

# Lauder Health Centre:

## Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project 21844

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21<sup>st</sup> November 2012



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## Lauder Health Centre: Evaluation, Data Structure Report

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<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>Scottish Borders Health Board</b>
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>NT 5296 4753</b>
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	<b>21844</b>
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<b>Date of Fieldwork:</b>	<b>07/11/2012 – 13/11/2012</b>
<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>21/11/2012</b>

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

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## **Abstract**

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This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group during the building of the new Lauder Health Centre.

The site occupies an area previously taken up by a play park. No archaeological features or remains were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Scottish Borders Health Board to undertake a Watching Brief at Lauder Health Centre, Scottish Borders. The work required was in response to advice by the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer, Dr. Christopher Bowles, who recommended a Watching Brief on the proposed construction of the new Lauder Health Centre, to adequately monitor the impact of ground breaking works on the archaeological resource.
- 1.1.2 Scottish Borders Council is advised on archaeological matters by Dr Chris Bowles, Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer. The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011) and in accord with Borders Council requirements as advised by Dr Bowles. A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2011) outlining the programme of archaeological works was agreed with Dr. Bowles in advance of the works being undertaken.

### 1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area (NGR: NT 5296 4753; Figure 1) lies within close proximity to the medieval core of Lauder, occupying an area of land south of Crofts Road, a street annotated as the South Backsides on the Great Reform Act map (1832), and which denotes the southern limit of urban medieval activity in Lauder.

### 1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 There are no known archaeological sites within the proposed development area. However, the site lies within close proximity to the medieval core of Lauder. The settlement of Lauder was first recorded in around 1250 AD, and by 1300 contained a hospital (Smith 2001). The village became a Royal Burgh in 1298, and was subsequently captured by Edward I, who built a fort 500 m east of the settlement. Following its recapture, Lauder was re-chartered in 1328 and again in 1502. The fort was rebuilt in stone in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and again in 1548, by the English under Protector Somerset, becoming one of the first in Britain to be designed for artillery on the bastion plan. Lauder is shown as a rectilinear enclosure on Pont's 1600 map (Smith 2001). The site is located to the southern boundary of the village, in close proximity to the proposed town walls (Dr. Chris Bowles pers. comm.; (Figure 1). The proximity of the site within the medieval core of the village raises the possibility of identifying buried remains associated with the former occupation of the area.
- 1.3.2 In addition, the surrounding area is rich in Prehistoric archaeology. An unstratified, Prehistoric hammerstone (NMRS: NT54NW 17) was found to the immediate east of the site.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological Watching Brief were:
- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from inadvertent disturbance by the proposed development works;

- ii) to liaise with Dr. Bowles and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and /or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The Watching Brief was carried out between 7<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in generally fair weather conditions. Ground reduction was undertaken using a 17.5 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All ground works were monitored and supervised by an experienced field archaeologist. Ground reduction was carried out in shallow spits until the required formation depth or significant archaeology was reached.

### 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The various data gathered during the watching brief are presented as a series of appendices:
  - i) Appendix 1 contains the photographic register
  - ii) Appendix 2 contains the *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland* entry

- 4.2 No significant archaeological remains were recovered during topsoil stripping. The remains of the play park, consisting of concrete founds and thin layers of made ground, containing industrially produced white and blue ceramic and modern bottle glass, were photographed in situ. Natural coarse orange sand and gravel with rounded cobbles was encountered between 0.5 m and 0.6 m below the old ground surface. Three fragments of tobacco pipe were recovered from the topsoil, but otherwise no datable finds were recovered from the site.

### 6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 It is clear from the Watching Brief that no archaeological remains survived within the development area. The excavation provided no evidence to suggest the site had seen occupation during the medieval or post-medieval development of the town. Examining the maps, particularly the first edition of the 25" ordnance survey revealed reverse S shaped property boundaries on land parallel to the development area, suggesting that agricultural land extended all the way to the "South Backsides" of the medieval town.

### 7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by Dr. Chris Bowles on behalf of Scottish Borders Council.

### 8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2012 *Lauder Health Centre, Scottish Borders: Watching Brief, Written Scheme of Investigation (11<sup>th</sup> January 2011)*. Unpublished AOC Project Design.

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy* (February 2010)

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology*.

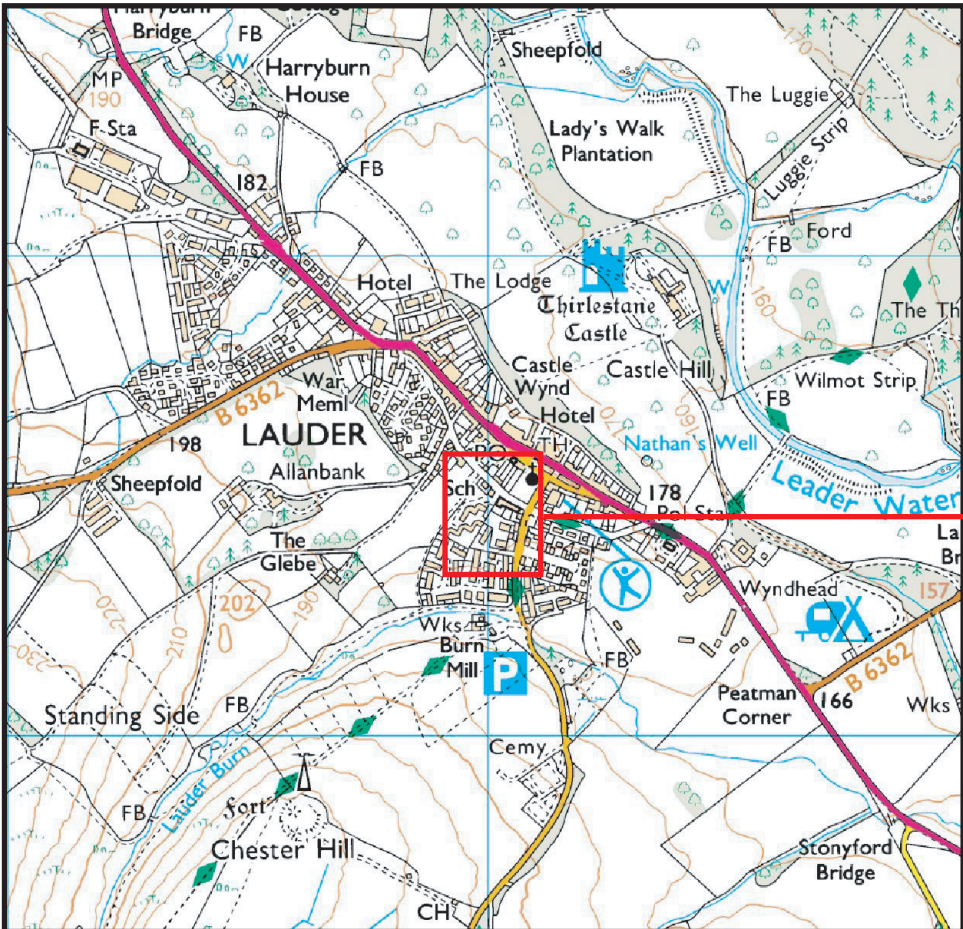
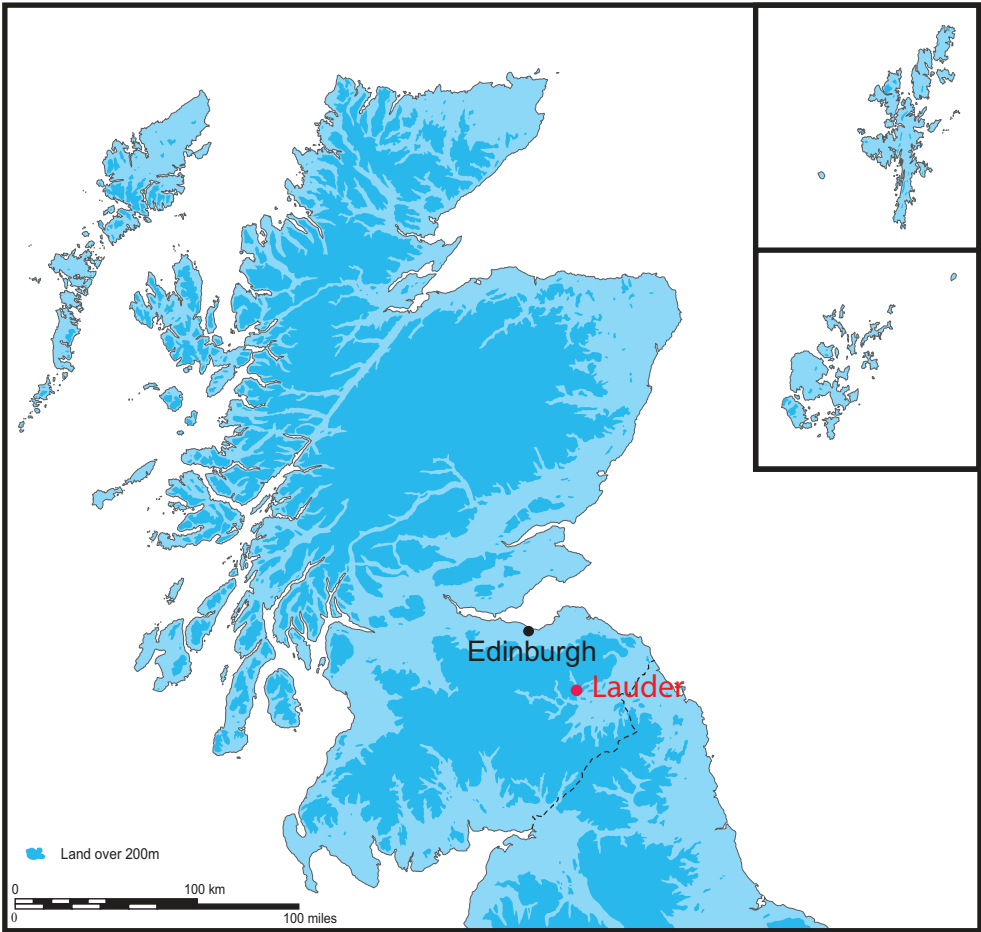
Smith, R 2001, *The Making of Scotland: A Comprehensive Guide to the Growth of Scotland's Cities, Towns and Villages*. Canongate

**Cartographic sources**

Great Reforms Act 1832 *Great Reforms act and Reports*. Lauder 1832

OS 1859, *Ordnance Survey Maps 25 inch*. Surveyed 1859, Published 1863





Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright [2009] All rights reserved. Licence number 100023757.

Figure 1: Location of the site at Lauder

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# **Jedburgh Health Centre: Watching Brief Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

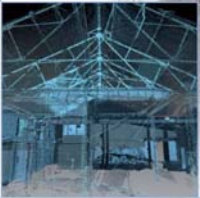
## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital images

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration	
2-5	Made ground associated with play park	W
6-7	General view of site	N
8-9	Working shots	V
10	General view of site	S
11-15	Working shots of topsoil stripping	V

**APPENDIX 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Scottish Borders Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Lauder Health
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 21844
<b>PARISH:</b>	Jedburgh
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Jake Streatfeild-James
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	NA
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	NA
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	NA
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 52961 47525
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	07/11/2012
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	13/11/2012
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	NA
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group during the building of the new Lauder Health Centre.</p> <p>The site occupies an area previously taken up by a play park. No archaeological features or remains were encountered during the course of the watching brief.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Scottish Borders Health Board
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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