

**Lagg, Isle of Arran, North Ayrshire:
Archaeological Evaluation**

Data Structure Report

by Katie Sludden

issued 25th September 2008



Rathmell

Archaeology Ltd

Quality Assurance

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Signed Date

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Checked Date

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1 Overview

- 1.1 This Data Structure Report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on behalf of Mr Tony Kilna in respect to a forthcoming development at Lagg, Isle of Arran (Planning application no. N/06/00070/PP). The archaeological works are designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
- 1.2 The area concerned is currently agricultural ground on land adjacent to Kilmory House (NGR: NR 9566 2158) and extends to roughly 0.59ha. It is located to the immediate south of the present Kilmory House and east of Lagg Bridge, which crosses the Torrylinn Water. The access road leading to this ground runs north from the A841 road roughly 400m west of Laigh Kilmory, Isle of Arran, North Ayrshire
- 1.3 North Ayrshire Council has instructed that a programme of archaeological works be undertaken as a requirement of the issued planning consent. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service who advise North Ayrshire Council on archaeological matters have provided guidance on the structure of archaeological mitigation required on this site during development works.
- 1.4 Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by Mr and Tony Kilna to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works during the development at Lagg, Isle of Arran.

2 Historical Background

- 2.1 The available cartographic sources show the development ground to have been undeveloped prior to the construction of the surrounding residences. Langland's map of 1771-1810 has the first depiction of the parish of Kilmory (Figure 1a) which shows the existence of Kilmory Kirk, and its wooded environs. Kilmory was originally Cille Mhoire in Gaelic: the cell or church of Saint Mary (Currie, 1908, 78) and was built in 1785 (SAS, 17 168). We can infer from this that there were no structures on the site in the late 18th century and that the area was most likely grazing land associated with Kilmory Parish. The existing road to the northwest of the site, the current A841 and the field-systems were in existence on the first edition 1856 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 1.3) suggesting agricultural use of the land since the mid-nineteenth century onwards.
- 2.2 The development area is immediately adjacent to the site of a possible mill now known as Kilmory House. This is first depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1856 and again on the OS 2nd edition 1869 map (Figs. 1.3 and 1.4).
- 2.3 The development area does not appear to lie on the immediate fabric of the mill, but lies southeast of the mill structure upon a raised plateau above Torrylinn Water. However, there is a possibility that outworks, middens, ancillary structures and other comparable material related to the mill still survive as buried archaeology in this area.
- 2.4 Two Chambered cairns are identifiable within the local landscape: Torrylin Chambered Cairn (NMRS No. NR92 SE 2) and Clachaig Cairn (NMRS No. NR92 SW 4). Both of these are Scheduled Ancient Monuments protected under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. These cairns follow the Clyde group of chambered cairns. Correctly termed, the 'Clyde-Carlingford' group these monuments can be found in both Scotland and Northern Ireland. On the Scottish side, they are mainly found in Argyll and Dumfries and Galloway, both in the south-west of the country (a small outlying group can be found near Perth). They are not passage-graves since they lack any significant passage and are properly termed gallery graves. The burial chamber (although usually blocked after use) is of very comparatively basic design and is normally located at one end of the cairn. As a result, it could be immediately accessed from the outside. They are generally considered to be the earliest chambered cairns in Scotland, dating from 4000 BC and were likely a burial tradition brought to Scotland from Ireland.



Fig. 1.1: Langlands, George, 1771-1810.



Fig. 1.2: Thomson, John, 1777-1832.



Fig. 1.3: OS, 1856 1st ed. 6 inch to 1 mile.

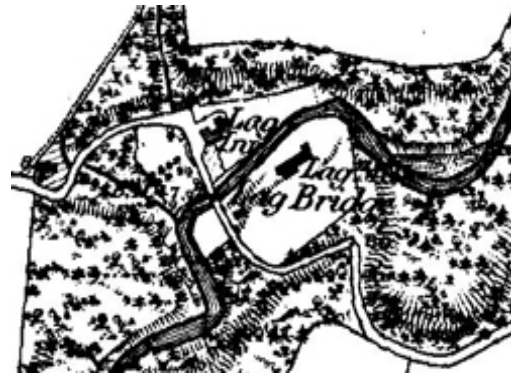


Fig. 1.4: OS, 1869, 1:10560



Fig. 1.5: OS, 1885, 1 inch to 1 mile.



Fig. 1.6: OS, 1896, 1:2500



Fig. 1.6: OS, 1903, 1 inch.

- 2.5 In addition, a sequence of recent archaeological evaluations in the area between Lagg and Kilmory has consistently revealed prehistoric remains. Ossian's Tumulus (NMRS No: NR92SE 1) lies to the north of the Clachaig Chambered Cairn and was found to contain human remains within a stone-lined cist. These prehistoric monuments are located upon a raised plateau above Torrylinn Water which is congruent to the location of the development area. Therefore the development area has the strong potential to contain significant prehistoric archaeological remains.
- 2.6 According to the Historic Land-use Map (HLMAP) the earliest use of the land was for farming in the 18th century. In the 18th and 19th centuries rectilinear fields define the extents of small farms around the area. In the 20th century the woodland spreads along the Torrylinn Water and across disused agricultural land.

3 Project Works

- 3.1 The archaeological evaluation took place from the 9th to 10th September 2008. The works included the stripping of 303.8 linear meters of trenching (these trenches were 1.6m wide, giving 486.1m² basal dimensions). This exceeded the target evaluation scale (8% of the 0.59ha development area). Slight adjustments had to be made to the trench layout in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Sludden 2008) to work round dismantled BT overhead lines and the tree cover across the eastern and southern edges of the site (Figure 3).
- 3.2 All trenches were reduced to the level of natural subsoil and any potential archaeological features investigated. All features impacted by the ground reduction appeared to be of relatively modern or natural origin, and throughout the course of the investigation no artefacts were recovered.
- 3.3 All works complied with WoSAS Standard Conditions, the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

4 Findings

- 4.1 In compliance with the Written Scheme of Investigation all trenches were reduced to the level of natural subsoil. Where the trenches were positioned on higher ground there was a deposit of hill-wash (silt) which on occasion reached depths of up to a metre. Where the subsoil consisted of gravels the hill-wash was less than 0.5m below the surface.
- 4.2 Trenches 6, 7, 8 and 9 all contained modern silted and rubble field drains. These drains were linear in plan view and generally 'U' shaped in section. Obviously these represent attempts at 19th to 20th century agricultural improvements to the fields either for grazing or crops. The relative scarcity of these drains may be due to the fact that the subsoil is mainly well-drained gravel and the land slopes naturally from the south. However, the abundance of reeds and gorse throughout the site suggests the area may exhibit problems with drainage despite its relatively elevated position. This may be exacerbated by the elevated surrounding woodland which drains into the development area causing the deposition of deep silts along the southern edge of the site. Each drain was investigated and found to be consistent in form across the site suggesting a uniform method of construction. The silted drains were filled with water bourn material from surrounding silty natural subsoil. In areas where the subsoil consisted of silts the trenches were deepened so that the levels of natural subsoil could be verified. This was an arbitrary exercise since the coexisting level of the natural gravels would seem to suggest that the initial depths of excavation were correct.
- 4.3 The topsoil consisted of blue-grey silty clay, heavily rooted and wet. This was consistent across the site at a depth of up to 420mm. The subsoil varied in nature across the site and showed some signs of root disturbance along the southern and eastern site boundary. Most of the roots, associated with either trees or reeds, were shallow although along the eastern edge roots made significant impact on the subsoil. Away from the woodland the underlying

subsoil remained relatively intact. For the most part the subsoil consisted of a bright orange-brown, silty-gravel with occasional large rounded igneous stones.

- 4.4 A deposit of angular mixed stone and modern waste material was discovered at the west end of Trench 6. This extended to about 3m wide and 300mm deep and was most likely modern field clearance due to its positioning on site at the edge of the field. No features of historic or archaeological significance were found anywhere on the site and no finds were recovered. There were no signs of earlier agricultural techniques such as rig and furrow and the only negative features observed in the subsoil were modern drains.

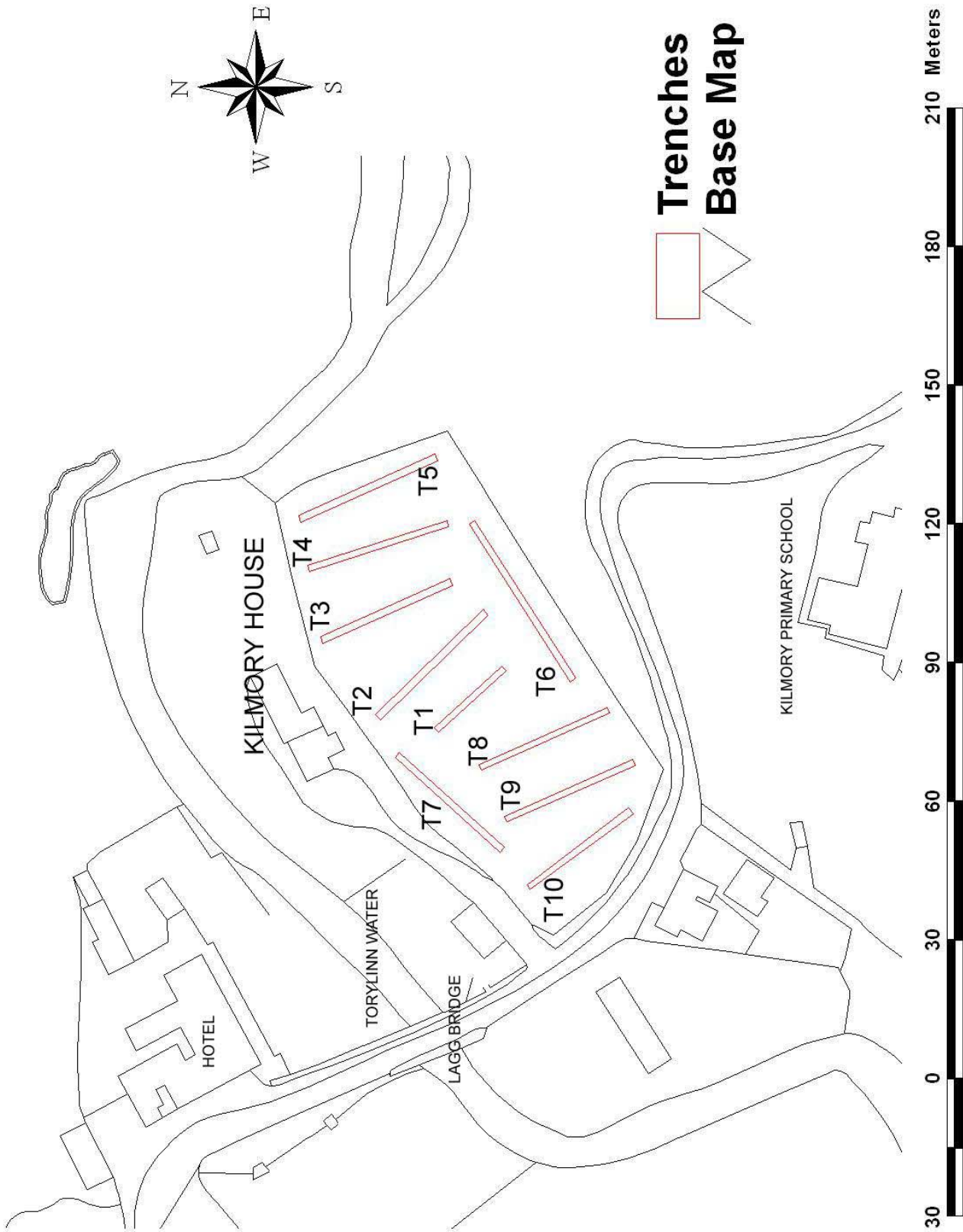


Figure 2: Trench Locations



Fig. 3a: Pre-Ex of Development Area



Fig. 3b: Post Ex of Trench 1



Fig. 3c: Sample Section from Trench 1



Fig. 3d: Post Ex of Trench 5



Fig. 3e: Sample Section from Trench 5



Fig. 3f: Field Clearance in Trench 6



Fig. 3g: Post Ex of Trench 10



Fig. 3h: Backfilled Trenches.

5 Discussion

- 5.1 No archaeologically significant features were observed anywhere on the site. It appears from the examination of cartographic evidence that the site has remained as arable land throughout recorded history. It seems likely therefore that the use of the site has remained consistent or that subsequent land use has completely obscured any traces of archaeological features. However, the lack of disturbance to the subsoil suggests that the site has consistently remained unoccupied.
- 5.2 From the complete lack of archaeological evidence recovered from the evaluation trenches we are forced to conclude that the site has remained unoccupied and uncultivated despite the known existence of prehistoric activity within the surrounding landscape.
- 5.3 The surrounding prehistoric settlement and burial activity in the area seem to take place on a slightly higher plateau, which follows a contour around the Torrylin River. Although only a general observation this may provide a reason for the scarcity of activity within the development area.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The archaeological evaluation failed to identify any significant archaeological features or artefacts within the development area. Consequently, we recommend that no further archaeological works are appropriate.
- 6.2 The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with North Ayrshire Council and the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, their advisors. Confirmation that the above recommendations are acceptable should be received from these bodies prior to the implementation of any development works whose appropriateness may rely on these recommendations.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried on the 9th September 2008 on behalf of Mr Tony Kilna in respect to a forthcoming development at Lagg, Isle of Arran, North Ayrshire (Planning application no. N/06/00070/PP). These archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
- 7.2 The evaluation identified no significant archaeological remains. On balance we have illustrated that this development will not adversely impact on any archaeological remains and we recommend that no further archaeological works are appropriate.

8 References

8.1 *Bibliographic References*

Currie, Ronald	1908	<i>The Place Names of Arran</i> , Glasgow, John Smith & Son, p78.
Gemmel, A	1990	<i>Discovering Arran</i> , John Donald Publishers Ltd, Edinburgh.
McArthur, John	1873	<i>The Antiquities of Arran</i> , Edinburgh, Adam and Charles Balck.
	1791-99	Old Statistical Accounts of Scotland, Volume 9, Number XII, Kilmorie, p165-171.
	1834-45	New Statistical Accounts of Scotland, Volume 5, Kilmorie, p40-68.

SODev	1994	<i>National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and planning</i> , Scottish Office Development Department.
SOEnd	1994	<i>Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology</i> , Scottish Office Environmental Department.

8.2 Cartographic References

Langlands, George	1771-1810	Ayrshire
Thomson, John	1777-ca.1840	Northern Part of Argyll Shire, Southern Part.
Ordnance Survey	1856	<i>First Edition, Ordnance Survey</i>
Ordnance Survey	1885	<i>Second Edition, Ordnance Survey</i>
Ordnance Survey	1856	<i>First Edition, Ordnance Survey</i>
Ordnance Survey	1885	Second Edition, Ordnance Survey

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 1 for trench locations.

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
01	NW-SE	1.6m by 21.3m by 600mm	270mm-300mm	Bands of 004 Orange silty gravels but mainly 003 orange soft silt.	None	None	None
02	NW-SE	1.6m by 33.4m by 550mm	200mm-320mm	Bands of 006, Fine rounded gravels with orangey brown silt inclusions and 005 bright orange-brown silt.	None	None	None
03	NW-SE	1.6m by 31m by 600mm.	200mm-280mm	Patches of 007, orange-brown silty gravel but mainly 005 bright orange-brown silt.	None	None	None
04	NNW-SSE	1.6m by 32m by 620mm	300mm-320mm	Bands of 007, orange-brown silty gravel and 005 bright orange-brown silt.	None	None	None.
05	NNW-SSE	1.6m by 32M by 650mm	300mm-330mm	Bands of 007, orange-brown silty gravel and 005 bright orange-brown silt.	None	None	None
06	NE-SW	1.6m by 41m by 900mm	180mm-200mm	005 Bright orange-brown silt	Two linear silted field drains [010] and [011]	None	None
07	SW-NE	1.6m by 30m by 580mm	400mm	Bands of 007, orange-brown silty gravel and 005 bright orange-	Two linear rubble field drains [015] and [013].	None	None

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
				brown silt.			
08	NW-SE	1.6m by 29m by 850mm	280mm-400mm	Patch of 007, orange-brown silty gravel but mainly 005 bright orange-brown silt.	One rubble field drain [014].	None	None.
09	NW-SE	1.6m by 27.4m by 480-900mm deep.	320-400mm	Patches of 007, orange-brown silty gravel but mainly 005 bright orange-brown silt.	One rubble field drain [016] and one silted field drain [017]	None	None
10	NW-SE	1.6m by 26.2m by 780mm	280mm - 400mm	Bands of 007, orange-brown silty gravel and 005 bright orange-brown silt.	One silted field drain [012].	None	None

Appendix 2: Registers

Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	-	Deposit	Light blue grey crumbly silty clay, heavily rooted with high grasses and gorse. Very occasional modern ceramic and glass fragments. 180mm to 420mm deep.	Topsoil
002	-	Deposit	Very pale grey brown silt, few inclusions, moderately compact. Deep on high ground under slope of woodland. 280mm to 820mm deep.	Hillwash
003	T1	Deposit	Orange soft silt, moderately compact. No inclusions.	Subsoil
004	T1	Deposit	Orange silty gravels, rounded small to medium stones.	Subsoil
005	T2-10	Deposit	Bright orange-brown silt, soft moderately compact with no inclusions	Subsoil
006	T2-3	Deposit	Fine rounded gravels with orangey brown silt inclusions.	Subsoil
007	T3-10	Deposit	Orange-brown fine silty gravel with occasional large rounded stones.	Subsoil
008	T6	Deposit	Angular mixed stones with modern waste debris of iron and glass. Sits between hillwash and subsoil.	Field Clearance
009	T6	Cut	5m long by 200mm wide by 200mm deep, contains mixed stones.	Rubble Drain
010	T6	Cut	1.8m long by 200mm wide by 200mm deep filled with silt. U shaped in section.	Drain
011	T6	Cut	Same as 010	Drain
012	T10	Cut	Same as 010	Drain
013	T7	Cut	1.8m long by 200mm wide by 150mm deep, filled with mixed stone. U shaped in section.	Rubble Drain
014	T8	Cut	Same as 013	Rubble Drain
015	T7	Cut	Same as 013	Rubble Drain
016	T9	Cut	1.8m long by 200mm wide by 210mm deep filled with mixed stone. U shaped in section.	Rubble Drain
017	T9	Cut	1.9m long by 200mm by 210mm deep filled with silt. U shaped in section.	Drain

Photographic Register

Image No.	Print		Slide		Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.			
001	1	001	1	010	Pre-Ex Site Shots	W	09/09/08

Data Structure Report – Lagg, Isle of Arran, North Ayrshire

Image No.	Print		Slide		Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.			
002	1	002	1	011	Pre-Ex Site Shots	NW	09/09/08
003	1	003	1	012	Pre-Ex Site Shots	W	09/09/08
004	1	004	1	013	Pre-Ex Site Shots	N	09/09/08
005	-	-	-	-	Gate/ Access/ Pre-Ex	S	09/09/08
006	1	005	1	014	Post Ex Tr 1	SW	09/09/08
007	1	006	1	015	Sample Section Tr 1	ESE	09/09/08
008	1	007	1	016	Post Ex Tr 2	SW	09/09/08
009	1	008	1	017	Sample Section Tr 2	WNW	09/09/08
010	1	009	1	018	Post Ex Tr 3	SSE	09/09/08
011	1	010	1	019	Sample Section Tr 3	WNW	09/09/08
012	1	011	1	020	Post Ex Tr 4	SSE	09/09/08
013	1	012	1	021	Sample Section Tr 4	W	09/09/08
014	1	013	1	022	Sample Section Tr 5	E	09/09/08
015	1	014	1	023	Post Ex Tr 5	D	09/09/08
016	1	015	1	024	Post Ex Tr 6	E	09/09/08
017	1	016	1	025	Sample Section Tr 6 (clearance deposit 008)	NW	09/09/08
018	1	017	1	026	Close up of stone clearance 008 in Tr 6	NN	09/09/08
019	-	-	-	-	Oblique of stone clearance 008 in Tr 6	E	09/09/08
020	-	-	-	-	Post Ex Tr 6	W	09/09/08
021	-	-	-	-	Backfilled trench 1	S	09/09/08
022	-	-	-	-	Backfilled trenches 1-3	W	09/09/08
023	-	-	-	-	Backfilled trenches 3-5	SW	09/09/08
024	-	-	-	-	Backfilled trenches 3-5	W	09/09/08
025	1	018	1	027	Sample Section Tr 10	ESE	10/09/08
026	1	019	1	028	Post Ex Tr 10	SSW	10/09/08
027	1	020	1	029	Post Ex Tr 7	W	10/09/08
028	1	021	1	030	Sample Section Tr 7	S	10/09/08
029	1	022	1	031	Post Ex Tr 8	N	10/09/08
030	1	023	1	032	Sample Section tr 8	W	10/09/08
031	1	024	1	033	Post Ex Tr. 9	N	10/09/08
032	1	025	1	034	Sample Section Tr. 9	W	10/09/08
033	1	026	1	035	Backfilled trenches	W	10/09/08
034	1	027	1	036	Backfilled trenches	SW	10/09/08

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
001	1	T1	Plan	1:50	Post Ex Plan T1	KS	09/09/08
002	1	T1	Section	1:10	Sample Section T1	KS	09/09/08
003	1	T2	Plan	1:50	Post Ex Plan T2	KS	09/09/08
004	1	T2	Section	1:10	Sample Section T2	KS	09/09/08
005	1	T3	Plan	1:50	Post Ex Plan T3	KS	09/09/08
006	1	T3	Section	1:10	Sample Section T3	KS	09/09/08
007	2	T4	Plan	1:50	Post Ex Plan T4	KS	09/09/08
008	2	T4	Section	1:10	Sample Section T4	KS	09/09/08
009	2	T5	Plan	1:50	Post Ex Plan T5	KS	09/09/08
010	2	T5	Section	1:10	Sample Section T5	KS	09/09/08
011	2	T6	Plan	1:50	Post Ex Plan T6	KS	09/09/08
012	2	T6	Section	1:10	Sample Section T6	KS	09/09/08
013	3	T10	Plan	1:50	Post Ex Plan T10	KS	10/09/08
014	3	T10	Section	1:10	Sample Section T10	KS	10/09/08
015	3	T7	Plan	1:50	Post Ex Plan T7	KS	10/09/08
016	3	T7	Section	1:10	Sample Section T7	KS	10/09/08
017	3	T8	Plan	1:50	Post Ex Plan T8	KS	10/09/08
018	3	T8	Section	1:10	Sample Section T8	KS	10/09/08
019	4	T9	Plan	1:50	Post Ex Plan T9	KS	10/09/08
020	4	T9	Section	1:10	Sample Section T9	KS	10/09/08

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Lagg, Isle of Arran
PARISH:	Kilmory
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Katie Sludden
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NR 9566 2158
START DATE (this season)	9 th September 2008
END DATE (this season)	10 th September 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was carried out from the 9 th -10 th September 2008 on a Greenfield site at Lagg, Isle of Arran. The works included the stripping of 303.8 linear meters of trenches comprising more than 8% of the development area. No archaeologically significant features were observed anywhere on the site. It appears from the examination of cartographic evidence that the site has remained as arable land throughout recorded history. It seems likely therefore that the use of the site has remained consistent or that subsequent land use has completely obscured any traces of archaeological features. However, the lack of disturbance to the subsoil suggests that the site has consistently remained unoccupied.
PROJECT CODE:	08045
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Tony Kilna
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	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 National Monuments Record of Scotland.

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