

Belstane Town Farm Wind Turbine

Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22089

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Belstane Town Farm Wind Turbine: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	VG Energy Waterside Farm Glasgow Road Galston KA4 8PB
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NS 849 517
AOC Project No:	22089
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Date of Fieldwork:	13th March 2012
Date of Report:	15th March 2012

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

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Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief on the topsoil strip of a wind turbine base and associated cable track at Belstane Town Farm, Carluke.

The turbine base footprint measured 7.5m by 7.5m and the cable track was approx 100m long by 0.7m wide.

A small irregularly shaped pit and a rubble drain were recorded within the turbine base strip however 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 VG Energy on behalf of their client Mr J Whiteford to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the topsoil strip of a wind turbine base and associated cable track at Belstane Town Farm, Carluke. The watching brief was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, South Lanarkshire Council who are advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2012) approved on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council by WoSAS and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed development area is centred at NGR: NS 849 517 (Figure 1) and lies to the north of a farm track within Belstane Town Farm. The development site is situated near the top of a hill within a field used for pasture.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 Prehistoric activity over various chronological periods is widely attested in the local landscape (WoSAS 7/3/11/11/00296) and the general area would appear to have been a prime location for settlement for several millennia.

1.3.2 A Roman road (*Castledykes - Bothwellhaugh - Balmuldy*; NMRS NS85SW 20) is thought to have crossed the area to the north of the turbine development. The existence of a branch road linking the Clydesdale route has also been postulated although research in 1939 failed in finding any evidence to support this theory (NMRS: NS85SE 95; Davidson 1952).

1.3.3 A "silver medal" of the empress Faustina was found at Belstane (NGR: NS 850 515) about 1834 (Rankin 1874; NSA 1845; WoSASPIN 10315).

1.3.4 A Belstane Tower is mentioned in 1585, it was subsequently demolished in 1840 and a kale-yard built in its location (Rankin 1873). No remains of the tower are now known. Current opinion is that this tower was probably situated at Belstaneplace (NGR 284961 652516) rather than Belstane Town Farm. Blaeu (1654) shows a tower, *Bellstain*, west of a lochan on a river running to the west. This fits better with the location of Belstaneplace, where the adjacent place name Bogside and an extant reservoir may indicate the former presence of the lochan. Roy's map (1747-55) names Belstaneplace as Belstanemains. The names "place" and "mains" both indicate that Belstaneplace may be a more likely location for the site of the tower (WoSASPIN 10314).

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) to liaise with WoSAS 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.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The works involved an archaeological watching brief on the topsoil strip of a wind turbine base and associated cable track at Belstane Town Farm. Excavation was conducted by a tracked 360° excavator utilising a bladed ditching bucket for the turbine base and a narrow toothed bucket for the cable track. All ground breaking was monitored by an experienced field archaeologist and all recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practices.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The wind turbine base required the excavation of a 7.5m by 7.5m area, with a 100m long track running south from the base to the nearby farm buildings (Figure 2).
- 4.2 The topsoil across the watching brief area was greyish brown clayey silt averaging 0.3m in depth. A subsoil of light brown sandy clay measuring 0.4m was noted in the southern end of the cable track. Excavations in the turbine base (Plate 1) came down onto a yellowish brown sandy clay and two insignificant features were revealed: a rubble drain measuring 0.22m wide; and an irregularly shaped pit [001] with an irregular base and sides measuring 1.15m by 1.1m by 0.23m. Natural subsoil across the excavations consisted of an orange clayey sand within the cable trench, becoming a yellowish brown sandy clay at the top of the field.



Plate 1 - Post excavation shot of turbine base showing rubble drain

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Neither significant features nor unstratified artefacts were encountered during the watching brief, the development area proving to be archaeologically sterile.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

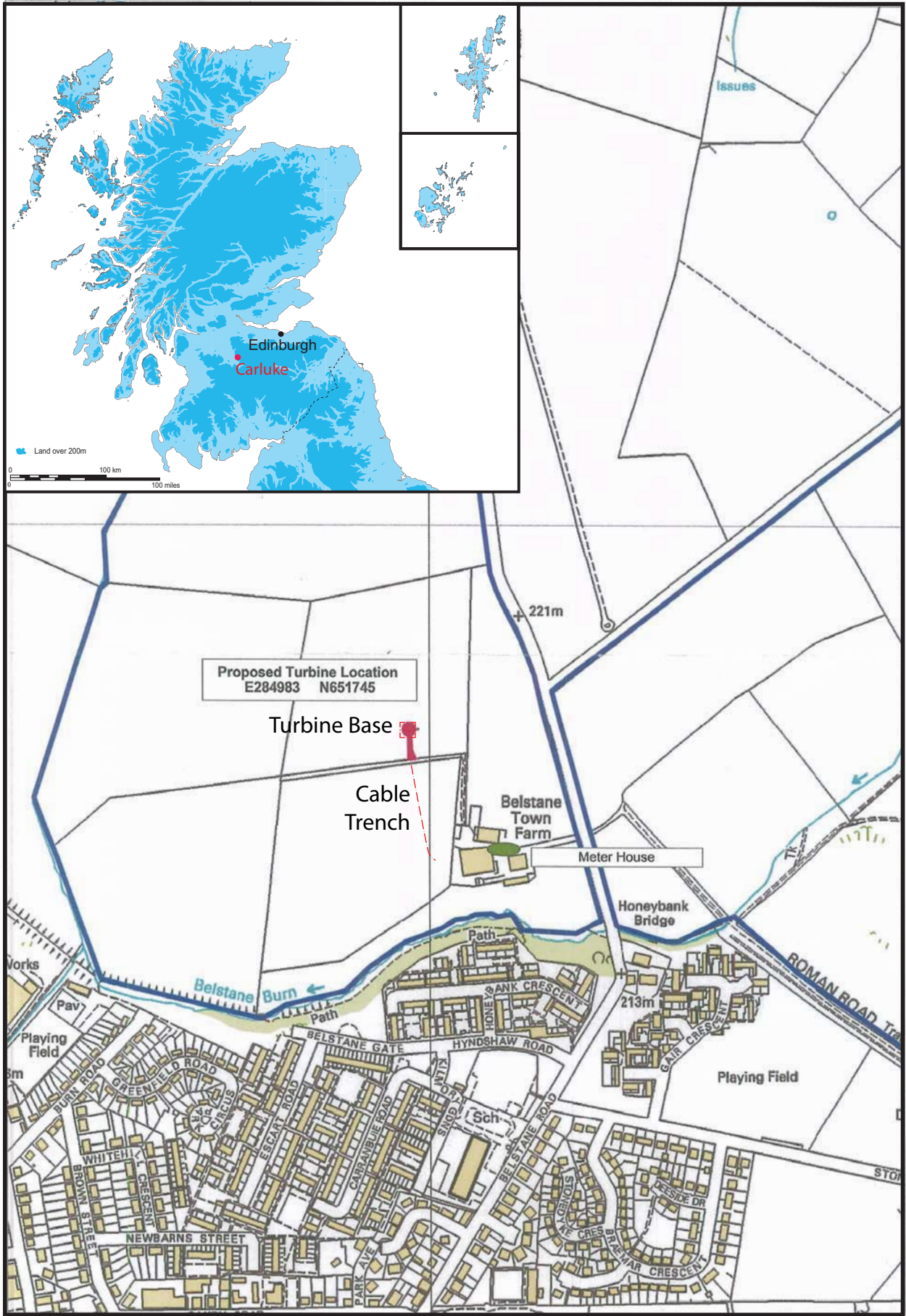
- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by WoSAS on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2011 *Belstane Town Farm Wind Turbine: Written Scheme of Investigation (7th March 2012)*.
Unpublished AOC Method Statement.

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology*.



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Figure 1: Location of monitored works, Belstane Town Farm, South Lanarkshire

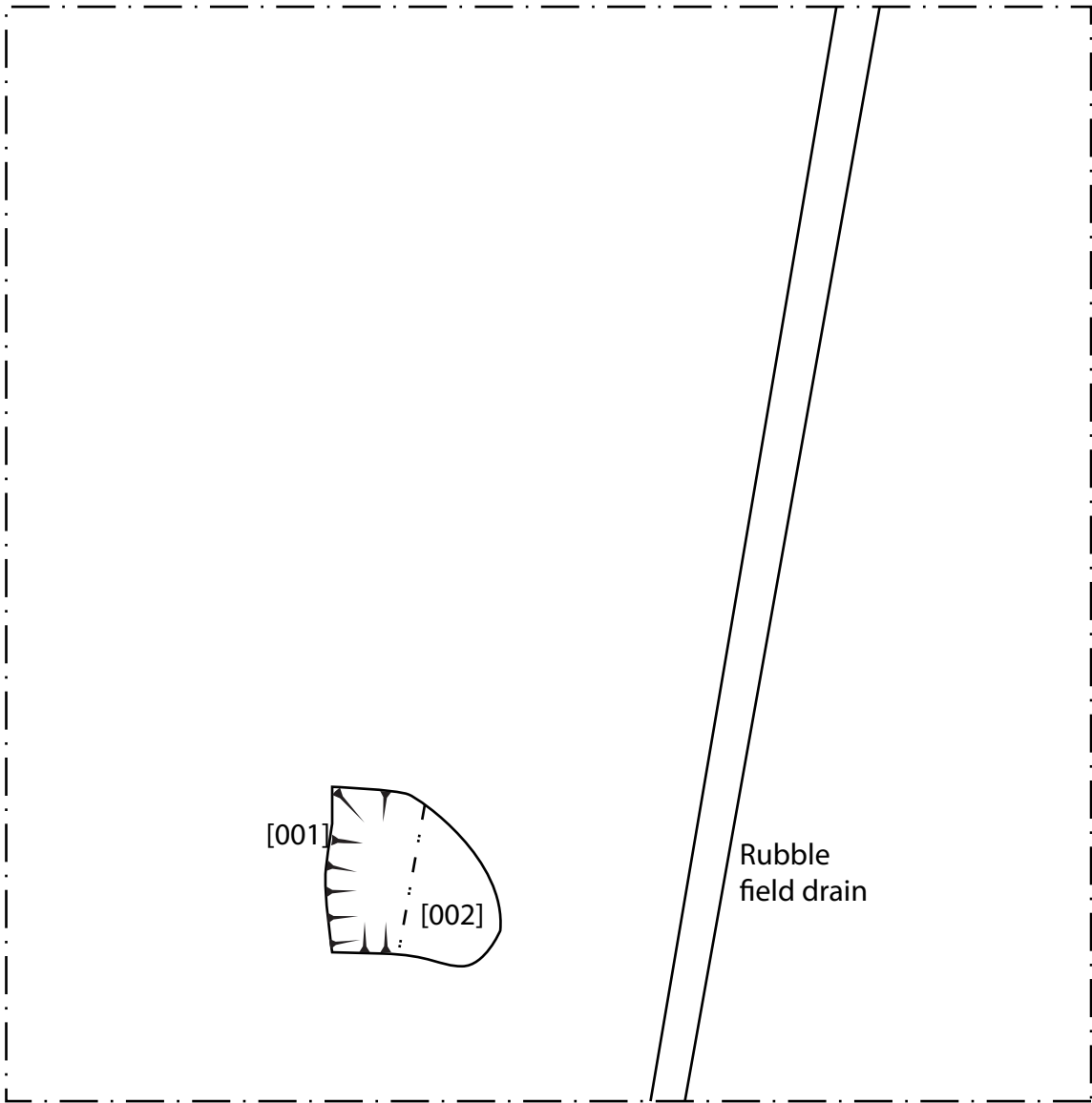


Figure 2: Detail plan of machine base

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Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Area	Description and Interpretation
001	TB	Irregularly shaped pit with one square end and one rounded end. Cut had a mixture of steep and gently sloping sides as well as a rounded concave and v-shaped base. Measured 1.15m by 1.1m by 0.23m Filled by deposit [002] Cut for a pit of unknown use - most likely modern
002	TB	Mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent manganese and sandstone inclusions (re-deposited natural and topsoil) Fill of pit [001]

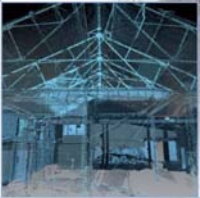
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digital

Frame	Description	From
1	Working shot searching for water pipes within cable track	N
2	Water Pipes located	E
3	West facing section at South end of cable track	W
4	East facing section at North end of cable track	E
5	Post-ex of cable track	N
6	Pre-sex of turbine base area	N
7	Hard standing area for base previously excavated	W
8	Non-feature within turbine base	S
9	Irregular pit [001] in turbine base	W
10	West facing section of pit [001]	W
11	Rubble drain in turbine base	N

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Belstane Town Farm
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22089
PARISH:	Carluke
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	Centred on NS 849 517
START DATE (this season)	13 th March 2012
END DATE (this season)	13 th March 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the topsoil strip of a wind turbine base and associated cable track at Belstane Town Farm, Carluke.</p> <p>A Roman road (<i>Castledykes - Bothwellhaugh - Balmuildy</i>; NMRS NS85SW 20) is thought to have crossed the area to the north of the turbine development, and a "silver medal" of the empress Faustina was found at Belstane (NGR: NS 850 515) about 1834 (Rankin 1874; NSA 1845; WoSASPIN 10315).</p> <p>From the topsoil strip a small irregularly shaped pit and a rubble drain were recorded within the turbine base however, neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/a
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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