

LITTLE KIRKHILL, MAUD ABERDEENSHIRE



- Archaeological Watching Brief -

Carried out 3rd August 2010
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2010-15
by
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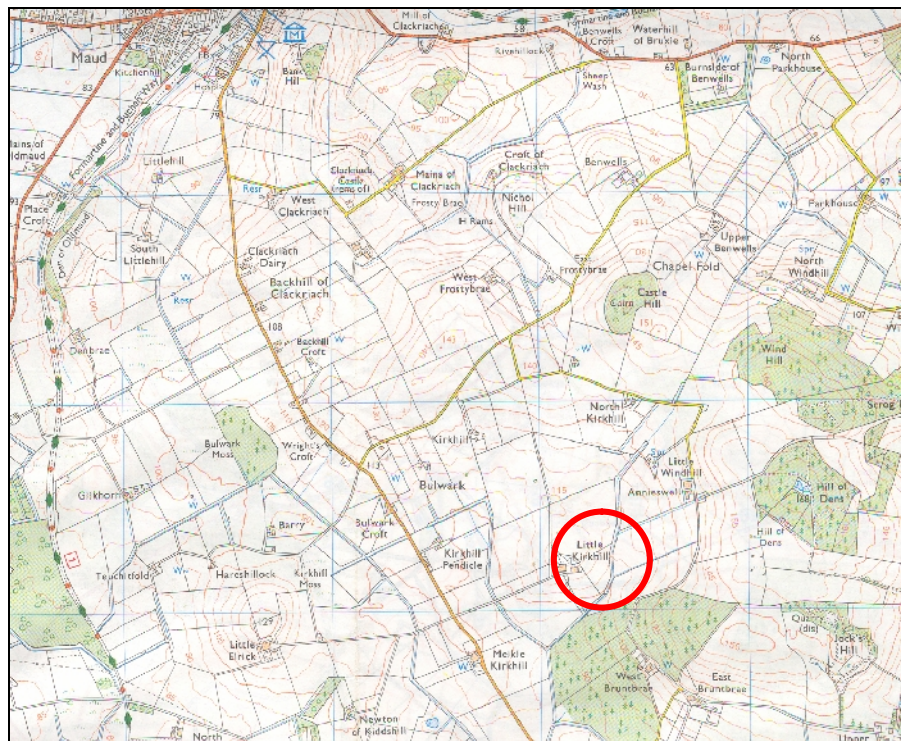
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1. Background

- 1.1 Proposals for the installation of a 15m high wind turbine at Little Kirkhill, Maud, Aberdeenshire, required that an archaeological watching brief should be carried out during the ground works excavations.
- 1.2 The archaeological condition was applied in the context of PAN 42 para 35 which states that it is necessary for developers to arrange for archaeological fieldwork to take place prior to development, in appropriate circumstances.
- 1.3 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by the landowner, Tom Catto, to undertake the work; the field element of which was carried out on 3rd August 2010.

2. The Site

- 2.1 Little Kirkhill is located c.2km S of Maud on the E side of a minor road from Maud to Auchnagatt [NGR: NJ 9406 4527; Parish: Old Deer] on high ground sloping to the south, east and west [see Illus.1].
- 2.2 Some 34 flint leaf-shaped arrowheads and flint chippings of probable Neolithic date were found at Little Kirkhill in 1864, a little below ground level [NGR: NJ 9409 4523; NMRS NO: NJ94NW 19].

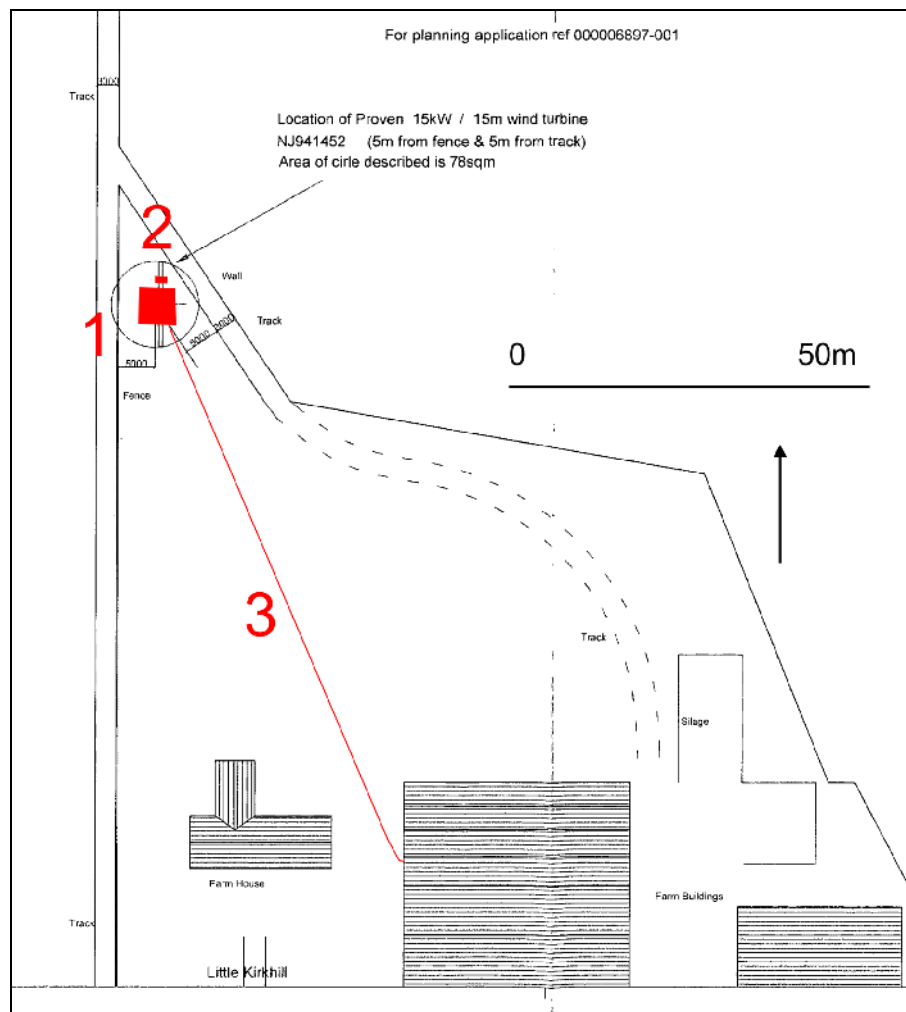


Illus. 1: Location of Site. Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright (2007). All rights reserved. Licence number (100049810)

3. The Work

- 3.1 The wind turbine is located c.80m to the N of the farmhouse and the steading buildings. A full-slew mechanical digger was used to excavate the base for the turbine and the cable trench that extends from the turbine to the steading [see Illus.2].
- 3.2 A 5m square, (1), was excavated for the concrete base of the turbine. Topsoil to a depth of c.150-200mm was removed which overlay hard natural rock, fractured in places. About 2m to the N of the turbine base, a small area, (2), c.2.5m square, was excavated for a control box. As with the turbine base, c.200mm of topsoil overlay hard rocky natural.
- 3.3 A cable trench, (3), ran from the SE corner of the turbine base for c.90m to the steading building on the E side of the farmhouse. The trench was c.700mm wide and excavated to a depth of c.750mm where possible. The trench ran across the crest of the high ground and sloped to the S to the steading. At the

crest of the slope there was virtually no topsoil remaining and the trench was excavated through rock outcrop; elsewhere the depth of topsoil was very thin. At a point c.25m N of the S end of the cable trench, the natural rock gave way abruptly to soft greyish beige sand over natural silty sand.



Illus. 2: Site plan the squares excavated and the line of the cable trench.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the ground excavations for the installation of a wind turbine at Little Kirkhill.
- 4.2 No archaeological features or finds were evident.



Illus. 3: Trench 1 during excavation, looking S



Illus. 4: Cable trench (3), running S from Trench 1



Illus. 5: Cable trench (3) running through natural rock, looking S



Illus. 6: S end of Cable trench (3)

Photographic Catalogue (supplied on CD to archive)

1 – 10 Views of Trench 1, looking S

11 – 12	General views, looking S
13 – 17	Views of Trenches 1 and 2, looking S
18 – 25	Views of Cable Trench 3, looking S