

# **Cordon, Lamlash: Archaeological Evaluation**

Data Structure Report

by Douglas Gordon

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**Rathmell**  
Archaeology Ltd

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## 1 Overview

- 1.1 This Data Structure Report presents the findings of archaeological investigative works required by Armitage Groundworks Ltd on behalf of Mr John Lamb prior to the residential development at Cordon, Lamlash, Arran (centred on NGR ref: NS026 300). The archaeological works, carried out on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008, were designed to inform any necessary mitigation of impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
- 1.2 The findings presented below inform on the character of any archaeologically significant features within the proposed development area and the appropriateness or requirement for further archaeological works. The character of such further stages of work will need to be agreed with North Ayrshire Council and West of Scotland Archaeology Service.
- 1.3 The area concerned was a heavily scrubbed area of spare ground with a small ditch measuring approximately 500mm wide and 450mm deep, running east to west through the middle of the site then turns north along the western boundary fences of Sycamore Cottage to the east. The study area is within 85m from the shore, sitting at 5-10m OD and extends 0.16ha.
- 1.4 Rathmell Archaeology Ltd was appointed by Armitage Groundworks Ltd on behalf of Mr John Lamb to act with regard to archaeological matters.

## 2 Project Works

- 2.1 The programme of works commenced with an archaeological evaluation through 4 machine cut trenches. In total 258m<sup>2</sup> of linear trenching was excavated, slightly exceeding the minimum requirement of three trenches for the development area.
- 2.2 The positions and dimensions of the trenches had to be varied due to ground conditions and size restrictions. The original agreement with WoSAS was for three trenches one 25m long and two 45m long. In the end four trenches were excavated Tr1 30m, Tr2 35m, Tr3 36m and Tr4 28m.
- 2.3 The majority of exposed features were investigated and evaluated to determine archaeological significance; the on-site works took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008. All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

## 3 Findings: Desktop study

- 3.1 The desktop study did not identify the presence within the study area of any sites protected for their archaeological or historical merit under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 or buildings protected under the Town and Country Planning Act 1997 (Historic Scotland 1998).
- 3.2 Nor were any sites identified that have the potential to contain the burial of human skeletal material, and hence raise the difficulties of the crime of violation of sepulchre (the common law crime of unlawful interference with human remains).
- 3.3 However within the site the National Monuments Record of Scotland shows the presence of a cairn (NMRS: NS03SW19) which is the circular feature marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey (Figure 1a). It is noted in the record that 'A small green tumulus was removed some years ago from a heathery knoll.....beside Cordon'. The stones were used for house building. (McArthur 1873). Out with the study area 300m to the west is the site of Glenarry Farmstead, which is also marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey. (Figure 1)

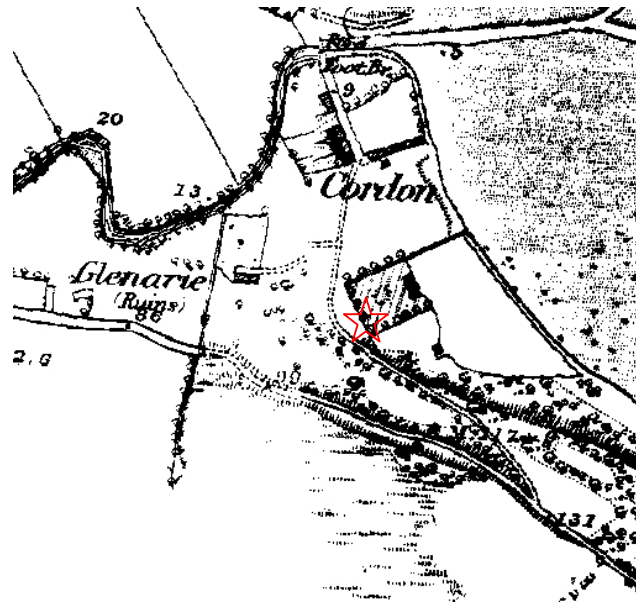


Figure 1a: 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1868

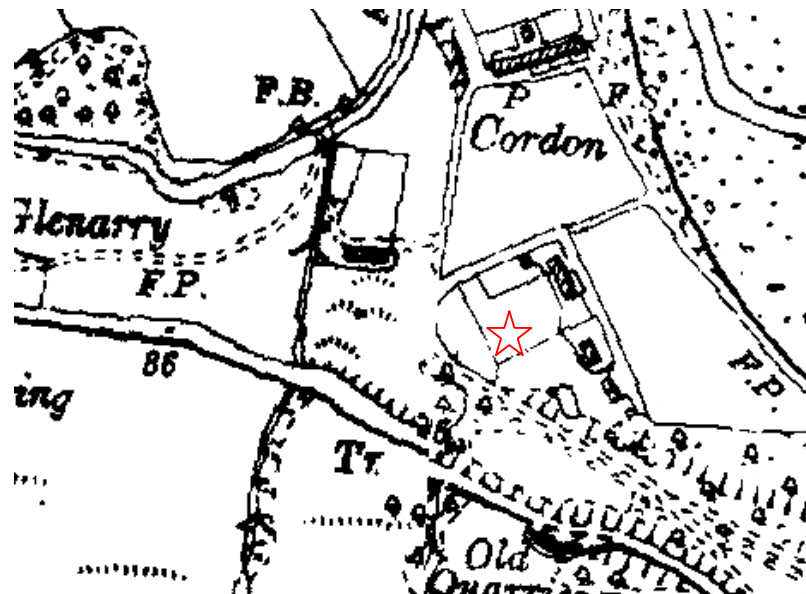


Figure 1b Ordnance Survey 1924

- 3.4 The first viable mapping evidence comes from the 1<sup>st</sup> Ordnance Survey (Figure 1a) which shows part of the study area taken up by a formal garden to the west of a building, delimited by trees and possible hedge/fence, with a circular feature within the centre of the garden. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey shows a second building to the southeast of the building marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, while the garden appears to have been cropped on the western edge by a road. There is no change on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey, while on the 1924 Ordnance Survey (a third building has appeared to the southeast of the other two and the garden has been sub divided by a rectangular enclosure along three quarters on its northern side.
- 3.5 The site is reputed to have been an ornamental garden in the early part of the twentieth century (*pers comm*. David Campbell)

## 4 Findings: Evaluation trenches

- 4.1 The ground was monitored as the site was cleared of the scrub prior to the evaluation, only modern artefacts were noted in the topsoil during the clearing. Four trenches in total were dug during the evaluation. All trenches exhibited a fairly common stratigraphic sequence with Mid–dark brown topsoil slightly sandy silt loam [101] with frequent rootlets and roots which varied in depth from 200mm to 300mm. The topsoil [101] overlay a slightly varying subsoil of light-mid brown silty sand [103] with occasional coal pieces present, which also had frequent roots present at the northern end of the site. Within Trench 1 for the first 6.4m at the north end of the trench was a further deposit underlying (101) which consisted of a mid grey brown slightly sandy silt loam (102)
- 4.2 Eight linears were recorded within Trenches 1, 2 and 3. In Trench 1 at +13m (104) was aligned east to west, measured 400mm wide and 100mm deep with a grey brown sandy silt fill, which contained modern white glazed pottery. At +21m and +25m linear (105) aligned west southwest to east northeast, measured 400mm and 200mm deep and filled with sub angular and sub rounded medium sized stones. The last linear within Trench 1 (106) was aligned east to west, measured 500mm wide and 100mm deep with a grey brown sandy silt fill with modern white glaze pottery inclusions.
- 4.3 Within Trench 2 at +6.7m was a circular feature with a diameter of 500mm that a topsoil fill with modern pottery and glass present. At +28.3m and 30.5m were two further stone filled linears (105) aligned west southwest to east northeast. Trench 3 contained two linears the first at +3.9m was a continuation of (104) and the second (108) at +8m was aligned roughly northwest to southeast and measured 400mm wide and 350mm deep and contain an orange red pipe 300mm in diameter.



Figure 2a: Trench 1



Figure 2b: Trench 2



Figure 2c: Trench 3

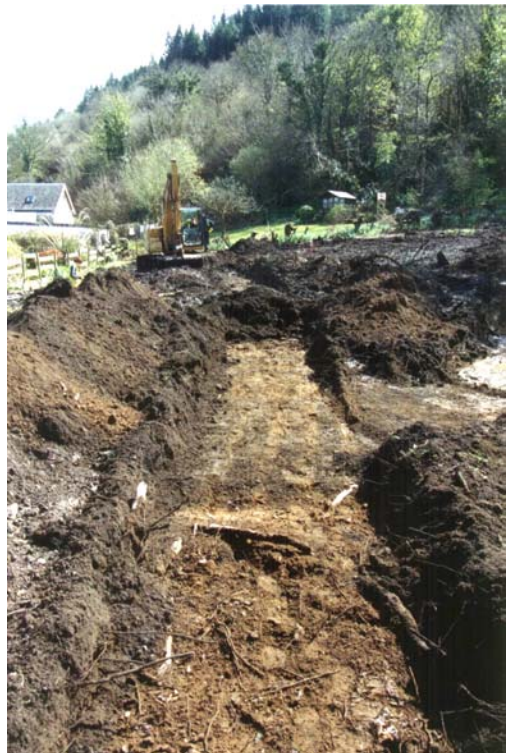


Figure 2d: Trench 4.



## 5 Discussion

- 5.1 The features recorded within the four evaluation trenches were all of modern or relatively modern date. Features (105) are rubble drains probably dating to within the past two hundred years, most likely from to the eighteenth Century. Pit feature (107) is a modern rubbish pit, while features (104) and (106) appear to be modern drainage features possibly forerunners to the present ditch that runs through the site, or maybe related to the ornamental garden known on the site.
- 5.2 The removal of the tumulus in the nineteenth century appears to have been total and most likely compounded by the later ornamental garden, which may have removed any surviving remnants.

## 6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The evaluation did not reveal any archaeological features or materials of archaeological significance. Consequently, we recommend that the most appropriate response is that no further archaeological works be carried out.
- 6.2 The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with North Ayrshire Council and the West of Scotland Archaeology Service. Confirmation that the above recommendations are acceptable should be confirmed with these bodies.

## 7 Conclusion

- 7.1 A programme of archaeological investigative works was undertaken in respect of the proposed residential development at Cordon, Lamlash, Arran (centred on NGR ref: NS026 300). An evaluation was carried out on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008. The evaluation comprised of four trenches located within the footprints of the proposed development.
- 7.2 All trenches exhibited a fairly common stratigraphic sequence with Mid–dark brown topsoil slightly sandy silt loam [101] with frequent rootlets and roots which varied in depth from 200mm to 300mm. The topsoil [101] overlay a slightly varying subsoil of light-mid brown silty sand [103] with occasional coal pieces present. Within Trench 1 for the first 6.4m at the north end of the trench was a further deposit underlying (101) which consisted of a mid grey brown slightly sandy silt loam (102)
- 7.3 No significant archaeology or artefacts were recovered during the evaluation.

## 8 References

- 8.1 *Documentary*
- |             |      |                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| McArthur, J | 1873 | <i>The Antiquities of Arran with a historical Sketch of the Island Embracing an Account of The Sudreyjar under the Norsemen</i> , Edinburgh |
| SODev       | 1994 | <i>National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and planning</i> , Scottish Office Development Department.                             |
| SOEnv       | 1994 | <i>Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology</i> , Scottish Office Environmental Department.                                                     |
- 8.2 *Cartographic*
- |      |                 |                                                  |
|------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1868 | Ordnance Survey | Argyllshire, 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition Map 1:10560 |
| 1896 | Ordnance Survey | Argyllshire, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition map 1:10560 |
| 1905 | Ordnance Survey | Argyllshire, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition map 1:10560 |
| 1924 | Ordnance Survey | Argyllshire, 1:10560                             |



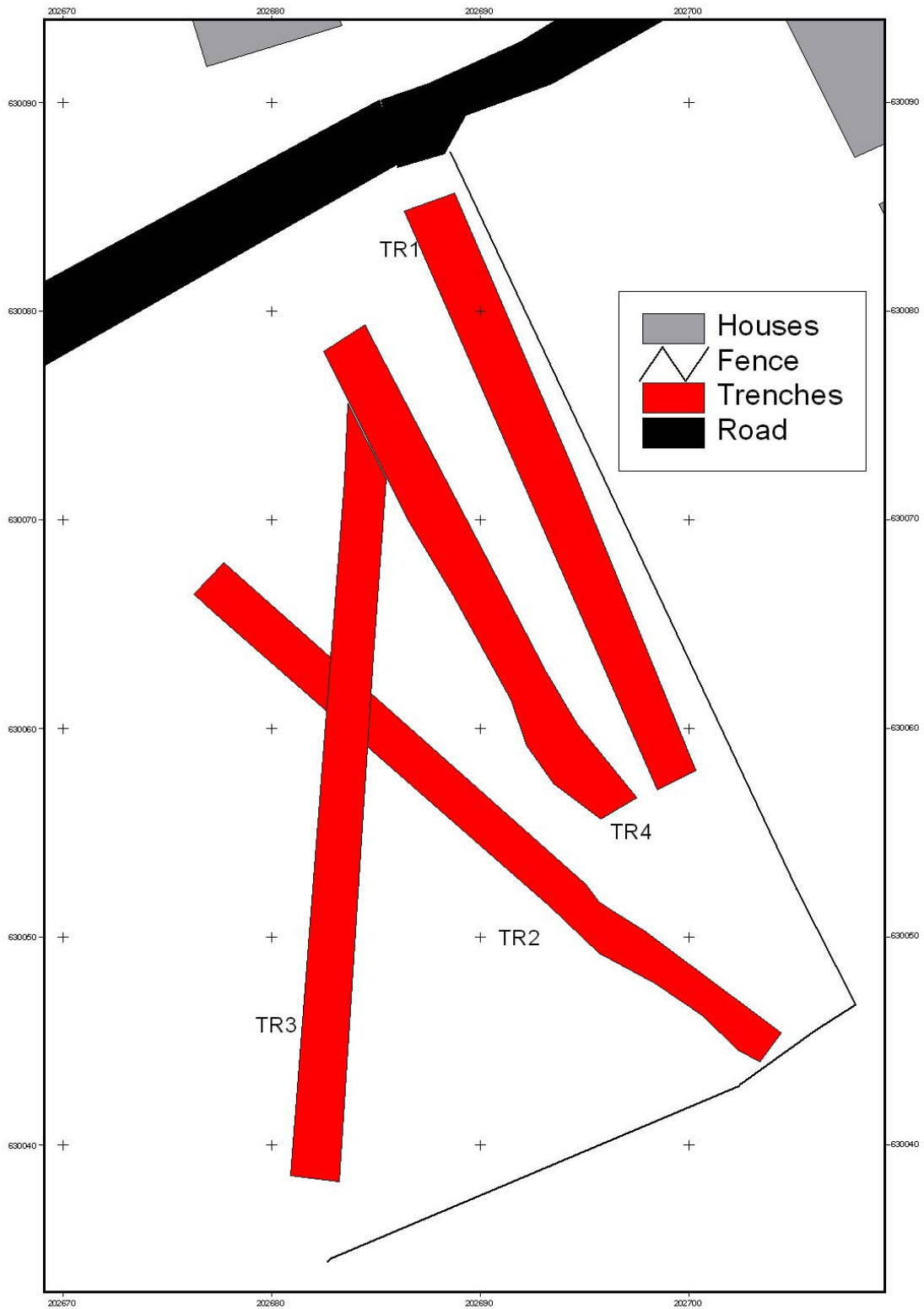


Figure 3: Trench Layout

## Appendix 1: Trench Details

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. See Figure 3 for trench locations.

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Topsoil Depth</b>	<b>Subsoil Character</b>	<b>Modern Features</b>	<b>Significant Features</b>	<b>Artefacts</b>
01	North-north-west to south-south-east	30m by 2m  60m <sup>2</sup>	250 mm	Mid-light brown silty sand (103).	Modern drainage feature [104] present at +13 to +13.4, aligned east-west. Rubble drains (105) present at +21 to +22.5 and +24.9 to +25.3, aligned east-west. Modern drainage feature (106) present at +23.2 to +23.9, aligned east-west.	None	None
2	South-east to north-west	35m by 2m  70 m <sup>2</sup>	250mm to 300mm	Mid-light brown silty sand (103).	Modern circular feature (107) present at +6.7 to +7.3.	None	None
3	East to west	36m by 2m  72 m <sup>2</sup>	200mm to 320mm	Mid-light brown silty sand (103).	Clay drainage pipe (108) present at +4 to +5.1, aligned northwest – southeast.	None	None
4	North-north-west to south-south-east.	28.2m by 2m  56.4 m <sup>2</sup>	250mm to 300mm	Mid-light brown silty sand (103).	None	None	None.

## Appendix 2: Registers

### *Context Register*

Context No.	Area/Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
101	1	Topsoil	Mid-dark brown, silty sandy loam. Present in northern end of trench. Very frequent scallop shell inclusions. 250mm deep.	Topsoil
102	1	Topsoil	Mid-grey brown, silty sandy loam. 430mm deep.	Topsoil
103	1	Subsoil	Mid-light brown silty sand. Very frequent bioturbation.	Subsoil
104	1	Linear	Linear feature aligned east-west. 400mm wide, 100 deep. Fill is grey-brown sandy silt. White glaze pottery is present in the fill. Cut is scooped cross-section with sloping sides.	Modern drainage feature.
105	1	Linear	Linear features aligned north-west – south east with sub-angular rounded stones.	Rubble drains
106	1	Linear	Aligned east – west. Scooped cross-section with sloping sides. Fill is grey-brown sandy silt.	Modern drainage feature.
107	2	Circular	Dark-grey brown silty sand. Modern white glaze pottery, glass and slate inclusions.	Modern circular feature.
108	3	Linear	Clay circular pipe, aligned north-west- south-east. Orange-red glaze, 300mm diameter.	Clay drainage pipe.

### *Photographic Register*

Image No.	Print		Slide		Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.			
001	1	1	1	1	Trench 2	W	24/4/08
002	1	2	1	2	Trench 4	E	24/4/08
003	1	3	1	3	Trench 3	SE	24/4/08
004	1	4	1	4	Trench 1	E	24/4/08
005	1	5	1	5	Shot of field/rubble drain (105) in south end of Trench 1	SSE	24/4/08
006	1	6	1	6	General shot of trenches	NNW	24/4/08
007	1	7	1	7	General shot of trenches	NW	24/4/08

### *Drawing Register*

<b>Drawing No.</b>	<b>Sheet No.</b>	<b>Area/ Trench</b>	<b>Drawing Type</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Drawer</b>	<b>Date</b>
01	1	1	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 1	D.G	24/4/08
02	1	2	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 2	D.G	24/4/08
03	1	3	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 3	D.G	24/4/08
04	1	4	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 4	D.G	24/4/0887

## Appendix 3: Discovery &amp; Excavation in Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	North Ayrshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Codon, Lamlash
<b>PARISH:</b>	Kilbride
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Douglas Gordon
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NS026 300
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> April 2008
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> April 2008
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological investigative works was undertaken in respect of the proposed residential development at Cordon, Lamlash, Arran (centred on NGR ref: NS026 300). An evaluation was carried out on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008. The evaluation comprised of four trenches located within the footprints of the proposed development.</p> <p>All trenches exhibited a fairly common stratigraphic sequence with Mid–dark brown topsoil slightly sandy silt loam [101] with frequent rootlets and roots which varied in depth from 200mm to 300mm. The topsoil [101] overlay a slightly varying subsoil of light-mid brown silty sand [103] with occasional coal pieces present. Within Trench 1 for the first 6.4m at the north end of the trench was a further deposit underlying (101) which consisted of a mid grey brown slightly sandy silt loam (102)</p> <p>No significant archaeology or artefacts were recovered during the evaluation.</p>
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	08029
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Armitage Groundworks on Behalf of Mr John Lamb
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<b>E MAIL:</b>	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Report to Western Isles Archaeology Service and archive to National Monuments Record of Scotland.

## Contact Details

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