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**The Priory Church,
South Queensferry,
City of Edinburgh Council**

Archaeological Test-pitting Evaluation

Report No. 3522

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standard operating procedures.

**The Priory Church,
South Queensferry,
City of Edinburgh Council**

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological test pitting evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in February 2017 at the Priory Church, Hopetoun Road, South Queensferry (NGR: NT 1289 7842) (Figs. 1 & 2). The work was commissioned by Mr Mike Spring.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 02 February 2017 covering the programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of Mr Spring and approved by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

1.2 Background

A pre-determination test-pitting evaluation was required within the grounds of the Priory Church, South Queensferry at the location of a proposed new wall foundation within a lawn area.

Thought to have been founded in 1330, a Carmelite friary was certainly in existence by 1441, and was closed by 1565. All that remains is part of the 15th century church; the building had become ruinous by 1889, when it was restored and re-consecrated as the Episcopal Church for South Queensferry. Further restoration took place in 1999-2000. The church is Category A Listed and is 15th century Gothic, with the nave (originally the choir), tower and Baptistery (originally the south transept) remaining of the original church; the west nave was demolished c.1875 and the west porch was added in 1937. The church is now the only medieval Carmelite church still in use in the British Isles.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To explore the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area through trial trenching evaluation.

2. WORKING METHODS

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.

Three test pits were excavated along the line of the proposed new wall (one at either end and one in the middle). The exact location of the proposed wall was provided by the client on site and the three pits were placed astride the middle line. Two of the test pits (TP2 and TP3) measured 1m by 1m and were dug to a depth of 1.1m (TP2) and 1.0m (TP3). The third test pit (TP1) was initially supposed to be 1m by 1m as well but was subsequently extended to 2m north-south by 1m transversely. All of the test pits were hand dug.

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. The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified. Trench positions were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment and all trenches were backfilled.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Three test pits (TP1-TP3) were excavated at the locations shown on Fig. 1. All three test pits revealed topsoil deposits (001) overlying demolition deposits (002, 005, 006, and 007) representing levelling material. Natural subsoil was not reached in any of the test pits. Details of the test pits are summarised below.

Test Pit 1 (TP1)

TP1 measured 2m by 1m (N-S) and was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. The deposits within this test pit from the surface downwards consisted of 0.19m of dark brown silty sand topsoil (001) and 0.1m-0.2m of fragments of sandstone rubble and degraded mortar levelling deposit (002). This was overlying a concrete slab (004) with one single roughly hewn sandstone block (003) mortar-bonded to the top of concrete slab (Fig. 4 & 5).

Test Pit 2 (TP2)

TP2 measured 1m by 1m and was excavated to a depth of 1.1m. The deposits within this test pit from the surface downwards consisted of 0.25m of topsoil (001), 0.52m of light grey made-ground levelling deposit (002), and 0.18m of dark grey/black sand and furnace ash with mortar, sandstone and brick fragments (005) (Figs. 6 & 7).

Test Pit 3 (TP3)

TP3 measured 1m by 1m and was excavated to a depth of 1m. The deposits within this test pit consisted of 0.25m of topsoil (001) overlying 0.17m of compacted dark brown silty sand with sub-angular and rounded stones (006), 0.18m of light grey levelling deposits (002) and 0.22m of mortar, sandstone and brick fragments within a matrix of dark grey/black gritty sand (007) (Figs. 8 & 9). A possible metallised surface (008) consisting of compacted silty sand and furnace ash with occasional mortar fragments was identified at depth of 0.95m (Fig. 10).

The artefacts dated from the 19th and 20th century and included blue and white transfer printed ware, bottle tops, ceramic field drain and animal bones; these were not retained.

4. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological pre-determination test pitting evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of a wall. Three test pits were excavated along the north-south alignment of the proposed wall. The pits measured 2m x 1m (TP1), and 1m x 1m for the other two (TP2 & TP3).

The results of the test-pitting indicated that much of the area where the proposed wall is to be built has been built up by just under a metre of demolition rubble, presumably from the houses depicted on the First and Second Edition OS maps which were demolished sometime after 1955; there are also buildings in this approximate location shown on Roy's Military Survey of 1750, so these former buildings could have been 18th century in origin. The only surviving feature was a concrete slab or floor surface with one mortar-bonded block of sandstone overlying it.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the Nation Record of the Historic Environment and copies of reports will be lodged with the City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record.

5. REFERENCES

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey 1856 *Linlithgow* Sheet II.16 (with inset II.12) (Dalmeny, Cramond & Queensferry). Six-inch to 1 mile.

Ordnance Survey 1897 *Linlithgowshire*, Sheet II.SE, Six-inch to 1 mile.

Roy Military Survey of Scotland 1747-55 British Library Maps C.9.b 7/6d

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Taken from
1	General shot of the proposed location of the wall	NNW
2	Pre-ex shot of location of TP3	N
3	TP1, excavated to the level of the concrete slab/surface 004	N
4	TP1, excavated to the level of the concrete slab/surface 004	S
5	TP1, oblique of east and south-facing sections	SE
6	TP1, north-facing section	N
7	TP1, south-facing section	S
8	TP2, west-facing section	W
9	TP2, north-facing section	N
10	TP2, east-facing section	E
11	TP2, south-facing section	S
12	TP2, general/oblique section of TP2	SE
13	TP3, west-facing section	W
14	TP3, south-facing section	S
15	TP3, north-facing section	N
16	TP3, detail of metallised surface 008	W
17	TP3, detail of metallised surface 008	W
18	Finds from TP3	N/A
19	Finds from TP3	N/A
20	Finds from TP1	N/A
21	Finds from TP1	N/A
22	General shot of the Priory Church	NE
23	Shot of location of proposed wall, post-excavation	SW
24	General shot of the Priory Church	ESE

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context no.	Description
001	Dark brown, humic silty sand topsoil
002	Made ground- sandstone rubble, mortar fragments, sandy grit (demolition material)
003	Sandstone masonry block which was mortar-bonded to the concrete slab 004
004	Concrete slab or floor surface
005	Dark grey/black sandy and furnace ash with mortar, sandstone and brick fragments (demolition material)
006	Compacted dark brown silty sand with sub-angular and rounded stones/pebbles
007	Dark grey/black sand with mortar, sandstone and brick fragments. Same as 005
008	Very compacted silty sand and furnace ash and small mortar fragments - a metallised surface

APPENDIX 3: Field Drawings Register

Dwg No.	Sheet No.	Scale	Plan / Section	Description/contexts
1	1	1:10	S	East-facing section of TP1
2	1	1:10	S	South-facing section TP1
3	1	1:20	P	Plan of TP1
4	1	1:10	S	East-facing section of TP 2
5	1	1:20	P	Plan of TP2
6	1	1:10	S	South-facing section of TP3



Key:

- Site Boundary
- Test Pit Location
- Proposed Wall



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Title:
Location map and site plan
showing test pit locations

Project:
The Priory Church, South
Queensferry: Archaeological
test-pitting

Client:
Mike Spring

Scale at A3:
1:250

Drawn by: MP	Checked: SW	Date: 22/02/2017
Report No: 3522	Fig. No: 1	

7.87m O.D.


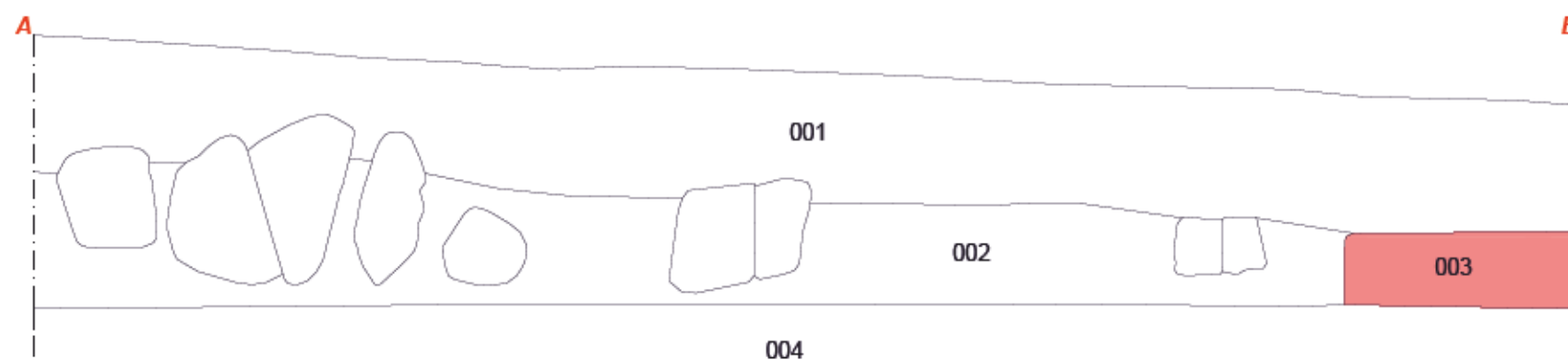



Fig. 2 - South-facing section of TP1

7.52m O.D.


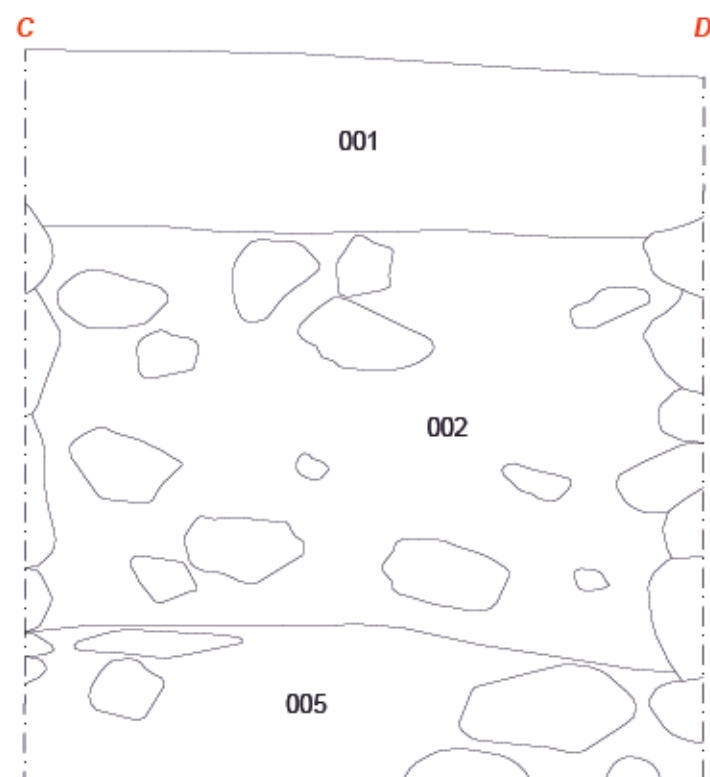



Fig. 3 - East-facing section of TP2

7.43m O.D.


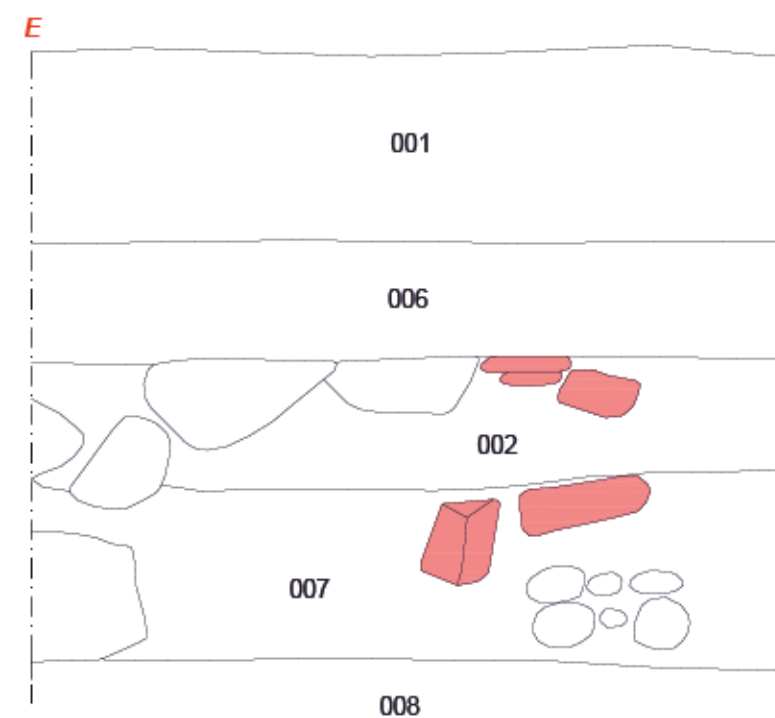


Fig. 4 - South-facing section of TP3



Key:

 Brick



Title:
Sections

Project:
The Priory Church, South
Queensferry: Archaeological
test-pitting

Client:
Mike Spring

Scale at A3:
1:10

Drawn by: MP	Checked: SW	Date: 22/02/2017
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Fig. 5 - Priory Church, looking from the north-east



Fig. 6 - Location of the test-pits prior to excavation

Project:
The Priory Church, South Queensferry: Archaeological test-pitting



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Fig. 7 - Oblique view TP1



Fig. 8 - South-facing section of TP2

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Fig. 9 - North-facing section of TP3



Fig. 10 - Plan view of TP3 showing metallised surface 008

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Fig. No:
9-10