

Date: May 2007
Client: CALA Homes (East) Ltd
Project Code: BRP07

Bonnington Road, Peebles, Midlothian:
Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

Katie Sludden

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET (BRP07)

Client	CALA Homes (East) Ltd
National Grid Reference	NT 255388
Project Manager	Russel Coleman
Text	Katie Sludden
Illustrations	
Fieldwork	Katie Sludden Simon Coxe
Schedule	
Fieldwork	9 th - 10 th May 2007
Report	May 2007

SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the land proposed for housing development at Bonnington Road, Peebles. As lithics have been recovered from the field during fieldwalking in the past an archaeological condition was attached to planning consent by Scottish Borders Council to ensure no archaeological remains were affected by the proposed development.

This report comprises the results of the archaeological evaluation within the proposed development area. The housing development is located within the field east of Bonnington Road, bounded by Glensax and Amsheen Houses along the road itself.

No archaeological features or finds were identified in the evaluation. In summary, no cut features were found nor were any further artefacts recovered from the soils excavated. No further archaeological work is recommended.

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION
2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
4. METHOD
5. RESULTS
6. DISCUSSION
7. REFERENCES

APPENDIX A: Trench Register

APPENDIX B: Photo Register

FIGURE 1: Location of Evaluation Trenches

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 CALA Homes (East) Ltd commissioned Headland Archaeology Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological works at Bonnington Road, Peebles to satisfy a planning condition attached to the development issued by Scottish Borders Council. This programme comprised an archaeological evaluation within arable land to the east of Bonnington Road within the proposed development area directly east of Amsheen House, known as King's Muir.
- 1.2 The housing development area lies within the field east of Bonnington Road, between the southern boundary of an existing housing scheme to the east and along to Glensax House to the west and south to the existing field boundary.

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The planning condition was triggered by a PHD Thesis written by Dr. Graham Warren. The thesis set out and discussed a set of lithics collected by a local resident of Peebles, Mr Bob Knox. The collection consisted of 1,444 lithic artefacts, seventy-three of which came from King's Muir. These were collected from the 1980's up to 1998 when Mr Knox donated the collection to Dr Warren who was investigating Mesolithic activity in the Tweed valley. Dr Warren suggested that the variety of the 73 artefacts recovered from King's Muir was indicative of an occupation site there. Specifically, the presence of knapped *in situ* Arran pitchstone supports this suggestion. As a result Scottish Borders Council placed a condition upon the development that an archaeological evaluation of the area was undertaken before works commenced.

The National Monuments Record also notes that a cairn was discovered in 1794 containing an urn containing burnt remains and a dagger (NMRS No: NT23NE 21). Its' exact location is unknown.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The key objectives were as follows:
- To test for previously unknown archaeological remains within the development area.
 - To determine the date, nature, condition and significance of any known or previously unknown archaeological remains.
 - To determine the likely impact of the development on any such remains found.
 - To propose appropriate mitigation measures to address the impact of the development on any such remains found.

4. METHOD

- 4.1 Nine trenches were excavated across the proposed development area using a JS130 13ton tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision. The combined length of the trenches was 875 m, equating to a total area of 1750 m² or 10% of the total area affected by the development.
- 4.2 Unique numbers were assigned to each trench. A site plan was created using a PC running CAD software linked to a total station theodolite and tied to the National Grid.

5 RESULTS

Trial Trenching (Figure 1)

A full description of all trenches is given in Appendix A

- 5.1 The trenches were initially placed along the north, west and east boundaries then a long trench dug along the crest of the hill and down the eastern slope through the centre of the field. No archaeology was encountered within any of the nine trenches
- 5.2 The topsoil and subsoil was consistent across the entire site. The topsoil was 0.25-0.4m deep consisting of dry loamy organic soil containing a few large stones and frequent small stones and pebbles. Glass and pottery was rare which suggests there has been little ploughing of this field in the past. The field was covered in 'divets' from arable use. The subsoil was a mixture of orange and grey gravels and loamy sand.
- 5.3 Numerous ceramic and rubble field drains were encountered none of which were disturbed by the excavator.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The archaeological evaluation at Kingsmuir, Bonnington Road has uncovered no previously unknown archaeological remains.
- 6.2 No further lithics were recovered from the trenching.
- 6.3 The cairn noted by the National Monuments Record was not identified within the development area.
- 6.4 In light of the results, no further archaeological work is recommended.

APPENDIX A
Trench Register

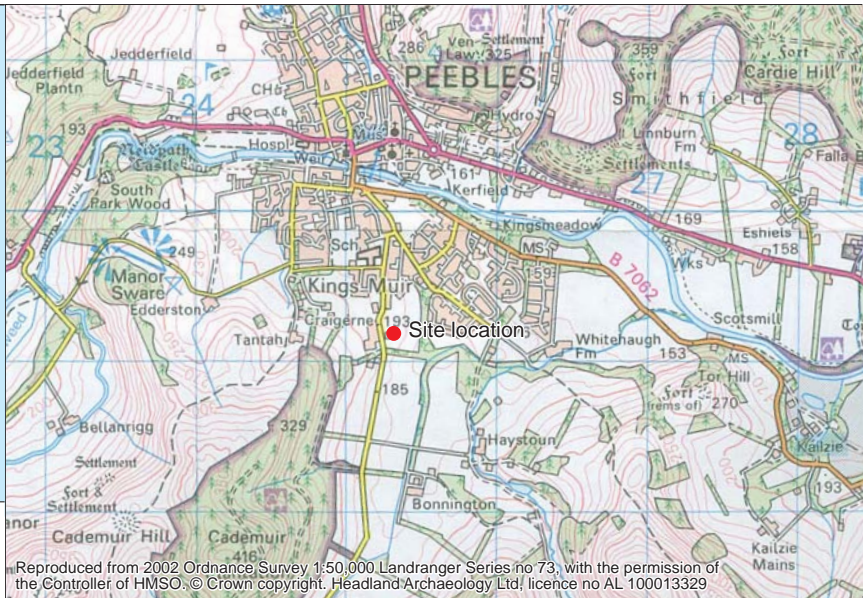
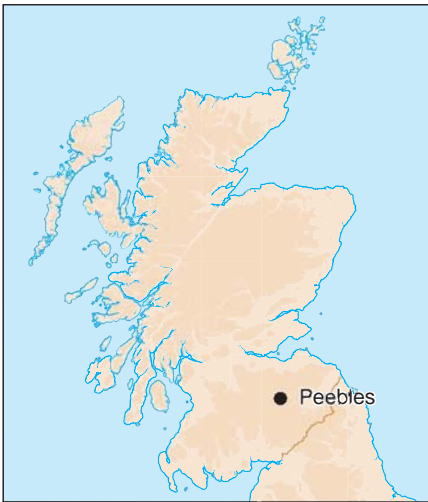
Trench	Description	Dimensions (All trenches 1.60 m wide)
1	Located to the southeast of the development area, aligned SSW-NNE.	Length: 100m Depth: Max 0.3m
2	Located to the southeast of the development area, aligned SSW-NNE.	Length: 150m Depth: Max 0.4 m
3	Located to the southeast of the development area, aligned SSW-NNE.	Length: 150 m Depth: Max 0.85 m
4	Located along the north boundary of the development area, aligned E-W.	Length: 50m Depth: Max 0.3 m
5	Located to the southwest of the development area, aligned SE-NW.	Length: 50m Depth: Max 0.3 m
6	Located to the southwest of the development area, aligned SE-NW.	Length: 50 m Depth: Max 0.5 m
7	Located to the west of the development area, aligned SE-NW.	Length: 100 m Depth: Max 0.40 m
8	Located to the northwest of the development area, aligned NE-SW.	Length: 150 m Depth: Max 0.4 m
9	Located to the north through the centre of the development area, aligned E-W.	Length: 75 m Depth: Max 0.4m

APPENDIX B
Photo Register
Colour Slide and Print

SHOT NO	FACING	DESCRIPTION
1	N	Condition Survey: Pre- Ex General Shots of Field
2	N	Condition Survey: Pre- Ex General Shots of Field
3	SE	Condition Survey: Pre- Ex General Shots of Field
4	NW	Working shot of Trench 7& 13
5	E	Condition Survey: Post Ex shots of Trenches 1 and 2
6	-	ID Shot

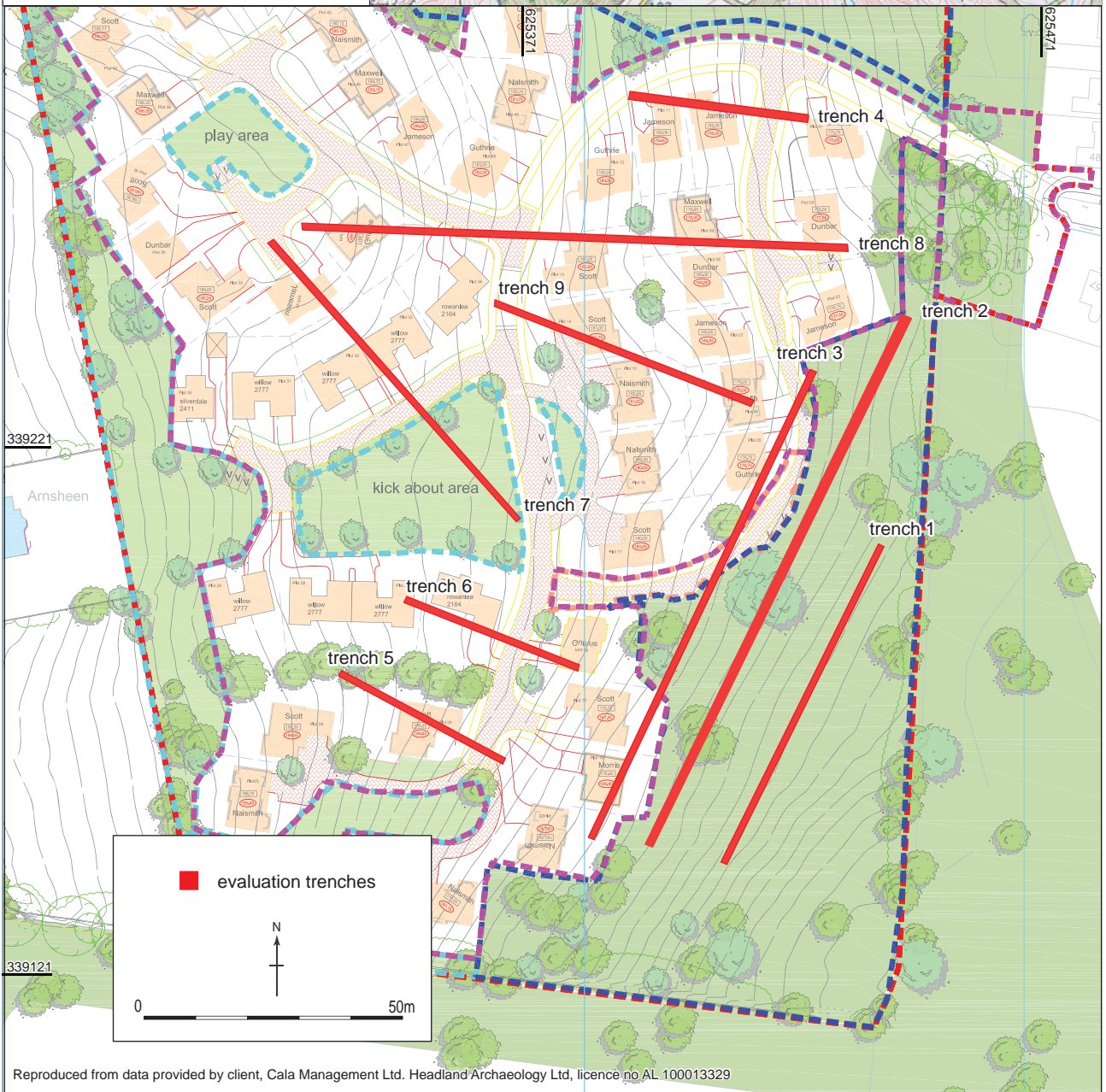
DES ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Bonnington Road, Peebles
PROJECT CODE:	BRP07
PARISH:	Peebles
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Katie Sludden
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NMRS No: NT23NE 21
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Site of cairn
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Lithic scatter
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 255388
START DATE (this season)	9 th May 2007
END DATE (this season)	10 th May 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the land proposed for housing development at Bonnington Road, Peebles in connection with a planning condition issued by Scottish Borders Council. This report comprises the results of the archaeological evaluation within the proposed development area. No archaeological features or finds were identified in the evaluation. In summary, although there have been lithics recovered from the site by walkover survey in the past, no cut features were found nor were any further artefacts recovered from the site. No further archaeological work was recommended.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	CALA Homes (East) Ltd
CAPTION FOR ILLUSTRATION	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Headland Archaeology Ltd, 13 Jane St, Edinburgh EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive and report to be deposited in NMRS. Report lodged with Scottish Borders Council SMR



HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

Reproduced from 2002 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger Series no 73, with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. © Crown copyright. Headland Archaeology Ltd, licence no AL 100013329



Reproduced from data provided by client, Cala Management Ltd. Headland Archaeology Ltd, licence no AL 100013329

BRP07: Figure 1, location of evaluation trenches