

# Scotia Archaeology

**REPORT  
TO  
N & H McGUIRE JOINERS LIMITED**

**CONSTRUCTION OF NEW JOINER'S SHOP,  
ANCASTER SQUARE NORTH, CALLANDER**

**WATCHING BRIEF  
SEPTEMBER 2015**

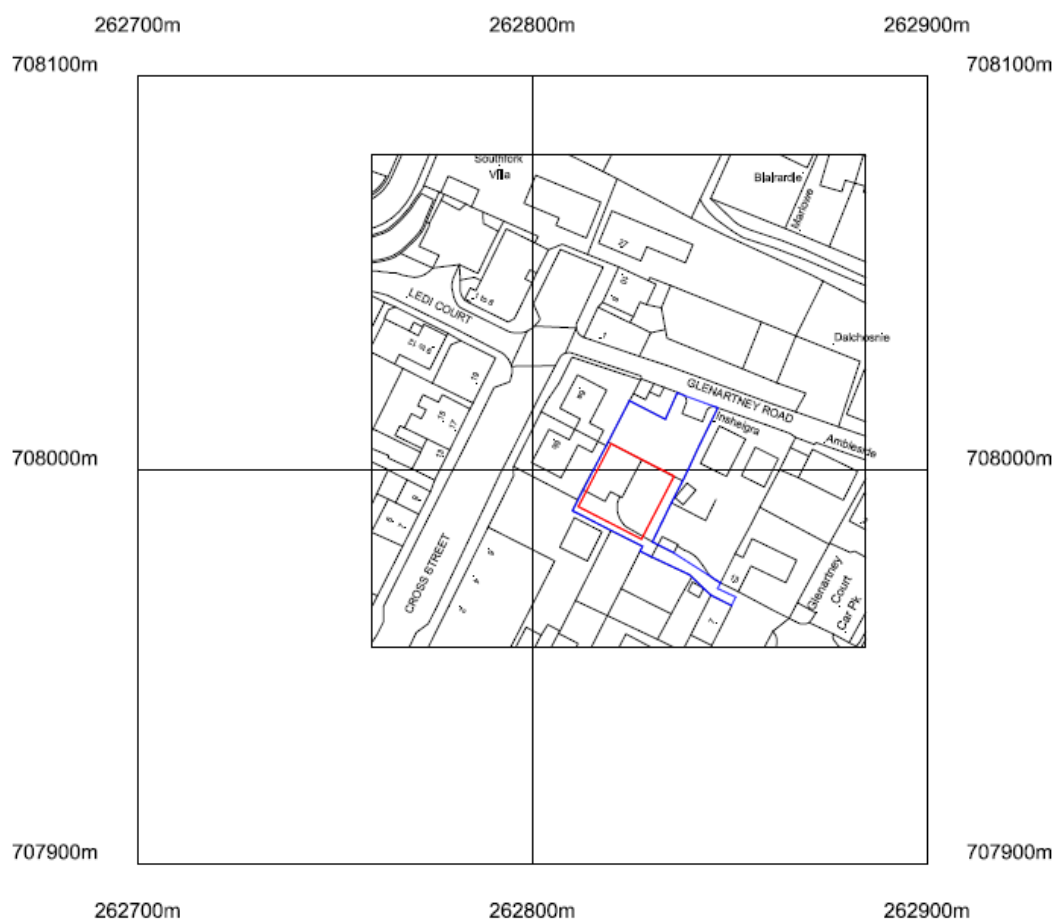
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## INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief, undertaken in September 2015 on behalf of N & H McGuire Joiners Limited, during the excavation of trenches for the construction of a new joiner's workshop near Ancaster Square North, Callander, Stirling District. The new structure will replace an older workshop which was demolished recently by the present owners.

## THE SITE

The development site is located to the north of Main Street, in the angle between Cross Street and Glenartney Road and is centred on NN 62835 07985. On the evidence of William Roy's map, surveyed between 1747 and 1755, the area had been developed by the time the Stirling to Fort William military road was built in the mid-18th century. There had been a parish church in Callander since the early 13th century and undoubtedly there would have been a settlement associated with it, that settlement most likely being along the line of Main Street. A map supplied by the client and showing the location of the site (marked in red) is reproduced below.

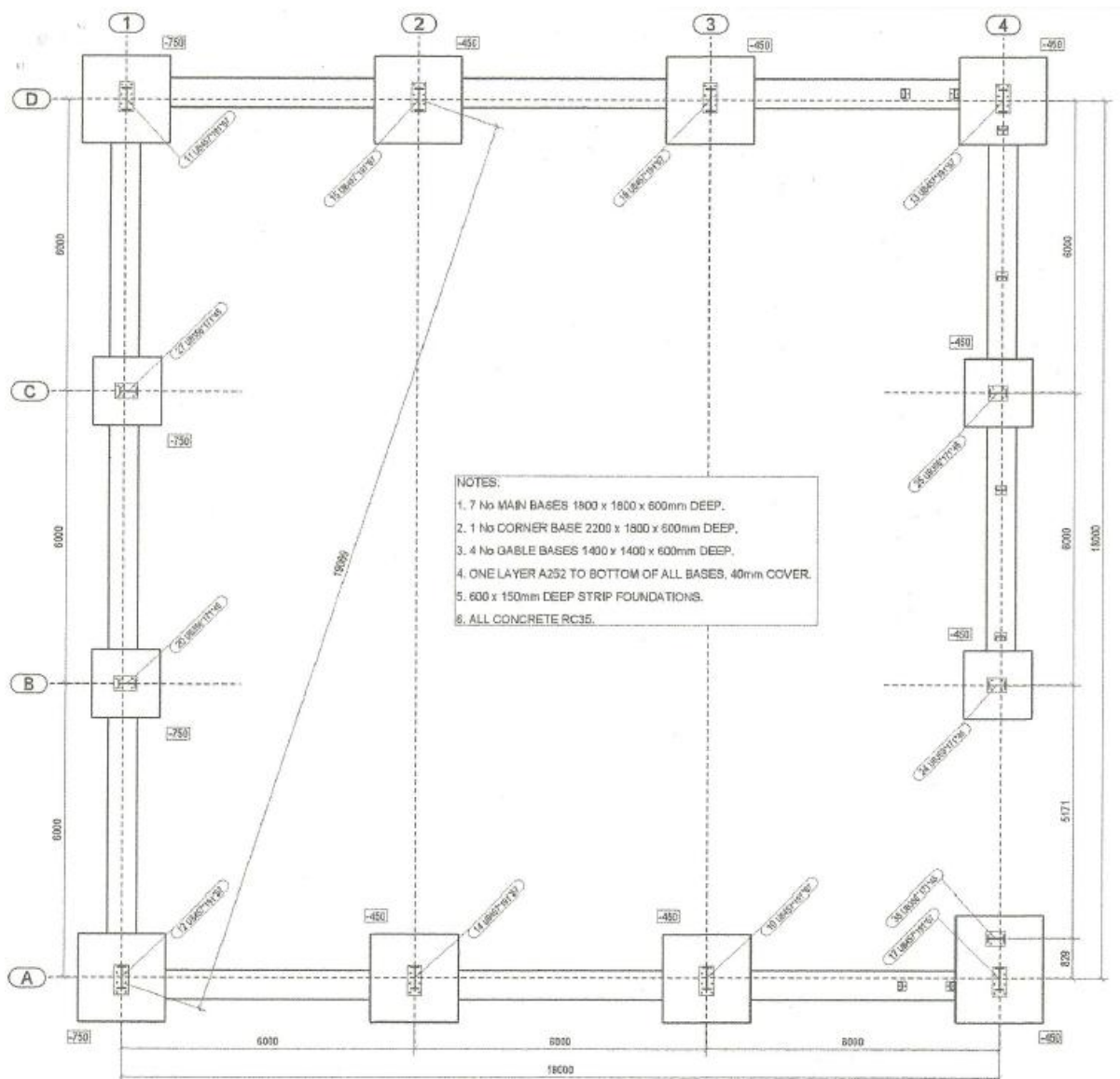


### *Location of the development site*

The development is situated in what may have been the backlands of structures on the north side of Main Street. Medieval backlands were often sub-divided and secondary buildings

constructed on them and it is possible that evidence of such structures might survive in this area. As a consequence the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park (LLTNP) planning authority, on the advice of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), recommended that all ground-breaking activities associated with this development (Planning Application 2014/0139/DET) should be monitored archaeologically.

For convenience, the development site is assumed to be orientated north/south by east/west with Glenartney Road being aligned nominally east/west.



*Plan showing the layout of trenches*

The new building, located hard against the south, east and west sides of the development area, will measure 18m square and will consist of a steel frame set onto substantial concrete bases and walls laid onto concrete foundations. It was designed by Main Design & Build Limited of Dunning.

## THE WATCHING BRIEF

It is the government's policy to protect and preserve archaeological sites and monuments and their settings wherever feasible. When it is not possible to preserve them in situ or if their perceived significance is not considered sufficiently strong, appropriate mitigation measures are implemented. Where that significance is considered relatively slight, a watching brief is carried out during the initial ground works when any archaeological structures, features or deposits that survive can be preserved by record. In the case of Ancaster Square North the latter option was recommended by WoSAS.

Scotia Archaeology produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) describing a programme intended to mitigate any action that might damage the surviving archaeological record. The document was approved by WoSAS and the planning authority prior to the commencement of the development.

The watching brief was undertaken by John Lewis of Scotia Archaeology on 28 September 2015, a warm, sunny day. A wheeled mechanical excavator was used to excavate the trenches for the concrete wall foundations and for the uprights of the building's steel frame.



*The site viewed from the north-east*

The main trenches, all 18m long, measured 0.7m wide and up to 0.7m deep although the west trench was barely 0.2m deep in places whereas the trenches for the column bases were up to 0.8m deep. All the trenches cut through 0.15m of type 1 aggregate, laid over the site prior to the excavation, and underlying debris resulting from the demolition of the earlier workshop



and perhaps other buildings of relatively recent age. This material, which included concrete, brick, rubble and ceramic tile fragments, was not bottomed in parts of the east and west trenches. Otherwise, the removal of the modern debris revealed glacial till of mid-brown silt, orange sand, gravel and occasional boulders. Only in parts of the east trench did topsoil of dark brown silty loam survive; elsewhere it had been removed, probably during construction and demolition work in the 20th century.



*South trench viewed from the west*

No structures, features or deposits of archaeological significance were uncovered in any of the trenches and no pre-20th-century artefacts retrieved from the site.



*West trench viewed from the north*

## **CONCLUSIONS**

On the evidence of this excavation, there was little or no medieval or early post-medieval development in what may have been the backland for a property on Main Street. Such backlands may have terminated in line with the south end of the present development although another possibility is that the northern limit of those properties was marked by what is now Glenartney Road. On that assumption, evidence for late medieval or post-medieval occupation of backlands may yet survive in other properties near this site.

## **REPORTING**

Copies of this report will be lodged with the client, WoSAS and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS). In addition, a summary report will be sent for publication in *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*, the annual journal of Archaeology Scotland. Site data, including a copy of the archive report, will also be uploaded onto the online digital resource site, OASIS.

## **PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE**

The photographs listed below form part of the project archive. Only a small number of them are included in this report.

- 1 South trench, viewed from the west
- 2 South trench, viewed from the east
- 3 Excavation in progress in the west trench, viewed from the south
- 4 West trench, viewed from the north
- 5 East trench, viewed from the north
- 6-7 The site, viewed from the north-east
- 8 North trench, viewed from the east