



## Case information

<b>Case ID</b>	300085180
<b>Name of Site</b>	Remains of First Hampden football ground pavilion, Kingsley Gardens, Glasgow

<b>Local Authority</b>	Glasgow City Council
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	NS 58710 62079
<b>Designation Type</b>	Scheduled Monument
<b>Designation No.</b>	SM13816
<b>Case Type</b>	Designation

<b>Received/Start Date</b>	21/11/2024
<b>Decision Date</b>	12/05/2026

## 1. Decision

Our assessment using the selection guidance shows that archaeological remains of the First Hampden football ground meet the criterion of national importance. The decision is to schedule the site. We have found that the bowling pavilion to the south west of the site does not meet criteria for designation (see separate report: [Hampden Bowling Club, 10 Kingsley Avenue, Glasgow \(the site of the 1st Hampden 1873-1883\) \(300077353\)](#)).

<b>Site name (including designation number)</b>	<b>Action</b>
Remains of First Hampden football ground pavilion, Kingsley Gardens, Glasgow (SM13816)	Add to the schedule of monuments (designate)

## 2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

### 2.1 Designation Background

The site has not been previously assessed for designation.

The site is located within the designated battlefield of Battle of Langside (BTL35) and Crosshill Conservation Area (CA226).

## 2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

Kingsley Gardens is owned by Glasgow City Council. The adjacent bowling green and clubhouse is also owned by Glasgow City Council but was leased by Hampden Bowling Club. The lease has recently (February/March 2026) expired and the current Club do not plan to renew it.

In January 2026, the First Hampden Community Interest Company was registered by local residents with the aim to secure a future for the bowling club site and building. We have been informed the Company are investigating potential community buy-out options and looking at possible ways to manage and operate the site. We have also been informed that members of the local community, some are related to the Company, have informally maintained Kingsley Gardens over recent years.

We are not aware of any development proposals or future plans for the bowling club or Kingsley Gardens.

## 3. Assessment

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### 3.1 Assessment information

We received a proposal to designate this site on 21/11/2024 as part of a wider set of proposals submitted by the group Football's Square Mile. This proposal also included a request to consider the bowling club pavilion. The group proposed a total of 21 sites, and we carried out a desk-based assessment to decide. Additionally, the site of First Hampden football ground was highlighted to us by direct communication from several members of the public in the second half of 2025. The potential significance and historic interest of the former football ground was raised through these communications.

We visited the site on 25/11/2025.

### 3.2 Assessment of national importance

We carried out an assessment using the selection guidance to decide whether a site or place is of national importance. (see Annex A).

The proposal submitted to us was for the First Hampden football ground (1873-83) which is understood to have been sited roughly centrally on the current bowling green. The football ground was vacated in 1883 when the Cathcart District Railway constructed a line through the central and eastern portions of the ground (pitch and grandstand). The area was significantly altered to accommodate the railway. Soon after, a tenement was constructed on the northeastern extremity of the football ground. Later roads were constructed around and on the edges of the football ground site, some requiring substantial ground works to rise over the railway. The

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bowling club was formed in 1905 and built over some of the former football ground. Tennis courts were later built on the site of the pavilion, and in turn these became a public garden.

Archaeological geophysical survey work from June 2021 (Rose Geophysics for Archaeology Scotland) provided evidence to locate the remains of the pavilion. Further geophysical survey was carried out on the bowling green and Queens Park recreation ground. The results for these areas proved inconclusive. Several trenches were opened to provide targeted excavation of remains. These were mainly located in Kingsley Gardens to investigate the pavilion site and in Queens Park recreation ground to investigate the grandstand remains. Excavations of the pavilion identified remains associated with the pavilion but those at the grandstand were abandoned due to discovery of buried asbestos. We therefore can only infer the archaeological potential of the remains of the wider football ground but given their formation processes and historic disturbance, they are likely to be ephemeral. While we recognise the contribution this wider area makes to the understanding of the site, given the limited physical remains and archaeological potential of the wider football ground, we do not consider this area to be of national importance.

The scheduled monument therefore covers the ground containing the buried remains of the pavilion and associated archaeology. The site of the wider football ground is not included in the proposed scheduled area.

We found that the site of the pavilion meets the criterion of national importance. We found that the later bowling club pavilion does not meet the criteria for designation (see case reference: [Hampden Bowling Club, 10 Kingsley Avenue, Glasgow \(the site of the 1st Hampden 1873-1883\) \(300077353\)](#))

The designation selection guidance for scheduling is published in the Historic Environment Scotland Designations Policy and Selection Guidance 2019, Annex 1, pp 9-10, <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/designation-policy>.

### **3.3 Policy considerations**

It is our established practice for the scheduling process to exclude areas or features which are not themselves of national importance and which do not contribute to the overall national importance of a site. Common examples of exclusions include areas of disturbance or modern development, and modern infrastructure such as roads and boundaries. Exclusions ensure that scheduled monument controls do not apply, and therefore exclusions can facilitate maintenance and the continued use of areas for their existing purposes. Exclusions can be set in text within the scheduling description, or by excluding specific areas in the scheduling map. In this case, the scheduled area excludes the top 0.3m of ground and all retaining walls, fences, signs and seating.

Routine works related to the pre-existing use of the land would be covered by The Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) (Scotland) Order 1996 under horticultural class consent - Class I. Agricultural, Horticultural and Forestry Works - Class Consent.

## 4. Consultation

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### 4.1 Consultation information

Consultation period: 26/02/2026 to 19/03/2026.

We have consulted with the owners and the planning authority.

The consultation report of handling was published on our portal and was open to anyone who wished to make a comment during the consultation period. The consultation summary can be found on Citizen Space (<https://haveyoursay.historicenvironment.scot/heritage/designating-first-hampden-pavilion-glasgow/>).

### 4.2 Consultation summary

We received 130 responses to the consultation via our online survey. We received a response from Glasgow City Council (the site owners and planning authority) at consultation. The response submitted by Glasgow City Council did not object to the proposal to designate and recognised the value of built heritage in public spaces. The Council's response raised potential concern over possible multiple designations within public spaces, in close proximity of each other, and that it could potentially affect options to manage land locally for their priorities such as health and climate. We responded clarifying the extent of the proposed scheduled area was contained within Kingsley Gardens and highlighted the list of exclusions, most notably the top 30cm of ground, which should allow for continued current management and future use as a public space. We did not receive any further comment from the Council.

Only one of the 130 responses via the online consultation was categorised as not supporting our proposal and it was not followed with an optional further comment. The online survey responses were overwhelmingly in support of our proposal and did not raise any issues that put into question the assessment of the national importance of the remains of the First Hampden pavilion.

A report (in PDF format) providing statistical analysis of the responses to the online survey and the full comments has been produced and can be downloaded from the Citizens Space page (<https://haveyoursay.historicenvironment.scot/heritage/designating-first-hampden-pavilion-glasgow/>) and from the HES Portal Decision for remains of First Hampden pavilion (<http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/decision/500004313>).

The following table is the survey results, with focus on the key question: **To what extent to do you agree with our proposal to designate?**

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	125	96.15%
Agree	2	1.54%
Neither agree nor disagree	0	0.00%
Disagree	0	0.00%
Strongly disagree	1	0.77%
Not Answered	2	1.54%

The following table contains individual written responses we received to the survey, but only where the respondent made a specific query to be followed up or directly questioned our assessment and the proposal. Some of the comments received had raised broadly similar and general issues and they have been grouped with summary headings and responses.

Comment (Interested parties)	Response (HES)
In favour of scheduling with comments: I had hoped that more of the site of the full enclosure might have been designated. I know the total extent can't be included as much of it is now under Queen's Drive etc. but perhaps more than just the Kingsley Rose Gardens rectangle might be included?	The scheduling covers the area where there is evidence for buried archaeological remains related to the pavilion. The scheduled area also extends beyond the mapped footprint of the pavilion to capture surrounding archaeology. Currently, there is insufficient evidence for the survival of other elements of First Hampden football ground to support a larger scheduled area.
In favour of scheduling with comments: Whilst Hampden Park has always been the focus of... the game that became Scottish Football... it is not the source of it. That was the Vale of Leven in Dunbartonshire and there are several sites there notably in Alexandria and Renton that deserve equal status to those in Glasgow's Southern suburbs. And since HES is a national and not a Glaswegian organisation those sites, now on the same World Cup basis, need a programme of examination also.	The Vale of Leven, Alexandria and Renton grounds were not included in the list of sites as part of the designation project that proposed First Hampden. However, we welcome any request for us to consider a site for designation. The application form is available on our website.  We are also planning to launch a wider football heritage project later in 2026 that aims to capture information about sites and potential proposals for designation.
In favour of scheduling with comments:	We carried out an assessment for designation and found that the bowling

<p>I believe the Hampden Bowling Club building should be preserved as part of this project as well.</p>	<p>pavilion to the SW of the site does not meet criteria for designation (see separate report: <a href="#">Hampden Bowling Club, 10 Kingsley Avenue, Glasgow (the site of the 1st Hampden 1873-1883) (300077353)</a>).</p>
<p>In favour of scheduling with comments: This should be the start of an attempt to codify the heritage of sport in Scotland. Through the criteria laid down by HES, there should be a national campaign to identify and assess all sports, but particularly those where Scotland had a key part in their foundation. Football, Rugby, Golf, Water Polo, Athletics, Squash immediately spring to mind.</p>	<p>We welcome any request for us to consider a site for designation. The application form is available on our website.</p> <p>We are also planning to launch a wider football heritage project later in 2026 that aims to capture information about sites and potential proposals for designation.</p>
<p>In favour of scheduling with comments: Following designation, the scheduled foundations should be exposed and on-site information provided in order that visitors can fully appreciate the significance of the Scheduled Monument.</p>	<p>One of the key purposes of Scheduling is to preserve remains, in as close a form as they survive today, for future generations. It is often better practice to leave archaeological remains buried and sealed as a form of preservation. The archaeological investigation of the pavilion did not expose the entire structural footprint likely meaning much of the remains are relatively undisturbed since demolition/abandonment.</p> <p>Interpretation and information about the remains are available online. There is currently a small information board (not created by HES), focussed on First Hampden, mounted on the outside fence of Kingsley Gardens.</p>
<p>In favour of scheduling with comments (paraphrased): The history of the area merits a conservation order.</p>	<p>The site is located within the designated battlefield of Battle of Langside (BTL35) and Crosshill Conservation Area (CA226). The conservation area was established on 16/07/1975 and the boundary was extended on 30/03/1990.</p> <p>The site covering the remains of the First Hampden pavilion is now also designated as a scheduled monument.</p>

<p>General comments summarised under headings, each made by multiple respondents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Future development of the site is a concern.</li> <li>2. The future and potential protection of the Bowling Club is a concern.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Once a monument is scheduled, consent is required from us for most works, including repairs. It is an offence to damage or carry out work, or to allow work to be carried out, on a scheduled monument without consent. Any developments affecting a scheduled monument requires Scheduled Monument Consent. Scheduled Monuments are a statutory consideration in the Planning system.</li> <li>2. The Bowling Club did not meet the criteria for designation (see separate report: <a href="#">Hampden Bowling Club, 10 Kingsley Avenue, Glasgow (the site of the 1st Hampden 1873-1883) (300077353)</a>) and it is located within the Crosshill Conservation Area (CA226). Glasgow City Council, as the planning authority and owners of the Club, are mainly responsible for decisions and planning related to potential future development of the site.</li> </ol>
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## Designations Service

Heritage Directorate  
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## **ANNEX A – Assessment of national importance**

### **Remains of First Hampden football ground pavilion, Kingsley Gardens, Glasgow**

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#### **1 Description**

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The monument comprises the buried remains of the pavilion (built 1878) for First Hampden football ground (1873-83). It survives as the buried remains of the structure, represented by foundations and demolition material, with associated finds. It lies at what was the north-northwestern corner of the football ground constructed in 1873 for Queen's Park Football Club. The monument is located in a small public park in the Mount Florida suburb of Glasgow.

The monument consists of the buried remains of the pavilion constructed for Queen's Park Football Club at their ground, known as First Hampden. Archaeological investigations in 2021 found buried evidence for the remains of the pavilion. Investigation of the pavilion area, in the north-northwest area of the former football ground site, yielded brick and stone foundations and an assemblage of related finds.

The scheduled area is irregular but approximately square on plan and includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The following are excluded from the scheduled area:

- All gates, retaining walls, fences, benches, waste bins, signage and stairways.
- The top 300mm of all garden ground and paths.

#### **2 Statement of National Importance**

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The national importance of the monument is demonstrated in the following way(s) (see Designations Policy and Selection Guidance, Annex 1, para 17):

**a.** The monument is of national importance because it makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the past as the remains of a key structure that formed part of the first purpose-built football ground in Scotland. In particular, it adds to our understanding of the development of the modern football ground and the sport's history in Scotland. It can help us understand the chronology of this site and the development of early football grounds across the country.

**b.** The monument retains structural and other physical attributes which makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the past. Archaeological survey and excavation have shown that elements of the structure survive as buried remains and its plan form is understandable. There is strong potential

for the survival of further related buried archaeological deposits within the wider scheduled area.

**c.** The monument is a rare example of a notable and key infrastructural element of a 19th century football ground. The buried remains of the pavilion is an extremely rare survivor and represents the earliest known surviving remains of a structure constructed as part of a purpose-built football ground in Scotland.

**f.** The monument makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the historic landscape by its placement in an urban setting, its association with other football grounds in the area and by its proximity to supporting communities. It is part of a network of urban and semi-urban football grounds. Glasgow and its football clubs are recognised globally as a centre for the professional development of the game. The relative density of such grounds in the Glasgow area is a reflection of the game's popularity and this example is characteristic of the successful growth of such clubs from the end of the 19th century.

**g.** The monument has significant associations with historical, traditional, social or artistic figures, events or movements. It was the pavilion at the ground for Queens Park Football Club (ground now known as First Hampden) playing there between 1873 and 1883. It was part of the first purpose-built football ground in Scotland and was also designed with the intention to host large crowds for international matches. The buried remains of First Hampden football ground pavilion survives as a monument to Scotland's oldest football team, which helped shape the modern game. This ground was the first in a succession of the Hampdens, the final one being recognised as the primary home of the Scottish Team in the early 20th century.

### 3 Assessment of Cultural Significance

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This statement of national importance has been informed by the following assessment of cultural significance:

- **Intrinsic characteristics** (how the remains of a site or place contribute to our knowledge of the past)

The monument comprises the remains of a football ground pavilion, located in a small public park in the Mount Florida area, around four kilometres south of Glasgow city centre. It survives as the buried remains of a sporting pavilion for Hampden football ground (known today as First Hampden), consisting of brick and stone foundations, demolition material and related finds. The ground is documented on a series of Cathcart District Railway maps and plans from 1879 (National Records of Scotland references RHP 40386, 95031 and 95047). It is labelled 'Football Ground' and shows an enclosed site with central rectangular playing pitch, a grandstand or terrace on the south and the pavilion within an enclosure at the north-northwest corner.

The remains of the pavilion at First Hampden represent a key component of the first purpose-built football ground in Scotland, built as the home of Queen's Park Football Club in 1873. The Club is the oldest in Scotland and led the way in the professionalisation of the game. The board of Queens Park set out to construct a ground capable of hosting large crowds and also suitable for tournaments and international matches. From 1873, the ground was developed over several years as it required substantial financial support and careful planning.

In January 1873, Queen's Park set up a committee to find a suitable site for the ground, and the first match was played on 25 October that year. The earliest development at First Hampden consisted of the layout of the playing surface, the enclosure of the ground using fencing and the erection of a small, economic wooden pavilion. There were pay gates to control access and to sell tickets. A rope surrounded the playing pitch to separate the crowd from players. This enclosure and separation of the ground were vital markers in making this the first purpose-built football ground in Scotland.

Later developments included the construction of a grandstand in August 1876 at the south end – most likely a simple earthen embankment with perhaps some cover or a roofed section. In 1877, the enclosure fences and pay gates were extended to cope with larger crowds. One of the last developments of the ground came with the arrival of the pavilion in February 1878. Queen's Park had previously played some matches at Caledonian Cricket Club and had seen the benefits of their new pavilion constructed in 1875. When the Cricket Club reached financial difficulties, Queen's Park took the opportunity to purchase their pavilion and re-construct it at First Hampden.

This new pavilion was a significant upgrade over the temporary one set up in the early days of First Hampden. The new pavilion was a focal point of the ground, set near the entrance and providing comfortable facilities for players, important spectators and board members. Photographic evidence shows the pavilion was set on a raised, levelled terrace with a short flight of stairs leading up from the nearby and fenced-off pitch. The lower portion of the pavilion was of brick construction with timber cladding above, all set under a pitched and slated roof. Decorative wooden barge boards and gable-end finials provided some ornament. The plan form was rectangular with a projecting central entrance bay, forming an overall squat T-plan. The pavilion and wider First Hampden ground had a relatively short life as the land was purchased for railway developments in 1883 and Queen's Park moved to Second Hampden - later to be known as New Cathkin Park and today as Cathkin Park (Scheduled Monument reference SM13799). Most of the pavilion was taken down at First Hampden, leaving the foundations, and it was moved to Second Hampden where it was reconstructed and then extended and upgraded in brick.

Archaeological investigations in 2021 identified the location of the pavilion using ground penetrating radar. Subsequent targeted excavation trenches confirmed the pavilion location and uncovered evidence for physical remains. A layer of end-on bricks was recorded around 20-25cm below the surface – this is understood to be the base of the later tennis ground. Assemblage remains were discovered in soil around 20cm below the end-on brick layer. At around 50-75cm below the surface, the foundations of the pavilion were recorded. The plan of the monument can be

understood by cross-referencing of the survey and excavation data with historic map evidence.

The finds assemblage include fragments of 19th century glass, shards of porcelain and clay pipes – probably the discarded juice bottles, tea cups and smoking pipes of spectators. Also recovered were sections of metal wire and remnants of wire tensioning apparatus – probably evidence for the post and wire fence that is shown in historic photographs to surround the pavilion. The buried remains of the pavilion and surrounding land, originally located at the northwest corner of the football ground, along the north side of the playing pitch, are of high archaeological potential. The monument therefore has potential to add to our understanding of the development and use of 19th century football grounds, including construction materials and methods and the sequence of changes since its first construction. The archaeology of the pavilion represents our known earliest building remains erected for the dedicated purpose of facilitating football matches in Scotland. The pavilion was a key element of First Hampden and a focal point of the ground offering crucial matchday facilities for teams and guests, helping to create the concept of a modern football ground.

- **Contextual characteristics** (how a site or place relates to its surroundings and/or to our existing knowledge of the past)

The pavilion of First Hampden has significant contextual character as it is related to other football sites within this part of Glasgow. The site is an integral part of the story of the development of Queen's Park Football Club and also international football. During the mid-19th century, the Club established their first dedicated playing field at Queen's Park recreation ground (NGR NS 58337 61807) with an equipment store at an Institute Lodge (NRHE ID 245307). The club then moved to this site, First Hampden, in 1873 before moving to the Second Hampden (Scheduled Monument reference SM13799) in 1883/4. In 1903, Queen's Park moved to what is now known as Hampden Park (later developed into the national stadium known of today - NRHE ID 44242). This sequential development highlights the central importance of First Hampden in the context of major football grounds in Glasgow. There is the potential to study the pavilion with contemporary sites and modern grounds to understand their layout, structure, development and phasing. It is part of an original, regional cluster of grounds in and around Glasgow. The pavilion today lies buried within the public park and although the setting has undergone vast changes since it was a football ground, the wider urban connection to early football development in Glasgow can still be appreciated.

Queen's Park is recognised as the oldest association football club in Scotland, founded in 1867, shaping club football at First Hampden, Scotland's first purpose-built football ground, from 1873 onwards. The intention of the Club board to create a ground that could also host international matches is well documented and makes this ground the first in the world to be built with that intended purpose. The culmination of the development of First Hampden with the erection of this pavilion, essentially created what is recognised as the modern football ground.

First Hampden is one of the earliest, purpose-built dedicated football grounds in the world. Its design focussed on professionalism, the experience of the spectator and was the first conceived to host regular international matches. Many earlier football

grounds were either multi-sport, or they were initially laid out for other sports and later adapted for football. First Hampden realised most of the form and facilities that we recognise as constituting a modern football ground today from the very beginning – an enclosed site with controlled access, pay gates or turnstiles, permanently marked and demarcated pitch, dedicated player/guest facilities such as a pavilion, purpose built spectator areas such as terraces or embankments and a man-made/alterd playing surface. It was built when football was first seen as a potential commercial business with a strive towards professionalism in the game and for the running of the club. International matches and planned tournaments were relatively new but their potential was seen to attract thousands of supporters. The pavilion was part of the wider infrastructure designed and built to realise that plan and, arguably, this set out the blueprint for what a football stadium required to function on a commercial and professional level still seen today.

Many similar sites dating to the same period have subsequently been developed to make way for modern facilities or for other land uses. First Hampden is typical of this lack of survival with the historic railway development triggering the start of the loss of the overall football ground as a singular, cohesive site. The remains of the pavilion at First Hampden is therefore a rare surviving element of a late 19th century football ground.

- **Associative characteristics** (how a site or place relates to people, events, and/or historic and social movements)

Football is recognised as the national sport in Scotland, with its origins in the medieval period. This monument represents the recognised home of the oldest and one of Scotland's most historically important football clubs, in a country recognised as the home of the modern game of football and a pioneering nation in the development of the sport.

The development of association football took place in the early 1860s in and around London. Association football had set rules agreed upon and adhered to by clubs. This developed in Scotland towards the end of the 1860s and early 1870s, particularly in the west of the country. Queen's Park is the oldest club in Scotland and one of the oldest surviving clubs in the world. First Hampden was the site of their home ground from 1873-1883. It was also the first planned, dedicated home for international matches. In 1878, First Hampden hosted its first international match with Scotland winning 7-2 against England in front of 10,000 spectators. Two more subsequent England matches saw Scotland win 5-4 and 5-1, watched by crowds of 12,000 and 10,000.

In 1873 the Scottish Football Association (SFA) was formed and the Scottish Cup established. The SFA is the second oldest national football association in the world and the Cup is the second oldest association football competition, both only preceded by their English counterparts. Queen's Park were a founding member of the SFA, along with seven other clubs: Third Lanark, Clydesdale, Vale of Leven, Dumbreck, Eastern, Granville and Kilmarnock. Only Queen's Park and Kilmarnock survive today as clubs playing in professional leagues. In 1890, the Scottish Football League (SFL) was formed with eleven clubs: Third Lanark, Abercorn, Cambuslang, Celtic, Cowlaers, Dumbarton, Heart of Midlothian, Rangers, Renton, St Mirren and

Vale of Leven. In 1893, the League expanded with sufficient further clubs to form a second division – the origins of the organisation of modern Scottish Football.

As founding members of the SFA and SFL, Queen’s Park played a central role in the development of Scottish Football. The pavilion of First Hampden is therefore significant through its association with Queen’s Park and in the role it has played in the modern game.

Football is recognised as the national sport of Scotland and continues to hold deep connections within and across communities. The remains of the pavilion at First Hampden is a link to the earliest days of Association football and its importance to and impact on communities. It is a monument to the national game and a football ground that served as a blueprint for the future development of the modern football stadium.

## 4 References

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Historic Environment Scotland <http://www.trove.scot> reference number Trove Place ID 373526 (accessed on 17/02/2026).

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Rose Geophysics (2021). *Geophysical Survey Report and Figures: Old Hampden Football Ground*. Self-published report for Archaeology Scotland.

### **Other Information**

Various printed images and historic photographs held in Hampden Bowling Club, viewed during site visit on 05/05/2025.

Historic photograph of the opening ceremony at First Hampden Pavilion (1878), held by Queen's Park FC and currently on loan to the Scottish Football Museum.