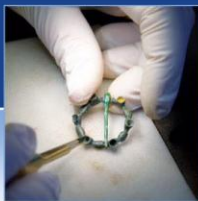


# Darnick Metal Detecting Survey, Scottish Borders Data Structure Report

AOC 23446

Planning Ref. No. 15/01491/FUL

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016



**AOC**  
Archaeology  
Group



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# Darnick Metal Detecting Survey, Scottish Borders: Data Structure Report

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|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>On Behalf of:</b>                  | <b>Mr Paul Burns</b><br>18 Weavers Linn<br>Tweedbank<br>Galashiels<br>TD1 3SX |
| <b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b> | <b>NT 53115 34266 (centre)</b>  |
| <b>AOC Project No:</b>                | <b>23464</b>  |
| <b>Prepared by:</b>                   | <b>Steven Watt</b>  |
| <b>Date of Fieldwork:</b>             | <b>1<sup>st</sup> June 2016</b>   |
| <b>Date of Report:</b>                | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016</b>   |

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

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Author: Steven Watt</b>             | <b>Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016</b> |
| <b>Approved by: Martin Cook</b>        | <b>Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016</b> |
| <b>Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft</b> | <b>Date:</b>                          |

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## *Summary*

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*This report presents the results of an archaeological metal detecting survey undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group prior to the development of land North of Lye Road, Darnick, Scottish Borders on behalf of Mr Paul Burns.*

*The metal detecting survey recovered no significant artefacts of any kind and nothing from the Battle of Darnick. The lack of finds in the area may be due in part to extensive landscaping undertaken in the creation of the cottages and gardens along the Lye Road.*

*No further work is considered necessary.*

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological works is required by Mr Paul Burns in respect of a proposed development at land Lye Road, Darnick. The proposed development lies within the administrative area of Scottish Borders Council (Planning Ref: 15/01491/FUL). A programme of archaeological works in the form of a metal detecting survey is to be implemented in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014), *PAN 2/2011 Planning And Archaeology* (2011) and *Historic Battlefields; Managing Change in the Historic Environment* (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is centred on NGR NT 53115 34266 (centred) to the north of Lye Road. The site is currently unoccupied forming part of the land surrounding Darnick Farm with a number of trees and a single building, marked as a glasshouse on Ordnance Survey mapping, is located along the western boundary of the site.
- 2.2 The development area falls within the area demarcated as the 'Battle of Darnick' as designated by Historic Scotland in their 'Inventory of Historic Battlefields in Scotland'. This part of the battlefield lies to the West of Darnick Tower where James V was said to have observed the battle. The development area falls in the supposed path of the retreat of the men of Walter Scott Buccleuch pursued by the forces of Archibald Douglas, 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Angus. As such the area may contain artefacts associated with the battle particularly from the fleeing troops.
- 2.3 The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland does not list any known sites as existing within the site boundaries. The closest sites listed are primarily associated with road overbridges previously carrying a minor road over the Waverley Line but both have been removed (NT53SW 68.5).
- 2.4 Previous programmes of archaeological works also consisting of a metal detecting surveys have completed on land adjacent to the proposed development area in October 2015 (AOC Archaeology 2015) and March 2016 (AOC Archaeology 2016). These surveys were undertaken on a land parcel situated to the immediate west of the current works. The surveys revealed that the land was heavily contaminated by modern detritus.

## 3 OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 Following guiding principles identified in the *Historic Battlefields; Managing Change in the Historic Environment* (2011) document (paragraphs 5.5 & 5.8) the objectives of the archaeological works were:
- i) to conduct a metal detecting survey of the development area;
  - ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the



archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered;

*iii)* to prepare a final Data Structure Report and project archive.

## 4 RESULTS

4.1 The archaeological work was conducted on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016. The survey covered the entire site in favourable conditions.



**Plate 1 General view of site**

4.2 No relevant material from the battle was uncovered from the site. A modern iron grate was discovered near the boundary edge however this as with the other material identified is likely of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century in date. None of these modern finds were retained.

4.3 Geological investigation works (soak-aways) had been carried out prior to the metal detecting survey. All spoil from these were surveyed as well.

4.4 Much of the ground within the development area appears to have been heavily landscaped. The main area is a relatively flat surface with obvious man made terracing from the top of Lye Road down towards Smith Road.



**Plate 2 Modern metal grate**

## **5 CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The area appears to have been heavily landscaped to accommodate the cottages along Lye Road and to make the site into a suitable garden space. No battlefield evidence was uncovered for the 'Battle of Darnick' and it is unlikely that any such finds would be found through further metal detecting surveying of the area.

## **6 REFERENCES**

AOC 2016 *Darnick, Metal Detecting Survey Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpublished Client Report Historic Battlefields; Managing Change in the Historic Environment. Historic Scotland Interim Guidance, 2011

Scottish Government, 2014, *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government, 2011, *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology*.



# **Darnick Metal Detecting Survey, Scottish Borders Data Structure Report**

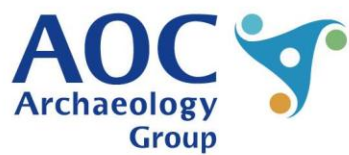
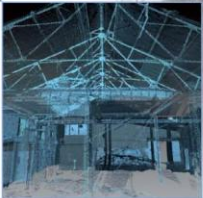
## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

| No.   | Description                                  |
|-------|--|
| 1     | Registration                                 |
| 2-4   | Entrance to grounds – padlock previously cut |
| 5-14  | General shots of site                        |
| 15    | Iron grate                                   |
| 16    | Location shot                                |
| 17-20 | Shots showing stepping of landscape          |

**APPENDIX 2: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' (DES) REPORT**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>  | Scottish Borders Council   |
| <b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>  | Darnick Metal Detecting survey   |
| <b>PROJECT CODE:</b>   | AOC 23464  |
| <b>PARISH:</b>   | Melrose  |
| <b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>  | Steven Watt  |
| <b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>   | AOC Archaeology Group  |
| <b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>   | Archaeological Metal Detecting Survey  |
| <b>NMRS NO(S):</b>   | None   |
| <b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>  | 16 <sup>th</sup> century Battlefield   |
| <b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>  | None   |
| <b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>  | NT 531 342   |
| <b>START DATE (this season)</b>  | 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2016  |
| <b>END DATE (this season)</b>  | 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2016  |
| <b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>  | None   |
| <b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:<br/>(May include information from other fields)</b> | <p>This report presents the results of an archaeological metal detecting survey undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group prior to the development of land North of Lye Road, Darnick, Scottish Borders.</p> <p>The metal detecting survey recovered no significant artefacts of any kind and nothing from the Battle of Darnick. The lack of finds in the area may be due in part to extensive landscaping undertaken in the creation of the cottages and gardens along the Lye Road.</p> |
| <b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>   | None   |
| <b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>  | N/A  |
| <b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>  | Mr Paul Burns, 18 Weavers Linn, Tweedbank, Galashiels, TD1 3SX   |
| <b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>  | AOC Archaeology Group; Edgefield Road Industrial Estate; Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY  |
| <b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>  | admin@aocarchaeology.com   |
| <b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b>  | Archive to be deposited in NMRS  |



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