

Dykeland, Laurencekirk, Aberdeenshire AB30 1UP

Report on archaeological watching brief



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24 August 2014**

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SUMMARY

The watching brief took place on 9 July and 22 August 2014. One agricultural furrow was identified in the NW turbine base but no other archaeological features or finds. The soil strip for the proposed turbine is now complete and no further archaeological work is required.

1 BACKGROUND

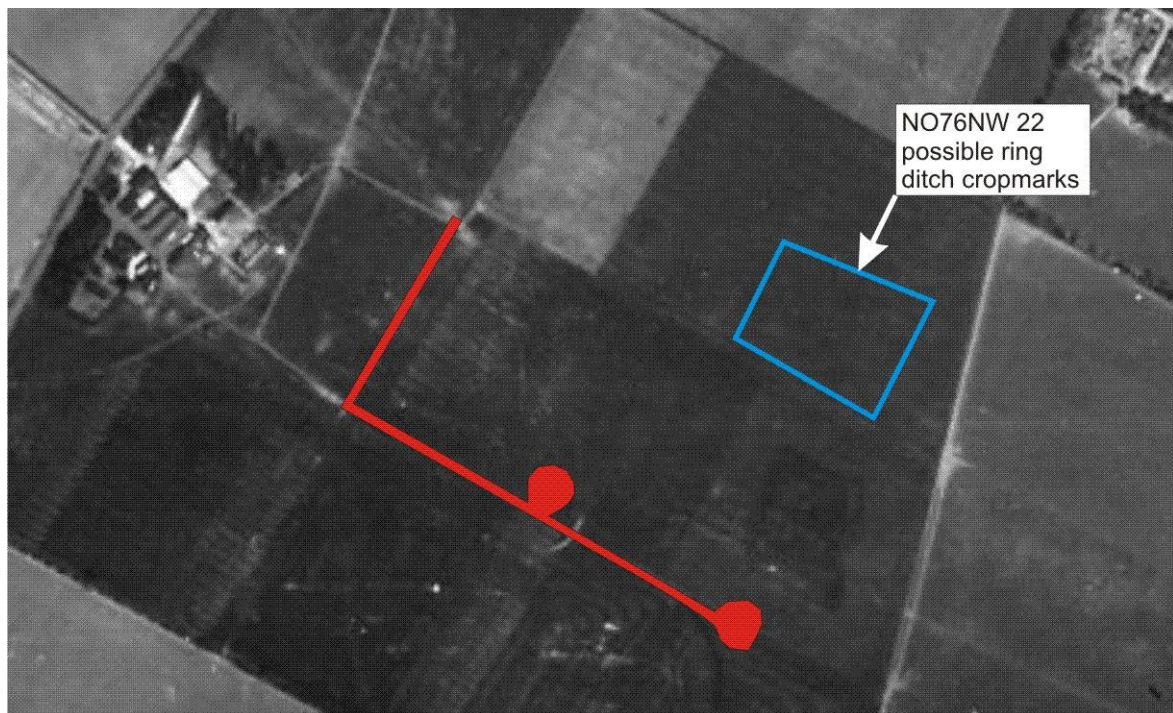
- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on the east side of Dykelands Farm, Laurencekirk. It is centred on NGR NO 70453 68673, at 100-110m OD.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Richard Milne, Dykelands Farm. Full planning permission (2012/4209) for erection of 2 100kW wind turbines and associated meter housing and access track was granted by Aberdeenshire Council Planning Committee on 13 May 2013 with a standard archaeology condition (condition 5). Aberdeenshire Council require a watching brief on all ground disturbance for the wind turbine bases and cabling.
- 1.3 All the archaeological work will be 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.



Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2014)



Illus 2 Site plan showing development site in red (copyright VG Energy)



Illus 3 1946 Aerial Photograph Showing Area Of Proposed Development And Area Of Ring Ditches Seen As Cropmarks (Copyright NCAP) Date: 08 May 1946 Location: Burn Of Balmakelly, Marykirk Coordinates (Lat, Lon): 56.805815, -2.487524 UNI: NCAP-000-000-102-978).

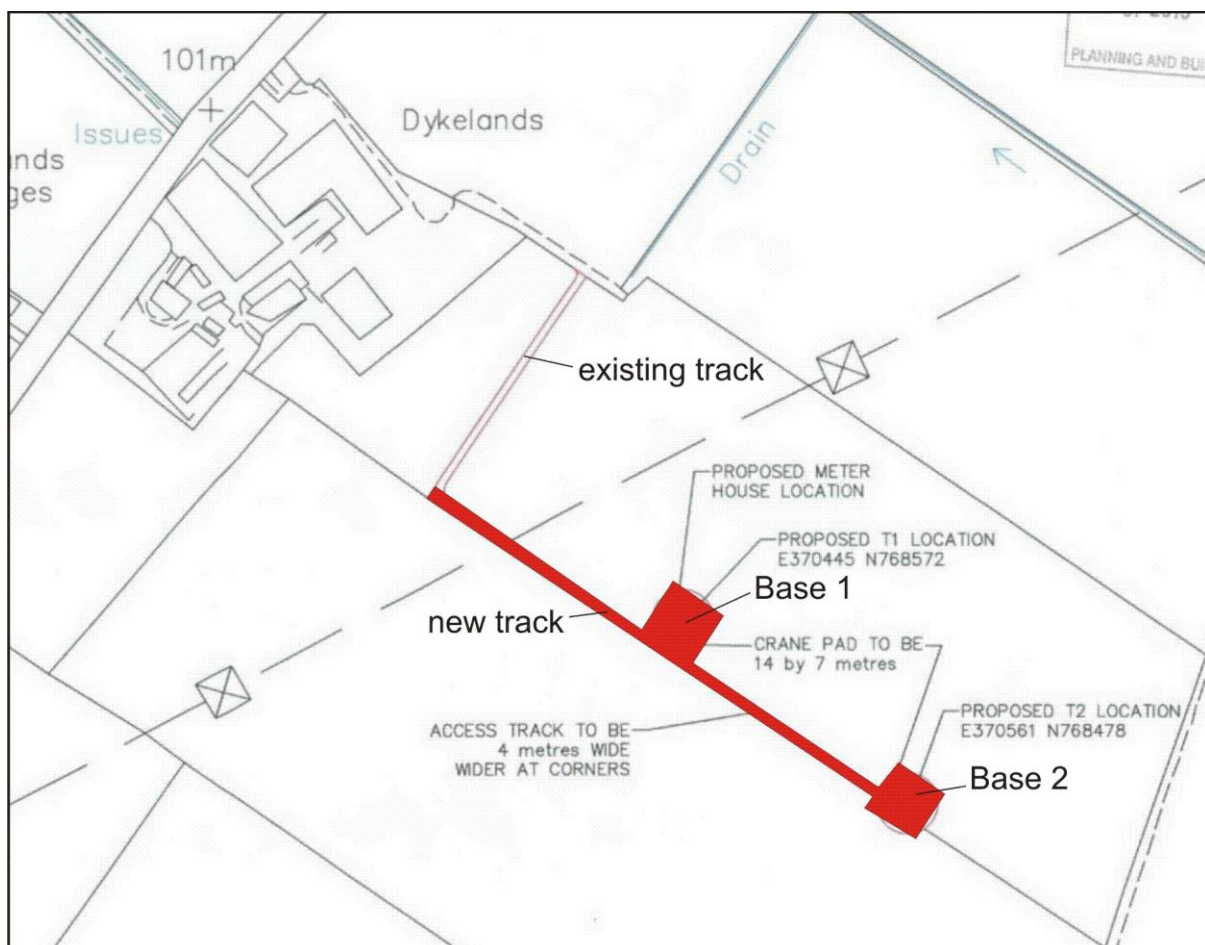
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed buildings within 1km of the proposed development site.
- 2.2 In the field north of the proposed development air photography has revealed the cropmark of a ring-ditch in arable ground on a gentle NW-facing slope at an altitude of 110m OD. The faint trace of a possible second ring-ditch is apparent immediately NW of the first ring-ditch and partly overlain by it (NO76NW 22 NMRS, MS/712/90; M Greig 1999, 6).

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

The watching brief took place on 9 July and 22 August 2014 (Illus 4). The soil strip of the track had been mostly completed prior to arrival but inspection of the track revealed no archaeological features or finds. The topsoil was 0.1m deep over much of the track to a maximum of 0.25m deep in places. The topsoil is heavy reddish brown sandy clay and the subsoil heavy reddish brown clayey gravel.

The turbine bases were 7.8 x 7.8m in size and the depth of the topsoil is 0.2-0.3m. One undated furrow up to 2m wide and 0.05m deep ran WNW-ESE across turbine base 1 was recorded but no further archaeological features or finds were identified.



Illus 4 Plan showing watching brief areas for track and two turbine bases (copyright VG Energy)



Illus 5 Furrow across turbine base 1 running from ranging rod to bottom right of photograph; facing NW

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

The soil strip is now complete and the turbines being constructed. No further work is required during the current development.

5 REFERENCES

Greig, M 1999 'Sites recorded during winter aerial reconnaissance, Aberdeenshire, *Discovery Excav Scot*, 6.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Richard Milne, Dykelands for initiating this project and to Claire Herbert at Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service for her advice during this work.

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APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS



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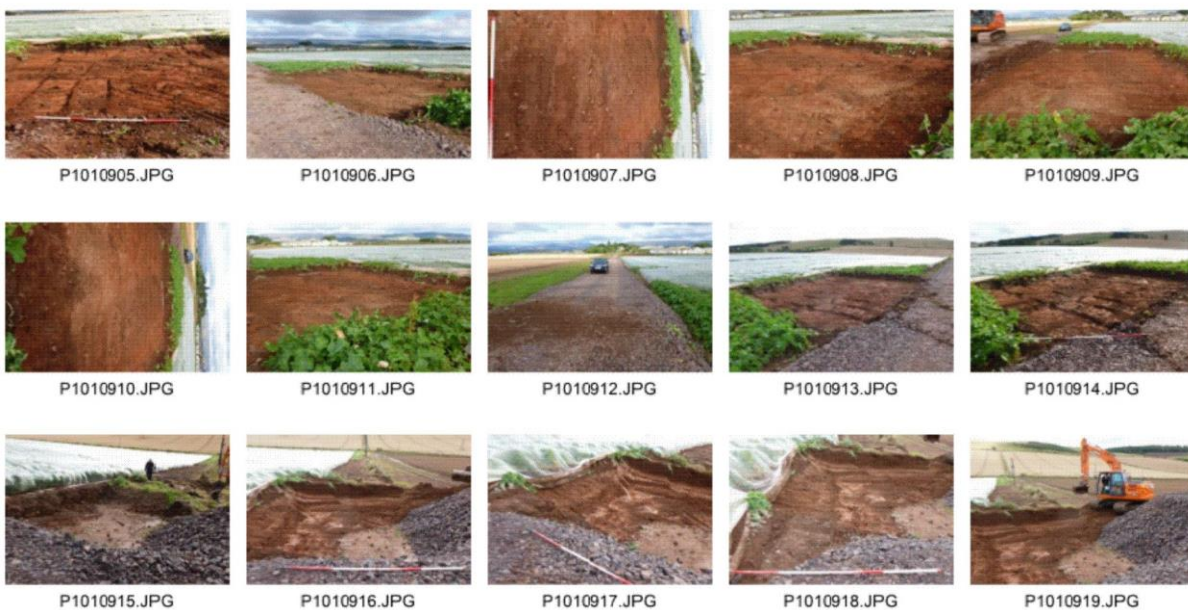


Photo no	Description	Facing
P1010615-648	Track soil strip	
P1010904	Turbine base 1 location	NW
P1010905	Turbine base 1 location	NE
P1010906	Turbine base 1	N
P1010907	Turbine base 1	NW
P1010908	Turbine base 1	N
P1010909-10	Turbine base 1	NW
P1010911	Turbine base 1	N
P1010913	Turbine base 1	E
P1010915-19	Turbine base 2	E/SE