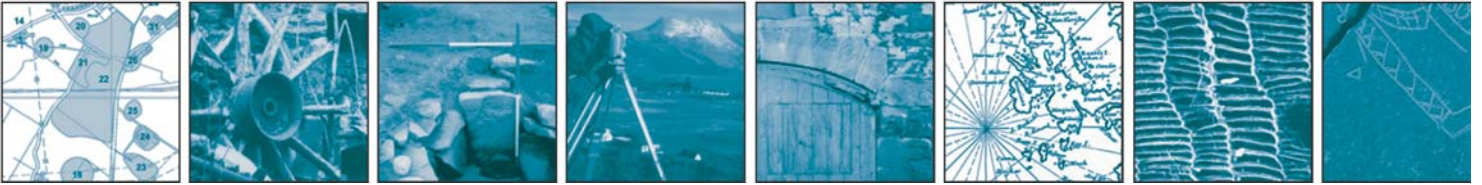


Project Code: SSD06
Date: April 2008
Client: Bourne Leisure Ltd

SAP 0536



Seton Sands Caravan Park, East Lothian: Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

Edward Bailey

Date: April 2008
Client: Bourne Leisure Ltd.
Project Code: SSD06

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Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

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PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET (SSD06)

Client	Bourne Leisure Ltd
National grid reference	<i>NT 42275, 75670</i>
Project Manager	Simon Stronach
Text	Eddie Bailey
Illustrations	Linn Breslin Tom Small
Fieldwork	Eddie Bailey James McMeekin John McCarthy
Finds	Julie Lochrie
Schedule	
Fieldwork	25 th – 27 th March 2008
Report	April 2008

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Summary

This report describes the results of an archaeological field evaluation undertaken to satisfy a planning condition attached to an application by the landowners, Bourne Leisure, to develop land adjacent to Seton Sands Caravan Park, East Lothian. The nature of the development is an extension to the existing caravan park.

There were no known sites within the proposed development area although its environs contain a high concentration of features of cultural heritage interest. The key archaeological feature in the environs of the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 6191), a substantial and complex cropmark enclosure adjacent to Seton Mains and immediately south of the site.

Evaluation of the site yielded no features of archaeological interest and it is concluded that the development area has a low archaeological potential.

1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Bourne Leisure to undertake an archaeological evaluation to fulfil planning condition 3 of planning permission reference number 06/00753/FUL for the expansion of the caravan park at Seton Sands, East Lothian. A method statement for the excavation was agreed with the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service. The site lies within an area of high archaeological sensitivity.

This report details the results of this evaluation, carried out between from the 25th to the 27th of March 2008.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The development area was located in the northeast corner of an open field in Seton Sands, East Lothian. It is situated at the base of the slope of a low hill, which rises to the south and measures approximately 1423 sq metres. At the crest of the hill is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 6191) that consists of a prehistoric enclosure. The site is bordered to the north by Seton Sands Caravan Park, to the east by a stream and to the west and south by open field.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

During 2006, a Desk Based Assessment and some targeted trial trenching was carried out by Headland Archaeology to assess and evaluate the archaeological potential of a larger area that contained within it the development area evaluated as part of these works (Dutton, 2006). This was carried out on behalf of Bourne Leisure in advance of a planning application.

The Desk Based Assessment identified two listed buildings on the edge of, and three potential sites within, the proposed outline application area. The historic buildings are the Seton Collegiate Kirk and Seton House and gardens, both on the eastern boundary of the fields. The three potential sites were located at the east and west margins of the application area, and to the south of the area evaluated as part of these works. Two were possible cropmark sites and the third was around the margins of the Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The 2006 trenching targeted these known sites in order to determine their nature and extent. The evaluation identified some features on the margins of the scheduled monument. Of the other two cropmark sites one exhibited some features of archaeological interest.

4. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the evaluation were:

- to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the development area
- if present to determine the nature, extent and significance of any remains in order to inform an appropriate mitigation strategy

5. METHODOLOGY

The evaluation entailed trial trenching by mechanical excavator under direct archaeological supervision to investigate a 5% sample of the development area. Eight trenches were excavated in total with a combined length of 712 m of linear trench. The trenches were targeted to provide even coverage of the development area (figure 1).

A 360° excavator equipped with a 2m wide flat bladed ditching bucket was used to remove topsoil. Excavation continued until natural glacial deposits were encountered. To avoid flooding trenches field drains were left in situ. The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full. Trenches that were below 1.2m deep or otherwise considered unsafe were recorded in plan and not entered. Both digital and archive quality colour transparency photographs were taken of all trenches. Trenches were recorded using a field computer running Penmap controlling a Leica 705 total station.

As the site was within open field accessible to the public trenches were backfilled at the end of each day.

6. RESULTS

General

A total of eight trenches varying in length between 50m and 132m and up to 1.65m deep were excavated (full descriptions in Appendix 1). Ploughsoil between 0.40m and 0.50m in depth was encountered across the site, this overlay colluvial deposits of silty sand between 0.40m and 1.20m thick. These in turn overlay coarse sand deposits between 0.10-0.60m thick over clay till. A beach deposit of shell and gravel between 0.10m and 0.30m in thickness was recorded in the north western half of trench 5.

Field Drains

Drainage features, consisting of stone filled drains and one ceramic drain, pertaining to relatively recent field improvements, were the only manmade features recorded during the evaluation. These features occurred in the western corner of the development area in trenches 3, 6, 7, and 8 their location and alignment was recorded. They are not illustrated in this report

Archaeological Features

No features of archaeological interest were recorded during the evaluation

Finds

A number of finds of modern origin were recovered from the plough soil including disarticulated animal bones, probably from modern animal burials disturbed by ploughing. Pottery fragments of 19th and 20th century origin were also recovered.

Two pieces of struck flint (appendix 3) were recovered from the topsoil in trench 4. They had probably travelled into the site within soil moving down slope from the north because of ploughing and natural erosion. This process is also suggested by the depth of deposits encountered in the trenches.

7. Discussion

No features other than field drains were recorded on site. The depth of deposits over glacial sediments (till) was fairly consistent at approximately 1.2m, with deeper and higher points appearing to reflect natural irregularities. Following the end of the last glacial period the area was raised beach and as sea levels dropped windblown sand accumulated. These sands were sealed by colluvium; material washing downslope from the south. The colluvium was sealed by ploughsoil, which reflects the area being cultivated. From the artefacts recovered this cultivation is likely to have started in the 18th or 19th century.

The significant depth of the deposits above the naturally accumulating sands reflects erosion of deposits upslope to the south as a result of natural erosion and ploughing. This will have adversely affected the preservation of the known archaeological monuments to the south.

The depth of deposits in the evaluated area would have preserved any archaeological remains should any have been present, and the lack of remains is interpreted as a genuine absence rather than reflecting erosion. The two pieces of worked flint recovered on the site will have travelled into the site as a result of soil movement from the south.

REFERENCES

Dutton, A 2006, *Seton Sand, East Lothian: Results of an Archaeological Desk-based Study and Evaluation*, Headland Archaeology Ltd, Unpublished client report.

APPENDIX 1. TRENCH STATISTICS**TRENCH: 1** **Orientation: NW-SE**

Length (m): 100
 Width (m): 2
 Max. Depth: 1.65
 Ave. Depth: 1.50

ARCHAEOLOGICALLY STERILE

Context no.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
1	Ploughsoil	0.40-0.50
2	Silty Sand Subsoil (Colluvium)	1.10-1.25

TRENCH: 2 **Orientation: NE-SW**

Length (m): 100
 Width (m): 2
 Max. Depth: 1.35
 Ave. Depth: 1.2

Context no.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
1	Ploughsoil	0.4-0.45
2	Silty Sand Subsoil (Colluvium)	0.80-0.90

ARCHAEOLOGICALLY STERILE**TRENCH: 3** **Orientation: NE-SW**

Length (m): 60
 Width (m): 2
 Max. Depth: 1.45
 Ave. Depth: 1.2

Context no.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
1	Ploughsoil	0.4-0.45
2	Silty Sand Subsoil (Colluvium)	0.40
3	Sand deposit	0.60

ARCHAEOLOGICALLY STERILE**TRENCH: 4** **Orientation: NE-SW**

Length (m): 50
 Width (m): 2

Max. Depth: 1.6
Ave. Depth: 1.4

Context no.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
1	Ploughsoil	0.30-0.40
2	Silty sand Subsoil (Colluvium)	0.70
3	Sand deposit	0.10-0.20
4	Clay till	0.30

ARCHAEOLOGICALLY STERILE

TRENCH: 5 **Orientation:** E-W

Length (m): 120
Width (m): 2
Max. Depth: 1.60
Ave. Depth: 1.30

Context no.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
1	Ploughsoil	0.30-0.45
2	Silty Sand Subsoil (Colluvium)	0.60-0.70
6	Beach deposit of shell and gravel	0.10-0.30
4	Glacial clay till	0.30

FEATURES

5 Rubble Drain N-S aligned

TRENCH: 6 **Orientation:** E-W

Length (m): 132
Width (m): 2
Max. Depth: 1.3
Ave. Depth: 1.1

Context no.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
1	Ploughsoil	0.4-0.45
2	Silty Sand Subsoil (Colluvium)	0.60-0.70
3	Sand deposit	0.10-0.20
4	Glacial clay till	0.10

FEATURES

7 Rubble drain NE-SW aligned
 8 Rubble drain NW-SE aligned

TRENCH: 7 **Orientation: N-S**

Length (m): 60
Width (m): 2
Max. Depth: 1.2
Ave. Depth: 1.1

Context no.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
1	Ploughsoil	0.40
2	Silty Sand Subsoil (Colluvium)	0.90
3	Sand deposit	0.10
4	Glacial clay till	0.10

FEATURES

9	Ceramic field drain NE-SW aligned
10	Rubble field drain E-W aligned

TRENCH: 8 **Orientation: E-W**

Length (m): 60
Width (m): 2
Max. Depth: 1.2
Ave. Depth: 1.1

Context no.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
1	Ploughsoil	0.35-40
2	Silty Sand Subsoil (Colluvium)	0.70
3	Sand deposit	0.20-0.30

FEATURES

11	Rubble drain NE-SW aligned
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APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER**Film 1: Colour Print and Colour Slide**

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Facing</i>	<i>Description</i>
1		ID Shot
2	S	Trench 1
3	N	Trench 1
4	E	Trench 1, representative section
5	W	Trench 2
6	N	Trench 2, representative section
7	E	Trench 2
8	W	Working shot trench 3
9	W	Trench 3
10	S	Trench 3, representative section
11	E	Trench 3
12	E	Trench 4
13	S	Trench 4, representative section
14	N	Trench 5, rubble drain
15	N	Trench 5, representative section
16	E	Trench 5
17	E	Trench 5, midway
18	W	Trench 6, first 54m
19	W	Trench 6, remainder
20	S	Trench 7
21	E	Trench 8
22	W	Trench 8
23	NW	General Shot of development area showing slope
24	NW	Working Shot
25	W	Working Shot

APPENDIX 3: FINDS REPORT

Julie Lochrie

During the evaluation two pieces of flint were recovered and are described below. They are both evidence for prehistoric flint knapping showing different stages in lithic reduction. Unfortunately the flake is a fragmentary proximal end, this and the small number makes analysis limited

Table 1. Finds List

Finds List

Area	Context	Material	Quantity	Description	Period
TR 4	001	Flint	2	Flint flake. Secondary flake; proximal end; diffuse bulb; simple unprepared platform; edge damage; poss proximal end of blade Flint. Amorphous core, extensive edge damage, poss utilised	PH

APPENDIX 4: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Seton Sands
PROJECT CODE:	SSD06
PARISH:	Tranent
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Edward Bailey
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	NT 42275, 75670
START DATE (this season)	25 th March 2008
END DATE (this season)	27 th March 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Dutton A, 2006, (DES 2006, 62)
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An Archaeological field evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to Seton Sands Caravan Park, East Lothian as part of a planning condition attached to a proposed extension to the Caravan Park.</p> <p>There were no known sites within the proposed development area although an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment and evaluation undertaken during 2006 indicate that the environs of the site contain a high concentration of features of cultural heritage interest (headland 2006). The key archaeological feature in the environs of the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 6191), a substantial and complex cropmark enclosure adjacent to Seton Mains and immediately south of the site.</p> <p>The evaluation of the site consisted of the excavation of 8 linear trenches, sampling 5% of the development area. No features of archaeological interest were encountered and it is concluded that the development area is archeologically sterile.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Bourne Leisure Ltd
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Headland Archaeology Ltd, 13 Jane St, Edinburgh. EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	office@headlandarchaeology.com

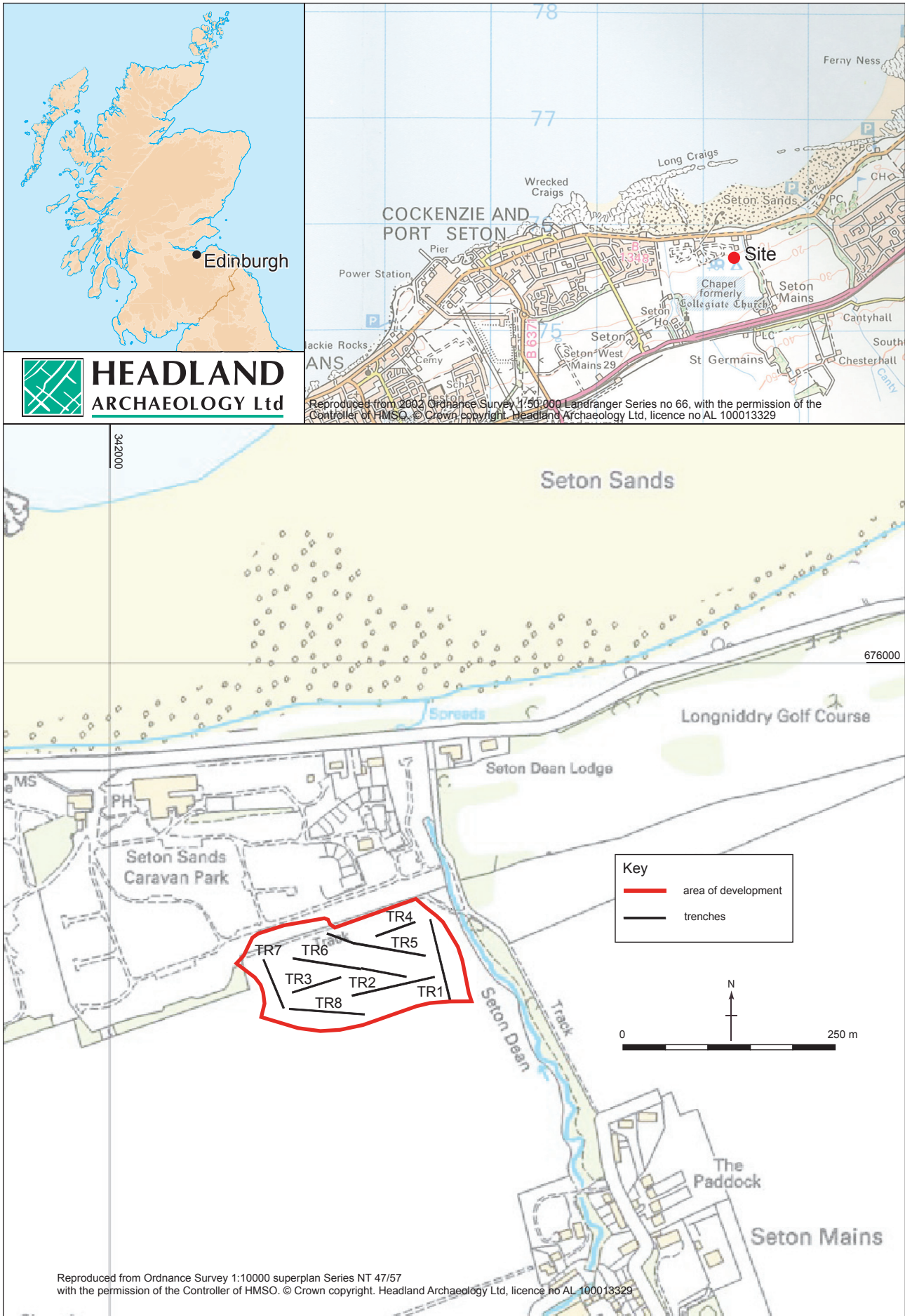


Figure 1: Seton Sands, East Lothian (SSD06) - Seton Sands Caravan Park Development area and trench plan