

## **1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of A. & B. Russell & Partners during ground-breaking works for the construction of a cattle court and grain store in a field near Townhead Farm, Scottish Borders. The archaeological works were designed to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Scottish Borders Council, following the advice of Heritage Officer Mr. Rory MacDonald, and are in accordance with the principles inherent in NPPG 5 (SOEnD 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnD 1994a).
- 1.2 The watching brief was conducted between 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007. A negative linear feature was uncovered along the northern edge of the excavated area, measuring 100 m x 2 m. No other archaeological remains were uncovered.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Planning background**

- 2.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by A. & B. Russell & Partners during ground-breaking works for the construction of a cattle court and grain store in a field near Townhead Farm, Scottish Borders (Figures 1 & 2) to meet the terms of a planning condition. The archaeological works were designed to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Scottish Borders Council, following the advice of Heritage Officer Mr. Rory MacDonald and are in accordance with the principles inherent in NPPG 5 (SOEnD 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnD 1994a).

### **2.2 Location**

- 2.2.1 The development site is located in an area of agricultural land near Townhead Farm, Cockburnspath, East Lothian (NGR: NT 8015 6916).

### **2.3 Archaeological background**

- 2.3.1 Prior to the watching brief no known archaeological sites lay within the proposed development area. However, the surrounding area is deemed to be of archaeological interest and there was a possibility that remains of unrecorded archaeological features might survive within the development area; as yet unknown in the historical, cartographic or aerial photographic record.

## **3. OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:
  - i) to monitor ground-breaking works associated with the development and to prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;

- ii) to undertake the immediate recording of isolated finds of moderately significant archaeological material that would be disturbed by construction activities.

#### **4. METHOD**

##### **4.1 Topsoil stripping and excavation**

- 4.1.1 The development area (c. 9000 m<sup>2</sup>) was machine-stripped of topsoil using a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditchless bucket with a width of 1.8 m, under constant archaeological direction. All works were undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures. Machine excavation was carried out in shallow spits and ceased on the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil.
- 4.1.2 All significant archaeological features were cleaned and fully defined and were fully excavated and recorded in order to determine their character, function, condition, nature and date.
- 4.1.3 Finds and archaeological features readily demonstrable as being of 19th or 20<sup>th</sup> century date were not considered archaeologically significant.
- 4.1.4 A photographic record of all invasive works was compiled (Appendix 1).

#### **5. RESULTS**

##### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007 whilst ground breaking works were conducted to accommodate a cattle court and shed. The development area (c. 9000 m<sup>2</sup>) was excavated to the natural subsoil.

##### **5.2 Soils**

- 5.2.1 The topsoil was a loosely compacted, dark brown soil with few inclusions varying in depth from a minimum of 0.20 m to a maximum of 0.90 m. The natural subsoil was composed of a compact, mid brown sandy gravel with frequent sub-rounded and angular stone inclusions.

##### **5.2.2 Archaeology**

A single negative linear feature, measuring 100 m x 2 m was uncovered in the north of the excavated area. The feature ran north-west/south-east and curved towards the south-east near its eastern end. Hand-excavation across the feature revealed it to be a shallow cut with a flat base. Small rounded and sub-angular stones were present at the base of the cut. Two fills were identified: an upper layer of greyish brown silty sand with small rounded and sub-angular stones (< 10cm) and small angular stones (>

10cm), with white 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic; a lower fill of small rounded and sub-angular stones (< 15 cm) visible in the base of the cut. The ceramic evidence suggests that the feature is a modern drainage ditch.

## 6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The watching brief on ground-breaking works uncovered a negative linear feature measuring 100 m x 2 m on the northern edge of the development area. Ceramic evidence recovered from its fill suggests that the feature is a modern drainage ditch. No other archaeological remains were uncovered in the footprint of the development area.
- 6.2 Given the above findings, the probability of encountering archaeological remains is negligible. No further archaeological works are considered necessary.

## 7. REFERENCES

SOEnd 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish Office Environment Department.

SOEnd 1994a *Planning advice Note 42, Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish Office Environment Department.

## APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

### Black and White Print 1

<b>Frame</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>From</b>
1-2	Registration shot	--
3-4	General shot of drain	SE
5-6	General shot of drain	NW
7-8	Section of drain showing fills	NE
9-10	SE facing section of drain	SE
11-12	General shot of works	NW
13-14	General shot of works	NE
15-16	General shot of works	W
17-18	General shot of works	E



**Townhead Farm, Cockburnspath, Scottish Borders  
Watching Brief Report**

**APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	East Lothian Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Cockburnspath
<b>PARISH:</b>	Cockburnspath
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Robert McMorran
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR</b>	Centred on NT 8015 6916
<b>START DATE</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> April 2007
<b>END DATE</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> April 2007
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was undertaken during ground-breaking works associated with the construction of a cattle court and shed near Townhead Farm, Cockburnspath, East Lothian. A single negative linear feature containing white ceramic was encountered. This was most probably a modern drainage ditch.
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 20465
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	A. & B. Russell & Partners
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b>	National Monuments Record of Scotland

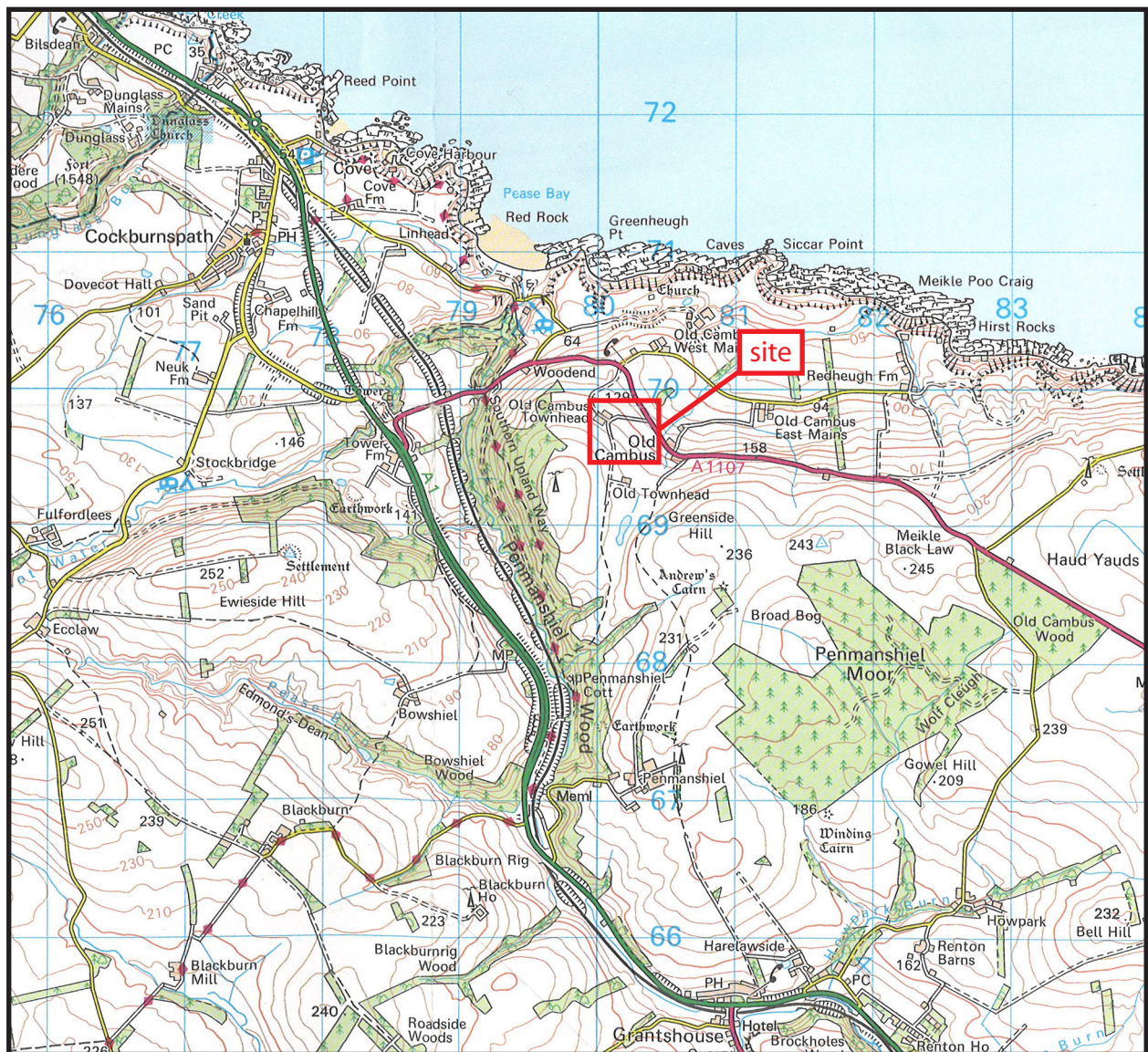
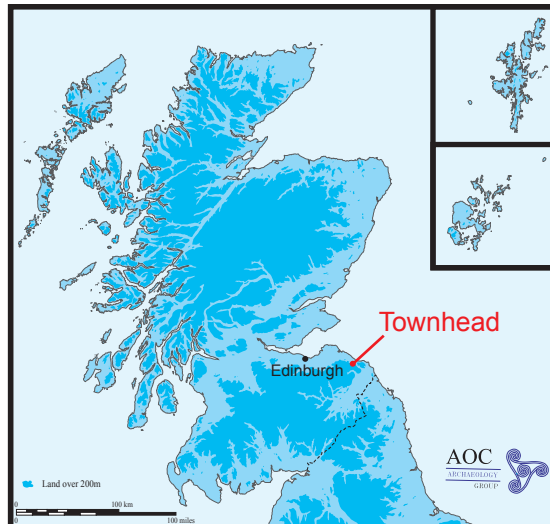


Figure 1: Site location

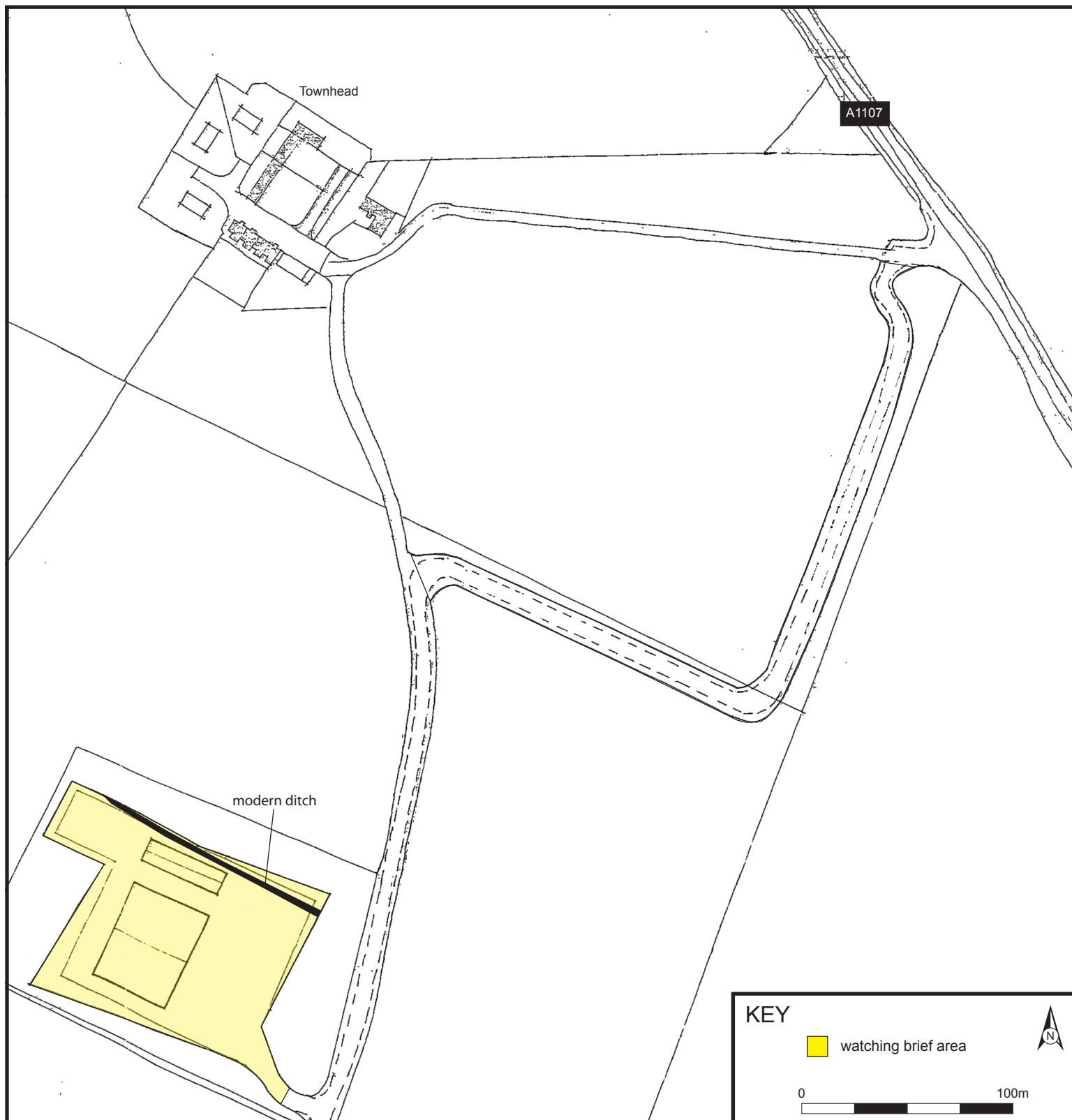


Figure 2: Location of watching brief area