

Blackadder West

Duns, Scottish Borders

Watching Brief

for

Alistair and Niki Kinghorn

July 2012



Stripping foundations at Blackadder West



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Blackadder West
Duns, Scottish Borders

Archaeological Watching Brief: July 2012

Data Structure Report

(AA 2001)

by Ross Cameron

edited by Tom Addyman

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Blackadder West

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Executive Summary

Addyman Archaeology were commissioned by Alistair and Niki Kinghorn to complete an archaeological watching brief at Blackadder West Farm near Duns in the Scottish Borders. The watching brief was maintained during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new dwelling house and associated detached garage. No archaeological features or discoveries of any note were made.

A record of the evaluation has been deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS ID addyman1-131113) and with Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland.

1. Introduction

i. General

Addyman Archaeology were commissioned by Alistair and Niki Kinghorn to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Blackadder Farm near Duns in the Scottish Borders. The watching brief was in response to a planning condition (reference 11/01423/FUL) placed upon the development by Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service (contact Chris Bowles) in light of the potential for archaeological remains to be uncovered during development.

This report contains several maps/Figures 2-6, reproduced by the permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland (NLS). To view these maps online see www.nls.uk.

The archaeological monitoring was completed by Ross Cameron on 26/07/12. The weather conditions alternated between bright sunshine and prolonged showers.

ii. Setting

The proposed development area is located approximately 6km SE of Duns and in the Scottish Borders and is centred on NGR NT 84399 52311 (384399 652311). Known as Plot 5, the area is irregular in shape and bounded to the S and E by the existing access road to the farm and nearby cottages. The S end of the site is on an area of rough, uncultivated scrubland within the wider Blackadder West farm complex, while the northern arm of the site boundary stretches into a field of good agricultural farmland.

Across the development area the underlying bedrock is formed by the Ballagan Formation, comprising sandstone, siltstone and dolomitic limestone. This sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 341 to 354 million years ago in the Carboniferous period and indicate a local environment previously dominated by rivers. No superficial geological deposits have been recorded across the site.¹

¹ www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience - 23/07/12

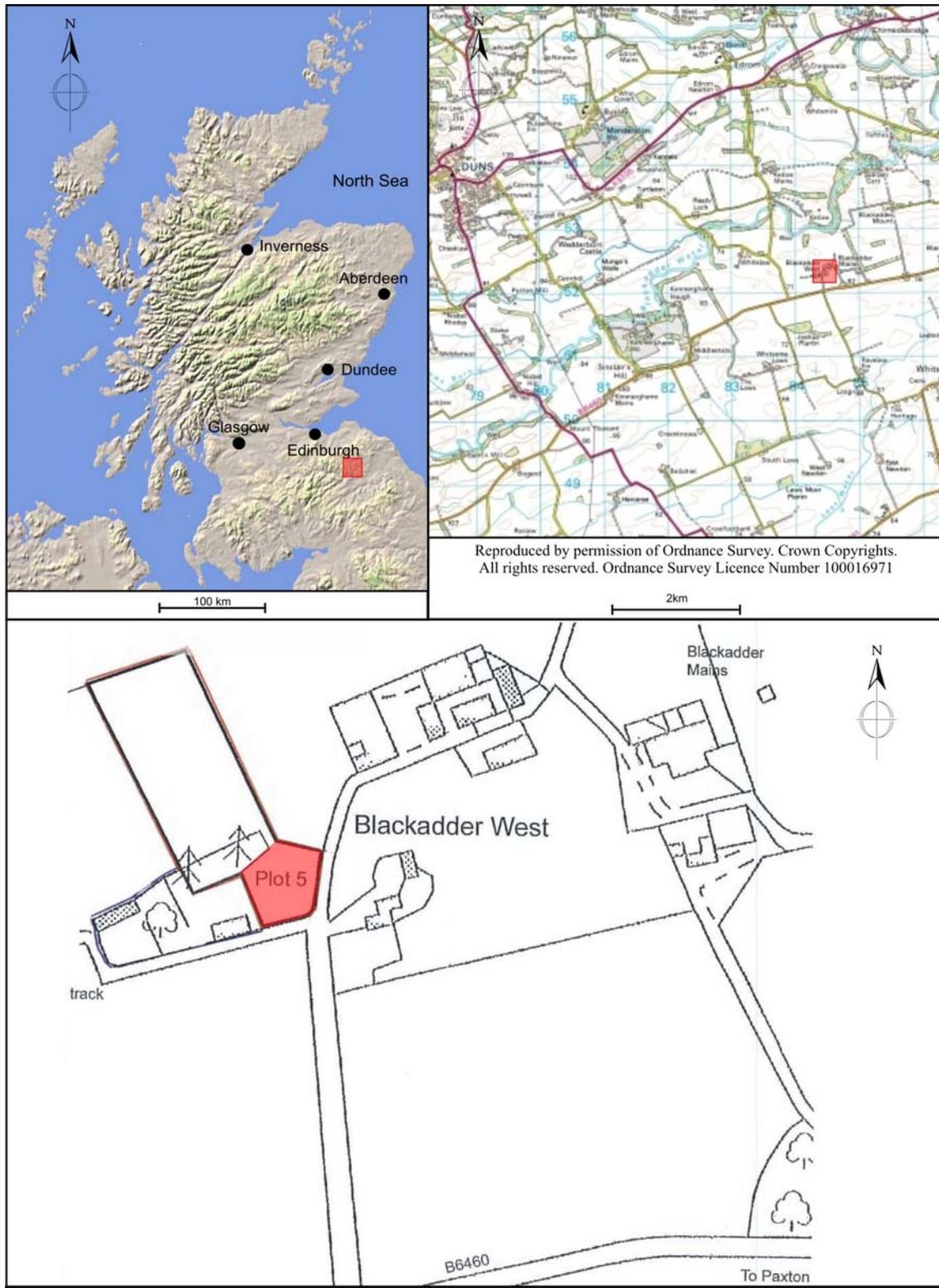


Figure 1 Site location (detailed map reproduced by kind permission of GM Craig Building Contractors)

Bleau's Atlas was a collation of maps, many initially recorded by Timothy Pont in the 16th century. Although the date of the map in Bleau's *Atlas Novus* is unknown, it seems highly probable that Pont actually recorded 'Blacater Toun' in the 16th century.

General Roy's military map of c.1750 provides the first depiction of the settlement at Blackadder that is more than simply indicative, showing a collection of up to 9 buildings arranged either side of a NW-SE aligned roadway. By Andrew Armstrong's map of 1771 the road appears to bypass Blackadder which survives as a cluster of 6 structures to the N of the roadway.

However, Andrew and Mostyn Armstrong's Map of *The County of Berwick* produced in 1771 gives a more accurate depiction of the layout of structures at 'Blackadder' (*figure 4*), showing six structures to the N of the main W-E road.



Figure 4 Andrew and Mostyn Armstrong's map of 1771 is the first to show 'Blackadder' in any detail. NLS.

The production of Ordnance Survey map data in the mid 19th century marked the first accurate recording of Blackadder West and it is clear from the 1st edition 25 inch to 1 mile map from 1856-62 (*figure 5*), that the arrangement of roads and to a lesser degree, structures we see today had begun to take shape. The row of C-listed cottages to the W of the proposed development make their first appearance, presumably constructed in 1836 from date stones on the structure. Farm buildings visible on the 1st edition map are no longer evident by the 2nd edition (*figure 6*) and may encroach upon the extreme SE of the proposed development area.



Figure 5 1st edition 25 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map showing the complex of buildings at Blackadder in detail. The proposed development area lies immediately W of West Blackadder. NLS



Figure 6 2nd edition 25 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map showing the complex of buildings at Blackadder in detail. Note the changes to West Blackadder from Figure 5. NLS

The Historic Environment Record suggests a small chapel associated with the town of Blackadder lay in the fields to the W of the farm, identified as lying in the vicinity of the proposed development. Recorded as ‘Capellanum’ or ‘Chapelland’,² it must be assumed that if such a chapel did in fact exist, then inhumations may be encountered nearby. Previous archaeological evaluations on site³ failed to reveal any traces of the chapel and any associated cemetery, but the possibility remains that these, or further archaeological features associated with the chapel or the town, may be located in this area.

3. *Methodology*

Upon arrival on site the topsoil had largely been removed from the footprint of the proposed dwelling house as well as the detached garage and stable block. Although not completed under archaeological supervision, all sections of the topsoil were available for examination along with the spoil removed from the site. In all of these, neither archaeological features nor artefacts were recorded. Whilst occasional glass fragments and glazed ceramic were noted, these were relatively scarce and of no archaeological interest. None were retained.



Plate 1 Pre-excavation view of the House plot (Trench 1) looking WNW (Photograph 001)

Although the surface of the natural subsoil was essentially visible for inspection, this was grubby and weathered through the passage of time and vehicles. A rudimentary inspection of this revealed no signs of negatively cut features.

The foundations trenches were excavated by a JCB 3CX fitted with a 0.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. The trenches followed the outline of the proposed buildings and any internal walls, excavated to slightly varying depths depending on their function. On the whole the foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of c.0.5-0.3m. Excavation of the foundations was completed by the client to a depth established by a laser level and monitored by the project archaeologist.

The foundation trench for the proposed dwelling house was recorded as Trench 1, while the garage to the N was recorded as Trench 2.

² Bowles, C 2010 Letter in response to planning application, Planning Reference 10/00572/PPP

³ Hutchinson, M 2006 *Blackadder Farm West: Consolidated Trial Trench Report* & Hutchinson M. 2010 *Blackadder Farm West: Excavation Data Structure Report*



Plate 2 Pre-excavation view of the garage plot (Trench 2) looking S (Photograph 020)



Plate 3 Working shot showing excavation of Trench 1 (Photograph 010)



Plate 4 Working shot showing excavation of Trench 2 (Photograph 027)

Any soil deposits encountered were recorded as per standards established by Addyman Archaeology and The Institute for Archaeologists (*IfA*). A comprehensive digital photographic record of progress was maintained throughout the project.

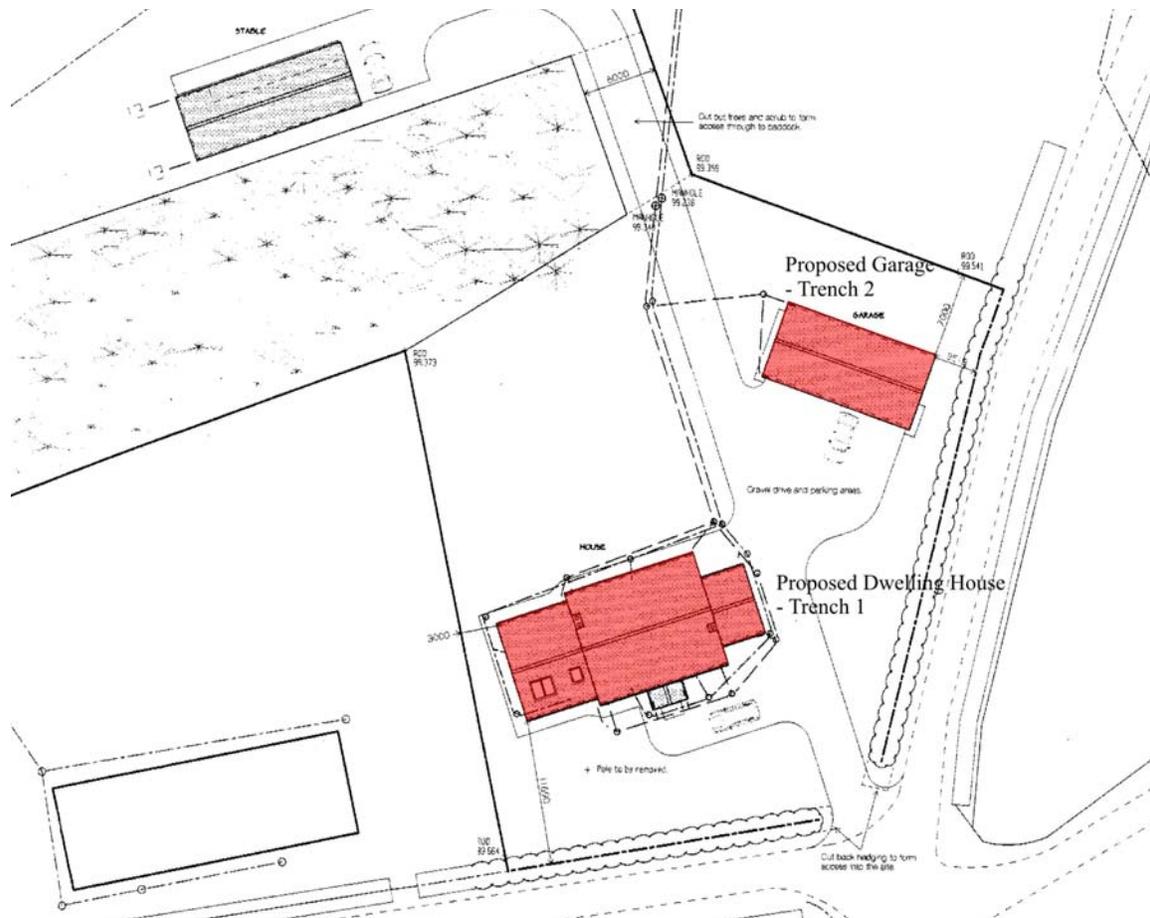


Figure 7 Location of proposed development courtesy of GM Craig Building Contractors

4. Results

In isolated areas fragments of topsoil remained. This was seen to be a moderately compact dark to mid brown clay silt with occasional rounded stone inclusions. Across the site this would have had a depth of 0.1-0.5m S-N and lay directly atop the natural subsoil.



Plate 5 Post-excavation view of Trench 1 looking NNW showing the wider area for the chimney foundations (Photograph 013)



Plates 6 and 7 WSW facing sections of Trench 1 (Photograph 012 and 019)

This comprised firmly compact mid orange brown silt clay with occasional areas of mid grey banding. On the whole this was undisturbed, although on occasion a series of c.NNW-SSE aligned red ceramic field drains were recorded. Likely 19th century in date, the placement of these was on the whole invisible, with no cut discernable during excavation. However, the steady excavation of the natural subsoil would reveal the placement of these drains in the manner with which the clay peeled upwards when disturbed, indicating human interference with the subsoil and a difference in compaction.

Isolated 19th and 20th century glazed ceramic were recovered during excavation as well as a small button and 19th century pipe stem. These were not retained.



Plate 8 Post-excitation view of Trench 1 looking SW (Photograph 023)

5. *Summary and Conclusions*

No archaeological features were recorded during the watching brief at Blackadder West, while those artefacts noted were of limited interest and of 19th or 20th century date. Trenches were excavated across the footprint of the dwelling and the detached garage with no evidence of human intervention visible bar the occasional red ceramic field drain. These provide a slight degree of caution in that the cuts and fills of the drainage trenches was not discernible as different from the surrounding subsoil, indicating the potential for un-recorded negatively cut features to survive elsewhere on site. However during excavation it was clear the areas of the drains had been disturbed due to the compaction of the clay and it is felt this is a minor issue.

Prior to arrival on site, the development had largely been stripped of topsoil to reveal a large area of undisturbed natural subsoil. Although this was not completed under archaeological supervision, all sections of topsoil surrounding the site and spoil removed was assessed and shown to contain no archaeological artefacts.

Combined with the results of the earlier archaeological evaluations undertaken in the area, it can be safely assumed that this development plot is essentially archaeologically sterile.

6. *Mitigation and Recommendations*

In light of the findings during the archaeological watching brief at Blackadder West, Addyman Archaeology recommend that no further archaeological mitigation is required during this development and that the planning condition can be deemed as having been met.

7. Acknowledgements

Addyman Archaeology were commissioned to complete this project by Alistair and Niki Kinghorn. They deserve our gratitude and respect for their commitment to, and understanding of, the archaeological resource. Both Alistair and his colleague Alan Kinghorn worked hard to ensure the watching brief was completed over one day.

Bibliography

Bowles C 11th June 2010 Correspondence in response to planning application 10/00572/PPP
Bowles C 23rd June 2010 Correspondence in response to planning application 10/00572/PPP
Bowles C 16th December 2010 Correspondence in response to planning application 10/01611/LBCNN
Bowles C 21st December 2010 Correspondence in response to planning application 10/01612/FUL
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Hutchinson, M 2006, *Blackadder West: Consolidated Trial Trench Report*

Hutchinson, M 2010, *Blackadder Farm West: Excavation Data Structure Report*

www.nls.uk

www.rcahms.gov.uk

www.bgs.ac.uk

Appendix A:
Context Register; Blackadder West – Watching Brief

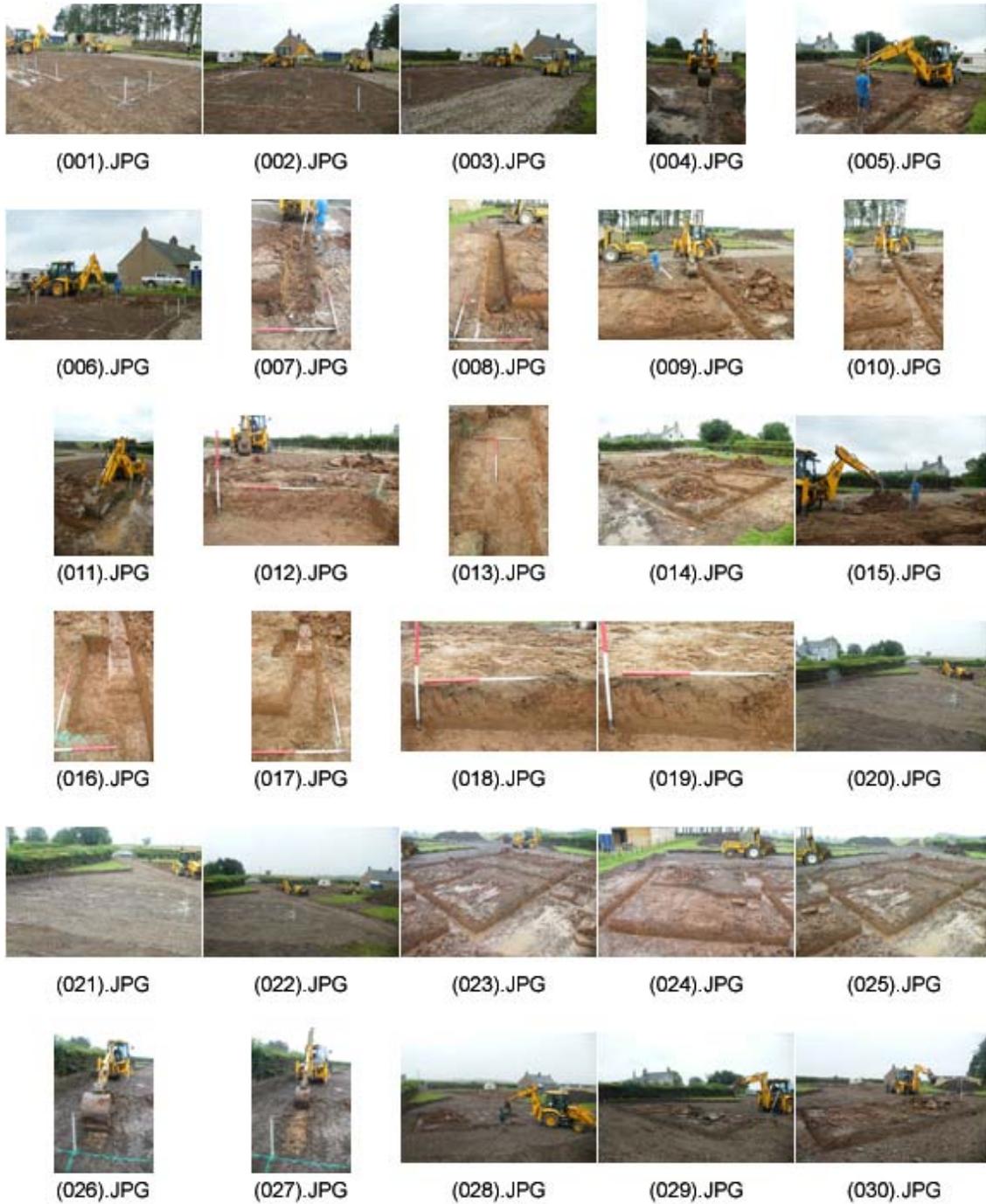
<i>Context</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initial</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comments</i>
101	1	Deposit	26/07/12	RC	Moderately compact dark to mid brown clay silt with occasional rounded stones. Depth: 0.1-0.5m N-S.	Turf and topsoil. Same as (201).
102	1	Deposit	26/07/12	RC	Firmly compact mid to dark orange brown silty clay with rare small rounded stones and rare medium stones.	Undisturbed natural subsoil. Same as (202).
103	1	Feature	26/07/12	RC	Series of 3 c. NNW-SSE aligned red ceramic field drains located at limit of excavation.	19 th century field drains.
201	2	Deposit	26/07/12	RC	Moderately compact dark to mid brown clay silt with occasional rounded stones. Depth: 0.1-0.5m N-S.	Turf and topsoil. Same as (101).
202	2	Deposit	26/07/12	RC	Firmly compact mid orange brown silt clay with occasional areas of mid grey clay banding. Depth: >0.25m.	Undisturbed natural subsoil. Same as (102).

Appendix B:
Photographic Register; Blackadder West – Watching Brief

<i>Shot Num.</i>	<i>Direction facing</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Contexts</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initial</i>
001	WNW	1	(102)	Pre-excavation view of site	26/07/12	RC
002	WSW	1	(102)	Pre-excavation view of site	26/07/12	RC
003	SW	1	(102)	Pre-excavation view of site	26/07/12	RC
004	SSE	1	(102)	Working shot – opening the foundation Trench	26/07/12	RC
005	SE	1	(102)	Working shot – excavating the foundation Trench	26/07/12	RC
006	SW	1	(102)	Working shot – excavating the foundation Trench	26/07/12	RC
007	ESE	1	(102)	Mid-excavation shot – Trench 1	26/07/12	RC
008	NNW	1	(102)	Post-excavation shot – Trench 1 (W end)	26/07/12	RC
009	N	1	(102)	Working shot – excavating Trench 1	26/07/12	RC
010	N	1	(102)	Working shot – excavating Trench 1	26/07/12	RC
011	NE	1	(102)	Working shot – excavating Trench 1	26/07/12	RC
012	ENE	1	(102)	WSW facing section of Trench 1	26/07/12	RC
013	NNW	1	(102)	Post-excavation view of Trench 1 (W chimney area)	26/07/12	RC
014	NNW	1	(102)	Working shot – E end of Trench 1	26/07/12	RC
015	SE	1	(102)	Working shot – excavating Trench 1	26/07/12	RC
016	NNW	1	(102)	Post-excavation view of Trench 1 (E chimney area)	26/07/12	RC
017	NNW	1	(102)	Post-excavation view of Trench 1 (E chimney area)	26/07/12	RC
018	ENE	1	(101), (102)	WSW facing section of Trench 1	26/07/12	RC
019	ENE	1	(101), (102)	WSW facing section of Trench 1	26/07/12	RC
020	S	2	(201/202)	Pre-excavation view of Trench 2	26/07/12	RC
021	S	2	(201/202)	Pre-excavation view of Trench 2	26/07/12	RC
022	SSW	2	(201/202)	Pre-excavation view of Trench 2 and general view across site	26/07/12	RC

<i>Shot Num.</i>	<i>Direction facing</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Contexts</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initial</i>
023	SW	1	(102)	Post-excavation view of Trench 1	26/07/12	RC
024	NW	1	(102)	Post-excavation view of Trench 1 (W end)	26/07/12	RC
025	NE	1	(102)	Post-excavation view of Trench 1	26/07/12	RC
026	S	2	(201/202)	Working shot – opening Trench 2	26/07/12	RC
027	S	2	(201/202)	Working shot – opening Trench 2	26/07/12	RC
028	S	2	(201/202)	Working shot – opening Trench 2	26/07/12	RC
029	SE	2	(201/202)	Post-excavation view of Trench 2	26/07/12	RC
030	SW	2	(201/202)	Post-excavation view of Trench 2	26/07/12	RC

Appendix C:
Photographic Thumbnails; Blackadder West – Watching Brief



Appendix D:
Provisional Discovery and Excavation Scotland (DES) entry; Blackadder West – Watching Brief

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Blackadder West
PROJECT CODE:	AA 2001
PARISH:	Edrom
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Ross Cameron
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Addyman Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 84399 52311
START DATE (this season)	26/07/12
END DATE (this season)	26/07/12
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Evaluation in 2006 and 2010 – No DES reference
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was maintained on 27 th July 2012 on the site of a proposed new development at Blackadder West Farm. The settlement of Blackadder is recorded on the earliest maps and an associated Chapel is recorded as existing in the vicinity of the proposed development. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Alistair and Niki Kinghorn
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	St. Ninian's Manse, Quayside Street, Edinburgh, EH6 6EJ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@addyman-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NMRS and Scottish Borders Council (intended)