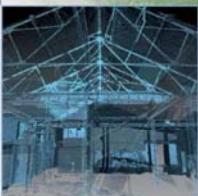
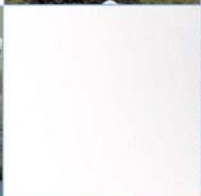
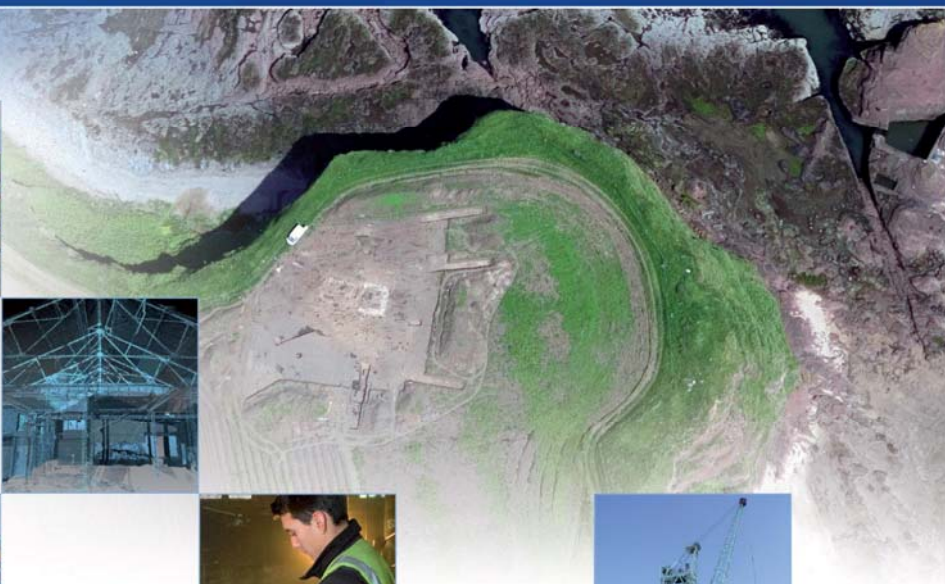


# East Drums Wind Turbine, Brechin, Angus: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project 23041  
14<sup>th</sup> December 2015



# East Drums Wind Turbine, Brechin, Angus:

## Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Smithfield Energy c/o Locogen Ltd Mitchell House 5 Mitchell Street EH6 78D
Planning Application	14/00110/FULL
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NO 60039 57778
AOC Project No:	23041
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Date of Fieldwork:	29 <sup>th</sup> June – 1 <sup>st</sup> of July 2015
Date of Report:	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2015

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

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Date: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Approved by: Lindsay Dunbar

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

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## Abstract

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This report presents the results of an archaeologically watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Smithfield Energy in relation to the erection of a single wind turbine and ancillary works at East Drums, Brechin, Angus. An area of approximately 572m<sup>2</sup> was stripped by the farmer and his staff under archaeological supervision.

The site lies in close proximity to a range of prehistoric sites including a cist burial with associated Beaker pottery excavated to the north of East Drums Farm during the early 1960's.

No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were revealed during the watching brief the only remains encountered being traces of rig and furrow cultivation of potential medieval date and later ceramic field drains.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological works is required by Locogen Ltd on behalf of their client, Smithfield Energy. The archaeological works are necessary in respect to ground-breaking works associated with the construction of a single wind turbine development (Planning Reference No. 14/00110/FULL) at East Drums, Brechin, Angus (centred on NGR: NO 60039 57778). The need for and scope of the archaeological works has been determined by Angus Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS).

## 1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The site is located approximately 2km NW from Brechin and is presently arable agricultural land (centred on NGR NO 60039 57778), Plate 1.



**Plate 1 Northeast facing view showing completed groundworks**

## 1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 There are a number of recorded sites within the NMRS located inside the development area. A cist burial was uncovered to the north of East Drums Farm in the early 1960s which had a rebated coverstone (NMRS Ref: NO55NE24). The coverstone was 0.3m below the surface, with the dimensions of the cist being 1.07m long, 0.46m wide at the west, tapering to 0.50m at the east, and 0.58m deep. It was oriented east/west and contained an inhumation accompanied by Beaker pottery and seven flints. The beaker, found in the north-east corner by the head of the skeleton, is decorated with comb and incisions and is 15.7cm tall. A flint leaf arrowhead and a rotary quern was also found in the late



1960s just to the north of Hillhead of Burghill Farm to the north of the development area (NMRS Refs: NO65NW63 & NO65NW9).

- 1.3.2 East Drums Farm and Hillhead of Burghill farm both first appear in Ainslie's 1794 map, but are not represented on William Roy's earlier ca. 1747 – 55 map, so settlements here can be safely dated to the mid-late 18th century. Upper Wealthieston and the settlement at Woodend to the south of the development area are later in date, appearing for the first time on the 1860s Ordnance Survey map. Remains of a quarry to the south of Hillhead of Burghill can also be seen on this map.
- 1.3.3 There is a Scheduled Monument to the immediate west of the development area which consists of two ring ditch houses of later prehistoric date represented by cropmarks visible on oblique aerial photographs. The ditches are set about 20m apart, each with a diameter of about 20m, defined by a ditch approximately 2m wide. Ring ditches such as these have been shown on excavation to represent the remains of former timber roundhouses of later prehistoric date.
- 1.3.4 Given that the development is taking place on undeveloped ground, and prehistoric remains and finds have been located previously in the area, there is always the possibility that hitherto unknown remains may be encountered.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works are:
  - i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by groundworks associated with the development including the two turbine bases, access track and control building;
  - ii) to liaise with ACAS 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;
  - iii) to report on the results of the watching brief.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of the topsoil strip/ground reduction necessitated by the wind turbine and crane pad (Figure 1). No further groundworks were necessary as the site lies immediately south of the existing farm access track. All ground reduction was under constant archaeological supervision and will specifically include foundations for the turbines and trackways. Machine excavation was done in shallow units/spits and ceased on the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil. Spoil was also scanned for artefacts. In total approximately 1100m<sup>2</sup> was stripped for the access road, crane platform and turbine.

## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The site lies in the corner of an arable field and was under cultivation prior to development. A single deposit of dark greyish brown sandy silt plough soil (001) c.0.25 - 0.30m thick was found to seal natural strata which consisted of a buff yellowish brown sandy silt with stones (002).
- 4.2 Three north south aligned furrows ([003], [004] and [005]) were identified extending across the base of the stripped area. The furrows were sampled and found to be 0.12m deep extending to 0.38m below the present ground level; they were filled with plough soil (001). The spacing of the furrows was approximately even.
- 4.3 Two parallel lines of north south aligned ceramic field drains were also identified during the watching brief.

## 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The watching brief results show that there is no significant archaeology in the footprint of the area required for the construction of the single turbine. The shallow plough soil and lack of underlying sediments due to the proximity of the natural strata makes both the presence and survival of archaeological features unlikely.

## 6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2015 *East Drums Wind Turbine, Brechin, Angus: Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 23041)

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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



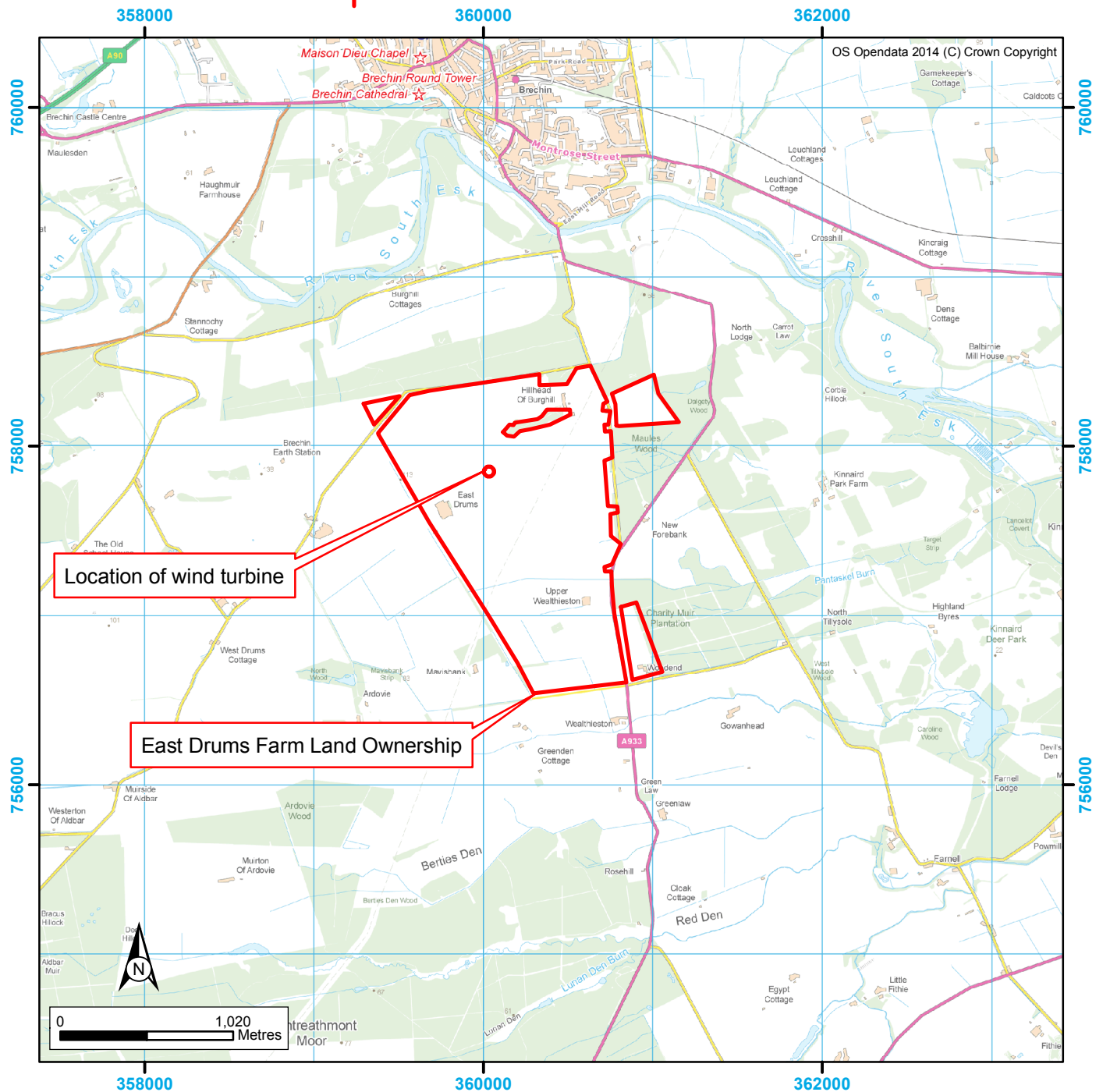
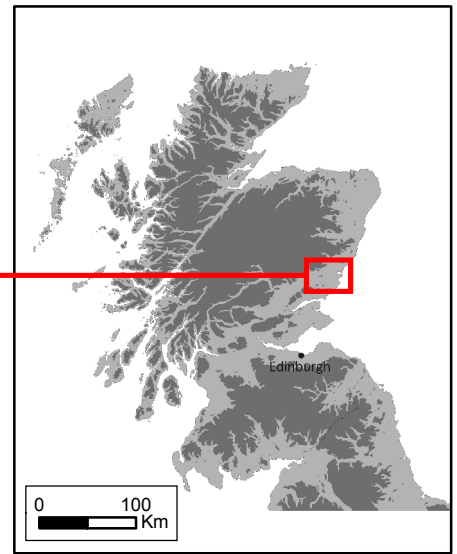
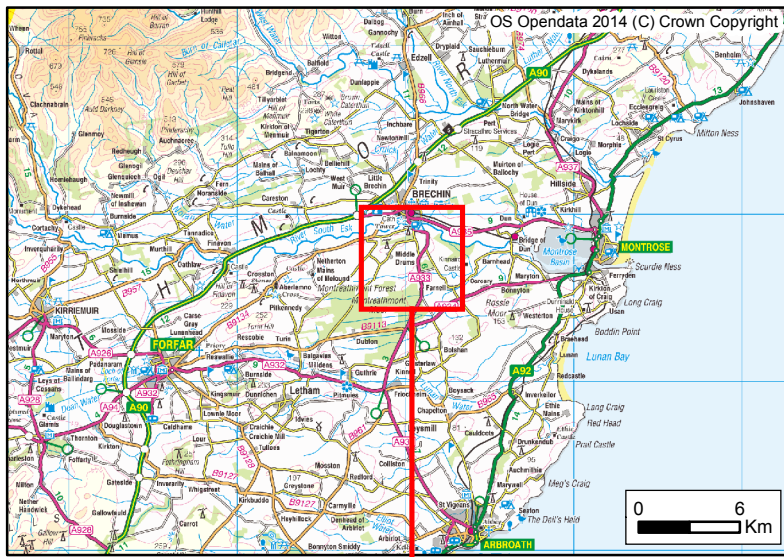


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

# **East Drums Wind Turbine, Brechin, Angus: Watching Brief Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Description and Interpretation
[001]	Dark greyish brown sandy silt <b>Plough Soil</b>
[002]	Buff yellowish brown sandy silt with stones <b>Natural</b>
[003]	Plough furrow 2.8m wide <b>Rig and Furrow</b>
[004]	Plough furrow 2.5m wide <b>Rig and Furrow</b>
[005]	Plough furrow 3m wide <b>Rig and Furrow</b>

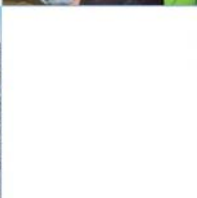
## APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1	Southeast facing view topsoil strip	NW	29/06/15
2	Overview of above	NW	29/06/15
3	West facing turbine base	E	29/06/15
4	Southeast facing view turbine base dig	NW	30/06/15
5	Northwest facing view turbine base dig	SE	30/06/15
6	Northeast facing view crane base showing furrows	SW	30/06/15
7	North facing view crane base showing furrows	S	30/06/15
8	Detail North facing crane base showing furrows	S	30/06/15
9	Northeast facing view of completed groundworks for crane pad	SW	01/07/15

**APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Angus Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	East Drums, Brechin, Angus, Archaeological Watching Brief
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 23041
<b>PARISH:</b>	Angus
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Thomas Bradley-Lovekin
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	Located in the vicinity of NMRS Ref: NO55NWNE24, NO65NW63 & NO65NW9
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	Centred on NGR NO 60039 57778
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	29/06/15
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	01/07/15
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. DES ref.)	None
<b>MAIN DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeologically watching brief in relation to the erection of a single wind turbine and ancillary works at East Barns, Angus.</p> <p>The site lies in close proximity to a range of prehistoric sites including a cist burial (NO55NE24) with associated Beaker pottery excavated to the north of East Drums Farm during the early 1960's.</p> <p>No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were revealed during the watching brief the only remains encountered being traces of rig and furrow cultivation of potential medieval date and later ceramic field drains.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Smithfield Energy
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:admin@aocarchaeology.com">admin@aocarchaeology.com</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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