

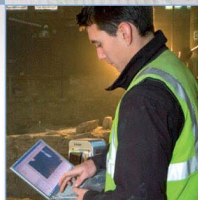
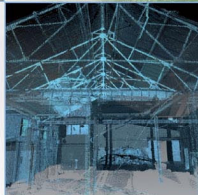
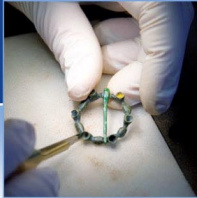
Land Adjacent to Abbotsford Road, Darnick Scottish Borders

Archaeological Evaluation and Metal Detecting Survey

Data Structure Report

AOC 23921

14th August 2017



Land Adjacent to Abbotsford Road, Darnick, Scottish Borders: Archaeological Evaluation & Metal Detecting Survey

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Alasdair McIlroy J S Crawford Contracts (Borders Ltd) Priorwood House Melrose TD6 9EF
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 53392 34079 (centre)
AOC Project No:	23921
OASIS No:	1-293145
Planning Application No/LBC:	14/00426/FUL
Prepared by:	Rob Engl
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Date:	14 th August 2017

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

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SUMMARY

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by JS Crawford Contracts Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological works consisting of a metal detecting survey and archaeological evaluation in advance of a new development at Abbotsford Road, Darnick, Scottish Borders.

Nine archaeological trenches totalling 450 linear metres were excavated revealing a shallow sandy topsoil overlying a natural of sands and gravels. A thin alluvial deposit was identified in several of the trenches. Extensive drainage had been undertaken within the development area in the form of numerous clay drains. No archaeologically significant material or features were identified.

The remains of a palaeochannel were identified to the east of the site.

A comprehensive metal detecting survey was undertaken during the evaluation. A number of metal small finds were recovered these included modern detritus such as a lead washer, ring pulls, tin cans, plastic covered wire and nails. No archaeologically significant material associated with the battle of Darnick was retrieved.

No further archaeological work is recommended, although this will need to be confirmed by the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service on behalf of the Scottish Borders Council.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Development background

1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works including a metal detecting survey and an archaeological evaluation were required as a condition of planning consent on a new development at land adjacent to Abbotsford Road, Darnick, Scottish Borders (Planning Ref: 14/00426/FUL). The site lies within the administrative area of Scottish Borders Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service. The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011* (2011).

1.2 Site location

1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR NT 53392 34079 (centred) and lies to the immediate south of Abbotsford Road, Darnick, Scottish Borders. The site is bounded to the east by Chiefswood Road, to the south by the A6091 and to the west by a domestic residence and garden. A burn flows within the site boundary along Chiefswood Road and through the middle of the site south-west to north-east.

2 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

2.1 The Battle of Darnick (Skirmish Hill) 1526

2.1.1 The development area lies within the southern boundary of the site of the 'Battle of Darnick' (29th July 1526) as designated by Historic Scotland in their 'Inventory of Historic Battlefields in Scotland'. The battle is also alternatively known as the 'Battle of Melrose', 'Skirmish Hill' and 'Skirmish Field'.

2.1.2 The battle was fought between Archibald Douglas, 6th Earl of Angus supported by the Kerrs and Maxwells border families and Walter Scott of Buccleuch supported by the Elliots. The Earl of Angus had secured guardianship of the young king James V. This was eventually resisted by James who appealed to Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch to launch an attempt at securing his liberty. After a visit to Jedburgh escorted by Angus and his men. The king was intercepted at Darnick by a body of reivers led by Scott of Buccleuch. Angus' force was able to drive off the reivers with relatively heavy losses on both sides.

2.1.3 The initial engagement took place to the north of the development area on Skirmish Hill, a site now occupied by the Waverley Castle Hotel (**Site No. 1**). Subsequent actions such as at Charge Law were likely to have been dispersed given the cavalry nature of the troops involved. The final engagement took place about a mile from the initial action, when a group of retreating Buccleuch troopers rallied and turned to face their pursuers. Ker of Cessford was killed in this action at a spot marked by the 'Turn Again Stone' (NT53SW 27) (**Site No. 2**). This stone is situated in the Broomiknowe Plantation around a mile to the south-west of the development area.

2.1.4 The young king James V is said to have observed the battle from the battlements of the 16th century Darnick Tower (NT53SW 14) (**Site No. 3**). The tower-house was built by the Heiton family on the site of a predecessor destroyed in 1545. The tower is built on the T-plan with a 3-storey oblong main block running E-W and a small stair wing projecting from near the middle of the south wall. The tower is still under occupation.

2.1.5 The dilapidated remains of a second tower-house now ruinous lies close by. This tower belonged to the Fisher family and also dates from the 16th century. The western half was built or rebuilt in the 17th century and in or about the 18th century both parts were remodelled as a two-storey house with an attic.

2.1.6 A metal detecting survey (NT53SW 280 & NT53SW 282) was carried out by AOC Archaeology Ltd. in a field south of Broomilees Road, Darnick between October, 2015 and March, 2016. This was on the projected line

of the retreat by Scott's forces at the Battle of Darnick. The field was heavily contaminated by modern detritus, and no finds relating to the battle were discovered.

- 2.1.7 A further archaeological metal detecting survey (NT53SW 279) was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on June 1st 2016 prior to the development of land North of Lye Road, Darnick, Scottish Borders. The metal detecting survey recovered no significant artefacts and nothing associated with the Battle of Darnick. The lack of finds in the area may be due in part to extensive landscaping undertaken in the creation of the cottages and gardens along the Lye Road.
- 2.1.8 On the 14th December 2012 the battle was added to the Inventory of Historic battlefields.

3 OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works are:

- i) to excavate a series of trial-trenches in order to ascertain the archaeological potential of the development area;
- ii) to undertake a comprehensive metal detecting survey over the entire development area
- iii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered;
- iv) to prepare a final Data Structure Report and project archive.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.2 Archaeological Evaluation

- 3.2.1 A total of 650 linear metres (1300m²) of trenching, or 10% of the development area (1.3 ha), was planned to be undertaken on the proposed development area as per the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC Archaeology 2017). However, the presence of a large bund along the eastern boundary of the site and the existence of two running burns, reduced the area available for evaluation and survey. A total of 450 linear metres of trenching (900m²) was undertaken.
- 3.2.2 The evaluation was undertaken with the aid of a 13 tonne tracked excavator equipped with a 2.0m wide toothless ditching bucket. All machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits through the overburden to the upper surface of the underlying drift geology or archaeological deposits. All excavation was monitored by an experienced archaeologist.
- 3.2.3 Each trench was recorded according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures as detailed in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC Archaeology 2017).

3.3 Metal Detecting Survey

- 3.3.1 The metal detector survey was undertaken using Minelab x terra detectors (primary detector and smaller unit for detailed location). The metal detecting area was walked in transects no greater than 2 m wide. This allowed for a degree of overlap between transects and ensured available ground was not missed.

- 3.3.2 Find spots of significant finds were to be marked and surveyed by a total station to allow accurate plotting of find densities and artefact types.

4 RESULTS: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 10th August 2017. Nine 50.0m long trenches were excavated within the proposed development area. All trenches revealed a well-sorted sandy loam top-soil (0.30m – 0.40m in depth) overlying a natural subsoil of orange sandy clay and gravel.
- 4.1.2 All nine trenches revealed signs of drainage in the form of numerous cuts for clay drains. The remains of a palaeochannel were revealed in Trench 1.
- 4.1.3 A shallow deposit of alluvial silt 0.10m in depth was encountered along the northern and eastern boundary of the proposed development.
- 4.1.4 Occasional white ceramics and glass were observed within the top-soil. No archaeologically significant finds or features were recorded during the evaluation.



Plate 1 The east of the site showing banded material



Plate 2 Trench 8 post excavation from south

5 RESULTS: METAL DETECTING SURVEY

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The metal detecting survey was conducted in dry weather conditions and was undertaken in conjunction with the archaeological evaluation. Ground conditions varied with dense, high vegetation present in many areas preventing detection. The survey targeted the main body of the proposed development area avoiding the bund occupying the east of the site and the running burns.
- 5.1.2 The survey was undertaken using Minelab x-terra 750 detectors. A smaller Whites bullseye pinpoint detector was used for detailed location. The site area was walked in two metre wide transects where possible, allowing for a degree of overlap and ensuring all ground was covered. No discrimination was used during the survey.
- 5.1.3 No archaeologically significant material was recovered during the survey. Targets were relatively rare and consisted of a small number of modern objects such as iron nails, ring pulls, tin cans, wire and occasional pieces of farm machinery. A lead washer was also recovered. These objects were removed from site and disposed of.
- 5.1.4 No artefacts could be directly related to the battle of Darnick.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Archaeological Evaluation & Metal Detecting Survey

- 7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation has confirmed that no significant archaeological features or material exists within the proposed development area. This was also reinforced by the metal detecting survey which revealed a small assemblage of modern material.
- 7.1.2 The evaluation revealed that the site had undergone substantial drainage in the recent past. The presence of the running burns and the existence of a palaeochannel suggest that the area may have been significantly wetter in the past.

8 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 No further archaeological works are recommended within the proposed development area. This will need to be confirmed by Dr Chris Bowles of the Scottish Borders Archaeology Service on behalf of Scottish Borders Council.

9 REFERENCES

9.1 Bibliographic References

AOC 2015 Broomilees Road, Darnick Archaeological Metal Detecting Survey. Unpublished Report.

AOC 2016 Waverley Gardens, Darnick Archaeological Metal Detecting Survey. Unpublished Report.

Historic Battlefields; Managing Change in the Historic Environment. Historic Scotland Interim Guidance 2011

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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

The Battle of Darnick in The Inventory of Historic Battlefields www.data.historic-scotland.gov.uk/data/docs/battlefields/darnick_designation.pdf

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Archaeological Evaluation: Digital Film

No	Area	Description	Taken From	Date
1	-	Registration	-	10/08/2017
2-3	-	General pre-excavation shots	N	10/08/2017
4	Trench 1	West facing section	W	10/08/2017
5	Trench 1	General post-excavation shot	S	10/08/2017
6	Trench 2	General post-excavation shot	S	10/08/2017
7	Trench 3	General post-excavation shot	SW	10/08/2017
8	Trench 4	General post-excavation shot	NW	10/08/2017
9	Trench 5	General post-excavation shot	SW	10/08/2017
10	Trench 6	General post-excavation shot	SW	10/08/2017



Figure 2: Trench location plan

01/23921/DSR/02/01

11	Trench 7	General post-excavation shot	SE	10/08/2017
12	Trench 8	General post-excavation shot	W	10/08/2017
13	Trench 9	General post-excavation shot	N	10/08/2017

APPENDIX 2: TRENCH REGISTER

Trench 1:

Total length	50m
Orientation	N/S
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m
Colluvial Deposit	0.10m
Depth of Excavation	0.40m
Significant Features	Palaeochannel at 4.0m
Other Features	Drain cuts at 4.0m intervals NE/SW
Subsoil	Orange sandy clay and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 2:

Total length	50m
Orientation	N/S
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m
Colluvial Deposit	0.10m
Depth of Excavation	0.40m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Drain cuts at 4.0m intervals NE/SW
Subsoil	Orange sandy clay and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 3:

Total length	50m
Orientation	NW/SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.35m
Colluvial Deposit	0.10m
Depth of Excavation	0.45m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Drain cuts at 4.0m intervals NE/SW
Subsoil	Orange sandy clay and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 4:

Total length	50m
Orientation	NW/SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.35m
Colluvial Deposit	0.10m
Depth of Excavation	0.45m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Drain cuts at 4.0m intervals NE/SW
Subsoil	Orange sandy clay and gravels
Finds	Occasional white ceramics

Trench 5:

Total length	50m
Orientation	NE/SW
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m
Colluvial Deposit	0.10m
Depth of Excavation	0.40m

Significant Features	None
Other Features	Drain cuts at 4.0m intervals NE/SW
Subsoil	Orange sandy clay and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 6:

Total length	50m
Orientation	SW/SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m
Colluvial Deposit	0.10m
Depth of Excavation	0.40m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Drain cuts at 4.0m intervals NE/SW
Subsoil	Orange sandy clay and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 7:

Total length	50m
Orientation	NW/SE
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m
Colluvial Deposit	0.10m
Depth of Excavation	0.40m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Drain cuts at 4.0m intervals NE/SW
Subsoil	Orange sandy clay and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 8:

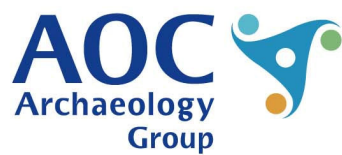
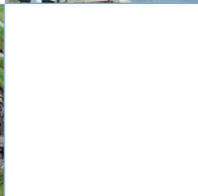
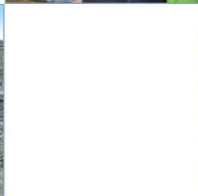
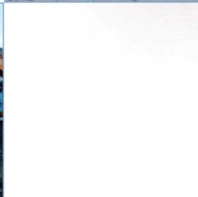
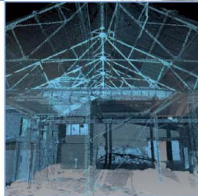
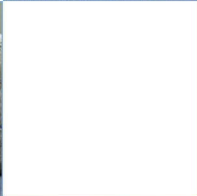
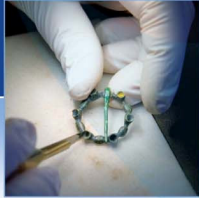
Total length	50m
Orientation	W/E
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m
Colluvial Deposit	0.10m
Depth of Excavation	0.40m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Drain cuts at 4.0m intervals NE/SW
Subsoil	Orange sandy clay and gravels
Finds	None

Trench 9:

Total length	50m
Orientation	S/N
Depth of Topsoil	0.30m
Colluvial Deposit	0.10m
Depth of Excavation	0.40m
Significant Features	None
Other Features	Drain cuts at 4.0m intervals NE/SW
Subsoil	Orange sandy clay and gravels
Finds	None

APPENDIX 6: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND (DES) REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Land adjacent to Abbotsford road, Darnick, Scottish Borders
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 23921
PARISH:	Melrose
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation & Metal Detecting Survey
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	NT
START DATE	10 th August 2017
END DATE	10 th August 2017
PREVIOUS WORK	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:	<p><i>AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by JS Crawford Contracts Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological works consisting of a metal detecting survey and archaeological evaluation in advance of a new development at Abbotsford Road, Darnick, Scottish Borders.</i></p> <p><i>Nine archaeological trenches totalling 450 linear metres were excavated revealing a shallow, sandy topsoil overlying a natural of sands and gravels. A thin alluvial deposit was identified in several of the trenches. Extensive drainage had been undertaken within the development area in the form of numerous clay drains. No archaeologically significant material or features were identified.</i></p> <p><i>The remains of a palaeochannel were identified to the east of the site.</i></p> <p><i>A comprehensive metal detecting survey was undertaken during the evaluation. A number of metal small finds were recovered these included modern detritus such as a lead washer, ring pulls, tin cans, plastic covered wire and nails. No archaeologically significant material associated with the battle of Darnick was retrieved.</i></p> <p><i>No further archaeological work is recommended, although this will need to be confirmed by the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service on behalf of the Scottish Borders Council.</i></p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group; Edgefield Road Industrial Estate; Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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