

BAMBURGH RESEARCH PROJECT

21 BELL TOWER PARK BERWICK UPON TWEED NORTHUMBERLAND



ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Compiled for Mr Gary Wyse by The Bamburgh Research Project: Commercial Projects Section

BRP 16/06b

December 2016

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SUMMARY

This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) for Mr Gary Wyse during November 2016 and reports on archaeological monitoring of a site to the rear of 21 Bell Tower Park, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, during groundworks associated with the construction of a new outbuilding. The work was undertaken by the Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) on 21st November 2016, in compliance with a Written Schedule of Investigation compiled by the Bamburgh Research Project, in October 2016 as a condition for Scheduled Monument Consent, reference number: S00146774. The OASIS record number is: bamburgh1-270289.

The site lies to the rear of 21 Bell Tower Park, to the north of High Greens and immediately north of the line of the medieval wall that extends eastwards from the area of the railway Station, on the north side of the town of Berwick upon Tweed in North Northumberland (NGR NT 9969 5351) (Figures 1 and 2).

The monitoring on the excavation of the groundworks associated with the construction of the new building was undertaken on Monday 21st November 2016. Subsoil was nowhere encountered and excavation depth through the monitoring period was dictated by the depth required by the foundations.

The excavation depth for the main area of the construction of the foundation trench varied from 0.4m to 0.45m below ground level, and two archaeological layers encountered. The earliest of these (101) was excavated only to a maximum depth of 0.05m and not bottomed. It comprised a dark red-brown sandy silt with some clay and rare small to very small fragments of sandstone. This layer appeared to represent a made up ground layer and is likely to have been laid at the time of the house construction. The topsoil above this layer (100) comprised a very dark grey-brown sandy silt with some clay and very rare small to very small sandstone fragments.

No indication of anything of archaeological interest was seen and there was a general absence of occupational material, such as animal bone and pottery. The impression formed was that the foundation trenches had only penetrated into the uppermost layers of topsoil and a make-up layer that might have been laid down at the time of the house construction. Assuming that the defensive ditch survived in this area as a visible monument to the time of the house construction, as appears to be the case from the cartographic evidence, then the site likely would have required such a levelling infill prior to construction.

**21 BELL TOWER PARK
BERWICK-UPON-TWEED
NORTHUMBERLAND
REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) for Mr Gary Wyse during November 2016 and reports on archaeological monitoring of a site to the rear of 21 Bell Tower Park, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, during groundworks associated with the construction of a new outbuilding.
- 1.0.2 The work was undertaken by the Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) on 21st November 2016, in compliance with a Written Schedule of Investigation compiled by the Bamburgh Research Project, in October 2016 as a condition for Scheduled Monument Consent, reference number: S00146774. The OASIS record number is: bamburgh1-270289.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The site lies to the rear of 21 Bell Tower Park, to the north of High Greens and immediately north of the line of the medieval/post-medieval wall that extends eastwards from the area of the railway Station, on the north side of the town of Berwick upon Tweed in North Northumberland (NGR NT 9969 5351) (Figures 1 and 2).

2.2 Archaeological Background

- 2.2.1 Although there is evidence for prehistoric activity within the lower Tweed valley area there are no prehistoric features immediately adjacent to the development area. Roman activity in the area is indicated by the presence of the Devil's Causeway, Roman Road leading to the mouth of the Tweed (Margary 1967). Such activity is likely to be concentrated to the south of the river in the area of a putative Roman fort.
- 2.2.2 Berwick is believed to have originated during the Anglo-Saxon period as a farm/processing centre of a greater estate, possibly part of the monastic estate of Coldingham. The earliest documentary evidence for Berwick's existence is found in a charter of Edgar, King of Scots, dating to 1095. Berwick grew in importance during the 12th century becoming one of the most significant trading centres in Scotland. By the end of the 13th century at least 15 religious houses are known to have held property in Berwick. Alexander II founded a Dominican Friary, probably located near Northumberland Avenue, around 1240 and a Carmelite Friary, founded in 1270, was located on a site close to, or beneath, the present Governor's House in Palace Street East. The Augustinian Friary was founded in the town in 1296, but its location is not known. The Franciscan Friary may have been located in the area now occupied by Nos.25-31 Low Greens and the grassed area to the north. The House of the Friars of

the Sack, present in the mid 13th century, was abolished at the Second Council of Lyons in 1274 and the site subsequently sold to the Dominicans (Cowe 1998).

- 2.2.3 The enclosed area of the town in the 13th century extended to some 125 acres, but only two-thirds of the area is believed to have been intensively developed during the medieval period. Briggate, Marygate and the whole of the Ness are thought to have been quite densely occupied from the medieval to the present.
- 2.2.4 Construction of a town wall was started at Berwick after its capture by Edward I of England in 1296, and completed in the early 14th century. These defences, listed as Bell Tower and Remains of Town walls (1370858), lay immediately to the south of the proposed development, probably passing beneath the houses and linking with Berwick Castle, in the area of the present railway station. As a consequence of the Border wars the prosperity of the town was greatly reduced. When a new defensive rampart was constructed during the reign of Elizabeth I (1558-1603) only two thirds of the medieval town was included within the new defensive line, which lay 300m to the south of the development site at its closest.
- 2.2.5 Cartographic evidence shows that the site of Bell Tower Park as a series of earthworks at the time of the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1897. The proposed development appears to lie in the area of the defensive ditch to the immediate north of the line of the medieval wall, represented by an earthwork passing west to east, surviving to the west of of the present houses. Earlier mapping is limited in the detail that it can provide but is consistent with the Tithe Award plan that would suggest that the site was relatively undisturbed prior the construction of the present house development in the early 20th century (Northumberland County Council, 2008).

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Monitoring during excavation

- 3.1.1 During all excavation activity a suitably experienced archaeologist, familiar with the archaeological background of the site, was present to record any items of interest that are revealed. All work carried out in compliance with the codes of conduct of the Certified Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and will following their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA 2014) and Field Excavation (CIfA 2014). This watching brief conformed to the following methodology.
- 3.1.2 A contingency of up to 20 person days of investigation available to be invoked following consultation with the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England and Assistant County Archaeologist, the client and the monitoring archaeologist.

3.2 General standards

- 3.2.1 Machine excavation only undertaken under strict archaeological control and with a toothless ditching bucket. All archaeological features identified to be sample excavated by hand 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.

- 3.2.2 A 40 litre bulk palaeoenvironmental sample would be taken from all features recognised as suitable for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 3.2.3 Secure contexts would 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 would be retained for potential radiocarbon analysis. In addition deposits would be assessed for their potential for archaeo-magnetic and Optically Stimulated Luminescence dating where appropriate. The scientific dating of secure contexts would be undertaken, if deemed necessary, after consultation with the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England and Assistant County Archaeologist, the client and the monitoring archaeologist.
- 3.2.4 Pottery and animal bone would be collected as bulk samples whilst significant artefacts would be three-dimensionally recorded prior to processing. All finds would be recorded and processed according to the BRP system and submitted for post-excavation assessment. Finds recovery and storage strategies were in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995 and Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials CifA 2014). Had artefacts of gold or silver covered by the 1996 Treasure Act been recovered, appropriate procedures would have been followed.
- 3.2.5 In the event of human burials being revealed they would be left *in situ* and treated in an appropriate manner.
- 3.2.6 Any archaeological features encountered would be hand-cleaned, excavated and recorded:
1. A photographic record taken using black and white print, colour slide film at 35mm format. In addition a digital photographic record was compiled and provision made for deposition with the ADS as part of the site archive.
 2. A written description of features was recorded using the BRP *pro forma* context recording system.
 3. All features would be drawn at an appropriate scale using pre-printed permatrace. Plans would 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 would be accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey grid. All levels would 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. A copy of the digital photos will be submitted to the ADS. Should no archaeological features be encountered a basic record would only be compiled with digital photography and only the report will be submitted to the archive.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Monitoring during excavation

- 4.1.1 The monitoring on the excavation of the groundworks associated with the construction of the new building was undertaken on Monday 21st November 2016. Subsoil was nowhere encountered and excavation depth through the monitoring period was dictated by the depth required by the foundations.
- 4.1.2 The excavation area measured 6m north to south by 3m east to west and extended varied in depth from 0.4m to 0.45m below ground level. Two layers were revealed the lower (101), at about 0.4m below ground level, was a dark red-brown sandy silt with some clay and rare small to very small fragments of sandstone. This layer appeared to represent a made-up ground layer and is likely to have been laid at the time of the house construction. The topsoil (100) above this layer comprised a very dark grey-brown sandy silt with some clay and very rare small to very small sandstone fragments. No indications of any archaeological remains of interest were uncovered during the course of this work and even pottery and animal bone were absent.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.0.1 No indication of anything of archaeological interest was seen and there was a general absence of occupational material, such as animal bone and pottery. The impression formed was that the foundation trenches had only penetrated into the uppermost layers of topsoil and a make-up layer that might have been laid down at the time of the house construction, assuming the ditch survived in this area as a visible monument, as appears to be the case from the cartographic evidence, and required a levelling infill before construction.

Text and illustration: Graeme Young
BRP 16/06b

December 2016

REFERENCES

Published and unpublished sources

- BRP 2000 *Finds Manual, 2000*
- BRP 2013 *Health and Safety Document*
- CifA 2014 *Codes of Conduct*
- CifA 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Excavation.*
- CifA 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*
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- Cowe F. M. *Berwick-on-Tweed: A Short Historical Guide.* Berwick upon Tweed 1975
- English Heritage *Management of Archaeological Projects 2, 1991.*
- English Heritage *A strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds.* Ancient Monuments Laboratory, 1995.
- Historic England 2015 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*
- Margary I. D. *Roman roads in Britain,* London 1967
- Northumberland County Council *Berwick upon Tweed: Northumberland extensive Urban Survey.* 2008

APPENDIX I: WSI

**21 BELL TOWER PARK
BERWICK UPON TWEED
NORTHUMBERLAND**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
WRITTEN SCHEDULE OF INVESTIGATION**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This Written Schedule of Investigation has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project, Commercial Projects Section for Mr Thomas Stewart. The document sets out the project design for the archaeological monitoring to be undertaken during groundworks associated with the proposed construction of a new outbuilding to the rear of 21 Bell Tower Park, Berwick upon Tweed, Northumberland. The project design has been compiled in order to comply with a condition for Scheduled Monument Consent, reference number: S00146774.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The site lies to the rear of 21 Bell Tower Park, to the north of High Greens and immediately north of the line of the medieval wall that extends eastwards from the area of the railway Station, on the north side of the town of Berwick upon Tweed in North Northumberland (NGR NT 9969 5351) (Figures 1 and 2).

2.2 Archaeological Background

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- 2.2.2 Berwick is believed to have originated during the Anglo-Saxon period as a farm/processing centre of a greater estate, possibly part of the monastic estate of Coldingham. The earliest documentary evidence for Berwick's existence is found in a charter of Edgar, King of Scots, dating to 1095. Berwick grew in importance during the 12th century becoming one of the most significant trading centres in Scotland. By the end of the 13th century at least 15 religious houses are known to have held property in Berwick. Alexander II founded a Dominican Friary, probably located near Northumberland Avenue, around 1240 and a Carmelite Friary, founded in 1270, was located on a site close to, or beneath, the present Governor's House in Palace Street East. The Augustinian Friary was founded in the town in 1296, but its location is not known. The Franciscan Friary may have been located in the area now occupied by Nos.25-31 Low Greens and the grassed area to the north. The House of the Friars of the Sack, present in the mid 13th century, was abolished at the Second Council of Lyons in 1274 and the site subsequently sold to the Dominicans (Cowe 1998).
- 2.2.3 The enclosed area of the town in the 13th century extended to some 125 acres, but only two-thirds of the area is believed to have been intensively developed during the medieval period. Briggate, Marygate and the whole of the Ness are thought to have been quite densely occupied from the medieval to the present.
- 2.2.4 Construction of a town wall was started at Berwick after its capture by Edward I of England in 1296, and completed in the early 14th century. These defences, listed as Bell Tower and Remains of Town walls (1370858), lay immediately to the south of the proposed development, probably passing beneath the houses and linking with Berwick Castle, in the area of the present railway station. As a consequence of the Border wars the prosperity of the town was greatly reduced. When a new defensive rampart was constructed during the reign of Elizabeth I (1558-1603) only two thirds of the medieval town was included within the new defensive line, which lay 300m to the south of the development site at its closest.

2.2.5 Cartographic evidence shows that the site of Bell Tower Park as a series of earthworks at the time of the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1897. The proposed development appears to lie in the area of the defensive ditch to the immediate north of the line of the medieval wall, represented by an earthwork passing west to east, surviving to the west of the present houses. Earlier mapping is limited in the detail that it can provide but is consistent with the Tithe Award plan that would suggest that the site was relatively undisturbed prior the construction of the present house development in the early 20th century (Northumberland County Council, 2008).

2.3 Impact of the development

2.2.1 The development comprises an outbuilding in the garden to the rear of 21 Bell Tower Park. It will measure 6m north to south by 2.8m east to west (Figure 2). The concrete raft foundations will extend to a maximum of 450mm below ground level but it is also proposed that a new service trench will be excavated to connect the new building to the house to a maximum of 700mm below ground level. It is clear, due to the historic nature of the area, 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 Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England and 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 Certified Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and will follow their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA 2014) and Field Excavation (CIfA 2014). This watching brief will conform to the following methodology.

4.1.2 A contingency of up to 20 person days of investigation can be invoked following consultation with the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England and Assistant County Archaeologist, the client and the monitoring archaeologist.

4.2 General standards

4.2.1 Machine excavation shall only be undertaken under strict archaeological control and will a toothless ditching bucket. All archaeological features identified will be sample excavated by hand 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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4.2.2 A 40 litre bulk palaeoenvironmental sample will be taken from all features recognised as suitable for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains.

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 for potential radiocarbon analysis. In addition deposits will be assessed for their potential for archaeo-magnetic and Optically Stimulated Luminescence dating where appropriate. The scientific dating of secure contexts will be undertaken, if deemed necessary, after consultation with the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England and Assistant County Archaeologist, the client and the monitoring archaeologist.

- 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 Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials Cifa 2014). Should artefacts of gold or silver covered by the 1996 Treasure Act be recovered, appropriate procedures will be followed.
- 4.2.5 In the event of human burials being revealed they will be left *in situ* and treated in an appropriate manner. After consultation, if excavation is required, work will comply with the relevant Home Office regulations.
- 4.2.6 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 and provision made for deposition with the ADS as part of the site archive.
 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.
- 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 months of the completion of the post-excavation report. A copy of the digital photos will be submitted to the ADS. Should no archaeological features be encountered a basic record would only be compiled with digital photography and only the report will be submitted to the archive.

5.0 MONITORING

- 5.1 Access will be made available at all reasonable times to the archaeological representatives of the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England and 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 excavation an assessment of the site records and finds will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage (1991) guidelines. This will include:
- collation of all site records
 - compilation of a report
 - production of context, photographic, finds and illustration databases
 - analysis of the finds assemblage by relevant specialists
 - environmental assessment of selected bulk samples
- 9.0.2 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

- 9.0.3 A copy of the report should be submitted by the archaeologist to the commissioning client, Historic England and the County Council Conservation Team within 3 months 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.
- 9.0.4 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.
- 9.0.5 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 28 years of experience in field archaeology including directing a number of excavations of urban medieval sites in Newcastle and Durham.
- 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	Specialist
Medieval pottery	Jenny Vaughan
Post-medieval pottery	Jenny Vaughan
Prehistoric pottery	Blaise Vyner
Roman Pottery	Blaise Vyner
Animal bone	Durham University Archaeological Services
Palaeoenvironmental	Durham University Archaeological Services
Conservation	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.

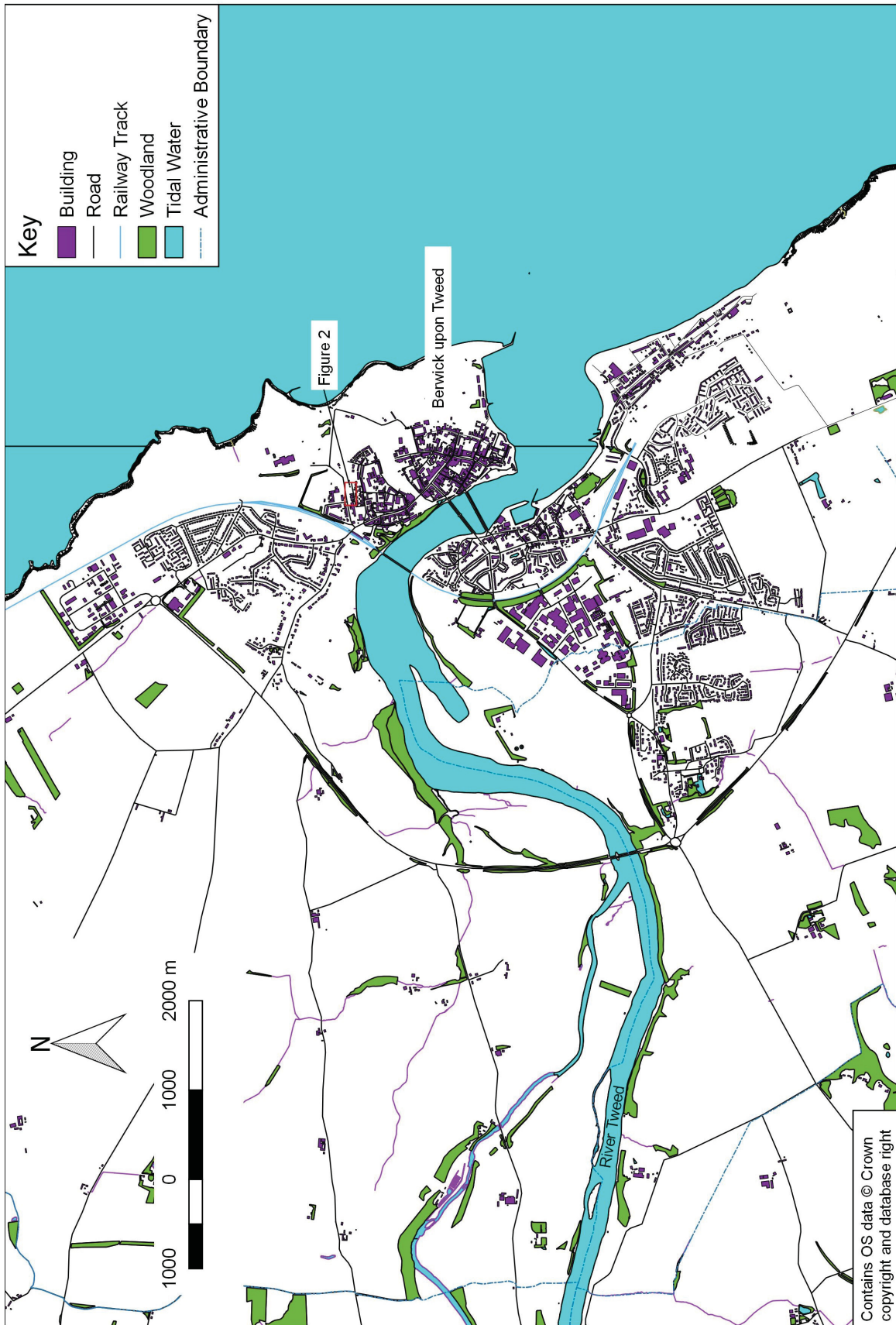


Figure 1: Location plan

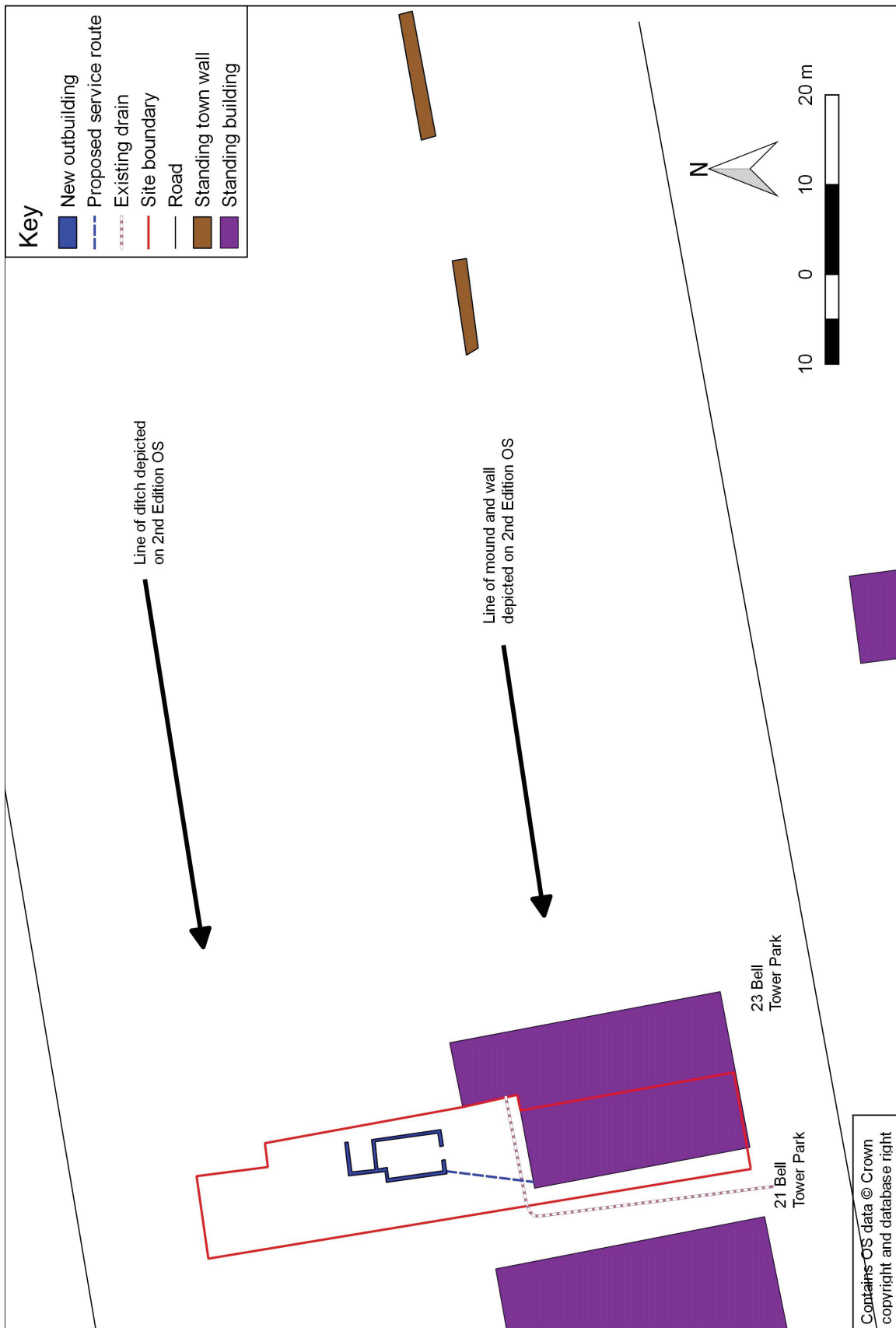


Figure 2: Proposed new outbuilding and route of new services



Plate 1: Excavated footprint of the new building, facing south-east



Plate 2: Excavated footprint of the new building, facing north-west