

# Aikengall Cable Link Watching Brief

## Data Structure Report

AOC 20967

8/10/2008



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### Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	<b>Scottish Power Energy Networks</b> Riccarton Mains Currie Edinburgh EH14 5AA
National Grid Reference (NGR):	<b>Various (see text)</b>
AOC Project No:	<b>20967</b>
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Date of Fieldwork:	<b>30/07/08 – 29/09/08</b>
Date of Report:	<b>October 2008</b>

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

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Date: 14/10/08

Draft/Final Report Stage:

Date: 15/10/08

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## Abstract

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This report documents the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring of all ground breaking works within five specified areas along the route of ground works associated with the laying of a new cable between Aikengall Windfarm and South Belton Substation, Dunbar. The works mainly comprised the stripping of topsoil, providing a 3 m wide wayleave, prior to the excavation of a cable trench 1.2 m wide and 1.3 m deep. No features or artifacts of archaeological significance were recorded across any of the five separate sites. At site 4, close to Chesterhall Farm House (the site of the Battle of Dunbar 1650), a programme of metal detecting was undertaken prior to the ground works and again during the ground works. A moderate haul of metal objects were recovered during this work.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Scottish Power Energy Networks to undertake a programme of archaeological works at five specific areas (Sites 1-5) along the route of a cable laying operation between Aikengall Windfarm and South Belton Substation, Dunbar. The archaeological works were designed to satisfy the requirements of both East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS) and in part Historic Scotland due to the cable works running through the Scheduled Area of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) at Eweford (Site 2). The works consisted of a programme of monitoring of the ground works across the five separate sites and were conducted under the terms of the two separate *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2008a, AOC 2008b), approved by ELCAS and Historic Scotland. The works were carried out in accordance with the principals inherent in NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a). The work was undertaken between 30<sup>th</sup> July 2008 and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008, in variable weather conditions.

## 1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The five areas of the archaeological monitoring were mainly located along the south side of the A1 dual carriageway between Site 1 at Thistly Cross and Site 5 at Thurston Home Farm (Figure 1). The initial site at Thistly Cross (Figure 2; NGR: NT 6510 7735 to NT 6532 7745) ran along the eastern edge of a cultivated field close to the route of the B6370 200 m north of South Belton Farm Cottages towards Thistly Cross Roundabout prior to continuing east 250 m along the northern edge of the bounding the south side of the A1 dual carriageway. Site 2 (Figure 3) ran along the northern edge of the fields bounding the A1 motorway (NGR: NT 6585 7740 to NT 6725 7718) immediately west of Myreside Farm continuing east up to 300 m beyond the road to Bowerhouse. Site 3 (Figure 4) started 200 south of the Spott Roundabout (NGR: NT 6800 7715 to NT 6848 7725) and continued along the northern edge of the field for approximately 300 m. The fourth area (Site 4; Figure 5) also ran along the northern edge of a series of fields bounding the southern side of the A1 Motorway between Chesterhall Farm House and the road to Meikle Pinkerton (NGR: NT 6910 7700 to NT 6990 7645). The final area (Site 5; Figure 6) was further to the east on the road leading from Thurston Manor Farm towards the A1 motorway (NGR: NT 7190 7485 to NT 7170 7455). The location of this final section had been altered from the original plan and was placed along the western side of the road along the grass verge instead of running through the fields to the east.

## 1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 While there were no recorded archaeological features within four of the five areas being monitored the wider landscape surrounding these sites was known to contain cropmark archaeological features. At Thistly Cross (Site 1) two significant cropmark sites have been recorded (NT67NE 81 and NT67NE 76) close to the area of the ground works. In addition to a number of cropmark sites close to the line of the ground works at Eweford (Site 2) the works also impacted on a Scheduled Area (HS

5834). The cropmark sites at Eweford included a pit alignments (NT67NE 126) and prehistoric activity (NT67NE 509, NT67NE 474 and NT67NE129) and further enclosures (NT67NE 124).

- 1.3.2 Further prehistoric activity was recorded during the widening of the A1 motorway close to Spott Roundabout (Site 3). This included a number of long cists (NT67NE 182) a fire-pit (NT67NE 510) and a later stone-lined culvert (NT67NE 511). Site 4 was the site of the Battle of Dunbar 1650 (NT67NE 54). Other features close to the ground works included the site of prehistoric earthworks (NT67NE 58) and a short cist (NT67NE 22). The final site at Thurston Home Farm included a number of cropmark sites including possible ring ditches and enclosures (NT77SW 22, NT77SW 23 and NT77SW 54) with most of the features within a scheduled area (HS 5870).

## 2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of this work were:
- i) to provide suitable archaeological mitigation for the installation of a new cable trench and thus prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
  - ii) where preservation *in situ* was impractical, to record all archaeological features and interpret them in an archaeological and historic framework by means of Phase 2 or Phase 3 addenda to be formulated with ELCAS or Historic Scotland.

## 3 Method

- 3.1 The groundbreaking works comprised the excavation of a 3 m wide wayleave with the removal of 0.3 m of topsoil using a tracked mechanical digger with a 2 m wide toothless ditching bucket. Although this did not remove all the topsoil a watching brief officer was present during this work in order to record any exposed areas of archaeology. Once the wayleave had been cleared a 1.3 m wide trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5 m using a tracked mechanical digger with a 1.3 m wide toothed bucket. A watching brief officer was also present during this stage of the works.
- 3.2 At the battle of Dunbar site (Site 4) (Figure 5) a programme of metal detecting was carried across the area of the cable trench and wayleave prior to the ground breaking works taking place. Further metal detecting was also carried on the spoil removed during the stripping of the topsoil for the 3 m wide wayleave.
- 3.3 A digital photographic record of all the various cable trench areas was taken along with a selection of general shots of the excavations (Appendix 1).
- 3.4 A full record of all the finds collected during the metal detecting is presented in Appendix 2.

- 3.5 An abstract of this report will be presented in the Discovery and Excavation in Scotland publication (Appendix 3) and entered on the OASIS internet based pages.

## 4 Results

- 4.1 At Thistly Cross a 320 m section of the cable trench was monitored. The trench was located along the edge of a cultivated field. The 3 m wide wayleave revealed mid-brown silty sand topsoil between 0.25 m and 0.35 m deep over gravel rich red sand with frequent larger rounded cobble inclusions (Plates 1 & 2). Possible areas of rig and furrow were present although this could not be clearly seen in the trench sections. The 1.2 m wide cable trench (Plate 3) further revealed a number of rubble field drains and tile field drains along with a stone-lined culvert close to the roundabout. Occasional fragments of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic and glass were recorded in the topsoil although this was not collected. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were recorded at this site.
- 4.2 At Eweford approximately 1200 m of the cable trench ground works was monitored which included a 100 m section through a Scheduled area. Again the topsoil was between 0.25 m and 0.35 m deep over a red sand/gravel alluvial deposit (Plate 4) with areas of sterile red/yellow sand, particularly at the west end. At the western end close to the gate between fields a 3 m wide drainage ditch was recorded. This aligned with a culvert to the north which had been re-directed via a plastic pipe. Further rubble and tile field drains were also recorded but no features or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified.
- 4.3 As with the previous two areas the topsoil at Spott Roundabout was approximately 0.35 m deep over red sand and gravel (Plates 5 -7). A small number of tile drains were recorded over the 500 m of cable trench monitored during the ground works but no other features or artefacts of archaeological significance were recorded.
- 4.4 The 1000 m long area of ground works across Site 4 (Battle of Dunbar) were subject to a programme of metal detecting prior to the ground works being undertaken (Appendix 2). The site was divided into five identifiable areas (A-E; Figure 5) in order to more easily identify the location of the finds. A large number of ferrous objects were recovered from this process, all of which were recovered from the topsoil and not from secure stratified deposits. In Areas A and B 44 finds were recovered during the pre-groundwork stage (Find No's 1 - 44). A single find (Find No. 53) was recorded in areas D and E during this same phase. Area C was not metal detected as it encompassed a thick copse of trees down a steep sided valley to a modern culvert and across a modern track on the east side.
- 4.5 Further metal detecting was undertaken during the removal of the topsoil across Areas A, B, D and E. In total 8 further finds were made in Areas A and B (Finds 45 – 52), with 22 objects recovered



from the eastern half of Area D in addition to 13 from the western half of Area D (finds 55 – 91) and 21 from Area E (Finds 92 – 113).

- 4.6 The majority of the finds were either irregular shaped lumps of iron, fragments of iron plate or iron bolts, nuts and nails. These finds can probably all be assigned to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. Two coins were recovered from the topsoil (Finds 34 and 54) although both were too eroded to enable a date to be assigned. A metal cap badge (Find 58) of unknown date was also recovered from the topsoil, this unfortunately had no inscription but the design indicated an agricultural background. A part of a horse bridal decoration (Find 57) was also found along with a variety of metal buttons (Finds 21, 60, 61, and 105). A intricate metal spool with a fine string attached (Find 17) was the only other find of any interest.
- 4.7 The watching brief of all the groundbreaking works across Site 4 (Plates 8 & 9) again did not encounter any features or artefacts of significant archaeological interest. The topsoil was between 0.30 m and 0.5 m deep over the same red sand/gravel alluvial deposits recorded elsewhere.
- 4.8 The course of the cable trench across the final site close to Thurston Home Farm (Site 5) had been altered from the original plan. Instead of running through the fields to the east of the minor road that led to the A1 to the north the trench was positioned on the grass verge to the west side of the road. Unlike the previous four sites no wayleave was cleared and the 1.2 m wide trench was excavated in a single phase. As this area of grass verge was laid over made ground associated with the construction of the road no archaeology would have been encountered. Therefore no watching brief officer was present during these works.

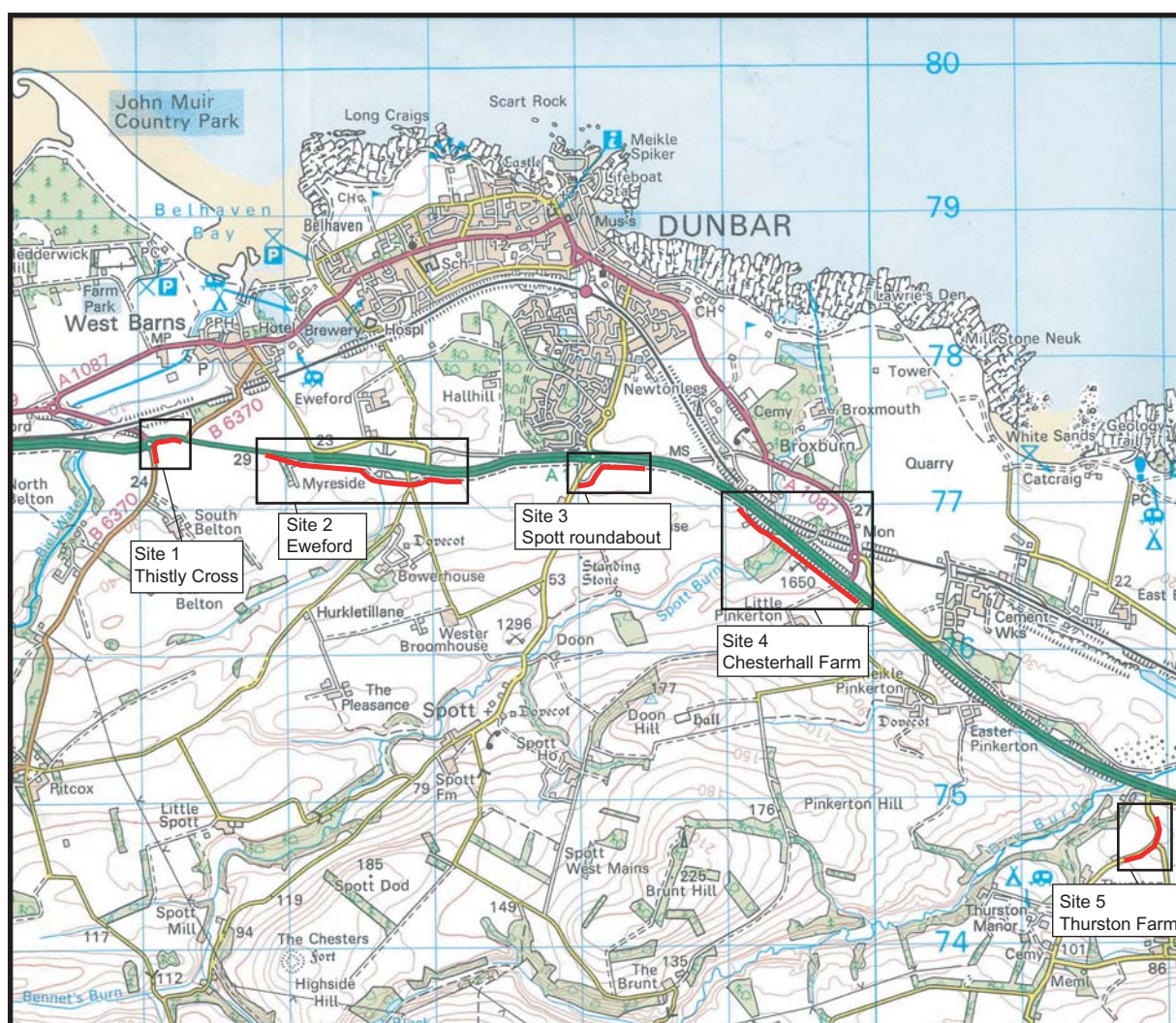
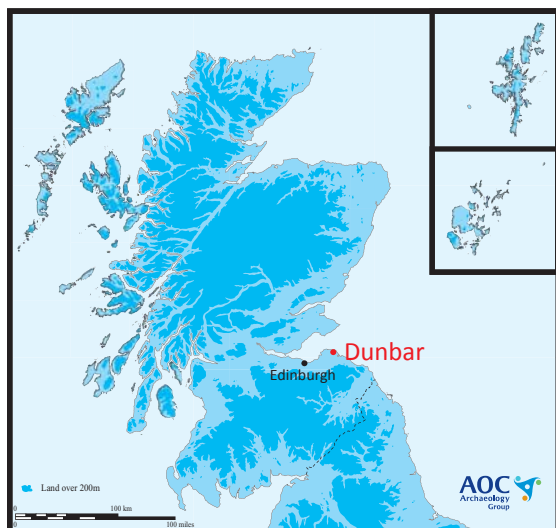
## 5 Conclusion

- 5.1 As no archaeology was encountered during these works no further archaeological intervention was required. A cursory examination of the finds recovered during the metal detecting stage of the works has identified that the majority of the finds are probably modern in provenance with a large number of fragments of iron and a number of bolts and iron nails. Some artefacts may be of more interest including two coins, and a number of brass buttons and a cap badge amongst other more difficult to identify objects.

## 6 References

AOC, 2008a, Eweford Archaeological Watching Brief. *Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished report for Historic Scotland (AOC 20967).

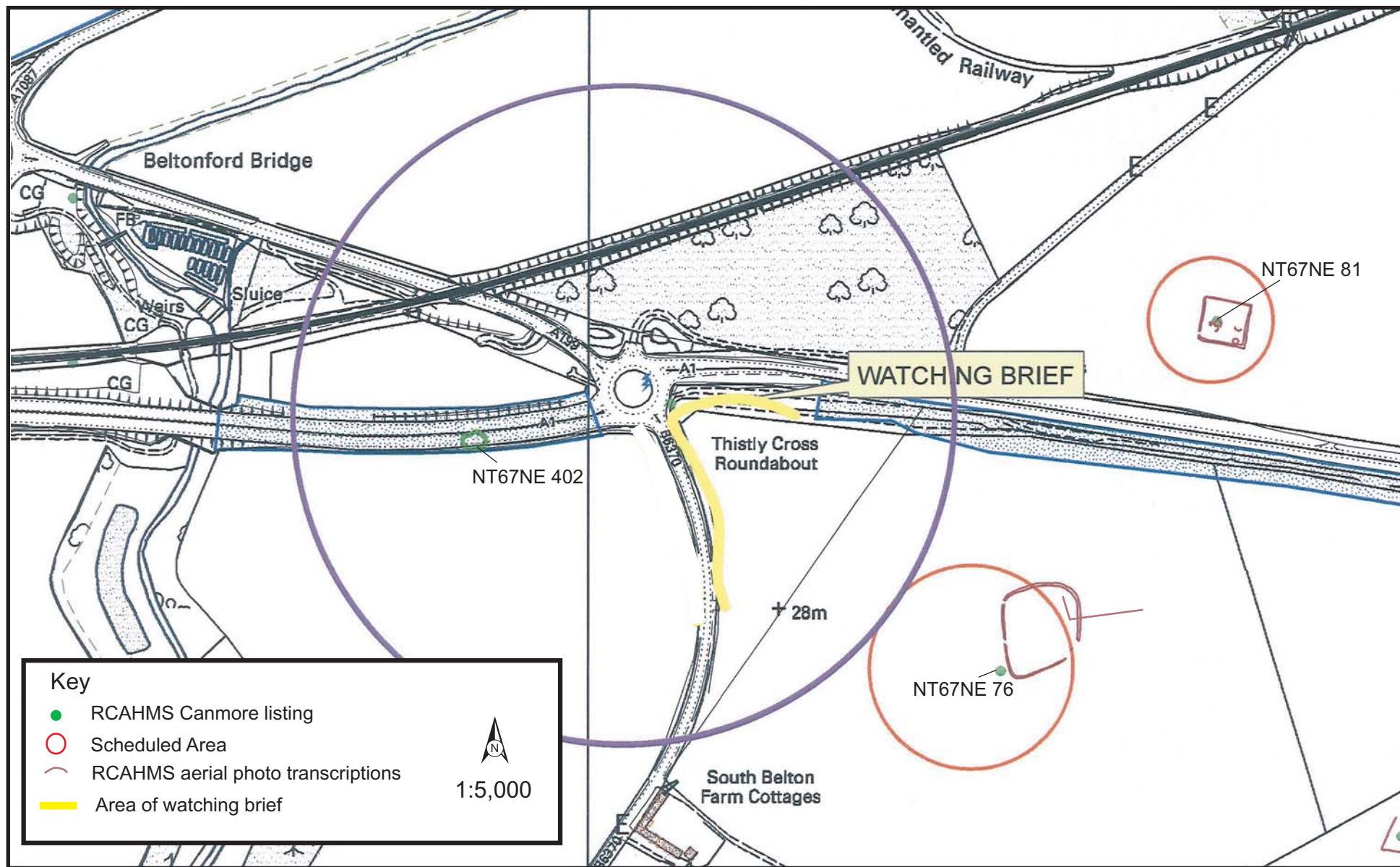
AOC, 2008b, Aikengall – South belton Cable Link: Archaeological Watching Brief. *Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished report for East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (AOC 20967).



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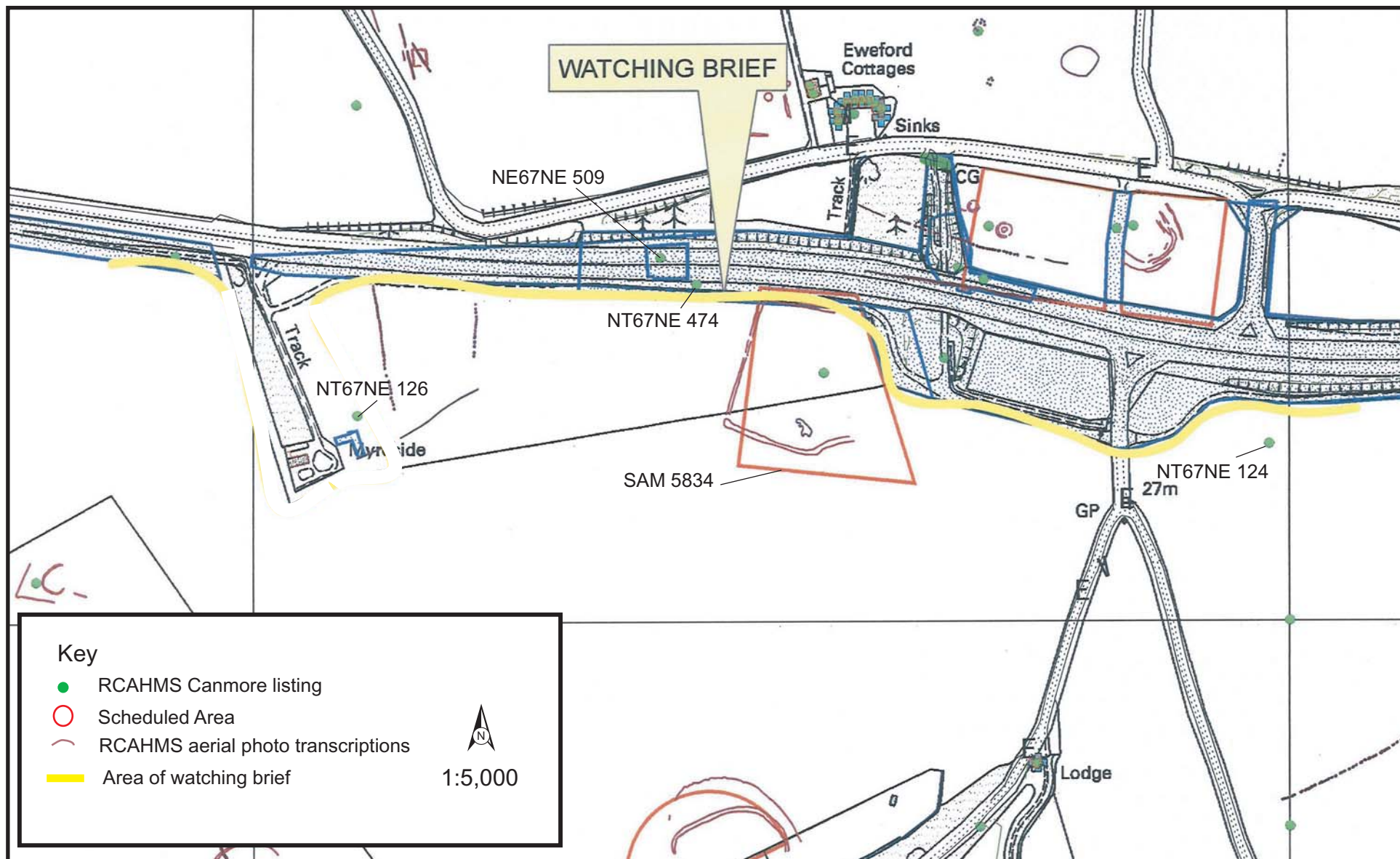
Figure 1: Site location plan





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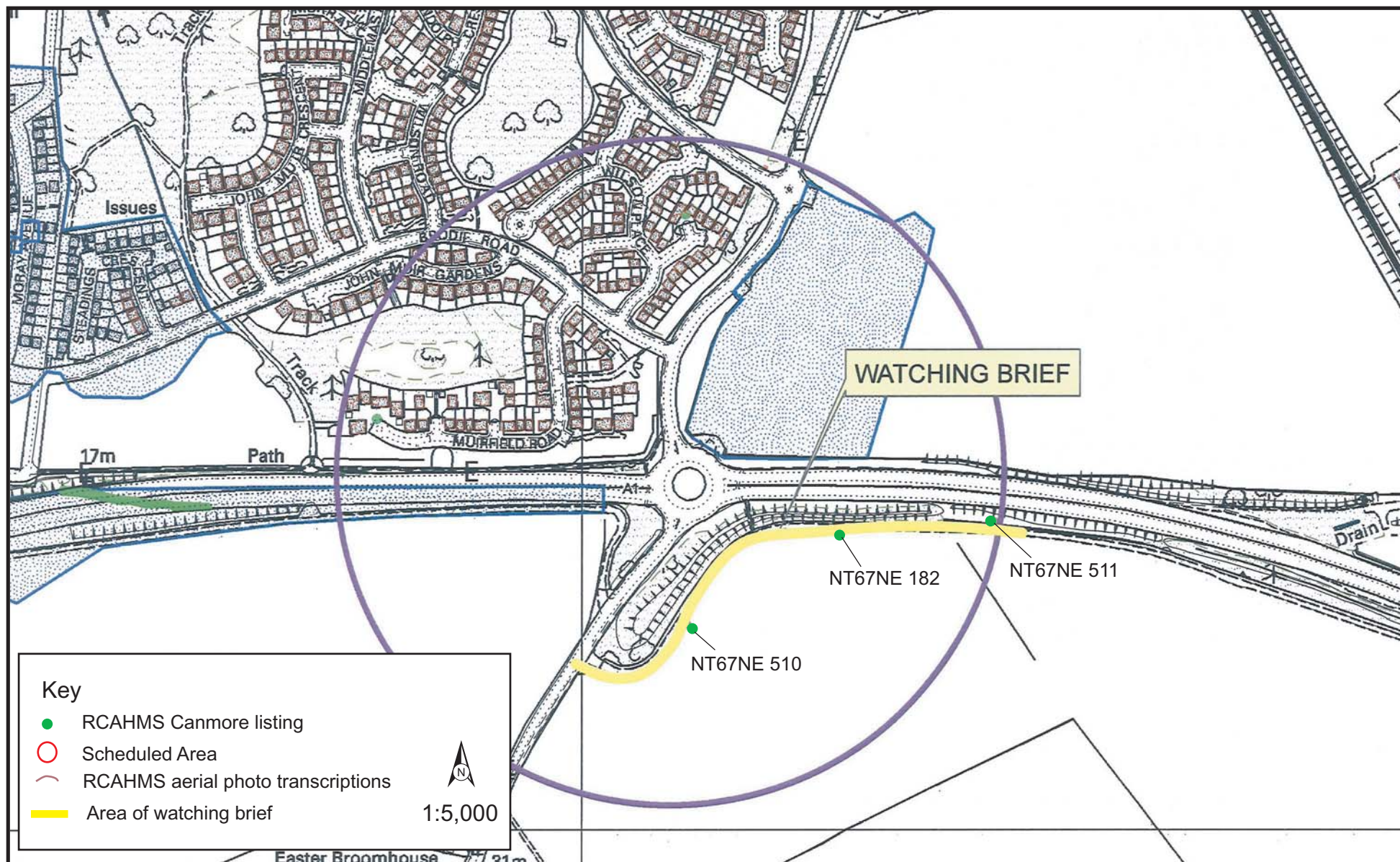
Figure 2: Location of Site 1, Thistly Cross



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Figure 3: Location of Site 2, Eweford

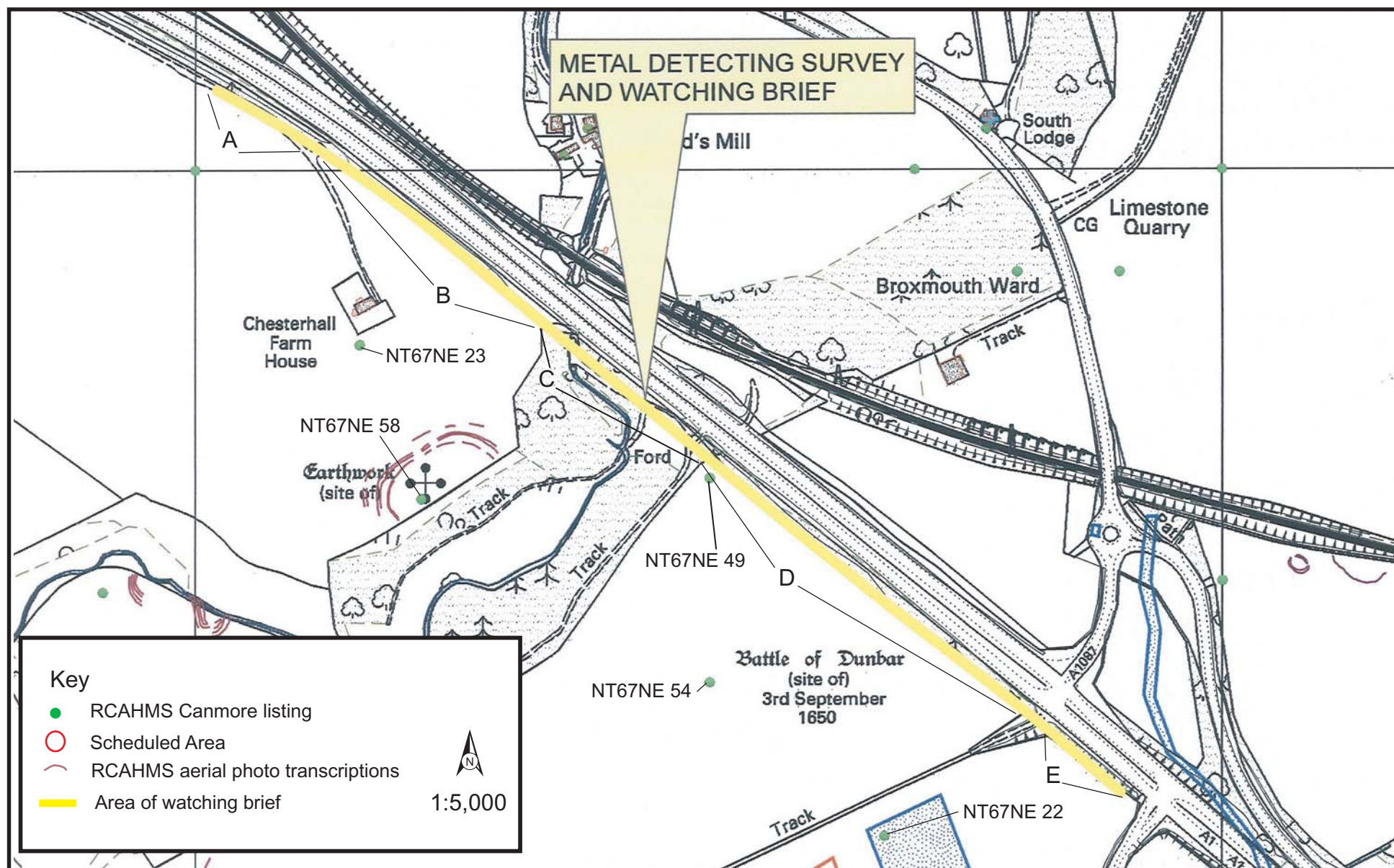




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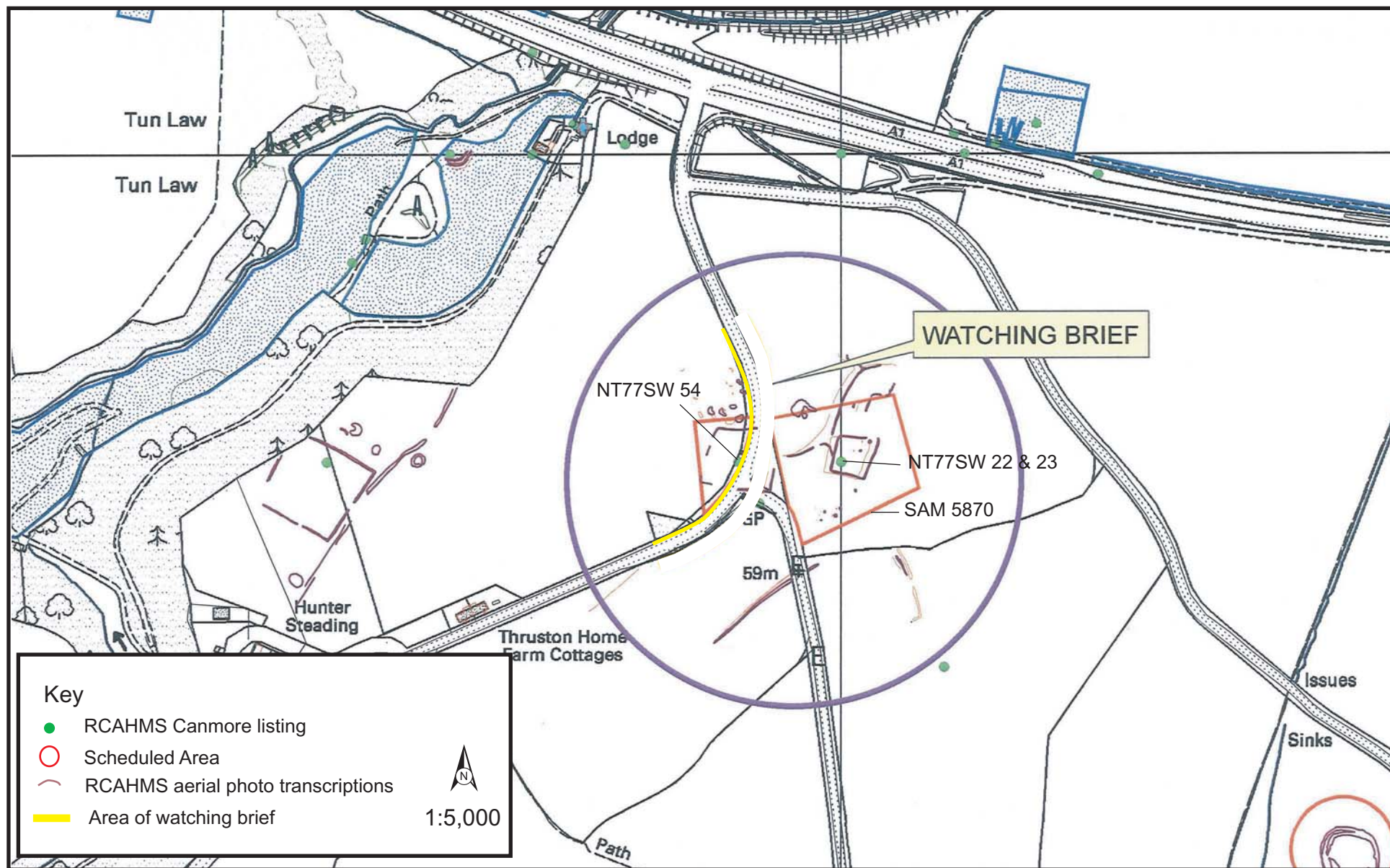
Figure 4: Location of Site 3, Spott Roundabout





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Figure 5: Location of Site 4, Battle of Dunbar



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Figure 6: Location of Site 5, Thurston Home Farm





Plate 1: General view of the wayleave at Site 1 from the North



Plate 2: General view of location of Site 1 from the North-east





Plate 3: General view of the cable trench at Site 1, from the East



Plate 4: Detail of the subsoil in the section of the cable trench





Plate 5: General view of the wayleave at Site 2 from the West



Plate 6: General view of the cable trench at Site 2 from the East





Plate 7: Detail of the cable trench at Site 3 showing the alluvial deposits



Plate 8: General view of the cable trench at Site 3 from the East



Plate 9 General view of the ground works at Site 4 from the East

## Appendix 1

### Photographic Register

Digital photographic record

Frame	Area	Description	From
1-2	Site 1	General view of cable trench	S
3	Site 1	Working shot	W
4	Site 1	General view of cable trench	NE
5	Site 1	General view of cable trench	E
6-7	Site 1	General view of cable trench	E
8	Site 2	General view of wayleave	E
9-10	Site 2	General view of wayleave	E
11-12	Site 2	General view of cable trench	E
13-17	Site 2	Detail of cable trench section	S
18-19	Site 2	General view of wayleave	W
20-23	Site 2	Detail of cable trench section	S
24-25	Site 2	General view of cable trench	E
26-30	Site 2	Various shots of the drainage channel in section	
31		Machine collapsed in trench	W
32-33	Site 3	General view of cable trench	E
34-35	Site 3	Detail of cable trench section	S
36	Site 3	General view of cable trench in field	E
37-38	Site 4	General view of wayleave	W
39-41	Site 4	General view of cable trench	E

## Appendix 2

### Finds Register

Find No	Area	Description	Size cm
1	B	Iron plate fragment	5 cm x 4 cm
2	B	Large metal cap	7.5 cm diameter
3	B	Large iron plate	25 cm x 15 cm
4	B	'Y' shaped iron plate	11 cm long
5	B	Iron lump (bolt head?)	4 cm x 4 cm
6	B	Iron plate fragment	9 cm x 5 cm
7	B	Lump of lead	8.5 cm x 2.5 cm
8	B	Iron axe head heavily abraded	
9	B	Section of iron hinge	20 cm x 6 cm
10	B	Modern chain link	
11	B	Fragment of iron	11 cm x 2 cm
12	B	Fragment of iron bar	17 cm x 2.5 cm
13	B	Square iron nut and bolt	11 cm long
14	B	Triangular iron plate fragment	3.5 cm x 3.5 cm
15	B	Part of metal (copper?) washer	5 cm x 1.8 cm

16	B	Iron plate fragment	7.5 cm x 5.5 cm
17	B	Metal spool pin?	7 cm long
18	B	Iron lump	3 cm x 1.5 cm
19	B	Toothed iron bar (part of gear system)	12 cm x 3.5 cm x 2.5 cm
20	B	Small iron lump	2.5 cm x 1.5 cm
21	B	Small round-headed brass(?) button	1.5 cm diameter
22	A	Iron nail	10 cm long
23	B	Fragment of metal collar with thread to outer side. Stamped 'EDIN'	
24	B	Iron lump, part of plough tooth	
25	B	Rear (strap) of a badge	
26	B	Iron lump on a stone	2 cm x 2 cm
27	B	Iron lump	3cm x 1cm
28	B	Thin circular copper washer	40 cm diameter
29	B	large iron lump	12 cm x 7.5 cm
30	B	Iron fragment	3.5 cm x 2.5 cm
31	B	Small 'L' shaped brass link (modern)	
32	B	Curved iron plate fragment	6.5 cm x 5 cm
33	B	Iron lump	8 cm x 6 cm
34	B	Coin, badly eroded	
35	B	Fragment of aluminum	
36	B	Thin bent metal pin	14 cm long
37	B	Iron bolt	8cm long 0.5 cm diameter
38	B	Small section of metal link	6cm long
39	B	Iron plate with a square hole	14 cm x 7 cm
40	B	Iron pin with welded plate attached	15 cm long
41	B	Iron bolt/pin	10 cm long
42	B	Metal thimble	
43	B	Iron plate fragment	13 cm x 9 cm
44	B	Iron hook with handle	
45	B	Long iron squared pin	25 cm x 2.5 cm x 1.5 cm
46	B	Iron chain link	5.5 cm x 3 cm
47	B	Iron nail	3.5 cm long
48	B	Iron plate	12 cm x 6 cm
49	B	Iron plate fragment	7 cm x 5 cm
50	B	Remains of iron trowel/tool	
51	B	Iron lock	7cm x 5 cm x 2 cm
52	B	Thin fragment of metal	2.5 cm x 1.5 cm
53	D	Iron ring / washer	5 cm diameter 1.2 cm thick
54	D	Possible coin	
55	D	Hooked iron pin	3.5 cm long
56	D	Cylindrical lead lump	1.1 cm long 1 cm diameter
57	D	Broken brass (?) horse bridal decoration	
58	D	Cap badge	
59	D	Part of belt buckle (modern)	
60	D	back half of metal button	2 cm diameter
61	D	Plain circular metal button	2.2 cm diameter
62	D	Lump of fibrous metal	
63	D	Iron plate fragment	7 cm x 6.5 cm
64	D	Square iron nut	3.7 cm x 3.7 cm x 1.5 cm
65	D	Iron nail fragment	3.5 cm long
66	D	Iron nail	4 cm long
67	D	Iron bolt fragment	3.5 cm long
68	D	Iron nail	4 cm long



69	D	Small iron lump	1.5 cm x 1 cm
70	D	Iron plate fragment	5.5 cm x 5 cm
71	D	Iron bolt fragment	5.5 cm x 1.8 cm
72	D	Iron plate fragment	5.5 cm x 5 cm
73	D	Iron plate	4.5 cm x 5.5 cm
74	D	Nail (hob nail?)	3 cm long
75	D	Round-headed pin/bolt	11 cm long 1.5 cm diameter
76	D	Iron plate fragment	4.5 cm x 3.8 cm
77	D	Iron bolt	14 cm long 1 cm diameter
78	D	Modern shotgun cap end	
79	D	Iron bolt fragment	4 cm long x 1.5 cm diameter
80	D	Brass washer	1.5 cm diameter
81	D	Iron nail	6.5 cm long x 1.5 cm wide
82	D	Metal link fragment	4 cm long
83	D	Cap/lid with handle (stamped 'London')	3 cm diameter
84	D	Iron key / tap end	4 cm long
85	D	Iron lump	3.5 cm x 1.8 cm
86	D	Iron nail/bolt	5 cm x 1.5 cm diameter
87	D	Iron hook	
88	D	Fragment of thick iron plate	9 cm x 6 cm x 1.5 cm
89	D	Fragment of iron plate	5 cm x 3.5 cm
90	D	Iron valve/bolt head with large circular head	4.5 cm diameter x 5 cm long
91	D	Iron lump	3.5 cm x 3.5 cm x 1.3 cm
92	E	Iron bolt with shaped head	10 cm long 1.6 cm diameter
93	E	Lump of iron	2.5 cm x 2 cm x 2 cm
94	E	Iron plate fragment	12 cm x 8 cm x 1.5 cm
95	E	Iron fragment	4 cm x 1.5 cm x 1.5 cm
96	E	Curved iron pin	8 cm long
97	E	Square iron nail	7.5 cm x 1.2 cm
98	E	Iron fragment	3.5 cm x 2.5 cm
99	E	Iron fragment	3.5 cm x 3.5 cm
100	E	Square iron nut	2.5 cm
101	E	Small iron nut/joint	3 cm x 2.5 cm
102	E	L' shaped iron fragment	4 cm long
103	E	Fragment of lead stamp/seal (poss 18?? Date)	
104	E	Small iron nail	
105	E	Brass (?) button, 4 holes	1.7 cm diameter
106	E	Iron nail fragment	
107	E	Small fragment of flint	5 cm x 4 cm x 1.5 cm
108	E	Iron lump	3 cm x 1.5 cm x 1 cm
109	E	L' shaped iron handle	10 cm x 6 cm x 2 cm
110	E	Iron fragment	6 cm x 4 cm
111	E	Iron bolt	6 cm x 6 cm x 4 cm
112	E	Iron pin	8 cm long
113	E	Iron fragment	2 cm x 1.5 cm
114	A	Ceramic fragments x 2	
115	B	Ceramic fragments x 6 + 2 x bottle tops	

## Appendix 3

### Discovery and Excavation In Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	East Lothian Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Aikengall Cable Link
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 20967
<b>PARISH:</b>	Dunbar
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Donald Wilson
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	Between NT 6510 7735 and NT 7170 7455
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2008
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> September 2008
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<b>(NARRATIVE)</b> A programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken on all ground breaking works within five specified areas along the route of ground works associated with the laying of a new cable between Aikengall Windfarm and South Belton Substation, Dunbar. The works mainly comprised the stripping of topsoil providing a 3 m wide wayleave prior to the excavation of a cable trench 1.2 m wide and 1.3 m deep. No features of archaeological significance were recorded across the five separate sites. At site 4, close to Chesterhall Farm House (The site of the Battle of Dunbar 1650), a programme of metal detecting was undertaken prior to the ground works and again during the ground works. A moderate haul of ferrous objects were recovered during this work.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/a
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Scottish Power Energy networks
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY.
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	Donald.wilson@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS





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