

CFA Archaeology Ltd

archaeological consultants

Advice on Archaeology & Planning

Environmental Impact Assessment

Interpretation, Design & Display

Finds/ Environmental Analysis

Field Evaluation & Excavation

Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey


Geophysical Survey

**Site D1
Abbey Walk, St Andrews,
Fife**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3468

 0131 273 4380

 0131 273 4381

 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

The Old Engine House
Eskmills Business Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian
EH21 7PQ

Tel: 0131 273 4380
Fax: 0131 273 4381
email: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	Ian Suddaby MA MCifA
Illustrator	Marta Perlinska
Editor	Bruce Glendinning BSc PGDip MCifA
Commissioned by	Robertson Homes Ltd
Date issued	November 2016
Version	1
OASIS Reference	cfaarcha1-264711
Planning Application No.	13/02067/FULL
Grid Ref	NO 51256 16331

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

Site D1
Abbey Walk, St Andrews,
Fife

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3468

CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	4
3.	Archaeological Results	4
4.	Conclusion	6
5.	Bibliography	7

Appendices

1.	Context Register	8
2.	Photographic Register	8
3.	Drawings Register	9
4.	Finds Quantification	9
5.	Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry	10

Figures

Fig. 1 Site Location map and Site plan showing new development and location of features

Fig. 2 General view of ditch 004 pre-excavation from the WNW

Fig. 3 Plan view of ditch 004 showing the multiple re-cuts 006-009 from the SSW

Fig. 4 Ditch 102 section

Fig. 5 Ditch 100 section

Fig.6 SSW facing section of Ditches 006-009.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of a watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) from April to June 2016 during groundbreaking works on Site D1, part of the Abbey Walk development, St Andrews, Fife (NGR: NO 51256 16331) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Robertson Homes Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 23rd of April 2015 was produced by CFA and agreed by the Fife Council Archaeologist.

1.2 Background

Planning consent (Ref No. 13/02067/FULL) has been granted for the construction of new residential housing at Abbey Walk, St Andrews. Site D1 is located in the north-west corner of the wider development. The B-Listed St Nicholas House lies to the south. Abbey Walk (the A917) is to the north, with the historic Cathedral and Priory grounds beyond. Due to its location within an archaeologically sensitive area, a condition for an archaeological watching brief was attached to the consent.

Previous archaeological works carried out close to and within the site included a watching brief (Garst & Lewis 2013) at St Nicholas House immediately to the south, which identified a box drain to the south of the house and recovered a disarticulated fragment of human skull. Another watching brief (Lewis 2012) exposed part of an 'L' shaped wall within the current watching brief area. A stone-lined box drain and a linear ditch were also identified further to the south of the current site. Watching briefs during 2007 (Kirby 2007) and 2012 (Lewis 2012) identified no further archaeological features but recovered fragments of medieval pottery and bone from the subsoil.

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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.

2.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

The removal of soil deposits was carried out using a tracked excavator and JCB 3CX, both using a flat-bladed ditching bucket.

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

The watching brief observed the excavation of Blocks 1 to 3, car-parking areas and all service trenches (Fig. 1). Numbers in bold and parentheses refer to contexts (Appendix 1).

Prior to the watching brief some of the site had been partially stripped of topsoil and overburden. Substantial heaps of demolition and tree-felling debris were present across parts of the area. Remaining topsoil (**001**) was up to 0.4m deep and overlay dark brown silty sand subsoil (**002**) which varied from 0.1m to 0.6m deep. Natural substrate (**003**) was mostly pale yellow to orange sand and this overlay grey-pink boulder clay. Heavy bioturbation from mature tree roots was evident across much of the site.

3.2 Results

What was thought to be a single ditch (**004**) was identified in a drainage track to the north of Block 2 (Figs. 1 & 2). Excavation revealed that this was in fact four intercutting ditches (**006-009**), each slightly meandering (Figs. 3 & 6). Ditch **006** was the primary feature and each re-cut moved the whole feature slightly to the ENE. The primary ditch (**006**) was 0.3m wide and 0.1m deep. It was filled (**010**) with mixed light brown and yellow-brown sand. This was cut by ditch **007**, which was up to 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep. It was filled (**011**) with mid-brown silty sand. Ditch **007** was cut by ditch **008**, which was up to 0.5m wide and 0.3m deep. It was filled (**012**) with yellow-brown silty sand. The most recent feature was ditch **009**, which cut **008** and was up to 0.6m wide and 0.4m deep. This was filled (**013**) with mid yellow-brown silty sand. All of the ditch fills were badly affected by modern tree roots. Pottery of medieval date was recovered from fills **011** and **013**. Animal bones were recovered from **013**. These ditches were not identified in the footprint of Block 2; so they may either have terminated shortly after the point at which they were exposed or the

disturbance in this area that happened prior to the watching brief may have removed all trace of them.

Ditch **102** (Fig. 4) was aligned roughly E-W and was exposed running across the Block 1 building footprint. It had steeply sloping sides and a consistently flat, slightly concave base, and measured 0.75m wide and 0.25-0.3m deep. The fill (**103**) was moderately compacted silt which was similar to the topsoil and contained occasional small clods of clay. There were no finds.

A smaller ditch (**100**) (Fig. 5) was identified running parallel to **102** on its south side. It had steep sides and an irregular base and was filled with pale grey silt (**101**) which was loosely compacted. There were no finds.

3.3 Finds by Christina Hills

Find type	Number	Weight (g)
Animal Bone	2	24
Pottery	21	490
Slag	1	44

Table 1. Summary of Finds

Twenty-one sherds of pottery from **010**, **011** and **013** are Scottish White Gritty Ware of Medieval date (12th-14th centuries AD). The assemblage includes 4 base sherds, a piece of a strap handle decorated with incised lines, and rim sherds from three jugs, one of which had a piece of the handle attached. A few of the sherds from **013** (including the strap handle and one of the jug rims) and the sherd from **011** had green glaze present, otherwise the pottery was primarily unglazed.

Other finds are slag and animal bone, both from **010**, the fill of ditch **006**. This material is not diagnostic but is probably also Medieval, due to its context.

4. CONCLUSION

The watching brief observed the ground-breaking works within Site D1. A number of features were identified including:

- A sequence of intercutting ditches (**006-009**) containing medieval pottery. This was presumably a reworked boundary feature, possibly demarcating the edge of a plot of land.
- Two E-W aligned shallow ditches (**100 & 102**). These contained no dating evidence but may have also been boundary features.

CFA recommends that no further work is required in relation to the results of the watching brief. However any final decision rests with Fife Council.

A summary statement of the results of this watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 5) and an OASIS record will be completed.

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.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Garst, L & Lewis, J 2013 *St Nicholas House, St Andrews, Fife: Archaeological Watching Brief*. CFA Report No. 2036.

Kirby, M 2007 *St Leonard's Field, Abbey Walk, St Andrews, Fife: Archaeological Watching Brief*. CFA Report No. 1298.

Kirby, M & Suddaby, I 2016 *St Leonards Lodge, Abbey Walk, St Andrews, Fife. Archaeological Watching Brief & Excavations*. CFA Report No. 3469.

Lewis, J 2012 *Abbey Walk, St Andrews, Fife: Archaeological Watching Brief*. CFA Report No. 2091.

Lewis, J 2012 *Abbey Walk, St Andrews, Fife: Archaeological Watching Brief*. CFA Report No. 2148.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Fill of	Description
001		Topsoil
002		Subsoil
003		Natural orange/yellow sand with grey-pink boulder clay below
004		Cut of ditch initially allocated to the overall ditch, before it was realised to be several features. Aligned NNW-SSE.
005	004	Fill initially allocated to the overall ditch, before it was realised to be several features
006		Cut of narrow linear ditch. Exposed for less than 2m, continue to the S. 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep.
007		Cut of irregular linear ditch. Exposed for 2m, continues to the S. 0.3 to 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep.
008		Cut of irregular linear ditch. Exposed for 2m, continues to the S. 0.15m to 0.5m wide by 0.3m deep.
009		Cut of irregular linear ditch. Exposed for 2m, continues to the S. 0.35m to 0.6m wide by 0.4m deep.
010	006	Mixed yellow and brown sand.
011	007	Mid brown silty sand with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks.
012	008	Yellow/brown silty sand, with occasional pebbles, charcoal flecks and clay clods.
013	009	Mid-dark yellowish silty sand with occasional stones and charcoal flecks.
100		Cut of ditch. Steep sides and irregular base. Exposed for 8m, 0.3m wide and 0.17m deep. Continues to the E and fades to the W.
101	100	Loose well sorted mid grey silt. Possibly the result of animal burrowing.
102		Linear ditch aligned E-W, exposed for c.35m, continues in both directions. Measures 0.75m wide and 0.25-0.3m deep. Sloping sides and a flattish base.
103	102	Mixed silt and sand with frequent rotted roots and clay clods.

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Photo No.	Description	From
1	Working shot	NW
2	Ditch 004 pre-excavation	WNW
3	Ditch 004 pre-excavation	SSW
4	Working shot	W
5	Ditches 006,007, 008, 009, (collectively 004), SSW facing section	SSW
6	Ditches 006,007, 008, 009, (collectively 004), SSW facing section	NW
7	Ditches 006,007, 008, 009, (collectively 004), plan view	SE
8	Ditch 004,	NW
9	Ditch 004 pre-excavation	ESE
10	Ditch 100section	E
11	Ditch 102section	E

APPENDIX 3: Drawings Register

Sheet No.	Drawing No.	Description	Contexts	Scale
1	1	Plan	Ditches 006 to 009	1:20
1	2	SSW facing section	Ditches 006 to 009	1:20
1	3	NNW facing section	Ditches 006-009	1:20
2	4	Plan	Trench 2	1:20

APPENDIX 4: Finds Quantification

Context	Find Type	No.	Wt (g)	Notes	Spotdate
010	Slag	1	44		
010	Animal Bone	2	24		
010	Pottery	1	13	WGW	Medieval
011	Pottery	1	4	WGW	Medieval
013	Pottery	19	473	Including rims, handle and base	Medieval

APPENDIX 5: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Site D1, Abbey Walk, St Andrews
PROJECT CODE:	STAR2
PARISH:	St Andrews and St Leonards
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Stuart Mitchell
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
RCAHMS Site No.	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	-
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NO 51256 16331
START DATE (this season)	2016
END DATE (this season)	2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief observed ground breaking works within Site D1 at Abbey Walk, St Andrews. A boundary ditch feature with a sequence of four re-cuts was identified in part of the site. Sherds of Scottish White Gritty Ware, bone and slag were recovered from these features. Two other narrow ditch features aligned E-W were identified in another part of the site but contained no finds.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Robertson Group 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)	Historic Environment Scotland (archive) Fife Council Sites and Monuments Record (report)



Key:

Site Boundary

Reproduced with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright. CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh EH21 7PQ AL100034785

CFA
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
The Old Engine House
Eskmills Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
T: 0131 273 4380
F: 0131 273 4381
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Title:
Site Location map and Site plan showing new development and location of features

Project:
Site D1, Abbey Walk, St Andrews, Fife: Archaeological Watching Brief

Client:
Robertson Homes

Scale at A3:
1:400

Drawn by: MP	Checked by: SW	Date: 09/11/2016
------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------

Report No.: 3468	Fig. No.: 1
----------------------------	-----------------------



Fig. 2 - General view of ditch 004 pre-excitation from the WNW



Fig. 3 - Plan view of ditch 004 showing the multiple re-cuts 006-009 from the SSW

Project:
Site D1, Abbey Walk, St Andrews, Fife: Archaeological Watching Brief



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
The Old Engine House
Eskmills Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
T: 0131 273 4380
F: 0131 273 4381
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Client:
Robertson Homes

Drawn by: MP	Checked: SW	Date: 09/11/16
Report No: 3468		Fig. No: 2-3



Fig. 4 - Ditch 100 section



Fig. 5 - Ditch 102 section

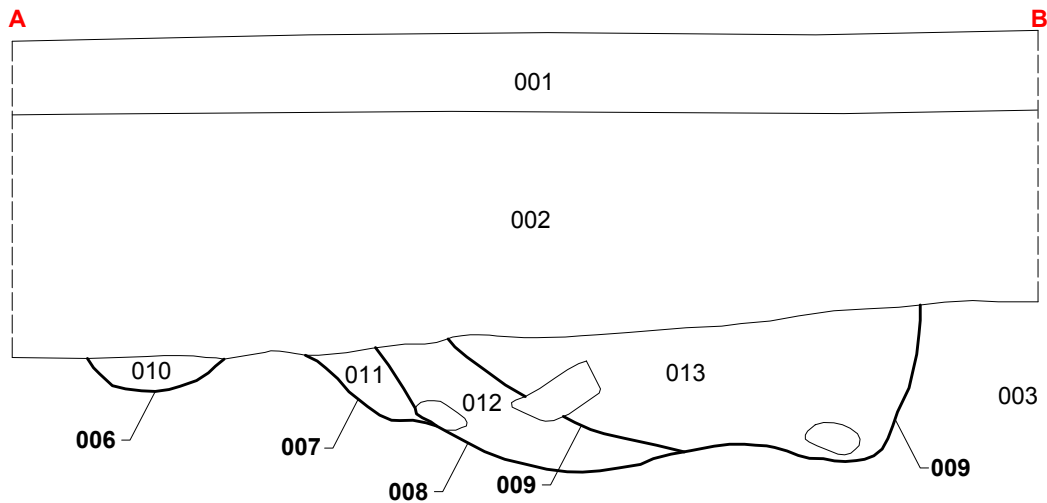
Project:
Site D1, Abbey Walk, St Andrews, Fife: Archaeological Watching Brief

CFA
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
The Old Engine House
Eskmills Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
T: 0131 273 4380
F: 0131 273 4381
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

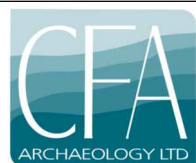
Client:
Robertson Homes

Drawn by: MP	Checked: SW	Date: 09/11/16
Report No: 3468		Fig. No: 4-5



Title:
SSW-facing section and soil profile

Client:
Robertson Homes



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
The Old Engine House
Eskmills Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
T: 0131 273 4380
F: 0131 273 4381
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Project:
Site D1, Abbey Walk, St Andrews, Fife: Archaeological Watching Brief

Scale at A4:
1:20

Drawn by:
MP

Checked:
GC

Date:
28/11/2016

Report.No:
3468

Fig. No:
6