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Client: Fitzsimons, on behalf of Heritage Hotels Ltd

Project Code: MNB03

**Marine Hotel, 18 Cromwell Road, North Berwick, East
Lothian: Data Structure Report of Archaeological
Monitoring and Evaluation**

ELC Planning References: 02/00563, 02/00566, 04/01317 FUL

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PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET (MNB03)

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Schedule	
Monitoring	October 2004-April 2005
Additional Building Recording	April 2005
Evaluation	4 th July 2005
Report	July 2005

Summary

Headland Archaeology were commissioned to carry out Archaeological Monitoring of construction works around the Marine Hotel, North Berwick, and an Archaeological Evaluation of an area of the site which had previously been occupied by a late 19th century carriage house and stables. In addition, further Building Recording was carried out to part of the stable (Building C) that had not been accessible during the earlier phase of recording. During the monitoring a well was discovered, which related to the use of the Hotel in the 19th Century as a Spa resort. No other archaeological features were discovered during the monitoring, nor were any discovered during the evaluation.

**MARINE HOTEL, NORTH BERWICK
DATA STRUCTURE REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a Desk-based Assessment, Archaeological Monitoring and an Archaeological Evaluation undertaken by Headland Archaeology in connection with a programme of construction works at the Marine Hotel, 18 Cromwell Road, North Berwick, East Lothian. The Marine Hotel is a Grade B Historic Building (HB38707), and the development area has been identified as an area of potential archaeological importance. The evaluated area was the site of a late 19th century carriage house and stables, a 20th century squash court, and a number of small brick sheds and garages.

The Evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation submitted to East Lothian Council. Prior to this, the Archaeological Monitoring of groundworks was carried out in accordance with an earlier Method Statement. Other work at the Hotel consisted of a Historic Building Survey of the now demolished buildings within the evaluation area. This work was carried out and reported in September 2004 (Kimber 2004), however, access to the interior of one of the stables, Building C, was not possible at this time. In April 2005, a further survey of the interior of Building C was carried out, and the results are presented in Appendix 2. An updated illustration of the Carriage House complex has also been created (see Figure 3).

A Desk-based Assessment of the surrounding area was carried out prior to the Historic Building Survey. The archaeological results of this survey have been incorporated into this report.

2. METHOD

Desk-based Assessment

A systematic search was undertaken of all readily available and relevant documentary sources. Sources examined included:

- Archaeological records held in NMRS
- Published maps held in the National Library
- Information in the East Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record

Monitoring

There were three phases of archaeological monitoring within the curtilage of the Marine Hotel. All work in these phases was conducted under direct supervision by an archaeologist. Recording followed standard archaeological procedures. The locations of the monitored works have been added to the evaluation site plan (see Figure 2).

Evaluation

Two trenches were excavated across the site of the demolished sheds, carriage house and squash court (Buildings A & E; see Figure 2) using a JCB with a 1.5 m ditching bucket. In total, the area excavated represents some 80 m², or approximately 5% of the area occupied by the demolished buildings. Recording followed standard archaeological procedures, with unique numbers assigned to trenches and identified contexts (see Appendix 2).

The eastern end of Building B was left standing, as it contains the electrical junction box for the entire site. Due to the need to maintain a 3 m buffer zone away from the building and the electrical sub-station beside it, it was not possible to place a trench through the site of the west end of Buildings B and C as originally envisaged in the Written Scheme of Investigation. The second trench was placed as far to the east as was practical and safe to do so.

3. RESULTS

Desk-based Assessment (see Figure 1)

A description of the recent cartographic history of the Marine Hotel can be found in the earlier report of the Historic Building Survey carried out in 2004 (Kimber 2004). Presented here is a brief account of the known archaeological sites in the vicinity of the Hotel.

A number of prehistoric sites have been discovered near to the Marine Hotel, although most are poorly located. A Neolithic potsherd was discovered somewhere on the West Links near to the hotel, and prehistoric surface finds are reportedly common on the Links (NT58NW 16). A cairn and short-cist were excavated on the golf course in 1907, but the location of this cairn has now been lost (NT58NW 7), similarly, the exact location of a human skeleton reported found on the course in the early 20th century is now unknown (NT58NW 8). Excavations in the garden of Tusculum, on Ware Road, are reported to have recovered medieval and prehistoric remains, including middens and a stone floor (NT58NW 17). A bronze spearhead is reported from the same location (NT58NW 23).

More recently, a coastal survey by GUARD has reported a Second World War trench on the West Links (NT58NW 44). An evaluation in the grounds of the Nether Abbey Hotel found no archaeological remains (NT58NW 122).

Monitoring (see Figure 2)

The first phase of monitoring consisted of five engineer's Test-Pits. All pits were dug to a depth of around 0.5 m, terminating in loose beach sand (context 003). No archaeological remains were uncovered within the Test-Pits.

The second phase on monitoring consisted of a topsoil strip along the route of an access road, and the monitoring of piling to the east of the Hotel. To the north of the Hotel, the topsoil strip uncovered the head of a well (context 012; see Figure 2 & inset; Plates 1 & 2). The top course was constructed of cement-bonded sandstone blocks, with lower courses and lining made of brick, reinforced in places by iron bars fixed into the masonry. A cast-iron pipe was also visible within the well (see Plate 2). Subsequent excavation by machine revealed the well to be approximately 7.4 m deep. No other archaeological features were uncovered during this phase.

The third phase of monitoring consisted of the excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension on the west side of the Hotel, on the site of the former modern conference suite, Building D. The ground surface in this area had already been considerably reduced by modern activity, and the foundation trenches revealed only 0.7 m of beach sand (context 003) before reaching compressed sands and silts, likely to be of Tertiary date (context 013; S Lancaster, pers comm).

Evaluation (see Figure 2)

The results of the Evaluation are summarised below. A register of trenches and description of contexts can be found in Appendix 2.

The surface of the site had been extensively disturbed during the demolition of the standing buildings, and was covered with a shallow layer of rubble (context 001). In general, this rubble overlay a layer of dark brown sand (context 002), which was up to 0.4 m thick. This deposit appears to have been an interface layer for the natural beach sand (context 003) below it and was ubiquitous over most of the site. This beach sand was fine, loose and homogenous. Although attempts were made to reach the bottom of it in both Trench 1 and Trench 2, the machine-cut sondages became unstable at a depth of around 2 metres, without reaching the base of the sand. At the north end of both trenches the pale beach sand inclined downwards, and was overlain by a dark red-brown sand, also natural in origin.

Trench 1 uncovered brick-built foundations consistent with the northern wall of the demolished brick sheds to the west of Building A (context 004; see Figure 1). A mixed foundation deposit (context 005),

which also contained a disused sewer pipe, occurred to the south of context 004, consistent with the position of the sheds themselves. Both contexts 004 and 005 lay directly on top of the beach sand (context 003). There were no structural remains associated with Building E remaining.

Trench 2 uncovered the brick and sandstone foundations of Building A (context 010), as well as deposits within these foundations associated with the building, which included waste-water pipes and electrical cables. These deposits lay directly on top of the natural beach sand (context 003). A modern rubbish pit (context 011) filled with 20th century glass bottles was also uncovered towards the northern end of this trench.

4. DISCUSSION

The well discovered during the course of monitoring was of 19th century in date, and known to have existed within the curtilage of the Marine Hotel (HB38707). This Hotel was originally built as a Hydropathic Institute, and the well is likely to relate to this period in the building's history.

The evaluation did not encounter any archaeological remains dating to earlier than the later 19th century. The demolished buildings within the evaluation area appear to have been constructed directly on top of the fine beach sand, with no attempt to lay deep foundations. However, it is likely that levelling and landscaping of the links environment, removing any trace of the original land surface, preceded the construction of these buildings. The beach sand itself is likely to represent the remains of a relict dune system. No evidence was seen of consolidated land surfaces within it, either during monitoring or during the evaluation. Although the base of the beach sand was not reached during the evaluation, due to practical and safety constraints, it is unlikely that archaeological remains are buried at depth within this deposit, as previous discoveries in the area seem to have occurred either as surface finds or close to the surface, during relatively low-impact construction work.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Biddy Simpson curated the project on behalf of East Lothian Council.

6. REFERENCES

Kimber, M 2004 *Marine Hotel, 18 Cromwell Road, North Berwick, East Lothian: Desk-Based Assessment and Historic Building Survey*, Headland Archaeology Client Report

Historic Buildings

HB38707 The Marine Hotel [Category B]

Gazetteer of NMRS sites

NT58NW 7 Cairn: Point Garry
NT58NW 8 Human Remains: Point Garry
NT58NW 16 Pottery: West Links
NT58NW 17 Middens; Paving: Tusculum, North Berwick
NT58NW 23 Bronze Spearhead: Tusculum
NT58NW 44 Trench: West Links
NT58NW 122 Trial Excavation: Nether Abbey Hotel

APPENDIX 1: RESULTS OF ADDITIONAL BUILDING RECORDING

1.1: Method

The Historic Building Survey of the interior of Building C (see Figures 2 & 3) was carried out as an addition to the earlier Level 2 Historic Building Survey of the rest of the Carriage House complex. Digital photographs and colour transparencies were taken (see Appendix 2), and a hand-drawn measured plan of the interior and exterior was produced at 1:50. This has been incorporated into the plan produced for the earlier survey.

1.2: Results (see Figure 3)

Exterior

Two additional features were noted as a result of the additional survey. The eastern end of Building C contained an original window, subsequently blocked with brick on the inside and sandstone masonry on the outside. This window appeared to be situated directly beneath the chimney-stack at this end.

It was also possible to see that Building C abutted the rear of Building B. The crow-stepped skewers that extend across the eastern end of both buildings could be seen to be integral to the construction of Building C, but an addition to Building B, which was an earlier structure (see Plate 3, note in particular the sandstone quoins on Building B).

Interior

There were few original interior features surviving within Building C, the last use of which was as a plant room for the Hotel swimming pool and heating system. A single original brick built partition divided the interior into two spaces – room 1 to the east and room 2 to the west. This partition wall was similar to the ‘kinked’ partition in Building B (see Figure 3), although without a doorway. This partition stepped inwards on the eastern side 1.35 m from the floor, reducing its width from two courses to one. Within room 1, the interior ‘bay’ of the blocked eastern window was lined with lath-and-plaster on the sides and wooden planking on the top and bottom (see Plate 4).

Room 2 was subdivided in the centre by a modern stud partition wall (see Figure 3). A number of wooden wall cupboards lined the southern walls on both sides of this partition. The wooden door in the partition appeared to have been re-used. This door was 1 m wide, and may have been an original door from the building prior to the extensive modern alterations that removed the original frontage. The western end of room 2 contained a bricked-up fireplace, which related to the exterior chimney at this end. The rest of the wall was panelled with vertical planks to a height of 1 m, with lath-and-plaster above this.

The interior ceiling of Building C was constructed of wooden planking, with access hatches at either end of the building. It was not possible to access the loft above, which was probably originally used for storage.

1.3: Conclusions

Building C was a later addition to the Carriage House complex. The window at the eastern end of the building suggests that the chimney-stack at this end is ornamental. Building C seems to have been built with a function similar to that of Building B in mind, but lacked the features connected with stabling which were present in Building B, such as floor drains and ‘scratch marks’ from harnesses. Although these features could have been obliterated by the modern alterations, it is possible that Building C was used more for vehicle storage rather than animal stabling.

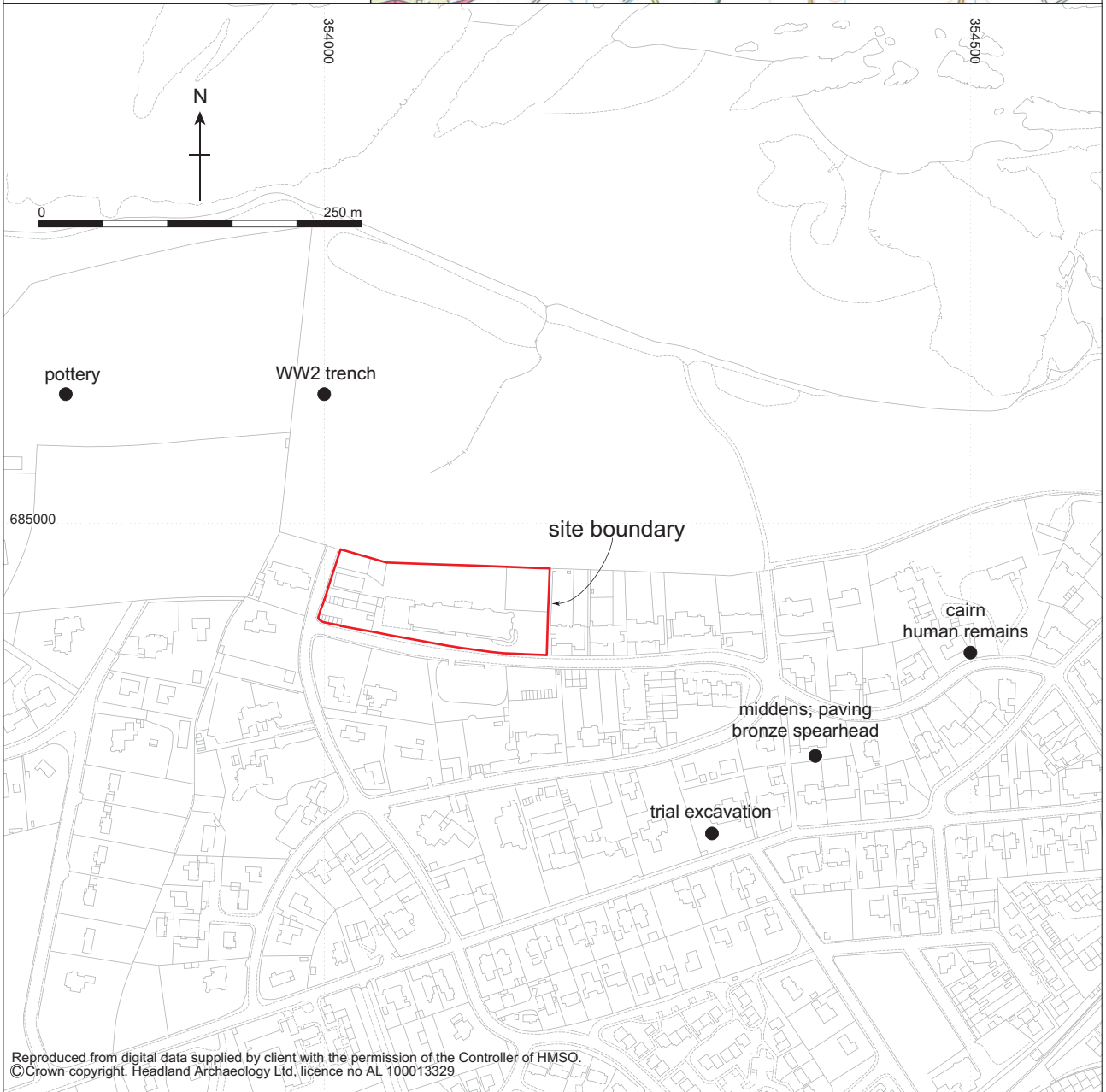
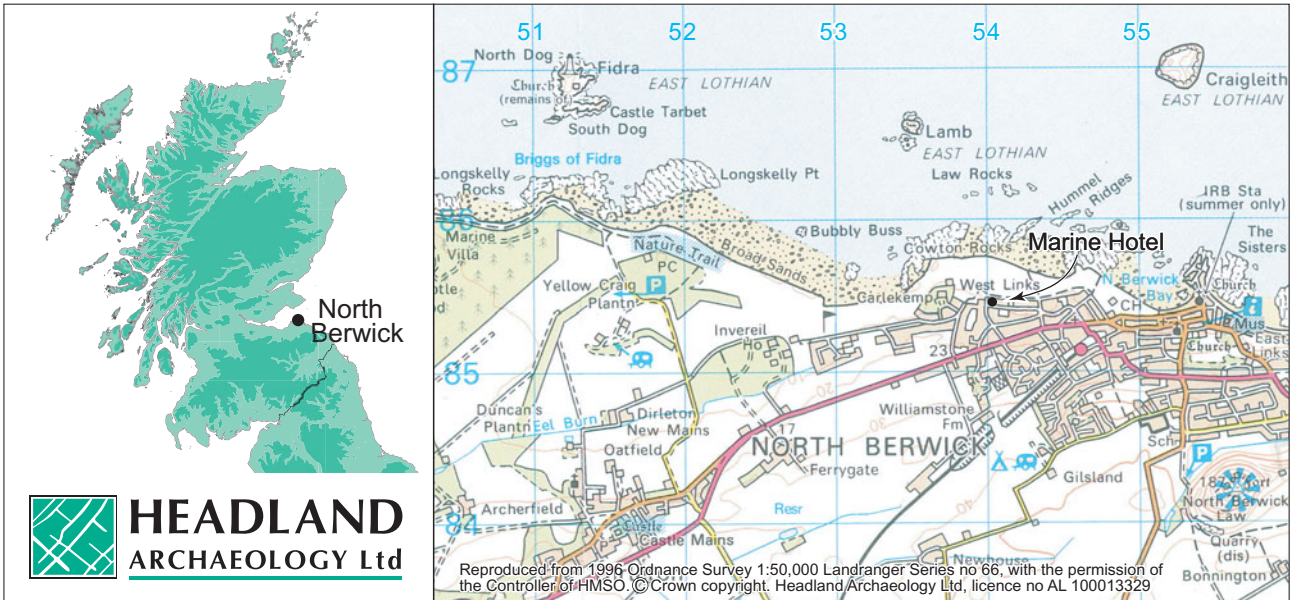


Figure 1: Marine Hotel, North Berwick - Site Location and nearby Archaeological Sites

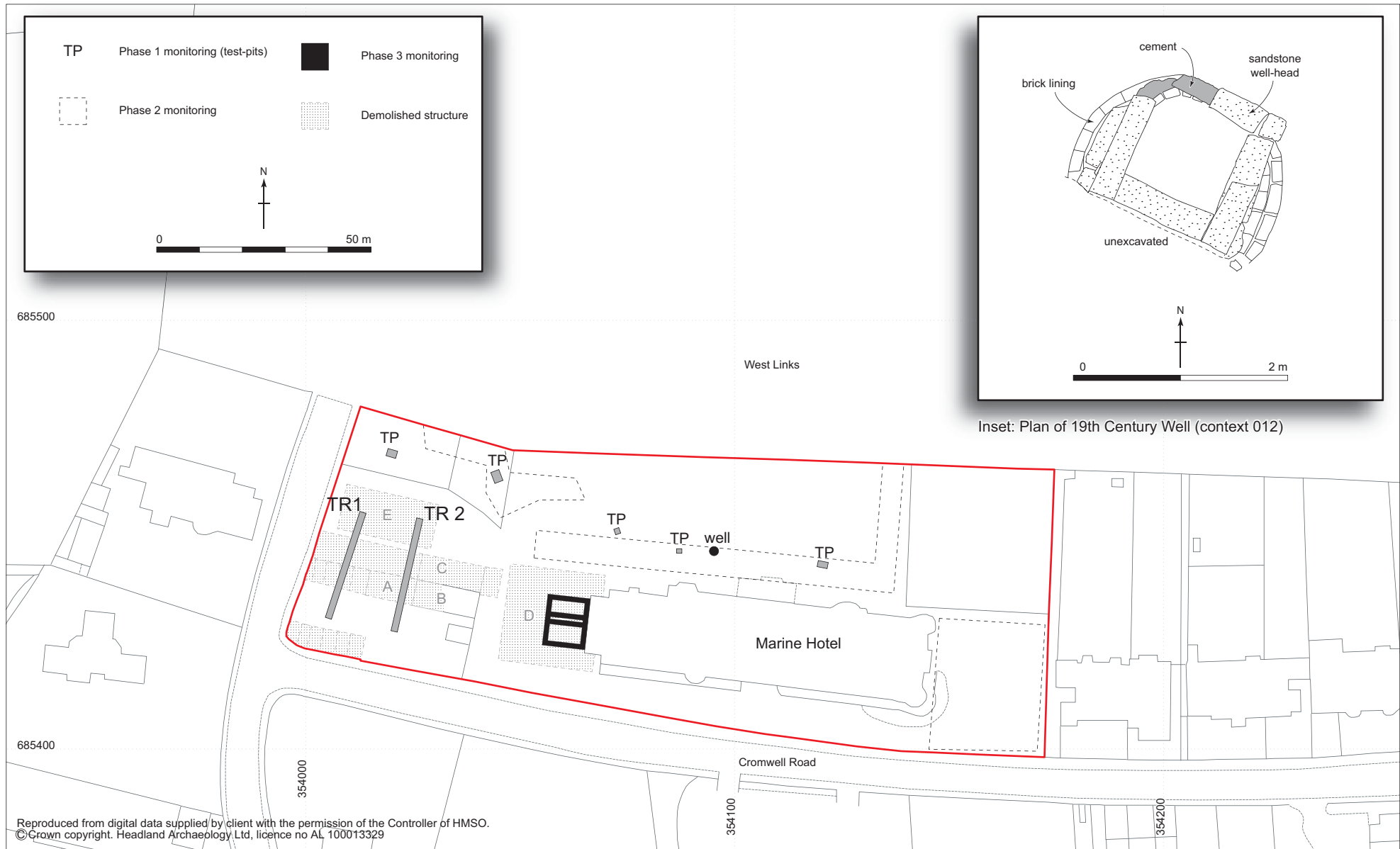


Figure 2: Marine Hotel, North Berwick - Location of Monitored Areas and Evaluation Trenches

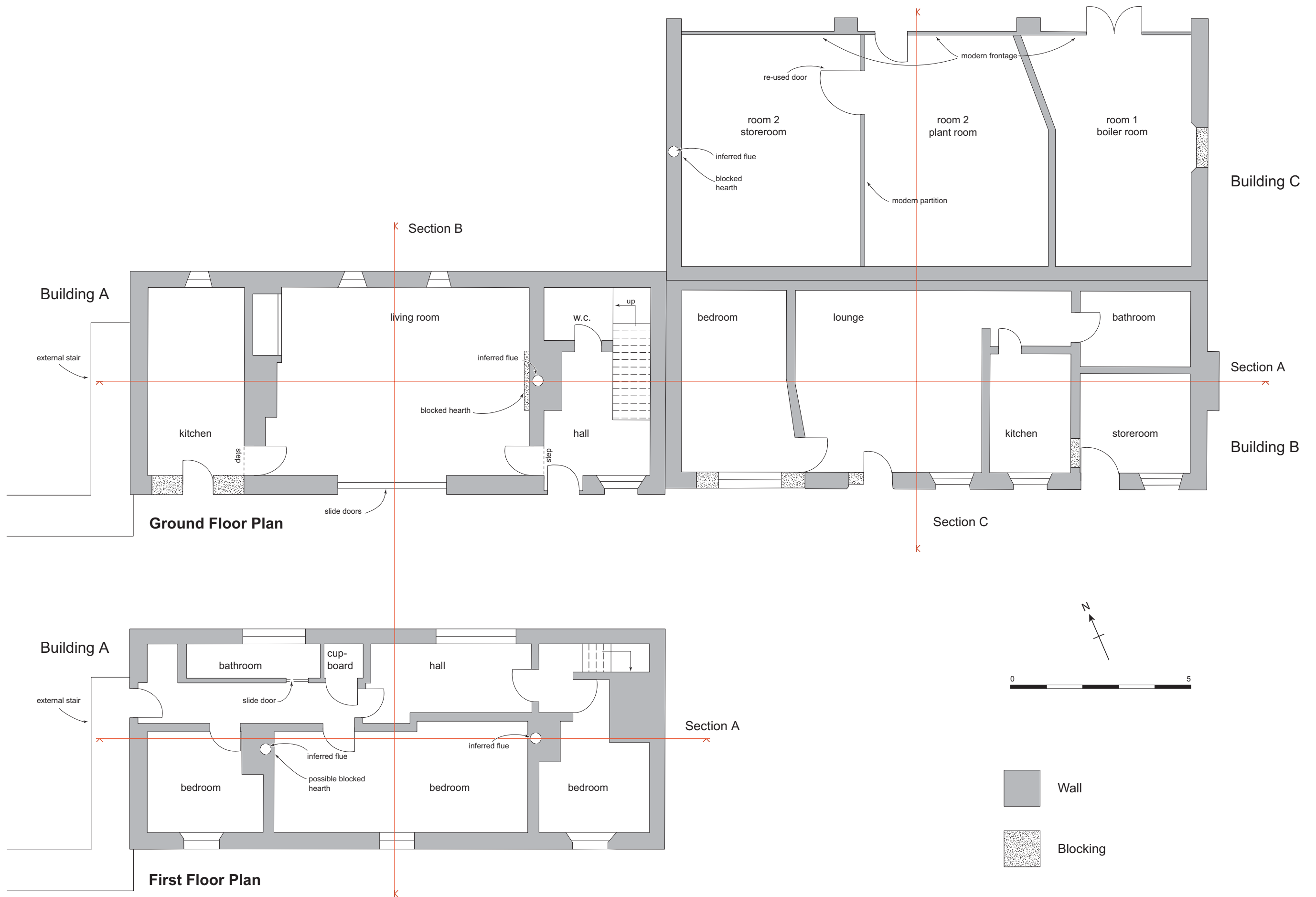


Figure 3: Marine Hotel, North Berwick - Updated Plan of Carriage House and Stables



Plate 1: Head of Well facing south



Plate 2: Interior of Well showing pipe



Plate 3: Eastern end of Buildings B & C facing west



Plate 4: Blocked window in Building C, facing east

APPENDIX 2: MNB03 REGISTERS

2.1: Trench Register

Trench width = 1.5 m

Trench No.	Length	Situation
1	26 m	N-S across site of Building A and Building E
2	27 m	N-S Across site of Building B and Building E

2.2: Context Register

Context No.	Area	Description
001	EV Trenches	Spread of demolition rubble covering area of demolished buidligs
002	All	Dark brown sand underlying rubble & topsoil, interface with 003
003	All	Very light brown fine beach sand, deep deposit, not bottomed in EV trenches
004	EV Tr1	Brick-built foundation of sheds
005	EV Tr1	Mixed foundation deposit and sewer pipes beneath site of sheds, overlay 003, approx 0.4 m deep
006	EV Trenches	Dark red-brown sand present at N end of trenches, lay over 003, which dived beneath to great depth
007	EV Tr2	Dark grey coarse sand and cinders mixed with modern glass bottles, filled cut 011
008	EV Tr2	Cut of modern sewer pipe beneath Building A
009	EV Tr2	Foundations of Building A, constructed of brick and red sandstone, bonded with concrete, approx 0.4 m deep
010	EV Tr2	Cut for foundations 009
011	EV Tr2	Cut of small circular pit, filled with modern rubbish, d = 0.50 m
012	Fire Road	19th Century well, cement bonded, constructed of sandstone and brick, 7.4 m deep
013	Foundation Trenches	Compressed sands and silts, probably tertiary deposits
014	Test-pits	Topsoil

2.3: Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Description
1	Plan of interiors of Buildings A & B
2	Location plan of Test-pits and monitored area of Fire Road
3	Plan and section of well
4	Location plan of monitored Foundation Trenches
5	Plan of piles
6	Plan of interior of Building C
7	Location sketch of Evaluation trenches

2.4: Photographic Register

Shot No.	Direction Facing	Description
Film 2		
1	S	Head of well
2	S	Head of well
3	S	Head of well
4	W	Head of well - courses
5	W	Inner pipe
6	W	Inner pipe
7	S	Head of well - iron beam
8	S	Head of well - iron beam
9	W	Section of pile cut
Film 3		
1	E	Building C window from interior
2	S	Building C-hipped ceiling at E end
3	SW	Building C-'kink' in brick partition wall
4	SW	Building C-loft access
5	SE	Room 1/2 partition from room 2
6	E	Building C-'kink' in brick partition wall from room 2
7	E	Building C-detail of window frame
8	SE	Building C-detail of window frame
9	W	Building C abutting Building B
10	W	Building C abutting Building B
11	W	Building C abutting Building B
12	W	Building C abutting Building B
13	SW	Building C abutting Building B
14	SW	Building C-exterior of blocked window
15	SW	Building C-exterior of blocked window