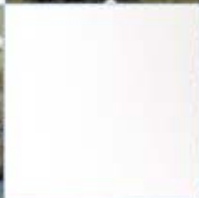


# Townhead Farm, Melrose, Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

20985  
April 2008



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## Townhead Farm, Melrose

### Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Mr Ian Scott-Aiton S.A Farming Ltd The Garthgate Langshaw Galashiels TD1 2PD
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 5617 3371 to 5675 3394
AOC Project No:	20985
Prepared by:	Martin Cook
Illustration by:	Graeme Carruthers
Date of Fieldwork:	April 2008
Date of Report:	April 2008

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

Author:	Date:
Approved by:	Date:
Draft/Final Report Stage:	Date:

**Enquiries to:** AOC Archaeology Group  
Edgefield Industrial Estate  
Edgefield Road  
Loanhead  
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593  
Fax. 0131 440 3422  
e-mail. [admin@aocarchaeology.com](mailto:admin@aocarchaeology.com)



[www.aocarchaeology.com](http://www.aocarchaeology.com)

## Contents

	Page
List of illustrations .....	1
List of appendices.....	1
Abstract.....	2
1 INTRODUCTION .....	3
1.1 Background .....	3
1.2 Location .....	3
1.3 Archaeological background .....	3
2 OBJECTIVES .....	3
3 METHODOLOGY .....	4
4 RESULTS .....	4
5 CONCLUSION .....	5
6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES.....	5
APPENDIX 1.....	7
Photographic Record .....	7
APPENDIX 2.....	8
Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report .....	8

## List of illustrations

- Figure 1      Site location and area monitored  
Figure 2      West-facing section through pipe trench

## List of appendices

- Appendix 1      Photographic Record  
Appendix 2      *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* Report

## Abstract

---

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Townhead Farm, Melrose, Scottish Borders. The work was undertaken within the Scheduled Area of Newstead Roman Camp (SAM 163). The watching brief was commissioned by SA Farming Ltd.

The objective of the work was to monitor all ground breaking works within the Scheduled Area relating to the excavation of a trench for a water pipe and to prevent the destruction of any archaeological material prior to its recording.

The watching brief was carried out over three days in April 2008. It revealed neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by SA Farming Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a trench for a water pipe within the limits of Newstead Roman Camps (south and south-east), a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 163). The site lay at Townhead Farm, Melrose, Scottish Borders (centred NGR: NT 5657 3379; Figure 1). Final Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent (AMH/163/1/1) was granted prior to the work being undertaken as per the requirements of *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Area Act* (1979).

## 1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development site lies within the properties of Townhead Farm to the immediate east of Oakendean House. The area monitored lies within existing agricultural land with the trench being excavated along the edge of existing roads, tracks and boundary fences/walls.

## 1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The watching brief area lies within the ground occupied by the Newstead Roman Fort complex, comprising three Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM 163, 2845 and 2903) including Roman Temporary Camps (eg NMRS: NT53SE 20.7), Roman roads (eg NMRS: NT 53SE 93), an Amphitheatre (NMRS: NT 53SE 20.10) and a series of findspots (eg NMRS: NT53SE 20.8 - pottery, glass bead and glass armlet). Further sites have also been identified through aerial photography and excavation (eg NMRS: NT 55SE 33).
- 1.3.2 The watching brief took place within Newstead Roman Camps South and South-East (Scheduled Ancient Monument 163), an containing a souterrain discovered in 1845. The structure consisted of a single narrow, curved, subterranean chamber whose side walls were dry-built of dressed sandstone and rose vertically to a height of 0.9 m, thereafter the span was reduced by oversailing corbels formed of Roman cornice-mouldings, two of them a cable, while numerous fat and chamfered stones lying on the floor of the chamber suggested that the roof had been lintelled. In 1849 a second souterrain was found about 90 m east of the first. It is said to have been of the same general character, but was built of whinstone as well as sandstone and the stones were not so neatly dressed. Both structures were destroyed on discovery.
- 1.3.3 The high density of Roman material with the immediate area of the watching brief presented a very significant probability of the pipe trench encountering either *in situ* features or unstratified material associated with the fort.

# 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:
- i) to monitor site investigation works associated with the development and prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
  - ii) to undertake the immediate recording of isolated finds of moderately significant archaeological material that will be disturbed by the development programme;

- iii) given the discovery of highly significant archaeological material in quantity that that would suffer an adverse impact from construction works (ie preservation *in situ* is impractical), implement a mitigation strategy in consultation with Historic Scotland.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The details of the archaeological works undertaken are laid out below, and were designed to fully meet the requirements of Scheduled Monument Consent and Historic Scotland.
- 3.2 All ground breaking works within the bounds of the Scheduled Ancient Monument were monitored (Figure 1). The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of the excavation of a 600 m long trench for a water pipe, between NGR: NT 5617 3371 and NT: 5675 3394. The trench was excavated through approximately 0.30 m of topsoil and 0.30 m of the underlying subsoil.
- 3.3 The ground breaking work was undertaken using a JCB mechanical excavator using a 0.30 m wide toothless ditching bucket. All monitoring was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures (Appendix 7, 7.1 to 7.29). Digital and Black and White Print photographic shots were taken during the watching Brief (Appendix 1).

### 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-2 and Figure 1. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken between Monday 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2008 in dry but cold conditions. Despite the limited width of the excavated trench, archaeological visibility was good, with the standing sections being clear throughout (Figure 2).
- 4.2 The trench was excavated through 0.30 m of topsoil comprising an orange/brown silty clay with few inclusions, which directly overlay the red clay natural subsoil. Neither significant features nor artefacts were identified by the watching brief.



**Figure 2: West-facing section through water pipe trench**



## **5 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 No structures, deposits or artefacts relating to the Roman occupation of the site were identified. Similarly no archaeologically significant material from any other period was observed. This derived from the restricted nature of the ground-breaking works undertaken.
- 5.2 No further works are considered necessary.

## **6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

AMAA 1979 *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act*



---

# **Townhead Farm, Melrose: Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1

### Photographic Record

Digital, Black & White Print Film 1

Frame	Area	Description	From
1	Field 1	West-facing section of pipe trench	W
2	Field 1	General working shot within Field 1	S
3	Field 1	General working shot within Field 1	W
4	Field 2	West-facing section of pipe trench	W
5	Field 2	General working shot within Field 2	S
6	Field 2	General working shot within Field 2	W
7	Field 3	West-facing section of pipe trench	W
8	Field 3	General working shot within Field 3	W
9	Field 3	West-facing section if pipe trench	W
10	Field 4	West-facing section of pipe trench	W
11	Field 4	General working shot within Field 4	N

## APPENDIX 2

### Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Scottish Borders
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Townhead Farm, Melrose Watching Brief
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 20985
<b>PARISH:</b>	Melrose
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Martin Cook
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	NMRS: NT 53 SE 19
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Roman
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 5617 3371 to NT 5675 3394
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	13 <sup>th</sup> April 2008
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2008
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief monitored the excavation of trench for a water pipethrough the Newstead Roman Camps (South and South-East), a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 163). The trench was excavated through 0.30 m of topsoil and 0.30 m of subsoil for a distance of 600 m. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	--
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	SA Farming Ltd
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:admin@aoctscot.co.uk">admin@aoctscot.co.uk</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



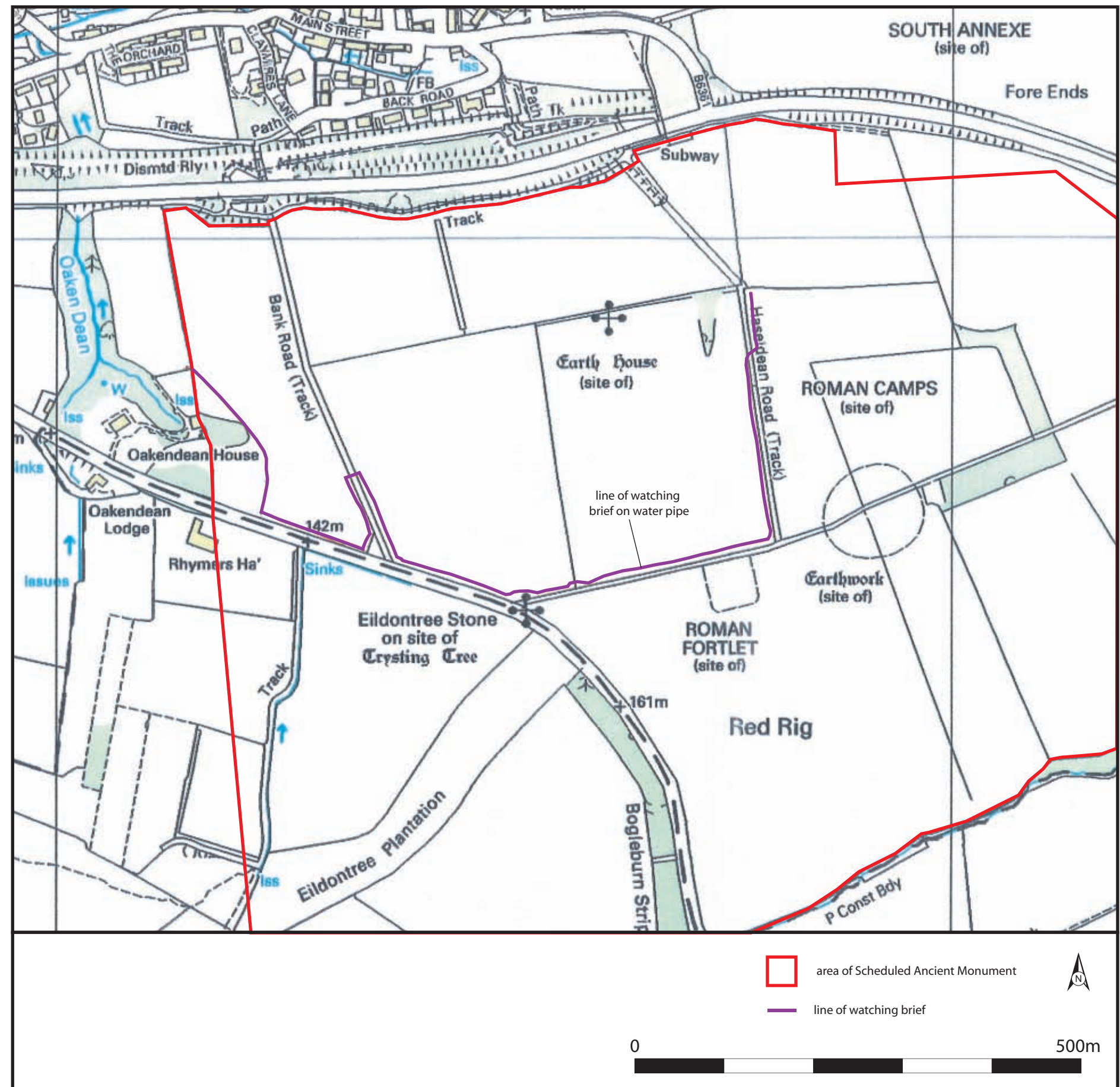
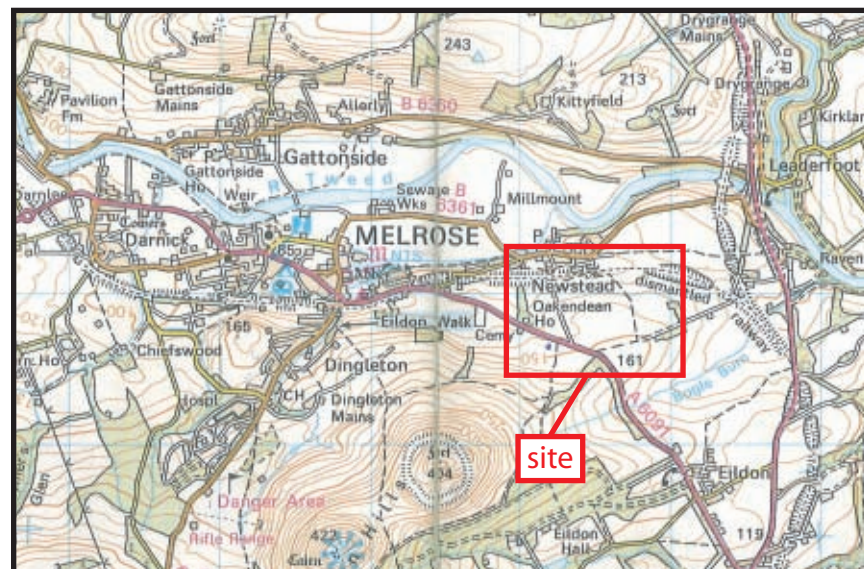
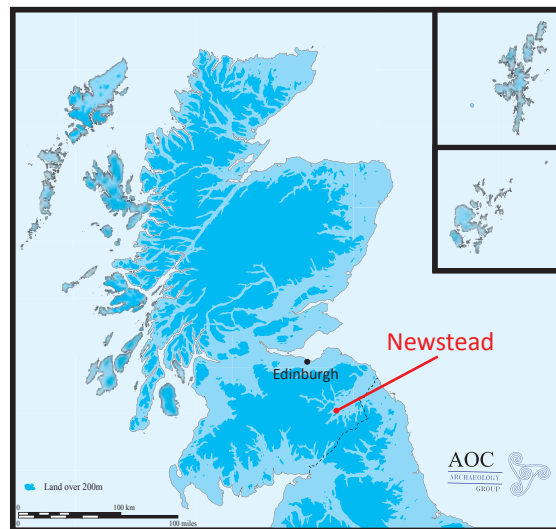


Figure 1: Site location and line of watching brief area





**AOC Archaeology Group**, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY  
tel: 0131 555 4425 | fax: 0131 555 4426 | e-mail: [admin@aacarchaeology.com](mailto:admin@aacarchaeology.com)

[www.aocarchaeology.com](http://www.aocarchaeology.com)