

PORTPATRICK ROAD,
ANTONINE WALL DISTANCE STONES
PROJECT, OLD KILPATRICK,
WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION
PROJECT 5530

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by
Christine Rennie

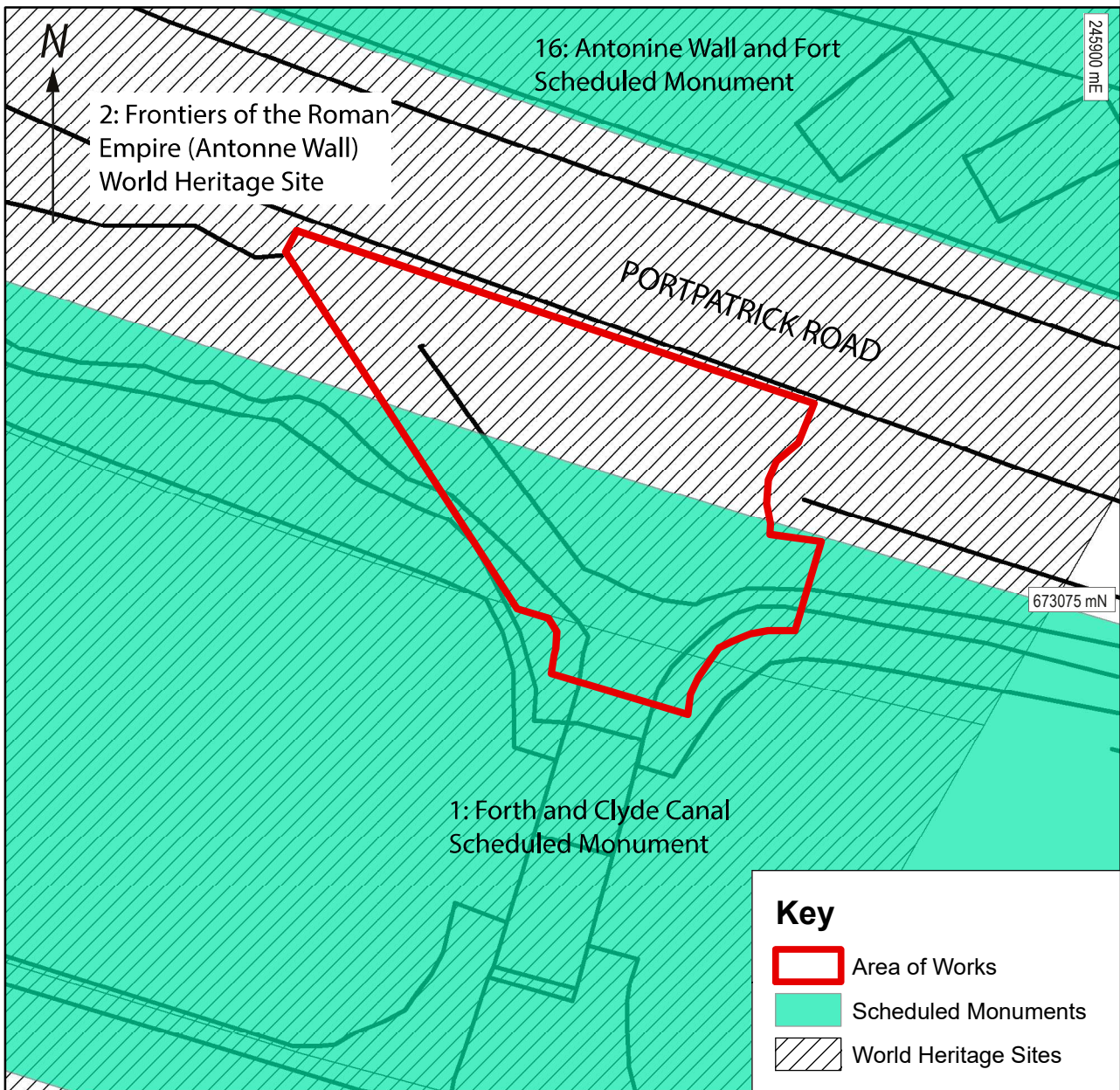
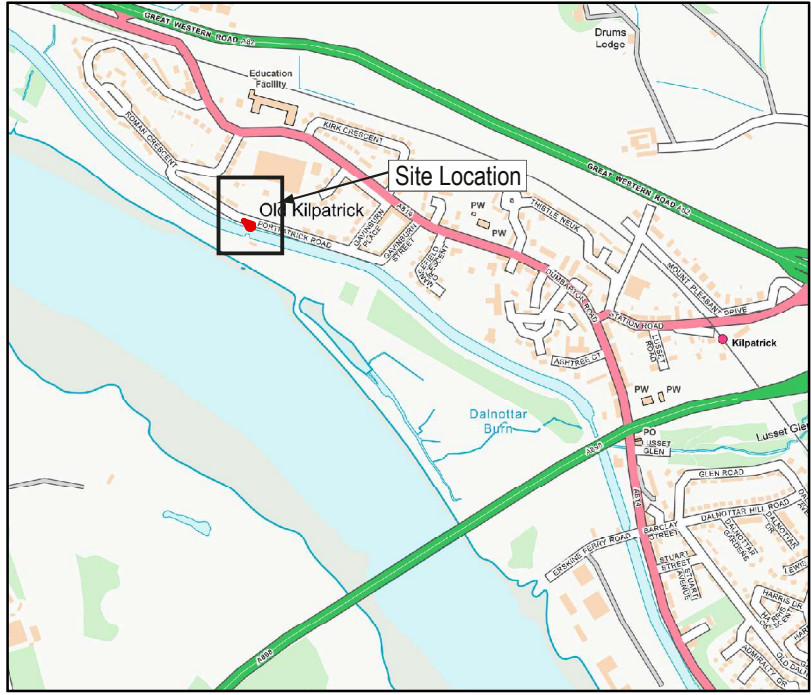


Figure 1: Site location.



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Executive Summary

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation forms the method statement for the archaeological watching brief required during the monitoring of all groundworks relating to the installation of a replica Roman distance stone at Portpatrick Road, Old Kilpatrick, West Dunbartonshire.
- 1.2 The archaeological watching brief is required as the site is partly within the Scheduled area of the Forth and Clyde Canal: Old Kilpatrick - Linnvale Scheduled Monument (SM6778) and is wholly within the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site (hereafter FRE(AW)WHS).

Introduction

- 2.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (hereafter WSI) sets out the methodology for the archaeological watching brief required during all groundworks relating to the installation of a replica Roman distance stone at Portpatrick Road, Old Kilpatrick, West Dunbartonshire.
- 2.2 This WSI outlines the programme of archaeological works needed to mitigate the effects of the development. It details the methodology to be employed in implementing the Stage 1 archaeological works. The mitigation methodology to be employed during Stage 2 excavation and Stage 3 post excavation analysis and publication, if required, will be specified in addenda to this document. These addenda, if required, will be submitted for the approval of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (hereafter WoSAS) prior to the commencement of any archaeological work. All phases of work will be funded by the developer as required by the Planning Authority.

Site Location

- 3.1 The development area is located on the south side of Portpatrick Road within the town of Old Kilpatrick in West Dunbartonshire. The development area comprises previously disturbed ground (BNG: NS 4588 7308; Figure 1).

Archaeological Background

The Forth and Clyde Canal

- 4.1 The Forth and Clyde Canal lies to the immediate south of the site. The route of the canal was surveyed by civil engineer John Smeaton in 1763 and work construction began in 1768. Through lack of funds to complete the work construction was halted for a period of seven years, although the canal finally opened in 1790.
- 4.2 The completed canal runs from Grangemouth in the east to Bowling in the west and is 35 miles long. There are 39 locks along its length, and the canal is crossed by many bridges, such as Ferrydyke Bascule Bridge to the south of the site.
- 4.3 The canal served three main purposes. It allowed seagoing vessels to avoid the long passage around the north of Scotland, it provided the fast movement of goods from east to west and acted as a way for travellers to move across Scotland using "Swift" boats that linked to coach services.
- 4.4 The railway brought competition to the canals and in 1867, the Forth and Clyde Canal was bought by the Caledonian Railway Company which, in 1923, was itself absorbed into the London Midland and Scottish Railway. The Forth and Clyde Canal closed in 1963. Following extensive restoration work, the Canal was reopened in 2001 as part of the Millennium Link (Scottish Canals website).
- 4.5 The Old Kilpatrick – Linnvale section of the Canal was Scheduled in December 1997.

The Antonine Wall

- 4.6 The Antonine Wall was built in the years following AD 142 and is the most substantial and important Roman monument in Scotland. The Wall extended from Bo'ness in the east to Old Kilpatrick in the west, a distance of some 60 km, and marked the north-west frontier of the Roman Empire between AD 142 and AD 165.

- 4.7 The Wall comprised three elements: the rampart, the ditch and the outer mound. The rampart was constructed of turf on a base of rough stones bounded by dressed kerbs (Breeze 2015, 72) and was built "to a height of ten to twelve feet, the breadth at the top being about six feet" (McCardel 1949, 12). On the north side of the wall was a broad, deep ditch which varied in width from 4.27 m to 20.73 m. The material from the excavation of the ditch was tipped on the north side of the ditch and levelled to create a mound, or up-cast.
- 4.8 Located between 15 m and 40 m south of the rampart was the Military Way, a road that linked the forts and fortlets, and allowed the rapid movement of troops, goods and materials. The Military Way was built of stone or gravel and was about 5 m wide. Forts, such as those at Old Kilpatrick, were constructed about every two miles along the wall, and temporary camps that housed the troops during construction of the wall are found at regular distances along its length.
- 4.9 In addition to its defensive function, the Antonine Wall was a method of frontier control whereby access to the Roman Empire was managed, allowing the movement of people to be monitored and goods to be taxed. The Wall also played an important propaganda role in displaying the power of the Roman Empire, bolstered by depictions of defeated natives on the stone distance slabs that recorded the length of Wall sections constructed by each legion.
- 4.10 Large portions of the Antonine Wall were upstanding in the post-medieval period, as the route of the wall was mapped in the mid-seventeenth century (Gordon & Gordon ca. 1636-52) and by General Roy in the mid-eighteenth century. Such were the proportions of the Antonine Wall that it was named "Grahame's or Grime's, that is the devil's, Dyke because they [the local people] thought it beyond the power of man to construct" (McCardel 1949, 12).

Aims, Objectives and Scope

- 5.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief are to identify:
 - the presence or absence of previously unknown archaeological deposits or artefacts within the development area, and
 - the extent and nature of previously unknown archaeological features within the development area.
- 5.2 The objectives are therefore to:
 - Conduct a watching brief during the removal of topsoil and overburden within the development area to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains, and their character, date and extent if surviving;
 - Submit a report to data structure level for approval to FCA on completion of the archaeological fieldwork, which includes an outline of the scope of any further excavation works should any significant archaeology be encountered.
 - Submit, if excavation or post-excavation works are required, an accompanying project design and costing alongside the data structure report, which will outline arrangements for further excavation or post-excavation works, in accordance with 2.2 above.

Methodology for Archaeological Works

- 6.1 All work will be conducted in line with the following standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA):
 - *Code of conduct* (2019);
 - *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014), and
 - *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (2014).

Archaeological Monitoring

- 6.2 A comprehensive photographic record of the site will be made prior to the commencement of groundworks and the area will be briefly described. A general photographic record will be maintained during all monitored works.
- 6.3 The topsoil or overburden will be removed under archaeological supervision, in spits using a back-acting machine equipped with a toothless bucket, to the first archaeological horizon or, where none is found, to the natural subsoil. Any archaeological features encountered will be cleaned by hand by the on-site Archaeologist to determine their character and extent.
- 6.4 Any significant archaeological features encountered will be dealt with by the on-site Archaeologist. Should negative-cut features be encountered, a representative sample will be, at a minimum, 25-50% excavated to determine their significance, date and function. A full record of excavated features will be made using a single context recording system using pro forma sheets, drawings and photographs. All archaeological features will be photographed and recorded at an appropriate scale. Sections will be drawn at 1:10 and plans at 1:20. Any archaeological features will be accurately surveyed and located within the National Grid.
- 6.5 All archaeological finds will be dealt with by the on-site Archaeologist. Finds and animal bone will be collected as bulk samples by context. Significant small finds will be three dimensionally located prior to collection. All finds will be processed to MAP2 type standards and subject to appropriate specialist assessment. If necessary, conservation of finds will be appraised to allow for specialist study.
- 6.6 All excavated feature fills and horizons will be sampled as appropriate, using bulk soil samples, for palaeo-environmental evidence.
- 6.7 Representative sections of the trench will be recorded denoting depth of topsoil, any stratigraphy present and the nature of the soil. This information will be logged in the day book together with a sketch drawn to scale and a photographic record of deposits.
- 6.8 Should human remains be revealed by the excavation, the local police, the client and WoSAS will be informed immediately. Any human remains will be accurately recorded, but left *in situ*, pending the agreement of the police, the client and WoSAS on an appropriate mitigation strategy.
- 6.9 Should significant archaeological remains be encountered, the area of investigation may be expanded, in consultation with the client and WoSAS, with the aim of defining the character and extent of the archaeological features.
- 6.10 WoSAS will be the final judge of significance regarding any findings and may well insist on full excavation for any features to be destroyed by the proposals.
- 6.11 Should significant archaeological remains be encountered by the watching brief, requiring more than that outlined above, the remains will be largely left *in situ* pending the agreement of the client and WoSAS on a WSI addenda for an appropriate scope of excavation (Stage 2) and post-excavation design including scope of finds analysis, conservation & publication (Stage 3).

Report Preparation and Contents

- 7.1 A report detailing the results of the archaeological fieldwork will be submitted to the client within two to four weeks of completion of fieldwork and, subject to client approval, then submitted to WoSAS. The report will take the form of a Data Structure Report and will contain an analysis of the results of the archaeological monitoring. The report will include a full descriptive text that will characterise the date and extent of any archaeological deposits. It will also include plans at an appropriate scale showing the distribution of any archaeological features and will include archiving lists of all finds, samples, field drawings and photographs.
- 7.2 If appropriate, the report will be accompanied by an addendum to this WSI for further archaeological fieldwork, should significant archaeology have been encountered.
- 7.3 The report will include the following:
 - executive summary;
 - a site location plan to at least 1:10,000 scale with at least an 8-figure central grid reference;

- OASIS reference number; unique site code;
 - Planning application number;
 - contractor's details including the date the work was carried out;
 - nature and extent of the proposed development, including developer/client details;
 - description of the site history, location and geology;
 - a site plan to a suitable scale and tied into the national grid so that features can be correctly orientated;
 - discussion of the results of fieldwork;
 - context & feature descriptions;
 - features, number and class of artefacts, spot dating & scientific dating of significant finds presented in tabular format;
 - plans and section drawings of a selection of features drawn at a suitable scale;
 - initial assessment of relevant finds/samples if appropriate;
 - recommendations regarding the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological work such as excavation (Stage 2) and Post-excavation finds analysis, conservation & publication (Stage 3);
 - bibliography.
- 7.4 A pdf copy of the report will be prepared for the client and a further hard copy and a digital PDF copy will be sent to WoSAS.
- 7.5 The report will be page numbered and supplemented with section numbering for ease of reference.

Copyright

- 8.1 Unless otherwise agreed copyright for any report resulting from the archaeological work undertaken as part of the project will be deemed the intellectual property of GUARD Archaeology Ltd.

Publication

- 9.1 A summary of the project results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* as part of the overall watching brief. In the event of minor archaeological remains being encountered during the archaeological fieldwork, it is proposed that a summary report submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, will form the final publication of the site. A copy of this summary report will be included in the Data Structure Report.

Archive

- 10.1 The archive for the overall project, including a copy of the report, will be submitted to the National Record of the Historic Environment within three months of completion of all relevant work.
- 10.2 The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be completed within 3 months of completion of the work. Once the Data Structure Report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the Historic Environment Record, WoSAS will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.

Finds Disposal

- 11.1 The arrangement for the final disposal of any finds made in connection with the archaeological work, will be deposited in keeping with Scottish legal requirements as set out in the revised Treasure Trove Code of Practice published with the approval of Scottish Ministers in January 2016. The laws relating to Treasure Trove and Bona Vacantia in Scotland apply to archaeological material recognised as representing ownerless goods i.e. where the original owner is no longer traceable. This includes all material recovered during archaeological fieldwork. Accordingly, all assemblages recovered from archaeological fieldwork must be reported to the Treasure Trove Unit (TTU) for assessment, with a

filled-out copy of the form "Declaration of an Archaeological Assemblage from Fieldwork". Two copies of the pertinent report will be submitted to TTU at the conclusion of the post-excavation work. Fieldwork submissions claimed as Treasure Trove will then be responsible for recommending to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer (QLTR) by the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel (SAFAP) which museum should be allocated the finds. All artefacts will be temporarily stored by GUARD Archaeology Ltd until a decision has been made by the panel.

Personnel and Liaison

12.1 The GUARD Archaeology team will comprise the following qualified and experienced GUARD archaeologists:

- Project Director (on-site Archaeologist): TBC
- Technical Support: Aileen Maule
- Project Manager: Christine Rennie

12.2 The GUARD Archaeology Project Manager will be the point of contact for the archaeological works. Full CVs for individuals concerned can be made available on request.

Monitoring & Timetable

13.1 The proposed start date for the archaeological monitoring is to be confirmed. WoSAS and the client will be informed of the site mobile phone number of the Project Director prior to the start date so that monitoring visits can be arranged.

Health and Safety

14.1 GUARD Archaeology Ltd adheres to the guidelines and standards prescribed for archaeological fieldwork set down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. It is standard GUARD Archaeology policy, prior to any fieldwork project commencing, to conduct a risk assessment and to prepare a project safety plan, the prescriptions of which will be strictly followed for the duration of all archaeological fieldwork. Copies of the resultant project safety plan and of GUARD Archaeology's Fieldwork Safety Policy Statement may be viewed upon request.

14.2 GUARD Archaeology Ltd also possesses all necessary insurance cover, proofs of which may be supplied upon request.

References

Breeze, D J 2015 *The Antonine Wall*. Edinburgh: Historic Scotland.

McCardle, J 1949 *The Parish of New Kilpatrick*. Robert Maclehose & Co.

Scottish Canals <https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/>