

Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership

Can You Dig It?

Community Archaeology Project

Data Structure Report

1.2.d The Castles of Kirkcudbright – Castledykes



by Claire Williamson
issued 5th November 2019



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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 Claire Williamson

Date5th November 2019.....

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

Checked Thomas Rees

Date5th November 2019.....

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Quality Assurance Data

Author(s)	Claire Williamson
Date of Issue	5 th November 2019 Version 1.0
Commissioning Body	Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme
Event Name	Castledykes, Kirkcudbright
Event Type	Test Pitting
Event Date(s)	July 2019
Rathmell Archaeology Code	RA18107
Location	United Kingdom : Scotland : Dumfries and Galloway
NGR	NX 67763 50938 Parish Kirkcudbright
Designation(s)	Scheduled Monument SM2459
Canmore IDs	64063

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report describes works undertaken for the sub-project on the Castles of Kirkcudbright, carried out as part of the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP) community archaeology project *Can You Dig It?* This report presents the results from test pitting works undertaken across the possible site of the bailey to the north of Castledykes in Kirkcudbright.
2. The works were carried out by volunteers supported by Rathmell Archaeology staff. The structure of the works was drawn from advice and guidance from officers of GGLP, Dumfries and Galloway Council and members of local heritage societies.

Historical & Archaeological Background

3. A brief historical and archaeological baseline for the site at Castledykes has been lifted from the Research Design for the sub-project (Williamson & Rees 2019, 4-7):

Robison writes that the first mention of the castle at Kirkcudbright was in 1288, when John Comyn, sheriff of Wigtown, was noted as being the guardian of 'the castle and lands which belonged to the King in Kirkcudbright' (Robison 1914). This castle was probably the structure erected at Castledykes. The office of guardian was combined with that of Dumfries and Wigtown in the 1291-2 records, and was held successively by William de Boyville, Walter de Curry, Henry de Boyville and Richard Suard with the castles named as the 'three castles of Galloway and Nithsdale' (Dunning et al. 1957-58). No accounts for expenditure on building or repair work, or incidental references to work there, have yet been traced for Kirkcudbright Castle however (Dunning et al. 1957-58).

During the first phase of the Wars of Independence, Edward I evidently intended Kirkcudbright as a supply port when his fleet lay off the Dee estuary in 1300 (Dunning et al. 1957-58). The castle was held by the English throughout this period with Edward I camping at Kirkcudbright for ten days in the summer of that year (Gourlay & Turner 1978, 2). Thereafter the king turned his attention to the east of Scotland leaving the west to his son Edward who may have come to Kirkcudbright in July 1301 on his journey to Cree, Loch Ryan and Ayr in the west (Ibid.). Kirkcudbright appears to have been used as potential supply base again in 1306 (Ibid.).

After Edward I's death in 1307, and Edward II's withdrawal from Scotland in the following year, the castle is unlikely to have been significantly used by the English, and the town was reported as waste in 1335-6 (Gourlay & Turner 1978, 2). The castle of Kirkcudbright was included in a grant of the lordship of Galloway to Edward Bruce, brother of the king, in the early 14th century, but virtually nothing was heard of the castle after that date (Ibid., 6). There is no record that the castle was used at all by the Douglas family up until their forfeiture in 1455 and the castle probably lay in ruin (Ibid., 2). Sir Thomas Maclellan acquired the site in 1577 and he probably used much of the material from the castle to build his house (Maclellan's Castle) which still stands within the town (Ibid.).

No upstanding structures remain of the castle and the site survives as a massive earthwork comprising a roughly oblong mound surrounded by a ditch. Excavations undertaken in the 1910s revealed the layout of the castle as a rectangular enclosure with a round tower at each corner and a substantial gatehouse to the northeast. Pottery recovered from the excavations were dated to the late 13th to early 14th century which matches with the short-lived period of use suggested by the historic references.

4. Further details are given about the earlier archaeological interventions (Williamson & Rees 2019, 7-8):

The motte at Castledykes was investigated through substantial excavation works

by J Robison in 1911, 1912 and 1913 (Robison 1914). These works were successful in recording the foundation courses for the curtain wall and corner towers of what appeared to be the late 13th to early 14th century castle. The layout was revealed to be a rubble-built rectangular enclosure with a round tower at each corner. The eastern tower formed one side of two externally buttressed gatehouse towers with the other sitting along the northeastern wall placing the entrance for the castle as coming from the northeast. The buttresses on the gatehouse towers and the adjacent curtain wall are unusual for this period but it is possible that they were designed to carry machicolations near the wall-top, perhaps even arched, as seen at Haughton Castle, Northumberland (Dunning et al. 1957-58). The footings at the western corner revealed this tower to be larger in size and it probably represented the keep. The plan reproduced by the excavators represents this tower as a later addition buttressing that corner of the enclosure inside and out, but this may perhaps represent the sequence of construction. The latter tower and the one to the north both contained the remains of a spiral staircase, which presumably gave access to the upper floors. Robison wrote that the defences of the outer bailey had disappeared but that he presumed they would have been on a stockade principle and, if so, that no trace of them would remain (Robison 1914).

Artefacts recovered from the excavations included pottery sherds, fragments of ironwork and a small-toothed comb made from bone. The finds were discussed in more detail by Dunning, Hodges and Jope in 1957-58 (Dunning et al. 1957-58). The pottery represented at least 50 jugs and four cooking pots. There were no dishes, bowls or more specialised shapes. At least six (and probably eight) of the jugs were imports from southwest France. Of the remaining a variety of styles and fabrics suggested several different sources, some probably being brought from England. A number showed an underlying uniformity of fabric which could have been made at or near Kirkcudbright. The French pottery was identified as being late 13th to early 14th century in date, with one fragment coming from a medieval polychrome pitcher, the only example of this type from Scotland at the time of the article. The transport of this pottery has been associated with the extensive Gascon wine trade to Britain.

Since then there have only been two further instances of archaeological interventions at Castledykes, both of which were small-scale and related to the presence of the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) which sits to the northwest. In 2002, Brann monitored a series of civil engineering test pits and boreholes in advance of a proposed expansion of the works (Brann 2002). No archaeological features were exposed during the works. Another watching brief was undertaken by Rathmell Archaeology in 2005 in support of the construction of a pipeline running to the works which involved a small section of pipe trench, a tie-in trench and two small test pits (Shaw 2006). These were positioned close to the road which surrounds the area to the southeast, northeast and northwest. No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded. The pits to the southeast and northeast revealed both red tile and rubble field drains, while those to the northwest which sat directly on the grass verge of the road revealed modern disturbance from BT, sewer and water services.

Project Works

5. The archaeological works focussed on the possible site of the bailey associated with the former castle at Castledykes in Kirkcudbright (**S2** in Williamson & Rees 2019). The site was located within fairly level amenity ground which sits to the north of the earthwork that forms the main visible component of Castledykes. Prior to the works, the area was overgrown with waist-high vegetation (Figures 1a and 1b).
6. The on-site works took place on the 19th and 20th July 2019 and consisted of a series of hand-excavated test pits located within the area. A total of 10 test pits were excavated with all soil sieved for artefacts.



Figure 1a: General shot of the area from the southeast



Figure 1b: Working shot of test pitting

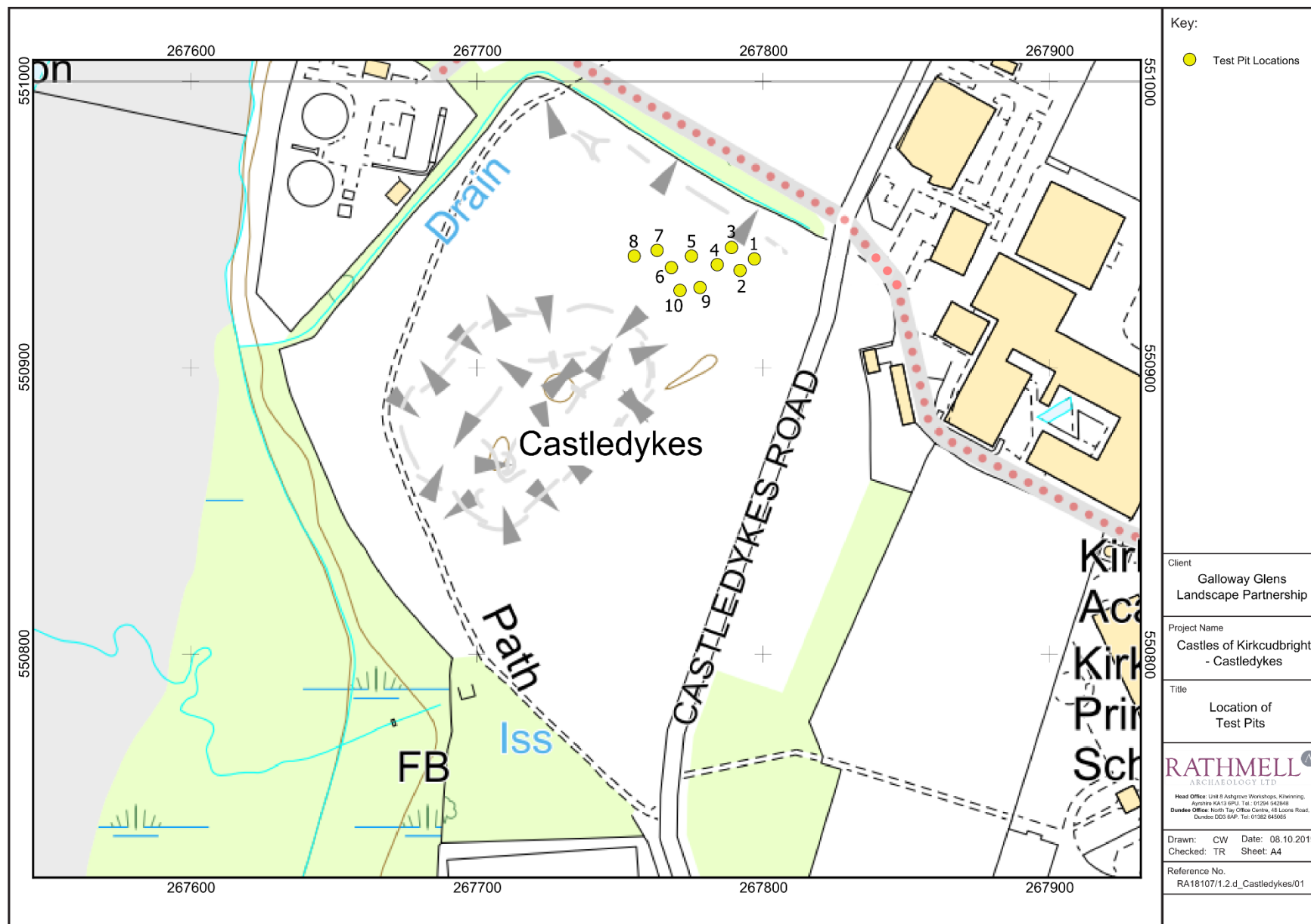


Figure 2: Plan showing the location of the test pits



Figure 3a: TP 3 from the south



Figure 3b: TP 10 from the east-southeast



Figure 4a: TP 8 from the northeast



Figure 4b: Flint core <67> from topsoil (001) in TP 9

7. All works were carried out using Rathmell Archaeology Ltd standard methods as outlined in the Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) (McKinstry 2019). The fieldwork was undertaken in a mixture of both wet and dry weather. In terms of structure, the core field team of Rathmell Archaeology staff and volunteers were on-site from 9am to 4pm.

Findings – Test Pits

8. 10 test pits (TP 1 – TP 10) were excavated across the area (Figure 2). The test pits were spaced at irregular intervals along roughly three lines running east-west covering a total area measuring roughly 15m north-south by 40m east-west. They each measured 0.5m square in plan and ranged in depth from 230 to 700mm.
9. Topsoil (001) formed the uppermost deposit across the area and comprises a moderately compacted mid-brown sandy clay with small- to medium-sized stone inclusions. It measured 400 to 500mm thick across TPs 1-8 (Figure 3a), and 580 to 700mm thick in TPs 9 and 10 (Figure 3b). The stone inclusions became a lot more frequent towards the base of the deposit within TPs 1-6 and were more frequent throughout the entire depth of the topsoil in TPs 7 and 8 (Figure 4a).
10. The topsoil was removed in TPs 1-5 and 7-8 to reveal possible natural subsoil (002). This consisted of a firmly compacted mid-orange yellow sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions. In TPs 9 and 10, possible natural subsoil (003) was revealed: a firmly compacted mottled mid-grey/orange/brown sandy clay with occasional rounded stones. The test pits stopped at the surface of these deposits.
11. The only test pit where natural subsoil was not revealed was TP 6 which was stopped while still within the topsoil (001) as the increased frequency of stone inclusions made it difficult to continue.
12. A number of artefacts were recovered from each test pit which are discussed in more detail below. Also included are a number of unstratified finds which were recovered from the area by a local resident and handed into us during the works (<1001> to <1007>).

Findings - Artefacts

By Louise Turner

13. The assemblage recovered from the test pits at Castledykes included ceramics, glass, metal, industrial residues, animal bone and coarse stone/lithics. The ceramics from Castledykes formed the dominant element of the assemblage, and were in turn dominated by modern material (Figure 7a). This represented a range of wares, including brown-glazed red earthenwares, glazed white earthenwares (mostly plain, but with some blue-and-white transfer-printed sherds present), stonewares and slipwares. These were likely to occupy a date range spanning the later 19th and early 20th centuries.
14. Some of these modern fabrics derived from wheel-thrown brown-glazed coarseware jars. These may have predated the mass-produced items detailed above, but with the production of these items continuing fairly late it is possible that they may have been coeval with the later wares, their manufacture spanning much of the 18th and early to mid-19th centuries. A tin-glazed porcelain or semi-porcelain figurine (from the unstratified collection of finds) and some glazed white earthenware with a dark creamy-yellow fabric and blue-tinged glaze may similarly have represented items manufactured earlier on in the modern period.
15. Arguably the most important component of this assemblage comprised a group of 20 sherds of medieval ceramic (Figure 5a). All of the sherds were of small size and often heavily abraded, which meant that form and decoration were absent, thus making a comparison with other assemblages difficult. However, on the basis of fabric alone, it was clear that the range of fabrics represented was entirely consistent with those recovered during the earlier excavations of 1911-14, and that they were comparable with medieval assemblages recovered from further afield, across Dumfries and Galloway.
16. Around a quarter of the medieval sherds recovered during these works comprised sherds of Scottish white gritty ware (e.g. <49>), with one sherd of red gritty ware (a fabric

commonly encountered at Whithorn – see Clarke 1997) also present.

17. Roughly half of the medieval assemblage comprised a soft, pinkish-red fabric, sandy in texture with quartz and mica inclusions (e.g. <48> and <70>). This appears to have been of similar character to pottery recorded during the 1911-14 excavations at Castledykes (Dunning *et al.* 1957-58) and comparable material that frequently occurs at medieval sites throughout Dumfries and Galloway, from Caerlaverock Old Castle in the east (Hall 2004) to Whithorn in the west (Clarke 1997). This pottery has been interpreted as a local ware; common decorative styles suggest that it was made in imitation of English wares sourced from as far afield as Somerset, with a French influence also noted at Kirkcudbright in the use of bridge spouts. Examples of this 'local' ware have, however, been found as far afield as Castle Street, Carlisle (Jope & Hodges 1955).
18. The local ware from Caerlaverock Old Castle was given a date range between the 1220s and the 1270s, which predates the known occupation of Castledykes (1288-1308). This may explain Haggerty's observation that while the late 13th century Saintonge found during the 1911-13 excavations matched the known occupation, the local wares do not quite correspond (Haggerty 1988, 167). There is the capacity with the assemblage of local ware pottery for material to date from the early to mid-13th century, potentially stretching the initial occupation of Castledykes back towards the 1220s.
19. Late medieval and post-medieval ceramics were almost entirely absent from the site. One sherd of late medieval greyware was recovered from TP 10 (<48>; Figure 5b), and a possible fragment of clay pipe bowl of late 17th century date recovered (Figure 6a), also from TP 10 (<52>), but other than these two items, the period spanning the 14th to 17th centuries is unrepresented.
20. Glass recovered from the site was almost entirely modern in character, with bottle glass and window glass present. The presence of thick-walled upright wine bottles and handblown rims from TPs 1 and 7 suggested a 19th century origin for these items, with clear window glass (post-dating the 1950s) recovered from TP 3 and TP 4. One fragment of window glass from TP 9 with a marked yellow-green tint (<72>) appeared to be of earlier origin, probably originating in the early modern or post-medieval period.
21. A small number of metal objects were recovered, including a Cu alloy cast thimble of late 17th or 18th century 'Lofting' type from TP 7 (<19>; Figure 6b), two waste fragments of lead, and two heavily corroded iron objects, probably nails. Roofing slates were also well-represented: though most of the fragments were undiagnostic, they probably post-date the late 17th century and most appeared to be local Scottish slate. Two fragments of Welsh slate must, however, post-date the mid-19th century (TP 9, <65>; TP 10, <50>). One lithic of interest was noted: a platform core of Neolithic or Bronze Age date (<67>) which had been used for the production of blades or flakes (Figure 4b). Some burnt animal bone was also recovered – this could be identified as mammalian, but the fragments were too small to be identified more definitively.
22. The last group, which was well represented throughout all of the test pits, comprised a variety of industrial residues. It was dominated by small fragments of unburnt or lightly burnt cannel coal and a roughly equal amount of heavily burnt fuel ash slag. A small number of metallurgical slags were also present, probably derived from iron smithing. It is unlikely that this material derived from domestic use alone, and it is entirely possible that this material derives from small-scale smithing activities. It should be noted, however, that the highest concentration of fuel ash slags (in TPs 9 and 10) do not necessarily coincide with metallurgical slags, which are concentrated in TP 2. While it is possible that the waste was generated outside the castle and dumped on the site, there remains the possibility that the slags and burnt material derive from activities carried out closer to hand in a period contemporary with the castle's occupation and use. Because this material is no longer *in situ*, a closer association cannot, however, be demonstrated.



Figure 5a: Sherds of medieval pottery <3>, <48> and <70> from topsoil (001) in TPs 3, 10 and 9 respectively



Figure 5b: Sherd of late medieval pottery <48> from topsoil (001) in TP 10



Figure 6a: Fragment of late 17th century clay tobacco pipe <52> from topsoil (001) in TP 10



Figure 6b: Late 17th or 18th century thimble <19> from topsoil (001) in TP 7



Figure 7a: Sherds of 18th to early 20th century pottery <9> and <17> from topsoil (001) in TPs 1 and 7 respectively

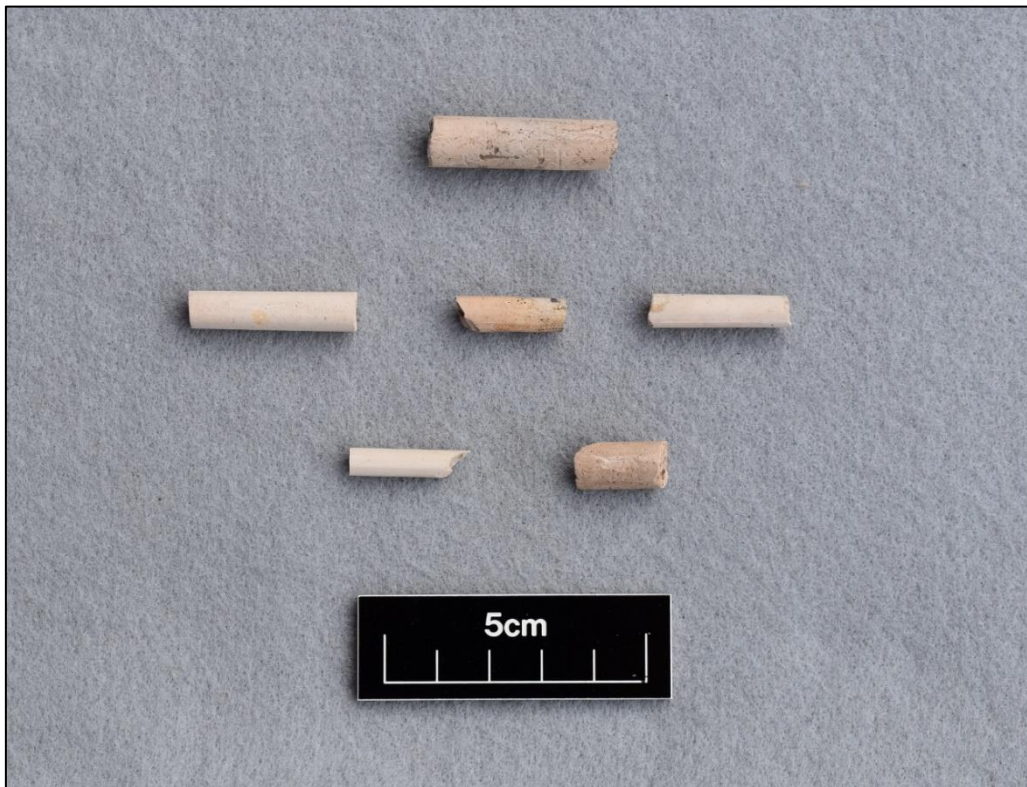


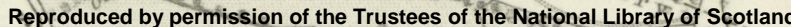
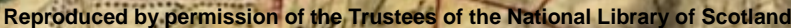
Figure 7b: Fragments of 19th and 20th century clay tobacco pipes <4>, <32>, <41> and <62> from topsoil (001) in TPs 3, 6, 4 and 7 respectively

Discussion

23. Over the course of two days, volunteers opened 10 test pits within the grassed area to the northeast of Castledykes motte, sieving all of the excavated spoil to aid artefact recovery. Their aim was to look for evidence of the bailey – the adjacent enclosure which acted as the centre of domestic life – and to add to the knowledge gained during the excavations of the motte in the 1910s (see Robison 1914).
24. No archaeological features were exposed within the test pits, which revealed a simple stratigraphy across the area of topsoil directly overlying possible natural subsoil. With the test pits only measuring 0.5m square in plan, the identification of the underlying subsoil as natural cannot be confirmed at this stage but remains likely; their sandy composition and stone inclusions appear to match the area's natural geology of sand, silt and gravel.
25. The presence of a large number of stones within the topsoil, particularly in TPs 7 and 8, was notable, although it is difficult to know exactly what it represents. Not particularly large in size, the majority of the stones were rounded in shape and it is possible that they could be natural: a result of the site being so close to the river. Perhaps they could represent dumped material from modern times, an activity which is indicated by some of the artefactual evidence (see below). It is also possible, however, that they could represent *ex situ* material relating to the existence of metallised surfaces or earlier structures in the area, although there is nothing which correlates to the presence of such a feature on the available mapping. Shaw recorded an abundant amount of stones in the topsoil in the area to the east during her watching brief (2006, 12). From this, we can ascertain that the stone inclusions are not a localised occurrence, which could perhaps hint at a natural origin.
26. Despite the small size of the sample area, a number of artefacts were recovered which spanned in date from the prehistoric period through to the 20th century. Without the presence of features, we must instead turn to these to see what evidence we can discern about the site's history.
27. One artefact was recovered which dated much earlier than the majority of the assemblage: a single platform core of Neolithic or Bronze Age date from TP 9 (<67>). It showed evidence of being worked on both sides although, as it was significantly heat-affected, it was unclear whether this was for the production of flakes or blades. Evidence for prehistoric activity has been recovered elsewhere in the area of Kirkcudbright, including findspots of stone axeheads (Canmore IDs: 64090, 64089, 64095 and 64083) and a Bronze Age socketed axehead (Canmore ID: 348655), found both to the west and east of the River Dee. A large number of examples of prehistoric rock art have also been found in the surrounding area (see 'Scotland's Rock Art Project' in *References*).
28. Without the presence of any features, the flint core, along with the other findspots, appears to represent *ex situ* material which has migrated from its original location as a result of a number of possible disturbances in the intervening millennia. Despite this though, the continuing recovery of these finds does indicate the likelihood of prehistoric occupation in the area; a likelihood that is further confirmed by the ever-increasing discoveries of *in situ* rock art.
29. This prehistoric find sits in isolation in our assemblage, with the inferred timeline of our recovered artefacts then jumping to the medieval period. This is represented by 20 sherds of pottery with a date range of between the 12th and 15th centuries. As stated above, Turner identifies our medieval pottery as being consistent with those recovered during the earlier excavations by Robison (as described in Dunning *et al.* 1957-58) and is comparable with medieval assemblages found elsewhere such as at Caerlaverock Castle, Whithorn and Carlisle.
30. Our pottery assemblage appears to be of mainly local manufacture. This compares with the assemblage found during the earlier excavations, as well as those from Carlisle and Whithorn, where a number of sherds were identified as having been produced locally. This is of interest as, despite the proliferation of local wares found on many Scottish medieval sites, the locations of only a few pottery manufacturing sites have been identified. Each fragment of local ware collected is then important in furthering our understanding of the

nature and distribution of pottery production. Such pieces also allow for the identification of local or regional trends, as well as the potential to establish the sharing of ideas and styles between groups.

31. As discussed by Turner (see *The Finds* above), the sherds of 'local' ware identified here matched well with those from the earlier excavations and also with the sherds found at Caerlaverock Castle and Whithorn. While our sherds are too abraded to exhibit decoration, the decoration found on similar wares from Caerlaverock Castle was identified by Hall as having parallels with pottery in the English Midlands; this led him to suggest that local potters had been influenced by this material (2004, 47). While the decoration does not survive on our sherds, it is possible that they also originally demonstrated the same influence.
32. Perhaps more importantly, is the contribution that these local wares can make to the dating of our site. Sherds of Saintonge pottery found during the earlier excavations by Robison (1914) gave a date range of the late 13th to early 14th century; this matched well with the documentary sources which recorded the castle as being occupied from 1288 to 1308 AD. However, the parallels with our sherds of local ware and those found at Caerlaverock Castle may hint that the castle began life before this time. Hall (2004, 49) is able to date these local wares to between the 1220s and 1270s so there is a potential that some of our local wares also date from this earlier period. The first mention of Castledykes in 1288 identifies who it is under the guardianship of, but this does not negate a much earlier construction date. Perhaps our pottery suggests that it had already been upstanding for some time prior to 1288. It is also worthy of note that, if this local ware does date from this earlier period, then the potential English influences mentioned above predate the English occupation of the site at Castledykes in 1300.
33. The presence of smithing slag and fuel ash slag amongst our assemblage is difficult to date. As Turner states (see *The Finds* above), the large amount of fuel ash slag collected suggests that it derives from small-scale smithing activities, although when these took place is debatable. Smithing debris was recovered during the excavations of the 13th century castle at Caerlaverock (Chadburn & Photos-Jones 2004). While unfortunately little is known about the smiths associated with medieval castles in Scotland, it is likely that a permanent castle smithy would have been located at the centre of the bailey (*Ibid.*, 87). Definitive evidence for this, however, would have to include the remains of a robust building, alongside storerooms and a stable (*Ibid.*), something that was also missing from Caerlaverock. Without any associated structural evidence or a dateable context, our *ex situ* metalworking debris could date from any point throughout the history of the site and may have also originated elsewhere. Its frequent occurrence in such a small area, however, is of interest and may warrant further investigation.
34. One sherd of late medieval pottery dating from the 14th to 15th century was recovered from TP 10. This is interesting as it potentially post-dates the occupation of our castle, although not altogether surprising. There is no mention of the castle being occupied at all after the early 14th century and it likely lay in ruin, but the fortunes of Kirkcudbright fluctuated throughout this time with the river still playing the biggest role in its economic and political interactions. As such, while the castle may have been left to ruin, the surrounding area was still active and it is likely that this was well-trodden ground immediately adjacent to the river, with the remaining structure itself likely to draw many a visitor. Unfortunately, one sherd is not enough to indicate whether any part of the bailey remained in use at this time.
35. The next identifiable phase in our assemblage dates to the late 17th century, with a lack of any material dating to the post-medieval period of the 16th and early 17th centuries. We know that the castle was essentially demolished after its acquisition by Sir Thomas Maclellan in 1577 so, while the area was no longer occupied, it would still have seen a lot of movement back and forth as building material was carted to his new house in the northeast. The lack of finds from this time is surprising, but is perhaps merely due to the small sample size; post-medieval material may still survive elsewhere. Although it is notable that there is no mention of post-medieval pottery amongst the earlier 1910s assemblage either (Robison 1914; Dunning *et al.* 1957-58).



36. Dating from the late 17th century, the volunteers recovered a small fragment from the bowl of a clay tobacco pipe and a thimble. It was during the 17th century that pipe-smoking grew in popularity across the British Isles, and so this is an early example of clay pipe; unfortunately, there was no visible decoration or stamping to indicate where it had been manufactured. The thimble was of a 'lofting' type which was in widespread use throughout the late 17th and 18th century. It takes its name from John Lofting, a Dutch thimble manufacturer who moved to England in 1693 and started to produce thimbles on a larger scale than had been achieved previously; after changing to water power, his later factory had the capacity to produce around two million thimbles per year. A few ceramic artefacts had the potential to date to the 18th century, including some jar sherds and a tin-glazed porcelain figure of a child, which could potentially have been a doll's house figure.
37. So throughout the late 17th and 18th centuries, we can see a scattering of what appear to be lost personal possessions within our assemblage. While they do not indicate the occupation of the site, these lost items have their own story and give us personal touches and small insights into the lives and identities of those who may have visited the site during this time.
38. A large number of 'domestic' items were recovered which date to the mid-19th century through to the 20th century. These included sherds of teapots, jars and crockery, as well as fragments of wine bottles and stems from clay tobacco pipes (Figure 7b). The latter have been identified as being the 'cutty' type: a more practical and cheaply produced style for use by working people during their daily routines.
39. Looking at Roy's *Military Survey of Scotland* surveyed in 1752-55 (Figure 8a), it is possible to make out the site of the earthwork at Castledykes near to the river with the surrounding area depicted as open parkland. This remains unchanged in the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854 (Figure 8b), where a footpath is now shown running into the western side of the earthwork. We can then envisage the area as being in use as recreational ground, perhaps a popular picnic spot, which could explain the array of discarded 'domestic' items during this period.
40. What is harder to pinpoint, however, is the presence of both window glass and roofing slates dating to the 19th and 20th centuries in our assemblage. We know from the accurate Ordnance Survey maps during this period that no structures stood on the area at this time. Instead, these finds hint that as well as recreational parkland, our area was also being used as a dumping area right up until the latter half of the 20th century.
41. In conclusion, while the test pitting was not able to identify any structural features or definitively prove this as the location for the bailey, it has shown the value that still exists in the ground which surrounds the earthwork and the potential it has to produce further results.
42. Through their work, our volunteers have been able to contribute to the prehistoric find assemblage of the area, find material which potentially predates the earliest known date for the castle and have also shown surviving evidence for some of the activities which could have taken place here, such as small-scale smithing and its use as recreational ground. The finds that they have recovered have provided us with a narrative of the area which spans centuries of use.
43. Today, the area is partly scheduled and is surrounded by footpaths on all sides with an information panel about the castle installed in the north. It is designed to encourage visitors, advertising the site of Castledykes as a tourist destination, but it is also marked as an important asset to the town. Its survival as an area of open ground suggests that it has long been recognised as such and that it continues to be protected as part of Kirkcudbright's long heritage.

Conclusion

44. The test pitting undertaken at the site of Castledykes recovered a number of artefacts which contribute to our understanding of the history of the site. The majority of the finds span from the medieval period through to the 20th century.

45. The medieval finds comprise pottery sherds which appear to be of local manufacture and draw parallels with pottery found in the earlier excavations as well as at Whithorn and Caerlaverock. From the work at Caerlaverock, this pottery form was identified as dating from the 1220s to the 1270s, suggesting that the origins of the castle at Castledykes could have potentially earlier origins than the initial date of 1288 given by the documentary sources. The presence of smithing slag and large amounts of fuel ash slag also suggests that small-scale smithing may have taken place, although whether this was contemporary with the castle remains uncertain.
46. The next period that is well-represented is the late 17th-20th century where a number of pottery sherds, glass vessels and small objects appear to represent domestic items discarded during the area's use as recreational ground in this period. The presence of window glass and roofing slate, however, points to the area being used for dumping until the 20th century.
47. Outwith these main phases, a single find of a flint core platform was discovered which dates from the Neolithic or Bronze Age, further adding to the growing assemblage of prehistoric finds from the Kirkcudbright area.
48. No archaeological features were identified within the test pits but the array of artefacts recovered hints at the potential that this area holds for future works. The works also allowed volunteers to further their knowledge of the history of this important site, and gain experience in the different techniques involved during an archaeological investigation.

Acknowledgements

49. This project is part of a wider Community Archaeology project, 'Can You Dig It', run by the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme from February 2019 to March 2020. See www.gallowayglens.org.uk/Resources and follow 'Can You Dig It' for their published outputs. The Community Archaeology project was offered free to volunteers thanks to funding from the Heritage Fund and Historic Environment Scotland. The land is owned by Dumfries and Galloway Council who kindly allowed us access and gave their support for the works. Guidance was also given by Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeology Service and members of local heritage societies.
50. The author would like to thank all of the hardworking volunteers who took part in the excavation: Jenny Roberts, Helen Bell-Palmer, Tammy Grounsell, Rachel Nicholson, Megan Nicholson, Nathan Harnett, Emma Harnett, Sam Harnett, Ellie Harnett, Evelyn Hosker, Tom Marshall, Claire Martin, Morag Ritchie and David Devereux.
51. The support and guidance provided by Rathmell Archaeology staff members Thomas Rees and Sarah Krischer on site was much appreciated by everyone involved. Further thanks should go to Thomas Rees for his guidance throughout the initial organisation of the project and I am also grateful to him for editing this report. Thanks also go to Louise Turner, Laura Anderson and Thomas Rees for their work on the artefact analysis.
52. A final thank you to Anne Ramsbottom and the staff at the Stewartry Museum who put on a display of finds from the earlier excavations especially for us; I know that the volunteers really enjoyed getting the chance to see the earlier material and it was much appreciated.

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Cartographic

- | | | |
|---------|-----------------|--|
| 1752-55 | Roy, W. | <i>Military Survey of Scotland</i> |
| 1854 | Ordnance Survey | Six-inch 1 st edition, <i>Kirkcudbrightshire Sheet 50</i> |

Appendix 1: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries & Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Galloway Glens – Castledykes, Kirkcudbright
PROJECT CODE:	RA18107
PARISH:	Kirkcudbright
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Claire Williamson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Test Pitting
NMRS NO(S):	NX65SE 26 (Canmore ID: 64063)
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Castle (Medieval), Earthwork(s) (Period Unassigned)
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Flint; Medieval pottery
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NX 67763 50938
START DATE (this season)	19 th July 2019
END DATE (this season)	20 th July 2019
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>The test pitting undertaken at the site of Castledykes recovered a number of artefacts which contribute to our understanding of the history of the site. The majority of the finds span from the medieval period through to the 20th century.</p> <p>The medieval finds comprise pottery sherds which appear to be of local manufacture and draw parallels with pottery found in the earlier excavations as well as at Whithorn and Caerlaverock. From the work at Caerlaverock, this pottery form was identified as dating from the 1220s to the 1270s, suggesting that the origins of the castle at Castledykes could have potentially earlier origins than the initial date of 1288 given by the documentary sources. The presence of smithing slag and large amounts of fuel ash slag also suggests that small-scale smithing may have taken place, although whether this was contemporary with the castle remains uncertain.</p> <p>The next period that is well-represented is the late 17th-20th century where a number of pottery sherds, glass vessels and small objects appear to represent domestic items discarded during the area's use as recreational ground in this period. The presence of window glass and roofing slate, however, points to the area being used for dumping until the 20th century.</p> <p>Outwith these main phases, a single find of a flint core platform was discovered which dates from the Neolithic or Bronze Age, further adding to the growing assemblage of prehistoric finds from the Kirkcudbright area.</p> <p>No archaeological features were identified within the test pits but the array of artefacts recovered hints at the potential that this area holds for future works. The works also allowed volunteers to further their knowledge of the history of this important site, and gain experience in the different techniques involved during an archaeological investigation.</p>

PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	The Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme (part of Dumfries & Galloway Council), externally funded by Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Fund
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
EMAIL:	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service and archive to National Record of the Historic Environment.

Appendix 2: Test Pit Details

Within this appendix a standardised set of data pertaining to the test pits is presented.

Test Pit Summary

Test Pit	NGR	Size	Stratigraphic sequence (depth of uppermost surface from pavement level)	Features	Artefacts
1	NX 67797 50938	0.5m by 0.5m	(001): 400mm (002) at base	None	Glass, clay tobacco pipe, pottery, burnt bone
2	NX 67792 50934	0.5m by 0.5m	(001): 450mm (002) at base	None	Glass, slate, pottery, slag, lead, burnt bone, cinder, clay tobacco pipe
3	NX 67789 50942	0.5m by 0.6m	(001): 480mm (002) at base	None	Glass, coal, pottery, clay tobacco pipe, burnt bone
4	NX 67784 50936	0.5m by 0.5m	(001): 440mm (002) at base	None	Clay tobacco pipe, pottery, slag, glass, coal
5	NX 67775 50939	0.5m by 0.5m	(001): 400mm (002) at base	None	Burnt bone, slate, coal, pottery, slag, iron, clay tobacco pipe, flint, cinder
6	NX 67768 50935	0.5m by 0.5m	(001): 230mm Stopped in (001)	None	Clay tobacco pipe, pottery, glass, quartz
7	NX 67763 50941	0.5m by 0.5m	(001): 460mm (002) at base	None	Pottery, glass, slate, thimble, burnt bone
8	NX 67755 50939	0.5m by 0.5m	(001): 500mm (002) at base	None	Pottery, slate, glass, slag, charcoal

Test Pit	NGR	Size	Stratigraphic sequence (depth of uppermost surface from pavement level)	Features	Artefacts
9	NX 67778 50928	0.5m by 0.5m	(001): 580mm (003) at base	None	Slate, flint, slag, burnt bone, pottery, quartz, coal
10	NX 67771 50927	0.5m by 0.5m	(001): 700mm (003) at base	None	Charcoal, slag, pottery, slate, burnt bone, clay tobacco pipe, quartz, glass

Appendix 3: Registers

53. Appendix 3, which contains all registers pertaining to the works on site during the excavation.

Context Register

Context No.	Test Pit	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	All	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid-brown sandy clay with small- to medium-sized stone inclusions. Became stonier towards the base of the deposit within Test Pits 1-8. Extended across the whole area, measuring 400-500mm thick in Test Pits 1-8, and 580-700mm thick in Test Pits 9-10.	Topsoil
002	1-5,7,8	Deposit	Firmly compacted mid-orange yellow sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions.	Possible natural subsoil
003	9,10	Deposit	Firmly compacted mottled mid-grey/orange/brown sandy clay with occasional rounded stones.	Possible natural subsoil

Photographic Register

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
1	1080	Test Pit 3	S	19/07/19
2	1081	Working shot	-	19/07/19
3	1082	Working shot	-	19/07/19
4	1083	Working shot	-	19/07/19
5	1084	Working shot	-	19/07/19
6	1085	Working shot	-	19/07/19
7	1086	Working shot	-	19/07/19
8	1087	Test Pit 2	S	19/07/19
9	1088	Test Pit 2	SW	19/07/19
10	1089	Test Pit 1	S	19/07/19
11	1090	Test Pit 1	S	19/07/19

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
12	1091	Test Pit 1	S	19/07/19
13	1092	Test Pit 4	N	19/07/19
14	1093	Working shot	-	19/07/19
15	1094	Working shot	-	19/07/19
16	1095	Working shot	-	19/07/19
17	1096	Working shot	-	19/07/19
18	1097	Working shot	-	19/07/19
19	1098	Working shot	-	19/07/19
20	1099	Working shot	-	19/07/19
21	1100	Working shot	-	19/07/19
22	1101	Working shot	-	19/07/19
23	1102	Working shot	-	19/07/19
24	1103	Working shot	-	19/07/19
25	1104	Working shot	-	19/07/19
26	1105	Test Pit 5	S	19/07/19
27	1106	Test Pit 6	NW	19/07/19
28	1107	Test Pit 6	NW	19/07/19
29	1108	Test Pit 6	NW	19/07/19
30	1109	Working shot	-	20/07/19
31	1110	Working shot	-	20/07/19
32	1111	Working shot	-	20/07/19
33	1112	Working shot	-	20/07/19
34	1113	Working shot	-	20/07/19
35	1114	Working shot	-	20/07/19
36	1115	Working shot	-	20/07/19

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
37	1116	Working shot	-	20/07/19
38	1117	Working shot	-	20/07/19
39	1118	Working shot	-	20/07/19
40	1119	Working shot	-	20/07/19
41	1120	Working shot	-	20/07/19
42	1121	Working shot	-	20/07/19
43	1122	Working shot	-	20/07/19
44	1123	Working shot	-	20/07/19
45	1124	Working shot	-	20/07/19
46	1125	Test Pit 7 – mid-excavation	E	20/07/19
47	1126	Test Pit 7 – mid-excavation	E	20/07/19
48	1127	Test Pit 7 – mid-excavation	N	20/07/19
49	1128	Test Pit 8	E	20/07/19
50	1129	Test Pit 8	E	20/07/19
51	1130	Test Pit 8	NE	20/07/19
52	1131	Test Pit 7	S	20/07/19
53	1132	Test Pit 7 – N facing section	N	20/07/19
54	1133	Working shot	-	20/07/19
55	1134	Working shot	-	20/07/19
56	1135	Working shot	-	20/07/19
57	1136	Working shot	-	20/07/19
58	1137	Working shot	-	20/07/19
59	1138	Working shot	-	20/07/19
60	1139	Working shot	-	20/07/19
61	1140	Test Pit 10	ESE	20/07/19

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
62	1141	Test Pit 10 – ESE facing section	ESE	20/07/19
63	1142	Test Pit 9	N	20/07/19
64	1143	Test Pit 9 – N facing section	N	20/07/19

Finds Register

Find No.	Test Pit	Context	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
1	3	001	Glass	10 x glass fragments	The Harnetts	19/07/19
2	3	001	Industrial Residue	17 x cannel coal and fuel ash slag	The Harnetts	19/07/19
3	3	001	Ceramic	7 x ceramic sherds including 2 medieval, 2 white glazed earthenware and 1 slipware.	The Harnetts	19/07/19
4	3	001	Ceramic	1 x clay tobacco pipe stem fragment	The Harnetts	19/07/19
5	3	001	Bone	1 x burnt bone	The Harnetts	19/07/19
6	1	001	Glass	6 x glass fragments	HBP, RN, MN	19/07/19
7	1	001	Ceramic	2 x ceramic (1 x clay tobacco pipe fragment; 1 x slipware or brown glazed red earthenware)	HBP, RN, MN	19/07/19
8	1	001	Glass	1 x glass fragment	HBP, RN, MN	19/07/19
9	1	001	Ceramic	9 x modern ceramic including 1 clay tobacco pipe stem fragment	HBP, RN, MN	19/07/19
10	1	001	Bone	1 x burnt bone	HBP, RN, MN	19/07/19
11	5	001	Bone	2 x burnt bone from the base of (001)	The Harnetts	19/07/19
12	5	001	Coarse Stone	2 x slate	The Harnetts	19/07/19
13	5	001	Industrial Residue	25 x industrial residue (cannel coal and fuel ash slag)	The Harnetts	19/07/19

Find No.	Test Pit	Context	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
14	5	001	Ceramic	2 x modern ceramic (burnt)	EH, The Harnetts	19/07/19
15	5	001	Industrial Residue	1 x metallurgical slag	EH, The Harnetts	19/07/19
16	7	001	Glass	5 x glass fragments	HBP, CM, JR	20/07/19
17	7	001	Ceramic	10 x modern ceramic	HBP, CM, JR	20/07/19
18	7	001	Stone	1 x slate	HBP, CM, JR	20/07/19
19	7	001	Cu alloy	1 x thimble	HBP, CM, JR	20/07/19
20	7	001	Bone	2 x burnt bone	HBP, CM, JR	20/07/19
21	2	001	Glass	3 x glass fragments	TG, JR, EH	19/07/19
22	2	001	Coarse Stone	3 x slate	TG, JR, EH	19/07/19
23	2	001	Ceramic	2 x modern ceramic	TG, JR, EH	19/07/19
24	2	001	Industrial Residue	1 x metallurgical slag	TG, JR, EH	19/07/19
25	2	001	Pb	1 x Pb fragment	TG, JR, EH	19/07/19
26	2	001	Bone	1 x burnt bone	TG, JR, EH	19/07/19
27	2	001	Industrial Residue	9 x industrial residue (cannel coal and fuel ash slag)	TG, JR, EH	19/07/19
28	2	002	Ceramic	1 x fragment of clay tobacco pipe	TG, JR, EH	19/07/19
29	2	002	Ceramic	1 x modern ceramic	TG, JR, EH	19/07/19
30	2	002	Fe	1 x Fe nail	TG, JR, EH	19/07/19
31	-	-	-	Voided – duplicate of <24>	-	-

Find No.	Test Pit	Context	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
32	6	001	Ceramic	1 x fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem	RN, MN, HBP	19/07/19
33	6	001	Ceramic	7 x modern ceramic	RN, MN, HBP	19/07/19
34	6	001	Glass	2 x glass fragments	RN, MN, HBP	19/07/19
35	6	001	Lithic	1 x quartz	RN, MN, HBP	19/07/19
36	8	001	Ceramic	7 x ceramic (6 x modern; 1 x medieval)	MR, TM, TG	20/07/19
37	8	001	Coarse Stone	1 x slate	MR, TM, TG	20/07/19
38	8	001	Glass	3 x glass fragments	MR, TM, TG	20/07/19
39	8	001	Industrial Residue	3 x metallurgical slag	MR, TM, TG	20/07/19
40	8	001	Industrial Residue	4 x fuel ash slag	MR, TM, TG	20/07/19
41	4	001	Ceramic	3 x fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem	The Harnetts	19/07/19
42	4	001	Ceramic	5 x modern ceramic	The Harnetts	19/07/19
43	4	001	Industrial Residue	2 x metallurgical slag	The Harnetts	19/07/19
44	4	001	Glass	4 x glass fragments	The Harnetts	19/07/19
45	4	001	Industrial Residue	18 x industrial residue (17 x cannel coal; 1 x fuel ash slag)	The Harnetts	19/07/19
46	10	001	Industrial Residue	68 x industrial residue (35 x cannel coal/burnt shale; 33 x fuel ash slag)	TM,TG,MR	20/07/19
47	10	001	Industrial Residue	4 x metallurgical slag	TM,TG,MR	20/07/19
48	10	001	Ceramic	9 x ceramic (3 x modern; 6 x medieval)	TM,TG,MR	20/07/19
49	10	001	Ceramic	4 x medieval ceramic	TM,TG,MR	20/07/19

Find No.	Test Pit	Context	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
50	10	001	Coarse Stone	3 x slate	TM,TG,MR	20/07/19
51	10	001	Bone	3 x burnt bone	TM,TG,MR	20/07/19
52	10	001	Ceramic	3 x clay tobacco pipe (2 x stem; 1 x bowl)	TM,TG,MR	20/07/19
53	10	001	Lithic	2 x quartz	TM,TG,MR	20/07/19
54	10	001	Glass	7 x glass fragments	TM,TG,MR	20/07/19
55	2	012	Industrial Residue	11 x industrial residue (5 x cannel coal; 6 x fuel ash slag)	TG, JR, EH	19/07/19
56	-	-	-	Voided	-	-
57	-	-	-	Voided	-	-
58	-	-	-	Voided	-	-
59	-	-	-	Voided	-	-
60	-	-	-	Voided	-	-
61	7	001	Fe	1 x Fe object (?nail)	JR, CM, HBP	20/07/19
62	7	001	Ceramic	1 x fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem	JR, CM, HBP	20/07/19
63	7	001	Lithic	1 x flint	JR, CM, HBP	20/07/19
64	7	001	Industrial Residue	38 x industrial residue (14 x fuel ash slag; 24 x cannel coal and vitrified material)	JR, CM, HBP	20/07/19
65	9	001	Coarse Stone	14 x slate	JR, HBP, DD	20/07/19
66	9	001	Pb	1 x Pb object (casting jet or sprue?)	JR, HBP, DD	20/07/19
67	9	001	Lithic	1 x flint core (Neolithic or Bronze Age)	JR, HBP, DD	20/07/19
68	9	001	Bone	1 x burnt bone	JR, HBP, DD	20/07/19
69	9	001	Lithic	2 x quartz	JR, HBP, DD	20/07/19
70	9	001	Ceramic	8 x medieval ceramic	JR, HBP, DD	20/07/19

Find No.	Test Pit	Context	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
71	9	001	Industrial Residue	112 x industrial residue (61 x fuel ash slag; 47 x cannel coal? burnt?; 4 x miscellaneous vitrified material)	JR, HBP, DD	20/07/19
72	1	001	Industrial Residue	2 x coal (rebagged from <6>)	The Harnetts	19/07/19
73	9	001	Industrial Residue	1 x metallurgical slag (rebagged from <71>)	JR, HBP, DD	20/07/19
74	9	001	Glass	1 x window glass fragment (rebagged from <71>)	JR, HBP, DD	20/07/19
1001	-	U/S	Pb	3 x lead	WM	-
1002	-	U/S	Ceramic	37 x modern ceramic	WM	-
1003	-	U/S	Glass	3 x glass	WM	-
1004	Riverbank	U/S	Ceramic	6 x modern ceramic	WM	-
1005	Riverbank	U/S	Glass	3 x glass	WM	-
1006	Riverbank	U/S	Industrial Residue	1 x smithing or hearth slag	WM	-
1007	Riverbank	U/S	Coarse Stone	1 x perforated stone (?whetstone)	WM	-

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