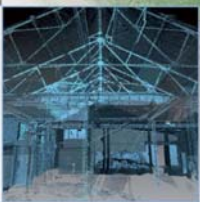


Broadstone Hall Farm, Beith: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC 22261

OASIS No. aocarcha1-197584

3rd February 2015



Broadstone Hall Farm, Beith:

Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: VG Energy
Waterside Farm
Glasgow Road
Galston
KA4 8PB

National Grid Reference (NGR): NS 35765 52932

AOC Project No: 22261

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Illustration by: Kevin Paton

Date of Fieldwork: 17th & 24th November 2014

Date of Report: 3rd February 2015

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

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Date: 3rd February 2015

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Date: 3rd February 2015

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ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of VG Energy during the construction of a single wind turbine at Broadstone Hall Farm, Beith, North Ayrshire.

The excavation of the turbine base and cable tracks revealed no significant archaeological features or artefacts.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by North Ayrshire Council during the construction of a single wind turbine at Broadstone Hall Farm, Beith, North Ayrshire. The scope of the works was determined by North Ayrshire Council as advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2014), approved by WoSAS on behalf of North Ayrshire Council and in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning And Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The turbine location is situated within a pasture field to the immediate west of Broadstone Hall Farm (NGR: NS 35765 52932), which is approximately 1 km SW of Gateside village (Figure 1). The development area is bounded by fields of pasture on all sides.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The development was not going to impact on any known archaeological sites, however a few sites are noted by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, and WoSAS Sites and Monuments Records, as lying within the vicinity of the development. To the immediate SE of the site is the former location of Broadstone Castle (NMRS No. NS35SE 7). The ruins of Broadstone Castle remained until about the end of the 18th century, but when Broadstone Hall Farm was being rebuilt, the castle was pulled down and its stones used in the building works. Its site was pointed out by Mr W Kerr of Broadstone Hall in 1855. The Barony of Braidstone was possessed by John de Lyddale in 1452. Sir Hugh Montgomerie was born here in 1560 and the lands were sold in 1650 to the Greenock family who stayed there occasionally till after 1700. Currently the site falls in a pasture field which shows no trace of any foundations. The present tenant of Broadstone Hall has no knowledge of the castle.

1.3.2 To the north of the site are two Lime Kilns (NMRS No. NS35SE30) and (NMRS No. NS53SE31) with a further Kiln known to the west. These have never been excavated but are associated with lime quarrying activity visible in the landscape. In addition, the remains of a farmstead known on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map is known to have existed to the E, although no surface remains of this are visible.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by the proposed ground breaking works associated with the wind turbine development;
- ii) to liaise with North Ayrshire Council, WoSAS 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.
- iii) to report on the results of the Watching Brief.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All excavations were undertaken using a 13 tonne tracked excavator. The turbine base was stripped using a bladed ditching bucket, while the service tracks were excavated using a 1m wide, toothed bucket. The ground breaking works at the turbine base and the service tracks were monitored under constant supervision by an experienced field archaeologist.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The watching brief was carried out on the 17th & 24th November 2014, and involved the stripping of the turbine base (6 m by 6 m) and the excavation of approximately 180 m of cable tracks. The haul road, measuring approximately 170 m by 4 m, had previously been stripped without archaeological supervision (Figure 2). Weather conditions were generally fair throughout the course of the works, making archaeological visibility good throughout.
- 4.2 The excavations revealed a mixture of undisturbed dark brown clay loam topsoil and made ground. Topsoil depth was c 0.20m deep, whilst made ground was recorded up to 1m deep, consisting of dark brown soil and demolition rubble. The natural subsoil was a mottled green and orange clay with frequent stones and boulders.
- 4.3 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed throughout the watching brief.

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The presence of made ground in some areas of the site demonstrates that the local post medieval quarry activity has impacted upon the development area. As no archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the watching brief, no further archaeological works are deemed necessary. These recommendations will require confirmation by WoSAS on behalf of North Ayrshire Council.

6 REFERENCES

AOC 2014 *Broadstone Hall Farm, Beith, North Ayrshire: Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation* AOC client project design

Scottish Government 2014 Scottish Planning Policy.

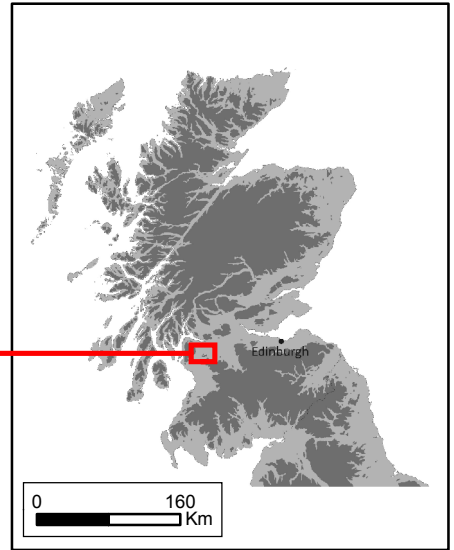
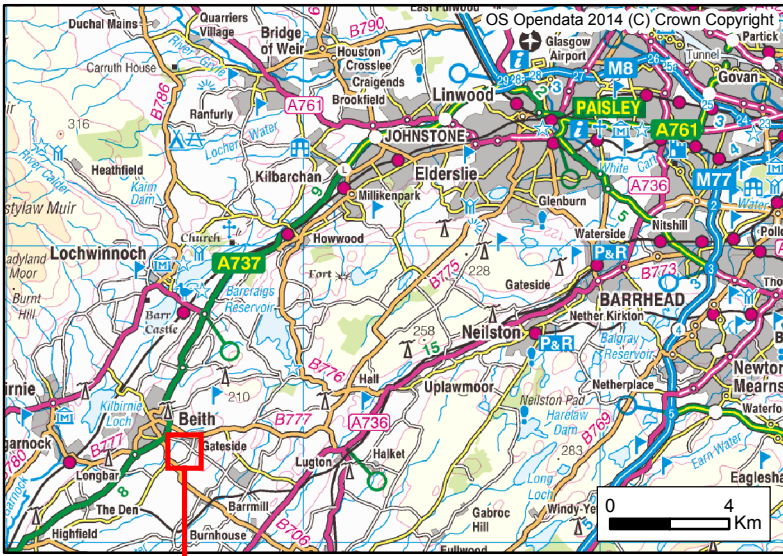
Scottish Government 2010 PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology.



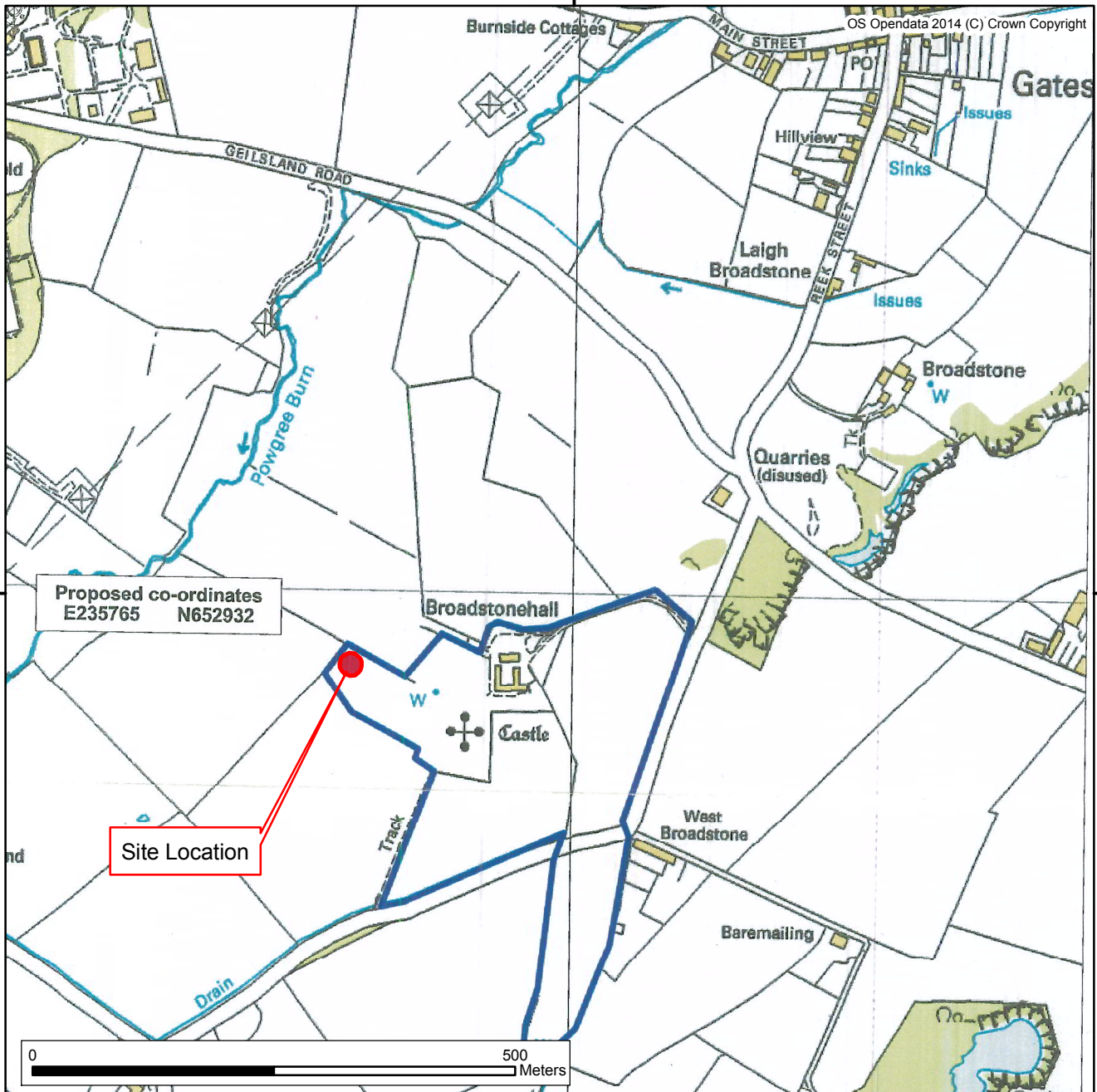
Plate 1 - Post ex view of turbine base



Plate 2 - General view along cable track



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Figure 1: Site Location Plan

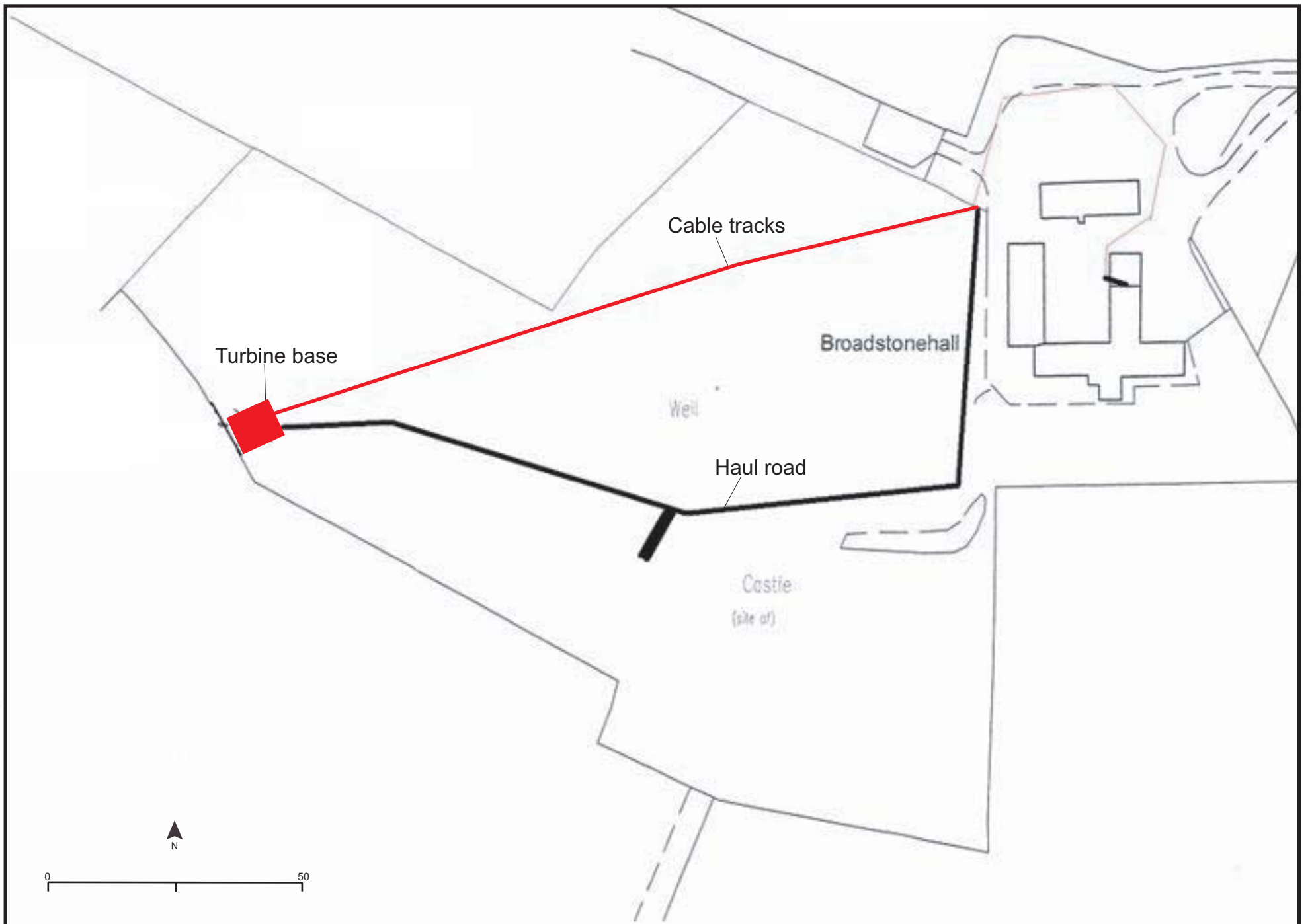


Figure 2 - Watching brief areas

Broadstone Hall Farm, Beith: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

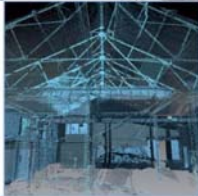
Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-2	View of haul road from turbine location	NW	17/11/14
3	View towards farm from turbine location	W	17/11/14
4-8	View along haul road	Var	17/11/14
9	Quarry next to haul road	S	17/11/14
10 - 11	Views of haul road (start)	S	17/11/14
12	Test pit excavated at turbine location	NE	17/11/14
13	Farm track	NW	17/11/14
14	Location of turbine on farm track	SE	17/11/14
15	Working shot showing natural	SE	17/11/14
16 - 17	Post-ex shots of turbine base	S	17/11/14
18 - 21	Turbine base and haul road, general view	SE	24/11/14
22	Cable track, working shot	W	24/11/14
23	Rubble and made ground in cable track	NW	24/11/14
24	Working shot North of fence	N	24/11/14
25 - 26	Working shot South of fence	N	24/11/14
27	Haul Road	E	24/11/14
28 - 30	Working shots South of fence	NW	24/11/14
31 - 33	Working shots North of fence	NE	24/11/14
34 - 36	Working shots next to turbine base	SE	24/11/14

APPENDIX 2: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Broadstone Hall Farm, Beith
PROJECT CODE:	22261
PARISH:	Beith
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 35765 52932
START DATE (this season)	17 th November 2014
END DATE (this season)	24 th November 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of VG Energy during the construction of a single wind turbine at Broadstone Hall Farm, Beith, North Ayrshire.</p> <p>The excavation of the turbine base and cable tracks revealed no significant archaeological features or artefacts.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	VG Energy
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group Edgefield Road Industrial Estate Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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