



Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services

**21 Queen Street, Stranraer,
Wigtownshire, Dumfries & Galloway:
Archaeological Monitoring Works**



**by Rebecca Shaw
3rd February 2019**

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1 Introduction

This report presents the findings of a programme of archaeological undertaken at 21 Queen Street, Stranraer, Wigtownshire in Dumfries & Galloway (Figure 1). The planning application comprises: the erection of boundary wall and associated railing to front of dwellinghouse and erection of extension to rear of dwellinghouse (planning app. no. 18/1396/FUL) (Figure 2).



Figure 1 - locations map

The proposed development plot lies within the Archaeologically Sensitive Area covering the former medieval burgh of Stranraer (HER ref. MDG946). As the proposals involve down cutting works, where there was the possibility of uncovering archaeological finds or features, Dumfries & Galloway Council asked for a programme of archaeological monitoring works to be undertaken as a requirement of the issued planning consent. Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Service, who advise Dumfries & Galloway Council on archaeological matters have provided guidance on the nature of archaeological works required.

The archaeological works comprised monitoring of the excavation of two foundation trenches for rear extension and the excavation of a trench for the new boundary wall at the front. No significant archaeological deposits or finds were noted during the course of the monitoring works.

Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services was appointed to act with regard to the archaeological condition by Lisa Brawls.

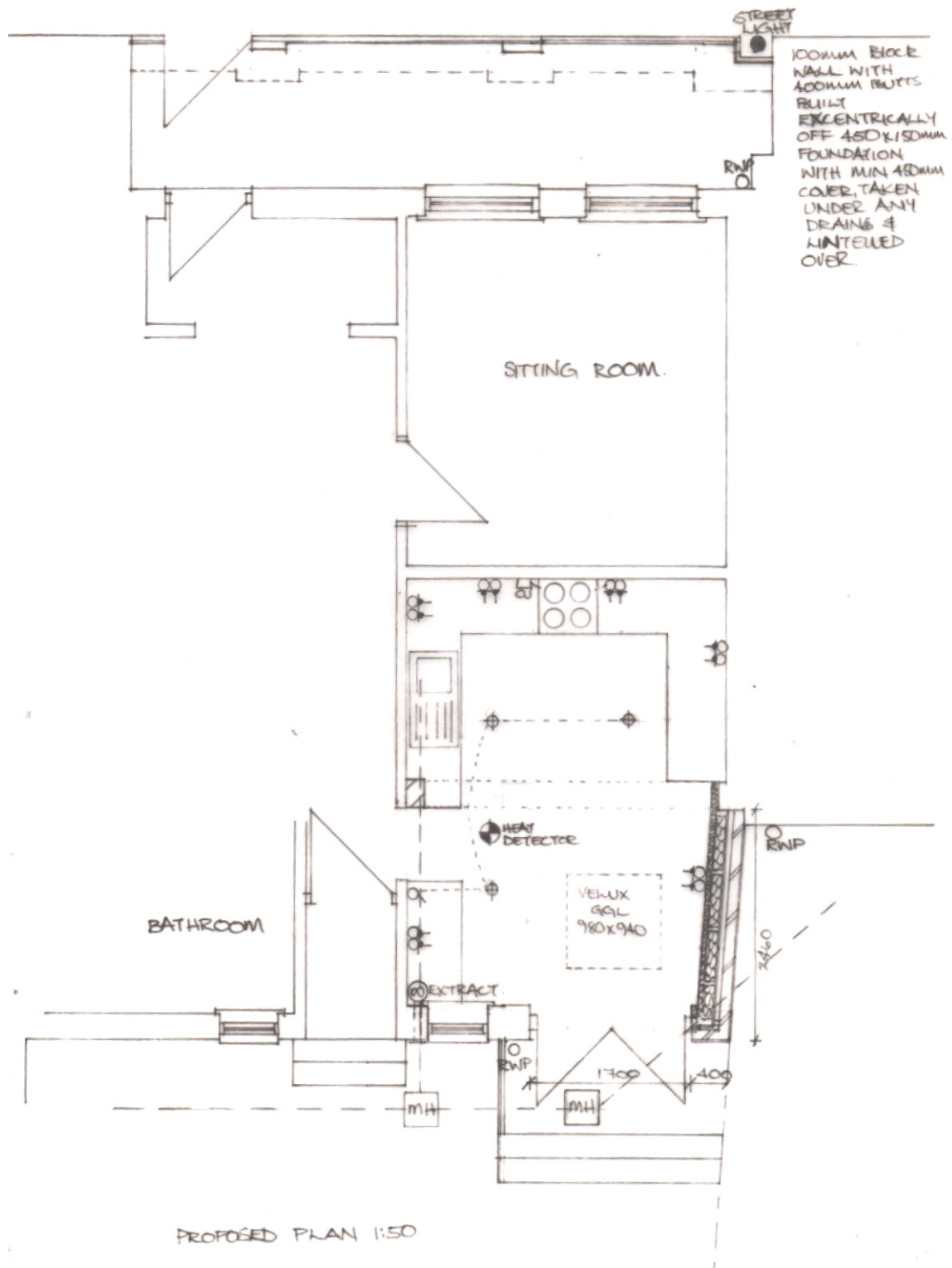


Figure 2 – proposed site plan (kindly provided by Lisa Brawls)

2 Project Works

The archaeological monitoring works were undertaken at 21 Queen Street, Stranraer on the 8th January 2019. The works were undertaken as agreed with Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Service through a written scheme of investigation (Shaw, November 2018).

All works complied with the Chartered Institute for Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct, and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.

3 Findings

Extension (to rear)

The foundation trenches for the proposed extension measured 0.60m in width (approx) (Figures 4a & 7) and were excavated to an average depth of 600mm. Below the upper slabs (which were uplifted prior to attendance of archaeologist on-site) was a dirty brown gritty silty deposit [101] containing frequent small stones (averaged 300mm in depth). Below deposit [101] was an orangey brown slightly clayey silt [102] which contained small stones & gravels (Figures 4b & 4c). Deposit [101] contained a single sherd of 19th / 20th C china as well as pockets of ash / coal debris.

Cast iron pipes were noted in both foundation trenches (towards the southern end of trench A and towards the eastern end of trench B) - red bricks with mortar were observed above the pipe in trench B.

Wall trench (to front)

The trench for the proposed new wall to the front of the property was excavated to a depth of between 300mm to 380mm (Figures 5a-b & 7). Below the slab was a mix of dirty greyish brown silt [103] and a pink coarse sand [104]. The subsoil (where visible) comprised a coarse brown sand and with occasional small stones [105] (Figures 5b-c). A large foundation stone [106] from the former facade of the structure was noted at the N end of the trench (Figures 6a-b). The area had been previously disturbed by the insertion of a manhole (Figure 5c) and a gas connection (S end).

4 Discussion

Early sound cartographic sources indicate that there has been a structure in the location of 21 Queen Street, Stranraer since at least the mid eighteenth century (Figure 3a). Detailed sound mapping from the mid nineteenth century appears to depict the current structure, although at this time the front facade is in alignment with the frontages of the rest of the street (Figure 3b). By the 1960's an extension has been added to the rear (Figures 3e-f) (replacing former freestanding structures which were located here (Figures 3c-d). By the 1970's the structure appears in its current form with the front facade recessed in comparison to the structures either side (Figures 3g-h) (It is known that the original facade was removed and set back after a fire - Lisa Brawls pers comm).

The archaeological monitoring works for the proposed extension to the rear mainly indicated disturbed ground (Figures 4b-c), most likely related to the insertion of service pipes given their depths (Figure 7) or now removed nineteenth century structures (Figures 3b & 3d). The wall trench to the front of the property was fairly shallow (Figures 4a-d) and mostly comprised mixed levelling / bedding deposits [103] & [104] above a sandy subsoil (where visible). Although this small area has also been subject to a fair amount of disturbance from the insertion of services, located at the very N end of the trench was an in-situ foundation stone from the original frontage (Figures 6a-b). Mapping indicates that the frontage was recessed sometime between 1965 and 1974 (Figures 3f & 3h).

Although there was potential to uncover archaeological features or finds relating to the medieval period, no remains that pre-dated the nineteenth century were uncovered.

5 Conclusion

A programme of archaeological works was undertaken on the 8th January 2019 in respect of proposed development works at 21 Queen Street, Stranraer in Wigtownshire, Dumfries & Galloway. The works comprised monitoring of ground reduction works for two foundation trenches in relation to an extension to the rear and the excavation of a trench for a new boundary wall at the front.

In general the monitored excavations revealed that the two proposed development areas had

been subject to a fair amount of disturbance from either services or nineteenth century structures. Although an in-situ foundation stone from the frontage of the nineteenth century was uncovered, no significant archaeological deposits or remains were identified during the course of the works.



Figure 3a - Roys Military Survey Map of Scotland (1747-55)

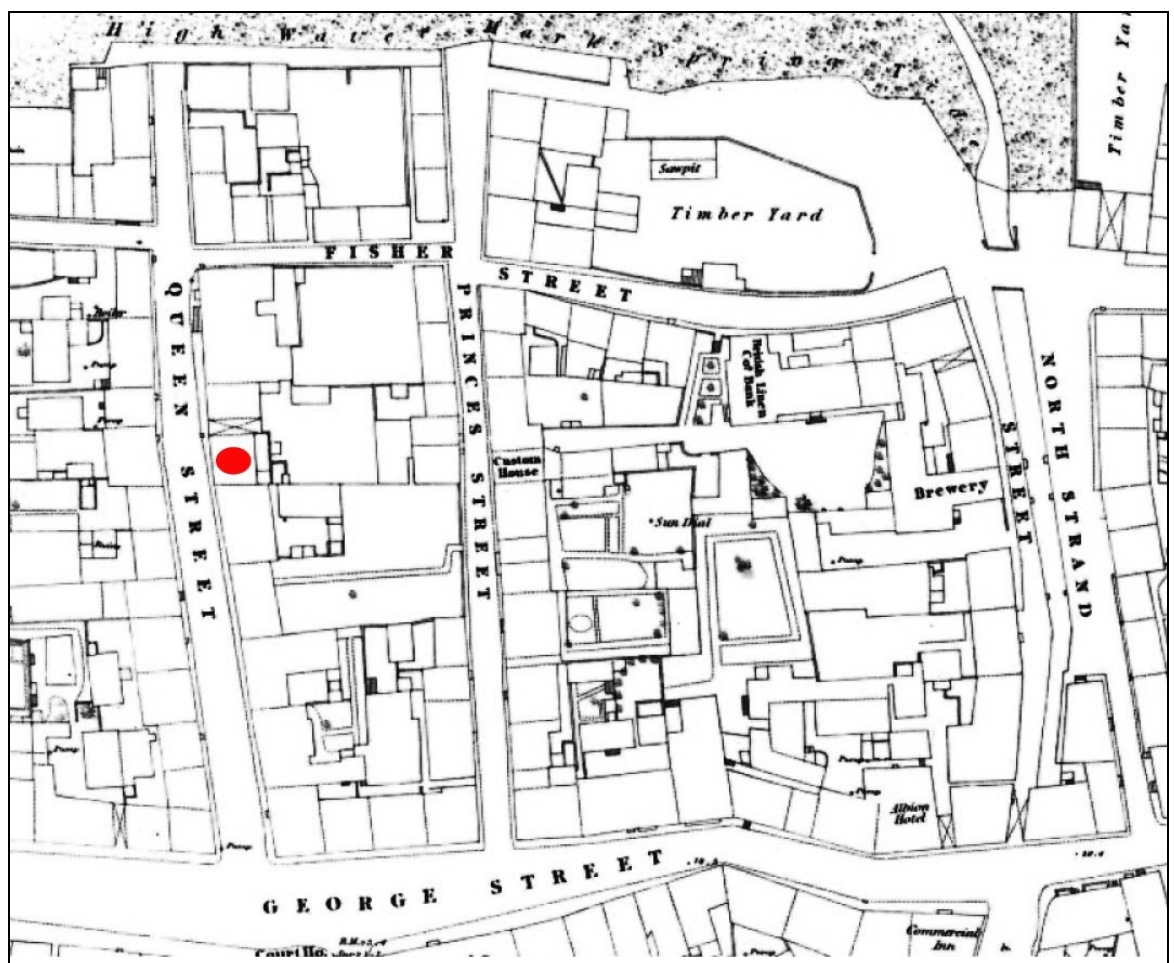


Figure 3b – 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1:2500 (1848) © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group – not to be reproduced without permission (86384374)



Figure 3c – 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1:2500 (1895) © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group – not to be reproduced without permission (86384374)



Figure 3d – Detail of 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1:2500 (1895)

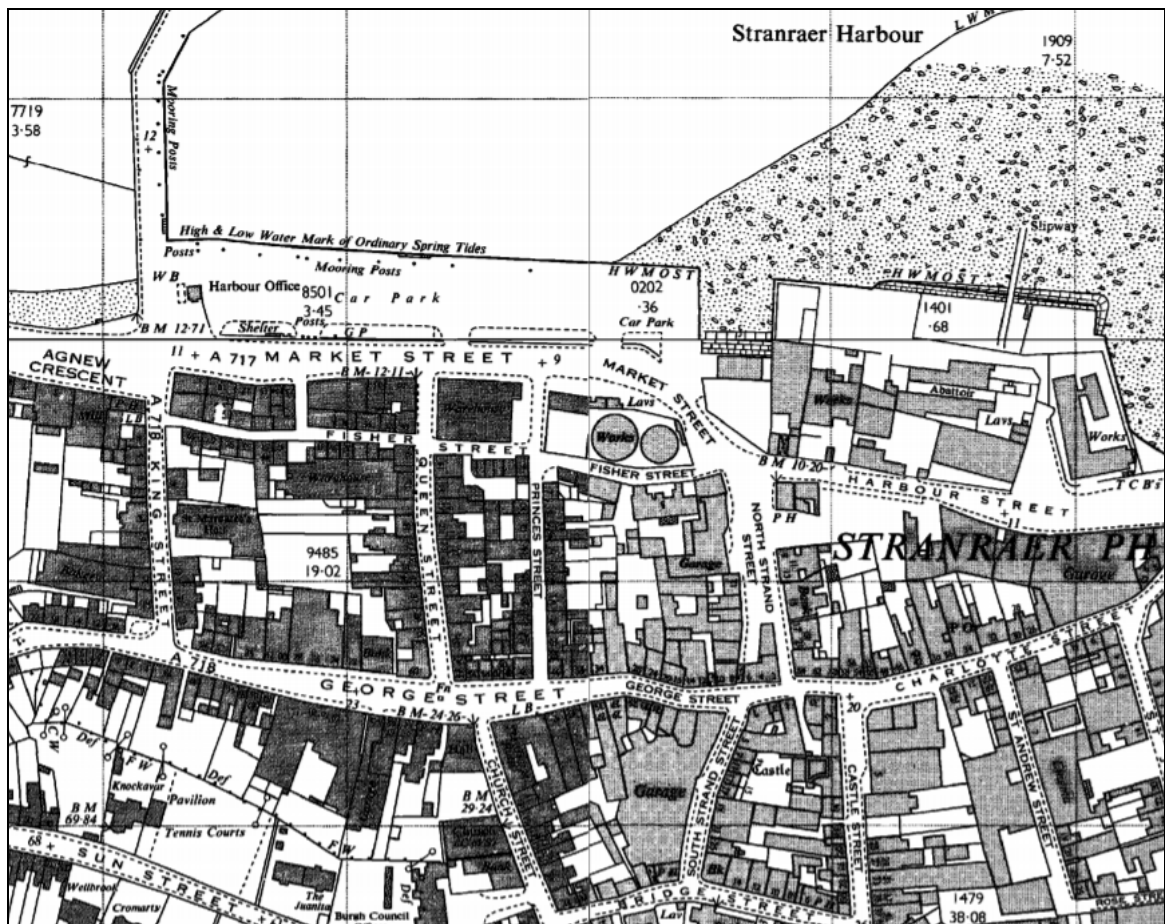


Figure 3e - Ordnance Survey Map 1:2500 (1965) © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group – not to be reproduced without permission (86384374)

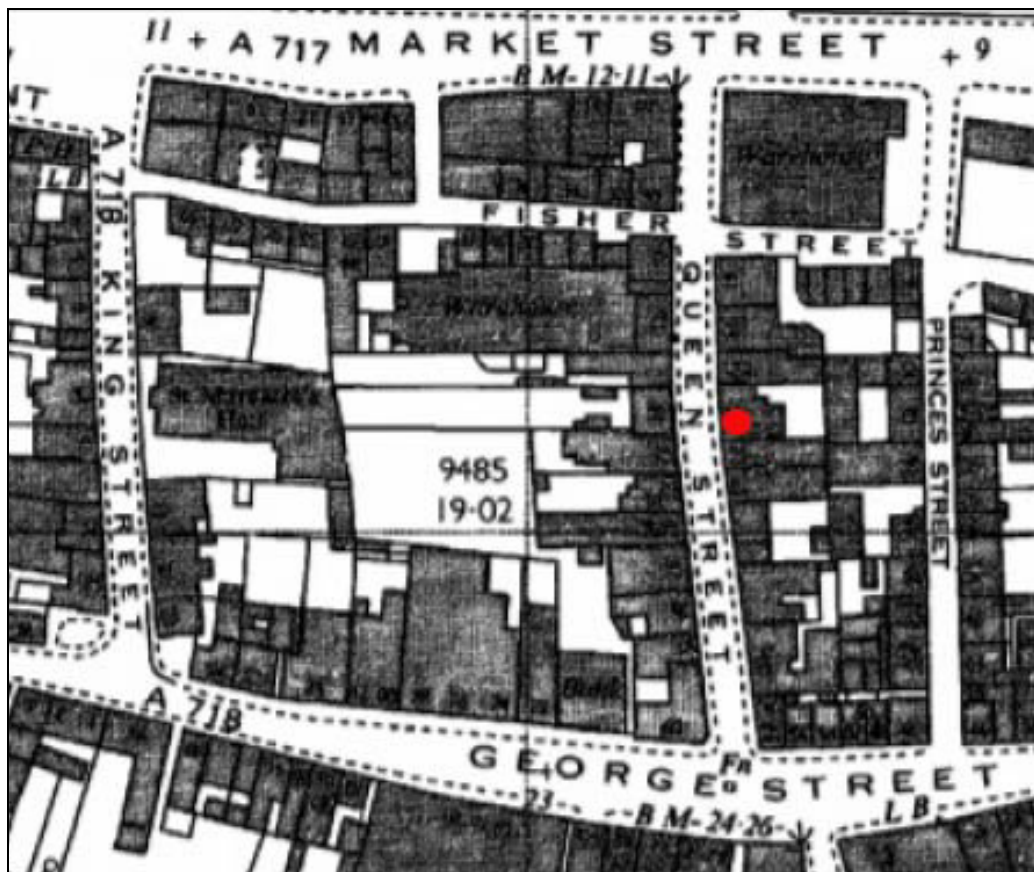


Figure 3f - Detail of 1965 Ordnance Survey Map

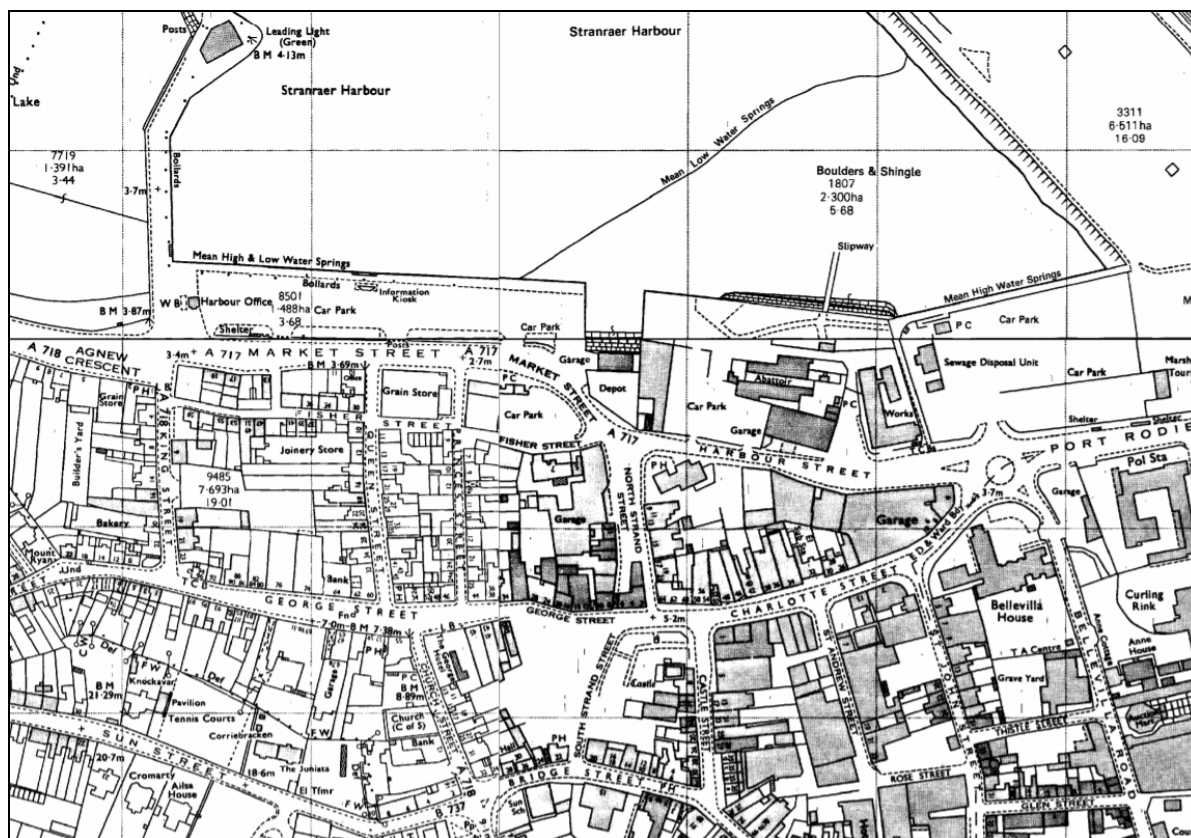


Figure 3g - Ordnance Survey Map 1:2500 (1974-86) © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group – not to be reproduced without permission (86384374)

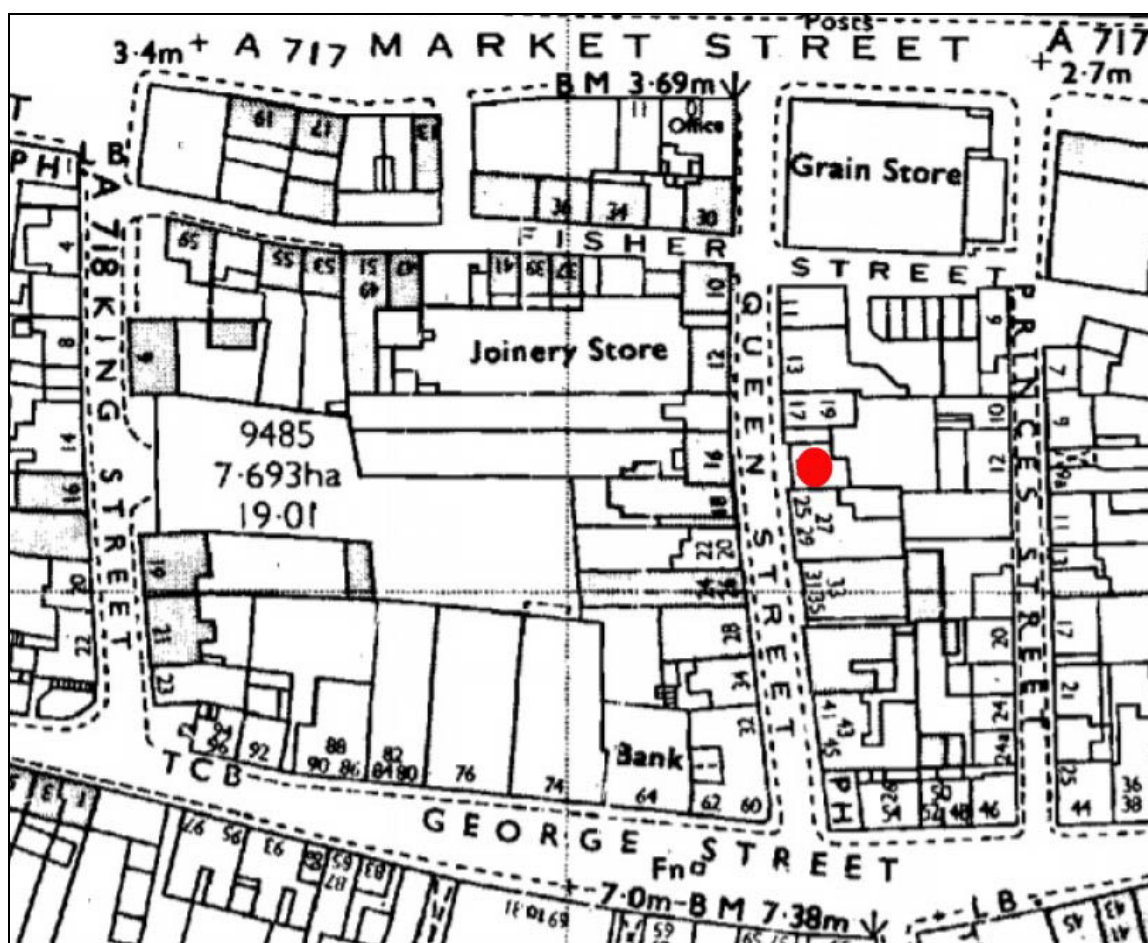


Figure 3h - Detail of 1974-86 Ordnance Survey Map showing No 21 Queen Street as recessed



Figure 4a – general pre-ex of proposed extension area after partial ground reduction (from N)



Figure 4b - post-ex of foundation trench A (from E)



Figure 4c - post-ex of foundation trench B (From N)



Figure 5a - pre-ex of new wall trench after removal of slab



Figure 5b - post-ex of new wall trench (from ?)



Figure 5c - post-ex of new wall trench (from ?)



Figure 5d - new wall trench after removal of foundation trench (from ?)



Figure 6a - new wall trench - foundation stone in-situ (from S)



Figure 6b – new wall trench - foundation stone in-situ (from S)

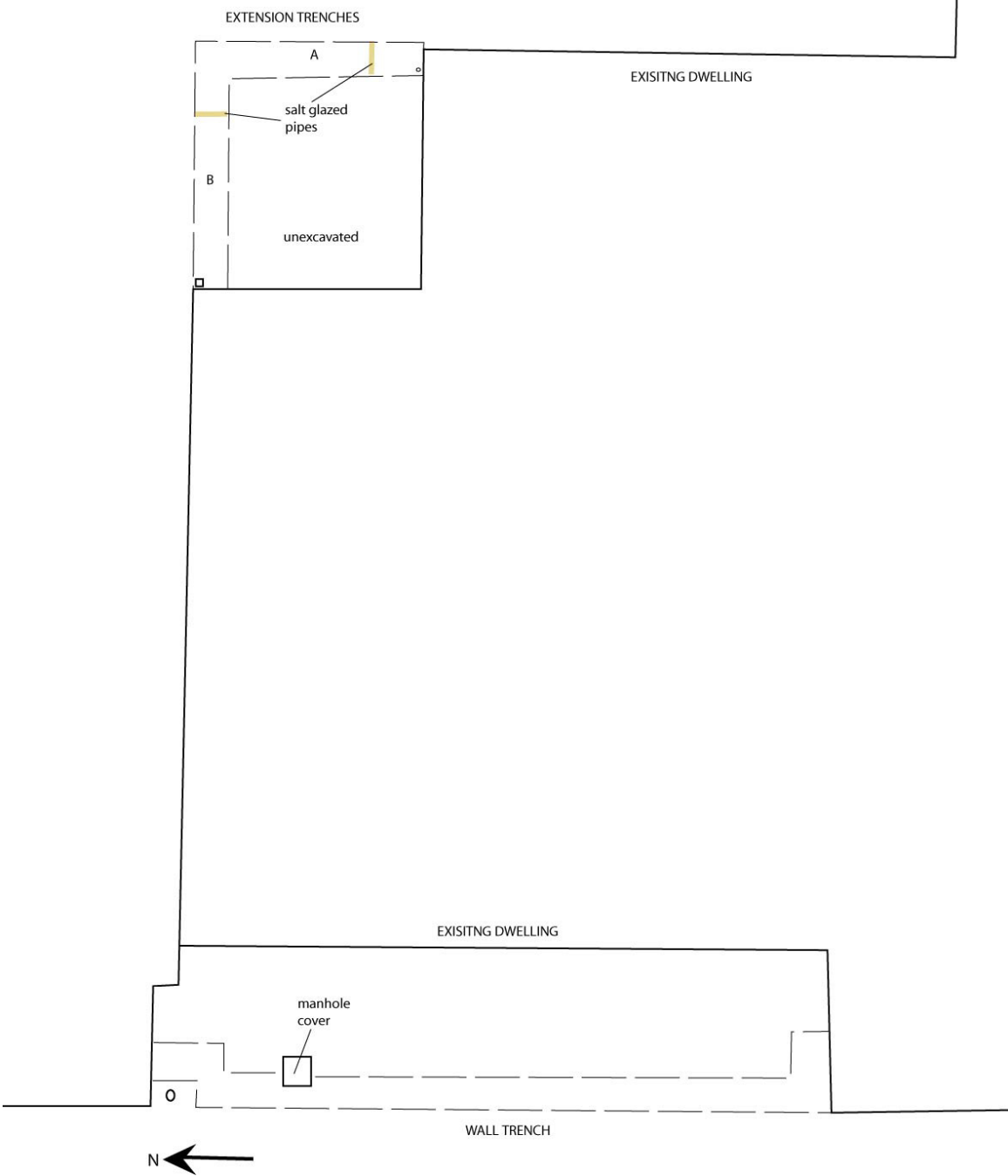


Figure 7 – post-ex sketch plan of site

References

<i>Documentary</i> SOEn	2010	Scottish Planning Policy (SPP). <i>Archaeology</i> , Scottish Office Environmental Department.
SOEn	2011	<i>PAN 2/2011</i> , Planning & Archaeology Scottish Office Environmental Department.
HES	2016	Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement June 2016
<i>Cartographic</i> Ordnance Survey	1848	1st Ed OS Map, Wigtownshire (1:2500)
Ordnance Survey	1895	2nd Ed OS Map, Wigtownshire (1:2500)
Ordnance Survey	1965	OS Map, Wigtownshire (1:2500)
Ordnance Survey	1974-86	OS Map, Wigtownshire (1:2500)
Ordnance Survey	2018	Ordnance Survey (1:250)

Appendix 1: Record Summaries

Context Summaries

No.	Interpretation	Description
101	Infill	Dirty brown gritty silty deposit containing frequent small stones (averaged 300mm in depth). Contained a single sherd of 19th / 20th C china as well as pockets of ash / coal debris.
102	Subsoil	Orangey brown slightly clayey silt containing small stones & gravels.
103	Infill / bedding	Dirty greyish brown silt.
104	Infill / bedding	Pink coarse sand.
105	Subsoil	Coarse brown sand and with occasional small stones
106	Stone	Large foundation stone from original facade.

Photographic Record

N o.	Di sc No	Print No.	Description	From	Date
1	1	1	General pre-ex of proposed extension area to rear after partial ground reduction.	N	1/01/2019
2	1	2	General pre-ex of area where wall to be constructed - after removal of slab.	S	1/01/2019
3	1	3	In-situ found stone (from former facade of structure).	S	1/01/2019
4	1	4	In-situ found stone (from former facade of structure).	S	1/01/2019
5	1	5	Post-ex of trench B (rear extension)	E	1/01/2019
6	1	6	Post-ex of trench A (rear extension)	N	1/01/2019
7	1	7	Post-ex of wall trench	S	1/01/2019
8	1	8	Post-ex of wall trench	N	1/01/2019
9	1	9	Post-ex of wall trench	N	1/01/2019

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries & Galloway Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	21 Queen Street, Stranraer
PARISH:	Stranraer
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rebecca Shaw
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological monitoring works

NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NX 05941 60921
START DATE (this season)	8 th January 2019
END DATE (this season)	8 th January 2019
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
DESCRIPTION:	<p>A programme of archaeological works was undertaken on the 8th January 2019 in respect of proposed development works at 21 Queen Street, Stranraer in Wigtownshire, Dumfries & Galloway. The works comprised monitoring of ground reduction works for two foundation trenches in relation to an extension to the rear and the excavation of a trench for a new boundary wall at the front.</p> <p>In general the monitored excavations revealed that the two proposed development areas had been subject to a fair amount of disturbance from either services or nineteenth century structures. Although an in-situ foundation stone from the frontage of the nineteenth century was uncovered, no significant archaeological deposits or remains were identified during the course of the works.</p>
PROJECT CODE:	018041
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Lisa Brawls
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	Report to Dumfries & Galloway Council Sites and Monuments Record and archive to Historic Environment Scotland Archives.

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