

NORTH CANAL BANK,
CLYDEBANK
DATA STRUCTURE REPORT

PROJECT 2500

carried out
on behalf of
AEL Enterprises Ltd

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NORTH CANAL BANK, CLYDEBANK DATA STRUCTURE REPORT

PROJECT 2500

by
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This document has been prepared in accordance with GUARD standard operating procedures.

Author:

Date:

Approved by:

Date:



1.0 Executive Summary

Archaeological monitoring of ground-breaking works associated with the re-landscaping and renovation of North Canal Bank, Clydebank was carried out by Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD) on behalf of AEL Enterprises Limited. The Forth and Clyde Canal is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The monitoring was required in order to comply with a condition attached to the Scheduled Monument Consent issued by Historic Scotland for all ground-breaking works within five metres of the canal, the extent of the scheduled area. During the monitoring, some sandstone blocks that represent the remains of the original canal wall were uncovered. These were found two metres from the new canal wall and had been partially destroyed and were intermixed with more modern building debris.

2.0 Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological monitoring programme, carried out by GUARD, of ground-breaking works associated with the re-landscaping and upgrading of footpaths at North Canal Bank, Clydebank (NGR NS 2497 670 to NS 2500 6703). The work was carried out in accordance with a condition attached to the Scheduled Monument Consent issued by Historic Scotland, whereby all ground-breaking works within five metres of the existing canal wall, comprising the scheduled area, would be subject to archaeological monitoring. The work took place over seven days, from 13th August 2007 to 4th February 2008.

3.0 Site Location, Topography and Geology

The site is located on the north bank of the Forth & Clyde Canal between Kilbowie Road to the west and Argyll Road to the east and is bounded on the north by Clyde Shopping Centre and a public car park (NGR NS 2497 6704 to NS 2500 6703). The area being monitored comprises public footpaths, brick walls, brick shrubbery planters and brick steps.

The underlying drift geology consists of made-up ground, while the solid geology consists of Lawmiur Formation mudstone, siltstone and sandstone (British Geological Survey: www.digimap.edina.ac.uk).

4.0 Archaeological Background

The Forth and Clyde Canal was built between 1768 and 1790, providing a navigable waterway between two of Scotland's largest rivers. It ran from Grangemouth in the east, where the River Carron was used to link to the River Forth, to Bowling in the west. The canal was opened in 1790. It was bought by the Caledonian Railway in 1867 and was owned by the railway companies until 1948. When the rights of navigation were extinguished by Parliament in 1963, some sections of the canal fell into disuse. Since 1980 the Forth and Clyde Society has campaigned for the canal's restoration and, with financial support from the Millennium Commission, the canal re-opened in 2001 (www.forthandclyde.org.uk).

The original bascule bridge over the canal at Kilbowie Road was replaced by a swing bridge in 1915. After the closure of the canal, the swing bridge was replaced by a drowned culvert (NMRS NS47SE 119). Clyde Shopping Centre, which was built between 1978 and 1982, is located on both sides of the canal and is linked by a pedestrian bridge. The northern part of the shopping centre lies on the site of Singer Machine factory (NMRS NR47SE 90), built by Singer Manufacturing Company Limited in 1882 and once the largest factory in the world. The factory closed in 1980.

5.0 Aims and Objectives

The general aims of the monitoring were to record any archaeological remains associated with the Forth and Clyde Canal within the area covered by Scheduled Monument Consent. In particular, the project aimed to establish if, during work to narrow this stretch of the Forth and Clyde Canal, the original canal wall was retained *in situ* and, if so, to gauge its current condition.

The specific objectives were:

- to monitor all ground-breaking works within 5 m of the north bank of the canal;

- to record, by chemical and digital photograph, the removal of existing footpaths, walls, shrub planters and stairs, and
- to record, by chemical and digital photography, written description and, where appropriate, by measured drawing, the deposits uncovered during ground-breaking works.

6.0 Methodology

The area covered by the monitoring measured 322 m west to east and 5 m north to south (as measured from the north edge of the canal). As the work was being carried out in a piecemeal manner in order to minimise disruption to customers at the shopping centre, the site was divided into four contiguous areas (1-4), each measuring c 80 m long, with work beginning at the west end of site. Upstanding features such as walls and shrubbery planters were demolished using a mechanical digger fitted with a toothed bucket, and existing brick walkways were removed in the same way. A drainage channel was dug along the full length of the site to a depth of 0.7 m using a mechanical digger fitted with a flat-bladed bucket. Sections of the drainage ditch were photographed and sketched in each of the areas monitored.

In Area 1, two test pits were dug in order to test the depth of modern deposits (006, 008 and 009). These were recorded by measured sketch and by plan at a scale of 1:20 and by chemical and digital photography. All artefacts were recorded by context only.

7.0 Results

In all four areas, building debris (including pieces of aggregate, ceramic pipe, modern plastic, broken bricks, etc) relating to the construction of Clyde Shopping Centre was uncovered between 0.15 and 0.2 m below the brick footpath. It is evident that this debris was used as a fill over which deposits of sand and aggregate were laid to create a level surface for the existing paved footpaths.



Plate 1: The linear arrangement of sandstone blocks (011) in Area 1.

Area 1

Several large sandstone blocks (011) were found in a test pit to the west of the covered footbridge at the east end of Area 1, where the canal has been narrowed. These stones seemed to form a linear structure

about 5 m long that ran parallel to the present wall (where the canal had been narrowed) and on the same alignment as the existing canal wall approximately 2 m to the south. These unbonded stones, which were both shaped and unshaped, measured individually 0.4 m to 0.6 m long and 0.3 m to 0.55 m wide. The stones were cleaned, photographed and planned at a scale of 1:20. While attempting to determine if these were structural, a void was found below one of the stones. Red bricks with an obscured maker's stamp (SF 3) and smaller pieces of sandstone were also found among the sandstone blocks in a brown silty matrix (015). From the disturbed nature of these structural components, it was apparent that although the sandstones were very likely to be the remains of the original canal wall, they were no longer *in situ*. The depth to which the sandstones may be found is not known.

A large sandstone block was uncovered at the west end of Area 1. The stone was cleaned, photographed and sketched. It did not appear to be *in situ* and may have been related to the demolition of the Singer Machine Factory in 1980.

Area 2

A modern cut (022) for a service pipe and modern building debris (024) were found in this area. No archaeological remains were found.

Area 3

No archaeological remains were found in this area.

Area 4

No archaeological remains were found in this area.

8.0 Discussion

8.1 Summary of the Fieldwork Results

The renovation works at North Canal Bank, Clydebank uncovered an unbonded sandstone structure that is very likely to be the remains of the original wall on the north side of the Forth & Clyde Canal. The stones were not *in situ* and were intermixed with red brick and a brown silt deposit. Other individual sandstone blocks were found in Area 1 in contexts where modern building debris was mixed with a brown silt deposit. From these findings, it is likely that the original wall was retained while the present wall was being constructed, and was subsequently at least partially destroyed.

8.3 Interpretive Issues

Although the remains of the original canal wall were found in one of the areas being monitored, their current condition was not clearly established. In particular, the depth to which the wall still exists is presently unknown.

9.0 Recommendations

Having established that the remains of the original north wall of the Forth & Clyde Canal are partially extant, it is reasonable to assume that the south canal wall may also have been preserved to some degree. It is, therefore, recommended that any ground-breaking works on the south canal bank be subject to similar close archaeological monitoring.

10.0 Acknowledgements

This project was managed for GUARD by Olivia Lelong and monitored by Historic Scotland. The director was assisted in the field by Donna M Maguire. Technical support was provided by Aileen Maule and administrative support by Jen Cochrane.

11.0 Bibliography

British Geological Survey; www.digimap.edina.ac.uk

Forth & Clyde Canal Society; www.forthandclyde.org.uk

National Monument Register for Scotland; www.rcahms.gov.uk

12.0 Appendices

12.1 *List of Contexts*

<i>Area</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation/Relationships</i>
1	001	Brickwork of upper walkway	Modern pedestrian walkway
1	002	Fine yellow sand.	Bedding layer below 001
1	003	Loose grey aggregate	Modern fill below 002
1	004	Brickwork of wall between upper and lower walkways	
1	005	Concrete layer	Foundation of 004
1	006	Brown silty sand	Fill of cut for 004
1	007	Brickwork of lower walkway	Modern pedestrian walkway
1	008	Fine yellow sand	Bedding layer below 007
1	009	Loose grey aggregate	Modern fill below 008
1	010	Brickwork of shrub planter	
1	011	Stonework – sandstone and brick	Debris from earlier canal wall
1	012	Black gravel and construction/destruction debris	Modern fill below 015
1	013	Concrete layer	Modern construction deposit below 012
1	014	Grey/brown gravel	Modern construction deposit below 013
1	015	Crushed slate and red brick	Debris from earlier wall or structure
1	016	Orange sand	Modern deposit above 015
1	017	Fine yellow sand	Modern deposit between 009 and 012
1	018	Foundation cut for brick wall (004)	Wall foundation
2	019	Brickwork of lower walkway	Modern pedestrian walkway
2	020	Fine yellow sand	Bedding layer below 019
2	021	Grey aggregate	Modern fill below 020
2	022	Linear cut for services	Modern cut through 021
2	023	Mixed brown silt and grey aggregate	Fill of service cut 022
2	024	Brown silt and modern building debris	Modern fill below 021
3	025	Brickwork of lower walkway	Modern pedestrian walkway
3	026	Coarse yellow/ brown sand	Bedding layer below 025
3	027	Grey aggregate	Modern fill below 026
4	028	Brickwork of lower walkway	Modern pedestrian walkway
4	029	Coarse yellow/ brown sand	Bedding layer below 028
4	030	Grey aggregate	Modern fill below 029

12.2 *List of Finds*

<i>Area</i>	<i>Find No.</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>No. of Pieces</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Description</i>
		NT-			

		No.			
1	001	009	1	Pot	Rim piece, modern
1	002	009	1	Wood	Part of wooden post(?)
1	003	009	2	Brick	Possible wall debris with maker's stamp
2	004	023	2	Glass	Clear glass sherds
2	005	023	1	Wood	Piece of wood
2	006	024	2	Pot	Modern glazed ceramic
2	007	024	2	Metal	Fe nails
2	008	024	1	Metal	Fe rivet

12.3 *List of Samples*

No environmental samples were taken from this site.

12.4 *List of Drawings*

Area	Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Subject	Contexts	Scale
1	1	1	Plan of stones comprising possible North Canal wall	007-009, 011	1:20
1	2	2	South facing section of drainage gully	008,009, 012, 015-017	1:10

12.4A *List of Sketches*

Area	Sketch No.	Sheet No.	Subject	Contexts	Scale
1	1	Daybook	South facing section of excavation to West of planter	(001) – (006)	1:10
1	2	Daybook	Pre-excavation plan of Area 1 – East and Centre	(001), (004) – (010)	None
1	3	Daybook	Pre-excavation plan of Area 1 – West end	(012)	None
1	4	Daybook	South facing section of drainage ditch	(008),(009), (012) – (014)	1:10
2	5	Daybook	Mid-excavation plan of Area 2	(020),[022], (023)	None
2	6	Daybook	West facing section of modern cut [022]	[022],(023)	1:10
2	7	Daybook	North-east facing section of new service duct	(021) (024)	1:10
3	8	Daybook	Pre-excavation plan of Area 3		1:100

12.5 *List of Photographs*

Black & White and Colour Slide (Film 1)

Area	Frame	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
1	1	010	Pre-excavation shot of planter	W
1	2	004	Demolition of wall to west of planter	SE
1	3	007	Removal of lower walkway	W

1	4	004,010	Demolition of planter	S
1	5	001-006	South facing section of excavation	S
1	6	007,008	Removal of lower walkway	W
1	7	004,005, 008,009	Test pit	E
1	8		General post-excavation view of the east of Area 1	E
1	9	011	Debris from possible north canal wall, west end	N
1	10	011	Debris from possible north canal wall, centre	N
1	11	011	Debris from possible north canal wall, east end	N
1	12	009,011	Debris from possible north canal wall, general view	N
1	13	009,011	Debris from possible north canal wall, general view	E
1	14		Concrete block at west of Area 1	W
1	15		Concrete block at west of Area 1	N
1	16	009,012- 014	South-west facing section of drainage gully	SW
1	17		General view of drainage gully	E
1	18	009,012	South facing section of drainage gully	S
1	19	008,009,012 014,015	South facing section of drainage gully	S
1	20		Drainage ditch, west end	SE
1	21		Drainage ditch, centre	E
1	22		Drainage ditch, east end	NW
2	23	020	West end of area 2 after removal of bricks (019)	E
2	24	020	East end of Area 2 after removal of bricks (019)	W
2	25	022,023	Linear cut	W
2	26	022,023	West facing section of linear cut	W
2	27	021	West end of Area 2 – post-excavation	E
2	28	021	East end of Area 2 – post-excavation	W
2	29	024	West end of service duct	E
2	30	021,024	North-east section of service duct	NE
2	31	024	East end of service duct	W
3	32	025	Pre-excavation view of Area 3	W
3	33	025	Area 3 after removal of flagpole foundations	W

Black & White and Colour Print (Film 2)

<i>Area</i>	<i>Frame</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Taken from</i>
3	1	026,027	East end of service duct	E
3	2	026,027	West end of service duct	W
3	3	026,027	North-east facing section of service duct	NE

Digital Photographs

<i>Area</i>	<i>Frame</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Taken from</i>
1	1	010	Pre-excavation shot of planter	SW
1	2	010	Pre-excavation shot of planter	W
1	3		General view of Area 1	SW
1	4		General view of Area 1	SW
1	5		General view of Area 1	W
1	6	004	Demolition of wall to west of planter	SE
1	7	004	Demolished wall to west of planter	SE
1	8	007	Removal of lower walkway	W
1	9	010	Demolition of planter	S
1	10	001-006	South facing section of excavation	S
1	11	007,008	Removal of lower walkway	W
1	12		Drilling out handrail at west of Area 1	SE
1	13	004,005, 008,009	Test pit	E
1	14	004,005, 008,009	Test pit	S
1	15		General post-excavation view of the east of Area 1	E
1	16	011	Debris from possible north canal wall, west end	N
1	17	011	Debris from possible north canal wall, west centre	N
1	18	011	Debris from possible north canal wall, east centre	N
1	19	011	Debris from possible north canal wall, east end	N
1	20	009,011	Debris from possible north canal wall, general view	N
1	21	009,011	Debris from possible north canal wall, general view	E
1	22		Concrete block at west of Area 1	W
1	23		Concrete block at west of Area 1	N
1	24	009,012-014	South-west facing section of drainage gully	SW
1	25		General view of drainage gully	E
1	26	009,012	South facing section of drainage gully	S
1	27	008,009,012 014,015	South facing section of drainage gully	S
1	28		Drainage ditch, west end	SE
1	29		Drainage ditch, centre	E
1	30		Drainage ditch, east end	NW
2	31		General view, pre-excavation	NW
2	32		General view, pre-excavation	NE

2	33	020	West end of Area 2 after removal of (019)	E
2	34	020	East end of Area 2 after removal of (019)	W
2	35	022,023	Linear cut	W
2	36	022,023	West facing section of cut 022	W
2	37	021	West end of Area 2, post-excavation	E
2	38	021	East end of Area 2, post-excavation	W
2	39	024	Service duct – west end	E
2	40	021, 024	North-east facing section of service duct	NE
2	41	024	Service duct – east end	W
3	42	025	Area 3, pre-excavation	W
3	43		Taking down flagpoles	W
3	44	025	Area 3 after removal of flagpoles and their foundations	W
3	45	026, 027	Service duct, west end	E
3	46	026, 027	Service duct, east end	W
3	47	026, 027	North-east facing section of service duct	NE
3	48	026, 027	Foundation for flagpole in service duct	W

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PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	North Canal Bank, Clydebank
PROJECT CODE:	2500
PARISH:	Old Kilpatrick (Clydebank)
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Christine Rennie
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	GUARD
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological monitoring of renovation works
NMRS NO(S):	NS47SE 119; NS47SE 90
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