

CFA Archaeology Ltd

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Advice on Archaeology & Planning

Environmental Impact Assessment

Intpretation, Design & Display

Finds/ Environmental Analysis

Field Evaluation & Excavation

Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

Brunta Hill Meteorological Mast, Westruther, Scottish Borders


Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 1698

 0131 273 4380

 0131 273 4381

 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

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 | Ian Suddaby MA FSA Scot MifA |
| Illustrator | Leeanne Whitelaw BSc MAAIS |
| Editor | Melanie Johnson MA PhD FSA Scot |
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**Brunta Hill Meteorological Mast,
Westruther,
Scottish Borders**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in October 2009 on the site of a Meteorological Mast at Brunta Hill, Raecleugh Farm, Westruther, Scottish Borders (Fig. 1, NGR: NT 605 522 centred). The work was commissioned by Atmos Consulting Ltd.

1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 12 October 2009 for this watching brief was produced by CFA on behalf of Atmos Consulting Ltd. The WSI was based on information supplied by Atmos Consulting Ltd and Chillwind Ltd, the erecting contractors. It was designed to meet the requirements of the Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 Atmos Consulting have received permission to erect a Meteorological Mast at Bruta Hill. A condition for an archaeological watching brief on ground breaking work has been secured against the permission. The site of the mast is shown as a red dot on Figure 1.

1.3 Objectives

1.3.1 The objectives of the project were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Watching Brief) to monitor the excavation of the 5 anchor holes and any other groundbreaking 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 The excavation of the anchor holes was carried out using a wheeled back-acting JCB excavator equipped with a toothed bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. The topsoil was removed first and the exposed subsoil surface inspected prior to the excavation of subsoil.
- 2.2 The stratification of the five excavated anchor points was recorded even where no archaeological deposits were identified.
- 2.3 All on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, in this case by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 3.1 The mast was situated above the level of the improved fields on a broad ridge (Brunta Hill) to the south-west of Flass Hill at an altitude of 350m OD (Fig. 2). There are panoramic views in a wide arc from the north-west to the east. The land-use on the Met Mast site consists of rough grassland with patches of heather and reeds. Exposures of bedrock protrude in places through the surface vegetation.
- 3.2 Five anchor pits were excavated. Each of these anchor pits had surface dimensions of 1.5m by 0.5m. The depth varied according to the type of subsoil encountered, with most being 1.5m deep.
- 3.3 The topsoil consisted of a dark grey silt under areas of grass, with a dark brown or black silty peat being present under areas of heather. The depth of the topsoil was between 0.2m and 0.25m and it overlay a natural 'B' horizon with a depth of 0.1m. The natural subsoil consisted of a variable depth of mustard-yellow sandy silt and stones, overlying fractured greywacke bedrock. A typical anchor pit and the materials encountered during the excavation is shown in Fig. 3.
- 3.4 No archaeological features or deposits were identified within any of the five anchor pits and no finds were recovered.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 A watching brief was carried out at Brunta Hill, Westruther during the excavation of five anchor pits to hold the supports for a Meteorological Mast. No features were identified and no finds were recovered.
- 4.2 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.3 Summary statements of this work will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2) and for inclusion on the OASIS website.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital

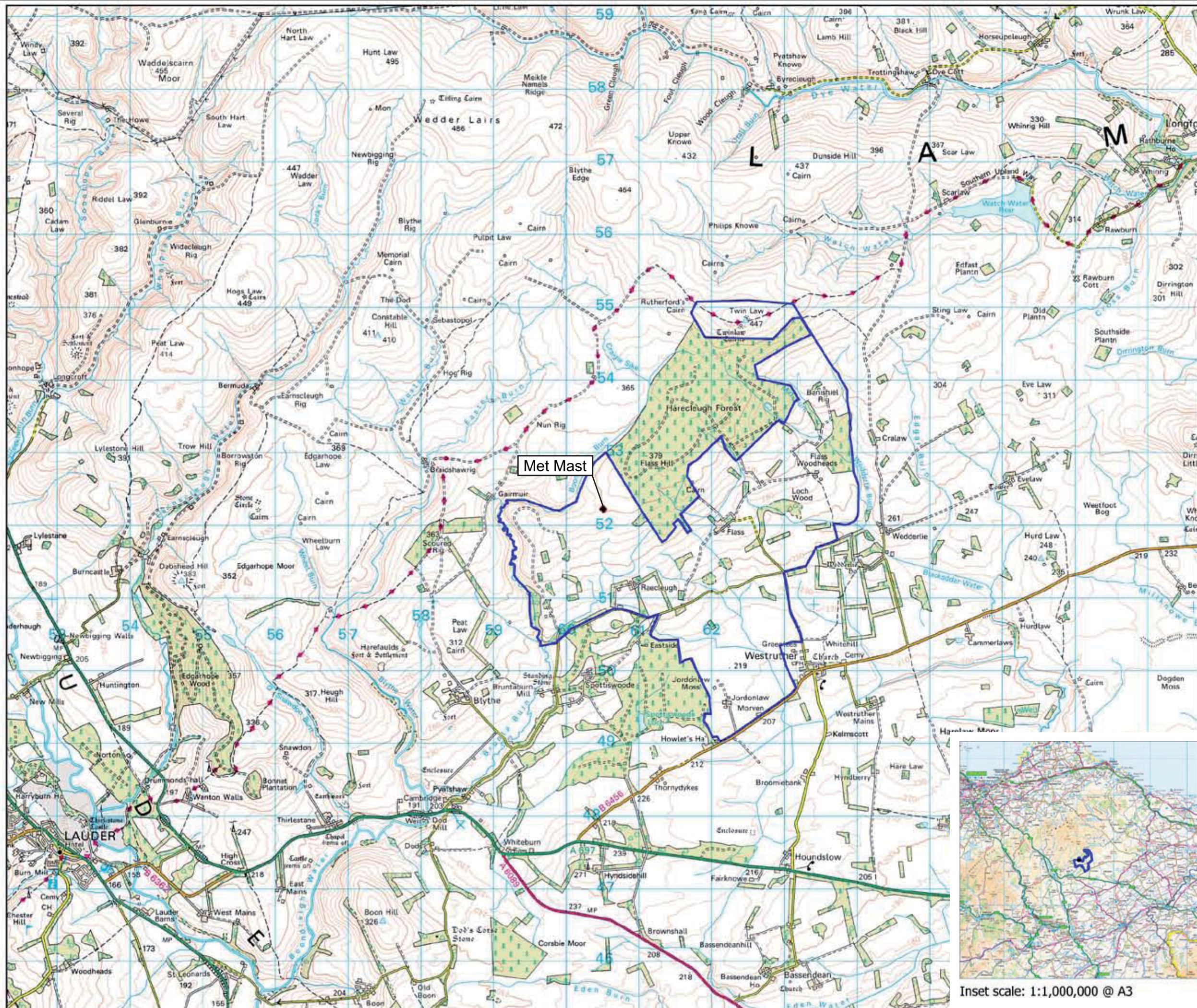
| Shot | Description | From | Conditions |
|-------|--|-------|------------|
| 1-2 | General & close-up views of the site from the A697/B6456 junction | South | Overcast |
| 3-7 | General views of and from the Met Mast site NW to E | --- | Overcast |
| 8-9 | General views of the Met-Mast site | East | Overcast |
| 10 | Anchor-Pit 1 at NT 60561 52169 pre-ex | East | Overcast |
| 11 | Anchor-Pit 2 at NT 60515 52149 pre-ex | SSW | Overcast |
| 12 | Anchor-Pit 3 at NT 60495 52193 pre-ex | NW | Overcast |
| 13 | Anchor-Pit 4 at NT 60540 52215 pre-ex | SW | Overcast |
| 14 | Anchor-Pit 3 general view with topsoil removed | South | Overcast |
| 15 | Anchor-Pit 3 close-up of section | SE | Overcast |
| 16 | Anchor-Pit 2 general view with topsoil removed | SE | Overcast |
| 17 | Anchor-Pit 2 close-up of section | East | Overcast |
| 18-19 | Working shots of TP2 with wood base in trench and support rod protruding | | Overcast |
| 20 | Anchor-Pit 1 general view with topsoil removed | North | Hazy Sun |
| 21 | Anchor-Pit 1 close-up of section | NE | Bright |
| 22 | Lifting Anchor Pit at NT 60548 52173 pre-ex | NNE | Bright |
| 23 | Lifting Anchor Pit general view with topsoil removed | NNE | Bright |
| 24 | Lifting Anchor Pit section | NNW | Bright |
| 25 | Working Shot | | |
| 26 | Anchor-Pit 4 general view with topsoil removed | West | Overcast |
| 27 | Anchor-Pit 4 close-up of section | SW | Overcast |
| 28 | Wooden Mounting Block with rod attached | | |
| 29-30 | Wooden Mounting Block with rod attached entering Lifting Anchor Test-Pit | NW | Overcast |
| 31-32 | Met Mast & Gin Pole during assembly | | Overcast |

APPENDIX 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

| | |
|---|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | Scottish Borders Council |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | Brunta Hill Meteorological Mast, Westruther, Scottish Borders |
| PROJECT CODE: | BILL |
| PARISH: | Westruther |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Ian Suddaby |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | CFA Archaeology Ltd |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Archaeological Watching Brief |
| NMRS NO(S): | N/A |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | N/A |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | None |
| NGR | NT 605 522 centred |
| START DATE (this season) | October 2009 |
| END DATE (this season) | October 2009 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.) | N/A |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of five anchor pits to enable the erection of a Met Mast on Brunta Hill, 1km to the north of Raecleugh Farm, Westruther. No features were identified and no finds recovered |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | N/A |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | N/A |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Atmos Consulting 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 Record of Scotland Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record |



- Key:
- Landownership boundary
 - Indicative met mast and guy ropes
 - Application boundary
 - Limit of guy wires if alternate alignment is used



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 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

Fig. No: 1 Revision: A

Title: Site Location Map

Project: Brunta Hill Meteorological Mast
 Westruther, Scottish Borders
 Archaeological Watching Brief

Scale: 1:50,000 @ A3

Client: Atmos Consulting Ltd


Drawn by: LW Report No: 1698



Fig. 2 - The site of the Met Mast on grassy moorland above the improved fields



Fig. 3 - A typical anchor hole with the anchor stay in place. Thin topsoil and subsoil overlies bedrock.

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|--|-----------|---|------------|----------------------|--|
| Key: | Fig. No: | 2-3 | Revision: | A | Client: | Atmos Consulting Ltd |  <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD</p> <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ</p> <p>t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p> |
| | Title: | | | | | | |
| | Project: | Brunta Hill Meteorological Mast, Westruther, Scottish Borders Archaeological Watching Brief | | | | | |
| Drawn by: | LW | Page No: | | | Report No: | 1698 | |