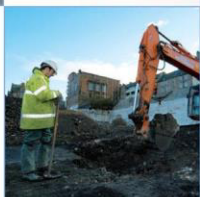
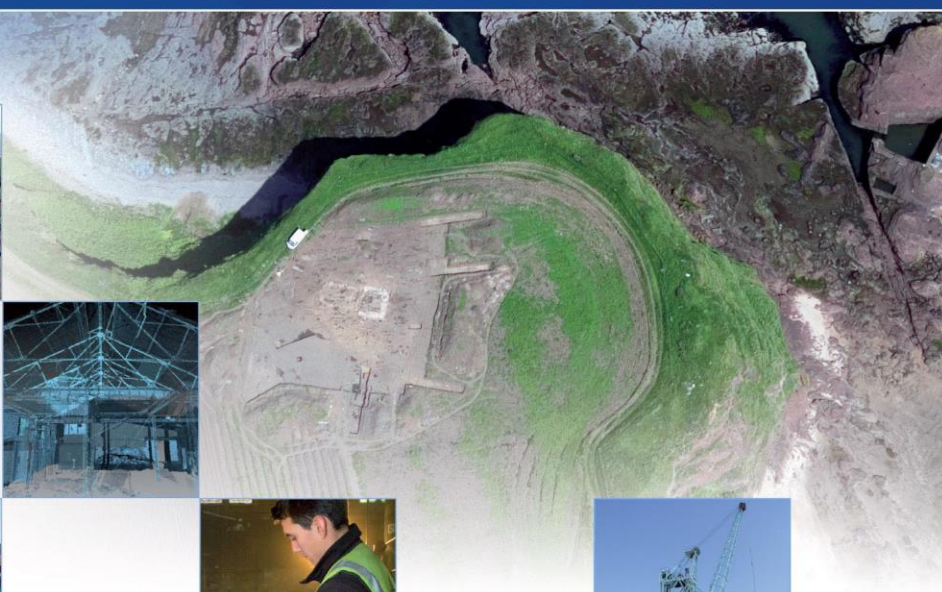
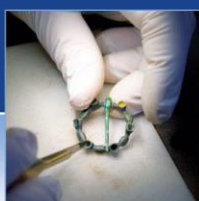


# Laigh Mains, East Kilbride: Archaeological Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

AOC Project: 24311  
11<sup>th</sup> September 2018



# Laigh Mains, East Kilbride: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

**On Behalf of:** Connicks,  
Milgrane  
Kirkcowan,  
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DG8 0EF

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NS 62800 56170

**AOC Project No:** 24311

**OASIS No:** aocarcha1-330419

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**Date:** 02/10/2018

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

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**Date:** 02/10/2018

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**Date:** 08/10/2018

**Draft/Final Report Stage:** Draft

**Date:** 08/10/2018

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## Summary

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This report presents the results of a watching brief required by Connicks ahead of the removal of two 33kV electrical cable poles that lie within the Scheduled Monument of Laigh Mains Castle Earthworks, East Kilbride.

The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of: ground breaking works associated with the movement of plant on the Scheduled Monument and removal of two old electrical cable poles.

The excavation of the two electrical cable poles did not reveal any archaeological features.

It is recommended that no further archaeological works are required. This will need to be confirmed in writing by HES.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by Connicks ahead of the removal of two 33kV electrical cable poles that lie within the Scheduled Monument of Laigh Mains Castle Earthworks, East Kilbride.
- 1.1.2 The programme of archaeological works required was in keeping with best practice outlines in current planning policy and guidelines: *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) & *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011) and as per the Scheduled Monument Consent issued for these works.

### 1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area lies North of East Kilbride, 125m from Mains Castle near the grounds of James Hamilton Heritage Park. The Scheduled Monument lies within open grassland centred on NGR NS 62800 56170 (Figures 1 & 2).

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The site of the two poles that were replaced lie within the Scheduled Monument of Laigh Mains Castle Earthworks (SM No.2994). It is described in its scheduling document as the following,

*The monument comprises the earthwork remains of a castle site likely to date to the 12th century AD. It is visible as an uneven mound surrounded by an intermittent double bank and ditch on its north, west and east sides. The monument is located on a gentle south-facing slope at around 180m above sea level and overlooks Mains Castle 125m to the south.*

*The approximate triangular form of the monument extends 90m north to south by 100m east to west. The interior platform is 65m north to south by 45m east to west. A break in the surrounding banks and built up ground in the ditches of the northeast corner indicate the likely position of the entrance. Archaeological surveys have indicated potential structures within the interior.*

*The area to be scheduled is polygonal on plan, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment are expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of transmission poles, post and wire fencing, gates and the modern surfaces of tracks, to allow for their maintenance. The monument was first scheduled in 1973, but the documentation did not meet current standards: the present rescheduling rectifies this.*

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
  - i) to monitor the removal of the existing 33 kV power cable poles 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 Archaeological Works

- 3.2 The details of the archaeological works, laid out below, were designed to support the application for the Scheduled Monument Consent. The archaeological works comprised of the monitoring of ground-breaking works undertaken as part of refurbishment of the overhead powerline, namely the removal of two wooden poles within the motte.
- 3.3 The watching brief was required on ground breaking works associated with the replacement of two 33 kV power cable poles (Figure 2). The methodology proposed by SP Energy Networks was to use a tracked excavator to access the poles on the motte. The excavator was then be used to support the structure while a team cut the poles above ground height. The poles were then cut into smaller sections and removed from the motte. The remainder of the poles were hand excavated to a depth of 300 mm and the poles cut using a chainsaw to below ground level. The excavated area was then reinstated by hand.
- 3.4 Excavations were monitored and recorded by an archaeologist. The archaeologist was on site at the start of operations to note the presence/absence of any upstanding features in the vicinity of the work zone.

## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The watching brief was undertaken on 11th September 2018.
- 4.2 The weather conditions were fair which allowed for good visibility. The excavation was undertaken by hand.
- 4.3 A pit was hand dug through the topsoil to a depth of 0.3m surrounding each of the post stumps measuring 0.7m across. The topsoil in this area was a mid greyish-brown sandy soil. No archaeological features were present in this excavation and the substratum was not reached.





**Plate 1 - Post excavation shot of west stump**



**Plate 2 - Post excavation shot of east stump**



## 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The watching brief did not reveal any archaeologically significant features or material.
- 5.2 It is recommended that no further archaeological works are required. This will need to be confirmed in writing by HES.

## 6 REFERENCES

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy 2014*

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*

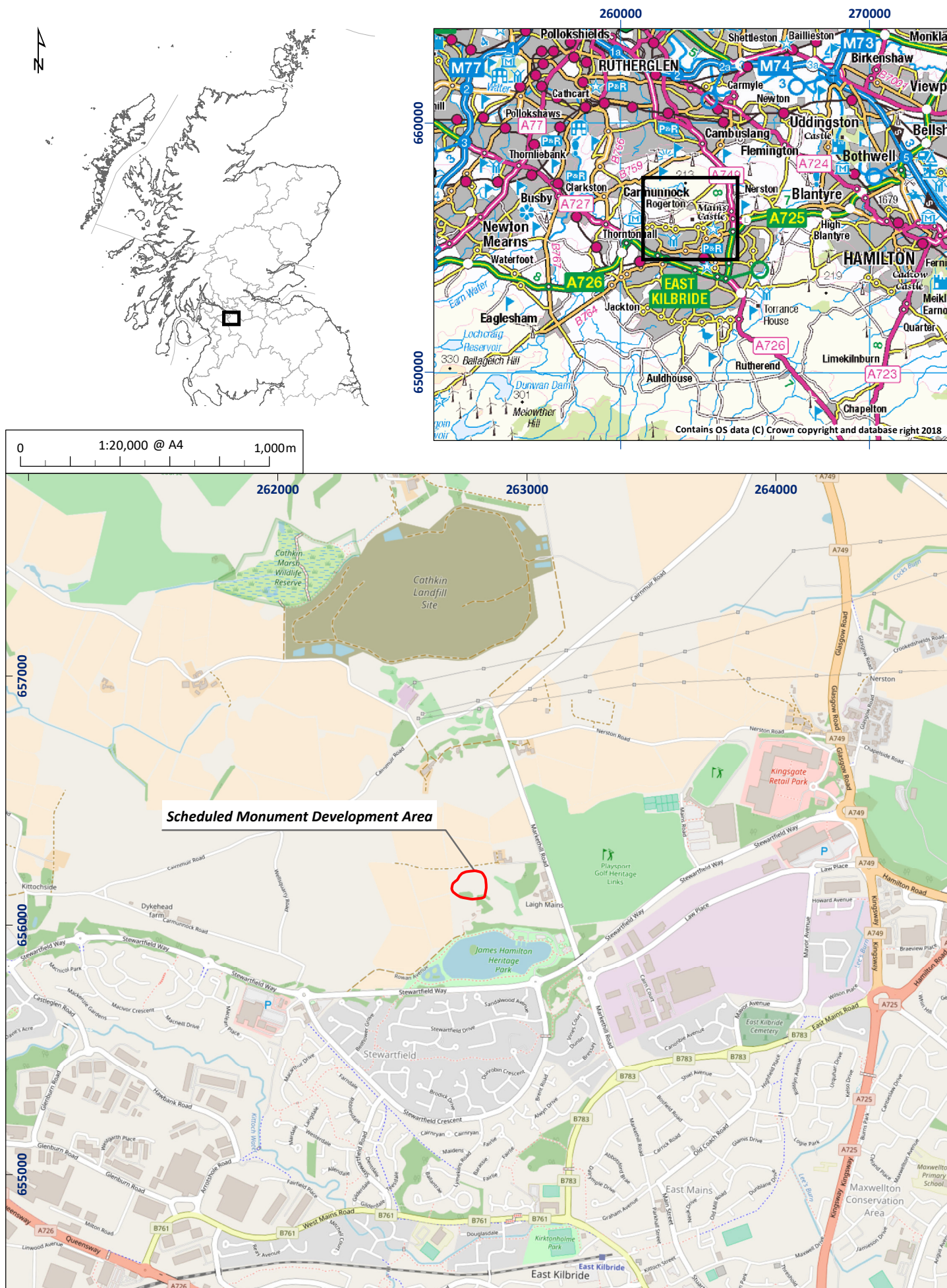


Figure 1: Site location plan

01/24311/DSR/01/01

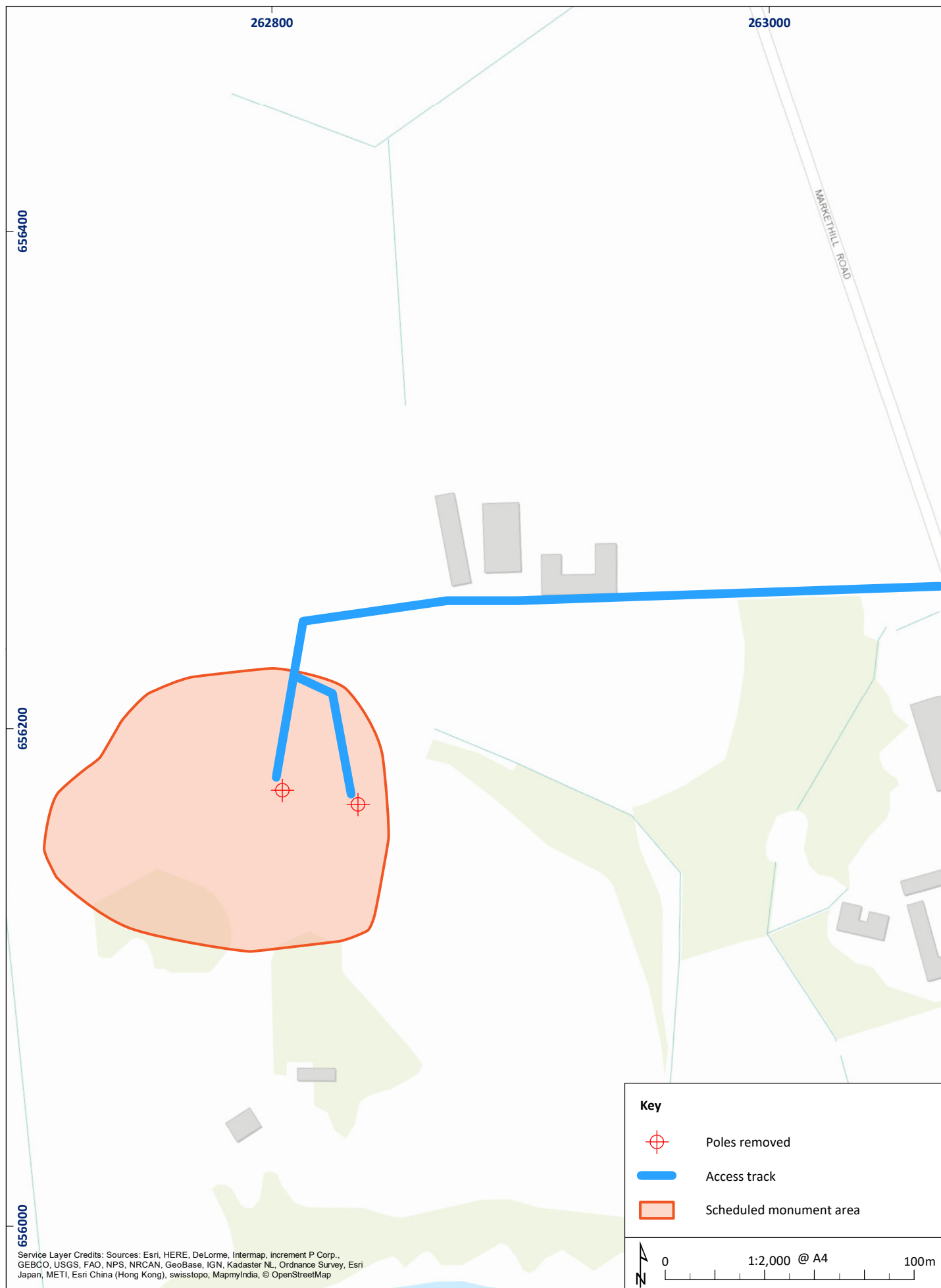


Figure 2: Poles Removed from Scheduled Monument Area

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# **Laigh Mains, East Kilbride: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

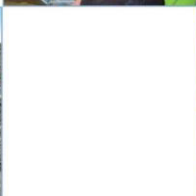
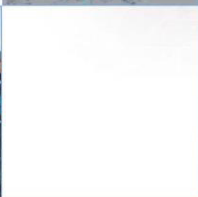
## APPENDIX 1: Digital Photographic Register

Photo No.	Description	Taken From
1	ID Shot	
2	General pre ex shot showing stumps	N
3	General pre ex shot showing stumps	N
4	Post ex shot of E. stump	N
5	Post ex shot of E. stump	S
6	Post ex shot of E. stump	S
7	Post ex shot of E. stump	NE
8	Post ex shot of W. stump	E
9	Post ex shot of W. stump	S
10	Post ex shot of W. stump	S



**APPENDIX 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	South Lanarkshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Laigh Mains, East Kilbride, Archaeological Watching Brief
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 24311
<b>PARISH:</b>	East Kilbride
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Lucy Shinkfield
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	SM2994
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Castle Earthworks
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NS 62800 56170
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	11 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	11 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>A watching brief was required by Connicks ahead of the removal of two 33kV electrical cable poles that lie within the Scheduled Monument of Laigh Mains Castle Earthworks, East Kilbride.</p> <p>The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of: ground breaking works associated with the, movement of plant on the Scheduled Monument and removal of two old power poles.</p> <p>The excavation of the two electrical cable poles did not reveal any archaeological features.</p> <p>It is recommended that no further archaeological works are required on the site. This will need to be confirmed in writing by HES.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	---
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Connicks
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	admin@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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