

# GUARD ARCHAEOLOGY



**Gartmore Village Hall  
Data Structure Report  
Project 3569**

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## **Gartmore Village Hall**

### **Data Structure Report**

**On behalf of:** Gartmore Community Trust Limited

**NGR:** NS 5225 9719

**Project Number:** 3569

**Report by:** Christine Rennie & Warren Bailie

**Illustrations:** Gillian McSwan

**Project Manager:** Ronan Toolis

**Approved by:**



**Date:**

20/09/2013

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

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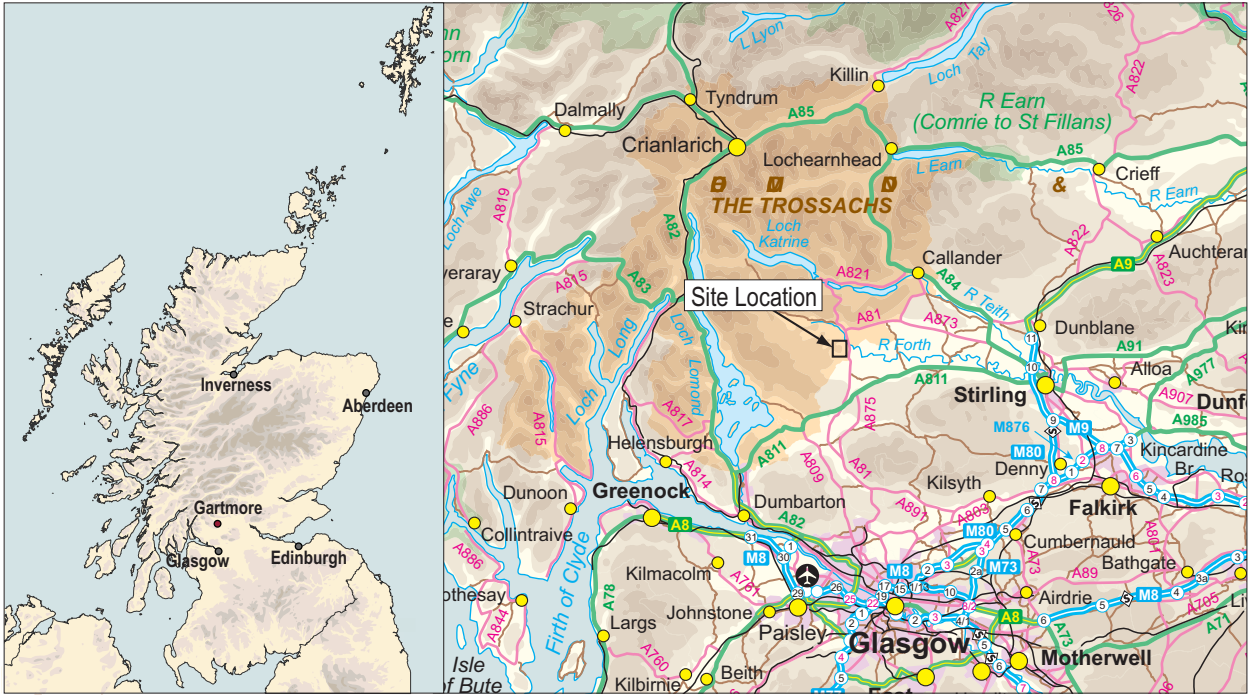


Figure 1:  
Site location.



## Executive Summary

- 1.1 GUARD Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Gartmore Community Trust Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of foundations and associated services for an extension to Gartmore Village Hall. The second phase of this work encountered no significant archaeological features.

## Introduction

- 2.1 This report sets out the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by GUARD Archaeology, on behalf of Gartmore Community Trust Limited on a site of an extension on the southern side of Gartmore Village Hall. GUARD Archaeology undertook this work between 22 August and 12 September 2013. However, a glass time capsule was recovered by the contractor earlier in 2013 at the base of one of the buttresses, which contained two mid-nineteenth century coins and a piece of paper in poor preservation with script.

## Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 3.1 The development site lies on the south side of Gartmore Village Hall, within the boundary wall of this former Free Church (NGR: NS 5225 9719; Figure 1).
- 3.2 The site is bounded by the Main Street to the west, a lane to the south and housing to the north and east. The south side of the village hall is fairly flat and may have been landscaped; the south-west of the site had previously been used for car parking.
- 3.3 The bedrock at this location is Cromlix Mudstone Formation, a sedimentary bedrock found in association with ancient rivers; the drift geology has not been recorded. ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).

## Archaeological Background

- 4.1 A review of desk-based sources undertaken in advance of the watching brief revealed that Gartmore Village Hall is listed on the National Monuments Record For Scotland (NMRS site number NS59NW 8) and on the local Sites and Monuments Record (SMR number 63895). The hall was built in 1847 as the Free Church, becoming a United Free Church in 1900, and continued in ecclesiastical use until about 1936, when the congregation reunited with the Church of Scotland and returned to worship in the smaller parish church (NMRS NS59NW 7). Estate maps from the end of the eighteenth century record that the site was previously occupied by three village plots mirroring the arrangement on the opposite side of the Main Street and forming a village square. Extant nineteenth century photographs of the church show a steeper pitched roof than on the present building, and a higher western gable with tall pinnacles on the skewputs and a ridge-mounted bell-cote, indicating that the building has been re-roofed and quite heavily modified, possibly during refurbishment in the later twentieth century (SMR).
- 4.2 Gartmore village itself was built in the first half of the eighteenth century as a planned village and is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record as a historic settlement area (NMRS NS59NW 38; SMR 66416). Prehistoric activity in the area is known from the discovery of a polished stone axe and a wing-flanged axe in fields to the south of the village (NMRS NS59NW 5 and NS59NW 6). Both of these artefacts have been dated to the Middle Bronze Age.
- 4.3 Two historical sites lie within 100 m of the village hall; the Black Bull Hotel public house which was built in the late eighteenth/early nineteenth century (Category C Listed Building HB number 50416; NMRS: NS59NW 12), and a 1936 K6 telephone box that commemorates the Silver Jubilee of King George V (Category B Listed Building HB number 18484; NMRS: NS59NW 44).
- 4.4 Aside from an earlier watching brief for Phase 1 of the village hall extension (Arabaolaza 2012), no archaeological work has been carried out on the site.

## Aims and Objectives

5.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to:

- establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains during ground breaking works;
- determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits encountered;
- excavate and salvage any information possible from any significant features/sites encountered.

## Methodology

6.1 The watching brief methodology was agreed in advance of fieldwork (see Appendix E). The watching brief comprised the monitoring of service and foundation trenches (Figure 1), in order to evaluate the underlying deposits for their archaeological potential and ensure that significant archaeological remains were recorded. The made ground that composed the top surface was stripped using a mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. It was removed in spits to the required depth of the foundations and water service trench. Exposed surfaces were recorded by written description, measured drawings and by digital photography.

6.2 Conditions for the watching brief were overcast and showery.

## Results

7.1 A service trench to divert water and electricity to the exterior of the new extension was excavated to the south of the existing extension. The fills of the trench comprised Type 1 aggregate (Context 001), hardcore (Context 002), grey sandy clay with frequent cobbles (Context 003), grey sandy clay (Context 004) and yellow/brown silty clay subsoil (Context 006).

7.2 Deposits at the south-west of the site were made ground that comprised dark brown silty clay (Context 007), Type 1 aggregate (Context 008), a sandstone rubble layer (context 009), grey/brown gravelly clay (Context 010) and pink/orange gravelly silty clay (Context 011). All of these were made ground.

7.3 The stone foundations of the former church were exposed along the southern side of the building (Plate 1). The foundations were found to be 0.3 to 0.35 m deep and to jut out from the base of the walls by about 0.1 m. Made ground (Context 003) was found throughout the site, and overlay subsoil 006.



Plate 1: Church foundations.



Plate 2: Section of foundation trench showing made ground deposits.



Plate 3: Time Capsule and coins from Gartmore Village Hall.



Plate 4: Paper from time capsule, with writing.

- 7.4 The foundation trench largely followed an existing service trench where the fills were made ground 003 and a deposit of sand that had surrounded electricity cables (Plate 2).
- 7.5 The same made ground was encountered within the water service trench at the south-west of the site.
- 7.6 No archaeological remains, deposits or artefacts were encountered during this phase of work.
- 7.7 However, a time capsule was recovered by the contractor from the basal stone of the front left buttress (Figure 1) which was removed from the church building early in 2013. The time capsule consisted of a glass bottle with a degraded cork stopper set into a rectangular cavity in the buttress foundation stone. The contents included two coins, a William IV 'four pence (groat)' dated 1836 and a Victorian 'sixpence' dated 1844 (Plate 3), both roughly contemporary with the construction of the church in 1847. The contents also included a piece of paper with writing (Plate 4), though very few words were discernible and the paper is in a poor state of preservation. The time capsule and contents at the time of writing are in the care of Eleanor Hamilton of Gartmore Community Trust Ltd.

## Discussion

- 8.1 The Phase 2 watching brief found no archaeological remains or deposits within the excavated trenches. The ground was found to have been heavily disturbed prior to these excavations, with modern deposits of aggregate overlying mixed deposits of re-deposited clay and cobble-sized stones.

## Conclusion

- 9.1 While Phase 1 of the watching brief did uncover a drystone wall and recovered a piece of late Medieval pottery (Arabaolaza 2012), indicating that there was potential for the survival of sub-surface remains relating to the earlier use of the site, the watching brief encountered no archaeologically sensitive deposits within the excavated service and foundation trenches. In consequence, it is advised that no further archaeological work is required.
- 9.2 GUARD Archaeology Ltd would stress that these recommendations are intended for guidance only and the final decisions on the nature and extent of any further archaeological work rest with the planning authority.
- 9.3 A summary of the project results will be submitted to Discovery and Excavation in Scotland. A copy of this is included in Appendix D. The archive for the project, including a copy of the report, will be submitted to the National Monuments Records for Scotland within six months.
- 9.4 The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> (OASIS Reference: guardarc1-159211) will be completed within 3 months. Once the Data Structure Report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.

## Acknowledgements

- 10.1 GUARD Archaeology would like to thank Gartmore Community Trust Limited, Anderson Bell and Christie Architects and Ogilvie Construction Ltd for their assistance. Plant and drivers were supplied by Ogilvie Construction Ltd. Technical support was from Aileen Maule and John Kiely. The illustrations were produced by Gillian McSwan. The report was desk top published by Gillian McSwan. The watching brief was carried out by Warren Bailie and Christine Rennie and was managed for GUARD Archaeology Limited by Ronan Toolis.



**Gartmore Village Hall  
Data Structure Report**

**Section 2: Appendices**



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## Appendices

### Appendix A: Bibliography

Arabaolaza, I 2012 *Gartmore Village Hall; Data Structure Report*. GUARD Archaeology unpublished report 3569.

British Geological Survey <http://www.bgs.ac.uk> [Accessed 16th September 2013]

National Monuments Record for Scotland <http://pastmap.org.uk/>[Accessed 16th September 2013]

Sites and Monuments Record <http://gis.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/mapsWosas/mapSMR.htm> [Accessed 16th September 2013]

Historic Scotland <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk> [Accessed 16th September 2013]

### Appendix B: List of Contexts

Context No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
001	North-west	Type 1 aggregate	made ground
002	North-west	hardcore	made ground
003	North-west	grey silty clay with cobbles	made ground
004	North-west	grey sandy clay with bulding debris	made ground
005	North-west	drystone wall from Phase 1	wall (Phase 1)
006	North-west	brown silty clay with occasional boulders	subsoil
007	North-west	dark brown gravelly silty clay	made ground
008	North-west	Type 1 aggregate	made ground
009	North-west	pink/brown sandstone fragments and silt	made ground
010	North-west	dark grey/brown gravelly clay	made ground
011	North-west	pink/ornage/brown gravelly silty clay	made ground

### Appendix C: List of Photographs

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
1	-	-	ID shot	-
2	South-west	-	South-west of building for services	NW
3	South-west	-	South-west of building for services	NW
4	West	-	Front of building	W
5	South-west	-	Services - water and power	SE
6	South-west	-	Services - water and power	SE
7	Interior	-	Floorboards removed	N
8	Interior	-	Former archway/porch on interior wall	E
9	Interior	-	Former archway/porch on interior wall	E
10	Interior	-	North wall; interior view	S
11	Interior	-	South-east end of building; interior view	NW
12	Exterior	-	Former archway/porch on north wall	N
13	Exterior	-	Former archway/porch on north wall	N
14	Exterior	-	Former archway/porch on north wall	N
15	-	-	Rectangular cavity on time capsule stone	-
16	-	-	Location of time capsule on base of front buttress	N
17	South-west	-	Services pit	SE
18	South-west	-	Services pit	S
19	South-west	-	Line of proposed service trench	SE
20	South-west	-	Service trench	SE
21	South-west	-	Service trench	SE
22	South-west	-	Service trench	SE
23	South-west	-	Stratigraphy in cable trench	NE
24	South-west	-	Cable trench viewed from front of building	NW
25	South-west	-	Cable trench viewed from front of building	NW

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
1	-	-	ID shot	-
2	South	-	Pre-excavation view of working area	NW
3	Inshot 2	006	Exposed foundations in Inshot 2	S
4	Inshot 2	006	Exposed foundations in Inshot 2	S
5	Inshot 2	003, 006	West facing section of foundations and made ground	W
6	Inshot 1	006	Exposed foundations in Inshot 1	S
7	Inshot 3	006	Pre-excavation view of Inshot 3	S
8	Inshot 3	006	Exposed foundations in Inshot 3	S
9	Inshot 4	006	Exposed foundations in Inshot 4	S
10	Foundation trench	003	North-east facing section of foundation trench	NE
11	South	003	-	-
12	South	006	Post-excavation view of foundation trench, east end	W
13	South	003	Post-excavation view of foundation trench, west end	E
14	West	001,003,006	North-east facing section of water pipe trench	NE
15	West	006	Post-excavation view of water pipe trench	W

## Appendix D: Discovery And Excavation Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Gartmore Village Hall
PROJECT CODE:	3569, Phase 2
PARISH:	Port of Menteith
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Christine Rennie & Warren Bailie
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	GUARD Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NS59NW 8
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Church Hall
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 522 971
START DATE (this season)	21/08/2013
END DATE (this season)	12/9/2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Phase 1 watching brief; DES 2012, 178
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Following last year's watching brief, GUARD Archaeology undertook a second phase of archaeological watching brief works during the construction of foundations and associated services for an extension to Gartmore Village Hall. The second phase of work encountered no significant archaeological features. However, a glass time capsule was recovered by the contractor earlier in 2013 at the base of one of the buttresses containing two mid-nineteenth century coins and a piece of paper in poor preservation with script.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Phase 3 watching brief
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Gartmore Community Trust Limited
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	52 Elderpark Workspace, 100 Elderpark Street, Glasgow, G51 3TR
EMAIL ADDRESS:	bob.will@guard-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

**Appendix E: Method Statement****GARTMORE VILLAGE HALL – WATCHING BRIEF****METHOD STATEMENT****PROJECT 3569**

# GARTMORE VILLAGE HALL – WATCHING BRIEF

METHOD STATEMENT

PROJECT 3569

by

John A Atkinson

## Introduction

- 1.1 This document sets out GUARD Archaeology's watching brief methodology. The watching brief strategy covers all machine-dug and hand-dug trenches conducted during works associated the development at Gartmore Village Hall and hand excavation and recording of any archaeological features encountered.
- 1.2 On completion of all excavation works a report to data structures level and an accompanying post-excavation research design (PERD) and costing (if required) will be submitted for agreement with the client and West of Scotland Archaeology Service acting on behalf of Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority (LLTNPA). The PERD will also outline arrangements for final publication of the project should this prove necessary.

## Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological watching brief are as follows:
  - establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains during ground breaking works;
  - determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits encountered;
  - excavate and salvage any information possible from any significant features/sites encountered.

## Methodology

- 3.1 The strategy to be employed during the works will consist of the following:
  - A full watching brief will be conducted during all ground disturbances around the village hall by an archaeologist assisted, where necessary, by further archaeologists under the overall guidance of an archaeological project manager.
  - The number of archaeologists required during the works will be dependent on the number of areas being trenched simultaneously and the number of mechanical excavators being deployed.
  - All plant will be fitted with a toothless ditching bucket during all topsoil removal work to ensure the subsoil interface is not disturbed and any archaeological features can be clearly identified.
  - The topsoil and any overburden will be removed in spits to the first archaeological horizon or, where none is found, to the natural subsoil. Any archaeological features encountered will be cleaned by hand to determine the date of the deposits, their character and extent. Such features will be recorded by written description on pro forma recording sheets, by photograph and by measured drawing.
  - Any significant archaeological features encountered will be dealt with by the on-site archaeologist(s). Should negative-cut features be encountered they will be 50% excavated in order to determine their significance, date and function. In the event that they are deemed to be important discoveries, they will be fully excavated. Recording will include pro forma sheets, drawings and photographs.
  - Significance will be deemed to be material relating to pre-nineteenth century settlement traces at the site and any unmarked graves relating to the use of the site before the Burial Grounds (Scotland) Act of 1852 came into force. Final decisions on significance lie with WoSAS as advisers to the Planning Authority.
  - Suitable down time, up to a maximum of two hours per significant small feature, will be provided to the onsite archaeologists in order to fully recover any archaeological evidence encountered.
  - Should more substantial remains be encountered, such as burials, downtime may be required in excess of two hours per feature. This will be agreed in writing with the client and West of Scotland Archaeology Service acting on behalf of LLTNPA prior to proceeding.

- In the event that particularly significant features, special finds or complex groups of features are encountered the client and West of Scotland Archaeology Service acting on behalf of LLTNPA will be alerted, so that a mitigation strategy can be agreed to deal with them.
  - All archaeological finds will be dealt with by the on-site archaeological team. The general practice will be to bulk recover all artefacts by context which are recovered from the topsoil. Should finds be encountered that are securely stratified from earlier periods or occupation phases they will be three-dimensionally recorded prior to uplifting.
  - All excavated feature fills and horizons will be sampled for palaeo-environmental evidence.
  - A representative section will be recorded for each section of trench denoting depth of topsoil, any stratigraphy present and the nature of the soil. This information will be logged in the day book together with a sketch drawn to scale and a photographic record of deposits.
- 3.2 On completion of the watching brief and monitoring phase of work, a report suitable for submission to the Planning Authority and the National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS) will be produced. This report will be accompanied by the post-excavation research design and costing in order to bring the results forward for analysis and publication should this be required.

## Products

- 4.1 The products of the programme of work will be:
- a preliminary data structure report, after completion of all fieldwork suitable for submission to West of Scotland Archaeology Service, the NMRS and the local Sites and Monuments Record;
  - a brief summary of results of the fieldwork will be submitted to Discovery and Excavation in Scotland and within OASIS online database;
  - Post-excavation analysis and publication of the results of the watching brief within an academic journal, should this be necessary;
  - Preparation and disposal of the site archive and finds.

## Archive Arrangements

- 5.1 Once all fieldwork is completed, all materials from the programme of work will be prepared to the appropriate archive standard. GUARD Archaeology will undertake to deposit the resultant archive to the NMRS on completion of the report for publication.
- 5.2 All finds will be reported to the Treasure Trove Advisory Panel, and GUARD Archaeology will undertake to ensure their safe deposition within the designated museum at the appropriate time.

## Timetable

- 6.1 The initial phase of work is proposed to commence on 22 August 2012.

## Staffing

- 7.1 The initial phase of work will be directed by Iraia Arabaolaza one of GUARD Archaeology's experienced Project Officers. A CV can be provided on request.

## Health and Safety and Insurance

- 8.1 All archaeological working practices will be subject to a risk assessment prior to commencement of the work where likely health and safety issues associated with the site can be highlighted.
- 8.2 GUARD Archaeology adheres to all standard Health and Safety regulations governing fieldwork projects and also possess appropriate third party/public liability insurance cover, proof of which may be supplied upon request.

## Monitoring Procedures

- 9.1 All work at Gartmore will be internally monitored by John Atkinson, GUARD Archaeology's Managing Director.



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