

# **Nether Auchendrane House: Archaeological Monitoring**

Data Structure Report

by Alan Matthews

issued 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011



**Rathmell**  
Archaeology Ltd

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## Quality Assurance

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Checked .....

Date .....

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## Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for CASA Design Architecture on behalf of Mr & Mrs Lamont in respect to the proposed residential extension to Nether Auchendrane House, South Ayrshire. The archaeological works are designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area to the agreement of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service and South Ayrshire Council.
2. South Ayrshire Council has conditioned the granted planning consent with an archaeological watching brief condition for archaeological works. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service who advises South Ayrshire Council on archaeological matters has provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required on this site during development works.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by CASA Design Architecture on behalf of Mr & Mrs Lamont to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works for the proposed residential extension to Nether Auchendrane House, South Ayrshire. This was agreed in a Method Statement (Rees 2010).
4. This Data Structure Report covers all archaeological work undertaken with regards to this planning condition. Included within this report are the results of the archaeological monitoring work and our recommendations with regards to the further archaeological potential of the development area. All work was undertaken according to the terms of the Method Statement (Rees 2010) and in accordance with West of Scotland Archaeology Service Standard Conditions, the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

### *Historical Background*

5. The estate of Auchendrane dates back to before the fourteenth century when it belonged to Robert Brown. It was confiscated by Robert the Bruce after Brown supported the opposing side during the War of Independence and given to Henry Annan. Shortly afterwards the estate was acquired by the Rowallan Mures before being once again forfeited to the crown after the execution of John Mure and his son in 1611 for the murder of Sir Thomas Kennedy of Culzean.
6. Part of the estate which includes Nether Auchendrane House was bought by the family of Blair during the first half of the seventeenth century and became known as Blairstoun. Throughout the next two centuries the estate passed through the hands of the Cathcart family and then John Mure, a descendant of the earlier owners, and was said to undergo restorations and improvements during this time. After briefly being owned by the Fergussons of Kilkerran, the estate was bought by Elias Cathcart in the early nineteenth century, after the death of his father Lord Alloway in 1829, and its name was changed back to Auchendrane.
7. Nether Auchendrane House is a Category C listed mansion which dates back to the seventeenth century. It is a composite house, built piecemeal in the nineteenth century but incorporating an earlier tower house. The building has been completely modernised but over the main entrance sits a coat of arms with the date '1698'. The estate of Auchendrane has always been shown on mapping as being set within a designed landscape.
8. Roy's Military Survey of 1747-55 (Figure 1a) shows a large rectangular building in the location of the house labelled as 'Blaristoun' which sits within an almost square tree-lined enclosure and has a tree-lined avenue running in from the west. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey mapping (Figure 1b) is the first mapping to show the house by the name of Auchendrane and shows an extensive designed landscape surrounding the house including heavily treed areas and extensive orchards.



Figure 1a: Detail from Roys' Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55)

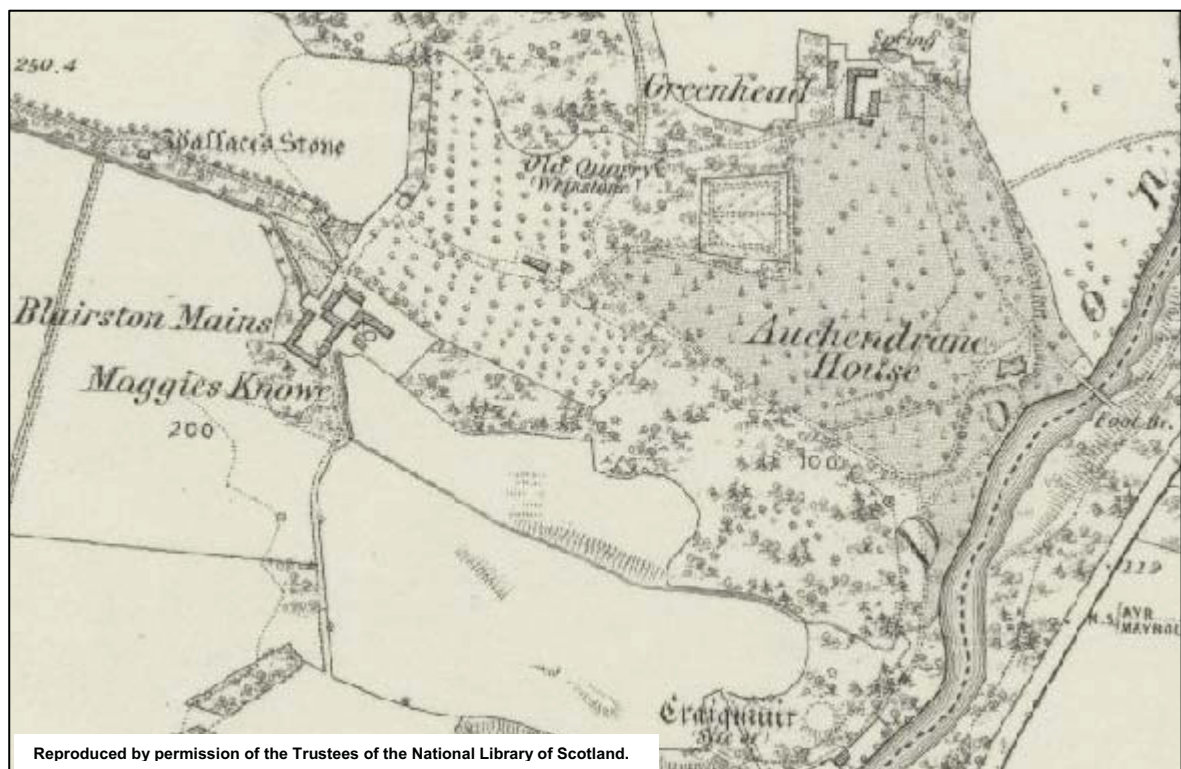


Figure 1b: Detail from 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1860)





Figure 2a: Nether Auchendrane House from the North



Figure 2b: Nether Auchendrane House from the West

9. Within the further surrounding landscape sit two Scheduled Monuments protected under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Craigmuir Mote Dun (Index No. 4866) sits approximately 300m to the southwest of the house, and is believed to be Iron Age in date, while Wallace's Stone (Index No. 5786) sits approximately 675m to the WNW. This stone has an incised cross which has been ascribed a tenth to twelfth century date and which is popularly believed to represent the sword of William Wallace.

## Project Works

10. The programme of works comprised the archaeological monitoring of all ground breaking works relating to ground reduction or the placement of foundations and services. This work was focused at the western most end of the existing structure at Nether Auchendrane House. Archaeological monitoring work began with the removal of tarmac and bedding within the area of the proposed extension. This process revealed the underlying soft sediment.
11. Ground reduction was carried out by a mini-digger using a toothless ditching bucket with assistance from hand excavation in order to protect existing services. As the general ground level sloped gently down from west to east it was necessary to bring the area to a common level before the excavation of foundations took place.
12. In compliance with the Method Statement (Rees 2010) all ground breaking works were monitored and any potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded, with the on-site works carried out on 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2011.
13. All works complied with the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

## Findings

14. Nether Auchendrane House is located in the midst of large gardens to the south of Alloway and Ayr. Despite the age of the house it has been extensively modified in modern times (Figure 2a). The archaeological monitoring work described here took place at the westernmost end of the extended house furthest from the original structure. Adjacent to the development area is the single story extension of the original Nether Auchendrane House.
15. The area immediately surrounding Nether Auchendrane House slopes gently from west to east and then, just beyond the house itself, drops away steeply to the River Doon. It is clear from even a superficial examination of the area surrounding the house that not only has the area been landscaped into formal gardens but also that the extension of the house required reduction of the ground for levelling (Figure 2b). Given the landscaping of the ground and the placement of the tarmac access road it is difficult to determine how deeply the extended house cuts into the natural slope but it may be more than 1m at the western end.
16. Archaeological work commenced on this site with removal of the tarmac and bedding material (001) along with the retaining wall to the immediate west of the existing structures (Figure 3a). This process removes only modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) material in the form of tarmac, type 1 gravel and modern brick. The only artefacts observed during this process related to the modern use of the site. This process also revealed the upper surface of what may have been disturbed natural soil.
17. Archaeological monitoring of the area continued along with the reduction of the development area to a uniform level. Immediately beneath the bedding for the Tarmac surface (001) several services were located. Three electrical services were located running east-west along the northern boundary of the excavated area. In addition, a large ceramic drain ran south-east to north-west through the centre of the development area. A water pipe was also located running north-south adjacent to the western wall of the existing structure.





Figure 3a: Stripping the upper surface of (004)



Figure 3b: Area surrounding development area.



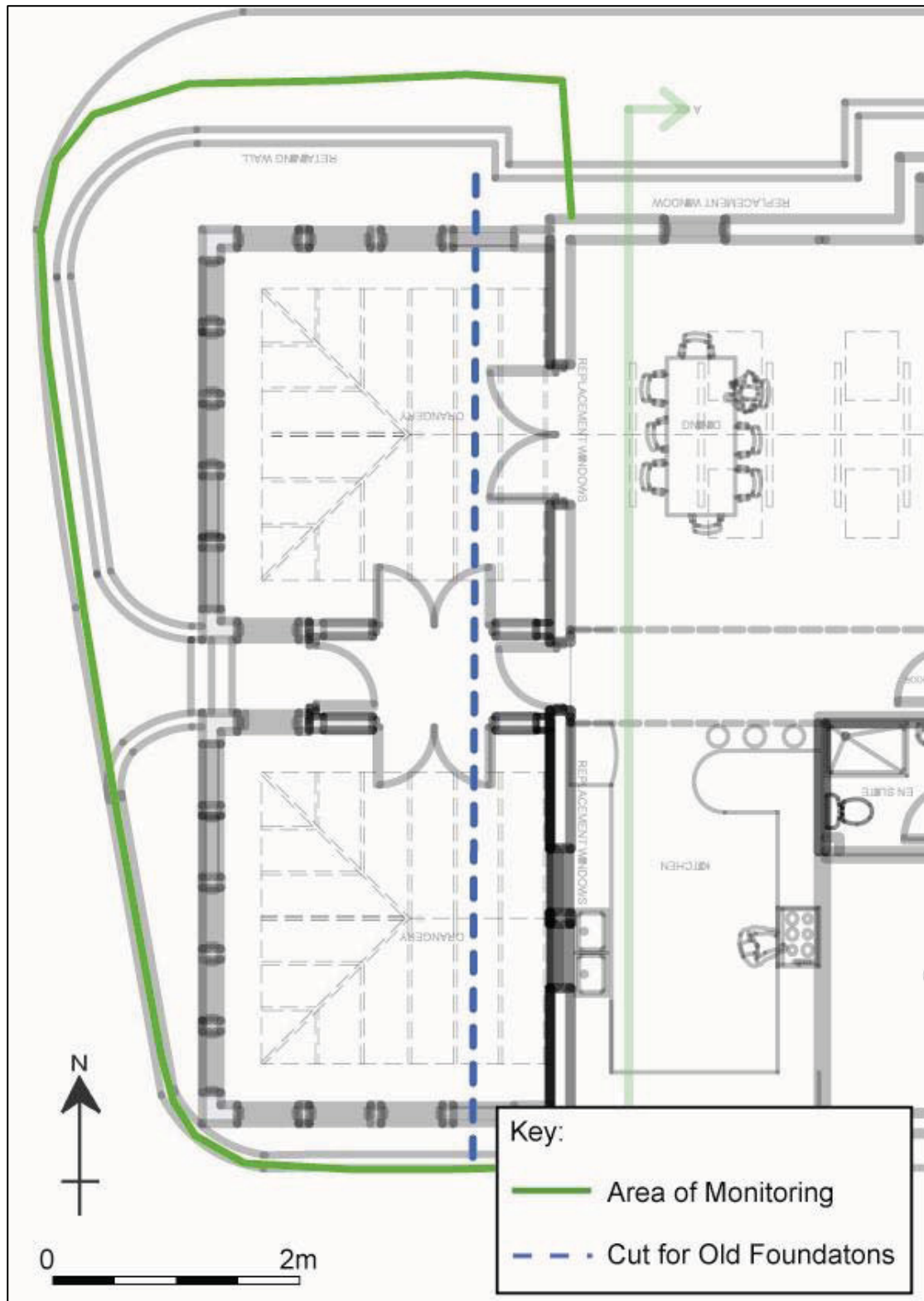


Figure 4: Site Plan

18. All services were relatively shallow with 200 to 300mm of cover. These services were located on the surface of archaeologically sterile natural soil (004). The natural soil was composed of yellow-orange clay with patches of gravel. Archaeological monitoring of the ground reduction continued until archaeologically sterile could be observed over the entire development area. It was clear from this that the natural ground surface had been truncated by landscaping activities and the extension of the main house.
19. The only feature observed during the archaeological monitoring was the cut (002) for the establishment of foundations for the extension of the house (Figure 4). Some modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) material was observed in the upper fill (003) of this cut. It was clear from the level of the subsoil (004) over the remainder of the development area that the foundations for the extension of the main house have been excavated beneath the level of the natural soil.
20. With the establishment of archaeologically sterile natural soil (004) over the entire development area archaeological monitoring was halted.

## Discussion

21. No significant archaeological features were uncovered in the course of the monitoring works and no anthropic material was recovered other than that which related to the 20<sup>th</sup> century use of the site. Any potentially significant archaeological features or deposits were investigated. There was no indication of survival of any material remains earlier than the existing structures. Archaeologically sterile natural soil was observed over the entire excavated area and its depth could be confidently established.
22. Examination of the topography (Figure 3b) in the course of the archaeological monitoring works suggests that the area of the extended house and the area immediately to the west have been levelled for construction by excavating into the natural slope. It is difficult to accurately gauge the extend of underlying disturbance relating to the existing structures however some suppositions can be made by examining the sediments exposed during archaeological monitoring works.
23. The development area, which had been subject to archaeological monitoring revealed no sediments other than those that related to the modern use of the site. Indeed the paving and the roadway, which curves around the western edge of the extended house appears to have been laid directly atop the natural subsoil (Figure 5a). This implies that the upper sediments, including the topsoil had been removed as an element of this construction. In addition the extension of the house sits below the natural slope of the ground at the western most end with the surrounding sediments having been held in place by a small retaining wall.
24. Given the formal nature of the garden and that fact that the area around the house has obviously been extensively landscaped it is impossible to determine if significant archaeological remains have been removed from within the development area by this process and by the process of extending the house. Any future archaeological work, if required, should consider the disturbance caused by this process and in particular that fact that the extended house as cut into the natural slope of the hill.
25. Given that the entire development area was excavated to the existing level of archaeologically sterile natural soil and given that the evidence suggest that the observed level may be lower than the original slope of the hill we can be confident of the complete lack of archaeological potential within the development area.
26. The archaeological monitoring works failed to identify any significant archaeological deposits or material within the development area (Figure 5b). By archaeological monitoring it has been possible to establish that the modern occupation of the site has removed any traces of previous occupation within this area.



Figure 5a: Surface of (004)



Figure 5b: Surface of (004)

## Recommendations

27. The archaeological monitoring failed to identify any significant archaeological features or artefacts within the development area. The entire footprint of the development area was reduced to the level of archaeological sterile natural soil and we may be confident that no archaeological remains exist within the development area. We recommend that no further archaeological works are appropriate with regard to this development and that the planning condition be purged.
28. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with North Ayrshire Council and their advisors, West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

## Conclusion

29. Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the initial excavation work relating to the extension of existing structures at Nether Auchendrane House, South Ayrshire. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
30. The entire footprint of the development area was reduced to the level of archaeological sterile subsoil. No significant archaeological material was observed during the course of the archaeological works and the only anthropic material observed was that relating to 20<sup>th</sup> century use of the site.
31. Given that the archaeological potential of the development area have been fully explored in the course of the ground reduction works archaeological monitoring was halted; archaeological monitoring work having been carried out to a sufficient extent to fulfil the terms of the Method Statement (Rees 2010).

## References

### *Documentary*

- |         |      |   |
|---------|------|---|
| Rees, T | 2010 | <i>Nether Auchendrane House, South Ayrshire: Archaeological Watching Brief, Method Statement</i> , Rathmell Archaeology Ltd |
|---------|------|---|

### *Cartographic*

- |           |                 |   |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| 1747-1755 | Roy             | Military Survey of Scotland                       |
| 1775      | Armstrong       | A new map of Ayrshire                             |
| 1858      | Ordnance Survey | 1 <sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, Ayrshire |
| 1897      | Ordnance Survey | 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, Ayrshire |
| 1911      | Ordnance Survey | 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, Ayrshire |
| 1938      | Ordnance Survey | 4 <sup>th</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, Ayrshire |



## Appendix 1: Registers

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	Site	Deposit	Tarmac surface and bedding material consisting of type 1 gravel.	Tarmac and Bedding
002	Site	Cut	Linear cut to running north-south to adjacent existing buildings.	Cut for extended house foundations
003	Site	Deposit	Fill of cut (003) is a mixture of dark brown sandy silt (probably re-deposited topsoil, subsoil (004), some stones and other modern material.	Fill of extended house foundations
004	Site	Deposit	Light yellow-orange sandy clay with patches of gravel and small to mid sized sub angular stones. No inclusions.	Natural subsoil

### *Photographic Register*

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
1	-	-	-	-	13	Development area Tarmac removed	NW	2/2/11
2	-	-	-	-	14	Development area Tarmac removed	NW	2/2/11
3	-	-	-	-	15	Development area Tarmac removed	NW	2/2/11
4	-	-	-	-	16	Development area Tarmac removed	S	2/2/11
5	-	-	-	-	17	Development area Tarmac removed	NW	2/2/11
6	-	-	-	-	18	Development area Tarmac removed	NW	2/2/11
7	-	-	-	-	19	Development area Tarmac removed	NW	2/2/11

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
8	-	-	-	-	20	Development area Tarmac removed	W	2/2/11
9	-	-	-	-	21	Stripping upper layers of disturbed natural (004)	NW	2/2/11
10	-	-	-	-	22	Stripping upper layers of disturbed natural (004)	NW	2/2/11
11	-	-	-	-	23	Stripping upper layers of disturbed natural (004)	NW	2/2/11
12	-	-	-	-	24	Stripping upper layers of disturbed natural (004)	NW	2/2/11
13	-	-	-	-	25	Stripping upper layers of disturbed natural (004)	N	2/2/11
14	-	-	-	-	26	Stripping upper layers of disturbed natural (004)	N	2/2/11
15	-	-	-	-	27	Stripping upper layers of disturbed natural (004)	N	2/2/11
16	-	-	-	-	28	Stripping upper layers of disturbed natural (004)	N	2/2/11
17	-	-	-	-	29	Stripping upper layers of disturbed natural (004)	NE	2/2/11
18	-	-	-	-	30	Stripping upper layers of disturbed natural (004)	NE	2/2/11
19	-	-	-	-	31	Stripping upper layers of disturbed natural (004)	NE	2/2/11
20	-	-	-	-	32	Stripping upper layers of disturbed natural (004)	NE	2/2/11
21	-	-	-	-	33	Nether Auchendrane House	W	2/2/11
22	-	-	-	-	34	Nether Auchendrane House	W	2/2/11
23	-	-	-	-	35	Nether Auchendrane House	W	2/2/11
24	-	-	-	-	36	Nether Auchendrane House	W	2/2/11
25	-	-	-	-	37	Nether Auchendrane House	NW	2/2/11
26	-	-	-	-	38	Nether Auchendrane House	NW	2/2/11
27	-	-	-	-	39	Nether Auchendrane House	N	2/2/11
28	-	-	-	-	40	Nether Auchendrane House	N	2/2/11
29	-	-	-	-	41	Nether Auchendrane House	N	2/2/11
30	-	-	-	-	42	Nether Auchendrane House	N	2/2/11

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
31	-	-	-	-	43	River Doon	NW	2/2/11
32	-	-	-	-	44	River Doon	NW	2/2/11
33	-	-	-	-	45	River Doon	NW	2/2/11
34	-	-	-	-	46	Stripping surface of natural subsoil (004)	NW	2/2/11
36	-	-	-	-	48	Stripping surface of natural subsoil (004)	NW	2/2/11
37	-	-	-	-	49	Stripping surface of natural subsoil (004)	NW	2/2/11
38	-	-	-	-	50	Development Area	N	2/2/11
39	-	-	-	-	51	Development Area	N	2/2/11
40	-	-	-	-	52	Development Area	N	2/2/11
41	-	-	-	-	53	Access Road	NE	2/2/11
42	-	-	-	-	54	Access Road	NE	2/2/11
43	-	-	-	-	55	Nether Auchendrane House	W	2/2/11
44	-	-	-	-	56	Nether Auchendrane House	W	2/2/11
45	-	-	-	-	57	Nether Auchendrane House	NW	2/2/11
46	-	-	-	-	58	Nether Auchendrane House	NW	2/2/11
47	-	-	-	-	59	Nether Auchendrane House	NW	2/2/11
48	-	-	-	-	60	Nether Auchendrane House	W	2/2/11
49	-	-	-	-	61	Nether Auchendrane House	W	2/2/11
50	-	-	-	-	62	Development Area	S	2/2/11
51	-	-	-	-	63	Development Area	S	2/2/11
52	-	-	-	-	64	Development Area	S	2/2/11
53	-	-	-	-	65	Development Area	SW	2/2/11
54	-	-	-	-	66	Development Area	SW	2/2/11

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
55	-	-	-	-	67	Subsoil (004) exposed	NW	2/2/11
56	-	-	-	-	68	Subsoil (004) exposed	NW	2/2/11
57	-	-	-	-	69	Subsoil (004) exposed	NW	2/2/11
58	-	-	-	-	70	Subsoil (004) exposed	N	2/2/11
59	-	-	-	-	71	Subsoil (004) exposed	N	2/2/11
60	-	-	-	-	72	Subsoil (004) exposed	N	2/2/11
61	-	-	-	-	73	Subsoil (004) exposed	NW	2/2/11
62	-	-	-	-	74	Subsoil (004) exposed	NW	2/2/11
63	-	-	-	-	75	Subsoil (004) exposed	NW	2/2/11



## Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	South Ayrshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Nether Auchendrane House
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	10029
<b>PARISH:</b>	Maybole
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Alan Matthews
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Monitoring
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NS 338 165
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2011
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2011
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (may include information from other fields)	Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the initial excavation work relating to the extension of existing structures at Nether Auchendrane House, South Ayrshire. The entire footprint of the development area was reduced to the level of archaeological sterile subsoil. No significant archaeological material was observed during the course of the archaeological works and the only anthropic material observed was that relating to 20 <sup>th</sup> century use of the site.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Mr & Mrs Lamont
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
<b>E MAIL:</b>	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to National Monuments Record of Scotland.

## Contact Details

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

Rathmell Archaeology Ltd	<a href="http://www.rathmell-arch.co.uk">www.rathmell-arch.co.uk</a>
Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops	
Kilwinning	t.: 01294 542848
Ayrshire	f.: 01294 542849
KA13 6PU	e.: <a href="mailto:contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk">contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk</a>

33. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service can be contacted at their office or through the web:

West of Scotland Archaeology Service	<a href="http://www.wosas.org.uk">www.wosas.org.uk</a>
Charing Cross Complex	
20 India Street	t.: 0141 287 8332/3
Glasgow	f.: 0141 287 9259
G2 4PF	e.: <a href="mailto:enquiries@wosas.glasgow.gov.uk">enquiries@wosas.glasgow.gov.uk</a>

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