

Brodick Castle Signs, Arran: Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report



by Jack Portwood

issued 4th April 2018

on behalf of National Trust for Scotland

RATHMELL 
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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.

Signed  Date4th April 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  Date4th April 2018....

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) in support of the implementation of new signage around Brodick Castle, Arran. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate adverse impact on the archaeological remains from the installation of new signage to the area around the Castle.
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). The scope of these works has been agreed with WoSAS and the planning authority by NTS through a Method Statement (Krischer 2018). All works undertaken comply with the agreed Method Statement (MS).
3. The history and development of Brodick Castle is well documented. A detailed analysis of the building's (Addyman Archaeology 2006) and archaeological aspects of the property are detailed in the Trust's document An Archaeological Guide to Brodick Castle, Country Park and Goatfell, Isle of Arran (National Trust for Scotland 2013). The latter includes a list of known archaeological interventions. For a concise summary which distils the main points of both documents, refer to the recent Conservation Plan issued on behalf of the NTS by Robert Potter & Partners LLP (Easton and Moffat 2015).

Project Works

4. The programme of works comprised the monitoring of eight hand dug pits (see table 1) around the castle and the walled garden to the east. These works were undertaken on 21st March 2018 all pits here hand excavated except pit 5 where a one tonne mechanical excavator with a narrow toothed bucket was used.

Findings

5. The existing topsoil within the grounds at Brodick Castle (001) comprised of a friable, dark, grey brown, clay-silt with no inclusions. The topsoil layer had a maximum thickness of 100mm-150mm. To the south of the castle the topsoil was replaced by a gravel pathway (003) running northeast-southwest round the foot of the castle. The pathway consisted of a loose, mid, brown-grey, gravel, with frequent small stone inclusions. Beneath the topsoil and gravel lay a subsoil layer (002) which comprised a loosely compacted, dark brown-orange sandy-silt, with medium to small sandstone inclusions. This layer had a minimum thickness of 400mm. To the east of the castle the subsoil (004) consisted of a friable, dark orange- brown, clay-silt, with small stone inclusions.
6. Pits 1, 2, were located along and cut into the gravel footpath (003) which ran in a northeast-southwest direction along the front of the castle (Figure 1). Pit 1 was approximately 6m south of the castle to the left of the stone steps leading up to the castle from the gardens to the south. Pit 1 Measured 500mm from northeast-southwest, 570mm from northwest-southeast and was 350mm deep. The pit contained subsoil (002) beneath the gravel surface (003) and produced nothing of archaeological significance. Comprising of two pits, Pit 2 was approximately 13m southeast of the castle, 42m northeast of Pit 3 and also cut into the gravel surface (003). Both of these pits measured 400mm from north-south, 400mm from east-west with a depth range of between 300mm-400mm. The pits contained subsoil (002) beneath the gravel surface (003) and neither pit produced anything of archaeological significance.
7. Pits 6, 7, 8 were located along a grass verge 17m east of the castle and 10m from the stone steps leading to the walled garden to the southeast (Figure 1). Each pit measured 400mm from northwest-southeast, 300mm from northeast-southwest and was 400mm deep. All three of the Pits contained subsoil (002) beneath the topsoil (001) and produced nothing of archaeological significance.
8. Pits 3 and 4 were both positioned along the northwest running wall of the walled garden to the east of the castle (Figure 1), cutting into the grass verge (001). Pit 3 was located 10m from the stone steps to the southwest and in front of a pre-existing sign. The pit measured 400mm from north-south, 400mm from east-west and was 360mm deep. The

pit contained subsoil (002) beneath the topsoil (001) and produced nothing of archaeological significance. Pit 4 was located to the northeast and to the immediate right of the most northerly entrance to the walled garden and approximately 15m from Pit 3. The pit measured 400mm from southeast-northwest, 400mm from northeast-southwest and was 400mm deep. Pit 4 contained the subsoil (002) beneath the existing topsoil (001) and produced one fragment of mid-late 19th century ceramic drain pipe.

9. Pit 5 was located on the grass verge (001) to the west of the castle, approximately 23m from the southwest facing wall of the castle courtyard (Figure 1). Situated left of the intersection between two paths running northwest and southwest both of which allowing access to the castle. The pit measured 1.50m from northwest-southeast, 550mm from northeast-southwest and was 700mm deep. The pit contained subsoil (004) beneath the existing topsoil (001) and produced nothing of archaeological significance.

Discussion

10. The topsoil (001) and gravel path (003) represented the existing modern landscaping within the castle grounds. The subsoil layer (002), due to its inclusions, may represent redeposited or disturbed subsoil from previous phases of historic demolition and landscaping within the castle grounds.
11. One of the pits, Pit 4, produced a fragment of mid-late 19th century ceramic drainage pipe which was presumably part of improvements to the walled gardens. No other pits produced anything of archaeological significance.

Recommendations

12. This Data Structure Report covers archaeological works undertaken in support of the installation of new signage at Brodick Castle, Arran.
13. The archaeological monitoring works identified only layers relating to previous cycles of landscaping relating to the garden and grounds at Brodick castle. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified and as such it is recommended that no further work will be required.
14. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with the representative of the West of Scotland Archaeological Service.

Conclusion

15. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for the National Trust for Scotland to report minor archaeological works undertaken in the grounds of Brodick Castle, Arran. These works were in support of new signage around Brodick Castle. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the affected areas.
16. In total, eight pits were excavated, seven by hand one by machine. These identified layers relating to previous phases of landscaping and improvement. No other significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified.

References

Addyman, T. and Oram, R., 2009. *Historic Building Survey and Analytical Assessment: 2006-8. Volume 1: General Report* Unpublished report: Addyman Archaeology.

Easton, A. and Moffat, P., 2015, *Conservation Plan: Brodick Castle, Brodick, Isle of Arran* Unpublished conservation management plan: Robert Potter & Partners LLP.

Krischer, S. (2018) *Brodick Castle Signs, Archaeological Mitigation- Method Statement*. Unpublished MS: Rathmell Archaeology Ltd.

McKinstry, L. (2018) *Brodick Castle Fire Risk Mitigation, Arran: Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished WB: Rathmell Archaeology Ltd.

National Trust for Scotland, 2013, *An Archaeology Guide to Brodick Castle, Country Park and Goatfell, Isle of Arran.*

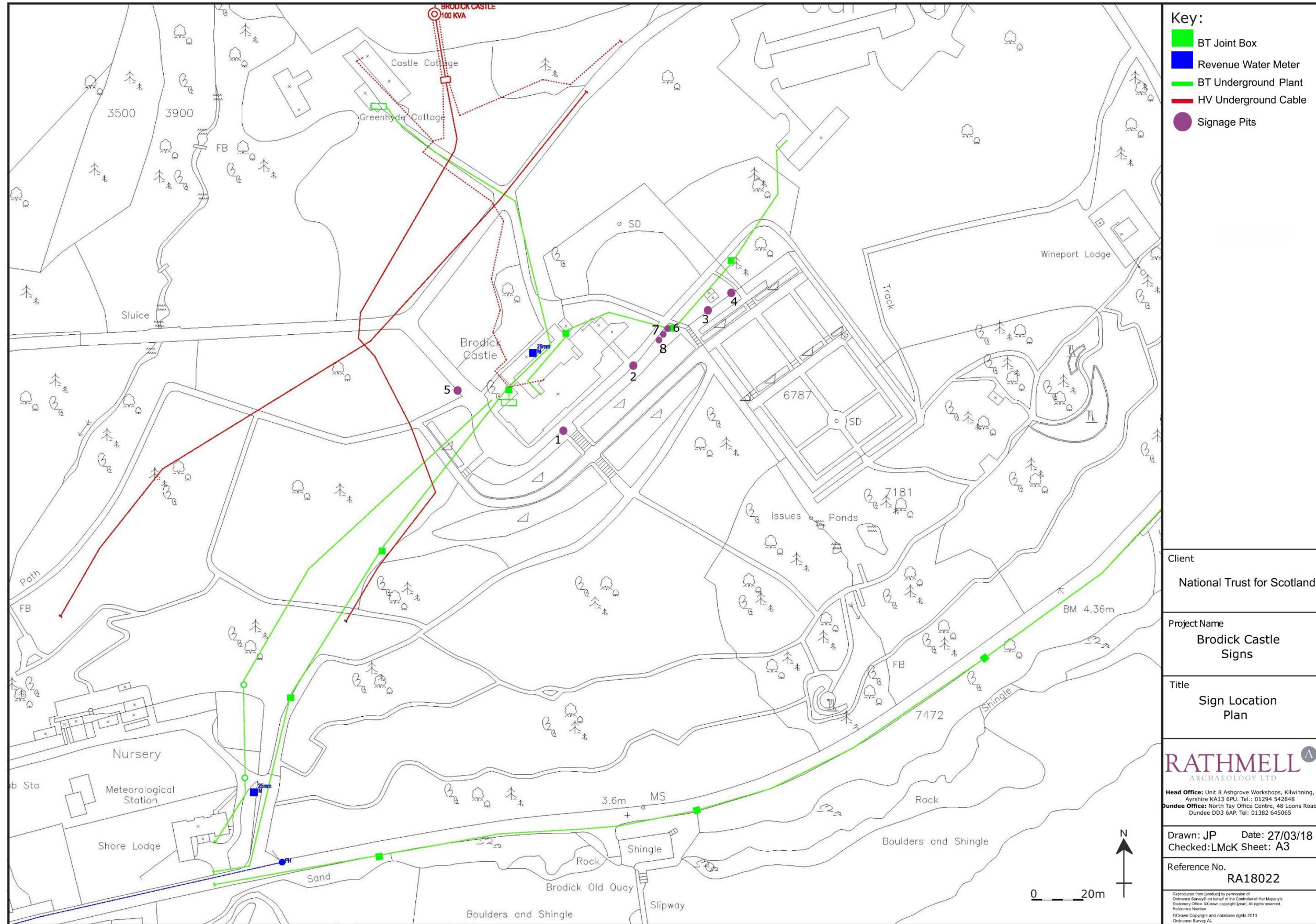


Figure 1: Site Location Plan.



Figure 2a: Pit 5 (E) topsoil strip preparation from machine excavation. From SW



Figure 2b: Pit 5 (E) Machine excavation narrow toothed bucket. From SE





Figure 3a: Pit 2 (?) working shot of hand excavation. From E







Figure 3b: Pit 3 (D) Working shot of hand excavation. From SW.



Appendix 1: Tables

Table 1: Pit Gazetteer

Pit No. (Rathmell)	Pit No. (Client)	NGR	Size	Deposits	Significant Features	Artefacts	Image
1	F	NS 01566-37847	500mm x 570mm x 350mm	(003) Modern gravel layer, (002) Possible demolition layer / made ground	None	None	
2	?	NS 01597-37876	550mm x 500mm x 300m 500mm x 500mm x 400mm	(003) Modern gravel layer, (002) Possible demolition layer / made ground	None	None	

Pit No. (Rathmell)	Pit No. (Client)	NGR	Size	Deposits	Significant Features	Artefacts	Image
3	1	NS 01631-37902	400mm x 400m x 360mm	(001) Garden topsoil, (002) Possible demolition layer / made groud	None	None	
4	D	NS 01645-37912	400mm x 400mm x 360mm	(001) Garden topsoil, (002) Possible demolition layer / made ground	None	Fragment ceramic drain	

Pit No. (Rathmell)	Pit No. (Client)	NGR	Size	Deposits	Significant Features	Artefacts	Image
5	E	NS 01631-37902	1500mm x 550mm x 700mm	(001) Garden topsoil (004) subsoil	None.	None	
6	2a	NS 01612-37895	400mm x 300mm x 400mm	(001) Garden topsoil, (002) Possible demolition layer / made ground.	None	None	

Pit No. (Rathmell)	Pit No. (Client)	NGR	Size	Deposits	Significant Features	Artefacts	Image
7	2b	NS 01612-37895	400mm x 300mm x400mm	(001) Garden topsoil, (002) Possible demolition layer / made ground.	None	None	
8	3	NS 01612-37895	400mm x 300mm x400mm	(001) Garden topsoil, (002) Possible demolition layer / made ground.	None	None	

Appendix 2: Registers

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

Context Register

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Deposit	Friable, dark, grey brown, clay-silt, no inclusions.	Topsoil
002	Deposit	Loose, dark, brown orange, sandy-silt, medium to small sandstone inclusions.	Subsoil
003	Deposit	Loose, mid, brown grey, gravel, frequent small stone inclusions	Modern gravel
004	Deposit	Friable, dark orange- brown, clay-silt small stone inclusions	Subsoil

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
1	3076	Setting shot Pit 5 (E)	NW	21/03/18
2	3077	Setting shot Pit 5 (E)	E	21/03/18
3	3078	EMTEC Compound	N	21/03/18
4	3079	Castle Courtyard	NE	21/03/18
5	3080	Castle Courtyard	ENE	21/03/18
6	3081	Castle Courtyard	S	21/03/18
7	3082	Castle Courtyard	W	21/03/18
8	3083	Setting shot Pit F	ESE	21/03/18

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
9	3084	Working shot	NNW	21/03/18
10	3085	Post excavation of Pit 1 (F)	ENE	21/03/18
11	3086	Post excavation of Pit 1 (F)	ENE	21/03/18
12	3087	Post excavation of Pit 1 (F)	ENE	21/03/18
13	3088	Post excavation of Pit 1 (F)	ENE	21/03/18
14	3089	Ground Breaking Pit 5 (E)	S	21/03/18
15	3090	Setting/ grounding breaking Pit 2 (?)	E	21/03/18
16	3091	Working shot Pit 2 (?)	SSW	21/03/18
17	3092	Working shot Pit 2 (?)	N	21/03/18
18	3093	Post excavation Pit 2 (?)	E	21/03/18
19	3094	Post excavation Pit 2 (?)	E	21/03/18
20	3095	Post excavation Pit 2 (?)	E	21/03/18
21	3096	Post excavation Pit 2 (?)	E	21/03/18
22	3097	Setting shot Pit 3 (1)	NE	21/03/18
23	3098	Working shot Pit 3 (1)	N	21/03/18
24	3099	VOID	-	21/03/18
25	3100	Working shot Pit 3 (1)	NNE	21/03/18
26	3101	Post excavation Pit 3 (1)	NW	21/03/18
27	3102	Post excavation Pit 3 (1)	NW	21/03/18
28	3103	Post excavation Pit 3 (1)	NW	21/03/18

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
29	3104	Post excavation Pit 3 (1)	NW	21/03/18
30	3105	Setting shot Pit 4 (D)	WNW	21/03/18
31	3106	Setting / ground breaking shot Pit 4 (D)	NW	21/03/18
32	3107	Working shot Pit 4 (D)	SW	21/03/18
33	3108	Working shot of machine excavated Pit 5 (E)	SW	21/03/18
34	3109	Working shot of machine excavated Pit 5 (E)	SE	21/03/18
35	3110	Post excavation of Pit 5 (E)	SE	21/03/18
36	3111	Post excavation of Pit 5 (E)	NE	21/03/18
37	3112	Post excavation of Pit 5 (E)	NE	21/03/18
38	3113	Post excavation of Pit 4 (D)	NE	21/03/18
39	3114	Post excavation of Pit 4 (D)	NW	21/03/18
40	3115	Post excavation of Pit 4 (D)	NW	21/03/18
41	3116	Setting shot pits 6, 7, 8 (2a, 2b, 3)	NNE	21/03/18
42	3117	Setting shot pits 6, 7, 8 (2a, 2b, 3)	SW	21/03/18
43	3118	Ground breaking pits 6, 7, 8 (2a, 2b, 3)	NW	21/03/18
44	3119	Working shot pit group 6, 7, 8 (2a, 2b, 3)	NW	21/03/18
45	3120	Post excavation shot pits 6, 7, 8 (2a, 2b, 3)	NW	21/03/18
46	3121	Post excavation shot pits 6, 7, 8 (2a, 2b, 3)	NW	21/03/18
47	3122	Post excavation 6 (2a)	NW	21/03/18
48	3123	Post excavation 6 (2a)	NW	21/03/18

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
49	3124	Post excavation 6 (2a)	NW	21/03/18
50	3125	Post excavation 7 (2b)	NW	21/03/18
51	3126	Post excavation 7 (2b)	NW	21/03/18
52	3127	Post excavation 7 (2b)	NW	21/03/18
53	3128	Post excavation 8 (3)	NW	21/03/18
54	3129	Post excavation 8 (3)	NW	21/03/18
55	3130	Post excavation 8 (3)	NW	21/03/18
56	3131	Post excavation 6 (2a)	NW	21/03/18
57	3132	Post excavation 7 (2b)	NW	21/03/18
58	3133	Post excavation 8 (3)	NW	21/03/18
59	3134	Post excavation of 6, 7, 8 (2a, 2b, 3)	NW	21/03/18

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Brodick Castle Signs
PROJECT CODE:	RA18022
PARISH:	Kilbride
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jack Portwood
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)	NS 01558 37866
START DATE (this season)	21 th March 2018
END DATE (this season)	27 th March 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>This Data Structure Report has been prepared for the National Trust for Scotland to report minor archaeological works undertaken in the grounds of Brodick Castle, Arran. These works were in support of new signage around Brodick Castle. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the affected areas.</p> <p>In total, eight pits were excavated, seven by hand one by machine. These identified layers relating to previous phases of landscaping and improvement. No other significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	National Trust for Scotland
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 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 Record of the Historic Environment

Contact Details

17. Rathmell Archaeology can be contacted at our Registered Office or through the web:

Rathmell Archaeology Ltd
Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops
Kilwinning
Ayrshire
KA13 6PU

www.rathmell-arch.co.uk

t.: 01294 542848

f.: 01294 542849

e.: contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk

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