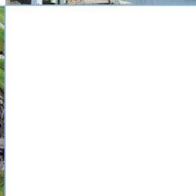
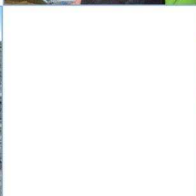
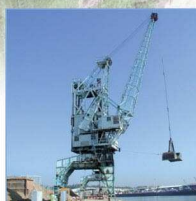
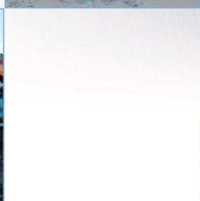
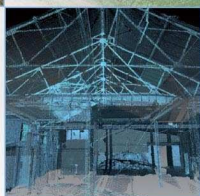
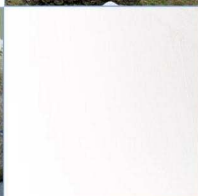
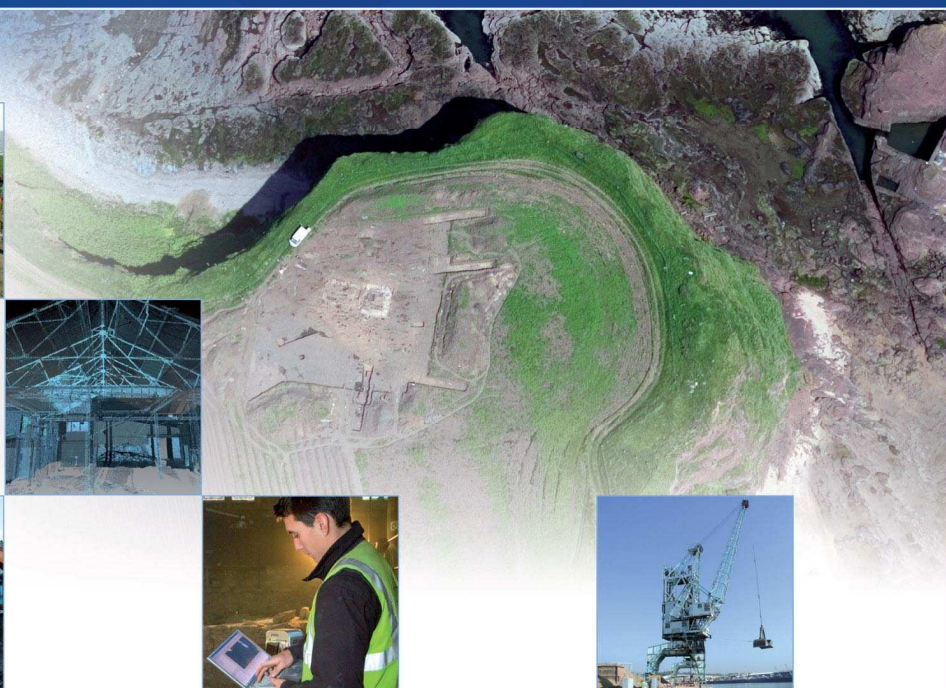
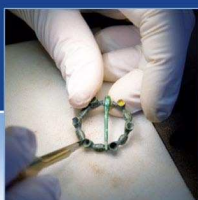


Flodden Monument, Branxton, Northumberland: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22430

OASIS No. aocarcha1-153954

10th June 2013



Flodden Monument, Branxton, Northumberland:

Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Edwin Thompson Surveyors

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 89211 37495 (centred)

AOC Project No: 22430

Prepared by: Alan Duffy

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Date of Fieldwork: 28th May – 7th June 2013

Date of Report: 10th June 2013

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

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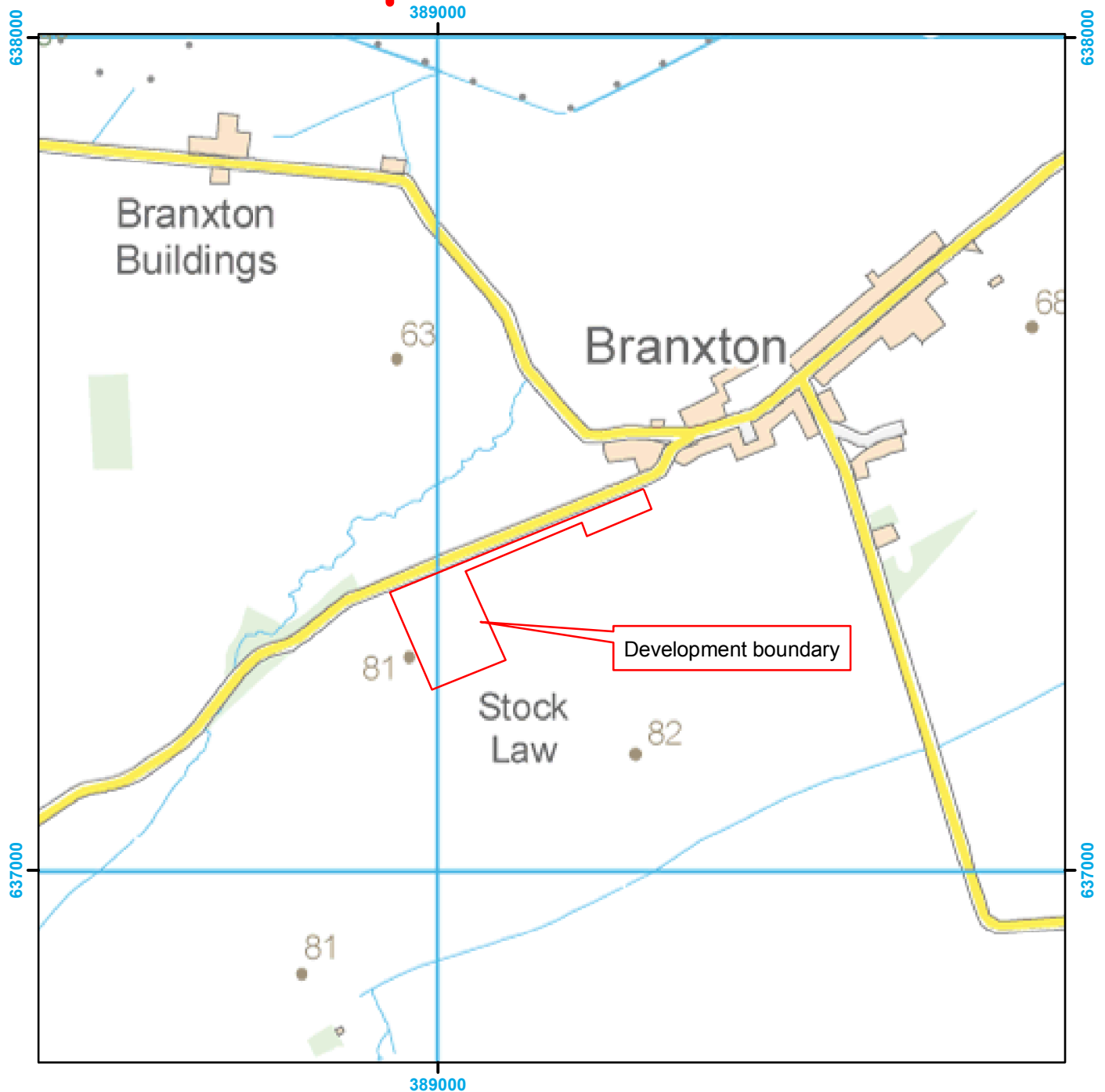
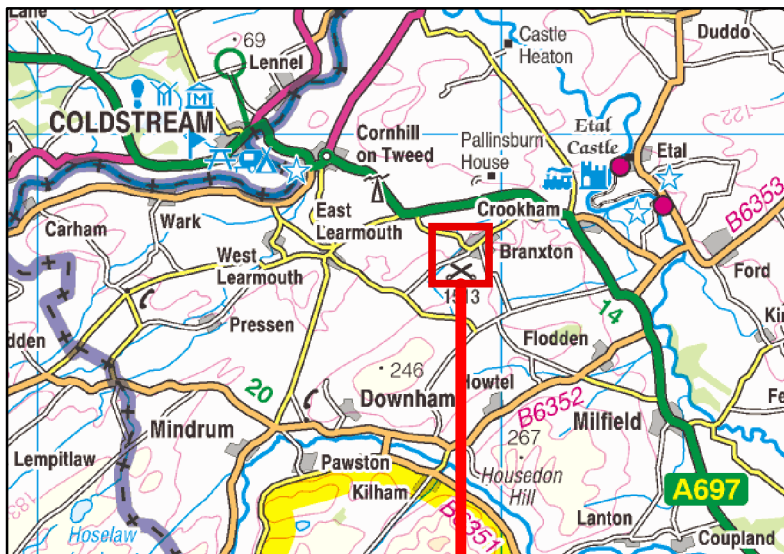
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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief during ground breaking works at the site of Flodden Monument, Branxton, Northumberland.

An archaeological watching brief was required during the ground breaking works associated with the construction of a new car park and footpath.

No significant archaeological remains were noted during these ground breaking works.



0 75 150 225 300 Meters

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Edwin Thompson Surveyors on behalf of their clients to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground breaking works at the site of Flodden Monument, Branxton, Northumberland (Planning Reference No. 13/00436/FULL). The watching brief was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Northumberland County Council who are advised on archaeological matters by Mr Nick Best of Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2013) approved on behalf of Northumberland County Council by NCCCT and in accordance with the principles set out in *National Planning Policy Document*.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The new car park and footpath location is centred at NGR: NT 89211 37495 in a greenfield setting to the north of Flodden Monument, to the west of Branxton Village. (Figure 1) The landtake lies immediately south of an unclassified road heading west out of Branxton village. It is bounded to the east by Branxton Church graveyard, to the north by the Flodden Monument, and to the west by an existing car park and set of steps leading south to the monument. The new car park is set in flat ground to the north east of the monument. The path extends from the west side of the car park along the northern boundary of Monument Field on gradually rising ground to the west where it meets the existing car park. From here the path rises gradually to the south in a zigzagging pattern on sharply rising ground where it meets an existing path at the top of a set of steps (Figure 2).

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 Flodden Monument is set on a small hill to the south of the probable setting of Flodden battlefield. The battle took place on 9th September 1513, during which some 14,000 men are thought to have lost their lives.
- 1.3.2 The UK Battlefield Resource Centre, part of the Battlefields Trust provides a wealth of information regarding Flodden, with maps depicting troop deployments and a summary of the battle. It shows that the development area most likely lies within the approximate area that the English troops deployed at with the battle itself occurring a little way to the south of the development area. The Northumberland Council Historic Environment Records (HER) note the Battle Of Flodden (HER ID 726) as well as four possible mass graves (HER ID 751, 752, 753 and 24248) of which one (723) lies within Branxton Church burial ground. The Flodden Monument (HER ID 765) also lies to the south of the area of English deployment overlooking the battlefield which lies to the south. A single cannonball attributed to the battle is noted as a findspot (HER ID 19516).
- 1.3.3 A search of the Northumberland County Council Historic Environment Records reveals that within 1 km zone around the development area a further twenty or so sites recorded that are not associated with Flodden. These include five Grade II Listed sites such as the late 12th/early 13th century (HER ID 760), the vicarage (HER ID 768), the early Branxton House (HER ID 764) alongside a well (HER ID 766) and a fountain (HER ID 767). There are also a number of water mill sites listed, (HER ID 797, 798 & 799) with a small mill pond (HER 19517) and mill pond and sluice (HER ID 19364). Other sites include four cropmark sites (HER ID 736, 744, 787 & 21142) mostly thought to be Iron Age and/or Romano British in date consisting of enclosures, pits and ditches. Lastly there was Braxton Tower (HER ID 727) of which no trace survives, medieval Branxton Village (HER ID 754) which has been built over by the modern Branxton village and finally a findspot for a 16th century gold coin which post dates Flodden (HER ID 728).



Watching Brief Area

Figure 2: Watching Brief Area

- 1.3.4 The Northumberland County Council Historic Environment Records also notes that five archaeological 'events' have occurred since 2004 within 1 km of the development area with four in Branxton (Event PRN 13264, 13571, 14255 & 14951) None of these 'events' encountered any remains associated with the Flodden battle or its aftermath, though one did uncover a medieval rubbish pit (HER ID 20716).

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:
- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by the groundworks associated with the development;
 - ii) to liaise with Northumberland Council and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response for safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording if not.
 - iii) To report the results of the watching brief.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The watching brief comprised supervision of all ground breaking works associated with the development, specifically the following, as listed within the brief supplied by Mr Nick Best of NCCCT.
- Groundworks associated with the construction of the new car park
 - Groundworks associated with the construction of the new footpath
 - Excavation for the provisions of services or drains
 - Landscaping activities
- 3.2 The ground breaking works consisted of the stripping of an area c 55.0 m x 12.0 m at the area of the new car park. The pathway consisted of a stripped area c. 500.0 m x 1.80 m to 2.70 m.
- 3.3 All ground breaking works were carried out by 360° mechanical excavator using 0.70 – 1.20 m wide un-toothed ditching buckets. The nature and depth of the deposits overlying the natural deposits were recorded, as was the nature of the natural deposits. In the area of the new car park and the footpath area that ran alongside the northern boundary of the monument field, groundbreaking works stayed within the topsoil/ploughsoil horizon. Natural deposits were only encountered at the east and west access points into the new car park and in the zigzagging path leading up to the monument. In the area adjacent to the east side of the existing carpark, due to the topography, the surface was built up rather than dug into.
- 3.4 The groundbreaking works were constantly monitored and the spoil was scanned for artefacts and ecofacts. The spoil that was left on site during the stripping works, ie that material not immediately removed from the site, was also scanned by a metal detector (Whites M6).

- 3.5 A digital photographic record was kept during the course of the works. (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The upper deposits were all recorded as typical topsoil deposits. These were on average c 0.50 m deep at the access points into the new car park. Across the excavation areas associated with the footpath on the lower ground the topsoils were typically about 0.30 m deep whilst on the slopes this fell to 0.20 m.
- 4.2 The underlying deposits were recorded as a red brown sand in the access points into the new car park and a mixture of grey, grey/brown and brown clays in the areas of the foot path.
- 4.3 A number of fragments of modern ceramics and glass were noted from within the topsoil during the course of the works. Metal detecting of the topsoil spoil from along the watching brief route recovered no metal artefacts of significance.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No significant archaeological remains were noted during the groundbreaking works associated with the construction of the new car park or footpath.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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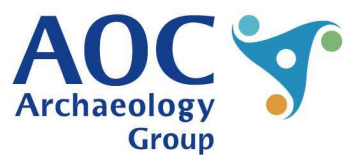
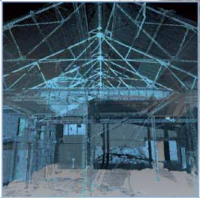
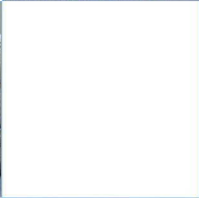
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Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital

Frame	Description	From
1-2	View of topsoil strip within carpark area	W
3-4	View of excavations for carpark eastern entrance	E
5-6	View of path under excavation close to carpark	E
7-8	View of path under excavation close to carpark	W
9-10	View of lower section of path upslope towards monument	W
11-12	View of middle section of path upslope towards monument	W
13-14	View of upper section of path upslope towards monument	N
15-16	Path up to monument general view	N
17-18	Path up to monument upper section	W



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