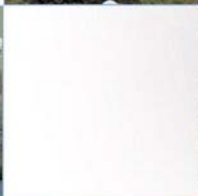


# Anemometer Mast, Loch Urr, Dumfries and Galloway: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project 21920

OASIS ID – aocarcha1-141673

12<sup>th</sup> February 2013



# Anemometer Mast, Loch Urr, Dumfries and Galloway:

## Watching Brief Data Structure Report

<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>Axis</b> Well House Barns Bretton Chester CH4 0DH
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>NX 74701 84440</b>
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	<b>21920</b>
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<b>Date of Fieldwork:</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013</b>
<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> February 2013</b>

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

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<b>Approved by: Martin Cook</b>	<b>Date: 13.02.12</b>
<b>Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft</b>	<b>Date: 13.02.13</b>

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## Abstract

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This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief during the construction and erection of an anemometer mast next to Loch Urr, Dumfries and Galloway.

An archaeological presence was required to ensure that no heritage assets were disturbed while construction machinery accessed the mast location. Monitoring of all ground breaking works associated with the mast construction was also undertaken. Eight anchor points were excavated during the construction measuring 3.0 m by 0.7 m, and up to 2.0 m deep.

No heritage assets were disturbed during the works and neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

- 1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Axis on behalf of their client E.ON Climate and Renewables to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction and erection of an anemometer mast near Loch Urr, Dumfries and Galloway. The watching brief was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Dumfries and Galloway Council who are advised on archaeological matters by the Jane Brann. The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2012) approved on behalf of Dumfries and Galloway Council by Jane Brann 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: NX 74701 84440 (Figure 1) and lies to the west of Loch Urr, within an area named Craigmuir Moor. The site is approximately 100m south of a farm track that runs west from the road to Castle Douglas. The area is currently used for pasture and is very boggy with a number of small streams and burns running near the site.

### 1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 A Baseline Conditions Report (AOC 2011) undertaken to record the archaeological sites within the area for a proposed wind farm provides a comprehensive historical and archaeological background of the area. For the purposes of the anemometer construction, the report highlighted four heritage assets near the proposed location of the anemometer mast (Figure 1).
- 1.3.2 Two of these refer to post-medieval farming features: a dry stone wall (Site 287) and modern peat cuttings (Site 286). However the other two features are more significant. The earliest of these is Site 283 which is listed as a robbed out cairn. Given the prehistoric elements of the surrounding landscape, focussed mainly on the potentially Iron Age Crannog on Loch Urr, this cairn may have been related to that activity, subsequently robbed out by antiquarians or by farmers looking to re-use the stone. The other feature is recorded as an enclosure on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map and most likely refers to a medieval or post-medieval animal enclosure or possible old farmstead.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are:
- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by the proposed development works;
  - ii) to liaise with Jane Brann and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and /or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The works involved the monitoring of vehicular access to the site of an anemometer mast construction as well as an archaeological watching brief on the excavation of eight anchor points for holding the mast in place. Excavation was conducted by a tracked 360° excavator utilising a toothless narrow bucket. All ground breaking was monitored by an experienced field archaeologist and all recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practices.

### 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The watching brief was carried out on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 on a dry and bright day preceded by a day of moderate snowfall covering the area in 0.20 m of snow, making visibility of upstanding remains difficult.
- 4.2 Access to the mast location was mainly via a farm track that led off the main road from the A702 to Castle Douglas. Site 283 was located immediately to the north of the track next to where the road vehicles could no longer access. Ranging rods were placed around the feature to demonstrate its location to the contractors (Plate 1). Due to the snow cover it was not possible to locate Site 64/191 however all measures were taken to ensure the mast and anchor points were more than 25.0 m away from its mapped location.



**Plate 1 - View of cairn ringed with ranging rods**

- 4.3 The anchor point excavations were set at 25.0 m and 50.0 m from the mast on all four points of the compass. All eight trenches measured 3.0 m by 0.7 m and revealed a mid greyish brown topsoil varying in depth from 0.15 m to 0.30 m overlying a mottled orangey brown sand and gravel (Plate 2).



**Plate 2 - General shot of anchor point excavation**

## **5 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 No damage was caused to Site 64/191 or Site 283 and neither significant features nor unstratified artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

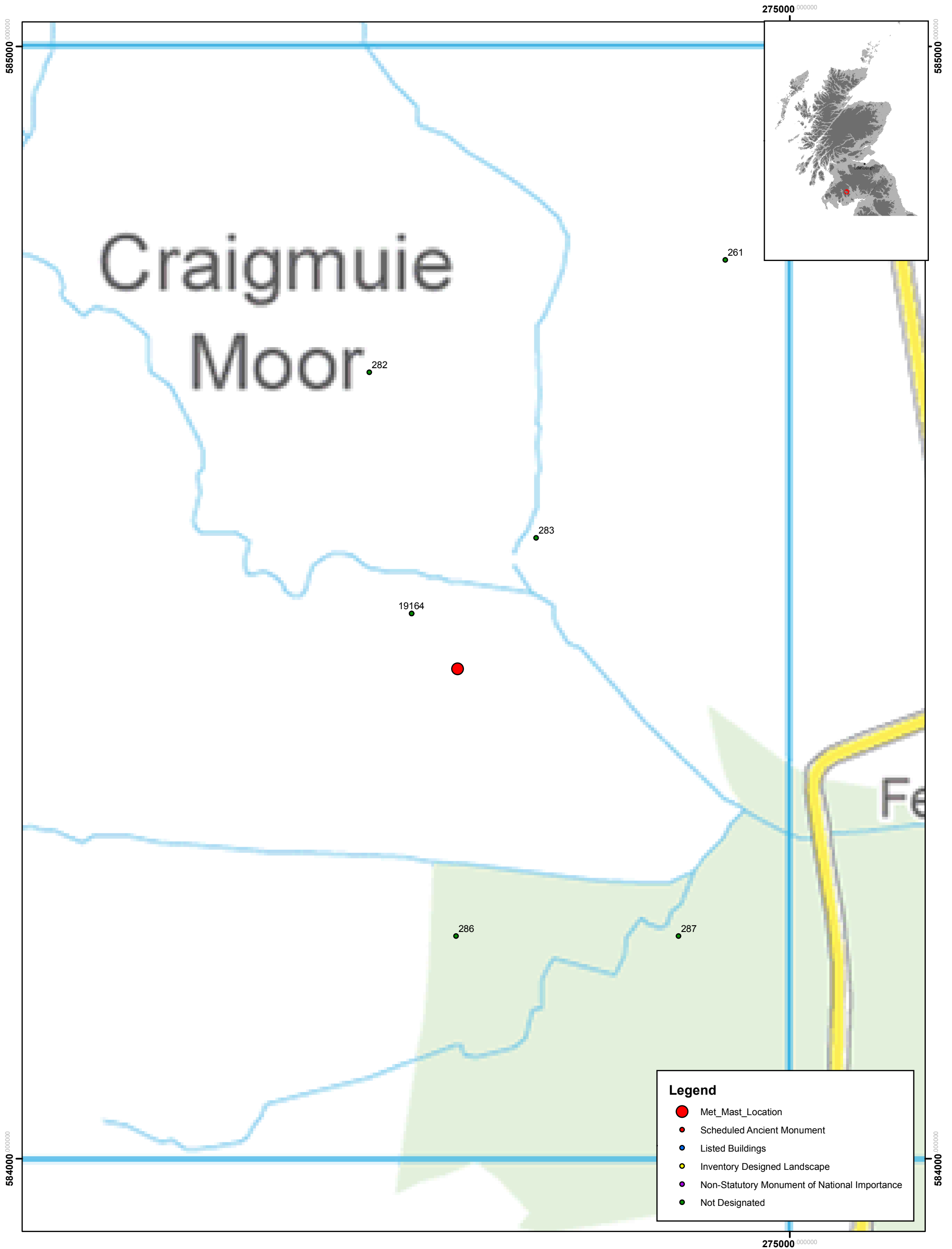
AOC 2011 *Loch Urr Wind Farm, Dumfries and Galloway: Baseline Conditions Report* Unpublished AOC Client Report

AOC 2012 *Anemometer Mast, Loch Urr, Dumfries and Galloway Archaeological Monitoring: Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished Project Design

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology*.





0.00 0.025 0.05 0.075 0.1  
Kilometers

Figure 1: Met Mast Location & location of heritage assets

# **Anemometer Mast, Loch Urr, Dumfries and Galloway: Watching Brief Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital

Frame	Description	From
1-8	Panoramic view from mast location	Various
9	View of mast from likely location of site 64/191	W
10	Turf dykes near mast location	N
11	General shot of access area	N
12	General shot of cairn 283	E
13	General shot of cairn 283	N
14	Anchor point 1 excavation	E
15	Anchor point 2 excavation	S
16	Anchor point 3 excavation	S
17	Anchor point 5 excavation	N
18	Anchor point 7 excavation	E
19	Anchor point 8 excavation	E
20	General view of possible rig and furrow area	N
21	Cairn site 283 ringed with ranging rods	E

**APPENDIX 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Dumfries and Galloway Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Anemometer Mast, Loch Urr
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 21920
<b>PARISH:</b>	Balmaclellan
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Kevin Paton
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NX 74701 84440
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2013
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2013
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the construction and erection of an anemometer mast next to Loch Urr, Dumfries and Galloway.</p> <p>An archaeological presence was required to ensure that no heritage assets were disturbed while construction machinery accessed the mast location. Monitoring of all ground breaking works associated with the mast construction was also undertaken. Eight anchor points were excavated during the construction measuring 3.0 m by 0.7 m, and up to 2.0 m deep.</p> <p>No heritage assets were disturbed during the works and neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Axis
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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