

**Auldlea Road,
Beith:
Archaeological Mitigation**

Data Structure Report



by Liam McKinstry

issued 11th May 2016

on behalf of McTaggart Construction Ltd

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  Date 11th May 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 ...11th May 2016.....

Copyright Rathmell Archaeology Limited. All rights reserved.

No part of this report may be copied or reproduced by any means without prior written permission from Rathmell Archaeology Limited. If you have received this report in error, please destroy all copies in your possession or control and notify Rathmell Archaeology Limited.

This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of the commissioning party and unless otherwise agreed in writing by Rathmell Archaeology Limited, no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of the report. No liability is accepted by Rathmell Archaeology Limited for any use of this report, other than the purposes for which it was originally prepared and provided.

Opinions and information provided in the report are on the basis of Rathmell Archaeology Limited using due skill, care and diligence in preparation of the same and no explicit warranty is provided as to their accuracy. It should be noted and it is expressly stated that no independent verification of any of the documents or information supplied to Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been made.

Quality Assurance Data

Author(s) Liam McKinstry
 Date of Issue 11th May 2016 Version 1.0
 Commissioning McTaggart Construction Ltd
 Event Name Auldlea Road, Beith
 Event Type Evaluation
 Event Date(s) 18th to 21st of April 2016
 Rathmell Archaeology Code RA16021 OASIS Ref rathmell1-247320
 Location United Kingdom : Scotland : North Ayrshire
 NGR NS 34826 54824 Parish Beith (Cunninghame)
 Designation(s) None
 Canmore IDs None

Contents

Introduction	4
Historical and Archaeological Background	4
Project Works	6
Findings.....	6
Recommendations	10
Conclusion	10
Acknowledgements	10
References	11
Documentary	11
Cartographic.....	11
Appendix 1: Trench Details & Test Pits	12
Trench Summary	12
Appendix 2: Registers.....	16
Context Register.....	16
Finds Register	17
Drawing Register	17
Photographic Register	18
Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland	20
Contact Details	21

Figures

Figure 1a: Roy’s Military Survey of Scotland, 1752-1755, Lowlands	5
Figure 1b: 1 st edition Ordnance Survey, 1858, Ayrshire, Sheet VIII.....	5
Figure 2: Plan of evaluation trench layout	7
Figure 3a: Pre excavation view of the site from the NE.	8
Figure 3b: View of Trench 2 from the SW.	8
Figure 4a: View of Trench 13 from the S.....	9
Figure 4b: View of ceramic drain (005) in Trench 8 from the WSW.....	9

Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for McTaggart Construction Ltd in support of the erection of new houses on land at Auldlea Road, Beith, North Ayrshire (NGR: NS 34826 54824). The archaeological works were designed to determine the archaeological potential of the development area and hence inform the specification for mitigation of the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
2. North Ayrshire Council required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken in support of the development works as an element of granted consent (N/15/00720/PP, Condition 2). West of Scotland Archaeology Service, who advise North Ayrshire Council on archaeology matters provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required and the mitigation of the proposed development works.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited were appointed by McTaggart Construction Ltd to undertake the implementation of archaeological investigative works prior to the development of the site. The project works were specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Matthews 2016), which was agreed with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. The proposed development area is currently an area of enclosed agricultural land to the immediate north-west of the town of Beith, North Ayrshire. The development area forms an irregular rectangle bounded to the north and west by field boundaries consisting of fences and some foliage. To the south and east the proposed development area is bordered by trees. Beyond this to the east is Auldlea Road and to the south an housing estate consisting of Ash Drive and Sycamore Avenue. The development area is on the edge of the suburban extension of Beith.
5. Superseded mapping can demonstrate the change in land use over time in the development area and the surrounding landscape. However, the principal change in the landscape appears to be the extension and expansion of the village of Beith. Beith is labelled as 'Bealk' and 'Bieth Hill' on Roy's Military survey of Scotland (1752-55) (Figure 1). This map shows the development area on the edge of enclosed agricultural land between the village of 'Bealk' and the house and garden labelled 'Woodside'. The development area is shown as unenclosed agricultural land in the vicinity of two small farms.
6. The 1st edition Ordnance survey (1856) (Figure 2) shows the development area very close to its current form with the exception that the trees forming the eastern and southern boundaries are absent. The modern field boundaries have been established and a road, in close approximation to the route of Auldlea Road, runs up the eastern side of the development area. The primary difference between the 1st edition Ordnance Survey and the modern condition of the ground is that the town of Beith has not yet expanded to its current form and to the development area stands amid enclosed agricultural land.



Figure 1a: Roy's Military Survey of Scotland, 1752-1755, Lowlands



Figure 1b: 1st edition Ordnance Survey, 1858, Ayrshire, Sheet VIII

Project Works

8. This archaeological evaluation, which was undertaken between the 18th and the 21st of April 2016, was carried out in keeping with the methods detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Matthews 2016) and the supporting Safety Plan & Risk Assessment (SPRAS) (Matthews 2016).
9. It consisted of the excavation of a series of intrusive trenches (Figure 2) to expose an 8% sample of the initial phase of the development area (roughly 1.71ha so minimum of 1368m² of trenching), by means of a series of linear trenches (684 linear meters using a 2m bucket). Due to the nature of the terrain (some waterlogged areas) and the presence of a main water main, slight adjustments were made to the size and layout of the trenches. Because of this a total of 1433.8m² was excavated which exceeded the required 8%.
10. The site was located within a trapezoidal shaped field which was on a gradual to moderate slope which fell from east to west. The field's boundaries mainly consisted of a mixture of wire and post fencing and low hedgerows. At the western boundary, at the base of the slope, there was a distinct difference in height between the site and the adjacent western field. This height difference seemed to be caused by the build-up of hill wash within the site against the western hedgerow. To the immediate south of the southern boundary was small burn. The eastern boundary with Auldlea Road consisted of a solid, well faced stone and mortar wall with a thick band of trees behind it.
11. All works were conducted in accordance with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service Standard Conditions, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

12. In total, 14 evaluation trenches were excavated across the available portion of the development area (Figure 2), using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator with a toothless 2m ditching bucket.
13. The topsoil within the site, (001), consisted of loose to moderately compacted, mid orange-brown clayey silt with very occasional small stone inclusions. That had a thickness range across site of 0.29-0.51m. The topsoil was also waterlogged in many places across of the site, particularly in western and south western areas.
14. There were two main subsoil layers identified within the site (Figures 3b and 4a). The first, (002), consisted of moderate to firmly compacted, mixed orange-brown/grey-brown clay with moderate small to medium sized stone inclusions. The second subsoil layer, (003), consisted of moderate to firmly compacted, mid to dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small sized stone and gravel inclusions.
15. No significant archaeological features were identified, though a series of field drains with ceramic pipes, (004), (005), (006) and (008), were identified within many of the trenches (Figure 3b and 4b). A modern hard-core surface, (007), was also identified within trench 3. This surface ran through a modern gate in the western boundary into the adjacent field.



Figure 2: Plan of evaluation trench layout



Figure 3a: Pre excavation view of the site from the NE.



Figure 3b: View of Trench 2 from the SW.



Figure 4a: View of Trench 13 from the S.



Figure 4b: View of ceramic drain (005) in Trench 8 from the WSW.

Discussion

16. From the mapping evidence the development areas boundaries would appear to be relatively unchanged from the middle of the eighteenth century onwards. The band of trees along the eastern boundary appears to have been planted in the latter part of the nineteenth century as they are shown in the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey but not the 1st edition. These trees seem to be part the southern tip of a plantation located to the immediate north of the site. The majority of the features identified within the site were nineteenth or twentieth century field drains and pipes, (004), (005), (006) and (008), which were most likely part of programme of improvement contemporary with the tree plantation. The only other feature identified, (007), was the modern hard-core surface at the gate on the western boundary with the adjacent western field. No significant archaeological features were identified.
17. A small quantity of artefacts were recovered from the site all of which were nineteenth or twentieth century pottery sherds from the topsoil (001).

Recommendations

18. All of the features identified through the programme of test trenching were nineteenth century or later in date. No other significant features or artefacts were identified so Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommend that no further works should be carried with regards to the development site at Auldlea Road.
19. The acceptability of these recommendations needs to be confirmed with WoSAS and North Ayrshire Council.

Conclusion

20. A programme of archaeological investigative works was carried out for McTaggart Construction Ltd in support of a proposed development at Auldlea Road, Beith (N/15/00720/PP, Condition 2). The archaeological works were designed to determine the archaeological potential of the development area and hence inform the specification for mitigation of the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
21. The archaeological investigative works consisted of an intrusive evaluation which was designed to assess an 8% sample of the proposed development area. The works were carried out between nineteenth and 21st April 2016, with a total of 14 trenches excavated. The works identified only nineteenth to twentieth century agricultural features or modern deposits. A small number of nineteenth to twentieth century artefacts were also recovered.

Acknowledgements

22. The author would like to thank McTaggart Construction Ltd, for the opportunity to carry out these works and also to Paul Robins at the West of Scotland Archaeology Service who gave support and guidance throughout. We would also like to thank Douglas Gordon for his editing of this report.

References

Documentary

HM Government, 1997, Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act, HMSO

Historic Scotland, 2008, Scottish Historic Environment Policy

Matthews, A. 2016, Auldlea Road, Beith, North Ayrshire: Archaeological Evaluation, Written Scheme of Investigation.

Museum of London, 1994, Archaeological Site Manual

Museums and Galleries Commission, 1992, Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections

Scottish Government, 2008, Treasure Trove in Scotland: A code of Practice

Scottish Government, 2010, *Scottish Planning Policy*

Scottish Government, 2011, Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning & Archaeology

Cartographic

Roy, W., 1752-55, Military survey of Scotland

Ordnance Survey, 1858, Ayrshire, 1st edition map sheet VIII

Ordnance Survey, 1898, Ayrshire, 2nd edition map sheet VIII.NW

Appendix 1: Trench Details & Test Pits

Within this appendix a standardised set of data pertaining to the evaluation trenches is presented.

All measurement distances quoted along the trench measure based on the quoted orientation of the trench.

Trench Summary

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
1	NNE-SSW	2m by 51.8m 103.6m ²	450-510mm	(002) moderate to firmly compacted, mixed orange-brown/grey-brown clay with moderate small to medium sized stone inclusions. (003) moderate to firmly compacted, mid to dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small sized stone and gravel inclusions.	None	None	None
2	NNE-SSW	2m by 50.9m 101.8m ²	290-440mm	(002) moderate to firmly compacted, mixed orange-brown/grey-brown clay with moderate small to medium sized stone inclusions. (003) moderate to firmly compacted, mid to dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small sized stone and gravel inclusions.	nineteenth or twentieth century field drains (004) and (005).	None	None
3	NNE-SSW	2m by 52.1m 104.2m ²	300-370mm	(003) moderate to firmly compacted, mid to dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small sized stone and gravel inclusions.	Modern track (007)	None	None

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
4	NNE-SSW	2m by 55.9m 111.8m ²	400-440mm	(002) moderate to firmly compacted, mixed orange-brown/grey-brown clay with moderate small to medium sized stone inclusions. (003) moderate to firmly compacted, mid to dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small sized stone and gravel inclusions.	nineteenth or twentieth century field drains (004), (005) and (006).	None	None
5	ESE-WNW	2m by 51.7m 103.4m ²	280-300mm	(003) moderate to firmly compacted, mid to dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small sized stone and gravel inclusions.	nineteenth or twentieth century field drains (004) and (005).	None	None
6	SE-NW	2m by 52m 104m ²	290-310mm	(003) moderate to firmly compacted, mid to dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small sized stone and gravel inclusions.	nineteenth or twentieth century field drains (004) and (005).	None	None
7	ENE-WSW	2m by 53.2m 106.4m ²	330-350mm	(003) moderate to firmly compacted, mid to dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small sized stone and gravel inclusions.	nineteenth or twentieth century field drains (004) and (005).	None	None
8	ENE-WSW	2m by 51.8m 103.6m ²	330-380mm	(003) moderate to firmly compacted, mid to dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small sized stone and gravel inclusions.	nineteenth or twentieth century field drains (004) and (005).	None	None

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
9	NNE-SSW	2m by 52.9m 105.8m ²	340-400mm	(002) moderate to firmly compacted, mixed orange-brown/grey-brown clay with moderate small to medium sized stone inclusions. (003) moderate to firmly compacted, mid to dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small sized stone and gravel inclusions.	nineteenth or twentieth century field drains (004) and (005).	None	None
10	NE-SW	2m by 33.3m 66.6m ²	390-420mm	(002) moderate to firmly compacted, mixed orange-brown/grey-brown clay with moderate small to medium sized stone inclusions. (003) moderate to firmly compacted, mid to dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small sized stone and gravel inclusions.	nineteenth or twentieth century field drains (005).	None	None
11	ENE-WSW	2m by 51.7m 103.4m ²	310-390mm	(002) moderate to firmly compacted, mixed orange-brown/grey-brown clay with moderate small to medium sized stone inclusions. (003) moderate to firmly compacted, mid to dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small sized stone and gravel inclusions.	nineteenth or twentieth century field drains (004) and (005).	None	None
12	NNE-SSW	2m by 55m 110m ²	310-370mm	(002) moderate to firmly compacted, mixed orange-brown/grey-brown clay with moderate small to medium sized stone inclusions. (003) moderate to firmly compacted, mid to dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small sized stone and gravel inclusions.	nineteenth or twentieth century field drains (004) and (005).	None	None

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
13	N-S	2m by 52.5m 105m ²	340-380mm	(002) moderate to firmly compacted, mixed orange-brown/grey-brown clay with moderate small to medium sized stone inclusions. (003) moderate to firmly compacted, mid to dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small sized stone and gravel inclusions.	nineteenth or twentieth century field drains (004) and (005).	None	None
14	ESE-WNW	2m by 52.1m 104.2m ²	300-330mm	(003) moderate to firmly compacted, mid to dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small sized stone and gravel inclusions.	Field drain (008)	None	None

Appendix 2: Registers

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

Context Register

Context No.	Area/Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	All	Deposit	Loose to moderately compacted, mid orange-brown clayey silt with very occasional small stone inclusions. Thickness range across site of 0.29-0.51m. Extends across whole site.	Topsoil within the site.
002	-	Deposit	Moderate to firmly compacted, mixed orange-brown/grey-brown clay with moderate small to medium sized stone inclusions.	Natural subsoil layer within site.
003	-	Deposit	Moderate to firmly compacted, mid to dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small sized stone and gravel inclusions.	Natural subsoil layer within site.
004	2	Pipe	Series of red to buff coloured ceramic pipes. E-W orientation and a diameter of 0.2m. Pipes within fill/cut (005).	nineteenth or twentieth century drainage pipe.
005	2, 9, 10	Fill/cut	Series of linear cuts which varied in width from 0.5-1.5m and were orientated in an E-W direction. Depth unknown as features waterlogged if excavated fully. The fill consisted of moderate to firmly compacted, mid grey clay with moderate small stone inclusions. Ceramic pipes (004) was within the fill.	Fill/cut of series of drainage trenches. Associated with ceramic pipes (004).
006	-	Pipe	An N-S orientated, red to buff coloured, ceramic pipe and its associated trench. The pipe had a diameter of 0.3m. Associated with (004) and (005).	Large drainage pipe into which drains (004) and (005) fed into.
007	-	Deposit	Layer of loose mid grey gravel devoid of other inclusions.	Modern hard-core surface associated with farm gate into adjacent field to the west.
008	9, 14	Fill/cut	A linear cuts which varied in width from 0.3-0.35m and was orientated in a NE-SW direction. Depth unknown as features waterlogged if excavated fully. The fill consisted of moderate to firmly compacted, mid grey-orange clay with occasional small stone inclusions.	Possible modern drainage trench.

Finds Register

Find No.	Area Trench	Context no.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
001	-	001	Ceramic	Modern pottery sherds	LMcK	19/4/16
002	-	001	Ceramic	Modern pottery sherds and piece of slate	LMcK	20/4/16

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description
1	1	Tr.1	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 1
2	1	Tr.2	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 2
3	1	Tr.3	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 3
4	1	Tr.9	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 9
5	1	Tr.10	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 10
6	1	Tr.14	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 14
7	2	Tr.11	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 11
8	2	Tr.12	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 12
9	2	Tr.13	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 13
10	2	Tr.8	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 8
11	2	Tr.7	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 7
12	2	Tr.4	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 4
13	3	Tr.5	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 5
14	3	Tr.6	Plan	1:100	Post-excavation plan of trench 6

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
001	101-1944	Pre excavation view of site	NE	18/04/16
002	101-1945	Pre excavation view of site	ENE	18/04/16
003	101-1946	View of treeline along Auldlea Road	N	19/04/16
004	101-1947	View of treeline along Auldlea Road	S	19/04/16
005	101-1948	Pre excavation view of site	NE	19/04/16
006	101-1949	Pre excavation view of site	ENE	19/04/16
007	101-1950	Post excavation view of trench 1	SSW	19/04/16
008	101-1951	View of western field boundary, shows drop in height	SSW	19/04/16
009	101-1952	Post excavation view of trench 2, ceramic drain in section.	ESE	19/04/16
010	101-1953	Post excavation view of trench 2	SSW	19/04/16
011	101-1954	Post excavation view of trench 3	SSW	19/04/16
012	101-1955	Post excavation view of trench 9	NNE	19/04/16
013	101-1956	Post excavation view of trench 10	NE	19/04/16
014	101-1957	Post excavation view of trench 14	WNW	19/04/16
015	101-1958	Working shot	ENE	20/04/16
016	101-1959	Working shot	ENE	20/04/16
017	101-1960	Working shot	-	20/04/16
018	101-1961	Working shot	ENE	20/04/16
019	101-1962	Post excavation view of trench 11	WSW	20/04/16
020	101-1963	Post excavation view of trench 12	SSW	20/04/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
021	101-1964	Post excavation view of trench 13		20/04/16
022	101-1965	Working shot		20/04/16
023	101-1966	Working shot		20/04/16
024	101-1967	View of drain(004) in trench 8		20/04/16
025	101-1968	Post excavation view of trench 8		20/04/16
026	101-1969	View of backfilled trenches from day 2		20/04/16
027	101-1970	Post excavation view of trench 7		20/04/16
028	101-1971	Post excavation view of trench 4		20/04/16
029	101-1972	View of backfilled trenches day 3		20/04/16
030	101-1973	View of gate to field closed and machine secured		20/04/16
031	101-1974	Post excavation view of trench 5		21/04/16
032	101-1975	Post excavation view of trench 6		21/04/16
033	101-1976	View of field after backfilling		21/04/16
034	101-1977	View of field after backfilling		21/04/16

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Auldlea Road, Beith
PROJECT CODE:	RA16021
PARISH:	Beith (Cunninghame)
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Liam McKinstry
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	nineteenth or twentieth century pottery
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 34826 54824
START DATE (this season)	18 th April 2016
END DATE (this season)	21 st April 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	No
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological investigative works was carried out for McTaggart Construction Ltd in support of a proposed development at Auldlea Road, Beith (N/15/00720/PP, Condition 2). The archaeological works were designed to determine the archaeological potential of the development area and hence inform the specification for mitigation of the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.</p> <p>The archaeological investigative works consisted of an intrusive evaluation which was designed to assess an 8% sample of the proposed development area. The works were carried out between nineteenth and 21st April 2016, with a total of 14 trenches excavated. The works identified only nineteenth to twentieth century agricultural features or modern deposits. A small number of nineteenth to twentieth century artefacts were also recovered.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	No
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	McTaggart Construction Ltd.
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
EMAIL ADDRESS:	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to HES Collections.

Contact Details

25. Rathmell Archaeology can be contacted at our Registered Office or through the web:
Rathmell Archaeology Ltd www.rathmell-arch.co.uk
Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops
Kilwinning t.: 01294 542848
Ayrshire f.: 01294 542849
KA13 6PU e.: contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
26. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service can be contacted at their office or through the web:
West of Scotland Archaeology Service www.wosas.org.uk
231 George Street t.: 0141 287 8330
Glasgow e.: enquiries@wosas.glasgow.gov.uk
G1 1RX

End of Document