

**2 BACKHILL OF FOULZIE  
BANFF  
ABERDEENSHIRE**



**- Archaeological Watching Brief -  
Carried out 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012  
by  
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



**Report No: MAS 2012-28  
by  
J C Murray**

H K Murray BA, PhD, MIFA, FSA Scot  
J C Murray BA, MIFA, FSA Scot, FMA  
Hill of Belnagoak, Methlick, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB41 7JN  
Telephone: (01651) 806394 e-mail: [cmurray@btinternet.com](mailto:cmurray@btinternet.com)

## **2 BACKHILL OF FOULZIE BANFF ABERDEENSHIRE**

### **-Archaeological Watching Brief-**

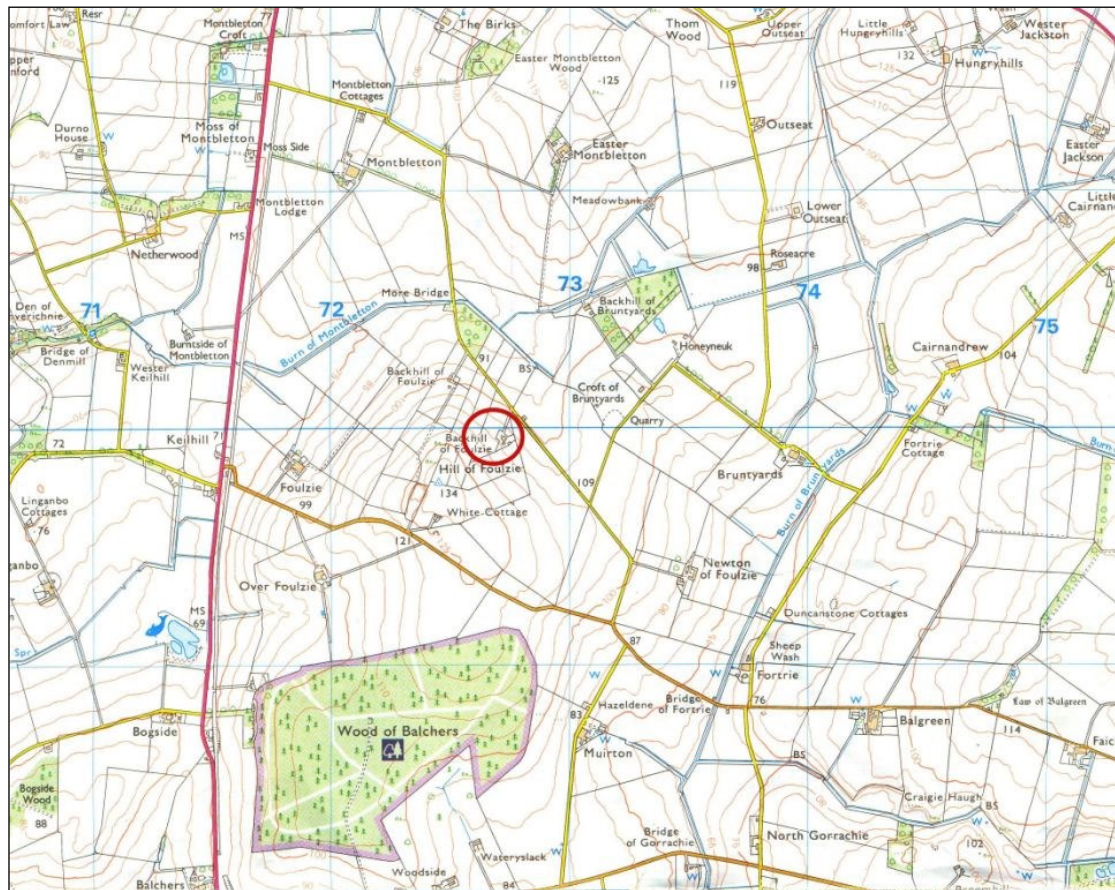
**J C Murray**

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 A Planning Application before Aberdeenshire Council (APP/2012/0568) for the erection of a single 20Kw Wind Turbine, Hub Height 20.58m (total height 27.13m) was granted permission subject to certain conditions. Condition 8 required that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during the excavation of the turbine base. The condition was applied in the context of PAN (Planning Advice Note) 2/2011, SPP and SHEP.
- 1.2 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Mr Philip Easter to undertake the work; the field element of which was carried out on 27th September 2012.

#### **2. The Site**

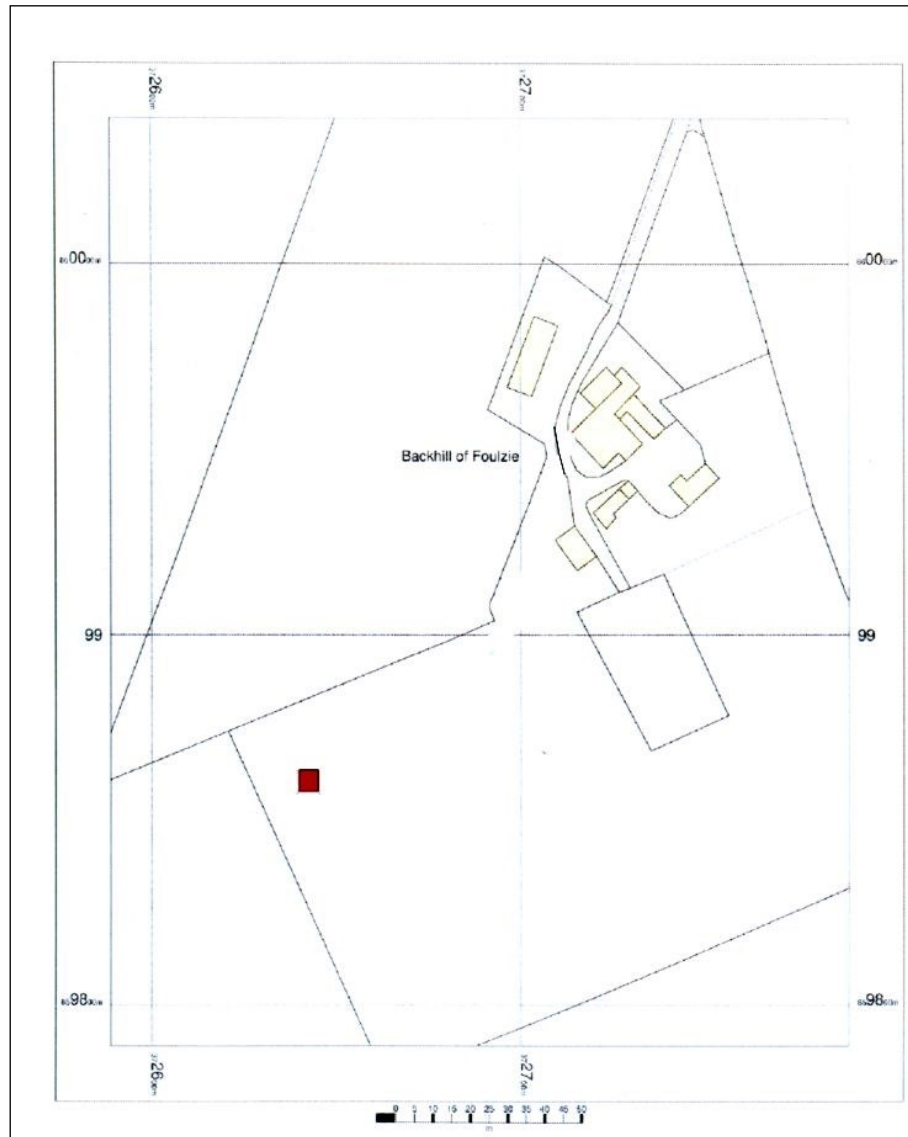
- 2.1 2 Backhill of Foulzie is located to the S of Banff a short distance to the E of the A947 Turriff to Banff road [NGR: NJ 7263 5983; Parish: King Edward; see Illus.1]
- 2.2 Between 2003 and 2005 field walking to the NW of Backhill of Foulzie and on the S side of the Burn of Montbleton produced a range of flints and pottery dating to the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (Lindsay, S and WJ, 2005) and, until 1902 when it was removed, a long barrow was situated on top of the Hill of Foulzie.



**Illus 1: Location Map with Backhill of Foulzie circled in red. Crown copyright © (2010). All rights reserved. License number (100049810)**

- 2.3 The field walking produced c.300 lithic finds [NGR: NJ 7207 6023; Aberdeenshire SMR – NJ76SW0057] in 2003 and a further 490 pieces in 2004-2005. The lithic assemblage included scrapers, knives and borers in addition to a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead and a leaf-shaped arrowhead.
- 3 Methodology
- 3.1 A mechanical digger using a toothless ditching bucket was used to remove the topsoil under archaeological supervision.
- 3.2 Following this, where necessary, areas were cleaned by hand, photographed and recorded.
4. The Work

- 4.1 The turbine is located in a field on a gentle E facing slope a short distance to the SW of the farmhouse and steading buildings [see Illus.2]



**Illus 2: Plan of site showing the location of the turbine marked in red.**

- 4.2 The excavation for the turbine base was 5.5m square and excavated to a depth of 1m. The depth of dark brown topsoil removed was c.300mm overall and overlay hard, slightly silty, yellow-brown natural.
- 4.3 No archaeological features or finds were evident.





**Illus 3: View of area of turbine base, looking N.**



**Illus 4: General view, looking N.**





**Illus 5: General view, looking NE, to farmhouse and steading buildings.**

## 5 Results

- 5.1 Although the site of the wind turbine is situated in a landscape rich in archaeological remains, no archaeological features or finds were evident during the excavations for the turbine base.

## References

Lindsay, S & Lindsay, W J 2005 'Hill of Foulzie', *Discovery and Excavation Scotland* New Ser, 6,16.