

GUARD



University of Glasgow

Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division



Consultancy - Desk Assessments - Fieldwork - Surveys



Buildings - Post-Excavation - Research & Teaching - Specialised Services

Paisley Abbey Drain Excavation
Data Structure Report
Project 3192



www.guard.arts.gla.ac.uk

Paisley Abbey Drain Excavation

Data Structure Report

On behalf of: Renfrewshire Local History Forum and Renfrewshire Council

NGR: NS4849 6388

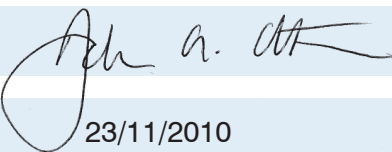
Project Number: 3192

Project Manager: Beverley Ballin-Smith

Report by: Bob Will

Illustrations: Gillian McSwan

Approved by:



23/11/2010

Date:

This document has been prepared in accordance with GUARD standard operating procedures.

GUARD
University of Glasgow
Gregory Building
Lilybank Gardens
Glasgow
G12 8QQ

Tel: 0141 330 5541
Fax: 0141 330 3863
email: guard@archaeology.gla.ac.uk

GUARD

Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division

www.guard.arts.gla.ac.uk

Contents

Executive Summary	5
Introduction	5
Site Location, Topography and Geology	5
Archaeological Background	5
Aims and Objectives	6
Methodology	8
Results	8
Artefacts and Samples	10
Assessment of the artefacts and samples recovered from the original investigation in 1991/92, by Beverley Ballin-Smith	10
Bone	11
Other Metals	12
Iron	12
Slag and Industrial waste	12
Lead	12
Glass	12
Leather	12
Mortar	12
Slate	13
Stone	13
Shell	13
Environmental	13
Discussion	13
Conclusions	13
On-going and Future Work	14
Acknowledgements	14
Appendices	17
Appendix A: Report photos	17
Appendix B: References	19
Appendix C: List of Contexts	19
Appendix D: List of Finds	19
Appendix E: List of Drawings	20
Appendix F: List of Photographs	20
Appendix G: DES	23
Appendix H: Project Design/WSI	23

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location	4
Figure 2: 1st Edition OS map showing drain and trenches	7
Figure 3: Trench plan	9
Figure 4: Section plan	10

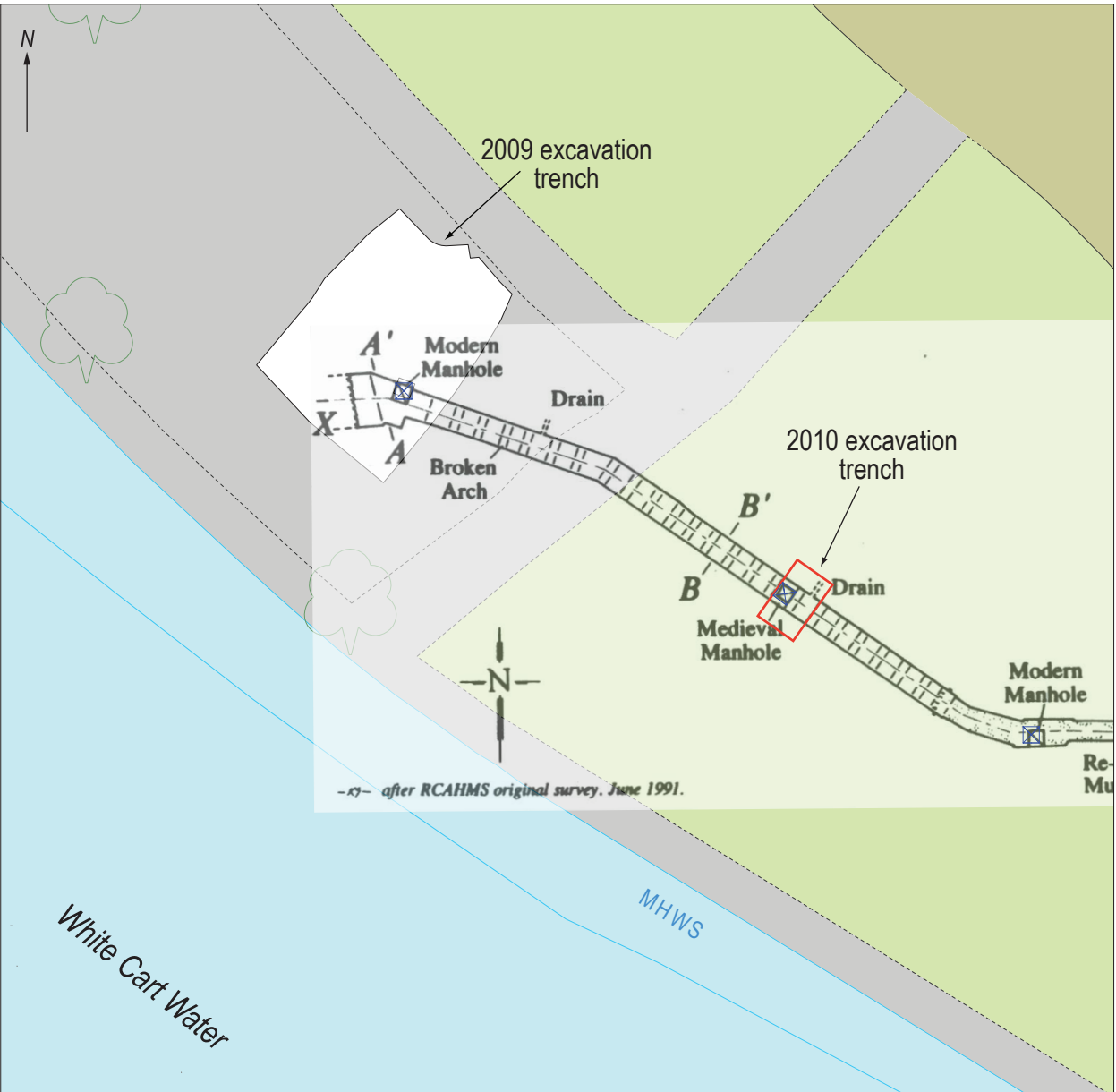
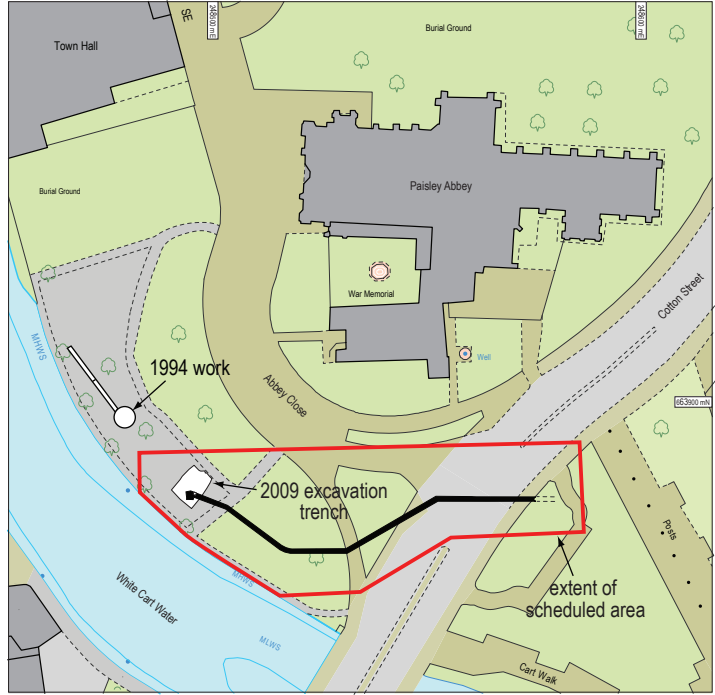


Figure 1: Site location.

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. All rights reserved. Licence number 100029241.

Executive Summary

- 1.1 A limited archaeological excavation was carried out by Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD) in September 2010 on the site of the major medieval drain at Paisley Abbey in Paisley. The project was run in collaboration with Renfrewshire Local History Forum, Renfrewshire Council and Paisley Museum. Earlier work had concentrated on the archaeological deposits and artefacts recovered from inside the drain. This excavation followed on from a similar small-scale excavation last year to investigate the construction of the drain and the deposits surrounding it. Although deep demolition layers and recent levelling deposits were identified over most of the trench, there were areas of undisturbed archaeological deposits. The remains of a stone foundation were uncovered to the north of the trench that could be part of the monastic precinct. In addition to the possible medieval structures, there were more recent deposits that relate to the buildings and tenements that occupied the site in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Introduction

- 2.1 This report details the results of a limited archaeological excavation undertaken by GUARD on the site of Paisley Abbey medieval drain to the south of the Abbey. The small trench was positioned to investigate features identified from the RCAHMS survey of the drain interior and to assess the survival of archaeological deposits above and around the drain. The fieldwork was carried out between 3 -13 September 2010 and was organised to coincide with Paisley Doors Open Day on Saturday 11 September to maximise publicity and to give visitors the opportunity to visit the excavation. In addition, the excavation ran over two weekends to allow volunteers to participate. The project was developed with Renfrewshire Council and Renfrewshire Local History Forum whose members volunteered on the excavation, in addition students from Kibble School, Paisley also volunteered over several days.

Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 3.1 The site is located in a small grassed municipal park and garden with trees and flower beds to the south of Paisley Abbey next to the River Cart (NGR: NS4849 6388). The present banks of the River Cart are retained by a stone wall with iron railings, a footpath next to the wall, and then a row of trees and grass beyond. It is thought that the present retaining wall replaced an earlier wall and that the original river bank was further east in ground that has now been built up behind the latest retaining wall. In addition, a major modern sewage pipe was inserted next to the retaining wall and therefore the area immediately south of the trench is known to have been heavily disturbed relatively recently. The trench was located within the grassed area next to a circular flower bed, 16m west of the present access manhole, and away from the trees.
- 3.2 The underlying drift geology consists of sand and gravel overlying glacial till of boulder clay (<http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/>).

Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The Cluniac Abbey of Paisley was founded as a priory at its present location in the late 1160s and became an abbey in 1219. The Abbey and its estates was one of the richest Cluniac foundations in the country but the Abbey suffered during the Wars of Independence and was burned down in 1307. It underwent an ambitious building programme in the 1450s under the direction of the Abbot Thomas Tervas but it was burned down again during the Reformation in 1561. Much of the Abbey as it survives today is the result of various renovations and re-buildings from the 19th century on top of the surviving walls and foundations although the choir is largely original.

- 4.2 Only the Abbey church and part of the cloistral ranges remain today but it would have stood at the heart of the monastic precinct that enclosed the area next to the River Cart. The layout of monasteries were fairly standardised but varied depending on the local topography and available land. The River Cart to the south would have formed a natural boundary to the abbey plan. Crossraguel Abbey in Ayrshire was the daughter house of Paisley and here the monastic precinct survives intact and it may provide a model for the layout at Paisley. At Crossraguel the Abbey lay to the north with the Abbot's house to the east and various buildings to the south and west.
- 4.3 Previous archaeological work around the Abbey has been quite limited: trial trenches to the north-east, to the south of the south transept and east of the 'Place' (remains of the east range). These trenches were excavated to a depth of 1.9 m and uncovered mainly 19th and 20th century demolition and landscaping layers. One of these trenches lay c 5 m north of the present trench (McBrien 1991). More encouragingly, an archaeological watching brief during 1994 some 25 m to the north-west of the drain during the construction of a large and deep sewer that went under the River Cart, uncovered the remains of a stone-built platform and revetment, possible a jetty or wharf behind the present retaining walls along the river bank. These deposits were over 2.5 m below the present ground level (CFA 1994). The excavation last year round the access manhole at the west end of the drain and approximately 16 m to the west of the present trench uncovered masonry structures that may belong to monastic buildings 1.8 m below the present ground level (Will 2009).
- 4.4 The major archaeological discoveries relate to the drain itself when it was re-discovered in 1990-92 (Malden 2000), at this time a large amount of silt was mechanically removed from the drain and carefully sieved for artefacts. During this operation a huge number and variety of artefacts were recovered including pottery, animal bone, lead seals, bone objects and a variety of other objects and materials. In addition, a small excavation was carried out inside the drain further to the east where it was much smaller and completely silted up. Here, it was possible to determine that there were securely stratified deposits within the drain that contained artefacts and important botanical remains (Johnston & Driscoll 1991). Subsequent analysis of the botanical remains has recovered a wide range both food and medicinal plants (Dickson 2000). Following the archaeological work inside the drain in 1990-92 the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) completed an internal survey of the drain, which identified several features including feeder drains and a possible medieval manhole.
- 4.5 In recognition of the national significance and importance of the drain, the drain and the immediate surrounding area has recently been brought under the protection of Historic Scotland as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM number 8078). As a result an application for Scheduled Monument Consent was made to Historic Scotland in advance of the excavation start date and was granted with certain conditions on how the excavation was to be conducted and to protect any archaeological remains that might be uncovered.

Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological work were to:
- investigate the side drain and possible medieval manhole identified from the RCAHMS survey of the interior of the drain.
 - establish the presence or absence of archaeological resources over and around the drain
 - determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits encountered in relation to the Abbey and the later development of the town;
 - record any significant archaeological remains should they be encountered;



Figure 2: 1st Edition OS map showing drain and trenches.

- 5.2 The trench was located over the point in the drain where a medieval manhole had been identified during the RCAHMS survey of its interior. The manhole is located between two of the roofing arches of the drain and is approximately 0.7 m by 0.5 m in size (Plate 2). In addition, a possible feeder drain also entered the main drain at roof height at this point. The intention was therefore to investigate these two features from the outside, as well as to assess the survival and condition of the drain and any other associated deposits. A map regression exercise identified that this location had been part of a garden area on the First Edition Ordnance Survey (Figure 2) and was therefore less likely to have been subject to recent disturbance.

Methodology

- 6.1 All excavation and backfilling was by hand and undertaken by local volunteers under close archaeological supervision. The turf was stacked to one side and replaced at the end of the excavation. A health and safety risk assessment and method statement was agreed before commencement of work with Renfrewshire Council safety department and the site was enclosed within a Heris-type fenced compound, while reinforced plastic mesh surrounded the actual trench, which was also covered over at night. All soil was stored within the compound.
- 6.2 All on-site recording - written, drawn and photographic documentation - was to the standards normally pertaining in archaeological fieldwork. Weather conditions for the excavation were generally good with the occasional wet day, apart from the last day of backfilling when it rained all day.

Results

- 7.1 The trench was located to 16 m east of the manhole currently used to access the medieval drain at its western extent and the area investigated in 2009. The trench was 6 m N/S by 2 m E/W. Based on the results of other work in the area it was known that there had been a lot of disturbance and landscaping on the site when the 19th century tenements were demolished and the area landscaped.
- 7.2 Turf was removed and stacked to one side and watered daily. Rather than excavate the full 6 m area, a 0.5 m strip was left at each end of the trench to be extended depending on the results and remaining available time. The topsoil (001) was 0.25 m thick and was removed to reveal a 100 mm thick layer of coal (002) that covered most of the trench. Below this was a deep deposit of compacted light-brown silts with frequent inclusions of bricks, roofing slates and mortar indicative of demolition (004). This layer was up to 0.5 m thick and included artefacts such as ceramics and glass as well as industrial waste from pottery factories of the 19th/20th centuries. Within this layer were lenses of pink/grey coloured sand. Beneath these was an extensive tarmac or bitumen surface that covered the northern half of the trench (005). To the east and south this surface was edged with a line of red bricks (006). The bricks did not extend to the western baulk as there was a circular area of disturbance. To the south beyond the extent of the tarmac was a layer of demolition material (007) similar to (004).
- 7.3 After the tarmac and bricks were recorded excavation continued, the tarmac was 80 mm thick and was easily broken up and removed. Beneath was another compacted layer (0.4 m thick) of demolition rubble (008) that contained artefacts of 19th/20th century date. Below this was a dark-grey silt layer (012) up to 0.25 m deep that contained frequent inclusions of animal bones. Two complete clay tobacco pipe bowls were recovered from it along with fragments of pipe stems. As the excavation continued in spits stones began to appear at the north of the trench (009) and further excavation revealed that these stones covered approximately half of the trench and included several large angular stones (010) 0.4 m by 0.4 m by 0.25 m in size, which formed a line or edge that ran NW to SE diagonally across the trench. To the south of this line was another concentration of smaller stones and white mortar (012) 0.7 m wide that lay parallel to

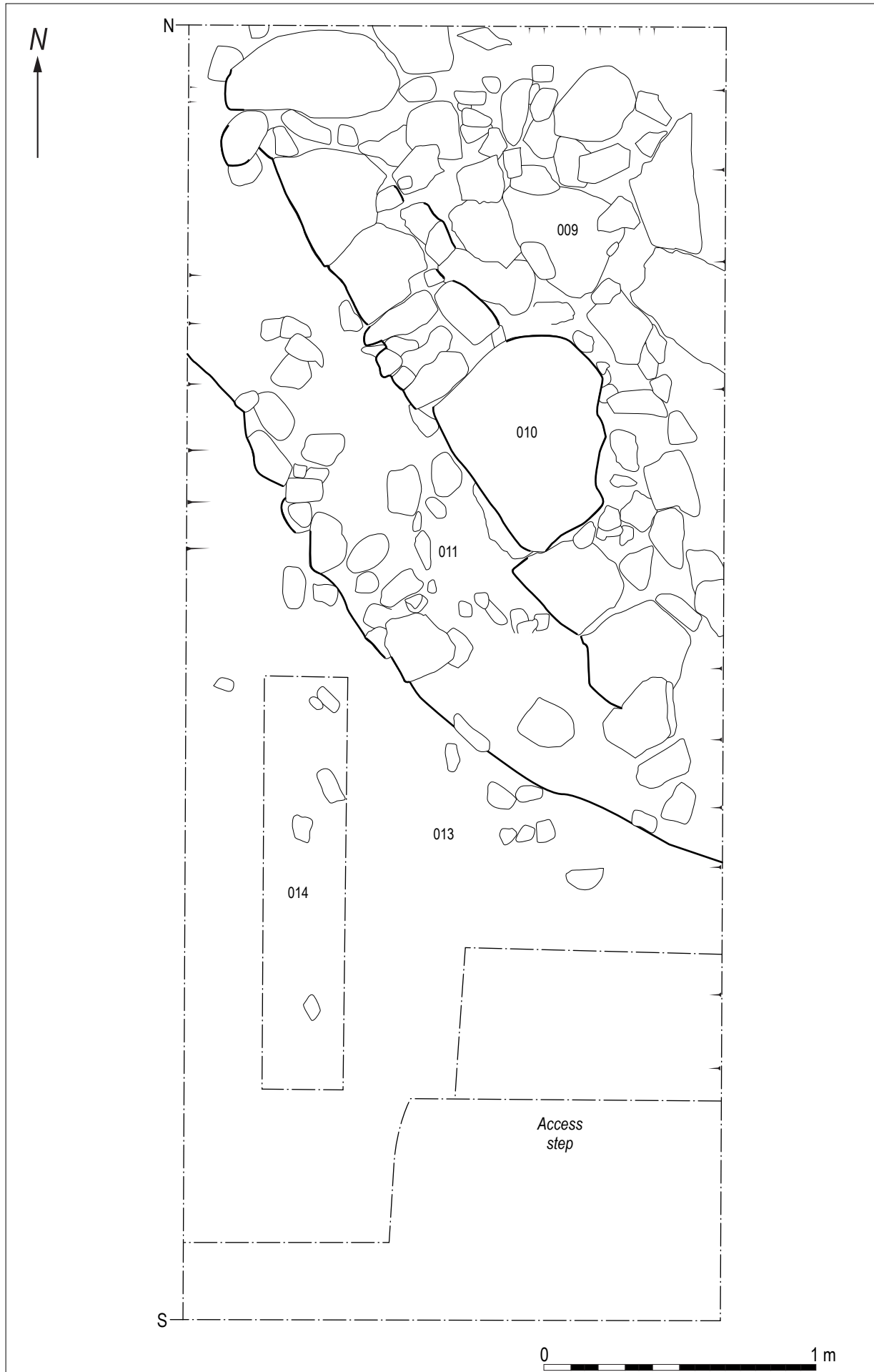


Figure 3: Trench plan.

the larger stones (011). The stones did not extend over the SW corner of the trench where the grey silt (012) overlay a mixed light-brown layer of clay, silt and mortar (013). After the whole trench was cleaned, photographed and recorded a small slot 0.2 m by 1 m was excavated into layer (013) which was found to be 0.2 m deep and covered a layer of light-brown mortar-rich silt (014). In the north of the trench one of the large square stones of (011) was removed to reveal more stones beneath. This stone was replaced prior to backfilling.

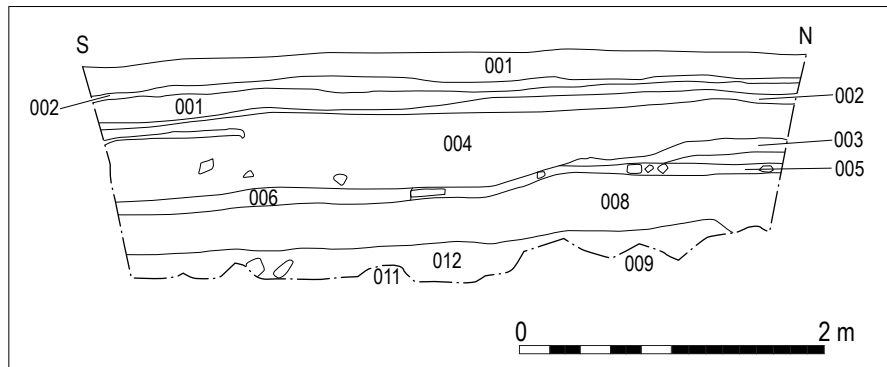


Figure 4: Section plan.

7.4 As the extensive layer of stones lay at a depth of 1.3 m, which raised health and safety concerns about further excavation, and the present Scheduled Monument Consent did not allow for the removal of archaeologically sensitive material, the excavation stopped at this level. A protective layer of geotextile was placed over the base of the trench and the site backfilled.

Artefacts and Samples

8.1 Most of the artefacts and samples recovered from the excavation date to the late 18th or 19th centuries with very few medieval or late medieval pottery sherds. Generally, the latter were recovered alongside later material from mixed deposits. The lower layer contained a large amount of animal bone, as well as two clay tobacco pipe bowls that would date to the mid-to late 17th century.

Artefacts	No	Description
Modern pottery	92	Includes flower pots, transfer printed, sponge printed, slip-lined and slip trailed
Late medieval/post-medieval pottery	19	-
Tile	8	2 Delft type tiles & possible medieval floor tiles
Brick/tile	60	Mainly pan tiles & chimney pots
Slate	7	One small slate disc while the rest were roofing slates including ones with peg holes
Glass	66	Mainly from bottles including late 18 th /19 th century wine bottles & modern window glass
Clay tobacco pipes	13	Two early bowls and fragments of stems
Iron	17	Mainly nails
Industrial waste/slag	9	Includes possible industrial pottery waste
Animal bones	247	-
shells	29	Mainly oyster shell

Assessment of the artefacts and samples recovered from the original investigation in 1991/92, by Beverley Ballin-Smith

8.2 Assessment of the artefacts and samples originally recovered from Paisley Abbey Drain in 1991/92 was carried out with the support of Historic Scotland and Paisley Museum between March and September 2010. The original investigations recovered approximately 80 standard boxes of artefacts. These were listed at the time and deposited with Paisley Museum. Since then little has been done with the artefacts except

that the key finds were studied in advance of a conference held at the Abbey in 1999 (Malden 2000). The bulk of the medieval pottery was sorted and partly reconstructed at the museum with the help of Renfrewshire Local History Forum volunteers in the early 1990s. During the summer of 2009 the pottery was returned to the University of Glasgow where it was studied for a post-graduate MLitt dissertation.

- 8.3 A summary of the first phase of assessment and the collating of specialist work on the artefacts and samples recovered from the drain in 1991/92 is presented here. The overall aim of the project was to assess the current state of the artefacts, complete specialist work and reporting of the artefacts with the final aim of publishing these results.
- 8.4 The aims and objectives of the first phase of work (part of Block 1) were to:
- confirm the presence or absence of the artefacts as recorded in the original lists and specialist reports;
 - assess the condition of the artefacts and determine whether conservation was required,
 - record with digital photographs the current condition of the artefacts (where appropriate), to also have a photographic list of the most important artefacts;
 - assess the currently available artefact reports against the lists of finds;
 - quantify the range and type of artefacts with the aim of future funded post-excavation analysis and publication of the results of the 1990-92 archaeological investigations;
- 8.5 Apart from the pottery which was studied in the Archaeology Department of the University of Glasgow, all the remaining artefacts were examined in the Paisley Museum store at the former Whitehaugh Barracks, Whitehaugh Avenue, in Paisley. The contents of each box were recorded and checked against the original lists submitted with the finds in 1992.
- 8.6 A selection of the key artefacts (over 600) was photographed with a digital camera against a background of squared mm graph paper and with the plastic bag they were in. Artefacts were photographed under artificial light with the use of normal flash photography. These photographs should be regarded only as record to help identify artefacts against specialist reports and are not for publication. The details of the artefacts are recorded along with batch number and finds number to enable the artefacts to be matched with the finds lists.
- 8.7 The digital photographs of the artefacts were also taken to provide a record for future research and to help quantify the scale of the work still to be done to bring the work to publication. Although the animal bone, the main pottery assemblage and some of the other artefacts and samples had been boxed separately, many boxes contained a mixture of materials. These mixed boxes contained artefacts that were recovered in batches during the sieving operations but they have now been sorted by material and re-boxed, and additional pottery sherds catalogued.
- 8.8 The term *artefact* has been used for noteworthy individual pieces and counted separately in the category descriptions below, but *samples* are usually bags of whole or fragmentary pieces whose numbers have not been individually counted.

Bone

- 8.9 Included in this category are 355 samples of unworked whole and fragmentary animal bone and 67 samples of animal teeth. The animals represented include cattle, pig,

horse and cat. In addition there were 15 items where the bone had been worked or had evidence of cut marks, possibly from the butchery or manufacturing processes. Bone was used for the manufacture of c 34 artefacts, which include beads, buttons, pins, a dice, pegs skewers, a spoon, a possible knife handle and discs with perforations.

Other Metals

8.10 A gold plated button and up to six silver or mixed metal coins are the most readily identifiable objects in this category. Samples of copper alloy (100) include small fragments of copper sheet, wire, tubes, strips, perforated pieces, rings and many more. This range of material suggests there was likely to have been a copper workshop in the vicinity which was making artefacts from which these discarded pieces were the result. There are very few identifiable pieces that indicate the actual pieces made.

Iron

8.11 Nearly all the iron pieces and lumps found in the drain are heavily corroded due to their immersion in water. There are c 194 samples of waste and unidentified iron pieces and up to 51 individual and largely unidentified artefacts. However, pins and nails are present. Some of the material is mixed in that it contains copper or other metals and may therefore not be artefactual but waste products. Together with slag and industrial waste products there is clear evidence of the demand for iron and its processing in the vicinity.

Slag and Industrial waste

8.12 The 223 samples of slag, cinder and industrial waste is interesting in an urban context of the drain. This material indicates that iron working quite possibly of the medieval and post-medieval periods took place within close proximity to the drain. The location of the drain near to the river suggests that water power might have been used in industrial processes and that the disposal of rubbish into a drain that exited into the river was a cheap and efficient way to get rid of unwanted by-products.

Lead

8.13 There are over 150 samples and c 30 artefacts of lead indicating this is another important assemblage of material retrieved from the drain. Much of the lead was associated with a use in windows, possibly with stained glass in the Abbey and related structures. The lead is often fragmentary, in strips, lumps and squashed balls of the material. There are about 7 pieces which indicate larger sheets of lead were also used. A little casting waste also indicates that melting and casting of lead was also occurring close to the drain. Artefacts include a buckle, perforated discs, a hook, ring, rivet, spindle whorl, stud, washer, weights, wire, several seals and other unidentified objects.

Glass

8.14 Glass was not a particularly numerous category in spite of the fact that there are c 172 samples of both bottle and window glass. Most pieces are small indicating the fragmentation due to the disposal process. One glass marble was also found in the drain.

Leather

8.15 The nine leather pieces include fragments of footwear and offcuts of their manufacturing process. This indicates that somewhere in the vicinity of the drain and was a cobbler who may have dumped his rubbish and unusable leather pieces into the drain.

Mortar

8.16 There are 70 samples of mortar from domestic and industrial buildings and processes.

Slate

8.17 Slate pieces are one of the largest categories of artefacts and samples and include 160 samples of slate shaped as discs and 200 samples of unidentified unworked or worked pieces. Of the 196 artefacts, 149 are incised pieces, possibly previously writing tablets, which have been incised with a pointed implement and then broken. These include gaming boards, music scores, lines of text and drawings. Perforated pieces and roof slates are difficult to distinguish, when fragmentary, from incised pieces. However, two conclusions can be drawn. Firstly, buildings in the vicinity had slate roofs. Secondly, broken pieces of roofing slate could have been used by children learning their alphabet and numbers. Other worked artefacts include the occasional spindlewhorl.

8.18 The slate is of good quality and its provenance should be investigated.

Stone

8.19 A reasonably sized assemblage of stone was collected from the drain. It included 14 samples of unidentified specimens and unmodified stone and pebbles. In addition, there are 20 samples of quartz and 14 of flint and chert which will need further analysis, but the majority appear to be unworked and are not thought likely to be tools. There are 18 modified pieces: the majority are architectural. Other worked pieces include whetstones, a disc and a perforated piece. Granite and sandstones are present suggesting the use of a variety of raw materials.

Shell

8.20 Much of the shell (81 samples both whole and fragmentary) found within the drain are oysters and related species. There are two recorded shell artefacts: one is worked and the other is perforated.

Environmental

8.21 There are 168 samples of environmental remains of which the vast majority are fruit stones mostly of cherry with some hazel nut and a walnut. Other rare samples include charcoal, peat and wood. Some of the charcoal and wood samples may relate to the use of the drain, but the fruit stones could be much later. The presence of cherry trees near to the drain indicates that they are the likely source of many of the samples.

Discussion

9.1 This limited excavation confirmed the presence of deep deposits of demolition material including an early 20th century tarmac surface and landscaping as was expected. More importantly, the excavation revealed masonry structures that might represent the feeder drain identified from the interior survey of the drain. But due to the size of the stones and their position these may represent a wall foundation that may be contemporary with the drain and relate to the monastic precinct. As the stone structures were not excavated it was not possible to determine their exact nature and to confirm that they marked the location of the side drain or even form the outer structure to the manhole. Although the artefacts that were recovered consist of a mixture of residual medieval and post-medieval pottery along with 19th and 20th century material the recovery of the pipe bowls suggest mid-17th century activity on the site was an important period for the development and expansion of the town.

Conclusions

10.1 This limited excavation that ran over ten days was able to:

- uncover masonry foundations from a wall or side drain that may be contemporary with the main drain and relate to the monastic precinct.

- confirm the presence of deep deposits of demolition material and landscaping protecting the deposits below.
- while masonry structures were uncovered excavation did not continue to a depth to uncover the exterior of the drain itself.
- recover mid to late 17th century artefacts representing a time when Paisley as a town was expanding.

10.2 In addition the project:

- established a good working relationship between various interested groups that allowed many people to become involved with and participate in the project.
- was timed to coincide with Doors Open Day on Saturday 12 September which saw a steady stream of visitors to the site throughout the day. During the course of the excavation over 400 leaflets were distributed to interested visitors.
- was visited by members of the Young Archaeologists Club based at the Hunterian Museum at Glasgow University, and there was a school visit from senior pupils from Linwood High School
- received a great deal of support and interest from the local community and beyond, including the local MSP, Councillors and other politicians.
- generated a great deal of media interest that resulted in wide newspaper coverage as well as websites featuring Paisley and/or archaeology.

On-going and Future Work

11.1 There is still much to discover about the Abbey, drain and monastic precinct and future work could take several forms:

- Thanks to the support of Historic Scotland there is now an on-going programme to complete the post-excavation analysis of artefacts recovered from the drain in 1991
- To publish the results of the analysis of artefacts from the drain.
- To build on the recent excavations and develop a large long term research project and training excavation. The current work has helped to demonstrated to the Heritage Lottery Fund the potential and benefits of such a research project to the community.

Acknowledgements

12.1 GUARD would like to thank Nigel Lack, Steven Fanning, Michael Fowles and John Mitchell of Renfrewshire Council, Susan Jeffrey from Paisley Museum, Frank Snow of On-Site and all the members of the Paisley Abbey Drain sub-committee. Thanks also to Noel Fojut, Adrian Cox, Richard Heawood, Candice Hatherley and Sandra Archer at Historic Scotland who ensured that Scheduled Monument Consent was granted in time of the excavation to take place, and for their support. Special thanks go to the willing volunteers many who had helped on previous excavations, from the Renfrewshire Local History Forum whose help and commitment was much appreciated: Ian Brough, Kay Bowman, Helen Calcuth, Stephen Clancy, Andrew Eadie, Janet Eadie, Dorothy Gormlie Maggie Hancock, Hilda Hoey, Ken Hoey, Susan Hunter, Sarah-Jane Moffat, Janie Munro, Ethel Parker, Margery Parker, and Pat Shearer. Thanks to the students from the Kibble Education and Care School, Paisley who volunteered on site including

Jamie Milne, Jamie Johnstone, Dylan Ferguson and staff members Ewan Turnbull, Ann Haughey and Neil Govan. In addition, the project was filmed by Tony Grace of the Department of Media Language and Music of The University of the West of Scotland. GUARD would like to thank Historic Scotland for their assistance in funding the work on the artefacts, and Susan Jeffrey, Gail Hunter and Donald Macleod of Paisley Museum for allowing access to the collections.

- 12.2 The author would like to offer special thanks to Nigel Lack and Andrew Eadie with the support of Councillor Brian Lawson for their help in applying for and obtaining grants to allow the excavation to take place. Through their efforts funds were raised from Renfrewshire Council Paisley North Local Area Committee, the Scottish Community Foundation and Historic Scotland.
- 12.3 Technical support was from Aileen Maule and John Kylie; the illustrations were produced by Gillian McSwan. Ingrid Shearer produced the posters and leaflets and the report was desk top published by Gillian McSwan. The project was managed for GUARD by Beverley Ballin Smith.

**Paisley Abbey Drain
Excavation
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices



www.guard.arts.gla.ac.uk

Appendices

Appendix A: Report photos



Plate 1: Side drain entering main drain at roof height identified by RCAHMS.



Plate 2: Possible medieval manhole in roof of main drain identified by RCAHMS.



Plate 3: Tarmac surface with brick edging, from south.



Plate 4: Stone built structures, from south.



Plate 5: West facing section of trench, from west.



Plate 6: Possible 17th century clay tobacco pipes.



Plate 7: Stone built structures, from north.



Plate 8: Kibble and RLHF volunteers.



Plate 9: Visit by pupils from Linwood High School.



Plate 10: Filming progress during the excavation.



Plate 11: Visitors during Doors Open Day.



Plate 12: Visit by Hunterian Museum Young Archaeologists Club.

Appendix B: References

Caie, G 2000 'The Inscribed Paisley Slates' in Malden 2000

Dickson, C 2000 'Food, Medicinal & other plants from the drain' in Malden 2000

Egan, G 2000 'Lead seals for textiles' in Malden 2000

Elliot, K 2000 'Musical slates: The Paisley Abbey fragments' in Malden 2000

Johnstone, P & Driscoll, S 1991 Paisley Abbey: Investigations, 1991: Geophysical survey, Analysis of Silts Recovered from Medieval Drain and trial excavations in the Drain. GUARD internal report 39

Malden, J (ed) 2000 The Monastery and Abbey of Paisley, Renfrewshire Local History Forum 2000

Appendix C: List of Contexts

Context No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
001	-	topsoil	-
002	-	lenses of coal	-
003	-	pink/grey sand lense	-
004	-	mixed demolition type rubble	-
005	-	bitumen surface	-
006	-	brick edging to bitumen	-
007	-	mixed rubble to south of 006	-
008	-	mixed rubble below 005	-
009	-	stone structure	-
010	-	large square stone forming linear feature	-
011	-	white sandtone linear feature	-
012	-	black midden layer	-
013	-	mixed clay layer- light brown clay	-
014	-	mid brown silt below 013	-

Appendix D: List of Finds

Find No.	Area	Context No.	No. of Pieces	Material	Description
1	-	001	1	ceramic	post-medieval
2	-	001	1	CBM	medieval floor tile?
3	-	001	15	bone	-
4	-	001	56	glass	mixture bottle & window etc
5	-	001	15	ceramic	modern - mixed
6	-	001	10	CBM	pan tiles & chimney pots
7	-	001	2	CBM	polished concrete 'terrazzo' decorative steps
8	-	004	2	CBM	Delft tile?
9	-	004	13	shell	-
10	-	004	5	ceramic	clay tobacco pipe
11	-	004	3	glass	-
12	-	004	1	ceramic	modern possible kiln waster?
13	-	004	7	ceramic	medieval
14	-	004	18	CBM	modern wall tile - green & white
15	-	004	8	industrial waste	pottery kiln waste?
16	-	004	70	ceramic	modern - mixed

Find No.	Area	Context No.	No. of Pieces	Material	Description
17	-	004	12	Iron	mainly nails
18	-	004	50	bone	-
19	-	004	16	CBM	tile, fire clay fittings, pan tile
20	-	004	6	stone	roofing slate
21	-	007	1	CBM	complete brick
22	-	007	1	ceramic	modern - creamware?
23	-	007	1	stone	slate disc
24	-	007	1	ceramic	clay tobacco pipe
25	-	007	1	ceramic	floor tile - medieval?
26	-	007	2	glass	mixture bottle & window etc
27	-	007	4	shell	-
28	-	007	3	Iron	mainly nails
29	-	007	6	ceramic	late medieval/post-medieval
30	-	007	17	bone	-
31	-	007	13	CBM	modern wall tile - green & white
32	-	008	78	bone	-
33	-	008	1	CBM	floor tile - medieval?
34	-	008	3	ceramic	modern
35	-	008	5	shell	-
36	-	008	2	Iron	-
37	-	008	1	ceramic	clay tobacco pipe
38	-	008	1	industrial waste	slag?
39	-	012	87	bone	-
40	-	012	2	ceramic	-
41	-	012	5	glass	-
42	-	012	7	shell	-
43	-	012	6	ceramic	clay tobacco pipe - 2 bowls & 4 stems - early medieval
44	-	012	5	ceramic	
45	-	012	3	CBM	tile -medieval?

Appendix E: List of Drawings

Drawing No.	Area	Sheet No.	Subject	Scale
1	-	001	plan of bitumen surface with brick edging	1:20
2	-	002	plan of trench with stone feature	1:20
3	-	003	east facing section of trench	1:20
4	-	003	south facing section of trench	1:20
5	-	03	west facing section of trench	1:20

Appendix F: List of Photographs

Digital

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
1	-	001	location & de-turfing	N
2	-	001	de-turfing	N
3	-	001	de-turfing with manhole in background	W
4	-	001	de-turfing	S
5	-	001	de-turfing	E
6	-	001	cleaning back - volunteers	E
7	-	001	first clean back	S
8	-	001	second spit	N
9	-	001	detail after 2nd clean	N
10	-	001	trench fenced off at end of day	N

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
11	-	-	Nigel, Andrew & Kibble team	-
12	-	-	Kibble helping out	NE
13	-	-	Anne & Jamie - Kibble	N
14	-	-	Ewan & Jamie 2 - Kibble	E
15	-	-	Jamie & RLHF member	-
16	-	004	trench after cleaning	S
17	-	005/006	tarmac surface with brick edging	S
18	-	005/006	tarmac surface with brick edging	S
19	-	005/006	detail- tarmac surface with brick edging	W
20	-	005/006	tarmac surface with brick edging	W
21	-	005/006	tarmac surface with brick edging	S
22	-	005	planning & taking levels	NE
23	-	005	planning & taking levels	SE
24	-	005	planning & levels with Abbey in background	S
25	-	006/008	digging deeper to S of bricks	W
26	-	005/006/008	general view at end of day	N
27	-	-	working shot	N
28	-	-	trench covered over & fenced off	SE
29	-	-	trench covered over & fenced off	S
30	-	-	visit by Linwood High School	N
31	-	-	visit by Linwood High School	N
32	-	-	general working shot	W
33	-	-	general working shot	SW
34	-	-	Tony filming, Lorna and family with Frank	S
35	-	009/010	stone structure in N end	S
36	-	009/010	stone structure in N end	W
37	-	009/010	stone structure in N end	N
38	-	009/010	stone structure in N end	E
39	-	009/010	stone structure in N end	SE
40	-	009/010	stone structure in N end	SE
41	-	-	West facing trench section	W
42	-	-	Doors Open Day visitors	-
43	-	-	Doors Open Day visitors	-
44	-	-	Doors Open Day visitors	-
45	-	-	Doors Open Day visitors	-
46	-	-	planning & drawing sections	-
47	-	-	Cloister trench general Doors open Day	-
48	-	-	Cloister trench detail	N
49	-	-	Cloister trench Stephen & Marjory	-
50	-	009/010	detail - stone structure after cleaning	S
51	-	-	S facing section	S
52	-	009/010	detail - stone structure after cleaning	-
53	-	009/010/013	stone structure and clay layer	N
54	-	-	W facing section - N	W
55	-	-	W facing section	W
56	-	-	E facing section - N end	E
57	-	-	E facing section - S end	E
58	-	-	stone structure & S facing section	S
59	-	013	mixed clay to south of 011	S
60	-	010	detail of stones & section	SW
61	-	009/010	detail of stones & section	W
62	-	009/010	detail of stones & section without ranging rods	S
63	-	009/010	detail of stone structure	SE
64	-	009/013	final photos -detail S end	NE
65	-	-	general view of trench & compound	N

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
66	-	-	general view of trench & compound	N
67	-	-	general view of trench & compound	S
68	-	-	section drawing	S
69	-	-	cloister trench	W
70	-	-	cloister trench	NW
71	-	014	test slot through clay 013	S
72	-	014	test slot through clay 013	E
73	-	014	test slot through clay 013 -detail	E
74	-	009/013	detail stones & section	SE
75	-	009	one large stone removed- stone below	W
76	-	009	location of removed stone (replaced)	W
77	-	-	base of trench covered before backfilling	S
78	-	-	trench backfilled	NW
79	-	-	trench backfilled	W
80	-	-	trench backfilled	SE
81	-	-	trench backfilled	E
82	-	-	trench backfilled	NE
83	-	-	trench backfilled & spoil removed	NW
84	-	-	trench backfilled & spoil removed	W
85	-	-	trench backfilled & spoil removed	N
86	-	-	trench backfilled & spoil removed	E

Black and White

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
1	-	001	location	-
2	-	005/006	tarmac surface with brick edging	S
3	-	005/006	tarmac surface with brick edging	S
4	-	005/006	detail- tarmac surface with brick edging	W
5	-	005/006	tarmac surface with brick edging	N
6	-	009/010	stone structure in N end	S
7	-	009/010	stone structure in N end	W
8	-	009/010	stone structure in N end	N
9	-	009/010	stone structure in N end	E
10	-	009/010	stone structure in N end	SE
11	-	009/010	stone structure in N end	SE
12	-	-	West facing trench section	W
13	-	009/010	detail - stone structure after cleaning	S
14	-	-	S facing section	S
15	-	009/010	detail - stone structure after cleaning	-
16	-	009/010/013	stone structure and clay layer	N
17	-	-	W facing section - N	W
18	-	-	E facing section - N end	E
19	-	-	stone structure & S facing section	S
20	-	013	mixed clay to south of 011	S
21	-	010	detail of stones & section	SW
22	-	009/010	detail of stones & section	W
23	-	009/010	detail of stones & section without ranging rods	S
24	-	009/010	detail of stone structure	SE
25	-	009/013	final photos -detail S end	NE
26	-	014	test slot through clay 013	S
27	-	014	test slot through clay 013	E
28	-	014	test slot through clay 013 -detail	E
29	-	009	one large stone removed- stone below	W
30	-	009	location of removed stone (replaced)	W

Appendix G: DES

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Renfrewshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Paisley Abbey Drain Excavation
PROJECT CODE:	3192
PARISH:	Paisley
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	R Will
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	GUARD
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Limited excavation
NMRS NO(S):	NS46SE 2.05, NS46SE 2.00, NS46SE 2.07
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Medieval Abbey precinct
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	-
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS4849 6388
START DATE (this season)	4 September 2010
END DATE (this season)	13 September 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	-
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A limited archaeological excavation was carried out by Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division and volunteers from the Renfrewshire Local History Forum in September 2010 on the site of major medieval drain at Paisley Abbey in Paisley. This excavation followed on from a similar small scale excavation last year to investigate the construction of the drain and the deposits surrounding the drain. Although deep demolition layers and recent levelling deposits were identified over most of the trench, there were areas of undisturbed archaeological deposits. The remains of a stone foundation were uncovered to the north of the trench and could be part of the monastic precinct. In addition to the possible medieval structures there were more recent deposits that relate to the buildings and tenements that occupied the site in the 19 th and early 20 th century.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	-
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Renfrewshire Council Paisley North Local Area Committee, the Scottish Community Foundation and Historic Scotland.
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	GUARD, Gregory Building, Lilybank Gardens, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	r.will@archaeology.gla.ac.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/ deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS. Report lodged with WoSAS SMR and NMRS

Appendix H: Project Design/WSI

**GUARD 2773: Paisley Abbey Drain
Proposed Limited Archaeological Excavation September 2010**

Prepared by Bob Will, GUARD

26 July 2010

Glasgow University Archaeology Research Division (GUARD) in collaboration with Renfrewshire Local History Forum, Renfrewshire Council and Paisley Museum aim to carry out a small archaeological investigation at Paisley Abbey Drain to coincide with the 'Doors Open Day' weekend of 11-12 September 2010. The work will be similar to last year's small excavation and will be carried out by volunteers from Renfrewshire Local History Forum and other local organisations under supervision by GUARD staff

Scope of the Archaeological Investigations

The excavation will take place on the line of the medieval drain. The excavation will have three main aims

- To determine the external width of the drain and the condition of the outer fabric of the drain
- to investigate the survival of archaeological deposits over and adjacent to the drain that may also provide information regarding the construction of the drain and the medieval monastic precinct
- to investigate the later use of the site in terms of the development of the town of Paisley and the more recent tenements and streets

The aim will be to obtain as much information regarding the construction of the drain and the surrounding deposits while causing the least amount of disturbance to these deposits. The exterior of the drain will be exposed cleaned and recorded. A layer of geotextile will be placed over the drain prior to backfilling.

From the results of last year's excavation and the RCAHMS survey of the interior of the drain we know that the top of the exterior of the drain is approximately one metre below the present ground level in addition the RCAHMS survey identified possibly side drains running into the main drain and the location of a medieval manhole. Therefore we propose to hand excavate a small trench over the drain at the location of one of the side drains to investigate the exterior surface of the drain and the location of the side drain. Similarly the excavation last year uncovered the walls and foundations of tenement building immediately below the surface and we intend to investigate these deposits too.

Logistics

The archaeological works will consist of a small hand dug excavation initially over an area approximately 6m by 2m (maximum). Unlike last year there will be no machine to remove the upper layers or to backfill all will have to be done by hand. A site hut and a toilet will be provided along with heras-type fencing to surround the excavation area.

The success of the project relies totally on volunteers under supervision by GUARD staff. Based on last year there were plenty of willing and able volunteers so it shouldn't be a problem this year.

This proposal has still to be fully discussed with Historic Scotland and Renfrewshire Council and at the moment full funding is not in place.

Timetable

Dates 4-13 September

Door Open Day 11-12 September 2010

Excavation to run from weekend before and finish on weekend of Doors open Day – backfilling on the Sunday/Monday

GUARD
University of Glasgow
Gregory Building
Lilybank Gardens
Glasgow
G12 8QQ

Tel: 0141 330 5541
Fax: 0141 330 3863
email: guard@archaeology.gla.ac.uk

University of Glasgow Charity No SC004401

GUARD

Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division

www.guard.arts.gla.ac.uk