

TRLB/01



2THE ROW, LAUDER, SCOTTISH BORDERS

Archaeological Monitoring

commissioned by Stuart Davidson Architecture
on behalf of Mr and Mrs Potts

12/01037/FUL

January 2015

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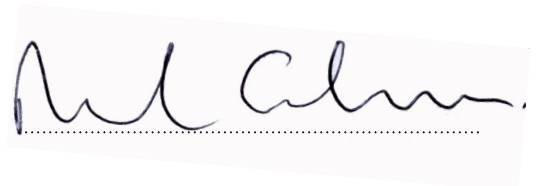
January 2015

project info

HA JOB NO. TRLB/01
NGR NT 5289 4781
PARISH Lauder
LOCAL AUTHORITY Scottish Borders
OASIS REF. headland1-179966

project team

PROJECT MANAGER Russel Coleman
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Summary

Headland Archaeology Ltd undertook archaeological monitoring at 2 The Row, Lauder, Scottish Borders on behalf of Mr and Mrs Potts. The work was undertaken as part of a planning condition for alterations and extension to the house, which dates to the 1st half of the 18th century and which lies within the boundary of the medieval burgh. Two areas were stripped of topsoil covering in total 89m².

The only feature exposed was a ditch containing a 19th century ceramic drain pipe in the area to the west of the house. No significant archaeological features were exposed during the monitoring.

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring at 2 The Row, Lauder, Scottish Borders. Mr and Mrs Potts have been granted planning permission (12/01037/FUL), by The Scottish Borders Council for alterations and extension to the house. In order to meet a condition of the planning consent Stuart Davidson Architecture commissioned Headland Archaeology on behalf of Mr and Mrs Potts to carry out archaeological monitoring of the contractor's topsoil stripping and recording any exposed archaeological features

The areas stripped of topsoil covers in total 89m² comprising an L-shaped area to the south and west of the house (Area A) and a rectangular area to the west (Area B, Illus 1).

The monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Headland Archaeology and approved by Scottish Borders Council prior to works commencing. The monitoring took place on the 27th May 2013.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Lauder received its Royal Burgh charter in 1298, and was re-chartered in 1328 and again in 1502. The Row lies at the very northern end of the medieval burgh, close to the site of the West Port, one of the two main gates into the burgh.

The focus of settlement during the medieval period, as now, would have been the High Street and The Row (formerly Rotten Row, a name with medieval origins possibly referring to a row of tumbledown cottages infected with rats).

The current building appears on maps from the 1830s. General Roy's map of c. 1750 shows buildings in this area which is likely to include the current house. The original deeds records more than 20 sales of the house. The oldest dates from 1733, but it is possible that the house was built before that. This makes it one of the oldest houses in Lauder (Stephen Potts *pers. comm.*).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The archaeological monitoring was designed to mitigate any adverse impacts on sub-surface remains of archaeological interest posed by the extension.

The resulting archive will be organised and deposited in the NMRS to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

METHOD

Area A

The topsoil was removed by a small tracked excavator using a flat blade bucket. The exposed surface was examined to identify any features cut into the natural subsoil.

Area B

This area comprised the cobbled floor of a former stables. The formation level in this area was less than 0.2 m below the current surface. A trench covering some 30% of this area was excavated along the wall to the south-east to evaluate the potential of finding significant archaeological remains.

The extents of the stripped areas were recorded using a differential GPS. A series of digital images were taken for illustrative purposes.

RESULTS

Area A

Area A was located in the garden at the south-east corner of the building. It was L-shaped and measured 10m by 9m by 4.5 m wide covering 67m². The garden topsoil was between 0.5m to 0.6m deep over natural subsoil comprising fluvial deposits in the form of reddish brown compact gravel.

No cut features were visible within the exposed area. The foundations of the south-east corner of the 18th century building were exposed at the edge of the trench. It comprised of one course of stones resting on the sub-soil surface (Illus 2).

Area B

Area B was located to the west of the building. It was a rectangular area 5.5m by 4m that used to be part of stables associated with the house. The area was bounded to the west by the back of a two storey building (53 East High Street), to the south by the wall of the former stables and to the east by the gable of the 18th century building. The stables are depicted as a roofed building on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map surveyed in 1857 (Berwick Sheet XIX.8 (Lauder)) (Illus 3a). On the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map surveyed in 1897 (Berwickshire, Sheet 019.08), an extension to the stables is shown covering most of the open courtyard at the east end of the site (Illus 3b).

The whole of Area B was covered by a cobbled surface, the floor of the former stables. The south-east wall of the former stables was some 2 m high and 4.5m long. The wall showed evidence of at least three phases of construction including a blocked door opening at the east end (Illus 4). The stables had fully bridged the gap between the west gable of the 18th century building and the rear wall of 53 East High Street. The outline of the stable roof is still visible on this wall showing that it was a pitched roof. The height of the roof suggests that there was a hay loft above the stables.

The formation level in Area B was less than 0.2 m below the current surface. A trench covering some 7m² was excavated along the wall to the south-east to expose the natural subsoil and evaluate the potential of finding significant archaeological remains. The stones of the cobbled floor were set into a layer of reddish brown sand on top of the natural subsoil some 0.15m below the floor surface. As in Area A, some 10 m to the north-east, the subsoil comprised fluvial deposits in the form of reddish brown compact gravel.

The only feature exposed in the evaluation trench below the cobbles was a 1m wide linear cut aligned north-west to south-east containing a ceramic sewer pipe emerging from underneath the blocked door opening in the stable wall. Three pieces of pottery were retrieved from the fill of the cut, comprising two pieces of sponge-ware dating to between 1830 and 1930 and one piece of transfer printed white-ware from the same period (Julie Franklin *pers. comm.*).

DISCUSSION

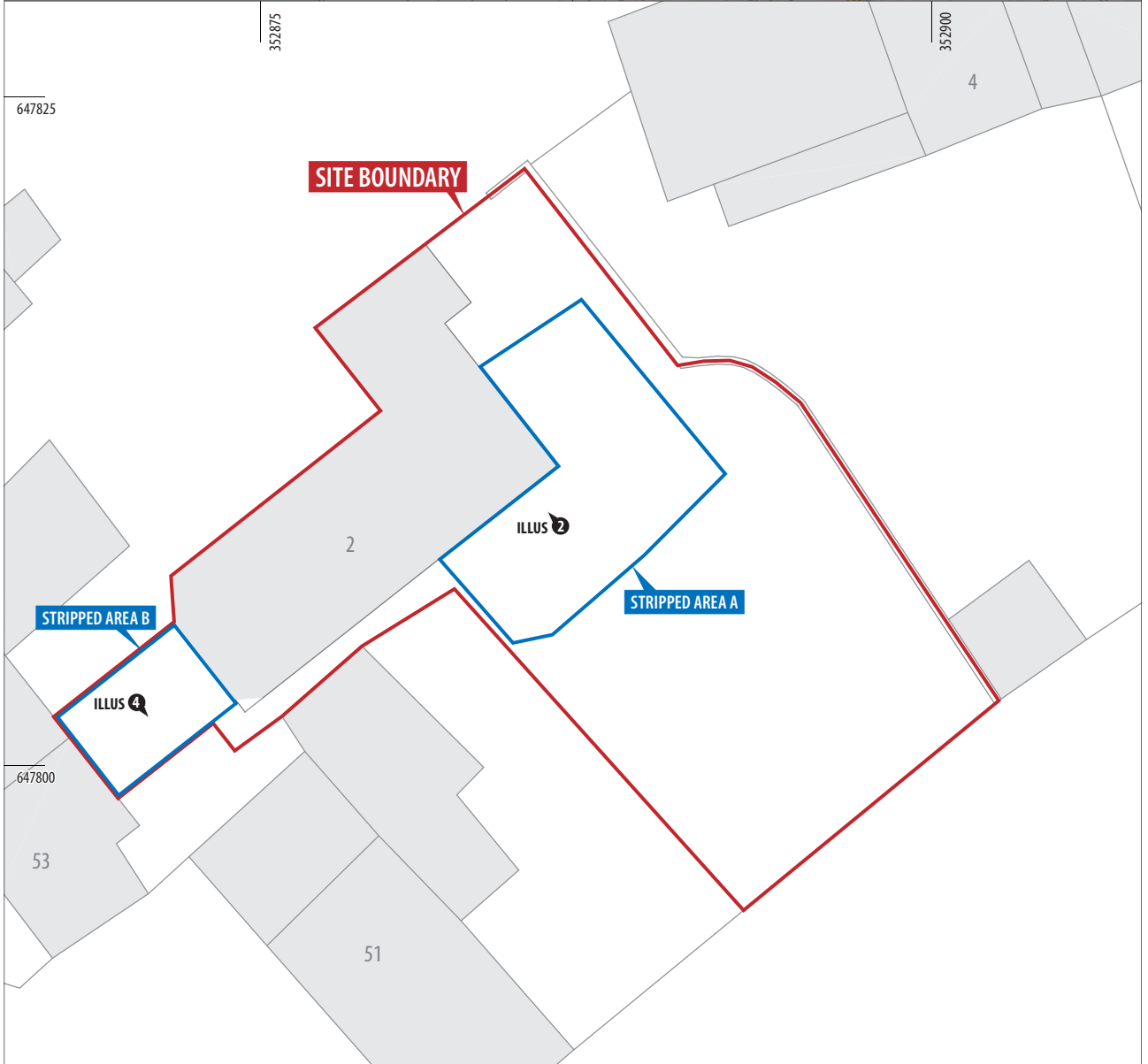
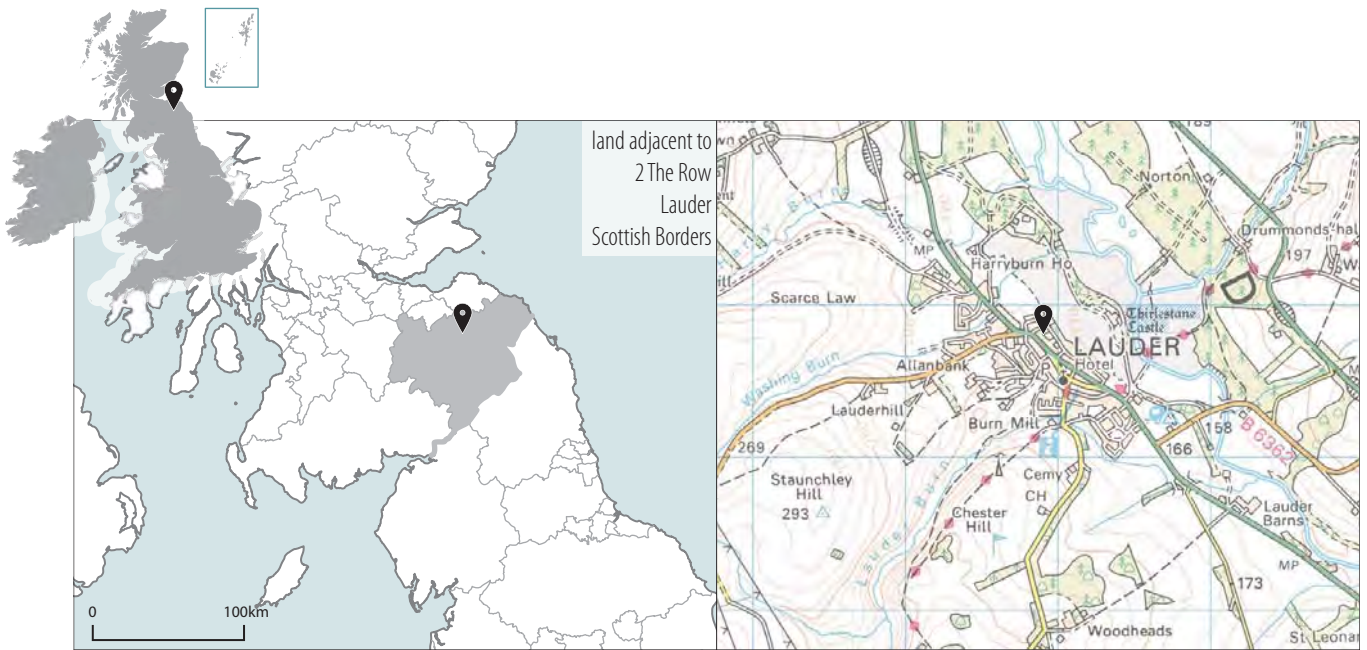
The building lies at the periphery but within the boundaries of the medieval burgh of Lauder. The deeds show that it was erected by 1733 making it one of the oldest surviving houses in Lauder. Its location within the burgh boundaries implied that there would be potential for archaeological remains to survive in this area in the form of back-land activity such as rubbish pits and ditches forming burgage plot boundaries. However no significant archaeological features were exposed during monitoring. The fact that the one storey building was erected on top of foundations sitting in very shallow foundation trenches not cut into subsoil would indicate that stone buildings on the site could have been demolished without leaving any evidence in the form of foundation trenches cut into subsoil.

Appendix 1: Photo register

Picture no.	File name	Facing	Description
01	TRLB14-01-Pic01	SW	NE-facing gable
02	TRLB14-01-Pic02	SW	NE-facing gable. Showing imprint of abutting building
03	TRLB14-01-Pic03	N	E end of SE-facing wall showing imprint of abutting conservatory
04	TRLB14-01-Pic04	NW	Shallow foundations below SE corner of building
05	TRLB14-01-Pic05	W	NE-facing gable
06	TRLB14-01-Pic06	SE	Topsoil stripped from area to NE of building exposing red-brown gravel
07	TRLB14-01-Pic07	NE	Topsoil stripped from area to SE of building exposing red-brown gravel
08	TRLB14-01-Pic08	S	Wall, part of former stables
09	TRLB14-01-Pic09	SW	Imprint of stable roof on building to the SW
10	TRLB14-01-Pic10	SE	Wall, part of former stables
11	TRLB14-01-Pic11	E	SW-facing gable
12	TRLB14-01-Pic12	SE	Wall, part of former stables
13	TRLB14-01-Pic13	SE	Detail of blocked door opening at E end of wall, part of former stables
14	TRLB14-01-Pic14	SW	Foundation trench to the SE of building cut into natural gravels
15	TRLB14-01-Pic15	NW	Foundation trench to the SE of building cut into natural gravels
16	TRLB14-01-Pic16	NW	Foundation trench to the SE of building cut into natural gravels
17	TRLB14-01-Pic17	S	Cobbled floor of former stables removed exposing 19th century ceramic drainage pipe in front of blocked door opening

Appendix 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	2 The Row, Lauder, Scottish Borders: Archaeological watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	TRLB14
PARISH:	Lauder
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Magnar Dalland
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	none
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 5289 4781
START DATE (this season)	May 2014
END DATE (this season)	May 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 2 The Row, Lauder, Scottish Borders. The work was undertaken as part of a planning condition for alterations and extension to the house, which lies within the boundary of the medieval burgh and dates to the first half of the 18 th century. Two areas were stripped of topsoil covering in total 89m ² . No significant archaeological features were exposed during the monitoring.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Stuart Davidson Architects
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Headland Archaeology, 13 Jane Street, Leith , Edinburgh EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	magnar.dalland@headlandarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	RCAHMS



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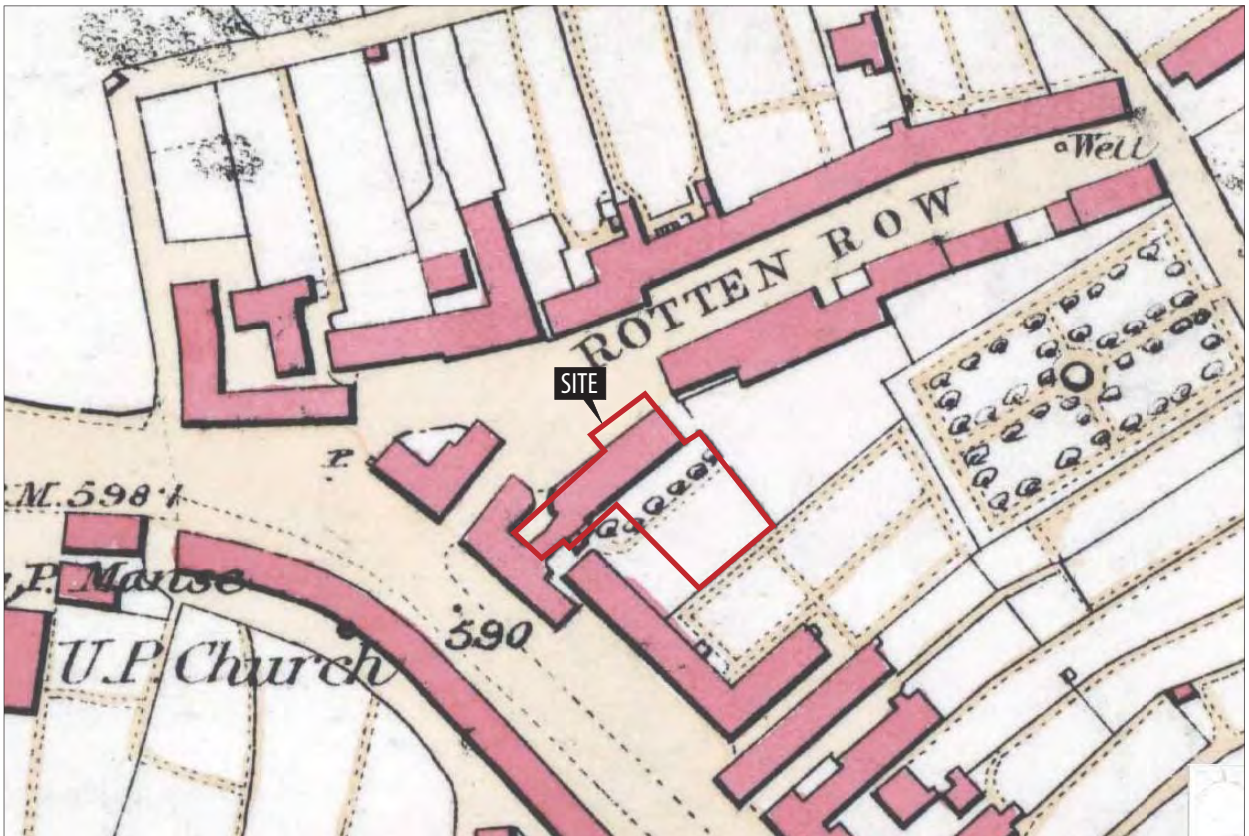
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ILLUS 1
Site location

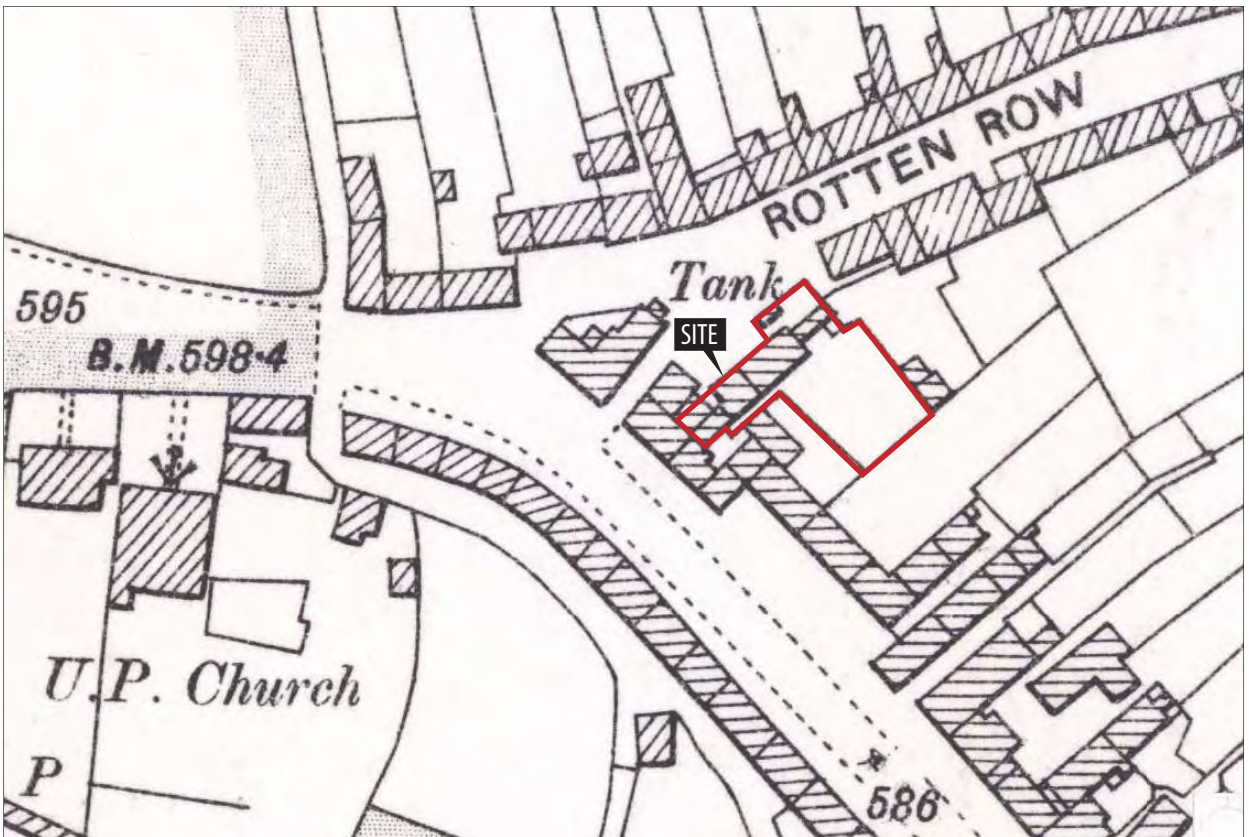


ILLUS 2

Area A; foundations exposed at S-E corner of house seen from the S-E



ILLUS 3a
Extract of 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1857)



ILLUS 3b
Extract of 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map (1897)



ILLUS 4

Area B; south wall of former stables seen from the N-W



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