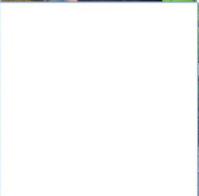
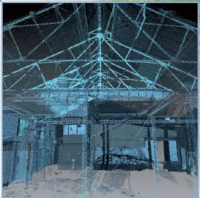
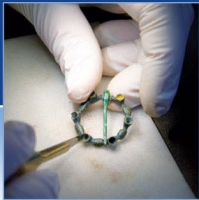


Land at 117-118 New Row, Dunfermline: Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

AOC Project 24805
08th April 2019



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Land at 117-118 New Row, Dunfermline

Archaeological Evaluation, Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Mr Anthony Mitchell,
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National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 09359 87149

AOC Project No: 24805

OASIS No: aocarcha1-348474

Planning Appeal Ref No: 18/01700/pp

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Date: 08/04/2019

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in relation to a proposed development at 117-118 New Row, Dunfermline

The evaluation required a 10% trenching sample of the previously undeveloped area – a total of 85 m². The area for trenching was reduced considerably due to the ground conditions at the site which required buffer zones for buildings, mature trees and live services. A total of 46 linear metres was excavated.

The evaluation revealed a single cut feature in the form of a large pit or ditch terminus. The pit contained 13 sherds of medieval white gritty ware. It is probable therefore that the feature is related to what is thought to be backland divisions, probably associated with 13th - 15th century occupation on New Row.

Further archaeological mitigation may be deemed necessary, this will be determined by Mr Douglas Spiers on behalf of Fife Council.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group has been commissioned by Mr Anthony Mitchell to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to the construction of a new residential development at 117-118 New Row Dunfermline (Planning Ref: 18/01700/pp).
- 1.1.2 In line with Scottish Planning Policy (2014) and PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology (2011), Policy 14 of Fife's local development plan FIFE plan (2017), required the archaeological investigation of all sites and buildings with a potential archaeological interest.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development is located on the western side of New Row, Dunfermline (NGR: NT 09359 87149). The site is bounded to the south by an existing hotel and to the north by further residential housing. The site is 855m² in size and is currently occupied by the existing building and mature garden (Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The proposed development site lies within the Dunfermline Conservation Area which denotes an area of particular architectural or historic value, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. The Dunfermline Conservation Area was designated in 2002, following the merger of the Dunfermline abbey and High Street Conservation Area (part of which was first designated on 25 November 1971) with the Dunfermline Park Conservation Area (originally designated on 9 March 1990).

Prehistoric and Roman Periods

- 1.3.2 There are no known prehistoric or Roman sites within the boundary or within the immediate vicinity of the site.

Early Medieval – Post-Medieval

- 1.3.3 Dunfermline developed as a royal and ecclesiastical centre in the medieval period and also occupied a key strategic position on the trade routed from Stirlingshire and the West to the East Fife ports, and on north-south routes via the narrow crossing point of the River Forth at North and South Queensferry.
- 1.3.4 Approximately 80m to the north of the development lies Lauder Technical College. Trial excavations were carried out during January 1993 (Coleman 1993). The site crossed the suggested line of the eastern precinct wall of the Dunfermline Abbey. It also included part of the New Row frontage, which by the 15th century had developed into a thriving suburb.
- 1.3.5 Excavation revealed the precinct wall of the abbey (NT08NE 1.01) 0.50m below the modern ground surface running N to S. There was also a distinct difference in the archaeological sequence on either side of the wall. On the eastern side were the backlands of the properties extending westwards from the New Row frontage producing 15th century pottery. On the western side of the wall, and therefore within the abbey precinct, were garden soils containing building debris, possibly from structures built against the precinct wall.
- 1.3.6 Further excavation was carried out by Scotia Archaeology Ltd in 1994 (Lewis 1994b) over a three months period in advance of a major programme of development within the grounds of the former

college. Of the twenty trenches opened, five were excavated by hand, the remainder being machine dug while a watching brief was kept.

- 1.3.7 In two trenches, at the E end of the site, were found the lower courses of a N-S stretch of the precinct wall of Dunfermline Abbey. Extending eastwards from the wall were the remnants of what is thought to be backland divisions, probably associated with late 15th century occupation on New Row. Within one of these backlands and directly abutting the precinct wall was a masonry structure, measuring 7.0m by 2.0m internally and divided into two unequal chambers, each floored with sandstone flags: its walls were very fragmentary. Artefactual evidence suggests a date within the 16th or 17th century. The structure may have been associated with the tanning or textile industry, perhaps as a soaking tank.
- 1.3.8 To the E of the 'tank', but earlier than it, was a corn-frying kiln, from which were recovered seeds of barley and oats.
- 1.3.9 To the immediate W of the precinct wall and parallel to it was a ditch, about 1.0m deep. The ditch had been infilled deliberately, evidently just prior to the construction of the wall.
- 1.3.10 In the extreme NW corner of the site were the fragmentary remains of a two-phase building of probable abbey construction although it was not possible to ascertain its function. Most of the remainder of the site, which measured up to 145m by 53m, appeared to be devoid of structural remains.
- 1.3.11 In 1995 a further rescue excavation on the site revealed a stretch of the precinct wall, probably dating from the 14th century, of Dunfermline Abbey and underlying it, an earlier boundary ditch. Within one of the burgage plots laid out against the precinct wall were the remains of a medieval corn-drying kiln and a structure thought to be a loom stance, dating from the early 19th century.

19th Century

- 1.3.12 The development area appeared relatively opened until the mid-19th century when the buildings along New Row encroached on the gap observed on the Roy Map of 1747-1755 (Figure 3). The layout of the area appears to have changed little during the 19th century.



Figure 3: Extract from Roy's map, ca. 1747 -1755



Figure 4: Extract from OS Six-inch map, ca. 1843-1882

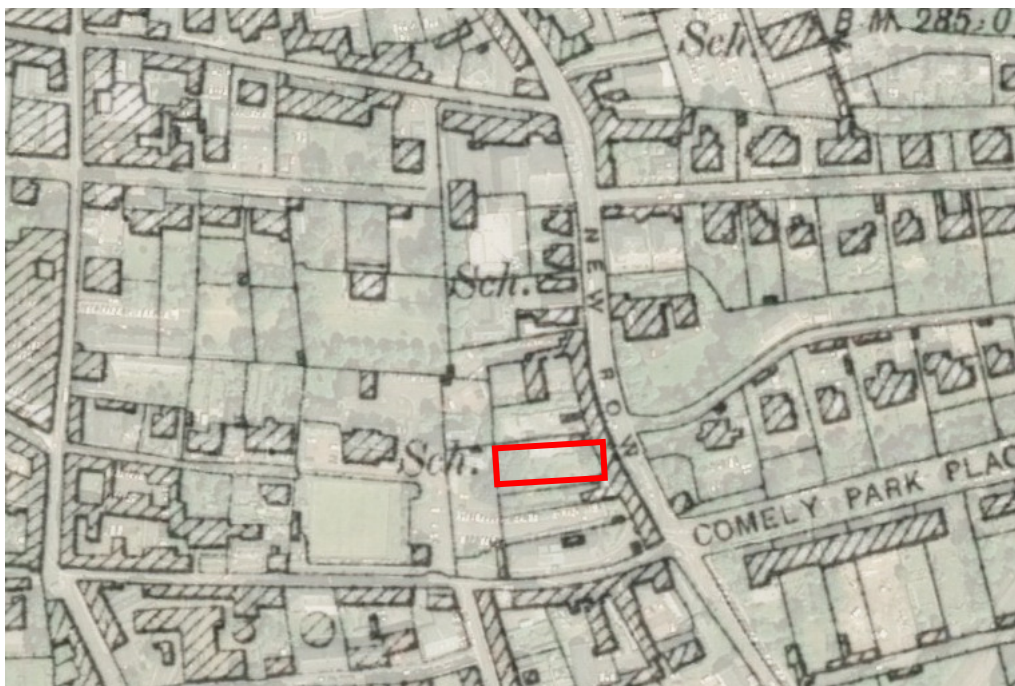


Figure 5: OS Six-inch, 1888-1913

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;

- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation strategy compliant with *Scottish Planning Policy (2014)* and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (2011)*, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The area measured c.855 m² in total. Fife Council required that a 10% sample would be subject to machine trial trenching to uncover the nature and extent of any archaeological remains present on site. Therefore, an area of up to c.85 m² (total basal dimensions), equating to approximately 46 linear meters, was excavated.
- 3.2 Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon was encountered. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist, according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures and as per the methodology within the *Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2019)*.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was conducted on the 4th of April 2019. Weather conditions were changeable with frequent periods of rain however, this did not affect archaeological visibility throughout the evaluation. In total, three trenches totalling c.46 linear metres were opened, varying in both alignment and length (Figure 2). The trenches were placed within the footprint of the proposed development.
- 4.2 The development area had undergone significant truncation was covered with a made ground (003) of topsoil and demolition rubble. Prior to the evaluation, the area along the northern boundary had already been reduced and the removed spoil placed within the centre of the development area (Plate 1). This did not expose the *in situ* topsoil. The made ground ranged from 0.10 to 0.20m in depth.



Plate 1 – General view of site showing excavated material

- 4.3 The topsoil (001) consisted of a dark greyish brown sandy clay with frequent roots and ranged between 0.30m and 0.80m in depth. The topsoil overlaid a natural subsoil of yellowish-brown sand-clay with occasional sandstone fragments.
- 4.4 Trench 1 was set on an E-W alignment and measured 20.0m long by 1.0m wide. Topsoil depth ranged from 0.30m in the east to 0.80 in the west. No archaeological features were observed within the trench (Plate 2).



Plate 2 – General view Trench 1

- 4.5 Trench 2 measured 20 m x 1.0 m and was aligned E-W. A single feature [205] measuring 5m long and 1.4m wide was revealed. The feature [205] extended into the north facing section of the trench. The cut appeared to be sub-circular in plan with vertical sides and a flattish base. The feature was filled by a deposit of clay silt (204) which contained thirteen sherds of white gritty ware.

**Plate 3 – General view of Feature [005]**

- 4.6 The excavation of [205] was stopped at a depth of 0.80m due to rising water levels. The extent of (204) was exposed with a possible lower stone filled clay fill visible below the water level.
- 4.7 Trench 3 was set on an NE-SW alignment, measuring 6.0m long and 1.0m wide. Topsoil depth was 0.50m. No archaeological features were observed within the trench.

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The evaluation undertaken on the development area revealed a single large pit or ditch terminus containing thirteen sherds of medieval white gritty ware. It is probable therefore that the feature is related to what is thought to be backland divisions, probably associated with 13th - 15th century occupation on New Row.
- 5.2 Further archaeological mitigation in the form of an archaeological watching brief and limited finds analysis may be required. This will be determined by Mr Douglas Spiers on behalf of Fife Council.

6 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology, 2019, *Land at 117-118 New Row, Dunfermline: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpublished

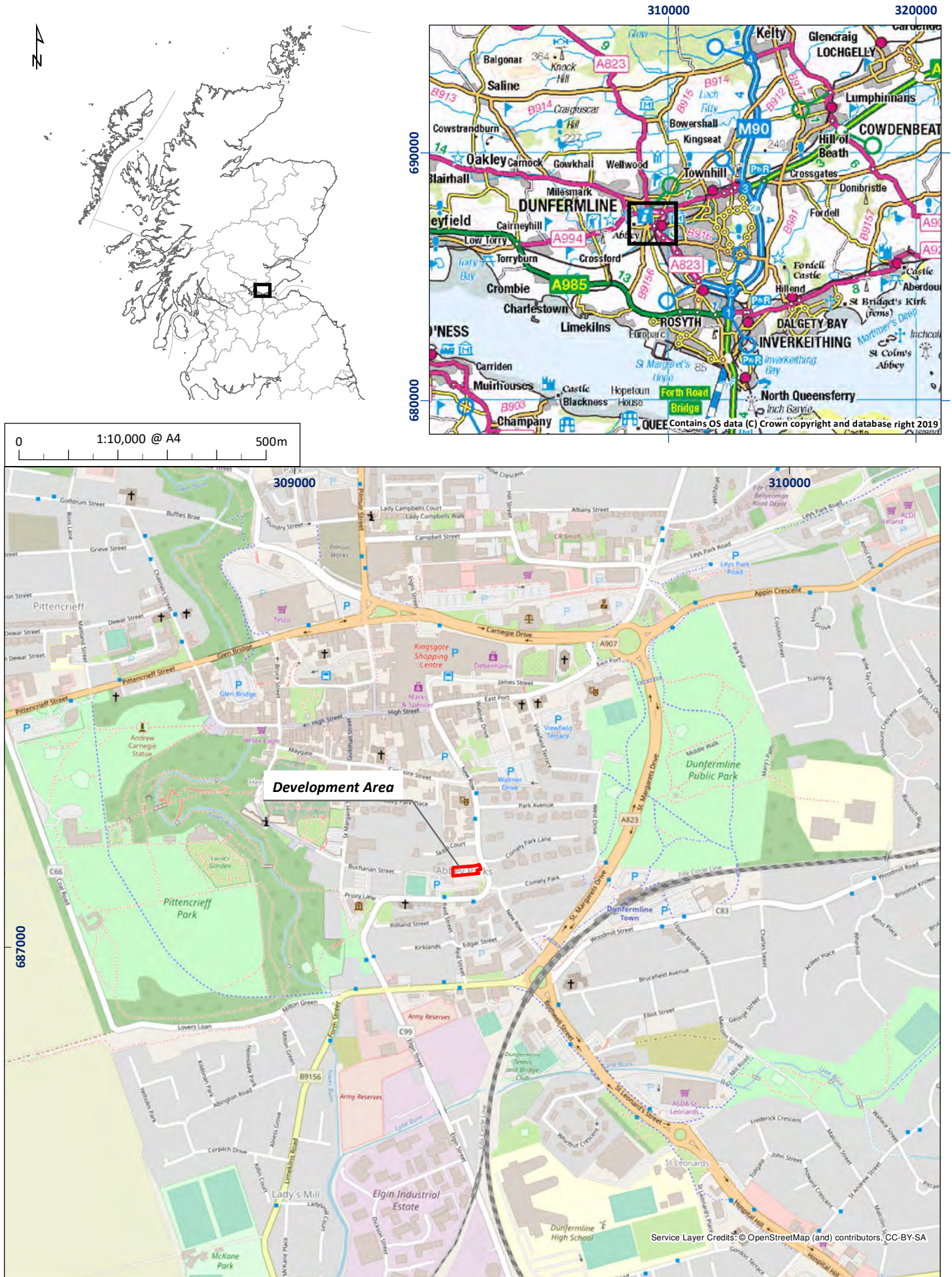


Figure 1: Site location plan

01/24805/DSR/01/01



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Figure 2: Trench location plan

01/24805/DSR/02/01

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy 2014*

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*

Land at 117-118 New Row, Dunfermline: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Evaluation Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	15 m by 0.8 m
<i>Total Area</i>	12 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E to W
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made ground (003) of demolition material from nearby buildings, 0.10-0.20m Topsoil (001) dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent roots, 0.30-0.80m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid yellowish-brown sandy clay with occasional sandstone fragments
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	19 m by 1 m
<i>Total Area</i>	19 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	E to W
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made ground (003) of demolition material from nearby buildings, 0.10-0.20m Topsoil (001) dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent roots, 0.50-0.60m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Possible Pit [205]
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid yellowish-brown sandy clay with occasional sandstone fragments
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	6 m by 1 m
<i>Total Area</i>	6 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NW to SE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made ground (003) of demolition material from nearby buildings, 0.10m Topsoil (001) dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent roots, 0.50m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Mid yellowish-brown sandy clay with occasional sandstone fragments
<i>Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context No.	Description and Interpretation
001	Dark greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent roots Topsoil
002	Mid yellowish-brown sandy clay with occasional sandstone fragments Natural
003	Demolition material
204	Mid greyish-brown clay silt fill of pit [205] with occasional ceramic finds and coal, marked in the field as (004) Fill of pit [205]
205	Sub-circular cut of large pit with almost vertical edges. Base could not be determined due to rising water level; however, a possible basal fill of clay and stones was reached but not excavated as under water. 5m x 1.4m x 0.72m, marked in the field as [005] Possible sub-circular pit/ditch terminus

APPENDIX 3: Photographic Register

Frame	Feature #	Description	From	Date
1		General view of site	N	04/04/2019
2		General view of site showing spoil heap	NW	04/04/2019
3		Location of buildings around site	SW	04/04/2019
4		Location of buildings	SE	04/04/2019
5		General view of site showing buildings	NW	04/04/2019
6		General view of site showing spoil heap	E	04/04/2019
7		General view showing building	NE	04/04/2019
8		Location of tree and available space	E	04/04/2019
9		Location of buildings	NW	04/04/2019
10		Location of spoil heap	SE	04/04/2019
11		Location of spoil heap	S	04/04/2019
12	TR 1	Trench 1 – General view	E	04/04/2019
13	TR 2	Trench 2 – General view	E	04/04/2019
14	TR 2	North facing section of Trench 2	N	04/04/2019
15	205	General view of pit [205]	W	04/04/2019
16	205	North-facing section of pit [205]	N	04/04/2019
17	205	West-facing section of [205]	W	04/04/2019
18	205	General view of pit [205]	S	04/04/2019
19	205	General view of pit [205]	S	04/04/2019
20	205	General view of pit [205]	S	04/04/2019
21	205	General view of pit [205]	S	04/04/2019
22	205	General view of excavated part of [205]	N	04/04/2019
23	TR 3	General view of Trench 3	SW	04/04/2019

APPENDIX 4: Drawing Register

Sheet #	Drawing #	Description	Scale
1	1	North and west facing section of pit [205] ([005])	1:20
1	2	Plan of pit [205] ([005])	1:20

APPENDIX 5: Finds Register

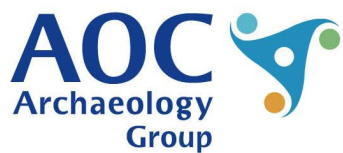
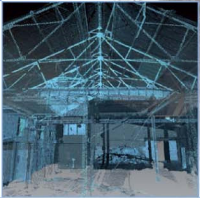
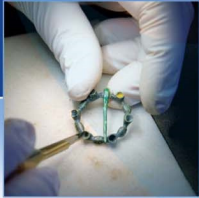
Finds No.	Context No.	Description	Material Code.
1	204	Ceramic (004)	CE

APPENDIX 6: Sample Register

Context No.	Qty
204 (004)	2

APPENDIX 7: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Land at 117-118 New Row, Dunfermline
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 24805
PARISH:	Dunfermline
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Anne-Aymonne Marot
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 09359 87149
START DATE (this season)	04 th April 2019
END DATE (this season)	04 th April 2019
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in relation to a proposed development at 117-118 New Row, Dunfermline</p> <p>The evaluation required a 10% trenching sample of the previously undeveloped area – a total of 85 m². The area for trenching was reduced considerably due to the ground conditions at the site which required buffer zones for buildings, mature trees and live services. A total of 46 linear metres was excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed a single cut feature in the form of a large pit or ditch terminus. The pit contained 13 sherds of medieval white gritty ware. It is probable therefore that the feature is related to what is thought to be backland divisions, probably associated with 13th - 15th century occupation on New Row.</p> <p>Further archaeological mitigation may be deemed necessary, this will be determined by Mr Douglas Spiers on behalf of Fife Council.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Anthony Mitchell
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EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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