

Edintore Wind Farm, Keith, Moray: Archaeological Watching Brief (SI Works) Data Structure Report

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Edintore Wind Farm, Keith, Moray

Archaeological Watching Brief (SI Works) Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: vento ludens Ltd.
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National Grid Reference (NGR): NJ 42270 46485

AOC Project No: 22301

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

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Abstract

This report presents the results of the initial phase of an archaeological watching brief undertaken in relation to a proposed wind farm in Edintore, Keith, Moray.

The watching brief involved the monitoring of 50 site investigation trial pits being excavated throughout the wind farm development area.

Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by vento ludens Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief on all ground breaking works involved during a wind farm development at Edintore, Keith, Moray. The watching brief is being conducted in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Moray 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 2012) approved on behalf of Moray council by ACAS 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 site, centred on NGR NJ 42270 46485, lies to the north of Edintore, a small farmstead 4km south of Keith. The development area is bounded by the B9115 to the south and Cairds Hill to the north (Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 A Desk-Based Assessment and associated walkover survey have previously been completed over the site (Wood 2010). Neither significant archaeological features nor find spots were identified within the actual location of the turbines or access track.

1.3.2 In the surrounding area the assessment indicated that there is a possibility of Neolithic and/or Bronze Age activity in the vicinity, with four possible cairns marked to the north east of the development area (NJ44NW 5; NJ44NW 6; NJ44NW 2, NJ44NW 12). Furthermore, there were two boundary stones noted relating to the 19th century farmstead (Moray SMR: NJ44NW0029 and NJ44NW0030), and a previously unrecorded feature CH9.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- i) to monitor ground-breaking works associated with the development and prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
- ii) to undertake the immediate recording of isolated finds of moderately significant archaeological material that will be disturbed by ground breaking works;
- iii) given the discovery of significant archaeological material in quantity that that will suffer an adverse impact from the groundworks associated with the redevelopment (ie where preservation *in situ* is impractical), the recording of all archaeological features by means of a mitigation strategy to be formulated with ACAS.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The site investigation works comprised machine trenching of 50 trial pits of various sizes throughout the proposed wind farm tracks and turbine locations (Figure 2). The trial pit excavations were undertaken by a 360° tracked excavator utilising a 0.6m wide toothed bucket. All machine excavation was supervised by experienced field archaeologist Alan Duffy and conducted according to AOC

Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and as per the methodology within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2012).

- 3.2 Prior to the start of the watching brief, the boundary stones and feature CH9 noted in the desk based assessment were to be located and fenced off to ensure they are not damaged by the works. Feature CH9 could not be located prior to the works commencing.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken over 4 days from the 19th November 2012 to the 22nd November 2012. Overall weather conditions were generally fair making archaeological visibility good throughout the watching brief.
- 4.2 Descriptions of all the trial pits can be found in the Appendices to this report. In general the trial pits excavated on the track areas were typically 0.5m by 0.5m whereas the trial pits excavated over the turbine bases and crane pads were on average 3.6m long by 0.6m wide. Topsoil throughout consisted of a mid brown sandy silt varying in depth from 0.1m to 0.6m, covering light brown sands and gravels (Plate 1). No archaeological features or artefacts were recovered from any of the trial pit areas.



Plate 1 – General shot of TP-3B

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 As mentioned earlier, the boundary stones were all fenced off successfully prior to work commencing however the feature CH9 could not be located. Given that it was out with the track and turbine base areas it is safe to assume that it will not have been impacted upon by the site investigation works.
- 5.2 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified throughout the excavations conducted as part of the site investigation works.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2012 '*Edintore, Keith, Moray: Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*' Unpublished AOC project design

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*, February 2010.

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*.

Wood, J. 2010q '*Edintore Wind Farm, Moray (Keith parish), desk-based assessment and walkover survey*', *Discovery and Excavation Scotland, New*, vol.11. Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England.

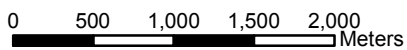
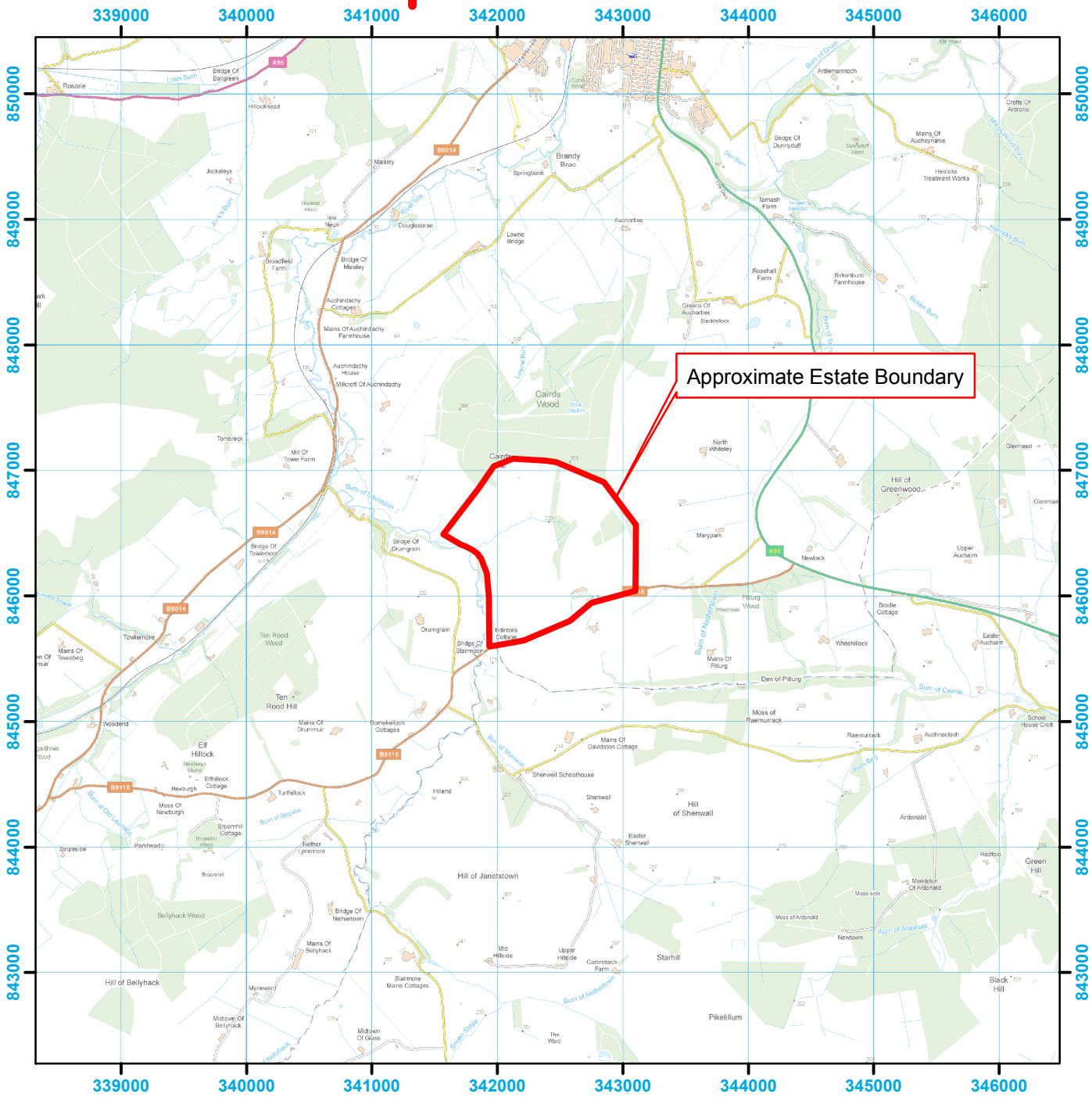
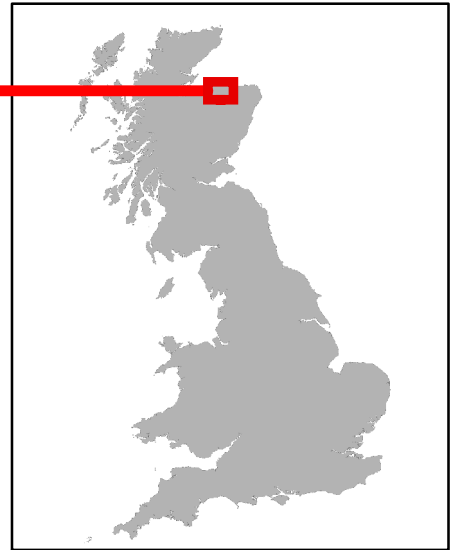
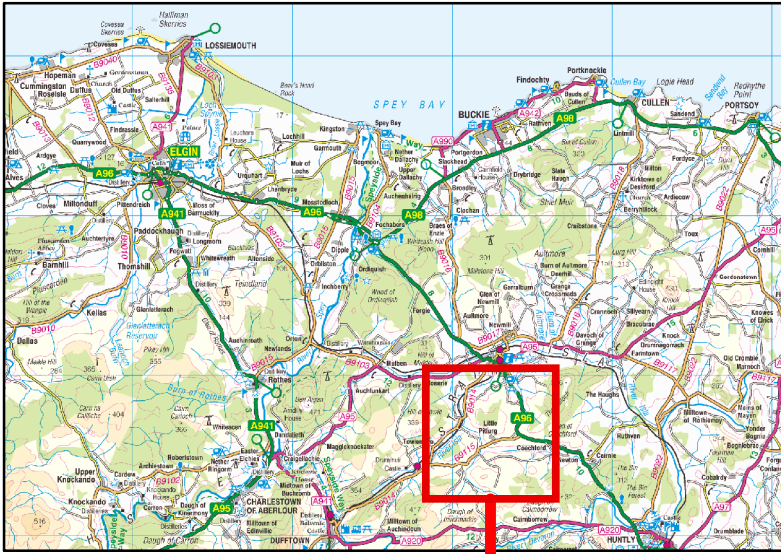


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

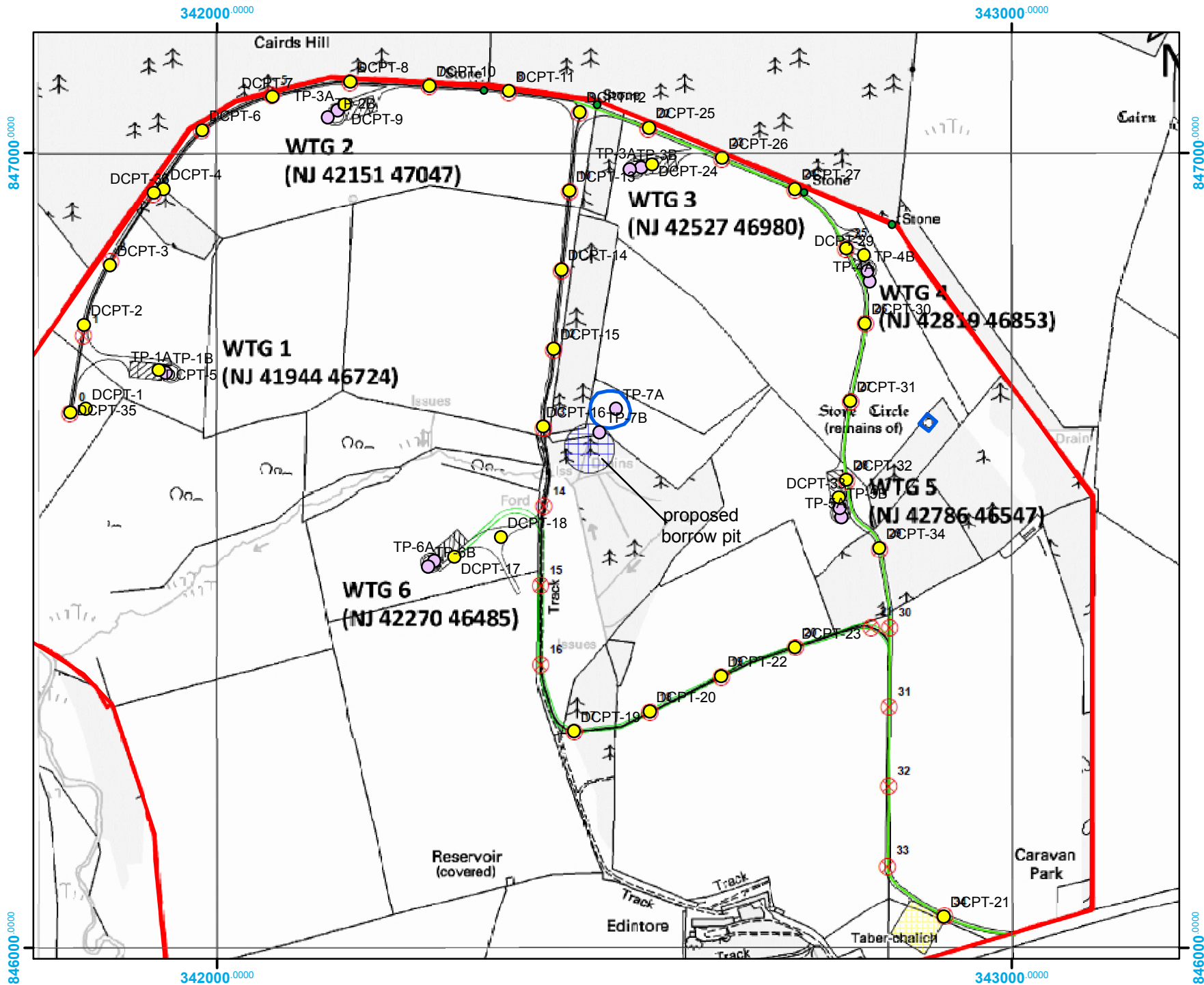
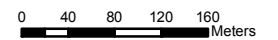


Figure 2: Site Investigation Tests Location Plan

- DCPT-#
- Trial Pit (TP-#A)
- Boundary Stone
- Estate Boundary
- Cultural Heritage



Cartographic data derived from Client's original illustration

Project No.:	22301
Date:	28/11/12
Scale at A4:	1:6,500



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Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Site Investigation Test Descriptions

TP = Trial Pit

DCPT = Dynamic Cone Penetration Test

Reference	Dimensions	Topsoil Depth	Location	Features found/notes
TP-1A	3.5m x 0.6m	0.2m	Turbine 1	No significant archaeology
TP-1B	3.5m x 0.6m	0.25m	Turbine 1	No significant archaeology
TP-2A	3.5m x 0.6m	0.2m	Turbine 2	No significant archaeology
TP-2B	3.5m x 0.6m	0.26m	Turbine 2	No significant archaeology
TP-3A	3.5m x 0.6m	0.1m	Turbine 3	No significant archaeology
TP-3B	3.5m x 0.6m	0.2m	Turbine 3	No significant archaeology
TP-4A	3.5m x 0.6m	0.1m	Turbine 4	No significant archaeology
TP-4B	3.5m x 0.6m	0.15m	Turbine 4	No significant archaeology
TP-5A	3.5m x 0.6m	0.2m	Turbine 5	No significant archaeology
TP-5B	3.5m x 0.6m	0.2m	Turbine 5	No significant archaeology
TP-6A	3.5m x 0.6m	0.37m	Turbine 6	No significant archaeology
TP-6B	3.5m x 0.6m	0.3m	Turbine 6	No significant archaeology
TP-7A	2.2m x 0.6m	0.2m	Turbine 7	No significant archaeology
TP-7B	2.5m x 0.6m	0.15m	Turbine 7	No significant archaeology
DCPT-1	0.8m x 0.6m	0.25m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-2	0.7m x 0.6m	0.3m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-3	0.6m x 0.3m	0.26m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-4	1m x 0.6m	0.3m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-5	0.5m x 0.4m	0.25m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-6	0.9m x 0.4m	0.25m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-7	0.8m x 0.4m	0.26m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-8	0.7m x 0.4m	0.26m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-9	0.7m x 0.4m	0.24m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-10	0.9m x 0.4m	0.22m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-11	0.6m x 0.4m	0.25m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-12	0.6m x 0.4m	0.19m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-13	0.8m x 0.4m	0.27m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-14	0.6m x 0.4m	0.38m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-15	0.9m x 0.4m	0.3m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-16	0.5m x 0.4m	0.29m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-17	0.7m x 0.4m	0.3m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-18	0.4m x 0.4m	0.29m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-19	1.25m x 0.45m	0.65m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-20	0.9m x 0.4m	0.3m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-21	1m x 0.6m	0.29m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-22	1.2m x 0.4m	0.35m	Track	No significant archaeology

Reference	Dimensions	Topsoil Depth	Location	Features found/notes
DCPT-23	1.2m x 0.4m	0.39m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-24	0.9m x 0.4m	0.23m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-25	0.9m x 0.4m	0.12m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-26	1m x 0.4m	0.29m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-27	1m x 0.4m	0.22m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-28	0.8m x 0.4m	0.18m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-29	1m x 0.4m	0.16m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-30	1.1m x 0.4m	0.23m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-31	0.7m x 0.4m	0.25m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-32	0.7m x 0.4m	0.23m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-33	0.8m x 0.4m	0.29m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-34	0.8m x 0.4m	0.3m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-35	0.4m x 0.2m	0.25m	Track	No significant archaeology
DCPT-36	0.4m x 0.2m	0.16m	Track	No significant archaeology

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

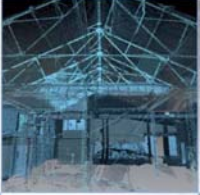
Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From
1	Test Pit 5a	N
2	Test Pit 5b	E
3	Test Pit 4a	S
4	Test Pit 4b	N
5	Test Pit 3a	W
6	Test Pit 3b	N
7	Test Pit 2a	E
8	Test Pit 2b	W
9	Test Pit 1a	W
10	Test Pit 1b	S
11	Test Pit 6a	N
12	Test Pit 6b	E
13	Quarry/borrow pit face	S
14	Quarry/borrow pit face	S
15	Quarry/borrow pit face	S
16	Test-pit 7A	W
17	Test-pit 7B	S
18	Test-pit 1	N
19	Test-pit 5	W

20	Test-pit 8	N
21	Boundary stone 1	SE
22	Boundary stone 2	SW
23	Pressure testing existing track	S
24	Test-pit 21	W
25	Test-pit 23	N
26-27	Boundary stone 3	S
28-29	Stone circle	W
30	Test-pit 32	

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Moray Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Edintore, Keith, Moray
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22301
PARISH:	Keith
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	NJ44NW 30
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NJ 42270 46485
START DATE (this season)	19 th November 2012
END DATE (this season)	22 nd November 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Desk Based Assessment (Wood, J 2010) Highland Archaeology Service
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>The initial phase of an archaeological watching brief was undertaken in relation to a proposed wind farm in Edintore, Keith, Moray.</p> <p>The watching brief involved the monitoring of 50 site investigation test pits being excavated throughout the wind farm development area.</p> <p>Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	vento ludens Ltd.
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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