

Creelshaugh Road, Fenwick: Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report

by Alan Matthews

issued 29th November 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

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

Copyright Rathmell Archaeology Limited. All rights reserved.

No part of this report may be copied or reproduced by any means without prior written permission from Rathmell Archaeology Limited. If you have received this report in error, please destroy all copies in your possession or control and notify Rathmell Archaeology Limited.

This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of the commissioning party and unless otherwise agreed in writing by Rathmell Archaeology Limited, no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of the report. No liability is accepted by Rathmell Archaeology Limited for any use of this report, other than the purposes for which it was originally prepared and provided.

Opinions and information provided in the report are on the basis of Rathmell Archaeology Limited using due skill, care and diligence in preparation of the same and no explicit warranty is provided as to their accuracy. It should be noted and it is expressly stated that no independent verification of any of the documents or information supplied to Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been made.

Contents

Overview	3
Archaeological and Historical Background	3
Project Works	6
Findings: Evaluation	6
Discussion	9
Recommendations	11
Conclusion	11
References	12
Documentary	12
Cartographic.....	12
Context Register	14
Photographic Register	14
Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland	18
Contact Details	19

Figures

Figure 1a: Detail from Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55)	4
Figure 1b: Detail from 1 st edition Ordnance Survey (1854-59)	4
Figure 2: Trench Layout.....	5
Figure 3a: Site pre-excavation.....	7
Figure 3b: Trench 2	7
Figure 4a: Trench 3	8
Figure 4b: Trench 5	8
Figure 5a: Site after excavation	10
Figure 5b: Backfilling in progress.....	10

Overview

1. This Data Structure Report is for a programme of archaeological works required by McTaggart Construction Ltd on behalf of Atrium Initiatives in respect of the affordable housing development at Creelshaugh Road, Fenwick. The preliminary archaeological investigative works are designed to determine the nature, form and extent of any archaeologically significant material present on the development site and hence inform the appropriateness of the conditioned archaeological watching brief.
2. East Ayrshire Council has conditioned the granted planning consent (10/0581/PP) with a watching brief condition for archaeological works. This condition was applied on the advice of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service who, while advising that archaeological issues should be addressed through this condition, also suggested that a pre-determination evaluation may be of value to test its appropriateness.
3. The development area is in proximity the historic town of Fenwick. However, no archaeological sites are known to exist within the development area. The assessment of the potential for adverse impact on previously unknown archaeological remains within the development area is the purpose of this project design.
4. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd has been appointed to act with regard to the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works during the initial stages of construction works at Creelshaugh Road, Fenwick. The design and scope of the works has been agreed in consultation with West of Scotland Archaeology Service. The project works have been defined by a Method Statement (Gordon 2010) that was agreed with West of Scotland Archaeology Service, archaeological advisor to planning authority, East Ayrshire Council.

Archaeological and Historical Background

5. The origins of the settlement at Fenwick are uncertain, the area was originally part of Kilmarnock parish but was separated from it in 1641. Fenwick Kirk dates to 1643 and in 1644 the Rev. William Guthrie, a celebrated Covenant preacher, was ordained as the minister. The Churchyard contains a monument to Captain John Paton of Meadowhead, the Covenant hero and martyr, who was interred in Edinburgh; and tombs of several other martyrs of lesser note.
6. Fenwick was granted its own market charter in 1707; while in 1761 the Fenwick Weaver's Society was formed initially for the purpose of promoting standards in weaving and latterly for communal buying of supplies for domestic consumption.
7. The earliest viable mapping evidence comes from Roy's military survey of 1747-55 (Figure 1a) which shows Fenwick as two separate settlements. 'Finnick' is a ribbon settlement flanking the sides of the road running north towards Glasgow from Kilmarnock; while 'Finnick Kirk' to the north is a concentric settlement enclosing the 1643 Kirk. The development site is to the immediate north-east of 'Finnick Kirk' in an area depicted as enclosed fields (see green circle). This is an unusual concentration of small enclosed fields in a landscape dominated by unenclosed land.
8. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1858 (Figure 1b) shows Fenwick as a much more developed and coherent settlement. The 'Finnick' of the mid 18th century has become Laigh Fenwick, while 'Finnick Kirk' has significantly expanded and is named simply Fenwick. Fenwick's expansion has been predominantly through an expansion to form a settlement that now flanks either side of the Glasgow road which ran some distance to the west of the Kirk. The settlement around the Kirk is now referred to as Kirkton, an area of Fenwick. The development area remains enclosed ground (see green circle), although field boundaries cannot be matched back to the mid 18th century.



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



Figure 1b: Detail from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1854-59)

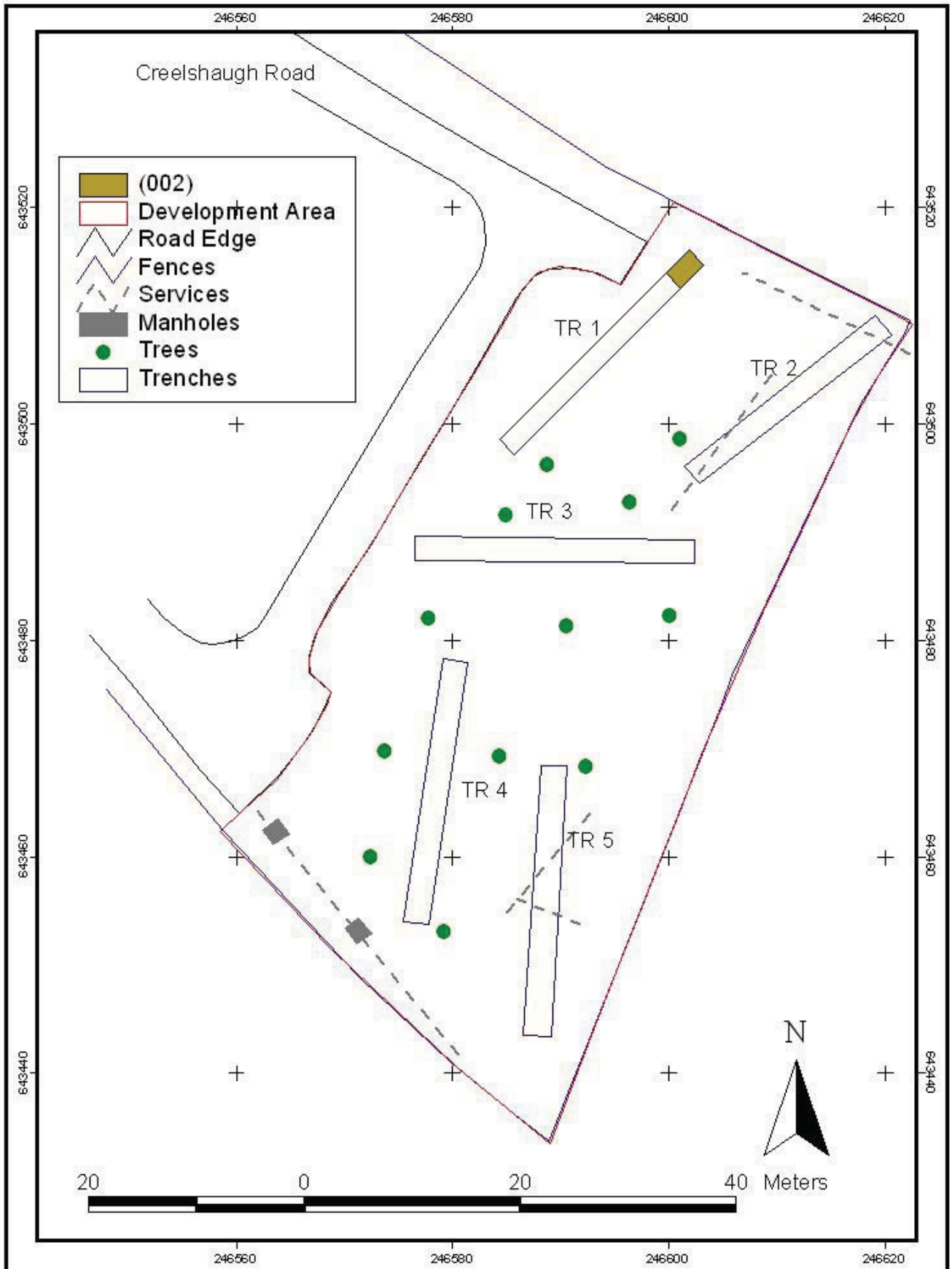


Figure 2: Trench Layout

9. The form of the 19th century land boundaries defining the fields can still be recognised within the modern survey of the ground and are continued throughout the historic Ordnance Survey series of maps until the mid 20th century. Late 20th century Ordnance Survey mapping shows the development area to be built over by ten houses, facing onto a lane on the eastern edge of the development area.
10. There are no specific known archaeological sites within the development area further than its location in proximity to Fenwick Kirk. The prompt for the archaeological condition was the potential for currently unknown archaeological sites associated with the 17th century settlement.

Project Works

11. A programme of archaeological works was undertaken from the 23rd of November 2010 and included the excavation by machine of a series of evaluation trenches within the development area in order to examine approximately 8% of the proposed development area (Figure 2). Typically the trenches were 25m long by 1.6m and placed in accordance with the terms of the Method Statement (Gordon 2010). In all 124.8 linear meters of trenching was excavated (199.68m²), this is just short of the 125 linear meters described by the Method Statement.
12. Trenches 2 and 5 were moved slightly in order to avoid trees which existed on site. The Method Statement (Gordon 2010) had already specified that trenches were placed in order to avoid known services along the southern boundary of the site and to give the best possible coverage of the development area. Where possible the original layout in the Method Statement was maintained although two trenches were slightly short due to the presence of large volumes of tree roots.
13. 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: Evaluation

14. In all 5 evaluation trenches were excavated using a JCB 3cx excavator; details of the trenches may be found in Appendix 1 of this document. The trenches were spread evenly across the development area in order to give the best possible coverage of the site. At the time of commencement of the archaeological evaluation the development area was a small area of managed parkland opposite a row of houses on the edge of the modern town of Fenwick (Figure 3a). Several decorative trees, at various stages of growth, occupied the site.
15. Trenches 1 and 2 were excavated on a roughly north-east to south-west angle through the northern half of the development area. The south end of Trench 2 (Figure 3b) was moved slightly in order to avoid collision with a large tree. Both trenches were excavated to archaeologically sterile natural subsoil for almost their entire length. The only exception to this was an area of rough tarmac bedded on Type 1 gravel (002) at the northern end of Trench 1. This area was excavated to a depth of approximately 800mm but halted due to the potential for subsidence caused by the collapsing gravel.
16. Examination of the remainder of Trenches 1 and 2 indicated that archaeologically sterile natural subsoil was typically reached at a depth of approximately 400mm. A variety of subsoil was noted in these trenches, (003) and (004); however all were predominantly clay with very few inclusions of stones. The 100mm of the subsoil showed evidence of disturbance in the form of tree roots and flecks of charcoal. At no point in the course of these works were potential archaeological features revealed. Trench 1 did have some modern services in the form of a small field drain at the south end and a large ceramic drain at the north end.



Figure 3a: Site pre-excitation



Figure 3b: Trench 2



Figure 4a: Trench 3



Figure 4b: Trench 5

17. Trench 3 (Figure 4a) was excavated almost exactly east-west across the centre of the development area. The trench was 26m long. The trench was excavated to a depth of between 350 and 400mm. The character of the subsoil was similar to Trenches 1 and 2 with alternating areas of (003) and (004). At the northern end of Trench 3 the subsoil (005) was down slope and noticeably more waterlogged than the rest of the site. This was indicative of the generally poor drainage on the site despite the fact that the eastern boundary is a shallow burn.
18. Trenches 4 and 5 were excavated in the southern half of the development area and aligned roughly north-south. These trenches were excavated to between 300 and 450mm deep. The subsoil was again predominantly clay; Trench 4 was predominantly (004) and Trench 5 (Figure 4b) was predominantly (006) which was light brown silty clay. The southern ends of both trenches were down slope and therefore the subsoil was (005) and noticeably waterlogged. Evidence of disturbance by trees was apparent in both trenches and two field drains were uncovered in Trench 4. No significant archaeological features were uncovered in either trench.
19. There was some evidence of disturbance within the development area resulting from the placement of decorative trees and modern services. These services were predominantly in the form of ceramic drains. These exceptions to this being the rough tarmac and gravel at the northern end of Trench 2 (002) and the manholes located at the southern end of the development area. The trenches had been deliberately located to avoid disturbing this service and we can be reasonably certain, from the scale of the manholes, that there has been extensive modern disturbance of the southern 2m of the development area.
20. All potential archaeological features were investigated according to the terms of the Method Statement (Gordon 2010). Very few features of any kind were observed within the evaluation trenches and in all trenches the natural drift geology was reached unambiguously. No significant archaeological features were observed within the development area and no anthropic material was recovered that would suggest anything other than modern (20th century) use of the site.

Discussion

21. No significant archaeological remains were uncovered in the course of the evaluation works and no anthropic material was uncovered other than would suggest modern (20th century) use of the development area. Any potential significant archaeological features were investigated according to the terms of the Method Statement (Gordon 2010), however, there was notably little disturbance to the subsoil deeper than 100mm.
22. Disturbance to the subsoil had resulted from the placement of decorative trees and potentially the superficial landscaping of the area in order to establish it as parkland neighbouring houses (Figure 5a). Additional disturbance has resulted from attempts to drain the area by the placement of ceramic field drains as exposed in Trenches 1 and 4. The larger drain exposed at the northern end of Trench 1 may have been connected with the deposit of tarmac and gravel at north end of Trench 2. They were certainly on the same alignment it may have been an attempt to establish a soak away for the area with a pipe leading to the burn to the east.
23. The generally poor drainage in the development area was evident when attempting to backfill (Figure 5b) the trenches and the machine became repeatedly bogged down. The site was re-established as far as possible in the circumstances, however, it was evident that the loosely compacted topsoil formed an unstable surface over the compacted clay subsoil. It is possible that the topsoil represents, as previously suggested, an attempt to superficially landscape the area as a park.



Figure 5a: Site after excavation



Figure 5b: Backfilling in progress

24. There was no evidence of significant archaeological occupation of the development area. Very little modern material (20th century) was recovered from the site and no medieval material was observed in the course of the archaeological evaluation works. From this there is no evidence that the medieval settlement of Fenwick extended to within the development area and was probably further west and south in closer proximity to the church.
25. In addition there was no evidence of the houses shown on the later editions of Ordnance Survey mapping. Speaking to local residents who had lived in the area for over fifty years revealed that there was no recollection of houses ever being built in the development area. It possible that these houses were mapped in anticipation of construction but the construction work was never undertaken.

Recommendations

26. No significant archaeological remains were located within the development area and the only anthropic material observed suggested modern (20th century) use of the site. The evaluation trenches were placed to give as wide a coverage of the development area as possible. In addition despite the presence of decorative trees on the site it was possible to achieve the required 8% evaluation of the development area. For these reasons and given the generally uniform character of the sediments on site it was possible to gain a representative sample of the archaeological potential of the development area.
27. Any potentially significant features were investigated but given the complete lack of significant archaeological material recovered in the course of the evaluation works Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommend that no further archaeological work be carried out within this development area. To this end we propose that the archaeological watching brief condition be purged from the planning consent.
28. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with East Ayrshire Council and their advisors, West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Conclusion

29. A programme of archaeological works was required by McTaggart Construction Ltd on behalf of Atrium Initiatives in respect of the affordable housing development at Creelshaugh Road, Fenwick. The preliminary archaeological investigative works are designed to determine the nature, form and extent of any archaeology present on the development site and hence inform the appropriateness of the proposed archaeological watching brief.
30. No significant archaeological remains were located within the development area and no anthropic material was recovered other than would suggest modern (20th century) use of the site. Those few features which were uncovered related either to attempts to improve the area as park land or from the establishment of modern services. The variations in the subsoil reflected the changing topography of the area.

References

Documentary

Gordon, D., 2010, *Creelshaugh Road, Fenwick: Archaeological Evaluation, Data Structure Report*, Rathmell Archaeology Limited

Scottish Office: Environment Department, 1994, *Planning Advice Note 42: Archaeology*

Scottish Government, 2010, *Scottish Planning Policy*

Cartographic

1747-1755, Roy, *Military Survey of Scotland*

1858, Ordnance Survey, 1st edition Ordnance Survey

1897, Ordnance Survey, 2nd edition Ordnance Survey

1911, Ordnance Survey, 3rd 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 2 for trench locations.

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
01	North-west to south-east	24.3m by 1.6m 38.8m ²	350 to 450mm	From N end (004) until 6m, (003) until 9m, (004) until 15m, (003) until end.	Large ceramic drain at north end, ceramic fiend drain at S end from 18m to 25m	None	None
02	North-west to south-east	24.5m by 1.3m 39.2m ²	300 to 350mm	From N end (002) until 5m, (003) until 14m, (004) until end	None	None	None
03	East to west	26m by 1.6m 41.6m ²	350 to 400mm	From E end (005) until 8m, (004) until 14m, (003) until end	None	None	None
04	North to south	25m by 1.6m 40m ²	250 to 450mm	From S end (006) until 19m, (005) until end	Ceramic field drains present at 8m and 11m from the S end of trench	None	None
05	North to south	25m by 1.6m 40m ²	300 to 350mm	From S end (004) until 17m, (005) until end	None	None	None

Appendix 2: 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	All	Deposit	Dark brown to black, sandy silt, grass and tree roots, no inclusions.	Topsoil
002	Tr 2	Deposit	Type 1 gravel topped with a rough tarmac surface, superficially excavated to prevent danger of collapse.	Modern feature, possibly soakaway pit
003	Tr 1,2,3	Deposit	Yellow/orange slightly silty clay, very compact, no inclusions, roots disturb upper levels	Subsoil
004	Tr 1,2,3, 5	Deposit	Orange/brown silty clay, roots and charcoal flecks on the upper surface, compact, some large stones	Subsoil
005	Tr 3,4,5	Deposit	Grey/brown silty sand, charcoal flecks and roots on surface, damp and loose compaction	Subsoil
006	Tr 4	Deposit	Light brown silty clay, lots of tree roots, many small stones	Subsoil

Photographic Register

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
1	-	-	-	-	1	Pre-ex	N	23/11/10
2	-	-	-	-	2	Pre-ex	N	23/11/10
3	-	-	-	-	3	Pre-ex	N	23/11/10
4	-	-	-	-	4	Pre-ex	N	23/11/10
5	-	-	-	-	5	Pre-ex	N	23/11/10
6	-	-	-	-	6	Pre-ex	N	23/11/10

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
7	-	-	-	-	7	Pre-ex	N	23/11/10
8	-	-	-	-	8	Pre-ex	N	23/11/10
9	-	-	-	-	9	Pre-ex	N	23/11/10
10	-	-	-	-	10	Pre-ex	N	23/11/10
11	-	-	-	-	11	Tr2	NE	23/11/10
12	1	3	-	-	12	Tr2	NE	23/11/10
13	1	4	-	-	13	Tr1	NE	23/11/10
14	-	-	-	-	14	Tr1	NE	23/11/10
15	1	5	-	-	15	Pipe Tr1	E	23/11/10
16	-	-	-	-	16	Pipe Tr1	E	23/11/10
17	1	6	-	-	17	Tr3	E	23/11/10
18	-	-	-	-	18	Tr3	E	23/11/10
19	1	7	-	-	19	Tr4	N	23/11/10
20	-	-	-	-	20	Tr4	N	23/11/10
21	1	8	-	-	21	Tr5	S	23/11/10
22	-	-	-	-	22	Tr5	S	23/11/10
23	1	9	-	-	23	Area	S	23/11/10
24	-	-	-	-	24	Area	S	23/11/10
25	-	-	-	-	25	Manholes on S boundary	SE	23/11/10
26	-	-	-	-	26	Manholes on S boundary	SE	23/11/10
27	-	-	-	-	27	Area	SW	23/11/10
28	-	-	-	-	28	Area	SW	23/11/10
29	1	10	-	-	29	Soakaway Tr1	NW	23/11/10

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
30	-	-	-	-	30	Soakaway Tr1	NW	23/11/10
31	-	-	-	-	31	Backfilled	N	23/11/10
32	-	-	-	-	32	Backfilled	N	23/11/10
33	-	-	-	-	33	Backfilled	N	23/11/10
34	-	-	-	-	34	Backfilled	-	23/11/10
35	-	-	-	-	35	Backfilled	-	23/11/10
36	-	-	-	-	36	Backfilled	-	23/11/10
37	-	-	-	-	37	Backfilled	-	23/11/10
38	-	-	-	-	38	Backfilled	-	23/11/10
39	-	-	-	-	39	Backfilled	-	23/11/10
40	-	-	-	-	40	Backfilled	-	23/11/10
41	-	-	-	-	41	Backfilled	-	23/11/10
42	-	-	-	-	42	Backfilled	-	23/11/10
43	-	-	-	-	43	Backfilled	-	23/11/10
44	-	-	-	-	44	Backfilled	-	23/11/10
45	-	-	-	-	45	Backfilled	-	23/11/10
46	-	-	-	-	46	Backfilled	-	23/11/10
47	-	-	-	-	47	Backfilled	-	23/11/10
48	-	-	-	-	48	Backfilled	-	23/11/10
49	-	-	-	-	49	Backfilled	-	23/11/10
50	-	-	-	-	50	Backfilled	-	23/11/10
51	-	-	-	-	51	Backfilled	-	23/11/10
52	-	-	-	-	52	Backfilled	-	23/11/10

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
53	-	-	-	-	53	Backfilled	-	23/11/10

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
1	1	2	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 2	AM	23/11/10
2	1	1	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 1	AM	23/11/10
3	1	3	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 3	AM	23/11/10
4	2	4	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 4	AM	23/11/10
5	2	5	Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 5	AM	23/11/10

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Creelshaugh Road, Fenwick
PROJECT CODE:	10060
PARISH:	Fenwick
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Matthews
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)	NS 466 435
START DATE (this season)	23 rd November 2010
END DATE (this season)	23 rd November 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	No significant archaeological remains were located within the development area and no anthropic material was recovered other than would suggest modern (20 th century) use of the site. Those few features which were uncovered related either to attempts to improve the area as park land or from the establishment of modern services. The variations in the subsoil reflected the changing topography of the area.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Atrium Initiatives
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

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

Rathmell Archaeology Ltd	www.rathmell-arch.co.uk
Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops	
Kilwinning	t.: 01294 542848
Ayrshire	f.: 01294 542849
KA13 6PU	e.: contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk

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

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

End of Document