

CSGB15-01

THE GRANGE, CHURCH STREET, GALASHIELS

Report on Archaeological Trial Trenching

Client: Stuart Davidson Architecture

TRLB14 – 01 summary sheet

Client:	Stuart Davidson Architecture
National Grid Reference:	NT 49500 35625 (site centre)
Address:	Church Street, Galashiels
Parish:	Galashiels
Council	Scottish Borders
Planning Application No	14/01334/FUL
NMRS No	None
OASIS No	headland1-215845
Project Manager	Alistair Robertson
Text	Magnar Dalland
Illustrations	Julia Bastek-Michalska
Fieldwork	Magnar Dalland
Schedule:	
Fieldwork	May 2015
Report	June 2015

Summary

Headland Archaeology Ltd undertook archaeological trial trenching at the site for a proposed dwelling in garden ground of The Grange, Church Street, Galashiels to address a condition of planning (ref: 14/01334/FUL). A total of four 10m trenches were excavated totalling an area of some 65m².

Despite the potential for prehistoric and medieval remains, no features of archaeological significance were identified during the fieldwork. Only three field drains were uncovered during the trial trenching.

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of archaeological trial trenching at the site for a proposed dwelling in garden ground of The Grange, Church Street, Galashiels. The work was carried out in connection with a planning application (ref: 14/01334/FUL) and on the request of the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer, archaeological advisor to Scottish Borders Council as planning authority.

The proposed development site lies in the centre of Galashiels, Scottish Borders (Illus 1). It is located in the northeast corner of garden ground enclosed by a rubble wall, bounded by Church Street to the north and the grounds of St. Peter's Church to the east. Rough ground incorporating trees and long grasses lies to the south.

The work 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 WSI specified a 7% sample trial trench evaluation totalling 60m². A total of four 10m trenches were excavated totalling an area of some 65m².

The monitoring took place on the 28th May 2015.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Late 19th century records indicated that a burial cist, consistent with a Bronze Age date, was found in the area of the old churchyard. A number of other 19th century sources suggested there were further such burials found between the churchyard and Old Gala House. This indicated the old town was built within a prehistoric landscape containing at least burials and burial cairns, but also possibly at least one stone circle (recorded from near Gala House) and settlement evidence nearer the hills to the south. The proximity of the cist burial to the property indicated a moderate potential for encountering further prehistoric archaeology in the vicinity of The Grange.

The proposed development site lies adjacent to the 17th century Old Parish Church burial ground. However, a precursor in use during the 16th century in the area is noted in Galashiels Burgh Survey. There was therefore a small possibility that burial evidence associated with this medieval phase may have extended into the site. There was also some potential for medieval and early post-medieval structural remains to survive, prior to the town's expansion northwest of the site.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation was to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the archaeological significance and potential of the proposed development site balanced against the predicted impacts. More specific aims were to establish the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the site.

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

METHOD

All trenches were scanned with a CAT cable locator before any digging commences.

Four 10m long trenches were located within the proposed footprint of the development. The original layout had to be adjusted slightly to avoid a large mound of soil in the south half of the site (Illus 1).

Trenches were excavated with a JCB equipped with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. All trenches were excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and deposits. Machine excavation terminated at the top of the natural geology comprising alluvium in the form of orange sands and gravel.

The location of the trenches and features were recorded by measuring off-sets from the surrounding garden wall.

A series of digital images were taken for illustrative purposes.

RESULTS

The general stratigraphy within the trenches comprised a 0.3m deep topsoil [01], overlying a 0.5m deep deposit of grey brown silty sand with gravel inclusions [02]. The geological subsoil comprised orange sands and gravel [03].

No features were exposed in Trenches 1 and 2.

A linear cut [05] aligned ESE to WNW was exposed in Trench 3 to the S of the site. It extended beyond the trench at either end and was 0.6m wide. A slot was cut into the feature revealing an asymmetric 0.2m deep cross-section with a sloping N side and a steep S side (Illus 2). The feature was filled with grey brown silty sand [05] with some angular to sub-rounded stones.

Two stone rubble drains were exposed in Trench 4 along the W side of the site (Illus 3). Drain [08] was located in the N half of the trench. It was aligned N to S and terminated at right angles at a second drain [10] aligned E to W. A slot was cut across [08]. The cut was 0.3m deep and had near vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with vacuous stones including small slabs set on edge (Illus 4). This drain appears to drain into a second rubble drain [10] to the S.

DISCUSSION

Only three features were uncovered during the fieldwork. The two features exposed in Trench 4 [08], [10] are clearly rubble field drains. The linear feature [05] in Trench 3 was filled with less stony material than the rubble drains to in Trench 4 the NW, but it is aligned roughly parallel with drain [10] and is therefore likely to be part of the general pattern of drains in the area.

Apart from these drains, no significant archaeological features were uncovered during the fieldwork.

Appendix 1: Trench register

Trench No.	Alignment	Dimensions	Topsoil Depth (m)	Details
1	NNE-SSW	10 x 1.6 m	0.8	0-0.3m : Turf and black humic topsoil. 0.3-0.8m: Greybrown silty sand with gravel. Subsoil: Orange brown sandy gravel. No features
2	NNW-SSE	10.5 x 1.6 m	0.8	0-0.3m : Turf and black humic topsoil. 0.3-0.8m: Greybrown silty sand with gravel. Subsoil: Orange brown sandy gravel. No features
3	ENE-WSW	10 x 1.6 m	0.4	0-0.2m : Black humic topsoil. 0.2-0.4m: Greybrown silty sand with gravel. Subsoil: Orange brown sandy gravel. Linear feature [05] exposed in the middle part of the trench.
4	NNE-SSW	10.5 x 1.6 m	0.6	0-0.2m : Compact made ground containing brick and stone rubble. 0.2-0.6m: Greybrown silty sand with gravel. Subsoil: Orange brown sandy gravel. Drains [08] and [10] exposed in the N half of the trench.

Appendix 2: Context register

Context no	Area	Description
01	T1-T4	Black humic topsoil, 0.3 m deep.
02	T1-T4	Greybrown silty sand with gravel. Below [01], overlies [03].
03	T1-T4	Orange brown sandy gravel. Natural fluvial deposit.
04	T3	Fill of linear cut [05]. Greybrown silty sand with some angular to sub-rounded stones.
05	T3	Linear cut aligned ESE to WNW. Exposed over a distance of some 5 m, 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep. Curving N side, steep S side, rounded base.
06	T4	Made ground comprising compact deposits containing brick and stone rubble. Up to 0.2m deep.
07	T4	Fill of rubble drain [08]. Vaceous stone rubble. Mainly angular stones 5 to 15 cm across, some slabs set on edge
08	T4	Cut of rubble drain aligned NNE to SSW. Terminates at drain [10] to the south, continues beyond the N end of the trench. Exposed over a distance of 5.9 m, 0.5m wide and 0.3m deep. Near vertical sides with a flat base.
09	T4	Fill of rubble drain [10]. Stone rubble in a matrix of grey silty sand.
10	T4	Cut of rubble drain aligned ESE to WSW. Aligned at right angles to drain [08]. Exposed over a distance of 1.6m and is 0.4m wide, and 0.3m deep. Near vertical sides with a flat base. Not excavated.

Appendix 3: Photo register

Photo no.	Digital file name	Facing	Description
1	CSGB15-001.JPG	NN E	View towards the N end of the site
2	CSGB15-002.JPG	NE	View towards the N end of the site
3	CSGB15-003.JPG	SSW	Trench 1 from NNE
4	CSGB15-004.JPG	NN E	Trench 1 from SSW
5	CSGB15-005.JPG	NN W	Trench 2 from SSE
6	CSGB15-006.JPG	SSE	Trench 2 from NNW
7	CSGB15-007.JPG	NN W	Trench 2. Soil profile at N end of trench
8	CSGB15-008.JPG	W	Trench 3 with linear cut [05]
9	CSGB15-009.JPG	E	Trench 3 with linear cut [05]
10	CSGB15-010.JPG	ESE	Trench 3. Slot across linear cut [05]
11	CSGB15-011.JPG	NN E	Trench 4 with drains [08] and [10]
12	CSGB15-012.JPG	SSW	Trench 4 with drains [08] and [10]
13	CSGB15-013.JPG	NN E	Trench 4. Slot cut across rubble drain [08]
14	CSGB15-014.JPG	SSW	Trench 4. N-facing section across rubble drain [08]
15	CSGB15-015.JPG	NE	View towards the N end of the site and Trenches 3 (right) and 4 (left)
16	CSGB15-016.JPG	S	View towards the S end of the site and Trenches 2 (left) and 4 (right)

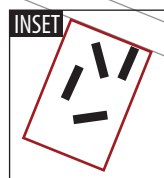
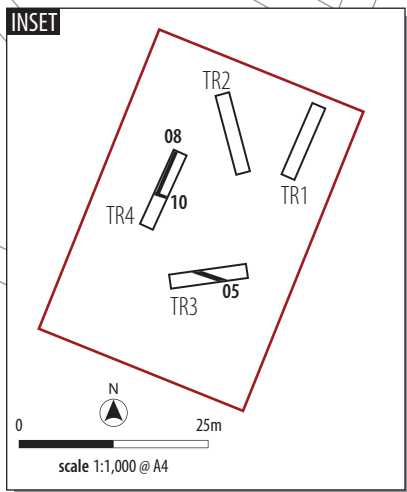
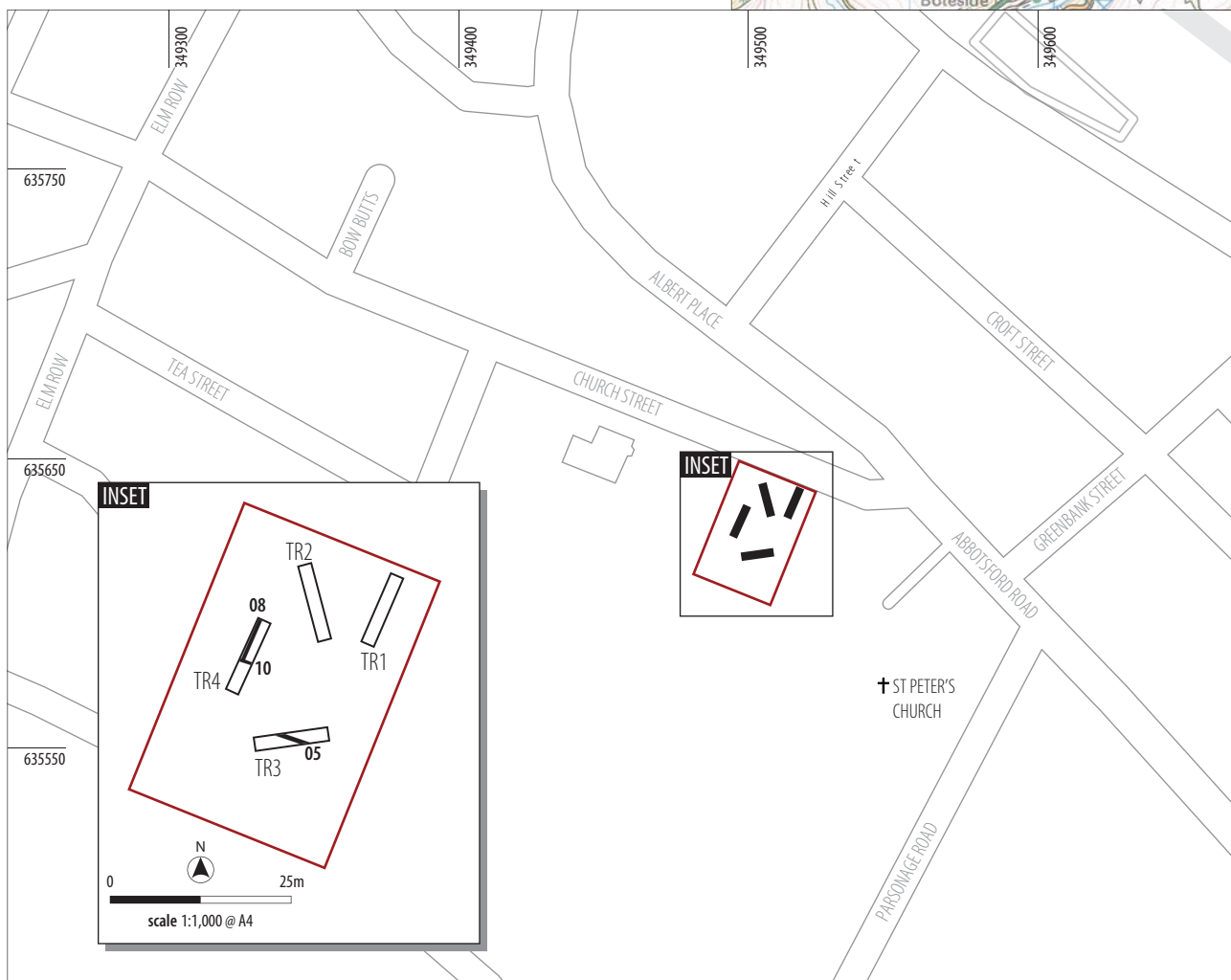
Appendix 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	The Grange, Church Street, Galashiels
PROJECT CODE:	CSCG15
PARISH:	Galashiels
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Magnar Dalland
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Trial trenching
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	none
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 49500 35625
START DATE (this season)	May 2015
END DATE (this season)	May 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological trial trenching was carried out at the site for a proposed dwelling in garden ground of The Grange, Church Street, Galashiels. A total of four 10m trenches were excavated totalling an area of some 65m².</p> <p>Three field drains were uncovered during the trial trenching. Apart for these drains, no significant archaeological features were uncovered during the fieldwork.</p>
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

GARDEN GROUND OF THE GRANGE (CSGB/01)

land adjacent to Church Street
Galashiels
Scottish Borders

0 200km



- KEY
- development boundary
 - trench location

0 125m
scale 1:2,500 @ A4



**HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY**

SCOTLAND

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ILLUS 1
Site location

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ILLUS 2

W facing section across linear cut [05] in Trench 3



ILLUS 3

Rubble drains [08] and [10] in Trench 4. Facing S



ILLUS 4

S facing section across rubble drain [08] in Trench 4

