract from Roy's Military Map of Scotland (1752-55), with development area circled in green

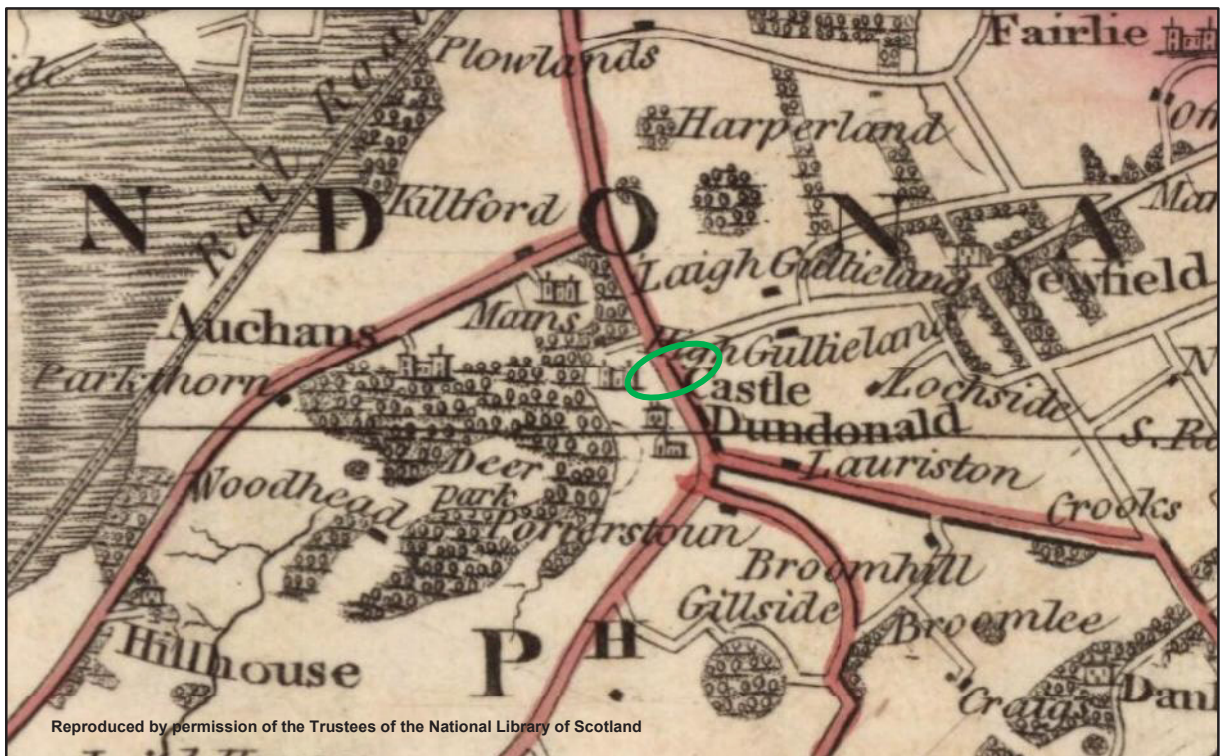


Figure 1b: Extract from Thomson's Atlas of Scotland (Northern Part of Ayrshire, Southern Part) (1832), with development area circled in green

16. The cottage is typical of the vernacular buildings which still survive in large numbers in towns and villages across Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and Lanarkshire: the walls are built of snecked rubble, with broached sandstone ('freestone') quoins and margins, the pitched and slated roof possibly replacing an earlier thatched roof. Originally, a small extension or outshot abutted the northwest gable wall of the structure, but no traces of this now survive following later remodelling.
17. Clearly, the cottage was been built between c. 1830 and 1860. It could perhaps be argued that its origins lay towards the end of this period: in neighbouring properties, the rear garden plots are clearly in use as orchards with the trees depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition mapping. No trees are shown at 6 Main Street, Dundonald, though mature fruit trees now stand upon the site, suggesting perhaps that the backland area was still in the process of being developed when the map was surveyed.
18. Unfortunately, the level of detail available in the later 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1897 means that this theory cannot be supported: though areas of woodland are shown, the individual trees located in every property are not (see Figure 2b). That the property at 6 Main Street has been subject to further improvement in the intervening decades is however, clearly evident: the structure has been extended to the northeast, removing the earlier extension which abutted the NW gable wall and extending the frontage so that it now runs the entire width of the plot and forms a 'house-and-a-half' type structure (Figure 3b).
19. Cartographic evidence suggests that the land holding at 6 Main Street was established at a comparatively late date, but, with the location and extent of any early settlement remaining as yet uncertain, the identification of archaeological investigation remains are the only means of confirming whether or not the dispersed settlement pattern shown on Roy's map of 1752-5 gives us insights into a relict layout established at a much earlier point in time.
20. The works detailed here represent the latest in a series of archaeological monitoring exercises undertaken in the stretch of ground that falls between the known foci of the Kirkton and the castle. Monitoring work which took place during the building of an extension at 1 Main Street (WoSAS EV Id 987) failed to locate significant material, while two sherds of medieval pottery was recovered during work which took place at 20 Main Street (WoSAS EV Id 1145). The presence of medieval pottery in such small quantities could not be taken as proof of medieval occupation on the site itself, but it was indication that such settlement was present somewhere in the vicinity.
21. The monitoring of the works to the rear of 6 Main Street thus provided an ideal opportunity to further refine our understanding of the location and extent of the settlement pattern at Kirkton of Dundonald during the medieval period, i.e. at a time contemporary with the occupation of Dundonald Castle. By identifying medieval features or artefacts within the footprint of the proposed extension, our understanding of the nature and extent of any medieval or early post-medieval settlement could be more finely honed. Conversely, an absence of such evidence could equally be deemed informative, as it would strengthen the argument that Roy's map provides a glimpse of a relict settlement pattern which may have had its origins in the medieval period, with the land immediately surrounding the castle comprising either parkland or common grazing as opposed to settlement or cultivated ground.

## Project Works

22. The programme of works commenced on the 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 with the archaeological monitoring of ground reduction in an area to the rear of the footprint of the 19<sup>th</sup> century cottage (Figure 4). While the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century cottage and the late 19<sup>th</sup> century extension on the northeast gable wall were to be retained, the original extension to the rear (itself incorporated into a larger extension during the 20<sup>th</sup> century) was demolished.

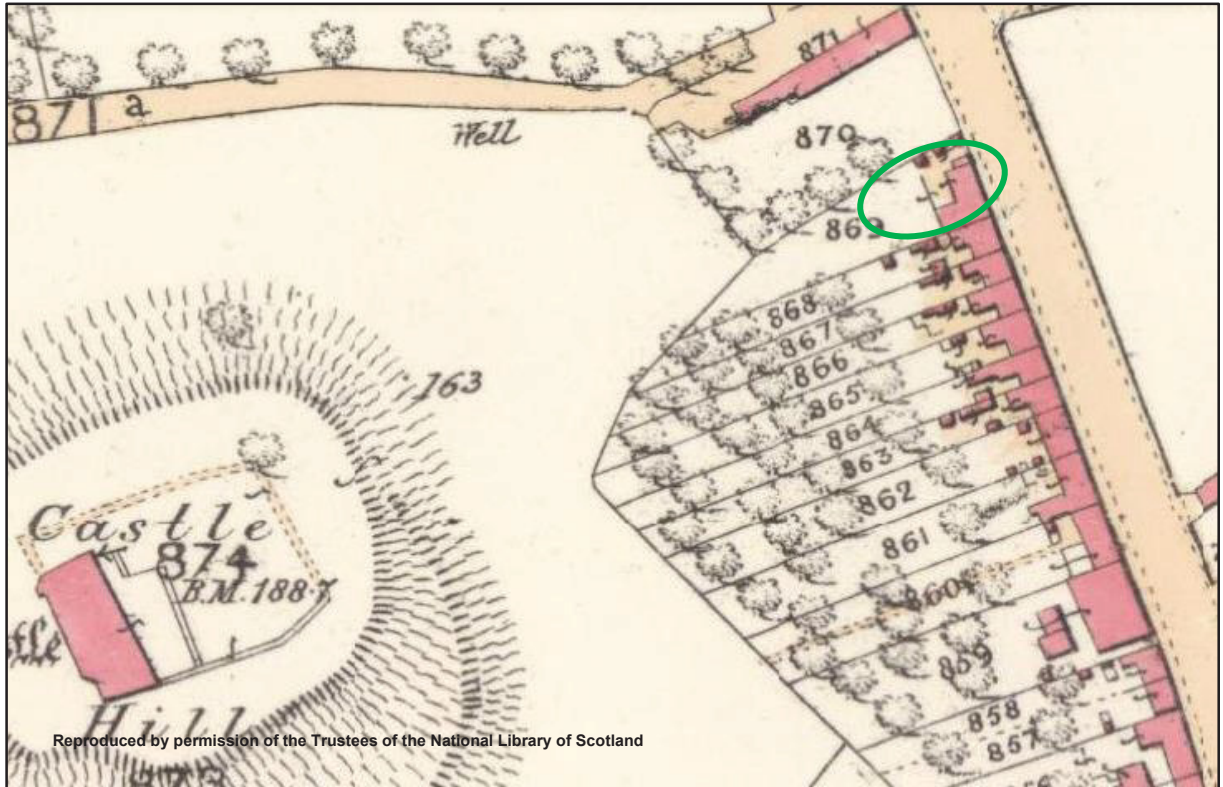


Figure 2a: Extract from Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Map of 1860 (Development area circled in green)



Figure 2b: Extract from Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Map of 1897 (Development area circled in green)





Figure 3a: Pre-excitation view from W, showing SW end of extant mid-19<sup>th</sup> century cottage and upstanding SE wall of outshot



Figure 3b: Pre-excitation view from S, showing NE end of extant mid-19<sup>th</sup> century cottage and late 19<sup>th</sup> century extension

24. The aim of the works was to reduce levels across the footprint of the proposed new build to a level which lay flush with the existing slab that marked the footprint of the former extension to the rear of the extant cottage. Once that was completed, the slab itself would be lifted.
25. The initial stage was the reduction of an 'L'-shaped area measuring a maximum of 12 by 8m in extent (and with a maximum breadth of 3.5m) to a depth of 60mm below the current ground level. All works were carried out using a 13 ton 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. In total, an area measuring 66.5m<sup>2</sup> was monitored.
26. Once initial ground reduction had been completed, it became clear that the remaining slab in the E corner lay flush with the level of the subsoil; or indeed below it, if the rise in subsoil across the breadth of the site was taken into account.
27. It was therefore perceived that levels of disturbance during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries were so great that the chances for survival of significant archaeology were minimal, so - after discussion with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service - it was agreed that the area beneath the slab would not be subject to monitoring and monitoring works on-site ceased at this point.
28. As work progressed on-site, however, a well was uncovered beneath the footprint of the former extension and a later site visit was carried out on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014 to record this feature.
29. In compliance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2014) any potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded. 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

30. It was clear that the garden plot to the rear of the cottage had already been subject to significant landscaping since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (Figure 5a). The ground surface along the length of the plot sloped upwards towards the castle and the hill, the land here heavily overgrown, planted with grass and relict fruit trees.
31. Closer to the cottage, the sloping ground had clearly been levelled and a series of revetment walls built to create a series of terraces. Most of these revetment walls were mass-produced brick, indicating that landscaping had taken place at a comparatively late date. Some extant garden features (comprising a line of square concrete paving slabs set apex-on across the lowermost terrace, with red gravel chips behind) suggested that the main bulk of these works had taken place during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, the presence of a drystone rubble-built revetment wall (004) at the SE side indicated that this terracing process may have begun much earlier, perhaps during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
32. Work began at the SW side of the garden, close to the boundary wall which divided the garden plot from the adjacent property to the SW. It was soon possible to establish the nature of the soil profile in the area to the rear of the 20<sup>th</sup> century brick revetment wall (Figure 5b): here, a deep, fairly homogenous deposit of a dark, humic soil up to 0.6m deep (001) directly overlay a compact yellow-brown sandy clay (003). The latter was interpreted as natural subsoil.
33. This soil profile continued across the SW half of the site, that is, for a distance of approximately 6m. At this point, the level of the subsoil began to rise: topsoil/garden soil (001) became much reduced in depth (to around 0.3m), and an intermediate deposit (002) was identified between (001) and the underlying natural (003) (Figure 6a). This gentle rise in the level of the subsoil continued across the remainder of the site, with the natural subsoil lying only 0.4m below the modern ground level on the northeast side.
34. Some artefacts were encountered within (002). These comprised the occasional sherd of modern ceramic, dominated by plain white-glazed white earthenware with occasional transfer-printed sherds present. There had also been significant disturbance of underlying deposits (002) and (003) through the digging of service trenches (005), (006) and (007) (Figure 6b), and wall foundations. The service pipes varied in character from cast iron to

modern alkythene.

35. As already mentioned, the area beneath the slab was not subject to monitoring. The removal of the slab did, however, reveal one feature of archaeological interest, albeit a modern one: a rubble-lined well (010). This had been capped with sandstone blocks (009) and then covered by a packed clay surface (008), which had frequent coal flecks and which produced occasional finds of modern ceramic (glazed white earthenwares).
36. Notable by their absence were any ceramics pre-dating the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and also clay tobacco pipe fragments. Since clay tobacco pipes are common garden finds, the lack of these objects might suggest that the bulk of the work which took place in the garden took place post-1918, when clay tobacco pipes were replaced instead by cigarettes in popularity.

## Discussion

37. The soil profile revealed across the site was simple in character, but sufficient information could be gleaned from it to construct a narrative which detailed both the character of the pre-existing landform and the way in which human intervention had transformed it in the past.
38. It was clear from the varying depth of the subsoil that the ground level had changed significantly in the past c.150 years since the cottage was constructed in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The modern surface comprised a gentle slope which ran down from the rear boundary wall to the beginning of the extant garden/orchard area. This expanse of garden/orchard area then terminated at the northeast end in a series of brick revetted terraces located approximately 11m southwest of the rear elevation of the cottage. The original ground level also remained extant along the line of the northwest boundary wall as a brick revetted strip of raised ground which extended across the breadth of the plot for a distance of 4m.
39. Though the ground level across the breadth of the back plot had been consistent prior to ground reduction, it was apparent during the excavations that the original land form had sloped gently upwards from southeast to northwest, with the subsoil at the southeast end lying 0.6 to 0.7m beneath the modern ground surface, and the subsoil at the northwest end lying only 0.3 to 0.4m below the surface. While this could in part be explained by levels of ground disturbance during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the topography of the area did seem to support this general trend, with the ground levels in the neighbouring property to the southeast at a lower level and those of the access road to the northwest lying slightly higher.
40. The underlying subsoil across the extent of the site was a compact yellow-brown or yellow-grey sandy clay (003). This was very poorly draining: several field drains and other miscellaneous drains were encountered across the extent of the site, and once breached, the site soon became waterlogged. This might suggest that the area was never subject to intensive use until the modern period, a suggestion which is supported by the historic mapping evidence.
41. Further supporting this possibility is the artefactual evidence from the site. Apart from the modern drains, the only artefacts recovered during the excavations comprised sherds of modern ceramic (glazed white earthenware, mostly plain, but with some transfer-printed decoration present) and some modern bottle glass. The former were recovered from (001) and (002), the later from (001). There were no artefacts which derived either from the post-medieval (and pre-modern) period, or which predated it.
42. It was clear that the ground had been levelled at some point during the late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century, and that the original ground level had varied across the breadth of the site. It was also apparent, however, that extensive ground disturbance had taken place either at the time of this levelling process, or at a later date, or even in progressive phases throughout the site's history of occupation.

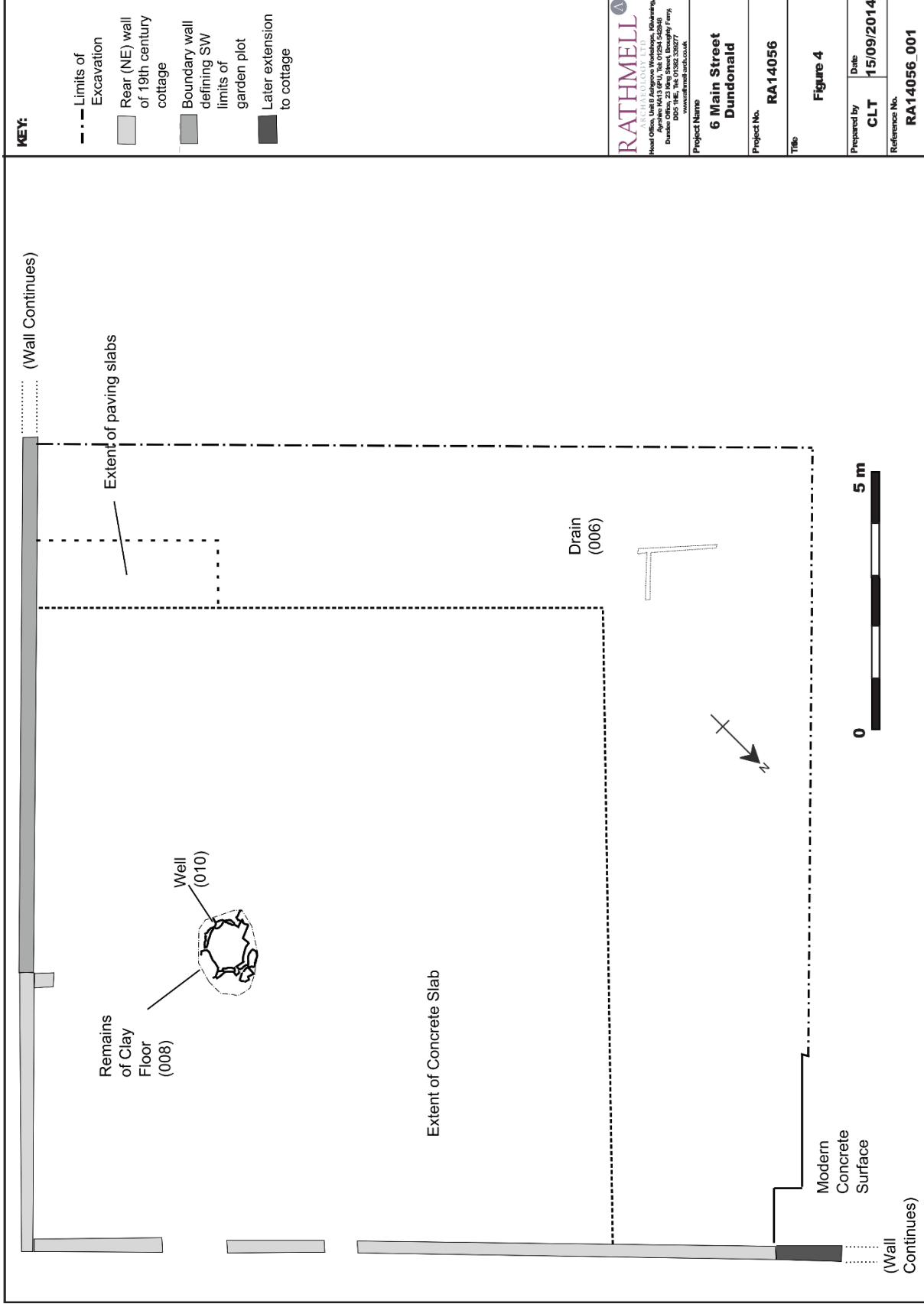


Figure 4: Plan of monitored area



Figure 5a: Looking S across garden plot to rear of cottage, towards (from l to r), SE boundary wall, drystone revetment wall (004) and late 20<sup>th</sup> century brick revetted terraces.



Figure 5b: Section through ground to the rear of modern brick revetment, showing topsoil/garden soil (001) directly overlying subsoil (003)



Figure 6a: SW-facing section at NE side of site, showing topsoil (001) overlying interface layer (002) and with natural (003) at relatively shallow depth below



Figure 6b: View of base of trench at W corner, showing late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century cast iron drain pipes sunk into subsoil

43. Clearly, the ground had been levelled to some degree in order to accommodate the cottage and its rear extension. At the same time, a well was sunk in order to service the needs of the household. This work resulted in the removal of topsoil to the level of the subsoil across the footprint of the house and also, perhaps, further to the rear, where the drystone revetment wall (004) formed the earliest garden feature.
44. It is possible, however, that (004) was instead contemporary with the remodelling of the house that took place during the closing years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. At this time, well (010) was capped with sandstone slabs (009), and the ground level raised through the dumping of a solid clay 'floor' (008) which was similar in character to that noted within the interior of the cottage and which presumably represented a redeposited soil or subsoil. This 'floor' deposit (008) was very compact and flecked with coal throughout. At the same time, the building was extended through the building of an additional section at the northwest gable end, and a replacement well (still extant) sunk there to provide a new source of fresh water for the household.
45. The garden area to the rear of the house footprint had clearly been subject to intensive reworking throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The earliest evidence of landscaping was provided by the drystone revetment wall (004) – this feature remained *in situ* at the end of the works, and was not investigated further. In addition to this earlier feature, the point of transition between house and garden was clearly demarcated by a series of terraces created through the piling-up of soil to the rear of a series of brick revetment walls. These were clearly of 20<sup>th</sup> century date.
46. That these terraces had been created to establish a level garden area was clear, but the nature of these works varied. Over the northwestern half, where the level of the subsoil was rising, topsoil (001) varied in depth between 0.3 and 0.4m, with a 0.2m thick interface (002) evident between topsoil (001) and subsoil (003). By contrast, over the southeastern half, the depth of the topsoil was between 0.6 to 0.7m, with this largely homogenous deposit directly overlying the natural.
47. There are two possible explanations for the different patterns seen across the site. Firstly, different methods of land use occurring here in modern times left two contrasting soil profiles. On the northeast side, the ground was used less intensively, perhaps for growing soft fruit. By contrast, the ground at the southwest was subject to intensive cultivation techniques such as 'double digging' for the growing of vegetables. This would explain the interface (002) between topsoil (001) and subsoil (003) in the northeast portion of the site.
48. It does not, however, fully explain the abrupt demarcation between topsoil (001) and subsoil (003) in the southwest portion of the site, though it certainly explains the great depth of subsoil and the high humic content of the soil. What seems more likely is that the ground lying between the cottage/extension and drystone revetment wall (004) was reduced to a level consistent with the upper limits of the subsoil (and the footprint of the house), with topsoil having to be either redistributed from elsewhere on the site or imported in order to build up the ground levels behind the brick revetment walls. Subsequent digging would then have homogenised the topsoil to such an extent that any demarcation between imported/redeposited soil could no longer be recognised.

## Recommendations

49. The archaeological monitoring works revealed evidence of landscaping activities which had taken place in the 19<sup>th</sup> and/or 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, but no features or artefacts pre-dating the modern period were identified, confirming the information provided by the historic mapping evidence and suggesting that all previous activity occurring on the site was either associated with the initial occupation of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century cottage or that it post-dated it.
50. Only one feature was identified: well (010), identified to the rear of the original portion of the cottage. This structure, which would have served the domestic needs of the household, can be interpreted as being contemporary with the cottage, i.e. of mid- to late-19<sup>th</sup> century date. The structure was recorded by the archaeologist, and is to be retained as an extant

feature and capped.

51. With no significant archaeological features identified, it is recommended that no further work should be carried out. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations must, however, rest with South Ayrshire Council and their advisors, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

## Conclusion

52. Archaeological monitoring work was carried out for Dundonald Homes on behalf of Mr Simon Scott, in support of the construction of an extension to the rear of an existing mid-19<sup>th</sup> century cottage at 6 Main Street, Dundonald (Planning Ref. No. 12/00164/APP). These archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area. Works took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> August and the 3<sup>rd</sup> September, respectively.
53. The programme of works began with the reduction to subsoil level of the open ground abutting an area of concrete slab which had formed the floor levels for an earlier extension to the rear of the cottage; this comprised the footprint of a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century outshot (abutting the rear elevation of the cottage and contemporary with its original construction) which was subsequently incorporated into a larger extension during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
54. This initial phase of ground reduction revealed that ground levels had already been reduced down to the subsoil over the southwest half of the site and that this work had continued across the area of ground now occupied by the concrete slab which marked the floor of the now-demolished extension. These large-scale landscaping activities had been carried out mostly during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, but their origins potentially lay within the late 19<sup>th</sup> century; they had transformed a gently sloping landform (prone to waterlogging) into a series of level terraces, defined by revetment walls (mostly brick, but with one earlier drystone wall present), also associated with a well-draining, humic soil which had clearly been intensively worked, presumably for the cultivation of vegetables.
55. Only one feature of archaeological significance was uncovered. This was a rubble-built well of modern date, built to service the needs of the adjacent cottage and almost certainly contemporary with its construction. It had been capped prior to the laying of a packed clay floor, similar to that seen inside the cottage: it is suggested that the well became disused and closed at the time the cottage was extended at the north-west end and a replacement well constructed there.

## Acknowledgements

56. The author would like to thank Mr Steven Holmes of Dundonald Homes and Mr Simon Scott for their support and co-operation during the project, and Mr Paul Robins and Mr Martin O'Hare of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service for their assistance throughout the on-site works. Thanks must also be extended to Ms Claire Williamson, Senior Archaeologist at Rathmell Archaeology, for casting an editorial eye over the text and for advising on graphics as required.

## References

### *Documentary*

- |                         |      |   |
|-------------------------|------|---|
| Ewart, G and Pringle, D | 2005 | 'Dundonald Castle Excavations 1986-93.' <i>In Scottish Archaeological Journal Vol. 26.1-2.</i>  |
| Rees, T                 | 2014 | <i>6 Main Street, Dundonald: Archaeological Monitoring. Written Scheme of Investigation. (Rathmell Archaeology Ltd, Unpublished report)</i> |



*Cartographic*

1793	Roy, William	Military Survey of Scotland - Lowlands (surveyed 1752-55)
1832	Thomson, J	Northern Part of Ayrshire, Southern Part
1860	Ordnance Survey	6" 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition Map of Ayrshire, Sheet XXII (surveyed 1857)
1897	Ordnance Survey	6" 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition Map of Ayrshire, Sheet XXII (surveyed 1895)

## Appendix 1: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site during the watching brief:-  
*Context Register*

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	-	Deposit	Loose, dark brown/black humic soil, varying in depth between 0.3 and 0.6m, occasional fragments of brick, slate, white earthenware.	Topsoil, heavily worked at SW side for horticultural use, perhaps used as a vegetable patch. Activity dates to late 19 <sup>th</sup> /early 20 <sup>th</sup> century.
002	-	Deposit	Yellow-brown/brown-orange compact silty clay, with occasional sherds of glazed white earthenware. Evident only over NE half of site, with an average depth of 0.2m.	Interface between Topsoil (001) and Subsoil (003). Perhaps indicative of long period spent as 'fallow' ground.
003	-	Deposit	Yellow-brown, slightly orange, compact silty clay, prone to waterlogging.	Natural subsoil.
004	-	Structure	Drystone wall 0.4m high, built into ground to rear to form a revetment. Composed of unworked whinstone blocks.	Garden feature, of late 19 <sup>th</sup> or early 20 <sup>th</sup> century date.
005	-	Deposit	Spread of black silty clay, glazed white earthenware and modern glass present.	Fill of surface trench, noted on plan during excavation and recorded by photographic image only. Contained cast iron pipe (006).
006	-	Structure	Cast iron pipe in 'T'-shaped arrangement. Runs across site from NW to SE, with branch running NE towards gully pot at junction between mid-19 <sup>th</sup> century cottage and late 19 <sup>th</sup> century extension.	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> /early 20 <sup>th</sup> century drain network.
007	-	Cut	Vertical sides, 0.7m deep, contains (005) and (006).	Cut of modern service trench.
008	-	Deposit	Very compact mid-brown silty clay, frequent coal flecks, occasional finds of glazed white earthenware.	'Floor' deposit laid over site of well, within footprint of mid-19 <sup>th</sup> century outshot.
009	-	Structure	Row of sandstone blocks, measuring 1.2 x 0.35 x 0.35 m in extent, laid over opening of Well (0101)	Capping for well, probably contemporary with extension to mid-19 <sup>th</sup> century cottage, i.e. late 19 <sup>th</sup> century date.

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
010	-	Structure	Circular shaft, 0.95m wide internal diameter, 2.4m deep. Lined with blocks of rubble, largely sandstone, some whinstone present, either unworked or roughly square. Three courses of masonry visible.	Well of mid-19 <sup>th</sup> century date, contemporary with original construction and occupation of cottage.

### Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
01	DSCF 0219	General view, pre-excavation	N	29/08/2014
02	DSCF 0220	General view, pre-excavation	W	29/08/2014
03	DSCF 0221	General view, pre-excavation	S	29/08/2014
04	DSCF 0222	General view, pre-excavation	SW	29/08/2014
05	DSCF 0223	SW-Facing section, to rear of modern brick revetment	SW	29/08/2014
06	DSCF 0224	SW half of site, post-excavation shot following ground reduction	NE	29/08/2014
07	DSCF 0225	N corner, post-excavation shot following ground reduction	N	29/08/2014
08	DSCF 0226	General view of 20 <sup>th</sup> century garden features	N	29/08/2014
09	DSCF 0227	Black spread (005) overlying drain (006)	E	29/08/2014

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
10	DSCF 0228	Black spread (005) removed, cast iron drain (006) revealed	E	29/08/2014
11	DSCF 0229	Soil profile revealed in section, NE side	E	29/08/2014
12	DSCF 0230	Cast iron drainpipe (006)	E	29/08/2014
13	DSCF 0231	SW-Facing Section, with modern cut (007) visible	SW	29/08/2014
14	DSCF 0232	Line of plastic drainpipe and brick revetment	E	29/08/2014
15	DSCF 0233	As above	E	29/08/2014
16	DSCF 0234	Drystone revetment wall (004)	NE	29/08/2014
17	001	Interior of cottage. NW wall - SW end	SE	29/08/2014
18	002	Interior of cottage, NW wall – central section	SE	29/08/2014
19	003	Interior of cottage, NW wall – NE End	SSE	29/08/2014
20	004	Interior of cottage – NE wall	WSW	29/08/2014
21	005	Interior of cottage, NE wall, close-up of fireplace	SW	29/08/2014
22	006	As above	SW	29/08/2014
23	007	Interior of cottage, NE wall, detail of alcove	SW	29/08/2014
24	008	Interior of cottage, SE wall – NE end	S	29/08/2014
25	009	Interior of cottage. SE wall – central section	NW	29/08/2014
26	010	Interior of cottage, SE wall – SW end	NW	29/08/2014
27	011	Interior of cottage, SE wall – close-up of masonry	S	29/08/2014

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
28	012	Interior of cottage, SE wall – close-up of masonry	NW	29/08/2014
29	013	Interior of cottage, SW wall	NE	29/08/2014
30	014	Interior of cottage, SW wall – close-up of fire-breast	NE	29/08/2014
31	015	Interior of cottage, SW wall – blocked aumbry next to fire-breast	NE	29/08/2014
32	016	Interior of cottage, SW wall – close-up of fireplace	NE	29/08/2014
33	017	Interior of cottage, SW wall – close-up of fireplace	N	29/08/2014
34	018	As above	N	29/08/2014
35	019	As above	NE	29/08/2014
36	020	Interior of cottage – detail of roof trusses	SSW	29/08/2014
37	021	As above	WSW	29/08/2014
38	022	Interior of cottage – general view	W	29/08/2014
39	023	As above	S	29/08/2014
40	001	Well (010) – view of masonry	NE	03/09/2013
41	002	Well (010) – on plan	NE/vert	03/09/2013
42	003	Well (010) – view of masonry	SE	03/09/2013
43	004	Well (010) – on plan	SE/vert	03/09/2013
44	005	Well (010) – on plan	SW/vert	03/09/2013
45	006	Well (010) – view of masonry	SW	03/09/2013
46	007	Well (010) – on plan	NW/vert	03/09/2013
47	008	Well (010) – view of masonry	NW	03/09/2013

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
48	009	Well (010) – general view	E	03/09/2013
49	010	Well (010) – general view	S	03/09/2013

*Drawings Register*

Find No.	Sheet No.	Area/Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawn by	Date
1		-	Plan	1:200	Post-excavation plan	CLT	29/08/2014 (amended 03/09/2014)
2		-	Section	1:20	Sample Section #1, rear face of excavations, NE facing, SE end	CLT	29/08/2014
3		-	Section	1:20	Sample Section #2, Rear face, NE facing, 10m NW of SE end	CLT	29/08/2014
4		-	Section	1:20	Upper courses of Well (010) – in section	CLT	29/08/2014
5		-	Plan	1:20	Plan of Well (010)	CLT	03/09/2014

## Appendix 2: Discovery &amp; Excavation in Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	South Ayrshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	6 Main Street, Dundonald
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	RA14056
<b>PARISH:</b>	Dundonald
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Louise Turner
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching brief
<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 3651 3459
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	29 <sup>th</sup> August, 2014
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	3 <sup>rd</sup> September, 2014
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (may include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological monitoring of ground breaking works to the rear of 6 Main Street, Dundonald revealed no evidence of human occupation or activity earlier than the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century cottage which still stands upon the site.</p> <p>To the rear of the cottage was found a rubble built well, circular on plan. Presumably contemporary with the cottage, the well was capped and sealed beneath a clay surface during rebuilding works in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century which extended the cottage to the north-east and included the sinking of a replacement well within the new extension.</p> <p>Historic map evidence suggests that the creation of this particular building plot and the construction of a cottage in this location took place no earlier than the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century and the archaeological remains uncovered tend to support this. Prior to this date, it is surmised that the site formed part of parkland attached to the castle or common grazing used by the residents of Kirkton of Dundonald.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Simon Scott
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
<b>E MAIL:</b>	<a href="mailto:contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk">contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to RCAHMS Collections

## Contact Details

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

Rathmell Archaeology Ltd  
Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops  
Kilwinning  
Ayrshire  
KA13 6PU

[www.rathmell-arch.co.uk](http://www.rathmell-arch.co.uk)

t.: 01294 542848

f.: 01294 542849

e.: [contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk](mailto:contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk)

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