



<b>NORTHLIGHT HERITAGE</b>	<b>North Dalnottar Cemetery:</b>
REPORT: 102	<b>Extension to memorial Wall</b>
PROJECT ID: 4411161	<b>Clydebank</b>
DATA STRUCTURE REPORT	<b>Glasgow</b>

**Northlight Heritage**

Studio 406 | South Block | 64 Osborne Street | Glasgow | G1 5QH

web: [www.northlight-heritage.co.uk](http://www.northlight-heritage.co.uk) | tel: 0845 901 1142

email: [northlight@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:northlight@yorkat.co.uk)

North Dalnottar Cemetery, Clydebank

NGR: NS 47702 73029

Data Structure Report

*on behalf of*

West Dunbartonshire Council

Cover Plate: South facing section of new wall foundation trench

Report by: Heather James

Illustrations by: Charlotte Francoz

Edited by: Olivia Lelong

Director: Heather James

Project Management: Heather James

**Approved by:** .....

**Date:** .....

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**Abstract**

West Dunbartonshire Council wished to extend a memorial wall on the north side of North Dalnottar Cemetery, which borders the Antonine Wall, a Scheduled Ancient Monument and a World Heritage Site. Historic Scotland therefore required an initial evaluation to take place to ascertain whether there were significant archaeological deposits which would be disturbed by this development. An evaluation consisting of a test trench, undertaken by Northlight Heritage, found a layer of small stones associated with the construction of a post-medieval wall. Historic Scotland required a watching brief to take place during the ground-breaking works associated with the construction of the memorial wall. No archaeological deposits or features associated with the construction, occupation or operation of the Antonine Wall were found.

## **1. Introduction**

West Dunbartonshire Council wished to extend a memorial wall on the north side of North Dalnottar Cemetery by 10 m. Because the development would extend slightly into the scheduled area protecting the Antonine Wall, Historic Scotland required an initial evaluation to take place to ascertain whether there were significant archaeological deposits which would be disturbed by this development.

The Council appointed Northlight Heritage to assist with the archaeological works.

This first phase was a small test trench to the east side of the existing memorial wall to establish the presence or absence, character, date and degree of preservation of any significant archaeological deposits. This was followed by a watching brief, carried out while the foundations for the new wall were dug.

## **2. Project Background**

The development work consisted of a 10 m extension to the east side of a memorial wall, which involved topsoil stripping and excavation for the wall foundations with a small mechanical excavator. The wall was then to be constructed within this footprint and hardcore infilled behind it to provide stability and enable drainage. Martin Brann of Historic Scotland advised that the edge of the scheduled area was the chain link fence which extended from the end of the memorial wall. The area to be cleared for the wall foundation and hardcore was therefore going to extend into the scheduled area by about 0.25 m horizontally, up to 0.8 m vertically and for 10.5 m in total length.

Scheduled Monument Consent was therefore required for these works. Historic Scotland granted SMC for an initial trial trench and, when nothing significant was found, granted SMC for the memorial wall extension to be carried out.

The West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) were also consulted and suggested that an archaeological contractor be appointed to undertake a watching brief during construction.

## **3. Location, Geology and Topography**

The development area lies on the northern boundary of North Dalnottar Cemetery, Clydebank, Glasgow (NGR NS 47702 73029, NMRS No: NS 47SE 219). The solid geology of this area is Basaltic-rock (Strathgryfe Lava Member). The superficial deposit is Devensian – Diamicton Till (British Geological Survey). The cemetery lies on a south-facing slope, below a slight ridge on which the Antonine Wall once stood. The wall has been spread and flattened at this point.

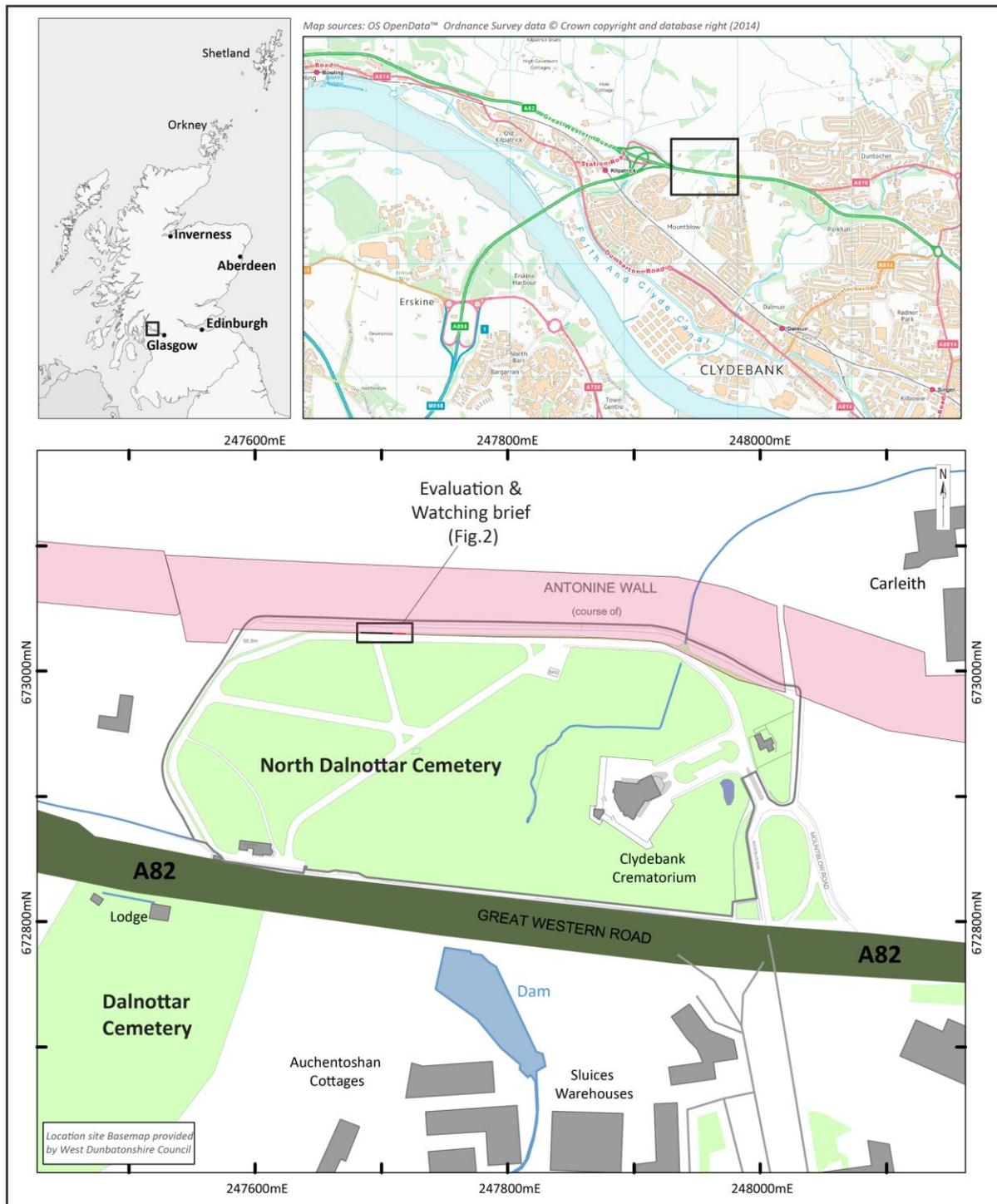


Figure 1: Location of trench.

#### 4. Archaeological and Historical Context

The Antonine Wall extended for 60 km across the narrow neck of Scotland between Bo’ness to Old Kilpatrick and consisted of a turf rampart up to 3 or 4 m high which stood on a stone base with culverts. A ditch ran along the north side and a road (the Military Way) along the south. The wall was built during the reign of the Emperor Antoninus Pius in AD 142 but was abandoned by the 160s. Along its length are the remains of forts, fortlets and distance slabs. Its designation as a World Heritage Site rests on its having formed the most northerly frontier of the Roman Empire (Historic Scotland 2007).

Historic Scotland have stated that:

‘This monument is of national importance as a major Roman frontier system which has the potential to increase considerably our understanding of Roman frontier policy and military organisation. The Antonine Wall is also the most substantial and important Roman monument in Scotland. The evidence for possible medieval occupation in the E of this section of the Wall is also of interest.’ (Historic Scotland Schedule Index Number: 7006).

Nearby Roman sites include the findspot of a Roman bronze fibula (brooch) (NS 47SE 35), a Roman distance slab (found before 1699) and a possible fortlet at Carleith (NS 47SE 52).

## 5. Summary Objectives

The aim of this project was to ensure that any buried features or deposits associated with the construction, occupation or operation of the Antonine Wall within the scheduled area were not destroyed by this development.

The objective of the evaluation was to ascertain whether or not there were significant deposits associated with the Antonine Wall which lay within the planned wall construction footprint.

## 6. Methodology

A test trench was excavated to the east of the memorial wall. The topsoil was stripped by machine and, when a layer of stones was encountered, the remaining work was done by hand. The test trench was recorded by scale section drawing, scale plan and digital photography.

## 7. Results

*Test Trench 1* (see Figure 3 & Plates 1 & 2)

On April 17th 2014, a test trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed development. The trench was located 7 m to the east of the existing memorial wall and measured 1 m wide and 2.2 m long. The trench extended 0.8 m into the scheduled area. The subsoil (005) consisted of orange/brown gravelly clay (boulder clay) and was seen at a depth of between 0.15 m and 0.45 m below the surface. A layer of small stones (004) was observed at the northern end of the trench at a depth of 0.35 m below the surface. The stones (004) were generally between 0.05 m and 0.20 m long and formed a layer about 0.08 m thick. The layer of stones extended into the trench for a distance of 0.9 m from the northern edge and then tapered away. The stones (004) were sealed by a layer of mid brown clay loam (003) and orange brown clay loam (002) which together were up to 0.2 m deep. Layers (004), (003) and (002) formed a slight bank at the north end of the trench. These layers were sealed by topsoil (001) 0.2 m deep. One small fragment of modern white ceramic was found within layer (003) and there was glass and other modern debris from topsoil (001). These finds were not retained.

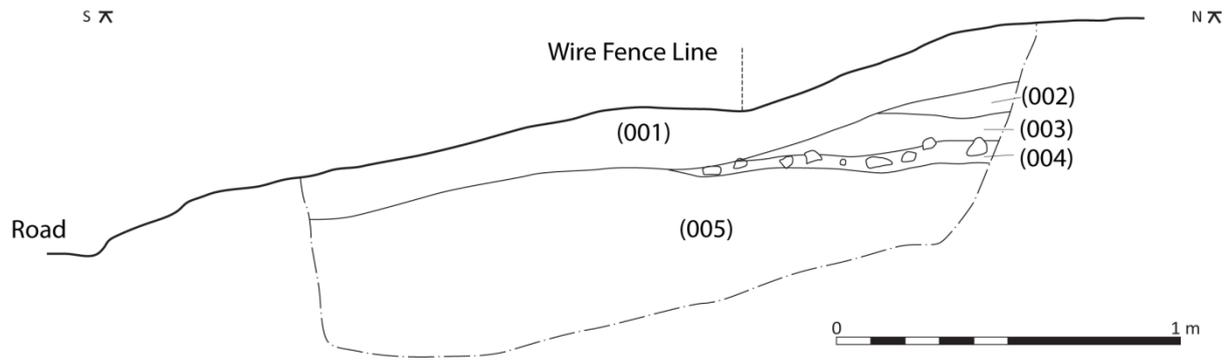


Figure 2: E-facing section of Test Trench.

A watching brief was carried out on May 27th and 28th during excavation by machine of the foundation trench for the wall. The trench measured 10.5 m long, and on the north side was up to 1.0 m deep. The stones (004) were observed only in the vicinity of the test trench. The only feature noted was a 19th-century field drain (see Cover and Plate 2).

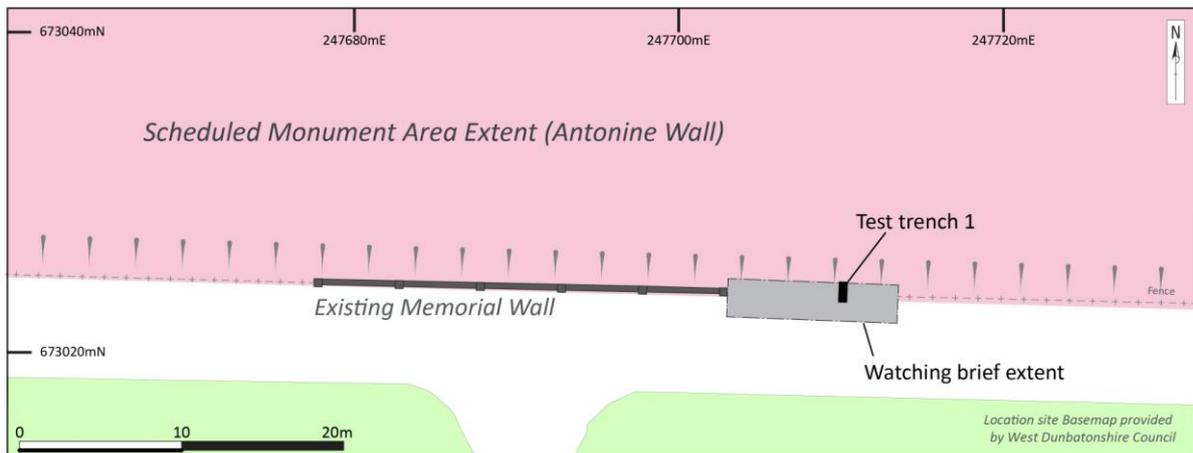


Figure 3: Plan of Test Trench 1 and development area.



*Plate 1: Test trench from the E showing stones (004).*



*Plate 2: S-facing section of foundation trench with field drain.*

## **8. Discussion and Summary**

The layer of stones (004) was interpreted as construction debris from a drystone wall of probable 19th-century date, located 3 m to the north of the test trench. The deposits sealing the stones (003, 002 and 001) were of 19th or 20th century date. The only feature observed was a 19th-century field drain. There was no evidence for any remains relating to the Antonine Wall in the area which could be affected by this development.

## **9. Recommendations**

No further work is proposed and there are no post-excavation costs.

## **10. List of Sources**

### *Maps and Online Sources*

British Geological Survey <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

### *Documentary Sources*

Hanson, W S and Maxwell, G S 1983 Rome's north-west frontier: The Antonine Wall. Edinburgh.

Historic Scotland 2007 The Antonine Wall Management Plan, Historic Scotland, 2007-2012,

## 11. Appendices

### APPENDIX 1: Tables / Concordances

Table 1: Context Information

Context No.	Type	Depth (m)	Description/Interpretation	Stratigraphy and/or phasing info
001	Layer	0.20	Topsoil	Over all
002	Layer		orange brown clay loam	Sealed by 001
003	Layer		mid brown clay loam	Sealed by 002
004	Layer	0.08m	Small stones between 0.05m and 0.20m long	Sealed by 003
005	Layer		Subsoil, orange/brown gravelly clay	Sealed by 004

Table 2: Drawings

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Context	Subject	Scale
1	1		Plan of trench	
2	2	001, 002, 003, 004, 005.	Section through test trench 1	1:10

Table 3: Digital Photographs

Photo No.	Context No.	Description	From (Compass)
		<b>Pre-development</b>	
1		Existing memorial wall	SE
2		Existing memorial wall & felled tree	SW
3		Area of development & felled tree	SE
4		Area of development & felled tree	E
5		Farm track to N of Cemetery	W
		<b>Test Trench</b>	
6		Men clearing vegetation	SW
7		Pre-ex location of test trench	S
8	004, 005	Stones & subsoil	S
9	004, 005	Stones & subsoil	S
10	001, 002, 003, 004, 005	E facing section	E
11	001, 002, 003, 004, 005	W facing section	W
12	001, 002, 003, 004, 005	E facing section, detail	E
13	001, 002, 003, 004, 005	W facing section	W
14	001, 002, 003, 004, 005	W facing section	W
15		Drystone wall to N of Test trench 1	S
16	001, 002, 003, 004, 005	N end of test trench 1 and drystone wall	SW
		<b>Watching Brief</b>	
17		Tree base being removed	E
18	001, 002, 003, 005	W end of foundation trench dug	SW
19	001, 002, 003, 005	Field drain in section	S
20	001, 002, 003, 004, 005	Whole foundation trench dug	SE
21	001, 002, 003, 004, 005	Whole foundation trench dug	SE
22	001, 002, 003, 005	E end of foundation trench	S

### APPENDIX 2: Stage 1 Written Scheme of Investigation

## North Dalnottar Cemetery Extension to Memorial Wall – Test Trench (v1)

### Method Statement

Northlight Heritage Project 4411/161

H James 3/4/14

#### 1.0 Introduction

West Dunbartonshire Council would like to extend a memorial wall on the north side of North Dalnottar Cemetery by 5m. The Cemetery lies up against the southern boundary of the Antonine Wall which is scheduled and has been designated a World Heritage Site. Historic Scotland have been consulted and advised that the development would not represent a significant additional adverse impact on the setting of the Antonine Wall. However, as the works will extend slightly into the scheduled area West Dunbartonshire Council would like to ask for Scheduled Monument Consent to undertake a test trench to see whether there are significant archaeological deposits that would be affected by the development. The Council have appointed Northlight Heritage to undertake the necessary archaeological input to the project. The development does not otherwise require planning permission. The west of Scotland Archaeology Service have been consulted and suggested that an archaeological contractor be appointed to undertake a watching brief during construction.

#### 2.0 Existing knowledge

The Antonine Wall extends for 60 km across the narrow neck of Scotland between Bo'ness to Old Kilpatrick. It consists of a turf rampart which may have been up to 3 or 4m high, on a stone base with culverts. There was a ditch to the north and a Military Way to the south. The wall was built during the reign of the Emperor Antoninus Pius in AD 142 but abandoned by the 160s. Along its length there are forts, fortlets and distance slabs. Its designation as a World Heritage Site lies in it forming the most northerly frontier of the Roman Empire (The Antonine Wall Management Plan, Historic Scotland, 2007-2012, Published 2007).

#### 3.0 Proposed work:

The proposed work consists of a 5m extension to the east side of a memorial wall. This would involve topsoil stripping and excavation for the wall foundations by a small machine. The wall will be constructed within this footprint and hardcore infilled behind it to provide stability and enable drainage. Martin Brann of Historic Scotland has advised that the edge of the scheduled area is the chain link fence. The area to be cleared for the wall foundation and hardcore will therefore extend into the scheduled area by about 0.25m horizontally, up to 0.8m vertically and for 5m in total length.

This first phase is a request for SMC to excavate a small test trench to the side of the memorial wall to see if there are significant deposits that would be affected by this development.

#### 4.0 Aims & Objectives

The aim of this project is to ensure that any buried features or deposits associated with the construction, occupation or operation of the Antonine Wall within the scheduled area are not destroyed by this development.

The objective is to ascertain whether or not there are significant deposits associated with the Antonine wall which lie within the planned wall construction footprint.

#### 5.0 Methodology

A test trench measuring 0.5m wide, 0.8m deep and 1m in extent will be hand dug to the east of the memorial wall.

Any deposits associated with the construction, occupation or operation of the Antonine Wall will be recorded by written report, scale drawings and digital photographs. If particularly significant finds are discovered West Dunbartonshire Council and Historic Scotland will be informed immediately.

#### 6.0 Reporting

A brief written report with photographs would be sent to West Dunbartonshire Council and Historic Scotland. This would inform a decision as to whether to grant SMC for the construction of the new wall.

Any further works would be reported with a Data Structure Report, prepared by Northlight Heritage, which will include a written description of the project, and will include a location plan, colour photographs, any significant sections or plans, plus lists of finds, archaeological contexts, photographs and any samples taken.

A short report will be submitted to Discovery and Excavation in Scotland and the project reported to OASIS.

#### 7.0 Phasing, scheduling

The test trenching should take 1 day and it is hoped to start this on April 7<sup>th</sup> subject to SMC being granted.

#### 8.0 Staffing

The project will be managed by Heather James and directed by her or another professional archaeologist depending on availability.

#### 9.0 Insurance

York Archaeological Trust (trading under the name of Northlight Heritage) has all appropriate public liability insurance.

#### 10.0 Archiving

The archive for the project will be deposited with the National Monuments Records for Scotland within six months of completion of fieldwork if no post-excavation work is required, or at the end of the post-excavation research programme. The project archive would contain all relevant details in connection with the planning and execution of the project.

#### 11.0 Finds Disposal

All finds will be reported to the Treasure Trove Unit. Guidance would be sought from them regarding finds allocation.

#### 12.0 Health & Safety

All work would be carried out in compliance with current Health & Safety at Work Legislation. Risk Assessments are undertaken prior to all fieldwork.

#### APPENDIX 3: DES

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	West Dunbartonshire Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	North Dalnottar Cemetery: Memorial wall extension
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	4411/161
<b>PARISH:</b>	Old Kilpatrick
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Heather James
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Northlight Heritage
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Evaluation & watching brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NS 47SE 219, Schedule Index Number 7066
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Antonine Wall
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NS 47702 73029

<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2014
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	May 28 <sup>th</sup> 2014
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	West Dunbartonshire Council wished to extend a memorial wall on the north side of North Dalnottar Cemetery. The cemetery borders onto the Antonine Wall which is scheduled and has been designated a World Heritage Site. Historic Scotland therefore asked for an initial evaluation to take place to ascertain whether there were significant archaeological deposits which would be disturbed by this development. An evaluation consisting of a test trench was undertaken by Northlight Heritage and found only a layer of small stones associated with the construction of a post-medieval wall. Historic Scotland required a watching brief to take place during the ground breaking works associated with the construction of the memorial wall, but no other archaeological features were found and no finds were retrieved.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	West Dunbartonshire Council
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Northlight Heritage, South Block, 64 Osborne St, Glasgow, G1 5QH
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:hjames@yorkat.co.uk">hjames@yorkat.co.uk</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	RCAHMS (intended)