

Lennox Church, Dumbarton: Archaeological Mitigation

Data Structure Report



by Sarah Krischer

issued 23rd October 2018

on behalf of C & S Architects

RATHMELL 
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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.....

Date23rd October 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 Claire Williamson

Date23rd October 2018.....

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report (DSR) has been prepared for C & S Architects in support of development work at Lennox Church in Dumbarton. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
2. The planning authority, West Dunbartonshire Council, had appended a negative suspensive condition for archaeology, in consultation with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, which specified that an appropriate initial response was an archaeological watching brief during all ground breaking operations within previously undisturbed areas. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd has been appointed by C & S Architects to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works.
3. The Method Statement (McKinstry 2018) provided the detail of the works for the mitigation pertaining to ground breaking within the development area and hence the direct physical impact on buried sediments.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. The town of Dumbarton's name is linked to the nearby Dumbarton Castle and derives from Dun Breatann or the 'fortress of the Britons' which was in use from around the 5th century AD. The town dates to at least 1222 when it was given the status of a royal burgh by King Alexander II. The town prospered through the medieval period becoming an important port for shipping travelling up the Clyde estuary. The castle was to become an important royal residence into the 15th and 16th centuries with a number of monarchs such as James VI and Mary Queen of Scots staying there which in turn would have an impact on the history of the town. With the creation of Port Glasgow in the 17th century the town's importance as a port started to decline rapidly. This was also to have an effect on the town's population which would not begin to rise again until the start of the industrial revolution when glassworks and other industries started up in the town. With the 19th century, Dumbarton became home to William Denny and Brothers, one of many ship building companies which had started up along the River Clyde.
5. Dumbarton is first depicted on Timothy Pont's map of Scotland (1583-96) which shows both the castle and the town. A later map from the 17th century (Gordon 1636-52) shows a more detailed layout with the original medieval burgh lying on the north bank of the River Leven. William Roy's map of 1752-55 (Figure 1a) shows High street with buildings on either side and wooded or garden areas to the rear of these buildings in what would have been the original medieval burgage plots.
6. The area of the development can be clearly seen on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map for Dumbartonshire, located in the backlots to the rear (northeast) of the buildings fronting on to high street. The map shows many of these backlots occupied by structures, possibly store rooms or workshops, but the development lies within an empty area which was marked as a timber yard (Figure 1b).
7. The 2nd and 3rd edition Ordnance Survey maps show marked increase in the use of the backlots with a number of buildings being sited in these areas. The timber yard marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map has been filled with a number of these later structures which included a cinema to the north of the development area, but the area itself remained in one of the few clear areas, presumably in use as a yard.
8. There have only been a few archaeological excavations in the vicinity of the development area though none in the 21st century. One such excavation was carried out in 1972 on the corner of Risk Street and College Street (possibly where the Dumbarton Bowling Club is today) where a series of rubbish pits were identified which contained material no earlier than the 15th century. This site was located 135m to the north-northeast of the development area and the excavators thought it indicated the northern extent of the town during the late medieval period (Dennison and Coleman 1999).



Figure 1a: Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1752-55)

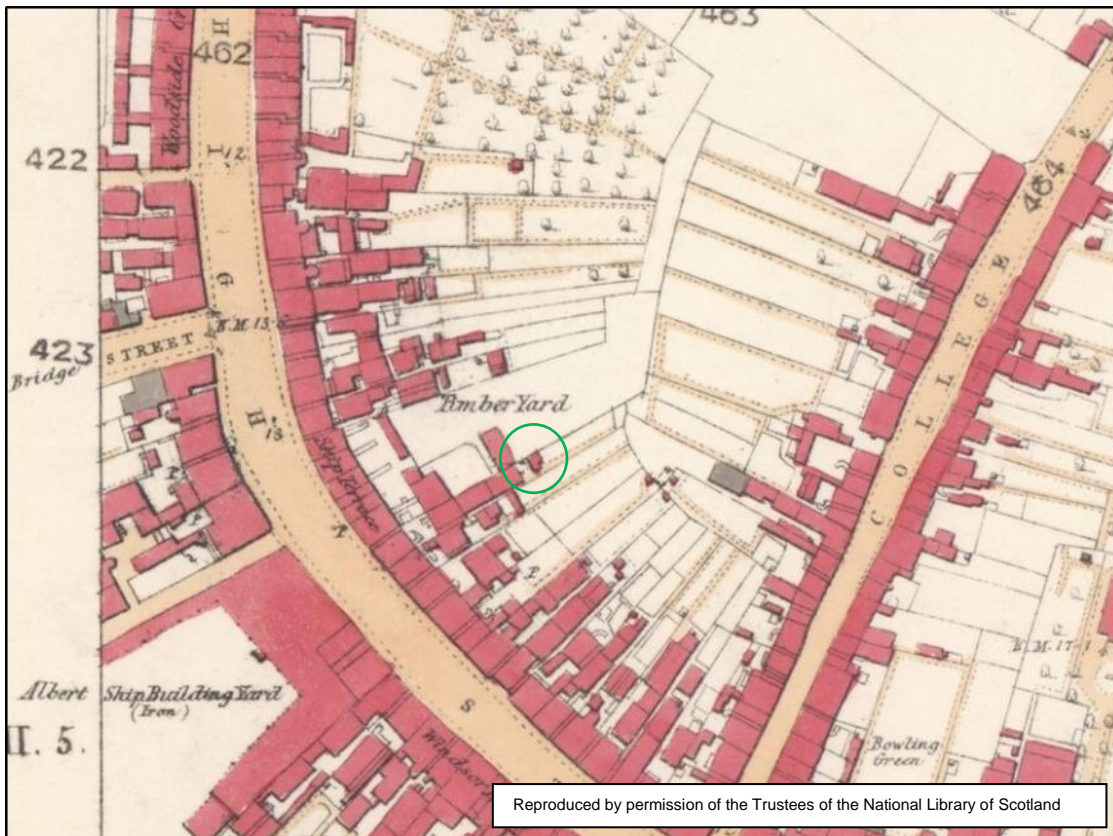


Figure 1b: 1st edition Ordnance Survey of Dumbartonshire (1862)

9. Another excavation carried out in 1972 at 101-103 High Street off the High Street frontage, located 120m south-southeast of the development area, encountered a recently levelled area which contained medieval pottery. This pottery included examples from Yorkshire, Cheshire and the southwest of France (Dennison and Coleman 1999).
10. The most recent excavations took place in 1997 at 94-102 High Street, located 70m to the south of the development area, and identified part of a late medieval house structure: a post-medieval stair tower. The excavation, which centred on two of the original medieval burgage plots, also identified a medieval wooden structure and cultivation soil. Of note is the fact that these archaeological features were all identified at a depth of 1m beneath the later 18th and 19th century strata (Dennison and Coleman 1999).

Project Works

11. The programme of works comprised the archaeological monitoring of ground breaking works to the immediate northwest of the existing Lennox Church building (Figure 2).
12. The entire development area was stripped of topsoil to a depth of between 0.2 and 0.25m. In addition, a foundation trench was excavated running southwest-northeast around the outside of the development area, turning at the northeastern end to run northwest-southeast back towards the existing church building. The works were undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator with a smooth ditching bucket and took place between the 15th and 18th October 2018.
13. In compliance with the Method Statement (McKinstry 2018) any potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded. All works were conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

Topsoil Strip

14. The entire development area was stripped of topsoil which had a depth of between 0.2 and 0.25m. The topsoil (001) consisted of a moderately loose dark black brown clay with frequent inclusions of plastic, brick, metal and large roots. Throughout the development area the topsoil was underlain by a loose dark brown made ground deposit of clayey silt (002) with frequent inclusions of sand, brick, metal and stone (Figure 3a).

Foundation Trench

15. The foundation trench ran southwest-northeast along the northwestern perimeter of the reduced area for 6.76m before turning to the northwest-southeast for a further 4.3m until it met the wall of the existing church (Figure 2). The trench was between 0.84m and 1.1m wide, and was excavated for a further 0.45m in depth (Figure 3b).
16. The trench was excavated through made ground (002) which had a depth of 0.35m. (002) was underlain by made ground (003): a moderately compact mid- to dark black brown clay with frequent small brick and charcoal inclusions. This deposit was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m below street level (Figure 4a).
17. Concrete foundations were located immediately adjacent to the existing church at both the southwest and southeast ends of the foundation trench: [004] and [005] respectively. Concrete foundation [004] was revealed at a depth of 0.25m. It measured 0.21m long, 0.35m thick and sat across the entire width of the trench. Foundation [005] was found at a depth of 0.2m. It was 0.3m long, 0.2m thick and sat across the entire width of the trench.
18. No significant archaeological deposits were found within the development area.

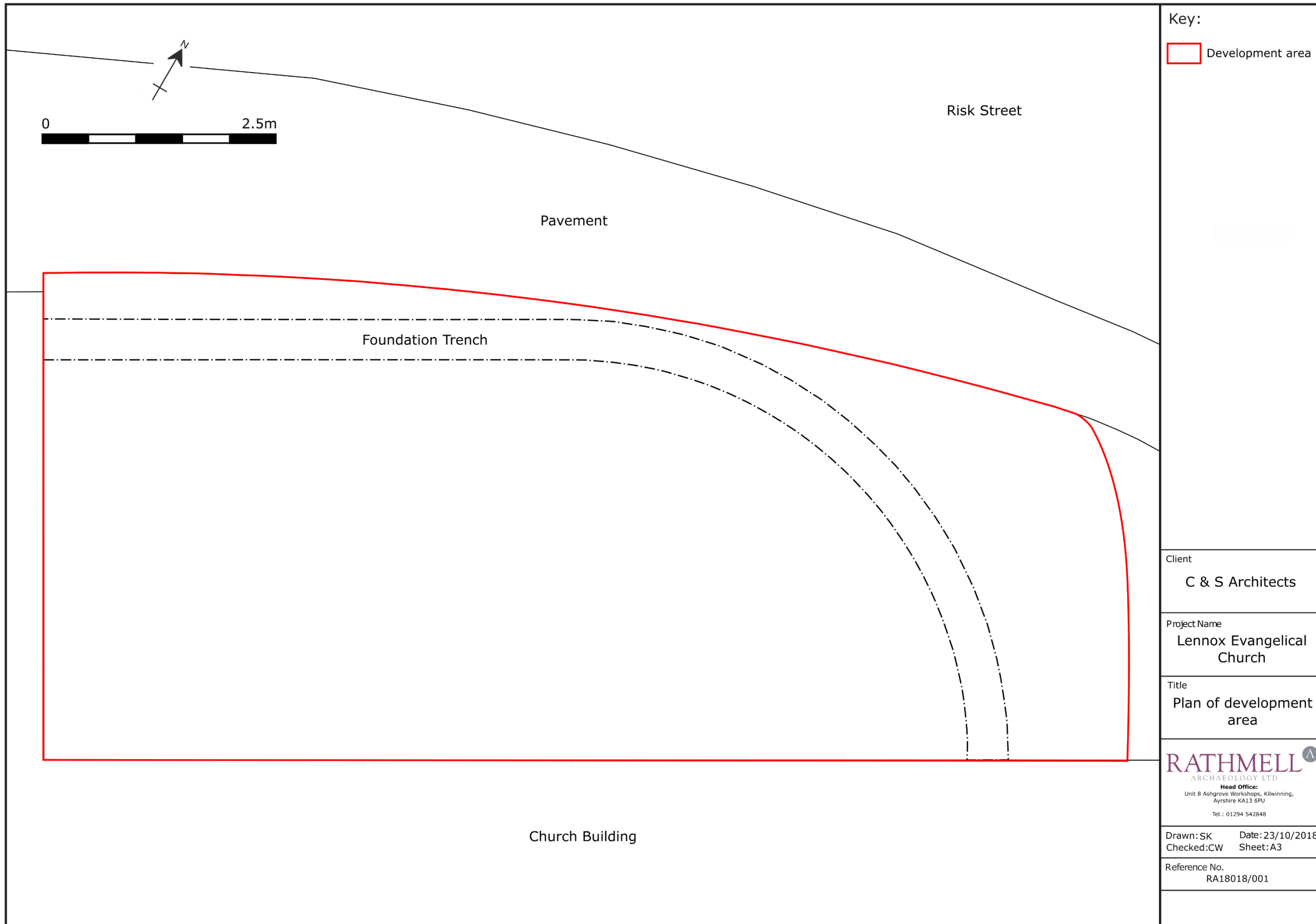


Figure 2: Plan showing excavated area.



Figure 3a: Post-excitation shot of development area showing made ground (002). Photo taken from the north.



Figure 3b: Post-excitation shot of foundation trench. Photo taken from the north.



Figure 4a: Section shot of foundation trench adjacent to pavement. Photo taken from the southeast.



Figure 4b: Detail shot of brick showing stamp "WATSON'S".

Artefacts

19. Two stamped bricks were found within demolition layer (002). The first was a white wedge-shaped brick, perhaps a voussoir from a brick arch. It measured 0.21m long, 0.1m wide and between 0.05m and 0.1m thick. It was stamped "GLENBOIG [..]" with a crown symbol above the stamp. This brick was produced by the Glenboig Union Fireclay Company in North Lanarkshire. The Glenboig Union Fireclay Company was an amalgamation of two previous companies, the Glenboig Star Fire Brick Works and the Glenboig Union Fireclay Company. It was formed in 1882 and continued to produce bricks into the 1950s (Scotland's Brick Manufacturing Industry).
20. The second brick was red and measured 0.21m long by 0.1m wide by 0.09m thick. It was stamped "WATSON'S" within an oval frog (Figure 4b). This brick was produced by John Watson & Sons Brick Manufacturers in Armadale, West Lothian. This company was in business between 1859 and 1874 (Scotland's Brick Manufacturing Industry).
21. Neither brick was retained and no significant artefacts were found within the development area.

Discussion

22. The development area consisted of an area of land to the immediate northwest of the existing church building. Following the construction of the church in the later 20th century the area had contained a number of trees. As a result the topsoil (001) contained a number of large roots. However, they did not extend into the lower deposits.
23. The deposits of made ground (002) and (003) are both likely to date to the 19th or 20th century. The bricks found within (002) both date to the later 19th century or 20th century and (003) is also likely to be of similar date due to the large amount of brick found within it.
24. The large deposits of made ground found within the development area are consistent with other excavations undertaken at 94-102 High Street and 101-103 High Street (Dennison and Coleman 1999).

Recommendations

25. This Data Structure Report covers archaeological monitoring works carried out on behalf of C & S Architects in support of the construction of an extension to Lennox Evangelical Church, Dumbarton.
26. The area covered by the archaeological monitoring works identified no significant archaeological features or artefacts within the development area. Substantial 19th or 20th century deposits of made ground were encountered during monitoring works.
27. No 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.
28. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with West Dunbartonshire Council and their advisors, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Conclusion

29. Archaeological monitoring works were carried out in support of development work at Lennox Evangelical Church, Dumbarton. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
30. The monitoring works identified substantial deposits of 19th or 20th century made ground, which is in keeping with the findings from other archaeological works in the area (Dennison and Coleman 1999). No significant archaeological features were identified.

Acknowledgements

31. The author is grateful to C & S Architects for the chance to carry out these works and also to the West of Scotland Archaeology Service who gave guidance throughout the project. The author would also like to thank Claire Williamson for her support throughout the project and the editing of this report.

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Roy, W. 1752-55 *Military Survey of Scotland, Lowlands*

Ordnance Survey, 1862, Dumbartonshire, 1st edition 25 inch, sheet XXII.6

Ordnance Survey, 1898, Dumbartonshire, 2nd edition 25 inch, sheet XXII.6

Ordnance Survey, 1919, Dumbartonshire, 3rd edition 25 inch, sheet nXXII.2

Web Resources

Scotland's Brick Manufacturing Industry, available at:
<https://www.scottishbrickhistory.co.uk/> [accessed 23/10/2018]

Appendix 1: Registers

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

Context Register

Context	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	-	Deposit	Loose dark black brown clay with frequent large roots, plastic, metal and brick inclusions. The deposit is between 0.2 and 0.25m thick and found throughout the entire development area.	Topsoil
002	-	Deposit	Loose dark brown clayey silt with frequent sand, brick, metal and stone inclusions. The deposit underlies (001) throughout the development area and is 0.35m thick.	Made ground of 19 th or 20 th century material.
003	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid- to dark blackish brown clay with small brick and charcoal inclusions. The deposit was found in the foundation trench underlying (002) and was cut into for 0.2m.	Made ground of 19 th or 20 th century material.
004	-	Structure	Concrete foundation immediately adjacent to the existing church building at the southwest of the development area. The foundation was 0.21m long and 0.35m thick. It ran across the entire width of the foundation trench and was found at a depth of 0.25m from the existing ground level.	Foundation for existing church building at the southwest of the development area.
005	-	Structure	Concrete foundation immediately adjacent to the existing church building at the southeast of the development area. The foundation was 0.3m long and 0.2m thick. It ran across the entire width of the foundation trench and was found at a depth of 0.25m from the existing ground level.	Foundation for existing church building at the southeast of the development area.

Photographic Register

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
1	4569	Pre-excavation shot of development area.	W	15/10/2018
2	4570	Mid-excavation shot of topsoil removal at the southwest end of development area.	W	15/10/2018
3	4571	Mid-excavation shot of topsoil removal at the southwest end of development area.	W	15/10/2018
4	4572	Post-excavation shot of topsoil removal at the southwest end of development area.	NW	15/10/2018

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
5	4573	Post-excavation shot of topsoil removal at the southwest end of development area.	NW	15/10/2018
6	4574	Post-excavation shot of topsoil removal at the southwest end of development area.	NW	15/10/2018
7	4575	General shot of development area.	W	15/10/2018
8	4576	Post-excavation shot of south side of development area.	NE	16/10/2018
9	4577	Post-excavation shot of south side of development area.	E	16/10/2018
10	4578	Post-excavation shot of south side of development area.	N	16/10/2018
11	4579	Brick from made ground (002) stamped "Glenboig"	-	16/10/2018
12	4580	Mid-excavation shot of topsoil removal in central portion of development area.	NE	16/10/2018
13	4581	Mid-excavation shot of topsoil removal in central portion of development area.	SW	16/10/2018
14	4582	Mid-excavation shot of topsoil removal in central portion of development area.	SW	17/10/2018
15	4583	Mid-excavation shot of topsoil removal in northeastern portion of development area.	NW	17/10/2018
16	4584	Mid-excavation shot of topsoil removal in northeastern portion of development area.	NW	17/10/2018
17	4585	Mid-excavation shot of topsoil removal in northeastern portion of development area.	W	17/10/2018
18	4586	Mid-excavation shot of topsoil removal in northeastern portion of development area.	NW	17/10/2018
19	4587	Mid-excavation shot of topsoil removal in northeastern portion of development area.	NE	17/10/2018
20	4588	Mid-excavation shot of topsoil removal in northeastern portion of development area.	NE	17/10/2018
21	4589	Mid-excavation shot of topsoil removal from development area.	W	17/10/2018
22	4590	Mid-excavation shot of topsoil removal from development area.	NW	17/10/2018
23	4591	Mid-excavation shot of topsoil removal from development area.	NE	17/10/2018
24	4592	Mid-excavation shot of topsoil removal from development area.	NE	17/10/2018
25	4593	Mid-excavation shot of topsoil removal from development area.	W	17/10/2018
26	4594	Post-excavation shot of topsoil removal from development area.	NE	18/10/2018
27	4595	Post-excavation shot of topsoil removal from development area.	NE	18/10/2018
28	4596	Post-excavation shot of topsoil removal from development area.	N	18/10/2018
29	4597	Mid-excavation shot of foundation trench.	N	18/10/2018

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
30	4598	Mid-excavation shot of foundation trench.	N	18/10/2018
31	4599	Mid-excavation shot of foundation trench.	W	18/10/2018
32	4600	Mid-excavation shot of foundation trench.	N	18/10/2018
33	4601	Mid-excavation shot of foundation trench.	SW	18/10/2018
34	4602	Edge of Church foundations at southwest end of foundation trench.	N	18/10/2018
35	4603	Post-excavation shot of foundation trench.	SW	18/10/2018
36	4604	Post -excavation shot of foundation trench.	SW	18/10/2018
37	4605	Post -excavation shot of foundation trench.	NE	18/10/2018
38	4606	Post -excavation shot of foundation trench.	N	18/10/2018
39	4607	Mid -excavation shot of foundation trench.	SW	18/10/2018
40	4608	Post -excavation shot of foundation trench.	SW	18/10/2018
41	4609	Post -excavation section shot of foundation trench.	SE	18/10/2018
42	4610	Post -excavation section shot of foundation trench.	SE	18/10/2018
43	4611	Post -excavation shot of foundation trench.	SE	18/10/2018
44	4612	Post -excavation shot of foundation trench.	NW	18/10/2018
45	4613	Post -excavation shot of foundation trench.	NW	18/10/2018
46	4614	Post -excavation shot of foundation trench.	NW	18/10/2018
47	4615	General shot of development area.	NE	18/10/2018
48	4616	Post -excavation shot of foundation trench.	NE	18/10/2018
49	4617	Post -excavation shot of foundation trench.	E	18/10/2018
50	4618	Post -excavation shot of foundation trench.	N	18/10/2018
51	4619	Post -excavation shot of foundation trench.	NE	18/10/2018
52	4620	Brick stamped with "WATSON'S"	-	18/10/2018
53	4621	Brick stamped with "WATSON'S"	-	18/10/2018

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	West Dunbartonshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Lennox Evangelical Church
PROJECT CODE:	RA18018
PARISH:	Dumbarton
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 39469 75363
START DATE (this season)	15 th October 2018
END DATE (this season)	18 th October 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological monitoring works were carried out in support of development work at Lennox Evangelical Church, Dumbarton. This consisted of removing the topsoil across the entirety of the development area and excavating a 0.45m deep foundation trench. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.</p> <p>The monitoring works identified substantial deposits of 19th or 20th century made ground, which is in keeping with the findings from other archaeological works in the area. No significant archaeological features were identified.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	C & S Architects
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 the National Record of the Historic Environment.

Contact Details

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