

St Vincent's Hospice
Shared Use Path, Howwood:
Archaeological Watching Brief
Data Structure Report



by Sarah Krischer

issued 4th April 2018

on behalf of St Vincent's Hospice


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Quality Assurance

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Signed  Date4th April 2018.....

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

Checked  Date4th April 2018.....

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Quality Assurance Data

Author(s)	Sarah Krischer		
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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared on behalf of St Vincent's Hospice to report on archaeological works undertaken in support of a shared use path at St Vincent's Hospice, Howwood, Renfrewshire. These archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
2. The Renfrewshire Council required a program of archaeological works to be undertaken as an element of the granted planning consent. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service, who advise Renfrewshire Council on archaeology matters, provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required for the granted planning consent and the mitigation of the proposed development works.
3. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on any archaeological remains within the development area. Works were carried out from the 25th of January to the 20th of February 2018.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. A full overview of the Historical and archaeological background for the development area is located within the archaeological method statement produced by AECOM (Wood 2018), however for the purposes of this report a brief overview of the historic map evidence for Crossford Mill (Canmore ID 145794) is necessary.
5. Crossford Mill is first noted in the 1st edition Ordnance Survey for Renfrewshire (Figure 4b) and depicts the mill building located to the immediate north of the development area. The map also shows the mill pond located to the southwest of the mill building (beneath what is now a carpark) with Midtown Burn running, under Beith Road, and into the pond. A sluice channel is also noted on the map running off the burn before it crosses under the road in a north eastern direction where it crosses beneath the road and affectively bypasses the mill. It then re-joins the burn which in turn flows into Black Cart Water to the northwest.
6. The mill building and its associated pond and sluice channels are also shown unchanged in the later 2nd edition Ordnance Survey for Renfrewshire.

Project Works

7. The program of works comprised the archaeological monitoring of groundbreaking works for the construction of a footpath to the north of St Vincent's Hospice (Figure 5). The development area runs along Midtown Burn between the hospice and Beith Road (B787) in the north. In addition a section of the burn at the north end of site was cleared out and a culvert installed.
8. The groundbreaking works consisted of the opening of a 5m wide and 250m long trench for the footpath which had a depth range of between 0.36m and 0.5m. The groundbreaking works also included the diversion of the burn through a channel excavated off the northern end of the burn where it was connected to stone lined sluice channel which carried the burn. Large sections of plastic piping (approximately 1m in diameter) were inserted into the diversion trench and the excavated material was replaced.

Findings

9. The topsoil identified within the footpath excavation, (001), consisted of a moderately compacted dark brown clay with frequent root and stone inclusions which had a maximum thickness of 0.13m. The topsoil was overlay a layer of made ground (002) (Figure 1a). This layer consisted of moderately compacted deposit of fine light red, silty gravel with ash like inclusions. The layer had a thickness range of between 0.1m and 0.2m (Figure 2a). The natural subsoil (003) underlay (002) and was a moderately compacted dark brown clay with occasional sub-angular small stones and manganese inclusions. The subsoil was excavated to a depth of 0.10m-0.15m.
10. At the southern stretch of the footpath excavation the made ground (002) were not present (Figure 1b), due most likely to the increasing distance between the new path and the playing grounds to the northeast. The natural subsoil within this area (003) was excavated



Figure 1a: Post excavation shot of footpath showing topsoil (001) and made ground (002). Taken from the South



Figure 1b: Post excavation shot of footpath showing subsoil (003). Taken from the southeast.



Figure 2a: Northwest facing section of footpath showing topsoil (001), made ground (002) and subsoil (003). Taken from the northwest.



Figure 2b: Northeast facing section of footpath showing subsoil (003). Taken from the northeast.



Figure 3a: Covered 'Arched' sluice channel and south eastern stone lining [006] mid excavation. Photo taken from the northeast.



Figure 3b: View of the northwest side of sluice channel, showing stone wall [007]. Photo taken from the east.



Figure 4a: South facing section of burn diversion with the pipe laid showing (001) and (003). Photo taken from the south.

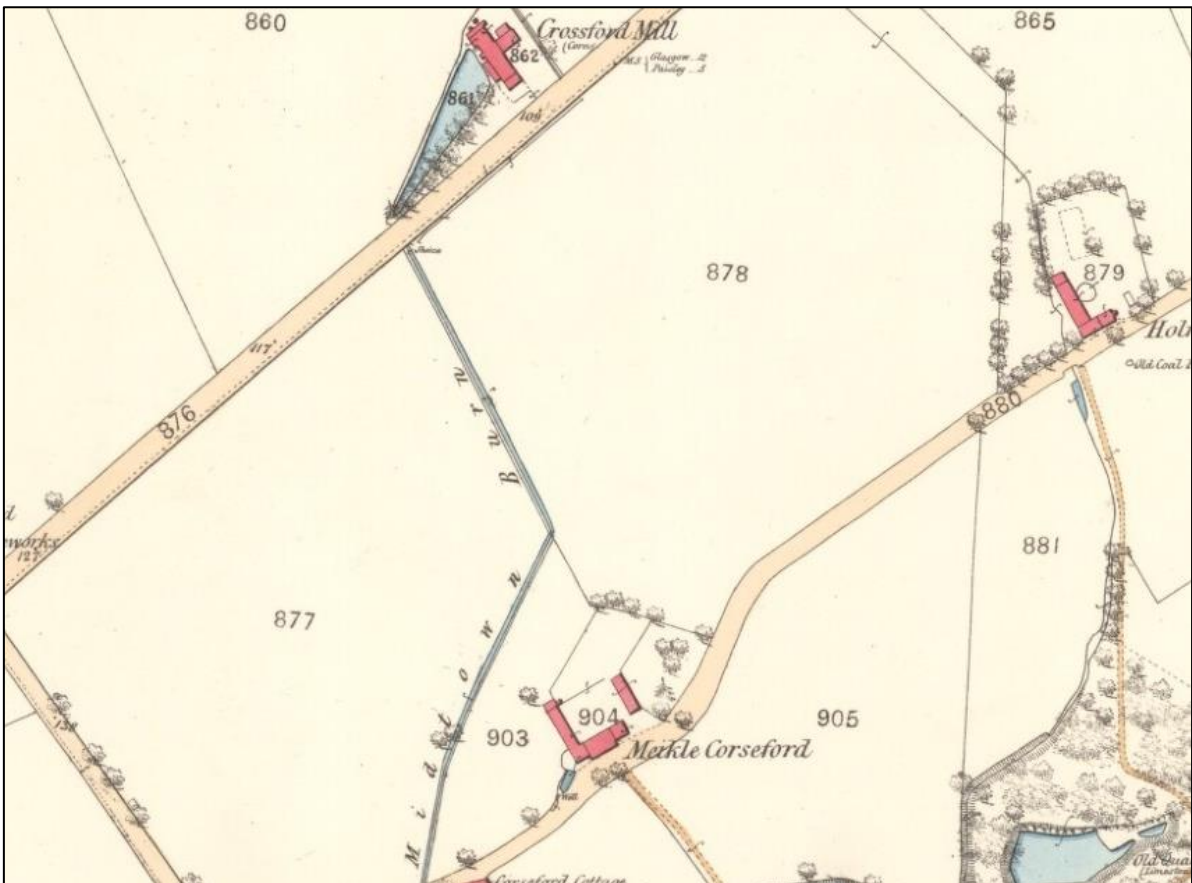


Figure 4b: 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1858) of the Area.

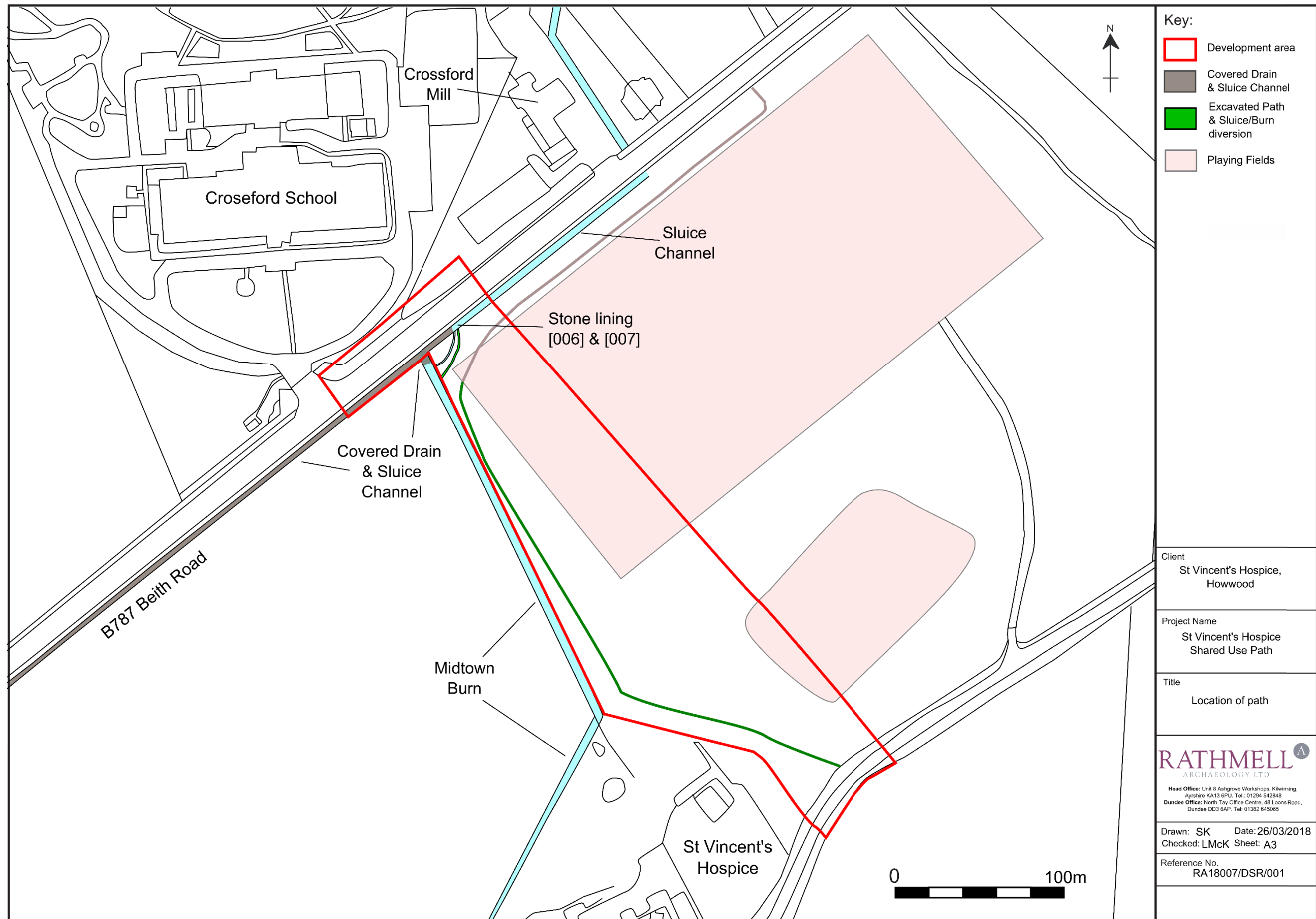


Figure 5: Plan of excavated areas on site.

to a depth of 0.36m-0.5m (Figure 2b). A small amount of 19th and 20th century ceramic sherds were identified within the subsoil (003) and a representative sample was collected.

11. At the northwest corner of the field was the remains of the sluice associated with Crossford Mill. This consisted of a small triangular shaped 'island' which was formed by the partially stone covered (an arching culvert) Midtown Burn on its northwest and southwest sides and the remains of a stone lined sluice channel on its southeast side which continued along the southeast side of Beith Road. The new diversion was located 10-15m to the southeast and excavated to a depth of 2.2m to receive a large plastic drainage pipe which had an approximate diameter of 1m.
12. The diversion trench cut through the north eastern bank of the burn and then through the south eastern and north western sides of the sluice channel and parts of its stone lining [006] and [007] (Figures 3a and 3b) where they met a covered stone arch (Figure 3a). The stone lining on the north western side of the sluice channel [007] consisted of four courses. The stones forming the lining were roughly faced grey-black, sub-angular shaped, stones with an average size of 0.30m by 0.25m by 0.10m. The stone lining on the south eastern side of the sluice channel [006] consisted of one visible course. The stones forming the lining were roughly faced grey-black, sub-angular shaped, stones with an average size of 0.30m by 0.25m by 0.10m.
13. The diversion trench also cut through an area of made ground (008) which consisted of a layer of moderately compacted, fine greenish grey gravel. Layer (008) overlay a natural subsoil layer (003) (Figure 4a) which consisted of a moderately compacted, dark brown clay with occasional sub-angular small stones and manganese inclusions. This subsoil layer overlay the natural bedrock (005). The bedrock consisted of mid grey slate that had broken off into sub-angular sections. Due to the depth of excavation it was impossible to measure how far the slate had been cut into.

Discussion

14. The only archaeological features identified within the development area was the stone lining, [006] and [007], which was part of an open sluice channel associated with Crossford mill to the north of Beith Road. The stone lining was noted where the sluice channel emerged from a covered stone arched culvert which was over part of the sluice channel and the northern end of Midtown Burn. This covered area was a point of convergence with one subterranean channel feeding into what would have been a mill pond for Crossford Mill and another open sluice channel which headed to the northeast (and which would eventually join Midtown Burn to the north of the mill building).
15. The only other anthropic material identified were to layers of made ground, (002) and (008), which were associated with the creation of the nearby playing fields and the construction or upkeep of Beith Road respectively. A small amount of modern pottery sherds were recovered from subsoil layer (003) but other than that no other significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified.

Recommendations

16. This Data Structure Report covers archaeological monitoring works undertaken during the construction of a shared use path to the north of St Vincent's Hospice, Howwood.
17. The archaeological monitoring works uncovered stone lining associated with a sluice channel associated with Crossford Mill. In addition layers of made ground associated with modern playing fields on the site and the B787 were identified. 19th or 20th century ceramics sherds were found in within the subsoil close to the playing fields indicating that the subsoil was disturbed, possibly by the creation of the playing fields or earlier agricultural activities. No other significant archaeological features were identified within the development area. As such it is recommended that no further archaeological works are required as a direct consequence of these works.
18. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with Renfrewshire Council and their advisers, the West of Scotland Archaeological Service.

Conclusion

19. Archaeological monitoring work was carried out for St Vincent's Hospice, in support of the construction of a shared use path running north from the hospice to the B787. These archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
20. The works at St Vincent's Hospice consisted of an archaeological watching brief during the construction of the shared use path and diversion of a small burn. Project works were carried out between the 25th January and the 20th of February 2018. 15. The archaeological works uncovered two stone walls associated with the sluices of Crossford Mill. In addition layers of made ground associated with modern playing fields and the building of the nearby B787 road were identified. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified within the development area.

Acknowledgement

21. The author would like to thank the client St Vincent's Hospice for the opportunity to carry out these archaeological works. Thanks should also go to Peter Leslie at AECOM for his onsite assistance. The author would also like to thank Liam McKinstry, Senior Archaeologist with Rathmell Archaeology Ltd for his input and editing.

References

Documentary

Museum of London, 1994 *Archaeology Site Manual*

Museums and Galleries Commission, 1992, Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections

Scottish Government, 2008, Treasure Trove in Scotland: A code of Practice

Scottish Government, 2010, Scottish Planning Policy

Scottish Government, 2011, Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning & Archaeology

Wood, Rachel, 2018 *St Vincent's Hospice Shared Use Path: Archaeological Method Statement*

Cartographic

1st edition 1858 *Ordnance Survey 25-inch Renfrewshire, Sheet XI.11*

2nd edition 1913 *Ordnance Survey 25-inch Renfrewshire, Sheet XI.11*

Appendix 1: Registers

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

Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Across entire area	Deposit	Moderately compacted dark brown clay with frequent root and stone inclusions. 0.13m deep. Present across north end of site.	Topsoil
002	Footpath	Deposit	Compact small bright red silty gravel and ash deposit. 0.1 to 0.2m deep. Present across north end of site.	Made ground most likely from the construction of the playing fields
003	Across entire area	Deposit	Moderately compacted mid to dark brown clay with occasional sub-angular small stones and manganese inclusions. Present across entire site, underlies (002) at north end of site.	Natural subsoil
004	Burn	Deposit	Dark blackish brown clay with no inclusions. Underlies 003 and found at a depth of 0.9m.	Natural subsoil
005	Burn	Deposit	Sub-angular grey slate, underlies 003 and 004.	Bedrock
006	Burn	Structure	Stone wall, one course high and one row wide. Greyish black sub-angular stones with an average size of 0.30m high x 0.25m long x 0.10m deep.	Stone lining on the south eastern side of the sluice channel (which runs in a SW to NE direction from the burn)
007	Burn	Structure	Stone wall four rows high and one row wide. Greyish black sub-angular stones with an average size of 0.30m high x 0.25m long x 0.10m deep.	Stone lining on the north western side of the sluice channel (which runs in a SW to NE direction from the burn)
008	Burn	Deposit	Compact fine greenish grey gravel.	Made ground most likely from construction works associated with Beith Road

Finds Register

Find No.	Area Trench	Context no.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
001	-	003	Ceramic	6 whiteware shreds	SK	30/01/2018

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
001	2606	Pre-dug area for compound	E	25/01/2018
002	2607	Access track for path	SE	25/01/2018
003	2608	Corner of burn with mill working	SE	25/01/2018
004	2609	Pre-excavation shot of path of diversion for burn	NE	25/01/2018
005	2610	Pre-excavation shot of path of diversion for burn	NE	25/01/2018
006	2611	Pre-excavation shot of path of diversion for burn	SW	25/01/2018
007	2612	Pre-excavation line of path	NW	25/01/2018
008	2672	General shot of north end of burn	SE	30/01/2018
009	2673	General shot of north end of burn	S	30/01/2018
010	2674	Working shot of digging out of bellmouth	S	30/01/2018
011	2675	Working shot of digging out of bellmouth	N	30/01/2018
012	2676	Mid-excavation shot of footpath foundations	S	30/01/2018
013	2677	Mid-excavation shot of footpath foundations	SE	30/01/2018

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
014	2678	Mid-excavation shot of footpath foundations	SE	30/01/2018
015	2679	Mid-excavation shot of footpath foundations	SE	30/01/2018
016	2680	Mid-excavation shot of footpath foundations	SE	30/01/2018
017	2681	Mid-excavation shot of footpath foundations	SE	30/01/2018
018	2682	Northwest facing section showing (001), (002) and (003)	NW	30/01/2018
019	2683	Northwest facing section showing (001), (002) and (003)	NW	30/01/2018
020	2684	Northwest facing section showing (001), (002) and (003)	NW	30/01/2018
021	2685	Mid-excavation shot of footpath foundations	SW	30/01/2018
022	2686	Mid-excavation shot of footpath foundations	SW	30/01/2018
023	2687	Working shot, digging of footpath foundations	NE	30/01/2018
024	2688	Mid-excavation shot of footpath foundations	S	30/01/2018
025	2689	Northeast facing section of (003)	NE	30/01/2018
026	2690	Northeast facing section of (003)	NE	30/01/2018
027	2691	Post-excavation shot of footpath	SE	30/01/2018
028	2692	Post-excavation shot of footpath	N	30/01/2018
029	2910	VOID	VOID	VOID
030	2911	VOID	VOID	VOID
031	2912	VOID	VOID	VOID

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
032	2913	Mid-excavation shot of island at burn junction	S	19/02/2018
033	2914	Mid-excavation shot of island at burn junction	S	19/02/2018
034	2915	Stone arch as burn goes under road	NE	19/02/2018
035	2916	Stone revetment at northeast side of island.	NE	19/02/2018
036	2917	Mid-excavation shot of smaller burn diversion	NW	19/02/2018
037	2918	Mid-excavation shot of smaller burn diversion	NW	19/02/2018
038	2919	Mid-excavation shot of smaller burn diversion	NW	19/02/2018
039	2920	Mid-excavation shot of smaller burn diversion	NW	19/02/2018
040	2921	Mid-excavation shot of smaller burn diversion	SW	19/02/2018
041	2922	Post-excavation shot of northwest section of smaller burn diversion.	SE	19/02/2018
042	2923	Post-excavation shot of northwest section of smaller burn diversion.	S	19/02/2018
043	2924	Post-excavation shot of northwest section of smaller burn diversion.	SE	19/02/2018
044	2925	Post-excavation shot of northwest section of smaller burn diversion.	SE	19/02/2018
045	2926	Post-excavation shot of northwest section of smaller burn diversion.	SE	19/02/2018
046	2927	Shot of pre-dug large burn diversion	NE	19/02/2018
047	2928	Shot of pre-dug large burn diversion	SW	19/02/2018
048	2929	Shot of pre-dug large burn diversion	E	19/02/2018
049	2930	Shot of pre-dug large burn diversion	NE	19/02/2018

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
050	2931	Shot of pre-dug large burn diversion	W	19/02/2018
051	2932	Post-excavation shot of southeast section of smaller burn diversion.	SW	19/02/2018
052	2933	Post-excavation shot of southeast section of smaller burn diversion.	SW	19/02/2018
053	2934	Post-excavation shot of southeast section of smaller burn diversion.	SW	19/02/2018
054	2935	Post-excavation shot of southeast section of smaller burn diversion.	S	19/02/2018
055	2936	Post-excavation shot of southeast section of smaller burn diversion.	NE	19/02/2018
056	2937	Post-excavation shot of southeast section of smaller burn diversion.	SE	19/02/2018
057	2938	Section of northwest section of smaller burn diversion.	S	19/02/2018
058	2939	Section of northwest section of smaller burn diversion.	S	19/02/2018
059	2940	Working shot of digging of smaller burn diversion.	NE	19/02/2018
060	2941	Section of north east section of pre-dug large burn diversion	NW	19/02/2018
061	2942	Stone arch as burn goes under road	NE	19/02/2018
062	2943	Stone arch as burn goes under road	NE	19/02/2018
063	2944	Stone arch as burn goes under road	NE	19/02/2018
064	2945	VOID	VOID	VOID
065	2946	Pre-excavation shot of stone wall to north side of burn	E	20/02/2018
066	2947	Pre-excavation shot of stone wall to north side of burn	S	20/02/2018
067	2948	Pre-excavation shot of stone wall to north side of burn	S	20/02/2018

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
068	2949	Pre-excavation shot of stone wall to north side of burn	E	20/02/2018
069	2950	Mid-excavation of excavation to the north of burn.	SW	20/02/2018
070	2951	Mid-excavation of excavation to the north of burn.	SW	20/02/2018
071	2952	Mid-excavation of excavation to the north of burn showing bedrock.	SW	20/02/2018
072	2953	Mid-excavation of excavation to the north of burn showing bedrock.	SW	20/02/2018
073	2954	Mid-excavation of excavation to the north of burn showing bedrock.	SW	20/02/2018
074	2955	Mid-excavation of excavation to the north of burn showing bedrock.	SW	20/02/2018
075	2956	Mid-excavation of excavation to the north of burn showing bedrock.	SW	20/02/2018
076	2957	Mid-excavation of excavation to the north of burn showing bedrock.	SW	20/02/2018
077	2958	Section of excavation to the north of burn showing bedrock.	S	20/02/2018
078	2959	Section of excavation to the north of burn showing bedrock.	SW	20/02/2018

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Renfrewshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	St Vincent's Hospice Shared Use Path
PROJECT CODE:	RA18007
PARISH:	Lochwinnoch
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Sarah Krischer
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 40863 61052 (centred)
START DATE (this season)	25/01/2018
END DATE (this season)	20/02/2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological monitoring work was carried out for St Vincent's Hospice, in support of the construction of a shared use path running north from the hospice to the B787. These archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area from the work.</p> <p>The works at St Vincent's Hospice consisted of an archaeological watching brief during the construction of the shared use path and diversion of a small burn. Project works were carried out between the 25th January and the 20th of February 2018. 15. Monitoring works uncovered two stone walls associated with the sluices of Crossford Mill. In addition layers of made ground associated with modern playing fields on the site and the B787 were found. There were no significant archaeological features found within the development area.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	St Vincent's Hospice
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
E MAIL:	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to HES Collections

Contact Details

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

Rathmell Archaeology Ltd
Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops
Kilwinning
Ayrshire
KA13 6PU

www.rathmell-arch.co.uk

t.: 01294 542848

f.: 01294 542849

e.: contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk

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