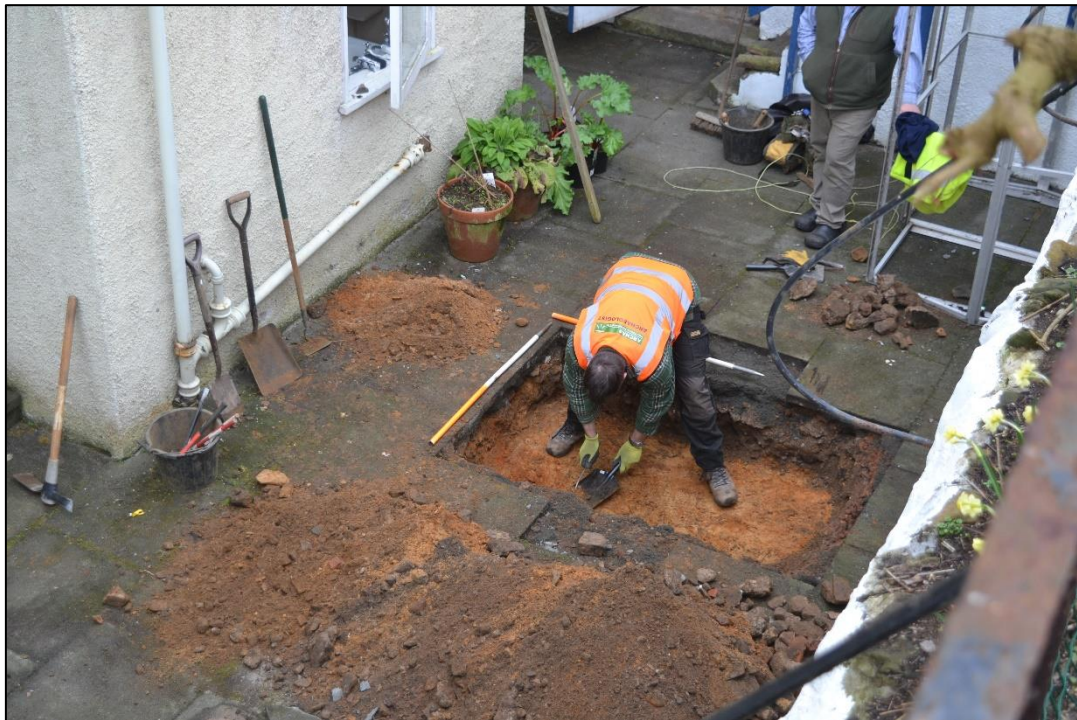


**14-15 East Shore,
Pittenweem,
Fife**

**Archaeological Evaluation
Written Scheme of Investigation**







April 2017

Document control sheet

Client: Pink Architects
 Project: 14-15 East Shore Pittenweem
 Document Title: Archaeological Evaluation DSR

Job No: 269

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DATE 05/04/17	SIGNATURE 	SIGNATURE 	SIGNATURE 	SIGNATURE 
Document Status: FINAL				

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Executive Summary

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were contracted by Mr Mark Morrison of Pink Architects to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed redevelopment of an existing property at 14-15 East Shore in Pittenweem, Fife. The property is to be redeveloped to form a restaurant, with an extension constructed in a courtyard to the rear of the property

The archaeological works followed the placement of a planning condition upon the proposed development by Fife Council. The condition required that a programme of archaeological evaluation be completed in advance of the proposed development.

The archaeological evaluation involved the excavation of 1 small evaluation trench within the footprint of the proposed extension. Deposits of made ground were removed to reveal a surface of natural subsoil. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were noted and it seems likely the site was heavily disturbed in the 19th century.

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd recommend that the planning condition be discharged.

A record of the work has been deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS ID archascu1-281232) and with Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland.

1 Introduction

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd (hereafter ARCHAS) were commissioned by Pink Architects (contact Mark Morrison) to undertake archaeological mitigation in advance of the proposed development of a restaurant at 14-15 East Shore in Pittenweem, Fife (NGR: NO 54871 02501 centred). The development comprises the refurbishment of existing structures, but also the construction of a small extension at the rear of the property.
- 1.1.2 The site was identified by the Fife Council Archaeology Officer as being located in an area of archaeological potential. Through Planning Condition 3 of Planning Application 16/04159/FULL, Fife Council requested that a programme of archaeological investigation be carried out prior to development. The condition states:
- ' Before works commence in respect of this permission, the developer shall secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a detailed written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the developer and approved in writing by this Planning Authority...'¹*
- 1.1.3 Following discussions with the Fife Council Archaeology Officer² it was agreed that an archaeological evaluation would be required across the footprint of the proposed extension to the rear of the property. This would comprise one small trench designed to assess the presence or absence of archaeological deposits.
- 1.1.4 Subsequently, ARCHAS produced a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (hereafter WSI) outlining the methodology to be followed and standards maintained during the work. This WSI was accepted by the Fife Council Archaeology Officer on 28th March 2017.
- 1.1.5 The archaeological evaluation was completed on Wednesday 29th March 2017 by Ross Cameron and Alastair Rees. The day was foggy and overcast, with occasional light rain showers.
- 1.1.6 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd. conform to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (hereafter ClfA) Code of conduct, and relevant Standards and Guidance documents.

¹ Fife Council, 16/04159/FULL Decision Notice – 08/03/17

² Douglas Speirs *pers. comm.* – 15/03/17

1.2 Site Location and Setting

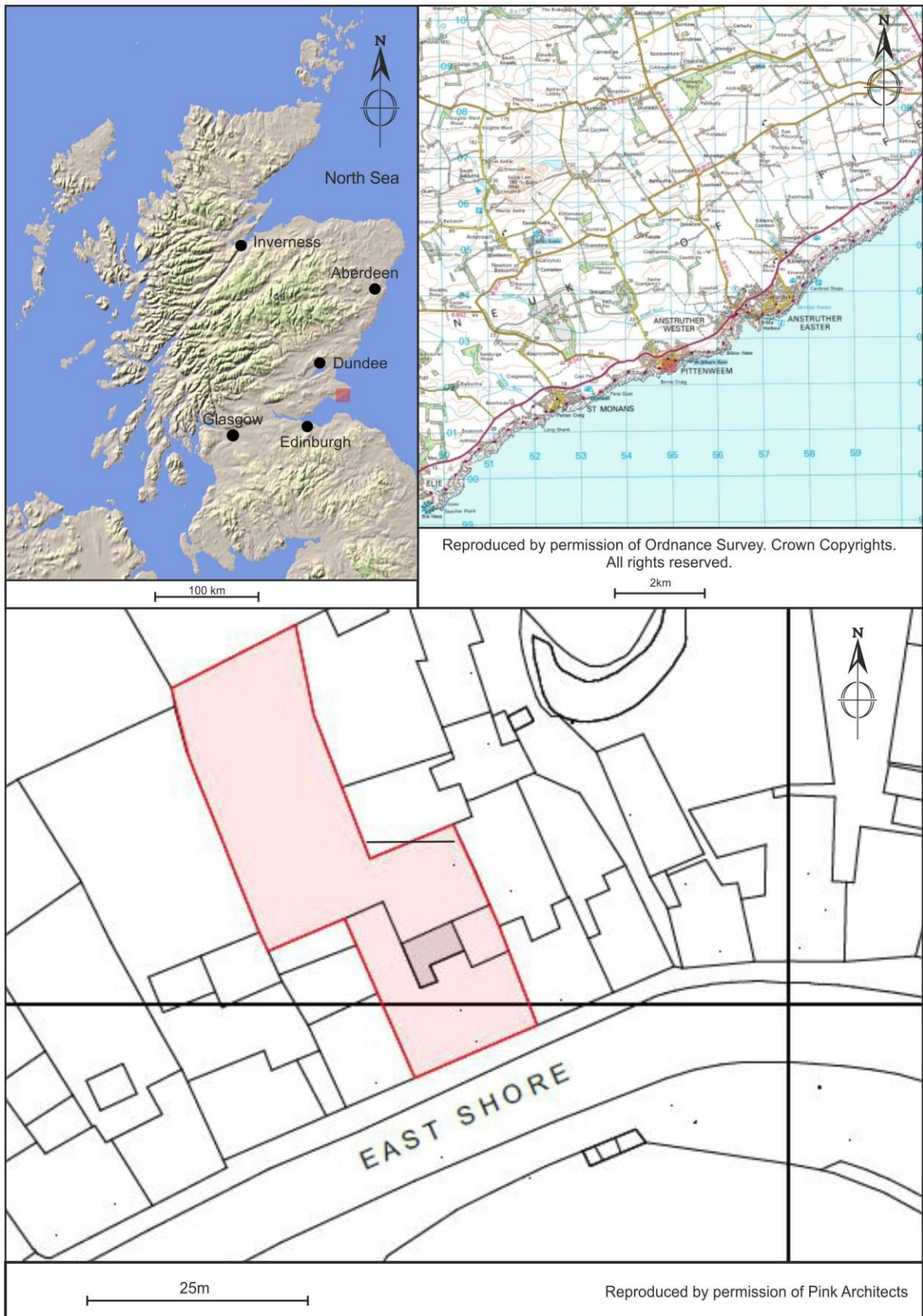


Figure 1: Site location indicated red

General

- 1.2.1 The proposed development is located in the historic core of Pittenweem, a fishing village on the East Neuk of Fife (Figure 1). The site lies at NGR: NO 54871 02501 (centred), to the rear of 14-15 East Shore, the street that fronts onto Pittenweem harbour (Plate 1).



Plate 1: Looking east along East Shore, with the proposed development site at 14-15 East Shore visible as the three storey building on the left of the image (Photograph 007)

Study Area

- 1.2.2 The Area proposed for the extension lies to the rear of 14-15 East Shore and is currently a small courtyard formed by the existing buildings to the west and south, a boundary wall to the east and a steep fourth wall to the north which divides the proposed development area from the rest of the garden plot.
- 1.2.3 The courtyard lies at street level, but is significantly sunken in comparison to the area to the North, with the ground surface 3m above the courtyard surface accessed by a set of stairs from the courtyard
- 1.2.4 The site is accessed through large doors fronting onto the East Shore.

Geology

- 1.2.5 The drift geology of the proposed development comprises Raised Marine Deposits, Devensian – Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel. These superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period and were formed in shallow seas with mainly siliciclastic sediments.
- 1.2.6 The underlying bedrock geology is from the Sandy Craig Formation – Sedimentary Rock Cycles, Strathclyde Group Type. These were formed 326-335 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period and are characteristic of a local environment previously dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas.³

³ www.bgs.ac.uk – 22/03/17

2 Brief Archaeological & Historical Background

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 Readily accessible historical and archaeological records were consulted in order to gain an understanding of the relevant history of the proposed development area. These resources included the National Monuments Record of Scotland and the Map Library as held by the National Library of Scotland.

2.2. General History

- 2.2.1 The first recorded reference to Pittenweem as a port is from 1228, although it is likely the area was occupied much earlier.
- 2.2.2 A small Augustinian Priory was established in the 13th century, built over St Fillan's Cave a short distance to the north east of the development site. This would have been regular stopping point on the pilgrim route to St Andrews.
- 2.2.3 Pittenweem was created a Burgh of Regality in 1452, a Burgh of Barony in 1526 and finally a Royal Burgh in 1541. The present harbour has its origins in the early 17th century and became a significant fishing port still in use today.
- 2.2.4 There have been no archaeological excavations or investigations recorded within the centre of historic Pittenweem and as such it was not possible to assess the depth of deposits and the likelihood that archaeological features may survive.
- 2.2.5 While 14-15 East Shore is protected as a Category C Listed Building (LB39976), the age of the building is not known. Historic Environment Scotland assess this to be c.1880.

2.3 Map Regression

Pre-Ordnance Survey Maps

- 2.3.1 The earliest map to show Pittenweem is James Gordon's map of 'Fyfe Shire' from c.1642. This map shows Pittenweem as a clear settlement, but the detail is insufficient to show whether this occupation extends to the proposed development site. However, given the location of 14-15 East Shore overlooking the natural harbour, this seems likely.
- 2.3.2 John Adair's 'The East part of Fife' from 1684 shows Pittenweem in enough detail to ascertain that a row of structures clearly occupies the East Shore along the harbour (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Extract from John Adair's 'The east Part of Fife' showing occupation of the east Shore in Pittenweem. NLS

2.3.2 William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland from c.1750 also clearly shows occupation of the East Shore.

Ordnance Survey Maps

2.3.5 The first Ordnance Survey map of Pittenweem was compiled in 1854 as part of the Ordnance Survey 6 inch to 1 mile map series. The 'Fife, Sheet 27' clearly shows the streets, land boundaries and structures of this area of Pittenweem corresponding with those that survive today.

2.3.6 The more detailed 25 inch to 1 mile series produced from 1893 clearly shows the individual buildings along the East Shore. Subsequent editions of these maps show the development of the back court and surrounding buildings, but no development is apparent in the courtyard area to the rear of 14-15 East Shore that is proposed for evaluation.

2.4 Conclusions

2.4.1 The historical assessment has shown that the proposed development is in an area at the heart of the historic town of Pittenweem. Located overlooking the natural harbour, it is likely that occupation of this area will have corresponded with the earliest development of Pittenweem itself.

2.4.2 Providing the proposed development site was not significantly landscaped during the construction of the present building in the 19th century, the site was assessed as having a **moderate to high** chance of archaeological deposits associated with earlier occupation of the site surviving.

3 Methodology

3.1 The Development

3.1.1 The proposed development will see the alteration and refurbishment of the existing premises at 14-15 East Shore, turning this from a shop to a restaurant and artist's gallery. As part of these proposals an extension will be constructed to the rear of the property in an area currently occupied by a small courtyard.

3.2 Archaeological Evaluation

3.2.1 The purpose of an archaeological evaluation is to gain information about the archaeological potential of a site by investigating a previously agreed number of trenches or percentage of the overall area. The results of these investigations allow the archaeological team to assess the presence, absence, potential and importance of archaeological deposits surviving across the site, while meeting the requirements of the Planning Condition as outlined by Fife Council.

3.2.2 Following discussions with the Fife Council Archaeology Unit, ARCHAS were required to open one trench measuring 1-2m north to south by 1m west to east. A trench of this size provides a good indication as to the nature and depth of any archaeological deposits within the development area, allowing the archaeological team to assess the potential for any archaeological remains to survive across the site.

3.2.3 During the evaluation one trench was opened aligned roughly north to south and measuring 1.80m by 1.10m (Figure 3).

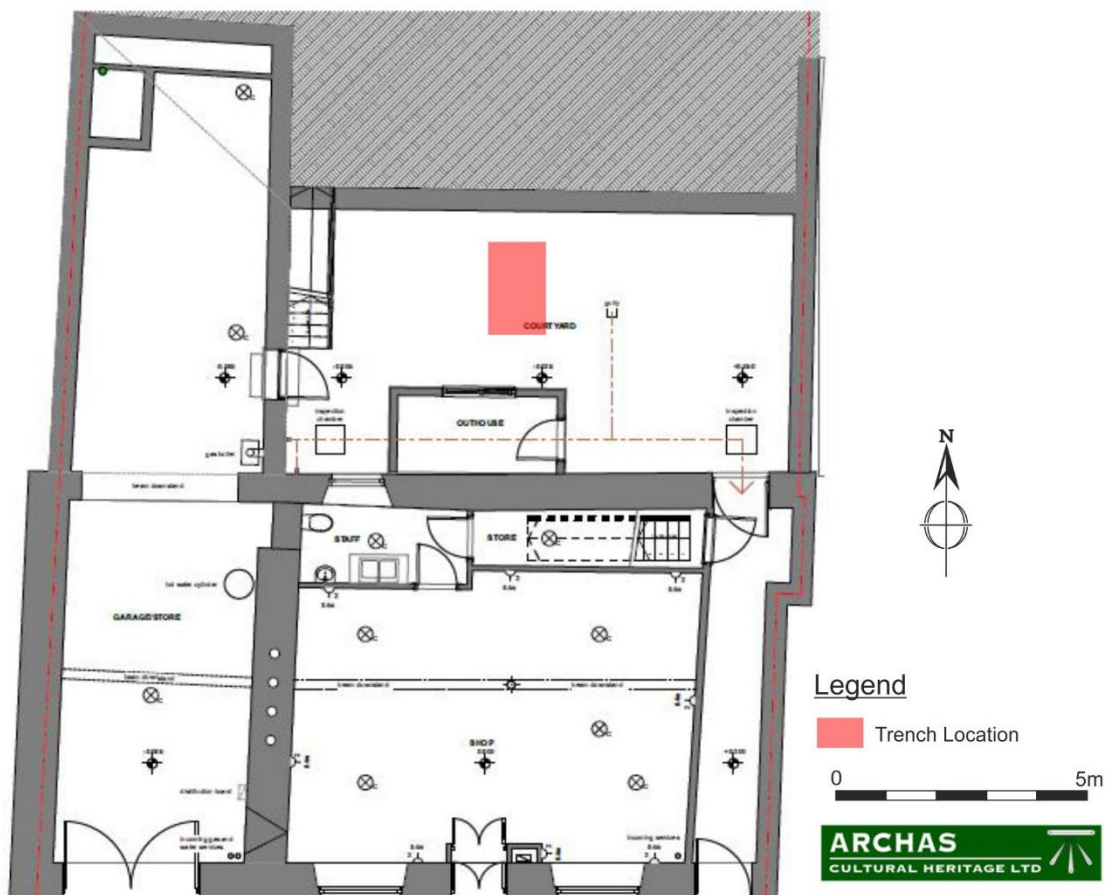


Figure 3: Proposed trench location. ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd after Pink Architects

- 3.2.4 The surface of the courtyard comprised closely set paving slabs, lightly bonded with cement. The difficulty lifting these slabs dictated the placement of the trench to a degree, but the final location was very close to that proposed in the WSI.
- 3.2.5 The slabs were broken and removed using a pick axe and sledge hammer. Subsequent deposits were removed stratigraphically by hand in spits of c.0.10m and the spoil searched for artefacts.
- 3.2.6 Natural subsoil was identified in the trench. Both the trench and soil deposits were recorded to ARCHAS Ltd and ClfA standards with relevant details noted down on an ARCHAS *pro forma* trench record sheet.
- 3.2.7 A digital photographic record was maintained. This illustrates the principal features in detail and in a general context. The photographic record also includes working shots to represent more generally the nature of the fieldwork. A register of all photographs taken was kept on standardised ARCHAS *pro forma* sheets.

4 Results

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation at 14-15 East Shore, Pittenweem failed to reveal any archaeological remains of any significance, with the site likely to have been levelled prior to the construction of the existing structures on the site in the 19th century.
- 4.1.2 A description of the key deposits and features identified in the evaluation trench is provided below. All context numbers are recorded in parentheses and in **bold**.
- 4.1.3 Details and dimensions of trenches excavated can be viewed in Appendix D.

4.2 Stratigraphy (Plate 2)

- 4.2.1 Removal of the courtyard slabbed surface (**001**) proved difficult and time consuming due to the tightly placed nature of the slabs and the cement bonding material.



Plate 2: East facing section of the evaluation trench showing stratigraphy and made ground (Photograph 018)

- 4.2.2 Below (**001**), an imported bedding material for the slabs consisted of a mix of red brown and grey brown fine grain sand and gravel 0.10m deep.
- 4.2.3 Made ground (**003**) was recorded below the bedding material (**002**). This deposit (**003**) was up to 0.30m deep and comprised a mixed deposit of mid brown sandy gravel abundant in brick fragments, pan tiles, cement and occasional 20th century detritus such as glass and foil wrappers.
- 4.2.4 The undisturbed natural subsoil (**004**) was located below (**003**) (Plate 3). This deposit was a very clean firm to moderately compact bright yellow/orange brown fine grain sand. It contained frequent slightly rounded, angular mudstone and sandstone fragments.
- 4.2.5 A possible circular feature located along the eastern edge of the trench (Plate 4) was investigated and found to be a shallow depression or stone hole of no archaeological interest.



Plate 3: Cleaning the base of the evaluation trench as viewed from the north east (Photograph 015)



Plate 4: Post-excitation view of the evaluation trench. Note the possible feature on the left hand side of the trench (Photograph 011)

4.2.6 While the sandy soil (**004**) had all the appearance of undisturbed natural subsoil, a slot was excavated through this in order to ascertain whether this was certainly the case. Excavation to a depth of 0.25m through (**004**) revealed a probable bedrock outcrop and little change in the sand and confirmed that this was natural subsoil.

5 Summary and Discussion

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 Although identified as potentially archaeologically sensitive due to the location in the historic core of Pittenweem, the proposed development site at 14-15 East Shore was shown to be devoid of any buried archaeological deposits.
- 5.1.2 It had been anticipated that the proposed development site may reveal deposits of garden soils, with *in situ* evidence for medieval occupation and *ex situ* artefacts contained within the topsoil. However, no features of archaeological interest were recorded while no artefacts which pre-dated the 20th century were noted.
- 5.1.3 The deposits of made ground contained modern detritus as well as a substantial number of brick and pan tile fragments and it seems clear that this represents a landscaping and levelling event probably associated with the outhouse construction or the slabbing of the courtyard in the nineteen seventies (owner *pers comm*).
- 5.1.4 The courtyard is on street level, with the natural topography rising steeply to the north and the town behind. The northern side of the courtyard is formed by a deep retaining wall over three metres high (Plate 5), indicating that this area may well have been significantly reduced and landscaped, likely when the existing property at 14-15 East Shore was constructed in the 19th century. This landscaping will have removed any traces of prior occupation had these existed, although if evidence of substantial occupation had been present on site, it may be expected to find *ex situ* artefacts within the made ground.
- 5.1.5 Discussions with the property owner indicated that the slabbed surface (**001**) was put down in the 1970s, and it is likely that this area was re-worked in this period, introducing the 20th century foil etc. into the levelling material.



Plate 5: Looking across the courtyard from the north east. Note the drop from the top of the retaining wall, indicating significant landscaping (Photograph 012)

6 Conclusions and Recommendations

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 The archaeological evaluation at 14-15 East Shore comprised one trench, but this occupied a significant percentage of the area proposed for development.
- 6.1.2 The lack of any archaeological deposits or artefacts within the evaluation trench clearly indicates that the proposed development site is archaeologically sterile and that the courtyard area of 14-15 East Shore has been significantly disturbed.
- 6.1.3 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd recommend that the proposed development be allowed to proceed and the planning condition be discharged.
- 6.1.4 While ARCHAS can provide recommendations as to any future work on site, the final decision for any further archaeological mitigation rests with Fife Council as advised by the Fife Council Archaeology Officer.

Acknowledgements

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd would like to thank Mr Mark Morrison of Pink Architects for commissioning us to undertake the work.

Thanks are also due to the property owner, Mr Calum Robinson for his assistance, company and good humour during the excavations.

We must also note the assistance provided at the planning stage by the Fife Council Archaeology Officer Douglas Speirs.

Bibliography

Documentary

Fife Council, 16/04159/FULL Decision Notice – 08/03/17

Websites

www.bgs.ac.uk
www.canmore.org.uk
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk
www.nls.uk
www.pastmap.org.uk

Cartographic Resources

Pre-Ordnance Survey

Date	Cartographer	Map
c.1642	James Gordon (1615?-1686)	Fyfe Shire
1683	John Adair (c.1650-1722)	The Hydrographical mappe of Forth from the entry to ye Queens-ferry
1684	John Adair (c.1650-1722)	The East Part of Fife
1732-1745	Herman Moll (d.1732)	The Shires of Fife and Kinros
1775	John Ainslie	County of Fife
1747-52	William Roy	Military Survey of Scotland
1824	John Thomson (1777-c.1840) William Johnson (fl.1806-1840)	Fife with Kinross Shire

Ordnance Survey

Date	Cartographer	Map
1854-1855	Ordnance Survey	6 inch to 1 mile – Fife, Sheet 27
1893-1895	Ordnance Survey	25 inch to 1 mile – Fifeshire O22.15 (includes Pittenweem; St Monance)
1912-1914	Ordnance Survey	25 inch to 1 mile – Fifeshire O22.15 (includes Pittenweem; St Monance)
1938-1945	Ordnance Survey	25 inch to 1 mile – Fifeshire O22.15 (includes Pittenweem; St Monance)

Appendix A Context Register

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimension</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initial</i>
001	1	Deposit	Concrete slab surface	D: 0.05m	Cemented together and tightly packed	29/03/17	RC
002	1	Deposit	Mix of softly compact grey sandy gravel and red brown sand with modern detritus inclusions	D: 0.10m	Bedding for (101)	29/03/17	RC
003	1	Deposit	Mix of sandy gravel, brick fragments, pan tiles, cement and occasional 20th century detritus.	D: c.0.30m	Made ground	29/03/17	RC
004	1	Deposit	Firm to moderately compact yellow/orange brown fine grain sand with frequent small, slightly rounded angular mudstone and sandstone fragments	D: 0.25m	Undisturbed natural subsoil	29/03/17	RC

Appendix B Photographic Register

<i>Image No.</i>	<i>Direction Facing</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Contexts No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initials</i>
001	SW	1	(001)	Pre-excavation view of Trench 1	29/03/17	RC
002	NW	1	(001)	Pre-excavation view of Trench 1	29/03/17	RC
003	SW/V	1	(001)	Pre-excavation view of Trench 1	29/03/17	RC
004	SE/V	1	(001)	Pre-excavation view of Trench 1	29/03/17	RC
005	E/V	1	(001)	Pre-excavation view of Trench 1	29/03/17	RC
006	E/V	1	(001)	Working shot - Removing slabs (001)	29/03/17	RC
007	E/V	1	(001)	Working shot - Site location	29/03/17	RC
008	W	1	(001)	Working shot - Site location	29/03/17	RC
009	NE	1	(002)	Working shot - (002) post-removal of (001)	29/03/17	RC
010	S	1	(004)	Post-excavation view of (004)	29/03/17	RC
011	S/V	1	(004)	Post-excavation view of (004)	29/03/17	RC
012	SW	1	(004)	Working shot - cleaning base of Trench	29/03/17	RC
013	W	1	(004)	Working shot - cleaning base of Trench	29/03/17	RC
014	S	1	(004)	Working shot - cleaning base of Trench	29/03/17	RC
015	SW	1	(004)	Working shot - cleaning base of Trench	29/03/17	RC
016	W/V	1	(003)	Possible feature	29/03/17	RC
017	W/V	1	(003)	Possible feature	29/03/17	RC
018	W	1	(001), (002), (003), (004)	E facing section of Trench 1	29/03/17	RC
019	W	1	(001), (002), (003), (004)	E facing section of Trench 1	29/03/17	RC
020	W	1	(001), (002), (003), (004)	E facing section of Trench 1	29/03/17	RC
021	NW	1	-	Post-excavation view - reinstated	29/03/17	RC

Appendix C Trench Register

<i>Trench No.</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Orientation</i>
1	1.80	1.10	N-S

Appendix D Provisional Discovery and Excavation Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	14-15 East Shore, Pittenweem
PROJECT CODE:	269
PARISH:	Pittenweem
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Ross Cameron
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	n/a
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	n/a
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS
START DATE (this season)	29/03/16
END DATE (this season)	29/03/16
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were contracted by Mr Mark Morrison of Pink Architects to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed redevelopment of an existing property at 14-15 East Shore in Pittenweem, Fife. The property is to be redeveloped to form a restaurant, with an extension constructed in a courtyard to the rear of the property</p> <p>The archaeological works followed the placement of a planning condition upon the proposed development by Fife Council. The condition required that a programme of archaeological evaluation be completed in advance of the proposed development.</p> <p>The archaeological evaluation involved the excavation of 1 small evaluation trench within the footprint of the proposed extension. Deposits of made ground were removed to reveal the undisturbed natural subsoil. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were noted and it seems likely the site was heavily landscaped in the 19th century.</p> <p>ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd recommend that the planning condition be discharged.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	n/a
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Pink Architects
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd Evans Business Centre, John Smith Business Park, 1 Begg Road, Kirkcaldy, KY2 6HD
EMAIL ADDRESS:	ross.cameron@archas.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION	NMRS and Fife Council SMR