

Mains of Kair, Laurencekirk

Watching Brief:

Watching Brief Data Structure Report

24th May 2011



Mains of Kair, Laurencekirk Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	GJC Anderson & Co Ltd., Mains of Kair, Laurencekirk AB30 1NS
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NO 7697 7692
AOC Project No:	21910
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Date of Fieldwork:	20 th May 2011
Date of Report:	24 th May 2011

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

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief on the erection of a 15 m high wind turbine undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Mains of Kair, Laurencekirk.

The turbine platform required the excavation of a 5.0 m by 5.0 m area by a minimum of 1.0 m deep. An archaeological watching brief was conducted on all ground breaking works associated with the erection of the wind turbine.

Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by GJC Anderson & Co Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the erection of a single 15 m high wind turbine at Mains of Kair, Laurencekirk. The works were designed to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Aberdeenshire Council who are advised on archaeological matters by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2011) approved by ACAS and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government February 2010) and *PAN 42* (SOEnD 1994).

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area is centred at NGR: NO 7697 7692 (Figure 1) and lies to the east of the road to Mill of Kair. Tree belts are situated to the immediate north and south, with open fields forming the wider landscape. The farm buildings lie to the south-west.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The development site lies within the immediate grounds of Mains of Kair Farm, Laurencekirk. All of Mains of Kair Farm lies within a Temporary Marching Camp (National Monuments Records Scotland, NMRS No. NO77NE 1). The Marching camp is believed to be Severan and encloses more than 48 ha with the ditch still visible in places along its length. The perimeter and form of the camp is well documented through aerial images and cropmarks. Two recent watching briefs on development works within the confines of the camp in 2003 and 2006 did not reveal any archaeological features. The development area lies close to the northern side of the camp but does lie wholly within the proposed line of the camp and as such it is entirely possible that Roman features could be encountered by the development works.
- 1.3.2 To the west of the development area lies another cropmark, (NMRS No. NO77NE 19) described as an arc of ditch. This may relate to the Roman activity or could relate to earlier prehistoric settlement.
- 1.3.3 Lastly the Mains of Kair Farmhouse is categorised as B-Listed (HB Number 2843).

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are:
- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by the proposed development works;
 - ii) in the event of significant archaeological features and/or small finds being unearthed, to liaise with ACAS and the client as to the most appropriate response for safeguarding these features; either by preservation *in situ* (the default response), if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The works involved an archaeological watching brief on the excavation of a single turbine platform. Excavation was conducted by a tracked excavator utilising a smooth bladed bucket. All ground breaking was monitored by an experienced field archaeologist.
- 3.2 All recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practices. A black and white print and digital photographic record of the archaeological works was taken (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The turbine platform required the excavation of a 5.0 m by 5.0 m area by a minimum of 1.0 m deep.
- 4.2 The topsoil across the watching brief area was a well sorted dark brown ploughsoil varying from 0.18 m to 0.40 m in depth across the watching brief area. Natural subsoil across the excavation consisted of an orange-brown gravel with frequent stone inclusions.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Neither significant features nor unstratified artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

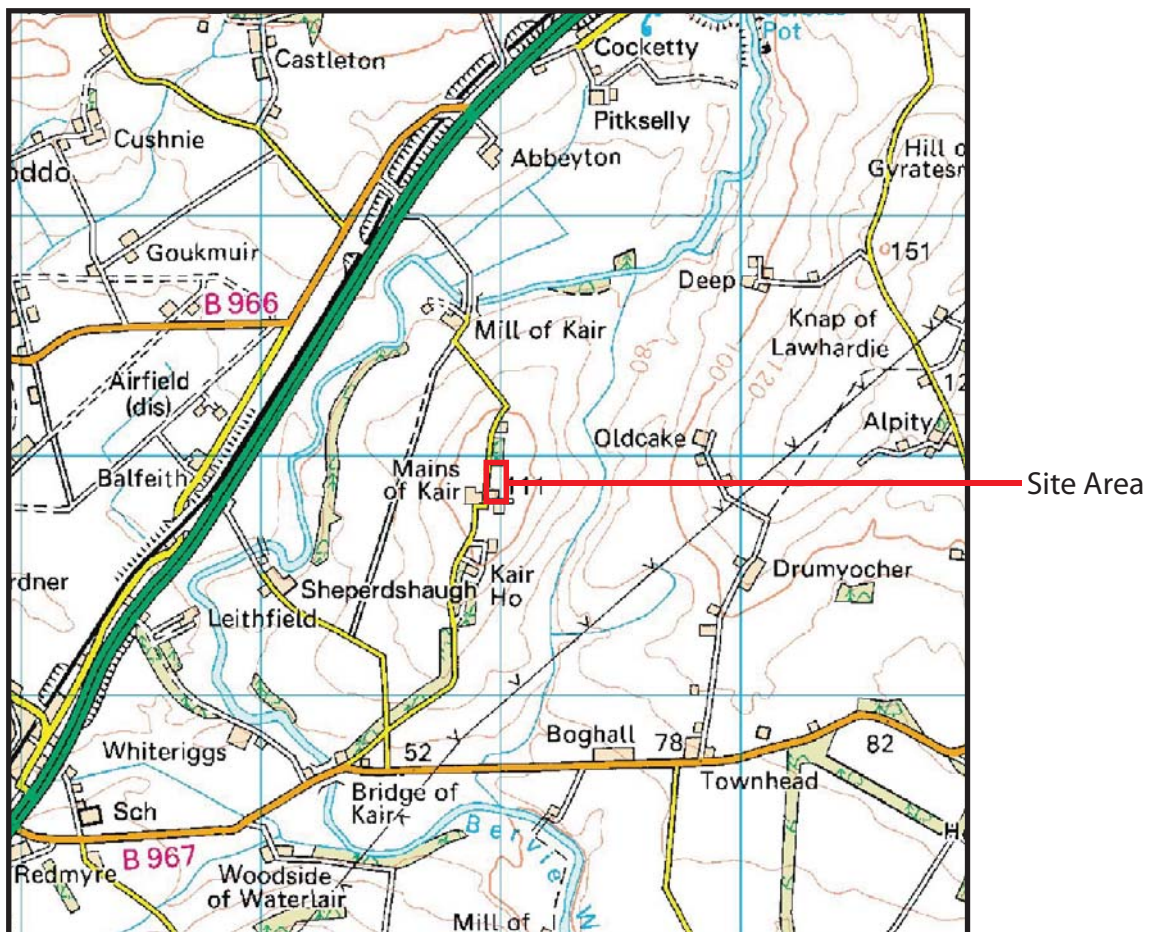
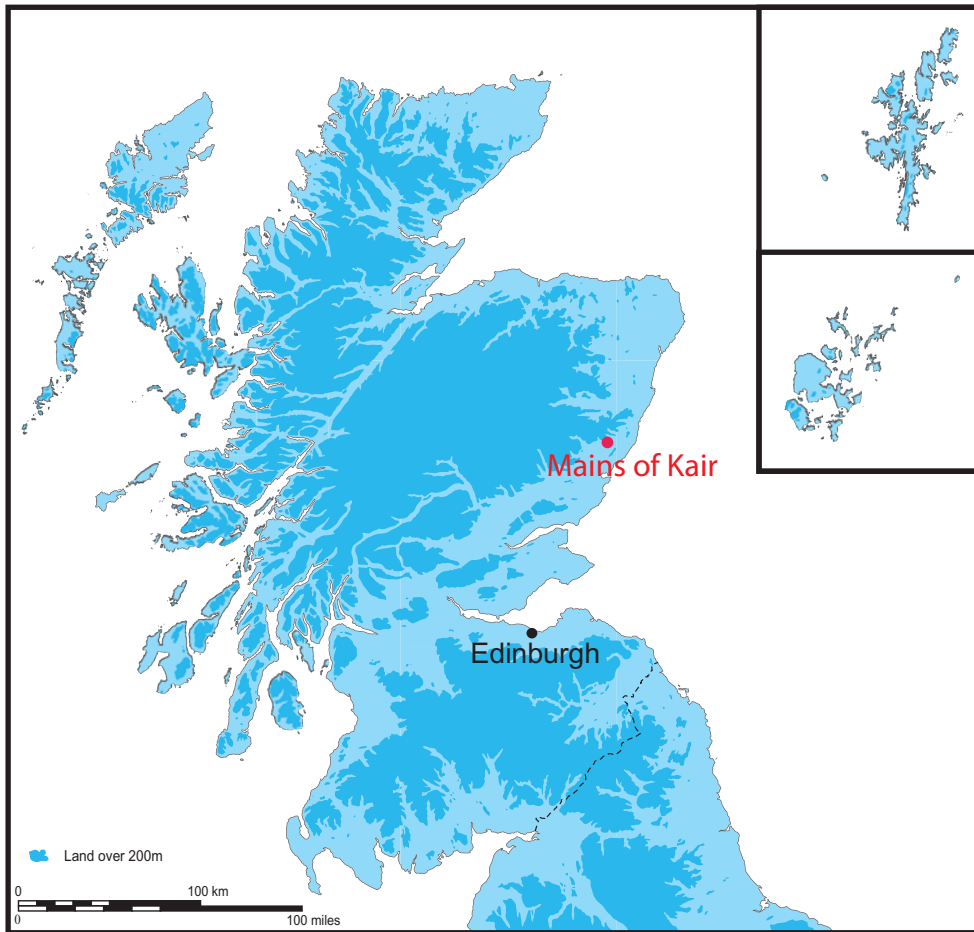
- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by ACAS.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2011 *Watching brief on the erection of a wind turbine at Mains of Kair, Laurencekirk: Written Scheme of Investigation (19th May 2011)*. Unpublished AOC Method Statement.

SOEnD 1994 *Planning advice Note 42, Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish Office Environment Department.

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*. (February 2010)



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Figure 1: Location of the site at Mains of Kair

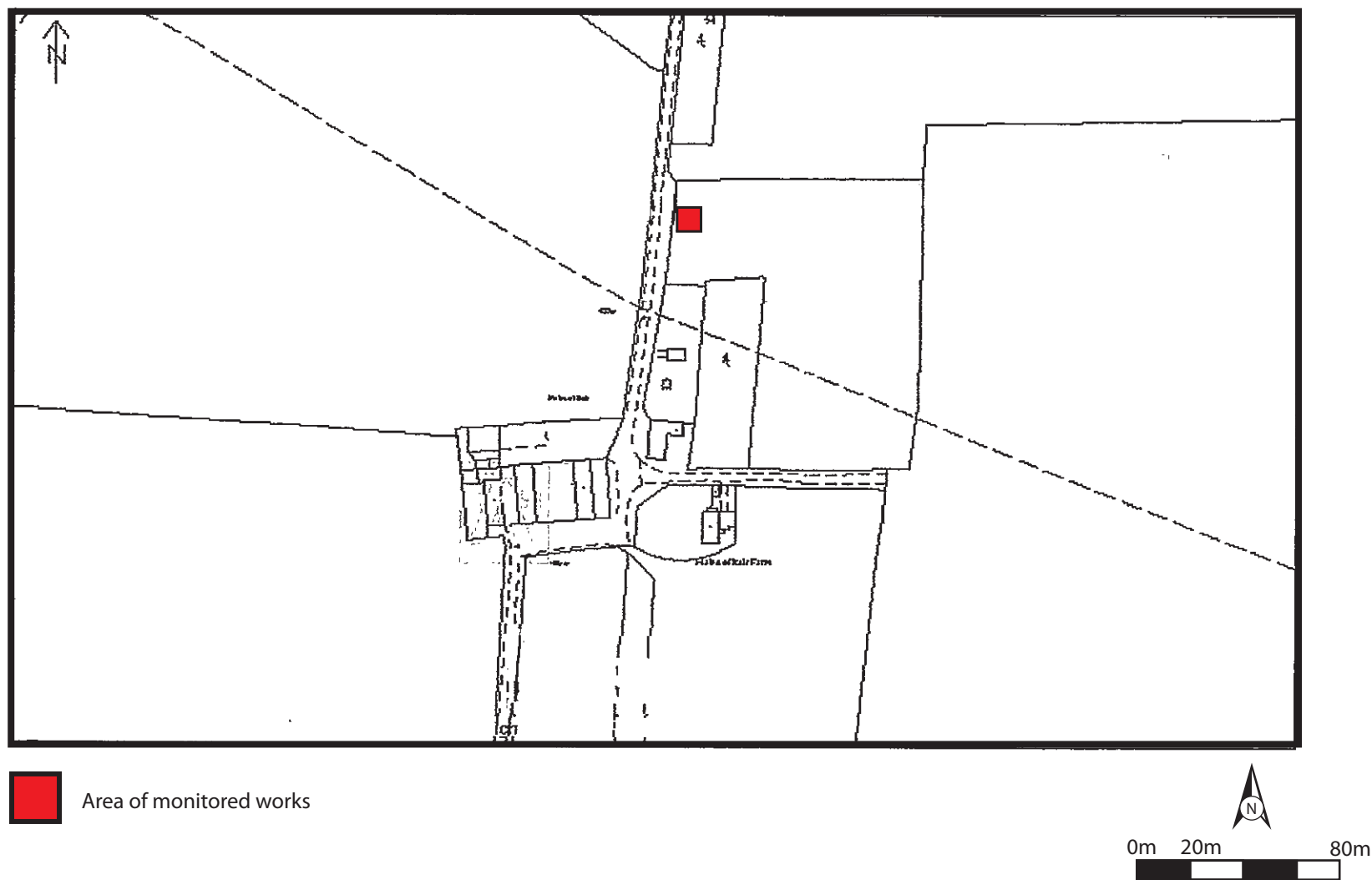


Figure 2: Location of monitored works at Mains of Kair

Mains of Kair, Laurencekirk: Watching Brief, Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

Digital Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Registration shot	-
3-4	Post-excavation view of turbine platform	w
5-6	Post-excavation view of turbine platform	S

APPENDIX 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeenshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Mains of Kair, Laurencekirk
PROJECT CODE:	AOC21901
PARISH:	Arbuthnott
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Andrew Sibley
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 7697 7692
START DATE (this season)	20 th May 2011
END DATE (this season)	20 th May 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the erection of a single 15 m high wind turbines at Mains of Kair, Laurencekirk</p> <p>The turbine platform required the excavation of a 5.0 m by 5.0 m area by a minimum of 1.0 m deep. An archaeological watching brief was conducted on all ground breaking works associated with the erection of the wind turbine.</p> <p>Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	GJC Anderson & Co Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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