

SMALL, BUT (ALMOST) PERFECTLY FORMED

July 29, 2011 Paul Belford Commercial Archaeology, Day of Archaeology 2011, Post Medieval All Nations' Pub, Coalport, Counties of England, Geography of England, London, Madeley, railway, Shropshire, Shropshire Canal, South Telford Heritage Trail, Stirchley, Stirchley Station, Telford, Telford and Wrekin, US Federal Reserve, watching brief

Today is a mixture of post-excavation, research and reporting. The first item on my 'to-do' list is to download and catalogue the records from my site visit earlier this week. This was a watching brief on restoration work at the former [Stirchley Station](#). This is located in Telford Town Park and is part of a series of works to improve public access and interpretation. ([Read about some earlier work at the Stirchley furnaces site here](#)).

The station was on the London and North Western Railway's Coalport Branch, which opened in 1861 and closed in 1964. The railway largely followed the route of the Shropshire Canal, which was completed in 1792. All of the stations were built by the owner of the 'All Nations' Pub in Madeley. The line of the railway is now the 'Silkin Way', a footpath and cycleway that runs through Telford.

For many years the platform has been overgrown, but is now being cleared and restored (left-hand photo below). During the course of this work contractors discovered a chamber which was at first thought to be a well.



After cleaning, it turned out to be a simple drainage sump, with water from the platform and trackbed being fed into it. So, nothing very exciting, but a very tiny piece of information which somehow adds to our collective understanding. Such is the nature of most archaeology!