

**LITTLE HILTON WIND FARM
TILLYFAR, TURRIFF
ABERDEENSHIRE**



**- Archaeological Watching Brief -
Carried out 4th August 2014
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



Report No: MAS 2014-21
by

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1. Background

- 1.1 Proposals by Scottish & Southern Energy for the cable installation works associated with a wind turbine site at Little Hilton, Turriff, Aberdeenshire, required that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during ground works at Tillyfar which lies to the E of Little Hilton.
- 1.2 Aberdeenshire Council's reason for requesting the watching brief was to observe and record any items of archaeological interest during the excavation phase of the development. The Condition was 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, in appropriate circumstances.
- 1.3 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Scottish & Southern Energy to undertake the work, which was carried out on 4th August 2014.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 Part of the cable installation took place in a field at Tillyfar, to the W of Wrae Cottage, Turriff. Aerial photography has recorded the cropmarks of an

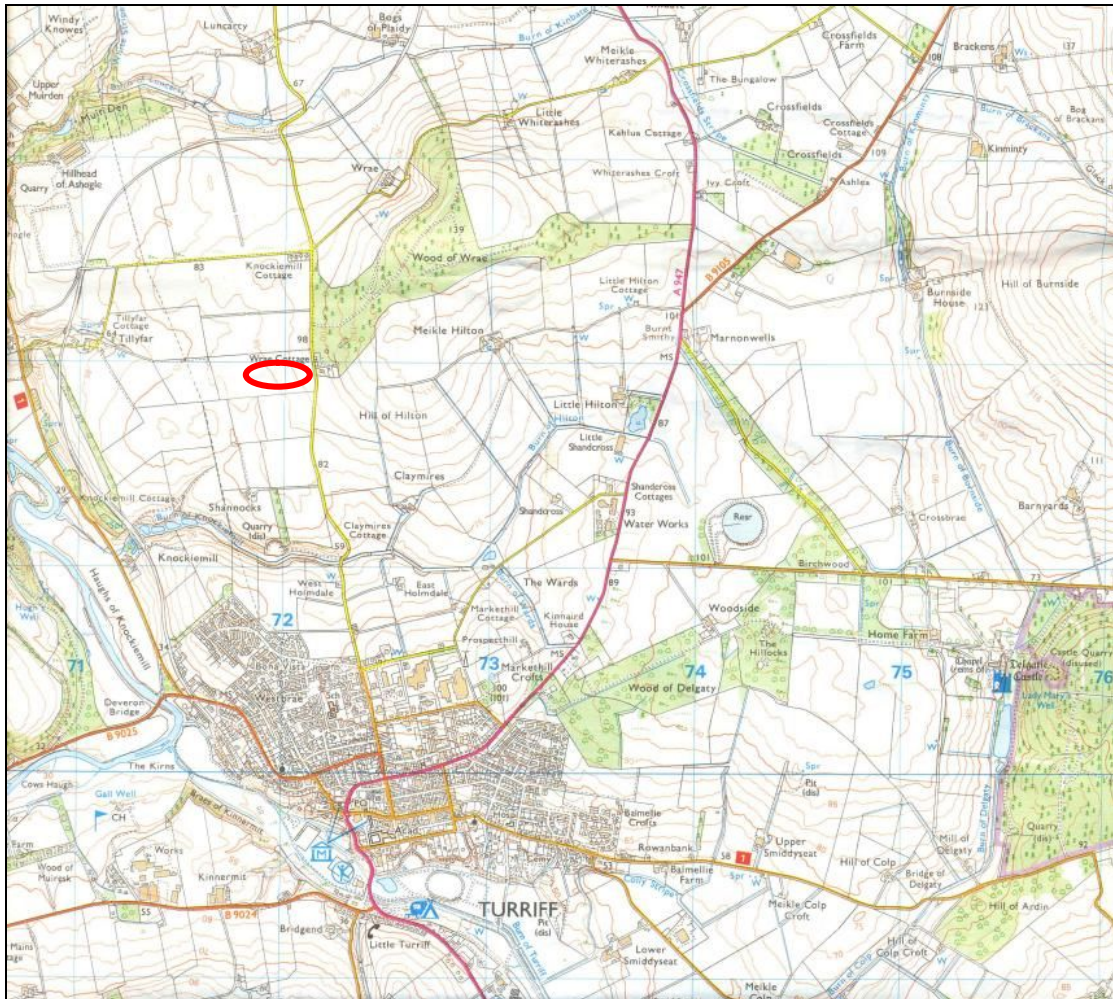
enclosure comprising two adjoining circles of possible ring-ditches, with faint traces of two others in the immediate vicinity.

NGR: NJ 7190 5195

NMRS No: NJ75SW 17

Aberdeenshire SMR Ref: NJ75SW 0021

Parish: Turriff

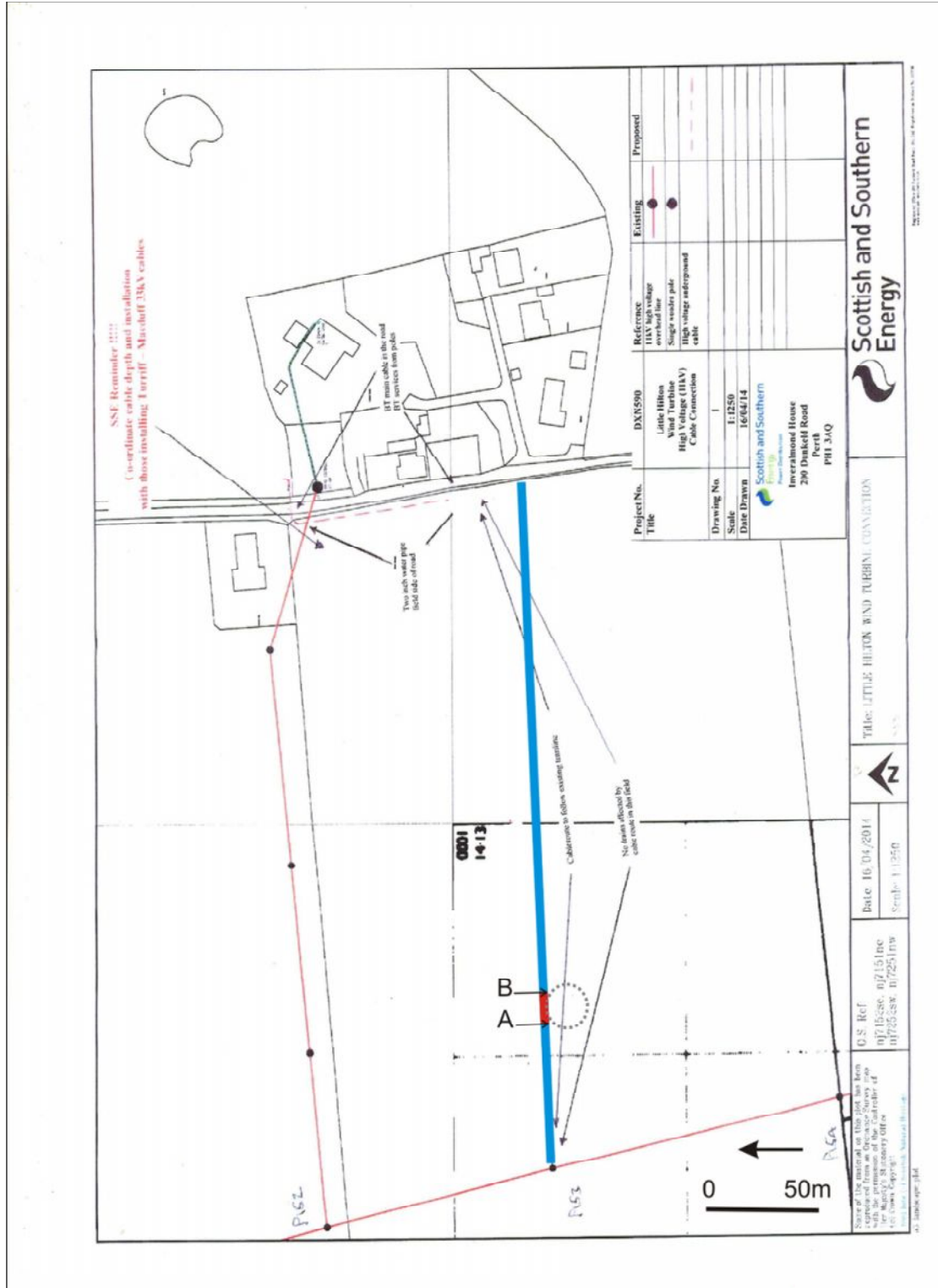


Illus 1: Map showing site location circled in red. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved License No.100049810.

3. The Watching Brief

- 3.1 The cable trench ran from an electricity pole (GPS: 371845 851939) located in a field to the W of Tillyfar Cottages for a distance of 295.5m eastwards to the roadside (GPS: 372144 851971 - see Illus.2) and was 5m wide.

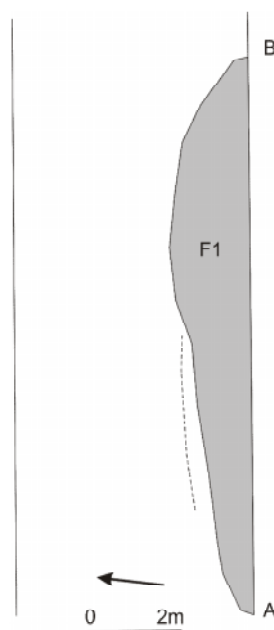
3.2 The soil strip was carried out by a full-slew mechanical digger using a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. All mapping was done with a Magellan Mobile Mapper 120 GPS and GLONASS.



Illus 2: Plan of cable trench (blue) and ring-ditch (F1 – shown by grey dotted circle) section marked A-B

3.3 The depth of topsoil removed varied from 300-350mm and overlay beige/yellow fairly sandy hard natural. Emerging 64.5m E of the pole and extending for 12m, a dark patch of soil was evident in the S side of the trench (Illus.2 and 3, F1). It formed a roughly semi-circular shape and, at its widest point extended c.1.7m N into the trench. The depth of topsoil over this section of the trench was slightly deeper at c.400mm. It is assumed that this represents a section of the outer circumference of the most northerly of the two interconnecting ring-ditches evident in the aerial photograph (AAS/78/6/S8/8-12) [GPR at W end of ring-ditch: 371909 851942; at E end of ring-ditch: 371921 851943]

3.4 As the cut for the laying of the cable is on the N side of the 5m wide trench and separated from the edge of the ring-ditch by c.1.5m, the feature (F1) would be backfilled and remain undisturbed. On consideration, it was decided that any attempt to section the ring-ditch would unnecessarily interfere with the integrity of the archaeological feature. Even if material suitable for radiocarbon dating had been found in such a section, its context could not be understood in relation to the building as a whole and would, therefore, have had the potential to be misleading.

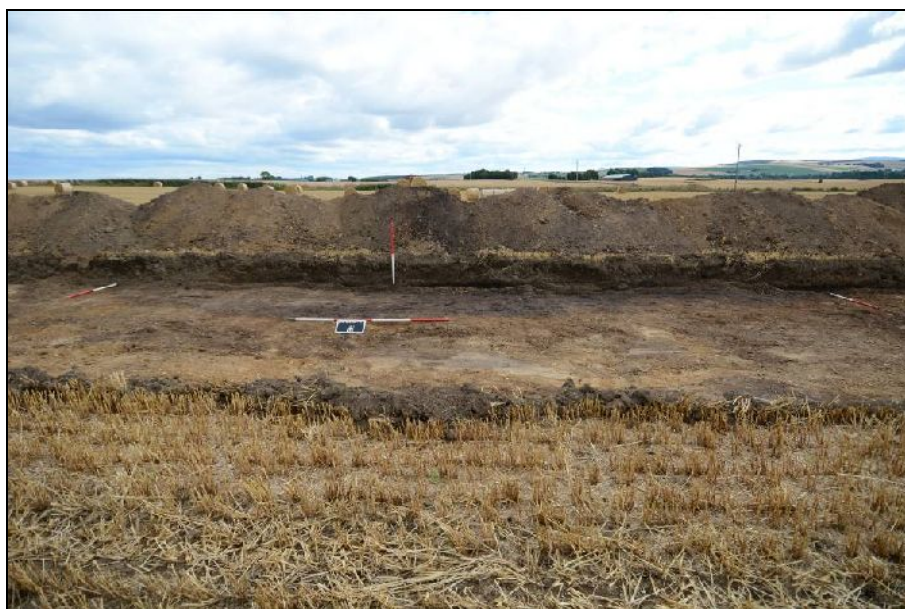


Illus 3: Plan of F1

Therefore, with the exception of hand-cleaning the surface for photographing and planning, no further archaeological intervention was attempted. Beyond dark soil, no finds were evident on the surface.



Illus 4: Cable trench with F1 in foreground, looking E



Illus 5; F1 in cable trench, looking S



Illus 6: Cable trench and F1, looking W

4. Results

- 4.1 A 12m long portion of the arc of one of the ring-ditches observed on aerial photographs was evident along the S edge of the cable trench.
- 4.2 As this feature was to be backfilled without disturbance, no further archaeological intervention was undertaken.
- 4.3 No other archaeological features or finds were evident in the other sections of the cable trench observed.

Catalogue of Digital Photographs (Supplied to Archive)

- 1-3 F1, looking N
- 4 F1, looking NE
- 5-8 F1, looking E
- 9-10 Cable trench, looking E
- 11 E end of cable trench and F1, looking E
- 12-13 W end of cable trench and F1, looking W