

Harbour Cottage, Portencross: Archaeological Mitigation

Data Structure Report



by Louise Turner

issued 15th December 2015

on behalf of Mr James Ward

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Quality Assurance

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Mr James Ward, in support of residential extension works at Harbour Cottage, Portencross. 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 a series of works which commenced with the recording of external built elements associated with a 19th century dwelling-house which were to be removed as part of the development. An archaeological element then followed in the form of monitoring groundbreaking works undertaken across the footprint of the new extension. These respective works took place on the 17th September and the 9th October, 2015.
3. North Ayrshire Council required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken in support of the development (14/00691/PP). Guidance on the structure of archaeological mitigation required on this site prior to and during development works was provided by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, who advise North Ayrshire Council on these matters.
4. A Written Scheme of Investigation (Matthews 2015) provided the detail of the works (monitoring, exclusion, excavation, post-excavation analysis and reporting) for the demolition and groundbreaking works.

Historical and Archaeological Background

5. The area surrounding Harbour Cottage is recognised as being of particular archaeological sensitivity. The building itself falls within a Conservation Area: it forms part of the hamlet of Portencross, which is itself dominated by the 14th century Portencross Castle (Index No. 327), a scheduled monument. Another scheduled monument lies immediately to the W at Auld Hill (Index No. 2175). Previous archaeological investigations at the latter revealed evidence of occupation extending from the later prehistoric period until the later 14th century.
6. The structure which occupies the development area has much later origins. First shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1858 (see Matthews 2015), it is depicted at this time as a roughly L-shaped building forming the southerly element of a semi-detached structure named 'Shore House' occupying the same land plot (Figure 1a). This structure then appears to have been partly dismantled and the plot subdivided into two, with the S half of the original structure replaced with a detached building by 1896 (when the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map was published). It is this later structure which has survived to the present.
7. This later detached building was the focus of the historic building recording works, partly for reasons of local interest (it functioned as the local post office during the early 20th century, serving the hamlet of Portencross) and partly as a means of assessing the character of the modern structure. Did it, for example, include any elements from an earlier phase of construction, either belonging to its semi-detached predecessor or derived from an even earlier structure? In addition, the site was thought to be potentially sensitive from the archaeological perspective as there was a potential that this particular location was the site of an early settlement built to service the needs of the castle.
8. The upstanding structure, at the time of the baseline survey, was identical on plan to the building shown on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 1b). The core of the building comprised a rectangular roofed structure abutting the S, side, elevation and a central unroofed structure (the stair) projecting from the rear, E, elevation. A roofed extension adjoined the S elevation – it was this portion of the building which had allegedly housed the post office. However, conversation with the owner (Mr James Ward) revealed that the S extension had originally had a timber structure adjoining the E elevation, removed during works undertaken at the behest of a previous owner. This had housed the public section of the post office (it is shown on old images of Portencross) with the stone-built element to the rear forming the back office.

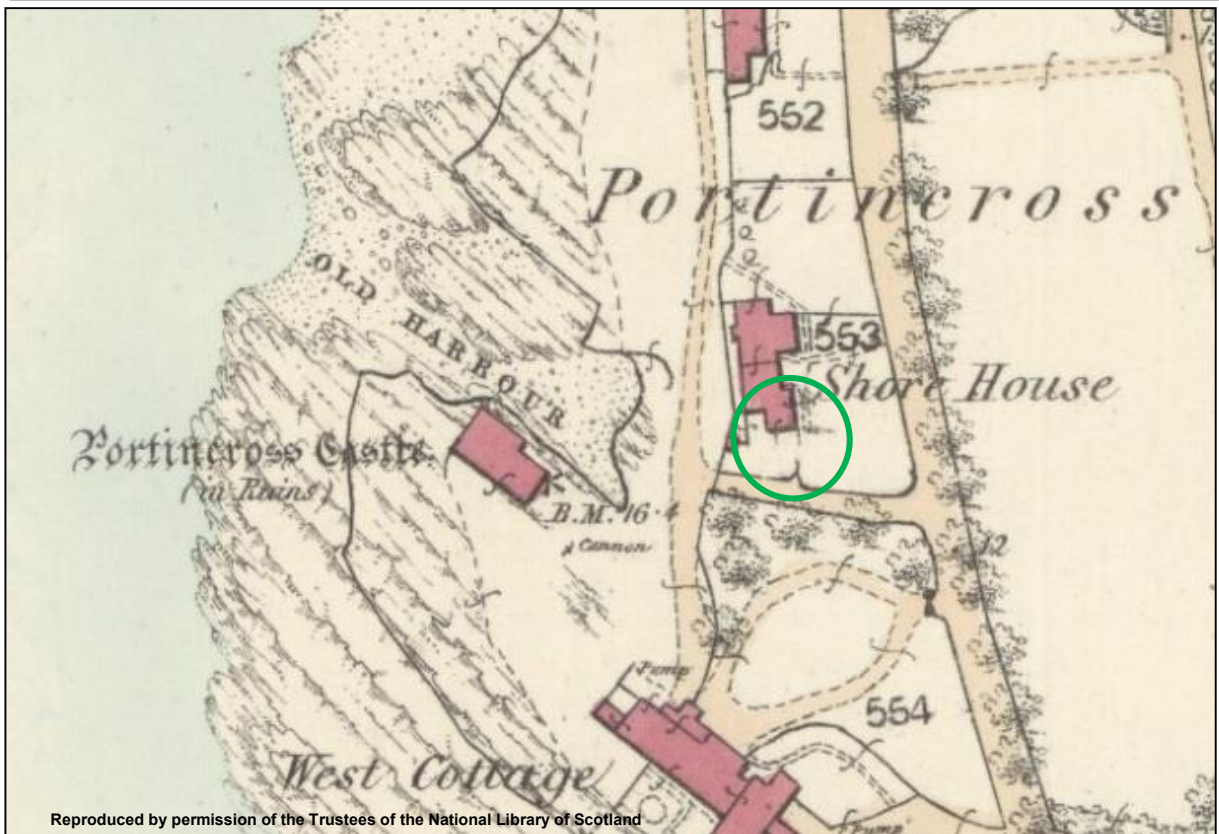


Figure 1a: Extract from Ordnance Survey 1st Edition Map of 1858 (Development area circled in green)

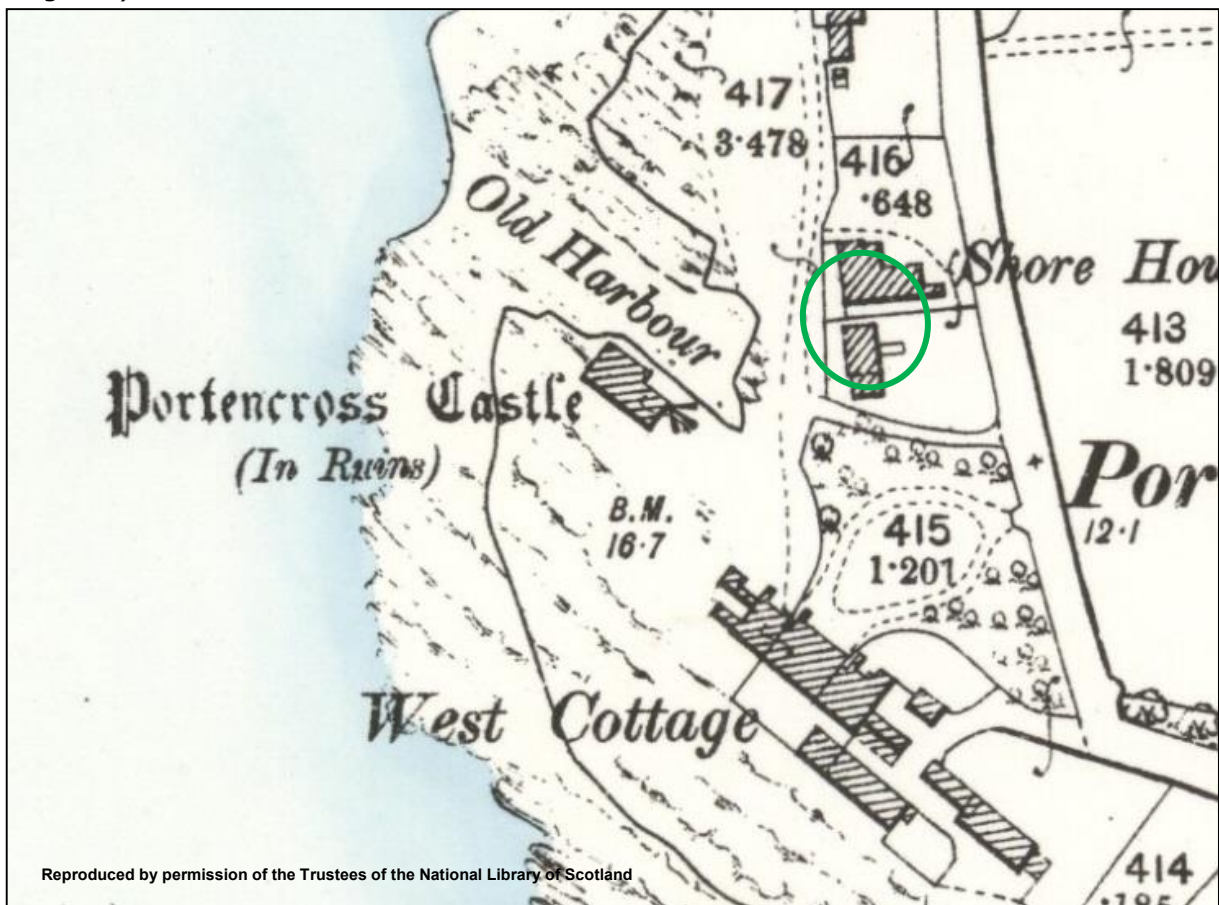


Figure 1b: Extract from Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition Map of 1896 (Development area circled in green)

Project Works

9. The programme of works was undertaken in two stages and during two different visits. The first took place on 17th September 2015 and comprised a baseline survey of those elements of the late 19th century cottage which once housed the post office, namely the small extension on the S elevation and the external stair on the E elevation.
10. The second visit was undertaken on 9th October 2015. The works carried out on this occasion included the recording of external elevations following the demolition of certain elements (comprising the existing S extension and external stair), with a view to identifying any exposed earlier elements prior to their being concealed behind the new extension. The archaeological element of the works was also undertaken on this same date, with the digging of foundation trenches undertaken with an archaeologist present.
11. All works were undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket which measured 0.4m wide.

Findings: Historic Building Recording

12. Two elements of the upstanding building were to be removed as part of the development, and these were recorded to create a base level survey prior to works commencing. They comprised a small extension abutting the S elevation of the cottage, and an external stair on the E, rear, elevation.
13. The S extension ('Room a') was rectangular on plan and measured 4.8m from N-S by 4m transversely (Figures 2a & b). It stood one storey high, and was composed of snecked rubble masonry with squared, broached quoins. The roof – which had been removed previously – was originally pitched and slated. The roofline may have been altered, with an earlier hipped roof converted into a pitched roof through the raising of the wallhead and the creation of a gable end wall: while any perceived change in masonry was undoubtedly exaggerated by a contrast in painting schemes originating in recent times (Figure 3a), there were other subtle differences present. In particular, the lack of any skewputts (however roughly executed) seemed to argue that the creation of a gable end was a later alteration to the original design.
14. The S extension ('Room a') had a single central doorway in the E elevation and an opposing central window in the W elevation. The shared wall between the main house and the extension showed no evidence of any earlier openings: however, much of this area was obscured. Not only had it been extensively refaced in brick across its upper portion in the late 20th century (following the insertion of vents associated with kitchen and household appliances), the lower portion was still concealed beneath a thick layer of plaster which obscured any details (Figure 3b).
15. The window frame appeared to be original though the glass had been replaced: set within a splayed embrasure with a timber lintel above, the upper leaf opened inwards in a hopper-style arrangement, as opposed to a sliding, sash-and-case window (Figure 4a). The margins were concealed beneath a thick coat of pebble-dashing, so could not be characterised.
16. The rybats of the doorway were composed of finely broached ashlar which contrasted with the roughly squared blocks used in the quoins. A raised step, painted red, formed the threshold: this matched a similar step located in an extant doorway (now blocked with a sheet of plywood) at the E end of the S gable end of the main building (Figure 4b). The presence of this doorway, and the recurring use the red-painted thresholds in both openings, was consistent with there having been an additional timber structure adjoining the E elevation of the S extension. This would have allowed a direct link from the interior of the main house into the post office element via the doorway in the S elevation: counter space would have been available within the wooden structure and backroom accommodation/secure storage in the stone-built portion to the rear. There is no evidence that the S extension was tied in to the main building, which suggests that it was a later addition. If this is the case, then the doorway at the E end of the S elevation of the main structure may also be a later insertion.



Figure 2a: Looking towards Harbour Cottage from SE, S extension intact prior to demolition



Figure 2b: Looking W towards S extension ('Room a'), prior to demolition



Figure 3a: Looking NW towards S extension ('Room a'), prior to demolition



Figure 3b: S Extension ('Room a') – View of N wall from S end



Figure 4a: S Extension ('Room a') – Interior of W wall showing window



Figure 4b: S elevation of main building following removal of S Extension, with blocked doorway (and threshold step painted red) to right.

17. The home-owner very kindly allowed access to the interior of the main building in order to try and identify if any alterations to the internal layout were present; however, the presence of surface finishes prevented any such assessment. Instead, all interpretation had to be based on evidence derived from the external elevations and the ground plan alone.
18. The second of the two elements recorded during the baseline survey was the external stair located on the E, rear, elevation of the main building (Figure 5a). This was a rubble built structure comprising two parallel lengths of wall surmounted by a line of sandstone steps. The edges of the stair were bounded by wrought iron handrails each terminating in a tapered curl (Figure 5b), the space beneath the structure converted into a small internal chamber recently used as a cloakroom facility.
19. The stairway terminated in a doorway at first floor level (Figure 6a) that had recently been blocked and converted into a window. Structural alterations had also been undertaken – perhaps at the same time - to the fabric of the building, at the junction between stair and main building. This work comprised the insertion of three concrete slab lintels beneath the floor level of the stair, visible on the ceiling of the internal chamber below (Figures 6b & 7a): this work may have been undertaken to accommodate the extra weight of the brick infill above, or it may have been undertaken as a reactionary measure against other changes evident within the fabric of the building.
20. The presence of a narrow window on the S elevation of the stair indicated that the void beneath had always been in use as a chamber. The N elevation was concealed beneath a coat of render, but no traces of any blocked openings could be identified, which suggests that this space was always linked to the main building via a doorway through the latter's E wall at ground floor level. It was the lintel of this opening which must have failed, and which had been replaced through the insertion of the three concrete blocks mentioned above.
21. Following the removal of the stair, it was not clear whether the stair had been an integral part of the original structure or not. There was no clear evidence of tussing in the exposed masonry, but neither was there evidence of a pre-existing external wall face which had been obscured beneath the stair, although to be fair there was not much scope for the survival of earlier fabric in an area which was occupied largely by the stair itself, and the overlying window. Certainly the margins around the doorway showed working consistent with that seen around the windows in the surrounding external elevation (Figure 7b).

Findings: Archaeological Monitoring

22. These works took place on the 9th October, 2015, in weather conditions that were dull, overcast and mild. The area subject to archaeological monitoring comprised the footprint of an 'L'-shaped extension abutting the E and S elevations of the main building (Figure 8). The foundation trench measured a maximum of 6m from N-S by 5.5m transversely, and varied in width between 0.6m and 1m.
23. The depth of the trench varied: the base of the foundation was to be at a depth of 850mm below the threshold of the main building, which, due to variations in the ground level, meant that the trench itself varied between 350mm and 600mm deep. The latter was exceeded only at the locations for two steel pads at 0.5m and 3m S of the N end on the E side: here the trench was closer to 1m in maximum depth below the modern ground level.
24. These excavations commenced on the S elevation of the main building, and initially followed a line identical to that of the earlier S extension ('Room a') which had been demolished by this time. A fine, sandy silt topsoil (001), black in colour and humic in content, overlay the S trench (annotated 'a') and extended N across the western half of the adjoining E-W trench (b). Here traces of a thin bitumen layer (007) were found, overlain by modern overburden (unnumbered) which overlay the underlying deposit (002) over the area to the E of the house. Topsoil (001) measured an average of 0.3m in depth and was identical to the topsoil extending across the extant front garden which lay to the west and SW of the extension (Figure 9a), suggesting that the garden formerly extended to the driveway entrance.



Figure 5a: External Stair abutting rear E elevation of house



Figure 5b: Base of External stair, showing cast iron handrail



Figure 6a: Blocked doorway at first floor level, central bay, E elevation



Figure 6b: Concrete lintels consolidating external stair at junction with main building



Figure 7a: Concrete lintels consolidating external stair at junction with main building



Figure 7b: Rear E elevation of main building following removal of external stair

25. Below (001) was deposit (003), a layer of brownish-black rounded stones measuring up to 0.1 x 0.06 x 0.05m in size, with occasional larger blocks on sandstone and cobbles up to 0.25 x 0.1m present. The deposit was excavated to a depth of 0.3m across much of its extent, with the foundation trench failing to reach its base, but in places it was possible to establish that the maximum depth of this deposit was 0.4m. It contained occasional sherds of salt-glazed ceramic, animal bone and glazed white earthenware. A line of sandstone blocks [002] was also present, following the line of the demolished foundation footing of the now-defunct S extension.
26. At first (003) was interpreted as a possible fill for the foundation cut of the S extension, on account of its close association with (002). However, it soon became apparent that this layer extended across the full extent of the site, from the SW corner (Figure 9b) to the NE corner (Figure 10a).
27. The presence of modern finds and the blackish hue to this layer indicated a modern (i.e. 19th or earlier 20th century) origin. The rounded nature of the component stones suggested that the material was free-draining and fairly stable, and that it may therefore have been laid across the site to perform the function of aggregate or hardstanding. Because the foundations for the S extension lay within it, with (003) running beneath (and with no clear foundation cut visible), it seemed likely that this layer had been deposited here after the demolition of the previous structure shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, but prior to the construction of the S extension, and also, potentially, the stair.
28. This black stony layer (003) directly overlay subsoil across the extent of the site. The nature of this subsoil varied, however. At the W and S side of the foundation trench (Trenches *a*, *b*, *c* and *f*), the subsoil comprised a red-brown gravelly silt (004), with frequent small rounded stones up to 0.1 x 0.06m in extent and occasional large rounded cobbles present. However, along its far eastern edge (Trenches *d* and *e*) this gravelly subsoil was replaced by a fine, greyish-pink silty sand (005) with occasional rounded stones present (Figure 10b).
29. Due to the shallow nature of the foundation trenches, those areas where natural subsoil was exposed for inspection were limited. No archaeological features were identified in these locations, and no artefacts were recovered other than modern items such as glazed white earthenwares and plastics, with occasional animal bone occurring in association.

Discussion

30. The archaeological works at Harbour Cottage, Portencross combined two strands of work: the historic building recording element, and secondly, the archaeological monitoring works.
31. The archaeological monitoring works were aimed at investigating the long-term history of land use upon the site, which lies in close proximity to Portencross Castle and which could potentially have been occupied by settlement contemporary with the castle and servicing its needs.
32. The groundbreaking works which formed the focus of these archaeological works were not, however, undertaken on a sufficiently large enough scale to shed any light upon earlier land use and occupation in the area. The foundation trenches were narrow, and over much of their length they were not cut to any great depth either, often not even reaching the subsoil, and no features of archaeological significance were noted.
33. Across the full extent of the site, a dark black-brown stony layer (003) was noted. This produced modern finds contemporary with the upstanding late 19th century house: the layer was clearly redeposited and while it was originally thought to represent material used to infill around the foundations of the small S extension ('Room a') of Harbour Cottage, its widespread presence indicated something more extensive. Instead, we should interpret it as a platform or solum of free-draining, and relatively stable, material, laid down prior to the construction of the S extension, but – potentially – immediately predating the building of the extant Harbour Cottage itself. This might suggest that after the dountaking of the earlier southerly element of the semi-detached structure, the ground level was built up with this stony layer to cover the founds/footings of the earlier building, no traces of which were identified during the monitoring works.

34. It is clear, however, that this stony deposit (003) directly overlies subsoil. Two variations were apparent in the latter. Over the majority of the site, the subsoil was a red-brown stony gravel with frequent large cobbles present (004). However, along the extreme E edge of the foundation trench ('e'), this gravelly subsoil was replaced instead by a pale greyish pink silty sand (005). The fact that its presence was noted largely in those areas where the excavations extended deepest was – it should be noted – entirely co-incidental.
35. Stony deposit (003) comprised material that was poorly graded in character, ranging from small pebbles to large rounded cobbles and chunks of sandstone that could have derived from an earlier structure. It is likely that this layer – rather than comprising carefully sorted material brought onto the site from some distance – consisted of locally sourced beach shingle which was mixed with rubble from the earlier 19th century structure which once stood upon the site.
36. The extant main building also displayed a degree of complexity. Originally, it had functioned as two self-contained units. The first comprised a ground floor apartment accessed by the central (and principal) door in the front elevation. The second was a first floor apartment accessed by the rear, external stair located in the centre of the rear elevation. At some point, the two apartments were amalgamated into one house. An internal stair was inserted, located just S of the central bay at the rear of the building, and from this point, the doorway and external stair servicing first floor level became obsolete. The doorway was blocked, but not until relatively recent times, with modern brick revealed at its base.
37. Whether this consolidation of the structure took place before or after the creation of the post office is difficult to establish. The use of the site for a post office clearly post-dated the original semi-detached structure, as there is no mention of a post office at Portencross in the Ayrshire Directory of 1851-2, with the nearest facility of this kind located in West Kilbride.
38. It is possible therefore, that Harbour Cottage began as two self-contained residential units which were later amalgamated into one and the post office element added subsequently. However, it is equally plausible to suggest that the entire building was always a single residential and commercial unit, with the first floor providing accommodation for the post master (with independent access) and the ground floor providing retail space. The presence of the S extension and its now-vanished timber addition on the E elevation allowed the post office element of the structure to occupy an independent space, but again there is no way of establishing whether this was an inherent part of the original build or a later alteration.
39. The presence (or insertion) of the internal stair allowed access between residential space and commercial premises from inside the building, and its location, in an area which does not disrupt access either to the 1st floor doorway to the external stair or the doorway into the timber addition to the S extension suggests that this layout was entirely deliberate. Again, however, we cannot establish whether this was intended right from the outset or whether the building was modified to create this final layout.
40. Judging by the short expanse of time which must have elapsed between the removal of the earlier structure, and its replacement with the new detached building (with its S extension and stair), a single phase of construction for the different elements seems more likely. However, this need not be the case, and to date, we have garnered insufficient evidence to confirm which scenario is more likely as key elements of the structure were concealed by surface finishes. The final conversion of the 1st floor doorway into a window clearly took place at a comparatively late date, judging by the modern bricks used in the modification, and this might suggest that the external stair persisted in use until recently, but this unfortunately cannot be definitively established within the scope of these works.

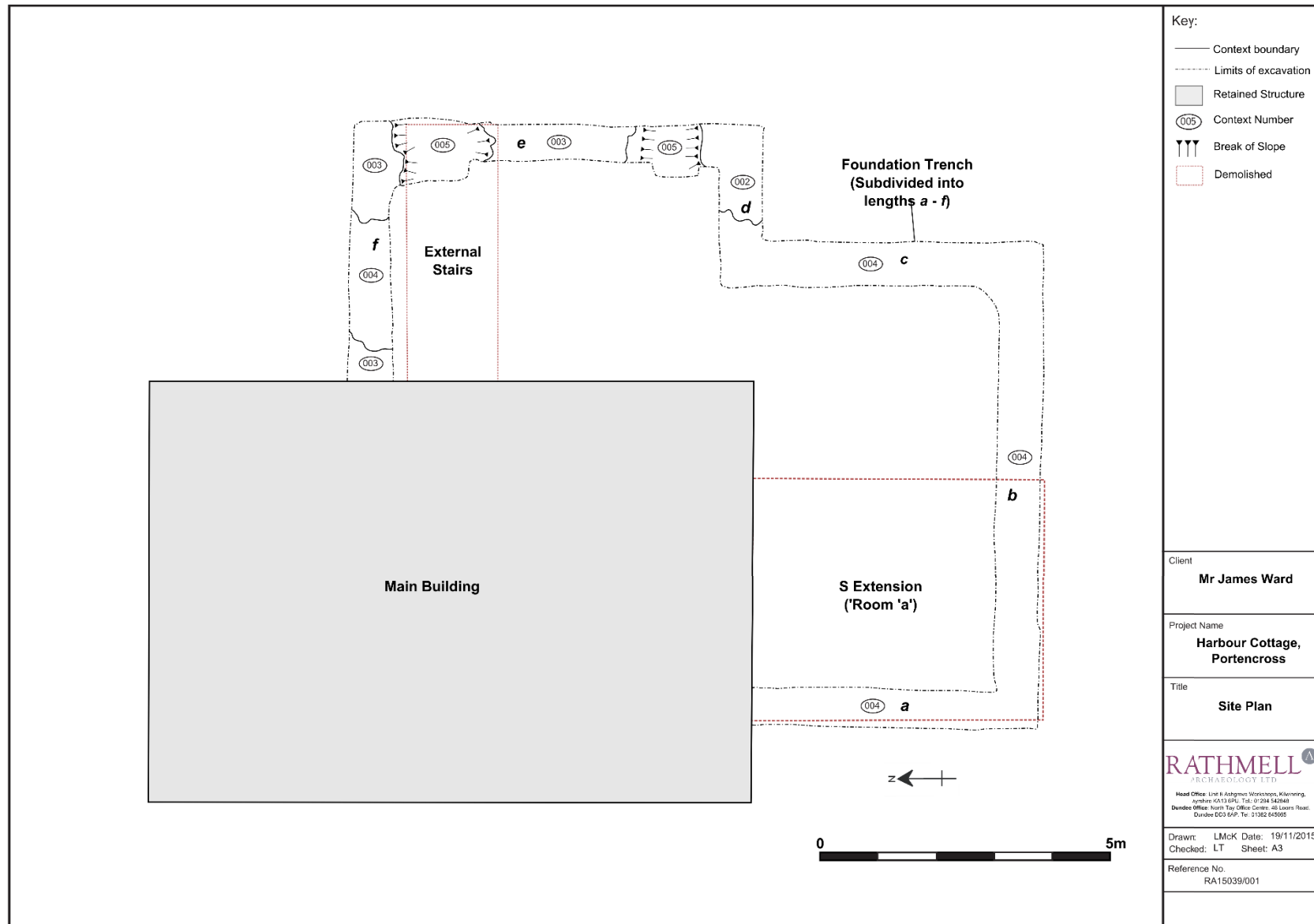


Figure 8: Plan of monitored area



Figure 9a: E-facing section in 'a', showing (001) overlying (003), with subsoil (004) just visible in base of trench



Figure 9b: (003) at base of trench in 'b'



Figure 10a: S-Facing section in 'f,' with (003) underlying modern patio and bedding layer



Figure 10b: View of N end of 'e' showing subsoil (005) at base of trench

Recommendations

41. 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 North Ayrshire Council and their advisors, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Conclusion

42. A programme of historic building recording and archaeological monitoring was carried out for Mr James Ward in support of the demolition of an existing extension and an external stair, and their replacement by a large house extension to the rear of a late 19th century building at Harbour Cottage, Portencross (Planning Ref. No. 14/00691/PP). These archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area. Works took place on the 17th September and the 9th October 2015.
43. The archaeological monitoring works revealed no significant archaeological features, with all evidence of occupation relating to the late 19th century structure which remains upstanding upon the site; the former post office named 'Harbour Cottage.' The historic building recording works revealed a degree of complexity to the structure, but with key elements concealed beneath modern finishes, it proved impossible to establish whether the building reflected a single phase of construction which comprised a commercial property with associated residential unit above, or two residential units which had later been converted into a single unit which combined residential and commercial use.
44. Those extant elements either recorded during the historic building recording element of the project (i.e. the external stair and S extension) or merely examined (the internal stair) as well as the a now-absent timber structure which abutted the S extension's E elevation and was accessed via a doorway through the main building's S elevation – certainly would have worked well together as a coherent whole, which might suggest that the building was planned and built in a single phase. This however cannot be confirmed given the levels of information available.
45. No features of archaeological significance were uncovered throughout the duration of the groundbreaking works which might yield insights into earlier occupation on the site.

Acknowledgements

46. The author would like to thank Mr James Ward for his support, co-operation and hospitality during the project. His insights into the property's previous history of occupation and use also proved most valuable during the historic building recording element in particular. Grateful thanks must also be extended to Mr Hugh McBrien of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service. I am also grateful to Mr Liam McKinstry of Rathmell Archaeology for his assistance in the preparation of appendices and graphics, and to Ms Claire Williamson, Senior Archaeologist at Rathmell Archaeology, who edited the document.

References

Documentary

- | | | |
|-------------|------|--|
| Matthews, A | 2015 | <i>Harbour Cottage, Portencross: Archaeological Mitigation: Written Scheme of Investigation.</i> |
|-------------|------|--|

Cartographic

- | | | |
|------|-----------------|---|
| 1858 | Ordnance Survey | 25 inch 1 st Edition, Ayr, Sheet X.7 (West Kilbride) |
| 1895 | Ordnance Survey | 25 inch 2 nd Edition, Ayrshire 010.07 (includes West Kilbride) |

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	All	Deposit	Humic, black, silty sand with occasional pebble inclusions. The deposit also contained numerous modern finds such as plastic pipes, polythene and salt glazed ceramics.	Topsoil
002	All	Deposit	Line of Sandstone blocks. Blocks measured 0.4m x 0.3m x 0.3m.	Basal course of S extension ('Room a')
003	All	Deposit	Layer of brownish black, small rounded stones (measuring 0.1m x 0.06m x 0.05) with occasional larger blocks of sandstone and cobbles (measuring 0.25m x 0.1m) within. The layer also included occasional fragments of salt glazed ceramics and animal bone	Redeposited material, possibly comprising relocated beach shingle, laid in vicinity of extant house as hardstanding or solum..
004	All	Deposit	Moderately compacted, dark reddish brown, gravelly silt with frequent small rounded stone (measuring 0.1m x 0.06m) and occasional larger rounded cobble inclusions.	Natural subsoil
005	All	Deposit	Moderately compacted, greyish pink, silty sand with occasional rounded stones.	Natural subsoil
006	All	Deposit	Line of bricks (double thickness). Bricks measured 0.3m x 0.2m x 0.2m.	May represent basal course of the founds for the timber structure's which once abutted the E elevation of the S extension.
007	All	Deposit	Thin layer of compact bitumen (thickness of 0.05m). Running from north to south across the Eastern baulk of the foundation trench (trench 6)	Former driveway or tarmaced surface.

Photographic Register

Image No.	Description	From	Date
001	General view	SE	17/09/15
002	General view	E	17/09/15
003	General view	SW	17/09/15
004	General view	NW	17/09/15
005	Room a (S Ext) – Ext, E elevation	E	17/09/15
006	Room a (S Ext) – Ext, S elevation	NE	17/09/15
007	Room a (S Ext) – Ext, W elevation	NW	17/09/15
008	Detail – window (Room a (S Ext))	W	17/09/15
009	Detail – doorway (Room a (S Ext))	E	17/09/15
010	Room a (S Ext) – interior – general view	NW	17/09/15
011	Room a (S Ext) – interior – general view	SE	17/09/15
012	Room a (S Ext) - N wall (S facing) – lower	S	17/09/15
013	As above – Upper	S	17/09/15
014	Room a (S Ext) - W wall (E facing) – N end (oblique)	SE	17/09/15
015	Room a (S Ext) - W wall (E facing) – S end (oblique)	NE	17/09/15
016	Room a (S Ext) - W wall (E facing) – N end	E	17/09/15
017	Room a (S Ext) - W wall (E facing) – S end	E	17/09/15
018	Room a (S Ext) - S wall (N facing) – Lower	N	17/09/15
019	Room a (S Ext) - S wall (N facing) – Upper	N	17/09/15
020	Room a (S Ext) - E wall (W facing) – S end & Doorway	W	17/09/15
021	Interior Main Building, 1 st floor landing – Lower	NW	17/09/15
022	As above – wider view	NW	17/09/15
023	Interior Main Building – ground floor stair	S	17/09/15
024	As above - wider view	S	17/09/15
025	Interior Main Building, View of Interior Chamber - Ext Stair	NW	17/09/15
026	Interior Main Building, Interior Chamber - Ext Stair, E Elevation	W	17/09/15
027	Interior Main Building, Interior Chamber - Ext Stair, Modern Consolidation Works (concrete lintels)	W/vert	17/09/15
028	As above	W/vert	17/09/15

Image No.	Description	From	Date
029	Interior Main Building, Interior Chamber, Ext Stair, S Elevation – window	NW	17/09/15
030	Interior Main Building, Interior Chamber- Ext Stair, N Elevation	SW	17/09/15
031	Interior Main Building, Interior Chamber - Ext Stair, N elevation - Modern Consolidation Works (concrete lintels)	S/vert	17/09/15
032	As above	SW/vert	17/09/15
033	Interior Main Building, Interior Chamber-External Stair – general	W	17/09/15
034	Interior Main Building, Ground Floor Stair	W	17/09/15
035	Interior Main Building, Ground Floor Stair	S	17/09/15
036	Room a (S Ext) – E Wall (W facing), S end	W	17/09/15
037	As above	WNW	17/09/15
038	Room a (S Ext) – E Wall (W facing), N end	WSW	17/09/15
039	External Stair ('Room b') – S Elevation	S	17/09/15
040	As above, wider view	S	17/09/15
041	External Stair ('Room b') – General View	SE	17/09/15
042	External Stair ('Room b') – Looking down stair at basal steps	E/vert	17/09/15
043	Former doorway at top of External Stair ('Room b') – general	E	17/09/15
044	Former doorway at top of External Stair ('Room b') – broached rybats at N side	SE	17/09/15
045	External Stair ('Room b') – N Elevation	N	17/09/15
046	Detail of window, Room a (S Ext)	E	17/09/15
047	N window, Ground Floor, E Elevation – converted into doorway	E	17/09/15
048	External Stair ('Room b') – detail showing base of handrail	N	17/09/15
049	Room a (S Ext) – detail of window	E	17/09/15
050	Room a (S Ext) – detail of window – upper latch	W	17/09/15
051	Room a (S Ext) – detail of window – hopper bracket	ESE	17/09/15
052	Room a (S Ext) – detail of window – hinge	ESE	17/09/15
053	Room a (S Ext) – detail of doorway – detail of doorway showing inner face of rybat, N side	WSW	17/09/15
054	Room a (S Ext) – general view of doorway from interior	W	17/09/15

Image No.	Description	From	Date
055	Room b – external stair – detail of window, E side (exterior)	S	17/09/15
056	Blocked doorway in S elevation of Main Building	S	17/09/15
057	Room a (S Ext) – general view	SE	17/09/15
058	As above	E	17/09/15
059	Room b – external stair – general view	ENE	17/09/15
060	Room a (S Ext) – floor	NE	17/09/15
061	Room a (S Ext) – detail of doorway, tooling on exterior of S rybat	N	17/09/15
062	As above	NE	17/09/15
063	Room a (S Ext) – detail of doorway, painted threshold	E/vert	17/09/15
064	Doorway, E end of S elevation – painted threshold	S/vert	17/09/15
065	General View of Harbour Cottage from Portencross Castle	W	17/09/15
066	As above	W	17/09/15
067	Main Building, S Elevation with S Ext removed – general	S	9/10/15
068	Main Building, S Elevation – Site of S Ext – close-up	S	9/10/2015
069	Main Building, E Elevation – external stair removed	E	9/10/2015
070	As above	E	9/10/2015
071	Dismantled stone steps	NW	9/10/2015
072	Detail of dismantled step, with Fe placing pins uppermost	NW/vert	9/10/2015
073	Main Building, S Elevation – general view	SE	9/10/2015
074	Pre-Excavation View of site	S	9/10/2015
075	Foundation trench ('a') – post-excavation	SW	9/10/2015
076	As above	S	9/10/2015
077	Foundation trench ('a') – sample section, E facing	E	9/10/2015
078	Foundation trench ('b') – sample section, N facing	N	9/10/2015
079	Foundation trench ('b') – sample section, N facing	N	9/10/2015
080	Foundation trench ('b') – post-excavation	NW	9/10/2015
081	Foundation trench ('b') – post-excavation	SE	9/10/2015
082	Foundation trench ('c') – post-excavation	NNW	9/10/2015
083	Foundation trenches ('d' & 'e') – post-excavation	SSE	9/10/2015
084	Foundation trench ('f') – sample section, S facing & post-excavation	S	9/10/2015

Drawings Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawn by	Date
1	1	-	Plan/ sections	1:200/ 1:10	Post-excavation plan & accompanying sample sections	CLT	09/10/15

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Harbour Cottage, Portencross
PROJECT CODE:	RA15039
PARISH:	West Kilbride
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Louise Turner
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Historic Building Recording: Archaeological Monitoring
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 3651 3459
START DATE (this season)	17 th September, 2015
END DATE (this season)	10 th October, 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of historic building recording and archaeological monitoring was carried out at Harbour Cottage, Portencross on the 17th September and the 9th October 2015.</p> <p>The archaeological monitoring works revealed no significant archaeological features, with all evidence of occupation relating to the late 19th century former post office (now named 'Harbour Cottage') which currently occupies the site. The historic building recording works revealed a degree of complexity to the structure, but with key elements concealed beneath modern finishes, it proved impossible to establish whether the building reflected a single phase of construction (i.e. a commercial property with associated residential unit above) or a structure which had seen two self-contained residential units at ground and first floor level converted into a single unit which combined residential and commercial use.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance were uncovered throughout the duration of the works.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr James Ward
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
E MAIL:	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to HES Collections

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