

# Barnhill Archaeological Walkover and Topographic Survey

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6<sup>th</sup> March 2015



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# Barnhill

## Archaeological walkover and topographic survey

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**On Behalf of:** **Forestry Commission Scotland**  
Scottish Lowlands Forest District  
Five Sisters House  
Five Sisters Business Park  
West Calder  
EH55 8PN

**National Grid Reference (NGR):**

**AOC Project No:** **22339**

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Jamie Humble**

**Illustration by:** **Jamie Humble, Graeme Cavers**

**Date of Fieldwork:** **20<sup>th</sup> February - 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015**

**Date of Report:** **6<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

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

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<b>Draft/Final Report Stage:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

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## Abstract

This report details the results of an archaeological walkover survey of Barnhill and topographic survey of Cult Hill fort, to the southeast of Dollar, Kincardineshire. The survey was undertaken in February 2015 on behalf of the Forestry Commission Scotland. Each of the sites located is assessed according to FCS guidelines on the assessment of importance, and management recommendations are made.

A total of 32 archaeological sites were recorded during the walkover. The archaeological features recorded during the walkover survey all related to the post-medieval agricultural use of the area with quarry pits and field boundary dykes being the predominant site type recorded. The significance and value of the heritage assets of the area is considered according to FCS and SHEP guidelines.

A topographic survey of Cult Hill fort was also undertaken for conservation management purposes and to provide an enhanced record of the site. The fort occupies the rocky knoll of Cult Hill, which is steep sided on the east and north sides, with more gentle slopes on the west and south. The fort itself comprises a grassed-over rampart encircling the summit of the hill and encloses an area of 0.25 Ha.

**Part One**  
**Archaeological Survey of Barnhill**



## Executive Summary

- 1 This report details the results of an archaeological walkover and topographic survey at Barnhill, Kincardineshire. A walkover survey was required to identify archaeological features not identified through desk-based research, and to provide a baseline record of any surviving archaeological or historic features. A topographic survey for conservation management purposes and to provide an enhanced record was undertaken at Cult Hill fort.
- 2 In addition to the prospective walkover survey, comprehensive inspection of each of the previously known sites was required. These sites included areas of broad rig and furrow, numerous field boundary dykes and quarry pits along with a ruinous walled garden.

## Project Background

- 3 The survey of Barnhill recorded 32 sites. The survey was intended to provide baseline data on the heritage resource of Barnhill as well as on the known archaeological sites and monuments, previously recorded but unsurveyed. The only previously identified and recorded site within the study area was that of Cult Hill fort (NMRS no: NT09NW 6).

## Desk Based Assessment

- 4 Prior to undertaking the survey, a range of mapping sources were consulted to assess the study area for potential features. This primarily involved assessment of the first (1853) and second (1897) edition (six-inch-to-the-mile) Ordnance Survey maps (Sheet XXV).
- 5 In addition to Ordnance Survey map assessment a search of vertical aerial photographs held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) identified images dating from 1945 to 2000 which depict the land within and immediately surrounding the site. A full catalogue of the images consulted is included in Table 1. This data was supplemented by inspection of Google and Bing satellite imagery. The result of the aerial photograph search informed the walkover survey with all potential sites identified in aerial photograph being visited during the walkover survey, in the event none of the potential features identified in aerial photographs were found to be genuine.

Library Ref	Sortie	Frames	Date
B_0173	CPE_UK_0259	3147-3155	13/8/47
B_0201	CPE_UK_0309	5030-5036	4/10/47
B_0202	CPE_UK_0306	5166-5172	26/9/47
B_0418	542_0206	171-177	12/7/55
B_0605	58_3601	150-164	15/6/60
OS_67_309	OS_67_309	28-32; 20-25	19/8/67
OS_77_168	OS_77_168	283-90	8/10/77
OS_73_352	OS_73_352	72-73	28/6/73
OS_92_229	OS_92_229	16-19	5/7/92

Table 1 Vertical Aerial Photographs consulted at the RCAHMS

## Character of the study area

- 6 The study area comprises upland moorland formed of boggy ground and blanket peat, formed on carboniferous sandstones and basalts. Scotland's Historic Landuse Assessment characterises the

land as comprising rough grazing, rectilinear fields and farms and medieval to post-medieval settlement and agriculture indicating that parts of the survey area were of some value in agricultural terms through the historic period, with the hillfort on Cult Hill being recorded as a later prehistoric fortified site.

- 7 The topography of the study area comprises rolling hills gradually increasing in height to the summit of Cult Hill just to the south east of the study area, the hillfort of Cult Hill lies on a minor summit. In the southwest of the study area at Lambhill Moss lies an area of forestry. An electricity pylon line runs ENE-WSW across the northern edge the survey area.

## Aims of the Survey

- 8 The aims of the survey were to provide a baseline record of any surviving historic features at Barnhill, through the identification of previously unknown archaeological sites and features. In total, 32 sites were identified and recorded. A topographic survey of the only previously recorded site in the study area, the Hillfort of Cult Hill, was also undertaken for conservation management purposes and to provide an enhanced record of the site.

## Survey Methodology

- 9 The archaeological walkover survey was carried out on the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2015. The study area was systematically walked by a team of two archaeological surveyors spaced approximately 50m apart. The location of each site was recorded using mapping-grade GPS and an associated GIS feature set updated for the FCS Forester module in GIS, running on a ruggedised field tablet. In addition, a paper record was created using AOC Archaeology Group's standard pro-formas adapted for the FCS Forester Module assessment system, including a sketch. For known sites, the provided National Grid Reference was checked and updated if necessary, and an assessment record created. Digital photographs were taken of every sites visited and an associated photographic register created. These are supplied in the project archive.
- 10 The topographic survey of the hillfort at Cult Hill (NGR: NT 0246 9650, NMRS: NT09NW 6) was under taken on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015. The site was recorded using differential GPS, a Trimble R6 and robotic total station, a Trimble S6.
- 11 The survey was carried out by Graeme Cavers, Gemma Hudson and Charlotte Douglas. Weather conditions during the survey ranged from windy, overcast and wet to sunny and dry, but archaeological visibility was good throughout.

## Assessment and Recommendations: procedure

- 12 The assessment of significance of the archaeological sites considered in this report is based on the FCS guideline document *Archaeological Survey Guidelines*, and applies the categories of importance specified in that document. The designation of category 'A', reserved for sites of national importance, was applied to the Hillfort of Cult Hill. One site identified during the walkover survey were designated as category 'B' of regional importance; a walled garden (BH28). The remaining sites fell into category 'C' being of local importance. Recommendations for avoidance buffers follow the importance categories set out in the guidelines.

## Walkover Survey Results

- 13 The following report presents a summary of the survey results by period, full descriptions of all newly identified and previously recorded sites can be found in the gazetteer (Appendix 1). A total of 32 sites were visited during the walkover survey (Figure 2) of which all were recorded for the first time during this survey.

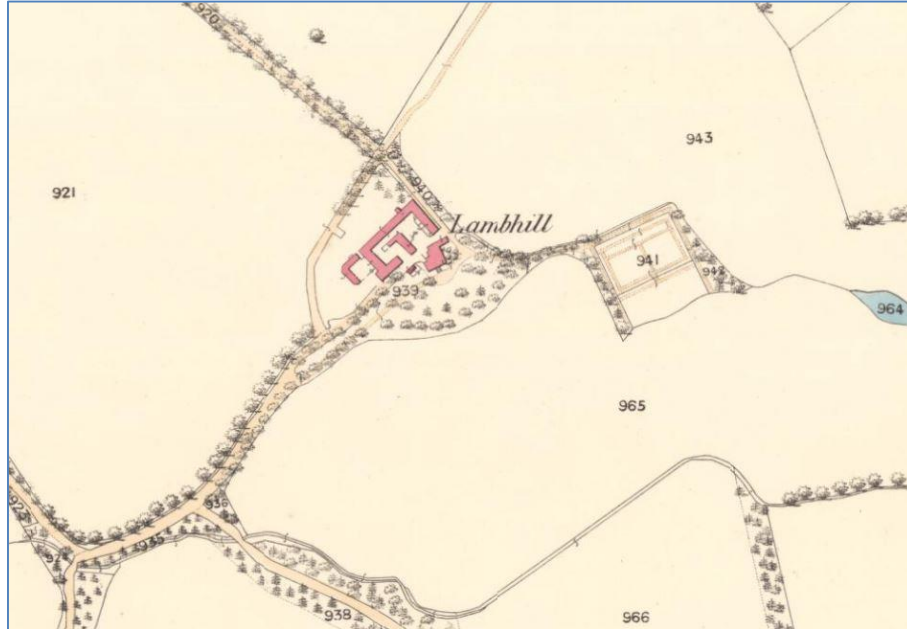


Plate 1: Walled garden (BH28) and farmstead at Lambhill on OS 1<sup>st</sup> Edition mapping

- 14 Agricultural and industrial remains of the post-medieval to modern period are by far the most common features encountered during the archaeological survey of Barnhill. The most significant of these are a possible building (BH22) and a walled garden at Lambhill (BH28), the walled garden at Lambhill being associated with a farmstead that is depicted on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition mapping of the area (OS, 1866, Perth and Clackmannan, Sheet CXXXV.9). This farmstead is now however demolished with no trace on the ground as the area has been used as a farm tip. The possible building (BH22) was a small rectangular structure measuring 8m by 5m.



Plate 2: Rig and furrow on lower slopes of Cult Hill, site BH6.

- 15 Further remains show the post-medieval agricultural use of the study area with areas of rig and furrow (BH3; 6; 14) being preserved on the lower slopes of Cult Hill that have probably seen less intensive modern agricultural ploughing. Often associated with these areas of rig and furrow were a series of field dykes (BH2; 4; 5; 8; 12; 13; 16; 17; 18; 21; 23; 24; 25; 27 & 29) mainly now reduced to grass covered stony mounds. Quarry pits were found across the study area (BH 1; 7; 10; 11; 15; 25; 30; 31 & 32).

### Topographic Survey Results

- 16 The fort occupies the rocky knoll of Cult Hill, which is steep sided on the east and north sides, with more gentle slopes on the west and south (see accompanying plan). The fort itself comprises a grassed-over rampart encircling the summit of the hill and enclosing an area of 0.25ha; it is best preserved on the south and south west sides where it stands up to 0.5m in height and 3m in width, but is much denuded on the north and north-west sides. A probable entrance is located on the SW side (A), indicated by a break in the earthwork corresponding with a natural gully in the bedrock. A second entrance may have been located diametrically opposite, on the E side of the fort (B), though this area has been disturbed by the mutilation of the rampart on the south side. At this point (C), the rampart has been remodelled to create an enclosure or building, almost certainly much later than the abandonment of the fort. Little remains of the rampart on the north, where the knoll is naturally defended by the steep slope and cliffs.



Plate 3: Cult Hill fort, from the southwest.

- 17 The second rampart, visible only as a scarp skirting the base of the inner fortification on the east side of the fort, is more clear on the south (D), while a probable third fortification (E) runs close to the base of the hill on the south side. It is possible this outermost rampart is also present on the north-east side of the hill, where the slope is stepped and terraced, but this could not be ascertained.
- 18 The interior of the fort is rocky and uneven, generally sloping downwards to the south. No evidence for internal structures is present though these might be anticipated in the southern, flatter area of the enclosure.

### *Condition*

- 19 The defensive works of the fort are generally denuded though their condition can be considered stable, and no immediate threat to their future survival was apparent. However, in the southern area of the fort evidence for damage to the outer ramparts (D and E) by livestock poaching was observed. Rabbit burrows were also observed in this area, though not to any significant extent in the inner areas of the fort.

### **Summary and discussion**

- 20 In total, 32 sites were added to the known archaeological record of Barnhill. The majority of these relate to post-medieval agricultural usage with areas of rig and furrow, field boundaries and quarry pits being identified throughout the study area.
- 21 Each of the sites visited has been assessed for important and the significance of impact on the site in according with FCS archaeological survey guidelines. None of the newly identified sites can be considered of national importance, nor are they likely to be considered candidates for Scheduling under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979).
- 22 One site recorded during this survey can be categorised as falling into FCS category 'A', being of national importance: the later prehistoric fort of Cult Hill, already a scheduled monument (SAM no 8542). One site can be considered of regional importance, FCS category 'B', the walled garden at Lambhill (BH28). The remainder of the sites recorded fall into category 'C' being of local importance.

**Part Two**  
**Appendices**

## Appendix 1: Site Gazetteer

### Impact Zone

1: 20m; 2: 10m; 3: 5m; 4: 0m

### Importance

A: National; B: Regional; C: Local; D: Other sites

Site no	X	Y	Site Type	Site description	Impact Zone	Importance
BH1	301559	696647	Quarry pits	Two quarry pits in a small knoll 400m north of Barnhill farm. The SE pit has much exposed rock and measures 20m by 12m and is 4m deep. The SW pit is grassed over and measures 30m by 8m and 3m deep. There are smaller pits to the north of the summit.	3	C
BH2	301542	696483	Dyke	Ruinous remains of a field dyke, running NW-SE. 1.5m wide and up to 0.5m high. Modern in origin.	3	C
BH3	301759	696447	Rig and furrow	Area of broad rig and furrow aligned E-W.	3	C
BH4	301838	696484	Field boundary	Field boundary comprising a grassy bank 3m wide, associated with rig at site 3.	3	C
BH5	301890	696453	Field boundary	Field boundary comprising a grassy bank associated with sites 3 and 4.	3	C
BH6	301853	696485	Rig and furrow	Area of broad rig and furrow aligned E-W. Rigs are c. 4m in width and survive variably across the area; the best preserved areas are in the NE and SW.	3	C
BH7	302184	696599	Quarry pit	Small quarry pit, measuring 16m by 8m, located 150m SW of Cult Hill fort.	3	C
BH8	302341	696672	Field boundary	Field boundary comprising a grassed over bank 2m in width, associated with site BH6.	3	C
BH9	302450	696535	Track	A track has been cut into the slope immediately W and N of Cult hill fort, linking two quarries (sites 10 and 11).	3	C
BH10	302615	696591	Quarry	A small quarry 100m north of Cult Hill fort.	3	C
BH11	302614	696532	Quarry	A small quarry 100m north of Cult Hill fort.	3	C
BH12	302580	696570	Field boundary	Field boundary comprising a grassed over bank 2m in width. The bank is cut by quarry site 10, and the section below the quarry appears to have been used as a ramp for the removal of stone.	3	C



Site no	X	Y	Site Type	Site description	Impact Zone	Importance
BH13	302039	696290	Field boundary	Field boundary comprising a grassed over bank up to 4m in width, best preserved in the S and E areas. Boundary defines an area of broad rig and furrow to the SW, aligned NE-SW.	3	C
BH14	301939	696090	Rig and furrow	Area of broad rig and furrow, up to 5m in width, aligned NE/SW.	3	C
BH15	302291	696400	Quarry	Small quarry on the SW facing slope 200m SW of Cult Hill fort.	3	C
BH16	302131	696328	Field boundary	Field boundary comprising a grassed over bank 3m in width.	3	C
BH17	301933	696397	Field boundary	Field boundary comprising a grassed over bank, 2m in width.	3	C
BH18			Field boundary	Drystone dyke running SSE-NNW comprising grassy bank 2m wide. Associated with rig to the W.	3	C
BH20	301951	696258	Rock outcrop, graffiti	Outcrop of rock graffitied with 'W.H.F'.	3	C
BH21	302036	695384	Field boundary	Field boundary comprising a grassed over bank, up to 2.5m in width; best preserved at NE and SW ends.	3	C
BH22	301878	695908	Building (possible)	A small rectangular structure aligned E-W, measuring 8m by 5m and surviving 0.5m high. Walls reduced to grass covered banks.	2	C
BH23	301782	695765	Field boundary	Field boundary comprising a grassed over bank, 2m in width.	3	C
BH23	301783	695749	Field boundary	Field boundary comprising a grassed over bank averaging 2m in width.	3	C
BH24	301783	695749	Field boundary.	Field boundary comprising a grassy bank, averaging 1.5m in width and following a curving path to enclose an area to the W. W extent is lost in marshy ground. This bank is somewhat slighter than the other field boundaries nearby, but is nonetheless similar.	3	C
BH25	301580	696102	Quarry	Small quarry, probably stone source for the walled garden site BH 28.	3	C
BH25			Field boundary	Fragment of field boundary comprising a grassed over bank 1.5m in width. Truncated by modern track at W end.	3	C
BH26	300898	696078	Field boundary	Trace of a field boundary, a low grassy bank averaging 2m in width.	3	C

Site no	X	Y	Site Type	Site description	Impact Zone	Importance
BH27	300858	696068	Field boundary; bank	An earthen field boundary, comprising a bank averaging 2.5m in width. The bank turns to the N where it appears to define a track at the base of a steep scarp to the E. It is probable that this landscaping is related to the walled garden immediately to the E.	3	C
BH28	300695	696246	Walled garden	Ruinous walled garden. Best preserved on the N and W sides; an entrance is located near the NW corner. The interior is overgrown and featureless.	2	B
BH29	300683	695740	Field boundary	Field boundary comprising a grassed over bank averaging 2.5m in width.	3	C
BH30	300428	695532	Quarry	Small quarry in the SW corner of Lambhill Moss.	3	C
BH31	300744	696324	Quarry	A small quarry in a W facing slope 200m W of Barnhill farm.	3	C
BH31			Quarry track	Track leading to quarry 31.	3	C
BH32	302128	696610	Quarry	Small quarry pit 200m SW of Cult Hill fort.	3	C

## Appendix 2: Photographic register

Photo no.	Feature	Description	From
986-89	BH1	Quarry pit	SE
990-91	BH1	Quarry pit	NW
9992-95	BH2	Field dyke	NW
996-1002	BH2	Field dyke	SE
03-016	BH6	Field system	-
017-18	BH7	Quarry pit	NW
019-20	BH7	Quarry pit	N
021-22	BH32	Quarry pit	E
023-28	BH6	Filed system	-
029-30	BH8	Field dyke	SE
031-34	BH12	Field dyke	E
035-36	BH12	Field dyke	W
037-38	BH12	Field dyke	E
039-40	BH12	Field dyke	N
041-42	BH12	Field dyke	E
043-44	BH9&10	Track BH9 and quarry BH10	S
045-46	BH11	Quarry pit	E
047-48	BH13	Field dyke	SW
049-50	BH13	Field dyke	E
051-52	BH14	Rig and furrow	SE
053-54	BH18	Field dyke	NNW
055-56	BH18	Field dyke	SSE

Photo no.	Feature	Description	From
057-60	BH18	Field dyke	NW
061-62	BH21	Field dyke	S
063-64	BH21	Field dyke	NE
065-66	BH23	Field dyke	N
067-68	BH22	Possible structure	E
069-70	BH22	Possible structure	ESE
071-72	BH23	Field dyke	E
073-74	BH24	Field boundary or enclosure	N
075-76	BH24	Field boundary or enclosure	S
077-78	BH25	Quarry pit	W
079-80	Bh26	Field boundary	E
081-84	BH27	Field dyke	SE
085	BH28	Walled garden, NE wall	ESE
086	BH28	Walled garden, NE wall	NE
087	BH28	Walled garden, NE wall	E
088	BH28	Walled garden, N end	SE
089	BH28	Walled garden, S end	NE
090	BH28	Walled garden, N end	SE
091-92	BH28	Walled garden, NE corner	E
093-94	BH28	Walled garden, doorway in NW corner	ENE
095-96	BH28	Walled garden, NW corner	SE
097-98	BH28	Walled garden, NW corner	SE
099-100	BH28	Walled garden, SW wall	ENE
101-02	BH28	Walled garden, NW corner	SSW
103-04	BH28	Walled garden, NW corner	W
105-06	BH28	Walled garden, NW corner	NNW
107-08	BH31	Quarry pit	NW
109-10	BH31	Track to quarry pit	NE
111-114	N/A	General views of Cult Hill fort	-
207	BH20	Inscribed rocky outcrop	-
208-09	BH20	Detail of inscription	-
213-14	N/A	General views of Cult Hill fort	WSW
950-51	Cult Hill	Rampart remodelled to from enclosure or building (C)	SE
952-53	Cult Hill	Rampart remodelled to from enclosure or building (C)	S
954-57	Cult Hill	Rampart remodelled to from enclosure or building (C)	N
958	Cult Hill	Rampart remodelled to from enclosure or building (C)	NW
959	Cult Hill	Rampart remodelled to from enclosure or building (C)	NE
960-61	Cult Hill	Eastern ramparts	S
962-63	Cult Hill	Probable entrance (A) to SE	SE
964-65	Cult Hill	Probable entrance (A) to SE	SW
966-71	Cult Hill	Interior of Hillfort	Various
972	Cult Hill	Ramparts to NW	SW
973	Cult Hill	Ramparts to NW	S
975	Cult Hill	Ramparts to E	N
976	Cult Hill	View from hill	SE
977	Cult Hill	View from hill	E
978-81	Cult Hill	Working shot	-
982-83	Cult Hill	View of Cult Hill from E	E
984-85	Cult Hill	View of Cult Hill from E	E

Appendix 3: Plates



Site 1, Quarry pit, from SE



Site 2, Field boundary, from NW





Site 6, Area of rig and furrow, from SE



Site 7, Quarry, from NW



Site 8, Field boundary, from SE



Sites 9 & 10, Track and quarry, from S





Site 11, Quarry pit, from E



Site 12, Field boundary, from E





Site 13, Field boundary, from SW



Site 14, Area of rig and furrow, from SE



Site 18, Field boundary, from NW



Site 20, Inscribed rock outcrop





Site 21, field boundary, from S



Site 22, Possible structure, from E





Site 23, Field boundary, from E



Site 24, Field boundary, from N



Site 25, Quarry pit, from W



Site 26, Field boundary, from E





Site 27, Field boundary, from SE



Site 28, Walled garden, from SE



Site 31, Quarry pit, from NW



Cult Hill, Probable entrance (A) to SE, from SW





Cult Hill, Re-modeled rampart forming enclosure or building (C), from N



Cult Hill, General view, from E

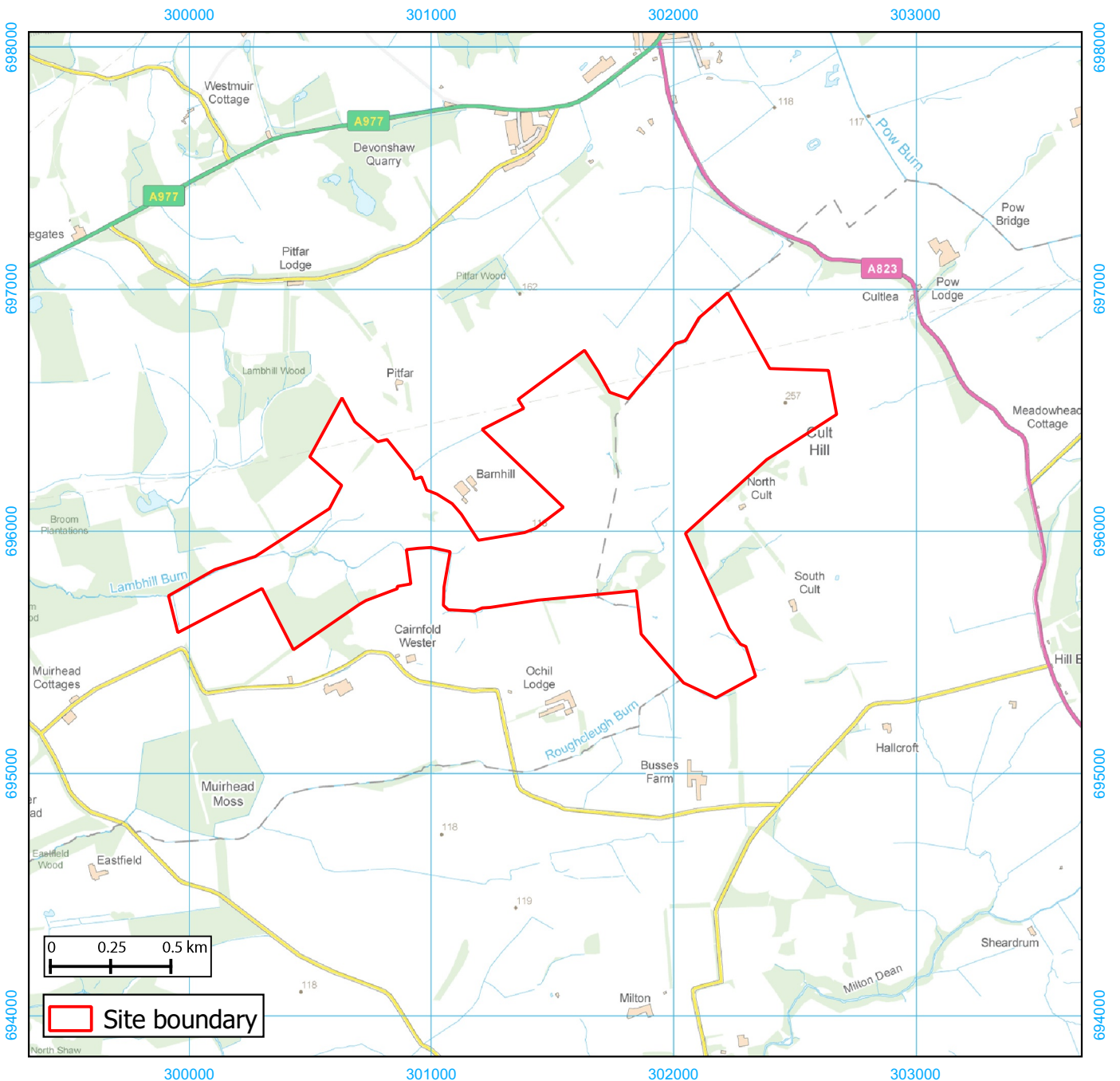
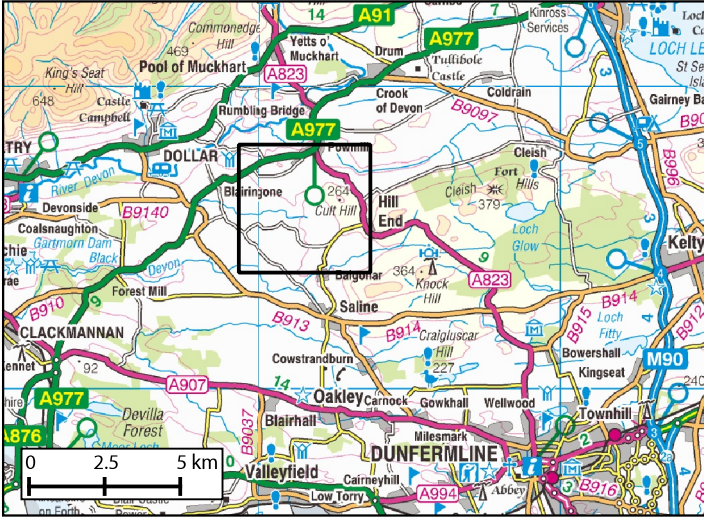
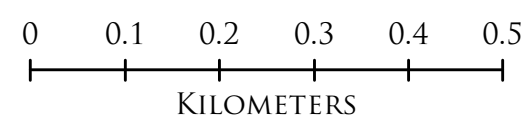
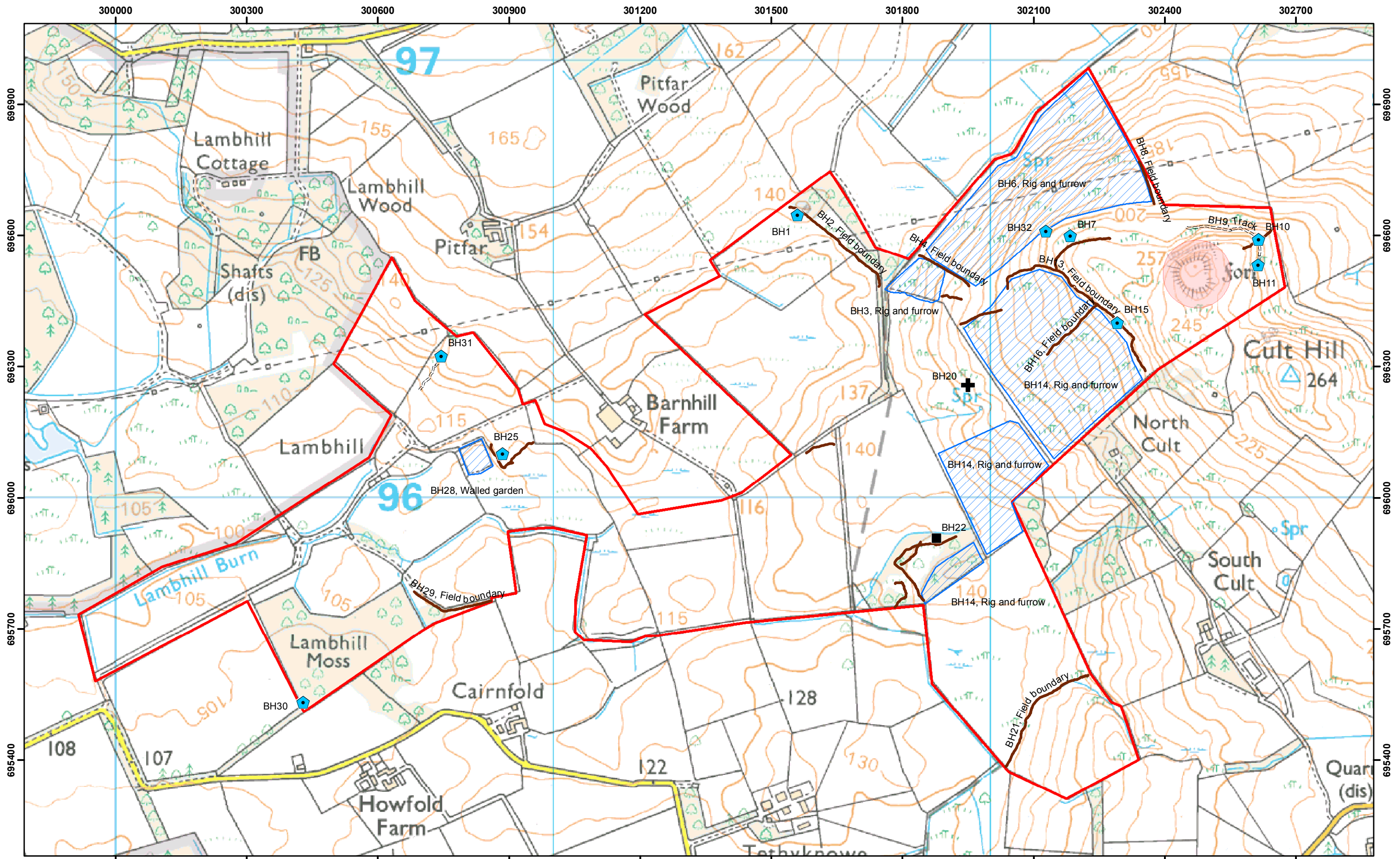


Figure 1: Site location





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FIGURE 2

- Cult Hill Scheduled Monument
- AOC Sites - Area
- Survey extents

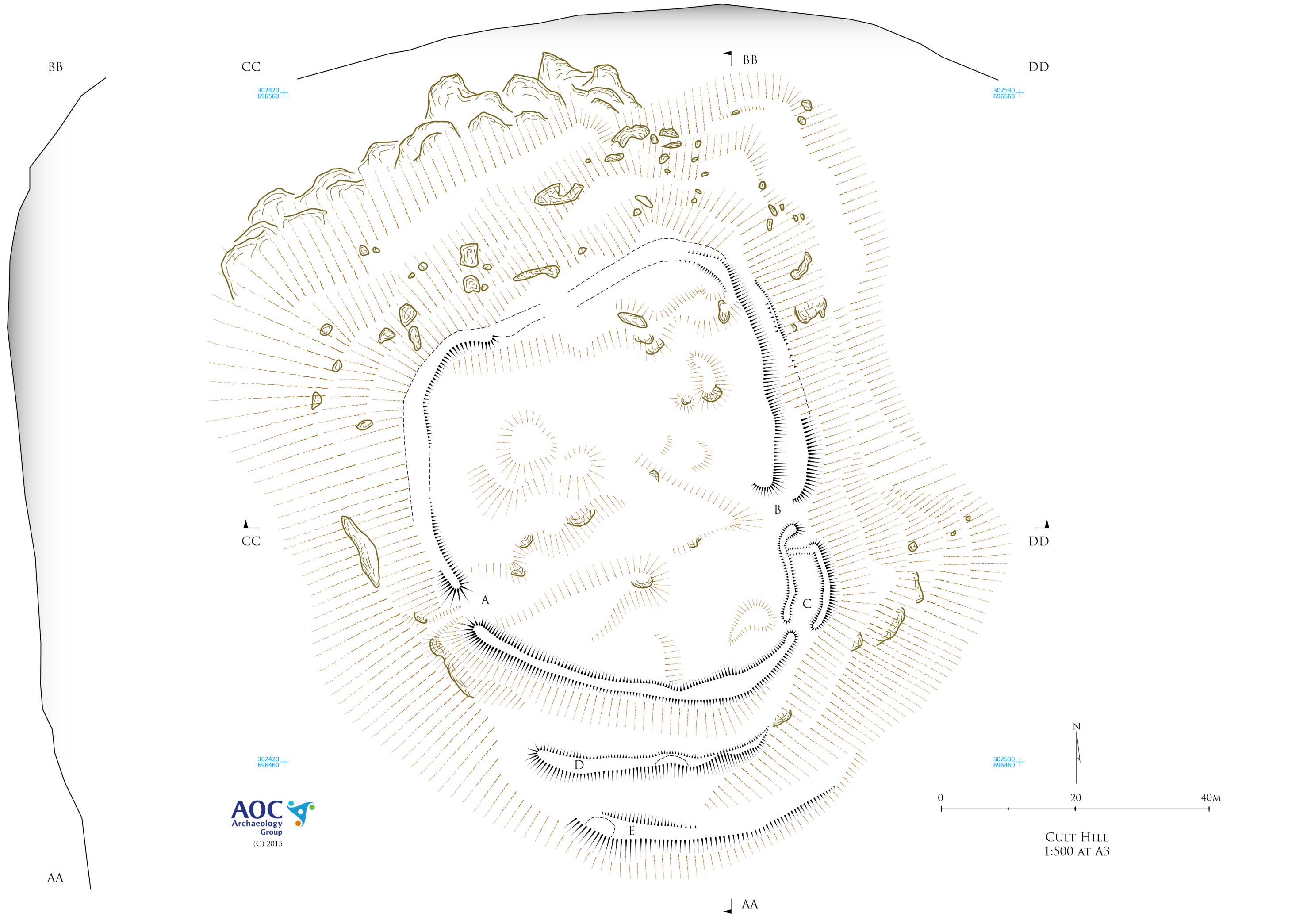
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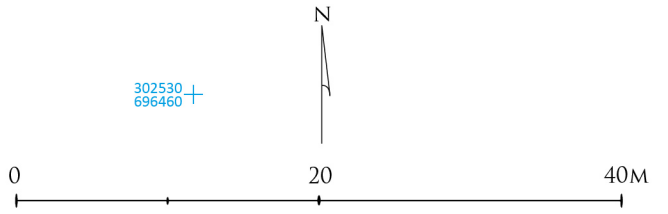
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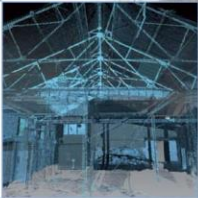
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