

3 Sunderland Cottages, Galashiels, Scottish Borders: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

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17th October 2013



3 Sunderland Cottages, Galashiels, Scottish Borders

Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Aitken Turnbull Architects on behalf of their client
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 47254 30880
AOC Project No:	22464
OASIS No:	aocarcha1-161726
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Date of Fieldwork:	16 th October 2013
Date of Report:	17 th October 2013

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

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Date: 17th October 2013

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Summary

AOC Archaeology Groups was commissioned by the Aitken Turnbull Architects Ltd on behalf of their client to conduct an archaeological watching brief on the ground breaking works associated with the construction of a house extension at 3 Sunderland Cottages to the south of Galashiels, Scottish Borders.

No significant features or artefacts were revealed during the archaeological works and it was clear that most of the area of the development was truncated by the terracing of the garden at the time of previous alterations to the cottage.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Aitken Turnbull Architects Ltd on behalf of their clients to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the ground breaking works associated with the construction of a house extension at 3 Sunderland Cottages, near Galashiels, Scottish Borders. The works were undertaken in order to satisfy a condition set by the Scottish Borders Council following advice of their Archaeology Officer, Dr Christopher Bowles. The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* approved by the Scottish Borders Council 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 Site Location

1.2.1 The development area subject to watching brief was located at 3 Sunderland Cottages on the A707, Linglie Road to the north of Selkirk and is centred on NGR: NT 47254 30880. The area of development was bounded by the A707 to the east, farmland to the north and the existing building to the south (Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The development site lies within an archaeologically sensitive area. It is believed that recent excavation and geophysical works have confirmed that the area of Sunderland Cottages, (NMRS: NT43SE 49), lies approximately over the location of the former medieval hamlet of Sunderland Toun. Sunderland Toun is shown on General Roy's map of c.1750 as extending to either side of the road and it survived up until the early part of the 19th century. The excavations conducted in 2010 within a garden to the south of the development site revealed the remains of a buried wall interpreted as being from one of the buildings forming part of Sunderland Toun. Subsequent geophysical surveys around the excavation area and the development site have revealed various anomalies and possible buried structures also believed to relate to Sunderland Toun.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:

- i) to monitor any ground breaking works associated with the construction of the house extensions to prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
- ii) given the discovery of significant archaeological material in quantity that will suffer an adverse impact from the development (ie, where preservation *in situ* is impractical), the recording of all archaeological features by means of a mitigation strategy to be formulated with Scottish Borders Council.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 All ground breaking works were conducted by a 360° excavator with a bladed bucket. All excavation was monitored by an experienced field archaeologist and all recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practices.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The area watched as part of this programme of works can be found in Figure 2. The monitored works comprised the reduction of a grassy bank c. 9 m by 3 m in area. This grassy bank formed the northern boundary of the development area between the garden of the cottage and the adjacent farmland. This bank dropped in height by on average 1.0 m from the natural ground surface to the level of the cottage garden. In the undisturbed northern section up to 0.7 m of topsoil and colluvium were removed to expose an orange stony sand and gravel glacial till. The level of this glacial till was higher than that of the demolished extension and the garden of the cottage implying that the garden has been terraced during the previous development of the cottage. This will have impacted negatively on the archaeological potential of the development area.



Plate 1: Removal of bank on northern edge of development area showing terracing of garden.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the archaeological watching brief and it was clear that the development area had been heavily truncated by the previous alterations to the cottage limiting the archaeological potential of the area. No further archaeological works are considered necessary within the development area. This recommendation will require confirmation by the Scottish Borders Council.

6 REFERENCES

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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

APPENDIX 1: COLOUR DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

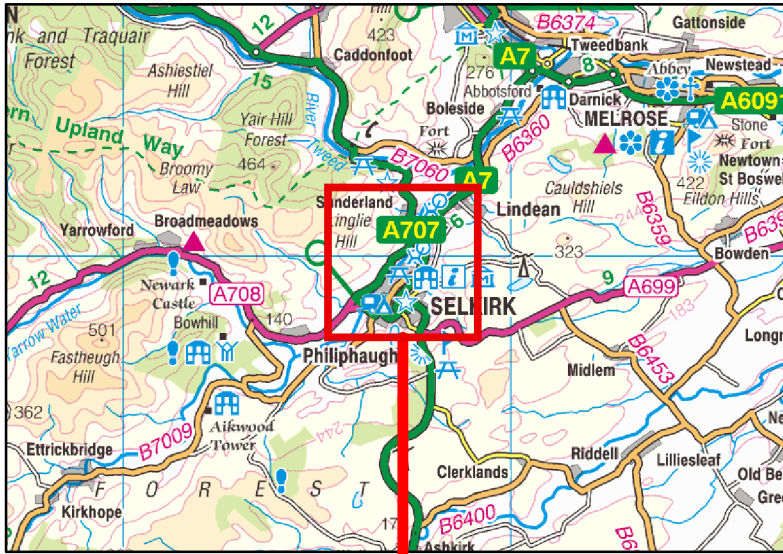
Ref No	Description	From	Date
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2	Working Shot	W	16/10/13
3	Area reduced on 16/10/13	W	16/10/13
4	Area reduced on 16/10/13	W	16/10/13

APPENDIX 2: DRAWING REGISTER

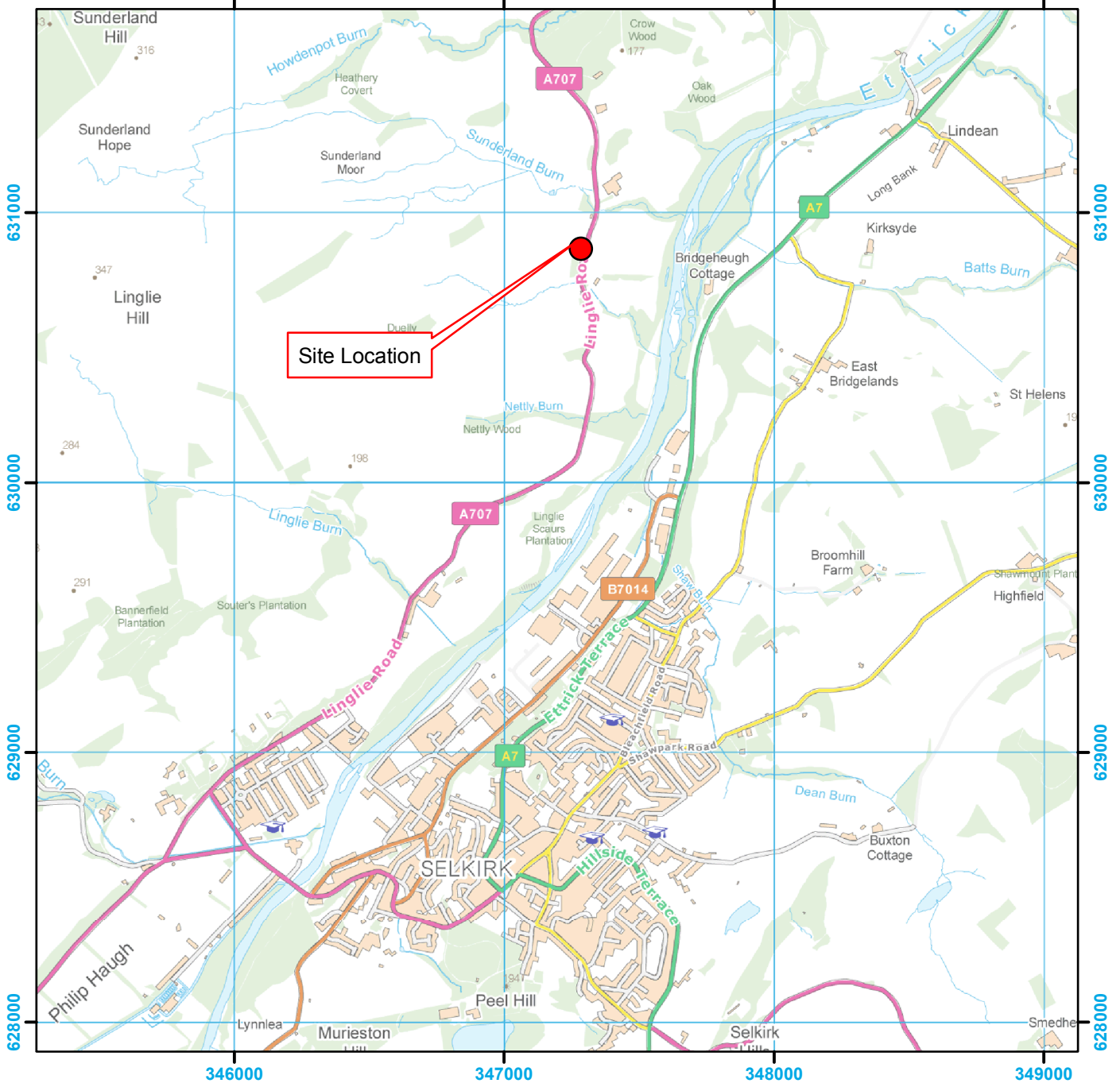
Drawing No.	Description	Scale	Date
01	Area of excavations	1:50	16/10/13

APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND (DES) REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	3 Sunderland Cottages
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22464
PARISH:	Caddonfoot
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jamie Humble
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 47254 30880
START DATE (this season)	17 th October 2013
END DATE (this season)	17 th October 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>AOC Archaeology Groups was commissioned by the Aitken Turnbull Architects Ltd on behalf of their client to conduct an archaeological watching brief on the ground breaking works associated with the construction of a house extension at 3 Sunderland Cottages to the south of Galashiels, Scottish Borders.</p> <p>No significant features or artefacts were revealed during the archaeological works and it was clear that most of the area of the development was truncated by the landscaping of the garden at the time of previous alterations to the cottage.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Aitken Turnbull Architects Ltd on behalf of their client
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



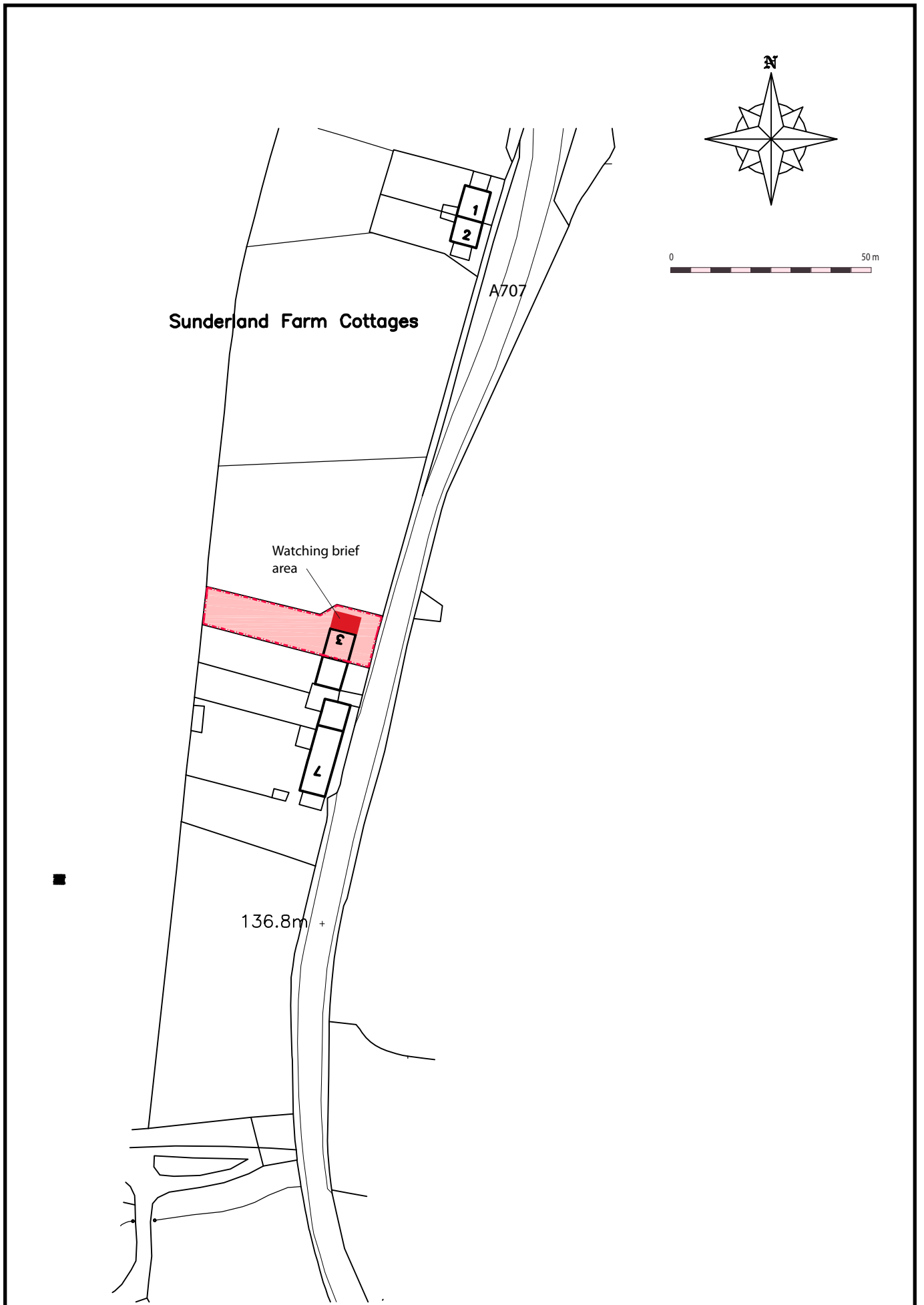
346000 347000 348000 349000



Site Location

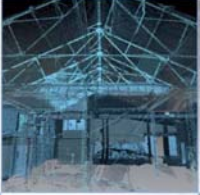


Figure 1: Site Location Plan



(Based on a drawing provided by the client)

Figure 2 - Site location plan



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