



Press Release

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Tesco Linwood Development

Tesco has today announced that their flagship regeneration project in Linwood will face delays after an unexpected discovery. While carrying out early investigations at the Linwood site a long forgotten family burial vault containing four coffins was uncovered under layers of concrete – where it is believed a church stood prior to being demolished and built over sometime in the 1970s. Since making this discovery Tesco have been carrying out lengthy investigations to help trace the family's relatives with the expert help of a genealogist.

The discovery includes four lead lined coffins bearing inscriptions dating from around 1850, details which have helped the company identify the family and their relatives. Tesco have been in private discussions with the family to organise for the remains to be disinterred and relatives have yet to decide finally on new funeral arrangements for their relatives.

Tesco has started this process with the family's consent and is working with Renfrewshire Council to ensure this is carried out in a respectful and lawful manner. To fulfill the family's wishes Tesco now have to gain consent from the Court to move the coffins to a new resting place, which is to be decided on.

Commenting on this, Tesco Corporate Affairs Manager, Jennifer Duncan, said:

“Our team were stunned to make this discovery in Linwood. We wrote to the family members first because we did think this would be a bit of a shock and since then, have spent time with the relatives making sure we respect their wishes in handling this.

“This is a very sensitive matter and we respect the family's wishes for privacy.

“We are still committed fully to delivering the Linwood redevelopment, as it will be a flagship regeneration project for us in the UK, but for the time being our commitment must be to the family and to delivering their wishes.”



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A spokesman for the family said:

“It came as a shock when we received a letter from Tesco telling us about what they had found in Linwood. Our family moved away from Linwood many generations ago, so this news was certainly unexpected.

“We are pleased that Tesco contacted us and appreciate the sympathetic way they have handled this sensitive matter.

“We hope to soon have a more fitting resting place for our ancestors.”

-Ends-

Notes for editors

- On 11 December 2008 Renfrewshire Council's Planning and Economic Development Policy Board voted to approve an application by Tesco to redevelop the Linwood Shopping Centre and surrounding land.
- As part of the statutory planning process the application was notified to Scottish Government Ministers and in March 2009 the decision was made not to call it in.

The Linwood Regeneration Project includes:

- New Tesco store
 - Library
 - Community Centre
 - NHS Health centre
 - New Police Office
 - Range smaller Retail units
- Tesco's plans for Linwood and proposals for a new store at Wallneuk, Paisley will create over 1,000 new jobs in Renfrewshire.
 - Tesco have committed to recruiting 50% of staff at Linwood and Wallneuk from those who have been out work for 6 months or more through their award winning Regeneration Partnership Training Scheme, which guarantees a job on completion of a training course.