

GREM/04



# LUGGIE'S KNOWE, GREMISTA WIND FARM, LERWICK, SHETLAND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

commissioned by Shetland Aerogenerators Ltd

2011/224/PPF

December 2016



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project info

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NGR HU 463 457  
PARISH Tingwall  
LOCAL AUTHORITY Shetland Islands  
OASIS REF. headland1-228232

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during construction work for Turbine 1 at Gremista Wind Farm. The monitoring took place during stripping of peat and topsoil of the footprint for the turbine, lay-down area and access road. No archaeological features were recorded.

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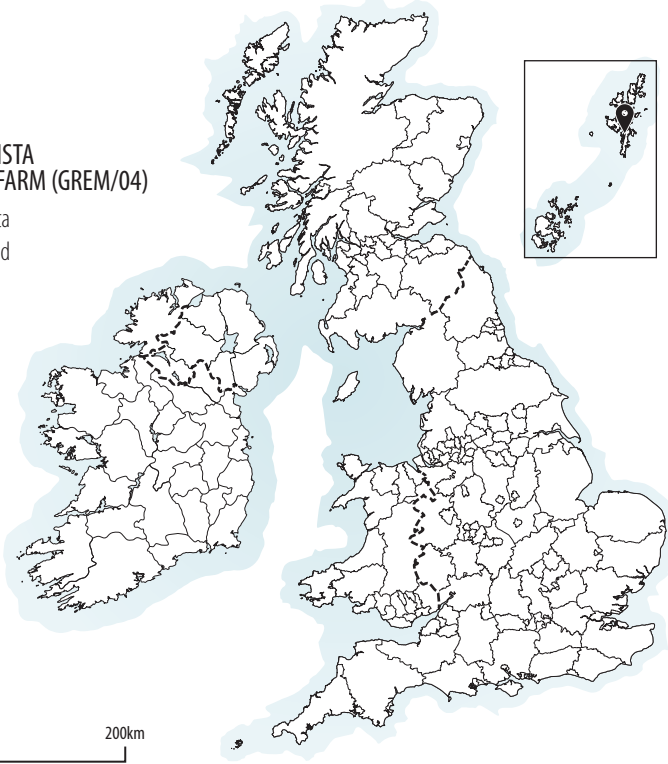
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**GREMISTA WINDFARM (GREM/04)**

Gremista  
Shetland



0 200km



**KEY**  
 development boundary  
 windfarm design

0 500m  
 N  
 scale 1:10,000 @ A4

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# LUGGIE'S KNOWE, GREMISTA WIND FARM, LERWICK, SHETLAND

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Gremista Wind Farm is located between the Hill of Gremista and Luggie's Knowe some 4.5km to the north of Lerwick (Illus 1). The original proposal was to construct three wind turbines. The scheme has since been purchased by Shetland Aerogenerators Limited who decided to initially construct one turbine located on the south-west side of Luggie's Knowe. Planning permission had been granted for the construction of the wind farm, subject to a number of conditions (Planning Ref. 2011/224/PPF).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the initial scheme was prepared in consultation with Shetland Amenity Trust; archaeological advisors to Shetland Islands Council. The purpose of the WSI was to define a staged programme of works that would mitigate the impacts of the Gremista Wind Farm on the cultural heritage resources within the Development Area (DA) that would meet, in full, the terms of the archaeological condition.

An initial archaeological walkover and peat coring survey of the original scheme was carried out in November 2012. Following Shetland Aerogenerators Limited acquisition of the site Headland Archaeology prepared an addendum to the WSI covering the amended construction programme. The Phase 2 archaeological works focused on the mitigation of impact the construction programme will have on the archaeological features and deposits. It predominantly involved monitoring of ground breaking works in archaeologically sensitive areas identified during earlier phases of archaeological works as well marking out surveys in response to design changes prior to, and during construction.

The monitoring was carried out between the 23rd March and 10th April 2015.

### 2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Turbine 1 is located just to the south-east of Luggie's Knowe, a prominent rounded knoll on the ridge between Dales Voe and Bight of Vatsland some 4 km to north of Lerwick. The site lies between 33 and 65m AOD and runs across peaty ground covered in grass and mature heather (Illus 2).

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological walkover carried out in November 2012 identified three sites in the vicinity of the proposed access road (Dalland 2012, Sites 1–3):

Site 1 is a possible sub-peat dyke defined by a slight ridge in the heather, aligned east-west down slope. It is up to 0.3m high and 1.5m wide and can be traced over a distance of 26m. The east end of the feature is some 8m from the edge of the proposed access road.

Site 2 is a rectangular structure visible as a sunken area aligned across the slope, north-east to south-west and measuring some 5.8m by 2.8m. It is located 55m to the south of Site 1 and lies 25m to the west of the proposed access road.

Site 3 is a possible hut-platform located less than 10m to the south-east of Site 2. It is visible as a slight curving scoop into the hillside with a corresponding bulge down slope forming an almost level sub-circular area some 3m by 4m. The site lies 17m to the west of the proposed access road.

The site of the proposed development lies outside the main focus of the Kebister settlement, a multi-period site dating from the Bronze Age through to the medieval period (Owen & Lowe 1999). However, the archaeological potential of the area, especially for finds of prehistoric date is high and Sites 1–3 might be marginal elements of the Kebister complex.

### 4 METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 MONITORING

The trenches were excavated using a 1.8m wide flat blade bucket under direct archaeological supervision. The sub-peat ground surface was exposed and inspected before further excavation was carried out down to the designed formation level.



ILLUS 2 View across Dales Voe towards access road and Luggie's Knowe. Facing southeast

## 4.2 RECORDING

All recording followed ClFA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological excavations (ClFA 2014b).

Digital photography was used. A full photographic record can be found in Appendix 1 at the end of this report.

A site plan including all identified features, areas of excavation and other pertinent information were recorded digitally. The site plan has been accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to AOD. Digital recording was undertaken using a differential GPS.

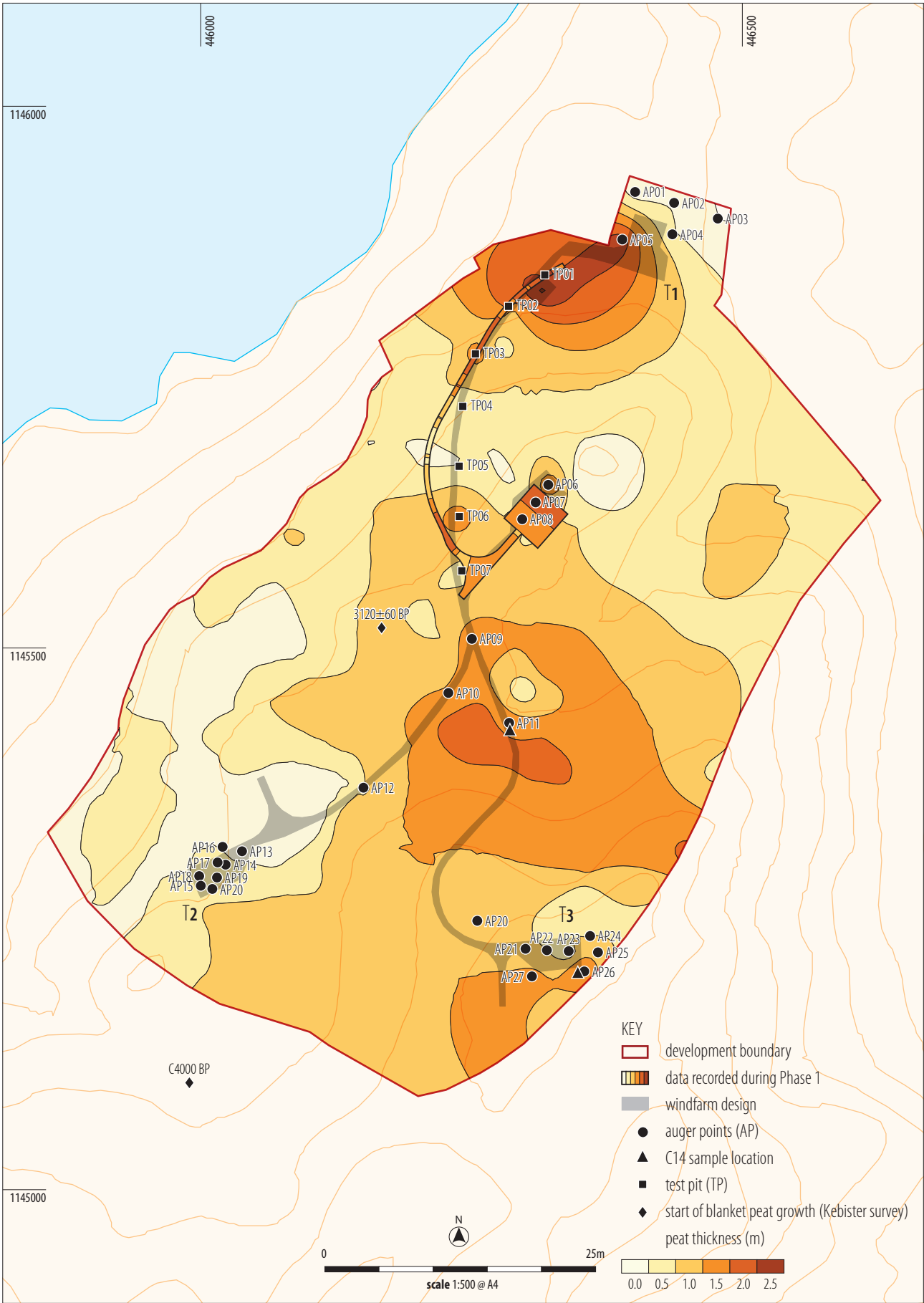
## 5 RESULTS

No archaeological features were recorded during the watching brief. In order to evaluate the accuracy of the peat depth map created as part of the Phase 1 (Dalland 2012, Illus 3), the depth of peat was recorded at regular intervals along the access road. As expected this survey produced a more detailed record of the peat cover along the access road than the plot created by interpolation from a limited number of data points (Illus 3). However, the overall trend is the same for both surveys demonstrating that the original plot gave a good estimate of the peat cover within the original DA.

## 6 REFERENCES

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ILLUS 3 Peat thickness along access road compared with peat contour plot created from data recorded during Phase 1

## APPENDIX 2 DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Shetland Islands
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Gremista Wind Farm
PROJECT CODE:	GREM12-04
PARISH:	TINGWALL, WHITENESS AND WEISDALE
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Magnar Dalland
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 LETTERS, 8 OR 10 FIGURES)	HU 4630 4550
START DATE (THIS SEASON)	23-03-2015
END DATE (THIS SEASON)	10-04-2015
PREVIOUS WORK (INCL.	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (MAY INCLUDE INFORMATION FROM OTHER FIELDS)	An archaeological watching brief was carried out during construction work for Turbine 1 at Gremista Wind Farm. The monitoring took place during stripping of peat and topsoil of the footprint for the turbine, lay-down area and access road. No archaeological features were recorded.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Not known
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Shetland Aerogenerators Ltd
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EMAIL ADDRESS:	Magnar.dalland@headlandarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (INTENDED/DEPOSITED)	HES





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