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Meteorological Mast at Eyes Hill, Barrhill, South Ayrshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No.2182

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

The Old Engine House
Eskmills Business Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian
EH21 7PQ

Tel: 0131 273 4380
Fax: 0131 273 4381
email: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	Jamie Lewis MA
Illustrator	Graeme Carruthers MA MifA
Editor	Melanie Johnson MA PhD FSA Scot MifA
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This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd
standard operating procedures.

**Meteorological Mast at Eyes Hill,
Barrhill, South Ayrshire**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on the 20th February 2013 at Eyes Hill, Barrhill, South Ayrshire (NGR: NX 224345 579795) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by PNE Wind UK Limited.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 20th of December 2012 was produced by CFA and agreed by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) on behalf of South Ayrshire Council.

1.2 Background

A planning application (Ref No. 12/01242/APP) has been granted for the construction of a single temporary meteorological mast at Eyes Hill, Barrhill, South Ayrshire. Due to its location within a highly sensitive archaeological area (Fig. 2), an archaeological watching brief was required during all ground breaking works.

Three monuments (Fig. 2) are located within close proximity to the mast and these are: a group of hut circles (RCAHMS NX27NW 3; SMR 11491) which are located approximately 150m to the south; a possible hut circle (RCAHMS NX27NW 4; SMR 11492) located approximately 30m to the south-east; and a cluster of small cairns (RCAHMS NX27NW 5; SMR 11493) situated 40m east and north-east of the site. These monuments were to be monitored to ensure that no part of the construction impacted upon them.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were:

- To inspect the development area for upstanding remains and record them and to ensure that elements of the development are micro-sited to avoid any such remains.
- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Watching Brief) to monitor the excavation of the anchor holes and any other ground breaking that is required.
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording and produce a report on them.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.

2.2 Watching Brief

The locations of the meteorological mast and anchors for the guide ropes were subject to a thorough walk over survey prior to construction. Any upstanding remains were to be recorded photographically, written records completed and their locations recorded with a GPS.

Topsoil and modern overburden of the anchor pits was removed by a mechanical excavator. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. All further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the WSI was carried out by hand.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded, whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified. The location of each anchor pit was recorded with DGPS.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

The work consisted of two parts: a walkover survey during which any potential impact on the recorded monuments (see above) was assessed for the construction of the mast. The second part was monitoring the excavation of the anchor pits.

3.1 Walkover Survey

The group of hut circles (SMR 11491) to the south and the cluster of small cairns (SMR 111493) to the east of the mast were located. Both groups of monuments were located at a sufficient distance from the construction site as to be in no danger from damage from the development.

Despite an intensive search the possible hut circle (SMR 11492) was not located. However, its recorded position lay outside of the area impacted by the mast.

The walkover survey also examined the area to be impacted upon by the construction of the mast and found no evidence of upstanding archaeological remains. Consequently, no changes to the development were required.

3.2 Watching Brief

The excavation of all of the anchor pits (Figs 3 & 4) was monitored by the attending archaeologist. All of the pits measured approximately 3m long, 1m wide and 2m deep. No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were found during the excavation of the pits. The table below records the stratigraphy of each pit.

Anchor Pit	Stratigraphy
1	0.3m topsoil, onto natural geology comprising of blue-grey clay and gravels.
2	0.4m topsoil, onto natural geology comprising of blue-grey clay and gravels.
3	0.5m topsoil, onto natural geology comprising of blue-grey clay and gravels.
4	0.6m topsoil, onto natural geology comprising of blue-grey clay and gravels.
5	0.4m topsoil, 0.4-0.8m subsoil, onto natural geology comprising of blue-grey clay and gravels.
6	0.2m topsoil, 0.2-0.4m subsoil, onto natural geology comprising of blue-grey clay and gravels.
7	0.4m topsoil, 0.4-0.6m subsoil, onto natural geology comprising of blue-grey clay and gravels.
8	0.5m topsoil, 0.5-0.6m subsoil, onto natural geology comprising of blue-grey clay and gravels. ⁺

4. CONCLUSION

None of the recorded monuments within close proximity to the meteorological mast were directly affected by its construction and no new upstanding remains were found within the development area. All ground breaking works were observed and recorded and these produced no evidence of archaeological deposits or finds.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3).

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with RCAHMS and copies of reports will be lodged with the South Ayrshire Council Sites and Monuments Record.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

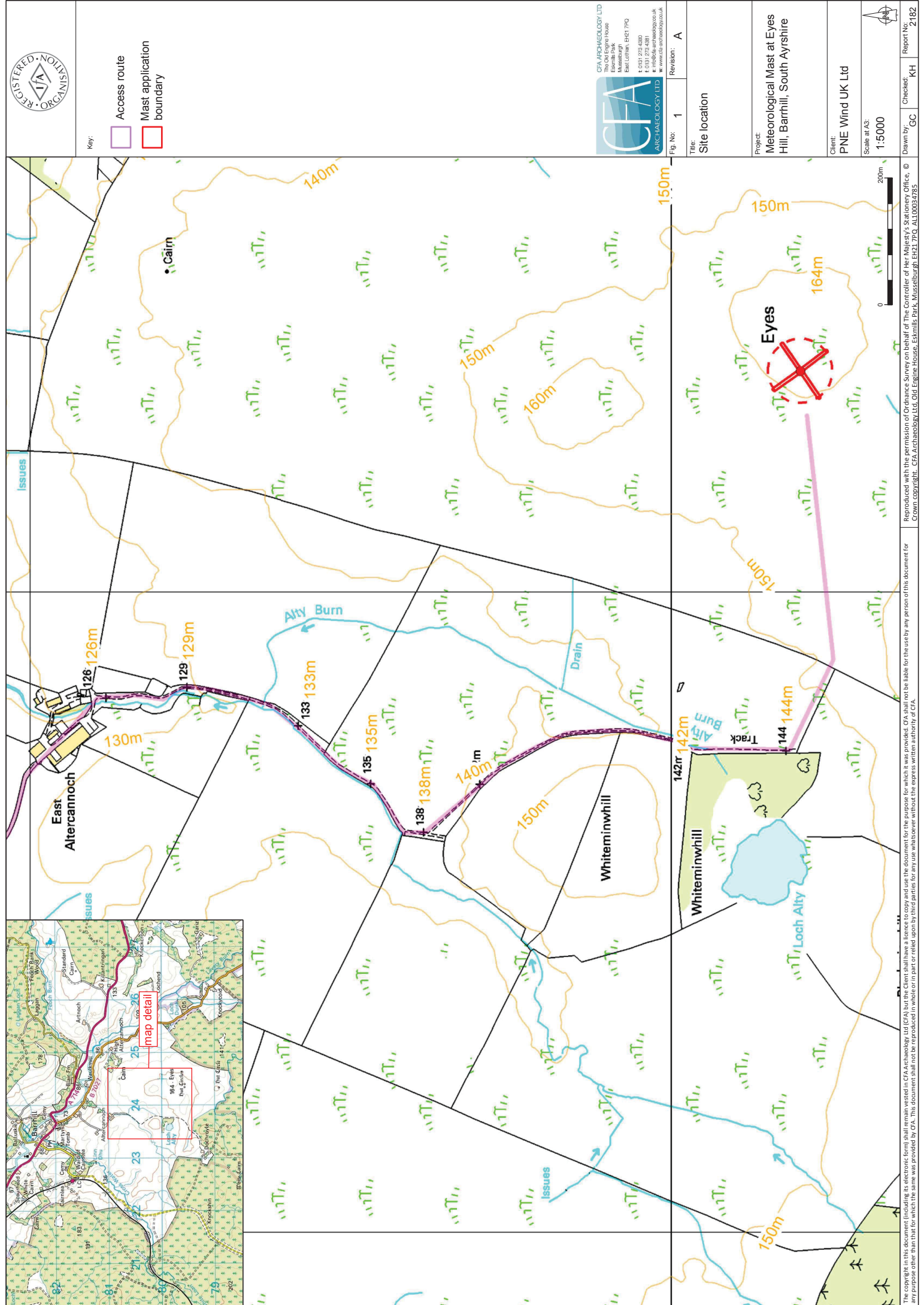
Context No.	Description
000	Topsoil
001	Subsoil
003	Natural Geology

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	General site photo	West	O/C
2	Site location of the hut circles	North	O/C
3	General photo of upstanding remains of the hut circles	Northeast	O/C
4	Anchor pit 1	Southeast	O/C
5	Anchor pit 2	Southwest	O/C
6	Anchor pit 3	Southwest	O/C
7	Anchor pit 3	South	O/C
8	Anchor pit 4	East	O/C
9	Anchor pit 4	Southeast	O/C
10	Anchor pit 5	West	O/C
11	Anchor pit 5	Southwest	O/C
12	Anchor pit 6	West	O/C
13	Anchor pit 6	Southwest	O/C
14	Anchor Pit 7	North	O/C
15	Anchor pit 7	Northwest	O/C
16	Anchor pit 8	Northeast	O/C
17	Anchor pit 8	North	O/C
18	Site view	Southwest	O/C

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Meteorological Mast, Eyes Hill, South Ayrshire.
PROJECT CODE:	AMEM
PARISH:	Colmonell
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	James Lewis
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NX 24345 79795
START DATE (this season)	20 th February 2013
END DATE (this season)	20 th February 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	The work consisted of two parts: a walkover survey during which any potential impact on the recorded monuments (see above) was assessed for the construction of the mast. The second part was monitoring the excavation of the anchor pits. None of the recorded monuments within close proximity to the meteorological mast were directly affected by its construction and no new upstanding remains were found within the development area. All ground breaking works were observed and recorded and these produced no evidence of archaeological deposits or finds.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	PNE WIND UK Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Records of Scotland (NMRS).





Key:

- Access route
- Mast application boundary



CFA Archaeology Ltd
Old Engine House
Muselburgh
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
t 0131 272 4380
e info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
w www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Fig. No: 1

Revision: A

Title: Site location

Project: Meteorological Mast at Eyes Hill, Barrhill, South Ayrshire

Client: PNE Wind UK Ltd

Scale at A3: 1:5000

Report No: 2182

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<div>Key:</div> <div><div><div></div><div>Mast application boundary</div></div><div><div></div><div>Cultural heritage area</div></div><div><div></div><div>clearance cairn</div></div><div><div></div><div>heritage features</div></div><div><div></div><div>25m buffer zone</div></div></div> <div></div> <div>Scale at A4: 1:2500</div>	<div>Fig No: 2</div> <div>Revision: 0</div> <div>Client: PNE Wind UK Ltd</div>	<div></div> <div>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</div>	
	<div>Title:</div> <div>Detail of site location showing recorded monuments and mast</div>		
	<div>Project:</div> <div>Meteorological Mast at Eyes Hill, Barrhill, South Ayrshire</div>		
		<div>Drawn by: GC</div> <div>Checked: KH</div> <div>Report No: 2182</div>	



Fig. 3 Anchor Pit 1



Fig. 4 Anchor Pit 3

Key:	Fig. No:	3-4	Revision:	A	Client:	PNE Wind UK Ltd			<div><div>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ T: 0131 273 4380 F: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</div></div>				
	Title:												
	Project:	Meteorological Mast at Eyes Hill, Barrhil, South Ayrshire											
Scale at A4:								Drawn by:	GC	Checked:	KH	Report No:	2182