

BURNSIDE OF WHITEFIELD FORGLEN ABERDEENSHIRE



- Archaeological Watching Brief -
Carried out 24th February 2011
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2011-9
by
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1. Background

- 1.1 In response to an application (APP/2010/3779) for the erection of a wind turbine at Burnside of Whitefield, Forglen, Turriff, the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service determined that a condition (PAN 42, para 34, SPP, SHEP) should be placed on the application requiring an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken on the site of the turbine and along the cable trench to it.
- 1.2 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Eric Mutch to undertake the work; the field element of which was carried out on 24th February 2011.
- 1.3 As Mr Mutch is lodging an application for a possible second turbine near the one covered by the original application, topsoil was also stripped over that area under archaeological supervision. The results are also covered in this report.

2. Desk-top survey

- 2.1 A search was carried out in the Sites and Monuments Record, Archaeology Service, Aberdeenshire Council and in the Sites and Monuments Records of the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Scotland (RCAHMS) through Canmore and Pastmap.
- 2.2 The site is to the NE of the farm buildings at Burnside of Whitefield, with the cable trench running down to a pole to the S of the house.
- 2.3 A short cist had been found on the farm in 1905 (NMRS No: NJ65SE4, Aberdeenshire SMR No: NJ65SE0003). The exact findspot was unrecorded

but NMRS locate it at c 200 yards E of the farm at 6601 5351. (c 40m E of the cable trench)

3. The Site

- 3.1 The turbine site (Site 1) is located on the top of a gentle rolling hill up to the NE of the farm buildings. Both the turbine site and the line of the cable trench are in ground that has been cultivated over a long period and is shown as cultivated ground on the 1st OS map of 1868 (pub 1871).

NGR: NJ 6601 5359 (centre of turbine site). Parish: Forglen

4. Methodology

- 4.1 Topsoil on the turbine site and on the possible turbine site was removed using a full slew machine with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil on the cable trench was removed using a 900mm wide toothless ditching bucket. Any possible features were cleaned and excavated by hand.
- 4.2 All mapping was done with a Magellan Mobile Mapper CX.

5. The Results

Turbine site 1

GPS (centre) 366010, 853592

Size: 7m²

Stratigraphy: 350-500mm topsoil over clean sands and gravels.

Potential site 2

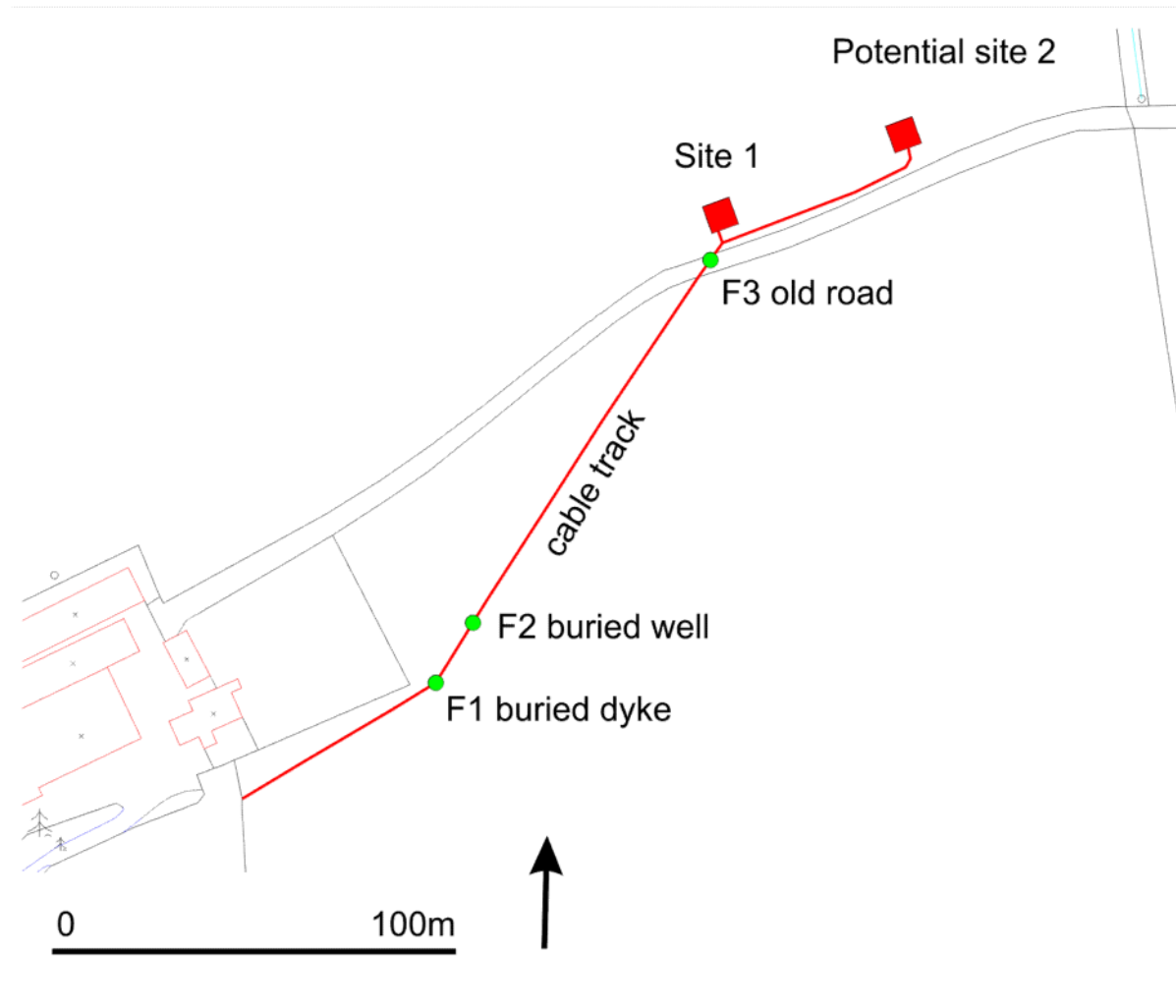
GPS (centre) 366056,853612

Size: 7m²

Stratigraphy: 300-400mm topsoil over clean sands and gravels.

Cable trench

GPS from 366011,853584 to 365893,853449



Illus 1 Location plan (Ordnance Survey ©CrownCopyright 2011. Ref No 1012073)

Length: c180m with a further c50m running between the turbine site (site 1) and the proposed site of a second turbine (site 2).

F1 Buried dyke. The trench crossed the line of a former dyke that Mr Mutch had dug in and covered some years ago.

F2 Buried well. GPS 365949,853491. Below the topsoil the machine revealed a hole some 3.2m in diameter filled with loose stones. Hand excavation revealed built stonework of a rectangular or square lining of the pit; some 600mm depth and one corner was excavated of what appeared to be a structure c 2 x 2m. The structure is interpreted as a well and clearly extended (stone filled) to a far greater depth than the 1m depth of the cable trench.



Illus 2 Well F2

F3 Old road. The line of the old road between the farm of Burnside of Whitefield (and its predecessor Westertown) and Mains of Whitefield (now empty) is now an overgrown strip along the field margin. Excavation through it showed a stony matrix below grass and topsoil. This road dates to at least the late 18th century as it is shown on an estate map of 1804.

6. Interpretation

It has been possible to make some attempt to date the features noted in the cable trench by reference to Forglen estate maps of the farm now in the possession of Mr Mutch. The maps date to 1804 (detail in illus 3), 1834 and 1870.

In 1834 a farm called Westertown is shown just to the E of the site of the present farm. Westertown is also shown on the 1834 map. However, by 1870- and by the 1st OS map surveyed in 1868 (published 1871) Westertown has disappeared and been replaced by Burnside (of Whitefield) on its present site, slightly W of Westertown. According to Mr Mutch senior the present farm was built in 1867.

The well (F2) is likely to have belonged to Westertown farm as it would have been nearer to it; wells associated with Burnside of Whitefield are shown on the 1st OS map to the SW of the farm. It is likely therefore to be of 18th/early 19th century date.

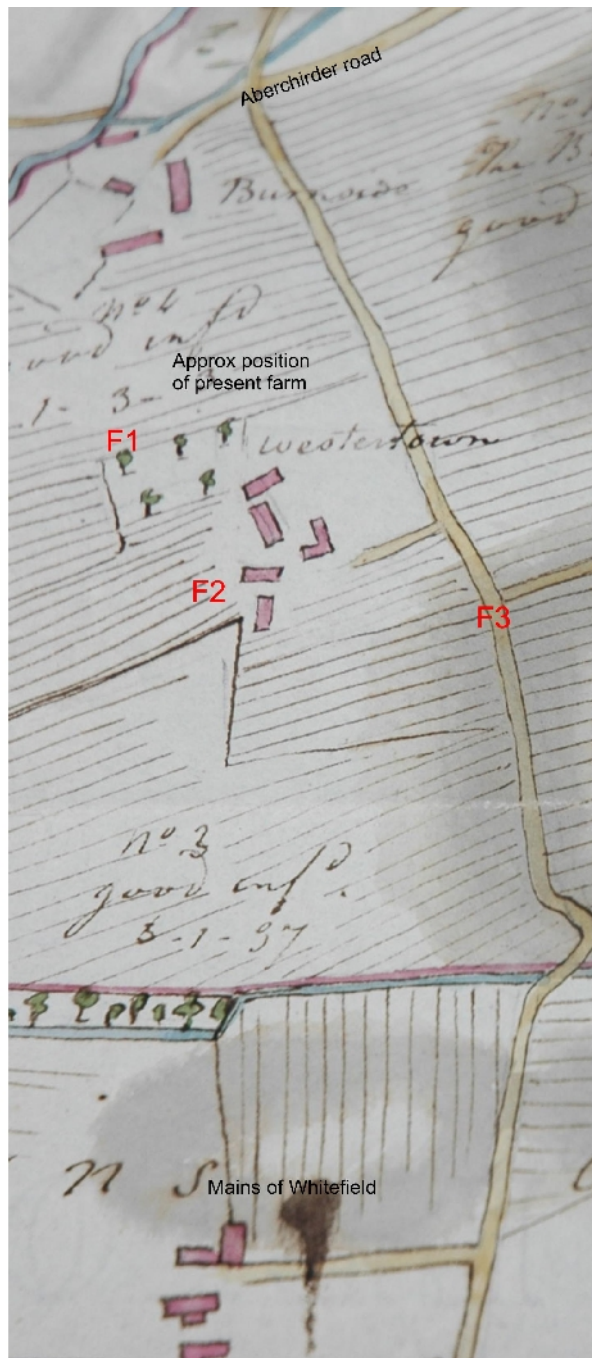
The track (F3) is shown from 1804 (illus 3) to the present, although it no longer exists as a roadway. The dyke (F1) is shown on the 1st OS map by which time the field system has been more enclosed and formalised, part of this line appears also have existed in 1804 running to the S side of the farm buildings, separating them from a wood and continuing E.

7. Conclusion

Although the watching brief has located the position of a number of features of the late 18th/19th century landscape, these have been recorded and no further action is required.

Photographs supplied to archive on CD

Photographic catalogue	
Digital frame no	Content
1-2	Site 1 looking W towards farm
3-5	Proposed site 2, looking towards Site 1
6-7	cable trench from Site 1, looking towards farm. Ranging rod shows position of well F2
8-17	Details of well 2
18-21	Details of Forglen estate map of Whitefield 1804 courtesy of Mr Mutch



Illus 3 Detail of Forglen estate map of the ground of the farm now known as Burnside of Whitefield. 1804. (reproduced by courtesy of Eric Mutch).

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