

Site & Landscape Survey

YY Overhead Line Upgrade - Coylton to Mark Hill Substation, East and South Ayrshire

**Archaeological Mitigation Works** 

Report No. 3487







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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 General

This report presents the results of archaeological mitigation works carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) for an upgrade of a section of overhead power line between the substation at Alwyn Cottage on the A70 to the east of Coylton, East Ayrshire (NS 4621 1963), and Mark Hill Substation, Craigcannochie Hill to the north of Barrhill, South Ayrshire (NX 2366 8609) (Fig. 1). This comprises towers YY-01 to YY-151.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), dated 17 February 2016, was prepared by CFA and agreed in advance of works by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), archaeological advisors to East and South Ayrshire Councils. It set out the programme of archaeological works required to mitigate the effects of temporary access during the power line renewal works.

#### 1.2 Background

A desk-based archaeological appraisal was carried out by RSK Environment Ltd in 2014 (Somerville 2014), which sets out a programme of mitigation.

WoSAS recommended additional desk-based assessment, to cover historic Ordnance Survey mapping and aerial photography, once specific areas of ground disturbance had been identified. The WSI contained the results of that work.

Site numbering in the WSI follows the numbering in the RSK report (Sites 1-101), with additional sites identified by CFA provided with a letter (Sites A-N). A gazetteer of the new sites identified by CFA is supplied as Appendix 3.

The construction works comprised the provision of access to many of the existing towers and the provision of EPZ wire pulling areas at towers YY-01A, YY-21, YY-42, YY-54, YY-74, YY-92, YY-107, YY-122, YY-140, YY-151. The final construction details of the accesses (floating road, excavated road, temporary panels etc) were made with consideration of weather and ground conditions. Many of the access routes were altered in accordance with these conditions and subsequently several of the monitoring requirements were not required at those locations.

The locations of the access routes and the known archaeological sites are presented on Fig. 2 and site-specific mitigation proposals are described in Table 1.

#### 1.3 Objectives

The objectives of this phase of works were:

- Ensure the preservation of Sites 43, 50, 57, 62, 95, J, K and N through their demarcation for the duration of all works.
- Carry out targeted watching briefs during ground breaking works.
- Report on the results.

#### 2. WORKING METHODS

CFA follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidelines as appropriate. Recording of all elements will be done following established methods.

The larger portion of the site ground works avoided the construction of new access elements and therefore did not require a watching brief. A walkover survey took place to establish any potential impacts to known sites following the final design of the access routes. The results of the archaeological survey are discussed in Section 3.

A team of Archaeologists visited site from 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016. Table 1 contains a list of potentially sensitive sites of archaeological interest that were visited during this survey.

No sites required to be fenced off and no watching briefs took place.

#### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

#### 3.1 General

The overhead line route passed through a varied landscape. The route passed from upland rough grazing and forestry to improved agricultural land as it travelled southwards.

Table 1 provides a summary of the mitigation requirements and the results of the walkover survey.

None of the sites outlined in Table 1 were disturbed by the ground-works or the taking of access to the towers. The alterations to access routes, track formation and site provision actually reduced the potential impacts upon the greater majority of the known sites.

Figures 2-10 show the alternative accesses employed and the current condition of a selection of these sites.

The only new formation or substantial re-enforcement of the access route in a location close to a known site took place upon an existing forestry track by Site 57. Site 57 was surveyed and it remains undisturbed by these works (see Fig. 9).

Site 51 was likely destroyed by previous forestry works as its location was within the existing plantation and its remains were not found.

Table 1. Summary of mitigation requirements and results

Tower No.	Site No.	Description	Proposed mitigation	Results
YY-07	A	Railway	Ground disturbance works for creating access may uncover part of the dismantled railway. Watching brief.	Not required as no new track was built. No ground disturbance.
YY-11	В	Colliery	Ground disturbance works for creating access may uncover part of the former colliery and associated structures. Watching brief.	Not required as no new track was built. No ground disturbance.
YY-15	С	Farmstead	Accidental damage to standing buildings from plant. Plant to only travel along existing access road through Knockmurran Farm. Contractors to be made aware of the historical importance of the buildings.	Plant movements adhered to those proscribed.
YY-17- 19	17	Roman coin findspot	Higher potential for Roman remains. Watching brief on ground disturbance works in the vicinity of Dalmaca.	Not required as no new track was built. No ground disturbance.
YY-23- 24	D	Railway	Ground disturbance works for creating access may uncover part of the dismantled railway. Watching brief.	Not required as no new track was built. No ground disturbance.
YY-29	10	Road	Existing tower and proposed access track is on top of the historic road.  Watching brief during ground disturbance works; retention or reconstruction of any historic boundary features (ditches, dykes, drystone walls) affected by the works.	Not required as no new track was built. No ground disturbance. No boundary features were affected by the works.
YY-71	43	Farmstead, enclosure	Existing access track to be used. Accidental damage to standing buildings from plant. Demarcate prior to works to ensure remains are protected. Watching brief.	Plant movements adhered to those proscribed. No new track was built. No ground disturbance.
YY-111	1	Bencallen Hill Scheduled Monument	Existing access track to be used. Advise contractors of protected site; no variation in proposed working areas without checking against archaeological baseline.	Alternative access to tower YY-111 from south-west of existing road, under line. Access on steep slope through overgrowth. Surrounding sites undisturbed by works.
YY-121	51	Sheep ree	Location of sheep ree may be to the east of the existing access track but no longer visible. Watching brief.	Site not found. Location is within existing forestry. May have been previously destroyed by plantation works. No new track was built. No ground disturbance.
YY-121	J	Memorial stone	Existing access track to be used in the main.	Access to YY-121 was taken only on foot from established

Tower	Site	Description	Proposed mitigation	Results
No.	No.		Demarcate prior to works to ensure remains are protected.	forestry track. No new track was built. No ground disturbance. Site remains undisturbed.
YY-121	K	Enclosure, building	Existing access track to be used in the main.  Demarcate prior to works to ensure remains are protected.  Watching brief.	Access to YY-121 was taken only on foot from established forestry track. No new track was built. No ground disturbance. Site remains undisturbed.
YY-121- 123	50	Enclosure, rig- and-furrow	Access route crosses over the enclosure wall and close to sheepfold.  Demarcate prior to works to ensure remains are protected.  Watching brief.	Due to presence of trees and watercourse, and ground conditions, this route was not used. Site remains undisturbed.
YY-126	95	Sheep ree	Access track passes close to the sheepfold.  Demarcate prior to works to ensure remains are protected.	Access to YY-126 was taken only on foot from the south of the feature. No new track was built. No ground disturbance. Site remains undisturbed.
YY-140	57	Farmstead	Access track passes close to the structures.  Demarcate prior to works to ensure remains are protected.  Watching brief.	Alternative access taken at edge of field south-west of Little Shalloch. No new track was built. No ground disturbance. Site remains undisturbed.
YY-146	62	Huts, enclosure	Demarcate prior to works to ensure remains are protected. Watching brief.	ATV access route was on the opposite side of the line from this site. No new track was built. No ground disturbance.
YY-146	N	Sheep ree	Demarcate prior to works to ensure remains are protected. Watching brief	ATV access route was from NE. No new track was built. No ground disturbance.

## 3.2 Summary

The landscape from Coylton to Markhill Substation contains a broad sequence of sites of archaeological interest dating from potentially early prehistory to more recent industrial quarrying and agricultural practices.

The larger portion of the features encountered during these mitigation works date to the post-medieval period or later and relate to quarrying, prospecting and land clearance likely related to the grazing of animals and agriculture.

The overhead line upgrade works did not have any negative impacts upon any of the known archaeological sites and all were preserved in situ. The changes to the access track design resulted in the avoidance of any intrusive works on or close to sites of archaeological interest.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

A programme of archaeological mitigation works between Coylton, East Ayrshire, and Markhill Substation, South Ayrshire was carried out. No sites were disturbed by these works.

In line with the WSI, the project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, digital photographs, maps and reports, will be deposited with HES (Historic Environment Scotland) and copies of reports will be lodged with WoSAS.

#### 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

CFA Archaeology Ltd, 2016, YY Overhead Line Upgrade - Coylton to Mark Hill Substation, East and South Ayrshire, Archaeological Mitigation Works, *Written Scheme of Investigation*.

Somerville, J 2014 YY: Coylton to Mark Hill OHL Upgrade. Archaeological Appraisal. RSK Environment Ltd for Iberdrola Engineering and Construction.

# **APPENDIX 1: Digital Photograph Register**

Image No.	Summary description of subject	Taken from
1	View of farm site C	NE
2	View of farm site C and Tower 15, actual access	N
3	YY18 General view of access near site 17	S
4	YY18 General view of access near site 17	S
5	YY19 General view of access	W
6	View towards YY23 showing site D Railway	S
7	View towards YY24 showing site D Railway	N
8	General views of site 57 Farmstead near tower YY140	N
9	General views of site 57 Farmstead near tower YY140	N
10	General view of access to YY111 showing location near site 1	Е
11	Approach to sites J and K	N
12	Site J - Memorial Stone	S
13	Site K - Sheepfold	W
14	Site J memorial stone inscription	S
15	Site K - Sheepfold	W
16	Site K - Sheepfold	S
17	Site 51 location- not found.	S
18	Site 51 location- not found.	Е
19	Site 50 sheepfold	Е
20	Tower YY71 access track	Various
21	Tower YY71 access track	Various
22	Tower YY71 access track	Various
23	Tower YY71 access track	Various
24	Site 43 - Modern use enclosure	NW
25	Site 10 at YY29	NW
26	Site 10 at YY29	SE
27	Site 10 at YY29	SE
28	Site A - not visible at YY7 and YY8	SW
29	Site A - not visible at YY7 and YY8	NE

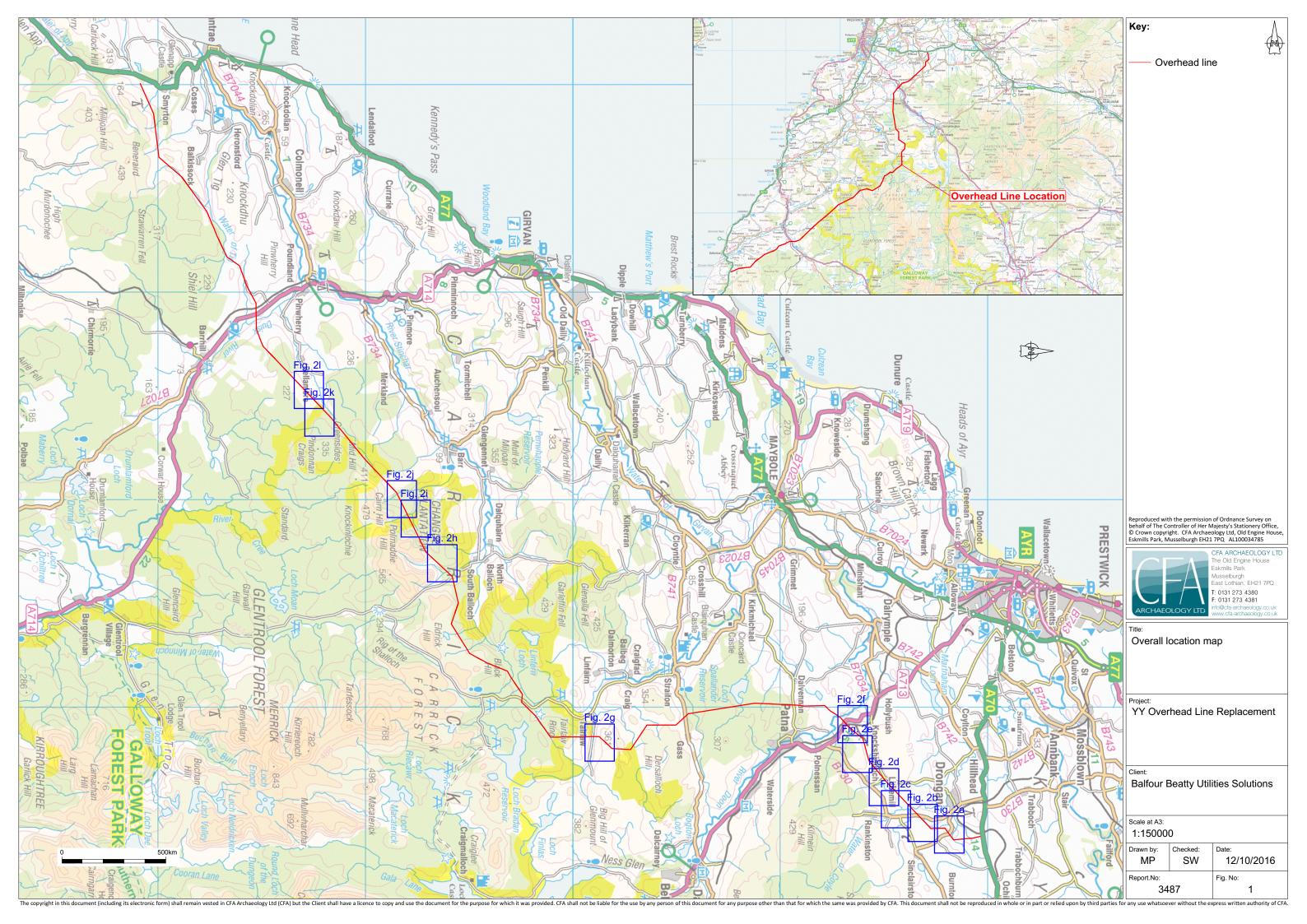
# **APPENDIX 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry**

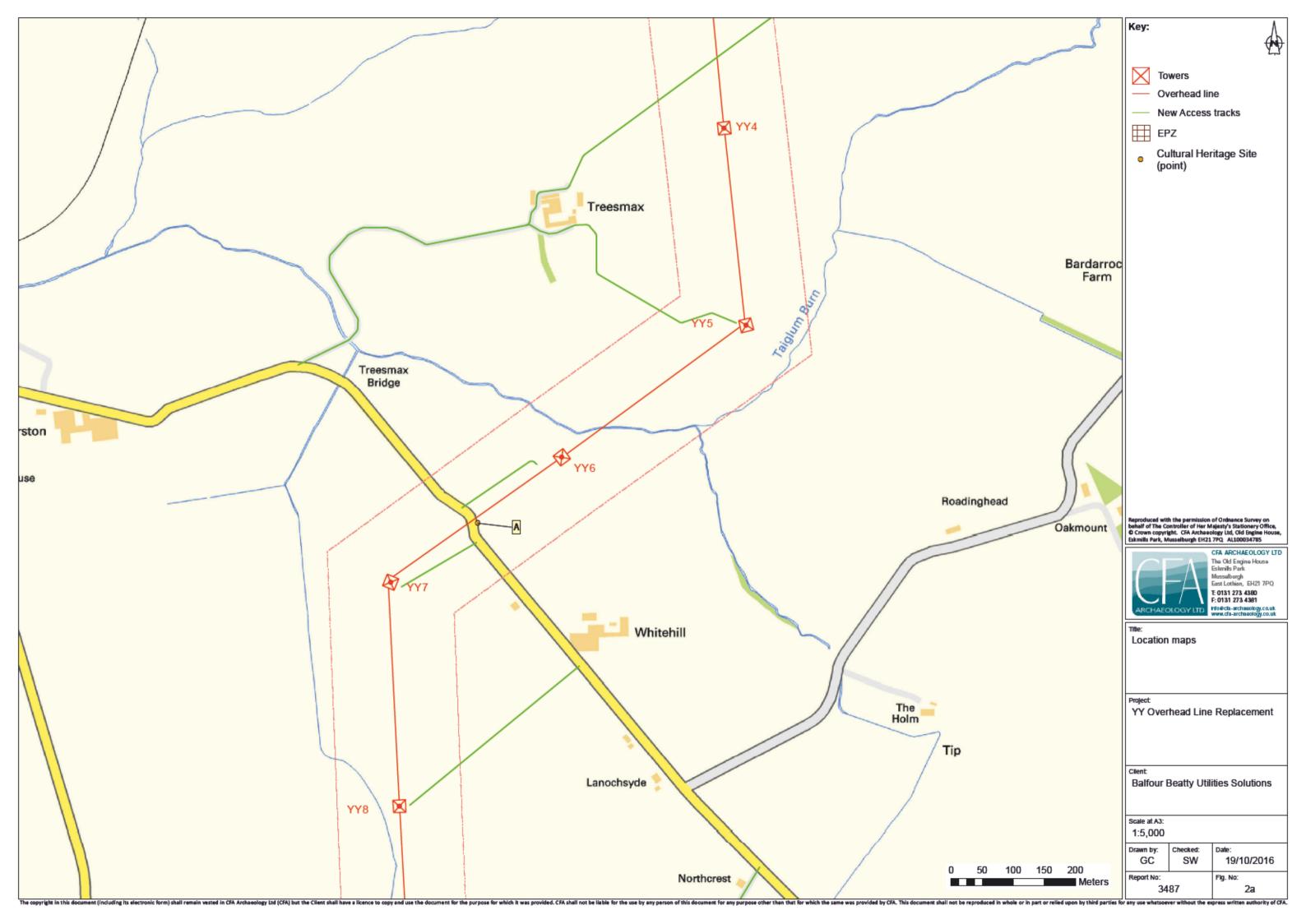
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Ayrshire, South Ayrshire		
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	YY Overhead Line Upgrade - Coylton to Mark Hill Substation		
PROJECT CODE:	ҮҮОН		
PARISH:	Straiton, Dalmellington, Barr, Coylton, Ochiltree		
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Katie Sludden		
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd		
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Survey		
RCAHMS Site No.	-		
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None		
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NS 4621 1963 to NX 2366 8609		
START DATE (this season)	September 2016		
END DATE (this season)	September 2016		
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None		
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Archaeological mitigation works were carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd for an upgrade of a section of overhead power line between the substation at Alwyn Cottage on the A70 to the east of Coylton, East Ayrshire, and Mark Hill Substation, Craigcannochie Hill to the north of Barrhill, South Ayrshire. The overhead line upgrade works did not have any negative impacts upon any of the known archaeological sites and all were preserved in situ. The changes to the access track design resulted in the avoidance of any intrusive works on or close to sites of archaeological interest.		
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None		
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A		
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	: Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions 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)	Historic Environment Scotland (archive) Council Sites and Monuments Record (report)		

## **APPENDIX 3: Gazetteer of new sites**

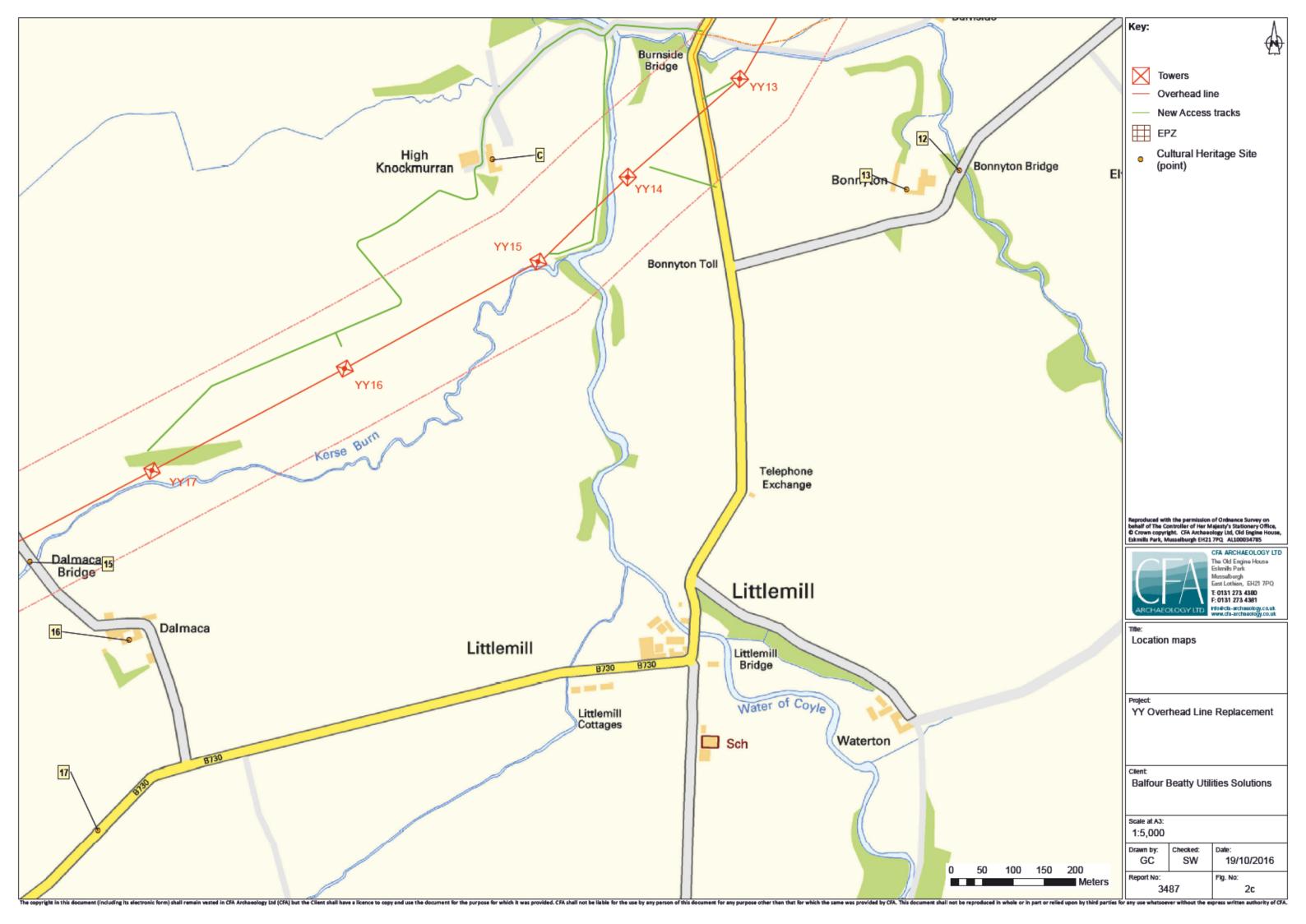
ID	Status	Source	Source ID	Name	Type	Description	Easting	Northing
A	Non-designated	Map		Ayr and	Railway	Ayr and Cumnock Branch of the Glasgow and South Western	245945	618039
	heritage asset	regression		Cumnock Branch		Railway is shown on the 2nd edition OS map crossing over the		
				Railway		B7046 between YY06 and YY08. Visible as a section of dismantled		
						railway on the current OS map to the east.		
В	Non-designated	Map		Drongan Castle	Colliery	Colliery and mineral railway visible on 2nd edition OS map. Spoil	245390	616893
	heritage asset	regression		Colliery		tip still visible on current OS map and satellite imagery.		
C	Non-designated	Map		High	Farmstead	Rectangular building visible on first edition OS map, expanded and	244784	615978
	heritage asset	regression		Knockmurran		additiional building on 2nd edition map. Unroofed on current		
						satellite imagery, forming part of the existing Knockmurran Farm.		
D	Non-designated	Map		Holehouse	Railway	Holehouse Branch of the Glasgow and South Western Railway is	242425	614246
	heritage asset	regression		Branch		shown on the 2nd edition OS map to the south of Kerse Loch.		
						Visible as a section of dismantled railway on the current OS map.		
E	Non-designated	Map		Kilachie Glen	Quarry	Marked as 'Old Quarry (whinstone)' on the 1st edition OS map.	240626	604946
	heritage asset	regression						
F	Non-designated	Map		Kilachie Glen	Quarry	Marked as 'Old Quarry (whinstone)' on the 1st edition OS map.	240620	604847
	heritage asset	regression						
G	Non-designated	Map		Tairlaw	Building	Small building marked 'Tairlaw T.P (in ruins)' on the 1st edition OS	239624	597619
	heritage asset	regression				map. Located adjacent to a footpath.		
Н	Non-designated	Map		Loch Burn	Footbridge	Foot bridge shown on the 1st edition OS map.	236489	594431
	heritage asset	regression						
I	Non-designated	Map		Aldinna Burn	Sheep ree	Rectangular sheep ree and enclosure shown on 1st and 2nd edition	235577	594422
	heritage asset	regression				OS map.		
J	Non-designated	Map		Laggan Burn	Memorial stone	(mentioned under site 51) An enclosure containing a memorial stone	231022	592185
	heritage asset	regression				is marked on the current OS map, to the west of tower YY121. It is		
	27 1 1 1					unclear what the stone is memorialising.	22102=	700001
K	Non-designated	Map .		Laggan Burn	Enclosure,	A large enclosure with a small structure attached to its eastern side is	231037	592224
	heritage asset	regression			building	depicted between the Lead Mine Burn and the Mid Hill Burn on the		
						2nd edition OS map. The structure is visible to the north of tower		
_	NT 1 1 1 1	3.6		D 1	C1	YY121 on current aerial imagery and on current OS mapping.	220075	501055
L	Non-designated	Map .		Darley	Sheep ree	Circular ree depicted on the 2nd edition OS map and visible on	229877	591857
3.6	heritage asset	regression		3 6' 1 77'11	G1	current aerial imagery.	227466	500.62.4
M	Non-designated	Map		Mid Hill	Sheep ree	Circular ree depicted on the 2nd edition OS map and visible on	227469	589634

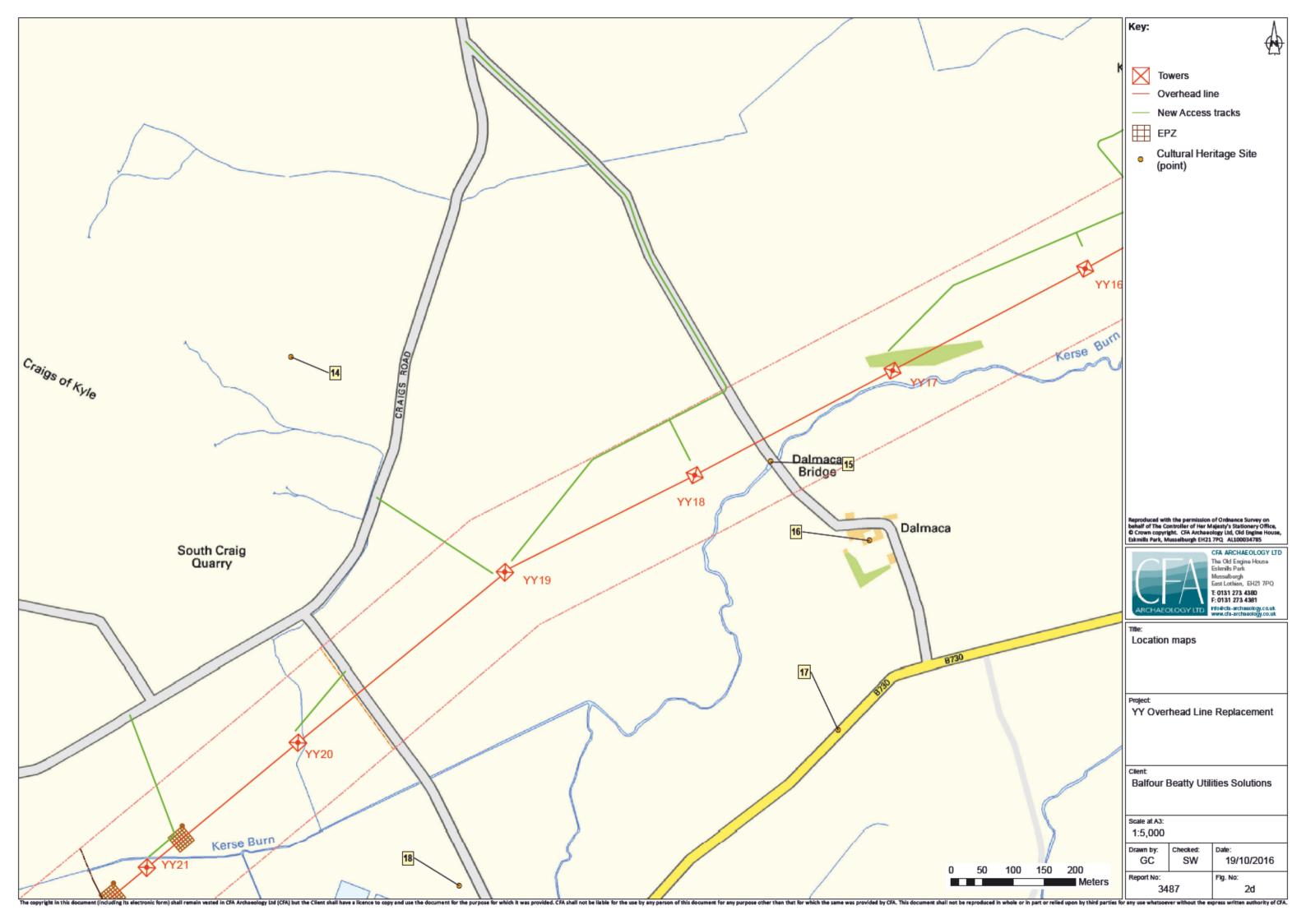
I	D	Status	Source	<b>Source ID</b>	Name	Type	Description	Easting	Northing
		heritage asset	regression				current aerial imagery.		
1	7	Non-designated	Map		Garleffin Hill	Sheep ree	Small enclosure visible on current aerial imagery and current OS	224752	587082
		heritage asset	regression				map.		







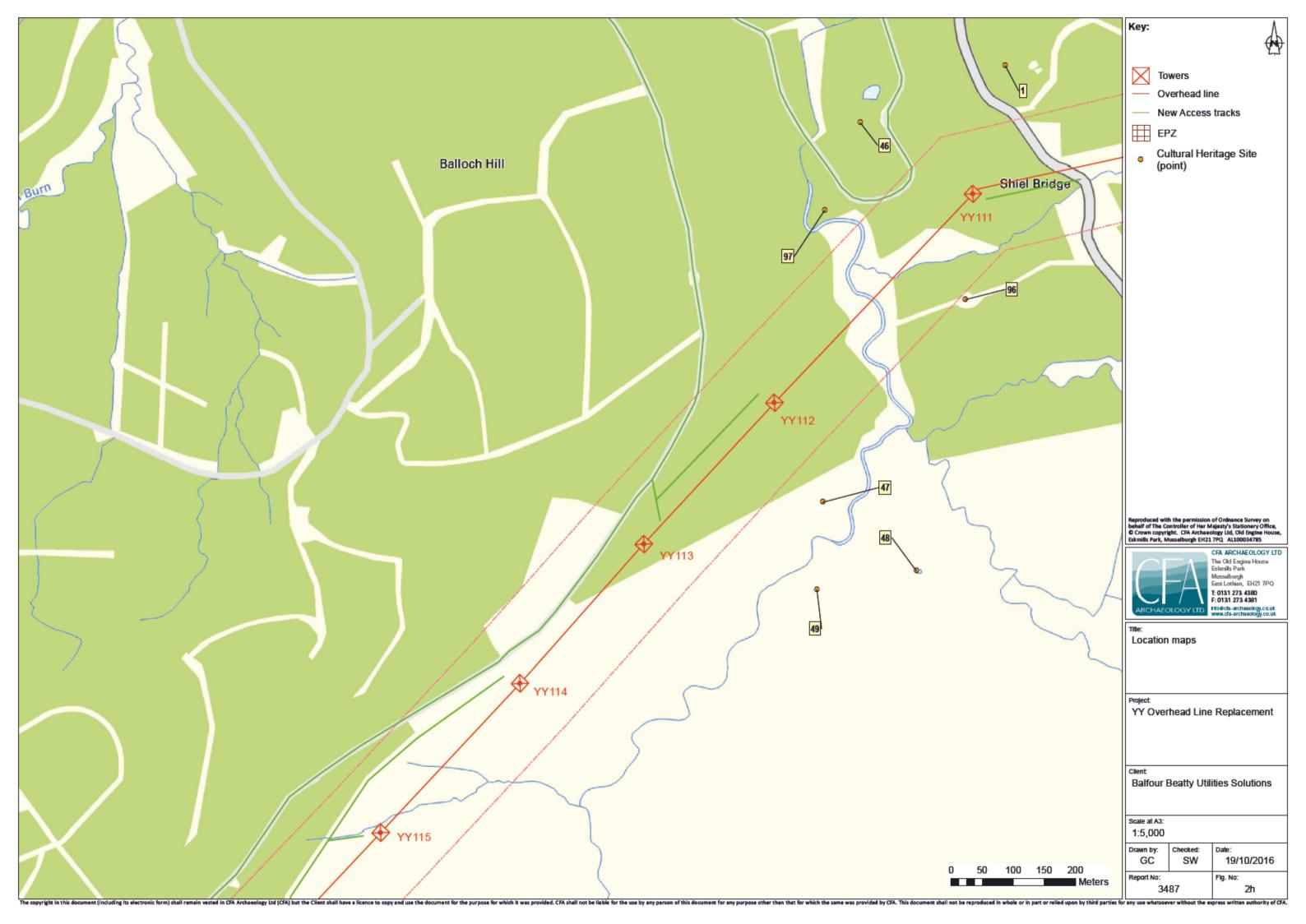


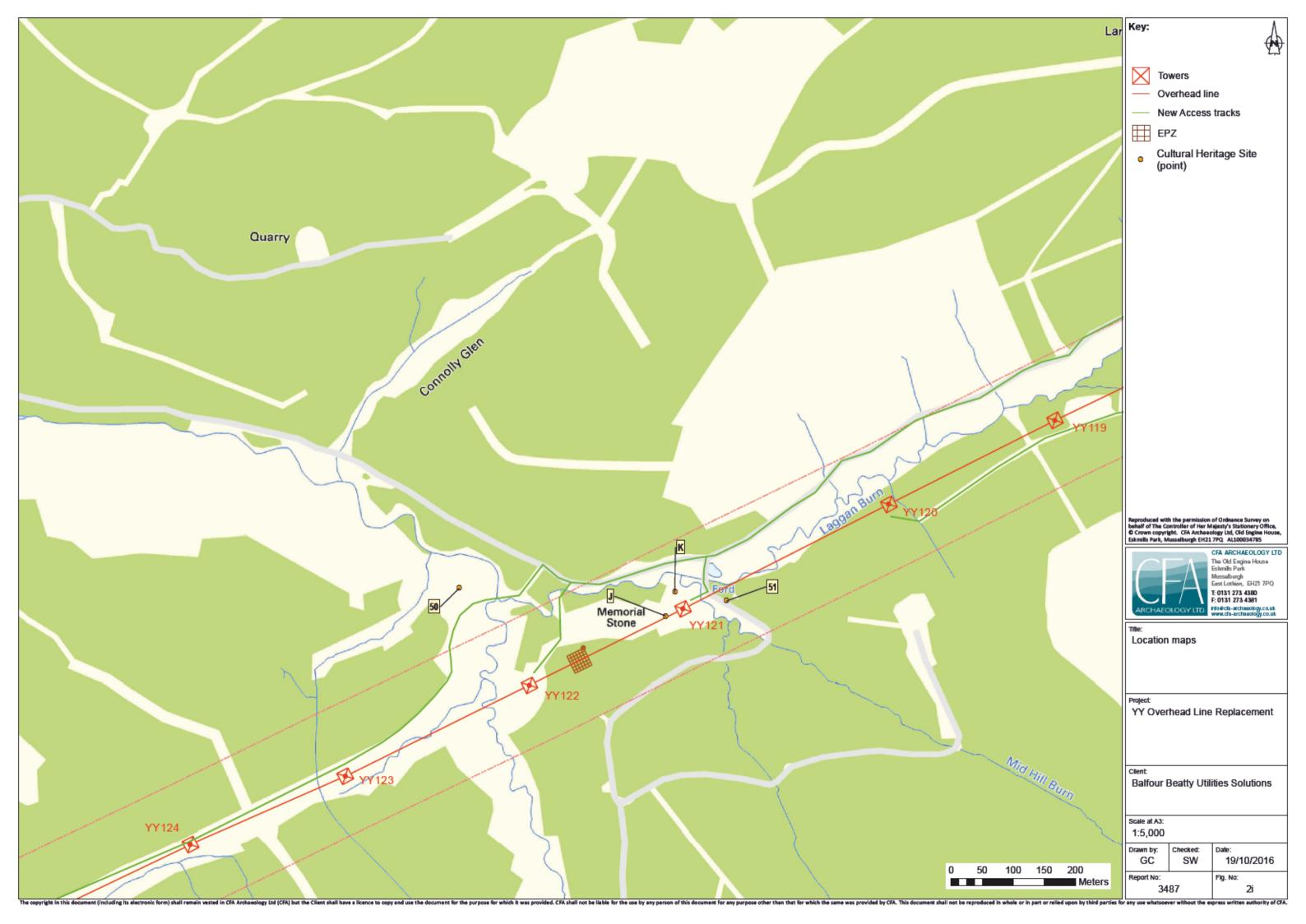


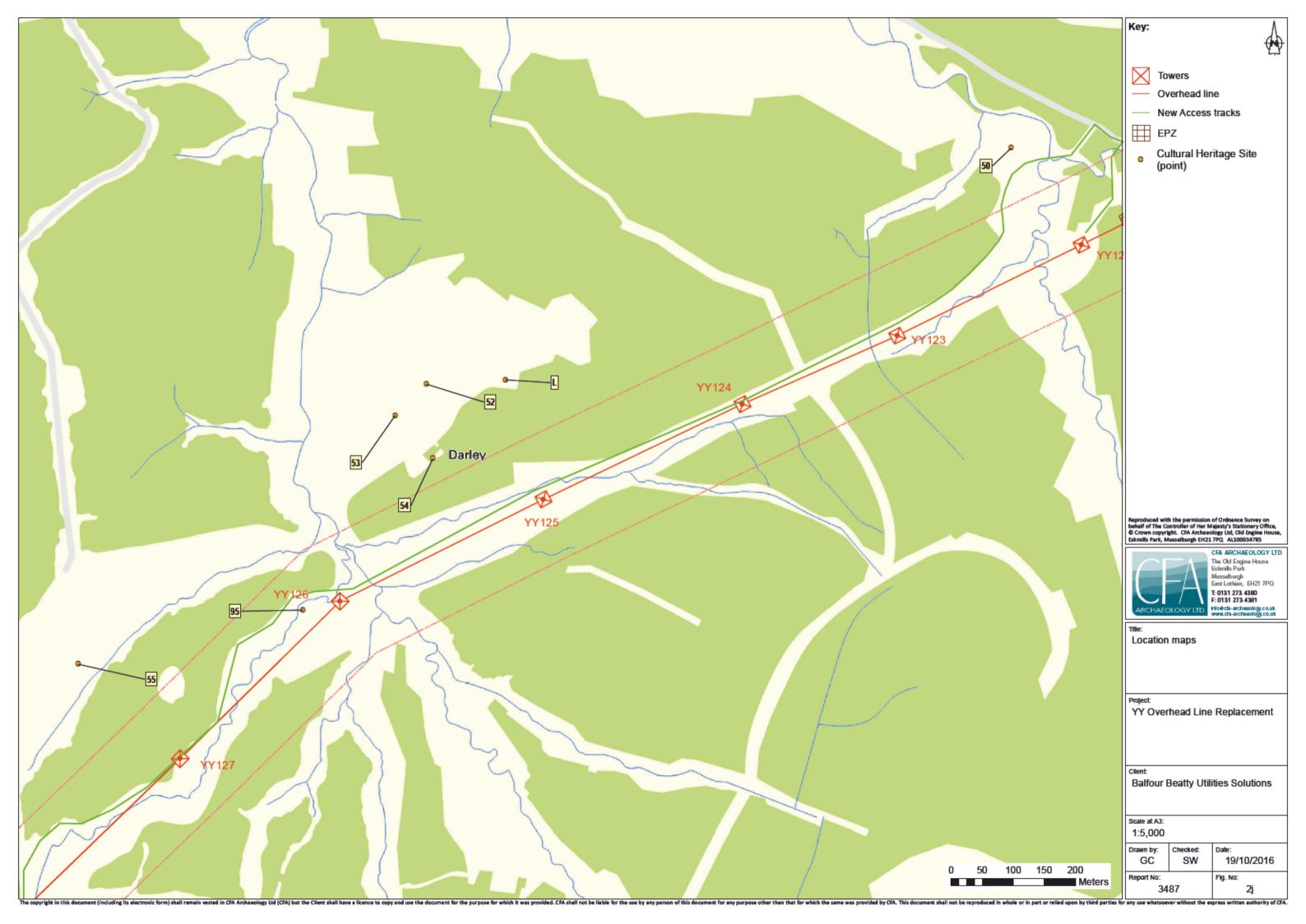














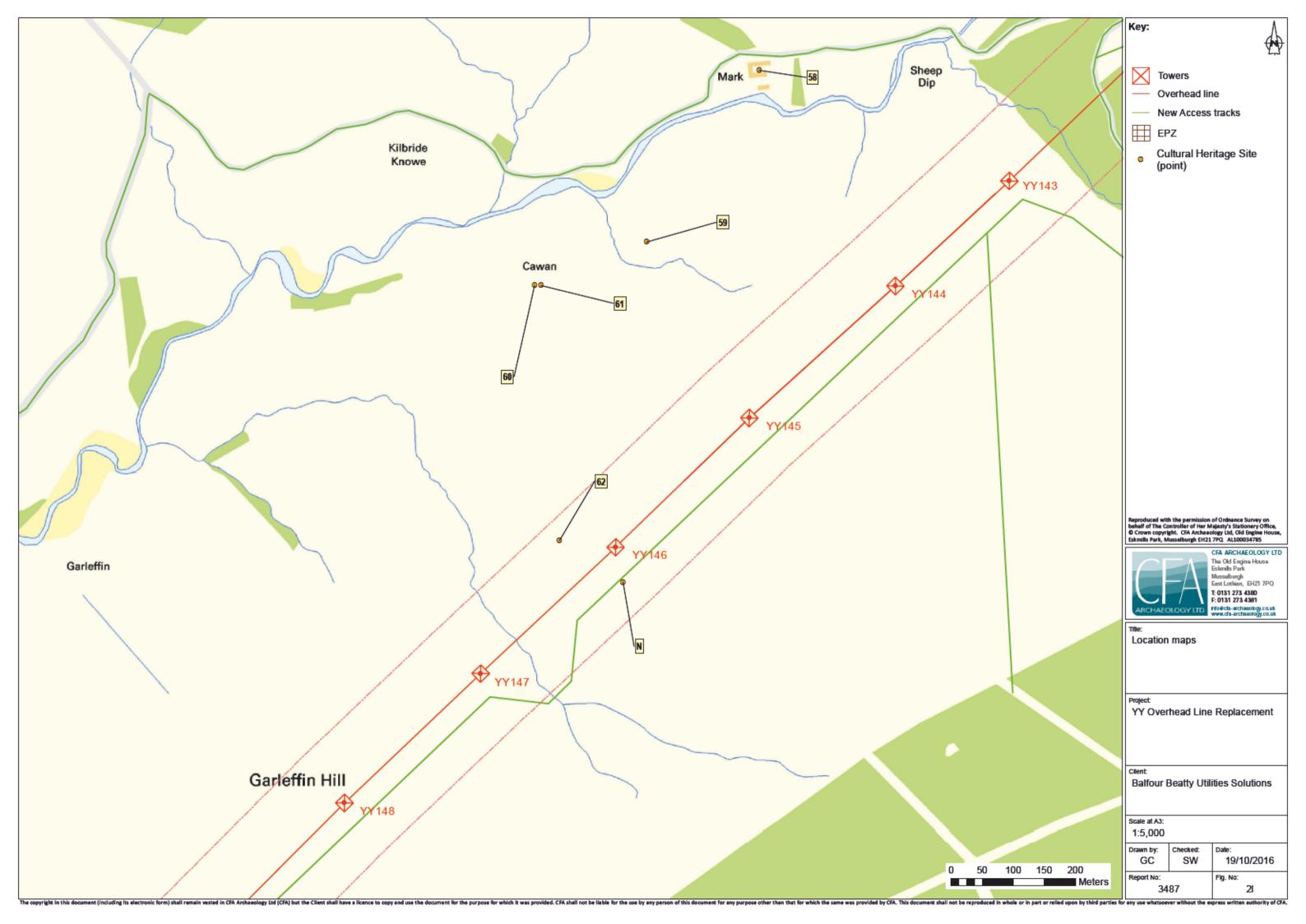




Fig. 3 - Location of Site A - Railway - not visible at YY7 and YY8, looking south-west



Fig. 4 - View of access avoiding Site C - Farmstead, looking south



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Fig. 5 - General view over Site D - Railway, looking north



Fig. 6 - Tower access over existing farmers trackway to YY71



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Fig. 7 - Location of site 51 - forestry cover



Fig. 8 - Site J memorial stone inscription



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Fig. 9 - General view over site 57 - Farmstead



Fig. 10 - Alternative access to YY111 through overgrowth avoiding several sites



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