

CTB06

Date: March 2007

Client: Hudson Homes

**Castle Terrace, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland
Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief: Area 2**

Planning ref: 03/B/0503

NCCCT ref: B38/22; 2364

Oasis ref: headland1-23696

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET (CTB06)

Client	Hudson Homes
National Grid Reference	NT 9876 5407
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Fieldwork	Dan Atkinson
Schedule	
Fieldwork	20 th March 2007
Report	March 2007

Summary

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Hudson Homes to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief during the excavation of test-pits and boreholes in the area (Area 2) to the north and west of that previously excavated (Area 1), as part of their site investigations work for the development at Castle Terrace, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland. The site lies adjacent to Cheviot House, the recorded site of the medieval church of St Lawrence's and is within the general area of the abandoned medieval settlement of Bondington, in existence between the 12th and 14th century.

Previous evaluation of the site in 2004 and subsequent excavation in 2007 had identified features thought to be associated with the remains of the medieval settlement or with the church itself in the areas immediately west of Cheviot House. Principal among these was a series of ditches, which appear to demarcate plot boundaries and a number of isolated features associated with backland activities. A final phase of structures, probably dating to the 18th century, were represented by drystone wall foundations built on top of hillwash that had developed over the site.

No significant features of archaeological interest were identified during the course of the watching brief.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken at Castle Terrace, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland. A planning application has been submitted for a housing development on the land by Hudson Homes. A previous desk-assessment (Jones 2004a), evaluation (Jones 2004b) and excavation (Phase 1) (Jones 2007) of the site identified a number of potential archaeological issues and constraints for the development. Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT) therefore advised Berwick Borough Council that should permission for the site be granted, an archaeological condition should be attached. The work followed a Written Scheme of Investigation submitted by Headland Archaeology to NCCCT.

The site is located to the north-west of the town of Berwick-on-Tweed, on the north side of Castle Terrace (NGR NT 9876 5407; Figure 1). It is bounded by Cheviot House to the east and a development of new housing to the west. The site is currently under pasture and is bounded to the north by further fields.

The mitigation strategy devised by NCCCT divided the site into three areas based on the nature, extent and importance of the archaeological remains previously identified (Figure 1). A development exclusion area was placed along the east side of the development access area, in order to preserve *in situ* the structural remains previously identified there. The remainder of the site was divided into Areas 1 and 2. This report contains the results of the investigations of Area 2, further to the work conducted in Area 1.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In the 13th century Berwick-upon Tweed was the wealthiest town and port in Scotland. It was one of the four major burghs and was important for its trade links with the Low Countries. The advent of the Anglo-Scottish wars in the 14th century led to the provision of defences for the town in addition to the castle. At this time areas outside these defences seem to have been abandoned. The castle and town changed hands numerous times between the initial capture by Edward I and the final surrender to Richard of York in 1482 (Bishop 1999).

The site lies within the area identified as the general location of Bondington, an abandoned medieval village, which lay outwith the town walls of Berwick-upon-Tweed (Cambridge *et al* 2001). The village is believed to have extended from the old Scotchgate, at the top of Castlegate, along by the houses of Castle Terrace (Scott 1888). Bondington is mentioned in the Kelso Chartulary and is thought to date from the 12th century. The name suggests a Saxon origin although there is no modern survival of the name (Clack & Gosling 1976). There is no reference to Bondington in the Scotch Rolls of 1336 and it appears to have been abandoned in the 14th century during the Anglo-Scottish wars.

Three abandoned churches are known to be located in this area – St Mary's, St Lawrence's and that of the nunnery of St Leonard's. The church of St Mary the Virgin was given by David I of Scotland to Durham in exchange for land at Melrose. The Chartulary of Kelso (1128-1158) mentions that Roger Fitz William, probably the founder, gave the Church of St Lawrence to the monks of Kelso (Scott 1888). Ownership was passed to the monks of Durham and their cell at Coldingham in the late 12th century. It is suggested that St Lawrence's was the parish church of Bondington and that the parish was later amalgamated with Berwick, as there is no record of the church after 1300 (Cambridge *et al* 2001).

The location of St Leonard's nunnery is known from aerial photographs and historical sources, although no archaeological work has taken place in the area to confirm its location. St Leonard's Nunnery was founded by David I in the 12th century and is thought to be the earliest Cistercian nunnery in Scotland, as it was established less than 30 years after the Order first was introduced to England (Scott 1888). The nunnery was badly damaged in 1333 after the battle of Halidon Hill. Edward III ordered its rebuilding but by 1420 scarcely any trace of buildings remained (Clack & Gosling 1976).

The proposed development site lies to the west of the recorded site of a medieval church and within the general area of Bondington. Previous investigations at Cheviot House to the east of the site revealed elements of the medieval church and cemetery, thought to be St Lawrence's; a ditch, possibly part of the churchyard enclosure, was found to the west.

The evaluation (Jones 2004b) and excavation (Jones 2007) identified features in the areas immediately to the north and west of Cheviot House. These may be associated with the remains of the medieval settlement or possibly with the church itself. A number of undated features were also found across the site, including fragments of drystone walls, ditches and gullies, possibly associated with former field boundaries.

3. OBJECTIVES AND METHOD

The objectives of the watching brief across Area 2 were to establish the presence, density and importance of any archaeological remains in the area. On the basis of the evaluation and the excavation, the area covered by Area 2 was thought to contain possible outlying elements of the abandoned medieval village of Bondington or later features.

A total of nine test-pits (Test-pits 1 – 9) and three boreholes (Boreholes 1 – 3) were monitored during excavation. The test-pits were excavated using a JCB back-actor under direct archaeological supervision. The shovel pits for the boreholes were excavated by hand under direct archaeological supervision.

All recording followed Headland Archaeology standard procedures. All contexts, small finds and environmental samples were given unique numbers. Bulk finds were collected by context. Colour transparencies and black and white prints were taken with a graduated metric scale visible in all photographs. All recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record sheets. Individual features were planned at 1:20 on an arbitrary grid, which was then tied into the National Grid using a Total Station EDM. Sections were drawn at 1:10 and elevations were photographed with geo-referenced points for rectification. All heights were accurately related to Ordnance Datum.

4. RESULTS (Figure 1)

The following presents a summary of the results of the watching brief. Further information for each test-pit and borehole is set out in Appendix 1.

Test-pits 1, 2, 8 and 9 highlighted similar soil profiles with topsoil above a deposit of hillwash, above the natural silty clay, similar to the soil profile noted across Area 1 during the excavation. Test-pits 3, 4 and 6 also revealed similar soil profiles with topsoil over natural silty clay.

Test-pit 5 contained a different profile to those noted elsewhere, revealing a deposit of hillwash over silty clay waterlogged deposits, above the natural dark brown silty clay. This test-pit was located in a natural dip in the topography and is likely to have been subjected to periodic water-logging in the recent past, as indicated by the presence of modern pottery sherds in the water-logged deposits.

Test-pit 7 was located in the vicinity of what is recorded locally as a bomb crater. The soil profile comprised re-deposited natural subsoil above buried topsoil, which itself was above natural silty clay. The re-deposited natural material above the buried topsoil may well be the result of debris being thrown from the crater during the explosion and settling on top of the topsoil. The boreholes revealed topsoil above silty clay natural. No significant archaeological finds or features were uncovered during the works.

5. DISCUSSION

The watching brief in Area 2 has failed to identify any significant archaeological finds or features, particularly in connection with the fragmentary remains of the medieval settlement and more recent land use uncovered in Area 1. This is probably explained by the increasing distance of Area 2 from the focus of the medieval remains in the immediate vicinity of Cheviot House.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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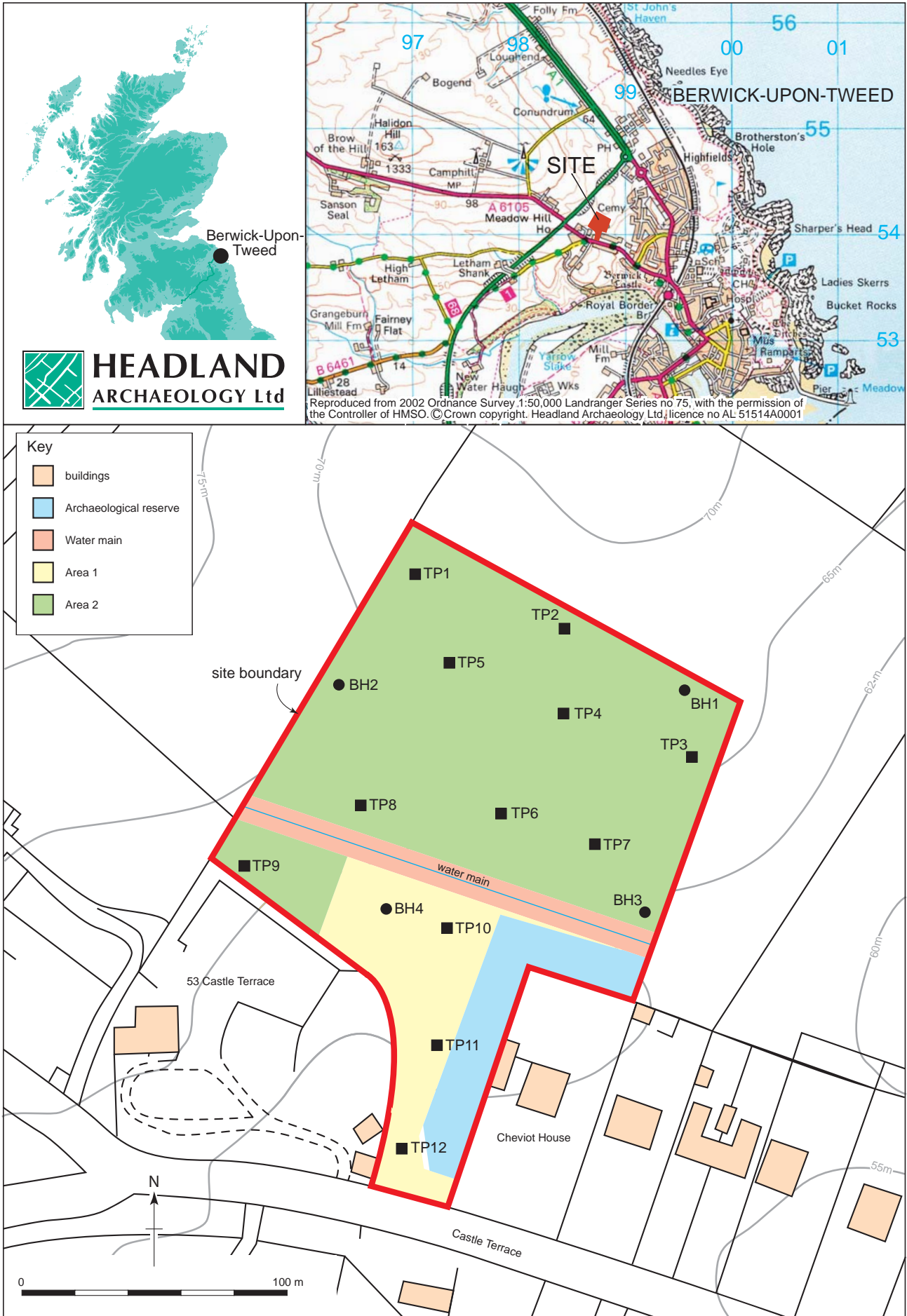


Figure 1 - CTB06: Site location showing location of test pits and boreholes

APPENDIX 1: Site Registers

1.1 Trench Register

No.	Orientation	Dimensions (M)	Description
TP1	E-W	3m x 0.5m x 0.90m	Topsoil= 0.30m Dark greyish brown sandy silt loam with moderate rounded stones and occasional large stones, charcoal, pottery and tile B Horizon= 0.60m Mid brown to mid reddish brown sandy silt with medium rounded and sub-angular stones. Hillwash Natural= reddish orange silty clay with fragmented bedrock inclusions
TP2	E-W	3m x 0.5m x 0.80m	Topsoil= 0.30m Dark greyish brown sandy silt loam with moderate rounded stones and occasional large stones, charcoal, pottery and tile B Horizon= 0.70m Mid brown to mid reddish brown sandy silt with medium rounded and sub-angular stones. Hillwash Natural= reddish orange silty clay with fragmented bedrock inclusions
TP3	E-W	3m x 0.5m x 0.35m	Topsoil= 0.35m As Test-pit 1 with fragmented shell inclusions Natural= orange brown gravely sand
TP4	E-W	3m x 0.5m x 0.35m	Topsoil= 0.35m As Test-pit 1 Natural= reddish orange silty clay with fragmented bedrock inclusions
TP5	E-W	3m x 0.5m x 0.93m	Hillwash = 0.53m Mid brown to mid reddish brown sandy silt with medium rounded and sub-angular stones. Grey silty clay = 0.20m Humic brown silt = 0.20m Natural= Dark brown silty clay with frequent fragmented bedrock
TP6	E-W	3m x 0.5m x 0.40m	Topsoil= 0.40m Dark greyish brown sandy silt loam with moderate rounded stones and occasional large stones, charcoal, pottery and tile Natural= reddish orange silty clay with fragmented bedrock inclusions. service trench noted in the northern edge of the test-pit
TP7	E-W	3m x 0.5m x 0.70m	Re-deposited natural = 0.20m (possibly debris from the bomb crater) Topsoil= 0.30m Dark greyish brown sandy silt loam with moderate rounded stones, occasional large stones, charcoal, pottery and tile. Natural= reddish orange silty clay with fragmented bedrock inclusions

TP8	E-W	3m x 0.5m x 1.0m	<p>Topsoil= 0.30m Dark greyish brown sandy silt loam with moderate rounded stones and occasional large stones, charcoal, pottery and tile</p> <p>B Horizon= 0.70m Mid brown to mid reddish brown sandy silt with medium rounded and sub-angular stones.</p> <p>Natural= reddish orange silty clay with fragmented bedrock inclusions.</p>
TP 9	E-W	3m x 0.5m	<p>Topsoil= 0.30m Dark greyish brown sandy silt loam with moderate rounded stones and occasional large stones, charcoal, pottery and tile</p> <p>B Horizon= 0.70m Mid brown to mid reddish brown sandy silt with medium rounded and sub-angular stones.</p> <p>Natural= reddish orange silty clay with fragmented bedrock inclusions.</p>
BH1	-	0.5m x 0.5m x 0.5m	<p>Topsoil= 0.30m Dark greyish brown sandy silt loam with moderate rounded stones and occasional large stones, charcoal, pottery and tile</p> <p>Natural= reddish orange silty clay with fragmented bedrock inclusions.</p>
BH2	-	0.5m x 0.5m x 0.5m	<p>Topsoil= 0.30m Dark greyish brown sandy silt loam with moderate rounded stones and occasional large stones, charcoal, pottery and tile</p> <p>Natural= reddish orange silty clay with fragmented bedrock inclusions.</p>
BH3	-	0.5m x 0.5m x 0.5m	<p>Topsoil= 0.30m Dark greyish brown sandy silt loam with moderate rounded stones and occasional large stones, charcoal, pottery and tile</p> <p>Natural= reddish orange silty clay with fragmented bedrock inclusions.</p>

1.2 Photographic register

Shot	Facing	CS	Description
1	S	X	Test-pit 8 - section
2	SE	X	Test-pit 8 – general shot
3	S	X	Test-pit 7 - section
4	SE	X	Test-pit 7 – general shot
5	S	X	Test-pit 6 - section
6	S	X	Test-pit 6 – general shot
7	N	X	Test-pit 3 - section
8	S	X	Test-pit 3 – general shot
9	S	X	Test-pit 4 - section
10	S	X	Test-pit 4 – general shot
11	S	X	Test-pit 5 - section
12	SW	X	Test-pit 5 – general shot
13	NE	X	Test-pit 1 - section
14	S	X	Test-pit 1 – general shot
15	N	X	Test-pit 2 - section
16	S	X	Test-pit 2 – general shot
17	E	X	General shot of the area
18	N	X	General shot of the area
19	S	X	General shot of the area
20	S	X	General shot of the area
21	S	X	General shot of the area
22	W	X	General shot of the area
23	W	X	General shot of the area