

**Dasher Cottage,
Kippen:
Archaeological Mitigation**

Data Structure Report



by Liam McKinstry

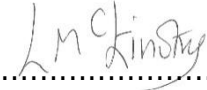
issued 14th June 2016

on behalf of Ms Dionne Shaw


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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed  Date 14th June 2016.....

In keeping with the procedure of Rathmell Archaeology Limited this document and its findings have been reviewed and agreed by an appropriate colleague:

Checked  Date ...14th June 2016.....

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Ms Dionne Shaw in support of the erection of a new house on land at Dasher Cottage, Kippen, Stirlingshire (NGR: NS 34826 54824). The archaeological works were designed to determine the archaeological potential of the development area and hence inform the specification for mitigation of the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
2. Stirling Council required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken in support of the development works as an element of granted consent (14/00715/MS). Stirling Council Archaeology Service, who advise Stirling Council on archaeology matters provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required and the mitigation of the proposed development works.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited were appointed by Ms Shaw to undertake the implementation of archaeological investigative works prior to the development of the site. The project works were specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2016), which was agreed with the Stirling Council Archaeology Service.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. There are no recorded historical or archaeological sites within the proposed development area within the available online. The proposed development area is currently an area of enclosed agricultural land to the immediate south east of Kippen, Stirling. The development area forms an irregular rectangle bounded to the north and west by field boundaries consisting of post & wire fences and some foliage. To the south and east the proposed development area is a pasture field.
5. Superseded mapping can demonstrate the change in land use over time in the development area and the surrounding landscape. However, the principal change in the landscape appears to be the presence in the NW corner of the larger field (within which the development sits) of a cottage adjacent to the minor road to the north. This unnamed cottage is depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1865 (Figure 1a) as a structure of two compartments with an enclosure (possibly an unroofed third compartment). The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 1897 (Figure 1b) continues to depict the structure, but unroofed – hence presumably derelict.
6. The NW corner of the field is not within the development area, and is overgrown with what appear to be self-seeded trees. It is probable that a large portion of the 19th century cottage is within this corner, but it may have extended into the northern portion of the development area.

Project Works

7. This archaeological evaluation, which was undertaken on the 25th of May 2016, was carried out in keeping with the methods detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2016) and the supporting Safety Plan & Risk Assessment (SPRA) (McKinstry 2016).
8. The project works comprised of two stages. The first stage consisted of the production of a photographic record of the historic cottage and its condition prior to development works. The second stage consisted of the excavation of a series of intrusive trenches (Figure 5) to expose a 5% sample of the area to be disturbed by the development works (roughly 500sqm so minimum of 25m² of trenching), by means of a series of five linear trenches (each 5m by 1m). Significant adjustments to the trenches size and layout were required due to scaling issues within the block plan, the size of the machine bucket available and the condition of the development area and historic building. Because of this a total of 39.68m² was excavated, which exceeded the required 5%.

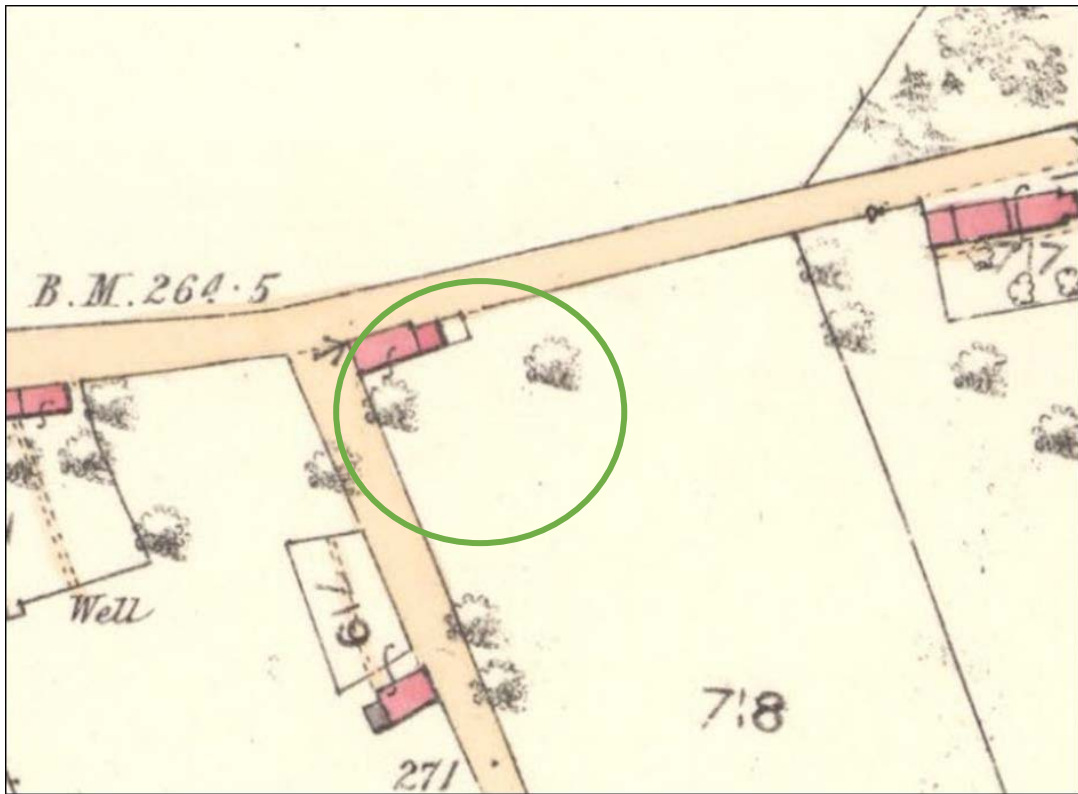


Figure 1a: 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1865, 25-inch, with cottage circled in green.



Figure 1b: 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 1897, 25-inch, with cottage circled in green.

10. The site was located within a rectangular shaped field (Figure 5 and 6a) which was enclosed by a mixture of wire and post fencing and hedgerow. The field dipped down to the S of the development area and rose again further to the S. The historic building was located in the NW corner of the field and could be identified as a low rectilinear shaped bank. To the immediate S of the historic building was a roughly linear shaped bank which ran parallel to the building. Part of the historic building was located within a cordoned off triangle of land in the northwest corner of the field. This cordoned off area contained a number of trees and was overgrown making it difficult to determine the state of preservation of the building remains there.
11. All works were conducted in accordance with the Stirling Council Archaeology Service Standard Conditions, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

Photographic Record

12. A series of photographs of both the historic building and the modern bank were taken to show their condition prior to the development starting.
13. The overgrown nature of the site obscured much of the area surrounding the historic building and modern bank but upstanding remains in the form of low banks could be discerned through the vegetation which seemed to correlate to the structure depicted within the Ordnance Survey mapping.
14. The historic building (Figures 2a, 3a and 4b) measured approximately (within the development area) 12.5m from east to west, 11m from north to south and the height of the buildings banks (Figures 3b and 4a) was between 0.4-0.6m. The width of the banks making up the building varied from 1.6m to 3m. The full east to west dimension of the building, including the section within the cordoned off area, would have been 20.9m.
15. The modern bank was orientated in an east to west direction and measured 13.18m long, 0.5-0.32m wide and the height of the bank was between 0.4-0.7m (Figures 2a and 2b).

Evaluation

16. In total, 5 evaluation trenches were excavated across the available portion of the development area (Figure 5), using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator with a toothless 1.6m ditching bucket. All of the trenches had to be moved from their intended locations (see table below).
17. A site investigation pit was also excavated (with a 0.6m toothed bucket) within the development area and subject to archaeological supervision.

Trench	Reason for relocation/new location
1	Moved to avoid cutting through possible upstanding remains of the historic building and to determine if there was internal flooring within the historic building
2	Moved due to its proximity to the main site access
3	Moved to avoid cutting through possible upstanding remains of the historic building and determine the composition of the modern bank
4	Moved to avoid cutting through possible upstanding remains of the historic building
5	Moved to avoid cutting lengthways along the modern bank and to determine if there was any manmade surfaces between the historic building and modern bank



Figure 2a: View of modern bank (004) and historic building from the SSE



Figure 2b: View of modern bank (004) from the ENE



Figure 3a: View of the historic building from the WSW



Figure 3b: View of the southern bank of the historic building from the WSW



Figure 4a: View of the eastern bank of the historic building from the NE



Figure 4b: View of the interior of the historic building with the cordoned area to the rear from the ESE

18. The topsoil within the site, (001), consisted of loose to moderately compacted, mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small stone and nineteenth or twentieth century CBM inclusions, particularly within Trench 1 which was located within the interior of the historic building. The topsoil extended across the whole site and had a depth range of between 0.11-0.32m. The natural subsoil within the site, (003), consisted of a very firmly compacted, orange/red sandy silt with moderate to frequent small stone and pebble and occasional medium sized stone inclusions. The subsoil extended across the whole site and was excavated to a depth of 0.04-0.27m within the trenches.
19. The trenches identified a layer, (002), between the topsoil and subsoil which comprised a moderately compacted, mid orange/grey-brown sandy silt with occasional to moderate nineteenth or twentieth century CBM and moderate to frequent small to medium sized stone inclusions (Figures 6b and 7b). The layer had a depth range of 0.3-0.52m.
20. Trench 3 (Figure 7b) was excavated through the eastern end of the modern bank, (004). The bank material consisted of loose to moderately compacted, mid to dark grey-brown (with pockets of mid orange-brown) sandy silt with moderate to frequent, small to medium sized stone and occasional nineteenth or twentieth century CBM inclusions. Within Trench 3 the width excavated was 0.4m and its height was 0.42m. The bank also overlay the topsoil layer, (001), suggesting it was a recent deposition.
21. Only two trenches, 1 and 2, were excavated into the historic building and these trenches only clipped the base of the buildings banks in an attempt to assess the banks makeup without drastically cutting into the building (Figure 6b). In both cases the material identified was the layer, (002), which was found in all of the trenches.
22. One site investigation pit was also excavated within the development area located approximately 7m to the southeast of Trenches 3 and 4. This pit measured 4m by 0.6 m and to a depth of 1.5m. No features or demolition layers were identified within the pit and it contained only topsoil and natural subsoil layers.
23. No other significant archaeological features were identified within the five evaluation trenches and the site investigation pit.

Discussion

24. The standing remains of the historic building within the development area (Figure 5) consisted of the eastern part of a rectangular shaped bank, with the other part being within the cordoned off area in the north-western part of the field.
25. Based on the historic mapping, we presumed that the eastern two compartments may be within the development area. The form of the bank is highly suggestive of being the remnants of the outer wall of the combined structure – but in the ground conditions it was not possible to identify the internal divisions of the structure. There were also no discernible openings through the bank. Of note, the bank was more denuded where the fence for the cordoned off corner crossed it. This may be a product of slighting the structure to erect this fence, though in part this may have been the opportunistic re-use of openings.
26. Historic mapping also depicted this structure as being flush with the southern side of the roadway to the N. In comparison, the modern road is clearly offset to the N by several metres.
27. Two of the trenches, 1 and 2, cut into a small part of the base of this bank and identified only a deposit of soil, stone and CBM, (002), which overlay the natural subsoil, (003). This deposit was most likely a demolition layer which spread out across the remains of the building and the immediate surrounding area. It seems probable that some remnants of the buildings foundation and basal courses of the wall survive within this bank but what form they take is unclear.
28. Building material identified from within Trench 2 (Figure 7a) it would seem probable that the building was constructed using roughly faced pieces of sandstone, possibly using a drystone method as no mortar was identified within any of the trenches. Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5, also demonstrated that there was no internal flooring within the building or



Figure 5: Plan of evaluation trench layout showing the location of the historic building.



Figure 6a: Pre excavation view the development area from the WNW



Figure 6b: Post excavation view of trench 1 from the N



Figure 7a: View of building material from trench 2



Figure 7b: Post excavation view of trench 3 showing section through the modern bank. From the NE

manmade surfaces, roads or paths outside the building. Though note, as we were investigating the eastern end of the structure the historic mapping shows this area as two compartments that appear to abut and lengthen a primary structure at the W end of the range. Hence these may be pens, byres or storage that were not of common style (inc flooring) with the primary dwelling structure.

29. Trench 3 was placed through the eastern end of the modern bank, (004), to confirm that the feature was modern (pers. comm. D Shaw). The trench showed that the bank material was a mix of topsoil with pockets of what appeared to be natural subsoil. The bank material also overlay the current subsoil surface, (001), which would suggest that the material had indeed been recently deposited (Figure 7b). No obvious excavations could be observed within the development area or in the field as a whole so it seems probable that the material had come from another location.
30. One small sherd of nineteenth or twentieth century pottery was recovered from the demolition layer, (002), within Trench 2.

Recommendations

31. An archaeologically sensitive area is recognised in the remains of the historic building which survived as a low rectangular shaped bank. This structure appears to have a low level of complexity with no internal or external floor surfaces and minimal material culture. We do not consider this structure to have a significance to warrant its retention, rather an appropriate record should be made during loss. We recommend that any disturbance of this structure by the as the construction works proceed is to be carried out under archaeological supervision to enable an appropriate record of these remains.
32. No archaeological features were identified through the programme of trenching outwith the historic building, hence no further archaeological works are recommended within the wider development area.
33. The acceptability of these recommendations needs to be confirmed with Stirling Council Archaeologist and Stirling Council.

Conclusion

34. A programme of archaeological investigative works was carried out for Ms Dionne Shaw in support of the erection of a new house on land at Dasher Cottage, Kippen, Stirlingshire (NGR: NS 34826 54824). The archaeological works were designed to determine the archaeological potential of the development area and hence inform the specification for mitigation of the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
35. The archaeological investigative works consisted of the photographic recording of a historic building and an intrusive evaluation which was designed to assess a 5% sample of the proposed development area. The works were carried out on the 25th May 2016, with a total of 5 trenches excavated. The works identified a modern bank and the partial remains of a historic building of nineteenth century date. Only one small sherd of nineteenth or twentieth pottery was recovered from the site.

Acknowledgements

36. The author would like to thank the client Ms Dionne Shaw, for the opportunity to carry out these works and also to Murray Cook at the Stirling Council Archaeology Service who gave support and guidance throughout. He would also like to thank Thomas Rees for his editing of this report.

References

Documentary

HM Government, 1997, Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act, HMSO

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Cartographic

Ordnance Survey, 1865, 25-inch, Stirling. Sheet XVI

Ordnance Survey, 1897, 25-inch, Stirlingshire. Sheet XVI

Appendix 1: Trench Details & Test Pits

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 Summary

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
1	N-S	1.6m by 4.4m 7.04m ²	190- 290mm	(003). Very firmly compacted, orange/red sandy silt with moderate to frequent small stone and pebble and occasional medium sized stone inclusions.	(003). Deposit of soil and nineteenth or twentieth century CBM covering the site.	None	None
2	S-N	1.6m by 4.1m 6.56m ²	160- 170mm	(003). Very firmly compacted, orange/red sandy silt with moderate to frequent small stone and pebble and occasional medium sized stone inclusions.	(003). Deposit of soil and nineteenth or twentieth century CBM covering the site.	None	None
3	SW-NE	1.6m by 4m 6.4m ²	140- 320mm	(003). Very firmly compacted, orange/red sandy silt with moderate to frequent small stone and pebble and occasional medium sized stone inclusions.	(004). Modern bank. (003). Deposit of soil and nineteenth or twentieth century CBM covering the site.	None	None
4	S-N	1.6m by 5.9m 9.44m ²	150- 170mm	(003). Very firmly compacted, orange/red sandy silt with moderate to frequent small stone and pebble and occasional medium sized stone inclusions.	(003). Deposit of soil and nineteenth or twentieth century CBM covering the site.	None	None
5	W-E	1.6m by 6.4m 10.24m ²	110- 150mm	(003). Very firmly compacted, orange/red sandy silt with moderate to frequent small stone and pebble and occasional medium sized stone inclusions.	(003). Deposit of soil and nineteenth or twentieth century CBM covering the site.	None	None

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
S. I. Pit	NE-SW	0.6 by 4m 2.4m ²	120- 135mm	(003). Very firmly compacted, orange/red sandy silt with moderate to frequent small stone and pebble and occasional medium sized stone inclusions.	None	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	Loose to moderately compacted, mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small stone and nineteenth or twentieth century CBM inclusion. The layer extended across the whole site and had a depth range of 0.11-0.32m.	Topsoil within the site.
002	All	Deposit	Moderately compacted, mid orange/grey-brown sandy silt with occasional to moderate nineteenth or twentieth century CBM and moderate to frequent small to medium sized stone inclusions. The layer extended across the whole site and had a depth range of 0.3-0.52m.	Demolition layer of soil and nineteenth or twentieth century CBM covering the site. Unclear if the layer represents demolished material from the historic building or if other material was brought to site and dumped over the buildings remains.
003	All	Deposit	Very firmly compacted, orange/red sandy silt with moderate to frequent small stone and pebble and occasional medium sized stone inclusions. The layer extended across the whole site and was excavated to a depth of 0.04-0.27m within the test trenches.	Natural subsoil layer within site.
004	T3	Deposit	Loose to moderately compacted, mid to dark grey-brown with pockets of mid orange-brown sandy silt with moderate to frequent small to medium sized stone and occasional nineteenth or twentieth century CBM inclusions. Within the trench the width excavated was 0.4m and its height was 0.42m. The overall size of the E-W orientated bank was 13.18m by 0.5-3.2m by 0.4-0.7m high.	Modern bank. Possibly the result of recent dumping.

Finds Register

Find No.	Area Trench	Context no.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
001	T4	002	Ceramic	A single sherd of nineteenth or twentieth century pottery	LMcK	25/05/16

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description
1	1	Tr.1	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 1
2	1	Tr.5	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 5
3	1	Tr.2	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 2
4	1	Tr.4	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 4
5	1	Tr.3	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 3

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
001	0001	Pre excavation view of site	WNW	25/05/16
002	0002	Pre excavation view of site	NW	25/05/16
003	0003	View of historic building and modern bank	ESE	25/05/16
004	0004	View of historic building and modern bank	SSE	25/05/16
005	0005	View of modern bank	E	25/05/16
006	0006	View of historic Building	E	25/05/16
007	0007	View of modern bank	ENE	25/05/16
008	0008	View of historic Building	WSW	25/05/16
009	0009	View of historic building and modern bank	SW	25/05/16
010	0010	View of front of historic building close to main road	S	25/05/16
011	0011	View showing difference in height of the eastern side of the historic building close to the site access (gate).	NE	25/05/16
012	0012	View of the interior of the historic building.	ESE	25/05/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
013	0013	Post excavation view of trench 1	N	25/05/16
014	0014	Post excavation view of trench 1	NNE	25/05/16
015	0015	Post excavation view of trench 5	W	25/05/16
016	0016	Post excavation view of trench 5	WNW	25/05/16
017	0017	Post excavation view of trench 2	N	25/05/16
018	0018	Post excavation view of trench 2	NNE	25/05/16
019	0019	-	-	25/05/16
020	0020	View of possible building material from trench 2, context (002).	-	25/05/16
021	0021	View of possible building material from trench 2, context (002).	-	25/05/16
022	0022	Post excavation view of trench 4	N	25/05/16
023	0023	Post excavation view of trench 4	NNE	25/05/16
024	0024	Post excavation view of trench 3	SE	25/05/16
025	0025	Post excavation view of trench 3	NW	25/05/16
026	0026	View of site investigation pit to the south of trenches 4 and 5	NNW	25/05/16
027	0027	Working shot	-	25/05/16
028	0028	Working shot	-	25/05/16
029	0029	Working shot	-	25/05/16
030	0030	View of trenches left open (trenches 4 and 5 shown) at clients request	S	25/05/16
031	0031	View of gate to site closed with trenches left open	-	25/05/16

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirlingshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Dasher Cottage, Kippen
PROJECT CODE:	RA15005
PARISH:	Kippen
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Liam McKinstry
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	-
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 66092 94410
START DATE (this season)	25 th May 2016
END DATE (this season)	25 th May 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	No
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological investigative works was carried out for Ms Dionne Shaw in support of the erection of a new house on land at Dasher Cottage, Kippen, Stirlingshire (NGR: NS 34826 54824). The archaeological works were designed to determine the archaeological potential of the development area and hence inform the specification for mitigation of the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.</p> <p>The archaeological investigative works consisted of the photographic recording of a historic building and an intrusive evaluation which was designed to assess a 5% sample of the proposed development area. The works were carried out on the 25th May 2016, with a total of 5 trenches excavated. The works identified a bank and the partial remains of a nineteenth century historic building. Only one small sherd of nineteenth or twentieth pottery was recovered from the site.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	No
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Ms Dionne Shaw.
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Stirling Council and archive to HES Collections.

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