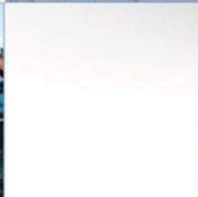


Lairdsland Primary School, Kirkintilloch: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22298

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-139604

18th December 2012



Lairdsland Primary School, Kirkintilloch:

Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Woolgar Hunter
100 West Regent Street
Glasgow
G2 2QD

National Grid Reference (NGR): NS 6510 7335

AOC Project No: 22298

Prepared by: Kevin Paton

Illustration by: Gemma Hudson & Kevin Paton

Date of Fieldwork: 12th December 2012

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

Author: Kevin Paton

Date: 18th December 2012

Approved by: Martin Cook

Date: 18th December 2012

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date: 18th December 2012

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Edgefield Industrial Estate
Edgefield Road
Loanhead
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
e-mail. edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com



www.aocarchaeology.com

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ABSTRACT

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Woolgar Hunter during site investigation works in preparation for a proposed primary school on the site of a former 19th Century Iron Foundry. The scope of the works was determined by East Dunbartonshire Council as advised by Rathmell Archaeology and was designed to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impact during the initial site investigation works.

A total of 11 test pits were excavated to a maximum depth of 2.7m. Natural subsoil was not encountered in any of the test pits, with the majority consisting of topsoil over dark brown clay containing modern iron, glass and plastic.

No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the Si works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by Woolgar Hunter to undertake an archaeological watching brief during initial site investigation works associated with a proposed primary school development at a former Iron Foundry Southbank Road, Kirkintilloch. The watching brief was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, East Dunbartonshire Council, as advised on archaeological matters by Rathmell Archaeology. The works were conducted according to the terms of the *Mitigation for Site Investigation Works* (AOC 2012) approved by Rathmell Archaeology, and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The development site covers an area of approximately 1.25 ha and lies to the south of the Forth and Clyde Canal, south-west of the town centre of Kirkintilloch (centred NGR: NS 6510 7335; Figure 1). The majority of the site is bounded by Donaldson Street to the south, Southbank Road to the west and the Canal Basin to the east. The site is currently a scrubby derelict land parcel that has been raised approximately 1m above Donaldson Street road level, then flattened and stoned for use as a car parking area.

1.3 Historical Background

- 1.3.1 Kirkintilloch gradually evolved into an industrial community over the course of the late 18th and 19th century. The Forth and Clyde Canal which runs immediately north of Southbank Road was central to this transformation. Construction of the Forth and Clyde Canal commenced in 1768 at the Forth and after delays reached the Clyde in 1790 (British Waterways website). A date stone on the aqueduct at Shirva suggests that construction at Twechar to the east of Kirkintilloch was, at the least, under construction by 1771. The Forth and Clyde Canal is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
- 1.3.2 Earlier pre-Ordnance Survey mapping is schematic and does not show the application site in detail. Detailed mapping of the area commences with the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map which was published in 1864 (Figure 2). This depicts the location of the proposed development site as a bounded field with a Saw Mill in the north east corner, bordering the southern bank of the canal. Further industrialisation is indicated by the Bellfield Printworks which stands to the north of the site on the opposite side of the canal.
- 1.3.3 The Basin Iron Foundry had been constructed over the Saw Mill by the time of the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey in 1898 (Figure 3). The application area is mainly used as a quarry or dumping ground with the main foundry building being to the east of the site, with a smaller building located to the south west corner, and a railway line for the neighbouring nickel works to the south also.
- 1.3.4 On the 1918 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 4), the small building to the south has been demolished to make way for a much larger railway construction serving the neighbouring nickel works but little has changed with regards to the Iron Foundry buildings and the majority of the site is still a dumping ground. By the time of the 1945 Ordnance Survey the foundry has been scaled back considerably, the railway lines for the nickel works are no longer present and the majority of the site appears to be empty apart from a small drainage channel running into the burn to the west.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by the site investigation works;
- ii) to liaise with Rathmell Archaeology / East Dunbartonshire Council 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;
- iii) to report on the findings of the watching brief.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All excavations were undertaken by a JCB 3CX using a narrow toothless and narrow toothed bucket under the constant supervision of an experienced field archaeologist. In the event of archaeology being encountered the features were to be recorded by digital photography, and a written record produced. Cleaning was restricted due to depths of trenches and contaminates on site.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The site investigation works were undertaken on the 12th December 2012 in cold but fair weather conditions, making for good archaeological visibility. In total, 11 test pits were excavated measuring 1.5m by 0.6m and typically 2.5m deep (Figure 5). Topsoil on site was a dark brown clayey silt with frequent stone and modern dumped material, with a large area covered by a thin layer of type 1 stone (Plate 1).



Plate 1 - General view of site from south

- 4.2 Under the topsoil the majority of the test pits (1-5 and 7-11) contained up to 2.5m of dark brown and black clay with modern material (glass, plastic, ceramics and iron) included. Test pit 2 revealed a deposit of black ash in the bottom of the test pit, 0.2m thick. Test pit 6 (Plate 2) in the south west of the site, which was lower than the remainder of the site contained 1m of dark brown clay onto light brown sandy clay and grey sandy clay up to 2.8m deep.



Plate 2 - Post excavation shot of test pit 6

- 4.3 Test pits 8 and 9 to the north east of the application boundary, near the location of the Iron Foundry building did not encounter any structural remains and as stated above contained dumped deposits of dark brown clay.
- 4.3 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered in any of the test pits.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 From the test pits excavated and the map evidence, it is possible to determine that deposits from the Basin Iron Foundry have been dumped on the site to over 2.5m in depth. From similar archaeological work in the neighbouring nickel works (AOC 2012a) that revealed an orange gravel subsoil at depths of 0.6m to 1m below the current ground level (approximately 1m below the site ground level) it could be interpreted that the application site has been partly quarried/excavated prior to dumping episodes related to 19th Century industry.

6 REFERENCES

6.1 Bibliographic References

AOC Archaeology 2012, *Lairdsland Primary School, Kirkintilloch: Mitigation (Watching Brief) for Site Investigation Works*, unpublished AOC Archaeology Project Design

AOC Archaeology 2012, *Southbank Road, Kirkintilloch: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report*, unpublished AOC Archaeology client report

http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/scotland/about-us/canals#forth_clyde

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 *Archaeology and Planning 2/2011*.

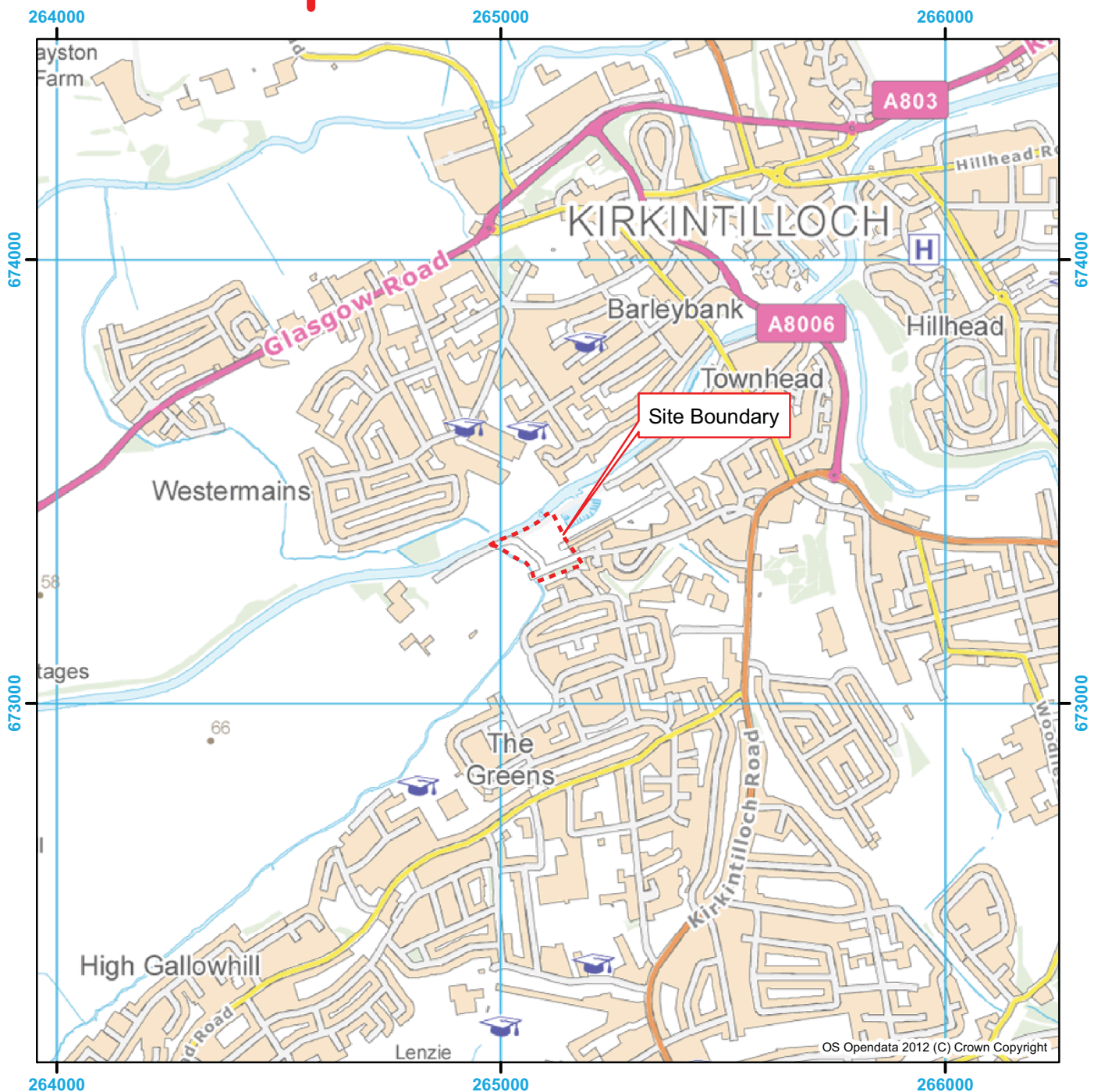
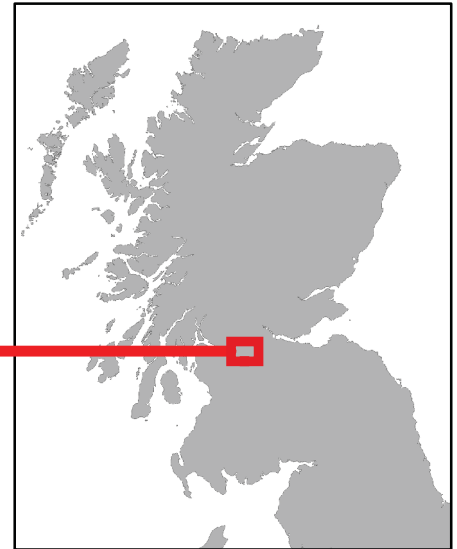
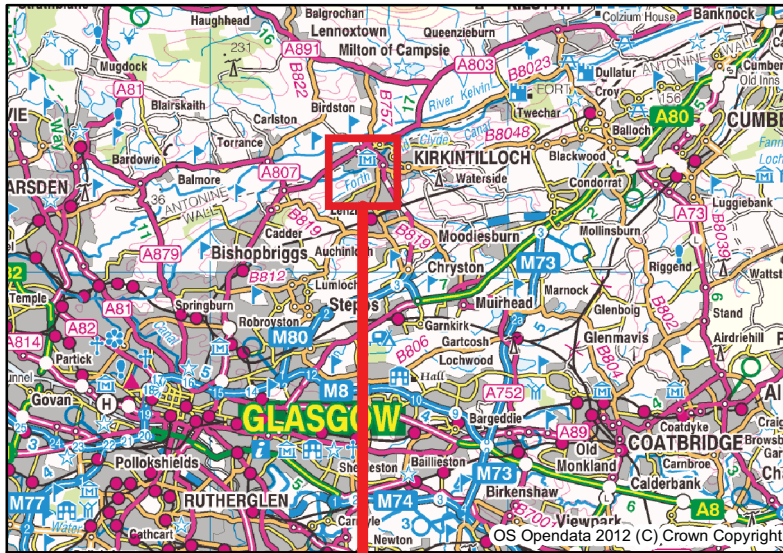
6.2 Cartographic References

Ordnance Survey 1864 *Dunbartonshire Sheet XXIV.12* 1:2500

Ordnance Survey 1898 *Dunbartonshire Sheet XXIV.12* 1:2500

Ordnance Survey 1918 *Dunbartonshire Sheet n033.05* 1:2500

Ordnance Survey 1945 *Dunbartonshire Sheet n033.05* 1:2500



0 140 280 420 560 Meters

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

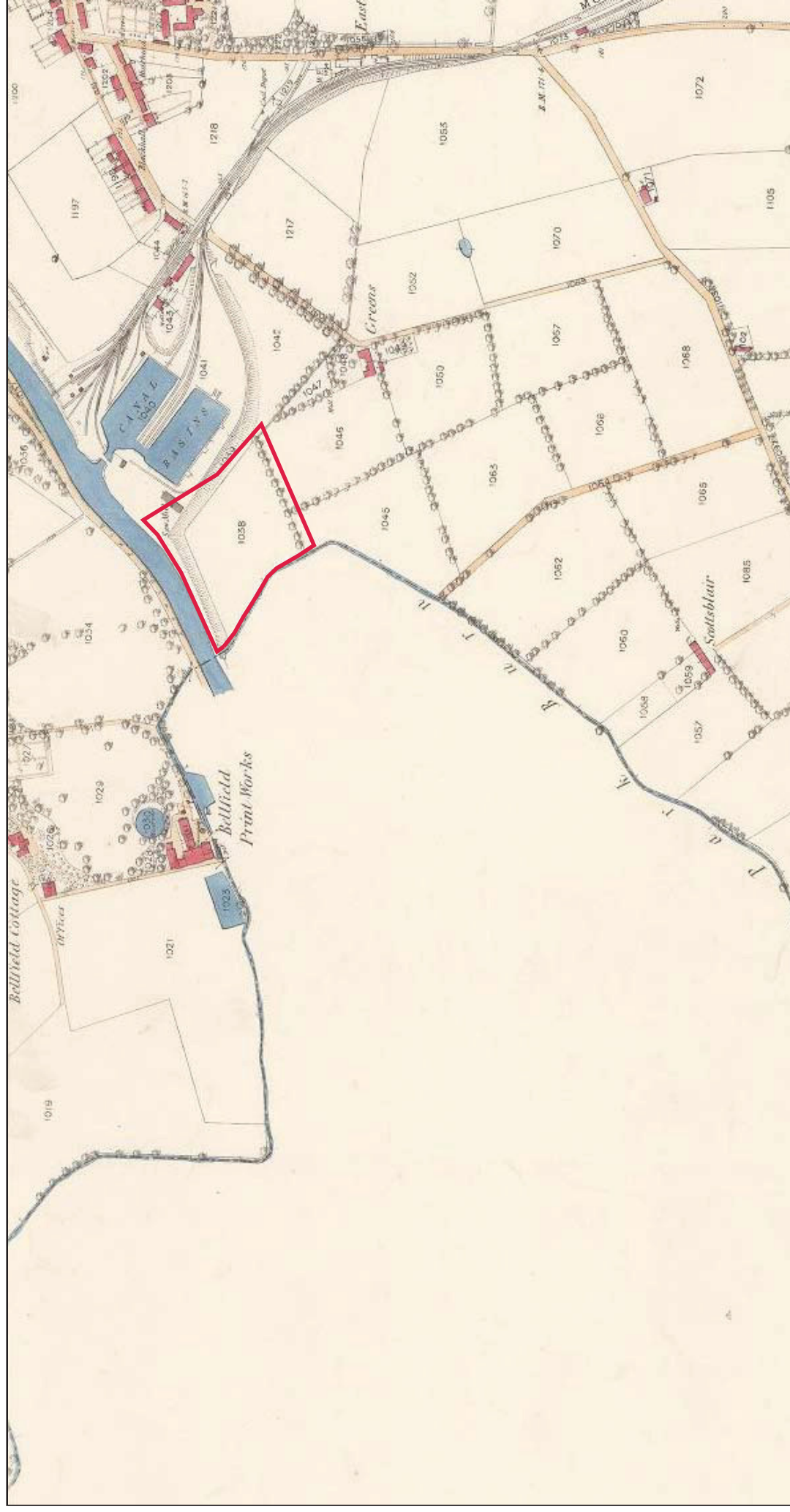
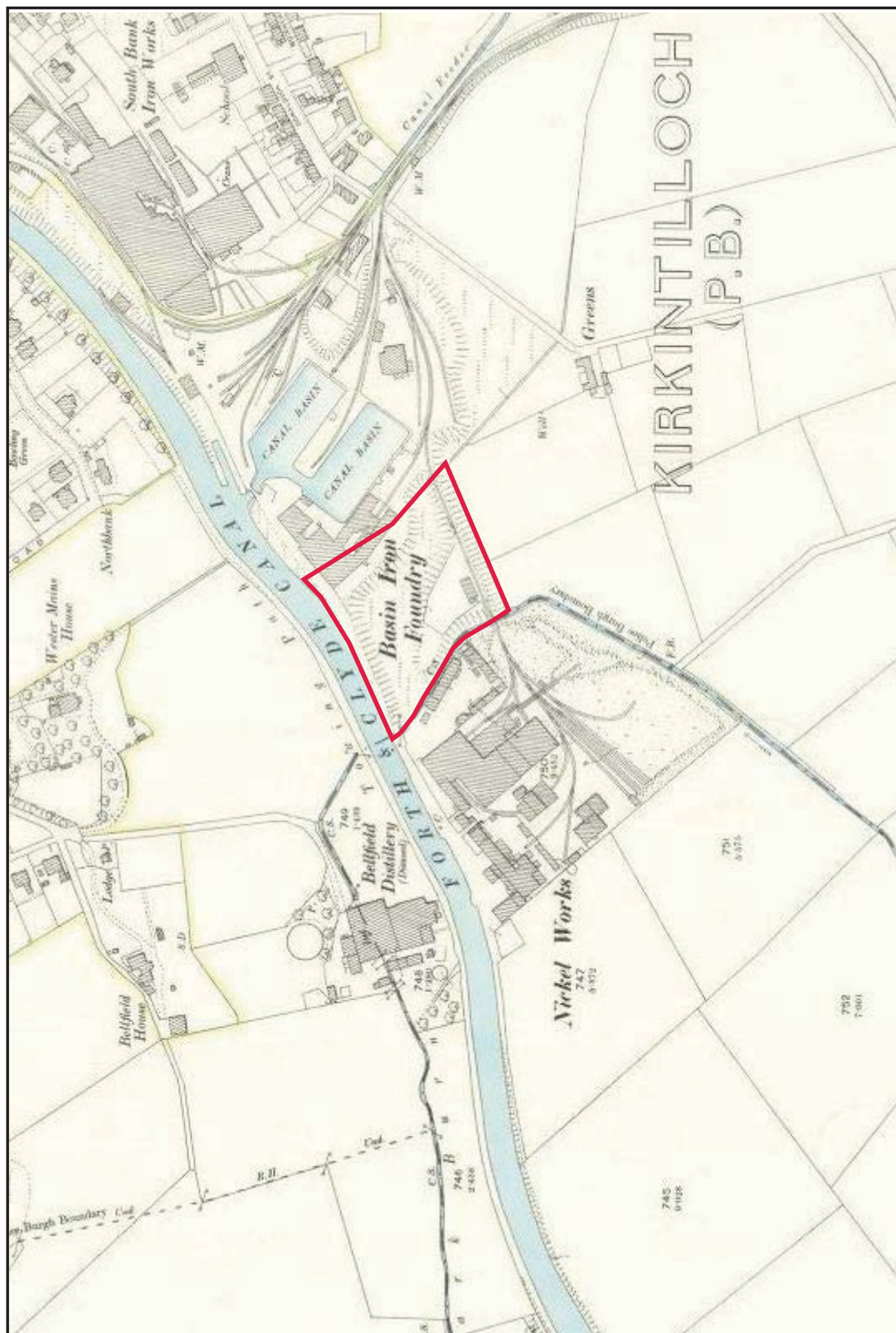


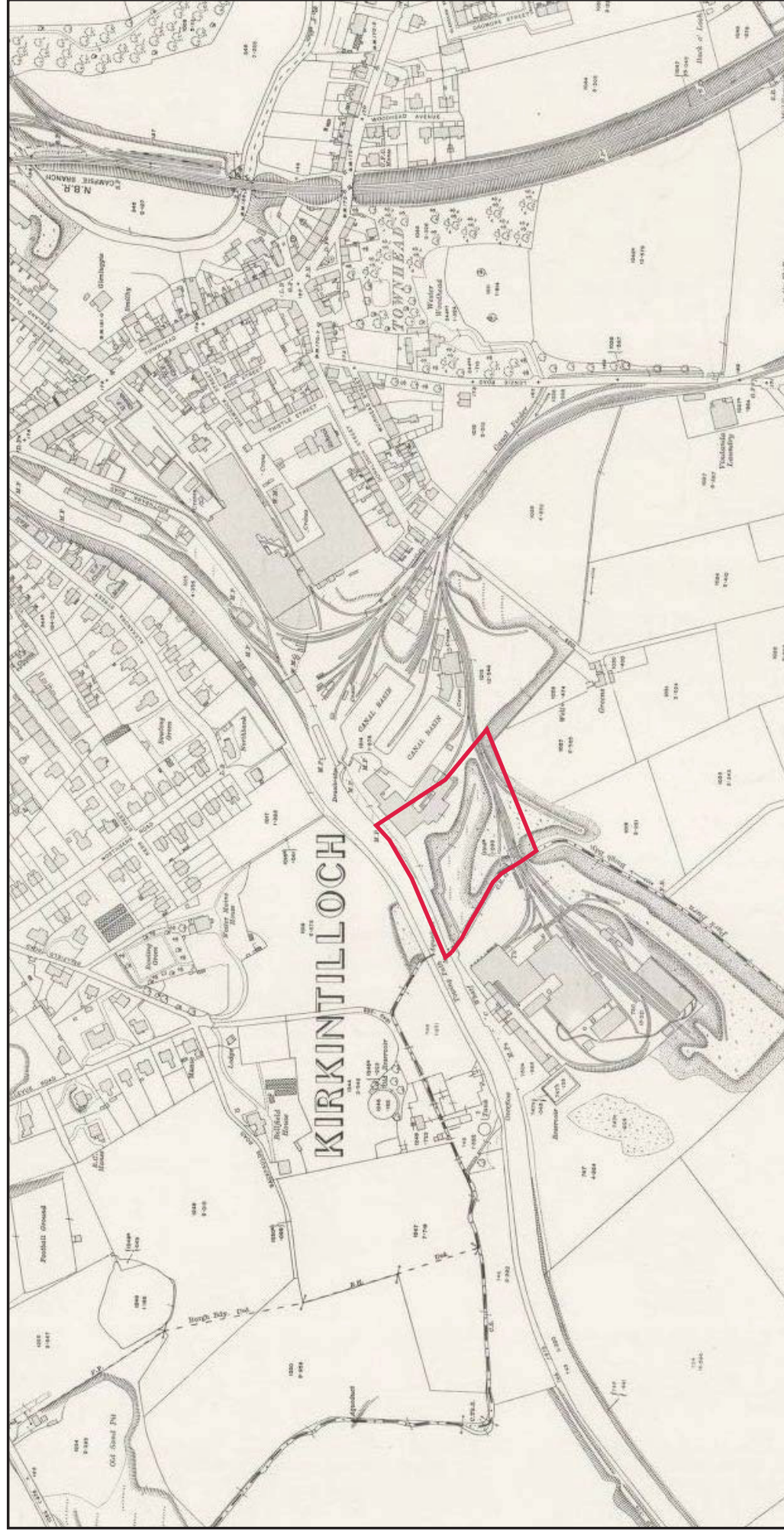
Figure 2: Extract from the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch to the mile of 1864 showing site location



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Site Location

Figure 3: Extract from the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch to the mile of 1898 showing site location



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Site Location

Figure 4: Extract from the 1918 Edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch to the mile showing site location

Figure 2: Testpit Location Plan

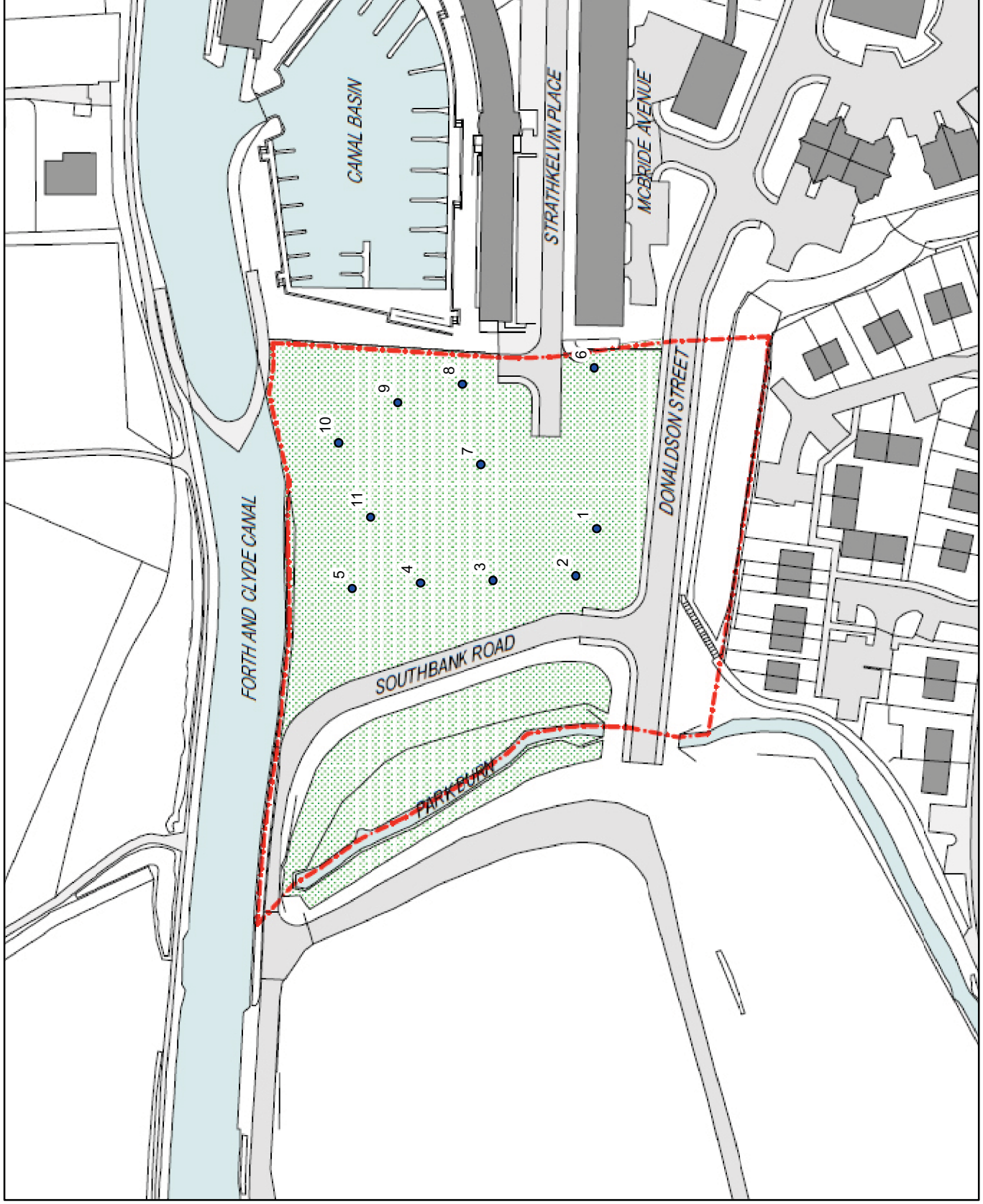
- Testpits
- Site Boundary

0 10 20 30 40 Meters



Cartographic data derived from Client's Original Illustration

Project No.:	22298
Date:	18/12/12
Scale at A4:	1:1,500



Lairdsland Primary School, Kirkintilloch: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: TEST PIT DESCRIPTIONS

Test-pit 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	1.5m by 0.6m by 2m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Deposits and Depths</i>	0.15m of hard core (type 1) onto a dark brown clay with an abundance of modern glass, brick, timber and bitumen to 2m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test-pit 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	1.5m by 0.6m by 2.5m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Deposits and Depths</i>	0.2m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil onto a dark brown clay with an abundance of modern glass, brick, timber and bitumen to 2.1m onto a black ash to 2.5m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test-pit 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	1.5m by 0.6m by 2.3m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Deposits and Depths</i>	0.5m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil onto a dark brown clay with an abundance of modern glass, brick, timber and bitumen to 2.3m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test-pit 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	1.5m by 0.6m by 2.5m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Deposits and Depths</i>	0.5m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil onto a dark brown clay with an abundance of modern glass, brick, timber and bitumen to 2.5m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test-pit 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	1.5m by 0.6m by 2.3m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Deposits and Depths</i>	0.4m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil onto a dark brown clay with an abundance of modern glass, brick, timber and bitumen to 2.2m onto black ash and with yellow sand lenses to 2.3m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test-pit 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	1.5m by 0.6m by 2.8m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Deposits and Depths</i>	0.15m of hardcore (type 1) onto dark brown sandy clay with modern inclusions to 0.8m onto a second layer of hardcore to 0.95m onto light brown sandy clay with modern inclusions to 1.7m onto a grey sandy clay with modern inclusions to 2.8m. Groundwater entering trench from 0.8m depth
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test-pit 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	1.5m by 0.6m by 2.5m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Deposits and Depths</i>	0.15m of hardcore (type 1) onto a dark brown clay with an abundance of modern glass, brick, timber and bitumen to 2.5m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test-pit 8

<i>Dimensions</i>	1.5m by 0.6m by 2.5m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Deposits and Depths</i>	0.15m of hardcore (type 1) onto a dark brown sandy clay to 0.3m onto a black sandy clay with an abundance of modern glass, brick, timber and bitumen to 2.5m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test-pit 9

<i>Dimensions</i>	1.5m by 0.6m by 2.7m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Deposits and Depths</i>	0.2m of hardcore (type 1) onto a dark brown sandy clay to 1.4m onto a black sandy clay with an abundance of modern glass, brick, timber and bitumen to 2.7m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test-pit 10

<i>Dimensions</i>	1.5m by 0.6m by 2.5m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Deposits and Depths</i>	0.2m of hardcore (type 1) onto a dark brown sandy clay to with an abundance of modern glass, brick, timber and bitumen to 2.5m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test-pit 11

<i>Dimensions</i>	1.5m by 0.6m by 2m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Deposits and Depths</i>	0.15m of hardcore (type 1) onto a dark brown sandy clay to with an abundance of modern glass, brick, timber and bitumen to 2m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Not reached
<i> Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1	Post ex shot to Test Pit 2	W	12/12/12
2	Post ex shot to Test Pit 3	E	12/12/12
3-4	Post ex shot to Test Pit 4	E	12/12/12
5-6	Post ex shot to Test Pit 5	E	12/12/12
7	Post ex shot to Test Pit 6	S	12/12/12
8-9	Post ex shot to Test Pit 7	S	12/12/12
10-11	Post ex shot to Test Pit 8	W	12/12/12
12-13	Post ex shot to Test Pit 9	W	12/12/12
14-15	Post ex shot to Test Pit 10	N	12/12/12
16-17	Post ex shot to Test Pit 11	N	12/12/12

APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Dunbartonshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Southbank Road, Kirkintilloch
PROJECT CODE:	22298
PARISH:	Kirkintilloch
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 6510 7335
START DATE (this season)	12 th December 2012
END DATE (this season)	12 th December 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Woolgar Hunter during site investigation works in preparation for a proposed primary school on the site of a former 19th Century Iron Foundry. The scope of the works was determined by East Dunbartonshire Council as advised by Rathmell Archaeology and was designed to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impact during the initial Site Investigation works.</p> <p>A total of 11 test pits were excavated to a maximum depth of 2.7m. Natural subsoil was not encountered in any of the test pits, with the majority consisting of topsoil over dark brown clay containing modern iron, glass and plastic.</p> <p>No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the Si works.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Woolgar Hunter
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group Edgefield Road Industrial Estate Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Kevin.Paton@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY
tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com