

Ravenswood House, Melrose: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project No: 23463

16th June 2016



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Ravenswood House, Melrose: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Mr & Mrs D. Sawrij Ravenswood House Melrose TD6 9DF
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 57876 34160 (centred)
AOC Project No:	23463
Planning Application No:	16/00251/FUL
OASIS Entry No:	255696
Prepared by:	Kevin Paton
Date of Fieldwork:	11th May 2016 to 15th June 2016
Date of Report:	16th June 2016

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

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Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Mr & Mrs D. Sawrij at Ravenswood House, Melrose. The works involved the excavation of a service track related to the construction of a biomass boiler within the estate.

The work was undertaken between 9th May and 16th June 2016, although AOC Archaeology Group were not present on site before the 11th May 2016.

Modern land drains, water pipes and electrical cables were discovered during the excavations but no significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by Mr & Mrs D. Sawrij on trenching works related to the construction of a biomass boiler and associated service tracks at Ravenswood House, Melrose. The development site lies within the administrative area of the Scottish Borders Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Dr Christopher Bowles, Built & Natural Heritage, Regulatory Services, Scottish Borders Council. The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principals set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *Planning & Archaeology* (2011) and in accordance with the mitigation plan specified by SBC.

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The site of Ravenswood House is located east of Melrose on the eastern side of the A68 (NGR: NT 57876 34160 centred). It is bounded to the north and east by the River Tweed, and to the south by the Bogle Burn (Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 To the west of the development area, on the western side of the A68, lies the Scheduled Monument of Newstead Roman Military Complex (SM:12869) (See Figure 5). The Complex is comprised of the buried remains of four phases of a Roman military installation dated between the 1st and 2nd centuries AD and their features associated with their construction and abandonment. Three phases of archaeological excavations on the site; 1905-1910; 1947; and 1989-96 have provided detailed information of the complex, including that it was first occupied in AD78 until AD105. Following this the complex appears to have been unoccupied until approximately AD140. The fort was successively remodelled and was extended and rebuilt in AD 160 and was then abandoned in AD180. There seems to have been some activity on the complex during the campaign of Emperor Septimus Severus in AD208-211.

1.3.2 Further Roman activity relating to Newstead Complex was discovered in 1991 (NT53SE 142), when a two phase temporary camp to the east of Newstead Roman Military Complex was identified. The 4 acre temporary camp lies partially under the A68 and may have been previously noted by Bradford University in the 1980's by geophysical survey. The site has been partially excavated uncovering external ditches of 0.83m deep to the west side and 1.44m deep to the east, a fragment of pottery was also recorded (Jones, 2011). Although Canmore records the location of the temporary camp in the trees lining the western boundary of the Ravenswood Estate there is a 19th century plantation in existence and it is unknown to what extent the temporary camp extends into the Ravenswood Estate. Furthermore a linear feature (NT53SE 161) in the field directly south of the Estate was noted on oblique aerial photography in 1996 and is said to be on the same alignment as ditches relating to the temporary Roman camp, however this feature has yet to be confidently dated.

1.3.3 Early historic maps do not show the area in detail before the mid -18th century. William Roy's map 1747-52 (Figure 2) records the site as part of the land belonging to the Old Melrose Estate, with Old Melrose House to the east. The development site itself is depicted as being under agricultural cultivation at that time. The site remains undeveloped until 1859.



Figure 2: Extract from Roy's Military Map of Scotland, Lowlands, 1747-52



Figure 3: Extract from 1859 Ordnance Survey

1.3.4 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map records Ravenswood House (LB:51569) and the South Lodge (LB:51571) and shows the location of the North Lodge (LB:51570). The House is a Category B Listed Building and was built for Major John Scott by John and Thomas of Darnick in 1824. It was built in the neo-Tudor style, with three bays. The South Lodge was also built in 1824 and is a Category C Listed Building comprised of a single storey with three bays and central chimney. The North Lodge, a Category B Listed Building, was probably built sometime after the South Lodge and Ravenswood House though its exact date of construction is not known. This OS map depicts the house prior to remodelling works by subsequent owners.

1.3.5 Major John Scott left Scotland sometime after 1831 for Jamaica and the House was sold first to Adam Fairholme, then to George Knight Erskine and subsequently to the 27 year old Admiral Sir Henry Fairfax. Around 1864, Fairfax began remodelling works which included the addition of a castellated tower with pyramid top, a glazed viewing room and carved panel inset to the south elevation. Fairfax also extensively remodelled the North Lodge,

adding his own initials to the exterior. The Stables (LB: 51572) were constructed in 1864, as a single storey building with an attic and three bays designed to mirror Ravenswood House. The stables are arranged in a U-shape and were remodelled by Robert Latimer in 1895. The changes can be seen on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey (Figure 4).

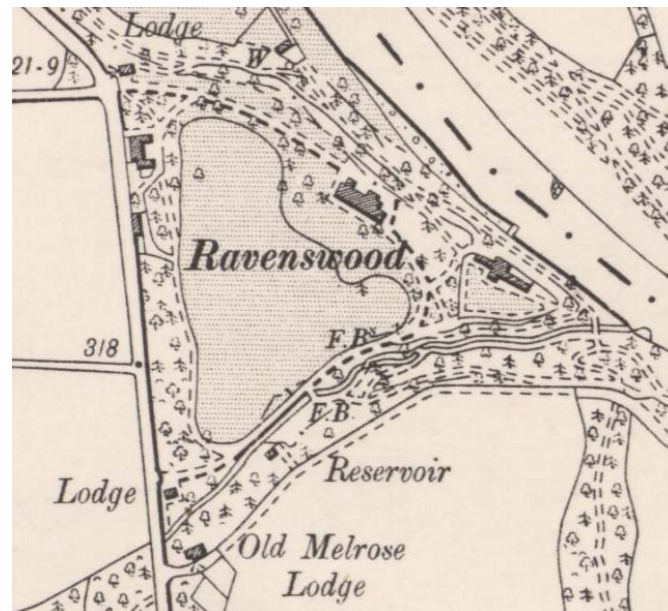


Figure 4: Extract from 1897 Ordnance Survey

1.3.6 Ordnance Survey in 1924 records changes to the Estate Buildings in the first half of the 20th century. The stables were extended at their western side and Ravenswood House was extended to the north with only one protracting bay to the rear of the building. No further changes are apparent after these changes were made for William Young, the owner in 1900, whose family went on to own the Estate for 115 years.



Figure 5: Extract from 1918 Ordnance Survey

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were to:

- i) determine and record the potential level of survival of archaeology;
- ii) liaise with Scottish Borders Council and the client, in the event of significant archaeological features, to establish the most appropriate mitigation response for safeguarding these features. Preference should be for preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or if not a programme of archaeological recording should be agreed to ensure preservation by record;
- iii) report on the results of the watching brief.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The development work to be undertaken includes the of digging a 1m deep by 0.5m wide trench for pipe and other services that will run from the new biomass station along the western boundary of Ravenswood Estates, to the House, the lodges and the stables. The ground breaking works were undertaken by means of a mechanical excavator equipped with a narrow toothless bucket. Excavation was in shallow units/spits and all machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and monitoring was maintained on all works until the first significant archaeological deposit or natural subsoil was encountered.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The service track excavations began on the 9th May 2016, prior to AOC Archaeology being informed. The watching brief commenced on the 11th May 2016 until the 15th June 2016. The area of unsupervised trenching and spoil heaps were inspected for any archaeological traces.
- 4.2 The topsoil throughout the site was a mid brown sandy loam overlying orange sandy clays and orange gravels (Plate 1). Modern land drains, water pipes and electric cables were noted within the trenches excavated.
- 4.3 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed.



Plate 1 - View of service track towards South Lodge

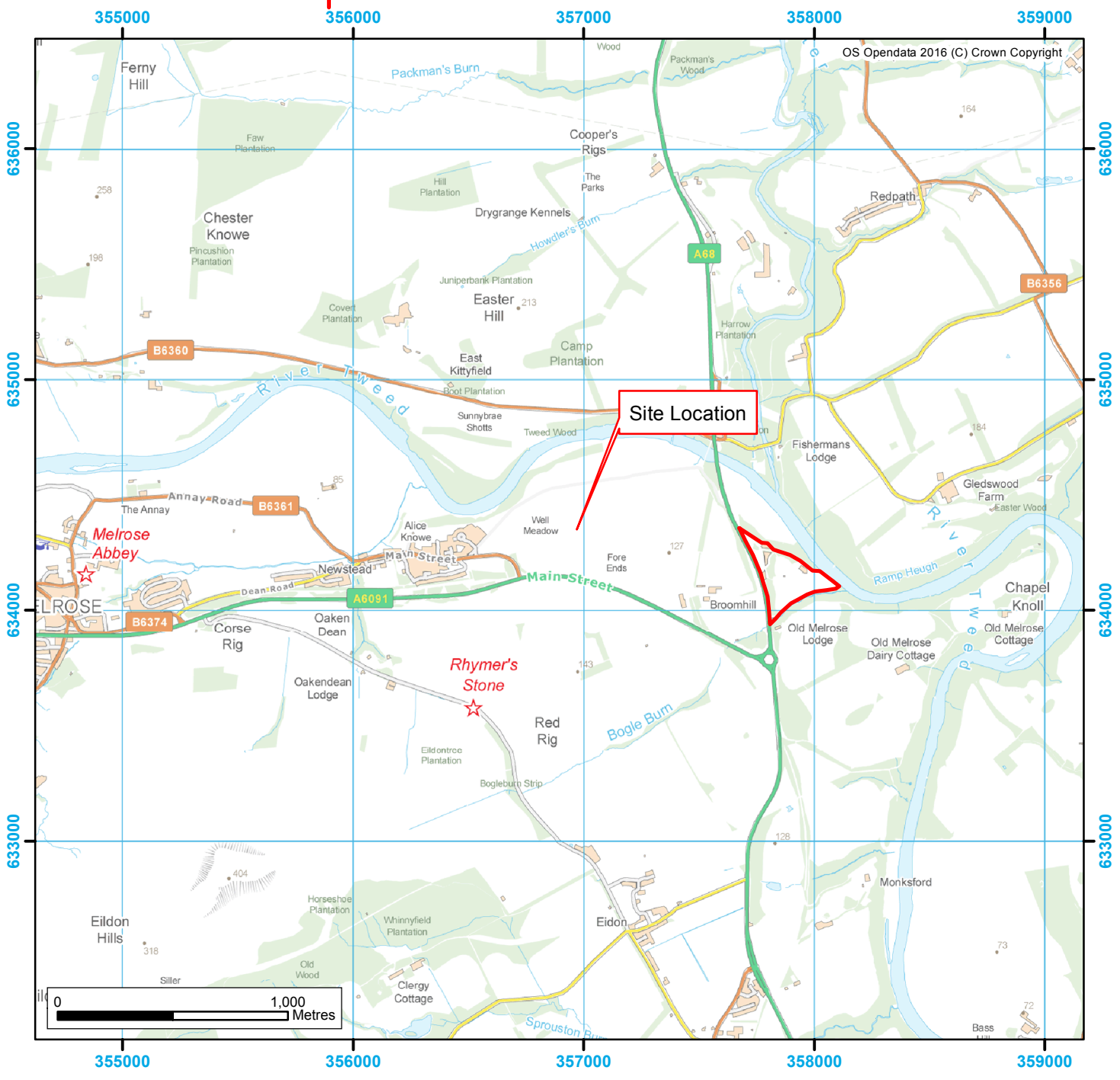
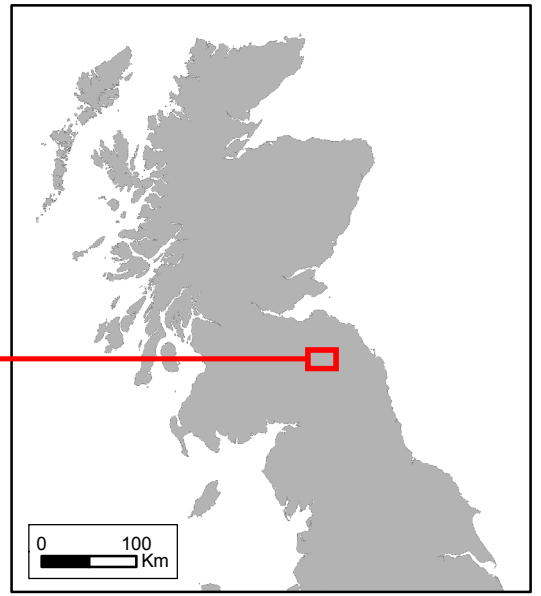
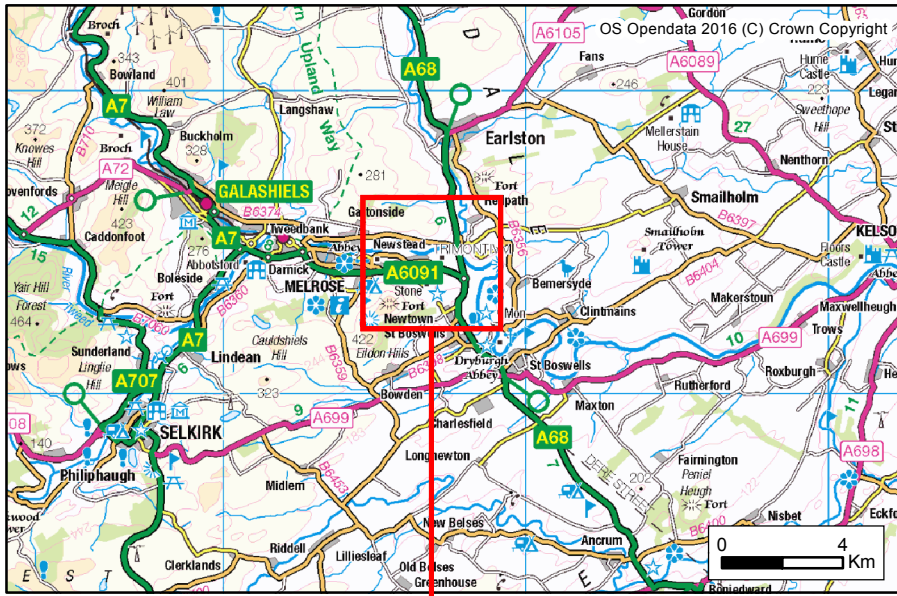


Figure 1: Site Location Plan



Figure 6 - Service track location

5 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief was successful in safeguarding any potential archaeology within the service track excavations. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed throughout the on site works.
- 5.2 It is recommended that no further archaeological works are required relating to the biomass boiler and its associated service tracks.

6 REFERENCES

6.1 Bibliographical references

Jones, R H. (2011) *Roman Camps in Scotland*. Edinburgh.

Scottish Government 2014 Scottish Planning Policy

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011*

6.2 Cartographic references

William Roy. *Military Map of Scotland, Lowlands, 1747-52*

Ordnance Survey. 1863. *Roxburghshire, Sheet VIII Six Inch to a Mile (includes: Bowden; Earlston; Melrose; Mertoun; St Boswells), Surveyed 1859, Published 1863.*

Ordnance Survey. 1863. *Roxburghshire, Sheet VIII.NW Six Inch to a Mile (includes: Melrose), Date Revised 1897, Published 1899*

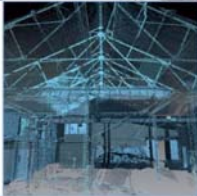
Ordnance Survey. 1924. *Roxburghshire, Sheet VIII Six Inch to a Mile (includes: Bowden; Galashiels Melrose; St Boswell), Date Revised 1918, Published 1924*

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-7	Unsupervised trenches to 11/5/16	Var	11/5/16
8-12	360 Panorama of enclosed field to south of Ravenswood House, though which the trench was to be dug	Var	11/5/16
13-17	Ancillary buildings to south of Ravenswood House	Var	11/5/16
18-19	Land drain	N	11/5/16
20	Close up section of land drain	-	11/5/16
21	End of work 11/5/16	-	11/5/16
22-24	Trench extending to fence 12/5/16	Var	12/5/16
25	Land drain under road	W	12/5/16
26-27	Extension of trench across road to South Lodge	-	12/5/16
28-30	End of work 12/5/16	Var	12/5/16
31-32	Stone feature in stream	E	13/5/16
33-34	Trench to end of work 13/5/16	Var	13/5/16
35	Continuation of trench into front lawn	NE	23/5/16
36	Line of cable track de-turfed	SW	23/5/16
37	Working shot of excavation	SW	23/5/16
38	Progress shot by end of day	SW	23/5/16
39	View of veg garden excavations	N	24/5/16
40	Sewage pipe in trench	N	24/5/16
41	Area to N of veg garden complete	N	25/5/16
42	Remaining area to N under road	E	25/5/16

APPENDIX 2: *Discovery & Excavation Scotland (DES) ENTRY*

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	The Scottish Borders
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Ravenswood House, Melrose, The Scottish Borders
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 23463
PARISH:	Melrose
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT53SW 104
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	House
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 57876 34160
START DATE (this season)	11 th May 2016
END DATE (this season)	15 th June 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>(NARRATIVE) An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Ravenswood House, Melrose. The works involved the excavation of a service track related to the construction of a biomass boiler within the estate.</p> <p>The work was undertaken between 9th May and ?? 2016, although AOC Archaeology Group were not present on site before the 11th May 2016.</p> <p>Modern land drains, water pipes and electrical cables were discovered during the excavations but no significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None.
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr & Mrs D. Sawrij
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ARCHIVE LOCATION: (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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