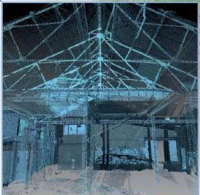
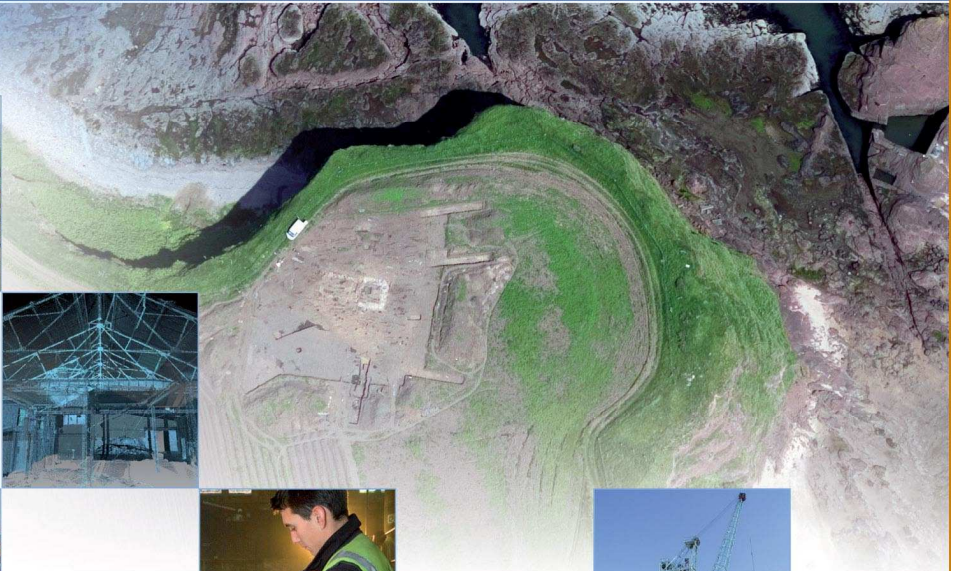
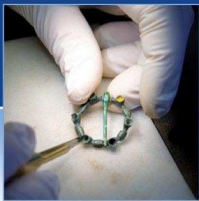


Outh Muir, Knockhill, Fife: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22435
OASIS ID – aocarcha1- 150602
15th May 2013



Outh Muir, Knockhill, Fife: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Arcus Consulting
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 07149 95030 (centred)
AOC Project No:	22435
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Date of Fieldwork:	14th May 2013
Date of Report:	15th May 2013

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

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Date: 25th May 2013

Approved by:

Date:

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief during ground breaking works at the site of Outh Muir, Knockhill, Fife.

An archaeological watching brief was required during the ground breaking works associated with the installation of an anemometer mast.

Five small trenches were opened and no significant archaeological remains were noted during these ground breaking works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Arcus Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground breaking works at the site of the installation of a single anemometer mast at Outh Muir, Knockhill, Fife (Planning Reference No. 12/04849/FULL). The watching brief was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Fife Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by Fife Council Archaeology Unit (FCAU). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2013) approved on behalf of Fife Council by FCAU and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The anemometer mast location is centred at NGR: NT 07149 95030 (Figure 1) to the north of Knockhill Racing Circuit, in an area of fairly flat unimproved pasture, consisting largely of long grasses and which is boggy in places.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 There are no known recorded sites within the immediate location of the anemometer mast. However, the access track is located within an historic landscape and is situated to the immediate north of both a Farmstead (NMRS: NT09SE 28) and the White Hills Colliery (NMRS NT09SE 27).

1.3.2 The Farmstead consists of two buildings, a kiln and at least two enclosures, and is located in close proximity to extensive rig and series of large rectangular fields, defined by earthen dykes and extending over some 12 ha.

1.3.3 The Colliery was active during the publication of the 1st Edition OS MAP, but by the time of the publication of the 2nd OS Map (1896) had become derelict. Coal workings are recorded in three separate locations. The first (NT 0645 9462) comprises an adit and a linear tip. The second (NT 0658 9467) comprises at least five adits, a filled-in pit shaft and a conical tip immediately SW of the Farmstead. A series of collapse holes run in a line E towards a brick-lined shaft at NT 0672 9469. The third (NT 0674 9468) is marked by a large subsidence hole on the north side of a tip that spreads out downslope from it, leading to a linear spoil tip. The 1st edition of the OS 6-map (Fife & Kinross, 1856, sheet 30) depicts a tramway leading from the road at NT 0643 9456 in the direction of the third area of workings and annotated them 'engine house and iron and coal level'.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by the groundworks associated with the installation of the mast;
- ii) to liaise with FCAU and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response for safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording if not.

- iii) To report the results of the watching brief.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The ground breaking works consisted of a number of anchor points (small trenches c 3.0 m in length and 0.70 m wide). (Appendix 1)
- 3.2 All ground breaking works were carried out by 360° mechanical excavator using a 0.70 m wide toothed, ditching bucket. The nature and depth of the deposits overlying the natural deposits were recorded, as was the nature of the natural deposits.
- 3.3 The groundbreaking works were constantly monitored and the spoil was scanned for artefacts and ecofacts.
- 3.4 A digital photographic record was kept during the course of the works. (Appendix 2).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The upper deposits were all recorded as a brown peat, which directly overlay natural geology with a sharp boundary. Peat depths were recorded between 0.30 m and 1.15 m, the deeper of these being recorded towards the north west.
- 4.2 The underlying deposits were recorded as a mixture of grey, grey/brown and brown clays.
- 4.3 No significant archaeological remains were noted during the course of the works.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The groundbreaking works associated with the anemometer mast are now complete, and therefore no further archaeological works are considered necessary during this phase of works at Outh Muir, the remainder of which are non-intrusive.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2013 Outh Muir, Knockhill, Fife. *Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished Project Design

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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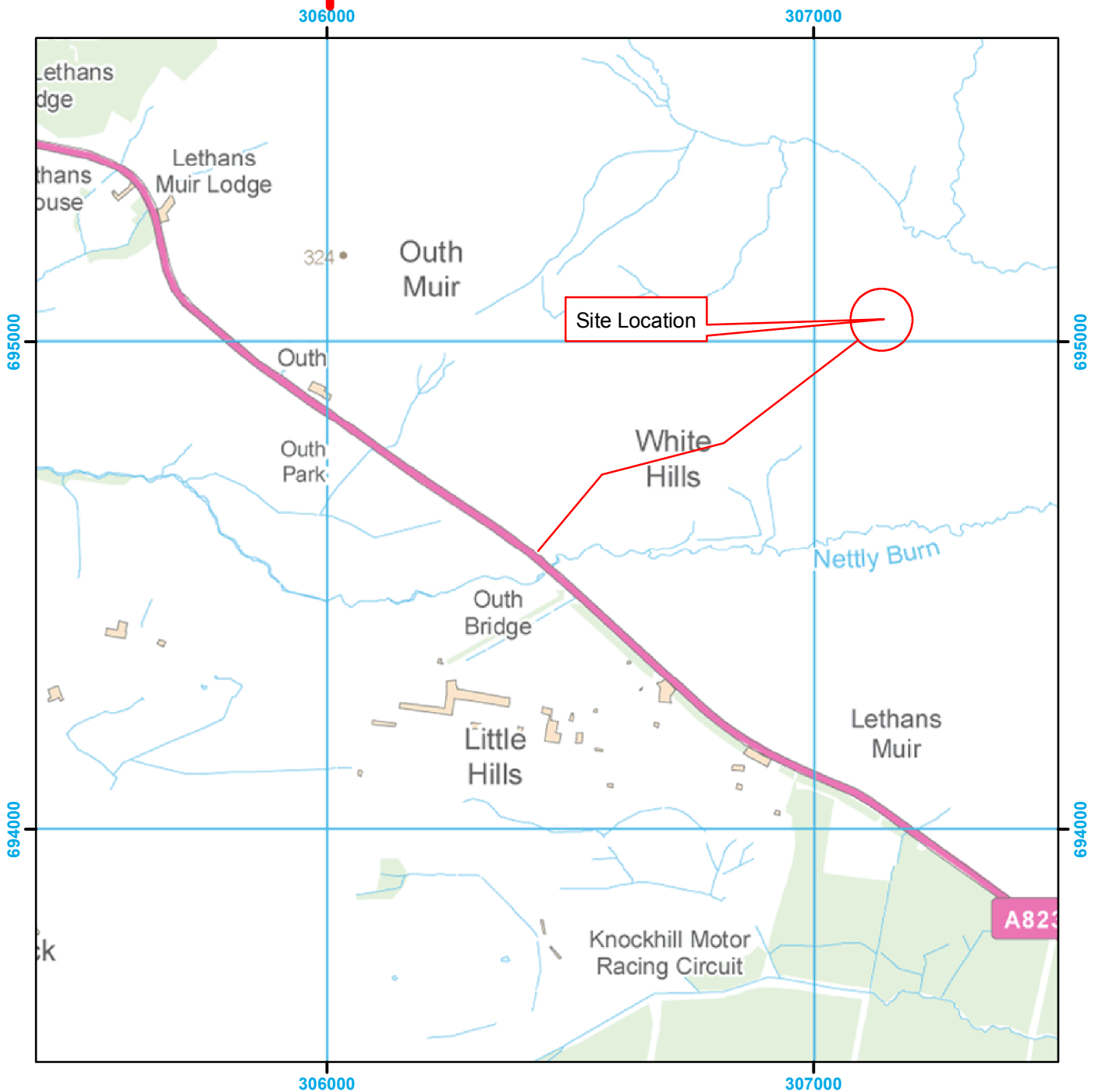
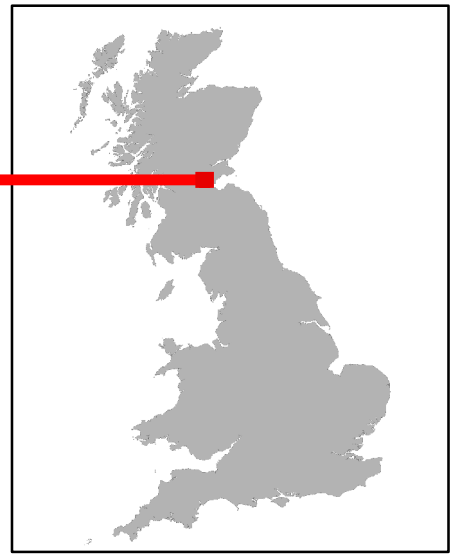
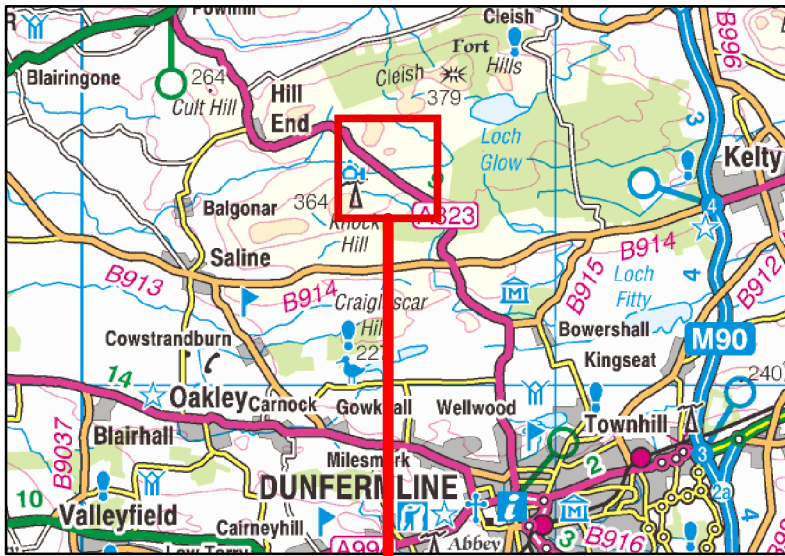
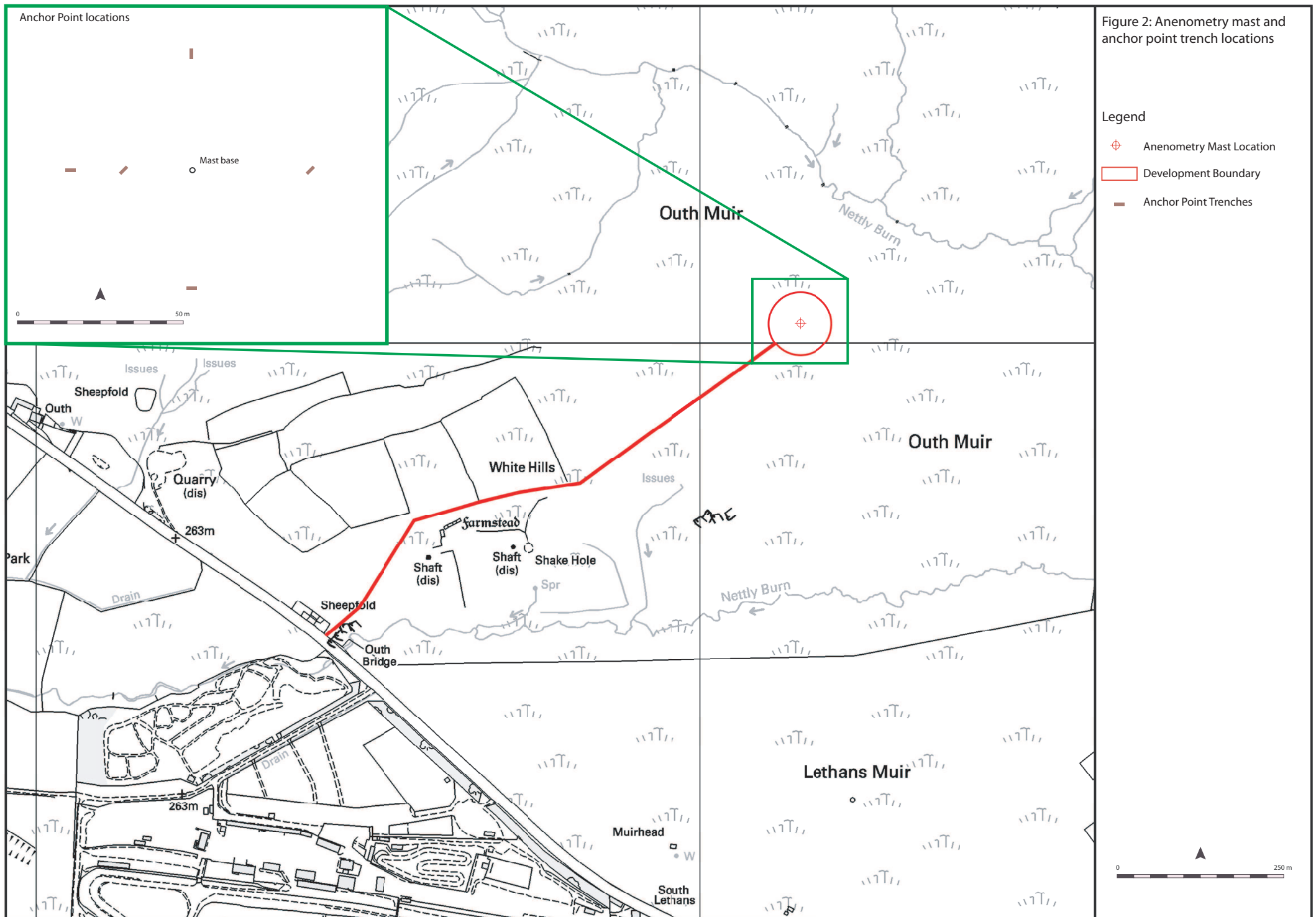


Figure 1: Site Location Plan



Outh Muir, Knockhill, Fife: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Anchor Point Descriptions

Back Anchor Point:

Dimensions: 3m x 0.70m

Orientation: North east – South west

Peat Depth: 0.30m

Underlying deposits: Grey clay

Side Anchor Point – South:

Dimensions: 2.90m x 0.70m

Orientation: East – West

Peat Depth: 0.50m

Underlying deposits: Grey/brown clay

Side Anchor Point – North:

Dimensions: 3m x 0.70m

Orientation: North – South

Peat Depth: 0.60m

Underlying deposits: Brown clay

Transfer Anchor Point:

Dimensions: 3m x 0.70m

Orientation: East – West

Peat Depth: 1.15m

Underlying deposits: Grey clay

Lifting Anchor Point:

Dimensions: 3.30m x 0.70m

Orientation: North east – South west

Peat Depth: 0.55m

Underlying deposits: Grey/brown clay

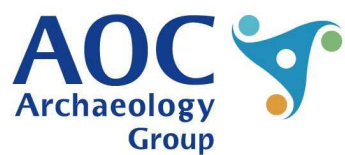
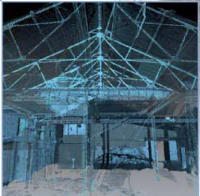
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digital

Frame	Description	From
1&2	General view, pre excavation	S
3	Back Anchor Point	E
4	Side Anchor Point - South	S
5	Side Anchor Point - North	NW
6	Transfer Anchor Point	NE
7	Lifting Anchor Point	NE

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Outh Muir, Knockhill
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22435
PARISH:	Dunfermline
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Duffy
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NJ 149 030 (centred)
START DATE (this season)	14 th May 2013
END DATE (this season)	14 th May 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was required during the ground breaking works associated with the installation of an anemometer mast. No significant archaeological remains were noted during the archaeological works.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Arcus Consulting
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Alan.Duffy@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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