

Auchterarder Castle, Perth & Kinross: Archaeological Mitigation

Data Structure Report



by Jack Portwood

issued 5th April 2019

on behalf of Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions UK Ltd

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 *S. Portwood* Date5th April 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 *L M Clancy* Date5th April 2019.....

Copyright Rathmell Archaeology Limited. All rights reserved.

No part of this report may be copied or reproduced by any means without prior written permission from Rathmell Archaeology Limited. If you have received this report in error, please destroy all copies in your possession or control and notify Rathmell Archaeology Limited.

This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of the commissioning party and unless otherwise agreed in writing by Rathmell Archaeology Limited, no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of the report. No liability is accepted by Rathmell Archaeology Limited for any use of this report, other than the purposes for which it was originally prepared and provided.

Opinions and information provided in the report are on the basis of Rathmell Archaeology Limited using due skill, care and diligence in preparation of the same and no explicit warranty is provided as to their accuracy. It should be noted and it is expressly stated that no independent verification of any of the documents or information supplied to Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been made.

Quality Assurance Data

Author(s) Jack Portwood

Date of Issue 5th April 2019 Version 1.0

Commissioning Body Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions UK Ltd

Event Name Auchterarder Castle

Event Type Watching Brief

Event Date(s) March 2019

Rathmell Archaeology Code RA18113 OASIS Ref rathmell1-348070

Location United Kingdom : Scotland : Perth & Kinross

NGR NN 94351 13389 Parish Auchterarder

Designation(s) Scheduled Monument

Canmore IDs SM1634

Contents

Introduction	3
Archaeological and Historical Background	3
Project Works.....	3
Findings.....	3
Discussion	7
Recommendations	7
Conclusion	7
Acknowledgements	7
References	7
Appendix 1: Registers.....	8
Context Register.....	8
Photographic Register	8
Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland	10
Contact Details	11

Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions UK Ltd in support of the insertion of a new gas main adjacent to the housing development in Auchterarder, Perth & Kinross. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
2. The Written Scheme of Investigation (Park 2019) provided the detail of the works (archaeological monitoring, exclusion, excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication) for the mitigation pertaining to groundbreaking within the development area and hence the direct physical impact on buried sediments.
3. All works undertaken comply with Rathmell Archaeology Ltd and Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust's standard working procedures. This Data Structure Report is designed to meet the requirements of Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions UK Ltd.

Archaeological and Historical Background

4. For the archaeological and historical background please consult the supporting document:

Park, V. 2019. Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions UK Limited:
Auchterarder Castle Mains: Written Scheme of Investigation.

Project Works

5. The programme of works comprised the archaeological monitoring of a long stretch of trench which was to be excavated prior to the insertion of a new gas main for a new housing development to the SE (Figure 1). This stretch of trench was also located to the immediate NE of a scheduled monument, Auchterarder Castle (SM1634). The monitoring works took place between the 25th and 26th March 2019. The trench was excavated under archaeological supervision by a 6 tonne 360° tracked machine with a flat trenching bucket.
6. All works were conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct (2014) and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (2016).

Findings

7. The route of the gas main was orientated in a NE-SW direction along an unnamed road (which joined the B8062 to the E) within in a gently sloping pastoral field (Figure 2a). The trench was excavated 7m out from the NW edge of the unnamed road and measured 24m in length by 1.5m in width by 1.3m in depth (Figure 2b).
8. Excavation started with the removal of the topsoil (001) which consisted of a friable mid grey brown, sand silt with infrequent small stone inclusions. The topsoil had a thickness of 0.3m. Below the topsoil was an upper layer of natural subsoil (002) which consisted of a softly compacted, dark orange-brown, sand clay with frequent stone inclusions and occasional fragments of ceramic field drain. The upper subsoil had a thickness of 0.7m. A lower layer of subsoil (003) consisted of a moderately, compacted dark red-brown, clay with very frequent laminal sandstone inclusions. Beneath the lower subsoil layer the bedrock was identified at a depth of 1.3m (Figure 3a) and it was noted along the entire length of the trench. The trench was extended to the SW and cut through a modern path (004) made up of (type 1) gravel. The path was approximately 3m wide and had a thickness range of between 0.1m and 0.2m. The upper subsoil layer (002) was identified as a thin layer beneath the path (Figure 3b).
9. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified within the monitored areas.

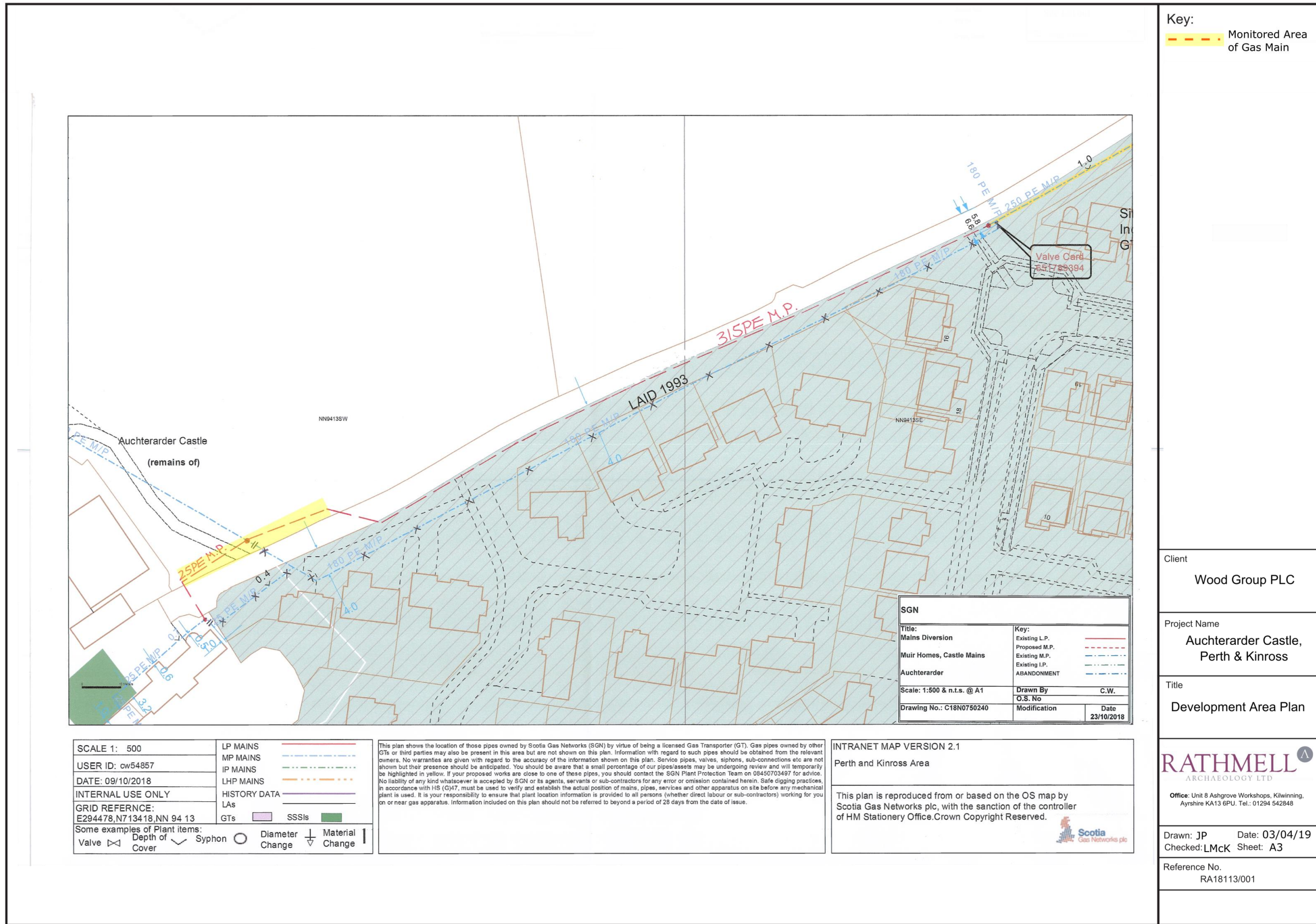


Figure 1: Plan showing location of monitored zones



Figure 2a: Pre-excitation shot along route of gas main from the northeast, towards Auchterarder Castle.



Figure 2b: Post-excitation shot down length of trench with path reinstated from southwest.



Figure 3a: Section of trench showing (001) topsoil, (002) subsoil and (003) bedrock from the southeast.



Figure 3b: Mid-excavation of trench cut through path (004) from northwest

Discussion

10. No evidence of Auchterarder Castle's moat or any other features relating to it were identified within the monitored areas. This could be due to the field to the E of the castle having undergone heavy ploughing over the years or it is also possible that there was no moat or that the moat was situated a different location either close to the castle or further to the W.

Recommendations

11. No archaeological remains associated with Auchterarder Castle were identified within the development area. Due to this Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommends that no further archaeological works be carried out as a direct consequence of these works.
12. The acceptability of these recommendations needs to be confirmed with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

Conclusion

13. Archaeological monitoring works were carried out in support of the insertion of a new gas main adjacent to the unnamed road running between Auchterarder Castle and the B862. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
14. The archaeological monitoring did not identify the presence of any archaeological features associated with the castle in the area of development.

Acknowledgements

15. We are grateful to Tori Park of Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions UK Ltd for allowing us the chance to carry out these works. The author would also like to thank Alan Burns and the ground works team, for all of their help while attending site. I would also like to thank Liam McKinstry for his help with editing this report.

References

16. Park, V. 2019 *Auchterarder Castle Mains: Written Scheme of Investigation*: Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions UK Limited

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	Friable, mid grey brown, sand silt with infrequent stone, root inclusion, measuring 0.3m deep	Topsoil
002		Deposit	Plastic dark orange brown, sand clay with frequent stone inclusions and occasional ceramic field drains, measuring 0.7m deep	Subsoil
003		Deposit	Compacted dark red brown, clay with very frequent laminal sandstone inclusions seen at 1.30m deep	Natural
004		Deposit	Type 1 measuring 3m wide by 0.1m – 0.2m deep	Path Surface

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital No.	Description	From	Date
01	3437	Pre- Excavation shot	SW	25/03/19
02	3438	Pre- Excavation shot	W	25/03/19
03	3439	Pre- Excavation shot	NE	25/03/19
04	3440	Mid- Excavation shot	SW	25/03/19
05	3441	Working shot	SW	25/03/19
06	3442	General shot End of Day	SW	25/03/19
07	3443	General shot End of Day	NE	25/03/19
08	3444	Extension of Trench through Footpath	SW	26/03/19
09	3445	Extension of Trench through Footpath	NW	26/03/19

Image No.	Digital No.	Description	From	Date
10	3446	Section of Extension of Trench through Footpath	NW	26/03/19
11	3447	Post – Excavation shot	SW	26/03/19
12	3448	Post – Excavation shot	SW	26/03/19
13	3449	Post – Excavation shot	NE	26/03/19
14	3450	Post – Excavation shot	NE	26/03/19
15	3451	Section	SE	26/03/19
16	3452	General shot	SE	26/03/19
17	3453	General shot	SE	26/03/19

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth & Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Auchterarder Castle
PROJECT CODE:	RA18113
PARISH:	Auchterarder
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jack Portwood
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	SM1634
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Castle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NN 94351 13389
START DATE (this season)	25 th March 2019
END DATE (this season)	26 th March 2019
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological monitoring works were carried out in support of the insertion of a new gas main adjacent to the unnamed road running between Auchterarder Castle and the B862. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.</p> <p>No archaeological features included any evidence of the moat or materials where discovered along the monitored areas to the area northeast of Auchterarder Castle (SM 1634).</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions UK 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 the National Record of the Historic Environment

Contact Details

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

Rathmell Archaeology Ltd www.rathmell-arch.co.uk

Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops

Kilwinning t.: 01294 542848

Ayrshire f.: 01294 542849

KA13 6PU e.: contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk

End of Document