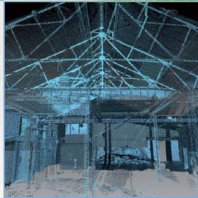
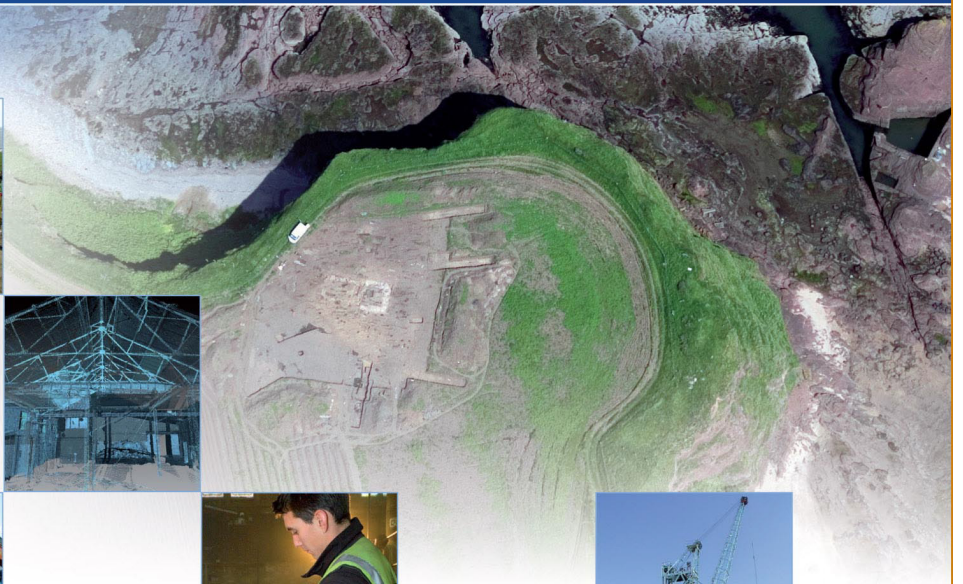
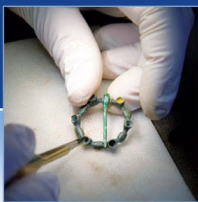


North Berwick Harbour Wall Archaeological Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

AOC 21577
25th June 2010



North Berwick Harbour Wall Watching Brief:

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Van Elle Ltd.,
Kirby Lane,
Pinxton,
Nottinghamshire,
NG16 6JA

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 5530 8558

AOC Project No: 21577

OASIS ID No: aocarcha1-78881

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Date of Fieldwork: 26th & 27th May 2010

Date of Report: 25th June 2010

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

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Draft / Final Report Stage: Draft **Date:** 25th June 2010

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Abstract

An archaeological Watching Brief was required during repair works on the West Quay of North Berwick Harbour, North Berwick, East Lothian. The works were conducted over two days and revealed a red sandstone block upper quay surface augmented by later, thin concrete surface overlying a core of fractured stone within a sandy matrix. Away from the disturbance associated with the crane the harbour wall appears to have been constructed of large roughly hewn sandstone blocks packed within a mortar rich sand with smaller, more carefully dressed, sandstone blocks forming the exterior and upper surface.

0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 An archaeological Watching Brief was required during repair works on the West Quay of North Berwick Harbour, North Berwick, East Lothian as part a condition of Planning Application 09/00990/PCL.
- 0.2 North Berwick Harbour lies within the administrative area of East Lothian Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS). The work was carried out in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 42* (SOEnd 1994), in order to determine the nature, extent, condition and significance of any archaeological material within the development area.
- 0.3 The watching brief was conducted over two consecutive days in late May 2010. The watching brief identified the infill below the existing quay's surface, however no earlier surfaces were observed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Development proposal

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Van Elle Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief on repair works at North Berwick Harbour Wall, North Berwick East Lothian (Figure 1). The work required was in response to a planning condition set by East Lothian Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS). The archaeological works undertaken were in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 42* (SOEnd 1994), in order to determine the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area. ELCAS have required an archaeological programme of work consisting of a watching brief on all ground breaking works associated with the repairs.
- 1.1.2 The works were primarily concerned with the erection of a replacement crane on the west quay of North Berwick Harbour. The scheme of works necessitated excavation into the historic quay.

1.2 Archaeological background

- 1.2.1 North Berwick has been recorded as having a harbour from the 14th century onwards. Its current form is most likely entirely 19th century or later in date though traces and remains of the earlier antecedents of the current harbour may lie beneath the 19th century construction. The harbour is currently B-Listed and Historic Scotland tentatively date the West Quay to 1802. The harbour (NMRS No. NT58NE 22) and many of the associated dockside buildings

such as 'Land Place' (NMRS No. NT58NE 4), warehouse (NMRS No. NT58NE 45) and boat building yard (NMRS No. NT58NE 192) are listed in the National Monuments Records of Scotland. The repair works directly affected the 'hand crane' on the West Quay, listed as NMRS No. NT58NE 22.01.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The aims of the archaeological Watching Brief are:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by the repair works;
- ii) to liaise with ELCAS (on behalf of East Lothian Council) and the client, in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed, as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording;
- iii) to report on the results of the Watching Brief.

3 METHOD

3.1 All excavations were undertaken by hand. A pneumatic hammer drill was used to break up the concrete and sandstone with a pick and shovel then used to remove the material from the excavations. All works were conducted under the constant supervision of an experienced field archaeologist.



PLATE 1 Old crane base *in situ* prior to works starting

- 3.2 The watching brief was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed within the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2010).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The watching brief was conducted on the 26th and 27th May 2010. The weather conditions during the watching brief were sunny and dry. Overall the archaeological visibility was good although close to the required maximum depth sea water began to ingress.
- 4.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as a series of appendices: Appendix 1 contains the photographic register and Appendix 2 reproduces the '*Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*' entry.

4.2 Summary

- 4.2.1 The excavation required to remove the existing central pillar of the original crane and prepare the area for the replacement crane necessitated a hole some 2.7 m long by 2.5 m wide.



PLATE 2 Old crane base *in situ* prior ready for removal



PLATE 3 Concrete layer over sandstone surface over fractured rubble fill with rough blocks, to right of photograph, indicating the original harbour wall construction

- 4.2.2 The surface area around the *in situ* crane pillar comprised a 0.2 m thick slab of concrete. Moving away from the central pillar this concrete surface was much shallower, only 0.03 m thick and directly overlay an earlier upper surface of sandstone blocks, 0.4 m thick, which was missing immediately around the crane pillar. The sandstone blocks/concrete both overlay a mixed rubble deposit consisting of a light yellow/brown coloured sand matrix dominated by small (<0.1 m) to large (up to 0.5 m) sized stone fragments including granite, ironstone and sandstone. This infill deposit was at least 0.90 m deep continuing to the limit of excavations. Rare later 20th century artefacts such as metal cans were apparent within the infill.
- 4.2.3 In the right of Plate 3 you can see the larger *in situ* harbour wall blocks. These form the main structure of the harbour wall, with the fractured infill around the crane pillar representing broken out pieces of the original harbour wall disturbed when the pillar was inserted. These blocks are roughly hewn and larger than the blocks making up the upper surface. They measured between 0.5 m and 0.7 m in size and were bedded in a mortar rich light coloured yellow gritty sand with occasional irregular small stones used as packing.

5 CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The watching brief has given an indication of the main make up of the harbour wall, namely large roughly hewn sandstone blocks packed within a mortar rich sand with smaller more carefully dressed sandstone blocks forming the exterior and upper surface. The previous

insertion of a crane led to the breaking out of a number these blocks which were then used as backfill around the crane pillar with the immediately surrounding area filled with concrete.

5.2 No significant artefacts were uncovered.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 We would advise that no further works are required. This recommendation will require confirmation by East Lothian Council as advised by ELCAS.

7 REFERENCES

AOC 2010 *North Berwick Harbour Wall Watching Brief: Written Scheme of Investigation*
AOC Archaeology Client Report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy* (February 2010).

The Scottish Office Environment Department 1994. *Planning Advice Note 42. Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. January 1994.

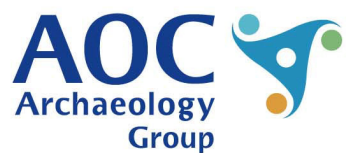
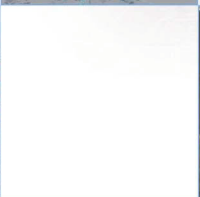
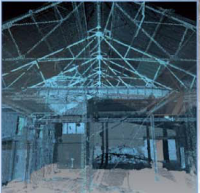
APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Digital Record

Frame	Detail	From
1-2	Registration	-
3-4	Pre-excavation view of original crane base <i>in situ</i>	NE
5-6	View of original crane pillar in concrete	NE
7-8	View of original crane pillar after removal	-
9-10	NE Facing section of full extent of excavations	NE
11-12	NW Facing section of full extent of excavations	NW
13-14	SE Facing section of full extent of excavations	SE
15-16	SW Facing section of full extent of excavations	SW

APPENDIX 2: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	North Berwick Harbour Wall Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21577
PARISH:	North Berwick
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Lindsay Dunbar
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT58NE 22 & 22.01
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Harbour
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 5530 8558
START DATE (this season)	26 th May 2010
END DATE (this season)	27 th May 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological Watching Brief was required during repair works (removal of a crane pillar) on the West Quay of North Berwick Harbour, North Berwick, East Lothian. The works revealed a red sandstone block upper surface augmented by later concrete skim overlying a core of fractured stone within a sandy matrix. Away from disturbance associated with the crane pillar, the harbour wall appears to have been constructed of large roughly hewn sandstone blocks packed within a mortar rich sand with smaller more carefully dressed sandstone blocks forming the exterior and upper surface.</p> <p>Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were identified.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Van Elle Ltd
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