



<b>NORTHLIGHT HERITAGE</b>	<b>Wee Dig Too: Provan Hall</b>
REPORT: 147	
PROJECT ID: 267	<b>Courtyard Test Trench</b>
DATA STRUCTURE REPORT	Auchinlea Park, Glasgow



**Northlight Heritage**

Studio 406 | South Block | 64 Osborne Street | Glasgow | G1 5QH

web: [www.northlight-heritage.co.uk](http://www.northlight-heritage.co.uk) | tel: 0845 901 1142

email: [northlight@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:northlight@yorkat.co.uk)

**Provan Hall**

Auchinlea Park, Easterhouse, Glasgow

NGR: NS 6675 6634

Data Structure Report

*on behalf of*

**Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership on behalf of the Seven Lochs Partnership**

Cover Plate: Foundations of North Building sitting on bedrock and natural clay

Report by: Heather James

Illustrations by: Peta Glew

Project Management: Heather James

**Approved by: .....**

**Date: .....**

*This Report has been prepared solely for the person/party which commissioned it and for the specifically titled project or named part thereof referred to in the Report. The Report should not be relied upon or used for any other project by the commissioning person/party without first obtaining independent verification as to its suitability for such other project, and obtaining the prior written approval of York Archaeological Trust for Excavation and Research Limited ("YAT") (trading as Northlight Heritage). YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this Report being relied upon or used for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was specifically commissioned. Nobody is entitled to rely upon this Report other than the person/party which commissioned it. YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for any use of or reliance upon this Report by anybody other than the commissioning person/party.*



<b>CONTENTS</b>		
	Abstract	4
<b>1</b>	Introduction	5
<b>2</b>	Location, Geology and Topography	5
<b>3</b>	Archaeological and Historical Context	5
<b>4</b>	Summary Objectives	6
<b>5</b>	Methodology	6
<b>6</b>	Results	6
<b>7</b>	Discussion	10
<b>8</b>	Recommendations	10
<b>9</b>	List of Sources	11
<b>10</b>	Appendices	12
	Appendix 1: Tables / Concordances	12
	Appendix 2: DES	17
<b>FIGURES</b>		
<b>1</b>	Location of the site and trench (TP4).	7
<b>2</b>	W facing section of trench	10
<b>PLATES</b>		
<b>1</b>	The shallow foundations (003) of the North building sitting on bedrock (017) and clay subsoil (018).	8
<b>2</b>	Bedrock and natural subsoil sealed by layer (009) and mortar (008)	8
<b>3</b>	The surface of the deposit (009) and drain (007)	9
<b>4</b>	The drain (007), mortar (008), and coal layer (006) underneath the stone sets (001) and sand (005)	9
<b>5</b>	Late-Medieval pottery from context (009)	11
<b>TABLES</b>		
<b>1</b>	Context Information	12
<b>2</b>	Finds	14
<b>3</b>	Drawings	14
<b>4</b>	Digital Photographs	14

### **Abstract**

Northlight Heritage were commissioned to undertake a small excavation to investigate the foundations of the North building at Provan Hall, Auchinlea Park, Glasgow, prior to conservation work being carried out. A test trench was excavated between 17<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015. The work was conducted by Northlight Heritage on behalf of the Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership on behalf of the Seven Lochs Partnership. The foundations of the North building were found to be shallow, sitting on bedrock and natural clay. An earlier courtyard surface seen in photographs in the 1940s (consisting of stones sets, flag stones of varying sizes and possibly bricks) was replaced in or prior to 1966 with stone sets and a drain. The finds consisted of some sherds of green-glazed pottery, (thought to be late-medieval in date), a single clay pipe stem and a few sherds of vessel and window glass. There were no other archaeological features.

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1**

Northlight Heritage undertook a small excavation, 1.5m square, within the courtyard of Provan Hall, to investigate the foundations of the North building prior to conservation work. The work took place between 17<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 to allow for the trench to remain open during Open Doors day. This work follows on from a series of test trenches (TP1-3) dug by Northlight Heritage in 2014 (Shearer & Sneddon 2014).

### **Project background**

### **1.2**

Provan Hall, a category A Listed Building, is one of the key heritage sites located within the boundary of the new Seven Lochs Wetland Park, a 20 sq km park of national significance which spans the Glasgow City/North Lanarkshire council boundary. The Seven Lochs Heritage Project aims to protect, enhance and increase involvement in, and enjoyment of, the natural, built and landscape heritage of the Gartloch Gartcosh area, focusing on heritage within the boundary of the wetlands park.

## **2. Location, Geology and Topography**

### **2.1**

Provan Hall lies on the northern side of Auchinlea Park between the Easterhouse and Garthamlock areas of Glasgow (NGR NS 6675 6634, see Figure 1). The buildings and associated grounds are situated to the east of The Fort shopping centre and are owned by the National Trust for Scotland while being managed by Glasgow City Council. The main Provan Hall buildings, consisting of a north and south building (or range) around a central courtyard (Figure 1), currently sit within landscaped and managed grounds with a formal garden adjoining the range on the west.

### **2.2**

The underlying geology consists of Western Midland Valley Westphalian To Early Permian Sills forming an Igneous Bedrock, while no superficial deposits are recorded (British Geological Survey, 1:50000 Online Data).

## **3. Archaeological and Historical Context**

### **3.1**

The archaeological and historical context of Provan Hall has been dealt with in detail in previous reports (see Shearer & Sneddon 2014). Provan Hall is a category A Listed Building and is recognised as being of national significance due to its origins of the site as a prebend pertaining to Glasgow Cathedral; the unique architectural form of the north building including mid 16<sup>th</sup> century defensive detailing and later 17<sup>th</sup>-century domestic works.

### **3.2**

The masonry walls of the north building are thought to be the earliest substantial building remains on the site, built in the mid-1500s when the ownership of the Lordship was transferred from ecclesiastical to secular ownership. The north building may have formed part of a larger building group.

### **3.3**

The origins of the south building (Blochairn House) are not certain, however it was substantially remodelled in the 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Further development to the site took place in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the construction of associated farm buildings.

### 3.4

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the site was partially derelict and the north building was used as a farm building. There are photographs of the courtyard dated to the 1940s showing that the surface at the time consisted of an irregular mix of stone sets, rectangular flag stones and possibly bricks (see <http://canmore.org.uk/collection/1114422>). This irregular surface was slightly higher than the contemporary surface which consists of stone sets which were laid in or sometime prior to 1966 as there is a photograph of the courtyard from that date showing the sets in place (pers. comm. Fiona Sinclair).

## 4. Summary Objectives

The objectives of the test trench were:

- to investigate the building foundations, courtyard makeup, services and identify any items of archaeological interest and
- to have the pit open for the weekend of Doors Open Day on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

## 5. Methodology

### 5.1

A single trench measuring 1.5m by 1.5m located against the south wall of the north building, was dug by hand (TP4). All deposits were recorded by means of conventional *pro forma* record sheets. A scaled hand-drawn section was made at 1:10 and plans at 1:20. High resolution digital photographs were also taken.

## 6. Results

### 6.1

The North building was constructed over bedrock (017) and subsoil (018) which were seen a depth of about 0.20m - 0.35 m below the surface (see Figure 2). The bedrock was deeply fissured and its surface was smooth and flat in some areas and very irregular as if truncated in others. The foundations of the North building consisted of a single course of angular stones and boulders (003) which were about 0.35m high and were stepped out from the face of the main wall (002) by about 0.10m.

### 6.2

A layer of yellow-brown clay and gravel with mixed stones (016) sealed the bedrock and subsoil. This layer contained several sherds of green glazed late-medieval pottery, some window glass. This was in turn sealed by a layer of small angular stones forming a very rough compacted surface (015), within which was an area of larger irregular shaped stones (014), perhaps a dump.

### 6.3

These layers were sealed by a layer of compact mid-brown stone, clay and gravel (009) which contained a few sherds of late-medieval pottery and also very small fragments of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century pottery and glass. The layers (016), (014), (015) and (009) together formed a deposit 0.18m deep which infilled and concealed the bedrock.

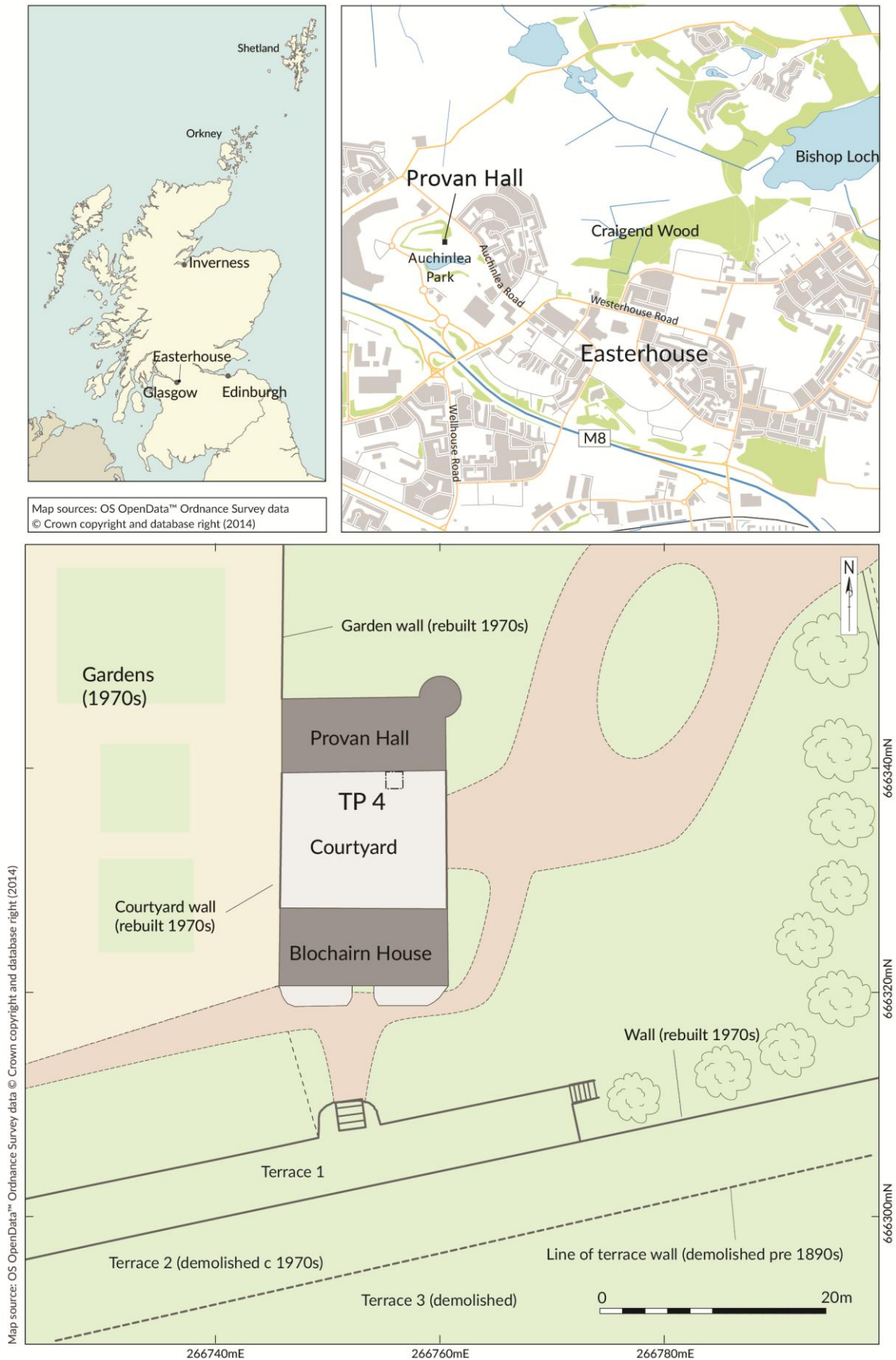


Figure 1 Location of the site and trench (TP4).





*Plate 1 The shallow foundations (003) of the North building sitting on bedrock (017) and clay subsoil (018).*



*Plate 2 Bedrock and natural subsoil sealed by layer (009) and mortar (008)*

#### 6.4

A shallow trench (010) about 0.15m deep had been cut through these three layers up against the wall (003/002), (see Figure 2). Within the base of this trench a layer of compacted mortar (013) was laid and two lines of stone sets (007) were placed on this surface to form a drain. The sets (007) were packed with sand (011) and (012). A single clay pipe tem was found at the bottom of layer (013).





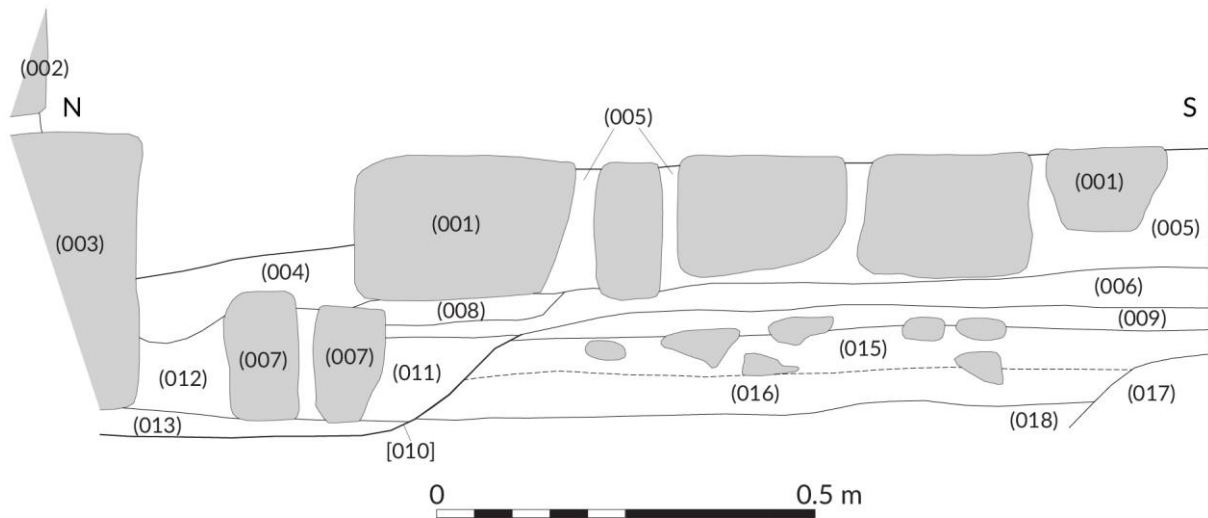
*Plate 3 The surface of the deposit (009) and drain (007)*



*Plate 4 The drain (007), mortar (008), and coal layer (006) underneath the stone sets (001) and sand (005)*

## 6.5

The surface of the courtyard was raised slightly with the deposition of a layer of coal fragments and industrial waste (006). Above this a thin layer of mortar (008) provided a foundation for the edge of the layer of stone sets within the courtyard (001) (see Plate 4). The rest of the stone sets were set into sand (005). An accumulation of modern debris and earth sealed the drain (004) up against the wall (003/002).



*Figure 2 W facing section of trench*

## 7. Discussion

### 7.1

The foundations for the North building were shallow (0.30m) and consisted of a single course of large stones stepped out from the main wall by about 0.10m. The bedrock within this trench is fissured and very uneven with a suggestion that part of it had been truncated perhaps to facilitate the construction of the house. As a result, the foundations were built either on bedrock as well as the clay subsoil.

### 7.2

Three layers that have been deposited within the courtyard area (016, 015 and 009) were separated stratigraphically from the building by the cutting of the drain trench (010). However it is possible that the layer (015) formed a rough working surface originally abutting the wall foundations. The dating of these layers would rely on the pottery within layer 016 which is thought to be late-medieval (perhaps 15<sup>th</sup> /17<sup>th</sup> century). There was no evidence for any earlier deposits.

### 7.3

Photographs taken in the 1940s reveal that the surface of the courtyard at that time was level with the threshold of the building and the foundation stones were concealed. It is therefore likely that the original surface has been removed when the stone sets were laid in, or prior to, 1966.

## 8. Recommendations

The green-glazed pottery is the most useful dating evidence from this trench and is likely to be late medieval perhaps 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> century. This pottery should be shown to a specialist for more detailed analysis. A few sherds of similar pottery were found during the excavations in 2014 and this could be analysed at the same time. The clay pipe is likely to be 19<sup>th</sup> century. These finds could be stored for now and be analysed at a later date along with material retrieved from the future programme of excavations.



*Plate 5 Late-Medieval pottery*

## 9. List of Sources

Haewood, R 2005, *Provan Hall Proposed Environment and Heritage Centre: Archaeological Evaluation*, unpublished Abercorn Archaeology LLP Data Structure Report.  
Shearer I & Sneddon D, 2014 *Wee Dig Provan Hall*. Northlight Heritage Report no 117.

## 10. Appendices

### APPENDIX 1: Tables / Concordances

Table 1: Context Information

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Description/Interpretation</i>	<i>Stratigraphy and/or phasing info</i>
001	Layer	0.18	Rectangular stone sets. Size ranging from 0.08m by 0.10m to 0.20m by 0.25m and 0.18m deep. Contemporary surface of courtyard.	Above all, sealed by 004.
002	Structure	-	South facing wall of North building.	Above foundations 003
003	Structure	0.35	Stone foundations of wall 002. Angular boulders and stones.	Below wall 002 and mortar 013, abutted by 012.
004	Layer	0.08	Loose mid-brown gravelly loam contains modern rubbish. Modern accumulation.	Seals 001, 007, 012, 003.
005	Layer	0.15	Compact mid-brown sandy gravel, packing for the stone sets.	Sealed by sets 001, seals 006 and mortar 008.
006	Layer	0.06	Loose black gravel and coal layer. Levelling up material for stone sets.	Sealed by 005 and 008, seals 009 and 011.
007	Layer	0.16	Stone sets forming the base of a drain between the sets 001 and the wall 002. Contemporary with the surface 001.	Sealed by 012 and 011, seals mortar 013.
008	Layer	0.03	Thin layer of compact mortar extending across the trench parallel with the north wall 002. Foundation layer for edge sets (001).	Sealed by 001, seals 006.
009	Layer	0.03	Thin layer of mid-brown compact stony clay & gravel with some slate.	Sealed by coal 006, seals surface 015.
010	Cut	0.15	Gently sloping cut into surface of 009 and up against the wall foundations 003. Cut for the insertion of a drain 007.	Sealed by mortar 018, seals 009.
011	Layer	0.10	Loose, slightly green/brown sandy gravel. Fill of 010 to the S of stones 007.	Sealed by 006, seals 007& 013.
012	Layer	0.10	Loose light yellow sandy gravel to the N of stones 007.	Sealed by 004, seals 007 & mortar 013.
013	Layer	0.02	Compact yellow brown mortar. Base for edge of sets (001).	Sealed by 001, seals 006.
014	Layer	0.08	Angular stones forming an area about 0.80m by 0.6m. Its surface is higher than bedrock and to either side are smaller angular stones (015). Rough Levelling up material. (Not in section).	Sealed by 009, seals 016,.

015	Layer	0.05	Small angular stones forming a very rough compacted surface infilling bedrock.	Sealed by 009, =014?, seals 016.
016	Layer	0.06	Yellow brown clay and gravel with mixed stones infilling bedrock. Contains late-medieval pottery and glass.	Sealed by 014/015, seals bedrock (017) and natural clay (018).
017	Bedrock	-	Bedrock, some is smooth on its surface and some is very irregular as if truncated.	Below all.
018	Layer	-	Orange brown clay with many small irregular shaped stones infilling bedrock. Natural subsoil, no finds.	Sealed by 016, seals bedrock.

Table 2: Finds

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>No. of Pieces</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Description</i>
005	1	Iron	Nail (flooring nail).
006	1	Pottery	Red fabric, shiny green glaze (post-medieval)
006	2	Pottery?	Red fabric (broken brick?)
006	1	Slate	Small fragment
006	1	Glass	Clear, decorative droplet
006	1	Glass	Clear, vessel
006	1	Glass	Window
006	2	Glass	Green vessel
006	1	Metal	Small nail
008	2	Pottery	Tiny fragments, blue& white glazed (19 <sup>th</sup> century)
009	2	Glass	Green window
009	1	Bone	Butchered frag (sheep)
009	2	Bone	Smaller frags
009	1	Iron	Nail
009	9	Pottery	Grey fabric, green glaze, three sherds join (late medieval). Abraded.
009	1	Pottery	Red fabric, brown glaze
012	1	Cement	Fragment
013	1	Plastic	Thin strip
016	1	Pottery	Grey fabric, green glaze (thick sherd with sharp edges) –late-medieval.
016	1	Pottery	Grey fabric, green glaze, thin sherd.

Table 3: Drawings

<i>Drawing No.</i>	<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Scale</i>
01	1	001, 002, 003, 004	Pre-excavation plan	1:20
02	1	002, 003, 006, 007, 008	Plan. Sets (001) removed	1:20
03	2	007, 008, 009	Plan after 006 removed	1:20
04	1	001, 003, 013, 009	Plan after 008 & 007 removed	1:20
05	2	018, 009, 010	Plan after 013 removed	1:20
06	1	018, 014, 017	Plan after 009 removed	1:20
07	2	003, 018, 017	Plan after 014, 015 & 016 removed	1:20
08	2	001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 009, 010, 011, 012, 013, 015, 016, 017, 018.	Section. W facing.	1:10

Table 4: Digital Photographs

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>From (Compass)</i>
01	-	Photo board	
02	001, 002, 003	Stones sets forming contemporary courtyard surface, wide view	S
03	001, 002, 003	Stones sets forming contemporary courtyard surface, detail	S



04	001, 002, 003, 006, 007, 008.	Stone sets (001) and sand (005) removed onto layer 006	S
05	001, 002, 003, 006, 007, 008.	Stone sets (001) and sand (005) removed onto layer 006	S
06	001, 002, 003, 006, 007, 008.	Stone sets (001) and sand (005) removed onto layer 006	E
07	001, 002, 003, 006, 007, 008.	Stone sets (001) and sand (005) removed onto layer 006	E
08	001, 002, 003, 006, 007, 008.	Stone sets (001) and sand (005) removed onto layer 006	E
09	007, 008, 009	006 removed - see plan 3	S
10	007, 008, 009	006 removed	S
11	007, 008, 009	006 removed	E
12	007, 008, 009	006 removed	E
13	007, 008, 009	006 removed	E
14	007, 008, 009	006 removed	E
15	007, 008, 009	006 removed	E
16	007, 009	008 removed - see plan 4	S
17	007, 009	008 removed	S
18	007, 009	008 removed	E
19	007, 009	008 removed	E
20	007, 009	008 removed	E
21	009, 013	007 removed	S
22	009, 013	007 removed	E
23	009, 013	007 removed	E
24	009, 010	Cut 010 through 009	W
25	009, 010	Cut 010 through 009	W
26	014, 018, 015	009 removed	SW
27	014, 018, 015	009 removed	E
28	014, 018, 015	009 removed	E
29	014, 018, 015	009 removed	E
30	014, 015, 008, 009, 018	009 removed, west half , see plan 6	E
31	014, 015, 008, 009, 018	009 removed, east half	E
32	016, 017, 018, 003	014, 015 removed	S
33	016, 017, 018, 003	014, 015 removed	S
34	016, 017, 018, 003	014, 015 removed	E
35	016, 017, 018, 003	014, 015 removed	E
36	016, 017, 018, 003	014, 015 removed	E
37	016, 017, 018, 003	014, 015 removed	E
38	001, 005, 006, 009, 017, 008	E facing section	E
39	001, 005, 006, 009, 017, 008	E facing section	E
40	001, 005, 006, 009, 017, 008	E facing section	E
41	002, 003, 007, 018, 008, 009	Junction of 003 and bedrock or natural	S
42	002, 003, 007, 018, 008, 009	Junction of 003 and bedrock or natural	S

43	002, 003, 007, 018, 008, 009	Junction of 003 and bedrock or natural	S
44	001, 002, 003, 007, 018, 008, 009	Junction of 003 and bedrock or natural	S
45	001, 002, 003, 007, 018, 008, 009	W facing section	W
46	001, 002, 003, 007, 018, 008, 009	W facing section	W
47	001, 002, 003, 007, 018, 008, 009	W facing section	W
48	001, 002, 003, 007, 018, 008, 009	W facing section	W
49	001, 002, 003, 007, 018, 008, 009	W facing section	W
50	001, 005, 009, 017	N facing section	N
51	001, 005, 009, 017	N facing section	N
52	001, 005, 009, 017	Bedrock and subsoil	SW
53	001, 005, 009, 017	Bedrock and subsoil	SE
54	001, 005, 009, 017	Bedrock and subsoil	E
55	001, 005, 009, 017	Bedrock and subsoil	SE
56	001	Whole courtyard surface	NE
57	001	Trench backfilled & sets relaid	E
58	001	Trench backfilled & sets relaid	S
59	001	Trench backfilled & sets relaid	S

## APPENDIX 2: DES

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Renfrew
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Provan Hall
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	267
<b>PARISH:</b>	Glasgow
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Heather James
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Northlight Heritage
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Excavation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NS66NE 1
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Category A Listed Building and grounds
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	Late-medieval pottery
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NS 6675 6634
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2015
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2015
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	<p>Alexander 2001; <i>Provan Hall, Glasgow (Glasgow parish), laird's house'</i>, <i>Discovery Excav Scot</i>, vol. 2, 2001. Page(s): 49</p> <p>Haewood, R 2005, <i>Provan Hall Proposed Environment and Heritage Centre: Archaeological Evaluation</i>, unpublished Abercorn Archaeology LLP Data Structure Report.</p> <p>Shearer I &amp; Sneddon D, 2014 <i>Wee Dig Provan Hall</i>. Northlight Heritage Report no 117.</p> <p>Shearer I &amp; Sneddon D, 2014, Provan Hall Community Archaeology Pilot Project. <i>Discovery Excav Scot</i>.</p>
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE)</b> <b>DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>Northlight Heritage were commissioned to undertake a small excavation to investigate the foundations of the North building at Provan Hall, Auchinlea Park, Glasgow, prior to conservation work being carried out. A test trench was excavated between 17<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015. The work was conducted on behalf of the Glasgow &amp; Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership on behalf of the Seven Lochs Partnership. The foundations of the North building were found to be shallow, sitting on bedrock and natural clay. An earlier courtyard surface seen in photographs in the 1940s (consisting of stones sets, flag stones of varying sizes and possibly bricks) was replaced prior to 1966 with stone sets and a drain. The finds consisted of some sherds of green-glazed pottery, (thought to be late-medieval in date), a single clay pipe stem and a few sherds of vessel and window glass. There were no other archaeological features.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	Further Community Archaeology programmes as part of the larger Seven Lochs Heritage Project
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Heritage Lottery Fund
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Northlight Heritage, Studio 406, South Block, 64 Osborne Street, Glasgow, G1 5QH
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	hjames@yorkat.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	National Monuments Record for Scotland (intended)

