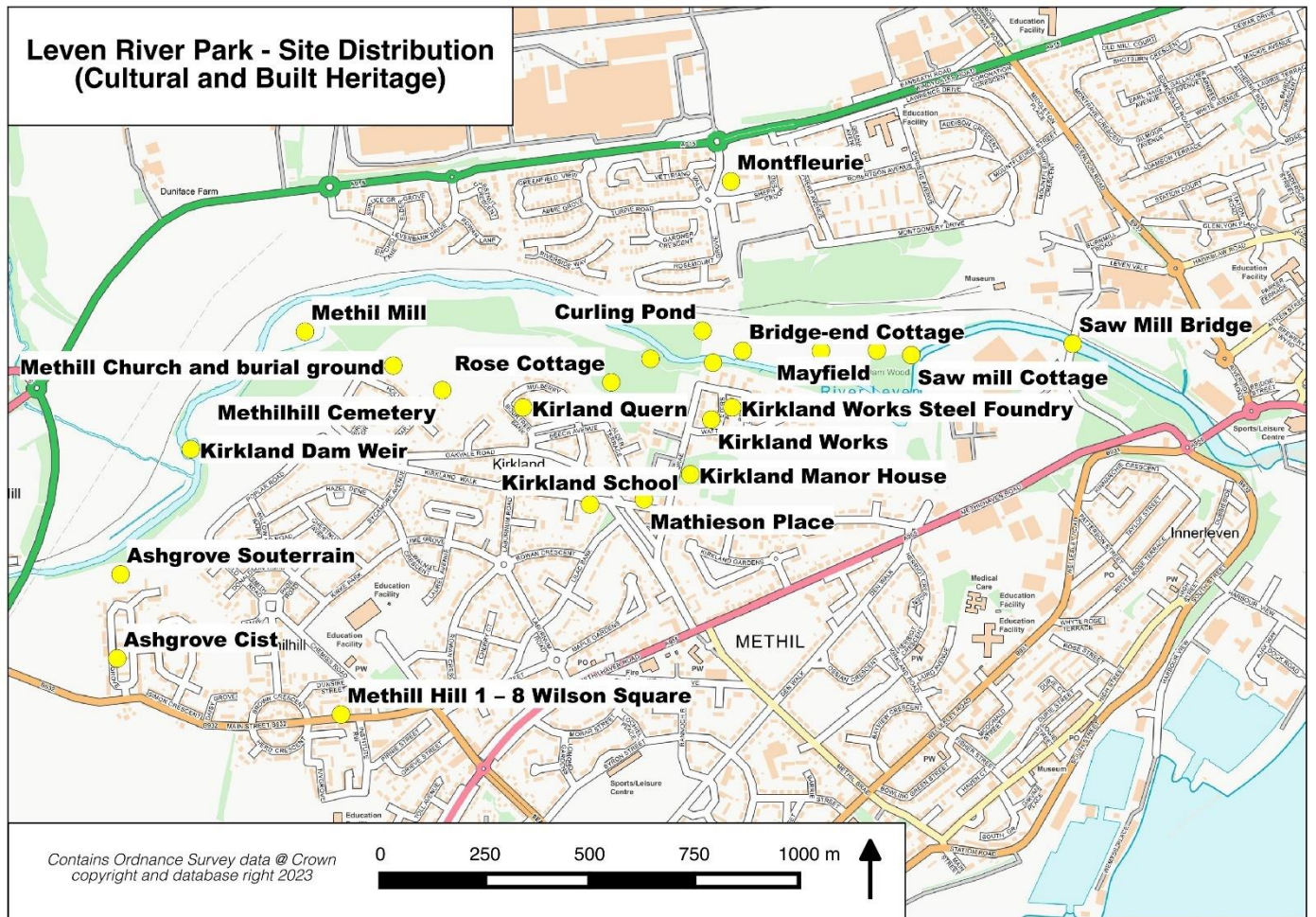


Hidden Heritage



River Parks Project – Baseline and development report.



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Made possible with

Heritage Fund

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Contents

Introduction	4
Methodology.....	4
Consultations & Engagement.....	4
Desk-based Assessment (DBA).....	5
Location and Background.....	6
Known Heritage Sites and Features	7
Site Investigations	14
Kirkland Manor	14
Kirkland School/Mathieson Place	15
Kirkland House	16
Community Responses to Investigations	17
Discussion.....	19
Delivery Phase Proposals	21
People In The Papers.....	21
Power of Participation	22
Picturing the Past	22
Stories In A Box	23
Strategic Links	24
Appendix 1: References	25
Bibliographic Sources referred to in report:	25
Cartographic Sources referred to in report:	25
Potential Archival Sources for future research:.....	26
Primary Sources relating to Kirkland Works cited in Steel (1975):.....	26
Appendix 2: Description of Kirkland Works	27
Appendix 3: OS Name Book Extracts	27
Appendix 4: Older OS Mapping showing Listed, Canmore Sites and satellite Imagery.....	29
Appendix 5: Impact Assessment	32
Summary Of Potential Impacts	33
Rapid Initial potential heritage impacts assessment and mitigation.....	40
Appendix 6: History Group Research Interests.....	45

Introduction

This report presents the results of a phase of development work for the River Parks Project exploring the nature and potential of its archaeological and historic environment related heritage. It then sets out the scope of proposed activities during the delivery phase of the project subject to further funding. The work was undertaken for Green Action Trust on behalf of the Leven Partnership and with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Methodology

The Hidden Heritage project development took place through a process between March and October 2023, which comprised three main elements of activity:

- 1) Consultation and engagement with a range of groups and individuals about the potential scope of the Hidden Heritage Project and what it could deliver in terms of outputs and outcomes.
- 2) Rapid-based assessment of known archaeological and historic environment sites and potential for previously unknown archaeological and historic environment sites.
- 3) Site visits and initial investigations, in many cases with the community and Leven Partners to establish their character and potential for activities in the delivery phase.

The results of these three elements of development activity have been used to design the range of activities, outcomes and outputs which the Hidden Heritage project could deliver.

Consultations & Engagement

The project team set out to understand the possibilities for the Hidden Heritage project at the River Parks through a series of consultations, meetings and engagement activities. This meant that the project team engaged local heritage groups, local historians, local organisations and the River Park Consultancy Teams. As well as discussion with volunteers on the various field work activities.

Discussions were held on the history of the River Parks area and its importance with Methil Heritage Group, Fife Council and the local historians Mary Reily, Sue Oak and Gordon Sutherland. This helped establish the nature of the site and build the background for the project. The team consulted with local organisations in order to understand whether such groups would be interested in any programme and activities that could be delivered by the project. This included discussions, meetings and running joint events with the Methil Heritage Centre, On Fife, Leven Local Tourism Association, the Fife Heritage Railway, BRAG, Corra Foundation, Doon the Dam amongst others.

Identifying future skills development and engagement opportunities were also a big part of the process. Discussions were held with Levenmouth Academy, the DWP, Developing Young Workforce, Fife College, KSB, Fife Countryside and Coastal Trust and Rural Skills Scotland to understand the potential for engagement and skills development within the project. The team also joined Arc Architects their co-design workshop for the Community Hub, attended both BBQ community events run by the GAT team and H100, supported Icecream Architecture's Women and Girls Wellbeing Afternoon session with MCCI (Methilhill Community Children's Initiative), supported for the Heritage Group at the Doon the Dam event and regularly attended various meetings such as the Levenmouth Heritage Partnership and the Methil History Group.

The following the individuals and organisations were consulted:

- Levenmouth Connectivity Steering Group
- Corra Foundation
- Fife Archaeologist
- Fife Historic Buildings Trust
- BRAG (Benarty Regeneration Action Group)

- On Fife
- Fife College
- Fife Council
- Methil History Group
- Fife Heritage Railway
- Leven Local Tourism Association
- MMCI (Methilhill Community Children's Initiative)
- Doon the Dam
- Levenmouth Academy
- Department of Works and Pensions
- Fife Countryside and Coastal Trust
- Methil Heritage Centre
- Trade Hub
- CLEAR
- STAND (Striving Towards A New Day)
- Sue Oak
- Clued Up
- Restoration Trust
- Rural Skills Scotland
- KSB (Keep Scotland Beautiful)
- Gordon Sutherland
- Mary Reily
- Leven Local Tourism Association Heritage Group
- Developing Young Workforce
- Save Wemyss Ancient Caves

Through this process we learned that there was interest in the potential for further research and investigation about the mills of the Riverpark, particularly Methil Mill (Site no: 1), Kirkland Works (Site no: 11) and the Kirkland Dam mill (Site no: 2), there was also interest in the potential of the Kirkland Manor house (Site no: 12). People also expressed interest in some of the lesser-known aspects of the archaeological heritage of the area, including its prehistoric remains (e.g. such as in the vicinity of Ashgrove (Site no: 4) and the potential for traces of Medieval Methil which may be present in vicinity of the church (see Site nos: 13 & 15).

Desk-based Assessment (DBA)

A rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken of the known historic environment sites within the River Parks boundary (see appendix 4), and in close proximity, of the proposed River Parks, which could provide potential opportunities for investigation, enhancements and interpretation and to deliver on a range of outcomes such as health and well-being, widening participation, learning, skills development and employability.

With a rapid initial assessment, it has not been possible to comprehensively study all potential sources of information, rather sufficient key sources have been referenced to assess potential and inform project planning for the delivery phase of future archaeology, historic environment and heritage related activities and projects as part of the Hidden Heritage project. Due to limitations of time, we have not studied Aerial Photographic collections held by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and there may be primary documentary records in a variety of archives, such as National Archive of Scotland and ON Fife (See Appendix 1), which provide additional information. These are unlikely to change the extent of the proposals in the report in substantive terms, rather the Aerial Photographs could potentially identify other currently unknown prehistoric or Medieval sites and the other archive sources provide more specific insights.

Key sources that have been used to identify sites assessed included:

- Historic Environment Records including information from Canmore and HES Designation Portal
- Historic Maps including Ordnance Survey (OS) Maps (see appendix 1 – Cartographic Sources)
- OS Name Book
- Readily Available Documentary Sources (See references in appendix 1) including:
- Statistical Accounts of Scotland (Wemyss Parish)

A rapid initial assessment of the potential impacts of the Mill Lade Heritage Trail, Accessibility Project proposals and the River Parks Community Hub Site Location Proposals were carried out based on the same mapping exercise. This is set out in the Impact Assessment section below (see Appendix 5).

Location and Background

The River Parks project focuses on the brown-field and amenity greenspaces along a c 3 km long stretch of the River Leven to the north of Methil, which in the 19th and 20th century were heavily industrialised. This had its origins before 18th century with smaller mills, such as Methil Mill, largely focused on cereal processing, the emergence of larger mill complexes, often focused on textiles, in the 18th and 19th centuries, such as the Kirkland Works, and then emergence of heavy industries the 19th / 20th century use such as the Kirkland Foundry and locomotive yards. The extent and nature of previous activity means there is a probability that several areas of the site comprise made up ground, particularly from the demolition of Kirkland Works and / or from the activities relating to the foundry (See appendix 4 for maps showing extents of the different industrial works in the River Parks area).

The solid geology (BGS 1999a) comprises sandstones, siltstones and mudstones, relating to Lower Coal Measures in the western part of the site, while to the east sandstone, siltstones and mudstones relating to Middle Coal Measures are present, running broadly north to south within these measures are a series of coal seams. The drift geology (BGS 1999b) is predominantly in the higher part of the site and comprises Devensian sands and gravels, while the lowest lying portions are predominantly alluvium. While along the southern bank of the Leven, in the east part of site are two river terrace deposits and to the west side of the site are Flandrian marine deposits. A band of glacial till is present in the south east part of the site.

Known Heritage Sites and Features

The rapid DBA has identified 23 previously known or readily identifiable archaeological or historic environment sites and features as described below. Where one exists, we have included the Canmore ID for reference. Canmore is the online portal of Historic Environment Records maintained by HES and can be found at <http://canmore.org.uk>. We have also assessed the potential which each site or feature has to deliver on a range of outputs and / or outcomes through the Hidden Heritage project. These are classed as Low, Medium and High based on professional judgement as related to different types and degrees of constraints and opportunities. For example, assessment of: low potential may relate to limited or no preservation, no or limited documentary sources, and may have associated technical / access constraints limiting potential, or is not a key / engaging element of the history / story of the DBA area; medium potential may relate to a reasonable degree of preservation confirmed and with limited constraints which can be readily mitigated, some potential for further documentary insights or provides useful / moderately engaging element of the history / story of the DBA area; high potential may relate to good preservation and / or legibility, some or good potential for further documentary insights, good access and / or interest in site expressed, or is a key, or particularly engaging, component of the history / story of the DBA area.

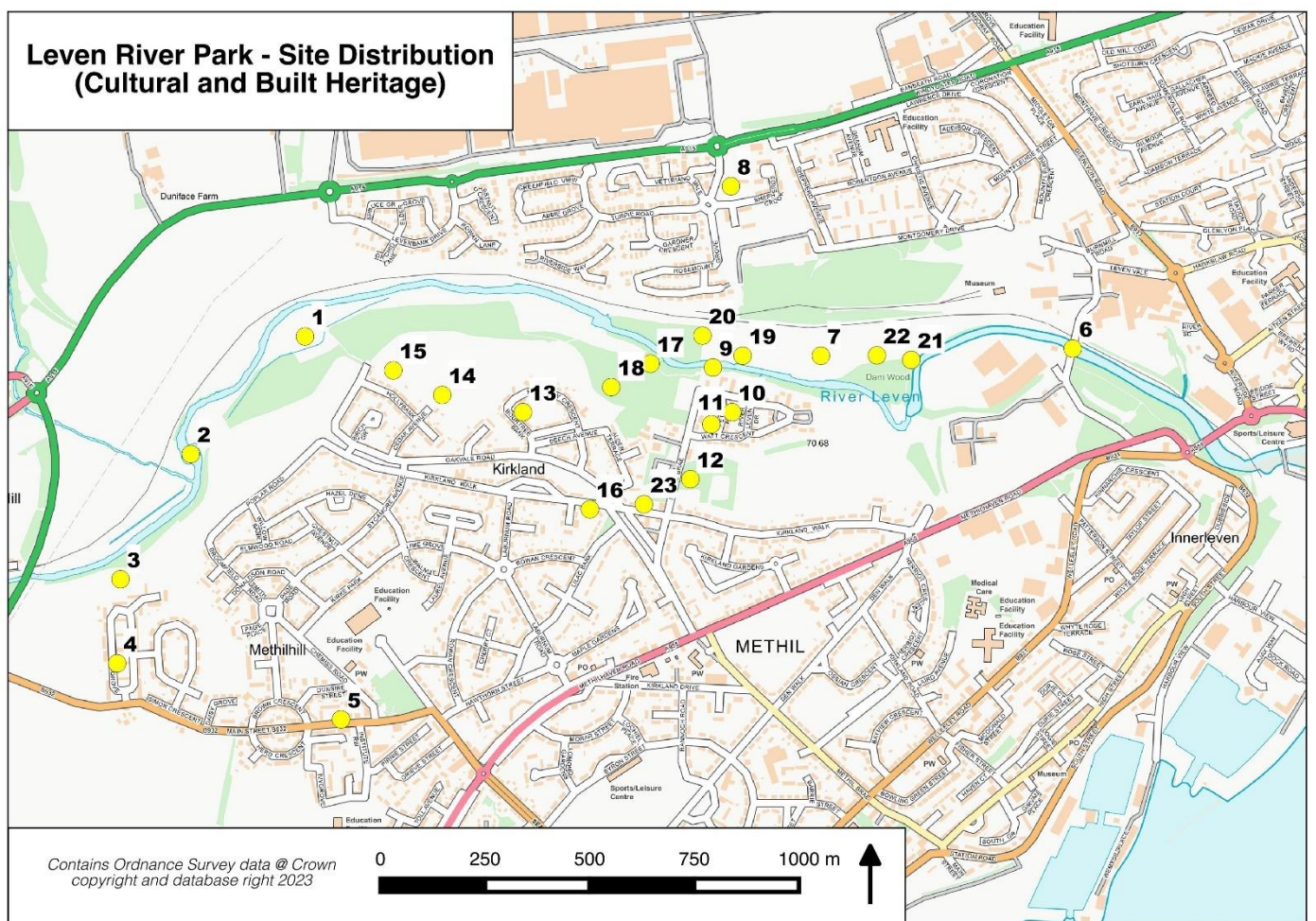


Figure 1: Heritage Assessment Distribution Map

River Park Site No: 1 Methil Mill

Name: Methil Mill

NGR: NO 35679 00681

Canmore ID: n/a

Description: Group of mill buildings, with mill lade situated to the south. Shows on Roy's Military (1744-47) map as three buildings and yard and on 1st Edition OS map there is greater details showing a range of possible smaller out-buildings.

Previously investigated as part of Leven Valley Development Trust Methil Mill Community Excavation Project in 2004, which looked at the main mill building and established that it had *'two phases and was powered by a single south gable mounted undershot water wheel, with the water being fed down a ditch-cut lade to the wheel recess pit.'* (Spiers 2004)

It was considered that:

'excavations showed that Methil Mill constitutes a largely unaltered early 18th century pre-Improvement water-powered corn mill that was re-used during the 20th century as a piggery and a chicken farm before being systematically robbed of fittings, fixtures, stone and roofing materials in the later 1960s.' (ibid).

Wider survey identified a total of seven structures, one of which is thought to be the miller's house. As well as a range of artefacts, a stone with *Wemyss* inscribed on it was recovered from the excavation.

Initial Assessment of Potential: High potential for further community excavation and post-excavation analysis and publication. High potential for additional engagement and interpretation at the site. Moderate potential for skills and employability related activities. Opportunity to open-up and consolidate site assessed by Methil Mill project, as related to above.

River Park Site No: 2 Kirkland Dam Weir

Name: Kirkland Dam Weir

NGR: NO 35406 00400

Canmore ID: NO30SE 224

Description: Indicated on 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map as c 22 m long building comprising three compartments, marked as Spinning Mill on a map relating to the Durie Estate, and indicated as roofless by third edition Ordnance Survey map. Annotated as Waulk Mill on Dower's Map (1828).

Initial Assessment of Potential: As wall tops show on surface, high potential for community investigation, including survey and dig. High potential as location for further engagement events. Could be subject to digital model and interpretation.

River Park Site No: 3 Ashgrove Souterrain

Name: Ashgrove Souterrain

NGR: NO 35238 00101

Canmore ID: NO30SE 12

Description: Underground structure dating to the Iron Age discovered *'in April 1868, by workmen who were cutting the branch railway between Cameron Bridge Station and Buckhaven, about a quarter of a mile from that station. It was embedded in a firm dry gravel bank overlooking the river Leven.'* Charcoal and bones discovered during excavation and then 'reconstruction' using some of original stones made at Markinch, Rothes.

Initial Assessment of Potential: Medium Engagement and Interpretative Potential - for example can it be confirmed that materials survive relating to original excavation? Is the Souterrain at (?) Rothes House (Canmore No NO20SE 180) still surviving?

River Park Site No: 4 Ashgrove Cist

Name: Ashgrove

NGR: NT 3523 9990

Canmore ID: NT39NE 3

Description: Three or four Bronze Age cist burials excavated by Audrey Henshall. Lots of interesting information about this important site (see Henshall 1966) in terms of individuals and a Bronze dagger which had traces of leather sheath, horn and bone and handle. Original Bronze Dagger was with Kirkcaldy Museum.

Initial Assessment of Potential: Medium Engagement and Interpretative.

River Park Site No: 5 Wilson Square

Name: Methill Hill 1 – 8 Wilson Square

NGR: NT 35765 99766

Canmore ID: NT39NE 126

Description: B Listed Housing relating to Wemyss Coal Company and built in 1924.

Initial Assessment of Potential: Engagement and Interpretative relating to social history.

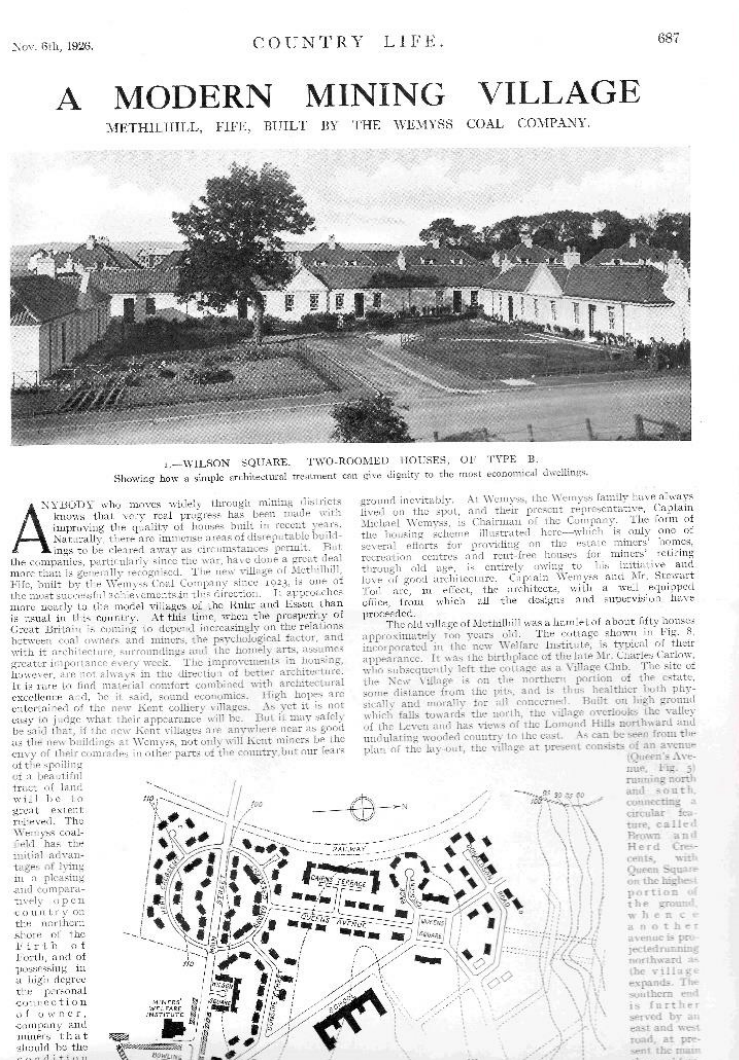


Figure 2: Image of Wilson Square from County Life magazine, 6th November 1926.

River Park Site No: 6 Saw Mill Bridge

Name: Saw Mill Bridge

NGR: NO 37514 00652

Canmore ID: NO30SE 50

Description: C Listed bridge over River Leven built in 1908 by Brandon Bridge Building Company, Motherwell. Also shows on Canmore photo entitled 'The Enamelled Metal Products Corporation (1933) Ltd, Durie Foundry' (Photo Ref: 1438720).

Initial Assessment of Potential: Engagement and Interpretative.

River Park Site No: 7 Creosote Site

Name: Mountfleurie, Alex. Bruce & Co Telegraph Pole And Railway Sleeper Works

NGR: NO 36912 00635

Canmore ID: NO30SE 234

Description: Industrial works, known by some as the 'Creosote Site' and is now referred to as the 'Mayfield Site'. Images in canmore records, such as (SC 1257445), show its character with rail lines and piles of Railway sleepers and telegraph poles.

Initial Assessment of Potential: Medium Interpretative due to details showing in photograph(s) relating to this site but also adjacent sites such the Kirkland Works (Site no: 11) and Mayfield (Site no: 7).

River Park Site No: 8 Montfleurie

Name: Montfleurie

NGR: NO 36697 01040

Canmore ID: NO30SE 20

Description: Archaeological assessment in 1993 before housing construction revealed ditches and pits (one of which had green glaze pottery sherds dating to 16th / 17th centuries) and remains relating to the Banbeath coal field (Estate maps held at Durie House, together with information in the Old Statistical Account) (see Dalland 1993).

Initial Assessment of Potential: Interpretative as example of earlier forms of settlement in locale prior to industrialisation.

River Park Site No: 9 Steel Works Brae Footbridge

Name: Methill Hill Steel Works Brae, Footbridge Over River Leven

NGR: NO 36654 00607

Canmore ID: NO30SE 146

Description: Single span 19th century iron footbridge. C Listed. No longer in use and blocked to access.

Initial Assessment of Potential: Could this be restored as part of wider access / skills and employment during delivery phase.

River Park Site No: 10 Kirkland Works - Steel

Name: Methil, Kirkland Works, National Steel Foundry

NGR: NO 3670 0050

Canmore ID: NO30SE 139.01

Description: Foundry constructed from 1910 and established in 1914 as the Kirkland Works, National Steel Foundry. Demolished and now largely built over, with no substantive upstanding remains known to survive.

Initial Assessment of Potential: Social History, Oral Histories, Engagement and Interpretative.

River Park Site No: 11 Kirkland works - Flax

Name: Methil, Kirkland Works

NGR: NO 36650 00471

Canmore ID: NO30SE 139

Description: Flax Dressing Shop (19th Century), Linen / Flax Manufacturing Site (19th Century), Sailcloth Factory (19th Century)

'Kirkland Works is depicted and named on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6-inch county map (Fife and Kinross, 1855, sheet 25). Also shown area weaving mill, a hackling mill and sailcloth and linen manufactory, bleaching mill and spinning mills all suggesting flax processing into textiles. By the 2nd edition of the Ordnance Survey 6-inch county sheet (Fife, 1885, sheet 25) the site is shown as 'Kirkland Works (Disused)'. By the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey one inch to the mile map (Kinross, 1906, sheet 40) the site was partially occupied by the National Steel Foundry, the bulk of which appears to replace the Kirkland Works spinning mills buildings.' (Information from RCAHMS (MMD) 31 August 2010).

Shows on Ainslie's (1801) map as *Kirklin Works*. It is also described in NSA (see Appendix 2) and OS Name Book (See Appendix 3) and has high potential for further documentary research as revealed in Steel (1975) (see Appendix 1).

Steel (1975, 94) reveals that Kirkland Mill was built in 1789, as Fife's first purpose built linen mill, and *'In 1810, Kirkland became the first spinning mill in Scotland to be lit by gas, the apparatus being produced by Boulton and Watt* (ibid 100)

Initial Assessment of Potential: High potential for additional archival research (see Steel 1975 for broader historical context). High Interpretative potential due to overall significance of sites and local interest.

River Park Site No: 12 Kirkland Manor House

Name: Methil, Kirkland Manor House.

NGR: NO 3660 0034

Canmore ID: NO30SE 92

Description: *'Possible 17th century Manor House. According to local information, this house was built as a temporary residence, by David, fourth Earl of Wemyss, while boring for coal in the neighbourhood. It is a plain featureless building of the late 17th or early 18th century, consisting of an oblong main block, two storeys and a garret in height, with a small central wing projecting to the north, and containing the entrance. From each gable projects a low wing. The gables are crow-stepped, and the masonry is harled, the chamfered and back-set window dressings being exposed.'* (Information from RCAHMS 1933, visited 1 June 1928)

Indicated as Manor House on 2nd Edition OS map.

Initial Assessment of Potential: Medium Potential for Community Research, Medium to High Potential for Community Dig, Medium to High Potential for Interpretation.

River Park Site No: 13 Kirkland Quern

Name: Methil, Kirkland – Quern

NGR: NO 362 005

Canmore ID: NO30SE 46

Description: In preparing a housing scheme East of Methilmill Cemetery, the upper stone of a flat quern of micaceous schist, probably of medieval date was found. In Buckhaven Library (Candow 1955).

Initial Assessment of Potential: Interpretative.

River Park Site No: 14 Methil Cemetery

Name: Methilhill, Holly Bank, Methilhill Cemetery

NGR: NO 36007 00541

Canmore ID: NO30SE 147

Description: Small 17th / 18th century cemetery (C Listed) to north west of main cemetery. According to Listing Statement 'Monuments include: tabletop with moulded cornice to slab supported by 3 moulded pedestals, inscription commences 'Janet Steven spouse of Robert Wood who died 1771'. Low, flat-coped ashlar enclosure of 'Peter' family, with 3-stage obelisk to NW wall. Inlaid slab to SE at 2nd stage commemorating 'John Peter 1808-1814'.

Gravestones predominantly classical with some older simple moulded apex stones, including 1798 headstone 'Erected by Thomas Berwick Shipmaster Dubbiesaide'; 1821 stone 'Erected by David Martin Kirkland', and 1820 stone 'Erected by William Irvine of Methil Mill in memory of his father James'.'

Initial Assessment of Potential: Graveyard survey, historical research, interpretation.

River Park Site No: 15 Methil Church and Burial Ground

Name: Methill Church and burial ground

NGR: NO 3589 0060

Canmore ID: NO30SE 11

Description: Pre-reformation church

This building was a chapel previous to the Reformation, but after that became the parish church of Methill. OS Name Book 1854.

No trace remains of the church except a vague raised platform, 18.0 x 6.0m and the sub-circular enclosing wall. The square structure at the east end of the church site is a modern burial vault. The open structure (on OS 6") at the west end of the church site has disappeared, and undoubtedly was the remains of the church.

Initial Assessment of Potential: Interpretative.

River Park Site No: 16 Kirkland School

Name: Kirkland School

NGR: NO 36360 00268

Canmore ID: n/a

Description: Long linear building shows on 1st Edition OS map to south of main industrial complex marked school. Also described in OS Name Book (see appendix 3).

Initial Assessment of Potential: Limited potential for community dig or geophysics due to services. Medium to High potential for further documentary research.

River Park Site No: 17 Kirkland House

Name: Kirkland House

NGR: NO 36505 00616

Canmore ID: n/a

Description: Large building shows on 1st Edition OS map with associated designed gardens and smaller outbuildings including Summer House. Marked as ruin on 3rd Edition OS Maps.

Inventory of Furniture on death of J Peter in 1833 exists.

Initial Assessment of Potential: In green space, has some archaeological potential. Interpretation and Engagement.

River Park Site No: 18 Rose Cottage

Name: Rose Cottage

NGR: NO 36411 00560

Canmore ID: n/a

Description: Smaller building in grounds of Kirkland House as shown on 1st Edition OS map.

Initial Assessment of Potential: In green space, has some archaeological potential.

River Park Site No: 19 Bridge-end Cottage

Name: Bridge-end

NGR: NO 36725 00635

Canmore ID: n/a

Description: Small building shown on 1st Edition OS map. Named Bridgeend Cottage on second edition OS map.

Initial Assessment of Potential: In green space archaeological potential but issues of possible contaminants from creosote yard.

River Park Site No: 20 Curling Pond

Name: Curling Pond, north of Bridge-end

NGR: NO 36629 00683

Canmore ID: n/a

Description: Large rectangular feature shown on 1st Edition OS map.

Initial Assessment of Potential: Interpretative.

River Park Site No: 21 Saw Mill Cottage

Name: Saw Mill Cottage

NGR: NO 37128 00625

Canmore ID: n/a

Description: Smaller building in grounds of Mayfield as shown on 1st Edition OS map. Renamed Swiss Cottage on 2nd Edition OS map.

Initial Assessment of Potential: In green space archaeological potential but issues of possible contaminants from creosote yard.

River Park Site No: 22 Mayfield Ruin

Name: Mayfield

NGR: NO 37046 00636

Canmore ID: n/a

Description: Two building with small designed garden shown on 1st Edition OS

Initial Assessment of Potential: In green space archaeological potential but issues of possible contaminants from creosote yard.

River Park Site No: 23 Mathieson Place

Name: Mathieson Place

NGR: NO 36489 00280

Canmore ID: n/a

Description: Row of houses running from Kirkland Walk, across from Kirkland Arms, shows on 3rd Edition OS map – no longer standing and currently green space.

Initial Assessment of Potential: Social History, Oral History.

Site Investigations

During the development phase three sites were investigated to better understand their archaeological potential, including Kirkland Manor, Kirkland Mansion House and Kirkland School / Mathieson Place. Methil Mill was also assessed through site visits and investigations (see Methil Mill report) in terms of its upstanding condition and it had been established that a previous community dig had investigated some elements of the site in 2004, together which provided sufficient information for project planning.

Altogether four archaeological evaluations (trial excavations) and one survey were undertaken, across ten days, as part of the site investigations. Participants came from the local community (residents), local archaeological societies and Levenmouth Academy. In total 29 volunteers and 18 pupils took part in the project. Despite some challenging weather all but one session was fully booked and Archaeology Scotland was approached by potential volunteers asking to attend fully booked sessions. Participants ranged from young children, families, adults and retirees. Taken together the volunteer sessions showed high levels of interest in taking part in the fieldwork and the great potential for future projects.

In total five, hand dug trenches were excavated alongside members of the local community, a summary of the results are below:

Kirkland Manor

Archaeological evaluation took place at Kirkland Manor over four days between the 29th of September and the 2nd of October 2023. Two test pits were opened to characterise the archaeological survival of the building and to determine whether the site offered potential for further community archaeological work. Sixteen local volunteers took part in the excavations while 10 students from the local high school, Levenmouth Academy visited the site over two afternoons.

The two test trenches measured 1m x 4m and were aligned east to west. Below the topsoil in trench one was a made ground deposit of loamy material possibly representing a topsoil type deposit that contained abundant fragments of modern material, including glass plastic and some coins from the 1970's and 1980's. Below this deposit was a series of deposits of building demolition material which covered the foundations of the manor house, which were found at a depth of 0.9m, which are defined by large sandstone blocks, stone and brick. These substantial foundations were in a relatively good state of preservation and it can be suggested that there are the substantial remains of the building foundations surviving below the ground in this area, warranting further investigation.

Below the topsoil in trench two was the same loamy made ground material containing numerous modern artefacts. Below this was a very hard concrete like deposit which was not possible to have excavate and therefore it is not clear if the house foundations survive below this trench.

Recommendation - Community excavation.

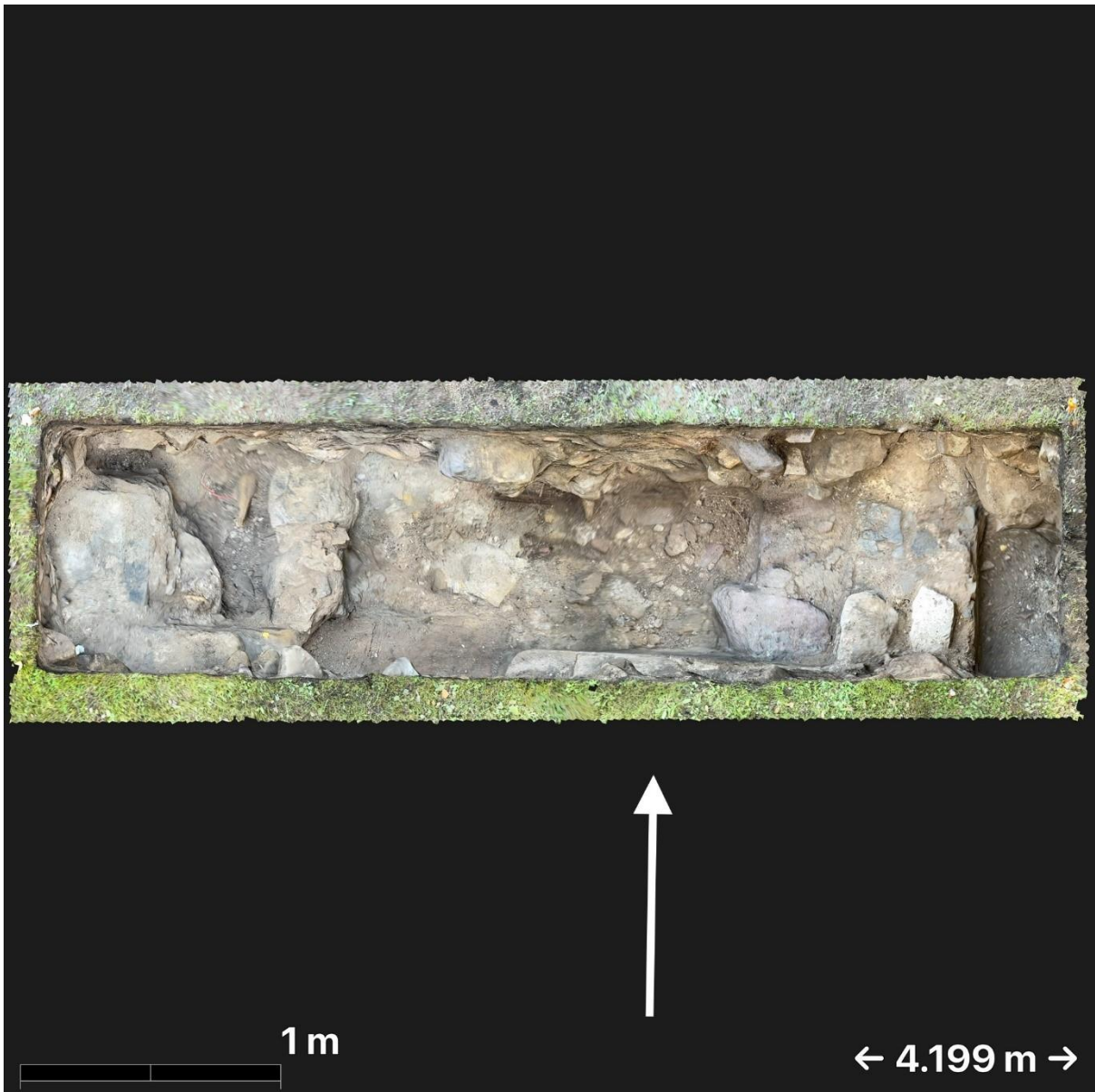


Figure 3 Post excavation shot of trench 1 showing building foundations relating to Kirkland Manor

Kirkland School/Mathieson Place

During the work at Kirkland manor a small team of volunteers opened a 2m x 1m trench at the site of Mathieson Place. No archaeological material or evidence of any building or foundation material was found in the trench and instead below the topsoil a sandy natural subsoil was discovered to a depth of 1.0 m. It is not clear if the trench was in a location where no archaeology survives or if the entire foundations and building material was removed from the site on its demolition. Unfortunately, due to the location of power lines close to Kirkland School site test-pits were unable to be excavated, which represents a constraint to further investigations.

Recommendation - Given the identification of the presence of defined areas of vegetation and wall remains at Mathieson Place, it has potential to be investigated further as part of a community excavation. Kirkland School could also be investigated through geophysics but the presence of services in vicinity limits the potential for meaningful results.

Kirkland House

Archaeological evaluation took place at Kirkland House over two days between the 24th and 25th of October 2023. Two test pits were opened to characterise the archaeological survival of the building and to determine whether the site offered potential for further community archaeological work. Four local volunteers took part in the excavations.

Both test pits measured 2m x 1m and were located in dense forestry. Test Pit one was aligned east to west, Test Pit two was aligned north to south. Below the topsoil in both trenches there were a series of deposits of slag, gravel and sand excavated to a depth of 0.80 m, all relating to a made ground deposit of bing material from the nearby steelworks that used to occupy land next to the site. It appears that the bing was flattened and the area landscaped after the steelworks were closed and the site redeveloped. As such if there is any archaeology relating to the Kirkland House surviving it will be below these deposits, which were not accessible by the volunteers. Several brick and stone foundations were observed however eroding out of the river-bank, below c 1 – 2 m of overburden, that correspond to structures annotate on historical Ordnance survey maps.

Recommendation - Given the relatively difficult terrain next to the river and the steep slopes it is not recommended that these features form the basis of any future community archaeology work. Additionally, the observations from the test pits suggest that any remains relating to Kirkland House are potentially below at least c 1.0m of overburden.

Site (No)	Degree of Preservation	Recommendations for further work
Kirkland Manor (No: 12)	Foundation deposits identified in archaeological investigation.	Walkover survey. Community dig clarify use, date and function of the building over time.
Kirkland House (No: 17)	No visible sign of building in the test pits. Buried by landscaping and more work needed. The presence of the steelwork bing landscaping has been established. Some ancillary structures may survive along river also noted. What hasn't been established is deposits below the bing.	Some small scale investigation of ancillary buildings might offer some interest but would entail several health and safety and practical concerns given their eroding location next to the river – so no further excavation recommended.
Mathieson Place (No: 23)	No visible remains identified in test pit	Community excavation and survey test pits to characterise archaeological remains.
Kirkland School (No: 16)	Not excavated	No further site investigations, focus on documentary research.
Methilmill Church (No: 15)	Site consultation and walking tour conducted. Remains of medieval wall surviving below hedge and fencing. Many toppled stones, deteriorating enclosure and fragments of carved stones.	Full survey, buried stone survey, condition survey for potential repairs to existing stones and enclosure. Delivered as part of the green skills academy.
Rose Cottage, Saw Mill Cottage and Mayfield (Nos: 18, 21 & 22)		Community Walk Over and survey.

Table 1: Summary of Key Findings



Figure 4 A happy volunteer with a find from Kirkland Manor

Community Responses to Investigations

As well as, providing insights through archaeological evaluation into the degree of preservation and character of archaeological deposits in the River Parks it also provided an important opportunity to engage with and involve local participants. Examples of their response to the experience, are given below:

“It was a really enjoyable experience, and although we were only doing evaluation trenches so much seemed to be achieved and discovered in a short time. I think this was in part due to organisation and guidance from the professional team on site who were very supportive and encouraging while at the same time giving the volunteers the autonomy to investigate the archaeology. As someone who has lived in Fife all their life and thought they knew the local area I was personally blown away by the depth of history that was associated with Methil and the surrounding area - who knew there was a Methil Manor House possibly dating back centuries!! It was also great on the first (more accessible) dig to see so many local people dropping by who were keen to find out what was going on at the dig, and adding their own anecdotes about the history of the local area. I learned a lot. I can't lie about the weather though, it was very wet!”



Figure 5 Two local volunteers having fun digging at Kirkland Manor



Figure 6 A young volunteer with one of her finds

“Just a little note to say how much I enjoyed working with you and the team on the digs at Methil. It was interesting to learn about the local history of an area that I knew very little about, and although a couple of the trenches proved to be uneventful the others were, and I found the whole experience very interesting and rewarding, also it provided me with another avenue to my volunteer archaeology journey, being able to do the section drawing in one of the trenches also added to my ongoing experiences and understanding of what’s involved in recording a trench.

I think that myself and the rest of the volunteers achieved a lot in the few days considering the sometimes inclement weather, but that did not deter us from having a great time over the days of the dig. I think that we all worked well as a team and all knew each others capabilities and achieved a well balanced team. I think it is a good idea for community volunteers to get involved in local archaeology projects and I hope it will continue. On a final note the backfill on the last Saturday was fun in the rain and we all had a laugh! Many thanks”



Figure 7 Two young volunteers learning about the history of Kirkland Manor

Discussion

The initial desk-based assessment established that:

- The range of previously known sites indicate potential for engagement and interpretation around earlier activity along the Leven including relating to the Bronze Age burials at Ashgrove and Iron Age Souterrain at Methil.
- While Methil Mill probably originates in the first half of the 18th century, the discovery of a Medieval mill stone and 16th / 17th century traces of settlement at Mountfleurie shows potential for more about 'Medieval Methil' to be encountered through archaeological investigations. This is supported by the oval enclosure around the pre-reformation church which also points to a focus of activity in the 12th or 13th centuries onwards.
- A better understanding of the story of the 17th / 18th century Kirkland Manor House would build on this earlier story and provide a bridge to the Kirkland Works.
- The Kirkland Works has a distinctive story with the close proximity of Kirkland Works and the wider industrial activity relating to flax processing and cloth production providing high potential for further archival and field investigations.
- A number of sites have potential for exploring social archaeologies of housing during the 20th century, such as Wilson Square and Mathieson Place. Between these and the potential for oral histories relating to the foundry, there may be other ways of engaging with the community relating to more social histories.
- With the potential for consolidation works at Methil Mill and Methill Hill Steel Works Brae bridge conservation management needs there is potential for technical skills and employability as part of the delivery phase, perhaps as part of the wider green skills academy. The green skills academy is being developed between Fife Council and Rural Skills Scotland, with opportunities for input from Fife College and other training providers. The potential for the archaeological programme to be delivered through the green skills academy is being explored. As such, the conservation management needs of Methill Hill graveyard could be addressed in this context too (i.e. what is current and potential future condition of 17th / 18th century gravestones)
- There is potential for further desk-based research during the delivery phase relating to archives and documents held in a range of collections (see appendix 1).

This combined with the initial phases of consultation and engagement, has led to the identification of opportunities for a range of heritage related activities, within the delivery phase of the River Park project. These are focused on a number of key locations which may have higher potential for supporting archaeology and heritage-based activities during the delivery phase as outlined in table below.

Site (No)	Dig	Archive	Digital	Management Enhancements	Interpretation
Methill Mill (No: 1)	High Potential for Future Community Investigations.	Mid potential also of note is reference to (cornmill of) <i>Methkyl</i> c.1332 Fraser, <i>Wemyss</i> ii no. 8 [Michael of Wemyss lord of that ilk's cornmill of Methil] (Taylor & Marcus 2006).	3d Model AR	Potential for consolidation and re-use if legacy can be secured (see Methil Mill project report).	High Potential to relate to access and interpretative planning processes.

Kirkland Works (No: 11)	Majority of 'Industrial' buildings covered by modern housing estate so limited potential for pockets of preservation.	Medium Potential.	3d Model AR	Unlikely as no known upstanding remains which require management.	High Potential to relate to access and interpretative planning processes.
Kirkland Manor (No: 12)	Moderate potential as despite depth of deposits, insights from investigation can be complemented with further documentary research.	Some potential if access to Wemyss Archives can be obtained.	3d Model AR	Unlikely as no known upstanding remains which require management but insights from investigation can help assess extent of associated archaeological deposits and management needs.	High Potential to relate to access and interpretative planning processes.
Kirkland House (No: 17)	Low potential but constraints due to depth of overburden.	Medium Potential.	3d Model AR.	Unlikely as no known upstanding remains which require management but issues with erosion along river bank should be noted.	High Potential to relate to access and interpretative planning processes.
Methilhill (terrace between church and quern findspot) (Nos: 13 & 15)	Moderate Potential as close to communities 'origins' and relatively accessible. May find little but great engagement and skills development opportunity before other locations.	Limited Potential but investigating association with St Andrews Bishopric (place name Methil refers to 'middle church' and Barony may reveal more.			Some potential to relate to access and interpretative planning processes.
Ashgrove River Side (i.e. with concentration of prehistoric remains) (No: 4)	Some potential for extending insights with community. May appeal more to a different audience segment.	Potential for clarification on story of movement of souterrain to Rothes estate.	Reconst ruction Visualis ations of key features possible .		Some potential to relate to access and interpretative planning processes.

Table 2: Opportunities for the delivery phase of the River Park project.

Further consultation and engagement and the results of the site investigation in particular has clarified the degree of potential for further archaeological investigation at several key locations:

- Methil Mill – confirmed high potential (see Methil Mill report).

- Kirkland Mansion – difficult for further site investigation due to depth of overburden and other potential H&S issues but has good potential for further archive research, interpretation and engagement.
- Kirkland Manor – potential for further site investigation due to preservation and has good potential for further archive research, interpretation and engagement.
- Methilmill Church – potential for further investigation, such as graveyard survey, and may also be better contextualised through investigations of area beyond its boundaries where Medieval Methil may be preserved in greenspaces around Methilhill.
- Kirkland School and Mathieson Place – no remains identified in trench at Mathieson place and surface remains suggest low potential for further investigations but archaeological deposits may be present in other parts of the site. Some potential for geophysical survey and limited potential for evaluation at site of Kirkland School but associated constraints may prevent this being a high priority. Kirkland School has good potential for further archive research, interpretation and engagement.
- Kirkland Dam mill site – this was identified as having local interest and some potential for further investigations through the consultation process. It would also usefully contribute, with Methil Mill and the Kirkland Works, to developing a deeper understanding of the history of industry relating to the River Parks and wider Leven as part of the wider archive research, interpretation and engagement.

Delivery Phase Proposals

We have heard through consultation that people are interested in researching and learning more about the social history of the area, and wider links and relationships through trade and travel. They are also interested in taking part in archaeological digs and have been interested in handling and learning about objects from the past. We also know there is a need to build and support capacity for heritage in the community and the importance of skills and employability initiatives, so have taken these into account.

As such, the scope and method of activities relating to these locations, and the broader story of the communities adjacent to the River Parks, can be approached in a variety of ways to reveal its Hidden Heritage. These are expressed as four sub-projects with potential to appeal to different audiences and deliver on different outcomes. These outcomes are expressed in indicative terms and should be refined with partners and participants as part of project setup, with appropriate and proportionate methods of evaluation being agreed. In terms of skills acquisition, these are expressed as transferable and technical skills. Opportunities should be sought with other River Parks projects, such as Methil Mill and Capacity Building, and delivery methods such as the Green Skills Academy to create pathways for skills development and progression over the proposed four-year period of the delivery phase.

People In The Papers – Archive research can provide more details of individuals, particularly from the 18th century onwards, and has potential for more insights about how people were living. We know there is potential through newspaper archives, ONFife archives and wider business archives. Building on interest in the social history of the area, this element of the Hidden Heritage project will help develop further skills and capacity in community research and tell a wider range of stories. The archival research, for example relating to industrial heritage of the Kirkland textile works (Site no: 11), mills (Sites nos: 1 & 2), can also be readily complemented by oral histories of the more recent industrial heritage (Site no: 10) of the River Parks.

It is also intended to complement and support the interests of heritage and history groups already active in the area and encourage more people to get actively involved in community research and learning.

Key Audiences: Existing Heritage Groups, Schools and Lifelong Learning.

Key Outcomes: People will have developed skills, your organisation will be more resilient, Heritage will be identified and better explained.

Key Outputs: One *People In The Papers* Research Results Report – presenting key insights and stories from the research process, with signposting to key resources used; at least six Oral History Recordings and Transcripts; at least 500 copies of *Our Stories of the River Parks* ‘Booklet’ which presents summaries of key insights and stories found by *People In the Papers* sub-project with range of illustrations and figures.

Power of Participation – getting involved in archaeological digs can be a really powerful experience for many people, even through short taster sessions, and will provide a fun and memorable activity for a greater number of people in the community. This will allow for further investigation of the sites and locations in the River Parks (potentially including Kirklands Manor (Site no: 12) and Methil Hill (in green spaces on terrace in the vicinity of Sites nos: 13 & 15) which have been shown to have high potential to better tell the story of people’s heritage. This element will support a more diverse range of people to get involved in the investigation process, than who would normally participate in field investigations, and learn more about the heritage of their area.

This element can also be used to support longer term participation to provide opportunities for learning and skill development producing a range of transferable skills (such as collaboration and critical thinking) and more technical skills (such as surveying and recording techniques) and other outcomes for people, such as improved wellbeing. It is also intended to form a key strand of a Green Skills Academy curriculum. As part of this approach, other conservation / heritage craft skills will be offered (such as vegetation management, building restoration and interpretation), complementing activities which can also be delivered as part of the Methil Mill project.

Key Audience: This project has potential to be wide reaching in demographics, with targeted engagement to involve existing heritage groups and school groups. It would also provide opportunities to engage in lifelong learning for a more diverse range of individuals, particularly relating to Protected Characteristics, this can include informal skills development through volunteering and participation and there is potential for other more formal opportunities (such as Heritage Heroes Awards) and those which may be developed via the Green Skills Academy and / or Capacity Building project which could be accredited.

Key Outcomes: People will have developed skills, potentially transferable and technical. Heritage will be identified and better explained through sharing the project outputs.

Key Outputs: One Project Design; one Data Structure Report each season of excavation; one Site(s) Archive; Two Popular publications (such as in *British Archaeology Magazine*, *Current Archaeology* or *History Scotland*) and one Academic Publication, probably a *Scottish Archaeological Internet Report (SAIR)*; Social Media Content, as agreed in overall project comms plan; at least 500 copies of *Places of the River Parks* ‘Booklet’ which summarises the results of the sub-project in an engaging way, with associated illustrations and figures.

Picturing the Past – with so much of the heritage hidden below the ground, or not readily legible, the visualisation of the sites (suggested to be Kirkland Works (Site no: 11), Kirkland Manor (Site no: 12), Kirkland Dam mill (Site no: 2) and Medieval Methil) and stories of the River Parks will be very important for community learning, pride in place and improved visitor experiences through interpretation. The process would build on archaeological and historical data sets (such as maps and old photographs) and insights to build 3-D models which could then contribute to development of Virtual Reality / Augmented

Reality content. It will provide opportunities for different groups of people, with technical support, to research, design and create visualisations. Not everything needs to be digital though, the process of visualisation can be achieved through other medium, from technical pen and ink drawings to water colour pictures. Allowance should be made for more creative responses too, through commissions for local artists, with associated community arts activities as part of the briefs.

Key Audience: This project has potential to support wider participation, in particular for groups and individuals relating to Protected Characteristics.

Key Outcomes: People will have developed skills in analysis and heritage visualisation, A wider range of people will be involved in heritage, heritage will be identified and better explained through the project outputs.

Key Outputs: Digital Data Sets; at least six Digitally Created Visualisations; at least three groups of visualisation art works created through Artist Commissions (artist produced and / or participatory arts process); one *Picturing The Past* River Parks 'story-map' online resource.

Stories In A Box – this element comprises developing an Archaeology of River Parks Handling / Learning Kit(s) for use by different community groups and schools. These will be developed thematically through further codesign and can be readily linked to the Archaeology Scotland Heritage Heroes awards (HHA) and Attainment through Archaeology (AtA) for a range of people. The development of this legacy resource will also incorporate insights from further research undertaken as part of the other elements of the Hidden Heritage project. Development will design content which links to sites, people and themes found within the River Parks, as relating to the wider Hidden Heritage project, and its legacy will encourage and support people to learn about and explore the River Parks in the future.

Key Audience: Schools and Lifelong Learning.

Key Outcomes: People will have developed skills, such as transferable skills in creativity and curiosity and technical skills in designing and researching, People will have learned about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions, such as using the River Park more, heritage will be identified and better explained through the outputs.

Key Outputs: Codesign Outputs from HHA and AtA activities; Social Media Content; *River Parks Stories* in a box handling / learning resource.

The four sub-projects are designed to be complementary with insights from each informing subsequent elements, and allowing a sufficient range of activities to appeal to a wide range of people. It is proposed that including project setup, that activities extend over three years to allow for longer term outcomes to be delivered. The broad sequence of sub-projects and activities is shown in the table below. It should be noted that, depending on the delivery mechanism (e.g. through a project partner as opposed to contractors), there is flexibility to compress the timetable to a degree but this may inhibit the identification of pathways to progression (such as through the Green Skills academy) and development of broader programme legacies.

Hidden Heritage GANTT KEY ELEMENTS 2025 - 2028	2025				2026				2027				2028			
	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
Project Set up	█															
Project Launch		█														
Hidden Heritage- People in the Papers delivery		█	█													
Hidden Heritage- People in the Papers outputs				█												
Hidden Heritage- Power of Participation Field Work			█				█			█						
Hidden Heritage- Power of Participation reporting				█				█			█					
Hidden Heritage- Stories in a Box delivery			█	█			█			█						
Hidden Heritage- Stories in a Box outputs				█								█				
Hidden Heritage- Picturing the Past		█	█	█	█	█	█	█								
Hidden Heritage- Power of Participation Post-ex												█	█			
Hidden Heritage Outputs													█			
Hidden Heritage Evaluation														█		

Strategic Links

These project and their proposed outcomes can be related to the Leven Heritage Framework (LHF) (which can be downloaded from <http://www.theleven.org/projects/river-leven-heritage/>) and its overall vision:

‘The Heritage of the Leven is understood and celebrated by a wide range of people and forms a key part of communities social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing.’

Hidden Heritage, when combined with other heritage relate activities (wider engagement and interpretation planning processes) and projects (Methil Mill and Capacity Building), is well placed to deliver to the LHF Key Aims, particularly *Aim 1 – Improving access to and understanding of the heritage of the River Leven* and *Aim 2 – Developing heritage-based skills and enterprises through learning*. Hidden Heritage project will also deliver directly to the key theme of *Mills, Materials and Movement* and *Future Heritage Leven* and its delivery phase may help catalyse exploration of a *River Leven Heritage Forum*.

It should be noted that since the production of the framework that Our Past Our Future Scotland’s Strategy for the Historic Environment has been launched (superseding Our Place In Time): and can be found at <http://www.historicenvironment.scot/our-past-our-future/>. The Hidden Heritage Project is also well placed to support delivery on its key priorities and outcomes, particularly Priority 2 Communities and Places (Outcomes 4 - Organisations that care for the historic environment have the right skills and are more resilient, 5 – Communities have more opportunities to participate in decision-making about the historic environment & 6 – the historic environment is more diverse and inclusive) and Priority 3 Wellbeing Economy (Outcome 9 – increased engagement with the historic environment with a focus on activities that enhance wellbeing).

As well as delivering on the Leven Heritage Framework, it is important that delivery of the Hidden Heritage project also complements and integrates with other River Park Project delivery processes and projects, such as audience development and interpretation, wider skills and learning provision (e.g. the proposed Green Skills Academy) and opportunities through ground works (see Appendix 5) which could involve community participation.

Appendix 1: References

Bibliographic Sources referred to in report:

- Candow, R D M 1955 'Buckhaven', *Discovery Excav Scot*, 16.
- Dalland, M 1993 'Mountfleurie (Scoonie parish): cropmarks', *Discovery Excav Scot*, 29.
- Gib, G 1795 Parish of Wemyss. *Old Statistical Accounts of Scotland* 16, 513 – 533.
- Henshall, A S 1966 'A dagger-grave and other cist burials at Ashgrove, Methilhill, Fife', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* 97, 166-79.
- Laing, A 1870 'Notice of an eirde house or underground building, recently discovered at Pirnie, now Ashgrove, in the parish of Wemyss', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* 7, 532-4.
- McGuire, H 1986 *Methil Parish Church history, Unpublished Pamphlet*. NRHES.
- M'lachlan, J 1845 'Parish of Wemyss, County of Fife.' *New Statistical Accounts of Scotland* 9, 390 -403.
- Munro, D 1994 *Loch Leven and the River Leven: a landscape transformed*. Markinch
- RCAHMS 1933 *The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions of Scotland. Eleventh report with inventory of monuments and constructions in the counties of Fife, Kinross, and Clackmannan*. Edinburgh.
- Speirs, D 2004 *Methil Mill Community Excavation Project*. Unpublished Interim Statement.
- Steel, D 1975 *The Linen Industry of Fife in the Later Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries*. Phd Thesis, University of St Andrews.
- Taylor, S & Marcus, G 2006 *The Place Names of Fife: Vol 1 West Fife between Leven and Forth*. Shaun Tyas.

Cartographic Sources referred to in report:

- Ainslie, J 1801 The counties of Fife and Kinross with the rivers Forth and Tay. - Map Images - National Library of Scotland (nls.uk)
- BGS 1999a NO30 SE Solid Geology Geological Survey of Great Britain National Grid Series 1:10 560 / 1:10 000 maps
- BGS 1999b NO30 SE Drift Geology Geological Survey of Great Britain National Grid Series 1:10 560 / 1:10 000 maps
- Dower, J 1828 Map of the Counties of Fife and Kinross, Surveyed in 1826 and 1827. - Map Images - National Library of Scotland (nls.uk)
- Ordnance Survey: Fife, Sheet 25, Surveyed: 1854, Published: 1855 (6-inch) View map: Ordnance Survey, Fifeshire XXVIII.3 (Kennoway; Markinch; Scoonie; Wemyss) - Ordnance Survey 25 inch 2nd and later editions, Scotland, 1892-1949 (nls.uk)*
- Ordnance Survey: Fifeshire XXVIII.3, Revised: 1893, Published: 1895 (25-inch) View map: Ordnance Survey, Fifeshire XXVIII.3 (Kennoway; Markinch; Scoonie; Wemyss) - Ordnance Survey 25 inch 2nd and later editions, Scotland, 1892-1949 (nls.uk)*
- Ordnance Survey NO3500NE (1: 2,500-) Surveyed/Revised: 1949, Published: ca. 1950 View map: Great Britain. Ordnance Survey, NO3500NE - A - Ordnance Survey National Grid Maps, 1940s-1970 (nls.uk)*
- Ordnance Survey: NO30 (1:25,000) Revised 1938-1954 published 1956 View map: Great Britain. Ordnance Survey, NO30 - C (includes: Ceres; Cults; Kennoway; Kettle; Larqo; Markinch; Scoonie) - Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 maps of Great Britain, 1945-1969 (nls.uk)*
- Ordnance Survey: NO30SE - A, Surveyed/Revised: 1949 to 1965, Published: 1968 View map: Great Britain. Ordnance Survey, NO30SE - A - Ordnance Survey National Grid Maps, 1940s-1970 (nls.uk)*

Roy's Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-55; *Strip 18/ Section 1d*. [Roy Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-1755 - Map Images - National Library of Scotland \(nls.uk\)](http://www.nls.uk)

Potential Archival Sources for future research:

NRAS2195 James Donaldson & Sons Ltd., Timber Importers & Sawmillers, Leven, Fife
NRAS3223/MISC/7 Bundle of documents relating to Kirkland Works.
ONFife A/AAO/76/1/1 Jean Hunt & Grace Winton – Kirkland Memories – Three Oral History Sessions
ONFife A/ACX Kirkland Works
ONFife B/BM Burgh of Buckhaven and Methil Records
ONFife FC/CS/2/20 National Union of Foundry Workers Leven Branch
ONFife FC/CS/2/20/1 National Union of Foundry Workers Leven Branch Quarterly and General Meetings Minute Book 1946-57

Primary Sources relating to Kirkland Works cited in Steel (1975):

S.R.O. CS 23/2/W/23/ Wemyss Vs Peter 1826
S.R.O. B.O.T. NG 1/3/14. 3/1/1785
S.R.O. B.O.T. NG 1/1/27. 2/2/1790.5.
S.R.O. CS 229 C/4/66 Christie v. Wemyss
S.R.O. CS 271 / 43604 Bill of Suspension and interdict Christie v. Wemyss 1789
N.L.S. Mss 5319 f 131* James Heggie to William Berry 7/12/1800
S.R.O. CS 239/D/24/12 John Drummond v. Neilson, 1817.
B.P.P. 1 8 5 4/5.XV, 399 Fls report 1855
S.R.O SC 20/22/12. Inventory of J . Peter 1833.

For example, details around business development were discussed by Steel (1975,99) which could be derived from S.R.O. CS 239/D/24/12 John Drummond v. Neilson, 1817, which in turn provide more avenues for research relating to named individuals:

'Contract of Copartnery 1st, 3rd and 19th October 1806.

The aim of the business was to act as linen spinners and manufacturers at Kirkland and commission agents and general merchants in Dundee.

John Baxter of Idvies

James Peter

John Drummond

John Peter

Charles Turner of Limehouse, London, a rope spinner

Contract of Copartnery 15/8/1814 Capital of £32,000

<i>John Baxter of Idvies, Merchant, Dundee</i>	<i>4/32th</i>
<i>James Peter, flax spinner, Kirkland</i>	<i>9 /32th</i>
<i>John Peter, Merchant in Dundee</i>	<i>7/32th</i>
<i>James Aytoun, flax spinner and merchant, Haughmill</i>	<i>2/32th</i>
<i>John Drummond, Kirkland</i>	<i>8/32th</i>
<i>John Coallier, merchant, Dundee</i>	<i>2/32th</i>

The business in London of commission agents, Factors, General Agents and Insurance Brokers was to be carried an under the name of James Aytoun and Co. John Peter was to act as manager in Dundee, James Peter and John Drummond at Kirkland. The London venture was abandoned after a short time and in 1815 Drummond retired from management at Kirkland and was replaced by Aytoun.'

Additional Information relating to the amalgamation of the company which ran Kirkland Works may also be present in archival information held by University of Dundee: [Boase Spinning Company Limited](#)
 'Boase Spinning Company registered as a limited liability company in 1886 and was an amalgamation of Messrs Small and Boase, Leven, and William L. Boase and Co, Dundee.'
 Also significant reference to Fife Herald newspaper and potential for other historic newspapers for information.

Appendix 2: Description of Kirkland Works

'The principal manufacture is that of hand-loom weaving, in which both men and women are employed. In the large manufacturing establishment at Kirkland, under the firm of Neilson and Company, there are 109 persons engaged in flax-dressing; 283 employed at the spinning-mill; 48 in the bleaching department; and 241 in the cloth manufactory; in all, 681, including men and women, boys and girls. This large and extensive work is lighted with gas, and is, for plan, and order and regularity, a model for any similar erection. As far as the health and morals of the people are concerned, it is conducted in the best possible manner. It is not only the wish of the proprietors that the work people's children should be properly educated, but they are really and truly so, in all the common branches; and particular attention is also paid to their instruction in the great principles of Christianity, by a well-qualified and efficient teacher. And fewer applications for parochial relief have come from the people employed at this work, than from any other quarter of the parish.

The extensive works now noticed consume annually 1000 tons flax and hemp, from which is spun 280,000 spindles of flax, tow, and hemp yarns, two-thirds of which are made into canvas, sheeting, dowlas, ducks, sacking, and other fabrics; and about one third of the yarn is sold. The yearly amount of wages may be about L. 17,000.'
 (M'lachlane 1845, 396)

Steel (1975) references some of the social history at Kirkland Works from historical newspaper sources and for example from (B.P.P. 1854/5.XV, p 399 FIs report 1855)

'The improved conditions can be seen from Kincaid's description of Kirkland works in 1855. He described Kirkland as, "a little social world of itself" with its school, evening class and Sunday school for females, a choral society a sick fund, a meal room for workers who come in from outside, an extensive library and an annual summer excursion. "They form an instrumental band in the village, and in summer evenings perambulate the vicinity with music playing." At New Year, there is a ball given by the Proprietors, "whose liberality and care in the interests of their workers seems to unite all the parts of their social fabric in to one harmonious whole." (ibid 296)

Appendix 3: OS Name Book Extracts

(OS Name Book Reference: OS1/13/98/6)

List of names as written	Authorities for spelling	Description remarks
KIRKLAND WORKS (Sailcloth & Linen)	G.H. Peter Esq. Kirkland Works Thomas Bywater Esq. factor to Admiral Wemyss	[situation] About 1 Mile West from Leven A very extensive Manufactory of Sailcloth and Coarse linens on the banks of the River Leven, giving employment to upwards of 600 persons, Surrounded by a neat tho' small inclosure of Ornamental grounds in which are Situate 3 good dwelling houses Occupied by the Company and three principal Overseer, the whole is held under a lease of 99 years by Messrs. Peter & Co. from Admiral Wemyss of Wemyss Castle. The whole is known by the name of Kirkland Works.

(OS Name Book Reference: OS1/13/98/51)

List of names as written	Authorities for spelling	Description remarks
KIRKLAND	H. Peter Esq. Occupier Mr. John Balfour Elm Park Co. Register of voters	A mansion house two stories high with about 20 acres of ornamental land attached, held under a lease of 99 years by Me?rs. H + J Peter + Co. from Admiral Wemyss of Wemyss Castle.

(OS Name Book Reference: OS1/13/98/47)

List of names as written	Authorities for spelling	Description remarks
SCHOOL [Kirkland]	J.H. Peter Esq. Kirkland Mr. John Dunnan, Schoolmaster	A School House at Kirkland Works where on an Average 80 Males and 70 females receive the rudiments of an English education, the childrens' parents are principally employed at the Kirkland Works, the proprietors of which liberally give the Master a free House and £40 p [per] year, the additional fees Amount to £75. It is not Connected or under the Superintendance of any religious body.

(OS Name Book Reference: OS1/13/98/52)

List of names as written	Authorities for spelling	Description remarks
Mayfield	Andrew Craig. Occupier J. Davidson, Bridgend Register of Co. [County] Voters	About 25 Chains N.E. [North East] from Kirkland Works A neat Cottage 1 story high, having a small farm of 20 acres at £86 yearly, with an excellent garden attached, it is occupied by Andrew Craig, Charles M. Christie Esqr. of Durie proprietor

(OS Name Book Reference: OS1/13/98/6)

List of names as written	Authorities for spelling	Description remarks
BRIDGE-END	J. Davidson Occupier A. Craig Mayfield	On Margin of River Leven opposite Kirkland Works. A small Cottage 1 story high with a garden Containing about 1/2 an Acre of land attached, at a rent of £6 Annually, it is Occupied by J. Davidson, Charles M. Christie Esq of Durie is the proprietor.

Appendix 4: Older OS Mapping showing Listed, Canmore Sites and satellite Imagery

Figure 8: OS 1st Edition and canmore (blue) and Listed building sites (red) (Western area)

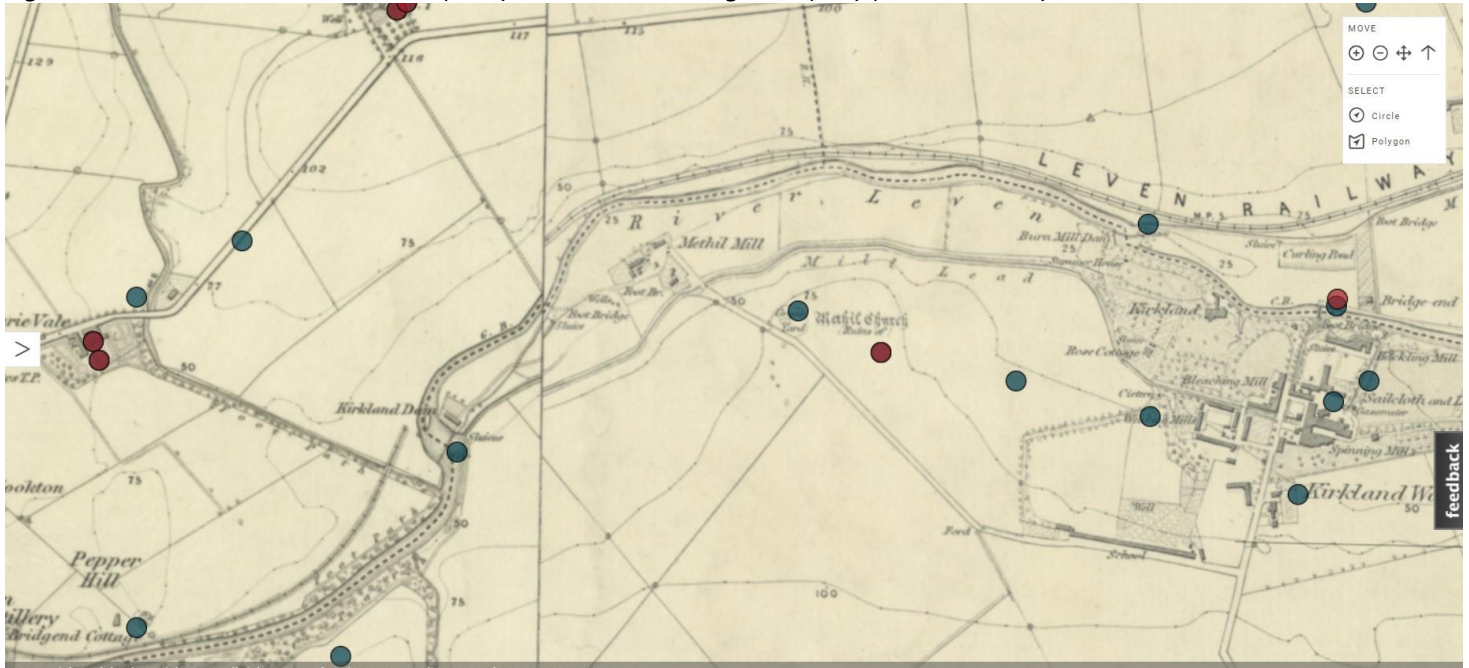


Figure 9: OS 1st Edition and canmore (blue) and Listed Building sites (red) (central area)



Figure 10: OS 1st Edition and canmore (blue) and Listed Building sites (red) (eastern area)

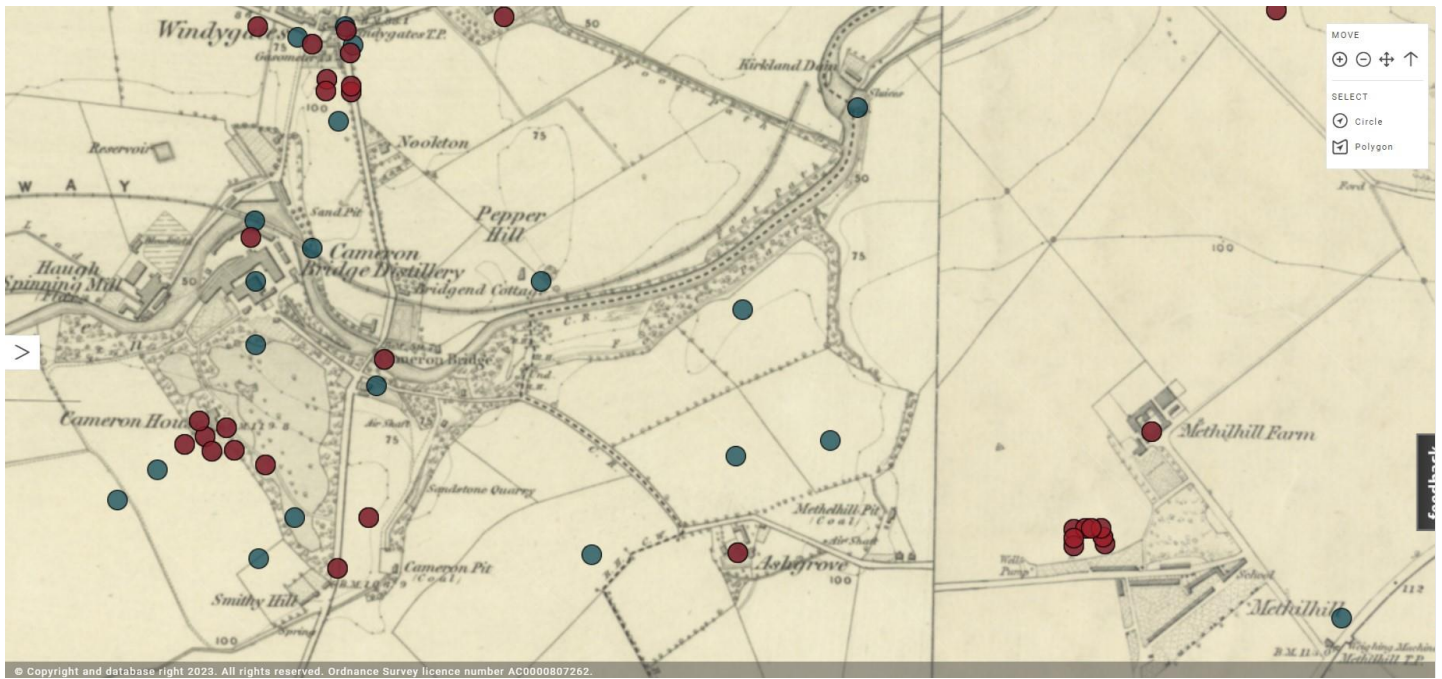


Figure 11: OS 2nd Edition and modern satellite imagery (western area)

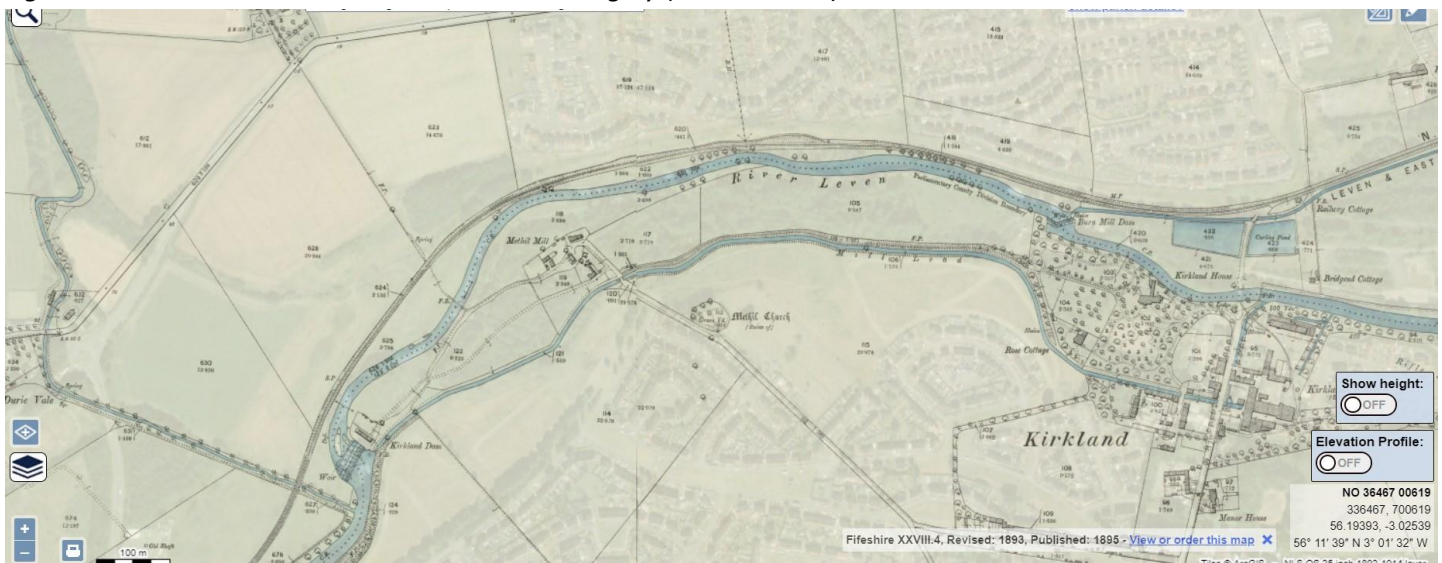


Figure 12: OS 2nd Edition and modern satellite imagery (central area)



Figure 13: OS 1950 Edition (whole area)



Appendix 5: Impact Assessment

This appendix presents the results of a rapid desk-based impact assessment of the Mill Lade Heritage Trail and Accessibility Proposals and the Leven Community Hub Site Location Proposals.

The Archaeological assessment of the River Parks Project Area noted 23 sites that might be of potential for community engagement (Figure 14). Take together with reference to key sources including: HER records, Canmore Records and Historic Maps OS Maps the areas defined for the Mill Lade Heritage Trail and Accessibility Proposals and the Leven Community Hub Site were assessed for potential impact on archaeology.

The areas to be assessed where the Mill Lade Heritage Trail and Accessibility Sketch Masterplan (Figure 16) the River Parks Community Hub Locations (Figures 17 and 18), the Nature Networks Plans (Figure 19) and the River Restoration Plans (Figure 20). The table below provides a summary of the potential sites impacted by the proposals. Whilst the table below provides site description, impacts and recommendations and potential mitigation measures (sites are numbered to match the distribution map in Figure 14 and where necessary have been divided into separate site components defined by a letter- e.g. 7c).

This report intends to provide a first look at potential impact issues and provide a basis for further assessment with the project as whole, Landowners, Stakeholder and Fife Council

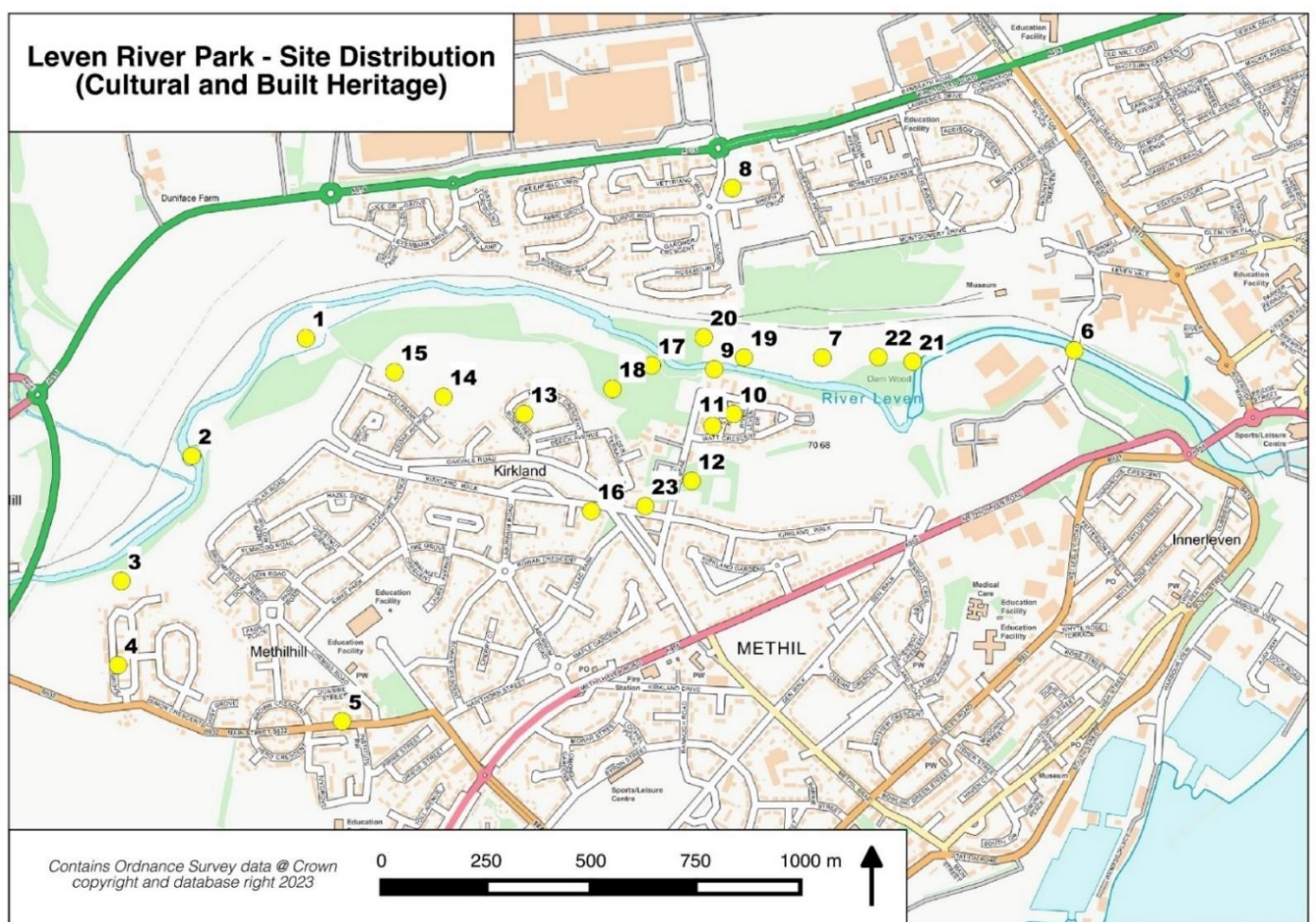


Figure 14: Heritage Assessment Distribution Map

Summary Of Potential Impacts

Proposed infrastructure	Potential site impact
Board walks	Methill Mill (1); Methil lade (a)
Hub Option 1	Methill Lade (a); Rifle Range (c)
Hub Option 2	Kirkland Mansion House and grounds (17/18)
Nature Networks	Methil Mill (1); NN22- Mill Ponds for Methil Mill. NN19 Flood scrapes and the spinning Mill. Methill Mill Church (15); NN26 Wood around cemetery. Does the Planting affect Bridge End Cottage (19) and Mayfield (22)? Methil Mill Lade (a); NN 25 Kirkland Lade Habitat Kirkland Manor (12); NN 41- Wheels Park on old blaes pitch Rose Cottage (18); NN 33 & 34 community growing? Curling Pond, footbridge, sluice and Burn Mill Lade (20/b); NN 35 & 37?
River Park Restorations	Reach 1 affects the spinning mill- new scrapes and ponds (2) Reach 2 affects Methil Mill (1) Reach 3 and 4- ponds and scrapings could impact Mayfield (22) Reach 3 and 4- Green bank protection could impact Swiss/Saw Mill Cottage (6/d)

Table 3: Impact Summary

With a rapid initial assessment, it has not been possible to comprehensively study all possible sources of information, rather a sufficient number of key sources, which are standardly examined at this stage in a project development process, have been referenced to the assess potential and inform project planning for the delivery phase of future archaeology, historic environment and heritage related activities and projects as part of the Leven Programme. We have not studied Aerial Photographic collections held by HES and there may be primary documentary records in a variety of archives, such as National Archive of Scotland and ON Fife and these would need to be considered as part of a wider assessment.

A number of the mitigation works provide good opportunity for community engagement and skills development programmes. These could be developed as part of the delivery phase.

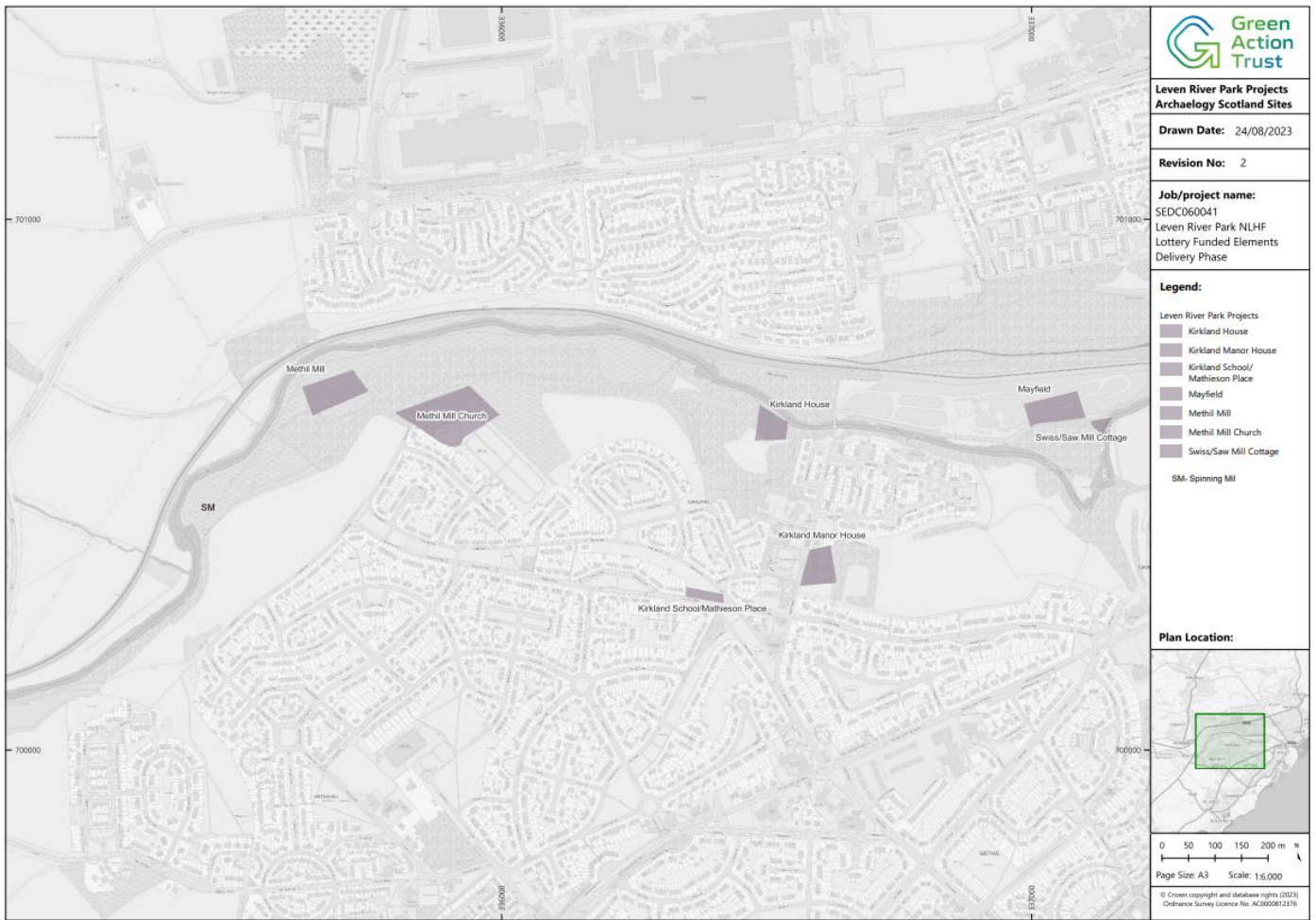


Figure 15: Archaeology Scotland Sites

1. Boardwalk connections
2. Boardwalk bridge over lade channel
3. Teaching / learning point, wet woodland 'nest'
4. Swamp edge dipping platform
5. River edge platform over dam
6. Seasonal trimmed grass route
7. Signal point / way marker
8. Replacement bridge / platform over lade channel

- Connectivity project:
- - - Primary routes
 - - - Secondary routes






- Nature network and river restoration:
-  New ponds / scrapes
 -  Recreated lade
 -  Tree planting
 -  Inset floodplain
 -  Existing wetland
 -  Wet woodland / reed swamp
 -  Play areas
 -  Large wood
 -  Active travel paths
 -  Mown grass paths
 -  Modification of dam



Figure 16: Mill Lade Heritage Trail and Accessibility Proposals Sketch Masterplan



Figure 17: River Parks Community Hub Site Location 1



Figure 18: River Parks Community Hub Site Location 2



Existing view along Poplar Road



Proposed view along Poplar Road

Key			
Woodland (Oak)	Swamp	Procupin Pond	Abandon & Community Garden
Woodland (Birch)	Wetland Grassland	Lake	Existing play features
Agri-environment woodland	Wet-rich meadow	Surface Water Pond	Proposed play features
Recreation Woodland	Tall Grassland	Surface Water Basin	Footbridge
Plowman Woodland Mosaic	Open Moorland Mosaic	Swale	Abandon/Drain Path Fence
Brookside Trees	Wetland Home Community	Wetland	Appurtenance
Fieldland Trees	Arable Grassland	Existing Fencing/Walking	Surface Path
Brookside Trees	Spring Mires	Wall	Open Path
Orchard	Grazing	Bridge	Lodge Footbridge
Soakaway		Dam	Stepping Platform
Fishing Weir		Pipe	
			Existing Structure

Raeburn Farquhar Bowen

A1 Masterplan
Leven River Park
Green Action Trust
INFORMATION

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Figure 19: Nature Networks Masterplan

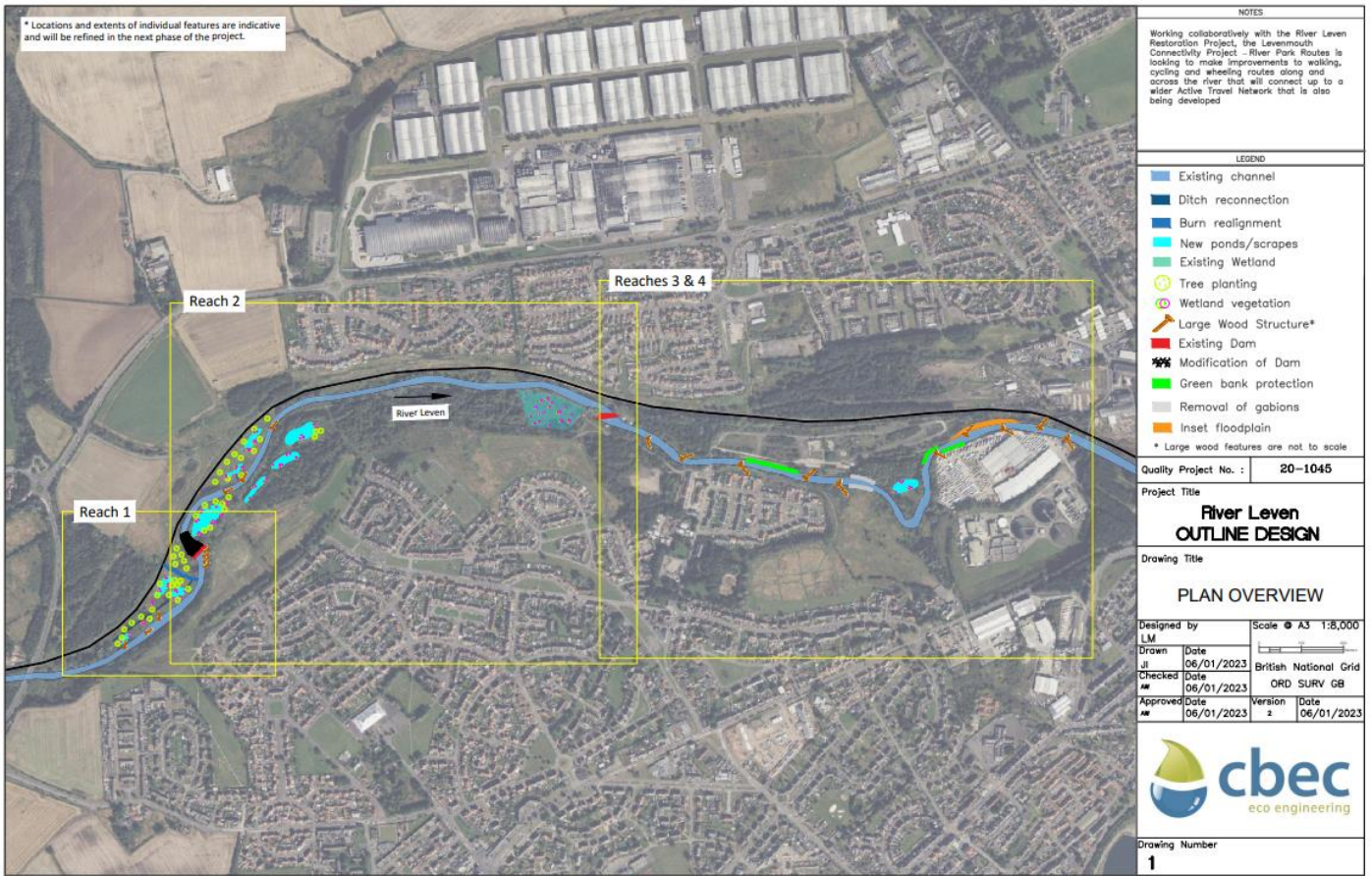


Figure 20: River Park Restoration Outline Design

Rapid Initial potential heritage impacts assessment and mitigation.

Site No (River Park Site)	Name/Site type	Designation / Canmore ID	Description	Potential impacts	Recommendations and Potential Mitigations	Archaeology Scotland Plans
1	Methill Mill	n/a	<p>A mill is shown on Roy's map (1744-47) as three buildings and yard. The Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map depicts an enclosed area of ground, with internal divisions/work areas, surrounding a collection of seven buildings. To the south, two wells, two footbridges, and a smaller lade and sluice also depicted and annotated.</p> <p>The site was investigated as part of the LVDT Methil Mill Community Excavation Project in 2004, which looked at the main mill building and established that it had 'two phases and was powered by a single south gable mounted undershot water wheel, with the water being fed down a ditch-cut lade to the wheel recess pit.' (Spiers 2004). Interpretation of the excavation results suggested that the mill remains are a largely unaltered early 18th century pre-Improvement water-powered corn mill that was re-used during the 20th century as a piggery and a chicken farm before being systematically robbed of fittings, fixtures, stone and roofing materials in the later 1960s.' (ibid).</p> <p>Wider survey identified a total of seven structures, one of which is thought to</p>	<p>Board walk installation (Accessibility Plan)</p> <p>New pond creation-Nature Networks 22 Play Area creation</p> <p>Railway/river crossing bridge</p> <p>Shared use primary and secondary proposed River Park Paths</p> <p>River Park Restorations</p> <p>Reach 2- ponds and scrapings proposed.</p>	<p>Micro-site board walk foundations</p> <p>Consider design location of ponds and play area</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording during installation of railway bridge</p> <p>Potential monitoring during path works depending on location and installation methodologies</p> <p>Community Excavation prior to works and archive research; monitoring during pond and play area installation as required and play area installation as required</p>	<p>Community Excavation</p> <p>Site consolidation and traditional skills programmes</p> <p>Skills development programmes</p> <p>Landscaping and vegetation management</p>

			be the millers house, as well as a range of artefacts, a stone with Wemyss inscribed on it was recovered from the excavation.			
2	Kirkland Dam / weir	ID 298137	Canmore notes that this weir has been built across the River Leven to the N of Kirkland. The Ordnance Survey 1 st Edition map depicts a weir crossing the river at this location, together with an associated building and enclosure (?) annotated 'Kirkland Dam', a sluice and a smaller lade to the north of the main Methil Lade (3).	8. Replacement Bridge / Platform over lade channel 5. River Edge platform over Dam Pond creation- Nature Networks Flood Scrapes 19 Shared use secondary proposed River Park Paths River Park Restorations Reach 1- ponds and scrapings proposed.	Survey of site Historic Building recording Archaeological monitoring and recording during ground works for pond creation Community Excavation at Spinning Mill as part of the Methil Mill programme prior to works and archive research; monitoring during pond and play area installation as required Potential archaeological monitoring and recording during path works depending on location and installation methodologies.	Community Excavation at spinning mill Site consolidation and traditional skills programmes Skills development programmes Landscaping and vegetation management
12	Kirkland Manor		A possible 17th century Manor House. According to local information, this house was built as a temporary residence, by David, fourth Earl of Wemyss, while boring for coal in the neighbourhood.	NN 41- Wheels Park on old blaes pitch.	Site survey.	Community Excavation and archive research.
17/18	Kirkland Mansion House and grounds- Rose Cottage	n/a	A house annotated 'Kirkland' is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1 st Edition map, associated with enclosed gardens and parkland, a summer house, and a building annotated 'Rose Cottage'.	Shared use primary and secondary River Park paths; Play area; Hub option 2 NN 33 & 34- community growing on Rose Cottage (18)?	Possible site survey. Potential archaeological monitoring and recording during path works depending on location and	Community Excavation and archive research.

					installation methodologies.	
19	Bridge End cottage	n/a	A building annotated 'Bridge end' is annotated on the Ordnance Survey 1 st Edition map, associated with an enclosed rectangular garden	Railway/river crossing bridge Shared use primary and secondary River Park paths NN planting?	Possible site survey. Potential archaeological monitoring and recording during path works depending on location and installation methodologies.	Survey?
9	Methilhill, Steel Works Brae, Footbridge Over River Leven	LB46082 /ID 224298 /	A Category C listed building, recorded as a late 19th century, single arch cast-iron footbridge.	Railway/river crossing bridge.	LBC and possibly planning permission required for any works to bridge Historic building recording.	Site survey.
20	Curling Pond; footbridge; Sluice; Burn Mill Lade	n/a	A curling pond, footbridge, sluice and mill lade are annotated on the Ordnance Survey 1 st Edition map	Railway/river crossing bridge Shared use primary and secondary River Park paths Nature Networks 35 & 37 at Burn Mill Lade?	Site survey Potential archaeological monitoring and recording during path works depending on location and installation methodologies.	Site Survey?
22	Mayfield	n/a	Two buildings and a garden/orchard are annotated 'Mayfield' on the Ordnance Survey 1 st Edition map. The site is later occupied by the Leven Creosote Works.	Unlikely to be impacts, but possibility from shared use primary and secondary River Park paths NN planting? River Park restorations Reach 3 and 4-ponds and scrapings.	Potential archaeological monitoring and recording during path works depending on location and installation methodologies. Of interest to History group-potential community excavation and archive research.	
15	Methil Church and burial ground	ID 31323	Canmore records a pre-Reformation chapel which later became the parish church of Methil, at this location. By the 1950's, the OS recorded that no trace	Potential for medieval or later burial archaeology in the area of shared use	Potential archaeological monitoring and recording during path works depending on	Survey Geophysics Graveyard recording Buried Stone Survey

			remains of the church except a vague raised platform, 18.0 x 6.0m and the sub-circular enclosing wall. The square structure at the east end of the church site is a modern burial vault. The open structure on the Ordnance Survey 1 st Edition map at the west end of the church site has disappeared, and undoubtedly was the remains of the church.	primary and secondary River Park paths	location and installation methodologies May need to consider micro-siting. Of interest to History group-potential community survey, geophysics and archive research Nature Networks 26, planting.	Stone resetting
3	Souterrain	ID 31324	Canmore records that a souterrain was found in 1868 by workmen excavating the railway between Cameron Bridge Station and Buckhaven. It was embedded in a firm dry gravel bank overlooking the river Leven. Most of the site is recorded to have been removed before it could be investigated.	Potential for prehistoric archaeology in the area of shared use primary and secondary. River Park paths.	Potential archaeological monitoring and recording during path works depending on location and installation methodologies.	Site visit as engagement activity.
7	Leven Creosote Works	ID 313734	Canmore records the Leven, Mountfleurie, Alex. Bruce & Co Telegraph Pole And Railway Sleeper Works. A creosote works are shown on the Ordnance Survey 1950 Edition map, together with an associated tramline. A series of railway lines are shown to the north.	Shared use primary and secondary River Park paths.	Possible site survey Potential archaeological monitoring and recording during path works depending on location and installation methodologies.	Site Survey?
6	Sawmill Bridge Over River Leven	LB46512 / ID 31366	Category C Listed bowed iron 43hipple truss bridge, constructed by the Brandon Bridge Building Company, Motherwell, dated 1908.	Railway/river crossing bridge River Park Restoration Reach 3 and 4- Green bank protection could impact Swiss/Saw Mill Cottage?	Possible site survey Potential archaeological monitoring and recording during path works depending on location and installation methodologies.	Site Survey.
A (1)	Methil Lade	n/a	A 'Mill Lead' is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1 st Edition map extending from	Lade recreation- Nature Networks	Site survey Possible building recording	Community excavation as part of Methil

			Kirkland Dam (2), running past the southern edge of Methil Mill (1), to the Kirkland Works to the east.	25 Kirkland Lade habitat Boardwalk Bridge over Lade channel Hub option 1 Replacement Bridge over mill lade and river edge platform (Accessibility Plan)?	Archaeological monitoring and recording during ground works.	Mill programme- to characterise mill lade. Site survey.
B (20)	Burnmill dam and sluice	ID 298136	Can more records the presence of a weir. A dam annotated 'Burn Mill Dam' and sluice are annotated on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map, to the north of Kirkland.	Removing Burn Mill dam (Accessibility Plan)? Railway/river crossing bridge Shared use primary and secondary River Park paths.	Site survey. Possible building recording. Archaeological monitoring and recording during ground works.	Site Survey?
C (12)	Rifle Range		A rifle Range is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition map together with targets and a powder magazine. Ordnance Survey mapping from the 1950's shows extensive landscaping in the area of the rifle range.	Unlikely to be impacted but possibly shared use primary and secondary River Park paths and recreated Lade; Hub option 1 Nature Networks 42 and 43?	Possible site survey; more detailed archival research Potential archaeological monitoring and recording during path works depending on location and installation methodologies.	Site Survey?
D (6)	Swiss Cottage		A cottage with an enclosure/garden is annotated on the Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition map.	Shared use primary and secondary River Park paths River Parks Restoration Reach 3 and 4- Green bank protection could impact Swiss/Saw Mill Cottage.	Possible site survey Potential archaeological monitoring and recording during path works depending on location and installation methodologies.	Site Survey?

Table 4: Impact Assessment

Appendix 6: History Group Research Interests

- Childhood
- Housing and Health (Scotland)
- War and Levenmouth
- Methils Mining Heritage- works and lives- Migration across Scotland and the UK
- Local Culture and Entertainment Societies (1920s and 1930s)
- Local Co-operative Societies- Women's cooperative guilds
- Local politics
- Sailors Rest- community organizing and groups- Community Cafe
- Methil Docks and Lower Methil Development
- Lower Methil Nursey- 1930's- Pioneering curriculum/daycare – Paxton Sisters, Lundin Links
- Mbeke Manasela (Gambia/Grenada/Methil/Cupar) and David Dalrymple (Cupar and doctor slave ships- Fight for Freedom 1760's
- Bonded labour in Fife, Methil, Mining and Scotland
- Frederick Douglas exhibition in Edinburgh
- Land ownership in Highlands and West Scotland- Link to reparation costs paid to plantation/slave owners and invested in land ownership in 1800s
- Poor Law and Poor Houses
- Strikes, Unions and working conditions in 20th century
- Kirkland and textile mills- the River Leven – water and power- links to early mining
- Where did Kirkland workers/families live- recreating maps- studying old maps
- Connecting old maps to local development and underdevelopment- land ownership
- Role of public housing in community development area- the new schemes
- Population density over 2 centuries- changing face of Levenmouth – from the Wemyss villages to big towns- Buckhaven and Methil/Kirkland
- Old writings from the area- old books
- The dancing from the 1940s to 1990s changes in popular culture- changes to youth/childhood- Community Café
- The schools in Levenmouth- the curriculum- transition from school to work and your first job
- Marriage and parenthood in 20th century
- Changing roles of women
- History and maps of local area- talks and visits