

Project Code: OTWL09
Planning Application Ref No: 08/01846/REM
Date of report: January 2010
Client: Tinto Construction Ltd



DATA STRUCTURE REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS ON LAND NORTHEAST OF OLD TOLL, KIRKURD, WEST LINTON

Alistair Robertson
MA (Hons)



HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

<i>Client</i>	TINTO CONSTRUCTION LTD
<i>National Grid Reference</i>	NT 1244 4437
<i>Address</i>	LAND NORTHEAST OF OLD TOLL, KIRKURD, WEST LINTON
<i>Parish</i>	KIRKURD
<i>Council</i>	SCOTTISH BORDERS
<i>Planning Application Ref No</i>	08/01846/REM
<i>NMRS No</i>	NT14SW 37
<i>Oasis No</i>	HEADLAND1-70752
<i>SMR No</i>	405005203
<i>HB/SAM No</i>	N/A
<i>Listing Category</i>	N/A
<i>Project Manager</i>	SIMON STRONACH
<i>Text</i>	ALISTAIR ROBERTSON, ARCHAEOLOGIST
<i>Illustrations</i>	JÜRGEN VAN WESSEL, ILLUSTRATOR
<i>Typesetting</i>	CAROLINE NORRMAN, GRAPHICS MANAGER
<i>Fieldwork</i>	ALISTAIR ROBERTSON, ARCHAEOLOGIST
<i>Specialists</i>	N/A
<i>Schedule</i>	
<i>Fieldwork</i>	21 ST DECEMBER 2009
<i>Report</i>	DECEMBER 2009

Signed off by:

Simon Stronach BSc(Hons) MIFA, Project Manager

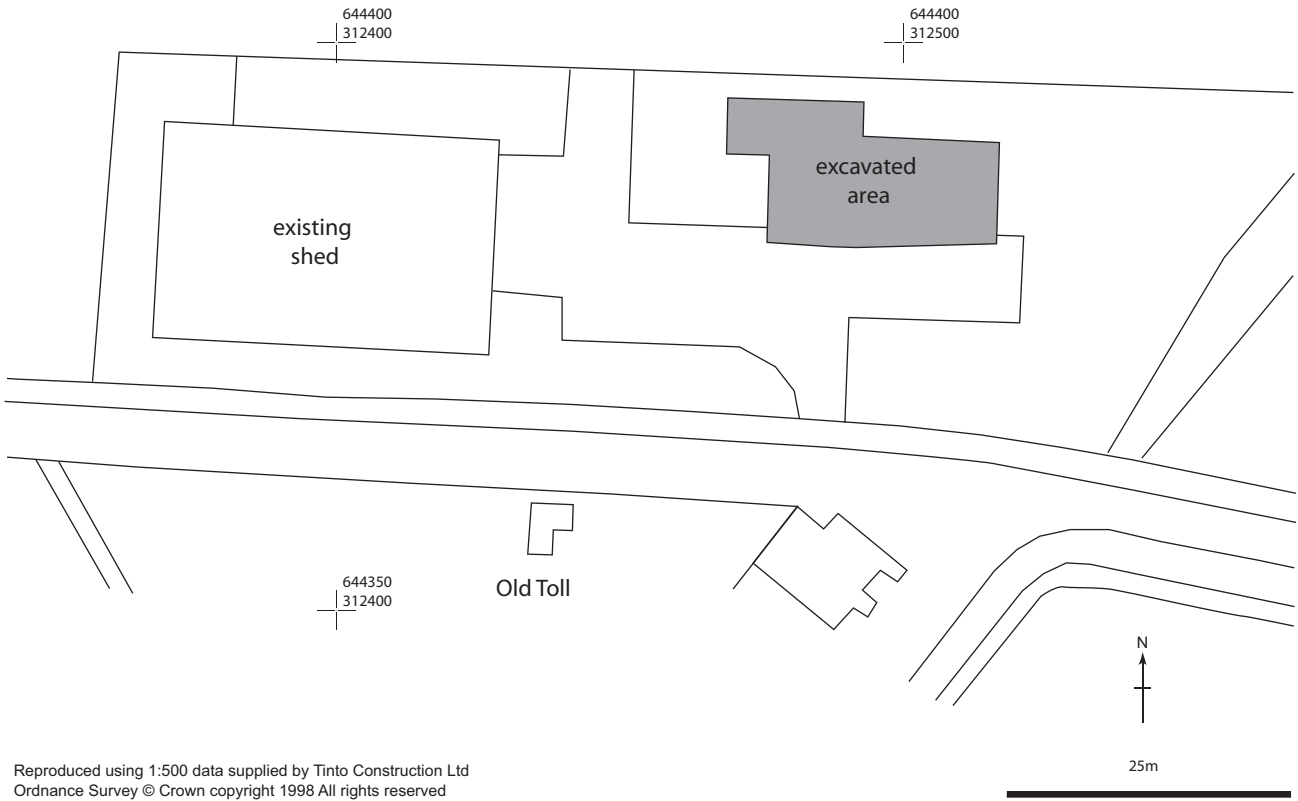
Date:.....

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Illus 1
Location plan

DATA STRUCTURE REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS ON LAND NORTHEAST OF OLD TOLL, KIRKURD, WEST LINTON

by Alistair Robertson

Headland Archaeology Ltd undertook monitoring of the machine cleaning of a stripped area for a single house plot on land northeast of Old Toll, Kirkurd on behalf of Tinto Construction Ltd.

The development site fell within an area recorded as the location of a large Roman temporary camp in the Scottish Borders Sites and Monuments Record (405005203) and National Monuments Record of Scotland (NT14SW 37). In addition, a number of prehistoric sites have been recorded in the immediate vicinity.

In accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist, an area approximately 23m by 10m was stripped of any remaining topsoil and the underlying subsoil scraped to expose any surviving archaeological features. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were revealed during the programme of works.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned to carry out archaeological monitoring of the machine cleaning of an area already partially stripped of topsoil in advance of the erection of a dwelling house at Kirkurd, West Linton, Scottish Borders. The work was carried out in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent (No.4) and adhered to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The development site (NGR NT 1244 4437) was located on a parcel of land to the northeast of Old Toll, Kirkurd. It is bounded to the east by a wooded area, to the west by a farm shed and to the south by a minor road to Kirkud (Illus 1). The ground is level, with the topography rising to the north of the site. It appeared to be under rough pasture, but was covered in a thick blanket of snow at the time of fieldwork.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The development footprint lies within an area recorded as the location of a large Roman Temporary Camp in the Scottish Borders Sites and Monuments Record (405005203) and NMRS (NT14SW 37). The ditches associated with this site have been recorded as cropmarks and oblique aerial photographs of the site appear to show that the development lies close to the southeast corner

of the putative fort. Another cropmark interpreted as another temporary camp within this larger fort lies a short distance to the north of the site. A previous watching brief for the farm shed to the immediate west of the proposed dwelling did not reveal any archaeological features (Chris Bowles pers. comm.).

A number of probable prehistoric features have been recorded in the immediate vicinity: a short distance (around 60 m) to the south of the development is a stone circle that is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (2697). Several cropmark sites (a ring ditch and two enclosures) have also been recorded.

4 AIMS AND METHODS

The aim of the archaeological works was to ensure the development area was fully cleared of topsoil and the subsoil cleaned to allow for the identification and recording of any archaeological features that would be affected by construction. In view of the archaeological background of the site the potential for recovery of artefacts was enhanced by a rapid metal detector survey of the resulting spoil.

The groundworks were carried out using a JCB fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket, operating under continuous archaeological supervision. Where topsoil had only been partially removed, the remainder of the deposit was excavated down to the underlying subsoil. In areas completely stripped of topsoil, the subsoil was carefully scraped clean to allow for identification of any surviving archaeological features.

5 RESULTS

An area approximately 23m by 10m was excavated down to subsoil, which was then scraped clean. The topsoil comprised 0.2-0.4m of dark brown clayey silt, with occasional stone inclusions. Underlying that was undisturbed geological deposits comprising reddish brown gravels, boulder clay and fractured sandstone - interpreted as glaciofluvial deposits.

No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the programme of works.

6 DISCUSSION

The development area would appear to be in a suitable location for human settlement- on relatively high, well draining ground- as attested by its setting within a presumed Roman temporary camp and its close proximity to known prehistoric sites. Although the area had been partially stripped of topsoil this does not appear to have disturbed any archaeological features. In some parts of the site the lower part of topsoil remained and a simple sequence of homogenised (well-mixed by ploughing and bioturbation) topsoil over parent subsoil was observed. There was potential for cut features to survive but none were observed. Presumably if the site lies within a temporary camp no archaeological trace of this survived. In addition, the relatively small size of the development site, approximately 230m², means that settlement remains in the landscape are likely to have been avoided.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Site Records***Photographic Register***

(Colour slides, colour print and digital)

Film 1

Shot No.	Direction	Description
1	-	ID shot
2	E	Working shot showing reddish brown subsoil deposits
3	S	Working shot of excavations
4	N	Landscape immediately north of development area
5	E	Exposed subsoil, also highlighting shallow topsoil depth

Site notes comprise 1 side of A4.

Appendix 2 – DES Entry

DES Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Land northeast of Old Toll, Kirkurd, West Linton, Scottish Borders
PROJECT CODE:	OTWL09
PARISH:	Kirkurd
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Alistair Robertson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT14SW 37
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Roman Temporary Camp
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	n/a
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 Figures)	NT 1244 4437
START DATE (this season)	21st December 2009
END DATE (this season)	21st December 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	–
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken of the machine cleaning of a pre-stripped area in response to a planning condition for the proposed development of a single house plot on land northeast of Old Toll, Kirkurd.</p> <p>The proposed development site falls within an area recorded as the location of a large Roman Temporary Camp in the Scottish Borders SMR (405005203). In addition, a number of prehistoric sites have been recorded in the immediate vicinity.</p> <p>An area 23m by 10m was stripped of the remaining topsoil and the underlying subsoil scraped to expose any surviving archaeological features. The topsoil comprised 0.2-0.4m of dark brown clayey silt, with occasional stone inclusions. Underlying that was undisturbed geological deposits comprising reddish brown gravels, boulder clay and fractured sandstone- interpreted as glaciofluvial deposits.</p> <p>No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were revealed during the programme of works. This does not appear to be a result of the partial stripping of the site prior to archaeological monitoring. It seems that if the site previously lay within a Roman temporary camp then no trace of this survived prior to any development works.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None.
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to be lodged with Scottish Borders SMR and NMRS.
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Tinto Construction Ltd.
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Headland Archaeology Ltd, 13 Jane St, Edinburgh. EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	alistair.robertson@headlandarchaeology.com