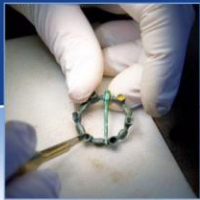


Moffat Hills, Moffat: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

*AOC Project 23557
5th September 2016*



Moffat Hills, Moffat:

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of:	Connicks Millgrane Kirkcowan Newton Stewart Dumfries and Galloway DG8 0EF
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 15514 10711 & NT 15469 10665
AOC Project No:	23357
Planning Reference:	N/A
OASIS Entry No:	261742
Prepared by:	Leah Kyle
Date of Fieldwork:	18 th August 2016
Date of Report:	5 th September 2016

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

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Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft	Date: 6 th September 2016

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Summary

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Connicks to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the upgrading of power supply lines in the Moffatdale area.

The site is located on Saddle Yoke Scheduled Monument, the remains of a pre-Improvement township, and includes the remains of over 20 structures and associated enclosures. Most of the buildings lie south of the A708 in the south-east part of the monument. To the north-west of the road, the area of the works, there are at least six buildings and the remains of a turf-banked field system.

The archaeological works consisted of the monitoring of excavations for the replacement of a pole mast (10700709, NT 15514 10711) and a stay for another pole mast (10700711, NT 15469 10665).

No significant archaeology remains were present in the monitored areas.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Connicks to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the upgrading of power supply lines in the Moffatdale area. The watching brief was conducted in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority Dumfries & Galloway Council and Historic Environment Scotland (HES), who granted Scheduled Monument consent for the works. The works were conducted according to the terms of the Scheduled Monument Consent and a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Connicks 2016) approved by Dumfries & Galloway and Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The site is located on Saddle Yoke Scheduled Monument, lying to the NW of the A708 from Moffat. The two areas requiring monitoring were Pole Mast 10700709 (centred on: NT 15514 10711) and a stay for Pole Mast 10700711 (centred on: NT 15469 10665) (Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 Saddle Yoke Scheduled Ancient Monument (Index No. SM12706) comprises the remains of a pre-Improvement township, located on both sides of the A708. The monument is made up of at least 21 structures and associated enclosures, visible as a series of linear turf-covered stone and earthen banks and depressions. To the west of the road are traces of six buildings and the fragmentary remains of a field system, defined by a system of turf banks. The buildings in this area range in size from 9.5m by 6.6m to 11.5m by 5.3m overall. Three electricity poles lie within this part of the scheduled area, running NE-SW and parallel with the A708.
- 1.3.2 The township is not shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey or Roy's Military Survey of the mid-18th century. This suggests that the settlement had been abandoned by the mid-18th century or earlier. It is an example of the sort of township which existed in this part of Dumfriesshire before the onset of large scale agricultural improvement.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by the development works and to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication if significant archaeology is found and it is infeasible to preserve the archaeological material *in situ*.
- 2.2 The objectives of the investigation were to:
- Determine the form and function of archaeological features encountered
 - Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered
 - Recover dating evidence from the archaeological features
 - Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on site

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The works were undertaken by a tracked excavator fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural sub-stratum. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and as per the methodology within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Connicks 2016).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken 8th August 2016. Weather conditions were fair allowing for good archaeological visibility throughout. In total, one trench measuring 2m x 1m x 1.8m was excavated for Pole 10700709 and another measuring 0.5m x 1.5m x 1.8m for a stay for Pole 10700711,
- 4.2 The topsoil throughout was a loose clay loam whilst the B horizon, measuring between 0.35m – 0.5m deep was a mixture of mid orange brown clay silt with frequent mid-large sub-rounded stones. The natural substratum was blue grey gravelly sandy clay.



Plate 3: Pole 10700709-Trench



Plate 4: Stay for Pole 10700711- Trench

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

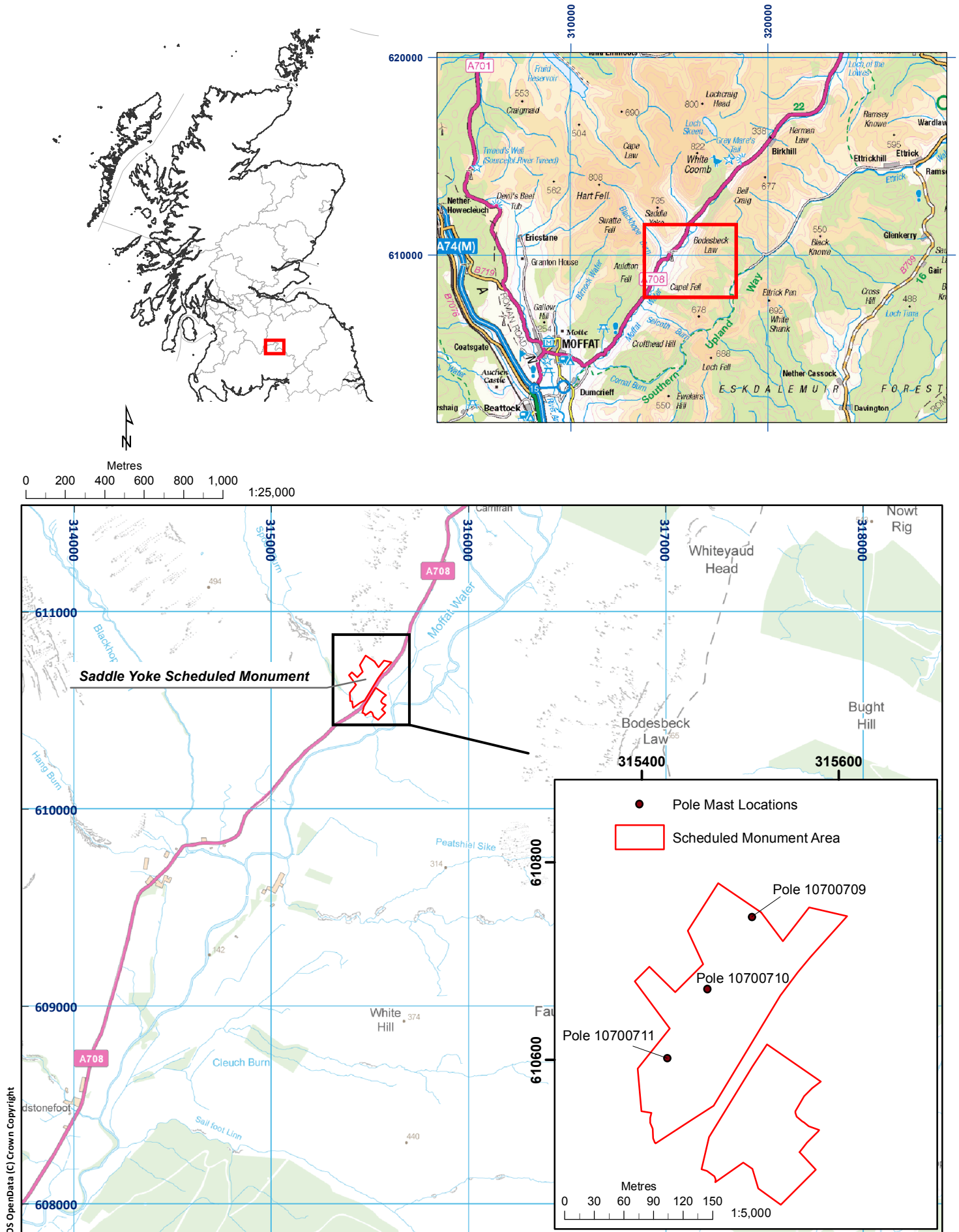
- 5.1 No archaeological remains were present in the monitored areas.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are deemed necessary following the completion of these works. These recommendations will require approval from Historic Environment Scotland.

6 REFERENCES

Connicks 2016 *Saddle Yoke Township, Moffat, Dumfries & Galloway (SM12706) Written Scheme of Investigation* 2016

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*, 2014

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning and Archaeology* 2/2011



01/WSI/23557/01/01

Figure 1: Site location plan

Moffat Hills, Moffat: Appendices

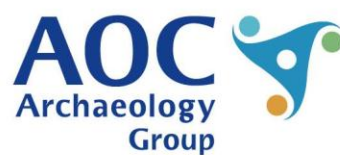
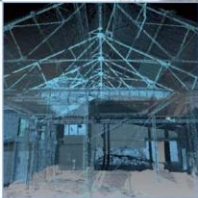
APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1	Existing Farm track (site access)	E	08.08.2016
2	Proposed access to S mast off track	N	08.08.2016
3	Base of central mast	E	08.08.2016
4	Proposed access to S mast	S	08.08.2016
5	General view of S mast	NW	08.08.2016
6	S Mast with low lying wall at fence base	E	08.08.2016
7	S Mast with low lying wall at fence base	E	08.08.2016
8	Vicinity of S mast	NE	08.08.2016
9	Walled structure 15m SE of central mast	SE	08.08.2016
10	Possible route to N mast	S	08.08.2016
11	Possible wall underlying turf 20m S of N mast	SW	08.08.2016
12	Possible route to N mast	S	08.08.2016
13	Base of N mast	E	08.08.2016
14	Possible wall 10m from WSW of N mast	N	08.08.2016
15	Possible wall 3m E of N mast	NE	08.08.2016
16	Route to N mast	S	08.08.2016
17	Example of low impact from machine	N	08.08.2016
18	E facing section Slot for mast 10700709	E	08.08.2016
19	E facing section Slot for mast 10700709	E	08.08.2016
20	N facing section Slot for mast 10700709	N	08.08.2016
21	Trench for 10700709 at 1.8m depth	E	08.08.2016
22-23	E facing section slot for stay 10700711	E	08.08.2016
24	W facing section of slot for stay 10700711	W	08.08.2016
25	Slot for stay 10700711 reinstated	E	08.08.2016
26-27	General shots of digger tracks	Var	08.08.2016
28	Trench for pole 10700709 reinstated	E	08.08.2016
29	Work area around pole 10700709	NW	08.08.2016
30-33	General shot of digger tracks after leaving site	Var	08.08.2016

APPENDIX 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries & Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Moffat Hills, Moffat
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 23357
PARISH:	Moffat
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Leah Kyle
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	NT11SE 3
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Township
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 155 107, NT 154 106
START DATE (this season)	18 th August 2016
END DATE (this season)	18 th August 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Connicks to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the upgrading of power supply lines in the Moffatdale area.</p> <p>The site is located on Saddle Yoke Scheduled Monument, the remains of a pre-Improvement township, and includes the remains of over 20 structures and associated enclosures. Most of the buildings lie south of the A708 in the south-east part of the monument. To the north-west of the road, the area of the works, there are at least six buildings and the remains of a turf-banked field system.</p> <p>The archaeological works consisted of the monitoring of excavations for the replacement of a pole mast (10700709, NT 15514 10711) and a stay for another pole mast (10700711, NT 15469 10665).</p> <p>No significant archaeology remains were present in the monitored areas.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Connicks
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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