

LSTD12/001

LAMER STREET, DUNBAR

Archaeological Evaluation

for Niall Donaldson

07/01282/FUL

October 2012

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Project Manager: Edward Bailey
Author: Donald Wilson
Fieldwork: Donald Wilson
Graphics: Caroline Norrman

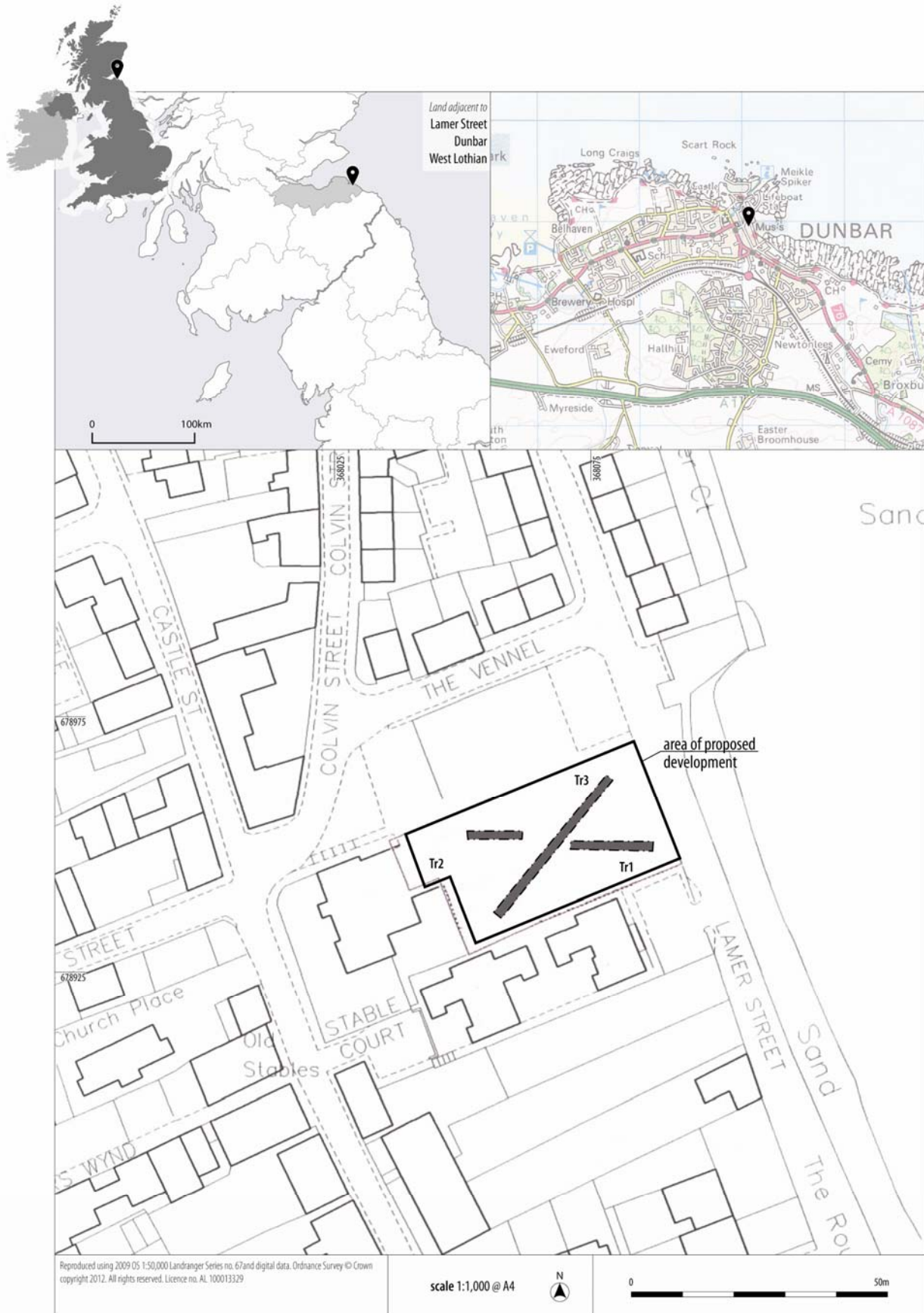
Approved by: >project manager< – Project Manager

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Illus1
Site location plan

LAMER STREET, DUNBAR

Archaeological Evaluation

Summary

A programme of archaeological trial trenching was carried out in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent for a development at Lamer Street, Dunbar, East Lothian. The trial trenching comprised excavation of three trenches totalling 65 linear metres. These trenches revealed a stone-lined culvert to the south end of the development area, sealed beneath a layer of re-deposited sand on average 0.7m deep. To the north-east corner of the site the remains of a stone wall associated with a 19th century building were also exposed. A lens of beach cobbles and stone flag floor recorded in one trench were thought to be associated with 19th century gardens depicted on the early ordnance survey maps. A small single sherd of 15th/16th century glazed pottery was recovered from the re-deposited sand. No other features or artefacts of archaeological significance were revealed during this work.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Niall Donaldson to undertake a programme of archaeological works in connection with a proposed development at Lamer Street, Dunbar.

Planning permission for the development was granted by East Lothian Council (App.no. 07/01282/FUL) subject to a number of conditions, including one relating to archaeological works (SPP section 112.):

When significant elements of the historic environment are likely to be affected by development proposals, developers should take the preservation of this significance into account in their proposals. The amount of information and analysis required should relate in scale to the possible impact on the historic environment.

In order to fulfil this condition a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Headland Archaeology (2012) on behalf of the client; setting out the proposed strategy for archaeological mitigation.

This included for an archaeological evaluation in outline. The WSI was submitted to and agreed with East Lothian Council Archaeology Service who advise the Local Planning Authority on archaeological matters. This report details the results of the work.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site is located at Lamer Street, Dunbar, East Lothian (NGR: NT 6807 7895; Illus 1). Currently vacant land the site was previously occupied by a now demolished late 20th century amusement arcade. The site is bounded by a large 19th century house to the west and modern development to the north and south. To the east the site faces onto Lamer Street, running alongside the beach. It lies around 4m OD and is underlain by igneous Tuff and Agglomerate bedrock of the carboniferous period overlain by superficial deposits of marine beach deposits of gravel, sand and silt formed in the Quaternary period (British Geological Society website).

The archaeological background indicates that Dunbar was occupied from at least AD75, although archaeological evidence from the wider area

around Dunbar has confirmed human habitation since 8000BC. Dunbar is first recorded as a royal town in the 7th century. A fortified wooden enclosure existed in AD856 on or near the present day site of the stone-built castle which was created in the mid-13th century (Pugh 2003).

Dunbar prospered during the 14th century, when in 1370, it was elevated from a burgh of barony to a Royal Burgh, after which it enjoyed considerable advantages in trade over other, larger towns in the county. With its 'free' harbour at Belhaven, Dunbar was soon trading with other Scottish communities and with Europe and ultimately, the Americas. The monopolies and privileges it enjoyed as a Royal Burgh continued until the great reform legislation of 1832-33 curtailed its powers. During its long history, the town was prominent in the history of Scotland, chiefly between the 13th and 19th centuries, some six hundred years which covered the Wars of Independence, then union with England and finally as a military base which would continue until after the two World Wars (Pugh 2003)

The cartographic evidence indicates that by the time of the 1st Ordnance Survey 1853 (National Map Library of Scotland website; Illus 2) the proposed development area had become a designed garden to the rear of the building facing onto Church Street. Little seems to have changed until the 1960's when an amusement arcade was constructed across part of the site.

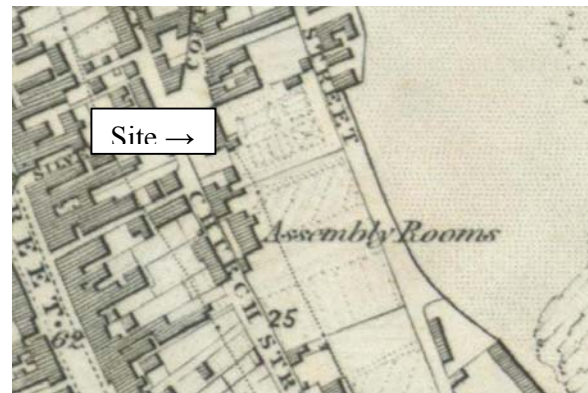


Illustration 2: Extract from the 1853 Ordnance Survey map

Previous archaeological work undertaken in the surrounding area included the excavation of a medieval burgh plot at 44 High Street, Dunbar (NMR: NT67NE 157; Roy 2005). This revealed a Late Iron Age cist burial and later medieval midden pits. A programme of archaeological work

was also carried out at Lamer Street (NMR: NT67NE 400) that revealed remains of an 18th century building along with 18th or early 19th century garden features (Holden 2002).

3 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

In general, the purpose of the evaluation was to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the archaeological significance and potential of the proposed development site.

More specific aims of the evaluation included:

- Establishing the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the accessible areas targeted for trenching.
- Establishing the integrity and state of preservation of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the accessible areas.

The results of the evaluation will be used to inform a strategy for further archaeological mitigation if appropriate.

The resulting archive (finds and records) will be organised and deposited in the National Monuments Record of Scotland to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Site works

The work was undertaken as specified in the WSI. The trenches were opened with a mechanical excavator, suitably equipped with a toothless ditching bucket of adequate width (usually 1.6 m). All trenches were excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and deposits of modern make-up. Excavation was undertaken in controlled spits with machine excavation terminating at the top of the natural geology or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first. Spoil was stored beside the trench.

Excavation of archaeological deposits and features required to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation continued by hand (except where agreed otherwise with the curator). On completion of machine excavation, all faces of the trench that require examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools where required. The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in all the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

A sufficient quantity (to adequately evaluate the site) of identified features were investigated and recorded. No features were wholly excavated; similarly, structures and features worthy of preservation have not be unduly excavated.

Due to Health and Safety considerations, excavations below approximately 1m below existing ground level were not be entered by site staff as suitable battering or stepping of the trench edges was not feasible. Localised stepping of trench edges was undertaken to allow safe inspection and investigation of deep deposits sufficient to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation.

4.2 Recording

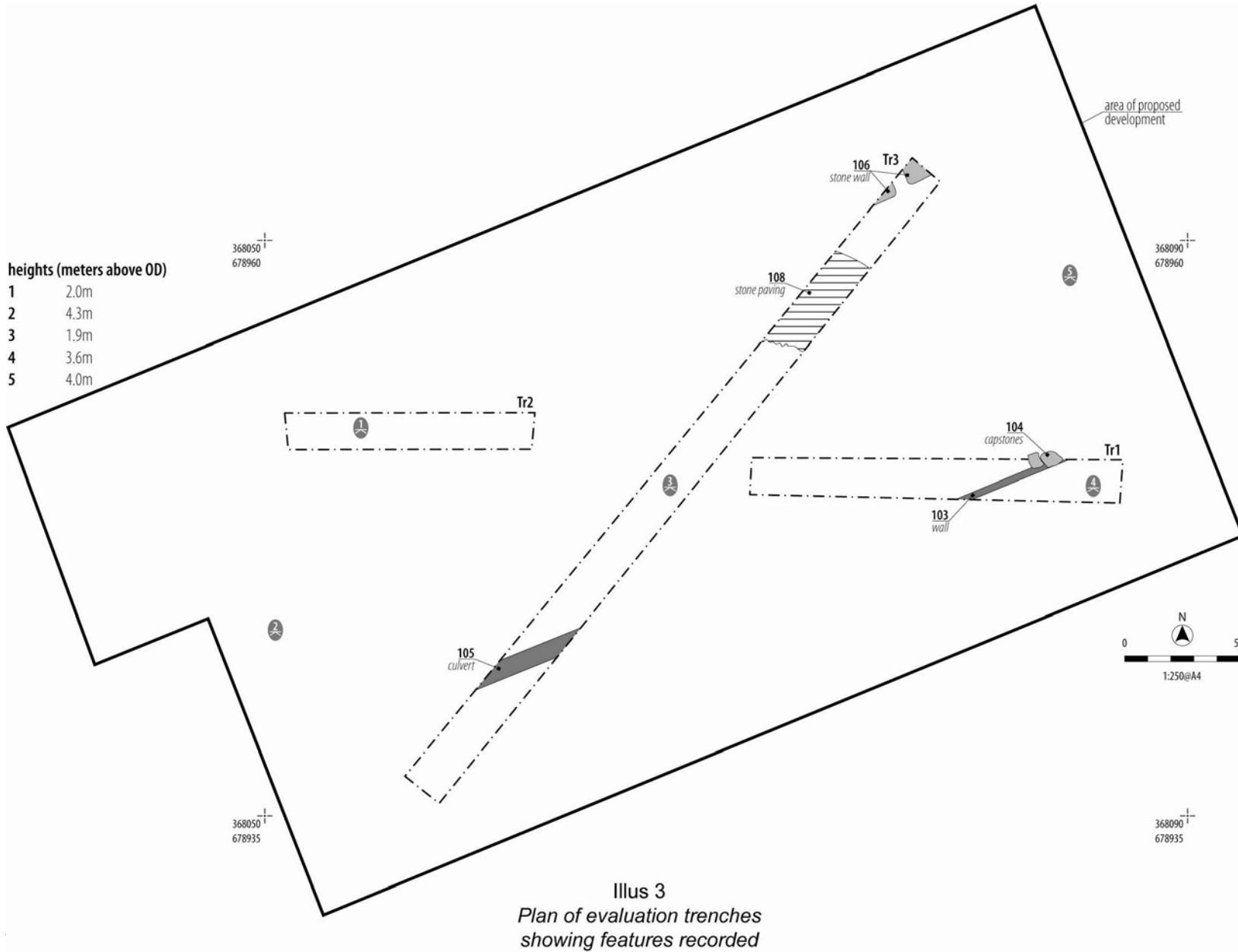
All aspects of the work were undertaken in accordance with the current relevant Standards and Guidance for archaeological evaluation of the Institute for Archaeologists (Evaluation 2009).

All recording followed IfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological evaluations. All contexts, small finds and environmental samples were given unique numbers and can be found in Appendix 1. All recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards. 35mm colour prints were taken; a graduated metric scale was clearly visible. Digital images were also taken for illustrative purposes. A full list of the photographic record can be found in Appendix 1

4.3 Reporting and Archives

The results of the works are presented below. A summary report has been prepared for submission to *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2) and the OASIS database (headland1-136817).

The complete project archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland



(NMRS) within six months of the completion of the project. The records (paper and digital) will be archived according to best practice guidelines set out by the Archaeological Archiving Forum (July 2007).

5 RESULTS

A total of three trenches were excavated (Illus 3), comprising approximately 104 m², equating to an approximate 10% sample of the available area. The stratigraphy across all the trenches was similar, with geological subsoil comprising clean yellow sand and gravels at approximately 2m OD sealed by a dark greenish brown fine sand (102) with an average thickness of 1.6m. This layer was possibly re-deposited sand as it included occasional charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions. Above this was a layer of dark brown silty sand (101) forming a garden soil with a maximum depth of 0.7m. This layer included moderate charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions with occasional brick and lime mortar lenses. These layers were sealed by a concrete floor surface [100] that covered the proposed development area.

Within Trench 1 a north-east to south-west aligned stone-lined culvert [103/104] (Illus 4) was recorded 0.5m below the surface (approximately 3.5m OD). The majority of the culvert cap stones [104] had been removed along with the north-west wall. This was due to the insertion of a 20th century ceramic pipe. The culvert was below layer (101) and cut layer (102).



Illustration 4: View of wall [103] and capstones [104] at the E end of Trench 1

This culvert was also recorded further to the west in Trench 3. The culvert [105] in Trench 3 was constructed of large irregular shaped cap stones

bonded with lime mortar covering rubble stone walls 0.4m high and 0.32m wide over a flagstone base (Illus 5).



Illustration 5: Detail of culvert [105] in Trench 3

To the north-east end of Trench 3 the remains of a stone wall [106] constructed of large squared masonry bonded with a pale yellow lime mortar was recorded. The wall was aligned east west and it stood approximately 0.7m tall and lay just below the surface (Illus 6). This probably formed the remains of the building first depicted on the 1853 ordnance survey (Illus 2).



Illustration 6: The S facing section of Trench 3 showing stone wall [106]

To the south-west of the wall was the remains of a thin flagstone surface [108] bonded with lime mortar and a lens of small poorly sorted beach cobbles, both approximately 0.35m below the current ground surface (Illus 7). These probably represent the remains of the gardens that covered this area as depicted on the early ordnance survey maps prior to the development of the amusement arcade in the 1960s.



Illustration 7: View of the flagstone floor [108] and cobble lens [107]

Trench 2 was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.5m down to the beach sand, the section showing the two main layers (101) and (102) recorded in Trenches 1 & 3 (Illus 8). No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were recorded in this trench. Significantly, it was noted at the east end of Trenches 1 & 3 that the underlying geological subsoil/beach sand was much closer to the surface and likely to represent a surviving beach dune, given its location close to the beach.



Illustration 8: View of Trench 2 showing the deep stratification

Three sherds of pottery were recovered from the upper deposit (101) recorded in Trench 1. One small sherd of 15th/16th century glazed ceramic was recovered along with two sherds of 19th/20th century date. These two sherds represented the remains of a flower pot and a small fragment of a glazed roof tile.

5.1 Discussion

The trial trenching as a whole revealed relatively few archaeological features. Those identified during the evaluation related to the 19th century designed garden and site drainage.

6 REFERENCES

6.1 Bibliographic sources

Archaeological Archives Forum
Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (published by the IfA 2007).

Holden, T 2002 Lamer Street, Dunbar, East Lothian; watching brief, standing building recording. Unpublished Data Structure Report Headland Archaeology Ltd

IfA Standards and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (revised October 2008).

Pugh, R 2003 *Swords, Loaves and Fishes: A History of Dunbar* Balerno

Roy, M 2005 Former Empire Cinema, 44 High Street, Dunbar, Discovery and Excavation in Scotland, vol 6.

SPP: Scottish Planning Policy (February 2010;
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/03132605/0>)

6.2 Cartographic sources

1745 Roys military map of Scotland

1853 Haddingtonshire Sheet 6

1895 Haddingtonshire Sheet VII NW

1906 Haddingtonshire Sheet VII NW

1938 Haddingtonshire Sheet VII NW

6.3 Other sources

Internet

British Geological Society

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=dunbar> accessed Oct 2012

National Map Library of Scotland website

<http://maps.nls.uk/> accessed Oct 2012

7 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Photographic register

Frame no.	C/S no.	Direction	Description
001	001		Film 1 registration shot
002	002	E	W end of Trench 2
003	003	N	S facing section of Trench 2 ant the W end
004	004	E	View of Trench 2
005	005	NE	View of Trench 2 showing the section
006	006	SW	Location shot of Trench 2
007	007	W	View of Trench 1
008	008	S	Detail of wall/culvert [103]/[104] in Trench 1
009	009	N	Detail of wall/culvert [103]/[104] in Trench 1
010	010	S	N facing section of Trench 1 at the E end
011	011	E	View of Trench 2 from the W end
012	012	SW	Location shot of Trench 1
013	013	N	Detail of culvert [105] in Trench 3
014	014	N	Detail of culvert [105] in Trench 3
015	015	N	Close up of culvert [105]
016	016	S	N facing section of Trench 3 at the E end of culvert [105]
017	017	N	Trench 3 showing collapse of sides
018	018	W	W half of Trench 3
019	019	W	W half of Trench 3
020	020	N	Location shot of Trench 3
021	021	E	W facing section at the S end of Trench 3
022	022	N	S facing section at the E end of Trench 1
023	023	E	W facing section at the N end of Trench 3
024	024	E	W facing section at the N end of Trench 3
025	025	S	S facing section of Trench 3 showing the cobble lense
026	026	E	View of stone floor [108] in Trench 3
029	029	N	View of stone floor [108] in Trench 3

Frame no.	C/S no.	Direction	Description
030	030	S	View of collapsed sides of Trench 3
031	031	E	W facing section of Trench 3 at 20 m
032	032	E	W facing section of Trench 3 at 25m showing cobbles [107]
033	033	NE	Excavation shot of Trench 3
034	034	NE	Excavation shot of Trench 3
035	035	NE	View of Trench 3 close to the N end
036	036	E	Section of Trench 3 showing cobble stone drain
037	037	E	W facing section at the N end of Trench 3
038	038	W	E facing section at the N end of Trench 3
039	039	SW	View of Trench 3 from the N end
040	040	SE	View of Trench 3 excavations
041	041	SE	View of Trench 3 excavations
042	042	E	W facing section at the N end of Trench 3 showing wall [106]
043	043	S	W facing section at the N end of Trench 3 showing wall [106]
044	044	W	E facing section of Trench 3 at the N end
045	045	W	E facing section of Trench 3 at the N end
046	046	SE	E facing section of Trench 3 at the N end
047		SW	View of backfilled trenches
048		SW	View of backfilled trenches
049		E	View of backfilled trenches

Context register

Context no.	Area	Description
100		A layer of concrete 0.15 m thick covering the whole development area and forming the floor to the demolished 1960s arcade building
101	Tr1-3	A compact layer of very dark brown silty sand with moderate charcoal flecks and small stones and occasional brick fragments and lime mortar lenses. The layer was up to 0.7m thick below the concrete floor [100]. Over layer [102]
102	Tr1-3	A deep layer of mixed dark greenish brown fine sand with occasional small stone inclusions plus charcoal flecks and marine shells. The layer was up to 1.6 m thick below [102] and over the yellow geological subsoil.
103	Tr1	A NE-SW aligned stone wall 0.4m high and 0.2m wide forming a side wall of a culvert. At the NE end it is capped with large cap stones [104]. The wall cuts layer

Context no.	Area	Description
		[101] at the NE end
104	Tr1	The remains of two large cap stones of a stone-lined culvert. The cap stones sit over wall [103] and are bonded with a pale yellow lime mortar. Same as [105].
105	Tr3	A stone-lined culvert with large irregular cap stones and base and rubble stone walls bonded with lime mortar. The culvert was 0.8 m below the surface and cut layer [102]. The culvert was aligned NE-SW heading for the beach and was same as [103/104]. The inner dimensions were 0.4 m high and 0.32 m wide.
106	Tr3	Remains of a sandstone wall comprising large squared red sandstone blocks bonded with a pale yellow lime mortar. Recorded at the N end of Trench 3 - 0.7m tall and 0.2m below the surface.
107	Tr3	A lens of loose poorly sorted rounded beach cobbles within layer [102] and 0.5m below the surface. The lens was 0.2m thick and 1m wide close to floor surface [108]. Possibly the remains of a garden feature associated with the 19 th century gardens.
108	Tr3	A 0.1m thick stone flag floor with lime mortar bonding recorded 0.35m below the surface possibly forming a path associated with the 19 th century gardens.

Trench register

Trench no.	Alignment.	Description
Trench 1	E-W	Trench 1 was 15m long and 1.6m wide excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m. At the E end the geological subsoil (beach sand) was recorded at 0.4m but became deeper to the W. The truncated remains of a stone-lined culvert were recorded at the E end.
Trench 2	E-W	Trench 2 was 15m long and 1.6m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 2.5m. No archaeology was recorded and the section identified two distinct layers of material – [101] and [102] over the beach sand.
Trench 3	N-S	Trench 3 was 35m long and 1.6m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 2.3m. At the S end a stone-lined culvert [105] was recorded 0.8m below the surface. At the N end the remains of a stone wall [106] were recorded. A lens of beach cobbles [107] and a flag floor [108] 0.35m below the surface formed part of a 19 th century garden. These features cut in to the tow layers found in Trench 1 and 2. At the N end the beach sand was only 0.4m below the surface.

7.2 Appendix 2 – Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Lamer Street, Dunbar; An archaeological evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	LSTD12
PARISH:	Dunbar
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Donald Wilson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 6807 7895
START DATE (this season)	October 2012
END DATE (this season)	October 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	none
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A programme of archaeological trial trenching was carried out in order to satisfy a condition of the planning consent for a development at Lamer Street, Dunbar, East Lothian. The trial trenching comprised 3 trenches totalling 65 linear m. These trenches revealed a stone-lined culvert to the south end of the development area, sealed beneath a layer of re-deposited sand on average 0.7m deep. To the north-east corner of the site the remains of a stone wall associated with a 19 th century building were also exposed. A lens of beach cobbles and stone flag floor recorded in one trench were thought to be associated with 19 th century gardens depicted on the early ordnance survey maps. A small single shard of 15 th /16 th century glazed pottery was recovered from the re-deposited sand. No other features or artefacts of archaeological significance were revealed during this work.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Niall Donaldson
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Don.wilson@headlandarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	RCAHMS