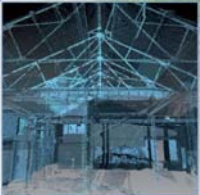


Roxburgh Street, Kelso, The Scottish Borders: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 23188
2nd October 2015



Roxburgh Street, Kelso, The Scottish Borders: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Eildon Housing
The Weaving Shed
Ettrick Mill
Dunsdale Road
Selkirk
TD7 5EB

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 72645 34110

AOC Project No: 23188

OASIS No: 225346

Prepared by: Kevin Paton

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Date of Report: 2nd October 2015

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

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Date: 2nd October 2015

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Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date:

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in relation to a proposed residential development at three co-joining plots of land at Roxburgh Street and Union Street, Kelso, The Scottish Borders.

The evaluation required a 10% trenching sample of the 1800 m² development area. Due to the presence of known and unknown services, an area containing asbestos, an area of reinforced concrete and parked cars, it was not possible to excavate the full 180 m² as required. A total of seven trenches of varying lengths and alignments were excavated totalling 81 m² (total basal dimensions).

All of the areas consisted of type 1 gravel overlying made ground which lay directly over the natural subsoil. A basement area and a large pit were found within the Roxburgh Street car park. The pit may relate to earlier medieval activity on the site but the full extents could not be excavated due to its size and depth.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Eildon Housing to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a proposed residential development at three co-joining plots of land at Roxburgh Street and Union Street, Kelso, The Scottish Borders.. The evaluation was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, the Scottish Borders Council who are advised on archaeological matters by the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service (SBCAS). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2015) approved on behalf of the Scottish Borders Council by SBCAS and in accordance with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The development area is located on the north side of Union Street and is bound to the west by Roxburgh Street, to the east by properties along Bowmont Street and to the north by properties of Tweed House and Scott Place. It is centred on NGR: NT 72645 34110 (Figure 1). The site is currently in use as two car parks and access to a garage off Bowmont Street.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 Kelso is recorded as far back as the 12th century when monks are recorded as coming to Kelso from Selkirk in 1128 to set up an abbey, although previous historical references cite that there may have been a settlement there as far back as the 7th century. The development site is located within the medieval core of Easter Kelso. The town developed throughout the medieval period around the main Market Square to the south-east of the site, where markets used to be held. This centre can be seen on early maps dating back to the 16th century (Chris Bowles, pers comm). Excavations in the 1980s at nearby Nos 13 – 19 Roxburgh Street identified a complicated series of house phases dating from the 13th – 14th centuries and another excavation immediately opposite the development site, again in the 1980s, identified occupation from at least the 17th century (*ibid*).

1.3.2 William Roy's map dating to ca. 1747 – 55 shows the town well established, with buildings either side of Roxburgh Street and hints that there were buildings within the development area by this time (Figure 2). Into the early 19th century, John Wood's 1823 map shows that there were buildings springing up within the development site to the rear of the street front buildings, with the owners annotated as Mr Houy, Mr Clerk and Mr Morrison (Figure 3). By the detailed 1857 Ordnance Survey map, the site has been used as two carpenters and joiners yards, with a saw pit to the south side (Figure 4). By the later 19th century, the 1897 Ordnance Survey map shows that there has been some limited expansion on the site with a few new buildings (Figure 5) and by 1918, the mapping shows that there has been little change apart from the demolition of a small L-shaped building (Figure 6).

1.3.3 The development site today consists of two main tarmac car parks, with the previous industrial buildings on the site being cleared in the early 1990s. No 61 Roxburgh Street, demolished as part of the clearance, had clay-bonded walls and a sunken floor, and it has been indicated that it may have been as old as 15th century in date (Chris Bowles, pers comm).

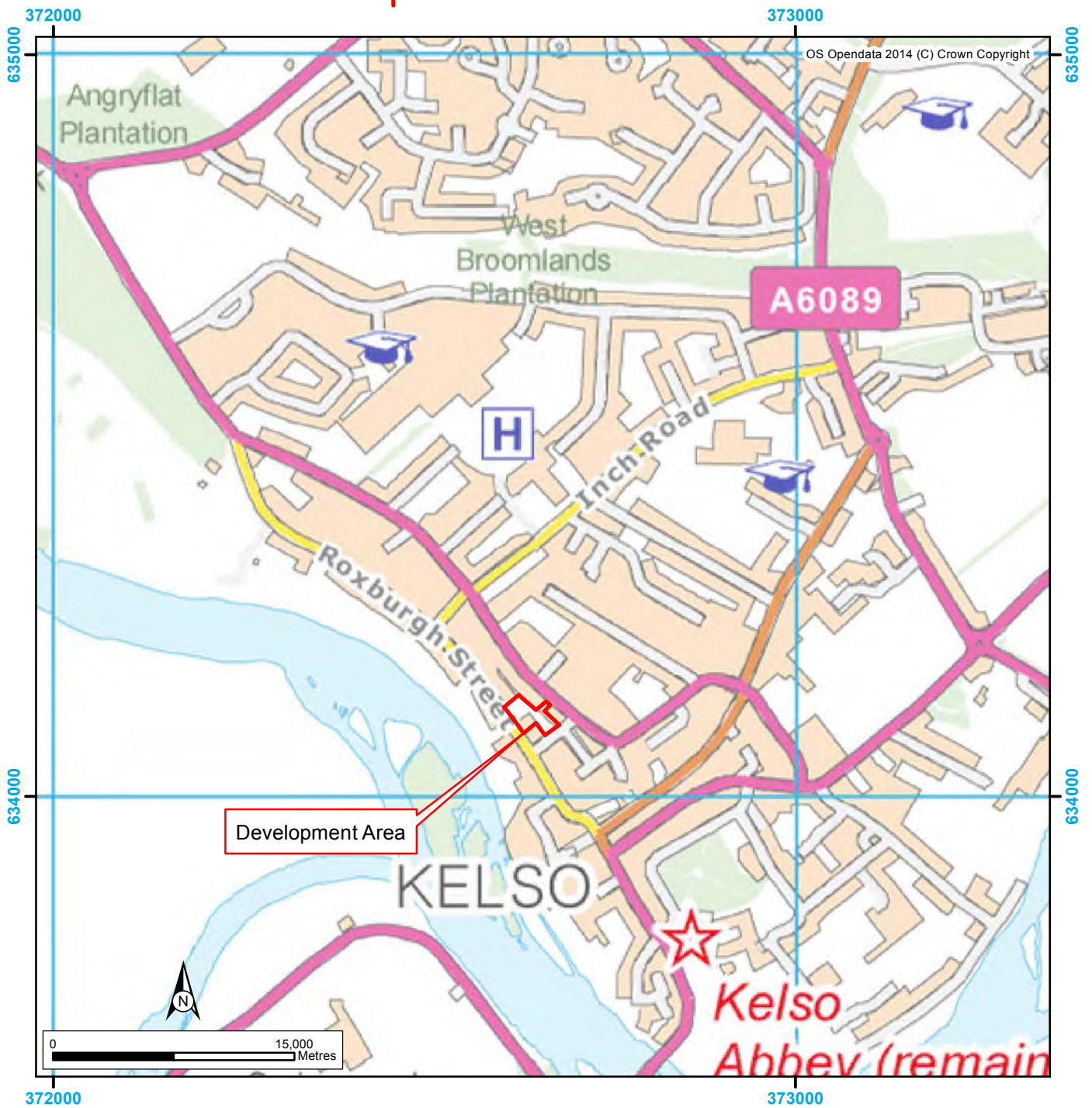
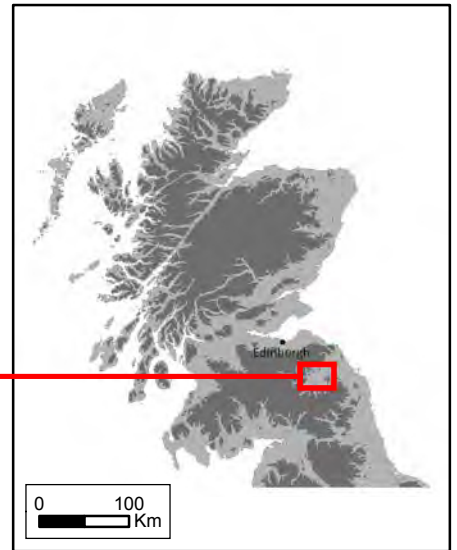
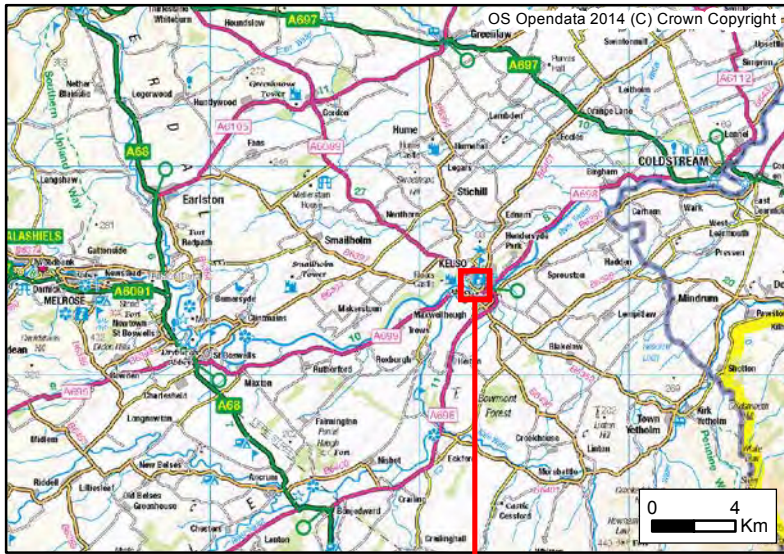


Figure 1: Site location plan



Figure 2: Extract from Roy's map, ca. 1747 – 1755 (approximate position of the development area is circled)

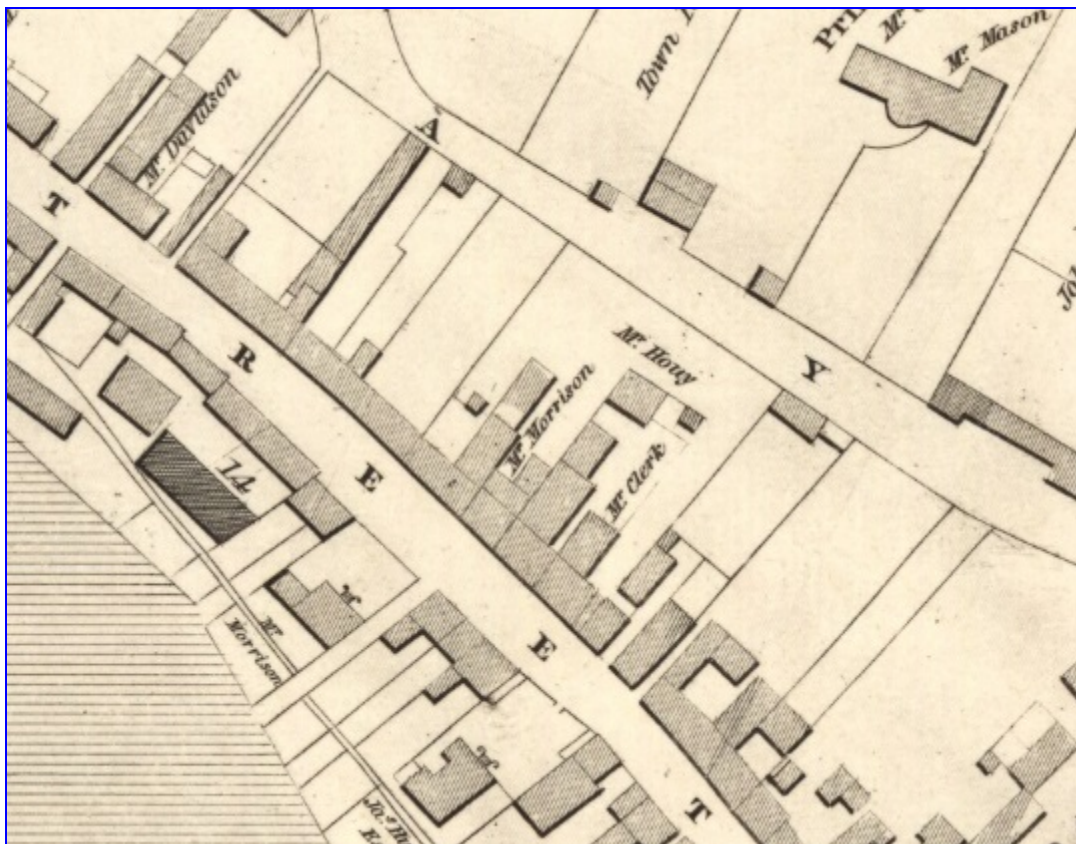


Figure 3: Extract from Wood's map, 1823

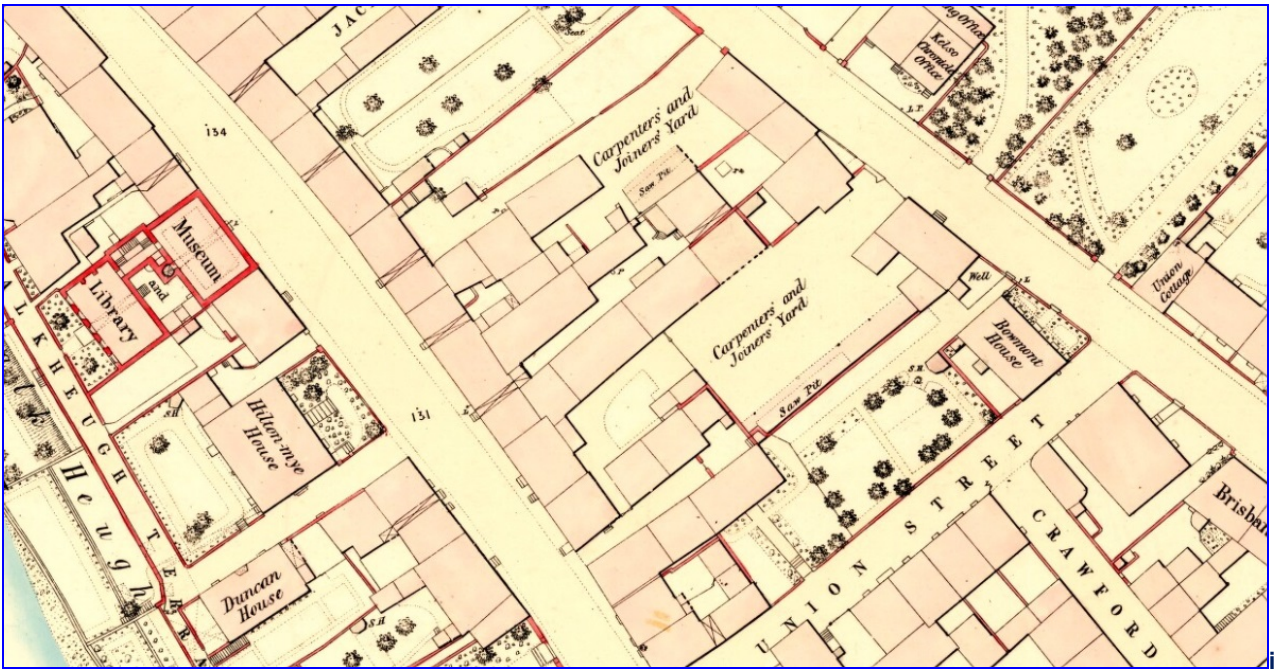


Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1857

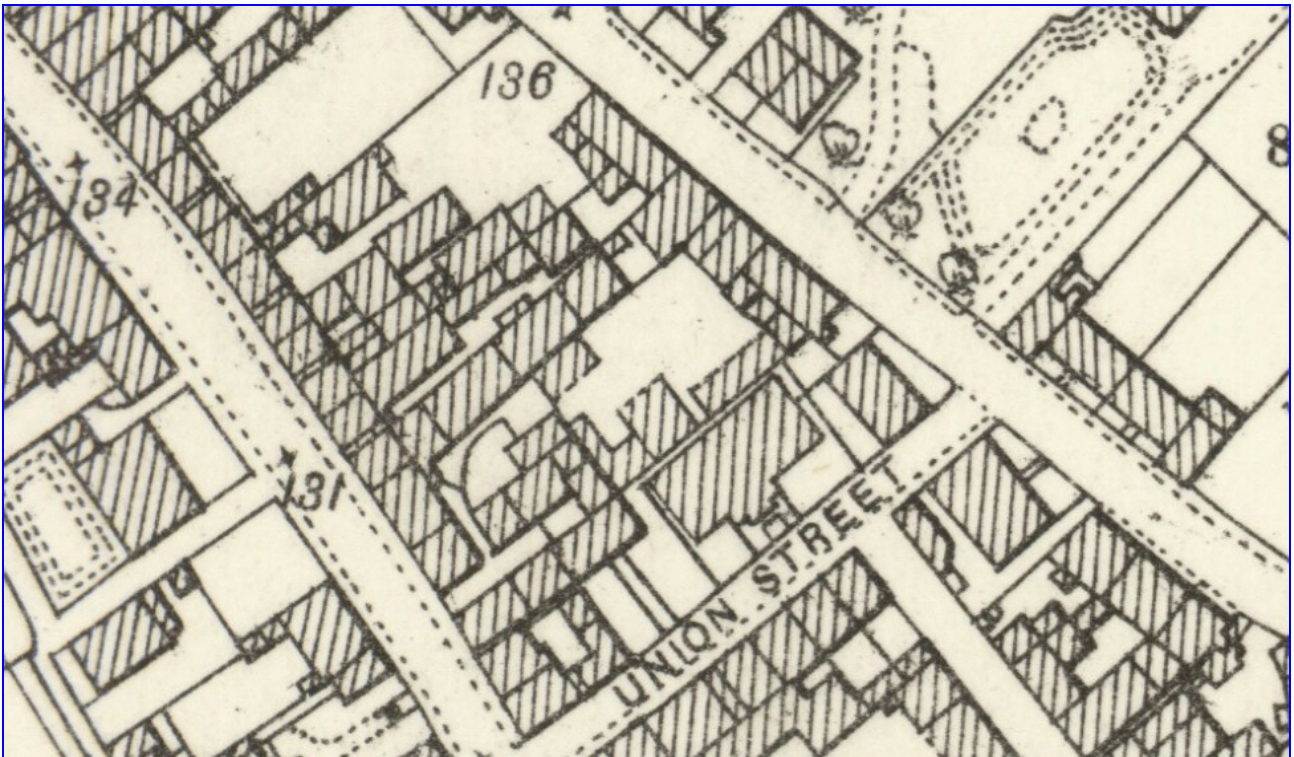


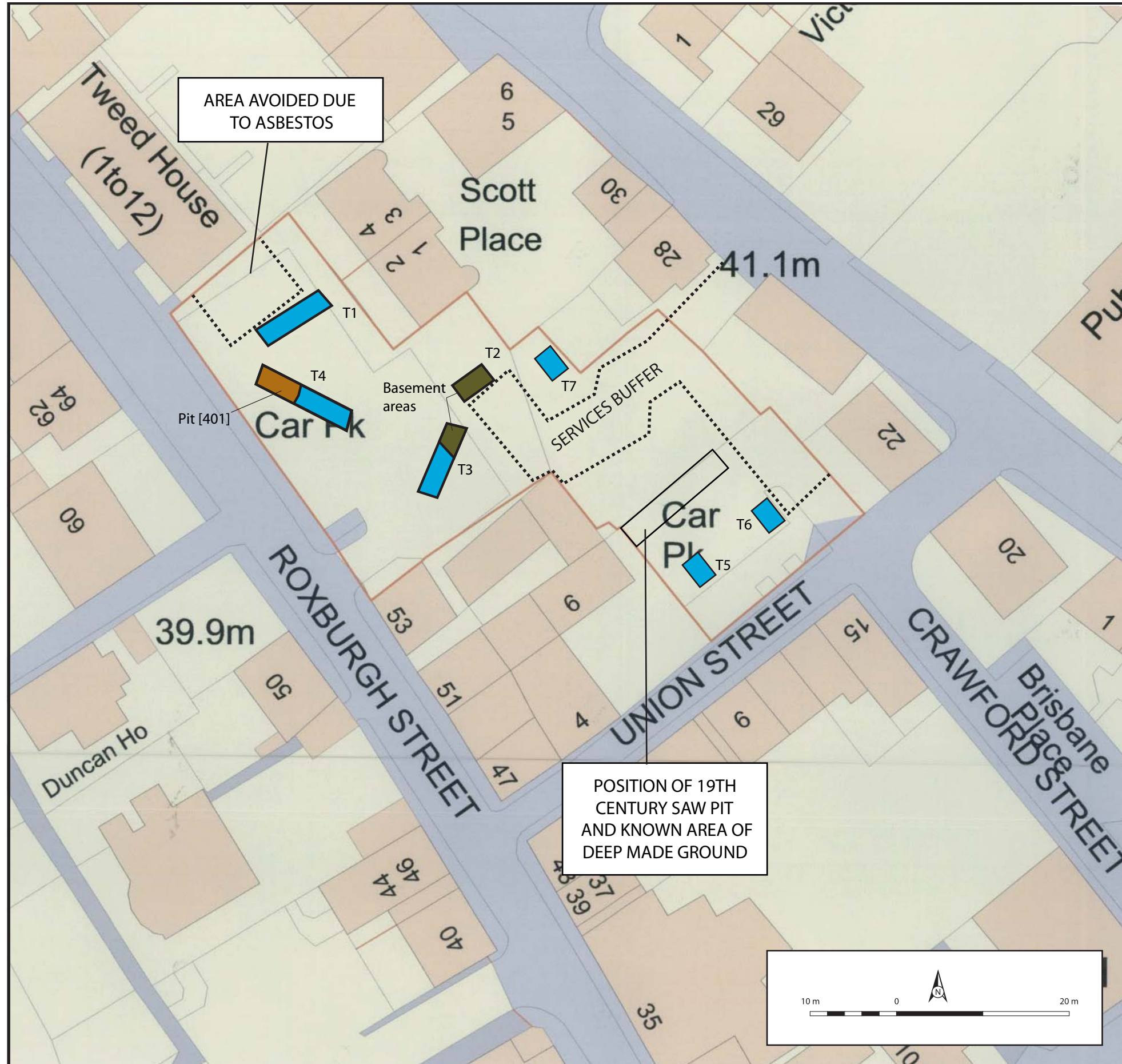
Figure 5: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1897



Figure 6: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1918



Figure 7: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1949



(Based on a drawing provided by the client)

Figure 8 - Trench location plan

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 through evaluation trenching;
- 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 was due to comprise machine trenching of a 10% sample of the development area which would have equated to 180 m². The area available for evaluating was restricted prior to arrival on site due to the presence of a live electric cable entering the area from Bowmont Street, as well as an area known to contain asbestos next to Roxburgh Street. Upon arrival on site, further restrictions were imposed due to the presence of an unmarked live electric cable just off Roxburgh Street, a large area of reinforced concrete slab in the Union Street car park (Plate 1) and two cars parked within the Roxburgh Street and Union Street car parks (Plate 1 & 2).



Plate 1 – View of concrete slab and car in Union Street car park

3.2 The evaluation was undertaken by a JCB 4CX 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 *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2015).

4 RESULTS

4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 29th September 2015. Weather conditions were dry and bright allowing for good archaeological visibility throughout the evaluation. In total, 81 m² of trenching was opened varying in alignment and length (Figure 8).



Plate 2 - View of car parked in Roxburgh Street

- 4.2 The car park area at Roxburgh Street was covered with partly concreted type 1 gravel ranging in depth from 0.25 m to 0.6 m. In Trench 1 and 4 this type 1 overlay a dark grey clay and rubble up to 0.2 m thick that overlay the natural gravel. In Trench 2 and 3, this made ground covered demolition material that was over 0.5 m deep and was deposited within former basements for now demolished buildings (see Figure 2; Plate 3).
- 4.3 The car park area at Union Street was also covered with Type 1 gravel overlying a compact stony made ground deposit up to 0.4 m thick, which directly overlay the natural gravel. The final area between the two car parks had a thin layer of loose type 1 gravel covering a dark brown sandy clay topsoil with occasional rubble inclusions to a depth of 0.6 m.

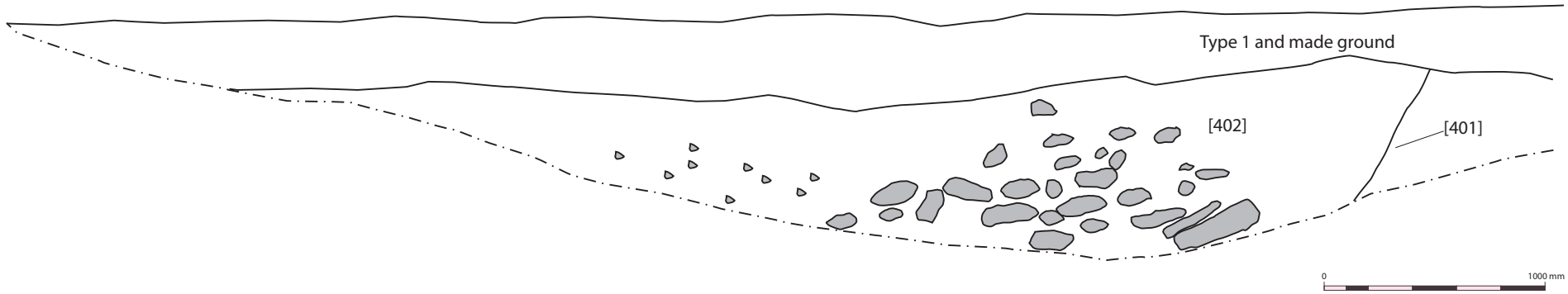


Plate 3 - View of demolition material within possible basements in Trench 3

S-facing section of Pit [401]

W

E



Plan of Trench 4 showing Pit [401]

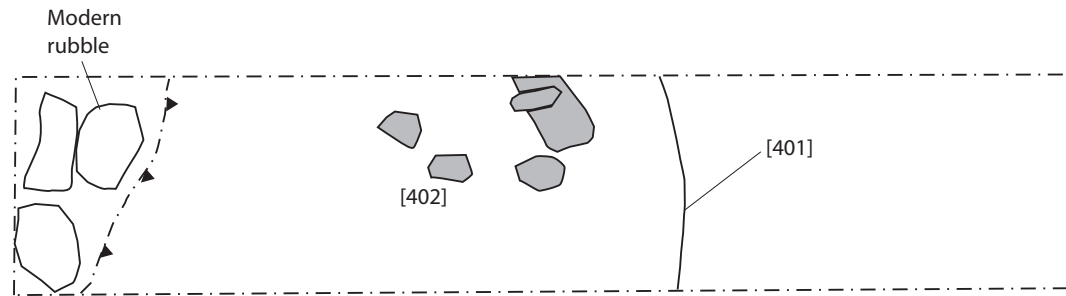


Figure 9 - Plan and section showing Pit [401]

- 4.4 The only feature encountered was a probable pit [401] within Trench 4 that measured over 6 m wide and over 1 m deep (Figure 9; Plate 4). It was filled with a reddish brown sandy clay [402] with occasional charcoal inclusions and abundant river cobbles deposited within a area near the ESE edge of the pit. A single piece of animal bone was found near the excavated base of the pit. The actual base could not be determined due to the depth of the trench exceeding 1.5 m.



Plate 4 - SSW-facing section showing Pit [401] within Trench 4

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 From the trenches excavated within the development area, it has been demonstrated that the former buildings that occupied the site appear to have been entirely removed, with the basement areas in Roxburgh Street only visible due to the demolition material placed within them. However, the large pit in Trench 4 provided an indication that evidence of earlier activity may have survived on the site.
- 5.2 Following an onsite meeting with Dr Chris Bolwes of the Scottish Borders Council, It is recommended that further archaeological works are required within the development area. The remit of these works will be decided by Dr Chris Bowles,

6 REFERENCES

6.1 Bibliographic references

AOC Archaeology Group 2015 *Roxburgh Street, Kelso, Scottish Borders: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpublished Client Report

Chris Bowles (pers comm information) 2015 Planning Consultation Memo from Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer with reference to the Planning Application Condition.

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*

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

6.2 Cartographic references

ca. 1747 – 1755	William Roy	<i>Military Map of Scotland</i>
1823	John Wood	<i>A Plan of the Town of Kelso</i>
1857	Ordnance Survey	<i>Kelso Town Plan Sheet IX.4</i>
1897	Ordnance Survey	<i>Roxburghshire Sheet 009.04</i>
1918	Ordnance Survey	<i>Roxburghshire Sheet n.010.02</i>
1949	Ordnance Survey	<i>Roxburghshire Sheet nX</i>

Roxburgh Street, Kelso, The Scottish Borders: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	8 m by 1.8 m
<i>Total Area</i>	14.4 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made Ground – Type 1 gravel overlying a dark grey clay containing brick and sandstone rubble – max depth 0.44 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.5 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Reddish brown sandy clay and reddish brown gravel
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	5 m by 1.8 m
<i>Total Area</i>	9 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NE to SW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Topsoil – dark sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions – max depth 0.6 m; Demolition material – mixture of large sandstone blocks, some brick and an abundance of sand and lime mortar – over 0.5 m deep
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.2 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Reddish brown gravel
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	8 m by 1.8 m
<i>Total Area</i>	14.4 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	N to S
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made Ground – Type 1 gravel overlying a dark grey clay containing brick and sandstone rubble – max depth 0.6 m Demolition material (from 0 m to 4 m) – mixture of large sandstone blocks, some brick and an abundance of sand and lime mortar – over 0.5 m deep
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.2 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Reddish brown gravel (from 4 m to 8 m)
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	12 m by 1.8 m
<i>Total Area</i>	21.6 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	W to E
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made Ground – Type 1 gravel overlying a dark grey clay containing brick and sandstone rubble – max depth 0.5 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.4 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	Large pit [401]
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Reddish brown gravel
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	4 m by 1.8 m
<i>Total Area</i>	7.2 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SE to NW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made Ground – Type 1 gravel overlying a very compact layer of stone and river gravels – max depth 0.7 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.7 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Reddish brown gravel
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	4 m by 1.8 m
<i>Total Area</i>	7.2 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	SE to NW
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made Ground – Type 1 gravel overlying a very compact layer of stone and river gravels – max depth 0.3 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.5 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Reddish brown gravel
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	4 m by 1.8 m
<i>Total Area</i>	7.2 m ²
<i>Excavated Orientation</i>	NW to SE
<i>Soil Make-up</i>	Made Ground – Type 1 gravel – 0.2 m; Topsoil – dark brown sandy clay loam with occasional rubble inclusions – max depth 0.5 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.7 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Natural Subsoil</i>	Reddish brown gravel
<i>Finds</i>	None

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT REGISTERS

Context No.	Description and Interpretation
[401]	Probable sub-circular cut with steep sides. Filled by deposit [402]. Measures at least 6 m wide by 1 m (+) deep. Probable Pit pre-dating 1850's housing
[402]	Reddish brown sandy clay with abundant large river cobbles within one area of the fill. Measures 6 m wide by over 1 m deep. Fill of pit [401]

APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-3	Views of car park at Roxburgh Street prior to work	Var	29/9/15
4	Line of CAT scanned electric cable	S	29/9/15
5	View of asbestos area to be avoided	S	29/9/15
6	Post ex T1	SW	29/9/15
7	Post ex T2 at 1.2 m	SW	29/9/15
8	NW-facing section of T2 made ground	NW	29/9/15
9	W-facing section of T3 made ground	W	29/9/15
10	Post ex of T3	S	29/9/15
11	Post ex of T3	N	29/9/15
12	View of T1 backfilled	S	29/9/15
13	View of T2 backfilled	SW	29/9/15
14	View of T3 backfilled	N	29/9/15
15-17	View of Union Street car park prior to test pits	Var	29/9/15
18	Post ex of T5	SE	29/9/15
19	View of T5 backfilled	E	29/9/15
20	SW facing section of T6	SW	29/9/15
21	Post ex view of T6	SE	29/9/15
22-24	Views of area over wall	Var	29/9/15
25	SW-facing section of T7	SW	29/9/15
26	Post ex of T7	NW	29/9/15
27	View of possible pit [401] – SW facing section	SW	29/9/15
28	View of possible pit [401] – SW facing section	S	29/9/15
29	Detail view of stone in pit [401]	SSW	29/9/15
30	Detail view of stone in pit [401]	S	29/9/15
31	View of T4 backfilled	SE	29/9/15

APPENDIX 4: DRAWING REGISTER

Dwg No.	Details	Scale
1	Plan of Trench 4 showing Pit [401]	1:50
2	SSW-facing section of Pit [401]	1:20

APPENDIX 5: FINDS REGISTER

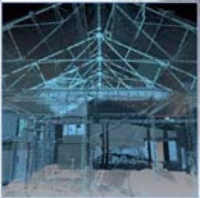
Finds No.	Context No.	Description
1	[402]	Animal bone

APPENDIX 6: SAMPLES REGISTER

Context No.	Quantity (litres)
[402]	20

APPENDIX 7: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	The Scottish Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Roxburgh Street, Kelso
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 23188
PARISH:	Kelso
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 72645 34110
START DATE (this season)	29 th September 2015
END DATE (this season)	29 th September 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>(NARRATIVE) An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group in relation to a proposed residential development at three co-joining plots of land at Roxburgh Street and Union Street, Kelso, The Scottish Borders.</p> <p>The evaluation required a 10% trenching sample of the 1800 m² development area. Due to the presence of known and unknown services, an area containing asbestos, an area of reinforced concrete and parked cars, it was not possible to excavate the full 180 m² as required. A total of 7 trenches of varying lengths and alignments were excavated totalling 81 m² (total basal dimensions).</p> <p>All of the areas consisted of type 1 gravel overlying made ground which lay directly over the natural subsoil. A basement area and a large pit were found within the Roxburgh Street car park. The pit may relate to earlier medieval activity on the site but the full extents could not be excavated due to its size and depth.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Eildon Housing
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



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