

Shootinglee Trench 1 2012-13 and Extension 2015

Data Structure Report

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Figure 1 Trench 1 showing the garden walls and garden soil in between from N.

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1. Introduction

Following a plane table survey and geophysical survey of the pasture field between the conifer plantation and the Newhall burn at Shootinglee, a trial trench was opened in 2012 which extended 15m from north-west to south-east by 1m transversely across one of the terraced areas interpreted as a possible garden plot (Figure 1 and 2). The garden plot comprised a level area that was defined to the north-west by a curvilinear stony bank beyond which the ground dropped away. The purpose of the trench was to determine if this was indeed a garden plot and its period of use, which it was surmised would reflect the date of occupation of the settlement. In 2015 an extension of the trench to the south-east was excavated (Trench 1Ext) to determine the purpose of the paved area found at that end of the trench in 2012-13 (Figure 3). Drawn plans and sections were compiled on site and an EDM was used to record the profile and outline of Trench 1. The extension to the trench was planned from aerial photographs taken with an extended pole. All plans and sections presented here were drawn up using standard drawing software.

2. Excavation Results

The turf and topsoil, grey-brown silt, was removed to reveal two stony banks at either end of the trench, about 9m apart (Figure 3). That at the north-west (C7) stood 0.4m in height and was 1.5m across and comprised two courses of large stones to front and back with smaller stones packed in between. The bank at the SE end (C10) stood 0.3m in height on its NW (Figure 2) and measured 1.1m in thickness, comprising large stones on the north edge, but less substantial stones on the other face, with a matrix of dark red-brown silty-clay (C5). Between the two stony banks and abutting both of them, there was a red-brown clay-silt, with charcoal fragments, pottery, bottle glass and clay-pipe (C2), 0.3m deep at the north-east end but thinner to the south-east at 0.15m. The pottery ranged from the late-medieval period to the 18th century. The sherds were generally small and the medieval pottery in particular was abraded. The abrasion of the finds and the presence of charcoal and the build-up of soil depth at the downhill end of the plot, all pointed to this being a garden soil. The subsoil beneath the garden soil was red-brown clay (C3) with medium-sized angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks at the lower north-west end and an orange brown silty-clay (C4) with frequent medium and small angular stones with black iron pan deposits at the higher south-east end. This ran under a layer of red-brown clay-silt with small angular stones and charcoal flecks (C9) about 1m north of the south-east wall, which produced two sherds of late medieval Redware pottery (F20 and 21). This layer ran under wall C10 and was up to 0.28m deep at this point (Figure 4). At the south end a paved area of medium and large flat stones (C6) was uncovered that abutted the other side of the south-east wall.

It was decided to explore the nature of this structure further in 2015. The trench was extended in width to 2m and a further 4m to the south-east. This revealed that the paved area extended 2.5m south-east of wall C10 where a straight edge was encountered that was parallel to it. The paved floor like wall C10 overlay the layer of red-brown soil (C9). About 1m from this straight edge and parallel to it there was a linear scatter of small and medium-sized stones on the surface of the red-brown soil. Extending the trench 1m to the north-east allowed this feature to be examined further. Here however, an earthen bank (C12) was uncovered that was parallel to the drystone dyke that ran along this side of the field from north to south. The bank material was derived from a ditch (C13)

alongside it on the east filled with grey brown silt and medium angular stones. The bank was spread to about 1m in width and stood about 0.25m in height and the ditch was up to 0.75m in breadth and 0.2m deep (Figure 5). On excavation of the bank a short length of wall (C14) comprised of large stones 0.8m in thickness, was revealed that abutted or abutted by the paved area 6 and apparently formed the other side of a structure with wall C10. This explained the linear scatter of stones as a relic of the robbing of the wall and revealed that it marked the edge of a shallow robber trench, c.0.05m in depth and 1m across (C11), filled with a red-brown silt slightly more friable than the adjacent subsoil (Figures 6 and 7). A sherd of a brown glazed earthenware vessel with yellow slip decoration (F19) was found in the interstices of the paved floor (C6) and suggests a late 17th-18th century date for the abandonment of the structure. Several other pieces of slipped earthenware were found in the later earthen bank and ditch (C12 and C13).



Figure 2 South garden wall C10 with paved floor C6 beyond.

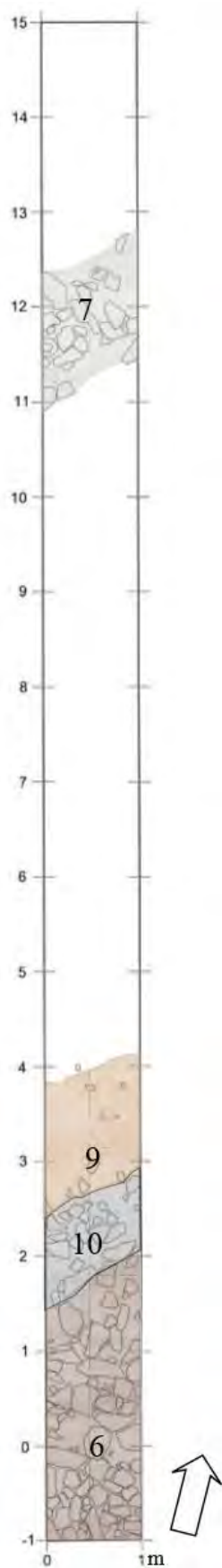


Figure 3 Plan of Trench 1 showing the garden wall (C7), parallel wall (C10) and paved floor (C6).

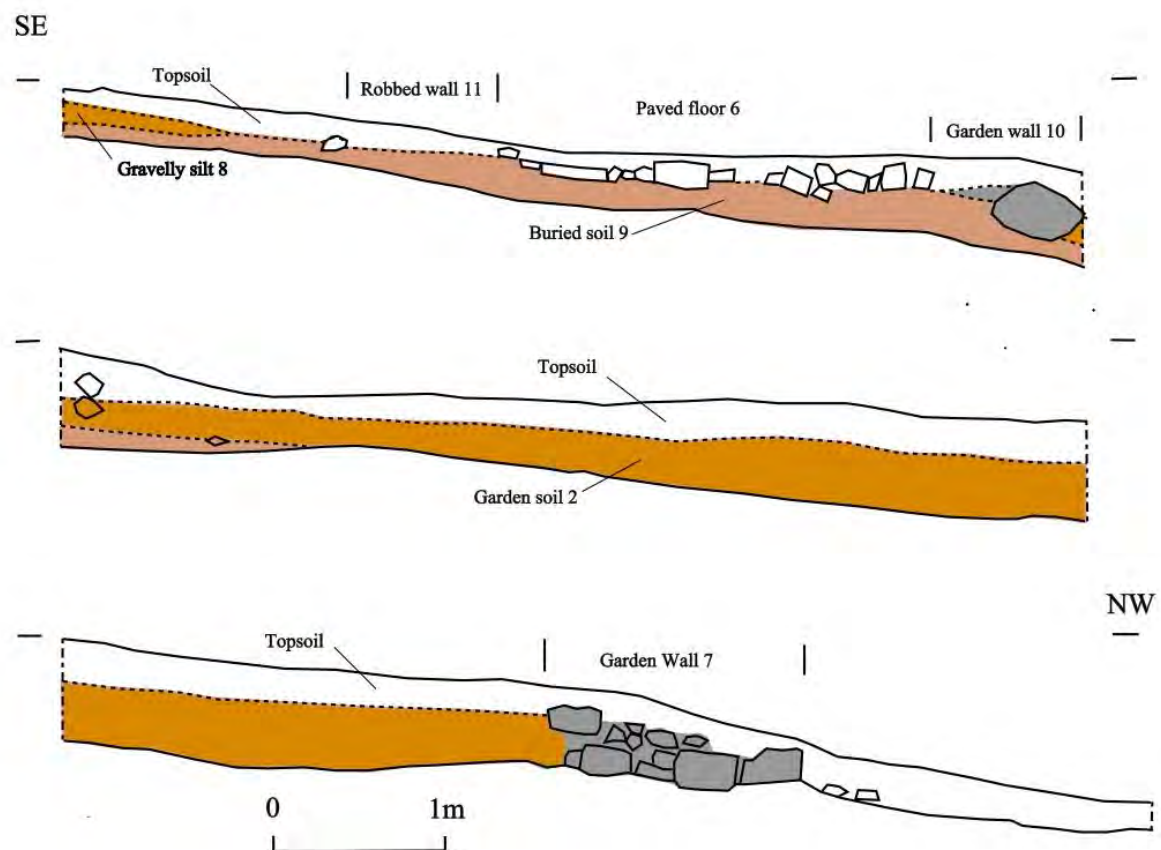


Figure 4 SW baulk section.



Figure 5 Aerial image of Trench 1 Extension showing the outbuilding with paved floor (C6) and robber trench (C11) of wall (C14) to its right overlain diagonally by the earthen bank (C12) and ditch (C13) at the edge of the excavated area (top right).



Figure 6 Trench 1 Extension showing the SE wall of the outbuilding (C11) with the robber trench beyond.



Figure 7 Trench 1 Extension after excavation of earthen bank C12.

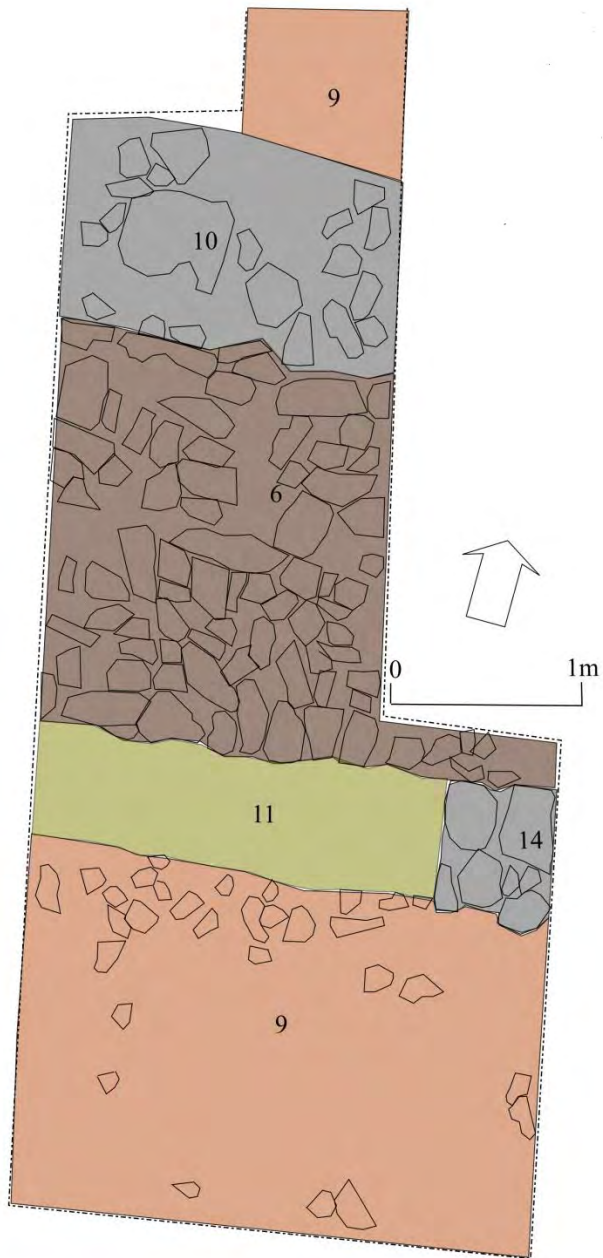


Figure 8 Plan of Trench 1 Extension: the robber trench of wall C14 is highlighted in green with a scatter of medium stones along its S side, the residue of the robbing of the wall.

3. Interpretation

The excavation has confirmed that the terraced area was indeed a garden plot on the evidence of the increasing depth of the soil between the two stony banks to north-west and south-east and the abraded finds contained in the silty soil. The garden plot would appear to have been in use over a period of several hundred years from the late-medieval to the post-medieval period. The discovery of a paved area on the other side of the stone wall to the south-east proved to be the floor of a built structure whose walls were based on footings of stone, 0.8-1m in thickness and one course in height. It may have been a base for a timber structure as there was no significant spread of tumbled stones. It would seem that this was an outbuilding adjacent to a reduced garden plot with a stony stand that could have provided dry storage for hay. The recovery of sherds of a brown slipware vessel during excavation of the paved floor suggests a post-medieval date for this structure. It overlay what was thought to be a buried soil, but charcoal flecks and the two sherds of Redware, one Late Medieval and one 17th-18th century in date, suggest otherwise and point to the possibility that this was a cultivated soil. The later Redware sherd confirms the 17th century date of the building.

In conclusion, this demonstrated the longevity and chronological range of the occupation at the site and the presence of a cultivated garden soil that had formed a lynchet at the lower end of the garden. The small building with a stony stand appears to be too narrow for a domestic structure and it is suggested it is an outbuilding, probably secondary to the garden and of post-medieval date.



Figure 6 NW wall (C10) of outbuilding and floor (C6) overlying underlying brown soil (C9).

4. Acknowledgements

I should like to thank the landowner Thistlelane Ltd for permission to excavate and Charlotte Cavey-Wilcox, the manager of Scottish Woodlands in the Borders for her patience and support over the years. I should also thank the many volunteers who have made the excavation possible: Bob Knox, Jack Boughey, David Drury, Jeff Carter, Peter Jack, Bill Glass, Andy Jepson, Gillian Brown, Maureen Erasmusson, Neil Crawford, David Paterson, Stephen Scott, Brenda Dreghorn, Sue Cotterill, Kevin Cotterill, Brian Tate, James Garry, Geoff Parkhouse and particularly Joyce Durham, co-director on the project.

5. Appendices

Table of Contexts for Trench 1 and Trench 1 Extension

Context	Trench	Context	Description
C1	1	Top Soil	Grey brown friable silt with organic context - roots etc
C2	1	Garden soil	Red brown clay silt with charcoal fragments pottery etc. few small stones
C3	1	Layer	Red brown clay with charcoal flecks and some medium-sized angular stones
C4	1	Layer	Orange brown silty clay with frequent medium and small angular stones with black mineral iron deposits
C5	1	Wall matrix	Dark red brown silty clay with charcoal flecks and medium-sized stones, matrix for wall 10
C6	1	Paved floor	Flat stones medium and large, close packed. S end of trench
C7	1	Wall	Large facing stones and close packed core of medium-sized stones.
C8	1	Layer	Red brown silt small angular stones
C9	1	Layer	Red brown clay silt with frequent charcoal flecks and small angular stones
C10	1	Wall	Large facing stones of N wall of outbuilding
C11	1 Ext	Robber trench	Shallow trench left by robbing of S wall of outbuilding
C12	1Ext	Earthen bank	N-S bank of earth and stone - overlies N wall of outbuilding.
C13	1Ext	Ditch	N-S ditch along E side of bank filled with grey brown silt & angular stones
C14	1Ext	Wall	S wall of outbuilding overlain by bank 12

Finds Record Trench 1, 2012-13

Find	Context	Area	No of finds	Material	Description	Date	In' l	Photo	Note
1.1	1	1	13	Pottery		28.07.12		2	
1.2	1	1	13	Clay	Stems x12 bowl x1	28.07.12		1	
1.3	1	1	2	Metal	Metal	28.07.12		8	
1.4	1	1	1	Stone	Haematite	28.07.12		9	
2	1	1	1	Stone	Whetstone	18.08.12		3	
3	1	1	1	Stone	Diamond shape	18.08.12		4	
4	1	1	1	Pottery	Medieval	18.08.12	RK	5	From near surface on N wall
5	1	1	1	Pottery		18.08.12	AJ	6	
6	1	1	3	Pottery	Skillet	18.08.12	DP	7	From near S wall
7.1	1	1	10	Pottery		18.08.12		10	
7.2	1	1	3	Cinder		18.08.12		11	
7.3	1	1	8	Clay		18.08.12		12	
7.4	1	1	2	Glass		18.08.12		13	
8	1	1	2	Pottery	Medieval	02.03.13	JD	14	
9.1	1	1	1	Pottery		2.03.13		15	

9.2	1	1	1	Mortar	Rough cast	2.03.13		16	
10.1	1	1	3	Clay	Pipe	2.03.13		17	
10.2	N/A		1	Metal	Horseshoe detector find	2.03.13		18	From outside Trench 1
11.1	2	1	1	Pottery		13.04.13		19	From base garden soil 2
11.2	2	1	5	Clay	Pipe with mark on heel	13.04.13		20	From base garden soil 2
11.3	2	1	4	Cinder		13.04.13		31	From base garden soil 2
12.1	2	1	1	Clay	Bowl - complete	27.04.13		22	From base garden soil 2
12.2	2	1	2	Pottery		27.04.13		24	From base garden soil 2
12.3	2	1	1	Glass		27.04.13		25	From base garden soil 2
13	2	1	3	Pottery		04.05.13		23	From base garden soil 2
14	2	1	2	Pottery		25.05.13		26	From base garden soil 2

Finds Record Trench 1 Extension 2015

Find	C'text	Area	No of finds	Material	Description	Date	Inl	Photo	Note
14.1	1	1ext	12	Pottery		04.04.15		27	
14.2	1	1 ext	4	Clay	3x stem, 1x bowl	04.04.15		28	
14.3	1	1 ext	1	Metal	Cu alloy button	04.04.15		29	
14.4	1	1 ext	1	Metal	Nail	04.04.15		30	
15	13	1 ext	7	Pottery	Brown glazed earthenware	09.05.15	JD	32	
16	1	1 ext	1	Glass		23.05.15	JD	33	
17	Spoil-heap	1 ext	1	Pottery	Medieval	30.05.15	PD	34	
18	12	1 ext	10	Pottery	Brown & yellow slip	20.06.15		35	From bank beside ditch
19	6	1 ext	1	Pottery	Brown & yellow slip decoration	08.08.15	D D	36	Under/between paving stones
20	9	1 ext	1	Pottery	Medieval	22.08.15	JD	37	
21	9	1 ext	1	Pottery	Green glaze	29.08.15	JD	38	From on 'bump'
22	Spoil-heap	1 ext	3	Pottery	Brown & yellow slip	20.12.15		39	

List of samples

Sample No.	Context	Area	Volume	Sample type	Date	Comment
1	2	1		Bone	04.05.13	From base garden soil
2	2	1		Charcoal	25.05.13	From base garden soil
3	2?	1		Charcoal	01.06.13	From half way down section
4	2	1		Charcoal	01.06.13	From garden soil beside N wall
5	2	1	2 samples	Charcoal	05.09.13	Base garden soil
6	5	1		Charcoal	21.09.13	From within N wall
7	3	1		Charcoal	12.10.13	Below N wall

Table of drawings

Archive Number	Area	Details	Scale	Drawn by	Date
SH12 02a	Tr 1	Plan drawing	1 in 20	JD	31.07.12
SH12 02b	Tr 1	Plan drawing trench extension S end	1 in 20	JD	18.09.12
SH12 03	Tr 1	Plan drawing 1st overlay S end	1 in 20	JD	31.07.12
SH12 04	Tr 1	Plan drawing 2nd overlay N end	1 in 20	PD	08.06.13
SH13 05	Tr 1 & ext	Section E facing wall	1 in 20	PD/JD	24.08.13
SH13 06	Tr 1	Plan drawing 3rd overlay N end	1 in 20	JD	26.09.13
SH13 07a	Tr 1	Plan drawing 3rd overlay N end	1 in 20	JD	26.09.13
SH13 07b	Tr 1	Plan drawing 4th overlay N end	1 in 20	JD	05.10.13

List of photographs

Number	Description	Date
1	From the N	16.04.13
2	From the S	16.04.13
3	N garden wall	01.06.13
4	S garden wall	02.03.13
5-13	NE facing section SE to NW	03.08.13
Extension Photos		
1	From E	20.06.15
2	Vertical aerial photo	20.06.15
3	Vertical aerial photo	04.07.15
4	Section SE to NW	27.10.15
5	Section SE to NW	27.10.15
6	Section SE to NW	27.10.15
7	Section SE to NW	27.10.15



Figure 7 17th-18th century slipware sherd found between the paving stones of the paved floor C6. Other sherds were found in the spoil tip and from the bank C12.



Figure 8 18th century brown glazed earthenware from ditch C13.