

The end of the line for historic

WATER ROW

■ The area known as Doomster Hill will be turned into a carpark.



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ONE of the most important historical sites in Scotland is to be turned into a public car park.

Glasgow Council will start the tarmacing of the area known as Doomster Hill in Govan, Glasgow, later this month. Historic Water Row will also be affected.

But the move has been met with a furious response, with a protest group formed by local people, community groups, architects, artists and politicians opposed to the plan.

A leading historian and an eminent archaeologist have also voiced their fears.

Dr Tim Clarkson has written several books on early Scottish history, including *The Men of the North*, a study of Celtic kingdoms. One of these kingdoms was Strathclyde, which existed until about 1100.

He said: "The hill was a prominent landmark until the 19th century, when it was destroyed to make way for industrial expansion.

"There is no doubt it was constructed in ancient times as an artificial monument.

"Ceremonial mounds were used for events like royal inaugurations. The Doomster Hill would have been used in this way by the kings of Strathclyde.

"This is a site of historical significance."

By Colin Grant

Stephen Driscoll, Professor of Historical Archaeology at Glasgow University said: "Celtic stones were carved in the Kingdom of Strathclyde between 870-1170.

"This was the final phase of the Kingdom and Govan was its capital.

"At that time Glasgow consisted of a church and a handful of huts.

"The proposed car park would permanently cover the original site of Doomster Hill. Turning it into a car park is the worst option."

Architects Andrew McAvoy and Ann Nisbet from EDO Architecture have been helping the community map the site.

Andrew said: "Alongside Doomster Hill stood Water Row, which consisted of buildings either side of a slipway offering access to the River Clyde.

"Doomster Hill and Water Row must be preserved."

A Glasgow Council spokesman said: "The site is in a poor condition having been used as an informal car park. Its development is viewed by the council as an important component in Govan's regeneration.

"However, the current economic challenges mean a form of temporary intervention needs to be made to improve the appearance of the site."

