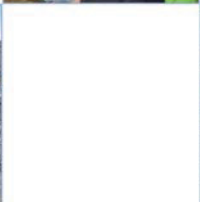
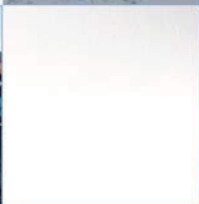
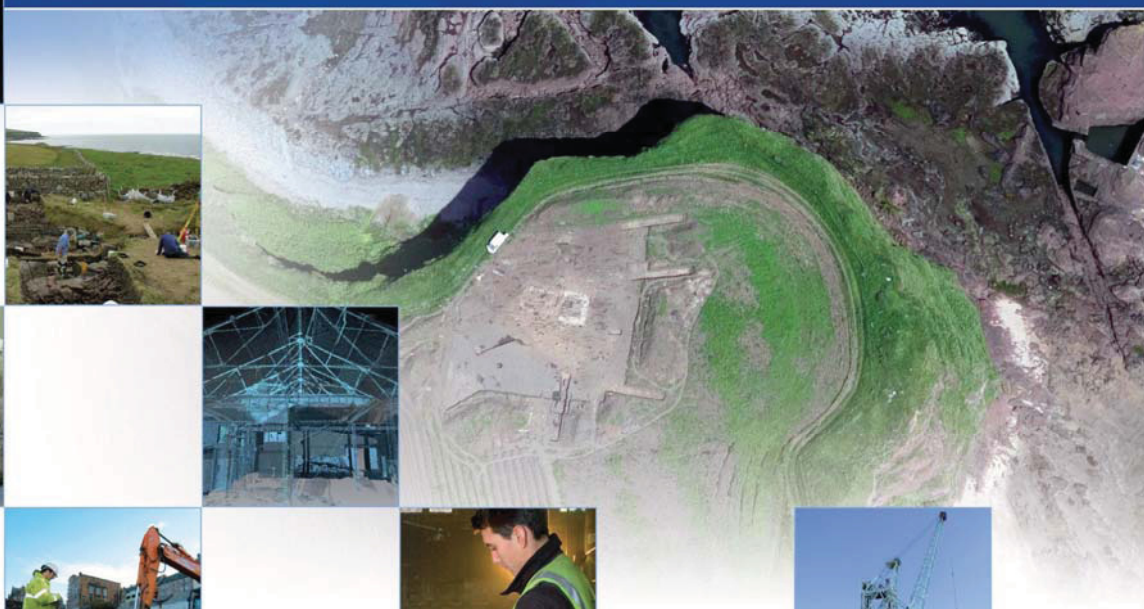


Winningtonrig: Watching Brief Report

21446
October 2009



Winningtonrig: Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: NG Contracting
Midburn Farm
Lauder
Berwickshire
TD2 6PD

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 5011 0949 to NT 4969 0948 to
NT 4937 0956

AOC Project No: 21446

Prepared by: John Gooder

Illustration by: Douglas Park

Date of Fieldwork: August 2009

Date of Report: 20 October 2009

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

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Abstract

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on ground breaking works associated with the erection of new electricity poles (new Hv line) to Winningtonrig farmstead, near Hawick, Scottish Borders. No deposits, features or small finds of archaeological significance were found.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was been commissioned by NG Contracting to undertake a Watching Brief at Winningtonrig, Scottish Borders. The work required was in response to advice by the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer, Dr. Christopher Bowles who had recommended a Watching Brief on the proposed new Hv electricity line development at Winningtonrig to adequately monitor the impact of all ground breaking works associated with the development.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The new Hv electricity line is located to the west of Winningtonrig farmstead, near Hawick, Scottish Borders. A large section of the new line runs across *Stobs Camp*, a 20th century military training establishment and former prisoner-of-war camp. The new Hv line runs from the existing line (new mainline pole) at NGR: NT 5011 0949 to Pole 5 at NGR: NT 4969 0948 then onto and finishing immediately to the north of Winningtonrig farmstead (Pole 8) at NGR: NT 4937 0956.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 A brief review of the National Sites and Monument Record *Pastmap* facility (from which the following is derived) shows that the new Hv line will transect the general area of 'Stobs Camp' (NMRS NT40NE 56.00; centred NGR: NT 4892 0943), a First World War training camp. A detailed plan of Stobs Prisoners-of-war Camp from 1917 is held in the Wilton House Museum, Hawick. It shows that the camp consisted of some 80 huts and a 150 bed hospital and could accommodate 4,500 men. It was built at a cost of £46,500 and was grouped into four 'camps' lettered from A to D with the hospital at the SW end. The camp also incorporated a light-railway system, YMCA (outside the fence), stores, workshops and a post-office. The area had been first used by the Territorial Army around 1903, later being used through both World Wars until 1956 when it was closed and dismantled. It housed a maximum of about 2,000 men and during the First World War it also housed prisoners of war. The campsite covered a large area and included rifle ranges and other training areas.
- 1.3.2 The associated road system with many hut bases, a few huts and some brick and concrete buildings survive on the W side of the B6399 public road, south of Hawick and just north of Stobs Castle.
- 1.3.3 The footings of the camp are still extant within in an area occupying about 22.36 ha and the training area to the SW and south as far as Penchrise Pen (NGR: NT 4908 0622). The First World War Prisoner-of-War Hospital of six huts is at NT 49675 09216. During the First World War an additional hundred huts were built upslope of the main camp to house German prisoners-of-war and German nationals resident in the UK. Further Nissen huts were built before and during the Second World War for prisoners-of-war. Following the cessation of hostilities in 1945 the camp housed some Polish Troops and by 1959 all military connections had been severed.
- 1.3.4 Stray artefact finds in the local area include a perforated stone disc (NMRS NT40NE 45; NGR: 493 096). The stone disc was smoked on one side with three or four light stripes where strings may have been. The disc is now held by Wilton Lodge Museum, Hawick.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by the proposed development works;
- ii) to liaise with Dr. Christopher Bowles and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and / or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.

3 Method

- 3.1 The watching brief was required on the excavation of 14 foundation pits for new wooden poles and associated stays. The ground breaking works were by means of a Mechanical Digger equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist. The Watching Brief if required would include the excavation of any archaeological features encountered (should preservation *in situ* prove infeasible) in order to establish the extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features impacted upon by these works.

4 Results

- 4.1 The watching brief on the erection of the new poles was conducted on 17th and 31st August 2009. The weather conditions during the works were dry and sunny which rendered good archaeological visibility. The various data gathered from the watching are presented as a series of appendices:

- i) Appendix 1 contains the foundation pit summaries;
- ii) Appendix 2 contains the photographic register;
- iii) Appendix 3 reproduces the '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' entry.

- 4.2 Each of the foundation poles measured approximately between 1.8 to 2.10 m long by 0.6 m wide by up to 1.85 m deep. Topsoil was generally shallow becoming shallower with Poles 5 to 8 on rising ground to the west. The soil profile showed a rapid transition from topsoil to a natural subsoil comprising a mid brown sandy clay; this became clayier and richer in angular stone inclusions with increasing depth. Bedrock was encountered in pole foundation pits 7 and 8 and in the stay pits associated with foundation pit 8.

- 4.3 Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were observed during the watching brief.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 No features, deposits or finds of any archaeological significance were recorded during the watching brief. No further archaeological works are considered necessary.

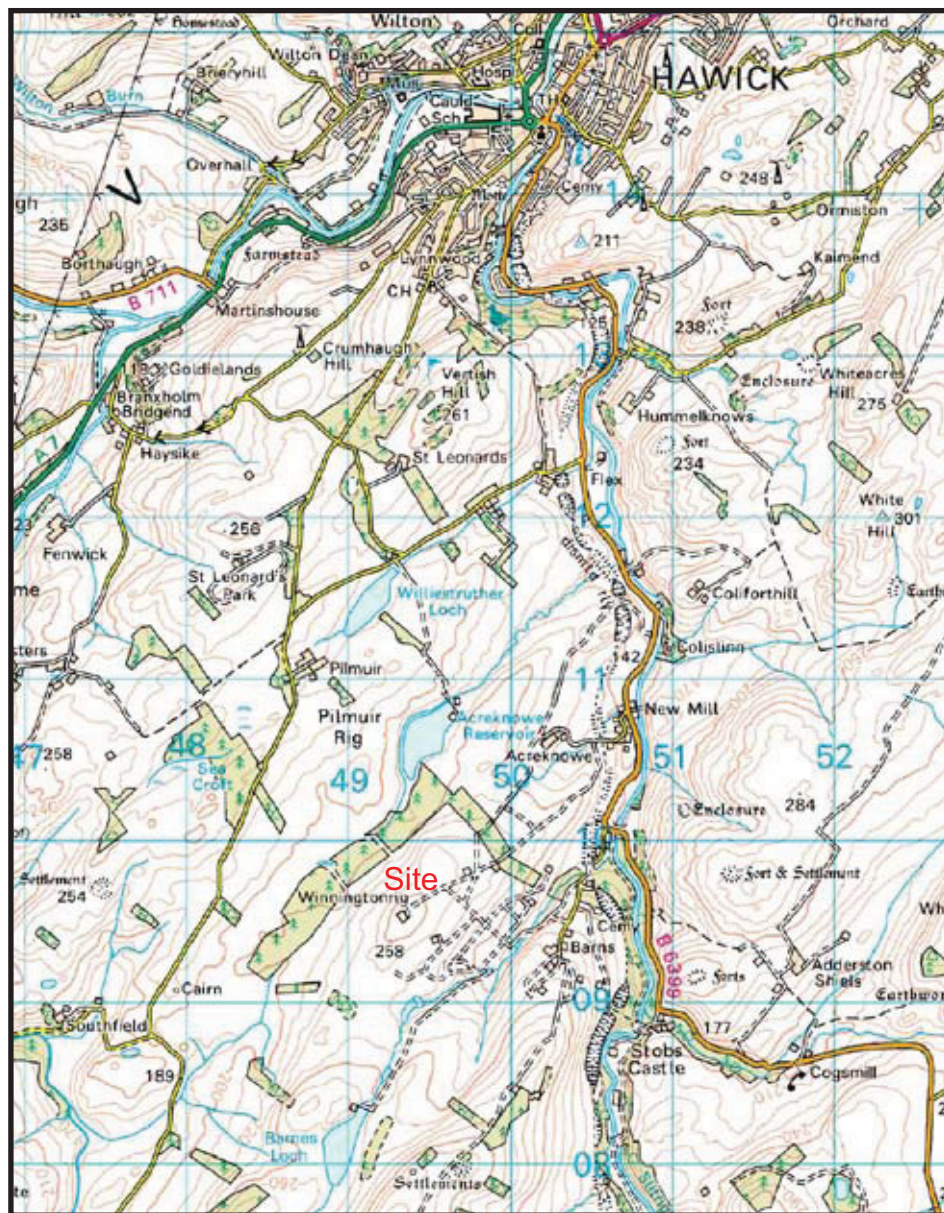
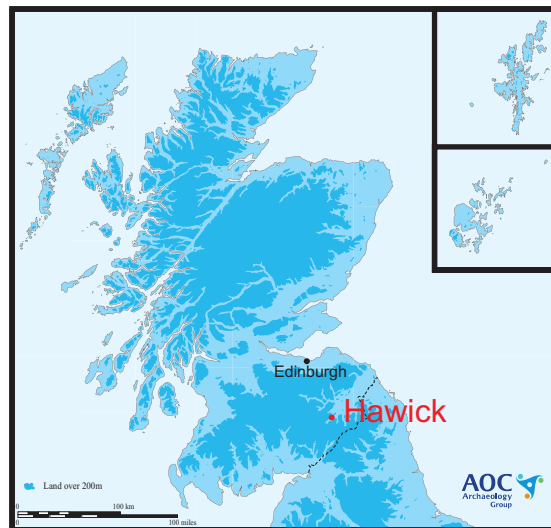
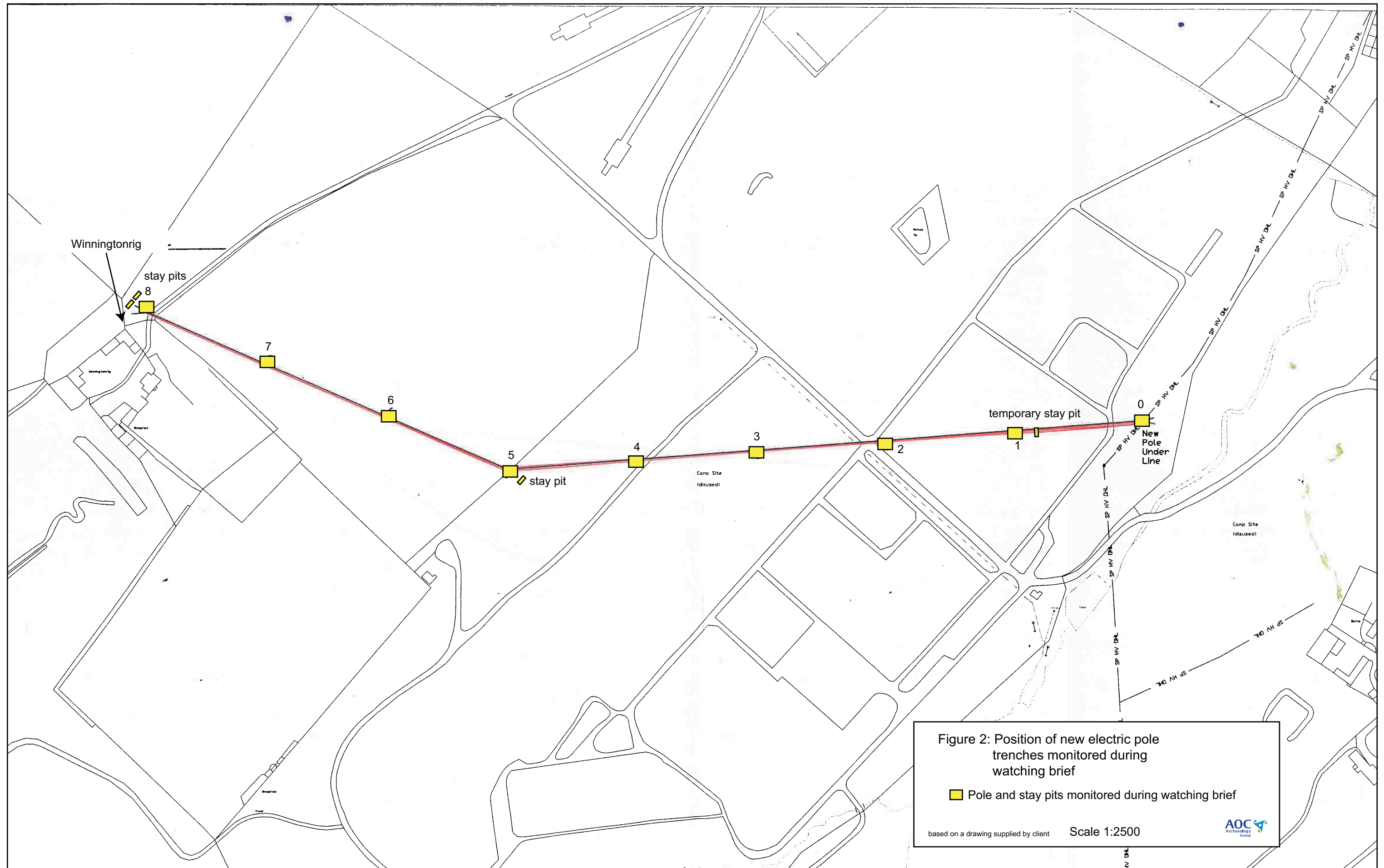


Figure 1: Site location



Winningtonrig: Watching Brief Report

Section 2: Appendices

Appendix 1: Foundation Pit Summaries

Pit No.	Dimensions			Summaries	
	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Descriptions	Depth (m)
1	1.75	0.60	1.75	Topsoil	0.40
				Natural subsoil of mid brown sandy clay. Became clayier with increasing depth. Angular stone inclusions in increasing concentration with depth.	
2	1.80	0.60	1.70	Topsoil	0.40
				Natural subsoil (as above)	
3	2.10	0.60	1.80	Topsoil	0.52
				Natural subsoil (as above)	
4	1.80	0.60	1.70	Topsoil	0.38
				Natural subsoil (as above)	
5	1.80	0.60	1.70	Topsoil	0.45
				Natural subsoil (as above)	
6	1.90	0.70	1.80	Topsoil	0.24
				Natural subsoil (as above)	
7	2.00	0.70	1.80	Topsoil	0.20
				Natural subsoil (as above). Bedrock present at base of foundation pit.	
8	2.00	0.60	1.85	Topsoil	0.16
				Natural subsoil (as above). Shattered bedrock present at base of foundation pit.	
Stay to pole 5	1.80	0.60	1.75	Topsoil	0.45
				Natural subsoil (as above)	
Stay (1) to pole 8	1.80	0.60	1.70	Topsoil	0.40
				Natural subsoil (as above). Shattered bedrock present at base of stay pit.	
Stay (2) to pole 8	1.80	0.60	1.70	Topsoil	0.40
				Natural subsoil (as above). Shattered bedrock present at base of stay pit.	
New mainline pole	1.80	0.60	1.70	Topsoil	0.28
				Natural subsoil (as above)	
Stay (A) to new mainline pole	1.80	0.60	1.70	Topsoil	0.28
				Natural subsoil (as above)	
Stay (B) to new mainline pole	1.80	0.60	1.70	Topsoil	0.28
				Natural subsoil (as above)	

Appendix 2: Photographic Register

Number	Description	From
1	Pit 1 - erecting pole with building floor in background	NE
2-3	Pit 3	SW
4	Poles 1 - 5 <i>in situ</i>	SW
5	Poles 1 - 4 <i>in situ</i>	SW
6-7	Pole 8	N
8-9	Pole 7	SE
10-11	Pole 6	SE
12-13	Stay pit for Pole 8	E
14-15	Mainline pole	SE
16-17	Mainline pole stay 'A'	E
18-19	Mainline pole stay 'B'	E

Appendix 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Winningtonrig watching brief
PROJECT CODE:	21446
PARISH:	Cavers
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	John Gooder
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPES(S) OF PROJECTS:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT40NE 56.00
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	20 th century military training establishment / prisoner-of-war camp
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR:	NT 5011 0949 to NT 4969 0948 to NT 4937 0956
START DATE:	17/08/2009
END DATE:	31/08/2009
PREVIOUS WORK:	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION:	A watching brief was undertaken on ground breaking works associated with the erection of new electricity poles (new Hv line) to Winningtonrig farmstead, near Hawick, Scottish Borders. The new line ran through the former military establishment of Stobs Camp, however the excavation of 14 foundation pits for new poles and associated stays failed in encountering significant archaeological deposits, features or artefacts.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING	Scottish Power
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ARCHIVE LOCATION:	NMRS



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