Land North of Woodlea Cottage, Whiting Bay, Arran: Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report



by Liam McKinstry issued 25th September 2017 on behalf of Mr Angus McLeod



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.

Signed25th September 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 Date25th September 2017.......

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Quality Assurance Data

Author(s) Liam McKinstry

Date of Issue 25th September 2017 Version 1.0

Commissioning Mr Angus McLeod

Event Name Land North of Woodlea Cottage, Whiting Bay, Arran

Event Type Evaluation

Event Date(s) 7th to 8th September 2017

Rathmell Code RA17063 OASIS Ref rathmell1-293389

Location United Kingdom: Scotland: North Ayrshire

NGR NS 04293 25530 Parish Kilbride

Designation(s) None Canmore IDs None

Contents

Introduction	3
Historical and Archaeological Background	3
Project Works	3
Findings	3
Agricultural features	5
Discussion	5
Recommendations	10
Conclusion	10
Acknowledgements	10
References	
Appendix 1: Trench Details	
Trench Summary	
Appendix 2: Registers	
Context Register	
Drawing Register	
Photographic Register	
Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland	17
Contact Details	
Figures	
Figure 1a: 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1869.	4
Figure 1b: 2 nd edition Ordnance Survey of 1897.	4
Figure 2: Plan of evaluation trench layout	6
Figure 3a: Pre excavation view of the site. From the SW.	7
Figure 3b: Post excavation view of Trench 5. From the E.	7
Figure 4a: Post excavation view of Trench 1. From the SE	
Figure 4b: Post excavation view of Trench 11 showing drains (004). From the S	8

Introduction

- 1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Mr Angus McLeod in support of the construction of a housing development at Whiting Bay, 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.
- 2. These works were required by North Ayrshire Council as a condition of planning consent (Planning Reference 16/00712/PP). Mr McLeod, 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 (Durnan 2017). Rathmell Archaeology Ltd was appointed by Mr McLeod to undertake the archaeological evaluation at the housing development at Whiting Bay 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 land north of Woodlea Cottage, Whiting Bay is not referenced within the historic mapping record until the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (Figure 1a) of 1869 where its shape and size has remained relatively unchanged to the present day. The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey (Figure 1b) of 1897 again shows little change in the development area but does show a gradual increase in building within that part of Whiting Bay.
- 4. No known archaeological sites are located within the development area though the site does lie within a landscape rich in prehistoric and medieval archaeology. Approximately 300m to the southwest of the site lies the remains of chapel and burial ground (Canmore ID 40107) which may be of medieval or post medieval date. Further to the southwest prehistoric sites and stray finds have been identified such as a flint scatter (Canmore ID 305530) at Glenashdale and cannal discs (Canmore ID 40096), a flint knife (Canmore ID 40085) and a gold lunula (Canmore ID 40091) at Whiting Bay and Kiscadale. Evidence of prehistoric burial, a cist burial and associated grave goods (Canmore ID 40105), was also been identified during the 19th century to the northeast in Whiting Bay.

Project Works

- 5. The archaeological evaluation, undertaken between 7th and 8th September 2017, was carried out in keeping with the methods detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Durnan 2017).
- 6. 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 0.8ha. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service required an 8% trial trenching sample of the area, hence a target of 640m² of trenching (320 linear meters using a 2m bucket). The Written Scheme of Investigation agreed ten, 2m x 30m, and one, 2m x 15m, trenches within a proposed layout (Figure 2).
- 7. 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 664.6m² was excavated which was slightly more than the required 8% within the development area.
- 8. 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

- 9. In total, eleven 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.
- 10. The topsoil within the site, (001), consisted of moderately compacted, mid to dark grey-brown clayey silt with occasional small to medium sized stone inclusions. The topsoil had

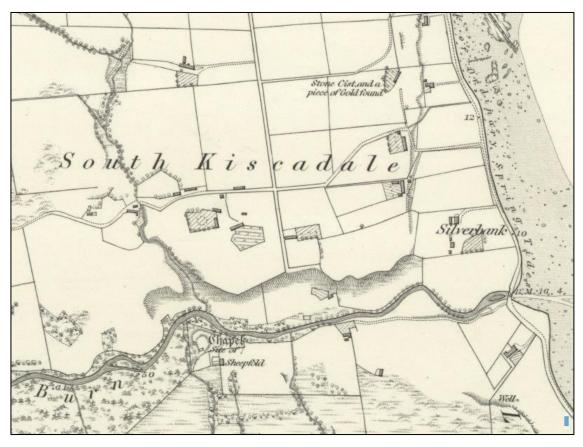


Figure 1a: 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1869.

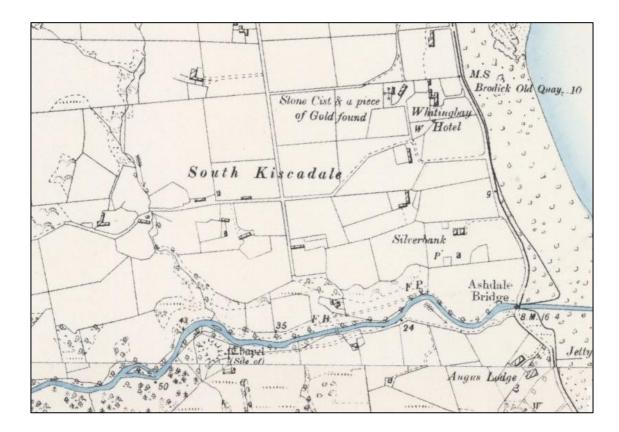


Figure 1b: 2nd edition Ordnance Survey of 1897.

a thickness range of between 0.28m and 0.5m. Two main subsoil layers were identified across the evaluation area, (002) and (003) (shown here in Figures 3b and 4a). The first of these subsoil layers, (002), consisted of moderately compacted, light orange-brown/red-brown sandy-silt/clay with occasional small stone and pebble inclusions and very occasional larger, rounded, stone inclusions. The second subsoil layer (found in the westernmost part of the development area), (003), consisted of moderately compacted, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional pebble inclusions.

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

Agricultural features

- 12. Four groups of linear, silted up, agricultural drains were identified during the excavation of the evaluation trenches. All of these drains were similar in nature with their fills consisting of 10-20% mid to light grey brown clay and 80-90% small to moderate sized rounded stones. The orientation and widths of the drains however, differed between each group. The first group (Figures 4b and 5), (004), was orientated in an east to west direction and had a width of 0.2-0.3m. The second group, (005), was orientated in a northwest to southeast direction and had a width of 0.2-0.8m. The third group, (006), was orientated in a north to south direction and had a width of 0.3-0.8m. The final group, (007), was orientated in a north to south direction and had a width of 0.8m (see Appendix 1 for detailed location information).
- 13. Two larger, infilled, drainage ditches were also identified in Trenches 6 and 9. The first ditch, (008), was located in both trenches orientated in a northwest to southeast direction and was filled with a dark grey clay. It had a width range of 1.8-2m. The second ditch, (009), was only present in Trench 6 orientated in an east to west direction and was filled with a dark grey clay. It had a width of 1.8m. The ditches were excavated to depth of 0.4m but could not be excavated further due excessive waterlogging.

Discussion

- 14. The evaluation trenches within the development area at Whiting Bay 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 several series of rubble drains, (004-007), which seem represent continuing attempts at draining the development area throughout the 19th and 20th centuries (though of course earlier 17th or 18th century dates cannot be completely ruled out for these agricultural activities as there was no artefactual evidence recovered from these features). Some of the smaller rubble drains, (006 and 007) seemed to have emptied into the larger drainage ditches, (008 and 009), which from their direction, seemed to have emptied into an open drainage ditch which marked the eastern boundary of the field. The remaining two series of rubble drains, (004 and 005), may have emptied directly into the drain at the eastern boundary.
- 15. Of note, a field inspection prior to the commencement of works did not locate any upstanding features that would have warranted the adjustment of the trench array to investigate. Further, no artefacts were observed during the evaluation suggesting that this ground had received domestic midden material in the 19th or 20th centuries. The level surface to the ground and the homogenous topsoil did suggest it had been intensively ploughed at some point in the 20th century.

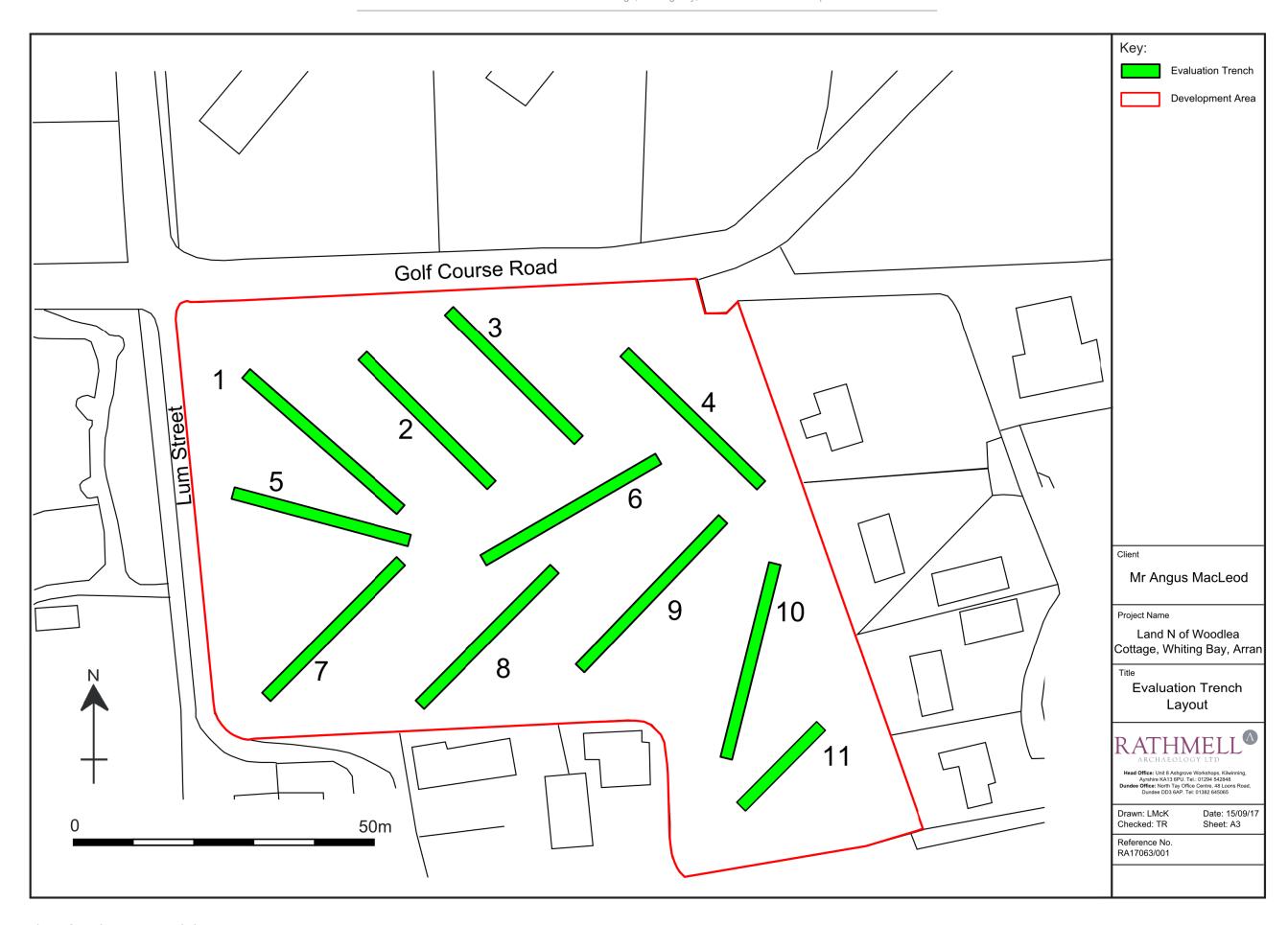


Figure 2: Plan of evaluation trench layout



Figure 3a: Pre excavation view of the site. From the SW.



Figure 3b: Post excavation view of Trench 5. From the E.



Figure 4a: Post excavation view of Trench 1. From the SE.



Figure 4b: Post excavation view of Trench 11 showing drains (004). From the S.



Figure 5: Post excavation view of SW end of Trench 11 showing rubble drain (004) in section. From the NW $\,$

Recommendations

- 16. As no significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the archaeological works within the land north of Woodlea Cottage, Whiting Bay, with only 19th or 20th century agricultural drains revealed, it is recommended that no further work be carried out.
- 17. The acceptability of these recommendations needs to be confirmed with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service and North Ayrshire Council.

Conclusion

- 18. A programme of archaeological investigative works was carried out on land north of Woodlea Cottage, Whiting Bay for Mr Angus McLeod in support of the construction of a housing development there. 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.
- 19. The evaluation consisted of eleven trenches which identified a series of 19th or 20th century agricultural drains and ditches. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the works.

Acknowledgements

20. The author would like to thank Mr Angus McLeod 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. We would also like to thank Thomas Rees, Consultant Archaeologist at Rathmell Archaeology, for his help in the editing of this report.

References

Documentary

Durnan, J. 2017, Land N of Woodlea Cottage, Whiting Bay, Arran: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation, unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey, 1869, 6-inch 1st edition, Argyllshire Sheet CCLV

Ordnance Survey, 1897, 6-inch 2nd edition, Argyll and Bute Sheet CCLV

Ordnance Survey, 1924, 6-inch 2nd edition, Argyll and Bute Sheet CCLV

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	NW-SE	2m x 33.5m 67m ²	0.38m- 0.4m	At 0m (003) Moderately compacted, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional pebble inclusions. At +6.5m (002) Moderately compacted, light orange-brown/red-brown sandy-silt/clay with occasional small stone and pebble inclusions and very occasional larger, rounded, stone inclusions.	At +13m and +18m (004) Stone filled drain. At +10.5m (006) Stone filled drain.	None	None
2	NW-SE	2m x 33.3m 66.6m ²	0.37m- 0.4m	At 0m (003) Moderately compacted, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional pebble inclusions. At +1.5m (002) Moderately compacted, light orange-brown/red-brown sandy-silt/clay with occasional small stone and pebble inclusions and very occasional larger, rounded, stone inclusions.	None	None	None
3	NW-SE	2m x 32.6m 65.2m ²	0.39m- 0.4m	(002) Moderately compacted, light orange-brown/red-brown sandy-silt/clay with occasional small stone and pebble inclusions and very occasional larger, rounded, stone inclusions.	At +10m and +19m (006) Stone filled drain.	None	None

Area/ Trench	Orientation	Size	Trench Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
4	NW-SE	2m x 31m 62m ²	0.37m- 0.41m	(002) Moderately compacted, light orange-brown/red-brown sandy-silt/clay with occasional small stone and pebble inclusions and very occasional larger, rounded, stone inclusions.	At +4m (004) Stone filled drain. At +10m (006) Stone filled drain.	None	None
5	W-E	2m x 24.5m 49m ²	0.42m- 0.43m	At 0m (003) Moderately compacted, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional pebble inclusions. At +2m (002) Moderately compacted, light orange-brown/red-brown sandy-silt/clay with occasional small stone and pebble inclusions and very occasional larger, rounded, stone inclusions.	(004) Stone filled drain (runs along the length of trench).	None	None
6	WSW-ENE	2m x 32.5m 63m ²	0.44m- 0.57m	(002) Moderately compacted, light orange-brown/red-brown sandy-silt/clay with occasional small stone and pebble inclusions and very occasional larger, rounded, stone inclusions.	At +3m, +10m and +16m (004) Stone filled drain. At +27m (009) Drainage ditch. At +31.5m (008) Drainage ditch.	None	None
7	SW-NE	2m x 31m 62m ²	0.44m- 0.43m	At 0m (003) Moderately compacted, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional pebble inclusions. At +4m (002) Moderately compacted, light orange-brown/red-brown sandy-silt/clay with occasional small stone and pebble inclusions and very occasional larger, rounded, stone inclusions.	At +8.5m and +16.5m (004) Stone filled drain. At +9.5m, +12.5m, +16.5m, +18m, +22m, +24m and +28m (005) Stone filled drain.	None	None

Area/ Trench	Orientation	Size	Trench Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
8	SW-NE	2m x 31.4m 62.8m ²	0.38m- 0.41m	(002) Moderately compacted, light orange-brown/red-brown sandy-silt/clay with occasional small stone and pebble inclusions and very occasional larger, rounded, stone inclusions.	At +11m and 27.5m (004) Stone filled drain. At +6m, +8.5m, +16m and +27m (005) Stone filled drain.	None	None
9	SW-NE	2m x 33m 66m ²	0.47m- 0.85m	(002) Moderately compacted, light orange-brown/red-brown sandy-silt/clay with occasional small stone and pebble inclusions and very occasional larger, rounded, stone inclusions.	At +1m (006) Stone filled drain. At +1m, +4m, +7m, +10m, +17m, +21m, +25m, and +28m (005) Stone filled drain. At +12.5m (007) Stone filled drain. At +31m (008) Drainage ditch.	None	None
10	S-N	2m x 32.5m 65m ²	0.38m- 0.4m	(002) Moderately compacted, light orange-brown/red-brown sandy-silt/clay with occasional small stone and pebble inclusions and very occasional larger, rounded, stone inclusions.	At +20.5m (006) Stone filled drain. At +24m (005) Stone filled drain.	None	None
11	SW-NE	2m x 18m 36m ²	0.28m- 0.33m	(002) Moderately compacted, light orange-brown/red-brown sandy-silt/clay with occasional small stone and pebble inclusions and very occasional larger, rounded, stone inclusions.	At +4m, +5m, +8m, +11m, +13.5m and +16m (004) Stone filled drain.	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, mid to dark grey-brown clayey silt with occasional small to medium sized stone inclusions.	Topsoil within the development area.
002	All	Deposit	Moderately compacted, light orange-brown/red-brown sandy-silt/clay with occasional small stone and pebble inclusions and very occasional larger, rounded, stone inclusions.	Naturally occurring subsoil within the site.
003	1, 5, 7	Deposit	Moderately compacted, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional pebble inclusions.	Naturally occurring subsoil within the site.
004	1, 3-5, 6-8	Cut/fill	East to West running, stone filled linear drainage ditches. Fill of the drains consisted of 10-20% mid to light grey brown clay and 80-90% small to moderate sized rounded stone. The width range of the drains was 0.2-0.3m.	Series of stone filled drainage ditches.
005	7-10	Cut/fill	Northwest to southeast running, stone filled linear drainage ditches. Fill of the drains consisted of 10-20% mid to light grey brown clay and 80-90% small to moderate sized rounded stone. The width range of the drains was 0.2-0.8m.	Series of stone filled drainage ditches.
006	1, 3, 4, 10	Cut/fill	North to south running, stone filled linear drainage ditches. Fill of the drains consisted of 10-20% mid to light grey brown clay and 80-90% small to moderate sized rounded stone. The width range of the drains was 0.3-0.8m.	Series of stone filled drainage ditches.
007	9	Cut/fill	North to south running, stone filled linear drainage ditches. Fill of the drains consisted of 10-20% mid to light grey brown clay and 80-90% small to moderate sized rounded stone. The width of the drains was 0.8m.	Series of stone filled drainage ditches.
008	6, 9	Cut/fill	Northwest to southeast running, linear drainage ditch. Fill consisted of dark grey clay with frequent, rounded, stone inclusions. The width range of the drain was 1.8-2m.	Large drainage ditch
009	6	Cut/fill	East to West running, linear drainage ditch. Fill consisted of dark grey clay with frequent, rounded, stone inclusions. The width of the drain was 1.8m.	Large drainage ditch

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description
1	1	T7	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of T7
2	1	Т8	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of T8
3	1	T5	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of T5
4	1	T1	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of T1
5	1	T2	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of T2
6	1	Т3	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of T3
7	1	T11	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of T11
8	1	T10	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of T10
9	1	Т9	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of T9
10	1	Т6	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of T6
11	1	T4	Plan	1:100	Post excavation plan of T4

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
001	IMG_8147	Pre excavation view of the development area.	W	07/09/17
002	IMG_8148	Pre excavation view of the development area.	SW	07/09/17
003	IMG_8149	Post excavation view of T7	NE	07/09/17
004	IMG_8150	Post excavation view of T8	NE	07/09/17
005	IMG_8151	Post excavation view of T5	E	07/09/17
006	IMG_8152	Post excavation view of T1	SE	07/09/17

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
007	IMG_8153	Post excavation view of T2	SE	07/09/17
800	IMG_8154	Post excavation view of T3	SE	07/09/17
009	IMG_8155	View of trenching at the end of the first day	NE	07/09/17
010	IMG_8156	General view of backfilled trenches from day one	ENE	08/09/17
011	IMG_8157	Post excavation view of T11	NE	08/09/17
012	IMG_8158	Post excavation view of T10	N	08/09/17
013	IMG_8159	Post excavation view of T9	NE	08/09/17
014	IMG_8160	View of trenches in the eastern part of the site	W	08/09/17
015	IMG_8161	Working shot during the excavation of T6	W	08/09/17
016	IMG_8162	Post excavation view of T6	ENE	08/09/17
017	IMG_8163	Post excavation view of T4	SE	08/09/17
018	IMG_8164	Test pit 1 within SW end of T9	N	08/09/17
019	IMG_8165	Test pit 2 within S end of T10	NW	08/09/17
020	IMG_8166	Test pit 3 within SW end of T11	S	08/09/17
021	IMG_8167	Test pit 4 within NW end of T1	W	08/09/17
022	IMG_8168	Test pit 5 within NW end T3	W	08/09/17
023	IMG_8169	Test pit 6 within SW end of T7	E	08/09/17
024	IMG_8170	Backfilling of site in progress	W	08/09/17

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Land North of Woodlea Cottage, Whiting Bay, Arran
PROJECT CODE:	RA17063
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)	NS 04269 25499
START DATE (this season)	7 th September 2017
END DATE (this season)	8 th September 2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	No
MAIN (NARRATIVE)	A programme of archaeological investigative works was carried out
DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	on land north of Woodlea Cottage, Whiting Bay for Mr Angus McLeod in support of the construction of a housing development there. 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.
DESCRIPTION: (may include	on land north of Woodlea Cottage, Whiting Bay for Mr Angus McLeod in support of the construction of a housing development there. 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
DESCRIPTION: (may include	on land north of Woodlea Cottage, Whiting Bay for Mr Angus McLeod in support of the construction of a housing development there. 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 evaluation consisted of eleven trenches which identified a series of 19th or 20th century agricultural drains and ditches. No significant
DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields) PROPOSED FUTURE	on land north of Woodlea Cottage, Whiting Bay for Mr Angus McLeod in support of the construction of a housing development there. 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 evaluation consisted of eleven trenches which identified a series of 19th or 20th century agricultural drains and ditches. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the works.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: CAPTION(S) FOR	on land north of Woodlea Cottage, Whiting Bay for Mr Angus McLeod in support of the construction of a housing development there. 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 evaluation consisted of eleven trenches which identified a series of 19th or 20th century agricultural drains and ditches. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the works. None
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: SPONSOR OR FUNDING	on land north of Woodlea Cottage, Whiting Bay for Mr Angus McLeod in support of the construction of a housing development there. 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 evaluation consisted of eleven trenches which identified a series of 19th or 20th century agricultural drains and ditches. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the works. None
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: ADDRESS OF MAIN	on land north of Woodlea Cottage, Whiting Bay for Mr Angus McLeod in support of the construction of a housing development there. 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 evaluation consisted of eleven trenches which identified a series of 19th or 20th century agricultural drains and ditches. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the works. None Mr Angus McLeod
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	on land north of Woodlea Cottage, Whiting Bay for Mr Angus McLeod in support of the construction of a housing development there. 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 evaluation consisted of eleven trenches which identified a series of 19th or 20th century agricultural drains and ditches. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the works. None Mr Angus McLeod Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU

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