

TFSL12



## TANHILL FARM, SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

*Archaeological Watching Brief*

*for Intelligent Land Investments*

CL/11/0387

October 2012



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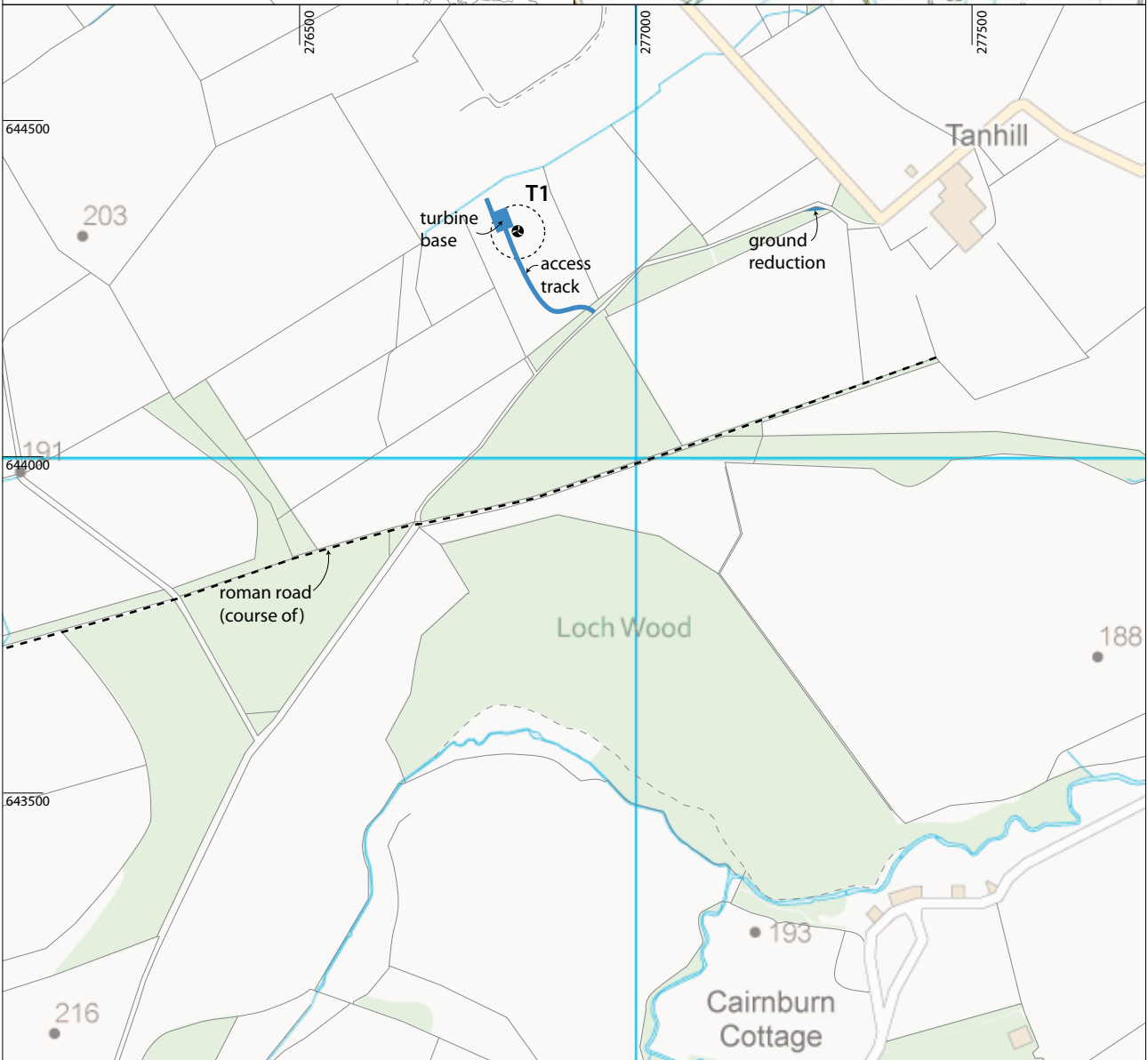
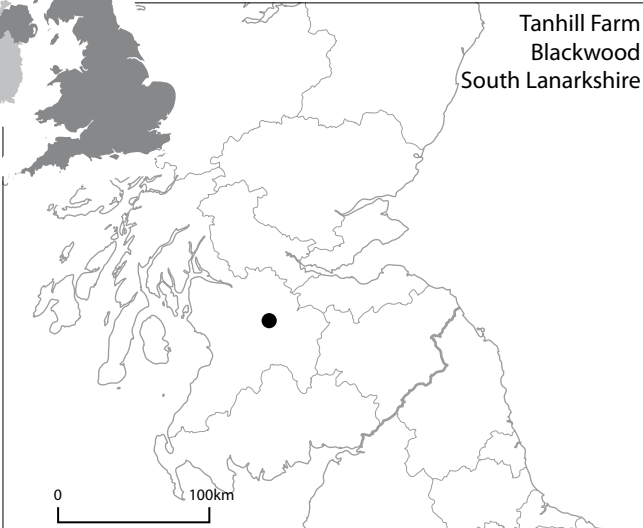


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Scale 1:10,000 @ A4



0 500m

### Illus 1

Site location



# TANHILL FARM, SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

## Archaeological Watching Brief

Headland Archaeology Ltd undertook monitoring of the excavation of a wind turbine base and access track at Tanhill Farm, South Lanarkshire, for Intelligent Land Investments. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the West of Scotland Archaeological Services (WoSAS) on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council, in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent.

The development site was located in the vicinity of a number of known sites including a Roman Road.

An area of approximately 20m x 20m was excavated to the required depth, corresponding with the depth of the geological clay deposits. In addition to this, the topsoil was removed from a c 212m long access track linking the turbine to an existing farm track. This access track was excavated to the depth of the underlying clay. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were revealed during this work.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief, carried out at Tanhill Farm, near Blackwood, South Lanarkshire, between 13th-14th August 2012. The work was undertaken in response to a planning condition (Planning ref. CL/11/0387) attached to the consent of the proposed development by WoSAS (West of Scotland Archaeology Service) on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council. The aim of the work was to record any surviving sub-surface archaeological remains exposed during all ground breaking works associated with the erection of a single wind turbine at Land 500m W of Tanhill Farm by Intelligent Land Investments. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd and approved by WoSAS.

### 2. SITE DESCRIPTION & BACKGROUND

The site is situated approximately 1.5km to the W of the village of Blackwood, South Lanarkshire (NGR NS 7682 4433) (Illus 1).

The site lies around 185m OD and is underlain by sedimentary bedrock deposits of Scottish Lower Coal Measures Formation, which are Carboniferous in origin (British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>). The superficial geology comprises Flandrian fluvial deposits of alluvial clay and sand.

The archaeological monitoring was carried out on all ground breaking works associated with the excavation the turbine base

and access track linking the turbine to the existing farm track. The turbine was located in a cultivated field that sloped gradually to the N approximately 500m W of Tanhill Farm. The field was bounded on all 4 sides by hedges and trees.

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential. The Loudoun Hill to Castledykes Roman Road (NMRS No. NS74SE 12) lies 400m to the S, while a Roman fortlet is allegedly sited at Castlehill, 400m to the NW (NMRS No. NS74SE 8).

In particular, field walking in the vicinity has suggested an additional branch (NMRS No. NS74SE 25; SMR 51691) of the Loudoun Hill to Castledykes Roman Road may have run across the development site, connecting to the Castledykes-to-Bothwellhaugh Roman Road, 13km to the northeast. The route was located by means of visually identifying above-ground features as well as probing for bottoming stones beneath the surface. This indicates the potential for Roman remains to be present within or near the development area.

### 3. OBJECTIVES

In general, the purpose of the works was to record any archaeological remains threatened by the development works and to report on the results of the works.

The resulting archive (finds and records) has been organised and deposited in the National Monuments Record of Scotland to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.



◀ **Illus 2**

*View of turbine area with topsoil removed*



◀ **Illus 3**

*Working shot of access track excavations*

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## 4. METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Fieldwork

All ground-breaking works associated with the erection of the wind turbine (*Illus 1*) were carried out under the direct supervision of a monitoring archaeologist. A flat-edged bucket fitted to a back-actor was used to remove soft deposits (topsoil and colluvium). Machine excavation then continued until either the formation levels, significant archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits were exposed; whichever was encountered first.

### 4.2 Recording

All recording was in accordance with the codes of practice and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (2008). All recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards that conform to accepted archaeological norms.

Digital photographs were taken to illustrate the general nature of the work. All photographs have been recorded by individual print number and include information on the context and direction taken. A full list of the photographs can be found in Appendix 1

A plan of the development area in relation to the National Grid was supplied by the client.

### 4.3 Reporting and archive

On completion of the monitored ground works a site archive and an archive report will be produced. An online OASIS report has been completed and is accompanied by a pdf report and boundary file (headland1-132524). A summary report has been submitted for inclusion in Discovery and Excavation Scotland a copy of which can be found in Appendix 2

The project archive will be compiled in accordance with the guidelines published by the Institute for Archaeologists on





**Illus 4**

*View of excavated access track facing N*

An access track was also excavated to the S side of the turbine area leading to a break in the trees at the S extent of the field (*Illus 3 & 4*). The access track was 5m wide and 212m long aligned N-S but turning to the SE close to the S end. Similar results were encountered along the length of this track with 0.25m to 0.3m of topsoil overlying mottled yellow clay with occasional bands of sand also recorded. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified.

A number of smaller areas of ground breaking works were carried out along the edge of the existing farm track leading to Tanhill Farm. As the existing track turned to the W approximately 250m from the farm the bank to the S side of the track had been reduced by machine (*Illus 5*) revealing the alluvial clay horizon. Further to the W a number of tree stumps to the S side of the track were removed revealing the extensive roots had disturbed the underlying clay deposits. Further tree stumps were removed from the wooded boundary between the farm track and the new access track. Once these had been removed the remaining topsoil was also removed revealing the alluvial clay horizon.

Along significant lengths of the existing farm track a drainage channel 0.5m wide and 0.3m deep was also excavated (*Illus 6*). Although not all of the excavation of this drainage channel was monitored a post-excitation inspection revealed the shallow nature of the topsoil overlying yellow clay. No archaeological features were identified in any of these areas.

Given the potential for revealing a Roman road were high, great care was taken during the topsoil stripping. The results revealed a homogenous topsoil overlying alluvial clay and sand across all the monitored areas.

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behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (July 2007). The documentary and digital archive will be submitted to RCAHMS within six months of completion of all work on this project.

## 5. RESULTS

The main focus of the archaeological monitoring centred on the turbine base (*Illus 2*). This comprised the removal of topsoil across an area 20m x 20m close to the N edge of the cultivated field. A mid-grey brown clayey silt topsoil was recorded between 0.2 and 0.3m thick overlying the geological deposit of mottled yellow clay with occasional stone inclusions. In addition to this, a 3m wide trench 27m long was excavated to the N side of this area leading to the N edge of the field. Again this was excavated down to the geological horizon comprising yellow clay. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were recorded in this area.



**Illus 5** ▶

*Area of track widening*



**Illus 6**

*Drainage channel along the side of the existing access track*

## 6. REFERENCES

Archaeological Archives Forum *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (published by the IfA 2007).

IfA *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised October 2008).

SPP: Scottish Planning Policy (February 2010; <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/03132605/0>).

## 7. APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Photographic register

Frame	Digital	Direction	Description
001	TFSL12-001-01		Registration shot
002	TFSL12-001-02	W	General shot of the existing access track
003	TFSL12-001-03	S	Section through drainage channel in existing access track
004	TFSL12-001-04	W	Existing access track
005	TFSL12-001-05	W	Area of track widening
006	TFSL12-001-06	N	S facing section of track widening
007	TFSL12-001-07	W	View of the drainage ditch along existing access track
008	TFSL12-001-08	N	S facing section of drainage ditch
009	TFSL12-001-09	W	Existing access track
010	TFSL12-001-10	W	Existing track and drainage ditch
011	TFSL12-001-11	E	Area of disturbed ground for cable trench
012	TFSL12-001-12	W	Area of disturbed ground for cable trench
013	TFSL12-001-13	W	Drainage ditch
014	TFSL12-001-14	S	Area of tree removal
015	TFSL12-001-15	S	Area of tree removal
016	TFSL12-001-16	S	Area of tree removal
017	TFSL12-001-17	N	Pre-excavation shot of turbine area
018	TFSL12-001-18	SE	Tree removal to side of access track
019	TFSL12-001-19	W	Disturbed area
020	TFSL12-001-20	E	Disturbed area
021	TFSL12-001-21	S	Section through cable trench
022	TFSL12-001-22	N	Pre-excavation shot of turbine area
023	TFSL12-001-23	N	Pre-excavation shot of turbine area
024	TFSL12-001-24	S	Tree removal to side of access track
025	TFSL12-001-25	S	Tree removal to side of access track
026	TFSL12-001-26	S	Pre-excavation shot of turbine area
027	TFSL12-001-27	S	Excavation of the turbine base
028	TFSL12-001-28	N	Excavation of the turbine base
029	TFSL12-001-29	S	Tree removal at area through to the existing access track
030	TFSL12-001-30	N	Turbine area with topsoil removed
031	TFSL12-001-31	N	Turbine area with topsoil removed
032	TFSL12-001-32	W	Turbine area with topsoil removed
033	TFSL12-001-33	E	Turbine area with topsoil removed

Frame	Digital	Direction	Description
034	TFSL12-001-34	N	Turbine area with topsoil removed
035	TFSL12-001-35	E	Drainage channel to N side of existing access track
036	TFSL12-001-36	N	Section through access track
037	TFSL12-001-37	S	View of excavated turbine area
038	TFSL12-001-38	N	S end of new access track from the turbine
039	TFSL12-001-39	S	Working shot of access track topsoil strip
040	TFSL12-001-40	S	Working shot of access track topsoil strip
041	TFSL12-001-41	E	Detail of geology of the access track
042	TFSL12-001-42	N	View of the new access track
043	TFSL12-001-43	N	View of the new access track
044	TFSL12-001-44	S	View of the new access track
045	TFSL12-001-45	SE	View of the new access track
046	TFSL12-001-46	SE	New access track as it joins the existing track



## Appendix 2 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	A watching brief at Tanhill Farm
PROJECT CODE:	TFSL12
PARISH:	Lesmahagow
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Donald Wilson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	NS74SE 25
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	none
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NGR: NS 767 443
START DATE (this season)	August 2012
END DATE (this season)	August 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref)	none
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Headland Archaeology Ltd undertook monitoring of the excavation of a wind turbine base and access track at Tanhill Farm, South Lanarkshire. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the West of Scotland Archaeological Services (WoSAS) on behalf of the South Lanarkshire Council.</p> <p>The development site was located in the vicinity of a number of known sites including a Roman Road. An area of approximately 20 m x 20 m was excavated to the required depth, corresponding with the depth of the geological clay deposits. In addition to this the topsoil was removed from a 212 m long access track linking the turbine to the existing farm track. This track was excavated to the underlying clay. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were revealed during this work.</p>
6 PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Intelligent Land Investments
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE
EMAIL ADDRESS:	donald.wilson@headlandarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NMRS





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