

Laggan Burn Farm, Dumfries, Dumfries & Galloway

Data Structure Report



by Sarah Krischer

issued 20th November 2017

on behalf of Mr P Hastings

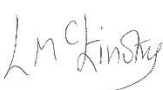
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Quality Assurance

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Signed  Date20th November 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 ...20th November 2017.....

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure report (DSR) has been prepared in support of the construction of a new agricultural building at Laggan Burn Farm, Dumfries which has been granted Planning Consent by Dumfries & Galloway Council. These archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area and were carried out on the 15th of November 2017.
2. The Dumfries & Galloway Council required a program of archaeological works to be undertaken as an element of the granted planning consent. The Dumfries and Galloway Archaeology Service, who advise Dumfries and Galloway Council on archaeology matters, provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required for the granted planning consent and the mitigation of the proposed development works.
3. A Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2017) provided the detail of the works (archaeological monitoring, exclusion, excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication) for the mitigation pertaining to ground breaking within the development area and hence the direct physical impact on buried sediments.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. The development area is a new agricultural building lying west of Laggan Burn Farm (centred on: NX 9262 8344, see Figure 3). This farm, known as Burnside from the mid-18th century to mid-20th century, is depicted on the 1st edition (1861), 2nd edition (1900) and 3rd edition (1952) Ordnance Survey maps as a cluster of buildings at the SE end of a slight ridge. This is a comparable setting to that depicted on Roy's Military Survey (1752-55). The burn flows down the western side of the ridge before turning east past the farm, passing under Burnside Bridge that carries the A76 over the burn.
5. Oblique aerial photography in 1949 (see Figure 2) identified cropmarks depicting an oval enclosure on the ridge to the NW of the farm (see Figure 1). Ground inspection failed to identify any surface features related to this oval enclosure, with the inference made that this is a prehistoric enclosure. Two sides of a further rectilinear enclosure were also identified on the same images, encompassing the modern farm and the ground where the new agricultural building will be sited. This enclosure contained cropmarks indicating rig and furrow agriculture that respected and were aligned with the enclosure, suggesting they were contemporary. While the enclosure remains undated, its form suggests it is post-medieval in origin.

Project Works

6. The programme of works comprised the archaeological monitoring of the building footprint of an agricultural building in the grounds of Laggan Burn Farm, Dumfries (Figure 3). The works comprised the excavation of a large rectangular area by machine where the building was planned to be sited (Figure 3). The area measured 37.5m northwest-southeast and 15m northeast-southwest. The excavated depth range of the machine strip area was between 0.3m and 0.5m.
7. Any potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded, with the on-site works taking place on the 15th of November 2017. 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.

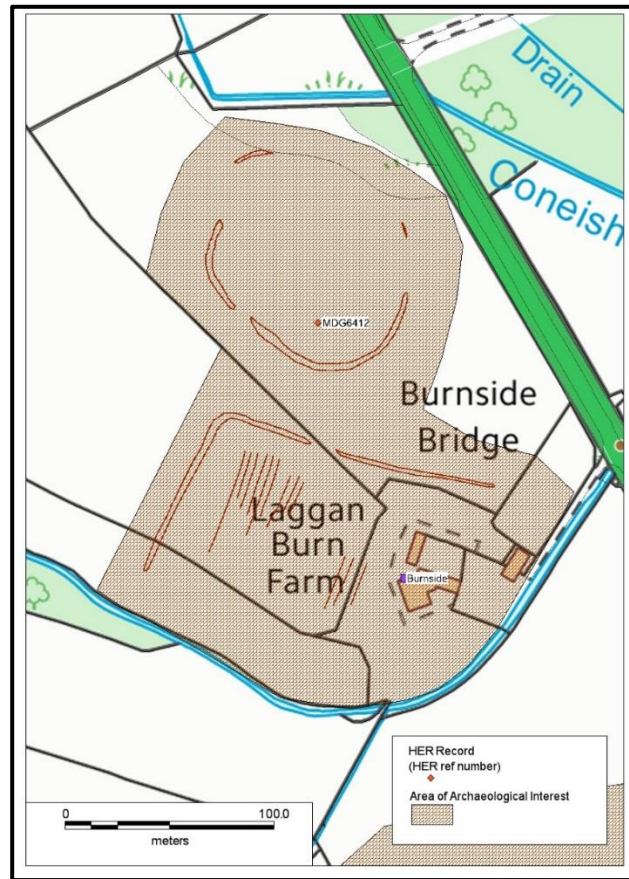


Figure 1: Transcription of cropmarks of MDG6412



Figure 2: Oblique aerial photograph of cropmark features MDG6412

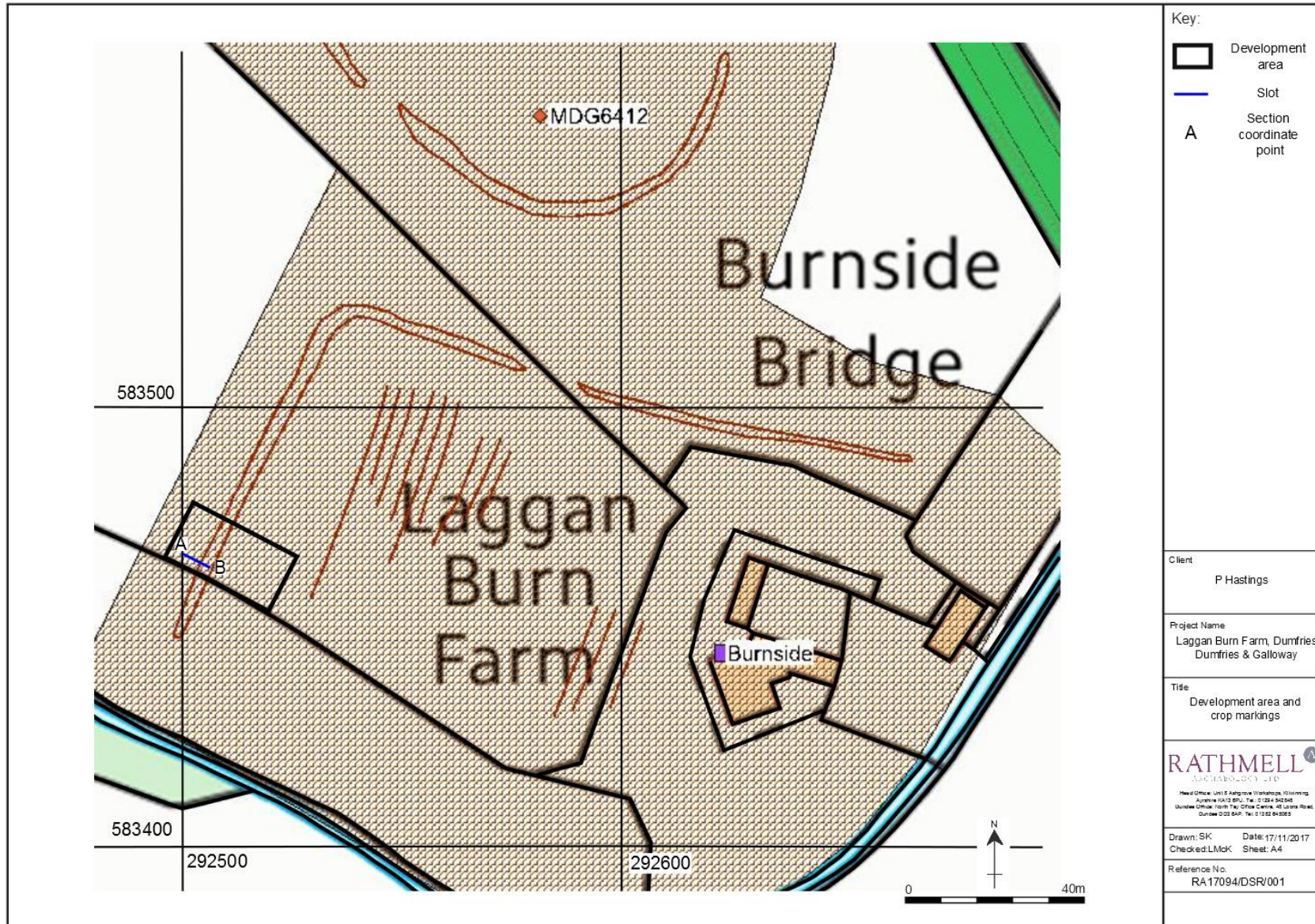


Figure 3: Development area

Findings

9. The excavation area lay at the southwest edge of a field above a bank slopping down to the Laggan Burn. The excavation area sloped slightly downhill to the southwest side (Figure 5). Topsoil layer (001) was found throughout the excavation area to a depth of 0.1m. This comprised a loosely compacted, mid-yellowish brown silty sand with frequent roots. Plough soil layer (002) underlay (001) and had a depth of 0.2m throughout the excavation area. (002) was a loosely compacted mid-yellowish brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions and occasional roots (Figure 6). The natural subsoil (003) underlay (002) throughout the excavation area (Figure 7). (003) was moderately compacted orange gravel with small to medium sub-rounded stones.
10. Linear anthropic features were found throughout the excavation area with preservation ranging from good to very poor (Figure 8). Four features ([005], [007], [009] and [011]) at the northeast end of the area were investigated by digging slots into them (Figure 4 and Figure 3 for the location of the slot). All features were oriented northeast-southwest. The fills of these features (004), (006), (008) and (010) were moderate to loosely compacted mid-yellowish brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions and occasional roots. [005] was 1.3m wide and 0.24m deep. [007], [008] and [009] ranged in depth from 0.06m to 0.07m and in width from 0.7m to 0.92m. All features continued across the entire 15m area northeast-southwest.

Discussion

11. Linear features [005], [007], [009] and [011] were all anthropic in nature. The features, [007], [009], and [011] were all furrows which were all part of the rig and furrow system observed in the aerial photography for the area (Figure 2) The found furrows are to the northwest of the boundary indicating that the ploughing seen in figure 2 within the rectilinear enclosure continued outside of it. Feature, [005], was the rectangular drainage ditch observed in the aerial photographic evidence (Figure 3). No material suitable for dating was recovered from any of the features excavated on site. The ephemeral remains of other, similarly orientated, furrows were observed within the excavated area, but were too insubstantial for further investigation.
12. The entire development area seems to have been subjected to modern mechanised ploughing which had substantially reduced the area, meaning that only the features which had cut into the subsoil (003) had survived. The drainage ditch seen in figure 2 was likely to be for demarcating land boundaries as oppose to keeping stock out. It is likely that the ditch was originally accompanied by a low bank but no trace of this has survived in the development area.
13. One shred of 19th century ceramic sherd was found in the natural subsoil (003). The sherd is wheel thrown which would indicate that dates to the earlier portion of the 19th century. However, this is insufficient to provide dating to the field system.
14. Other than the post medieval agricultural features no other significant artefacts or features were identified within the excavated areas of the site.

Recommendations

15. This Data Structure Report covers archaeological works undertaken in support of construction work on land at Laggan Burn Farm, Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway (Planning Ref: 17/1054/FUL).
16. The archaeological monitoring works uncovered a single nineteenth century ceramic sherd buried in the natural subsoil. Remnants of post medieval rig and furrows activity and a drainage ditch associated with a rectilinear enclosure were identified cut into the naturally occurring subsoil. No significant archaeological features were identified within the development area. As such, it is recommended that no further work should be carried out.
17. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with Dumfries and Galloway Council and their advisors, the Dumfries and Galloway Archaeological Service.

Conclusion

18. Archaeological monitoring work was carried out for Mr P Hastings, in support of construction work on land at Laggan Burn Farm, Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway (Planning Ref: 17/1054/FUL). These archaeological works are designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
19. This report covers the excavation of the building footprint for the construction of an agricultural structure. The works were carried out on the 15th of November 2017 and uncovered a single nineteenth century ceramic sherd buried in the natural subsoil. The remnants of a post medieval rig and furrow activity and drainage ditch of a rectilinear enclosure were identified cut into the naturally occurring subsoil. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified within the area.

Acknowledgements

20. The author would like to thank the client Mr Peter Hastings and his onsite team for their support throughout the project and Liam McKinstry, Senior Archaeologist with Rathmell Archaeology Ltd for his input and editing.
21. This project has been monitored for the Dumfries and Galloway Archaeological Service by Andy Nicholson who has given guidance and direction throughout.

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Documentary

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Photographic

Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography, 1949, Oblique aerial photograph of cropmark features MDG6412. Provided by Andy Nicholson of the Dumfries and Galloway Archaeological Service

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland Aerial Transcription, 2012, Transcription of cropmarks of MDG6412. Provided by Andy Nicholson of the Dumfries and Galloway Archaeological Service

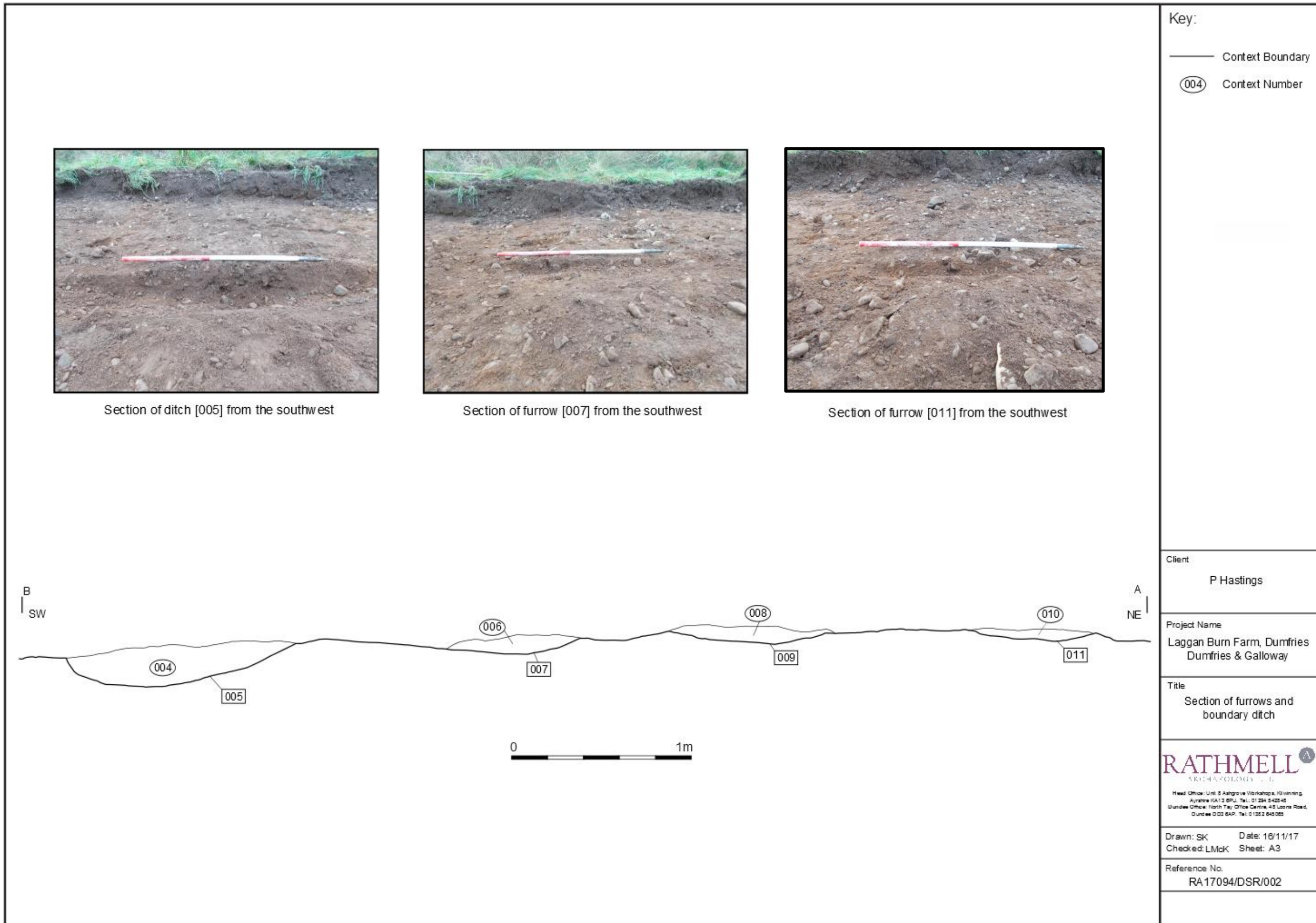


Figure 4: Sections of bank and furrows



Figure 5: Pre excavation view of development area. From the W.



Figure 6: Mid ex-photo of development area showing section. Taken from the N.



Figure 7: Post excavation view of development area. Taken from the W.



Figure 8: View of rig and furrow and boundary ditch. Taken from the W.

Appendix 1: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site during the watching brief:-

Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	-	Deposit	Loosely compacted, mid-yellowish brown silty sand with frequent roots. 0.1m thick and found throughout excavation area.	Modern topsoil layer.
002	-	Deposit	Loosely compacted mid-yellowish brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions and occasional roots. 0.2 m thick and found throughout excavation area.	Modern plough soil layer.
003	-	Deposit	Moderately compacted orange gravel with small to medium sub-rounded stones. Found throughout excavation area.	Natural subsoil.
004	-	Deposit	Moderately loosely compacted of mid-yellowish brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions and occasional roots. 0.24m deep, 1.3m wide. Linear feature running northeast – southwest across entire 15m area.	Fill of boundary drainage ditch, cut [005].
005	-	Deposit	Linear cut, u-shaped in section with slightly diffuse edges. 0.24m deep, 0.75m wide northwest-southeast. Continues across entire 15m area northeast – southwest.	Cut of boundary drainage ditch, fill (004).
006	-	Deposit	Moderately loosely compacted mid-yellowish brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions and occasional roots. 0.1m deep, 0.75m wide northwest-southeast. Linear feature running northeast – southwest across entire 15m area.	Fill of furrow, cut [007].
007	-	Deposit	Linear cut, u-shaped in section with slightly diffuse edges. 0.1m deep, 0.75m wide northwest-southeast. Continues across entire 15m area northeast – southwest.	Cut of furrow, fill (006).
008	-	Deposit	Moderately loosely compacted mid-yellowish brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions and occasional roots. 0.07m deep, 0.92m wide northwest-southeast. Linear feature running northeast – southwest across entire 15m area.	Fill of furrow, cut [009].
009	-	Deposit	Linear cut, u-shaped in section with slightly diffuse edges. 0.07m deep, 0.92m wide northwest-southeast. Continues across entire	Cut of furrow, fill (008).

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			15m area northeast – southwest.	
010	-	Deposit	Moderately loosely compacted mid-yellowish brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions and occasional roots. 0.06m deep, 0.7m wide northwest-southeast. Linear feature running northeast – southwest across entire 15m area.	Fill of furrow, cut [011]
011	-	Deposit	Linear cut, u-shaped in section with slightly diffuse edges. 0.06m deep, 0.7m wide northwest-southeast. Continues across entire 15m area northeast – southwest.	Cut of furrow, fill (010).

Finds Register

Find No.	Area Trench	Context no.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
001	-	003	Ceramic	1 x early 19 th century stoneware sherd.	SK	15/11/2017

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawn by	Date
001	1	-	Section	1:10	Post-excavation section of ditch [005] and furrows [007], [009], and [011].	SK	15/11/2017

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
01	556	Pre-excavation photo of site.	E	15/11/2017
02	557	Pre-excavation photo of site.	W	15/11/2017

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
03	558	First 5m of stripped area showing (002) and (003).	SE	15/11/2017
04	559	First 5m of stripped area showing (002) and (003).	SE	15/11/2017
05	560	Working shot of digging.	S	15/11/2017
06	561	Post excavation shot of first 20m of first strip.	NW	15/11/2017
07	562	Post-excavation shot of completed first strip.	NW	15/11/2017
08	563	Post-excavation shot of completed first strip showing section.	N	15/11/2017
09	564	Post excavation shot of first 20m of second strip.	NW	15/11/2017
10	565	Post-excavation shot of completed second strip.	NW	15/11/2017
11	566	Working shot.	S	15/11/2017
12	567	Post excavation shot of first 20m of third strip.	NW	15/11/2017
13	568	Post-excavation shot of completed third strip.	NW	15/11/2017
14	569	Post-excavation shot of completed third strip.	NW	15/11/2017
15	570	Post excavation shot of first 20m of fourth strip.	NW	15/11/2017
16	571	Post excavation shot of first 20m of fourth strip.	NW	15/11/2017
17	572	Post-excavation shot of completed fourth strip.	NW	15/11/2017
18	573	Post-excavation shot of completed fourth strip.	NW	15/11/2017
19	574	General post-excavation shot of area.	W	15/11/2017
20	575	General post-excavation shot of area.	W	15/11/2017

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
21	576	General post-excavation shot of area.	NW	15/11/2017
22	577	General post-excavation shot of area.	NW	15/11/2017
23	578	General post-excavation shot of area.	SE	15/11/2017
24	579	General post-excavation shot of area.	NE	15/11/2017
25	580	General post-excavation shot of area.	E	15/11/2017
26	581	Ditch [005].	SW	15/11/2017
27	582	General shot of excavated area showing furrows [007, [009], [011] and boundary ditch [005].	W	15/11/2017
28	584	Ditch [005].	SW	15/11/2017
29	585	Ditch [005].	NE	15/11/2017
30	586	Ditch [005].	NE	15/11/2017
31	587	Ditch [005].	NE	15/11/2017
32	588	Ditch [005].	SW	15/11/2017
33	589	Furrow [007].	SW	15/11/2017
34	590	Furrow [007].	SW	15/11/2017
35	591	Furrow [007].	NE	15/11/2017
36	592	Furrow [009].	SW	15/11/2017
37	593	Furrow [009].	SW	15/11/2017
38	594	Furrow [005].	SW	15/11/2017

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
39	595	Furrow [011].	SW	15/11/2017
40	596	Furrow [011].	SW	15/11/2017
41	597	Furrow [011].	NE	15/11/2017

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries and Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Laggan Burn Farm, Dumfries
PROJECT CODE:	RA17094
PARISH:	Dunscore
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Sarah Krischer
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	
START DATE (this season)	15 th November 2017
END DATE (this season)	15 th November 2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological monitoring work was carried out for Mr P Hastings, in support of construction work on land at Laggan Burn Farm, Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway (Planning Ref: 17/1054/FUL). These archaeological works are designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.</p> <p>This report covers the excavation of the building footprint for the construction of an agricultural structure. The works were carried out on the 15th of November 2017 and uncovered a single nineteenth century ceramic buried in the natural subsoil. Furrows from post-medieval agricultural activity and a drainage ditch associated with a rectilinear enclosure were cut into this subsoil. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified within the development area.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Peter Hastings
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service and archive to HES Collections

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