

Archaeological Metal Detector Survey  
Catherine Street  
Bannockburn  
STIRLING  
ST28



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL METAL DETECTOR  
SURVEY  
CATHERINE STREET  
BANNOCKBURN  
ST28**

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*Illustration 1: Site location plan*

*Illustration 2: Site boundary and features*

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## **ABSTRACT**

*Stirling Council commissioned Alder Archaeology to conduct a photographic and metal detector survey of a site at Catherine Street, Bannockburn, in advance of the construction of eleven new-build houses. Given the site's location within the Bannockburn Designated Battlefield (1314), the survey was required to assess possible impact on setting and the likelihood of remains associated with the battle surviving within the development area. The survey was conducted on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018 in sunny weather. Due to the presence of existing modern housing, the impact on setting was assessed as negligible, while no finds of archaeological interest were detected. No further work is recommended.*

## **1 Background**

### **1.1 Introduction**

Stirling Council commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological metal detector and photographic survey on the site of a new housing development at Catherine Street, Bannockburn. The proposed development area is open parkland, centred on NGR NS 80410 90471. The work (site code ST28) was undertaken on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018 in fine, dry weather conditions. The requirement was to photograph the site in its current setting and traverse the development area with a metal detector, recovering any archaeological finds and recording their position.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 17/00920/FUL.

### **1.2 Aims and Objectives**

The main aim of this investigation was to establish the presence/absence, date, character and quality of any metallic archaeological finds surviving within the development area. The photographic element of the survey was intended to assess the likely impact of the development upon the setting of the battlefield. The results of this investigation will be used to inform future mitigation strategies for the proposed development.

### **1.3 Reporting**

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this survey. Copies will be sent to the client, The National Record of the Historic Environment at Historic Environment Scotland, and Stirling Sites and Monuments Record.

### **1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues**

This survey constitutes archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development.

### **1.5 Acknowledgements**

We wish to thank Fiona Hainey of Stirling Council for assistance and guidance throughout this project. Stirling Council funded this survey

## **2 Details of Work**

### **2.1 The Site (Illus 1)**

The site comprised a sub-rectangular strip of land covering approximately 1600m<sup>2</sup> and aligned SE-NW, running SE from Hillpark Crescent to a boundary fence along the W lip of the gorge containing the Bannock Burn. Catherine Street ran in parallel with this alignment along the NE edge of the site, from its junction with Hillpark Crescent. A track, roughly surfaced in tarmac, ran along the centre line of the site, parallel with Catherine Street, from Hillpark Crescent to the approximate centre spot, where it connected with a footpath which ran off the site to the W. There was a gentle gradient from NW-SE, with an area of landscaping in the NW corner forming a more level

terrace. The SW boundary was formed by gardens attached to blocks of existing housing; the NW boundary was similarly fenced in the NW corner and open in the NE.

## **2.2 Archaeological Potential**

The site lay within the Bannockburn Designated Battlefield area, within which the battle of 1314 is believed to have been fought. In particular, descriptions of the battle suggest the site may have been traversed by the Scots army on the second day of the battle, prior to the final clash. Maps of the site dating back to 1862 (OS 1<sup>st</sup> Edition) suggest it had continued as an area of open ground as late as 1960, despite development in the vicinity including a carpet factory and housing. It was therefore possible that items dropped during this manoeuvre might have persisted on the site until the present. However, contradicting this, map evidence since 1960 and local anecdotal evidence suggest the presence of wooden lock-up garages on the site within living memory and possibly as late as 1992, which may explain the presence of the track and landscaped terrace.

## **2.3 Archaeological Method**

A Nikon digital SLR was used to take photographs of the site in its current setting, from NW and SE, together with surroundings and features of interest (specifically, areas of landscaping). The site was then divided into 10m-wide transects using 100m long tapes. Each transect was then traversed using a White's Spectrum XLT detector, with a Visua VSMD52+ as back-up. Detected finds were then marked for hand-excavation, with artefacts of possible interest photographed in situ before recovery. A Leica Total Station was to be used to record the precise locations of archaeological finds.

## **2.4 Results of Investigations**

The site, although a strip of open parkland, was entirely surrounded by modern housing, which precluded a wider view of the battlefield area. Although the present development will reduce the area of open ground, the sensitivity of the setting is already low and it does not appear that further construction will have an appreciable impact.

The site was found to be heavily disturbed and contaminated throughout by modern debris. This was particularly marked along the SW boundary (Transect 1) close to neighbouring gardens, where the ground had been scarped; in the NW corner on the landscaped terrace (Transects 1 and 2); around the centre of the site where surface charring indicated the presence of a large bonfire (Transects 2 and 3) and crushed grass indicated the location of a recently removed contractors' compound (Transect 3); in Transect 4, which extended the line of the track towards the Bannock Burn, where the presence of building rubble and clinker suggested a former track had followed this line, with rubbish in such quantities as to suggest a public (but possibly unofficial) dump. Finds included fire-distorted locks and hinges close to the bonfire, children's toys close to the gardens, numerous drinks cans and large quantities of nails, as well as sherds of plastic and glass. All were modern, with none dating to earlier than the twentieth century. None were retained.

No finds of archaeological interest were detected on the site.

### **3 Interpretation**

The survey found no evidence to indicate the presence of any of the combatants of Bannockburn. However, widespread modern disturbance of the site including what appeared to be a rubbish dump accessed via a rough track, was sufficient to have destroyed any such remains had they ever existed. This negative result should therefore not be taken to prove the site was not part of the battlefield of 1314.

### **4 Conclusions and Recommendations**

#### **4.1 Recommendations for Further Work**

Alder Archaeology consider that the survey was conducted appropriately and do not recommend further work on the site in connection with the present development. However, the final decision ultimately rests with Murray Cooke, the Stirling area Archaeologist.

### **5 Bibliography**

Desk Top Study extract, Boyle, J. & Spriddle, N., CRA (Alloa) Ltd, *CA7479:Desk Top Study Report, Site at Catherine Street, Bannockburn*, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2017 (unpublished pdf)

## Appendix 1 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
0001-5	Location shots, site from N end, junction with Hillpark Crescent	SE, ESE, S
0006-8	Location shots, Housing to W/NW of site	W, NW
0009-11	Location shots, centre of site	ESE, SE
0012-13	NW corner of site, from centre	NW, NNW
0014-15	Edge of scarped terrace, NW corner	S
0016-17	Grassed-over gravel track to SE of terrace	S
0018	Location shot, landscaping in NW corner from centre	NW
0019-20	Locations shots, SE end of site, from centre	SE
0021-23	Location shots, Catherine Street from SE end of site	N, NNW
0024-26	Location shots, site from SE end	N, NW
0027	Location shots, SE boundary	N
0028-30	Gorge of the Bannock Burn, from SE boundary	SE, E
0031-34	Corroded grid peg find 001 (not retained)	S, SW, SE
0035-38	Working shots, metal detecting along SW edge of site (Transect 1)	SE
0039	Sample find, corroded wire (not retained)	SE
0040-41	Corroded hinge find 002 (not retained)	N
0042-43	Sample Fe finds from Transects 1-3 (not retained)	NW
0044-46	Sample find, corroded machine part (not retained)	W
0047-48	Sample find, corroded letterbox fitting (not retained)	E, NE
0049-50	Working shots, metal detecting SE of track (Transect 4)	NE
0051-52	Gravel make-up of grassed-over track	E
0053	George V penny find 003 (not retained)	N
0054-56	Sample find, corroded door lock (not retained)	E
0057-58	Sample find, corroded 9" nail (not retained)	E
0059-61	Brick rubble make-up of ground below turf in SE of site, former track	SE, S

0062-64	Sample find, several corroded small nails, SE of site (not retained)	S, SE
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## Appendix 2 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Stirling
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Catherine Street, Bannockburn
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	ST28
<b>PARISH:</b>	Stirling
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	C. Fyles
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Alder Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Photographic and metal detector survey
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NS89SW 11
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Designated Battlefield
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NS 80410 90471
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	Firs Crescent, Bannockburn, evaluation and metal detector survey, 2016
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	Prior to the construction of 11 new build houses, the site was subjected to a photographic and metal detector survey in order to assess the likely impact on setting and the possibility of remains associated with the Battle of Bannockburn (1314) surviving within the development area. Due to the close proximity of existing modern housing, impact on setting was assessed as negligible, while the metal detector survey resulted in no finds of archaeological interest, and showed extensive modern contamination.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	-
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Stirling Council
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:director@alderarchaeology.co.uk">director@alderarchaeology.co.uk</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	HES (intended)

## Appendix 3 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

### 3.1 Recording Methodology

Alder Archaeology employs a Single Context Recording System that allows full cross-referencing of stratigraphy, finds and environmental samples, as well as site-wide phasing. All features will be planned at scale 1:20, and sections drawn at scale 1:10. Sections and profiles will be drawn and all features will be photographed with metric scale included. Environmental samples will be taken from archaeologically significant contexts, if the analysis of these samples would aid significantly in the interpretation of any features identified.

### 3.2 Human Remains

If human remains are encountered they will be left in situ and the local police will be informed. If removal is required this will take place in compliance with Historic Scotland's Policy Paper *The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology*.

### 3.3 Products and Reporting

A Data Structure Report will normally be prepared within a period agreed within the Written Scheme of Investigation/ Project Design, after the completion of the fieldwork. This forms the basic level of reporting. Further reporting may be required on the basis of discoveries made during excavations.

A copy of the report and the project archive will be deposited in the NMRS. Further copies will be sent to the client, LAAO and others, as appropriate.

### 3.4 Artefacts

Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia*. We will report such finds, if recovered, with supporting documentation to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel for disposal to the appropriate museum.

### 3.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

### 3.6 General Conditions and Health and Safety

We adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists.

Alder Archaeology Ltd has public liability insurance of £2,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

We operate a strict health and safety policy that conforms to the Health and Safety at Work Act. We undertake Risk Assessments on all fieldwork carried out.

Alder Archaeology representatives will at all times wear protective footwear, high visibility clothing and other appropriate clothing. Hard hats will be worn if there is active plant on site or at all times if the site is deemed a hard hat area.

If lightly contaminated deposits are uncovered disposable boiler suits and gloves will be worn. A source of clean water will be made available for staff to clean hands with. If the health risk posed by site contamination is felt to be too high all further archaeological work will stop in that area.

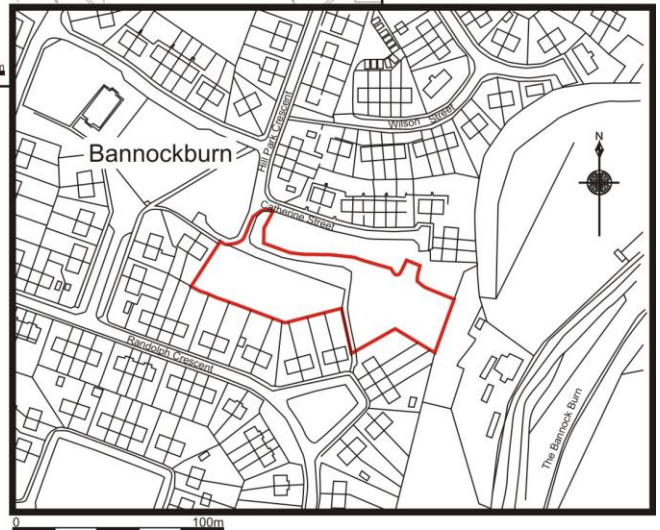
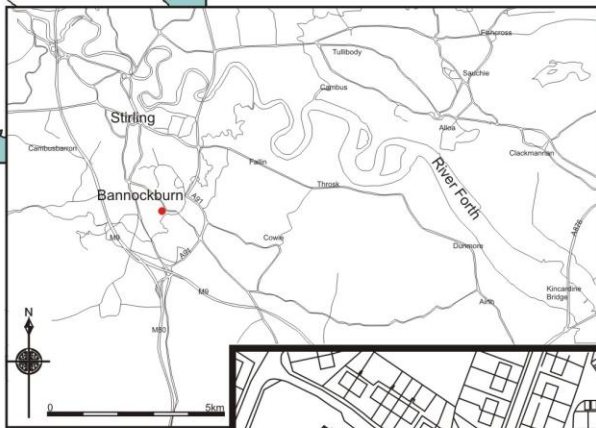
Illus 1

Archaeological Survey  
Catherine Street  
Bannockburn

Site Location



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Illus 2 Catherine Street, Bannockburn, site boundary and features



0 100m

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