

MRDS17

MILLROW, DUNBLANE, STIRLING

Report on an Archaeological evaluation

for WD Harley Architects

15/00439/FUL/GF

May 2017

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REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the plot for three new townhouses on the east side of Millrow, Dunblane. Four trenches were excavated exposing a mixed modern overburden on top of geological sub-soil.

The stone foundations of two walls were uncovered, most likely to be associated with 19th century buildings. The evaluation established that it was not likely that any significant archaeological deposits were present within the site.

On piece of residual medieval pot was retrieved from the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by WD Harley Architects to carry out an archaeological evaluation of the plot for three new townhouses fronting Millrow, near the historic core of Dunblane (Planning Ref. 15/00439/FUL/GF).

The evaluation was carried out based on a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Headland Archaeology in accordance with a project brief issued by Murray Cook, Archaeological Planning Officer at Stirling Council.

The evaluation was carried out on the 15th May 2017.

This report details the results of the evaluation.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The proposed development site comprises approximately 206m² of land situated between the properties facing onto the High Street and Millrow, Dunblane. The land had previously been the location of a number of single storey garages and backyard area. The site is approximately 60m east of the banks of the River Allan.

The site generally overlies sedimentary rock formed approximately 400 million years ago in the Devonian period. The local environment would have been dominated by rivers. The underlying superficial geology is mainly alluvium (clay, silt and gravels) and river terrace deposits (gravel, sand and silts) formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary

period (British Geological Survey website <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

Millrow lies significantly below the High Street to the east indicating that the High Street was built along the top of a bank above the floodplain while Millrow runs along the back of the floodplain at the foot of the bank.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development lies within the historic core of Dunblane and indeed Mill Row is often argued to be the oldest street in the Burgh, as such it had the potential to contain a series of archaeological deposits relating to Dunblane's 1500 year old history. Given Mill Row's position on the Allan Water's floodplain it is likely that the current ground level has been raised in previous centuries to prevent flooding and that thus the proposed plot may have a depth of archaeological remains that could survive more recent development on the site.

In addition, immediately to the east of the proposed development there appears to be the remains of a 17th century chapel (SNRHE: NN70SE 13; SMR: 381) this raises the possibility that the proposed development contains burials associated with the chapel.

The first edition Ordnance Survey map surveyed in 1862 shows two buildings fronting Millrow at the south-west corner of the site and a small rectangular outbuilding at the south-east corner. Just to the north of this is a flight of steps leading up to the back of houses fronting the High Street. The north-east half of the site comprises a back yard and a garden.

By the time of the second edition OS survey in 1899, the west side of the site is occupied by a row of three buildings fronting Millrow with a back yard to the E. The layout is unchanged at the time of the OS third edition from 1930.

These buildings have since been demolished and replaced by single story garages.

4 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the archaeological evaluation was primarily to establish if any archaeological features or deposits were present within the accessible areas targeted for trenching.

If so, the location, extent, nature and date of such remains would be recorded and their integrity and state of preservation assessed.

5 METHODOLOGY

Four trenches were excavated using a mini-digger with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket. This was not the preferred bucket, but the only one available, and given the nature of the site with heavily disturbed deposits on top of geological subsoil, it was deemed adequate for this site.

The outline of trenches and features as well as levels on the geological sub-strata were recorded using a dGPS and thus linked to national grid.

A full photographic record was kept, using digital photographs. The photographic record is presented in Appendix 1.

6 RESULTS

Most of the site was covered in recently disturbed topsoil up to 0.5m deep. This disturbance is likely to partly be due to the removal of existing buildings on the site and partly caused through the excavation of geotechnical investigation pits.

The site appeared to have been levelled and an exposed section at the north-east corner showed natural subsoil above the level of the site and street to the west.

At the south-east corner of the site bedrock was exposed sloping down towards the west (Illus 2).

The four evaluation trenches all revealed the same stratigraphy: Disturbed stony overburden 0.4 to 0.5m deep overlying geological sub-soil.

The stone foundations of two walls [003] (Illus3) and [004] were exposed 3m apart at either end of Trench 3. The walls were both aligned at a right angle to Millrow. Lenses of crushed mortar were recorded on top both walls although the foundations themselves were not mortared.

A single sherd of medieval pot was retrieved from re-deposited natural subsoil adjacent to wall [003].

7 FINDS ASSESSMENT

By Julie Franklin

The only find recovered was a single sherd (8g) of medieval pottery found in context (003). It is of the local medieval redware fabric which can be dated 13th–15th century (Haggarty et al 2011). The sherd is unglazed and heavily sooted and hence probably represents a cooking pot. As such it is unlikely to be later than the 14th century.

Archive recommendations

The find should be declared to Treasure Trove. However, as a single sherd it is of limited archaeological potential.

8 DISCUSSION

It was clear from the observations of bedrock and natural that there was limited possibility for significant medieval deposits to survive intact within the site. Originally the ground would have sloped significantly to the south-west. The development of buildings along the east side of Mill Row is likely to have involved levelling the site through cutting into the slope at the back. This is indicated by the map evidence. The 1st edition OS survey from 1862 shows steps leading upslope to the east. These steps have been removed and a wall built along the east side of the site by the time of the 2nd edition OS survey carried out in 1899. This is probably the same revetment wall present on the site today.

The two wall foundations exposed in Trench 3, are likely to be associated with the 19th century buildings depicted on the first edition OS maps.

The single sherd of medieval pot was found in re-deposited natural subsoil next to wall foundation [003]. It is likely to be residual and not associated with the structure as lenses of mortar immediately above the foundations indicate that they had supported post-medieval mortared walls.

9 REFERENCES

9.1 Bibliographic sources

Haggarty, G, Hall, D & Chenery, S 2011 *Sourcing Scottish redwares*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 5

9.2 Cartographic sources

1866 Ordnance Survey 1st edition. Perth and Clackmannan Sheet CXXV.15. Survey date: 1862

1900 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition. Perth and Clackmannanshire 125.15. Revised: 1899

1932 Ordnance Survey 3rd edition. Perth and Clackmannanshire 125.15. Surveyed: 1930

10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Trench register

Dimensions	Topsoil Depth (m)	Description
1x1.7m	0.4	Aligned N-S. Mixed demolition layer (001) up to 0.4m deep over geological subsoil (002) red-brown stony sand
0.9x3.1m	0.45	Aligned NNW-SSE. Mixed demolition layer (001) up to 0.45m deep over geological subsoil (002) red-brown stony sand
0.9x4.3m	0.5	Aligned NNW-SSE. Foundation for stone walls [003] and [004] exposed at either end of trench
0.95x3.4m	0.45	Aligned ENE-WSW. Mixed demolition layer (001) up to 0.45m deep over geological subsoil (002) red-brown stony sand

Context register

Context no.	Description
001	Mixed recently disturbed deposit. Stones in dark grey slightly organic sand. Covers the entire site 0.4 to 0.5m deep
002	Geological sub-soil. Reddish brown sand with frequent stones and rounded boulders up to 1.2m across
003	Stone foundations exposed at S end of Trench3. Aligned ENE-WSW. Made from rounded field stones. Not bounded but covered by lenses of demolition mortar
004	Stone foundations exposed at N end of Trench3. Aligned ENE-WSW. Made from rounded field stones. Not bounded but covered by lenses of demolition mortar

Photographic register

Photo No.	Digital file name	Facing	Description
01	MRDS01-01.JPG	NNE	General shot towards N end of area
02	MRDS01-02.JPG	E	General shot of middle section of area
03	MRDS01-03.JPG	NE	General shot towards NE corner of area
04	MRDS01-04.JPG	SE	General shot towards S end of area
05	MRDS01-05.JPG	ESE	General shot across N end of area
06	MRDS01-06.JPG	S	General view of area from the N
07	MRDS01-07.JPG	SSE	General view of area from the N

08	MRDS01-08.JPG	E	Remains of building at SE corner of area
09	MRDS01-09.JPG	NW	Working shot. Trench 2 being excavated
10	MRDS01-10.JPG	NNW	View towards N end of area
11	MRDS01-11.JPG	E	Trench 1. W-facing section
12	MRDS01-12.JPG	E	Trench 2. W-facing section
13	MRDS01-13.JPG	S	General view of Trenches 1 & 2
14	MRDS01-14.JPG	NW	General view of Trenches 1 & 2
15	MRDS01-15.JPG	SSE	Trench 3. N side of wall foundation [003] exposed at S end of trench.
16	MRDS01-16.JPG	NNW	Trench 3. S side of wall foundation [004] exposed at N end of trench.
17	MRDS01-17.JPG	ENE	Trench 3. N end of W-facing section.
18	MRDS01-18.JPG	ENE	Trench 3. W-facing section S of Pic17
19	MRDS01-19.JPG	ENE	Trench 3. W-facing section S of Pic18
20	MRDS01-20.JPG	ENE	Trench 3. W-facing section S of Pic19
21	MRDS01-21.JPG	ENE	Trench 3. S end of W-facing section.
22	MRDS01-22.JPG	NNE	Trench 3. Oblique view of W-facing section.
23	MRDS01-23.JPG	SE	Trench 3. General view
24	MRDS01-24.JPG	SE	Sloping bedrock exposed at SE corner of site
25	MRDS01-25.JPG	SSE	Sloping bedrock and geological subsoil exposed at SE part of site
26	MRDS01-26.JPG	SSE	Sloping bedrock and geological subsoil exposed at SE part of site
27	MRDS01-27.JPG	WSW	Trench 4. General view
28	MRDS01-28.JPG	S	Trench 4. N-facing section
29	MRDS01-29.JPG	ENE	Trench 4. General view

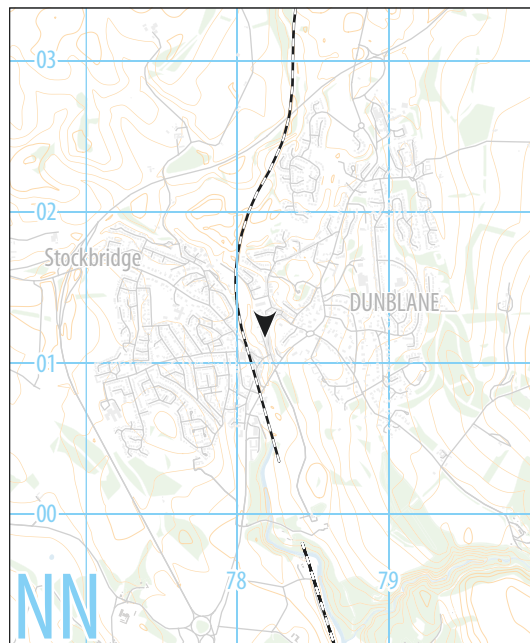
10.2 Appendix 2 – Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Millrow, Dunblane, Stirling
PROJECT CODE:	MRDS17
PARISH:	Dunblane and Lecropt
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Magnar Dalland
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NN 78180 01165
START DATE (this season)	15/05/2017
END DATE (this season)	15/05/2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the plot for three new townhouses on the east side of Millrow, Dunblane. Four trenches were excavated exposing a mixed modern overburden on top of geological sub-soil.</p> <p>The stone foundations of two walls were uncovered most likely to be associated with 19th century buildings. The evaluation established that it was not likely that any significant archaeological deposits were present within the site.</p> <p>On piece of residual medieval pot was retrieved from the site.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	WD Harley Architects
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Magnar.dalland@headlandarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	HES

MRDS/01
 Millrow
 Dunblane
 Stirling

0 200km
 1:10,000,000 @ A4

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0 10m
 1:500 @ A4

development boundary
 trench location

HEADLAND
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SCOTLAND

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ILLUS 1 Site location



ILLUS 2 Sloping bedrock and geological subsoil exposed at SE part of site, facing SSE **ILLUS 3** North side of wall foundation [003] exposed at S end of Trench 3, facing SSE