



St Andrews West Link Road Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report Project 4897

St Andrews West Link Road Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

On behalf of: St Andrews West LLP

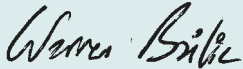
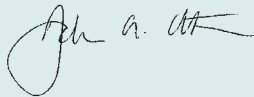
NGR: NO 4942 1673 (centred)

Project Number: 4897

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*This document has been prepared in accordance
with GUARD Archaeology Limited standard operating procedures.*

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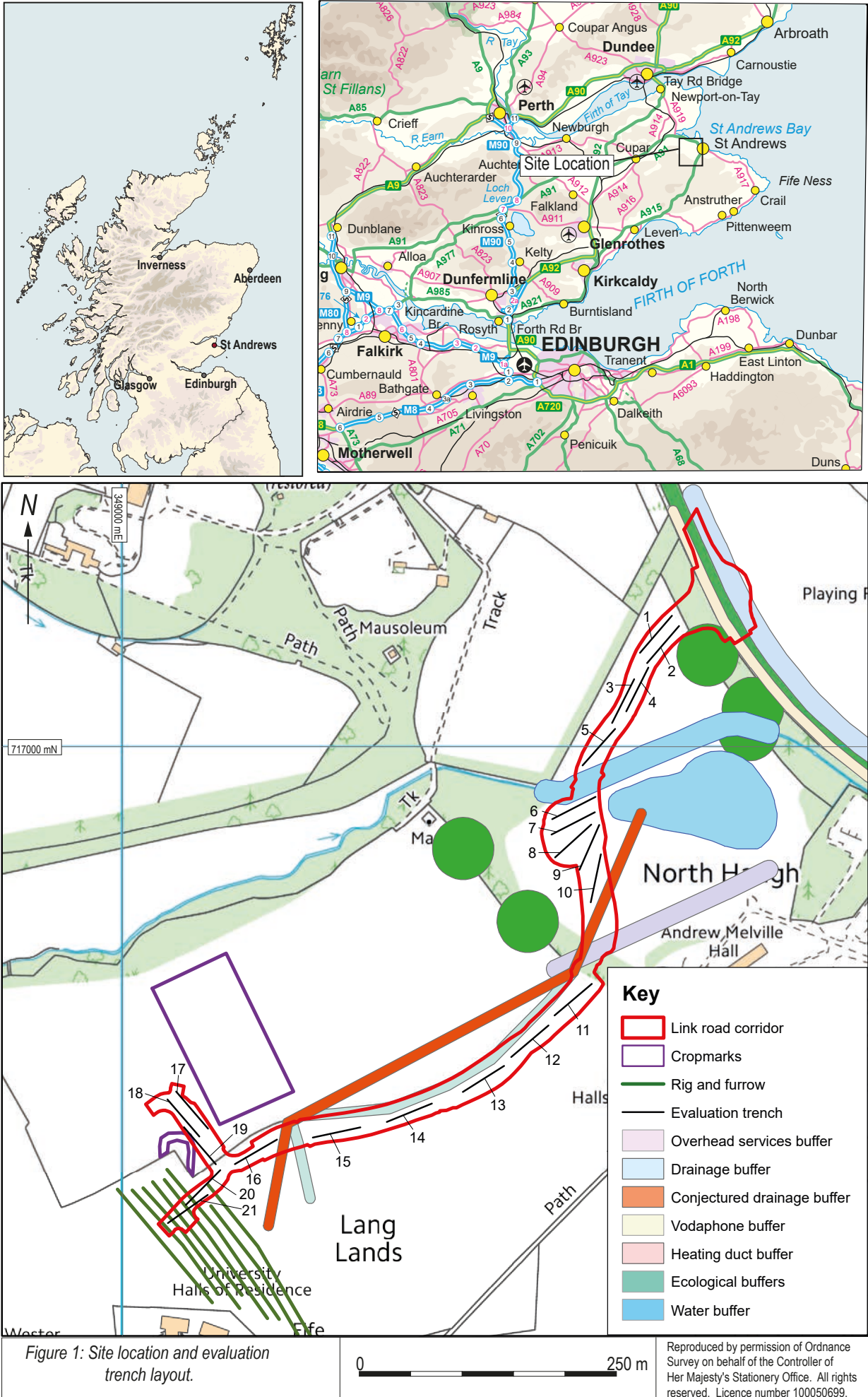
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Executive Summary

- 1.1 GUARD Archaeology Limited carried out an archaeological evaluation on behalf of St Andrews West LLP on an area proposed for the construction of a link road between the A90 and the St Andrews West PPP development area. The trial trench evaluation comprised 10% of the total 21,000 m² area available for evaluation. The evaluation encountered two archaeological features across two trenches with the remaining trenches encountering no archaeology. The work was undertaken between 2nd and 11th October 2018.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in order to discharge Condition 14 of planning consent (Planning Reference 17/03467/FULL).

Introduction

- 2.1 This report sets out the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by GUARD Archaeology, on behalf of St Andrews West LLP on a site proposed for the construction of a link road and associated works at St Andrews West Link Road, St Andrews, Fife. During the evaluation a total of 2,100 m² of trenching was undertaken, spread over 21 individual trenches arranged to target known or suspected archaeological features across the site.

Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 3.1 The development area is located to the west of St Andrews, Fife (centred at NGR: NO 4942 1673). The development area comprises 10.07 ha, and includes four agricultural fields and land at North Haugh (Figure 1). The development area is bounded to the north by the A90 road and to the west by Strathtyrum Estate and agricultural fields. Agricultural fields also lie to the south and east of the site.
- 3.2 The steeply sloping ground between North Haugh and Lang Lands was excluded from the trial trench evaluation.
- 3.3 The bedrock over the site is Pittenweem Formation - Sedimentary Rock Cycles, Strathclyde Group Type, a sedimentary rock type that formed approximately 331 to 337 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period when the local environment was dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas. The superficial deposits at North Haugh are Raised Marine Deposits of Holocene Age comprising sand and gravel. On the escarpment, the superficial deposits are Raised Marine Deposits, Devensian comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel. These deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was dominated by shallow seas (British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain Viewer).

Archaeological Background

- 4.1 There are three known cultural heritage sites within the St Andrews Link Road development, as identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment (Rennie 2018).
- 4.2 A block of broad, sinuous rig and furrow cultivation remains has been recorded as soil marks on oblique aerial photography (NRHE NO41NE 114; HER MFF10893). The visible extent of the rig and furrow is noted on Figure 1.
- 4.3 Inspection of vertical aerial photographs revealed the cropmark of what appears to be a double-ditched curvilinear enclosure (Sortie: ASS/60789; Frames 0103-04). The cropmark has the morphology of a later prehistoric enclosed settlement that could contain one or more dwellings.
- 4.4 Prehistoric or Pictish remains within the wider area around the St Andrews Link Road development are pits and a possible square barrow (NRHE NO41NE 70).

Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to identify:

- the extent, nature and, if possible, the date of known archaeological features within the development area, and
- as yet unknown archaeological features and deposits within the development area.

5.2 The objectives were to:

- conduct an archaeological evaluation within the development area to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains, and their character, date and extent if surviving, and
- Submit a report to data structure level for agreement of the Fife Council Archaeologist (FCA) on completion of the archaeological fieldwork, which includes an outline of the scope of any further excavation works should any significant archaeology be encountered.

Methodology

6.1 All work was conducted in line with the following standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA):

- *Code of conduct* (2014);
- *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014), and
- *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (2014).

Recording of Rig and Furrow

6.2 The remains of any rig and furrow located within evaluation trenches were recorded by digital photography, written description and were included in a section drawing at a scale of 1:10.

6.3 Archaeological Evaluation

6.4 The location of the possible double-ditched enclosure was photographed and briefly described prior to the commencement of ground-breaking works.

6.5 A series of 21 trenches measuring 50 m in length and 2 m in width, were marked on the ground by the on-site engineer using GPS survey equipment to ensure that the location of each trench adheres to the trench plan (Figure 1). The trenches were machine excavated under archaeological supervision at regular intervals across the development area.

6.6 The topsoil at each trench location was removed in spits to the first archaeological horizon or, where none was found, to the natural subsoil. Any archaeological features encountered were cleaned by hand by the on-site Archaeologist to determine their character and extent.

6.7 All on-site recording, written, drawn and photographic, was to the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) that normally pertaining in archaeological fieldwork.

Results

7.1 Over the site, the topsoil (001) was loose dark brown silty sand with plant roots that varied in thickness from 0.2 m to 0.4 m.

7.2 The subsoil varied in composition from firm, grey/brown clay-silt (002) to loose, light brown sand (003) and firmly compacted red/light brown clayish silt (005).

7.3 At North Haugh, a circular posthole (602) uncovered in Trench 6 was 0.4 m in diameter and 0.2 m deep. Its fill (601) was loose mid brown to grey silty clay that had inclusions of angular sandstone and possible organic material.

- 7.4 A deposit containing what appeared to be shells and coal was uncovered in Trench 11. The deposit (1101) was approximately 0.2 m thick and sat within firmly compacted red/brown clayish silt subsoil 005.



Plate 1: North-east facing section of posthole 602 in Trench 6.



Plate 2: Shell and coal (1101) within subsoil 005 in Trench 11.

- 7.5 Although the trenches specifically targeted the rig and furrow and possible prehistoric double-ditched enclosure, neither of these features was located in the trenches.
- 7.6 Two archaeological features were encountered in two trenches, Trenches 6 and 11; no archaeology was encountered in any of the other 19 trenches.

Discussion

- 8.1 The evaluation trenching uncovered one posthole on the low-lying ground at North Haugh (Trench 6) and a deposit containing shell and coal on the higher ground of the escarpment (Trench 11).
- 8.2 The posthole (602) was located fairly close to the Swilken Burn and was about 5 m south of a possible palaeochannel that may represent an earlier course of the burn. The date of the posthole could not be established.
- 8.3 The shell and coal deposit (1101) in Trench 11 may represent human activity but, from the available evidence, it is not possible to establish the date and extent of this activity.

Recommendations

- 9.1 The evaluation work has demonstrated that there are two archaeological features within the development area. Having consulted with the Fife Council Archaeologist, no further archaeological works will be required in relation to these features. This evaluation therefore completes all necessary archaeological works to satisfy planning condition 14 (Planning Reference: 17/03467/FULL).
- 9.2 GUARD Archaeology Limited would stress that the final decision on the requirement for further archaeological work rests with the planning authority.

Acknowledgements

- 10.1 GUARD Archaeology Limited would like to thank St Andrews West LLP, and in particular David Wardrop, for commissioning us to carry out the evaluation and for their assistance before and during the fieldwork. Plant and drivers were supplied by Realm. Technical support was from Clark Innes. The illustrations were produced by Jennifer Simonson. The report was desk top published by Gillian Sneddon. The project was managed for GUARD Archaeology Limited by Warren Bailie.

Technical Information

- 11.1 The paper and digital archive for the archaeological evaluation will be lodged with the National Record of the Historic Environment. The list of archive material can be found at Appendix B.
- 11.2 All elements of the assessment have been undertaken in line with the following policies and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists of which GUARD Archaeology Ltd is a Registered Organisation.
- *Code of Conduct (2014), and*
 - *Standard and Guidance for Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2014).*
- 11.3 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists requires that information pertaining to archaeological fieldwork is made publicly available via the OASIS project. The project aims to provide an on-line index to otherwise inaccessible archaeological grey literature, such as this data structure

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Section 2: Appendices



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report. The online OASIS form for this project (OASIS Reference: guardarc1-332005) has been completed. Once this report has been agreed by the Fife Council Archaeologist, and with the consent of St Andrews West LLP, the report will be uploaded to OASIS. The Fife Council Archaeologist will then validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain. OASIS can be accessed at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>

Appendices

Appendix A: References

British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain viewer. Available at <https://www.bgs.ac.uk>

National Record of the Historic Environment. Available at <https://pastmap.org.uk>

Appendix B: GUARD Archaeology Archive Material

	Description	Format	Number
Paper archive	Context sheet	A4 card	8 sheets
	Photographic record	A4 card	5 sheets
	Samples	A4 card	1 sheet
	Trench record sheet	A4 card	23 sheets
	Site daybook	A4 paper	1 sheet
Digital archive	Digital photographs	JPEG	106
	Data Structure Report	PDF	1
	AutoCAD files	.dwg	1

Appendix C: List of contexts

Context No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
001	A, B	Topsoil. Dark brown silty sand. Loose, root inclusions. 0.30-1.10m. Machine excavated.	
002	A, B	Intermediate deposit. Mid brown clayey/silt. Loose compaction. 0.30-0.70m.	
003	A, B	Subsoil. Light brown sand/silty sand. Loose compaction. Not excavated. Machine excavated.	
004	A, B	Subsoil. Grey/mid brown clayey sand, clayey silt. Firm compaction. Machine excavated.	
005	A, B	Subsoil. Light brown/reddish clayey silt. Firm compaction. Not excavated. Machine excavated.	
601		Fill of pit. Mid brown/grey silty clay. Loose, two medium angular sandstones and possible organic material (wood?) inclusions. 0.20m deep, 0.40x0.40m. Machine/hand excavated.	Fill of posthole 602
602		Cut of possible posthole. 0.40m long, 0.40m wide, 0.20m deep. Circular. Concave shape. Circular base. Filled by 601.	Cut of possible posthole.
1101		Fill deposit. Mid brown/reddish clayey silt. Firm compaction, charcoal, shells, authophic maleze? Inclusions. 0.20m depth excavated, 1mx0.45m (not excavated completely). Machine/hand excavated.	Shell and coal in subsoil 005.

Appendix D: List of trenches

Tr No	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Topsoil/Overburden	Subsoil	Details
T01	40	2	0.2	001. 0.20m depth. Loose. Dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	003. Not excavated. Loose. Light brown sand.	
T02	40	2	0.3	001. 0.30m depth. Loose. Dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	003. Not excavated. Loose. Light brown sand.	
T03	40	2	0.4	001. 0.40m depth. Loose. Dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	003. Not excavated. Loose. Light brown sand.	3 ceramic field drains

Tr No	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Topsoil/Overburden	Subsoil	Details
T04	40	2	0.30/0.70	001. 0.30m depth. Loose. Dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	004. Not excavated. Firm. Grey/mid brown clayey sand. Natural.	Deposit 002. 0.40/0.70m. Firm, mid brown/grey clayey silt. Roots. Deposit 003. Not excavated. Loose, light brown sand. 2 drains.
T05	40	2	0.8	001. 0.20m depth. Loose. Dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	004. Not excavated. Firm. Grey/mid brown clayey sand. Natural.	Deposit 002. 0.60m depth. Loose, mid brown clayey silt. 1 drain.
T06	40	1.5	1	001. 0.30m depth. Loose. Dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	003. Not excavated. Loose. Light brown sand.	Deposit 002. 0.70/1.00m. Firm, mid brown silty sand.
T07	40	1.5	0.9	001. 0.30m depth. Loose. Dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	004. Not excavated. Firm. Grey/mid brown silty clay.	Deposit 002. 0.60/0.90m. Firm, mid brown silty sand. Deposit 003. Not excavated. Loose, light brown sand. Subsoil.
T08	40	2.5	0.7	001. 0.30m depth. Loose. Dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	004. Firm, light brown/greyish clayey silt.	Deposit 002. 0.40/0.70m. Firm, mid brown silty sand.
T09	40	2.5	0.6	001. 0.30m depth. Loose. Dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	004. Not excavated. Firm, mid brown/grey clayey silt.	Deposit 002. 0.30m depth. Firm, mid brown silty sand. Deposit 003. Not excavated. Loose, light brown sand. Subsoil.
T10	40	2.5	0.6	001. 0.30m depth. Loose. Dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	004. Not excavated. Firm, mid brown/grey clayey silt.	Deposit 002. 0.30m depth. Firm, mid brown silty sand. Deposit 003. Not excavated. Loose, light brown sand. Subsoil.
T11	40	1.5	0.4	001. 0.40m depth. Loose. Dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	005. Not excavated. Firm, mid brown/reddish clayey silt.	Was recorded as a shell deposit (1101) see context. 4 drains.
T12	40	1.5	0.2	001. 0.20m depth. Loose. Dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	005. Not excavated. Firm, mid brown/reddish clayey silt.	
T13	40	1.5	0.40/1.20	001. 0.40-1.20m. Loose, dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	005. Not excavated. Firm, mid brown/reddish clayey silt.	2 drains.
T14	40	1.5	1	001. 1m depth. Loose, dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	005. Not excavated. Firm, mid brown/reddish clayey silt.	
T15	40	1.5	0.20/1.20	001. 0.20-1.20m. Loose, dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	005. Not excavated. Firm, mid brown/reddish clayey silt.	3 drains.
T16	40	1.5	0.30/0.40	001. 0.30/0.40m. Loose, dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	003. Not excavated. Loose. Light brown sand.	Deposit 005. Not excavated. Firm, light brown/reddish clayey silt.
T17	40	1.5	0.4	001. 0.40m depth. Loose. Dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	003. Not excavated. Loose. Light brown sand.	
T18	40	2		001. 0.40m depth. Loose. Dark brown silty sand.	003. Not excavated. Loose. Light brown sand.	
T19	40	1.3	0.7	001. 0.70m depth. Loose, dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	003. Not excavated. Loose. Light brown sand.	
T20	40	1.5	0.30/0.40	001. 0.30/0.40m. Loose, dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	005. Not excavated. Firm, mid brown/reddish clayey silt.	
T21	40	1.5	0.4	001. 0.40m depth. Loose, dark brown silty sand. Root inclusions.	003. Not excavated. Firm. Light brown sand.	

Appendix E: List of photographs

File No.	1			
Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
1			ID Shot	
2			General view of Trench 6 location	
3			Trench 6 ID shot	NE
4			General view of Trench 6 location	NE
5		001, 002	Details of drains	NE
6		004	Shot of paleochannel (004)	NE
7		601/602	Mid excavation view of posthole	-
8		601/602	North-east facing section of posthole	NE
9		003/004	Post-excavation view of Trench 6	SW
10		001, 002	south facing section of Trench 6	S
11			Trench 6 ID shot	
12			General view of Trench 7 location	SW
13		001, 002	West facing section of Trench 7	W
14		003	Post-excavation view of Trench 7	SW
15			Trench 8 ID shot	
16			General view of Trench 8 location	SW
17		001, 002	South facing section of Trench 8	S
18		003/004	Post-excavation view of Trench 8	SW
19			Trench 9 ID shot	
20			General view of Trench 9 location	SW
21		001, 002	South facing section of Trench 9	S
22			Post-excavation view of Trench 9	SW
23			Trench 10 ID shot	
24			General view of Trench 10 location	NE
25		001, 002	South facing section of Trench 10	S
26		003	Post-excavation view of Trench 10	SW
27			General view of escarpment area	NE
28			General view of escarpment area	N
29			Trench 11 ID shot	
30			General view of Trench 11 location	SW
31		001	East facing section of Trench 11	E
32		(1101)(005)	Shell deposit in Trench 11	NE
33		(1101)(005)	Shell deposit in Trench 11	NW
34		005	Linear features in Trench 11	SW
35		003	Linear features in Trench 11	NE
36		005	Post-excavation view of Trench 11	SW
37			Modern material (glass and pottery) located in linear features fill.	
38			Trench 12 ID shot	
39			General view of Trench 12 location	SW
40		001	North-east facing section of Trench 12	NE
41		005	Post-excavation view of Trench 12	SW
42			Trench 13 ID shot	
43			General view of Trench 13 location	NE
44			Detail of plastic drain in Trench 13	NE
45			North-east facing section of Trench 13	NE
46			Post-excavation view of Trench 13	SW
47	T11	1101	SW facing section of slot trough shell deposit 1101	SW
48	T11	1101	NE facing section of slot trough shell deposit 1101	NE
49		1101	Post-excavation view of slot through shell deposit 1101	NW
50		1101	Post-excavation view of slot through shell deposit 1101	S
51	-	-	Trench 14 ID shot	-
52	-	-	General view of Trench 14 location	-
53	-	001	South-east facing section of Trench 14	SE
54	-	005	Post-excavation view of Trench 14	SW

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
55	-	-	Trench 15 ID shot	-
56	-	-	General view of Trench 15 location	NE
57	-	003	South-west facing section of Trench 15	SW
58	-	001	Post-excavation view of Trench 15	SE
59	-	-	Trench 19 ID shot	-
60	-	-	General view of Trench 19 location	NE
61	-	001	East facing section of Trench 19	E
62	-	003	Post-excavation view of Trench 19	SE
63	-	-	Trench 18 ID shot	-
64	-	-	General view of Trench 18 location	NW
65	-	001	East facing section of Trench 18	E
66	-	003	Post-excavation view of Trench 18	SE
File No.	2			
1	-	-	ID shot	-
2	-	-	General shot of area	SW
3	-	-	Trench 1 ID shot	-
4	-	-	General view of Trench 1 location	-
5	-	001	North facing section of Trench 1	N
6	-	003	Post-excavation view of Trench 1	SW
7	-	-	Trench 2 ID shot	-
8	-	-	General view of Trench 2 location	N
9	-	001	North-west facing section of Trench 2	NW
10	-	003	Post-excavation view of Trench 2	SW
11	-	-	Trench 3 ID shot	-
12	-	-	General view of Trench 3 location	NE
13	-	001	North facing section of Trench 3	N
14	-	003	Post-excavation view of Trench 3	SW
15	-	-	Trench 5 ID shot	-
16	-	-	General view of Trench 5 location	NE
17	-	001/002	North facing section of Trench 5	N
18	-	004	Post-excavation view of Trench 5	NE
19	-	-	Trench 4 ID shot	-
20	-	-	General view of Trench 4 location	NE
21	-	001	West facing section of Trench 4	W
22	-	004	Post-excavation view of Trench 4	NE
23	-	-	Trench 21 ID shot	-
24	-	-	General view of Trench 21 location	SW
25	-	001	North-west facing section of Trench 21	NW
26	-	003	Detail of plough scores in Trench 21	NW
27	B	-	Post-excavation view of Trench 21	NE
28	-	-	Trench 20 ID shot	-
29	-	-	General view of Trench 20 location	SW
30	-	001/005	Detail of drain in Trench 20	N
31	-	001	North-west facing section of Trench 20	NW
32	-	005	Post-excavation view of Trench 20	NE
33	-	-	Trench 16 ID shot	-
34	-	-	General view of Trench 16 location	SW
35	-	001	North-west facing section of Trench 16	NW

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
36	-	003/005	Post-excavation view of Trench 16	NE
37	-	-	Trench 17 ID shot	-
38	-	-	General view of Trench 17 location	SE
39	-	001	North-east facing section of Trench 17	NE
40	-	003	Post-excavation view of Trench 17	NW

Appendix F: Discovery and Excavation Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	St Andrews West Link Road: Archaeological Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	4897
PARISH:	St Andrews and St Leonards
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Christine Rennie & Eduardo Pérez-Fernández
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	GUARD Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-n/a
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 494 167
START DATE (this season)	2 nd October 2018
END DATE (this season)	11 th October 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	In response to a planning condition applied by Fife Council, GUARD Archaeology Limited carried out an evaluation of an area proposed for the construction of a road linking the A90 to a development at St Andrews West. The trial trench evaluation of 10% of the total area uncovered one posthole and a deposit that included coal and shell.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	St Andrews West LLP
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	GUARD Archaeology Ltd, 52 Elderpark Workspace, Glasgow, G51 3TR
EMAIL ADDRESS:	bob.will@guard-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION	NRHE (intended)

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