

Metal detector survey, two proposed house sites, Muiralehouse Road, Bannockburn, Stirling Council



Proposed house plots, Muiralehouse Road, Bannockburn looking north east



28<sup>th</sup> November 2013

## **Introduction (Illus 1)**

A metal detector survey on the sites of two new houses at Muiralehouse Road, Bannockburn, Stirling Council was carried out for Ms Jennifer McPhail to satisfy the archaeological condition on the planning consent for these developments, as noted by Stirling Council's archaeological advisor in the conditions attached to Planning Applications 13/00531/FUL and 13/00532/FUL dated 09/09/2013. The detector survey was undertaken by the author and the Scottish Artefact Recovery Group on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013 (Site Code BAN01); weather conditions were cold, bright and sunny.

## **Archaeological Background (Illus 2)**

The proposed developments lie within the area included in Historic Scotland's designation for both the sites of the Battle of Bannockburn (1314) and the Battle of Sauchieburn (1488) in their Inventory of Historic Battlefields in Scotland. While the Battle of Bannockburn is well known as the culmination of Scotland's Wars of Independence, the Battle of Sauchieburn is less well known and comprised a civil war between the supporters of James III and those of his son the future James IVth. James III died at the battle and was buried at Cambuskenneth Abbey.

The proposed development sites lie in the area over which the English retreated following their defeat at Bannockburn and over which James III first advanced and then retreated in the Battle of Sauchieburn and is also likely to have witnessed conflict in this latter battle. Therefore these proposed developments may contain objects associated with this battle, which would be damaged or destroyed by the developments, indeed medieval coins contemporary with Sauchieburn were recovered from Milne Park Road (SMR 1183.05). The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865 indicates that this side of Muiralehouse Road was occupied by open fields (Illus 2).

## **Two proposed housing plots, Muiralehouse Road, Bannockburn**

### **Metal Detector Survey (Illus 3 to 9)**

The areas of the proposed two house sites on Muiralehouse Road were detected by two members of the Scottish Artefact Recovery Group under the supervision of the author. The central access road through the site and a pile of builder's rubble to the North West were excluded from the detector survey (Illus 3).

### **Site Topography**

The site is defined by the fence around the Brucefields golf driving range to the west and the line of Muiralehouse Road to the east. The section of the site directly adjacent to the dry stone wall along the road stands at least 0.85m above the road surface.

### **Results**

Of the 46 find spots located by the detectors 25 were various iron objects of early modern date including pipe fragments and farm machinery, 13 were nails (all machine made), 5 were undiagnostic pieces of lead and there was a modern 1p coin, a plain undecorated button and a bent fork with a decorated handle (Illus 8 and 9). Nothing relating to either of the battles of Bannockburn or Sauchieburn was located. An examination of the plotted distribution of the find spots suggests that those on the eastern side of the site reflect rubbish disposal along the route of Muiralehouse Road.

### **Conclusions**

Following the metal detector survey of the two proposed house sites the author feels that nothing was located to justify the need for any further work on either of the sites.

### **Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank Lesley and Carol of the Scottish Artefact Recovery Group and Fiona Watson for their help with this metal detector survey. The interest and goodwill of Danny and Nan McPhail is also acknowledged.

## **Illustration List**

Illustration 1 Site Locations marked in red (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2013. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

Illustration 2 Site location on 1865 Ordnance Survey map (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

Illustration 3 House plots 1 and 2 showing modern access road bisecting site and pile of builder's rubble to North West

Illustration 4 General view of house plots looking north east

Illustration 5 Detail view of western half of plots with driving range fence to left and modern access road to right

Illustration 6 Detail view of eastern half of plots with Muiralehouse Road on right

Illustration 7 General view of house plots looking south east

Illustration 8 House plots 1 and 2 showing distribution of detected find spots (red number 1 is location of fork in Illus 9)

Illustration 9 Fork with decorated handle located adjacent to Muiralehouse Road (red number 1 on illustration 8)

## Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Muiralehouse Road, Bannockburn
PROJECT CODE:	BAN01
PARISH:	St Ninians
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Derek Hall
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Metal detector survey
NMRS NO(S):	NS89SW 11Battle of Bannockburn
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Battlefield of Bannockburn Battlefield of Sauchieburn
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 805 905
START DATE	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2013
END DATE	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Two proposed housing sites at Muiralehouse Road, Bannockburn were metal detected in advance of redevelopment. All of the material located was of early modern date and nothing relating to either of the battles of Bannockburn or Sauchieburn was located.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Ms Jennifer McPhail
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	N/A
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	34 Glenfarg Terrace, Perth, PH2 0AP
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Derek.hall1@blueyonder.co.uk

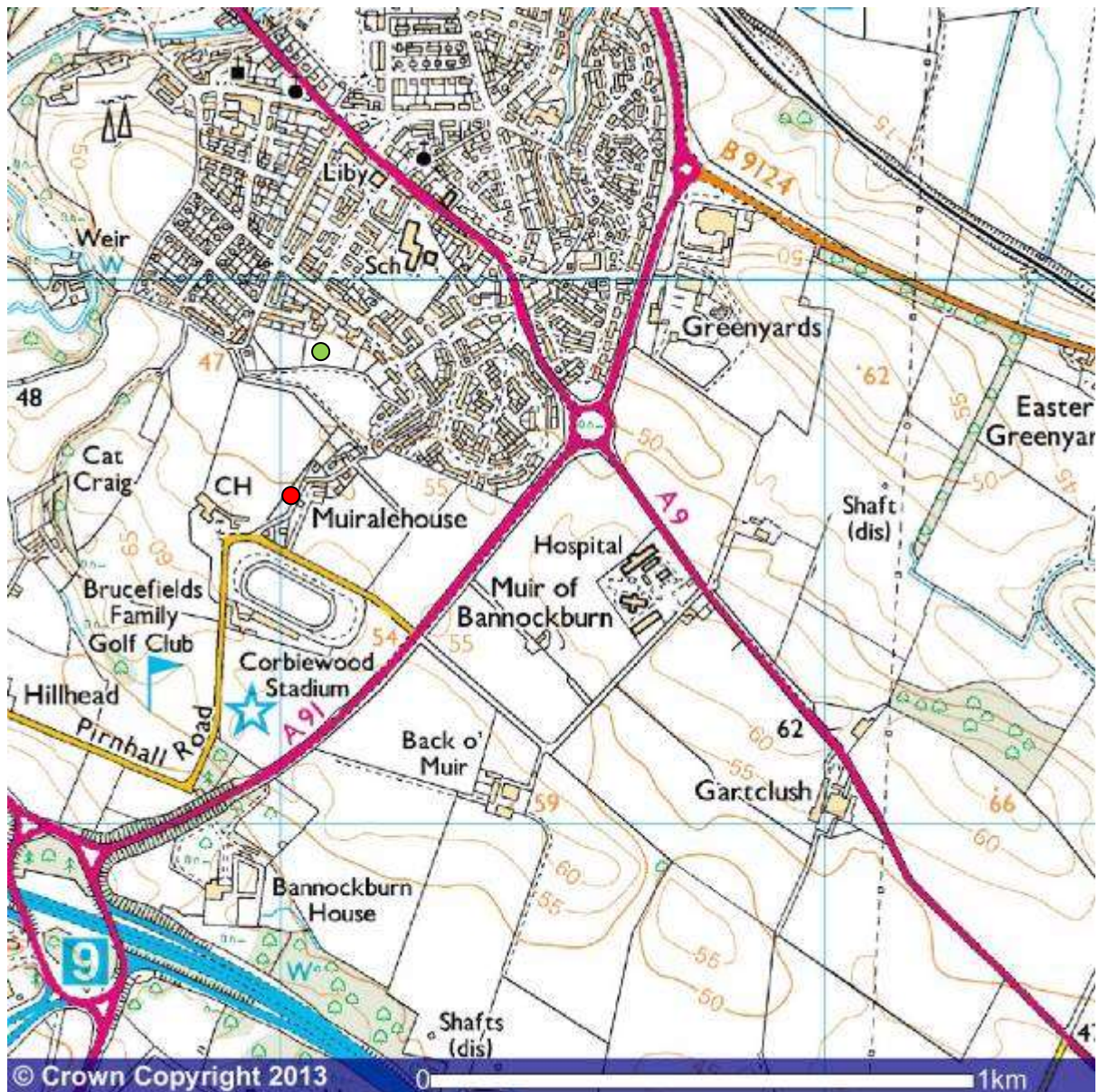


Illustration 1 Site Locations marked indicated by red dot, green dot indicates location of coin finds listed in SMR (number 1183.05) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2013. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

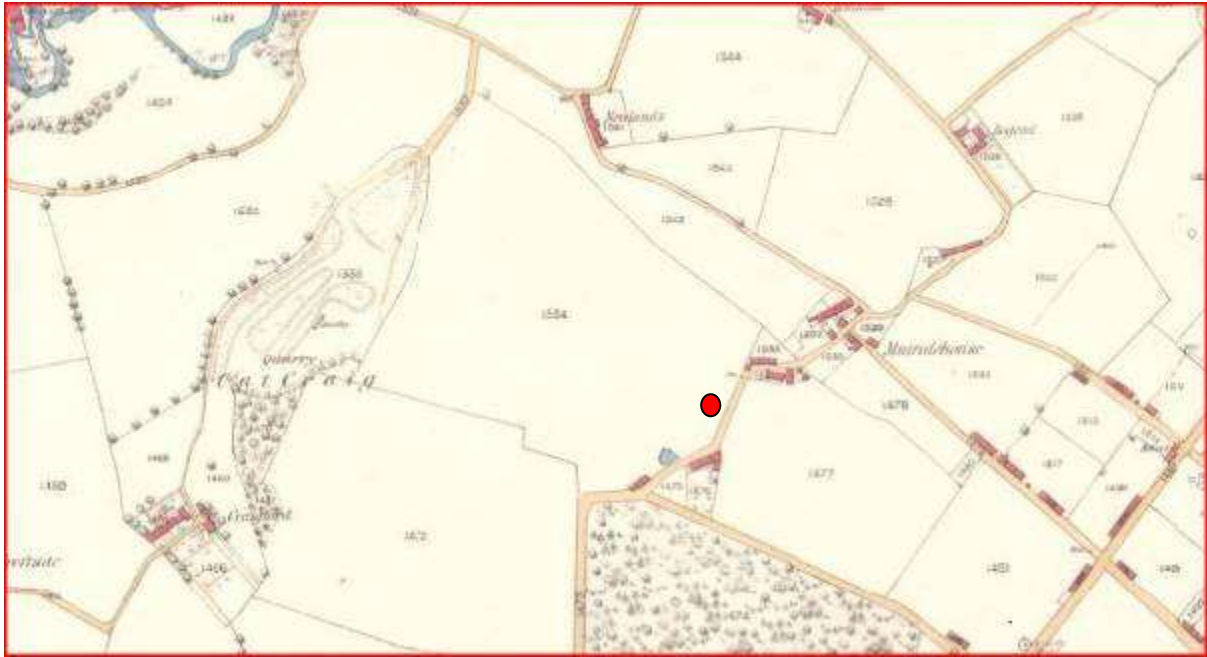


Illustration 2 Site location on 1865 Ordnance Survey map (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

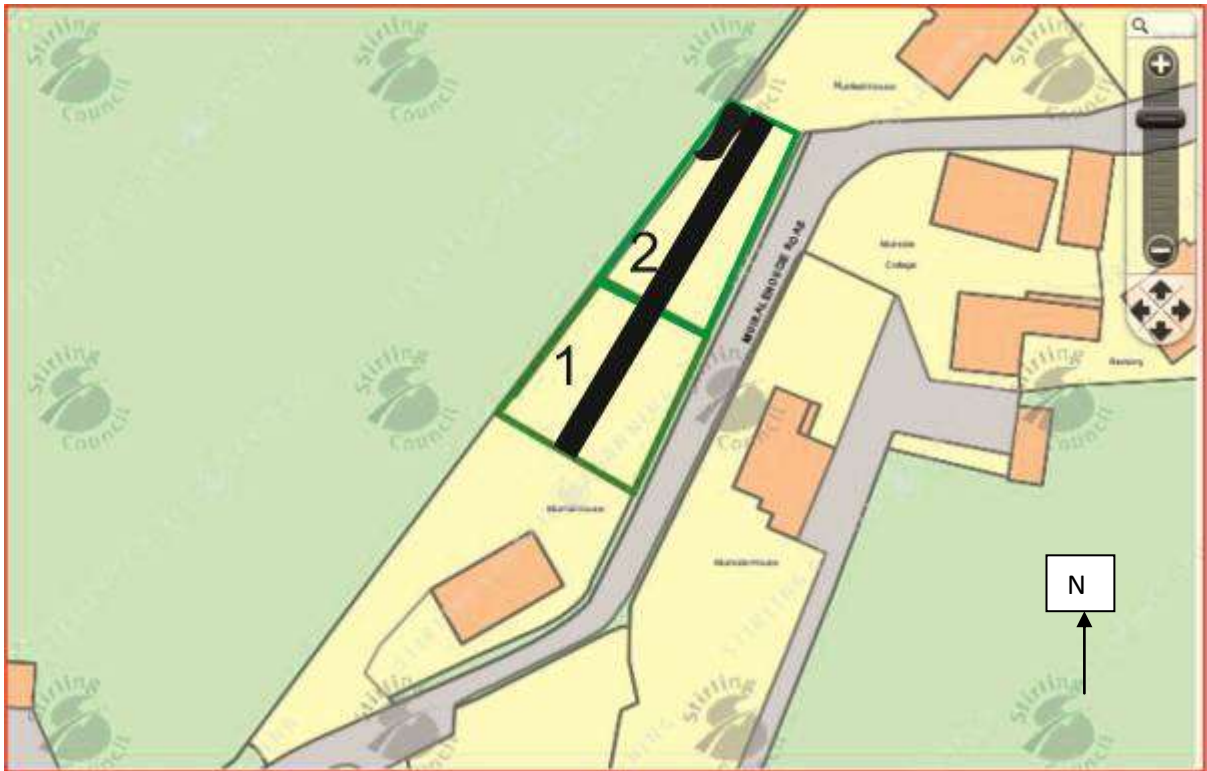


Illustration 3 House plots 1 and 2 showing modern access road bisecting site and pile of builder's rubble to North West





Illustration 4 General view of house plots looking north east



Illustration 5 Detail view of western half of plots with driving range fence to left and modern access road to right



Illustration 6 Detail view of eastern half of plots with Muiralehouse Road on right



Illustration 7 General view of house plots looking south east

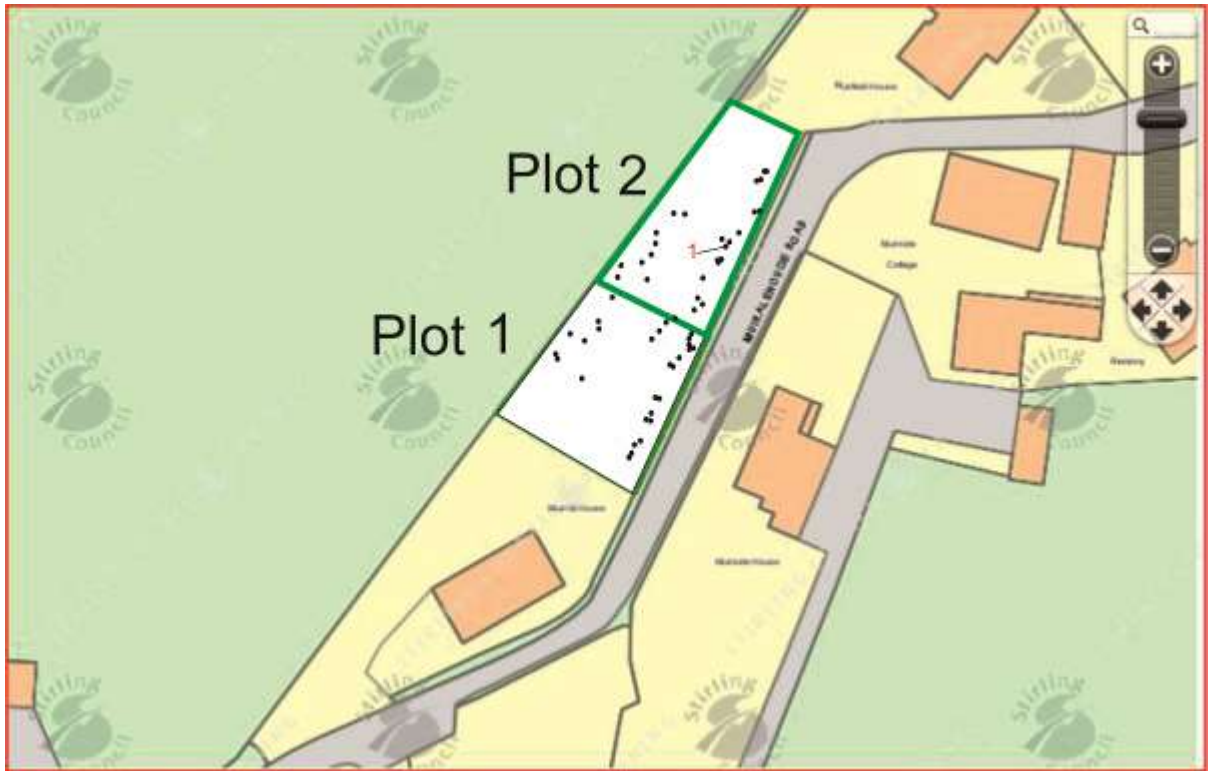


Illustration 8 House plots 1 and 2 showing distribution of detected find spots (red number 1 is location of fork in Illus 9)



Illustration 9 Fork with decorated handle located adjacent to Murialehouse Road (red number 1 on illustration 8)