

CTBN14/002

25 CASTLE TERRACE, BERWICK UPON TWEED

*Archaeological Watching Brief  
for Nash Partnership*

*August 2015*

# 25 CASTLE TERRACE, BERWICK UPON TWEED

## *Archaeological Monitoring*

*August 2015*

HA Job no.: CTBN14  
HAS no.: 002  
NGR: NGR: NT 99082 53695:  
Parish: Berwick-upon-Tweed  
Council: Northumberland County  
Council  
OASIS ref.: Headland1-177223

Archive will be deposited with: NCC

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## CONTENTS

25 CASTLE TERRACE, BERWICK UPON TWEED .....	2
25 CASTLE TERRACE, BERWICK UPON TWEED .....	3
25 CASTLE STREET, BERWICK UPON TWEED .....	1
Archaeological Monitoring .....	1
1..... INTRODUCTION .....	2
2..... SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION .....	2
3..... ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND .....	2
4..... AIMS & OBJECTIVES .....	2
5..... METHODOLOGY .....	3
6..... RESULTS .....	3
7..... DISCUSSION .....	3
8..... REFERENCES .....	4
9..... APPENDICES .....	5
9.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers .....	5
<i>Photographic register</i> .....	5
<i>Context register</i> .....	7
<i>Trench register</i> .....	7

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- 1 – Site location
- 2 – View of eastern facing soil profile in Trench 1
- 3 – View of foundation trenches in eastern half of building footprint (Trench 1), from north-east
- 4 – View of south-eastern part of Trench 2, from south-east
- 5 – View of Trench 2 curvature, from north
- 6 – View of junction between Trenches 2 and 3, from west
- 7 – View of Trench 3, from south-east
- 8 – View of north limit of Trench 4, from south

# 25 CASTLE STREET, BERWICK UPON TWEED

## Archaeological Monitoring

### *Summary*

*Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Nash Partnership to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring at 25 Castle Terrace, Berwick-upon-Tweed in order to fulfil a condition attached to a planning application (ref 14/00511/FUL). The site is located immediately west of a scheduled medieval church and graveyard at 21-23 Castle Terrace (ref 1019902). The development involved the demolition of the current dwelling and construction of a larger dwelling at the same location. The groundworks included the excavation of trenches varying between 0.95m and 1.7m depth for building foundations and associated services.*

*Despite the archaeological potential of the site due its proximity to the scheduled monument and also the known medieval settlement of Bondington, no archaeological features were identified during the work.*

*The groundworks revealed significant previous disturbance to the northern half of the site, particularly levelling activity for the now demolished buildings. It is likely therefore that any archaeological remains would have been removed. In the gardens to the south, there was minimal evidence of disturbance and so the lack of archaeology suggests either none is present or that the development has avoided it.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Nash Partnership to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring at 25 Castle Terrace, Berwick-upon-Tweed in support of a planning application (ref 14/00511/FUL). The proposed development involved the demolition of an existing house and garage at the address and construction of a new dwelling.

The objectives of the monitoring were to provide further information about the archaeological resource and to mitigate adverse impacts on any remains of archaeological interest by submitting them to a programme of excavation and recording.

Fieldwork took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April, and the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 and was undertaken in accordance with current Health and Safety legislation. This report represents the results of those works, undertaken as a watching brief.

## 2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site is located at NGR: NT 99082 53695; 330m 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 around 48m OD and is underlain by sandstone - Fell Sandstone Formation, 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 gardens to the south.

## 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within the settlement of Bondington, an abandoned medieval village which lay outside the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed. Excavations by Headland Archaeology (Jones 2007) identified possible remains relating to Bondington in a programme of excavations located around 500m

northwest of the site; on land adjacent to Cheviot House, Castle Terrace.

A rescue excavation at 21 and 23 Castle Terrace in 1998 (The Archaeological Practice 1999) uncovered upstanding and below-ground remains of a church and multiple burials within an associated graveyard. The excavation was unable to identify boundaries indicating the limit of the graveyard; however a Local Board of Health plan of 1852 depicts a large plot of land south of the Duns Road whose boundaries may reflect the site of the church and graveyard. According to this plan the western boundary of the site is broadly similar to the present western boundary of 23 Castle Terrace, although on a different alignment.

The significance of the archaeological resource lies in the abandonment of the church in the 14th century which means any remains are unlikely to have been disturbed by subsequent burials and / or construction (as occurs with churches that continue to be used).

An archaeological evaluation undertaken at 25 Castle Terrace in advance of the demolition of the dwelling (Wilson 2014) revealed no remains associated with the scheduled church and graveyard to indicate that the site extended into the development area.

Due to the proximity of the development area to known medieval sites including a scheduled monument of national significance, there remained the potential for archaeological deposits to survive that may be impacted by the development.

## 4 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

In general, the purpose of the monitoring is to preserve by record any surviving archaeological remains that will be impacted by the proposed development.

More specific aims include:

- Establishing if any remains associated with the medieval settlement of Bondington survive within the development site

- Establishing if remains of the scheduled church and graveyard site extend into the development site
- Establishing the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the application site.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

All aspects of the work were undertaken in accordance with the current relevant Standards and Guidance for archaeological watching brief of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2014), and in line with current Health and Safety Legislation. Excavations were undertaken by a mechanical excavator under constant archaeological supervision.

## 6 RESULTS

The principle groundwork excavations comprised trenches for foundations and services within the development area. A total of four trenches were excavated (Illus. 1) comprising approximately 62.5m<sup>2</sup>. Trench one was excavated for the foundations of the new dwelling, while the remaining trenches were dug to contain services.

### *Trench 1 & Remaining building footprint*

Trench 1 was excavated for new foundations at the eastern edge of the site to a depth of 1.7m below present ground level. It revealed sterile geological subsoil (003) of brownish grey silty clay, exposed at 1.3m depth. It was sealed by orange sandy clay (002), up to 0.75m thickness. Deposit (002) also appeared sterile and was interpreted as a redeposited layer similar to that identified in an adjacent trench during the previous evaluation phase (Wilson 2014). Overlying this was a mixed deposit (001) containing topsoil and rubble that derived from construction and demolition of the previous building. Monitoring of the remaining building footprint during grubbing out works identified a similar soil profile with no archaeological remains identified.

### *Trenches 2 and 3*

Trenches 2 (Illus. 4 and 5) and 3 (Illus. 6 and 7), excavated in the western half of the rear gardens for services, reached a maximum depth of 1 m. They revealed sterile, silty clay deposits of geological subsoil (006) and (005) under 0.2m of topsoil (004). No features of archaeological significance were identified.

### *Trench 4*

Trench 4 (Illus. 8) to the north-eastern edge of the site was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. It revealed geological subsoil of compact orangey brown silty clay (006) underlying a mixed levelling deposit (007) of silty clay with fragments of modern brick, pottery and general debris; 0.6m-1m deep.

## 7 DISCUSSION

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

The negative results of this watching brief confirm those of the previous evaluation, namely that remains associated with the church and graveyard do not seem to extend into the proposed development area and are limited to the scheduled boundary. In addition, no additional medieval settlement features were identified.

The soil profiles in the building footprint and garden ground to the north suggest that previous landscaping and levelling of the site (particularly for construction of the now demolished buildings) has resulted in removal of all upper soil deposits that may have contained archaeological remains.

The soil profile in the garden ground to the south-west indicated significantly less disturbance, however no archaeology was recorded. This may be a consequence of none being present in the area or that archaeological deposits that do survive have been avoided by the development.

## 8 REFERENCES

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

CIfA 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 for Nash Partnership*, Unpublished client report (CTBN14)

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

## 9 APPENDICES

### 9.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

#### *Photographic register*

Photo no.	Direction	Description
1		Side identification shot
2	E	View of borehole no. 1
3	E	General view of borehole no. 1
4	W	General view of borehole drilling machine
5	SE	General view of site
6	NE	General view of crew drilling borehole no. 2
7	E	View of bridge from bottom of garden
8		View of borehole no. 2
9		View of borehole no. 3
10	NW	Working shot of machine grubbing out foundations
11	W	Working shot of machine grubbing out foundations
12	W	Working shot of machine grubbing out foundations
13	W	View of ground surface after machine removed foundations
14	N	View of ground surface after machine removed foundations
15	S	Working shot of machine grubbing out foundations
16	W	View of ground surface after machine removed foundations
17	W	View of natural subsoil underneath made ground NE corner of building footprint
18	W	Working shot of machine
19	S	General view of area eastern half of site
20	W	Natural subsoil visible in NE corner of building footprint
21	NW	View of natural subsoil centre of building footprint
22	N	Natural subsoil visible in centre and west of building footprint
23	W	Working shot of machine grubbing out foundations western half of building footprint
24	NE	View of patch of subsoil centre of building footprint
25	N	View of patch of subsoil NW half of building footprint
26	N	Close-up view of patch of subsoil NW part of building footprint
27	SW	Working shot of machine grubbing out foundations western half of building footprint
28	NE	General view of centre and east of building footprint
29	NW	View of south-eastern corner of building footprint
30	W	View of south-eastern corner natural subsoil barely visible
31	NW	View of south-western corner of building footprint
32	N	View of soil profile western edge of building footprint
33	N	View of soil profile western edge of building footprint
34	W	View of south-western corner of building footprint
35	E	General view of southern part of building footprint
36	W	General view of south-western part of building footprint
37	NE	View of natural subsoil in south-western corner of building footprint
38	N	Working shot of machine reducing ground surface western edge of building footprint



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Photo no.	Direction	Description
40	N	View of foundation trenches eastern half of building footprint
41	W	View of foundation trenches south-eastern corner of building footprint
42	NW	View of east facing soil profile in trench 1
43	NW	View of pit excavated for steel support pillar eastern half of building footprint
44	NW	View of soil profile in pit
45	W	View of eastern facing soil profile in pit
46	N	View of foundation trenches eastern half of building footprint
47	N	View of southern facing soil profile in pit
48	W	View of foundation trenches north-eastern half of building footprint
49	S	View of foundation trenches eastern half of building footprint
50	S	General site view western half of building footprint
51	S	General site view central part of building footprint
52	SE	General site view eastern half of building footprint
53		Site identification shot
54	NW	General view of south part of site (garden area) before works started with drawn trench 2 line
55	SE	General view of south part of site (garden area) before works started with drawn trench 2 line
56	SE	General view of south part of site (garden area) before works started with drawn trench 2 line
57	N	Beginning of works
58	W	Site view from east (garden area)
59	NW	Work shot, view of trench 2 from south-east
60	NE	View of SW-facing soil profile of trench 2 (SE-NW part of trench)
61	NW	Work shot, view of trench 2 from south-east
62	SW	View of NE-facing soil profile of trench 2 (SE-NW part of trench)
63	NW	Work shot close to an end of trench's first part (SE-NW)
64	NE	Work shot - works on SW-NE part of trench 2
65	NW	View of SE-facing soil profile of trench 2 (SW-NE part of trench)
66	S	Turn of trench 2 (from SE-NW to SW-NE alignment)
67	N	Work shot - close to an end of monitoring of trench 2
68	NE	Work shot - stage of an end of monitoring of trench 2
69	E	Western end of trench 3
70	NW	South-eastern end of trench 3
71	NE	Western end of trench 4
72	SSW	Southern end of trench 4

*Context register*

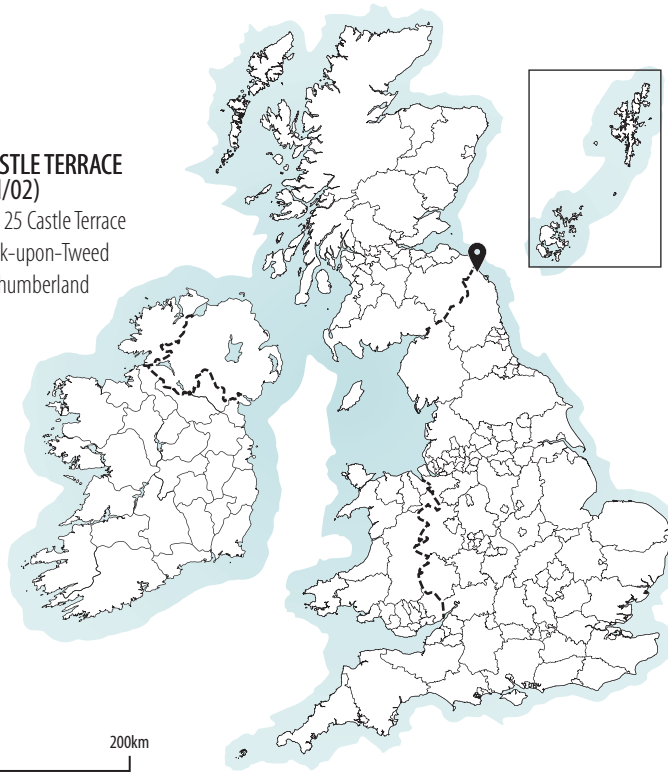
Context no.	Area	Description
001	Tr 1	A layer of compacted soil with rubble after grubbing out the old dwelling foundations. Up to 0.55m deep. Recorded above sandy subsoil (002).
002	Tr 1	Geological subsoil (possibly redeposited) consisting of moderately stony mid orange sandy clay, up to 0.75m deep. Recorded below (001) and above natural geology (003).
003	Tr 1	Geological subsoil formed of moderately stony mid brownish grey silty clay. Recorded below (002) and exposed to 0.25m depth.
004	Tr 2, 3	Compacted topsoil consisting of dark reddish brown sandy loam with occasional stone inclusions. Up to 0.25m. Recorded above (005).
005	Tr 2, 3	Geological subsoil formed of moderately stony compacted mid reddish brown silty clay. Up to 0.3m. Recorded above natural deposit (006), below topsoil (005).
006	Tr 2, 3, 4	Geological subsoil formed of compacted moderately stony mid brownish orange silty clay. Recorded below deposit (005) in trenches 2 and 3, in trench 4 below made ground (007).
007	Tr 4	Made ground 0.6m to 1.0m deep, compacted, mixed deposit of dark brown silty clay with occasional pieces of modern bricks, pottery and general debris. Recorded above natural geology (006) in trench 4.

*Trench register*

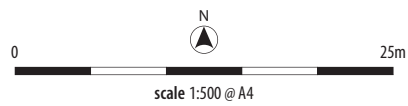
Trench no.	Alignment	Description
Trench 1	N-S	Trench 1 comprises a system of connected trenches on area 10.0m long and 5.0m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.7m. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded. Three distinct deposits – (001), (002) and (003) identified in the section.
Trench 2	SE-NW / SW-NE	Trench 2 is 40.0m long, 0.7m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.95m. First southern 15.0m run from SE to NW, then change alignment. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded. In the section three distinct deposits – (004), (005) and (006) identified.
Trench 3	SE-NW / ESE-WNW	Trench 3 is 7.0m long, 0.3m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.95m. It connects to south-eastern part of trench 2 and from it runs from WNW to ESE to change alignment after 2.0m. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded and in the section three distinct deposits – (004), (005), (006) identified.
Trench 4	SSW-NNE	Trench 4 is 12.0m long, 0.3m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded. In the section two deposits identified – (006) and (007).

**25 CASTLE TERRACE  
(CTBN/02)**

land at 25 Castle Terrace  
Berwick-upon-Tweed  
Norththumberland



- KEY**
- development boundary
  - trench location
  - previous trial trenching



SCOTLAND

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ILLUS 1  
Site location

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**ILLUS 2**

View of eastern facing soil profile in Trench 1

**ILLUS 3**

View of foundation trenches in eastern half of building footprint (Trench 1), from NE

**ILLUS 4**

View of south-eastern part of Trench 2, from SE





ILLUS 5

View of Trench 2 curvature, from N

ILLUS 6

View of junction between Trenches 2 and 3, from W

ILLUS 7

View of Trench 3, from SE

ILLUS 8

View of north limit of Trench 4, from S