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**Greenburn Surface Mine:
Proposed Wellhill Extension
Cultural Heritage Assessment**

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**Greenburn Surface Mine:
Proposed Wellhill Extension**

Cultural Heritage Assessment

12 Cultural Heritage

Introduction

- 12.1 This chapter summarises the effects on cultural heritage interests of the proposed development. Figure 12.1 depicts the proposed development area, together with the locations of cultural heritage sites and features identified by the study. A gazetteer containing descriptions of each of these is provided as Technical Appendix 12.1.
- 12.2 The specific objectives of the cultural heritage study were to:
- Identify the cultural heritage baseline within the proposed development area and key receptors (whose settings may be affected).
 - Assess the proposed development site in terms of its archaeological and historic environment potential, within the context of relevant legislation and planning policy guidelines.
 - Consider the potential and predicted effects of the construction and operation of the development on the baseline cultural heritage resource.
 - Propose measures, where appropriate, to mitigate any predicted significant adverse effects.
- 12.3 The chapter was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) and has been informed by data and comments provided by Historic Scotland and West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).

Legislation & Policy Context

National Legislation and Policy

- 12.4 Scotland's historic environment contributes to the Scottish Government's strategic objectives and to the National Performance Framework¹. The Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP)² document sets out Scottish Minister's policies for the historic environment, and provides policy direction for Historic Scotland and a framework that informs the day-to-day work of a range of organisations that have a role and interest in managing the historic environment. Scottish Minister's are determined to achieve three outcomes for Scotland's historic environment:
- That the historic environment is cared for, protected and enhanced for the benefit of our own and future generations.
 - To secure greater economic benefits from the historic environment.
 - That the people of Scotland and visitors to our country value, understand and enjoy the historic environment.

¹ The Scottish Government (2007) Scottish Budget Spending Review 2007, Edinburgh: The Scottish Government

² Historic Scotland (July 2009) Scottish Historic Environment Policy. Edinburgh: Historic Scotland

- 12.5 Cultural heritage resources include sites with statutory and non-statutory designations, as defined in Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)³. Sites with statutory designations include:
- Scheduled Monuments.
 - Listed Buildings.
 - Conservation Areas.
- 12.6 Sites with non-statutory designations include:
- World Heritage Sites.
 - Gardens and Designed Landscapes.
 - Historic Battlefields.
 - Other Historic Environment Interests.
- 12.7 Those relevant to this study are other historic environment interests (which includes: other archaeological features and other buildings of historic or architectural importance). There are no Scheduled Monuments, no Listed Buildings, and no Conservation Areas within the assessment areas defined below (Section 1.4).
- 12.8 There is a range of other non-designated archaeological sites, monuments and areas of historic interest, including battlefields, historic landscapes, other gardens and designed landscapes, woodlands and routes such as drove roads that do not have statutory protection. Sites without statutory protection are curated by the local planning authority and SPP and PAN 2/2011⁴ provide national planning policy guidance and advice on the treatment of such resources.

SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY

- 12.9 Scottish Planning Policy (para 123) notes that archaeological sites and monuments are an important, finite and non-renewable resource and should be protected and preserved in situ wherever feasible. It is a requirement of the policy that the presence and potential presence of archaeological assets should be considered by planning authorities when allocating sites in the development plan and when making decisions on planning applications. Where preservation in-situ is not possible planning authorities should, through the use of conditions or a legal agreement, ensure that developers undertake appropriate excavation, recording, analysis, publication and archiving before and/or during development.
- 12.10 SPP (para 239) notes that Scottish coal output is likely to continue to play a significant role in ensuring diverse and sustainable supplies of energy at competitive prices. Although development can raise significant environmental issues, extraction is necessary and important in the national interest. Paragraph 241 states that deposits of coal and related minerals capable of being extracted should not be sterilised unnecessarily. Development plans and development management decisions should

³ The Scottish Government (2010) Scottish Planning Policy, Edinburgh: The Scottish Government

⁴ The Scottish Government (2011) Planning Advice Note (PAN), 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology, Edinburgh: The Scottish Government

aim to minimise any significant negative impacts from surface coal extraction on (amongst others) the built and natural heritage (para 242).

PLANNING ADVICE NOTE 2/2011

12.11 PAN 2/2011 advises that, in determining planning applications, planning authorities should take into account the relative importance of archaeological sites (para 5). It also notes that in determining planning applications that may impact on archaeological features or their setting, planning authorities may on occasion have to balance the benefits of development against the importance of archaeological features (para 6). The desirability of preserving a monument (whether scheduled or not) is a material consideration and the objective should be to assure the protection and enhancement of monuments by preservation in situ, in an appropriate setting. When preservation in situ is not possible, recording and/or excavation followed by analysis and publication of the results may be an acceptable alternative (para 14).

12.12 The PAN also notes that archaeological issues are often significant in minerals planning (para 9). It goes on to say that a steady supply of minerals is essential to [Scotland's] economic, infrastructure and community needs but the extraction of minerals can present a threat to archaeological remains. Because minerals can only be worked where they are found there may be less flexibility over the choice of location than for other forms of development. In considering the information necessary to make decisions on applications for extraction, and in designing programmes of mitigation when consent is granted, there is a need to pay particular attention to the affordability of archaeological requirements. Only sufficient information to characterise the archaeological content and potential of application areas should be required with applications. Phasing of post-consent mitigation programmes should be considered the norm, rather than seeking to have all mitigation work done before any winning of minerals commences.

Regional Policy

AYRSHIRE JOINT STRUCTURE PLAN “GROWING A SUSTAINABLE AYRSHIRE” (APPROVED NOVEMBER 2007)⁵

12.13 The Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan “Growing A Sustainable Ayrshire” (Approved November 2007) establishes the Ayrshire Councils’ framework that brings together the aspirations of communities with those of business and industry to provide a strategic land use context to the year 2025. The plan sets out a shared vision for progress to 2025 and seeks to achieve strong and vibrant communities, a sustainable and growing economy, a good quality of life and a healthy environment which together will make a positive contribution to the well being of Ayrshire, the wider Glasgow City Region and Scotland as a whole.

⁵ Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Committee (November 2009) Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan: Growing a Sustainable Ayrshire, Prestwick: Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Committee

- 12.14 One of the structure plans five key objectives aims to safeguard and enhance the quality of the environment. Paragraph 89 recognises that Ayrshire has an attractive, high quality environment and that historic and cultural heritage of the area provide an input to the sense of place and local distinctiveness.
- 12.15 Paragraph 109 recognises that built heritage, including: conservation areas and historic settlements, historic and architecturally important buildings, scheduled ancient monuments, archaeological locations and landscapes, historic gardens and designed landscapes, provides a link between ourselves and the past and helps define our sense of place and belonging.
- 12.16 Policy ENV 6 Protection of the Built Heritage states that development proposals considered to have an adverse impact on: listed buildings of architectural and historic interest; designated conservation areas; historic gardens and designed landscapes; and archaeological locations and landscapes will not conform to the structure plan. Local Plans will prepare detailed policies to protect and enhance built heritage resources.

Local Policy

EAST AYRSHIRE LOCAL PLAN (ADOPTED OCTOBER 2010)⁶

- 12.17 East Ayrshire Local Plan - Adopted October 2010 has a primary strategic aim 'to promote sustainable development, to maximise the potential of East Ayrshire and to improve the quality of life of its residents'. This is achieved through specific aims, one of which is safeguarding and enhancing the quality of the built and natural environment. The following Local Plan policies are of specific relevance to this assessment:
- 12.18 Policy ENV1 states that The Council will seek to protect, preserve and enhance all built heritage resources requiring conservation, including Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas, together with their respective settings, Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological and Industrial Archaeological Sites and Landscapes.
- 12.19 Policy ENV6 seeks to protect Scheduled Monuments and other identified nationally important archaeological resources. The policy states that these sites should be preserved in situ and in an appropriate setting. Developments which have an adverse effect on Scheduled Monuments or the integrity of their settings shall not be permitted unless there are exceptional circumstances. Other archaeological resources shall be preserved in situ wherever feasible. The Council will weigh the significance of any impacts on archaeological resources and their settings against other merits of the development proposals in the determination of planning applications. The developer may be required to supply a report of an archaeological evaluation prior to the determination of the planning application. Where the case for preservation does not prevail, the developer shall be required to make appropriate and satisfactory provision for archaeological excavation, recording, analysis and publication in advance of development.

⁶ East Ayrshire Council (2010) East Ayrshire Local Plan, Kilmarnock: East Ayrshire Council

EAST AYRSHIRE OPENCAST SUBJECT PLAN⁷

12.20 In accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and associated legislation, East Ayrshire Council produced an Opencast Subject Plan which sets out the strategy adopted by the Council with regard to opencast coal mining in the area. Aim 2 of the subject plan is to conserve and enhance the character, appearance and amenity of rural area, its landscape quality and areas of nature conservation and heritage interest. The aim is achieved through Policy MIN27 under which the Council will ensure that opencast coal proposals do not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and built environment. In particular proposals will not be supported if they would have a permanent adverse impact or cause irreparable damage to heritage resources requiring conservation including Listed Buildings, Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Scheduled Monuments, archaeological and industrial archaeological sites.

Issues Identified During Consultation

12.21 WoSAS provided a Scoping Opinion (17/11/2011) which set out their expectations regarding the scope of the assessment. The approach recommended has been adopted by this study, which was carried out prior to receipt of the Scoping Opinion. In its response, WoSAS note that a number of previous phases of archaeological fieldwork have taken place within the boundaries of the proposed quarry expansion. These include field survey undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group in 1995 and 1998, and a very limited amount of trial trenching carried out by Headland Archaeology Ltd in 2001. WoSAS advised that the results of these previous events should be taken into account in any Environmental Statement. WoSAS also noted that while the majority of sites identified within the boundaries of the proposed extension appear likely to relate to former agricultural practises, they drew particularly attention to the presence of a mound just to the east of Hall of Auchincross farmstead; traditionally known as a court knowe, on which criminals were said to have been tried by the laird of Auchincross, though it was also suggested in the report on the 1995 AOC survey that it was possibly originally a prehistoric burial cairn. The tradition that this served as a court mound supports the suggestion that Hall of Auchincross was not only a laird's dwelling, but also the administrative centre of the estate. Given that the proposal is for opencast mining, WoSAS concluded that it is probable that any archaeological material that it present within the proposed mine expansion area would be entirely destroyed should the scheme proceed and suggested that the Environmental Statement would need to include proposals to assess the potential for buried deposits to survive, most likely through a programme of trial trenching.

12.22 Historic Scotland provided its Scoping Opinion (06/12/2011) advising that with regard to the heritage sites within their remit (scheduled monuments and their settings; category A listed buildings and their settings; historic gardens and designed landscapes

⁷ East Ayrshire Council (2003) East Ayrshire Opencast Coal Subject Plan, Kilmarnock: East Ayrshire Council.

appearing in the Inventory) they are of the view that significant impacts are unlikely and that they would be content for the assessment to scope out historic environment features at the national level.

Assessment Methodology

Baseline Characterisation

STANDARDS

12.23 This study has been conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IfA 2010)⁸ and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (IfA 2009)⁹. The principal methods included archival and documentary research, consultation with interested parties, and reconnaissance field survey.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA

- 12.24 A desk-based assessment and a reconnaissance field survey have been conducted of the proposed development area, defined by the red line boundary shown on Figure 12.1.
- 12.25 Up-to-date information was obtained from appropriate sources on the locations of cultural heritage sites with statutory protection and non-statutory designations either within or in the vicinity of the proposed development area.
- 12.26 Details of the locations and extents of Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Gardens and Designed Landscapes were downloaded from the Historic Scotland Spatial Data Warehouse¹⁰.
- 12.27 Information on known archaeological sites and features within the proposed development area was obtained from the West of Scotland Historic Environment Record (HER). The data was provided in digital format.
- 12.28 Information on the character and condition of known archaeological sites and features within the proposed development area was obtained from the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) maintained by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and Historic Scotland, or from the HER records as appropriate.
- 12.29 Ordnance Survey maps and other early maps held by the Map Library of the National Library of Scotland were examined, to provide information on sites of potential archaeological significance and on historic land-use development.
- 12.30 An assessment was made of vertical aerial photograph collections held by the RCAHMS. Sorties dating from 1946 to 1988 were available for examination.
- 12.31 Bibliographic references were consulted to provide background and historical information.

⁸ Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) (2010) 'By-Laws: Code of Conduct', Reading: Institute for Archaeologists

⁹ Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) (2009) 'Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment', Reading: Institute for Archaeologists.

¹⁰ <http://hsewfsf.sedsh.gov.uk/gisd.html>

- 12.32 The online Historic Land-Use Assessment for Scotland¹¹ (HLAMap), maintained by the RCAHMS, was consulted for information on the historic land use character of the proposed development area.
- 12.33 The Scottish Palaeoecological Database¹² (SPAD), which records the distribution of known palaeoecological sites across Scotland was consulted for information on recorded sites within or adjacent to the proposed development area.
- 12.34 A reconnaissance field survey was undertaken (8th November 2011) of the proposed development site. The aims of the survey were to:
- Assess the information previously obtained through the desk-based assessment.
 - Identify the extent and condition of any visible archaeological sites or historic environment features.
 - Assess the topography and geomorphology of the proposed development site and determine the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential of the site.
- 12.35 The reconnaissance survey included visits to the two surviving farmsteads within the development area and a walkover of the pasture farmland.

EXTERNAL RECEPTORS

- 12.36 Information was gathered on cultural heritage sites with statutory protection present within 2km of the proposed development area boundary, and also on non-designated sites of national importance (Non-Statutory Register sites) present within the same area. This limit was set on the assessment area taking into account the historical and current landscape of surface mines around the proposed development area and the presence of modern commercial forestry to the west. One site - Fardenreoch Cairn (WoSASPIN 8018) - was identified within this study area. There are no scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, gardens and designed landscape or historic battlefields within 2km of the development site boundary and there are none within 2km of the whole Greenburn SCM site boundary (operational and extensions).

Method of Assessment

- 12.37 The types of effect of the proposed development on cultural heritage interests have been assessed in the following categories:
- Direct, where there may be a physical effect on a site caused by the development. Direct effects tend to have permanent and irreversible adverse effects upon cultural heritage remains.
 - Indirect, where the setting of a site may be affected.
 - Uncertain, where there is a risk that the works may impinge on a site, for example where it is not clear where the location or boundaries of a site lie, what the current condition of a site is, or where the precise nature of development works is not known.

¹¹ <http://www.rcahms.gov.uk>

¹² <http://xweb.geos.ed.ac.uk>

12.38 Effects have been assessed in terms of the magnitude of the predicted impact (see below), longevity (permanent/temporary; short-term, medium-term, long-term), reversibility, and nature (adverse/neutral/beneficial) of the resultant effect.

- Beneficial effects are those that contribute to the value of a receptor through enhancement of desirable characteristics or the introduction of new, positive attributes.
- Neutral effects occur where the development can be accommodated comfortably by the receiving environment while neither contributing to nor detracting from the value of the receptor.
- Adverse effects are those that detract from the value of a receptor through a reduction in or disruption of valuable characterising components or patterns, or the introduction of new inappropriate characteristics.

Significance Criteria

12.39 The assessment of value/sensitivity of archaeological and heritage assets reflects the relative weight which statute and policy attach to them

Value/Sensitivity	Definition/criteria
High	Sites of national or international importance, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Heritage Sites ▪ Scheduled Monuments and sites proposed for scheduling ▪ Undesignated archaeological sites and areas of probable national importance identified in the HER ▪ Category A Listed Buildings ▪ Gardens and Designed Landscapes (Inventory Sites) ▪ Historic Battlefields (Inventory Sites) ▪ Outstanding Conservation Areas
Medium	Sites of regional importance, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Archaeological sites and areas of distinctive regional importance ▪ Archaeologically Sensitive Areas ▪ Category B Listed Buildings ▪ Conservation Areas
Low	Sites of Local Importance, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Archaeological sites of local importance ▪ Category C(S) Listed Buildings ▪ Unlisted historic buildings and townscapes with local (vernacular) characteristics
Negligible	Sites of little or no importance, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sites of former archaeological features ▪ Unlisted buildings of minor historic or architectural interest ▪ Poorly preserved examples of particular types of feature

12.40 Magnitudes of impact are assessed in the categories of imperceptible, low, medium or high and are described in Table 1.2 below.

Level of magnitude	Definition
High	Major effects fundamentally changing the baseline condition of the receptor, leading to total or major alteration of character or setting.
Medium	Moderate effects changing the baseline condition of the receptor materially but not fundamentally, leading to partial alteration of character or setting.
Low	Minor detectable effects which do not alter the baseline condition of the receptor materially.
None	No impact.

12.41 Table 1.3 combines these criteria to provide an assessment of whether or not an effect is considered to be significant as required by the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2011¹³.

Magnitude of Impact	Heritage Value/Sensitivity of Asset			
	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
High	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor
Medium	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
Low	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Negligible
Imperceptible	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

12.42 Moderate and major effects are considered to be significant in terms of the requirements of the EIA Regulations.

Baseline Conditions

Current Baseline

12.43 The desk-based assessment and field survey have identified five cultural heritage assets within the site and two potential receptors within 2km of the site boundary. Figure 12.1 depicts the cultural heritage assets identified within the site. One external receptor (Fardenreoch Cairn) lies around 1.4km north-west of the site boundary. There are no other cultural heritage receptors, whose settings could be affected by the development, within 2km of the Greenburn SCM site boundary (operational and extensions).

12.44 The NMRS and HER provided records of two cultural heritage assets within the site (1 and 6). Examination of historic maps identified four sites (2 - 5) and examination of vertical aerial photographs confirmed the presence of two of these (2 and 3). The field survey confirmed the presence of two cultural heritage sites (2 and 3).

¹³ The Scottish Government (2011) Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, Edinburgh: The Stationery Office

12.45 Previous work, including a field survey (AOC 1996¹⁴, 1998¹⁵); an evaluation (Headland 2001¹⁶), and a second evaluation and building survey (CFA 2003¹⁷) to the south and west of the area proposed for extraction, revealed no features of archaeological significance but three areas of broad rig cultivation to the south were identified, together with a trackway and field bank.

Character of Cultural Heritage Baseline within the Proposed Development Area

12.46 Details of all cultural heritage assets identified within the site are provided in Technical Appendix 12.1, their locations are shown on Figures 12.1 and 12.2, and they are discussed thematically below.

MEDIEVAL OR LATER RURAL SETTLEMENT REMAINS

12.47 The location of the former Auchincross Hall (1) is recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st,¹⁸ 2nd¹⁹ and 3rd²⁰ Edition maps as lying immediately to the north of the 19th century Hall of Auchincross farm buildings (2). This area is now covered with concrete hardstanding and a large corrugated-iron barn. The old hall is likely to have had at least late-medieval origins as suggested by the depiction on Pont's map²¹ (1595) of a house, annotated as 'Achincrofs', set within enclosed grounds. Other records (6) suggest that Auchincross Hall may have been a former medieval laird's house and it was known to have been occupied in the early to mid 17th century²².

12.48 The arrangement of the present farmstead (2) broadly accords with the layout shown on 19th century maps (Figure 12.2), although Auchincross is also depicted on earlier maps (Roy²³, Ainslie²⁴ and Thomson²⁵) suggesting continuity of occupation at this location from the late 16th century onwards. Decorated stonework, including a carved stone face and a heraldic shield with two sets of initials, in the northwest gable wall of the 19th century farmstead, may have originally been over a doorway of the former Auchincross Hall (1) and later incorporated into the present building.

¹⁴ AOC (Soctland)Ltd (1996) Hall of Auchincross (New Cumnock Parish), Field Survey. *Discov Excav Scot* p.23

¹⁵ AOC Archaeology Ltd (1998) Desk based Assessment and Field Survey at Hall of Auchincross, New Cumnock

¹⁶ Halliday, S. (2001) *Hall of Auchincross, East Ayrshire, results of an Archaeological Evaluation* Headland Archaeology Ltd.

¹⁷ Cressey, M., Kirby, M. Johnson M & S. (2003) *Greenburn Opencast Mine, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire: Building Recording Survey and Archaeological Evaluations* CFA Archaeology Ltd.

¹⁸ Ordnance Survey (1860) 1st Edition Sheet XLI six inches to one mile and Ordnance Survey (1860) 1st Edition Sheet XLI. 8 25 inches to one mile

¹⁹ Ordnance Survey (1897) 2nd Edition Sheet XLI NE six inches to one mile

²⁰ Ordnance Survey (1910) 3rd Edition Sheet XLI NE six inches to one mile

²¹ Pont, T (1580-90) *Maps of Scotland*

²² Guthrie R 2009 *The Castles of New Cumnock*.

²³ Roy, W. (1747-55) *Military Survey of Scotland*

²⁴ Ainslie, J. (1821) *Map of the Southern part of Scotland*

²⁵ Thomson, J. (1828) *Northern Part of Ayrshire. Southern Part*.



Plate 1 Hall of Auchincross Farm from the north-west

- 12.49 The farm buildings themselves, although no longer in use and largely boarded up, survive as mostly painted coursed-stone walls with brick additions, extensions and repairs. The farmhouse has been substantially modernised in the 20th century (probably in the 1960s). Three of the ancillary buildings that were originally to the south of the main farm buildings (Figure 12.2) have subsequently been demolished and their former locations are within an area that has been re-landscaped following an earlier phase of coal extraction. Modern farm sheds currently lie to the south of the farm buildings. A pond and dam to the north and formerly associated with the farm has been drained and no longer survives. Both the former Auchincross Hall (1) and the later 19th century farmstead (2) are considered to be of local archaeological and historical interest and are of low heritage value/sensitivity.
- 12.50 The surviving farmstead layout at Wellhill (3), also conforms broadly to that depicted on 19th century maps (Figure 12.2), but again, evidence from earlier maps (Pont²⁶ and Roy²⁷) suggest a farm on this site from at least the late 16th century, and probably earlier. The farmhouse has been substantially modernised in the 20th century (probably in the 1960s). The other steading ranges are in a ruinous state and are built of roughly coursed, mortared stone blocks. The smaller ancillary buildings associated

²⁶ Pont, T. (1580-90) Maps of Scotland

²⁷ Roy, W. (1747-55) Military Survey of Scotland

with the farm no longer survive and modern brick and metal sheds now lie around the original steading, to the east and south. A former farm pond has now silted up and is mostly covered by the present farm access track. The farmstead is considered to be of low heritage value/sensitivity.



Plate 2 Wellhill Farm from the south-west

MISCELLANEOUS FEATURES

- 12.51 A coal pit (4) is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map²⁸ (Figure 12.2), but is not shown on any subsequent editions. No trace of any structures in this area was found during the site visit and this feature is considered to be of negligible heritage value/sensitivity.
- 12.52 A windpump (5), depicted on the Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition map²⁹, no longer survives. This feature is considered to be of negligible heritage value/sensitivity.
- 12.53 A mound (6), named on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map³⁰ as ‘Court Knowe’, and reputed to have been the location where criminals were tried by the laird of Auchincross, is now no longer extant; the recorded location of the mound now lies

²⁸ Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map (1860) Sheet XLI six inches to one mile and Ordnance Survey (1860) 1st Edition Sheet XLI. 8 25 inches to one mile

²⁹ Ordnance Survey (1910) 3rd Edition Sheet XLI NE six inches to one mile

³⁰ Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map (1860) Sheet XLI six inches to one mile and Ordnance Survey (1860) 1st Edition Sheet XLI. 8 25 inches to one mile

within the relandscaped former opencast working to the south of Hall of Auchincross Farm and this feature is considered to be of negligible heritage value/sensitivity.

Archaeological Potential of the Proposed Development Area

- 12.54 Settlement and activity in the proposed development area goes back to at least the late-16th century, evident from the historical records of the farmsteads at Hall of Auchincross and Wellhill (2 and 3). Few other remains have been identified in the proposed development area and the HER does not hold any records of previous finds. The HLA map records that the site is exclusively 19th to 20th century fields and farming, that has seen little development from at least this period onwards. Much of the proposed development area has recently been exploited as opencast coal working (Figure 12.1) and very little undisturbed land survives.
- 12.55 The two groups of farm buildings (2 and 3), as surviving, are likely to be post-medieval, improvement period farmsteads, although it is also probable that there have been earlier phases of farm buildings on each site dating to the 16th century or earlier. Hall of Auchincross, in particular, is known to have earlier origins and some stonework from an earlier farmstead has been incorporated into the present steading ranges.
- 12.56 Other remains recorded within the wider landscape, are predominantly associated with post-medieval settlement and agricultural land-use practices, although the tenuous recording of the Wiston to Patna Roman road (WoSASPIN 12386-7) to the north-west of the proposed development area, and Fardenreoch Cairn (WoSASPIN 8018), a robbed out prehistoric burial cairn, also to the north-west, indicates that the wider Nith Valley has been a focus for activity and settlement from the prehistoric period onwards. However, recorded prehistoric remains in the wider area are notably sparse and no new sites of medieval or earlier date have been identified from any archaeological investigations on the previous opencast coal site; nor have any prehistoric remains been discovered during trial trench evaluations elsewhere within the Greenburn SCM (Suddaby³¹ 2007; White & Haines (2008)³²; Mitchell 2011a³³; Mitchell 2011b³⁴).
- 12.57 Taking into account the known and surviving cultural heritage features within the proposed development area, together with those in the wider landscape, and the relatively undeveloped and disturbed nature of the hitherto un-worked portion of ground within the proposed development area, it is considered that there is a moderate potential for finding hitherto unknown features of medieval to post-medieval date, buried below the current ground surface, especially in the immediate vicinity of hall of Auchincross Farm. It is considered that there is a low potential for finding hitherto unknown remains of prehistoric date.

³¹ Suddaby I (2007) 'Greenburn Opencast Mine, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire. Archaeological Mitigation Works' CFA Report 1384

³² White, R & Haines, K (2008) 'Greenburn OCCS. Archaeological Walkover Survey and Evaluation' CFA Report 1454

³³ Mitchell S (2011a) 'Greenburn Surface Mine, Dalgig Extension: Archaeological Evaluation' CFA report 1863

³⁴ Mitchell S (2011b) 'Greenburn Opencast Coal Extraction, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire' CFA Report 1931

External Receptors

12.58 There are no Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings, nor any Conservation Areas, Gardens or Designed Landscapes, or Historic Battlefields within 2km of the proposed development site boundary whose settings could receive an adverse effect from this proposed development. There is one site, Fardenreoch Cairn (WoSASPIN 8018), around 1.4km to the north-west of the site boundary, that is recorded in the HER as a Non-Statutory Register (NSR) Site Code C (almost certainly of national importance).

Future Baseline (Do Nothing)

12.59 If the proposed development was not to proceed there would be no immediate change to the baseline condition of the sites and features identified within the development area. The current pasture land-use would most probably continue, limiting the potential for disturbance to cultural heritage assets, and only natural decay would occur to the upstanding remains. The upstanding farm buildings, if not restored, would become increasingly dilapidated over time and would probably require demolition. Wellhill Farm (3) has been the target of vandalism and metal thefts and Hall of Auchincross (2) has been boarded up to prevent trespass. Any buried remains present would remain largely unaffected. There would be no change to the setting of cultural heritage receptors assets in the wider landscape.

Potential Impacts

12.60 Surface mining would have direct, permanent and adverse impacts on all features of archaeological significance that may be present within the areas to be mined, since mining operations would lead to their complete removal. The nature of the proposed operations is such that preservation of archaeological or historic environment sites *in situ* within the proposed limit of excavation is not always a viable option. Other mining related activities, such as vehicle movements, soil and overburden storage and restoration landscaping also have the potential to cause direct, permanent and irreversible effects on cultural heritage sites and features not directly affected by the extraction process.

12.61 The presence of surface mining developments can also have indirect impacts on the settings of cultural heritage assets in the wider landscape. In particular, there is potential for developments to affect important views of and from Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings or views and vistas from, to or within Conservation Areas and Gardens and Designed Landscapes. There are no such sites within 2km of the site boundary therefore there is little potential for effects on the settings of such sites.

Potential operational impacts

DIRECT IMPACTS

12.62 As a result of the surface mining operations, direct impacts will occur on any surviving buried remains associated with the former Auchincross Hall (1); the remains of two 19th century farmsteads (2 and 3); any surviving buried remains associated with the former

coal mine (4); and any remains associated with the former windpump (5). These sites would be lost through topsoil removal and coal extraction operations.

The farmsteads (2 and 3) and the location of the former Auchincross Hall (1) are of low value / sensitivity and the high magnitude direct impact would result in impacts of moderate significance, which would be offset by appropriate mitigation as set out below (Mitigation during Operation).

- 12.63 The remaining features are all of negligible value / sensitivity and the high magnitude direct impact would result in impacts of minor significance, which would not require detailed mitigation.

INDIRECT IMPACTS (SETTINGS)

- 12.64 Fardenreoch Cairn (WoSASPIN 8018), a Non-Statutory Register (NSR) Site Code C (almost certainly of national importance), is around 1.4km to the north west of the site boundary. A recent visit to this site (September 2011) found that it has been almost entirely robbed of its stone content and survives in poor condition. It is unlikely that the cairn, as it survives, would meet the criteria for scheduling and it is not likely to be of national importance. Furthermore, the proposed development area is concealed from view from the cairn's location by intervening topography and its setting would be unaffected by the scale of the proposed extension.

Mitigation

- 12.65 Government policy (set out in PAN 2/2011) is to protect and preserve archaeological sites and monuments, and their settings, *in situ* wherever feasible (para 4). Where preservation *in situ* is not possible, planning authorities are advised to consider applying conditions to planning consents to ensure that an appropriate level of excavation, recording, analysis, publication and archiving is carried out before and/or during development.
- 12.66 Mitigation can include avoidance or reduction of impacts through design measures or offset measures (preservation by record) in accordance with planning conditions. PAN2/2011 recommends that, in the case of mineral extraction proposals, phasing of post-consent mitigation programmes should be considered the norm, rather than seeking to have all mitigation work done before extraction commences. The following mitigation strategy is proposed in line with this planning policy.

Mitigation by Design

- 12.67 Of the features identified by the study (the site of a former medieval laird's house (1), post medieval farm buildings and associated structures (2 and 3), a coal mine (4) and a windpump (5)) none are of a level of importance (or state of preservation) that warrants their preservation *in situ* and so there is no requirement for their avoidance.

Mitigation during Operation

- 12.68 All mitigation proposals would be agreed in advance through discussion with WoSAS, presented for approval by the planning authority in a Written Scheme of Investigation

(WSI), and carried out in accordance with the phased extraction programme. The WSI would make provision for appropriate post-excavation analyses and dissemination of the results of the mitigation works, as well as for archiving of the project materials and records upon completion.

- 12.69 All work would be conducted to the relevant Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance Documents (Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures, Archaeological Field Evaluation, Archaeological Excavation, and Archaeological Watching Brief).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY

- 12.70 Prior to the commencement of mining operations, the two farmsteads (2 and 3) would be the subject of an appropriate level of historic building survey and recording. The building recording would be accompanied by archaeological evaluation by trial trenching to provide information on the potential for the preservation of any remains of earlier settlement and if possible date and function of any remains identified; in particular, remains that may relate to the former Auchincross Hall (1), of likely medieval date. Dependent upon the results of the evaluation, further excavation may be required in order to ensure preservation by record of the remains prior to their destruction. An appropriate scope such for any such requirement would be agreed with WoSAS acting on behalf of East Ayrshire Council.
- 12.71 No archaeological mitigation is required in respect of the other sites identified by the study. This includes a former coal mine (4) and windpump (5), which are of post-medieval date and of little or no intrinsic archaeological value. Investigation of these features would yield no useful information.

POST EXCAVATION ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

- 12.72 A programme of post-excavation analysis and reporting will be undertaken following the stages of evaluation and excavation and recording outlined above. The scope of the post excavation requirement will be commensurate with the relative importance of the archaeological findings for each of the sites investigated. The post-excavation phase will include the publication of the results of the excavations and the findings in an appropriate academic forum.

Assessment of Residual Impacts

- 12.73 Predicted direct impacts on cultural heritage assets have been identified by the study and mitigation measures are proposed in order to offset those effects. Taking the proposed mitigation into account, the residual impact of the proposed development would be the loss of some physical elements of the current historic landscape, offset by the recovery of archaeological information and preservation by record of the excavated features and the publication of the findings.

Operation

12.74 Following the completion of the programme of mitigation outlined above the residual direct impacts on the historic environment would be the loss of two post-medieval farmsteads (2 and 3). The recovery and dissemination of the recovered archaeological information would mean that, overall, the impact on the cultural heritage would be of minor significance.

Summary

12.75 The cultural heritage assessment has been carried out within the context of national, regional and local planning policy including SHEP, SPP, PAN2/2011 at the national level and Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and East Ayrshire Local Plan at regional and local level. The relevant policies are set out above in paras 12.5 - 12.21. Reference has also been made to the East Ayrshire Opencast Subject Plan (see para 12.21 above). The study, which included desk-based research and field survey, was conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IfA 2010) and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (IfA 2009).

12.76 The study has identified five sites and features of cultural heritage and historic environment interest including two farmsteads, the location of a possible former medieval laird's house, and a former coal pit of 19th century date and a former windpump of early 20th century date. A mound, possibly used as a location for dispensing local justice during the medieval to post-medieval period, is now no longer extant and is within an area of former opencast mining.

12.77 There would be direct impacts on all the features identified during the study arising from the extension of the surface mining operations. Appropriate mitigation measures have been presented that would offset the loss of the affected features; this work will include a historic building survey and evaluation by trial trenching of the two farmsteads. The results of the study will be published in an appropriate forum following the conclusion of the post excavation analysis of the findings of the mitigation work.

12.78 Taking into account the mitigation work proposed, conforming to the requirements of national, regional and local planning policies, the residual impact on cultural heritage interests would be of minor significance.

Appendix 12.1: Sites within the Proposed Development Area

Site No.	Site name/type	Easting	Northing	NMRS/SMR No.	Source	Description	Sensitivity	Type of Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
1	Auchincross Hall	258220	614095	NS51SE 1/8013	NMRS; SMR; Maps; Field Survey	<p>The NMRS and SMR record the former site of Auchincross Hall. The Name Book (1856) records the location as standing to the northwest of the Hall of Auchincross. The location is now under more recent farm buildings. A survey (1981) identified a carved stone face and a lintel stone bearing the initials 'GC' and 'B C' built into the northwest gable end of the farm buildings. These worked stones may originate to the Old Hall.</p> <p>A bibliographic source (Guthrie 2009) suggests that the initials GC and BC (either side of three 'mulletts' - spurs) is a reference to George Craufurd (sic) and his wife Elizabeth (Bessie) and that the arms are those of the Craufurds of Ardmillan. George Craufurd (fl. 1605 - 1650) and his family were reputedly involved in a number of local skirmishes.</p> <p>A house within enclosed grounds and annotated 'Achincrofs' is depicted on Pont's map (1580-90). Armstrongs(1775) map depicts a similar feature annotated 'Auchencrofs'.</p> <p>Roys map (1747-55) depicts six buildings within an area of rig and furrow and annotated 'Haw of auchincorse'. Later maps (Ainslie 1821, Thomson, 1828 annotate 'Auchincross' and 'Hall Auchencross' respectively. These later two at least are likely to relate to the 19th century farm (2) known as 'Hall of Auchincross', shown on the Ordnance Survey maps as occupying a almost the same location as the site of the older Auchincross Hall (1). It may be that in the</p>	Low	Direct: Site will be removed during opencast mining	High	Moderate

Site No.	Site name/type	Easting	Northing	NMRS/SMR No.	Source	Description	Sensitivity	Type of Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
						<p>case of Roy, the old hall had become more of a large farmstead, and the later Armstrong map (1775) either chose to record the building in a different way, or did not visit the site and followed Pont's depiction.</p> <p>Field survey identified the lintel and carved stone face as described, built into the northwest facing gable end of the main farm building of Hall of Auchincross. The lintel also had a crest consisting of 3 symbols, possibly flowers or leaves.</p>				
2	Hall of Auchincross				Maps; Field Survey	<p>Several buildings surrounded by rig and furrow cultivation and annotated 'Haw of auchincorse' are depicted on Roys map (1747-55); 'Auchincross' and 'Hall Auchencross' are annotated on Ainslie (1821) and Thomson's (1828) map respectively. It is possible that these depictions relate to the earlier old hall (1), particularly Roy's map (see discussion for site 1).</p> <p>Hall of Auchincross farmstead is first depicted in detail on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map (1860) as a U-shaped layout of buildings surrounding a courtyard with a large enclosure, garden and two smaller buildings shown to the southeast, and an enclosure and pond to the northwest. The 'site' of the old hall (1) is also marked immediately to the northwest of the farm buildings. Four trackways lead out from the farm, to the northwest, northeast, southeast and southwest.</p> <p>The Ordnance Survey 2nd and 3rd Edition maps (1897) depict a similar layout, although one of the buildings to the southeast is no longer depicted and the main farm building on the northeastern side has been added to. The Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition</p>	Low	Direct: Site will be removed during opencast mining	High	Moderate

Site No.	Site name/type	Easting	Northing	NMRS/SMR No.	Source	Description	Sensitivity	Type of Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
						<p>map also shows an additional square building to the northwest, and an additional rectangular building to the southwest. A windpump (2.3) is also shown to the north east of the farm, and the pond is annotated as 'dam'.</p> <p>The pond/dam is not visible on aerial photographs from 1946.</p> <p>Field survey indentified the main farm buildings as comprising painted coarsed stone walls with brick additions and repairs and slate roofs. A modern shed and barn are visible to the northwest. The additional square building shown on the Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition map (1910) is still extant as a brick building. All the features to the southwest of the farm building are gone, their locations now within an area of former opencast mining. Three of the trackways are still present; the track to the northeast has tarmac surfacing and forms the main route from the farm to the public road. The farm itself is no longer in use. Field survey identified the pond/dam as being silted up and no longer present.</p>				
3	Wellhill Farm				Maps	<p>Pont (1580-90)annotates 'Welhil'. Five buildings within an area of rig and furrow are annotated 'Well Hill' on Roy's map (1747-55), and 'Wellhill' is annotated on Thomson's map of 1828.</p> <p>Wellhill Farm is first depicted in detail on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map (1860) as an L-shaped rectangular building and long rectangular building to the west with a circular structure attached, surrounding a courtyard. Three small square buildings are shown on the eastern side of the farm</p>	Low	Direct: Site will be removed during opencast mining	High	Moderate

Site No.	Site name/type	Easting	Northing	NMRS/SMR No.	Source	Description	Sensitivity	Type of Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
						<p>together with a trackway leading to the northeast. Two large rectangular enclosures are shown on the western side of the farm. A road heading northwards is also shown joining with the public road, with a small pond along the route of the road. The layout of the farm, enclosures, road/trackways and pond is still shown on the Ordnance Survey 2nd and 3rd Edition maps (1897 and (1910).</p> <p>The pond is not visible on Aerial photographs from 1946.</p> <p>Field survey identified much of farm buildings in a ruinous state. The southern alignment of the L-shaped building, together with the large rectangular building, comprises roofless coursed mortared sandstone with some brick repairs/additions. The eastern alignment of the L-shaped building is rendered, with slate roofing and mid-late 20th century windows. The two large enclosures are defined by beach hedges. None of the other smaller ancillary buildings are present and modern brick and metal sheds visible to the south of the main farm buildings. Only the road leading northwards is still visible. Field survey identified the pond as being silted up, and no longer present.</p>				
4	Coal pit				Maps	<p>A small square building within a triangular shaped enclosure annotated 'Coal Pit' is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map (1860). Neither the building nor the enclosure are depicted on later editions (1897 and 1910).</p> <p>Field survey did not identify any visible remains of the coal pit.</p>	Negligible	Direct: Site will be removed during opencast mining	High	Minor

Site No.	Site name/type	Easting	Northing	NMRS/SMR No.	Source	Description	Sensitivity	Type of Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
5	Windpump				Maps	<p>A windpump is shown to the north east of Hall of Auchincross (2) on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition Map (1860).</p> <p>Field survey found no visible trace of the windpump to the northeast of the farm.</p>	Negligible	Direct: Site will be removed during opencast mining	High	Minor
6	Court Hill (Natural Feature)	15834	61407	NS51SE 2/8015	NMRS; SMR; Maps	<p>The SMR and NMRS record that the Name Book (1856) records that there was a court knowe near the Hall of Auchincross, on which criminals are said to have been tried by the laird of Auchincross. The tradition that the knoll served as a court mound supports the suggestion that Hall of Auchincross was not only a laird's dwelling, but also the administrative centre of the estate.</p> <p>A field visit by the Ordnance Survey in 1954 identified a small irregular outcrop in a sloping field.</p> <p>A further visit by the Ordnance Survey in 1981 identified a low rounded knoll, c.30m x 20m and under pasture. The farmer at Hall of Auchincross stated that the knoll's profile was once sharper but that it had been reduced during recent years through land improvement.</p> <p>Survey in 1995 by AOC recorded that the mound survives to approximately 3m in height and that the landowner stated that when ploughed the mound appears to consist of sandstone rubble, and is therefore 'probably man-made'.</p> <p>The possibility that the mound was originally a prehistoric burial mound cannot be discounted.</p>	Negligible	n/a	n/a	n/a

Site No.	Site name/type	Easting	Northing	NMRS/SMR No.	Source	Description	Sensitivity	Type of Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
						<p>The name 'Court Knowe' is annotated on the Ordnance Survey 1st, 2nd and 3rd Edition maps (1860, 18987 and 1910).</p> <p>The location of the mound is now within an area of former opencast working and no longer survives.</p>				

References

Adair, J. (1686) A mape of the west of Scotland containing Clydsdail, Nithsdail, Ranfrew, Shyre of Ayre, & Galloway, plate 11

Ainslie, J. (1821) Map of the Southern Part of Scotland.

Armstrong, A. (1775) A new map of Ayrshire

Guthrie R 2009 The Castles of New Cumnock

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map (1860) Ayrshire Sheet XLI, six inches to one mile

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map (1860) Ayr Sheet XLI.8, 25 inches to one mile

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition map (1897) Ayrshire Sheet XLI NE, six inches to one mile

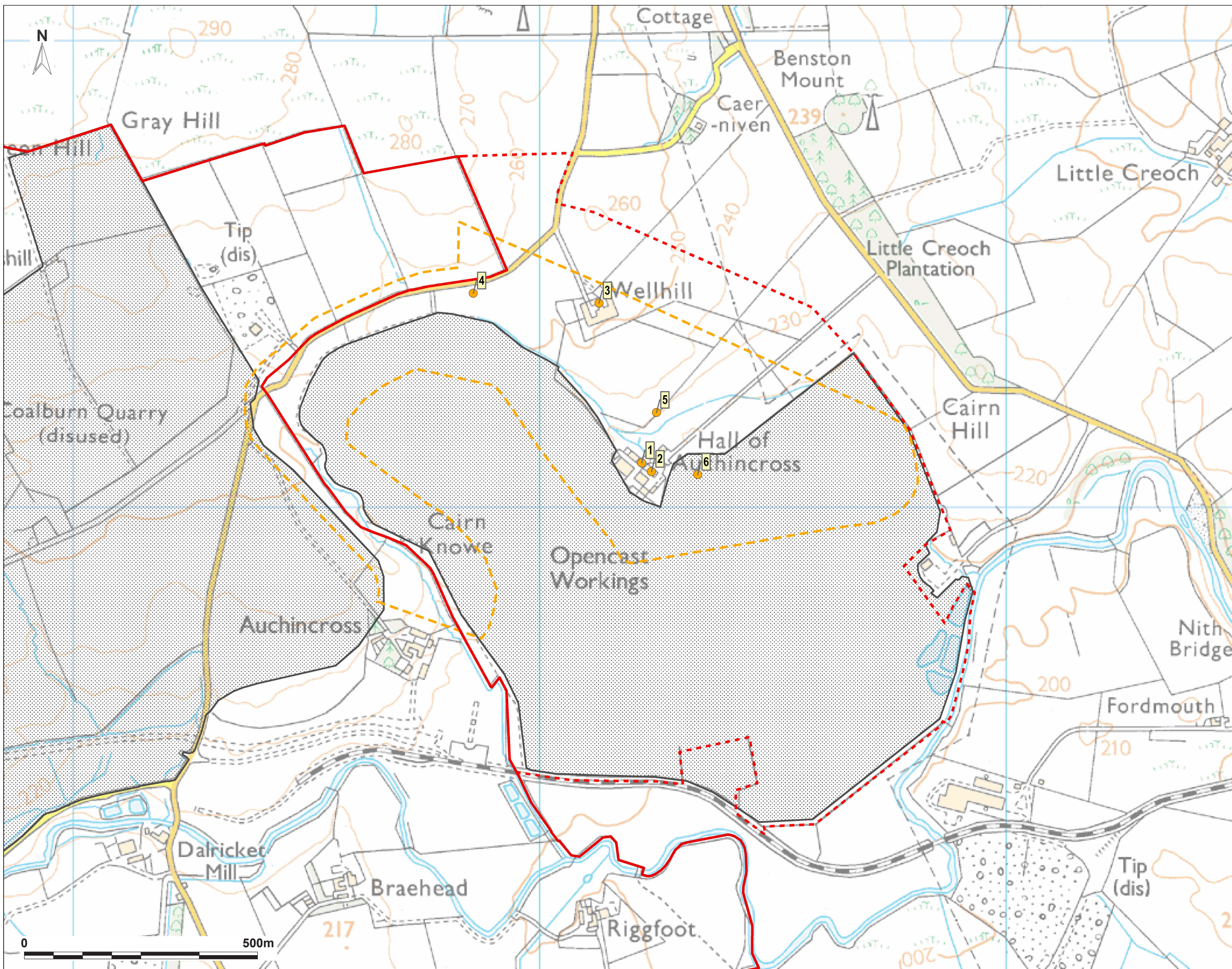
Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition map (1910) Ayrshire Sheet XLI NE, six inches to one mile

Pont, T. (1580-90) Maps of Scotland

Roy, W. (1747-55) Military Survey of Scotland

Thomson, J. (1828) Northern Part of Ayrshire. Southern Part.

Ordnance Survey Aerial Photographic Mosaics (1946) NS51SE (Ayrshire)



Legend

- Project Boundary (Existing)
- Project Boundary Proposed Extension
- Open Cast Mining
- Limit of Excavation
- Cultural Heritage Site (point)

- 1 - Hall of Auchincross
- 2 - Hall of Auchincross Farm
- 3 - Wellhill Farm
- 4 - Coal Pit
- 5 - Windpump
- 6 - Court Knowe (natural feature)

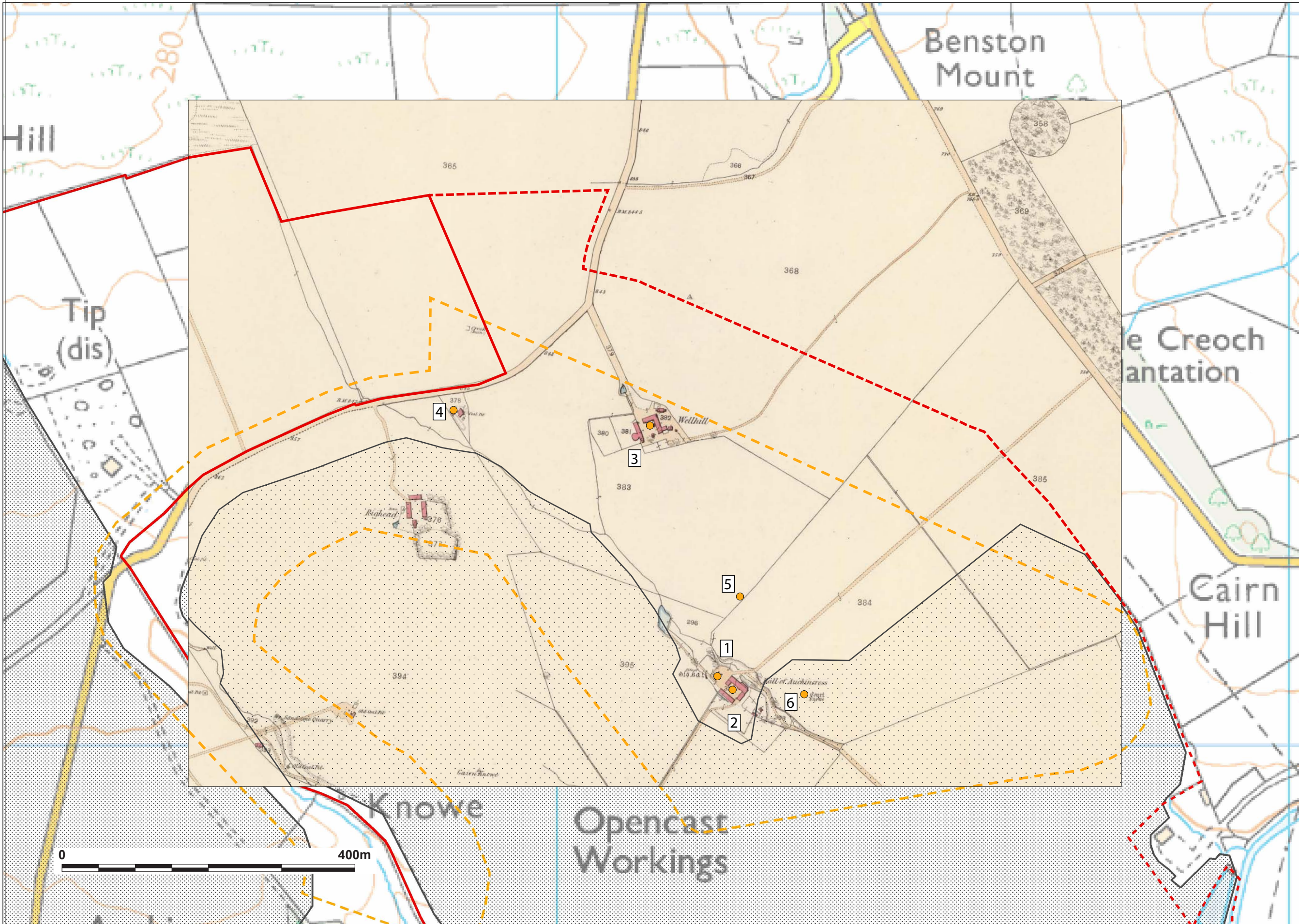
Title Figure 12.1
Cultural Heritage:
Constraints

Site Greenburn Surface Mine:
Wellhill Extension






Client	Kier Mining
Project No.	UK1217192
Issue	1
Date	December 2011
Drawn by	SW

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Legend

-  **Project Boundary (Existing)**
-  **Project Boundary Proposed Extension**
-  **Open Cast Mining**
-  **Limit of Excavation**
-  **Cultural Heritage Site (point)**
Site Boundary
- 1 - Hall of Auchincross**
- 2 - Hall of Auchincross**
- 3 - Wellhill Farm**
- 4 - Coal Pit**
- 5 - Windpump**
- 6 - Court Knowe (natural feature)**

Title Figure 12.2
 Ordnance Survey 1st
 Edition Extract (1860)
 25 inches to one mile

Site Greenburn Surface Mine:
 Wellhill Extension

Client **Kier Mining** LTD
 The Old Engine House
 Eskmills Park
 Musselburgh
 East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
 Project No. **CFA**
 Issue **CFA**
 Date **December 2011**
 Fig. No. **12.1**
 Drawn by **SW**

Cultural Heritage Constraints
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Scale at A3:
 1:5,000