

Project Code: CRHK08  
Planning Ref No: 09/0622/FUL  
Date of Report: October 2010  
Client: Halcrow Yolles on behalf of Sainsburys



AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT  
THE SITE OF THE FORMER DANGERFIELD AND  
LANGLANDS MILLS, COMMERCIAL ROAD, HAWICK,  
ROXBURGHSHIRE

Donald Wilson  
*BA AIfA FSA Scot*



**HEADLAND**  
ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

## PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>Client</i>                  | HALCROWYOLLES ON BEHALF OF SAINSBURYS  |
| <i>National Grid Reference</i> | NT 5020 1500                           |
| <i>Address</i>                 | COMMERCIAL ROAD, HAWICK, ROXBURGHSHIRE |
| <i>Parish</i>                  | HAWICK                                 |
| <i>Planning Ref No</i>         | 09/0622/FUL                            |
| <i>NMRS No</i>                 | NT51NW.38, NT51SW.133, NT51SW.228      |
| <i>Oasis No</i>                | HEADLAND1-84282                        |
| <i>Project Manager</i>         | DR. SORINA SPANOU                      |
| <i>Text</i>                    | DONALD WILSON                          |
| <i>Illustrations</i>           | ANNA SZTROMWASSER                      |
| <i>Typesetting</i>             | ANNA SZTROMWASSER                      |
| <i>Schedule</i>                |  |
| <i>Fieldwork</i>               | SEPTEMBER 2010                         |
| <i>Report</i>                  | OCTOBER 2010                           |

*Signed off by:* .....

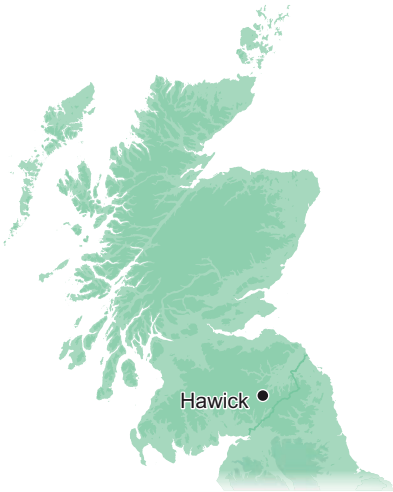
*Dr Sorina Spanou MA(Hons) PhD, Project Manager*

*Date:*.....

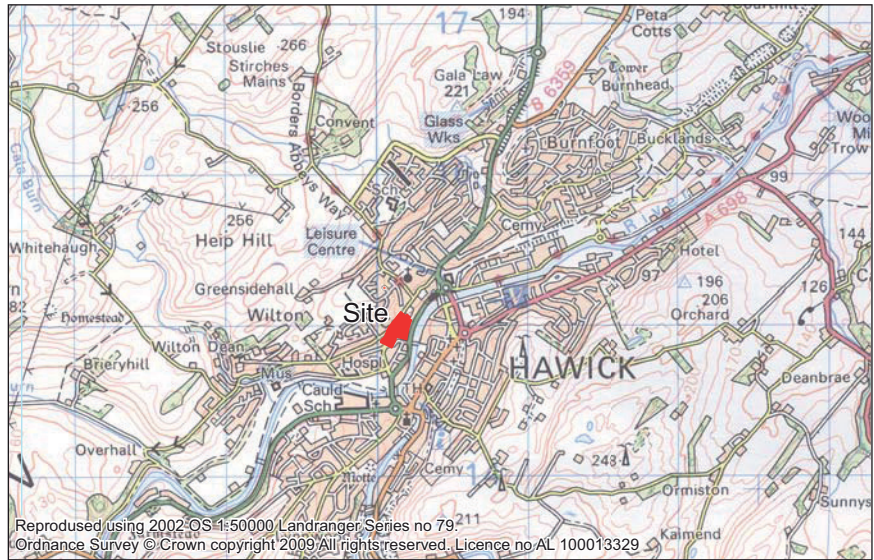


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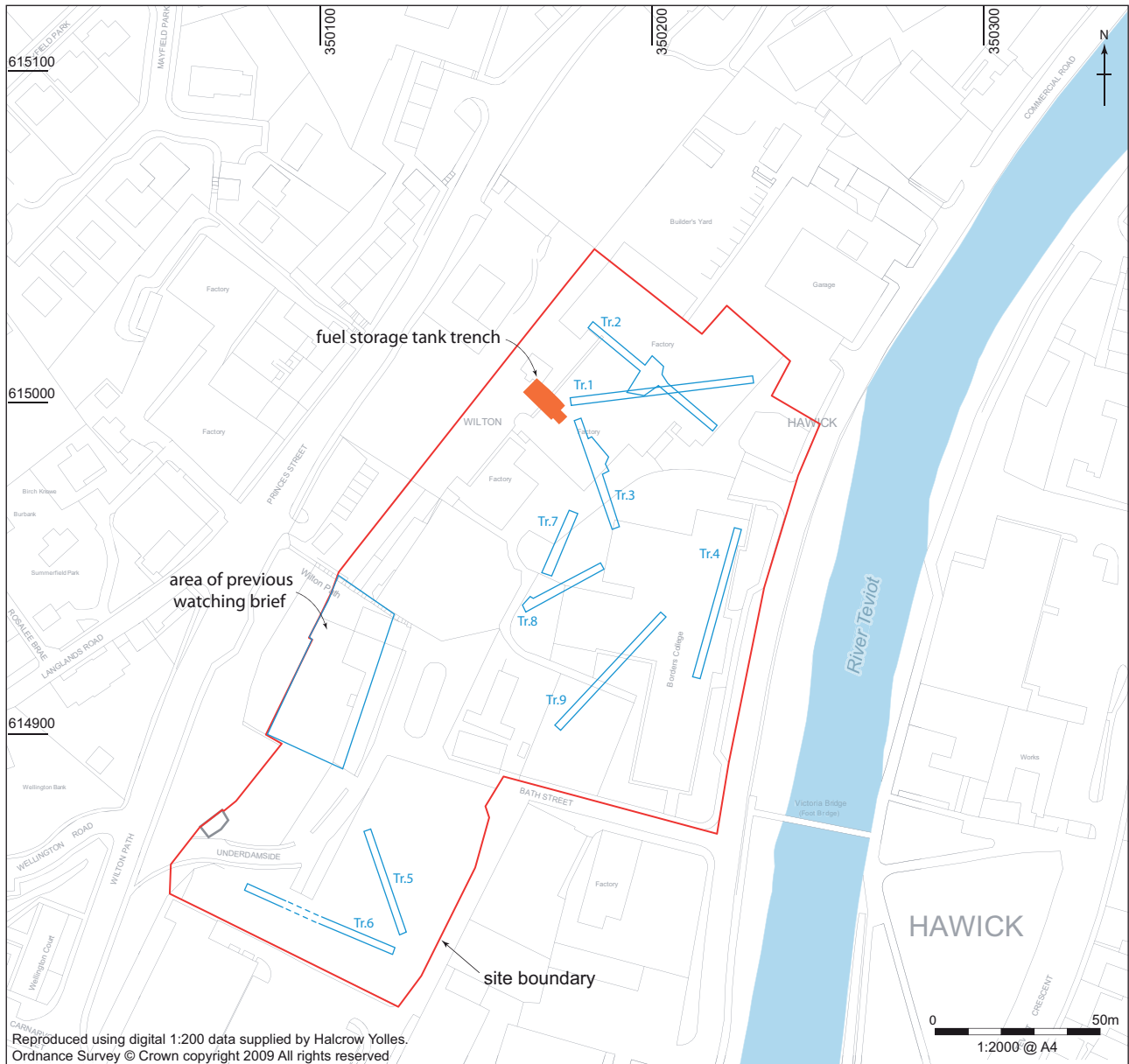
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**Illus 1**  
Site location

# AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT THE SITE OF THE FORMER DANGERFIELD AND LANGLANDS MILLS, COMMERCIAL ROAD, HAWICK, ROXBURGHSHIRE

by Donald Wilson

Headland Archaeology were required to undertake a watching brief on ground breaking works associated with the erection of a Petrol Filling Station at the site of the former Dangerfields and Langlands Mills, Commercial Road, Hawick in order to satisfy a planning condition placed by Scottish Borders Council. The work was commissioned by Halcrow Yolles on behalf of Sainsbury's and followed previous phases of desk-based assessment, historic building recording, trial trenching and an earlier phase of monitoring. The excavation of a large trench was archaeologically monitored revealing stone foundations below a large amount of demolition material and a single rubble stone wall. At no point did the excavations reveal any of the extant mill lade that had been uncovered during the previous evaluation phase of works.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the project

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief on ground breaking works associated with the insertion of fuel storage tanks and the erection of a petrol station at Commercial Road, Hawick, Roxburghshire, Scottish Borders (NGR: NT 5020 1500). The proposed petrol station was to be constructed on a site that is known to contain archaeological remains. This included buildings that had been recently demolished, some of which were associated with Dangerfield Mill and the ruinous remains of Langlands Mill. Both textile mills dated to the early 19th century. The surrounding land formerly contained further mill structures.

Headland Archaeology Ltd was previously commissioned by Halcrow Yolles on behalf of Sainsbury's to carry out archaeological work related to a planning application for a supermarket and car park (09/0622/FUL). The archaeological monitoring works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Headland Archaeology Ltd and agreed with the Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist.

A desk-based assessment followed by a historic building survey recorded the upstanding remains of the buildings associated with the former Dangerfield and Langlands Mills, prior to their demolition in March 2010 (Headland Archaeology unpublished client reports: Borden, A., *Historic Building Recording at the site of Dangerfield and Langlands Mills*. November 2009; Robertson, A., *A desk-based archaeological assessment and site appraisal, Commercial Road, Hawick, Roxburghshire*. October 2008). This was followed by an evaluation by means of trial trenching (Headland

Archaeology unpublished client report: Spanou, S., *An Archaeological Evaluation at the Site of the Former Dangerfield and Langlands Mills, Commercial Road, Hawick, Roxburghshire*. May 2010).

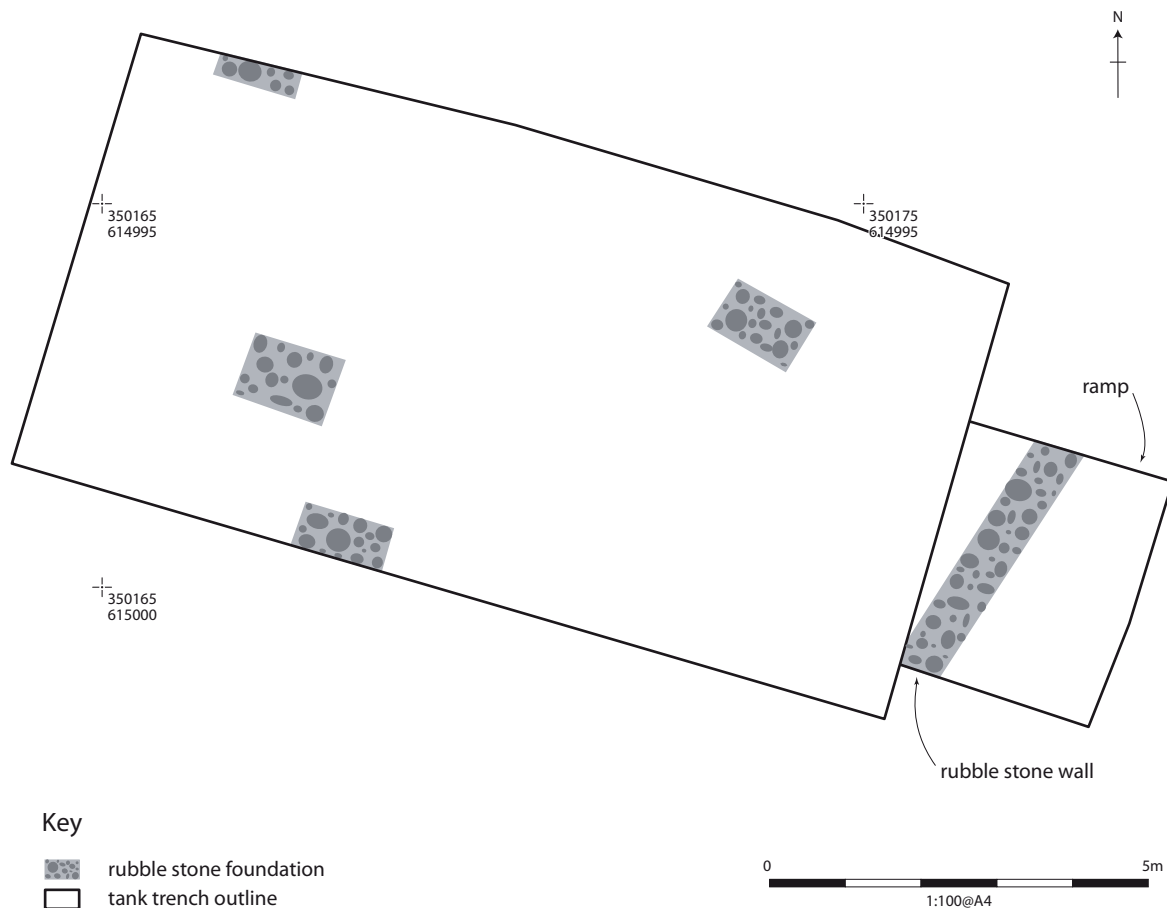
The evaluation established that wall foundations associated with the mills and a well preserved sub-surface lade system underlie parts of the development site. It was determined that no further work was needed in association with the previous planning application as the sensitive remains were located in the area intended for car park where they would be preserved beneath material dumped to raise the finished ground level.

The current planning application concerned the erection of a petrol station in the north-western part of the site. The proposed development consisted of made ground up to 2m above the current ground surface (c.102.250 AOD) with the exception of an area excavated for petrol storage tanks. The proposed depth of the tanks was to be 4m below the finished ground levels (c.2m below existing ground surface, c.102.250 AOD).

### 1.2 Site Location and Description (Illus 1)

The site lies between Wilton Path and Commercial Road, Hawick, Roxburghshire. It is bounded to the north by a car dealership, to the east by Commercial Road and to the west by a steep incline leading to Wilton Path. Bath Street provides a boundary to the southeast. The site had been cleared of any standing buildings and a 2 m deep layer of modern demolition overburden had been spread across the northern half of the site.

A full historic background of the site has been included in the previous reports (Robertson 2008 & Borden 2009) and will not be repeated here.



**Illus 2**  
Plan of excavated area

### 1.3 Objectives

The main objectives of archaeological works were:

- To record any archaeological remains threatened by the proposed development works and.
- To report on the results of the work.

In addition the work

- Took appropriate measures to ensure that the subsurface lade system was preserved in situ where not impacted upon by the ground works, or if that was not possible.
- Ensured that all elements of the affected mill lade system were archaeologically recorded.

### 1.4 Methodology

#### *Archaeological Monitoring*

Ground breaking works associated with the excavation of a trench for the insertion of the petrol storage tanks were archaeologically monitored in order to provide information on any previously unrecorded features of archaeological interest in a relatively unobtrusive manner. Isolated features or artefacts were recorded according to normal watching brief methodology.

The trench for the fuel tanks was excavated using a 16 ton mechanical tracked excavator, suitably equipped with a flat bladed ditching bucket. All ground breaking works were excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and deposits of modern overburden. Machine excavation was to a maximum depth of 1.2m below the geological sub-stratum. All the visible archaeological features cutting the natural geology were recorded prior to the natural geology being excavated.

#### *In Situ protection of the Mill Lade System*

The contractor ensured that the currently exposed mill lade system was fenced off during construction in order to protect it from inadvertent damage. The Council Archaeologist was notified of the date and method of any works within the fenced area.

### 1.5 Recording

All aspects of the recording were undertaken in accordance with the codes of practice of the Institute for Archaeologists.

All contexts were given unique numbers and recorded on pro-forma record cards. Colour transparencies and digital photographs were taken; a graduated metric scale





**Illus 3**  
View of trench location



**Illus 4**  
View of the fuel tank trench showing the NE facing section





**Illus 5**  
Detail of rubble stone foundation in SW facing section



**Illus 6**  
View of rubble stone wall at SE end of the trench

was clearly visible. An overall site plan was recorded and related to the National Grid. Absolute heights related to the Ordnance Datum were provided by the client in the form of a CAD drawing, which were related to the site survey and will be included in the archive. OD levels for the present ground surface ranged from 101.2m in the south to 99.8m in the north of the development area.

## 2. RESULTS

### 2.1 Watching Brief results

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on the excavation of a large trench for the insertion of fuel storage tanks. The trench was located 15m from the NW boundary of the development area and 40m from the NE boundary edge (Illus 1 & 2). It measured 12m x 6m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 3m (Illus 3). The trench was aligned NW – SE close to the location of Tr.1 and Tr.2 of the earlier evaluation phase.

The uppermost 1.5m of deposits comprised re-deposited demolition material that had been laid across the northern half of the site to form a ground surface for the petrol station development. The top of this deposit was at 102m OD. The deposits below this were excavated in shallow spits revealing *c.* 0.5m of demolition deposits relating to an earlier phase of demolition associated with the 19th century mills. This material lay over a yellowish brown sandy clay alluvial deposit (Illus 4). This was excavated to a depth of 1.2m in order to confirm that it was a clean geological deposit and not re-deposited material.

A series of four small rubble stone foundations measuring 1m x 0.8m with no visible bonding (Illus 5) were recorded. These were cut *c.* 1.2m into the clay and formed a random pattern within the trench (see Illus 2)

A NE-SW aligned lime mortar bonded rubble stone wall (see Illus 2 & Illus 6) was recorded at the south-eastern end of the trench within the area of the access ramp into the trench. The wall was 0.5m wide and 0.5m high cut into the yellowish brown clay natural. As the wall was outwith the area of the trench and was not going to be disturbed no further investigation of this feature was required beyond recording its location and construction. This wall may represent the continuation of one of the stone walls recorded in Tr.2 during the evaluation phase. No features associated with the mill lade system were encountered during this phase of works.

## 3. DISCUSSION

The results of the previous archaeological works on the site of the former Langlands and Dangerfield Mills revealed several wall foundations of different construction phases and a well-preserved, regionally significant, sub-surface lade system associated with the 19th century mills that formerly stood on the development site. The walls of the

19th century mill lade system, including a possible wheel pit recorded during the evaluation were of particular interest. These appeared to have been well preserved, substantial walls built of dressed sandstone blocks. The groundbreaking works associated with this final phase of works on site did not impact on the mill lade walls and these therefore have been preserved in situ.

The features recorded during this final phase of works probably relate to the late 19th century expansion of the mills as no buildings were depicted on the historical maps in this area until the 1898 Ordnance Survey. No further work is presently required in association with the current development.

#### 4. REFERENCES

- Borden, A., 2009, *Historic Building Recording at the site of Dangerfield and Langlands Mills, Commercial Road, Hawick, Roxburghshire*. Headland Archaeology unpublished client report
- Robertson, A., 2008, *A desk based assessment and site appraisal Commercial Road, Hawick, Roxburghshire*. Headland Archaeology unpublished client report.
- Spanou, S., 2010, *An evaluation and watching brief, Commercial Road, Hawick, Roxburghshire*. A Data Structure Report. Headland Archaeology unpublished client report.

## 5. APPENDICES

### **Appendix 1 – Photographic Register**

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| <b>Shot</b> | <b>Facing</b> | <b>Description</b>                                       |
|-------------|---------------|--|
| 1           | W             | General view of the trench showing the NE facing section |
| 2           | NW            | General view of the trench                               |
| 3           | N             | General view of the trench showing the SW facing section |
| 4           | N             | Detail of the rubble stone foundation                    |
| 5           | SW            | View of rubble wall in the SE end of trench              |
| 6           | NE            | Detail of rubble stone foundation in SW facing section   |
| 7           | SE            | General view of site showing location of trench          |
| 8           | E             | General view of site showing location of trench          |



## Appendix 2 – Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

|  |   |
|--|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY:   | Scottish Borders Council  |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:   | Archaeological monitoring at the site of the former Dangerfield and Langlands Mills, Commercial Road, Hawick, Roxburghshire   |
| PROJECT CODE:  | CRHK08  |
| PARISH:  | Hawick  |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:   | Donald Wilson   |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION:  | Headland Archaeology Ltd  |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:  | Watching Brief  |
| NMRS NO(S):  | NT51NW.38, NT51SW.133, NT51SW.228   |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):   | 17th–19th century textile mills   |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS:   | None  |
| NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)   | NT 5020 1500  |
| START DATE (this season)   | September 2010  |
| END DATE (this season)   | September 2010  |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)   | Borden, A. 2009 Historic Building Recording at the site of Dangerfield and Langlands Mills, Commercial Road, Hawick, Roxburghshire. Headland Archaeology Archive Report. Robertson, A. 2008 A desk based assessment and site appraisal Commercial Road, Hawick, Roxburghshire. Headland Archaeology Archive Report. Spanou, S. 2010 An Archaeological Evaluation at the Site of the Former Dangerfield and Langlands Mills. Commercial Road, Hawick, Roxburghshire. Headland Archaeology Archive Report.  |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:<br>(May include information from other fields) | Headland Archaeology were required to undertake a watching brief on ground breaking works associated with the insertion of fuel storage tanks at the site of the former Dangerfields and Langlands Mills, Commercial Road, Hawick. The work was commissioned by Halcrow Yolles on behalf of Sainsburys and followed previous phases of desk based assessment, historic building recording and trial trenching. A single large trench was excavated and revealed a number of stone foundations below a large amount of demolition material and a single rubble stone wall. At no point did the excavations reveal any of the extant mill lade that had been revealed during the previous evaluation phase. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:  | None  |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:   | Halcrow on behalf of Sainsburys   |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:   | 13 Jane Street, Edinburgh, EH6 5HE, Scotland  |
| EMAIL ADDRESS:   | donald.wilson@headlandarchaeology.com   |
| ARCHIVE LOCATION<br>(intended/deposited)                                     | NMRS  |