

Castlehill, New Cumnock: Archaeological Monitoring

Data Structure Report



by Diane Gorman & Liam McKinstry

issued 9th May 2016

on behalf of Auberne Homes

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Quality Assurance Data

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Date of Issue 9th May 2016 Version 1.0

Commissioning Body Auberne Homes

Event Name Castlehill, New Cumnock

Event Type Archaeological Monitoring

Event Date(s) December 2015 - April 2016

Rathmell Archaeology Code RA14028 OASIS Ref rathmell1-231400

Location United Kingdom : Scotland : New Cumnock

NGR NS 6176 1381 Parish New Cumnock

Designation(s) None

Canmore IDs Castle, Moat (44712)

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Auberne Homes, in support of a proposed housing development at Castlehill, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire (Planning Reference 14/0296/PP). The archaeological monitoring works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
2. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required. Rathmell Archaeology Limited was appointed by Auberne Homes to undertake the development and implementation of these archaeological works.
3. The project works were defined by a Written Scheme of Investigation (McKinstry 2015) which was agreed with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service. All works complied with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service Standard Conditions, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. The development area encompasses the disused United Reform Church and its associated grounds to the north of Castlehill Street, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire (NGR: NS 6177 1382). This church was built over the remains of a previous church and the medieval remains of New Cumnock Castle, (WoSASPIN 9065; NMRS ref: NS61SW 2) also known as Black Bog Castle and Black Craig Castle in the New Statistical Account (1845) and occasionally referred to as The Castle of Black Lorg locally (Murray 1989).
5. The existing church, the Arthur Memorial United Reform Church (NMRS ref: NS61SW 46), was constructed between 1912 and 1913 over the demolished remains of a previous Free Church building built between 1843 and 1845. Within the churches grounds to the immediate east was a 20th century stone war memorial (NMRS ref: NS61SW 48) carved into the shape of a 'Celtic' cross. A ruined 17th century church and grave yard, New Cumnock Kirk (NMRS ref: NS61SW 1), was located to the immediate south-southwest of the development area. This church building according to local history was said to have been constructed using stone taken from New Cumnock Castle.
6. New Cumnock Castle was first mentioned at the start of the 14th century when it was the seat of the Earls of Dunbar (Galbraith 1975) though it was probably much older. The castle is mentioned several times in Blind Harry's '*Actes and Deidis of the Illustre and Vallyeant Campioun Schir William Wallace*' and the castle was briefly home to Edward II in 1307 when he brought his army to Scotland in pursuit of Robert the Bruce. The original castle is thought to have been a motte and bailey construction (Murray 1989) although it is possible that there had been a settlement on the site before any castle was built. It is probable that the original structure would have been made of wood and situated on the summit of a knoll. The site of the castle is significant in the wider geography of the area. It was situated on an isolated piece of raised ground approximate to the confluence of the River Nith and the Afton Water and to the west; there are extensive areas of marshy ground. The situation of the castle would have been naturally defensive while lying across the natural north to south communication route formed through the Southern Uplands by the River Nith.
7. Subsequent structures were of stone as by 1580 the castle was described as ruinous (Warrick 1899). There may have been a rebuild or repair about 1650 and there were still considerable upstanding remains at the end of the 18th century (Warrick 1899). Modern building works to the north of the United Reform Church uncovered the remains of massive stone walls possibly relating to the stone phase of the castle.
8. The cartographic evidence for New Cumnock Castle is strong, with the earliest reference within Pont's map of 1583-96 (Figure 1a). Adair's map of 1685 (Figure 1b) denotes 'Cumnock C' which presumably refers to the castle rather than the town. Moll's map of 1745 (Figure 2a) also shows 'Kumnock Castle' and confirms that there were some above ground remains within the 18th century. Later historic maps, such as Roy's of 1752-55 (Figure 2b), show Cumnock but do not refer to it as a castle possibly suggesting that there were fewer notable above ground remains left within the castle at that point.



Figure 1a: Extract from Pont's map of 1583-96



Figure 1b: Extract from Adair's map of 1685



Figure 2a: Extract from Moll's map of 1745



Figure 2b: Extract from Roy's map of 1752-55

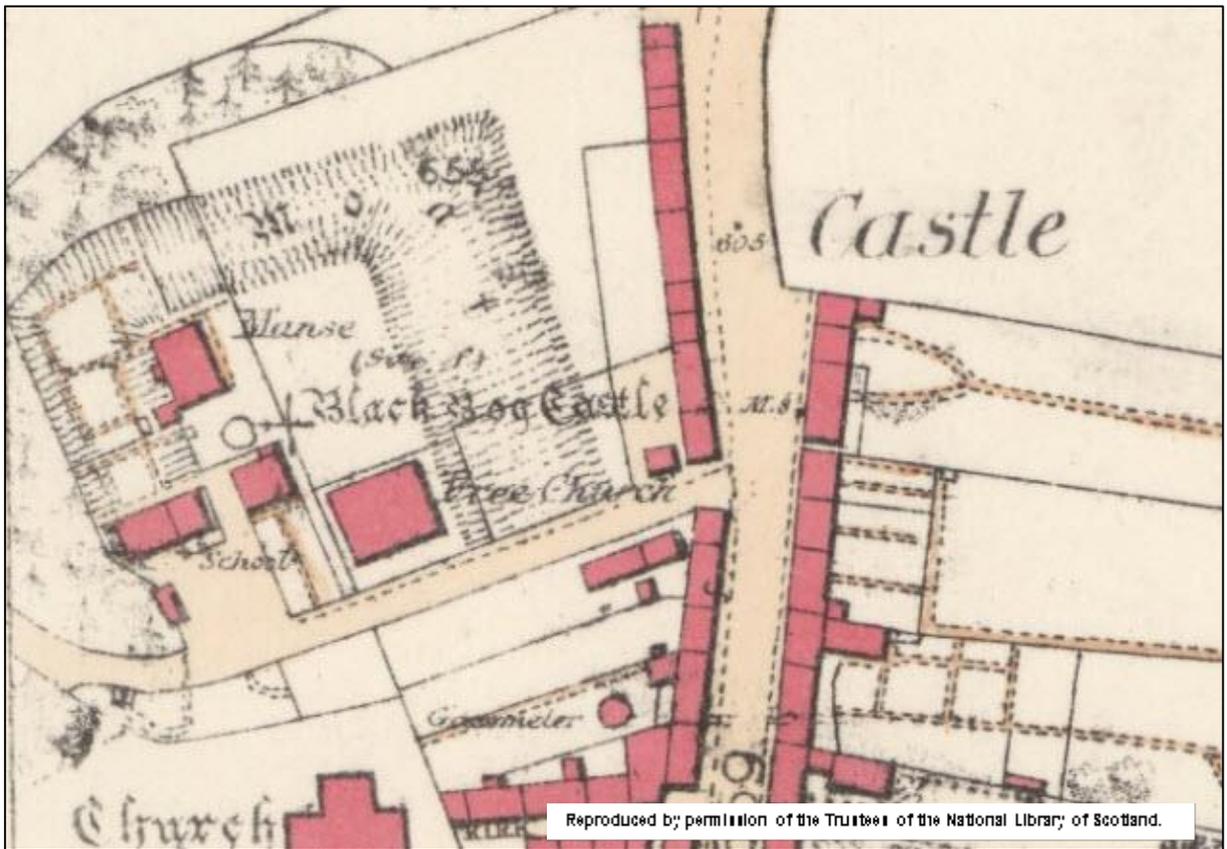


Figure 3a: Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1860

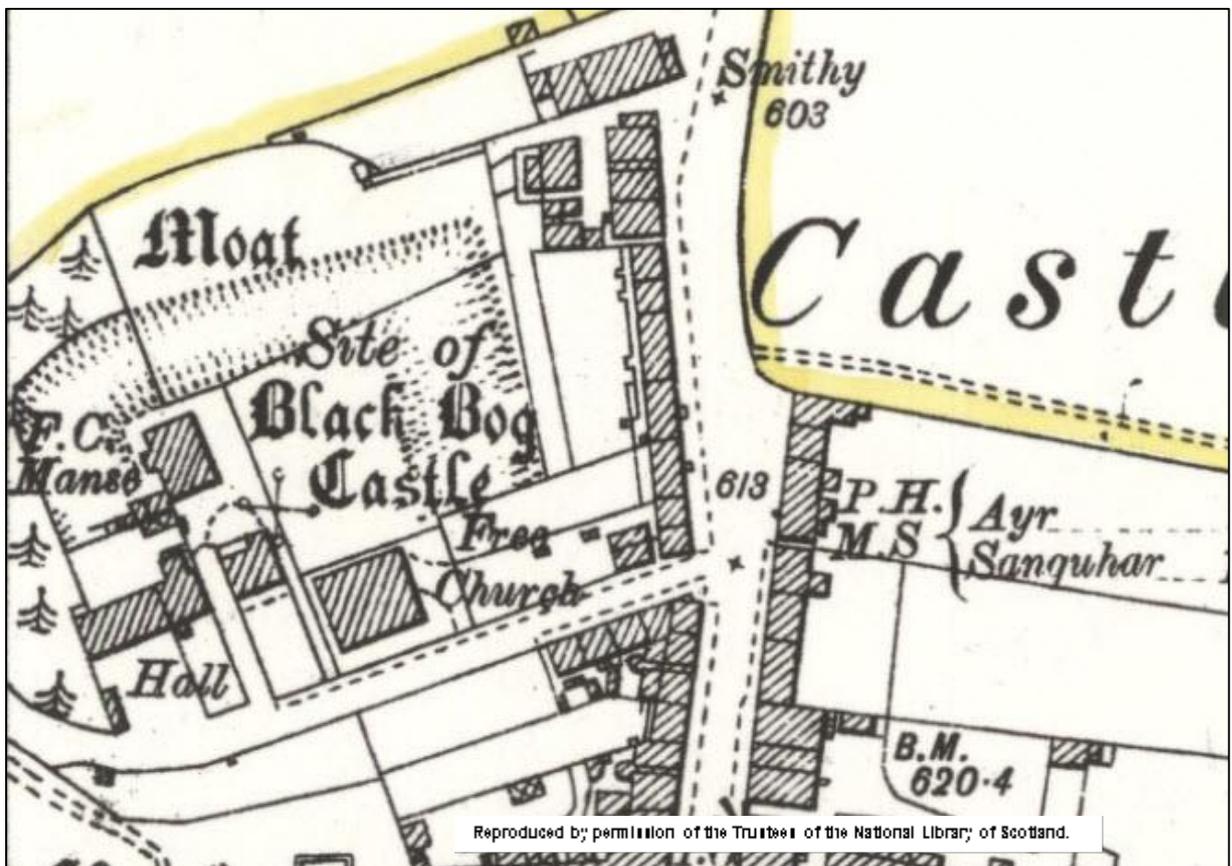


Figure 3b: Extract from 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 1897

9. Although there are no original upstanding remains at New Cumnock Castle today there are partially landscaped remains of the moat which are still visible in the garden of the old manse to the immediate northwest of the development area. Both the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps for New Cumnock show the moat surviving on the western, northern and eastern sides.
10. The first edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 3a) depicts the moat still extant to the south-east side of the Free Church. By the second edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 3b) the moat to the south-east of the church appears to have been filled in. Excavations carried out to the immediate north of the 17th century church and grave yard uncovered a level linear bank which ran along the edge of Castlehill Road (Matthews, A. and Rees, T. 2003). This bank was 1.5m thick and covered a buried ground surface. The excavation proved that the cemetery wall cut into this linear bank suggesting that the bank material was either upcast or a form of bank/glacis associated from the southern side of the moat. This material could date to the medieval period with the initial excavation of the moat through to the last known activity or occupation in 1650. From this it would be reasonable to infer that the southern side of the moat underlies Castlehill Road.

Archaeological Evaluation

11. An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd between 23rd February and 12th March 2015. This comprised the excavation of seven intrusive trenches, situated within the footprint and grounds of the now demolished Arthur Memorial United Reform Church (1913). The works were carried out using an 8 tonne 360° tracked excavator, and a mini digger. In total, 72.31 linear metres were excavated.
12. The investigation revealed a linear concentration of stone and clay within the footprint of the church, thought to be the possible remains of a foundation wall for the castle. A large ditch was also identified within the grounds of the church which correspond to the historical mapping evidence for the castles moat. The historic mapping indicated that the moat had a width of between 20 to 24m which was consistent with the span of the ditch encountered during the archaeological evaluation works, found to be 22m wide (Figure 4).

Project Works

13. This Data Structure Report details the findings of a watching brief carried out within the development area, to mitigate impact on any surviving archaeological remains in the area, in particular the presence of surviving remains of New Cumnock Castle and its associated moat. Monitoring works were carried out intermittently between 21st December 2015 and 23rd March 2016, coinciding with on-site excavation works.
14. The housing development involved the construction of four bungalows, with the plots running in an ENE-WSW direction across the development area. The early 20th century Arthur Memorial United Reform Church was demolished prior to the construction works on site. The site was situated on an incline, sloping upwards from ENE to WSW, with the SSE edge of the site bordering Castle Street (Figure 4). The bungalows were to be built on four separate plots, which are referred to in this report as plots 1, 2, 3 and 4, running sequentially from WSW to ENE. The site lay over two terraces, which divided plot 3 approximately in half; the upper terrace was located to the WSW, and began to slope downwards to the lower terrace located to the ENE.
15. The initial on-site works involved the reduction of the plots to a previously agreed level, via the use of one 13.5 tonne tracked mechanical excavator. The reduction areas for plots 1-3 measured 13m by 13m with plot 4 measuring 10m by 10m. Drainage trenches for the bungalows were also excavated within the building footprint of each bungalow plot. Later works involved the excavation of filtration trenches to the front of plots 1 and 2 and external drainage and sewage trenches located between the bungalows and filtration trenches. Filtration trenches and their associated drainage trenches for plots 3 and 4 were not monitored as they only cut through recently deposited building material.
16. The evaluation had shown the castle's moat to lie broadly within plot 3, hence it was agreed the moat would be preserved *in situ* via the use of piling and ring-beam to float the foundations on this plot. The insertion of the piles was subject to archaeological monitoring

and two of the borehole samples were to be retained by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd for further analysis (Figure 4).

Findings

Reduction of Plots 1-4 and Internal Drainage Trenches

17. The uppermost layer identified across the four plots was (001) which consisted of a mixture of materials, including type 1 gravel, vegetation, plastic debris, black plastic sheeting associated with tarmac and construction, within a sandy silt matrix. The layers deposition was the result of the recent demolition of the modern 20th century church building. The layer had a thickness range across the site of 0.1m to 0.9m.
18. Underlying layer (001) was another layer of recent demolition debris (002) which was located only in plots 2-3. This layer consisted of a mixture of materials, including worked blonde sandstone blocks and fragments, most likely associated with the recently demolished 20th century church building. The deposit had a maximum thickness of 0.8m.
19. Also underlying layer (001) within plot 4 were two layers associated with the demolition of the 19th century church and construction of the 20th century church. The first of these, layer (012), consisted of grey and red coloured gravel with inclusions of blonde sandstone, black plastic sheeting, red brick, vegetation and modern cables. The layer had a maximum thickness of 0.3m. The second layer, (021), consisted of blonde sandstone blocks and fragmented remains and chunks of blonde sandstone blocks, located within plot 4 and also the eastern edge of plot 3. The layer had a thickness of 0.2m.
20. Underlying layer (001) within plot 1 and (002) within plots 2 and 3 was layer (007) which consisted of mixed mid-brown and grey clay which contained frequent inclusions of small to large pieces of building material (such as worked sandstone blocks, red bricks and small fragments of slate) which seemed to mainly relate to the demolition of the 19th century church building in advance of the construction of the later church. Some of the larger stones contained within (007), such as (005), may have been originally from the medieval castle walls or foundations and were subsequently used in the 19th century churches construction. The thickness range of the layer (007) within the three plots, where observable, was between 0.6m to 0.8m.
21. The remains of layers of redeposited natural, (006) and (016), were identified within plot 2 beneath layer (007). These layers consisted of very firmly compacted grey clay with no visible inclusions.

20th century to Modern Phase (Plots 1-4)

22. The recently demolished remains of the 20th century church were located within plots 1-3. These remains consisted of the walls/foundations of the building, [004], which were blonde sandstone chunks and blocks and grey worked and unworked stones which were mortared in place. The wall/foundation had a thickness of 0.5m and a width 0.7m. Beneath the wall/foundation was a bedding layer of concrete (003) which also acted as internal flooring and outside surfaces. These remains were abutted by layer (007) and underlay the upper layers (001) and (002).
23. The fragmentary remains of brick structures, (014) and (020), were also identified abutted by Layer (007) close to the NNW edge of plot 2. These structures had an unclear relationship with the 20th century church building and were only observable in section.

19th century Phase (Plots 1-4)

A stretch of the 19th century wall, [010], was identified within SSE part of plot 2 and was most likely part of the 19th century church identified in the original evaluation trenches (McKinstry 2015). This stretch of wall consisted of five worked, rectangular shaped grey stone blocks and worked blonde sandstone blocks which were mortared into place. The section of wall underlay the 20th century concrete layer (003) and was surrounded by layer (007).

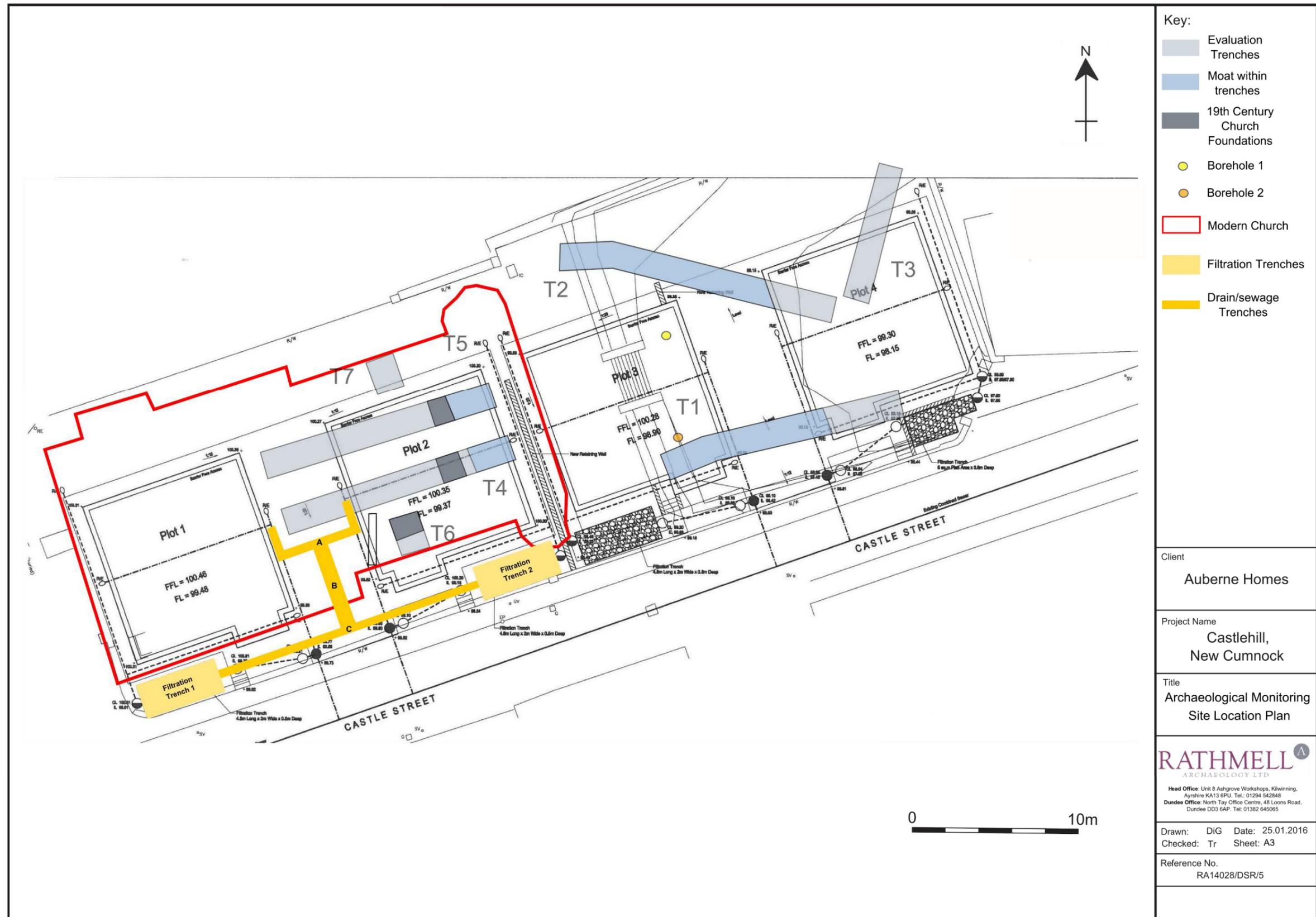


Figure 4: Archaeological Monitoring Site Location Plan

Medieval Phase (Plots 1-4)

24. The internal drainage trenches excavated within plot 4 identified two of the upper fills from within the moat. The first fill, (011), consisted of mid brown-grey clay with no visible inclusions. The second fill, (015), consisted of blue clay and had no visible inclusions.
25. Some of the larger boulders and stones, such as (005), identified within layer (007) in plots 1 and 2 may have originally been part the castles wall foundations but had been disturbed during the construction and subsequent demolition of the 19th century church.

The Boreholes

26. The drilling of two boreholes located within plot 3 were monitored. These were excavated to a depth of 5m, through 0.1m of concrete aggregate gravel (017) laid by Auberne Homes. The location of the boreholes were chosen by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd (Figure 4).
27. Information from the recovered boreholes samples will allow further analysis of the makeup of the moat (See Recommendations).

The Piling

28. To facilitate the pile and ring beam structure, seventeen piles were drilled into plot 3 (Figure 8), begun at the final ground reduction level in this area. Circumstance allowed the archaeologist a view of the upper 0.2m of piles 3, 4 and 12 which showed grey clay (019), similar to deposits (006) and (016).

Table 1: Piling Summary

Pile Number	Driven Length (m)
1	0.5
2	0.5
3	0.5
4	0.5
5	0.5
6	0.5
7	1.6
8	2.2
9	1.3
10	1
11	1.3
12	0.5
13	3
14	3
15	3
16	3
17	2.3



Figure 5a: Foundations [004] in SW facing section plot 2



Figure 5b: Mortar and brick structure [020] in SW facing section plot 2



Figure 6a: Structural Remains [010] at south side of plot 2



Figure 6b: Massive stone [005] removed from (007)



Figure 7a: Retaining wall [026] within filtration trench 1 from the SW.



Figure 7b: Church foundations [024] / (027) & retaining wall in trench B from the NW.

Filtration Trenches and External Drainage/Sewage Trenches (Plots 1 & 2).

29. Two filtration trenches and a series of narrow trenches, A-C, (linking the house plots to the main drain/sewer and the filtration trenches) were excavated both between and in front of house plots 1 and 2 (Figure 4). The filtration trenches measured 4m by 1.5m and were excavated to a depth of 0.65-0.7m and the narrow trenches were for the most part 0.5m wide (though were wider in places due to the need to fit certain sections of piping) and there was a depth range of 0.3-0.8m deep.
30. The main upper deposits encountered during the excavation, (022) and (023), of the two filtration trenches and the narrow trenches (A-C) were modern type 2 and 3 hard core layers which were part of the house plot build. These layers had a depth range throughout the trench excavations of 0.2-0.3m and 0.25-0.38m respectively. Beneath these modern layers lay the deposit (007) which represented a build-up of material, relating to the demolition of the 19th century church and construction of 20th century church. This layers make-up has been discussed earlier in the report but its thickness range within the filtration trenches and the narrow trenches (A-C) was 0.4-0.65m.
31. The Foundations of 20th century church were identified within trench B (Figure 7b). The foundations consisted of an upper wall section [024] which was constructed using large roughly worked boulders (0.75m x 0.68m x 0.48m in size) and smaller stones. The wall was bonded with a mixture of orange/buff coloured mortar and mid grey brown clay. The wall measured 1.2m in length (within the main drain trench), 1.6-1.7m wide and had a thickness of 0.35-0.4m. The wall section most likely related to other structural remains [004] which are discussed earlier in the report. Directly beneath wall section [004] was a layer of concrete and rubble (027) which may have been a bedding layer for the foundations. This layer had a thickness of 0.2-0.3m and a width of 1.6-1.7m. To the immediate SSE of the church foundations in trench B was a deposit of mid grey-brown/orange-brown clay with very frequent medium sized stone rubble and occasional larger building stones. The layer had a thickness of 0.6m and an extent of 1.2m long (within the trench) by 0.8-1m wide. The deposit (025) seems to have acted as core material between the church foundations and a retaining wall [026]. The retaining wall (Figure 7b) constructed using large flat stones/blocks (0.7m x 0.35m x 0.08-0.15m in size). The structure was bonded with orange/buff coloured mortar and measured 1.2m in length (within the main drain trench), 1.2-1.3m wide and had a thickness of 0.6m. Both the foundation wall [024] and the retaining wall [026] were both orientated in a WSW to ENE direction. The retaining wall [026] was also identified within filtration trench 1 (Figure 7a).

Discussion

32. The upper deposits, (001), (002) and (012), identified during the onsite monitoring works at Castlehill, New Cumnock related to the construction and subsequent demolition of the 20th century Arthur Memorial United Reform Church, (003), [004], [024] and (027). The demolition of the original 19th century Free Church was represented by layer (007) which was used as packing around the 20th century churches foundations and to create the terrace to the ENE of the church and also partially covered the medieval castle's moat. Structural remains from the original 19th century church, [010], were identified within plots 1 and 2 which corresponded to the remains found during the original evaluation (McKinstry 2015). Within plots 3 and 4's piling foundations and drainage trenches the upper two layers, (011) and (015), of the medieval moat were uncovered though there were no notable finds or inclusions within these fills. Information from the recovered boreholes samples from the foundation piling will allow further analysis of the makeup of the moat.

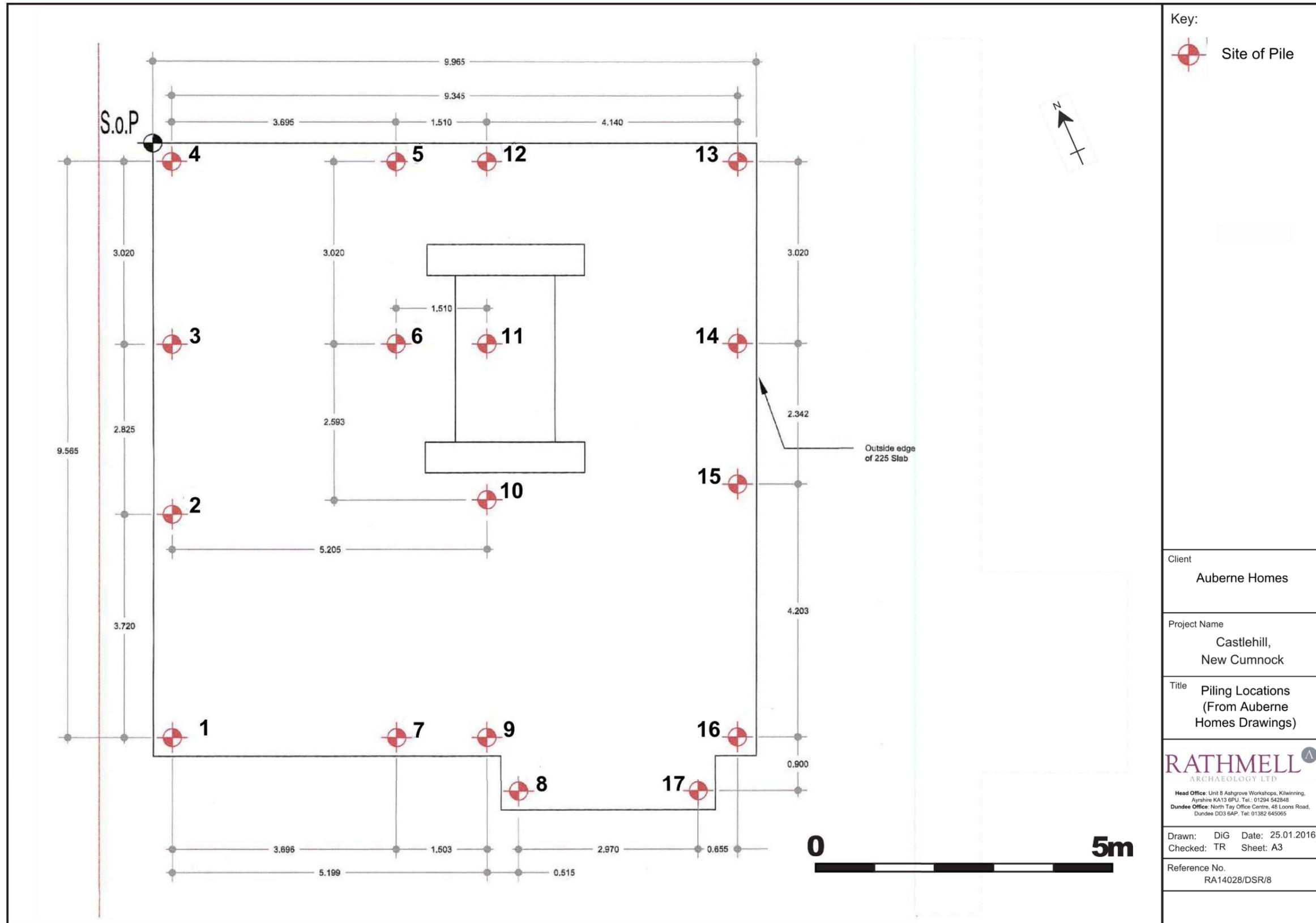


Figure 8: Piling Locations (plot 3)

33. The site exposed little in the way of artefactual material; that which was exposed related to very modern use of the site, such as plastic and construction detritus, in addition to blonde sandstone demolition material. No medieval or modern pottery was encountered during the works, and thus none has been recovered.

Recommendations

34. This Data Structure Report has presented the findings of the archaeological monitoring works carried out within the housing development site at Castlehill, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire. The monitoring works were undertaken as a result of the findings from the preceding archaeological evaluation, to mitigate the impact on any surviving significant archaeological remains in the area. With regards to on-site mitigation works, we recommend no further action.
35. With regards to the recovered borehole samples, analysis of datable material would require extraction of sediment from the casing followed by subsequent processing. This is a consideration for potential subsequent post-excavation works determined by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.
36. The appropriateness and acceptability of these recommendations require confirmation by The West of Scotland Archaeology Service, in keeping with the terms laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

Conclusion

37. A programme of archaeological works were undertaken at Castlehill, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire. These were carried out in support of housing development by Auberne Homes, under the recommendations of The West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), who provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required. Following on from previous investigative works in the form of an archaeological evaluation also carried out by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd, the monitoring works were designed to mitigate the impact on any surviving archaeological remains within the development area.
38. The evaluation revealed what was thought at the time to be potential structural remains relating to the foundations of New Cumnock Castle, with the moat located to the south-east of this. However, reduction of the area proved this to be boulders incorporated within deposit (007), possibly representing the demolished stonework of the castle ruins, re-used as a platform prior to the construction of the Free Church.
39. Evidence of the presence of the moat purported to locate in this area was established, in the form of grey/blue clay. These deposits appeared to be the upper fill of the moat, in the sense that the moat had been sealed prior to further construction works in the area in the 17th century. Evidence of the moat within the areas to the north-east and north is still extant, as the topography is still visible within surrounding gardens of houses, having not yet been fully filled in and landscaped.
40. While historical mapping indicates the site of the castle surrounded by the moat, broadly located within the area of the housing development, no evidence for remains of the castle foundations were encountered during the course of the archaeological monitoring works. The evidence seems to suggest that any remaining trace of the castle in the area was demolished to make way for the construction of the Free Church between 1843 and 1845.

Acknowledgements

41. Support throughout the project from Stephen McAleer and Roy Kennedy at Auberne Homes was much appreciated, as was the continued advice and support of Martin O'Hare at the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.
42. The authors would also like to note that the work could not have been carried out without Thomas Rees' guidance and support throughout the entirety of the project.

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Cartographic

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Ordnance Survey, 1897, 25-inch 2nd edition, Ayrshire Sheet XLII

Roy, W. 1752-55. Roy's map of the Lowlands

Moll, H. 1745. The south part of the Shire of Air, containing Kyle and Carrick

Adair, J. 1685. A mape of the west of Scotland containing Clydsdail, Nithsdail, Ranfrew, Shyre of Ayre and Galloway

Pont, T. 1558-96. Nithsdale, part of Teviotdale

Appendix 1: Registers

Appendix 1, which contains all registers pertaining to the works on-site during the excavation.

Context Register

Context No.	Area/Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	-	Deposit	Mixture of materials, including type 1 gravel, vegetation, plastic debris, black plastic sheeting associated with tarmac and construction, within a sandy silt matrix. Varies in thickness from 0.1m to 0.9m, found covering areas outwith footprint of modern church.	Upper layer of material on site, encountered in all areas, general mixture of rubbish and demo materials, associated with use of areas as open ground, and demolition of the 20 th century church.
002	Plot 2, 3, 4	Deposit	Mixture of materials, including blonde sandstone blocks and fragments (worked), likely to be associated with the modern church demolished in the area, occasional small to large sub-rounded and irregular stones, red sandstone fragments, red bricks and red brick fragments, slate and circular red ceramic drains. Maximum thickness of deposit is 0.8m, found within Plot 2.	Demolition layer associated with the demolition of the 20 th century church, or possibly the 19 th century church.
003	Plot 1, 2, 3	Deposit	Concrete, found below deposit (002), relating to foundations of modern church. Maximum thickness of 0.3m, found at a depth of 0.7m from top of demolition deposit (001). Overall extent uncertain, but found within footprint of modern church within Plot 2.	Concrete bedding and flooring beneath foundations of 20 th century church.
004	Plot 1, 2	Deposit	Blonde sandstone chunks and blocks, grey worked and unworked stones, mortared. 0.5m tall, 0.7m wide.	Foundations of 20 th century church building.
005	Plot 2	Deposit	Large stone, irregular, sub-rectangular, one side possibly worked. Measured 0.8m by 0.8m by 0.3m. Found partially within deposit (007), and within natural subsoil (006). Found immediately below foundations of modern church (003). Found at depth of 0.8m below top of demolition layer (001).	Large stone, possibly associated with remains of foundations of previous 19 th century church.
006	Plot 2	Deposit	Very firm, grey clay, no visible inclusions. Found below stone (005), found only below this stone, and not visible anywhere else on site. Found at depth of 0.9m below top of demolition material (001).	Possible redeposited subsoil underlying (007). Laid prior to construction of original 19 th century church.
007	Plot 1, 2, 3	Deposit	Mixed mid-brown and grey clay, very firm, contains frequent small to large stones (possibly re-used stones from the castle foundations used within the previous incarnation of the church in the area, or demolition debris from the castle itself) and one large stone (005). Contains worked sandstone blocks, red bricks, and in addition to coal	Build-up of material, relating to demolition of the 19 th century church and construction of 20 th century church. Looks to be associated with

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			and small fragments of slate. Full thickness of deposit is uncertain, due to limits of excavation; as visible, deposit is 0.6m to 0.8m thickness (shallower at plot 1). Found within plots 1, 2 and 3.	the 19 th century church rather than the 20 th century church.
008	Plot 2	Deposit	Series of stones, running south-west to north-east within Plot 2. Set within deposit (007). Stones are grey, irregular, no visible signs of being worked. Stones are set between 0.6m to 1.15m apart, no visible mortar. Stones vary in size, smallest is 0.15m by 0.2m largest is 0.7m by 0.3m. Found between 0.83m to 0.84m from top of demolition layer (001). Originally thought to potentially relate to structural foundations. Further excavation revealed these to be haphazard stones included as backfill within redeposited material (007).	The stones within this deposit potentially relate to the demolition of the castle, or the 19 th century church.
009	-	-	VOID	-
010	Plot 2	Deposit	Area of stonework, located at south side of plot 2. Not removed, so not fully exposed. As visible, consists of 5 stones. Consists of worked grey stone blocks (rectangular as visible) with worked blonde sandstone blocks, mortared. Covered with a layer of concrete (003), and sitting immediately adjacent to a layer of concrete (003) to the south-east at same depth. One red brick is also visible, which has been mortared to rest of stonework. Stonework is on same alignment as foundations of modern church to the west.	Looks to be foundations of earlier church, which have been incorporated into the foundations of the 20 th century church.
011	Plot 4	Deposit	Mid brown/grey clay, no visible inclusions. Exposed within drainage track excavated to north-west side of plot 4, exposed in section and base of trench, below deposit (002).	Uppermost moat deposit. Looks. Deliberately levelling material to combat softness of moat prior to construction of the 19 th century church.
012	Plot 4	Deposit	Grey gravel, red type 1 gravel, blonde sandstone fragments, black plastic sheeting, red brick fragments, vegetation, modern cables (defunct). Upper deposit of plot 4, 0.3m thickness.	Made-up ground for modern 20 th century church carpark.
013	VOID	-	-	-
014	Plot 2	Deposit	Remains of red brick structure, visible in south-west facing section of excavation, top of bricks found at 1.1m depth from top of original ground surface (measured from north-east side of excavation). Bricks are orientated north-west to south-east, at least 3 end to end. Full extent is uncertain due to limits of excavation, but at least 3 skins wide, and mortared. Top of bricks look possibly burnt? Remains of an iron frame sit above bricks, but uncertain if these are associated.	Remains of red brick structure of uncertain origin. Location incorrect for earlier church. Very likely to be associated with the 20 th century church.

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
015	Plot 4	Deposit	Blue clay, less than 2cm exposed. Found at lowest level of drainage channel cut to north-west side of plot 4. Found at 0.6m from top of original ground level in the area. No visible inclusions.	Uppermost moat deposit. Looks. Deliberately levelling material to combat softness of moat prior to construction of the 19 th century church.
016	Plot 2	Deposit	Grey clay, no visible inclusions. Found at 1.3m below top of original ground level in plot 2, measured from north-east side of excavation. Found within drainage channel excavated within north-west corner of plot 2.	Possible redeposited subsoil underlying (007). Laid prior to construction of original 19 th century church. Possibly deposited to combat softness of moat.
017	Plot 3 Boreholes	Deposit	Light brown medium size gravel, 0.1m thickness, compacted. Encountered as upper deposit within boreholes 1 and 2.	Type 1 laid by Auberne Homes at south-east side of plot 4.
018	Plot 3 Boreholes	Deposit	Yellow/brown silty clay.	Third deposit encountered within boreholes 1 and 2.
019	Plot 3 Piles	Deposit	Grey clay. Found within upper 0.2m of piles 3, 4 and 12 within plot 3.	Possible redeposited subsoil underlying (007). Laid prior to construction of original 19 th century church. Possibly deposited to combat softness of moat.
020	Plot 2	Deposit	Mortared red brick structure [020], uppermost surface of structure found at 1.1m depth (measured from top of original ground level at north-east side of excavation). North-east limits of structure obscured by limits of excavation, but as visible three skins by 3 skins by 2 high. The uppermost surface of the brick were blackened, suggesting exposure to heat an iron frame was found immediately above the bricks in section, but it is unclear if this is associated with the brick structure.	Remains of red brick structure of uncertain origins, exposed in south-west facing section of plot 2 reduction.
021	Plot 3, 4	Deposit	Deposit consisted of blonde sandstone blocks and fragmented remains and chunks of blonde sandstone blocks, located within plot 4 and east edge of plot 3. 0.2m thickness approx.	Deposit probably relating to demolition of 19 th century Free Church, prior to construction of Arthur Memorial Church in the 20 th century.
022	In front of	Deposit	Fine grey gravel layer with occasional CBM inclusions within it. Overlies	Hard core layer which is part of the

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
	& between plots 1 & 2		(023). Thickness range throughout the trenches of 0.2-0.3m.	recent house build.
023	In front of & between plots 1 & 2	Deposit	Thick grey gravel layer with occasional CBM inclusions within it. Underlies (022). Thickness range throughout the trenches of 0.25-0.38m.	Hard core layer which is part of the recent house build.
024	In front of & between plots 1 & 2	Structure	Large linear stone structure. Constructed using large roughly worked boulders (0.75m x 0.68m x 0.48m in size) and smaller stones. Structure bonded with a mixture of orange/buff coloured mortar and mid grey brown clay. The structure measured 1.2m in length (within the main drain trench), 1.6-1.7m wide and had a thickness of 0.35-0.4m. The wall was orientated in a WSW to ENE direction. Possibly the same as (004).	Part of the foundations for the recently demolished 20 th century church building. Represents the face of the building looking out onto Castlehill Road.
025	In front of & between plots 1 & 2	Deposit	A very compact, mid grey-brown/orange-brown clay with very frequent medium sized stone rubble and occasional larger building stones. Layer had a thickness of 0.6m and an extent of 1.2m long (within trench) by 0.8-1m wide.	Core material deposited between the 20 th century church foundations (024) and the retaining wall (026). Formed a raised terrace with the retaining wall which ran alongside Castlehill Road.
026	In front of & between plots 1 & 2	Structure	Large linear stone structure. Constructed using large flat stones/blocks (0.7m x 0.35m x 0.08-0.15m in size). Structure bonded with orange/buff coloured mortar. The structure measured 1.2m in length (within the main drain trench), 1.2-1.3m wide and had a thickness of 0.6m. The wall was orientated in a WSW to ENE direction.	Retaining wall which, in conjunction with core material (025), formed a raised terrace against the SSE facing side of the 20 th century church building. The wall ran alongside Castlehill Road.
027	In front of & between plots 1 & 2	Deposit	Layer of concrete and rubble beneath Foundation (024). Had a thickness of 0.2-0.3m and a width of 1.6-1.7m.	Possible bedding layer of concrete and rubble for 20 th century church foundation (024).
028	In front of & between plots 1 & 2	Deposit	A very Compact, mid grey-brown/grey-blue clay with frequent to moderate inclusions of small to medium sized stone.	Possibly the underlying natural subsoil though it may also be a redeposited layer similar to (006), (016) and (019).

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
001	001	General shot, work done in morning	SW	21/12/15
002	002	As above, showing contexts (001), (002) and (003).	SW	21/12/15
003	003	As above	SW	21/12/15
004	004	General shot, Plot 4	SW	21/12/15
005	005	As above, showing work done in morning	SE	21/12/15
006	006	As above, showing work done in afternoon	SSW	21/12/15
007	007	As above	SSW	21/12/15
008	008	General shot, Plot 3	WSW	21/12/15
009	009	General shot, Plot 4	NW	21/12/15
010	010	General shot, showing work done in afternoon, Plot 3, showing context (003).	N	21/12/15
011	011	General shot, showing work done in afternoon, Plots 2 and 3	NE	21/12/15
012	012	General shot	NW	22/12/15
013	013	As above	NW	22/12/15
014	014	As above	NW	22/12/15
015	015	General shot, Plot 4 final depth.	NW	22/12/15
016	016	As above	SE	22/12/15
017	017	As above	SW	22/12/15
018	018	As above	SE	22/12/15
019	019	As above	SE	22/12/15
020	020	As above	SW	22/12/15
021	021	As above	WSW	22/12/15
022	022	Showing (001) and general debris at final depth of Plot 4	WSW	22/12/15
023	023	Working shot, Plot 2	SE	22/12/15

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
024	024	Working shot.	SSE	22/12/15
025	025	General, showing upper level, still in (001).	SE	22/12/15
026	026	As above, Plots 2 and 3	SSE	22/12/15
027	027	Working shot.	SE	22/12/15
028	028	Working shot, showing (001) and (002) in background	SE	23/12/15
029	029	Working shot, Plot 2 and 3, showing remains of modern church	SSW	23/12/15
030	030	Section through modern church foundations (south-west facing section of Plot 2).	SSW	23/12/15
031	031	Large stone (005) found immediately below modern church foundations	SSW	23/12/15
032	032	As above	SSW	23/12/15
033	033	As above	SSW	23/12/15
034	034	Medium sized stone, found within context (007)	SE	23/12/15
035	035	Removal of large stone (005).	NE	23/12/15
036	036	As above	NE	23/12/15
037	037	Shot of large stone	-	23/12/15
038	038	As above	-	23/12/15
039	039	Showing line of stones (008), possibly relating to castle? Or previous church on site?	SSW	23/12/15
040	040	As above	SSW	23/12/15
041	041	Close-up of stones (008)	SSW	23/12/15
042	042	As above	SSW	23/12/15
043	043	As above	SSW	23/12/15
044	044	General location shot of (008)	SSW	23/12/15
045	045	Plot 4 Final depth.	NNW	23/12/15
046	046	Drain cut through Plot 4	SW	23/12/15
047	047	Shot of stones (008) with concrete (003) in foreground at same level.	SSW	23/12/15

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
048	048	General location shot of (008).	SW	23/12/15
049	049	As above	NW	23/12/15
050	050	As above	NW	23/12/15
051	051	As above	S	23/12/15
052	052	As above	SE	23/12/15
053	053	Location of possible headstone? Now removed.	SW	23/12/15
054	054	Drain cut through Plot 2.	SE	23/12/15
055	001	Plot 4, with concrete	SW	06/01/16
056	002	Plot 2, general	SE	06/01/16
057	003	As above	SW	06/01/16
058	004	As above	SE	06/01/16
059	005	Plot 3 (east part, lowest)	SE	06/01/16
060	006	As above (west part, highest)	SE	06/01/16
061	007	General working shot, west edge of plot 3, east edge of plot 2, stripping.	SW	06/01/16
062	008	As above, concrete (003) and deposit (007) visible in NW facing section, horizontally adjacent.	SW	06/01/16
063	009	As above	N	06/01/16
064	010	As above	N	06/01/16
065	011	General shot, plots 2 and 3	N	06/01/16
066	012	SW facing section of plot 2, at 1.4m depth from top of original ground level.	SSW	06/01/16
067	013	General shot, plot 2	SE	06/01/16
068	014	Plot 2, stonework of earlier church	ENE	06/01/16
069	015	Foundations (010) of earlier church, re-used within foundations of modern church	SE	06/01/16
070	016	As above	SE	06/01/16
071	017	As above	SE	06/01/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
072	018	As above	NE	06/01/16
073	019	As above	NW	06/01/16
074	020	Bricks (possible fireplace from earlier church?) at 1.4m depth, within SW facing section of plot 2	S	06/01/16
075	021	As above	SW	06/01/16
076	022	As above	SW	06/01/16
077	023	General shot of stonework (010)	SE	06/01/16
078	024	General shot of bricks within plot 2 section	SSE	06/01/16
079	025	SE facing section of drainage channel through plot 4, showing deposits (001), (002) and (011).	SSE	06/01/16
080	026	As above	NE	06/01/16
081	027	General shot of drainage track at west side of plot 4	S	06/01/16
082	028	Possible fireplace relating to older church, within SW facing section of plot 2	SW	06/01/16
083	029	Possible fireplace relating to older church, within SW facing section of plot 2	SW	06/01/16
084	030	As above	SW	06/01/16
085	031	Drainage track through plot 2	ENE	07/01/16
086	032	As above	SE	07/01/16
087	033	As above	ENE	07/01/16
088	034	As above	ENE	07/01/16
089	035	As above, showing redeposited grey subsoil	ESE	07/01/16
090	036	As above	ENE	07/01/16
091	037	As above	SE	07/01/16
092	038	As above	SE	07/01/16
093	039	NW corner of plot 2, still within deposit (007)	ESE	07/01/16
094	040	As above	SE	07/01/16
095	041	As above	ESE	07/01/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
096	042	As above	ESE	07/01/16
097	043	As above	ESE	07/01/16
098	044	Final depth of plot 1	SW	08/01/16
099	045	As above	SW	08/01/16
100	001	Plot 3 reduction	SW	13/01/16
101	002	As above	SW	13/01/16
102	003	Concrete exposed during plot 3 reduction	SW	13/01/16
103	004	As above	NW	13/01/16
104	005	As above	SW	13/01/16
105	006	As above	SW	13/01/16
106	007	As above	SW	13/01/16
107	008	As above	SW	13/01/16
108	009	Plot 3 reduction	S	13/01/16
109	010	As above	S	13/01/16
110	011	Plot 3 reduction, south-west facing section	SW	13/01/16
111	012	As above	SW	13/01/16
112	013	Plot 3 reduction	NE	13/01/16
113	014	As above	N	13/01/16
114	015	As above	NE	13/01/16
115	016	As above	NE	13/01/16
116	017	As above	NE	13/01/16
117	018	As above	NE	13/01/16
118	019	As above	NE	13/01/16
119	020	As above, showing previous location of stairs	NE	13/01/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
120	021	As above	NE	13/01/16
121	022	Plot 3, final depth	SW	13/01/16
122	023	North-east facing section of trench at piling location 1	NE	14/01/16
123	024	Trench at piling location 1	SSW	14/01/16
124	025	Piling location 3	SW	14/01/16
125	026	As above	SW	14/01/16
126	027	Piling location 3	SW	14/01/16
127	028	Piling location 2	SW	14/01/16
128	029	Piling location 2	SW	14/01/16
129	030	General shot of piling	NNE	14/01/16
130	031	As above	NNE	14/01/16
131	032	Plot 3 south-west facing section	SW	14/01/16
132	033	East side of plot 3	N	15/01/16
133	034	General shot, plots 1 and 2	NE	15/01/16
134	035	General shot, plot 4	N	15/01/16
135	036	General shot of piling (working shot)	SW	15/01/16
136	037	As above	NW	15/01/16
137	038	As above	N	15/01/16
138	039	Shot of completed piling	N	18/01/16
139	040	As above	N	18/01/16
140	DSCF 1888	View of the almost completed houses before commencement of works.	SW	21/03/16
141	DSCF 1889	Pre excavation view of filtration trench 2.	SSE	21/03/16
142	DSCF	Working shot of excavation of filtration trench 2.	SE	21/03/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
	1890			
143	DSCF 1891	Working shot of excavation of filtration trench 2.	SSE	21/03/16
144	DSCF 1892	ENE end of trench 2, excavation.	SSE	21/03/16
145	DSCF 1893	WSW end of trench 2, excavation.	E	21/03/16
146	DSCF 1894	ENE end of trench 2, excavation.	SSE	21/03/16
147	DSCF 1895	WSW end of trench 2 excavation, shows electric cable duct.	E	21/03/16
148	DSCF 1896	WSW end of trench 2 excavation, shows electric cable duct.	E	21/03/16
149	DSCF 1897	General view of development area (showing congested parking areas).	SW	22/03/16
150	DSCF 1898	General view of development area (showing congested parking areas).	WSW	22/03/16
151	DSCF 1899	Pre excavation view of filtration trench 1.	S	22/03/16
152	DSCF 1900	Pre excavation view of filtration trench 1.	SW	22/03/16
153	DSCF 1901	WSW end of trench 1, excavation.	SW	22/03/16
154	DSCF 1902	WSW end of trench 1, excavation. Shows 19 th century church foundations.	SW	22/03/16
155	DSCF 1903	Trench 1 completely excavated showing 19 th century church foundations.	WSW	22/03/16
156	DSCF 1904	View of trench 1 completely excavated.	SW	22/03/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
157	DSCF 1905	1 st section of trench linking trenches 1 and 2 to the drainage system.	SW	22/03/16
158	DSCF 1906	2 nd section of trench linking trenches 1 and 2 to the drainage system.	S	22/03/16
159	DSCF 1907	3 rd section of trench linking trenches 1 and 2 to the drainage system.	SW	22/03/16
160	DSCF 1908	-	-	22/03/16
161	DSCF 1909	View of link trench 1 complete.	SSW	22/03/16
162	DSCF 1910	View of link trench between main and house drains.	SSE	23/04/16
163	DSCF 1911	Pre excavation view of area of main drain.	SSE	23/04/16
164	DSCF 1912	Link trench excavated.	SSE	23/04/16
165	DSCF 1913	Drain/sewage trench near house excavated.	NNW	23/04/16
166	DSCF 1914	Drain/sewage trench near house excavated, working shot.	NW	23/04/16
167	DSCF 1915	Main drain trench under excavation close to link trenches.	NNW	23/04/16
168	DSCF 1916	Link trench partially excavated near main drain.	NNW	23/04/16
169	DSCF 1917	Link trench partially excavated near main drain.	NW	23/04/16
170	DSCF 1918	Link trench fully excavated near main drain.	NW	23/04/16
171	DSCF	Link trench fully excavated near main drain.	SSE	23/04/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
	1919			
172	DSCF 1920	Main drain trench with foundation stones showing.	NNW	24/04/16
173	DSCF 1921	Main drain trench with foundation stones showing. Close up.	NNW	24/04/16
174	DSCF 1922	Main drain trench with probable 19 th century stone foundations showing.	NNW	24/04/16
175	DSCF 1923	Main drain trench with probable 19 th century stone foundations showing.	NNW	24/04/16
176	DSCF 1924	Main drain trench with probable 19 th century stone foundations showing.	NNW	24/04/16
177	DSCF 1925	Close up of building material from foundations.	-	24/04/16
178	DSCF 1926	Close up of building material from foundations.	-	24/04/16
179	DSCF 1927	Main drain trench, WSW facing wall section of the foundations, partially excavated.	NW	24/04/16
180	DSCF 1928	Main drain trench, WSW facing wall section of the foundations, partially excavated.	NW	24/04/16
181	DSCF 1929	Main drain trench, WSW facing wall section of the foundations, partially excavated.	NW	24/04/16
182	DSCF 1930	SSE end of main drain trench showing retaining wall.	NW	24/04/16
183	DSCF 1931	SSE end of main drain trench showing retaining wall.	NW	24/04/16
184	DSCF 1932	Close up of the NNW end of the main drain trench showing foundations.	WSW	24/04/16
185	DSCF 1933	View of the main drain trench fully excavated.	S	24/04/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
186	DSCF 1934	Close up of the NNW end of the main drain trench.	WSW	24/04/16
187	DSCF 1935	Close up of the NNW end of the main drain trench.	W	24/04/16
188	DSCF 1936	Close up of the NNW end of the main drain trench.	WSW	24/04/16
189	DSCF 1937	Close up of the NNW end of the main drain trench. Shows foundation and retaining wall.	WSW	24/04/16
190	DSCF 1938	Close up of the NNW end of the main drain trench. Shows foundation and retaining wall.	WSW	24/04/16
191	DSCF 1939	Close up of the NNW end of the main drain trench. Shows foundation and retaining wall.	WSW	24/04/16
192	DSCF 1940	Close up of the NNW end of the main drain trench. Shows foundation and retaining wall.	WSW	24/04/16
193	DSCF 1941	Close up of the NNW end of the main drain trench. Shows foundation and retaining wall.	W	24/04/16
194	DSCF 1942	Close up of the NNW end of the main drain trench. Shows foundation and retaining wall. Extension SSE end.	W	24/04/16
195	DSCF 1943	Close up of the NNW end of the main drain trench. Shows foundation and retaining wall. Extension SSE end.	W	24/04/16

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Castlehill, New Cumnock
PROJECT CODE:	RA14028
PARISH:	New Cumnock
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Diane Gorman and Liam McKinstry
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitoring
NMRS NO(S):	NS61SW 2, Canmore ID 44712
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Moat; Castle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 6176 1381
START DATE (this season)	21 st December 2015
END DATE (this season)	23 rd March 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	Monitoring on SI Works Evaluation
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological works were undertaken at Castlehill, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire. These were carried out in support of housing development by Auberne Homes, under the recommendations of The West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), who provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required. Following on from previous investigative works in the form of an archaeological evaluation also carried out by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd, the monitoring works were designed to mitigate the impact on any surviving archaeological remains within the development area.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed what was thought at the time to be potential structural remains relating to the foundations of New Cumnock Castle, with the moat located to the south-east of this. However, reduction of the area proved this to be boulders incorporated within a clay deposit, possibly representing the demolished stonework of the castle ruins, re-used as a platform prior to the construction of the Free Church.</p> <p>Evidence of the presence of the moat purported to locate in this area was established, in the form of grey/blue clay. These deposits appeared to be the upper fill of the moat, in the sense that the moat had been sealed prior to further construction works in the area in the 17th century. Evidence of the moat within the areas to the north-east and north is still extant, as the topography is still visible within surrounding gardens of houses, having not yet been fully filled in and landscaped.</p>

	While historical mapping indicates the site of the castle surrounded by the moat, broadly located within the area of the housing development, no evidence for remains of the castle foundations were encountered during the course of the archaeological monitoring works. The evidence seems to suggest that any remaining trace of the castle in the area was demolished to make way for the construction of the Free Church between 1843 and 1845.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	East Ayrshire Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to HES Collections.

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