

CATB14/01

LAND EAST OF 37 CASTLE TERRACE,
BERWICK-UPON-TWEED

Archaeological Evaluation

for Mr William Leith

October 2014

LAND EAST OF 37 CASTLE TERRACE, BERWICK-UPON-TWEED

*Archaeological Evaluation
for Mr William Leith*

October 2014

HA Job no.: CATB14/01
NGR: NT 98960 53810
Parish: Berwick-upon-Tweed
Council: Northumberland County
Council
OASIS ref.: headland1-192766

Archive will be deposited with: NCC

Project Manager: Alistair Robertson
Author: Jürgen van Wessel
Fieldwork: Jürgen van Wessel
Graphics: Jürgen van Wessel

Approved by: Alistair Robertson– Project Manager

CONTENTS

1.....	INTRODUCTION	2
2.....	SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	2
3.....	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
4.....	AIMS & OBJECTIVES.....	2
5.....	METHODOLOGY	3
5.1	Site works	3
5.2	Recording	3
5.3	Reporting and Archives	3
6.....	RESULTS.....	3
7.....	DISCUSSION & STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL.....	4
8.....	REFERENCES	4
8.1	Bibliographic sources.....	4
8.2	Cartographic sources	4
8.3	Other sources.....	5
9.....	APPENDICES	6
9.1	Appendix 1 – Site registers	6

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- 1 – Site location plan
- 2 – General view of site from the north
- 3 – Trench Plan
- 4 – Detail of break in slope in Trench 2, showing part of hillwash deposit (003), facing north
- 5 – View of Trench 3 from the north-east

LAND EAST OF 37 CASTLE TERRACE, BERWICK-UPON-TWEED

Archaeological Evaluation

Summary

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Mr William Leith to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land east of 37 Castle Terrace, Berwick-upon-Tweed to inform on the archaeological potential of the site. The site is located 250m north-west of a scheduled medieval church and graveyard at 21-23 Castle Terrace (ref 1019902). Four trenches were excavated totaling 108m². The depth of the trenches varied between 0.2m and 2.0m below the existing ground surface. The geological subsoil was found to fall sharply to the south and south-west, overlain with a buildup of compact mid-brown loam up to 1.5m deep. The top 0.3m of this deposit contained occasional shell, bone, ceramics and building materials, which are likely to be representative of nearby domestic activity in the medieval and later periods. No further archaeologically significant features were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Mr William Leith to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land east of 37 Castle Terrace, Berwick-upon-Tweed in support of any future planning application. The objectives of the evaluation were to provide further information about the archaeological resource and to enable appropriate decisions to be reached regarding any future planning submission and associated mitigation measures; in keeping with current policy and guidance (National Planning Policy Framework). Fieldwork was undertaken on 14th October, 2014.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site is located at NGR: NT 98960 53810; 680m north-west of Berwick Castle at the north-western edge of Berwick-upon-Tweed (Illus 1). It is positioned on a high cliff above the north bank of the River Tweed with extensive views over the Tweed Valley. The site is underlain by Fell Sandstone Formation – Sandstone, itself overlain by Devensian Till (British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

The immediate environs consist of residential housing developments to the north, west and east and grassland to the south. The site is currently unoccupied and somewhat overgrown (Illus 2), although it had been previously used as a market garden (Mr Leith, *pers. comm.*). The site sloped noticeably to the south and south-west, ranging in level from 48.6 to 46.6m OD.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within the settlement of Bondington, an abandoned medieval village which lay outside the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed. The name of the village indicates a Saxon origin and it is mentioned in the Kelso Chartulary (1128-1158); however there is no reference to Bondington in the Scotch Rolls of 1336. It is likely the settlement was deserted by this time as a consequence of the Anglo-Scottish wars in the 14th century that led to the creation of defences

for Berwick-upon-Tweed and the abandonment of certain areas as part of the retreat to within the town walls.

Excavations by Headland Archaeology (Jones 2007) identified possible remains relating to Bondington in a programme of excavations located around 300m northwest of the site; on land adjacent to Cheviot House, Castle Terrace. Most of the features were unmortared stone wall foundations with areas of paving identified in two trenches. Large spreads of rubble and medieval pottery were found with these structures. A number of undated features containing burnt and worked flint also suggest prehistoric activity in the area.

Circa 300m to the southeast of the application site lies a Scheduled Ancient Monument (ref 1019902) encompassing 21 and 23 Castle Terrace. The Monument comprises the remains of a medieval church and graveyard, believed to be that of St Mary, representing one of three abandoned churches located in the area. The eastern two thirds of the church were uncovered and partially excavated in 1998. The excavators consider there to be at least 400 burials in the surrounding graveyard. A recent archaeological evaluation by Headland Archaeology Ltd (Wilson 2014) at 25 Castle Terrace, immediately west of the graveyard, did not encounter any further related remains.

4 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 if any remains associated with the medieval settlement of Bondington survive within the development site
- Establishing the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits identified within the site.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Site works

The work was undertaken as specified in the WSI (Headland Archaeology, 2014). The trenches were opened with a mechanical excavator, suitably equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. 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. 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.

5.2 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 (IfA 2009).

All recording followed IfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological evaluations. All contexts were given unique numbers and can be found in Appendix 1. All recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards. Digital images 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

5.3 Reporting and Archives

The results of the works are presented below. A summary report has been prepared for submission to the OASIS database (headland1-192766).

The resulting archive (finds and records) will be organised and deposited in the County Sites and Monuments Record to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit. The records (paper and digital) will be archived according to best practice guidelines set out by the Archaeological Archiving Forum (July 2007).

6 RESULTS

A total of four trenches were excavated (see Illus 3), comprising approximately 108m², equating to an approximate 8% sample of the available area. The trenches were located in order to gain the optimal coverage of the development area. A strip along the north-eastern side was avoided as this comprised an embankment for the modern road. The eastern side of the site was partly obscured by large bushes and trees.

Trench 1 was oriented approximately north-west to south-east and targeted the upper part of the slope. Geological subsoil (002) was encountered at a height of 48.68m OD beneath 0.2m of topsoil (001). The former comprised a compact orange-brown slightly clayey sandy gravel, overlain by a small patch of clean sand at the south-east end. The geological subsoil was tested by means of a 0.7m deep machine sondage, and was found to be homogenous and archaeologically sterile. At the north-western end, the edge of a hillwash deposit (003) was encountered. This material comprised a compact orange-brown clayey loam with occasional small stones and shell fragments.

Trench 2 was oriented approximately east-west just south of Trench 1. The geological subsoil was the same gravelly material as in Trench 1, but was found to drop away steeply to the south-south-east from a break of slope approximately 4m from the eastern end of the trench. This slope had been masked on the surface by up to 0.7m of topsoil and 1m of the hillwash deposit (003) at the western end of the trench. Deposit (003) contained occasional medium rounded stones, a single pig bone, three pot sherds, a roof slate, one brick fragment and two mortar fragments, principally from the upper 0.3m of the deposit. This assemblage represents principally 18th-19th century debris, although one rim sherd had originated from a 12th-14th century cooking pot (J Franklin, *pers comm*). The shell and pig bone is also typical of medieval waste but may also be later.

Trench 3 was oriented north-east to south-west at the south-western corner of the site. The geological subsoil here had changed to a compact orange-grey clayey sand with occasional patches of natural iron staining. It was encountered below 0.5m of topsoil and 1.5m of hillwash deposit (003) at a height of 44.53m OD. Occasional shell and charcoal fragments were encountered in (003) within the upper 0.3m of the deposit.

Trench 4 was oriented approximately south-south-east to north-north-west at the south-eastern corner of the site. The same compact clayey sand geological subsoil present in Trench 3 was found here, although a small patch of the gravel present in the other trenches was visible to the north-north-western end. It was encountered below 0.3-0.4m of topsoil and 1m of hillwash deposit (003).

No features of archaeological significance were encountered in any of the four trenches.

7 DISCUSSION & STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

The proposed development site was considered to have archaeological potential due to its location within the medieval settlement of Bondington and near to a scheduled medieval church and graveyard site (ref 1019902).

The trial trenching identified no archaeological features, but small quantities of domestic waste did signify residual evidence for medieval and later activity in the area. While the potential remains for isolated archaeological features within the proposed development area, the pattern of trenching has largely removed the risk of encountering unrecorded boundaries or substantial structures that may be indicative of burgrave plots or other significant medieval activity.

The results of this archaeological evaluation are not considered to be sufficiently significant to warrant further mitigation.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliographic sources

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

Headland Archaeology 2014 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Land East of 37 Castle Terrace, Berwick-upon-Tweed: Archaeological Evaluation*

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

Jones, E 2007 *Castle Terrace, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland: Results of an Archaeological excavation, Area 1*. Unpublished client report (CTB06)

The Archaeological Practice 1999 *Rescue Recording of a Church and Graveyard: 21 Castle Terrace, Unpublished Client Report* University of Newcastle

Wilson, D 2014 *25 Castle Terrace, Berwick-upon-Tweed: Archaeological Evaluation*, Unpublished client report (CTBN14)

8.2 Cartographic sources

1852 Local Board of Health Plan of Berwick-upon-Tweed

1857 Ordnance Survey Berwick, Sheet XVIII.7 (Liberties Of Berwick) 25 inch

1924 Ordnance Survey Northumberland 1:2500

1947 (Revised 1938) Ordnance Survey Northumberland Sheet nll.SW 6 inch

1954 Ordnance Survey Northumberland Sheet NT95 1:25000

1962 Ordnance Survey Northumberland 1:2500

8.3 Other sources

Internet

British Geological Society: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>

9 APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Photographic register

Frame no.	Direction	Description
001	-	Registration Shot
002	W	Pre-condition shot of site access
003	W	Pre-condition shot of site access
004	NW	Pre-condition shot of site access
005	W	General view of site prior to trenching
006	SE	General view of site prior to trenching
007	S	Pre-condition shot of wall adjacent to site access
008	NW	Record shot of Trench 1
009	NE	Section of machine sondage in Trench 1
010	W	View of edge of hillwash deposit (003) in Trench 1
011	W	Record shot of Trench 2
012	N	View of break of slope in (002) in Trench 2
013	SW	Record shot of Trench 3
014	NW	Record shot of Trench 4
015	SE	General view of site after trenching

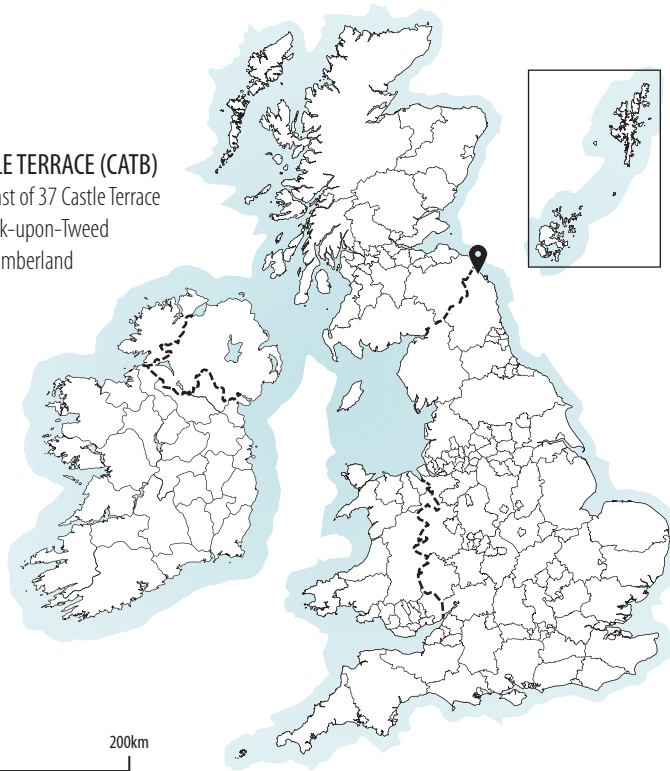
Context register

Context no.	Area	Description
001	All	Topsoil. Dark grey moderately loose clayey silt, with occasional small stone inclusions, and rooting. Regular modern ceramic fragments, clay pipe and occasional glass bottles. Up to 0.7m deep. Recorded in all trenches.
002	All	Geological subsoil. Orange-brown clayey sandy gravel upslope, orange-grey clayey-sand downslope. Compact throughout. Recorded in all trenches. Occasional natural iron staining visible in Trench 4.
003	All	Hillwash deposit. Orange-brown compact clayey loam with occasional stone inclusions up to 0.3m in diameter. Up to 1.5m deep at base of slope. Upper 0.3m of this deposit contains occasional charcoal, shell, bone, building materials and ceramics, including one rim sherd from a 12 th -14 th century cooking pot.

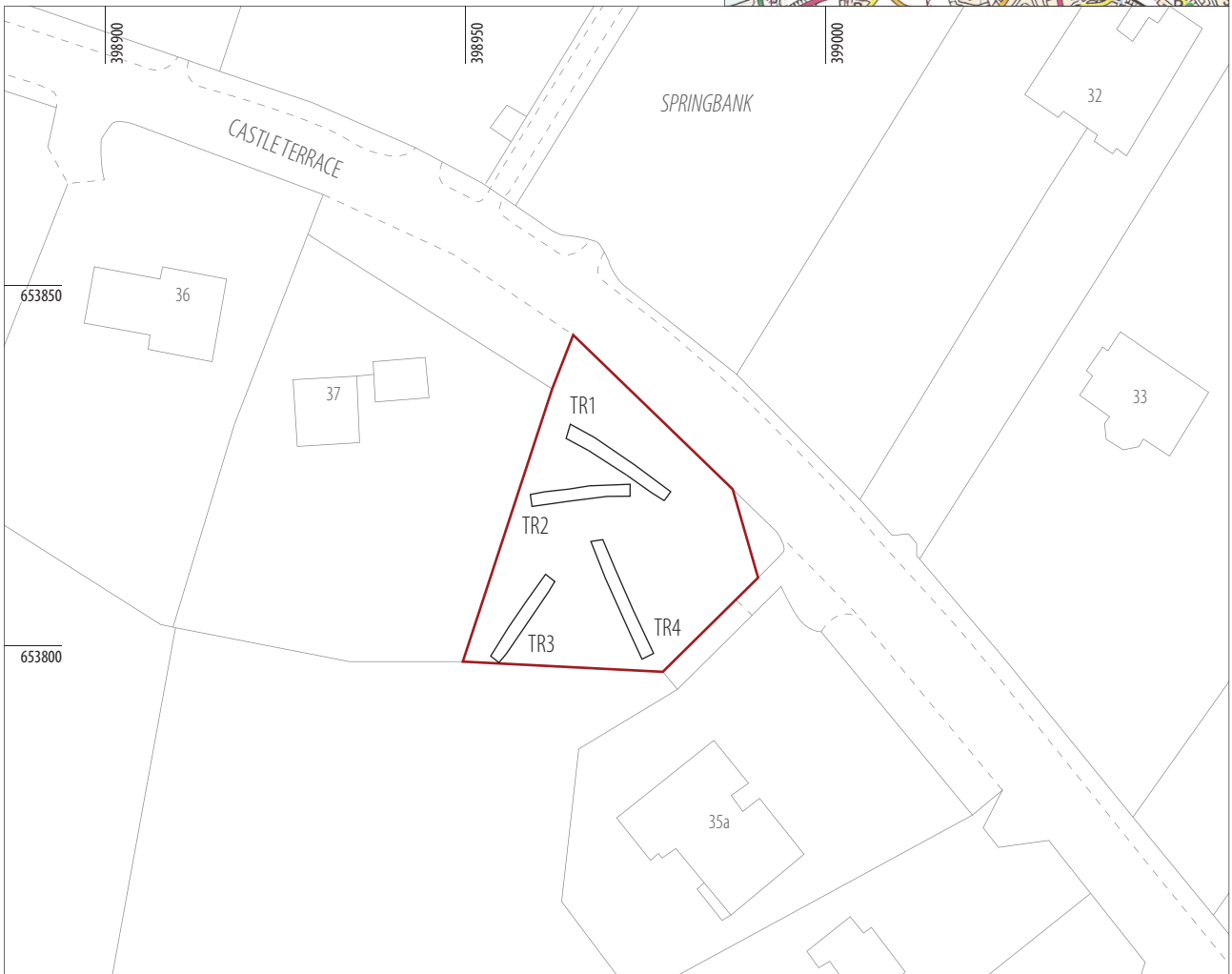
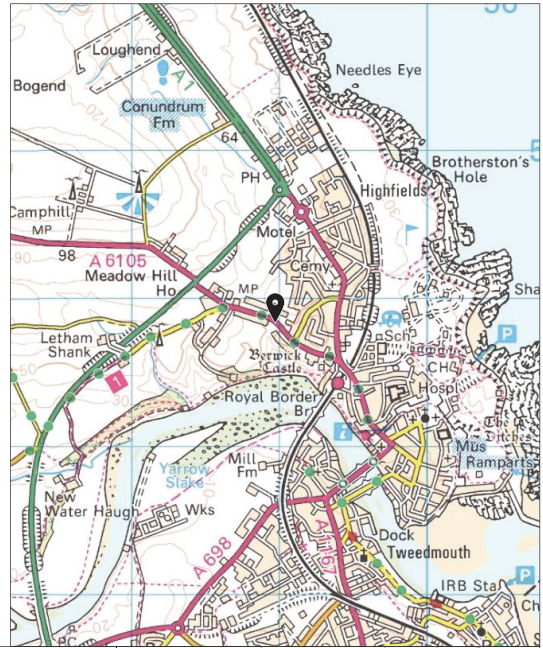
Trench register

Trench no.	Alignment.	Description
Trench 1	SE-NW	16.5m x 1.6m, depth 0.2m. Soil profile comprised 0.2m topsoil (001) over geological subsoil (002). The edge of hillwash deposit (003) was encountered at the NW end. A machine sondage was excavated to a total depth of 0.7m to test the geological subsoil.
Trench 2	E-W	14m x 1.6m, depth 0.2-1.7m. Soil profile consisted 0.2m topsoil (001) over geological subsoil (002) at the eastern end of the trench and 0.7m topsoil (001) over 1m hillwash (003) over geological subsoil (002) at west end. (002) was found to slope down steeply to the south-south-west from a clear break of slope around 5m from the east end of the trench.
Trench 3	SW-NE	14m x 1.6m, depth 2m. Soil profile consisted 0.5m topsoil (001) over 1.5m hillwash (003) over geological subsoil (002).
Trench 4	SSE-NNE	18m x 1.6m, depth 1.3-1.4m. Soil profile consisted 0.3-0.4m topsoil (001), over 1m hillwash (003) over geological subsoil (002).

CASTLE TERRACE (CATB)
land east of 37 Castle Terrace
Berwick-upon-Tweed
Northumberland



0 200km



- KEY**
- development boundary
 - trench locations

0 50m
N
scale 1:1,000 @ A4



NORTH

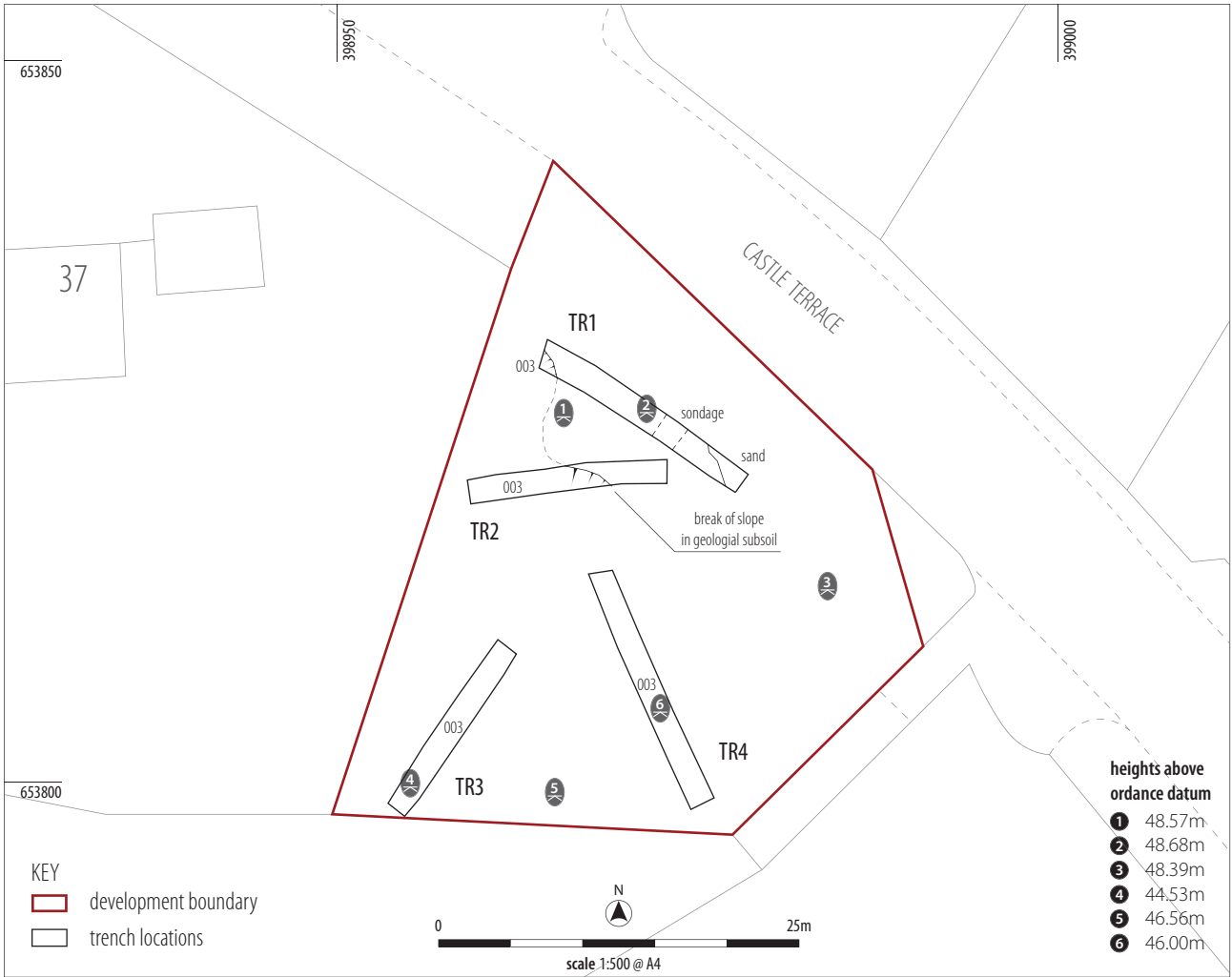
13 Jane Street
Edinburgh EH6 5HE
0131 467 7705
www.headlandarchaeology.com

ILLUS 1
Site location

Illus 2

General view of site from the north





Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2011. All rights reserved. Licence no. AL 100013329

ILLUS 3 - Trench Plan

Illus 4

Detail of break of slope in Trench 2, showing part of hillwash deposit (003), facing north



Illus 5

View of Trench 3 from the north-east

