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Meteorological Mast at Knockendurrick Hill, Gatehouse of Fleet, Dumfries and Galloway

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No.3006

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This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

**Meteorological Mast at Knockendurrick Hill,
Gatehouse of Fleet,
Dumfries and Galloway**

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CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	4
3.	Archaeological Results	4
4.	Conclusion	5

Appendices

1.	Context Register	5
2.	Photographic Register	5
3.	Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry	7

Figures

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Met Mast location and recorded cultural heritage monuments

Fig.3 Details of site location showing field system and clearance cairn (003)

Fig. 4 Anchor Pit 1

Fig. 5 Anchor Pit 3

Fig. 6 Clearance cairn (003)

Fig. 7 Field bank (SW section)

Fig. 8 Field bank (SE section showing location of Anchor Pit 4 indicted with 2m ranging rod)

Fig. 9 General view of cairns and field bank

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on the 10th April 2013 at Knockendurrick Hill, Gatehouse of Fleet, Dumfries and Galloway (NGR: NX 63922 57213) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Banks Renewables.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 4th April 2013 was produced by CFA and agreed by Dumfries and Galloway Council.

1.2 Background

A planning application (Ref No. 12/P/2/0341) has been granted for the construction of a single temporary meteorological mast at Knockendurrick Hill, Gatehouse of Fleet, Dumfries and Galloway. 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 field system and associated cairns (RCAHMS NX65NW 46, DGHER no. mdg8492) located approximately 20m to the north of the proposed mast location; a hut-circle (RCAHMS NX65NW 46.1, DGHER no. mdg8493) located approximately 110m to the north-east; a burnt mound (RCAHMS NX65NW 64, DGHER no. mdg8518), approximately 220m to the south-west; and a farmstead and field system. 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, including the access route from Irelandton Farm, for upstanding archaeological remains and record them, and to ensure that elements of the development, including the access route and all vehicular movements and construction activities, are micro-sited to avoid any such remains. Upstanding features will be temporarily demarcated.
- 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 the production of 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 vehicle access route to the mast site, the location of the mast, and the location of anchors for the mast guide ropes were subject to a thorough walkover survey prior to construction. Any upstanding remains were recorded photographically, written records completed and their locations recorded with a GPS.

The locations of all features were made clear to the on-site construction contractor through temporary demarcation, and vehicular access and components of the met mast installation voided them.

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.

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 hut-circle (RCAHMS NX65NW 46.1, DGHHER no. mdg8493) to the north-east of the mast and the burnt mound (RCAHMS NX65NW 64, DGHHER no. mdg8518) to the south-west were located (Fig. 2). Both monuments were located at sufficient distance from the construction site as to be in no danger of damage from the development.

The field system (RCAHMS NX65NW 46, DGHHER no. mdg8492) was identified 20m north of the mast location. The field system consisted of several sections of stone and turf bank, ranging in size from 1m-2m wide and 0.2m-0.6m high and defining two enclosed plots (Fig. 3, Fig. 7). Up to fourteen turf-covered clearance cairns, ranging in size from 2m-6m in diameter and 0.2m-0.6m high, were visible within these plots (Fig. 9). A further possible clearance cairn was identified to the west of the enclosure at NX 63900 57221 (Fig. 6). Upstanding elements of the field system, including a clearance cairn and sections of field bank, which lay in close proximity to the met mast location were temporarily marked off using canes and barrier tape (Fig. 3). The

location of the anchor pits for the mast guide ropes were micro-sited to avoid these features (Fig. 8).

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 2.5m-3m long, 0.5m wide and 1.5-2m 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	0.1-0.2m topsoil, onto natural geology consisting of blue-grey boulder clay
2	0.2-0.25m topsoil, onto natural geology consisting of blue-grey boulder clay
3	0.15-0.2m topsoil, onto natural geology consisting of blue-grey boulder clay
4	0.05-0.1m topsoil, 0.05m subsoil, onto natural geology consisting of blue-grey boulder clay
5	0.05-0.1m topsoil, onto natural geology consisting of blue-grey boulder clay
6	0.05m topsoil, onto natural geology consisting of blue-grey boulder clay

4. CONCLUSION

None of the recorded monuments within close proximity to the meteorological mast were directly affected by its construction or by vehicular access to the working area, 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, consisting all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with RCAHMS and copies of reports will be lodged with the Dumfries & Galloway Council Sites and Monuments Record.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

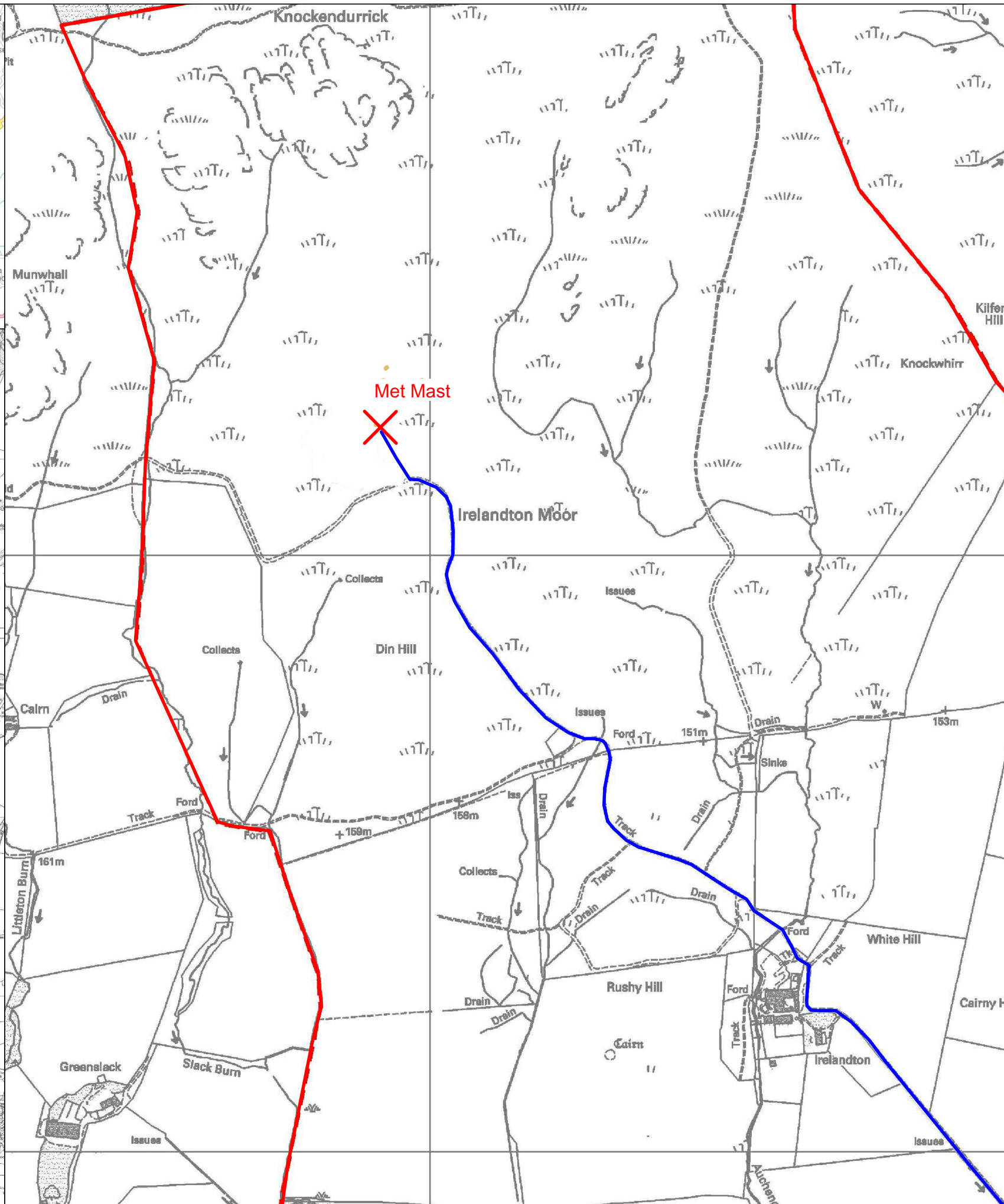
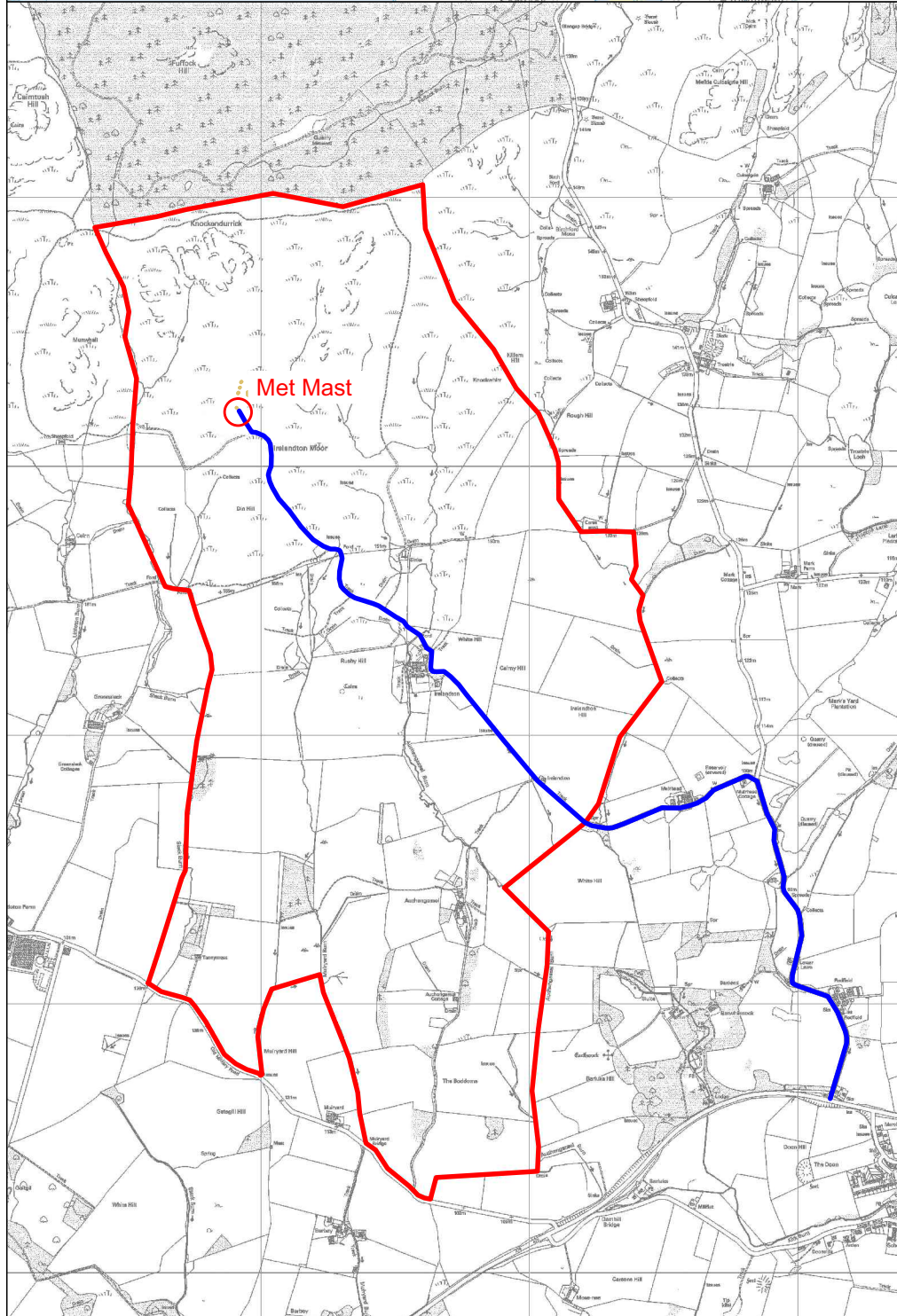
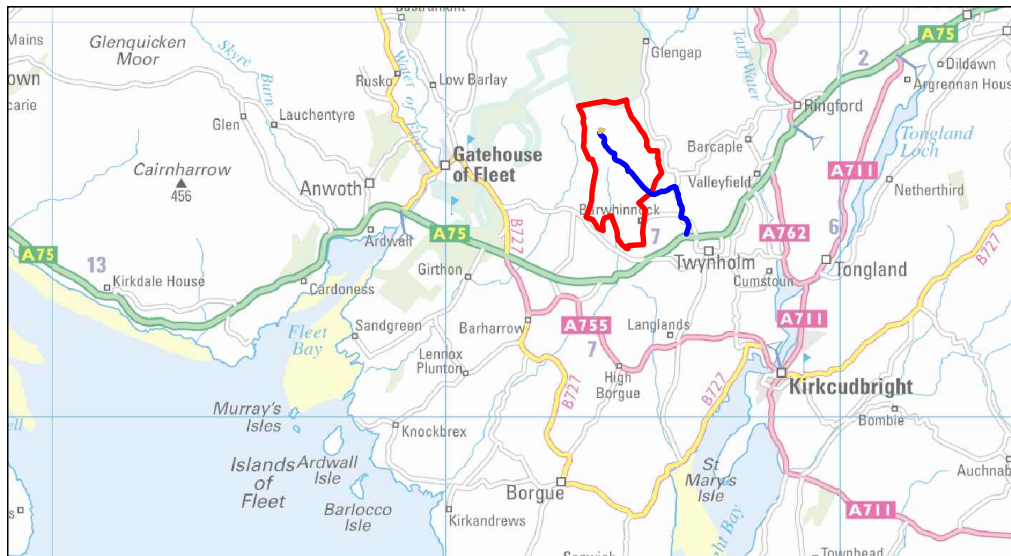
Context No.	Description
001	Topsoil – dark brown silty loam
002	Subsoil – light brown sand and gravel
003	Natural Geology – blue-grey boulder clay

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	Anchor Pit 1	NW	Sunny
2	Anchor Pit 1	SW	Sunny
3	Clearance cairn (possible) (003)	SE	Sunny
4	Clearance cairn (possible) (003)	SE	Sunny
5	Field bank (NW section)	SW	Sunny
6	Field bank (NW section)	SW	Sunny
7	Field bank (SW section)	NW	Sunny
8	Field bank (SW section)	NW	Sunny
9	Anchor Pit 2	SW	Sunny
10	Field bank (SE Section) (showing location of Anchor Pit 4)	SW	Sunny
11	Field bank (SE Section)	SW	Sunny
12	General shot of clearance cairns	NE	Sunny
13	General shot of clearance cairns and field bank	S	Over cast
14	Anchor Pit 3	NW	Over cast
15	Anchor Pit 3	NE	Over cast
16	Anchor Pit 4	NE	Over cast
17	Anchor Pit 5	NE	Over cast

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries and Galloway Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Meteorological Mast, Knockendurrick, Tywnholm, Dumfries and Galloway
PROJECT CODE:	KNOC2
PARISH:	Twynholm
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Mhairi Hastie
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NX 65NW 46; NX65NW 46.01; NX65NW 64 Dumfries & Galloway HER nos. mdg8492, 8493, 8518
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Cairnfield, Field System; Hut circle; Burnt mound
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NX 63922 57213
START DATE (this season)	10 th April 2013
END DATE (this season)	10 th April 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (NARRATIVE) (May include information from other fields)	A single temporary meteorological mast was constructed at Knockendurrick Hill, Gatehouse of Fleet, Dumfries and Galloway. Due to its location within a highly sensitive archaeological area, archaeological monitoring was required during all works. The work consisted of two parts: a walkover survey during which any potential impact on the recorded monuments was assessed for the construction of a meteorological 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 or by vehicular access to the working area, 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:	Banks Renewables
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to National Monuments Records of Scotland (NMRS). Report to Dumfries & Galloway HER.



Key:
— Study Area
— Access Track

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Fig. No: 1 Revision: A

Title:
Site Location

Project:
**Knockendurrick
 Meteorological Mast**

Client:
Banks Renewables

Scale at A3:
 small plan, 1:25,000;
 large plan 1:7500

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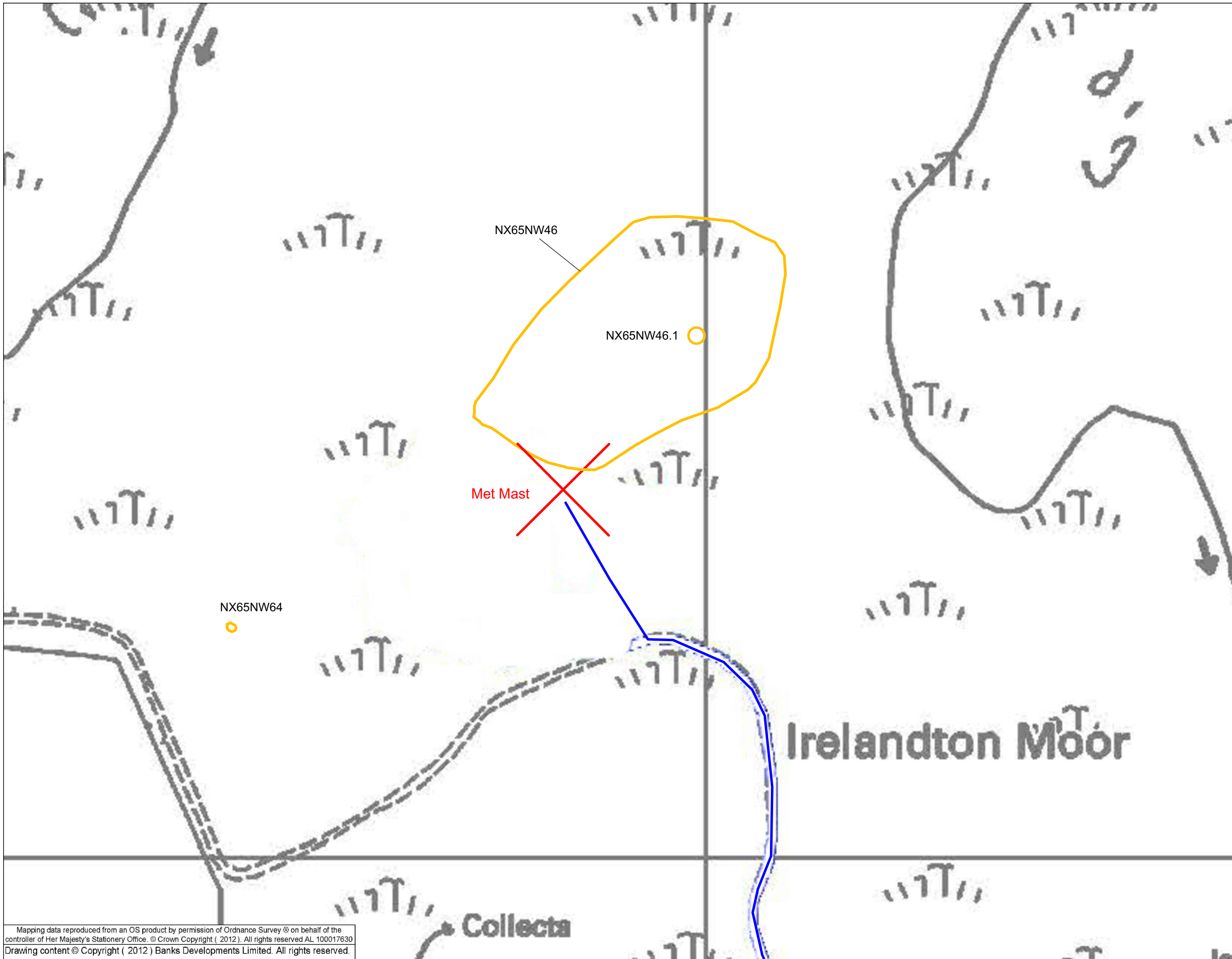
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Key:

-  Access Track
-  Approximate extent of Cultural Heritage



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Fig. No:	2	Revision:	A
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Title:
Met Mast Location and Recorded Cultural Heritage Monuments

Project:
Knockendurrick Meteorological Mast

Client:
Banks Renewables

Scale at A3:
1:2000

Drawn by:	Checked:	Report No:
TB	KH	3006

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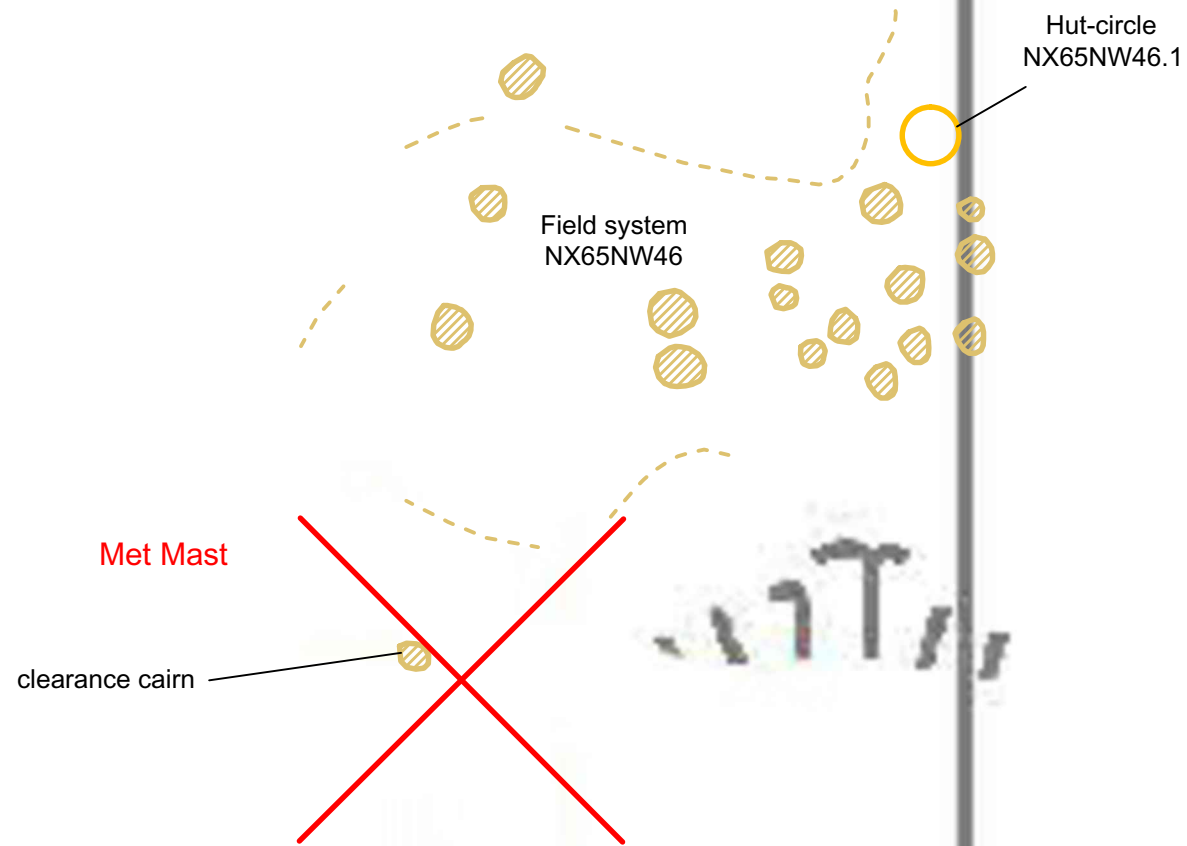


Key:

Field banks

Clearance cairns

Hut circle



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Fig. No:	3	Revision:	A
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Title:
Details of site location showing Field System and Clearance Cairn (003)

Project:
Knockendurrick Meteorological Mast

Client:
Banks Renewables

Scale at A3:
1:1250

Drawn by:	Checked:	Report No:
TB	KH	3006

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Fig. 4 - Anchor Pit 1



Fig. 5 - Anchor Pit 3

Fig. No: 4-5		Revision: A	Project: Knockendurrick Meteorological Mast			CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ
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Fig. 6 - Clearance Cairn





Fig. 7 - Field Bank (SW section)



Fig. 8 - Field bank (SE section showing location of Anchor Pit 4 indicated with 2m ranging rod)



Fig. 9 - General view of Cairns and Field Bank

Fig. No: 6-9		Revision: A	Project: Knockendurrick Meteorological Mast			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
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