

North Berwick Golf Club, East Lothian:

Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report

On behalf of:

McLaren Murdoch & Hamilton
Chartered Architects
2 West Coates
Edinburgh
EH 12 5JQ

National Grid Reference (NGR):

NT 5481 8534

AOC Archaeology Project No:

20557

Prepared by:

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Illustration by:

Graeme Carruthers

Timing:

Evaluation – January 2008
Report – January 2008

1 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on an extension to the existing club-house of North Berwick Golf Club at Pointgarry Road, North Berwick, East Lothian (NGR: NT 5481 8534) (Figure 1). The evaluation was part of a programme of archaeological works that also included an archive consultation. The evaluation was undertaken in the form of a monitored topsoil strip. The area of the proposed development consisted of approximately 250 m².
- 1.2 The evaluation was required by McLaren Murdoch & Hamilton Chartered Architects on behalf of their clients North Berwick Golf Club to meet the terms of an archaeological condition imposed by East Lothian Council as advised by Ms Biddy Simpson, Archaeological Officer for East Lothian Council. The works were conducted in accordance with the principle set out in NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994), and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a), and were designed to determine the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the development area.
- 1.3 The evaluation was undertaken on the 21st and 22nd of January 2008. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the request of McLaren, Murdoch & Hamilton Chartered Architects on behalf of their client, North Berwick Golf Club to meet the terms of a Programme of Works condition attached to the planning application. This was imposed by East Lothian Council as advised by Ms Biddy Simpson, Archaeological Officer for East Lothian Council on an extension to the golf clubs' existing club-house at Pointgarry Road, North Berwick, East Lothian (Figure 1). The works were conducted with the principle set out in NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994), and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a).
- 2.2 The evaluation consisted of a monitored topsoil strip within the proposed development area.
- 2.3 The proposed development area is centred at NGR: NT 5481 8534 and is located to the immediate north and east of the North Berwick Golf Club club-house. This lies at the juncture of Pointgarry Road and Beach Road, North Berwick East Lothian. The land has a level gradient at 10 m O.D.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The proposed development area is located on Limestones and Basaltic tuff of the Carboniferous period, overlain by boulder clay and raised beach deposits

- (Simpson & Stevenson 1981, 11). The environment produced by these geological conditions has encouraged human activity in the vicinity of the proposed development area as demonstrated by occupation deposits, interments and artefacts ranging from the Neolithic to the sixth century found on the aeolian deposits of the golf links north and west of the proposed development area (Simpson & Stevenson 1981, 11).
- 3.2 The earliest documentary records available relating to North Berwick are in connection with the Earls of Fife who gained the lands and manor of North Berwick including the proposed development area in the reign of David I (1124-1153) (Simpson & Stevenson 1981, 1). North Berwick acquired royal burgh status by at least 1425, and its municipal privileges were confirmed by charter from James VI in 1568.
 - 3.3 Early historic remains comprising a mound containing Anglo Saxon relicts have been recorded north-east of the proposed development area (Wilson 1851) raising the possibility that other archaeological remains may lie, hitherto unrecorded in this area.
 - 3.4 The medieval town of North Berwick was focused on one long east-west street (High Street) east of the proposed development area. The links west of the town, which included the proposed development area, were attached to the Abbey portion of the barony of North Berwick, and were used for pasture in 1845 (Graham 1845). The land around North Berwick is rich agricultural land, and by around 1791 it was recorded in the *Old Statistical Account* that the entire parish was enclosed farmland, including much permanent pasture, except for North Berwick Law (Hill c.1791).
 - 3.5 Map regression has indicated that until the early 19th century the proposed development area lay out-with the town of North Berwick within its immediate rural hinterland. Blaeu's map of 1654 shows the proposed development area to be located within the enclosed lands of North Berwick abbey. Roy's map of 1747-55 shows the proposed development area to be part of the links on the fringe of cultivated land. Forrest's map of 1802 and Thomson's map of 1820 indicate the westward expansion of North Berwick but both show the proposed development area on an area of unoccupied ground on the periphery of the town.
 - 3.6 Greenwood and Fowler's map of 1844 shows a small rectangular building on the site of the proposed development area annotated as TB (toll booth). Toll bars were installed in 1805 at the Clartyburn (Law Road), Abbey Toll (Pointgarry Road) and Heugh Brae, but the townspeople were exempt from payment of the toll. At this time the land now between West End Place and Station Hill was occupied by three piggeries and the proposed development area remained on the periphery of North Berwick. Travellers entering the town from the west, until 1869, paid road tax at the Abbey Toll House while on the east the Lochbridge Toll was situated at the foot of Heugh Brae.

- 3.7 The North Berwick Golf Club was founded in 1832 and claims to be the thirteenth oldest golf course in the world (Campbell 1999). In 1879 the question of acquiring a club house was raised and options for increasing club membership were explored. To achieve this, a new club was formed and designated the North Berwick New Golf Club, and commonly referred to as the 'New Club'. The New Clubhouse was opened in 1880.
- 3.8 In 1894, the New Club took over the lease of the links, and relieved North Berwick Golf Club of all administrative and management responsibilities. North Berwick Golf Club continued until 1963 when it became amalgamated with the New Club.
- 3.9 Ordnance Survey maps from 1894 show the proposed development area occupied by a single building annotated as the 'Club House'. Maps from 1907 show the same structure on the site and the changed administration is indicated by the annotation of the 'New Club' on this map. Ordnance Survey maps from 1938 and subsequent maps show no change to have occurred within the area proposed for development.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 4.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:
- i) to determine the presence, character, extent, date and significance of any archaeological features or artefacts in the proposed development area.
 - ii) to allow a mitigation strategy compliant with NPPG 5 and PAN 42 to be developed should an adverse archaeological impact be identified.

5 METHOD

- 5.1 The works involved an archaeological evaluation by means of a monitored topsoil strip using a JCB tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. This covered all ground breaking associated with the development including the extension of the club house and service trenches (Figure 1). All ground breaking was observed by an experienced archaeologist.
- 5.2 The evaluation was undertaken on the 21st and 22nd January 2008.

6 RESULTS

- 6.1 The topsoil stripping of the club-house extension revealed topsoil and turf to a maximum depth of 0.40 m. This was a well sorted loam and appears to have been

imported during the creation of the golf course. The topsoil overlay a natural subsoil of fine orange sand. A number of utility services were uncovered close to Beach Road. No significant archaeological deposits were observed.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Given the absence of significant features or artefacts, no further archaeological works are considered necessary.

8 REFERENCES:

8.1 Bibliographic References

Campbell, M 1999 *The Scottish Golf Book*, Sports Publishing LLP

Graham, RB 1845 'The parish of North Berwick', *The New Statistical Account of Scotland*. Vol II.

Hill, H 1791 'The parish of North Berwick', *The Old Statistical Account of Scotland*. Vol V, 440.

Simpson, AT & Stevenson, S 1981 *Historic North Berwick. The Archaeological Implications of Development*. Scottish Burgh Survey series, Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow.

Wilson, D 1851 *The archaeology and prehistoric annals of Scotland*, Edinburgh, 58.

8.2 Cartographic References

1654 Blaeu, J *Blaeu's Atlas*

1750 Roy *General Roy's Military Map*.

1799 Forrest, W *Map of Haddingtonshire*

1821 Ainslie, J *Ainslie's map of the Southern Part of Scotland*

1822 Thomson, J *Haddington*

1824 Sharp, T Greenwood, C & Fowler, W *Map of the County of Haddington*

1844 Sharp, T Greenwood, C & Fowler, W *Map of the County of Haddington*

1894 Ordnance Survey *Haddingtonshire* Sheet II.II Scale 1:2500

1907 Ordnance Survey *Haddingtonshire* Sheet II.II Scale 1:2500

1938 Ordnance Survey *East Lothian* Sheet II.II Scale 1:2500

1959 Ordnance Survey *East Lothian* Sheet II.II Scale 1:2500

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Film 1

Frame	Detail	From
1	Stripped area to the south of the plot	NW
2	Stripped area including service pipe	NE
3	Stripped area to the west	W
4-9	Stripped area to the south-east	Various

APPENDIX 2: *DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND* REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	North Berwick Golf Club
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20557
PARISH:	North Berwick
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 5481 8534
START DATE (this season)	21 st January 2008
END DATE (this season)	22 nd January 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to an extension to the club house of North Berwick Golf Club at Pointgarry Road, North Berwick, East Lothian. The area of the proposed development consisted of approximately 250 m ² . No significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	North Berwick Golf Club
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	ROBE@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

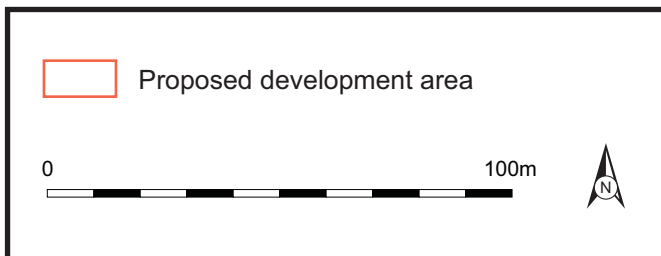
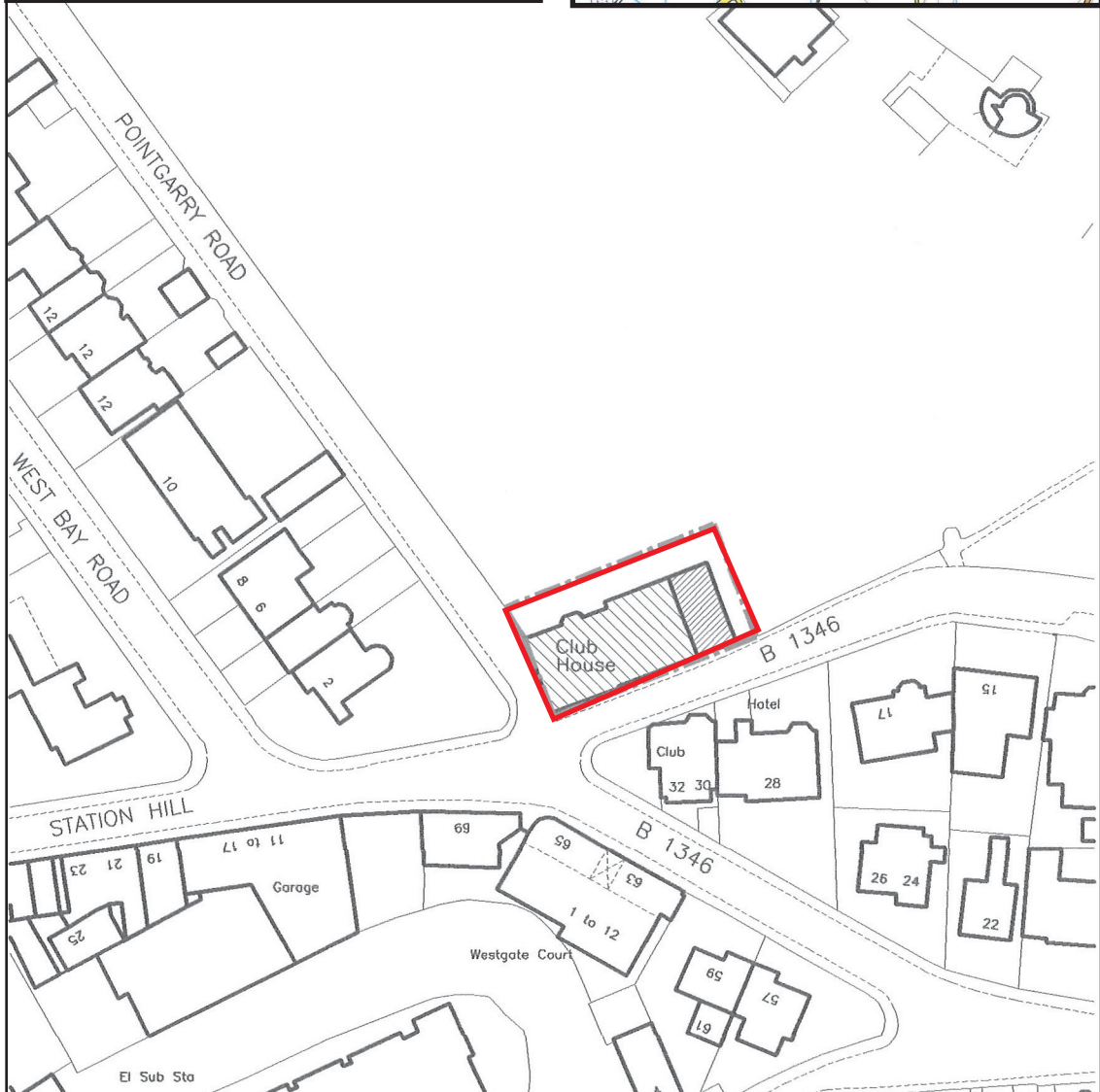
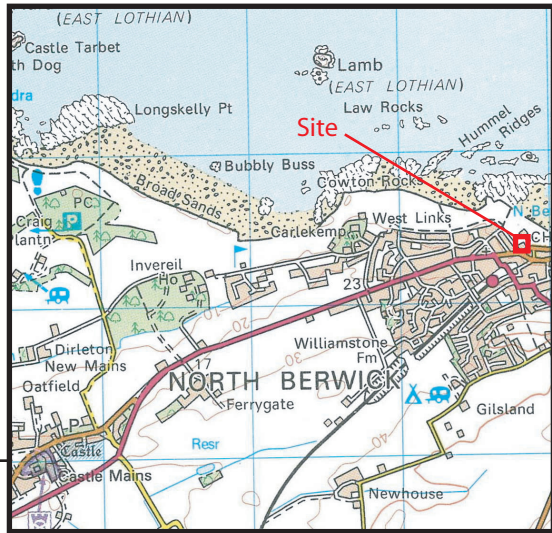
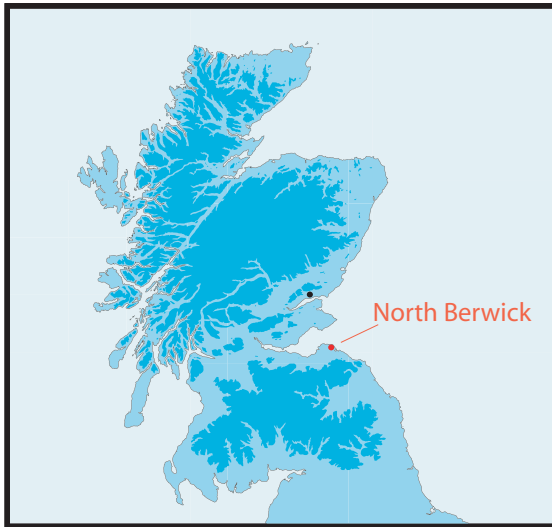


Figure 1: Proposed development area