

**North of Lakin Farm,
Isle of Arran:
Archaeological Evaluation**

Data Structure Report



by Jack Portwood

issued 29th January 2019

on behalf of Mr William Bennett

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 *J. Portwood* Date 29th January 2019.....

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

Louise Turner
Checked Date 29th January 2019.....

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Quality Assurance Data

Author(s)	Jack Portwood		
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NGR	NR 90036 30481 (centred)	Parish	Kilmory
Designation(s)	None		
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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared on behalf of Mr William Bennett in support of development work on land to the North of Lakin Farm, Shiskine. These archaeological works are designed to evaluate the potential for any archaeological remains to still be present, in order to give guidance on the appropriate mitigation for any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
2. North Ayrshire Council require a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken in support of the development work as part of the granted planning consent (Planning Ref: 18/00494/PP). The West of Scotland Archaeology Service, who advise North Ayrshire Council on archaeology matters, have provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by the applicant to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works for the project.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. No known archaeological sites are located directly within the planning application area, but the surrounding landscape is rich in terms of known prehistoric features.
5. Roughly 270m to the west of the area sits the Scheduled Monument of Torr Righ Mor (SM4414) which encompasses a complex of 12 roundhouses and nine associated field systems, all of which date to the Bronze Age. This concentration of small farms represents one of the best surviving of this period on Arran.
6. Approximately 580m to the northeast of the area sits the Scheduled Monument of Tormore (SM407), the remains of a chambered burial cairn dating from the Neolithic period. Beyond this, further to the northeast, sits the Scheduled Monument at Moss Farm, Machrie Moor (SM90207) which comprises an area rich in prehistoric ritual and domestic structures including stone circles, chambered cairns, roundhouses and field systems.
7. Evidence for a number of other prehistoric settlements is also present in the area between Tormore and Machrie Moor. Along the coast to the west sit the Scheduled Monuments at The Doon (SM4415), an Iron Age hillfort and a standing stone of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date, and a group of caves (SM5962) which show evidence for prehistoric activity as well as a probable Norse carving.
8. Alongside the prehistoric settlement activity, the area has continued in use as a rich agricultural landscape throughout the following centuries until this day. The site of Lakin Farm itself (WoSAS Site ID: 21084) has been occupied since at least 1869, when it was depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (Six-inch, Argyllshire, Sheet CCXLVIII) with the surrounding layout of fields (including our area) remaining largely unchanged since then.

Project Works

9. This archaeological evaluation, undertaken on 9th January 2019, was carried out in keeping with the methods detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Williamson 2018) and the supporting Safety Plan and Risk Assessment (SP&RA) (Williamson 2018).
10. It consisted of the excavation of a series of 7 intrusive trenches (Figure 1) to expose an 8% sample of the development area. The 8% sample comprised some 632m² of targeted trenching (316 linear meters using a 2m bucket).
11. All works were conducted in accordance with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service Standard Conditions, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

12. In total, 7 evaluation trenches were excavated across the available portion of the development area, using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator with a toothless 2m ditching

bucket.

13. The area sits within a group of fields which represent an agricultural landscape that has been extant since at least the 19th century (Figures 2a and 2b). The boundaries are a combination of post-and-wire fences, drystone dykes and hedges. The sloping ground falls from approximately 40m OD at the level of the A841 along the west, down to just above 30m OD to the east.
14. The surrounding landscape appears to be predominantly improved pasture underlain by glacial till. The northern end of the planning application area (which is separated from the main section of the field by a post-and-wire fence) is covered by upstanding trees and vegetation.
15. The topsoil within the development area, (001), consisted of loose, dark grey brown sandy-silt, with frequent small stone inclusions. Throughout the site, the layer had a thickness ranging between 0.2m to 0.45m.
16. There were two main layers of naturally occurring subsoil which were identified within the excavated trenches (Figures 3a and 3b). The first of these subsoil layers, (002), consisted of moderately compact mid brown orange silty-sand with very frequent small to large natural sandstone inclusions. The layer had an excavated depth within the trenches of between 0.19m to 0.5m. The second of these subsoil layers, (003), comprised a compact mid yellow brown clay-sand with frequent small to large stone inclusions. The layer had an excavated depth within the trenches of between 0.09m to 0.2m.
17. Within T1 a linear cut was identified [009] (Figure 3a) orientated northeast – southwest and running into the area of denser vegetation to the north. Measuring 8.5m by 0.55m by 0.3m deep this feature was filled with a mid-grey brown silt sand with frequent small to medium stone inclusions. The feature cut into subsoil (003): upon inspection water rose to the surface suggesting it was a live field drain.
18. A large spread or deposit, which was orientated east-west was identified in the middle of T4 (Figure 4a), approximately 13.5m from the eastern end. The layer (006) consisted of a moderately compact dark grey brown sandy-silt with occasional small to large stone inclusions measuring 6.5m x 3m x 0.1m. It directly overlay the naturally occurring subsoil (002) at the eastern limit of the spread and (005) at the western limit.
19. No other features or artefacts were identified within the site.

Discussion

20. The WSI (Williamson 2018) established that no known archaeological sites were located within the evaluation area. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1869 (Figure 2a), shows the development area much as it is seen today, while the later 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1924 (Figure 2b) attests to land use in the development area remaining consistent, possibly being used as rough grazing for livestock.
21. No artefacts were recovered from topsoil (001), the presence of a linear drain, [009], may suggest that the site was landscaped quite recently, most likely during the 20th century. The presence of [009] on the site may indicate efforts to improve drainage in the northern part of the site which has dense levels of upstanding vegetation.
22. The deposit / spread (006) uncovered in T4 measured 0.1m deep and overlay the naturally occurring subsoil (002) and (005). (006) appeared isolated within this area and did not extend to the north. It is possible that (006) is a deposit of hill wash.
23. No significant archaeological features were identified during the evaluation.

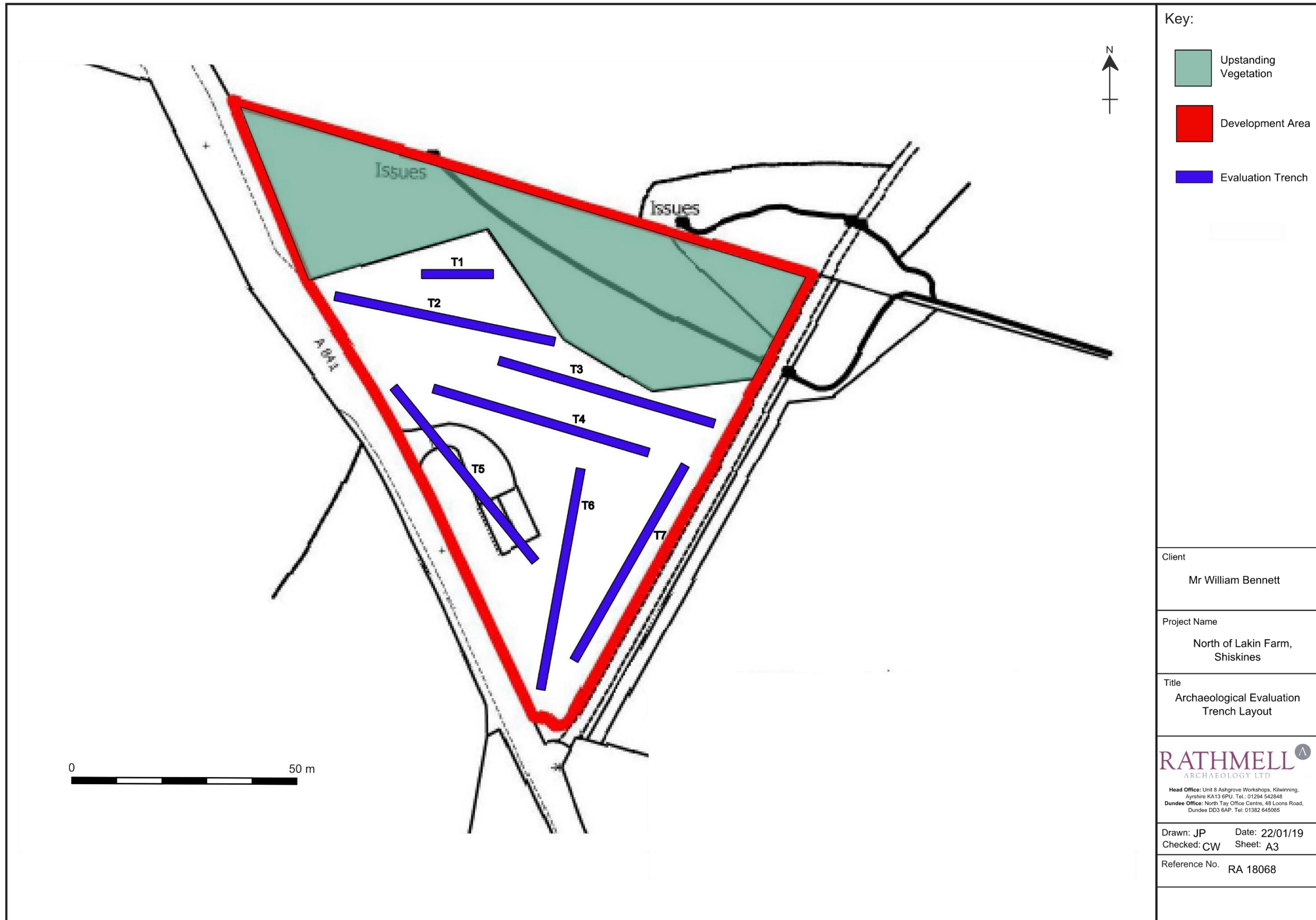


Figure 1: Trench Layout

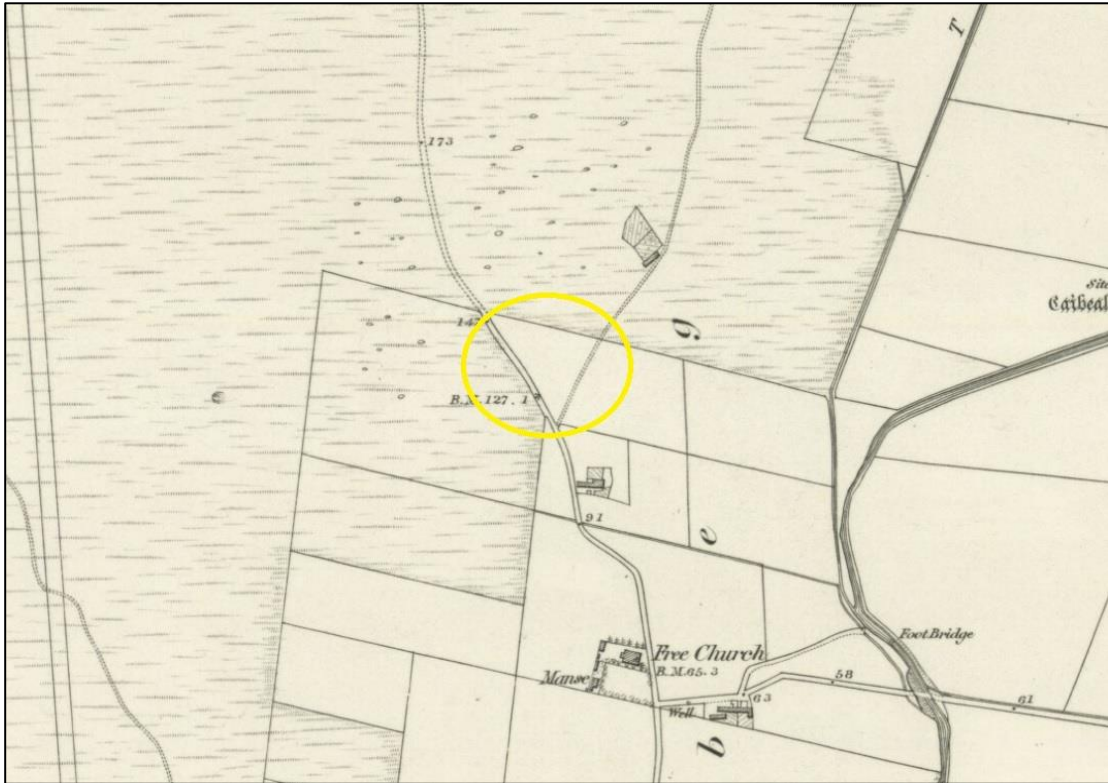


Figure 2a: 1864 6-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey.



Figure 2b: 1924 6-inch 2nd edition and later Ordnance Survey.



Figure 3a: Post excavation view of T1 from the W with (003) subsoil and [009] field drain.



Figure 3b: Post excavation view of T1 from the SSE with (002) subsoil.



Figure 4a: Post excavation view of T4 and hill wash deposit (006) from the SE.



Figure 4b: Post excavation view of T2 from the WNW.

Recommendations

24. The only features identified through the programme of trenching were [009], a field drain, and (006), a large spread or deposit which could represent hill wash. The latter may have been caused by natural processes, or, potentially, by anthropic activities such as repeated ploughing of the upslope area to the west. Both features could be associated with modern improvements and land use. No other significant features or artefacts were identified.
25. The scope of the works undertaken, under the terms set out within the planning application (Planning Ref: 18/00494/PP, Condition 3), and subsequent modification (following discussion with West of Scotland Archaeology Service), enabled the archaeological potential of the area to be assessed through an archaeological evaluation. These works demonstrated no potential for significant archaeology within the area assessed. Hence Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommends that no further archaeological works be carried out with regards to the development area, and that the archaeological potential of the area assessed should be considered to be null in the context of future planning applications.
26. The acceptability of these recommendations needs to be confirmed with WoSAS and North Ayrshire Council.

Conclusion

27. A programme of archaeological investigative works was carried out for Mr William Bennett in support of a proposed development North of Lakin Farm, Shikine, Isle of Arran. The archaeological works were designed to determine the archaeological potential of the development area and hence inform the specification for mitigation of the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
28. The archaeological investigative works consisted of an intrusive evaluation which was designed to assess an 8% sample of the proposed development area. The works were carried out on the 9th January 2019, with a total of 7 trenches excavated. The works identified only one drainage features associated with the recent improvements.

Acknowledgements

29. The author would like to thank Mr William Bennett, for the opportunity to carry out these works and also to Paul Robins at the West of Scotland Archaeology Service who gave support and guidance throughout. Thanks should also go to Sarah Krischer for her support on site and to Louise Turner for the editing of this report.

References

Documentary

Williamson, C. 2018 North of Lakin Farm, Shiskine: Archaeological Mitigation. Written Scheme of Investigation.

Williamson, C. 2018 North of Lakin Farm, Shiskine: Archaeological Evaluation. Safety Plan and Risk Assessment.

Cartographic

1st edition 1869 *Ordnance Survey 6-inch Argyll and Bute, Sheet CCXLVIII.*

2nd edition 1924 *Ordnance Survey 6-inch Argyll and Bute, Sheet CCXLVIII.*

Appendix 1: Trench Details & Test Pits

Within this appendix a standardised set of data pertaining to the evaluation trenches is presented.

All measurement distances quoted along the trench measure based on the quoted orientation of the trench.

Trench Summary

Trench	Orientation	Size	Trench Depth	Topsoil, Made Ground & Subsoil Character (Listed Stratigraphically from latest to earliest)	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
1	W- E	2m x 16.3m	0.3m – 0.4m	Topsoil (001), Subsoil (003)	[009] Field drain	None	None
2	WNW – ESE	2m x 50m	0.19m – 0.5m	Topsoil (001), Subsoil (003)	None	[008] Possible stone hole	None
3	WNW - ESE	2m x 50m	0.2m – 0.56m	Topsoil. (001), Subsoil (002), Subsoil (003)	None	(007) Hill wash	None
4	WNW – ESE	2m x 52.1m	0.2m – 0.4m	Topsoil (001), Subsoil (002), Subsoil (005)	None	(006) Hill wash	None
5	NW - SE	2m x 53m	0.14m – 0.36m	Topsoil (001), Subsoil (002)	None	None	None
6	NNE –SSW	2m x 50m	0.19m – 0.4m	Topsoil (001), Subsoil (002)	None	None	None
7	NE – SW	2m x 51m	0.35m – 0.6m	Topsoil (001), Subsoil (002), Subsoil, (003)	None	None	None

Appendix 2: Registers

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

Context Register

Context	Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	T1 -7	Deposit	Loose, dark grey brown sand – silt, with frequent small stone inclusions, measuring 0.2m-0.4m thick	Topsoil

Context	Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
002	T2, T3, T5, T6, T7	Deposit	Mid compact mid brown orange silty – sand with very frequent small to large natural sandstone inclusions	Subsoil
003	T1,T2, T3, T7	Deposit	Compact mid yellow brown clay–sand with frequent small to large stone inclusions	Subsoil
004	T2,	Deposit	Firm mid yellow grey mottled clay with frequent small to large stone inclusions	Subsoil
005	T4	Deposit	Mid compact light brown orange silt with small to large stone inclusions	Subsoil
006	T4	Deposit	Moderately compact dark grey brown sandy–silt with occasional small to large stone inclusions measuring 6.5m x 3m x 0.1m	Hill wash
007	T3	Deposit	Moderately compact mottled grey black clay–sand with occasional stone and red earth inclusions measuring 4m x 2m x 0.1m	Possible hill wash deposit in depression I
008	T2	Feature	Possible pit for large stone measuring 1.2m x 2.1m	Possible Stone hole
009	T1	Feature	ENE – WSW running field drain measuring 4.5m x 0.3m x 0.3m	Field drain

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawn by	Date
001	1	T7	Plan	1:50	Post-excavation plan of Trench 7.	JP/ SK	09/01/19
002	1	T6	Plan	1:50	Post-excavation plan of Trench 6.	JP/ SK	09/01/19
003	1	T5	Plan	1:50	Post-excavation plan of Trench 5.	JP/ SK	09/01/19
004	2	T4	Plan	1:50	Post-excavation plan of Trench 4.	JP/ SK	09/01/19
005	2	T3	Plan	1:50	Post-excavation plan of Trench 3.	JP/ SK	09/01/19
006	2	T2	Plan	1:50	Post-excavation plan of Trench 2.	JP/ SK	09/01/19
007	2	T1	Plan	1:50	Post-excavation plan of Trench 1	JP/ SK	09/01/19

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
1	5090	Pre-excavation shot of site	S	17/12/18
2	5091	Pre-excavation shot of site	S	17/12/18
3	5092	General view of conditions underfoot	S	17/12/18
4	5093	General view of conditions underfoot	S	17/12/18
5	5094	General view of conditions underfoot	S	17/12/18
6	5095	Pre-excavation shot of site	S	17/12/18
7	5096	Post excavation shot of T7	NE	17/12/18
8	5097	Oblique shot of T7	ENE	17/12/18
9	5098	Half sectioned root bowl in T7	E	17/12/18
10	5099	Post excavation shot of T7	SSW	17/12/18
11	5100	NW facing section of T7	NW	17/12/18
12	5101	NW facing section of T7	NW	17/12/18
13	5102	NW facing section of T7	NW	17/12/18
14	5103	NW facing section of T7	E	17/12/18
15	5104	Half sectioned root bowl with scale in T7	E	17/12/18
16	5105	Half sectioned root bowl with scale in T7	E	17/12/18
17	5106	Half sectioned root bowl with scale in T7	E	17/12/18
18	5107	Post excavation shot of T6	SSW	17/12/18
19	5108	Post excavation shot of T6	SSW	17/12/18

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
20	5109	Post excavation shot of T6	SSW	17/12/18
21	5110	Post excavation shot of T6	NNE	17/12/18
22	5111	Oblique shot of T6	SSE	17/12/18
23	5112	Oblique shot of T6	NNE	17/12/18
24	5113	SE facing section of T6	SE	17/12/18
25	5114	Possible sandstone dump	SE	17/12/18
26	5115	Post excavation shot of T5	SW	17/12/18
27	5116	Oblique shot of T5	NNW	17/12/18
28	5117	Post excavation shot of T5	NW	17/12/18
29	5118	Post excavation shot of T5	NW	17/12/18
30	5119	Example of root bowel T5	NE	17/12/18
31	5120	Example of root bowel T5	NE	18/12/18
32	5121	Oblique shot T5	NNE	18/12/18
33	5122	Post excavation of shot of T5	SE	18/12/18
34	5123	Example of root bowel T5	NNE	18/12/18
35	5124	Post excavation shot of T4	WNW	18/12/18
36	5125	Possible hill wash in T4	ESE	18/12/18
37	5126	Post excavation shot T4	WNW	18/12/18
38	5127	Post excavation shot T4	ESE	18/12/18
39	5128	Oblique shot of T4	NW	18/12/18
40	5129	Oblique shot of T4	NE	18/12/18

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
41	5130	NNE facing section of T4	NNE	19/12/18
42	5131	NNE facing section of T4	NNE	19/12/18
43	5132	Post excavation shot of T3	WNW	19/12/18
44	5133	Post excavation shot of T3	WNW	19/12/18
45	5134	Oblique shot of T3	NW	19/12/18
46	5135	Possible spread T3	ESE	19/12/18
47	5136	Possible spread of T3	WNW	19/12/18
48	5137	Possible spread of T3	ESE	19/12/18
49	5138	Post excavation shot of T3	ESE	19/12/18
50	5139	Oblique shot of T3	ENE	19/12/18
51	5140	Post excavation shot of T2	E	19/12/18
52	5141	Post excavation shot of T2	E	19/12/18
53	5142	Oblique shot of T2	ENE	19/12/18
54	5143	Post excavation shot of T2	WNW	09/01/19
55	5144	Post excavation shot of T2	WNW	09/01/19
56	5145	Post excavation shot of T2	WNW	09/01/19
57	5146	Oblique shot of T2	NW	09/01/19
58	5147	Possible pit dug for dumping stone	N	09/01/19
59	5148	Possible pit dug for dumping stone	NWN	09/01/19
60	5149	Possible pit dug for dumping stone	S	09/01/19
61	5150	Possible pit dug for dumping stone	N	09/01/19

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
62	5151	Post excavation shot of T1 with field drain	W	09/01/19
63	5152	Post excavation shot of T1 with field drain	E	09/01/19
64	5153	Post excavation shot of T1 with field drain	W	09/01/19
65	5154	Oblique shot of T1	WNW	09/01/19
66	5155	Post excavation shot of T1	E	09/01/19
67	5156	Oblique shot of T1	ENE	09/01/19
68	5157	Post excavation shot of T1	E	09/01/19
69	5158	Oblique shot of T1	ENE	09/01/19
70	5159	Close up of field drain	-	09/01/19
71	5160	Close up of field drain	-	09/01/19
72	5161	Extension of T2	S	09/01/19
73	5162	Extension of T2	S	09/01/19
74	5163	Slot through hill wash T4	S	09/01/19
75	5164	Slot through hill wash T4	S	09/01/19
76	5165	Slot through hill wash T4	N	09/01/19

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	North of Lakin Farm
PROJECT CODE:	RA18086
PARISH:	Kilmory
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jack Portwood
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NR 90036 30481 (centred)
START DATE (this season)	9 th January 2019
END DATE (this season)	9 th January 2019
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 9th January, 2019 by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd. on behalf of Mr William Bennett in support of development work on land to the North of Lakin Farm, Shiskine.</p> <p>A total of 7 trenches were excavated. These identified one drainage feature associated with the recent agricultural activities.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr William Bennett
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to NRHE.

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