

**Corlic Hill, Inverclyde:
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Data Structure Report



by Liam McKinstry

issued 27th July 2016

on behalf of 2020 Renewables Ltd

RATHMELL 
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Quality Assurance

This report covers works which have been undertaken in keeping with the issued brief as modified by the agreed programme of works. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance of Rathmell Archaeology Limited on the preparation of reports. All works reported on within this document have been undertaken in keeping with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed  Date27th July 2016.....

In keeping with the procedure of Rathmell Archaeology Limited this document and its findings have been reviewed and agreed by an appropriate colleague:

Checked  Date ...27th July 2016.....

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared on behalf of 2020 Renewable, in support of the erection of a meteorological mast on Corlic Hill, Greenock (NGR). The archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area. The location of the mast is in proximity to several known archaeological sites including two Scheduled Monuments, protected under the terms of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979:
 - Lurg Moor, Roman Fortlet and Roman Road (SM 1653)
 - Lurg Moor, Hut Circle 1180m SW of Knockmairshill (SM2800)
2. The erection of the mast and the route of the access road were designed so that they do not impact on known archaeological sites. Rathmell Archaeology was appointed by 2020 Renewables to undertake the implementation of archaeological mitigation works in compliance with a Method Statement provided by 2020 Renewables and prepared by CFA Archaeology Ltd (Mudie 2013).
3. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on any archaeological remains within the development area and were carried from the 19th to the 20th of July 2016.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. Several archaeological sites exist in proximity to Corlic Hill. These have been reviewed in work previously carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd in support of the initial planning application. The location of the mast and the proposed access route from the B788 to the SE is based on this work. The following archaeological and historical background of the area is a summary review of the information contained in the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS).
5. Approximately 900m to the north of the proposed site of the mast is a roman fortlet (SM: 1653, Canmore ID: 41342) and connected roman road (SM: 1653, Canmore ID: 71827). The Roman fortlet on Lurg Moor, which was probably built in the mid-2nd century AD was first observed on a National Survey air photograph in 1952. It measures 52.0m E-W by 44.0, transversely, and has a broad, heather-covered rampart about 10.0m wide. This rampart is best preserved on the E side where it has an internal height of 0.8m and an external height of 1.6m. Here the rock-cut outer ditch is also well-preserved, the scarp being 0.8m high. The road traversed the shoulder of a ridge and was built on a narrow terrace which had been cut into a layer of clay. It extends south from the fortlet.
6. Lug Moor Hut Circle (SM: 2800, Canmore ID: 41334) is a round house measuring about 10m in diameter over 1m wide foundations of boulder-faced rubble, and has a 1m wide entrance on the east. Projected from the S is a rectangular foundation 2m wide. The Lug Moor Hut Circle, the roman fortlet and the roman road are all scheduled monuments protected under the terms of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
7. Several other sites are known to exist in proximity to the proposed works including; a possible bomb crater (Canmore ID: 41374), a further extension of the roman road to the west (Canmore ID: 41372) and a hut circle to the south-west (Canmore ID: 332051). In addition a group of two hut circles (Canmore IDs: 332040, 41375), a mound (Canmore ID: 42449) and an enclosure (Canmore ID: 41340) exist to the south-east. It is this latter group of features which was closest to the proposed access route from the mast location to the B788.
8. An archaeological watching brief was carried by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd for a previous meteorological mast at the same location on Corlic Hill (Matthews 2013). This watching brief failed to uncover any significant archaeological remains.
9. For a fuller historical and archaeological background to the project please refer to the method statement:

Mudie, G. 2013. Response Statement on Cultural Heritage matters in respect

of Historic Scotland Letter dated 3rd June 2013

Project Works

10. The archaeological monitoring works took place between the 19th and the 20th of July 2016, and were carried out in keeping with the methods detailed within the Method Statement (Mudie 2013). The works involved the excavation of five rectangular trenches for cable anchors one of which was to be used as a winch point to raise the mast (Figure 1). The trenches were excavated by a 13 tonne tracked machine with wider than normal tracks to enable better traction on waterlogged ground which was prevalent across the site (Figure 2b).
11. Four of the anchor trenches were located between 35-38m off the base of the mast at right angles. The fifth anchor trench, which was to act as the winch point, was located at the half way point between the base of the mast and the SSE anchor trench. The trenches measured 2m long, 1-1.5m wide. The ideal depth that the trenches required for the anchorage points was 1.5m but in a number of the trenches the underlying bedrock was only cm beneath the present ground level and the anchor points were drilled into the bedrock. The base of the mast consisted of a constructed wooden support which sat directly over the present ground surface (NS 29556 72850).

Anchor Stay Trench	(NS) Easting	Northing
1	29546	72828
2	29517	72861
3	29543	72816
4	29588	72839
5	29552	72830

Table 1: Location of Anchor Stay Trenches

12. All works were conducted in accordance with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service Standard Conditions, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

13. The upper topsoil layer (001) within each of the five trenches comprised of moderate to loosely compacted, dark brown/black peat with frequent organic inclusions and infrequent small stone inclusions (Figures 3a and 3b). The thickness range of the deposit throughout the five trenches was between 0.1-0.5m.
14. Layer (002) was located within Trenches 1, 3 and 5 beneath the topsoil and comprised of moderately compacted, mid orange-brown silty clay with occasional small to medium sized stone inclusions, possibly degraded/fractured bedrock fragments. The layer had a thickness range within the three trenches of between 0.1-0.5m. Layer, (003), which underlay the topsoil within Trench 2 comprised of moderately compacted, mid to dark brown silty clay with very frequent small to medium sized stone inclusions, possibly degraded/fractured bedrock (Figure 3b). The layer had a thickness within Trench 2 of 0.7m.
15. Beneath layer, (002), within Trench 3 was layer, (005), which comprised of moderately compacted, mid to dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small to medium sized stone inclusions, possibly degraded/fractured bedrock fragments. The thickness of the layer within the trench was 0.5m. The basal layer within trenches 1, 2 and 4 was a layer of in situ bedrock, (004). This bedrock comprised of Igneous Basalt bedrock which was light to mid grey brown in colour and contained naturally occurring fractures throughout its makeup (Figure 3b).
16. No features of archaeological significance were identified during the watching brief carried out during the works.

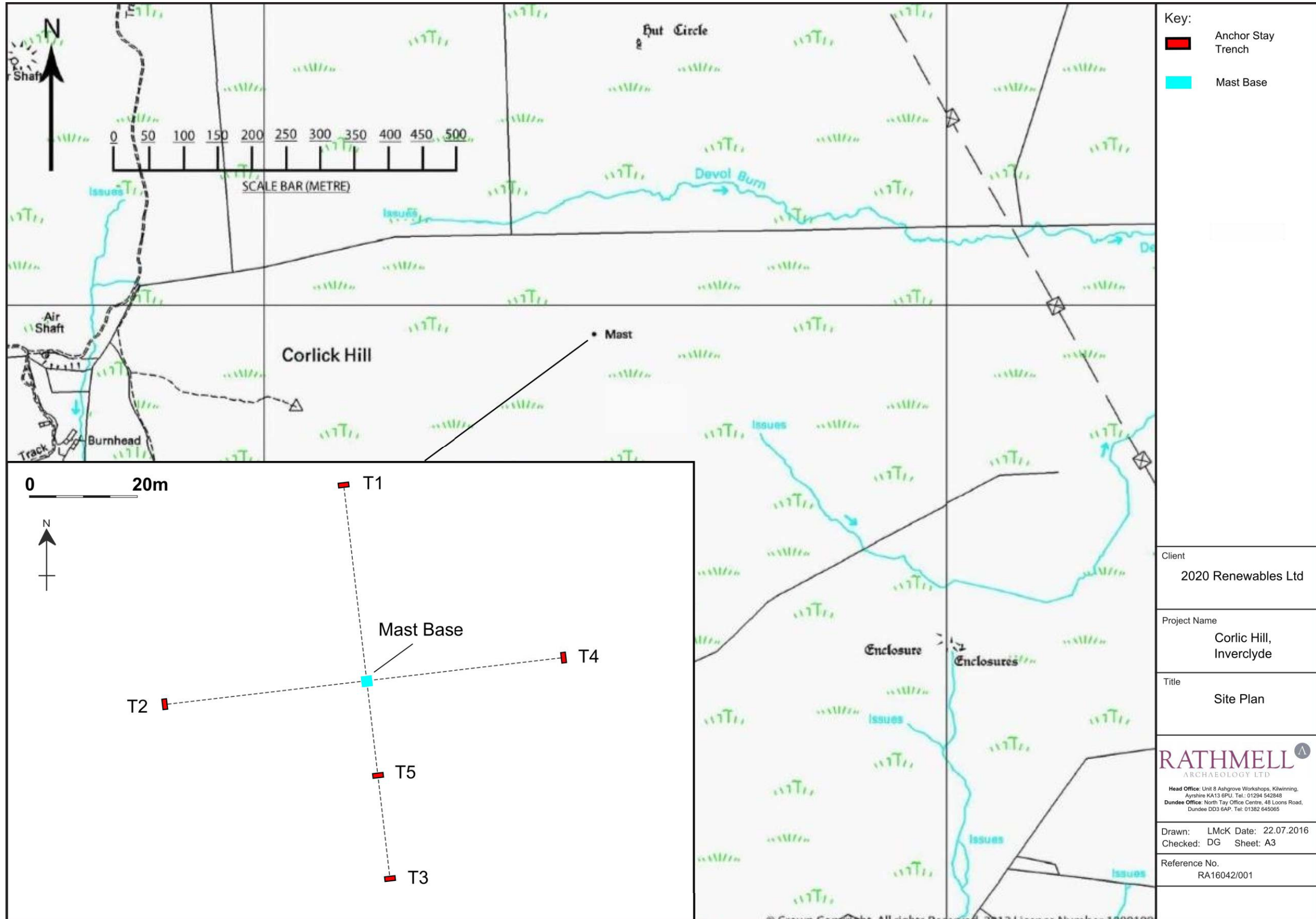


Figure 1: Site Plan.



Figure 2a: Pre excavation view of the development area. From WSW



Figure 2b: Working shot of Trench 1 being excavated. From NNE



Figure 3a: Post excavation view of Trench 2. From NNE



Figure 3b: Post excavation view of Trench 4. From WSW

Discussion

17. All of the deposits identified within the five excavated anchor trenches proved to be naturally occurring subsoils or bedrock with no anthropic layers located. No significant archaeological features or structures were identified within any of the trenches excavated

Recommendations

18. No significant archaeological features or material were uncovered within the five excavated trenches. As no further excavation works relating to the erection of the mast are required Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommend that no further archaeological monitoring works are required on site in relation to this development.
19. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with and Inverclyde Council.

Conclusion

20. A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out in support of the erection of a meteorological mast on Corlic Hill, Greenock. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within their development area. The work was carried out by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd on behalf of 2020 Renewables. The works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area and took place on the 19th to the 20th of July 2016.
21. No archaeologically significant deposits were uncovered during the course of this work and no anthropic material was recovered. As no further soft sediment excavation was planned Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommends that no further archaeological work is required with regards to this development.

Acknowledgements

22. The author would like to thank the client 2020 Renewables Ltd and Natural Power the onsite contractor for their support throughout the project. Thanks also to Douglas Gordon, Senior archaeologist with Rathmell Archaeology Ltd for his input and editing.
23. This author would also like to thank the planning department of Inverclyde Council and Historic Environment Scotland who has gave guidance and direction throughout.

References

Documentary

HM Government, 1997, Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act, HMSO

Historic Scotland, 2008, Scottish Historic Environment Policy

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Scottish Government, 2011, Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning & Archaeology

Appendix 1: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site during the watching brief:-

Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	All	Deposit	Moderate to loosely compacted, dark brown/black peat with frequent organic inclusions and infrequent small stone inclusions. Thickness range of between 0.1-0.5m.	Topsoil within the site
002	1, 3, 5	Deposit	Moderately compacted, mid orange-brown silty clay with occasional small to medium sized stone inclusions (degraded bedrock). Thickness range of between 0.1-0.5m. Underlies (001).	Naturally occurring subsoil.
003	2	Deposit	Moderately compacted, mid to dark brown silty clay with very frequent small to medium sized stone inclusions (degraded/fractured bedrock). Thickness of 0.7m. Underlies (001).	Naturally occurring subsoil.
004	1, 2, 4	Deposit	<i>In situ</i> Igneous Basalt bedrock. Bedrock light to mid grey brown in colour. Naturally occurring fractures noted throughout its makeup.	Natural bedrock within the site. Appears as outcrops close to trench 2.
005	3	Deposit	Moderately compacted, mid to dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small to medium sized stone inclusions (degraded/fractured bedrock). Thickness 0.5m. Underlies (002) within trench 3.	Naturally occurring subsoil.

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
01	DSCF2129	General view of the surrounding area from the site		19/07/16
02	DSCF2130	General view of the surrounding area from the site		19/07/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
03	DSCF2131	General view of the surrounding area from the site		19/07/16
04	DSCF2132	General view of the surrounding area from the site		19/07/16
05	DSCF2133	General view of the surrounding area from the site		19/07/16
06	DSCF2134	General view of the surrounding area from the site		19/07/16
07	DSCF2135	Pre excavation view of the site		19/07/16
08	DSCF2136	Pre excavation view of the site		19/07/16
09	DSCF2137	Pre excavation view of the site		19/07/16
10	DSCF2138	Pre excavation view of the site		19/07/16
11	DSCF2139	Pre excavation view of the site		19/07/16
12	DSCF2140	Pre excavation view of the site with equipment in sight		20/07/16
13	DSCF2141	Trench 1		20/07/16
14	DSCF2142	Working shot of Trench 1		20/07/16
15	DSCF2143	Trench 2		20/07/16
16	DSCF2144	Trench 2		20/07/16
17	DSCF2145	Trench 5 (winching point)		20/07/16
18	DSCF2146	Trench 3		20/07/16
19	DSCF2147	Trench 4		20/07/16
20	DSCF2148	Trench 4		20/07/16

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Inverclyde
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Corlic Hill
PROJECT CODE:	RA16043
PARISH:	Greenock
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Liam McKinstry
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 29556 72850 (Centred)
START DATE (this season)	19 th July 2016
END DATE (this season)	20 th July 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Yes. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd watching brief RA13077 carried out in December 2013.
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out in support of the erection of a meteorological mast on Corlic Hill, Greenock. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within their development area. The work was carried out by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd on behalf of 2020 Renewables. The works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area and took place on the 19th to the 20th of July 2016.</p> <p>No archaeologically significant deposits were uncovered during the course of this work and no anthropic material was recovered. As no further soft sediment excavation was planned Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommends that no further archaeological work is required with regards to this development.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	2020 Renewables Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service and archive to HES Collections

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