

East Cleugh Cottage, Duns: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22050
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East Cleugh Cottage, Duns

Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

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| On Behalf of: | Aitken Turnbull Architects Ltd |
| National Grid Reference (NGR): | NT 8025 5805 |
| AOC Project No: | 22050 |
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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in relation to a proposed single house plot development near East Cleugh Cottage, Duns, The Scottish Borders.

The evaluation required a 20% trenching sample throughout the development area, consisting of 265 m of trenching with combined basal dimensions of 424 m².

Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Aitken Turnbull Architects Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a proposed single house plot near East Cleugh Cottage, Duns, The Scottish Borders. The evaluation was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Scottish Borders Council (SBC) who are advised on archaeological matters by Dr. Chris Bowles, Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer. The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2012) approved on behalf of SBC by Dr. Bowles and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The site, centred on NGR NT 8025 5805, lies to the southeast of East Cleugh Cottage, which in turn lies approximately 3km north of Duns, Scottish Borders off of the A6112 (Figure 1). The development area lies at the end of a farm access road leading east from A6112 and is surrounded by open arable fields.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The development area lies within an open area of arable fields and no sites are known to exist within the development limits. The surrounding landscape however does contain a number of crop mark sites. The closest site lies to the northwest and is described as possibly two enclosures with linear ditches and pits (NMRS No. NT85NW 40). A watching brief conducted during the construction of a new farm building encroached on the western part of this site and uncovered a ditch but unfortunately no finds by which to date the enclosure.
- 1.3.2 To the northeast of the development area lies an impressive crop mark which is described as a palisade enclosure with an entrance to the southeast (NMRS No. NT85NW 41). Finally, lying a little further away due east is a crop mark which is interpreted as a prehistoric settlement site (NMRS No. NT85NW 39) and consists of a sub-circular ditched enclosure with entrance to the west. Neither of these two crop marks have been investigated in any way, however the three crop mark sites are all most likely of prehistoric date and indicative of a sizable prehistoric population.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:
- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
 - 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 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The evaluation comprised machine trenching of a 20% sample of the development area that was approximately 2110 m². The total trenched area was slightly reduced due to a current crop encroaching into the southern edge of the proposed development area outlined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2012). Total trenching consisted of 424 m² (total basal trench dimensions), with Trenches being 1.6 m wide, and between 15 m and 38 m in length, set on varying orientations (Figure 2).
- 3.2 The evaluation was undertaken by a JCB 3CX excavator with a 1.6 m wide bladed ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and as per the methodology within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2012). The trenches were backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 31st May 2012. Overall weather conditions were generally wet, but archaeological visibility was good throughout the evaluation. In total 265 m of trenching was opened, most of which was aligned North to South with the main bulk passing over and through the house plot footprint (Figure 2).



Plate 1 - Shot of trench 2 showing rubble drain

- 4.2 Topsoil within the development area was a mid brown clay measuring on average 0.3 m thick across the majority of the site, sitting on top of an orangey red sandy clay natural. Several ceramic tile field drains aligned in various directions were revealed just under the topsoil and a rubble drain measuring 0.4 m wide was revealed in several trenches running E-W through the development area (Plate 1).

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were identified during the evaluation. The significant balance of probability is that the site is free of archaeological material. No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by Dr. Chris Bowles on behalf of Scottish Borders Council.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2012 *'Land to the SE of East Cleugh Cottage, Duns, Scottish Borders: Written Scheme of Investigation'* Unpublished client report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*, February 2010.

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*.

East Cleugh Cottage, Duns: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 27.0 m by 1.6 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 43.2 m ² |
| <i>Orientation</i> | ENE-WSW |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i> | 0.3 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.4 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | None |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Orangey red sandy clay |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 2

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 27.5 m by 1.6 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 44.0 m ² |
| <i>Orientation</i> | SE-NW |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i> | 0.3 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.4 m to 1.0 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | Ceramic tile field drain running N-S; Rubble drain measuring 0.4m wide running E-W |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Orangey red sandy clay |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 3

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 15.0 m by 1.6 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 24.0 m ² |
| <i>Orientation</i> | SSE-NNW |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i> | 0.3 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.4 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | Ceramic tile field drain running N-S |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Orangey red sandy clay |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 4

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 26.5 m by 1.6 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 42.4 m ² |
| <i>Orientation</i> | N-S |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i> | 0.3 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.4 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | Ceramic tile field drain running SE-NW; Rubble drain measuring 0.4m wide running E-W (same as Trench 2) |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Orangey red sandy clay |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 5

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 28.0 m by 1.6 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 44.8 m ² |
| <i>Orientation</i> | N-S |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i> | 0.3 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.4 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| <i>Other Features</i> | Rubble drain measuring 0.4m wide running E-W (same as Trench 2 and 4) |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Orangey red sandy clay |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 6

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 29.0 m by 1.6 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 46.4 m ² |
| <i>Orientation</i> | N-S |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i> | 0.4 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 1.2 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | Ceramic tile field drain running SW-NE |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Orangey red sandy clay |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 7

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 16.0 m by 1.6 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 25.6 m ² |
| <i>Orientation</i> | N-S |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i> | 0.3 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.4 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | Two ceramic tile field drains running SW-NE and E-W; Rubble drain measuring 0.4m wide running E-W (same as Trench 2, 4 and 6) |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Orangey red sandy clay |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 8

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 38.0 m by 1.6 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 60.8 m ² |
| <i>Orientation</i> | N-S |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i> | 0.3 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.4 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | Rubble drain measuring 0.4m wide running E-W (same as Trench 2, 4, 6 and 7) |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Orangey red sandy clay |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 9

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 36.0 m by 1.6 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 57.6 m ² |
| <i>Orientation</i> | N-S |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i> | 0.3 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.4 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | Rubble drain measuring 0.4m wide running E-W (same as Trench 2, 4, 6, 7 and 8) |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Orangey red sandy clay |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 10

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 22.0 m by 1.6 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 35.2 m ² |
| <i>Orientation</i> | N-S |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i> | 0.3 m |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.4 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | Rubble drain measuring 0.4m wide running E-W (same as Trench 2, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9) |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Orangey red sandy clay |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

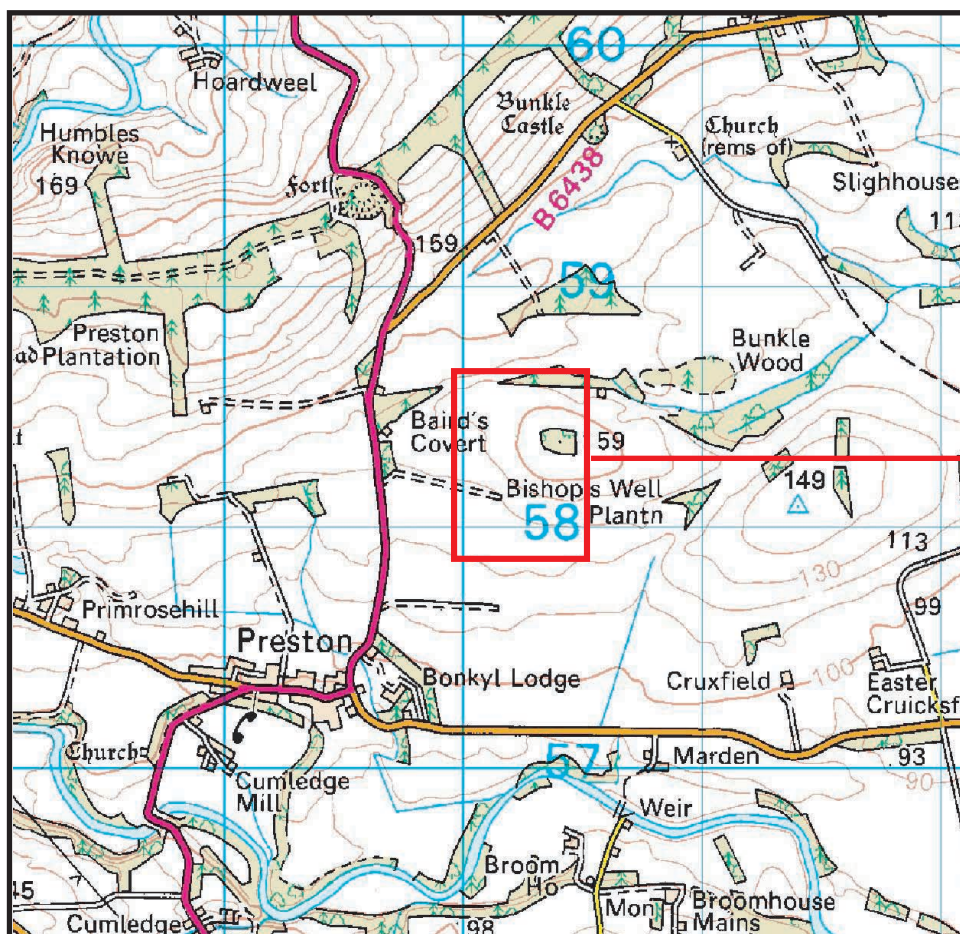
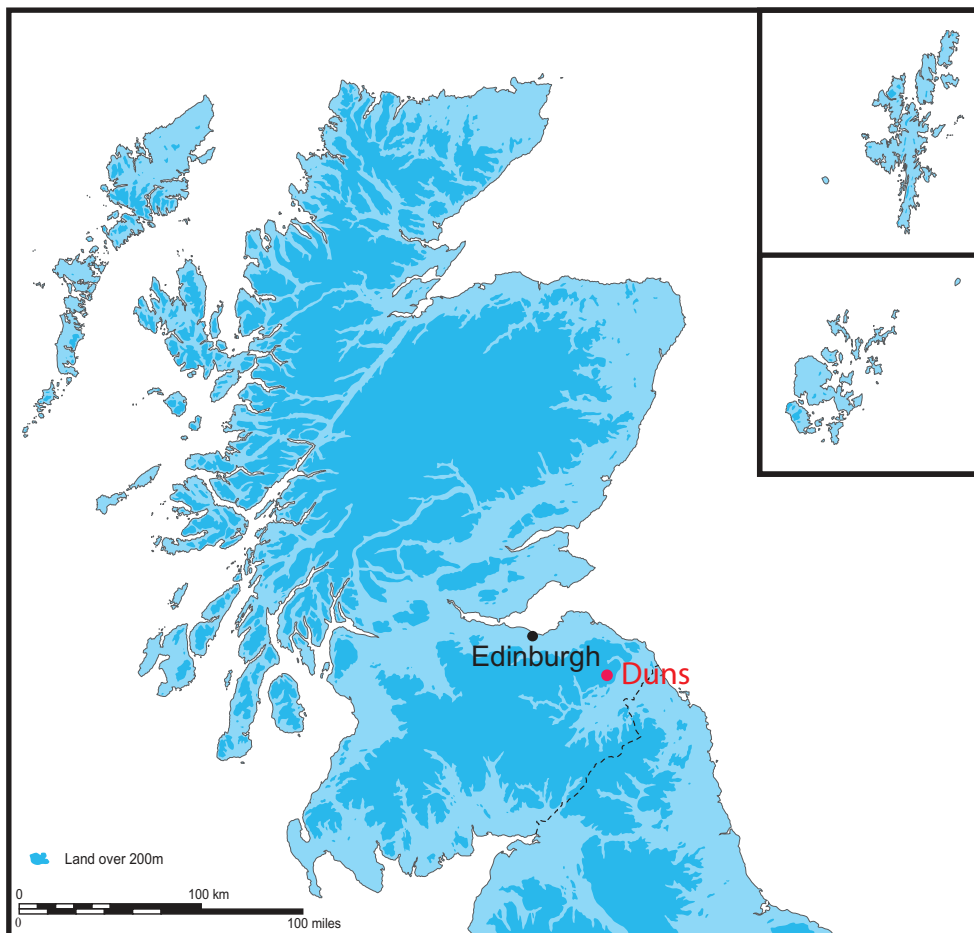
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

| Frame | Description | From | Date |
|-------|--|------|---------|
| 1 | Pre ex shot of development area | NE | 31/5/12 |
| 2 | Post ex of Trench 1 | ENE | 31/5/12 |
| 3 | Post ex of Trench 2 showing rubble drain | E | 31/5/12 |
| 4 | Post ex of Trench 3 | SE | 31/5/12 |
| 5 | Post ex of Trench 4 | SE | 31/5/12 |
| 6 | Post ex of Trench 5 | S | 31/5/12 |
| 7 | Post ex of Trench 6 | S | 31/5/12 |
| 8 | Post ex of Trench 7 | S | 31/5/12 |
| 9 | Post ex of Trench 8 | S | 31/5/12 |
| 10 | Post ex of Trench 9 | N | 31/5/12 |
| 11 | Post ex of Trench 10 | S | 31/5/12 |
| 12 | Rubble drain slot | SE | 31/5/12 |

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

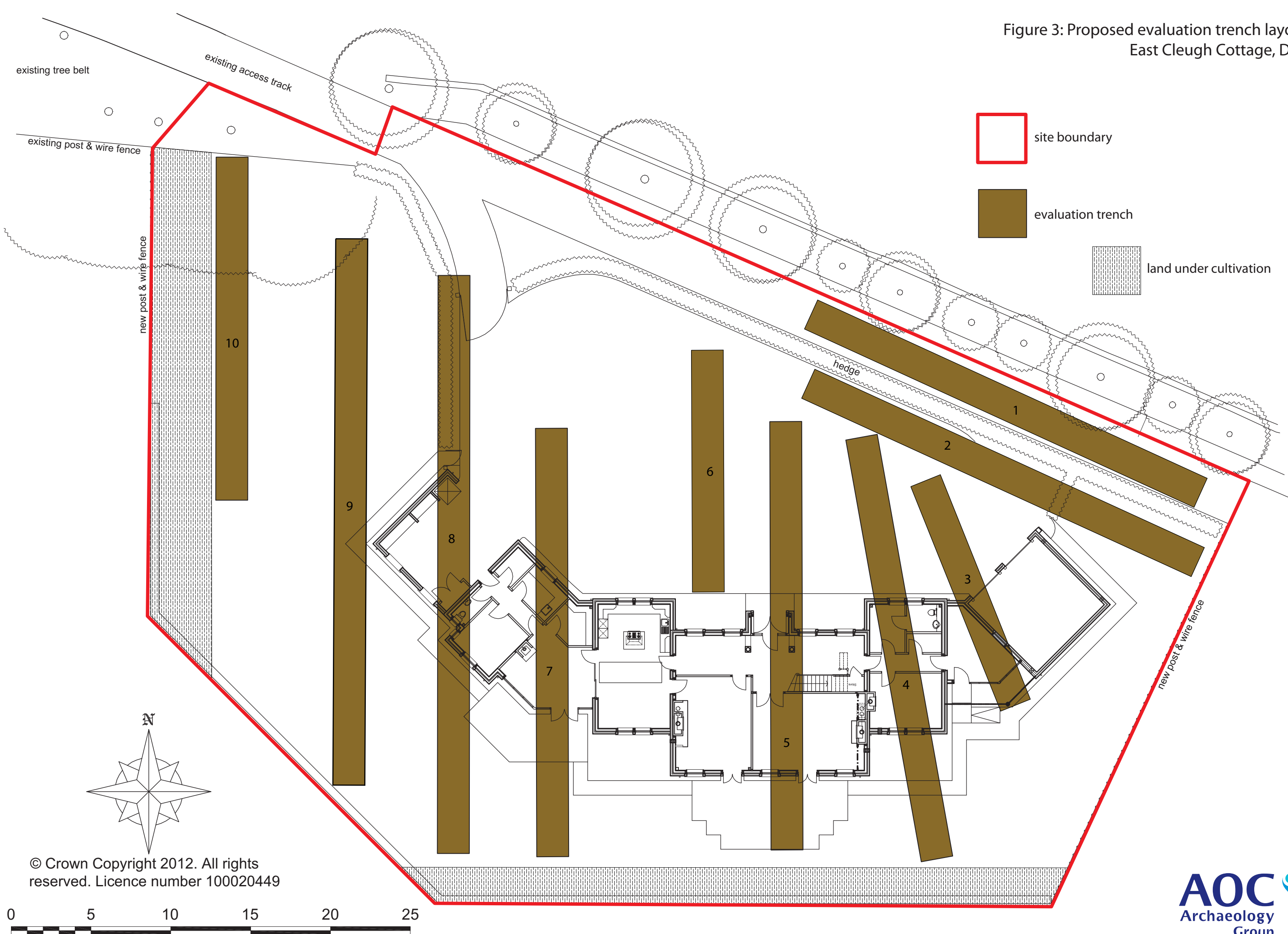
| | |
|---|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | The Scottish Borders Council |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME | East Cleugh Cottage, Duns |
| PROJECT CODE: | AOC 22050 |
| PARISH: | Bunkle & Preston |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Kevin Paton |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | AOC Archaeology Group |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Archaeological Evaluation |
| NMRS NO(S) | None |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | N/A |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | N/A |
| NGR (2 letters, 6 figures) | NT 8025 5805 |
| START DATE (this season) | 31 st May 2012 |
| END DATE (this season) | 31 st May 2012 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.) | None |
| MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | <p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in relation to a proposed single house plot development near East Cleugh Cottage, Duns, The Scottish Borders.</p> <p>The evaluation required a 20% trenching sample throughout the development area, consisting of 265 m of trenching with combined basal dimensions of 424m².</p> <p>Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.</p> |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | --- |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Aitken Turnbull Architects Limited |
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| EMAIL ADDRESS: | Kevin.paton@aocarchaeology.com |
| ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited) | Archive to be deposited in NMRS |

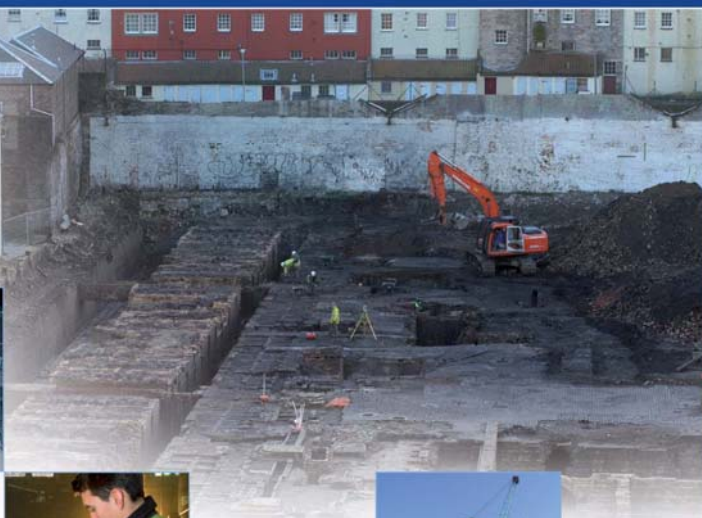


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Figure 1: Location of the site at East Cleugh Cottages

Figure 3: Proposed evaluation trench layout,
East Cleugh Cottage, Duns





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