# Water Row, Govan Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22013
OASIS No. aocarcha1-118753
27<sup>th</sup> February 2012





# Water Row, Govan;

# **Watching Brief Data Structure Report**

On Behalf of: Scottish Water

Leven House Balmore Road Glasgow G22 6NP

National Grid Reference (NGR): NS 55489 65815

AOC Project No: 22013

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Illustration by: Stefan Sagrott

Date of Fieldwork: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011 to 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012

Date of Report: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2012

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

Authors: Kevin Paton Date: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2012

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### **Abstract**

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological inspection visits undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group during ground-breaking works associated with the maintenance and renewal of sewer and other pipe work at Water Row, Govan.

Water Row is situated within an archaeologically significant area of Govan with the scheduled monument of Govan Old Parish Church and associated burial ground approx 50 m west of the development area. Furthermore, a medieval assembly point or moot hill, named Doomster hill was believed to have been located to the immediate east of the development area.

The development works revealed a small section of a cobbled surface that may relate to the late postmedieval or earlier use of the site. No datable material was recovered and due to the limited extent of this feature, it is considered of minor archaeological significance. No further works are recommended.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 **Project Background**

A programme of archaeological inspection visits was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on 1.1.1 ground-breaking works associated with the maintenance and renewal of sewer and pipe work at Water Row, Govan. The inspections were undertaken at the behest of Scottish Water in response to a recommendation from the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) and the work was carried out with full regard for the WoSAS Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork.

#### 1.2 **Site Location**

1.2.1 The development area is centred at NGR: NS 55489 65815 and lies to the north-west of Govan Road and leads to the south bank of the Clyde, directly opposite from where the river Kelvin flows into the Clyde on its northern bank (Figure 1). The development area is a modern cobbled road with former shipyards on either side which are now areas of levelled ground used for car parking to the east and a travellers' caravan site to the west.

#### 1.3 **Archaeological Background**

- 1.3.1 Water Row lies to the east (approximately 50 m away) of Govan Old Parish Church (a scheduled monument, NMRS NS56NE 17.00; NGR: NS 55349 65917) and burial ground (NMRS NS56NE 17.01) with a history of occupation at this location, probably extending well beyond its modern boundary walls and going back to the mid first millennium AD. Furthermore, a medieval assembly point or moot hill, known as Doomster Hill (NMRS NS56NE 18) is believed to have been located to the east of Water Row.
- 1.3.2 The area to the west of Water Row is the likeliest location for encountering remains dating from Govan's medieval development; however both sides of the street were heavily developed by the Govan and Water Row shipyards in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (Plate 1). Thus it seems likely that medieval or earlier archaeology in this area will have been subject to severe truncation.



Plate 1 - Historical photograph showing Water Row shipyards west of Water Row

#### 2 **OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 The objectives of the monitoring programme are:
  - i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by the proposed development works;
  - ii) to liaise with WoSAS and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation in situ, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.

#### 3 **METHODOLOGY**

3.1 Ground-breaking works associated with the development were monitored by an experienced field archaeologist. The ground-breaking was undertaken with a 360° excavator equipped with a toothed bucket and/or a toothless ditching bucket. Machine excavation consisted of two linear trenches for new sewer lines; one being approximately 55 m long and the other 85 m long, and both running mainly SW-NE. The trenches were between 2 and 3 m wide and were excavated to depths of up to 4 m. The inspection visits were scheduled around periods when excavation was occurring.

#### 4 **RESULTS**

- The archaeological inspection works were undertaken between 24th November 2011 and 2nd 4.1 February 2012. The weather was variable throughout, but typically wet and overcast. Overall archaeological visibility was nevertheless good as the natural deposits of orangey brown sand and gravel were easily seen in section at typical depths of around 0.7 m throughout the site.
- 4.2 A small section of cobbled surface [003] was revealed within the longer trench located to the SE end of the site (Figures 2 & 3; Plate 2). The surface was of irregularly sized, rounded cobbles and measured 0.57 m by 1.71 m wide where exposed. The surface most likely ran NW-SE but had been truncated to the NW by an electric cable and then the road make-up, and to the SE by the shipyard walls and services. The cobbles were set into a buried soil [004] that was later noted again in section further north-east of the cobbled surface (Figure 2). No artefactual material was found within the buried soil or within the cobbled setting.



Plate 2 - The remains of cobbled surface [003]

4.3 The only other features observed were modern and consisted of large sandstone walls with concrete foundations most likely belonging to the Govan Shipyards that used to align the street (Plate 3). The eastern wall of the shipyards slipway (Figures 4) was also revealed at the north end of the street with the area to the west having been backfilled with re-deposited sand and gravel to a depth of over 3 m.



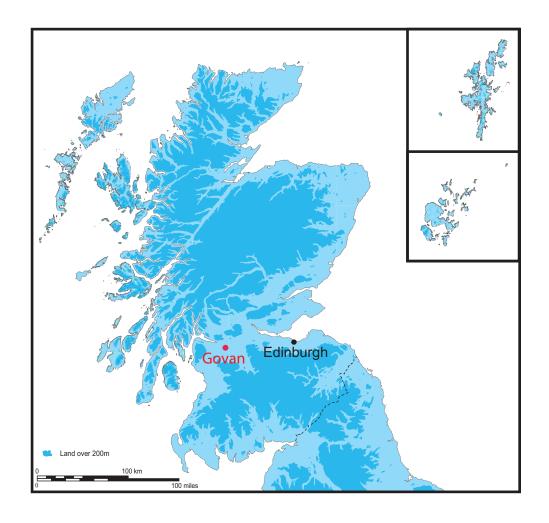
Plate 3 - An example of modern foundations throughout the site

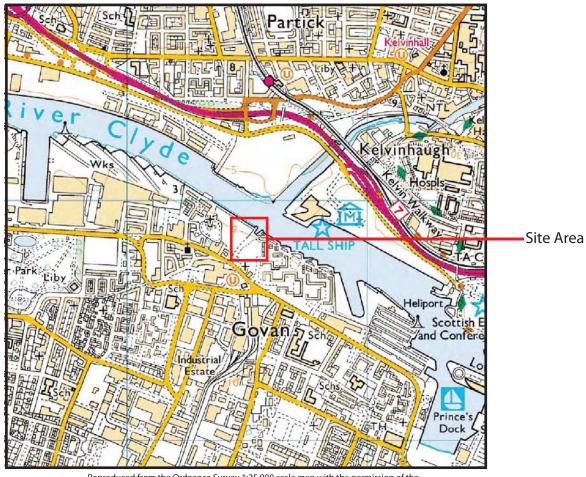
#### 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The majority of the ground-works conducted within the cobbled roadway of Water Row revealed no archaeologically significant features or finds. Only when ground-breaking works moved outwith the cobbled road surface was archaeology located in the form of cobbles [003] and buried soil [004].
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by WoSAS.

#### 6 **BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

AOC 2011 Water Row, Govan: Archaeological Monitoring Method Statement. Unpubl AOC Archaeology Project Design.



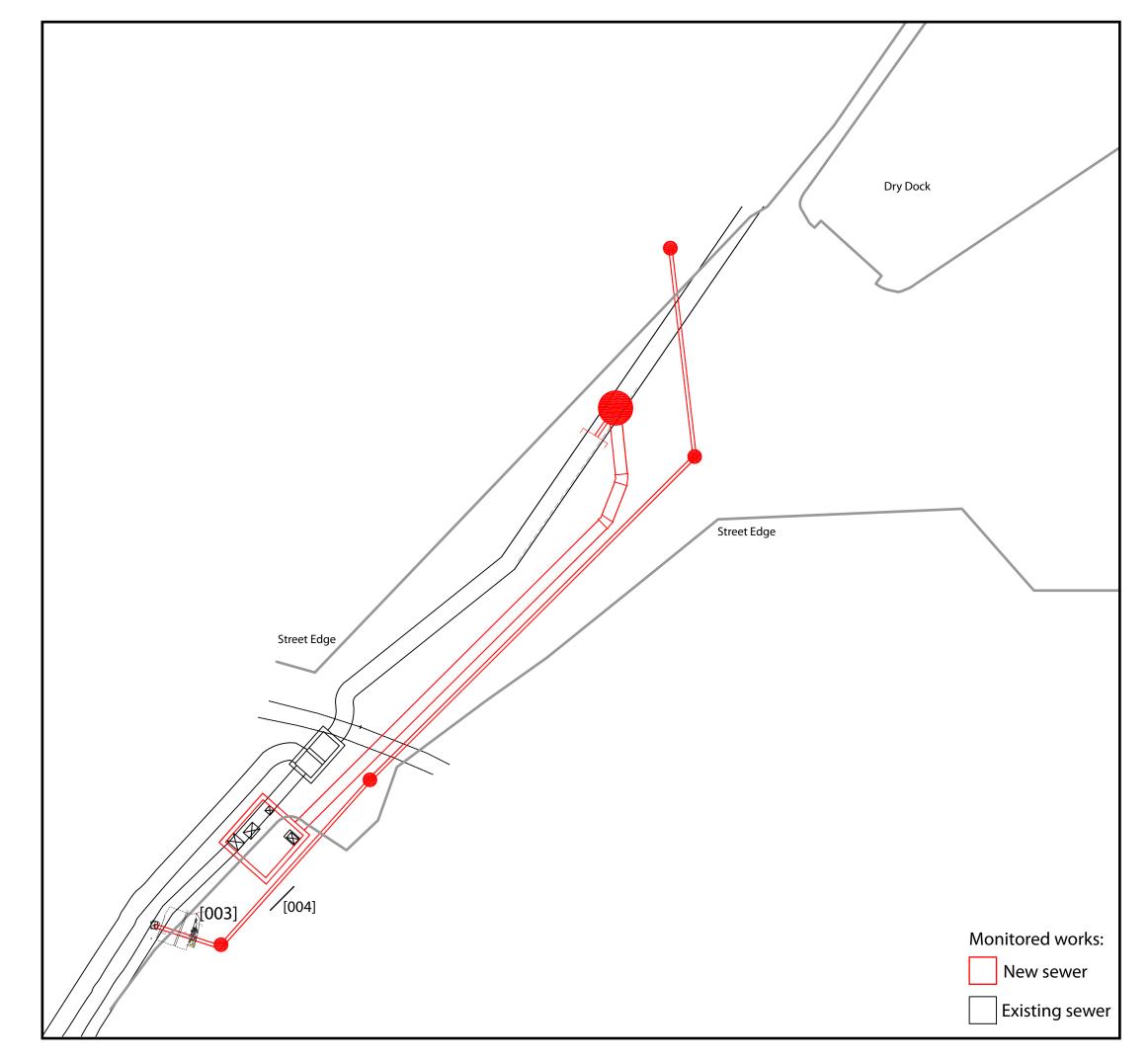


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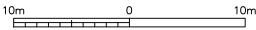
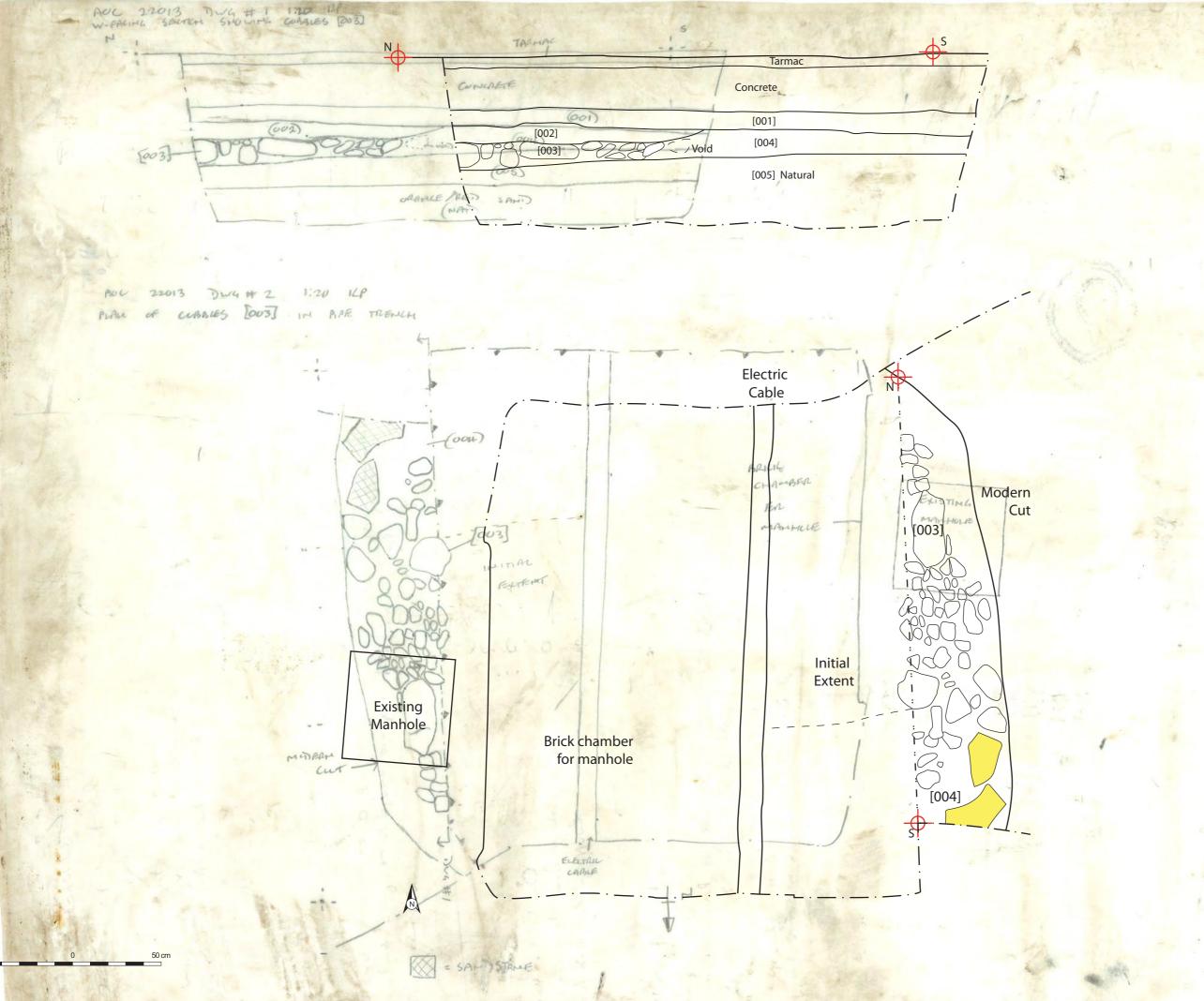


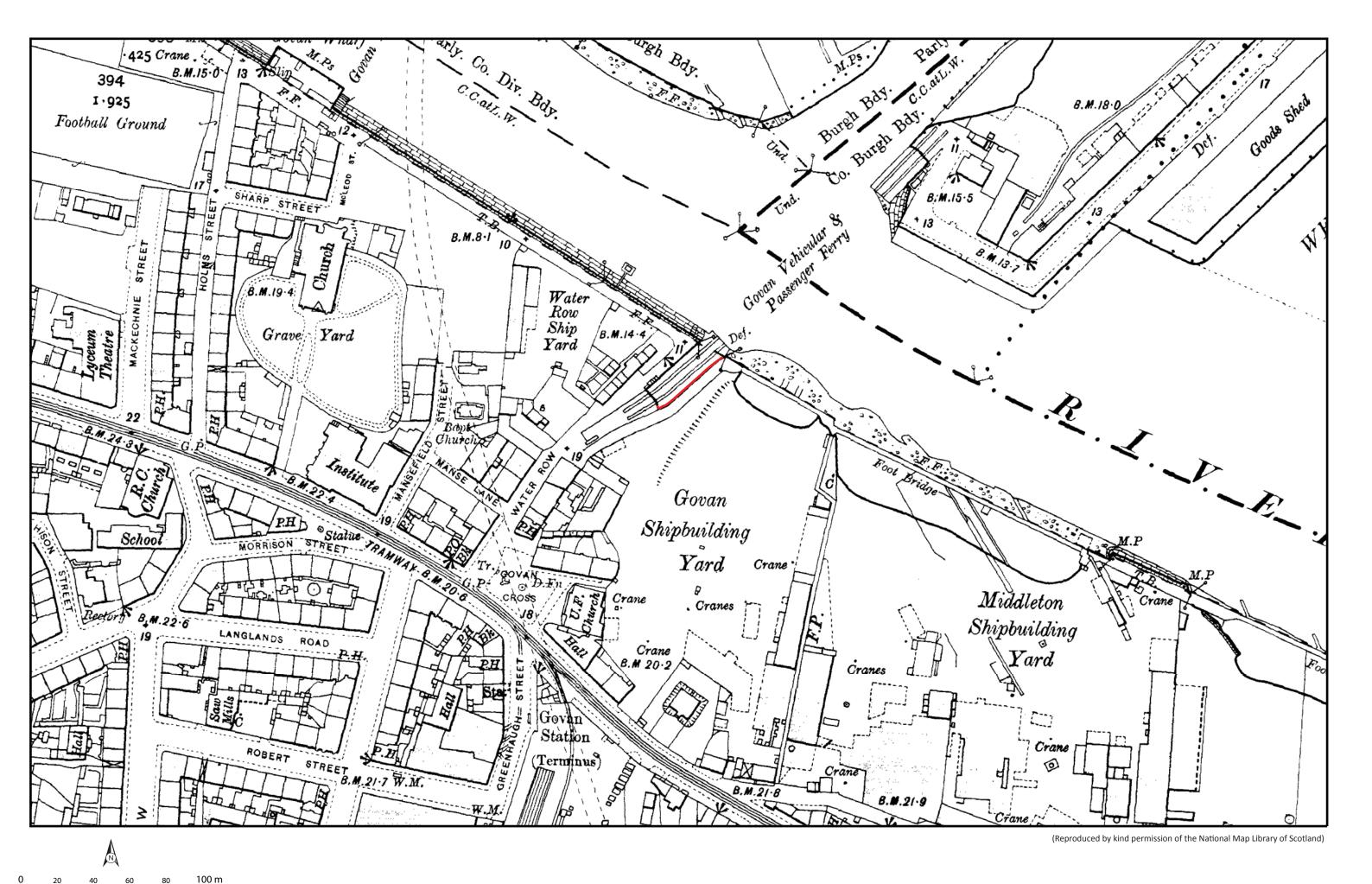
Figure 2: Location of groundworks and cobbled surface [003]





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Figure 3: West facing section and plan of cobbles [003]





Water Row, Govan, **Glasgow Watching Brief Data Structure Report** 

**Section 2: Appendices** 

## **APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER**

Context No.	Area	Description and Interpretation
001		Light yellow sand and sandstone rubble (crushed) measuring 0.13 m thick and sitting on top of
		deposits [002] and [004]. Only visible to the east of the road.
		Made ground / levelling layer for modern ground level
002		Compact dark brown sandy clay with rare charcoal inclusions directly overlying cobbled surface
		[003]. 1.42 m wide and 0.1 m thick.
		Possible trampled soil
003		Mixed rounded stone cobbles set within deposit [004]. Stones are irregularly sized but form a
		relatively flat surface. A larger line of cobbles to the south (running E-W) indicate a possible kerb
		line but surface is very truncated. Surface exposed measured 1.71 m by 0.57 m.
		Truncated remains of a cobbled surface
004		Compact mid brown silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions. Cobbles [003] sit within the
		deposit which is then covered by demolition layer [001]. Deposit measures 0.15 m thick.
		Old soil horizon
005		Very compact light grey clay sitting on top of orangey red sand. Clay measures 0.2 m thick.
		Natural subsoil

## **APPENDIX 2:PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER**

## Digital Register

Frame	Area	F. No	Description	From	Date
1			General shot of ssh under cobbles	W	24/11/11
2			Sand and gravel under concrete	W	25/11/11
3			Modern service in track at 1.3 m	W	25/11/11
4			Section showing natural under concrete	Е	25/11/11
5			Cobbles removed	S	1/12/11
6			Side of trench box excavated	SE	1/12/11
7			Sandstone wall and ceramic pipe	NE	1/12/11
8			Sand and gravel	NE	1/12/11
9			Concrete under concrete	S	7/12/11
10			Pipe in track	NW	12/12/11
11			Sand and gravel washing away	SE	12/12/11
12			Pipe and bricks on natural sand	S	12/12/11
13			Track with pipe removed	S	13/12/11
14			Machine pecking concrete	N	13/12/11
15			W-facing section of pipe trench showing brick floor	W	14/12/11
16			Pipe broken in concrete block	NW	14/12/11
17			More of concrete block revealed	N	14/12/11
18			Service tunnel being removed	W	16/12/11
19			N-facing section of track to be dug	N	16/12/11
20			W-facing section south of concrete tunnel	W	19/12/11
21			Concrete and sandstone under cobbles	W	19/12/11
22			Water pipe continuing south	Е	19/12/11
23			E-facing section north of concrete tunnel	Е	19/12/11
24			Natural sand in base	S	19/12/11
25			Water pipe in trench	SE	9/1/12
26			Deposits east of electric service	N	9/1/12
27		003	Cobbles [003] in section (W-facing)	W	9/1/12
28		003	Cobbles [003] in section (W-facing)	W	9/1/12
29			Wall and ceramic pipe E of [003]	NW	10/1/12
30			Wall and ceramic pipe E of [003]	NW	10/1/12
31			Shot showing thin band of [001]	NW	10/1/12
32		003	Cobbles [003] extent	N	10/1/12
33		003	Cobbles [003] extent	Е	10/1/12
34		003	Cobbles [003] extent	W	10/1/12
35			Concrete foundation east of [003]	W	10/1/12
36			S end of duct trench	W	13/1/12

37	Backfilled duct trench	S	13/1/12
38	Sandstone wall truncating (004)	S	13/1/12
39	Excavations on 16/1/12	W	16/1/12
40	Concrete foundations in trench	W	16/1/12
41	E-facing section showing concrete foundation	W	17/1/12
42	W-facing section showing [004]	Е	17/1/12
43	W-facing section showing brick wall and lead pipe service	W	18/1/12
44	Modern foundations (W-facing)	W	19/1/12
45	Modern foundations (S-facing)	SW	19/1/12
46	Modern disturbance in sand – no buried soils or demolition layers	E	19/1/12
47	CSO working shot	S	20/1/12
48	Brick culvert in section of CSO	W	20/1/12
49	E-facing section of CSO	SE	23/1/12
50	W-facing section previously backfilled	SW	23/1/12
51	Current end of track – concrete foundation	SE	24/1/12
52	End of day digging	SE	25/1/12
53	Concrete foundation and sand under cobbles (w-facing section)	W	26/1/12
54	E-facing section showing type 1	Е	30/1/12
55	W-facing section: cobbles-concrete-sand	W	30/1/12
56	E-facing section showing type 1	Е	1/2/12
57	W-facing section showing no archaeology	W	1/2/12
58	Bits of sandstone dock wall	-	2/2/12
59	Re-deposited sand and natural sand	E	2/2/12
60	Dock wall in section	W	2/2/12

## Black & White Film 1

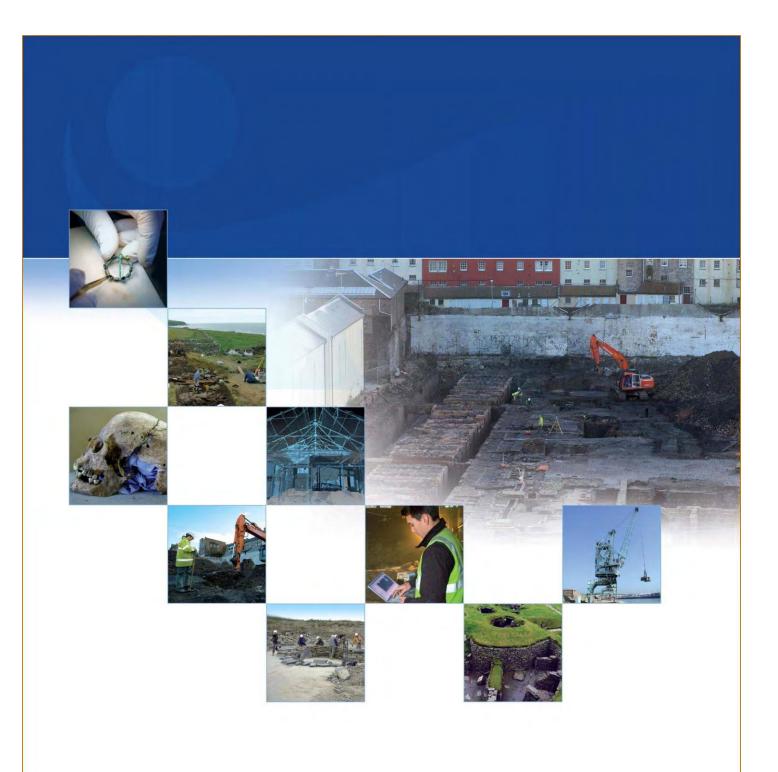
Frame	Area	F. No	Description	From	Date
1			Concrete Linear Feature	S	6/12/11
2			Registration	-	6/12/11
3-4		003	W-facing section showing cobbles [003]	W	9/1/12
5-6		003	W-facing section showing cobbles [003]	W	9/1/12
7-8		003	Extent of cobbles [003]	N	10/1/12
9-10		003	Extent of cobbles [003]	Е	10/1/12
11-12		003	Extent of cobbles [003]	W	10/1/12

# **APPENDIX 3: DRAWING REGISTER**

Prawing No.	Feature No.	Details	Scale
1	003	W-facing section of cobbles [003]	1:20
2	003	Plan of trench showing cobbles [003]	1:20

# APPENDIX 4: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Glasgow City Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Water Row, Govan
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22013
PARISH:	Govan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief/Inspection Visits
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 55489 65815
START DATE (this season)	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2011
END DATE (this season)	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A programme of archaeological inspection visits was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group during ground-breaking works associated with the maintenance and renewal of sewer and other pipe work at Water Row, Govan. The site is situated within an archaeologically significant part of Govan with Govan Old Parish Church and associated burial ground approx 50 m west of the development area. Furthermore, a medieval assembly point or moot hill, Doomster Hill, was believed to have been located to the immediate east of the development area.  The ground-works revealed a small section of a cobbled surface that may relate to the late post-medieval or earlier use of the site. No datable material was recovered and due to the limited extent of this feature (as exposed by the ground-works), it was considered of minor archaeological significance.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scottish Water
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS





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