

NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES LTD

Fallowlees, Ewesley, Northumberland

NEGATIVE WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Site name: Fallowlees, Ewesley

Grid reference: NZ 417699 597498

County: Northumberland

Administrative authority: Northumberland County Council

Development: Wind turbine installation

Client: The National Trust

Planning application reference: A/2010/0344

Site supervisor: Derek Evans

Project manager: Penny Middleton

Date(s): 11 February 2011

NAA project number: 977

Site code: FEN10

NAA report number: NAA 11/13

Reasons for watching brief

The watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the erection of a wind turbine at Fallowlees, Ewesley, Northumberland (Fig. 1). The monitored groundworks comprised the excavation of the turbine foundation and anchor block pits and the associated cable trench connecting the turbine to the farm buildings (Fig. 2). The watching brief fulfilled a condition attached to planning permission for the development. It was undertaken in line with a brief issued by Northumberland Conservation (2010) and a subsequent written scheme of investigation prepared by NAA (2010).

The site lay within an area of archaeological potential, a detailed account of which is included in Appendix 2 of the planning application (Beamish 2009). Documentary sources indicate that some form of settlement existed at Fallowlees in the medieval period (AD 1095 to 1536). This was probably clustered around Fallowlees Bastle, a medieval fortified farmhouse. The ruins of the bastle stand to the immediate north-east of the site (scheduled monument 31724; Fig. 2).

Recent archaeological research identified earthwork remains interpreted as possible enclosures and the remains of ridge and furrow farming in the immediate vicinity of the site. Given the longevity of settlement on the site, there was also the potential for the remains of ancillary buildings or buried remains, such as refuse middens, to survive below-ground.

Results (Fig. 2; Plates 1-4)

All excavations were carried out by a back-acting excavator operating under constant archaeological supervision. The turbine foundation pit was 3.2m² in plan and 1.2m in depth. The anchor block pit was 1.5m² in plan and 1.2m in depth. The cable trench was up to 0.8m in width and 0.8m in depth.

The natural subsoil (002) was encountered at a depth of 0.3m below the present ground surface and comprised orange-brown sandy clay with gravel inclusions and large lenses of sand. It was directly sealed by the grey-brown clay-silt topsoil layer (001). This sequence did not vary significantly in any of the excavated areas.

No archaeological deposits or pre-modern artefacts were encountered. This may indicate that activity associated with the medieval settlement did not extend as far as the turbine site. However, it is possible that any extant below-ground archaeological remains at the site were outside of the relatively limited excavation areas.

Documentation: Location maps are attached.

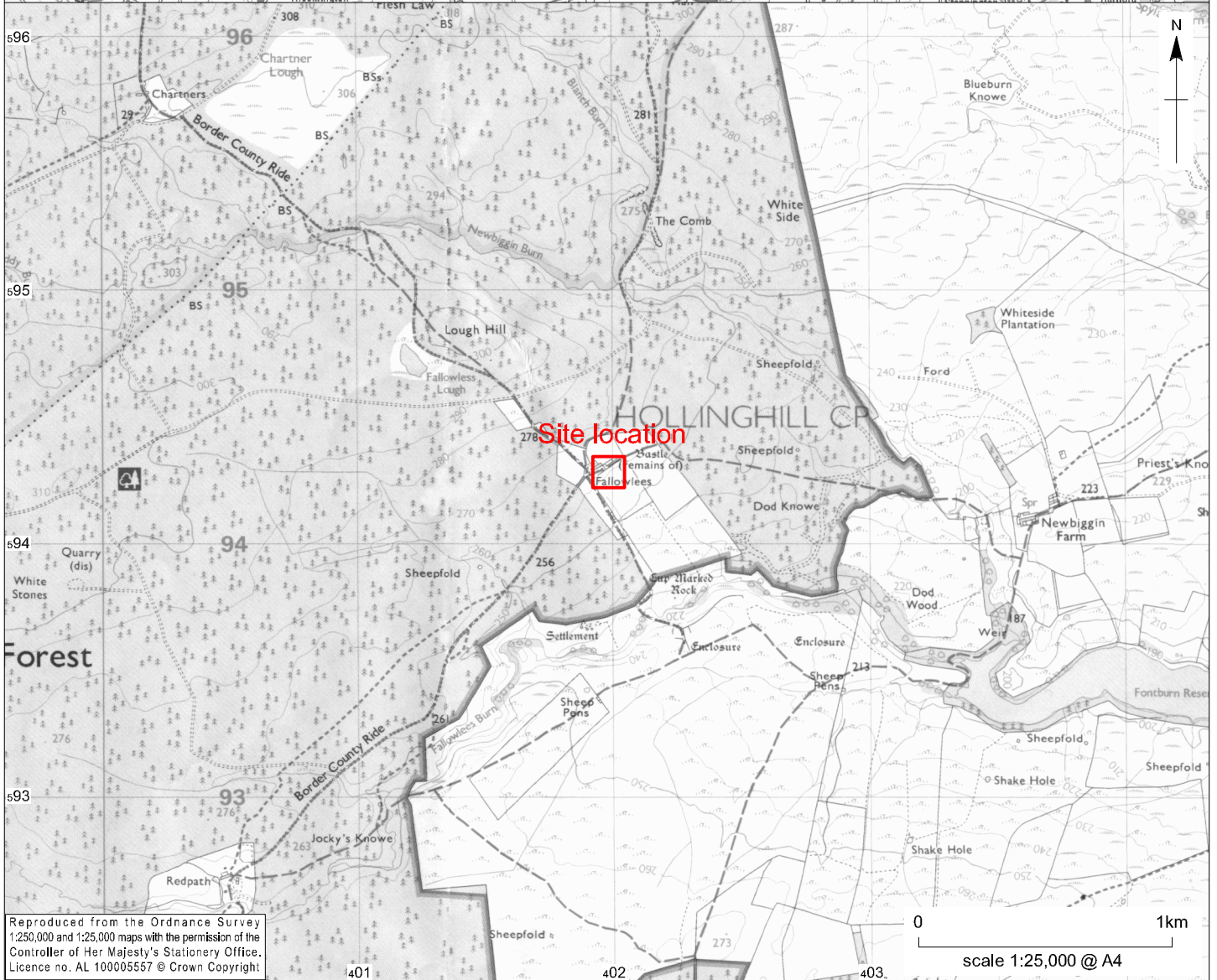
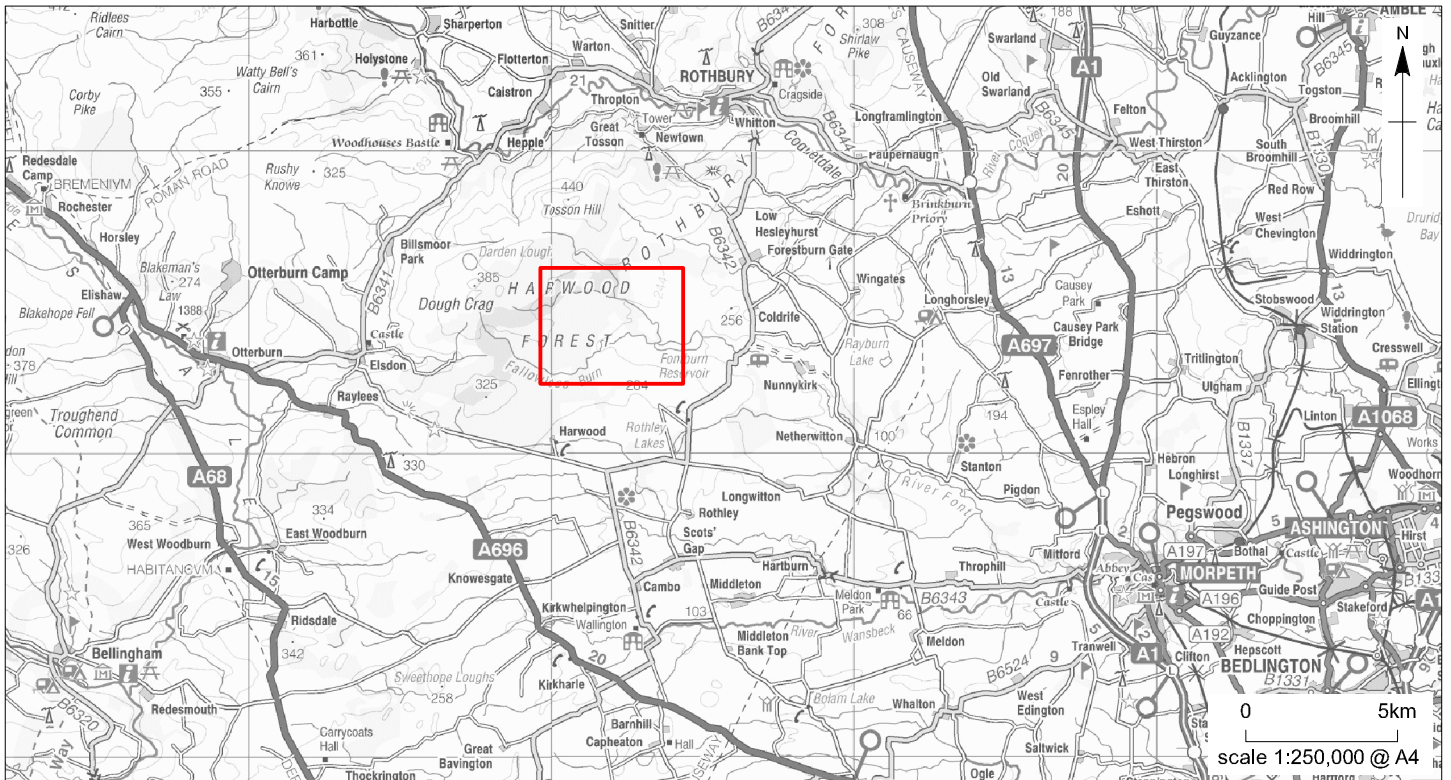
Archive deposition: The site records will be archived internally.

References

Beamish, H. (2009) *HE evaluation for proposed wind turbine at Fallowlees, Wallington*

Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd (NAA) (2010) *Fallowlees, Ewesley, Northumberland: Archaeological Watching Brief – Written Scheme of Investigation* NAA Report **10/106**

Northumberland Conservation (2010) *Land at Fallowlees, Ewesley, Northumberland: Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (NC ref A34/1: 11752, dated 12/10/2010)

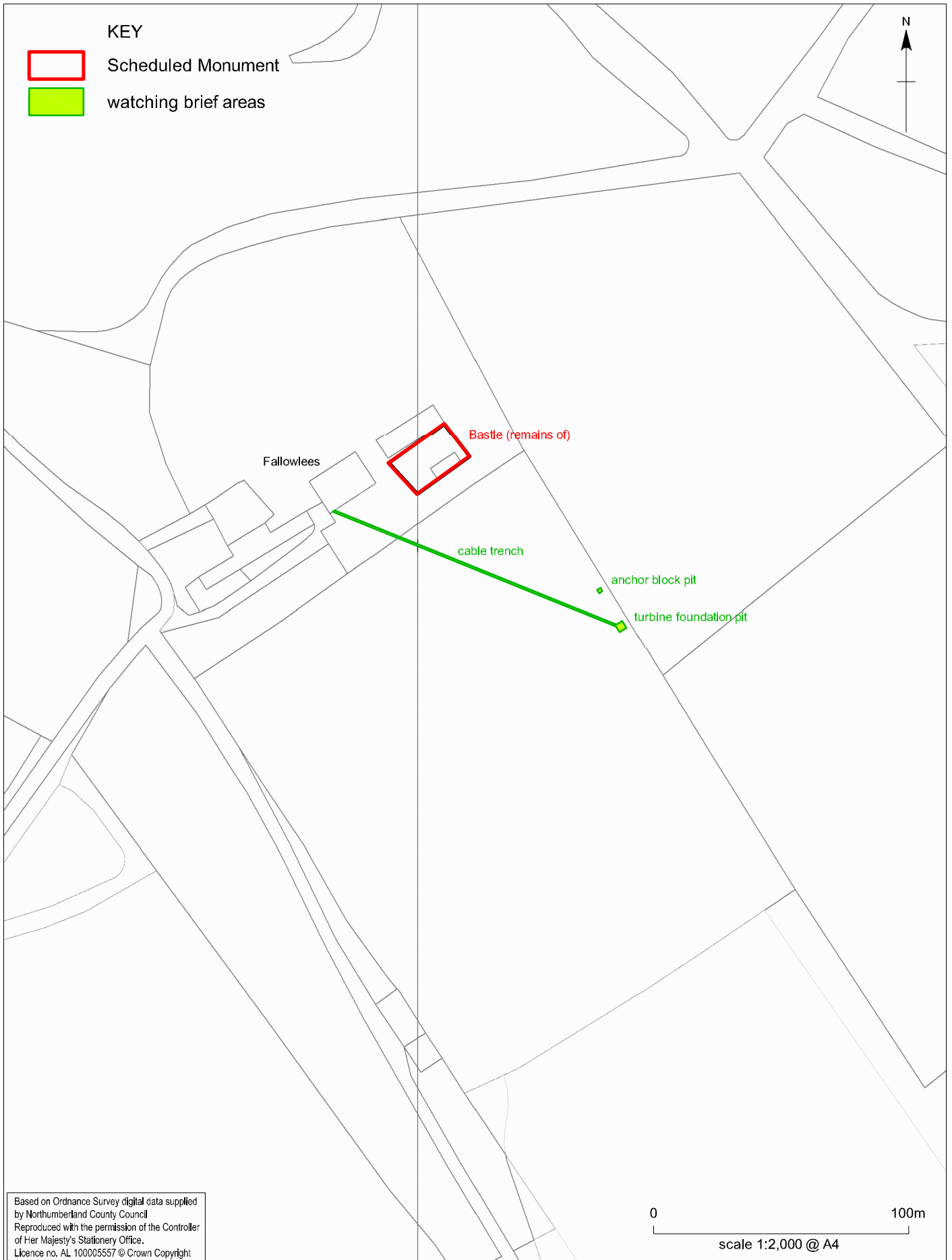


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Fallowlees, Northumberland: site location

Figure 1





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Fallowlees, Ewesley, Northumberland: turbine foundation pit

Plate 1



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Fallowlees, Ewesley, Northumberland: anchor block pit

Plate 2



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*Fallowlees, Ewesley, Northumberland: Plate 3
cable trench*



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Fallowlees, Ewesley, Northumberland: cable trench (detail) Plate 4