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Watching Brief and Demarcation Works during Enabling Works, Fallago Rig Windfarm, Scottish Borders

Report No. 1910

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

The Scottish Government have granted Section 36 Consent for the construction of the Fallago Rig Windfarm, Scottish Borders subject to a number of conditions. This report describes the results of a programme of watching briefs and demarcation of archaeological features on the windfarm enabling works. This included the construction of the main windfarm access road, excavation of 2 borrow pits and the construction of the substation and contractor's compound. The windfarm itself was not constructed at the time of writing; separate reports will cover this. The work was commissioned by Wind Prospect Ltd *per* North British Windpower.

The conditions relating to Cultural Heritage upon the development are as follows:

27 No development shall take place on the site in the vicinity of the archaeological features mentioned below until the following works have been undertaken or details agreed:

(a) fencing has been erected, in a manner and at locations to be agreed with the Planning Authority around the features reference 6, 10, 14 and 23, as identified in the Environmental Statement table number 12.1 and features reference A, H, J, L1 and L2 as identified in the Environmental Statement table number 12.2; and no works shall take place within the area inside that fencing without the prior agreement of the Planning Authority;

(b) a plan has been submitted for the consideration and written approval of the Planning Authority to indicate the precise route of the proposed access track in the vicinity of John Dippie's Well (located at NT 646 559). Thereafter, if considered necessary by the Planning Authority, fencing shall be erected around the well in the same manner as required above by clause (a) of this condition in relation to other features, and no works shall take place within the area inside that fencing without the prior agreement of the Planning Authority;

(c) the sections of new access track in the vicinity of Byreclough Steading Scheduled Ancient Monument, as referred to in Annex 5 of the Supplementary Environmental Information dated October 2007, shall be surveyed and laid out under direct archaeological supervision.

28 No development shall take place until the Company has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 10 December 2010 to fulfil these requirements was produced by CFA on behalf of Wind Prospect Ltd. The WSI met the requirements of the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer.

Site numbers used throughout this report follow the convention used in the Environmental Statement (North British Windpower Ltd, 2005) (ES) and the

subsequent Supplementary Environmental Information (North British Windpower Ltd, 2007) (SEI).

The road realignment past Byreclough Steading crossed the remains of two structures identified in the ES. These were fully excavated and are reported on under separate cover (Suddaby 2011)

1.3 Objectives

Archaeological work was to be conducted, prior to construction, at the following specific locations:

- To fence off, Sites 6, 10, 14, 23, A, H, J, L1 and L2.
- To provide the precise route of the proposed access track in the vicinity of John Dippie's well and fence off the site if required
- To monitor the setting out of the access track adjacent to Byreclough Steading Scheduled Ancient Monument
- To identify the needs for any further watching briefs (Phase 1b), outside of those already identified, and further work (Phase 2) arising out of the programme of work described above.

Archaeological monitoring was required during construction:

- To provide a watching brief during construction work on targeted areas as agreed with the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer.
- To provide a watching brief during construction work on areas identified as archaeologically sensitive from work undertaken at Phase 1a.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.

The precise route of the proposed access track in the vicinity of John Dippie's well was submitted to the Council in advance of works commencing.

2.2 Demarcation

The sites requiring demarcation were located by GPS and a photographic record was made of the surviving remains. Sites were demarcated with a visible barrier of wooden posts and blue rope. Signs were also erected indicating that they were archaeological sites to be avoided. Contractors were informed at regular tool-box talks given by CFA staff that roped off areas were archaeological sites to be avoided.

It was agreed that where possible demarcated areas were to include a 5m buffer zone around the site. The exception to this was Sites H and J around which a 10m buffer was to be provided. It was acknowledged that in some circumstances a 5m buffer might not be possible. Where this was the case it was agreed that it would be as large as is possible within the confines of the development.

2.3 Watching Brief

A watching brief was required on: groundbreaking in advance of new offline sections of access track, (not where road widening was taking place); in proximity to Byreclough Steading Scheduled Monument; on topsoil stripping for the construction compound; on topsoil stripping on borrow-pit areas; and on topsoil stripping for the substation platform. The locations of these areas are shown on Figure 1.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Demarcation

Sites 6, 10, A, H, L1 and L2 were located and demarcated as per the agreed methodology. However, the buffer around Site 6 had to be reduced in agreement with the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer.

Site J (Fig. 2), described in the ES as a cupmarked rock, was a small portable boulder with dubious cupmarks. It was agreed with the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer that the marks were more likely to be the product of erosion and that given the size and portability of the stone the identification of this as a cupmarked stone was very questionable. The stone lay in an area identified as a hard rock borrow pit (borrow pit 7) so it was agreed that the stone would be moved to a location outwith the area of quarrying. The stone's new location is NT 58753 58910.

Sites 4 and 23 were sufficiently far removed from the road as to be outside of the area leased by the client and were therefore on private land with no access. It was agreed with the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer that in the circumstances there was no risk of damage due to construction so they were not demarcated.

John Dippie's Well (Scottish Borders Council SMR No. 1210056) and John Dippie's Cottage (Scottish Borders Council SMR No. 1210057) were also demarcated as per the agreed methodology with a 5m buffer.

The Scheduled Byreclough Steading (SAM No 4549) is passed by the existing farm track and the edge of the scheduled area is defined by the current track. This roadside edge was demarcated as per the agreed methodology.

3.2 Watching Brief

Contractor's Compounds

The contractor's compound by Wedderlie Farm and the secondary compound near Borrow Pit 1 (BP1) were monitored. In both areas, thin topsoil came down on to undisturbed natural subsoil. No archaeological features or finds were identified.

Borrow Pits

It was decided that two of the proposed borrow pits (BP 1 and BP7) contained rock of a quality that was worth quarrying. Borrow Pit 1 was on fairly level ground where previous unrelated localised quarrying had already taken place. A thin topsoil covered undisturbed natural subsoil and bedrock. Borrow Pit 7 was a steeply sloping area of hill side. Thin heather turf overlay bedrock. The angle of the slope was such that settlement or other anthropomorphic uses that would have led to archaeological features being created was unlikely. As a result it was agreed, with the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer, to curtail monitoring at an early stage in this area. No archaeological features or finds were identified.

Substation and Contractor's Platform (Fig 5)

The stripping of this large area was monitored. A thin heather turf overlay peat which lay over undisturbed natural subsoil. No archaeological features or deposits were found.

Windfarm Access Road

The access road was monitored where new off line sections were constructed. At Wedderlie Farm the road by-passed round to the east of the current farm buildings (Fig. 4). Thin topsoil lay over undisturbed natural subsoil. No archaeological features or deposits were found.

The offline section at the Cralaw diversion (circa chainage 2600 to 3200) (Fig. 3) passed mainly through improved fields. Topsoil lay over undisturbed natural subsoil. No archaeological features or deposits were found.

The new section of road running alongside the Dye Water (between chainage 7600 to 9000) (Fig. 6) passed across unimproved heath. A thin heather turf lay over peat. No archaeological features or deposits were found.

The section of new road running past the Scheduled Byreclough Steading was monitored during topsoiling. Thin topsoil lay over undisturbed natural. No archaeological features or deposits were found.

Other works

Water course diversions were carried out at Twinlaw Ford. This was in close proximity to John Dippie's Well so a watching brief was undertaken to ensure that no elements of this site were affected. All works took place outside of the demarcated area and there was no effect on the site.

To create the correct road alignment at Twinlaw Ford the eastern side of the road had to be extended into the demarcated area around John Dippie's Cottage. The alignment was carefully checked to ensure that no upstanding remains of the site ran in to the area and a watching brief was conducted on topsoiling. Peaty soil lay over fractured bedrock. No archaeological features or deposits were found.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Sites 6, 10, A, H, L1 and L2 were located and demarcated as per the agreed methodology. Continued maintenance of the demarcation and tool box talks will ensure their continued safety during the construction of the main windfarm area.

Site J was relocated to an area outwith the development site.

John Dippie's Well, John Dippie's Cottage and the Scheduled Byreclough Steading were demarcated as per the agreed methodology. Continued maintenance of the demarcation and tool box talks will ensure their continued safety during the construction of the main windfarm area.

No features of archaeological significance were identified during the watching brief.

No further work is required in relation to the results of the watching brief or the demarcation.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the Scottish Borders Council.

A summary statement of the results of this programme of work will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Suddaby I, 2011 *Fallago Rig Windfarm, Excavation of Buildings and other features adjacent to Byrewater Steading/Kersons Cleugh, Longformacus, Scottish Borders*. CFA Unpublished Report No 1877.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

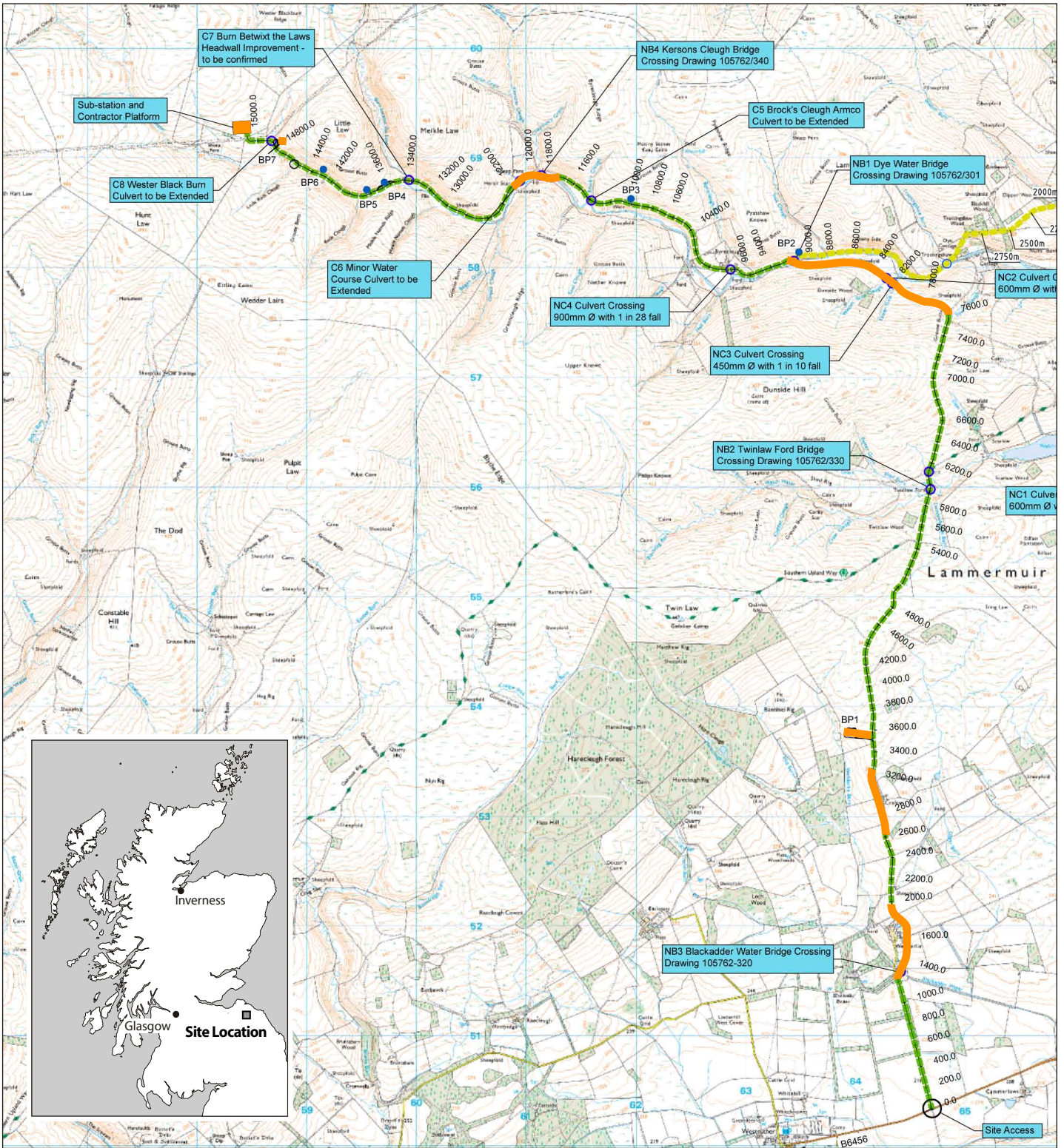
Pre-Construction

Shot	Description	From
1	Detail of John Dippie's Well	S
2	John Dippie's Well and Headstone	S
3	John Dippie's Headstone	S
4	Enclosure associated with John Dippie's Cottage	S
5	John Dippie's Cottage	W
6	Fencing around John Dippie's Well	S
7	Fencing around John Dippie's Cottage	S
8	Fencing around John Dippie's Cottage	N
9	Site 6, sheepfold	SE
10	Site 6, sheepfold	E
11	Site 6, sheepfold	SW
12	Fencing around Site 6	SE
13	Shot of L1	E
14	Shot of L2	S
15	General shot of L1 and L2	SE
16	Fencing around L1 and L2	SE
17	Fencing around L1 and L2	S
18	Small field bank, part of site 6	WSW
19	Fencing around small field bank, part of site 6	WSW
20-21	Site 10	SE
22-23	Site 10, general shots	N/NE
24-25	Fencing around site 10	E/WSW
26	Site 8, cairn	SW
27	Site 8, detail	SW
28	Site 8, cairn	NE
29-30	Fencing around site H	SW/NW
31-32	Site A	NE
33-34	Fencing around site A	NE
35	Site J, cup and ring marked stone	W

Watching Brief

Shot	Description	From
1	General view of drystone dyke at main compound prior to formation of entrance	W
2	Section of drystone dyke after formation of entrance	S
3	General view of stripping of main site compound in progress	S
4	General view of stripping of main site compound in progress	S
5	General view of stripping of main site compound in progress	N
6	General view of stripping of Borrow Pit 1 in progress	W
7	General view of stripping of Borrow Pit 1 in progress	W
8	General view of stripping of Borrow Pit 1 in progress	E
9	General view of stripping of Borrow Pit 1 in progress	E
10	General view of stripped new road line - diversion past Cralaw	N
11	General view of stripped new road line - diversion past Cralaw	S
12	Re-routing watercourse by John Dippies Well	S
13	Re-routing watercourse by John Dippie's Well	W
14	General view of stripped new road line - Wedderlie Farm By-pass	S
15	General view of stripped new road line - Wedderlie Farm By-pass	S
16	General view of stripped new road line - Wedderlie Farm By-pass	N
17	General view of stripping of substation platform and compound platform in progress	E

18	General view of stripping of substation platform and compound platform in progress	N
19	General view of stripping of substation platform and compound platform in progress	W
20	General view of stripping of Borrow Pit 7 in progress	W
21	General view of road line excavation immediately adjacent to, and slightly within, demarcated area around John Dippie's Cottage	W
22	General view of road line excavation immediately adjacent to, and slightly within, demarcated area around John Dippie's Cottage	W
23	General view across area to be crossed by the new road alongside the Dye Water	E
24	General view of stripped new road line – Dye water section	W
25	General view of stripped new road line – Dye water section	W
26	General view of stripped new road line – Dye water section	W
27	General view of stripped new road line – Dye water section	W
28	New road crossing at the Dye Water	S



Key:	Watching Brief Area
Scale:	

Fig. No:	1	Revision:	A	Client:	Wind Prospect Ltd per North British Windpower
Title:	Location Plan				
Project:	Fallago Rig Windfarm, Scottish Borders				

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Fig 2: Site J



Fig 3: New road line from chainage 2600, looking north


Key:	Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	Wind Prospect Ltd <i>per</i> North British Windpower
	Title:					
Scale:	Project: Fallago Rig Windfarm, Scottish Borders					
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Fig 4: New road line by-passing Wedderlie Farm, chainage 1600 looking north



Fig 5: Topsoil stripping at substation



Fig 6: New road line between Dye Water crossing and chainage 7600

Key:	Fig. No:	4-6	Revision:	A	Client:	Wind Prospect Ltd <i>per</i> North British Windpower
	Title:					
Scale:	Project: Fallago Rig Windfarm, Scottish Borders					
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