

Chattan Works, Bonnybridge: Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report



by Thomas Rees & Jack Portwood

issued 9th October 2018

on behalf of Central Demolition Limited

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  Date9th 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  Date9th October 2018....

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Quality Assurance Data

Author(s)	Thomas Rees & Jack Portwood		
Date of Issue	9 th October 2018	Version	1.0
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Event Name	Chattan Works, Bonnybridge		
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Event Dates	September 2018		
Rathmell Code	RA16020	OASIS Ref	rathmell1-330534
Location	United Kingdom : Scotland : Falkirk		
NGR	NS 8288 7973	Parish	Falkirk
Designation(s)	Scheduled Monument (SM12606); World Heritage Site (FRE(AW))		
Canmore IDs	46786 (Antonine Wall)		

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Central Demolition Ltd to detail the findings from the excavation of a series of trial pits within the Scheduled Monument covering a section of the Antonine Wall at Chattan Works, Bonnybridge (centred NS 8288 7973).
2. These investigative works are reactive to the un-consented erection of a steel palisade fence along a pre-existing fenceline at the southwestern end of a former sports field. The fence runs for some 28m within the Scheduled Monument, carried by a series of eleven I-section steel posts set in concrete within hand dug pits on 2.7m centres.
3. The investigative works, after discussion with Historic Environment Scotland officers, were to inform the assessment of what impact these pits may reasonably have had on significant archaeological strata within the Scheduled Monument. The objective was to cut an array of pits that inform this question alone and did not compromise any significant deposits.
4. The array was to comprise (i) two pits dug adjacent to installed posts to determine the depth of packing concrete and (ii) a further three pits set back from the line to test the ground conditions to the depth the posts are set. This offset was to prevent destabilisation of the fence and to test the broader corridor along which the fence runs to inform on the heterogeneity in the underlying ground conditions.
5. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd has been appointed by Central Demolition Ltd to undertake the implementation of the archaeological investigative works. The scope of these works has been agreed with Historic Environment Scotland through the securing of Scheduled Monument Consent (HES: 300029702) and the Council Archaeologist within Falkirk Community Trust has been kept informed of the works.

Archaeological and Historical Background

6. The Scheduled Monument is a stretch of the Antonine Wall, which survives as a combination of the buried remains of the ditch, berm and rampart as well as the visible earthworks of the ditch. The designated area is approximately 65m in length, running west from the waste management site at Chattan Works approximately 160m ENE of St Joseph's on the northern side of Broomhill Road, Bonnybridge, crossing through a car park situated within amenity woodland before turning west-north-west and proceeding for around 120m across an open field, appearing as a gentle hollow.
7. The western end of the monument crosses the modern Broomhill Road and the rampart lies within a vacant building plot situated between numbers 26 and 30 Broomhill Road, approximately 155m north-west of St Joseph's Primary School.
8. The investigative works are at the easternmost end of the scheduled area. The archaeological and historical background on this eastern section of the scheduled area has been detailed through a timeline of known information (see Appendix 2). In summary: historic mapping, including historic editions of the Ordnance Survey, depict elements of the Antonine Wall crossing this area that were depicted as topographic features (predominantly the ditch).
9. Aerial imagery and mapped topographic changes show sequential dumping and landfill across this area during the mid to late 20th century. How destructive this process was to the remains of the Antonine Wall is uncertain, though this was a substantial undertaking. The landfill created a new elevated and level landform that was landscaped for amenity use as a sports field and the woodland carpark. The playing field was subsequently acquired by Central Demolition Ltd with the portion of this field outwith the Scheduled Monument now in use as part of their larger waste management facility.
10. Prior to these investigative works we anticipated that any invasive works on the former sports field would, at depth, encounter black-bag rubbish from the mid to late 20th century that had been capped by clay. Given the character of the test pits to be delivered, we did not expect these works to penetrate through the cap.

Project Works

11. A limited array of test pits were excavated by hand within the Scheduled Monument on the 27th September 2018 to determine the character of the sediments most likely affected by the installation of posts to carry a steel palisade fence. The weather was predominantly dry in the morning, turning wet in the afternoon. A site inspection was undertaken by Historic Environment Scotland in the mid-morning after all test pits had been opened and were available for inspection.
12. These investigative works comprised:
 - a. excavation of two hand dug test pits (TPA – TPB) with sides 0.5m long, placed adjacent to posts on the steel palisade fence. These were reduced until the base of the packing concrete had been reached;
 - b. excavation of three hand dug test pits (TPC – TPE) with sides 0.5m long, offset 2m to the northeast of the steel palisade fence. These were reduced until the maximum depth of concrete identified by test pits a – b was reached.
13. The works detailed above are within a Scheduled Monument, designated under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The designated site is known as the '*Antonine Wall, 160m ENE to 155m NW of St Joseph's Church*' (Index No 12606). Further this site is an element of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site, recognised to be of International significance.
14. The works detailed within this document were conducted in accordance with the issued Scheduled Monument Consent (HES: 300029702). Further, these works were conducted in keeping with the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Findings

15. All test pits had sides (in plan) of 500mm and were set parallel with the fence (see Figure 1 and 2 for location of array). The pre-excitation surface of all test pits were level and turf clad.

Test Pits A and B

16. Test Pit A was the northwestern test pit on the fence located approximately 22.0m northwest of the southern corner of the former playing field. The western third of the test pit exposed the concrete packing (001) for the fence post that extended down some 300mm below ground surface. This packing was set wholly within topsoil (002) that contained modern detritus including a section of precast concrete beam.
17. Test Pit B was on the fence located approximately 11.1m northwest of the southern corner of the former playing field. The northwest corner of the test pit exposed the concrete packing (003) for the fence post that extended down some 180mm. This packing was set onto an earlier concrete pad (004) that extended outwith the test pit to west, north and east. The full depth of this earlier pad (004) was not confirmed as it was only exposed to 120mm in depth to ensure that this was not packing for the post. The packing (003) and underlying pad (004) were both set wholly within topsoil (005) that contained modern detritus.

Test Pits C to E

18. The depth to base of concrete packing evidenced in Test Pit A of 300mm from ground surface was adopted as the working depth for Test Pits C to E.
19. Test Pit C and D were the northwestern and central test pits on the offset array, located approximately 19.3m and 13.3m (respectively) from the southeastern fence of the former playing field and offset from the southwest boundary by 2m. These test pits shared a common stratigraphy with silty sand topsoil including modern detritus ((006) and (008) respectively) between 250 and 300mm thick overlying redeposited clay ((007) and (009) respectively). This clay was determined to be *ex situ* due to the presence of modern detritus.

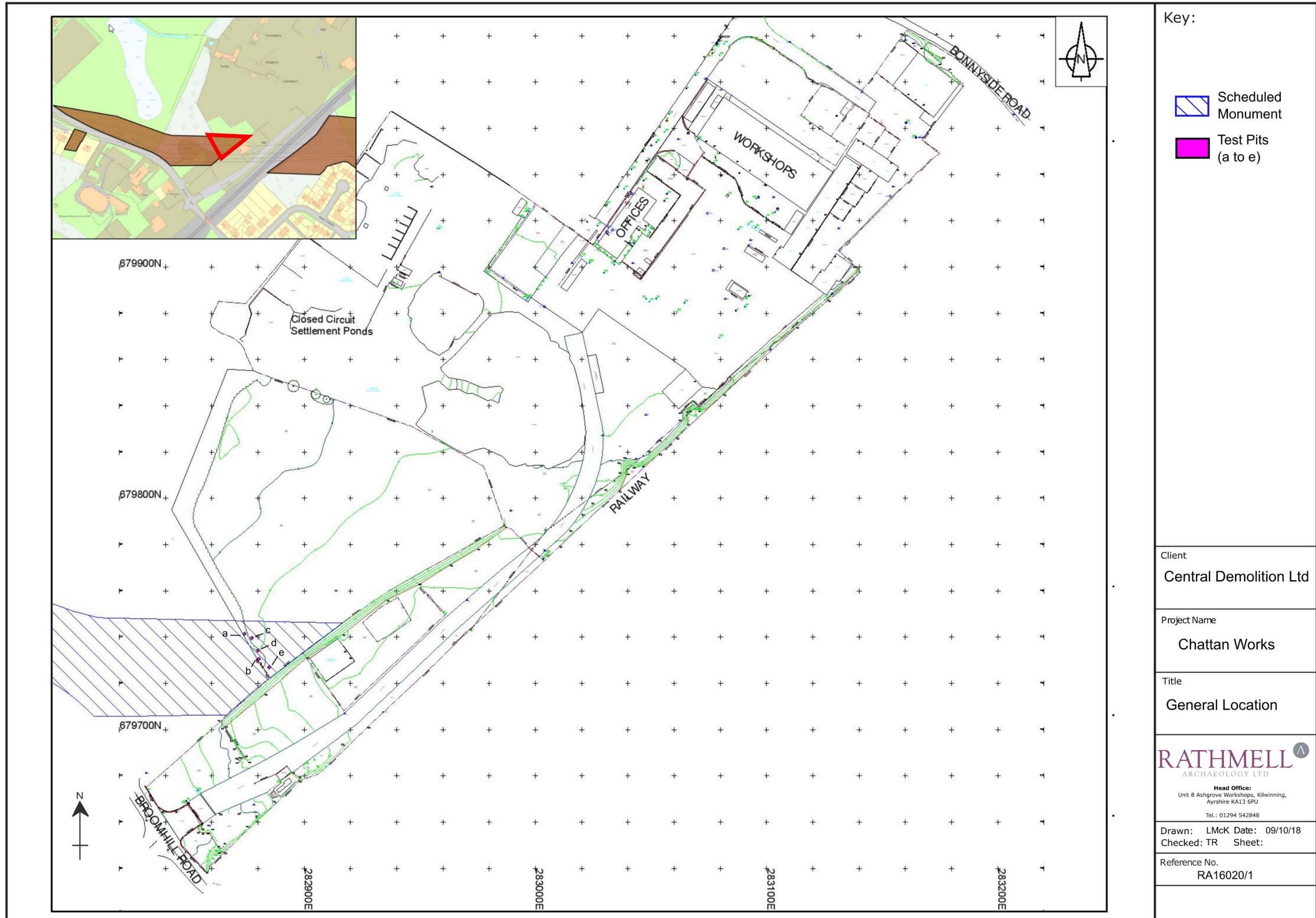


Figure 1: Test Pits, General Location

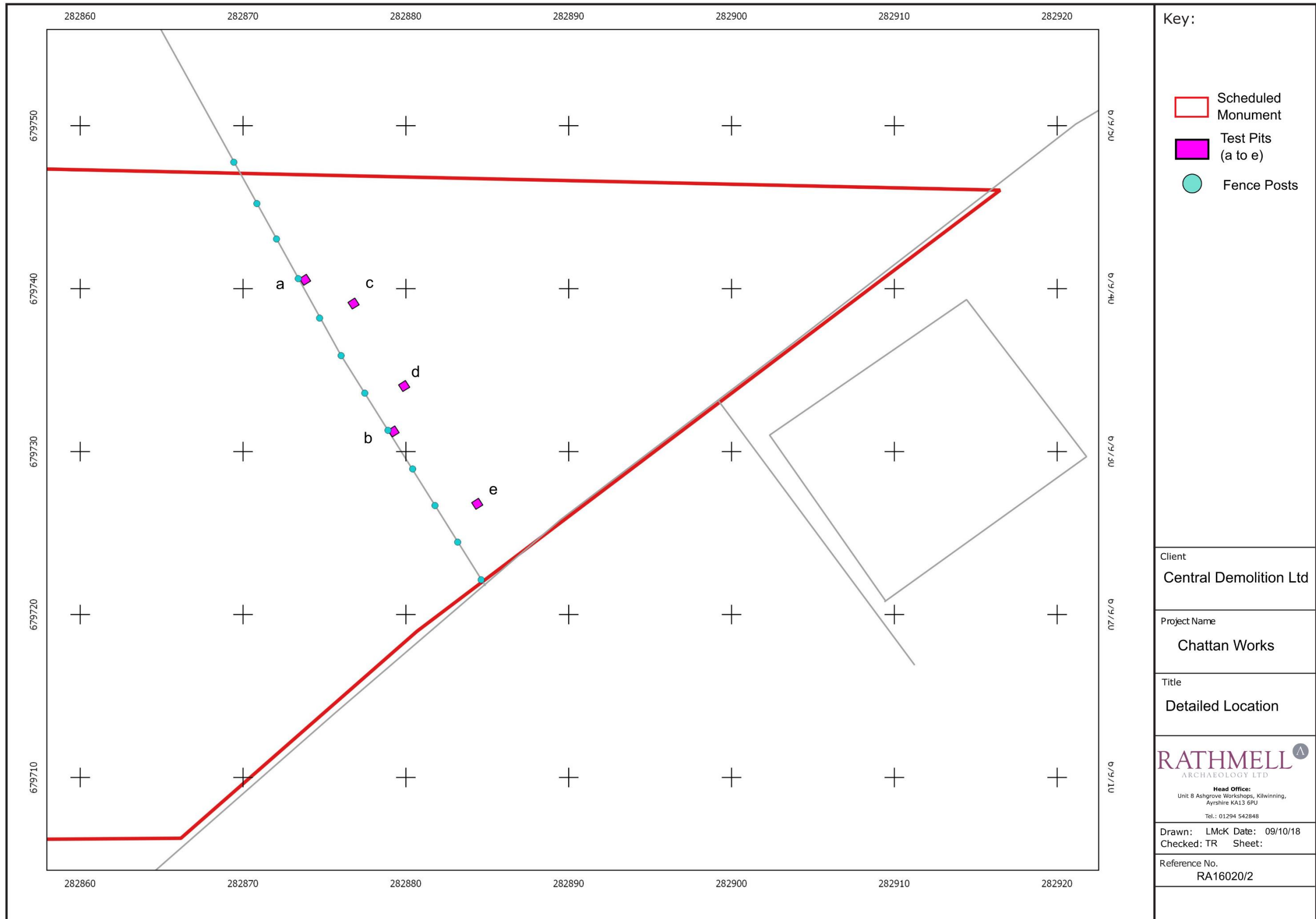


Figure 2: Test Pits, Detailed Location



Figure 3a: Post excavation shot of TPA showing concrete packing (001)



Figure 3b: Detail of TPB showing concrete (003) over pad (004)



Figure 4a: TP array from N and palisade fence



Figure 4b: TP array from SW, palisade fence and bund

20. Test Pit E was the southeastern test pit of the offset array, located approximately 4.8m from the southeastern fence of the former playing field and offset from the southwest boundary by 2m. This test pit, in contrast to the other four, had a black humic topsoil (010) some 200mm thick – although this still included modern detritus and overlay redeposited clay (011). This clay was determined to be *ex situ* due to the presence of modern detritus.

Artefacts from the Test Pits

21. A representative sample of finds were examined during the excavations. A broad range of objects were represented, including ceramics, leather, metal, paper and plastics.
22. The ceramics included one base sherd from a cup or vase with polychrome decoration (Find No. 001), probably transfer printed and recovered from TPA. Another rim sherd from TPE bore a blue-and-white transfer-printed decorative motif with the word '*halvparten*' above (Find No. 005). This distinctive decoration derived from a mug manufactured by Norwegian porcelain manufacturer Porsgrund: established in 1885, the factory continues to operate today though the popularity of its products is declining (<https://www.porsgrund.com/> : Accessed 10/10/2018). The production dates of this particular item are unknown, but it is likely that it was manufactured during the late 20th century.
23. Although a portion of the ceramics had their origin in the late 19th or early 20th century, their presence appears to have been residual. All were found in association with a range of modern plastics and paper items. These included two plastic items from TPA (both Find No. 001): the mouthpiece from a tobacco pipe (presumably a briar pipe), and a plastic bag marked '*Selected Potatoes*'. This last item would have been bought from a supermarket or convenience store, a form of shopping which did not become established in the UK until the 1950s onwards. TPB produced a folded plastic sheet, perhaps derived from a large bag or water carrier (Find No. 2), and fragments of plastic were also recovered from TPC and TPE.
24. The recurring presence of plastic suggests a late 20th century origin for the fills of the various test pits, with the ceramics representing either residual material or curated items which have been discarded. The leather and metal finds were undiagnostic in character, but do not contra-indicate a late 20th century date.

Discussion

25. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were discovered within the working depth of the test pits (some 300mm below current ground surface).
26. The characteristics of the concrete packing for the posts of the palisade fence, where inspected, suggests that they were hand dug and set up to 300mm deep except where shallower obstructions were encountered.
27. Within this working depth the sediments encountered by the offset array of three test pits can be characterised as modern topsoil overlying a redeposited clay, the latter rich in modern detritus. This stratigraphic sequence does not contradict the inferred site history of this location having been a modern clay-capped refuse disposal site that topsoil was introduced onto to form the sports field.
28. We consider that the works to erect the palisade fence along the existing fenceline on the southwestern side of the playing field did not generate an adverse physical impact on significant archaeological features or artefacts associated with the Antonine Wall.

Conclusion

29. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Central Demolition Ltd to detail the findings from the excavation of a series of trial pits within the Scheduled Monument covering a section of the Antonine Wall at Chattan Works, Bonnybridge (centred NS 8288 7973).
30. Five test pits were excavated to identify the nature of ground that was impacted by the erection of a steel palisade fence. These test pits showed that these construction works did

not generate an adverse physical impact on significant archaeological features or artefacts associated with the Antonine Wall.

31. Further, the information gathered does not contradict the inferred site history of this location being a clay-capped refuse disposal site with any remains associated with the Antonine Wall being at depth beneath this landfill.

Acknowledgements

32. The authors thank Central Demolition Ltd for their support during these works, Geoff Bailey of Falkirk Community Trust for sharing his knowledge of nearby investigative works on the Antonine Wall and Mary MacLeod of Historic Environment Scotland for her guidance on-site. Thanks also go to Liam McKinstry from Rathmell Archaeology Limited who kindly edited this report.

Appendix 1: Registers

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

Context Register

Context	TP	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	A	Deposit	Concrete, between 5mm and 300mm thick and extending (within TP) 500mm NW/SE and 200mm NE from the SW edge of the TP. Greater depth in NW corner, adjacent to fence post. Deposit wholly within (002).	Packing concrete around fence post.
002	A	Deposit	Loose mid-grey / brown sandy silt with frequent small sub-angular stones and modern detritus. Detritus included section of pre-cast concrete beam. At least 300mm deep.	Topsoil with modern detritus.
003	B	Deposit	Concrete, up to 170mm thick positioned in NW corner of TP adjacent to fence post and extending out from corner up to 370mm. Deposit within (005) with base abutting (004).	Packing concrete around fence post set onto surface of earlier concrete pad (004).
004	B	Deposit	Concrete, at least 120mm thick and extending (within TP) 500mm NE/SW and 200mm SE from the NW edge of the TP. Deposit wholly within (005) with some of upper surface overlain by (003).	Concrete pad of uncertain date.
005	B	Deposit	Loose mid-grey / brown sandy silt with common small sub-angular stones and modern detritus. At least 300mm deep.	Topsoil with modern detritus.
006	C	Deposit	Firm mid-grey / brown clayey silt with common small sub-angular stones and modern detritus, 300mm deep.	Topsoil with modern detritus.
007	C	Deposit	Firm mid-orange / brown clay with frequent small sub-angular stones and modern detritus. Upper surface only exposed within TP.	Redeposited clay with modern detritus.
008	D	Deposit	Firm mid-grey / brown clayey silt with common small sub-angular stones and modern detritus, 250mm deep.	Topsoil with modern detritus.
009	D	Deposit	Firm mid-orange / brown clay with frequent small sub-angular stones and modern detritus. Only excavated to 50mm depth within TP.	Redeposited clay with modern detritus.
010	E	Deposit	Black humic sandy silt with frequent small sub-angular stones and modern detritus, up to 200mm deep within TP.	Topsoil with modern detritus.
011	E	Deposit	Firm mid-orange / brown clay with frequent small sub-angular stones and modern detritus. Only excavated to 100mm depth within TP.	Redeposited clay with modern detritus.








Drawing Register








Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Test Pit	Drawing Type	Scale	Description
1	1	TPA to TPE	Plan	1:10	Post excavation plans of Test Pits






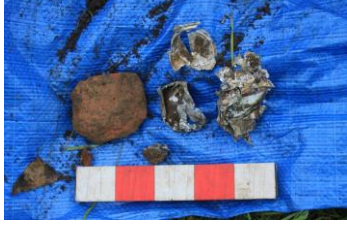

Finds Register


Finds No.	Test Pit	Type	Description	Date
1	TPA	Bulk	Selected mixed sample of modern material (glass, ceramic, metal, plastic, rubber etc)	27/09/18
2	TPB	Bulk	Selected mixed sample of modern material (glass, ceramic, metal, plastic, rubber etc)	27/09/18
3	TPC	Bulk	Selected mixed sample of modern material (glass, ceramic, metal, plastic, rubber etc)	27/09/18
4	TPD	Bulk	Selected mixed sample of modern material (glass, ceramic, metal, plastic, rubber etc)	27/09/18
5	TPE	Bulk	Selected mixed sample of modern material (glass, ceramic, metal, plastic, rubber etc)	27/09/18

Photographic Register

No	Digital	Description	From	Date	Image
1	9361	TPA, Excavated	E	27/09/18	
2	9362	TPA, Excavated	NE	27/09/18	
3	9363	TPC, Excavated	E	27/09/18	
4	9364	TPC, Excavated	NE	27/09/18	
5	9365	TPD, Excavated	E	27/09/18	
6	9366	TPD, Excavated	NE	27/09/18	
7	9367	TPB, Excavated	E	27/09/18	

No	Digital	Description	From	Date	Image
8	9368	TPB, Excavated	NE	27/09/18	
9	9369	TPE, Excavated	E	27/09/18	
10	9370	TPE, Excavated	NE	27/09/18	
11	9371	View of TPs from Bund	N	27/09/18	
12	9372	View of TPs from Bund	NE	27/09/18	
13	9373	View of TPs from Bund	E	27/09/18	
14	9374	View of TPs from Bund	NE	27/09/18	

No	Digital	Description	From	Date	Image
15	9375	View of TPs from Fence angle	NW	27/09/18	
16	9376	View of TPs from Fence angle	N	27/09/18	
17	9377	Selection of Modern Detritus from TPA ; Find No 1	-	27/09/18	
18	9378	Selection of Modern Detritus from TPB ; Find No 2	-	27/09/18	
19	9379	Selection of Modern Detritus from TPC ; Find No 3	-	27/09/18	
20	9380	Selection of Modern Detritus from TPD ; Find No 4	-	27/09/18	
21	9381	Selection of Modern Detritus from TPE ; Find No 5	-	27/09/18	

No	Digital	Description	From	Date	Image
22	9392	Detail of (003) & (005), TPB	E	27/09/18	

Appendix 2: Timeline

- 1752** Roy's *Military Survey of Scotland*, 1752 – 1755 showing the line of the Antonine Wall marked including the fortification near Milnquarter. The area between Dennyloanhead (marked as Dhinhead) and St Helen's Loch (not named). The area is marked as unenclosed moorland, not under agricultural use.

Map



- 1793** Roy's *Military Antiquities of the Romans in North Britain* – showing the line of the Antonine Wall between Chapel Hill and St Helen's Loch (not named). The fortification near Milnquarter is marked. The line of the wall is frequently broken. The Area is shown as open moorland.

Map



- 1845** Scottish Central Railway – Act receives Royal Assent

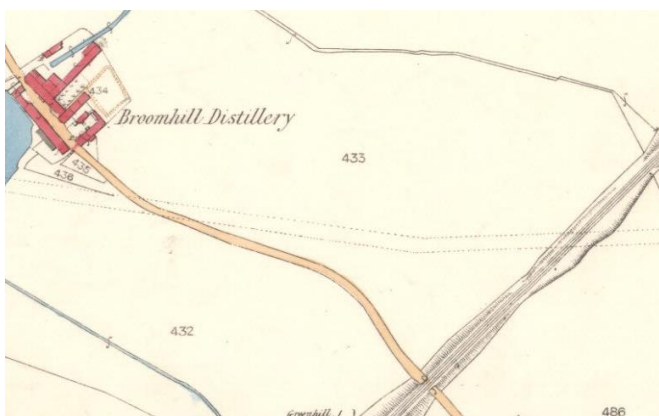
Event

- 1848** Scottish Central Railway – opened on the 22nd May 1848

Event

- 1864** *Ordnance Survey, Stirling* showing the area as unenclosed land with the railway to the south-east. The later railway siding does not yet exist. The line of the Antonine Wall is marked but not the topography, the railway is shown in a cutting as it crosses the line. Aside from the addition of the railway this differs little for the depiction on Roy.

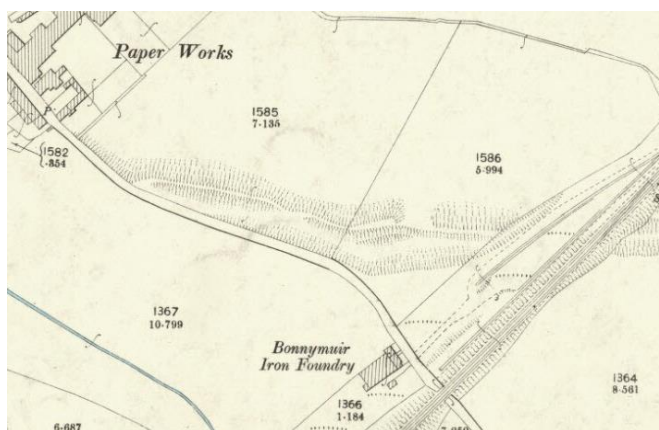
Map



- 1880** R. Gillespie describes, in Nimmo's *History of Stirlingshire*, this section of the Antonine Wall between Broomhill Farm and the Railway as having a very prominent ditch, with vallum and military way visible (cited in Smith, S., 1935 *Note on the Antonine Wall and Ditch Near Bonnybridge*, PSAS)

Event

1898 *Ordnance Survey, Stirlingshire* showing the railway siding grading down as it passes through the Antonine Wall. The topography of the Wall is marked in the area. No trees or structures are marked. The area is now delimited by a field boundary on its western side.



1913 *Ordnance Survey, Stirlingshire*, (published 1918) showing the railway siding sloping down to a fence and the area. Topography is marked which presumably shows the Antonine Wall passing through the south-west of the area. No trees or structures are marked.



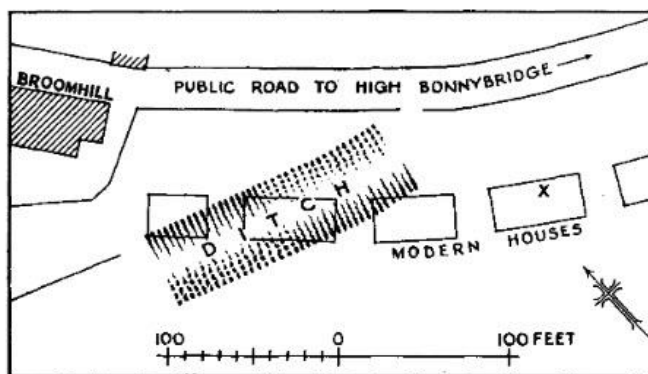
1928 February 4th – AP *AFL2013 Aerofilms* showing the build-up of material under Chattan Works in the north-east of the area. Another possible bund of material beyond the fence in the centre of the area. Some scrub to the south-west and ground appears to begin sloping down relative to the railway tracks.



1934 August 1st – AP *SPW045880 Aerofilms* showing steep sided dump of material in centre of area. Some scrub vegetation. Boundary fence against railway sidings and access road for dumping are visible. No trees visible. Access road appears raised close to main road. Broomhill farm visible bottom right.



1935 Smith, S., 1935 *Note on the Antonine Wall and Ditch Near Bonnybridge, PSAS* -
 Event
 Erection of five blocks of new houses by Stirlingshire County Council. Examination of the foundation trenches revealed a 5 foot deep ditch filled with ash. The remains of the rampart had been disturbed by plough and so an exact position was unobtainable.



1935 Smith, S., 1935 *Note on the Antonine Wall and Ditch Near Bonnybridge, PSAS* -
 Event
 the stretch of the Antonine Wall between the stackyard at Broomhill Farm and the Railway show little trace of either wall or ditch.

1951 August 17th - AP AFL2145
 AP
Aerofilms showing scrub vegetation over core of area. No trees visible. SE boundary fence against railway sidings clear - railway sidings now appear not in regular use. Earlier dump and access road less distinct - possibly added to and spread since last AP.



1946 Ordnance Survey,
 Map
 (published 1951) showing the area as enclosed land. The railway siding is present and slopes down to the area. No trees or buildings are marked. The topography of the Antonine wall is marked as in 1913. No dumped material is shown.



1957 Ordnance Survey
 Event Archaeology Division
 Antonine Wall 1954-57
 working sheets (map sheet
 31). Survey uses the 1913
 Ordnance survey map as a
 base and identify for this
 section 'No trace in pasture
 ...'. The base mapping of
 the Antonine Wall has not
 changed since the 1898
 map (see above).



1957 Ordnance Survey
 Event Archaeology Division
 Antonine Wall 1954-57
 photo, taken approximately
 500m to the east and
 looking towards the area. It
 shows the line of the
 railway and the topography
 of the Antonine Wall in the
 mid-ground. Chattan works
 in right of image.



1970 October 9th MER08070
 AP *Meridian Airmaps* showing
 the area as disturbed
 industrial land. The railway
 siding is visible along with
 an access road for
 dumping. Other vehicle
 tracks are visible in the
 area along with dumped
 material. The area appears
 raised in comparison to the
 land to the north and west.



1973 June 7th - AP MER02773
 AP *Meridian Airmaps* showing
 the area as disturbed
 industrial ground. Evidence
 of dumped material is
 visible along with vehicle
 tracks. The area appears to
 be raised in relation to the
 surrounding land.



1980 Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division Antonine Wall 1980 resurvey removes topographic detail from OS maps and replaces with inferred line of ditch and wall.
Event

1988 June 7th – ASS51988
AP
JAStory showing the area bounded by established foliage/trees. The central part of the area is landscaped. The railway siding is overgrown. Established industrial works are to the north-east and south-west of the area.

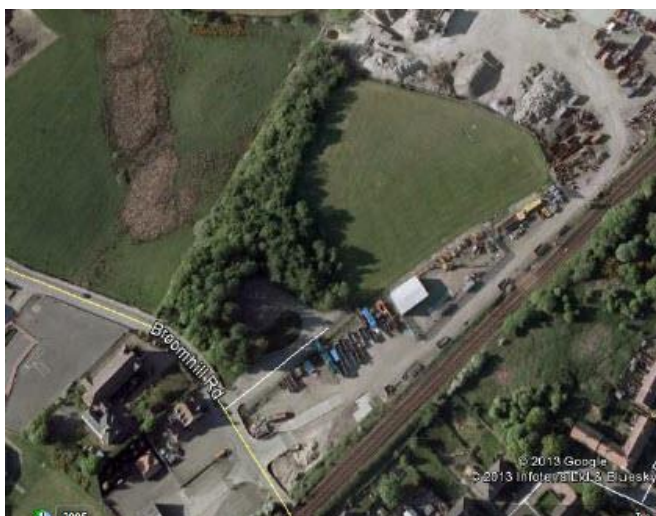


2005 Scheduled under AMAA 1979
Event

2005 Google AP showing amenity carpark, woodland blocks and playing field with railway sidings disused.



2008 Google AP showing amenity carpark, woodland blocks and playing field with railway sidings in industrial use.



2009 Rescheduled under AMAA
Event 1979 –uses 1980 OS line
for wall and ditch.
Scheduling describes
*'...Antonine Wall runs west
from a playing field ...,
crosses through a car park
situated within amenity
woodland before turning
WNW, and then ... across
an open field, appearing as
a gentle hollow.'*

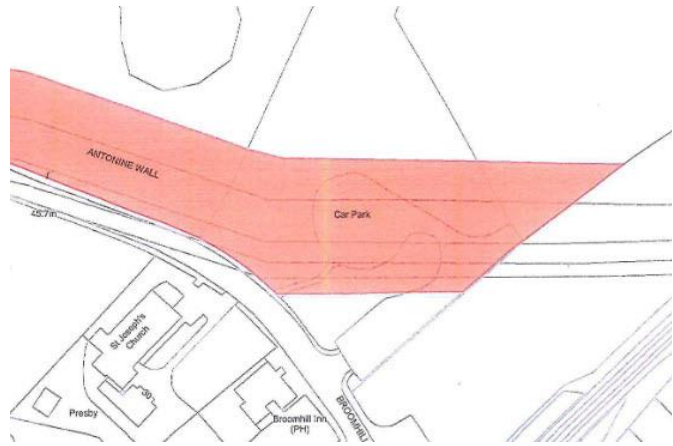


Figure 5: Aerial Photograph (1970 - MER08070) showing active refuse disposal site

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Falkirk
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Chattan Works, Bonnybridge
PROJECT CODE:	RA16020
PARISH:	Falkirk
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Thomas Rees & Jack Portwood
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Field Evaluation : Test Pits
NMRS NO(S):	46786 (Antonine Wall)
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Frontier Defence (Roman); Refuse Disposal Site (Modern); Sports Field (Modern)
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 8288 7973
START DATE (this season)	27 th September 2018
END DATE (this season)	27 th September 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A series of five trial pits were excavated within the Scheduled Monument covering a section of the Antonine Wall at Chattan Works, Bonnybridge to identify the nature of ground that was impacted by the erection of a steel palisade fence. These test pits showed that these construction works did not generate an adverse physical impact on significant archaeological features or artefacts associated with the Antonine Wall.</p> <p>Further, the information gathered does not contradict the inferred site history of this location being a clay-capped landfill site with any remains associated with the Antonine Wall being at depth beneath this landfill.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Central Demolition Limited
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Historic Environment Scotland and Falkirk Community Trust; archive to National Record of the Historic Environment

Contact Details

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

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