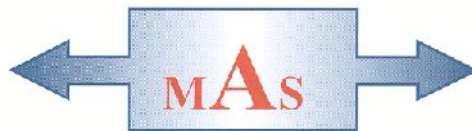


**BOGENJOHN
WHITE COW WOOD
STRICHEN
ABERDEENSHIRE**



**- Archaeological Watching Brief -
Carried out 19th and 21st January 2015
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



**Report No: MAS 2015-04
by
H K Murray**

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-Archaeological Watching Brief-

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1. Background

1.1 A Planning Application before Aberdeenshire Council (APP/2010/3452) for the erection of a single 800kw Wind Turbine, was granted permission subject to certain conditions. Condition 25 required that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during the excavation of the turbine base. The archaeological condition was applied in the context of planning legislation (PAN 2/2011, SPP, SHEP), which states that it is necessary for developers to arrange for archaeological work to take place prior to development, in appropriate circumstances.

1.2 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Green Cat Renewables Ltd on behalf of White Cow Wood Wind Energy Ltd to undertake the work; the field element of which was carried out on 19th and 21st January 2015.

2. The Site

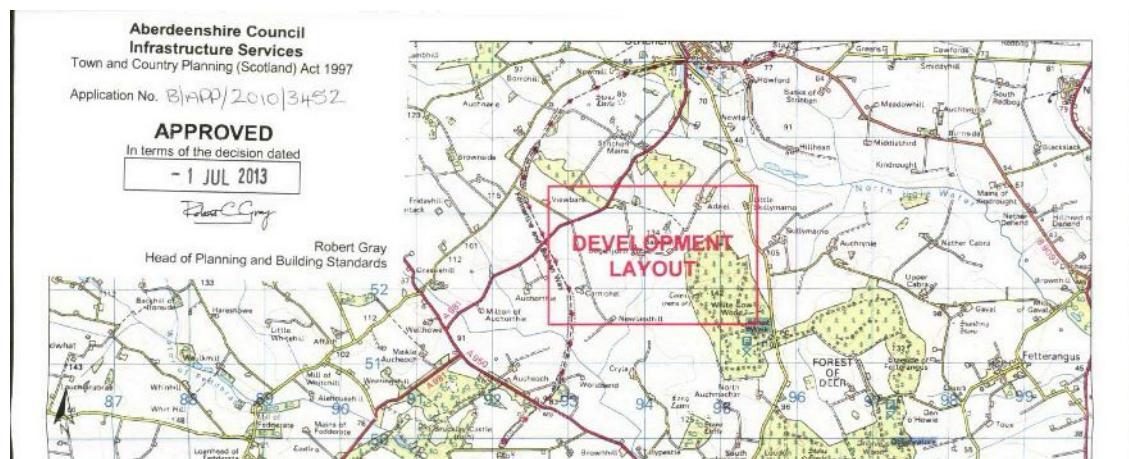
2.1 The land lies to the SE of Bogenjohn Farm and directly W of White Cow Wood.

NGR: NJ 94240, 51679 (centre of crane pad) Track from NJ 94274, 51643 to NJ 94285, 52392

Parish: N part of track: Strichen Parish

Crane Pad and S part of track: Old Deer parish

- 2.2 The site lies in an area of known prehistoric activity with the remains of a chambered cairn in White Cow Wood just to the E of the site at NJ9472, 5192 (NMRS ref: NJ95SW 5 Historic Scotland SM ref: 54) and another cairn site further S in the wood at NJ954 510 (NMRS ref: NJ95SE 20). To the NW and W of Bogenjohn farm at NJ 936 530 there are recorded cropmarks of ring ditches which represent prehistoric settlement (NMRS ref: NJ95SW 18)
- 2.3 The 1st OS map (Aberdeen sheets xiii.7 and xiii.11 1870 (pub 1874) and the 2nd OS map (Aberdeenshire sheets 013.07 and 013.11 1901 (published 1902) both show the S end of the site, including the turbine site as rough ground although the S dyke as exists is shown. According to the landowner, his father had the field cleared from the rough after WW2 using Displaced Person labour.



Illus 1: Location Map with development area outlined in red. Crown copyright All rights reserved. License number (100049810)

3 Methodology

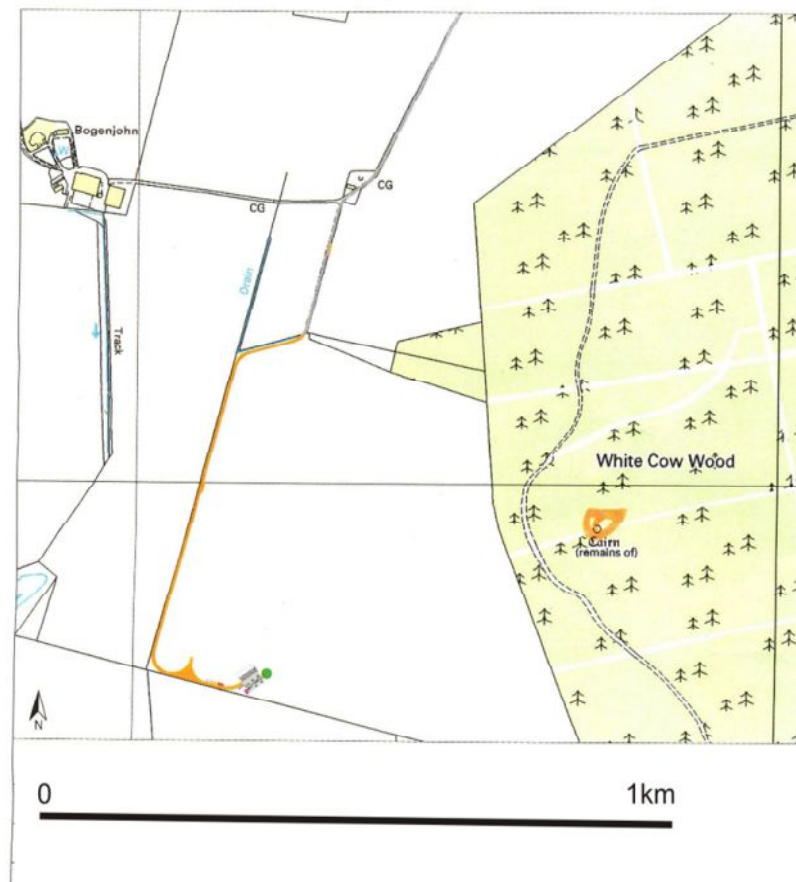
- 3.1 A mechanical digger using a toothless ditching bucket was used to remove the topsoil over the crane pad hard standing and the access track under archaeological supervision.
- 3.2 Following this, where necessary, areas were cleaned by hand, photographed and recorded.

4. The Work

- 4.1 The turbine site and crane pad standing are located on a level ridge with higher ground to the E and S but commanding long clear views. The track runs from the S side of the crane pad E/W alongside the S dyke of the field, then turning at the SW corner of the field to run N/S alongside the W edge of the field to the gate at the N end.



Illus 2 View of crane pad looking W showing open views



Illus 3: Plan of site showing the location of the crane pad and track marked in yellow.

4.2 The excavation for the crane pad is c. 27m E/W and c 50m N/S to the dyke (including, at this point, the width of the track). The track is 4m wide, with extra turning space at the corners. The total length of the track is 1km.

Crane pad NE: 394229, 851697

NW: 394221, 851691

SE: 394260, 851655

SW: 394224,851655

Track from: 394274,851643 to corner at 394041,851705 and N to 394285,852392.



Illus 4 Crane pad after soil strip, looking NNW



Illus 5 E/W section of track looking E showing tumble from drystone dyke on RHS

- 4.3 Topsoil depths varied between 250mm on the tops of the ridges to c 400mm in some of the hollows. Topsoil overlay a hard gritty clay with frequent stones throughout.



Illus 6 Detail of shallow stratigraphy in area of crane pad

- 4.4 A number of field drains were encountered crossing the line of the N end of the track and fallen stones from the dyke lay alongside the S field dyke in the E/W section of the track.



Illus 7 S end of N/S section of track looking N. Red arrow indicates N end of track

4.5 No archaeological features or finds were evident.

5 Results

5.1 Although the site of the wind turbine and its related infrastructure is situated in a landscape rich in archaeological remains, no archaeological features or finds were evident during the excavations for the crane pad hard standing or the access track.