

CCCP12



CAVALRY COURT, PEEBLES, SCOTTISH BORDERS

Archaeological Watching Brief

commissioned by Tweed Homes

10/01098/FUL

June 2013

CAVALRY COURT, PEEBLES, SCOTTISH BORDERS

Archaeological Watching Brief

for Tweed Homes

10/01098/FUL

June 2013

HA Job no.: CCCP12

NGR: NT 2650 3975

Parish: Peebles

Local authority: Scottish Borders

OASIS ref.: headland1-151989

Archive will be deposited with RCAHMS

Project Manager

Author

Fieldwork

Graphics

Approved by

Edward Bailey

Richard Tuffin

Richard Tuffin

Caroline Norrman

Edward Bailey – 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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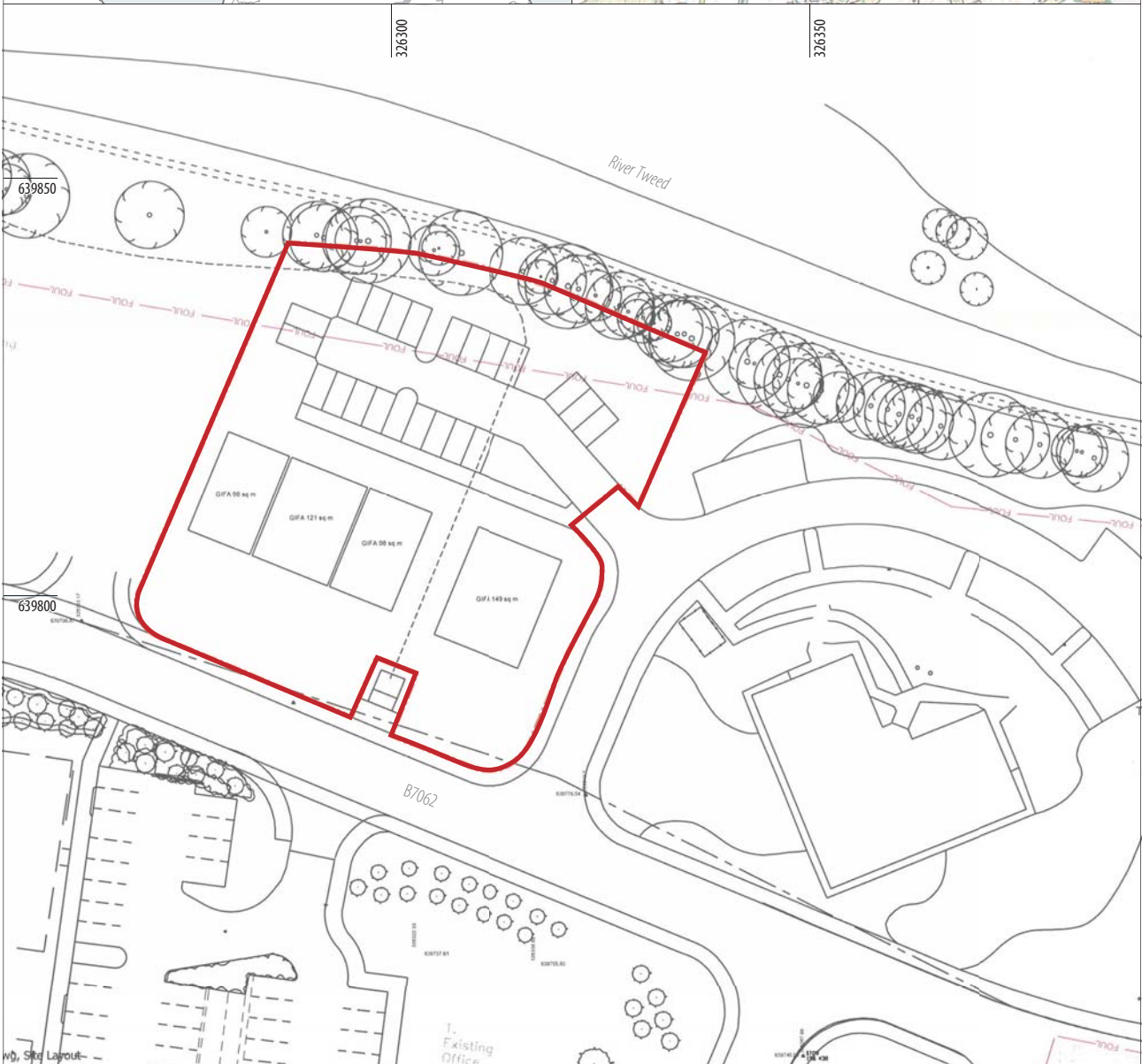
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land at
Copperbeach Court
Cavalry Park
Peebles
Scottish Borders



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scale 1:800 @ A4



0 25m

Illus 1

Site location

CAVALRY COURT, PEEBLES, SCOTTISH BORDERS

Archaeological Watching Brief

An application for development (10/01098/FUL) by Tweed Homes for a development at Cavalry Court, Peebles, was approved by the Scottish Borders Council. A condition attached to approval required an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken on ground breaking works associated with the development. This report presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief.

The programme took place on the 2nd June and involved archaeological monitoring of preparatory groundworks. No remains of archaeological significance were identified. It was evident that the site was situated on an area of unevenly deposited made-ground, giving way to natural superficial geological deposits below.

1 INTRODUCTION

An application for development (10/01098/FUL) by Tweed Homes (the client), for a development at Cavalry Court, Peebles was approved by the Scottish Borders Council (the LPA). As a condition attached to the approval of the application, an archaeological watching brief was required on ground breaking works associated with the development.

The client commissioned Headland Archaeology to agree a programme of archaeological work with the Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist, encapsulated in a written scheme of investigation (WSI). This report presents the results of those works, undertaken as an archaeological watching brief.

2 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The watching brief sought to provide further information about the archaeological resource, to enable appropriate decisions to be reached regarding the planning submission and therefore mitigate any adverse impacts on that resource.

3 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located at National Grid Reference NT 2650 3975, around 160m OD, on the southern outskirts of Peebles (*Illus 1*). It is situated on the southern bank of the River Tweed, approximately 50m from the current river's course.

The area to be stripped measured approximately 50m (N-S) x 40m, with a number of service trenches to be excavated at the site's southern edges. At the time of fieldwork the site was a covered in turf. The site is underlain by superficial geological deposits formed



Illus 2

Excavation of main site area



Illus 3

Excavated service trench

from gravel, sand and silt laid down during the Quaternary Period. These in turn overlie sedimentary bedrock deposits of Silurian origin (British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential. Fieldwalking undertaken in 1994 at Cavalry Park (NGR NT 2635 3970) identified prehistoric artefacts comprising 120 pieces of struck chert, one piece of flint, two sherds of pottery and one probable early Bronze Age artefact (Knox 1994, Sheridan 1995). A later (2006) archaeological watching brief undertaken by Headland Archaeology Ltd. (Hewat 2006) identified no further remains of archaeological significance.

5 METHODOLOGY

Excavations were undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket. All ground-breaking was monitored by an archaeologist.

All archaeological deposits were recorded using standard archaeological methods and pro forma record sheets. Photographs were taken using a digital camera.

6 RESULTS

The majority of the groundwork excavations comprised the stripping of the topsoil from across the development area. The topsoil was found to be very thin, ranging from 0.1m across the bulk of the site, to 0.2m at the site's eastern edge (*Illus 2*). The strip revealed a compact deposit of dark brown loamy silt with a high level of rounded gravels throughout. The presence of modern artefacts (plastic, rope, brick) within sections of this deposit indicated the presence of made ground. Excavation did not proceed beyond this depth.

Three short service trenches and two soakaways were located on the southern edge of the site, where it abutted the roadway (*Illus 3*). As these were to be excavated to depth, they were taken to the required level. This revealed geological deposits of an orange/brown clay silt with high level of rounded gravels throughout. This was located at a depth of 0.4–0.6m.

7 DISCUSSION

The watching brief identified no features or deposits of archaeological significance. The stripping of the topsoil during groundworks revealed predominantly modern made ground. Deeper excavations in the site's southern extent found that this deposit sealed geological deposits.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2013 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief at Cavalry Court, Peebles, Scottish Borders*.
- Hewat, C 2006 *Archaeological Watching Brief at Cavalry Park, Peebles, Scottish Borders*, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd: Unpublished client report.
- Knox, RD 1994 'Cavalry Park, Peebles (Peebles Parish): fieldwalking', *Discovery and Excavation Scotland 1994:7*.
- Sheridan, A 1995 'Cavalry Park, Peebles (Peebles Parish): sponge finger stone', *Discovery and Excavation Scotland 1995:10*.

9 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

APPENDIX 1.1 PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Photo	Facing	Description
001	N	Pre-condition survey
002	W	Pre-condition survey
003	E	Pre-condition survey
004	NE	Pre-condition survey
005	S	Pre-condition survey
006	N	Excavation in progress
007	E	Excavation in progress
008	W	Excavation in progress
009	S	Pre-condition, south east area
010	N	Excavation in progress
011	NE	Pre-condition, south west area



APPENDIX 2 DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Cavalry Court, Peebles, Scottish Borders
PROJECT CODE:	CCCP12
PARISH:	Peebles
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	R Tuffin
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	n/a
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	urban
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	none
NGR	NT 2635 3970
START DATE (this season)	2nd June 2013
END DATE (this season)	2nd June 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	none
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was carried out on 2nd June 2013 in fulfilment of a condition attached to planning consent for a development being undertaken by Tweed Homes. The watching brief identified no deposits of archaeological significance.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS and report lodged with Scottish Borders Archaeologist.
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Tweed Homes
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Headland Archaeology Ltd, 13 Jane St, Edinburgh. EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	ed.bailey@headlandarchaeology.com



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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
southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com