

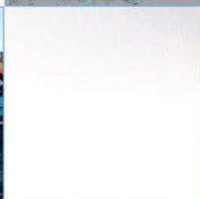
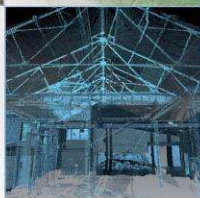
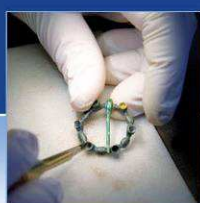
# Abbotsford Grove, Kelso, Scottish Borders

## Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

AOC 22345

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-141787

24<sup>th</sup> January 2013



## Abbotsford Grove, Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

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**On Behalf of:**

**Eildon Housing Association**  
The Weaving Shed  
Ettrick Mill  
Dunsdale Road  
Selkirk  
TD7 5EB

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NT 7322 3395

**AOC Project No:** 22345

**Prepared by:** Jake Streatfeild-James

**Illustration by:** Jake Streatfeild-James

**Date of Fieldwork:** 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013

**Date of Report:** 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013

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

**Author:** Jake Streatfeild-James

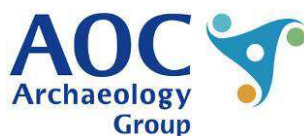
**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013

**Approved by:** Martin Cook

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013

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## Abstract

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AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Eildon Housing Association, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Abbotsford Grove, Kelso (NT 7322 3395) in the Scottish Borders. The development area consists of 5000 square metres of allotment land, next to the River Tweed. In all 5 trenches totalling 440 m<sup>2</sup> were excavated. Despite the proximity of the Medieval town and monastic settlement at Kelso, no significant archaeological remains or artefacts were uncovered.

No further works are considered necessary.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Eildon Housing Association, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a housing development at Abbotsford Grove, Kelso (Planning Ref: 12/00833/FUL). The proposed development lies within the administrative area of the Scottish Borders Council, and the remit of Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer, Dr. Christopher Bowles. A programme of archaeological works had been specified by SBC in keeping with the policies outlined in Scottish Planning Policy (2010) and PAN 2/2011 Planning And Archaeology (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

## 1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area covers c.5000 square metres of former allotments overlooking the River Tweed at NGR NT 7322 3395.

## 1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 There are no archaeological sites within the proposed development area. The area appears to have been open ground, which was later used as allotments. The site is located to the immediate north-east of Kelso Abbey, and so is located in close proximity to the medieval core of the town.
- 1.3.2 More generally, a settlement has existed at Kelso since the Dark Ages, its Anglian name meaning 'Chalk Hill' (Smith 2001). David I moved a community of Tironensian tradesman monks from Selkirk in 1128, transforming the Kelso church into the abbey, which briefly rivalled St Andrews for primacy in Scotland. Kelso was transformed in to an ecclesiastical burgh under the abbey by 1237.

## 2.0 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works are:
- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area through evaluation trenching;
  - ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

### 3 METHOD

- 3.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2013) proposed a trenching scheme to investigate the impact of the housing development on any underlying archaeology which might be present. A 10% sample was demanded by SBC, and, accordingly, a 100 m trench and four 30 m trenches were excavated, using a 2.0 m ditching bucket, giving a sample of 440 m<sup>2</sup>.
- 3.2 All trenches were excavated with a wheeled 18 ton excavator using a 2.0 m wide ditching bucket. The trench details are summarised in Appendix 1. Machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through topsoil/overburden to the upper surface of the underlying geological deposits. The evaluation trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed with the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2012).

### 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The various data gathered from the evaluation is presented as a series of appendices
- i) Appendix 1 contains the trench summaries;
  - ii) Appendix 2 contains the photographic register;
  - iii) Appendix 3 reproduces the 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' entry
- 4.2 Trial trenching was undertaken on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2013 in overcast but dry conditions. Archaeological visibility was, however, good throughout the operation.





**Figure 1 View of Trench 5 under Excavation**

- 4.3 Neither archaeological material nor artifacts were recovered during archaeological works.
- 4.4 The South Eastern end of Trench 1 and the South Eastern end of Trench 4 revealed paleo-channels filled with grey brown alluvial silts and sands, this deposit continued to 1.5 m below current ground level, where they interfaced with river gravels and fluvial sediments. Deep sondages were immediately backfilled due to the risk of collapsing sides.
- 4.5 A single stone filled drain was recorded 72 m from the NW end of trench 1. Roughly 2.80 m of this feature was exposed; it was observed to be 0.38 m wide and contained a mix of small rounded stones and rubble in a well-defined cut.





**Figure 2 View of Trench 1**

## **5 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Despite the presence of archaeological activity, and the vicinity of the medieval town and Abbey of Kelso, neither significant archaeological features nor unstratified artefacts were encountered during the evaluation.
- 5.2 The significant balance of probability is that the development area is archaeologically sterile.



Figure 3 - Stone Drain, Trench 1

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. The recommendation will require confirmation by Dr. Christopher Bowles, Borders Council.

## 7 REFERENCES

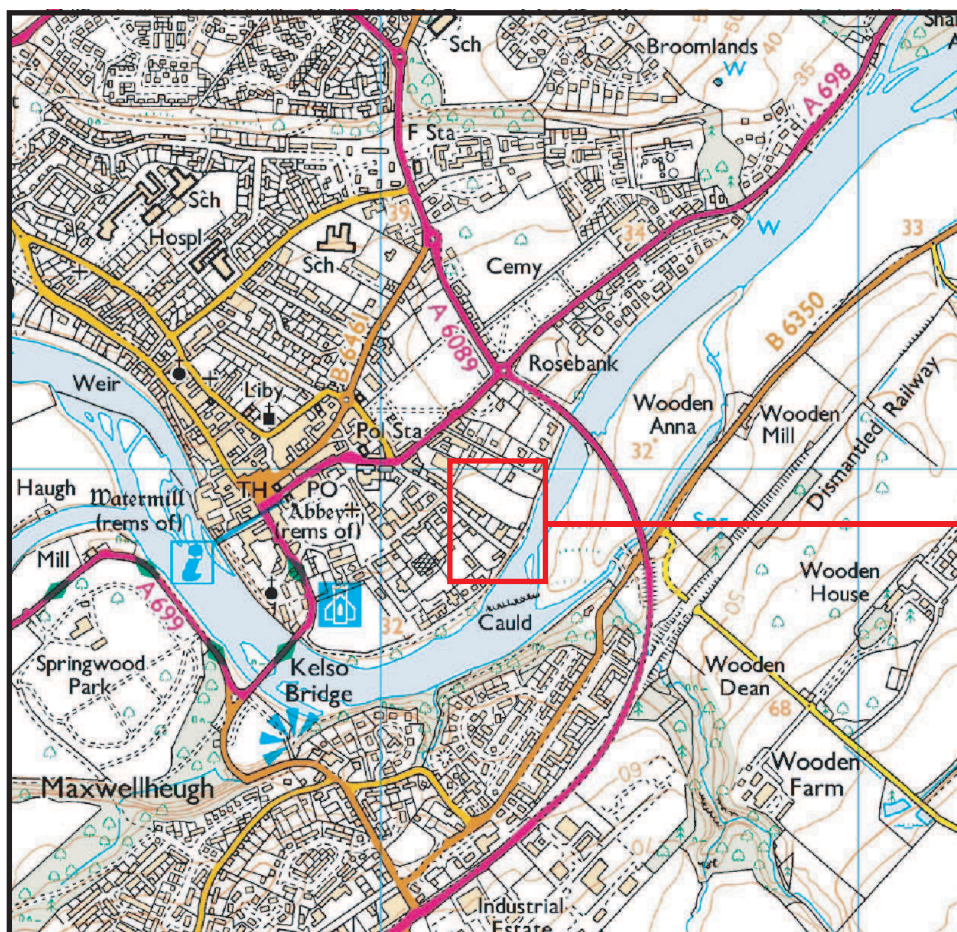
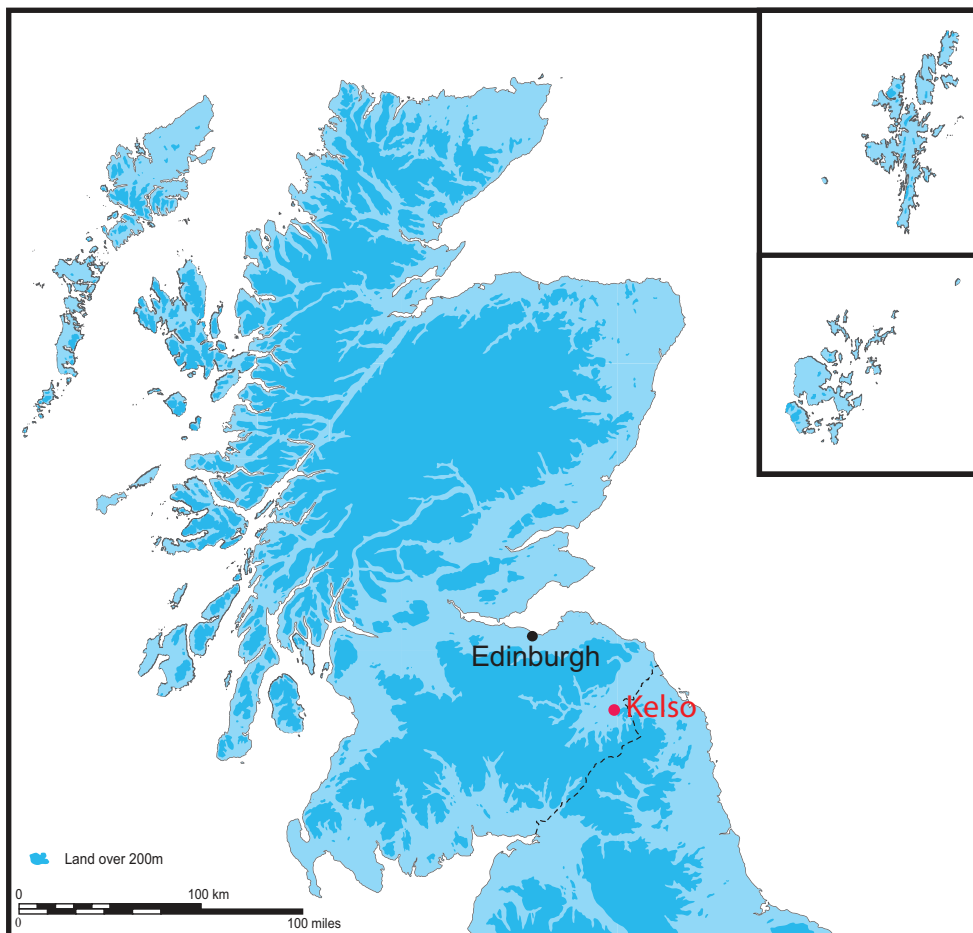
AOC Archaeology 2013, *Abbotsford Grove, Written Scheme of Investigation*. AOC Archaeology Project Design. .

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology*.)

Smith, R 2001, *The Making of Scotland: A Comprehensive Guide to the Growth of Scotland's Cities, Towns and Villages*. Canongate





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Figure 1: Location of the site at Abbotsford Grove, Kelso



**Figure 2: Location of Trenches at Abbotsford Grove.**

(Adapted from a drawing provided by the client)



Trial Trench

Development Area

Area to be retained as Allotments



**Abbotsford Grove,  
Kelso  
Archaeological Evaluation:  
Data Structure Report**

**Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

### Trench 1

Dimensions	101 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	SE-NW
Depth of Topsoil	0.32 m to 1.5 m
Features	None
Drains	Field drain, backfilled with rounded and broken stones.
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

### Trench 2

Dimensions	30 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	SW-NE
Depth of Topsoil	0.32 m to 0.40 m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Brown Sandy Clay
Finds	None

### Trench 3

Dimensions	30 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	SW-NE
Depth of Topsoil	0.40m to 0.45 m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Brown Sandy Clay
Finds	None

### Trench 4

Dimensions	30 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.4 m to 0.48 m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sands and Gravels
Finds	None

### Trench 5

Dimensions	30 m by 2.0 m
Orientation	SW-NE
Depth of Topsoil	0.40 m to 0.42 m
Features	None
Drains	None
Subsoil	Orange Sandy Clay
Finds	None

## APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

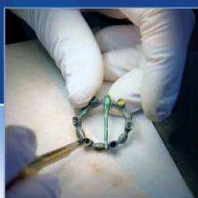
### Digital

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1	1	Trench 1	NW
2	1	Trench 1	NW
3	1	Trench 1 post ex	NW
4	1	Stone Drain, Trench 1	SE
5	2	Trench 2 Post-Ex	NE
6	3	Trench 3 Post-Ex	SW
7	5	Trench 5 Under Excavation	NE
8-9	4	Trench 4 Post-Ex	NW
10-11	5	Trench 5 Post-Ex	NE



**APPENDIX 3: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Scottish Borders Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Abbotsford Grove, Kelso
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 22345
<b>PARISH:</b>	Kelso
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Jake Streatfeild-James
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 7322 3395
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2013
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2013
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)</b>	<p>AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Eildon Housing Association, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Abbotsford Grove, Kelso (NT 7322 3395) in the Scottish Borders. The development area consists of 5000 square metres of allotment land, next to the River Tweed. In all 5 trenches totalling 440 m<sup>2</sup> were excavated. Despite the proximity of the Medieval town and monastic settlement at Kelso, no significant archaeological remains or artefacts were uncovered.</p> <p>No further works are considered necessary.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	n/a
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Eildon Housing Association
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group; Edgefield Road Industrial Estate; Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	admin@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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