

**Sports Facility, Calderglen, East Kilbride:
Archaeological Mitigation**

Data Structure Report

by Louise Turner

issued 17th September 2010



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

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Checked

Date

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for East Kilbride Community Trust with respect to the development of land at a site which lies near the western edge of Calderglen Country Park, East Kilbride, South Lanarkshire (NGR NS 653 528). The archaeological works were designed in order to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area, which occupies an area of level ground located on the west bank of the Rotten Calder.
2. South Lanarkshire Council required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken as a requirement of the granted planning consent. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service, who advise South Lanarkshire Council on archaeological matters, provided guidance on the structure of the archaeological works that were required for this site during development works.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd was appointed by Kean Construction (Scotland) Ltd to act with regard to the archaeological issue on behalf of East Kilbride Community Trust. The design and scope of the works was agreed in consultation with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service. The project works were defined by a Written Scheme of Investigations (Rees 2010) that was agreed with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, archaeological advisor to planning authority, South Lanarkshire Council.
4. This Data Structure Report provides the findings of the archaeological mitigation carried out on the 25th August and the 7th September 2010 respectively; the mitigation consisted of archaeological monitoring of the exposed sediments revealed in advance of the works detailed in the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2010).

Archaeological and Historical Background

5. There are no known archaeological sites on the development area itself, which occupies a level stretch of land situated on the west bank of the Rotten Calder water. There is little evidence of occupation in the prehistoric period in either the site itself, or its immediate vicinity, though the presence of a Neolithic stone axe from Drumloch Muir (WoSAS Id: 9320; NMRS No: NS65SE 5) and an Early Bronze Age barbed-and-tanged arrowhead indicates that the area was occupied from the Neolithic onwards.
6. Medieval occupation of the area is attested by two alleged motte sites, both located on the east bank of the Rotten Calder burn, to the west of the development area. These comprise Torrance Motte (WoSAS Id 9321; NMRS No. NS65SE 6), which lies 150m to the northeast and The Tors (WoSAS Id 9332; NMRS No. NS65SE5), which is located to the southwest. Both of these features appear to have been associated with the parish of Torrance, and it has been suggested by some sources (Moncrieff, 1834-43) that the motte named The Tors was in fact the forerunner of Torrance House.
7. Torrance House has its origins in the late 16th/early 17th century. The tower-house that once stood in this location was the residence of the Stewarts of Torrance, who improved the property in the 19th century, replacing the cramped fortified residence with a commodious mansion and associated stable block (WoSAS ID 9319; NMRS No. NS65SE 4). The later mansion still survives, lying some 150m southeast of the sports facility (see Figure 1b). The surrounding estate lands were modified into a designed landscape, again during the 19th century, containing such elements as tree-lined avenues, formal gardens and plantations. Many of these designed landscape elements can still be identified in the modern landscape.
8. Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55) predates the construction of the mansion in 1875. This map (see Figure 1a) depicts the development area as being within parkland associated with a substantial structure to the south-east (roughly at the location of the later Torrance House – inferred as the tower house). A free standing structure between Torrance House and the development area is also mapped on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (see Figure 1b) and has been identified as a dovecot of late 17th or early 18th century character (WoSAS Id 9319).



Figure 1a: Roy's Military Map (1747-55) Showing Torrance House (16th century)

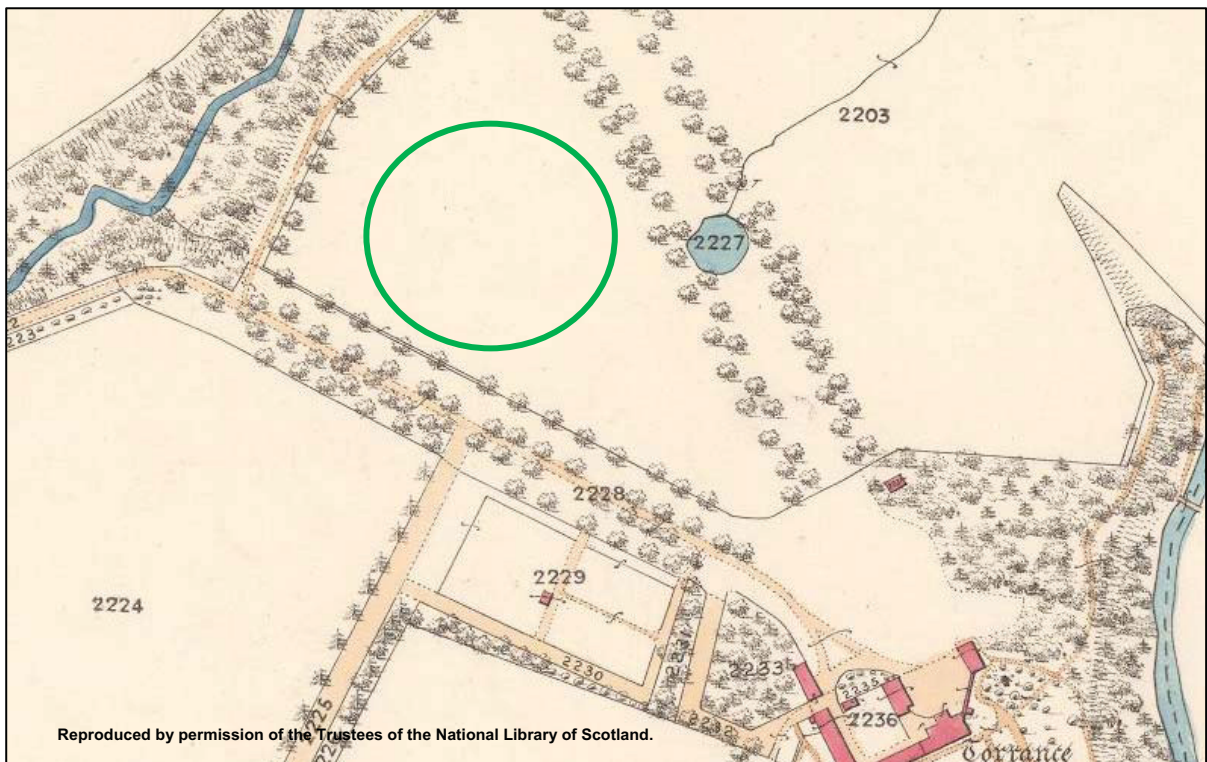


Figure 1b: Excerpt from 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1854-9

9. The remains of a post-war Anti-Aircraft Operations Room (3 Group 68 Brigade AAOR for Glasgow/Clyde GDA) is located within a fenced compound south-west to Torrance House (WoSAS ID 41177; NMRS No: NS65SE 15). The two storey building - one storey above ground, and one below - was originally constructed during the early 1950s, as part of the country's Cold War defences, but by the 1960s it became a regional control centre, a Regional Seat of Government for government use, integrating fire, police, military, health, communications (containing a BBC studio), and also ROC operations in the event of nuclear attack.

Project Works

10. The programme of works was carried out on two non-consecutive days, namely the 25th August and the 7th September 2010 (Fig. 2). It had initially been agreed that the archaeological works would comprise a proxy evaluation. This was to be undertaken through monitoring the digging of a number of drainage tracks which were to be sunk at regular intervals across the extent of the sports pitch. This arrangement had been formalised through a Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2010) and agreed with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.
11. However, it became apparent that prior to the actual insertion of the drains, additional ground-breaking works were being carried out over and above that which had been agreed within the scope of the Written Scheme of Investigations. The first phase of works comprised the stripping of the turf and a substantial portion of the topsoil from the extent of the sports field. A site visit was undertaken by an archaeologist at this point, but no observations could be made. In some locations, isolated stretches of subsoil had been exposed, but over the vast majority of the site, the surface remained obscured beneath a thin layer of topsoil. It became apparent at this stage, however, that the entire area had been disturbed in recent times by the sinking of field drains. The pea gravel fill of these was evident in places, and in a number of locations, the pipes themselves were revealed. These indicated that the works had been very shallow in nature. The pipes were alkathene, which demonstrated a late twentieth century date for the works.
12. Works were then delayed by the onset of bad weather. Arrangements were made to monitor the cutting of the drainage tracks, as per the original agreement, but prior to this work being undertaken, additional levelling works were necessary which were required before the tracks could be laid out and excavated. These works were not covered by the scope of the Written Scheme of Investigation and they were not monitored by an archaeologist.
13. Subsequent to these works, the archaeologist carried out a walkover survey to evaluate the exposed upper surface of the subsoil and establish firstly the extent of the ground disturbance and secondly whether any archaeology had in fact been compromised during these activities.
14. Any exposed features were investigated to determine their archaeological significance. All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings: Monitoring

15. The archaeologist was not present during the ground-breaking works, which were undertaken by a 360° tracked excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. At the end of this phase of works, the surface of the subsoil had been exposed over an area which covered approximately 70% of the sports arena (Figure 3a). The subsoil had not, however, been compromised to any large extent across the majority of the site: there was some disturbance due to the passage of tracked machines over the freshly exposed surface, but when the archaeologist attended, a smooth finish was evident over much of the site which was perfect for identifying archaeological features.

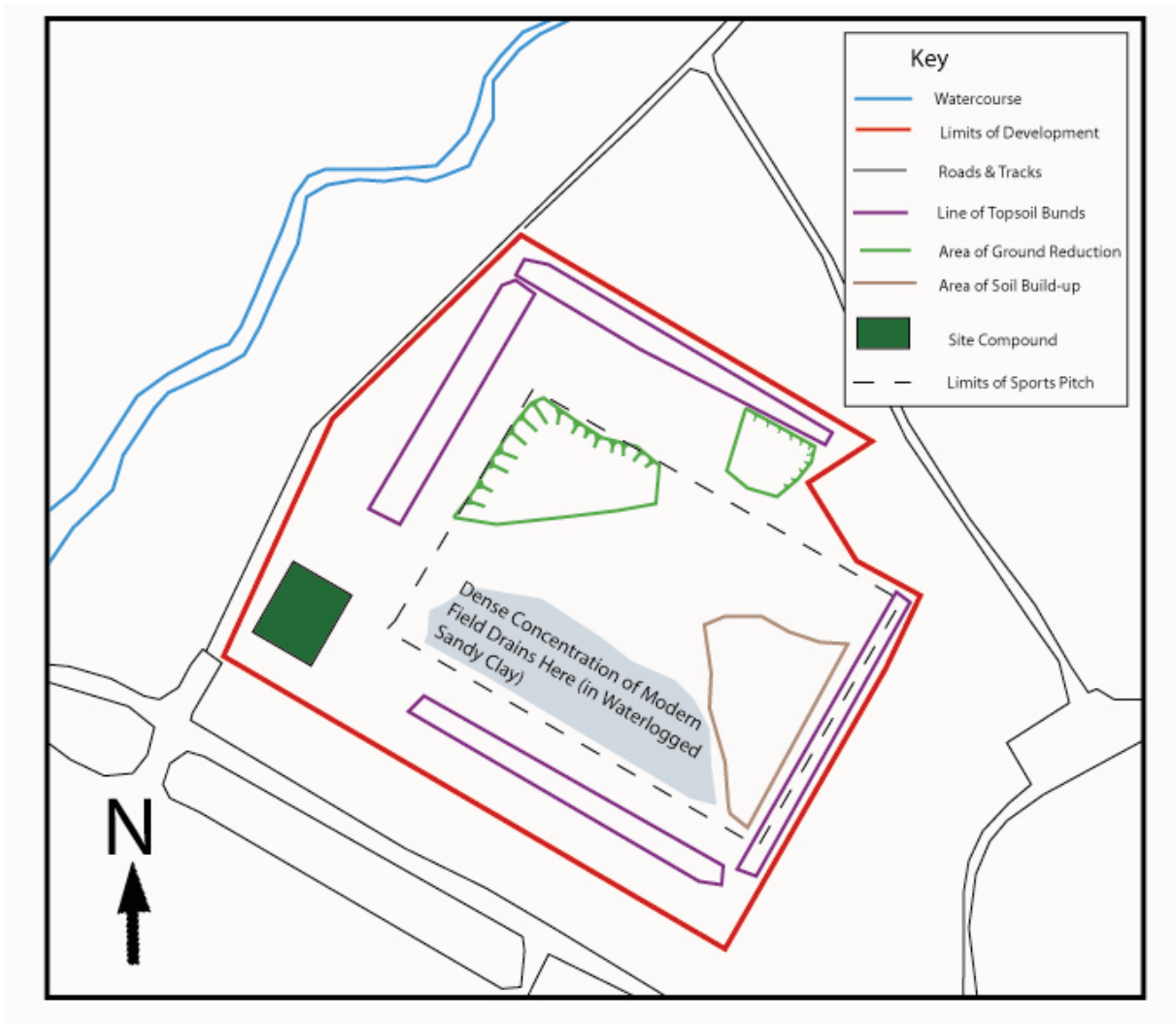


Figure 2: Site Plan, Showing Areas of Ground Reduction and Build-up



Figure 3a: Trench 1, Subsoil exposed



Figure 3b: Ground Reduction in North-West Corner of Sports Arena

16. An area in the eastern half had been subject to the dumping and compacting of soil in order to raise the levels prior to the drainage works taking place here, while at two locations, in the north-west (Figure 3b) and north-east (Figure 4a) corners respectively, the land had been subject to ground reduction, with levels dropped to a maximum extent of 0.4m below the original ground surface in places.
17. The subsoils comprised mixed silty- and sandy clays, probably originating from the buildup of alluvial deposits associated with the nearby watercourses. The area was extensively waterlogged during the two site visits, suggesting that it would not have been particularly conducive either to occupation or to arable cultivation. This possibility was supported by the presence of a dense network of field drains (Figure 4b) which traversed much of the subsoil. That these had been relaid through the years was evidenced by the presence of numerous sherds of broken clay tile field drain over the extent of the site. It was further confirmed by a lack of ceramic finds of any other description.

Discussion

18. The observations made during the site visits revealed no significant archaeological features, though there was ample evidence pertaining to a long history of land management measures carried out in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These works had been necessitated by the nature of the subsoil, which comprised heavy alluvial sands and clays. At the time of the site visit, these were extremely waterlogged.
19. The earliest evidence of this land management was provided by the fragments of clay tile field drains which lay scattered extensively across the development area. These measures had apparently failed, or had not worked sufficiently well for current needs, as a complex network of modern drains had been laid across much of the site. These comprised alkathene pipes set within a matrix of pea gravel.
20. The findings of the site walkover supported the evidence already provided by historic mapping of the area. This had already indicated that in early modern times, at least, the area had been used primarily for pastoral agriculture.

Recommendations

21. The purpose of the archaeological works was to determine the nature, form and extent of the archaeological resource within those areas adversely impacted upon by the development according to the Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2010). This exercise was to be undertaken via a proxy evaluation carried out during the sinking of drainage trenches to be laid out at regular intervals over the extent of the development area.
22. However, the preliminary works carried out prior to the trenching exercise caused sufficient exposure of the subsoil surface to allow a site walkover to be carried out prior to the digging of these trenches, and thus it was possible to evaluate a large proportion of the area (comprising approximately 70% of the site's extent).
23. No significant archaeology was observed within this area, which had already been heavily disturbed following the laying of field drains during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. On balance, we recommend that no further archaeological work should be carried out in relation to this development.
24. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with South Lanarkshire Council and their advisers, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.



Figure 4a: Ground Reduction in North-East Corner of Sports Arena



Figure 4b: Network of Field Drains in Southern Portion of Site

Conclusion

25. A programme of archaeological works was carried out on behalf of East Kilbride Community Trust, in respect to the construction of a new sports facility at Calderglenn Sports Facility, East Kilbride. The work entailed archaeological monitoring of the development area, which was stripped and subject to localised ground reduction in advance of the proxy evaluation.
26. No significant archaeological deposits were revealed and no anthropic material was recovered, other than that which indicated modern use of the site. As a result, no further works are recommended.

References

Ordnance Survey, 1854-59, *1st edition*

Moncrieffe, H, 1834-45. 'The Parish of East Kilbride'. In *The New Statistical Accounts of Scotland*, Vol. 6, pp. 877-900

Roy, 1747-55, *Military Survey of Scotland*

Rees, T, 2010. *Sports Facility, Calderglenn, East Kilbride: Archaeological Mitigation*
Unpublished Written Scheme of Investigation (Rathmell Archaeology Ltd.)

Appendix 1: Registers

Photographic Register

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
01	-	-	-	-	001	General View of Site, Turf Stripped	SW	25/08/10
02	-	-	-	-	002	General View of Site, Turf Stripped	E	25/08/10
03	-	-	-	-	003	General View of Site, Turf Stripped	NE	25/08/10
04	-	-	-	-	004	General View of Site, Turf Stripped	NW	25/08/10
05	-	-	-	-	005	General View, After Levelling Works	SE	07/09/10
06	-	-	-	-	006	Field Drains Exposed in S Half of Site	NE	07/09/10
07	-	-	-	-	007	Ground Reduction in North-east Corner	SE	07/09/10
08	-	-	-	-	008	General View, After Levelling Works	NE	07/09/10
09	-	-	-	-	009	Ground Reduction in North-west Corner	N	07/09/10
10	-	-	-	-	010	General View, After Levelling Works	N	07/09/10
11	-	-	-	-	011	General View, After Levelling Works	N	07/09/10
12	-	-	-	-	012	Drainage Works Near Site Compound, SW Corner	N	07/09/10
013	-	-	-	-	013	Drainage Works, SW Corner	SW	07/09/10

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Calderglen Sports Facility, East Kilbride
PROJECT CODE:	RA10016
PARISH:	East Kilbride
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Louise Turner
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 6530 5280
START DATE (this season)	25 th August 2010
END DATE (this season)	7 th September 2010 (intermittent)
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the construction of a sports ground near the western limits of Calderglen Country Park. The site lay within the designed landscape associated with Torrance House, and was in close proximity to two putative motte sites. No features of archaeological interest were identified, on a site which had been subject to extensive disturbance following recent land management and drainage works.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	East Kilbride Community Trust
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

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

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

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

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Glasgow	f.: 0141 287 9259
G2 4PF	e.: enquiries@wosas.glasgow.gov.uk

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