

**Marine & Coastguard Site,
Isle of Gigha:
Data Structure Report**



by Sarah Krischer

issued 11th May 2018

on behalf of Portakabin (Scotland) Limited

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  Date11th May 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  Date11th May 2018.....

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Author(s)	Sarah Krischer		
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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared on behalf of Portakabin (Scotland) Ltd in respect of the erection of a training facility building, associated vehicular access/parking and installation of a septic tank at the Marine and Coastguard site on the Isle of Gigha, Argyll and Bute. These archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area from the work. Argyll and Bute Council required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken.
2. The works were being carried out by Portakabin (Scotland) Ltd as a requirement of the granted planning consent (Planning Ref: 17/03194/PP). The West of Scotland Archaeology Services (WoSAS), who advise Argyll and Bute 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. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd were appointed by Portakabin (Scotland) Ltd to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works.
3. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on any archaeological remains within the development area. The works were carried out on the between the 30th of April and the 1st of May 2018.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. The Island of Gigha lies off the west coast of Kintyre and has been continuously inhabited since the prehistoric period. In the early Historic period the Island was part of the Kingdom of Dalriada and also home to one of the contemporaries of St Columba (Colm Cille) a monk called Catan whom the earliest known church on the Island was named after, Kilchattan. From the 8th century until the 15th century AD the Inner Hebrides, including Gigha, were part of Scandinavian Scotland, the latter stages of which would be under the Lordship of the Isles. The Island was controlled by the Clan MacNeill from the latter stages of the Lordship of the Isles until the start of the 19th century where it was to change ownership with some frequency until the 21st century when the local community formed the Gigha Heritage Trust in 2002 and bought the island on behalf of the local community.
5. The development area is located at the northern end of Ardmish Bay, close to the vehicular ferry jetty, and to the north-northeast of the main village on the island also called Ardmish. The northern part of Ardmish Bay is formed by a series of smaller bays with the northernmost one being known as Portan Sean Reidhe. There is one archaeological site located within the development area which is listed as an area of medieval rig and furrow (Canmore ID 88300) but in the comments within Canmore it is said to date to the 1940's. There are other areas of rig and furrow to the north of the site (Canmore IDs 88302 and 88299) and south of the village of Ardmish (Canmore ID 88241) which are also classified as medieval in date but, again in the Canmore comments, are said to date to the 20th century though it is unclear in both instances as to why this is the case.
6. There are no prehistoric sites within the development area but there are a few sites close by such as a short cist burial (Canmore ID 38578) to the north of the school in Ardmish (400m southwest of the site) which was excavated in the 1920's and produced a plano convex flint knife. Another site close to Brae House (840m south-southwest of the site) consisted of 15 shallow carved cup marks (Canmore ID 88284) carved into exposed bedrock.
7. There are also a number of medieval sites close to the development area such as the ruins of an early medieval chapel (Canmore ID 38538) to the northwest of Ardmish (670m west of the site). A stone-lined well (Canmore ID 88305) which is filled from a natural spring located at the rear of the Ardmish Presbytery may have its origins in the early medieval period, as the earliest Christian activity is said to have centred on a holy well close to the earliest church. The present church at Ardmish was built in the 1920's but much of the stone used in its construction was from an earlier 18th century church and also incorporated remnant medieval stonework such as a font (Canmore ID 38542). The original location of the church, which dated back to at least the 13th century, lies adjacent to the Gigha Hotel beneath a modern carpark and is shown in both the 1st and 2nd edition



Figure 1a: Joan Baeu's 1654 Map of Scotland



Figure 1b: Robert Gordon's 1636-52 Map of Scotland

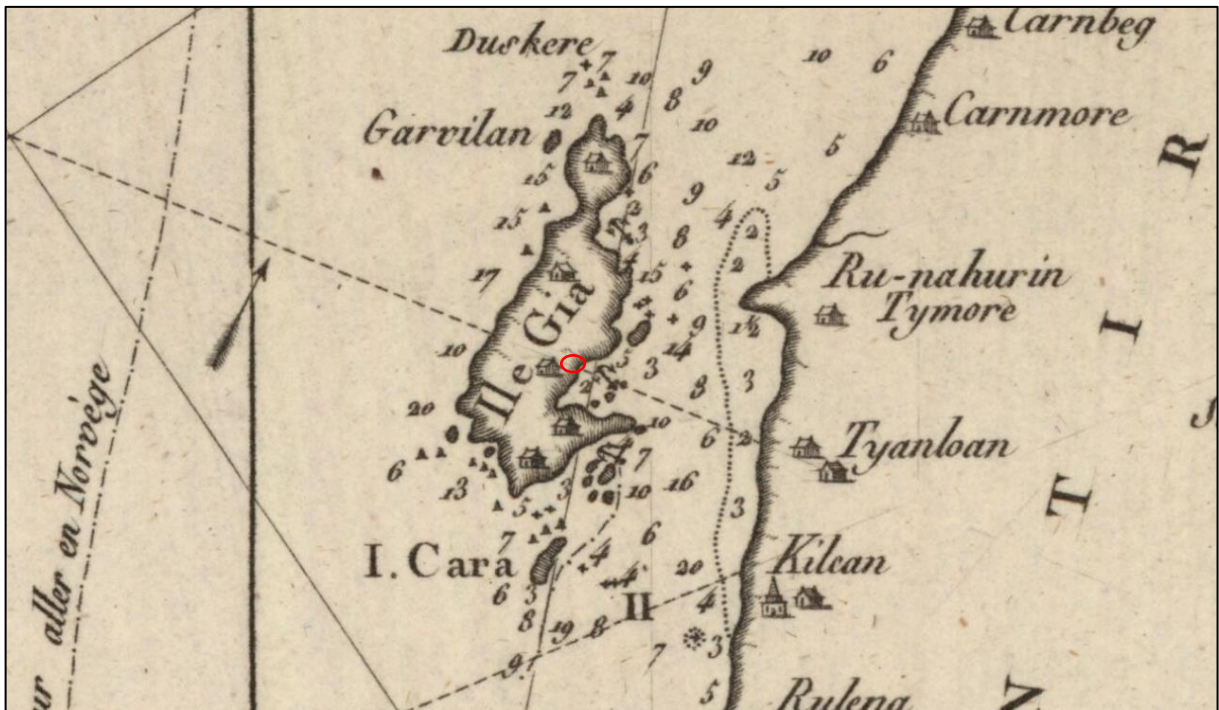


Figure 2a: French Admiralty chart from 1803.



Figure 2b: British Admiralty Chart from 1851

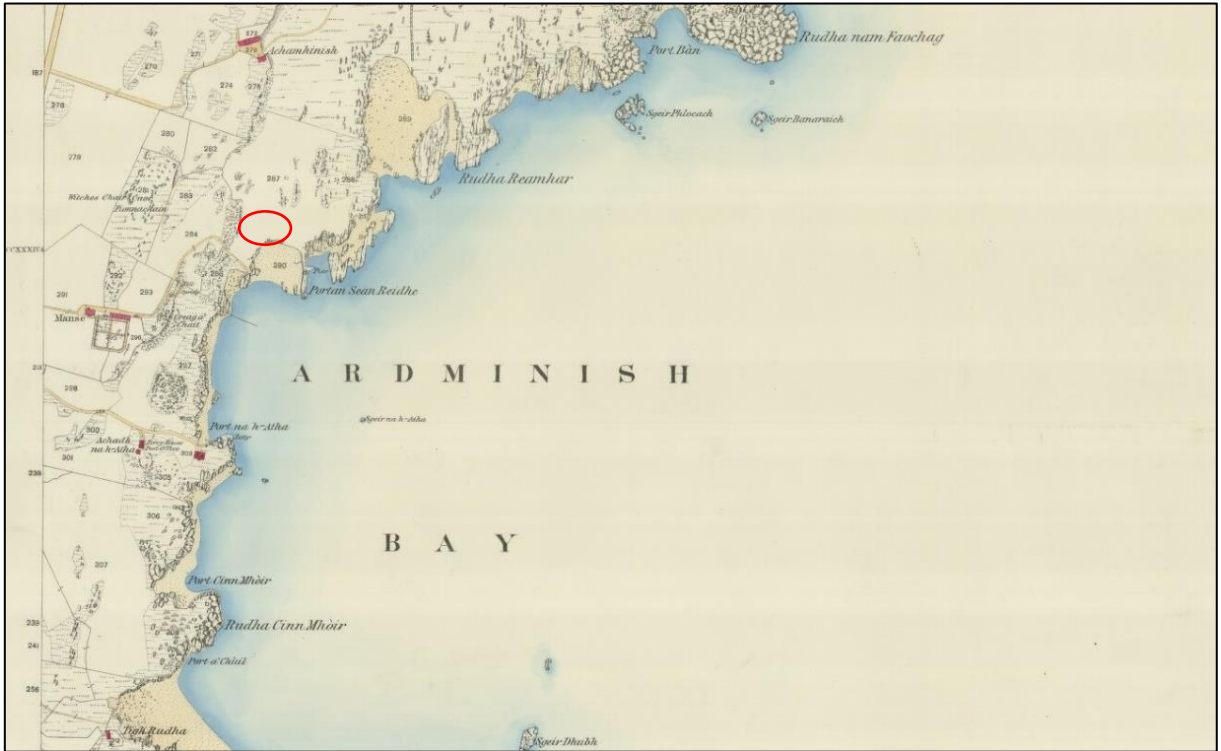


Figure 3a: 1st edition Ordnance Survey of Argyllshire and Buteshire (1870)

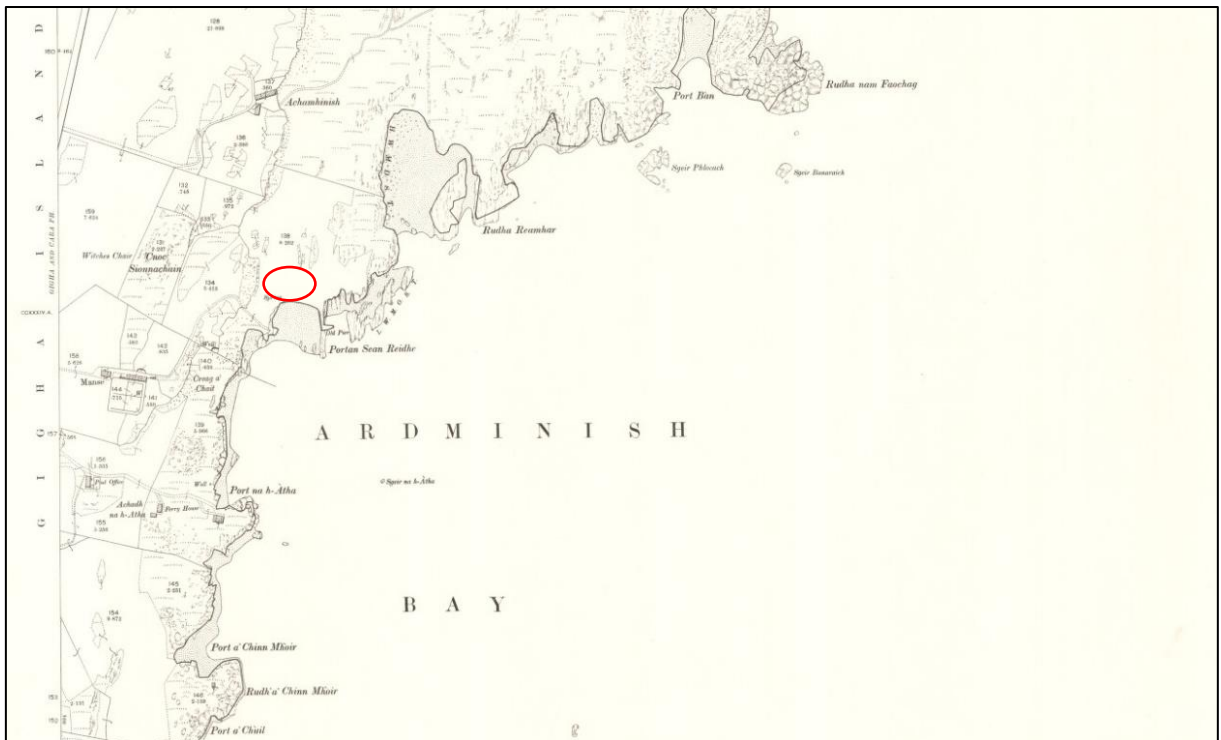


Figure 3b: 1st edition Ordnance Survey of Argyllshire (1900)

Ordnance Surveys for the Island (Figure 3a and 3b).

8. Though earlier historic maps of Gigha exist it is not until Joan Blaeu's map of 1654 (Figure 1a), which is based on the earlier maps of Timothy Pont, that the interior of the island is depicted. Robert Gordon's 17th century map (Figure 1b) shows more detail within Gigha depicting the major population centres and church sites such as kilchatt or Kilchattan.
9. The island, like much of the Hebrides, is not depicted in William Roy's map of the Highlands but the island does appear in early British Admiralty charts in the 18th century though a French chart from 1806 gives more details of the interior (Figure 2a). Later Admiralty charts of Gigha Sound from 1851 (Figure 2b) are as detailed as the later 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Surveys (Figures 3a and 3b) and clearly show the two stone jetties (Canmore ID 88306) at Port Sean Reidhe as well as many of the roads and notable buildings in Ardminish.

Project Works

10. The program of works comprised the monitoring of ground breaking works in advance of the construction of a training facility building, associated vehicular access/parking and installation of a septic tank at the Marine and Coastguard site on the Isle of Gigha, Argyll and Bute by Portakabin (Scotland) Limited. The development area footprint was roughly L-Shaped in plan (Figure 6). The works were carried out in compliance with the terms agreed in the method statement (McKinstry, 2018).
11. The development area footprint was roughly L-Shaped in plan with the site being divided into three areas (Figure 6). Area A was a 9.4m long section directly adjacent to the road that cut through the roadside bank and drainage ditch. Area B which made up the majority of the development area measured 10.9m wide at the southwest end and 6.50m at the northeast end and had a length of 23.9m. Area C was a smaller rectangular area at the northeast end of the development area which included a thin connecting strip connecting the area to Area B. The rectangular area measured 4.25m, northwest-southeast, by 3.4m, northeast-southwest. The connecting strip was 4m long and 1.6m wide.
12. The site was located on an area of rough pasture (Figure 4a) directly to the northwest of the road leading to the ferry slipway at the small bay, Portan Sean Reidhe. To the southeast of the road was a white sand beach and the bay. To the north of the development area were midsize outcrops of Amphibolite and Hornblende Schist. The site was roughly level. At the northeast of the development area the land opened out into a wide area of pasture that continued outwith the development area. This field is noted to contain rig and furrow (CANMORE ID 88300) that was recorded as being heavily ploughed down in 1993 (Hood, 1993). However, the rig and furrows were not visible during the archaeological monitoring works.
13. All potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded, with the on-site works taking place on the 30th April and 1st May 2018. All works were conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Findings

14. The area subject to watching brief comprised of the footprint of a training facility building, associated vehicular access/parking and installation area for a septic tank at the Marine and Coastguard site. The development area was located on an area of rough pasture next to the beach and had not been previously built upon. The footprint has been divided into three sections, Area A, B and C. The basic location of these areas are discussed above.
15. Area A was immediately adjacent to the road, and measured 9.4m by 3.5m wide. It consisted of a road side bank and ditch. The topsoil covering the bank, (005), consisted of a moderately compacted, dark brown silt with frequent root and small stone inclusions. Topsoil (005) covered the entirety of Area A with an average depth of 0.25m. Topsoil (005) overlay layer (006), a moderate to loosely compacted, mid-brown silty sand with frequent large stone inclusions. As with topsoil (005), layer (006) covered the entirety of Area A with a maximum thickness of 0.50m. Layer (006) overlay layer (004) which consisted of a

moderate to loosely compacted, light white-yellow sand with no inclusions. Layer (004) that covered the entirety of Area A and was excavated to a depth of 0.50m, except at the extreme northeast and southwest ends, which were excavated to a depth of 1.20m.

16. The existing ditch to the northwest of the bank was excavated to enable the placement of a culvert. The excavated area covering the ditch measured 9.40m long, 1.80m wide and had a depth of 1.20m. The topsoil within the ditch, (001), consisted of a moderate to loosely compacted, dark black-brown silty sand with frequent root inclusions. The topsoil, (001), had a depth of 0.25m along the excavated length of the ditch. Topsoil, (001), overlay layer (004) throughout much of the ditch (Figure 5a) with the exception of the northeast end of the ditch where the topsoil, (001), overlay an area of grey bedrock, (011), for a two meter long section.
17. Area B was excavated to a depth of between 0.20m and 0.30m across the entire development area and sloped gently downhill to the southeast. The area was covered in topsoil (001), which had a maximum depth within the area of 0.25m. In the southwest corner of the area (001) was not completely removed, although patches of layer (002) were uncovered in places. Layer, (002), consisted of a loosely compacted, orange-brown sand with frequent large stone inclusions. A 3m long stretch of grey bedrock, (011), was uncovered along the northwest edge of Area B at 8.5m from its southwestern edge. In the southern corner of Area B the topsoil, (001), overlay layer (003) a moderate to loosely compacted, orange-brown sand with no inclusions. The area covered by layer (003) was 10.1m from southwest to northeast and approximately 4m from northwest to southeast. Also in the southern corner of Area B, where it intersected with Area A, layer (003) was excavated through, to a depth of 0.10m, to expose a layer of white sand, (002). In the north-western 4m of Area B (001) was underlain directly by white sand (004) (Figure 4b).
18. Linear [010] cut into layer (004) in this north-western part of Area B. The linear was orientated in a north-south direction. The linear had a width of 4m, a width of 0.35m. The southern end of the linear entered the excavated area 2.5m from the north-eastern corner of Area B. The northern end left the development area just to the north of the beginning of Area C (See Figure 6). Linear [010] was filled with (009) a moderately compacted, dark brown silty sand with frequent root inclusions (Figure 5b).
19. Area C consisted of a thin excavated strip 4m long and 1.6m wide running northwest-southeast and a rectangular area 4.25m long northwest-southeast and 3.4m northeast-southwest. The thin strip was excavated to a depth of 0.3m and the rectangle to a depth of between 4m and 4.25m. The entirety of Area C was covered by topsoil (001) a dark blackish brown silty sand with frequent root inclusions which overlay white sand layer (002). Area C contained a linear feature, [008], which was orientated in a north-south direction through the rectangular area for a length of 4.8m. The linear appeared at the south side of the rectangle 0.7m from the southern corner and ran to the northern corner of the area (See figure 6). The linear was 0.35m wide and 0.25m deep. It was filled by (007) a moderately compacted, dark brown silty sand with frequent root inclusions. The cut of linear [008] was u-shaped in section, with a sharp break of slope at the top. The sides sloped at 45° and the base was concave (Figure 7). A small piece of plastic was found close to the base of the cut within fill (007).

Discussion

20. The watching brief centred on the excavation of the building footprint for the construction of the new coastguard training facility. In Area B, only naturally occurring bedrock and subsoil were uncovered. This included the upper layer of subsoil, (002), that was visible at the higher northwest side of the development area, orange sand layer (003) which appeared to be an interface between the subsoil layers (002) and (004), a white sand layer which was the lowest layer of subsoil identified (and appeared to be the same as the sand on the beach to the southeast of the development area). Areas of shallow bedrock were also found in the excavated area, particularly a patch at the west side of Area B and a section at the north-eastern end of the road side ditch.
21. The bank and ditch in Area A run alongside the road. The roadside ditch located within Area A provided drainage for the road, with the associated bank formed from material



Figure 4a: Pre-excitation photo of development area. Photo taken from the southwest.



Figure 4b: Post-excitation shot of excavation area showing Area B. Photo taken from the northeast.



Figure 5a: Post-excitation shot of roadside bank in Area A showing topsoil [005], bank fill [006] and sand [004]. Photo taken from the northwest.



Figure 5b: Pre-excitation shot of furrow [010]. Photo taken from the north.

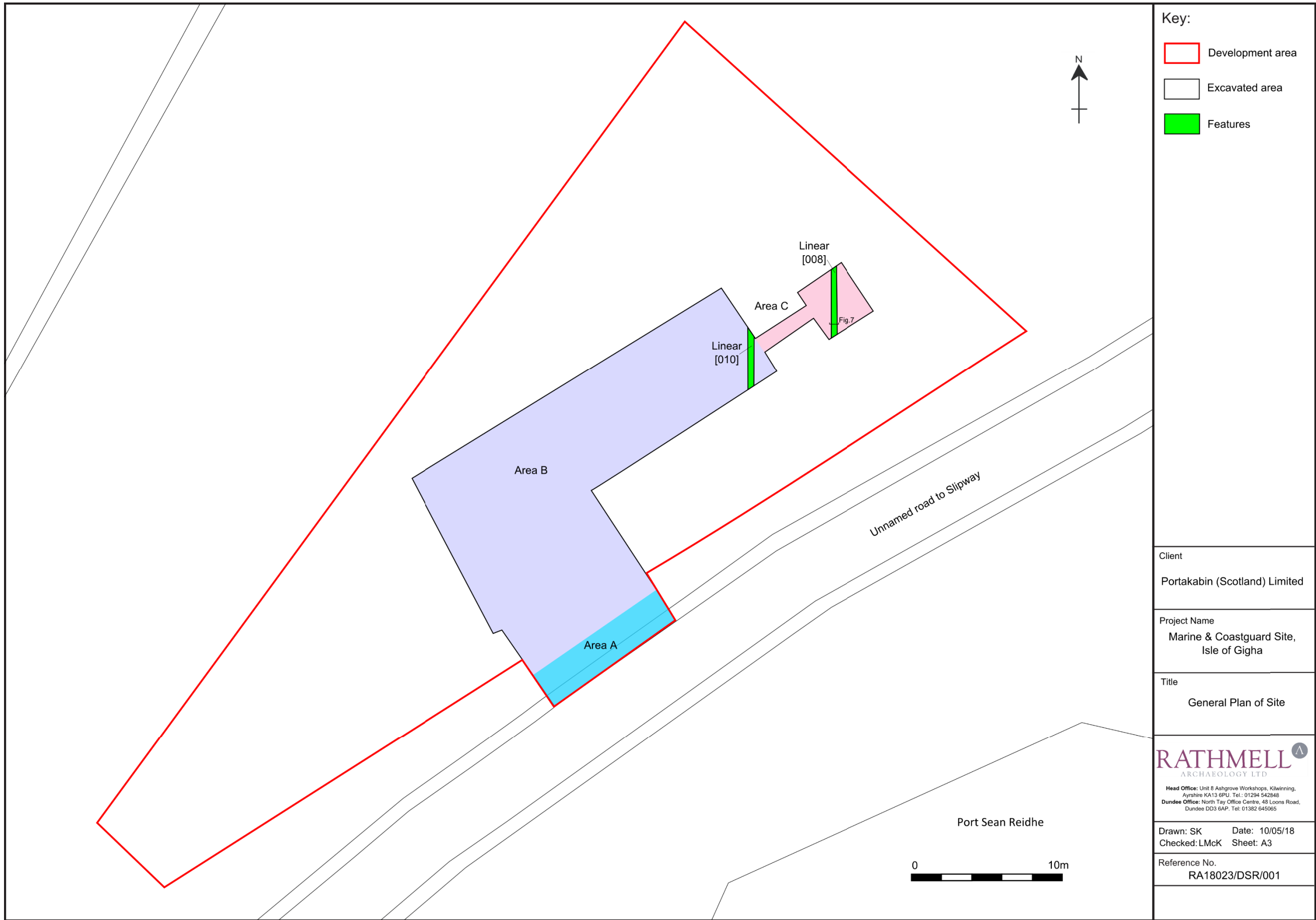


Figure 6: Plan of site showing excavation areas and location of furrows.

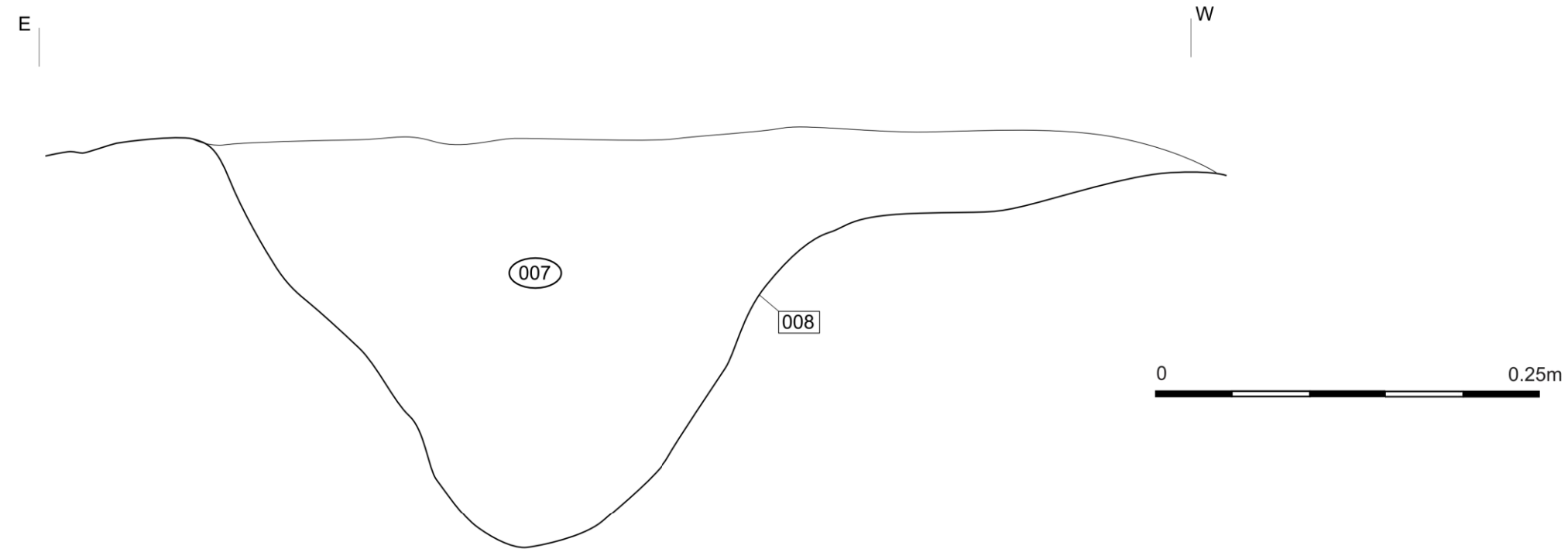


Section of furrow [008] from the North

Key:

— Context Boundary

○ 007 Context Number




Client	Portakabin (Scotland) Ltd
Project Name	Marine & Coastguard Site, Isle of Gigha
Title	Section of furrow [008]
 <p>Head Office: Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilmanning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU. Tel: 01294 542648 Dundee Office: North Tay Office Centre, 48 Loons Road, Dundee DD3 6AP. Tel: 01382 645065</p>	
Drawn: SK	Date: 08/05/18
Checked: LMCK	Sheet: A3
Reference No.	RA18028/DSR/002

Figure 7: Section of furrow [008].

extracted from the ditch. In addition material extracted from the ditch seems to have been used in raising the height of the road above the surrounding sand providing a stable foundation for the road surface. These features almost certainly date to the construction of the road. No road is depicted on the historical mapping around the Portan Sean Reidhe (Figure 3b) and it is likely that this section of road was built as part of the construction of the ferry slipway that opened in 1980 (Deayton 2015).

22. The linear features [008] and [010] are anthropic in nature. The two linear features were spaced approximately 5m apart, the same spacing which was recorded for the rig and furrows by Hood in 1993. The linear features had a uniform width of 0.35m with similar orientations, suggesting that these features were the remains of furrows. A piece of plastic sheeting was recovered close to the base of linear [008] within fill (007) which would support Hood's conclusions that the rig and furrows dated to the 1940s or later (1993). No traces of the rig and furrows remain in the wider landscape possibly suggesting that more recent agricultural activity had eroded away all surface traces since the area was surveyed in 1993.

Recommendations

23. This Data Structure Report covers archaeological monitoring works carried out on behalf of Portakabin (Scotland) Limited as a requirement of the granted planning consent (17/03194/PP).
24. The area covered by the archaeological monitoring works identified no significant archaeological features or artefacts within the development area. Two furrows were identified during the course of the monitoring, though the presence of plastic recovered from the fill of one of the furrows makes it likely that it was relatively modern in date. As such it is recommended that no further archaeological works are required as a direct consequence of these works.
25. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with Argyll & Bute Council and their archaeological advisors at the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).

Conclusion

26. Archaeological monitoring work was carried out for Portakabin (Scotland) Limited as a requirement of the granted planning consent (17/03194/PP). These archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area from the works.
27. The works covered the excavation of the footprint for a training facility building, associated vehicular access/parking and the installation of a septic tank for the new Marine and Coastguard site on the Isle of Gigha, Argyll & Bute. The works were carried out from the 30th April to the 1st May 2018. The majority of the excavated area was naturally occurring subsoil. A roadside ditch and bank, likely to date to the late 1970s, was excavated at the southern end of the development area. The only sub surface features identified were part of a 20th century rig and furrow system located in the north-eastern side of the development area. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified within the monitored area.

Acknowledgements

28. The author would like to thank the client Portakabin (Scotland) Limited for their support throughout the project. Thanks should also go to Liam McKinstry, Senior Archaeologist with Rathmell Archaeology Ltd for his input and editing.
29. In addition, this author would like to thank Martin O'Hare at the West of Scotland Archaeology Service for his help and advice throughout.

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Documentary

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Ordnance Survey, 1870, *Argyllshire and Buteshire CCXXXV.1 (Gigha and Cara)*

Ordnance Survey, 1900, *Argyll and Bute Sheet CCXXXV.NW*

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	Dark blackish brown silty and with frequent root inclusions. The deposit had a depth of 0.25m and was throughout Area B and C.	Topsoil
002	-	Deposit	Loose orangish-brown sand with frequent large stone inclusions. Found at the north-western side of site in Area B.	Natural subsoil.
003	-	Deposit	Moderately loose orange-brown sand with no inclusions. Had a minimum depth of 0.1m and found in Area B.	Natural subsoil.
004	-	Deposit	Moderately loose light- whitish yellow sand with no inclusions. Found throughout site.	Natural subsoil.
005	-	Deposit	Moderately compact dark brown silt with frequent root and small stone inclusions. Found on the 9.40m by 1.7m section of roadside bank excavated, with a depth of 0.25m.	Topsoil.
006	-	Deposit	Moderately loose mid-brown silty sand with frequent large stone inclusions. Found in the 9.40m by 1.7m section of roadside bank excavated, with a maximum depth of 0.5m.	Fill of bank.
007	-	Deposit	Moderately compact dark brown silty sand with frequent root inclusions. 0.35m wide and 4.8m long, with a depth of 0.25m	Fill of linear [008]
008	-	Cut	U-shaped cut with a sharp top, steeply angled sides and a concave bottom. Cut is oriented north-south and 0.35m wide x 0.25m deep. Linear is 4.8m long.	Cut of linear, fill (007)
009	-	Deposit	Moderately compact dark brown silty sand with frequent root inclusions. 0.35m wide and 4m long. Oriented north-south.	Fill of linear [010]

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
010	-	Cut	Cut of linear 0.35m wide x 4m long oriented north-south.	Cut of linear, fill (009)
011	-	Deposit	Very compact light grey rock of unknown depth. Found in Area A and B.	Bedrock

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
001	3221	Pre-excavation shot of site.	SW	30/04/18
002	3222	Pre-excavation shot of site.	SW	30/04/18
003	3223	Pre-excavation shot of site.	SW	30/04/28
004	3224	Excavated area showing (001) and (002).	SW	30/04/18
005	3225	Excavated area showing (001) and (002).	SW	30/04/18
006	3226	Section shot showing (001) and (002).	SE	30/04/18
007	3227	Section shot showing (001) and (002).	SE	30/04/18
008	3228	Pre-excavation shot of site.	N	30/04/18
009	3229	Pre-excavation shot of site.	NE	30/04/18
010	3230	Section shot showing (001) and (002).	SE	30/04/18
011	3231	Post-excavation shot of southern half of site.	SW	30/04/18
012	3232	Post-excavation shot of southern half of site	NW	30/04/18

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
013	3233	Working shot.	-	30/04/18
014	3234	Mid-excavation shot of centre portion of site	NW	30/04/18
015	3235	Mid-excavation shot of centre portion of site	NE	30/04/18
016	3236	Mid-excavation shot of centre portion of site	NE	30/04/18
017	3237	Section shot of liner [008].	NE	30/04/18
018	3238	Section shot of liner [008].	N	30/04/18
019	3239	Section shot of liner [008].	N	30/04/18
020	3240	Post-excavation shot of ditch.	NE	30/04/18
021	3241	Working shot.	-	30/04/18
022	3242	Post-excavation shot of ditch	SW	30/04/18
023	3243	Post-excavation shot central portion of site.	SW	30/04/18
024	3244	Working shot	-	30/04/18
025	3245	Post-excavation shot of ditch.	NW	30/04/18
026	3246	Post-excavation shot of ditch.	N	30/04/18
027	3247	Section of ditch.	SW	30/04/18
028	3248	Section of ditch.	SW	30/04/18
029	3249	Section of ditch.	NW	30/04/18
030	3250	Section of ditch.	NW	30/04/18

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
031	3251	Section at southwest end of area.	NE	01/05/18
032	3252	Section at southwest end of area.	NE	01/05/18
033	3253	Section at southwest end of area.	NE	01/05/18
034	3254	Section at southwest end of area.	NE	01/05/18
035	3255	Section at southwest end of area.	NE	01/05/18
036	3256	Section at southeast side of are.	NW	01/05/18
037	3257	Section at southeast side of are.	NW	01/05/18
038	3258	Section at southeast side of are.	NW	01/05/18
039	3259	Post-excavation shot with linear.	N	01/05/18
040	3260	Post-excavation shot with linear.	N	01/05/18
041	3261	North end of excavation area with linear [008].	N	01/05/18
042	3262	Shot of linear [010].	N	01/05/18
043	3263	Shot of linear [010].	N	01/05/18
044	3264	Shot of linear [010]	N	01/05/18
045	3265	Shot of linear [008].	N	01/05/18
046	3266	Section of linear [008].	N	01/05/18

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawn by	Date
001	1	-	Section	1:10	North facing section of furrow [008].	SK	01/05/18

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Argyll and Bute
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Marine and Coastal Site, Isle of Gigha
PROJECT CODE:	RA18028
PARISH:	Gigha and Cara
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)	NR 65223, 49073
START DATE (this season)	30 th April 2018
END DATE (this season)	1 st May 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological monitoring work was carried out for Portakabin (Scotland) Limited as a requirement of the granted planning consent (17/03194/PP). These archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area from the work.</p> <p>These works covered the excavation of the footprint for the construction of a training facility building, associated vehicular access/parking and the installation of a septic tank at the Marine and Coastguard site on the Isle of Gigha, Argyll & Bute. Works were carried out on the 30th of April and 1st of May 2018. The majority of the exposed area was natural subsoil. A roadside ditch and bank, likely to date to the late 1970s, was excavated at the southern end of the development area. Part of a 20th century rig and furrow system was excavated at the north-eastern side of the development area. . No earlier significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified within the monitored area.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Portakabin (Scotland) Ltd
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 HES Collections

Contact Details

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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