

CMHB13/001



ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS AT CAVERS MAINS FARMHOUSE, HAWICK

Watching Brief

commissioned by Mr John Sinclair on behalf of Albrighton Roses Ltd

12/01229/FUL

October 2013

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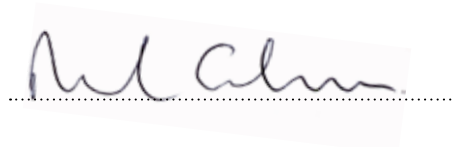
Parish: Cavers

Local authority: Scottish Borders

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Archive will be deposited with RCAHMS

Project Manager	Russel Coleman
Author	Donald Wilson
Fieldwork	Jeffery Lowry
Graphics	Anna Sztromwasser
Approved by	Russel Coleman – Project Manager



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**Headland Archaeology
North East**

13 Jane Street
Edinburgh EH6 5HE

0131 467 7705
northeast@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com



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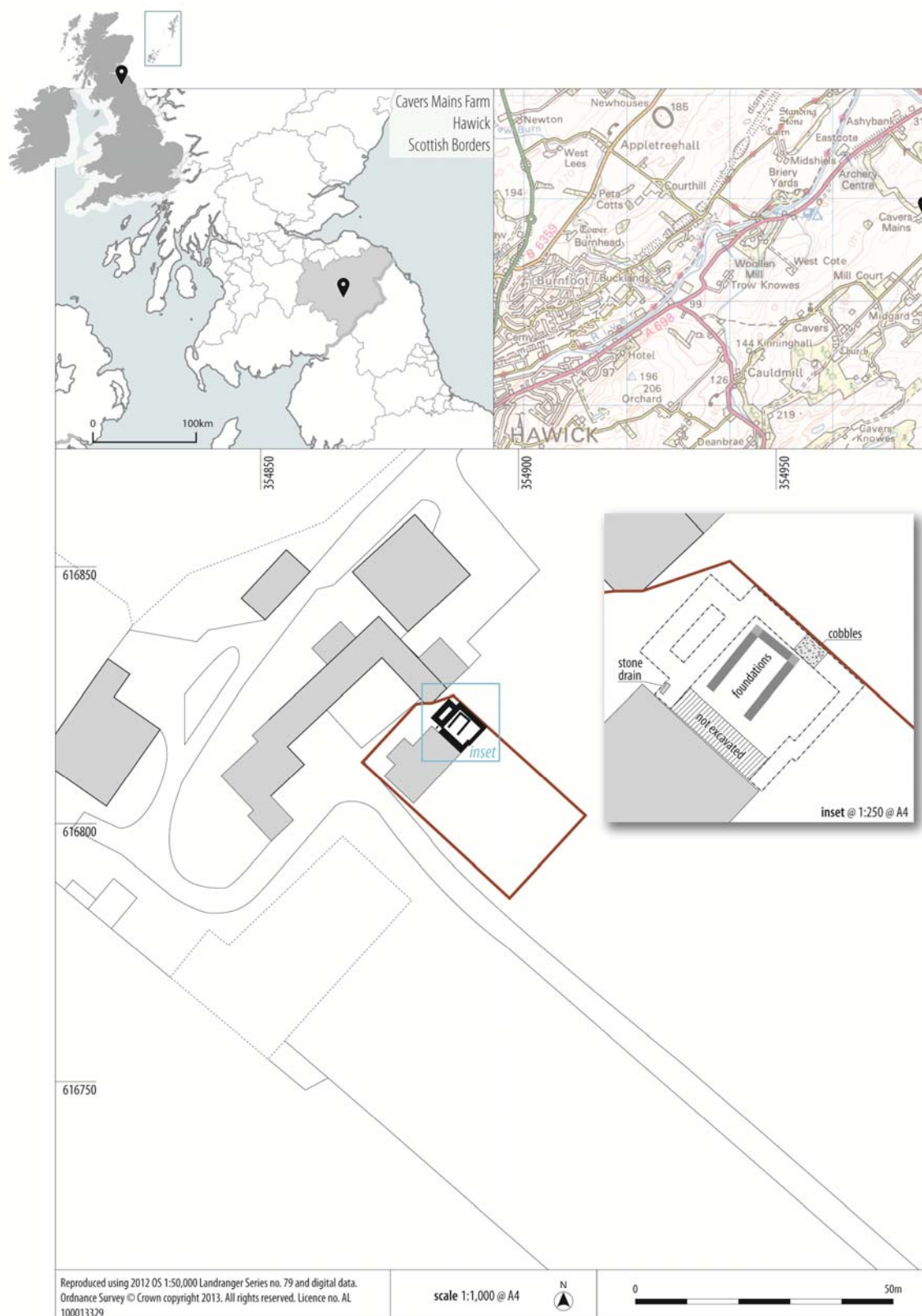
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Illus 1 Site Location plan

Illus 2 Extract from the 1863 ordnance survey

Illus 3 View of the exposed concrete foundations facing SW

Illus 4 General view of the foundation trenches facing SE



Illus 1
Site location

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS AT CAVERS MAINS FARMHOUSE, HAWICK

Watching Brief

Summary – Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook a watching brief on the excavation of the footprint of a proposed extension to the existing farmhouse at Cavers Mains, Hawick. The monitoring was undertaken in order to identify and record any archaeological remains exposed during the works. The work was commissioned by Mr John Sinclair on behalf of Albrighton Roses Ltd, and to a specification agreed with Scottish Borders Council.

The removal of the topsoil from the development footprint exposed concrete foundations to a small rectangular structure associated with a 20th century phase of the farmstead. In conjunction with the removal of the topsoil a number of foundation trenches were excavated around the perimeter of the development footprint. A 1.5m wide cobble surface thought to be associated with the 19th century farmstead was exposed within one of these trenches.

The farmhouse lies within a Roman temporary camp but no features pre-dating the farmstead (c.1850) were uncovered during the watching brief and no artefacts of archaeological significance were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Mr John Sinclair on behalf of Albrighton Roses Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological works in connection with the construction of an extension to Cavers Mains Farmhouse, close to Hawick in the Scottish Borders

Planning permission for the development was granted by Scottish Borders Council (App. no. 12/01229/FUL) subject to a number of conditions, including one relating to archaeological works (no.2.):

No development shall take place on the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (excavation, reporting and analysis) in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

In order to fulfil this condition a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Headland Archaeology (June 2013) for Mr John Sinclair on

behalf of Albrighton Roses Ltd; setting out the proposed strategy for archaeological mitigation.

This included for a programme of archaeological monitoring in outline. The WSI was submitted to and agreed with the Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist who advises the Local Planning Authority on archaeological matters. This report details the results of the work.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Cavers Mains Farmhouse is approximately 3km north-east of Hawick in the Scottish Borders and south of the A968 (NGR: NT 54857 16826) (Illus 1). Cavers Mains is a small farm steading surrounded by mixed farmland.

The geology consists of Gala and Hawick group undifferentiated wacke, overlain by till, Devensian, Diamicton (British Geological Survey).

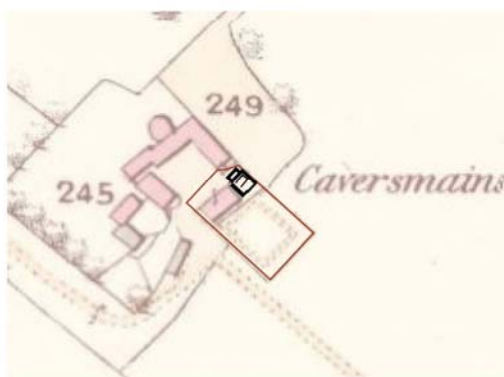
The proposed extension is within a known Roman temporary camp (NMRS: NT51NW 25). The camp is located at NT 548 167 and was observed on

aerial photography (Canmore ID 55268). It is located on the eastern end of a ridge above the River Teviot at approximately 500ft OD. Three sides of the camp are known through cropmarks, however, the south-west side of the camp could not be confirmed by air photography evidence. The camp measures 328m from north-west to south-east by at least 321m transversely. Entrances protected by tituli are visible in the north-east and south-east side. It is estimated that the camp probably enclosed at least 11.5 hectares (Jones 2011).

A linear cropmark (NMRS: NT51NW 70), recorded by aerial photography, is located immediately to the east of Cavers Mains farmstead (NT c. 5490 1683 to NT c. 5509 1683) (Canmore ID 148297). It is aligned WSW-ENE, curving sharply to the south-east after about 130m. It intersects the north-eastern side of the Roman Temporary Camp (NT51NW 25).

The cropmark of an irregular square or rectangular enclosure (NMRS: NT51NW 34), located 300m WSW of Cavers Mains Farmstead (at NGR NT 5459 1670) (Canmore ID 55278) was revealed by oblique aerial photography. The visible south-east and south-west sides each measure 30m long. Remains of a cairn (NMRS: NT51NW 19) were recorded about 80m to the south-west of this feature.

A cairn excavated in 1896 (NMRS: NT51NW 19), containing human remains, a pin, bone disc, arrowhead and flint scraper was located at NT 5451 1660, approximately 400m to the South west of Cavers Mains (Canmore ID 55261).



Illus 2
Extract from the 1863 Ordnance Survey

Illus 2 Extract from the 1863 OS map with the development footprint inserted

The farmhouse is first depicted on the 1863 1st edition Ordnance Survey (Illus 2). A number of small alterations are noted after this date.

3 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

In line with the WSI the main objectives of archaeological works were:

- To mitigate any adverse impacts on sub-surface remains of archaeological interest posed by the extension to Cavers Mains Farmhouse.
- Organise and deposit the resulting archive in the National Monuments Record of Scotland to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Site works

The work was undertaken as specified in the WSI. The main contractor undertook all ground breaking works. A toothed bucket was used to remove all hard surfaces/demolition deposits and all soft deposits were removed using a flat bladed ditching bucket. All ground breaking works were subject to the conditions agreed with Scottish Borders Council archaeologist and were monitored by an experienced archaeologist.

The works involved monitoring all topsoil stripping prior to the construction of an extension to Cavers Mains Farm. Any exposed archaeological remains were recorded and investigated.

The monitoring strategy was put in place 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.

4.2 Recording

All aspects of the work were undertaken in accordance with the current relevant Standards and Guidance for Watching Briefs of the Institute for Archaeologists (2008).

All recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards. Digital photographs were taken. A full list of the photographic record can be found in Appendix 1

4.3 Reporting and Archives

The results of the works are presented below. A summary report has been prepared for submission to *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2) and the OASIS database (headland1-159403).

The complete project archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) within six months of the completion of the project. The records (paper and digital) will be archived according to best practice guidelines set out by the Archaeological Archiving Forum (Brown 2007).

5 RESULTS

The work was carried out 28th August 2013 in fair weather conditions. The work was undertaken subject to the conditions mentioned above until it was clear that the geological subsoil had been reached or the maximum depth of the foundation trenches had been excavated.

The work comprised the removal of the topsoil across the entire footprint of the proposed development along with the excavation of a series of narrow foundation trenches around the perimeter of the footprint. The entire site measured approximately 9m x 7m and was located immediately east of an existing farmhouse building.

The removal of the topsoil from the footprint of the building revealed the concrete foundations of a small north-east/south-west aligned rectangular structure. The feature measured 4m x 2.6m with an opening to the south-west end. The structure does not appear on any of the pre-20th century Ordnance Survey maps suggesting it was a more recent construction.



Illus 3 View of the exposed concrete foundations facing SW

A series of foundation trenches were excavated around the perimeter of the footprint of the proposed development. These trenches were generally 0.9m wide and between 0.5 and 0.8m deep. A 1.5m wide stone cobble surface was exposed 0.4m below the topsoil within a trench located to the north-east side of the development. This surface aligned with the entrance to the existing farm building indicating its probable association with the 19th century farmstead.

All the foundation trenches exposed the grey silty clay geological subsoil. This was overlain by 0.35m of dark brown silty topsoil that included frequent 19th century debris inclusions.



Illus 4 General view of the foundation trenches facing SE

No further artefacts or features of archaeological significance were recorded during the monitoring of the foundation trench excavations.

5.1 Discussion

The monitoring exposed a cobble surface associated with the 19th century origins of the farmhouse along with the foundations to a 20th century farmhouse structure that probably represented a small outhouse. The development did not impact upon these foundations and they were left in-situ.

No features or artefacts relating to earlier occupation of the site were recorded.

5.2 Conclusion

Although no evidence of the Roman occupation of the site was recorded it must be noted that the

footprint of the development area was relatively small. Therefore archaeological features relating to this period may still exist below the existing structures and surrounding area.

6 REFERENCES

6.1 Bibliographic sources

Brown, D H 2007 *Archaeological Archives Forum Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, AAF.

Jones, R H 2011 *Roman Camps in Scotland*, Edinburgh

6.2 Cartographic sources

1863 Ordnance Survey Sheet XX.13
(Cavers)

1898 Ordnance Survey Roxburghshire
Sheet 020.13 (Cavers)

6.3 Other sources

Internet

British Geological Survey website;
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk> (accessed
30/08/2013)

IfA 'Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching briefs' [online article], (28/10/2008)
<http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/nodefiles/ifa_standards_watching.pdf>
accessed 30/08/2013.

National Map Library of Scotland website
<http://maps.nls.uk/> accessed Aug 2013

7 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Photographic register

Frame no.	Direction	Description
001	E	Shot of the foundation remains of small 19 th century building
002	N	Shot of the foundation remains of small 19 th century building
003	SW	View of cobbles to the SE of the area
004	SW	View of cobbles to the SE of the area
005	SE	View of foundation trenches
006	NW	View of foundation trenches
007	W	View of foundation trenches
008	N	General view of site showing foundations excavated

Drawing register

Drawing no.	Plan	Section	Description
001		1:100	Plan of foundation trenches

7.2 Appendix 2 – Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry

Please delete this section if you are not working in Scotland or if for other reasons not applicable.

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Archaeological watching brief at Cavers Mains Farmhouse, Hawick
PROJECT CODE:	CMHB13-001
PARISH:	Cavers
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Donald Wilson
NAME OF ORGANISATION: Headland	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT
START DATE (this season)	28/08/2013
END DATE (this season)	28/08/2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook a watching brief on the excavation of the footprint of a proposed extension to the existing farmhouse at Cavers Mains, Hawick. The monitoring was undertaken in order to identify and record any archaeological remains exposed during the works. The work was commissioned by Mr John Sinclair on behalf of Albrighton Roses Ltd, and to a specification agreed with Scottish Borders Council.</p> <p>The removal of the topsoil from the development footprint exposed concrete foundations to a small rectangular structure associated with a 20th century phase of the farmstead. In conjunction with the removal of the topsoil a number of foundation trenches were excavated around the perimeter of the development footprint. A 1.5m wide cobble surface thought to be associated with the 19th century farmstead was exposed within one of these trenches.</p> <p>No features pre-dating the farmstead (c.1850's) were uncovered during the watching brief and no artefacts of archaeological significance were recovered.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	none
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr John Sinclair on behalf of Albrighton Roses Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	office@headlandarchaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	RCAHMS



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**Headland Archaeology
North East**

13 Jane Street
Edinburgh EH6 5HE

0131 467 7705
northeast@headlandarchaeology.com

**Headland Archaeology
North West**

10 Payne Street
Glasgow G4 0LF

0141 354 8100
northwest@headlandarchaeology.com

**Headland Archaeology
Midlands & West**

Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road
Hereford HR4 9NZ

01432 364 901
midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com

**Headland Archaeology
South & East**

Building 68A, Wrest Park, Silsoe
Bedfordshire MK45 4HS

01525 861 578
southeast@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com