



**15 South Street
Milnathort,
Perth and Kinross,
Standing Building Recording,
Data Structure Report**



November 2015

Document control sheet

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Project: 15 South Street Milnathort, Perth and Kinross
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Document Status: FINAL				

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Executive Summary

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage LTD were commissioned by Scottish Water to complete Level 2 Standing Building Recording and excavation of a mill lade culvert arch with associated features revealed during works on the Sewer Flood Prevention Project on South Street in Milnathort. The discovery was reported to Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust by Mrs Patricia Penn-Low, who owns the land.

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust visited the site and recommended that a formal programme of historic building recording be undertaken as parts of the culvert and associated features would be likely to be destroyed during the flood prevention project.

Cartographic study showed that mills had existed in Milnathort since the production of Joan Blaeu's maps in the 17th century and perhaps as early as the 14th century. The structures recorded herein predate the compilation of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1854 and are considered to be of early 18th century construction.

The structures investigated comprise an arch forming the ESE end of a culvert that carried the lade under the road to the north and west of the site, a set of steps leading down to the lade and various intercutting walls associated with these structures. All are stone-built and appear to be contemporary with the main lade.

A record of the work has been deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS ID archascu1-231118) and with Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland (pending).

1 Introduction

General

1.1 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage LTD were commissioned by Scottish Water to complete a Level 2 Standing Building Record and excavation of a mill lade culvert and associated arch and steps revealed during works on the Sewer Flood Prevention Project on South Street in Milnathort.

- 1.1.2 The discovery of the lade and associated features was reported to Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust by Mrs Patricia Penn-Low, who owns the land. Following a site visit, Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT) recommended that a small scale excavation and Level 2 historic building recording be undertaken.
- 1.1.3 PKHT submitted terms of reference for requirements of the work deemed necessary to complete the archaeological work and Scottish Water agreed to fund the project in line with best practice guidelines.
- 1.1.4 ARCHAS Ltd completed the excavation and building recording on Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th October 2015. The work was completed by Joe Doran and John Gillen. Weather conditions throughout were generally dry but overcast, with occasional showers
- 1.1.5 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd. conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CiFA) Code of conduct, and relevant Standards and Guidance documents. For this project, all Data Gathering and assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (2014).

1.2 Setting

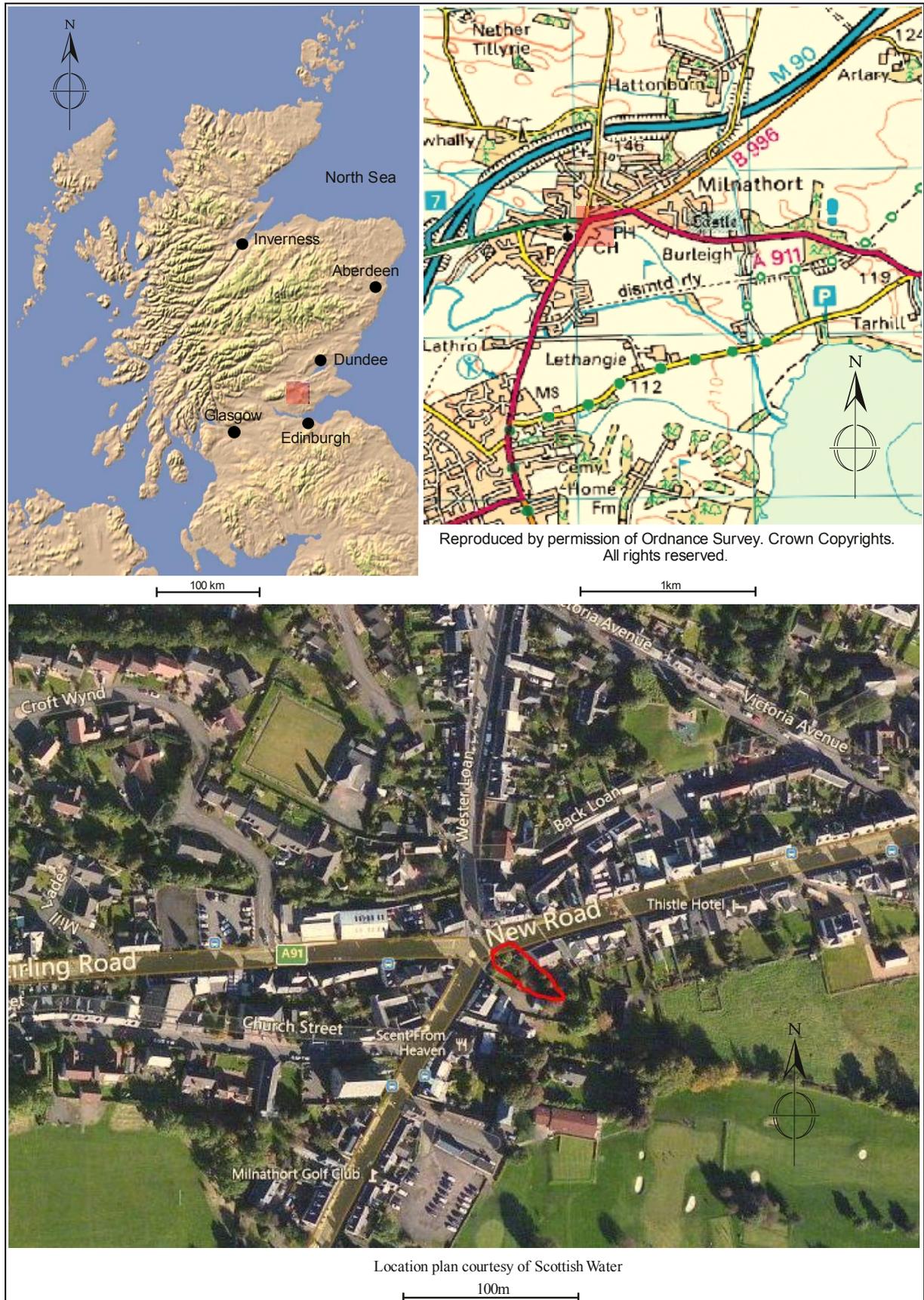


Figure 1: Site location

1.3 Mill Lade

1.3.1 The mill lade runs approximately NW-SE under the convergence of South Street Stirling Road, Wester Loan and New road, known as The Cross. The site itself (NGR: NO 12075 04703) is located east of South Street and south of New Road (see Figure 1 Site Location) in the small town of Milnathort to the north of Kinross in Perth and Kinross.

1.3.2

The mill lade culvert arch is situated beneath the boundary wall of a garden that fronts onto The Cross. Parts of the culvert are also visible to the northwest of the site beneath The Cross in a trench dug by Scottish Water (see Figure 2) and the mill lade then runs from the site area in a south-easterly direction where it feeds into the watercourse known as the Back Burn.

1.3.3 The surrounding local topography is mostly flat though with a very slight slope to the south and east.



Figure 2: truncated remains of culvert in trench excavated by Scottish Water under The Cross, as viewed from the east

1.4 Geology

1.4.1 The overlying drift geology is made up of Glacio-fluvial deposits of gravels, sands and silts formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. These deposits are characteristic of an environment previously dominated by ice age conditions.

1.4.2 The underlying bedrock geology is composed of sandstone mudstone of the Strathdedn and Inverclyde Groups. This is a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 345 to 385

million years ago in the Carboniferous and Devonian Periods and is indicative of a local environment previously dominated by rivers.¹

¹ www.bgs.ac.uk – 17/11/15

2 Methodology

2.1 Excavation

- 2.1.1 ARCHAS completed a small program of onsite work, the first phase of which was cleaning the partially exposed features so that they could be recorded. This involved exposing the culvert, steps and as much of the mill lade itself as was reasonably practicable.
- 2.1.2 In the event, part of the mill lade had to be cleared using a mechanical excavator provided by Scottish Water, up until the point when there was a danger of damaging the archaeological features. The remainder was excavated by hand.
- 2.1.3 All notable artefacts found during the excavation were retained, at the request of PKHT. These included artefacts made during the initial discovery and excavation of the site by Scottish Water personnel.

2.2 Building recording

- 2.2.1 During the second phase of archaeological work a detailed photographic survey was made of significant architectural features recorded and drawings at scales of 1:10 and 1:20 were made of the features and elevations measured from a levelled baseline.

3 Historical Assessment

3.1 General Historical Background

- 3.1.1 The area around Milnathort has a long history of human occupation. The earliest known remains are Prehistoric with barrows to the north east of the town (Canmore ID 27843 & 27850) and enclosures to the south and west (Canmore ID 27894 & 2707). It is likely that the town itself originated as a settlement based on the presence of mills as there is a record from the 14th century referring to the 'milne of Quorthe'². Perhaps the most notable building in the area is the remains of Burleigh Castle, which probably date from the 15th and 16th centuries.
- 3.1.2 The construction date of the mill lade is unknown. JR Hume notes the existence of two mills in Milnathort, a grain mill to the west of the site (on the south side of Stirling Road) and a woollen mill to the northwest (on the north side of Stirling Road) in his series "The Industrial Archaeology of Scotland". He tentatively dated both to the mid c.19th century, and could either conceivably relate to the lade under investigation, depending on the course it takes to north and west of the culvert. It seems likely that it curves round to the west, given the position of the truncated remains viewed in Scottish Water's trench beneath the road.
- 3.1.3 The Statistical Account of 1791-99 records that the mills in Milnathort 'gave rise to the name of the village'³. There was clearly at least one mill in the town by the late 18th century but its (or their) exact date and location are unknown.

² *The milne of Quorthe* c.1346 RMS i app. 2 no. 1055B 17th c. copy; RMS footnote: 'So Br. Mus.MS. Ed. *Quorthie*.' To John Bruce

³ 'Parish of Orwel' sic) in The Statistical Account of Scotland, County of Kinross. Account of 1791-9 Volume 6 128-129

3.1.3 Francis Groome's Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland produced in 1896 mentions a woollen mill in the town but unfortunately gives no further details.

3.2 Map Regression

3.2.1 All relevant available maps as held by NLS were consulted in order to identify the recorded development of the site as well as any additional features that may previously have gone unrecorded nearby. A summary of all consulted maps are listed in Appendix B.

Historic mapping

3.2.2 The earliest maps of the Milnathort area that appear to refer to the village itself area were drawn by Joan Blaeu who lived from the 1596 until 1673 and produced his 'Atlas of Scotland' in 1654 based in part on earlier maps made by Timothy Pont. Blaeu's map (3) indicates a settlement he names as 'Mills of Forth' in approximately the correct location of modern Milnathort, suggesting it does indeed represent the town in question. The name of this village obviously implies the presence of mills.



Figure 3: Extract from Joan Blaeu's 'Atlas of Scotland – Fifae pars occidentalis, [vulgo], The West Part of Fife' showing 'Mills of Forth' likely indicating Milnathort

3.2.3 Blaeu's maps do not provide any detail as to the buildings on the site and the extent of the settlement. William Roy's 'Military Survey of Scotland' conducted between 1747 and 1756 provides a little more detail of the landscape ([Figure 4](#)). Roy's map revolutionised map making in Scotland, containing a lot more terrain detail than previously. Although the map was the result of 'rapid reconnaissance rather than a measured topographic survey'⁴, the various inaccuracies can be forgiven in providing us with the first cartographic view of Scotland with any level of detail – a snapshot of mid 18th century Scotland.

⁴ Fleet C., Wilkes M. & Withers, C. 2011 *Scotland – Mapping the Nation*, 88

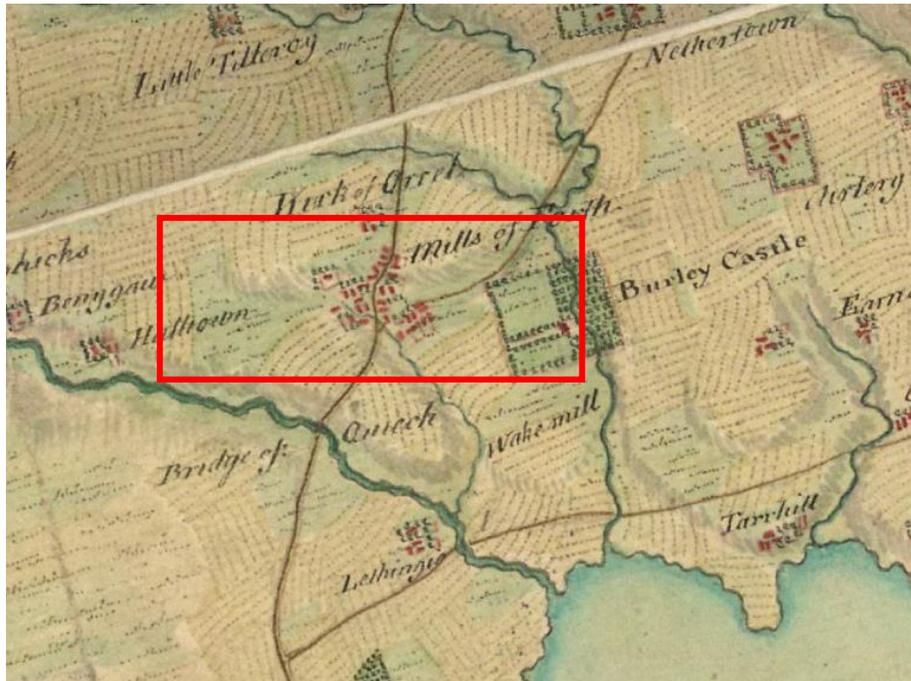


Figure 4: Extract from William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland showing 'Mills of Forth' indicated red.
 © The British Library Board. All Rights Reserved (Roy Military Survey of Scotland)

- 3.2.4 Though Roy's map clearly indicates that 'Mills of Forth' clearly refers to Milnathort, given the relative location of Burleigh Castle (here 'Burley Castle'), it does not provide any great detail as to the types of buildings within the settlement. It is impossible to tell from this where map where the mills that gave Milnathort its name were actually located.
- 3.2.5 A mill is clearly shown on Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler's 1828 map of Milnathort (see Figure 5), which is the earliest map to show any great detail of the town. The mill is located just west of The Cross in approximately the position of the grain mill recorded by Hume, and it seems likely that the culvert is associated with this mill due to its location.



Figure 5: Extract from Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler's 1828 map showing a mill highlighted in red, to the WNW of the site.

3.2.8 By 1895 when the 6 inch to 1 mile Fife and Kinross Sheet XVIII.SW map is revised (published 1896, see Figure 7), the building to the north of the site is upstanding, but the rest of the area around the site appears very similar to that surveyed in 1854 with the addition of small boundaries on the ground to the south and west of the lade. The mill building to the west has had some structural additions and the map appears to indicate that the mill lade remained an open watercourse.



Figure 7: Extract from the 2nd edition Fife and Kinross Sheet XVIII.SW map, surveyed in 1895 with the site indicated in red. Archas after NLS.

3.2.9 The 1951 Fife and Kinross Sheet XVIII.SW (includes: Kinross; Orwell), revised in 1950, indicates that the street plan largely remains the same, with some amendments to the garden boundaries to the south of the site. The map does not indicate whether or not the lade is still active at this point, although its presence is indicated.



Figure 8: extract from the Ordnance Survey 1951 Fife and Kinross Sheet XVIII.SW map, showing few changes around the site since 1894 (site indicated in red). ARCHAS after NLS.

Conclusions

3.2.10 Cartographic study has demonstrated the presence of a mill near the site from at least 1828 when Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler portrayed a mill just west of The Cross. It is likely however, given that Blaeu recorded the name of the settlement as 'Mills of the Forth' in 1654 that the history of milling in and around Milnathort goes back much earlier. Unfortunately map regression does not provide any definite indication as to which mill the lade and culvert would have been associated with although the detail provided by the Ordnance Survey maps suggests that it would have run from the mill directly west of the site across The Cross. The position of the culvert visible in the trench dug by Scottish Water beneath the road appears to confirm this.

4 Description

4.1 The Structures

4.1.1 The mill lade runs approximately NW to SE, with the culvert lying to the NW. From the location of the culvert as seen under the road to the north in the trench dug by Scottish

Water, it would appear that the course of the lade veers to a more E-W orientation to the north and west of the site. A set of seven steps provide access to the lade arch from ground level at the SW, bounded by a rough wall on either side. The arch of the culvert begins at the point where the steps lead to the lade and continues to the WNW under the road.



Figure 9: General view of site after cleaning

- 4.1.2 The arch [003] for the culvert is made of large roughly dressed sandstone blocks. They have been bonded above by a rough mixture of white limestone mortar and smaller blocks. Whilst the arch blocks do not have any great regularity in size, the keystone is noticeably smaller than the others (see Figure 10). The arch's SW side rests on top of the bottom step of the stairs, whilst its NE side is keyed into the NE wall of the mill lade. The highest point of the underside of the arch is 1.30m above the base of the mill lade, which was not lined with any building material but instead formed from the natural subsoil, a well compacted pink gravel and stone.



Figure 10: Detail of culvert arch [003]

- 4.1.3 The steps [004] are generally uniform in size and shape though the bottom step protrudes further than the rest. The upper 5 steps are formed from large slate slabs mortared into sandstone blocks. The lower 2 are faced with mortar so it was impossible to determine the building material, but they all appear to be part of one phase of construction with the function of providing access to the lade and culvert.



Figure 11 & Figure 12: View of steps [004] from below (left) and the NW (right). Note finer dresswork on doorjamb above the bottom step and iron gate fitting in Plate 5

4.1.4 The steps are walled on either side, by [005] to the NW and [006] to the SE. Both walls are constructed from sandstone blocks and occasional bricks (including one with frogging in [005]) bonded with a lime mortar. The building material for [006] included a reused pediment (see Figure 14). Both walls exhibit a pronounced curve (see plan) and [005] has an iron pintle protruding above the bottom step (see Figure 13), with associated iron fittings protruding from [006] indicating that a gate would have been located here. Both walls form the return of the SW wall of the mill lade, [007] and appear to have been built at the same time as this larger wall. Wall [007] was also built using rough sandstone blocks bonded with lime mortar except for at its base where the very lowest course comprised undressed stones set directly above the natural subsoil. The dressed gate doorjambs [006] and [007] (see Figures 11 & 12) were much more finely dressed than any other parts of the walls. None of these walls extend above the current approximate level of the garden and it is likely that they were reduced to this level once the lade went out of use.



Figure 13: detail of wall [005] showing reused bricks, including frogged brick in centre of shot



Figure 14: Detail of reused pediment forming part of the construction of wall [006]



Figure 15: Detail of arch [003], steps [004] and wall [005]. Shows iron pindle mortar facing of lowest two steps and all three features as part of one phase of construction

4.1.5 Wall [008] lay above wall [007] at its visible NW extent, i.e. where it disappeared under the boundary wall dividing the garden from the road. It is evidently a later addition despite having a similar building material to the other walls onsite, as the stonework was pointed using a lighter mortar. It is possible that this was a small garden wall dividing the lade from the properties to the west.

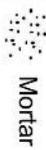
4.2 The Finds

4.2.6 All artefacts from the site were kept at the request of PKHT, including those recovered by Scottish Water personnel. Finds were recovered from the fill of mill lade itself and also from the fill of the material that had accumulated above the steps. All dateable artefacts appear to be from the 19th century or later. They are likely to represent household debris that was deposited in the lade after it had gone out of use and as such do not provide reliable dating evidence.

**221 Milnathort
Mill Lade**

Post-excavation plan

Key



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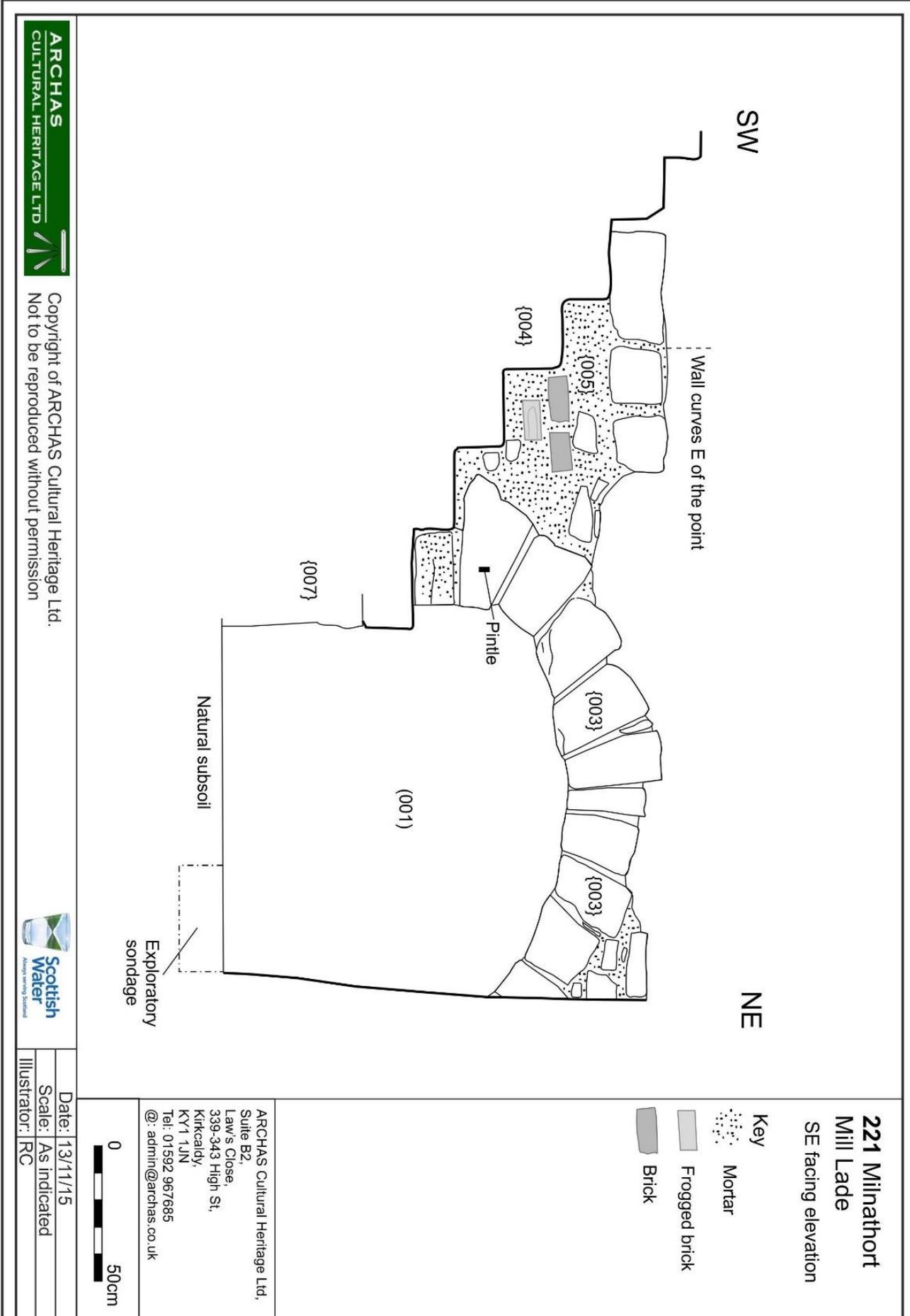
Date: 13/11/15

Scale: As indicated

Illustrator: RC



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221 Milnathort
Mill Lade
 SE facing elevation

- Key**
-  Mortar
 -  Froged brick
 -  Brick

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Date:	13/11/15
Scale:	As Indicated
Illustrator:	RC



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5 Discussion

- 5.1.1 The historical assessment demonstrates that there have been mills in this area since at least the 17th and perhaps the 14th century, although it is not possible to state with certainty which mill was associated with the culvert and its related features. The path of the mill lade upstream from the site suggests that it probably provided the outflow for the mill situated west at The Cross in the modern location of 1-3 Stirling Road, visible on Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler's map of 1828. There is little evidence to indicate exact dates for any of the mills known to have existed, but it is possible that there were a succession of mills in the area.
- 5.1.2 Assessment of the structures on site suggest that the lade, culvert arch and steps are all part of a single phase of construction, with the small wall [008] being the only later phase prior to the building of the modern wall bounding the garden from the road to the northwest. If this is the case it would mean that the construction of the lade would have been roughly contemporary with the construction of the road system which converges at The Cross. Unfortunately there is no secure dating evidence for the construction of the roads, although they are present on Fowler, Greenwood and Sharp's map in 1828. Roy's mid-18th century survey shows the same roads although the detail is poor. We can therefore infer from this that the lade and culvert were built prior to 1828 and perhaps earlier than 1752. The presence of a frogged brick in wall [005] (see Figure13) indicates that the structures date from later than 1690, as this is when brick frogging started to spread across Britain from southern England according to RW Brunskill's 'Brick Building in Britain'.
- 5.1.3 The function of the steps is uncertain: they may have been a means for the people living in properties to the west to retrieve water from the mill lade or they may have been used to provide access to the culvert arch, for cleaning and maintenance of the culvert and lade. The presence of a gate at the base of the steps suggests a safety consideration as the water flowing down the lade would have been swift and powerful at times.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1.1 It was difficult to establish a chronology for the culvert and associated features, primarily due lack of any definitive dating evidence recovered from the investigation. However, on balance it would seem that the structures surveyed were built during the 18th century. They definitely pre-date the map of 1828, and are likely to predate Roy's 1747-1752 survey of the Highlands. This evidence, together with the location of a frogged brick within the building fabric, would suggest a date for construction of sometime during the early part of the 18th century.

Acknowledgements

ARCHAS would like to thank the Scottish Water for their assistance during the project, as without their help the investigation would not have been possible. We would also like to thank Mrs Patricia Penn-Low on whose land the project was conducted for her enthusiasm and good humour, and for bringing the site to the attention of PKHT. Both parties deserve credit for their commitment to ensuring the historic resource was accurately recorded

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- 'Map of the Counties of Fife and Kinross' Imprint 1828

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- 6 inch to 1 mile Fife Sheet 22. Surveyed 1854. Published 1857
- 6 inch to 1 mile Fife and Kinross, Sheet XVIII.SW. Revised 1895. Published 1896
- 6 inch to 1 mile Fife and Kinross, Sheet XVIII.SW. Revised 1921. Published 1926
- 6 inch to 1 mile Fife and Kinross, Sheet XXXIX.SE. Revised 1925. Published 1928

Appendix A: Context Register

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimension</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initial</i>
001	Deposit	Dark brown silty sand with household detritus	See plan and elevation	Accumulation fill of lade	27/10/2015	JD
002	Deposit	Dark brown silty sand with household detritus	See plan and elevation	Accumulation fill above steps	27/10/2015	JD
003	Structure	Arch formed of large sandstone blocks	See plan and elevation	Arch for Culvert	27/10/2015	JD
004	Structure	Steps formed of slate slabs mortared into sandstone blocks lowest two are mortar faced	See plan and elevation	Steps to lade	27/10/2015	JD
005	Structure	Wall formed of sandstone blocks and occasional bricks, mortared	See plan and elevation	NW wall of steps	27/10/2015	JD
006	Structure	Wall formed of sandstone blocks includes re-used pediment, mortared	See plan and elevation	SE wall of steps	27/10/2015	JD
007	Structure	Wall formed of sandstone blocks	See plan and elevation	SW wall of mill lade	27/10/2015	JD
008	Structure	Wall formed of sandstone blocks lighter mortar than other structures	See plan and elevation	Small later wall above [007]	27/10/2015	JD

Appendix B: Photographic Register

<i>Image No.</i>	<i>Taken From</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initials</i>
1	N	Working shot of lade - machine excavation	26/10/2015	JG
2	N	Working shot of lade - machine excavation	26/10/2015	JG
3	SE	Working shot of lade - machine excavation	26/10/2015	JG
4	N	Working shot of lade - machine excavation	26/10/2015	JG
5	N	Working shot of lade - machine excavation	26/10/2015	JG
6	N	Working shot of lade - machine excavation	26/10/2015	JG
7	N	Working shot of lade - machine excavation	26/10/2015	JG
8	N	Working shot of lade - machine excavation	26/10/2015	JG
9	N	Progress shot of lade	26/10/2015	JD
10	SE	Progress shot of lade	26/10/2015	JD
11	N	Progress shot of lade	26/10/2015	JD
12	SE	Progress shot of lade	26/10/2015	JD
13	E	E-facing section of mill lade culvert under road	27/10/2015	JD
14	E	E-facing section of mill lade culvert under road	27/10/2015	JD
15	W	W-facing section of mill lade culvert under road	27/10/2015	JD
16	SE	Post-ex shot of mill lade	27/10/2015	JG
17	SW	Post-ex shot of mill lade	27/10/2015	JG
18	SE	Post-ex shot of mill lade arch [003]	27/10/2015	JG
19	NW	Post-ex shot of dressed stonework at corner of walls [005] and [007]	27/10/2015	JG
20	NW	Working shot of lade - machine excavation	27/10/2015	JG
21	NW	Post-ex shot of re-used pediment in [006]	27/10/2015	JG
22	SE	Post-ex shot of [008] above [007]	27/10/2015	JG
23	SE	Post-ex shot of [007]	27/10/2015	JG
24	SE	Post-ex shot of [007]	27/10/2015	JG
25	NW	Post-ex shot of [006]	27/10/2015	JG
26	NW	Post-ex shot of [006]	27/10/2015	JG
27	NW	Post-ex shot of [006]	27/10/2015	JG
28	SE	Post-ex of [003] keying into [007]	27/10/2015	JG
29	NE	Post-ex shot of [004]	27/10/2015	JG
30	SE	Post-ex shot of [003] showing depth	27/10/2015	JG
31	SE	Working shot of culvert arch	27/10/2015	JG
32	S	Post-ex shot of [007]	27/10/2015	JG
33	S	Post-ex shot of [007]	27/10/2015	JG

Appendix C: Proposed Discovery & Excavation Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	15 South Street, Milnathort, Perth and Kinross
PROJECT CODE:	221
PARISH:	Orwell
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Joe Doran
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd.
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Standing Building Recording and excavation
NMRS NO(S):	n/a
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	n/a
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 12075 04703
START DATE (this season)	26/10/15
END DATE (this season)	20/11/15
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p><i>ARCHAS Cultural Heritage LTD were commissioned by Scottish Water to complete a Level 2 Standing Building Record and excavation of a mill lade culvert arch with associated features revealed during works on the Sewer Flood Prevention Project on South Street in Milnathort. The discovery was reported to Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust by Mrs Patricia Penn-Low, who owns the land.</i></p> <p><i>Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust visited the site and recommended that a formal historic building recording survey be undertaken as parts of the culvert and associated features would be likely to be destroyed during the flood prevention project.</i></p> <p><i>Historical assessment of the structures showed that mills had existed on or near the site since the production of Joan Blaeu's maps in the 17th century and perhaps as early as the 14th century. The present structures predates the compilation of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1854 and are considered to be of probable early 18th century construction.</i></p> <p><i>The structures investigated consist of an arch forming the ESE end of a culvert that carries the mill lade under the roads to the north and west of the site, a set of steps leading down to the lade and various 4 walls associated with these structures. All are stone-built and appear to be contemporary with the main body of the lade.</i></p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scottish Water
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd Suite B2 Laws Close 339-343 High Street Kirkcaldy KY1 1JN
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	NMRS and Perth and Kinross SMR (intended)