

Broomlands House, Beattock: Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report



by Liam McKinstry

issued 13th June 2016

on behalf of Mr Rob Graham


RATHMELL 
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Quality Assurance

This report covers works which have been undertaken in keeping with the issued brief as modified by the agreed programme of works. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance of Rathmell Archaeology Limited on the preparation of reports. All works reported on within this document have been undertaken in keeping with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed  Date13th June 2016.....

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

Checked  Date ...13th June 2016.....

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared on behalf of Mr Rob Graham, in support of development work on land that comprises part of the Broomlands House which has been granted planning consent (16/P/4/0007). The proposed development work includes the construction of a large garage structure. These archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on any archaeological remains within the development area and were carried out on 26th May 2016.
2. Dumfries and Galloway Council required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken as an element of the granted planning consent. The Dumfries and Galloway Archaeology Service, who advise Dumfries and Galloway Council on archaeology matters, provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required for the granted planning consent and the mitigation of the proposed development works.
3. A Method Statement (Matthews 2016) provided the detail of the works (archaeological monitoring, exclusion, excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication) for the mitigation pertaining to ground breaking within the development area and hence the direct physical impact on buried sediments.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. The development area, within the grounds of Broomlands House, is located approximately half of a kilometre to the east of the town of Beattock on an area of land between the A701 road and the M74 motorway. The field in which Broomlands house was situated was called Tutto Knowe (now bisected by the modern A701 and M74 roads) within the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Surveys (Figure 1a) though the house was not marked in either of these surveys. Later Ordnance Survey maps published in 1926 and 1955 (Figure 1b) show the house and house with its grounds respectively.
5. To the immediate north of the development area is the site of a Roman temporary camp, Beattock, Bankend (Canmore ID: 48398). The remains of the temporary camp have been split by the two roads mentioned above. Beattock, Bankend Temporary Camp was recorded in 1977, lying on the right bank of the Evan Water, measuring about 390m of NW side and 440m of SW side. The site covered a total area of approximately 23 ha and was interpreted as the possible bases for an Agricolan battle-group.
6. Further work was carried out by GUARD in 1993 when they undertook excavations over a 1.1km stretch of land, parallel to and immediately to the E of the present A74, in advance of upgrade to motorway status. Eighteen separate areas were examined, either by machine or hand, of which eleven contained archaeological remains. Seven areas were positioned within the boundaries of the Roman camp and a further three straddled the perimeter ditch.
7. Excavation of the ditch in the vicinity of an entrance area on the SW side and the northern perimeter showed evidence for an extended period of natural silting followed by purposeful dumping of the rampart into the partly-filled ditches. There were no finds. Areas opened within the camp revealed the remains of three hearths/field ovens. These comprised two examples of simple rectangular pits plus one more sturdily constructed, comprising a flagged area surrounded by a cobble ring. Initial interpretation leans towards a possible longevity to this camp before abandonment and slighting.

Project Works

8. The programme of works comprised the archaeological monitoring of the building footprint of a large garage structure in the grounds of Broomlands House, Beattock (Figure 2). The initial works comprised the excavation of a large rectangular area by machine where the building was planned to be sited with the removal of a twentieth century retaining wall which ran along the western side of the area. The area measured 13.5m from north to south and 6.8m from east to west. The depth of this initial machine strip was between 0.2-0.37m.



Figure 1a: 2nd edition Ordnance Survey, 6 inch.



Figure 1b: Ordnance Survey, 1:25,000 maps of Great Britain, 1937-1961.

9. Later works comprised the excavation of the garage's outer and internal foundations. The overall measurements of the outer foundations was 13m from N to S and 6m from E to W. The width of these foundations was between 1-1.1m and the depth was between 0.48-0.67m (from the level of the initial machine strip). There were two internal, E-W orientated, foundations which were spaced approximately 3m apart. The internal foundations were 0.7m wide and had a depth range of between 0.3-0.37m. The southern end of the foundations was completely stripped away to form an area measuring 6m by 4m. The works were carried out in compliance with the terms agreed in the Method Statement (Matthews 2016).
10. Any potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded, with the on-site works taking place on the 26th of May 2016. All works were conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

11. The excavation area lay at the base of moderate slope within the grounds of the house. The base of the slope was defined by a retaining wall, dating to the twentieth century. This wall, orientated N to S, ran the length of the grounds and formed a terrace of the higher ground to the W. The lower garden area to the E was where the large garage structure was to be sited (Figure 3a).
12. The retaining wall, (006), comprised a linear structure orientated N to S which ran along the western edge of the development area. It was constructed with roughly-faced pieces of sandstone which were mortared into place. The wall was 13.5m long within the excavation area, but extended further to the N and the S where it joined the boundary wall enclosing Broomlands House. The wall had a height of 0.77m and a width of 0.4m.
13. The wall was abutted by modern topsoil layers (001), in the lower garden area, and (004), in the terrace area that overlay an older topsoil layer (003) (Figure 3b). Both of these modern topsoil layers, (001) and (004), comprised of moderately compacted, mid grey-brown clayey silt with moderate small sized stone and occasional moderate sized stone inclusions. The extent of the topsoil in the lower garden area was 13.5m from north to south and 5.8m from E to W and its depth range was between 0.2-0.25m. The extent of the topsoil in the terrace area was 13.5m from north to south and 0.6m from E to W and its depth range was between 0.25-0.29m.
14. Beneath the modern topsoil layer (004), on the terrace area there was a layer, (005), of moderately compacted, mid yellow/orange-brown clayey silt with moderate small stone, pebble and root inclusions. The layer, along with the topsoil layer above, formed the terrace area and measured 13.5m from N to S and 0.6m from E to W. The layer had a depth range of between 0.35-0.37m.
15. Underneath the topsoil, (001), the retaining wall, (006), and the terrace layer, (005), was an older topsoil layer, (003). This layer comprised of moderately compacted, mid grey brown clayey silt with occasional small stone and pebble inclusions. The layer extended across the entire development area, measuring 13.5m from north to south and 6.8m from east to west. The layer had a depth range of between 0.15-0.21m.
16. During the initial machine stripping of the site an upper layer of naturally occurring subsoil, (002), was identified (Figure 4a). This layer comprised of moderately compacted, mid yellow/orange-brown clayey silt with moderate small stone, pebble and root inclusions.

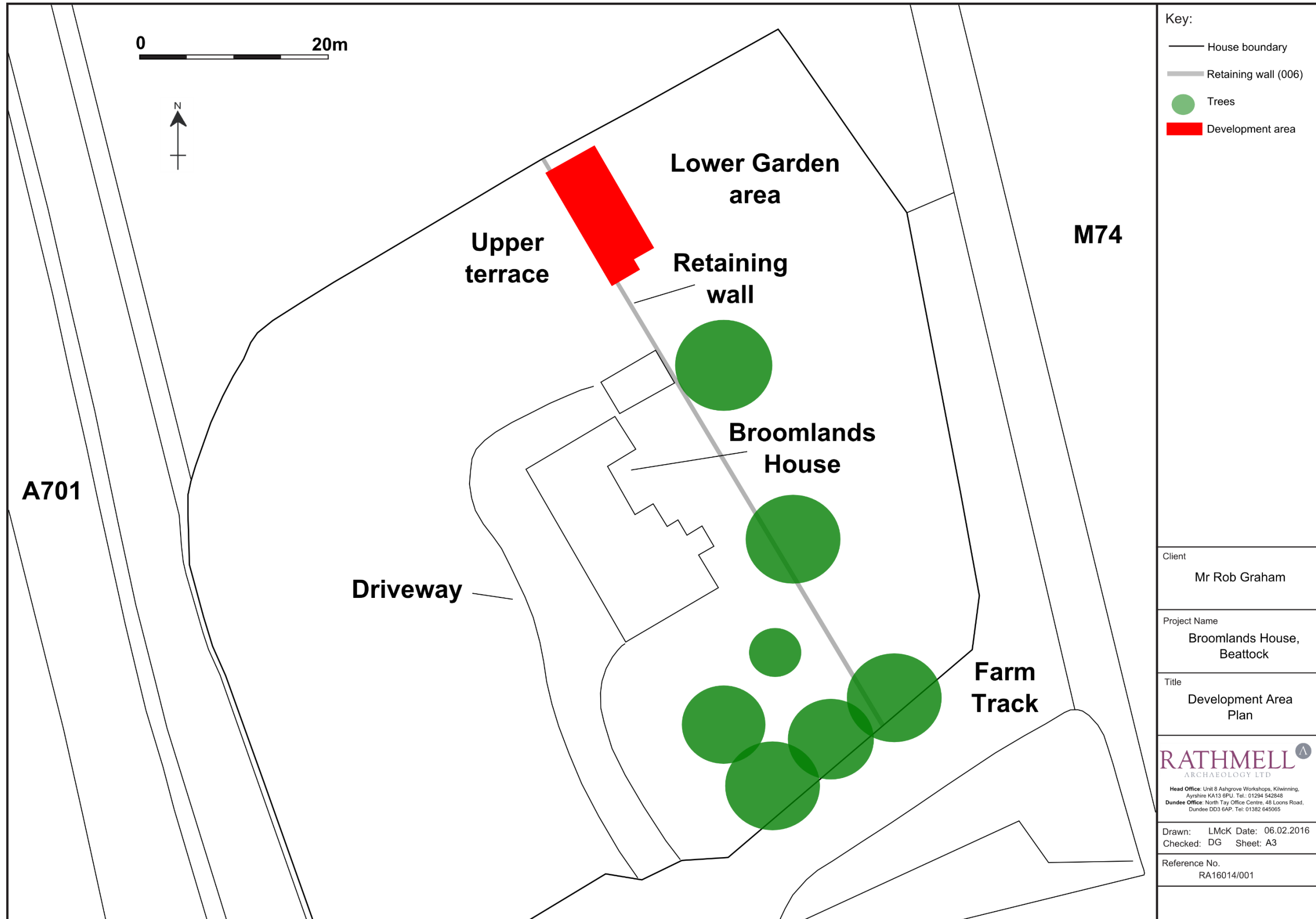


Figure 2: Development Area Plan.

17. The layer measured 13.5m from north to south and 6.8m from east to west and had a depth range of between 0.45-0.61m. The layer also contained several areas of root disturbance, particularly in the east and north east parts of the development. During the excavation of the developments foundations (Figure 4b) a lower, less disturbed, layer of naturally occurring subsoil, (007), was identified. This layer comprised of a moderate to firmly compacted, mid grey/grey-brown clayey silt with very occasional small stone and pebble inclusions. As layer was only observable within the outer foundation trench its full extent was not clear. The layer was excavated to a depth of 0.1-0.12m within the foundation trenches.
18. No significant features or artefacts were identified during the excavation of the development area.

Discussion

19. The only anthropic feature within the development area was the retaining wall, (006), running along its western edge and the material, (005), used to create the terrace behind it. Some of the root activity noted within the upper subsoil layer, (002), was most likely the result of the deliberate planting of trees and bushes in the lower garden area.
20. The only artefacts to be recovered from the development area was a small amount of nineteenth or twentieth century ceramics and glass from the original topsoil layer, (003). This would demonstrate that the retaining wall and its associated terrace were constructed in the twentieth century or later.
21. Other than the nineteenth century or later garden features within the development area no other significant artefacts or features were identified within the excavated areas of the site.

Recommendations

22. This Data Structure Report covers archaeological works undertaken in support of construction work on land at Broomlands House, Beattock, Dumfries and Galloway (Planning Ref: 16/P/4/0007).
23. The archaeological monitoring works uncovered a small amount of nineteenth or twentieth century ceramics and glass within an older, buried, topsoil layer. Over this layer a retaining wall with an associated terrace had been constructed which most likely dated from the twentieth century or later. No significant archaeological features were identified within any of these layers or within the naturally occurring subsoil within the development area. As such, it is recommended that no further work should be carried out.
24. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with Dumfries and Galloway Council and their advisors, the Dumfries and Galloway Archaeological Service.

Conclusion

25. Archaeological monitoring work was carried out for Mr Rob Graham, in support of construction work on land at Broomlands House, Beattock, Dumfries and Galloway (Planning Ref: 16/P/4/0007). These archaeological works are designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
26. This report covers the excavation of the building footprint for the construction of a large garage structure. The works were carried out on the 26th of May 2016 and uncovered only a small amount of nineteenth or twentieth century ceramics and glass within an older, buried, topsoil layer. Over this layer a retaining wall with an associated terrace had been constructed which most likely dated from the twentieth century or later. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified within the area.



Figure 3a: Pre excavation view of development area. From the S.



Figure 3b: N facing section showing wall (006), the upper terrace and lower garden area.



Figure 4a: Post excavation view of development area. Facing N.



Figure 4b: View of the developments foundations fully excavated. Facing N.

Acknowledgements

27. The author would like to thank the client Mr Rob Graham and his onsite team for their support throughout the project and Thomas Rees, consultant archaeologist with Rathmell Archaeology Ltd for his input and editing.
28. This project has been monitored for the Dumfries and Galloway Archaeological Service by Andy Nicholson who has given guidance and direction throughout.

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Cartographic

Ordnance Survey, 1861, 6-inch, Dumfriesshire. Sheet XVI

Ordnance Survey, 1900, 6-inch, Dumfriesshire. Sheet XVI.SE

Ordnance Survey, 1926, 1-inch, Nithsdale and Moffat. Sheet 84

Ordnance Survey, 1955, 1:25,000 maps of Great Britain, 1937-1961. NT00 (includes Moffat)

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	-	Deposit	Moderately compacted, mid grey-brown clayey silt with moderate small sized stone and occasional moderate sized stone inclusions. Extent was 13.5m from north to south and 5.8m from east to west. The depth range of the layer was between 0.2-0.25m. Overlies older topsoil layer (003) and abuts the twentieth century retaining wall (006).	Modern topsoil layer which extended across the eastern, lower garden area.
002	-	Deposit	Moderately compacted, mid yellow/orange-brown clayey silt with moderate small stone, pebble and root inclusions. Extent was 13.5m from north to south and 6.8m from east to west. The depth range of the layer was between 0.45-0.61m. Underlies older topsoil layer (003).	Upper layer of naturally occurring subsoil. Several areas of root disturbance noted within layer, particularly in the east and north east.
003	-	Deposit	Moderately compacted, mid grey brown clayey silt with occasional small stone and pebble inclusions. Extent was 13.5m from north to south and 6.8m from east to west. The depth range of the layer was between 0.15-0.21m. Underlies the lower garden topsoil (001), the retaining wall (006) and redeposited terrace material (005). Overlies the upper natural subsoil layer (002).	Original topsoil layer before the construction of the retaining wall and the upper terrace.
004	-	Deposit	Moderately compacted, mid grey-brown clayey silt with moderate small sized stone and occasional moderate sized stone inclusions. Extent was 13.5m from north to south and 0.6m from east to west. The depth range of the layer was between 0.25-0.29m. Overlies redeposited terrace material (005) and abuts the twentieth century retaining wall (006).	Modern topsoil layer which extended across the upper, western, terrace.
005	-	Deposit	Moderately compacted, mid yellow/orange-brown clayey silt with moderate small stone, pebble and root inclusions.	Redeposited natural subsoil which formed an

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			Extent was 13.5m from north to south and 0.6m from east to west. The depth range of the layer was between 0.35-0.37m. Underlies older topsoil layer (003).	upper terrace to the west of the retaining wall.
006	-	Structure	Linear wall which was orientated in a north – south direction along the western edge of the development area. The wall was constructed with roughly faced pieces of sandstone which were mortared into place. The wall measured 13.5m long within the excavation area but extended further to the north and the south. The wall was 0.77m high and 0.4m wide. The wall overlies the older topsoil layer (003) and was abutted by modern topsoil layers (001) and (004) and the redeposited terrace material (005).	Modern twentieth century retaining wall within the grounds.
007	-	Deposit	Moderate to firmly compacted, mid grey/grey-brown clayey silt with very occasional small stone and pebble inclusions. Layer was only observable within the outer foundation trench. The layer was excavated to a depth of 0.1-0.12m.	Undisturbed, lower natural subsoil layer.

Finds Register

Find No.	Area Trench	Context no.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
001	-	003	Ceramic/Glass	2 x pottery sherds and 2 x glass sherds (19 th or 20 th century date)	LMcK	26/05/16

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
01	0032	View of site access		26/05/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
02	0033	Pre excavation view of development area		26/05/16
03	0034	Pre excavation view of development area		26/05/16
04	0035	Pre excavation view of development area		26/05/16
05	0036	Pre excavation view of development area		26/05/16
06	0037	View of retaining Wall (006) and ongoing excavation at southern end of development area		26/05/16
07	0038	View of retaining Wall (006) and ongoing excavation at southern end of development area		26/05/16
08	0039	North facing section showing wall (006), terrace and lower garden area		26/05/16
09	0040	Working shot		26/05/16
10	0041	Working shot		26/05/16
11	0042	Working shot		26/05/16
12	0043	Working shot		26/05/16
13	0044	Northern end of the development area stripped		26/05/16
14	0045	Northern end of the development area stripped		26/05/16
15	0046	The northern end of the retaining wall (006) where it joins the grounds boundary wall		26/05/16
16	0047	Working shot		26/05/16
17	0048	Northern end of the development area stripped		26/05/16
18	0049	Southern end of the development area stripped		26/05/16
19	0050	General view of Broomlands House and grounds		26/05/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
20	0051	North facing section showing wall (006), terrace and lower garden area		26/05/16
21	0052	North facing section showing wall (006), terrace and lower garden area		26/05/16
22	0053	Terrace/wall area being excavated into.		26/05/16
23	0054	Terrace/wall area under excavation.		26/05/16
24	0055	Terrace/wall area fully excavated		26/05/16
25	0056	Stripping completed		26/05/16
26	0057	Stripping completed		26/05/16
27	0058	View of field to the immediate north of the development area		26/05/16
28	0059	View of site access on the terrace.		26/05/16
29	0060	View of development area fully stripped		26/05/16
30	0061	View of development area fully stripped		26/05/16
31	0062	View of development area fully stripped		26/05/16
32	0063	View of development area fully stripped		26/05/16
33	0064	Voided		26/05/16
34	0065	Voided		26/05/16
35	0066	Voided		26/05/16
36	0067	Voided		26/05/16
37	0068	Voided		26/05/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
38	0069	Voided		26/05/16
39	0070	Voided		26/05/16
40	0071	Voided		26/05/16
41	0072	Field to the south of Broomlands House		26/05/16
42	0073	Outer foundation N-S stretch, W end		26/05/16
43	0074	Outer foundation N-S stretch, W end		26/05/16
44	0075	Outer foundation N-S stretch, W end		26/05/16
45	0076	Outer foundation E-W stretch, N end		26/05/16
46	0077	Outer foundation N-S stretch, W end		26/05/16
47	0078	Outer foundation E-W stretch, N end		26/05/16
48	0079	1 st internal foundation (N)		26/05/16
49	0080	Outer foundation N-S stretch, E end		26/05/16
50	0081	2 nd internal foundation (Middle)		26/05/16
51	0082	Northern foundations completed		26/05/16
52	0083	3 rd internal foundation (S)		26/05/16
53	0084	Outer foundation N-S stretch, E end		26/05/16
54	0085	Southern end of foundations area opened up. N facing section.		26/05/16
55	0086	Southern end of foundations area opened up		26/05/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
56	0087	Southern end of foundations area opened up. N facing section.		26/05/16
57	0088	Foundations completed		26/05/16
58	0089	Outer foundation N-S stretch, E end		26/05/16
59	0090	Foundations completed		26/05/16
60	0091	Foundations completed		26/05/16
61	0092	Foundations completed		26/05/16
62	0093	Voided		26/05/16
63	0094	Voided		26/05/16

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries and Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Broomlands House, Beattock
PROJECT CODE:	RA16014
PARISH:	Kirkpatrick-juxta
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Liam McKinstry
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 08359 01802 (Centred)
START DATE (this season)	26 th May 2016
END DATE (this season)	26 th May 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological monitoring work was carried out for Mr Rob Graham, in support of construction work on land at Broomlands House, Beattock, Dumfries and Galloway (Planning Ref: 16/P/4/0007). These archaeological works are designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.</p> <p>This report covers the excavation of the building footprint for the construction of a large garage structure. The works were carried out on the 26th of May 2016 and uncovered only a small amount of nineteenth or twentieth century ceramics and glass within an older, buried, topsoil layer. Over this layer a retaining wall with an associated terrace had been constructed which most likely dated from the twentieth century or later. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified within the area.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Rob Graham
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service and archive to HES Collections

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