

SAMH13

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, ABBEY WALK,  
ST ANDREWS, FIFE

*Archaeological Monitoring*

*for Watkin Jones Group*

*13/01953/FULL*

*May 2014*

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NGR:	NGR: NO 5153 1626
Parish:	St Andrews
Council:	Fife
OASIS ref.:	Headland1-178592

Archive will be deposited with: RCAHMS

Project Manager:	Sorina Spanou
Author:	Donald Wilson
Fieldwork:	Donald Wilson
Graphics:	

Approved by: Sorina Spanou – Project Manager

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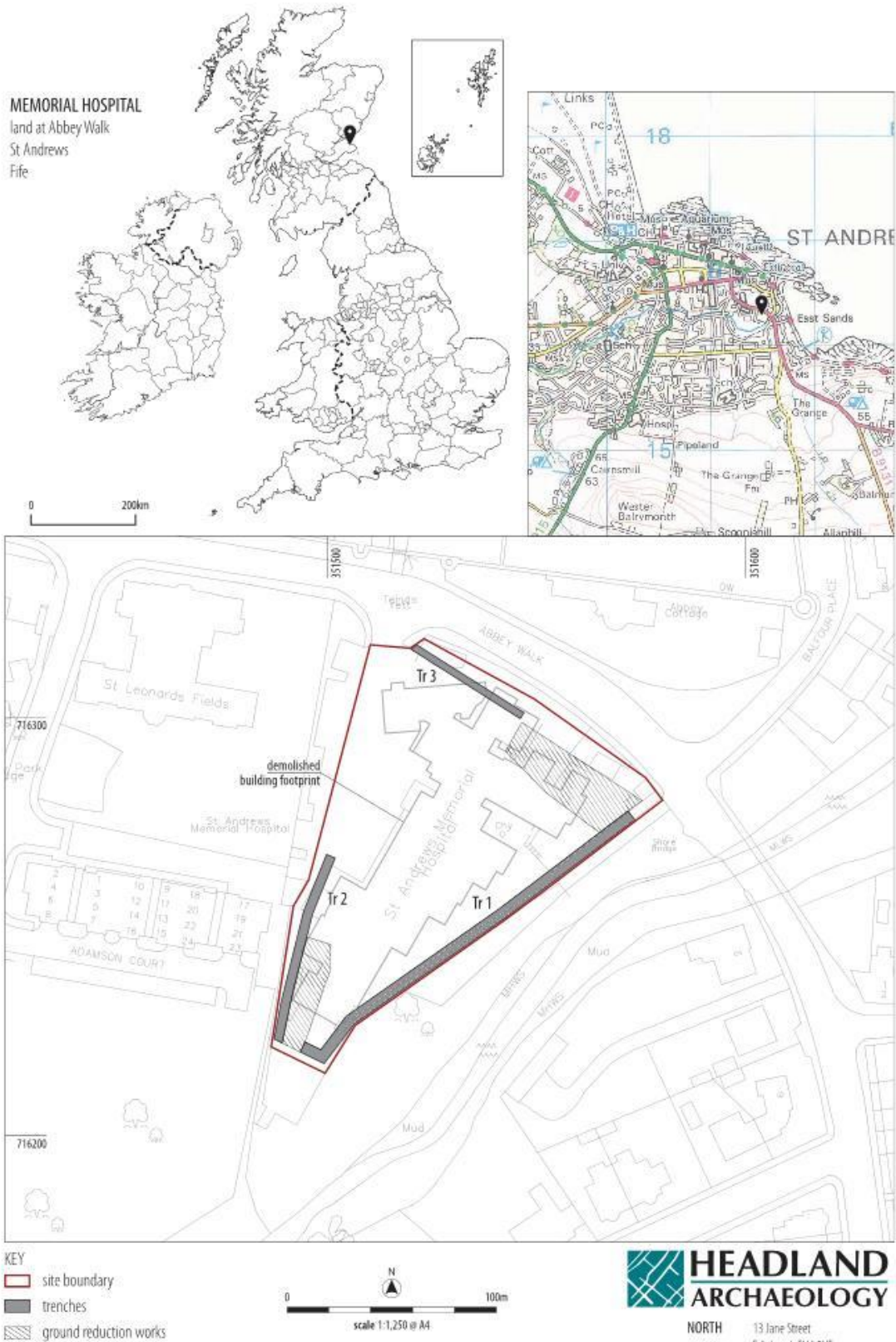
# MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, ABBEY WALK, ST ANDREWS

## Archaeological Monitoring

### *Summary*

A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out in order to satisfy a condition of the planning consent for the construction of student accommodation at Abbey Walk, St Andrews, Fife. The programme of works comprised the monitoring of ground works associated with the laying of service pipes across targeted areas of the development site. The work comprised the excavation of a number of inter-connected trenches, the majority of which were 0.8m wide and approximately 1.2m deep. These trenches cut through the upper made ground comprising of demolition material revealing the natural sand and gravels. A small area of buried cultivation soils was recorded at the north end of the site but no features or artefacts of archaeological significance were recorded.





ILLUS 1  
Site location

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to carry out a programme of archaeological monitoring during ground works associated with the construction of student accommodation at the site of the Memorial Hospital, Abbey Walk, St Andrews. The work was carried out in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent (ref: 13/01953/FULL) and adhered to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Headland Archaeology and agreed with the Fife Council archaeologist on behalf of Fife Council (the Local Planning Authority).

This report presents the results of the archaeological watching brief, which incorporated the monitoring of the excavation of approximately 150m of service pipe trench. The fieldwork was undertaken between 28<sup>th</sup> April and 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in mixed weather conditions.

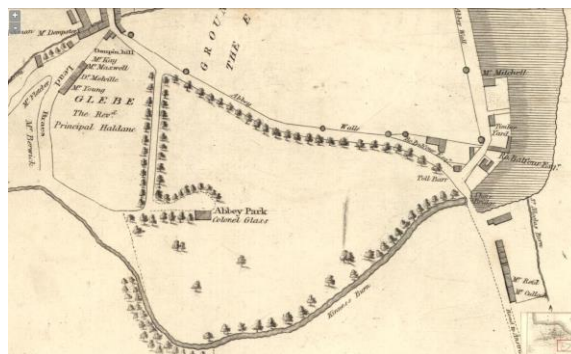
## 2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The development site is located to the eastern side of St Andrews approximately 700m from the center of town (Illus 1). The proposed development site was the former site of the St Andrews Memorial Hospital, Abbey Walk (NGR: NO 5153 1626). The 0.79 hectare site is triangular in shape and bounded by the Kinnes Burn to the east and St Leonard's Fields House to the west. To the north is Abbey Walk and the medieval abbey walls.

The site lays around 8m OD and is underlain by superficial deposits of raised marine deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. These comprise clay, silt, sand and gravel formed in a local environment previously dominated by shallow seas silt and clay, which are Devensian in origin. The

bedrock geology of the area is dominated by the Sandy Craig Formation a sedimentary rock of the Strathclyde Group. The sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 326 to 335 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period (British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

The proposed development lies on the south-eastern fringes of the St Andrews Conservation Area and opposite the Abbey Precinct a scheduled monument (Scheduled Ancient Monument Index Number 13322). No listed buildings were located within the proposed development area. The site lies just outside the Archaeological Area of Regional Importance and although it is located close to important sites and monuments, the area remained as open ground outwith the Abbey precinct as depicted on Wood's 1820 Plan of the City of St Andrews (Illus 2). From 1902 to 2009 the site was developed as the premises of St Andrews Memorial Hospital (Historical Environment Record: NO51NW 124) with a variety of re-developments to the site taking place over its 100 year existence.



Illus. 2 Extract from Wood's 1820 Plan of the City of St Andrews

Previous work in the vicinity at St Leonard's Field (Kirby 2007) recorded some medieval pottery and bone (Historical Environment Record: NO51NW 693) but no features or deposits of archaeological significance. A watching brief (Kirby 2013) for a development on

Abbey Walk recorded post-medieval remains of a drain and wall but no earlier features or deposits.

### 3 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The watching brief was designed to mitigate any adverse impacts on sub-surface remains of archaeological interest and to report on the result of the works.

The resulting archive will be organised and deposited in the NMRS; to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit. Reports will be made available through the forums noted below.

### 4 METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 Site works

The watching brief involved targeted archaeological monitoring of ground works outwith the footprint of the demolished buildings that formed the Memorial Hospital. This included areas where ground reduction for new access is proposed, realignment of the boundary wall and all ground works associated with drainage. No monitoring of the demolition works or subsequent ground works within the footprint was required.

The main contractor undertook all ground breaking works. All targeted ground breaking works were monitored by an experienced archaeologist. A toothed bucket was used to remove any hard surfaces or demolition deposits and all soft deposits were removed using a flat bladed ditching bucket. The monitoring strategy was put in place to provide information on any previously unrecorded features of archaeological interest in a relatively unobtrusive manner. It did not involve major interruption to the work programme.

All recording followed IfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological watching briefs ([www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net)). All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards. Digital images were taken for recording purposes. A full photographic record can be found in Appendix 1 at the end of this report.

#### 4.2 Reporting and Archives

On completion of the fieldwork Headland Archaeology will produce a site archive and an archive report. An online OASIS report will be completed and will be accompanied by a PDF report and boundary file – headland1-178592. A summary report will be submitted for inclusion in *Discovery and Excavation Scotland* a copy of which can be found in Appendix 2

The project archive will be compiled in accordance with the guidelines published by the Archaeological Archives Forum (Brown 2007). The documentary and digital archive will be submitted to RCAHMS within six months of completion of all work on this project.

### 5 RESULTS

The programme of archaeological works comprised the monitoring of all ground works outwith the footprint of the demolished hospital building. The bulk of this work was associated with the laying of service pipes around the perimeter of the site. This work required the excavation of two inter-connected trenches (Trench 1 & 2) that were generally 0.8m wide and 1.2m deep. A third foundation trench (Trench 3) was monitored as part of this work.

Ground reduction works around the perimeter of the site also exposed a number of sections. These were inspected and photographed as part of the



monitoring works. Inspection of further foundation trenches within the footprint of the demolished building were also carried out during site visits.

The service pipe trenches were located along the perimeter of the site with two long lengths along the east and west boundaries. The trench along the eastern boundary (Trench 1) was positioned close to the top of the bank that led down to the Kinnes Burn (**Illus 3**).



Illus 3 General site view showing the excavation of Trench 1, facing north.

The trench recorded between 0.1 and 0.4m of made ground, comprised of dark brown sand with frequent construction debris inclusions, overlying the mid yellow sand and gravel geological subsoil (**Illus 4**) at approximately 5.5m OD



Illus 4 View of Trench 1 showing the west facing section 30m from the north end

A second shorter trench (Trench 02) ran along the western perimeter close to the Leonard's Field development. The excavation of this trench required the ground level to be reduced by approximately 1.5m. This exposed the east facing section of the development perimeter close to the south-west end, revealing the geological subsoil immediately underlying the tarmac surface of the existing car park at approximately 8m OD (**Illus 5**). The ground reduction of this area also revealed that the sand and gravels had been cut by a number of modern service pipes and manholes associated with the demolished hospital.



Illus 5 East facing section at the south end of Trench 2 ground reduction

A third (foundation) trench (Trench 03) close to the northern perimeter of the development area was also monitored. The trench was approximately 1m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5m. Inspection of the sections exposed by the excavation of this foundation trench revealed that close to the north-east corner of the development area evidence of a buried soil overlying the sand and gravel geological subsoil (Illus 5) was present. The soil comprised dark brown sand with occasional small stone inclusions. This material had a maximum depth of 0.5m (approximately 5.5m OD) and was sterile of archaeological features or artefacts. The buried soil was overlain by 0.5m of made ground, although the interface between the two layers was very diffuse. This would indicate that the buried soil had probably been horizontally truncated removing any surviving old ground surface. The south facing section along the northern perimeter showed that the buried soil became less prevalent towards the west side of the site with no evidence of this material identified at the western end of Trench 3.



Illus 6 Detail of the buried soil recorded in the south facing section at the north-east corner of the development area.

With the exception of the buried soil recorded at the north-east end the programme of monitoring revealed that the majority of site had probably been

horizontally truncated by modern construction works as no old ground surfaces or subsoil were present. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified during these monitoring works.

## 5.1 Discussion

The monitoring as a whole revealed no archaeological features. The exposed sections around the north and west perimeter of the site revealed that the geological subsoil survived at a higher level than to the south-west side of the site. This probably represented surviving evidence of the original topography of the site that would have displayed a slope running down towards the Kinnes Burn. It also indicated that the hospital building had cut into this slope subsequently truncating any earlier features of archaeological significance.

## 6 REFERENCES

### 6.1 Bibliographic sources

Brown, D H 2007 *Archaeological Archives Forum: Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, AAF.

Kirby, H 2007 *St Leonard's Field, Abbey Walk, St Andrews, Fife*. CFA unpublished data structure report.

Kirby, H 2013 *Abbey Walk Watching Brief*. CFA unpublished data structure report.

### 6.2 Cartographic sources

1820 John Wood Plan of the City of St Andrews  
<http://maps.nls.uk/view/74400057>

## 6.3 Other sources

### *Internet*

British Geological Society  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 09/05/201

IfA 'Standards and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs' (online article), (28/10/2008)  
[http://archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/nodefiles/ifa\\_standards\\_watching.pdf](http://archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/nodefiles/ifa_standards_watching.pdf)  
Accessed May 2014

National Map Library of Scotland  
website <http://maps.nls.uk/> accessed  
May 2014

SPP: Scottish Planning Policy (February 2010;  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/03132605/0>)

## 7 APPENDICES

### 7.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

#### *Photographic register*

Frame no.	Digital No	Direction	Description
1	SAMH13-001	N	Pre-excavation site views
2	SAMH13-002	N	Pre-excavation site views
3	SAMH13-003	N	Pre-excavation site views
4	SAMH13-004		Foundation trench for Block B
5	SAMH13-005		Foundation trench for Block B
6	SAMH13-006	W	East facing section on east perimeter of site
7	SAMH13-007	W	East facing section on east perimeter of site
8	SAMH13-008	N	Section through foundation trench in Block B
9	SAMH13-009	S	General site views from the north end
10	SAMH13-010	SE	General site views from the north end
11	SAMH13-011	E	General site views from the north end
12	SAMH13-012	S	General site views from the north end
13	SAMH13-013	S	General site views from the north end
14	SAMH13-014	E	General site views from the north end
15	SAMH13-015	NE	View of the North end of pipe trench 01
16	SAMH13-016	NW	SE facing section of trench 01 at the N end
17	SAMH13-017		SE facing section of trench 01 at the N end showing modern cut
18	SAMH13-018	SW	View of the North end of pipe trench 01
19	SAMH13-019	NE	General view of site
20	SAMH13-020	E	General view of site
21	SAMH13-021	SE	General view of site
22	SAMH13-022	N	View of the site from the S end
23	SAMH13-023	NW	View of the site from the S end
24	SAMH13-024	S	Trench 01 excavations from the N end
25	SAMH13-025	SW	General view of site
26	SAMH13-026	E	W facing section of Trench 01 30m from the N end
27	SAMH13-027	SE	W facing section of Trench 01 30m from the N end
28	SAMH13-028	S	Working shot of Trench 01 excavations
29	SAMH13-029	N	View of the plough soil in S facing section at N end of site

Frame no.	Digital No	Direction	Description
30	SAMH13-030	NW	View of the plough soil in S facing section at N end of site
31	SAMH13-031	NW	View of the plough soil in S facing section at N end of site
32	SAMH13-032	N	Excavation of Trench 01 from the south
33	SAMH13-033	NE	Section of trench 01 at 60m from the N end
34	SAMH13-034	N	View of the plough soil in S facing section at N end of site
35	SAMH13-035	N	View of the plough soil in S facing section at N end of site
36	SAMH13-036	NE	View of section at manhole at the S end of trench 01
37	SAMH13-037	NW	South facing section of foundation trench 03 at N end of site
38	SAMH13-038	NE	South facing section of foundation trench 03 at N end of site
39	SAMH13-039	W	East facing section on west perimeter of site
40	SAMH13-040	SW	East facing section on west perimeter of site after ground reduction - Trench 02
41	SAMH13-041	SW	East facing section on west perimeter of site after ground reduction - Trench 03
42	SAMH13-042	NW	East facing section on west perimeter of site after ground reduction - Trench 04
43	SAMH13-043	NW	East facing section on west perimeter of site after ground reduction - Trench 05
44	SAMH13-044	N	View of trench section at the NW end of site
45	SAMH13-045	N	General view of foundation trenches at the NW end of site
46	SAMH13-046	E	Detail of W facing foundation trench section at SW end of site
47	SAMH13-047	N	View of S facing section at NW extent of site
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## 7.2 Appendix 2 – Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Fife council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Memorial Hospital, Abbey Walk, St Andrews
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	SAMH13
<b>PARISH:</b>	St Andrews
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Donald Wilson
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Headland Archaeology
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NO51NW 124
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Hospital
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NO 5153 1626
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> May 2014
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	06 <sup>th</sup> April 2014
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	none
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)</b>	A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out in order to satisfy a condition of the planning consent for the construction of student accommodation at Abbey Walk, St Andrews, Fife. The programme of works comprised the monitoring of ground works associated with the laying of service pipes across targeted areas of the development site. The work comprised the excavation of a number of inter-connection trenches, the majority of which were 0.8m wide and approximately 1.2m deep. These trenches cut through the upper made ground comprising of demolition material revealing the natural sand and gravels. A small area of buried cultivation soils was recorded at the north end of the site but no features or artefacts of archaeological significance were recorded.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Watkin Jones Group
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	don.wilson@headlandarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	RCAHMS