

# **Culzean Overspill Carpark: Archaeological Watching Brief**

Data Structure Report



by Jack Portwood

issued 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018

on behalf of National Trust for Scotland

**RATHMELL**   
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

## Quality Assurance

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Signed     *J. Portwood*     Date ....7<sup>th</sup> March 2018....

In keeping with the procedure of Rathmell Archaeology Limited this document and its findings have been reviewed and agreed by an appropriate colleague:

Checked     *L.M. Lindsay*     Date ....7<sup>th</sup> March 2018....

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## Quality Assurance Data

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## Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) in support of the construction works at Culzean Castle, South Ayrshire. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate adverse impact on the archaeological remains from the installation of new overspill carpark.
2. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd has been appointed by the NTS to undertake the implementation of archaeological mitigation works in response to guidance given by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) to South Ayrshire Council (SAC). The scope of these works has been agreed with WoSAS and SAC by the NTS through a Method Statement (MS) (Rees 2018). All works undertaken comply with the agreed MS.
3. It is known from previous works by NTS and Rathmell Archaeology carried out in 2016 and 2017 that there is a rich history of human occupation at Culzean. Flint scatters within Culzean castle estate were first identified by (Alexander, 2016). These works related to a carpark extension at Home Farm where a number of lithic scatters were identified which included a number of tools. The lithic material recovered would suggest early prehistoric activity (possible Mesolithic or early Neolithic) at Culzean. For a more detailed historical background for the Culzean estate see (McKinstry, 2016).

## Project Works

4. The overspill carpark is located approximately 200m southeast of Home farm, directly south of the previous car park expansion works at Home Farm (Figure 1). The works were undertaken from 27<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2018, however initial ground breaking works had already commenced prior to Rathmell Archaeology's archaeologist arrival on site. The programme of works consisted of the monitoring of the proposed overspill carpark, which ran from east-west along the southern edge of the events field (stretching from the access road to Home farm in the west to an existing utilities structure in the east). The area was machine stripped, under archaeological supervision, by two 13-tonne 360° mechanical excavators with flat trenching buckets and one bulldozer. Due to extreme weather conditions on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February the final 20m stretch at the eastern end of the strip was not monitored (Figure 2a-2b).

## Findings

5. The existing topsoil within the development area (002) comprised of plastic, dark orange-brown, silty clay, with medium sub angular inclusions. The topsoil layer had a maximum thickness of 150mm. Beneath the topsoil layer lay orange netting (006), presumably associated with landscaping carried out after the previous phase of works (Figure 3a). Beneath the (006) lay an upper subsoil layer (003) which comprised of friable, mid orange-brown, sandy silt, with small stone inclusions. This layer had a maximum thickness of 150mm. Underlying the upper subsoil layer (003) lay another subsoil layer (001) which comprised of compacted, mid brown-orange, sandy-clay, with medium sub-angular inclusions (Figure 3b).
6. Approximately 120m along the strip a stone built culvert was identified [004] orientated north-south. The culvert was approximately 1.62m in length and 660mm wide. The culvert [004] was 3 courses deep measuring 440mm deep, 4 large capping stones were present each measuring approximately 600mm, [004] was filled by (005) friable, mid orange grey, silt with infrequent charcoal inclusions. Measuring 400mm high x 300mm wide (Figure 4a).

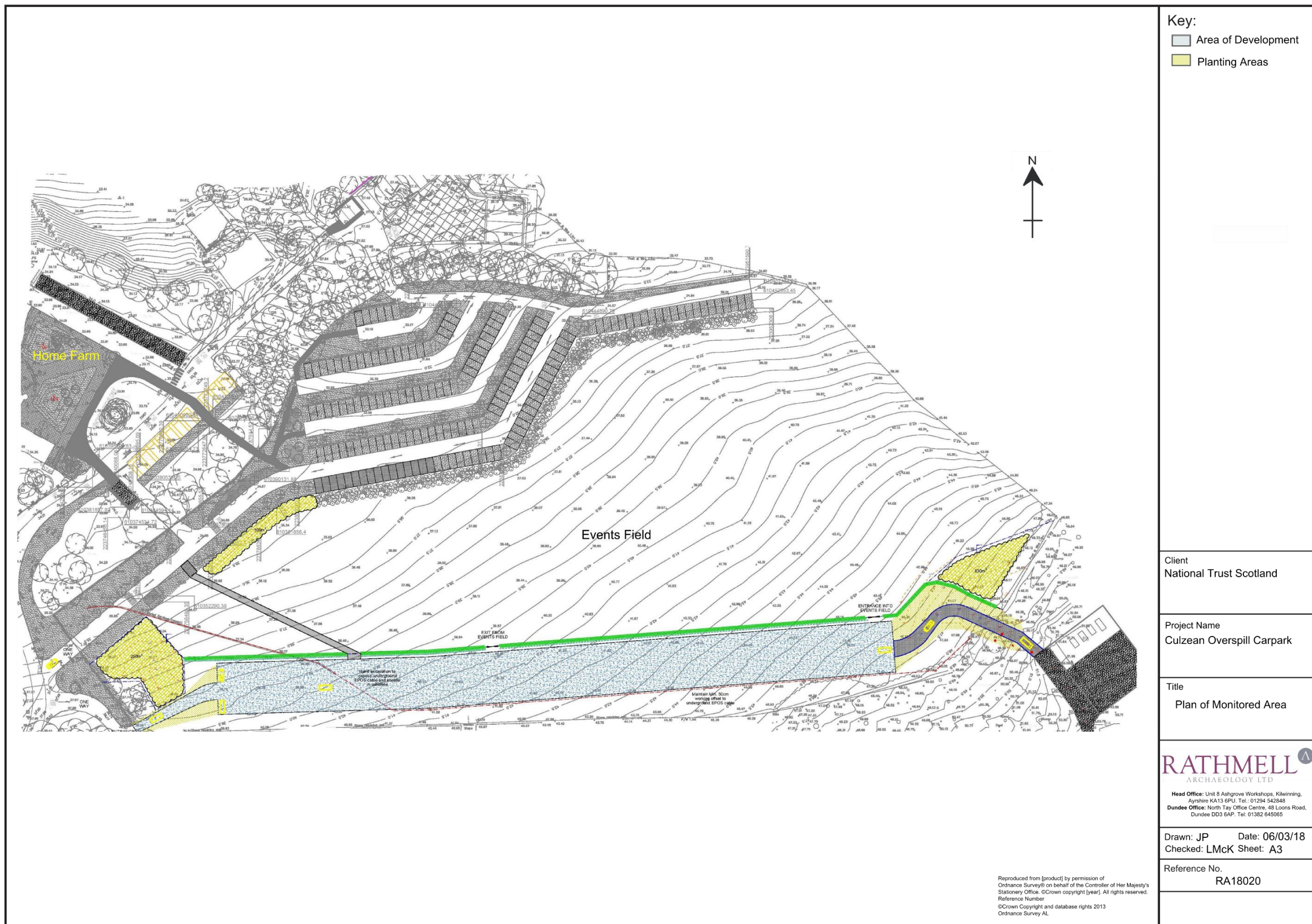


Figure 1: Site Location Plan.



Figure 2a: From eastern limit of excavation, unmonitored area.



Figure 2b: From eastern limit of excavation, unmonitored area.



Figure 3a: Orange netting (006) under topsoil, seen along length of excavation.



Figure 3b: North facing section showing natural (001), topsoil (002) and subsoil (003).



Figure 4a: South facing shot of culvert [004] north facing section.



Figure 4b: South facing shot of North facing section through culvert [004] view of interior.



## Discussion

7. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were discovered within the monitored area to the south of Home Farm. It seems, from previous archaeological works, that the concentration of prehistoric activity was on the lower ground to the north and west. Even in the area to the north the prehistoric activity was much less than in the westernmost area.
8. The next phase of activity identified within the area was the 18th or 19th century stone lined culvert [004] which showed early attempts at landscape and drainage management. More modern (or recent) activity was noted in the orange netting (006) which was used to consolidate the topsoil in a landscaped area within and close to the stripped area.
9. The continued use and improvement from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards could have potentially removed prehistoric features and artefacts from the development area. The sloping nature of the field may also have washed many possible artefacts downwards to the north and west, possibly explaining why there was concentrations of prehistoric material there.

## Recommendations

10. This Data Structure Report covers archaeological works undertaken in support construction works at Culzean castle, overspill car park.
11. The archaeological monitoring works identified a stone lined culvert from 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified and as such it is recommended that no further work will be required.
12. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with the representative of the West of Scotland Archaeological Service.

## Conclusion

13. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for the National Trust for Scotland to report archaeological works undertaken in the grounds of Culzean Castle, South Ayrshire. These works were in support of the planned installation of a new overspill car park to the northeast of Culzean Castle. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the affected areas.
14. An open area was stripped to identify any archaeological features within the proposed development area, a stone lined culvert dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century was identified. It related to early drainage and landscaping attempts within the castle grounds. No other features or artefacts were identified during the monitoring.

## References

- Alexander, D (2016) *Culzean Castle and Country Park Infrastructure Project: Home Farm Events Field Car Park – Project Outline or Archaeological Evaluation* Unpublished WSI, National Trust for Scotland.
- Durnan, J (2017) *Carpark Improvements, Culzean, South Ayrshire: Archaeological Mitigation, Data Structure Report* Unpublished, DSR, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd.
- McKinstry, L (2016) *Home Farm Carpark, Culzean, South Ayrshire- Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report* Unpublished DSR, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd.
- Rees, T (2018) *Overspill Carpark, Culzean Castle: Archaeological Mitigation Method Statement* Unpublished, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd.

## Appendix 1: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site during the monitoring works.

### *Context Register*

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Deposit	Compacted, mid brown orange, sandy-clay, Medium sub angular inclusions.	Natural
002	Deposit	Plastic, dark orange brown, silty-clay, medium sub angular inclusions, 0.15m thick	Topsoil
003	Deposit	Friable, mid orange brown, sandy silt, with small inclusions, 0.15m thick	Subsoil
004	Feature	Stone built culvert	Culvert
005	Deposit	Friable, mid orange grey, silt with infrequent charcoal inclusions.	Fill of culvert
006		Orange netting beneath topsoil (002)	Orange netting

### *Photographic Register*

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
1	3012	Area stripped before archaeologist present	W	27/8/18
2	3013	Area stripped before archaeologist present	NW	27/8/18
3	3014	Area stripped before archaeologist present	E	27/8/18
4	3015	Working shot	W	27/8/18
5	3016	Level of natural compared to level of machine	W	27/8/18
6	3017	Level of natural compared to level of machine	W	27/8/18
7	3018	Level of natural compared to level of machine	W	27/8/18

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
8	3019	Level of natural compared to level of machine	W	27/8/18
9	3020	Level of natural compared to level of machine	W	27/8/18
10	3021	Working shot	SW	27/8/18
11	3022	Area stripped before morning break	E	27/8/18
12	3023	Area stripped before morning break	SE	27/8/18
13	3024	Possible culvert	N	27/8/18
14	3025	Working shot of second machine	E	27/8/18
15	3026	Working shot of both machines	SE	27/8/18
16	3027	Working shot of both machines	SE	27/8/18
17	3028	Culvert post ex	S	27/8/18
18	3029	Culvert post ex	S	27/8/18
19	3030	Culvert post ex	P	27/8/18
20	3031	Bulldozer compacting bund	NW	27/8/18
21	3032	Bulldozer compacting bund	NW	27/8/18
22	3033	Bulldozer compacting bund	NW	27/8/18
23	3034	Culvert post ex	N	27/8/18
24	3035	Culvert post ex	P	27/8/18
25	3036	Netting under topsoil	-	27/8/18
26	3037	Netting under topsoil	-	27/8/18
27	3038	Netting under topsoil	W	27/8/18

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
28	3039	Bulldozer and machine stripping	NNE	27/8/18
29	3040	Bulldozer and machine stripping	NNE	27/8/18
30	3041	Working shot of both machines stripping.	NNE	27/8/18
31	3042	Bulldozer stripping	NW	27/8/18
32	3043	Bulldozer stripping	E	27/8/18
33	3044	Working shot both machines stripping	SE	27/8/18
34	3045	North facing section	N	27/8/18
35	3046	End of day	ENE	27/8/18
36	3047	End of day	E	27/8/18
37	3048	End of day	WSW	27/8/18
38	3049	End of day	NW	27/8/18
39	3050	End of day	NW	27/8/18
40	3051	Working shot both machines stripping	W	27/8/18
41	3052	Working shot both machines stripping	W	28/8/18
42	3053	Spreading gravel	E	28/8/18
43	3054	Unmonitored area	NNE	28/8/18
44	3055	Unmonitored area	NE	28/8/18
45	3056	Unmonitored area	E	28/8/18
46	3057	Unmonitored area	W	28/8/18
47	3058	End of day	W	28/8/18

<b>Image No.</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Date</b>
48	3059	End of day	E	28/8/18
49	3060	End of day	E	28/8/18

## Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	South Ayrshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Culzean Overspill Carpark
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	RA18020
<b>PARISH:</b>	Kirkoswald
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Jack Portwood
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR</b> (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 23857 10319
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (may include information from other fields)	<p>This Data Structure Report has been prepared for National Trust for Scotland (NTS) in support of the construction works at Culzean Castle, south Ayrshire. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate adverse impact on the archaeological remains from the installation of new overspill carpark.</p> <p>This Data Structure Report has been prepared for the National Trust for Scotland to report minor archaeological works undertaken in the grounds of Culzean Castle, South Ayrshire. These works were in support of the planned installation of a new overspill car park to the northeast of Culzean Castle. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the affected areas.</p> <p>An open area was stripped to identify any archaeological features within the proposed development area, a stone lined culvert from 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century was identified which related to early drainage and landscaping attempts within the castle grounds. No other features or artefacts were identified during the monitoring.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	National Trust for Scotland
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to National Record of the Historic Environment

## Contact Details

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