



**Auchenleck Metrological Mast:
Walkover Survey and Watching Brief
Data Structure Report
Project 4985**

Auchenleck Metrological Mast: Walkover Survey and Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On behalf of: ARCUS Consultancy Services Ltd

NGR: NX 9344 9718

Project Number: 4985

Report by: Dave McNicol

Illustrations: Jennifer Simonson

Project Manager: Bob Will

DRAFT 06/07/18	Bob Will ----- Project Manager	FINAL 06/07/18	John Atkinson ----- Managing Director
			

*This document has been prepared in accordance
with GUARD Archaeology Limited standard operating procedures.*

GUARD Archaeology Limited
52 Elderpark Workspace
100 Elderpark Street
Glasgow
G51 3TR

Tel: 0141 445 8800
Fax: 0141 445 3222
email: info@guard-archaeology.co.uk



www.guard-archaeology.co.uk

Contents

Executive Summary	5
Introduction	5
Location	5
Aims and Objectives	6
Walkover Survey	6
Watching Brief	6
Results	7
Walkover Survey	7
Watching Brief	8
Conclusions	8
Acknowledgements	8
Appendices	11
Appendix A: References	11
Appendix B: List of Digital Images	11
Appendix C: Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites	11

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site Location	4
Figure 2: Watching Brief Locations	9

List of Plates

Plate 1: Sheepfold (Site 1), view from the north	7
Plate 2: Location of possible peat beds (Site 2), view from the south-east	7
Plate 3: Boundary Bank (Site 8), view from the south-west	7
Plate 4: Possible sheepfold foundations (Site 9), view from the north-east	7
Plate 5: Anchor Pit 8, view from the north-east	8

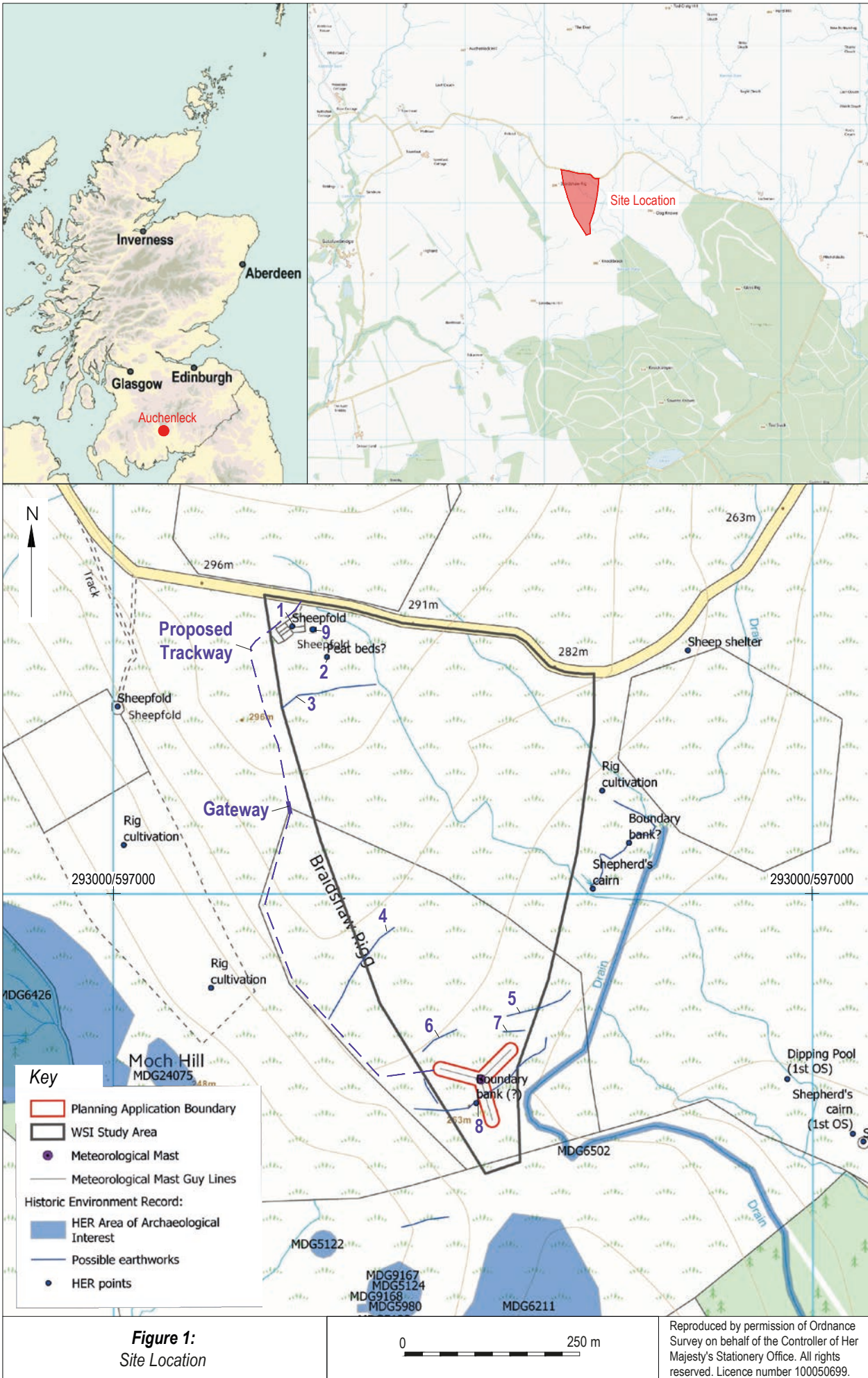


Figure 1:
Site Location

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. All rights reserved. Licence number 100050699.

Executive Summary

- 1.1 GUARD Archaeology Limited undertook an archaeological walkover survey and watching brief, prior to and during the erection of a metrological mast at Braidshaw Rig, Auchenleck, Dumfries and Galloway. The aims of the archaeological work were to assess evidence for the past human use of the area, its archaeological sensitivity, and to mitigate the potential impact of the metrological mast upon the archaeological resource.
- 1.2 The walkover survey identified two known sites within the Site. These consisted of an extant sheepfold (Site 1) and a boundary bank (Site 8). Six sites (Sites 2-7) which had been previously noted within the site were not located during the walkover survey and are likely to be natural topographic features.
- 1.3 A single previously unrecorded site was recorded during the walkover survey (Site 9). This consisted of the foundations of an earlier sheepfold, located directly to the north-east of the extant sheepfold (Site 1).
- 1.4 Access to the site for the construction works was arranged so as to avoid all existing archaeological sites. This was adhered to throughout the works.
- 1.5 The excavation of 12 anchor pits, along with the levelling of an area for the mast, were carried out under archaeological supervision. No archaeology features were uncovered during this phase of work.

Introduction

- 2.1 This report sets out the results of a walkover survey and watching brief, undertaken by GUARD Archaeology Ltd, on behalf of ARCUS Consultancy Services Ltd, prior to and during the erection of a metrological mast at Braidshaw Rig, Auchenleck, Dumfries and Galloway. The archaeological work was in response to Planning Condition 6 for the erection of a meteorological mast for a temporary period of three years at land at Braidshaw Rig, six km east of Thornhill (Council Planning Application 17/1829/FUL).

- 2.2 The Planning Condition states:

That no development in respect of this planning permission shall take place unless the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, comprising the survey and marking-out of archaeological features, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council as planning authority (in consultation with the Council Archaeologist).

Reason: The development is within an area of archaeological interest in respect of the extant post-medieval agricultural remains. In accordance with Local Plan policy HE3, and the requirements of Planning Advice Note 2/2011, Scottish Planning Policy and the Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (HESPS) 2016.

- 2.3 The walkover survey took place on the 28th May 2018, and the watching brief was carried out between the 11th and 12th June 2018. Two known archaeological sites and one previously unknown archaeological site were identified on the Site during the walkover survey. No features of archaeological significance were revealed during the watching brief.

Location

- 3.1 The Site is situated within an open moorland landscape at Braidshaw Rig, which is located approximately 6 km to the east of Thornhill and 3 km to the east of Gatelawbridge (NGR: centred at NX 9344 9718). The Site lies at 263m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) at the foot of the Lowther Hills at the transition into a more settled landscape. The Site is situated 700 m to the south of the U475n road and 530 m to the east of a linear layer of trees running north-west/ south-east

which also contains an archaeological feature. To the north of the site is the Lowther Hills, to the east is open moorland beyond which is the Forest of Ae, to the south is open moorland and the northern edge of the Forest of Ae, and to the west is open moorland beyond which are agricultural fields with scattered farm steadings.

- 3.2 The solid geology consists of Queensberry Formation – Sandstone, Mudstone, Siltstone and Conglomerate. No information on the underlying drift geology is recorded (British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer).

Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aims of the archaeological works were to assess the known or potential archaeological resource within the Site and the likely impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource, and to recommend a strategy for mitigating this impact upon any known or potential archaeological remains.
- 4.2 The specific objectives of the assessment were:
- To conduct a walkover survey to verify the written records and previously known archaeological sites present on the Site and to identify any previously unknown archaeological sites;
 - to suggest appropriate mitigation measures for the protection of the archaeological resource;
 - to conduct a watching brief during the groundworks to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains, and their character, date and extent if surviving; and
 - to submit a report to data structure level for agreement of the Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeologist, on behalf of the Planning Authority, on completion of the archaeological fieldwork.
- 4.3 All work was conducted in line with the following standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), of which GUARD Archaeology is a Registered Organisation:
- *Code of conduct* (2014);
 - *Standard and guidance for desk-based assessment*;
 - *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief* (2014); and
 - *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (2014).

Walkover Survey

- 4.4 The walkover survey was undertaken within the entire site (Figure 1).
- 4.5 A handheld GPS was used to locate all known archaeological sites within the Site. The location of each archaeological site was recorded to Ordnance Survey datum and National Grid (accurate to +/- 2 m relative to established control).

Watching Brief

- 4.6 The watching brief was carried out during all groundworks, which consisted of 12 anchor pits, and the levelling of an area for the meteorological mast.
- 4.7 All machine excavation was supervised by a GUARD archaeologist. The machine excavator was fitted with a c 2 m wide flat-bladed (toothless) ditching bucket.

- 4.8 The topsoil at each anchor pit location was removed in spits to the first archaeological horizon or, where none was found, to the natural subsoil or formation level.
- 4.9 A representative section was recorded denoting depth of topsoil, any stratigraphy present and the nature of the soil for each of the anchor pits. This information was logged in the day book together with a sketch drawn to scale and a photographic record of deposits.

Results

Walkover Survey

- 5.1 A total of three archaeological sites were identified during the walkover survey, one of which (Site 9) was previously unknown. See Appendix C for full details.
- 5.2 The extant sheepfold (Site 1) was clearly visible and still in use, with modern corrugated iron and wooden fencing separating and extending the original sheepfold.



Plate 1: Sheepfold (Site 1), view from the north



Plate 2: Location of possible peat beds (Site 2), view from the south-east

- 5.3 The peat beds (Site 2) appeared to be part of the natural topography with eroded sides where water courses run. The possible earthworks (Sites 3 – 7) were either not visible or part of the natural topography.
- 5.4 The boundary bank (Site 8) was partially visible as an upstanding bank and ditch, although it was only visible for small stretches and disappeared towards the eastern edge of the study area. The bank measured approximately 3 m in width, with a height of 1 m, and the ditch measured approximately 2 m in width.



Plate 3: Boundary Bank (Site 8), view from the south-west



Plate 4: Possible sheepfold foundations (Site 9), view from the north-east

- 5.5 The foundations of an earlier sheepfold or enclosure (Site 9) were identified directly to the north-east of the extant sheepfold (Site 1). The foundations consisted of a two roughly linear walls, aligned north-east/ south-west, running for approximately 6 m and 14.2 m respectively. The south-eastern foundation appeared to have the beginnings of at least three returns, suggesting a multi-celled enclosure. The foundations were between 0.9 m and 1.7 m wide, with a maximum height of 0.2 m.

Watching Brief

- 5.6 A watching brief was undertaken between the 11th and 12th June 2018 during the excavation of 12 anchor pits, as well as during the levelling of the ground for the meteorological mast (Figure 2).
- 5.7 All of the anchor pits measured on average 4 m by 2 m and a similar stratigraphy was observed within all them. This consisted of a black silty peat topsoil (001), between 0.2 m and 0.3 m thick, sealing a reddish brown silty clay and stone natural (002). No archaeological features or deposits were uncovered within any of the anchor pits.
- 5.8 An area measuring approximately 2 m by 2 m was levelled for the construction of the meteorological mast. No archaeological features or deposits were uncovered, and the natural geology was not encountered within this area.



Plate 5: Anchor Pit 8, view from the north-east

Conclusions

- 6.1 The walkover survey identified three archaeological sites within the Site (Sites 1, 8, and 9). Route management and micro-siting of the meteorological mast ensured that none of the sites were affected by the construction works.
- 6.2 No significant archaeological features were uncovered during the watching brief work, and it is proposed that no further archaeological work is required until the mast is dismantled. At this point route management and a watching brief during the removal of the mast will be required to ensure no damage is done to the known archaeological sites. However, GUARD Archaeology Limited would stress that these recommendations are intended for guidance only and the final decisions on the nature and extent of any further archaeological work rest with the planning authority.
- 6.3 The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> for this project (OASIS Reference: guardarc1 – 319765) will be completed within 3 months. Once the Data Structure Report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, the Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeologist will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.

Acknowledgements

- 7.1 GUARD Archaeology would like to thank Heather Kwiatkowski at ARCUS Consultancy Services Ltd for commissioning the work. The walkover survey was carried out by Dave McNicol, Jordan Barbour, and Grant Barnhart. The archaeological watching brief was carried out Dave McNicol. Technical support was from Aileen Maule and Jen Cochrane. The report was written by Dave McNicol with the illustrations produced by Jennifer Simonson. The report was desk top published by Gillian Sneddon. The project was managed for GUARD Archaeology Ltd by Bob Will.

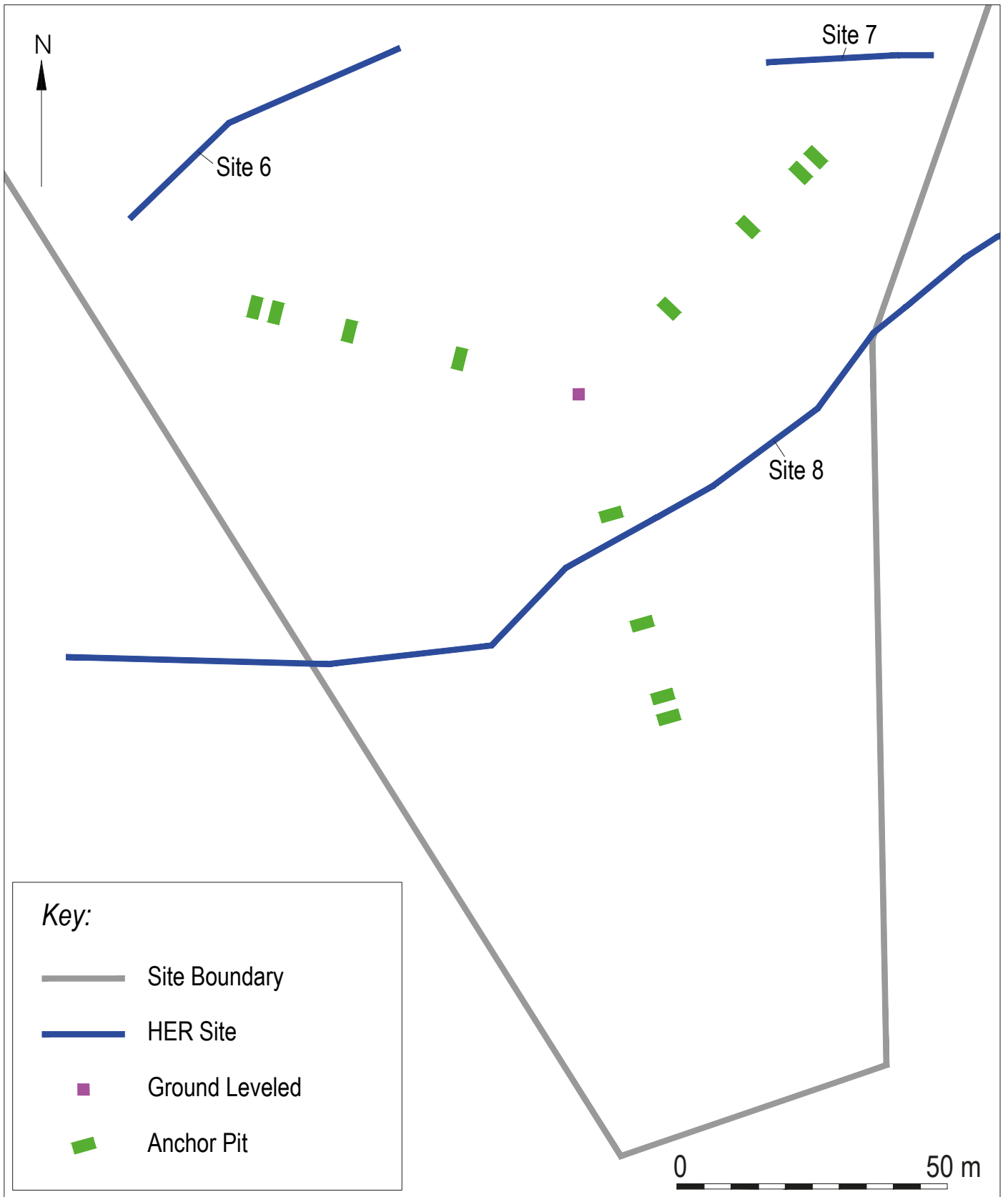


Figure 2: Watching Brief Locations

**Auchenleck Metrological Mast:
Walkover Survey and Watching Brief
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices



www.guard-archaeology.co.uk

Appendices

Appendix A: References

Online

British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer; <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>; last accessed 13th June 2018

Appendix B: List of Digital Images

Film No.	001			
Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
1			ID Shot	
2		Site 1	Sheepfold	SE
3		Site 1	Sheepfold	SSW
4		Site 1	Sheepfold	E
5		Site 1	Sheepfold	E
6		Site 1	Sheepfold	N
7		Site 9	Sheepfold/ enclosre foundations	NE
8		Site 9	Sheepfold/ enclosre foundations	NE
9		Site 9	Sheepfold/ enclosre foundations	SE
10		Site 9	Sheepfold/ enclosre foundations	SE
11		Site 2	Possible peat beds	SE
12		Site 6	Location of site 6 earthworks - not visible	E
13		Site 6	Location of site 6 earthworks - not visible	W
14		Site 7	Natural valley - site 7	W
15		Site 8	Boundary ditch and bank - site 8	W
16		Site 8	Boundary ditch and bank - site 8	SW
Film No.	002			
1	Met Mast		Anchor Pit 1	E
2	Met Mast		Anchor Pit 2	NE
3	Met Mast		Anchor Pit 3	NW
4	Met Mast		Anchor Pit 4	NW
5	Met Mast		Anchor Pit 5	NW
6	Met Mast		Anchor Pit 6	NW
7	Met Mast		Ground levelling for met mast	N
8	Met Mast		Anchor Pit 7	NE
9	Met Mast		Anchor Pit 8	NE
10	Met Mast		Anchor Pit 9	NE
11	Met Mast		Anchor Pit 10	E
12	Met Mast		Anchor Pit 11	E
13	Met Mast		Anchor Pit 12	E

Appendix C: Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites

Site No: 1

Name: Sheepfold

NGR: NX 93248 97386

Description: Extant sheepfold which is still in use. Drystone walls with corrugated iron and wooden fencing separating and extending the original sheepfold.

Site No: 2

Name: Possible Peat Beds

- NGR: NX
Description: Possible peat beds. Not visible during walkover survey, likely natural topography.
- Site No: 3
Name: Possible earthwork
NGR: NX
Description: Possible linear earthwork. Not visible during walkover survey.
- Site No: 4
Name: Possible earthwork
NGR: NX
Description: Possible linear earthwork. Not visible during walkover survey.
- Site No: 5
Name: Possible earthwork
NGR: NX
Description: Possible linear earthwork. Not visible during walkover survey.
- Site No: 6
Name: Possible earthwork
NGR: NX
Description: Possible linear earthwork. Not visible during walkover survey.
- Site No: 7
Name: Possible earthwork
NGR: NX
Description: Possible linear earthwork. Not visible during walkover survey.
- Site No: 8
Name: Boundary Bank
NGR: NX 93525 96697
Description: Partially visible as an upstanding bank and ditch, although only visible for small stretches and disappeared towards the eastern edge of the study area. The bank measured approximately 3 m in width, with a height of 1 m, and the ditch measured approximately 2 m in width.
- Site No: 9
Name: Sheepfold
NGR: NX 93284 97389
Description: Foundations of a possible sheepfold, located directly to the north-east of an extant sheepfold (Site 1). The foundations consisted of a two roughly linear walls, aligned north-east/ south-west, running for approximately 6 m and 14.2 m respectively. The

south-eastern foundation appeared to have the beginnings of at least three returns, suggesting a multi-celled enclosure. The foundations were between 0.9 m and 1.7 m wide, with a maximum height of 0.2 m.

GUARD Archaeology Limited
52 Elderpark Workspace
100 Elderpark Street
Glasgow
G51 3TR

Tel: 0141 445 8800

Fax: 0141 445 3222

email: info@guard-archaeology.co.uk



www.guard-archaeology.co.uk