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Archaeological Watching Brief on repairs on the foundation of Pylon G037B

**Whitemoss Roman Fort, 175m SW of
Rosarymount (Index No 1652)**

Report No. 3507

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on 16th November 2016 during repair works at Pylon G037B located within the Scheduled Monument of Whitemoss Roman Fort, 175m SW of Rosarymount (Index No. 1652), near Bishopton in Renfrewshire (NGR: NS 41826 72096) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Scottish Power Energy Networks.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 15th August 2016 was produced by CFA on behalf of Scottish Power Energy Networks to meet the requirements of the Scheduled Monument Consent granted by Historic Environment Scotland for the programme of work.

1.2 Background

Due to its location within the Scheduled Monument of Whitemoss Roman Fort (Fig. 1), Scheduled Monument Consent required an archaeological watching brief and the metal detecting of excavated spoil to be undertaken during repair works at each of the four corners of the pylon. The foundation repairs are required at each of the four corners of the pylon where the legs are secured in to the ground by existing foundations.

The fort occupies the top of a promontory that rises above the surrounding landscape. Cropmarks of the site, visible on aerial photographs, show the outline of the internal buildings, roads and external defences of the fort. The internal area of the fort is approximately 1.72ha, excluding the area covered by the external defences.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) to monitor all ground breaking works as described above and to undertake metal detection of the excavated spoil.
- To record any archaeological features or deposits uncovered during the site investigation works and wherever possible to ensure that they are preserved in situ during this phase of work.
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording and produce a report on them.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.

2.2 Watching Brief

The repairs to the foundations of the pylon required the concrete for the existing foundations to be partially broken out with a pneumatic drill (or similar) and an area around the former foundation to be excavated by a mechanical excavator (mini-digger) fitted with a 0.3m wide smooth bladed bucket. This was to allow for a repair to be made to the pylon leg. The excavated area was then shuttered and a new concrete foundation poured. Any part of the excavation not filled with concrete was backfilled.

All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. All further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the WSI was carried out by hand.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded, whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

The spoil from the excavations was scanned with a metal detector with no discrimination set in order to recover any metal artefacts. CFA use Garret Ace 150 model detectors.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

The pylon was located in a pasture field (Fig. 2). Access to the pylon was taken by foot and by an All Terrain Vehicle across the surface of the field.

The excavated area at the SE leg was an irregular area measuring no more than 1m by 1m, centred on the existing concrete foundation (Fig. 1), and excavated to a depth of 0.4m. Natural subsoil was not reached. Topsoil was a very stony mid brown silt containing shattered rock. Modern glass bottle fragments were noted but not retained.

The excavated area at the SW leg was a square measuring 1m by 1m, centred on the existing concrete foundation (Fig. 1), and excavated to a depth of 0.2m. Natural subsoil was not reached. Topsoil was a very stony mid brown silt containing shattered rock.

The excavated area at the NW leg was a square measuring 1.2m by 1.2m, centred on the existing concrete foundation (Fig. 1), and excavated to a depth of 0.5m. Natural subsoil was not reached. Topsoil was a very stony mid brown silt containing shattered rock.

The excavated area at the NE leg was a square measuring 1.5m by 1.5m, centred on the existing concrete foundation (Fig. 1), and excavated to a depth of 0.6m. Natural subsoil was not reached. Topsoil was a very stony mid brown silt containing shattered rock.

The spoil from each excavated area was metal detected, and no metal items were recovered.

The required excavations all took place in ground previously disturbed to erect the pylon, and natural subsoil was not reached. No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were uncovered.

4. CONCLUSION

A watching brief and the metal detecting of spoil was carried out during pylon foundation repair works under Scheduled Monument Consent at Whitemoss Roman Fort. The excavated areas at all four corners of the pylon were monitored and spoil was metal detected; these produced no evidence of archaeological features, deposits or finds.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3).

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland within six months of completion of fieldwork and any relevant post- excavation analyses and copies of reports will be sent to the relevant local authority SMR.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

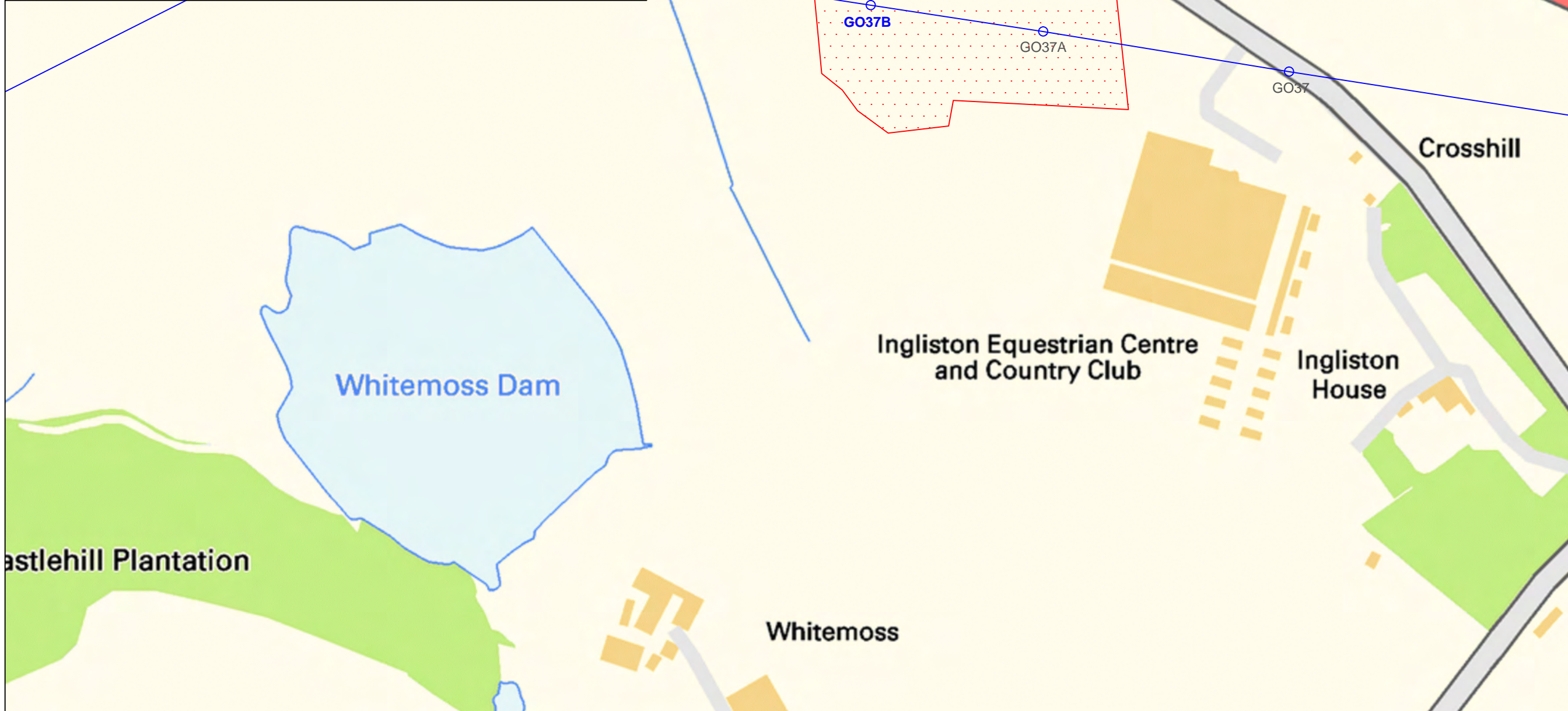
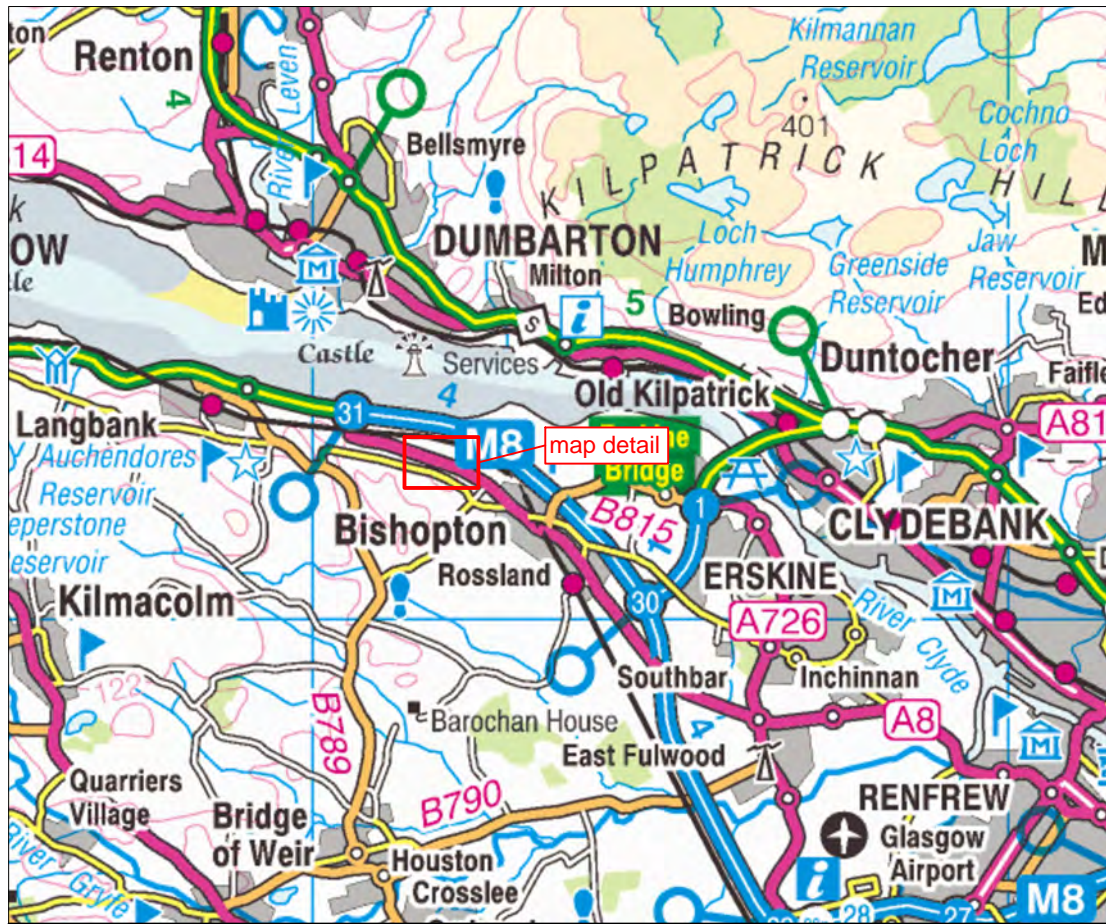
Context No.	Description
000	Topsoil
001	Subsoil
003	Natural Geology

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register




No.	Context/ description	Taken from
1	General pre- ex of pylon area	N
2	General pre- ex of pylon area	NW
3	SE leg excavated area	SW
4	SE leg excavated area	
5	SE leg excavated area	
6	SE leg excavated area	
7	SW leg excavated area	W
8	SW leg excavated area	S
9	NW leg excavated area	W
10	NW leg excavated area	N
11	NW leg excavated area	S
12	NE leg excavated area	N
13	NE leg excavated area	E
14	NE leg excavated area	SE

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Renfrewshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	
PROJECT CODE:	WHIM
PARISH:	Erskine
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Tomasz Jenorowski
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	
START DATE (this season)	
END DATE (this season)	
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	(NARRATIVE) A watching brief and the metal detecting of spoil was carried out during pylon foundation repair works under Scheduled Monument Consent at Whitemoss Roman Fort. The excavated areas at all four corners of the pylon were monitored and spoil was metal detected. The required excavations all took place in ground previously disturbed to erect the pylon, and natural subsoil was not reached. No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were uncovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scottish Power Energy Networks
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Historic Environment Scotland (archive) Renfrewshire Council Sites and Monuments Record (report)



Key:

-  Scheduled Monument
-  Power line and Pylon route
-  Access track to Pylon GO37B

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Title:
 Detail of site location showing Scheduled Monument of Whitemoss Roman Fort (Index No 1652 and Pylon GO37B)

Project:
 Archaeological Watching Brief on repairs on the foundation of Pylon GO37B

Client:
 Scottish Power Energy Networks

Scale at A3:
 1:3000

Drawn by: GC	Checked: SW	Date: 22/11/2016
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Fig. 2 Photo of Pylon GO37B



Fig. 3 SE leg excavated area

Project:
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Fig. 4 SW leg excavated area



Fig. 5 NW leg excavated area

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Fig. 6 NE leg excavated area

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