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## Minor Archaeological Services Call-Off Contract St Andrews Cathedral, Fife (PIC035)

Floodlighting Installation, Watching Brief,  
November 2018

Report No. [HES-PIC035-2018-02](#)

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

### **Minor Archaeological Services Call-Off Contract**

**St Andrews Cathedral, Fife (PIC035)**

**Floodlighting Installation  
Watching Brief, November 2018**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

A watching brief was undertaken in November 2018 at St Andrews Cathedral, Fife (NGR: NO 51355 16635), a Property in Care (PIC035) in the ownership of Historic Environment Scotland. The watching brief was required to monitor ground breaking works for the cable trench and plinths for new floodlighting around the Cathedral and St Rules tower. This work was undertaken along the route of the previous lighting installation to ensure minimal disturbance.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the work, dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018, was produced by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) and approved by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) in advance of the works.

### **1.2 Background**

The detail contained within this section is based on information provided by HES (K Owen, document dated 06/05/14 and revised 22/08/17 by G Ritchie).

A religious foundation was possibly first established at St Andrews, or Kilrymont as it was then known, in the mid-8th century by Oengus mac Fergusa. It was focused on the veneration of relics associated with St Andrew perhaps brought there by the exiled Bishop Acca of Hexham in the early-8th century. This early religious settlement eventually included a number of churches including what later became St Mary on the Rock (Kirkheugh), St Andrews (St Rules), Holy Trinity (the parish church, which was later relocated to the burgh in 1415), St Leonard's and St Peters, all located on the headland. It seems likely that this early religious settlement would have been defined by some means, effectively a vallum cutting of the headland, and a predecessor of the later precinct wall that may have governed the eventual line of that wall.

In c.1124 the first attempt was made to supplant the existing bodies of clergy at St Andrews by Augustinian Canons. However it was not until 1140 that Augustinian Canons were eventually introduced, and from 1160–1270 a new cathedral was constructed on the site. The priory is likely to have been enclosed by a masonry wall in the late 14th century when Pends Yett, the main gateway into the precinct, is believed to have been constructed. It seems possible that the lower portions of the surviving precinct wall, particularly on the N side of the precinct, may date to that period. The construction of the wall and the route chosen suggests that the priory was using this as an opportunity to make the precinct a more exclusive space. St Mary of the Rock (St Mary Kirkheugh), the church of a college of secular priests (possibly successors of the Culdees who refused to join the Augustinian priory in the 1140s, and perhaps continuing the rivalry with the cathedral chapter) appears to have been specifically excluded from the precinct, for it would have made sense to have used sea cliffs as the boundary at this point. In the early 15th century, the parish Church, Holy Trinity, was relocated outwith the precinct to the burgh. With parishioners no-longer requiring access to this area of the precinct, access was further controlled within the precinct by closing off access beyond the cathedral. This effectively created a public outer court in front of the west facade and the north flank of the church, which were respectively the main processional entrance and the principal doorway for the laity. The precinct E and

S of the cathedral became far more the exclusive space of the clergy who served the cathedral priory.

The precinct wall enclosed the cathedral, burial ground and the associated conventual buildings along with the church that came to be known as St Rules. The large area S of the Pends was the location for buildings relating to the domestic economy of the priory, with the Abbey Mill and its pond (situated where St Katherine's House now stands), several teind barns and a granary identifiable on Geddy's Plan along with the guest houses including the Hospitum Novum (The New Inns) of which the relocated entrance gate survives and many other now unidentifiable buildings. The open areas appear to have been used as garden plots. As noted, this wall was not part of the precinct, and it is not shown clearly on Geddy's map. Therefore it is not entirely clear whether it is medieval or not. There are at least three construction phases evident in the upstanding section, all of which are rubble built.

After the Reformation, the possessions of the archbishopric, priory and cathedral were annexed by the Crown. In 1840, the Office of Woods and Forests sold all the ground south of Pends Lane within the precinct wall. The sale included 'The walls, gateway and towers' but provided that the University and their successors in title 'shall be bound not to take down, damage or demolish the foresaid walls, gateway and towers ... without the consent of the said commissioners.'

There have been several major clearance episodes at the site, beginning in 1826 when the Barons of the Exchequer undertook major clearance after taking responsibility for the cathedral. They cleared it to the original floor level and the earth was used in the construction of an embankment to combat coastal erosion. In the 1890s excavations were undertaken by Lord Bute with the intention of turning the buildings into a Catholic seminary. Between 1903 and 1905 excavations were undertaken by the St. Andrews Antiquarian Society. In 1908 a museum was constructed south of the chapter house, necessitating further excavation. This was extended in 1935. In 1957/58 the priory house and a number of smaller buildings were demolished, laying open the entire site.

It is the areas of ground immediately surrounding the upstanding remains of the cathedral and St Rules Tower that this work relates to.

### **1.3 Aims and Objectives**

The objective of this programme of archaeological work was:

- A watching brief during all ground breaking works undertaken for the installation of the floodlighting
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through their 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. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods.

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.

### **2.2 Watching Brief**

All ground breaking works for the lighting installation within the scheduled area were monitored by an appropriately qualified archaeologist. This included plinths for the lights as well as the cable trench.

## **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **3.1 Watching Brief**

A total of around 350m of cable trench and 15 light plinths were excavated. The cable lay between 0.1m-0.15m deep in the ground and lay entirely within dark brown topsoil. The previous trench was only 0.1m wide, with metal mesh being laid atop the cable and then yellow warning tape (Fig. 2-4). This enabled the workers to follow the old cable route exactly and so no new ground was ever broken along the cable trench. The trench was backfilled and re-turfed following the laying of the cable.

In total there were 15 light plinths, each measuring 0.7m x 0.52m x 0.1m, which were placed as best as possible at the location of the previous lights. Due to this a small area at each plinth broke new ground (Fig. 5).

The cable trench was laid between graves within parts of the graveyard (Fig. 6). A small quantity of unstratified human bone was recovered from the topsoil during the watching brief. This was collected and buried all together on site on completion of all the works, in the centre of the area excavated for light plinth 12, where it would be sealed securely beneath the plinth (Fig. 7). No in situ graves were disturbed during the work.

A single stone slab was uncovered in the trench to the south side of the cathedral along the trench leading to light 11. It measured 0.35m by 0.2m within the trench and extended beyond the trench edges. The old cable lay over the top of the slab. It was left in situ and the new cable was inserted over the top of it.

### 3.2 Finds by Christina Hills

A variety of artefacts from a range of periods were recovered from the topsoil during the watching brief and are detailed in Appendix 3.

The only definitely medieval finds recovered were six sherds of white gritty ware pottery.

Post-medieval finds included four clay pipe stems and two sherds of pottery.

Modern finds included glass, a plastic bead and button, flower pot sherds and white and red earthenware.

Finds of unknown date included masonry stone, marine shell, animal tooth, iron nail, a copper alloy bar fitting and a fragment of brick.

## 4. CONCLUSION

No significant archaeology was uncovered. The single slab found within the trench to light 11 is most likely not in situ structural or grave remains and is more likely from the demolition of the cathedral, though without further excavation this cannot be established and the slab was preserved in situ.

Previously disturbed human remains were found within the cable trench. These were collected and reburied underneath the plinth for light 12. This was to minimise possible future disturbance should any further works occur regarding the floodlighting.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Record for the Historic Environment (NRHE) and copies of reports will be lodged with the West Dunbartonshire Historic Environment Record.

A summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Photo	Summary description of subject	Facing
1	General view of cable route round cathedral	N
2	General view of cable route round cathedral	E
3	General view of cable route round cathedral	E
4	General view of cable route round cathedral	N
5	General view of cable route round cathedral	N
6	General view of cable route round cathedral	E
7	General view of cable route round cathedral	E
8	Test hole for cable depth = 0.1m	Oblique
9	Cable trench beginning at Box 1 at west end	N
10	Cable trench extending towards lights 1 and 2	E
11	Cable trench extending towards lights 1 and 2	E
12	Cable trench extending towards lights 1 and 2	E
13	Cable trench at W end along boundary wall	N
14	Cable running underneath slabs at entrance - didn't need to be lifted	N
15	Cable trench - main trench and one for light 3	N
16	Main cable trench excavation	E
17	Main cable trench excavation	E
18	Main cable trench excavation	E
19	Section of stone foundations exposed and cable trench has been diverted around	N
20	Diverted cable trench to avoid foundations	E
21	Main cable trench excavation	E
22	Main cable trench excavation	E
23	Main cable trench excavation	E
24	Main cable trench excavation	E
25	Main cable trench excavation	E
26	Lights 1 and 2 plinths excavated to 0.1m	N
27	Lights 1 and 2 plinths excavated to 0.1m	S
28	Section showing sand of previous plinth location	Oblique
29	Light 3 excavated to 0.1m	N
30	Light 4 excavated to 0.1m	N
31	Light 5 excavated to 0.1m	S
32	Light 6 excavated to 0.1m	W
33	Light 7 excavated to 0.1m	W
34	Light 8 plinth excavated to 0.1m	W
35	Light 8 plinth excavated to 0.1m	W
36	Light 9 plinth excavated to 0.1m	E
37	Trench leading from Box 2 to lights 10-14	E
38	Trench leading from Box 2 to lights 10-14	E
39	Trench leading from Box 2 to lights 10-14	E
40	Trench leading from Box 2 to lights 10-14	S
41	Trench from light 12 back to main trench	NW
42	Trench from light 12 back to main trench	NW
43	Trench from light 12 back to main trench	N
44	Trench from light 12 back to main trench	NW
45	Trench from light 12 back to main trench	NW
46	Cable trench at archway	WNW
47	Trench from light 12 back to main trench	W
48	Trench from light 12 to 13	S
49	Trench from light 12 to 13	N
50	Trench from light 12 to 13	NNW
51	Cable trench ran through path towards light 14	S
52	Trench to light 14	N
53	Trench to light 15	WNW



Photo	Summary description of subject	Facing
54	Trench to light 15	SE
55	Trench to light 15	ENE
56	Trench to light 15	SE
57	Trench from light 11	E
58	Trench from light 11	E
59	Trench from light 11	NE
60	Stone in cable trench	Oblique
61	Stone in cable trench	Oblique
62	Location shot of stone in cable trench - cable ran over top so still in situ	E
63	Trench from light 11	NE
64	Trench from light 11	N
65	Trench through archway	W
66	Trench through archway	E
67	Trench through archway	E
68	Trench across footpath	N
69	Trench to light 10	SW
70	Trench to light 10	NW
71	Trench to light 10	NW
72	Trench to light 10	W
73	Trench to light 10	W
74	Trench to light 10	W
75	Plinth for light 10	Oblique
76	Plinth for light 11	Oblique
77	Plinth for light 13	Oblique
78	Plinth for light 12 dug to 0.18m for reburial of bone	Oblique
79	Bone cover with soil underneath plinth 12	Oblique
80	Plinth for light 14	Oblique
81	Plinth for light 15	Oblique

## APPENDIX 2: Context Register

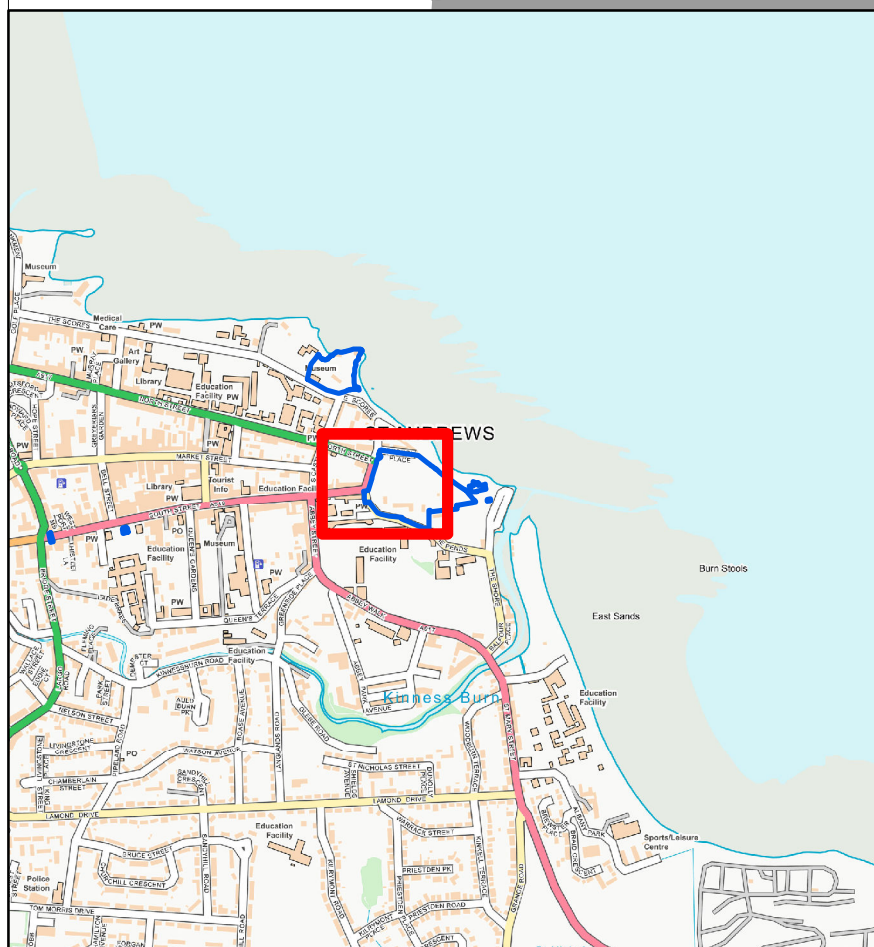
Context no.	Fill of	Trench	Description
001		All	Dark brown topsoil

## APPENDIX 3: Finds Register

Context	Find type	No.	Wt (g)	Notes	Spotdate
Topsoil	Stone	1	671	Masonry	
Topsoil	Clay pipe	4	11	Stems	Post medieval
Topsoil	Shell	6	15	Oyster etc	
Topsoil	Glass	4	93	Green and Clear bottle	Modern
Topsoil	Plastic	2	1	Bead and Button	Modern
Topsoil	Animal bone	1	4	Tooth	
Topsoil	Flower pot	12	110		Modern
Topsoil	Iron	2	27	Nail	
Topsoil	Copper Alloy	1	73	Bar fitting	
Topsoil	Pottery	5	12	White earthenware glazed	Modern
Topsoil	Pottery	4	30	Red earthenware glazed	Modern
Topsoil	Pottery	6	79	White gritty ware	Medieval
Topsoil	Pottery	2	6	Glazed red/buff ware	Post medieval
Topsoil	CBM	1	97	Brick	

#### APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Fife Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Minor Archaeological Services Call-Off Contract: St Andrews Cathedral
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	MINA72
<b>PARISH:</b>	St Andrews
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Leah Watt
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NO51NW 2
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Cathedral
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NO 513 166
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	November 2018
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	November 2018
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief undertaken during the installation of floodlighting at St Andrews Cathedral. This included lighting around the cathedral itself and St Rules tower. The 350m of trench followed the cable trench of previous lighting which was installed during the 1990s and the work included the installation of 15 light plinths. No significant archaeology was uncovered.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Historic Environment Scotland
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk">cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited with NRHE, reports lodged with Fife Council HER.



**Key:**

- Cable Track Location
- PIC Boundary

Contains Historic Environment Scotland data  
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Title:  
**Location plan including cable track location**

Project:  
**St Andrews Cathedral Floodlighting Installation**

Client:  
**Historic Environment Scotland**

Scale at A3:  
**1:800**

Drawn by: <b>MP</b>	Checked by: <b>SW</b>	Date: <b>11/12/2018</b>
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Report No: <b>3817</b>	Fig. No: <b>1</b>
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Fig. 2 - General shot of cable trench along the western boundary wall



Fig. 3 - Cable being pulled beneath slabs at W entrance

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Fig. 4 - Cable trench being diverted around foundations at north side of Cathedral



Fig. 5 - Plinths for lights 1 and 2 at SW corner of Cathedral

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Fig. 6 - General shot showing cable trench weaving between graves at SE corner of St Rules Tower



Fig. 7 - Human bone collected during duration of job reburied beneath plinth for light 12

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St Andrews Cathedral Floodlighting Installation



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Report No: <b>3817</b>		Fig. No: <b>6-7</b>



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