

PRSS10

**Ponesk Remainder Surface Mine, East Ayrshire:
Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological
programme of works**

Client: Scottish Resources Group

6 April 2010

updated 14 April 2010 (Phase 2: evaluation)

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1 INTRODUCTION

This Written Scheme of Investigation describes a programme of archaeological survey and evaluation. It has been submitted following discussion with Paul Robins of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), archaeological advisors to East Ayrshire Council.

Scottish Coal has obtained planning permission to extract coal from the Ponesk Remainder site (see attached plan). Planning permission was granted subject to a negative suspensive planning condition relating to archaeology. This condition (7) required submission of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing a programme of archaeological work in connection with the development. This document forms that WSI and details a programme of archaeological works comprising:

- (1.1) archaeological recording by survey of the extant remains of a farmstead named 'Cairniebottom' (NGR 272409 629509)
- (1.2) a walkover of the area around the farmstead
- (2) intrusive evaluation (trial excavation) of the farmstead building.

2 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1 OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives are:

- To identify and record any archaeological resource that may be present on the site, prior to disturbance or destruction by proposed operations.

2.2 METHODOLOGY

2.2.1 Archaeological survey of 'Cairniebottom'

Phases 1.1 / 1.2 – involving archaeological survey of the settlement at 'Cairniebottom' and its environs – have now been completed. This work was undertaken on 13th April, using a Trimble R6 Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) with VRS-Now technology.

The low turf-covered remains of the building at 'Cairniebottom' are 22.5 x 6.8m externally, with walls roughly 0.7m wide and up to 1m in places. The building is aligned roughly NW-SE, falling to the SE. Around it are spread its collapsed stone

and turf superstructure, although there are indications that the SE gable has been rebuilt over an earlier foundation. There are traces of an entrance towards the NW end of the more northerly long wall and there is a marked change in level in the SE half of the building, representing the step down into the byre end of the longhouse. There are also traces here of what may be a central drain. Possibly attached to the SE corner of the building is a low, spread bank which can be traced further to the north as a well-faced wall. It peters out to the north and its course cannot be identified.

Full details of the building and its enclosure will be presented in the Archive Data Structure Report, the product of the Phase 2 Programme of Works (Evaluation)

2.2.2 Archaeological walkover of wider area around 'Cairniebottom'

A walkover of the area around the site, bounded by the former open-cast area to the south and the application boundary to the north, was undertaken to determine if a visible field system or other remains formerly related to the settlement survive in the surrounding area. A fragment of an enclosure bank / wall was identified in proximity to the longhouse but no other features were identified.

2.2.3 Evaluation of 'Cairniebottom' (Figure 1 – survey plan)

The survey of the building's ground-plan and our proposed trenching plan are attached. The key objectives of the evaluation phase are to:

- (A) clarify the phasing of the structure (whether single- or multiple-phase construction and/or occupation);
- (B) clarify / confirm its function (longhouse, conjoined dwelling and byre);
- (C) clarify its chronology and date of construction / occupation;
- (D) clarify the relationship between the building and the enclosure.

Four hand-excavated trenches are proposed to address these questions.

Trench 1 (14 x 2m), across the byre-end of the building and extending into the adjacent bank. To address, principally, Objectives (A), (B) and (D).

Trench 2 (10 x 2m plus additional 5 sq metres for transects if required), along the length of the building, taking in the change in level at the mid-point, with the aim of locating a central hearth. To address, principally, Objectives (A), (B) and (C).

Trench 3 (1 x 1m), located at the SW corner of the building, to include cleaning over of the wall-head, with the aim of identifying whether the fabric of the wall has been rebuilt / altered. To address, principally, Objective (A).

Trench 4 (3 x 1m), located across the enclosure bank where the wall-face survives, to clarify whether the bank is of single- or multiple- phases of construction. To address, principally, Objective (D).

2.2.4 Further Mitigation

If significant archaeological remains are identified during the course of the evaluation the client and WoSAS will be informed immediately in order to arrange a site meeting. The aim of the site meeting would be to discuss what further mitigation is likely to be required by the planning authority. The archaeological significance of any features would be determined by the planning authority and would determine the preferred mitigation. Further work is likely to entail further excavation, recording and reporting. Any such further works would be detailed in an addendum to this WSI and approval obtained from the client and WoSAS.

2.3 RECORDING

All recording will be according to IfA standards and guidance. All contexts, small finds and environmental samples will be given unique numbers and all recording will be undertaken on *pro forma* record cards.

Colour transparency and print or high resolution digital photographs will be taken and recorded in a photographic register. Record shots of archaeological features and contexts will have a metric scale visible.

An overall site plan will be recorded and related to the National Grid. Hand-drawn plans of individual features at a scale of 1:20 will be drawn where appropriate. Sections and elevations will be drawn at 1:10 where appropriate.

2.4 MONITORING

Access will be afforded to a representative from East Ayrshire Council's archaeological advisors (WoSAS) to monitor the progress of the works. Any significant discoveries or unexpected conditions shall be communicated immediately to the client and WoSAS.

2.5 HUMAN REMAINS

Any human remains encountered during the course of the archaeological investigation will be left *in situ*. All finds of human remains will be reported to the client, WoSAS and the local police. Unless instructed to do so, no burials will be excavated during the course of the present programme of work.

If human remains are to be excavated during subsequent work, all works will be agreed with the client and undertaken in accordance with Historic Scotland policy on the treatment of human remains and in cognisance of IfA Technical Paper Number 13 (McKinley & Roberts 1993).

2.6 SAMPLES AND ARTEFACTS

Deposits identified as archaeologically significant (eg fills from negative features such as pits and post-holes) will be sampled for environmental material and other finds (e.g. bone, pottery etc.). Bulk samples will be taken from deposits for wet sieving and flotation in order to recover any environmental material. A bulk sample ranges from 10 to 30 litres; however, where large deposits are encountered more than one bulk sample may be taken. Similarly, small deposits such as the fill of post-holes may contain less than 10 litres of sediment and will be fully sampled. A representative proportion of samples taken on site will be processed and assessed with the results and recommendations for any further work included in the evaluation report.

Where waterlogged deposits are encountered (such as peat) appropriate sampling techniques will be employed so as to maximise the environmental information gained from such deposits. This may include the taking of monolith or core samples for pollen and non-pollen palynomorphs (eg testates and fungal spores) and large specialist samples for plant macrofossil, wood and insect analyses.

Bulk finds will be collected by context. Small finds will be recorded in a register and plotted using Total Station survey. Finds will be stored in appropriate conditions as advised by Headland's Finds Manager (Julie Franklin). Any objects requiring conservation shall be assessed but not conserved as part of the scope of works detailed here.

2.7 REPORTING AND ARCHIVE

The results of the work will be presented in a Data Structure Report within two months of the completion of fieldwork. It will conform to WoSAS reporting requirements. A summary report will be prepared for submission to *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland* and the OASIS database.

The project archive (paper and digital) will be compiled in accordance with the guidelines published by the IfA on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (July 2007). The documentary archive will be submitted to the National Monuments Record for Scotland within six months of completion of all work on this project. All

digital archives created by Headland will be archived with RCAHMS (NMRS) via an external hard drive at the time of deposition.

All finds will be reported to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel, which will determine the ultimate destination of the material archive. Once this is determined, within three months arrangements will be made with the specified museum for transfer of material and title.

2.8 POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

Depending on the results of the evaluation (and any additional fieldwork), WoSAS may deem further post-excavation analysis and publication of results necessary to fulfill the planning condition. If this is the case the Data Structure Report will be accompanied by a proposal for any such further works

3 RESOURCING & SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

3.1 PROJECT TEAM

The fieldwork will be managed for Headland Archaeology by Dr Chris Lowe (MifA) and supervised on-site by Ross Murray, a Project Officer from Headland's field-team and the supervisor of the Phase 1 field survey.

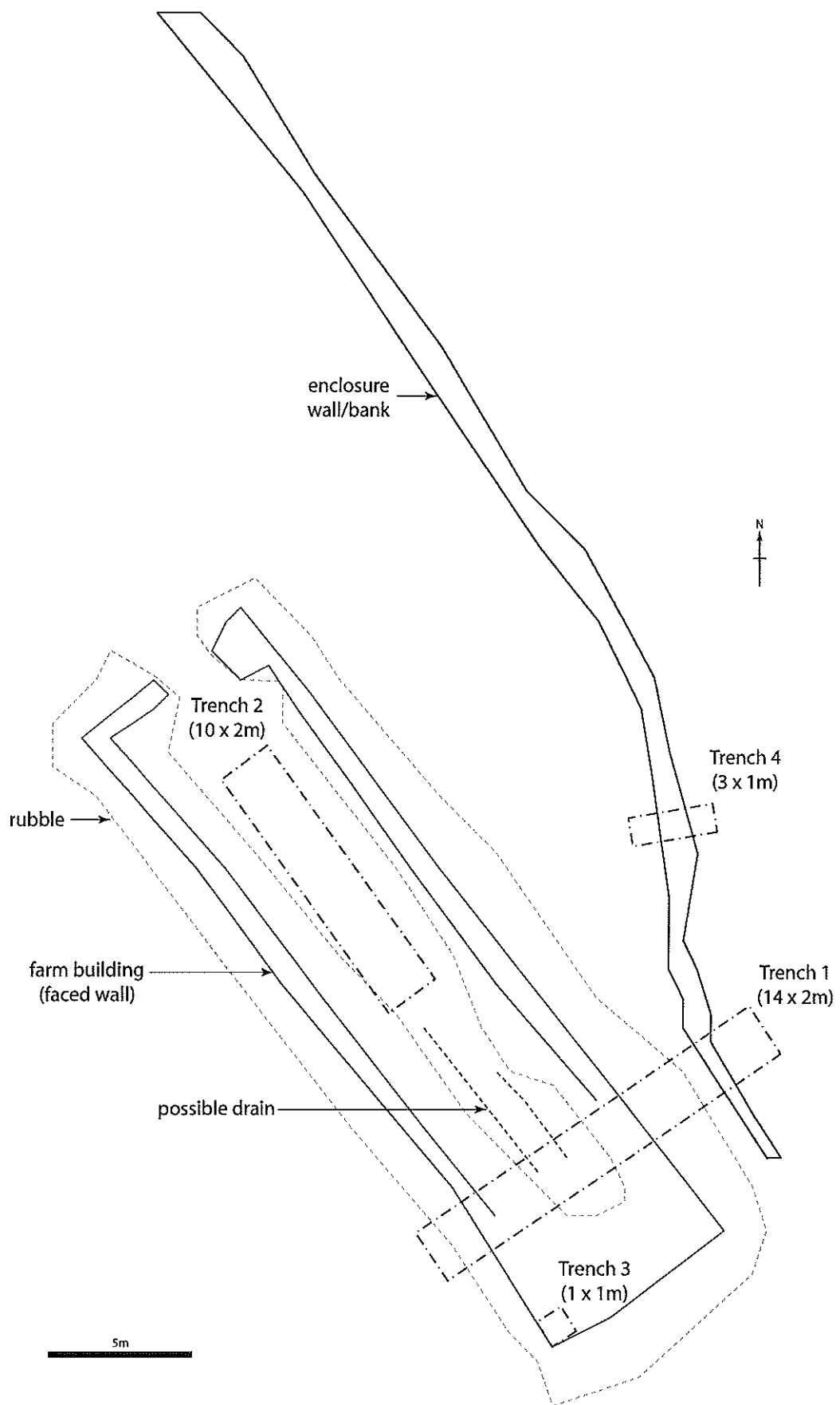
Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd is a Registered Organisation of the *Institute for Archaeologists* and abides by its Codes of Conduct. The company has all the necessary technical and personnel resources for the satisfactory completion of the investigation.

3.2 INSURANCE

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd is fully indemnified and all necessary insurances can be presented on request.

3.4 HEALTH & SAFETY

All of Headland's work is undertaken in accordance with current H&S legislation. A risk assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork.



PRSS10- Proposed trench plan