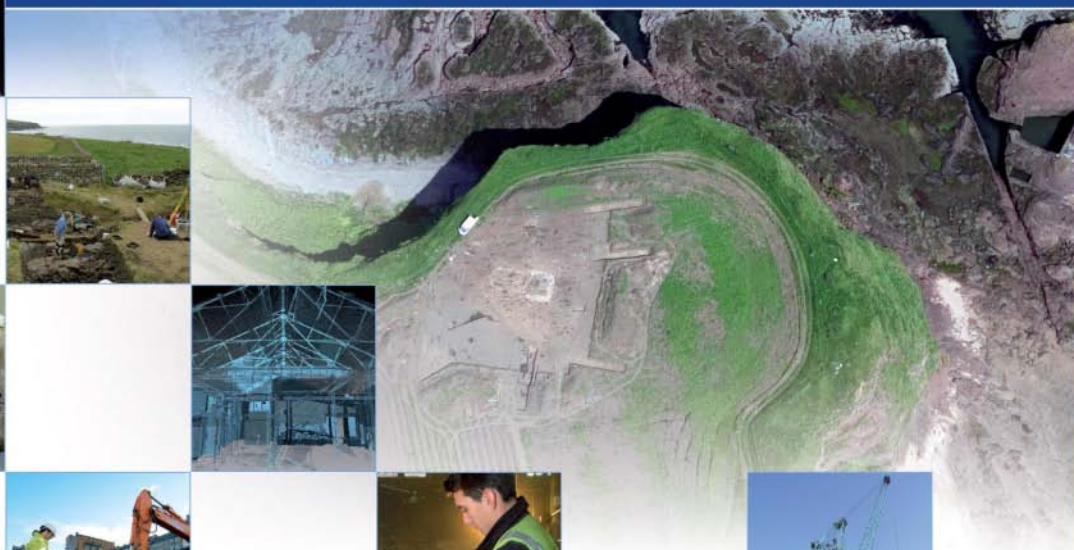


Floors Road, Waterfoot, Eaglesham: Watching Brief Report

AOC 21312

March 2009



Floors Road, Waterfoot, Eaglesham: Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of:	SP Power Systems 1 Atlantic Quay, Glasgow G2 8SP
National Grid Reference (NGR):	c. NS 561 538
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Date of Fieldwork:	1 st March 2009
Date of Report:	5 th March 2009

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

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Figure 1 Site location showing position of excavations

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Appendix 1 Photographic Record

Appendix 2 *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* Report

Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Floors Road, Waterfoot, near Eaglesham, East Renfrewshire. The work was commissioned by Scottish Power and was designed to satisfy recommendations made by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service due to the proximity of the works to a known cropmark site (WoSAS Site ID:53720).

The objective of the work was to monitor all ground breaking works associated with the erection of three specific electricity poles (6A, 7A & 8A) from the eight new poles being erected for the new power-line.

The work was carried out on a single day and was conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2009) approved by WoSAS.

The watching brief revealed neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance. No further archaeological works are recommended.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological Watching Brief was required by Scottish Power during the groundworks associated with the erection of a new overhead electrical cable supply to two new houses on Floors Road, Waterfoot, close to Eaglesham, East Renfrewshire. The Watching Brief was required as the proposed route of the new power line took it in proximity to a known cropmark site, (WoSAS Site ID:53720), which is potentially a prehistoric enclosure. The Watching Brief was designed to satisfy recommendations made the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken in safeguarding any unknown archaeological remains from an adverse impact deriving from the creation of the electricity supply.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 Floors Road extends south-west from the B767 road at Waterfoot until it reaches Humble Road and the A726. The new electricity line crosses Floors Road from the SSE near the Linn Electronics Factory, which is situated on the former site of Eaglesham House, (NMRS NS55SE 402), then runs to the NNW across Floors Farm (Figure 1). In total eight poles were erected, 1A to 5A, on the north side of Floors Road and three poles, 6A, 7A and 8A, on the south side of Floors Road.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The watching brief oversaw the erection of three new poles (6A, 7A & 8A, Figure 1) all of which lay to the south of Floors Road. These three poles lie close to, potentially overlying, a cropmark site (WoSAS Site ID:53720), described as 'a large circular enclosure, possibly surrounded by a double ditch, with what may be an entrance in its south-east quadrant. Though these ditches are fairly faint, the diameter of the interior of this feature measures around 140 m east to west, while the diameter of the outer ditch may be as much as 250 m, meaning that it is unlikely to represent a stock enclosure, and could in fact be a prehistoric settlement'.
- 1.3.2 In addition as the excavations were being undertaken within a undeveloped greenfield site there was therefore a possibility that the watching brief would uncover hitherto unknown archaeology.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:
- i) to provide suitable archaeological mitigation for the installation of three new poles required for the erection of a new overhead electrical cable and thus prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
 - ii) where preservation *in situ* was impractical, to record all archaeological features and interpret them in an archaeological and historic framework by means of Phase 2 or Phase 3 addenda to be formulated with WoSAS.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The details of the archaeological works undertaken are laid out below, and were designed to fully meet the recommendations of WoSAS.
- 3.2 All ground breaking work was monitored by an experienced archaeologist. Three new pole foundation pits were excavated with the aid of a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a 0.45 m wide toothless ditching bucket. The pole foundation pits were stripped of deposits until clean natural subsoil or the contractor's required level was reached.
- 3.3 All monitoring was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures (Appendix 7, 7.1 to 7.29). Black and White print photographic shots were taken during the Watching Brief (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 1st March 2009, under dry sunny conditions rendering good archaeological visibility.
- 4.2 The individual holes measured c.1.5 m by 0.8 m and were aligned east to west. The excavation of the three pole foundation pits (marked 6A, 7A & 8A; Figure 1) revealed a well sorted agricultural loam up to a maximum depth of 0.40 m. The topsoil overlay a light coloured sandy clay subsoil.
- 4.3 No significant archaeological features or finds were encountered during any of the ground-works monitored at this site.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The very similar depths at which the natural subsoil was reached in each of the three foundation pits, between 0.35 m and 0.40 m, would indicate that none were excavated over a negative feature such as the enclosure ditch. These works did not disturb any deposits of archaeological significance and likewise no unstratified objects or artefacts were identified.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

AOC 2008 *Floors Road, Waterfoot Watching Brief: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished Client Report.

Floors Road, Waterfoot, Eaglesham: Watching Brief Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Photographic Record

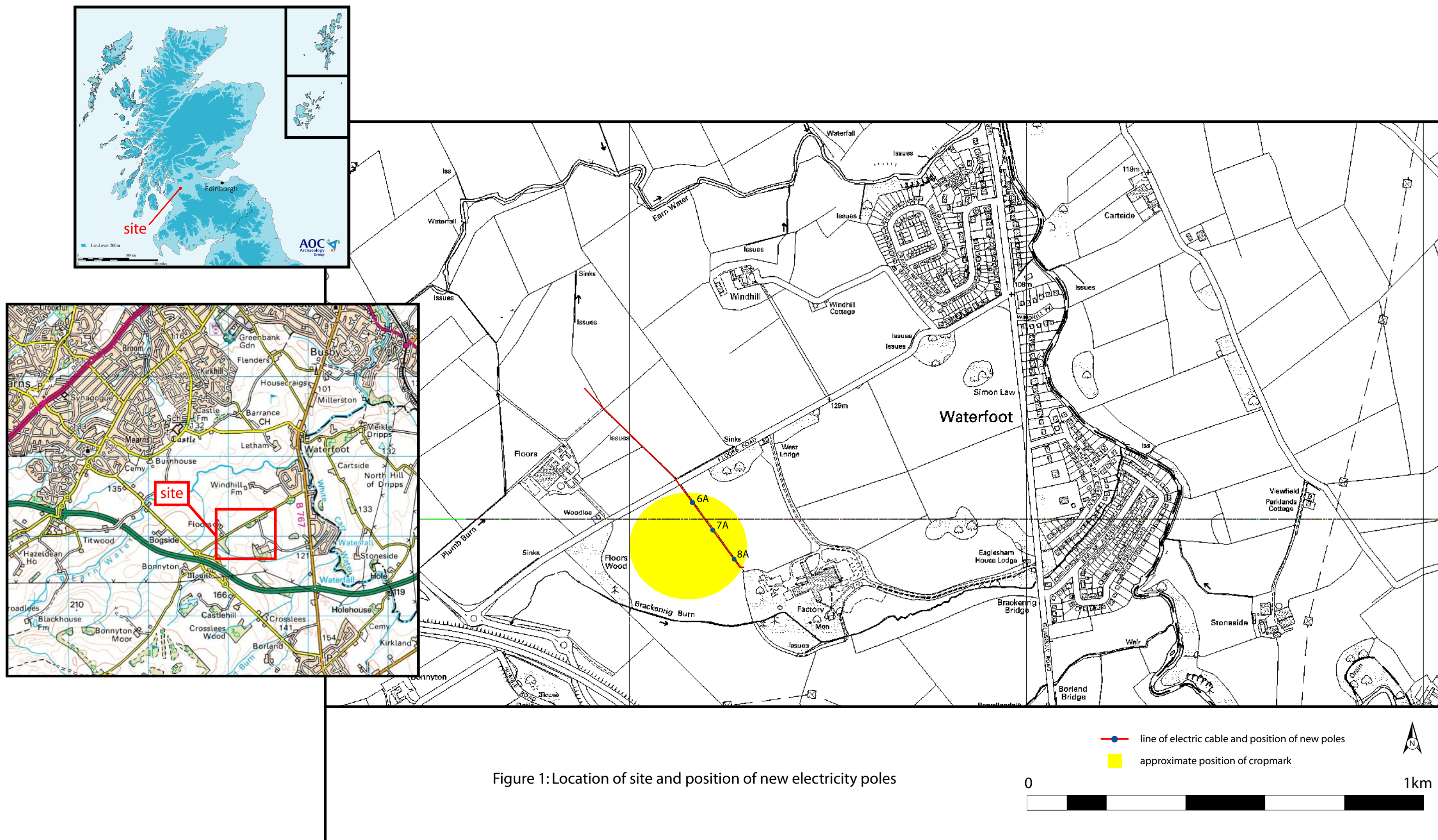
Black & White Print Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Registration shot	
3-4	Pole 8A excavated hole	S
5-6	Pole 7A excavated hole	N
7-8	Pole 6A excavated hole	N
9-10	General view of line of poles	W

APPENDIX 2

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Floors Road, Waterfoot Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21312
PARISH:	Eaglesham
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Lindsay Dunbar & Alan Duffy
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Cropmark site, possible prehistoric enclosure
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 5615 5385
START DATE (this season)	1 st March 2009
END DATE (this season)	1 st March 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	--
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A watching brief was undertaken on ground-breaking works associated with the erection of three new electricity poles near Floors Road, Waterfoot, East Renfrewshire. The work was necessary due to the proximity of a known cropmark site (WoSAS Site ID: 53720).</p> <p>The watching brief revealed neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scottish Power
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS





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