

AQRP/01



# 11–15 GAUZE STREET, PAISLEY

## Archaeological Monitoring

commissioned by Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP

14/0473/PP

July 2015

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project info

**HA JOB NO.** AQRP/01  
**NGR** NS 48522 64062  
**PARISH** Paisley Abbey  
**LOCAL AUTHORITY** Renfrewshire Council  
**OASIS REF.** headland1–210824

project team

**PROJECT MANAGER** Eddie Bailey  
**AUTHOR** Stephen Cox  
**FIELDWORK** Stephen Cox  
**GRAPHICS** Rafael Maya–Torcelly  
**APPROVED BY** Eddie Bailey – Project Manager



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**SCOTLAND**

Headland Archaeology  
13 Jane Street | Edinburgh | EH6 5HE

0131 467 7705  
scotland@headlandarchaeology.com

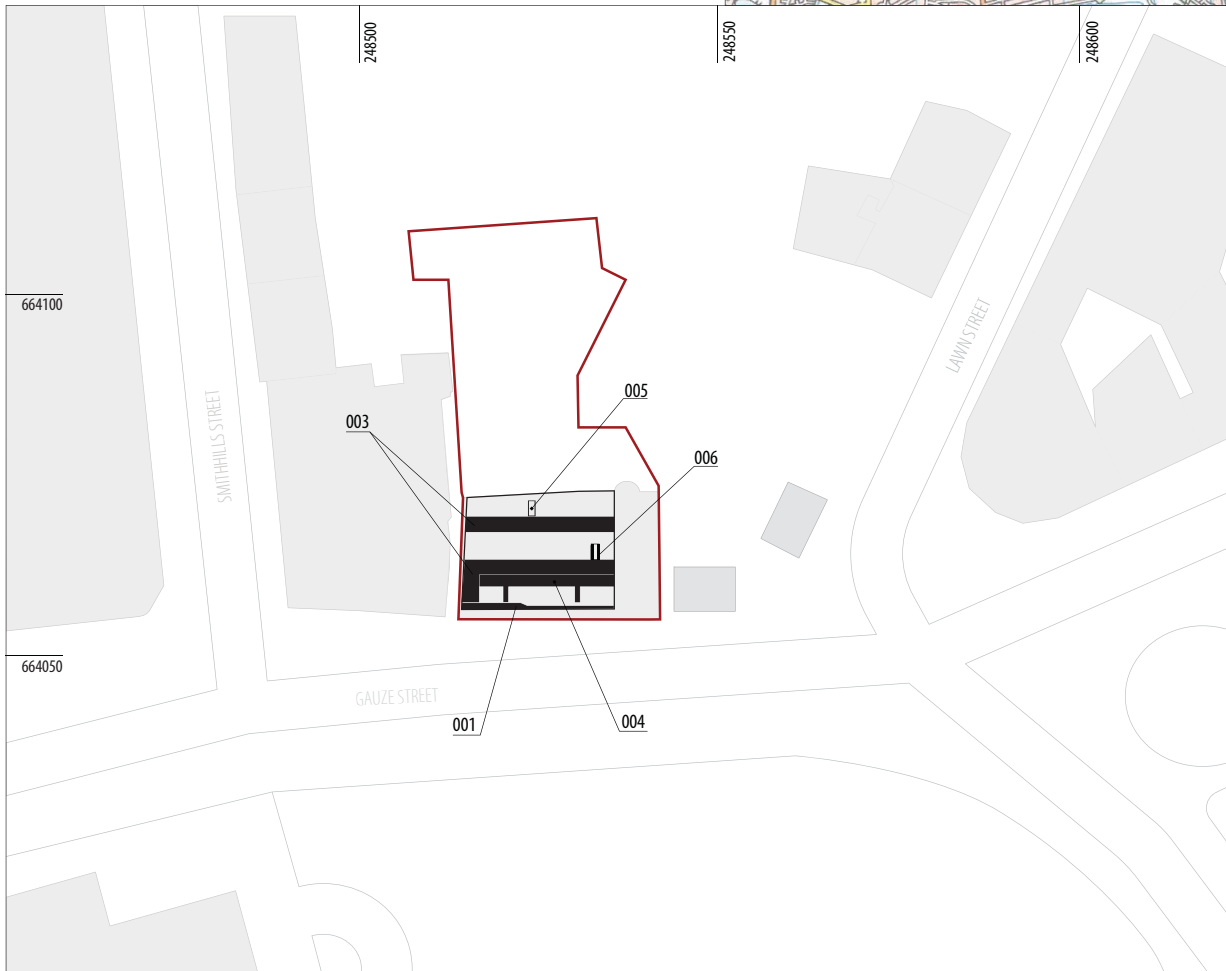
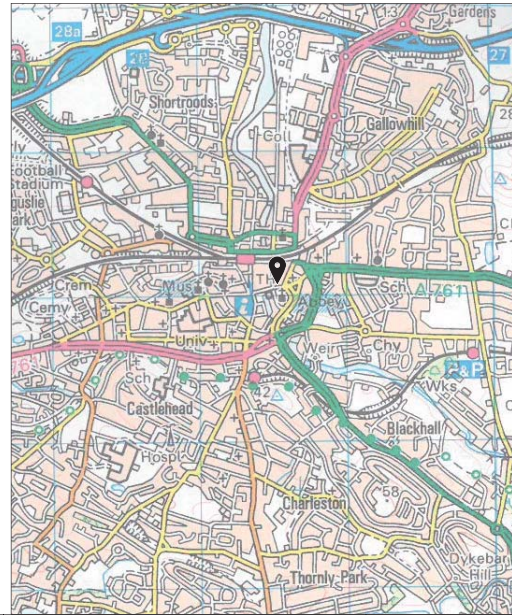
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# **ABBEY QUARTER REGENERATION PROJECT (AQRP/01)**

11-15 Gauze Street  
 Paisley  
 Renfrewshire

0 200km



## KEY

- development boundary
- monitored area
- recorded contexts

0 50m  
 scale 1:1,000 @ A4

**HEADLAND  
ARCHAEOLOGY**

SCOTLAND

13 Jane Street  
 Edinburgh EH6 5HE  
 0131 467 7705  
[www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)

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ILLUS 1

Site location

# 11–15 GAUZE STREET, PAISLEY

## Archaeological Monitoring

A planning application by Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP (the client) for the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of a residential development at 11–15 Gauze Street, Paisley has been approved by Renfrewshire Council. A condition attached to the approval required an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken on ground breaking works associated with the development.

The programme of works took place on the 23rd April, 5th 6th and 8th May 2015 and incorporated monitoring of preparatory groundworks for the foundations. Sub–surface remains associated with a previous structure of late nineteenth century date were observed. It was apparent that the site had been truncated to the level of geological subsoil and levelled with modern deposits. This took place as a result of late 19th century development on the site and later redevelopment on the site.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

An application for development (14/0473/PP) by Park Lane Developments (the client), for a residential development at Gauze Street, Paisley was approved by Renfrewshire Council. As a condition attached to the approval of the application, an archaeological watching brief was required on ground breaking works associated with the development.

The client commissioned Headland Archaeology to agree a programme of archaeological work with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, who advise the Renfrewshire Council on Historic Environmental issues, encapsulated in a written scheme of investigation (WSI). Fieldwork took place on the 23rd April, 5th 6th and 8th May 2015, and was undertaken in accordance with current Health and Safety legislation. This report presents the result of those works, undertaken as a watching brief.

environs of the site comprised residential and commercial buildings, with Paisley Abbey and Town Hall to the south. The site is between 8 and 9m OD and is underlain by Late Devensian gravel, sand and silt which itself overlays limestone sedimentary bedrock formed during the Carboniferous period (British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>)

### 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within the centre of Paisley on the banks of the White Cart Water, an area associated with the medieval core of the town and as such an area of archaeological potential. In particular it lies close to the 12th Century Paisley Abbey and may be within an area containing evidence for pre–burghal settlement within Paisley. Therefore there is potential for pre 1488 medieval activity to be present within the development area.

Later map evidence, shown on William Semple's 1781 'Plan of the Town of Paisley and Suburbs' suggest that there were long narrow properties on the north side of Gauze Street which could be consistent with burgage plots relating to burghal Paisley. This indicates that evidence for post 1488 medieval activity and later post–medieval activity may survive below the present ground surface.

### 2 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The watching brief sought to provide further information about the archaeological resource, to enable appropriate decisions to be reached regarding the planning submission and therefore mitigate any adverse impacts on that resource

### 3 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located at 11–15 Gauze Street, Paisley (NGR: NS 48522 64062) and comprises a partially demolished building. The immediate

### 5 METHOD

Excavations were undertaken by a mechanical excavator equipped



with a flat bladed bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All archaeological deposits were recorded using standard archaeological methods and pro forma record sheets. Photographs were taken in digital format.

## 6 RESULTS

The groundwork excavations comprised four test pits excavated within the development area. Subsequently an area 19.5m by 14.5m (including the test pit locations) was excavated to reduce the ground level by 0.7m prior to being backfilled with gravel. A concrete floor surface [001] 0.2m thick (the present ground surface) was visible along the southern edge of the area. This overlay a deposit (002) 0.5–0.7m thick comprising broken bricks, broken concrete and grey sand interpreted as made up ground. This overlay two large concrete slabs [003] 2.15–2.65m wide and 0.3–0.4m thick, and oriented east–west across site. These contained four raised platforms to support steel pillars.

To the north of the site a brick built foundation [005] was revealed measuring 2.25m X 1.4m which probably represented a sub–surface structure (ie a furnace or chimney). As it respected the concrete slab and the north wall of the building it is likely to be contemporary with those structures. These can all be associated with the remains of the 20th century department store building.

The southernmost east–west slab truncated earlier foundations (Illus 2). These comprised an east– west linear feature [004] containing sandstone blocks and brick fragments (un–mortared), with two similar north–south oriented linear features to the south. These are interpreted as foundations to support walls. As they do not align with the other sub–surface remains and are truncated by the concrete slab they are interpreted as the foundations of the previous structure and of late nineteenth century date.

To the north of this slab another feature [006] was observed consisting of two sandstone slabs on their vertical axes in a cut backfilled with dark grey sand and fragments of broken pipe, tile and brick. This feature is likely to be associated with feature [004]. These foundations were cut into the natural geology, which comprised coarse orange sand. The horizontal laminations in the natural geology match the description by the BGS of raised tidal flat deposits (Illus 3).

## 7 DISCUSSION

The watching brief identified no deposits of archaeological significance. The excavation revealed that modern deposits directly sealed geological subsoil suggesting that any earlier medieval or post medieval deposits that may have been present on site had been truncated during the late 19th century development of the site.

## 8 REFERENCES

British Geological Survey website (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk>) accessed 7th May 2015

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2014 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring at 11–15 Gauze Street Paisley (Unpublished client report).*



## 9 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

#### Appendix 1.1 Context Register

Context	Description
1	Concrete floor
2	Rubble made–up ground
3	Concrete slab
4	Foundation for building predating [003]
5	Brick built rectangular feature for building
6	Sandstone slabs and cut for drain (?) associated with [004]

#### Appendix 1.2 Photographic Register

Photo	Direction	Description
01	S	Working shot TP1
02	SE	NW facing section of TP1
03	S	View of concrete slab [003] in TP2
04	S	View of concrete slab [003] in TP2
05	NW	East facing section of TP2
06	SW	North facing section of TP3
07	S	North facing section of TP3
08	SW	View of machine
09	SW	General site working shot
10	SW	Close up of laminations in natural geology
11	SW	View of TP1
12	NE	View of TP4
13	NE	View of TP4 being excavated
14	N	South facing section of TP4
15	E	View of TP4
16	N	South facing section of TP4
17	S	General view of site
18	NE	View of Basement
19	NE	General view of site before groundworks begin

20	SE	General view of site before groundworks begin
21	—	Close up of brick from rubble / made–up ground
22	SE	General view of site before groundworks begin
23	S	View of Paisley Abbey from site
24	W	General view of site before groundworks begin
25	E	View of sandstone foundations (western half of site)
26	S	View of sandstone foundations (western half of site)
27	N	View of sandstone foundations (eastern half of site)
28	W	General view of sandstone foundations
29	N	View of east–west sandstone foundations
30	N	View of concrete pillar base
31	NW	View of concrete pillar bases
32	W	Working shot of site
33	S	General view of reverse of façade (Abbey in background)
34	S	General view of south–west corner of site
35	N	View of concrete pillar bases – western area of site
36	N	View of east–west sandstone foundations with concrete base to north
37	S	General view of site
38	SW	View of Paisley Abbey from site
39	W	View of concrete foundation with pillar bases
40	NW	General view of site showing pillar bases
41	N	View of brick base of structure [005]
42	N	View of concrete base in section showing depth
43	N	View of basement – base pecked out
44	W	Working shot of machine spreading gravel
45	N	View of last bit of area still to be stripped
46	N	View of basement
47	W	View of upstanding wall showing blocked up fireplaces and doors
48	N	View of feature [006]
49	E	View of feature [006]
50	E	View of filled in lift shaft base
51	N	General view of eastern edge of area stripped
52	NW	General view of eastern edge of area stripped
53	SE	View + A30:C54 of south–east corner of site stripped



## APPENDIX 2 DES / OASIS / HER ENTRY

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Renfrewshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	11–15 Gauze Street, Paisley
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AQPR14
<b>PARISH:</b>	Paisley Abbey
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Stephen Cox
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	—
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NS 48522 64062
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	23rd April 2015
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	8th May 2015
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b>	<p>A planning application by for the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of a residential development at 11–15 Gauze Street, Paisley has been approved by Renfrewshire Council. A condition attached to the approval required an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken on ground breaking works associated with the development.</p> <p>The programme of works took place on the 23rd April, 5th 6th and 8th May 2015 and incorporated monitoring of preparatory groundworks for the foundations. Sub—surface remains associated with a previous structure of late nineteenth century date were observed. It was apparent that the site had been truncated to the level of geological subsoil and levelled with modern deposits. This took place as a result of late 19th century development on the site and later redevelopment on the site.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	—
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Park Lane Developments (Renfrewshire) LLP
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	13 Jane Street Edinburgh EH6 5HE
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	office@headlandarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	RCAHMS



ILLUS 2

E facing view of sandstone foundations (western half of site)



ILLUS 3

N facing view of S facing section of TP4





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#### **SOUTH & EAST**

Headland Archaeology  
Building 68C, Wrest Park, Silsoe  
Bedfordshire MK45 4HS

**T** 01525 861 578

**E** southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com

#### **MIDLANDS & WEST**

Headland Archaeology  
Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road  
Hereford HR4 9NZ

**T** 01432 364 901

**E** midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com

#### **NORTH**

Headland Archaeology  
Unit 16, Hillside, Beeston Road  
Leeds LS11 8ND

**T** 0113 387 6430

**E** north@headlandarchaeology.com

#### **SCOTLAND**

Headland Archaeology  
13 Jane Street  
Edinburgh EH6 5HE

**T** 0131 467 7705

**E** scotland@headlandarchaeology.com

**[www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)**