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Client: Scottish Borders Council
Project Code: HUD07

Archaeological Evaluation at the Huddersfield Street Depot, Galashiels, Scottish Borders

Colin Hewat and Dan Atkinson

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET (HUD07)

Client	Scottish Borders Council
National Grid Reference	NT 4946 3581 (site centred)
Project Manager	Tim Holden
Text	Colin Hewat and Dan Atkinson
Illustrations	Linn Breslin
Evaluation	Colin Hewat Dan Atkinson
Schedule	
Fieldwork	March 2007
Report	March 2007

Summary

This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed road development at Huddersfield Street Depot, Galashiels, Scottish Borders. Eleven trenches were excavated within a compound consisting of 14 buildings, mostly dating to the 19th Century (Geddes 2007). No features of archaeological significance were identified, either predating the current buildings complex or that were indicative of relict features and structures associated with the activities of the Mill.

1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Scottish Borders Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed road development at the Huddersfield Street Depot, Galashiels. This report presents the results of this field evaluation. The programme of works was conducted in accordance with a Brief as agreed with the Borders Council Archaeologist. The fieldwork was undertaken between the 12th and 14th March 2007.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION (Figure 1)

Huddersfield Street Depot, currently used by Scottish Borders Council, is located on Huddersfield Street, close to the centre of Galashiels in the Scottish Borders (NT 4946 3581). The depot consists of 14, mostly 19th century buildings and associated yard areas. The site is to be developed to make way for the Galashiels Inner Relief Road. The area under evaluation consisted of the open yard areas between the buildings, this area was mostly sealed with tarmac or wasteland with a compact rubble surface.

3. AIMS

The primary objective of the field evaluation was to determine the presences or absence, quality, nature, extent and character of any buried archaeological remains that predate the current settlement. The results will be used to allow the local authority to make an informed decision regarding further mitigation works.

4. METHOD

Desk Based Assessment

A rapid desk based assessment of the site was undertaken. This included the examination of all historic maps and records held in the NMRS. The results of this work were used to inform the fieldwork. A systematic search of all readily available and relevant documentary sources was undertaken using the following sources:

- Archaeological records held in the National Monuments Record of Scotland
- Published maps held in the National Library of Scotland
- Information on Listed Buildings/Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Relevant published sources

Trial trenching

A series of trial trenches were excavated in the area of the proposed development. These aimed to cover approximately 5% of the development site not currently built upon (total area approximately 4080 m²), amounting to 130 linear metres of trenching. However, due to extensive networks of services and inaccessible areas encountered on the site, only 60 linear metres were excavated, contrary to the 130 metres linear or 5% sample specified in the Project Brief. This was confirmed and approved by the Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist during a visit to the site. The trenching evaluated the depth, age and character of any surviving archaeological deposits. Exposed features and trench stratigraphy were cleaned by hand and fully recorded. All recording used pro-forma record sheets, drawings were at standard scales (sections 1:10 and plans 1:100), photography used colour print and slide film.

A JCB was used to break the tarmac surface with a toothed bucket; once the road surface had been removed a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket was used to excavate the trenches. All excavation was conducted under direct archaeological supervision. The locations of the trenches were tied into the national Grid using a Leica TCRA 805 total station.

5. RESULTS (Figure 1 & 2)

Desk Based Assessment

The Assessment has confirmed that the site of the proposed development was open land in the 18th and early 19th century. Wood's 1824 Town Plan shows the site of the proposed development located along the eastern boundary of the former Kirk Croft Park. By the middle of the 19th century the site was enclosed by a boundary, respecting that noted to this day. The current courtyard situated in the southeast corner of the site is also visible on this map identified as a Millwright's Yard (OS 1858); and represents the likely expansion of the milling activities in the area at this time. The 1899 revision of the Ordnance Survey shows the further development of the site, identified as Waverley Mill (NMRS: NT43NE121), developed by J and W Roberts in 1886. The present site layout; particularly the refuse destructor (NMRS: NT43NE66), ancillary buildings and the rear access road become evident on the 1932 OS, further corroborated on the 1964 OS.

Trial trenching

Appendix 1 gives full descriptions of all trenches excavated and each context recorded.

Eleven trenches of varying length were excavated and no features of archaeological significance, predating the current buildings complex were identified.

The trenches varied greatly in stratigraphy and depth. Trenches 2, 3 and 4 consisted largely of made-up ground above natural deposits. A rubble drain [007] was identified cut in to the natural deposits within Trench 3 that contained 19th century pottery and is likely to relate to the drainage of the site when employed as open pasture and parkland. Trenches 1 and 5-10 had a similar stratigraphy. A cobble surface [002] appeared to extend across large areas of the site, this overlay a deposit of ash, cinders and other modern debris [003]. Trenches 6, 7 and 8 displayed a buried topsoil deposit [020] beneath deposit [003]. The buried topsoil deposit [020] contained 19th century pottery. All these deposits are likely to date to the 19th and 20th Century activities within the site. Trench 11 encountered modern services consisting of two drains converging on a red brick man-hole access point [031-033]. Extensive deposits of industrial waste, ash, cinder, glass, and slag material [027] were present throughout the trench. No early structures or features relating to the development of the courtyard were encountered. No archaeologically significant deposits were encountered across the site of the proposed development that predate the current buildings and yard complex.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation identified no significant archaeological features predating the current buildings complex. The natural deposits were varied, ranging from orange sand and gravels to grey gravels and grey silty clays. The natural deposits appeared to have been water-lain and suggest the site is situated on what was once an alluvial flood plain. The earliest archaeological evidence is represented by the rubble drain in Trench 3 and is likely to be related to the drainage of the land when employed as open pasture and parkland prior to the

mid 19th century expansion of the mill. The features identified as areas of silted up natural channels and low lying depressions in Trenches 1, 5, 9 and 10 located along the eastern fringe of the site probably relate to this period, highlighting the natural drainage regime of the low lying area adjacent to the Gala Water. This area is likely to have been subject to seasonal flooding. The development of the Mill in the mid 19th century represents the next phase of development with the introduction of made-up ground above the buried topsoil, probably to form a basic yard area. Further developments into the 20th century comprised the introduction of Yard buildings, particularly towards the rear of the site. It would appear that this area was scarped into the natural slope to accommodate the foundations of the buildings located there. The building with the attached chimney (not extant on the ground) appears to have been used as an incinerator in the first half of the 20th century (marked as Destructor). The built up deposits of ash and cinders that form the escarpment to the southeast of the building and chimney are probably formed from the waste burnt material from this operation. It is possible that the cobbled surfaces with the ash and cinder bedding layer noted during the evaluation may also relate to this phase of activity on the site. The earlier cobbled surfaces are succeeded by a number of modern tarmac surfaces and services related to the operation of the Depot in the recent past.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation was commissioned and funded by Scottish Borders Council. The Borders Council Archaeology Officer monitored the works.

8. REFERENCES

Scottish National Library – Map Library

Ainslie 1778 *Map of Selkirkshire or Ettrick Forest*

Wood 1824 *Plan of Galashiels*

1858 Ordnance Survey 1:500 *Large scale town plan, Galashiels Sheet VIII 2.22* (surveyed 1858)

1:2500 *Selkirkshire Sheet VIII.2 & Roxburghshire Sheets III.14, 15 & VII.3* (surveyed 1858 and revised 1897)

1932 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 *Selkirkshire Sheet VIII.2 & 7* (revised 1930)

1964 Ordnance Survey 1:1250 Sheet NT 49 35 NW

APPENDIX 1: SITE REGISTERS**1.1 Trench Register**

Trench No.	Orientation	Dimensions (M)	Description
1	NW-SE	5.5 X 1.8 X 1.3	Contained cobble layer above modern debris overlying natural deposits
2	NW-SE	3.5 X 1.7 X 1.4	Contained all made-up ground
3	NE-SW	7.5 X 1.8 X 0.9	Contained made-up ground above natural and a post-medieval rubble drain cut in to natural
4	N-S	5.5 X 1.9 X 0.7	Contained made-up ground above natural
5	NE-SW	5.5 X 1.8 X 1.2	Contained cobble layer above modern debris overlying natural deposits
6	NW-SE	6 X 1.8 X 0.8	Contained cobbles, modern debris, a buried topsoil overlying natural deposits
7	NW-SE	3.5 X 1.8 X 0.8	Contained cobbles, modern debris, a buried topsoil overlying natural deposits
8	NE-SW	5 X 1.8 X 0.8	Contained rubble, cobbles and buried topsoil above natural deposits
9	E-W	9 X 1.8 X 0.8	Contained two tarmac and rubble layers above modern debris and a buried topsoil overlying natural deposits
10	NE-SW	5 X 1.8 X 0.7	Contained rubble, modern debris and compact surface layers overlying natural deposits
11	E-W	4.5 X 2.3 X 0.7	Contained rubble, industrial waste and modern drains cutting in to natural deposits

1.2 Context Register

Context No.	Trench	Description
1	1, 5	Tarmac
2	1, 5	Compact rubble/cobble surface
3	1, 5, 9, 10	Layer of debris, ash, cinders, broken glass, medium-small stones, rubble, moderate compaction
4	1	Compact silty clay, brown-light brown, occasional small stones
5	1, 5	Light brown/grey silty clay, moderate-loose compaction, occasional small rounded stones, possibly the same as [017]
6	1, 3,	Natural grey silty clay, moderate to loose compaction, overlies medium-large rounded stones/river cobbles
7	3	Cut of modern rubble drain
8	3	Rubble drain, medium rounded and angular stones within orange/brown sandy silt, voids between stones and presence of modern pot
9	4	Natural orange/light brown sandy silt, frequent large-medium stones, moderate compaction

10	5	Light grey rubble and clayey silt, compact, redeposited natural
11	5, 8, 9	Interface between [005] and [012]
12	5	Natural grey silty gravel, frequent small-medium stones
13	6, 7, 8	Rounded cobbles
14	6	Compact dark grey layer, frequent small stones
15	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Natural orange/brown silty sand and gravels, frequent medium-small stones
16	6, 7	Cut of natural alluvial feature
17	6, 7, 9, 10	Fill of alluvial feature, grey/brown silty clay, frequent small-medium stones, occasional modern pottery on top
18	8	Compact gravels and rubble
19	8	Compact rubble
20	6, 7, 8, 9	Dark brown/black silty sand, compact, frequent small stones
21	10	Brown silty sand and rubble, compact
22	10	Dark grey silty sand and rubble, compact
23	10	Interface between [022] and [017]
24	11	Gravel/rubble surface
25	11	Rubble
26	11	Light brown clayey silt, occasional small stones
27	11	Layer of industrial waste, ash, cinders, slag and brick
28	11	Compact brown silty sand, occasional small stones
29	11	Interface between [028] and [030]
30	11	Natural orange/light brown sandy silt, occasional medium stones
31	11	Modern drain
32	11	Modern drain
33	11	Red brick access to drains

1.3 Drawing Register

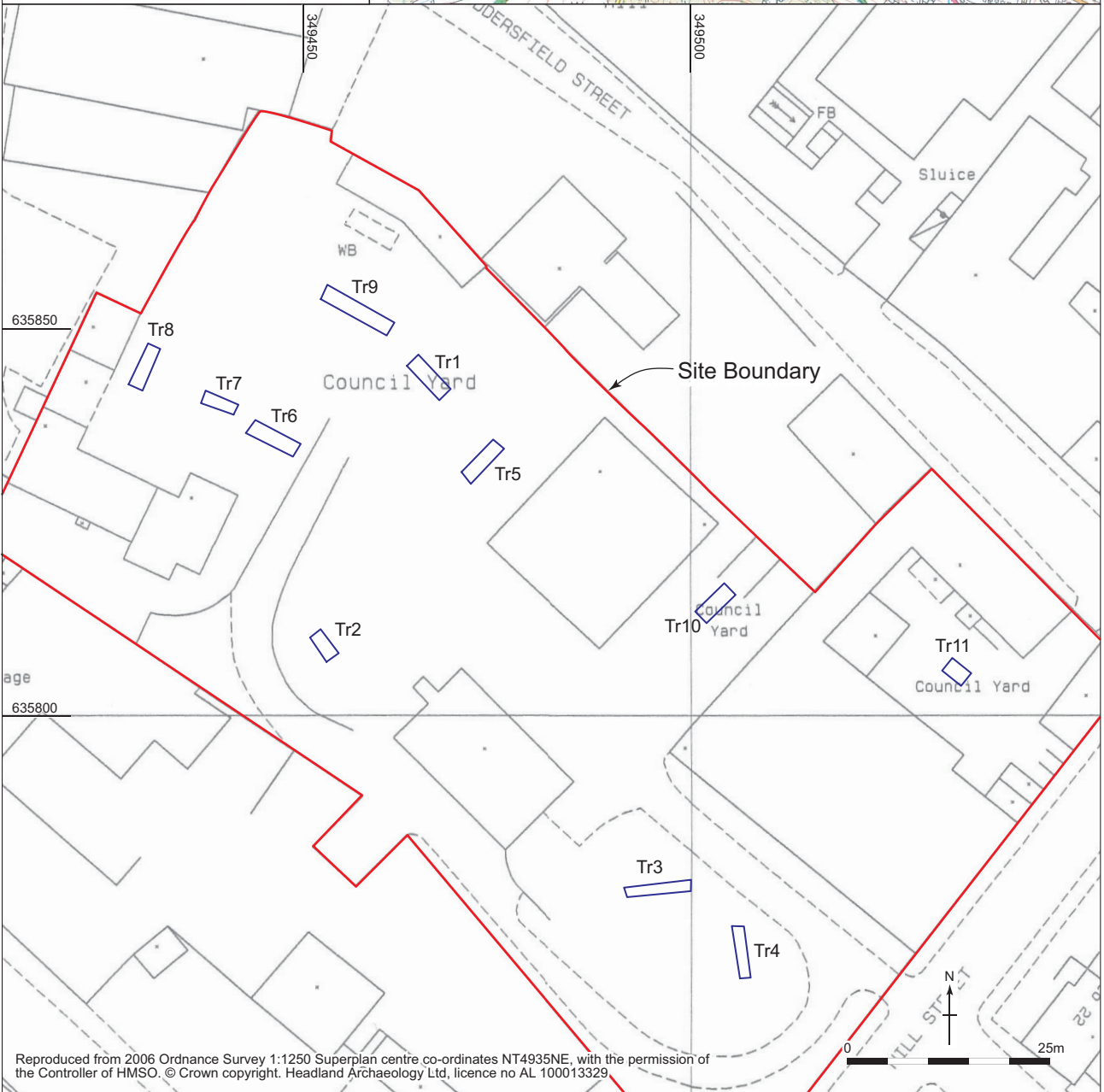
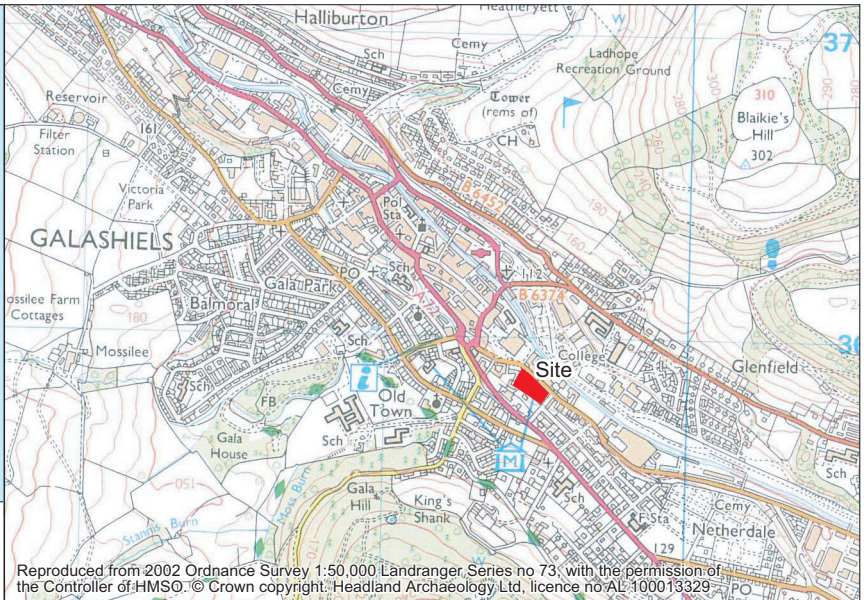
Drawing No.	Scale	Description
1	1:10	Section through Trench 1
2	1:100	Plan of Trench 3
3	1:10	Section through Trench 5
4	1:10	Section through Trench 6
5	1:100	Plan of Trench 6
6	1:100	Plan of Trench 7
7	1:10	Section through Trench 8
8	1:10	Section through Trench 9
9	1:100	Plan of Trench 9
10	1:10	Section through Trench 10
11	1:10	Section through Trench 11
12	1:100	Plan of Trench 11

1.4 Photographic Register**Colour Slide & Colour Print**

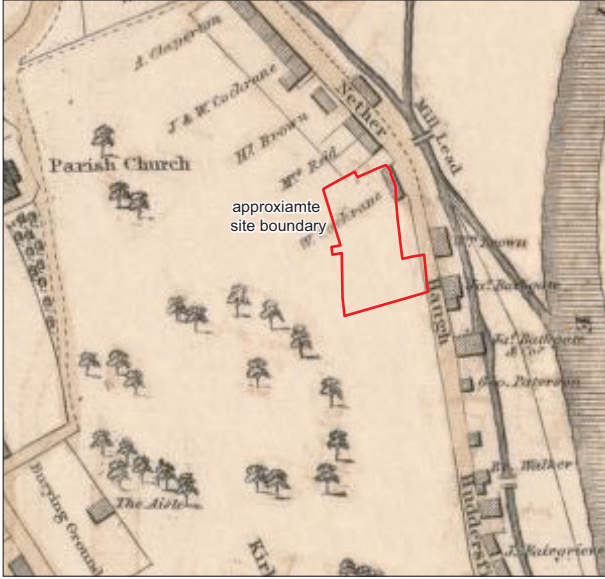
Shot No.	Direction Facing	Description
1		ID Shot
2	SW	Trench 1 - Section
3	NW	Trench 1 - General shot
4	NW	Trench 1 - General shot
5	SW	Trench 2 - Section
6	NW	Trench 2 - General shot
7	S	Trench 3 - Section
8	E	Trench 3 - General shot
9	E	Trench 4 - Section
10	S	Trench 4 - General shot
11	SE	Trench 3 - Rubble drain
12	S	Trench 3 - General shot
13	W	Trench 5 - Section
14	N	Trench 5 - General shot
15	E	Trench 6 - Section
16	S	Trench 6 - General shot
17	S	Trench 7 - General shot
18	N	Trench 8 - Section
19	E	Trench 8 - General shot
20	W	Trench 9 - Section
21	S	Trench 9 - General shot
22	N	Trench 9 - Section through deposit [017]
23	N	Trench 10 - Section
24	E	Trench 10 - General shot
25	E	Trench 11 - Section
26	S	Trench 11 - General shot



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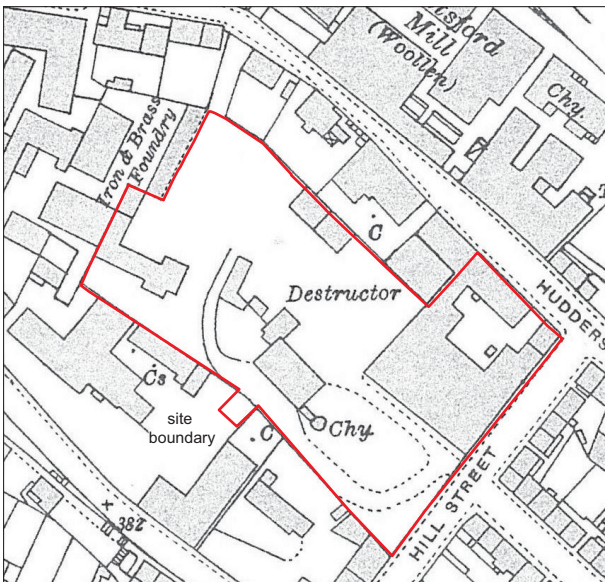
HUD07 : Figure 1 - Site location and trench layout



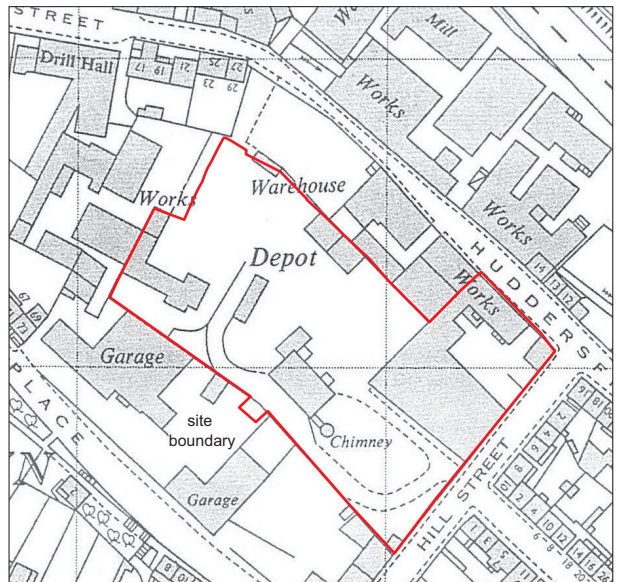
Wood 1824



OS 1858



OS 1932



OS 1964

HUD07 - Figure 2 : Map progression showing the development of the site