



# CFA ARCHAEOLOGY

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Abbeylea, 10-12 Main Street,  
New Abbey, Dumfries & Galloway

Archaeological Watching Brief  
Report No. 3906

Author(s):  
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Constructionline  
Gold Member

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

**Abbeylea,  
10-12 Main Street, New Abbey,  
Dumfries & Galloway**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Data Structure Report No. 3906**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report describes an archaeological watching brief that was undertaken during groundbreaking works for a house extension at Abbeylea, 10-12 Main Street, New Abbey, Dumfriesshire (NGR: NX 96362 66250, Figs. 1-2) in September 2019. The work was commissioned by Mr Jim Tinsley.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CFA (dated 05 September 2019), and agreed in advance with Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC).

### **1.2 Background**

Planning permission has been granted for the demolition and removal of an existing extension and the erection of a new, larger extension with associated service upgrades.

Dumfries and Galloway Council has requested a watching brief during ground breaking works.

This request is due to the location of the development, within the Precinct of Sweetheart Abbey (Fig. 3).

### **1.3 Objectives**

The aims and objectives of the archaeological work were:

1. To carry out a watching brief during ground breaking works, undertake any mitigation as required, and produce a report.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

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

A watching brief was carried out following the demolition to ground level of the existing extension on the site.

All groundbreaking works were carried out using a micro digger under archaeological supervision.

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**

Context numbers are in bold and described in Appendix 1.

#### **3.2 Watching Brief**

The existing extension (Fig. 4) consisted mainly of concrete block walls with a concrete floor (**001**). A drain (**003**) containing a plastic capillary pipe ran around the exterior of the extension and the cottage itself (**004**). This drain was overlain by pea gravel with backfilled soil and stones (**002**) above.

The new extension (Figs. 2, 5) was an irregular shape but measured around 10.5m ENE-WSW by 5.4m SSE-NNW. The excavation extended around 450mm beyond the outer extent of the extension walls to allow for their construction.

The concrete foundation of the existing extension was not removed but, apart from this, natural subsoil (**008**) was exposed over the whole footprint of the development (Fig. 5). Overlying the natural was around 0.15m of orange-brown sandy silt with gravel subsoil (**007**) (Fig. 6-7). This was overlain by around 0.4m of grey sandy silt subsoil which contained occasional stones as well as fragments of coal and ash (**006**). Above **006** was a grey-black sandy silt topsoil (**005**) with a depth of around 0.3m. On the western side of the plot, surface deposits of a crushed flint path material (**011**) were present.

One archaeological feature (**010**) was recorded (Figs. 2, 7-8) in the section at the western corner of the development footprint. This was a drystone structure with an exposed height of 0.5m and width of 0.5m. It was founded on the top of the natural subsoil which was also the case with the cottage wall (**004**) and was overlain by the topsoil (**005**). It was aligned NE-SW, parallel to the existing garden boundary (Fig. 8).

No other archaeological remains were uncovered.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of predominantly garden soils within and just beyond the footprint of a new house extension.

A drystone structure was partially exposed in one of the corners of the extension footprint. It appeared to be roughly parallel with the existing plot boundaries and it may be either part of an earlier plot boundary, or perhaps a rockery feature adjacent to it. Due to the location of this structure, within the 450mm working area beyond the extension walls, it will not be affected by the development and was left in situ.

No other archaeological remains were uncovered.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) and copies of reports will be lodged with the DGC 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: Context Register

Context no.	Fill of	Type	Description
001		Structure	Existing modern extension structure
002	003	Deposit	Disturbed material behind structure 001 including the fill of drain 003
003		Cut	Cut for drain alongside the N wall of 12 Main Street
004		Structure	The N wall of the 18-19C houses
005		Deposit	Grey-black sandy silt topsoil
006		Deposit	Grey sandy silt subsoil
007		Deposit	Orange-brown sandy silt with gravel subsoil. Could be a B horizon
008		Natural	Greyish ginger-orange silty sand & gravel natural subsoil
009		Deposit	Fireclay drain system and synthetic stone floor tile underlying the demolished extension
010		Structure	Drystone feature.
011		Deposit	Surface flint chippings path material

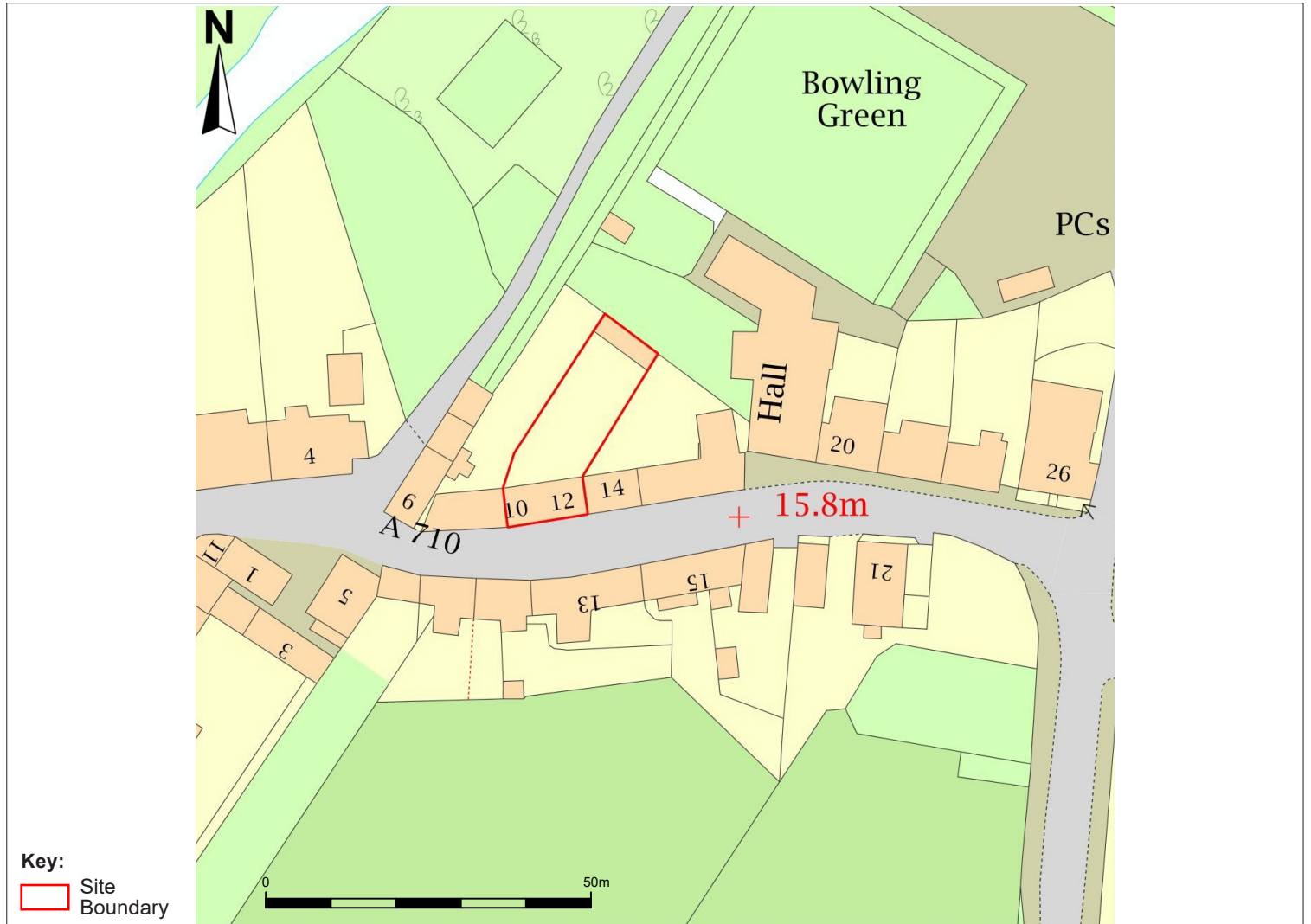
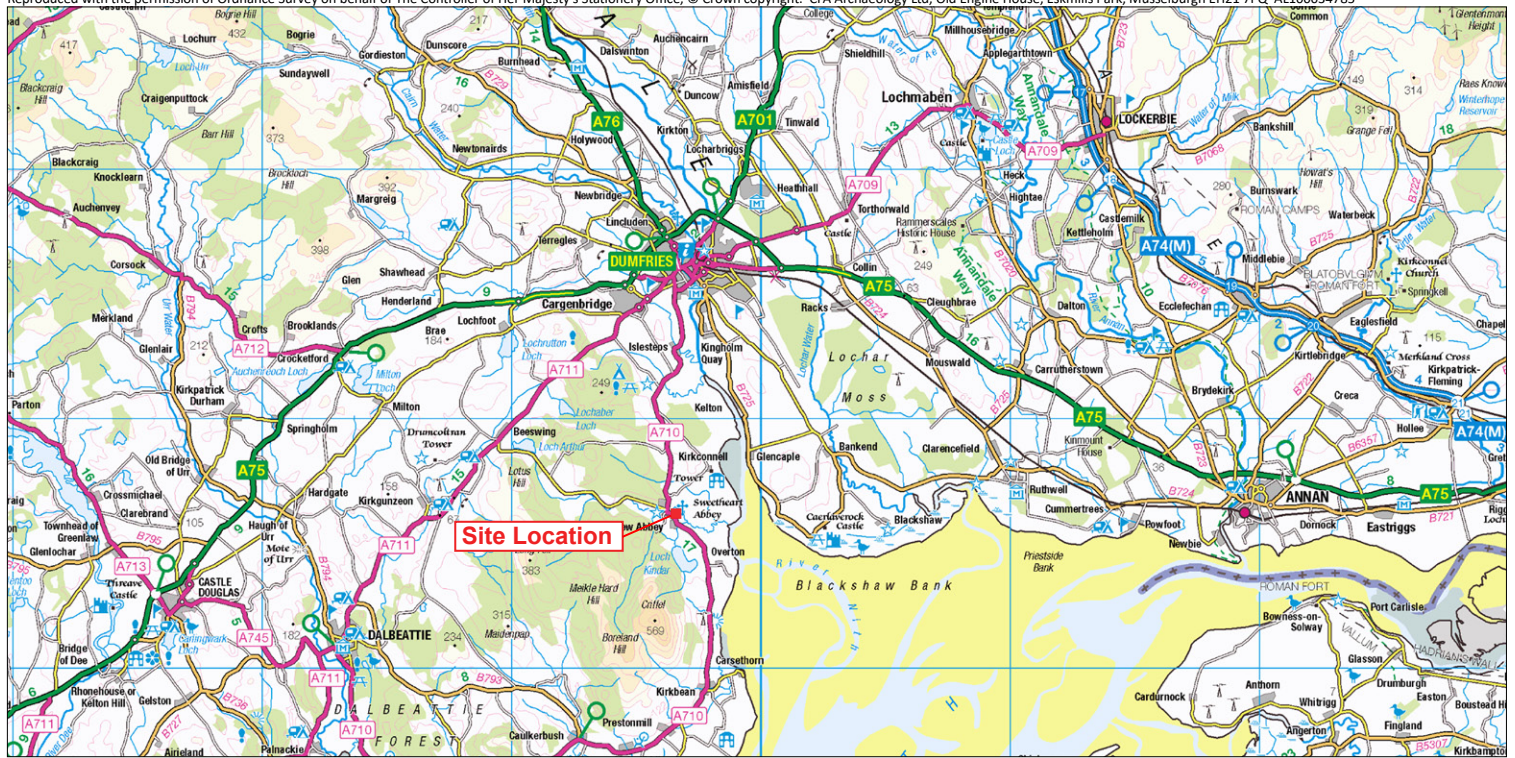
## APPENDIX 2: Photograph Register

Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Facing
1-6	Pre-excavation views of the extension area. The existing extension has been demolished to ground level	Various
7-8	Views of 10-12 Main Street from the main road	Various
9	Pre-excavation view of the existing foundations	WSW
10-12	Existing derelict outhouse/summerhouse at the N end of the garden. This is being replaced by a modern shed	Various
13	Drain and synthetic stone tile under the existing extension floor	SSE
14	View N from 10 Main Street showing the garden and to the left the garden of No. 8 with the Precinct Wall on the left side	N
15	View ENE from 10-12 towards Sweetheart Abbey	
16-18	Working shots showing the micro digger accessing the site	Various
19-20	Drain 003 alongside the N wall (004) of 12 Main Street	ENE
21-33	The soil sections around the perimeter of the new extension. East to West. Includes structure 010	Various
34-35	General view of the completed excavation	WSW
36	The probable alignment of structure 010. Parallel to the existing plot boundary to the right	SW
37	General view of the completed excavation	S
38	Soil section just within the boundary of 10 Main Street. There was no continuation of structure 010 in this section	NNW

### APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Dumfries and Galloway
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Abbeylea, 10-12 Main Street, New Abbey, Dumfriesshire
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	TINS
<b>PARISH:</b>	New Abbey
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Ian Suddaby
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching brief
<b>RCAHMS Site No.</b>	NX96NE 121 (10 Main Street)
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Structure
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)</b>	NX 96362 66250
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	September 2019
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	September 2019
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of deep soil deposits within the footprint of a new extension to the rear of 10-12 Main Street, New Abbey, Dumfriesshire. The site lies within the Precinct of Sweetheart Abbey. Part of a drystone structure was revealed and this may be a property boundary or the edge of a rockery. No archaeological remains were present.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Jim Tinsley
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Historic Environment Scotland (archive) Dumfries and Galloway Council Historic Environment Record (report)





Title: New Abbey and the location of Abbeylea, 10-12 Main Street

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Scale at A4:  
1:1,000

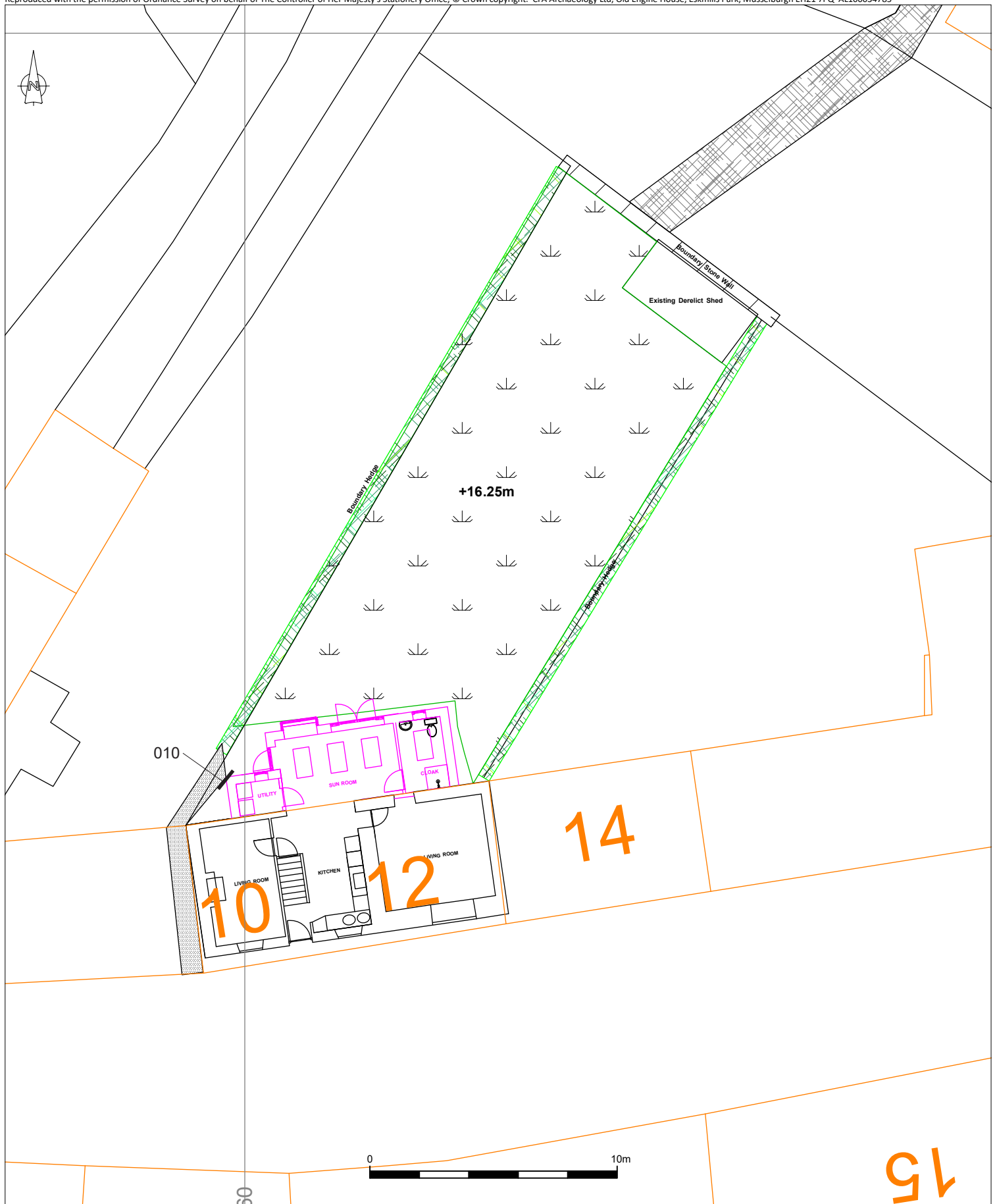
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SW

Checked:  
MJ

Date:  
04/10/19

Report No:  
3906

Fig. No:  
1



Title:  
Plan of the extension to the rear of Abbylea, 10-12 Main Street

Client:  
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Scale at A4:  
1:200

Drawn by:  
SW

Checked:  
MJ

Date:  
04/10/19

Report No:  
3906

Fig. No:  
2



Fig. 3: The view North from 10 Abbeylea. The garden is on the right and the Precinct Wall of Sweetheart Abbey can be seen at the left side of the adjacent garden of No. 8 Main Street



Fig. 4: The location of the extension pre-excitation from the East

Project:  
Abbeylea, 10-12 Main Street, New Abbey, Dumfriesshire



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Report No: <b>3906</b>		Fig. No: <b>3 - 4</b>



Fig. 5: The completed excavation from the East



Fig. 6: West facing soil profile at the east of the site

Project:  
Abbeylea, 10-12 Main Street, New Abbey, Dumfriesshire



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Report No: <b>3906</b>		Fig. No: <b>5 - 6</b>



Fig. 7: Structure 010 and the South facing soil profile at the West of the site



Fig. 8: The alignment of structure 010, roughly parallel with the existing plot boundaries

Project:  
Abbeylea, 10-12 Main Street, New Abbey, Dumfriesshire



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Report No: <b>3906</b>		Fig. No: <b>7 - 8</b>



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