

# **MacQuittiston Farm, Coalhall: Archaeological Watching Brief**

Data Structure Report



by Jack Portwood

issued 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018

on behalf of Mr Robb

**RATHMELL**   
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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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 .....*J. Portwood*.....

Date .....25<sup>th</sup> October 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 .....*Claire Williamson*.....

Date .....25<sup>th</sup> October 2018....

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## Quality Assurance Data

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## Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Mr Robb in support of the construction of a poultry shed and other associated works at MacQuittiston farm, Coalhall (Application Ref: 18/00557/PP; centred NS 4594 1917). These archaeological works are designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
2. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd has been appointed by Mr Robb to undertake the implementation of archaeological mitigation works in response to guidance given by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) who advise East Ayrshire Council on archaeological matters.
3. The scope of these works has been agreed with WoSAS and East Ayrshire council through the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Williamson 2018). All works undertaken comply with the agreed WSI.

## Archaeological and Historical Background

4. The proposed development area sits within enclosed farmland to the east of Coalhall, on the southern side of the A70. MacQuittiston Farm stands on a spur of land reaching to the southwest, with unnamed tributaries of the Taiglum burn to the west and south. There are no known archaeological sites on the spur.
5. The farm is not depicted on Roy's *Military Survey of Scotland* (1752-5) nor on Armstrong's *A new map of Ayrshire* (1775) so is most likely established in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. By the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1860 (Figure 1a), the farmstead is laid out and the Ordnance Survey Name Book described the farm buildings as: '*A low thatched building one Storey high and in tolerable repair used as a farm house and Steading the property of the Marquis of Bute*' (Ordnance Survey Name Book, Ayrshire Vol 51, part 1, page 37). The farm appears to have been rebuilt, to the immediate east, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (see Figure 1b). There was no significant change to the pattern of enclosure at this time.
6. It is noteworthy that the 1<sup>st</sup> edition names the farm McQuilliston, but this appears to be a typesetting error given that the enabling Name Book uses the title McQuittiston. It is this latter name that appears on the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps (see Figure 1b). The adjustment to MacQuittiston appears to be a late 20<sup>th</sup> century adjustment.

## Project Works

7. The programme of works consisted of the monitoring of topsoil stripping across the proposed footprint of the development area, located southwest of the farm. The works were undertaken from 9<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The area was machine stripped under archaeological supervision, by a 13-tonne and 21-tonne 360° machine excavator using flat trenching buckets.
8. While the majority of the development area was stripped during this monitoring phase, works were still required outwith, namely, the insertion of drainage to the south. After discussions with WoSAS, it was agreed that enough of the area had already been monitored to be able to assess the archaeological significance of the ground and therefore satisfy the requirements of the planning condition with no further monitoring works required.

## Findings

9. The area sat within an enclosed field just to the southwest of MacQuittiston Farm. The area to be stripped sat on a slope which ran from higher ground at the farm down to lower ground along the south (Figure 2).
10. The development area comprised the footprint of the poultry shed (including its surrounding yard areas) which was sub-rectangular in plan, with the linear access road directly adjacent to the northeast and the drainage running off to the south. Only the locations of the shed and the access road were stripped under archaeological supervision. The area stripped for the shed measured approximately 225m long and 55m wide across, while the area for the access road measured approximately 125m long by 25m wide.



Figure 1a: Extract from 1<sup>st</sup> edition six-inch Ordnance Survey 1860



Figure 1b: Extract from 3<sup>rd</sup> edition six-inch Ordnance Survey 1910

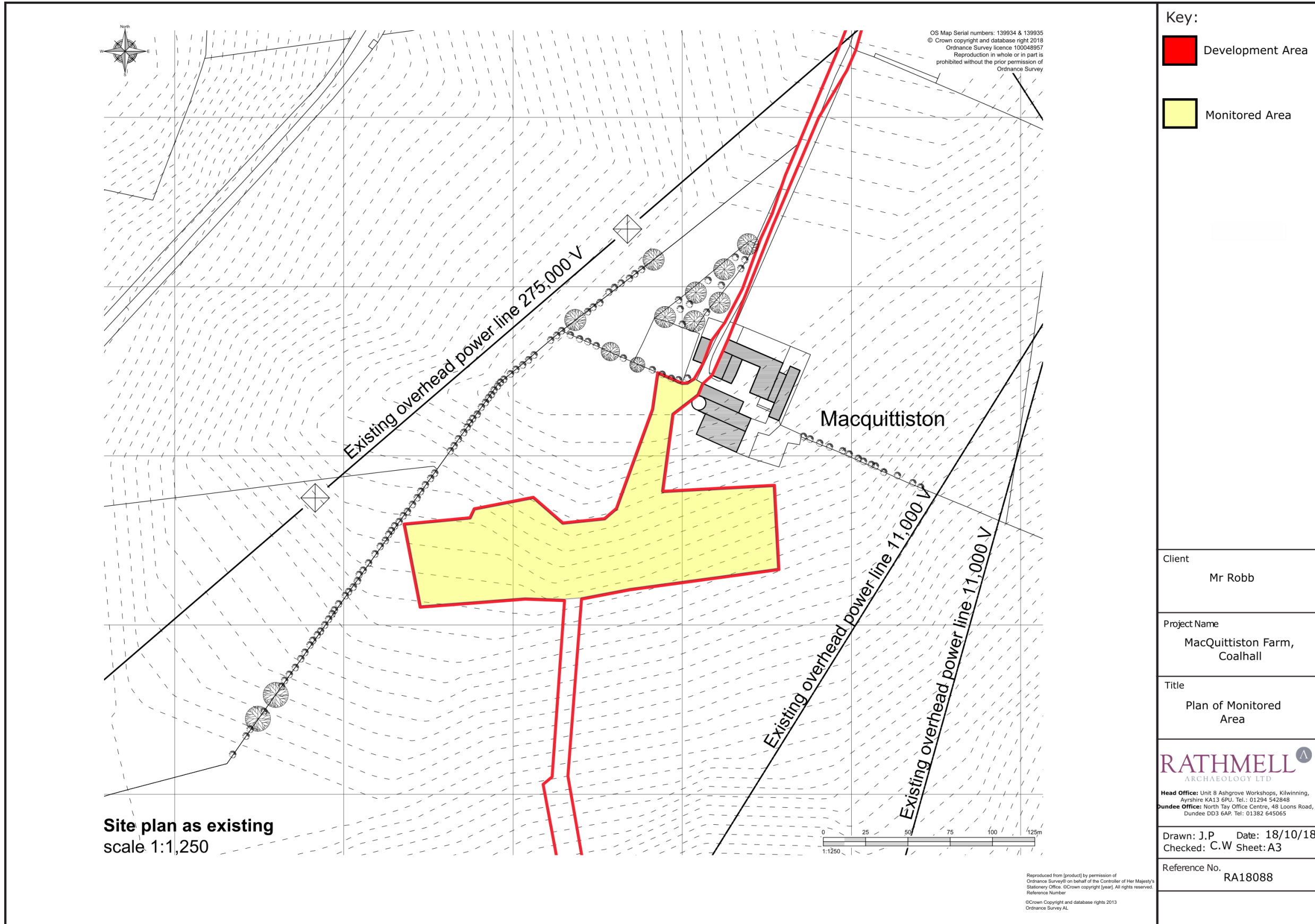


Figure 2: Plan of monitored area

11. Prior to excavation, the entire area was covered by turf with underlying topsoil (001) (Figure 3a). (001) comprised a friable, mid- orange brown clay silt, with infrequent small stone inclusions. The topsoil measured 150mm-200mm thick across the northern end of the area which sat upslope, and 300-350mm across the southern end which sat along lower ground.
12. The works removed (001) to reveal natural subsoil. This consisted entirely of (002): a plastic, light brown orange clay, with infrequent small to large stone inclusions. (002) was visible across the area for the poultry shed (Figures 3b-4a), as well as across the area for the access road (Figure 4b).
13. An assortment of modern glass and pottery sherds as well as bolts from modern agricultural machinery were observed within the topsoil (001) but not collected.
14. No significant archaeological features were present.

## Discussion

15. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were discovered within the development area.
16. Agricultural practices at MacQuittiston Farm date from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century as seen in the historic mapping (Figures 1a-1b). While the continued agricultural use could have potentially removed any superficial or shallow archaeological features from the development area, there would still be a potential for more substantial features to be present.
17. However, the lack of archaeology witnessed during the works supports a general dearth of archaeological information in the area of MacQuittiston Farm, suggesting that little to no archaeological activity has occurred directly within this area.

## Conclusion

18. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Mr Robb to report archaeological works undertaken at MacQuittiston Farm, Coalhall. These works were in support of the construction of a poultry shed within the development area. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on any potential archaeological remains within the affected areas.
19. The majority of the area was stripped to identify if any archaeological features were present within the development area. No significant features or artefacts were identified during the monitoring.

## Recommendations

20. This Data Structure Report covers archaeological works undertaken at MacQuittiston Farm.
21. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified, and as such it is recommended that no further works will be required.
22. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with East Ayrshire Council and their advisors, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

## Acknowledgements

23. The author would like to thank Mr Robb for allowing us the chance to carry out these works. The author would also like to thank the team from J.J.L for their assistance with on site works. Thanks should also go to Claire Williamson from Rathmell Archaeology Limited who kindly edited this report.



Figure 3a: Pre-excitation shot of development area from the N



Figure 3b: Area within footprint of poultry shed with (002) exposed from the SW





Figure 4a: Area within footprint of poultry shed with (002) exposed from the SW



Figure 4b: Access road for poultry shed with (002) exposed from the SE

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## References

Ordnance Survey Name Book, *Ayrshire Vol 52, part 1, pages 37*

Williamson, C, 2018, *MacQuittiston Farm, Coalhall: Archaeological Mitigation, Written Scheme of Investigation*, unpublished commercial document by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

### *Cartographic*

Ordnance Survey	1860	<i>6-inch 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ayrshire Sheet XXXIV (includes: Coylton; Ochiltree; Stair; Tarbolton)</i>
Ordnance Survey	1897	<i>6-inch 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ayrshire Sheet XXXIV.SE (includes: Ochiltree; Stair)</i>
Ordnance Survey	1910	<i>6-inch 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ayrshire Sheet XXXIV.E (includes: Ochiltree; Stair)</i>
Ordnance Survey	1911	<i>6-inch 4<sup>th</sup> edition Ayrshire Sheet XLI.NW (includes: New Cumnock; Ochiltree; Old Cumnock)</i>

## Appendix 1: Registers

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

### *Context Register*

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Deposit	Friable, mid- orange brown silt clay, with infrequent small stone inclusions	Topsoil
002	Deposit	Plastic, light brown orange clay, with infrequent small – large stone inclusions	Natural

### *Photographic Register*

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
1	9993	Pre-excavation shot of development area	N	9/10/18
2	9994	Pre-excavation shot of development area	SE	9/10/18
3	9995	Pre-excavation shot of development area	S	9/10/18
4	9996	Pre-excavation shot of development area	SE	9/10/18
5	9997	End of day	W	9/10/18
6	9998	End of day	SW	9/10/18
7	9999	End of day	SW	9/10/18
8	0001	End of day	SW	9/10/18
9	0002	End of day	S	9/10/18
10	0003	End of day	N	9/10/18
11	0004	Working shot of area strip	SE	10/10/18
12	0005	Working shot of area strip	S	10/10/18

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
13	0006	Working shot of area strip	SE	10/10/18
14	0007	Working shot of area strip	SE	10/10/18
15	0008	Working shot of area strip	SE	10/10/18
16	0009	Working shot of area strip	SE	10/10/18
17	0010	Working shot of area strip	SE	10/10/18
18	0011	Working shot of area strip	W	10/10/18
19	0012	Working shot of area strip	SE	10/10/18
20	0013	Working shot of area strip	SE	10/10/18
21	0014	Working shot of area strip	SE	10/10/18
22	0015	Working shot of area strip	W	10/10/18
23	0016	Working shot of area strip	SE	10/10/18
24	0017	End of day	SE	10/10/18
25	0018	End of day	SE	10/10/18
26	0019	End of day	NE	10/10/18
27	0020	End of day	NW	10/10/18
28	0021	End of day	W	10/10/18
29	0022	End of day	NNW	10/10/18
30	0023	Working shot of area strip	S	11/10/18
31	0024	Working shot of area strip	N	11/10/18
32	0025	Working shot of area strip	N	11/10/18
33	0026	Working shot of area strip	S	11/10/18
34	0027	Working shot of area strip	S	11/10/18

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
35	0028	Working shot of area strip	N	11/10/18
36	0029	Working shot of area strip	N	11/10/18
37	0030	Working shot of area strip	NE	11/10/18
38	0031	Working shot of area strip	N	11/10/18
39	0032	Working shot of area strip	N	11/10/18
40	0033	Working shot of area strip	N	11/10/18
41	0034	Working shot of area strip	NE	11/10/18
42	0035	Access area working shot	E	12/10/18
43	0036	Working shot of area strip	SE	12/10/18
44	0037	Working shot of area strip	SE	12/10/18
45	0038	Working shot of area strip	E	12/10/18
46	0039	Working shot of area strip	N	12/10/18
47	0040	Working shot of area strip	SE	12/10/18
48	0041	Working shot of area strip	NW	12/10/18
49	0042	Working shot of area strip	NW	12/10/18
50	0043	Working shot of area strip	NW	12/10/18
51	0044	Working shot of area strip	E	12/10/18
52	0045	Working shot of area strip	SW	15/10/18
53	0046	Working shot of area strip	SW	15/10/18
54	0047	Working shot of area strip	SW	15/10/18

## Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	East Ayrshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	MacQuittiston Farm, Coalhall
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	RA18088
<b>PARISH:</b>	Ochiltree
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Jack Portwood
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NS 4594 1917
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> October 2018
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> October 2018
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (may include information from other fields)	<p>This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Mr Robb in support of the construction of a poultry shed and other associated works at MacQuittiston farm, Coalhall (centred NS 4594 1917).</p> <p>The majority of the area was stripped to identify if any archaeological features were present within the proposed development area.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified, and as such it is recommended that no further works will be required.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Mr Robb
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
<b>E MAIL:</b>	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to National Record of the Historic Environment

## Contact Details

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