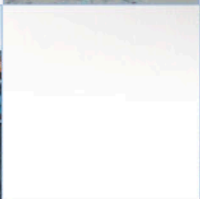
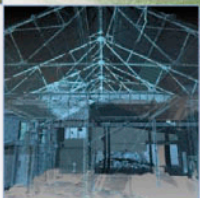
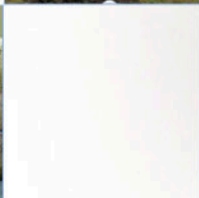


Yarrow Stone, Selkirk Data Structure Report

20937

March-April 2008



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Yarrow Stone, Selkirk

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: **Buccleuch Estates**
Estate Office
Bowhill
Selkirk
TD7 5ES

National Grid Reference (NGR): **NT 3510 2766**

AOC Project No: **20937**

Prepared by: **Rob Engl**

Illustration by: **Douglas Parks**

Date of Fieldwork: **3rd March - 4th April 2008**

Date of Report: **April 2008**

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

Author: **Date:**

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Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Yarrow Stone, Selkirk. The work was commissioned by Buccleuch Estates on behalf of their client. The archaeological works were designed to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Scottish Borders Council and are in accordance with the principles inherent in NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a).

The objective of the work was to monitor all ground breaking works associated with the construction of a new agricultural building.

The work was carried out during Spring 2008 and was conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2008) which was approved by the planning authority. The watching brief monitored topsoil stripping.

The watching brief revealed neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance. No further archaeological works are recommended.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Buccleuch Estates to undertake an archaeological watching brief during all ground breaking works associated with the construction of an agricultural building at Yarrow, Selkirk, Scottish Borders (Figure 1). The site is located within the Local Authority administrative area of Scottish Borders Council. The work was undertaken in compliance with the requirements of the Conditions of Planning Consent as imposed by Scottish Borders Council.

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed development site lies within a field previously used for animal grazing, to the north-east of the village of Yarrow (NGR: NT 3510 2766; Figures 2 and 3). The site is bounded by agricultural land to the north, east and west and by the A708 road to the south.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 No known archaeological monuments exist within the boundaries of the proposed development, but the site lies within close proximity to two Scheduled Ancient Monuments, the Glebe Stone (SAM 2268) and the Yarrow Stone (SAM 1727), (Figure 2).

1.3.2 The Glebe Stone (NMRS: NT32NE 2), a cup-marked standing stone, lies to the immediate east of the site. The NMRS entry for the Glebe Stone states that there was formerly a large cairn covering a quantity of 'decomposed bones', whilst more than twenty similar cairns, one of which contained 'part of an old iron spear', are reported from the same area.

1.3.3 The Yarrow Stone (NMRS: NT32NE 1), lies to the immediate west of the development area. In 1857 a group of eight stone-lined graves were found 10-12 yards to the south of the Yarrow Stone.

1.3.4 Other discoveries uncovered in close proximity to the development area include a standing stone bearing a Latin inscription, a socketed bronze axe, a small ring of cannel coal, portions of a clay urn and a flint arrowhead.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- i) to monitor ground-breaking works associated with the development and prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
- ii) to undertake the immediate recording of isolated finds of moderately significant archaeological material that will be disturbed by the development programme;
- iii) given the discovery of highly significant archaeological material in quantity that that will suffer an adverse impact from construction works (ie preservation *in situ* is impractical), the

formulation on an appropriate programme of mitigation excavation and recording with Mr. Rory McDonald (the Borders Council archaeologist).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The details of the archaeological works undertaken are laid out below, and were designed to fully meet the requirements of planning authority as advised by Mr. McDonald. The archaeological works comprised a programme of topsoil strip monitoring, including the excavation of foundation trenches and a soak-away.

3.2 Topsoil monitoring

3.2.1 All ground breaking work was monitored by an experienced archaeologist. An initial area 32.5 m by 30 m was stripped in order to enable a hardcore surface to be laid (Figure 3). This area will house an agricultural shed. An additional area of 23 m by 7m was also stripped for the purpose of an access road to the shed. Other ground-works included the digging of a 4.0 m by 1.2 m sump, a drain for the barn and 12 foundation holes for the barn up-rights. A single service trench 475.0 m in length and 0.60 m in width was also excavated. This trench ran to the north-west to join the water supply for the existing farm cottage (Figure 1).

3.2.2 The majority of the ground breaking work was undertaken using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator using a 1.8 m wide toothless ditching bucket. Smaller ditching buckets were utilised as appropriate.

3.2.3 All monitoring was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures (Appendix 7, 7.1 to 7.29).

3.2.4 Digital, Black and White print and Colour Slide photographic shots were taken during the watching Brief (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS

4.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in March and April 2008 (Figure 1). The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-2 and Figures 1 to 3.

4.2 The initial stripping of the area for the shed and access road bordering the A708 revealed 0.30 m of topsoil. This was a loose, gravely pale brown loam with abundant sub-angular stones of varied size. The topsoil overlay a natural subsoil of sands and gravels. These same deposits were encountered during the subsequent ground-works located within this area

4.4 The excavation of the pipe trench revealed approximately 0.35 m of turf and topsoil overlying natural sands and gravels. The trench was excavated to between 0.70 m and 1.0 m in depth. The trench crossed two dry stone field boundaries and the existing farm track (Figure 1)

4.5 No significant archaeological features or finds were encountered during any of the ground-works undertaken on this site.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified. No further works are recommended.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

AOC 2008 *Yarrow Stone Watching Brief: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished Client Report.

SODD 1999 *National Planning Policy Guideline NPPG 18, Planning and the Historic Environment*. The Scottish Office Development Department.

SOEnD 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline NPPG5. Archaeology and Planning*. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

SOEnD 1994a *Planning Advice Note 42. Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

Yarrow Stone, Selkirk Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Photographic Record

Digital, Black & White Print and Colour Slide Film 1

Frame	Area	Description	From
1		Registration shot	
2		Pre excavation shot	S
3		Working shot	S
4		Working shot	S
5-6		Possible pit to NE of excavation area	E
7		Overall shot of work done 03/03/08	E
8		Working shot of access road excavation	S
9-10		Overall shot of excavated area	NE

Digital, Black & White Print and Colour Slide Film 2

Frame	Area	Description	From
1		Registration shot	
2-3		Hole 1	E
4-5		Pit 2	E
6-7		Pit 4	E
8-9		Pit 3	E
10-11		Pit 5	E
12-13		Pit 6	E
14-15		Pit 8	E
16-17		Pit 7	E

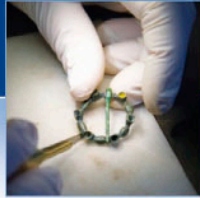
Digital, Black & White Print and Colour Slide Film 3

Frame	Area	Description	From
1-2		Registration shot	
3-4		General site shot	E
5-6		Southern end of pipe trench	E
7-8		Sump	E
9-10		General shot of pipe trench	E
11-12		Pipe trench	W
13-14		Working shot of pipe trench towards farm cottage	E

APPENDIX 2

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Yarrow Stone Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20857
PARISH:	Yarrow
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Joe Feeney & Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 3510 2766
START DATE (this season)	3 rd March 2008
END DATE (this season)	4 th April 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	--
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Due to the proximity of prehistoric and early historic monuments, an archaeological watching brief was required on all ground breaking works associated with the proposed construction of a new agricultural building within an agricultural field near Yarrow, Selkirk. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Buccleuch Estates
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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