

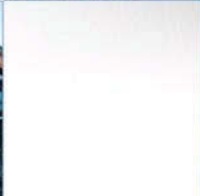
South Melbourne Farm, Elsrickle, South Lanarkshire: Archaeological Watching Brief

AOC 22676

February 2014

Oasis Number; 1-172461

Planning Reference: CL/13/0506



ARCHAEOLOGY

| HERITAGE

| CONSERVATION

South Melbourne Farm, Elsrickle, South Lanarkshire: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: Realise Renewables
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National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 0880 4400

AOC Project No: 22676

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Illustration by: Jamie Humble

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Date of Report: 25th February 2014

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

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was required as a condition of planning consent (CL/13/0506), during ground breaking works associated with the construction of a single concrete wind turbine base measuring 5.0 m by 5.0 m at South Melbourne Farm, Elsrickle, South Lanarkshire (NGR; NT 0880 4400).

No significant archaeological material was recorded.

0 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by Realise Renewables on behalf of their client as a condition of planning consent (CL/13/0506) during all ground-works associated with the construction of a concrete wind turbine base at South Melbourne Farm, Elsrickle, South Lanarkshire (NGR; NT 0880 4400).
- 0.2 The proposed development site lies within the administrative area of South Lanarkshire Council which is advised on archaeological matters by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).
- 0.3 No significant archaeological remains were observed during the watching brief.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.2 An archaeological watching brief was required by Realise Renewables on behalf of their client during all ground-works associated with the construction of a concrete wind turbine base at South Melbourne Farm, Elsrickle, South Lanarkshire (NGR; NT 0880 4400).
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was required in response to a planning condition (CL/13/0506) set by South Lanarkshire Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by West of Scotland Archaeology Service.
- 1.1.4 The archaeological works required were in accord with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Curatorial control

- 1.2.1 The watching brief was designed to fully satisfy the requirements of South Lanarkshire Council who are advised on archaeological matters by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The *Method Statement* (AOC 2014) outlined the entirety of the archaeological programme of work which may have been needed to mitigate the effects of the proposed development; it detailed principally the methodology to be employed in implementing the archaeological watching brief.

1.3 Site Location

- 1.3.1 The site is located at South Melbourne Farm, Elsrickle, South Lanarkshire. The site is situated within a terraced forestry plantation to the east of the A702 and to the south of the A 721. The site is centred on NGR: NT 0880 4400 and lies at 280 m OD.

1.4 Archaeological Background

1.4.1 The proposed development lies within a landscape of archaeological sensitivity. This is based on the high density of recorded sites and finds of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date situated within the surrounding landscape. This density shows that that the landscape has been in human use for thousands of years.

1.4.2 Recent work by the Biggar Museum Trust established the presence of buried archaeology within the plantation that had survived initial ground preparation and subsequent tree growth. Therefore there remains a reasonable chance of unearthing buried prehistoric remains which may survive below ground level.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of archaeological mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, should significant archaeological remains be encountered that cannot be preserved *in situ*.

3 METHOD

3.1 The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of all ground breaking works associated with the construction of a single turbine base measuring 5.0 m by 5.0 m. The watching brief ceased once the required level had been reached or archaeologically sterile subsoil had been observed.

3.2 The ground breaking works were undertaken by means of a Mechanical Digger equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation was to be in shallow units/spits. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist. The watching brief was also to include the excavation of any archaeological features encountered in order to establish the extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features impacted upon by these works.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was carried out on the 24th February 2014. Weather conditions were fair and good archaeological visibility was achieved.

4.1.2 The various data gathered from the excavation are presented as two appendices:

Appendix 1 contains the photographic register;

Appendix 2 reproduces the '*Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*' entry.

4.2 Overview

4.2.1 The excavation of the 5.0 m by 5.0 m base revealed a shallow peat top-soil 0.10 m to 0.15 m in depth. This directly overlay orange boulder clay with numerous sub-angular stones. Several stone-holes were noted. No archaeologically significant material was observed.



Plate 1 Eastern end of base under excavation from south-west



Plate 2 Western end of base under excavation from south-east

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No significant archaeological deposits were revealed. No further archaeological works are recommended. This recommendation will require ratification by WoSAS on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council

6 REFERENCES

AOC 2014 South Melbourne Farm, Elsrickle, South Lanarkshire: *Archaeological Watching Brief; Method Statement*, Unpubl AOC Archaeology Client Report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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

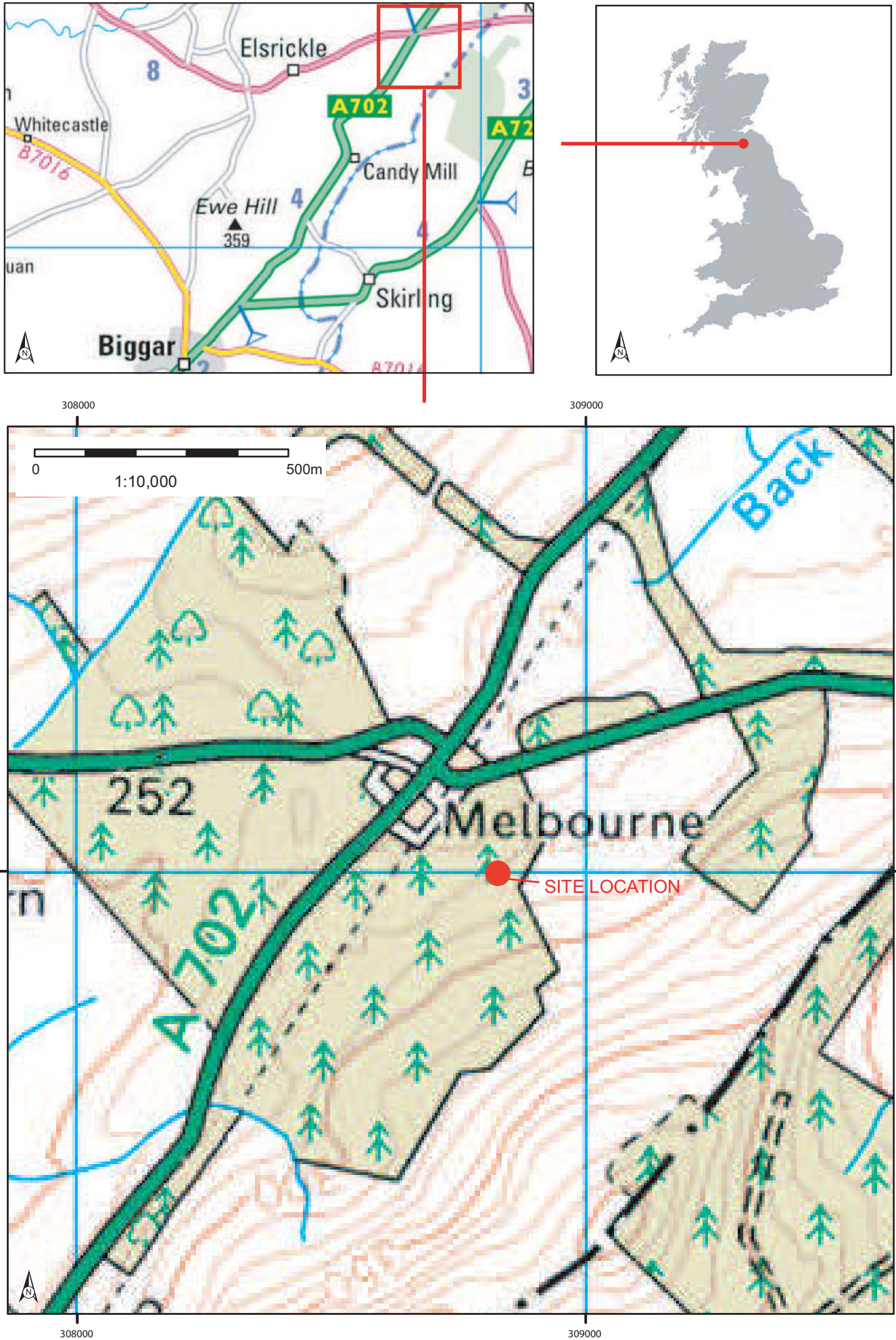


Figure 1: Site location plan

**South Melbourne Farm, Elsrickle, South
Lanarkshire:
Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

Section 2: Appendices

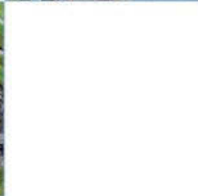
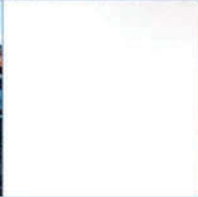
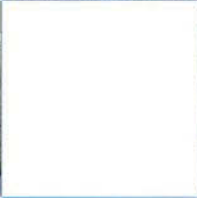
APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Film 1 Digital

| Frame | Description | From |
|-------|----------------|------|
| 1 | Registration | |
| 2-3 | Excavated base | SW |
| 4-6 | Excavated base | SE |

APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

| | |
|---|--|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | South Lanarkshire Council |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | South Melbourne Farm |
| PROJECT CODE: | 22676 |
| PARISH: | Biggar |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Rob Engl |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | AOC Archaeology Group |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Archaeological Watching Brief |
| NMRS NO(S): | None |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | None |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | None |
| NGR (2 letters, 6 figures) | NT 0880 4400 |
| START DATE (this season) | 24 th February 2014 |
| END DATE (this season) | 24 th February 2014 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES) | None |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | <p>An archaeological watching brief was required as a condition of planning consent (CL/13/0506), during ground breaking works associated with the construction of a single concrete 5.0 m by 5.0 m wind turbine base at South Melbourne Farm, Elsrickle, South Lanarkshire (NGR; NT 0880 4400).</p> <p>No significant archaeological material was recorded.</p> |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS: | N/A |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Realise Renewables |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR: | AOC Archaeology Group |
| EMAIL ADDRESS: | admin@aocarchaeology.com |
| ARCHIVE LOCATION | Archive to be deposited in NMRS |



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