

# **Land at 6 Eildon View, Tweedmouth, Northumberland**

## **archaeological watching brief**

*on behalf of*  
**T.W. Cockburn**

**ASUD Report 1171**  
November 2004

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*Archaeological Services University of Durham*

on behalf of

***T.W. Cockburn***

*Tweedbank, Tofts Lane, Horncliffe, Berwick upon Tweed, TD15 2XR*

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Appendix 1: Specification 1

## **1. Summary**

### ***The project***

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief conducted in advance of a proposed development at 6 Eildon View, Tweedmouth, Northumberland. Topsoil stripping was required prior to the digging of foundation trenches for a residential dwelling. As the site lay in close proximity to known archaeological remains, it was considered there was a high potential for the exposure of archaeological features.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by T.W. Cockburn, and conducted by Archaeological Services University of Durham in accordance with a specification provided by Northumberland County Council Conservation Team.

### ***Results***

- 1.3 Topsoil stripping within the project area did not reveal any archaeological remains.

### ***Recommendations***

- 1.4 No further archaeological work is recommended within the project area.

## **2. Project background**

### ***Location (Figure 1)***

- 2.1 The site is located at 6 Eildon View, Tweedmouth, Northumberland. The site is currently part of an ongoing residential development. To the north and south of the site are residential dwellings, to the west open pasture land and to the east a building development. The site is located at NT 0080 9940.

### ***Development proposal***

- 2.2 The proposal is to construct one residential dwelling, along with integral garage.

### ***Objective***

- 2.3 The aim of the archaeological work is to ensure that any archaeological deposits that might be impacted upon by the proposed development are recorded.

### ***Specification summary***

- 2.4 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a specification provided by Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (Appendix 1) and a Project Design provided by Archaeological Services.

### ***Dates***

- 2.5 Fieldwork was undertaken on 3rd October 2004. This report was prepared on 1st December 2004.

### ***Personnel***

- 2.6 Fieldwork was conducted by Andy Willis. This report was prepared by Andy Willis, with illustration work by Linda Bosveld. The Project Manager was Peter Carne.

### ***Acknowledgements***

- 2.7 Archaeological Services is grateful for the assistance of Northumberland County Council Conservation Team.

### ***Archive/OASIS***

- 2.8 The site code is **EVT04**, for **6 Eildon View Tweedmouth 2004**. The OASIS ID number for the project is 'archaeol3-5410'. The archive is currently held at Archaeological Services University of Durham, this will be deposited with the appropriate museum in accordance with County Archaeological Archive policy.

## **3. Landuse, topography and geology**

- 3.1 At the time of the watching brief the proposed development area comprised a small plot of land for the building of a residential dwelling.
- 3.2 The site is at a mean elevation of *c.*70m OD.

## **4. Historical and archaeological background**

- 4.1 The proposed development area is located 50m north-east of a known archaeological site. The archaeological site identified by aerial photography as a crop mark, consists of a sub-circular double ditched enclosure and a possible pit alignment on Prior Hill. A further cropmark of a circular and rectilinear enclosure have also been noted to the immediate west. Agricultural ridge and furrow field systems are also visible near to the proposed development site.

***Previous archaeological works***

- 4.2 No known archaeological works have been carried out in the area of the proposed development.

**5. The watching brief**

***Introduction***

- 5.1 The development area measured 24 by 16m; topsoil stripping covered an area of 10 by 15m. Work was carried out by a JCB machine, fitted with a toothless bucket. All machined excavation was observed. (***Figure 1***).
- 5.2 Topsoil stripping prior to the digging of foundation trenches revealed the natural subsoil of mid-brown compact boulder clay with stone inclusions at a depth of 0.18m. Immediately above the natural was topsoil, a light grey/brown fine silty soil 0.18m in depth. No archaeological deposits were identified, and no artefacts recovered.

**6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were uncovered during the topsoil stripping. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological investigation of the site is necessary.



Archaeological Services  
University of Durham

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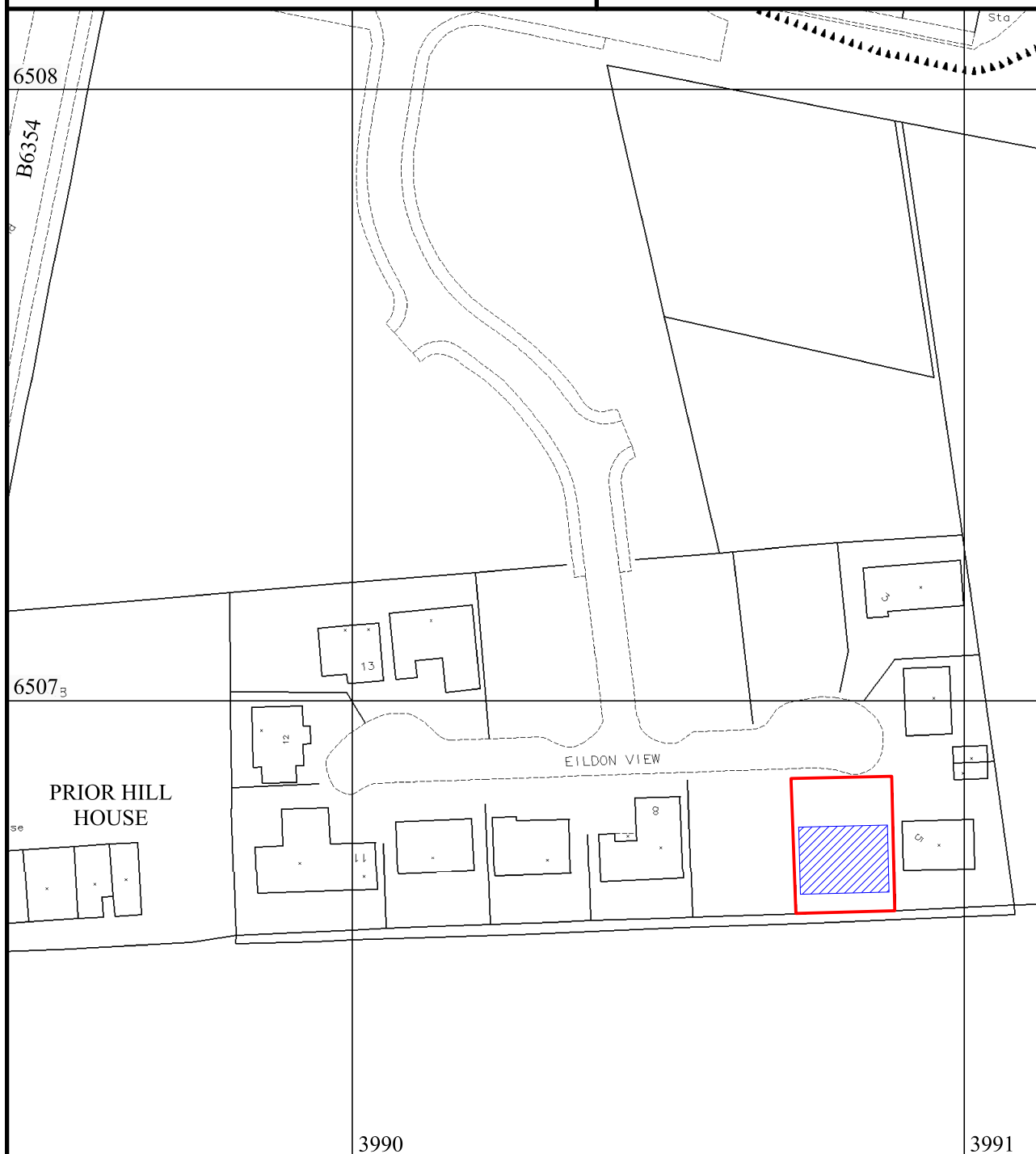
Figure 1

*Location of the proposed development area*

on behalf of  
**T.W. Cockburn**

0 50m

scale 1:1000 - for A4 plot



proposed development area



area of topsoil stripping



## **Appendix 1: Specification 1**

Planning ref: 04/B/0454  
NCCCT ref: B38/6; 3604  
Grid ref: NT 9907 5067

### **LAND AT 6 EILDON VIEW, TWEEDMOUTH, NORTHUMBERLAND**

#### **Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief**

##### **Introduction**

- 1.1 A planning application has been submitted for the construction of a dwelling with integral garage, 6 Eildon View, Tweedmouth (Fig 1). The proposed development area is located 50m north-east of a known archaeological site. The site has been identified on aerial photographs which show the cropmark of a sub-circular double-ditched enclosure and possibly a pit alignment on Prior Hill. An infra-red line scan of the enclosure identified a possible entrance on the west side. The enclosure survives beneath ridge and furrow. A further cropmark of a circular and rectilinear enclosure have also been noted to the immediate west. The location of these cropmarks is shown on figure 1.
- 1.2 Given the density and extent of archaeological remains in this area, there is the strong possibility that associated remains may be affected by the proposed development area. As a consequence, Northumberland County Council Conservation Team has advised Berwick Borough Council that, should permission be granted, a condition should be attached to the permission requiring an archaeological watching brief.
- 1.3 This brief constitutes Northumberland County Council Conservation Team's justification for the investigation, its objectives and the strategy and procedures to apply to the programme of archaeological recording. This brief does not constitute the 'written scheme of investigation' required in the planning condition.
- 1.4 The brief is intended to establish the project parameters to enable an archaeological consultant or contractor to tender for the work and once commissioned to prepare and submit an appropriate Method Statement, Project Design or Specification to the Conservation Team for approval prior to work commencing. The project design should be based on a thorough study of all relevant background information, in particular any assessment or evaluation reports or, in their absence, data held or referenced in Northumberland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).
- 1.5 The extent of the development (Fig 1) has been taken from plans attached to the planning application. The archaeological consultant or contractor will need to confirm the extent of the development and the

nature of the works with the developer as part of the specification.

## **2 Method of work**

2.1 The purpose of this work is to ensure that important archaeological remains are not destroyed without first being adequately recorded.

2.2 The proposed development has the potential to disturb important archaeological remains associated with a sub-circular double ditched enclosure 50m south-west of the proposed development area. It is considered that in this case a watching brief is the appropriate archaeological response. The watching brief should cover the following groundworks for the development:

- Foundations for the dwelling and integral garage
- Excavations for the provision of services
- New access arrangements

2.3 **Should the groundworks not exceed modern disturbance or equally should they exceed the depth at which archaeological remains are present, the County Archaeological Officer should be contacted in order to establish whether the watching brief need continue in these specific areas.**

### **2.4 General Standards**

- i) All work should be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA)<sup>1</sup> and should follow the IFA Standards for Watching Briefs.<sup>2</sup>
- ii) All staff must be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles.
- iii) All staff must familiarise themselves with the archaeological background of the site, and the results of any previous work in the area, prior to the start of work on site. All staff must be aware of the work required under the specification, and must understand the projects aims and methodologies.
- iv) **The archaeological contractor should note that the formulation of an appropriate environmental sampling strategy is a mandatory part of this project. Advice on such a strategy must be obtained from the English Heritage Scientific Advisor for North East England, Dr Jacqui Huntley, Department of Archaeology, University of Durham, Science Laboratories, South Road, Durham. Tel. 0191 374 3643**
- v) This observation shall involve the systematic examination and accurate recording of all archaeological features, horizons and artefacts identified.
- vi) **If archaeological remains are uncovered, the archaeologist should be given the opportunity of excavating and recording the remains before they are destroyed.**

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<sup>1</sup> Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2000, Code of Conduct

<sup>2</sup> Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001, Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief



- vii) A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) should be made for all work, using pro forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings should be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate. Where skeletons are encountered, they should be recorded by photography and the use of pro forma skeleton recording sheets.
- vii) The area watched by the archaeologist should be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. All archaeological deposits and features and at the top and base of all groundworks must be recorded with an **above ordnance datum (aOD)** level.
- viii) A photographic record of all contexts should be taken in colour transparency and black and white print and should include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs should be kept.
- ix) In the event of human burials being discovered, the archaeologist will procure and comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Burial Act 1857.
- x) **Where any part of a human burial is disturbed, the whole burial must be archaeologically excavated.**
- xi) Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation must be followed in the event of the discovery of artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996.
- xii) During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts must be stored in the appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this should include controlled storage, correct packaging, regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material).

### **3 Contingency arrangements**

- 3.1 In the event of the discovery of archaeological remains which are of a greater number or extent than anticipated, work will cease and the County Archaeological Officer and a representative of the developer will be notified. An assessment will be made of the importance of the remains and any provision for their recording or preservation in situ as appropriate.
- 3.2 The contingency for this project has been set at 15 person-days.

### **4 Post excavation work, archive, and report preparation**

#### **4.1 Finds**

- 4.1.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds must be carried out in compliance with the IFA Guidelines for Finds Work and those set by UKIC.
- 4.1.2 The deposition and disposal of artefacts must be agreed with the legal owner

and recipient museum prior to the work taking place. Where the landowner decides to retain artefacts adequate provision must be made for recording them. Details of land ownership should be provided by the developer.

- 4.1.3 All retained artefacts must be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

## **4.2 Site Archive**

- 4.2.1 The archive and the finds must be deposited in the appropriate local museum, within **6 months** of completion of the post-excavation work and report.
- 4.2.2 Before the commencement of fieldwork, contact should be made with the landowners and with the appropriate local museum to make the relevant arrangements. Details of land ownership should be provided by the developer. Details of the appropriate museum can be provided by the Assistant County Archaeologist.
- 4.2.3 Northumberland County Council will require confirmation that the archive had been submitted in a satisfactory form to the relevant museum before recommending to the local planning authority that the condition should be fully discharged.**

## **4.3 Report**

The archaeological consultant or contractor must submit a copy of the report to their client and Northumberland County Council Conservation Team within 2 months of completion of the work.

**The Conservation Team require two copies of the report (one bound and one unbound)**

**Northumberland County Council Conservation Team will need to approve the report before discharging the condition on the planning permission**

The report should be bound, with each page and paragraph numbered

The report should include as a minimum the following:

- i) Planning application number, Northumberland County Council Conservation Team reference, OASIS reference number and an 8 figure grid reference
- ii) A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale of at least 1:10 000
- iii) A location plan of the extent of the watching brief within the site. This must be at a recognisable planning scale, and located with reference to the national grid, to allow the results to be accurately plotted on the Sites and Monuments Record
- iv) Plans and sections of archaeology located at a recognisable planning scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50 or 1:100, as appropriate)
- v) A summary statement of the results

- vi) A table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds
- vii) **Any variation to the above requirements should be approved by the planning authority prior to work being submitted**

#### **4.4 OASIS**

- 4.4.1 Northumberland County Council Conservation Team and SMR support the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large scale developer funded fieldwork.
- 4.4.2 The archaeological consultant or contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Contractors are advised to contact Northumberland SMR prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, Northumberland SMR will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website. **The archaeological consultant or contractor must indicate that they agree to this procedure within the specification/project design/written scheme of investigation submitted to Northumberland County Council Conservation Team for approval**

#### **4.5 Publication**

- 4.5.1 A summary should be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and submitted to Liz Williams, Northumberland SMR Officer, by December of the year in which the work is completed.
- 4.5.2 A short report of the work should also be submitted to a local journal if appropriate.

#### **4.6 Monitoring**

- 4.6.1 The County Archaeologist must be informed on the start date and timetable for the watching brief in advance of work commencing.
- 4.6.2 Reasonable access to the site for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological scheme will be afforded to the County Archaeologist or his/her nominee at all times.
- 4.6.3 Regular communication between the archaeological contractor, the County Archaeologist and other interested parties must be maintained to ensure the project aims and objectives are achieved.

#### **4.7 Further Guidance**

- 4.7.1 Any further guidance or queries regarding the provision of a specification should be directed to:

Karen Derham  
Assistant County Archaeologist  
Northumberland County Council  
County Hall  
Morpeth  
Northumberland  
NE61 2EF

Tel: 01670 534057  
Fax: 01670 533086  
e-mail: [kderham@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:kderham@northumberland.gov.uk)

27/7/04

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