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Cable Connection, Crawthat Cottage Dumfries & Galloway

Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report No. 3127

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Cable Connection, Crawthat Cottage Dumfries & Galloway

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of a watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd at Crawthat Cottage, Dumfries & Galloway (NY 2431 8282) between the 17th and 20th of February 2014. The work was commissioned by Scottish Power Network Connections.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 12 February 2014 was produced by CFA on behalf of Scottish Power Network Connections. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Service (DGCAS).

1.2 Background

The forthcoming construction of the haul road for Ewe Hill 6 Wind Farm necessitated the undergrounding of a stretch of 11kV overhead line close to Crawthat Cottage (Fig. 1). It was agreed that the cable trench would avoid crossing the formerly scheduled site known as MDG755. This settlement, which is thought to be prehistoric in date, was originally enclosed by upstanding curvilinear banks and ditches but was ploughed out in the 1970s, though it is still thought that significant archaeology exists below ground. The site was de-scheduled in 2009. Though the proposed cable route was designed to run around the main knoll / mound on which MDG755 is situated, a watching brief was maintained on all ground breaking works in case archaeological remains were revealed on the periphery of the site.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the watching brief were to monitor all ground breaking works associated with the new underground cable to establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits along the route, particularly those associated with settlement MDG7556.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance and Code of Conduct.

2.2 Watching Brief

Excavations were undertaken with tracked mechanical excavators fitted with smooth-bladed ditching buckets, under constant archaeological supervision. All discoveries, including soil profiles and subsoil characteristics, were recorded using standard CFA recording forms and digital photography.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Context numbers are in bold and described in Appendix 1.

3.1 General

No significant archaeological remains were revealed in the cable trench which varied from 40cm to 70cm wide and 70cm to 1m deep. However, large variations in natural deposits were encountered around the raised mound/knoll containing site MDG7556 (see Fig.1).

The western and southern low-lying marshy areas comprised thick peat over clay. The peat thinned significantly on approach to the knoll where natural blue gravels (**004**), probably hillwash, were encountered.

On the south and east sides of the knoll and around Crawthat cottage, natural weathered bedrock was revealed just under the topsoil, possibly a sign that overlying gravels had been removed and the ground levelled slightly prior to construction of the house and a track (**010**). Natural deposits around the SE side of the knoll and hillside to the NE comprised weathered unsorted gravels over bedrock.

A natural gully near pole 41 had led to the formation of several hillwash deposits of gravel (**011, 012, 013**) at the base of the hill and a thin layer of peat.

3.2 Crawthat Cottage extension foundations

Excavation of the cable trench round the side of Crawthat Cottage revealed the lime-mortared foundations of a substantial wall (**008**) in a foundation trench (**007**), its outer face in line with the NW wall of the Cottage (see Fig. 4). The wall terminated in large cornerstones and appeared to turn 90 degrees to the SE. This was clearly the foundations for an extension to the cottage which would have projected 2.75m out from the current NW-facing gable. The extension is shown on the second edition OS map (1899) but not the first edition (1862) suggesting that it was built in the late 19th century.

4. CONCLUSION

The watching brief revealed no archaeological remains other than evidence of the demolished 19th century extension at Crawthat Cottage.

CFA recommend that no further work is required and that this report along with the *OASIS* and *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* entries will be sufficient to disseminate the results of the watching brief.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the RCAHMS and copies of reports will be lodged with the Dumfries and Galloway Historic and Environmental Record.

5. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 1:50,000 map data

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1862 map, twenty five inches to one mile,
Dumfries Sheet XLIV.14 (Tundergarth),

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1899 map, twenty five inches to one mile,
Dumfriesshire, Sheet 044.14

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

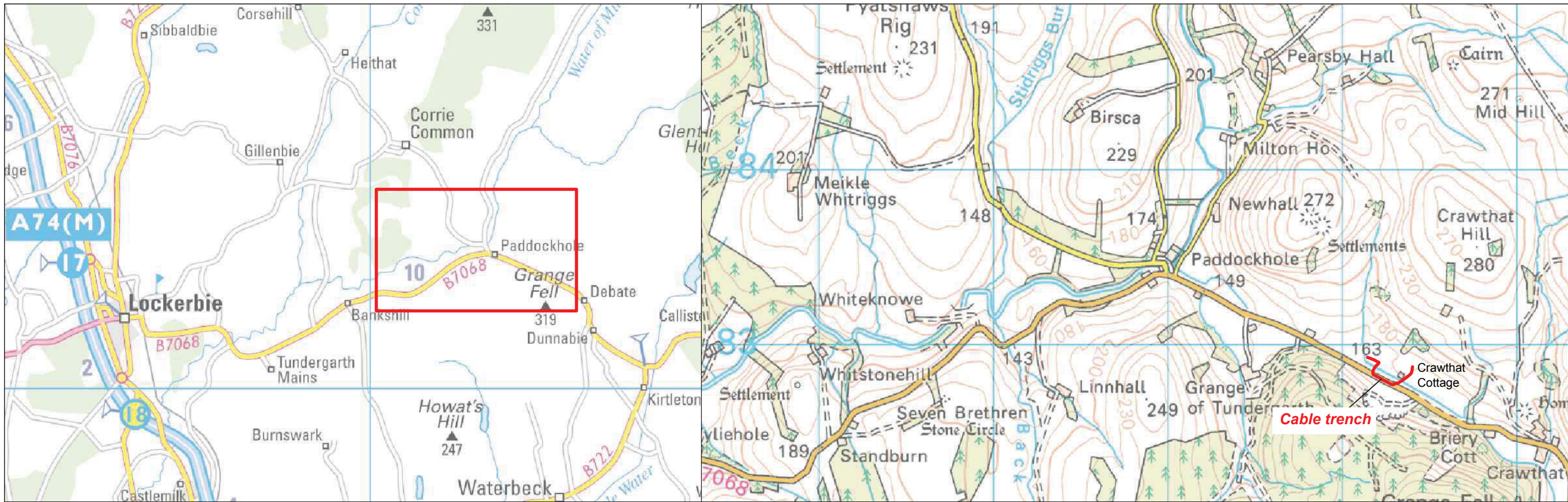
Context No.	Description
001	Topsoil, a dark silt loam
002	Peat below topsoil
003	Natural grey clays below 002
004	Natural blue-grey gravel below 002, above 003. 5% sand, 95% angular to sub-rounded stones. Probable hillwash.
005	Re-deposited natural gravels from cleared out ditch running alongside the B7068. Unsorted gravels with some silt and clay.
006	Natural bedrock, weathered Silurian/Cambrian mudstone
007	Cut for foundation trench of 19 th century extension to Crawthat Cottage
008	Foundations for 19 th century extension to Crawthat Cottage. Lime mortared mudstone blocks, wall 70cm + high, width not exposed.
009	Subsoil, grey sands and gravel with 50% silt.
010	Modern track surface. Dark grey silt and sand with 90% sub-rounded to angular stones, compact.
011	Natural unsorted orange –brown gravels and sands below topsoil on knoll, loose. Contains occasional large stones up to c. 15cm dia.
012	Natural blue gravels and clay below 012 at base of hill. Hillwash.
013	Natural sorted gravels below 012. Hillwash.

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

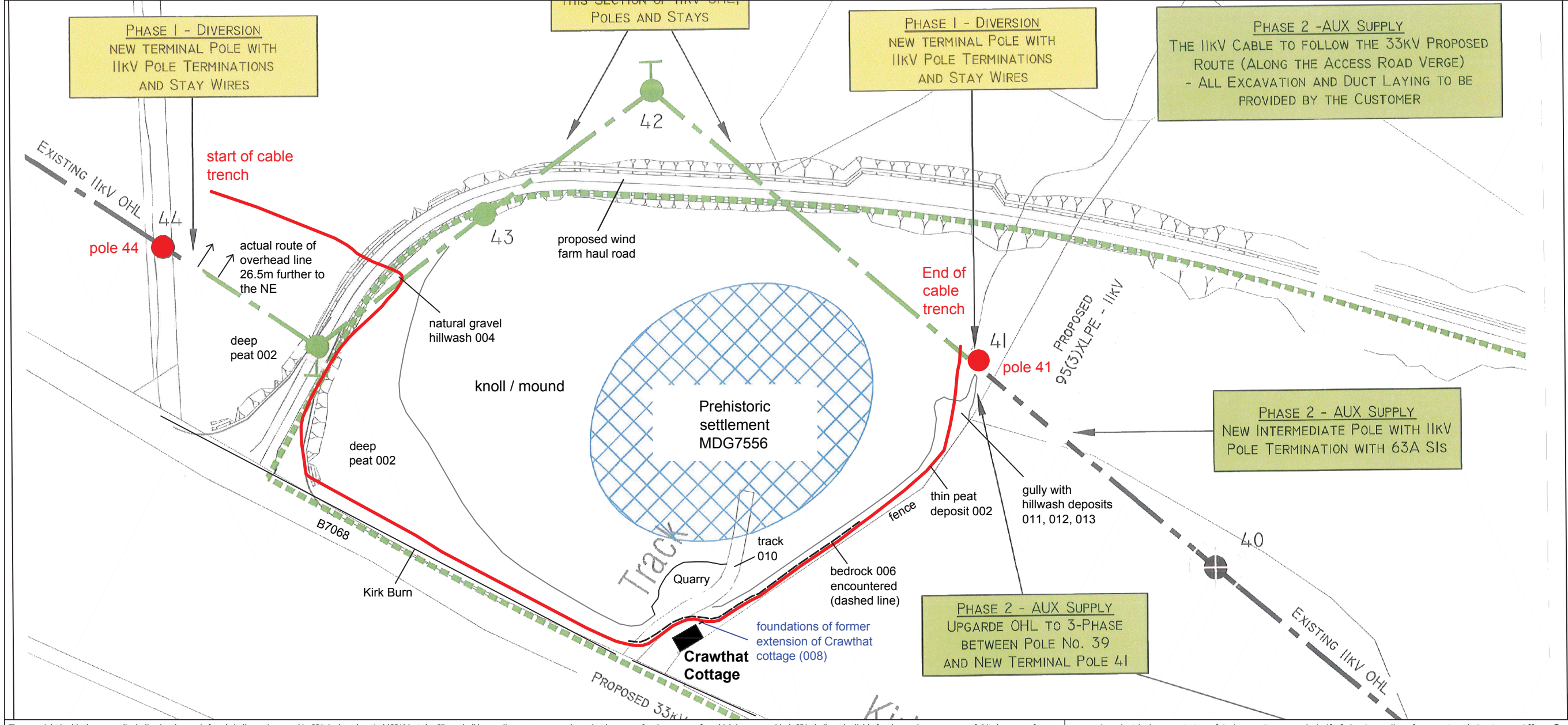
Number	Description	From	Conditions
001	Excavating cable trench under powerline near pole 44.	SE	Rain
002	Excavating cable trench under proposed haul road for wind farm.	NW	Rain
003	Shot of excavated cable trench, western stretch	SE	Rain
004	Shot showing gravel 004 rising up towards knoll	W	Rain
005	Shot of cable trench running W of knoll	SE	Rain
006	Shot of cable trench being excavated	SW	Rain
007	Cable trench where parallel to the B7068	SE	Good
008	Shot of SE side of knoll before excavation	NE	Good
009	Shot of SE side of knoll before excavation	NE	Good
010	Cutting away the SE of the knoll to make room for the mini digger	NE	Good
011	Cutting away the SE of the knoll to make room for the mini digger	NE	Good
012	Cable trench, SE side of knoll	SW	Good
013	Cable trench, SE side of knoll	SW	Good
014	The exposed foundations of the demolished barn extension 008	N	Good
015	The exposed foundations of the demolished barn extension 008	N	Good
016	Shot of cable trench where 40cm wide on SE side of knoll	NE	Good
017	Shot of cable trench	NE	Good
018	Cable being unrolled into trench	S	Good
019	Excavated cable trench up to eastern pole	N	Good
020	Excavated cable trench up to eastern pole	N	Good

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries and Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Cable Connection, Crawthat Cottage
PROJECT CODE:	EWIF2
PARISHES:	TUNDERGARTH
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Tamlin Barton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NY28SW 7
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	RING ENCLOSURE, SETTLEMENT
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NY 2431 8282
START DATE (this season)	17 th February 2014
END DATE (this season)	20 th February 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An Archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the undergrounding of an overhead electricity line at Crawthat Cottage to allow the construction of the Ewe Hill Wind Farm haul road from the B7068, to the west of Langholm, Dumfries & Galloway. The cable trench revealed no significant archaeology though the foundation of a demolished 19 th century extension was found.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scottish Power Network Connections
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in RCAHMS, Reports lodged with Dumfries and Galloway HER and RCAHMS



Key:
 Cable trench



PHASE 1 - DIVERSION
 NEW TERMINAL POLE WITH
 11kV POLE TERMINATIONS
 AND STAY WIRES

POLES AND STAYS

PHASE 1 - DIVERSION
 NEW TERMINAL POLE WITH
 11kV POLE TERMINATIONS
 AND STAY WIRES

PHASE 2 - AUX SUPPLY
 THE 11kV CABLE TO FOLLOW THE 33kV PROPOSED
 ROUTE (ALONG THE ACCESS ROAD VERGE)
 - ALL EXCAVATION AND DUCT LAYING TO BE
 PROVIDED BY THE CUSTOMER

PHASE 2 - AUX SUPPLY
 NEW INTERMEDIATE POLE WITH 11kV
 POLE TERMINATION WITH 63A SIS

PHASE 2 - AUX SUPPLY
 UPGRADE OHL TO 3-PHASE
 BETWEEN POLE No. 39
 AND NEW TERMINAL POLE 41



Fig. No: 1 Revision: A

Title:
 Location map and route of
 cable trench

Project:
 Cable Connection, Crawthatch
 Cottage, Dumfries & Galloway
 Archaeological Watching Brief

Client:
 Scottish Power Network Connections

Scale at A3:
 1:1500

Drawn by: TB Checked: MJ Report No: 3127



Fig. 2 - General shot of excavated cable trench next to the B7068



Fig. 3 - General shot of excavated cable trench SE of knoll





Fig. No: 2-3		Revision: A	Project: Cable Connection, Crawthat Cottage, Dumfries & Galloway, Archaeological Watching Brief
Drawn by: TB	Checked: MJ	Report No: 3127	Client: Scottish Power Network Connections
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Fig. 4 - Foundations for the extension to Crawthat Cottage 008 revealed in trench



Fig. 5 - General shot of excavated cable trench to the SE of MDG7556

Fig. No: 4-5		Revision: A	Project: Cable Connection, Crawthat Cottage, Dumfries & Galloway, Archaeological Watching Brief			CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ
Drawn by: TB	Checked: MJ	Report No: 3127	Client: Scottish Power Network Connections			T: 0131 273 4380 F: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

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