

**Lochside Motte:  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Data Structure Report



by Liam McKinstry

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on behalf of Ironside Farrar Ltd

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## Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Ironside Farrar Ltd in support of site investigation works undertaken on open amenity ground as part of the proposed Dumfries Schools project at Locharbriggs, Dumfries. The archaeological works were designed to clarify whether a raised mound - located within the development area and historically been identified as the site of an earth-and-timber castle or 'motte' - is an archaeological site or a natural feature.
2. These archaeological works are designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area. This report covers the excavation of an evaluation trench which was placed across the mound, with works carried out on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2014.
3. Dumfries and Galloway Council required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken in support of any planning consent which may be granted by the planning authority. Dumfries and Galloway Archaeology Service, who advise Dumfries and Galloway Council on archaeological matters, provided guidance on the structure of archaeological mitigation required on this site prior to and during development works.
4. The method statement (McKinstry 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

5. The development area comprises an unenclosed area of amenity ground with attached playing fields which is bounded by Lochside road to the north, Alloway Road to the west and Osbourne Drive to the south and east. Surrounding the development area on all sides are a number of housing estates. A prominent sub-oval shaped mound, thought to be the remains of an earth-and-timber castle or 'motte' of medieval date, is located within the north eastern part of the development site (Canmore ID 65604 and DGC HER Ref. MDG25524).
6. The earliest sound cartographic evidence for the site dates to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and is provided by Roy's military map of 1752-55 (Figure 1a) and Ainslie's map of 1797 (Figure 1b). Both show the development area as either a small peninsula or island within a loch. This loch was named 'College Loch' in both of these maps, suggesting that the loch and its immediate environs had once been part of lands owned by Lincluden College (Canmore ID 65571), a Benedictine nunnery founded in 1164. These maps also show a change in the overall size of the loch with Roy's earlier map depicting a smaller body of water with an area of moss to the south. In contrast Ainslie depicts a much more extensive loch which encompasses Roy's moss to the south. This discrepancy may indicate that at the time these maps were surveyed, the loch's level was subject to large scale fluctuations.
7. Early 19<sup>th</sup> century cartographic evidence shows that the College Loch still existed at this time (e.g. Thomson's map of 1832, not illustrated) but by the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (published 1854) the loch had clearly been drained, with the sub-oval shaped mound visible in detail for the first time. It seems probable that the drainage of the loch coincided with the construction of a farm - Lochside - to the immediate north of the mound. This in turn may reflect earlier land improvements associated with the construction of Lincluden House along with its associated grounds and buildings (Canmore 207871) in a location beyond the Glasgow road to the northeast. The building of this house appears to have excised the earlier township of Lincluden shown on Roy.
8. Despite the dramatic changes in the landscape, cross-reference between the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854 and Ainslie's map of 1797 is possible: it appears credible, for example, that the structure named 'Mussup' on the latter shares a common site with the building named 'Lochside Cottage' on the former.



Figure 1a: Extract from Roy's Military Map of 1752-55



Figure 1b: Extract from Ainslie, J 1797 The Stewartry of Kirkcudbright



Figure 2a: 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6 inch to mile 1854 (Kirkcudbrightshire Sheet 27)

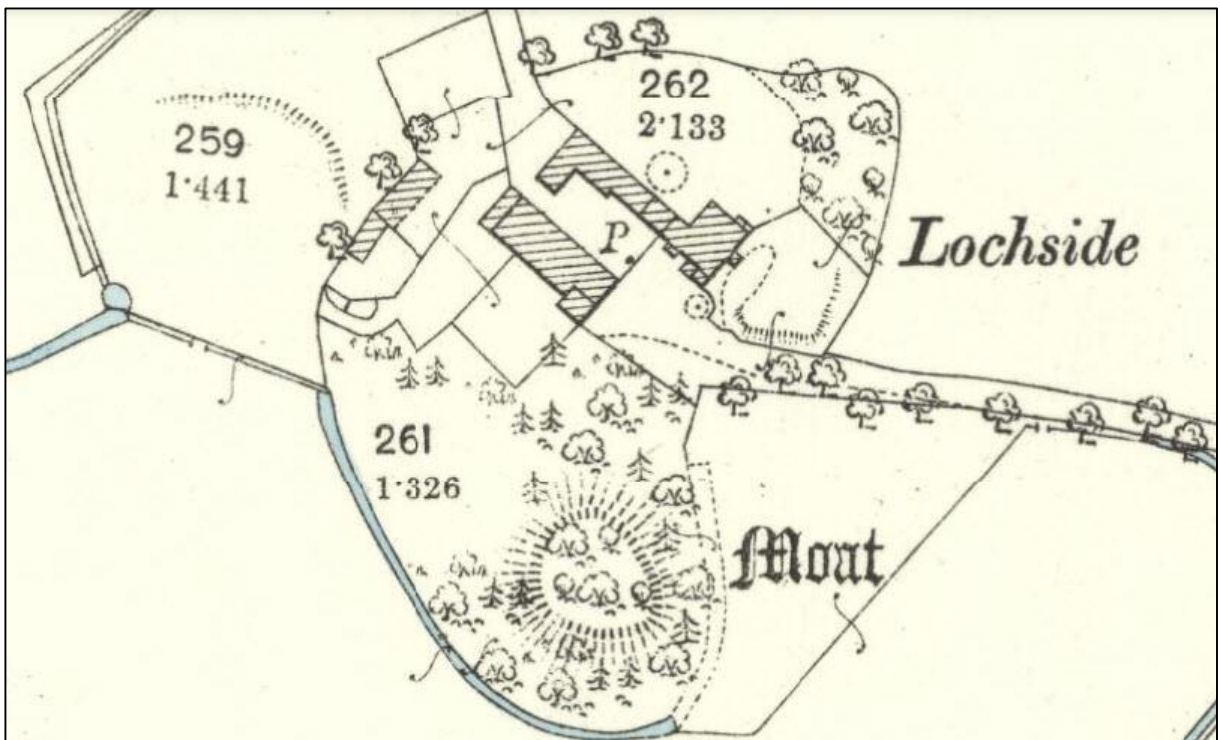


Figure 2b: Extract from 2nd edition Ordnance Survey, 25 inch to mile 1894 (Kirkcudbrightshire Sheet 021.16)

9. Shown as skirting the western, southern and eastern sides of the mound on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition map is a series of conjoined open ditches which form part of an agricultural drainage system surrounding the farm (Figure 2a). The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition map of 1894 shows little change, though covered culverts have now been introduced over stretches of the drainage system, including that section which runs along the eastern side of the mound (Figure 2b). Another change which should be noted from a comparison between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> editions is the reference to a 'moat' on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition: this may indicate that the mound is now being interpreted as a motte, perhaps following a misidentification of the drainage ditch curving round its base.
10. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance survey map of 1909 shows no further change and it is not until the later 20<sup>th</sup> century that housing developments begin to encroach upon the environs of the development area and the mound.
11. Other than the mound there are no known sites within the development area. There are however known upstanding medieval sites in the wider vicinity, such as Lincluden College (Canmore ID 65571) and Kirkhill motte (Canmore ID 65582), both located to the northeast of the development area. Finds of Roman coins have also been recovered from gardens at Lewars Avenue (Canmore ID 65598), to the immediate north of the site, so the presence of previously unknown roman or prehistoric period sites is also a possibility.

## Project Works

12. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2014, in keeping with the terms of the method statement (McKinstry 2014). Works consisted of the excavation of a single intrusive trench (124.8m<sup>2</sup> in total) placed across the mound (Figure 3) in a northwest – southeast direction. The trench was subsequently extended southwestwards over the top of the mound to further investigate possible features identified there (covering an additional 12.48m<sup>2</sup>, giving an area of 137.28m<sup>2</sup> in total).
13. All works were conducted in accordance with Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeology Service's Conditions, the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

## Findings

14. The topsoil (001) which covers the mound (shown prior to excavation in Figure 5a) and surrounds it was highly disturbed and most likely represents a relatively modern deposit. It consisted of loose to moderately compacted mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional to moderate small stone and gravel inclusions. On the mound itself, the topsoil overlay two areas of subsoil (009) and (010).
15. On the north western side of the mound, the subsoil comprised a loose to firmly-compact red-orange sand with moderate to frequent small stone and gravel inclusions and occasional larger stones (009). This layer (Figure 5b) may have been naturally occurring, though the looseness of the layer in places suggested that it could have been re-deposited and perhaps even dumped there at the same time as the landfill material (004).
16. On the top and south eastern side of the mound, by contrast, the subsoil consisted of a highly compacted light to mid orange-yellow sand (with pinkish patches) which contained frequent small stone and gravel and occasional larger stone inclusions (010). The layer was also highly disturbed in places by root or burrow activity (017) but unlike the north western side did appear to be naturally occurring. Further evidence of disturbance was located on the mound's southeast side where a layer of ash-like sand (011) was identified overlying the subsoil (010). Darker patches and areas within this layer contained frequent organic material (Figure 6a).

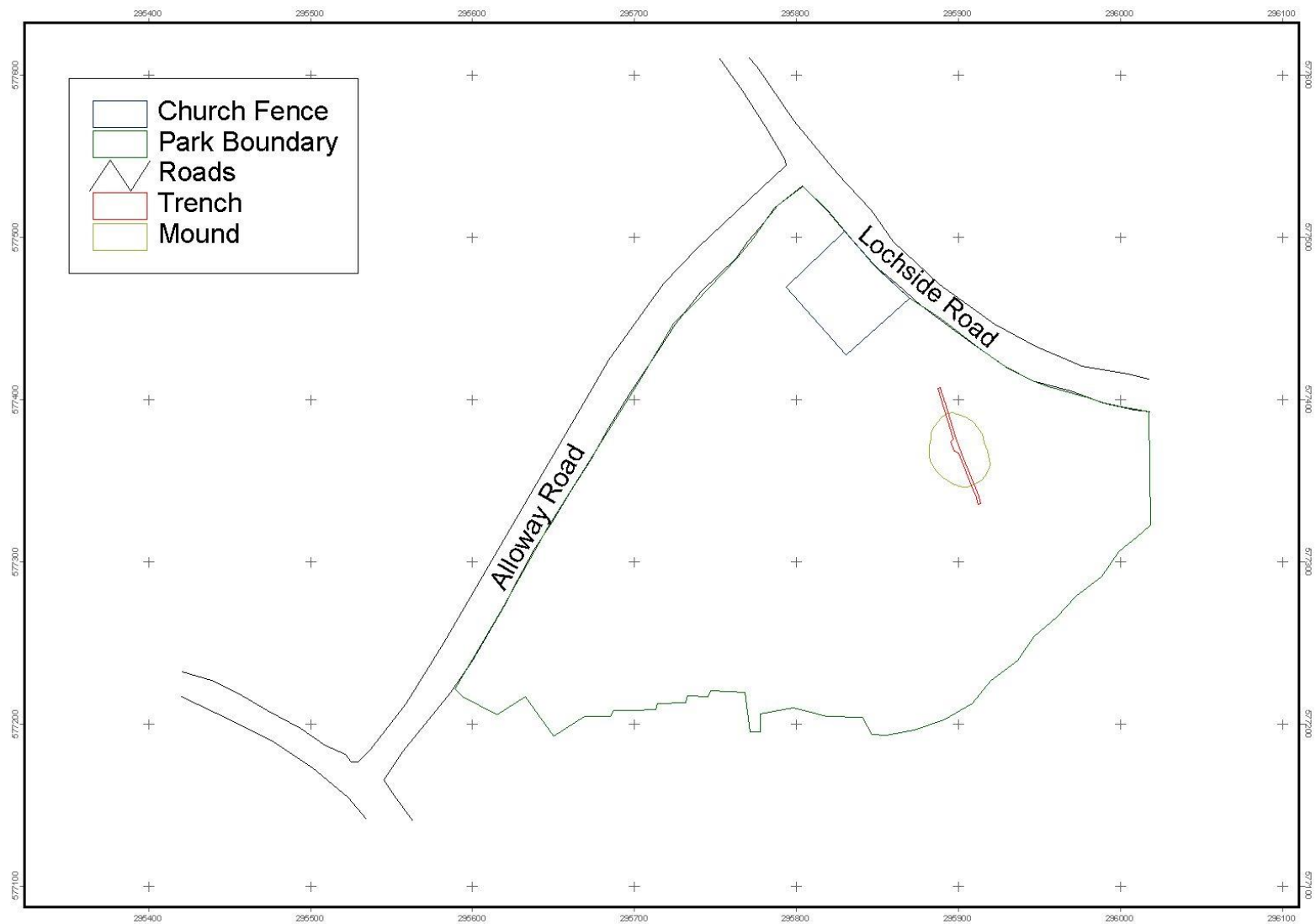


Figure 3: Trench Location Plan



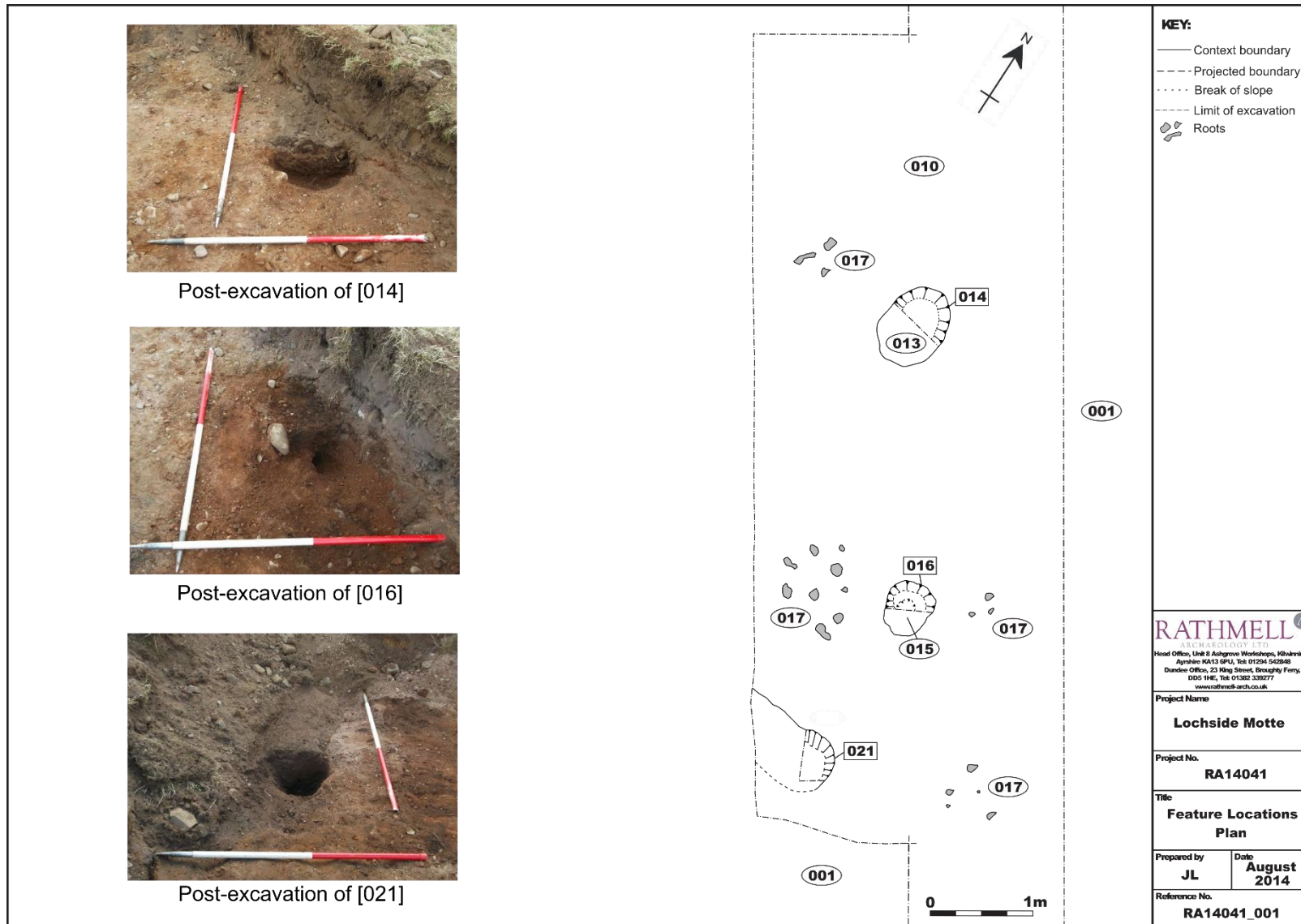


Figure 4: Plan of significant archaeological features

17. On the lower ground to the northwest and southeast the topsoil overlay a thick layer of re-deposited subsoil (002). Consisting of moderately compacted mid orange-brown silty sand with frequent small stone and gravel inclusions and occasional larger stone inclusions, the layer had an overall thickness ranging between 0.2m and 0.51m. This redeposited soil formed a deliberate seal over a very thick layer of 1950's or 1960's landfill material (004) which lay on the lower ground to the northwest and southeast of the mound (Figure 6b). This layer consisted of loose to moderately compact mixed dark grey/dark grey brown silt/peat. There were frequent (80%) modern refuse inclusions (glass, metal, plastic and organic) within the layer (Figures 6b and 7a), which ranged in thickness between 0.1m deep (at the edge of the mound) to 0.58m - due to safety considerations the full depth of the deposit could not be ascertained.
18. The landfill material had been deposited directly onto a pre-existing layer of topsoil (003). This older ground level consisted of moderately-compacted mid to dark grey-brown silt/peat with occasional small stone and pebble inclusions and ranged in thickness between 0.07m to 0.23m. The old ground level covered two layers of naturally-occurring subsoil at the north western and south eastern edges of the mound. The north-western layer (005) consisted of compacted mid yellow-orange sand with no inclusions, and had a depth range (where excavated) of 0.3m to 0.34m. The south-eastern layer (012) consisted of firmly compacted light grey sandy/silty sand (with darker patches and mottling) with no inclusions and had an excavated depth range of 0.05m to 0.15m.
19. Several features (shown together in Figure 4) were identified during the course of the works. All were grouped together on top of the mound and each cut into the naturally occurring subsoil (010). Upon excavation, three of these features proved to be significant.
20. The first of the three - [021] - appeared to be linear in plan and orientated in an ENE-WSW alignment (though it should be acknowledged that the feature was not fully exposed or excavated to its base). Its visible extent measured 1.14m from ENE to WSW by 0.52m transversely. It was excavated to a depth of 0.43m deep (Figure 7b), and it had three fills: (018), (019) and (020). The upper fill (018) consisted of firmly compacted mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small stone and gravel inclusions and measured 0.18m deep. The middle fill, (019), consisted of a moderately compacted lens of dark grey-black charcoal 0.02m thick. The lower fill (020) measured 0.18m deep and consisted of moderately compacted mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small stone and gravel inclusions.
21. To the northwest of linear feature [021] were two postholes, [014] and [016]. Posthole [014] was sub-oval in plan and measured 0.84m from N to S by 0.6m transversely and 0.28m deep (Figure 8a). The feature was orientated in an N-S direction and had one fill (013). This consisted of moderately-compacted mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional to moderate small stone, pebble and gravel inclusions. Posthole [016] was sub-oval/irregular-shaped in plan and measured 0.52m from NNW to SSE by 0.44m and 0.21m deep (Figure 8b). The slightly concave base was highly disturbed in places by root or burrow damage. The feature was orientated in a NNW-SSE direction and filled by (015), a loose to moderately compacted mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional to moderate small stone and gravel inclusions.
22. A northeast-southwest orientated linear feature [006] was identified at the north western edge of the mound, cut into the older ground surface (003). The feature (Figure 9a) was linear in plan and measured 1.56m wide by 0.53m deep. Its upper fill (007) consisted of very compacted mixed orange-brown/dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small pebble and gravel inclusions. The lower fill (008) consisted of a moderately compacted dark grey-brown silt/peat with no inclusions.



Figure 5a: Pre-excitation view of the mound, seen from the north



Figure 5b: North-western side of the mound showing natural subsoil (009). From the northwest



Figure 6a: South eastern side of the mound showing natural subsoils (010) and (012). From the east southeast.



Figure 6b: Northeast facing section showing redeposited layer (002) and landfill (004)

23. Another possible ditch cut [023] was identified two to three metres from the south eastern end of the main trench at a depth of 1.4m to 1.6m (Figure 9b). The ditch could only be observed along its north western edge as it cut into naturally occurring subsoil layer (012): its upper fill (024) appeared to be a dark grey-brown silty peat, but most of the cut could not be fully exposed, partly for reasons of safety and partly on account of hitting the water table.
24. To the northwest of linear feature [021] were two postholes, [014] and [016]. Posthole [014] was sub-oval in plan and measured 0.84m from N to S by 0.6m transversely and 0.28m deep (Figure 8a). The feature was orientated in an N-S direction and had one fill (013). This consisted of moderately-compacted mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional to moderate small stone, pebble and gravel inclusions. Posthole [016] was sub-oval/irregular-shaped in plan and measured 0.52m from NNW to SSE by 0.44m and 0.21m deep (Figure 8b). The slightly concave base was highly disturbed in places by root or burrow damage. The feature was orientated in a NNW-SSE direction and filled by (015), a loose to moderately compacted mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional to moderate small stone and gravel inclusions.
25. A northeast-southwest orientated linear feature [006] was identified at the north western edge of the mound, cut into the older ground surface (003). The feature (Figure 9a) was linear in plan and measured 1.56m wide by 0.53m deep. Its upper fill (007) consisted of very compacted mixed orange-brown/dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small pebble and gravel inclusions. The lower fill (008) consisted of a moderately compacted dark grey-brown silt/peat with no inclusions. Another possible ditch cut [023] was identified two to three metres from the south eastern end of the main trench at a depth of 1.4m to 1.6m (Figure 9b). The ditch could only be observed along its north western edge as it cut into naturally occurring subsoil layer (012): its upper fill (024) appeared to be a dark grey-brown silty peat, but most of the cut could not be fully exposed, partly for reasons of safety and partly on account of hitting the water table.
26. A number of other features – including (017) - were identified on top of the mound, but these proved to be natural in origin on excavation, the results of root action or burrowing activity. Another feature identified in this same location, which was sub-square shaped in plan, upon excavation proved to be a naturally occurring stone hole.

## Discussion

27. The evaluation trench at Lochside Motte revealed little evidence to suggest that the mound was anthropic in nature. It suggested instead that the 'motte' comprised a small, naturally occurring rise which would originally have formed a small island within what had been known as 'College Loch.' This name refers to a body of water depicted on historic mapping and most likely named after Lincluden College (the medieval nunnery situated to the northeast of the loch).
28. The loch was marked on a number of early maps such as Roy's military map of 1752-55 and Ainslie's 1792 map of Kirkcudbrightshire (see Figures 1a and 1b). Both maps show islands within the loch: presumably one of these represents the mound.
29. Later Ordnance survey maps (Figures 2a and 2b) show that the loch area was drained presumably to create additional land for nearby Lochside Farm which was located to the immediate northwest of the mound. These drainage works may have been part of wider landscape improvements associated with the building of the nearby mansion house at Lincluden.
30. As the nearby town of Dumfries expanded in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century the marginal and probably waterlogged ground surrounding the mound was utilised as an unrecorded landfill site. This later land use was clearly evidenced within the evaluation trench with the lower ground surrounding the mound on all sides proving to be re-deposited.



Figure 7a: View of Landfill (004)



Figure 7b: East-northeast facing section of linear feature [021]



Figure 8a: North-facing section of posthole [014]



Figure 8b: North-facing section of posthole [016]



Figure 9a: Northeast-facing section showing shallow ditch [006] at edge of mound



Figure 9b: Northeast facing section showing ditch [023] at base of mound



31. There were two distinct re-deposited layers identified around the mound. The first of these appeared to represent a re-deposited subsoil (002) which underlay the present day topsoil surface (001). This re-deposited subsoil acted as a seal over another re-deposited layer of modern landfill material (004). The natural sand subsoil, characterised by (005) and (012) on both sides of the mound respectively, were identified at a depth of over a metre below these re-deposited layers.
32. A shallow ditch [006] cut through subsoil (005) at the north western base of the mound. This shallow ditch seemed to correspond with a field boundary or drainage ditch associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century Lochside Farm which is shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854 located to the immediate northwest of the mound. Another ditch [023] was identified on the south eastern side of the mound, cut into the subsoil (012). This ditch seems to relate to a large 19<sup>th</sup> century culvert or drain which ran around the edge of the north eastern, south western and south eastern sides of the mound.
33. A cluster of three significant features were identified on the top of the mound (Figures 8a, 8b and 9). These features included a possible linear feature [021] and two nearby postholes [014] and [016]. No dateable evidence was recovered from these features but their location on top of the mound and the fact that they were clustered together may suggest that they were part of a structure. All additional features identified on top of the mound – in particular (017) and (022) - were evidence of tree growth/animal activity or clearance.
34. No evidence was recovered from the site to suggest that the mound was a medieval motte, as suggested by the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map. It appears instead to be a natural rise which in the past had been an island within College Loch. However the features identified on the top of the mound suggest that this island was occupied to some extent in the past though at present there is no evidence to provide a date or a reason for this occupation.

## Recommendations

35. This Data Structure Report covers archaeological works carried out in support of the proposed Dumfries Schools project that was undertaking site investigation works on open amenity ground at Locharbriggs, Dumfries. The recommendations put forward in this document will be contributory to any final recommendations made on the completion of the works.
36. The evaluation trench confirmed that Lochside Motte was a naturally occurring rise which had at one time been an island within the former 'College Loch' (drained in the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century) rather than a medieval period motte as has been suggested in the past.
37. The lower ground surrounding the mound was made up of modern re-deposited layers covering a 1950's or 1960's landfill deposit, while the mound itself showed signs of root and burrowing activity with the north western side also possibly made up of re-deposited material.
38. Three significant features, two postholes and a linear feature, were identified on the top of the mound though no dateable evidence was recovered from them. These features may have been part of a structure though it is impossible to be more specific about its possible date and function without uncovering more of the mound to establish the feature's full shape and extent.
39. Though it is now clear that the mound is not a medieval motte, the features on its summit show that some activity had taken place there at an earlier date. It is therefore recommended that any future works which may impact on the mound should be subject to a further program of archaeological evaluation or monitoring to ascertain if there are further structural elements on top of the mound and also to determine a date and function for these features.

40. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with Dumfries and Galloway Council and Andrew Nicholson of the Council's Archaeology Service.

## Conclusion

41. An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Lochside Motte, Lincluden, for Ironside Farrar Ltd, in support of site investigation works which took place on open amenity ground in advance of the proposed Dumfries Schools project at Locharbriggs, Dumfries. The archaeological works were designed to clarify whether a raised mound, located within the development area and historically identified as a medieval 'motte', was an archaeological site or in fact a natural feature.
42. Dumfries and Galloway Council required this programme of archaeological works in support of any planning consent which may be granted by the planning authority. Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeology Service, who advise Dumfries and Galloway Council on archaeological matters, provided guidance on the structure of archaeological mitigation required on this site prior to and during development works.
43. The evaluation consisted of the excavation of a single intrusive trench (exposing an area measuring 137.28m<sup>2</sup> in total) placed across the mound at Lochside Motte, Lincluden in a northwest – southeast direction. The trench was extended on the top of the mound to further investigate possible features identified on the top of the mound.
44. The evaluation trench at Lochside Motte revealed little evidence to suggest that the mound was anthropic in nature but confirmed instead that it was a small, naturally occurring rise. This would have formed a small island within what had been known as 'College Loch' (most likely named after Lincluden College, a medieval nunnery situated to the northeast of the loch). The loch was marked on a number of early maps such as Roy's military map of 1752-55 and Ainslie's 1792 map of Kirkcudbrightshire (Figures 1a and 1b) which also showed islands within the loch - presumably one of these islands represents the mound.
45. Later Ordnance Survey maps (Figure 2a and 2b) showed that the loch area was drained, presumably to create additional land for nearby Lochside Farm. These drainage works may also have been associated with wider landscaping activities carried out during the building of the nearby mansion house at Lincluden. As the nearby town of Dumfries expanded in the mid-20th century the marginal and probably waterlogged ground surrounding the mound was utilised as an unrecorded landfill site. This was clearly seen within the evaluation trench where the lower ground surrounding the mound on all sides proved to be re-deposited.
46. Two re-deposited layers were identified around the mound. The first of these was what appeared to be a re-deposited subsoil, (002), which underlay the present day topsoil surface (001). This re-deposited subsoil acted as a seal over another re-deposited layer of modern landfill material (004). The natural sand subsoil, characterised by (005) and (012) on both sides of the mound - was identified at a depth of over a metre beneath these re-deposited layers. A shallow ditch [006] cutting through subsoil (005) at the north western base of the mound seemed to correspond with a field boundary or drainage ditch associated with the 19th century Lochside Farm which was located to the immediate northwest of the mound. Another ditch [023] was identified on the south-eastern side of the mound, also cutting into subsoil (012). This ditch seemed to relate to a large 19th century culvert or drain which skirted the north-eastern, south-western and south-eastern sides of the mound.
47. A cluster of three significant features was identified on top of the mound. These features included a possible linear feature [021] and two associated postholes, [014] and [016]. No dateable evidence was recovered but their location on top of the mound and the fact that they were clustered together suggest that they may have been part of a structure. Other features identified on the top of the mound - (017) and (022) - resulted from tree growth, animal activity or clearance.
48. No evidence was recovered from the site to suggest that the mound was a medieval motte, as was suggested in the historic map evidence; rather, it represented a natural

rise which in the past had been an island within small loch. However the presence of features on the top of the mound suggests that this island was occupied in some way in the past, though at present there is no evidence to provide a date or purpose for this occupation.

## Acknowledgements

49. The author would like to thank Ironside Farrar Ltd for their support throughout the project and Louise Turner and Claire Williamson of Rathmell Archaeology Ltd. for their kind input and editing.
50. This project was monitored for the Dumfries and Galloway Councils Archaeology Service by Andrew Nicholson who gave on-site guidance and direction.

## References

### *Documentary*

- McKinstry, L            51.2014    *Lochside Motte, Lincluden, Dumfries and Galloway. Archaeological Evaluation Method Statement.*

### *Cartographic*

- |         |                 |   |
|---------|-----------------|---|
| 1752-55 | Roy, W          | Roy's Lowland Map   |
| 1797    | Ainslie, J      | The Stewartry of Kirkcudbright                            |
| 1854    | Ordnance Survey | 1 <sup>st</sup> edition Map of Kirkcudbrightshire 1: 2500 |
| 1894    | Ordnance Survey | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition Map of Kirkcudbrightshire 1:2500  |

## 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 to moderately compacted mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional to moderate small stone and gravel inclusions. Overlay re-deposited natural subsoil layer (002).	Thin topsoil layer which covered the open amenity ground at Locharbriggs.
002	-	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid orange-brown silty sand with frequent small stone and gravel inclusions. There were also occasional larger stone inclusions. Located within the lower ground to the NW and SE of the mound within the evaluation trench. The layer had an overall thickness range within the evaluation trench of 0.2m to 0.51m.	Thick layer of re-deposited subsoil which surrounded the mound on lower ground to the NW and SE. The material seemed to have been deliberately deposited so as to cover a layer of modern (1950's to 1960's) landfill (004).
003	-	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid to dark grey-brown silt/peat with occasional small stone and pebble inclusions. The layer was located on the low ground to the NW and SE of the mound. The layer had a thickness range of 0.07m to 0.23m.	A buried topsoil layer which represented an older boggy ground surface of the loch after it had been drained. The modern landfill surface (004) was deposited over this surface.
004	-	Deposit	Loose to moderately compact mixed dark grey/dark grey brown silt/peat. Very frequent (80%) modern refuse inclusions (glass, metal, plastic and organic). The layer was located on the lower ground to the NW and SE of the mound. The layer had a thickness range of 0.1m (at the edge of the mound) to 0.58m (though full depth unknown). Overlay the older ground level (003) and was sealed by a deliberate layer re-deposited subsoil (002).	Very thick layer of deliberate landfill most likely dating to the 1950's or 1960's. The layer was dumped directly over the old ground level within the drained loch.
005	-	Deposit	Compacted mid yellow-orange sand with no inclusions. Layer had a depth range (where excavated) of 0.3m to 0.34m. The layer underlay the old topsoil/ground level	Naturally occurring subsoil at the NW base of the mound.

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			(003) around the mound.	
006	-	Cut	Linear in plan. Measured 1.6m (within trench) by 1.56m wide and 0.53m deep. The break of slope at the top was sharp. The sides sloped at a 45° angle. The break of slope at the base was gradual. The base was rounded. The feature was orientated in a NE-SW direction. The feature was filled by (007) and (008).	Remains of a shallow ditch which ran close to the NW limits of the base of the mound. The ditch is most likely a field boundary associated with a 19 <sup>th</sup> century farm which was located immediately to the NW of the mound.
007	-	Fill	Very compact mixed orange-brown/dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small pebble and gravel inclusions. The fill was 0.83m wide and 0.39m deep.	Upper fill within ditch [006].
008	-	Fill	Moderately compacted dark grey-brown silt/peat with no inclusions. The fill was 1.56m wide and 0.18-0.44m thick.	Lower fill within ditch [006].
009	-	Deposit	Loose to firmly compacted red-orange sand with moderate to frequent small stone and gravel inclusions and occasional larger stones. Located on the NW side of the mound. Thickness of 0.2m where excavated. Underlay the modern topsoil layer (001).	Possibly the underlying subsoil on the mound's NW side, though the looseness of the layer in places may suggest that it had been re-deposited and possibly dumped there at the same time as landfill material (004).
010	-	Deposit	Very compact light to mid orange-yellow (with pinkish patches) sand. The layer contained frequent small stone and gravel and occasional larger stone inclusions. Full depth unknown but was excavated to a depth of between 0.1m to 0.15m. Layer underlay modern topsoil (001). Highly disturbed in places by root or burrow activity (017).	The natural subsoil which made up the top and SE side of the mound.
011	-	Deposit	Loosely compacted light to mid grey-brown sand (ash-like material). Darker patches and areas within the layer contained frequent organics. Located on the mound's SE side. The layer was 1.6m long from NE-SW, 3m to 4m from NW to SE and had a thickness range of 0.08m to 0.14m.	Sandy ash-like layer deposited under the modern topsoil (001). May be contemporary with the landfill stage or possibly relates to vegetation clearance on the mound.
012	-	Deposit	Firmly compacted light grey (with darker patches and mottling) sand/silty sand with no inclusions. The layer had an excavated depth range of 0.05m to 0.15m. The layer	Naturally occurring subsoil at the SE base of the mound.

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			underlay the older ground surface/topsoil (003).	
013	-	Fill	Moderately compacted mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional to moderate small stone, pebble and gravel inclusions. The fill had a thickness of 0.28m.	Fill of possible posthole [014]
014	-	Cut	Sub-oval in plan. Measured 0.84m from N to S, 0.6m from E to W and 0.28m deep. The break of slope at the top was sharp. The sides were near vertical. The break of slope at the base was moderate. The base was slightly concave. The feature was orientated in an N-S direction. The feature was filled by (013). The feature was cut into the natural subsoil (010).	Cut of possible posthole located on the top of the mound. Possibly associated with features [016] and [021].
015	-	Fill	Loose to moderately compacted mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional to moderate small stone and gravel inclusions. The fill and cut were also highly disturbed by root or burrow activity. The fill was 0.21m deep.	Fill within possible posthole [016].
016	-	Cut	Sub-oval/irregular in plan. Measured 0.52m from NNW to SSE, 0.44m from NNE to SSW and 0.21m deep. Break of slope at the top was sharp. The sides were almost vertical. The break of slope at the base was gradual. The base was slightly concave but was highly disturbed in places by root or burrow damage. The feature was orientated in a NNW-SSE direction. The feature was filled by (015).	Cut of possible posthole located on the top of the mound. The feature had been partially damaged by root or burrow activity. Possibly associated with features [014] and [021].
017	-	Root/Burrow	Dark loosely compacted patches within the natural subsoil at the top and SE side of the mound (010). The darker patches contained frequent organic material.	Root or burrowing activity at the top and SE side of the mound. Possibly modern 19 <sup>th</sup> or 20 <sup>th</sup> century in date as the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ordnance Survey maps show the mound and the area nearby to be wooded at this time.
018	-	Fill	Firmly compacted mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small stone and gravel inclusions. The fill was 0.18m deep.	Upper fill of possible linear feature [021].
019	-	Fill/lens	Moderately compacted dark grey-black charcoal. Fill/lens was 0.02m thick.	Middle fill or lens within possible linear feature [021].

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
020	-	Fill	Moderately compacted mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small stone and gravel inclusions. The fill was 0.18m deep.	Lower fill within possible linear feature [021].
021	-	Cut	Linear in plan (though not fully exposed). Measured 1.14m from ENE to WSW, 0.52m from ESE to WNW and 0.43m deep. The break of slope at the top was sharp. The sides were near vertical. The break of slope at the base and the base itself were not exposed so the overall depth and shape of the feature were unclear. The feature was orientated in an ENE-WSW direction. The cut was filled by (018), (019) and (020).	Cut of possible linear feature located on top of the mound. The full size and shape of the feature were unclear as it was only partially exposed. It may have been associated with possible posthole/pits [014] and [016].
022	-	Rock socket	Sub-square shaped rock socket located on top of the mound. Fill within the socket was orange/red/pink sandstone fragments. The rock socket measured 0.39m by 0.4m and was 0.17m deep. The rock socket was located 19-20m SE of cut [014].	Rock socket located on top of the mound. Possibly caused by the modern clearance of trees and vegetation from the top of the mound.
023		Cut	Partially observable cut located 2m to 3m from the south eastern end of the evaluation trench and at a depth of 1.4m to 1.6m from the modern ground level. High water table and deep excavation of trench meant that it was unsafe to follow the ditch further.	19 <sup>th</sup> century culvert or drainage ditch located to the southeast side of the mound.
024	-	Fill	Dark grey-brown silty peat. Depth and width unknown due to waterlogging.	Upper fill of culvert or drainage ditch [023]. To waterlogged to continue the excavation further.

*Photographic Register*

<b>Image No.</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Date</b>
01	1	Pre-excavation view of the mound.	S	30/07/14
02	2	Pre-excavation view of the mound.	NW	30/07/14
03	3	Pre-excavation view of the mound.	NW	30/07/14
04	4	NE-facing section of evaluation trench at 3m from the NW. Shows landfill material (004).	NE	30/07/14
05	5	View of the evaluation trench at 3m from the NW. Shows landfill material (004).	NW	30/07/14
06	6	View of evaluation trench through NW side of mound. Shows top part of landfill (004) after the removal of (002).	NW	30/07/14
07	7	NE-facing section at the NW side of the mound.	NE	30/07/14
08	8	NE-facing section at the base of the mound, NW side. Shows ditch feature [006].	NE	30/07/14
09	9	View of the base of the mound, NW side. Shows ditch feature [006] and natural subsoil (009).	NW	30/07/14
10	10	NE-facing section on the NW side of the mound.	NE	30/07/14
11	11	View of the NW side of the mound.	NW	30/07/14
12	12	View of the NW crest of the mound.	NW	30/07/14
13	13	View of the NE-facing section on the NW crest of the mound.	NE	30/07/14
14	14	View of the top of the mound.	NW	30/07/14
15	15	View of the top of the mound.	NW	30/07/14
16	16	View of the NE-facing section at the top of the mound. Shows ash-like deposit (011).	NW	30/07/14
17	17	View of the SE side of the mound.	SE	30/07/14
18	18	View of the NE-facing section of the mound's SE side.	NE	30/07/14
19	19	View of NE-facing section of mound's south eastern base.	NE	30/07/14



Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
20	20	View of NE-facing section of mound's SE base.	ESE	30/07/14
21	21	View of the SE base of the mound. Shows start of ditch [023].	NNE	30/07/14
22	22	View of NE-facing section of mound's SE base. Shows start of ditch [023].	ESE	30/07/14
23	23	View of NE-facing section of mound's SE base. Shows start of ditch [023].	NE	30/07/14
24	24	View of the SE base of the mound showing high water table. Shows start of ditch [023].	NW	30/07/14
25	25	View of possible posthole or small pit [014].	N	30/07/14
26	26	View of rock socket (022).	NE	30/07/14
27	27	View of rock socket (022).	NE	30/07/14
28	28	View of rock socket (022).	NE	30/07/14
29	29	View of possible posthole or small pit [016] showing root/burrow damage.	N	30/07/14
30	30	View of root/burrow disturbance (017) on the top of the mound.	NW	30/07/14
31	31	View of ENE facing section of possible linear [021].	ENE	30/07/14

### Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Type	Scale	Description	Date
01	1	Plan	1:20	Plan of features located on top of the mound.	30/07/14

## Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Dumfries and Galloway
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Lochside Motte, Lincluden
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	RA14041
<b>PARISH:</b>	Terregles (Kirkcudbrightshire)
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Liam McKinstry
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NX97NE 7 (Canmore ID 65604)
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Mound
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NX 95880 77369
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2014
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2014
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (may include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Lochside Motte, Lincluden for Ironside Farrar Ltd as part of site investigation works undertaken in support of the proposed Dumfries Schools project on open amenity ground at Locharbriggs, Dumfries. The archaeological works aimed to clarify whether a raised mound, located within the development area and historically identified as a motte, was an archaeological site or a natural feature.</p> <p>There was little evidence to suggest that the mound was anthropic in nature: instead, it seems more likely to represent a small naturally-occurring rise which once formed a small island within the former 'College Loch,' probably named after the nearby medieval nunnery at Lincluden College and drained in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>The waterlogged ground surrounding the mound was subsequently utilised as a landfill site, the evaluation trench clearly showing how the lower ground on all sides was made up of re-deposited material placed above modern landfill deposits. Two ditches were also identified, cutting into the subsoil at the mound's base on the northwest and southeast sides. These correspond with field boundaries or drainage ditches associated with Lochside Farm and shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854.</p> <p>Three potentially significant features were identified on top of the mound: a possible linear feature and two associated postholes. No dateable evidence was recovered, but their location on the summit and the fact that they were clustered together may suggest they once formed part of a structure. Additional features identified on top of the mound were the result of tree growth, animal activity or clearance.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE</b>	None

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<b>WORK:</b>	
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Ironside Farrar Ltd.
<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 Dumfries and Galloway Archaeology Service and archive to RCAHMS Collections

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