

The Chesters, Fogo, Duns, Scottish Borders: Archaeological Watching Brief

AOC 22501

October 2013

Oasis Number; 1-160853

Planning Reference: 13/00810/FUL



The Chesters, Fogo, Duns, Scottish Borders: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: Richard Amos Ltd
2 Golden Square
Duns
Berwickshire
TD 11 3AW

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 741 474

AOC Project No: 22501

Prepared by: Rob Engl

Illustration by: Gemma Hudson

Date of Fieldwork: 7th October 2013

Date of Report: 9th October 2013

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

Author: R Engl

Date: 7th Oct 2013

Approved by: M Cook

Date: 10th Oct 2013

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date: 10th Oct 2013

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

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
e-mail. edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com



www.aocarchaeology.com

Contents

	Page
List of illustrations	2
List of plates	2
List of appendices	2
Abstract.....	3
0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY	4
1 INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 Project Background	4
1.2 Curatorial control	4
1.3 Site Location.....	4
1.4 Archaeological Background	5
2 OBJECTIVES.....	5
3 METHOD.....	5
4 RESULTS.....	6
4.1 Introduction.....	6
4.2 Overview	6
5 CONCLUSION	7
6 REFERENCES	7
APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER	9
APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT	10

List of illustrations

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Areas of Archaeological Watching Brief

List of plates

Plate 1: Foundation trench of garage from north

Plate 2: Foundation trench of stable block from east

List of appendices

Appendix 1: Photographic Register

Appendix 2: *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* Report

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was required as a condition of planning consent (13/00810/FUL), during ground breaking works associated with the re-development of Knowe Toft Farm, The Chesters, Fogo, Duns, Scottish Borders (NGR; NT 7410 4740). The works consisted of the excavation of external foundations associated with the construction of a Stable-block and garage.

No significant archaeological material was recorded.

0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by Richard Amos Ltd on behalf of their client as a condition of planning consent (13/00810/FUL) during all ground-works associated with the redevelopment of Knowes Toft, The Chesters, Fogo, Duns Scottish Borders (NGR; NT 7410 4740).
- 0.2 The proposed development site lies within the administrative area of Scottish Borders Council which is advised on archaeological matters by the Dr. Chris Bowles, Archaeology Officer for Scottish Borders Council. The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).
- 0.3 No significant archaeological remains were observed during the watching brief.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

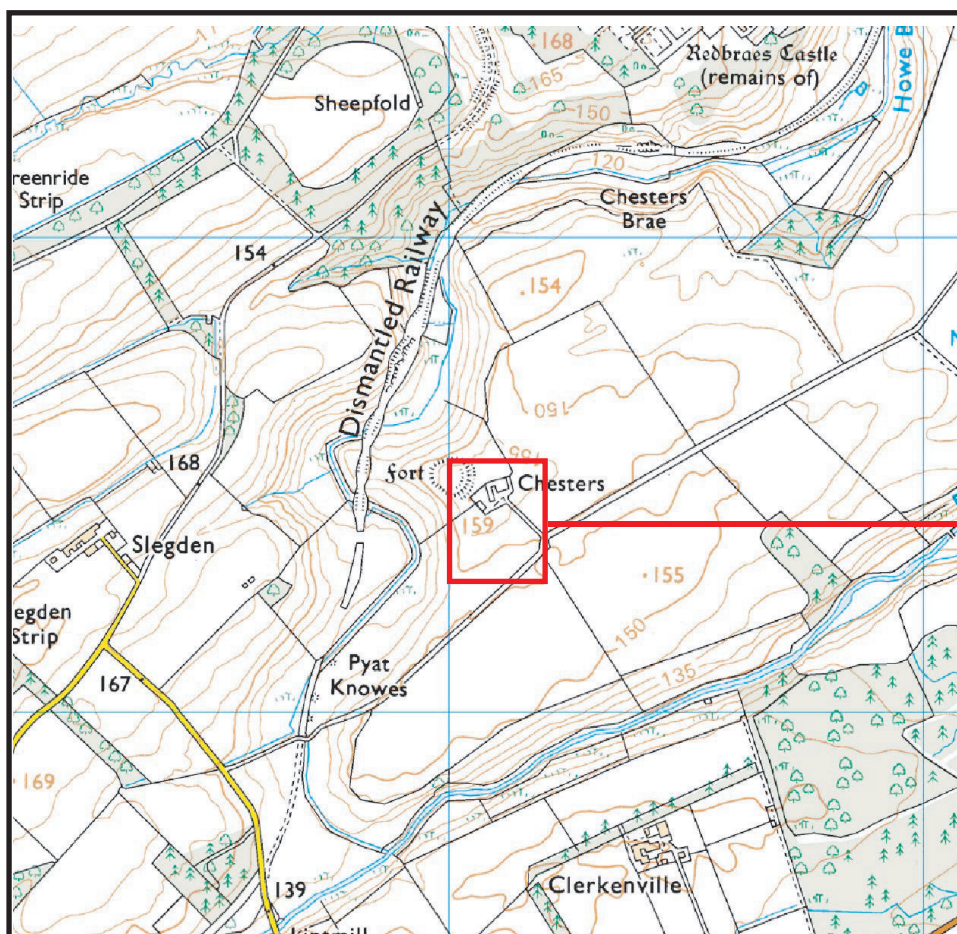
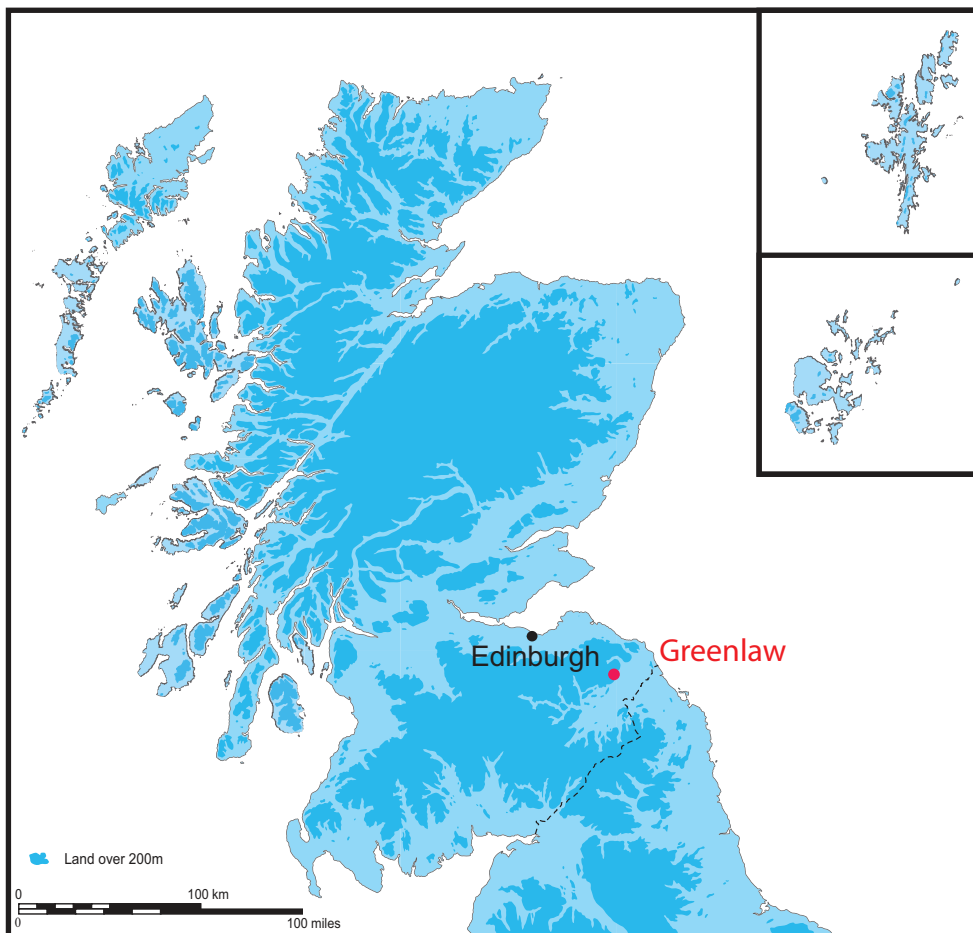
- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by Richard Amos Ltd for the re-development at Knowes Toft, The Chesters, Fogo, Duns, Scottish Borders (NGR; NT 7410 4740). The work was required as a condition of planning consent (13/00810/FUL). The watching brief was required in response to a planning condition set by Scottish Borders Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by Dr Chris Bowles, Archaeology Officer for Scottish Borders Council.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works required were in accord with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).
- 1.1.3 The project involved monitoring all ground breaking works associated with the development.

1.2 Curatorial control

- 1.2.1 The watching brief was designed to fully satisfy the requirements of Scottish Borders Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by Dr Chris Bowles, Archaeology Officer for Scottish Borders Council. The *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2013) outlined the entirety of the archaeological programme of work which may have been needed to mitigate the effects of the proposed development; it detailed principally the methodology to be employed in implementing the archaeological watching brief.

1.3 Site Location

- 1.3.1 The site is located within arable land to the east of the village of Greenlaw. The site lies to the immediate east of the Scheduled Monument The Chesters Iron Age Fort (SAM No. 4452). The site is centred on NGR: NT7410 4740.



Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright [2009] All rights reserved. Licence number 100023757.

Figure 1: Location of the site at Chesters, Greenlaw

1.4 Archaeological Background

- 1.4.1 Consultation of the archives at the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland revealed that within the environs of the development area there is but one notable site, namely The Chesters, a Scheduled Monument. Chesters Fort (SAM No.4452) is a sub-circular fort measuring 62.0 m NW-SE by 52.0 m transversely, situated on a spur with a level approach from the east. The remains, much reduced by ploughing, consist of an earthen rampart 1.5 m high and a ditch 1.0 m deep, visible in the east, with a simple scarp elsewhere. The interior of the fort is featureless with nothing noted even from aerial photographs. Plans from the earlier part of the 20th century show a second rampart and ditch on the SW and suggest that it formerly encircled the fort. There is now no trace of this outer defence which is likely to have existed only on the E since elsewhere it would have been well down the natural slope. It is believed that the fort is Iron Age in date and would have housed timber built structures.
- 1.4.2 At present, the development area itself was not known to contain any archaeological sites but as a greenfield site positioned within metres of an impressive Iron Age fort there exists the possibility that hitherto unknown archaeological remains would be present.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:
- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by the proposed new extension. Provision of an experienced field archaeologist to undertake a watching brief during all groundbreaking works associated with the construction of a stable block and garage;
 - 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 archaeological works comprised the monitoring of any and all ground breaking works associated with the construction of the stable block and garage including the foundations, service tracks and road surfaces. The watching brief was to cease once the required level had been reached or an archaeologically sterile subsoil had been observed.
- 3.2 The ground breaking works were to be undertaken by means of a Mechanical Digger (or equivalent) equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation was to be in shallow

units/spits. All machine excavation was to be supervised by an experienced field archaeologist. The watching brief was also to include the excavation of any archaeological features encountered in order to establish the extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features impacted upon by these works.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was carried out on the 7th October 2012. Weather conditions were fair and good archaeological visibility was achieved.

4.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as two appendices:

Appendix 1 contains the photographic register;

Appendix 2 reproduces the '*Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*' entry.

4.2 Overview

4.2.1 The archaeological watching brief was focused on the excavation of all foundations associated with the construction foot-prints of the stable block and garage (Figure 2). The foundation trenches were 0.60 m in width and were excavated to a depth varying between 0.40 m – 0.60 m. The foundation trenches revealed a made ground comprised of re-deposited natural, building detritus, gravel and top-soil. No in-situ material was observed. The made-ground lay directly on a sterile sub-soil of red-brown boulder clay.



Plate 1 Foundation trench of garage from north

Watching Brief Areas

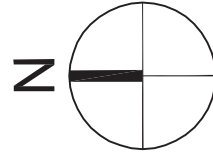
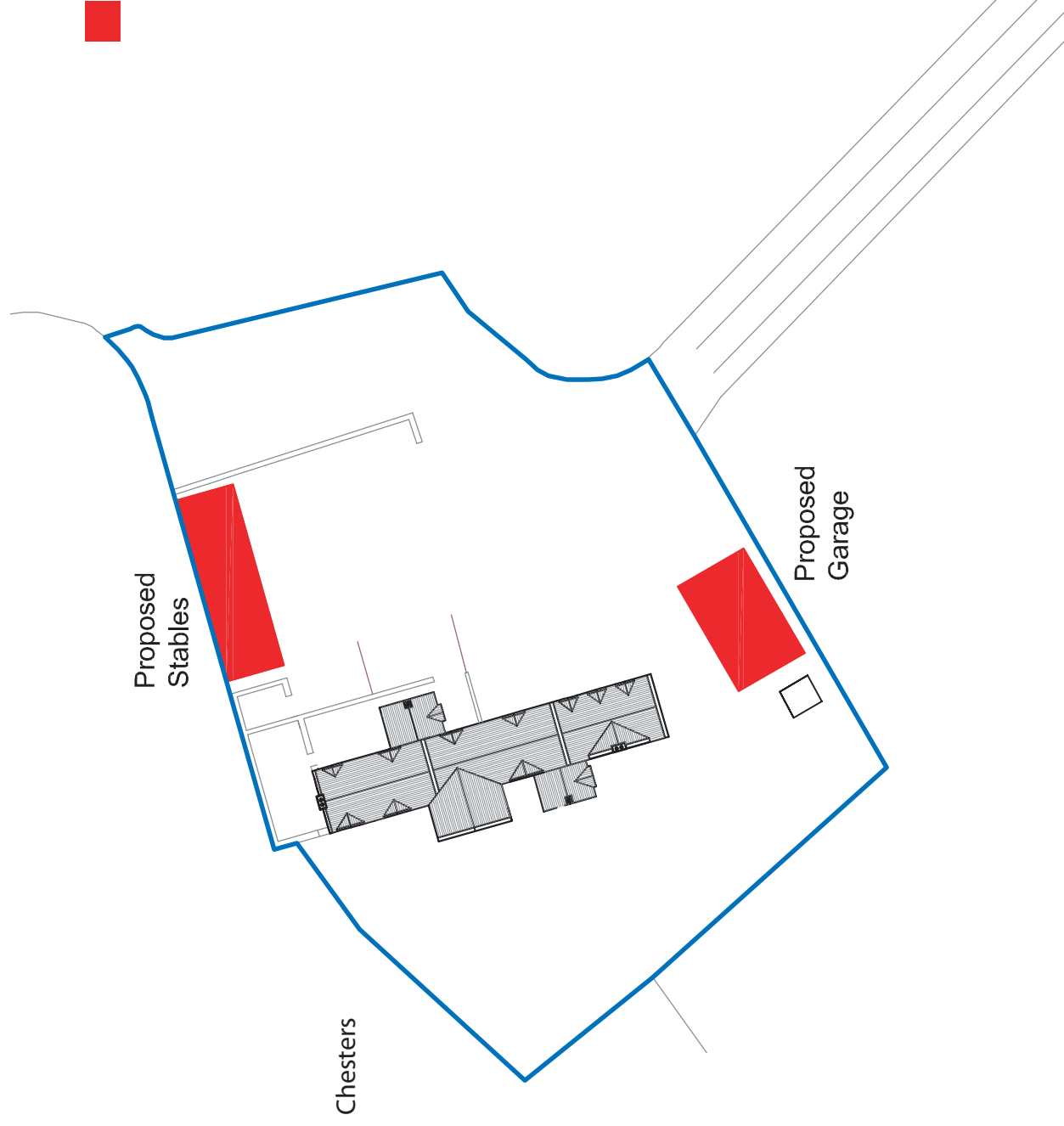


Figure 2: Location of Watching Brief Areas
(Based on a drawing supplied by the client)



Plate 2 Foundation trench of stable block from east

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No significant archaeological deposits were revealed. No further archaeological works are recommended. This recommendation will require ratification by Dr Bowles on behalf of Scottish Borders Council.

6 REFERENCES

AOC 2013 The Chesters, Fogo, Duns, Scottish Borders: *Archaeological Watching Brief; Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpubl AOC Archaeology Client Report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology*.

The Chesters, Fogo, Duns, The Scottish Borders: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Film 1 Digital

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration	
2-3	Foundation trench of garage	N
4	Foundation trench of garage	W
5	Foundation trench of garage	E
6	Foundation trench of stable block	W
7	Foundation trench of stable block	E

APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	The Chesters, Fogo, Duns, Scottish Borders
PROJECT CODE:	22501
PARISH:	Fogo
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	SAM No. 4452
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Iron Age Fort
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 7410 4740
START DATE (this season)	7 th October 2013
END DATE (this season)	7 th October 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was required as a condition of planning consent (13/00810/FUL) during all ground-works associated with the re-development of Knowe Toft Farm, The Chesters, Fogo, Duns, Scottish Borders (NGR; NT 7410 4740).</p> <p>The works consisted of the excavation of external foundations associated with the construction of a Stable-block and garage.</p> <p>No significant archaeological material was recorded.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Richard Amos Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY
tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com