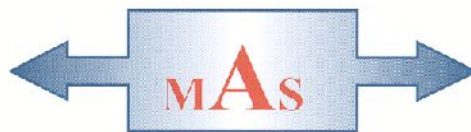


**SOUTH COLLEONARD
WIND TURBINE
BANFF
ABERDEENSHIRE**



**- Archaeological Watching Brief -
Carried out 10th April 2014
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



**Report No: MAS 2014-17
by**

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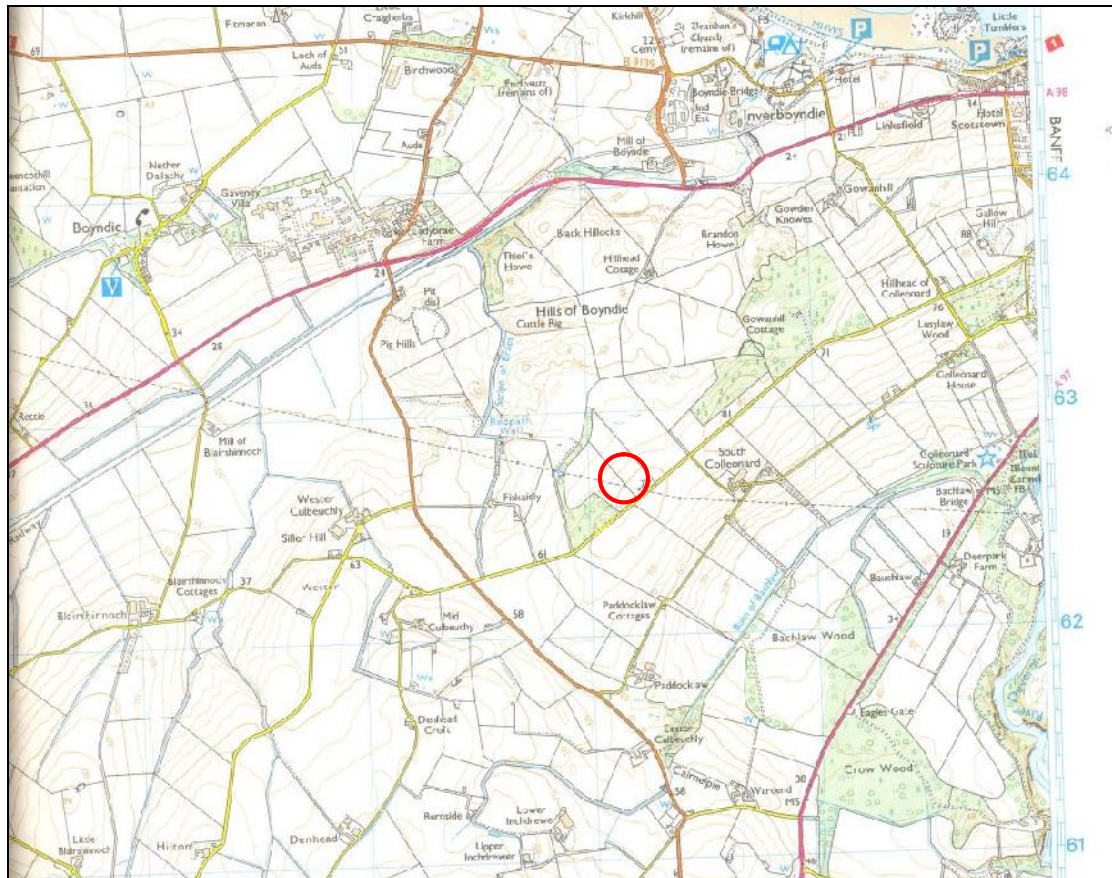
1. Background

- 1.1 A planning application (BB/APP/2012/1335) for the erection of an Enercon E48 – 80M wind turbine at South Colleonard, Banff, required that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during the soil strip for the access track, area of crane hard standing and turbine base (Condition 26).
- 1.2 The Conditions were applied in the context of PAN (Planning Advise Note) 2/2011, SPP and SHEP, which states that it is necessary for developers to arrange for archaeological work to take place prior to development, on appropriate circumstances.
- 1.3 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Green Cat Renewables Ltd on behalf of their client, Mr George Wilson, to undertake the work, which was carried 10th April 2014.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 South Colleonard is located a short distance to the SW of Banff on a minor road off the A97. The turbine site lies to the W of the farm steadings.
Parish: Banff

NGR: NJ66175 62866

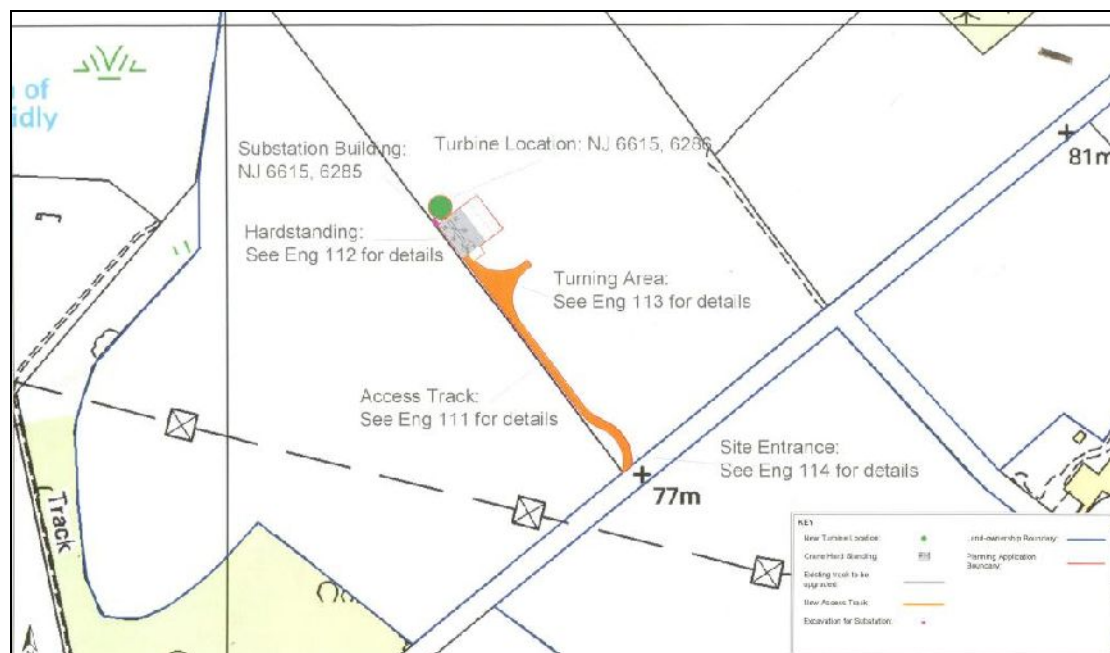


Illus 1: Map showing the location of the wind turbine circled in red. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved License No.100049810.

2.2 There are a number of archaeological sites in the vicinity of South Colleonard. Cropmark sites lie to the NW at Hill of Boyndie (NMRS No's: NJ66SE 68 and 70; Aberdeenshire SMR No's: NJ66SE 79 and 78), and to the W at Fiskaidly (NMRS No: NJ66SE 90; Aberdeenshire SMR No: NJ66SE0050). To the NE, midway between South Colleonard and Mid Colleonard, a Bronze Age cinerary urn and a hoard of flat bronze axes were found in the 19th century (NMRS No: NJ66SE 41).

3. The Watching Brief

3.1 The soil strip was carried out using a full slew mechanical digger with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. Areas were cleaned by hand throughout the course of the work.



Illus 2: Plan of site showing access track, hard standing and turbine location.

3.2 The S end of the access track lead from the roadway and ran to the N down a steep slope for 206m to the flat ground at the bottom where the area of hard standing and the turbine base were located. The track was c.4m wide. A turning area by the roadside was cleared measuring 12m (E-W) x 10m (N-S). For most of the length of the access track c.350-400mm of fine dark brown topsoil overlay hard yellow-brown stoney natural. At c.180m N of the start of the access track, the natural changed to reddish-yellow fine sand which continued down to the base of the slope and the area of hard standing (Illus.5). The depth of topsoil also increased to c.600mm.

3.3 The area cleared for the hard standing where the turbine is to be located measured 25m (E-W) x 30m (N-S) and incorporated part of the footprint of the turbine base. As with the lower part of the access track, c.600mm of topsoil overlay reddish-yellow fine sand with small patches of hard red iron pan. This may have been a palaeo-channel, or a wider water covered area, at the base of the S-N slope.

3.4 No archaeological features or finds were evident.



Illus 3: Access track, looking N to turbine location.



Illus 4: Hard standing and turbine base, looking NW.



Illus 5: Access track, looking S.

4. Results

- 4.1 A watching brief was carried out during the soil strip for the access track, area of hard standing and the turbine base at South Colleonard.
- 4.2 No archaeological features or finds were observed.

Catalogue of Digital Photographs (Supplied to Archive)

- 1-3 S end of access track
- 4 Access track, looking N
- 5-7 Access track and break of slope, looking N
- 8 N end of access track and area of hard standing, looking N
- 9-12 Views, looking N, NE and NW, of area of hard standing and turbine base

- 13 Patches of iron pan in sand – area of hard standing
- 14 Area of hard standing and turbine base, looking NW
- 15-16 Access track, with change in natural near bottom of slope, looking S