

Percylieu, Clatt,  
Aberdeenshire  
AB54 4NX

Report on the archaeological watching brief



Cameron Archaeology  
25 October 2011

# **Percylieu, Clatt, Aberdeenshire AB54 4NX**

## **Report on the archaeological watching brief**

### **CONTENTS**

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	4
3	THE WATCHING BRIEF	5
4	RECOMMENDATIONS	6
5	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6
6	REFERENCE	6
	APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS	7
	APPENDIX 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SITES IN THE AREA OF PERCYLIEU	8
	APPENDIX 3 MAPS	11

### **ILLUSTRATIONS**

	Cover Trench for wind turbine, facing East	
III 1	Location plan	3
III 2	'Percylieu' stone now at Leith Hall	4
III 3	Plan showing area of soil strip	5
III 4	Trench for wind turbine, facing NE	5
III 5	First Edition Ordnance Survey map 1874	11
III 6	Second Edition Ordnance Survey map 1896	11
III 7	Third Edition Ordnance	12

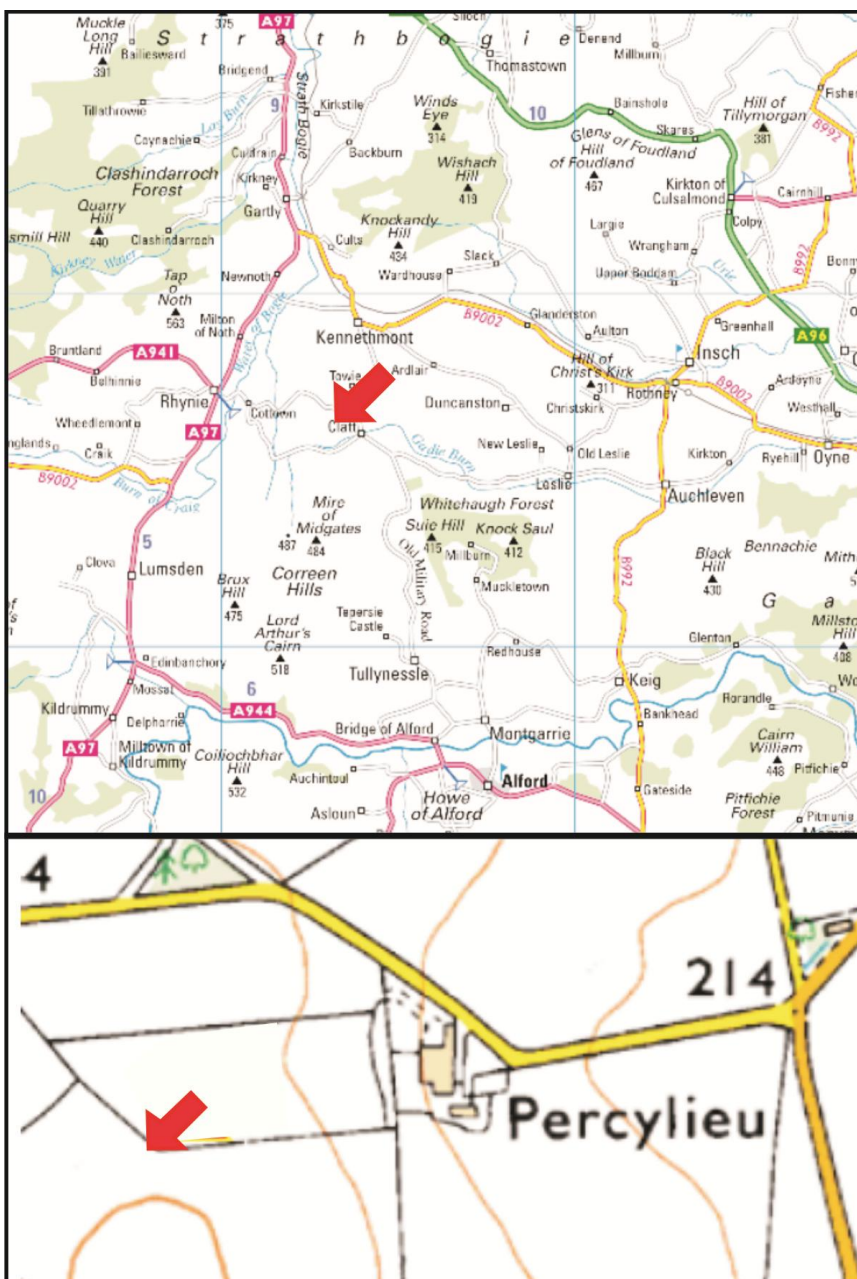
### **SUMMARY**

A watching brief was maintained at Percylieu on 24 October 2011 for installation of a wind turbine (Aberdeenshire Planning Application 2011/2421). No archaeological remains were uncovered and it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required at this site during the current development although the final decision remains with Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

A watching brief was carried out at Percylieu, Clatt, Huntly, Aberdeenshire on 24 October 2011. The site is in Clatt parish, the NGR for the site is NJ 53285, 26369 and the it lies at 220-230m OD. The work was commissioned by Mr Anderson, Percylieu, Clatt and refers to Aberdeenshire Planning Application 2011/2421 for the erection of a wind turbine; condition 8 states that the applicant must secure an archaeological watching brief during the soil removal for the turbine base.

The watching brief was carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) and Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed.

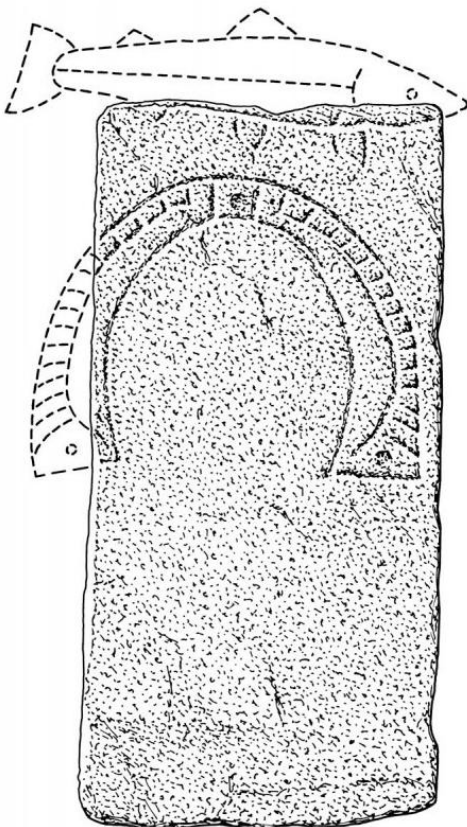


Ill 1 Location plan (© Crown copyright and database right 2010).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

There are no known sites of archaeological significance in the fields surrounding the wind turbine trench but many sites are known in the wider vicinity.

- 2.1 A small urn (possibly a food vessel) was found in the mid 19th-century 250m NE of Newbigging farmstead (NJ52NW 17; NJ 5322 2622). It was about 6 inches (152mm) high and 4 inches (102mm) in diameter and a sketch was made from the description of the Rev J Minto, schoolmaster, Kirktown of Clatt. (Name Book 1866, 21). The vessel is now lost.
- 2.2 Upwards of twenty tumuli (NJ52NW 11; NJ 532 263) were located on what is now cultivated ground 250m SW of Percylieu. They were destroyed during land reclamation about 1846. Each consisted of 'a continued series of upright stones' about 18 feet in diameter. In the centre a grave 'of the usual dimensions' had been dug, some cut in solid rock to a depth of about 5 feet. Burnt bones were found in some of them, and in others ornamented urns full of calcined bones (Name Book 1866, 24-5).
- 2.3 Several fragments of Pictish stones are known from the area. Two symbol stones remain in the churchyard at Clatt (NJ52NW 7; NJ 5389 2600). One is a small triangular fragment decorated with a double disc and Z-shaped rod symbol whereas a larger fragment is now built into the churchyard wall and bears the 'elephant' symbol and the 'arch or horse-shoe' symbol (J Ritchie 1910, 6). One other fragment from Clatt churchyard is now to the south wall of Knockespock House (NJ52SW 12; NJ 5442 2408). It is incised with a triple ring and bar symbol, double disc and Z-rod and mirror (J Ritchie 1910, 6).

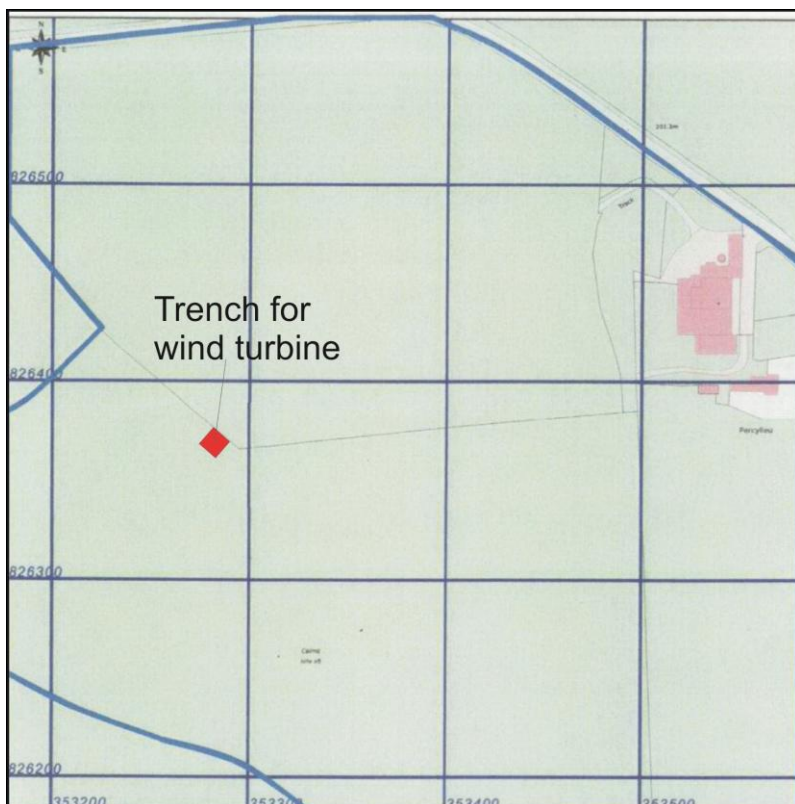


A rectangular slab of whinstone now at Leith Hall (NJ52NW 19; NJ 5399 2998) bears at the top, the two fins of a fish, the rest of which is broken away, and below it the horse-shoe symbol which is ornamented with lines and dots (Ill 2, Ritchie 1910, 209-12). Gurnell (1884) adds that the stone stood at a well called the 'Salmon Well' at Hillhead (NJ 521 265) until about 1844 when it was removed to Percylieu, where it was broken to fit a door sill. About 1887 it was taken to Cransmill (NJ 461 306) and then to Mytice (NJ 475 309).

Ill 2 'Percylieu' stone now at Leith Hall (NJ52NW 19; *copyright RCAHMS*)

### 3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

A watching brief was maintained on 24th October 2011 during the topsoil strip of a 5 x 5m trench for a wind turbine. The well-drained topsoil was 0.4-0.5m deep and the natural subsoil was light brown sandy clay. No finds or features were identified.



Ill 3 Plan showing area of soil strip (*copyright Mr Anderson*)



Ill 4 Trench for wind turbine, facing NE

## 4 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required at this site; this is subject to advice from Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service.

## 5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Mr Anderson, Percylieu and Bruce Mann, Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service.

## 6 REFERENCES

Gurnell, J (1884) Standing stones of (Huntly) district.

Ordnance Survey (Name Book) 1866 Object Name Books of the Ordnance Survey  
Page(s): Book No. 14.

Ritchie, J N G (1985) Pictish symbol stones: a handlist 1985, Edinburgh.

Cameron Archaeology  
45 View Terrace  
Aberdeen  
AB25 2RS  
01224 643020  
07581 181057  
[cameronarch@btinternet.com](mailto:cameronarch@btinternet.com)  
[www.cameronarchaeology.com](http://www.cameronarchaeology.com)  
Company registration no 372223 (Scotland)  
VAT registration no 990 4373 00

# APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS



DSC\_0794



DSC\_0795



DSC\_0796



DSC\_0797



DSC\_0798



DSC\_0799



DSC\_0800



DSC\_0801



DSC\_0802



DSC\_0803



DSC\_0804



DSC\_0805



DSC\_0806



DSC\_0807



DSC\_0808



DSC\_0809



DSC\_0810



DSC\_0811



DSC\_0812



DSC\_0813



DSC\_0814



DSC\_0815



DSC\_0816



DSC\_0817



DSC\_0818



DSC\_0819



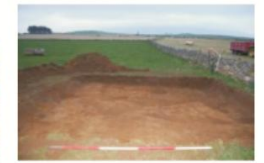
DSC\_0820



DSC\_0822



DSC\_0824



DSC\_0825



DSC\_0826



DSC\_0827



DSC\_0828



DSC\_0829



DSC\_0830



Photo number	Description	Facing
DSC 0794-97	Trench	NW
DSC 0798-801	Trench	SW
DSC 0802-5	Trench	SE
DSC 0806-11	Trench	E
DSC 0812-17	Trench	NE
DSC 0818-827	Trench	NW
DSC 0828-32	Mr Anderson and digger driver	NE
DSCF1189-1200	Excavating and cleaning the trench	

## APPENDIX 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SITES IN THE AREA OF PERCYLIEU

SITE NUMBER	NMRS NAME	CLASS
NJ52NW.10.-	NEWBIGGING. Alternative: PAVING, STONE CIRCLE (POSSIBLE)	PAVING, STONE CIRCLE (POSSIBLE)
NJ52NW.15.-	CLATT, MILL OF CLATT, MILLER'S COTTAGE AND BYRE. Alternative: BYRE, COTTAGE, MILL	BYRE, COTTAGE, MILL
NJ52NW.17.-	NEWBIGGING. Alternative: FOOD VESSEL	FOOD VESSEL
NJ52NW.18.-	CLATT, MARKET CROSS. Alternative: MARKET CROSS	MARKET CROSS
NJ52NW.23.-	KIRKTOWN OF CLATT, CLATT	BURIAL GROUND, CHURCH



	PARISH CHURCH. Alternative: BURIAL GROUND, CHURCH	
NJ52NW.25.-	BANKHEAD. Alternative: RECUMBENT STONE CIRCLE	RECUMBENT STONE CIRCLE
NJ52NW.7.-	CLATT. Alternative: PICTISH SYMBOL STONE(S) (PICTISH)	PICTISH SYMBOL STONE(S) (PICTISH)
NJ52NW.9.-	BANKHEAD. Alternative: STONE CIRCLE	STONE CIRCLE
NJ52NW.11.-	HILLHEAD. Alternative: CAIRN(S)	CAIRN(S)
NJ52NW.36.-	NEWBIGGING. Alternative: HOUSE	HOUSE
NJ52NW.33.-	CLATT. Alternative: BURGH, VILLAGE	BURGH, VILLAGE
NJ52NW.43.-	BANKHEAD. Alternative: SOUTERRAIN (POSSIBLE), UNENCLOSED SETTLEMENT (POSSIBLE)	SOUTERRAIN (POSSIBLE), UNENCLOSED SETTLEMENT (POSSIBLE)
NJ52NW.45.0	KIRKTOWN OF CLATT, CLATT PARISH MANSE. Alternative: MANSE	MANSE
NJ52NW.48.-	PERCYLIEU. Alternative: FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD	FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD
NJ52NW.50.-	BANKHEAD. Alternative: FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD	FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD
NJ52NW.49.-	CALSIE. Alternative: COTTAGE	COTTAGE
NJ52NW.94.-	CALSIE. Alternative: BUILDING	BUILDING
NJ52NW.95.-	CLATT, MARKET STANCE. Alternative: MARKET STANCE, SAND AND GRAVEL WORKINGS	MARKET STANCE, SAND AND GRAVEL WORKINGS
NJ52NW.104.-	NEWBIGGING. Alternative: COTTAGE, FARMSTEAD, TOWNSHIP	COTTAGE, FARMSTEAD, TOWNSHIP
NJ52NW.107.-	LITTLE TOWIE. Alternative: COTTAGE	COTTAGE
NJ52NW.129.-	KIRKTOWN OF CLATT, CLATT GLEBE STEADING. Alternative: FARMSTEAD	FARMSTEAD
NJ52NW.130.-	CLATT PUBLIC SCHOOL. Alternative: SCHOOL	SCHOOL
NJ52NW.131.-	HARDGATE. Alternative: FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD	FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD

NJ52NW.145.-	MAINS OF SEGGIEDEN. Alternative: FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD	FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD
NJ52NW.158.-	BANKHEAD, COTTAGE. Alternative: COTTAGE	COTTAGE
NJ52NW.160.-	COTTAR-TOWN OF NEWBIGGEN. Alternative: COTTAGE(S)	COTTAGE(S)
NJ52NW.161.-	ROADSIDE. Alternative: COTTAGE	COTTAGE
NJ52NW.180.-	BLAIRDUFF. Alternative: FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD	FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD
NJ52NW.140.-	NEWBIGGING. Alternative: FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD	FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD
NJ52NW.141.-	NEWBIGGING, GORDNER'S CROFT. Alternative: COTTAGE, CROFT	COTTAGE, CROFT
NJ52NW.45.1	KIRKTOWN OF CLATT, CLATT PARISH MANSE, WALLED GARDEN. Alternative: WALLED GARDEN	WALLED GARDEN
NJ52NW.223.-	CLATT, KIRK ROAD. Alternative: TRACK	TRACK
NJ52NW.224.-	PERCYLIEU. Alternative: BUILDING	BUILDING
NJ52NW.229.-	KENNETHMONT, LEITH HALL PAVILION. Alternative: PAVILION (POSSIBLE)	PAVILION (POSSIBLE)

APPENDIX 3 MAPS



III 5 First Edition Ordnance Survey map 1874 (copyright National Library of Scotland)



III 6 Second Edition Ordnance Survey map 1896 (copyright National Library of Scotland)



III 7 Third Edition Ordnance Survey map 1909 (copyright National Library of Scotland)