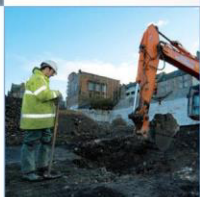
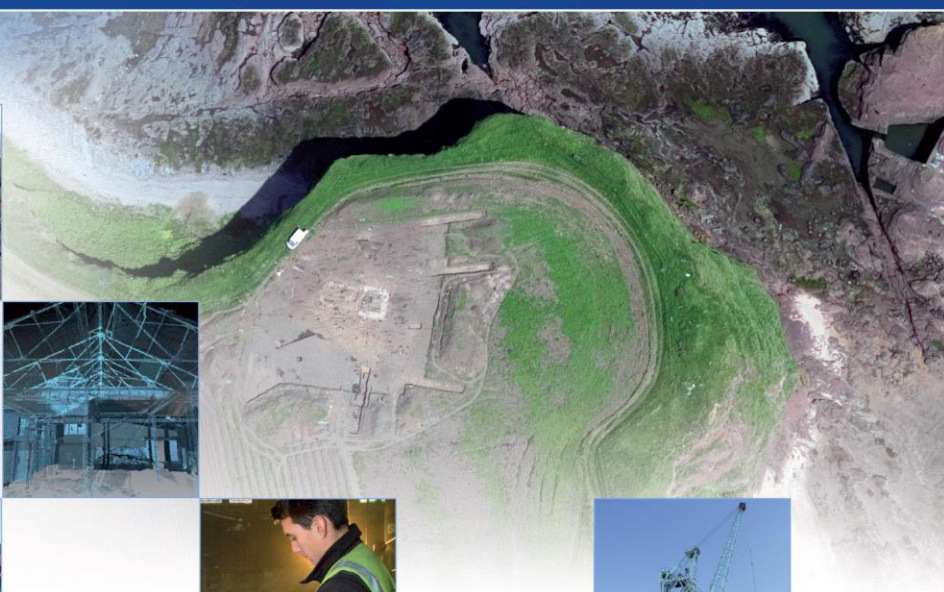
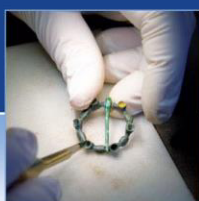


Crooks Scooped Settlement, Langholm, Dumfries & Galloway: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project 24140

4th December 2017



Crooks Scooped Settlement, Langholm, Dumfries & Galloway: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Connicks Millgrane Kirkcowan Newton Stewart Dumfries and Galloway DG8 0EF
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NY 29785 92473
AOC Project No:	24140
OASIS Entry No:	aocarcha1-302083
Prepared by:	Kevin Paton
Date of Fieldwork:	23 rd November 2017
Date of Report:	4 th December 2017

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

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Draft/Final Report Stage: Final	Date: 4 th December 2017

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was required by Connicks on behalf of their client SPIE during the refurbishment of an 11kv overhead powerline that passes through an area north of Langholm, Dumfries & Galloway.

One of the electrical poles to be replaced lies within the Scheduled Monument of the Crooks Scooped Settlement (SM No. 4368). As such, Scheduled Monument Consent was required from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) prior to the commencement of works, with archaeological monitoring to be conducted during the excavations for the new pole.

The excavations revealed that the settlement mound was created using re-deposited gravels from the excavations of the settlement platform. The excavations were taken to a depth of 2 m and did not penetrate the base of the mound. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the monitoring works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works is required by Connicks ahead of the replacement of an 11kV electrical cable pole that lies within the Scheduled Monument of Crooks Scooped Settlement, Langholm, Dumfries and Galloway. The need for, and scope of the archaeological works has been determined by Historic Environment Scotland. The Scooped Settlement is a Scheduled Monument (SM4368) and, as such, Scheduled Monument Consent was required from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) prior to the commencement of works.
- 1.1.2 The programme of archaeological works adhered to a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2017), and is in keeping with best practice outlined in current planning policy and guidelines: *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) & *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011).

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area lies a few kilometres north-west of Langholm, to the north of the B709 at Crooks. The Scheduled Monument lies within open farmland centered on NGR NT NY 29785 92473 (Figures 1 & 2).

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The site of the pole to be replaced lies within the Scheduled Monument of Crooks Scooped Settlement, Langholm (SM No. 4368). It is described in its scheduling document as the following:

The monument comprises the remains of a prehistoric scooped settlement visible as level platforms surrounded by a turf bank enclosure, likely to date to the last centuries BC/early centuries AD. It lies on an old river terrace about 225m south-east of where Stennies Water meets with Meggat Water, around 140m above sea level. The interior of the enclosure is cut into the W-facing slope on the ESE side and covers at least 0.14ha. It measures 40m NE-SW by at least 35m transversely, enclosed by a bank, that is truncated by a road on the ESE side. To the north-west the bank is constructed on a natural terrace and there is an entrance. Within the interior of the enclosure lies two platforms

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works are:
- i) to monitor all ground-breaking works associated with the replacement of 11 kV power cable pole by way of a watching brief (Phase 1);
 - ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, formulated with the approval of HES, such as excavation (Phase 2), post-excavation analyses and publication (Phase 3), given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological

remains be encountered. It should be noted that preservation in situ is the preferred option and that any Phase 2 or Phase 3 works would be subject to another SMC application.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Due to the steepness of the settlement bank on the west edge, the proposed access for the excavator was changed. Access was obtained from the southern edge of the monument, along the side of the boundary wall (Figure 2). Due to heavy rain from the previous two days the ground conditions were very soft, and the central area of the monument was filled with water. The interior was avoided as much as possible and due care was taken to tidy the track marks made by the excavator upon leaving the site (Plate 2).
- 3.2 The original pole was pulled out of the hole using an 8-tonne tracked excavator. The excavation of the new hole was conducted using the same excavator fitted with a flat bladed bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural subsoil was encountered. 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* (AOC 2017).



Plate 1: Post excavation view of access

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 23rd November 2017. Weather conditions were fair allowing for good archaeological visibility throughout.
- 4.2 The removal of the pole did not disturb the ground surface around the pole location, and inspection of the hole showed no indications of archaeological features within. The excavation for the replacement pole measured 2.1m (NW-SE) by 0.7m, and was 2m deep. The topsoil [001] consisted of 0.25m of dark greyish brown sandy loam with abundant gravel inclusions. This overlay 1.75m of re-deposited gravel [002] with occasional large angular stones (Plate 2). The natural subsoil was not encountered during the excavations.
- 4.3 No archaeological features or artefacts were found during the archaeological works.



Plate 2: SW-facing section of excavated trench

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological works showed that the bank surrounding the settlement platform consists of re-deposited gravel, most likely obtained from the excavations of the platform in the prehistoric period. No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered within the excavation area and as a result no further archaeological works are recommended. These recommendations will require approval from Historic Environment Scotland.

6 REFERENCES

AOC 2017, *Crooks Scooped Settlement, Langholm, Dumfries & Galloway: Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished client report

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning and Archaeology* 2/2011

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*, 2014

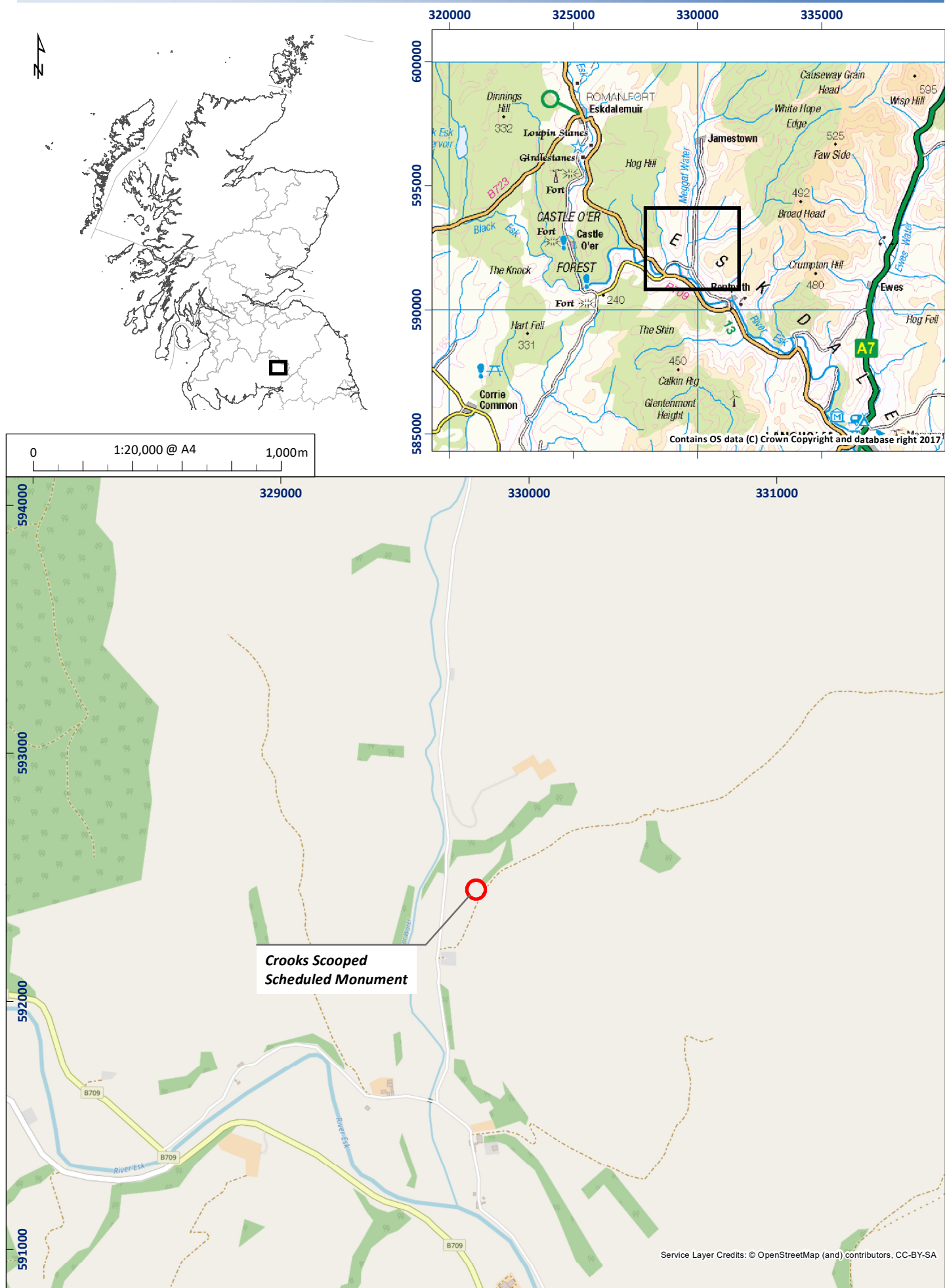


Figure 1: Site location plan

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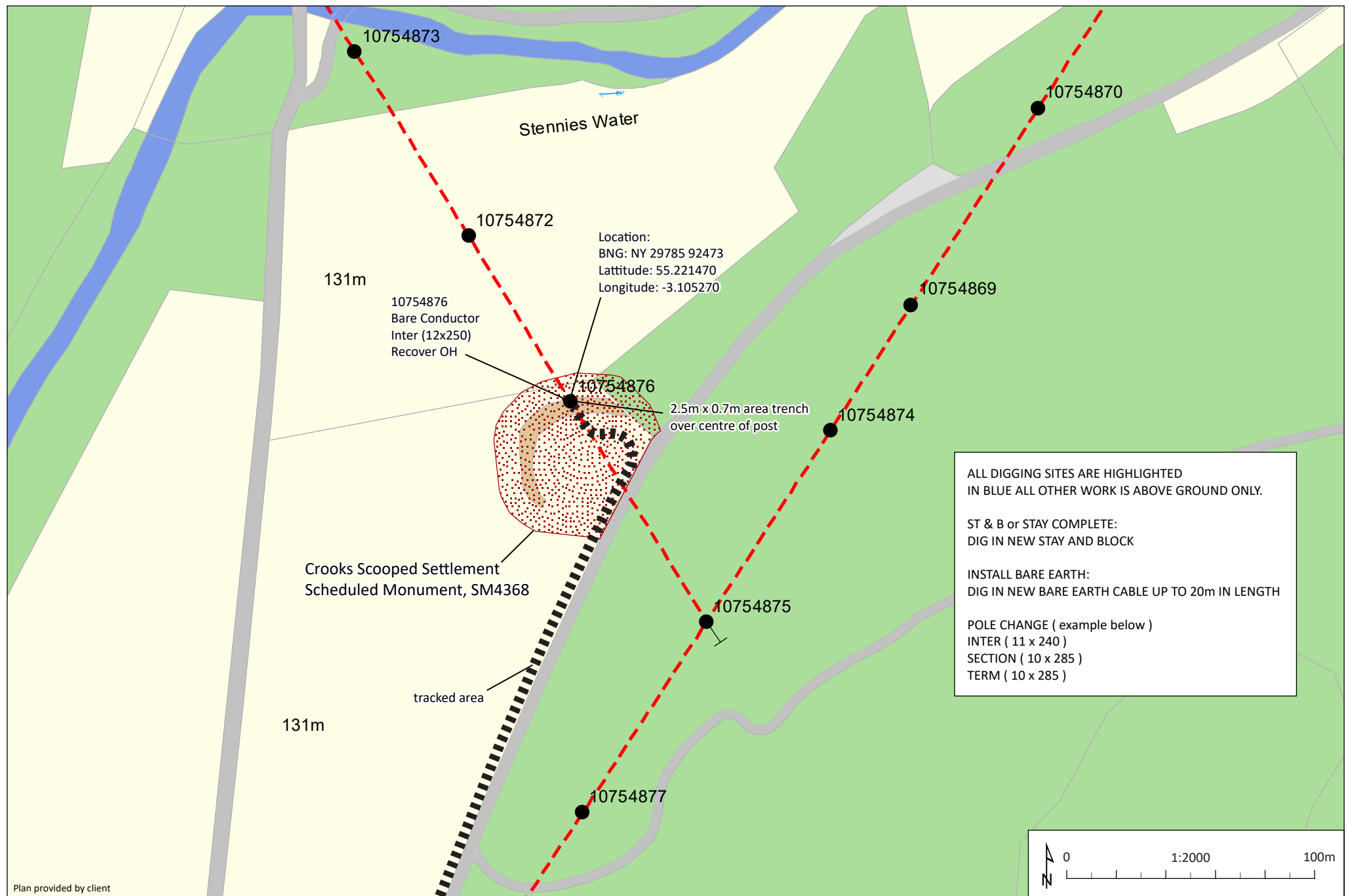


Figure 2: Trench and access location

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**Crooks Scooped Settlement, Langholm,
Dumfries & Galloway:
Archaeological Watching Brief
Data Structure Report
Appendices**

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Description and Interpretation
[001]	Dark greyish brown sandy loam with abundant gravel inclusions. Measures 0.25m thick. Topsoil/turf over bank
[002]	Yellow and orange gravel with occasional large angular stones. Measures 1.75m (+). Re-deposited subsoil for bank

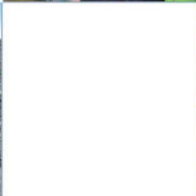
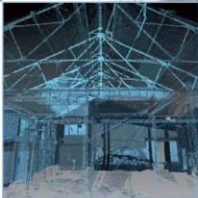
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1-3	General views of monument – from SE corner	VAR	24/11/17
4-7	General views of monument – from E	VAR	24/11/17
8	General views of north edge	E	24/11/17
9-10	General views of pole position	NE	24/11/17
11	View of machine accessing monument	NW	24/11/17
12-13	Views of track marks	S	24/11/17
14-18	General view of monument – from W	VAR	24/11/17
19-20	General views of track marks	W	24/11/17
21-22	Flattening of track damage	N	24/11/17
23	View of track marks (E edge)	S	24/11/17
24	General view of settlement	W	24/11/17
25	Working shot	N	24/11/17
26-27	Track marks on accessing site	VAR	24/11/17
28	Pole removed	SW	24/11/17
29	View of original hole	-	24/11/17
30	SW facing section of new hole	SW	24/11/17
31	SE facing section of new hole	SE	24/11/17
32	SW facing section of new hole	SW	24/11/17
33	NE facing section of new hole	NE	24/11/17
34-38	New pole erection	VAR	24/11/17
39	Pole area backfilled	SW	24/11/17
40	Track marks after machine removed	W	24/11/17
41	Track marks after machine removed	S	24/11/17
42	Tidying tracked areas	N	24/11/17
43	Track marks after cleaning	S	24/11/17
44-45	General view of mound to W	VAR	24/11/17

APPENDIX 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries & Galloway Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Crooks Scooped Settlement
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 24140
PARISH:	Langholm
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	SM4368
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Scooped Settlement
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NY 29785 92473
START DATE (this season)	23 rd November 2017
END DATE (this season)	23 rd November 2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was required by Connicks on behalf of their client SPIE during the refurbishment of an 11kv overhead powerline that passes through an area north of Langholm, Dumfries & Galloway.</p> <p>One of the electrical poles to be replaced lies within the Scheduled Monument of the Crooks Scooped Settlement (SM No. 4368). As such, Scheduled Monument Consent was required from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) prior to the commencement of works, with archaeological monitoring to be conducted during the excavations for the new pole.</p> <p>The excavations revealed that the settlement mound was created using re-deposited gravels from the excavations of the settlement platform. The excavations were taken to a depth of 2 m and did not penetrate the base of the mound. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the monitoring works.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Connicks
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ARCHIVE (intended/deposited)	LOCATION Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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