

# Burn of Whilk Wind Farm Borrow Pit 1:

## Archaeological Works

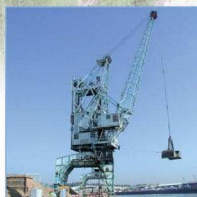
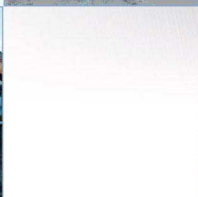
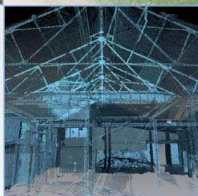
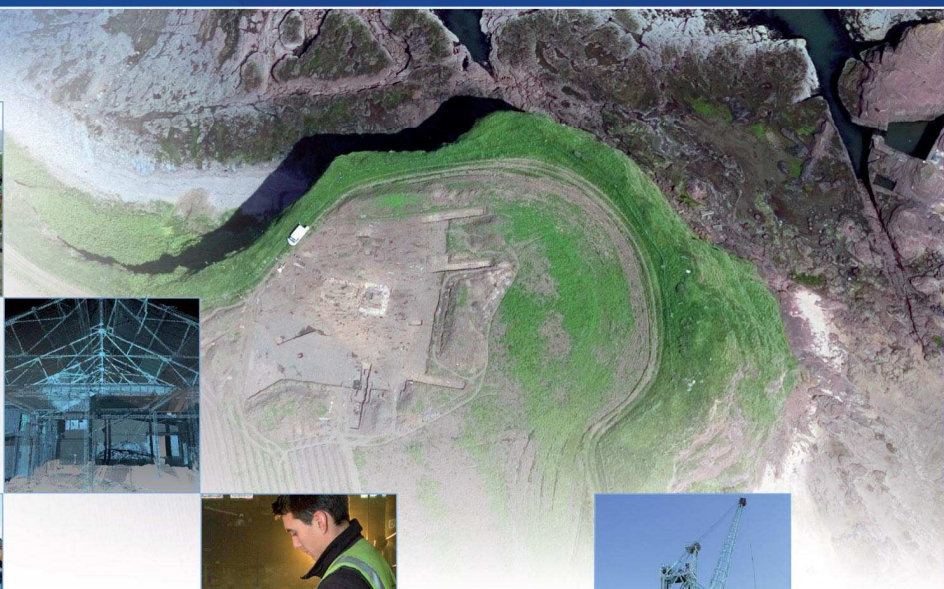
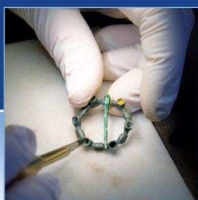
### Draft Data Structure Report

*Planning Ref: 12/01242/FUL - Condition 9: Archaeology*

Oasis No. 1-154552

AOC Project 21691

25<sup>th</sup> June 2013



# **Burn of Whilk Borrow Pit 1**

## **Archaeological Works Data Structure Report**

---

**On Behalf of:** RWE Npower Renewables Ltd

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** ND 3000 3820

**AOC Project No:** 21691

**Prepared by:** Rob Engl

**Illustration by:** Kevin Paton

**Date of Fieldwork:** 17<sup>th</sup> June 2013 – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2013

**Date of Report:** 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013

**This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.**

**Author:** Rob Engl

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013

**Approved by:** Martin Cook

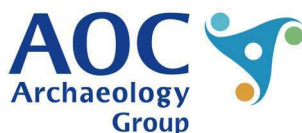
**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013

**Draft Report Stage:**

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> July 2013

**Enquiries to:** AOC Archaeology Group  
Edgefield Industrial Estate  
Edgefield Road  
Loanhead  
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593  
Fax. 0131 440 3422  
e-mail. [admin@aocarchaeology.com](mailto:admin@aocarchaeology.com)



[www.aocarchaeology.com](http://www.aocarchaeology.com)

---

## Contents

	Page
List of illustrations .....	3
List of plates .....	3
List of appendices .....	3
Abstract.....	4
<b>1 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 Background.....	5
1.2 Location .....	6
1.3 Application proposal .....	6
1.4 Archaeological background .....	6
<b>2 OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK &amp; METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1 Introduction .....	5
3.2 Stage 1b: Demarcation of known Archaeological Sites.....	6
3.3 Stage 2: Detailed Survey and/or Evaluation Slot Trench Excavation.....	6
3.4 Stage 3: Photography of area of the Former Lybster-Wick Railway Line and Mid-Clyth Station .....	6
3.5 Monitored Topsoil Strip .....	6
<b>4 RESULTS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
4.1 Introduction .....	5
4.2 Building Platform, [Structure 38].....	6
4.3 Building Platform, [Structure 39].....	6
<b>5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>6 BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record (Former Lybster-Wick railway line and Mid Clyth Station) .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: Evaluation Photographic Record .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3: Context Record .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>APPENDIX 4: Drawing Record .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>APPENDIX 5: Small Finds Register .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>APPENDIX 6: ‘Discovery and Excavation in Scotland’ Report.....</b>	<b>22</b>

## List of illustrations

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Evaluation Location Plan Structure 38
Figure 3	Evaluation Location Plan Structure 39
Figure 4	Plans & Sections Structure 38
Figure 5	Plan & Section Structure 39

## List of plates

Plate 1	Wall [3810] and associated flag flooring [3809] from south
Plate 2	Cache of leather shoes found within the demolition layer above floor [3808]
Plate 3	The fire-place [3905] taken from the west. Site 39
Plate 4	The 'Grinding Room' showing <i>in-situ</i> rotary quern

## List of appendices

Appendix 1	Photographic Record (Former Lybster-Wick Railway)
Appendix 2	Photographic Record (Evaluation)
Appendix 3	Context Descriptions
Appendix 4	Drawing Register
Appendix 5	Small Finds Register
Appendix 6	' <i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland</i> ' Report

## Abstract

---

AOC Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological works in respect of conditions imposed on planning consent (App Ref: 12/01242/FUL) for a Borrow Pit (Pit 1) associated with the Burn of Whilk Wind Farm development. The works consisted of the demarcation of known sites within the development area, a photographic record of the now disused Mid Clyth to Lybster rail line and the archaeological evaluation of two probable 19<sup>th</sup> century building platforms.

The evaluation revealed substantial structural remains associated with the two building platforms (Sites 38 & 39) identified within the Desk-Based Assessment (AOC 2012). Several turf and stone walls and flagged floor surfaces were revealed delineating internal divisions. Other structural components included a stone fire-place and rotary quern support structure.

Small finds included a cache of leather shoes and substantial 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century ceramics.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works was required by RWE Npower Renewables Ltd in respect of conditions imposed on planning consent (App Ref: 12/01242/FUL) for a Borrow Pit (Pit 1) associated with the Burn of Whilk wind farm development. The proposed development lies within the administrative area of The Highland Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Highland Council Historic Environment Team (HCHET). The scope of the archaeological works were specified by HCHET in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which were present within the development area.

1.1.2 The various stages of archaeological works were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2012). The current works include:

Stage 1a: agreement of the WSI;

Stage 1b: the demarcation of known archaeological remains contiguous to working areas for the duration of borrow pit and associated access tracks working life;

Stage 1c: the undertaking of a walkover survey (post tree-felling) within ground impacted upon by the borrow pit and access tracks;

Stage 2: should archaeological features/sites be discovered by the walkover survey (prior to start of contractors groundworks) that cannot be preserved *in situ* by the development proposals, the undertaking of detailed survey and/or slot trench evaluation excavation.

Stage 3: the photographic recording of areas of the former Lybster-Wick railway line and Mid Clyth Station that will be impacted upon by the borrow pit's access track;

Stage 4: a monitored topsoil strip on site groundworks and excavation of archaeological features where preservation *in situ* proves infeasible;

Reporting the provision of a HCHET *Basic Report(s)* detailing the findings of the above phases.

Stage 5: should significant archaeological features, artefacts and samples be unearthed there may be the need for further phases of work including post-excavation works. An addendum (Post Excavation Research Design) would be prepared in these circumstances. The need for, and scale of, such further phases would be determined by WYG in consultation with HCHET.

1.1.3 The evaluation (Stage 2) revealed substantial structural remains associated with the two building platforms (Sites 38 & 39) identified within the Desk-Based Assessment (AOC 2012). Several turf and stone walls and flagged floor surfaces were revealed delineating internal divisions. Other structural components included a stone fire-place and rotary quern support structure. Small finds included a cache of leather shoes and substantial 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century ceramics.



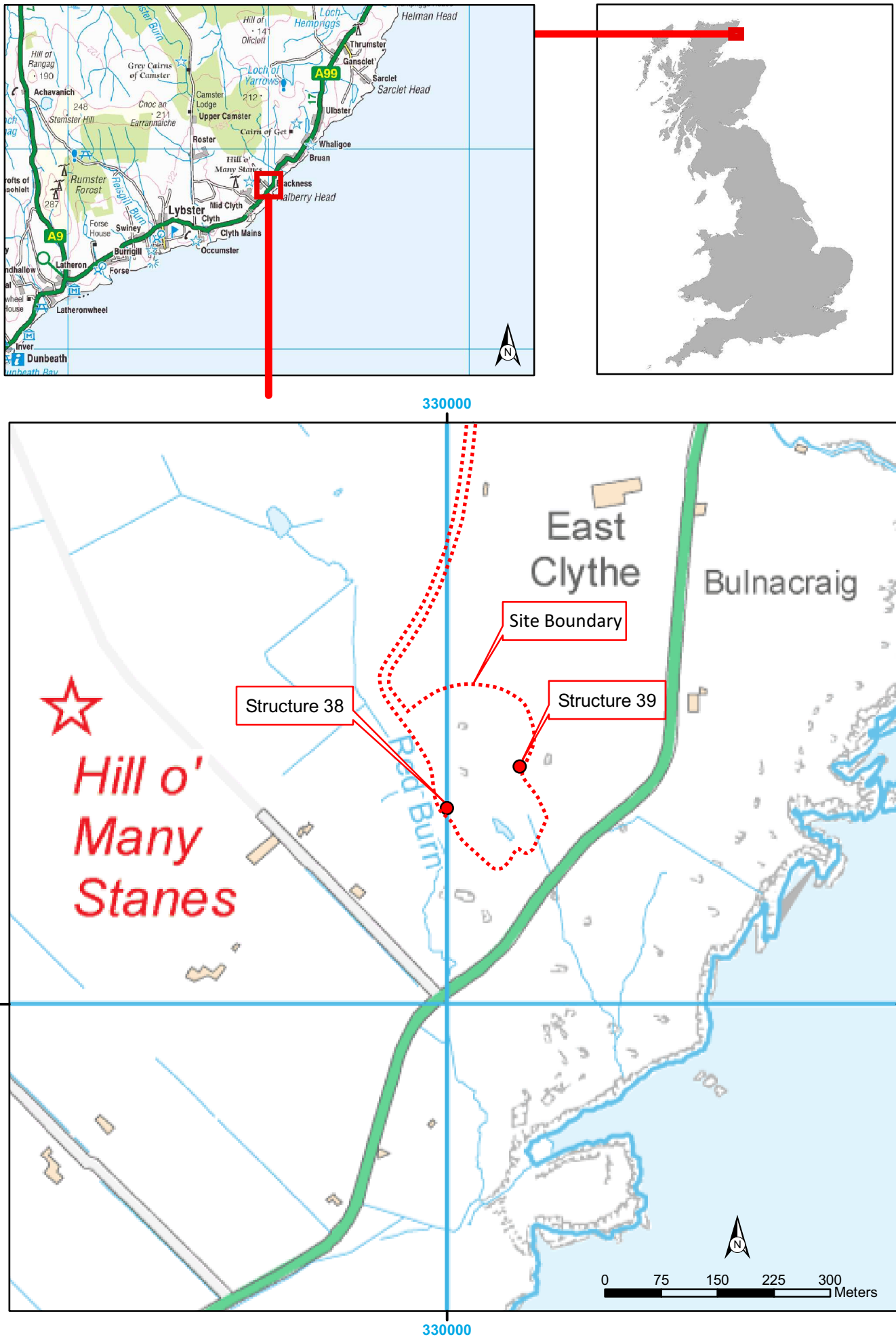


Figure 1: Site location plan showing site boundary

## 1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The development area is located on land 220 m north-east of the Community Hall, Mid Clyth, Lybster. The borrow pit is centred on National Grid Reference ND 3000 3820 with a dog leg shaped access route extending for 300 m to the north along the former line of the Lybster-Wick railway finishing at ND 3000 3860 (Figure 1).

## 1.3 Application proposal

- 1.3.1 The application is for the creation of a borrow pit for the extraction of aggregates on an existing disused quarry site and construction of adjoining access tracks. These works are associated with the adjoining wind farm development (App Ref: 06/00676/FULCA).

## 1.4 Archaeological background

- 1.4.1 An earlier cultural heritage assessment of the area of the proposed Borrow Pit 1 by AOC Archaeology Group has demonstrated that the proposed development is located on the periphery of a rich prehistoric landscape (Section 5.2 AOC 2012). The following should be read in conjunction with the Desk-Based Assessment prepared in February 2012.
- 1.4.2 The proposed location of Borrow Pit 1 is bound to the west by the Red Burn and to the north-west by the disused Lybster to Wick railway line. From here the land rises to a low ridge then falls away towards the A99 coastal road which constitutes the south-western boundary. The north-eastern boundary comprises a 19<sup>th</sup> century dry-stone wall that separates the unimproved land of the site from the adjacent improved pasture. The vegetation cover varies and includes areas of soft rush, coarse grasses, close-cropped heather moor and gorse scrub. The bedrock comprises roughly horizontally bedded middle old red sandstones that outcrop on the ridge crest. Six distinct extant features (Features 38,39,42,43,44&45) were evident above the ground surface in positions which correlated with the two crofts recorded on the 1877 Ordnance Survey (AOC 2012, Appendix 2, Figure 1).
- 1.4.3 More specifically, the earthwork remains of a post-medieval crofting settlement were identified within the northern portion of proposed Borrow Pit 1 during the walkover survey. These remains, which include two building platforms, correlate with buildings shown on the 1877 Ordnance Survey Map. Component elements of the site include;
- **Site 42:** (ND 3000 3833) comprises an area which appears on aerial photographs to be narrow rig and furrow cultivation orientated NW / SE. The area is now waterlogged and has been heavily colonised by soft rush. Only one rig was identifiable at ground level (Appendix 2, Photo 1) and then only on the grounds of vegetational variation.
  - **Site 43** (ND 2997 3826 to ND 3010 3834) comprises a ditch and turf and stone bank boundary. It is well defined towards the west becoming less so towards the east, where it eventually passes under the later dry-stone wall (AOC 2012, Appendix 2, Photos 2 and 3). The 1st edition OS map suggest that the boundary may date to the early improvement period originally enclosing improved land that was later abandoned; an apparent entrance piercing the boundary was noted (AOC 2012, Appendix 2, Photo 4).
  - **Site 38 Feature 3** (ND 3000 3823) (AOC 2012, Appendix 2, Figure 2) comprises a probable dwelling adjacent to a short section of turf and stone boundary (AOC 2012, Appendix 2, Photos 5 and 6). The rectangular building, measuring circa 14 m long by



circa 4 m wide, is divided by a curious double wall feature which may have served as a storage or concealment area (Appendix 2, Photo 7). A small circular feature appeared to have been built into the south corner of the building. It had the appearance of a small corn drying kiln having an external flue (AOC 2012, Appendix 2, Photo 8). The south-western wall of the building was poorly defined and it was not possible to detect an entrance. The building is depicted as roofed on the 1st edition OS map; there is no evidence for gable chimneys; it is concluded that the building probably dates to the late 18th or early 19th centuries. No evidence for accompanying structures were noted.

- **Site 39** (ND 3010 3828) comprises a small rectangular building circa 11 m long by circa 5 m wide. A small extension or build platform was noted extending from the SE gable (AOC 2012, Appendix 2, Figure 3) (Appendix 2, Photos 9 and 10). The building is depicted as roofed on the 1st edition OS map; there is no evidence for gable chimneys. This building was thought to be later than that recorded at Feature 3 and probably dates to the mid 19th century.
- **Site 44** (ND 3013 3814 to ND3010 3822) comprises a ditch and bank boundary partially enclosing an area of relict rig and furrow visible on aerial photographs but not at ground level. The boundary is still well defined but currently obscured by dense gorse scrub and consequently could not be photographed.
- **Site 45** (ND 33010 3829 to ND 3015 3828) comprises a vestigial turf and stone boundary that pre-dates the dry-stone wall that constitutes the northeast extremity of the proposed borrow pit (AOC 2012, Appendix 2, Photos 11 and 12).
- **Site 37** (ND 3007 3823) comprises a flagstone quarry not depicted on the 1st edition OS map and in consequence post-dating the survey date of 1871 (AOC 2012, Appendix 2, Photo 13).

1.4.4 The Lybster to Wick Railway (**Site 6**), opened at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is shown north of Borrow Pit 1 on the map, with a station at Mid Clyth (**Site 41**).

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any inadvertent adverse physical impact by the development during the monitored topsoil strip;
- ii) should significant archaeological features, deposits or artefactual material be discovered, which cannot be preserved *in situ* by the development proposals, to prepare a mitigation strategy compliant with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011);
- iii) to report on the results of the above works.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK & METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

- 3.1.1 The details of the archaeological works undertaken at the present time (site demarcation, evaluation & photo record) as laid out below, are designed to meet the requirements (Condition 9) of The Highland Council as advised by HCHET. The methodologies and rationale for these stages are presented below.
- 3.1.2 The requirements of the development are such that the individual stages set out in the WSI (AOC 2012) were not undertaken in a simple linear progression.

#### **3.2 Stage 1b: Demarcation of known Archaeological Sites**

- 3.2.1 To prevent inadvertent damage to known remains during the construction process, all known archaeological and cultural heritage sites contiguous (within 100 m) to working areas were fenced off in advance of and during construction to secure their long term protection. However, these works would exclude the demarcation of indefinable/intangible sites such as findspots. Prior to the commencement of wind farm construction works AOC Archaeology located and erected temporary markers (red & white tape mounted on road pins) demarcating these sites within a surrounding 10 m wide 'buffer' cordon. Shortly thereafter the main contractor will erect wooden fence posts (painted red and white or wrapped in red and white hazard tape) at the corners of these areas. A light wire will be stretched between the posts supporting a hi-visibility flicker tape. The tape will be restored as often as necessary during the life of the construction project. Signs attached to the wire will identify the cordoned area as protecting archaeological remains.
- 3.2.2 Additional sites identified during the Stage 1c Walkover Survey were similarly demarcated.

#### **3.3 Stage 2: Detailed Survey and/or Evaluation Slot Trench Excavation**

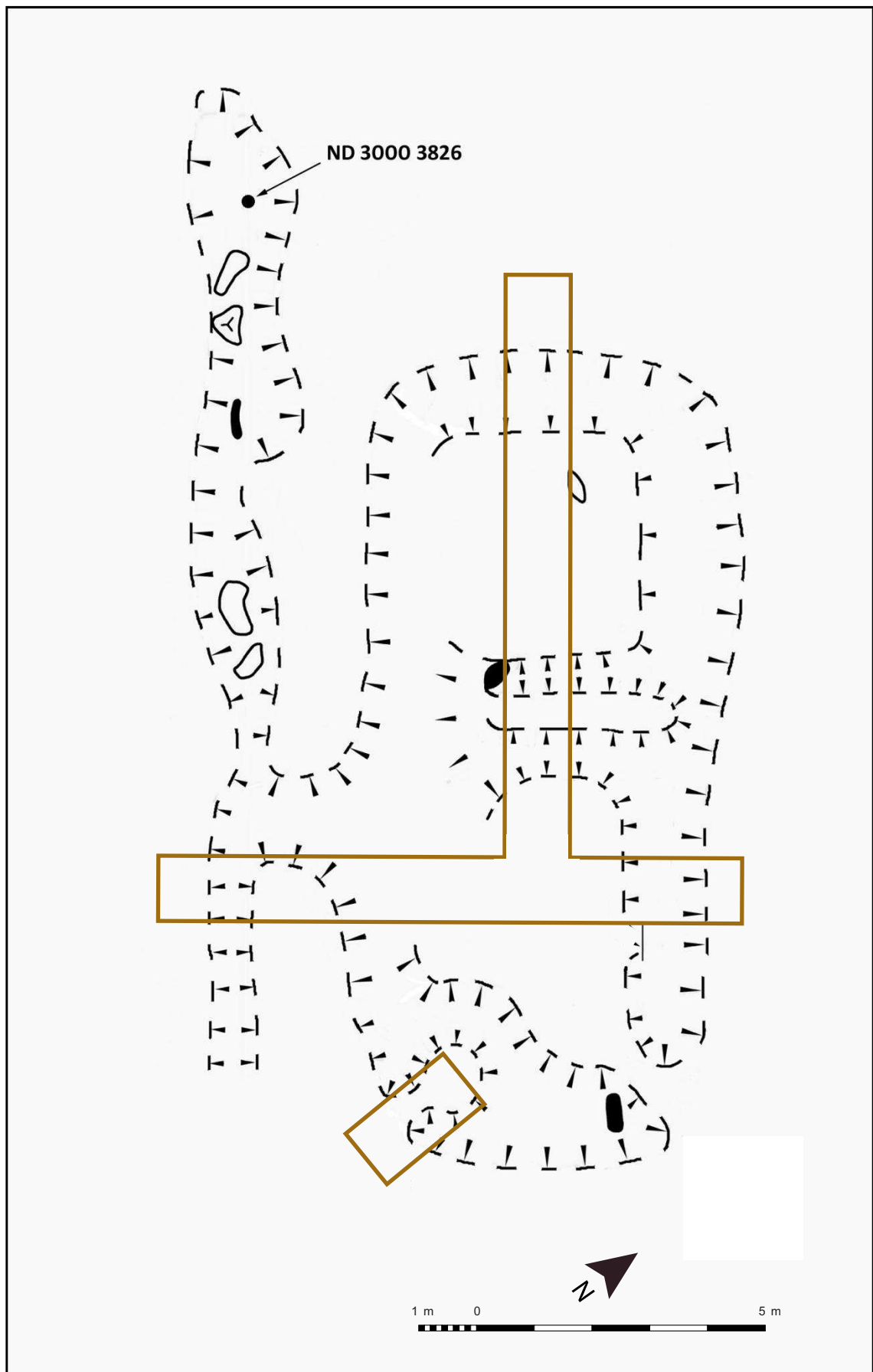
- 3.3.1 Post-medieval settlement remains including two building platforms were identified on the proposed site of Borrow Pit 1. These remains have been judged to be of local importance and it is not believed that preservation in situ would be required. A comprehensive survey for the structures and subsequent limited programme of trial trenching were completed to investigate or clarify any features of interest. Survey and trenching was carried out prior to the commencement of quarrying in order to mitigate loss of the features.

#### **3.4 Stage 3: Photography of areas of the former Lybster-Wick railway line and Mid Clyth Station**

- 3.4.1 The access track for Borrow Pit 1 is to utilise the bed of the former Lybster to Wick railway (Site 6). Prior to the start of the ground-works, the Mid Clyth Station (Site 41) and the Lybster to Wick Railway (Site 6) were to be photographed using both digital and black and white print film (Appendix 1).
- 3.4.2 The photographic survey demonstrated that the line and associated station has been seriously denuded between it's decommission and modern times.

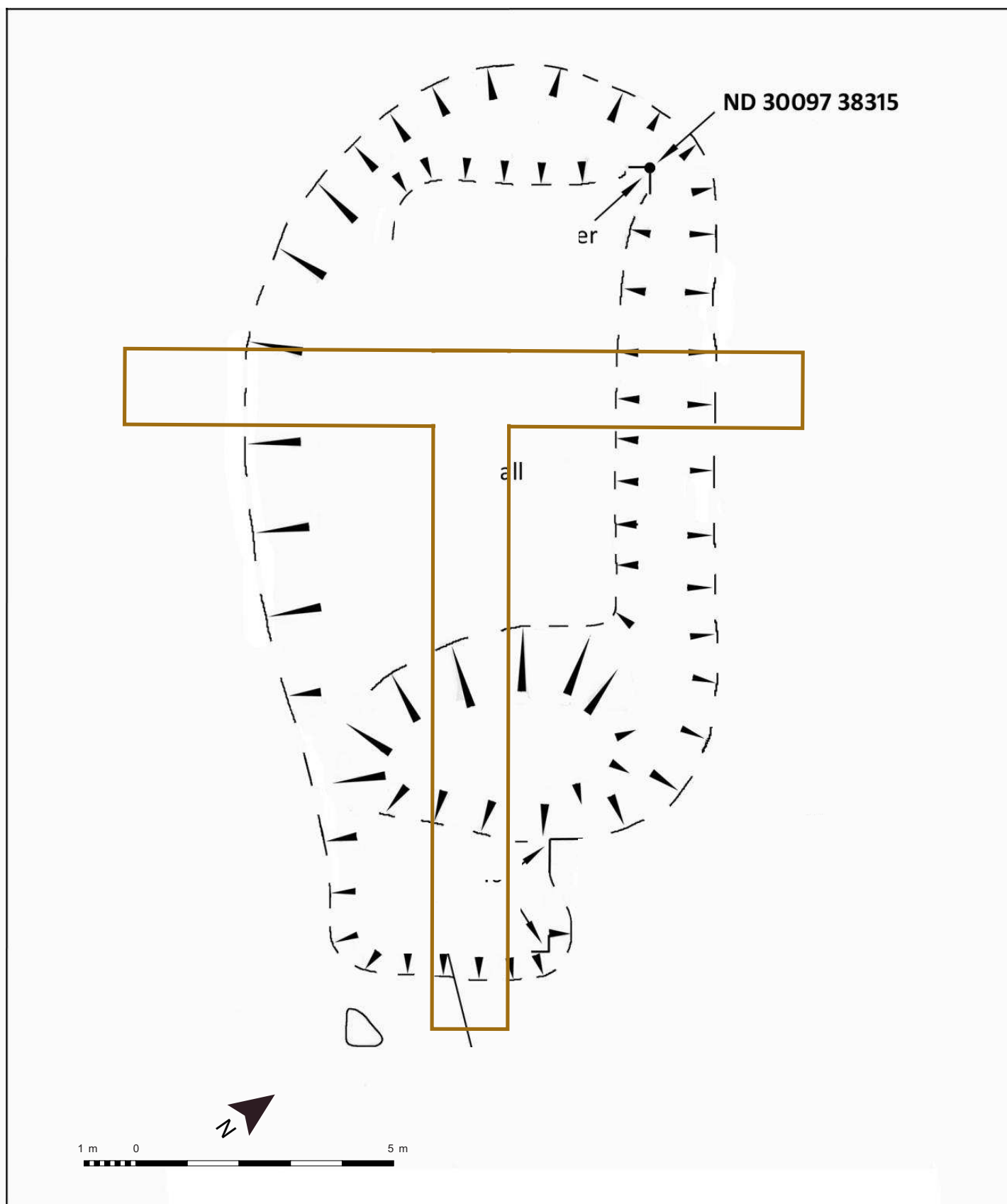
#### **3.5 Stage 4: Monitored Topsoil Strip**

- 3.5.1 A monitored topsoil strip will be conducted on ground breaking works associated with the creation of the borrow pit and associated access tracks. The groundworks contractor will use a back-acting excavator (JCB 3CX, tracked 360° excavator or equivalent) equipped with a toothless ditching



Trench Locations

Figure 2: Structure 38 Trench Location



Trench Location

Figure 3: Structure 39 Trench Location

bucket. The machine stripping will be controlled by a qualified archaeologist in accordance with AOC standards (Appendix 7), who will ensure the correct depth of the strip. The default response to the discovery of any significant archaeological material will be to allow its preservation *in situ* by moving the works, if feasible within the needs of the development, away from the archaeological find. However in the case of the borrow pit this, in all probability, could prove problematic.

- 3.5.2 The monitored topsoil strip will also include the excavation of any archaeological features encountered (should preservation *in situ* prove infeasible) in order to record the extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features impacted upon by these works.
- 3.5.3 All works will be undertaken in accordance with AOC Archaeology's standard procedures. Where small discoveries (those requiring less than two hours to deal with) are encountered, these will be excavated and recorded in accordance with AOC Archaeology's standard practice. Where larger more significant discoveries are made (those requiring more than two hours to deal with) AOC Archaeology will immediately inform the WYG and HCHET, to describe the features and propose a mitigation strategy if appropriate for their excavation. If necessary, a supplementary *Written Scheme of Investigation* will be prepared and the arrangements confirmed by email. All excavation works will be undertaken in accordance with AOC Archaeology's standard procedures (Appendix 21).

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The archaeological works including the photographic survey of the Mid Clyth to Lybster Line, the demarcation of sites and the evaluation of the two building platforms was undertaken between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June 2013. Overall weather conditions were generally dry and archaeological visibility was good. All sites associated with Borrow Pit 1 were marked out with orange mesh and road pins

### 4.2 Building Platform [Structure 38] (Figure 4)

#### 4.2.1 Introduction

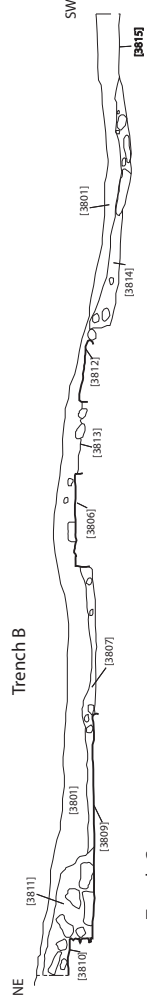
- 4.2.1.1 Three one metre wide trenches (A, B & C) were excavated across Structure 38. Trenches A & B were arranged in a 'T' configuration and placed across the main body of the feature. Trench C was targeted on the circular depression situated within the south-east of the structure. The trenches revealed a substantial structure composed of upstanding turf and stone walls and flag-stone floors. Two separate rooms were observed. These are identified as the remains of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century croft.
- 4.2.1.2 All of the trenches were covered by a thin mix of top-soil and turf. Natural deposits consisted of medium brown boulder clay.

#### 4.2.2 Trench A

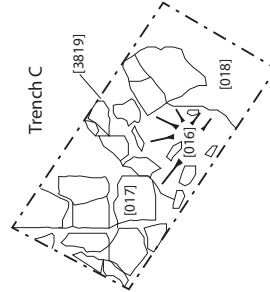
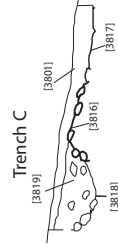
##### 4.2.2.1 Walls

Trench A was aligned north-west to south-east across the body of the building and was adjoined at the south-eastern end by Trench B. Trench A measured 10 metres in length. Excavation revealed the remains of three substantial stone and turf walls [3802, 3805 & 3806], which appear to comprise an external wall [3802], and two internal walls [3805] and [3806], forming partitions within the structure. Wall [3802] was situated at the north-western end of the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west. The wall [3802] measured 1.20 m in width and survived to 0.30 m in height. Wall [3805] was of similar form and dimensions to [3802], was exposed at 6.60 m from the north-western

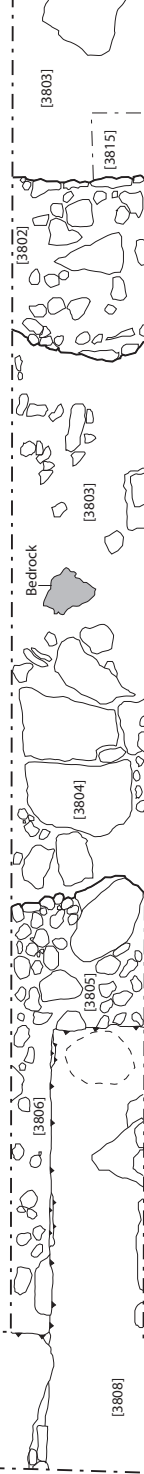
## Trench A



### Trench C



### Trench A





end of the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west. Wall [3805] was keyed into a partially exposed wall [3806] running north-west to south-east into Trench B. All of these structures were covered by a substantial demolition deposit [3807] up to 0.30 m thick.

#### 4.2.2.2 Flooring

A disturbed internal floor composed of several large Caithness sandstone flags [3804] was revealed between the walls [3802-3805]. The floor was placed on a compact formation deposit of re-deposited top-soil and clay [3803].

### 4.2.3 Trench B

#### 4.2.3.1 Walls

Trench B was aligned north-east to south-west, across the width of the building, and adjoined Trench A at its south-eastern end. The trench was 9.0 m in length and revealed two further substantial wall segments. Wall [3810], located at the north-eastern edge of the trench, was constructed of a combination of turf and stone and represents the external wall of the building. Wall [3806] represents the same wall identified in Trench A. Wall [3806] was adjoined to the south-west by a wall segment [3812], which represented the edge of a curvilinear structure, abutting the main building. The wall was 1.80 m in width and had an associated rubble core [3813].



Plate 1: Wall [3810] and associated flag flooring [3809] from south

#### 4.2.3.2 Flooring

An internal floor composed of several large Caithness sandstone flags [3808] was revealed between the walls [3810-3805/6]. The floor was again placed on a compact formation deposit of re-deposited



Figure 5: Plan and section of Structure 39



top-soil and clay [3803]. A cache of leather shoes were recovered from the demolition material overlying this flooring.



Plate 2: Cache of leather shoes found within the demolition layer above floor [3808]

#### 4.2.4 Trench C

4.2.4.1 Trench C measured two metres in length and was located across a possible circular feature. This area had a circular depression and was thought to be the remains of a corn drying kiln associated with the croft. The trench revealed a sub-angular stone surface [3817], which abutted a fragmentary stone and turf wall which appeared to be aligned east to west. To the immediate north of the surface and wall was a partially exposed pit [3818] cut into the natural. The pit was 0.30 m in depth and had gently sloping sides and a rounded base. The pit was in-filled by a mix of rubble and decayed turf (3819).

#### 4.2.5 Summary

4.2.5.1 The evaluation confirmed the results of the original walkover survey and recorded a rectangular building and associated corn drying kiln. Measuring 14.5 m by 6.0 m in width, the main building complex comprises a rectilinear stone and turf built, with a single internal partition wall. Although a possible entrance was identified in the eastern corner of the building, no other internal features were identified. A probable corn drying kiln was identified at the end of the building.

### 4.3 Building Platform [Structure 39] (Figure 5)

#### 4.3.1 Introduction

4.3.1.1 Two conjoined trenches (A & B) each measuring nine metres in length were excavated across the Building Platform, Structure 39. As with Building Platform, Structure 38, these revealed several stone and turf walls and floors. These represent the remains of two separate rooms within a probable croft of mid 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The smaller of the rooms revealed an *in-situ* rotary quern together with the remains of its associated super-structure.

#### 4.3.2 Trench A



#### 4.3.2.1 Walls

Trench A was aligned north to south and measured nine metres in length. A single stone and turf wall [3904] was revealed within the northern end of the trench. Constructed of sandstone and measuring 0.50 m in width the wall represents the external wall of the building. A secondary wall or bank [3902] was identified at the southern end of the trench. It is likely that this feature forms the southern external wall of the building.

#### 4.3.2.2 Flooring

An internal floor composed of large Caithness sandstone flags [3903], was revealed to the immediate south of wall [3904] this was visible for approximately five metres. This floor was also visible running eastwards into Trench B. An area of hard-standing was observed adjoining the north face of wall [3904].

### 4.3.3 Trench B

#### 4.3.3.1 Fire-place

A substantial and well made un-bonded flag-stone fire-place [3905] was revealed within the middle of Trench B (Plate 3). The structure was composed of side [3906], base [3907] and rear [3908] slabs and measured 0.40 m in depth by 0.30 m in height. The rear of the fire-place was composed of several upright stone slabs set into the western face of wall [3910]. The base of the fire-place contained a mix of ash and grey sandy clay [3909] 0.05 m in depth.



Plate 3: The fire-place [3905] taken from the west, Site 39

#### 4.3.3.2 'Grinding Room'

The parent wall [3910] containing the fire-place [3905] was aligned north to south and was constructed of stone and turf. The wall was 0.50 m in width and survived to a depth of 0.65 m. The wall appears to form the eastern end of the main croft building. A second stone and turf wall [3912] was keyed into [3910] and was aligned west to east within the south facing section of the trench. The



wall was two metres in length and 0.80 m in height. A third adjoining wall [3915] was recorded crossing the trench north to south. This was 0.60 m in width and 0.35 m in height. The three walls appear to form a small ancillary room. Excavation revealed a large in-situ rotary quern and supporting structure [3913]. The quern was fixed onto a large supporting slab with a corroded iron pin. An area of hard-standing [3917] was located to the east of the structure.

#### 4.3.3.3 Summary

The evaluation confirmed the results of the original walkover survey and recorded a rectangular building with internal divisions. Measuring 18 m by 10 m in width, the main building complex comprises a rectilinear stone and turf built structure. The building is divided internally by a stone built wall, perhaps dividing the areas in to a residential and working space. In contrast to Structure 38, internal features were identified in the form of a fireplace and a working space containing a rotary quern/structure. No entrance in to any of the rooms was identified.



Plate 4: The 'Grinding Room' showing *in-situ* rotary quern

## 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The evaluation provided substantial structural information relating to the two building platforms. Despite the relative short time span between the occupation of the building and the subsequent archaeological works, the evaluation demonstrated the severe truncation that has taken place. All of the walls, both internal and external have been seriously denuded, with at least some of the stone having collapsed into the building and most likely the rest being re-used elsewhere.
- 5.2. The presence of both residential and working quarters, perhaps within the same building, demonstrates the subsistence nature of northern crofting, where small fermtoun settlements survived the clearances and existed until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- 5.3 Despite recent interest in medieval or later settlements (MoLAS), and post-medieval settlements, these buildings and settlements are still relatively poorly understood, due to a lack of modern excavation, and so these most recent works provide a welcome addition to our knowledge.

## 6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2012: *Burn of Whilk Borrow Pits: Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished client report

AOC 2012 *Burn of Whilk Borrow Pits: Desk Based Assessment* Unpublished client report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*, February 2010.

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology* 2/2011.



# **Burn of Whilk Wind Farm, Borrow Pit 1: Archaeological Works Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record (Former Lybster-Wick railway line and Mid Clyth Station)

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration	-
2-3	Track entrance from station house end	SW
3	Existing house	NNW
4	Track and line cutting	SSW
5	Existing fence-line at southern end of track-way	S
6	Mid Clyth station platform and cut	SSW
7	Mid Clyth station platform and cut	SE
8	Platform looking towards house	NE
9	Platform edge looking along cut	N
10	Track at proposed entrance to Borrow Pit 1	S
11	Track at proposed entrance to Borrow Pit 1	N
12	Stone dump	S
13	South facing frontage of derelict building	S
14	Rear of derelict building	NW
15	Track from derelict building looking south	N
16	Track from derelict building looking north	S
17	Track looking north	NNW
18	Stone culvert crossing track at derelict building 2	S
19	Derelict building 2	E
20	Track looking south from past Derelict building 2	N
21	Track looking north from past Derelict building 2	S
22	Track-way from Burn of Clyth south	N
23	Track-way from Burn of Clyth south	N
24	Track-way to rail bridge	S
25	Track-way from East Clyth Road south	N
26	Track-way from rail bridge	N
27	Track-way across rail bridge	S

## APPENDIX 2: Evaluation Photographic Record

Digital Photographs Structure 38

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration	-
2-3	Working shot Trench A showing wall [002]	S
4-5	Flag flooring [004] Trench A	S
6	General shot post-ex Trench A	W
7	Wall [002]	SW
8	Flag flooring [004] Trench A	SW

9-10	Walls [005]/[006] & rubble (007)	W
11	Flag floor [009], wall [010] & rubble (011)	NW
12	Flag floor [009], wall [010] & rubble (011)	SW
13	Wall [010] & rubble (011)	SW
14	Close up of wall [010]	SW
15	Flag floor [009]	SE
16	Clay surface [008]	SE
17	Wall [006]	E
18	Walls [006] / [012] & rubble (013)	SW
19	Walls [006] / [012] & rubble (013)	S
20	Wall [012] & rubble (013)	NW
21	Deposits (014/015)	SW
22	Trench B general Shot	SW
23	Trench B general Shot	W
24-25	Trench C general Shot	W/SW
26	Trench C south facing section	S
27	Stone surface [017]	S
28	Stone and turf bank [016]	W
29-30	Rubble removed from walls [005/006]	E
31-32	Wall [006]	NE
33-34	Wall [005]	SE
35-36	Shots of walls under excavation	SE
37-38	Leather shoes found within (007)	S
39-40	Rubble (011) removed revealing wall [010] and floor [009]	SW
41-42	Floor [009]	NW
43-44	Wall [010]	SW
45	Trench B Post ex	SW
46	Slot through [002]	E

## Digital Photographs Structure 39

Frame	Description	From
47	Fire-place [3905] and in-situ rotary quern	W
48	Fire-place [3905] detail	W
49	In-situ rotary quern detail	E
50	Rear of fire-place [3910] and wall [3915]	E
51	Rear of fire-place [3910] detail	E
52	Wall [015]	S
53	Wall [3912] between [3905] & [3915]	S
54	Structure [3913] with rotary quern	E
55	Flooring [3903]	S

56	Turf/stone wall [004]	S
57-60	Various	W-S
61	Structure [3913] with rotary quern removed	S

## Black &amp; White Print Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration	-
2	Wall [3802]	W
3	Floor [3804]	W
4	Floor [3809] and wall [3810]	W
5	Trench A showing walls [3805 & 3806]	SE
6	Trench B showing walls [3806, 3812 & 3813]	SW
7	Trench C showing [3817, 3810 & 3818]	W

## Black &amp; White Print Film 2

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration	-
2	Wall [3805 & 3807]	E
3	Wall [3805 & 3807]	N
4	Slot through wall [3802]	W
5	Wall [010]	S
6	Fire-place [3905] & in-situ rotary quern	W
7	Fire-place [3905] & in-situ rotary quern detail	W
8	In-situ rotary quern detail	E
9	Rear of fire-place [3910] and wall [3915]	E
10	Rear of fire-place [3910] detail	E
11	Wall [3915] detail	S
12	Wall [3912] between [3905] & [3915]	S
13	Structure [3913] with rotary quern	E
14	Flooring [3903]	S
15	Wall [3904]	S
16	Flooring [3903] and fire-place [3905]	W
17	Structure [3913] with rotary quern removed	S

## APPENDIX 3: Context Record

Context	Description	Site/Trench
[001]	Top-soil & turf	All
[3802]	Wall – Mix of medium to large angular Caithness sandstones and turf. Dimensions; 1.2 m in width and 0.30 m in depth. Orientated NE/SW. Underlies rubble deposit [3807]. 0.20 m wide construction cut visible cutting (3803). Croft wall within Trench A.	38
(3803)	Layer – Thin mix of compact brown top-soil and clay natural. Underlies rubble deposit (3807). Layer 0.15 m in depth cut by construction cut of wall [3802]. Surface on which flags would have laid.	38
[3804]	Structure – Disturbed flooring consisting of several sandstone flags. Flooring is approximately 2.0 m in length east to west. The flooring overlies (3803) and abuts wall [3805]. Internal flooring between walls [3802] and [3805].	38
[3805]	Wall – Mix of medium to large angular Caithness sandstones and turf. Dimensions; 1.2 m in width and 0.25 m in height. Orientated N/S. Underlies rubble deposit [3807]. Wall is keyed into wall [3806] which runs east to west. Abutted by floors [3803 to the west and [3808] to the east. Croft wall within Trench A.	38
[3806]	Wall – Mix of medium to large angular Caithness sandstones and turf. Dimensions; 1.2 m in width and 0.25 m in height. Orientated E/W and runs into west facing section of Trench B. Underlies rubble deposit [3807]. Wall is keyed into wall [3805] which runs north to south. Abutted by floor [3808] to the north. Croft wall within Trenches A & B.	38
[3807]	Deposit – Rubble layer of angular rocks and re-deposited natural. Overlies the majority of the site with concentrations between walls [3802 & 3805] and [3805 & 3806]. A collection of leather shoes was found within the latter. The deposit is up to 0.30 m thick. Demolition layer associated with croft.	38
(3808)	Layer – Thin mix of compact brown top-soil and clay natural. Underlies rubble deposit (3807). Same as (3803). Situated between walls [3805, 3806] and overlaid by flooring [3809]. Visible for three metres.	38
[3809]	Structure – Disturbed flooring consisting of several sandstone flags. Flooring is approximately 2.20 m in length north to south. The flooring overlies (3808) and abuts wall [3810] to the north. Internal flooring between walls [3810] and [3805/3806]. Probably overlay the whole of (3808) but was robbed out.	38
[3810]	Wall – Mix of medium to large angular Caithness sandstones and turf. Partially visible within Trench B. wall is 0.25 m in height. Orientated E/W. Underlies rubble deposit [3807]. 0.20 m. abuts floor [3809] to immediate south. Partially overlain by tumble [3811]. Croft wall within Trench B.	38
[3811]	Deposit – Mix of large angular stones and turf. Deposit extends from wall [3810] for 1.20 m. Overlies flag floor [3809]. Tumble from wall [3810]	38
[3812]	Wall – Mix of medium to large angular Caithness sandstones and turf. Dimensions; 0.50 m in width and 0.25 m in depth. Orientated NE/SW. Abuts [3813] to north. The wall is a probable frontage apron for the structure.	38
[3813]	Deposit – Mix of angular stones and turf 0.90 m in width. Rubble core between walls [3806] & [3812]	38
[3814]	Deposit – Mix of large angular stones and turf. Deposit extends from wall [3812] for 1.20 m. Tumble from wall [3812]	38
[3815]	Natural – Compact brown clay	All
[3816]	Structure – Wall of turf and stone construction but very fragmentary. Wall is 0.60 m in width. Abuts surface [3817] & pit [3818]. Aligned east to west and curved along the edge of [3818]. Probable part of corn drying kiln structure.	38C
[3817]	Structure – Stone flooring composed of flat flags 0.30 m in diameter. Floor of structure [3816]	38C
[3818]	Cut – Shallow pit cutting natural. Filled by rubble [3819]. Contained by wall	38C

	[3816]. Cut visible for 0.60 m. Gently sloping sides and rounded base.	
[3819]	Deposit – Mix of large angular stones and turf. Within cut [3818]. Demolition layer.	38C
[3902]	Structure – Hard-standing composed of small angular sandstones. Abuts flag floor [3903]. Visible within trench for 0.30 m north to south.	39A
[3903]	Structure - Flag floor abutting wall [3904] and fire-place [3905]. Floor extends within trench 4.30 m north to south and 4.0 m east to west. Internal floor of croft.	39A
[3904]	Wall – Mix of medium to large angular Caithness sandstones and turf. Dimensions; 0.50 m in width and 0.20 m in depth. Orientated E/W. Abuts [3903] to south. Northern wall of croft.	39A
[3905]	Structure – Fireplace made of rectangular sandstones. Contains contexts [3906, 3907, 3908 & 3909]. Fireplace is built into wall [3910] to the east. The structure is 1.0 m wide by 0.40 m in length and has a depth of 0.29 m. Underlies demolition deposit [3911].	39B
[3906]	Structure – Side-slabs of fire-place [3905]. Slabs measure 0.10 m in width and are 0.29 m in height. Associated with base [3907] and back [3908]	39B
[3907]	Structure – Base-slabs of fire-place [3905]. Slabs extend the width of the trench and are 0.50 m in depth. Associated with side slabs [3906] and back [3908]. Overlaid by burnt deposit of ash and grey sandy loam (3909)	39B
[3908]	Structure – Back-slabs of fire-place [3905]. Slabs extend the width of the trench and are 0.30 m in height and 0.10 m in depth. Associated with side slabs [3906] and base [3907].	39B
[3909]	Deposit – Mix of ash and grey sandy loam. Directly overlies base of hearth [3907]. Deposit is 0.30 m thick and 0.5 m in depth.	39B
[3910]	Wall – Mix of medium to large angular Caithness sandstones and turf. Dimensions; 0.50 m in width and 0.65 m in depth. Orientated N/S. Fire-place [3905] built into western face. Eastern wall of croft.	39B/C
[3911]	Deposit – Mix of large angular stones and turf. Demolition layer. Overlies [3905] & [3910]	39B/C
[3912]	Wall – Mix of medium to large angular Caithness sandstones and turf. Dimensions; 2.00 m in length and 0.80 m in height. Orientated E/W and visible in south facing section. Appears keyed into wall [3910]. Forms part of 'grinding room' structure.	39C
[3913]	Structure – Curvilinear structure formed by several angular flagstones arranged in a semi-circle. The structure underlies the deposit (3914) and abuts the wall [3915]. The structure is 1.20 m in length. The width is not visible. The structure contains the in-situ rotary quern and supporting slab.	39C
[3914]	Deposit – Compact grey clay silt with charcoal flecks and numerous small stones. The deposit is 0.15 m thick and contains the in-situ rotary quern. The deposit sits immediately below wall [3912] and is the probable former ground surface of the 'grinding room'.	39C
[3915]	Wall – Mix of medium to large angular Caithness sandstones and turf. Dimensions; 0.60 m wide and 0.30 m in height. Orientated N/S. The wall abuts [3914] to the west and [3917] to the east. The structure is the eastern wall of the 'grinding room'	39C
[3916]	Deposit – Mix of medium to large angular stones and grey silt. Deposit extends from wall [3815] for 2.00 m to the east. Lies under demolition layer [3811]. Tumble from wall [3815]	39C
[3917]	Void	-
[3918]	Structure - Hard-standing composed of small angular sandstones. Abuts wall [3904 to the south]. Visible within trench for 0.60 m north to south.	39A



## APPENDIX 4: Drawing Record

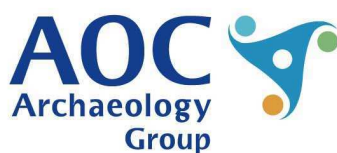
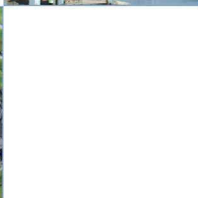
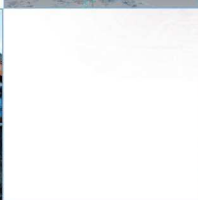
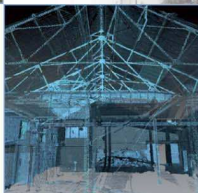
Number	Description	Scale
01	Plan of Site 38	1:20
02	Plan of Site 38 overlay	1:20
03	North-east facing elevation wall [3806]	1:10
04	South-east facing elevation wall [3805]	1:10
05	East facing section Trench C Site 38	1:10
06	North-west facing section Trench B Site 38	1:20
07	South-east facing section Trench A Site 38	1:20
08	Plan of Structure 39	1:20
09	South-west facing section Site 39	1:20

## APPENDIX 5: Small Finds Register

Number	Description	Context
01	Mixed ceramics Trenches A & B	3801
02	Glass Trenches A & B	3801
03	Iron finds Trenches A & B	3801
04	Mixed finds (ceramics, glass, iron)	3814
05	Mixed finds (ceramics, glass, iron)	3819
06	Leather shoes	3807
07	Mixed finds (ceramics, glass, iron)	3911
08	Mixed finds (ceramics, glass, iron)	3914
09	Rotary quern	3914

**APPENDIX 6: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Highland Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Burn of Whilk Wind Farm, Borrow Pit 1
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 21961A
<b>PARISH:</b>	
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Rob Engl
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation & Photographic Survey
<b>NMRS NO(S)</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Post-medieval landscape
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	Rotary Quern, shoes, ceramics
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	ND 3000 3820
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2013
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2013
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>AOC Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological works in respect of conditions imposed on planning consent (App Ref: 12/01242/FUL) for a Borrow Pit (Pit 1) associated with the Burn of Whilk wind farm development. The works consisted of the demarcation of known sites within the development area, a photographic record of the now disused Mid Clyth to Lybster rail line and the archaeological evaluation of two probable 19<sup>th</sup> century building platforms.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed substantial structural remains associated with the two building platforms (Sites 38 &amp; 39) identified within the desk based assessment (AOC 2012). Several turf and stone walls and flagged floor surfaces were revealed delineating internal divisions. Other structural components included a stone fire-place and rotary quern support structure. Small finds included a cache of leather shoes and substantial 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century ceramics.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	---
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	NPower
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	Rob.Engl@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



**AOC Archaeology Group**, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY  
tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: [admin@aocarchaeology.com](mailto:admin@aocarchaeology.com)

[www.aocarchaeology.com](http://www.aocarchaeology.com)