Goldenhill Park, Clydebank:

Archaeological Mitigation for Access Improvements

Method Statement

by Callum Allsop

issued 30th January 2017

on behalf of West Dunbartonshire Council

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 … [redacted] Date …30th January 2017..

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

Checked [redacted] Date …30th January 2017....

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Introduction

1. This Method Statement describes the archaeological mitigation required by West Dunbartonshire Council in support of the access improvements within Goldenhill Park (centred on NS 49466 72742). These archaeological works are designed to support the successful upgrade of the existing path network as well as adjusting some elements of the park landscape (both built and planted).

2. The works fall within a Scheduled Monument, designated under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The designated site is Golden Hill Park Roman fort, annexe and bathhouse (Index No 7070). Further, this site is an element of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site, recognised to be of International significance. The works detailed within this document can only be conducted where valid Scheduled Monument Consent is held.

3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by West Dunbartonshire Council to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation. This Archaeological Method Statement provides the detail of the works (monitoring, exclusion, and reporting) for all ground breaking works.

4. The identified structure of mitigation works are those necessary to ensure that the development work can proceed while dealing appropriately with the identified adverse impact on the archaeological resource within both a Scheduled Monument and a World Heritage Site.

Rathmell Archaeology

5. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd through our offices in Ayrshire and Dundee provide a wide range of archaeological services throughout Scotland to developers, their agents, conservation groups and government agencies. Established in February 2003 we are a growing service provider bringing enthusiasm and innovation to our industry, underpinned by our professional experience.

6. Rathmell Archaeology has a strong reputation for delivering works to a high standard and to schedule. All team members are used to successfully working to set schedules to meet our client's needs. Our project team has considerable cumulative experience that will prove invaluable in delivering the project competently and to schedule.

7. Our staff have a broad range of experience, and as an organisation we have, in addition, a proven track record in running complex projects which span multiple years as well as the analysis of the materials from such sites and their publication.

Standards

8. This methodology has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines including:

   - Code of Conduct (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014);
   - Standard and Guidance (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014);
   - Treasure Trove in Scotland: A code of Practice (Scottish Government 2008)

9. The archaeological works will be carried out with due regard to all appropriate health, safety and environmental legislation and guidance, including:

   - Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
   - Avoiding Danger from Underground Services HSG47
   - FAME Safety Manual

Background

10. The site of Goldenhill Park (centred on NS 49466 72742) is situated upon a Scheduled Monument designated as Golden Hill Park Roman fort, annexe and bathhouse (Index No 7070). This monument is described as a complex fort comprising three phases, an early fortlet, a later fort, and annexe.

11. The fortlet is defined by a rampart and ditch with an entrance on the northwest side. The fort and annexe are defined by ramparts comprising three ditches on the southwest and southeast, and a single ditch to the northeast. There is an additional outer ditch to protect the fort and annex to the north that is associated with the Antonine Wall. Also, to the northwest of the fort is the site of the bathhouse. Surviving elements of the monument include faint traces of the earthworks of the fort and fortlet in the park and a small area of rampart base within a fenced enclosure between the fort and the bathhouse sites.

12. Further, this site is an element of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site, recognised to be of International significance and is also the most substantial and important Roman monument in Scotland.

13. Previous archaeological works on the site include a geophysical survey (magnetometry and resistivity) carried out by University of Glasgow from 17th to 19th August 2016 and the excavation of seventeen test pits also carried out by Rathmell Archaeology on 17th and 26th January 2017 (Figure 1).

14. The full details of the investigative works are contained within:

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

15. Results from the archaeological investigations showed that within test pits a, j and k the makeup of the path is greater than 100mm in depth from the surviving upper surface. Hence the resurfacing will only impact upon existing path fabric. Works on the downslope lips should be kept as shallow as possible due to the shallow depths of subsoil in Testpits c to i. All other investigations showed artificial landforms and management that have been generated by landscaping within the park.

Scheduled Monument Consent

16. This Method Statement has been prepared to accompany a Scheduled Monument Consent application. As a consequence, this Method Statement should be read in conjunction with the Application Forms that detail and describe the works being undertaken (and hence the activities that are consented within any granted consent).

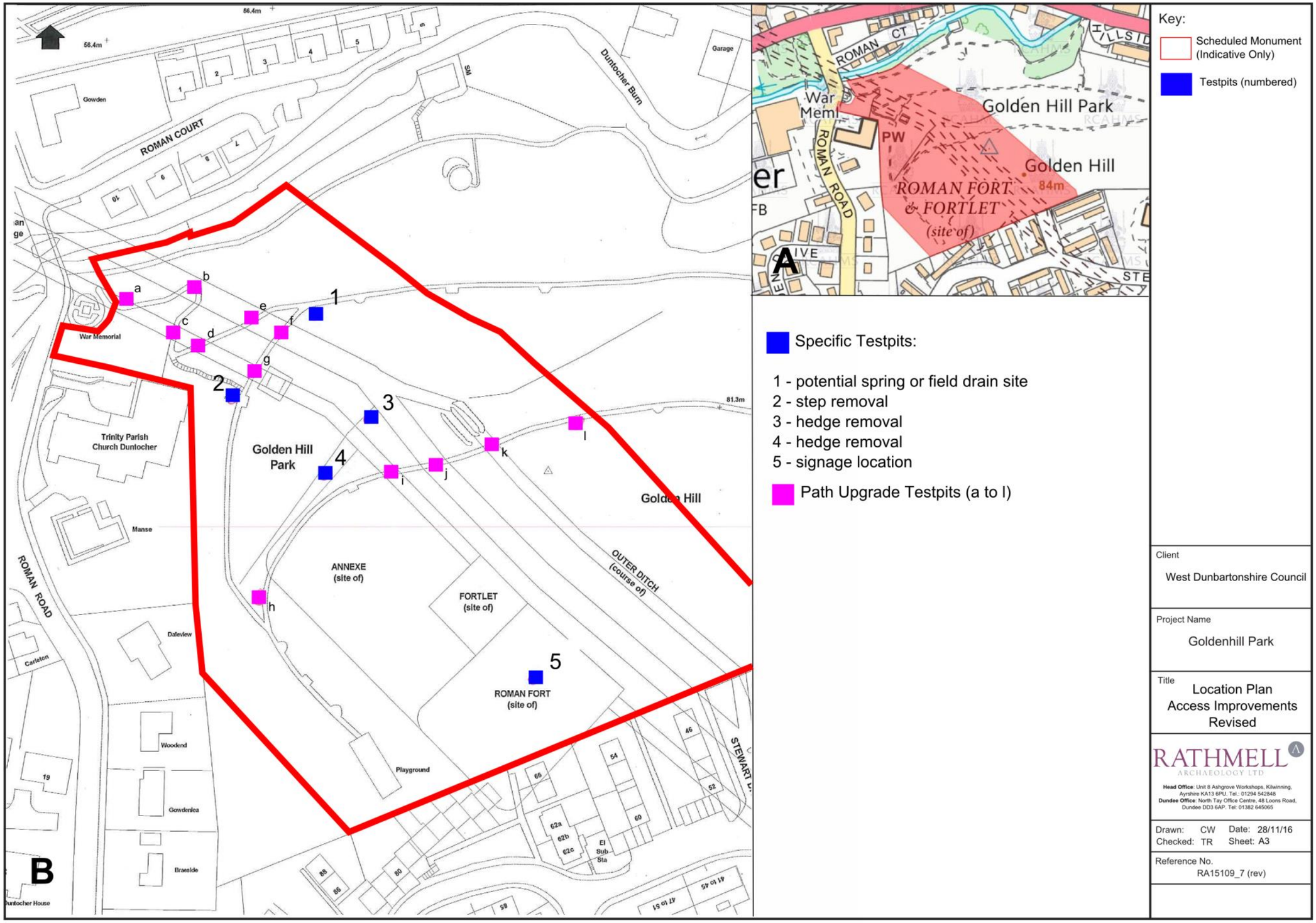


Figure 1: Location plan of Testpits for access improvements

Project Works

17. All works will comply with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.

Monitoring

18. The default approach will be that all ground breaking activities that remove soft sediment and not path fabric will be monitored by an archaeologist to ensure that any significant archaeology is identified and safeguarded.

19. Specifically:

    a. an archaeologist will monitor ground breaking works as they occur;

    b. the archaeologist will have the authority to halt the excavations;

    c. the ground breaking works will, initially, reduce the area necessary to the shallower of (i) the formation depth for the works (ii) the upper surface of the natural subsoil or (iii) the upper surface of a significant archaeological horizon from the Roman period;

    d. any significant potential archaeological features (inc. all Roman period activity) will be assessed, delimited and safeguarded during the course of works.

20. This process will avoid disruption to Roman strata in keeping with the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) Supplementary Planning Guidance and the terms of the issued Scheduled Monument Consent. No ground breaking works will be allowed that impact on significant archaeological features and no investigative archaeological excavation will be undertaken of such features.

21. Where significant potential archaeological features are identified that inhibit the delivery of the agreed construction, Historic Environment Scotland will be consulted to agree a specific response. The response will default to preservation *in situ*. Historic Environment Scotland will take the final decision on the most appropriate response in any single case. They will not agree to works that adversely impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site or the cultural significance of the Scheduled Monument.

Recording Methodology

22. The recording system will be based on the Museum of London's *Archaeological Site Manual* (1994). All recording will be in keeping with the recording system which will, at minimum, detail that:

    - all contexts, small finds and environmental samples will be given unique numbers;
    - small finds will be individually bagged and then located by context and by test pit; and
    - all recording of contexts, samples and activities will be undertaken on *pro forma* record sheets.

23. The location of the work area will be surveyed after opening to record its location. All survey data will be three-dimensional, to an appropriate resolution for purpose.

24. Plans of archaeological features will be recorded with sufficient accuracy to depict general layout at 1:100. Additionally 1:20 plans of all the individual exposed features will be prepared and sections drawn at 1:10. Spot heights and those of individual features will be recorded relative to Ordnance Datum. Representative measured sections of the side of the excavations will be prepared as appropriate showing the sequences and depths of deposits.

25. A photographic record (SLR colour digital, >7 megapixel resolution) will be maintained during the course of the fieldwork with the addition of colour print photographs taken of significant archaeological features. The topic of images will include:

- ❖ the site prior to commencement of fieldwork;
- ❖ the site during work, showing specific stages of fieldwork;
- ❖ the layout of archaeological features;
- ❖ individual features and, where appropriate, their sections; and
- ❖ groups of features where their relationship is important.

26. All finds (artefacts and ecofacts) visible during on-site works will be collected and processed. Finds will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

27. Should the potential archaeological features identified include funerary deposits (i.e. human skeletal material regardless of whether cremated or not) then all works on that area will be halted with the local constabulary, Client and Archaeological Curator notified. Sites with buried human skeletal material are protected. The removal of a body from the grave is not considered theft; rather Scots common law recognises the offence of *crimen violati sepulchre* (violation of sepulchre). In essence, the crime is the disturbance of the corpse without permission. Hence, excavation will only proceed with the agreement of all parties.

Technical site reporting

28. The preliminary reporting of the on-site works will be as follows:

a. Data Structure Report presenting the results of the on-site archaeological works and incorporating assessment of the materials recovered. In addition a narrative would explain the character of the archaeology investigated and compare this to comparable archaeology;

b. Preparation of a DES entry and OASIS form including grey literature upload; and

c. Preparation of the project archive including finds.

29. The Data Structure Report detailing the findings of the archaeological works will be prepared within four weeks of the completion of each stage of works and will consist of:

- ❖ a non-technical summary of the findings of the excavation;
- ❖ a descriptions of the methodologies, geology and findings of the excavation;
- ❖ location plan, area plans and sections of the identified archaeological features;
- ❖ interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context;
- ❖ description and assessment of artefacts recovered;
- ❖ photographs to include general site images and key archaeological features; and

30. A full draft of each version of the Data Structure Report will be circulated to the Client and Archaeological Curator (Historic Environment Scotland) for comment. The OASIS online report form for the fieldwork will be updated but only completed on the conclusion of all on-site works. A digital copy of the final version of the report will be uploaded to the OASIS site.

31. Following completion of fieldwork and acceptance of the final version of the report, an ordered archive of both object and paper elements will be prepared according to the recommendations in *Archaeological Archives A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007) and *Standards in the Museum Care of*

Archaeological Collections (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992). The archive will be created in accordance with the identified repository's deposition and archiving standards. The procedures of documentations and declaration to the Treasure Trove Unit will be followed in keeping with their Practice Guide for reporting artefacts recovered. These tasks will be concluded within 3 months of the completion of the on-site works.

Project Details

Timetable

32. The timetable for the works will be notified to all parties when it has been developed. Historic Environment Scotland will be provided with 2 weeks' notice of any works within the Scheduled Monument. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service will also be kept informed of the progress of works.

33. The reporting would be completed within four weeks of the completion of on-site works. The full draft of the report will be circulated digitally to all parties for comment prior to being finalised.

Project team

34. The lead field archaeologist for the project from Rathmell Archaeology Ltd will be Mr Thomas Rees, an experienced field archaeologist. The archaeologist responsible for monitoring the ground breaking works will be Mr Liam McKinstry, an experienced field archaeologist.

Contact Details

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

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