

Badgers Keep, Sauchrie, South Ayrshire: Archaeological Mitigation

Data Structure Report



by Liam McKinstry & Craig Stanford

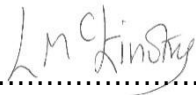
issued 12th January 2017

on behalf of Mr and Mrs Gough


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 ...12th January 2017.....

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 ...12th January 2017.....

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Mr and Mrs Gough in support of the proposed change of use (14/01591/APP) of ground at Badgers Keep, Sauchrie, South Ayrshire. These archaeological works are designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area. The proposed area for development is situated 2.5km to the west of Minishant and 4km to the north of Maybole and considered to have some archaeological potential.
2. These works were required by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service through the guidance they issued to South Ayrshire Council. WoSAS agreed the structure of archaeological works appropriate on this site through a Written Scheme of Investigation (McKinstry 2016). Rathmell Archaeology Limited was appointed by Mr and Mrs Gough to undertake the archaeological evaluation at Badgers Keep, Sauchrie, South Ayrshire in keeping with the specification they had agreed with the planning authority and the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Historical and Archaeological Background

3. The proposed development area, Badgers Keep, is located within a disused walled garden located to the immediate SW of Sauchrie Mains/estate. The development area lies 2.5km W of the town of Minishant and 4km to the N of the town of Maybole, South Ayrshire. The development area forms an irregular pentagon bounded to the N, W and E by a high stone wall (Figures 3, 5a and 5b), and by wire and post fencing to the S where the area bounds a small stream or drain.
4. There is significant tree cover beyond the boundary on the W and N sides. The interior of the walled garden consisted of large areas of lawn, a number of standing trees and the remains of garden features and outbuildings/sheds (Figure 2). Beyond the walled garden, to the N and E, was a small local unnamed road and houses of a recent 20th century date.
5. The main architectural elements of the house and farmstead at Sauchrie (Canmore 41647 and 41654) were from the 18th and early 19th century. The earliest known owner of the house and grounds was one William Wallace the Sherriff of Ayr in 1767. The house and estate were later sold on to John Loudoun McAdam, of tarmac fame, in 1787.
6. An earlier 17th century farmstead, Old Sauchrie (Canmore 41609), was located 780m to the NNE of the estate and house. According to local tradition the farmstead was said to have been a castle but later observations showed that it was more likely to be a farmstead which comprised of a range of buildings around a yard, all of which have now been demolished.
7. Two other nearby sites also possibly dating to the 17th century were located at Craigskean (Canmore 40951) and Knockdon Castle (Canmore 41669). Craigskean is located 240m to the N of the walled garden and was referred to in the 19th century as a 'castle' though it has long since been demolished. Knockdon Castle which is located 537m to the SE on high ground above Sauchrie Burn has, like Craigskean, also been demolished. There is no record of what type of building these sites were.
8. The landscape and buildings surrounding Sauchrie seem to have been formalised around the late medieval or post medieval periods. The earliest depictions of Sauchrie cartographically appear within Blaeu's map of 1654 (Figure 1a) where Sauchrie is shown as 'Sanchry' along with Craigskean, shown as 'Kraigskiach'. The nearby site of Knockdon is also shown on Blaeu's map as 'Knokdom' and on Gordon's map of from 1636-52 with a similar spelling.
9. Roy's 1752-55 Military Survey of Scotland (Lowlands) (Figure 1b) shows a series of field systems with clusters of buildings at 'Sauchry' and at Knockdon. Armstrong's map of 1775 (Figure 2a) depicts the boundaries of Sauchrie estate as an irregular shape which corresponds approximately with some of the present day boundaries around the estate. In the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 2b) most of the field boundaries and roads which exist at present are shown though with some minor changes to the smaller estate

roads. The map also depicts a long building, named Laigh Craigskean, which ran in a NNE to SSE direction next to the eastern side of the walled garden. The building was demolished and subsequently replaced with a later 20th century building.

10. No known archaeological sites are located within the development area but there is the potential that there are 18th and 19th century garden features associated with the activities carried out within the walled garden. The potential for unknown earlier medieval or prehistoric sub surface features being present cannot be ruled out.

Project Works

11. This archaeological evaluation, undertaken between 8th and 9th December 2016, was carried out in keeping with the methods detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (McKinstry 2016).
12. The objective was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits that might be affected by construction work. The available portion of the development area which was to be subject to an evaluation was 0.45ha. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service required an 8% trial trenching sample of the area, hence a target of 360m² of trenching. The WSI agreed five trenches, four 50m and one 25m, to be excavated with a JCB 3CX machine using a 1.6m wide toothless bucket (Figure 3).
13. Adjustments in size and layout had to be made to the original trench layout due to a number of on-site issues such as severe waterlogging, excessive tree and vegetation growth and the presence of paths and areas of hard standing where a number of sheds were situated (Figures 3 and 5a). The trenching was also hampered by the steeply sloping ground in the northern part of the site (Figure 4b) which in conjunction with the waterlogged ground made it hard for the JCB 3CX to navigate within the confines of the development area. Because of this a total of 258.6m² was excavated which was less than the required 8% within the development area. The alteration of these trenches was confirmed during the site works with WoSAS.
14. 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

15. In total, five evaluation trenches were excavated across the available portion of the development area (Figures 3 and 4a) using a JCB 3CX mechanical excavator with a toothless 1.6m ditching bucket.
16. The topsoil across the site, (001), consisted of loosely compacted mid grey-brown clayey silt with occasional small stone and CBM inclusions and frequent root disturbance. The topsoil had depth range of between 280-680mm, being much deeper in the central and southern parts of the site. The main subsoil identified within the majority of the evaluation area (002) consisted of loosely compacted mid orange-brown clayey silt, with occasional small-medium stones and frequent root inclusions. Both were waterlogged.
17. On the lower ground of the walled garden towards the south the subsoil, (007), consisted of loosely compacted mid grey brown silty clay with infrequent small stone inclusions and frequent root inclusions. The subsoil in the eastern part of the site, (003), consisted of loose to moderately compacted, light orange-brown clay silt with frequent small stone and gravel inclusions and frequent root disturbance.

Two features were identified within the evaluation area at the eastern end of the site. A linear shaped path deposit, (004), of loosely compacted CBM and stone was identified within trenches 3 and 4 underlying the topsoil (001). The path deposit measured 1.7-1.8m long within the excavated areas of the trenches, 2-2.5m wide and was 100-300mm deep. The path deposit was orientated in a WSW-ENE direction and ran from the gate in the eastern wall into the centre of the garden for an approximate length of 37m (see Figure 3). Another similar offshoot path ran off the WSW end towards the gate in the northern

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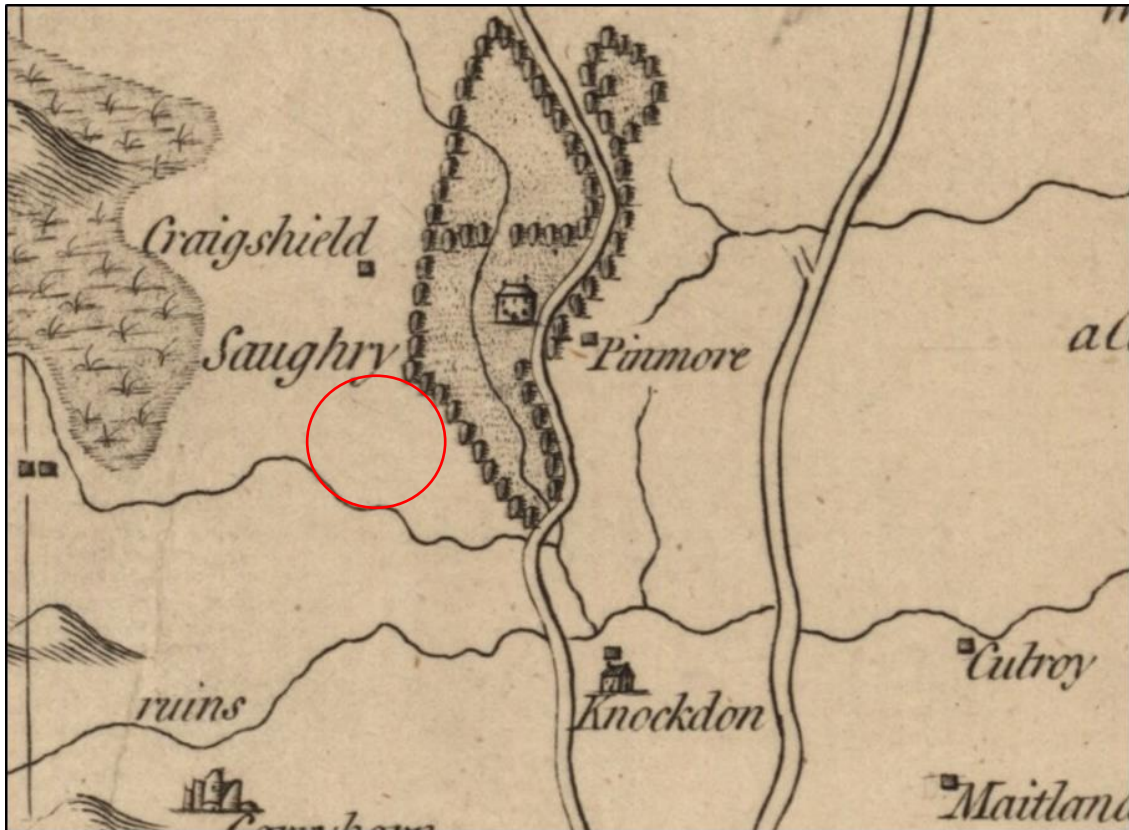


Figure 2a: Armstrong's map of 1775.

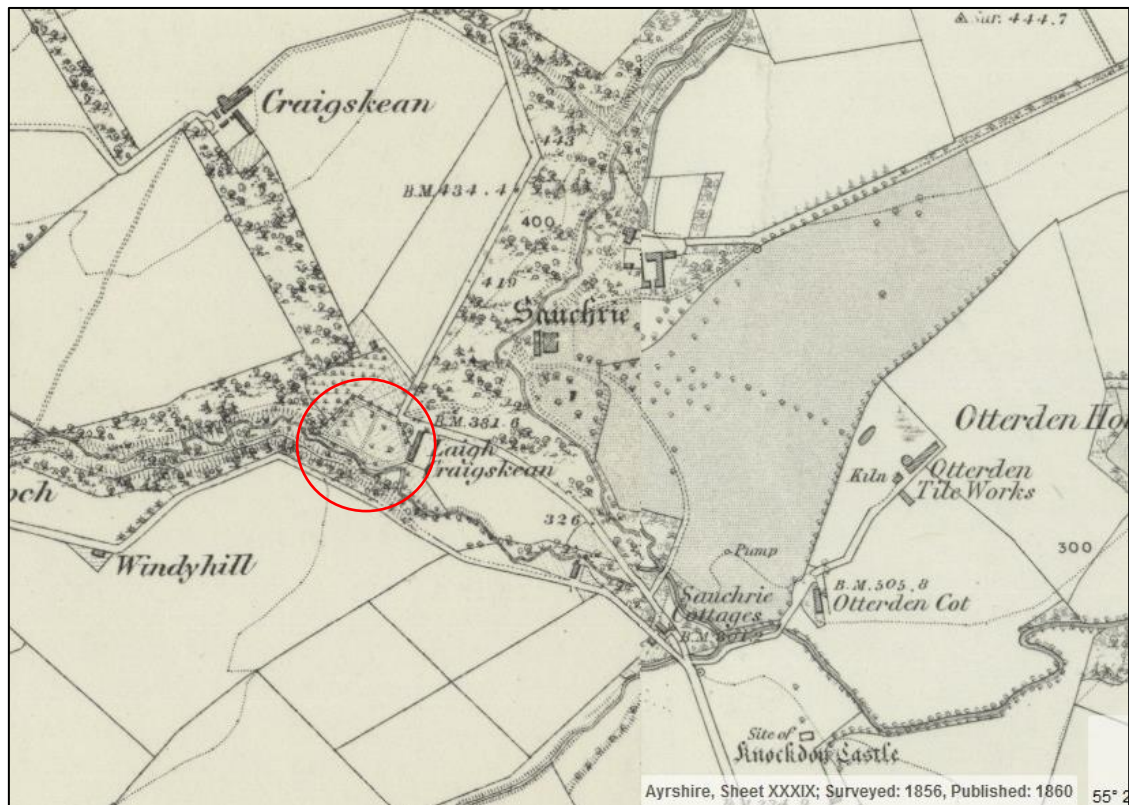


Figure 2b: 1st edition Ordnance Survey, 1856, six-inch.

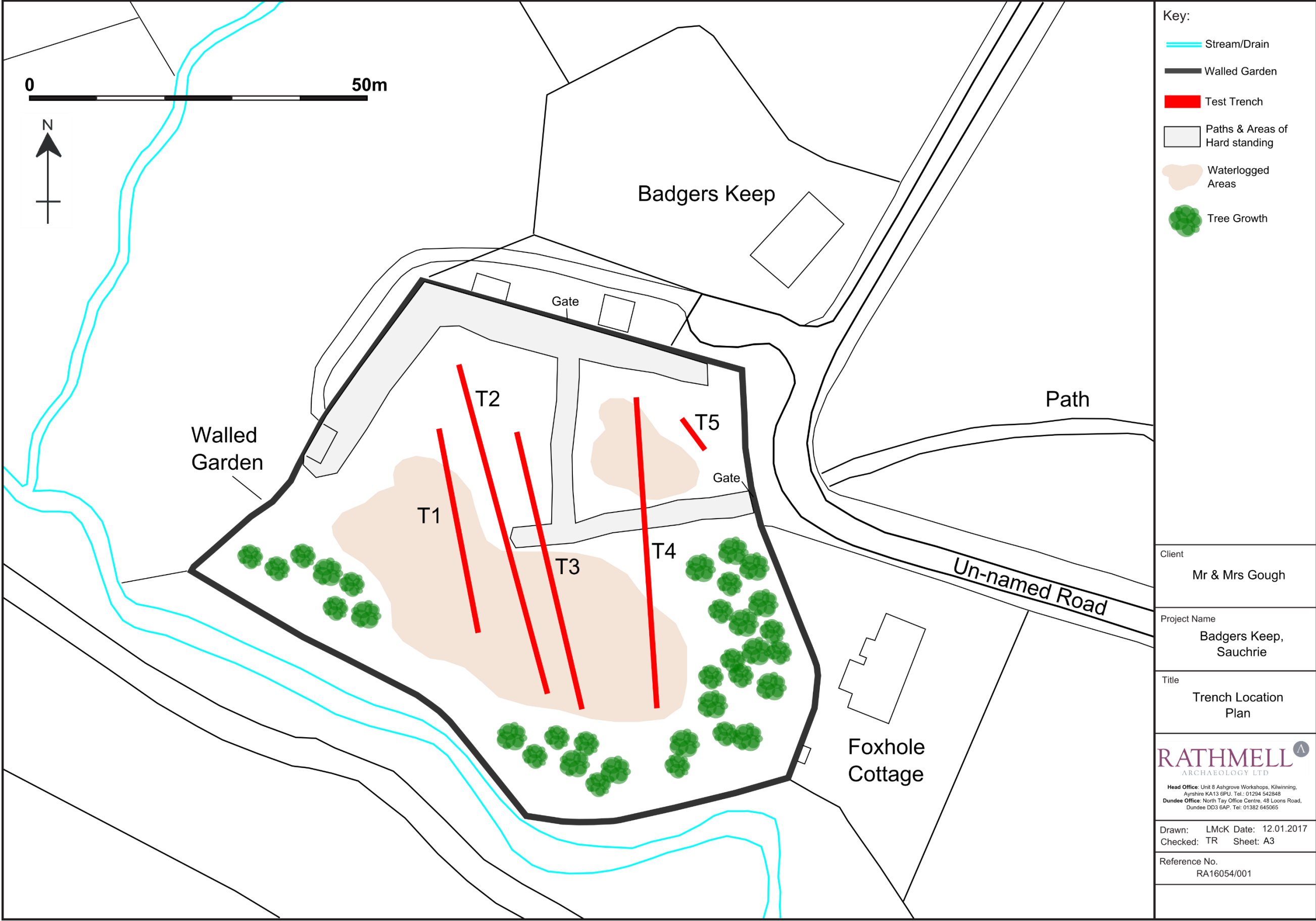


Figure 3: Trench Location Plan



Figure 4a: Post excavation view of Trench 4. From the SE.



Figure 4b: Pre excavation view showing the steeply sloping ground within the N part of the site. From the ESE.



Figure 5a: View of the N wall and area of hard standing with sheds running along the inside edge. From ESE.



Figure 5b: E wall and gate. From the NW.

18. wall and an area of hard standing. A rubble filled drain, (005), was also identified within trenches 3 and 4. The drain was orientated in an ESE-WNW direction and had a width of 0.4m.
19. No artefacts were recovered from the site.

Discussion

20. The clayey nature of the subsoils, (002), (003) and (007), within the evaluation area made the ground waterlogged and would not have been ideal for gardening, although it is likely that these current conditions are the result of deterioration and failure of the drainage systems within the walled garden due to lack of maintenance over the years.
21. The evaluation trenches (Figures 3 and 4a) within the walled garden of Badgers Keep at Sauchrie identified no evidence for activity pre-dating the use of the site as a garden. Both of the features identified within the evaluation area, rubble field drain (005) and path deposit (004), seemed most likely to relate to the site's use as a garden from the 19th century onwards rather than any earlier agricultural activity. Another path, which branched off from path deposit (004) to the N, and an area of hardstanding, which ran along the inside edge of the northern wall (Figure 5a), were also identified but were not subject to evaluation due to the ground conditions and the fact that a number of wooden and brick sheds were present along the inside edge of the northern wall. However, as is the case with (004), they are likely to relate to the site's use as a garden, particularly due to their association with the still upstanding garden structures.
22. The lack of any boundary ditches within the evaluation area trenches could indicate the use of more ephemeral boundaries, such as shrubberies, or that a less formalised garden layout was employed within the walled garden.

Recommendations

23. The majority of features identified during the evaluation were agricultural in nature of a 19th century or later date and relate to the known function of the walled garden at Badgers Keep, Sauchrie. Therefore this evaluation revealed no significant archaeological features. Because of the agricultural nature and modern date of the other features identified in the evaluation area it is recommended that no further work be carried out.
24. The acceptability of these recommendations needs to be confirmed with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service and South Ayrshire Council.

Conclusion

25. A programme of archaeological investigative works was carried out for Mr. and Ms. Gough in support of the development of the walled garden at Badgers Keep, Sauchrie, 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.
26. The evaluation consisted of five trenches. The works identified several 19th century or later agricultural drains and a rubble pathway. No artefacts were recovered from the works.

Acknowledgements

27. The authors would like to thank our clients Mr and Mrs Gough, for the opportunity to carry out these works and also to Martin O'Hare at the West of Scotland Archaeology Service who gave support and guidance throughout. We would also like to thank Claire Williamson for her editing of this report.

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

Cartographic

Armstrong, A	1775	<i>A new map of Ayrshire</i>
Blaeu, J	1654	<i>Caricta Borealis, Vulgo, The north part of Carrick/opus Timothy Pont</i>
Gordon, R & J	1636-52	<i>Cunningham [sic]. Cunningham</i>
Roy, W	1747-52	<i>Military Survey of Scotland (Lowlands)</i>
Ordnance Survey	1859	<i>6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey Ayrshire Sheet XXXVIII</i>

Appendix 1: Trench Details

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
001	NNW-SSE	1.6m by 27.5m 44m ²	350mm-480mm	(002) loosely compacted mid orange-brown clayey silt.	None	None	None
002	NNW-SSE	1.6m by 41.0m 65.6m ²	330mm-420mm	(002) loosely compacted mid orange-brown clayey silt.	None	None	None
003	NNW-SSE	1.6m by 42.5m 68m ²	280mm-340mm	(002) loosely compacted mid orange-brown clayey silt. (007) loosely compacted mid grey brown silty clay.	(005) field drain. (004) path consisting of loose CBM and stone layer	None	None
004	N-S	1.6m by 45.0m 72m ²	333mm-380mm	(002) loosely compacted mid orange-brown clayey silt. (007) mid grey brown silty clay.	(005) field drain. (004) path consisting of loose CBM and stone layer. (006) modern machine ruts.	None	None
005	NW-SE	1.6m by 9m 14.4m ²	360mm-500mm	(003) loose to moderately compact, light orange-brown clay silt. (002) softly compacted mid orange-brown clayey silt.	None	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	Loosely compacted mid grey-brown clayey silt with occasional small stones, occasional CBM and frequent root disturbance. Depth range of between 280-680mm. Waterlogged.	Topsoil across the site.
002	All	Deposit	Loosely compacted mid orange-brown clayey silt, with occasional small-medium stones and frequent root inclusions. Waterlogged. Underlies (001).	Natural Subsoil
003	4/5	Deposit	Loose to moderately compact, light orange-brown clay silt with frequent small stone and gravel inclusions, frequent root disturbance. Underlies (001).	Subsoil in the eastern part of the site.
004	3/4	Deposit	Loosely compacted CBM and stone layer. Measured 1.7-1.8m long within the excavated areas, 2-2.5m wide and 100-300mm deep. Path was orientated in a WSW-ENE direction and ran from the gate in the eastern wall into the centre of the garden (approximate length of 37m). Another similar offshoot path ran off the WSW end of the path towards the gate in the northern wall and an area of hard standing. Underlies (001).	Path which ran from the gate in the eastern wall into the centre of the walled garden.
005	3/4	Cut/Fill	Rubble drain, occasional large stones and frequent small stones, 0.4m wide,	Rubble field drain associated with (004)
006	3/4	Cut	Very modern ruts from machine tracks	Caused by previous machine activity
007	3/4	Deposit	Loosely compacted mid grey brown silty clay with infrequent small stone inclusions and frequent root inclusions. Underlies (001)	Subsoil in the southern part of the site.

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description
001	1	Trench 1	Plan	1:100	Post excavation of trench 1
002	1	Trench 2	Plan	1:100	Post excavation of trench 2
003	1	Trench 3	Plan	1:100	Post excavation of trench 3
004	1	Trench 4	Plan	1:100	Post excavation of trench 4
005	1	Trench 5	Plan	1:100	Post excavation of trench 5

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
001	083154	Pre excavation view	SE	8/12/16
002	083203	Pre excavation view	NNW	8/12/16
003	083210	Pre excavation view (machine entry)	W	8/12/16
004	091138	T1 post excavation	SSE	8/12/16
005	091150	T1 section	ENE	8/12/16
006	092610	View of back filled T1	NNW	8/12/16
007	092622	View of eastern area before excavation	-	8/12/16
008	094047	Machine stuck	WNW	8/12/16
009	103833	Trench 5 post excavation (North end)	NNW	8/12/16
010	103918	Trench 5 section	WNW	8/12/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
011	105910	Trench 5 post excavation (S end)	NNW	8/12/16
012	110032	Trench 5 section	ENE	8/12/16
013	111700	View of machine trying to track out of entrance	N	8/12/16
014	DSCN0292	Backfilling with machine (in dark)	NW	9/12/16
015	DSCN0293	Post excavation view of area in front of entrance (in dark)	WNW	9/12/16
016	DSCN0294	Trench 2 Post excavation	SE	9/12/16
017	DSCN0295	Trench 2 Section	NE	9/12/16
018	DSCN0296	Trench 3 Stone drain	SSE	9/12/16
019	DSCN0297	Trench 3 Post excavation	SE	9/12/16
020	DSCN0298	Trench 4 Post excavation	SE	9/12/16
021	DSCN0299	The wide shot (shows Trench 3 in foreground)	SE	9/12/16
022	DSCN0300	View of felled and trees at entrance	WNW	9/12/16
023	DSCN0301	View of small	E	9/12/16
024	DSCN0302	View of north entrance into walled garden	S	9/12/16
025	DSCN0303	Shrub on North wall (walled garden)	W	9/12/16
026	DSCN0304	Shrub on North wall (walled garden)	ESE	9/12/16
027	DSCN0305	View of east wall of walled garden and entrance	NW	9/12/16
028	DSCN0306	View of very steep area in the West and West Northwest area of garden	ESE	9/12/16
029	DSCN0307	Close up of east entrance	W	9/12/16
030	DSCN0308	Close up of east entrance showing wall structure	NW	9/12/16
031	DSCN0309	Close up of east entrance showing wall structure	NW	9/12/16
032	DSCN0310	Area of small unfelled trees and stumps near entrance	NW	9/12/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
033	DSCN0311	Broken section of wall	SSE	9/12/16

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Badgers Keep, Sauchrie, South Ayrshire
PROJECT CODE:	RA16054
PARISH:	Maybole
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Liam McKinstry and Craig Stanford
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 30042 14563
START DATE (this season)	8 th December 2016
END DATE (this season)	9 th December 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological investigative works was carried out for Mr. and Ms. Gough in support of development of the walled garden at Badgers Keep, Sauchrie, 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.</p> <p>The evaluation consisted of five trenches. The works identified several 19th century or later agricultural drains and a rubble pathway. No artefacts were recovered from the works.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr and Mrs Gough
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 the National Record of the Historic Environment.

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