Craig Tara Holiday Park, Ayr, South Ayrshire: Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report



by Liam McKinstry
issued 21st October 2016
on behalf of Bourne Leisure 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 21st October 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 Long Kees Date ...21st October 2016.......

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Quality Assurance Data

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Commissioning Bourne Leisure Ltd

Event Name Craig Tara Holiday Park, Ayr

Event Type Evaluation

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Rathmell Code RA16072 OASIS Ref rathmell1-265143

Location United Kingdom : Scotland : South Ayrshire NGR NS 30443 18071 Parish Maybole

Designation(s) None Canmore IDs None

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Introduction

- 1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Bourne Leisure Ltd in support of the consented development at Craig Tara Holiday Park, Ayr, South Ayrshire. The archaeological evaluation reported within this document was 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. South Ayrshire Council required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken in support of the development works as an element of granted consent (16/00613/APP, Condition 2). West of Scotland Archaeology Service, who advise South 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 Bourne Leisure 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 (Rees 2016), which was agreed with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Historical and Archaeological Background

- 4. There are no known historical or archaeological sites within the proposed development area.
- 5. Historic mapping shows the ground as open arable land on Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1752-55, Figure 1a) and enclosed fields on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1860, Figure 1b).
- 6. Archaeological investigations were undertaken in support of the western expansions of the Craig Tara Holiday Park between 2000 and 2005 (GUARD reports 981, 1724 and 1866 held by WoSAS). These works undertook intrusive evaluation culminating in the excavation of an early Bronze Age flat cemetery (Duffy 2007) lying 8-9m AOD some 700m NW of the development area. The truncated remains of another early Bronze Age pottery vessel was found to the southwest of the cemetery.
- 7. Further archaeological works have accompanied the progressive expansion of Doonfoot westwards towards High Greenan. This has also investigated a broad range of predominantly early prehistoric archaeology.

Project Works

- 8. This archaeological evaluation, undertaken between 17th and 19th October 2016, was carried out in keeping with the methods detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2016a) and the supporting Safety Plan & Risk Assessment (SPRA) (Rees 2016b).
- 9. It consisted of the excavation of a series of 15 intrusive trenches (Figure 2) to expose an 8% sample of the initial phase of the development area (roughly 1.85ha so minimum of 1480m² of trenching). Hence this sample needed to total some 740 linear meters of 2m broad trenches. Due to the shelterbelt surrounding most of the development area being overgrown, slight adjustments were made to the size and layout of the trenches. Because of this a total of 1511.2m² was excavated which exceeded the required 8% sample.
- 10. The development area was located within a flat, partially waterlogged, irregular shaped field. The field's boundaries mainly consisted of a thick area of trees and bushes bounded on both sides with wire and post fencing which acted as a shelterbelt around the field screening views to and from the Craig Tara Holiday Park. The extreme north western part of the development area was overgrown with brambles, rushes and small bushes. Amongst this vegetation dumped material inc. black bag waste was exposed.
- 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.

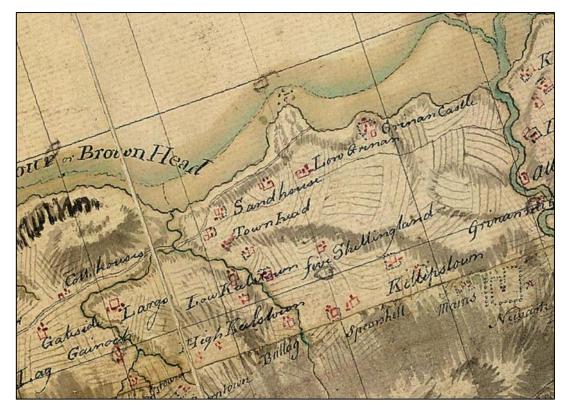


Figure 1a: Roy's Military Survey of Scotland, 1752-1755, Lowlands.

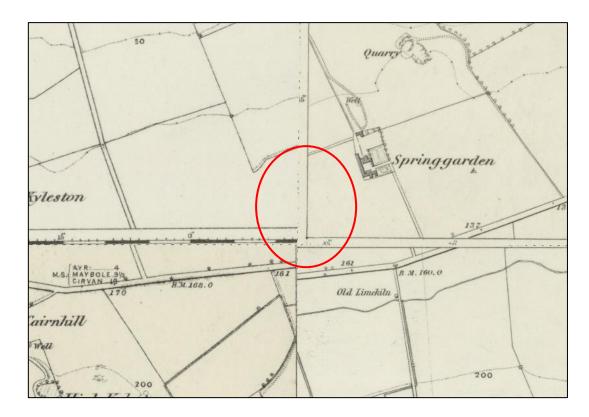


Figure 1b: 1st edition Ordnance Survey, 1860, Ayrshire, Sheet XXXIII.

Findings

- 13. In total, 15 evaluation trenches were excavated across the available portion of the development area (Figures 2 and 3a), using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator with a toothless 2m ditching bucket.
- 14. The topsoil (Figure 4a) within the development area, (001), consisted of moderately compacted, mid yellow/grey-brown clayey silt with occasional to moderate organic/root material and occasional small stone inclusions. The topsoil had a thickness range across site of 0.15-0.2m. The topsoil was also waterlogged in many places across of the development area, particularly in western and south western areas.
- 15. The main subsoil layer identified within the development area was clay (002) (Figures 3b and 4b). This clay subsoil was a very firmly compacted, mixed yellow/red-brown/grey clay with moderate to frequent, small to medium sized stone and very occasional larger stone inclusions. The subsoil was not homogenous, areas or patches of local variation were noted within the beds of the evaluation trenches, (003) and (004). The first of these patches, (003), consisted of very compacted, mid grey-brown clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The second of these patches, (004), consisted of moderately compacted, mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions.
- 16. No significant archaeological features were identified, though a series of parallel narrow agricultural markings, (006), were identified in a number of the trenches (Figure 3b). Along with these agricultural markings there were a small number of rubble/stone filled drains, (007) and (008), which were identified in a few of the trenches. There was also a deposit of modern refuse, (005), within the topsoil at the north western end of Trench 3.
- 17. No artefacts were recovered from the site.

Discussion

- 18. From the mapping evidence the development areas boundaries would appear to be relatively unchanged from the 19th century onwards.
- 19. The development areas underlying clay subsoil, (002), meant that many areas within the field were subject to waterlogging suggesting that the field had always been marginal and of poor quality with regards to agricultural activity. All of the features identified within the site were modern plough marks or field drains, (006), (007) and (008), which were most likely part of programme of improvement to address the field's waterlogged nature. This programme of improvement within the field may also have contributed towards the relatively thin covering, 0.15-0.2m, of topsoil across the site.
- 20. Apart from the deposition of modern refuse, (005), within Trench 3 there were no artefacts identified within the site.

Recommendations

- 21. All of the features identified through the programme of test trenching were modern and agricultural in nature. No other significant features or artefacts were identified within the site hence Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommend that no further archaeological works should be carried with regards to the development area at Craig Tara Holiday Park.
- 22. The acceptability of these recommendations needs to be confirmed with WoSAS and South Ayrshire Council.

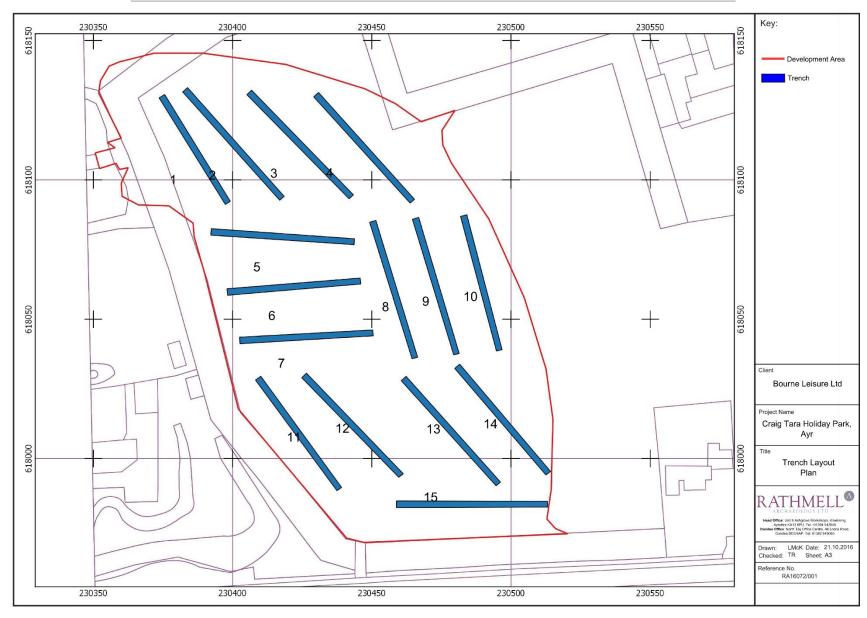


Figure 2: Plan of evaluation trench layout as opened



Figure 3a: Pre excavation view of the site from the W



Figure 3b: View of plough marks, (006), within Trench 4 from the SE



Figure 4a: View of NE facing section within Trench 3



Figure 4b: View of Trench 11 from the SE

Conclusion

- 23. A programme of archaeological investigative works was carried out for Bourne Leisure Ltd in support of a proposed development at Craig Tara Holiday Park, Ayr, South Ayrshire. 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.
- 24. 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 17th and 19th October 2016, with a total of 15 trenches excavated. The works identified only modern agricultural features and deposits.

Acknowledgements

25. The author would like to thank Bourne Leisure 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 Thomas Rees for his editing of this report.

References

Documentary

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Cartographic

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Ordnance Survey, 1860, Ayrshire, 1st edition map sheet XXXIII

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	NW-SE	2m by 44.5m 89m²	0.21m	(002) Mixed yellow/red – Brown-Grey (L-M). Clay very compact, moderate to regular small-medium stones, very occasional larger stone inclusions. (003) Very compact mid-grey/ grey-brown clay. Occasional small stone inclusions. (004) Compact mid-grey-brown silty clay. Occasional small stone inclusions.	None	None	None
2	NW-SE	2m by 52.2m 104.4m ²	0.19m	(002) Mixed yellow/red — Brown-Grey (L-M). Clay very compact, moderate to regular small-medium stones, very occasional larger stone inclusions. (003) Very compact mid-grey/ grey-brown clay. Occasional small stone inclusions. (004) Compact mid-grey-brown silty clay. Occasional small stone inclusions.	None	None	None
3	NW-SE	2m by 52.4m 104.8m ²	0.17m	(002) Mixed yellow/red – Brown-Grey (L-M). Clay very compact, moderate to regular small-medium stones, very occasional larger stone inclusions. (003) Very compact mid-grey/ grey-brown clay. Occasional small stone inclusions.	(006) Modern plough marks	None	None

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
4	NW-SE	2m by 51.5m 103m ²	0.19m	(002) Mixed yellow/red – Brown-Grey (L-M). Clay very compact, moderate to regular small-medium stones, very occasional larger stone inclusions. (003) Very compact mid-grey/ grey-brown clay. Occasional small stone inclusions. (004) Compact mid-grey-brown silty clay. Occasional small stone inclusions.	None	None	None
5	W-E	2m by 51.5m 103m ²	0.19m	(002) Mixed yellow/red – Brown-Grey (L-M). Clay very compact, moderate to regular small-medium stones, very occasional larger stone inclusions. (004) Compact mid-grey-brown silty clay. Occasional small stone inclusions.	(006) Modern plough marks. (007) Modern Drains	None	None
6	W-E	2m by 48m 96m ²	0.15m	(002) Mixed yellow/red – Brown-Grey (L-M). Clay very compact, moderate to regular small-medium stones, very occasional larger stone inclusions. (003) Very compact mid-grey/ grey-brown clay. Occasional small stone inclusions.	(006) Modern plough marks	None	None
7	W-E	2m by 48m 96m²	0.16m	(002) Mixed yellow/red – Brown-Grey (L-M). Clay very compact, moderate to regular small-medium stones, very occasional larger stone inclusions.	(006) Modern plough marks	None	None
8	NNW-SSE	2m by 51.5m 103m ²	0.17m	(002) Mixed yellow/red – Brown-Grey (L-M). Clay very compact, moderate to regular small-medium stones, very occasional larger stone inclusions.	None	None	None
9	NNW-SSE	2m by 51m 102m ²	0.16m	(002) Mixed yellow/red – Brown-Grey (L-M). Clay very compact, moderate to regular small-medium stones, very occasional larger stone inclusions.	(006) Modern plough marks	None	None

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
10	NNW-SSE	2M by 50M 100m ²	0.31m	(002) Mixed yellow/red – Brown-Grey (L-M). Clay very compact, moderate to regular small-medium stones, very occasional larger stone inclusions.	(007) Modern Drains	None	None
11	NW-SE	2m by 50.5m 101m ²	0.25m	(002) Mixed yellow/red – Brown-Grey (L-M). Clay very compact, moderate to regular small-medium stones, very occasional larger stone inclusions.	(008) Modern Drains	None	None
12	NW-SE	2m by 50m 100m ²	0.15m	(002) Mixed yellow/red – Brown-Grey (L-M). Clay very compact, moderate to regular small-medium stones, very occasional larger stone inclusions.	(006) Modern plough marks. (008) Modern Drains	None	None
13	NW-SE	2m by 50m 100m ²	0.16m	(002) Mixed yellow/red – Brown-Grey (L-M). Clay very compact, moderate to regular small-medium stones, very occasional larger stone inclusions.	(006) Modern plough marks. (008) Modern Drains	None	None
14	NW-SE	2m by 50.5 101m ²	0.16m	(002) Mixed yellow/red – Brown-Grey (L-M). Clay very compact, moderate to regular small-medium stones, very occasional larger stone inclusions.	(006) Modern plough marks	None	None
15	W-S	2m by 54m 108m²	0.15m	(002) Mixed yellow/red – Brown-Grey (L-M). Clay very compact, moderate to regular small-medium stones, very occasional larger stone inclusions.	(006) Modern plough marks. (007) Modern Drains	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	Туре	Description	Interpretation
001	All	Deposit	Moderately compacted, light to mid yellow/grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions. Thickness range across site of 0.15m-0.31m. Extends across whole site.	Topsoil within the site
002	All	Deposit	Very firmly compacted, mixed light to mid yellow/red-brown/grey clay with moderate small-medium stone and very occasional large stone inclusions.	Natural subsoil layer within site
003	1-4, 6	Deposit	Very firmly compacted, mid grey/grey-brown clay with very occasional small stone inclusions.	Natural subsoil occurring in patches
004	1,2,4,5	Deposit	Moderately compacted, mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions.	Natural subsoil occurring in patches
005	3	Deposit	Black plastic refuse bags, modern detritus and some CBM at the NW end of trench. 0.3-0.35m thick	Area of modern refuse deposition.
006	3, 5-9 and 12-15	Cut/fill	Series of parallel linear marks found within a number of trenches. Marks were 0.03-0.04m wide and 0.1-0.15m apart. Filled with mid grey clay.	Modern plough marks
007	5, 10 and 15	Cut/fill	Linear feature filled with 80% stone/rubble and 20% mid grey clay. Width 0.1m.	Modern field drain
800	11-13	Cut/fill	Linear feature filled with 80% stone/rubble and 20% mid grey clay. Width 0.2m.	Modern field drain

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description
1	1	1	Plan	1:100	T1 Post-Ex
2	1	2	Plan	1:100	T2 Post-Ex

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description
3	1	3	Plan	1:100	T3 Post-Ex
4	1	4	Plan	1:100	T4 Post-Ex
5	1	5	Plan	1:100	T5 Post-Ex
6	2	6	Plan	1:100	T6 Post-Ex
7	2	7	Plan	1:100	T7 Post-Ex
8	2	8	Plan	1:100	T8 Post-Ex
9	2	9	Plan	1:100	T9 Post-Ex
10	2	10	Plan	1:100	T10 Post-Ex
11	2	11	Plan	1:100	T11 Post-Ex
12	3	12	Plan	1:100	T12 Post-Ex
13	3	13	Plan	1:100	T13 Post-Ex
14	3	14	Plan	1:100	T14 Post-Ex
15	3	15	Plan	1:100	T15 Post-Ex

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
001	0201	Pre excavation view of north part of site	W	17/10/16
002	0202	Tr1 post-ex	SE	17/10/16
003	0203	Section within Tr1	NE	17/10/16
004	0204	Tr2 post-ex	SE	17/10/16
005	0205	Tr2 section	NE	17/10/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
006	0206	View of landfill in Tr3	NW	17/10/16
007	0207	Tr3 post-ex	SE	17/10/16
008	0208	Tr3 section	NE NE	17/10/16
009	0209	Tr4 post-ex	SE	17/10/16
010	0210	Tr4 section	NE	17/10/16
011	0211	Tr5 post-ex	E	17/10/16
012	0212	Tr5 section	N	17/10/16
013	0213	Pre-ex of southern part of area	W	18/10/16
014	0214	Tr6 post-ex	E	18/10/16
015	0215	Tr6 section	N	18/10/16
016	0216	Tr7 post-ex	E	18/10/16
017	0217	Tr7 post-ex	N	18/10/16
018	0218	Tr8 Post-ex	SSE	18/10/16
019	0219	Tr8 section	ENE	18/10/16
020	0220	Tr9 post-ex	SSE	18/10/16
021	0221	Tr9 section	ENE	18/10/16
022	0222	Tr10 Post-ex	SSE	18/10/16
023	0223	Tr10 section	ENE	18/10/16
024	0224	Tr11 post-ex	SE	18/10/16
025	0225	Tr11 section	NE	18/10/16
026	0226	Tr12 post-ex	SE	19/10/16
027	0227	Tr12 section	NE	19/10/16
028	0228	Tr13 post-ex	SE	19/10/16

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
No.				
029	0229	Tr13 section	NE	19/10/16
030	0230	Tr14 post-ex	SE	19/10/16
031	0231	Tr14 section	NE	19/10/16
032	0232	Tr15 post-ex	Е	19/10/16
033	0233	Tr15 section	N	19/10/16
034	0234	General shot of site reconstituted		19/10/16
035	0235	General shot of site reconstituted		19/10/16

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Craig Tara Holiday Park, Ayr
PROJECT CODE:	RA16072
PARISH:	Maybole
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:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 30443 18071
START DATE (this season)	17 th April 2016
END DATE (this season)	19 th April 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	A programme of archaeological investigative works was carried out for Bourne Leisure Ltd in support of a proposed development at Craig Tara Holiday Park, Ayr, South Ayrshire. 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.
	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 17th and 19th October 2016, with a total of 15 trenches excavated. The works identified only modern agricultural features and deposits.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Bourne Leisure 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

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