

GREENHILL WIND TURBINE BONNYKELLY, NEW PITSLIGO ABERDEENSHIRE



**- Archaeological Watching Brief -
Carried out 19th September 2011
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



Report No: MAS 2011-29
by
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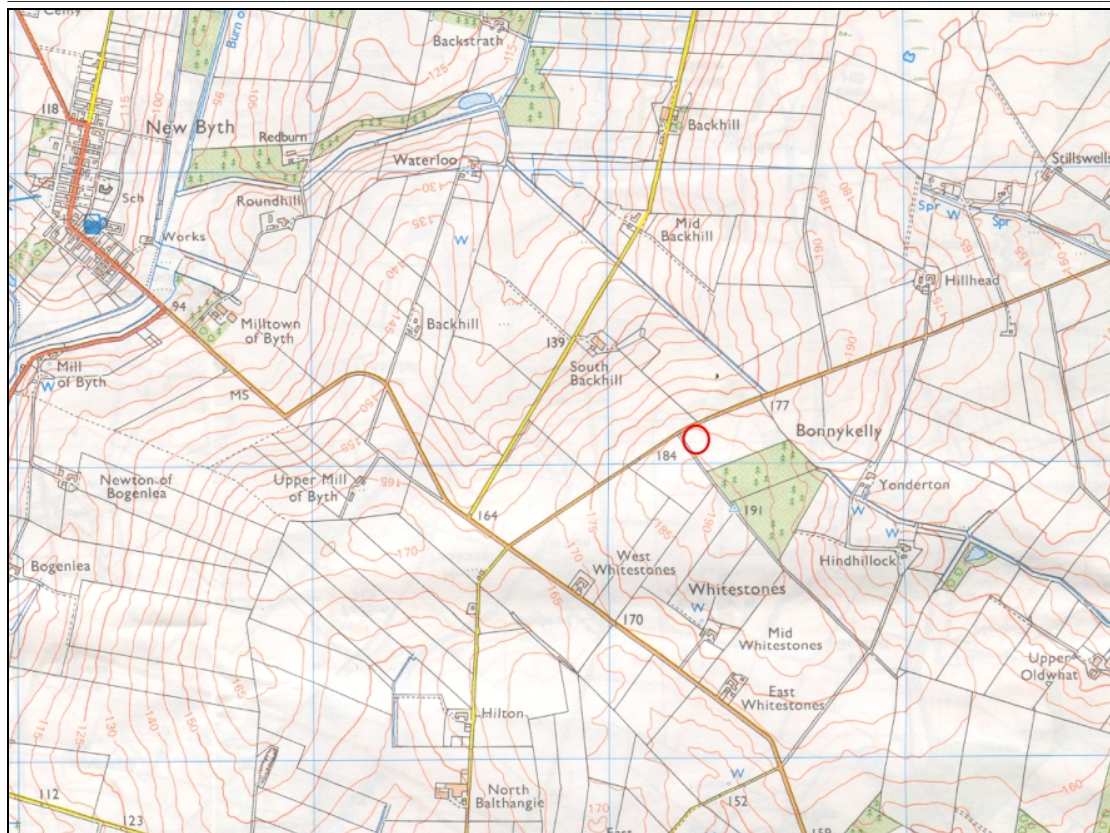
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1. Background

- 1.1 Proposals for the erection of wind turbines at Greenhill Croft, Bonnykelly, New Pitsligo, Aberdeenshire, required that an archaeological watching brief be carried out prior to the soil clearance for the footprint of the turbines, hard standing and access tracks [Planning Application Ref: APP/2009/3456].
- 1.2 The Condition is applied in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) and Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011, 28) which states that Planning Authorities may impose planning conditions to ensure that arrangements are made for archaeological watching briefs during the approved works and to secure appropriate recording of such works and for the provision of analysis and publication of results.
- 1.3 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Green Cat Renewables Ltd, on behalf of their client Alan Twatt (Potatoes) Ltd, to undertake the watching brief for the soil strip at Turbine 1; the field element of which was carried out on 19th September 2011.

2. The Site

- 2.1 The site is located off minor roads to the SE of New Byth and SW of New Pitsligo [NJ 84334 53029]. Parish: New Deer. (Illus.1)
- 2.2 The site is a very short distance to the W of Bonnykelly, where a Bronze Age leaf-shaped spearhead was found and which is in the collections of the Marischal Museum, Aberdeen.



Illus. 1: Location of turbine site, marked in red. Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright (2007) All rights reserved. Licence number (100049810))

3. Methodology

- 3.1 The topsoil was removed by full-slew mechanical digger using a toothless ditching bucket and a bulldozer. Thereafter, areas were cleaned by hand where necessary.

4. The Work

- 4.1 The watching brief on the soil strip for the access track and the turbine base was carried out on 19th September [see Illus.2].
- 4.2 A strip, 30m long x 23m wide was excavated E-W along the road side. From this, a 4m wide track ran for c.86m N-S along the W field boundary. To the E of the access track the area of the hard standing and the turbine base, measuring c.37m N-S x c.48m E-W was stripped of topsoil by bulldozer.
- 4.3 The field had been in grass and c.250 – 300mm of dark topsoil was removed over hard sandy yellow-brown natural which was very stoney.
- 4.4 No archaeological features or finds were evident.



Illus. 2: Detail of site layout.



Illus. 3: Access track, looking N.



Illus. 4: Area of Turbine base, looking N

5. Results

- 5.1 An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the soil strip for the access track, hard standing and turbine base at Greenhill.
- 5.2 No archaeological features or finds were evident.

Catalogue of Digital Photographs (Supplied to Archive)

8-9	View of site, looking N
10-14	View of access track, looking N
15-16	View across site, looking NE
17-18	Area of Turbine base, looking N
19-22	Detail of area of Turbine base, looking NE