

**The Manse Paddock, Forteviot,
Perth & Kinross:
Archaeological Monitoring**

Data Structure Report



by Peter Klemen

issued 26th June 2015

on behalf of Mr & Mrs Philips

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 

Date26th June 2015....

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

Checked 

Date26th June 2015....

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Contents

Introduction	4
Archaeological and Historical Background	4
Project Works	5
Findings.....	5
Discussion	6
Conclusion	6
Acknowledgements	6
Documentary	6
Appendix 1:	11
Context Register.....	11
Photographic Register	11
Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland	13
Contact Details	14

Figures

Figure 1: Plan showing the location of Test Pits and location of the proposed dwelling.....	7
Figure 2a: Working shot of JCB 3CX excavating.....	8
Figure 2b: Area for the proposed dwelling. White flags denote locations for the test pits	8
Figure 3a: Test pit 4	9
Figure 3b: Test pit 3.....	9
Figure 4a: Test pit 1	10
Figure 4b: Test pit 1 showing modern inclusions in context (002)	10

Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Muir Walker & Pride Limited on behalf of their client Mr & Mrs Philips in support of pre-development work on land at The Manse Paddock, Forteviot (14/02203/FLL). These archaeological works were designed to safeguard archaeological remains within the area.
2. Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust who advises Perth & Kinross Council on archaeological matters has requested archaeological monitoring to manage the potential impact on archaeological remains. The archaeological works have been structured to meet the requirements of Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust who in advising that archaeological issues should be addressed have requested archaeological monitoring of pre-development Site Investigation works in the form of test pits.
3. The Manse Paddock does not lie within a Scheduled Monument, rather within an area of high archaeological potential. The archaeological works were designed to determine the nature, form and extent of any archaeological remains within the development area so as to inform the mitigation of any adverse impact.
4. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by Muir Walker & Pride Limited on behalf of their client Mr & Mrs Philips to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological works prior to the development of the site.

Archaeological and Historical Background

5. The Manse Paddock does not lie within a Scheduled Monument, rather within an area of high archaeological potential:
 - ❖ The paddock lies within the grounds of the former Church of Scotland Manse (built 1825-6) and was in part its kitchen garden as being the site of offices (rebuilt 1815-6) in the 19th century;
 - ❖ The southern boundary wall incorporates architectural elements that may be from the pre 1815-6 offices;
 - ❖ Geophysical survey in 2006-7 by the University of Glasgow identified partial foundations for the 19th century offices but no other features; and
 - ❖ Excavation of a trench in 2011 by the Strathearn Environs and Forteviot project identified a 1100mm depth of topsoil-like material. This incorporated predominantly 19th century material with some residual medieval and Roman pottery. The topsoil overlay orange gravel, into which an undated post-hole was cut – this feature was postulated to be prehistoric in origin.
6. Forteviot is considered highly sensitive due to the presence of a Pictish palace site at this locale – the resolution of the location and character of this Pictish use being one focus of the Strathearn Environs and Forteviot project. However, other activity is known within the immediate area. For instance a small bun-shaped quern potentially 1st-2nd century AD recovered from the garden wall of the Manse, suggesting Iron Age activity.
7. In addition, Forteviot Parish Church has its origins in at least the 12th century AD though an early medieval origin is credible. Test pit surveys in 2007-8 predominantly recovered medieval pottery from the northern half of the village, though suggested overall that medieval activity was constrained to within the modern village limits. Excavation in 2011 in the Manse garden evidenced activity in this area between 9th and 12th centuries AD.
8. So unusually the development site has already been subject to geophysical survey and limited excavation work (given the depth of topsoil only a small portion of the trench reached the underlying subsoil surface). This highlighted the potential for prehistoric features at depth (>1100mm) and residual artefacts within the overlying topsoil.

Project Works

9. Archaeological Monitoring of Site Investigation works was undertaken on the 22nd June 2015, and was carried out in keeping with the methods outlined in the Method Statement (Rees 2015). The Site Investigation works consisted of the excavation of seven test pits with six test pits located along the foundations for the proposed dwelling and one soak-away test pit located just to the west of the proposed location for the dwelling (Figure 1).
10. A JCB 3CX wheeled excavator with a 450mm bucket was used to remove the topsoil down to the level of the uppermost archaeological horizon or the subsoil (Figure 2a). This surface was then inspected to ensure no potentially significant archaeological features would be impacted should the pit then be sunk deeper.
11. The proposed development site is an open flat grass covered area located approximately 40m to the south of Forteviot Village Hall and is the former manse garden (Figure 2b).
12. All works were conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

13. In total seven test pits were excavated with continuous monitoring taking place for the excavation of each one. The previous investigations had provided a valuable baseline as to the potential of any archaeological features and the depth of the topsoil and subsoil.
14. All the test pits (1-7) were excavated to a width of 500mm by 1.4m long and ranged in depth from 1.2m to 1.5m in depth. The test pits (1-6) located along the foundations for the proposed dwelling were all excavated to below the subsoil to make sure that the natural sediment had been reached.

Test Pit	Topsoil (001)	Soil (002)	Combined depth to Subsoil surface
1	300mm	800mm	1100mm
2	300mm	900mm	1200mm
3	300mm	800mm	1100mm
4	300mm	900mm	1200mm
5	250mm	850mm	1100mm
6	300mm	900mm	1200mm
7 (soakaway TP)	300mm	800mm	1100mm

15. The Topsoil (001) covered all of the test pits and consisted of a moderately compacted mid black brown sandy silt loam with frequent roots and rootlets and some modern ceramic and charcoal inclusions. Ranging in thickness from a maximum of 300mm to a minimum of 250mm.
16. Below (002) was a moderately compacted mid dark brown orange sandy silt loam with frequent modern ceramic (Willow Ware), red brick fragments and sandstone fragments and rounded stones ranging in size from 20-100mm. Ranging in thickness from a maximum of 900mm to a minimum of 800mm.
17. Context (003) was a compacted dark orange brown sand with very frequent round and sub-rounded stones ranging in size from 30mm to 100mm. This formed the base context in all of the excavated test pits.

Discussion

18. Across all the test pits excavated the underlying contexts demonstrated that the depth of the topsoil (001) and garden soil (002) was uniform across the foundations for the proposed dwelling and also in the location of the soak-away test pit in the west of the proposed development area (Figures 3a-4b). The thickness of 1100mm to 1200mm of (001) and (002) corresponds with the thickness of contexts (100), (101) and (102) recorded by the *SERF Project* that excavated a trench in the manse paddock (Campbell 2011).
19. No evidence of significant archaeological remains or artefacts were found during the course of the monitoring works within the proposed development area.
20. The presence of modern ceramic, red brick and sandstone fragments within context (002) would most likely represent activity from the period when the area was the kitchen garden for the manse with the brick and sandstone fragments representing the demolition material from when the former site offices were demolished.

Conclusion

21. A programme of archaeological works was required by Muir Walker & Pride Limited, on behalf of their client Mr & Mrs Philips in support of the investigation of ground conditions to inform the design of a new house on land 40m to the south Forteviot Village Hall in the paddock associated with the former manse (NGR: NO 05213 17436) (Planning ref: 14/02203/FLL).
22. All of the test pits revealed a deep topsoil (001) and (002) with a combined thickness ranging from 1100mm to 1200mm. This thickness corresponds with that recorded by the *SERF Project* who excavated a trench in the manse paddock (Campbell 2011). No evidence of significant archaeological remains or artefacts were found during the course of the monitoring works within the development area.

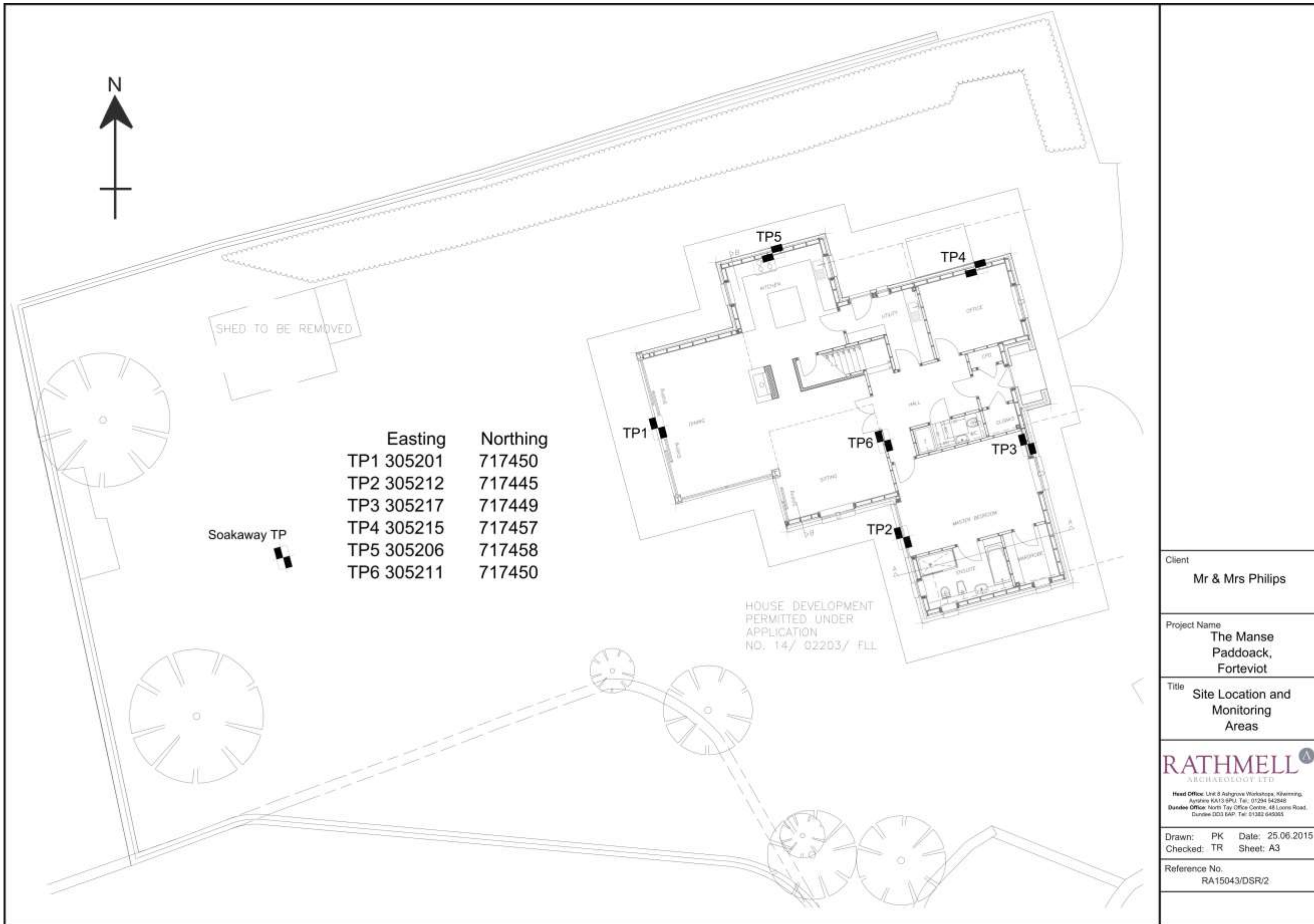
Acknowledgements

23. The author would like to thank Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust for their guidance on the structure of these archaeological works. We are grateful to Muir Walker & Pride Limited, who acting on behalf of Mr & Mrs Philips provided us the opportunity to carry out these works and for ensuring that the on-site works ran smoothly.

References

Documentary

- | | | |
|--------------|------|---|
| Campbell. E. | 2011 | <i>The Manse Paddock: Data Structure Report.</i> Unpublished SERF Project report. |
| Rees. T. | 2015 | The Manse Paddock, Forteviot: Method Statement. Rathmell Archaeology, Unpublished report. |



Client	Mr & Mrs Philips
Project Name	The Manse Paddock, Forteviot
Title	Site Location and Monitoring Areas
	
<small>Head Office: Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA13 9PU, Tel: 01294 542848 Dundee Office: North Tay Office Centre, 48 Loons Road, Dundee DD1 6AP, Tel: 01382 645365</small>	
Drawn: PK	Date: 25.06.2015
Checked: TR	Sheet: A3
Reference No.	RA15043/DSR/2

Figure 1: Plan showing the location of Test Pits and location of the proposed dwelling



Figure 2a: Working shot of JCB 3CX excavating



Figure 2b: Area for the proposed dwelling. White flags denote locations for the test pits



Figure 3a: Test pit 4



Figure 3b: Test pit 3



Figure 4a: Test pit 1



Figure 4b: Test pit 1 showing modern inclusions in context (002)

Appendix 1:

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

Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	All Test Pits	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid black brown sandy silt loam with frequent roots and rootlets and some modern ceramic and charcoal inclusions. Ranging in thickness from a maximum of 300mm to a minimum of 250mm.	Topsoil
002	All Test Pits	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid dark brown orange sandy silt loam with frequent modern ceramic (Willow Ware), red brick fragments and sandstone fragments and rounded stones ranging in size from 20-100mm. Ranging in thickness from a maximum of 900mm to a minimum of 800mm.	Garden soil
003	All Test Pits	Deposit	Compacted dark orange brown sand with very frequent round and sub-rounded stones ranging in size from 30mm to 100mm. This formed the base context in all of the excavated test pits.	Natural Subsoil

Photographic Register

Image No.	Description	From	Date
001	Pre-excavation of the house plot, white flags showing location of test pits	S	22/06/15
002	Pre-excavation of the house plot, white flags showing location of test pits	W	22/06/15
003	Pre-excavation of the house plot, white flags showing location of test pits	N	22/06/15
004	Working shot, digging soakaway pit	SW	22/06/15
005	TP1	E	22/06/15
006	TP1	S	22/06/15

Image No.	Description	From	Date
007	TP5	E	22/06/15
008	TP4	E	22/06/15
009	TP4	S	22/06/15
010	TP3	S	22/06/15
011	TP3	W	22/06/15
012	TP2	E	22/06/15
013	TP2	S	22/06/15
014	Working shot	S	22/06/15
015	TP6	SE	22/06/15
016	TP6	W	22/06/15
017	TP2 showing (003)	E	22/06/15
018	Post ex shot of site	W	22/06/15
019	Post ex shot of site	W	22/06/15
020	TP1 with scale	E	22/06/15

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth & Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	The Manse Paddock, Forteviot, Perth & Kinross
PROJECT CODE:	RA15043
PARISH:	Forteviot
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Peter Klemen
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitoring Site Investigation Works
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 05213 17436
START DATE (this season)	15 th June 2015
END DATE (this season)	25 th June 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow. 2006-2007 <i>Preliminary report on geophysical investigations at Forteviot village, Perthshire. P.</i> Campbell, E. 2011. <i>Forteviot Manse Paddock: Data Structure Report.</i>
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	A programme of archaeological monitoring was required by Muir Walker & Pride Limited, on behalf of their client Mr & Mrs Philips on land 40m to the south Forteviot Village Hall in the paddock associated with the former manse. The seven monitored test pits revealed a deep topsoil (001) and (002) with a combined thickness ranging from 1100mm to 1200mm. This thickness corresponds with that recorded by the SERF Project who excavated a trench in the manse paddock (Campbell 2011). No evidence of significant archaeological remains or artefacts were found during the course of the monitoring works.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr & Mrs Philips
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
EMAIL ADDRESS:	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust and archive to RCAHMS Collections.

Contact Details

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

Ayrshire Office:

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

www.rathmell-arch.co.uk

t.: 01294 542848

f.: 01294 542849

e.: contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk

26. Dundee Office:

Rathmell Archaeology Ltd
North Tay Office Centre
48 Loons Road
Dundee
DD3 6AP

www.rathmell-arch.co.uk

t.: 01382 645065

m.: 07827 913796

e.: peter.klemen@rathmell-arch.co.uk

27. The Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust can be contacted at their office or through the web:

Sarah Winlow, Heritage Officer (Maternity Cover)
Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust
The Lodge
4 York Place
Perth
PH2 8EP

www.pkht.org.uk

t.: 01738 477080

e.: SWinlow@pkht.org.uk

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