

# *Scotia Archaeology*

**REPORT  
TO  
JOHN D CRAWFORD LTD  
AND  
MR ALEC GIBSON**

**65-71 BRIDGE STREET  
MONTROSE**

**Watching brief  
October 2011**

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## INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during the excavation of a trench to the rear of the former Salutation Inn at 65-71 Bridge Street, Montrose, Angus. Angus Council has granted planning consent to convert the property to a new apartment block (Planning Reference Number 10/01225/FUL). The medieval burgh of Montrose extended to within a short distance of this site and, as a consequence, the council, on the advice of the Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service, imposed a condition whereby ground-breaking activities associated with the development should be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief.

The development was sponsored by Mr Alec Gibson of Brechin and implemented by Sarkar (Dev) Ltd. The watching brief was carried out in the context of National Planning Policy Guidelines 5 (Archaeology and Planning) by John Lewis of Scotia Archaeology, at the request of John D Crawford Ltd, architectural technicians, on 28th October 2011.

## THE WATCHING BRIEF

Only one small area to the rear of the derelict property was subject to archaeological monitoring. This trench, centred on NO 71204 57521, measured 3m north/south by 2.5m wide and was excavated using a toothless bucket attached to a mechanical excavator.

The trench cut through 0.1m of concrete, below which were remnants of a cobbled yard laid against the masonry of the building's rear wall. This surface gave onto a layer of brick and stone rubble intermixed with lenses of soil, sand and clay and containing artefacts of late 19th-century date. Several ceramic drains had been laid through this material, all of them defunct at the time of this investigation. Towards the north end of the trench, at a depth of 0.30-0.35m, the rubble gave onto a dark brown, humic garden soil although elsewhere the rubble continued beyond the full excavated depth of 0.7m.

Set into the garden soil near the north end of the trench were remnants of a mortar-bonded rubble wall, aligned east/west, only one skin thick and surviving to a height of only one course. Several large facing stones had been reused within this wall which appeared to have been quite a flimsy structure. A modern drain cut through the remains of this wall, midway across the trench. No artefacts were retrieved from the garden soil into which it had been built, making it impossible to date this feature.

## CONCLUSIONS

The only feature of note uncovered during this excavation comprised the sparse remains of the rubble-built wall. This rather insubstantial structure was not in line with any of the walls of the former Salutation Inn and may be earlier than that building although no clear dating evidence was unearthed. Whether this wall belonged to a building fronting onto what is now Bridge Street or was a more ephemeral structure remains unknown.

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## PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

The photographs listed below form part of the project archive and are not included only in digital version of this report.

- 1      The remains of the excavated wall, viewed from the south
- 2      The remains of the excavated wall, viewed from the east
- 3      The trench fully excavated, viewed from the south
- 4      The trench fully excavated, viewed from the east
- 5      The trench fully excavated, viewed from the north
- 6      The trench and the rear of the former Salutation Inn, viewed from the east