

**Proposed wind turbine and access track,  
South Lasts Farm, Contlaw Road,  
Milltimber, Aberdeen, AB13 0ES**



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for Cameron Archaeology  
Date: 14 June 2013**

# Proposed wind turbine and access track, South Lasts Farm, Contlaw Road, Milltimber, Aberdeen, AB13 0ES

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## Non-Technical Summary

*Cameron Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Brian Dow in June 2013 to undertake an archaeological watching brief for a development at South Lasts Farm, Aberdeen (NJ 84492, 03702) as part of a project for a wind turbine with associated access.*

*Work in June 2013 revealed no archaeological features or deposits. No recommendations for further archaeological work are to be proposed.*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site is located on the west facing slope of Beans Hill (Illus 1). It is in the parish of Peterculter at NJ 84492, 03702 and at 120-130m OD.
- 1.2 Aberdeen City Council planning application P120166 for the proposed erection of a single 800 KW wind turbine and associated ancillary equipment and access track was passed on 24.8.12 with standard archaeology condition (condition number 1) with the requirement that a watching brief be maintained on the soil strip for the access road and the turbine base.



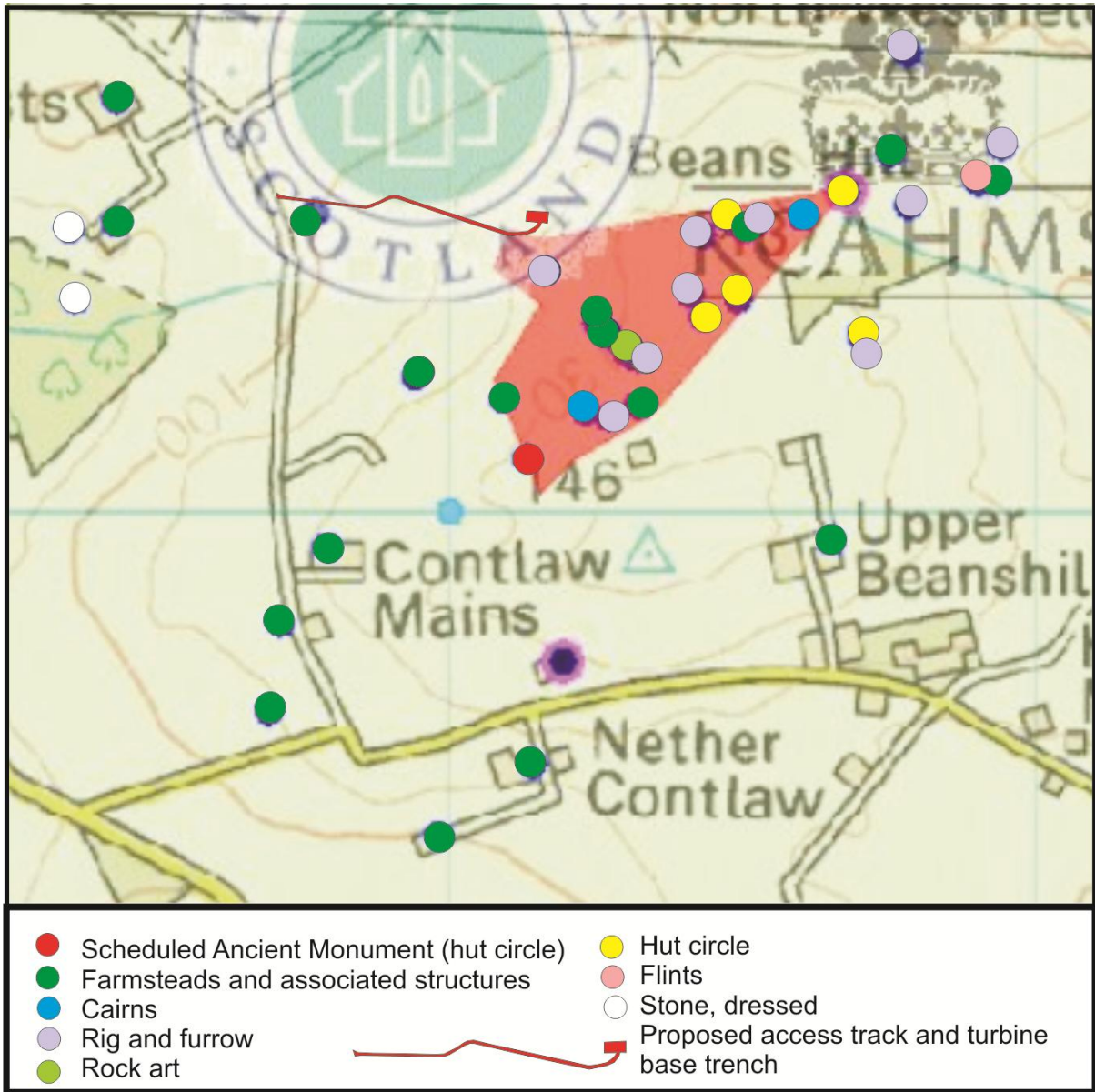
Illus 1 Location plan of site (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013)



Illus 2 Proposed wind turbine and access road (*copyright SAC Consulting*)

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The fields through which the access road and turbine are to be constructed are cultivated and there are no known archaeological sites within the area of the proposed development. Just south of the west end of the proposed access road is the site of a former cottage (NMRS no NJ90SW 122) which probably survives as foundations under a grassy pile of field clearance stones and boulders. These remains will not be disturbed by the proposed works.
- 2.2 There are many archaeological sites in the area of this former farm. One Scheduled Ancient Monument is a hut circle 355m ENE of Contlaw Mains and several other hut circles are known on Bean's Hill. March Stone 23 at the top of Beans Hill is Listed Category B. A number of rig and furrow areas, cup-marked stones, farmsteads and associated buildings including pens and stack bases survive on the unimproved land to the NE of the current site (Illus 3).
- 2.3 Several archaeological interventions have taken place in the area including watching briefs at Contlaw Mains (Cameron 2010, Cameron 2012) as well as a watching brief at Westfield (Peters 2009) but no significant archaeological remains were found during these projects.



Illus 3 Plan of archaeological sites in the area of the proposed wind turbine (*copyright RCAHMS Pastmap*)



Illus 4 - OS maps with proposed access road and turbine base (in red) Top: First Edition OS map Aberdeen Sheet LXXXV.3 (Peterculter) Survey date: 1865

Illus 5 - Bottom: Second Edition OS map Aberdeenshire, Sheet 085.03 Publication date: 1900 (copyright National Library of Scotland)

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The archaeological watching brief was to be conducted on areas where any new sub-surface ground works were to be carried out ie turbine base and access road. Topsoil was removed to an average depth of 25cm across the area of the turbine.

The turbine site lies on a slight southwest facing slope, of very rough pasture under grass with a natural ridge to the northeast of the site, bounded to the south by post & wire fencing with a stone wall and the boundary to the East was a post & wire fence separating the site from a woodland scheme. There are no upstanding features on the site.

The trenches for the turbine base and associated crane pad and road were excavated using a 24-ton back-acting machine with a 2m wide straight-edged bucket, with spoil being loaded into a 20-tonne dumper and stockpiled to the North of the site. A section of the road was cleared by a front-loader due to overhead power lines.

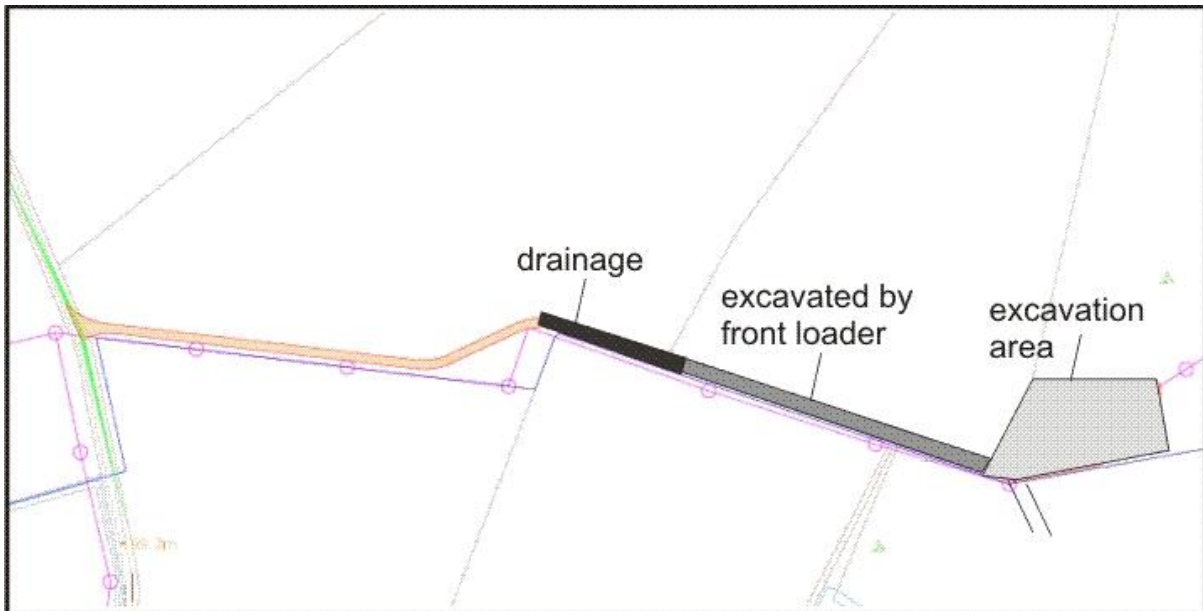
### 4. RESULTS

The archaeological watching brief took place on the site on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2013. The weather during the work was slightly overcast with sunny periods.

The excavation work conducted on the site was for the wind turbine base and the immediate area around for the crane base and road. The access road was also monitored, though an area to the centre had been previously excavated for the creation of drainage to the corner of the field in the form of 'french' drains with clay tiles. The trench for the construction of the road was excavated to a width of 3.8m along its total length, and in parts the topsoil was only 15cm deep in western field. The area of turbine base was excavated to an area c. 60m NS by 30m EW.

The topsoil and subsoil consisted of a loose light brown soil; it lay on top of loose soft yellow-orange-brown sandy silt natural with small to medium rounded stones, with patches of panning. A large number of boulders and smaller stones found to East side of excavation but none of these were structural. The edge of a small bank of small stones in the SE corner was 2m wide and 0.2m high and continued under fence to E for 30m. It is possibly post-medieval and remains of clearance.

The area of the road lay in two improved fields (as depicted on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps) whilst the turbine base lay in an area of very rough ground.



Illus 6 – Area of Watching Brief

## 5. DISCUSSION

The archaeological watching brief conducted on this site revealed no archaeological features or deposits of interest. The map and documentary evidence available indicate that the development site has previously been an area of rough pasture. Although there are archaeological remains in the wider vicinity of the development site there was no indication of it being an area of archaeological activity.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no further archaeological work recommended for this site as comprehensive monitoring work has taken place and no archaeological deposits or features were identified. The desk based assessment has also been carried out by Cameron Archaeology and although there is recorded archaeology in the vicinity of the development site (hut circles, etc); no associated features or finds were identified within the development site.

## 7. REFERENCES

Cameron, A 2010 'Contlaw Mains, Milltimber, Aberdeen' Discovery and Excavation in Scotland for 2010, 13.

Cameron, A 2012 'Contlaw Mains, Milltimber, Aberdeen' Discovery and Excavation in Scotland for 2012.

Peters, C 2009 Watching brief at Westfield, Milltimber, Aberdeen.  
<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/greylit/details.cfm?id=5111>

Peters, C 2010 Landscape survey, Westfield, Milltimber, Aberdeen  
<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/greylit/details.cfm?id=6131>



## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank the following for their help during the work:

- Mr B Dow;
- Staff of Miller Plant for onsite works;

## 9. ARCHIVE

The following is to be deposited in the National Monuments Record in Edinburgh:

- Notebook of results
- Copy of this report

A set of digital images showing the progress of the work has been deposited with the NMRS and Aberdeen City Council.

## 10. DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND

A short summary of the results of this project will be submitted to the Council for Scottish Archaeology's publication *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*.

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Plate 1 – View of site of turbine before excavation facing N.



Plate 2 – View of bank to SE corner facing E.



Plate 3 – View of turbine base during excavation facing N.



Plate 4 – View of crane pad during excavation facing NE.



Plate 5 – View of turbine base and crane pad upon excavation facing W.

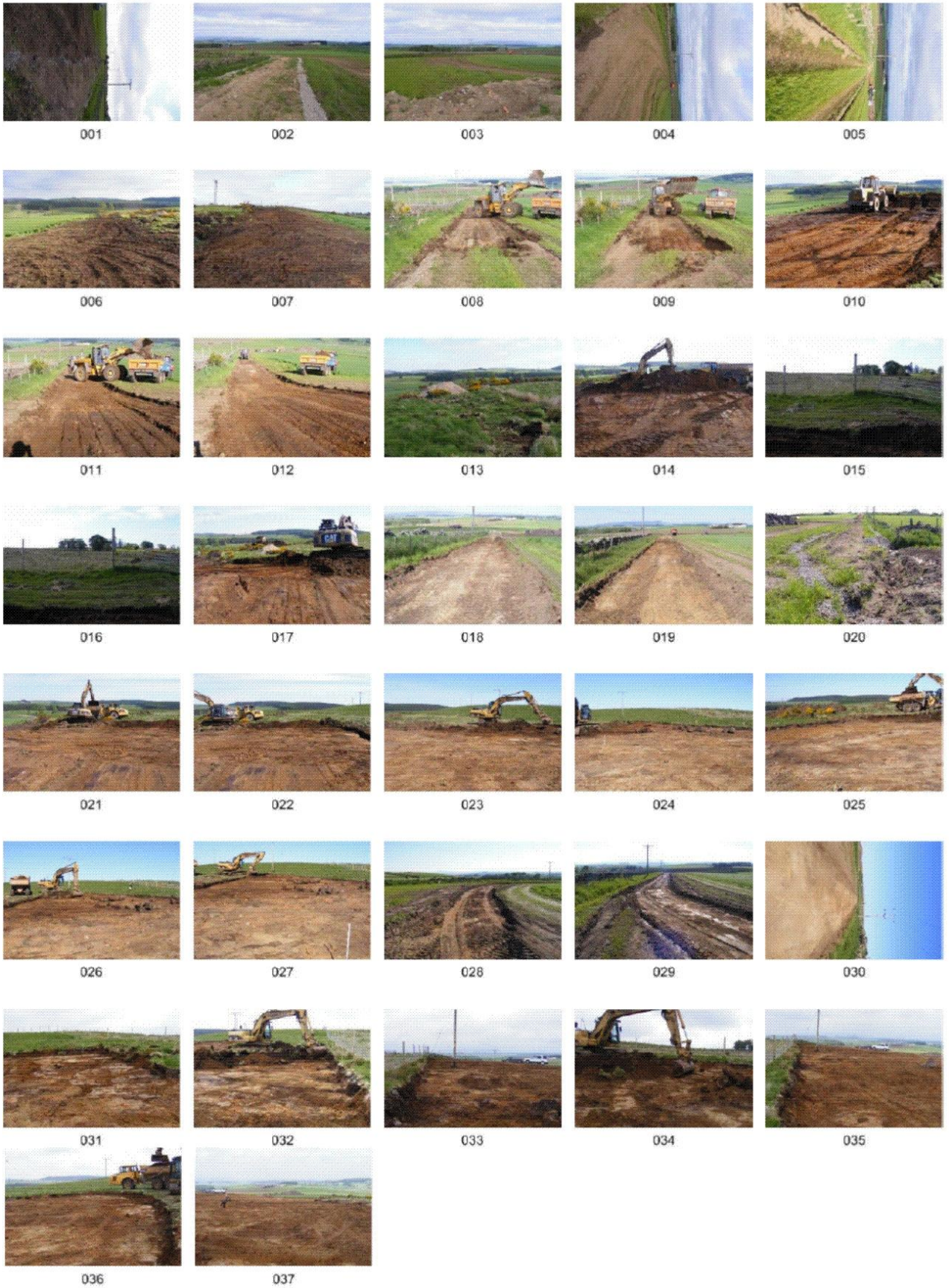


Plate 6 – View of drainage in road facing E.



## Appendix 1 – Photograph Register

- 1 – View of access road facing E.
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- 3 – View of access road facing SW.
- 4 – View of access road facing W.
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<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Aberdeen
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	South Lasts
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	CA114
<b>PARISH:</b>	Peterculter
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Stuart Farrell
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Cameron Archaeology
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/a
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/a
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NJ 84492/ 03702
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	10 June 2013
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	11 June 2013
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	n/a
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was conducted in June 2013 for a wind turbine with associated access. Work revealed no archaeological features or deposits to the area of the turbine, the site lying in an area of rough hill ground.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	n/a
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Mr B Dow
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	45 View Terrace, Aberdeen AB25 2RS
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	To be deposited with NMRS & SMR