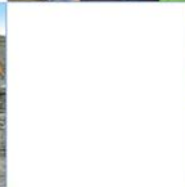


Fa'side Castle, Tranent, East Lothian: Watching Brief Report

AOC 21898

1st June 2011

Planning Ref: 10/00646/P
OASIS No. aocarcha1-101677



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Fa'side Castle, Tranent, East Lothian: Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: Mr Ian Brash

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 3795 7098

AOC Project No: 21898

Prepared by: Mike Roy

Illustration by: Stefan Sagrott

Date of Fieldwork: 23rd May 2011

Date of Report: 1st June 2011

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Date: 1st June 2011

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Date: 1st June 2011

Report Stage: Draft

Date: 1st June 2011

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Summary

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on groundbreaking works associated with the construction of a single wind turbine on land to the east of Fa'side Castle, Tranent, East Lothian. The work was undertaken to monitor the potential impact on the archaeological resource by the groundbreaking works and to establish the extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features impacted upon by these works.

No archaeological deposits or features were recorded during the monitoring of groundworks.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Mr. Ian Brash commissioned AOC Archaeology Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks associated with the construction of a single wind turbine at Fa'side Castle, Tranent, East Lothian. The works consisted of archaeological monitoring of ground breaking works involved in the construction of the wind turbine, including foundations and service trenches. The need for, and scope of archaeological works, was determined by the East Lothian Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works were required in accord with SPP (Scottish Government 2010) and PAN 42 (SOEnD 1994).

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The site is located immediately due east of Fa'side Castle, which lies c.150 m distant. It is surrounded by established farmland and centred on NGR: NT 3795 7098. The town of Tranent lies just over 2 km to the north-east. The development area was contained within a 20 m diameter area though the excavated footprint comprised a turbine foundation base measuring 4.9 m by 4.9 m, with a smaller area, c. 2.1 m by 2.1 m, at a distance of 4.5 m to the east. The location of the ground breaking works are shown in Figure 1.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, RCAHMS and the local East Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Records show that the development area itself does not contain any known archaeological sites. However, the wider environment does contain a number of monuments identified by the RCAHMS including Fa'side Castle (*NMRS* No.NT37SE 25), West Mains Fort (*NMRS* No.NT37SE 26) which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No.4004), a linear cropmark site (*NMRS* No.NT37SE 76) and a polished stone axehead findspot (*NMRS* No.NT37SE 45).
- 1.3.2 The closest monument to the development area is Fa'side Castle (*NMRS* No.NT37SE 25). Formerly enclosed within a courtyard Fa'side Castle, originally consisted of a tall, plain, 15th century tower, four storeys high, of which the topmost was vaulted. After the 1547 AD Battle of Pinkie in which Fa'side castle suffered greatly, the castle was enlarged by the addition to the south of a similar scaled but L-shaped wing. The wing has a stair-turret in the re-entrant angle and typical corner turrets corbelled out at the two southern angles. Remains of later outbuildings about the courtyard wall. In recent decades the castle has been restored and renovated.
- 1.3.3 The Scheduled Ancient Monument of West Mains Fort lies a little under 400 m south of the development area and along with axehead findspot, (*NMRS* No.NT37SE 45), indicates the presence of a sizable prehistoric population close to the development area. It is possible that the cropmark linear ditch, (*NMRS* No.NT37SE 76) is also prehistoric in date.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by groundworks associated with the development;
 - ii) to liaise with ELCAS and the client in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording;
 - iii) to report on the results of the watching brief..

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The ground disturbance associated with the wind turbine comprised an area of foundation base (Plate 1) measuring 4.9 m by 4.9 m, roughly aligned NNE/SSW, with a smaller area of foundation (Plate 2), measuring c. 2.1 m square, on the same alignment at a distance of 4.5 m to the east of the main foundation. In addition a 2 m length of 0.4 m-wide service trench, aligned roughly east/west, was excavated at the south-west corner of the main foundation. The depth of excavation was 0.8 m, with the exception of the service trench, which was c.0.6 m in depth. The foundations were excavated by a JCB excavator, equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket with a width of c.1.5 m (a 0.3 m wide bucket was utilised for the service trench). Ground-breaking works associated with the wind turbine (Figure 1) were monitored by an experienced field archaeologist. All recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practices.
- 3.2 A black and white print and digital photographic record of the archaeological works was taken (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The ground breaking works associated with the single wind turbine were undertaken on Monday 23rd May 2011 in generally rainy and extremely windy weather conditions. Archaeological visibility was, however, good throughout.
- 4.2 The foundation areas and service trench were excavated by a JCB, leading to the removal of topsoil over the extent of the foundation bases and service trench. The topsoil was a compact dark greyish brown silty clay, with a depth of between 0.33 m and 0.37 m. It contained occasional small to medium sub-rounded stones. Ceramic pipe field drains were visible on the surface of the underlying boulder clay, running SW/NE across the centre of the large foundation base and the north-east corner of the smaller area, and running west/east on the south side of the main foundation. No archaeological features or deposits were present.



Plate 1: View of excavation of turbine foundation base



Plate 2: View of smaller excavated area

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No archaeological features or deposits were identified within the areas of groundbreaking works.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Scottish Office Environmental Dept 1994 PAN 42 *Planning Advice Note 42: Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Monument Procedures.*

Scottish Government 2010 SPP2010 *Scottish Planning Policy.*

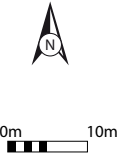
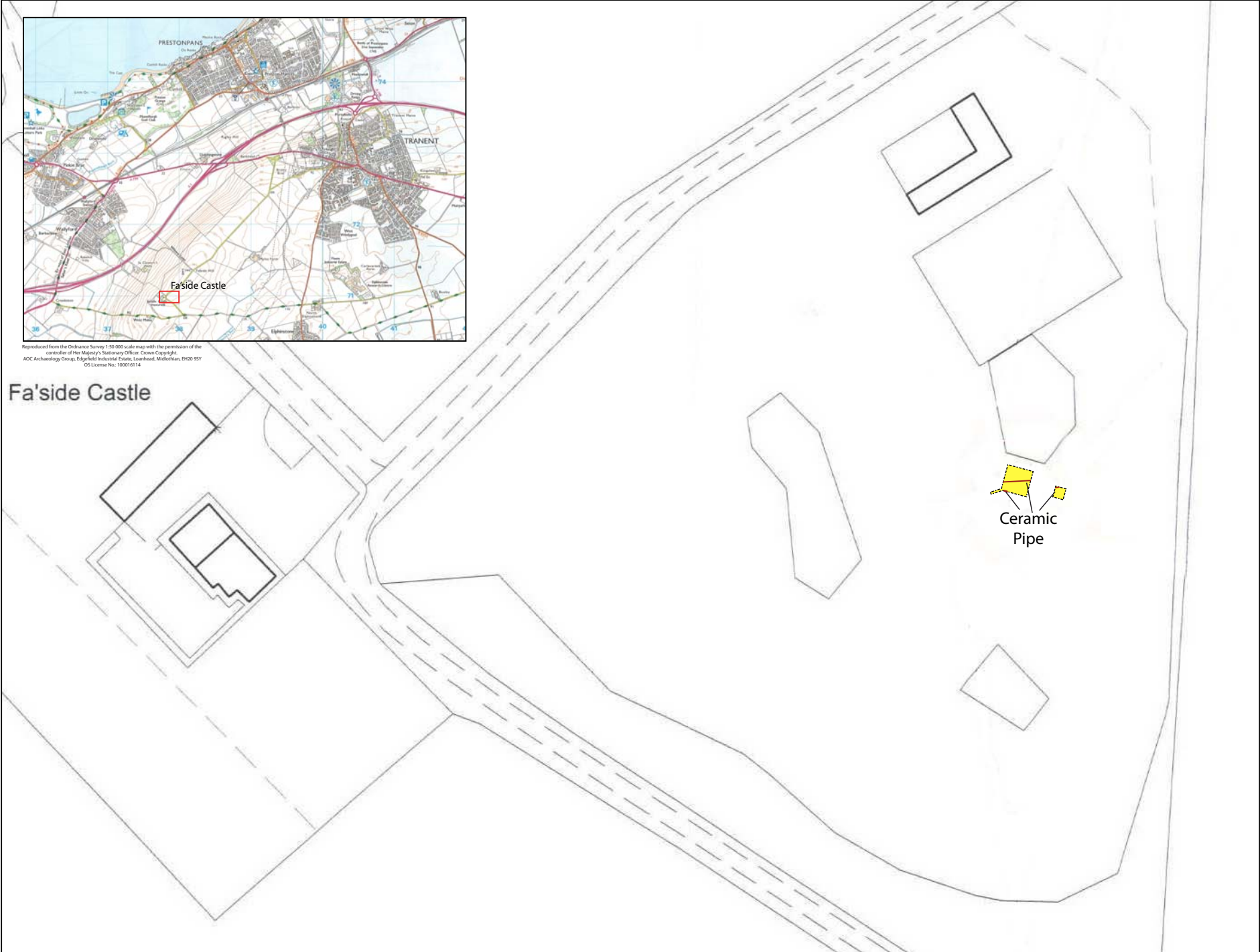


Figure 1: Location of watching brief area, Fa'side Castle, Tranent

Fa'side Castle, Tranent, East Lothian: Watching Brief Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

Black & White Print 1

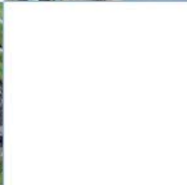
Frame	Description	From
1-2	Foundation base area, pre-excavation	NW
3-4	Foundation base area, during excavation	NW
5-6	Foundation base area, excavated to natural	E
7-8	Registration shots	
9	Service trench	S
10-11	Smaller excavated area	SE

Digital Photographs 1

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Foundation base area, pre-excavation	NW
3-4	Foundation base area, during excavation	NW
5-6	Foundation base area, excavated to natural	E
7-8	Registration shots	
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APPENDIX 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Fa'side Castle, Tranent, East Lothian
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21898
PARISH:	Tranent
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Mike Roy
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	NT37SE 25
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Tower House
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 3795 7098
START DATE (this season)	23 rd May 2011
END DATE (this season)	23 rd May 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on groundworks associated with the construction of a single wind turbine to the east of Fa'side Castle.</p> <p>No archaeological deposits or features were recorded during the monitoring of groundworks.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr. Ian Brash
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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