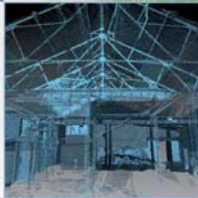


# Lairdsland Primary School, Kirkintilloch: Phase 2 Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22298

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-188201

27<sup>th</sup> August 2014



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

# Lairdsland Primary School, Kirkintilloch:

## Phase 2 Archaeological Watching Brief

### Data Structure Report

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**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:** Kevin Paton

**Date of Fieldwork:** 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014 to 21<sup>st</sup> August 2014

**Date of Report:** 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014

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

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**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014

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**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014

**Draft/Final Report Stage:** Draft

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014

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## ABSTRACT

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This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Woolgar Hunter during ground breaking works for a proposed primary school on Donaldson Street, Kirkintilloch. The site is immediately south of the Forth and Clyde Canal and was previously a former 19<sup>th</sup> 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 construction works. The works were also required as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent on works within the Scheduled area of the Forth and Clyde Canal.

Within the scheduled area, a small section of a rough cobbled surface was revealed that may relate to the tow path of the original canal banks. The remainder of the scheduled area had been heavily truncated by modern services and road construction so no other archaeological features were revealed.

Out with the scheduled area no archaeological features or artefacts were revealed.

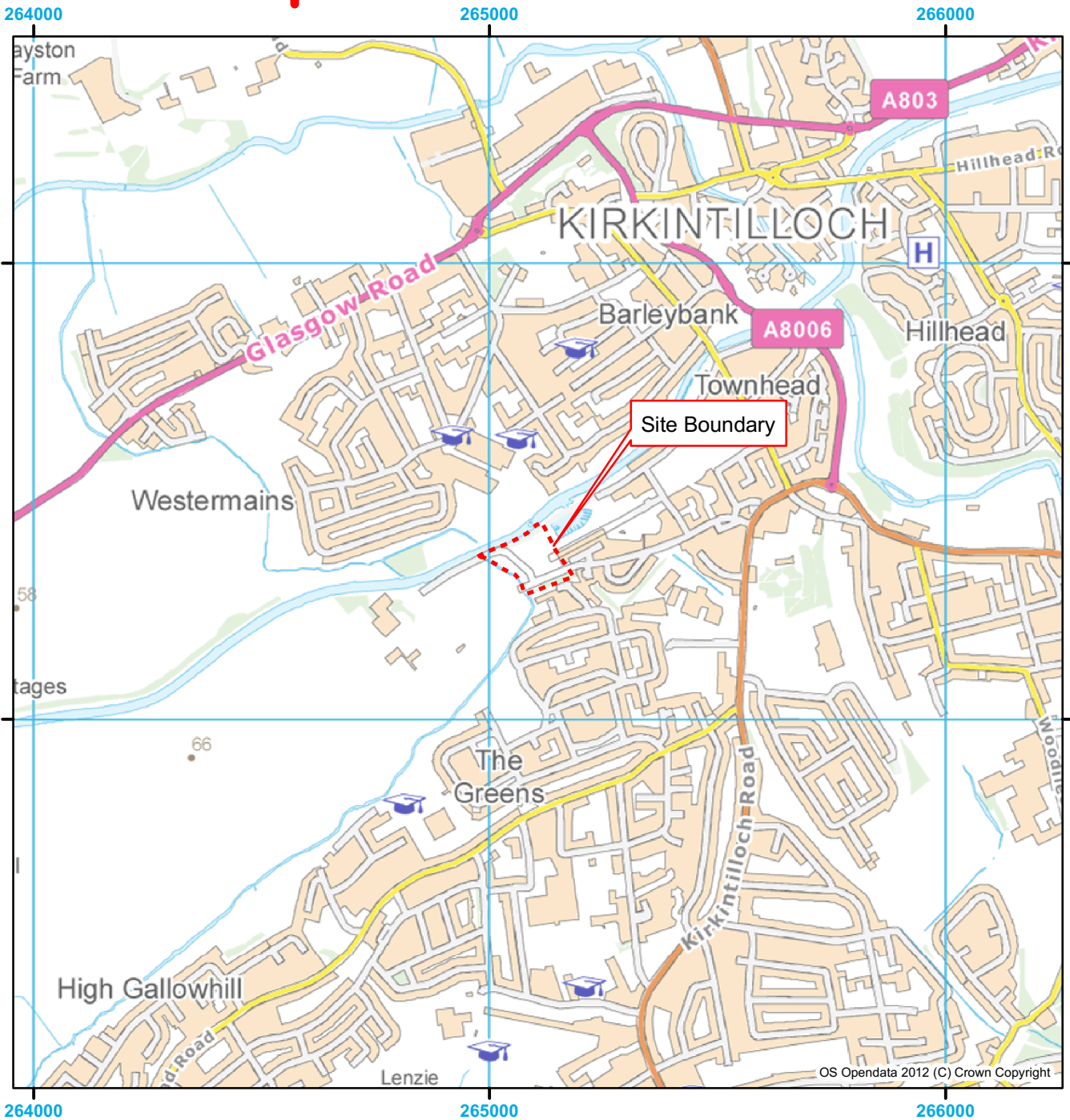
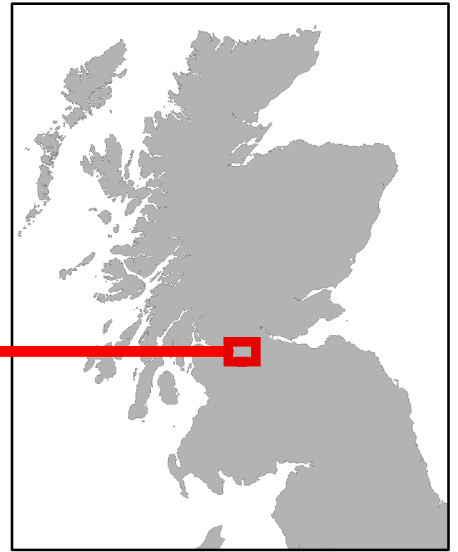


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by Woolgar Hunter to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground breaking works associated with a primary school development at a former Iron Foundry on 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. It was also required in order to satisfy a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent related to the Forth and Clyde Canal. The works were conducted according to the terms of the *Phase 2 Watching Brief Method Statement* (AOC 2013) 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.

### 1.3 Historical Background

1.3.1 Kirkintilloch gradually evolved into an industrial community over the course of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, Historic Scotland 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 7 tonne or 13 tonne tracked excavator using a toothless bucket under the constant supervision of an experienced field archaeologist. In the event of archaeology being encountered the features were recorded by digital photography, surveyed and a written record produced.

### 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The watching brief was conducted between the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and the 21<sup>st</sup> August 2014 in generally fair weather conditions, making for good archaeological visibility. Initial ground breaking works out with the scheduled area involved the excavation of a foundation trench aligned NE-SW running the full width of the development area as well as a drainage trench aligned SE-NW running through the full length of the site (Figure 5). Both of these trenches encountered up to 2.5 m of made ground with no natural subsoil encountered throughout (Plate 1). No further works were watched under archaeological supervision in the areas out with the scheduled area.
- 4.2 The works within the scheduled area involved the reduction of ground surfaces for the new road construction and the excavation of drainage trenches running parallel to the canal bank (Figure 5). In the areas where the drainage was being excavated, a modern cobbled surface [014] was encountered directly under the modern stone pathway that used to separate the car park from the canal. This surface overlay 0.5 m of sandy clay soil with ash and large stone inclusions that overlay the natural sandy clay subsoil (Plate 2). This ground had previously been truncated by the insertion of a high voltage power cable (Plate 3) and a water main running parallel to the canal bank, providing utilities to the scrap yard and cement works at the SW end of Southbank Road.
- 4.3 Further SW where the new road was being constructed, this cobbled surface [014] continued (Plate 4), truncated by further modern services in the form of street lighting cables and low voltage power lines. Excavations for the road only penetrated the modern made ground under the cobbled surface at the far NW corner of the road (Figure 5). In this area a small section of a mixed and irregular stone surface [015] was revealed sitting within a construction cut [016] (Plate 5). The surface revealed measured 3.15 m by 1.1 m and would probably have continued further NE and NW. The edge of a modern pit [018] was also revealed between surface [015] and the canal edge that contained some disturbed modern cobbles.
- 4.4 No structural remains relating to the Basin Iron Foundry were identified.



## 5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 From the watching brief conducted it is possible to determine that elements of the original canal tow path may have survived the industrial developments of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as well as the insertion of modern services and roads within the development area. The excavations showed that modern services and roads/paths have been placed over the top of made ground deposits related to the 19<sup>th</sup> century works along the canal bank. They also appeared to show that no features of the original canal construction survive to the NE of Southbank Road.
- 5.2 The remainder of development area has been used as a dumping ground for deposits related to the Basin Iron Foundry as well as more modern developments, with over 2.5m of ash, soil, demolition material and modern rubbish deposited on the site. From the depth of the natural subsoil in the scheduled area and from the results of archaeological work in the neighbouring nickel works (AOC 2012) revealing natural subsoil at depths of 0.5 m below the current ground level, it could be interpreted that the application site has been partly quarried/excavated prior to dumping episodes from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century onwards.
- 5.3 The small section of tow path revealed was able to be retained in-situ under the kerb line of the new road. No further ground breaking works are due to take place within the scheduled area of the development site, so no further archaeological works are deemed necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation from Rathmell Archaeology on behalf of East Dunbartonshire Council.

## 6 REFERENCES

### 6.1 Bibliographic References

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

AOC Archaeology 2013, *Lairdsland Primary, Kirkintilloch: Phase 2 Watching Brief Method Statement*, unpublished project design

[http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/scotland/about-us/canals#forth\\_clyde](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

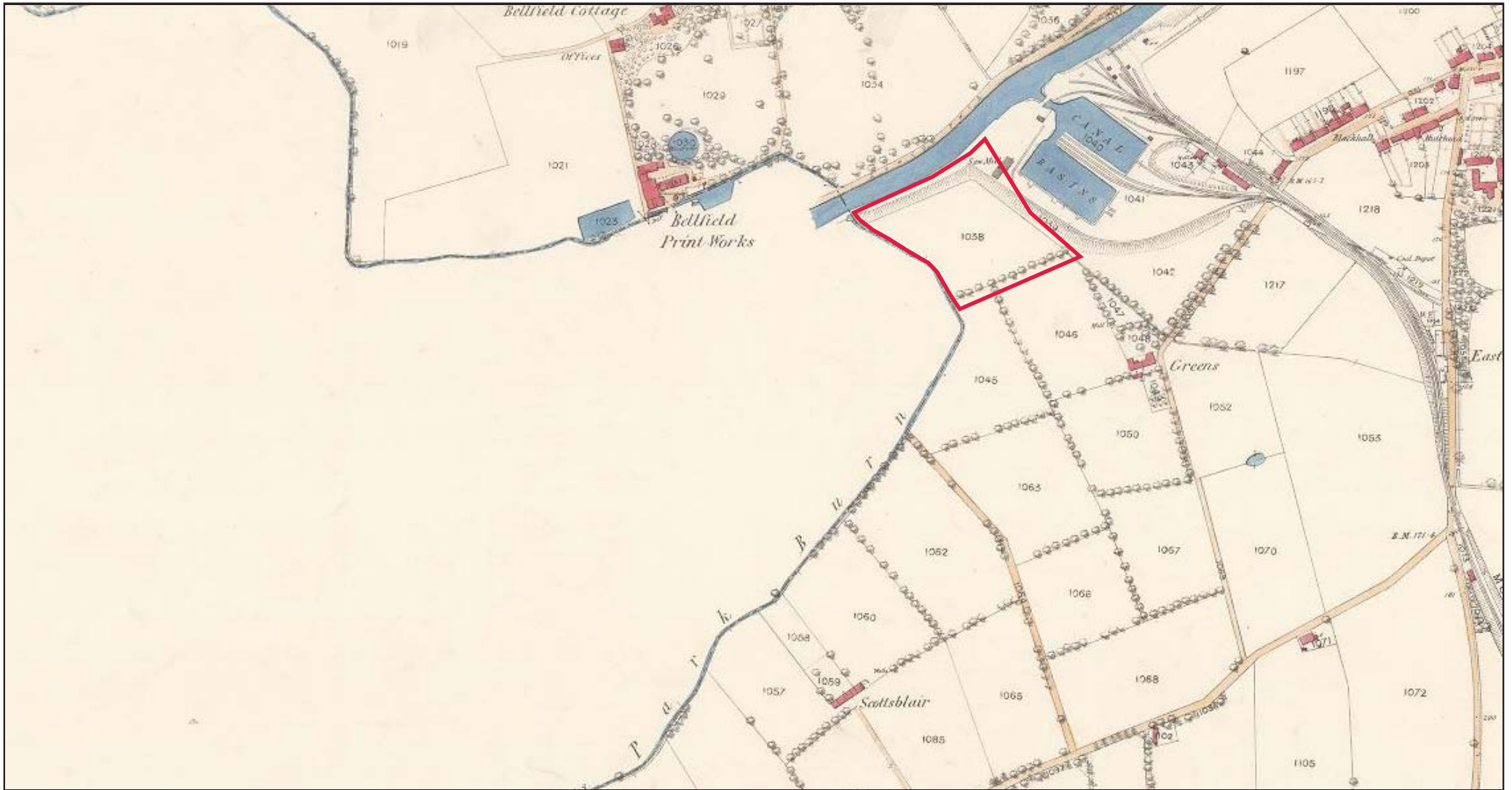
Ordnance Survey 1945 *Dunbartonshire Sheet n033.05* 1:2500



Plate 1 - SW facing section of made ground within the development area



Plate 2 - Made ground in drainage trench



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Site Location

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

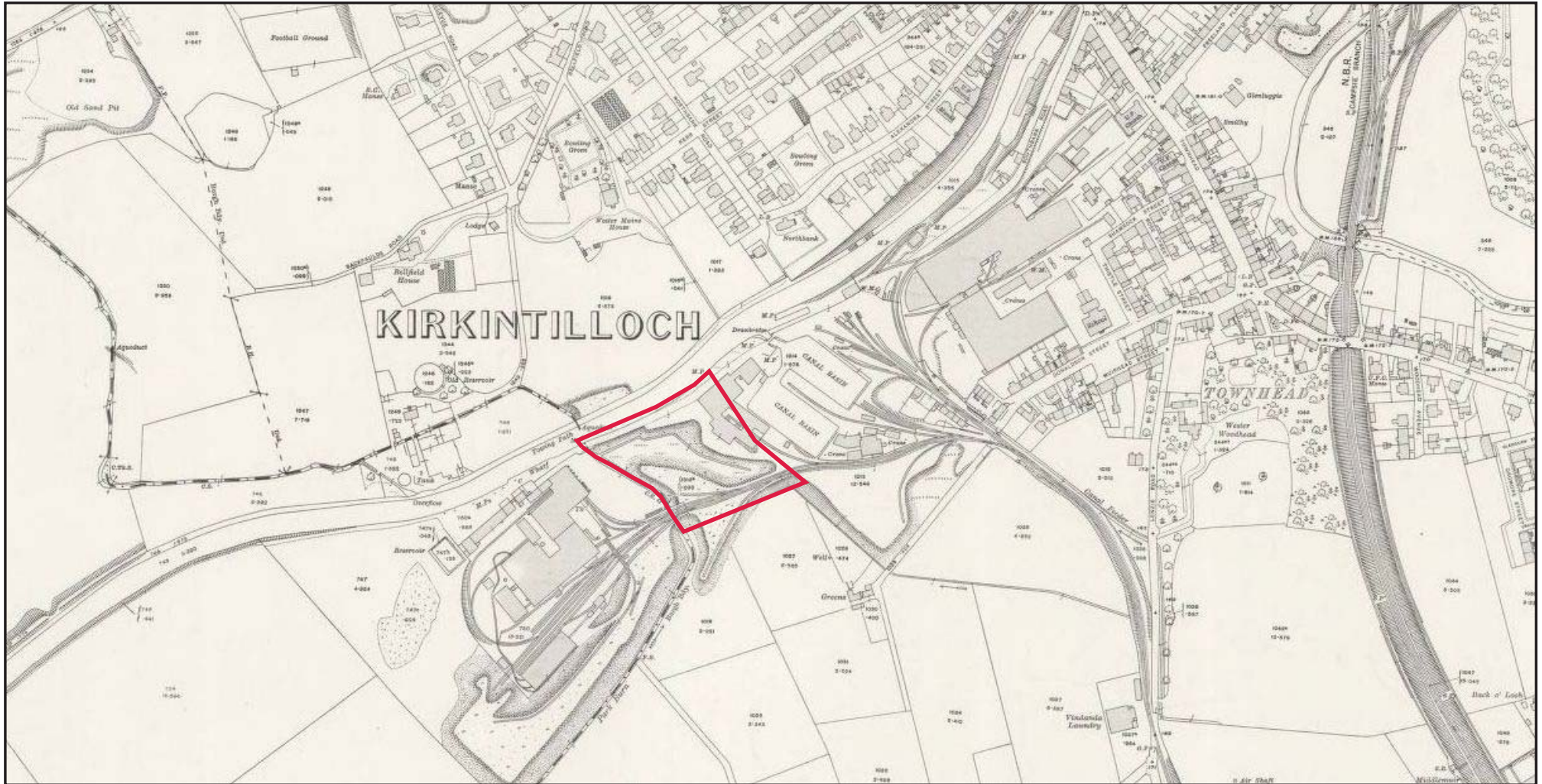


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Site Location

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

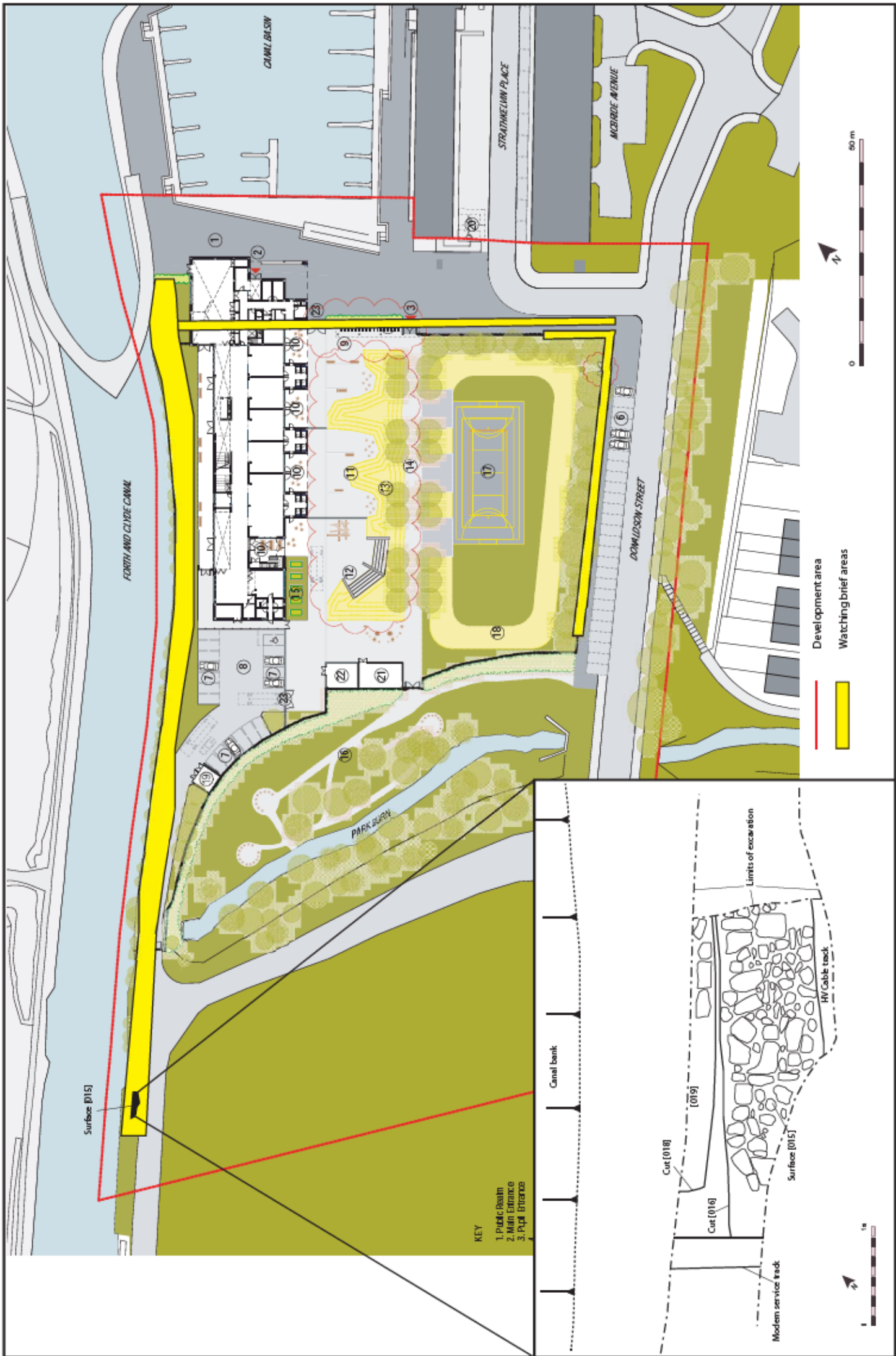


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Site Location

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



Surface [015]

- KEY
- 1. Public Realm
  - 2. Main Entrance
  - 3. Pupil Entrance

- Development area
- Watching brief areas

Figure 5 - Watching brief areas and location of surface [015]



Plate 3 - General view of power cable along canal bank



Plate 4 - View of cobbled surface [014] in kerb trench



Plate 5 - Cobbled surface [015] with pit [018] adjacent



# **Lairdsland Primary School, Kirkintilloch: Phase 2 Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Area	Description and Interpretation
001	-	Dark grey brown silty sand with gravel inclusions. 0.3 m deep. <b>Made ground</b>
002	-	Dark grey brown sandy silt with medium stone inclusions. 0.2 m deep. <b>Made ground</b>
003	-	Dark red brown silty sand with moderate stone and rubble inclusions. 0.6 m deep. <b>Made ground</b>
004	-	Light yellow brown gritty clay and gravel. 0.4 m deep. <b>Made ground</b>
005	-	Void
006	-	Void
007	-	Void
008	-	Void
009	-	Void
010	-	Void
011	-	Void
012	-	Dark grey brown silty clay, 0.3 m deep. <b>Made ground</b>
013	-	Void
014	-	Whinstone cobbled surface consisting of stones of various size and shape (max 0.23 m by 0.2 m by 0.07 m). Surface exists throughout the area adjacent to the canal bank and is truncated by modern services in several places. Cobbles are lain over the top of HV power cable and water main. <b>Former Southbank Road Surface</b>
015	-	Stone surface consisting of irregular sized stones laid in an uneven fashion. Stone size varies from 0.09 m by 0.05 m to 0.3 m by 0.35 m. Aligned E-W, parallel to canal bank. Truncated at W end by cable trench and continues E under limit of excavation. 3.15 m by 1.1 m exposed. Stones sit within possible cut [016]. Surrounded by deposit [017]. <b>Canal tow path</b>
016	-	The N edge of a linear cut aligned E-W measuring 3.15 m long. Parallel to canal bank and filled by deposit [017] and surface [015]. <b>Construction cut for tow path [015]</b>
017	-	Very compact coarse black silty sand surrounding stones in surface [015] and filling cut [016]. Measures 3.15 m by 1.1 m. <b>Possible bedding layer for tow path</b>
018	-	S edge of a curvilinear cut immediately N of tow path [015]. Measures 2.9 m by 0.36 m. Filled by deposit [019]. <b>Probable modern cut</b>
019	-	Very compact dark brown silty sand with medium displaced whinstone cobble inclusions. Measures 2.9 m by 0.36 m. <b>Modern fill of cut [018]</b>

## APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

### Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1	Stripping of topsoil by excavator	E	31/3/14
2	Slot to south of bank	W	31/3/14
3	Slot to south of bank	E	31/3/14
4	2 m of overburden from N	N	31/3/14
5	View of site from N	N	31/3/14
6	Wall from W	W	31/3/14

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7-9	NE of site	NW	1/4/14
10	SE of site – removing overburden	E	1/4/14
11	SE of site – overburden removed	W	1/4/14
12	Area of terram slot near southbank	E	1/4/14
13	Area of terram slot near southbank	W	1/4/14
14	Detail of terram slot	E	1/4/14
15	Wood posts in NE of site	W	1/4/14
16	Reg shot	-	10/4/14
17-19	Shots of trench opened at S end of site	E	10/4/14
20	Retaining wall trench 2 post ex	N	10/4/14
21	Working on drainage run	NW	29/4/14
22	Brick wall	SW	29/4/14
23	Brick wall	SE	29/4/14
24	Remains of wall in spoil	-	29/4/14
25	Small wall element in section	NE	29/4/14
26	Working in NE/SW drain run	NE	29/4/14
27	Manhole area in centre of NE/SW drain	N	29/4/14
28	Deposits in manhole in SE corner	SW	30/4/14
29	View of line of piles next to canal	NE	30/4/14
30	Lens of brown sand in made ground	E	7/5/14
31	General of drainage trench	S	7/5/14
32-33	Large power cable below cobbles	E	7/5/14
34	Foundations trench	E	8/5/14
35	Connecting pilings	E	8/5/14
36-37	Remains of red brick and grey cement wall	W	8/5/14
38-39	E-facing section of track 1 showing natural	E/SE	9/6/14
40-41	S-facing section of cobbles in backfill	S/SE	9/6/14
42-44	General shots of cobbles [014]	Var	9/6/14
45	S-facing section of E manhole	S	16/7/14
46	View of drain tails beyond foundations	NW	16/7/14
47	General view of E manhole	E	16/7/14
48	General view of E manhole indicating drain line	E	16/7/14
49	General view of W manhole	E	16/7/14
50	View E from W manhole	W	16/7/14
51	S-facing section of W manhole	S	16/7/14
52	Working shot of kerb line excavations	W	16/7/14
53	E-facing section of kerb line trench	E	16/7/14
54	Cobble surface [015] mid ex	W	16/7/14
55	Cobbles [015] not exposed further E	W	16/7/14
56	Cobbles [015] after cleaning	E	16/7/14
57	Cobbles [015] after cleaning	E	16/7/14
58	Cobbles [015] after cleaning	W	16/7/14
59	Cobbles [015] after cleaning	S	16/7/14
60-62	Detail views of cobbles from W to E	S	16/7/14
63	Feature [018] to N of cobbles [015]	S	16/7/14
64	Feature [018] to N of cobbles [015]	E	16/7/14
65	Electric service cut to W of cobbles	W	16/7/14
66	Electric service cut to W of cobbles	S	16/7/14
67	Electric service cut to W of cobbles	S	16/7/14
68	Electric service cut to W of cobbles	W	16/7/14
69	Cobbles [014] exposed again	W	16/7/14
70	Concreted fence post truncating [014]	W	16/7/14
71	Progress shot 16/7/14	E	16/7/14
72	Subsoil truncated by road	W	16/7/14
73	End of trench within scheduled area – sand is electric	E	16/7/14

	cable location		
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### APPENDIX 3: DRAWING REGISTER

Drawing No.	Area	Feature No.	Details	Scale
1	-	015	Plan of cobbles [015]	1:20

### APPENDIX 4: FINDS REGISTER

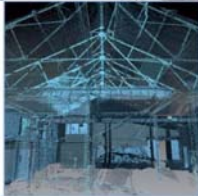
Finds No.	Area	Context No.	Description
1	-	U/S	Brown stoneware ink pot

**APPENDIX 5: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	East Dunbartonshire Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Southbank Road, Kirkintilloch
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	22298
<b>PARISH:</b>	Kirkintilloch
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Kevin Paton
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NS67SE 213
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Event
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NS 6510 7335
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2014
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> August 2014
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)</b>	<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 19<sup>th</sup> 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>
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Woolgar Hunter during ground breaking works for a proposed primary school on Donaldson Street, Kirkintilloch. The site is immediately south of the Forth and Clyde Canal and was previously a former 19<sup>th</sup> Century Iron Foundry.</p> <p>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. The works were also required as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent on works within the Scheduled area of the Forth and Clyde Canal.</p> <p>Within the scheduled area, a small section of a rough cobbled surface</p>

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	<p>was revealed that may relate to the tow path of the original canal banks. The remainder of the scheduled area had been heavily truncated by modern services and road construction so no other archaeological features were revealed.</p> <p>Out with the scheduled area no archaeological features or artefacts were revealed.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Woolgar Hunter
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group Edgefield Road Industrial Estate Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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