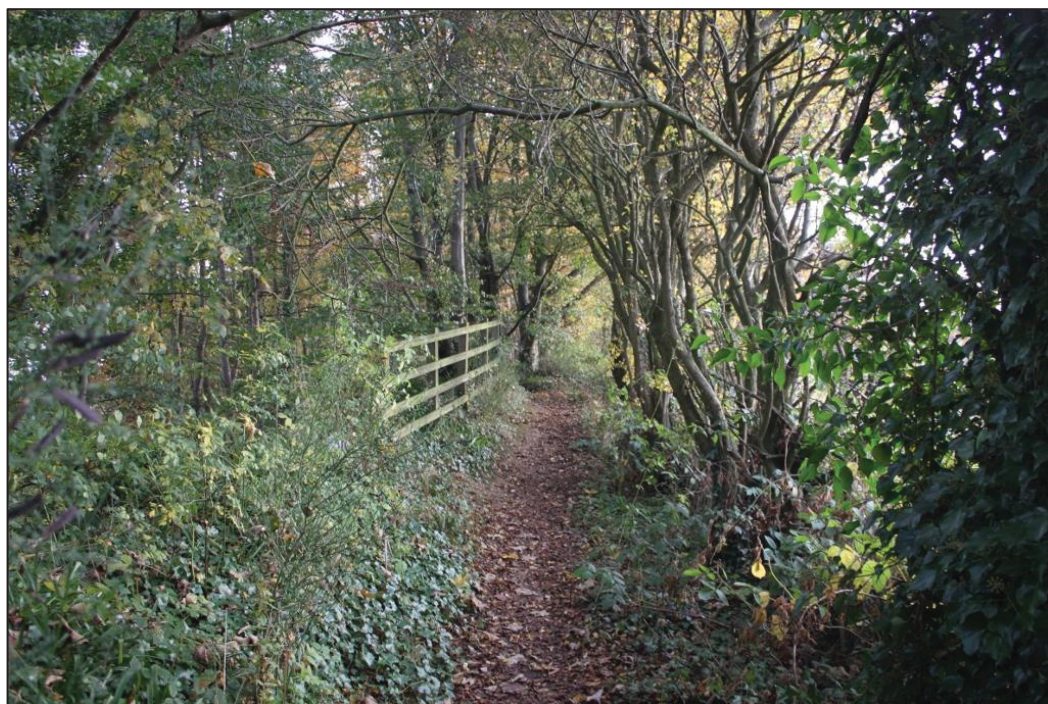


**Kinneil Woods, Falkirk:
Archaeological Support for Antonine Wall Access
Improvements**

Data Structure Report



by Liam McKinstry

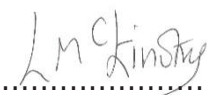
issued 2nd December 2016

on behalf of Central Scotland Green Network Trust

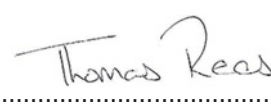
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Quality Assurance

This report covers works which have been undertaken in keeping with the issued brief as modified by the agreed programme of works. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance of Rathmell Archaeology Limited on the preparation of reports. All works reported on within this document have been undertaken in keeping with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed  Date ...2nd December 2016.....

In keeping with the procedure of Rathmell Archaeology Limited this document and its findings have been reviewed and agreed by an appropriate colleague:

Checked  Date ...2nd December 2016.....

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Quality Assurance Data

Author(s)	Liam McKinstry		
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Commissioning Body	Central Scotland Green Network Trust		
Event Name	Kinneil Woods, Falkirk		
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Event Date(s)	October-November 2016		
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Location	United Kingdom : Scotland : Falkirk		
NGR	NS 97482 80321 (centred)	Parish	Bo'ness and Carriden
Designation(s)	Scheduled Monument (2210)		
Canmore IDs	288361 Antonine Wall		

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Central Scotland Green Network Trust in respect to the archaeological works carried out in support of access improvement work for a footpath along a stretch of the Antonine Wall at Kinneil, Falkirk. These archaeological works, to inform the mitigation of adverse impact on archaeological remains within the Scheduled Monument, were carried from 31st October to 2nd of November 2016. A Risk Assessment Method Statement (Rees 2016) provided the detail of the works.
2. The archaeological works were within a Scheduled Monument, designated under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The designated site was the 'Antonine Wall and fortlet, 430m E to 850m WSW of Kinneil House' Index No 2210 (Figure 1 and 6a). Further to this the site was also an element of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site, recognised to be of International significance. This report presents the findings of the archaeological works which were carried out as a requirement of the granted Scheduled Monument Consent (Reference/Case ID 201507193).
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited were appointed by Central Scotland Green Network Trust to undertake the project works at Kinneil, Falkirk.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. The historical and archaeological background are discussed fully within the Kinneil Woods Timeline and the Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) for the Antonine Wall access improvements at Kinneil Woods, Falkirk;
 - ❖ Rees, T, 2016, *RA16026 Kinneil Woods Timeline*;
 - ❖ McKinstry, L, 2016, *Kinneil Woods, Falkirk: Archaeological Support for Antonine Wall Access Improvements, Risk Assessment & Method Statement*.

Project Works

5. The archaeological works, which took place from 31st October to 2nd November 2016, were carried out in keeping with the methods detailed in the Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) (Rees 2016). These works comprised:
 - a. the surveying and inspection of the entire area encompassed by the footpath access improvement work (Sections A-C and E)
 - b. excavation of three hand excavated test pits (two 1m broad and 4m long, one 1m broad and 3m long with both excavated until the naturally occurring subsoil or Roman period deposits area identified) within a specific area of the footpath access improvement works (Section B and C).
6. All of the works complied with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Environment Scotland's Policy Statements.

Findings

7. The three trenches (1-3) were each set out across the modern footpath and part of the adjacent, upslope, bank (Figures 2-5). The sections (2 and 3) of the modern path which were the focus of the study ran in a WSW-ENE direction. The existing bank ran to the immediate SSE of the path with a steep slope to the NNW. On both sides of the path there was extensive tree and other vegetation. The full details and dimensions for each of the trenches can be found within Appendix 1.
8. The topsoil, (001), identified within each of the three trenches consisted of loosely compacted, light brown-grey silty sand with occasional small sub-angular stones and frequent root inclusions. The topsoil was located along the length of the bank and had partially slumped down its SSE edge to lie over the modern path material (002). The layer had a depth range of between 60-200mm within the trenches. The modern path surface,



Figure 1: Site Location Plan.



Figure 2: Trench Location Plan.

002), consisted of moderate to firmly compacted, light orange-red fine (5-10mm) angular gravel/bleaze with frequent small root inclusions. The path surface had a depth range of between 50-90mm within the three trenches.

9. Material provisionally interpreted as bank or slumped bank material (004) was located beneath both the topsoil (001) and the path (002) (Figures 3-5 and 6b-7b). The sediment consisted of very firmly compacted, light-mid yellow-brown sandy/silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular stone inclusions (especially at the higher SSE end of the trenches) and moderate root inclusions. The bank material had a depth range of between 100-450mm - with the deposit being thickest at the higher, SSE, ends of the trenches where it was encountered. The layer also sloped from SSE to NNW where it was encountered with a change in height of 1m in Trench 3 and 1.3m in Trench 2.
10. All the above sediments overlay the natural subsoil (003) that was a very firmly compacted, mid yellow-brown silty clay with frequent small to medium sandstone inclusions.
11. In all three trenches thick and dense root masses, (005), were identified (Figures 3-5 and 6b-7b). This material consisted of large tree, bush and shrub roots, the largest of which were 30-80mm in diameter, and a mass/concentration of smaller roots located within and between deposits (004) and (003). Trench 2 in particular was subject to areas of destructive vegetative growth where areas of bioturbation, (006), was noted in section.
12. Trench 2 (Figures 4 and 7a) provided evidence for the formation cut of the existing path, [007] (see Figure 4). The cut [007] was recorded within the ENE facing section of Trench 2 and had an irregular, stepped shape – initially forming a vertical face at its SSE end, cutting down through both (004) and (003), before undulating on a rough level under the modern path (002). A marked hollow adjacent to the SSE side of the path appeared to be an open drain, which had partly been filled by material derived from the path (002) while the balance of the cut (to the SSE of the path) had been partly masked by topsoil material (001). The cut [007] was some 1.3m broader (to the SSE) than the visible modern path.
13. Only one artefact was recovered from the bank material, (004), within Trench 2 (see Appendix 2) a post medieval or later ceramic base sherd (white glazed).

Discussion

14. From the mapping and documentary evidence provided in the timeline (Rees 2016) the precise course of the various elements of the Antonine Wall (bank, berm and ditch) are not confidently known. The apparent topographic bank to the SSE of the modern path has been hypothesised as the Antonine Wall with the suggestion the Antonine Ditch runs mid-slope of the Cow Bank (downslope to the NNW of the path). As such the path could have been set on the Antonine Berm, or ledged into the slope below the Antonine Wall (accepting the interpretive model presented in this paragraph). We have also previously recognised that the bank could be a deer park bank from the 17th century, or indeed a re-use of the Antonine Wall in this role.
15. The three trenches identified material (004) that appeared to be bank-like material under the topsoil (001) and overlying the subsoil (003). This material did seem to form a modest bank at the highpoint of the slope, but without any structural complexity. As this bank material flowed down the slope to the NNW, where not truncated by later activities it appeared to be of fairly consistent depth (in particular see Figure 4).
16. The modern path (002) was formed on a much broader ledge or terrace than is evident today. This ledge is clearly partly natural in origin, with the subsoil at its NNW edge appearing to have naturally levelled prior to the steeper slope to the NNW. This natural ledge appears to have been broadened by a 1.3m broad cut [007] striking SSE, cutting into both the bank and subsoil to the SSE. The broader ledge formed by these works than had both a drainage/catch ditch inserted on it and the modern path. By creating the artificial scarp slope, set back from the visible path, the appearance of the upslope bank has been accentuated.
17. In terms of the origin of the simple, earthen bank that stands at the lip of the Cow Bank – the only artefact recovered was a ceramic base sherd from a white glazed pottery vessel

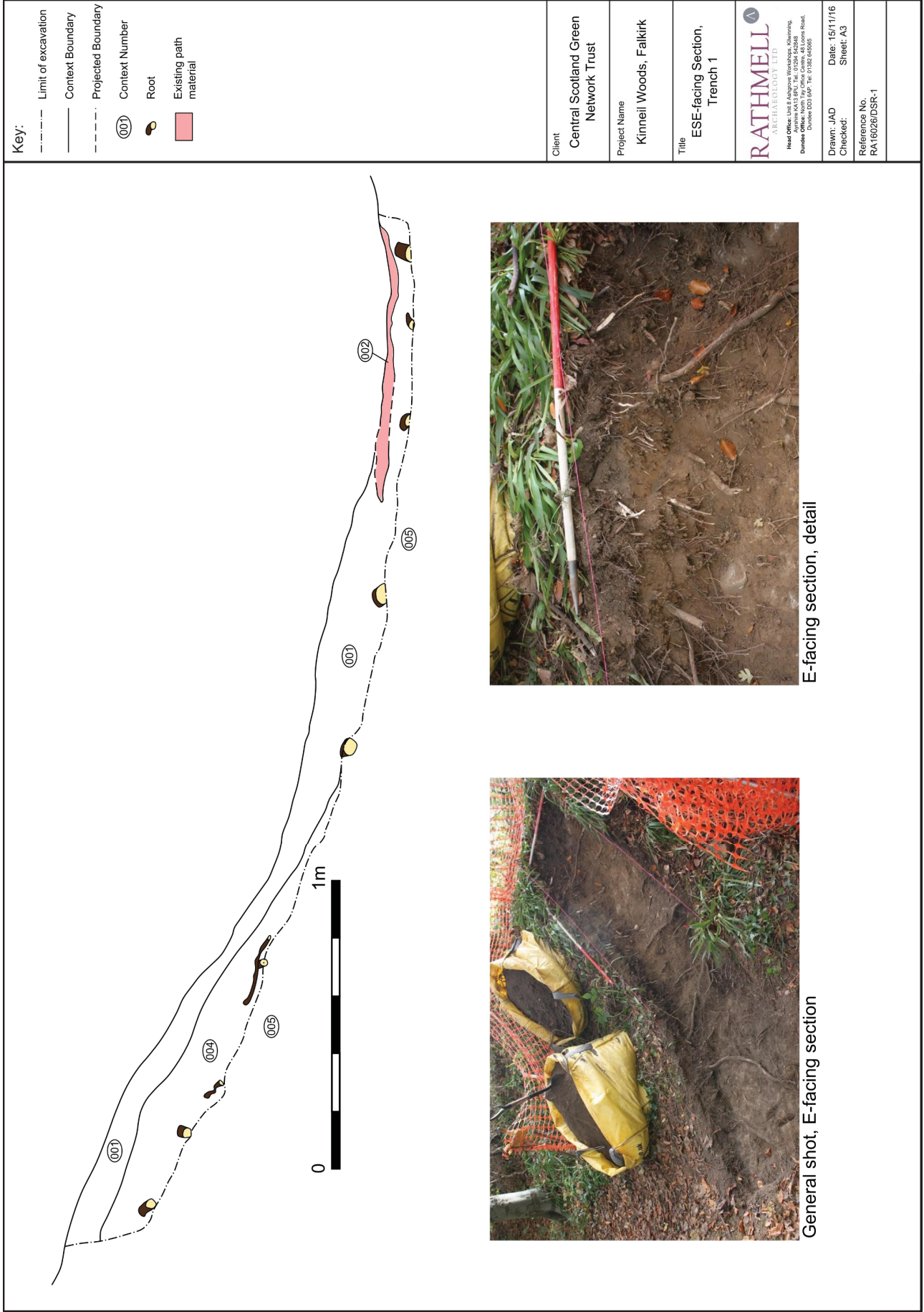


Figure 3: ESE facing section of Trench 1.

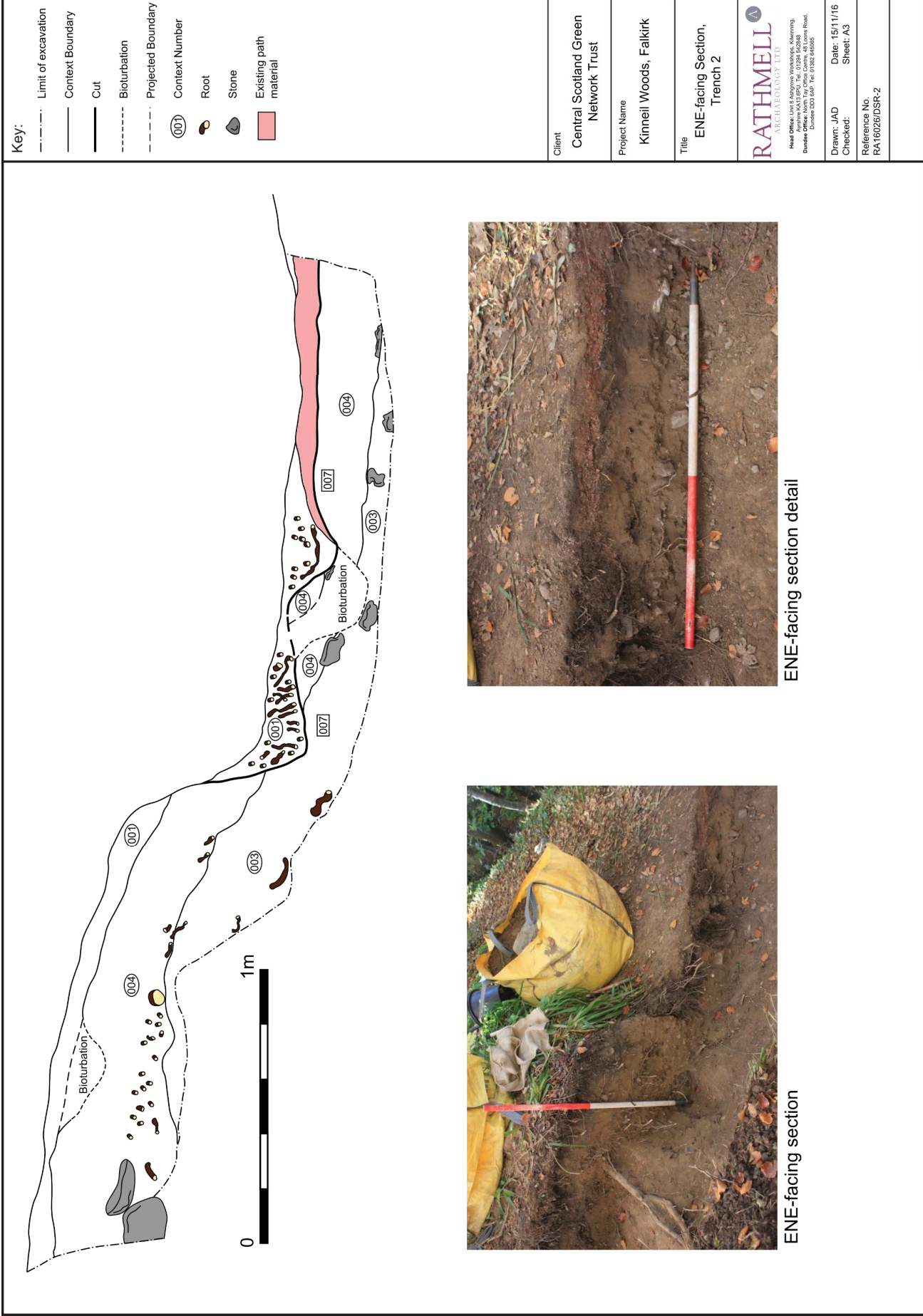


Figure 4: ENE facing section of Trench 2.

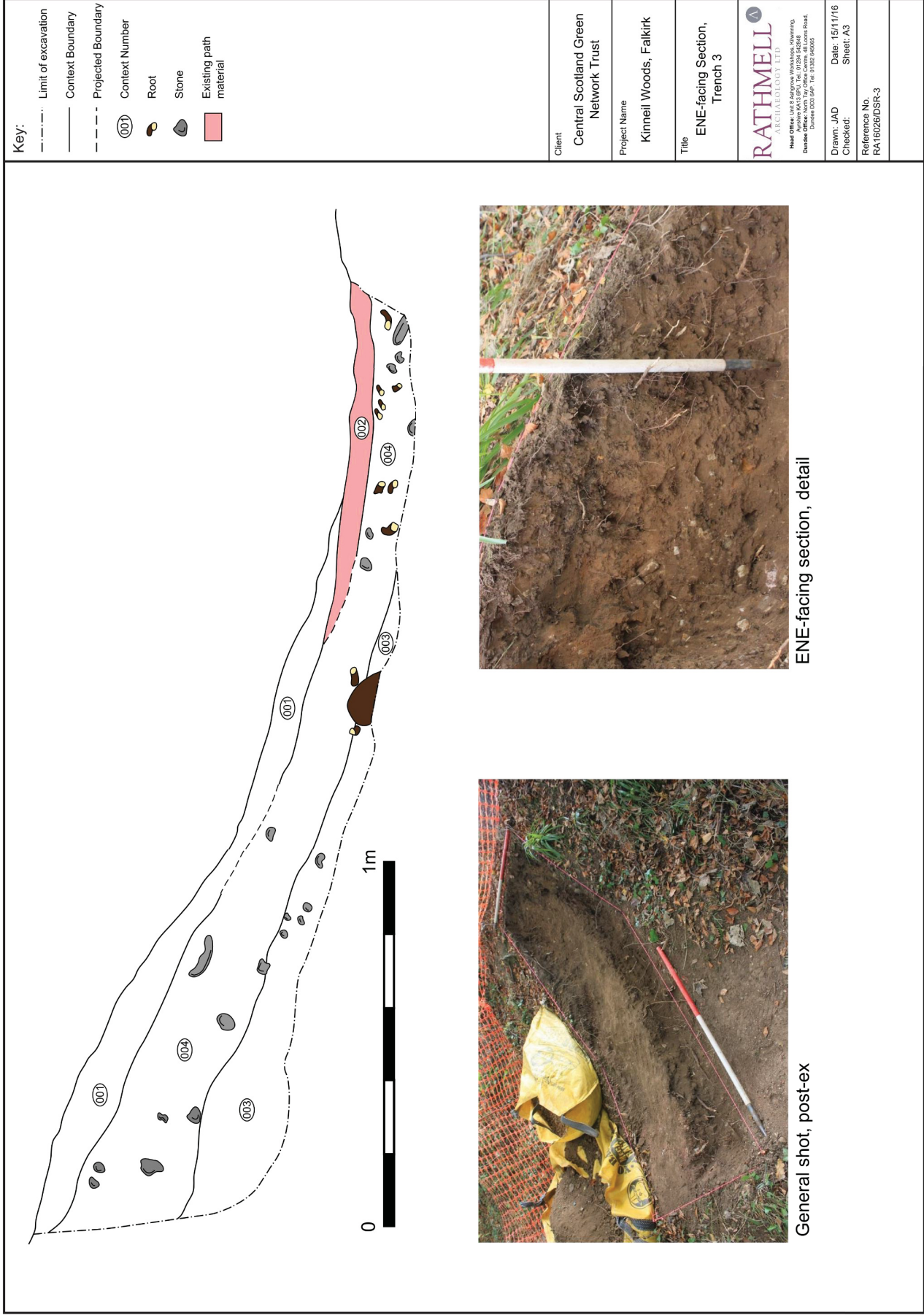


Figure 5: ENE facing section of Trench 3.



Figure 6a: Pre excavation view of Trench 2. From the NW.



Figure 6b: Post excavation view of Trench 1. From the E.



Figure 7a: Post excavation view of Trench 2. From the W.



Figure 7b: Post excavation view of Trench 3. From the NW.

of post medieval or later date. This came from within the bank material (004) in Trench 2, but given the known use of the area within the post medieval or later period and the homogenous nature of the bank material (some of which must be slumped material migrating downslope) this cannot be used to date the origin of the feature. The form of the bank does not clearly inform its origin, but its surviving characteristics appear more redolent of a simple post-medieval bank.

Recommendations

18. This evaluation was undertaken to inform the design work on upgrading (inc broadening) the path along this stretch of the Antonine Wall. Our recommendations are therefore framed in the context of this design work and hence are design principles to inform an engineering proposal that delivers the lowest credible impact. The path designed should:
 - ❖ in breadth, the new path should lie within the footprint of the existing path and the wider ledge cut [007] to the SSE;
 - ❖ in depth, the path substructure should not further disturb the underlying redeposited bank material (004) where present; and
 - ❖ in finish, building up the level of the upper surface of the path is acceptable (though note recommendations of visual impact below).
19. The approach outlined above is not available within the section of the path that climbs onto that portion of the bank that edges the quarry (to the SW of Trench 3 in Section C – see Figure 2). Given that the bank at this point is very likely to have been modified in the working or forming of the quarry and is the course of the existing path, this continued use appears inevitable. In this context, we recommend:
 - ❖ in breadth, the new path should be as narrow as possible;
 - ❖ in depth, the path substructure should not further disturb the underlying bank, with additional material introduced to form the appropriate gradient;
 - ❖ in finish, building up the level of the upper surface of the path on top of the bank should be kept to a minimum (though note recommendations of visual impact below).
20. Where woody vegetation or trees need to be removed to facilitate the design, we recommend felling regimes are adopted that see stump grinding/poisoning with an avoidance of ground disturbance to remove root plates.
21. It is recommended that a continual programme of monitoring be carried out where the footpath is improved to ensure that these principles are conformed with and any potentially significant archaeological strata exposed is appropriately recorded and safeguarded. This programme of monitoring would cover all ground breaking works within the Scheduled Monument, be that by hand or by machine.
22. While the evaluation has failed to confirm the bank is the Antonine Wall, it remains the only topographic feature available to be interpreted as such within the immediate landscape (through which the wall complex is known to have passed). Hence the consideration of setting impact must be predicated on the potential for the bank to be the denuded remains of the Antonine Wall.
23. Given that the broad ledge already exists, and was formed to carry a path, the upgrading of this route with a low engineered path (ie running surface relatively flush with existing topography) should generate only a modest change in the visual impact on the monument. As such it appears credible that a reasonable case can be presented for the upgraded path subject to the constraints identified above. For the avoidance of doubt, the broader path will increase the visual impact of this structure on the setting of the monument, while retaining the path within a location that lies within Scheduled Monument.
24. There are design elements that should be considered with care as they could significantly increase the impact of the upgrade on the monument:

- ❖ edge protection – there is existing edge protection at the top of the quarry face, and the renewal of this in a sympathetic style to the setting would be within the outline consideration of setting effects presented above. The introduction of additional edge protection would be a significant increase into the visual intrusion of the path onto the monument;
 - ❖ drainage – the path is currently a linear routeway along the Cow Bank, broadly running parallel to possible features. Should drainage be required, the concern would be as to the depth and location of such intrusions: this could rapidly become a significant intrusion; and
 - ❖ tree management – the removal of vegetation and trees required to facilitate the broader path will start to open up the top of the Cow Bank and hence the bank along its crest. Care should be taken to discuss and consider what the desired management conditions for the bank are, hence what after care is appropriate adjacent to the path to manage vegetation cover.
25. These recommendations have been prepared to support design work and ongoing liaison with Historic Environment Scotland. Prior to their adoption we advise that Historic Environment Scotland’s views on these recommendation be sought, especially as all works to upgrade this path will require Scheduled Monument Consent.

Conclusion

26. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Central Scotland Green Network Trust in respect to the archaeological works carried out in support of the design of access improvement work for a footpath along a stretch of the Antonine Wall in Kinneil Woods, Falkirk (Scheduled Monument Number Index No 2210).
27. Three trenches were excavated within the study area to characterise the visible bank running on the top lip of the Cow Bank, and the character of the existing path immediately downslope. The bank proved to be a relatively slight simple earthen feature, while the modern path lay within a much broader ledge that appears to have been cut when it was built. The only artefact recovered was a ceramic base sherd from a white glazed pottery vessel of post medieval or later date from within bank material.
28. While the works provide information to assist the design work, no conclusive information was garnered as to the origin of the visible bank. By inference, it is slightly more likely this is a post-medieval feature – but this cannot be confirmed.

Acknowledgements

29. The author would like to thank Tommy Samuel of Central Scotland Green Network Trust, for the opportunity to carry out these works and also to Geoff Bailey from Falkirk Community Trust for his assistance and input during the project.
30. I would also like to thank Simon Stronach of Historic Environment Scotland who gave support and guidance throughout the project. Thanks should also go to Rathmell Archaeology site staff Joss Durnan and Craig Stanford as well as Thomas Rees for his editing of this report.

References

- McKinstry, L, 2016, *Kinneil Woods, Falkirk: Archaeological Support for Antonine Wall Access Improvements, Risk Assessment & Method Statement*, unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd
- Rees, T, 2016, *Kinneil Woods Timeline*, unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

Appendix 1: Trench Details

Within this appendix a standardised set of data pertaining to the trenches is presented.

Test Pit Summary

Area/ Trench	Orientation	Size	Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
1	NNW-SSE	4m by 1m 4m ²	100- 350mm	Subsoil not reached due large concentration of root material	(002) Modern gravel/blaize footpath surface. (005) Large and concentrated root growth within and between deposits (004) and (003).	(004) Possible bank/slumped bank material.	None
2	NNW-SSE	4m by 1m 4m ²	350- 690mm	(003) Very firmly compacted, mid yellow-brown silty clay with frequent small to medium sandstone inclusions and frequent root inclusions.	(002) Modern gravel/blaize footpath surface. (005) Large and concentrated root growth within and between deposits (004) and (003). [007] Cut representing an attempt to widen the modern path and possibly also to add a drainage gully as well. (006) Bioturbation occurring within the bank/slumped bank material (004) at the S edge of the path (002)	(004) Possible bank/slumped bank material.	(Find No. 1) Post medieval or later ceramic base sherd (white glazed) within (004).

Area/ Trench	Orientation	Size	Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern/ Agricultural Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
3	NNW-SSE	3m by 1m 3m ²	150- 640mm	(003) Very firmly compacted, mid yellow-brown silty clay with frequent small to medium sandstone inclusions and frequent root inclusions.	(002) Modern gravel/blaise footpath surface. (005) Large and concentrated root growth within and between deposits (004) and (003).	(004) Possible bank/slumped bank material.	None

Appendix 2: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site during the evaluation.

Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	1-3	Deposit	Loosely compacted, light brown-grey silty sand with occasional small sub-angular stones and frequent root inclusions. The layer had a depth range of between 60-200mm.	Topsoil layer along the bank and partially over the footpath.
002	1-3	Deposit	Moderate to firmly compacted, light orange-red fine (5-10mm) angular gravel/blaise with frequent small root inclusions. The layer had a depth range of between 50-90mm.	Modern gravel/blaise footpath surface.
003	2-3	Deposit	Very firmly compacted, mid yellow-brown silty clay with frequent small to medium sandstone inclusions and frequent root inclusions. The layer had a depth range of between 60-200mm. The layer also sloped from S to N where it was encountered with a change in height of 0.6m in Trench 3 and 0.9m in Trench 2.	Possible natural subsoil. Where identified it seems to slope downwards from SSE to NNW.

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
004	1-3	Deposit	Very firmly compacted, light-mid yellow-brown sandy/silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular stone inclusions (especially at the higher SSE end of the trenches) and moderate root inclusions. The layer had a depth range of between 100-450mm (with the deposit being thickest at the higher, SSE, ends of the trenches where it was encountered. The layer also sloped from SSE to NNW where it was encountered with a change in height of 1m in Trench 3 and 1.3m in Trench 2.	Possible bank/slumped bank material running alongside the length of footpaths SSE side.
005	1-3	Deposit	Large tree and shrub roots (30-80mm in diameter) and mass/concentration of smaller roots. Located within and between deposits (004) and (003).	Large and concentrated root growth within and between deposits (004) and (003).
006	2	Deposit	Moderately compacted, dark brown/black silty clay (20%) and Root mass (80%). Deposit was within the possible bank/slumped bank material (004) at the SSE edge of the path (002). The deposit was cut by a later attempt to widen and/or add drainage to the path [007]. The deposit measured 0.43m wide and had a depth of 0.21m.	Bioturbation occurring within the bank/slumped bank material (004) at the SSE edge of the path (002)
007	2	Cut	Cut located within the ENE facing section through Trench 2. The cut had irregular stepped shape in section. The SSE end consisted of an almost vertical cut through the NNW side of the bank (004) and slope (003) which immediately sloped gradually upwards to the NNW. The cut then dropped almost vertically again into curved base which again gradually sloped upward to the NNW where it ran under the modern path material (002). The cut measured 1.3m wide and had a depth range of 0.2-0.35m. It was partially filled on its NNW side by the path material (002) and over that and within the rest of the cut was the modern topsoil material (001).	Cut represents an attempt to widen the modern path and possible an attempt to add a drainage gully as well. Though this was only encountered within Trench 2.

Finds Register

Find No.	Area/ Trench	Context no.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
001	2	004	Ceramic	Post medieval or later ceramic base sherd (white glazed)	JAD	01/11/16

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description
1	1	3	Plan	1:20	Post excavation plan of Trench 3
2	2	3	Section	1:10	ESE facing section of Trench 3
3	2	2	Section	1:10	ESE facing section of Trench 2
4	1	2	Plan	1:20	Post excavation plan of Trench 2
5	1	1	Section	1:10	ESE facing section of Trench 1
6	2	1	Plan	1:20	Post excavation plan of Trench 1

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
001	IMG_7573	View of the site entrance from the main road	WNW	31/10/16
002	IMG_7574	View of the path	WSW	31/10/16
003	IMG_7575	Eastern access to the site (from Kinneil Woods) with council closure sign ripped down	ESE	31/10/16
004	IMG_7576	Eastern access to the site (from Kinneil Woods) with council closure sign ripped down	-	31/10/16
005	IMG_7577	Orange safety fencing at entrance to footpath at the main road	WNW	31/10/16
006	IMG_7578	Orange safety fencing at entrance to footpath at the main road	WNW	31/10/16
007	IMG_7579	Pre excavation view of Trench 3	NW	31/10/16
008	IMG_7580	Pre excavation view of Trench 3 with orange safety fencing	NW	31/10/16
009	IMG_7581	Pre excavation view of Trench 2	NW	31/10/16
010	IMG_7582	Pre excavation view of Trench 1	NW	31/10/16
011	IMG_7584	Working shot at Trench 3	WNW	31/10/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
012	IMG_7585	Working shot at Trench 3	WNW	31/10/16
013	IMG_7586	Pre excavation view of Trench 2 with orange safety fencing	NW	31/10/16
014	IMG_7587	VOID		31/10/16
015	IMG_7588	Mid-ex Trench 3	N	31/10/16
016	IMG_7589	Post-ex Trench 3	N	31/10/16
017	IMG_7590	General shot, post-ex Trench 3	NW	31/10/16
018	IMG_7591	E-facing section Trench 3	E	31/10/16
019	IMG_7592	E-facing section Trench 3, detail	E	31/10/16
020	IMG_7593	Root mass underneath path, Trench 3	E	31/10/16
021	IMG_7594	Trench 3 backfilled	E	31/10/16
022	IMG_7595	Trench 2, fencing	E	31/10/16
023	IMG_7596	Trench 2, plan	N	1/11/16
024	IMG_7597	Trench 2, oblique	NW	1/11/16
025	IMG_7598	Trench 2, general shot	W	1/11/16
026	IMG_7599	E-facing section, Trench 2	W	1/11/16
027	IMG_7600	E-facing section, Trench 2	W	1/11/16
028	IMG_7601	General shot, E-facing section, Trench 2	W	1/11/16
029	IMG_7602	Trench 3, Plan	N	2/11/16
030	IMG_7603	Trench 1, Plan	S	2/11/16
031	IMG_7604	Trench 1, oblique	E	2/11/16
032	IMG_7605	Trench 1, W-facing section	E	2/11/16
033	IMG_7606	Trench 1, W-facing section	E	2/11/16
034	IMG_7607	Kinneil Fortlet	W	2/11/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
035	IMG_7608	Kinneil Fortlet, Antonine Wall entrance	S	2/11/16
036	IMG_7609	VOID	SE	2/11/16
037	IMG_7610	Kinneil Fortlet, Antonine Wall	E	2/11/16
038	IMG_7611	Antonine Wall and fortlet entrance	ENE	2/11/16
039	IMG_7612	Kinneil Fortlet, Antonine wall entrance	N	2/11/16
040	IMG_7613	Kinneil Fortlet, general shot	WNW	2/11/16
041	IMG_7614	Trench 2 backfilled	NW	2/11/16
042	IMG_7615	Trench 1 backfilled	NW	2/11/16

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Falkirk Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Kinneil Woods
PROJECT CODE:	RA16026
PARISH:	Bo'ness and Carriden
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Liam McKinstry
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	Canmore ID 288361
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Antonine Wall
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 97482 80321 (centred)
START DATE (this season)	31 st October 2016
END DATE (this season)	2 nd November 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>This evaluation was carried out in support of the design of access improvement work for a footpath along a stretch of the Antonine Wall in Kinneil Woods. All works were conducted under the terms of Scheduled Monument Consent, issued and overseen by Historic Environment Scotland.</p> <p>Three trenches were excavated within the study area to characterise the visible bank running on the top lip of the Cow Bank, and the character of the existing path immediately downslope. The bank proved to be a relatively slight simple earthen feature, while the modern path lay within a much broader ledge that appears to have been cut when it was built. The only artefact recovered was a ceramic base sherd from a white glazed pottery vessel of post medieval or later date from within bank material.</p> <p>While the works provide information to assist the design work, no conclusive information was garnered as to the origin of the visible bank. By inference, it is slightly more likely this is a post-medieval feature – but this cannot be confirmed.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Unknown
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Falkirk Council

ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
EMAIL ADDRESS:	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Falkirk Council archaeologist and archive to National Record of the Historic Environment.

Contact Details

35. Rathmell Archaeology can be contacted at our Registered Office or through the web:

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