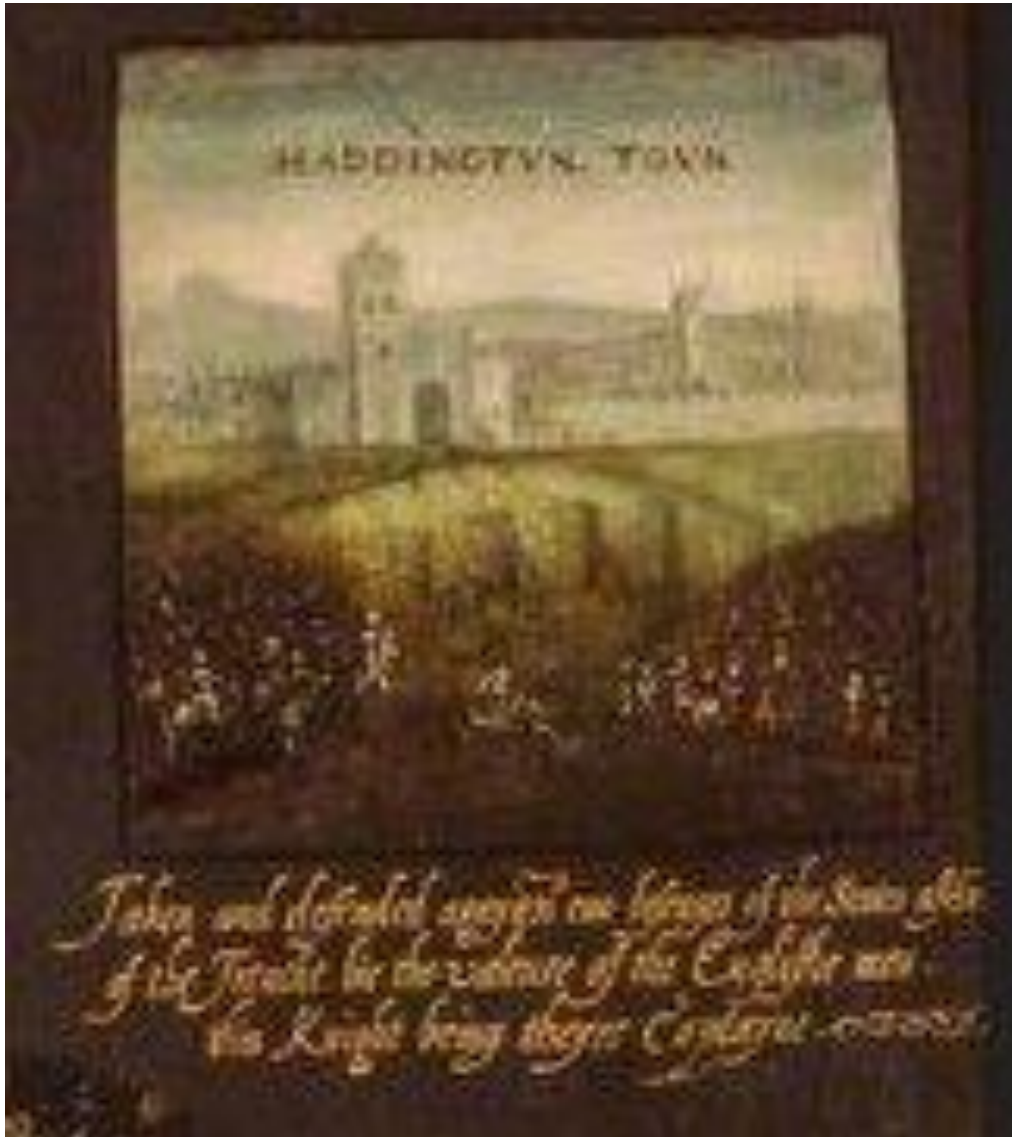


The Letham Gun Platform – The Preliminary Site Visit



The Siege of Haddington Research Group

September 2022

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Introduction

In July 2022, the Siege of Haddington Research Group (SHRG) working under the auspices of the Haddington's History Society held a symposium. The forum set out to determine the location of the English fortifications built in 1548. One working group was assigned the task of identifying the location of the various known siegeworks around the town. During their investigation they reviewed Roy's map of Scotland and identified two sites to the west of the town along the Edinburgh Rd which seemed to show cartographic features resembling a siege camp and gun bastion.

Symposium concluded there was enough evidence to warrant further investigation and SHRG set about arranging for a field walk of the areas in question. On 16th of August 2022 a small team carry it out a preliminary survey of one of the two sites. This document looks at the theories behind the investigation, the methodology and results of the survey and draws conclusions as to the need for further work on this site.

The Siege History of the Site.

Before due consideration can be made to its location, it is important to understand the circumstances that necessitated the building of the fortification and influenced its design, construction and its final demolition.

As the smoke cleared across the battlefield of Pinkie on 10th September 1547, the victor, Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset and, since Henry VIII's death in the January, Lord Protector of England, contemplated his next move against his Scottish adversaries. The Pinkie campaign, like his raids on Edinburgh in 1544 and the borders in 1545, had been brutally efficient but strategically ineffective. The 'Rough Wooing' of the Scots for the betrothal of their young Queen Mary to Henry's son, Edward was proving a costly and drawn-out affair. He must have wondered how many more times the English crown would be called upon to mount expensive invasions on their Scottish neighbours in order to impose their will on a transient and yet stubborn government.

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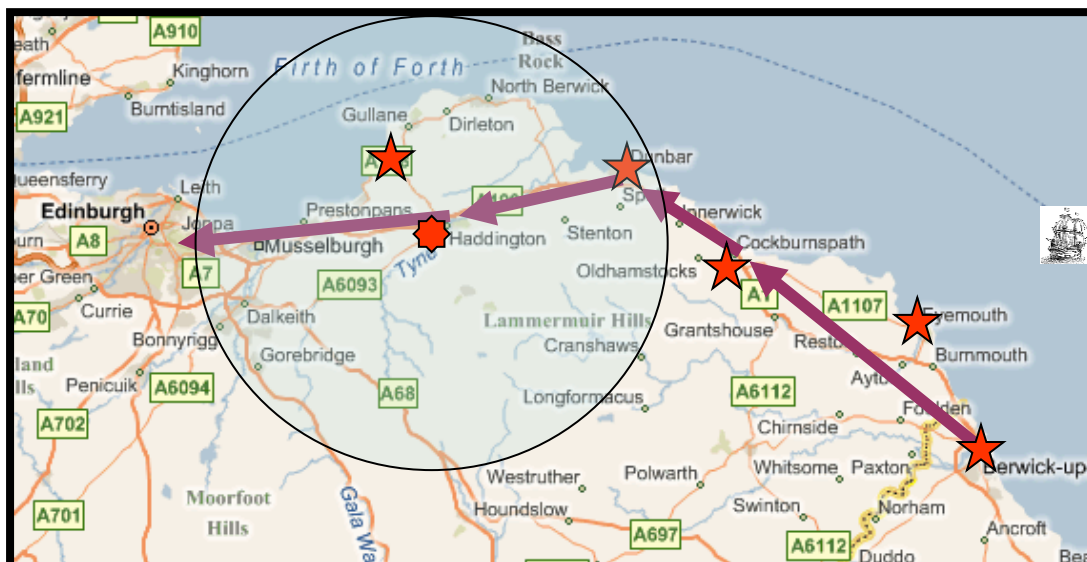


Figure 1- – A modern OS map of East Lothian showing usual route to Edinburgh from the border, the location of Somerset’s planned fortresses and the area over which a large garrison at Haddington could be expected to control.

But Somerset and his advisors now had a different strategy in the pipeline. He looked to expand on the programme of garrisons by placing an English force (or at least one of English sponsored mercenaries) on the very doorstep of the Scottish parliament. He had already established garrisons on the island of Inchcolm in the Forth of Firth and at Broughty Ferry in the Tay estuary. His engineers were also surveying the peninsular at Eyemouth and the fortifications of Lauder in readiness of a massive building plan. Somerset was establishing a chain of fortified positions which could ensure a supply line all the way from the border to the outskirts of Edinburgh. All he needed now was the site for the hub of his ‘Scottish Pale’¹. (Bush 1975, p13-16)

In April 1548, Somerset began a campaign of coercion in East Lothian, fortifying and garrisoning Yester Castle, Dalkeith and Lauder and burning out less cooperative Scottish lairds. In addition, Sir Thomas Palmer and Lord Grey of Wilton reviewed the site at Haddington and despite their initial concerns on the location and lack of supplies, set about laying out the line of the fortifications (COSP Scot 228: 111).

It is clear from the correspondence that the English commanders in Haddington had an anxious time rapidly building strong enough fortifications to dissuade the Scots from attacking them. The early letters sent back speak of imminent threat from marauding Scottish and French forces (COSP Scot 229, 230: 111-112) and requests for more money to encourage the soldiers to work longer hours (COSP Scot 228: 111). English horsemen began laying waist to the surrounding countryside to deprive any besiegers of vital supplies and discouraging the local populace from siding with them (Bush 1975: 17).

However, despite their worries the English commanders were reporting by the beginning of June that the fortifications were well established. By mid-June intelligence came in of the arrival of the main French force under André de Montalembert, Count D’Esse who brought with him some 12,000 men including a contingent of German mercenaries under the Philip

¹ Much has been made of the similarity between this policy and that of Henry’s strategy towards Ireland which resulted in the establishment of the Irish Pale centred on Dublin (Bush 1975. p2-3).

Francois, Count De Salm, Captain Rhinegrave. As the French closed in, John Brende, chief engineer announced that the work at Haddington was moving on at a frantic pace with the garrison working all hours to strengthen the fortifications and clear the buildings outwith the walls (COSP Scot 253: 123).

The French and Scots finally arrived in force at the end of June and quickly set about sealing off the town. The garrison of some 2,000 Englishmen and European mercenaries now hunkered down to face the onslaught. The French spent most of July digging trenches and bombarding the fortifications managing to undermine and prepare a breach in one of the bastions. By the end of the month the besiegers were readying for the assault by bringing up ladders and faggots to lay across the ditches and up against the walls. However, the expected onslaught never materialised. Dissent amongst the Scots and their allies and the departure of many of the Scottish troops at the conclusion of their levy dissuaded D'Esse from launching the attack. In addition, the English garrison seemed as strongly entrenched as they were at the beginning of the siege, often repairing the damage to the walls and bastions faster than the French could inflict it (COSP Scot 295, 296: 149).

On 18th July the political intrigues that began the campaign came to a head when the French ambassadors in Scotland met with the Scottish parliament in the Abbey at Haddington. With the sound of the French guns in the distance, the two sides agreed to the removal of the young Queen Mary to the French court and the future betrothal to the Dauphin. The Treaty of Haddington as it became to be known effectively removed Somerset's 'raison d'etre' for his whole campaign. To make matters worse for the English, a supply column destined for Haddington was beaten back at Linton with the loss of 800; the battle was later named the 'Tuesday Chase'. (Phillips 1999: 229 -232)

The siege now became an act of stubborn English defiance and a measure of Somerset's bloody mindedness. Mary's mother, the indefatigable Mary of Guise, after signing away her daughter's care to the French, visited the siege lines only to have fourteen of her entourage blown apart by English gunnery. The English finally managed to resupply the garrison with valuable stocks of gunpowder and match and fresh plans to storm the battered Wyndham's bastion were thwarted by the construction of new fortifications built in the lee of the battered outer wall.

By the end of August 1548, the Scots and French had retired most of their heavy guns and resigned themselves to starving the garrison out. Their withdrawal prompted the arrival of an English relief force under the command of the new Lord Lieutenant of the North, the Earl of Shrewsbury, whose force of some 13,000 men entered the beleaguered town on 29th August. The garrison was resupplied, and the casualties replaced before the column, unable to entice the French out of their lines along the Esk, returned to the border.

Attention then turned to other areas of the campaign. The French launched fresh attacks against Lauder, Jedburgh and tightened the siege around the English garrison at Broughty Ferry. As the winter set in and the campaign season drew to a close, friction between the French troops stationed in Edinburgh and the much put out populace sparked into riot. The provost, amongst others, was killed and the French troops forced to leave the city leaving their wounded comrades unable to travel to be murdered in revenge. D'Esse, sensing his campaign collapsing and in order to distract from the turmoil in the capital led his troops in a 'camisade' on October 10th which breached the outer defences of Haddington but was thwarted at the last by the firing of English artillery into their ranks at point blank range.

Beaten and bloodied the French fell back to winter quarters and awaited the New Year (Phillips 1997: 240).

Life inside Haddington deteriorated rapidly with the onset of winter. By November the garrison was said to be around a thousand men of which many were unfit for service. Plague set in and food became scarce (COSP Scot 329: 166). The surrounding lands were stripped of provisions and the French forced into winter quarters in Leith. In January 1549 the garrison suffered another heavy blow; their illustrious leader Sir James Wilford was captured at Dunbar and command of the garrison passed over to Sir Richard Acroft.

As the siege rolled on into 1549, it became clear to the English that the money and resources involved in manning the town was for little gain. The garrison was effectively impotent in winning over the hearts and minds of the 'Assured Scots²', bottled up as they were within the town and incapable of taking the fighting to the enemy. To add to their misery the new French commander, Sieur De Thermes, fortified Aberlady, the nearest port to Haddington, forcing the English to bring in supplies over the precarious overland route (Phillips 1999: 249)

The maintenance, protection and provision of the Scottish garrisons proved too expensive for the cash strapped English government and with Somerset's own authority now being questioned in London there was little appetite to support the failing venture. Somerset was to be deposed as Protector in the October 1549, partly as a result of the failure of his Scottish policy. On 14th September an English relief column of some 16,000 men led by the Earl of Rutland entered Haddington without opposition. Within a few days the remaining garrison was recalled, the town burnt, and the fortifications levelled. As Mary of Guise remarked 'they left nothing behind them but the plague' (Urwin 2006: 80)

The Siegeworks – Camps and Gun Positions

The contemporary accounts provide interesting details as to the location and construction of the French siege lines built during the first few months of the siege over the summer of 1548. If these locations can be identified in the modern landscape not only would they prove to be a valuable archaeological record in their own right but they would also provide vital information as to the location of the outer ramparts of the town.

The Camps

The Scottish and French troops arrived in the July of 1548 to begin what many believed a quick and decisive offensive. However, by mid-July the idea of a speedy victory had been overtaken by plans for a protracted siege.

The allies set up several camps around Haddington to restrict the resupply of arms and men into the garrison (See Appendix E for locations in relation to artillery ranges). Initially the

² Scots under English pay

French and Italians encamped around Clerkington³, with *'the rest on the other side of the hill towards Lethington, where the governor lies'* (COSP Scot 272: 135. COSP Scot 276: 137). The Scots *'in no great strength'* were encamped at the Abbey of Haddington and the Highlanders to the north along the lower slopes of the Garleton Hills (COSP Scot 273: 135). The circumvallation was at the best of times porous, and the English were able to sneak supplies through. A sortie on the 7th July for example managed to skirt the Scottish camp to the north then *'turned over the hie hyll over agenst the curtayne between Bowes and Wylforttes bulwarkes'* (Hamilton 442: 599). So incensed was Beaugué by the English passing within 200 paces of the Scottish camp without detection that he questioned the loyalty of the Scottish allies and suggested that they had accepted bribes. (Miller 1844: 38). Holcroft writing to Somerset on the same day noted that this sortie was ordered to enter between *'Bowes Bulwark and the water side where the town lies unbesieged.'* (COSP Scot 284: 140).

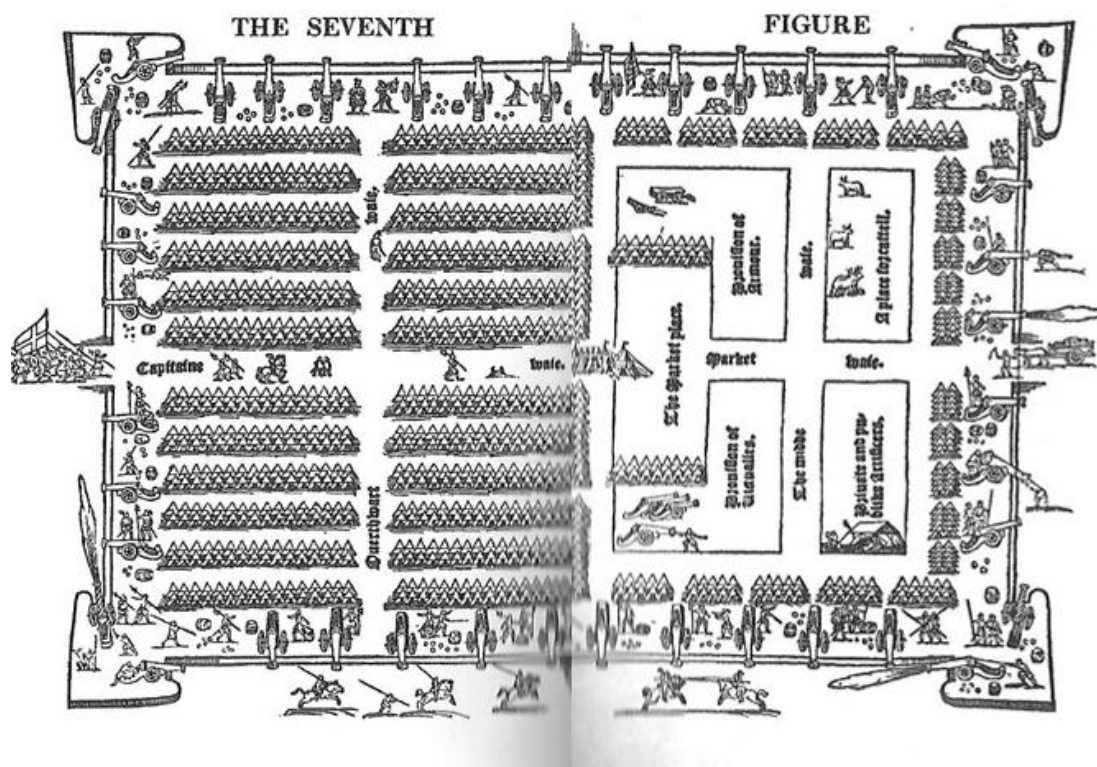


Figure 2 - This engraving by Machiavelli from his writings of the 'Arte of War' shows the ideal array of an army camp. Based on a Roman legions marching camps, the layout provides order and control within a defended camp. Evidence of trenches and temporary structures may still be found in the landscapes around Haddington.

The Artillery Positions

Once the camps were established the allies began drawing up their artillery positions. These constructions, sometimes described as 'maundes' were like mini bastions, often raised up to

³ Clerkington camp appears to have been in range of the garrison's guns 'All the wounded were carried to Clarkington where the town, the spy says, shoots in at every shot.' (COSP Scotland 270. p134)

enhance the range and arc of fire and surrounded by fascines and revetments. There are several such locations mentioned in the accounts; some were more effective 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 own artillery. The construction work was often hampered by the English gunnery despite being undertaken at night.

The Scottish guns were first mounted on the 'cragg towards Aberlady', probably on the lower slopes of the Garleton Hills⁴ and were capable of firing into the town but were soon forced to retire under counter battery fire from the English guns mounted on Bowes bulwark (COSP Scot 267: 133). The French mounted two guns on their 'maundes' in a small cornfield between Clerkington and Wyndham's Bulwark but were poorly manned with much of their shot passing over the fortifications (COSP Scot 273: 135. COSP Scot 276: 137).

Wilford writing to Somerset on the same day is a bit more specific about this deployment saying that the French 'lodge between the river and the town and this laste night have caste a trenche between Tayler's and Windam's bullewerk, along the hythe⁵ of the hill'. He rightly surmises that the French will plant their artillery there which in turn would threaten the flanks of both bastions. He then describes a sortie in which his troops attack the French troops stationed behind the church (Hamilton 441: 597). Palmer adds that many of the pioneers working in the trenches were also killed, so many indeed that there are few willing to work there (COSP Scotland 273: 130).

The site described as the 'Justice' is another artillery position which is difficult to pin down. Palmer relates to Somerset on 5th July that the Germans have entrenched 'at the Justyce with 2 pieces which batter the town, but our men are lodged under the ramparts' (COSP Scot 281: 139). But by the 11th he reports that 'the Almaynes that laye at the 'Justyce' with three peces to bett the markt, ar removed and comme to the churche' (Hamilton 445: 603). A previous English report on the 2nd July states that the Germans are 'beyond the bridge, and trenching along the waterside to the mill that was fortified, but abandoned by our men as untenable' (COSP Scot 272: 135) which suggests the 'Justice' could well be the site of the later Gimmers Mill.⁶

⁴ This may be at the Yellow Craigs (NT76005125) along the southern slopes of Barney Hill.

⁵ 'Haythe' and 'Hythe' could refer to the brow of the hill but 'hythe' is also an old Scottish term for inlet or landing place (DSL) suggesting at the foot of the hill against the river

⁶ Why the accounts should call the mill the 'Justyce' is unclear but there is location in Aberdeen called Justice Mills which may have similar origins.



Figure 3- Probable line of attack for the French besiegers on the south side of the town based upon primary sources.

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 'cutthrotes'⁷ which could fire into the town (COSP Scot 273: 136). But by 13th July the 'platform within the church is useless, the town has so beaten the stones about their 'years.' (COSP Scot 290: 146).

There is little trace left of other artillery positions today apart from St Mary's Church. East Lothian Council have listed a monument report on the location of what is surmised as being an artillery position in Amisfield Park (NT526 745) but then again as the author suggest this could be a structure from the military occupation of the site in the 18th and 19th century or simply a ramp for loading potatoes (ELCM MEL9227 dated 19/04/2007). An archaeological surveyed carried out in 2019 concluded that the mound was man made but found no dating evidence as to the year of construction. It was noted however that the structure and layout of the mound matched the typology of similar gun positions built at the siege of Leith (1560) and pictured in contemporary images of sieges in England and on the continent. (Connolly Heritage Consultancy, 2019)

⁷ Light guns usually mounted on swivels or trestles

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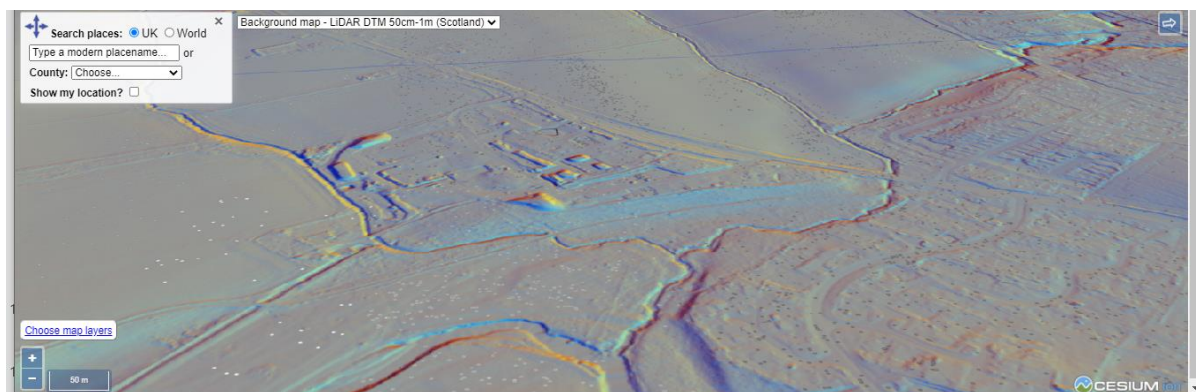
The mounds between Clerkington and the fortress may well have existed into the 20th century. On a braehead to the south west of the town were vestiges of an old circular fortification called New Wark situated on the ground now designated Mill Flat but has this has subsequently been lost to development.⁸ (Miller 1844: 75)

The Symposium Theory

The Siegeworks Team at the Symposium reviewed gun ranges, lines of sight and dead ground in the immediate vicinity of the town. Referring to the various primary sources, they noted that siege camps had been situated in the range of the heavy to medium guns of the period and consequently were subjected to sporadic fire from the defenders. However, in turn this meant that French artillery could annoy the inhabitants of the town with counter battery fire. It was therefore determined that the camps would have been located in a 'Goldilocks Zone' just far enough away from the town to allow for bombardment and for the most part safe from persistent and damaging retaliatory gunfire.

With these factors in mind, the group then considered the locations of the camps that had been reputedly constructed at Clerkington, Letham and at the Abbey site. Contemporary sources had named these camps but had not provided evidence of their exact location.

The group noted that the site of a camp at Clerkington previously proposed by the SHRG fulfilled the requirements and that it was located at a suitable range, overlooked a strategic ford, and was located on the far side of the Letham Burn which, at the time, would have been a formidable barrier to any incursion from the town. (See SHRG project proposal for the Clerkington site). It was also noted that the site was adjacent to the Clerkington mill and the Clerkington estate houses. Although encouraged by LIDAR images that suggest the presence of an angled bastion overlooking the ford, the group concluded that only a further archaeological survey would prove that a camp had been constructed on this site.



⁸ A fort called Newark stood in the second field W of Tynebank (near Haddington: NT 5173) near the S end of the park and near the hedge. The remains of the building were removed about 30 or 40 years ago, when the field was converted to arable land, and no trace of it remains.(CANMORE NT57SW 62)

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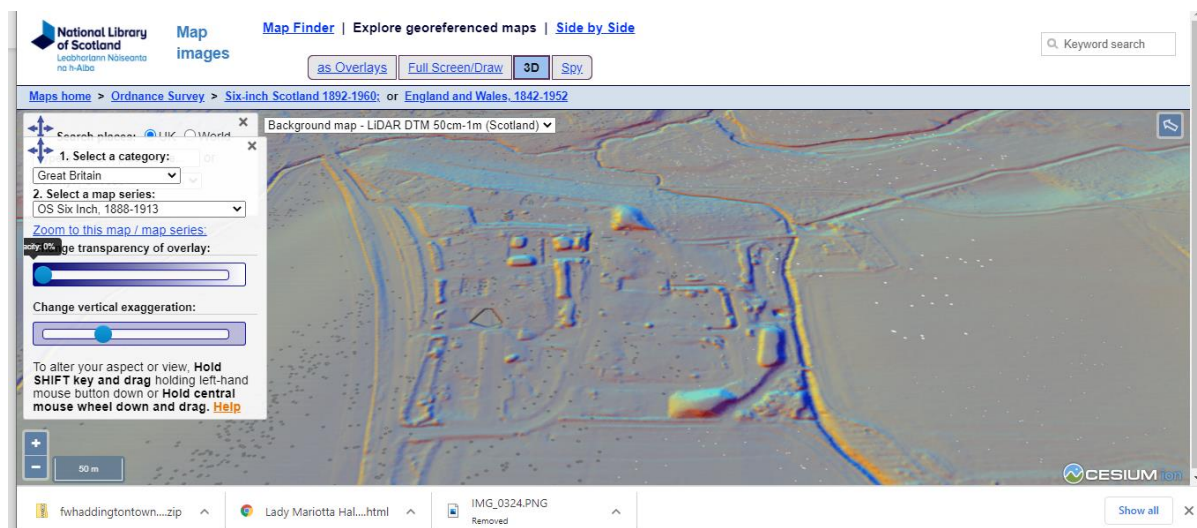


Figure 4 - LIDAR images showing what looks like the remains of an angled bastion and camp perimeter at the Dovecot Mill housing estate at Clerkington.

However, encouraged by the possible location of a siege camp at Clerkington, the working group went on to review the material relating to the siege camp mentioned at Letham. Initially there was some confusion as to whether the camp was located at Lethington (Lennoxlove) or the Lethem Estate on the Edinburgh Road.

The 'Lethington' Gun battery.

Notably for this investigation, the French based at 'Lethington' were said by Palmer on the 2nd July to have:

At 8 o'clock this night one that was in the camp at 10 before noon, brought word that the French encamped towards Lethington have passed the water on that side with 7 battery pieces, and 9 others, and have intrenched on the "hayth of the hyll" where the bulwark out of the town was meant, and mean to-night to plant their ordnance there. (2nd July). They have brought 10,000 fagots, some say to fill the ditch, others to make a mount: but we think to "ramforce" their battery trench, being so near the town. The Scots in no great strength, lie at the "Nunre" a mile from the town towards us (East), — the northland men to encamp on the Cragge. The report in camp is the Scots will be in the field by the 8th; the Governor and Angus to have the "vanward," the Almaynes the first assault. (COSP Scot 273: 135).

Where exactly this battery was destined to stand is difficult to discern from this single statement, but Palmer's observation is interesting for the fact that this ground was considered as a good location for another bastion which if constructed would have been cut off from the town⁹. It is likely that this gun battery was located south of the town, north of

⁹ This bears great resemblance to the fort at Balgillo outside Broughty Ferry which was built as a forward defence, but eventually cut off and overrun by the Scots.

the river on the brow of the ridge that runs across what is today the Haddington RUFC pitches.



Figure 5 - The Adair map of 1682 identifies both 'Lethim' and 'Lythington' as separate locations

The working group concluded that although undoubtedly the Hamilton's house at Lethington would have been a suitable location to accommodate high-ranking officials from the French and Scottish armies, another camp would have been needed to secure the road to Edinburgh.

The group then turned their attention to a suitable location at the Letham Burn, looking for a site which had similar criteria as the Clerkington camp. They concluded that the most likely location for a camp would be on the western banks of the Letham Burn at the point where the road to Edinburgh crossed it. They then went in search of evidence of the presence of any camp on the NLS map website.

The group found what looked like evidence of some form of field boundary and embankments on the western bank of the Letham Burn on Roy's 1752 - 55 map of East Lothian.



Figure 6 – Roy’s map 1752 - 55 showing two enclosures that could be associated with siege camps and gun bastions.

In addition, the team spotted a second enclosure closer towards the West Port of Haddington which appeared to resemble a ‘skonce’ or gun battery position. Encouraged by the fact that Roy was particularly interested in identifying features that his military audience may find of interest, the team concluded that this feature may well be the remains of a forward gun platform.

It was noted in later discussion that the gun platform may well have been the same indicated in the detail on Sir James Wilford’s portrait depicting the siege and the West Port of Haddington. The vignette shows at least three cannons located behind gabions with cavalry and infantry in support.

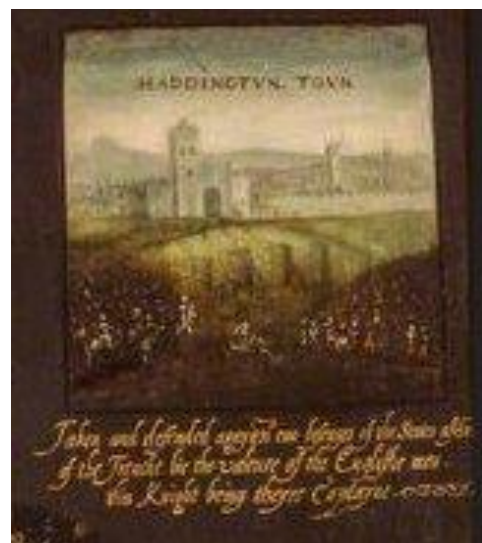


Figure 7 -The inset vignette on the portrait of Sir James Wilford appears to show a gun battery protected by four large gabions overlooking the West Port of the town.

It was also determined that the site was thought to have been used by General Cope's Army in 1745 during the advance of the government army to Prestonpans and possibly by Oliver Cromwell's army during the 1650 campaign. The working group concluded that the site would be worth further investigation should it be free of the urban development that now intrudes across the area.

Identifying the site in the modern landscape

The week after the Symposium, SHRG team members began arranging for a site visit. Firstly, a map regression exercise was carried out and the location of the features identified in Roy's map were located in the modern landscape.



Figure 8 - The NLS Map Collection side by side option shows that the feature lies in the field west of Lethem View

The NLS map collection was used to compare maps of the area through the centuries. (<https://maps.nls.uk>). In the first instance it was noted that there was a distinct discrepancy in the georeferencing between the Roy map and the ESRI World Imagery dataset putting in doubt the grid references and coordinates of key features. Later, on site, the team plotted out the NW corner of the feature and noted the latitude and longitude of the location using the ExaTools - GPS Information & Data v.2.4.05¹⁰. This however did not match the coordinates provided by the National Library of Scotland's georeferencing found on the Roy's map.

Source	Latitude N	Longitude W	Height
NLS Roys Map	55°57'25"	2°47'27'	66m
NLS OS Map	55°57'19"	2°47'27'	60m
GPS	55°57'18"	2°47'27'	

¹⁰ System accuracy within <9 meters although throughout this survey an accuracy <4 was noted for all the readings.

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This discrepancy seems to place the fortifications on Roy's map out by approximately 183m on a bearing of 357° degrees.



Figure 9 - The overlay of the Roy's map of the Lowlands mapped onto the current satellite imagery showing a discrepancy in the georeferencing.

However, it was clear that the feature fortunately falls into the last remaining area of open farmland in the area as much of the surrounding land had been built over in modern times. Distances and grid references were taken off the mapping application and overlays prepared to assist the field walking team. It was noted that the enclosure seemed to be around 170 metres in length and by 155 metres wide in dimensions with the northern boundary sitting around 27m off the line of the Edinburgh Road. The feature was also 147m west along the Edinburgh Road from a notable bend in the road. The location of Northeast corner of the feature was plotted using the NLS map viewing application.

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Figure 10 - Aerial View of survey with Roy's image added showing the transect and the survey zones

It was noted that the NE corner of the enclosure seemed to correspond with the trig point identified in the OS 6inch map 1880 – 1913 overlay.



Figure 11 - The OS 6-inch overlay showing a justifiable spot height of 198.4ft at the approximate NE corner of the enclosure

The next step was to overlay the LIDAR DTM data on the NLS Map website to see if there was any indication of Roy's enclosure in the present landscape. There appears a definite feature that reflects the eastern boundary shown by Roy. This also follows the line of the present-day boundary wall.

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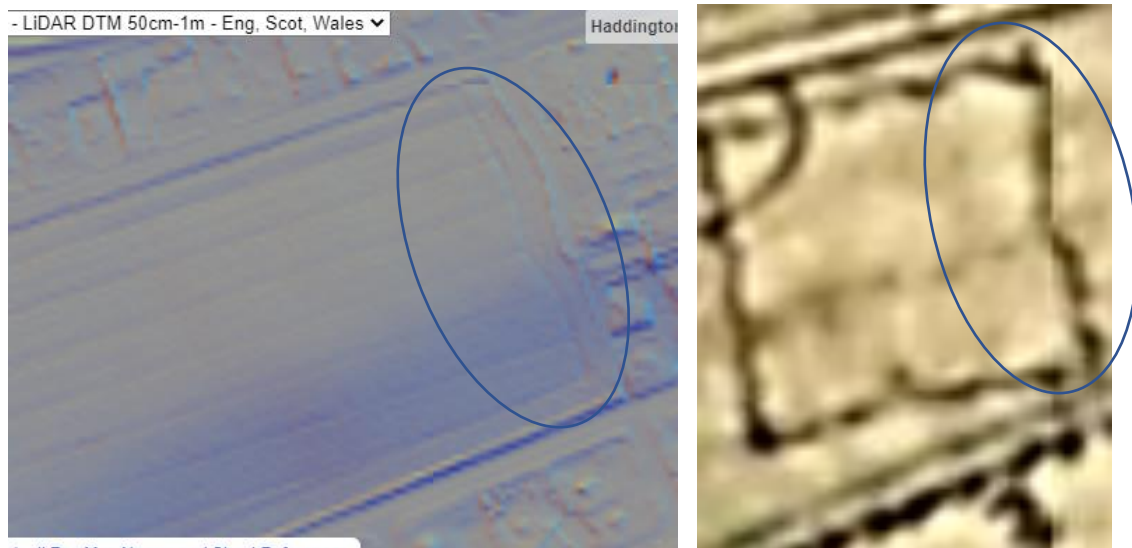


Figure 12 - The LIDAR DTM 50cm - 1m. The eastern and to some extent the southern boundary of the compound appears to be replicated in the LIDAR image both as a possible ditch and the line of the boundary wall.

The question remains as to whether this apparent feature is due to agricultural activity or military building and whether it can be seen in situ on site



Figure 13 - A view of the overlay of the LIDAR with the OS 6" map 1888 - 1913. This image suggests that the enclosure's eastern boundary was not mapped for many years after Roy and was only later recognised as a notable feature when Letham Drive was built along it.



Figure 14 - The 1946 aerial photograph of the area shows how the Letham Drive appears to follow the line of the Roy enclosure.

On Site

The onsite survey took place on 16th August 2022, undertaken by two members of SHRG.

The team carried out an initial field walk looking for features that may indicate the presence of the enclosure in the landscape. Suitable photographs were taken of the surrounding areas and in particular the views into the west end of Haddington. An attempt was made to identify the location of the spot height, but this was difficult to discern without reference to an accurate georeferenced map.

A walk from the spot height eastwards towards the Letham Drive houses showed no significant drop off and a review of the NLS height checker suggested the ground rises slightly at the road to a height of 199ft before falling steadily away to the Westport at a height of 169ft. Certainly the field fell away rapidly to the south with a height of 168ft in the far southeast corner. The view to the east was somewhat restricted because of the trees and buildings but the tower of St Mary's could be clearly seen from the spot height. It was also noted that the road out to Clerkington in the river valley to the south was overlooked by the camp location at the crest of the ridge line.



Figure 15 - The view looking S of E from the easterly boundary of the enclosure with a clear view of St Mary's lying in the Tyne Valley

Looking west from there seemed to be only a slight drop off towards the far end of the field approximately at the point where the enclosure on Roy's map finished. There were also some tentative ridges running north south, extenuated by the recently cropped stubble. However, these were later dismissed as furrows caused by the harvesting.



Figure 16 - View looking due west from the approximate location of the eastern boundary of the enclosure noted on Roy's map. The red lines indicate the apparent ridges in the crop height at these points. Note the drop off to the south

Setting out the Transect

The NE corner of the enclosure shown on Roy's map was located using co-ordinates and the measurements taken off the NLS mapping application. The point was approximately located 27m in from the main road and 29.6m off the fence line bordering Letham Drive. This was measured out by tapes and marked and the GPS co-ordinates noted.

A transect 200 metres long was extended from this point at a bearing of 228°, in theory running along the line of the northern boundary of the enclosure and beyond the western

edge. The transect was then divided into 7 zones: 6 of 30 metres in length and the last of 20m extending 2 metres south of the baseline.

Methodology

Two surveys were undertaken along the chosen to transect.

A field walk was undertaken along the length of the transect looking for shards of ceramics and stonework that would date of the surface layer. Field walking proceeded in advance of the metal detector survey along the same transect described above. Approximately 67% of the artifacts observed exposed upon the ground surface were recovered as a representative sample. Sherds duplicating the types already recovered were left in situ. Sherds recovered were numbered sequentially and plotted by GPS.

The field walk was followed by a metal detector (MD) survey along the same transect looking metallic items that would also indicate the date of the topsoil deposits and the type of material that may be found.

A White's Prizm Mk II was used for the metal detector survey. It was set to maximum sensitivity, but the discrimination function was set to include ferrous materials and smaller non-ferrous items. Depth indicator was checked against the first isolated finds but the concentration of hits in amongst the building material meant that the depth readings became superfluous. Large ferrous items lying deeper in the earth tended to return a cluster of 'non-ferrous' readings or masked the returns from smaller non-ferrous material on the surface. This meant that several sweeps of the more densely populated areas were undertaken to ensure as many of the artefacts as possible were recovered.

Good use was made of a handheld pinpointer; a Garrett Pro-pointer. As many of the artefacts were found to be on or very near the surface and in very close proximity the excavators found it easier to follow the signals given on the handheld pinpointer rather than using the larger and bulkier Prizm Mk II.

Field Walk and Metal Detecting Finds

Pottery shards

This sample consisted of nine sherds of refined white-bodied earthenwares and stonewares. Pending cleaning and proper identification, the sherds recovered appear to be relatively modern dating to the 19th and 20th centuries. The sherds clearly postdate the 1548 Siege of Haddington, as well as, the later incursion by Oliver Cromwell in 1650 and John Cope in 1745. The assemblage appears to be the result of night soil spread upon the field in recent time and is likely not associated with military activity.

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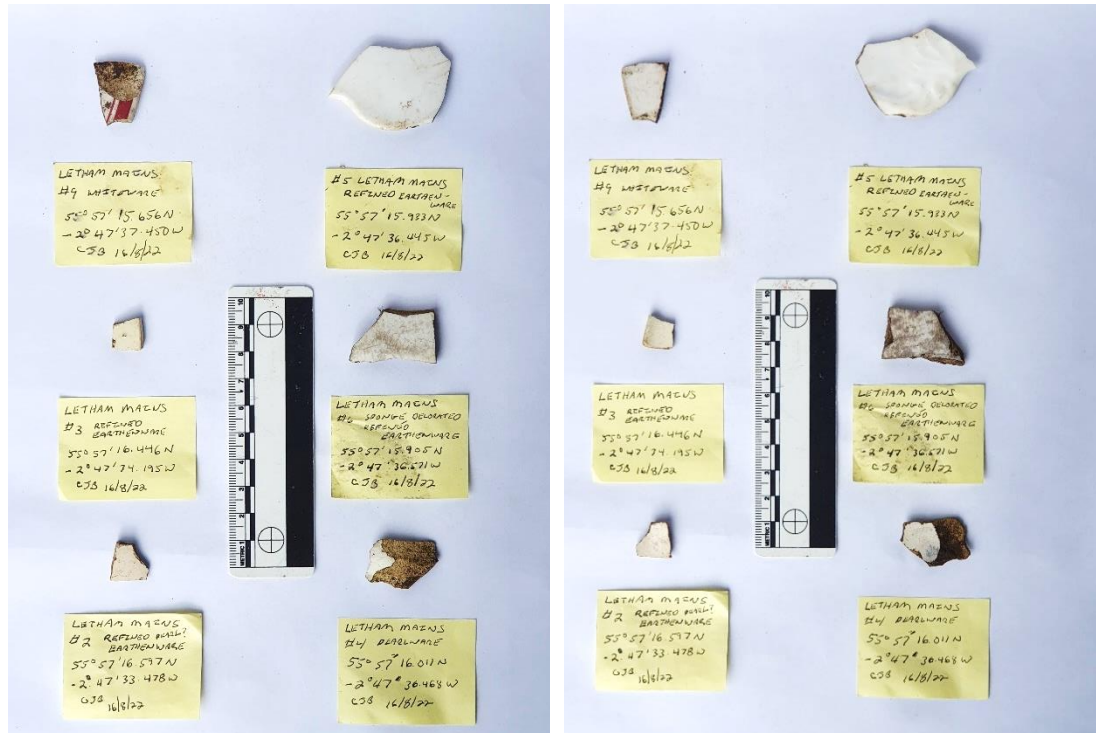


Figure 17 - Sample shards of pottery found during the field walking. Front and back views given

Metal Detector Finds

The metal detector survey covered the length of the transect covering a zone 2m south of the line laid out.



Figure 18 - Metal detector survey underway along the length of the transect (blue line). Potential hits were marked by orange flags.

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The following items were recovered:

Zone	Number	Distance Up (m)	Distance Across (m)	Description	Notes
2	1	5.45	0.50	Aluminium Tab	Date stamp
2	2	15.15	0.48	Brass lock fitting	
3	1	17.22	1.52	Stoneware Base	
3	2	24.20	1.05	Bolt	
4	1	6.56	1.57	Ferrous Item	
4	2	15.75	1.12	Coin	
4	3	23.50	1.10	Ferrous Pieces	
4	4	29.54	0.76	Ferrous Item	
5	1	9.44	0.60	Ferrous Item	
5	2	14.74	1.06	Ferrous Item	
5	3	18.63	1.34	Ferrous Item + Glass	
5	4	19.71	1.00	Aluminium Tin Lid	Stamped '... & Gibbs Limited United Kingdom'
5	5	21.33	1.22	Ferrous Item	Hook Like
5	6	27.02	0.40	Ferrous Item	Bolt
6	1	4.61	0.87	Ferrous Item	Shoe Seg
6	2	8.12	0.30	Ferrous Item	Nail
6	3	10.2	0.58	Ferrous Item	Nail
6	4	13.18	0.26	Ferrous Item	Staple
6	5	16.32	0.93	Ferrous Item	Bolt
6	6	16.92	1.21	Screw	
6	7	21.43	1.02	Ferrous Item	Nail
6	8	23.03	0.94	Ferrous Item	
7	1	3.54	1.22	Horseshoe Nail	
7	2	4.81	0.90	Ferrous Item	
7	3	7.81	0.60	Ferrous Item	
7	4	12.84	1.16	Ferrous Item	Nail
7	5	15.04	0.56	Coin	
7	6	18.20	.066	Ferrous Item	Nail

Items of Interest

Coins

Two coins were found during the metal detecting.

Item Z7 / 5 is a copper coin of 27mm in diameter. The coin is badly worn. There appears to be a head in profile facing to the right depicted on the reverse of the coin. The figure appears to be adorned with a wreath of laurel leaves. There are the traces of characters around the edge of the image possibly the roman numeral 'III'. The obverse appears to depict 'Britannia' seated, facing left and holding a lance and with a shield at her side. Underneath this image can be seen the numbers '1?79'



Figure 19 – The Reverse and Obverse of the coin (Item 7 / 5) (left). The coin bears similarity with George III Halfpenny dates c.1770 (right). Both coins are 29mm in diameter.

The second coin (Item 4/2) is harder to identify and maybe older than the first. The coin appears to be silver and 18mm in diameter. There is no rim to the coin and is extremely thin.

The Obverse shows the profile of a face (facing right) adorned with a wreath of laurel leaves. The figure maybe be bearded.

The reverse of the coin shows what appears to be a coat of arms adorned with a crown and supported by two columns either side of a shield. The shield is divided into four with a central cross. There is faint illegible lettering around the edge of the coin.



Figure 20- The coin is difficult to identify however the obverse shows a coat of arms with shield and crown. The reverse shows the profile of a face perhaps wearing a laurel.



Figure 21 - The obverse of the coin with a representative sketch of the detail



Figure 22 - This is most likely a 19th century sixpence of George III of the issue 1816-20.

The Tin Lid

A tin lid was found. It was crushed but after cleaning, the name of the manufacturer was visible.



Figure 23 - The Tin Lid needed cleaning and a degree of unwrapping to show the maker's mark.



Figure 24 - Close up of the tin lid with the maker '... D&W Gibb Ltd - London' clearly showing.

The tin is from D&W Gibb Limited of London who made perfumed soaps and dentifrices, mouth wash, perfumes and toilet and cosmetic preparations.

Conclusions

Roy's Enclosure

The initial survey revealed the possible connection between the enclosure boundaries, as represented by Roy, and the line of Letham Drive. Despite the issues around the georeferencing of the various maps it is clear that the unique layout of the Letham Drive mimics the eastern boundary of the precinct shown by Roy.

As to what the enclosure noted by Roy was used for, it is possible that it was of military use as well as agricultural. Reports that General Cope's army and perhaps Cromwell's troops also occupied the site suggest that the field was well known location, overlooking the main entry into town from the west, which could be used as a temporary camp area.

The fact that the enclosure appears to drop down to where the southern boundary lies adjacent to the Clerkington Road rather than remaining on the crest of steep ascent suggests it was not totally used as a defensive site. The view from the spot height, once devoid of housing and trees would allow any observer to look down onto the West Port, across the town towards the Franciscan Friary and over to the hills beyond; a good point to sit and sketch the panorama. This study would benefit from further viewshed analysis of a virtual landscape.

As for the site of a major siege camp, the site appears to be too close for comfort to the English medium gun batteries stationed on the westerly bastions of the town. It is however an ideal location if not slightly exposed on the ridgeline for a forward gun battery. It must also be noted however that a battery of 4 or 5 guns would not require such a large enclosure to house it.

There is no definitive evidence found of 16th Century military occupation from the limited collection of material found in the survey. It is recommended that metal detecting and trial trenching be carried out should the geophysical survey identify the boundary of the enclosure with an aim of dating the structure.

Appendix 1 - Locating the Artist's Point of View

When considering the detail of Haddington in Sir James Wilford's portrait and the possibility that it may have been sketched from the location of the gun battery enclosure it is possible to use the NLS 3d landscaping and the LIDAR overlay to create an image of the view from the Lethem gun platform.

It is notable that the hill line in the back of the picture relates relatively accurately with that created in the 3d landscape. Traprain Law is clearly depicted on the left of the horizon with the apparent shading of the slopes reflecting the actual contours of the hill if seen from the west. On the right of the horizon can be seen Pressmennan Woods and Gallows Law. In the centre and far distance is Doon Hill and Brunt Hill



Figure 25 - A close-up of the image of Haddington as depicted in the portrait of Sir James Wilford

In the midground is a depiction of the West Port of Haddington and the tower that is depicted in Adair's map and is now the location of the West Church. Either side are what appear to be quite considerable walls and the traces of an embankment can be seen.¹¹ Beyond the Westport appear to be two towers, the central image bears resemblance to a square tower with a pinnacle on each corner. Further right is a less distinct image of another possible tower.



Figure 26 – A close up of Adair's map dated 1682 depicts what appear to be two defensive structures either side of the West Port, two roads leaving the gate and a tower with a black spire north of the entrance.

In the centre foreground is a gun battery with three cannons positioned behind four gabions. The gun positions appear to be on the reverse slope of a hillock. To the rear and either side of the cannons are groups of demi-lancers (half armoured cavalry) and pikeman supporting the usual mid-16th Century flamboyant clothing.

By overlaying this image onto a 3d image of the landscape provided in the NLS Map site it is possible to match the buildings with the locations in the town and the geographic features depicted in the image with locations in the landscape. Then by running a line of vision through both points it is possible to locate the most likely site for the artist to have sketched the scene. The spot height at the site of the enclosure would be a prime location.

¹¹ It must be noted that the artist would have visited Haddington after the siege and therefore after the levelling of the defences. The walls may therefore be the artist's best guess and therefore account for the stone walls being depicted rather than a ditch and embankment.

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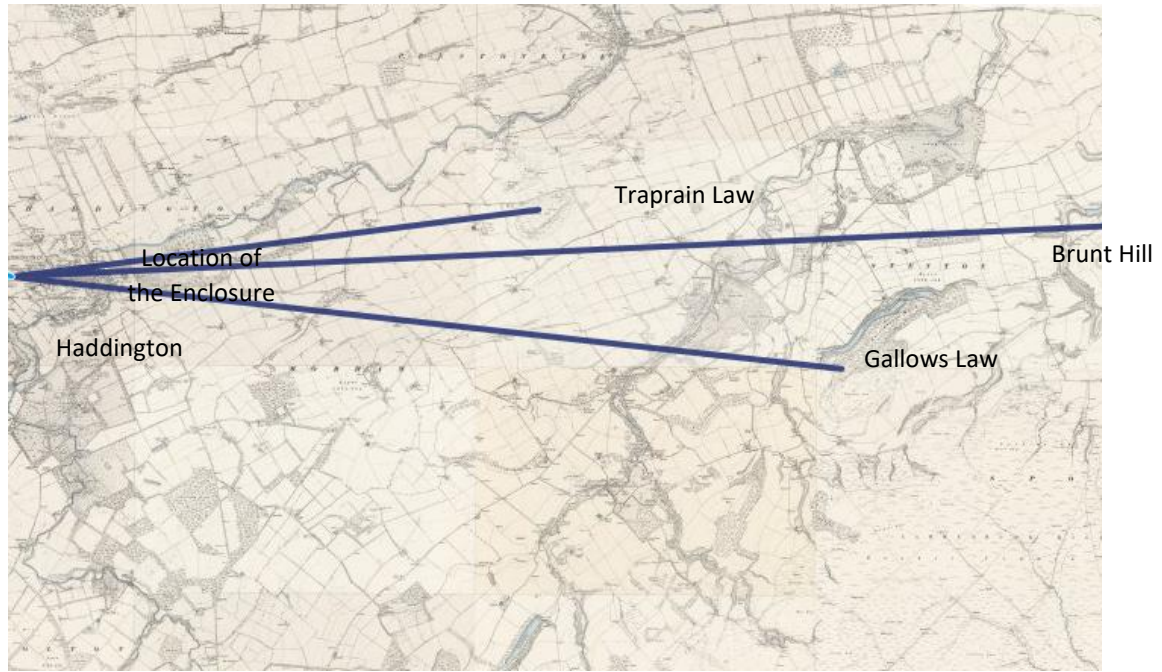


Figure 27 a & b - By plotting back the lines of sight from the distant features on a 2d OS Map of East Lothian and taking them through known locations seen in the foreground of the picture it is possible to locate an approximate site of the artist's viewing point.

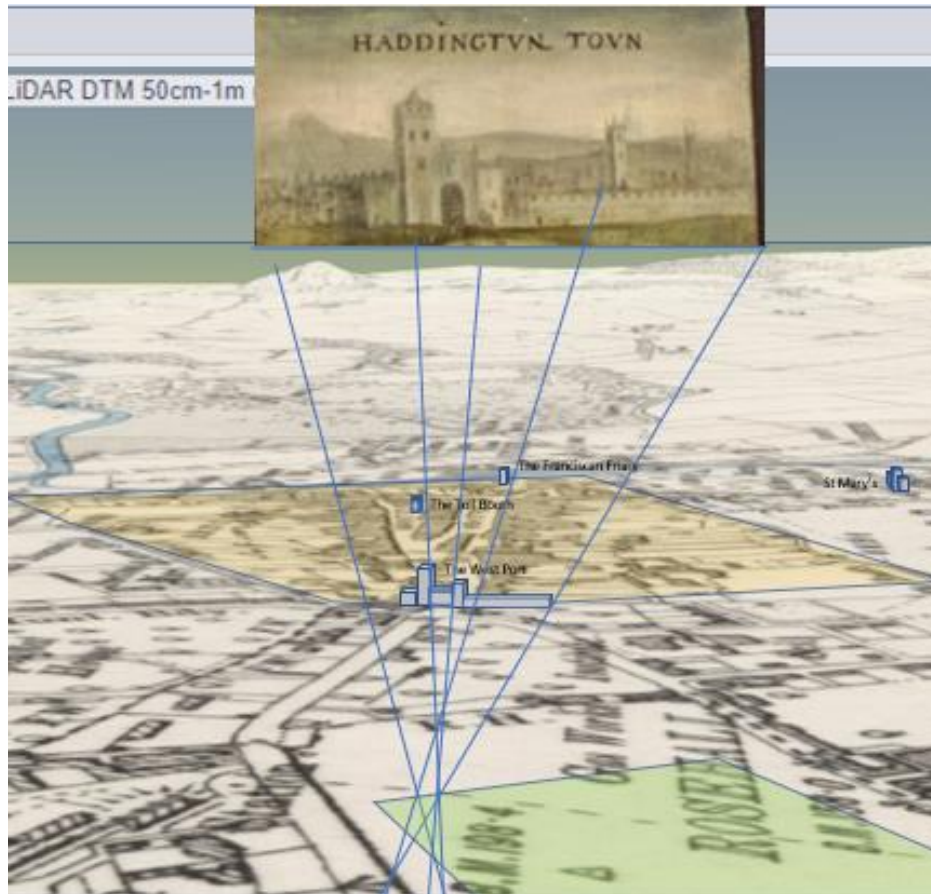


Figure 28 - Looking west on the NLS 3d view with LIDAR overlay with the detail of the view of Haddington found on Sir James Wilford's portrait. The image appears to show quite an accurate image of the skyline as seen from the vicinity of the enclosure.

Whereas the image is useful to determining the approximate location of the artist's observation point it is less convincing when it comes to locating a gun platform at that location. The image appears to show a 3-gun battery firing into the West Port just east of the artist's location. However, the fact that the artist was not necessarily there during the time of the siege may leave this interpretation solely down to educated guesswork as not only do they depict artillery, but they also add infantry and cavalry, thereby depicting, somewhat typically, the three main arms of any 16th Century army.



Figure 29 - The detail of the gun battery

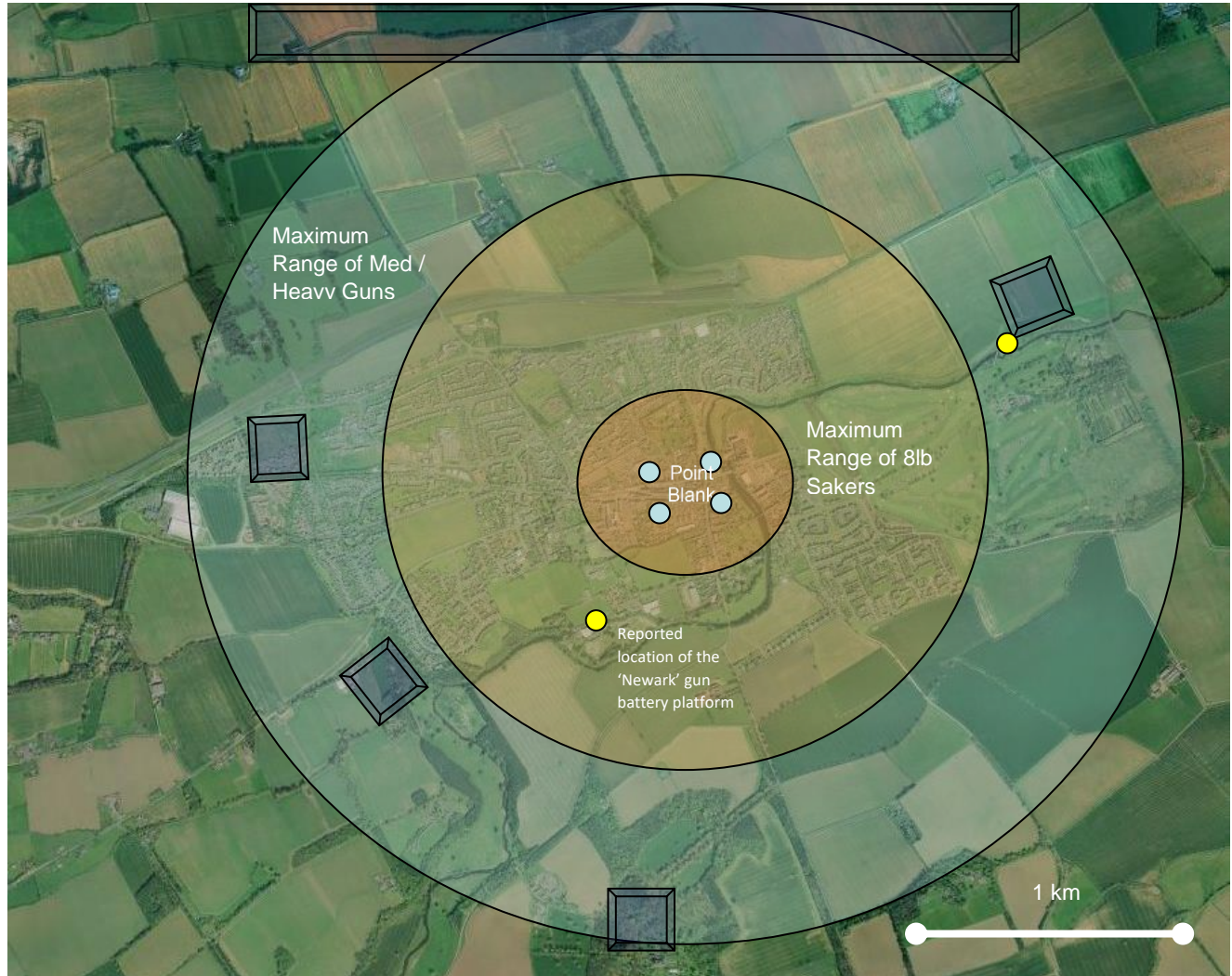
However, it is notable that the gunners manning the battery appear to have clear view of the town gates. The battery also appears to be located on the reverse slope of a small hillock with the gun barrels elevated at an angle, however, this may also be the artists attempt to depict the three roads coming out of the West Port.

Whilst on site, the team speculated that the position on top of the hill appeared to be too far back to cause any major damage to the town walls and thought that any gun battery would be better located down the slope further towards the town. This image suggests otherwise with the gun battery located just beyond the summit of the hill.

It was noted that the eastern boundary of the enclosure seen on Roy's map lies approximately 440m (1450 ft) from the West Port. Recent research into the capabilities of 16th century cannon suggest that the range would be comfortably achieved by medium and heavy guns and retain their effectiveness against buildings, ports and stonework. The effectiveness against earth embankments was less marked as the shot tended to get absorbed into the soft ground.

Modern housing has eradicated any indications as to a suitable platform close to the Westport and we are left wondering whether the enclosure spotted by Roy was indeed a site of a forward battery.

Appendix 2 – A plan view of Haddington showing the ranges of 16th Century Artillery in relation to the position of the French and Scottish camps



(Ranges taken from Arnold 2001: 31)

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Table 2.9: Ranges of guns (from Sheriffe c 1590, Norton 1628 and Ward 1639) (compiled by Ian Scott)

Name (weight of shot)	After Sheriffe c 1590 'at random range'		After Norton 1628 ¹ '6 poyntes of the gunner's quadrant'		after Ward 1639 maximum range	
	paces	Metres ²	paces	metres ²	paces	metres ²
Cannon royal (66 lb / -)	1930	1470	-	-	-	-
Cannon of 8 (60 lb / 64 lb)	2000	1524	3600	2743	1500	1143
Demi-cannon (30.25 lb / 32 lb)	1700	1295	3120	2377	1700	1295
Culverin (17.3 lb / 19 lb)	2500	1905	3600	2743	2100	1600
Demi-culverin (9 lb / 11.75 lb)	2500	1905	3480	2651	1800	1371
Saker (5.3 lb / 5.25 lb)	1700	1295	3000	2286	1500	1143
Minion (3.25 lb / 3.25 lb)	1600	1219	2440	1859	1400	1066
Falcon (2.5 lb / 2.3 lb)	1500	1143	2640	2011	1200	914
Falconet (1.25 lb / 1.14 lb)	1400	1066	1800	1371	1000	762
Robinet (1 lb / 0.75 lb)	1000	762	-	-	700	533
Base (- / 0.33 lb)	-	-	-	-	560	427

Notes:

1. Based on a table of 'Alexander Bianco', *recte* Alessandro Capobianco, *Corona e palma militare di artiglieria ...* (Venice, c. 1598);
2. Measurements in metres are based on the 'comon (sic) pace' of 30 in (= 0.762 m) (see Norton 1628, 52)

Figure 30 - Gun ranges compiled by Ian Scott

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