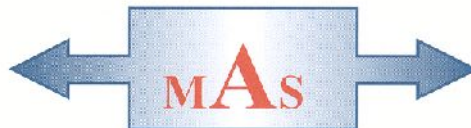


# WOODSIDE FARM INSCH ABERDEENSHIRE



**- Archaeological Watching Brief -**  
Carried out 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012  
by  
**Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



**Report No: MAS 2012-16**  
by  
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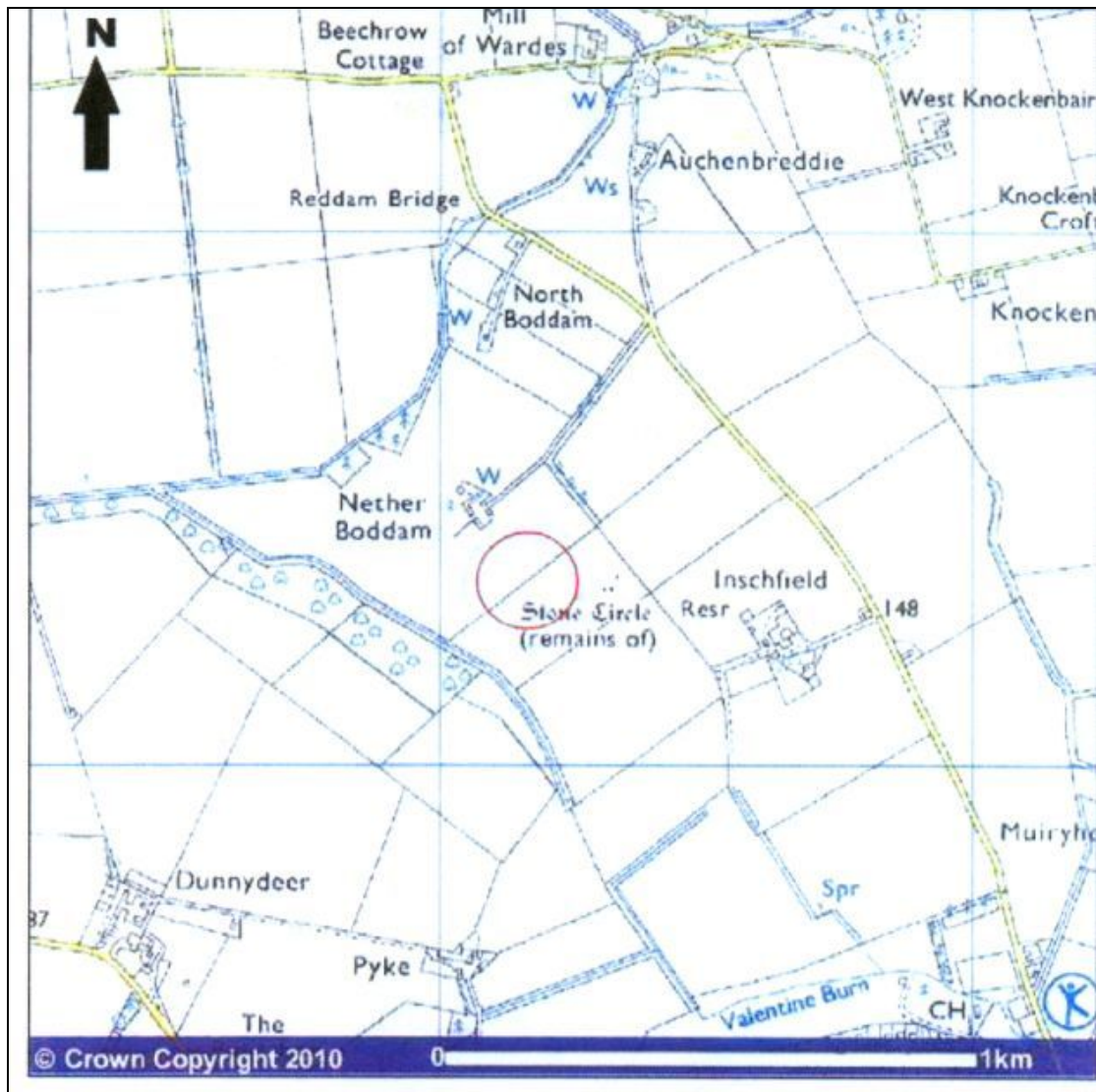
# **WOODSIDE FARM INSCH ABERDEENSHIRE**

## **-Archaeological Watching Brief-**

**J C Murray**

1. Background
  - 1.1 A Planning Application (APP/2010/3221) was approved for the installation of three CK 15Kw wind turbines, measuring 19.5m to the tip, at Woodside Farm, Inch. An archaeological condition (Planning Condition No.9) requiring a watching brief to be maintained during the ground works for the turbine bases, was applied in the context of Scottish Planning policy (PAN 2/2011, SPP, SHEP).
  - 1.2 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Mr Bill Whyte to undertake the work; the field element of which was carried out on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012.
2. The Site
  - 2.1 The site lies a short distance to the NW of Inch, off a minor road running between Inch and Reddam Bridge. The farm is now known as Woodside Farm but was formerly called Nether Boddam.
  - 2.2 The three wind turbines are located to the S of the farmhouse and converted steadings and aligned along a boundary fence running SW to NE.
  - 2.3 In the field on the S side of the boundary fence, and E of the turbines, are the remains of a recumbent stone circle [NGR: NJ 6233 2934; NMRS No: NJ62NW 6] (see Illus 2, A). Only three stones now remain of the stone circle, with the recumbent tumbled over and broken in two.

- 2.4 At Pyke, to the S of the site, a crop mark of a double ditched curvilinear enclosure is recorded [Aberdeenshire SMR – NJ62NW0110] (see Illus 2, B).

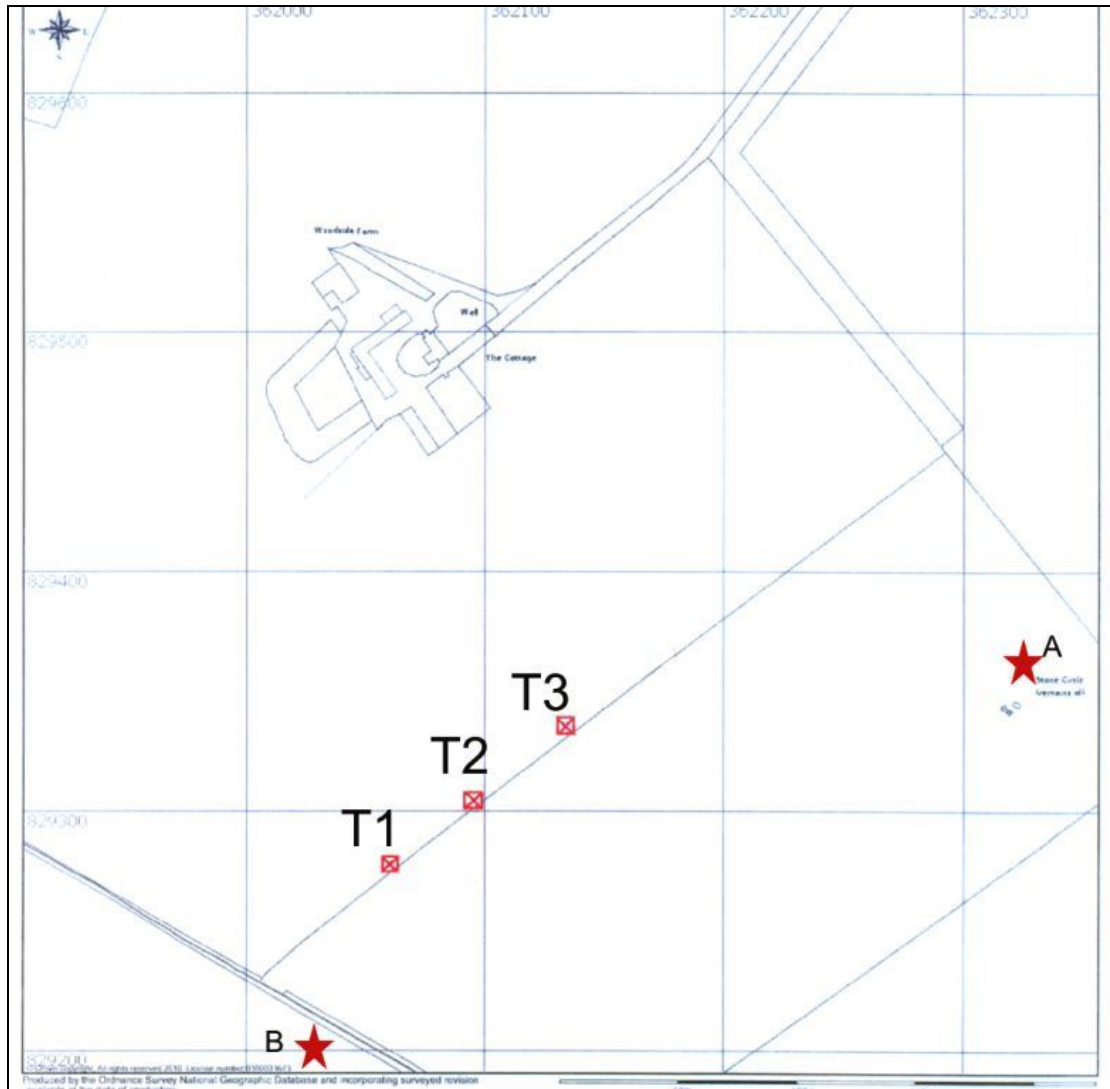


**Illus 1: Location Map, showing the site as Nether Boddam. Ordnance Survey Crown copyright © (2010). All rights reserved. License number (100049810)**

### 3 Methodology

- 3.1 Excavations were carried out using a full slew mini mechanical digger with a toothless ditching bucket. Following this, areas of potential interest were cleaned by hand.

3.2 The field was in grass for silage at the time of recording.



Illus 2: Site plan, showing the location of the turbines and archaeological features, (A – Recumbent Stone Circle; B – Crop mark at Pyke)

#### 4. The Work

4.1 Turbine 1 [NJ 6260 2927]: Located at the bottom of the slope, the area excavated for the turbine base was 5.5m square. A surprisingly 600mm deep deposit of very fine brown soil overlay yellowish sandy natural with a slight amount of stone.



No archaeological features or finds were evident.

- 4.2 Turbine 2 [NJ 6209 2929]: Located c.40m NE of Turbine 1 and roughly half way up the slope, also measured 5.5m square. The depth of soil deposit above natural in this position decreased to c.300-350mm.

No archaeological features or finds were evident.

- 4.3 Turbine 3 [NJ 6212 2932]: Again, located c.40m NE of Turbine 2, the same sequence of fine brown soil over yellowish sandy natural was observed. The depth of soil was c.350-400mm.

No archaeological features or finds were observed.



**Illus 3: View, looking SW, from site of Turbine 3 to sites of Turbines 2 and 1**



**Illus 4: View, looking SE, across the location of Turbine 3, with Bennachie in the background**

## 5 Results

- 5.1 Although in relatively close proximity to two archaeological sites, the excavations for the turbine bases produced no archaeological features or finds.