

March Cottage, Toward: Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report

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Rathmell

Archaeology Ltd

Quality Assurance

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Signed Date

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Checked Date

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1 Overview

- 1.1 This Data Structure Report presents the findings of archaeological investigative works required by John Mundell & Sons in respect of the proposed residential development on land to the south east of March Cottage, Toward, Argyll (centred NGR: NS 1328 6775). The archaeological works, carried out from the 24th to the 25th May 2007, were designed to inform the planning decision and hence enable the mitigation of any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
- 1.2 The findings presented below inform on the character of any archaeologically significant features within the proposed development area and the appropriateness or requirement for further archaeological works. The character of such further stages of work will need to be agreed with Argyll and Bute Council and the West of Scotland Archaeology Services.
- 1.3 The area concerned is currently a greenfield site, extending to 0.78ha, lying to the south west of Toward.
- 1.4 Rathmell Archaeology Ltd was appointed by John Mundell & Sons to act with regard to archaeological matters.

2 Project Works

- 2.1 The programme of works commenced with an archaeological evaluation through machine cut trenches extending to 8% of the proposed residential development, some 0.78ha. In total 397m of linear trenching was excavated, exceeding the 8% target for the intrusive evaluation of the development area.
- 2.2 These works were undertaken in keeping with the submitted Method Statement, the on-site works took place from the 24th to the 25th May 2007.
- 2.4 The majority of exposed features were investigated and evaluated to determine archaeological significance. All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

3 Findings: Desktop Study

- 3.1 The desktop study did not identify the presence within the study area of any sites protected for their archaeological or historical merit under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 or buildings protected under the Town and Country Planning Act 1997 (Historic Scotland 1998).
- 3.2 Nor were any sites identified that have the potential to contain the burial of human skeletal material, and hence raise the difficulties of the crime of violation of sepulchre (the common law crime of unlawful interference with human remains).
- 3.3 However within 500m of the development area there are a variety of sites, ranging from a Scheduled Ancient Monument 5431 consisting of incised rock carvings, a possible chapel and burial ground (NMRS: NS16NW5) and March Cottage (NMRS NS16NW31).



Figure 1a: Roy 1755

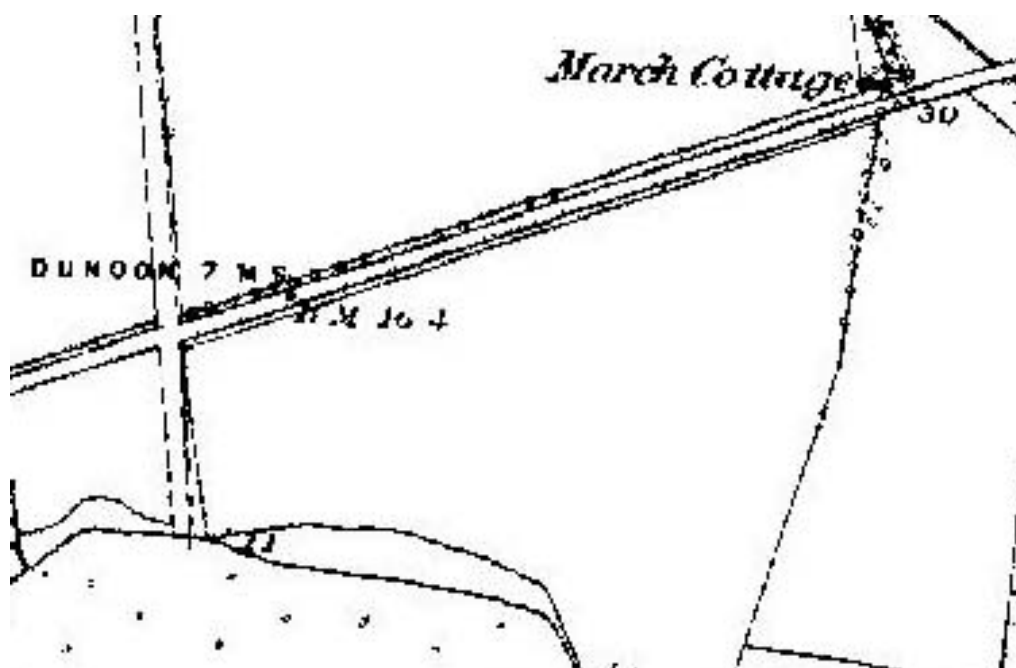


Figure 1b - 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1867



Figure 2a: Trench 1



Figure 2b: Trench 6



Figure 2c: Trench 7



Figure 2d: General Shot

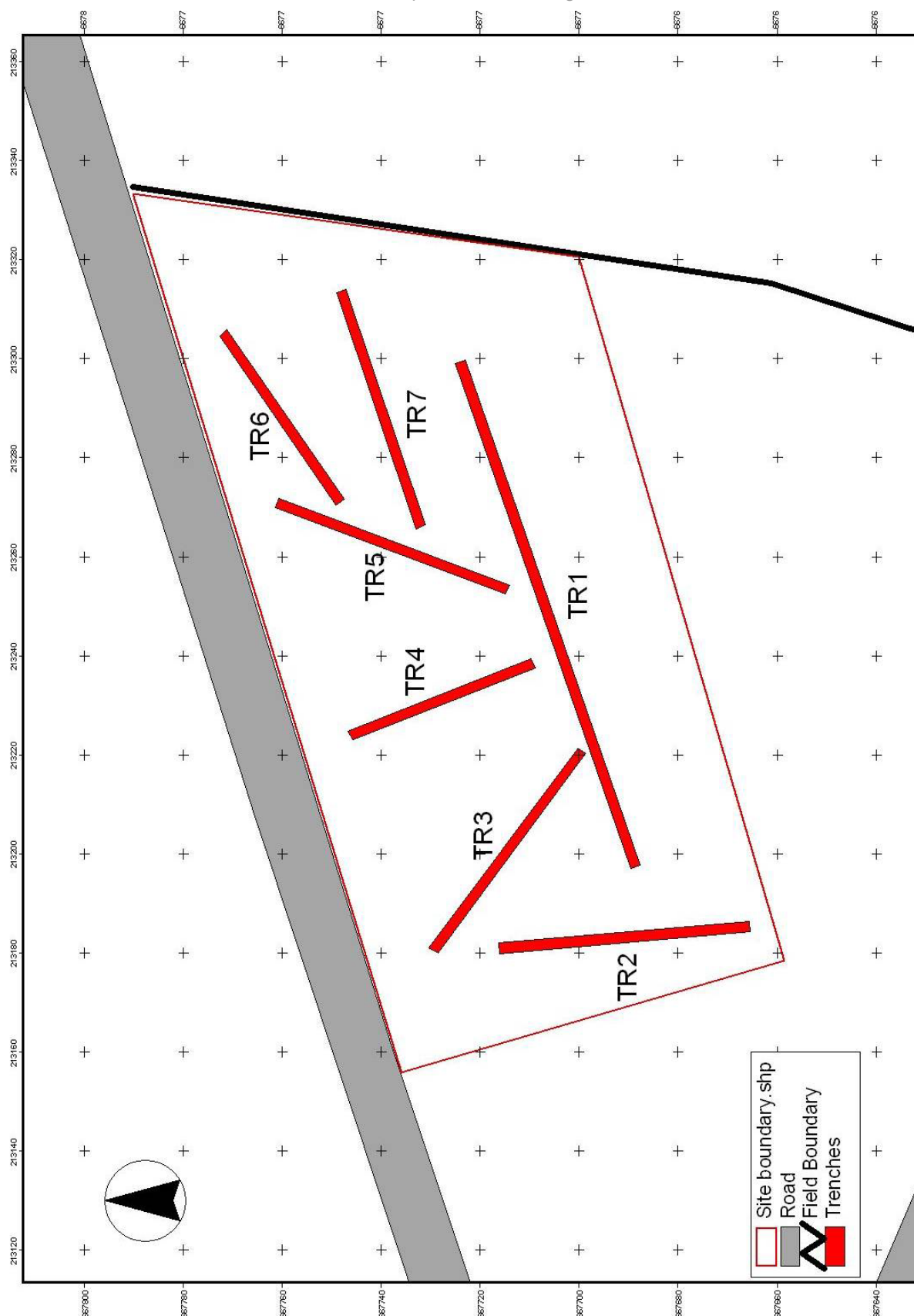


Figure 3: Trench Plan

4 Findings: Evaluation trenches

- 4.1 All trenches and test pits exhibited a fairly common stratigraphic sequence with a light grey brown loamy clay [101] reaching an average depth of 100-300mm, overlying a varying grey brown gravel and clay subsoil.
- 4.2 Within all the trenches were a sequence of linear features (103), (105) (108) & (109) which evidently had varying alignments, although the predominant alignment was northeast – southwest. Examining each of these groups in turn: (103) were 500mm wide and filled with sub angular and sub rounded stone $\leq 180\text{mm}$ in size; (105) were 130mm wide and contained sub angular and sub rounded stones $\leq 60\text{mm}$ in size; (108) were 250mm wide and contained red tile dains; while (109) was 300mm wide and contained a red plastic drain.
- 4.3 No other features were uncovered during the evaluation, though white glaze pottery was frequently evident in the trenches.

5 Discussion

- 5.1 The trenches in were devoid of archaeological features, with the only features present being field drains of varying ages.
- 5.2 No artefacts were recovered during the evaluation although modern (within past 200 years) white glazed ceramic was frequently noted within the trenches.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The archaeological works failed to identify any features of archaeological worth. Consequently, we recommend that there are no grounds to consider archaeology a material consideration within the determination of planning consent. Hence we consider that no further archaeological mitigation works are necessary in the event that planning consent is granted for this development.
- 6.2 The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with the West of Scotland Archaeology Services and Argyll and Bute Council. Confirmation that the above recommendations are acceptable should be confirmed with these bodies.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 A programme of archaeological investigative works was undertaken in respect of the proposed residential development on land to the south west of March Cottage (Centred NGR NS1328 6775). The evaluation was carried out from the 22nd May to the 23rd May 2007. The evaluation comprised of seven trenches located within the footprint of the proposed development.
- 7.2 A representative sample of all of the uncovered features with archaeological potential was investigated. All trenches and test pits exhibited a fairly common stratigraphic sequence with a light grey brown loamy clay [101] reaching an average depth of 100-300mm, overlying a varying grey brown gravel and clay subsoil.
- 7.3 No archaeological significant features were recorded during the archaeological works.

8 References

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| 8.1 | <i>Documentary</i>
SODev | 1994 | <i>National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and planning</i> , Scottish Office Development Department. |
| | SOEnv | 1994 | <i>Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology</i> , Scottish Office Environmental Department. |
| 8.2 | <i>Cartographic</i>
1747-55 | Roy's Military Map | Area of Toward Point |
| | 1867 | Ordnance Survey | Argyllshire, 1 st edition map 1:10560 |

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. See Figure 8 for trench locations.

Trench 1

Orientation:	East to West
Size:	2m by 107.7m (215.4m ²)
Topsoil depth:	120mm to 240mm
Subsoil character	Subsoil (102), a light grey brown clay with gravel, is present for the first 74m of the trench before being replaced by subsoil (104), a mottled orange grey sandy gravel.
Modern features:	Stone rubble field drain (103) runs NE-SW across the trench at 30.2m till 34.5m. Measures 0.5m wide with sub-angular and sub-rounded stones \leq 180mm. Stone rubble drain (103) also runs NNE-SSW across trench at 71m and at 103m. Stone rubble drain (105) runs ESE-WNW along trench from 73.5m till 97m. Measures 0.13m wide.
Significant features:	None
Artefacts:	None

Trench 2

Orientation:	South to North
Size:	2m by 51.7m (103.4m ²).
Topsoil depth:	100mm to 250mm
Subsoil character:	Subsoil (106), a light grey brown clay, is present for the first 18m of the trench before being replaced by subsoil (107), a grey clay with frequent stone inclusions. This runs until 30.5m before changing to subsoil (104), a mottled orange grey sandy gravel, which is present until 38m, before changing back to subsoil (107).
Modern features:	Stone rubble field drain (103) runs SE-NW across trench at 13m till 14.5m. Measures 0.5m wide with sub-angular and sub-rounded stones \leq 180mm. Stone rubble field drain (105) runs E-W across trench at 15.5m. Measures 0.13m wide. Red tile field drain (108) runs E-W across trench at 35m. Measures 0.25m wide. Red plastic drain (109) runs SW-NE across trench at 46.5m until 48m. Measures 0.3m wide.
Significant features:	None
Artefacts:	None

Trench 3

Orientation:	North-north-west to South-south-east
Size:	2m by 50.4m (100.8m ²).
Topsoil depth	250mm to 300mm

Subsoil character: Subsoil (110), a moderately compact medium sized grey gravel, is present in trench until 19m where it is replaced by subsoil (104), a mottled orange grey sandy gravel. This runs until 31m where it changes to subsoil (106), a light grey brown clay, which is present until 40m. From 40m until 47.5m, subsoil (102), a light grey brown clay with gravel, is present before changing back to subsoil (104).

Modern features: Red tile drain (108) runs E-W across trench at 4m and also at 9.5m. Measures 0.25m wide. Red plastic drain (109) runs E-W across trench at 12.5m. Measures 0.3m wide. Stone rubble field drain (105) runs E-W across trench at 13m and NW-SE across trench at 13.2m until 14.5m. Measures 0.13m wide. Stone rubble field drain (103) runs NE-SW across trench at 13.3m and at 19m. Measures 0.5m wide with sub-angular and sub-rounded stones $\leq 180\text{mm}$. Red plastic drain (109) runs E-W across trench at 24.5m.

Significant features: None.

Artefacts: None.

Trench 4

Orientation: South-east to North-west

Size: 2m by 40.1m (80.2m²).

Topsoil depth: 300mm.

Subsoil character: Subsoil (106), a light grey brown clay, is present in trench until 15.5m where it is replaced by subsoil (107), a grey clay with frequent stone inclusions. This is present in trench until 25m where it changes to subsoil (104), a mottled orange grey sandy gravel.

Modern features: Stone rubble field drain (103) runs S-N across trench at 5.5m until 7m and SW-NE across trench at 12.5m and at 15m. Measures 0.5m wide with sub-angular and sub-rounded stones $\leq 180\text{mm}$. Stone rubble field drain (105) runs SW-NE across trench at 17m, 21.5m and 22m. Measures 0.13m wide. Red tile field drain (108) runs SW-NE across trench at 24m and at 32m. Measures 0.25m wide.

Significant features: None

Artefacts: None

Trench 5

Orientation: South-south-west to North-north-east

Size: 2m by 51.5m (103m²).

Topsoil depth: 280mm to 300mm

Subsoil character: Subsoil (106), a light grey brown clay, is present in trench until 23m where it is replaced by subsoil (104), a mottled orange grey sandy gravel.

Modern features: Stone rubble field drain (103) runs SW-NE at 17m. Measures 0.5m wide with sub-angular and sub-rounded stones $\leq 180\text{mm}$. Red tile drain (108) runs SW-NE across trench at 25m and at 30m. Measures 0.25m wide. Stone rubble field drain (105) runs SW-NE across trench at 40m until 42.5m. Measures 0.13m wide. Stone rubble field drain (103) runs S-N across trench from 47m until end

of trench.

Significant features: None

Artefacts: None.

Trench 6

Orientation: South-west to North-east.

Size: 2m by 43.8m (87.6m²).

Topsoil depth: 220mm to 280mm.

Subsoil character: Subsoil (110), a moderately compact medium sized grey gravel, is present in trench until 19m where it is replaced by subsoil (102), a light grey brown clay with gravel.

Modern features: Stone rubble field drain (105) runs WSW-ENE across trench from start of trench until 4.5m and NW-SE across trench at 7m. Measures 0.13m wide.

Significant features: None.

Artefacts: None.

Trench 7

Orientation: West-south-west to East-north-east

Size: 2m by 51.7m (103.4m²).

Topsoil depth: 260mm to 320mm.

Subsoil character: Subsoil (110), a moderately compact medium sized grey gravel, is present along whole of trench.

Modern features: Stone rubble field drain (103) runs WSW-ENE across trench from the start until the end of the trench, and runs N-S across trench at 5m and at 40m. Measures 0.5m wide with sub-angular and sub-rounded stones ≤ 180mm.

Significant features: None.

Artefacts: None.

Appendix 2: Record Summaries

Context Register

No.	Trench	Interpretation	Description
101	1-7	Topsoil	Light grey brown loamy clay. Fairly frequent finds of modern white glaze pottery and glass.
102	1,3,6	Subsoil	Lighter grey brown clay with gravel inclusions.
103	1-5,7	Field drain	Stone rubble drain with sub-angular and sub-rounded stones ≤ 180mm. Measures 0.5m wide.

104	1-5	Subsoil	Mottled orange grey sandy gravel.
105	1-6	Field drain	Narrow stone rubble drain measuring 0.13m wide.
106	2-5	Subsoil	Lighter grey brown clay.
107	2,4	Subsoil	Grey clay with frequent stone inclusions.
108	2-5	Field drain	Red tile drain measuring 0.25m wide.
109	2,3	Field drain	Red plastic modern drain measuring 0.3m wide.
110	3,6,7	Subsoil	Moderately compact medium sized grey gravel.

Photographic Register

Image	Description	From	Date
1	General shot of Trench 1	E	24/5/07
2	General shot of Trench 2	S	24/5/07
3	General shot of Trench 3	NNW	24/5/07
4	General shot of Trench 4	SE	24/5/07
5	General shot of Trench 5	SSW	25/5/07
6	General shot of Trench 6	WSW	25/5/07
7	General shot of Trench 7	SW	25/5/07
8	General shot of site	W	25/5/07
9	General shot of site	NW	25/5/07
10	General shot of site	NE	25/5/07
11	Scenic shot	NNE	25/5/07
12	Scenic shot	NE	25/5/07
13	Scenic shot	ENE	25/5/07
14	Working shot		25/5/07

Drawing Register

Sheet	No.	Trench	Title	Scale	Date	Author
1	1	1	Plan of trench 1	1:100	24/5/07	DG+CW
1	2	2	Plan of trench 2	1:100	24/5/07	DG+CW
1	3	3	Plan of trench 3	1:100	24/5/07	DG+CW
1	4	4	Plan of trench 4	1:100	24/5/07	DG+CW
1	5	5	Plan of trench 5	1:100	25/5/07	DG+CW
1	6	7	Plan of trench 7	1:100	25/5/07	DG+CW

1	7	6	Plan of trench 6	1:100	25/5/07	DG+CW
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Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Argyll and Bute Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	March Cottage, Toward
PARISH:	Dunoon and Kilmun
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Douglas Gordon
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS1328 6775
START DATE (this season)	24 th May 2007
END DATE (this season)	25 th May 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological investigative works was undertaken in respect of the proposed residential development on land to the south west of March Cottage (Centred NGR NS1328 6775). The evaluation was carried out from the 22nd May to the 23rd May 2007. The evaluation comprised of seven trenches located within the footprint of the proposed development.</p> <p>A representative sample of all of the uncovered features with archaeological potential was investigated. All trenches and test pits exhibited a fairly common stratigraphic sequence with a light grey brown loamy clay [101] reaching an average depth of 100-300mm, overlying a varying grey brown gravel and clay subsoil.</p> <p>No archaeological significant features were recorded during the archaeological works.</p>
PROJECT CODE:	07044
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	John Mundell & Sons
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	10 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
E MAIL:	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to National Monuments Record of Scotland.

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