Abbey Bridge Platform, Haddington, East Lothian

Data Structure Report
September 2019

archaeology
Connolly Heritage Consultancy

Buildings Archaeologist and Heritage Consultant

Data Structure Report

On behalf of:	**---**
National Grid Reference (NGR):	**NT 52920 74516**
CHC Heritage Project No:	**ABP18**
OASiS ID:	**connolly1-366440**
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Abstract

This report describes the results of fieldwork undertaken at the site of Abbey Bridge Platform
(Amisfield Platform) near Haddington. Despite the structure forming a pronounced feature/mound within its immediate setting, it has, until recently, escaped archaeological attentions. The mound does not appear on any historical maps or any archival material. Recently the question of the platform's possible connection to the Siege of Haddington (1548-1549) has been raised, which could only be answered by archaeological investigations. The opportunity to carry out a small community dig at the platform presented itself in 2018 as the Haddington celebrated its 700th anniversary of the town being confirmed as the royal burgh by Robert the Bruce's charter (1318). The key aim of the present project was to attempt to characterise the site and provide dating evidence for the structure. This was to be achieved by excavations, combined with drone and topographic survey and a small-scale metal detecting survey. Altogether 4 trenches were excavated and the entire mound, trenches and spoil heaps together with a small portion of the field to the N and E and W of the structure were also metal detected. Although the excavations or the metal detecting survey produced no dating material relating to the siege, the excavations uncovered extremely well made structural evidence, including revetment walls made of quarried stone and clay. Reconstructions from complimentary topographic and drone survey suggests remarkable structural similarities to historically recorded late medieval/early modern gun platforms elsewhere and the link to military activities of this period can therefore be reasonably made.

1. Introduction

Introduction

The Abbey Bridge Platform Project (ABP2018) was initiated as part of Haddington-wide celebrations of the 700th anniversary of the town receiving the royal charter by King Robert the Bruce in 1318, which confirmed the town's status as the Royal Burgh. Although Haddington was already a burgh for some 200 years at the time, the previous charter granted by the King David I was lost and therefore the town's right to hold markets and collect customs had to be reaffirmed1. The Royal Charter, which is the eldest document held by the East Lothian Council Archives (Sharp 2017) was also briefly displayed for the occasion. These festivities included varied performances and events from medieval fair to sport and live music shows and extended over a period of 12 months. The ABP excavation was designed as part of these celebrations with intended public and volunteers participation.

The focus of the excavation was a prominent mound feature situated next to the River Tyne (**Figure 1**), which had never been investigated and which has been previously interpreted as a possible potato carts ramp (Eric Glendinning 2002). However, its situation close to the designed landscape of Amisfield Walled Garden and Park, as well as its large size, suggested other possible origins of the feature. The most intriguing suggestion for the mound's origins supposed it may have been constructed as part of siege works during the sixteenth century Siege of Haddington (1548-1549), potentially serving as an artillery platform (Glendinning 2002).[2] The Haddington 700 celebrations therefore presented prime opportunity to investigate this remarkable feature and to provide some answers as to its original use.

[1] Information from the East Lothian Council Museums Service:
https://www.johngraycentre.org/east-lothian-subjects/society/bruce-charter-translation/

[2] information from the East Lothian Council, HER, site number MEL9227
https://www.johngraycentre.org/collections/getrecord/ELHER_MEL9227/

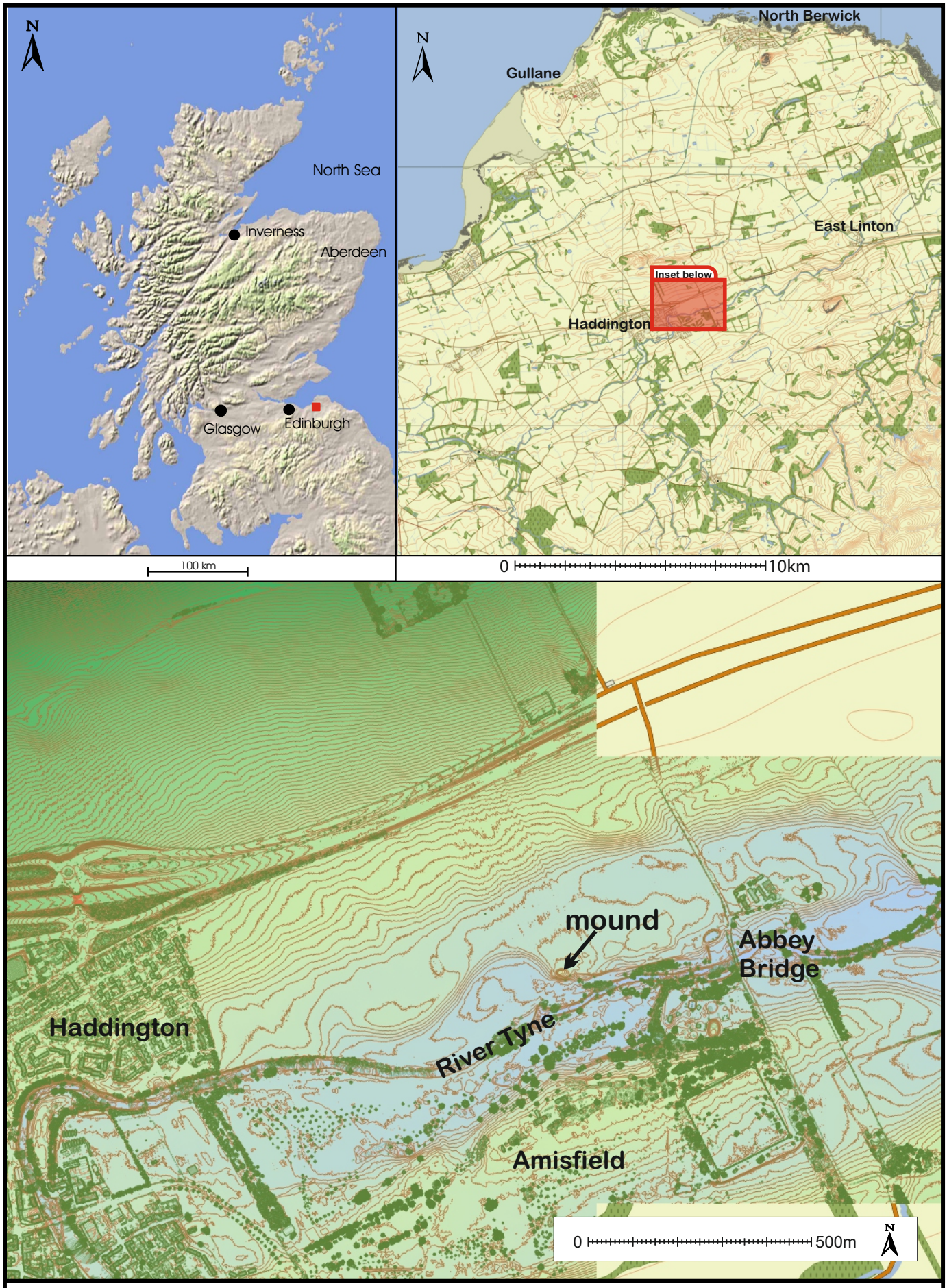


Figure 1: Site location plan

Site Location

The Abbey Bridge Platform/mound, referred to as Amisfield Park (HER number MEL9227), investigated as part of the project represents a prominent mound situated in the Parish of Haddington, East Lothian, with centre point at NT 52920 74516 (Figure 1). It lies just to the north of the River Tyne, between the Abbey Bridge (Canmore ID 56574) to the east and the suburbs of Haddington to the west.

The site sits at the edge of arable fields to the north, on the north bank of the River Tyne. The mound is accessible from the public footpath, which follows the river from Haddington and continues eastward. The site forms a prominent feature within the immediate landscape and is popular with local youth for apparent drink related activities.

Archaeological and Historical Background

Although the site forms a prominent feature within the immediate landscape, and sits in an archaeologically/historically busy landscape, it has never been investigated by archaeological interventions. It consists of an oval elongated mound, orientated east to west, and approximately 2.50m high (measured on the north side). It measures ca 40.0m (east-west) by ca 20.0m (north-south). It has a sloping 'ramp' to the west and a noticeable lower platform/terrace to the east, which seems to continue towards the south for some distance. What appears to be either a natural or a man-made gully is situated to the east of the mound, which may have served as an access to the bottom of the ramp (**Figure 4**).

There are a number of sites/structures recorded in the mound's vicinity, including the Abbeymill farm (Canmore ID 56585), site of former St Mary's Priory (Canmore ID 56492), with associated burial ground (Canmore ID 56585) to the east. Further sites of historical interest include the early sixteenth century (with nineteenth century repairs) Abbey Bridge (Canmore ID 56574) or the eighteenth century designed landscape of Amisfield Park (Canmore ID 320215), associated with Amisfield House (Canmore ID 208898) sadly demolished in ca 1925, this with still upstanding walled garden (Canmore ID 56561), icehouse (Canmore ID 56564), stable block (Canmore ID 56560) or the Rococo Temple style Garden House (Canmore ID 56560).

As noted earlier, it was only in 2002 that the connection between the mound and the Siege of Haddington (July 1548-September 1549) was first proposed (Glendinning 2002). The Siege of Haddington, like the preceding Battle of Pinkie (10th September 1547) represented a military episode as part of the English Crown's ambition for the Scottish subjugation known as the 'Rough Wooing'. Henry VIII aim was to betroth Mary, the only legitimate child of James V of Scotland, to

Henry's only son Edward. Given the Scottish opposition to this proposal, the 'wooing' of the Scots was not undertaken by diplomatic means, instead, it involved a series of military campaigns under the command of Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset and the Lord Protector of England, capturing a number of important castles and subjugating or disposing of less cooperative Scottish lords (Forbes Gray & Jamieson 1995: 9-10; Cooper 2008: 10-11).

Although not on the coast, the town was strategically important due to its proximity to Edinburgh (and the Scottish parliament) and the fertile lands which surrounded it. It was therefore captured with an intention to build a strong fortification, part of the chain of such structures running all the way from Edinburgh to the south (Bush 1975: 13-16; Forbes Gray & Jamieson 1995: 9-10; Cooper 2008: 10-11).

After occupying the town in April 1548, the English proceeded to fortify it in order to withstand expected onslaught by the Scottish-French alliance (COSP Scot quoted in Cooper 2008: 11). The available contemporary sources suggest the fort was nearly ready by early May 1548 (Forbes Gray & Jamieson 1995: 10) and certainly well established by early June although it was probably never completely finished (Cooper 2008: 11). Although no evidence/traces of the fort remain today, it was described at the time as a quadrangular or roughly square fortification, with bastions at the four corners, encircled by a ditch and a broad rampart, of so-called 'Trace Italienne' style, designed according to advances in artillery warfare (Cooper 2008: 7, 35). Behind this outer defence was further ditch and rampart for arquebusiers. This inner curtain wall had turrets at the corners and enclosed a donjon, while a number of further forward set earthworks were constructed some way from the outer ditch, these with smaller calibre guns (Forbes Gray & Jamieson 1995: 10; Cooper 2008: 35, 41-6).

In response to these aggressive English activities on Scottish soil, the French ambassadors in Scotland met with the Scottish parliament in the Abbey at Haddington on 18th July 1548 and an agreement (the Treaty of Haddington) was struck to send the young Queen Mary to the French court and to betroth her to the Dauphin of France. This effectively removed Somerset's motive for his campaign but Somerset refused to give up (Forbes Gray & Jamieson 1995: 14; Cooper 2008: 12). The Siege of Haddington lasted between early July 1548 to 19th September 1549 when the English evacuated the town and raised the fort. Although initially the Scottish/French army aimed to capture the town fast, the attempts at breaching the fortifications was quickly replaced with protracted siege to starve the defenders into a submission instead (Cooper 2008: 13, 48).

Although the interpretation of the mound/platform as forming part of the sixteen century siege works is certainly exciting, prior to the excavations, there was still some possibility that the feature may be of later provenance, possibly connected with eighteenth or nineteenth century military activities (Cooper 2008: 51). There is certainly written evidence that the land of the Amisfield park was occupied (used as military camp) by the army during the Jacobite rebellion (1745) and later still

during the Napoleonic Wars (1793-1815) to house soldiers and officers– with 34 wooden huts, workshops for smiths, ferries, saddlers and wheelers reported as forming the camp (Forbes Gray & Jamieson 1995: 66; Dick 1997: 30, 32; HER site record MEL 9227). Correspondingly, military drills are said to have been conducted at Amisfield and elsewhere around Haddington (Forbes Gray & Jamieson 1995: 67).

Moreover, WW1 and WWII related military practice works have been recorded in the nearby golf course across the river Tyne – i.e. a large practice trench has been excavated by the Lothian And Borders Horse Regiment as part of WWI military training camp (Canmore ID 345322) and practically the whole of the park was used to construct wooden accommodation huts for the soldiers, while the mansion served as housing for the officers (Forbes Gray & Jamieson 1995: 78-9; Dick 1997: 31). During the WWII the Sherwood Foresters and the Polish 10th Mounted Rifles were also accommodated within the park's land and the camp was turned into the Prisoner of War camp in 1944 (Canmore ID 222940; Tully & Brown 1996: 68-9; 2001: 60).

Although the mound could be related to any of these military activities, it is not clear what purpose it would serve. As noted earlier, alternative interpretations of the platform place it much later, with some suggestions it may have served as a ramp for loading potatoes onto a waggons[3], although this seems highly unlikely given its characteristics and large size/height (see below).

Finally, although unlikely, prior to excavation there was also some possibility that the mound may have been of prehistoric origins, i.e. possible cairn or barrow as any theory was judged to be equally valid at the time.

2. Project Aims and Objectives

The primary objectives of the project were to characterise the Amisfield Park (Abbey Bridge Platform) structure and to provide some answers as to its origin and date. As noted above, the question of the structure's origin have never been properly addressed and it was anticipated that the structure may feasibly relate to the Siege of Haddington (1548-1549)–therefore representing one of the few surviving but tangible pieces of evidence for this key historical event of the Haddington's past. Given its possible connection to the Siege, the need for scientific investigation has been strongly advocated by Conflict archaeologist Jon Cooper, whose prior research focused on the event (Cooper 2008).

[3] information from the East Lothian Council, HER, site record: MEL9227
https://www.johngraycentre.org/collections/getrecord/ELHER_MEL9227/

It was also expected that archaeological research would add important new data for building a picture of past wider landscape and environment of the town.

Further aim was to join in the celebration of the 700th anniversary of the town of Haddington being confirmed as the royal burgh and to provide opportunity for the local community to participate in the excavations or view archaeological methods used. To this end, signposts were situated along the footpath and an open day, with site tour, was also held, while information about the dig was disseminated in the official Celebrations leaflet through East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS).

3. Project Methodology

Desk Based Assessment

Prior to the fieldwork, the CHC carried out detailed desk-based assessment of available resources. This consisted of map regression research, published and unpublished literature, archival review and personal communication with a number of researchers, who previously carried out investigations in the area, as well as local council archaeologists (ELCAS). Key text for historical references was Jon Cooper's 2008 MLitt dissertation, aptly named *Whitecoats and Rascals: In Search of the Fortifications and Siege Works from the Siege of Haddington 1548 – 1549* (Cooper 2008), who was also instrumental in helping with the excavations and interpretations of the site.

Fieldwork: Excavations

The fieldworks at the Abbey Bridge mound/platform took place over the period of four days between Friday 31st of August and Monday 3rd of September 2018. The works consisted of excavations; topographic survey; drone/aerial survey and imaging and metal detecting.

All aspects of excavations were supervised by experienced archaeologists and all volunteer participants were instructed in site health and safety procedures and safe handling of all tools and equipment (**Plate 1**). All equipment was provided by the CHC and recording (photographic, drawn, written and survey) was conducted with collaboration from the volunteer participants, to give them a comprehensive understanding of the procedures and requirements of archaeological excavations.

Plate 1: Trench 1 (foreground) and Trench 2 (background) under excavation

Four trenches were opened on the site, including two on the top of the mound and two at the base (**Figure 2, 3 & 4**). The aim of the excavations was to characterize the feature and provide dating evidence as to its origins.

All excavations were carried out by hand in a stratigraphic manner and a complete written, drawn and photographic record was maintained for all uncovered deposits. All excavation aspects were conducted as per standard **Connolly Heritage Consultancy (CHC)** procedures[4]– principally by hand-excavation, drawing, photography and by completing standard CHC record forms.

The upper portions of the topsoil in all trenches were carefully removed in spits, using shovels, hand-shovels and spades. All subsequent deposits were removed stratigraphically, using trowels and hand-shovels, with all spoil placed into the buckets or trugs and sieved to recover any artefacts. The spoil heaps were also metal detected for presence of any metal artefacts. All artefacts (excluding modern) were collected and retained. All finds and samples were treated in a proper manner and

[4] CHC 2008

finds were exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the UK guidelines[5].

A complete written, drawn and photographic record was maintained for all uncovered deposits.

Fieldwork: Topographic Survey

Topographic survey of the entire structure was conducted by experienced archaeologists using differential GPS (Geode) with sub-meter accuracy and an aerial imaging system processed with Photoscan software (**Figure 2**).

Fieldwork: Metal Detecting Survey

The third fieldwork component consisted of metal detecting with artefact pick-up. The entire mound/platform and the area to the immediate north, east and west was metal detected by an experienced detectorist Gary Craig using XP Deus PRO. The entire mound, all trenches and spoil heaps were also detected. Public were given opportunity to metal detect with Gary's assistance.

[5] United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's Conservation Guidelines No. 2 (UKIC, 1983)

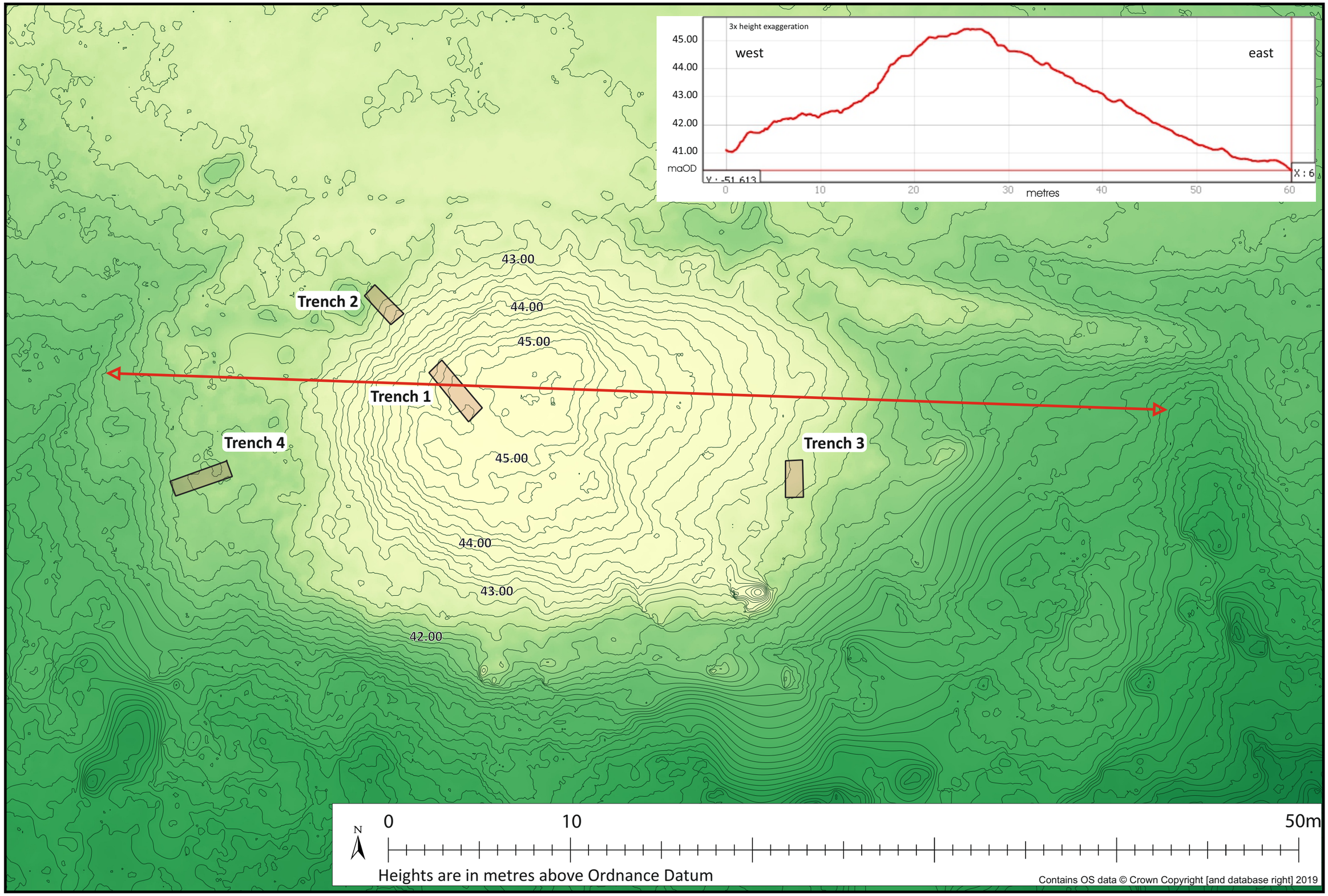


Figure 2: Topographic plan, profile section and trench locations.

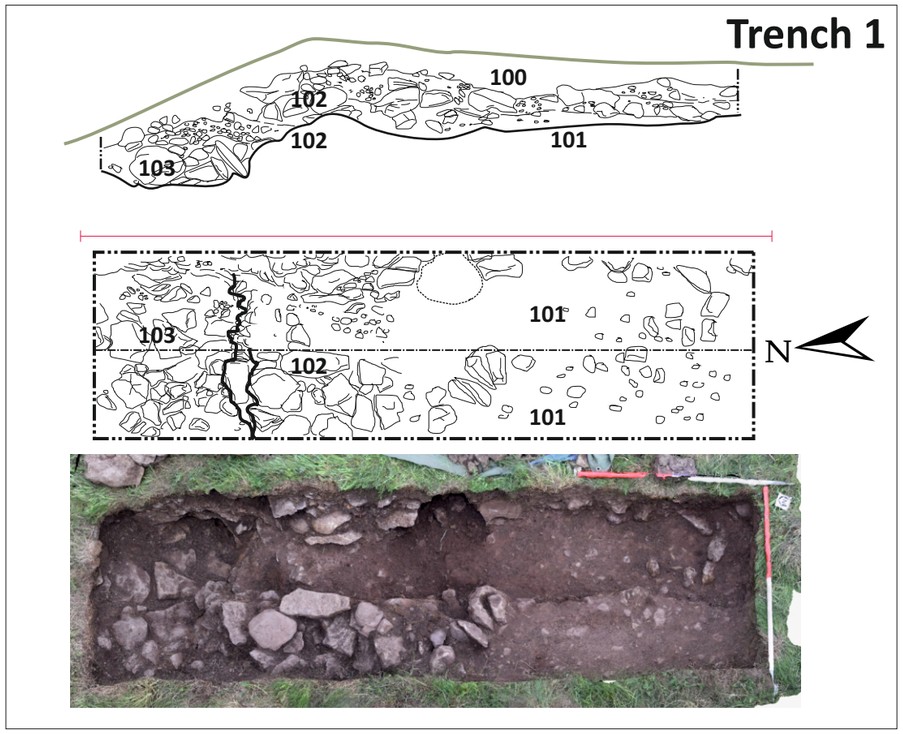
Fieldwork: SUA flight and imaging survey

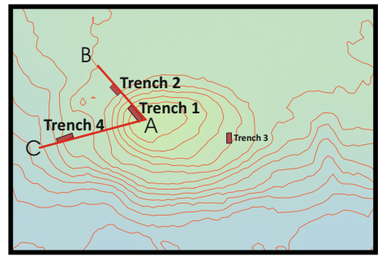
SUA flights over the feature and immediate environs were carried out by Skyscape Survey, to produce aerial images of the feature, any potentially associated cropmarks in the site's vicinity and to generate 3D DEM Model for contour extraction and an orthographic image of the site (**Figure 2 & 4**). These can be used to aid the site's management policies and interpretation. All flights were carried out by a fully qualified and CAA certified SUA pilot; David Connolly and supervised by flight safety officer Hana Kdolska[6]. The resulting aerial images will be made available for any further interpretation and publications.

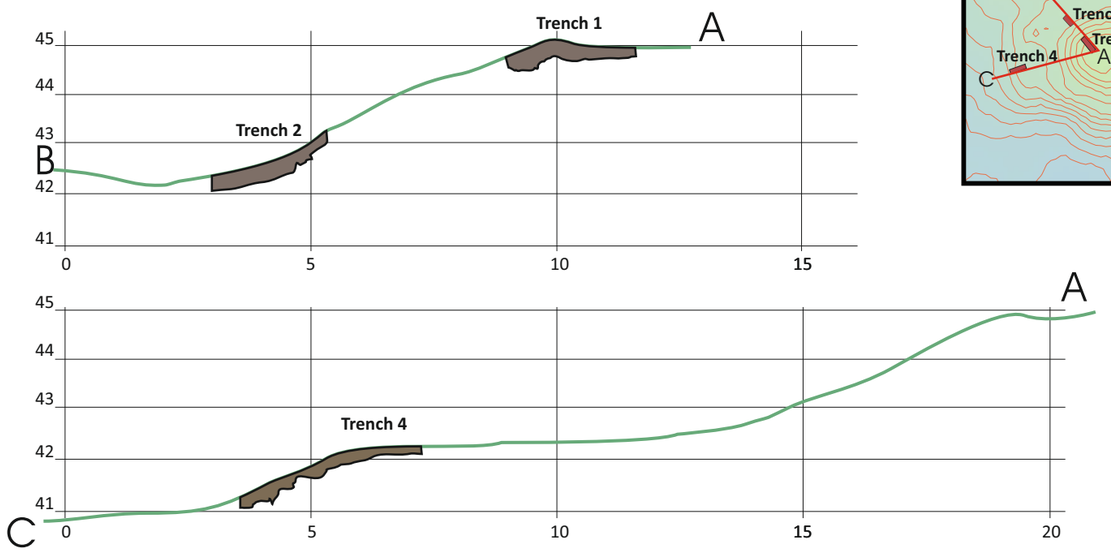
Public Participation and Open Day Site Visit

In order to disseminate information about the potential crucial importance of the Abbey Bridge Mound and Haddington's past amongst the public, CHC, in association with ELCAS, carried out an open day (on 2nd September 2018), with associated site tour. A large group of individuals were escorted along the river Tyne footpath by council archaeologist Stephanie Leith (ELCAS). On site, the group was given talk about the site's potential history; the Siege of Haddington and the archaeological techniques employed on site.

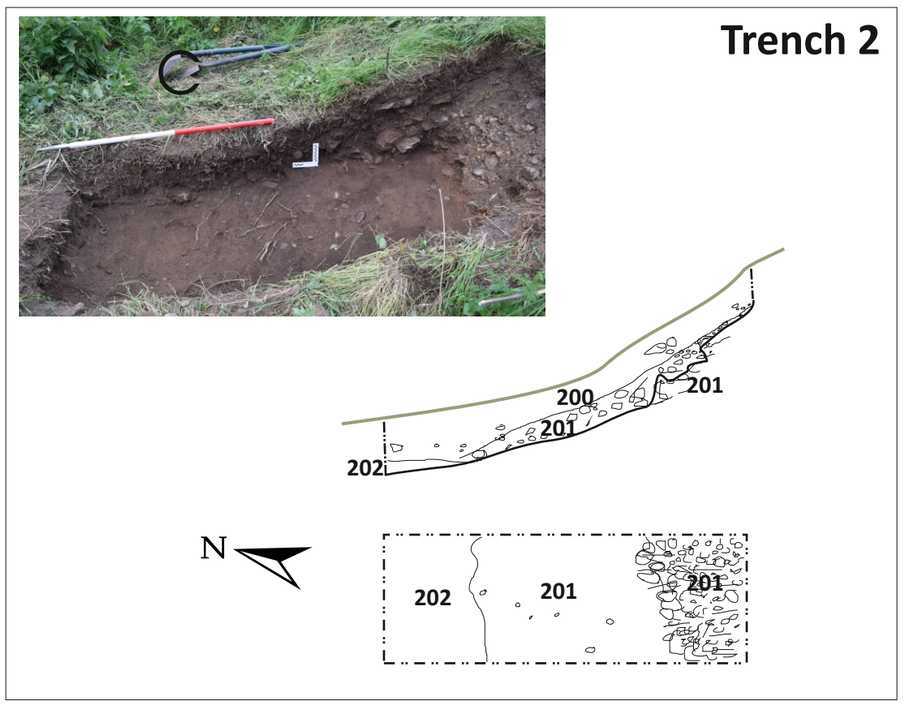
[6] for full flight safety procedures, see Skyscape Survey Ops Manual and Risk Assessment (available on request)







Heights are metres above Ordnance Datum



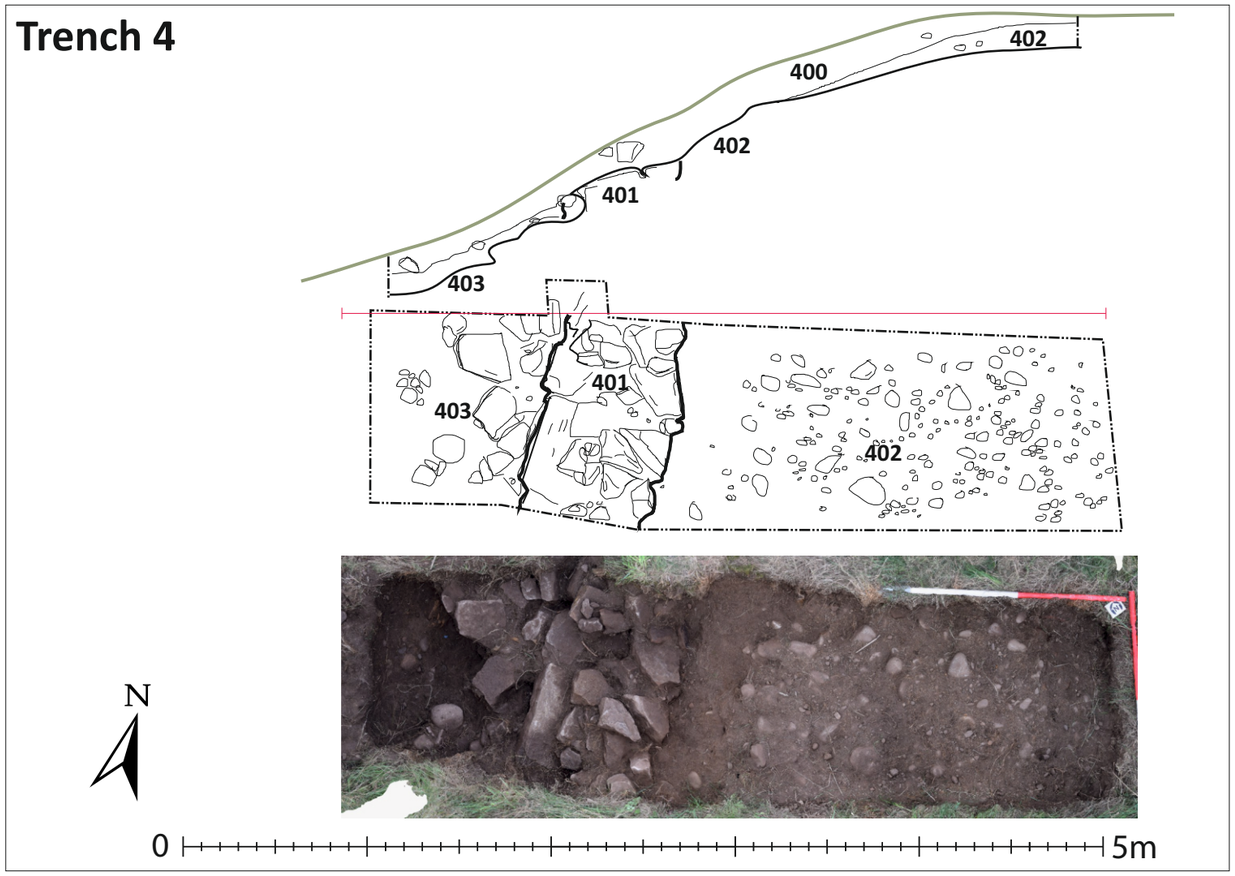


Figure 3: Trench plans and sections

4. Results

Weather conditions

The weather conditions during the first three days of the project were reasonable, including mix of sunny spells, clouds and occasional showers but otherwise generally dry conditions, with good site and feature visibility overall. The last day of backfilling was accompanied by heavy incessant rain.

Excavations

Four trenches (TR1; TR2; TR3 and TR4) were opened at the site– two on top of the platform/mound to north and east respectively, one at the base of the mound to N and one on the lower terrace to W (**Figure 2 & 3**).

Plate 2: Trench 1– detail of the revetment wall [102] and tumble/collapse [103] to N

Trench 1

Trench one (**Figure 3; Plate 2**) was opened at the top of the mound/platform to north, orientated NW-SE and measuring 3.60m by 1.0m and dug to the depth of ca 0.58m. It was located towards the N edge to capture presumed retaining wall. The Topsoil and turf [100] consisted of a medium grey brown clayey silt, loose, with inclusions comprising occasional stones and frequent roots. The depth differed between the SE and NW of the trench– from 0.05m (NW end) to 0.20m (SE end) respectively. Topsoil [100] overlay a mound material [101], consisting of stony gravelly deposit,

mixed with silty soil of medium dark brown-grey colour; the mound material formed the interior of the upper terrace/mound, surrounded by revetment wall [102] uncovered at the N edge of the trench. The stone revetment [102] of the upper terrace consisted of several layers of hard packed angular to sub-angular stones held together with reddish-brown clay and included occasional sub-round to roundish stones. Stone sizes ranged between 30 x 25 x 16 cm, 12 x 10 x 8 cm or smaller. The revetment width was ca 1.60 m at the base and it was ca 0.58m high (as excavated). The revetment was extremely compact and hard to disassemble, some of the stones resembling mortar/concrete but wholly natural. The lack of any finds suggests the stones were likely purposely quarried, possibly at the quarry at nearby Garleton Hills (tuffa rock source), brought to the site and immediately used in construction. The revetment wall would have encircled the edge of the upper platform/mound. Further deposit uncovered in Trench 1 below the topsoil was stone collapse/tumble [103] spreading from the wall/revetment [102] to the N edge of the trench, and composed of few angular to sub-angular stones and mixed with silty soil (topsoil). No finds were recovered, except for the modern plastic and glass material from the topsoil.

Plate 3: Px shot of Trench 2, with mound material [201] to left and possible natural [202] at the base

Trench 2

Trench 2 (**Figure 3; Plate 3**) was opened at the base of the mound/platform to north (approximately below Trench 1). It was orientated NW-SE and measured ca 2.0m by 1.0m and dug to the depth of ca 0.45m. The trench was located to determine the mound make-up and check for possible associated ditch. The Topsoil and turf [200] consisted of a medium grey brown clayey silt, loose, inclusions comprising occasional stones and frequent roots. The depth differed between the SE and NW of the trench– from 0.07m (SE end) to 0.25m (NW end). The topsoil overlay deposit forming the mound material [201], this comprising hard packed stony/gravelly material packed with reddish brown clay; most stones were angular to sub-angular. The deposit was 0.40m deep (as excavated) and overlay a natural? deposit [202] towards the N edge of the trench. This comprised medium dark reddish brown silty clay, with large amount of gravel, mostly consisting of rounded pebbles. The

character of the deposit suggest it could represent a glacial tilt material. As in Trench 1, no finds were recovered from any of the deposits, except for the modern plastic and glass material from the topsoil. No evidence of a ditch was found in excavated portion.

Plate 4: Px shot of Trench 3 with recent stone dump [301]

Trench 3

Trench 3 (**Figure 3; Plate 4**) was opened on top of the mound/platform, approximately centrally, offset to S. It was orientated N-S and measured ca 2.0m by 1.0m. The trench was dug to the depth of ca 0.12m. The trench was opened to investigate a small cairn-like feature, with stones protruding above the topsoil [300]. The Topsoil and turf [300] consisted of a medium grey brown silt, very loose above the stone feature, inclusions comprising occasional stones and frequent roots. The depth differed between the S and N of the trench– from 0.10m (S end) and 0.05m (N end). The topsoil [300] partially overlay deposit of stones [301], likely a recent dump, comprising a loosely piled mostly angular to sub-angular stones, some rounded, mixed with medium dark silty soil (topsoil). The 'feature' included a large number of snails and snail shells. The 'dump' was of approximately circular shape, ca 0.30m high/deep and ca 1.0m wide and overlay deposit of subsoil consisting of medium brown silty soil with gravel inclusions [302]. No finds, except modern material was recovered from the topsoil.

Plate 5: Trench 4– detail of the stone revetment [401]

Trench 4

Trench 4 (**Figure 3; Plate 5**) was opened on top of the lower terrace, which forms a distinct elongated westerly projection from the base of the mound. The trench was orientated SW-NE, measured ca 3.40m by 1.0m and was dug to the depth of ca 0.13m. The trench was opened to determine whether the apparent projection is of anthropogenic or natural provenance and to check for any stone revetment suggested from the surface examination. The Topsoil and turf [400] consisted of a medium grey brown clayey silt, loose, inclusions comprising occasional stones and frequent roots. The depth differed between the SW and NE of the trench– from 0.07m (SW end) to 0.13m (NE end). A single find comprising small fragment of glazed pottery of greenish colour (SF1) was recovered alongside modern material. Towards the SW edge of the trench (W edge of the terrace), the topsoil overlay stone revetment [401], composed of several layers of large to medium large sub-angular to angular stones, with few roundish pebbles; with stone sizes of ca 50 x 20 x 12 cm, 22 x 24 x 15 cm or similar and bonded with clayey silty soil, penetrated by roots. The revetment was ca 1.05m wide and extremely well-made/compact. The topsoil [400] also covered a deposit of mound/terrace material to E of the revetment [401], composed of medium brown silty clayey soil, loose, with gravel and stone inclusions. The stones were predominantly sub-angular to sub-rounded. No finds, except modern glass and plastic were recovered.

SUA and Topographic Survey

A drone imaging survey and topographic survey of the entire feature and a portion of the surrounding area was carried out by Skyscape Survey. The resultant imagery, aerial photographs (**Plate 6**) and topographic plan, as well as merged lidar model were used to interpret the site (see **Figure 4**), adding important supplementary data.

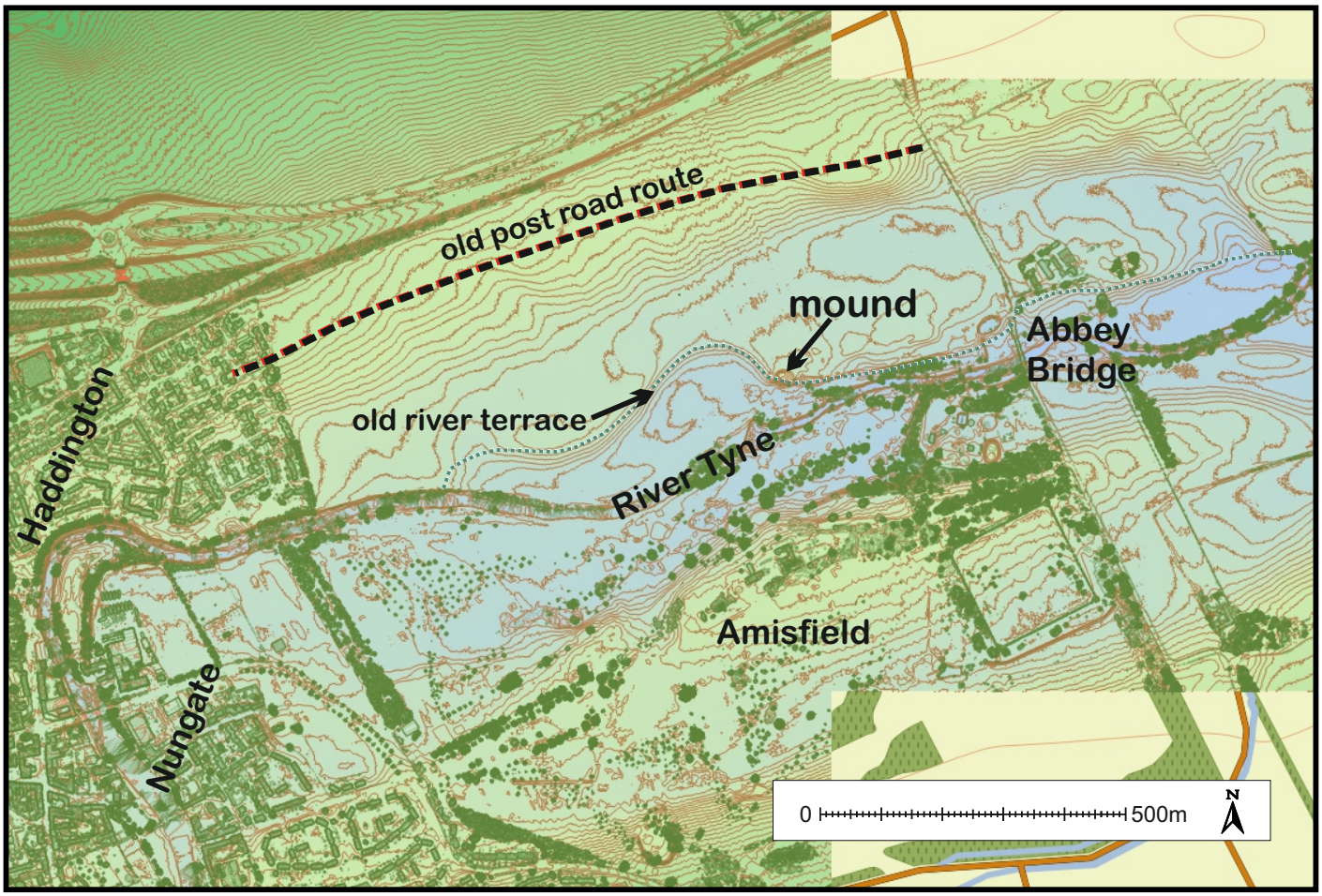
Plate 6: Oblique aerial shot of the site (circled) and its surroundings

The profile from the topographic survey clearly suggests a sloping ramp-like element to the east, likely for access, as opposed to the apparent steepness of the remaining sides. The flattened space on top of the platform is also well defined. It further shows sharp revetment to west, with steep drop towards the lower terrace. The lower projecting terrace to west is characterised by flat interior and revetment to west. The contours also indicate a possibility of a ditch. From the contour model (**Figure 2 & 4**), the interior space of the platform/mound appears to be D-shaped and probably surrounded by continuous revetment wall, as confirmed in Trench 1. Correspondingly, the contour model, as well as surface examination also suggest that the revetment wall on the lower terrace probably continued to north and south and encircled the base of the upper platform. There are some indications of this on the surface, which is however badly overgrown and could not be investigated at this time. The gully which can be observed on the E side of the platform, now forming access to the sloping 'ramp' is clearly defined on the topographic model (**Figure 2 & 4**) and is feasibly a part of the original construction– probably providing sheltered access (Cooper pers observ).

Metal Detecting Survey

The metal detecting survey covered the entire mound/feature, all spoil heaps and portion of the field to N, W and E (**Plate 7**). The survey produced only recent finds (twentieth century).

Plate 7: View towards Trench 4 and metal detecting survey conducted in the field to the NW of the site



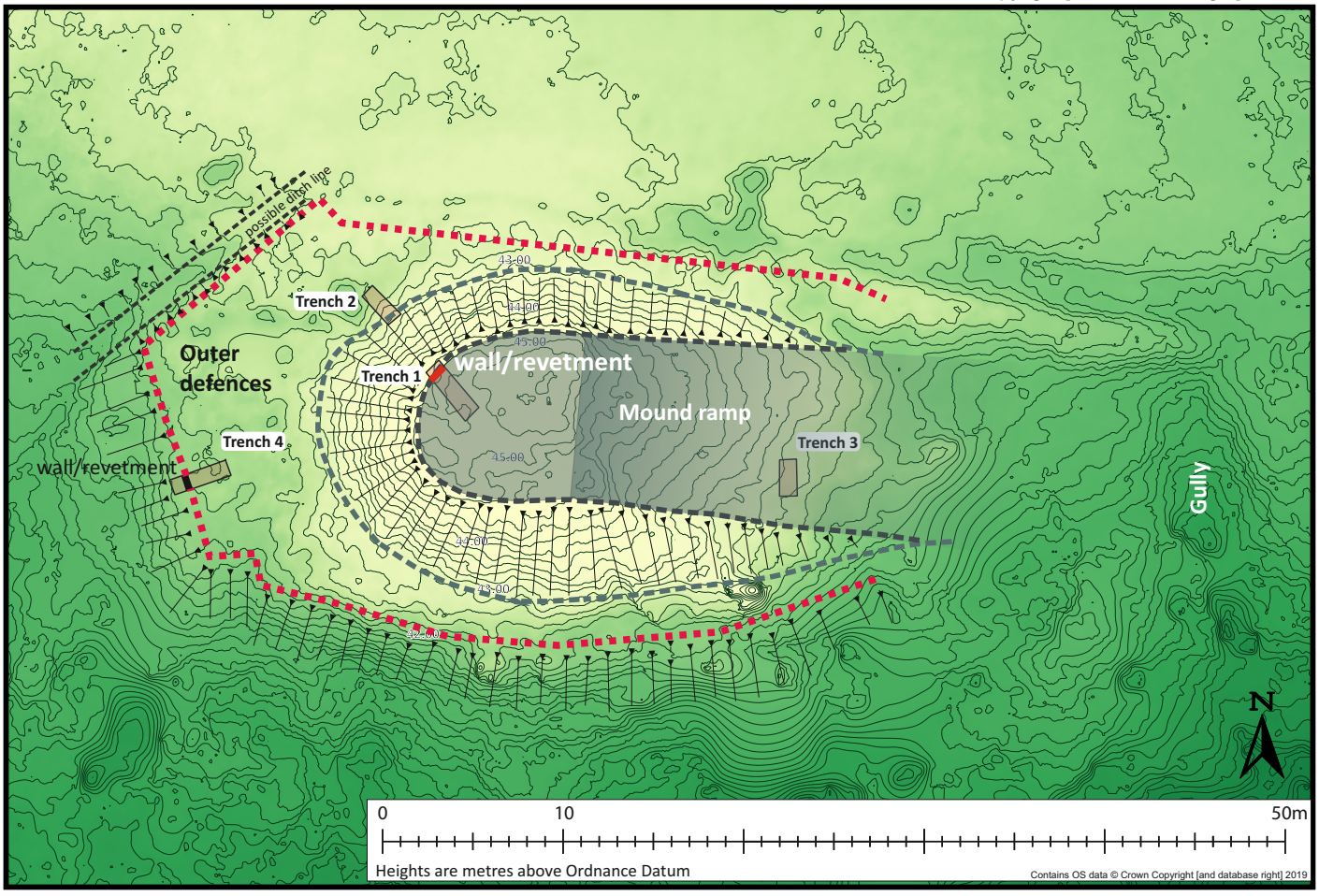


Figure 4: Interpretative plan of the surrounding area (top) and the structural elements of the mound

5. INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

The Siege of Haddington – Artillery Platform?

The excavations have conclusively proven that the mound feature is certainly not natural but man-made. As to the date and original purpose this is more difficult to determine, given the paucity of finds. However, some suggestions may be offered at this point, in association with historical research and logical deductions. The excavations and survey works undertaken on the feature proven beyond any doubt that the feature is not of recent provenance. No eighteenth, nineteenth or twentieth century material was recovered in any of the archaeological deposits within the trenches, and no concrete or brick material was observed as would be expected of WW1 or WW2 military installations.

The archaeological works conducted at the Abbey Bridge Platform suggest the structure would have consisted of an upper main platform, this with D-shaped character, defined by stone and clay revetment wall which would have surrounded flat space on the interior, this ca 10m by 10m (**Figure 4**). The lower outwork/terrace-like feature projecting to the west also comprised a revetment wall to the west and flat surface towards the interior, projecting ca 10m from the mound. The lower outwork is ca 20m (E-W) by 25m (N-S). The revetment wall seems to have extended towards the south or alternatively was joined with a flat berm-like feature/counterscarp of c. 2.0m width, which probably allowed for an easy movement around the structure. The gently sloping ramp to the east would have provided access for heavy gunnery or other traffic. The survey also suggests there may be further gully/ditch to the west/ outside the lower terrace but this has to be confirmed by further excavations. The entire structure was clearly built upon an earlier river terrace (**Figure 1 & 4**), suggesting the River Tyne changed its course slightly towards the south, but would have been more susceptible to flooding in the past thus enhancing the defences of the mound and funnelling any assault along the ridge to the NW of the site as has been suggested from LIDAR imagery (**Figure 4**).

The complete lack of any finds, safe for a single small sherd of glazed ware of post-medieval or medieval provenance, suggest that the structure was built rapidly and from purposely quarried material, as no refuse seems to have been introduced to the construction material. Equally, the extremely well-built and solid character of the mound suggests military origins, feasibly built to support heavy artillery. This does not preclude its use for other purposes, such as viewing platform or lookout position.

Given the mound's characteristics (**Figure 2, 3 & 4**) the association with the Siege of Haddington (1548-1549) seems more likely, as well as ultimately more appealing than agricultural or later military works. The typical design of the artillery platform at the time is described as follows (Cooper 2008: 49-50):

"…These constructions, sometimes described as 'maundes' were like mini bastions, often raised up to enhance the range and arc of fire and surrounded by fascines and revetments. There are a number of such locations mentioned in the accounts [of the Siege of Haddington] and some were more successful than others. The positions had to be within the range of the siege guns being emplaced upon them and therefore in the range of the garrison's own artillery. The construction work was often hampered by the English gunnery despite being undertaken at night."

Correspondingly, further platforms are described in contemporary accounts of the siege around Haddington, notably at St Mary's Church (COSP Scot 273: 136 quoted in Cooper 2008: 51):

"One artillery position that can be clearly defined is that built within St Mary's. Much is made of the damage that was inflicted on the guns in this location and the construction of the site is mentioned in detail. Here the French built within the ruins a platform on which were mounted a number of 'cutthrottes' which could fire into the town".

The Amisfield/Abbey Bridge platform can be compared to similar structures, either illustrated in contemporary or later sources or still upstanding, such as English gun positions/platforms depicted on an eighteenth century engraving (Cowdray print), based on a lost sixteenth century wall painting, which depicts the Siege of Boulogne by King Henry VIII in 1544 (**Plate 8).** Although 12 years later, the upstanding examples called Giant's Brae and Lady Fyfe's Brae on Leith Links, Edinburgh (**Plate 9**), represent the remains of English gun platforms from the 1560s Siege of Leith (Pollard 2005: 7-8; Cooper 2008: 54-5).

Plate 8: Detail from the eighteenth century Cowdray Print of the siege of Boulogne (1544) showing a gun ramp surmounted by fascines. Gunpowder barrels and equipment is being pushed up the ramp towards the guns (public domain; Wikimedia Commons)

Plate 9: Lady Fyfe's Brae (top) and the larger Giant's Brae on Leith Links in Edinburgh, which represent remains of 1560s artillery platforms

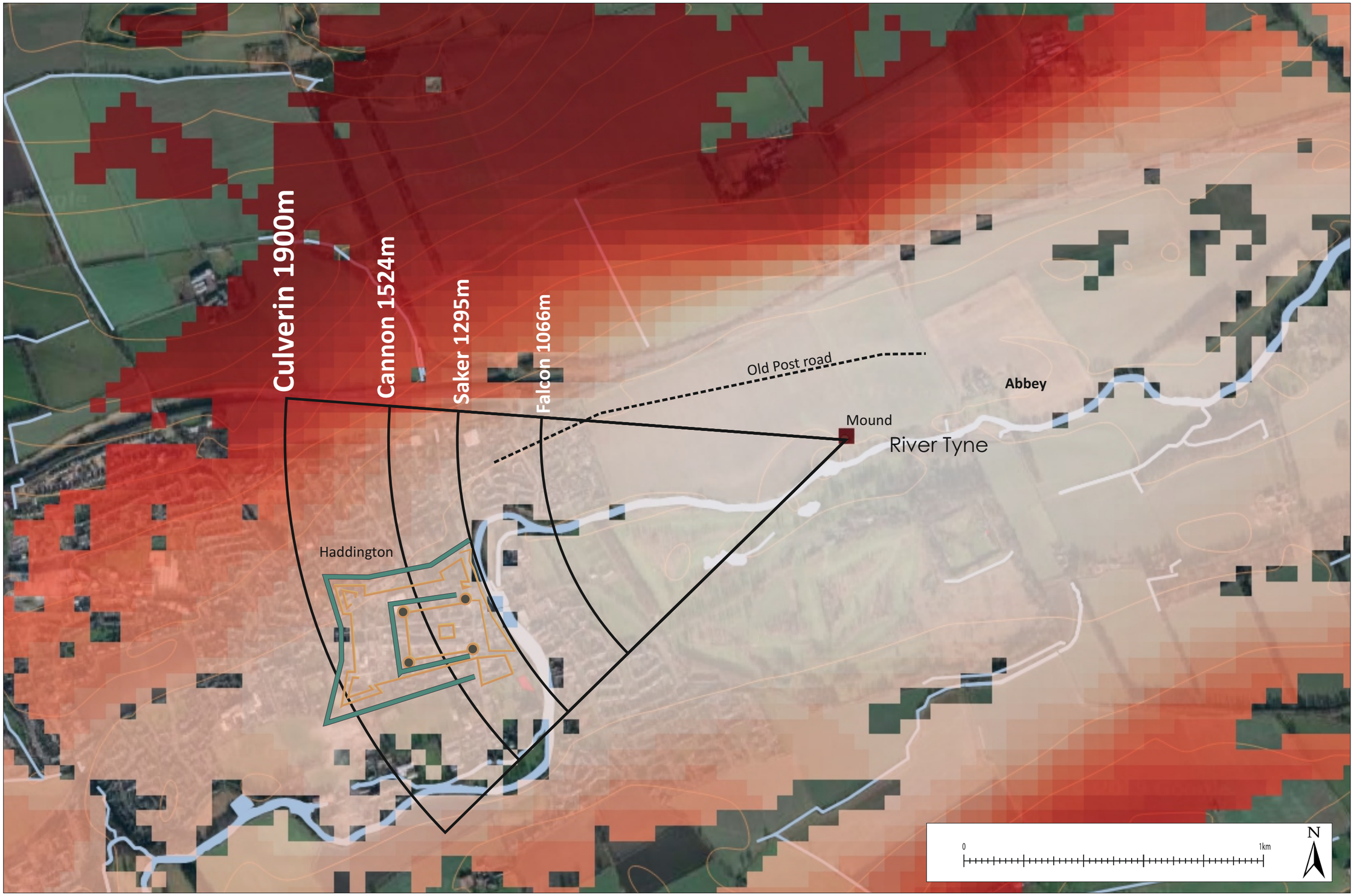


Figure 5: Interpretative plan of sightlines and artillery ranges (in metres) with regards to English fortifications (after Cooper 2008). A viewshed analysis - white (easy to see) to red (less visible) - shows the central location of the mound as part of siege works and defences of the Abbey. Ranges are averaged from Busca 1584 and Biddle, Hiller & Scott 2014

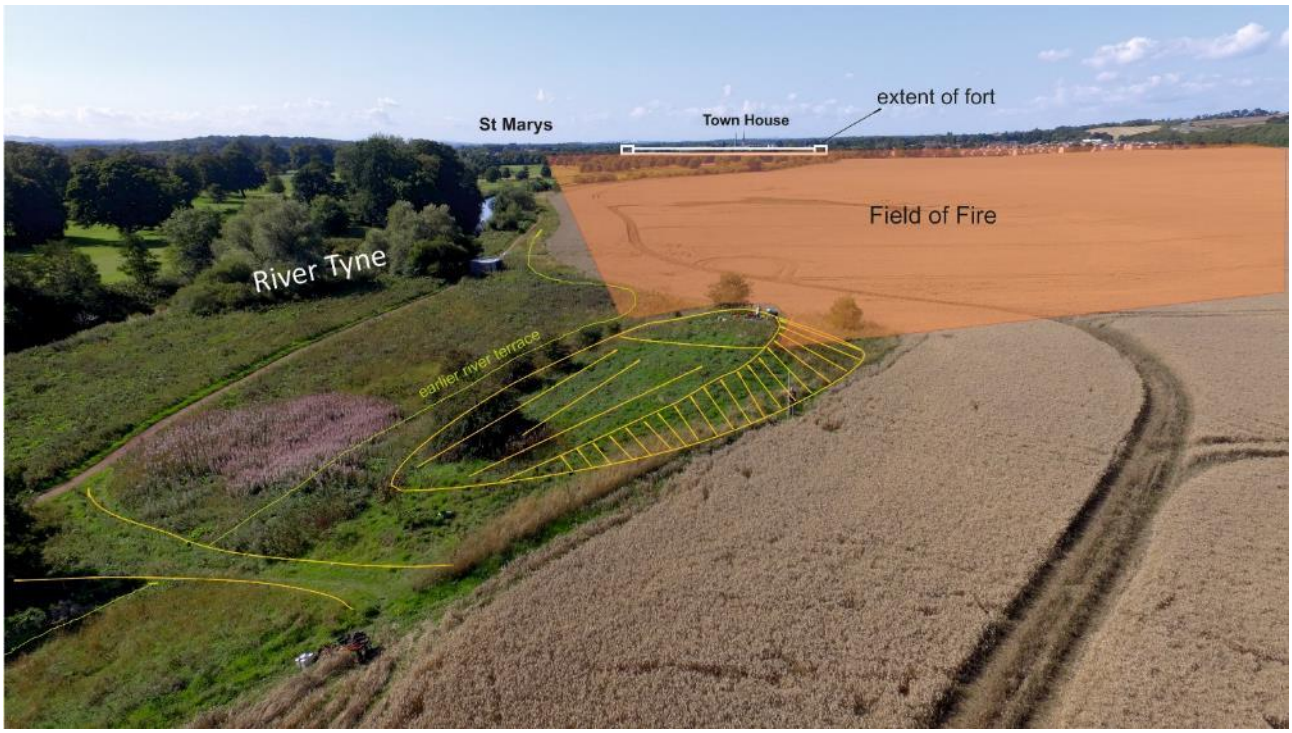


Plate 10: Interpretive photograph of platform looking towards Haddington

The consideration of the platform's origins and use naturally leads to the question of the shooting ranges. It has been suggested (Cooper 2008: 79, Appendix F) that the range of the heavy medieval guns/cannons may have been capable of reaching Haddington from the Abbey Bridge Platform. Consultation of other sources and recent scholarship suggests that this may indeed have been the case (**Figure 5**). Gabriel Busca's *Instructions for Gunners* printed in 1584 provides an estimation of gun ranges for the period. A tabulation of further works on gun ranges from 1590, 1628 & 1639 is provided in more recent publication (Biddle *et al* 2001: 46) which, when overlaid onto the plan of the Abbey Bridge gun ramp, suggests that the town is in range of the average culverin and cannon, although it is debatable whether the shot would have caused any significant damage to the defences (**Plate 10**). The Abbey Bridge artillery platform remains at the limit of effective range for all but the heavier guns in the Scottish arsenal available at the time, while the smaller guns, such as sakers and falcons, could have been used to defend the approach to the St Mary's Priory/Abbey to the east, where the French/Scottish headquarters were placed during the siege (Cooper 2008: 55).

Correspondingly, at the same time the platform may have been guarding access along the nearby ridge, with direct route from Haddington (Old Post road) to East Linton (**Figure 4 & 5**), therefore preventing supplies to the town. An old estate plan from 1908 seen by one author seems to show an old road (marked as 'post road'), which led to the Abbey from Haddington and although it cannot be recognised today within the ploughed field, but there is a pronounced ridge just north of the platform where the road was situated. There are some interesting toponymic references to this field being known as 'Mary flat', perhaps relating to the Abbey or even harking back to the siege of Haddington and the participation of Queen-Regent Mary of Guise.

There are certainly historical records that point to the Abbey's central role during the siege: the Earl of Arran set up his headquarters on the site (Miller 1844: 102 quoted in Cooper 2008: 30) and the Treaty of Haddington was agreed and signed within its precinct during the meeting of the of the Scottish parliament hosted by the Prioress on 7th July 1548. The Queen-regent Mary of Guise herself was present and stayed in the Abbey during her state visit to the siege later that month (Forbes Gray & Jamieson 1995: 14-15; Merriman 2000: 309-310 quoted in Cooper 2008: 30). There is also a historical anecdotal evidence of Mary of Guise visiting the siege and having 14 members of her entourage blown apart by an English fire, when they unwittingly came too close (Cooper 2008: 12). Could she or her military personnel at some point be standing on the platform to view progress of the siege?

Finally, it is interesting to speculate that while the platform is clearly orientated to face west, allowing any artillery to fire upon the town and/or deter reinforcements approaching along the road to the north, it appears to be orientated ineffectively to provide any support should the Abbey Camp be attacked from the NE. This perhaps suggests that further similar works may have existed around the Abbey (Cooper pers comm).

6. FURTHER WORK

Dissemination

Upon the completion of all the stages of the project the relevant museum will be contacted regarding the preparation, and deposition of the archive and finds. All finds will be subject to the laws of *Treasure Trove* and *Bona Vacantia*, and will be reported to the Crown Agent for disposal.

A précis of the works will be submitted to DES and OASIS.

Historical and Archival Research

Examination of further sources relating to contemporary recorded sieges elsewhere and detailed study of the Wemyss and March Estates archives may throw some more light on the structure.

Fieldwork

Further excavations focused on the features identified from the survey but not confirmed by the excavations may be beneficial– particularly the suggested ditch/gully to the west and east, which may feasibly produce some dating material. Further metal detecting may recover some material related to the siege.

7. CONCLUSION

This report described results of archaeological examinations at the site known as Abbey Bridge Platform or Amisfield Park platform. Despite the site forming a prominent feature/mound within its immediate setting and its situation next to the public footpath running along the north bank of the River Tyne, the feature has previously escaped archaeological attention. Recently, the site's possible link to the key historical event, the Siege of Haddington, was suggested and given the lucky coincidence of celebrations of the 700th anniversary of Haddington being confirmed as Royal Burgh, the project was instigated in 2018 to join in with these festivities.

The research comprised excavating 4 trenches, carrying out a topographic and drone survey and metal detecting survey. Volunteers were encouraged to take part or visit the site to learn about the suite of archaeological techniques routinely employed.

While the excavations may be inconclusive in terms of dating material, the excavated structural elements, coupled with the topographic and the aerial (drone) survey evidence, as well as the historical records and logical interpretations, lead to the only possible conclusion of the mound serving as an artillery platform, feasibly related to the Siege of Haddington. Given the location of the platform and the range of the guns available at the time, the platform was likely protecting the Abbey (St Mary's Priory) to the east and guarding access to/from Haddington along existing route to north, rather than involved directly in attacking the Haddington fortification.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to express their gratitude to the volunteers who participated in the project, particularly Gary Craig, who conducted the metal detecting survey; Sally Metcalf and Tom Neill who provided enthusiastic support in the trenches. The authors would also like to acknowledge the kind permission to investigate, survey and fly the area by Mr Martin Andrews of the Wemyss and March Estates and Mr Douglas Morrison. Finally, East Lothian Council archaeologists also kindly supported the project, by advising and helping to disseminate the knowledge of the project and the site to the public.

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Unknown commissioned by the Cowdrays [Public domain]. The Siege of Boulogne by King Henry VIII in 1544. Engraved 18th century after 16th century original, lost in 1793 fire at Cowdray House. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Siege_of_Boulogne_by_King_Henry_VIII_black-and-white.jpg (accessed on 16/09/2018)

10. APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

SHOT NO	CAMERA NO	DIRECTION	DESCRIPTION
1	1939	SW	TR3- pre-ex shot
2	1940	N/A	TR1- working shot after de-turfing
3	1941	N/A	TR2- working shot during de-turfing
4	1942	W	TR3- px shot showing stone dump [301] and subsoil [302]
5	1943	S	TR1- px shot with stone bank/revetment [102] and tumble [103]
6	1944	E	TR1- px shot of the S end of the trench, with stone bank/revetment [102] and tumble/collapse [103]
7	1945	E	TR1- px shot of the N end of the trench, with stone bank [102] and tumble/collapse [103]
8	1946	N	TR1- px shot
9	1947	N	TR1- px working shot + public visit
10	1948	N/A	Public visiting site
11	1949	W	TR1- px shot of collapse [103] and stone revetment [102]
12	1950	E	TR1- px shot of collapse [103] and stone revetment [102]
13	1951	N	TR1- px shot of collapse [103] and stone revetment [102]
14	1952	W	TR1- detail of stone revetment [102] and stony mound material [101]
15	1953	N/A	TR1- working shot of slot through revetment [102] and tumble /collapse [103]
16	1954	N/A	TR1- working shot of slot through revetment [102] and tumble /collapse [103]
17	1955	N/A	TR1- vertical working shots from S-N
18	1956	N/A	TR1- vertical working shots from S-N
19	1957	N/A	TR1- vertical working shots from S-N
20	1958	N/A	TR2- px of E facing section for photorectification
21	1959	N/A	TR2- px of E facing section for photorectification
22	1960	N/A	TR2- px of E facing section for photorectification
23	1961	N/A	TR2- px of E facing section for photorectification

SHOT NO	CAMERA NO	DIRECTION	DESCRIPTION
24	1962	N/A	TR2- px of E facing section for photorectification
25	1963	N/A	TR2- px of E facing section for photorectification
26	1964	N/A	TR2- px of E facing section for photorectification
27	1965	N/A	TR2- px of E facing section for photorectification
28	1966	N/A	TR2- px of E facing section for photorectification
29	1967	N/A	TR2- px of E facing section for photorectification
30	1968	N/A	TR2- px of E facing section for photorectification
31	1969	N/A	TR2- px of E facing section for photorectification
32	1970	N/A	TR2- px of E facing section for photorectification
33	1971	N/A	TR2- px of E facing section for photorectification
34	1972	N/A	TR2- px of E facing section for photorectification
35	1973	N/A	TR2- px of E facing section for photorectification
36	1974	W	TR2- px of E facing section
37	1975	NW	Working shot of metal detecting and TR4
38	1976	NW	Working shot of metal detecting and TR4
39	1977	N/A	General shot of technical equipment
40	1978	NW	Working shot- view from the site
41	1980	N/A	TR1- px shots
42	1981	N/A	TR1- px shots
43	1982	N/A	TR1- px shots
44	1983	N/A	TR1- px shots
45	1984	N/A	TR1- px shots
46	1985	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
47	1986	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
48	1987	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
49	1988	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
50	1989	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
51	1990	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
52	1991	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
53	1992	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
54	1993	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
55	1994	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
56	1995	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
57	1996	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
58	1997	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
59	1998	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
60	1999	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification

SHOT NO	CAMERA NO	DIRECTION	DESCRIPTION
61	2000	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
62	2001	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
63	2002	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
64	2003	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
65	2004	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
66	2005	N/A	TR1- W facing section for photorectification
67	2006	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
68	2007	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
69	2008	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
70	2009	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
71	2010	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
72	2011	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
73	2012	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
74	2013	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
75	2014	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
76	2015	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
77	2016	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
78	2017	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
79	2018	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
80	2019	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
81	2020	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
82	2021	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
83	2022	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
84	2023	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
85	2024	N/A	TR4- px shots for photorectification
86	2025	N	TR4- detail of the stone revetment
87	2026	E	TR4- detail of the stone revetment and E portion of the trench
88	2027	N/A	TR4- detail of stony bank deposit
89	2028	N/A	TR4- detail of stony bank deposit
90	2029	E	TR4- px shot of the whole trench

APPENDIX 2: FINDS REGISTER

FIND NO	LOCATION	CONTEXT	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
1	TR4	400	CE	Glazed pottery sherd /

APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT REGISTER

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION
100	1	Topsoil and turf- medium grey brown clayey silt, loose, inclusions consisting of occasional stones, frequent roots; depth= 0.05m (NW end), 0.20m (SE end); above [102], [102] and 103]; no finds, except modern glass and plastic
101	1	Mound material consisting of stony gravelly deposit, mixed with silty soil, medium dark brown-grey; interior of the upper terrace/mound; below [101]
102	1	Stone revetment of the upper terrace to N- comprising several layers of hard packed angular to sub-angular stones packed with reddish-brown clay, occasional sub-round to roundish stones; stone sizes: 30 x 25 x 16 cm, 12 x 10 x 8 cm or smaller; revetment width= 1.60 m at the base; height= ca 0.58m (as excavated); the revetment is extremely compact and hard to disassemble, some of the stones resemble mortar/concrete and were likely quarried, possibly at the quarry at nearby Garleton Hills (tuffa rock source); below [101]
103	1	Stone collapse/tumble from the revetment [102] to N, composed of few angular to sub-angular stones and mixed with silty soil (topsoil); below [101]
200	2	Topsoil and turf- medium grey brown clayey silt, loose, inclusions consisting of occasional stones, frequent roots; depth= 0.07m (SE) to 0.25m (NW); above [201] and [202]; no finds, except modern glass and plastic
201	2	Mound material- consisting of hard packed stony/gravelly material packed with reddish brown clay; most stones are angular to sub-angular; depth (as excavated)= 0.40m; below [200]
202	2	Natural deposit of medium dark reddish brown silty clay; includes large amount of gravel- mostly of rounded pebbles; could be glacial tilt deposit; below [201]
300	3	Topsoil and turf- medium dark grey brown clayey silt, loose, inclusions consisting of occasional stones, frequent roots; depth= 0.05m (N end)

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION
		to 0.10m (S end); partially overlies stone dump [301]; No finds, except modern material was recovered from the topsoil.
301	3	Recent stone dump partially of approximately circular shape, protruding above the topsoil; composed of loosely piled mostly angular to sub-angular stones, some rounded, mixed with medium dark silty soil (topsoil); includes large number of snail shells; height/depth= c 0.30m; width= c 1.0m; below [300], above [302]; no finds
302	3	Subsoil consisting of medium brown silty soil with gravel inclusions; below [300] and [301]
400	4	Topsoil and turf- medium grey brown clayey silt, loose, inclusions consisting of occasional stones, frequent roots; depth= 0.07m (NE end) to 0.13m (SW end); above [401] and [402]; included 1x glazed ceramic sherd (SF 1)
401	4	Stone revetment- composed of several layers of large to medium large sub-angular to angular stones, with few roundish; stone sizes: 50 x 20 x 12 cm, 22 x 24 x 15 cm; mixed with clayey silty soil penetrated by roots; revetment width= c 1.05m max; well-made and compact; below [401] and situated towards the W end of the lower terrace.
402	4	Mound/platform material to E of the revetment [401]- composed of medium brown silty clayey soil, loose, with gravel inclusions and stone inclusions- mostly sub-angular to sub-rounded; below [401]

APPENDIX 6: TRENCH REGISTER

TRENCH	LENGTH (m)	WIDTH (m)	DEPTH (max m)	ORIENTATION
1	**3.60**	**1.0**	**0.58**	**N-S**
2	**2.0**	**1.0**	**0.45**	**N-S**
3	**2.0**	**1.0**	**0.12**	**N-S**
4	**3.40**	**1.0**	**0.13**	**E-W**

APPENDIX 5: DES Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Abbey Bridge Platform
PROJECT CODE:	ABP 2018
PARISH:	Haddington
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	David Connolly, Hana Kdolska & Jon Cooper
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CHC
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Community research project
NMRS NO(S)	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Early Modern
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 638 788
START DATE (this season)	31 August 2018
END DATE (this season)	3 September 2018
PREVIOUS WORK	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	This report describes the results of fieldwork undertaken at the site of Abbey Bridge Platform (Amisfield Platform) near Haddington. Despite the structure forming a pronounced feature/mound within its immediate setting, it has never been investigated by archaeological means. The mound does not appear on any historical maps or any archival material. Recently the question of the platform's possible connection to the Siege of Haddington (1548-1549) has been raised, which could only be answered by archaeological investigations. The opportunity to carry out a small community dig at the platform presented itself in 2018 as the Haddington celebrated the 700th anniversary of the town being confirmed as the royal burgh by Robert the Bruce's charter (1318). The key aim of the present project was to attempt to characterise the site and provide dating evidence for the structure. This was to be achieved by excavations, combined with drone and topographic survey and a small-scale metal detecting survey. Altogether 4 trenches were excavated and the entire mound, trenches and spoil heaps together with a small portion of the field to the N and E and W of the structure were also metal detected. Although the excavations or the metal detecting survey produced no dating material relating to the siege, the excavations uncovered extremely well made structural evidence, including revetment walls made of quarried stone and clay. Reconstructions from complimentary topographic and drone survey suggests remarkable structural similarities to

	historically recorded late medieval/early modern gun platforms elsewhere and the link to military activities of this period can therefore be reasonably made.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Further desk-based research; excavations, metal detecting survey
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
FUNDING BODY:	CHC
MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Thornton Mill Cottage, Dunbar, East Lothian, EH42 1QT
EMAIL ADDRESS:	info@bajr.org
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS