Goldenhill Park, Clydebank: Archaeological Investigation for Access Improvement

Data Structure Report

by Liam McKinstry and Thomas Rees

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…….

Quality Assurance Data

Author(s)	Liam McKinstry		
Date of Issue	30th January 2017	Version	1.0
Commissioning Body	West Dunbartonshire Council		
Event Name	Goldenhill Park, Clydebank		
Event Type	Test Pitting		
Event Date(s)	January 2017		
Rathmell Code	RA15109	OASIS Ref	
Location	United Kingdom : Scotland : West Dunbartonshire		
NGR	NS 49466 72742 (centred)	Parish	Old Kilpatrick (Clydebank)
Designation(s)	Scheduled Monument (7070)		
Canmore IDs	43265 Bathhouse, Roman Fort and Fortlet		

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for West Dunbartonshire Council in respect to the archaeological investigative works carried out to support the design of access improvements at Goldenhill Park, Clydebank. This project focused on testing the ground conditions at locations of archaeological sensitivity where improvements were proposed.

2. The archaeological works were within a Scheduled Monument, designated under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The designated site was Golden Hill Park Roman fort, annexe and bathhouse (Index No 7070). Further to this the site was also an element of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site, recognised to be of International significance.

3. A Risk Assessment Method Statement (Rees 2016) provided the detail of the works for the investigative works within the project area. This report presents the findings of the archaeological works which were carried out as a requirement of the granted Scheduled Monument Consent (Reference/Case ID 300018520).

4. Rathmell Archaeology Limited were appointed by West Dunbartonshire Council to undertake the project works and implementation of archaeological mitigation works for the Antonine Wall Enhancement Project at Golden Hill Park, Clydebank.

Project Works

5. The archaeological works, which took place on 17th and 26th January 2017, were carried out in keeping with the methods detailed in the Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) (Rees 2016). The works encompassed the excavation of an array of test pits that were designed to test the ground conditions and potential for adverse impact on archaeologically significant strata from the planned improvements.

6. These planned improvements encompasses:

   - Downslope path lip removal
   - Steps and slide removal
   - Hedge removal
   - Bench installation
   - Signage installation
   - Spring investigation

7. Each test pit was 0.5m by 0.5m in plan and hand excavated to reduce the level of the pit to the shallower of: the upper surface of the natural subsoil, the upper surface of a significant archaeological horizon or the agreed working depth for the improvement activity. On completion of the excavation and recording of the test pit, it will be reinstated with the arisings from the excavation, compacted and then the turf reinstated.

8. The works within Golden Hill Park Roman fort, annexe and bathhouse (SM 7070), a Scheduled Monument designated under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The works detailed were conducted with valid Scheduled Monument Consent.

9. All of the works complied with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Historic Environment Scotland's Policy Statements.

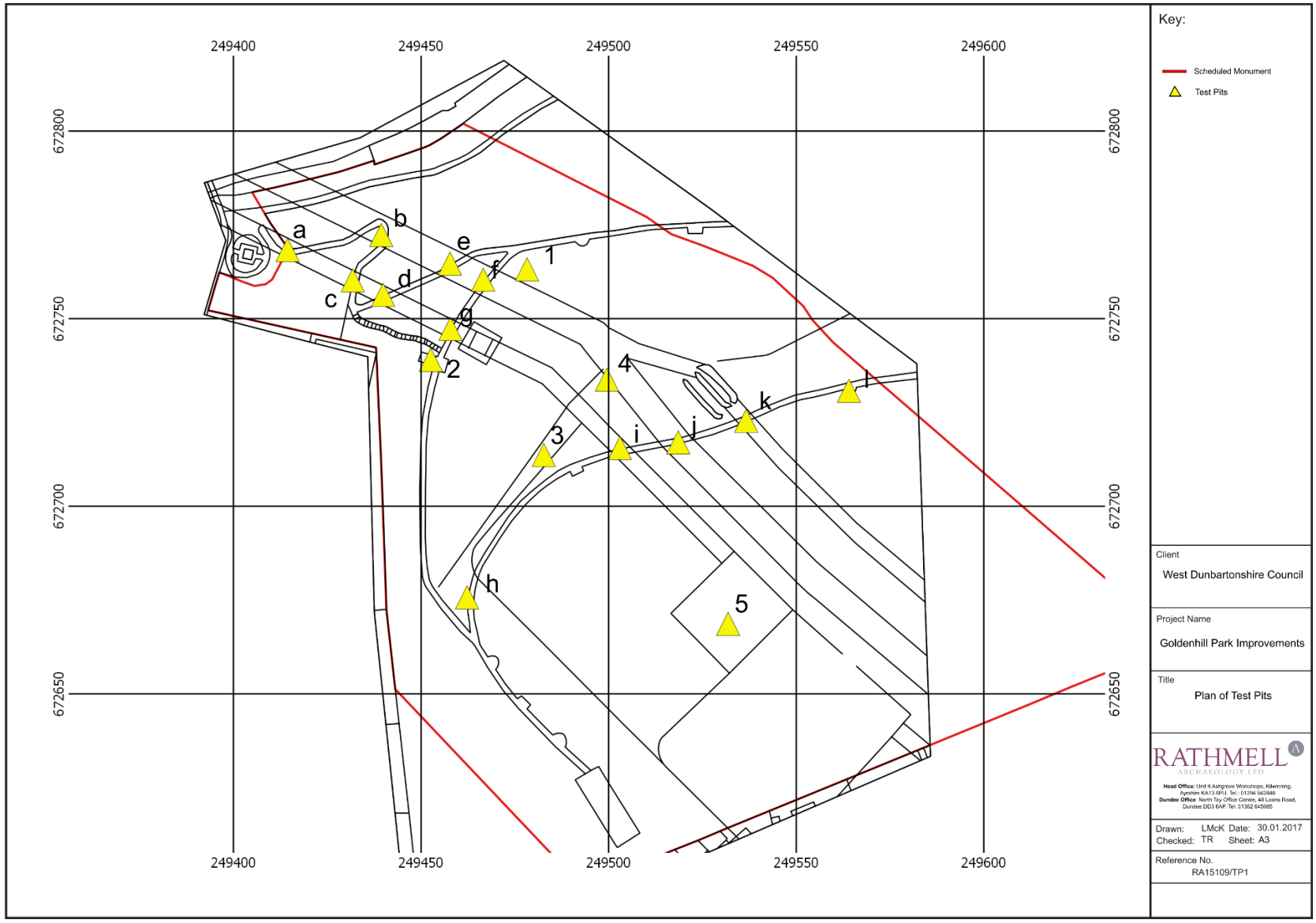

Figure 1: Plan of test pit locations

Findings

10. The findings of the test pits excavated under the Scheduled Monument Consent are summarised below. Locations are shown on Figure 1, with full details of these test pits within Appendix 1.

Path Upgrade Test Pits

11. Twelve test pits were excavated on the path network at points of marked heritage sensitivity to assess the strata that may be affected by the proposed works.

12. Three test pits (Test Pits **a**, **j** and **k**) assessed the condition of the path fabric (001) to 100mm depth, the anticipated working depth for resurfacing works. None of these test pits reached the base of the path fabric within this working depth.

13. Some nine test pits tested the nature of soil lips present at the edge of the path network either downslope (Test Pits **c** to **i**) or upslope (Test Pit **l**). Nearly all of these showed that the lip was formed of topsoil (002) material with the underlying subsoil (003) at around 300mm below the ground surface.

14. The topsoil (002) was a mid to dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small stones while the underlying subsoil (003) mid to dark orangy brown silty clay.

15. The exceptions to this pattern were Test Pit **h** and **l;** where **h** remained within topsoil (002) at the 300mm depth and **l** exposed buried path fabric (001) under a skim of topsoil (002). The only archaeological feature from these path upgrade test pits was from Test Pit **f** where a belt of sub-angular stones (004) exposed within the topsoil (002) was considered to potentially be *ex situ* wall base fabric.

Specific Issue test Pits

16. Five test pits (Test Pits **1** to **5**) were excavated off the path network to address other specific improvement issues.

17. Test Pit **1** sought to clarify the origin of the water that appeared as a 'spring' upslope of the path network. Excavation immediately upslope of the spring exposed a ceramic tile drain (006) within a cut (005) aligned roughly SE to NW. Subsoil (003) at this location was 300mm below the surface.

18. Test Pit **2** examined the mound adjacent to the path network and the steps at the top of the 'slide'. This showed that under a skim of topsoil (002) was buried path fabric (001) of some 200mm thickness. Beneath this was very compact clay (007) that was sufficiently robust as to prevent deeper hand excavation than 550mm depth.

19. Test Pits **3** and **4** were both placed on the upslope side of the hedge, with the aim of assessing the higher ground level at this point (relative to the downslope side of the hedge). Both test pits exposed topsoil (002) of around 300mm depth overlying the subsoil (003).

20. Finally, Test Pit **5** assessed a proposed location for an interpretation sign, within the Roman fortlet. Some 220mm of topsoil (002) was excavated revealing an intermittent layer of cobbling or metalling material (008). As a clear structural layer, excavation ceased at this upper surface.

21. Four sherds of pottery <1> were recovered from the topsoil within Test Pit **5**. One sherd <1.1> is a heavily abraded Samian ware rim sherd, with a light orange-brown body colour and fine, well rounded inclusions. The remaining three sherds are orange-brown coarseware with gritty sub-angular inclusions. One sherd <1.4> is a fragment of rim, sub-angular in profile, and one side is blackened by heat to a dark grey colour. The pottery appears consistent with finds recovered from the previous excavation conducted by Robertson (1957).

Figure 2a: Path falling past upper platform of 'slide' to be tested by TP 2, steps to rear

Figure 2b: Spring emerging onto pathway to be tested by TP 1

Figure 3a: Location for TP 5 within Fortlet from W

Figure 3b: Pathway from SW on corner of Annexe with Hedge to left (NW) on ditch

Discussion

23. The resurfacing of the path network has the potential to disturb up to 100mm depth. The test pits cut into the path fabric (Test Pits **a**, **j** and **k**) have shown that 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.

24. Also, as the scheduling of this monument explicitly excludes the top 500mm of path fabric from the surface; the confirmation that there is at least 100mm of path fabric present shows that the resurfacing task lies outwith the extent of the Scheduled Monument.

25. The examination of the downslope lips (slight grass covered ridges adjacent to the edge of the path network) is clearly within the Scheduled Monument. The test pits examining this (Test Pits **c** to **i**) showed this lip to be wholly formed of topsoil (002). As such removal of this lip to enable water runoff from the path network should not impact on significant archaeological strata. However, the shallow depth of subsoil (typically 300mm) and the presence of possible *ex situ* wall base fabric (see TP **f**) suggests that lip removal works should be kept as shallow as possible.

26. The examination of the upslope lip (see TP **l**) at a location where a bench is proposed showed the presence of path fabric overlain by a topsoil skim. The scheduling document (Figure 4a) shows that the area around TP **l** has consistently been depicted as part of the path network – presumably a small terrace cut for a bench. The re-exposure of the path fabric and the installation of a bench along with any necessary resurfacing should have no archaeological impact.

27. Test Pit **2** is at another location that is depicted on the scheduling document map as a path, at the top of the 'slide'. This was confirmed by the path fabric exposed under another skim of topsoil. The very compact clay (007) that underlay this is dissimilar to the subsoil located anywhere else in the test pits; suggesting it is redeposited material - potentially cast material from excavation immediately downslope – that would have formed the topography to mirror and support the slide. This strongly suggests that the landform at this location is artificial and generated by landscaping within the park.

28. Similar landscaping and park management is evident from the shallow field drain exposed in Test Pit **1**, the source of the water emerging as a 'spring' adjacent to the path network. This field drain, a modern extruded ceramic drain, is most likely twentieth century in origin and presumably drains part of the ditch complex to the fore of the fort and fortlet. Its shallow run strongly suggests that this is a park rather than agricultural drain.

29. The drain presumably extended further W and the 'spring' is the result of a failure of that downhill section of the drain. The renewal of the drain downslope, under the path network, before discharging should have a low potential for archaeological impact. Consideration should be given to ensuring any overland flow of discharged water not having the potential to initiate erosion. This drain is already presumably dewatering the ditch complex, as such the impact on the characteristics of these ditch fill sediments should not alter through the renewal of the downslope element of the drain (as the field drain is discharging now, but in an unmanaged way).

30. Robertson (1957) located the defences of the NW side of the Annexe in this location (*ibid*, Figure 23 – see Figure 4b) running parallel with the hedge. Specifically the ditch was considered to run under the downslope half of the hedge and the slope beyond, while the wall lay between the path and the hedge – the balance of ground between these features being a berm.

31. Robertson identified that there was no effective trace of the W rampart of the Annexe (1957, 63). The judgement was the hedge lay in the ditch (*ibid*, 65) and that the marked scarp slope overlain by the hedge (an element of the earlier farming landscape) was the inner face of the ditch that survived as a marked topographic feature.

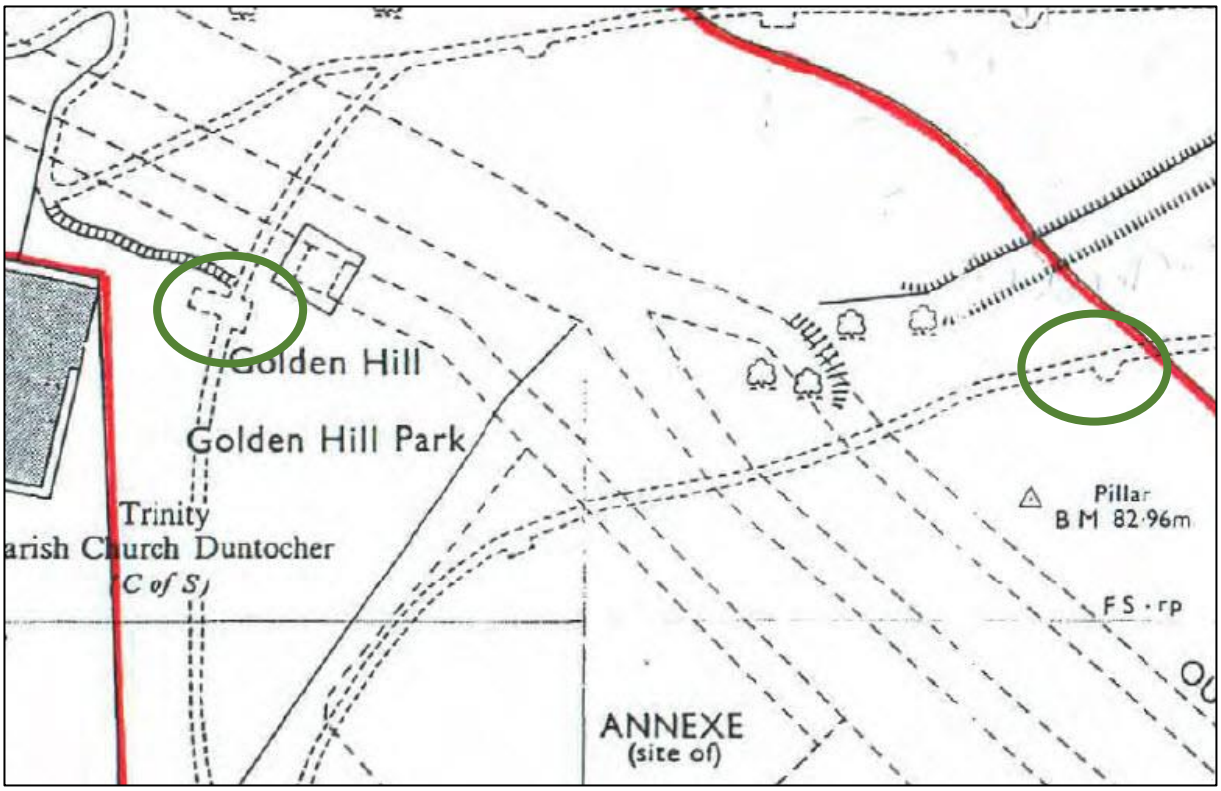

Figure 4a: Extract from scheduling document with circles (green) for former path areas

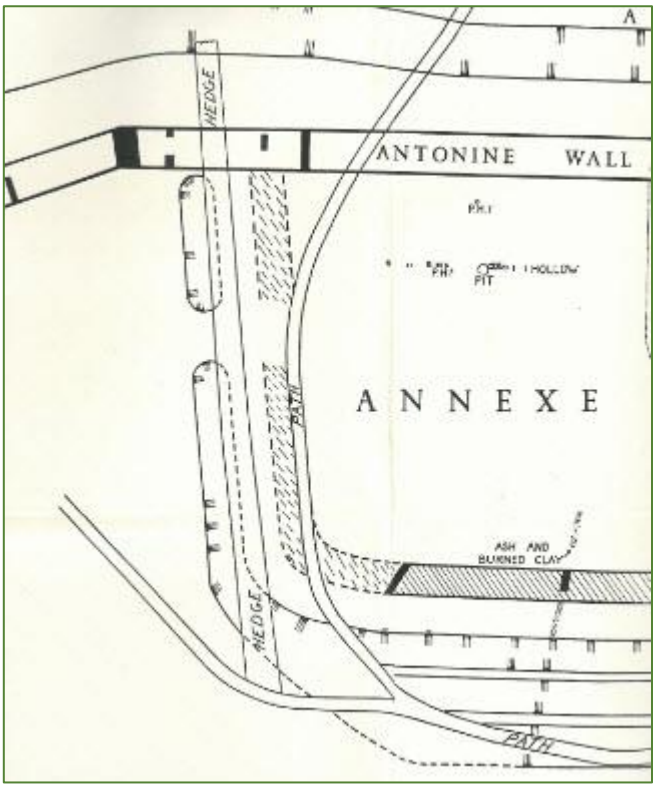

Figure 4b: Layout plan of W side of Annexe after Robertson

32. As such the test pits on the upslope side of the hedge (Test Pits **3** and **4**) fall within the berm, which at other locations have been shown to have a gravelled surface present. That these test pits showed a soil profile consistent with that in other test pits around the scheduled monument, a topsoil of 300mm depth over subsoil, suggests this characteristic of the berm is not present here. Further, the lack of any overdeepened soils supports the hedge being planted on a pre-existing topographic feature rather than creating one through its presence – which further supports Robertson's interpretation as to the location of the elements of the Annexe.

33. Any programme to remove this hedge must consider the importance of the topographic feature which is a significant aspect of the Scheduled Monument. Further, consideration must be given to the hedge growing within the upper portion of the Annexe ditch and across the line of the Antonine Wall.

34. Test Pit **5** was also located within the centre of the fortlet, an area also investigated by Robertson (1957, 23): '*Trenching within the fortlet revealed gravelled or cobbled surfaces at many points'.* The exposure of a comparable surface at a depth of 220mm shows that this surface was not removed by Robertson and remains the first significant archaeological horizon within this portion of the scheduled monument. The recovery of abraded pottery sherds from the topsoil over this surface highlights that all topsoil on the site has the potential to contain *ex situ* archaeological material.

35. No other significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified by the works.

Conclusion

36. Archaeological investigative works comprising seventeen test pits were hand excavated across the Golden Hill Park Roman fort, annexe and bathhouse (Index No 7070). These works were controlled by Scheduled Monument Consent issued by Historic Environment Scotland.

37. Test pits predominantly exposed natural soil profiles or those altered in the 20th century. Potential *ex situ* wall base fabric was noted in one test pit to the W of the fort. Four sherds of pottery were recovered from a test pit within the fortlet, which also exposed the internal cobbled or metalled surface of the fortlet.

Acknowledgements

38. The author would like to thank Donald Petrie of West Dunbartonshire Council, for the opportunity to carry out these works and for their assistance during the project.

39. I would also like to thank Simon Stronach of Historic Environment Scotland who gave support and guidance throughout the project and Hugh McBrien of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service who provided valuable archive assistance. Thanks should also go to Rathmell Archaeology site staff, Craig Stanford, who also provided guidance on the pottery recovered.

References

Rees, T, 2016, *Goldenhill Park, Clydebank: Archaeological Support for Antonine Wall enhancement*, Risk Assessment & Method Statement.

Robertson, A.S, 1957, *An Antonine Fort, Golden Hill, Duntocher*, University of Glasgow

Appendix 1: Test Pit Details

Within this appendix a standardised set of data pertaining to the Test Pits is presented.

Path upgrade test pits

Test Pit	Heritage Sensitivity	NGR	Location Detail	Target Depth	Description	Image
a	Wall crossing	NS 49414 72768	In path fabric, avoiding tree roots	100mm	Excavated to 100mm wholly within path fabric (001). Dense roots and roolets.	
b	Ditch crossing	NS 49439 72772	Downslope lip adjacent to path fabric	300mm	Topsoil (002) upto 300mm deep (E side) overlay (W side) path fabric (001) at 100mm and subsoil (003) in centre of TP at 200mm depth. Subsoil dipped out of TP to E.	
c	Wall crossing	NS 49431 72760	Downslope lip adjacent to path fabric	300mm	After removal of shallow spread of path fabric (001) from SE edge TP, balance of TP removed only topsoil (002) to 300mm depth.	

d	Wall crossing	NS 49439 72756	Downslope lip adjacent to path fabric	300mm	Topsoil (002) upto 295mm deep with subsoil (003) under.	
e	Ditch crossing	NS 49457 72764	Downslope lip adjacent to path fabric	300mm	Topsoil (002) upto 296mm deep with subsoil (003) under.	
f	Ditch crossing	NS 49466 72760	Downslope lip adjacent to path fabric	300mm	Topsoil (002) some 290 to 300mm deep in majority of TP, with upper surface of subsoil (003) exposed across most of bed of TP. At W edge exposed series of sub-angular stones (004) within (002).	
g	Wall crossing	NS 49457 72747	Downslope lip adjacent to path fabric	300mm	Topsoil (002) upto 300mm deep with upper surface of subsoil (003) exposed at base.	

h	Ditch crossing (Annexe)	NS 49462 72675	Downslope lip adjacent to path fabric	300mm	Excavated to 300mm wholly within topsoil (002).	
i	Wall crossing	NS 49503 72715	Downslope lip adjacent to path fabric	300mm	Topsoil (002) upto 295mm deep with subsoil (003) under.	
j	Ditch crossing	NS 49518 72717	In path fabric	100mm	Excavated to 100mm within path fabric (001).	
k	Ditch crossing	NS 49536 72722	In path fabric	100mm	Excavated to 100mm within path fabric (001).	

I	Other	NS 49563 72730	Upslope lip adjacent to path fabric	300mm	Topsoil (002) some 150mm deep overlay buried path fabric (001) that was excavated to 200mm depth.	

Specific issue test pits

Test Pit	Location	NGR	Target	Description	Image
1	Spring or field drain	NS 49478 72763	To immediate SE of emerging flow of water, that then flows NW onto path to determine whether this is a field drain/culvert emerging.	Topsoil (002) some 300mm deep overlay subsoil (003). The cut (005) for ceramic tile drain (006) was exposed on the N edge of the TP. The tile drain ran roughly SE to NW, downslope towards 'spring'.	
2	Step Removal	NS 49452 72739	In mound to immediate NW of path and to SW of top of steps, to characterise material that formed top mound of children's slide	Topsoil (002) some 150mm deep overlay path fabric (001) that was 200 to 300mm in depth. This in turn capped compact clay (007) that was excavated to overall maximum depth of 0.55m	

3	Hedge Removal	NS 49499 72733	To immediate rear of hedge in accumulated/retained material that should overlie the NW berm of the Annexe to characterise this material.	Topsoil (002) upto 280mm deep with subsoil (003) under.	
4	Hedge Removal	NS 49482 72713	To immediate rear of hedge in accumulated/retained material that should overlie the NW berm of the Annexe to characterise this material.	Topsoil (002) upto 280mm deep with subsoil (003) under.	
5	Signage Location	NS 49531 72668	Location within fortlet/forts to assess potential to introduce signage within core of (reinstated) site.	Topsoil (002) some 220mm deep overlay probable metalling material (008) that covered base of TP. Four sherds of pottery <001> recovered from Topsoil (002)	

Appendix 2: Registers

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

Context Register

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Deposit	Red blaize/grey hardcore overlain by tarmac, often degraded or eroded	Path Fabric
002	Deposit	Mid to dark grey brown silty clay occasional small stones and gravel	Topsoil
003	Deposit	Mid to dark orangy brown silty clay with occasional small stones and gravel	Subsoil
004	Deposit	Belt of 3 to 4 irregular stones within (002) on SW edge of TP (f)	Possible *ex situ* wall base fabric
005	Deposit	Mixed mid grey and orange brown clayey silt, 30% small stones and gravel	Fill of track for ceramic drain
006	Structure	Red ceramic pipe	Field drain
007	Deposit	Mid grey brown very compact clay occasional small sub rounded stones	Redeposited subsoil
008	Structure	Layer of sub-angular stones within a matrix of mid grey brown silty clay 30-35% small stone and gravel inclusions	Metalled Surface

Finds Register

Find No.	Test Pit	Context	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
001	5	002	Pottery	Four sherds of abraded pottery.	CS	26/01/2017

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
001	0271	Spring emerging and proposed TP 1	SE	11/01/17
002	0272	Path winding downslope and proposed TP 2	SW	11/01/17
003	0273	Path winding downslope	SW	11/01/17
004	0274	Water from spring emerging onto path	SW	11/01/17
005	0275	Water from spring emerging onto path	NE	11/01/17
006	0276	Flow of water on path network	NE	11/01/17
007	0277	TP 5 within Fortlet on summit	SW	11/01/17
008	0278	Eroding path at SW corner of Annexe	SW	11/01/17
009	0279	TP (a) at bottom of slope	W	11/01/17
010	0280	Post excavation of TP (a)	W	17/01/17
011	0281	Post excavation of TP (b)	N	17/01/17
012	0282	Post excavation of TP (c)	N	17/01/17
013	0283	Post excavation of TP (d)	NE	17/01/17
014	0284	Post excavation of TP (e)	NE	17/01/17
015	0285	Post excavation of TP (f)	SW	17/01/17
016	0286	Void		
017	0287	Void		
018	0288	Post excavation of TP (1)	E	26/01/17
019	0289	Post excavation of TP (2)	N	26/01/17
020	0290	Post excavation of TP (g)	E	26/01/17
021	0291	Post excavation of TP (h)	W	26/01/17

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
023	0292	Post excavation of TP (4)	SW	26/01/17
024	0293	Post excavation of TP (i)	S	26/01/17
025	0294	Post excavation of TP (3)	S	26/01/17
026	0295	Post excavation of TP (j)	E	26/01/17
027	0296	Post excavation of TP (k)	E	26/01/17
028	0297	Post excavation of TP (5)	NW	26/01/17
029	0298	Section of TP (5)	NW	26/01/17
030	0299	Post excavation of TP (5)	NW	26/01/17
031	0300	Post excavation of TP (l)	E	26/01/17

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	West Dunbartonshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Golden Hill Park, Clydebank, WDC Antonine Wall Enhancement Project
PROJECT CODE:	RA15109
PARISH:	Old Kilpatrick (Clydebank)
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Liam McKinstry
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief, Test pits
NMRS NO(S):	SM 7070, Canmore ID 43265
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Roman Fort, Fortlet
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 30342 43305 (centred)
START DATE (this season)	17th January 2017
END DATE (this season)	26th January 2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. *DES* ref.)	Yes
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	Archaeological test pitting was carried out to inform the design of access improvement works at Goldenhill Park, Duntocher. All works were undertaken through Scheduled Monument Consent (Reference/Case ID 300018520) Test pits predominantly exposed natural soil profiles or those altered in the 20th century. Potential *ex situ* wall base fabric was noted in one test pit to the W of the fort. Four sherds of pottery were recovered from a test pit within the fortlet, that also exposed the internal cobbled or metalled surface of the fortlet. No other significant archaeological features or artefacts were disturbed by the works.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Unknown
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	West Dunbartonshire Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
EMAIL ADDRESS:	[redacted]
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to National Collection of the Historic Environment.

Contact Details

40. 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.: [redacted]
f.: [redacted]
e.: [redacted]

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