

**Kilmarnock Community Fire Station,
East Ayrshire:
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Data Structure Report

by Douglas Gordon

issued 3rd September 2009



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 Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed

Date

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

Checked

Date

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Overview

1. This Data Structure Report is for a programme of archaeological work required by Strathclyde Fire & Rescue in respect to the installation of temporary office units at Kilmarnock Community Fire Station, 33 Campbell Street, Riccarton, Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire KA1 4HL. The archaeological works are designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area to the agreement of the East Ayrshire Council
2. East Ayrshire Council required an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken (Planning Permission Ref: 09/0341/FL). The West of Scotland Archaeology Service who advises East Ayrshire Council on archaeological matters provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required on this site during development works.
3. The archaeological monitoring was intended to minimise the impact of the development upon any archaeology present. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd has been appointed to act with regard to the archaeological issue by Strathclyde Fire & Rescue. The project works described below have been designed to comply with the identified requirements of East Ayrshire Council.

Archaeological and Historical Background

4. The Kilmarnock Community Fire Station, which was opened in 1994 after originally having been in Titchfield Street since 1939, was built over the location of the Yardside farm steading, a post-medieval agricultural building that is purported to overlie the location of Riccarton Castle (NMRS ref: NS43NW26; WoSAS ref: 7356).

The farm steading of Yardside is said to occupy the site of a tower, once the residence of Sir Ronald Crawford, maternal uncle of Sir William Wallace. No trace remains of the tower. Wallace is said to have planted the old pear tree which grows nearby, in the garden associated with the tower. Name Book 1856; NSA 1845 (J Porteous)

The formerly published tower site is occupied by an empty, stone-built, 19th century house (ex- 3 Fleming Street), now isolated in an area of redevelopment. On its front wall is a marble tablet inscribed: "Site of Riccarton Castle. Birthplace of Malcolm Wallace - Father of Scotland's Hero." When and in what circumstances the tablet was erected were not established. Visited by OS (JRL) 4 July 1982

Source: WoSAS SMR

5. The first viable cartographical evidence comes from Roy's military survey (Figure 1a) which depicts Riccarton as several houses with garden plots either side of road which forms an approximate 'S' shape. There is one structure on the western side which has a significantly larger boundary around it which may indicate the Yardside farm steading, however there is nothing on the map to say for certain. On the 1st edition Ordnance survey Town Plan 1860 (Figure 1b) Yardside is clearly marked as a long building aligned E-W with a smaller square building half way along its northern side. There is sub legend that marks it as the site of a tower.

Project Works

6. The works comprised the archaeological monitoring of the ground levelling and excavation of several foundation pads for the installation of temporary office units (NGR NS4258 3639). An 8 ton 360° excavator was utilised during the works. The works were carried out from the 20th August to the 21st August 2009.
7. A service trench for an electric cable to supply the new offices was not monitored, with agreement with West of Scotland Archaeology Service, as it was to follow the line of an existing cable trench that had previously been excavated for the lamp post within the yard.
8. 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



Figure 1a: Roy's Military Survey 1748-55

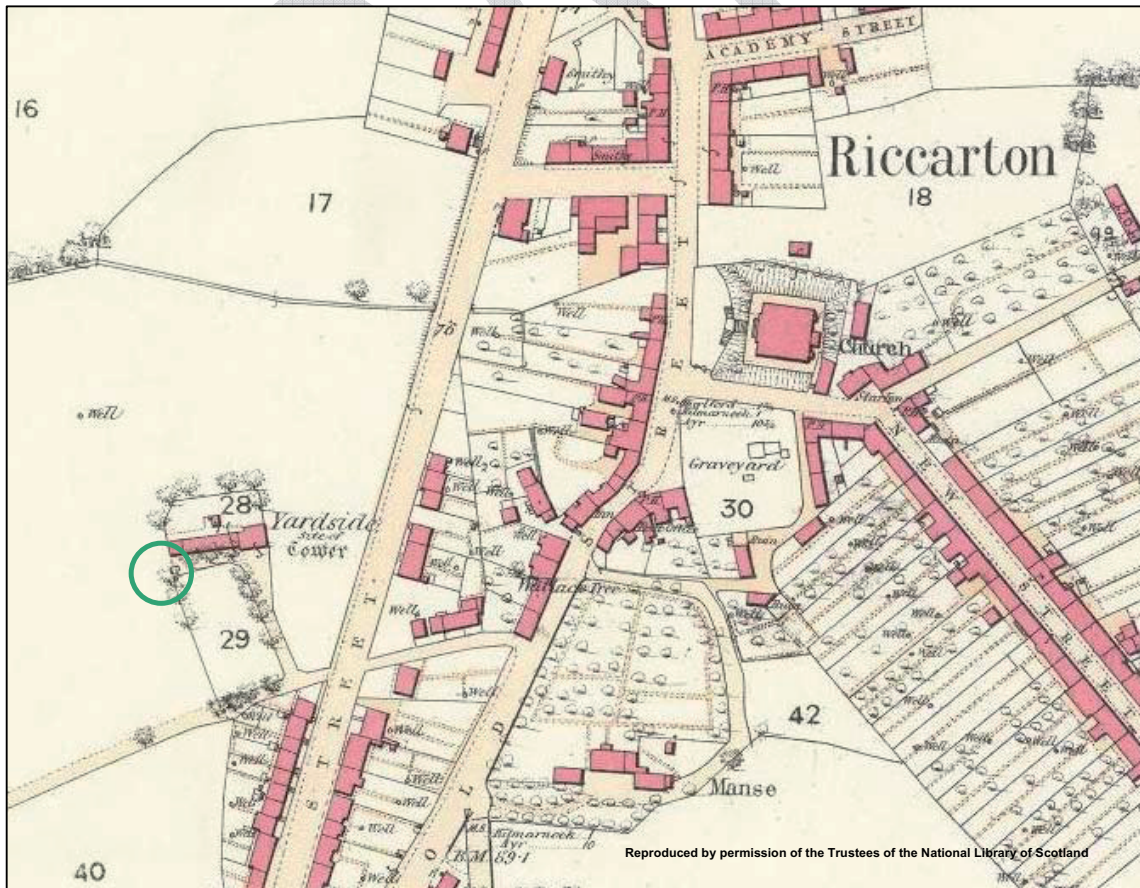


Figure 1b: Ordnance Survey Town Plans 1860

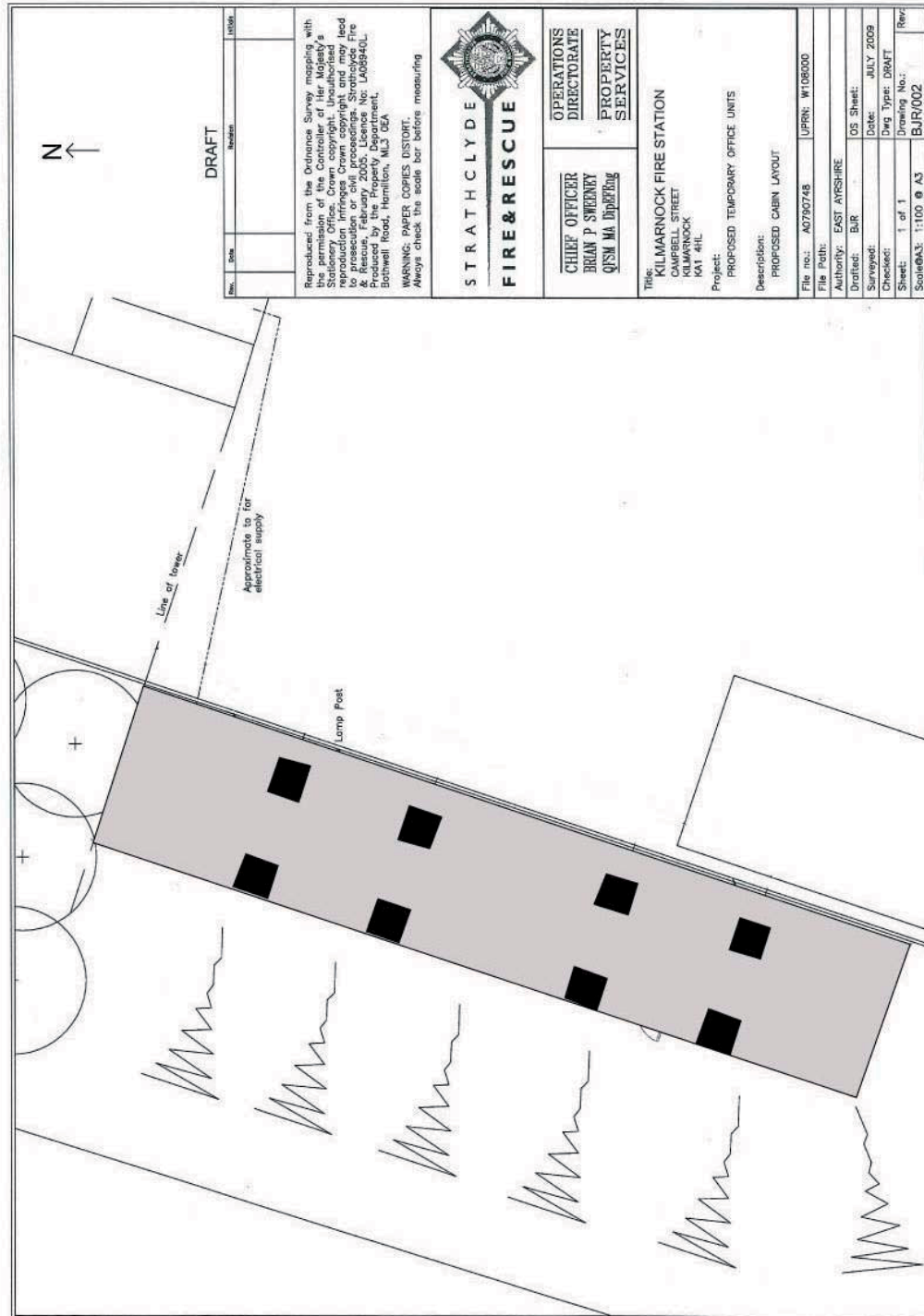


Figure 2: Monitored area 127m² (in grey) with concrete pads (black)



Figure 3a: Levelled Area



Figure 3b: Pad 5 with top of gas service trench

Statements.

Findings

9. The levelled area that was monitored was 25.4m long and 5m wide, in total an area of 127m². The ground was reduced up to 200mm on the eastern side of the area and up to 600mm on the western. The make up of the ground appeared to be a mix of re-deposited topsoil and subsoil (002), which contained frequent ceramic building material (brick), tiled brick, occasionally sandstone blocks, plastic ducting and plastic sheeting. Along the eastern side of the ground was an approximately 1m wide band of type 1 hardcore [001] which contained the armoured electricity cable of the lamp post also on the eastern side.
10. After the ground was levelled, it was covered with a geo-textile and type 2 hardcore. At this point eight holes were excavated for the concrete foundation pads that the new temporary office units would sit on. The pads were in general 1.3m-1.7m in width and length, the holes on the eastern side when excavated took another 20-40mm off the levelled surface with two of them exposing a linear feature [003] 500mm wide that contained orange brown sand and yellow tape that indicated that a gas pipe was beneath. The four holes on the western side went deeper into the levelled surface, though failed to expose anything other than the same mixed soil and rubble (002).

Discussion

11. The monitoring works failed to reveal any significant archaeology, the ground revealed during the levelling (002) appears to be made ground from the demolition of the previous 19th century building and the construction and landscaping for the fire station built in 1994.

Recommendations

12. The archaeological monitoring failed to identify any significant archaeological features or artefacts within the development area. Consequently, we recommend that no further archaeological works are appropriate.
13. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with Renfrewshire Council and their advisors, West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Conclusion

14. A programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken on behalf of Strathclyde Fire & Rescue in respect to the installation of temporary office units at Kilmarnock Community Fire Station, 33 Campbell Street, Riccarton, Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire KA1 4HL. The monitored works consisted of the levelling of an area 127m² and the excavation of eight holes for concrete pads.
15. No significant archaeology was uncovered, the ground revealed stratigraphy of re-deposited topsoil and subsoil with demolition rubble of bricks and plastic with occasional worked sandstone blocks. This made ground most likely represents the demolition of the previous building that stood on the site and landscaping for the building of the present fire station. As the monitoring failed to observe any significant archaeology we have therefore recommended that no further works are appropriate.

References

Documentary

Scot Gov	1994	SPP23 Planning and the Historic Environment.
SOEnv	1994	Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology, Scottish Office Environmental Department.

Cartographic

Roy, W	1747-55	Military Survey of Scotland
Ordnance Survey	1860	1 st edition map 25inch

Appendix 1: Registers

16. Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site regardless of the process by which that information was gathered (e.g. evaluation or strip, map & sample).

Context Register

Context No.	Area/Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001			Grey Medium sized sub angular stones, 1m wide	Service Trench
002			Mix of mid brown clay subsoil and dark brown clay silt with frequent inclusions of brick and plastic, occasional inclusions of worked sandstone blocks	Redeposited subsoil and topsoil with demolition rubble.
003			500mm wide trench with straight sides with a orange brown sand fill	Service trench for a gas pipe

Photographic Register

Image No.	Print		Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.			
001	1	1	Levelled Area	N	20/08/09
002	1	2	Open service trench	NW	20/08/09
003	1	3	South end of levelled area	N	20/08/09
004	1	4	Pad 1	S	21/08/09
005	1	5	Pad 2	S	21/08/09
006	1	6	Pad 3	S	21/08/09
007	1	7	Pad 4	S	21/08/09
008	1	8	Pad 5	S	21/08/09
009	1	9	Pad 6	E	21/08/09
010	1	10	Pad 7	E	21/08/09
011	1	11	Pad 8	S	21/08/09

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Kilmarnock Community Fire Station
PROJECT CODE:	09042
PARISH:	Kilmarnock
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Douglas Gordon
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitoring
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 4258 3638
START DATE (this season)	20 th August 2009
END DATE (this season)	21 st August 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken on behalf of Strathclyde Fire & Rescue in respect to the installation of temporary office units at Kilmarnock Community Fire Station, 33 Campbell Street, Riccarton, Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire KA1 4HL. The monitored works consisted of the levelling of an area 127 m² and the excavation of eight holes for concrete pads.</p> <p>No significant archaeology was uncovered, the ground revealed stratigraphy of re-deposited topsoil and subsoil with demolition rubble of bricks and plastic with occasional worked sandstone blocks. This made ground most likely represents the demolition of the previous building that stood on the site and landscaping for the building of the present fire station. As the monitoring failed to observe any significant archaeology we have therefore recommended that no further works are appropriate.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Strathclyde Fire and Rescue
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 National Monuments Record of Scotland.

Contact Details

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

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18. West of Scotland Archaeology Service can be contacted through the details noted below:

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Charing Cross Complex
20 India Street
Glasgow
G2 4PF

t.: 01412878330

f.: 01412879529

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