

**SOUTH NITTANSHEAD
WIND TURBINE
NEW PITSLIGO
ABERDEENSHIRE**



- Archaeological Watching Brief -
Carried out 30th April 2015
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2015 - 6
by

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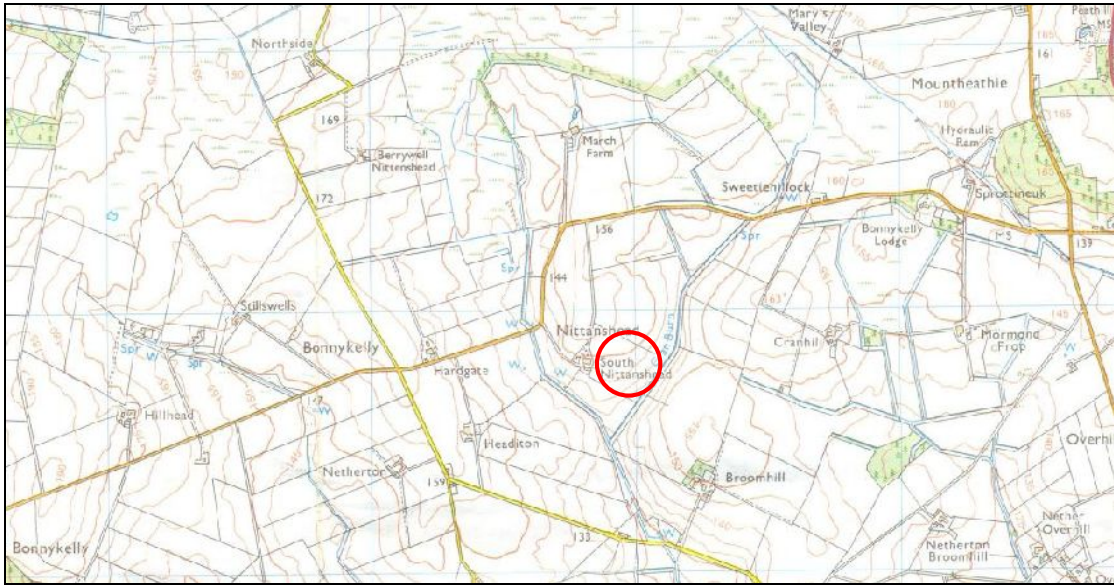
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1. Background

- 1.1 A planning application (Ref: APP/2011/0305) for the erection of two 225kW wind turbines, required that an archaeological watching brief be carried out on the southernmost of the turbines during the soil strip for the access track, area of crane hard standing and turbine base.
- 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 Muirden Energy LLP, to undertake the work, which was carried 30th April 2015.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site is located on the summit of Nittanshead Hill c.2.3km SW of New Pitsligo. The southernmost turbine is bounded on its W edge by an existing farm track running N-S from South Nittanshead farm house and steadings.
NJ 8688 5401
Parish: Tyrie

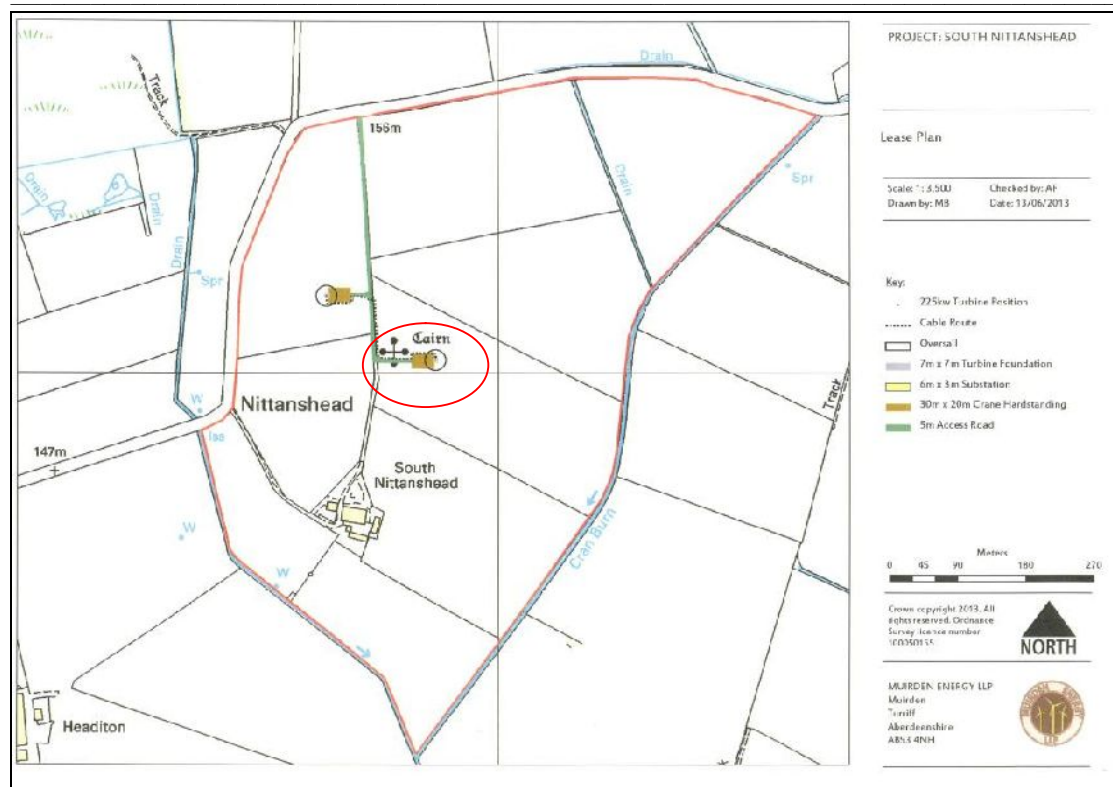


Illus 1: Map showing the location of the wind turbine circled in red. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved License No.100049810.

2.2 The access track crosses the location of a Bronze Age cairn (Ref: Aberdeenshire SMR No. NJ85SE0001; NMRS No. NJ85SE 1). It is thought to have been removed in the 19th century, but not known with what results. The cairn was sited in a prominent position on the hilltop and would have been clearly visible in the landscape.

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, circled in red.

3.2 The W end of the access track leads from an existing N-S farm track down a gentle slope to the E for a distance of 48m. Where it led from the farm track it was c.16m wide to facilitate vehicles turning but narrowed gradually to 3.5m wide c.14m E of the farm track. For the first 32m of the access track c.300mm of grass and topsoil overlay a hard and very stoney natural in a slightly silty and sandy matrix. From the 32m point eastwards to the area of hard standing, the depth of topsoil increased to c.400mm over a less stoney, yellow/reddish sandy and slightly silty natural.

3.3 The area cleared for the hard standing was 20.5m (N-S) x 25.5m (E-W). Over this whole area the depth of grass and topsoil was c.400mm and overlay yellow/reddish sandy and slightly silty natural with some small stones mixed through.

3.4 No archaeological features or finds were evident.



Illus 3: Access track, showing the stoney nature of the ground, looking E



Illus 4: Access track, looking W up the slope



Illus 5: Junction of access track and area of hard standing



Illus 6: Area of hard standing, looking NE



Illus 7: Area of hard standing, looking E. The upright stick E of the hard standing marks the location of the turbine base

4. Results

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