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## EDC 24: Roman Baths, Bearsden

**Grid reference:** [NS 54616 72089]

**Site type:** Manmade artifact

**Site ownership:** Not known (Historic Scotland?)

**Current use:** Urban

**Field surveyor:** Mike Browne & Hugh Barron

**Current geological designations:** None

**Date visited:** 19th March 2009

### Site map

(Figure 24) Roman Baths Location Map

### Summary description

The remains of the Bearsden Roman Bath House are located a little to the east of the Bearsden Fort, which is thought to be one of those built along the Antonine Wall to house the troops. Demolition of Victorian mansions and an archaeological dig in 1973 revealed most of the ground plan of the fort. The baths are reputed to be one of the best preserved examples of a bath house in Scotland. The site is cared for by Historic Scotland.

An information board illustrates how the Bath House would have appeared when in use and puts the building into a regional context, but there is no mention of the materials used to construct the building.

The buildings appear to have been built from local Carboniferous blonde sandstone. The original flagstones are of a similar sandstone, some of which display excellent fossilised ripples.

### EDC 24: Stratigraphy and rock types

**Age:** Carboniferous Formation: Not known

**Rock type:** Sandstone

### Assessment of site value

#### Access and safety

##### Aspect/Description

**Road access and parking** Car Parking some 250 m distance west of site

**Safety of access** Road traffic main hazard

**Safety of exposure** Low risk of tripping and falling over

**Permission to visit** Open access

**Current condition** good

**Current conflicting activities** none

**Restricting conditions** none

**Nature of exposure** Cultural built heritage

**Culture, heritage & economic**

**Historic, archaeological & literary associations** Roman Baths. Rating: 9.

**Aesthetic landscape** Urban environment. Rating: 2.

**History of earth sciences** None known. Rating: 0.

**Economic geology** None recorded. Rating: 0.

## **EDC 24: Geoscientific merit**

**EDC 24: Roman Baths, Bearsden. Geoscientific merit.**

**Total Geoscientific merit score. Rating: 5.**

**Current site value**

**Community.** Rating: 9.

**Education.** Rating: 5.

**Fragility and potential use of the site**

**Fragility** None

**Potential use** Higher/Further Education, School, On-site Interpretation, Multidisciplinary

## **Geodiversity value**

This site clearly displays Bearsden's long-standing link between geology and the built environment. Romans appeared to have used the local sandstone for construction of the baths. The site additionally displays how the nature of the stone has determined how and where it is used; thicker-bedded stone, which produced blocks which were used for the construction of walls, whereas thinner-bedded stone was carefully extracted in sheets and used as slabs on the floor. Chisel marks still visible on original stones. Its geodiversity value is enhanced on account of its link with archaeology (Scheduled Ancient Monument) and accessible location.

## **Photographs**

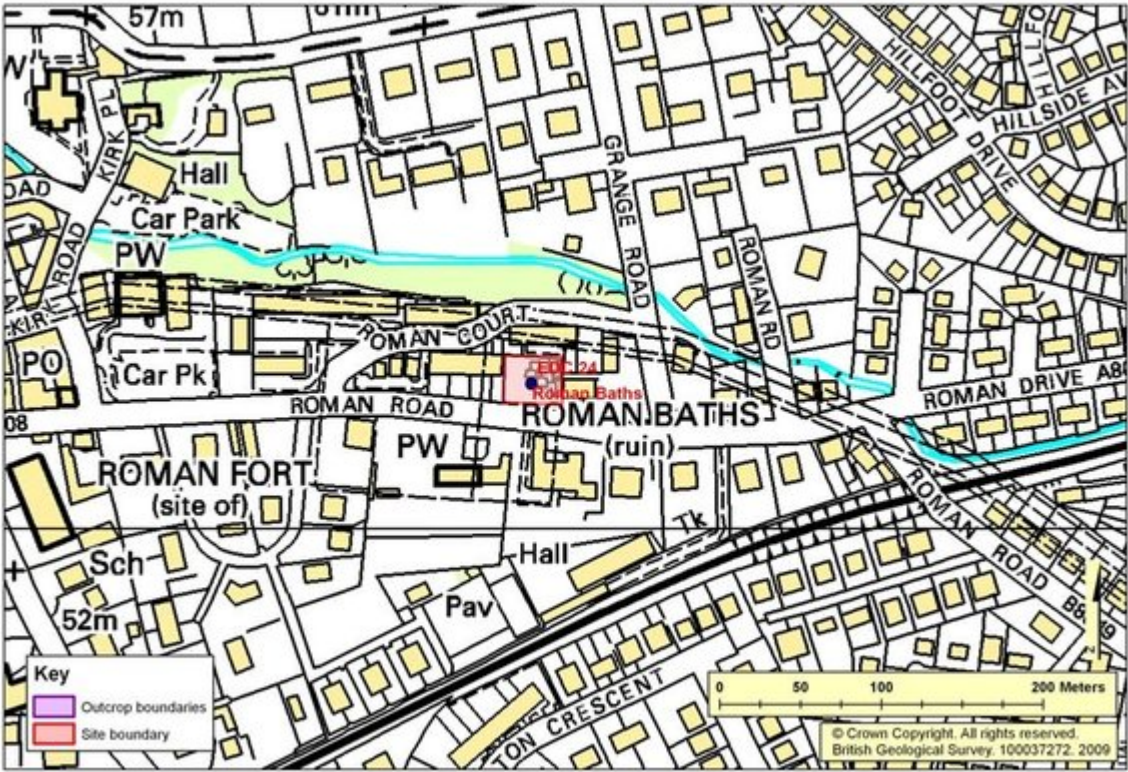
(Photo 141) View across the remains of the Roman bath-house at Bearsden. Viewed from west side.

(Photo 142) Existing interpretation board at the Roman bath-house. There is no mention of the materials used for building.

(Photo 143) View across the stone remains of the Roman bath-house. The buildings appear to have been constructed mainly from local Carboniferous sandstones.

(Photo 144) Close-up of the original flagstone paving at the Roman bath-house, which displays fossilised ripples.

Bibliography



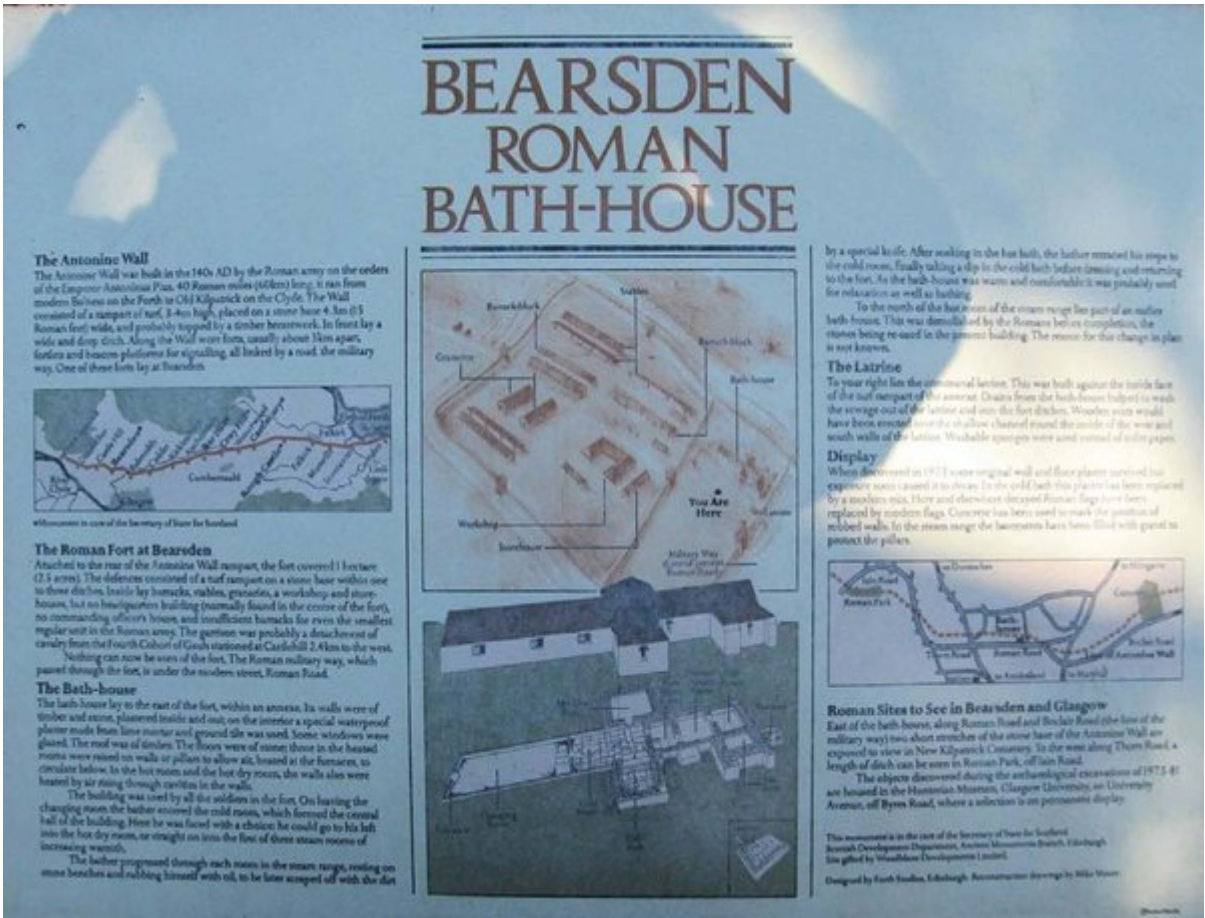
(Figure 24) Roman Baths location map.

GeoScientific Merit	Rarity	Quality	Literature/ Collections	1st
Litho Stratigraphy	0	0	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sedimentology	2	3	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Igneous/Mineral/ Metamorphic Geology	0	0	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Structural Geology	0	0	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palaeontology	0	0	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geomorphology	0	0	0	<input type="checkbox"/>

EDC 24: Roman Baths, Bearsden. Geoscientific merit.



(Photo 141) View across the remains of the Roman bath-house at Bearsden. Viewed from west side.



(Photo 142) Existing interpretation board at the Roman bath-house. There is no mention of the materials used for building.



*(Photo 143) View across the stone remains of the Roman bath-house. The buildings appear to have been constructed mainly from local Carboniferous sandstones.*



*(Photo 144) Close-up of the original flagstone paving at the Roman bath-house, which displays fossilised ripples.*