

TSSA19



18 THE SCORES, ST ANDREWS

Archaeological Recording

For Mr Andrew Knight

March 2019

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HAS no.: n/a.

NGR: NO 5080 1697

Parish: St Andrews

Council: Fife

OASIS ref.: Headland1 - 346015

Planning Application.: 18/03011/FUL

Archive will be deposited with: NRHE

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Approved by: Ed Bailey – Project Manager

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18 THE SCORES, ST ANDREWS, FIFE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

Technical Summary

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological recording of three test pits prior to the construction of an extension to the rear of 18 The Scores, St Andrews, Fife. The Site was within the medieval core of St Andrews and the present property dates to the late 19th century. The test pits were excavated to the rear of the property although only two were excavated to the maximum required depth of 1m. The third test pit was abandoned at 0.6m due to frequent tree roots. Each of the test pits provided the same stratigraphic sequence of deposits. Three different layers of silty sand were recorded in the two fully excavated pits and two layers were recorded in the third pit. The upper layer may have been imported to the site during the construction of the 19th century house with the lower deposits representing pre 19th century agricultural activity. No archaeological features were identified although a small assemblage of medieval pottery was recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Mr Andrew Knight (the client) to undertake a programme of archaeological recording of three test pits prior to the construction of an extension to the rear of 18 The Scores, St Andrews, Fife. The work was carried out in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent (ref: 18/03011/FULL) and adhered to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Headland Archaeology (2019) and agreed with the Fife Council Archaeologist on behalf of Fife Council (the Local Planning Authority). The work was undertaken in March 2019.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The proposed development comprises an extension to the main property and a further construction

located to the rear of 18 The Scores, St Andrews, Fife (centred on NO 5080 1697; Illus 1). The footprint of the main extension extended approximately 14m beyond the rear of the property with an additional 8m² building located to the south end of the garden.

The site was bounded to the north by the existing property and to the south by the rear of a 20th century cinema. Gardens belonging to other properties along The Scores were located to the east and west. The garden area included a sunken paved area close to the house with a grass covered lawn and light tree cover to the south (Illus 2).

The underlying geology of the area comprises levels of the Pittenweem Formation, a sedimentary rock of the Strathclyde group, and the overlying superficial geology comprises Devensian raised marine deposits of clay, silt and gravels (NERC 2016).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The settlement of St Andrews dates back to at least the 8th century. In c 940 Constantine, King of Scots, abdicated and became Abbot of the monastery in St Andrews (at the time named Kilrimont). St Andrews Cathedral was founded c 1160 and St Andrews Castle was built c 1200 as the residence of the bishops of St Andrews (Simpson & Stevenson 1981). The medieval burgh developed as a small settlement around the fringes of the ecclesiastical centre. This secular settlement was succeeded by a planned settlement based on a north-south main street – the modern streets of Abbey Street, South Castle Street and North Castle Street. This layout was maintained until the creation of two large thoroughfares – North Street and South Street – at the instigation of Bishop Robert, which probably dates to the 12th century (Moloney & Baker 2001, 79).

Various archaeological investigations have taken place in the vicinity of the development area. Excavations at 104, 106 and 108 North Street, to the south-east of the proposed development identified a series of medieval buildings including timber houses dating to the 13th and 14th centuries and a stone house dating to the 15th century (Headland Archaeology 2016).

Historic mapping of the area depicts the site as agricultural land c 1775 (Ainslie) and by Woods 'Plan

of St Andrews' (1820) the land is marked as the possession of a Mr Robinson, although at this date no buildings were present on the site. By the production of the 1853 Ordnance Survey a building (the Swallow Tavern) is depicted on land immediately west of the site and by 1893 the present building is depicted.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the recording was to investigate the nature of the garden soils within the development area prior to the development of the site.

5 METHODS

The test pits were hand excavated. Excavation terminated 1m below the turf. Spoil was stored at the side of each pit.

On completion of excavation, all faces of the test pits were inspected with one face recorded from the top edge. The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in each of the test pits, even where no archaeological deposits were identified.

6 REPORTING AND ARCHIVES

All recording followed ClfA Standards and Guidance (2014a & b). All recording was undertaken on pro forma record sheets. A photographic record was taken using digital photography (see Appendix 1). The digital photographs will be submitted to Historic Environment Scotland (HES) for long-term archive storage.

A site plan including all areas of excavation and other pertinent information was recorded by hand and will be accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to OD.

The results of the works are presented below. A summary report has been prepared for submission to Discovery & Excavation in Scotland (Appendix 1) and the Archaeology Data Service OASIS database (headland1- 346015).

The complete project archive will be deposited with HES within six months of the completion of the project. The records (paper and digital) will be archived according to best practice guidelines set out by the Archaeological Archiving Forum (2011).

7 RESULTS

The recording was undertaken on 7th March 2019 in wet and overcast conditions.

Three 1m² test pits (TP1, TP2 and TP3) were excavated to the south of the existing property. Several factors limited the placing of the test pits. These included the small size of the proposed extension, the location of several trees and an area of stone flag paving immediately south of the property. This paving was set approximately 0.5m lower than the level of the surrounding garden (see Illus 2).

Two of the test pits (TP1 and TP2) were excavated to a maximum depth of 1m. In both cases the natural geology was not reached. The third test pit (TP3) was only excavated to a depth of 0.6m due to frequent large tree roots.

The recorded sections of the two fully excavated test pits (TP1 and TP2; Illus 3 & 4) presented three separate layers of material and the third pit (TP3) displayed two (Illus 5). In each case the stratigraphy comprised of between 0.5m and 0.6m of a very dark brown soft silty fine sand (001, 004 and 007), all with occasional small stone inclusions and moderate root bioturbation. A small assemblage of 19th century pottery was recorded within this material along with occasional disarticulated animal bone fragments. This was underlain in all three test pits by a 0.3m to 0.35m thick layer of a mid-reddish brown silty fine sand (002, 005 and 008) with occasional small stone inclusions plus occasional charcoal flecks and marine shell. The interface between the two layers was diffuse but visible. A single sherd of 13th to 15th century medieval pottery was recovered from this material (005). At the base of TP1 and TP2 a third layer (003 and 006) was recorded comprising a slightly lighter reddish-brown fine sand. This still included occasional small stone inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks. A further sherd of 13th to 15th century medieval pottery was recovered from this material (003). The interface between these two layers was not clear and it may represent a less disturbed lens of the material recorded above it.

8 DISCUSSION

The test pit sections identified that the whole area was overlain by a deep deposit of garden soil. This material included occasional sherds of 19th century

pottery and therefore may have been imported to the site during the construction of the existing property. Below this were further layers of silty sand subsoil that had been disturbed and likely represent medieval agricultural soils.

9 REFERENCES

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Ordnance Survey 1893 St Andrews Sheet 1X.10.11
<https://maps.nls.uk/view/74416785>

10 APPENDICES

10.1 Photographic Register

Photo	Facing	Description
TSSA-01	W	East facing section of TP1 with scale
TSSA-02	W	East facing section of TP1 with scale
TSSA-03	W	Detail of east facing section of TP1
TSSA-04	N	Location of TP1
TSSA-05	S	North facing section of TP2 with scale
TSSA-06	S	North facing section of TP2 with scale
TSSA-07	N	Location of TP2
TSSA-08	N	View of TP3
TSSA-09	E	View of TP3
TSSA-10	W	East facing section of TP1 without scales
TSSA-11	S	North facing section of TP3 with scale
TSSA-12	S	North facing section of TP3 with scale
TSSA-13	S	General location shot of test pits

10.2 Context Register

Context	TP No	Description
001	TP1	A 0.5m thick layer of very dark brown clayey fine sand with occasional small stone inclusions plus charcoal flecks and rare disarticulated animal bone. This is above 002 and has a clear interface.
002	TP1	A 0.35m thick layer of dark reddish brown silty fine sand with moderate root bioturbation and occasional small stone inclusions along with charcoal flecks and rare animal bone. Below 001 and above 003. Interface to layer 003 is very diffuse and not clear.

003	TP1	Recorded in the bottom 0.2m of the test pit and comprising a mid-reddish-brown fine sand with occasional small stone inclusions and rare charcoal flecks. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from this layer.
004	TP2	A 0.6m thick layer of very dark brown clayey fine sand with occasional small stone inclusions plus charcoal flecks and rare disarticulated animal bone. This is above 005 and has a clear interface. Same as 001.
005	TP2	A 0.3m thick layer of dark reddish brown silty fine sand with moderate root bioturbation and occasional small stone inclusions along with charcoal flecks and rare animal bone. Below 004 and above 006. Interface to layer is very diffuse and not clear.
006	TP2	Recorded in the bottom 0.1m of the test pit and comprising a mid-reddish-brown fine sand with occasional small stone inclusions and rare charcoal flecks.
007	TP3	A 0.55m thick layer of very dark brown clayey fine sand with occasional small stone inclusions plus charcoal flecks and rare disarticulated animal bone. This is above 008 and has a moderately clear interface.
008	TP3	A layer of dark reddish brown silty fine sand with moderate root bioturbation and occasional small stone inclusions along with charcoal flecks. Recorded below 007.

10.3 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	18 The Scores, St Andrews
PROJECT CODE:	TSSA19
PARISH:	St Andrews
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Donald Wilson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Recording
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None

NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 5080 1697
START DATE (this season)	07/03/2019
END DATE (this season)	07/03/2019
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological recording of three test pits prior to the construction of an extension to the rear of 18 The Scores, St Andrews, Fife. The Site was within the medieval core of St Andrews and the present property dates to the late 19th century. The test pits were excavated to the rear of the property although only two were excavated to the maximum required depth of 1m. The third test pit was abandoned at 0.6m due to frequent tree roots. Each of the test pits provided the same stratigraphic sequence of deposits. Three different layers of silty sand were recorded in the two fully excavated pits and two layers were recorded in the third pit. The upper layer may have been imported to the site during the construction of the 19th century house with the lower deposits representing pre 19th century agricultural activity. No archaeological features were identified although a small assemblage of medieval pottery was recovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Andrew Knight
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	13 Jane Street, Edinburgh. EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	office@headlandarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Historic Environment Scotland

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

ILLUS 1 SITE LOCATION

ILLUS 2 VIEW FACING NORTH TOWARDS THE HOUSE SHOWING THE PAVED AREA AND TP1

ILLUS 3 EAST FACING SECTION OF TEST PIT 1

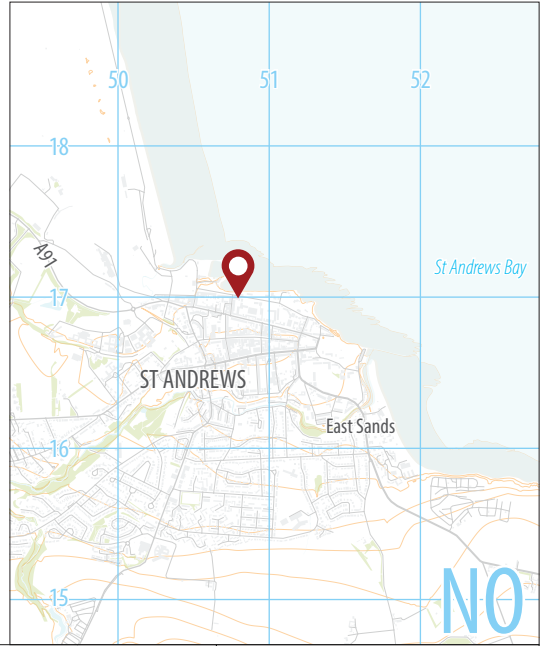
ILLUS 4 NORTH FACING SECTION OF TEST PIT 2

ILLUS 5 VIEW OF TEST PIT 3

18 The Scores
St Andrews
Fife



0 200km
1:12,500,000 @ A4



0 20m
1:1,000 @ A4

development boundary
test pit location



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ILLUS 2 View facing north towards the house showing the paved area and TP1



ILLUS 3 East facing section of Test Pit 1



ILLUS 4 North facing section of Test Pit 2



ILLUS 5 View of Test Pit 3