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Client: Allan Allison



LESSERLINN FARM, LANARK

Archaeological Watching Brief and Desk-based Assessment

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PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

<i>Client</i>	ALLAN ALLISON
<i>National Grid Reference</i>	NS 8385 4105
<i>Address</i>	LESSERLINN FARM, LANARK
<i>Parish</i>	LESMAHAGOW
<i>Council</i>	SOUTH LANARKSHIRE
<i>Planning Ref No</i>	CL/10/0433 & CL/10/0368
<i>Oasis No</i>	HEADLAND1-92334
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<i>Schedule</i>	
<i>Fieldwork</i>	JANUARY 2011
<i>Report</i>	FEBRUARY 2011

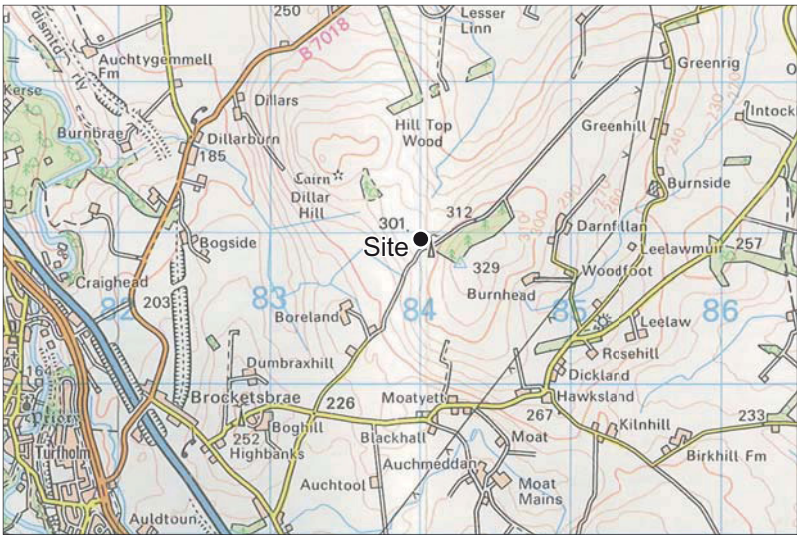
Signed off by:

Mark Roberts BA(Hons) MIfA, Project Manager

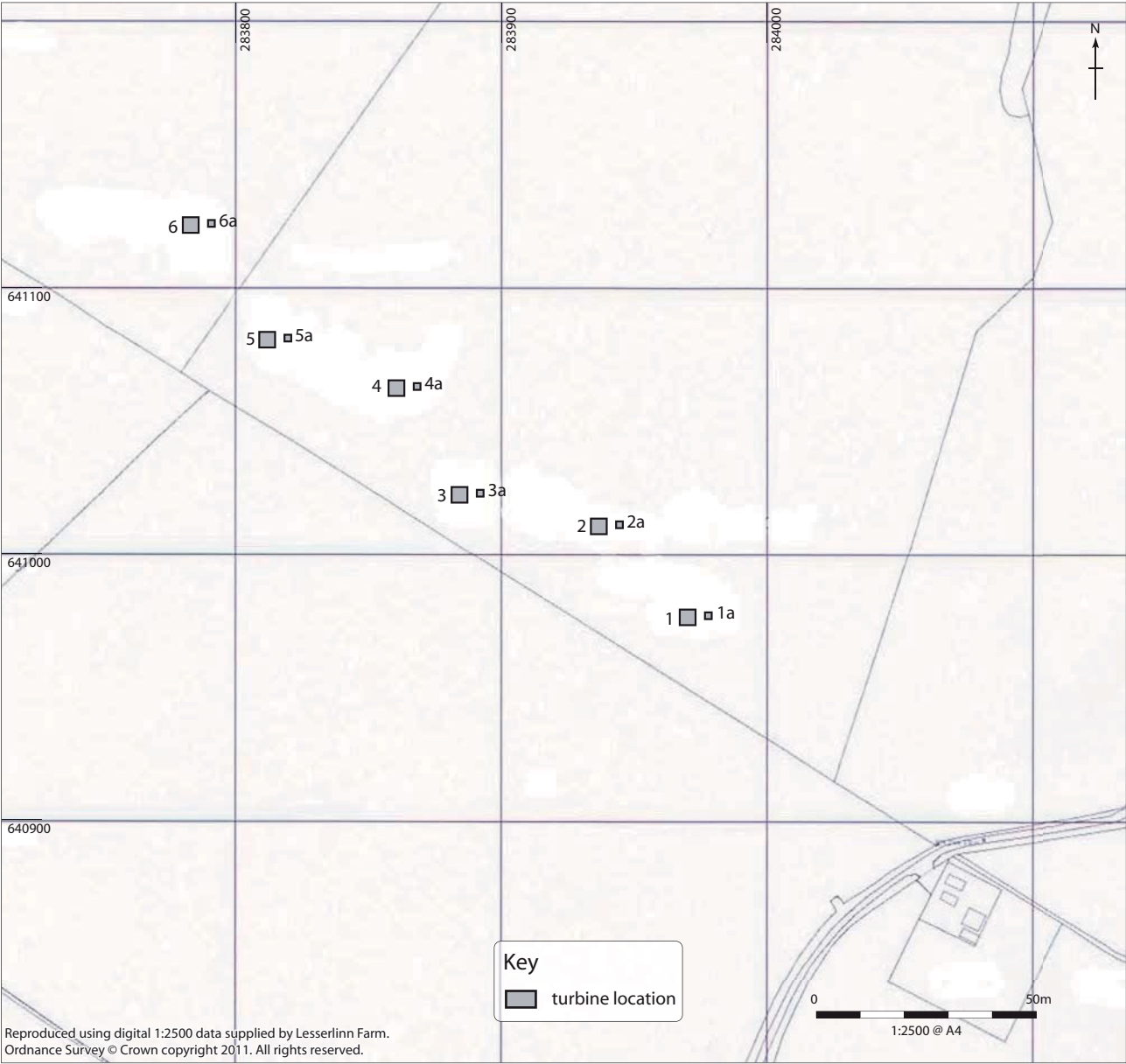
Date:.....

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Illus 1
Site location

LESSERLINN FARM, LANARK

Archaeological Watching Brief and Desk-based Assessment

by Elizabeth Jones

An archaeological watching brief and desk-based assessment was undertaken on land at Lesserlinn Farm, Lanark in advance of the construction of six wind turbines. The work was undertaken by Headland Archaeology on behalf of Allan Allison following a planning condition on the development set by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service and South Lanarkshire Council. Six trenches measuring 5m by 5m and six adjacent trenches measuring 2m by 2m were machine excavated under archaeological supervision. No finds or features of archaeological significance were uncovered in any of the trenches.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment and watching brief undertaken on behalf of Allan Allison at Lesserlinn Farm, Lanark in advance of construction of six 15kw wind turbines. The work was undertaken to meet a planning condition placed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) on application CL/10/0433 and CL/10/0368. The works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Headland Archaeology Ltd, agreed by WoSAS and approved by South Lanarkshire Council. The work took place on 25th January 2011.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the archaeological works are:

- to identify and record any archaeological remains exposed by the groundworks for the turbines,
- to report on the results of the work.

3. DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

A desk-based assessment of the archaeological background to the area was prepared in order to inform the watching brief. This included the following sources:

- historic maps held at the National Library of Scotland,
- National Monuments Records and local Sites and Monuments Records,
- readily available published sources.

The site is situated in Lesmahagow parish to the east of the town near the village of Brocketsbrae (NS 8385 4105; Illus 1). It is located on the western side of Boreland Hill at around 290m OD. There are a number of entries in local and national sites and monuments records (WoSAS SMR and NMRS) that attest to prehistoric and later occupation around the site.

A cairn and the site of a circular enclosure lie to the west of the site at Dillar Hill on the other side of Differick Wood (WoSAS 10284, NMRS NS84SW 10 and WoSAS 10302, NMRS NS84SW 9). The site of a cairn shown on Ainslie's map (1821) appears to be located at Dillar Hill. To the east of the site on the other side of Boreland Wood lie the site of Boreland Hill fort (WoSAS 10287, NMRS NS84SW 13) and Boreland Hill cairns (WoSAS 10286, NMRS NS84SW 12). 'A Big Cairn' on Borland Hill is depicted on Ross's map (1773) but the cairns are longer visible. A cairn discovered in the 19th century at Greenhill to the north-east was said to contain three cists and contained a food vessel (WoSAS 10217, NMRS NS84SE 30; RCAHMS 1978), while a cairn at Leelaw to the east has been destroyed (WoSAS 10219, NMRS NS84SE 32).

Later activity in the area is evident at the site of the 15th century Duntrevy or Auchtyfardy castle on Dumbraxhill (WoSAS 10301, NMRS NS84SW 8), near Brocketsbrae. This is shown as 'Castle in ruins' on Forrest's map of 1816, although no trace of it now remains.

4. METHOD

A JCB fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove topsoil under direct archaeological supervision. Excavation continued until either subsoil or significant archaeological deposits were encountered.

The recording followed standards and guidance set out by the Institute for Archaeologists. Colour print and colour slide photographs were taken, given unique numbers and recorded in a register. Metric scales were clearly visible in record photographs.

An overall site plan was recorded and related to the National Grid. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards.

5. RESULTS

Six trenches (1–6) measuring 5m by 5m were excavated; a smaller 2m by 2m trench (1a–6a) was also excavated to the east of each one (Illus 1). All of the trenches revealed a simple sequence of dark brown sandy silt loam topsoil [001] overlying yellowish brown silty sand natural subsoil [002]. The topsoil varied in depth from 0.1m at the top of the hill (Trench 2) to 0.3m on the lower slopes. No finds or archaeological features were found in any of the trenches.

Three shallow quarries were observed on the south side of the hill, however these were not impacted upon by the construction of the turbines and are likely to be relatively recent in date.

6. CONCLUSION

The watching brief demonstrated that no archaeological remains were disturbed by the construction of the wind farm. This is likely to be because of the small areas of ground exposed.

7. REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliography

RCAHMS, 1978, *The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland*. Lanarkshire: an inventory of the prehistoric and Roman monuments. Edinburgh.

7.2 Cartography

1773, Ross, C.A., *Map of the shire of Lanark*.

1816, Forrest, W., *The County of Lanark from actual survey*.

1821, Ainslie, J., *Ainslie's map of the southern part of Scotland*.

APPENDIX

Site register

Context register

Context no.	Description	Dimensions
001	Dark brown sandy silt loam with moderate small-medium angular stones. Topsoil.	0.1–0.3m
002	Orange-yellow brown silty sand with frequent large angular stones and occasional outcrops. Natural subsoil.	–