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Abbey Walk St Andrews Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 1564

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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Grid Ref	NO 5125 1626

This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd
standard operating procedures.

**Abbey Walk
St Andrews
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Report No. 2091

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Fig. 1 Location map

Fig. 2 Area immediately to the north of the tennis court

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in June 2012 at Abbey Walk, St Andrews (NGR: NO 5125 1626 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the project was produced by CFA. The WSI was based upon documents provided by the Fife Council Archaeologist.

1.2 Background

Planning permission (REF: 10/03316/FULL) has been granted for a residential development at Abbey Walk, St Andrews. The planning consent was subject to a condition requiring a programme of archaeological work to be undertaken during the redevelopment.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) to monitor all groundbreaking works
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording and produce a report on them.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.

2.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

The terms of the WSI required an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) to monitor all ground breaking works.

Excavation was undertaken with a smooth edged ditching bucket.

All discoveries including soil profiles and subsoil characteristics were recorded using standard CFA recording forms and digital photography.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

An area of approximately 0.23ha area was monitored during the ground breaking works, which consisted of a former tennis court and a small adjoining area immediately to the north of the tennis court.

To the north of the tennis court, the ground had been landscaped and terraced to form a footpath, on either side of which were modern concrete drainage channels and a brick built retaining wall. These were removed as part of the works.

The astro-turf surface of the tennis court was removed and below this was a layer of tar and hardcore. Underneath this was the natural geology which comprised of orange-brown clay. A single field drain was recorded.

To the north of the tennis court, topsoil was 0.5m thick and lay directly over the natural clay. Substantial disturbance from tree roots was noted. Field drains running north-south were exposed.

4. CONCLUSION

No archaeological features or finds were found during the watching brief. It appears that the area was heavily truncated during the construction of the tennis court and landscaping of the area.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the Fife Council Sites and Monuments Record.

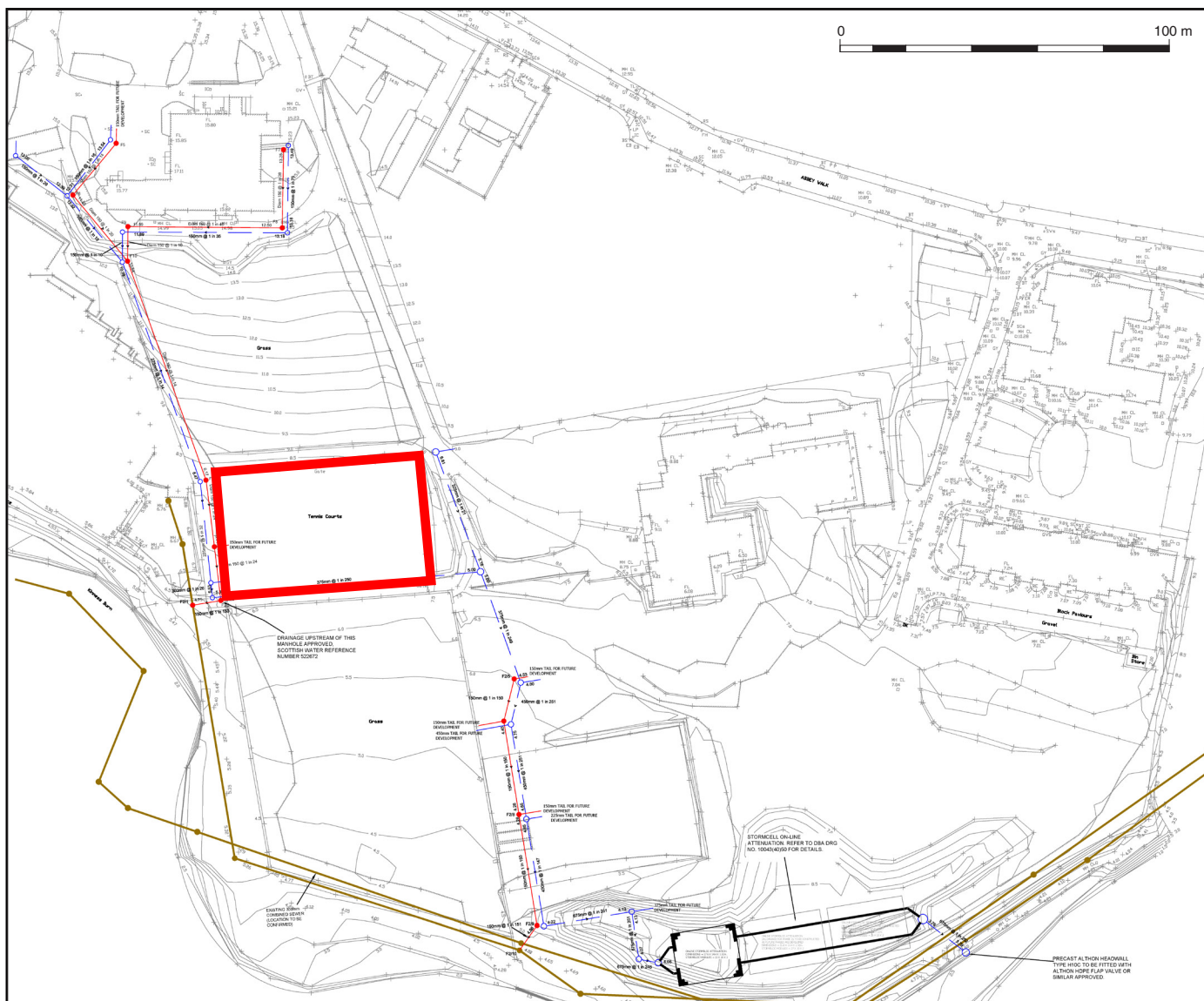
A summary statement of the results of this programme of works will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2) and the project will be reported on in OASIS Scotland.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register (Digital)

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	Modern drainage channel to north of former tennis court (NE corner)	S	Sunny
2	Modern drainage channel to north of former tennis court (NW corner)	S	Sunny
3	General view of excavated area	W	Sunny
4	Brick built terrace to N of former tennis court	S	Sunny
5	Area immediately to the north of the tennis court	E	Sunny

APPENDIX 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Abbey Walk, St Andrews
PROJECT CODE:	STAR 3
PARISH:	St Andrews
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	James Lewis
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NO 5125 1626
START DATE (this season)	18th June 2012
END DATE (this season)	20th June 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground breaking works for a new development at Abbey Walk, St Andrews. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded. It appears that the area monitored was heavily truncated during the construction of a former tennis court and landscaping of the area.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record of Scotland Fife Council Sites and Monuments Record



Key:



Site boundary



Fig. No:

1

Revision:

A

Client:

McCarthy and Stone
Retirement Lifestyles Ltd

Title:

Site Location

Project:

Abbey Walk, St Andrews



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Scale at A4: 1:2000

Drawn by:

SW

Checked:


MJ

Report No:

2091



Fig. 2 - Area immediately to the north of the tennis court

Fig. No: 2		Revision: A	Project: Abbey Walk, St Andrews
Drawn by: SW	Checked: MJ	Report No: 2091	Client: McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd
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