

Pendriech Farm, Sherrifmuir, Bridge of Allan Stirling, Metal Detecting Survey:

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AOC Project 22254
29th November 2012



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Pendriech Farm, Sherrifmuir, Bridge of Allan, Metal Detecting Survey:

Data Structure Report

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National Grid Reference (NGR): NN889 003

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Abstract

This report represents the results of a Metal Detecting Survey undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of a proposed forestry extension at Pendriech Farm, Sherrifmuir, Bridge of Allan, Stirling.

The survey was undertaken on a 25 hectare plot of land, lying to the immediate south of the Wharry Burn (NGR; NN809 003). The site lies within the Sherrifmuir Battlefield (1715).

The metal detecting survey retrieved eight artefacts, including four minet bullets, a 20th century military cap badge, a 20th century copper jacketed bullet, two unidentified iron objects and three shoe buckles, two of which are contemporary with the battle.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by SAC Consulting, on behalf of their client, Mr McNichol, to undertake a Metal Detecting Survey prior to a forestry extension at Pendriech Farm, Sherrifmuir, Stirling.
- 1.1.2 The proposed survey area measures approximately 25 hectares and lies within the administrative area of Stirling Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Mr. Murray Cook, Archaeology Officer. The development area is located within the area of the Battle of Sherrifmuir of 1715, as identified in the 2005 report by the Battlefield Trust (Foard & Partida 2005). Mr. Cook required archaeological works in advance of forestry, consisting of a Metal Detecting Survey. The survey sought to determine the location, character, condition, quality and date of any archaeologically significant metal artefacts within the survey area.
- 1.1.3 The methodology to be used during the survey was agreed with Mr. Cook in advance of the Metal Detecting being undertaken.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development site (centred NGR: NN 809 003) is located immediately to the south of the Wharry Burn and borders the Waltersmuir Reservoir. The site is located within an agricultural field currently in use as poorly drained rough pasture. The site lies within the general area of the Sherrifmuir battlefield. This portion of the battlefield is associated with the rout and subsequent flight of the government right wing.

1.3 Archaeological Background: The Battle of Sherrifmuir 1715 (Battlefield Trust Report - Foard 2005)

- 1.3.1 The site is located within the area of the Battle of Sherrifmuir, as identified in the 2005 report by the Battlefield Trust (Foard & Partida 2005).
- 1.3.2 In 1714 the Elector of Hanover succeeded Queen Anne to the British throne. He began to alienate former supporters of the queen, including the Earl of Mar, who joined with Jacobite supporters and began to raise forces to join English Jacobites in the south.
- 1.3.3 To counter the uprising the government dispatched a combination of Scottish and English regiments under the command of the Duke of Argyll. During October there were various manoeuvres, including against Edinburgh. Then, on the 10th November, the Jacobite army marched south from Perth, reaching Kinbuick, just north east of Dunblane, on the 12th. Argyll had marched north and was already at Dunblane, intending to intercept the Jacobite force. The government army may have been outnumbered by about 2:1, but it was made up of regulars fighting under an experienced commander.
- 1.3.4 The two armies clashed on Sheriffmuir, north east of Dunblane in what was to prove the key battle of the 1715 Jacobite rebellion. Though Mar might claim that he held the field, in reality it was a Jacobite defeat for he retreated back to Perth and the momentum of the uprising was lost.

- 1.3.5 The Jacobites drew up in battle formation on Kinbuick Muir to the north of the development site, presumably in order to control the road north from Dunblane, but had to move more than two kilometres south east from here on to Sheriff Muir, to the east of Dunblane, to engage the government force. The manoeuvre proved difficult for the inexperienced Jacobite troops, disrupting their intended battle formation and putting them at a disadvantage in the coming action. Argyll's forces ascended the hill from the direction of Dunblane, but the Jacobites were on the field first and could choose their ground. The Jacobite forces deployed with boggy ground on their left flank; though Reid suggests this was unintentional and caused further disruption to the Jacobite deployment. However, it may be that they intentionally exploited this ground, unsuitable for cavalry action, to anchor their flank and enable the massing of their inexperienced cavalry on the right flank, giving them at least some advantage in numbers against their far more experienced adversaries.
- 1.3.6 Both armies outflanked each other on their right wings, frequently intentionally the stronger of the two cavalry wings in historic battles. The Jacobite attacks were somewhat disordered, but on the right they were successful and drove off the Hanoverian left who had still not fully deployed and seem to have been caught in the flank by the Highlanders' charge. These Jacobite forces of the right then continued in pursuit of the routed forces, thus losing the opportunity to attack the exposed flank of the remaining forces of the government centre.
- 1.3.7 On the Jacobite left the Lowland forces also attacked but were met by well deployed government troops, who held the Jacobite attack. The frozen marsh seems to have enabled government foot, though not cavalry, to manoeuvre on the Jacobite left flank. The Jacobites were driven back in a fighting retreat as far as the River Allen east of Kinbuck, during which many were probably killed, particularly at the crossing of the Allen.
- 1.3.8 The returning troops from the Jacobite right seem to have stood on Kippendavie Hill but were not brought back into the action. Argyll, with perhaps 1000 troops of his right wing, comprising men returning from the pursuit towards the Allen, drew up in enclosures and mud walls for protection. Thus the original location of the action was largely abandoned and the forces in the final phase may have approached from almost opposite directions to where they originally deployed. The final Jacobite advance faltered within musket range and they withdrew as dusk approached. Though neither side could claim a genuine victory, the momentum of the rebellion had been broken and it soon petered out.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the survey were:
- i) to determine the location, character, condition, quality and date of any archaeologically significant metal artefacts within the defined Metal Detecting Survey Area;
 - ii) To report on the results of the Metal Detecting Survey.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Metal Detecting Survey

- 3.1.1 The Metal Detecting Survey was undertaken by an experienced archaeological detectorist and members of the Scottish Artefact Recovery Group (SARG) using a variety of metal detectors.
- 3.1.2 The metal detecting area was heavily constrained by difficult site ground conditions. Approximately 40% of the site was unworkable due to boggy conditions. All finds were surveyed with a Garmin GPS unit with the exception of obviously modern objects such as ring pulls and drinks cans. All modern finds were removed from the site.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The Metal Detecting Survey was undertaken on the 15th – 17th November 2012. Weather conditions varied considerably with occasional heavy showers. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendix 1 and Figures 1 and 2.
- 4.1.2 The survey revealed a stony topsoil of up to 0.30 m in depth. This was often marshy away from the higher ground.

4.2 The Metal Finds (Dawn McLaren)

4.2.1 Overview

- 4.2.1.1 A total of twelve metal finds were recovered by metal-detecting at Pendriech Farm. The finds comprise five copper alloy dress accessories and fittings of 18th to 20th century date, four lead bullets of late 19th to early 20th century date, a 20th century copper jacketed lead bullet and two undated, unidentified, fragmentary iron objects.

- 4.2.1.2 In addition, approximately 20 bullet cartridges of 20th century date were removed from site; these were all found close to the Wharry Burn and probably relate to Second World War activity within the area (Murray Cook *pers com.*).

4.2.2 Catalogue

4.2.2.1 COPPER ALLOY

Shoe buckle. Two non-joining fragments of a cast annular shoe buckle with elliptical-shaped asymmetric openwork, drilled frame for separate spindle and curving profile; frame broken and distorted along one edge at point of spindle. The spindle is now lost; iron staining at joint suggests pin and spindle may have been iron. Comparable openwork angular shoe-buckles date from 1720-1790 (Whitehead 1996, 109). A single unstratified fragment of a similar

openwork buckle is known from excavations at Inverkeithing (Wordsworth 1983, 546, fig 11, no. 9). L 61 by W 42 by T 1.5 mm. Detector find 'A'.

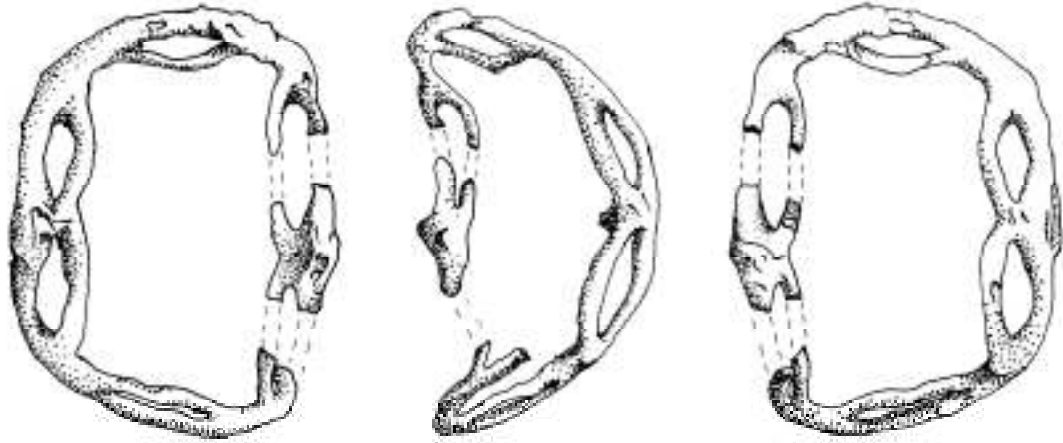


Plate 1 Buckle. Small Find A

Shoe buckle. Cast annular shoe buckle with drilled frame for separate spindle and six moulded grooves over each spindle hole. Only a fragment of the iron spindle survives. Buckle is slightly curving in profile. A similar buckle of late 17th to 18th century date comes from Scalloway Castle (Caldwell 1983, 588, fig 14, no. 9) but the type is more widely known in the mid- to late-18th century (Whitehead 1996, 106). Detector find 'F'

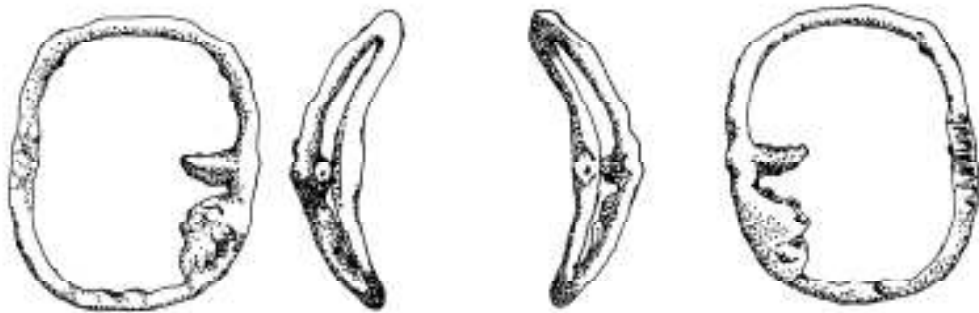


Plate 2 Buckle. Small Find F

Buckle. Small square cast copper alloy double looped buckle; 20th century in date. L 29 W 26 T 2 mm.

Military cap badge. 20th century moulded military cap badge depicting a laurel wreath encircling a winding serpent, surmounted with a crown. A sash below the wreath reads 'ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORP'. L 41 W 39 T 1.5 mm. Detector find 'G'.



Plate 3 20th Century Military Cap Badge Small Find G

Pin or fitting. Robust distorted flat rectangular pin from a cap badge or similar accessory. Surviving end is rounded, the opposite end has broken across a right-angled bend. L 41 W 5 T 2 mm.

Bullet. Lead bullet with copper jacket from a small calibre gun; conical tip is severely distorted from impact. Remaining L 18 D 8 mm.

4.2.3 **IRON**

Unidentified object. Flat rectangular bar-like object, damaged at both ends. One straight edge survives, the other is damaged perhaps from removal from a larger object. One surviving end with stepped profile is damaged; the opposite end is broken. Function unknown. L 100 W 31-35 T 8 mm. Detector find 'B'.

Possible bolt head fragment. Severely damaged; shank lost. D 30 mm.

4.2.4 **LEAD**

Bullets. Four robust cylindrical lead bullets with pointed tips and hollow bases. One (detector find 'c') is distorted at the tip and base from impact or firing. Bullets of this type are late 19th to early 20th century in date (Cuddeford 1994, 3). L 23-25 D 14 mm.

5 **CONCLUSION**

5.1 The metal detecting survey was hugely successful. The survey identified diagnostic material relating to the 18th century, in the form of shoe buckles (SF A & F). The recovery of such

material in part confirms that the wider actions associated with the 1715 battle took place within the development area.

- 5.2 No further works on site works are considered necessary. However, it possible, a summary of the results will be published in Post-Medieval Archaeology, History Scotland or Battlefield Archaeology.

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**Pendriech Farm, Bridge of Allan, Stirling,
Metal Detecting Survey:
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendix

APPENDIX 1: *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report*

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Pendriech Farm, Bridge of Allan, Stirling Metal Detecting Survey
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22254
PARISH:	Bridge of Allan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Metal Detecting Survey
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Two 18 th century shoe buckles
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NN 8090 0030
START DATE (this season)	15 th November 2012
END DATE (this season)	17 th November 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report represents the results of a Metal Detecting Survey undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of a proposed forestry extension at Pendriech Farm, Sherrifmuir, Stirling.</p> <p>The survey was undertaken on a 25 hectare plot of land, lying to the immediate south of the Wharry Burn (NGR: NN809 003). The site lies within the Sherrifmuir Battlefield (1715).</p> <p>The metal detecting survey retrieved eight artefacts, including four minet bullets, a 20th century military cap badge, a 20th century copper jacketed bullet, two unidentified iron objects and three shoe buckles, two of which are contemporary with the battle.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
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