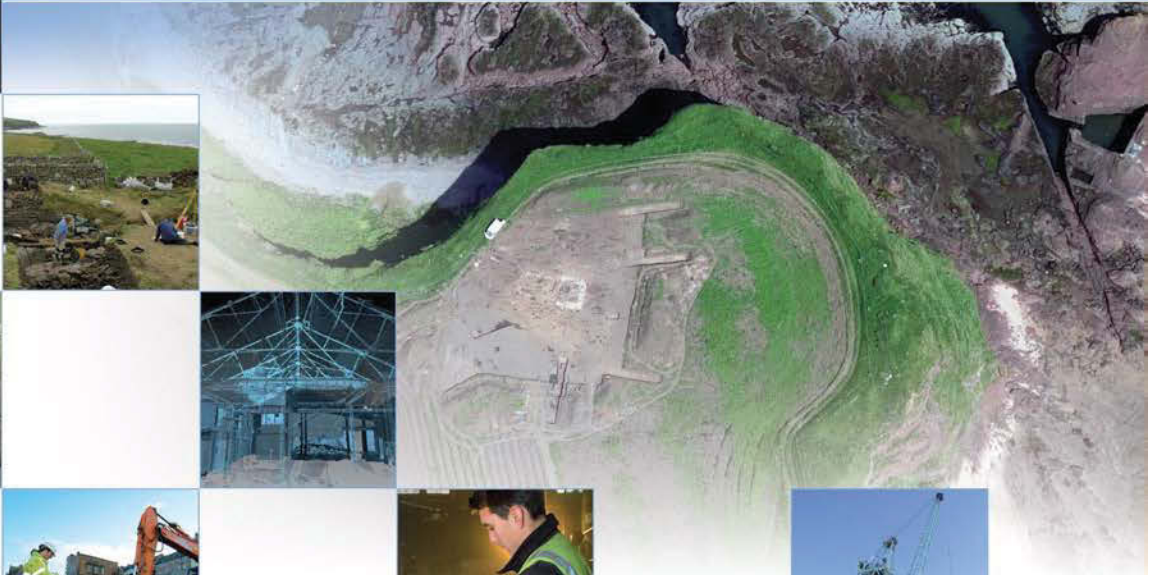


Blackhouse, Reston (Wind Turbine), Scottish Borders: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22498
20th September 2013



Blackhouse, Reston, Scottish Borders

Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Locogen Ltd
44 Constitution Street
Edinburgh
EH6 6RS

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 82107 60838 (start of access road)
NT 82395 61021 (area of turbine platform)

AOC Project No: 22498

OASIS No: 159621

Prepared by: Diana Sproat

Illustration by: Diana Sproat

Date of Fieldwork: 16th – 17th September 2013

Date of Report: 20th September 2013

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

Author: Diana Sproat

Date: 20th September 2013

Approved by: Lindsay Dunbar

Date: 20th September 2013

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date: 20th September 2013

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Edgefield Industrial Estate
Edgefield Road
Loanhead
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
e-mail. admin@aocarchaeology.com



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Summary

AOC Archaeology Groups was commissioned by the Locogen Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the topsoil strip for a single wind turbine and its access road at Blackhouse, near Reston, in the Scottish Borders.

No significant features or artefacts were revealed during the archaeological works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Locogen Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the topsoil strip for a single wind turbine and its access road near Blackhouse Farm near the town of Reston in the Scottish Borders. The works were undertaken in order to satisfy a condition set by the Scottish Borders Council as advised on archaeological matters by the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service. The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* approved by the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service 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 Site Location

1.2.1 The area subject to watching brief was located to the south of the Blackhouse Dean plantation in open agricultural land to the east of a minor north/south road between the B6438 to the south and A6112 to the north. The start of the access road for the wind turbine is located at NGR: NT 82107 60838 with the turbine base to the east (see [Figure 1](#)).

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 Whilst there are no known archaeological sites under direct threat from the development there are a number of sites that lie within a few hundred metres of the trackway and turbine. These include:

- **Fosterland Fort** (SAM No 4988) which is most likely an Iron Age fort, ca.130m in diameter, visible both as an upstanding earthwork and a cropmark. This lies ca.150 m east of the turbine base.
- **Cropmark enclosure** (SAM No 5023), lying ca. 250m to the north-east of the eastern extent of the development area. It measures ca. 45m by 39m and is a ditched enclosure now visible only as a cropmark which is believed to be of a similar age to the scheduled fort.
- **Broomhill** (NMRS No NT86SW46) lies ca. 300m to the north and ca. 400m to the south of the development area
- **Gallows Law** (NMRS No NT86SW16), a cropmark pit alignment site, which is liable to be prehistoric in date, possibly Iron Age

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:

- i) to monitor the topsoil strip of the proposed turbine area, its sub-station and access road, to prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
- ii) given the discovery of significant archaeological material in quantity that will suffer an adverse impact from the development (ie, where preservation *in situ* is impractical), the recording of all archaeological features by means of a mitigation strategy to be formulated with the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service.

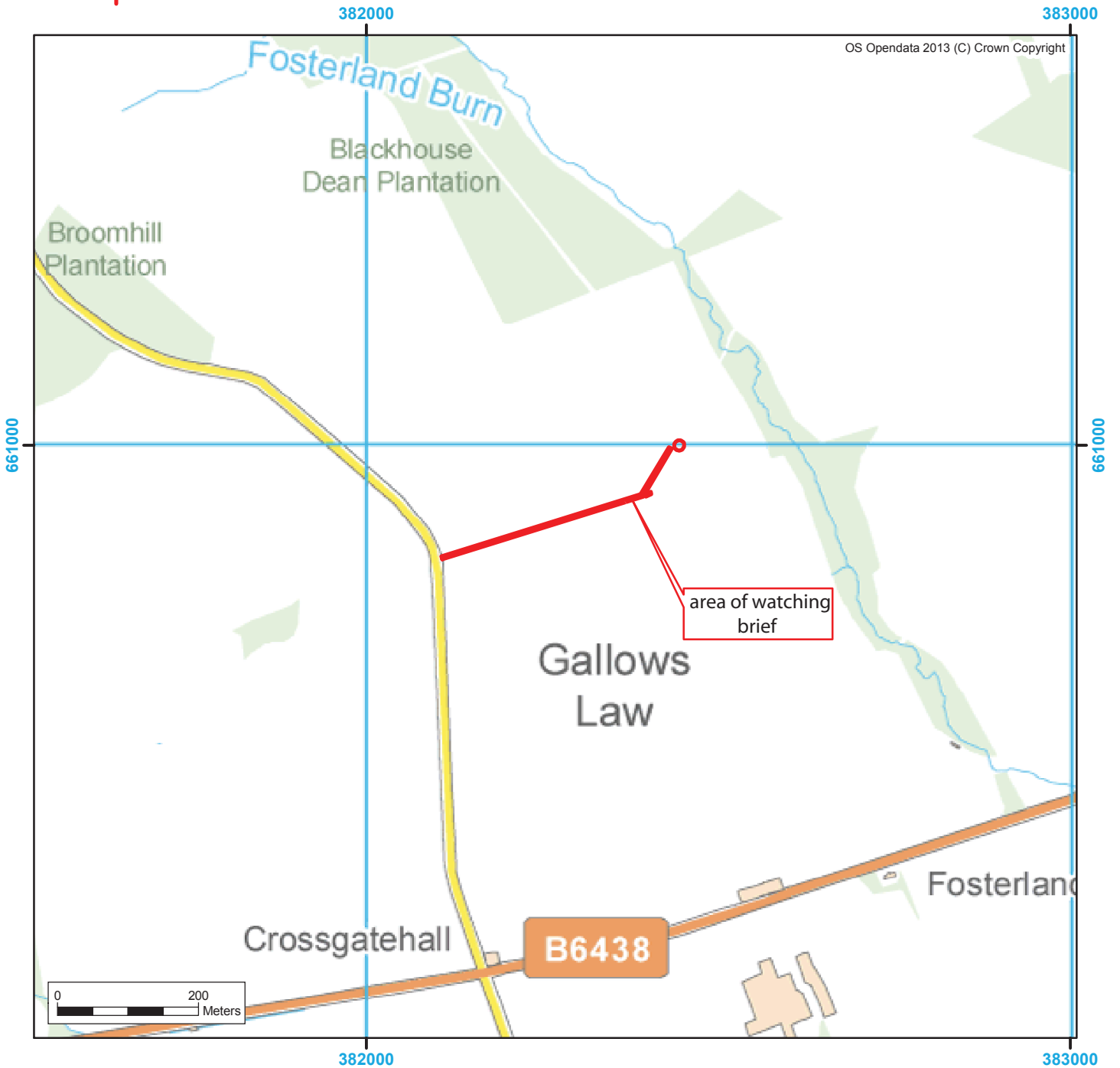
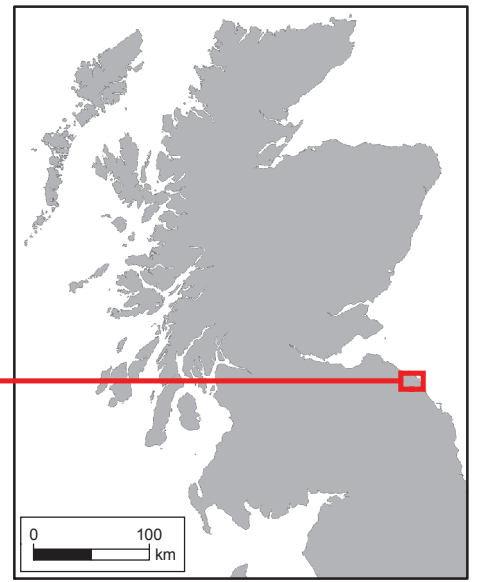
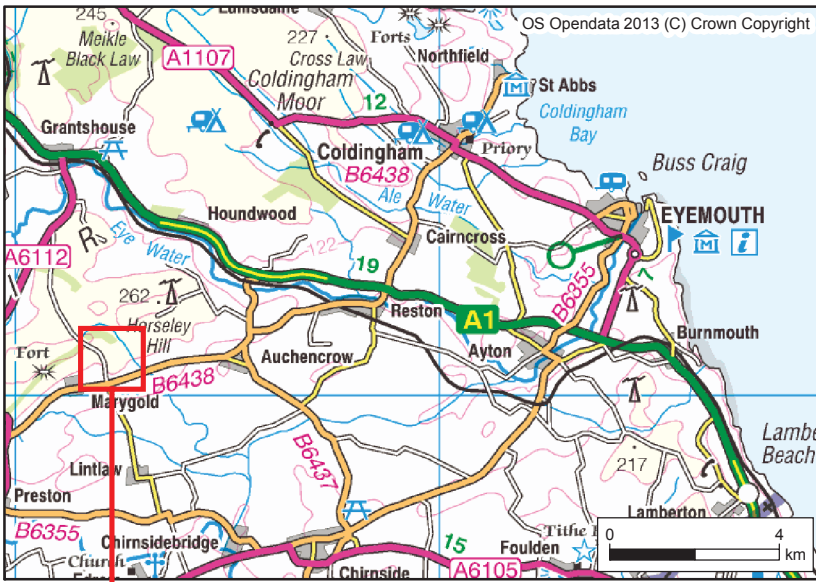


Figure 1: Site location plan showing area of watching brief

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Topsoil stripping was conducted by a large 360° excavator with a bladed ditching bucket. All excavation 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 area watched as part of this programme of works can be found in [Figure 1](#). Being in such an exposed area on top of a hill, the topsoil was fairly thin in depth, between 300mm – 400mm in depth. This overlay a natural pinkish orange stony clay subsoil throughout the watched area ([Plate 1](#)). A small modern rubble field drain (aligned roughly north-west/south-east and 300mm wide) was located within the area of the platform for the main turbine.



Plate 1: General view of the stripped access road from the north

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the monitored topsoil strip. No further archaeological works are considered necessary within the development area. This recommendation will require confirmation by the Scottish Borders Archaeology Service.

6 REFERENCES

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

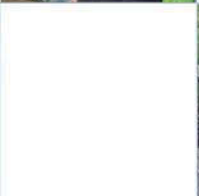
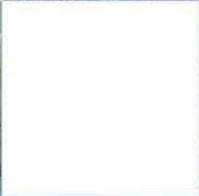
Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology*.

APPENDIX 1: COLOUR DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Ref No	Description	From	Date
1	Looking at the stripped haul road	N	16/09/2013

APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND (DES) REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Blackhouse, Reston (Wind Turbine)
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22498
PARISH:	Bunkle and Preston
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Diana Sproat
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitored Topsoil Strip
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 82107 60838 (start of access road)
START DATE	16 th September 2013
END DATE	17 th September 2013
PREVIOUS WORK	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:	AOC Archaeology Groups was commissioned by Locogen Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the topsoil strip for a single wind turbine and its access road at Blackhouse, near Reston, in the Scottish Borders. No significant features or artefacts were revealed during the archaeological works.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Locogen Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION:	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY
tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: admin@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com