

BAMBURGH RESEARCH PROJECT



CREEL COTTAGE LINDISFARNE NORTHUMBERLAND

REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Compiled for Mr and Mrs Wells by The Bamburgh Research Project: Commercial Projects Section

BRP 14/07b

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Figure 1 Location

Figure 2 The current building and proposed extension

Plate 1: Main construction trench, facing south

Plate 2: Main construction trench, facing north

SUMMARY

This report has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project, Commercial Projects Section for Mr and Mrs Wells. The document sets out the results of a process of archaeological monitoring, undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction a new sun room at Creel Cottage, Lindisfarne, Northumberland. The work was undertaken by the Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) on 17th September 2014, in compliance with a Written Schedule of Investigation compiled by the Bamburgh Research Project, also in September 2014. The planning application reference number is: 13/03690/FUL, the NCCCT reference is: B21/2: 18705. and the OASIS record number is: bamburgh1-190802.

Along the north-south oriented main foundation trench, a dark grey-brown midden soil with shell and badly decayed fragments of animal bone was present at the limit of excavation, 0.9m below the present ground level. Some 0.4m depth of this midden was present below a stony rubble layer that was in turn sealed by a paved patio area and its bedding material. The two short east to west legs of the construction trench were disturbed by modern services. No indications of any archaeological remains of interest were uncovered during the course of this work.

Presence of a developed midden soil within the site area is to be expected given the known longevity of occupation within Lindisfarne Village. No indication of structural features or pits was seen, a result that has some limited implication for understanding the density of occupation of the medieval settlement.

**CREEL COTTAGE
LINDISFARNE
NORTHUMBERLAND**

**REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING AND RECORDING**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This report has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project, Commercial Projects Section for Mr and Mrs Wells. The document sets out the results of a process of archaeological monitoring, undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction a new sun room at Creel Cottage, Lindisfarne, Northumberland.
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2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The site is located within the grounds of Creel Cottage, which lies on the west side of Fiddlers Green, which adjoins Prior Lane and Marygate, itself on the western side of Holy Island Village, Lindisfarne, Northumberland. The development area lies adjacent to the rear of the building, within a rectangular garden plot, and measures broadly 33m east to west by 10m north to south (NGR NU 1247 4189) (Figures 1 and 2).

2.2 Archaeological background

- 2.2.1 Mesolithic activity on the island is demonstrated by the presence of midden deposits at Ness End, on the northern side of the island, adjacent to Jenny Bell's Well and in the vicinity of the Fort on the Heugh. Neolithic activity within the village is indicated by a ¹⁴C date for a single post-hole identified off Marygate, an un-provenanced find of a Neolithic axe near to St Cuthbert's Square and a rock carving from The Palace.
- 2.2.2 The Anglo-Saxon monastery on Lindisfarne was founded in AD 635 as a daughter house to the Monastery of Iona, in Scotland. The focus of the monastery almost certainly lay beneath the later medieval priory site, but the monastic enclosure would originally have been much more extensive. O'Sullivan has proposed the line of Marygate as the northern boundary to the site. The aceramic structural remains identified during the evaluation of the Winery site by Northern Archaeological Associates in 2000 are likely, in part, to be early medieval in date and would support this hypothesis as they are more likely to be monastic than secular (NAA 2001). The site, proposed for development, lies some 70m to the west of the Winery site, though beyond the western

boundary of the monastic perimeter, as proposed by Deidre O'Sullivan.

- 2.2.3 The village on Holy Island existed from at least the medieval period, possibly being founded to service the early medieval monastery. Evidence for complex medieval archaeology was identified at the Castle View (Stewart and Bailey 2006) and during the Winery and Palace evaluations (NAA 2001). This indicates that stratified medieval archaeology is extensive within the village footprint. Medieval and post medieval features were identified in an evaluation trench at West View, on the opposite side of the Green, by NAA in 2000 and a hoard of 50 silver coins was found to the rear of a property on Fiddlers Green.
- 2.2.4 Creel Cottage is depicted on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1860, almost certainly the core of the cottage that stands today. It is quite conceivable that The Green represents a medieval street frontage. An extensive geophysical survey programme undertaken by a Durham University team led by Dr David Petts, includes extensive survey within the fields to the west of the garden boundary. The survey has revealed, what is believed to be the continuation of Prior Lane past the northern limit of the site with a series of, likely, medieval and post medieval boundaries to its north. To the west and south the survey indicates disturbed or made ground.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Monitoring during excavation

- 4.1.1 During all excavation activity a suitably experienced archaeologist, familiar with the archaeological background of the site, will be present to record any items of interest that are revealed. All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IfA 2013) and should follow the IFA Standards for Watching Briefs (IfA 2008). This watching brief will conform to the following methodology.
- 4.1.2 A contingency of up to 10 person days of investigation can be invoked following consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist, the client and the monitoring archaeologist.

3.2 General standards

- 3.2.1 All archaeological features identified will be sample excavated according to their type and form.
- 50% of all discrete features.
25% of the area of a linear/curvilinear features with a non-uniform fill.
10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a uniform fill.
- 3.2.1 A 40 litre bulk palaeoenvironmental sample will be taken from all features recognised as suitable for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 3.2.3 Secure contexts will be sampled for dating where appropriate, whether on site or as

sub samples of bulk samples. Any concentrations of charcoal or other carbonised material recovered on site will usually be retained.

- 3.2.4 Pottery and Animal Bone will be collected as bulk samples whilst significant artefacts will be three-dimensionally recorded prior to processing. All finds will be recorded and processed according to the BRP system and submitted for post-excavation assessment. Finds recovery and storage strategies will be in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995 and IfA Guidelines for The Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials 2008). Should artefacts of gold or silver covered by the 1996 Treasure Act be recovered, appropriate procedures will be followed.
- 3.2.5 In the event of human burials being revealed they will be left *in situ* and treated in an appropriate manner. After consultation with the County Archaeological Officer, if excavation is required, work will comply with the relevant home Office regulations.
- 3.2.6 Any archaeological features encountered will be hand-cleaned, excavated and recorded:
1. A photographic record will be taken using black and white print, colour slide film at 35mm format. In addition a digital photographic record will be compiled.
 2. A written description of features will be recorded using the BRP *pro forma* context recording system.
 3. All features will be drawn at an appropriate scale using pre-printed permatrace. Plans will normally be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10.
- 3.2.7 All archaeological features and horizons will be accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey grid. All levels will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.
- 3.2.8 Arrangements will be made with the appropriate museum for the deposition of the site archive within 6 month of the completion of the post-excavation report.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Monitoring during excavation

- 4.1.1 The monitoring was undertaken on Wednesday 17th September 2014. Along the north-south oriented main foundation trench, a dark grey-brown midden soil with shell and badly decayed fragments of animal bone, was present at the limit of excavation, some 0.9m below the present ground level. Some 0.4m depth of this midden was present below a stony rubble layer that was in turn sealed by a paved patio area and its bedding material. The two short east to west legs of the construction trench were disturbed by modern services. No indications of any archaeological remains of interest were uncovered during the course of this work.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.0.1 Presence of a developed midden soil within the site area is to be expected given the known longevity of occupation within Lindisfarne Village. No indication of structural features or pits was seen, a result that has some limited implication for understanding the density of occupation of the medieval settlement.

REFERENCES

Published and unpublished sources

- BRP Finds Manual, 2000
BRP Health and Safety Document
English Heritage *Management of Archaeological Projects 2*, 1991.
English Heritage *A strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds*. Ancient
Monuments Laboratory, 1995.
IfA 2013 Code of Conduct 2013
IfA 2008 Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs 2008
IfA 2008 Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation,
conservation and research of archaeological materials 2008

APPENDIX I

CREEL COTTAGE HOLY ISLAND VILLAGE LINDISFARNE NORTHUMBERLAND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING WRITTEN SCHEDULE OF INVESTIGATION

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This Written Schedule of Investigation has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project, Commercial Section for Mr and Mrs Wells of Creel Cottage. The document sets out the project design for the archaeological monitoring to be undertaken during groundworks associated with a proposed sun room extension to Creel Cottage, Holy Island Village, Lindisfarne, Northumberland.
- 1.0.2 The Written Schedule of Investigation details the proposed scheme of works for the monitoring of the groundworks. The planning application reference number is: 13/03690/FUL and the NCCCT reference is: B21/2: 18705.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The site is located within the grounds of Creel Cottage, which lies on the west side of The Green, which adjoins Prior Lane and Marygate, itself on the western side of Holy Island Village, Lindisfarne, Northumberland. The development area lies adjacent to the rear of the building within a rectangular garden plot, and measures broadly 33m east to west by 10m north to south (NGR NU 1247 4189) (Figures 1 and 2).

2.2 Archaeological Background

- 2.2.1 Mesolithic activity on the island is demonstrated by the presence of midden deposits at Ness End, on the northern side of the island, adjacent to Jenny Bell's Well and in the vicinity of the Fort on the Heugh. Neolithic activity within the village is indicated by a ¹⁴C date for a single post-hole identified off Marygate, an un-provenanced find of a Neolithic axe near to St Cuthbert's Square and a rock carving from The Palace.
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2.3 Impact of the development

4.1.1 The development, comprises the construction of a, single-storey, sun room extension to the rear of the present building, measuring some 2.6m south-west to north-east by 4m, north-west to south-east. The foundations are not planned to extend to a substantial depth below the present ground surface. It is clear though, due to the historic nature of the area and the presence of preserved archaeological stratigraphy, only tens of metres to the east, that the new development will have the potential to impact on preserved archaeological remains.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

3.1 In the light of the potential for the construction works to impact upon preserved archaeological remains it is proposed that a continuous watching brief be conducted during the intrusive ground work. Provision will be made for the archaeological consultant to suspend works to allow for the rapid investigation and recording of objects or features encountered. Should archaeological material be encountered the consultant will keep the Assistant County Archaeologist informed.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Monitoring during excavation

4.1.1 During all excavation activity a suitably experienced archaeologist, familiar with the archaeological background of the site, will be present to record any items of interest that are revealed. All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IfA 2013) and should follow the IFA Standards for Watching Briefs (IfA 2008). This watching brief will conform to the following methodology.

4.1.2 A contingency of up to 10 person days of investigation can be invoked following consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist, the client and the monitoring archaeologist.

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2.1.1 All archaeological features identified will be sample excavated according to their type and form.

50% of all discrete features.

25% of the area of a linear/curvilinear features with a non-uniform fill.

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4.2.3 Secure contexts will be sampled for dating where appropriate, whether on site or as sub samples of bulk samples. Any concentrations of charcoal or other carbonised material recovered on site will usually be retained.

4.2.4 Pottery and Animal Bone will be collected as bulk samples whilst significant artefacts will be three-dimensionally recorded prior to processing. All finds will be recorded and processed according to the BRP system and submitted for post-excavation assessment. Finds recovery and storage strategies will be in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995 and IfA Guidelines for The Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials 2008). Should artefacts of gold or silver covered by the 1996 Treasure Act be recovered, appropriate procedures will be followed.

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- 4.2.7 All archaeological features and horizons will be accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey grid. All levels will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.2.8 Arrangements will be made with the appropriate museum for the deposition of the site archive within 6 month of the completion of the post-excavation report.

5.0 MONITORING

- 5.1 Access will be made available at all reasonable times to the archaeological representatives of the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team to inspect the excavation site.
- 5.2 Access to the site will be on the basis of prior notification and subject to any relevant health and safety considerations.

6.0 POST-EXCAVATION WORK, ARCHIVE AND REPORT COMPILATION

- 6.1 On completion of the monitoring an assessment of the site records and any finds will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage (1991) guidelines and the IfA Standard and Guidance Watching Briefs (IfA 2008). This will include:
- collation of all site records
 - compilation of a report
 - production of context, photographic, finds and illustration databases
 - analysis of any the finds assemblage by relevant specialists
 - environmental assessment of selected bulk samples
- 6.2 The assessment report, with each page and paragraph numbered and with cross referenced illustrations, will include:
- summary of the project background
 - site location
 - methodology
 - results of the watching brief
 - site location plans and illustrations of results at appropriate scales
 - interpretation of the results in an appropriate context
 - post-excavation assessment of the site archive
 - catalogue and assessment of the artefactual archive
 - catalogue and assessment of the faunal remains
 - catalogue and assessment of the palaeoenvironmental samples recovered
 - appendix containing a list and summary of each recorded context
- 6.3 A copy of the report should be submitted by the archaeologist to the commissioning client, and the County Council Conservation Team within 15 working days of completion of the work. A summary will be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and an article will be submitted to a local or national journal if appropriate.
- 6.4 The site archive will be prepared to the standard specified in the Management of Archaeological Projects, appendix 3 (HBMC 1991) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990). A summary account of the context record will be included and written by the supervising archaeologist. The archive will be deposited at the specified museum within 6 months of completion of the work on site.

6.5 An online OASIS form will be completed for the project as part of the post-excavation assessment process.

7.0 PERSONNEL

7.1 The designated project manager Graeme Young, is one of the five directors of the Bamburgh Research Project. A graduate of Newcastle University, with 26 years of experience in field archaeology including directing a number of excavations of urban medieval sites in Newcastle and Durham. He is an Associate Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

7.2 Additional field staff, with appropriate archaeological experience, will be engaged as required.

8.0 SUB-CONTRACTED SPECIALISTS

8.0.1 Although it is not possible to predict the range of artefacts that may be recovered provision has been made for the analysis of the most common artefacts.

Material

Medieval pottery
Post-medieval pottery
Prehistoric pottery
Roman Pottery
Animal bone
Palaeoenvironmental
Conservation

Specialist

Jenny Vaughan
Jenny Vaughan
Blaise Vyner
Blaise Vyner
Durham University Archaeological Services
Durham University Archaeological Services
Durham University Archaeological Services

9.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 9.0.1 The Bamburgh Research Project complies with the 1974 Health and Safety Act and its subsequent amendments in all its operations. The SCAUM manual and the Bamburgh Research Project Health and Safety Policy Document is followed for all site works. A designated and appropriately trained first aider is present at all times during working hours. A First Aid kit, Accident Book and telephone are provided for each project. Safety footwear is mandatory on all excavation sites. Where required safety helmets and reflective jackets are provided. It is policy for a vehicle to be present at an excavation and staff must be appropriately equipped for bad weather.
- 9.0.2 All staff undergo a safety induction prior to commencing work on site. A written risk assessment is undertaken specific for each site. The safety assessment is reviewed on a daily basis and changes to the working conditions monitored continually during adverse weather conditions.

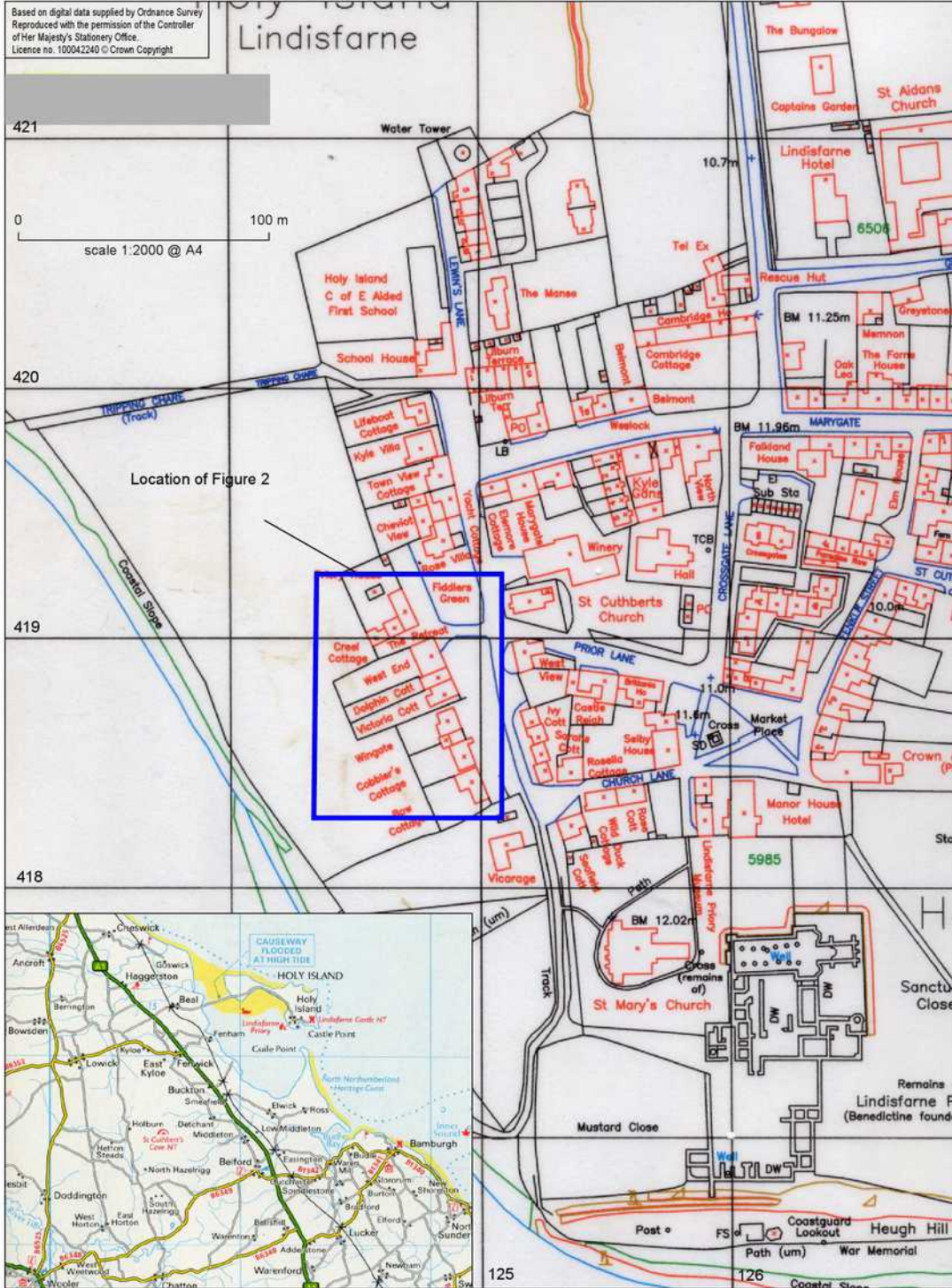


Figure 1 Location



Figure 2 The current building and proposed extension



Plate 1: Main construction trench, facing south



Plate 2: Main construction trench, facing north