

**Proposed Erection of One Wind Turbine, Associated
Tracks and Substation
South Lasts Farm, Contlaw Road, Milltimber, Aberdeen,
AB13 0ES**

Aberdeen City Council planning application P131859

Report on archaeological watching brief



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16 December 2014**

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover the centre of the watching brief area showing field drains, shallow topsoil and large earthfast boulder

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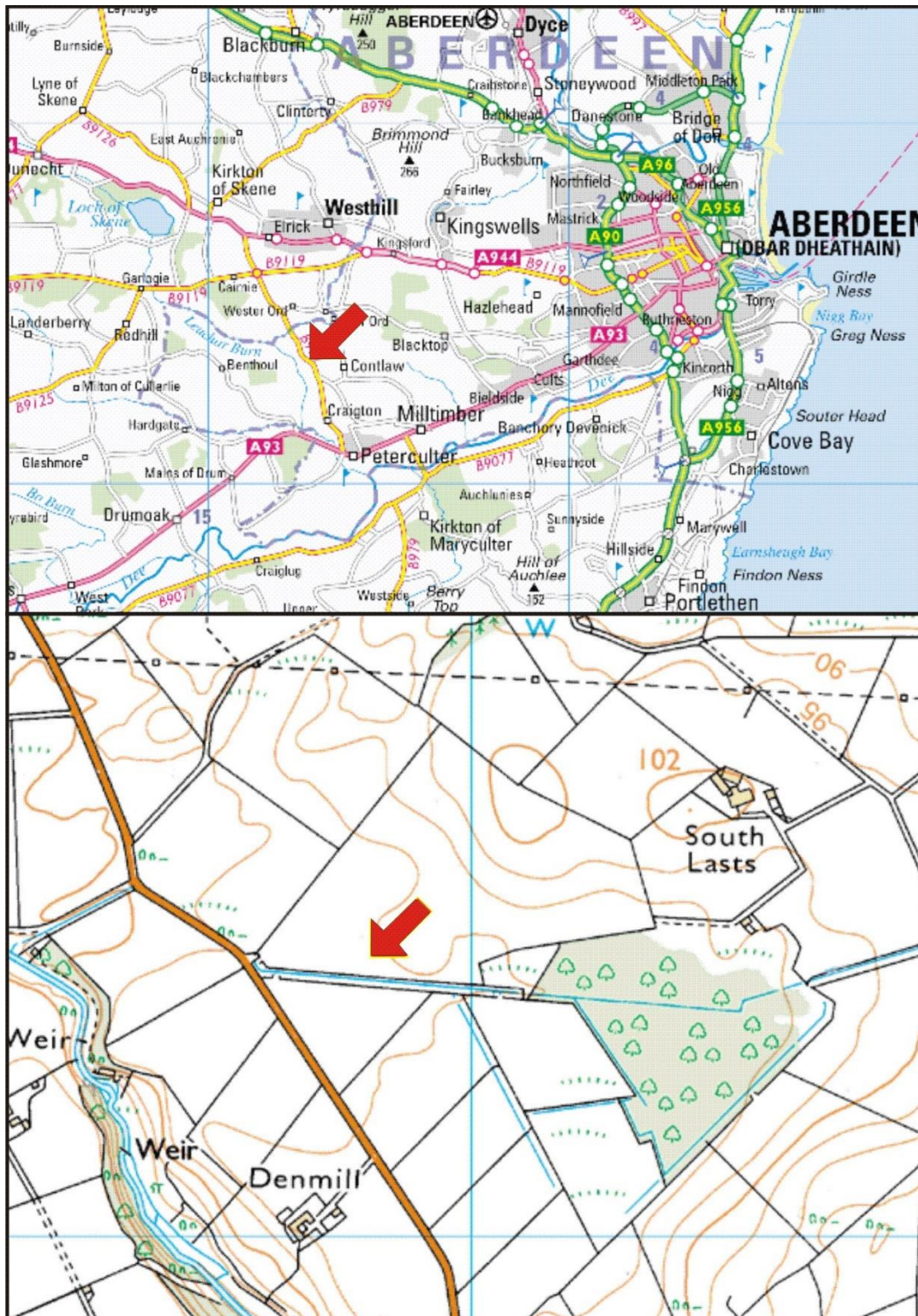
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SUMMARY

The watching brief took place on 11 December 2014. The weather was sunny and very cold. The field is on a gentle west facing slope and the area has a historical and current issue with waterlogging. The area was covered by 0.2m deep topsoil, with large earthfast boulders in the natural subsoil. There were numerous field drains in several phases including modern ceramic pipe in narrow trenches with type 2 infill and stone drains. No archaeological deposits or finds were observed during this work and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site is located south-west of South Lasts Farm (Illus 1). It is in the parish of Peterculter at NJ 82839 03439 and at 80-85m OD. The client is G & B Renewables, South Lasts Farm.
- 1.2 Aberdeen City Council planning application P131859 for the proposed erection of one wind turbine, associated tracks and substation was passed on 25.4.14 with standard archaeology condition (condition number 1) with the requirement that a watching brief be maintained on the soil strip for the proposed works.



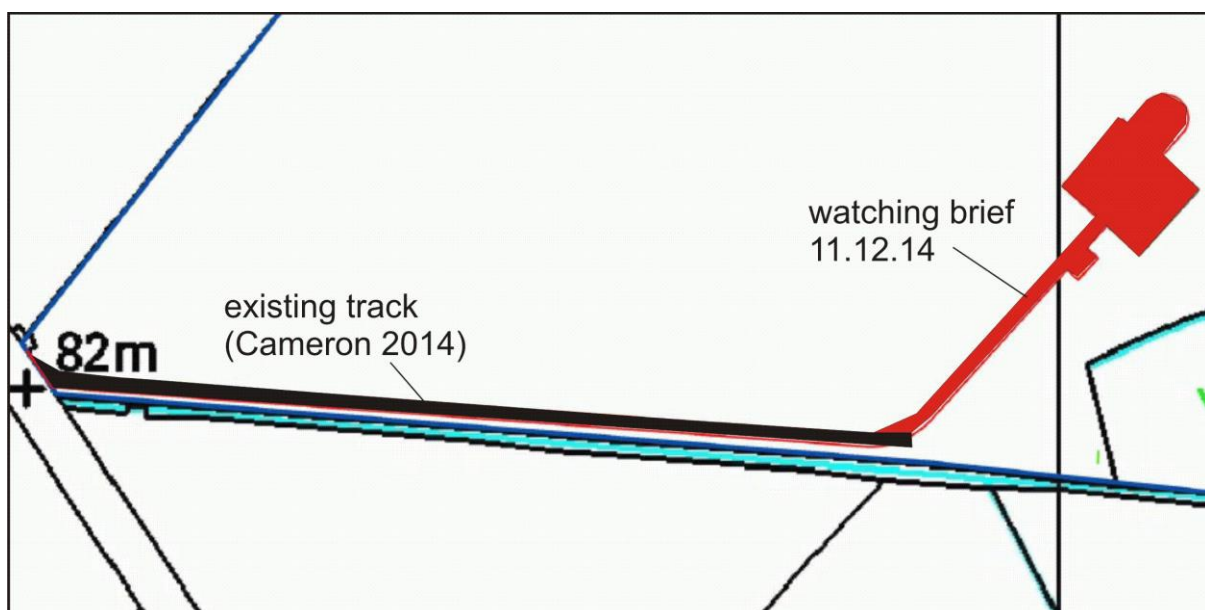
Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2014)

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.
- 2.3 A watching brief was maintained in 2013 and 2014 during the soil strip for a previous wind turbine base, sub station and access road; no archaeological remains were recorded (Farrell 2013; Cameron 2014). Several other archaeological interventions have taken place in the area including watching briefs at Contlaw Mains (Cameron 2010, 13; Cameron 2012, 13) as well as a watching brief at Westfield (Peters 2009) but no significant archaeological remains were found during these projects.

3.0 THE WATCHING BRIEF

The watching brief took place on 11 December 2014. The weather was sunny and very cold. The field is on a gentle west facing slope and the area has a historical and current issue with waterlogging. The area was covered by 0.2m deep topsoil, with large earthfast boulders in the natural subsoil. There were numerous field drains in several phases including modern ceramic pipe in narrow trenches with type 2 infill and stone drains. No archaeological deposits or finds were observed during this work and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.



Illus 2 Proposed sub-station and associated access pad (copyright Locogen Ltd)

4.0 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, 13.

Cameron, A 2014 'Proposed wind turbine and access track, South Lasts Farm, Contlaw Road, Milltimber, Aberdeen, AB13 0ES'.

Farrell, S 2013 'Proposed wind turbine and access track, South Lasts Farm, Contlaw Road, Milltimber, Aberdeen, AB13 0ES'. Discovery and Excavation in Scotland for 2013.

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>

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APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS



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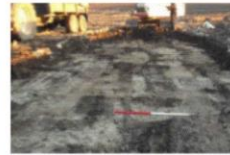
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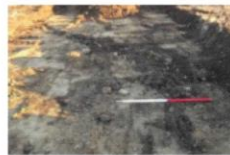
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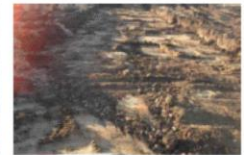
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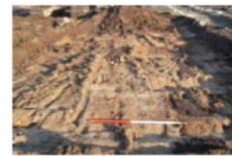
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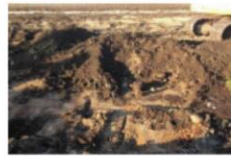
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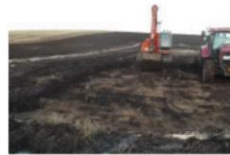
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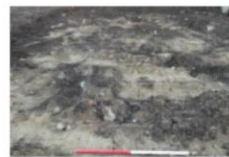
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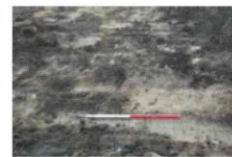
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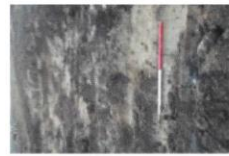
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