

# **West Langton, Dunlop, East Ayrshire: Archaeological Watching Brief**

Data Structure Report

by Katie Sludden

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**Rathmell**

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Archaeology Ltd

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Signed ..... Date .....

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## 1 Overview

- 1.1 This Data Structure Report presents the findings of an archaeological monitoring exercise undertaken, on behalf of Mr Alan Dunn in respect to proposed groundworks in support of the redevelopment and expansion of the existing structures at West Langton, Dunlop (NGR: NS 40165 50710) The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
- 1.2 The area concerned measures roughly 0.2ha in extent of which three areas are the focus for investigation (Fig.1). The farmstead is currently disused with several existing buildings consisting of mainly stone-built barns as well as the main vacated residence.
- 1.3 East Ayrshire Council required archaeological monitoring to be undertaken as a requirement of the issued planning consent. The archaeological works were designed to address the general ground reduction and foundations relating to the new building. This condition was in keeping with the issued planning guidance (SODev 1994; SOEnd 1994) and was based on the guidance provided by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.
- 1.4 Rathmell Archaeology Ltd was appointed to act with regard to the archaeological condition for Mr Dunn. The terms of the monitoring were agreed through a Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees, 2007) agreed in advance with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service on behalf of East Ayrshire Council.

## 2 Historical Background

- 2.1 The available cartographic sources show the development ground to have been agricultural ground prior to the construction of the surrounding farmstead. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey of 1858 shows the farmstead in existence with several agricultural buildings associated to it. To the north there is a limekiln and to the west a quarry. The 1897 map shows a similar layout for the farm buildings indicating continual agricultural usage up until its' recent demise in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century. The nearest recorded site is East Langton (NMRS No.: NS45SW 17) located to the northeast of the development area, another farmstead.
- 2.2 The early map evidence indicates the possibility of ancillary buildings and associated structures on the working sheds and barns in the farmstead. In particular there is a circular structure on both the 1858 and the 1897 maps on House plot 1. This was probably used as a Horse-Gang from the early 1900s when this technology was introduced to replace threshing with flails (Hay and Stell, 1986, P12). It is unlikely that this structure was roofed since no walls or poet holes related to the structure were identified during the watching brief.
- 2.3 The only known archaeological structures that may be under threat are those relating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century use of this site. These structures essentially remain upstanding and are being altered and renovated as part this development, which may in turn contribute to their future preservation.
- 2.4 There are no known archaeological sites of significance within the development area. Moreover there is little if any prehistoric activity in the surrounding area. There is a nominal hazard to significant archaeological features being present.



Figure 1: Excavated Areas within development threshold.

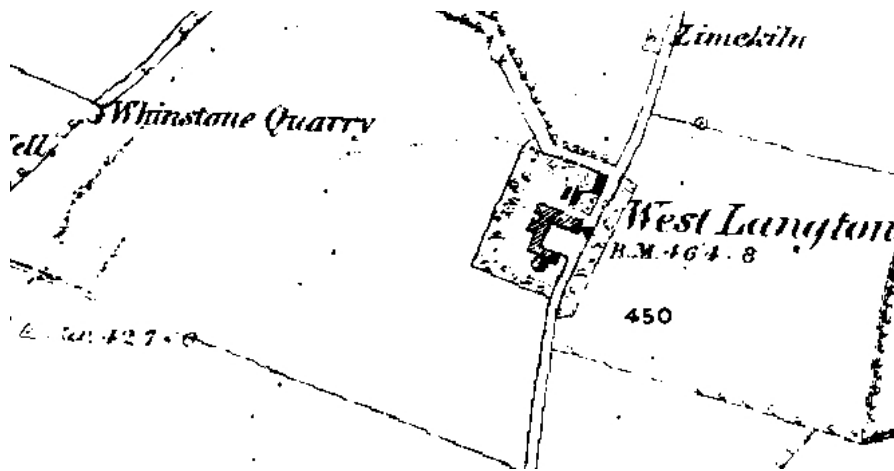


Fig 2a: 1858 OS Map of West Langton (1<sup>st</sup> Edition)

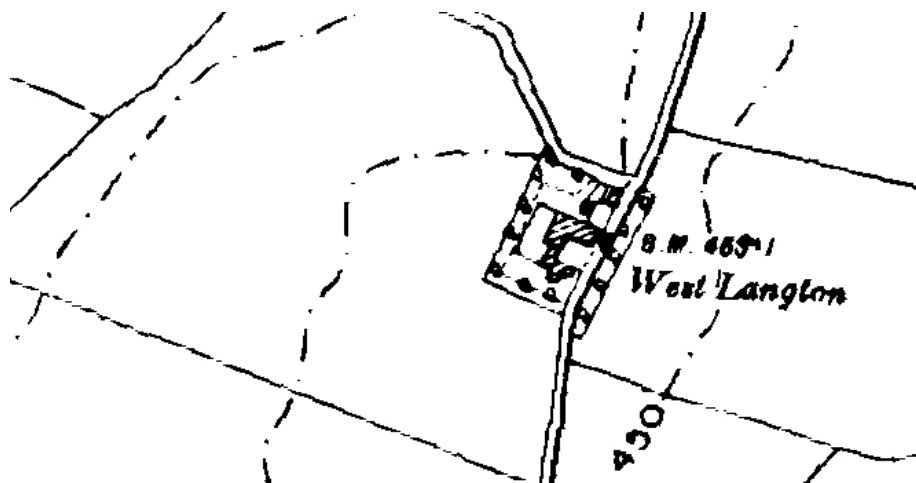


Fig 2b: 1897 OS Map of West Langton

### 3 Project Works

- 3.1 The monitoring took place on the 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> October 2007 and the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008; the works consisted of the stripping of two areas in October and a second visit for the cutting of a pipe trench in March. The areas can be seen in Figure 1 around House plot 1 (Area 1) and House plot 3 (Area2) and the service trench was cut in the courtyard between these. This included the removal of turf, farming debris and tarmac followed by topsoil stripping of the house plots and the central associated service trenches.
- 3.2 In compliance with the Written Scheme of Investigation any potential archaeological features were investigated. All features impacted by the ground reduction appeared to be of relatively modern or natural origin, and throughout the course of the investigation no artefacts were recovered.
- 3.3 The oldest feature of previously unknown makeup was the Horse-Gang within Area 1. The identification of this structure can now associate the nearby shed/ barn as a Threshing Barn most likely from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.4 The southern access road did not require monitoring because it was altered to pass out-with the watching brief area. The northern access road into House 3 also did not require monitoring because it was an existing concrete surface which was being made-up to the new road level.
- 3.5 All works complied with WoSAS Standard Conditions, the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.





Fig. 3a: Pre-Ex Shot of House Plot 1 (Area 1)



Fig 3b: Area 1; [003] Horse-gin base.



Fig 3c: Pre-Ex Shot of House Plot 3 (Area 2)



Fig 3d: N Facing Section (Area 2).



Fig 3e: Post- Excavation shot of Area 2



Fig. 3f: Pipe Trench running E-W



Fig. 3g: N Facing Section, Pipe Trench



Fig. 3h: W Facing Section of Pipe Trench.





Fig. 3i: General Shot of trench



Fig. 3j: N-S leg of Pipe Trench



Fig. 3k: General Shot of trench in courtyard.

## 4 Findings

- 4.1 The development area is centred NS 40165 50710 and can be seen in Figure 3a and 3c before archaeological works took place. The site is located on top of undulating farmland, bordered by high trees to the west, a steep slope to the east running from the N-S road there, and fields to the south and north. The land on the north of the farmstead looks down across the valley to a viaduct (train) running E-W. The existing road is a narrow single track tarmac road running south from the A735, just south of Lugton.
- 4.2 The development area lies within the existing disused farmstead of West Langton, Dunlop. Two visits were required to observe groundworks for the new housing renovations there. There were two areas stripped for the redevelopment and expansion of the existing structures and another area in the courtyard that required monitoring for the insertion of a service trench (Fig. 1).
- 4.3 The stripping was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket. Area 1 uncovered remains of a Horse-gang along with an Iron lay-shaft (underground) running into the barn to the north. The Horse-gang was about 7m ([004]) in diameter running around the base ([003]) for the open horse-gang (Figs 3c and 3d). The barn can therefore be identified as a threshing barn from the early 1900s onwards.
- 4.4 Work commenced on Area 1, working north over the footprint of the proposed housing site and its associated access road. Here, dark grey humic topsoil was removed to reveal mixed gravels and yellow sandstone bedrock. The overlying sediments were fairly uniform in depth and texture sitting on natural subsoil at a depth of up to 100mm. A sample section (Fig. 3b) shows the depth and nature of the sediments. The natural subsoil onsite unsurprisingly consisted of compact, degraded angular yellow sandstone bedrock. There was no charcoal or any other cultural material recovered from these deposits. The overlying dumps and compost material related to recent use of the farm. The topsoil revealed only occasional modern materials: plastic, degraded metal, modern ceramics and glass. None of these were retained. There was also two modern postholes (contained wooden post stumps) found running E-W through the area, probably relating to a modern fence-line or boundary.
- 4.5 Area 2 was partially covered in a thin layer of hardcore and concrete at a depth of 50-100mm. This was removed before stripping commenced. The underlying overburden consisted of dump material mixed with topsoil and agricultural waste at a depth of up to 400mm. The underlying natural in Area 2, consisted of wet and greasy mixed clays, which would supply a reason for the lack of activity here. Also, the survival of any ephemeral archaeological structures within these deposits would be negligible in such deposits. The only features found in this area were modern and related to drainage from a possible modern midden area from the south. The drain running north ([006]) contained stone, plastic and metal. There was also large wooden posts placed here (modern) probably relating to a pre-existing fence-line or boundary.
- 4.6 The pipe trench was located within the central courtyard of the farmstead. It was 'L' shaped, with an average width of 500mm, running along the northeast wall of House 1 and then continued north along the southeast wall of the main farmhouse toward House 2 where it terminated. The tarmac surface extended to a depth of 200mm and was removed to reveal very shallow underlying sediments over natural bedrock at a maximum depth of 600mm. This is the same subsoil make up as that found in Area 1, (001). The bedrock encountered in this area however was found at much shallower depths of 200mm-600mm. The service trench encountered three underground water pipes (plastic) which is a demonstration of the modern disturbance within the area.
- 4.7 There is little chance of preceding archaeological structures existing here because of the shallow and hard natural deposits and if there was they would have been severely truncated by the construction of the 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead as well as the later 20<sup>th</sup> century tarmac and concrete working surfaces.

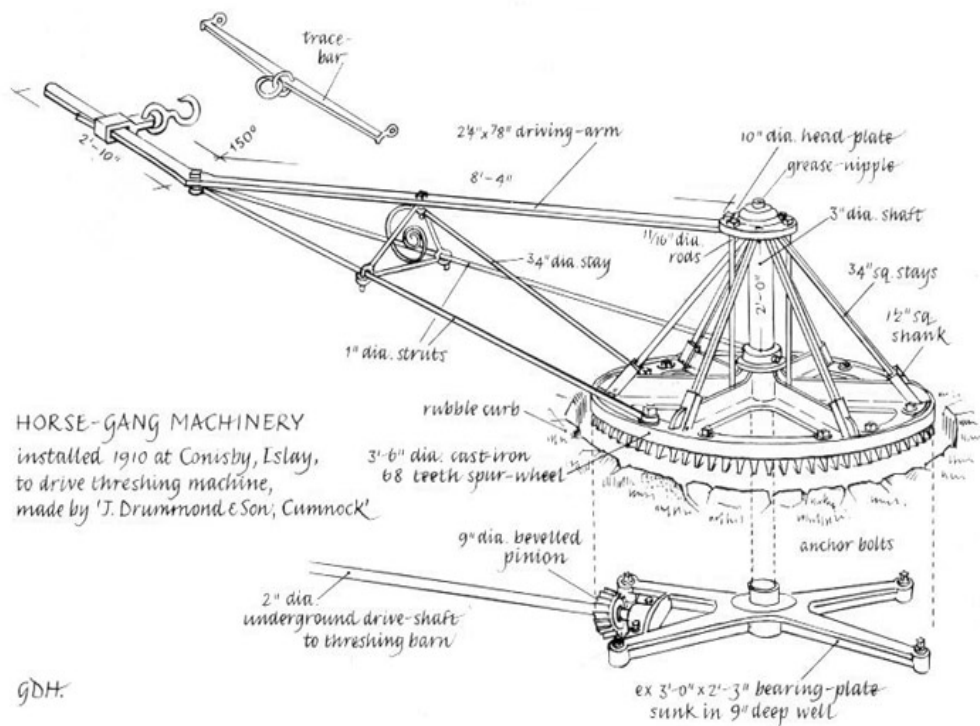


Fig. 4: Top: Example of a working Open Horse-gang with drive mechanism and open platform. Bottom: Schematic showing working components of an underground lay-shaft (After Hay and Stell, 1986, P13).

## 5 Recommendations

- 5.1 The archaeological monitoring failed to identify any significant archaeological features or artefacts within the development area. Moreover the survival of any archaeological structure would have been undermined by the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century alterations to the farmstead. Consequently, we recommend that no further archaeological works are appropriate.
- 5.2 The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with East Ayrshire Council and the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, their advisors. Confirmation that the above recommendations are acceptable should be confirmed with these bodies prior to the implementation of any development works whose appropriateness may rely on these recommendations.

## 6 Conclusion

- 6.1 An archaeological monitoring exercise was undertaken on the 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> October 2007 and on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008, on behalf of Mr Alan Dunn in respect to proposed groundworks in support of the redevelopment and expansion of the existing structures at West Langton, Dunlop (NGR: NS 40165 50710). Archaeological monitoring failed to identify any significant archaeological features within the development area.
- 6.2 On balance we have illustrated that this development has not adversely impacted on any significant archaeological remains and we recommend that no further archaeological works are appropriate.

## 7 References

### *Bibliographic References*

Hay, GD and Stell, GP	1986	<i>Monuments of Industry: an illustrated historical record.</i> The Royal Commission on the Ancient and historical Monuments of Scotland.
Rees, T	2007	<i>West Langton, Dunlop: Archaeological Mitigation</i>
SODev	1994	<i>National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and planning,</i> Scottish Office Development Department.
SOEnd	1994	<i>Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology,</i> Scottish Office Environmental Department.

### *Cartographic Evidence*

Ordnance Survey	1858	<i>Ayrshire, 1:10,560</i>
Ordnance Survey	1897	<i>Ayrshire, 1:10,560</i>

## Appendix 1: Record summaries

### Context Summaries

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001		Subsoil	Mixed gravels and sands with yellow sandstone bedrock with occasional lenses of manganese/ iron pan. Varies across site. Sandstone is very hard and compact. Contains frequent angular and sub angular stones; small (5cm by 5cm by 5cm ) up to very large (1m by 50cm by 50cm). Some occasional pebbles also.	Natural Subsoil/ bedrock in Area 1
002		Subsoil	Mixed grey and brown clays, very wet and greasy. Moderately compact and consistent. Few inclusions.	Natural Subsoil in Area 2
003		Structure	Is a square base. 1.25m by 1.25m by up to 0.3m deep. Consists of four square sandstone blocks with a diagonal groove over the surface of these. Contains iron also. Relates to an iron lay-shaft coming from the existing barn.	Horse Engine (Base)
004		Cut	Is 7m in diameter around [003] and 50-100mm deep, 800mm wide, very ephemeral traces of horse treds. Filled by <005>	Horse-Treds (Open horse-gang)
005		Fill	Dark greasy silty sand with frequent angular stones, 7m in diameter and 800mm wide by 50-100mm deep. Treds by horses.	Fill of [004]
006		Cut	Modern drain running S-N from possible midden area to the south. Is stone lined containing modern materials of plastic and brick debris.	Stone-lined-Drain
007		Cut	Modern Posthole containing wood/post; four by four fence post.	Posthole-Area 1
008		Cut	Modern Posthole containing wood/post; four by four fence post.	Posthole-Area 1

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
009		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown, humic silty sand, with frequent inclusions of small stones (up to 10 x 4 x 5 cm in extent). Depth varies from 100-350mm across site. Well-drained. Produced modern ceramics, plastics, glass and agricultural remains (metal etc)	Topsoil in Area 1
010		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown, humic silty sand, with frequent inclusions of small stones (up to 10 x 4 x 5 cm in extent). Consistent depth of 400mm across area. Heavily disturbed and dumped upon with various agricultural waste deposits.	Topsoil in Area 2
011		Cut	Modern Posthole containing wood/post; four by four fence post.	Posthole- Area 2

*Drawing Register*

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
01	01	-		1:50	Plan of [003] of Horse Engine	KS	11/10/07

*Photographic record*

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
1	1	1	1	1	1	General Shot of House plot 1 (Existing Barn)	S	11/10/07
2	1	2	1	2	2	Pre-Ex Shot of House plot 1 (Existing Barn)	SE	11/10/07
3	1	3	1	3	3	General Shot looking NE up road showing Farmstead,	SW	11/10/07
4	1	4	1	4	4	Area Stripped near drystone wall as working surface.	E	11/10/07
5	1	5	1		5	Compost heap, mid-removal, near House plot 1	E	11/10/07
6					6	Pre-Ex of Area 1 (Turf removed)	W	11/10/07
7					7	Post-Ex of Area 1	W	11/10/07
8					8	Post-Ex of Area 1 (Showing Post 01)	N	11/10/07



Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
9					9	General Shot of founds for new access road.	SE	11/10/07
10					10	General Shot of founds for new access road and gate.	NW	11/10/07
11					11	Area 1 Sample Section	NW	11/10/07
12					12	Area 1 sample section showing wall at southern fence.	NW	11/10/07
13					13	Area 1 General shot of southern fence.	NE	11/10/07
14					14	Area 1 General shot Mid-Ex.	S	11/10/07
15					15	Area 1 General shot of southern fence, Mid-Ex	N	11/10/07
16					16	Area 1 Sample Section.	NW	11/10/07
17					17	Area 1 Close up of Post 02	N	11/10/07
18					18	Area 1 General shot showing previously dug trenches.	NW	11/10/07
19					19	Area 1 General shot showing previously dug trenches.	N	11/10/07
20					20	Area 1 General shot Mid-Ex.	NE	11/10/07
21					21	Area 1 General shot Mid-Ex.	S	11/10/07
22	1	6	1	5	22	Area 1 General shot Mid-Ex.	S	11/10/07
23	1	7	1	6	23	Area 1 Close up of [003] Base for Horse-Engine	E	11/10/07
24	1	8	1	7	24	Area 1 General shot Mid-Ex.	S	11/10/07
25	1	9	1	8	25	Area 1 General shot Mid-Ex.	S	11/10/07
26	1	10	1	9	26	Area 2 General Shot Pre-Ex	S	11/10/07
27	1	11	1	10	27	Area 2 General Shot Pre-Ex	W	11/10/07
28	1	12	1	11	28	Area 2 General Shot Pre-Ex	SW	11/10/07
29	1	13	1	12	29	Area 2 General Shot Pre-Ex	NW	11/10/07
30					30	Area 2 General Shot Mid-Ex	S	11/10/07
31					31	Area 2 Sample Section shot	NE	11/10/07
32					32	Area 2 General Shot Mid-Ex	S	11/10/07
33					33	Area 2 Close up of Posts (Modern)	SE	11/10/07
34					34	Area 1 Close up of Iron Drive Shaft running from [003]	E	11/10/07

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
35					35	Area 1 Iron Drive Shaft running from [003]	S	11/10/07
36					36	Area 1 Iron Drive Shaft running from [003]	S	11/10/07
37					37	Area 1 Iron Drive Shaft running from [003]	S	11/10/07
38					38	Area 1 Post Ex	SE	11/10/07
39	1	14			39	Area 2 Post Ex	S	11/10/07
40	2	11	2	20	1	Pipe Trench N Facing Section	N	26/03/08
41	2	12	2	21	2	Pipe Trench N Facing Section	N	26/03/08
42	2	13	2	22	3	General Shot of Pipe Trench going West	E	26/03/08
43	2	14	2	23	4	Junction of Pipe Trench	N	26/03/08
44	2	15	2	24	5	N Facing section at Junction showing bedrock	N	26/03/08
45	2	16	2	25	6	General shot of Pipe Trench	W	26/03/08
46	2	17	2	26	7	Pipe Trench W Facing Section	W	26/03/08
47	2	18	2	27	8	N-S leg of Pipe Trench	S	26/03/08
48	2	19	2	28	9	N-S leg of Pipe Trench	S	26/03/08
49	2	20	2	29	10	N-S leg of Pipe Trench	N	26/03/08
50	2	21	2	30	11	General Shot of N-S Leg	NW	26/03/08
51	2	22	2	31	12	General Shot of E-W Leg	E	26/03/08
52	2	23	2	32	13	General Shot of S area	SE	26/03/08
53	2	24	2	33	14	General Shot of N-S Leg	N	26/03/08
54	2	25	2	34	15	General Shot of N area	S	26/03/08
55	2	26	2	35	16	Lose up of services in N-S leg	N	26/03/08
56	2	27	2	36	17	General shot of junction	W	26/03/08

## Appendix 2: GPS Points along Pipe Trench

Point Id.	NS	BNG	Elevation	Accuracy	Description
01	40170	50694	147	+/- 4m	Junction where N-S and E-W trenches meet.
02	40183	50686	145	+/- 3m	East end of Pipe trench at Road
03	40175	50703	145	+/- 3m	North end of pipe trench.

## Appendix 3: Discovery &amp; Excavation in Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	East Ayrshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	West Langton, Dunlop
<b>PARISH:</b>	Dunlop
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Katie Sludden
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Monitoring
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NS 40165 50710
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	10 <sup>th</sup> October 2007
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2008
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)	None
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (may include information from other fields)	An archaeological monitoring exercise was undertaken on the 10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> October 2007, and the 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2008 on behalf of Mr Alan Dunn in respect to proposed groundworks in support of the redevelopment and expansion of the existing structures at West Langton, Dunlop (NGR: NS 40165 50710). Archaeological monitoring failed to identify any significant archaeological features within the development area.
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	RA 07050
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Mr. Alan Dunn
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	10 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to National Monuments Record of Scotland.

## Contact Details

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