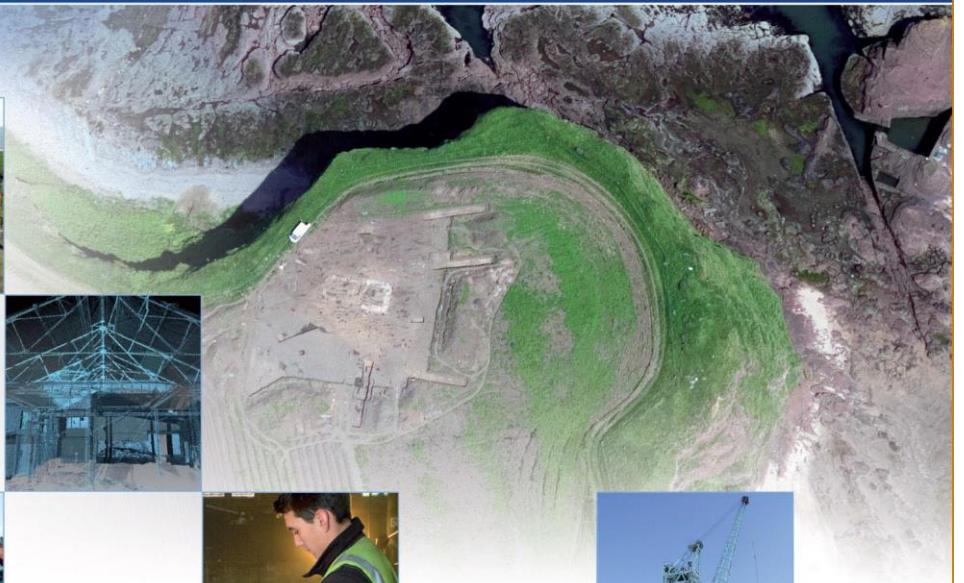
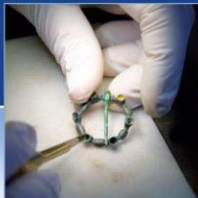


Wellmeadow Street, Paisley, Renfrewshire: Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

AOC 23893

27th June 2018



Wellmeadow Street, Paisley, Renfrewshire: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	CCG Scotland 1 Cambuslang Road, Cambuslang Investment Park, Glasgow, G32 8NB
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NS 4755 6390 (centre)
Oasis number:	aocarcha1-320539
AOC Project No:	23893
Prepared by:	Jessica Lowther
Date:	27 th June 2018

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

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Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft **Date:** 27th June 2018

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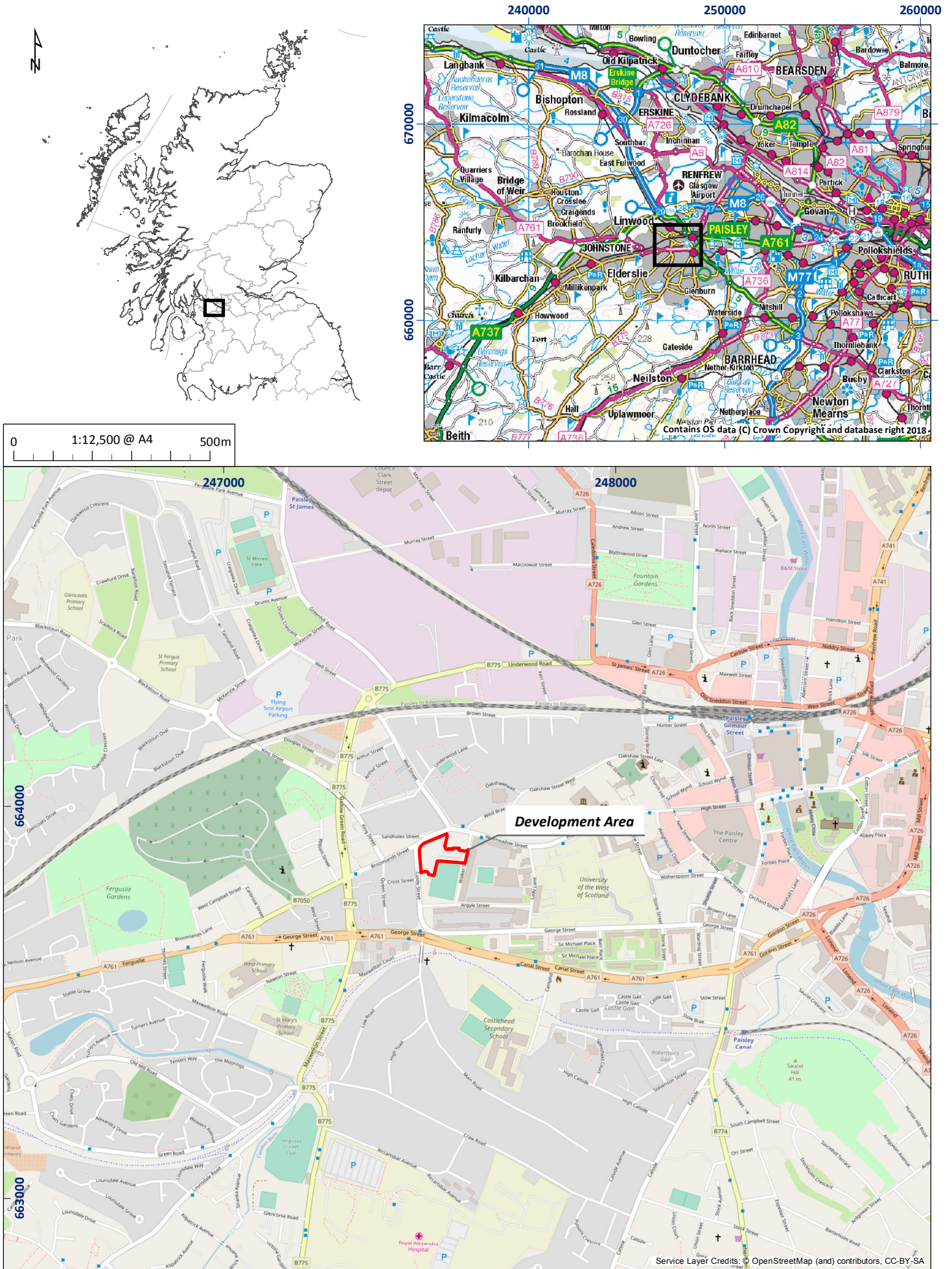


Figure 1: Site location plan

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SUMMARY

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by CCG to conduct a watching brief on development works associated with the building of new homes at Wellmeadow St, Paisley.

During the works the remains of walls, a post medieval well and the truncated remains of a possibly prehistoric ditch feature were encountered. A possible fragment of quern stone and a shaped and perforated stone tool were recovered from the fills of the ditch.

A programme of post excavation works is recommended. This will need to be ratified by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

1 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Site Location

2.1.1 The proposed development area consists of an urban site lying within central Paisley. It lies between Castle Street to the west and Walker Street to the east with Wellmeadow Street forming the northern boundary of the site. The site is centred on NGR: c. NS 4755 6390

2.2 Archaeological Background

2.2.1 The mid-19th century Ordnance Survey Town Plan shows the development area to include a mix of garden areas as well as established buildings fronting onto Wellmeadow Street and Castle Street (See Figure 2). Walker Street has yet to be formed. The garden areas include walls, outbuildings, paths, and one reference to a 'boiler'. On Castle Street there was a single building marked a 'Smithy'. The development area also includes a reference to 'Supposed Site of St. Roques Chapel'.

2.2.2 Both the Historic Environment Records or the HES national database show that St Roques Chapel and an associated burial ground are reputed to lie within the development boundaries (HES No. NS46SE 6, WoSAS PIN 7743). The chapel was demolished in 1612 and there are records suggesting the recovery of human remains from the north end of Castle Street which are believed to relate to the chapel burial grounds.

2.2.3 No other sites are listed within the development area. In 2005 Rathmell Archaeology conducted a watching brief 125m to the northeast on 450 m² for the construction of a two-storey block of flats. This watching brief did not uncover any archaeological features but did note extensive truncation (HES No. NS46SE 614). Other nearby sites all relate to 19th/20th century activity such as buildings fronting on Wellmeadow Street (NMRS No NS46SE 633) and to the southeast a former Baptist church built in 1900 which is C-Listed (HES No. NS46SE 470, Listed Building No. 39127).

2.2.4 In 2017, an evaluation was conducted by AOC Archaeology within the proposed development area. The evaluation was hampered by large bunds of demolition material. Where trenches were excavated they revealed that the underlying natural geology of the site in these areas had been heavily truncated and infilled with made ground. No archaeological remains were encountered; other than those relating to the recently demolished buildings.

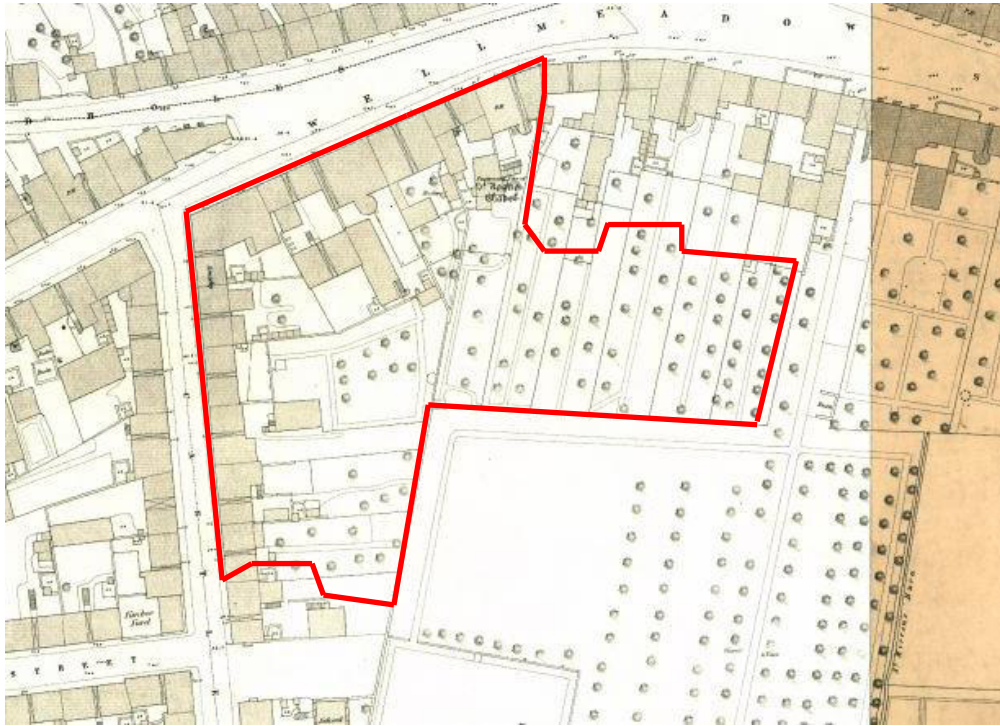


Figure 2: Extract from 1858 Ordnance Survey Town Plan

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The aims of the archaeological works were:

- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, formulated with the approval of WoSAS, such as excavation (Stage 2), post-excavation analyses and publication (Stage 3), given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material in situ, should significant archaeological remains be encountered

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The ground breaking works undertaken as part of the development comprised the installation of a large sewer drainage system and some limited ground reduction in other isolated areas, these works were monitored during the Watching Brief. The foundations for the proposed new buildings were piled. (Figure 4).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 28th of May and from the 30th May to the 18th of June. Weather conditions during the watching brief ranged from dry, warm and sunny to wind, rain and overcast. Visibility was generally fair with periods of poor visibility caused either by bright sunlight or the excavation methods.

5.1.2 The upper levels of the site were made ground deposits consisting mainly of light grey demolition rubble from the recent demolition works. In the eastern half of the site, this covered a large deposit of burnt shale

or blais up to 1.2m deep in places, directly overlying a natural light grey/yellow wet clay. In the western half of the site the demolition rubble directly overlay natural sand and gravels at a much higher level.

5.2 Archaeological Features

- 5.2.1 During the ground breaking works for the sewer drainage installation three walls were observed, followed by the remains of a large truncated ditch feature and the truncated remains of a post medieval well.
- 5.1.2 Wall [006] measured 0.4m wide and 2m long and was angled NW-SE (See figure 4, stone wall). Constructed of several large sub angular stones it also contained fragments of 19th C roof tile. Only the lowest course remained inside the cut, surrounded by dark grey silty clay.
- 5.1.3 Wall [009] was observed in section, aligned N-S with possibly up to 5 courses surviving. Measuring 0.7m deep and 0.6m wide and constructed from bricks stamped with "Rt BROWN & SON" which originate from Ferguslie fire clay works in Paisley and roughly date from 1850-1910.
- 5.1.4 The last wall observed during the works is partially extant and being retained within the new development. This wall [008] runs NNE-SSW along the development boundary where it borders with the bowling club (see figure 3). On the 1st Edition OS map of 1858, wall is shown to extend to the NNE through the development area. The very lowest course was encountered in patches within the sewer cut through the site. The area immediately to the east and west of this wall contained the remains of a post medieval soil/made ground context underlying the demolition material (001). This is the only location where this survived.



Figure 3: Extract from 1858 Ordnance Survey Town Plan with wall [008] in red

- 5.1.4 Directly below wall [008], and the associated post medieval soil around its base, was a reddish brown mid sandy clay with very occasional charcoal flecks and infrequent small and well sorted stones and pebbles up to 0.6m deep (010). During the monitoring, a section was visible below wall [008] and lower deposit which appeared to be a series of buried turf layers on top of a possible shallow ditch. On further investigation, the turf layers were fills within a larger ditch [016] which was approximately 2.5m – 3m wide. Although it was heavily truncated to the west and south, the basal deposits were largely intact and a rough estimate of 2.5m – 3m wide seems appropriate (see figure 5). Only the lower fills appeared to be the same between the east facing section through the length (plate 4) and the south facing section through the width. This is perhaps

due to truncation, shown in the south facing section by a cut filled by a modern deposit (019) which truncates the upper fills from the east.

- 5.1.5 The primary fill of ditch [016] was a light blue grey clay (017) with very frequent tiny well sorted inclusions of small stones and charcoal. It was waterlogged and ranged in depth from 0.08 to 0.2m
- 5.1.6 The secondary fill of the ditch (014) was a mid-brown sandy silt with no visible inclusions, ranging from 0.15m to 0.25m thick, which also filled a small sub rounded cut [015] visible in the east facing section. It is unlikely that [015] represents a feature in the base of the ditch and most likely to relates to the removal of material or an obstruction like a large stone from the base of the ditch. The upper fills of [016] in the east facing section were greyish in colour (see appendix 2).
- 5.1.7 The south facing section of ditch [016] contained the same primary fill (017) and also contained a secondary fill (018) consisting of dark grey brown friable to soft silty sand with charcoal flecks up to 0.2m deep which was not present in the north facing section. This deposit contained two artefacts of likely early prehistoric date (SF03) a fragment of possible quern stone from the base of this deposit; and (SF04) a shaped perforated stone object (see plate 2). Above (017), but below (018) was a deposit that appears to have slumped in from the edge of the ditch as it was similar to the surrounding natural (020); possibly indicating that the ditch remained open for a period of time. The upper layers of the ditch in this area appear to have been truncated as explained above; but also seem to have been truncated previously and the upper replaced with the deposit (010) prior to the building of the wall [008]. A further artefact (SF02) was found whilst cleaning the section of the ditch and is likely to have come from within ditch [016].
- 5.1.8 Cut [021] is likely to be a post medieval well feature (figure 6). A large plastic drainage pipe that had been encased in concrete had truncated the feature and so only a section and the basal deposit was observed. The cut for the well measured 1.8m x 2m and was orientated NNW – SSE. The cut was lined with several large sub squared stones, one course wide making up the lining. It had three fills (022), (023), and (024) of which the latter contained modern sherds of modern ceramic and glass. The uppermost fill (022) primarily consisted of coal waste and coal fragments. The upper levels of this feature were missing, indicating the level of site truncation in this area.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The watching brief at Wellmeadow Street Paisley revealed an interesting site history. The large truncated ditch feature can perhaps be dated to the early prehistoric by the presence of a possible fragment of quern stone (SF03), and a shaped, perforated stone object (SF04). On initial assessment, the object appears to be either a pebble hammer, or a shafthole adze. Roe describes a shafthole adze as being ‘about twice as long as they are broad... with an hourglass shafthole in or near a central position’ and that some ‘shafthole adzes are narrower at one end’ (Roe, 1979: 36). A further artefact (SF02) could be either shale or high fired ceramic but will need further analysis.
- 6.2 The survival of the ditch feature is surprising, given the truncation levels of the site by later developments and the recent demolition work and appears to have been protected by the boundary wall crossing the site. The boundary wall described above as [008] is present on the 1st edition OS Map and appears to have been respected during the subsequent building phases onsite. The modern truncation seems to confirm this by respecting the basal stones of the wall by at least a metre.
- 6.3 The well likely relates to the buildings shown on the 1st Edition OS Map and only survives due to its depth. Similarly, the brick wall [009] is possibly one of the outbuildings shown on the 1st Edition OS Map. The stone wall [004] likely also dates from this period or later due to the presence of the 19thC roof tiles.

7 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Considering the artefacts present within ditch [016] it is recommended that a programme of post-excavation take place. This will likely include artefact analysis and the processing of samples to further understand the date and function of this feature. This recommendation will need to be ratified by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliographic References

AOC Archaeology 2017 Wellmeadow Street, Paisley, Renfrewshire, Archaeological Evaluation, Written Scheme of Investigation. Unpublished Client Report.

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Roe, F. 1979 'Typology of implements with shaftholes' in Clough, T. & Cummins, W. (eds) *Stone Axe Studies*, 23-48 CBA Research Project Report 23, London.

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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



Plate 1: South facing section of ditch [016]



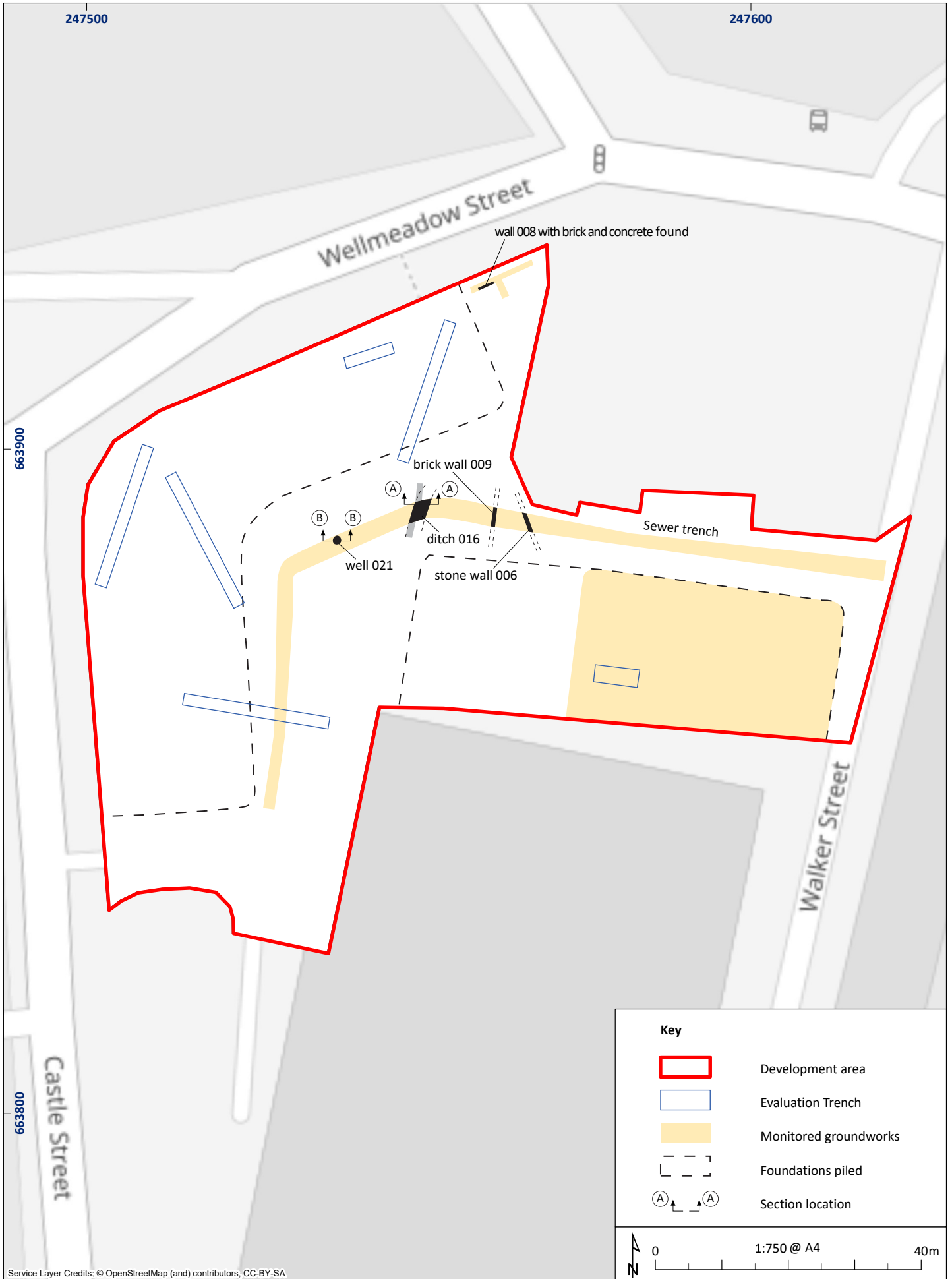
Plate 2: Shaped and perforated stone object (SF4)



Plate 3: South facing section of well [021]



Plate 4: East facing section of ditch [016]



Service Layer Credits: © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA

Figure 4: Site plan

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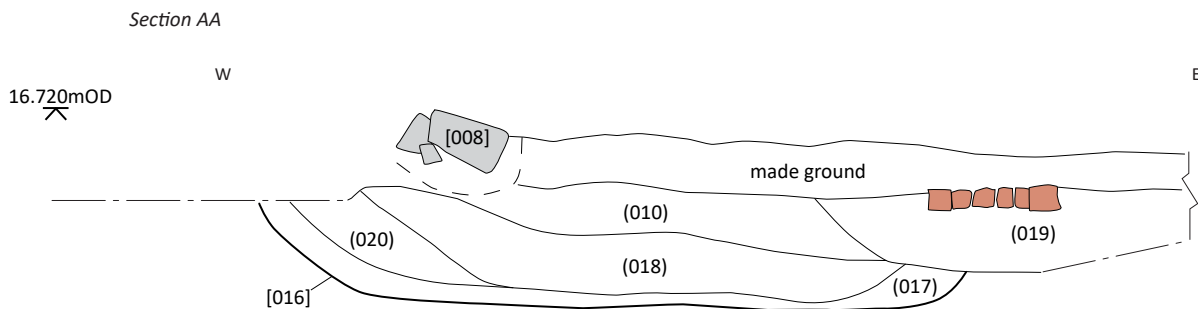


Figure 3: South facing Section of Ditch [016]

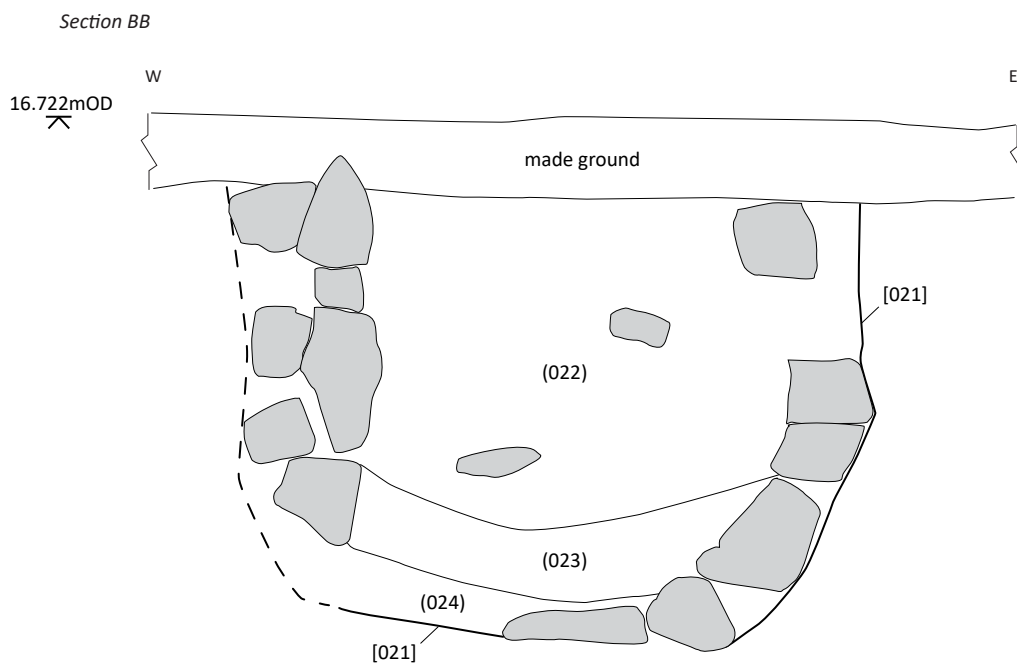





Figure 4: South Facing Section of Well [021]

Key	
	Stone
	Brick

	0	1:20 at A4	0.5m
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Wellmeadow Street, Paisley, Renfrewshire: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Archaeological Evaluation: Digital Film

<i>No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Taken From</i>
1	Site registration shot	-
2-6	Working shots and overview of sewer installation	NE
7-8	Clay visible in base of trench	NE
9	Working shot of sewer tail pipe	N
10	Working shot of second sewer tail pipe	N
11	N facing section of sewer trench	N
12-13	West facing section of sewer tail pipe 3	W
14-17	N facing section of sewer cut	N
18-20	Working shots	Various
21-22	Post clean of wall [004]	NE
23	Post clean of wall [004] showing Pipe from N and wider setting	E
24	Overview of wall [004]	N
25	Overview of section above wall [004]	S
26	Working shot of trench with [004] and natural clay	E
27-28	[004] prior to removal	E
29-32	Working shots of sewer	Various
33-34	N facing section of sewer	N
35-37	S facing section of Wall [007]	S
38	Brick from 007	-
39-41	Overview of ongoing excavations	Various
42-43	Brick foundation	
44	Deposits seen in section	E
45	Section through soils	E
46	Section through soils	SE
47-48	Overview of area where [016] should be visible but is indistinguishable in plan	NNE
49-53	S facing section through ditch	S
54	Heavily truncated remains of [016] to S of main sewer cut	E
55-57	Remains of [016] visible in section of N tailpipe from sewer	W
58-59	Overview of works for 12/6	Various
60	Stone visible in upper of unsafe trench	E
61-62	S facing section of well	S
63-68	Working shots of sewer trench through natural soils	Various
69-73	Natural shells in clay	Various
74	Brick and concrete found in NE corner of site	N
75-88	Track dug in advance of sewer	Various
89-90	Modern cut filled with stone cut into natural below made ground.	E

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Description and Interpretation
[001]	Light grey demolition rubble and blue grey type 1 material up to 0.4m deep in places, covering extent of the site Made Ground
[002]	Light red/black in places burnt shale deposit, up to 1.2m deep covering the natural clays in the East of the site Made ground
[003]	Dark brown /grey silty clay up to 0.2m thick visible in section of sewer in patches in the eastern end of the site Post medieval made ground deposit
[004]	Linear cut up to 0.4m wide and 2m length exposed. Aligned NW-SE. Cut of wall
[005]	Dark grey silty clay with 19 th century roof tile inclusions. Fill of wall around stones
[006]	Several small to large sub angular stones ranging from 0.5m x 0.4m x 0.3m to 0.1m x 0.15m x 0.1m. One sub rounded stone. Stones in wall cut [004]
[008]	Stone wall running NNE-SSW still standing in its southern extent bordering the bowling club. Survives as only base course inside the development area. Constructed of sub squared sandstone blocks and base material includes some sub angular stone. Visible on 1 st Ed OS Map. Boundary wall visible on 1858 OS Map
[009]	Brick wall observed in section. Running roughly N-S. Up to 5 courses surviving. Bricks stamped "RT BROWN & SON" from Ferguslie fire clay works in Paisley and date from roughly 1850-1910 Modern Wall
[010]	Reddish brown mid sandy clay with very occasional charcoal flecks and infrequent small and well sorted stones and pebbles. Sub/Ploughsoil
[011]	Light grey sandy silt with occasional stones, up to 0.05m thick Upper fill of ditch [016]/turf over ditch deposits
[012]	Light grey brown sandy clay with very occasional small stones. Up to 0.11m thick. Fill of ditch [016]
[013]	Dark grey humic v slightly clayey sand up to 0.08m thick Fill of ditch [016]
[014]	Mid brown sandy silt – nil visible inclusions. Up to 0.15m – 0.25m thick, fills cut [015] as well. Secondary fill of ditch [016]
[015]	Shallow cut visible in section. 0.7m wide and up to 0.14m deep. Cut through basal deposit of ditch. Unclear whether small discrete pit or perhaps caused by removal of large obstruction etc from base of open ditch prior to fill [014] Possible pit in base of [016]
[016]	Roughly linear in plan, aligned NNE-SSW. Approximately 3.5m wide. Truncated to the west and south but basal deposits in section suggest 3.5m in width. Feature survives largely because it is below boundary wall visible on 1 st Ed OS Map. Cut of ditch [016]
[017]	Light blue grey clay with very frequent tiny well sorted inclusions of small stones and charcoal, possibly water deposited? Quite waterlogged. Up to 0.08m – 0.20m thick Primary fill of [016]
[018]	Dark grey brown friable to soft sandy silt with charcoal flecks 0.2m deep x 1.4m wide. Fill of [016]
[019]	Light orange brown silty sand. Up to 0.5m deep. Bricks set into top of deposit. Cuts ditch [016] from top. Modern deposit
[020]	Light red/orange silty sand with infrequent small pebbles, up to 0.4m thick.

	Collapse material within western edge of ditch.
[021]	Sub oval in plan, 1.8m x 2m x 1.6m deep visible. Cut for Well
[022]	Dark black compact silt, with inclusions of large lumps of coal. 0.8m deep x 1m wide in section. Upper fill of well
[023]	Light brown/ greyish clay with occasional stones 0.2m deep x 1m wide in section. Middle fill of well
[024]	Dark grey black silt with inclusions of coal, modern ceramic and glass. 0.15m deep x 0.8m wide. Lower fill of well
[025]	Several large sub squared stones one course wide making up the lining of [021] Lining of well

APPENDIX 3: SAMPLE REGISTER

<i>Context No</i>	<i>Litres Taken</i>
[011]	3
[012]	3
[013]	3
[014]	6
[017]	9
[018]	9
[018] from around <4>	3
[020]	6

APPENDIX 4: DRAWING REGISTER

<i>No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	S facing section of [016]	1:10
2	S and E facing section of [016]	1:10
3	Plan of western edge of [016]	1:10
4	S facing section of [021]	1:10

APPENDIX 5: SMALL FINDS REGISTER

<i>SF No</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>
01	[017]	Lithic
02	Unstrat. within [016]	Decorated shale?
03	[018]	Possible quern fragment
04	[018]	Perforated stone object

APPENDIX 6: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND (DES) REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Renfrewshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Wellmeadow Street, Paisley
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 23893
PARISH:	Paisley
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jessica Lowther
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Ditch
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Prehistoric perforated stone tool
NGR	NS 4755 6390 (centre)
START DATE	28 th May 2018
END DATE	18 th June 2018
PREVIOUS WORK	Evaluation – AOC Archaeology 2017
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:	<p>AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by CCG to conduct a watching brief on development works associated with the building of new homes at Wellmeadow St, Paisley.</p> <p>During the works the remains of walls, a post medieval well and the truncated remains of a possibly prehistoric ditch feature were encountered. A possible fragment of quern stone and a shaped and perforated stone tool were recovered from the fills of the ditch.</p> <p>A programme of post excavation works is recommended. This will need to be ratified by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Yes
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	CCG
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group; Edgefield Road Industrial Estate; Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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