

WFFS12



WEST FENTON FARM SOUTH, EAST LoTHIAN

Archaeological Watching Brief

for W Courtenay Morrison & Co

11/01058/P

April 2012

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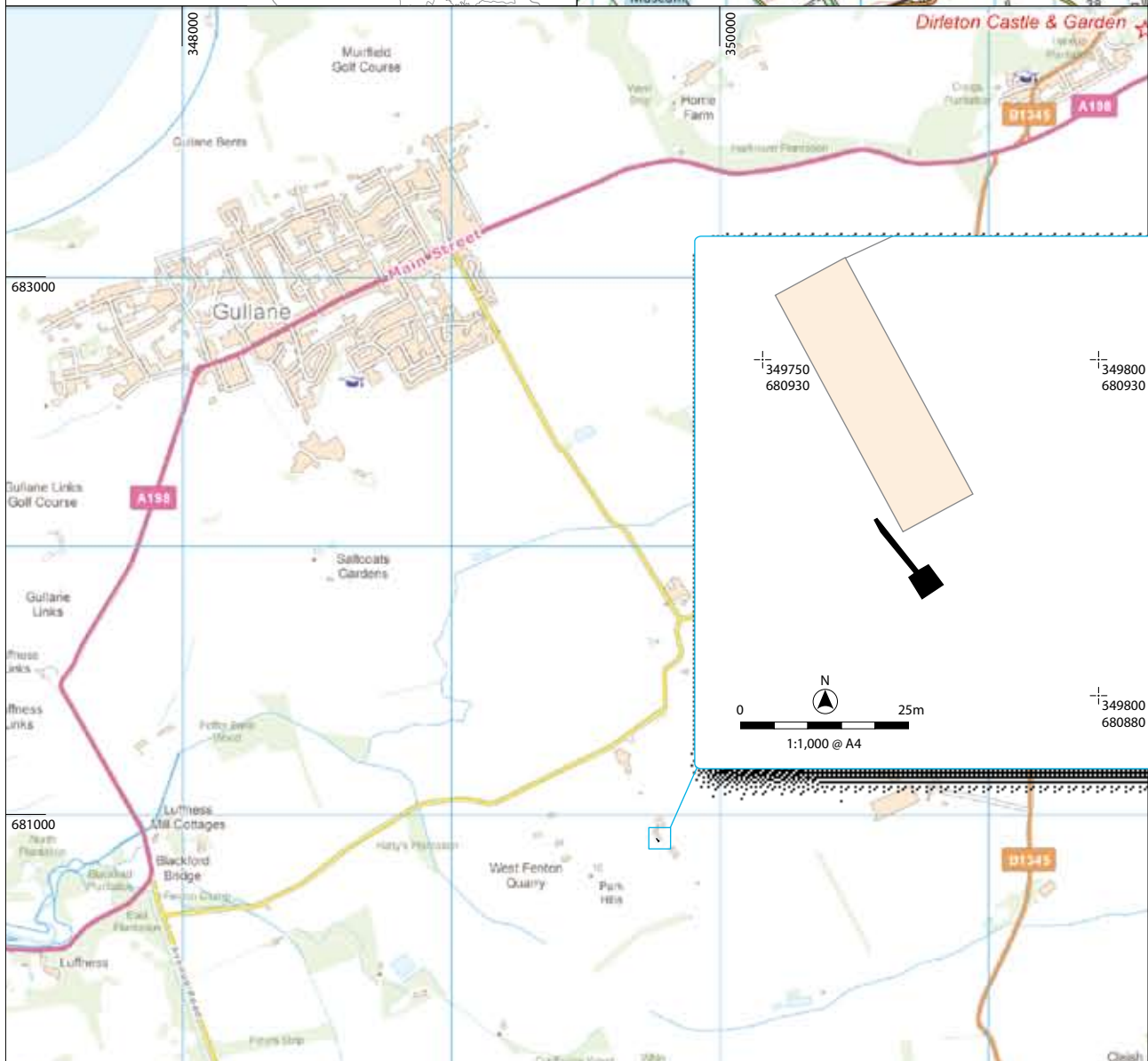
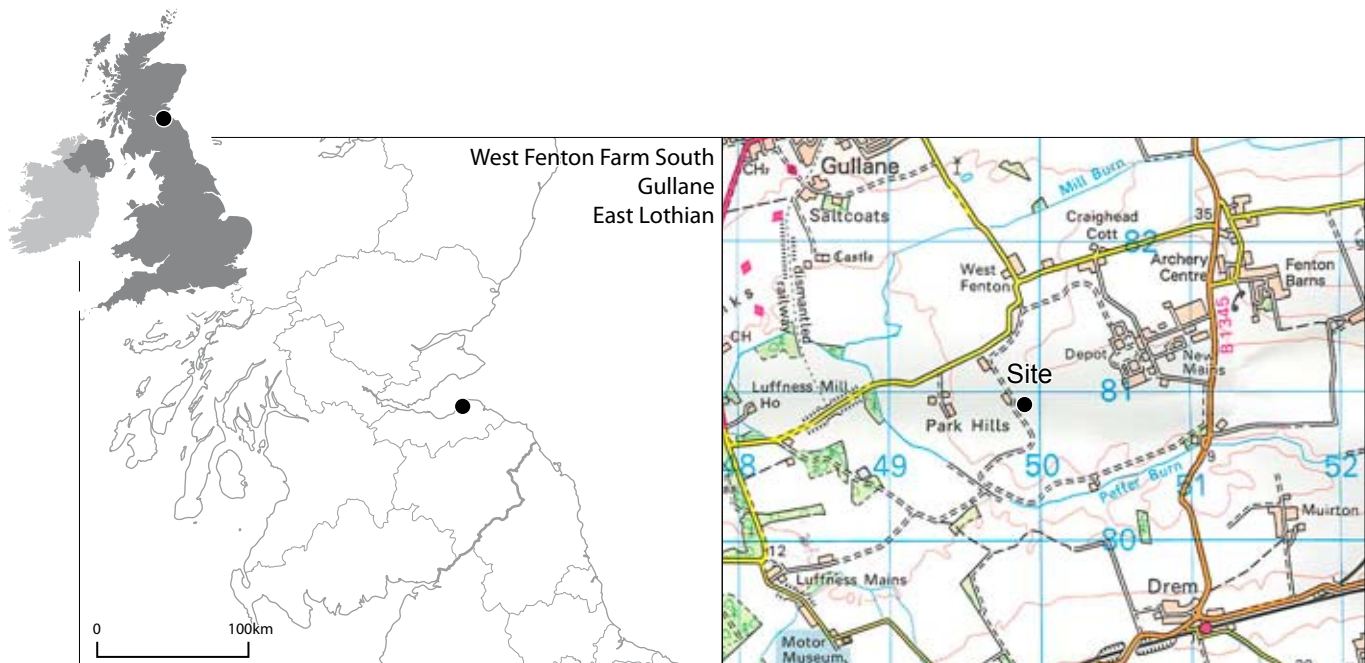


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Scale 1:25,000 @ A4



0 1km

Illus 1

Site location

WEST FENTON FARM SOUTH, EAST LOTHIAN

Archaeological Watching Brief

Headland Archaeology undertook a watching brief and archive assessment in advance of the construction of a single wind turbine at West Fenton Farm South, East Lothian. The work was undertaken on behalf of W Courtenay Morrison & Co in order to meet a condition of planning. No archaeological features were encountered.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief and archive assessment undertaken on the site of a proposed single wind turbine at West Fenton Farm South, East Lothian. The excavation of the turbine base and cable trench were monitored on behalf of W Courtenay Morrison & Co and followed a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Headland Archaeology Ltd and submitted and approved by the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service. This work was required to meet a Planning Condition (planning application no. 11/01058/P).

The site lies at around 15m OD and is underlain by glacial till deposits, which are Devensian in origin. The site is located within a complex of farm buildings on disused ground adjacent to large modern hay shed and a ploughed field.

The archaeological monitoring took place on 27th March 2012.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

An assessment of the archive held at the East Lothian Historic Environment Record (HER) was undertaken to compliment the watching brief. The archive assessment considered all sites within a 1km radius of the site.

Several prehistoric sites are present within the assessed area. One scheduled monument consisting of the cropmark of a palisaded enclosure and a sub-rectangular enclosure (MEL1359 and 1977; SAM no.111) is present c 550m to the north-east. A number of other cropmarks are also present within vicinity of the scheduled monument representing rig and furrow (MEL1360) and a quarry, rig and a possible enclosure (MEL9632).

To the south are cropmarks representing a pit alignment and field boundaries (MEL1940), possible barrows (MEL2519) and a possible enclosure (MEL9218)

Also to the south are the site of a cist burial (MEL613) and the location of a possible 16th century settlement are present.

Several Listed Buildings are present in the assessment area c 900m to the north of the development area including; an 18th century farmhouse (MEL639; Listed Building no. 1404), a later 18th Century steading (MEL7330; Listed Building no. 1405 and associated farm cottages (MEL7346-7352; Listed Building nos. 1402 and 1403).

The remains of Drem Airfield (MEL2179), used during the first and second World Wars, and associated buildings (hangers, bombs stores, etc) lie to the east of the development area. Two pill boxes are also present (MEL2667 and MEL9440)



Illus 2

View of northern half of monitored area



Illus 3

View of southern half of monitored area



Illus 4

View of cable trench

3. OBJECTIVES

The specific aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological remains threatened by the development works.

4. METHOD

The area of the turbine base and cable trench was stripped of topsoil using a wheeled JCB excavator fitted with a 1.6m (turbine base) and 0.4m (cable trench) flat-bladed bucket under archaeological supervision. Following the removal of the topsoil the underlying natural geology was examined for archaeological features and recorded before deeper excavation resumed.

5. RESULTS

The area excavated for the turbine base measured 3.5m by 3.7m with the 0.7m wide cable trench extending 10m from this.

The topsoil [001] in the area of the proposed turbine base and cable trench was a dark brown sandy loam up to 0.2m deep. Beneath the topsoil and lying over the yellow brown natural sand [003] was a 0.15m deposit of mixed topsoil and loosely compacted cobbles [002]. These loose cobbles were present over the whole area of the proposed turbine base.

No features of archaeological significance were present in any of the areas monitored.

6. DISCUSSION

The monitored topsoil strip uncovered the remains of an abandoned rough cobble track directly below the topsoil and immediately above the natural sandy till. This track is present on the 1854 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map and ran along the adjacent field boundary. It is likely that the track was discontinued following the construction of a new road servicing the surrounding buildings of West Fenton Farm South in the latter half of the 20th century. Despite the presence of several archaeological sites in the vicinity, mainly visible as cropmarks, no features of archaeological significance were present in the area monitored.

7. REFERENCES

1854 Ordnance Survey (6 inch 1st Edition), *Haddingtonshire*, Sheet 5.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Site registers

Context register

Context no.	Description
001	Topsoil
002	Loosely compacted cobbles and topsoil. Depth = 0.15m
003	Natural-light yellow brown sand

Photographic register

Frame no.	C/S no.	Direction	Description
001	001	N/A	ID shot
002	002	NE	Northern half of turbine base area after topsoil strip
003	003	NE	Southern half of turbine base area after topsoil strip
004	004	SE	View of cable trench
005	005	NE	View of cable trench section
006	006	SE	View of turbine base area at formation level
007	007	NW	General view of turbine base area and cable trench
008	008	SE	General view of turbine base area



Appendix 2 – Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	West Fenton Farm South, East Lothian
PROJECT CODE:	WFFS12
PARISH:	Dirleton
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Ross Murray
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 4978 8088
START DATE (this season)	27/03/2012
END DATE (this season)	27/03/2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief and archive assessment was undertaken in advance of the construction of a single wind turbine at West Fenton Farm South, East Lothian on behalf of W Courtenay Morrison & Co in order to meet a condition of planning. No archaeological features were encountered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS. Reports to be deposited with NMRS and East Lothian SMR
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	W Courtenay Morrison & Co
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	–
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