# Townhouse, Irvine, North Ayrshire, Stage 2 Excavation Works: Data Structure Report Addendum

1. This document acts as an addendum to the main Data Structure Report for the excavations at Townhouse, Irvine (Williamson 2014) undertaken in support of the construction of a new leisure centre. While the excavation works were carried out prior to the start of the main construction works, this addendum covers archaeological monitoring works carried out while the construction works were ongoing in areas of ground which sat outwith the development boundary.

2. This phase of monitoring works covered the excavation of a service trench which will link the new leisure centre to Irvine's main sewage pipe on High Street (Figure 2). These works were carried out between the 16th and 17th of February 2016. To keep consistent with the area numbering used in the original Data Structure Report (Areas 1-4 in Williamson 2014), the area monitored during this phase will be referred to as Area 5.

3. The trench was located 4.9m southeast of the leisure centre's south western gate and cut through a section of the main road and pavement directly outside the site of the new leisure centre.

4. The trench was orientated in an NNE-SSW direction and was 9.5m long by 1.5-2m wide. The maximum depth of the trench was 2.3m and a minimum (over an existing manhole cover) was 0.08-0.1m. The upper layers of the trench consisted of a modern tarmac road surface (5001) and a mono block pavement surface (5007). The existing manhole cover (5010) was located at the NNE end of the trench and was covered by a layer of protective concrete (5009). Partially beneath the tarmac and pavement surfaces lay an older 19th or 20th century cobbled road surface (5002) located in the SSW end of the trench.

5. Underneath the cobbled road surface lay a disturbed layer of made ground (5008) which consisted of moderately compacted mid- to dark brown (with light yellow/brown lens/patches) sand with occasional small stone and cobble inclusions. The layer was 6.5m long, 1.5-2m wide, had a thickness of 0.5m and extended across the western part of the trench. The layer beneath this was a disturbed natural layer (5003) which consisted of moderately compacted light to mid yellow/brown sand with very occasional small stones and pebbles. The layer measured 8m by 1.5-2m and had a thickness of 0.6-0.7m. The basal layer (5004) within the trench consisted of moderately compacted light to mid-yellow/grey naturally occurring sand. The layer measured 8m by 1.5-2m and had an excavated thickness of 0.75-1.1m.

6. Cutting through these sand layers were two service pipes. The SSW pipe was a 19th or 20th century ceramic sewage pipe [5005] / (5006) which was still in use (Figure 1a). The second service pipe [5011] / (5012) was located close to the existing manhole cover in the NNE part of the trench and consisted of a metal water mains pipe (Figure 1b).

7. Other than these modern pipes and manhole cover, no other archaeological features or artefacts were identified within the trench.

*Recommendations*

8. The archaeological monitoring works did not uncover any features of archaeological significance. Those features that were uncovered were of a modern date and not considered significant. As such, it is recommended that no further works are required as a direct consequence of these works.

9. However, it is still recommended that any further groundbreaking works relating to the development occurring outwith the development boundary, such as in the surrounding pavements, should be monitored by an archaeologist. Due to the extent of significant archaeological remains discovered during the excavation works and the targeted nature

of modern disturbance which suggests a high potential for pockets of survival elsewhere, we would recommend at this stage that this level of monitoring continues to be appropriate and proportionate to this development.

10. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with the North Ayrshire Council and their advisors, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

*References*

Williamson, C. 2014 *Townhouse, Irvine, North Ayrshire: (Stage 2) Excavation Works, Data Structure Report,* unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

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Figure 1a: ESE facing section of trench showing sewage pipe [5005] / (5006)

Figure 1b: ESE facing section of trench showing water mains pipe [5011] / (5012)

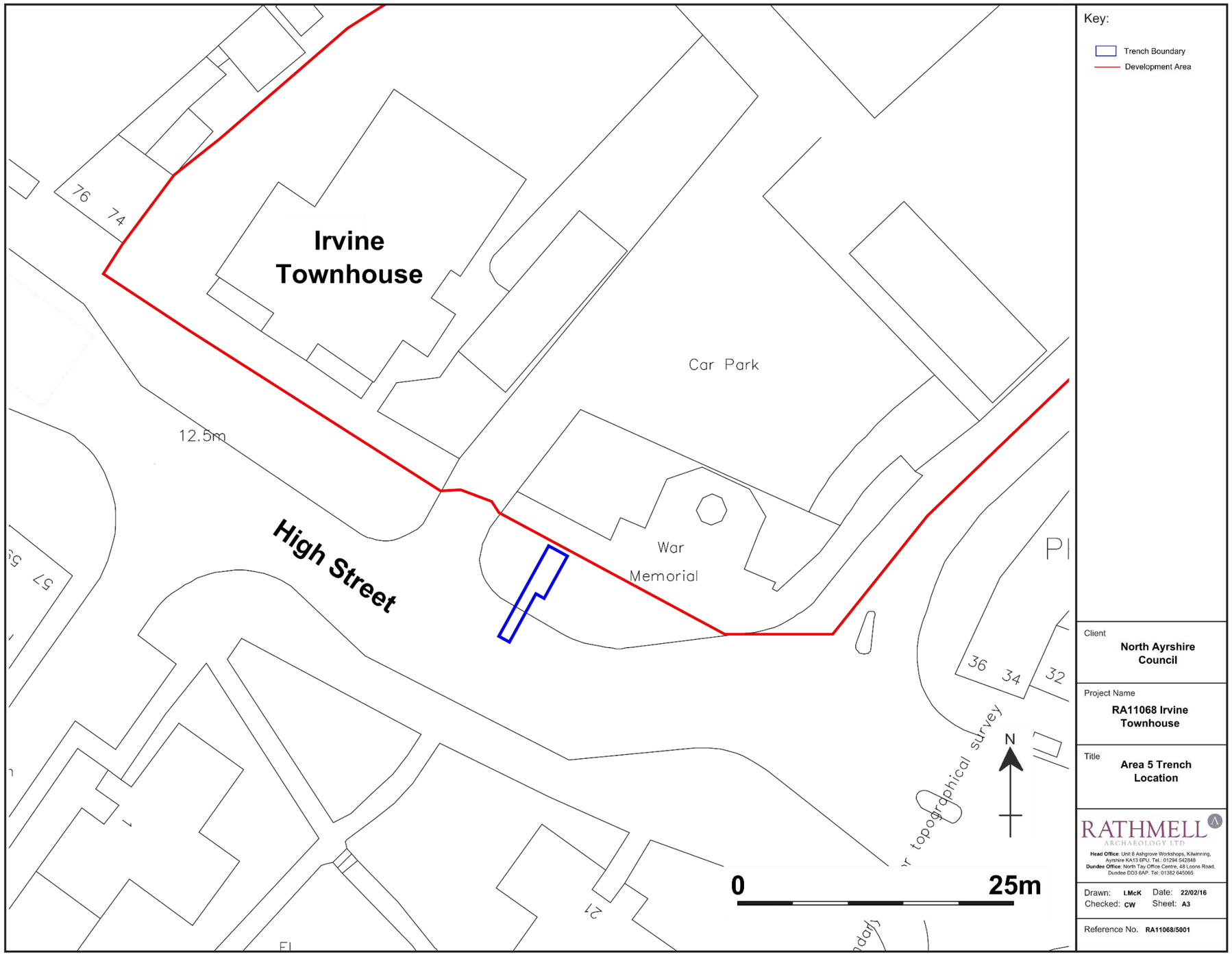


Figure 2: Area 5 Trench Location Plan

# Appendix 1: Registers for Addendum

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site during the watching brief (Area 5):-

*Context Register*

| Context No. | Area/ Trench | Type | Description | Interpretation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5001 | 5 | Deposit | Very firmly compacted black bitumen/hard core layer. The layer was 0.1m thick. | Modern tarmac road surface |
| 5002 | 5 | Deposit | Moderately compacted mid-dark grey sand (20-30%). Roughly faced mid grey stone cobbles (70-80%). The layer was 0.2m thick. | Old cobbled road surface (19th or 20th century date). |
| 5003 | 5 | Deposit | Moderately compacted light to mid yellow/brown sand with very occasional small stones and pebbles. Layer had a thickness of 0.6-0.7m. Its extent was 1.5-2m x 8m (within the excavated trench). | Natural deposit of sand which has suffered disturbance. |
| 5004 | 5 | Deposit | Moderately compacted light to mid yellow/grey sand. Layer had a thickness of 0.75-1.1m. Its extent was 1.5-2m x 8m (within the excavated trench). | Natural sand layer. |
| 5005 | 5 | Cut | Linear shaped in plan and orientated in a north-south direction. The cut measured 1.5m long (within excavated trench), 0.5m wide and 2.1m deep (though the base was not reached). Break of slope at the top was sharp. Sides were vertical. Filled by (5006). | Cut of trench for ceramic service pipe. Pipe most likely dated to the 19th or 20th century as it underlay the cobbled surface (5002). |
| 5006 | 5 | Fill | Moderately compacted light to mid yellow/brown sand with frequent dark brown lens/patches with very occasional inclusions of small stones and pebbles. Layer had a thickness of 2.1m. Its extent was 1.5m x 0.5m (within the excavated trench). | Fill of service pipe trench [5005]. The ceramic pipe was not fully revealed but was part of the main sewage system for Irvine. |
| 5007 | 5 | Deposit | Surface made up of orange/buff coloured mono blocks set into a yellow sand base. Layer 0.12-0.15m thick. | Mono block layer forms the pavement surface outside the new leisure centre building. |
| 5008 | 5 | Deposit | Moderately compacted mid to dark brown (with light yellow/brown lens/patches) sand with occasional small | Disturbed layer or made ground of 19th or 20th |

| Context No. | Area/ Trench | Type | Description | Interpretation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | stone and cobble inclusions. Layer had a thickness of 0.5m. Its extent was 1.5-2m x 5m (within the excavated trench). | century date. |
| 5009 | 5 | Deposit | Modern concrete surface. Surface had a thickness of 0.05-0.1m. | Modern concrete surface which overlay an existing modern manhole cover (5010). |
| 5010 | 5 | Structure | Modern concrete structure and steel cover. | Modern manhole structure and steel cover for the new leisure centre. |
| 5011 | 5 | Cut | Linear shaped in plan and orientated in a north-south direction. The cut measured 2m long (within excavated trench), 0.5m wide and 1.8m deep. Break of slope at the top and bottom was sharp. Sides were vertical and base was flat. Filled by (5012). | Cut of trench for ceramic service pipe. Pipe most likely dated to the 19th or 20th century as it underlay the disturbed layer (5007). |
| 5012 | 5 | Fill | Moderately compacted light to mid yellow/brown sand with frequent dark brown lens/patches with very occasional inclusions of small stones and pebbles. Layer had a thickness of 1.8m. Its extent was 2m x 0.5m (within the excavated trench). | Fill of service pipe trench [5011]. The metal pipe was part of a water mains running through Irvine. |

*Photographic Register*

| Image No. | Digital | Description | From | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | 1825 | View of trench being opened | WNW | 15/02/16 |
| 02 | 1826 | View of Townhouse building with scaffolding up | SSE | 15/02/16 |
| 03 | 1827 | Cobbled surface being revealed under tarmac road surface | SSE | 15/02/16 |
| 04 | 1828 | Cobbled surface being revealed under tarmac road surface | SSE | 15/02/16 |
| 05 | 1829 | Disturbed sand layer (5003) | SSE | 15/02/16 |

| Image No. | Digital | Description | From | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 06 | 1830 | Disturbed sand layer (5003) | SSE | 15/02/16 |
| 07 | 1831 | View of trench at 1.05m | SSE | 15/02/16 |
| 08 | 1832 | View of trench at 1.05m. Oblique | SSE | 15/02/16 |
| 09 | 1833 | View of trench at 1.3m | SSE | 15/02/16 |
| 10 | 1834 | View of trench at 1.3m. Oblique | SE | 15/02/16 |
| 11 | 1835 | View of service pipe trench (5005-6) | NNW | 15/02/16 |
| 12 | 1836 | View of trench section at 1.7m | SSE | 15/02/16 |
| 13 | 1837 | View of trench section at 2.1m. Oblique | S | 15/02/16 |
| 14 | 1838 | View of trench section at 2.1m. Pipe showing | SSE | 15/02/16 |
| 15 | 1839 | View of 1st 1.5m stretch of trench cut through pavement. Excavated to 1.3m. | NNW | 16/02/16 |
| 16 | 1840 | View of next stretch of pavement being removed | NNW | 16/02/16 |
| 17 | 1841 | View of concrete covering existing manhole cover being removed | S | 16/02/16 |
| 18 | 1842 | View of concrete covering existing manhole cover being removed | SW | 16/02/16 |
| 19 | 1843 | Existing manhole cover revealed through concrete layer | SSE | 16/02/16 |
| 20 | 1844 | View of trench section at 1m | SSE | 16/02/16 |
| 21 | 1845 | View of water mains pipe at 1.7m | SE | 16/02/16 |
| 22 | 1846 | Oblique view of the trench at 1.7m | S | 16/02/16 |
| 23 | 1847 | View of water mains pipe at 1.7-1.8m | SE | 16/02/16 |
| 24 | 1848 | View of water mains pipe at 1.7-1.8m | SE | 16/02/16 |

| Image No. | Digital | Description | From | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25 | 1849 | View of water mains pipe at 1.7-1.8m | SE | 16/02/16 |
| 26 | 1850 | View of trench at 2m. Out of focus | SE | 16/02/16 |
| 27 | 1851 | View of trench at 2m. Working shot | SE | 16/02/16 |
| 28 | 1852 | View of trench at 2.2m. | SE | 16/02/16 |
| 29 | 1853 | View of trench at 2.3m. | ESE | 16/02/16 |
| 30 | 1854 | View of trench at 2.3m. Oblique | ENE | 16/02/16 |
| 31 | 1855 | View of trench at 2.3m. Oblique | ENE | 16/02/16 |