

An Archaeological Watching at Otterburn First School, Main Street, Otterburn, Northumberland.



View facing south Otterburn First School.

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Compiled By:
Michael Nicholson PCIfA
Archaeological Research Services Ltd
The Eco Centre
Windmill Way
Hebburn
Tyne and Wear
NE31 1SR

admin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com
www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Checked By:
Rupert Lotherington ACIfA,
Tel: 01914775111
Fax: 01629 814657



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An Archaeological Watching Brief at Otterburn First School, Main Street, Otterburn, Northumberland

ARS Ltd Report 2019/131



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Archaeological Research Services Ltd

The Eco Centre Windmill Way Hebburn Tyne and Wear NE31 1SR

www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

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Executive Summary

Project Name: An Archaeological Watching Brief at Otterburn First School, Main Street, Otterburn, Northumberland

Site Code: OTT19

Planning Authority: Northumberland County Council

Geology: Alston Formation – Limestone, Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone overlain by alluvium deposits – Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel.

NGR: NY 87512 93732.

Date of Fieldwork: 23rd to 24th May, 15th October 2019

Date of Report: 19th November 2019

In May 2019 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Northumberland County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Otterburn First School, Main Street, Otterburn, Northumberland. The watching brief monitored groundworks associated with the installation of a new electricity cable through pastoral land which borders the north east limit of Otterburn First School and within the boundary of the Registered Battlefield for the Battle of Otterburn (HER N8285). The groundworks had the potential to uncover archaeological remains associated with the battle between English and Scottish forces in the 14th century.

The watching brief monitored the excavation of a single trench which measured 53.78m long, 0.42m wide and extended to a maximum depth of 0.84m below the present ground surface. A metal detector survey was carried out during the excavation and reinstatement of the trench and 13 metal objects were recovered during the groundworks relating to post-medieval agricultural land use but no evidence associated within the Battle of Otterburn was identified. However, the site lies within an area of high archaeological potential and the results of this watching brief reflect the small-scale nature of the works rather than the absence of archaeological activity in close proximity to the location of the Battle of Otterburn.

The watching brief was undertaken by Milena Grzybowska, Assistant Project Officer, Michael Nicholson and Ian Walker, Project Officers, at Archaeological Research Services Ltd, and managed by Rupert Lotherington, Project Manager at Archaeological Research Services Ltd.

1 Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 In May 2019, Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Northumberland County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Otterburn First School, Main Street, Otterburn, Northumberland.

1.1.2 The watching brief monitored groundworks associated with the installation of a new electricity cable through pastoral land which borders the north east limit of Otterburn First School and within the boundary of the registered battlefield for the Battle of Otterburn (HER N8285). Consequently, the groundworks had the potential to uncover archaeological remains associated with the battle between English and Scottish forces in the 14th century.

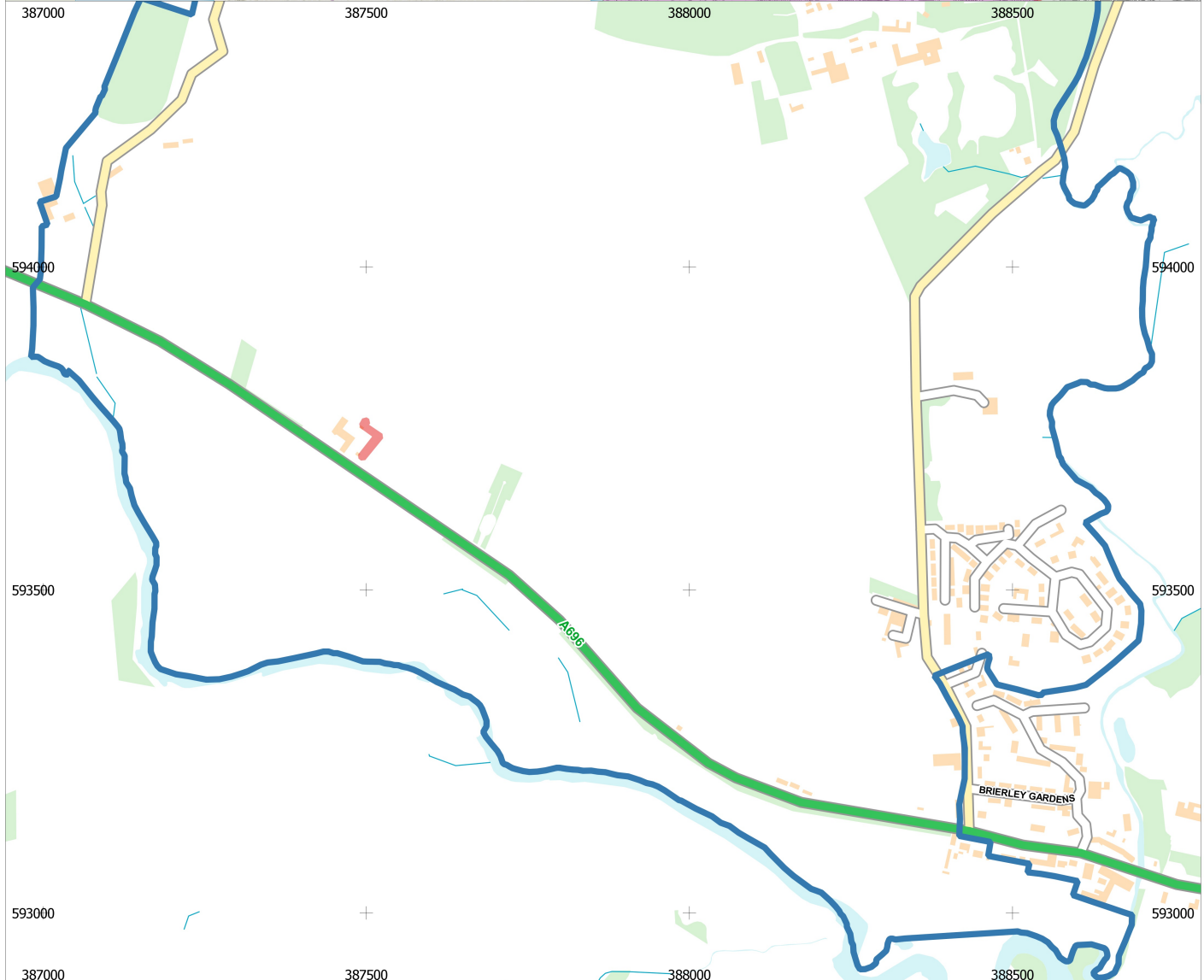
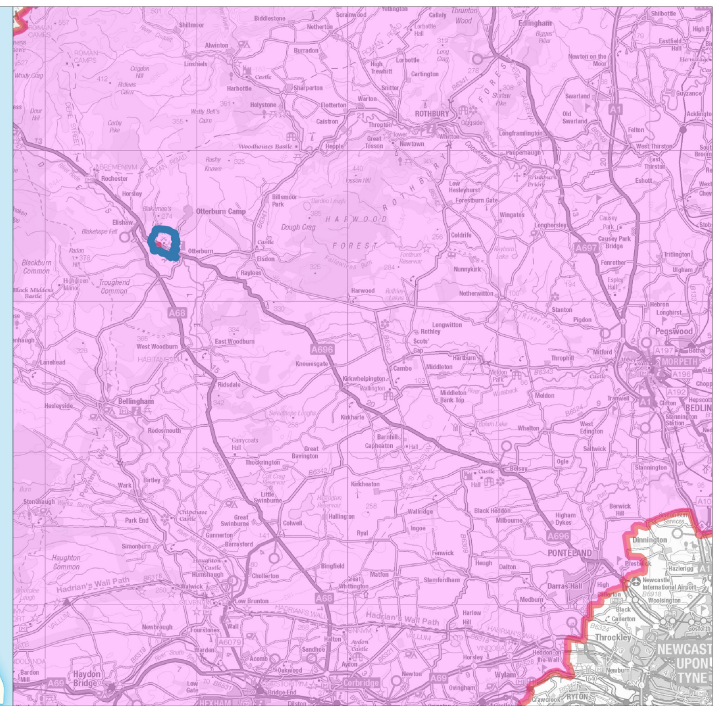
1.1.3 Sarah Winlow, Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council, requested that an archaeological watching brief incorporating a metal detector survey be undertaken to record any archaeological remains so that sufficient information to establish their extent, condition, character could be recorded. This is in accordance with current legislations as outlined in paragraph 189 of the *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)* (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019, 55).

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR NY 87512 93732 and lies in a pastoral landscape, adjacent to Otterburn First School, within the bounds of the Registered Battlefield for the Battle of Otterburn (HER N8285), see Figures 1 and 2.


1.3 Landform Topography and Soils


1.3.1 The underlying geology of the site comprises the Alston Formation of limestone, sandstone, siltstone and mudstone formed during the Carboniferous Period. This is overlain by superficial geology consisting of alluvium deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel formed during the Quaternary Period (British Geological Survey 2019).




Site name: Otterburn
 Date: November 2019
 Drawn by: WT
 Scale: Varies

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 Contains Ordnance Survey data.
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 Battle of Otterburn Battlefield

 Approximate Area of Investigation

**Figure 1:
Site location**



Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Angel House
 Portland Square
 Bakewell
 Derbyshire
 DE45 1HB



Tel: 01629 814540
www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

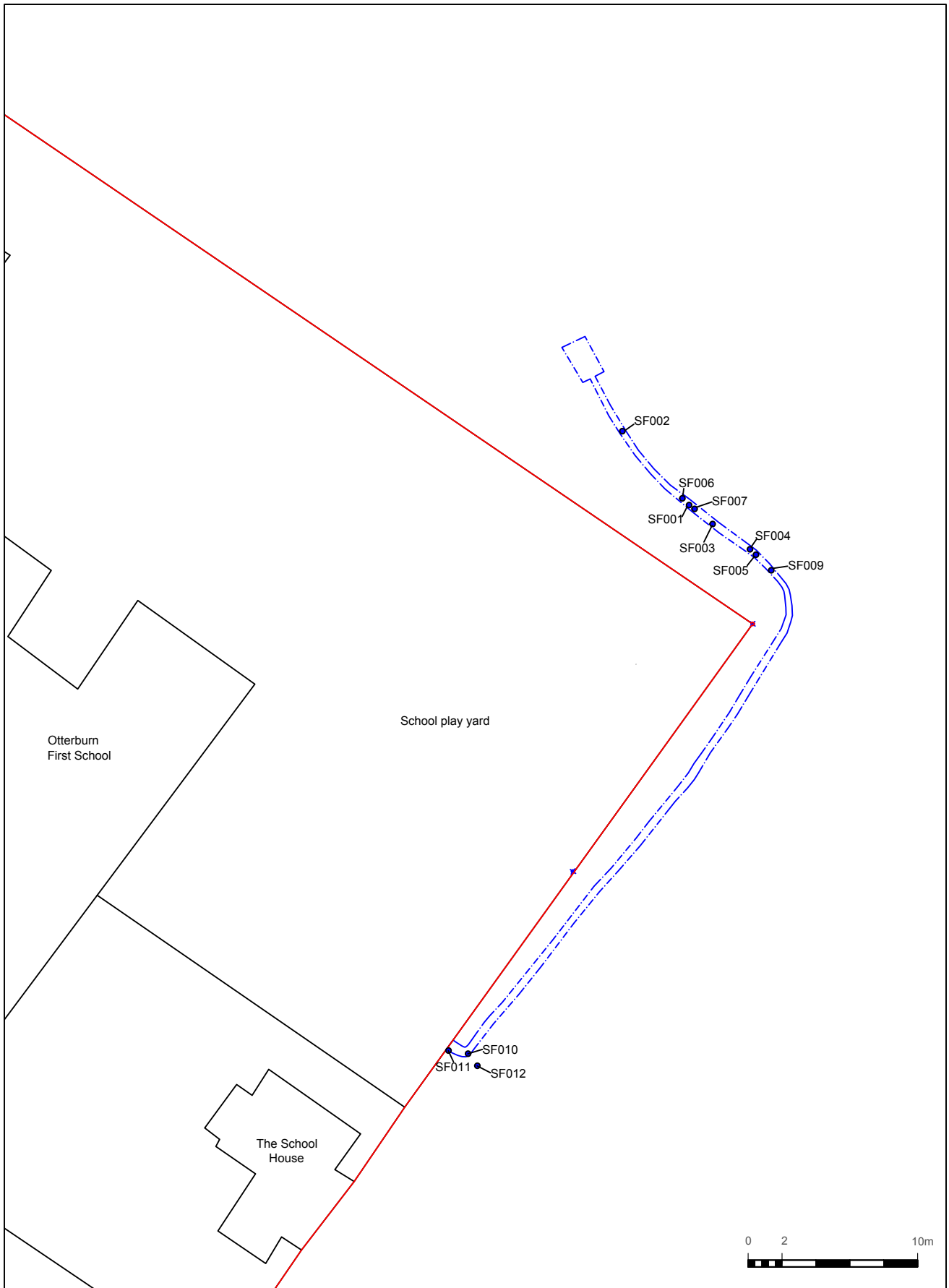





Figure 2. Find Locations
 Scale: 1:300@A4
 Drawn: MN

Key:

-  - Electric cable trench
-  - SF009 - Find spot location
-  - Site boundary



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1.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.4.1 The site is located within an area of moderate archaeological activity principally associated with the Battle of Otterburn in the 14th century. This report will only attempt to provide information pertaining to past activity in the vicinity of the development area as it is beyond the scope of the project to provide a comprehensive account of the archaeological and historical background of Otterburn and its associated hinterland. The reader is directed towards *Archaeology in Northumberland National Park* for a more detailed archaeological and historical background (Frodsham 2004).

1.4.2 The larger conflict which culminated in the Battle of Otterburn (HER 8285) began initially as a raid by James, 2nd Earl of Douglas and Mar, in reprisal for English raids which resulted in the destruction of the abbeys at Melrose, Newbar and Dryburgh, and the burning of settlements at Haddington and Edinburgh. Ongoing conflicts between Richard II of England and his barons, as well as conflict between the English barons of the Borders, provided the opportunity for the Scottish forces to invade and reach as far as Brancepeth, County Durham before briefly laying siege to Newcastle. Lacking siege equipment to successfully complete the campaign, the Scottish forces disengaged but successfully managed to destroy Ponteland Castle and began to besiege Otterburn Castle (NHLE 1156191).

1.4.3 The battle itself was fought in August 1388 when Douglas forces were engaged by the English forces led by Henry Percy as part of a surprise attack. Although the battle was ultimately won by the Scots, James, Earl of Douglas, was killed during the battle precipitating the ongoing feud between the Douglas and Percy families. The course of the battle was described by several chroniclers; however, none of the accounts included significant topographical references to identify the exact location of the fighting. Of the locations that have been proposed, the consensus is that fighting took place to the west of the village of Otterburn extending as far west as Greenchester, now a deserted medieval village (DMV), and northwards beyond the River Rede where the valley broadens significantly. The Scottish camp is believed to have been immediately west of the site of Otterburn First School with some of the fighting occurring to the east of the camp (Historic England 1995).

1.4.4 The defeat of the English at Otterburn led to a cessation of active hostilities between the two kingdoms until Henry IV's campaigns into Scotland in 1400. Furthermore the battle itself is significant as it takes place against the backdrop of the Hundred Years War between the Kingdoms of England and France. The Battle of Otterburn was commemorated with the erection of a memorial Battle Cross in the medieval period (HER N8286). The base of Battle Cross was later moved from its location and used as the base for the new, Percy Cross (HER N8283), some 180m south-west of the location of the medieval cross (Hodgson 1827).

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

2.1.1 There was the potential for medieval archaeological material to survive within the boundary of the development area. Relevant research topics, applicable to this project are identified in Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (Petts and Gerard, 2006) and may be addressed by the fieldwork as follows:

- MDvii. Medieval ceramics and other artefacts; - Improving our understanding of medieval material culture and technology through analysis of finds and metal detected material (Petts and Gerard, 2006, 173).
- F7. Military technology; - The recovery and analysis of any battle cemeteries should be a priority. Detailed analysis of combat injuries will provide important information about modes of warfare. (Petts and Gerard, 2006, 211).
- F11. Battlefield and siege works; - Improved understanding of regional battlefields and an opportunity to add data to implemented conservation plans (Petts and Gerard, 2006, 211).
- F21. Provisions and supplies; - improved understanding of the provisions provided to military sites and the comparison of military forces of the State and those 'embedded' in local society leading to a better understanding of the role of armies as producers and consumers (Petts and Gerard, 2006, 213).

2.2 The Metal Detector Survey

2.2.1 The aim of the metal detector survey was to ensure that any potential metallic archaeological remains across the site are recorded and analysed. Metallic artefacts associated with the Battle of Otterburn were of particular interest.

2.3 Watching Brief

2.3.1 The aims and objectives of the watching brief were as follows:

- Identify the presences/absence of archaeological features and deposits within the site.
- Record all archaeological features and deposits encountered.
- Sample a sufficient percentage of the archaeological features and deposits to establish relative sequence, likely dating and quality of preservation.

- Gather sufficient information to establish the character, extent, form, function and likely status of any surviving archaeological deposits with a view to evaluating their significance and potential to inform the aims and objectives as outlined in section 2.1.

3 Methodology

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The methodology for the watching brief is outlined in detail in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix III to this volume) but has been summarised here.

3.2 Professional Standards

3.2.1 The metal detector survey and archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with the CIfA's *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014b) and Historic England's *Our Portable Past* (2018), Recording of the excavations followed the standards and conventions outlined by the *Archaeological Site Manual* (Museum of London Archaeological Service (MoLAS) (2002)).

3.2.2 Finds processing, conservation and storage was carried out in accordance with the CIfA (2014d) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and the UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.

3.2.3 A risk assessment was undertaken before commencement of the work with health and safety regulations and guidelines adhered to at all times. Any finds of 'treasure' was to be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (1996).

3.3 Coverage

3.3.1 The works comprised the archaeological monitoring of groundworks during the excavation of a trench for the rerouting of an electric cable from the mains to Otterburn First School. The area impacted by groundworks covered a total of 25.88m².

3.4 Archaeological Monitoring

3.4.1 The archaeological watching brief and metal detector survey was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd on the 23rd and 24th of May 2019 with further monitoring and surveying of the reinstatement works undertaken on 15th October 2019. All groundworks were monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. A metal detector survey using a continuing lateral sweep was undertaken across the site prior to excavation. The metal detector used for the survey was a CSCOPE 3MX with the sensitivity set to

maximum and no discriminators used. The locations of all recovered artefacts were recorded using a Leica TCR 805 GPS unit.

3.4.2 The trench was excavated in stages, under continuous archaeological supervision, by a 360 mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. The excavated material was removed in level spits until archaeological deposits were identified or the groundworks contractor had reached their maximum required depth. Where feasible, any archaeological deposits identified during the course of the watching brief project were hand excavated by a professional field archaeologist to allow their date, form and state of preservation to be ascertained. All spoil removed during the excavation was also surveyed using a metal detector.

3.4.3 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded according to the principles of stratigraphic excavation. Each context was recorded on pro-forma records which included the following: character and contextual relationships; detailed description (dimensions and shape; soil components, colour, texture and consistency); interpretation and cross-references to the drawn, photographic and finds registers. Any material located using the metal detector was given a unique finds number and the find-spot was accurately georeferenced using the GPS unit.

3.4.4 A photographic record was maintained including photographs of the trenches. All images were taken in digital format (10 Megapixel minimum) and contain a graduated photographic scale.

4 Results

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following section provides an overview and synthesis of the depositional sequence and archaeological features encountered on the site. It highlights possible areas of archaeological sensitivity and the depth at which archaeological survival might be encountered. Depths of deposits are expressed as below ground level (BGL).

4.1.2 A context summary table of the depositional sequence of the trenches is presented in Appendix I: Context Summary Table. This should be viewed in association with the figures and the photographs presented in this section.

4.2 Metal Detector Survey

(Figures 2 - 9)

4.2.1 The metal detector survey was restricted to the footprint of the electric cable trench and associated spoil during the monitoring of groundworks associated with excavation and reinstatement. As a result a limited number of signals were recorded

across the development area. The locations of which are shown in Figure 2. This shows a spread across the northern extent of the trench, towards the north east corner of the First School property boundary, however given the small scale of the survey and the data collected a definitive pattern could not be validated, and no concentration of signals could be ascertained.



Figure 3. View looking south-west across the survey area.

4.2.2 Ten separate objects were recovered with a combined weight of approximately 845.2g (ranging from 1.8g to 459.6g for individual fragments) during the monitoring of groundworks. A further three objects with a combined weight of 961.8g (ranging from 126.4g to 639.9g) were recovered during the monitoring of reinstatement works in October 2019. All of the objects had a ferrous composition (including a Matchbox Supervan, Fire Observer) with the exception of a possible lead hinge bracket (Table 1).

Small Find Number	Material	Description	Weight (g)
01	Fe	1 corroded fragment (uncertain function)	54.9
02	Fe	1 corroded fragment (uncertain function)	1.8
03	Fe	1 corroded wire	2.0
04	Fe	2 corroded cables	3.6 + 10.8
05	Fe	1 corroded fragment (uncertain function)	459.6
06	Fe	1 corroded bracket or fitting	199.6
07	Fe	1 corroded fragment (uncertain function)	16
08	Fe	1 corroded cable	19.9
09	Fe	1 Matchbox supervan (Fire Observer. c.1990)	77
10	Fe	1 corroded bracket or fitting, possible towing hitch	195.7
11	Pb	1 modern ceramic object ocated in enamel paint	126.2
12	Fe	1 corroded agricultural 'O' ring	639.9

Table 1. Table of recovered metallic objects.



Figure 4. Corroded metal cables (SF04) recovered from topsoil (Scale = 0.10m)



Figure 5. Metal bracket/fitting (SF06) recovered from topsoil (scale = 0.10m).



Figure 6. Matchbox supervan (Fire Observer. c.1990) (SF09) (scale = 0.10m).



Figure 7. Corroded towing hitch (SF10) (scale = 0.10m).



Figure 8. Corroded agricultural 'O' ring (SF12) (scale = 0.10m).



Figure 9. Unidentified ceramic object coated with enamel paint (SF11) (scale = 0.10m).

4.3 Watching Brief

(Figures 2, 10 – 12)

4.3.1 The trench measured 53.78m long, 0.42m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.85m below the present ground level (BGL) (Figure 2). The trench was situated on pastured land, against the north and east boundary of the School, and within the boundary of the registered battlefield for the Battle of Otterburn (Figure 10).



Figure 10. Overview of the trench, facing north-west (scale = 2m).

4.3.2 The uppermost deposit comprised a dark grey-brown silty loam topsoil and turf (001). This overlaid a mid-brown-grey clayey silt and the mid-brown-yellow clay natural substrate, which was observed across the entire base of the trench (Figure 11). Topsoil (001), within the southern 9m of the trench, had been replaced by a grey hardcore stone deposit (004) which formed part of the compound installed adjacent to the school as part of these groundworks (Figure 12).



Figure 11. South-east facing section of the northern end of the trench (scale = 1m).



Figure 12. North-west facing section of the southern end of the trench (scale = 1m).

4.3.3 No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified within the trench.

5 Conclusion

5.1 The site lies within pastoral land which borders the north-east limit of Otterburn First School and within the boundary of the Registered Battlefield for the Battle of Otterburn (HER N8285). The metal detector survey located 13 metallic objects from the topsoil. The small scale of the survey and the limited data collected was insufficient to provide a definitive spatial pattern and no concentration of signals could be ascertained. These results cannot be extrapolated to show a possible spread pattern across the whole field but will be informative when collated with subsequent data collected within the battlefield perimeter.

5.2 These items appear to be subject to agricultural influences as evinced by faint vegetation patterns orientated broadly north to south. Remnants of former ploughing would produce a higher concentration of finds to the northern and southern extents of a field. The development area was sited within the southern edge of the field and apart from a quantity of agricultural ironwork, there were very few finds recovered. None of these may be regarded as archaeologically significant and were identified in such low densities that their value as evidence of past activity is limited. The unidentified modern ceramic object (SF11) was coated with an enamel paint which may explain why it was detected during the metal detector survey phase of works. The proximity of the SF11 findspot to the nearby school suggests that it is in fact a fragment of discarded artwork produced by a pupil.

5.3 The watching brief did not identify any evidence that could be associated with the Battle of Otterburn or any previous land use except for current pastoral activity and its adjacency to a primary school. Despite these results, the site lies within an area of high archaeological potential and negative results from this watching brief reflect the small-scale nature of the works rather than an absence of archaeological activity in close proximity to the Registered Battlefield site for the Battle of Otterburn.

6 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

6.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.

6.2 ARS Ltd retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

7 Statement of Indemnity

7.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the authors of the report for any errors of fact or opinion

resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

8 Archive

8.1 A digital and paper archive will be prepared by ARS Ltd, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data, and will be deposited with Great North Museum (GNM), Newcastle, in accordance with the Written Scheme of investigation approved by Karen Derham, Assistant County Archaeologist at Northumberland County Council and in line with relevant ClfA guidance: *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014d) and *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (ClfA 2014c). An OASIS record has also been completed for this work, including a digital version of this report, the reference for which is archaeol5-365339.

9 Acknowledgements

9.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved with this work, in particular, Jacqui Person of Northumberland County Council and Karen Derham, Assistant County Archaeologist at Northumberland County Council for her advice and guidance.

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Appendix I: Context Summary Table

Context	Type	Description: <i>Processual Interpretation</i>	Thickness/extent (feature = length x width x depth)	BGL (m)
001	Deposit	Dark-grey-brown silt loam <i>Topsoil</i>	0.22m depth	-
002	Deposit	Mid-brown-grey silt clay <i>Subsoil.</i>	0.16m depth	0.22
003	Deposit	Mid-brown-grey clay Natural substrate	0.60m+ depth	0.38
004	Cut / Fill	Grey stone hardcore. <i>Construction compound, 21th Century</i>	0.24m depth	-

Appendix II: Written Scheme of Investigation

Otterburn First School, Main Street, Otterburn, Northumberland

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
*Archaeological Watching Brief and Metal Detector Survey***

May 2019



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Angel House, Portland Square, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1HB

www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Prepared on behalf of: *Northumberland County
Council*

Date of compilation: *May 2019*

Compiled by: *Zoë Cavendish*

Local Authority: Northumberland County
Council

Site central NGR: NY 874937

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and Planning Background

1.1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Zoë Cavendish, Project Manager at Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) on behalf of Northumberland County Council. It details a scheme of works for an archaeological watching brief and metal detector survey prior to the excavation of a new electricity cable trench measuring 80m x 0.30m x 0.50m at Otterburn First School centred at NGR NY 874937 (figure 1).

1.1.2 The work will comprise the excavation of a service trench in fields to the north and east of the school. The proposed groundworks are in an area considered to be archaeologically sensitive as they sit within the boundary of the registered battlefield for the Battle of Otterburn. Consequently, all excavation works will be subject to archaeological monitoring and a metal detector survey in order to mitigate against possible damage caused to sub-surface archaeological remains potentially present within the footprint of the development area.

1.1.3 This WSI confirms the nature of the archaeological works to be undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) in accordance with guidance from Sarah Winlow, Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council.

1.2 Site description

1.2.1 The monitoring site is located approximately 1.2km to the west of the village of Otterburn on the A696 and is centred at NGR NY 874937.

1.3 Landform, Geology and Soils

1.3.1 The underlying bedrock geology of the site is comprised of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Scremerston Coal Member, formed approximately 331 to 343 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period when the local environment was dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas. This is overlain by superficial sedimentary deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The proposed ground works are within an area considered to be archaeologically sensitive give their location within the registered battlefield site for the Battle of Otterburn (HER ref N8285). The battle was fought in August 1388 between the Scots, represented by the Douglas Family, and the English, represented by the Percys. The battle was won by the Scots led by James, Earl Douglas, who was killed during the battle. The battle had no effect on the course of history and was part of a feud between the Douglas and Percy families.

2.2 The course of the battle was described by several chroniclers; however none of the accounts included significant topographical references to identify the exact location of the fighting. Of the locations that have been proposed, the consensus is that fighting took place to the west of the village of Otterburn extending as far west



as Greenchester, now a deserted medieval village (DMV), and northwards beyond the River Rede where the valley broadens significantly. The Scottish camp is believed to have been immediately west of the site of Otterburn First School with some of the fighting occurring to the east of the camp (Sarah Winlow, *pers comm*).

2.3 The Battle of Otterburn was commemorated with the erection of a memorial Battle Cross in the medieval period (HER N8286). The base of Battle Cross was later moved from its location and used as the base for the new, Percy Cross (HER N8283), some 180m south-west of the location of the medieval cross (Hodgson 1827).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

3.1.1. Potential research topics identified in *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (Petts and Gerard 2006) may be addressed by the fieldwork proposed in this WSI namely:

- Improving our understanding of medieval material culture and technology through analysis of finds and metal detected material.
- What can medieval material culture tell us about cultural identities, symbolic meaning and belief, and trade mechanisms? (Petts and Gerard 2006: MDvii)

3.2 Metal Detector Survey Objectives

3.2.1 The aim of the metal detector survey is to ensure that any potential metallic archaeological remains across the site are recorded and analysed. Metallic artefacts associated with the Battle of Otterburn are of particular interest.

3.3 Watching Brief Objectives

3.2.1. The aims and objectives of the watching brief will be to;

- ◆ Identify the presence/absence of archaeological features and deposits within the site.
- ◆ Record all archaeological features and deposits encountered.
- ◆ Sample a sufficient percentage of the archaeological features and deposits to establish relative sequence, likely dating and quality of preservation.
- ◆ Gather sufficient information to establish the character, extent, form, function and likely status of any surviving archaeological deposits with a view to evaluating their significance and potential to inform the aims and objectives outlined in section 3.1 of this document.

3.4 Coverage

4.1.1 The watching brief will involve the continuous monitoring of ground works during the excavation of an electricity cable trench through farm land situated within



the boundary of the Battle of Otterburn site. The groundworks will require the excavation of an electricity cable trench measuring 80m x 0.3m x 0.5m.

4 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

4.1 Metal Detector Survey

4.1.1 A metal detector survey will be undertaken by one of ARS Ltd.'s archaeologists who is suitably experienced in using a metal detector. All metals should be detected and discriminators should not be used. The metal detector survey will cover the entire site using a continuing lateral sweep to ensure good coverage of the trench. All spoil removed during the excavation of the cable trench will also be surveyed using a metal detector.

4.1.2 All elements of the survey will be carried out in accordance with English Heritage's *Our Portable Past* (2014), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) *Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (2013a) and *Code of Conduct* (2014).

4.1.3 Any finds of 'treasure' will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (1996).

4.1.4 Any material located using the metal detector will be given a unique finds number and the find-spot accurately georeferenced using a total station, or Leica survey grade GPS.

4.1.5 Once the on-site work has been completed finds processing and specialist analysis will be undertaken, including any x-raying of metalwork that might be required.

4.1.6 All site operations will be carried out in a safe manner in accordance with ARS Ltd's health and safety policy. A risk assessment will be undertaken before Commencement.

4.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

4.2.1 All elements of the archaeological watching brief will be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist (CifA) *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and will follow the CifA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014b) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (2014c).

4.2.2 All staff employed on the project will be suitably qualified for their respective project roles and have substantial experience of archaeological excavation and recording. All staff will be made aware of the archaeological importance of the area surrounding the site and will be fully briefed on the work required by this specification.



4.2.3 All ground works covered under this specification will be undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. If significant archaeological features are identified, the Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council will be notified.

4.2.4 ARS Ltd will ensure that heavy plant or machinery will not be operated in the immediate vicinity of any archaeological remains until they have been recorded.

4.2.5 All site operations will be carried out in a safe manner in accordance with ARS Ltd's health and safety policy. A risk assessment will be prepared before commencement on site.

4.2.6 The on-site archaeologist will be fully apprised of the archaeological potential of the site and will be given, at his/her request, the opportunity to stop site work to investigate potential archaeological features. Adequate time will be negotiated / allowed for recording any such features.

4.2.7 A written, drawn and photographic record will be maintained during the watching brief. All significant archaeological remains will be recorded and/or retrieved.

4.2.8 Site recording will follow standard conventions outlined in the *Site Recording Manual* of Museum of London Archaeology (MoLAS 2002).

4.2.9 Where archaeological features and/or deposits are identified during the watching brief, then a sufficient quantity of the said features will be investigated by hand to allow their date, nature and degree of survival to be ascribed.

4.2.10 For sealed and stratigraphically secure deposits that have the potential to provide environmental evidence relating to diet and economy, dating evidence or landuse regime, a minimum of 40 litres of sample will be taken, or 100% of the sample if smaller.

4.2.11 In the case of waterlogged or anaerobic deposits a minimum sample size of 20L will be taken.

4.2.12 Should a sequence of superimposed deposits of note be present column sampling may be considered.

4.2.13 In all instances sampling strategies will be in accordance with guidelines issued by Historic England (Campbell *et al.* 2011) and will be targeted to provide an evaluation of the type of preservation that may be present.

4.2.14 Should other types of environmental deposits be encountered, appropriate specialist advice will be sought and an appropriate sampling strategy devised. Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist with provision for further analysis as required. Advice from the Historic England Scientific Advisor will be taken as appropriate.

4.2.15 Any human remains will initially be left in-situ and, if deemed necessary, removal will be undertaken once a Coroners licence has been obtained, in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations.



4.2.16 Any artefacts recovered during the Archaeological Watching Brief will be processed in accordance with the ClfA (2014c) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and the UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*. See section 6 below for further details. Any small finds discovered during the course of the watching brief will be allocated a unique finds number and the find-spot accurately georeferenced using a total station, or Leica survey grade GPS.

4.2.17 Finds of "treasure" will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (DCMS 2008). The Portable Antiquities Scheme, Finds Liaison Officer will also be notified.

HM Coroner

Mr. T. Brown
17 Church Street
Berwick-Upon-Tweed
Northumberland
TC15 1EE
Tel No: 01289 304318

Finds Liaison Officer

Andrew Agate
Great North Museum, Barras Bridge
Newcastle upon Tyne
Northumberland
NE24PT
Tel No: 03000 267 011
andrew.agate@twmuseums.org.uk

5 RECORDING

5.1 The site will be tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. The site will be recorded in accordance with the ARS Ltd. field recording manual.

5.2 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pre-printed record sheets with text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate measured scale plans and sections/elevations will be drawn where required at the appropriate and in accordance with best practice. In addition to relevant illustrations, provision for rectified photographic recording shall be made, if deemed necessary.

5.3 A stratigraphy of the site will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

5.4 The heights above sea level will be recorded for all deposits and features in metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

5.5 A full photographic record will be compiled using a digital camera, a Fuji XP90 with 16.4 MP resolution, and a register of all photographs will be kept. The photographic record will encompass all encountered archaeological entities. In addition key relationships between entities, where these help demonstrate sequence or form, will also be photographed. A clearly visible, graduated metric scale will be included in all record shots. A supplementary record of working images will be taken to demonstrate how the site was investigated and what the prevailing conditions were like during excavation.



5.6 A stratigraphic matrix will be compiled for all trenches where superimposed archaeological deposits, features or structures are encountered.

6 FINDS PROCESSING AND STORAGE

6.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in accordance with the ClfA (2014c) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and the UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.

6.2 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.

6.3 Bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and, with the exception of animal bone, marked. Marking and labelling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds will be appropriately bagged, boxed and recorded. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.

6.4 All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged (e.g. lithics in self-sealing plastic bags and ceramic in acid-free tissue paper). Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged and textile, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated.

6.5 Metal finds will be sampled, processed and analysed in line with Centre for Archaeological Guidelines: Archaeometallurgy (English Heritage 2001) and Guidelines on the X-radiography of archaeological metalwork (English Heritage 2006). Any waterlogged artefacts or ecofacts will be sampled, processed and analysed using Waterlogged Wood (English Heritage 2010) and Waterlogged Organic Artefacts. Guidance on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation (English Heritage 2012).

6.6 During and after the excavation all objects will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (including controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage will have appropriate security provision.

6.7 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and repository museum prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.

6.8 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

6.9 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in accordance with the ClfA (2014c) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and the UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.



7 MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

7.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will agree a start date with the Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council who will monitor the works prior to the commencement of works on site to arrange monitoring visits.

Sarah Winlow
Archaeologist
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF
Tel: 01670 622655

7.2 ARS Ltd will liaise with the County Archaeologist at Northumberland County Council at regular intervals throughout the course of the work.

7.3 The client will afford reasonable access to the Archaeologist at Northumberland County Council or their representative, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological mitigation.

8 TIMETABLE, STAFFING AND RESOURCES

8.1 The Project Manager for the watching brief will be Rupert Lotherington ACIfA at ARS Ltd. The Fieldwork Project Officer will be Michael Nicholson PCIfA at ARS Ltd. An outline timetable for project implementation is presented below

Task	Commencement date
Metal Detector Survey	22/05/19
Archaeological Watching Brief	22/05/19

Table 1. Outline timetable for project implementation

8.2 Finds analysis will be carried out by appropriately qualified specialists as detailed subject to availability.

- ◆ Flint and prehistoric pottery: Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA
- ◆ Romano-British pottery: Ian Rowlandson
- ◆ Samian ware: Dr Gwladys Monteil
- ◆ Medieval and post-medieval pottery: Dr Chris Cumberpatch/Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA
- ◆ Clay pipes: Mike Wood MCIfA
- ◆ Plant macrofossils and charcoals: Elise McLellan



- ◆ Human and animal bone: Milena Grzybowska
- ◆ Radiocarbon dating: Prof Gordon Cook (SUERC)
- ◆ Finds conservation: Vicky Garlick (Durham University)

9 REPORT

9.1 Following completion of the watching brief, Archaeological Research Services Ltd will produce a report which will include,

- ◆ Non-technical summary
- ◆ Introductory statement
- ◆ Aims and purpose of the project
- ◆ Methodology
- ◆ A location plan showing all excavated areas and any archaeological features with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads
- ◆ Illustrations of all archaeological features with appropriately scaled hachured plans and sections
- ◆ An objective summary statement of results
- ◆ Conclusions
- ◆ Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices to include
 - ◆ Specialist Reports
 - ◆ Structural and Stratigraphic details
- ◆ Index to archive and details of archive location
- ◆ References
- ◆ Statement of intent regarding publication
- ◆ Confirmation of archive transfer arrangements
- ◆ A copy of the OASIS form

9.2 One bound copy of the final report with a digital copy of the report in PDF/A format on disk will be deposited with Historic England for comment and then forwarded to the historic Environment Record (HER). A copy of the report should be uploaded as part of the OASIS record (see 9.4 below).

10 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

10.1 Should significant finds or stratigraphy be generated, than an accession number will be requested from the appropriate repository museum, and a digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared by ARS Ltd, consisting of all primary



written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data (in a format to be agreed by the repository museum and Museum Curator).

10.2 The archive will be deposited in line with the ClfA (2013d) Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993) Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and will be deposited within two months of the completion of the report.

10.3 Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council Sarah Winlow will be notified in writing on completion of the fieldwork with projected dates for the completion of the report and deposition of the archive.

10.4 The date for deposition of the archive will be confirmed in the report and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments informed in writing on final deposition of the archive.

10.5 All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive (see above).

10.6 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts will be supplied to the HER and deposited with the archive as digital images on a CD ROM that will be attached with the report.

10.5 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. All parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included within the archive).

11 GENERAL ITEMS

11.1 Health and Safety

11.1.1 All work will be carried out in accordance with The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Specific health and safety policies exist for all out workplaces and all staff employed will be made aware of the policy and any relevant issues. The particular risks involved with this project will be assessed, recorded and relevant mitigation measures put in place as part of a full risk assessment, which will be compiled in advance of fieldwork. ARS Ltd retains Peninsula as its expert health and safety consultants.

11.2 Insurance Cover

11.2.1 ARS Ltd has full insurance cover for employee liability (£10 million) public liability (£5 million), professional indemnity (£2 million) and all-risks cover.

11.3 Changes to the Written Scheme of Investigation



11.3.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of the Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council.

11.4 Publication

11.4.1 If significant archaeological remains are recorded, a summary of the project with, if appropriate, selected drawings, illustrations and photographs will be submitted within 2 years of the completion of the project to Derbyshire Archaeological Journal for publication. ARS Ltd has full insurance cover for employee liability public liability, professional indemnity

11.5 Copyright

11.5.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client. ARS Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

12 REFERENCES

- British Geological Survey. 2015. Geology of Britain viewer. Available online at: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home/html> [Accessed 26th May 2015].
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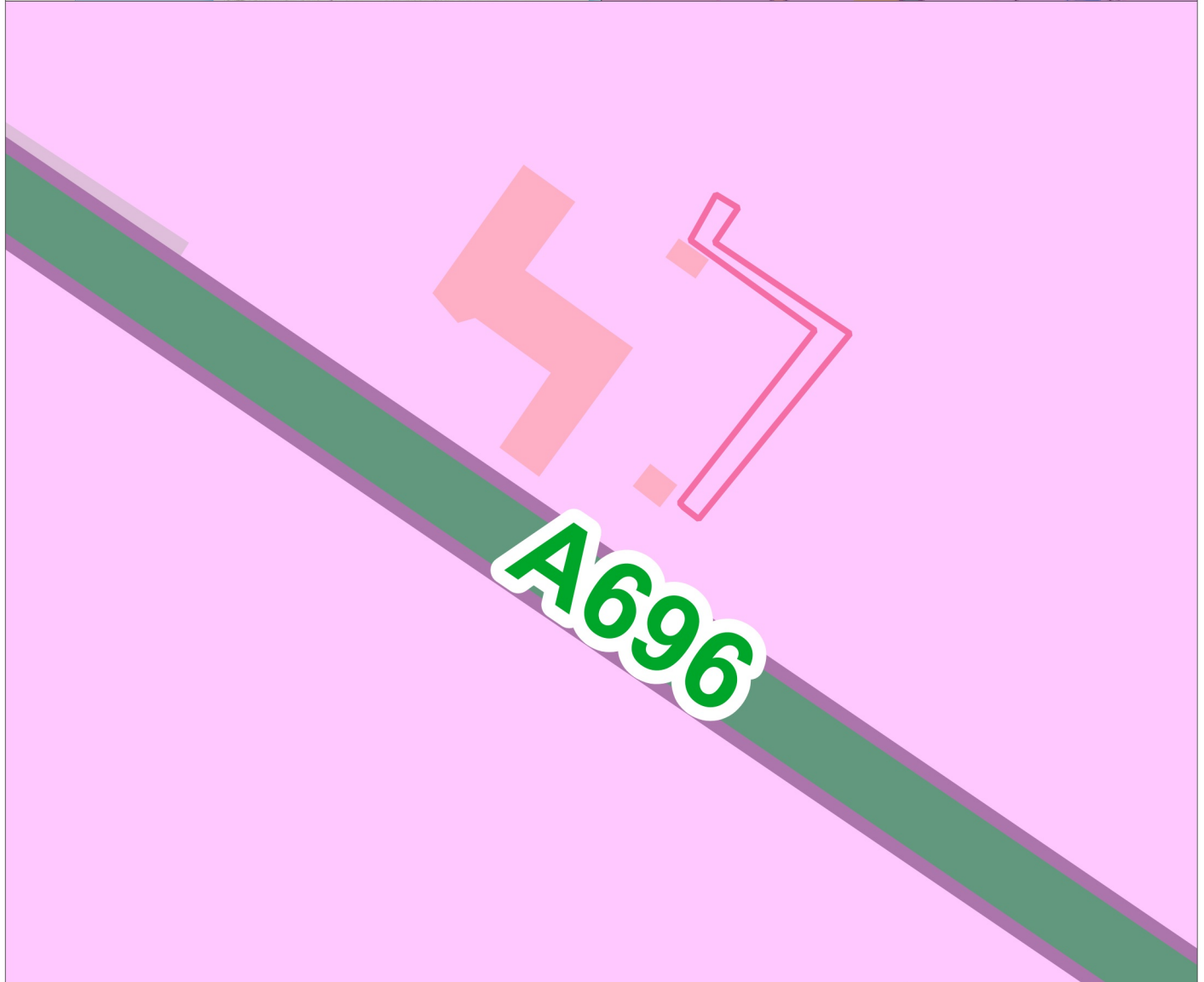
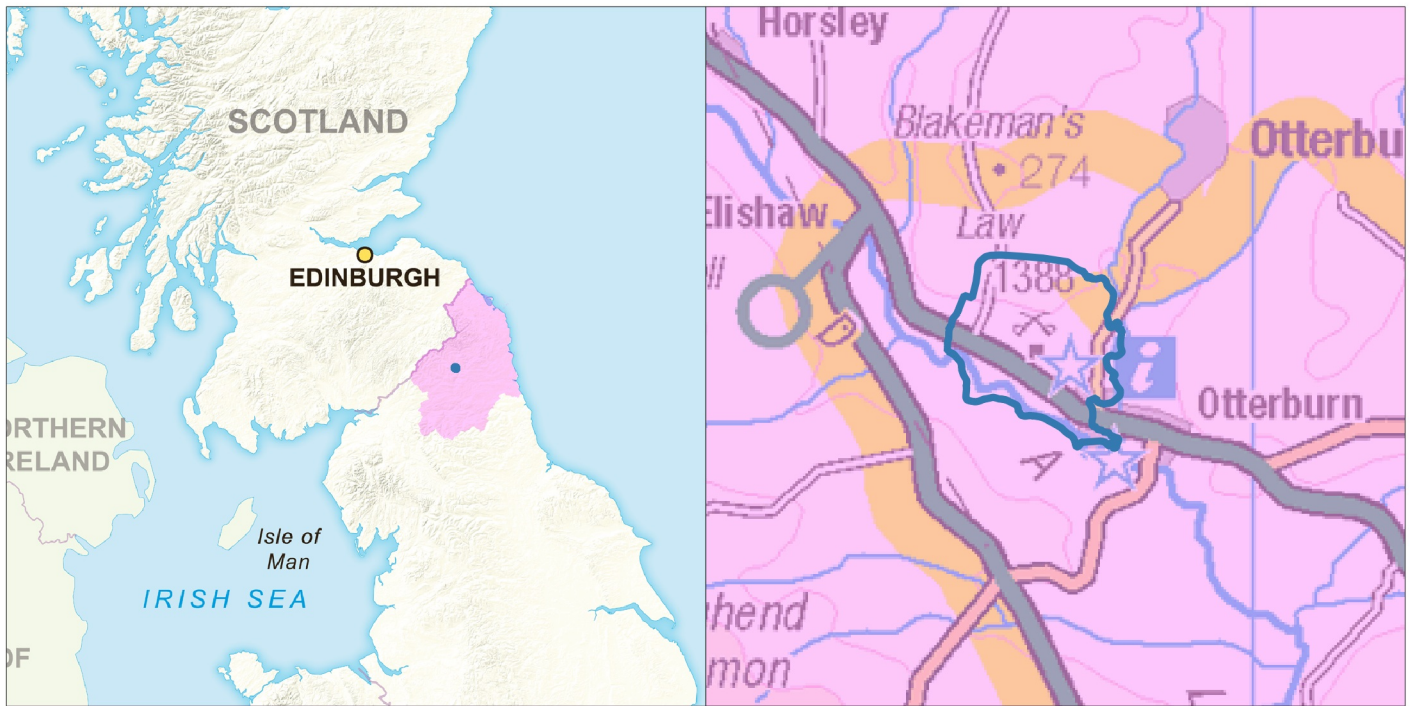


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FIGURES





Site name: Otterburn
 Date: May 2019
 Drawn by: ZC
 Scale: Varies

-  Battle of Otterburn Battlefield
-  Approximate Area of Investigation



Archaeological Research Services Ltd
 Angel House
 Portland Square
 Bakewell
 Derbyshire
 DE45 1HB
 Tel: 01629 814540
www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com



This drawing: © ARS Ltd
 Contains Ordnance Survey data.
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**Figure 1:
 Site location**

Appendix III: OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol5-365339

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Otterburn First School, Main Street, Otterburn, Northumberland
Short description of the project	In July 2019 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Northumberland County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Otterburn First School, Main Street, Otterburn, Northumberland. The watching brief monitored groundworks associated with the installation of a new electricity cable through pastoral land which borders the north east limit of Otterburn First School and within the boundary of the registered battlefield for the Battle of Otterburn (HER N8285). Consequently, the groundworks have the potential to uncover archaeological remains associated with the battle between English and Scottish forces in the 14th century.
Project dates	Start: 23-05-2019 End: 24-05-2019
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HER N8285 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	English Heritage Historic Battlefields Register
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	METAL Modern
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHUMBERLAND TYNEDALE OTTERBURN Otterburn First School
Postcode	NE19 1JF
Study area	55 Square metres
Site coordinates	NY 87512 93732 55.237588896416 -2.196402258214 55 14 15 N 002 11 47 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project brief originator	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project design originator	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project director/manager	Rupert Lothington
Project supervisor	Milena Grzybowska
Type of sponsor/funding body	District Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Northumberland County Council

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Great North Museum
Physical Contents	"Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Great North Museum
Digital Media available	"GIS", "Images vector", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Great North Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Otterburn First School, Main Street, Otterburn, Northumberland
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Michael Nicholson
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Hebburn
Description	PDF
Entered by	Michael Nicholson (michael@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)
Entered on	30 August 2019

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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