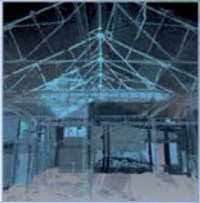


# Upper Chatto Farm, Hownam: Watching Brief Report

21421  
December 2009



## Upper Chatto Farm, Hownam: Watching Brief Report

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**On Behalf of:** **CKD Galbraith LLP**  
5-6 Bank Street  
Galashiels  
Scottish Borders  
TD1 1EN

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NT 76700 17275

**AOC Project No:** 21421

**Prepared by:** **Martin Cook**

**Illustration by:** **Douglas Park**

**Date of Fieldwork:** 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009

**Date of Report:** 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009

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

**Author:** Martin Cook

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009

**Approved by:** John Gooder

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009

**Draft/Final Report Stage:** Draft

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009



**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)

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- Figure 1      Site location  
 Figure 2      Area monitored

## **Abstract**

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This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on ground breaking works associated with the construction of a new dwelling house at Upper Chatto Farm, Scottish Borders.

Neither significant archaeological remains nor artefacts were identified.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by CKD Galbraith LLP on behalf of their client to undertake a Watching Brief at Upper Chatto Farm, Kelso, Scottish Borders. The work required was in response to a planning condition set by the Scottish Borders Council, as advised by Archaeology Officer, Dr. Christopher Bowles, who had recommended a Watching Brief on ground breaking works associated with the development.

### 1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed development was located on an east-facing slope within the grounds of Upper Chatto Farm, Hownam, Scottish Borders (NGR: NT 7670 1725; Figure 1).

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 Immediately to the west of Upper Chatto Farm lies Upper Chatto deserted village and moated homestead (Scheduled Ancient Monument, SAM No.10750). This deserted medieval settlement covers an area approximately 250 m north-south by 150 m east-west lying at a height of just over 200 m OD. It lies on a north-facing slope either side of Coldside Burn with the main part of the village lying in two rows separated by an eroded track. The other part of the settlement, lying on the opposite side of the burn, consists of a stone walled building, building platforms, further enclosures and a moated homestead which occupies a low terrace overlooking the burn.

1.3.2 In the immediate landscape around Upper Chatto deserted village there are traces of agricultural activity and land use that are probably associated with the medieval settlement. A few hundred metres to the western side of Coldside Burn lies an area of lynchets and cultivation patterns covering approximately 12 ha of a SE-facing hillslope (NMRS NT71NE 31). To the east of Coldside Burn towards Chatto Craig hill there are an impressive group of cultivation terraces occupying approximately 15 ha of the easterly hillslope (NMRS NT71NE 25). A substantial turf covered clearance cairn (NMRS NT71NE 37) also lies in the vicinity.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by the proposed development works;
- ii) to liaise with Dr. Christopher Bowles and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and / or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.

### 3 METHOD

- 3.1 The watching brief was required on all ground breaking works to natural subsoil, including house foundations, hard landscaping, service tracks and drainage features (Figures 2). The ground works were undertaken by means of a Mechanical Digger equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All machine excavation was monitored by an experienced field archaeologist.

### 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The watching brief was undertaken on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009. The weather conditions during the works were wet and cold but nevertheless rendered good archaeological visibility. The various data gathered from the watching are presented as a series of appendices:

- i) Appendix 1 contains the photographic register;
- ii) Appendix 2 reproduces the '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' entry.

- 4.2 The ground works supervised comprised an area measuring approximately 15 m east to west by 35 m north to south (Figure 2). The area was stripped of a 0.20 m silty topsoil including frequent eroded stone, directly overlying a silt and eroded stone natural subsoil. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were observed during the watching brief.

### 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No features, deposits or finds of any archaeological significance were recorded during the watching brief.

### 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by Scottish Borders Council based on advice rendered by the Council's archaeology officer, Dr Christopher Bowles

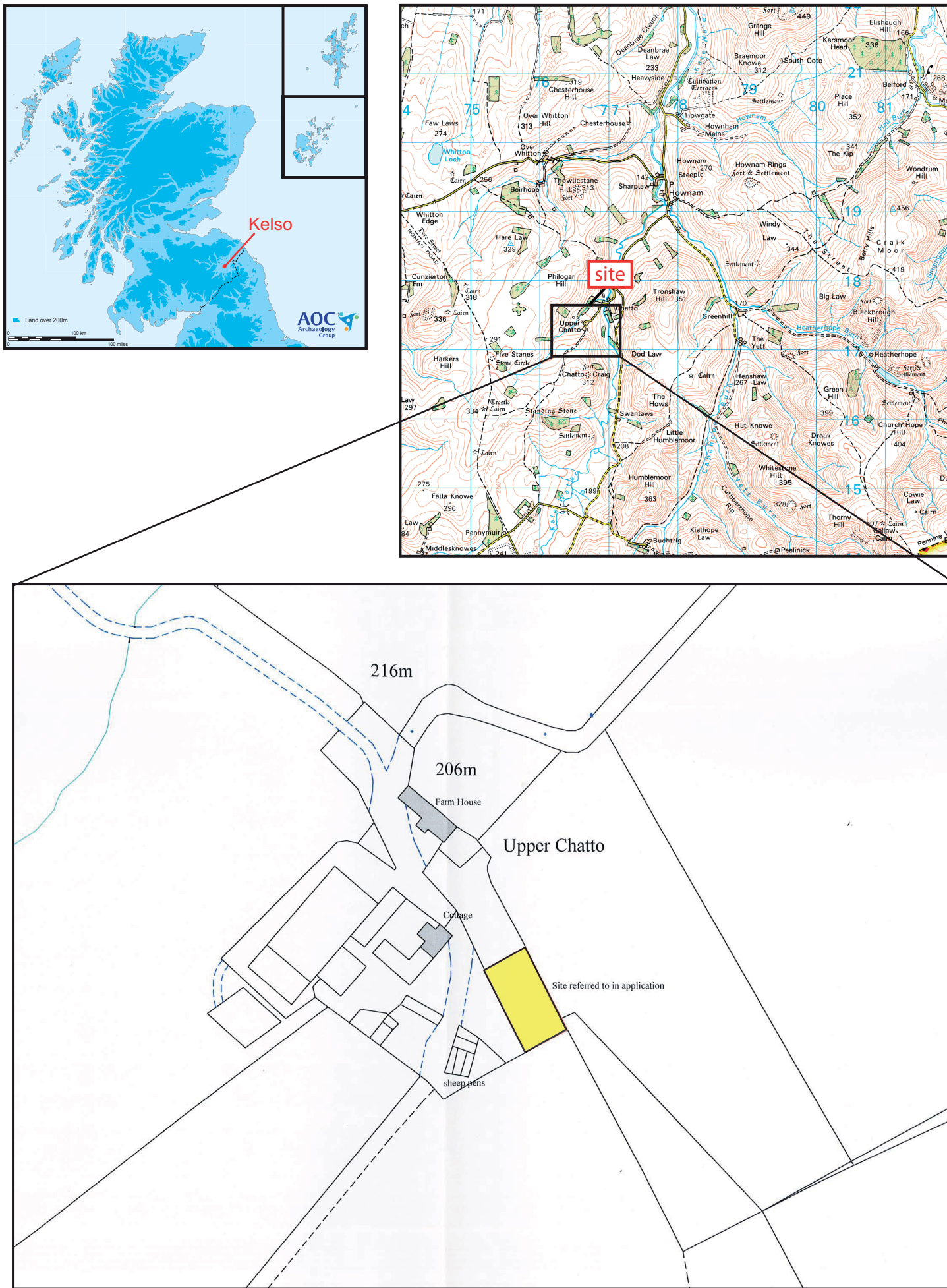


Figure 1: Site location

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# Upper Chatto Farm: Watching Brief Report

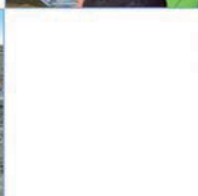
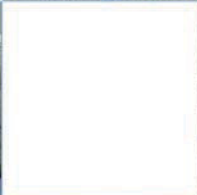
## Section 2: Appendices

## Appendix 1: Photographic Register

| Number | Description                          | From |
|--------|--------------------------------------|------|
| 1      | Registration                         |      |
| 2-3    | General post-excavation shot of area | S    |
| 4-5    | General post-excavation shot of area | S    |

## Appendix 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

|  |   |
|--|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY:   | Scottish Borders Council  |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:   | Upper Chatto Farm   |
| PROJECT CODE:  | AOC 21421   |
| PARISH:  | Hownam  |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:   | Martin Cook   |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION:  | AOC Archaeology Group   |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:  | Archaeological Watching Brief   |
| NMRS NO(S):  | None  |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):   | None  |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS:   | None  |
| NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)   | NT 76700 17275  |
| START DATE (this season)   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2009   |
| END DATE (this season)   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2009   |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)   | None  |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:<br>(May include information from other fields) | An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundbreaking works associated with the erection of a single residential building within Upper Chatto Farm, Scottish Borders.<br><br>No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:  | None  |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:   | n/a   |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:   | CKD Galbraith LLP   |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:   | C/o AOC Archaeology Group   |
| EMAIL ADDRESS:   | Martin.cook@aocarchaeology.com  |



**AOC Archaeology Group**, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY  
tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: [edinburgh@aacarchaeology.com](mailto:edinburgh@aacarchaeology.com)

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