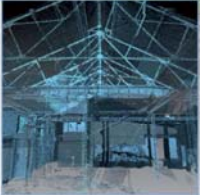


Seton Hall, Berwick Upon Tweed: Archaeological Evaluation Report

AOC Project 22354
Oasis No. aocarcha1-145931
26th March 2013



Seton Hall, Berwick Upon Tweed: Archaeological Evaluation Report

On Behalf of:	Berwickshire Housing Association Limited 55 Newton Street Duns TD11 3AU
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 988 526
AOC Project No:	22354
Prepared by:	Kevin Paton
Illustration by:	Kevin Paton
Date of Fieldwork:	7th March 2013
Date of Report:	26th March 2013

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

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Contents

	Page
List of Illustrations	3
List of Plates	3
List of Appendices	3
Non-technical Summary	4
1 INTRODUCTION	5
2 AIMS & OBJECTIVES	5
3 METHODOLOGY	5
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT	6
5 RESULTS	7
6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	8
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	8
8 SITE ARCHIVE	8
9 REFERENCES	8
APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions	10
APPENDIX 2: Context Descriptions	12
APPENDIX 3: Photographic Record	12
APPENDIX 4: Fieldwork Summary Sheet	13

List of Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location plan
Figure 2	Trench locations

List of Plates

Plate 1	Shot of furrow in Trench 3
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List of Appendices

Appendix 1	Trench Descriptions
Appendix 2	Context Descriptions
Appendix 3	Photographic Record
Appendix 4	Fieldwork Summary Report

Non-technical Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in relation to a proposed residential development on land adjacent to Seton Hall, Berwick Upon Tweed.

The evaluation required a 5% trenching sample of the available development area totalling 356 m. A total of 8 trenches of varying lengths and alignments were excavated encountering post medieval ridge and furrow in the majority of trenches aligned NW to SE.

Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Reasons for the project

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Berwickshire Housing Association Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a proposed residential development on land adjacent to Seton Hall, Berwick Upon Tweed (centred on NGR NT 988 526; Figure 1).

1.1.2 No known archaeological sites are present within the site boundary however the possibility of the discovery of archaeological sites from all periods is possible given it is a green field site that should have been free of modern development. Medieval and post medieval sites are known in the local area, however it is considered likely that if contemporary remains are present within the development area then these are perhaps more likely to represent agricultural features of lesser archaeological importance.

1.2 Location and topography

1.2.1 The site is situated on the western edge of the settlement of Tweedmouth and lies to the north of the A698 Ord Drive, and includes the current Seton Hall Care Home and its access road which take up the north and east edge of the development area. It is bounded by the fire station and warehouses to the south and fields to the west and north (see Figure 1). The development area is currently open ground which slopes gradually from the northern end of site to the south western end of site adjacent to the A698.

1.3 Project Parameters

1.3.1 The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1994, rev. 2008). The project followed a detailed specification (AOC 2013). Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT) provided an initial brief (ref B34/1: 13300) which was consulted throughout the archaeological works.

2 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

2.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area by means of an intrusive field evaluation;
- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

3.1.1 The evaluation comprised machine trenching of a 5% sample of the available development area which equated to 700 m². This total was calculated once the previously developed land associated with the current Seton Hall Care Home was removed from the total land to be developed. Furthermore, a service buffer 10m from the road and an area of hard standing used as a car park with associated access track were also removed from the land available for trenching.

3.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken by a 14 tonne tracked excavator with 1.8 m wide ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon. 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 *Archaeological Evaluation Project Design* (AOC 2013). On completion of the evaluation, all trenches were backfilled.

3.2 Structural analysis

- 3.2.1 All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Stratigraphic relationships were also checked once fieldwork was completed.

3.3 Artefact recovery and methodology

- 3.3.1 The artefact recovery policy conformed to AOC Archaeology's standard operating procedures (AOC Archaeology 2008d, Appendix 7, 7.26-7.29). In the event, few artefacts were observed and all were clearly late post-medieval or modern in date. Unstratified, modern artefacts were noted but not retained.

3.4 Environmental methodology

- 3.4.1 The environmental sampling methodology conformed to AOC Archaeology's standard operating procedures (AOC Archaeology 2013, Appendix 7, 7.11) and was confirmed in advance by Dr. Jacqui Huntley, the English Heritage Advisor for North East England. No contexts required sampling during the evaluation.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 4.1 The Northumberland Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that there is evidence for activity in the general Tweedmouth area as early as the Bronze Age, with a cist recorded in 1927 (HER ID 2440). Evidence from the Roman period includes the finding of a bronze coin of Constantine I, in which was recovered from a garden around 1961 (HER ID 2460). Around 250 m to the north of the application site a coin of Marcus Aurelius (late 2nd century AD) was found at Mill Farm (HER ID 14795). The HER also notes that the original medieval settlement of Tweedmouth lay along the modern main street towards the bridge over the Tweed to Berwick (HER ID 2499). The former site of King John's Tweedmouth Castle (HER ID 2717) may lie c.500 m to the south-east of the application site.
- 4.2 No archaeological work is known to have previously been undertaken on the application site; however previous desk-based archaeological works have taken in the general area of the site. An appraisal, was for example, undertaken in 2010 by Northern Archaeological Associates and focused on five potential development sites for Berwick Infirmary. Additionally, archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken at three sites on the north-west side of the A698, between c.200 m and 800 m to the south-west of the present application site. These include geophysical survey of a proposed Tesco site by Archaeological Services University of Durham on behalf of CgMs Consulting in 2004, which identified likely medieval ridge and furrow, and two areas of trial trenching by CFA at land adjacent to Ord Road, again in 2004. The evaluation identified ridge and furrow cultivation and other features of agricultural origin of 17th and 18th century date.
- 4.3 A search of HER records within 750 m of the application site indicates that medieval or post-medieval cultivation is further evidenced in close proximity to the site by several areas of ridge and furrow transcribed by the HER. The closest of these lies less than 100 m to the south-east of the application site, on the opposite, south-east, side of the A698 (Sortie RAF/540/586; Frame 4018), with further areas at a greater distance to the west and south-east.

- 4.4 The HER records 18 Listed Buildings within 750 m of the development area, including three bridges across the Tweed, one of which is the 17th century Berwick Bridge (HER ID 2433), also a scheduled monument and c. 500 m to the west of the site. The remaining Listed Buildings are located within Tweedmouth Conservation Area, which at its closest point to the development lies at a distance of approximately 300 m to the east.
- 4.5 A search of the keystothepast.info website found no further evidence of any archaeological remains or artefacts within relevant proximity to the application site. Similarly a search of the National Heritage List for England, the national register of designated heritage assets, found only 19 Listed Buildings concentrated east of the application site within the historic core of Tweedmouth.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Statement of Confidence

- 5.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 7th March 2013. Weather conditions were fair allowing for good archaeological visibility throughout the evaluation. The conditions and the methodologies adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved. The trench locations are shown in Figure 2. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.2 Natural Deposits

- 5.2.1 The topsoil throughout the development area was a dark brown sandy loam with occasional flecks of coal as well as occasional brick, tile and post medieval ceramic fragments. The topsoil varied in depth from 0.28m to 0.4m and overlay orangey pink clay and orange clayey sand subsoils. To the east of the car park and access track (Trenches 6 and 8) up to 0.7 m of made ground consisting of re-deposited natural and construction debris overlay the original topsoil, most likely deposited during landscaping of the area after the construction of the current Seton Hall Care Home.

5.3 Post Medieval Features

- 5.3.1 Despite extensive plough scarring in most trenches furrows from a post medieval field system were encountered throughout the evaluation area. The furrows were aligned NW-SE and were seen to be around 1.7 m wide, 0.2 m deep and 3-4 m apart (Plate 1). They were filled with light brown clayey silt with abundant coal fleck inclusions, containing clay pipe stems and white ceramic fragments. One of the furrows in Trench 4 had ditch [001] cutting through the centre of it which has been interpreted as a drainage channel running into a small hollow.



Plate 1 - Shot of furrow in Trench 3

6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 From the trenches excavated within the Seton Hall development area, it has been demonstrated that the area was formerly part of a post medieval field system. Other than the furrows from this field system no archaeological features or artefacts were revealed throughout the evaluation.
- 6.2 No further archaeological works are deemed necessary within the development area. These recommendations will have to be approved by NCCCT on behalf of Northumberland County Council.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 AOC Archaeology would like to thank Berwickshire Housing Association and Nick Best (NCCCT) for their assistance in the successful conclusion of this project.
- 7.2 The project was managed by Martin Cook and the fieldwork was conducted by and the report and illustrations prepared by Kevin Paton.

8 SITE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

8	Trench record sheets
2	Context sheets
1	Photographic register
29	Digital photographs

The project archive is intended to be deposited at:

Northumberland Museum and Archives
Queen Elizabeth 11 Country Park
Ashington
NE63 9YF

9 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2013, *Seton Hall, Berwick Upon Tweed, Northumberland: Archaeological Evaluation Project Design* Unpublished AOC project design

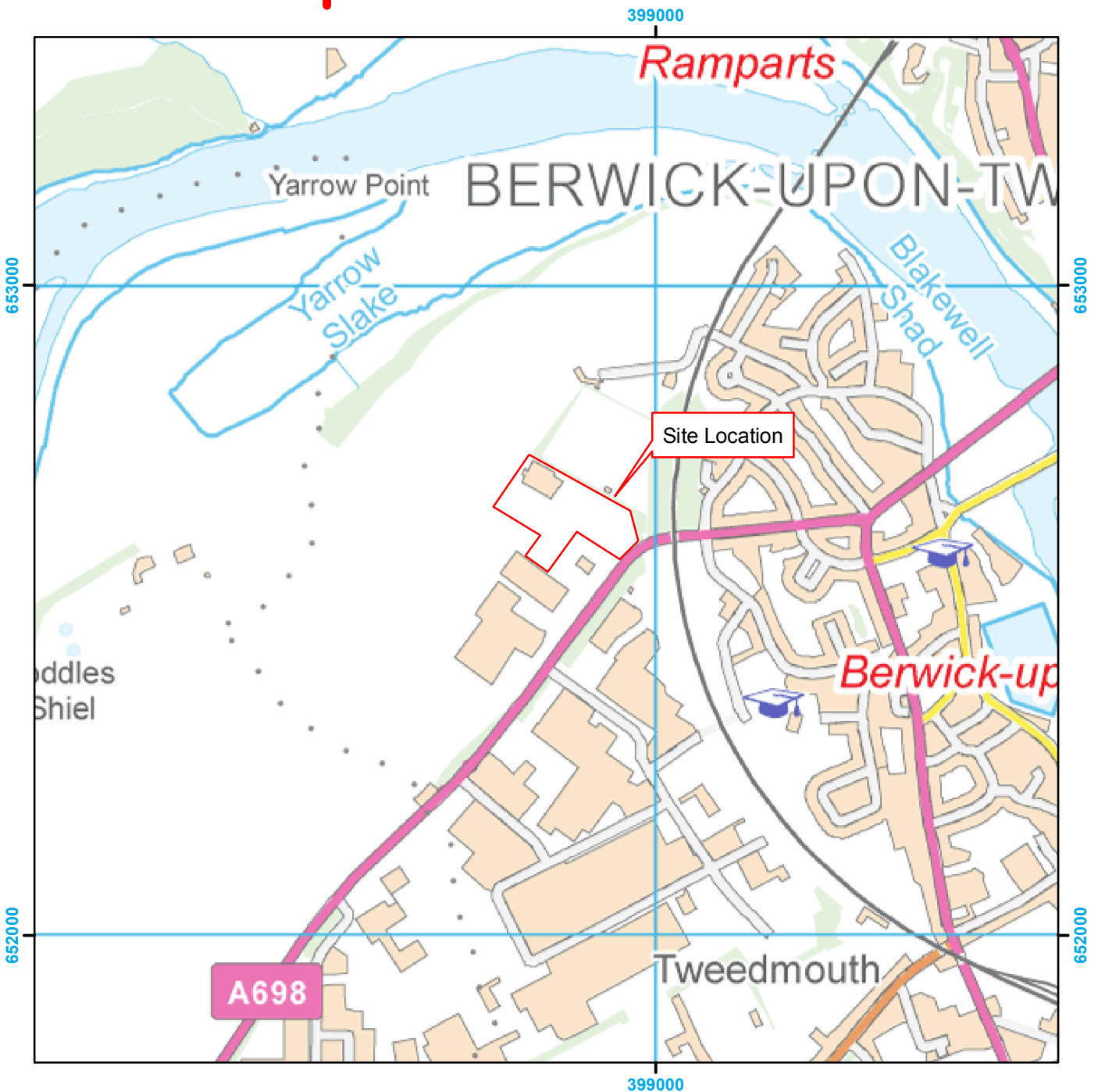
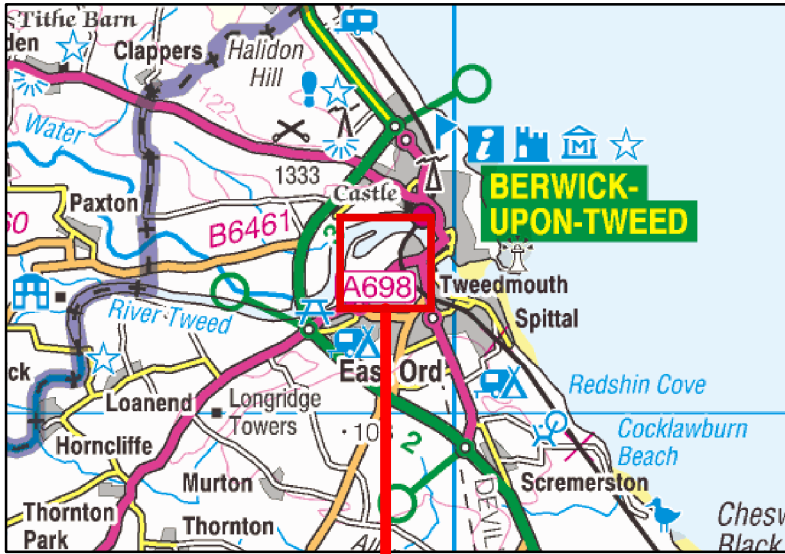
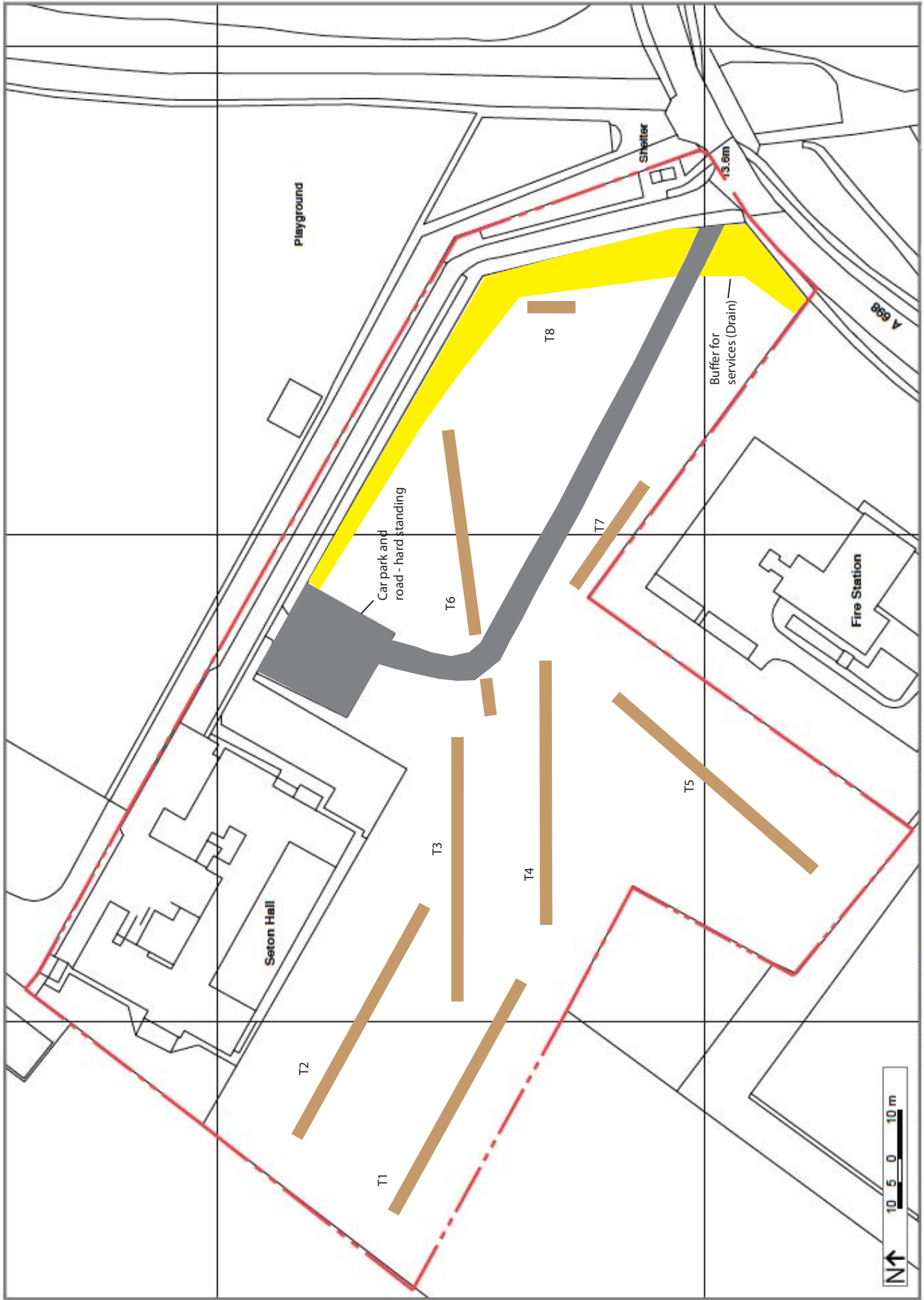


Figure 1: Site Location Plan



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Figure 2: Trench Locations

Seton Hall, Berwick Upon Tweed: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	54 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	108 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NW to SE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil - dark brown sandy loam with frequent coal flecks inclusions and occasional stone with post medieval ceramics as well as brick and tile fragments – max depth 0.3 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.3 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	2 furrows aligned NW-SE from 22 m to end of trench measuring 0.9 m to 1.5 m wide and 0.1 m deep
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey pink clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	53 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	106 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NW to SE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil - dark brown sandy loam with frequent coal flecks inclusions and occasional stone with post medieval ceramics as well as brick and tile fragments – max depth 0.38 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.5 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Ceramic tile field drain running NNW-SSE from start of trench to 14m along trench
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey pink clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	53 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	106 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	W to E
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil - dark brown sandy loam with frequent coal flecks inclusions and occasional stone with post medieval ceramics as well as brick and tile fragments – max depth 0.35 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.35 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	4 furrows aligned NW-SE from 12 m to end of trench measuring up to 1.7 m wide and 0.2 m deep. Ceramic tile field drains at 29 m and 42m aligned NW-SE
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey pink clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	52 m by 2 m
<i>Total Area</i>	104 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	W to E
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil - dark brown sandy loam with frequent coal flecks inclusions and occasional stone with post medieval ceramics as well as brick and tile fragments – max depth 0.4 m; Ploughsoil – light brown clayey silt with abundant coal fleck inclusions and occasional small stones – max depth 0.3 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.7 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	4 furrows aligned NW-SE from beginning of trench to 38 m along trench with associated ceramic tile field drains running through each one. Ditch [001] cuts the final furrow at 35.7 m along trench. Other ceramic tile field drains noted at 34.7 m and 46 m
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orange clayey sand

<i> Finds </i>	None
Trench 5	
<i> Dimensions </i>	53 m by 2 m
<i> Total Area </i>	106 m ²
<i> Excavated Orientation </i>	SW to NE
<i> Soil Make-up </i>	Topsoil - dark brown sandy loam with frequent coal flecks inclusions and occasional stone with post medieval ceramics as well as brick and tile fragments – max depth 0.4 m; Ploughsoil – light brown clayey silt with abundant coal fleck inclusions and occasional small stones – max depth 0.35 m
<i> Depth of Excavation </i>	0.75 m
<i> Significant Features </i>	None
<i> Other Features </i>	4 furrows aligned NW-SE from beginning of trench to 38 m along trench with associated ceramic tile field drains running through each one. Other ceramic tile field drains at 33.6 m and 40.5 m
<i> Natural Subsoil </i>	Orangey pink clay until 38.5 m then orange clayey sand to 43 m then light greenish brown clayey sand
<i> Finds </i>	None
Trench 6	
<i> Dimensions </i>	51 m by 2 m
<i> Total Area </i>	102 m ²
<i> Excavated Orientation </i>	W to E
<i> Soil Make-up </i>	Topsoil west of road - dark brown sandy loam with frequent coal flecks inclusions and occasional stone with post medieval ceramics as well as brick and tile fragments – max depth 0.3 m; Topsoil east of road – very compact dark grey clayey silt with re-deposited clay and modern dumped material – max depth 0.53 m; Made ground east of road from 27.5 m – re-deposited subsoil with modern brick, wood, glass and stone – max depth 0.28m Ploughsoil under made ground – light brown clayey silt with abundant coal fleck inclusions and occasional small stones – max depth 0.15 m
<i> Depth of Excavation </i>	0.95 m
<i> Significant Features </i>	None
<i> Other Features </i>	Furrow aligned NW-SE at 3 m
<i> Natural Subsoil </i>	Orangey pink clay and mottled orange, pink and pale green sandy clay
<i> Finds </i>	None
Trench 7	
<i> Dimensions </i>	30 m by 2 m
<i> Total Area </i>	60 m ²
<i> Excavated Orientation </i>	NW to SE
<i> Soil Make-up </i>	Topsoil – compact dark grey clayey silt – max depth 0.35 m;
<i> Depth of Excavation </i>	0.35 m
<i> Significant Features </i>	None
<i> Other Features </i>	None
<i> Natural Subsoil </i>	Orangey pink clay
<i> Finds </i>	None
Trench 8	
<i> Dimensions </i>	10 m by 2 m
<i> Total Area </i>	20 m ²
<i> Excavated Orientation </i>	N to S
<i> Soil Make-up </i>	Made ground – imported topsoil onto light brown sand and rubble – max depth 0.7 m;

	Ploughsoil – light brown clayey silt with abundant coal fleck inclusions and occasional small stones – max depth 0.1 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.9 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	2 furrows aligned NW-SE at 1.5 m then 5.3 m
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Orangey pink clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Trench	Description
001	4	Linear cut through furrow in T4 aligned NW-SE and measuring 1.02 m wide by 0.34 m deep. Steep sided with a concave base and filled with [002] Drainage ditch
002	4	Mid brown sandy clay with abundant coal fragment inclusions and small stones. Some post medieval tile and other ceramic fragments as well as a clay pipe stem were found (not retained). Fill of ditch [001]

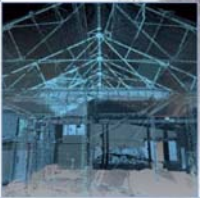
APPENDIX 3: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1	Plough scars T1	NW	7/3/13
2-3	General shot of field	Var	7/3/13
4	Post ex T1	NW	7/3/13
5	Post ex T2	SE	7/3/13
6-8	General shots of field	Var	7/3/13
9-10	Furrow in T3	SE	7/3/13
11	Furrow in T3	W	7/3/13
12	N-facing section of T3 showing ploughsoil	N	7/3/13
13	Post ex T3	E	7/3/13
14	Post ex T4	E	7/3/13
15	Hollow in T5	N	7/3/13
16	Post ex T5	NE	7/3/13
17	Made ground-topsoil-ploughsoil in T6	SW	7/3/13
18-19	Made ground in T6	Var	7/3/13
20	Post ex T6	W	7/3/13
21	Shot showing road through site	NW	7/3/13
22	Post ex T7	SE	7/3/13
23-24	SE facing section of ditch [001]	E	7/3/13
25-28	Backfilled trenches	Var	7/3/13
29	Post ex T8	N	7/3/13

APPENDIX 4: Fieldwork Summary Sheet

Site Name/Address Seton Hall, Berwick Upon Tweed	
Township Berwick Upon Tweed	District Tweedmouth
National Grid Reference NT 988 526	
Contractor AOC Archaeology Group	
Date of Work 7th March 2013	
Title of Report Seton Hall, Berwick Upon Tweed: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report	
Date of Report 22 nd March 2013	
<p>Summary of Fieldwork Results</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation undertaken in relation to a proposed residential development on land adjacent to Seton Hall, Berwick Upon Tweed.</p> <p>The evaluation required a 5% trenching sample of the available development area totalling 356 m. A total of 8 trenches of varying lengths and alignments were excavated encountering post medieval ridge and furrow in the majority of trenches aligned NW to SE.</p> <p>Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.</p>	
Author of Summary Kevin Paton	Date of Summary 22 nd March 2013



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