

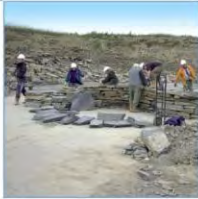
# Lion's House, Berwick-upon-Tweed

## Archaeological Watching Brief:

### Data Structure Report

*AOC Project No: 23900*

*14<sup>th</sup> September 2017*



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

# Lion's House, Berwick-upon-Tweed

## Archaeological Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

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Date of Report:	<b>14<sup>th</sup> September 2017</b>

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

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## Abstract

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A programme of archaeological works comprising monitoring of ground breaking works associated with the redevelopment and refurbishment of Lion's House, Berwick-upon-Tweed. The site lies within the administrative area of Northumberland County Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team. The site lies within the Scheduled Monument of Medieval and Post-medieval Fortification of Berwick-upon-Tweed (List Entry No. 1015968).

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The works undertaken comprised two test pits measuring 0.9 m x 0.9 m and varied in depth from 0.4 m – 1.4 m.

All of the features uncovered are contemporary or later than Lion's House itself and so a watching brief during the ground breaking works of the porch foundations is recommended. This is to be confirmed by Northumberland County council and Historic England.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Development background

1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works comprising monitoring of ground breaking works associated with the redevelopment and refurbishment of Lion's House, Berwick-upon-Tweed. The site lies within the administrative area of Northumberland County Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team. The site lies within the Scheduled Monument of Medieval and Post-Medieval Fortification of Berwick-upon-Tweed (List Entry No. 1015968) and as such the installation work requires Scheduled Monument Consent and all ground disturbance requires to be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Managers Guide* (2006a) and the *MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation (PPN3)* (2008), and to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; Chapter 12: 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment').

1.1.2 Scheduled Monument Consent (S00164071) had been granted for the redevelopment and refurbishment of Lion's House, Berwick-upon-Tweed. This '*Written Scheme of Investigation*', (WSI), covers the proposed archaeological watching brief and fulfils the first requirement of the planning and Scheduled Monument Consent condition.

### 1.2 Site location

1.2.1 The proposed development area lies within the historic core of Berwick-upon-Tweed and on the western side of the medieval and post-medieval town wall. The site lies wholly within the Scheduled area associated with the Medieval and Post-medieval Fortification of Berwick-upon-Tweed. The site is centred on NU 00133 52867.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objective of the archaeological works was to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any sub-surface archaeological remains within the development area and, should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, to prepare a mitigation strategy compliant with *NPPF* (2012) and local planning policy on heritage.

## 3 SITE BACKGROUND (Extract from R Kent, 2017 'Lion's House Conservation Plan')

3.1 Ravensdowne is recorded in the twelfth century, when Coldstream Abbey held property there. It seems to have experienced a period of desertion by the fifteenth century but was again settled in 1512-18, when many of its burgage plots were granted to soldiers.

- 3.2 However, in 1551 the gardens of these plots were taken into the site of the new citadel, an earth-filled rectangular fort with artillery bastions at each angle. Ravensdowne itself was re-aligned to suit the star shape. The citadel was to be surrounded by a 4m thick stone wall and outer ditch, although the section to the east of the medieval wall was never completed. The first half was built quickly; by 1553 it was already armed and garrisoned with 200 soldiers. It is shown in this form on several plans produced around 1560 and a comparison of one of these with the 1852 OS map implies that Lions House was built on the western side of its south-west bastion.
- 3.3 The citadel was very soon abandoned in favour of a larger scheme of fortification begun in 1558. The two bastions were furnished with postmills and most of the masonry re-used in the new fortifications. Speed's map of Berwick (1612) shows the north wall of the north-east bastion as a diagonal line of masonry beside the mill, but by this time the citadel was not an important landscape feature and its earth may already have been eroding or slumping or possibly was being used to fill the ditch. Speed shows the south-west bastion without its windmill (which seems to have been moved to the Elizabethan bastion known as Windmill Mount). But he does show a path running from Ravensdowne to an enclosure on the Citadel, apparently on the same line as the current path bordering the allotments. The present path is supported by a high retaining wall, and Speed's thicker line here may represent this wall and show that erosion was active at this early period.
- 3.4 Lions House is a late Georgian town house built in 1809 as a dwelling by J T Curry. For a short time the house was converted to tenements, and was later used as a school. After becoming derelict and being threatened with demolition, the rear outbuilding was demolished and the interiors were rebuilt in 1976-7 by the Berwick-upon-Tweed Preservation Trust.

## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The works undertaken comprised two test pits measuring 0.90 m x 0.90 m and varied in depth from 0.40 m to 1.40 m (Figure 2).
- 4.2 Covering both test pits were concrete slabs and a levelling layer [001] of red orange sand measuring 0.2 m deep. Underlying this was a mixed demolition deposit [005] which contained sandstone and brick fragments, lime mortar and stone fragments.
- 4.3 Within Test Pit 1, it was found that the foundations [002] for the western wall of Lion's House measured 1.40 m deep to excavated depth however the full extent is unknown. It was comprised of a single large worked sandstone block at the top measuring 0.80 m long x 0.25 m deep, then smaller works sandstone blocks underneath. These were bonded with a lime mortar.
- 4.4 Also within Test Pit 1 was another wall or possible foundation [003]. This ran parallel to foundations [002] on N-S alignment and measured (as exposed) 0.90 m x 0.70 m x 0.15 m, though its full extent

is unknown. This was comprised of small worked sandstone blocks for 0.60 m and then had a layer of red brick on top measuring 0.10 m deep.



Plate 1 Post excavation shot of Test Pit 1 showing [002], [003] and [004] from West

- 4.5 A possible surface [004] was also uncovered on E-W alignment measuring, as exposed, 0.70 m long x 0.10 m wide x 0.05 m deep.
- 4.6 Within Test Pit 2 there was evidence of a brick structure within the N-facing section and a sandstone slab [007] on an N-S alignment measuring 0.90 m x 0.250 m x 0.20 m. It was wholly exposed but it is unknown if it is a singular slab or part of a surface.





Plate 2 Post Excavation shot of Test Pit 2 showing [007] from North

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The foundations [002] within Test Pit 1 are uncommonly deep for the height of the original building but it is unclear whether it is the foundations for the house or perhaps include foundations of an earlier structure. These foundations do not extend to the west so are therefore not at risk from any excavations required as part of the redevelopment works.
- 5.2 From their position and form the wall foundations [003] appear to belong to a porch structure dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century which was demolished in 1976 and for which there is existing photographs. The surface [004] is believed to be associated with this porch and of late 19<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 5.3 The sandstone block [007] within Test Pit 7 may also be related to the possible surface [004] but this is unknown. It may also have been used as a step onto a surface which was later completely replaced by the concrete slabs [001].

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The features encountered in these test pits appear to relate to Lions house directly in the form of foundations and a later 19<sup>th</sup> century porch. No remains associated with the citadel were uncovered. The only remains under threat from the development appear to relate to a late 19<sup>th</sup> century porch structure. The piles and foundations of the redevelopment may require the recording and removal of these late 19<sup>th</sup> century wall foundations which could be covered by a watching brief. This is to be confirmed by Northumberland County council and Historic England.

## 7 REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology 2017 *Lion's House, Berwick, Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpublished grey literature

*Guidelines for the preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990),

Kent, R, 2017 *Lion's House Conservation Plan*

*National Planning Policy Framework 2012*

*Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1994)

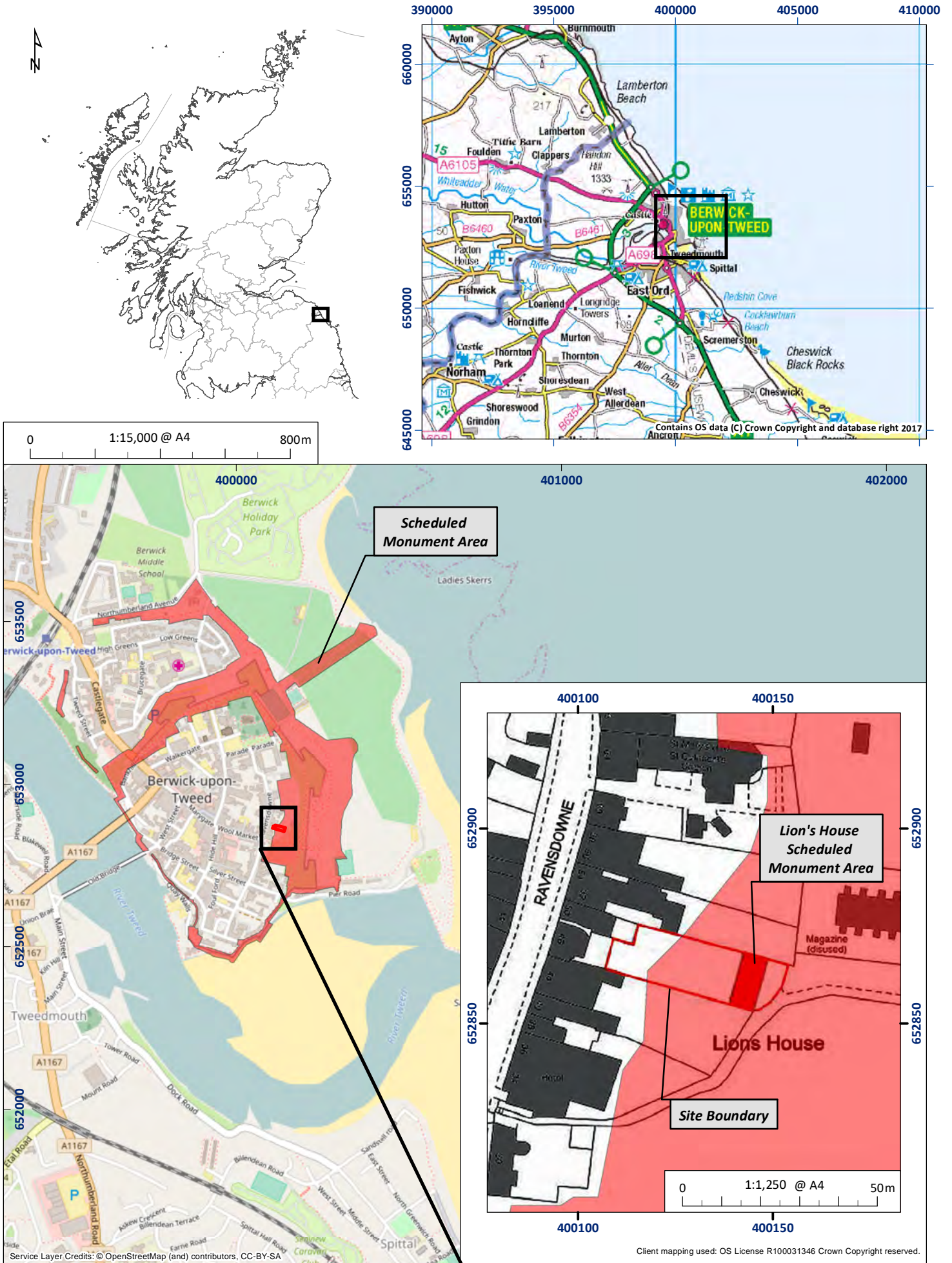
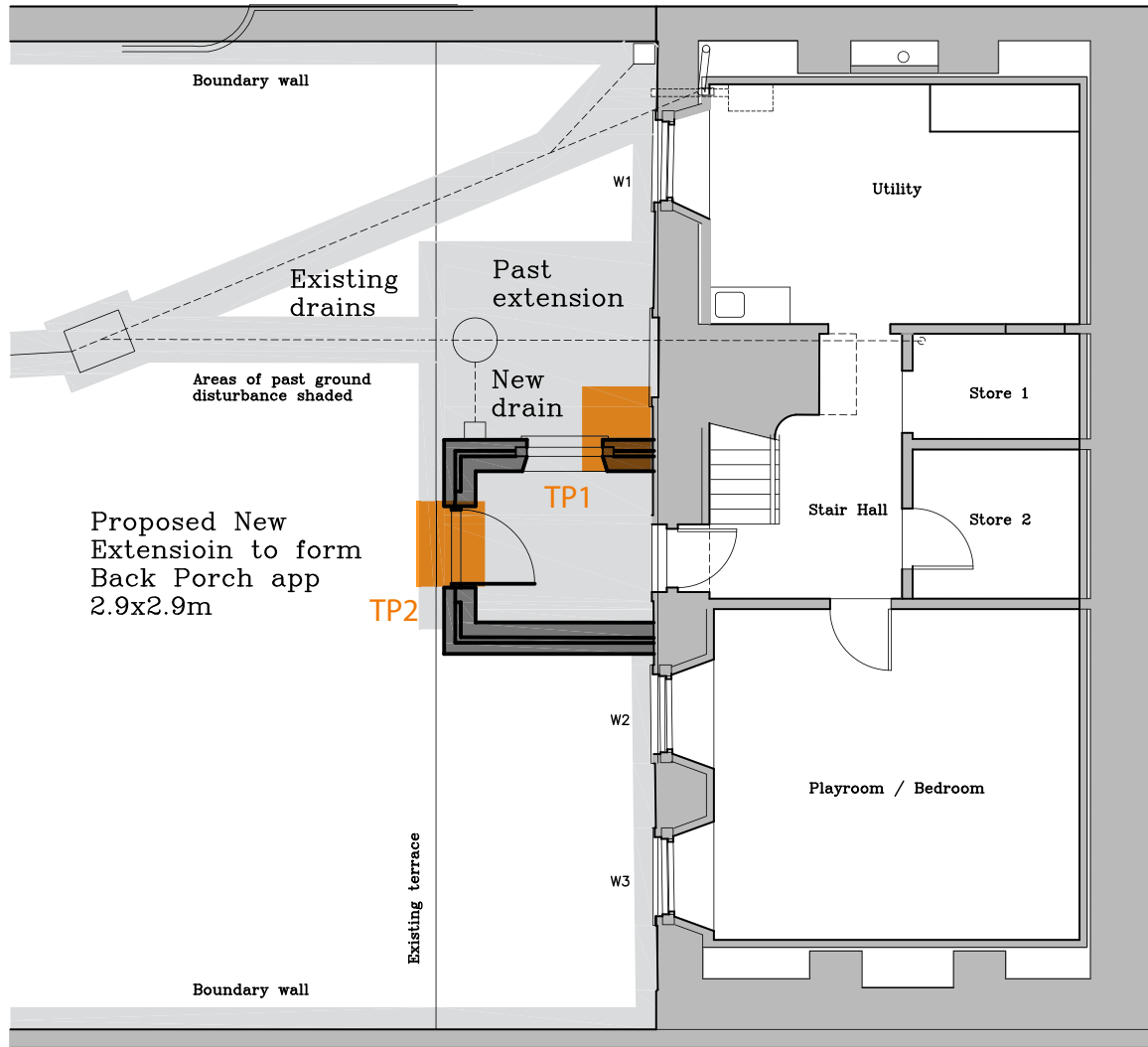






Figure 1: Site location plan



Key	
	Proposed development
	Existing development
	Test pit

	0                      1:1000                      50m
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Based on plans provided by client

Figure 2: Plan of monitored groundworks

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# **Lion's House, Berwick Upon Tweed**

## **Data Structure Report**

### **Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

### Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-2	General shot of Area for porch	W	13.09.17
3	Topsoil removed from manhole in garden	SW	13.09.17
4	E facing section Test Pit 1	E	13.09.17
5	N facing section Test Pit 1	N	13.09.17
6	W facing section Test Pit 1	W	13.09.17
7	Plan view Test Pit 1	E	13.09.17
8	Post excavation Test Pit 2	W	13.09.17
9	Post excavation Test Pit 2	N	13.09.17
10-11	Post excavation showing brick in N facing section – for drain	N	13.09.17
12-13	Location of test pits	W	13.09.17

## APPENDIX 2: Context Record

Digital Photographs

Context No.	Description
[001]	Concrete slabs and red orange sand measuring 0.2m deep. <b>Levelling material and paving</b>
[002]	Sandstone construction with lime mortar on N-S alignment. Measures, as exposed, 0.9m wide x 1.4m deep. Large worked sandstone block at the top with smaller worked sandstone blocks underneath and bonded with lime mortar. <b>Foundation of Western wall of Lion's House</b>
[003]	Sandstone and red brick construction on N-S alignment bonded with lime mortar. Measures, as exposed, 0.9m x 0.7m and width unknown. Sandstone construction for bottom 0.6m then a layer of bricks on top measuring 0.1m deep. <b>Wall or foundation – relating to staircase of Lion's House</b>
[004]	Large stone slab measuring, as exposed, 0.7m long x 0.1m wide x 0.05m deep. <b>Possible surface</b>
[005]	Mixed demolition material containing sandstone fragments, lime mortar and brick fragments. Measures 0.2m deep. <b>Demolition material</b>
[006]	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small stone inclusions. <b>Made ground</b>
[007]	Sandstone block on N-S alignment measuring 0.9mx 0.25m x 0.2m. <b>Possible step</b>



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