

Eco Village, Auchrannie Spa Resort, Arran: Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report



by Liam McKinstry

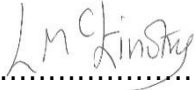
issued 31st May 2017

on behalf of Auchrannie Leisure Ltd

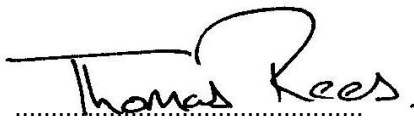
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Quality Assurance

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  Date31st May 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  Date31st May 2017.....

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Auchrannie Leisure Ltd in support of the construction of an Eco Village at the Auchrannie Spa Resort, Arran, North Ayrshire. These archaeological works were designed to determine the nature, form and extent of any archaeological remains within the development area so as to inform the mitigation of any adverse impact. The proposed area for development is situated on open farmland to the immediate southwest of the Auchrannie Spa Resort that has been assessed to have archaeological potential (Figures 1 and 2a).
2. These works were required by North Ayrshire Council as a condition of planning consent. Auchrannie Leisure Ltd, after consultation with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, agreed to the structure of archaeological works appropriate on this site through a Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees and Turner 2008). Rathmell Archaeology Ltd was appointed by Auchrannie Leisure Ltd to undertake the archaeological evaluation at the new Eco Village, Auchrannie Spa Resort, North 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. For the historical and archaeological background to all aspects of the overall development at Auchrannie the Written Scheme of Investigation should be consulted, cognisance of this report is assumed within this document:

❖ Rees, T & Turner, L 2008 Auchrannie Spa resort: *Written Scheme of Investigation*.

Project Works

4. The archaeological evaluation, undertaken between 22nd and 23rd May 2017, was carried out in keeping with the methods detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees and Turner 2008).
5. The objective was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits that might be affected by the later construction work. The available portion of the development area which was to be subject to an evaluation was 1.88ha. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service required a 5% trial trenching sample of the area, hence a target of 940m² of trenching. The Written Scheme of Investigation agreed nine, 2m x 50m, trenches within a proposed layout (Rees and Turner 2008).
6. Slight adjustments were made to the size and layout of the trenches during the trenching due to onsite ground conditions. Because of this a total of 918.6m² was excavated which was slightly less than the required 5% within the development area.
7. 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

8. In total, nine evaluation trenches were excavated across the available portion of the development area (Figure 1), using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator with a toothless 2m ditching bucket.
9. The topsoil within the site, (001), consisted of moderately compacted, mid-grey brown clayey silt and peat with very frequent root and occasional stone inclusions. The topsoil had a thickness range of between 0.15m and 0.55m. Two main subsoil layers were identified in bands across the evaluation area, (002) and (003) (Figure 2b). The first of these subsoil layers, (002), consisted of moderately compacted, mid-yellowish brown silt with patches of pale yellowish grey silt and mid-orange brown silt throughout. The subsoil layer contained no inclusions. The second subsoil layer, (003), consisted of loose to moderately compacted, mid-yellow brown gravel with stone inclusions. The subsoil was excavated to a depth range of between 0.05-0.3m.
10. A third subsoil layer was identified in a few locations beneath areas that had been

waterlogged prior to the evaluation taking place. This subsoil layer, (004), consisted of a compacted, pale grey clay which contained no inclusions. Also a small area of naturally occurring peat, (007), was identified within Trench 5.

11. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the excavation of the evaluation trenches.

Agricultural features

12. Two types of linear agricultural drains were identified during the excavation of the evaluation trenches. The first type, (006), consisted of a narrow trench which had a width range of between 0.3-0.5m and was filled with sub-angular stone (Figure 3a). These drains were mainly orientated in a west-northwest to east-southeast direction, though one was also orientated south-southeast to north-northwest. The second type, (005), consisted of a narrow trench into which a ceramic pipe had been placed (Figure 3b). The drain trench was 0.24m wide and the red ceramic pipes contained within were formed of 0.3m long segments with a diameter of 0.2m. These ceramic pipe drains were orientated in three separate directions, west-northwest to east-southeast, west-southwest to east-northeast and south-southwest to north-northeast. The ceramic drains cut through the stone filled drains within Trench 6 demonstrating that they were later in date.

Discussion

13. The evaluation trenches at the new Eco Village site at Auchrannie Spa Resort identified no significant archaeological features or artefacts during the excavation of the evaluation trenches, but did identify a series of agricultural features most likely dating to the 19th or 20th centuries. The agricultural remains consisted of a number of rubble drains, (006), which were cut by later ceramic drains (005). These drains had obviously been placed within the field in which the development was to be situated, due to excessive waterlogging and flooding possibly caused by a stream running along the northern boundary.

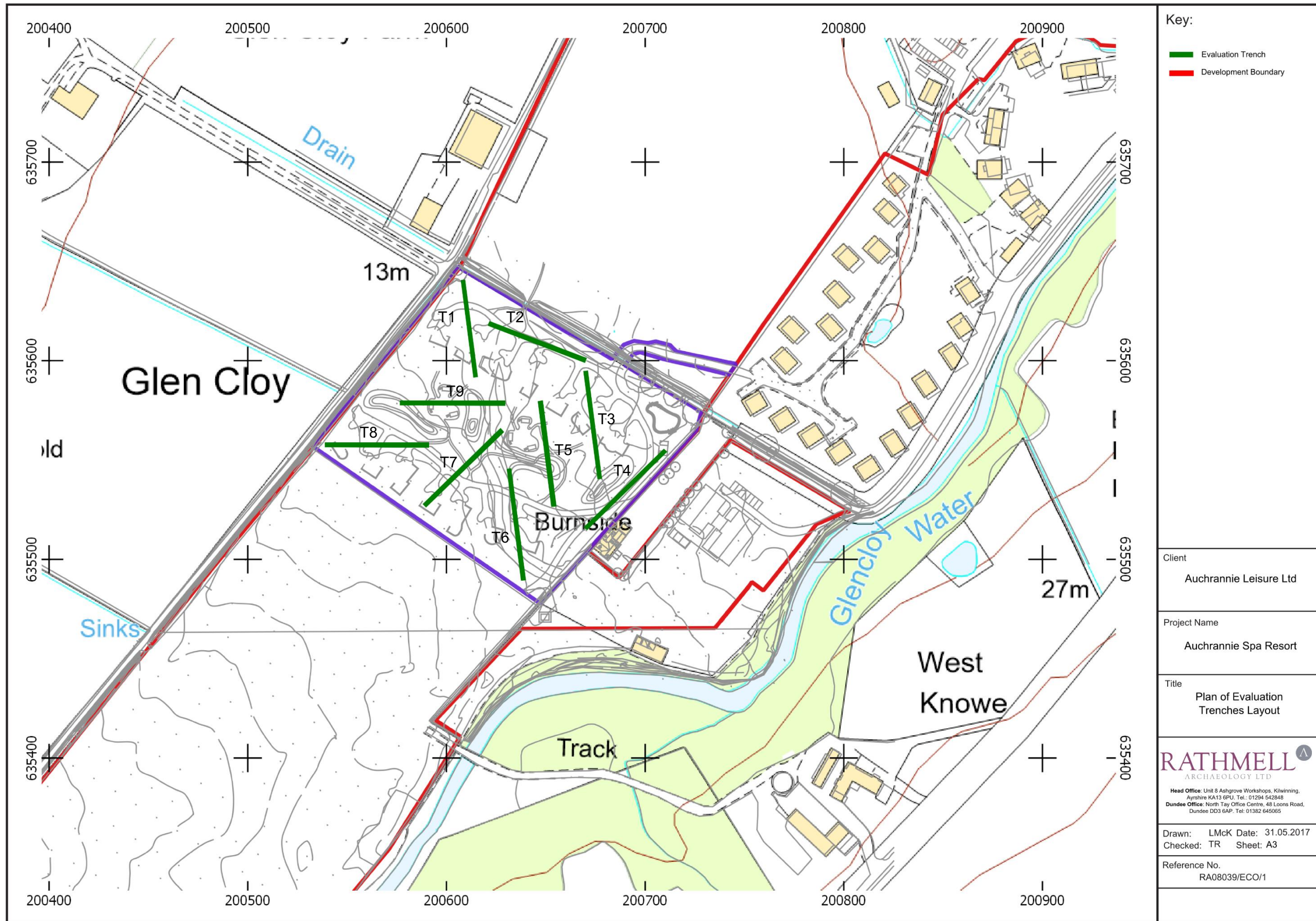


Figure 1: Plan of evaluation trench layout



Figure 2a: Pre excavation view of the evaluation area. From the NNW.



Figure 2b: Post excavation view of Trench 1. From the S.



Figure 3a: View of stone drain (006) within Trench 3. From the N.



Figure 3b: View of ceramic drain (005) within Trench 3. From the N.

Recommendations

14. As no significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the archaeological works at the Eco Village phase of the Auchrannie Spa Resort's continuing development masterplan, with only 19th or 20th century agricultural drains revealed, it is recommended that no further work be carried out within this portion of the development.
15. The acceptability of these recommendations needs to be confirmed with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service and North Ayrshire Council.

Conclusion

16. A programme of archaeological investigative works was carried out for Auchrannie Leisure Ltd in support of the new Eco Village at the Auchrannie Spa Resort, Arran. 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.
17. The evaluation consisted of nine trenches which identified a series of 19th or 20th century agricultural drains. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the works.

Acknowledgements

18. The author would like to thank Auchrannie Leisure Ltd for the opportunity to carry out these works. We would also like to thank Paul Robins at the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, for his guidance throughout. Thanks should also be given to Sarah Krischer for her on-site assistance and data entry. We would also like to thank Thomas Rees, Consultant Archaeologist at Rathmell Archaeology, for his help in the editing of this report.

References

Rees, T. and Turner, L. 2008, *Auchrannie Spa Resort: Archaeological Mitigation. Written Scheme of Investigation*, unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

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

Area/ Trench	Orientation	Size	Trench Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
1	N-S	2m x 45m 90m ²	0.44m- 0.61m	At 0m (002) mid yellowish brown silt. At +1.6m (003) mid yellowish brown gravel. Contained stones of approximately 0.05m- 0.3m. At +3.6m (002). At +5.2m (003). At +6.1 (002). At +8m (003). At +8.9m (002). At +20m (003). At +39.5m (002). At +41m (003).	At +1.5m a plastic drainage pipe protruding from west wall of trench.	None	None

Area/ Trench	Orientation	Size	Trench Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
2	E-W	2m x 51m 102m ²	0.38m- 0.61m	<p>At 0m (002) mid yellowish brown silt.</p> <p>At +1.5m (003) mid yellowish brown gravel. Contained stones of approximately 0.05m- 0.3m.</p> <p>At +3.4m (002).</p> <p>At +4.9m (003).</p> <p>At +13.7m (002).</p> <p>At +15m (003).</p> <p>At +17.4m (002).</p> <p>At +27m (004) pale greyish brown clay with no inclusions.</p> <p>At +33m (002).</p> <p>At +39.5m (003).</p> <p>At +42.7m (002).</p> <p>At +45.2m (003).</p> <p>At +49.4m (004).</p>	At +49.5m a plastic drainage pipe protruding from the north wall of trench.	None	None

Area/ Trench	Orientation	Size	Trench Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
3	NE-SW	2m x 52.7m 105.4m ²	0.46m- 0.39m	At 0m (003) mid yellowish brown gravel. Contained stones of approximately 0.05m- 0.3m. At +6.7m (002) mid yellowish brown silt. At +10.6m (003). At +11.8m (002). At +28.7m (003). At +34.9m (002). At +36.2m (003)	At +0.8m (005) orange ceramic drain in matrix of topsoil. At +5.5m (005). At +14.1 (005). At +21.8m (006) stones of approximately 0.2m in length arranged into drain. At +28.4m (005).	None	None
4	SE-NW	2m x 53m 106m ²	0.39m	At 0m (003) mid yellowish brown gravel. Contained stones of approximately 0.05m- 0.3m. At +11m (002) mid yellowish brown silt. At +15.9m (003). At +31.5m (002). At +51m (003)	At +31.5 to +41m (006) stones of approximately 0.2m in length arranged into drain.	None	None

Area/ Trench	Orientation	Size	Trench Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
5	N-S	2m x 51m 102m ²	0.40m- 0.47m	At 0m (003) mid yellowish brown gravel. Contained stones of approximately 0.05m- 0.3m. At +3.7m (002) mid yellowish brown silt. At +9.8m (003). At +28.9m (002). At +32 (007) dark blackish brown peat with no inclusions. At +33.7m (002). At +36.9m (007). At +39.8m (003). At +43.5m (007). At +46.5 (003).	At +30.8 (005) orange ceramic drain in matrix of topsoil.	None	None
6	S-N	2m x 52.7m 105.4m ²	0.32m- 0.34m	At 0m (003) mid yellowish brown gravel. Contained stones of approximately 0.05m- 0.3m. At +3.4m (002) mid yellowish brown silt. At +13.7m (004) pale greyish brown clay with no inclusions. At +21.6m (002). At +27m (004). At +43.4m (002).	At +32.5m to 43.5m (006) stones of approximately 0.2m in length arranged into drain. At + 34.1m (005) orange ceramic drain in matrix of topsoil. (006) truncated by (005).	None	None

Area/ Trench	Orientation	Size	Trench Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
7	NW-SE	2m x 53.6m 107.2m ²	0.4m- 0.6m	At 0m (002) mid yellowish brown silt. At +7.4m (003) mid yellowish brown gravel. Contained stones of approximately 0.05m- 0.3m. At +31.4 (002). At +45.3m (003).	At +2.1 to +4m (006) stones of approximately 0.2m in length arranged into drain. At +32.5m (005) orange ceramic drain in matrix of topsoil. At +34.2m (005).	None	None
8	W-E	2m x 50m 100m ²	0.2m- 0.45m	At 0m (003) mid yellowish brown gravel. Contained stones of approximately 0.05m- 0.3m. At +6.1m (002) mid yellowish brown silt. At +47.3m (003).	At +37.1m to +42m (006) stones of approximately 0.2m in length arranged into drain.	None	None
9	W-E	2m x 51m 102m ²	0.3m- 0.5m	At 0m (002) mid yellowish brown silt. At +3.9m (003) mid yellowish brown gravel. Contained stones of approximately 0.05m- 0.3m. At +15m (002). At +26.1m (003). At +27.9m (002). At +31.1m (003). At +37.2m (002).	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	Trench 1-9	Deposit	Moderately compact mid-grey brown clayey silt and peat with very frequent inclusions of roots. Occasional stones. Thickness of between 0.15m and 0.55m.	Topsoil
002	Trench 1-9	Deposit	Moderately compact mid yellowish brown silt. Patches of pale yellowish grey silt and patches of mid-orangish brown silt. No inclusions.	Natural subsoil
003	Trench 1-9	Deposit	Moderately loose mid yellowish brown gravel containing stones of approximately 0.05m- 0.3m.	Natural subsoil
004	Trench 4	Deposit	Compact pale greyish brown clay with no inclusions.	Natural subsoil
005	Trench 3, Trench 5, Trench 6, Trench 7	Cut/fill	Orange ceramic drain in matrix of topsoil. Segments are approximately 0.3m in length. Drain is 0.2 m wide.	Ceramic field drain
006	Trench 3, Trench 4, Trench 8	Cut/fill	Stones of approximately 0.2m in length arranged into drain. Void inside of drain with small amount of topsoil. Drains are approximately 0.5m wide.	Stone field drain
007	Trench 5	Deposit	Compact dark blackish brown peat with no inclusions.	Natural subsoil

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description
1	1	Trench 1	Plan	1:50	Post excavation plan of Trench 1
2	1	Trench 2	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of Trench 2
3	1	Trench 3	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of Trench 3
4	1	Trench 4	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of Trench 4
5	2	Trench 5	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of Trench 5

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description
6	2	Trench 6	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of Trench 6
7	2	Trench 7	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of Trench 7
8	2	Trench 8	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of Trench 8
9	2	Trench 9	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of Trench 9

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
001	DSCN0397	Pre-excavation view of site	NNW	22/5/2017
002	DSCN0398	Pre-excavation view of site	NE	22/5/2017
003	DSCN0399	Trench 1 post-excavation	S	22/5/2017
004	DSCN0400	Trench 1 post-excavation with Sarah recording	S	22/5/2017
005	DSCN0401	Trench 2 post-excavation	ESE	22/5/2017
006	DSCN0402	Ceramic field drains at north end of Trench 3	N	22/5/2017
007	DSCN0403	Trench 3 wide stone drain	N	22/5/2017
008	DSCN0404	Trench 3 post-excavation	S	22/5/2017
009	DSCN0405	North west face of south east field boundary	WSW	22/5/2017
010	DSCN0406	North west face of south east field boundary	WSW	22/5/2017
011	DSCN0407	Close up of north west face of south east field boundary	NW	22/5/2017
012	DSCN0408	Trench 4 post-excavation	SW	22/5/2017
013	DSCN0409	Trench 5 post-excavation	SW	22/5/2017
014	DSCN0410	Trench 5 post-excavation	N	22/5/2017

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
015	DSCN0411	Trench 7 post-excavation	SE	23/5/2017
016	DSCN0412	Trench 8 post-excavation	NE	23/5/2017
017	DSCN0413	Trench 8 post-excavation	NE	23/5/2017
018	DSCN0414	Trench 8 post-excavation	NE	23/5/2017
019	DSCN0415	Trench 8 post-excavation	NE	23/5/2017
020	DSCN0416	Trench 9 post-excavation	E	23/5/2017
021	DSCN0417	Trench 9 post-excavation	E	23/5/2017
022	DSCN0418	General shot of open trenches	N	23/5/2017
023	DSCN0419	General shot of backfilled trenches	E	23/5/2017
024	DSCN0420	General shot of Farm House at east end of the field	E	23/5/2017
025	DSCN0421	General shot of backfilled trenches	E	23/5/2017

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Eco Village, Auchrannie Spa Resort, Arran
PROJECT CODE:	RA08039
PARISH:	Kilbride
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)	None
START DATE (this season)	22 nd May 2017
END DATE (this season)	23 rd May 2017
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 Auchrannie Leisure Ltd in support of the new Eco Village at the Auchrannie Spa Resort, Arran. 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 nine trenches which identified a series of 19th or 20th century agricultural drains. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the works.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Auchrannie Leisure Ltd
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.

Contact Details

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