

**Goldenhill Park, Clydebank:
Archaeological Monitoring of
Access Improvement**

Data Structure Report

by Joss Durnan

issued 2nd June 2017

on behalf of West Dunbartonshire Council

RATHMELL 
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Quality Assurance

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Signed  Date ...2nd June 2017.....

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

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NGR	NS 49466 72742 (centred)	Parish Old Kilpatrick (Clydebank)	
Designation(s)	Scheduled Monument (7070)		
Canmore IDs	43265 Bathhouse, Roman Fort and Fortlet		

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for West Dunbartonshire Council in respect to the archaeological investigation works carried out to support the implementation of access improvements at Goldenhill Park, Clydebank. This project focused on monitoring the following landscaping activities: path resurfacing and associated removal of raised 'lips' of topsoil on the downslope verge; removing redundant park furniture; fixing a leaking field drain, and; removing a stretch of hedge overlying the Antonine Wall.
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 Golden Hill Park Roman fort, annexe and bathhouse (Index No 7070). 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.
3. The historical and archaeological background are discussed more fully within the Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) for the Antonine Wall enhancement at Goldenhill Park, Clydebank (Rees 2016).
4. For details of previous work carried out as part of this project of works see McKinstry and Gordon (2016) and McKinstry and Rees (2017).
5. 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 300019140).
6. Rathmell Archaeology Limited were appointed by West Dunbartonshire Council to undertake the project works and implementation of archaeological mitigation works for the Antonine Wall Enhancement Project at Golden Hill Park, Clydebank.

Project Works

7. The archaeological works, which took place on 6th, 7th, and 15th March 2017, were carried out in keeping with the methods detailed in the Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) (Rees 2016). The works consisted of monitoring landscaping works, carried out by Greenlight Environmental Ltd, and path upgrade work, carried out by West Dunbartonshire Council, to prevent any adverse impact on archaeologically significant strata from the improvements.
8. The full scope of the consented improvements include:
 - ❖ Path surface renewal;
 - ❖ Downslope path lip removal
 - ❖ Steps and slide removal
 - ❖ Regrading of former bench area
 - ❖ Signage installation
 - ❖ Drainage repairs
 - ❖ Hedge removal
9. These works are being delivered in a staged programme by West Dunbartonshire Council and only those works depicted on Figure 1 were delivered in this phase. These were:
 - ❖ Path surface renewal – not a monitorable activity
 - ❖ Steps and slide removal (d)
 - ❖ Regrading of former bench area (e)
 - ❖ Drainage repairs (f)
10. The area containing the former steps and slide (d) measured approximately 7m wide along the edge of the path by 18m stretching downslope away from the path. The steps were largely turf-covered, with timber risers still visible in places (Figure 2).

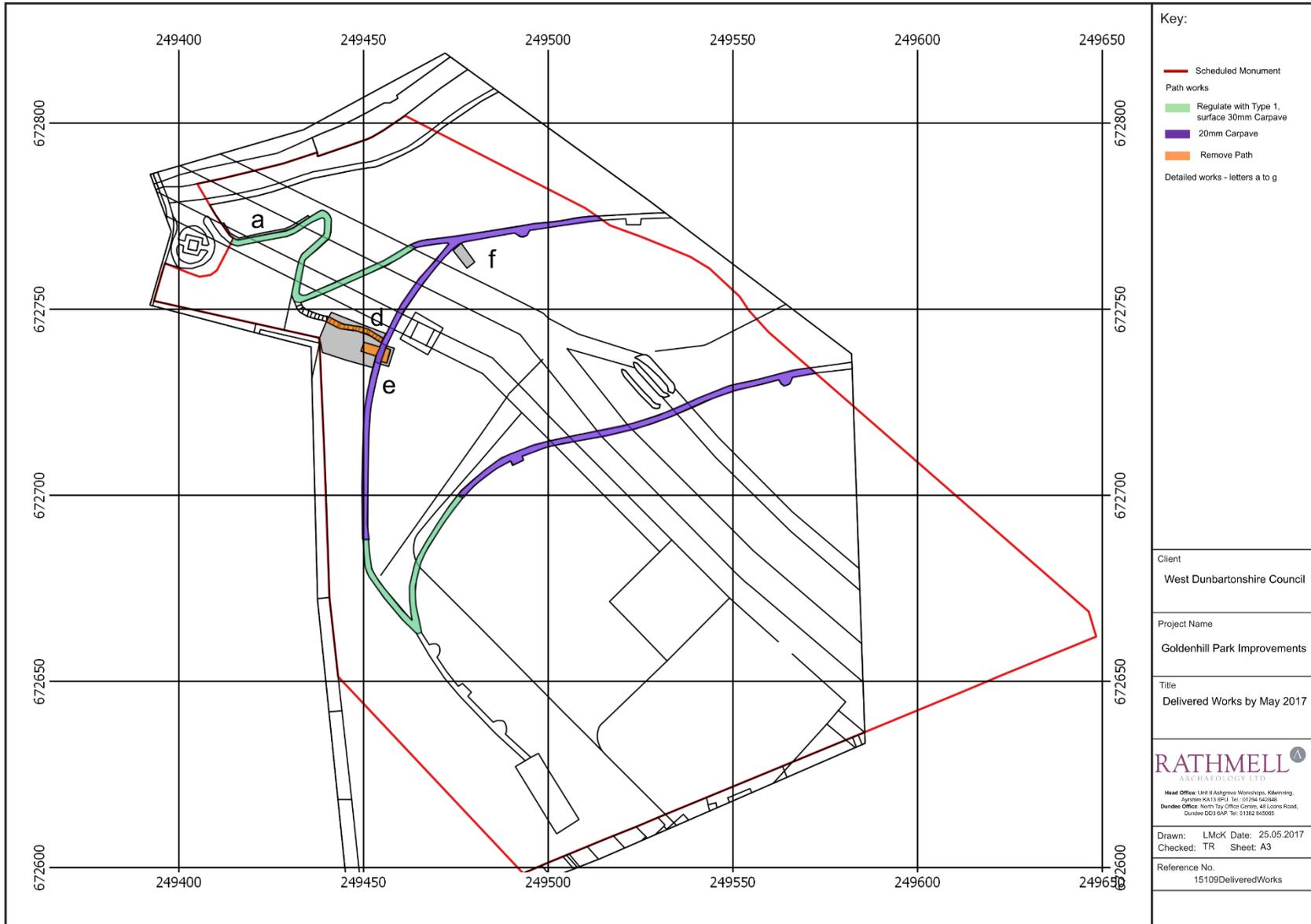


Figure 1: Site plan of delivered works

11. The bench area (e) appeared as a small hollow approximately 3m W of the exposed section of Wall base within the park. This feature measured 4m along the path edge and 3m wide. This area was stripped of turf and regraded with topsoil removed from the steps and slide area.
12. A leaking ceramic pipe drain (f), previously identified as a spring (McKinstry and Rees 2017), was discharging water approximately 3m upslope of the current path. This drain ran broadly parallel to the Antonine Wall and was positioned in the approximate location of the upcast part of the Wall. The length of drain which was excavated for repairs measured 0.6m wide by 2.5m long (Figure 3).
13. After the completion of the renewal of the path surfaces the site was inspected by West Dunbartonshire Council and Rathmell Archaeology Ltd. At this time, it was apparent that the level and pitch of the new path surfaces were sufficiently high that no locations required downslope path lips to be removed. Hence this task was not undertaken along any of the paths renewed and reported on in this report.
14. All of the works complied with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Historic Environment Scotland's Policy Statements.

Findings

Steps and slide (Area D)

15. The topsoil, present in all areas exposed during the works, was a mid orangish-brown slightly sandy silt with occasional 19th/20th century ceramic fragments and small angular stone inclusions. This was excavated to a maximum depth of 500mm over the crest of the former slide base. No underlying deposits were exposed. As a result this deposit was interpreted as redeposited topsoil laid down during the construction works for the former slide.
16. Groundbreaking work on the steps was limited to the removal of their timber risers and stobs. The remaining flat depressions of the steps were filled in and smoothed over with topsoil removed from the slide area.

Former bench (Area E)

17. In the bench area, the topsoil was excavated to maximum depth of 100mm, being of the same composition as that in the steps and slide area on the opposite side of the path, but with considerably fewer small angular stones. As well as infrequent fragments of modern ceramic material, occasional fragments of modern glass and plastic were present.

Drainage repairs (Area F)

18. The initial phase of drainage repair was carried out on 6th March 2017. The ceramic drain discovered during the test pitting works (McKinstry and Rees 2017) was exposed to the immediate W of Test Pit 1 from that period of work.
19. The drain was located at a depth of 250mm at the upslope end and 200mm at the downslope end. When fully exposed, the drain was revealed to be of a segmented oval design measuring 180mm in height and 140mm in diameter. One of the exposed segments had collapsed and silted up, causing the leaking 'spring' effect of the drain. The size of the drain, along with its depth as noted in the archaeological investigation phase, suggest that it does not relate to any former agricultural activity on the site, but rather drainage put in place during the earlier landscaping phase of the park.
20. Further monitoring of drainage repairs in the same location was carried out on 15th March 2017 after it became apparent that the initial repair had not resolved the leak. A trench measuring approximately 1m long by 0.75m wide was opened immediately adjacent to the path on its SE side, where leaking water was flowing across the gravel surface. This revealed the same ceramic drain found during the repair previously carried out, located at a depth of 150mm.



Figure 2: Slides and steps (Area D) prior to landscaping.



Figure 3: Damaged length of drain exposed during initial repair work (Area F).



Figure 4: Former bench (Area E) stripped of turves and necessary topsoil.



Figure 5: Damaged length of drain (Area F) after both phases of repair, and reinstatement.

Discussion

21. The landscaping works revealed a single deposit of topsoil, the character of which was that of redeposited material and made ground pertaining to improvement works during the creation of the park, and related former landscape features.

Steps and slide (Area D)

22. The material exposed in this area was characteristic of made ground deposits, probably relating to the construction of the earthen pad upon which the slide would have been mounted. The small angular stones, specific to the topsoil in this area, appeared to be of the same composition as the remaining gravel of the old path surface. These are therefore likely to be path material that has washed downslope over time.

Former bench (Area E)

23. The topsoil here was of the same composition as that in the steps and slide area on the opposite side of the path, but with considerably fewer small angular stones. As well as infrequent fragments of modern ceramic material, occasional fragments of modern glass and plastic were present. These likely represent 20th century deposits relating to recreational use of the park.

Drainage repairs (Area F)

24. The leaking drain, as exposed, ran broadly parallel with the Antonine Wall in the area where upcast from the cutting of the Wall's ditch would have been deposited. The upcast remains are visible as a subtle linear rise positioned in front of the route of the ditch.
25. The topsoil in this area was of a broadly similar character to that exposed in the previous areas. While the excavated material may relate to the upcast generated by the cutting of the ditch, it is likely that any soil from that phase would be natural topsoil and subsoil. These deposits will have been greatly disturbed by subsequent landscaping of the area as a park, and are of little archaeological significance. It is also highly likely that the form of the upcast has been disturbed considerably over time by various landscaping events.
26. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified by the works.

Conclusion

27. Archaeological works comprising the monitoring of the implementation of access improvement works were carried out at Golden Hill Park Roman fort, annexe and bathhouse (Index No 7070). These works were delivered according to recommendations detailed in the Scheduled Monument Consent (Case ID: 300019140) issued by Historic Environment Scotland.
28. The access improvement works exposed natural soil profiles or those altered in the 20th century. No significant archaeology was discovered during the course of the works.

Acknowledgements

29. The author would like to thank Donald Petrie of West Dunbartonshire Council, for the opportunity to carry out these works and for his assistance during the project.

References

McKinstry, L. and Gordon, D. 2016 *Goldenhill Park, Clydebank: Archaeological Support for Antonine Wall Enhancement*. Unpublished DSR.

McKinstry, L. and Rees, T. 2017 *Goldenhill Park, Clydebank: Archaeological Investigation for Access Improvement*. Unpublished DSR.

Rees, T, 2016, *Goldenhill Park, Clydebank: Archaeological Support for Antonine Wall enhancement, Risk Assessment & Method Statement*.

Robertson, A.S, 1957, *An Antonine Fort, Golden Hill, Duntocher*, Glasgow: University of Glasgow.

Appendix 1: Registers

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

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
001	1393	Disused slide and steps, pre-ex	S	6/3/17
002	1394	Disused slide and steps, pre-ex	N	6/3/17
003	1395	Damaged ceramic drain, mid-ex	NW	6/3/17
004	1396	Ceramic drain, segment example	N	6/3/17
005	1397	Damaged ceramic drain, mid-ex	SE	6/3/17
006	1398	Damaged drain replaced with plastic pipe	SE	6/3/17
007	1399	Repaired drain, backfilled	SE	6/3/17
008	1400	Bench area, deturfed	SW	7/3/17
009	1401	Bench area, infilled with topsoil from slide	SW	7/3/17
010	1402	Slide area and steps, landscaped and smoothed	NW	7/3/17
011	1417	Cracked segments of drain causing leak immediately downslope from previous leak	NW	15/3/17
012	1418	Drain repaired and backfilled	W	15/3/17
013	1419	Drain repaired and backfilled	NE	15/3/17
014	1420	Possible upstanding remains of fort ditches and banks within wood.	SW	15/3/17

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	West Dunbartonshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Golden Hill Park, Clydebank, WDC Antonine Wall Enhancement Project
PROJECT CODE:	RA15109
PARISH:	Old Kilpatrick (Clydebank)
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Joss Durnan
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	SM 7070, Canmore ID 43265
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Roman Fort, Fortlet
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 49466 72742 (centred)
START DATE (this season)	6 th March 2017
END DATE (this season)	15 th March 2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	Yes
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological works comprising the monitoring of the implementation of access improvement works were carried out at Golden Hill Park Roman fort, annexe, and bathhouse in Duntocher, Clydebank.</p> <p>The access improvement works exposed natural soil profiles or those altered in the 20th century as part of park landscaping. No significant archaeology was discovered during the course of the works.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	West Dunbartonshire Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to National Record of the Historic Environment.

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