

Seafield Cottage, Blackwaterfoot: Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report

by Claire Shaw

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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 Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed Date

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

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1 Overview

- 1.1 This Data Structure Report presents the findings of archaeological investigative works requested by Mrs. Fleming in respect of a housing development at Seafield Cottage, Blackwaterfoot, Arran (centred on NGR ref: NR 8983 2798). The archaeological works which were carried out between the 30th and 31st of January 2007, were designed to inform any necessary mitigation of impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
- 1.2 The land is currently a green field site extending to roughly 1.2ha (Figure 2). The site is predominantly surrounded by open ground to the northeast, southeast, and southwest with the north-western side enclosed by Seafield House and the residential developments currently being constructed within Kinloch Court.
- 1.3 The findings presented below inform on the character of any archaeologically significant features within the proposed development areas. These investigative works were sufficient to inform on any archaeological hazard and allow the development of any necessary subsequent mitigation. The character of such further stages of work will need to be agreed with North Ayrshire Council and the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.
- 1.4 Rathmell Archaeology Ltd was appointed by Mrs. Fleming, to act with regard to the archaeological issues. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service who advises North Ayrshire Council on archaeological matters, provided guidance on the character of archaeological investigations required on this site.

2 Project Works

- 2.1 The programme of works agreed with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, commenced with an archaeological evaluation through machine cut trenches extending to 5% of development area. In total some 618m² of trenches were opened (Figure 2).
- 2.2 These works were undertaken in keeping with the submitted Written Scheme of Investigation with the on-site works taking place between the 30th and 31st September 2006.
- 2.3 All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

3 Findings: Desktop study

- 3.1 General cartographic evidence indicates that the study area has broadly always been open ground with the cottage located at the eastern corner of the field (Figures 1a-1b). However, although there are no archaeological sites or finds within the development area, there are a number with the general locale, which allowed speculation for the potential.
- 3.2 On the site of where Cairnhouse now stands (NR: 8980 2811) there was previously a very large cairn, which in the late 18th century was described as being a 'stupendous cairn' of 'vast height'. In the 19th century the cairn was robbed and a number of cists were uncovered with a further cist being found in circa.1900 (MacMillan, 1834-45). This cist measured 1.3m by 0.73m and 0.80m in depth and was covered by a large capstone which was roughly 2m by 1.5m and contained an Early Bronze Age dagger and a gold pommel-mount (RCAHMS, NR82NE 3). It is noteworthy that within this area, the cairn would have in effect dominated the landscape as it sits on the seaward ridge of the main phase of isostatic lift.
- 3.3 Within the development area and to the immediate northwest there are two grassy mounds which are possibly archaeological in origin. The first mound (1) is located in the garden of Seafield House (NR: 8973 2794) and comprises a small elongated turf-covered mound (WoSASPIN 22783). The second mound (2) (Figure 2) is situated within the development field (NR: 8980 2792) to the southeast of mound (1) and is also slightly elongated and

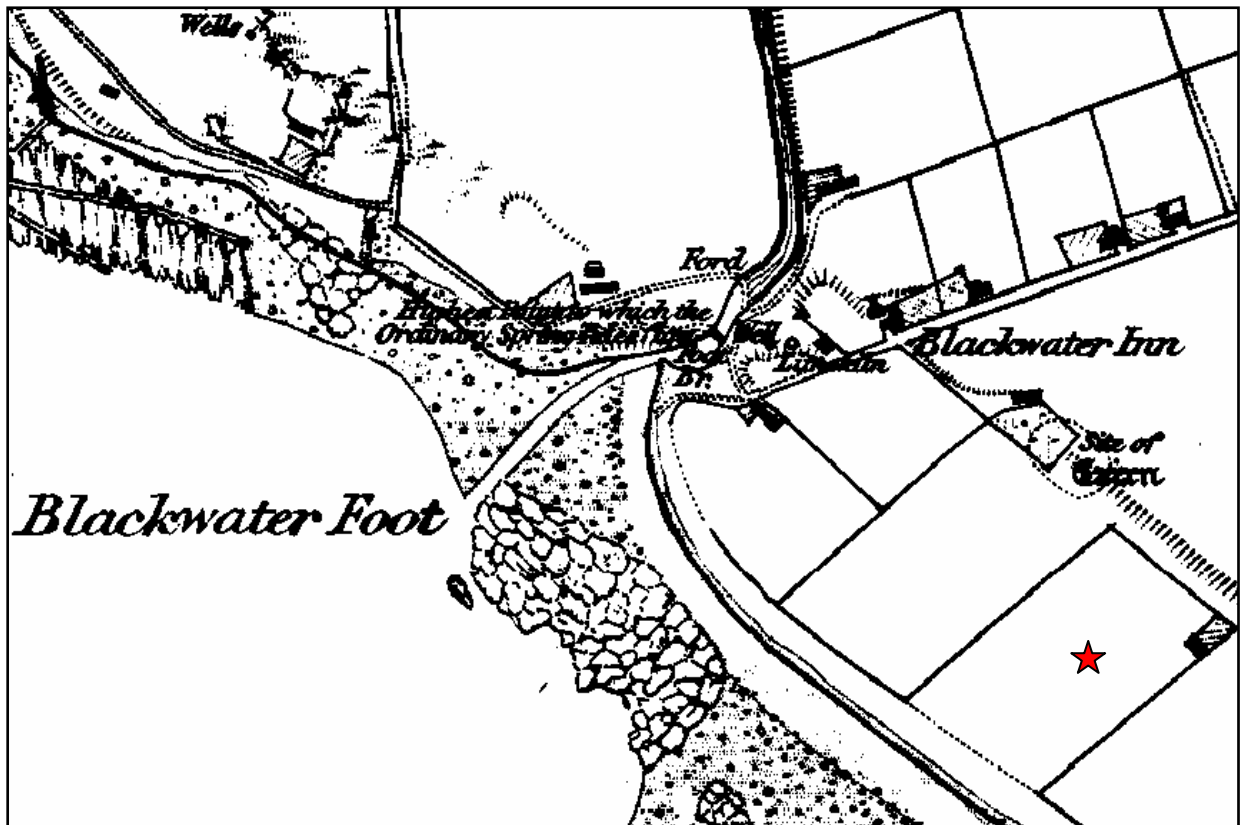


Figure 1a - 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1868 – red star locates site



Figure 1b – Ordnance Survey 2nd edition (1899)

irregular in plan – there is a slight area of quarrying on the upper surface which exposes fine reddish/orange sand.

- 3.4 In 2006 two phases of archaeological evaluation were carried out by Rathmell Archaeology Limited in the adjacent property of Kinloch Court in lieu of a residential development. No significant archaeological finds were found.

4 Findings: Evaluation trenches

- 4.1 On site conditions were considerably boggy underfoot, particularly within a large portion of the central area of the field. This area was unavoidable and as a result the opening of the trenches in this area effectively acted as a conduit for the excess water. Ultimately the south-western ends of trenches two, three and five flooded during the course of the work. In addition it was found that the layout of the trenches was slightly compromised and a sixth trench was required as a means of making up the shortfall in excavated ground.
- 4.2 The three longest trenches, which practically extend the length of the development area, exhibit a common stratigraphic sequence with sandy/silty topsoil with a varying depth of between 60mm and 200mm. This overlay a varying subsoil which denoted the boundary with the raised beach. At the south-western end the trenches were dominated by a homogenous deposit of clean, red/orange coloured sand (Figure 3a & b). At a common point across the field (Figure 2), the underlying sand gave way to a distinct horizon of rounded beach pebbles which denoted the start of the raised beach (Figure 3c). Although the terrain of the field does not show classic indication of this geological feature (stepped landscape), the underlying geology clearly demonstrate the occurrence of this event which formed at the end of the last ice age, some 10,000 years ago. It is possible to see that in this area of the island there appears to have been a minimum a two phases of isostatic lift, the initial phase resulting in a visible stepped topography of the prehistoric shoreline.
- 4.3 The remaining three trenches (1, 4 & 6) were placed within the north-western end of the development field and as a result exhibited only the underlying raised beach in an orangey sand matrix (Figure 3d).
- 4.4 An abundant number of modern red ceramic and stone rubble field drains (Figure 3d) were found throughout the site in all but Trench 4. All were cut into the underlying natural (beach pebbles).
- 4.5 Trenches 2 and 5 were purposely placed to transect the large mound (NR: 8980 2792) that is located at the southern end of the development area. The section through this mound clearly shows that this feature is of no archaeological significance. The accumulation of such a quantity of sand does not appear to be wind blown as there is no visible banding within the deposit, which is characteristic of progressive wind blown sand. These mounds are a common feature along the shoreline of this area and may indicate sand dumps relating to the construction of the houses which form Blackwaterfoot. Furthermore it is noteworthy that there is a significant lack of a soil formation on the mound, indicating its 'recent' creation. Within the eastern face of the mound there are the remains of a small brick built structure. On discussion with a local it was revealed that this structure was a store, presumably cut into the sandy mound to keep the contents cool.
- 4.6 No potentially significant archaeological features were identified during the course of the evaluation and no pre-modern artefacts were recovered.

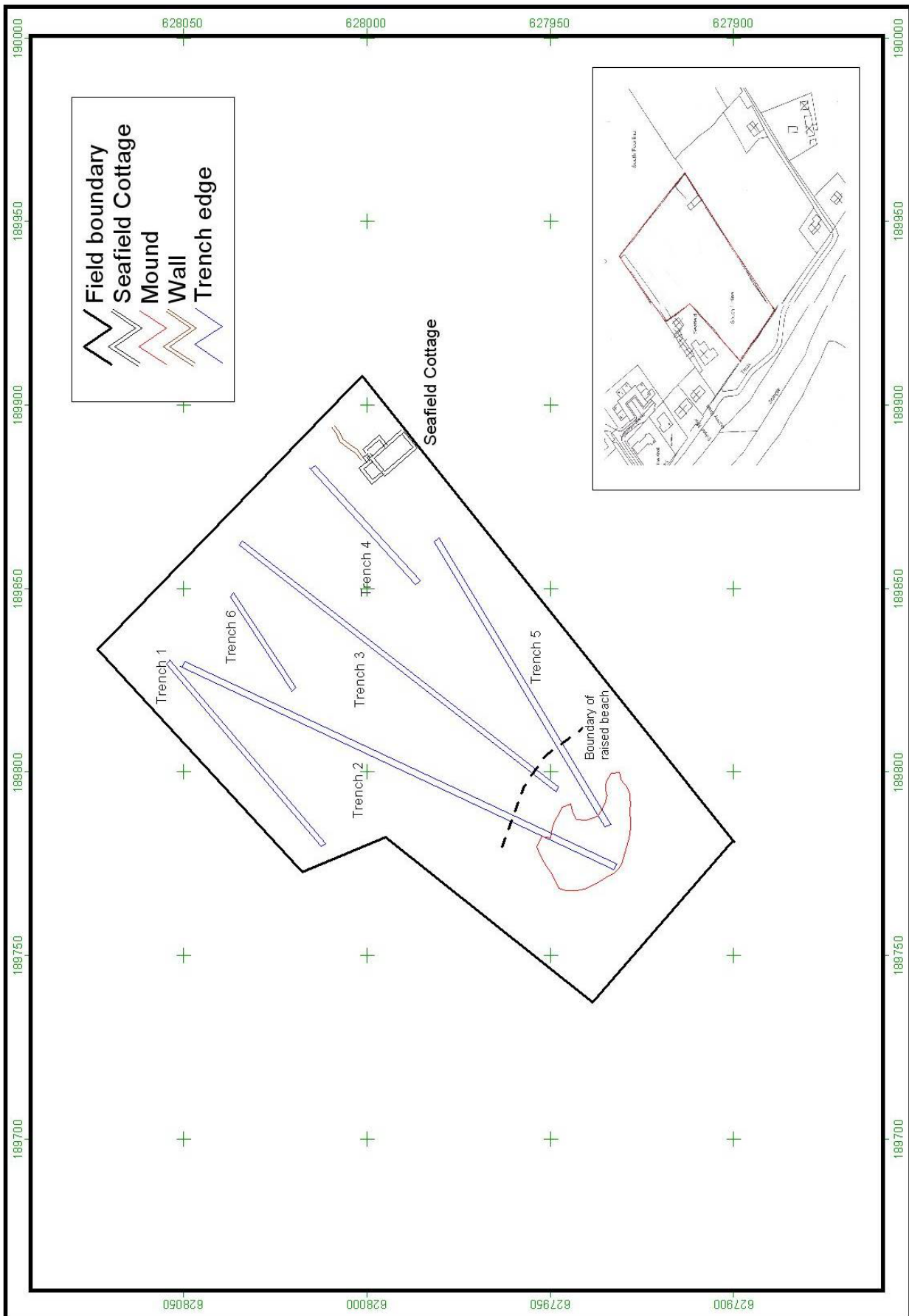


Figure 2 – Location of trenches and Seafeld Cottage



Figure 3a – Trench 2- section through mound



Figure 3b – Trench 2 – through mound



Figure 3c – Trench 3



Figure 3d – Trench 6

5 Findings: Buildings Survey

- 5.1 The remains of the 19th century cottage, as depicted in the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1868), stands as an isolated structure (NGR: NR 8989 2797), sitting back from the foreshore in a picturesque location looking out over the Kilbrannan Sound towards Campbeltown. Currently the cottage is used as a shelter for horses which occupy the associated field. As a result the cottage has hay racks attached to the gable walls.
- 5.2 The cottage sits in a north-west to south-east orientation, measuring 15m by 8m (including the outbuildings). The structure is constructed from fairly regular ashlar blocks of sandstone varying in size from large to small, with occasional round beach cobble incorporated within the main squared build (001) (Figure 4a). In its current condition, the building is nothing more than a shell (Figure 4a-d), with no roof, aperture fittings (windows, doors) or floor, which would have formed the single storey building
- 5.3 Externally the cottage faces south-west, with a single entrance doorway (002) located in the middle (2m by 0.97m), with two opposing window apertures (003 & 004) (1m by 1.40m). The window on the north-western side has been blocked with small rectangular blocks (Figure 4a). The rear of the property contains two window apertures (102 & 103) within the central section, measuring average 0.90m by 1m. These apertures have been blocked, potentially as a result of the addition of an out-building to the rear of the property.
- 5.4 Internally the south-eastern gable end of the cottage has a central fireplace (202) (Figure 4b). It appears that through the insertion of the hay rack the lintel stone over the fire had been in effect knocked off. This stone lies within the hearth of the fireplace and can easily be reinstated. To the south of the fireplace there is a recess (203) measuring 1.85m by 80cm by 0.20m deep which presumably formed a slight cupboard. Within the roof apex, there is a small garret window (204) with chamfered sides and the chimney stack is still *in situ*.
- 5.5 Within the opposing gable end the format of the structure is very similar. Again there is a central fireplace (302) surrounded with a purpose built lintel and columns. Within the fireplace aperture there are the remains of a cooking range (Figure 4c). To the south of the fireplace there is a second recess (303) which mirrors the recess on the opposing side. Located above the fireplace within the roof apex there is a small opening (304) within the chimney flue. The purpose of this aperture is unclear.
- 5.6 There are the remains of two outbuildings attached to the cottage, on the north-western gable end and to the rear of the property (Figure 4d). The small outbuilding on the north-western gable end measures 4m by 4.5m and is in a ruinous state, though a partial doorway and window can be seen. The structure stands to a maximum height of over 2m and is heavily overgrown with vegetation. To the rear of the property there are the remains of another ruined outbuilding, measuring 3m by 7m and standing to a height of 1m. In addition a brick built toilet has been added at the northern corner, measuring 1.37m by 1.6m.



Figure 4a: Seafeld Cottage

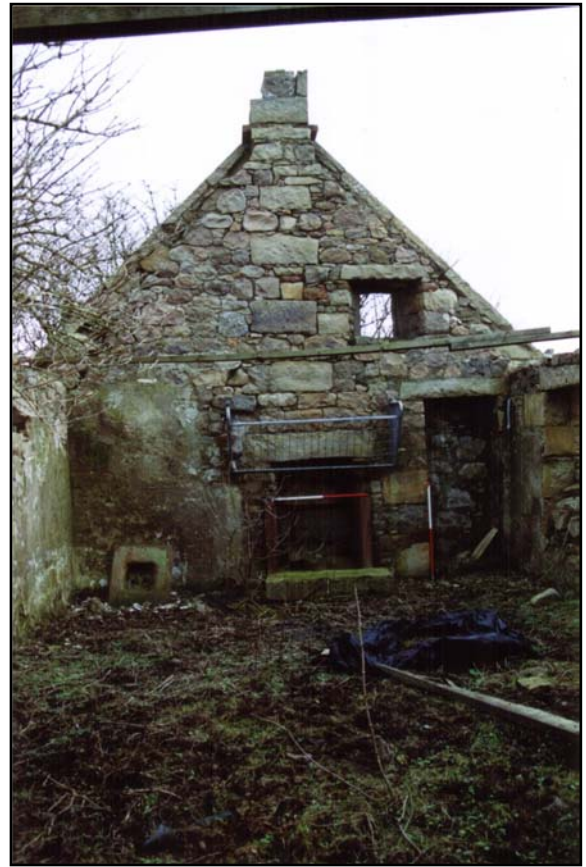


Figure 4b: Internal of north facing fireplace

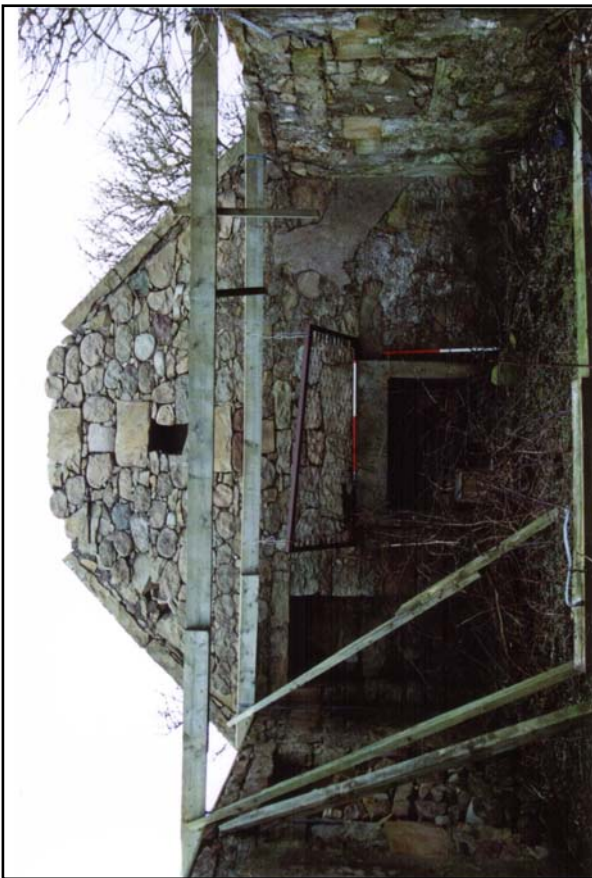


Figure 4c: Interior of south facing fireplace



Figure 4d: Outbuilding

6 Discussion

- 6.1 No archaeological features were identified during the course of the evaluation works undertaken on land at Seafield Cottage, Blackwaterfoot, Arran. The evaluation trenching covered some 5% of the development area with 618m² of trenching being opened.
- 6.2 Despite the potential for significant archaeology - given the relative closeness of where the cists and Bronze Age artefacts (para 3.2) were found in the 19th and early 20th centuries (as well as the potentially significant mounds, para. 3.3) - no evidence of any features or artefacts that were archaeological in character were located.
- 6.3 The prevalence of sand and beach pebbles, both within the topsoil and subsoil, is undoubtedly due to the fact that the field is sited very close to the current beach (a short distance to the southwest) and thus the site is more than likely to represent a raised beach.
- 6.4 The 19th century cottage (locally known as Murchie's Cottage) was subject to a level 1 building recording. In its present state the cottage is nothing more than a shell (Figure 4a-d), with no roof, aperture fittings (windows, doors) or floor, which would have formed the single celled building. The structure is currently being used as a shelter for horses which graze the field. Apart from the addition of two small external out-buildings it appears that the cottage has not been subject to any significant phases of development and in effect remains as it was when constructed in the early 19th century.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 The archaeological works failed to identify any significant archaeological features or artefacts within the study area. Consequently, we recommend that no further archaeological works are appropriate.
- 7.2 The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with North Ayrshire Council and the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, their advisors. Confirmation that the above recommendations are acceptable should be confirmed with these bodies.

8 Conclusion

- 8.1 A programme of archaeological investigative works was undertaken in respect of the proposed development of the site of Seafield Cottage, Blackwaterfoot, Arran (centred on NGR ref: NR 8983 2798). An evaluation was carried out between the 30th and 31st of January 2007. The evaluation comprised six trenches covering approximately 5% of the development area.
- 8.2 A representative sample, as agreed with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, of all of the uncovered features with archaeological potential were investigated. The trenches exhibited a fairly common stratigraphic sequence with a sandy silted topsoil (varying shades of orange/red/brown) which varied from 60mm to 200mm in depth. These overlay a generally homogenous subsoil of red/orange sand which gave way to the underlying raised beach dominating the north-eastern end of the field (with water-rounded pebbles of varying size in a sandy silt matrix).
- 8.3 No significant archaeological features were identified during the course of the archaeological evaluation and the building recording of Murchie's Cottage.

9 References

Documentary

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------|--|
| Hamilton, J. Rev. | 1791-99 | <i>Old Statistical Account of Scotland, 1791-99. Parish of Kilmory, County of Bute, Vol.9.</i> University of Glasgow and Edinburgh, 165-171. |
| MacMillan, A. Rev | 1834-45 | <i>New Statistical Account of Scotland, 1834-45. Parish of Kilmorie, County of Bute. Vol. 5.</i> University of Glasgow and Edinburgh, 40-68. |
| SODev | 1994 | <i>National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and planning</i> , Scottish Office Development Department. |
| SOEnv | 1994 | <i>Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology</i> , Scottish Office Environmental Department. |

Cartographic

- | | | |
|------|-----------------|---|
| 1868 | Ordnance Survey | Ayrshire, 1 st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1:10560 |
| 1899 | Ordnance Survey | Ayr, 2 nd Edition Ordnance Survey one-inch Map |

Appendix 1: Trench Details

Within this appendix a standardised set of data pertaining to the evaluation trenches is presented. See Figure 3 for trench locations.

Trench 1

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Orientation: | Southwest to Northeast |
| Size: | 50m by 1.6m (80m ²) |
| Topsoil depth: | 20mm to 24mm |
| Subsoil character | No subsoil, the topsoil comes off to reveal the underlying sand. The sand [102] is red/orange in colour with few inclusions and slight marling in colour due to ground leaching. Towards the north-eastern end of the trench the topsoil reveals the underlying raised beach in the form of rounded pebbles of varying size. |
| Modern features: | Two stone rubble drains [104 & 106], filled with water worn rounded beach pebbles [105 & 107]. |
| Significant features: | None. |
| Artefacts: | None. |

Trench 2

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Orientation: | Southwest to Northeast |
| Size: | 100 by 1.6m (160m ²) |
| Topsoil depth: | 60mm to 180mm |
| Subsoil character | No subsoil, the topsoil comes off to reveal the underlying sand. The sand [202] is red/orange colour with few inclusions and slight marling in colour due to ground leaching. To the Northeast the topsoil comes off the reveal the underlying raised beach in the form of rounded pebbles of varying size. |

Modern features: One red tile drain [204] and three stone rubble drains [206, 208 & 210].

Significant features: None.

Artefacts: None.

Trench 3

Orientation: Northeast to Southwest

Size: 100m by 1.6m (160m²).

Topsoil depth: 80mm to 90mm.

Subsoil character No subsoil, the topsoil comes off to reveal the underlying sand. The sand [302] is red/orange colour with few inclusions and slight marling in colour due to ground leaching. To the Northeast the topsoil comes off the reveal the underlying raised beach in the form of rounded pebbles of varying size.

Modern features: Three stone rubble drains [304,306 & 308].

Significant features: None.

Artefacts: None.

Trench 4

Orientation: Northeast to Southwest

Size: 35m by 1.6 (56m²).

Topsoil depth: 20mm to 150mm.

Subsoil character No subsoil, the topsoil comes off to reveal the underlying raised beach [402] in the form of rounded pebbles of varying size.

Modern features: None.

Significant features: None.

Artefacts: None

Trench 5

Orientation: Southwest to Northeast

Size: 75m by 1.6m (120m²).

Topsoil depth: 0mm to 200mm

Subsoil character No subsoil, the topsoil comes off to reveal the underlying sand. The sand [502] is red/orange colour with few inclusions and slight marling in colour due to ground leaching. To the Northeast of the trench the topsoil comes off the reveal the underlying raised beach in the form of rounded pebbles of varying size.

Modern features: Two stone rubble drains [504 & 506].

Significant features: None.

Artefacts: None

Trench 6

Orientation:	Southwest to Northeast
Size:	27m by 1.6m (43.2m ²).
Topsoil depth:	200mm to 270mm
Subsoil character	No subsoil, the topsoil comes off to reveal the underlying raised beach in the form of rounded pebbles of varying size.
Modern features:	Four stone rubble drains [603, 605, 607 & 609].
Significant features:	None.
Artefacts:	None

Appendix 2: Record Summaries

Context Summaries

No.	Trench	Interpretation	Description
100	1	Turf	Thin layer of turf- average 40mm thick
101	1	Topsoil	Thin layer of sandy/silt with fine grass roots ranging from 90mm – 100mm
102	1	Sand	Fine red/orange coloured sand – clean with slight marling in colouration due to ground leaching
103	1	Raised beach	Rounded beach pebbles indicative of the ancient raised beach. Pebbles are graded in size, with large boulders occurring below the surface pebbles
104	1	Cut for field drain	Field drain – 200mm wide running in a north-south direction
105	1	Fill of field drain 104I	Filled with rounded pebbles and a dark silty/sand matrix
106	1	Cut for field drain	Field drain – 200mm wide running in a northwest-southeast direction
107	1	Fill of field drain 106	Filled with rounded pebbles and a dark silty/sand matrix
200	2	Turf	Thin layer of turf- average 30mm thick
201	2	Topsoil	Thin layer of sandy/silt with fine grass roots ranging from 60mm – 18mm deep
202	2	Sand	Fine red/orange coloured sand – clean with slight marling in colouration due to ground leaching
203	2	Raised beach	Rounded beach pebbles indicative of the ancient raised beach. Pebbles are graded in size, with large boulders occurring below the surface pebbles

204	2	Cut for field drain	Field drain – 200mm wide running in a northwest-southeast direction
205	2	Fill of field drain 204	Filled with red tile rounded drain
206	2	Cut for field drain	Field drain – 200mm wide running in a northwest-southeast direction
207	2	Fill of field drain 206	Filled with rounded pebbles and a dark silty/sand matrix
208	2	Cut for field drain	Field drain – 200mm wide running in a northeast -southwest direction
209	2	Fill of field drain 208	Filled with rounded pebbles and a dark silty/sand matrix
210	2	Cut for field drain	Field drain – 200mm wide running in a northwest -southeast direction
211	2	Fill of field drain 210	Filled with rounded pebbles and a dark silty/sand matrix
300	3	Turf	Thin layer of turf- average 90mm thick
301	3	Topsoil	Thin layer of sandy/silt with fine grass roots ranging from 80mm – 90mm deep
302	3	Sand	Fine red/orange coloured sand – clean with slight marling in colouration due to ground leaching
303	3	Raised beach	Rounded beach pebbles indicative of the ancient raised beach. Pebbles are graded in size, with large boulders occurring below the surface pebbles
304	3	Cut for field drain	Field drain – 200mm wide running in a north -south direction
305	3	Fill of field drain 304	Filled with rounded pebbles and a dark silty/sand matrix
306	3	Cut for field drain	Field drain – 200mm wide running in a north -south direction
307	3	Fill of field drain 306	Filled with rounded pebbles and a dark silty/sand matrix
308	3	Cut for field drain	Field drain – 200mm wide running in a northwest -southeast direction
309	3	Fill of field drain 308	Filled with rounded pebbles and a dark silty/sand matrix
400	4	Turf	Thin layer of turf- average 90mm thick
401	4	Topsoil	Thin layer of sandy/silt with fine grass roots ranging from 20mm – 150mm deep

402	4	Raised beach - pebbles	Rounded beach pebbles indicative of the ancient raised beach. Pebbles are graded in size, with large boulders occurring below the surface pebbles
500	5	Turf	Thin layer of turf- average 50mm thick
501	5	Topsoil	Thin layer of sandy/silt with fine grass roots ranging from 60mm – 200mm deep
502	5	Sand	Fine red/orange coloured sand – clean with slight marling in colouration due to ground leaching
503	5	Raised beach - pebbles	Rounded beach pebbles indicative of the ancient raised beach. Pebbles are graded in size, with large boulders occurring below the surface pebbles
504	5	Cut for field drain	Field drain – 200mm wide running in a northwest -southeast direction
505	5	Fill of field drain 504	Filled with rounded pebbles and a dark silty/sand matrix
506	5	Cut for field drain	Field drain – 200mm wide running in a northwest -southeast direction
507	5	Fill of field drain 506	Filled with rounded pebbles and a dark silty/sand matrix
600	6	Turf	Thin layer of turf- average 80mm thick
601	6	Topsoil	Thin layer of sandy/silt with fine grass roots ranging from 200mm – 270mm deep
602	6	Raised beach - pebbles	Rounded beach pebbles indicative of the ancient raised beach. Pebbles are graded in size, with large boulders occurring below the surface pebbles
603	6	Cut for field drain	Field drain – 200mm wide running in a north -south direction
604	6	Fill of field drain 604	Filled with rounded pebbles and a dark silty/sand matrix
605		Cut for field drain	Field drain – 200mm wide running in a northwest -southeast direction
606		Fill of field drain 605	Filled with rounded pebbles and a dark silty/sand matrix
607		Cut for field drain	Field drain – 200mm wide running in a north -south direction
608		Fill of field drain 607	Filled with rounded pebbles and a dark silty/sand matrix
609		Cut for field drain	Field drain – 200mm wide running in a northwest -southeast direction

610		Fill of field drain 609	Filled with rounded pebbles and a dark silty/sand matrix
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Context Summaries: Building Recording

No.	Interpretation	Description
001	Main build	Main build – fairly regular blocks (sandstone) with the occasional round beach boulder incorporated within build. Quoin stones at corners and forming surround of door and window apertures
002	Door aperture	Measuring 2m by 0.97m
003	Window aperture	Measuring 1m by 1.4m
004	Window aperture	Measuring 0.9m by 1.4m
005	Flagstones	Flagstone entrance
101	Main build	Main build – fairly regular blocks (sandstone) with the occasional round beach boulder incorporated within build.
102	Window aperture	Measuring 0.9m by 1.1m
103	Window aperture	Measuring 0.95m by 0.86m
201	Main build	Main build – fairly regular blocks (sandstone) with the occasional round beach boulder incorporated within build.
202	Fireplace	Measuring 0.4m by 0.9m
203	Recess	Measuring 0.85m by 0.8m by 0.2m deep
204	Garret window	Garret window in roof apex with chamfered sides
205	Chimney stack	Chimney stack
301	Main build	Main build – fairly regular blocks (sandstone) with the occasional round beach boulder incorporated within build.
302	Fireplace	Measuring 1.4m by 1.3m
303	Recess	Measuring 1.80m by 0.8m
304	Small aperture	Small aperture above fireplace- purpose unclear

Drawing Register

Sheet	No.	Title	Scale	Date	Author
1	001	Post-ex plan of trench 3	1:50	31/01/07	CW
1	002	Post-ex plan of trench 2	1:50	31/01/07	CW

1	003	Post-ex plan of trench 6	1:50	31/01/07	CW
2	004	Post-ex plan of trench 4	1:50	31/01/07	CW
2	005	Post-ex plan of trench 1	1:50	31/01/07	CW
2	006	Post-ex plan of trench 5	1:50	31/01/07	CS

Photographic Register- Film 1

Image	Description	From	Date
1	General shot of exterior of cottage	W	30/01/07
2	General shot of interior fireplace on south facing gable wall	N	30/01/07
3	Detailed shot of fireplace	N	30/01/07
4	Detailed shot of tiled fireplace hearth	N	30/01/07
5	General shot of eastern facing interior	SE	30/01/07
6	General shot of interior of southern facing gable end	S	30/01/07
7	Detailed shot of fireplace in southern facing gable end	S	30/01/07
8	Original cast iron fire surround	NW	30/01/07
9	Interior shot of western facing side	NW	30/01/07
10	Remains of out building – External shot, west facing side	W	30/01/07
11	North and east facing side	NE	30/01/07
12	Brick built external toilet	NE	30/01/07
13	Rear of cottage East facing side	E	30/01/07
14	Trench 4	E	30/01/07
15	Trench 4	W	30/01/07
16	Trench 3	E	30/01/07
17	Trench 3 – shot of raised beach pebbles	N	30/01/07
18	Trench 3	W	30/01/07
19	Trench 5 – flooded	W	30/01/07
20	Trench 5 – detail through section of mound	NE	30/01/07
21	Trench 5 – detail through section of mound	NE	30/01/07
22	Trench 2- through mound	W	31/01/07
23	Trench 2 – section through mound	N	31/01/07
24	Trench 2 - section through mound, general shot	NE	31/01/07

25	Remains of store built into the sand mound	NE	31/01/07
26	Trench 2	NE	31/01/07
27	Trench 2 - flooding	SW	31/01/07
28	Trench 2	NE	31/01/07
29	Trench 1	NE	31/01/07
30	Trench 6	SW	31/01/07
31	General shot of cottage	N	31/01/07
32	General shot of cottage	N	31/01/07
32	General shot of cottage	W	31/01/07
33	General shot of cottage	W	31/01/07

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Seafield Cottage, Blackwaterfoot
PARISH:	Kilmory
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Claire Shaw
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation; Building Recording
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NR 898 279
START DATE (this season)	30 th January 2007
END DATE (this season)	31 st January 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological investigative works was undertaken in respect of the proposed development of the site of Seafield Cottage, Blackwaterfoot, Arran (centred on NGR ref: NR 898 279). An evaluation was carried out between the 30th and 31st of January 2007. The evaluation comprised six trenches covering approximately 5% of the development area.</p> <p>The trenches exhibited a fairly common stratigraphic sequence with a sandy silted topsoil (varying shades of orange/red/brown) which varied from 60mm to 200mm in depth. These overlay a generally homogenous subsoil of red/orange sand which gave way to the underlying raised beach dominating the north-eastern end of the field (with water-rounded pebbles of varying size in a sandy silt matrix).</p> <p>No significant archaeological features were identified during the course of the archaeological evaluation.</p> <p>The 19th century cottage (known as Murchie's Cottage) was subject to a level 1 building recording. In its present state the cottage is nothing more than a shell (Figure 4a-d), with no roof, aperture fittings (windows, doors) or floor, which would have formed the single celled building.</p>
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