

SSH11



## SETON SANDS HOLIDAY VILLAGE

*Phase 1 extension archaeological evaluation*

*for Bourne Leisure Ltd*

06/00754/OUT

November 2012



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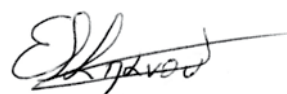
*for Bourne Leisure Ltd*

*06/00754/OUT*

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## CONTENTS

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1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION	1
3.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	1
4.	OBJECTIVES	3
5.	METHODOLOGY	3
6.	RESULTS OF FIELDWORK	3
7.	DISCUSSION	3
8.	REFERENCES	3
9.	APPENDICES	4
	Appendix 1 Photographic register	4
	Appendix 2 Trench register	5
	<i>Appendix 2.1 Trench 1</i>	5
	<i>Appendix 2.2 Trench 2</i>	5
	<i>Appendix 2.3 Trench 3</i>	5
	<i>Appendix 2.4 Trench 4</i>	5
	<i>Appendix 2.5 Trench 5</i>	5
	<i>Appendix 2.6 Trench 6</i>	5
	<i>Appendix 2.7 Trench 7</i>	5
	<i>Appendix 2.8 Trench 8</i>	5
	<i>Appendix 2.9 Trench 9</i>	5
	<i>Appendix 2.10 Trench 10</i>	5
	<i>Appendix 2.11 Trench 11</i>	6
	<i>Appendix 2.12 Trench 12</i>	6
	<i>Appendix 2.13 Trench 13</i>	6
	Appendix 3 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry	7

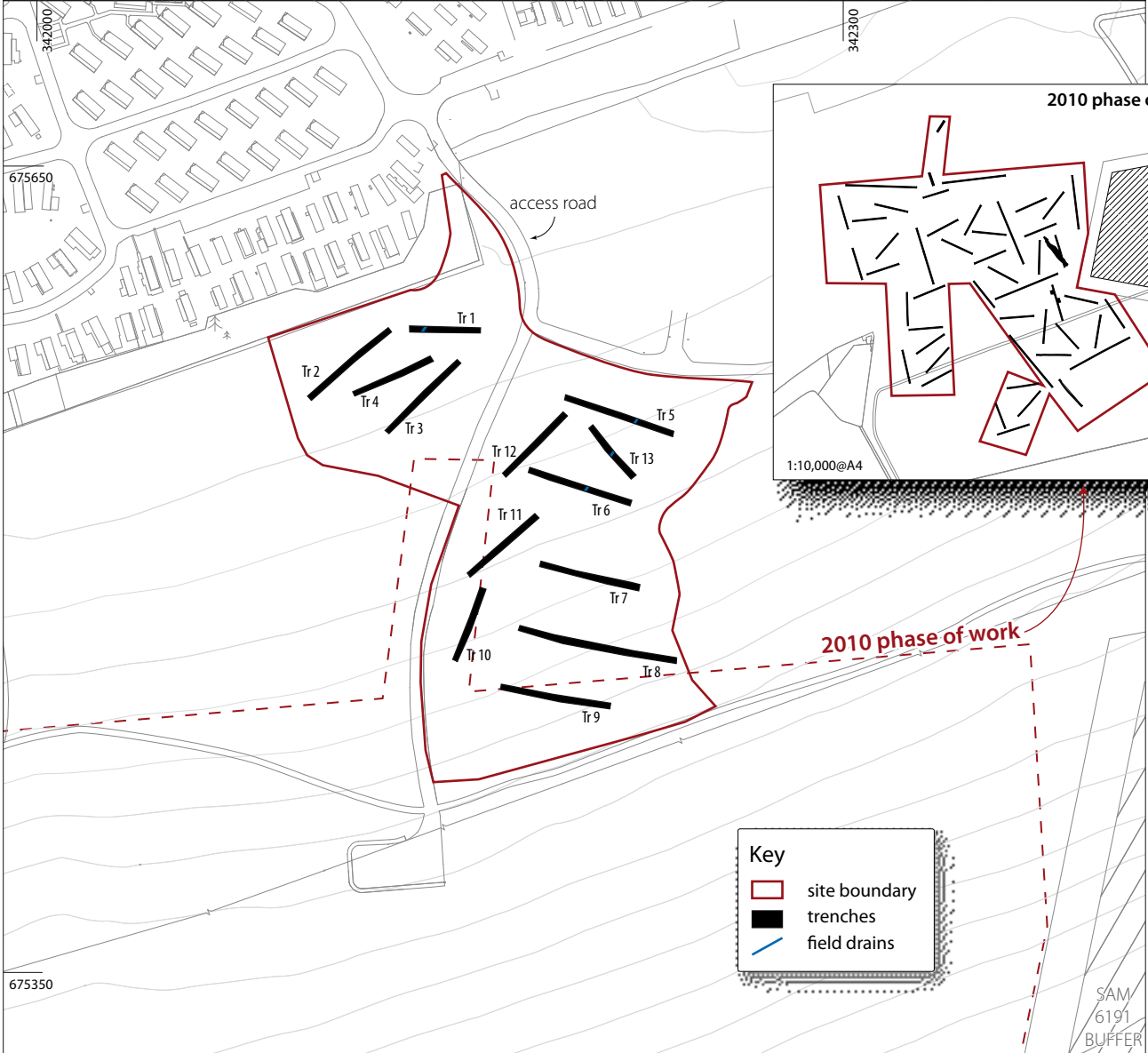
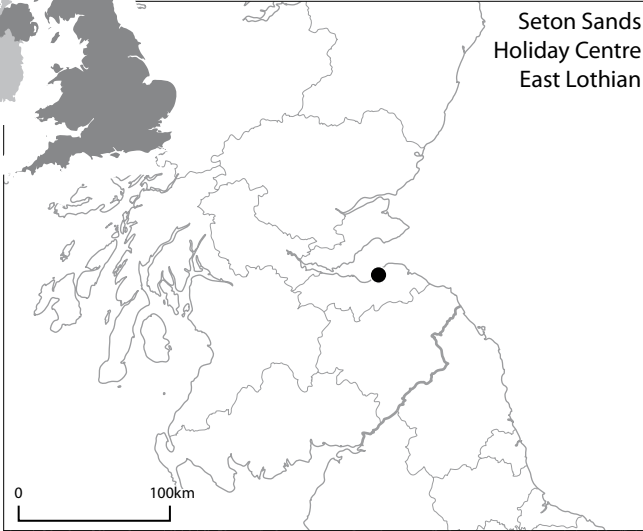


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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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<i>Illus 1</i>		viii
	<i>Site location</i>	
<i>Illus 2</i>		2
	<i>General view of the evaluation area</i>	
<i>Illus 3</i>		2
	<i>Detail of Trench 8</i>	
<i>Illus 4</i>		2
	<i>Detail of Trench 12</i>	



viii

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Scale 1:2,500 @ A4



0 125m

**Illus 1**  
Site location



# SETON SANDS HOLIDAY VILLAGE

## Phase 1 extension archaeological evaluation

*A programme of archaeological trial trenching was carried out in order to satisfy a condition of the planning consent for the Phase 1 expansion of Seton Sands Holiday Village, East Lothian (Plan. Ref. 06/00754/OUT). A desk-based assessment (Dutton 2006) identified a number of significant archaeological features to the SE and SW of the development area. Subsequent archaeological work carried out prior to the construction a nine-hole golf course (Robertson 2011) to the S of the Phase 1 expansion revealed further archaeological features including a cluster of pits and two ditches. These features appeared to range in date from the prehistoric through to post medieval periods. Therefore the potential for further surviving archaeological was high.*

*The evaluation covered an area of ground bounded by the existing static caravan park to the N and the nine-hole golf course to the S. The trial trenching comprised 13 trenches totalling 480 linear m. These trenches revealed three tile field drains or recent date to the northern end of the development area, sealed beneath topsoil on average 0.5m deep. No other features or artefacts of archaeological significance were revealed during this work.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation in advance of construction of Phase 1 of the expansion of a static caravan park which forms part of Seton Sands Holiday Village, East Lothian. The work was carried out in order to satisfy a condition (no. 4) of planning consent (ref: 06/00754/OUT) and adhered to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Headland Archaeology and agreed with East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS).

This report presents the results of the evaluation, which incorporated 962m<sup>2</sup> of trial trenching (c. 5% sample). The fieldwork was undertaken between 24th & 25th September 2012 in wet weather conditions.

### 2. SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

The site is located on open ground to the south of Seton Sands Holiday Village, which lies 0.5km east of Port Seton, East Lothian (*Illus 1*). It is currently occupied by flat, open grassland approximately 30m OD.

The British Geological Survey describes the superficial geology underlying the site as till (Devensian – Diamicton). Earlier evaluations (Bailey 2008, Robertson 2011) recorded sandy clays, sands and gravels beneath plough soil. Diffuse spreads of carbon were encountered in most of the earlier evaluation

trenches. These were noted to be a geological component of the subsoil and comprised highly fragmented particles of coal and carbonaceous shale.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 6191) is located to the SE. The monument comprises a substantial ditched enclosure of likely prehistoric date, identified by crop marks visible on aerial photographs. To the SW lies Seton Collegiate Church, both scheduled (SAM 90275) and 'A' Listed (HB 19077). The church is medieval in date; originally dedicated in 1242. Adjacent to Seton Collegiate Church are Seton House and associated gardens; also Category 'A' listed (HB 19080). The present building was constructed in 1790 by Robert Adam but occupies the site of the late 16<sup>th</sup> century Seton Palace.

Historic maps, dating back to the 17th century, do not show any settlement located within the evaluation area. In the first detailed depiction (Roy's plan of 1747-55), it appears that the site was divided into arable fields.

Targeted trial trenching carried out by Headland Archaeology Ltd in support of a planning application in 2006 partially revealed a substantial pit/ditch terminus on the west side of the scheduled enclosure, while a cluster of undated pits were identified to the north of Seton Collegiate Church (Dutton 2006). Further trenching in 2008 to the north of the scheduled enclosure revealed no



◀ **Illus 2**

*General view of the evaluation area*



◀ **Illus 3**

*Detail of Trench 8*



◀ **Illus 4**

*Detail of Trench 12*

archaeological features and substantial levels of colluvium (Bailey 2008). A third programme of works (Robertson 2011) across the area of the nine-hole golf course revealed a cluster of pits and two ditches. On the basis of recovered artefacts and botanical evidence, the features appeared to range in date from the prehistoric through to the post medieval periods.

#### 4. OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives of the trial trench evaluation were to determine the character, extent, condition, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the area to allow the planning authority to make an informed decision regarding any further mitigation requirements relating to archaeological remains.

#### 5. METHODOLOGY

The total area evaluated by trial trenching was 481 linear m, representing a c.5% sample of the available for trenching area of the proposed development (*Illus 1*). An indicative trench plan was agreed with ELCAS and the client. Trenches were positioned in order to provide good spatial coverage across the site. All trenches were individually numbered and a pole-mounted Trimble G6 differential GPS, programmed with the relevant coordinates, was utilised to identify and mark out their locations.

The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked mechanical excavators fitted with a 2m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket and operated under continuous archaeological supervision. Topsoil was removed in shallow spits and excavations continued until either clean geological sediments or significant archaeological deposits were encountered. The resulting surfaces were hand-cleaned where necessary and investigated for archaeological features. Any such features were hand excavated and recorded using standard archaeological methods and *pro forma* record sheets.

The excavated trenches were recorded using differential GPS. Photographs were taken using colour prints, as well as digital. A full list of the photographic record can be found in Appendix 1.

All recording followed IfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological evaluations. All recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards. A full list of the trench records can be found in Appendix 2.

On completion of the evaluation Headland will produce a site archive and an archive report. An online OASIS report will be completed (headland1-134498) and will be accompanied by a pdf

report and boundary file. A summary report will be submitted for inclusion in *Discovery and Excavation Scotland*. A copy of the DES can be found in Appendix 3.

#### 6. RESULTS OF FIELDWORK

A total of 13 trenches were excavated (*Illus 1-4*), comprising approximately 962m<sup>2</sup>, equating to a 5% sample of the available area. The stratigraphy of the majority of trenches was similar, with geological subsoil comprising sandy clays, sands and gravels sealed by ploughsoil with an average depth of 0.5m. Weathered sandstone bedrock was also exposed in a number of the trenches. This was particularly evident to the SE corner of the development area. Occasional ceramic field drains pertaining to relatively recent field improvements, were the only man made features recorded during the evaluation. These features occurred to the N end of the development area in trenches 1, 5, 6 and 13; their location and alignment was recorded. These drains were cut into the geological subsoil.

No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were recorded during the evaluation. A full trench register is provided in Appendix 2

#### 7. DISCUSSION

The trial trenching as a whole revealed relatively few archaeological features. The overall pattern was of remains (occasional ceramic field drains) related to 19th and 20th century agricultural use.

#### 8. REFERENCES

- Bailey, E 2008 *Seton Sands Caravan Park, East Lothian: Results of an Archaeological Evaluation*, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd, Unpublished client report.
- Dutton, A 2006 *Seton Sand, East Lothian: Results of an Archaeological Desk-based Study and Evaluation*, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd, Unpublished client report.
- Robertson, A 2011 *Seton Sands Caravan Park, East Lothian: Results of an Archaeological Evaluation*, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd, Unpublished client report.



## 9. APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Photographic register

Shot	Colour print	Digital	Direction	Description	Shot	Colour print	Digital	Direction	Description
1	–	SSHC11-002-01	–	Registration	22	x	SSHC11-002-22	N	Working shot from Trench 10
2	x	SSHC11-002-02	S	Working shot eastern area	23	x	SSHC11-002-23	N	Tr 10 – Looking N
3	x	SSHC11-002-03	S	Pre-excavation shot eastern area	24	x	SSHC11-002-24	W	Tr 10 – E-facing section at S end
4	x	SSHC11-002-04	W	Pre-excavation shot western area	25	x	SSHC11-002-25	W	Tr 11 – S-W end
5	x	SSHC11-002-05	NW	Tr 1 – Post-excavation shot	26	x	SSHC11-002-26	SW	Tr 12 – Looking N-E
6	x	SSHC11-002-06	N	Tr 1 – Section at E end	27	x	SSHC11-002-27	NE	Tr 12 – E-facing section
7	x	SSHC11-002-07	W	Tr 2 – Post-excavation	28	–	SSHC11-002-028	SW	Tr 13 – Working shot
8	x	SSHC11-002-08	E	Tr 2 – Post-excavation	29	–	SSHC11-002-029	S	General site shot
9	x	SSHC11-002-09	E	Tr 3 – Post-excavation	30	–	SSHC11-002-030	SE	Tr 13
10	x	SSHC11-002-10	E	Tr 4 – Post-excavation shot	31	–	SSHC11-002-031	SE	Tr 13 – Drainage ditch at S-E end
11	x	SSHC11-002-11	E	Tr 5 – Post-excavation shot	32	–	SSHC11-002-032	NE	Tr 13 – General shot
12	x	SSHC11-002-12	S	Tr 5 – Section at W end	33	–	SSHC11-002-033	SE	General site shot
13	x	SSHC11-002-13	W	Tr 5 – E end	34	–	SSHC11-002-034	E	General site shot
14	x	SSHC11-002-14	W	Tr 6 – E end	35	–	SSHC11-002-035	SE	General site shot
15	x	SSHC11-002-15	W	Tr 7 – W end	36	–	SSHC11-002-036	W	General site shot – western area
16	x	SSHC11-002-16	W	Tr 7 – E end	37	–	SSHC11-002-037	NE	Working shot
17	x	SSHC11-002-17	E	Tr 8 – W end	38	–	SSHC11-002-038	S	Post-excavation shot
18	x	SSHC11-002-18	W	Tr 8 – E end	39	–	SSHC11-002-039	SE	Post-excavation shot
19	x	SSHC11-002-19	W	Tr 8 – E end					
20	x	SSHC11-002-20	W	Tr 9 – E end					
21	x	SSHC11-002-21	N	Tr 9 – S-facing section at W end					

## Appendix 2 Trench register

### Appendix 2.1 Trench 1

Orientation:	E-W
Length (m):	25m
Width (m):	2m
Max. depth:	0.6m
Avg depth:	0.5m
Context / Descr. / Depth	Loam / topsoil / 0.4m – Sand and gravel subsoil.

### Appendix 2.2 Trench 2

Orientation:	NE-SW
Length (m):	40m
Width (m):	2m
Max. depth:	0.6m
Avg depth:	0.4m
Context / Descr. / Depth	Loam / topsoil / 0.4m – Sand and gravel subsoil.

### Appendix 2.3 Trench 3

Orientation:	NE-SW
Length (m):	35m
Width (m):	2m
Max. depth:	0.4m
Avg depth:	0.4m
Context / Descr. / Depth	Loam / topsoil / 0.4m – Sand and gravel subsoil.

### Appendix 2.4 Trench 4

Orientation:	NE-SW
Length (m):	31m
Width (m):	2m
Max. depth:	0.5m
Avg depth:	0.5m
Context / Descr. / Depth	Loam / topsoil / 0.4m – Sand and gravel subsoil.

### Appendix 2.5 Trench 5

Orientation:	E-W
Length (m):	40m
Width (m):	2m
Max. depth:	0.5m
Avg depth:	0.5m
Context / Descr. / Depth	Loam / topsoil / 0.4m – Sand and gravel subsoil. A single tile field drain aligned NW-SE.

### Appendix 2.6 Trench 6

Orientation:	E-W
Length (m):	40m
Width (m):	2m
Max. depth:	0.5m
Avg depth:	0.5m
Context / Descr. / Depth	Loam / topsoil / 0.4m – Sand and gravel subsoil. A single tile field drain aligned NW-SE.

### Appendix 2.7 Trench 7

Orientation:	E-W
Length (m):	40m
Width (m):	2m
Max. depth:	0.5m
Avg depth:	0.35m
Context / Descr. / Depth	Loam / topsoil / 0.4m – Sand and gravel subsoil changing to yellow sand and stone at the E end.

### Appendix 2.8 Trench 8

Orientation:	E-W
Length (m):	61m
Width (m):	2m
Max. depth:	0.5m
Avg depth:	0.45m
Context / Descr. / Depth	Loam / topsoil / 0.4m – Sand and gravel subsoil changing to yellow sand and bedrock to the E half.

### Appendix 2.9 Trench 9

Orientation:	E-W
Length (m):	42m
Width (m):	2m
Max. depth:	0.45m
Avg depth:	0.45m
Context / Descr. / Depth	Loam / topsoil / 0.4 – Sand and gravel subsoil with occasional clay lenses.

### Appendix 2.10 Trench 10

Orientation:	N-S
Length (m):	30m
Width (m):	2m
Max. depth:	0.45m
Avg depth:	0.45m
Context / Descr. / Depth	Loam / topsoil / 0.4m – Sand and gravel subsoil.



### **Appendix 2.11 Trench 11**

Orientation: NE-SW  
Length (m): 40m  
Width (m): 2m  
Max. depth: 0.4m  
Avg depth: 0.35m  
Context / Descr. / Depth Loam / topsoil / 0.4m – Sand and gravel subsoil.

### **Appendix 2.12 Trench 12**

Orientation: NE-SW  
Length (m): 32m  
Width (m): 2m  
Max. depth: 0.6m  
Avg depth: 0.5m  
Context / Descr. / Depth Loam / topsoil / 0.45m – Sand and gravel subsoil. Modern cut with timber post located 22.5m from the SW end.

### **Appendix 2.13 Trench 13**

Orientation: NW-SE  
Length (m): 25m  
Width (m): 2m  
Max. depth: 0.5m  
Avg depth: 0.5m  
Context / Descr. / Depth Loam / topsoil / 0.4m – Sand and gravel subsoil. A single tile field drain aligned NW-SE recorded.

**Appendix 3 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	East Lothian
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Seton Sands Holiday Village phase 1 evaluation
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	SSHC11-002
<b>PARISH:</b>	Tranent
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):</b>	Donald Wilson
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Headland Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 Figures)</b>	NT 4094 7524
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	24th September 2012
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	25th September 2012
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	Dutton A 2006 (DES 2006, 62); Bailey, E 2008 (DES 2008, 65), Robertson, A 2011
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)</b>	<p>An archaeological programme of trial trenching was carried out in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent for the Phase 1 expansion of Seton Sands Holiday Village, East Lothian. Previous work carried out prior to the construction of the 9 hole golf course (Robertson 2011) revealed a number of archaeological features including a cluster of pits and two ditches. The features appeared to range in date from the prehistoric through to post medieval periods. Therefore the potential for further surviving archaeological remains was high.</p> <p>The evaluation covered an area of ground between the existing static caravan park to the N and the 9-hole golf course to the S. The trial trenching comprised 13 trenches measuring 480 linear m. These trenches revealed two tile field drains to the N end of the development area, sealed beneath topsoil on average 0.5m deep. No other features or artefacts of archaeological significance were revealed during this work.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	unknown
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Report to be lodged with East Lothian SMR and NMRS.
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Bourne Leisure Ltd
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	-
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