

Townfoot Farm Wind Turbine

Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22620

OASIS ID – aocarcha-170027

Planning Ref: CL/13/0242

30th January 2014



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Townfoot Farm Wind Turbine: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	VG Energy Waterside Farm Glasgow Road Galston KA4 8PB
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 100 456
AOC Project No:	22620
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Illustration by:	Kevin Paton
Date of Fieldwork:	29th January 2014
Date of Report:	30th January 2014

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 monitored topsoil strip on the removal of topsoil during the construction of a wind turbine base and associated access and cable tracks at Townfoot Farm, Dolphinton.

The access track measured 75 m by 3.5 m leading to the turbine base which measured 5 m by 5 m. The cable track was stripped for the first 30 m before it descended a steep bank out of the field and into the current farmyard.

Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered during the works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by VG Energy on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the topsoil strip of a wind turbine base and associated access and cable tracks at Townfoot Farm, Dolphinton. 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 *Method Statement* (AOC 2013) 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: NT 100 456 (Figure 1) and lies within a field to the immediate west of Townfoot Farm. The turbine location is near the top of a small hillock with moderate to steeply sloping sides within a field used for pasture.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The development area lies within an area of open farmland to the south of the village of Dolphinton. The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments notes a couple of sites lying within a few hundred metres of the proposed turbine location.

1.3.2 To the south there is a possible enclosure site, NMRS No.NT14NW 21 is described as an oval enclosure 250 m SE of Townfoot. Situated in a comparatively level field a little to the NW of the top of the slope that falls to the Back Burn, the enclosure has measured about 70 m in diameter over a single ditch.

1.3.3 To the east is marked an axe findspot, NMRS No. NT04NE 27 which records that two complete axes and an axe fragment are attributed to Townfoot Farm. One of these axes comes from the Great Langdale and Scafell areas of Cumbria whilst another from Creag na Caillich, Killin, Perthshire.

1.3.4 Lastly to the west there is a site described as a 'watermeadow', NMRS No NT14NW 83.

1.3.5 Obviously the presence of a possible enclosure but as importantly the recovery of three prehistoric axe heads from the area attests to a sizable prehistoric population living within the vicinity of the site. Also given that the site is a Greenfield site there exists the possibility of unearthing hitherto unknown archaeological features.

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 access and cable tracks at Townfoot Farm, Dolphinton. Excavation was conducted by a tracked 360° excavator utilising a bladed ditching bucket. 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 access track required the excavation of a 75 m by 3.5 m area that led to the 5 m by 5 m turbine base. The cable track was stripped for 30 m (by 2 m wide) from the turbine base until it reached the steep edge of the field where it will continue across an existing track and into the farmyard (Fig 2).
- 4.2 The topsoil across the watching brief area was a mid brown sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions varying in depth from 0.2 m to 0.35 m. This overlay an orangey brown sand and gravel subsoil (Plate 1).



Plate 1 - Post-ex shot of turbine base

5 CONCLUSION

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

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

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2013 *Townfoot Farm, Dolphinton Wind Turbine Monitored Topsoil Strip: Method Statement*
Unpublished AOC Method Statement.

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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

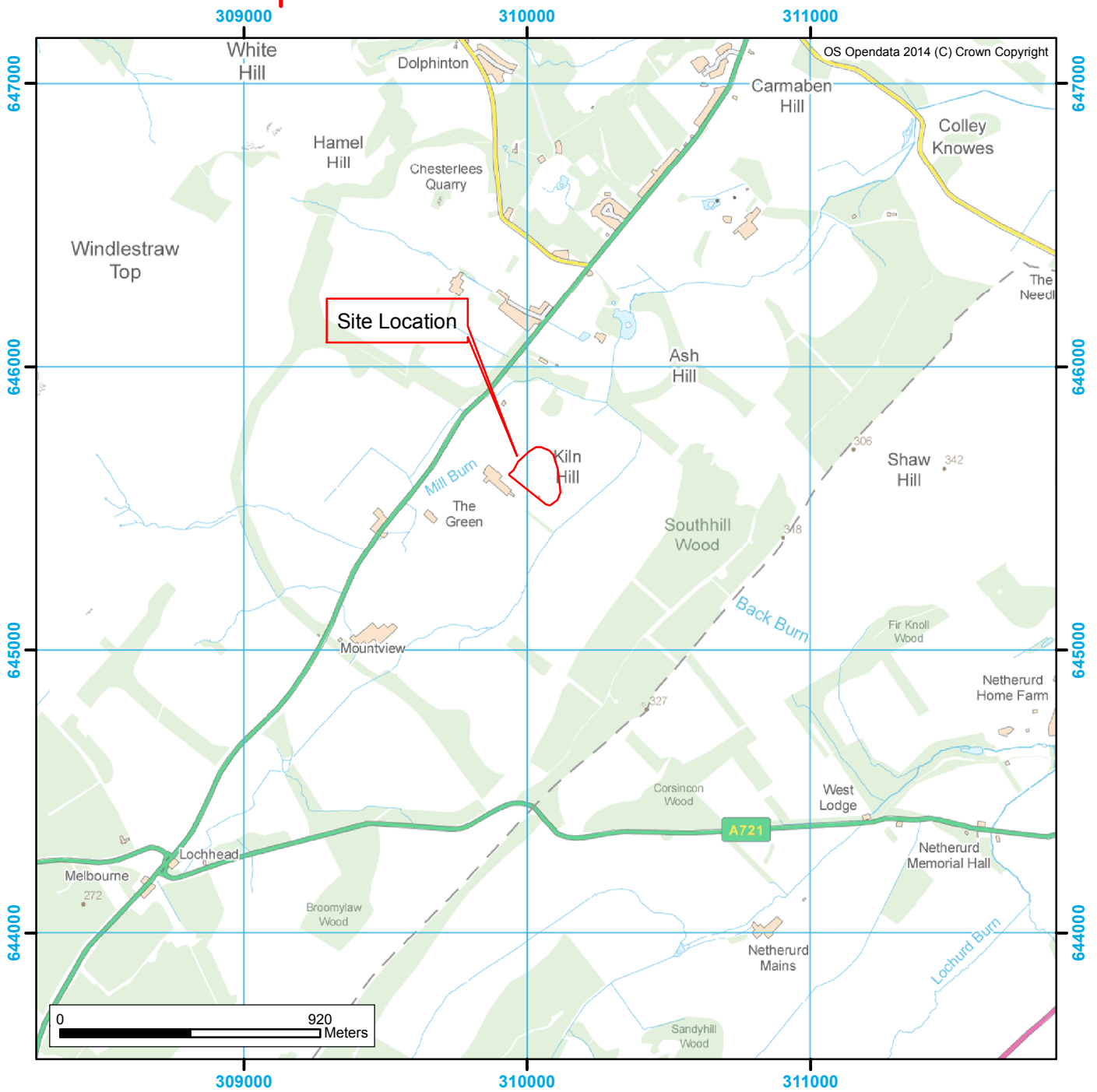
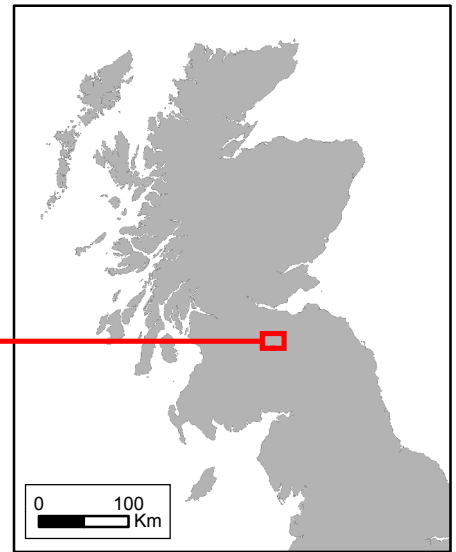
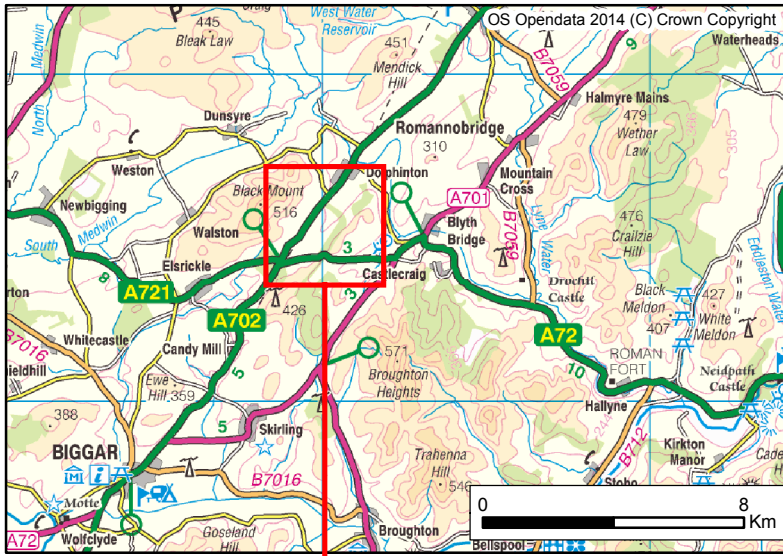
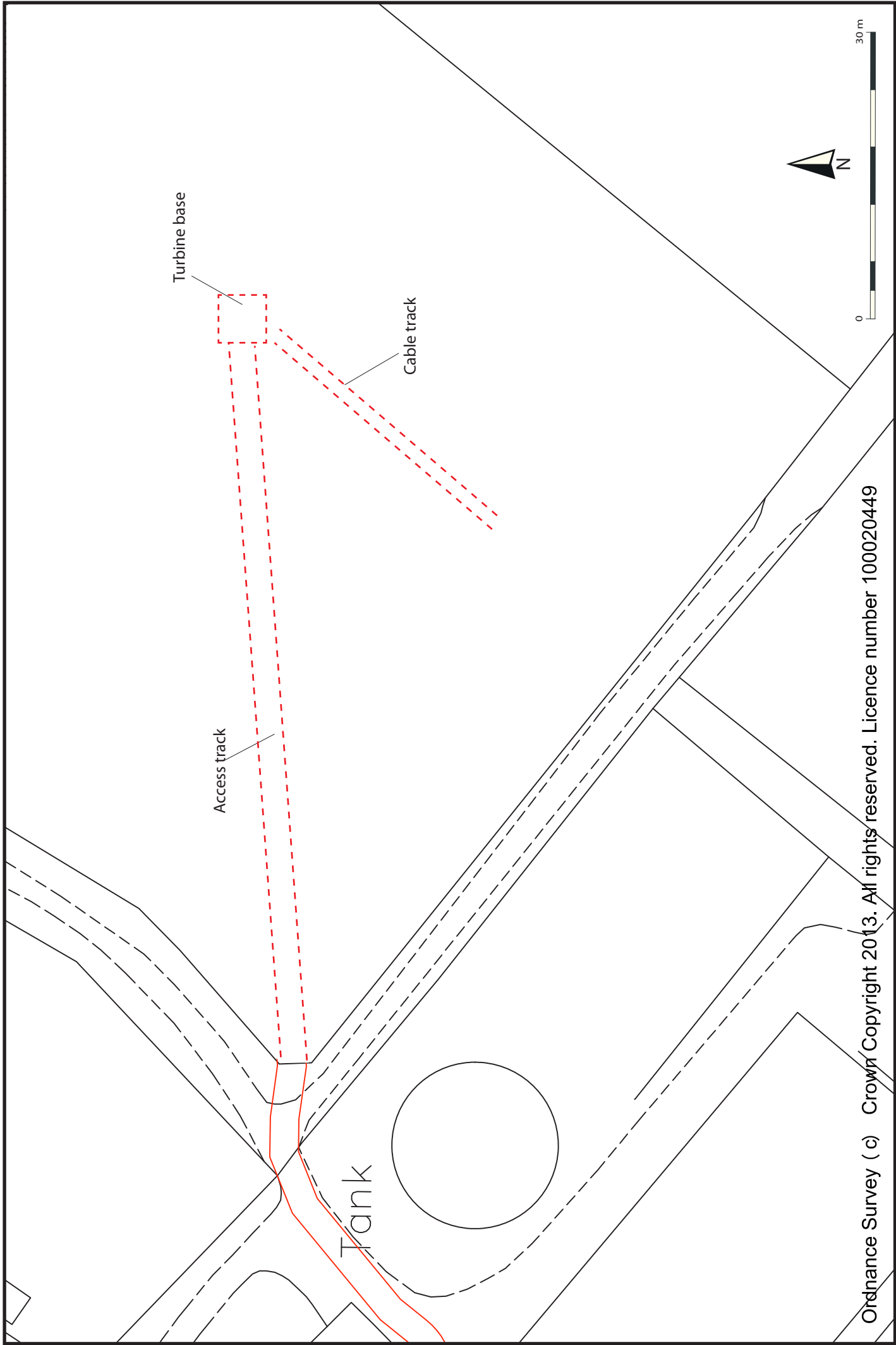


Figure 1: Site Location Plan



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Figure 2 - Watching brief areas

Townfoot Farm, Dolphinton Wind Turbine: Monitored Topsoil Strip Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital

Frame	Description	From
1	Pre-ex shot of access track area	E
2	Pre-ex shot of cable track area	NE
3	Pre-ex shot of turbine base area	W
4	Working shot of access track	W
5	Turbine base post ex	SW
6-7	Access track post-ex	E
8	Cable track post-ex	SW

APPENDIX 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Townfoot Farm
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22620
PARISH:	Dolphinton
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitored Topsoil Strip
NMRS NO(S)	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	Centred on NT 100 456
START DATE (this season)	29 th January 2014
END DATE (this season)	29 th January 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological monitored topsoil strip was undertaken by AOC Archaeology on the topsoil strip of a wind turbine base and associated access and cable tracks at Townfoot Farm, Dolphinton.</p> <p>The access track measured 75 m by 3.5 m leading to the turbine base which measured 5 m by 5 m. The cable track was stripped for the first 30 m before it descended a steep bank out of the field and into the current farmyard.</p> <p>Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered during the topsoil strip.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	VG Energy Waterside Farm Glasgow Road Galston KA4 8PB
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	kevin.paton@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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