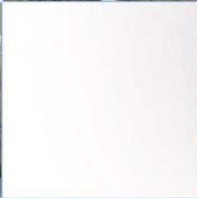


St. Andrews University New Data Centre, Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

AOC 21459

30th November 2009



St. Andrews University New Data Centre Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: University of St. Andrews Estates Dept.
Woodburn Place,
St. Andrews,
Fife
KY16 8LA

National Grid Reference (NGR): NO 5095 1691

AOC Project No: 21493

Prepared by: Lindsay Dunbar

Illustration by: Douglas Park

Date of Fieldwork: 30th November 2009

Date of Report: 30th November 2009

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Date: 30th November 2009

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Date: 30th November 2009

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Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of St. Andrews University during construction works associated with a new Data Centre sited on former squash courts lying on the western side of Butt's Wynd, to the immediate east of the University Library. The scope of the works was determined by Fife Council as advised by Fife Council Archaeology Unit (FCAU), in keeping with the policies outlined in SPP23 (2008) and PAN42 (1994).

The watching brief revealed no features of archaeological significance, although a very small assemblage of unstratified 13th and 14th century pottery was recovered during the watching brief. No further works are recommended.

0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by St. Andrews University on ground breaking works associated with the construction of a new Data Centre. The scope of the works was determined by the Fife Council as advised on archaeological matters by Douglas Speirs of Fife Council Archaeology Unit (FCAU). The Watching Brief did not encounter any features of archaeological significance, although a small assemblage of unstratified medieval pottery sherds were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 The development site (Figure 1; NGR: NO 5095 1691) is situated on former squash courts lying on the western side of Butt's Wynd, to the immediate east of the University Library and south-west of St Salvator's Quad.

1.2 Curatorial control

- 1.3.1 This programme of works was designed to fully satisfy the requirements of Fife Council, as advised on archaeological matters by Fife Council Archaeology Unit (FCAU). The *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Cook 2009) outlined the entirety of the archaeological programme of work which may have been needed to mitigate the effects of the proposed development. It detailed principally the methodology to be employed in implementing the Watching Brief.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The main archaeological issue connected with the development is the possibility of the development encountering the survival of backland activity associated the medieval and post-medieval expansion of St Andrews. Prior work within burghs with medieval origins has shown that where such material has survived in the past it is often as 'islands of survival' within areas otherwise truncated by more recent urban development (Hall, 1995; Rains and Hall 1997).
- 1.3.2 A church and associated settlement town is thought to have existed at St Andrews from at least the 6th century AD (Smith 2006, 814). The development of the settlement in the subsequent years was advanced by both the founding of a cathedral in 736 AD and its establishment as a burgh in the 12th century. The town was later erected as a burgh of regality in 1614 and became a Royal burgh in 1620 (NMRS: NO51NW1).
- 1.3.3 North Street lies to the south of the development area. The alignment of this street is a fossilized remnant of the medieval townscape. Evidence for the medieval occupation of North Street has been identified inside the standing Old Cinema House, which

contained a sequence of well stratified deposits, 1.5 m deep, spanning late 13th to 19th centuries (NMRS: NO51NW54). Finds included two burgrave plots containing a clay-lined tanning pit, a well, a structure and hearth and a furnace, all of 14th century date. Archaeological excavation undertaken in June 1974 on the site of the demolished William Johnston's garage revealed at least six medieval tenements. Despite the area being badly disturbed, the remains of timber houses were discovered, one of which was 'boat shaped'. The timber-built houses were dated to c.1300 and the excavation found that they had been replaced by a stone building during the late 15th century. The stone-built house had been altered in c.1600 and was eventually demolished to make way for the garage around 1930.

- 1.3.4 Medieval activity was also identified in close proximity at Market Street (NMRS: NO51NW302). Following identification of medieval buried soil deposits and structures in an evaluation, development took place with archaeological monitoring and recording in March and April 2004 (Masser 20004). Features recorded within foundation trenches and pads in the garden included a possible corn-drying kiln, a culvert, paved and cobbled surfaces, a small cellar or tank and deep pits and ditches. Most of these features were cut through deep soil deposits containing medieval pottery, similar to the 'garden soil' encountered in previous investigations on Market Street, and are considered to be of late medieval or post-medieval date. Significant quantities of pottery were recovered, almost all consisting of medieval white gritty wares; substantial assemblages of animal bone and environmental samples await analysis.
- 1.3.5 Although rare in St Andrews generally, prehistoric activity has been recorded within North Street. Three possible Bronze Age cinerary urns (NMRS: NO51NW30) were identified in the 19th and 20th centuries.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by groundworks associated with the development;
 - ii) to liaise with FCAU and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.
 - iii) to report on the results of the watching brief.

3 METHOD

- 3.1 All excavations were undertaken by an excavator utilising a bladed ditching bucket operating under the constant supervision of an experienced field archaeologist. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil/overburden to the formation levels required by the development proposals.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The Watching Brief was carried out intermittently under predominately fair and clear weather conditions between 3rd November and 13th November 2009. The weather conditions and use of a ditching bucket rendered good archaeological visibility.
- 4.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as a series of appendices:

Appendix 1 contains the photographic register;

Appendix 2 contains the finds register;

Appendix 3 reproduces the '*Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*' entry.

4.2 Overview

- 4.2.1 The Watching Brief was undertaken by experienced field archaeologists and conducted according to the Written Scheme of Investigation (Cook 2009). The watching brief focused on overburden stripping for the new build and associated services.
- 4.2.2 The watching brief unearthed the presence of a heavily mixed and disturbed garden soil, which was up to 0.90 m thick in places. Close to the existing buildings this garden soil had been truncated. The presence of existing cables and services had also similarly compromised the garden soil.
- 4.2.3 A small assemblage of pottery fragments and a small piece of lead were recovered from within the garden soil. The pottery ranged from early 13th century through to 19th century. More modern material was also noted but not recovered.

5 CONCLUSION

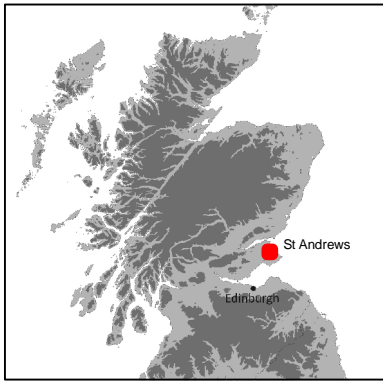
- 5.1 The watching brief provided a comprehensive safeguard against the destruction of hitherto unknown archaeological material associated with the known medieval sites lying close to the development area. No significant archaeological deposits or features were encountered during this watching brief. The unstratified early 13th and 14th century pottery sherds that were recovered hint at contemporary local activity in the area, but only within the context of residual material within a later remixed garden soil.
- 5.2 Given that no significant archaeological deposits or features were encountered during this watching brief and that construction works associated with development will not impact on this area any further, no further works are recommended. This recommendation will require ratification by Fife Council Archaeology Unit (FCAU) on behalf of Fife Council.

6 REFERENCES

Cook, M.L. 2009 *St. Andrews University New Data Centre Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpubl AOC Archaeology Client Report

Scottish Planning Policy SPP23. Archaeology and Planning. Nov.2008.


The Scottish Office Environment Department 1994a. *Planning Advice Note 42. Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. January 1994.



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0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 km

Figure 1: Site Location



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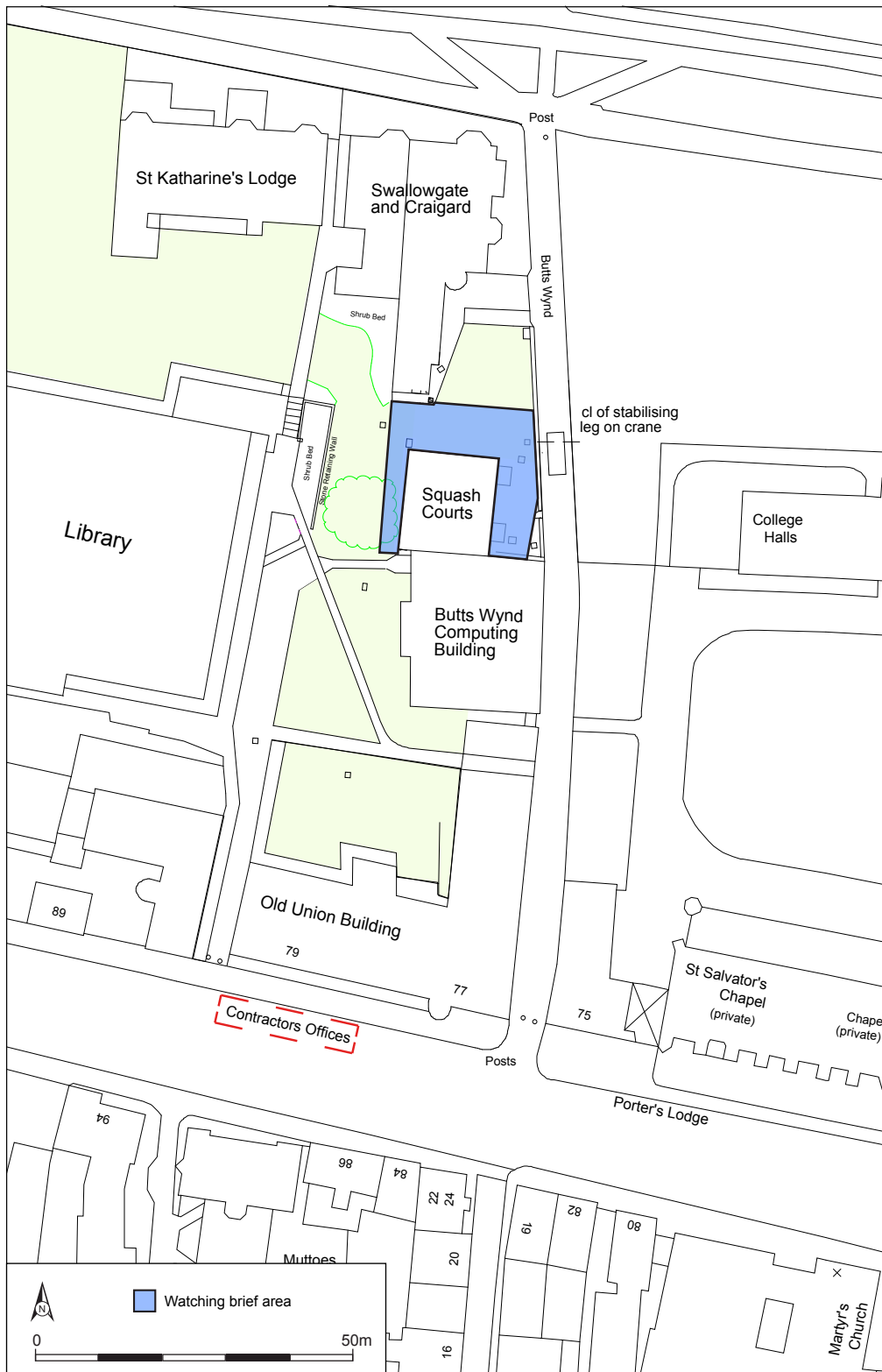


Figure 2: Site Plan showing Watching Brief Area

**St. Andrews New Data Centre
Watching Brief:
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Black & White Print and Digital Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Registration shot	-
3 -5	Trial pit	N
6-7	Service test strip	W
8-9	Service test hole	N
10-11	Service test strip	E
12-15	Topsoil strip to west of existing building	W & S
16	Excavation of extension area	N
17	Excavation of extension area	S
18	Services and orange clay	N
19	Post excavation view of east end	NW
20	Post excavation view of area after compaction	NW
21	Services in west end of area	N
22	Fibre optic service moved	E
23	Working shot of strip along buildings	E

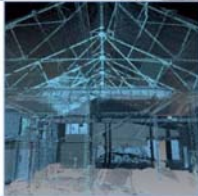
APPENDIX 2: FINDS REGISTER

Find No.	Context	Material Type	Description
1	U/S Made ground	Me	Small piece of lead
2	U/S Made ground	Ce	Early 13 th Century White Gritty body sherd
3	U/S Made ground	Ce	Late 14 th Century Reduced Ware body sherd
4	U/S Made ground	Ce	19 th Century White glazed body sherd

Pottery Identification George Haggerty *pers comm*

APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	St Andrews University New Data Centre Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	21493
PARISH:	St. Andrews & St. Leonards
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Lindsay Dunbar & Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 5095 1691
START DATE (this season)	3 rd November 2009
END DATE (this season)	13 th November 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief undertaken during construction works associated with a new Data Centre sited on former squash courts lying on the western side of Butt's Wynd, to the immediate east of the St Andrews University Library, failed in identifying any significant archaeological features. A small assemblage of unstratified early 13 th and 14 th century pottery sherds were recovered. These hint at contemporary local activity in the area, but only within the context of residual material within a later remixed garden soil.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	St. Andrews University
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group Edgefield Road Industrial Estate Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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