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21 Dumbarton Road, Stirling, Stirling Council Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

November 2016

Document control sheet

Client: Mr Mark Crawford
Project: 21 Dumbarton Rd, Stirling Job No: 254
Document Title: Archaeological Evaluation WSI

	Originator	Illustration by	Reviewed by	Approved by
ORIGINAL	NAME **Ross Cameron**	NAME **Ross Cameron**	NAME **Alastair Rees**	NAME **Alastair Rees**
DATE **22/11/16**	SIGNATURE	SIGNATURE	SIGNATURE	SIGNATURE
Document Status: FINAL				

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Contents

Executive Summary

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were contracted by Mr Mark Crawford to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed development to the rear of 21 Dumbarton Road in Stirling. The site is currently occupied by a 20th century warehouse, but proposals will see this building demolished and replaced with six student flats.

The archaeological works followed the placement of a planning condition upon the proposed development by Stirling Council. The condition required that a programme of archaeological evaluation be completed in advance of the proposed development.

The archaeological evaluation involved the mechanical excavation of 3 small evaluation trenches or trial pits across the footprint of the proposed development. The site was shown to have been levelled in the past and no features or deposits of archaeological significance were noted.

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd recommend that the planning condition be discharged.

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 archascu1-269440) and with Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland.

1 Introduction

1.1 General

1.1.1 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned by Mr Mark Crawford to undertake archaeological mitigation in advance of the proposed redevelopment of an existing property to the rear of 21 Dumbarton Road in Stirling (centred NGR: NS 79498 93201). The client proposes to demolish the existing storage building on the site, replacing this with 6 student flats, providing a total of 23 bedspaces.

1.1.2 The site was identified by the Stirling Council Archaeology Officer as being in an area with archaeological potential. Through Planning Condition 1 of Planning Application 16/00266/FUL, Stirling Council recommended that a programme of archaeological investigation be carried out prior to development. The condition states:

' No works shall take place within the development site until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Planning Authority...'[1]

1.1.3 The accompanying consultation response of the Stirling Council Archaeology Officer outlined the need for an archaeological evaluation prior to development, covering up to 10% of the development footprint. This would be accompanied by a detailed photographic survey and use of two different metal detectors on the spoil removed.[2]

1.1.4 Access to the site was considerably constrained by the current storage building, while a concrete floor covered the whole of the warehouse. Following a discussion on site between ARCHAS, the client and the Stirling Council Archaeology Officer it was agreed that due to these constraints and the potential impact of the archaeology on the viability of the proposed development, this stage of works would be of a smaller scale. Subsequently it was decided that it was not necessary to investigate 10% of the total development area or use two metal detectors as originally indicated.[3] These discussions were conducted between the Stirling Council Archaeology Officer, ARCHAS and the client during a site visit on Friday 4th November 2016.

1.1.5 Subsequently, ARCHAS produced a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (hereafter WSI) outlining the methodology to be followed and standards maintained during the work. This WSI was accepted by the Stirling Council Archaeology Officer on 10th November 2016

1.1.6 The archaeological evaluation was completed on Monday 22nd November 2016 by Ross Cameron and Alastair Rees. The day was very cold and overcast, with the limited lighting in the warehouse supplemented by spotlights.

1.1.7 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (hereafter CIfA) Code of conduct, and relevant Standards and Guidance documents produced by the CIfA.

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[1] Stirling Council, 16/00266/FUL Decision Notice

[2] Stirling Council Archaeology Officer, 4.9 Archaeological Consultation regarding 16/00266/FUL in "Stirling Council Planning and Regulation Panel, Report on Handling" – 04/10/16

[3] Stirling Council Archaeology Officer Dr Murray Cook *pers. comm.*

1.2 Site Geology and Setting

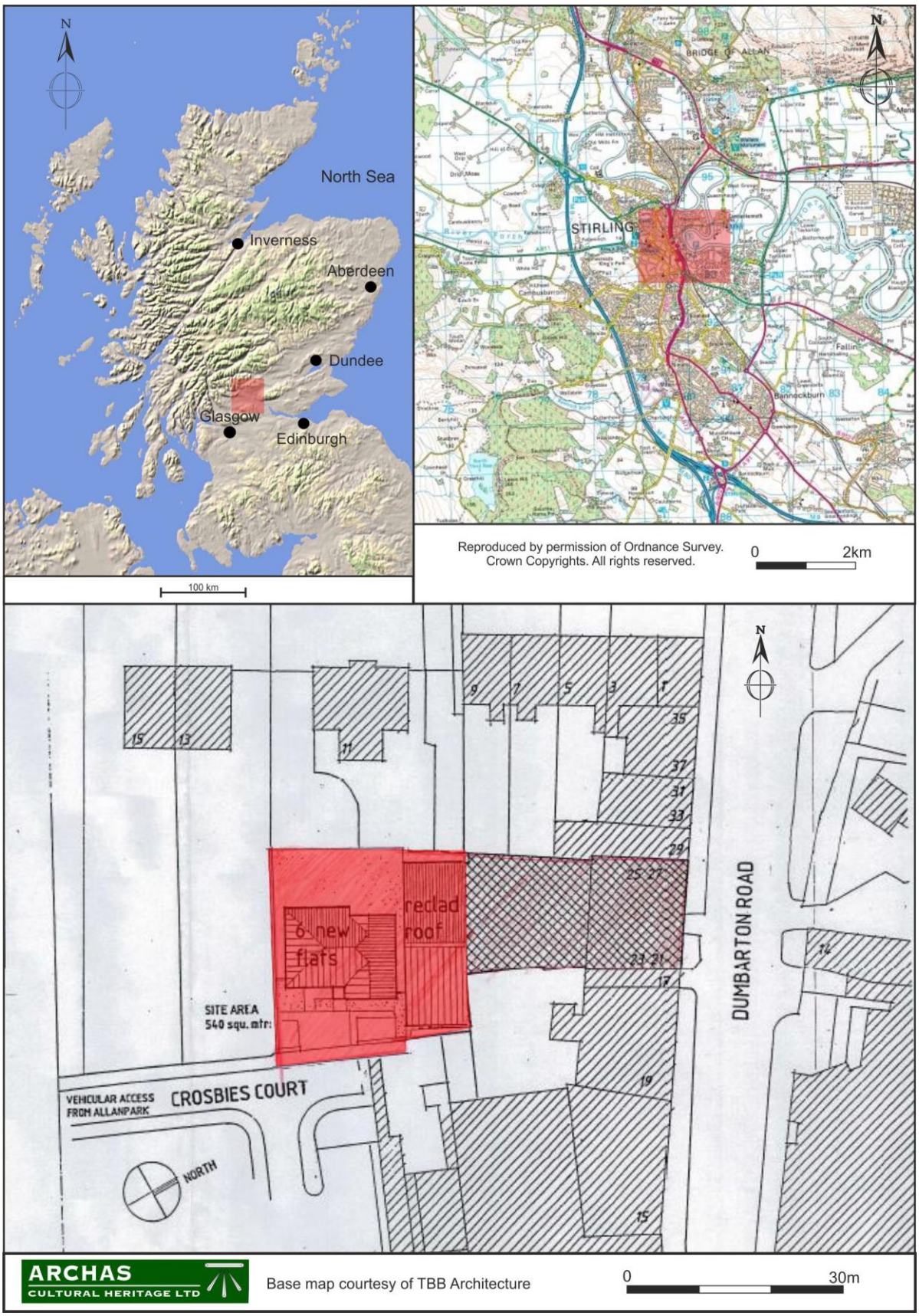

Figure 1: Site location with the area requiring archaeological investigation marked red

General

1.2.1 The proposed development is located in the centre of the City of Stirling within the Stirling Council area (Figure 1). The site lies to the rear of number 21, on the south side of the eastern end of Dumbarton Road, just south of the historic Stirling town wall centred on NGR: NS 79498 93201.

1.2.2 The overall development boundary measures 500m^2, with the proposed new building covering just under 180m^2 of this.

Study Area

1.2.3 The site lies to the rear of 21 Dumbarton Road and is currently occupied by a large storage warehouse with concrete floors (Plate 1) bordered by gardens and back courts.

1.2.4 The site is accessed through a small lane from Allan Park to the north west.

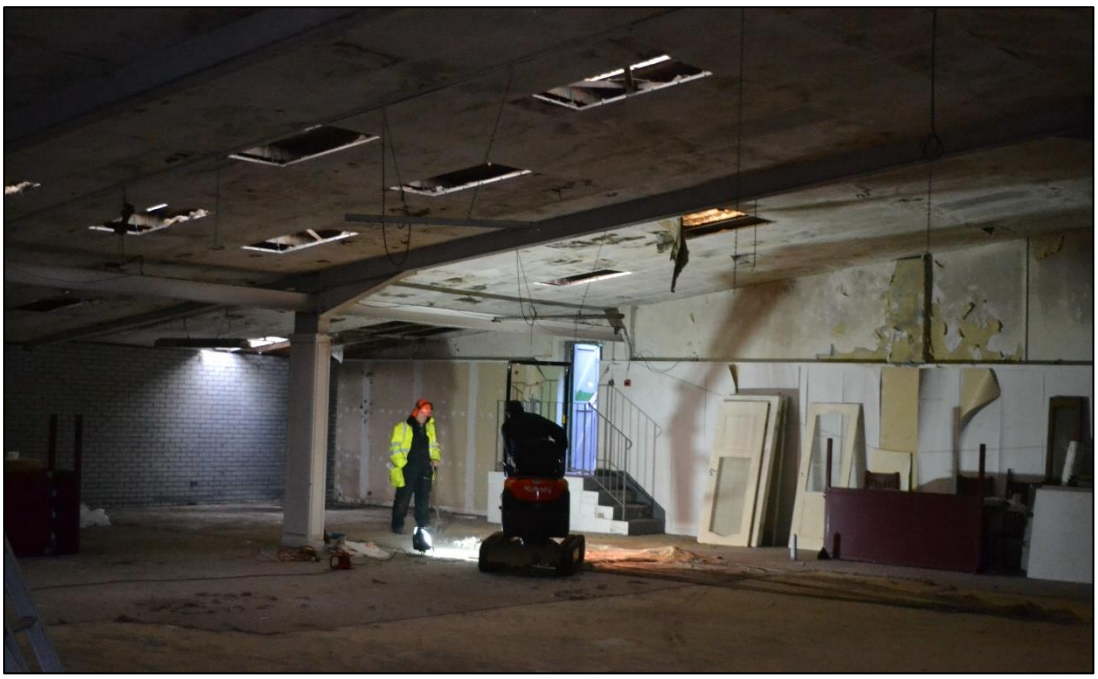

Plate 1: Opening Trench 1 in the warehouse (Photograph 001)

Geology

1.2.5 The drift geology of the proposed development comprises Raised Marine Deposits, Devensian – Clay, Silts, Sands and Gravels. These superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period and were formed in shallow seas with mainly siliciclastic sediments.

1.2.6 The underlying bedrock geology is from the Lower Limestone Formation – Sedimentary Rock Cycles, Clackmannan Group Type. These were formed 321-331 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period and are characteristic of a local environment previously dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas.[4]

[4] www.bgs.ac.uk – 09/11/16

2 Brief Archaeological & Historical Background

2.1 General

2.1.1 Readily accessible historical and archaeological records were consulted in order to gain an understanding of the relevant history of the development area. These resources included the National Monuments Record of Scotland, the Map Library as held by the National Library of Scotland and the Statistical Accounts of Scotland. Consultation of these resources for the wider area allows the archaeological team to better appreciate the likelihood of the archaeological deposits likely to exist in the area.

2.2. Archaeological Potential

2.2.1 The proposed development lies in close proximity to the medieval town of Stirling and a short distance south of the Stirling Town Wall (Scheduled Monument: 1754). The Wall itself dates from the mid-16th century, but following the natural contours of the land, may be built along the line of earlier defences.

2.2.2 While the site lies outwith the Stirling town walls, this does not mean that it sits in land which would not have been exploited or occupied. A leper colony is recorded in Allan Park between 1464 and 1513, but is likely to have been in existence longer than this period.

2.2.3 Assessment of the National Monument Record of Scotland (NMRS) and Stirling Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) failed to reveal any archaeological investigation completed in the vicinity of Allan Park or adjacent to the city walls in this area.

2.3 Map Regression

Pre-Ordnance Survey Maps

2.3.1 John Laye's 'Plan of the Town and Castle of Sterling 1725' clearly shows the proposed development area in relation to the town wall and the existing street pattern as undeveloped farmland (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Extract from John Laye's 'Plan of the Town and Castle of Sterling 1725' showing the general location of the development area in undeveloped farmland. NLS

2.3.2 William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland from c.1750 shows the proposed development area to the west of Port Street as parkland lined by trees.

2.3.3 Development of the Allan Park area for occupation had clearly begun by the production of John Wood's 'Plan of the Town of Stirling' in 1820. Wood's plan shows the street pattern of what is now Allan Park Road, Dumbarton Road and Port Street in place, with the properties edging this quadrant now beginning to be constructed (Figure 3). Plots of land are attributed to particular individuals, with the proposed development area seemingly under the control of a Mr Bowie, or Mr McFarlane.

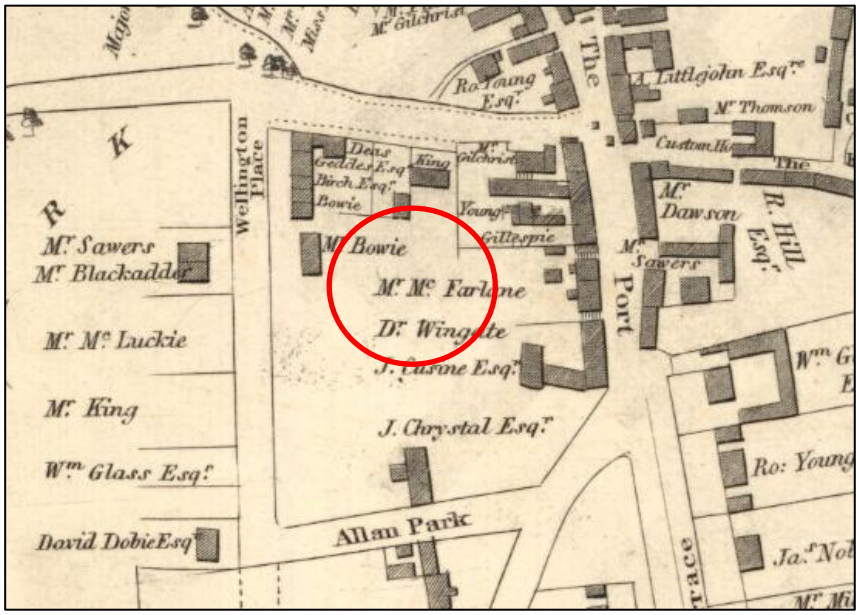

Figure 3: Extract from John Wood's 'Plan of the Town of Stirling' from 1820 with the site area indicated red. NLS

2.3.4 The map of Stirling produced for the Great Reform Act Plans and Reports in 1832 shows expansion continuing in this area.

Ordnance Survey Maps

2.3.5 The first Ordnance Survey map of Stirling was compiled in 1858 as part of the Ordnance Survey Town Plan of Stirling which was produced in 1858. This survey splits the site across up to four map sheets, but Sheet XVII.3.20 clearly depicts the whole plot as a garden area to the rear of the villa at 11 Allan Park Road, with a path running around the perimeter, and through the centre in a NW-SE direction aligned on the house. Several mature trees are also depicted. The properties on 21 Dumbarton Road comprise a series of Joiner's Shops, Timber Yards and a Smithy.

2.3.6 The 25 inch to 1 mile Stirling Sheet XVII.3 from 1860-65 clearly shows the development area as a well-defined plot, surrounded by many of the buildings which exist around the perimeter of the site today (Figure 4). The houses on Allan Park to the west are certainly in place, as are the buildings fronting onto Port Street to the east and at the corner with Dumbarton Road. The proposed development plot appears to be linked to the large detached villa at 11 Allan Park Road and likely formed the back garden of this property.

Figure 4: Extract from the 1st edition The 25 inch to 1 mile Stirling Sheet XVII.3 published in 1865 and showing the development area (red0 as a clearly defined garden plot free of any development. NLS

2.3.7 This picture of the proposed development site as unaltered back courts remains until post-1947 when the 25 inch to 1 mile Stirlingshire n017.03 map clearly shows this area as the undeveloped back garden of the property on Allan Park.

2.4 Conclusions

2.4.1 The historical assessment has shown that the proposed development is in an area close to the historical boundary of the town of Stirling and may sit in close proximity to the leper hospital recorded in the Allan Park area between 1464 and 1513.

2.4.2 The map regression shows no sign of development on the site between 1725 and 1947 and as such any earlier remains on the site may have been left undisturbed through this period.

2.4.3 However, the proposed development site is currently occupied by a large storage warehouse. It is unclear to what extent the foundations or construction of this will have disturbed any deposits present on the site.

3 Methodology

3.1 Field Evaluation

3.2.1 The purpose of an archaeological field evaluation is to gain information about the archaeological potential of a site by opening an agreed number of trenches or investigating a previously agreed percentage of the overall area. The results of these investigations allow the archaeological team to assess the presence, absence, potential and importance of archaeological deposits surviving across the site, while meeting the requirements of the Planning Condition as outlined by Stirling Council. In practice, this requires a number of trenches to be opened in a systematic and organised manner across the footprint of the proposed development. These will be plotted to ensure good spatial coverage to assess the survival and further potential for any archaeological deposits to survive.

3.2.2 The results of this phase of works and subsequent recommendations by ARCHAS allow the Stirling Council Archaeology Officer to make an informed decision as to whether the site should be investigated further, or accept the archaeological condition as having been met. ARCHAS will make recommendations relating to any future mitigation, but the decision for any further archaeological intervention ultimately rests with Stirling Council.

3.2.3 An archaeological evaluation investigates only a certain percentage of the development area through a series of carefully placed trenches. For the proposed development, Stirling Council initially requested that 10% of the site be investigated. However, following discussions and alterations to the schedule for the development, it was agreed to open five small test pits, geographically spread across the footprint of the building in order to inform the proposals.

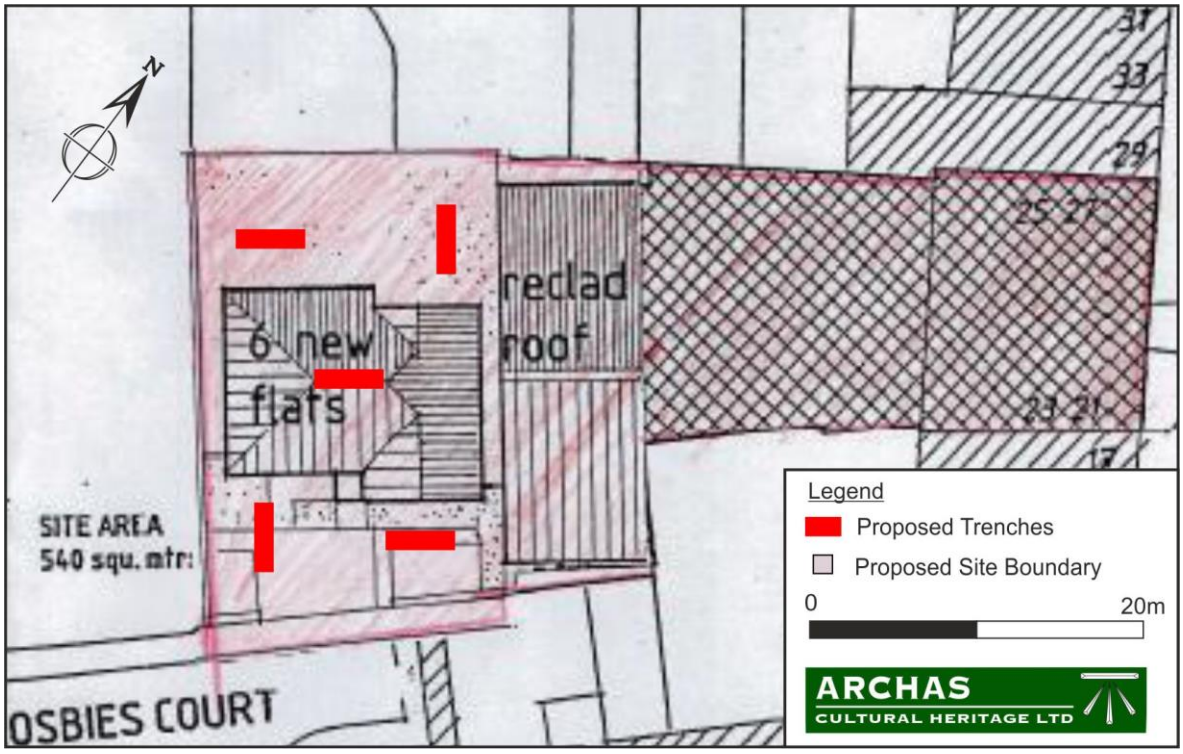

Figure 5: Proposed trench locations. ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd after TBB Architecture

3.2.4 The proposed trench plan (Figure 5) was designed as a guide for the placement of trenches and suggested the excavation of five 4m long trenches accounting for a total of 20m^2. This was designed to be flexible and altered depending upon ground conditions, while maintaining good spatial coverage.

3.2.5 In the event, a total of three small trenches or trial pits were opened (Figure 6). Access to the site was heavily constrained by the presence of a low arch, meaning that only a one tonne mechanical excavator could get into the warehouse. Despite the use of a "Sthil" saw to cut the concrete and a machine mounted pneumatic breaker to break through the concrete, it proved to be unusually thick. Removing this material proved difficult and time consuming, limiting the size and number of trenches opened.

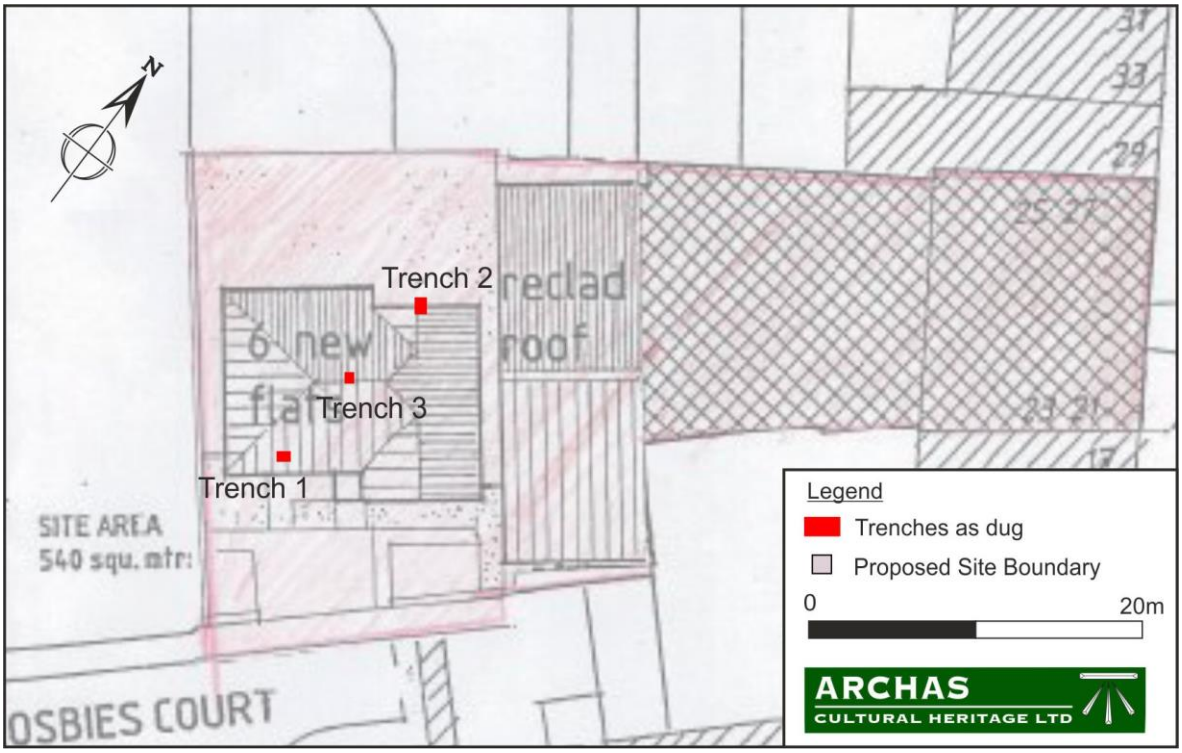

Figure 6: Trenches as excavated. ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd after TBB Architecture

3.2.6 Following the breaking up of the concrete, the trenches were excavated using a one tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a narrow bucket under the direct supervision of a qualified archaeologist.

3.2.7 In all excavated trenches natural subsoil was identified. All trenches and soil deposits were recorded to ARCHAS Ltd and CIfA standards and relevant details noted down on ARCHAS *pro forma* trench record sheets.

4 Results

4.1 General

4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation at 21 Dumbarton Road failed to reveal any archaeological remains of any significance, with the site clearly having been levelled prior to the construction of the warehouse.

4.1.2 All three trenches or trial pits were located within the footprint of the proposed structure and below the concrete floor of the warehouse. As excavation began, it became apparent that it would be difficult to excavate the required number of trenches to the intended dimensions due to the depth of the concrete and the small size of the mechanical excavator.

4.1.3 As it was not possible to access the site with heavy machinery, it was agreed to continue the evaluation on a reduced scale.

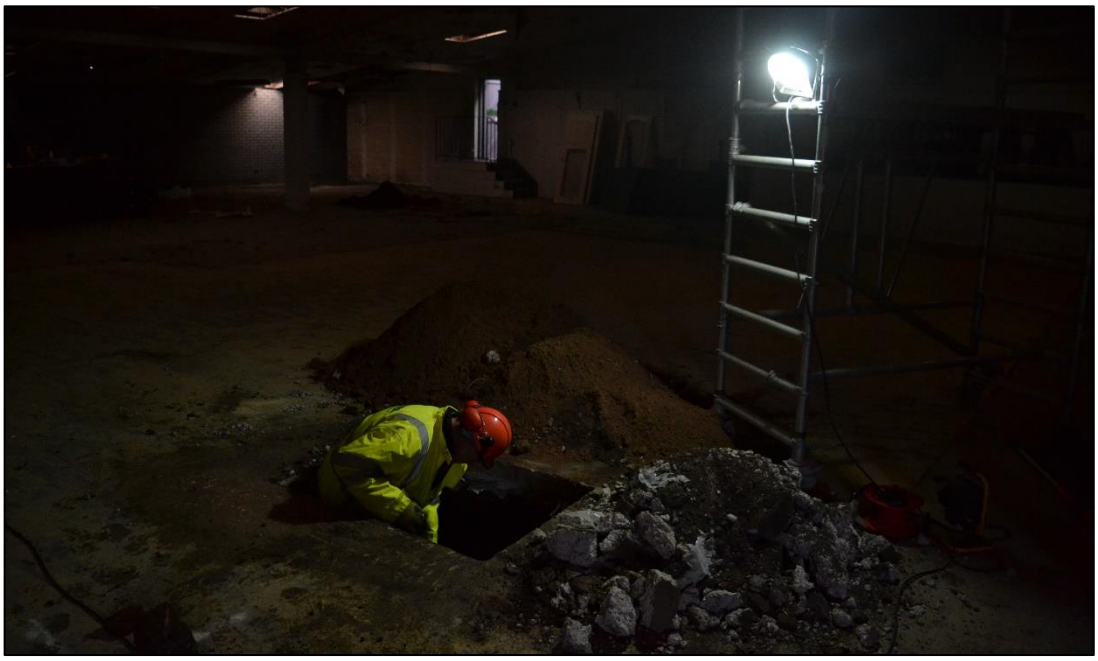

Plate 2: Working shot showing Trench 2 being cleaned and investigated (Photograph 011)

4.1.4 A description of all trenches and the key deposits and features identified in each trench is provided below. In each case the initial letter applied to a context define the trench in which it was located. For example (**101**) would be the first deposit recorded in Trench 1. All context numbers are recorded in **bold**.

4.1.5 Details and dimensions of trenches excavated can be viewed in Appendix D.

4.2 Trench 1

4.2.1 Trench 1 was excavated at the southern corner of the warehouse, within the footprint of the proposed new structure.

4.2.2 The concrete flooring (**101**) was shown to be c.0.25m deep, comprised two poured floors and was reinforced with thin strands of steel. Beneath this, a thick deposit of mixed blaes (**102**) had been used as a levelling deposit. This (**102**) then directly overlay a thin band of clean

sand (**103**) which in turn overlay a moderate to firmly compact dark brown slightly silty sand (**104**).

4.2.3 (**104**) had the feel of a ground surface, yet was predominantly clean with very few inclusions and sharp, clear edges to overlying (**103**) and the light brown sandy subsoil (**105**) below.

4.2.4 (**104**) was interpreted as a working surface, laid over the soft natural subsoil during levelling and construction of the warehouse, with a thin skim of clean re-deposited natural (**103**) placed atop prior to the deposition of the blaes (**102**).

4.3 Trench 2

4.3.1 Trench 2 was opened where two boreholes had been previously drilled, creating a weak point in the concrete floor surface (**201**). (**201**) proved to be much shallower than in Trench 1, yet retained the steel reinforcing bars.

4.3.2 Like in Trench 1, the concrete overlay a deep deposit of levelling blaes (**202**). The working surface (**203**) was also present with the fine grain yellow brown sand of the natural subsoil (**204**) being apparent at a depth of 0.75m. 0.20m of (**204**) was removed to confirm that this was indeed undisturbed natural subsoil (Plate 3).

Plate 3: North east facing section of Trench 2 (Photograph 017)

4.4 Trench 3

4.4.1 The pattern of deposits in Trench 3 essentially mirrored those in Trenches 1 and 2.

.4.2 The upper concrete (**301**) in Trench 3 was found to be a single poured floor, with no steel reinforcing. Below this the blaes levelling deposit (**302**) was 0.35m deep and lay directly atop the mottled, mid brown working surface (**303**). Below this, the natural subsoil (**304**) was revealed.

5 Summary and Discussion

5.1 General

5.1.1 Although identified as potentially archaeologically sensitive and located in close proximity to the historic town of Stirling, the site at 21 Dumbarton Road was shown to be devoid of any buried archaeological deposits.

5.1.2 The historical research had indicated that the leper hospital on record in Allan Park may be present in the vicinity of 21 Dumbarton Road. The cartographic research also showed a landscape exploited by farming from at least the 18th century and it was anticipated that deep deposits of plough soils may be recorded during the evaluation.

5.1.3 However, the evaluation has shown that the site has been heavily landscaped, with the levelling deposits for the present warehouse structure directly overlying the natural sandy subsoil.

5.1.4 The lack of any *ex situ* artefactual material, is arguably indicative of an absence of earlier significant archaeology on this site or intensive landscaping and preparation which took place to the rear of 21 Dumbarton Road prior to the construction of the warehouse.

6 Conclusions and Recommendations

6.1 General

6.1.1 The archaeological evaluation at 21 Dumbarton Road was necessarily limited in scale, but the results of the three geographically separated trenches and trial pits were consistent enough to provide a clear picture of the sites development.

6.1.2 The proposed development site has clearly undergone a significant degree of landscaping prior to the construction of the existing warehouse. This is a factor which is borne out by an assessment of the topography around the site which reveals significant retaining walls and areas of higher ground. Had evidence for earlier occupation existed on the site, this event would have removed all trace of it.

6.1.3 The evaluation clearly indicates that the proposed development site is archaeologically sterile.

6.1.4 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd recommend that the proposed development be allowed to proceed and the planning condition be discharged.

6.1.5 While ARCHAS can provide recommendations as to any future work on site, the final decision for any further archaeological mitigation rests with Stirling Council as advised by the Stirling Council Archaeology Officer.

Acknowledgements

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd would like to thank Mr Mark Crawford for commissioning us to undertake the work and for his company, assistance and good humour during the site works.

Graeme of Forth Plant Hire has our gratitude for persevering with an often difficult job and ensuring the required number of trenches were opened.

Thanks are also due to Mr Tommy Thomson of TBB Architecture for his help in the planning stage of the project.

We must also note the assistance provided by the Stirling Council Archaeology Officer Dr Murray Cook. Dr Cook's pragmatic and understanding approach ensured the evaluation reached a satisfactory conclusion.

Bibliography

Electronic References

www.bgs.ac.uk
www.pastmap.org.uk
www.rcahms.gov.uk

Documentary References

Cameron, R. 2016 "21 Dumbarton Road, Stirling Written Scheme of Investigation." ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd unpublished grey literature report

Appendix A Context Register

Context No.	*Trench*	*Type*	*Description*	*Dimension*	*Comments*	*Date*	*Initial*
101	1	Deposit	Concrete floor surface. At least two skins with thin steel reinforcement.	D: 0.22m	Floor surface of existing structure.	21/11/16	RC
102	1	Deposit	Moderately compact blaes build up, mottled dark brown, mid brown, red and black. Gritty.	D: 0.30m	Levelling material.	21/11/16	RC
103	1	Deposit	Thin band of moderately compact clean, light brown sand.	D: 0.08m	Re-deposited natural levelling material.	21/11/16	RC
104	1	Deposit	Moderate to firmly compact dark brown, very slightly silty sand with infrequent black flecks.	D: <0.10m	Working surface.	21/11/16	RC
105	1	Deposit	Soft to moderately compact, very clean, yellow/light brown sand.	D: >0.20m	Natural subsoil.	21/11/16	RC
201	2	Deposit	Single skin of poured concrete on top of thin steel reinforcing.	D: 0.15-0.20m	Floor surface of existing structure. As (101).	21/11/16	RC
202	2	Deposit	Mixed deposit of blaes. Moderately compact very mottled red brown, black brown and light brown gritty sand.	D: c.0.45m	Levelling material. As (102).	21/11/16	RC
203	2	Deposit	Thin layer of firm to moderately compact mottled sand, with bands of black brown and grubby mid brown sand.	D: 0.15-0.20m	Working surface. As (104).	21/11/16	RC
204	2	Deposit	Moderately compact fine grain yellow brown sand.	D: 0.40m	Undisturbed natural subsoil. As (105).	21/11/16	RC
301	3	Deposit	Single skin of poured concrete on a polythene base. No steel reinforcing.	D: 0.20m	Floor surface of existing structure. As (101).	21/11/16	RC
302	3	Deposit	Mixed deposit of blaes. Moderately compact red, black and brown gritty blaes and sand.	D: 0.35m	Levelling material. As (102).	21/11/16	RC
303	3	Deposit	Moderately compact mottled mid brown, light brown gritty sand.	D: 0.20m	Working surface. As (104).	21/11/16	RC
304	3	Deposit	Moderately compact mid yellow brown fine grain sand.	D: >0.15m	Undisturbed natural subsoil. As (105).	21/11/16	RC

Appendix B Photographic Register

Image No.	Direction Facing	Trench	Context	Description	Date	Initials
001	S	1	(101)	Working shot - Opening Trench 1	21/11/16	RC
002	SSW	1	(101)	Working shot - Opening Trench 1	21/11/16	RC
003	SW	1	(101)	Working shot - Opening Trench 1	21/11/16	RC
004	N	1	(101)	Working shot - Opening Trench 1	21/11/16	RC
005	NE	1	(105)	Post-excavation view of Trench 1	21/11/16	RC
006	NE	1	(105)	Post-excavation view of Trench 1	21/11/16	RC
007	SW	1	(105)	Post-excavation view of Trench 1	21/11/16	RC
008	NW	1	-	SE facing section of Trench 1	21/11/16	RC
009	NW	1	-	SE facing section of Trench 1	21/11/16	RC
010	NW	1	-	SE facing section of Trench 1	21/11/16	RC
011	S	2	-	Working shot - Trench 2	21/11/16	RC
012	N	2	-	Working shot - Trench 2	21/11/16	RC
013	NW	2	(204)	Post-excavation view of Trench 2	21/11/16	RC
014	NW	2	(204)	Post-excavation view of Trench 2	21/11/16	RC
015	NW	2	(204)	Post-excavation view of Trench 2	21/11/16	RC
016	NW	2	(204)	Post-excavation view of Trench 2	21/11/16	RC
017	SW	2	-	NE facing section of Trench 2	21/11/16	RC
018	SW	2	-	NE facing section of Trench 2	21/11/16	RC
019	E	3	(201)	Working shot - Opening Trench 3	21/11/16	RC
020	N	3	(201)	Working shot - Opening Trench 3	21/11/16	RC
021	NW	3	(304)	Post-excavation view of trench 3	21/11/16	RC
022	NW	3	(304)	Post-excavation view of trench 3	21/11/16	RC
023	NE	3	-	SW facing section of Trench 3	21/11/16	RC
024	NE	3	-	SW facing section of Trench 3	21/11/16	RC

Appendix C Trench Register

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Orientation
1	0.80	0.55	NE-SW
2	1.20	0.80	NW-SE
3	0.75	0.55	NW-SE

Appendix D
Provisional Discovery and Excavation Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	21 Dumbarton Road, Stirling
PROJECT CODE:	254
PARISH:	Stirling
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Ross Cameron
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	n/a
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	n/a
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 79498 93201
START DATE (this season)	21/11/16
END DATE (this season)	21/11/16
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. *DES* ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were contracted by Mr Mark Crawford to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed development of his property to the rear of 21 Dumbarton Road in Stirling. The site is currently occupied by a 20th century warehouse, but proposals will see this building demolished and replaced with six student flats. The archaeological works followed the placement of a planning condition upon the proposed development by Stirling Council. The condition required that a programme of archaeological evaluation be completed in advance of the proposed development. The archaeological evaluation involved the mechanical excavation of 3 small evaluation trenches or trial pits across the footprint of the proposed development. The site was shown to have been levelled in the past and no features or deposits of archaeological significance were noted. ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd recommend that the planning condition be discharged.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	n/a
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Private Client
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 Stirling Council SMR