

ARK HILL WIND FARM GLAMIS ANGUS



- Archaeological Watching Brief -
Carried out 7th June 2012
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2012-20
by
J C Murray

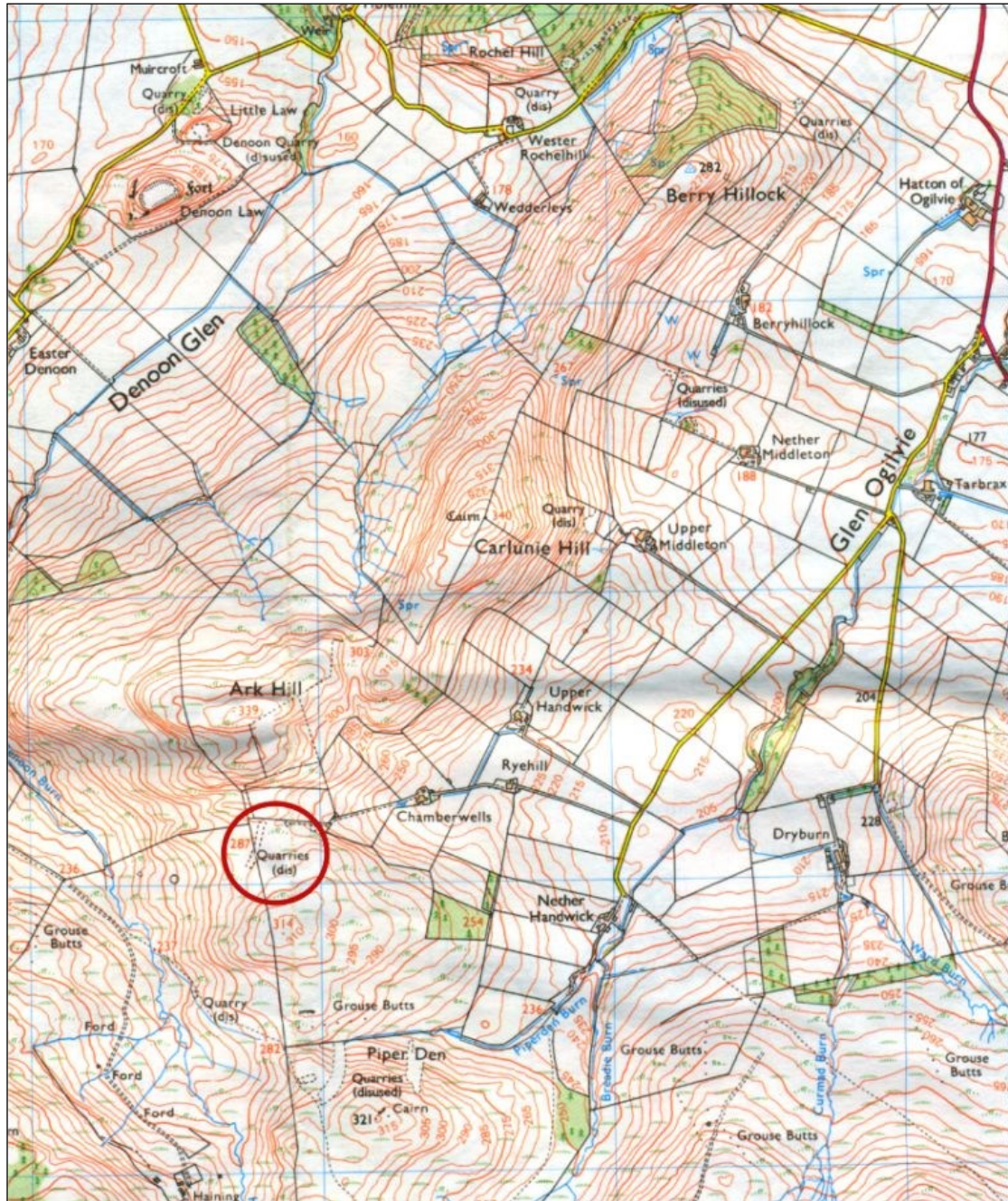
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1. Background
 - 1.1 Planning approval for the installation of a wind turbine farm on Ark Hill, Angus, required that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during certain specified ground works. The archaeological condition was applied in the context of Scottish Planning policy (PAN 2/2011, SPP, SHEP).
 - 1.2 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Green Cat Renewables Ltd to undertake the work; the field element of which was carried out on 7th June 2012.
2. The Site
 - 2.1 An archaeological assessment of the proposed wind farm site was undertaken in 2002 by AOC Archaeology Group as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment. As part of that assessment, it was recommended that a watching brief be maintained at the location of a borrow pit (Site No.2) at the N end of a linear quarry.
 - 2.2 The site is located to the S of Ark Hill and a short distance to the W of Chamberwells farm [NGR: NO 3578 4217]. Although part of the quarry appears on the Ordnance Survey first edition mapping, it was recognised in the archaeological assessment report that it was relatively recent and that the use of it for extraction was a continuum of the site's function as a local source of stone.



Illus 1: Location map with the site of the borrow pit outlined in red. Crown copyright © (2007). All rights reserved. License number (100049810).

2.3 It was further thought that, although the quarries were of limited archaeological significance in themselves, the watching brief would check for the survival of unknown archaeological remains.



Illus 2: Site plan with the area of the borrow pit outlined in green.

2.4 The stone quarried produced flat laminated sheets and was ideal for building drystone dykes, as was evident from the adjoining fields and hillsides.



Illus 3: Drystone dyke to N of quarry

3 Methodology

- 3.1 Excavations were carried out using a full slew mechanical digger with a toothed bucket owing to the stoney nature of the ground. Following this, areas of potential interest were cleaned by hand



Illus 4: General view of the old quarry, looking S.

4. The Work

- 4.1 The old linear quarry ran NE to SW and is bisected by a wire fence at the southern end. The vegetation and soil stripped from the area on its W side, between the W quarry edge and the wire fence, was wedge shaped and was 75m long (N-S) x 4m wide at the S end and 28m wide at the N end. A thin layer of grass and soil, c.80-100mm deep, overlay broken shale-like stone. Below this, the stone laminated in thin plates when machined and appeared soft and friable. At a deeper level it became more solid, but still laminated when machined. It was this material that was required for the trackways to the turbine sites.



Illus 5: Soil strip on W side of old quarry, looking S.



Illus 6: Detail of the stoney surface below topsoil.

- 4.2 On the E side of the quarry, a number of small mounds were evident. On machining, these appeared to be piles of soil mixed through with small pieces

of broken up quarry waste. It is possible that these mounds represent a rough dressing of quarried stone before its removal from the site.

- 4.3 Only a limited area on the E side of the quarry was stripped, c.29m (N-S) x 7.5m (E-W). It was established that below the mounds there were no discernible deposits of stone suitable for extraction for trackways etc.



Illus 7: Soil strip on E side of quarry, looking S

- 4.4 It was decided, therefore, that aggregate extraction from the borrow pit would concentrate on the area to the W of the old quarry.
- 4.5 Apart from the small mounds of mixed soil and quarry waste, no other signs of earlier quarrying activity was evident.
- 4.6 No underlying hidden archaeological features or finds were evident.



**Illus 8: View showing clearance of soil from the W side of the quarry, prior to extraction.
Looking SW.**

Ref: EIS 2003 Ark Hill Wind Farm: Environmental Impact Statement.

5 Results

- 5.1 Apart from the soil and waste mounds, mainly to the E side, no other evidence for earlier quarrying activity was visible.
- 5.2 No hidden archaeological features or finds were evident.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Catalogue of digital photographic record (on CD)

Photographic catalogue – Ark Hill, Angus	
Digital frame no	Content
1-5	Soil strip on W side of quarry, looking S
6-9	General view of quarry, looking S

10-11 & 22	General views of quarry, looking SW to hills behind
12-15	W face of N end of quarry
16-21	Drystone dyke at N end of quarry
23-24	Detail of soil strip on W side, showing small fractured stone
25-26	View of E side of quarry, with machine on top of waste heaps
27-33	Old quarry waste dumps mixed with soil, on E side
34-35	Soil strip on W side and side of old quarry, looking SW