



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY

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Water Bottle Refill Station Installation, High Street, Elgin

Watching Brief
Report No. 3913

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Commissioned by	Scottish Water
Date issued	January 2020
Version	1
Planning Reference	19/00948/APP
OASIS Reference	cfaarcha1-373080
Grid Ref	NJ 21522 62837

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

Water Bottle Refill Station Installation High Street, Elgin Archaeological Watching Brief

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Illustrations (bound at rear)

Fig. 1 Location map of water bottle refill station installation

Fig. 2 SW-facing section of installation pit

Fig. 3 General shot of completed excavation

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on 5th and 6th November 2019 during the installation of a water bottle refill station on High Street, Elgin (NGR: NJ 21522 62837) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Scottish Water.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 18th October 2019 was produced by CFA on behalf of Scottish Water. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS), providers of archaeological advice to Moray Council.

1.2 Background

An application for the construction of a water bottle refill station was approved by Moray Council (19/00948/APP). The installation of this water fountain was situated at 159 High Street, west of St Giles' Church. An archaeological watching brief was recommended by ACAS due to proximity to the medieval burial ground associated with the church and a corresponding potential for human remains. The burial ground dated from the 12th to 17th centuries, being levelled in the 19th century. Previous works in the vicinity to the east encountered grave cuts and disarticulated human remains.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the project were:

- To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area through a watching brief;
- To record (by excavation) any surviving remains of archaeological importance that may be present prior to their removal to allow construction to proceed in the affected area;
- To prepare a suitable report on the findings.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods.

2.2 Watching Brief

All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

The modern cobbled surface and underlying concrete were removed using hand-tools and a tracked 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a hydraulic breaker. Excavation to formation depth was undertaken using hand-tools.

Excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, using pro forma record sheets and digital photography.

The stratification of the excavated area was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Numbers in bold refer to contexts, a full list of which are contained in Appendix 2. General site photos are provided in Figures 2-3.

The installation pit for the water bottle refill station measured 1.1m by 1.0m by 3.6m southeast of the shop frontage at 159 High Street (Fig. 1). The water main was reached via a narrow trench excavated south from the installation, measuring 0.5m wide by 4.0m long. The maximum depth of both the installation pit and the trench was 0.7m.

3.2 Water Bottle Refill Station Installation Pit and Trench

The cobbled street surface (**001**) was bedded in concrete to a depth 0.35m. This immediately overlaid an earlier cobbled surface (**002**) that survived solely within the area of the installation pit. These cobbles measured 0.09m in depth with an underlying base of 0.07m thick pink-orange gravelly sand (**003**). These layers were truncated to the northwest and southeast by disused and modern services. Along the northwest edge of the installation pit, a cut (**005**) contained a narrow pipe (**006**) marked with a thin wooden strip 0.53m below the surface. A parallel service cut (**007**) to the southeast contained two cast iron pipes running southwest to northeast and west to east, capped with concrete (**008**).

The remainder of the profile outwith these services comprised 0.15-0.32m of redeposited dark grey-brown silty sand (**004** and **010**). Truncation by modern services disturbed much of the trench accessing the water main, resulting in thoroughly mixed and diffuse deposits. The water main was located 4.0m south of the installation pit, aligned northeast to southwest, overlying a perpendicular gas pipe.

No archaeologically significant finds or deposits were identified and no trace of human remains were uncovered.

4. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the construction of a water bottle refill station at 159 High Street, Elgin (NJ 21522 62837). An installation pit and water main access trench was excavated to the required depth of 0.7m, uncovering an area largely truncated by disused and modern services. A fragmentary cobbled surface surviving only within the area of the installation pit underlay modern concrete and cobbles. No archaeologically significant finds or deposits were identified and no trace of human remains relating to the nearby burial ground at St Giles' Church 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 Aberdeenshire Council Sites and Monuments 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

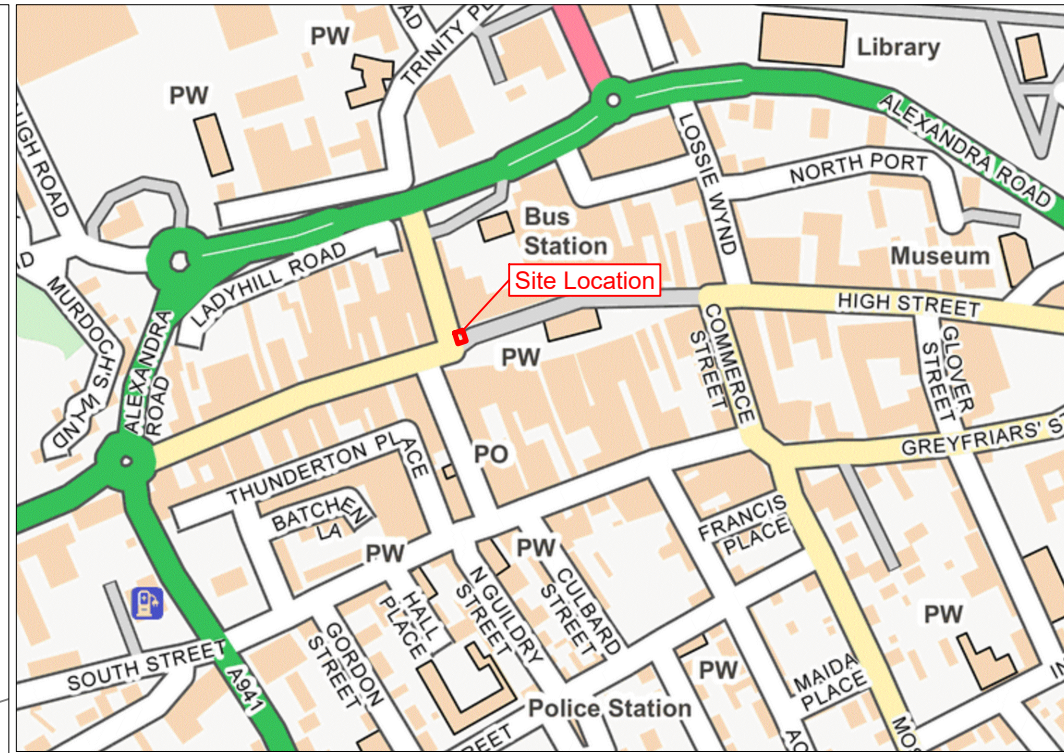
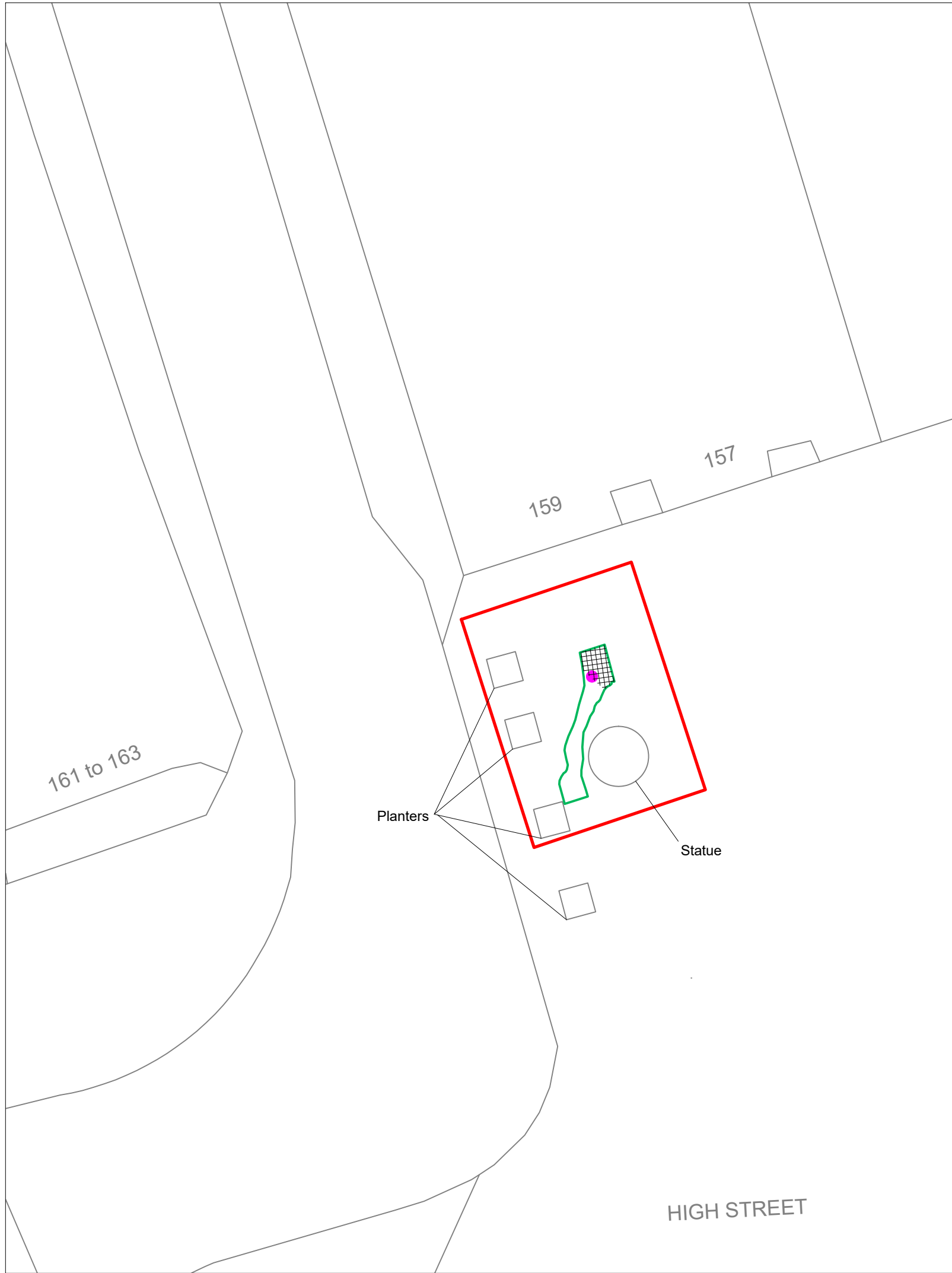
Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Facing
1	General shot of works area prior to excavation	SE
2	General shot of works area prior to excavation	E
3	Record shot of cobbled surface (002) and cast iron pipe service	NW
4	Record shot of cobbled surface (002) and cast iron pipe service	NE
5	SW-facing section of fountain installation w/ flash	NE
6	SW-facing section of fountain installation w/o flash	NE
7	SW-facing section of fountain installation	NE
8	SW-facing section of fountain installation	NE
9	Plan shot of fountain installation pit	SE
10	General post-excavation shot	SE
11	Example W-facing section of trench to water main	E
12	Plan shot of water main and gas pipe to S of installation pit	NNW
13	General post-excavation shot	NW
14	SW-facing section of water main access	NE
15	General shot of buried BT service within trench	SE
16	Record shot of lead pipe service and wooden marker in installation pit	NW
17	General site shot post-excavation	SE

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context no.	Fill of	Type	Description
001		Deposit	Modern cobble surface and concrete
002		Deposit	Post-medieval cobbled surface
003		Deposit	Mid pink-orange sand base for cobbled surface
004		Deposit	Redeposited sand/made ground
005		Cut	Cut for lead pipe service running SW-NE
006	005	Deposit	Infill of pipe service
007		Cut	Cut for cast iron pipes
008	007	Deposit	Concrete capped cast iron pipes
009	007	Deposit	Infill of cast iron pipe service cut
010		Deposit	Truncated and mixed made ground; dark grey-brown sand

APPENDIX 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Moray
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Water Bottle Refill Station Installation, High Street, Elgin
PROJECT CODE:	ELWA
PARISH:	Elgin
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Oliver Rusk
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
HES NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR	NJ 21522 62837
START DATE (this season)	5 November 2019
END DATE (this season)	6 November 2019
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the construction of a water bottle refill station at 159 High Street, Elgin (NJ 21522 62837). An installation pit and water main access trench was excavated to the required depth of 0.7m, uncovering an area largely truncated by disused and modern services. A fragmentary cobbled surface surviving only within the area of the installation pit underlay modern concrete and cobbles. No archaeologically significant finds or deposits were identified and no trace of human remains relating to the nearby burial ground at St Giles' Church were uncovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scottish Water
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited with NHRE. Reports lodged with local SMR.



Key:

- Site boundary
- Trench
- Installation pit
- Proposed location of refill station



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Title:
Location map of water bottle refill station installation

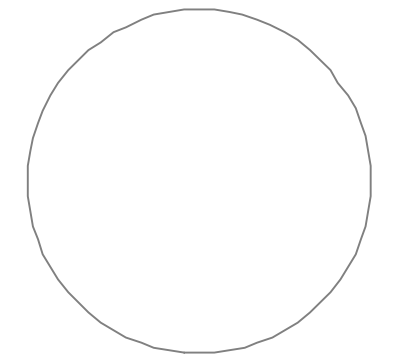
Project:
Water Bottle Refill Installation, High Street, Elgin

Client:
Scottish Water

Scale at A3:
1:150

Drawn by: RK	Checked: SW	Date: 06/01/2020
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Report.No: 3913	Fig. No: 1
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Fountain





Fig. 2 - SW-facing section of installation pit



Fig. 3 - General shot of completed excavation

Project:
Water Bottle Refill Station Installation, High Street, Elgin



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Drawn by: RK	Checked: SW	Date: 06/01/2020
Report No: 3919		Fig. No: 2-3



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