

VISUAL INSPECTION
FORMER CALEY INN, MUIRTOWN LOCKS,
INVERNESS

Appendix B
Trial Holes

Introduction

Gunn MacPhee and Associates Ltd, Consulting Engineers were asked, as part of their commission for a visual assessment of the property and structures adjacent to the former Caley Inn, Muirtown Locks, Inverness, to make an assessment of the ground conditions adjacent to the Caley Inn property.

To aid this assessment a trial hole approximately 600mm x 600mm x 600mm deep was excavated by hand by others on Tuesday 09th June 2009. The position of the excavation was beneath the proposed conservatory and balcony extension. The inspection took place in the early evening of the same date. Photographs are attached as part of this report.

Findings

- Weather conditions on the day were dry and sunny.
- The following materials were found in the trial hole;
 - Black top-soil material with signs of vegetation roots, 300mm thick.
 - Light brown coarse / medium grained sand interspersed with rounded gravel 25mm – 50mm diameter.
 - No groundwater in excavation.
- Base of excavation was firm underfoot.

Comment

- The former Caley Inn was built adjacent to the bottom (north) lock gate at Muirtown Locks.
- Given that the tow path in the area is approximately 3 metres above the adjacent retail car park on the other side of the retaining wall it is very likely that the former Caley Inn has been constructed on free draining up-fill material used to construct the Caledonian Canal embankments.
- The material found in the trial hole was consistent with the make up of free draining material.
- While no geotechnical tests were undertaken on site, the ground under the proposed house extensions should have the capacity to safely support a domestically loaded floor slab, conservatory and balcony.



Photograph No 1
Trial Hole 600mm x 600mm x 600mm deep
300mm black top soil underlain with light brown medium coarse sand
interspersed with rounded gravel sized 25mm to 50mm



Photograph No 2
Trial Hole 600mm x 600mm x 600mm deep
300mm black top soil underlain with light brown medium coarse sand
interspersed with rounded gravel sized 25mm to 50mm



Photograph No 3
Spoil From Trial Hole
Showing black top soil and light brown medium coarse sand interspersed
with rounded gravel sized 25mm to 50mm



Photograph No 4
Pipes Through / Under Building Foundation

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