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CLYDE WIND FARM ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING DURING ENABLING WORKS

Data Structure Report

Jamie Humble
MA(Hons)

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

Client CLYDE WIND FARM

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Parish CRAWFORD

Council SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

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HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

Key



Turbine



Access track



Grid connection



Schedulred Ancient Monument

Zones of archaeological sensitivity



Zone 1



Zone 2



Zone 3

Kilometres



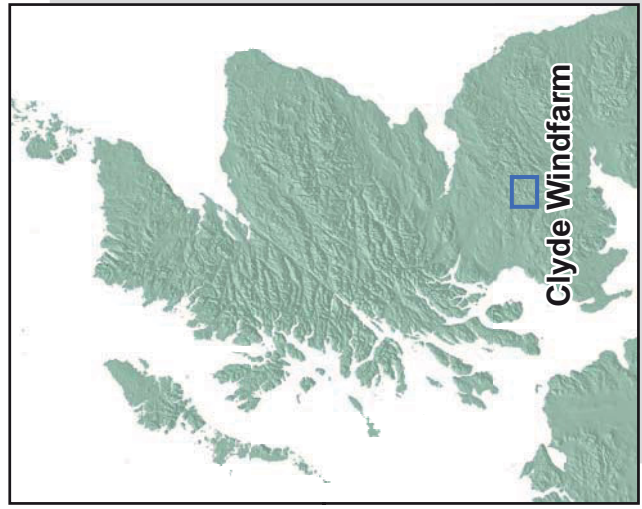
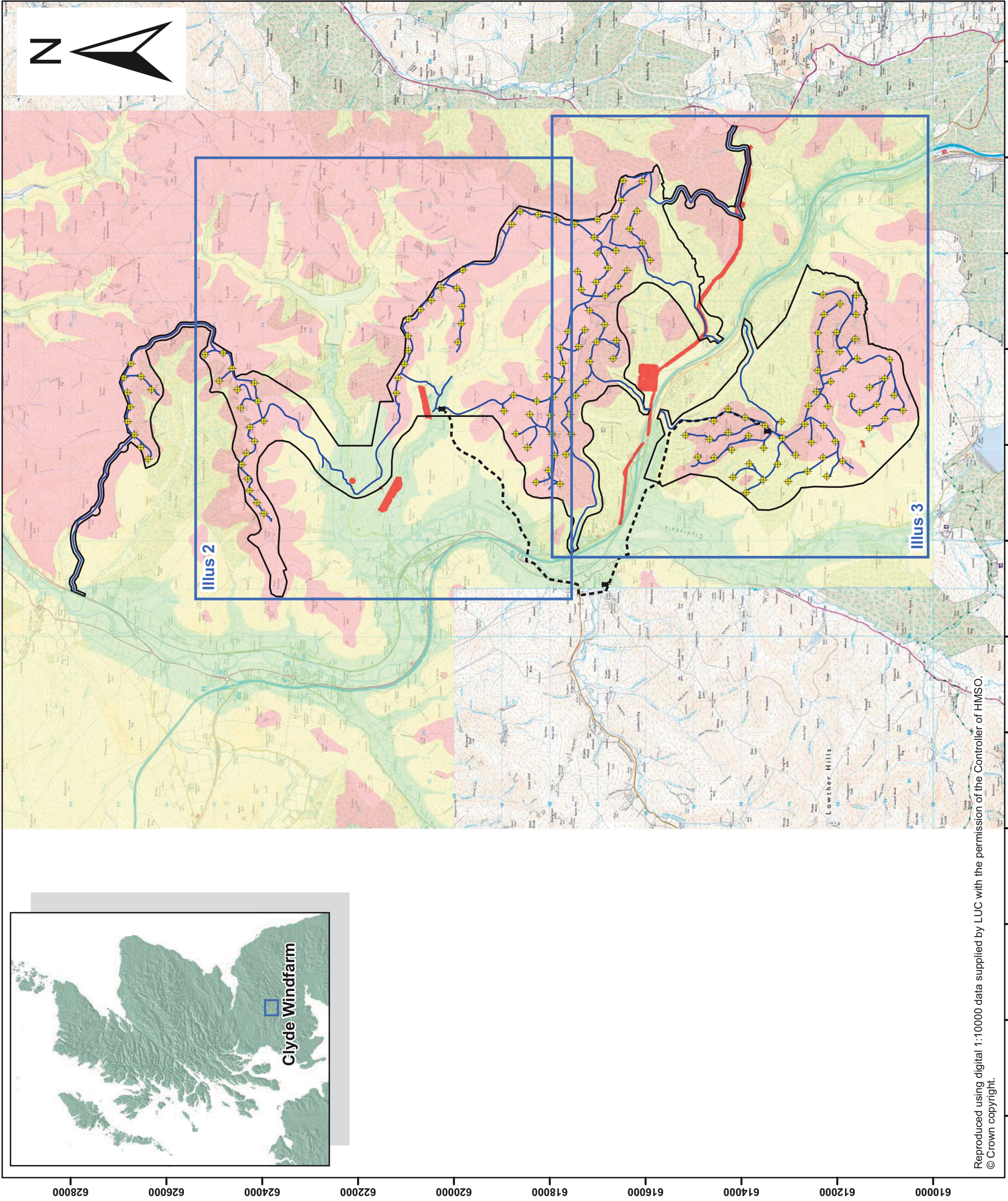
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Clyde Windfarm

**Illus 1:
Location of site and
areas monitored**



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CLYDE WIND FARM ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING DURING ENABLING WORKS

Data Structure Report

by Jamie Humble

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook archaeological monitoring on the enabling works, as part of a wider programme of archaeological works in advance of and during construction of Clyde wind farm, South Lanarkshire. Archaeological monitoring was conducted on excavations relating to construction of the access tracks, borrow pits, a substation and drainage ditches across the windfarm.

Several archaeological features were discovered all located on the western slopes of the Dod, close to the north substation where previous excavation revealed settlement of Bronze Age date. The archaeological features revealed during this phase of work comprise of a pit with burnt bone associated with collared urn pottery, along with two features containing burnt bone. The association of burnt bone and urn pottery is strongly suggestive that these are cremation deposits, although the bone cannot be conclusively identified as human. A small cairn close by the possible cremations may have had funerary significance. A further feature is interpreted as a charcoal production pit.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological works undertaken at Clyde Wind farm, South Lanarkshire. This report deals with the archaeological monitoring of ground breaking activities associated with the enabling works for the wind farm. This was carried out as a result of a condition imposed on the planning consent of the wind farm and sought to identify and preserve by record any previously unknown buried archaeological remains and to preserve known archaeological sites.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Strategies

Three different strategies were used to detect and deal appropriately with previously unknown sites affected by the development. The strategies represented three different levels of effort, which match the three zones of archaeological potential described above (Illus. 1, 2, 3 & 4).

Zone 1 (valley floors)

In areas of high archaeological potential (Zone 1), land

affected by construction was subject to evaluation by trial trenching prior to the start of construction works. The results of these evaluations and any subsequent works are presented in separate reports.

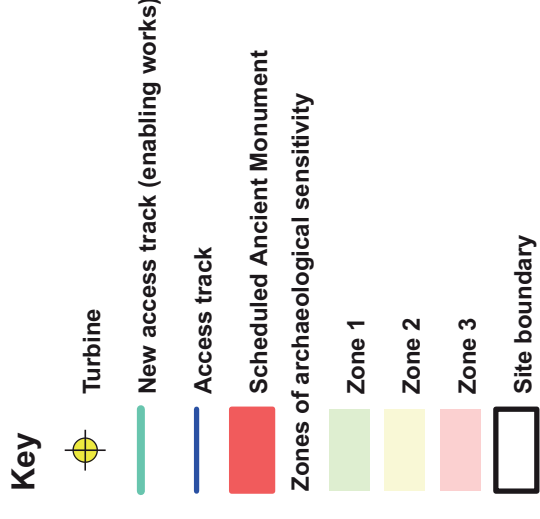
Following completion of the evaluation and any consequent works to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, construction work took place with archaeological monitoring of all topsoil stripping. This allowed for the detection and recording of archaeological features not revealed during evaluation.

Zone 2 (lower slopes)

In areas of some archaeological potential (Zone 2) there was no prior evaluation but all stripping of topsoil was archaeologically monitored. Where features of archaeological interest were revealed, construction work stopped to allow for recording and excavation to be carried out.

Zone 3 (ridges and hill tops)

In areas of low archaeological potential (Zone 3) a watching brief was maintained on any topsoil stripping, with each area of works being visited on a daily basis to inspect newly stripped areas. Where features of archaeological interest were detected, construction work stopped to allow for recording and excavation to be carried out.



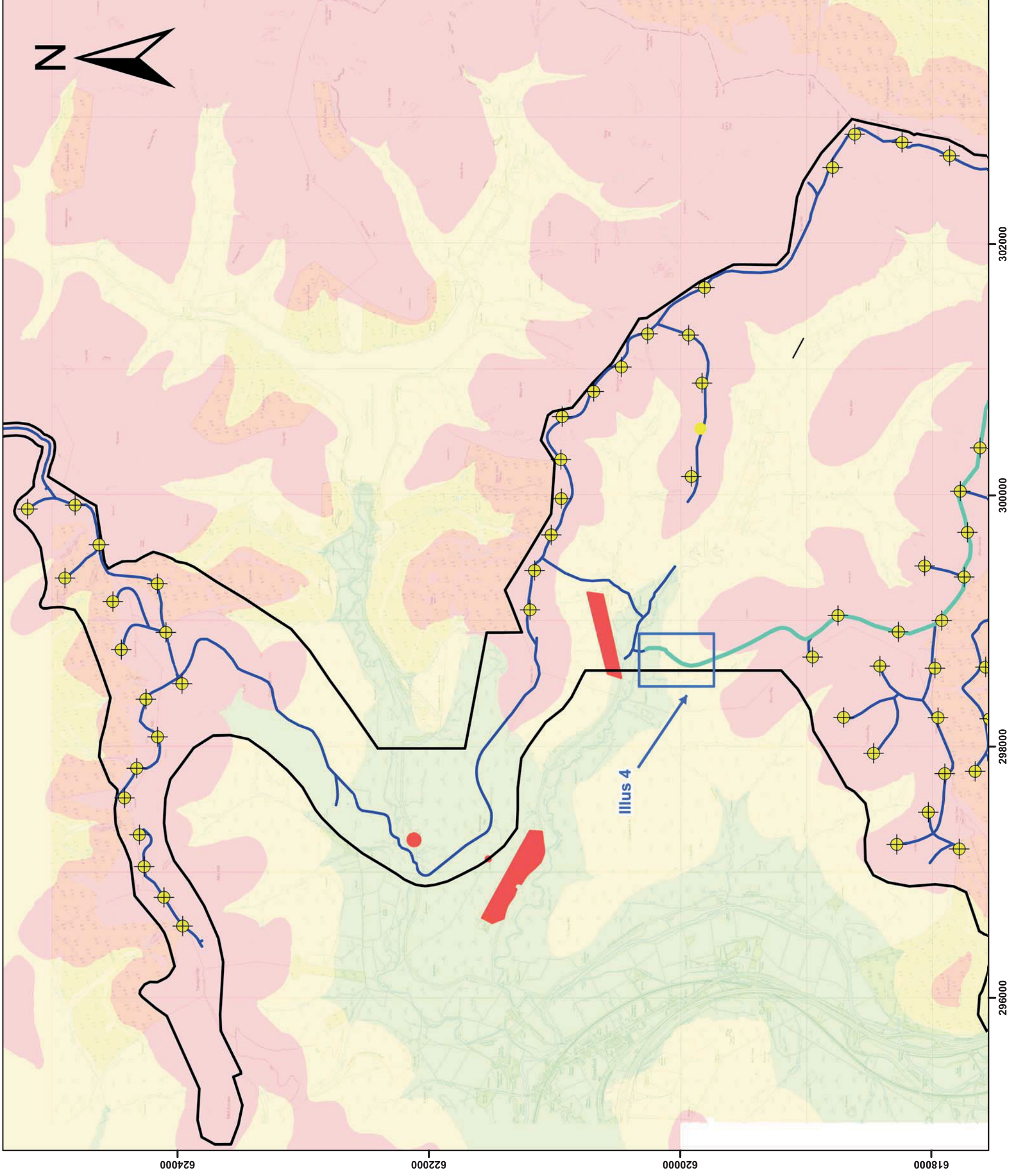
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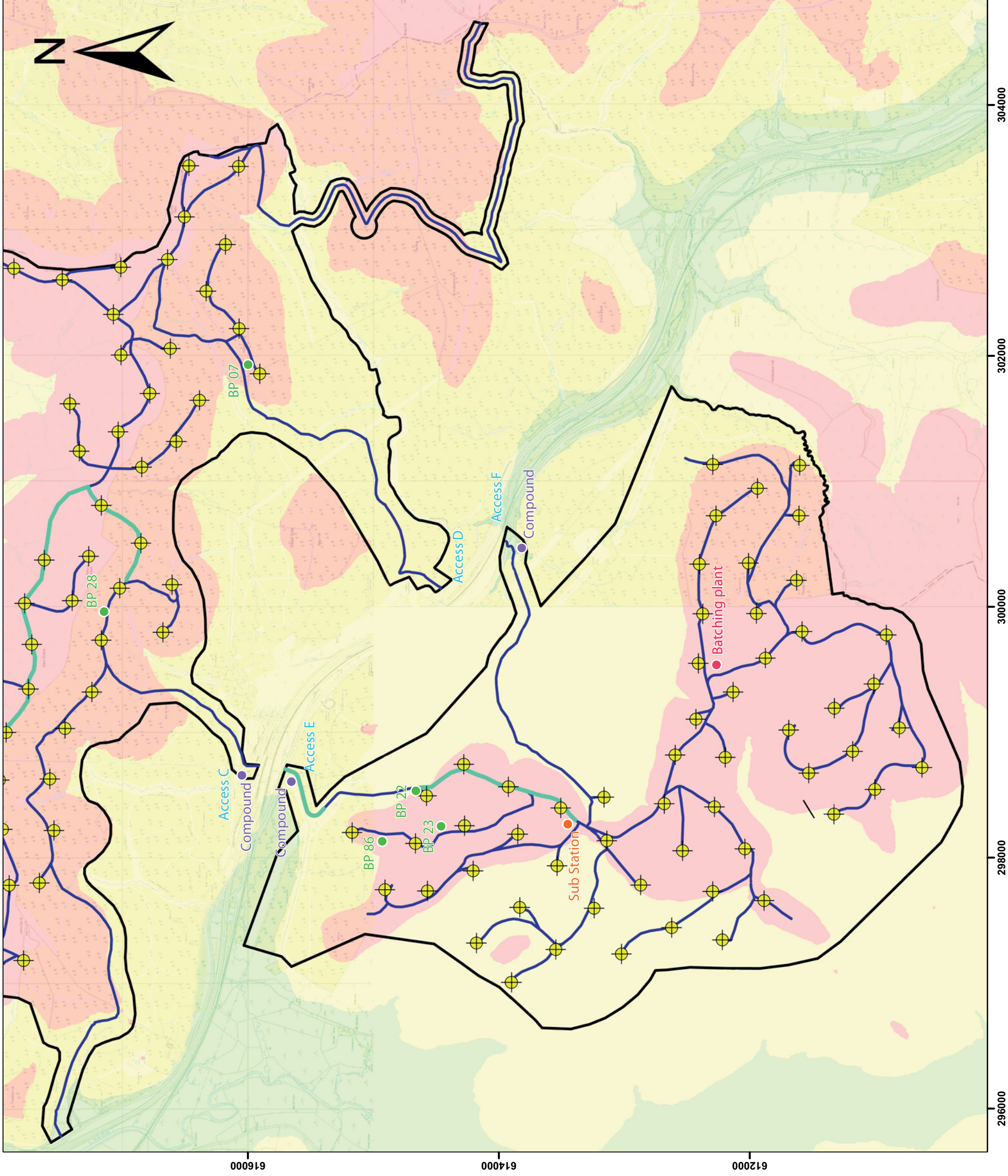
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Clyde Windfarm

**Illus 2:
Areas monitored**





Key

- Turbine
- New access track (enabling works)
- Access track

Zones of archaeological sensitivity

- Zone 1
- Zone 2
- Zone 3
- Site boundary



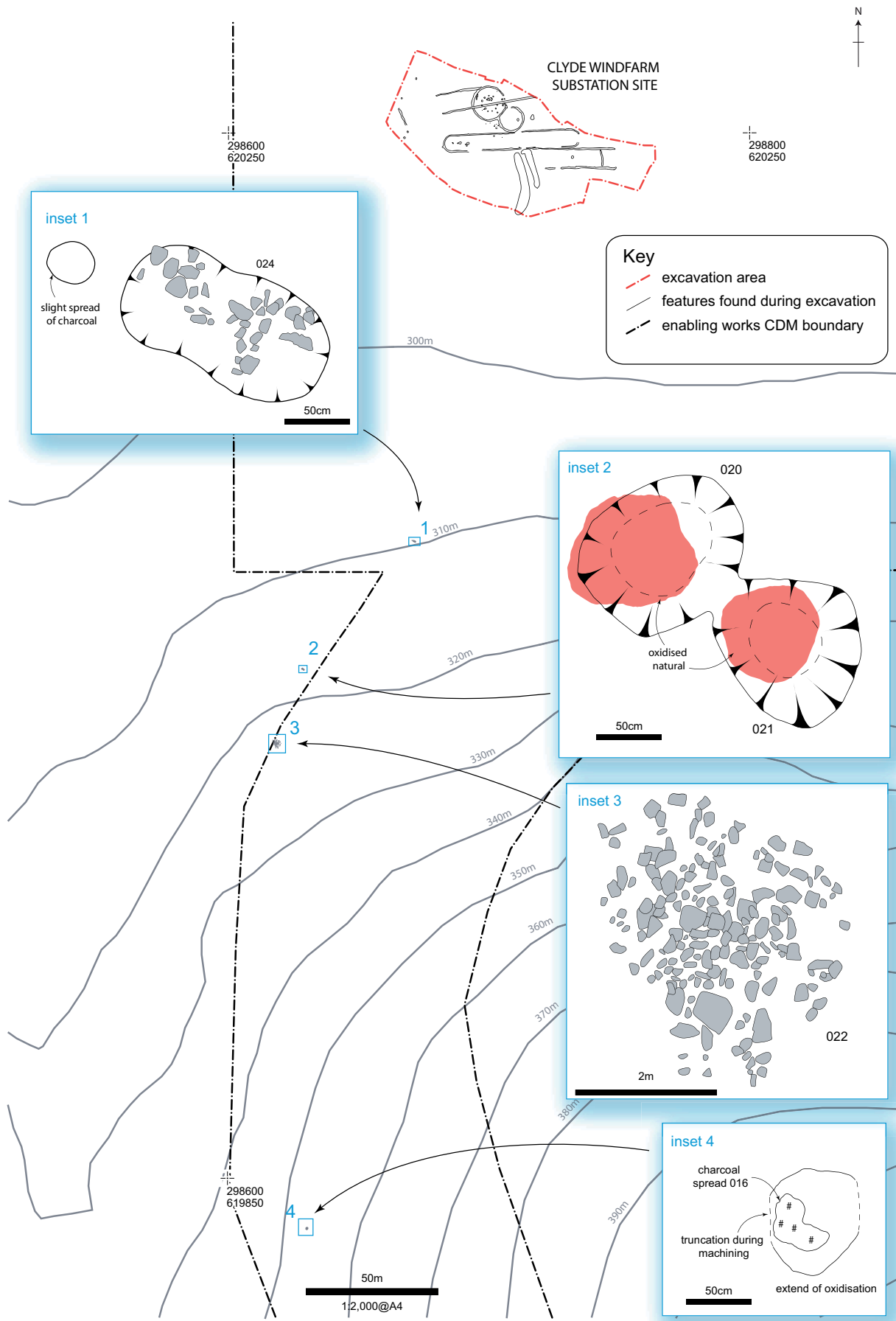
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Clyde Windfarm

Illus 3:
Areas monitored



Illus 4
Features identified on the Dod



Illus 5
Monitoring topsoil stripping

2.2 Methods

Monitoring

Monitoring in the context of this report refers to the active control of topsoil stripping operations by a suitably experienced field archaeologist. The location and extent of stripping was determined by the requirements of the wind farm construction project. The rate and depth of stripping (up to the maximum required by the construction design) was dictated by the monitoring archaeologist.

All monitored topsoil stripping was carried out using a rear acting mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. One archaeologist was in attendance at each machine engaged in topsoil stripping. Turf and topsoil was removed in spits as directed by the monitoring archaeologist. No vehicles tracked over stripped areas or other construction works took place until the area has been found to be archaeologically sterile by the monitoring archaeologist. The monitored strip ended *either* when archaeologically significant deposits were encountered *or* when sterile subsoil was reached *or* when the maximum required excavation depth was reached (whichever of these three options was met first).

Isolated or simple features were totally excavated for the recovery of finds and samples and were recorded in plan

and section appropriately. The location of all features was recorded relative to the OS national grid.

Watching brief

Watching brief in the context of this report refers to the periodic inspection of topsoil stripping operations by a suitably experienced field archaeologist. The location, extent and method of stripping were determined by the requirements of the wind farm construction project.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Access Track

Access B

A bell mouth entrance constructed at access B between the B7076 and the access track was shown to be heavily disturbed and backfilled with material containing tarmac fragments, implying that the disturbance is related to the construction or upgrading of the B7076.

Access C

The longest stretch of new access track constructed was

that leading to the north substation (Illus 2 & 3). The majority of this work took place under zone 3 watching brief over the upland areas. No archaeology was revealed in these areas.

A number of archaeological features were identified during the zone 2 archaeological monitoring of access track construction on the lower western slopes of the Dod (Illus 2 & 4). An isolated hearth [016] was identified. This comprised of a deposit of charcoal rich silt 0.9m in diameter. The natural subsoil below this feature was discoloured due to heating, showing that this feature represents an episode of burning at this location.

Approx 180m to the south of this isolated hearth a cluster of archaeological features was identified. A roughly 3.5m in diameter spread of stone was discovered [022], located at the top of a shallow slope above a small relatively level natural platform. This is interpreted as a field clearance cairn. Just to the north of this cairn a number of evenly spaced linear features, aligned NW-SE, were revealed [019]. These are thought to be the remains of rig and furrow cultivation.

At the foot of the slope occupied by the clearance cairn two intercutting pits were revealed [020 & 021] however it was not possible to identify which of these features cut which. Both pits were filled with a charcoal rich deposit [018] and

the natural subsoil below the pits was heat discoloured giving clear evidence of in-situ burning. Prehistoric pottery (see Lochrie, finds report) was recovered from the southern edge of pit [021] this was associated with a quantity of burnt bone (see Masson & Timpany, paleoenvironmental report). The presence of burnt bone associated with prehistoric pottery raises the possibility that [021] is a cremation, however if the bone is animal then it is more likely that this feature is the remains of a cooking hearth.

Approx 90m to the north east of the cremation / hearth feature was a shallow oval pit [024], measuring 1.44m by 0.85m and 0.05m deep, with a single charcoal rich fill with stone concentrated at its base. No artefacts were found with this feature to aid in its dating and interpretation.

Access E

The main body of work at access E comprised the construction and upgrading of the access track to the south substation (Illus 3).

The construction of the track connecting the south substation with existing forestry tracks was undertaken as a zone 3 watching brief. Modern tree throw pits were visible in the natural. No archaeology was observed.

The access track linking the compound to the existing forest track was in the zone 2 monitoring area. A heavily



Illus 6
Clearance cairn 022 during excavation

truncated linear feature [010] was identified. 010 ran NW-SE and measured 5.43m by 0.34 and is interpreted as the base of a rubble drain associated with forestry operations. No archaeologically significant features were identified.

Existing forestry tracks were also widened in areas to allow for the greater traffic expected from the wind farm. No archaeology was revealed.

A bell mouth road entrance was constructed at access E. By the side of the current road the foundations of the original A74 were encountered. Stone kerbing was present along with a large concrete block thought to be the foundations of a signpost. No archaeologically significant remains were discovered.

Access F

Eight passing places were stripped and surfaced beside the existing forestry track. No archaeology was observed during these works.

3.2 Borrow Pits

Following forest clearance and prior to the removal of tree stumps the area of borrow pits 7, 22, 23, 28 & 86 was inspected for upstanding archaeological features. None were present.

Following the removal of the tree stumps the area was stripped to the top of the natural gravel deposits, prior to the extraction of gravel the subsoil was inspected for archaeological features.

The only archaeological features present within the area of these borrow pits were two linear features running parallel to each other [003 & 005] exposed in the centre of borrow pit 22. These are interpreted as drainage channels associated with modern forestry operation.

3.3 Compounds

Access C Compound

As part of the enabling works a compound area was stripped on the west side of the access road of access C. This area was stripped under constant archaeological supervision using a flat bladed ditching bucket. The area was stripped of topsoil comprising dark brown clay peat, directly down to natural gravel and clay deposits which were encountered at a depth of 0.2 – 0.3m. No archaeological features were present in the underlying natural subsoil.

Access E Compound

An area south of an adjacent to the existing lay-by was stripped to provide a compound area for the enabling works. The stripping took place over two days and consisted of the removal of the first 0.2-0.3m of turf and topsoil using a flat bladed ditching bucket. The shallow depth of the stripping meant that natural geological subsoil

was not encountered only underlying peat deposits. No archaeological features were encountered.

An extension to the compound at access E was stripped of topsoil of approx 0.6m of peat topsoil. No archaeological features were identified during these excavations.

Access F

An area measuring 150m by 50m was stripped of thin topsoil for a compound at access F. These excavations showed that this area had been previously levelled and surfaced probably associated with construction of the forestry tracks. No archaeology.

3.4 Sub-station

Following forest clearance and prior to the removal of tree stumps the area designated for the south substation was inspected for upstanding archaeological features, none were present. The area was stripped to the top of the natural clay gravel deposits, evidence of tree throw pits was observed but no archaeological remains were present.

3.5 Drainage ditches

Small ditches were excavated on either side of the access tracks for drainage, these were superficial and in the majority of cases did not penetrate the peat topsoil. No archaeology was observed in any of these ditches. Excavated in association with these drainage ditches were a series of catchment pits, these did reach the natural, but no archaeological features were observed.

In various areas drains were excavated across the access tracks these were often accompanied by sump holes to slow the flow of water. No archaeological features were observed.

3.6 Batching plant

The construction of the batching plant took place under a zone 3 watching brief. No archaeological features were identified.

3.7 Trial holes and test pits

A number of trial holes were excavated at turbine bases and borrow pits throughout the south section of the wind farm. Trial holes were also excavated on the Dod, at borrow pit 86, on the line of the track from access E to the south sub-station, at the compound at access F and at Hectors bridge. No archaeology was revealed in any of these trial holes.

Over 200 small hand excavated test pits were dug alongside the existing forestry track leading from access B

to locate an underground electric cable. Hand dug test pits were also excavated to locate a water pipe also at Access B. No archaeology was disturbed.

4. PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Davie Masson and Scott Timpany

4.1 Introduction

Three samples [001, 002 and 003] from this phase of works at Clyde Wind Farm were processed for palaeoenvironmental assessment. The samples were taken from pit [024] and pits [020 & 021], together with a hearth [016] discovered during excavation. The aim of this assessment is to identify the presence/absence of any plant remains within the samples.

4.2 Method

Samples were processed in laboratory conditions using a standard floatation method (cf. Kenward *et al*, 1980). All plant macrofossil samples were analysed using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x10 and up to x100 where necessary to aid identification. Identifications were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers *et al* (2006).

4.3 Results

The results of the sample processing are provided in Appendix 2.1 (Retent finds) and 2.2 (Flotation finds). Suitable materials for AMS (Accelerated Mass Spectrometry) radiocarbon dating are identified within each table. All plant remains were preserved through charring.

Charred plant remains

Charred plant remains were found in all three samples. Two samples (001 and 002) contained small quantities of charred cereal grains of naked barley (*Hordeum vulgare var nudum*) grains, and poorly preserved grains that were too degraded to identify to family level, which are presented as indeterminate cereal grains (*Cerealia* indet.). Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments were found in two samples [002 and 003] with sample 002 containing an abundant quantity (see appendices 2.1 and 2.2).

Charcoal fragments

All samples contained abundant quantities of charcoal with fragments of sizes suitable for identification and AMS radiocarbon dating (see appendices 2.1 and 2.2).

Other finds

A large fragment of prehistoric pottery was found in one sample (002), while burnt bone was found in common to abundant amounts in two samples (001 and 002) (see appendix 2.1).

4.4 Discussion

The discussion focuses on the main features from the site; namely hearths [016 & 020/021], and pit [024].

Hearths/ cremations [016, 020/ 021]

Two samples [001 and 002] from the hearth features were taken (see Tables 1 and 2). The samples contained small quantities of charred cereal grain; with grains of naked barley the only identifiable grains recovered. Together with the grain significant quantities of burnt bone fragments were present in the hearth fills [016 and 018]. Initial assessment of the burnt bone has not been able to differentiate whether this is likely to represent animal or human bone. The fill [018] of hearth [020/021] was also found to contain abundant hazel nutshell fragments. In both samples charcoal fragments occurred in abundant quantities with fragments of a large size (up to 4.5cm) present suggesting in-situ burning. A sherd of prehistoric pottery was also recovered from hearth [020 /021].

The assemblage as a whole would support the interpretation of these features being either hearths or cremations. The size and quantity of the charcoal fragments present in these deposits is also supportive of in-situ burning or deliberate discard. The presence of naked barley grain within the samples would suggest an Early to Middle Bronze Age date for the hearth features.

Pit [024]

One sample [003] was taken from the fill [023] of pit [024]. The assemblage from the pit was dominated by charcoal fragments, with an abundant amount present. The size of the fragments (up to 3cm) suggests either burning in-situ or deliberate discard of charcoal into the pit. A small quantity of hazel nutshell fragments was also recovered from the pit.

The pit assemblage is fairly sparse with only a nutshell fragments and charcoal present. The small amount of nutshell indicates that it may represent nuts still attached to branchwood being burnt as fuel rather than discarded food waste. Thus a tentative interpretation for this feature would be a possible charcoal production pit.

4.5 Conclusion

The burnt bone in the hearth features cannot be ruled out as being human and therefore these features could represent cremations. The fill of pit [024] was found to be dominated by charcoal fragments and as such may represent a charcoal production pit.

**Illus 7**

Hearth 021 during excavation

4.6 Recommendations

The presence of possible human burnt bone at the site is of particular interest. Determining if the bone fragments are human or animal remains would aid the interpretation of features [016 & 020/021]. If human the fragments may also provide some indication of gender and age of the individual.

5. FINDS ASSESSMENT

Julie Lochrie

The fill [018] of a possible hearth feature [021] yielded 29 sherds of coarse pottery. Sample processing led to the retrieval of an additional sherd from the same context. The vessel is likely to be a tripartite Collared Urn dating to between *c* 2000 bc - 1600/1550 bc, the early Bronze Age (Sheridan 2003; 2007). An early to middle Bronze Age date is also supported by the presence of naked barley from the same context (see Masson & Timpany, Environmental Report).

The pottery consists of 30 thick, body sherds. There were no rim or base sherds but six sherds have

a carination. Several of the carinated sherds indicate a sharply angled body which must have led to a small base giving the vessel a trunconic appearance. Seven of the sherds have impressed decoration; there are impressed dots positioned along the carination and twisted cord in the form of a zig-zag motif, which is confined to one side of the carination. Some differences are apparent in size of impressions, appearance of fabric and surface condition. While there is likely to be some variability in the vessel the possibility remains that the sherds represent two similarly decorated vessels.

The shape and decoration of the vessel suggest it belongs to the Collared Urn tradition. As the name suggests these vessels are most often found used as a container for cremated remains, however, they can also be found in domestic contexts (Gibson 2002, 96). The pottery has a thick, dark, organic, residue on the interior indicating it has likely been used for cooking. Despite this, other examples of collared urns with organic residues have been noted in funerary contexts (Gibson 2002, 96) and thus its use for this purpose cannot be ruled out. The base of the pits ([020] and [021]) containing the sherds indicated in situ burning and the fill [018] contained abundant quantities of charcoal (see S. Timpany, Environmental Report) initially suggesting a hearth. However also present

throughout the fill [018] was burnt bone. This bone is yet to be established if it is human or animal. Interpretation of the context and use of this pot is reliant on clarification of this point.

6. DISCUSSION

Of the archaeological features revealed during the enabling works all were located through the monitoring of excavations on the western slopes of the Dod, close to the north substation.

The presence of burnt bone associated with cordoned urn pottery within [021] strongly suggests that this is the remains of a cremation. Burnt bone within [016 & 020] suggests that these too may be the remains of cremations. The practice of interring cremations both with and without accompanying pottery vessels is common in the Bronze Age. Examples on Cloburn Quarry, Lanarkshire of a number of cremations including the burial of an adult woman and juvenile child accompanied by a complete food vessel vase (Lelong & Pollard 1998) and cordoned urn cremation discovered at Benderloch, Argyll (MacGregor 1998).

The cairn [022] may be a remnant of prehistoric agricultural activity and would have been constructed through the clearance of stone from agricultural areas. The identification of possible cremations nearby however raises the possibility that this feature had a funerary function.

The area of rig and furrow [019] is typical of pre-improvement agricultural practice and this form of monument is often found preserved in upland areas of Scotland (Halliday 2001).

7. REFERENCES

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Site Registers

Context No.	Description
001	Topsoil (peat)
002	Orange sandy lens between topsoil and subsoil
003	Cut of linear drain in N half of BP22
004	Fill of linear drain in N half of BP22
005	Cut of linear drain parallel to 003
006	Fill of linear drain in parallel to 003
007	Topsoil (peat)
008	Subsoil, orange brown silt-sand
009	Glacial till below peat
010	Cut of linear rubble drain
011	Fill of drain 010
012	Redeposited Clay?
013	Humic peat topsoil with moorgrass and frequent outcropping rock
014	Grey natural stone making up cairn 015
015	Cairn 015
016	Possible Hearth on western slope of The Dod
017	Spread of stone on pronounced slope
018	Charcoal rich clayey fill of possible Kiln/hearth 020/021
019	Area of NW-SE aligned lazy beds/rig on slightly declining slope
020	Northern part of kiln/hearth
021	Southern part of kiln/hearth
022	Clearance Cairn
023	Charcoal rich fill of shallow pit 024
024	Cut of shallow ovoid pit
025	Stones on base of 024

Appendix 2

Environmental Assessment

Retent Sample Results

Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant.

NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating.

Context Number	Sample Number	Feature	Sample Vol (l)	Ceramic	Burnt bone	Charred plant	Charcoal		Material available for AMS Dating	Comments
				Pottery	Mammal		Quantity	Max Size (cm)		
				Prehistoric						
16	1	Fill Of Possible Hearth.	20		+++		++++	2.5 cm	Burnt Bone ++, Charcoal ++++	
18	2	Fill Of Hearth [20] + [21].	30	+	++++	nutshell ++++, cereal grain +, charred bark ++	++++	2.0 cm	Burnt Bone +++, Charcoal ++++, Nutshell +++	Retent Retained.
23	3	Fill Of Charcoal Rich Pit [24]	20			nutshell +	++++	2.0 cm	Charcoal ++++	Retent Retained.

Flotation Sample Results

Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant.

NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating.

Context Number	Sample Number	Total flot Vol (ml)	Cereal grain:	Hordeum vulgare var nudum	Cerealia indet.	Other plant remains	Charcoal Quantity	Charcoal Max size (cm)	Material available for AMS
16	1	40		+	+		+++	<1	
18	2	220		++	+	Corylus avellana nutshell fragment +	++++	4.5	Cereal grain ++, Charcoal ++++
23	3	150					++++	3	Charcoal ++++

Appendix 3

Finds Assessment

Context	Sample No	Material	Quantity	Object	Description	Spot Date	Period
018	-	Pottery	29	Prehistoric	Coarseware; large thick sherds; 6 sherds with a carination; 7 sherds decorated including impressed dots and twisted cord, one sherd has both; whilst the other decorated sherds have a slightly different appearance in fabric the similar deco suggests one pot	2000BC-1600/1550BC	Early Bronze Age
018	2		1	Prehistoric	Coarseware; Body sherd; See [018] above	2000BC-1600/1550BC	Early Bronze Age

Appendix 4

Discovery and Excavation Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Clyde wind Farm, Enabling Works
PROJECT CODE:	CLW03
PARISH:	Crawford
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Jamie Humble
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Cairn, Cremation, Rig & Furrow
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	
NGR	NS 98665 20225
START DATE (this season)	01/03/2009
END DATE (this season)	01/02/2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Previous evaluations and excavations
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook archaeological monitoring on the enabling works, as part of a wider programme of archaeological works in advance of and during construction of Clyde wind farm, South Lanarkshire. Archaeological monitoring was conducted on excavations relating to construction of the access tracks, borrow pits, substation and drainage ditches across the windfarm.</p> <p>Several archaeological features were discovered all located on the western slopes of the Dod, close to the north substation where previous excavation revealed settlement of Bronze Age date. The archaeological features revealed during this phase of work comprise of a pit with burnt bone associated with collared urn pottery, along with two features containing burnt bone. The association of burnt bone and urn pottery is strongly suggestive that these are cremation deposits, although the bone has not been conclusively identified as human. A small cairn close by the possible cremations may have had funerary significance. A further feature may be the remains of a charcoal production pit.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/ deposited)	Archive and report to be deposited with NMRS Report to be deposited with WoSAS
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Clyde Wind Farm
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Headland Archaeology 10 Payne Street Glasgow G4 0LF
EMAIL ADDRESS:	jamie.humble@headlandarchaeology.com