

# Pirnhall, Stirling Metal Detecting Survey:

## Data Structure Report

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AOC Project 22818

12<sup>th</sup> June 2014



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## **Pirnhall, Stirling.**

### **Metal Detecting Survey: Data Structure Report**

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**On Behalf of:**                      **Walshingham Planning  
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**National Grid Reference (NGR):**    **NS 80192 89291**

**AOC Project No:**                      **22818**

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**Date of Fieldwork:**                   **12<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

**Date of Report:**                      **13<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

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

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**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

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**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

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## Abstract

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This report represents the results of a Metal Detecting Survey undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of a proposed development to the South West of a Premier Travel Inn, Pirnhall, Bannockburn, Stirling.

The survey was undertaken on a triangular plot of land, measuring approximately 200 m<sup>2</sup>, lying to the South West of the existing Premier Travel Inn, Pirnhall.

The metal detecting survey retrieved no artefacts, and no evidence associated with the Battle of Bannockburn was discovered.

No further works are considered necessary.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Walshingham Planning to undertake an archaeological metal detecting survey in advance of the development of land to the south west of a Premier Inn Hotel carpark on, Pirnhall Road, Stirling (Planning Application No. 14/00271/FUL).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011) and were designed to meet the requirements of Mr. Murray Cook, Planning Officer (Archaeology) and advisor to Stirling Council.
- 1.1.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2014) outlining the programme of archaeological works was agreed with Mr Cook in advance of the evaluation being undertaken.

## 1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The development area, centered on NGR: NS 80192 89291, covers approximately 200 m<sup>2</sup> to the south of Stirling (Figure 1). It lies immediately west of an existing Premier Inn Hotel building and carpark that lies to the west of the A872 Glasgow Road. To the north, south and west lies farmland.

## 1.3 Historical & Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The proposed development site lies within the area included in Historic Scotland's designation for both the sites of the Battle of Bannockburn (1314) and the Battle of Sauchieburn (1488) in their Inventory of Historic Battlefields in Scotland. While the Battle of Bannockburn is well known as the culmination of Scotland's Wars of Independence, the Battle of Sauchieburn is less well known and comprised a civil war between King James III and the supporters of his son, the future King James IVth. James III died at the battle and was buried at Cambuskenneth Abbey.
- 1.3.2 The proposed development area lies in the area over which the English army first advanced and then retreated across the course of the two days of conflict over the Battle of Bannockburn and the area over which the fighting may have taken place during the Battle of Sauchieburn. Therefore this proposed development area may contain objects associated with both battles, which would be damaged or destroyed by the development, indeed, medieval coins contemporary with Sauchieburn were recovered from Milne Park Road (SMR 1183.05).

- 1.3.3 A previous metal detecting survey was carried out in 2011 by AOC on the land directly to the south of the area currently being investigated. No relics related to the battle of Bannockburn were discovered.
- 1.3.4 In addition as the development is located on a greenfield site there also exists the possibility that the site may contain further as yet unanticipated buried archaeological features or artefacts.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the programme of archaeological works are to:
- i) complete a photographic record survey of the development area;
  - ii) determine the location, character, condition, quality and date of any archaeologically significant metal artefacts by means of a metal detector survey;
  - iii) report on the results of the various elements of work outlined above within a single report.
  - iv) should significant archaeological deposits be discovered, to prepare a mitigation strategy compliant with *Scottish Planning Policy* and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology*.



Plate 1: General view of the site from the North

## 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1. Prior to the start of the survey, the site was photographed. The area was then subject to a

metal detecting survey, using transects of no greater than 3m wide.

## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The archaeological works were undertaken on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Overall weather conditions were good with good archaeological visibility throughout.
- 4.1.2 No upstanding archaeological features were identified during the walkover and photographic survey.
- 4.1.3 Despite the presence of relatively dense woodland, the entire area was subject to a comprehensive metal detecting survey. However, no significant finds were identified.

## 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1.1 The metal detecting survey revealed no artefacts of archaeological significance in the areas of site which were available for survey. However, It is worth noting that evidence of battles and in particular, artefactual material related to the Battle of Bannockburn is notoriously difficult to identify (Murray Cook pers comm.). Therefore the absence of any artefactual material relating to the battle does not confirm the absence of the battle, but rather emphasises the difficulty in identifying remains.
- 5.1.2 As such no further works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require ratification by Mr Murray Cook, Planning Officer (Archaeology), on behalf of Stirling Council.

## 6 REFERENCES

<http://data.historicscotland.gov.uk/pls/htmldb/f?p=2500:15:0::NO::BATTLEFIELD:bAnnockburn>

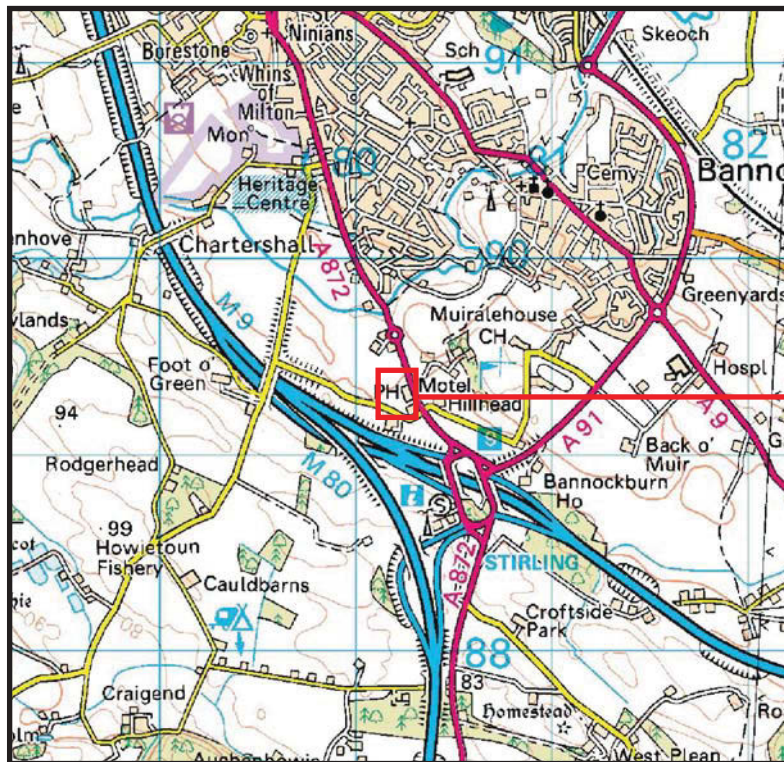
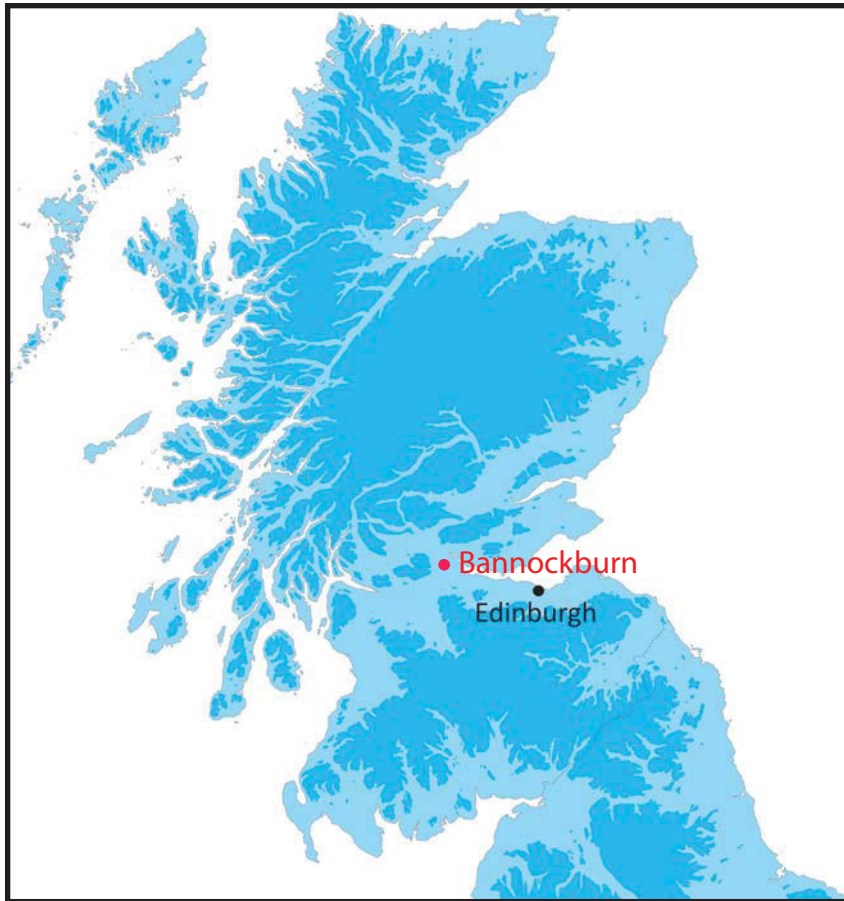
Scottish Government 2010 Scottish Planning Policy.

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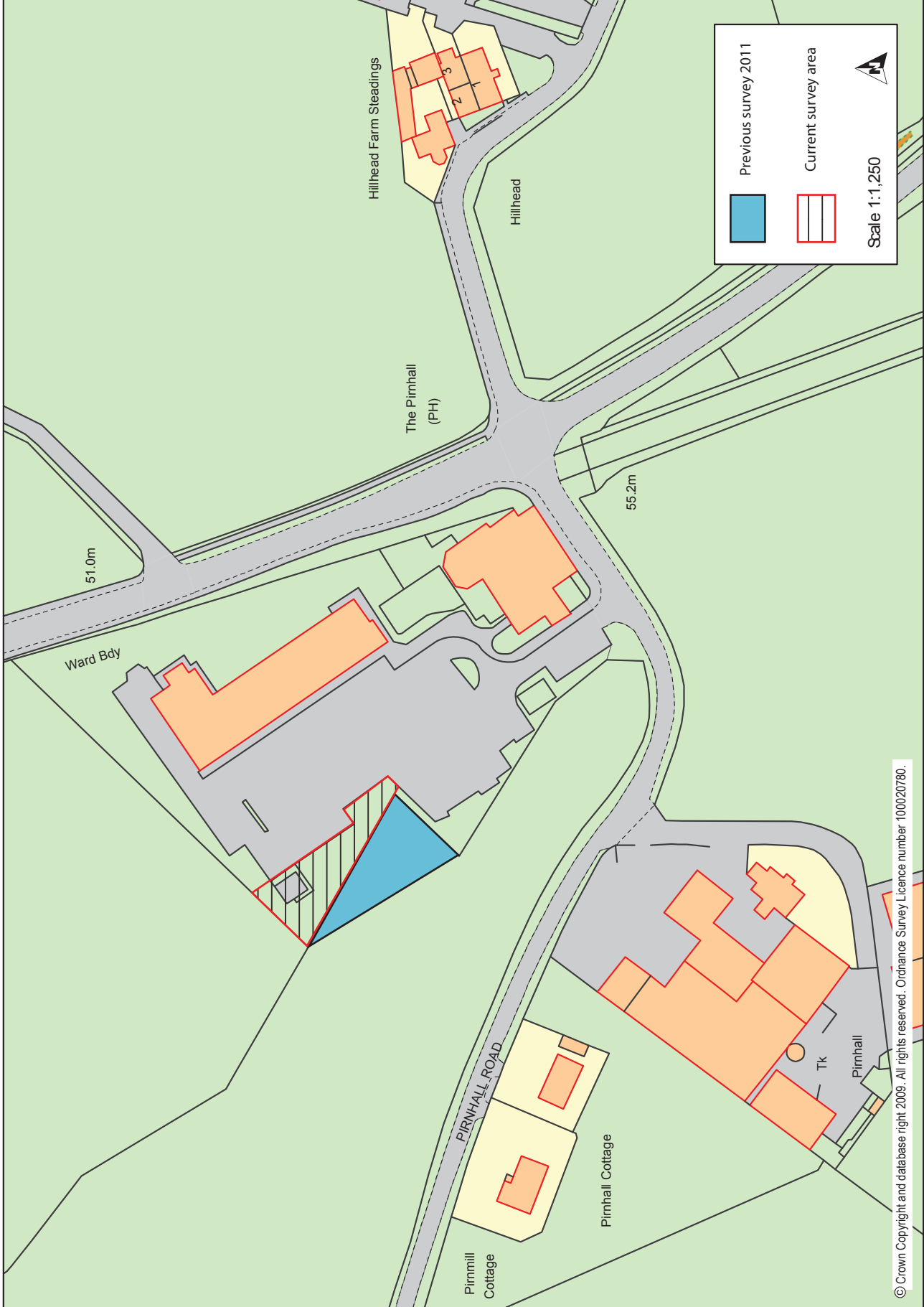
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Figure 1: Location of the site at Pirnhill Inn, Bannockburn



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Figure 2: Location of metal detecting survey

# **Metal Detecting Survey: Pirnhall, Stirling: Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

### Digital Photographs

Frame	Description
1	Registration shot
2-5	General shots of the North West of the area, showing the dense trees and LPG gas compound
6-7	Rubbish littering the site
8-13	General shots of the South East of the area showing a large old tree and modern street lighting

## APPENDIX 2: THE BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN (as reproduced from Historic Scotland's Inventory of Battlefields)

By 1314 Robert the Bruce was in control of large parts of Scotland. This position had been gained after a long struggle to take control of the Kingdom of Scotland, firstly against Edward I, and after the latter's death in 1307, against his Scottish enemies and the castles held by the English. Edinburgh Castle and Roxburgh had been taken from the English and Stirling Castle was under siege. A pact had been made that the castle would be surrendered to the Scots if the siege were not raised by midsummer 1314. Bruce gathered a large army to defend against any English relief force, and had time to drill the schiltrons to a high state of preparedness. Edward II raised a far larger army of the greatest of English chivalry, thousands of men-at-arms and archers. He marched on Stirling from Falkirk along the line of the Roman road.

The events of the battle took place over two days. On the first day, 23rd June, the action took place around the New Park (a royal parkland) located to the south-west of St Ninians on the road from Falkirk to Stirling. The Scots were drawn up here in a naturally defended position that was improved by the digging of pits filled with sharpened stakes to defend against a frontal cavalry charge. The fighting was between the English vanguard of c. 4,000 men and Robert the Bruce's slightly larger army. According to John Barbour's later account (a 14th century Scottish poet who wrote *The Brus*, a long narrative poem celebrating the First War of Scottish Independence), as the English vanguard came in sight of the Scots Henry de Bohun (nephew of the Earl of Hereford, who was joint commander of the vanguard) saw Bruce isolated and forward of the Scottish lines and charged at him. Bruce avoided his charge and killed him as he passed with a blow of his axe that broke the haft, an incident commemorated on the old Clydesdale Bank £1 note. After this initial encounter, the English vanguard charged the Scottish lines, but could not break through and had to retreat; the lack of archers in the English vanguard undoubtedly contributed to the success of the Scottish schiltrons in this engagement.

A small detachment of around 300 English under Sir Robert Clifford and Henry de Beaumont attempted to reach Stirling Castle by skirting the high ground to the east along the edge of the Carse, but they were intercepted by the Earl of Moray's schiltron and driven off with heavy losses. Repeated charges were unable to disrupt the schiltron; at this point, Sir James Douglas appeared with a second

schiltron, while Moray started to advance his schiltron on the English. The English force broke, some heading for Stirling Castle and the remainder returning to the main army, which now moved down onto the Carse of Stirling (the marshland to the south-east of the castle) for the night.

On the second day, 24th June, the Scots advanced to meet the English, who had spent the night on the low ground and were not expecting a Scottish assault; rather, Edward II seems to have been convinced that the Scottish army would avoid battle, and many of his actions on the first day make most sense in terms of preparing to intercept Bruce when he tried to escape. Instead, Bruce marched out of the shelter of the woods (presumed to be Balquhiddelock Wood) and began to march steadily forward in three battles.

The English cavalry responded with a charge led by the Earl of Gloucester. However, they seem to have mounted up with little formation, while the rest of the army were ill prepared for the battle, according to Barbour. These actions appear to reflect the strength of Edward II's belief that the Scots would not fight. The charge was unsuccessful, partly because of the lack of organisation of the cavalry and partly because part of Bruce's strategy appears to have been to reduce the amount of ground available to the cavalry and therefore the effectiveness of any charge.

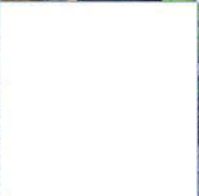
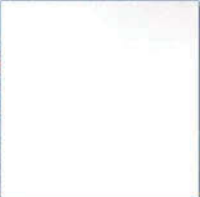
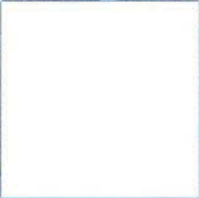
There was also a great deal of tension in the English command. As the Scots began their advance, there was a bad-tempered exchange between Edward II and the Earl of Gloucester, partly over tactics and partly in recrimination of the English vanguard's failures on the previous day. The impression given by the primary sources is that Gloucester was angry with Edward II and acting rashly as he charged the Scottish line. Gloucester was amongst the English losses as the schiltrons held.

There seems to have been little contribution from the English archers, normally such an important part of English military tactics. The only source to talk about archery was Barbour, who referred to the English archers attempting to break up the Scottish ranks and beginning to have some success, before Bruce sent Sir William Keith at the head of the 500 strong Scottish cavalry to disperse them. If this happened, then it would be one of the few successes that Scottish cavalry ever recorded. However, there is no other record of this element of the fighting and it has been argued that at the time Barbour was writing, Keith's family were still important members of the Stewart court and therefore his participation in the battle was embellished to enhance his status. The archers would not have shot once the two armies had closed, which implies that the archers were never brought into action. If this argument is correct, then there was virtually no archery during the battle. The Scottish schiltrons continued to advance and drove the English cavalry back, while the English men-at-arms were unable to come into the fighting because they were enclosed by the burns and bogs on both sides and the vanguard in front of them. As the vanguard was driven back, they collided with their own infantry, causing the English lines to collapse in confusion. At the same time, Bruce ordered in his reserve of Highland troops and the English broke. The tradition of the Sma' Folk relates to this, when the camp followers who were watching came running down the slopes to finish off the armoured soldiers who were struggling in the mud of the Carse; the English thought that they were fresh reserves, increasing the panic in their ranks.

Edward II's army collapsed and began fleeing in several directions. Edward went to Stirling Castle, but then turned aside and headed for Falkirk and Linlithgow, eventually reaching Dunbar, pursued all the way by a small force under Sir James Douglas; he was taken in a small open boat to Bamburgh and then to Berwick, from where he was able to get a ship that took him away to safety. Many of the English army fled towards Stirling Castle as well, but were denied access and taken prisoner. A group under the Earl of Hereford headed to Bothwell Castle near Hamilton, where they were taken prisoner and handed over. Others tried to reach the Forth, with some apparently drowning in the river. Many were caught in a great ditch and slaughtered; this ditch has caused a great deal of the controversy over the location of the battle as attempts have been made to identify it. Many writers have assumed that it is the gorge through which the Bannock Burn emerges onto the Carse, but it could instead be any part of the Pelstream Burn or the Bannock Burn as they cross the Carse towards the river. There is also a location known as Bloody Fould, which is traditionally in the vicinity of Bannockburn House and is the supposed location of a massacre of English fugitives. However, according to the English Annals of Trokelowe, those who were taken prisoner were apparently well treated on Bruce's orders.

**APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Stirling Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Pirnhall, Stirling
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 22818
<b>PARISH:</b>	Stirling
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Nicholas Johnstone
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Metal Detecting Survey
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NS 80192 89291
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2014
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2014
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b>	None
<b>MAIN DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report represents the results of a Metal Detecting Survey undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of a proposed development to the South West of a Premier Travel Inn, Pirnhall, Bannockburn, Stirling.</p> <p>The survey was undertaken on a triangular plot of land, measuring approximately 200 m<sup>2</sup>, lying to the South West of the existing Premier Travel Inn, Pirnhall.</p> <p>The metal detecting survey retrieved no artefacts, and no evidence associated with the Battle of Bannockburn was discovered.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	---
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Walshingham Planning
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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