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Historic Building Recording


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Geophysical Survey

**Bathing Water Quality Sign Installation
and Associated Equipment,
West of 8 Rockland Park,
Largs, North Ayrshire.**

**Archaeological Watching Brief
Report No. 1935**

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This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

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3.	Oblique of duct trench showing topsoil overlying red sandstone substrate

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in August 2011 at land west of 8 Rockland Park, Largs, North Ayrshire (NGR: NS 20801 57826) (Fig. 1) The work was commissioned by AECOM.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 25 May 2011 was produced by CFA on behalf of AECOM. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of North Ayrshire Council, as advised by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).

1.2 Background

Planning permission (Ref 11/00044/PP) has been given to erect a new bathing water quality sign and associated equipment, which includes a wind turbine, solar panel and electrical cabinet with adjoining ducts (Fig. 1). The planning permission was subject to a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief during all ground breaking operations.

Although no heritage assets have been located at the site, the Battle of Largs, fought in October 1263 between the Norse and the Scots, is believed to be located in the wider area. The precise location of the battlefield is unknown, although Ordnance Survey maps contain annotation showing the site of the battle as being in Anderson Park, around 800m north of the site. However, this identification appears to be based more on tradition and the abundance of burial monuments in the surrounding area, most of which are prehistoric in origin rather than medieval.

There does not seem to be any direct physical evidence for the precise position of the battlefield, as there is a lack of detail in primary sources to allow its location to be determined with a high level of confidence. For example, the monument commemorating the battle, popularly known as The Pencil, occupies a prominent headland around 170m to the south of the proposed development site. This monument was erected in 1912, meaning that it is unlikely that it was intended to definitively identify the battle site.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the watching brief were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological features or deposits within the excavation areas and to mitigate any impact on those features or deposits as identified within the excavations.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods, as detailed in the approved WSI.

2.2 Watching Brief

The terms of the WSI required a watching brief on the excavations for the installation of a wind turbine, sign and electrical cabinet with adjoining cable ducts.

Excavation was undertaken using a 360° tracked 1.5 tonne excavator with a 0.3m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Numbers in bold in the following text refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 1.

The pit for the wind turbine base, measuring approximately 1.5m by 1.5m, was excavated to a depth of 1.0m and the associated duct trench, measuring 35m in length by 0.45m wide, was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m.

The deposits within the wind turbine pit consisted of 0.15m of dark brown silty sand topsoil (**001**) overlying 0.5m of brown, sandy-clay made ground containing bricks and rubble (**002**). Underlying (**002**) was 0.3m of orange/brown sand containing <1% rounded stones (**003**) overlying a darker grey sand (**004**) containing organic material, such as seaweed. At the formation level of the pit was the natural substrate of red sandstone (**005**) (Fig. 2).

The duct trench varied in depth along its length, up to a maximum of 0.5m. The majority of the eastern half of the trench contained 0.2m of topsoil (**002**) directly overlying the substrate (**005**) (Fig. 3). The western half of the trench contained 0.1m of topsoil (**001**) and 0.4m of made ground (**002**) down to formation level.

There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified during the watching brief.

4. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was carried out during ground works for the erection of a bathing water quality sign, wind turbine and associated equipment at land to the west of 8 Rockland Park, Largs. There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified during the watching brief.

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 North Ayrshire Council Sites and Monuments Record.

A summary statement of the results of this watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) and an online OASIS form will be completed.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context	Trench	Description
001	1	Silty sand topsoil, approx 15cm deep
002	1	Sandy clay made ground containing brick, rubble; approx 0.5m deep
003	1	Orange brown sand containing <1% rounded stones; approx 0.3m deep
004	1	Grey sand/gravel containing small rounded pebbles and seaweed; 0.1m deep
005	1	Red sandstone natural substrate

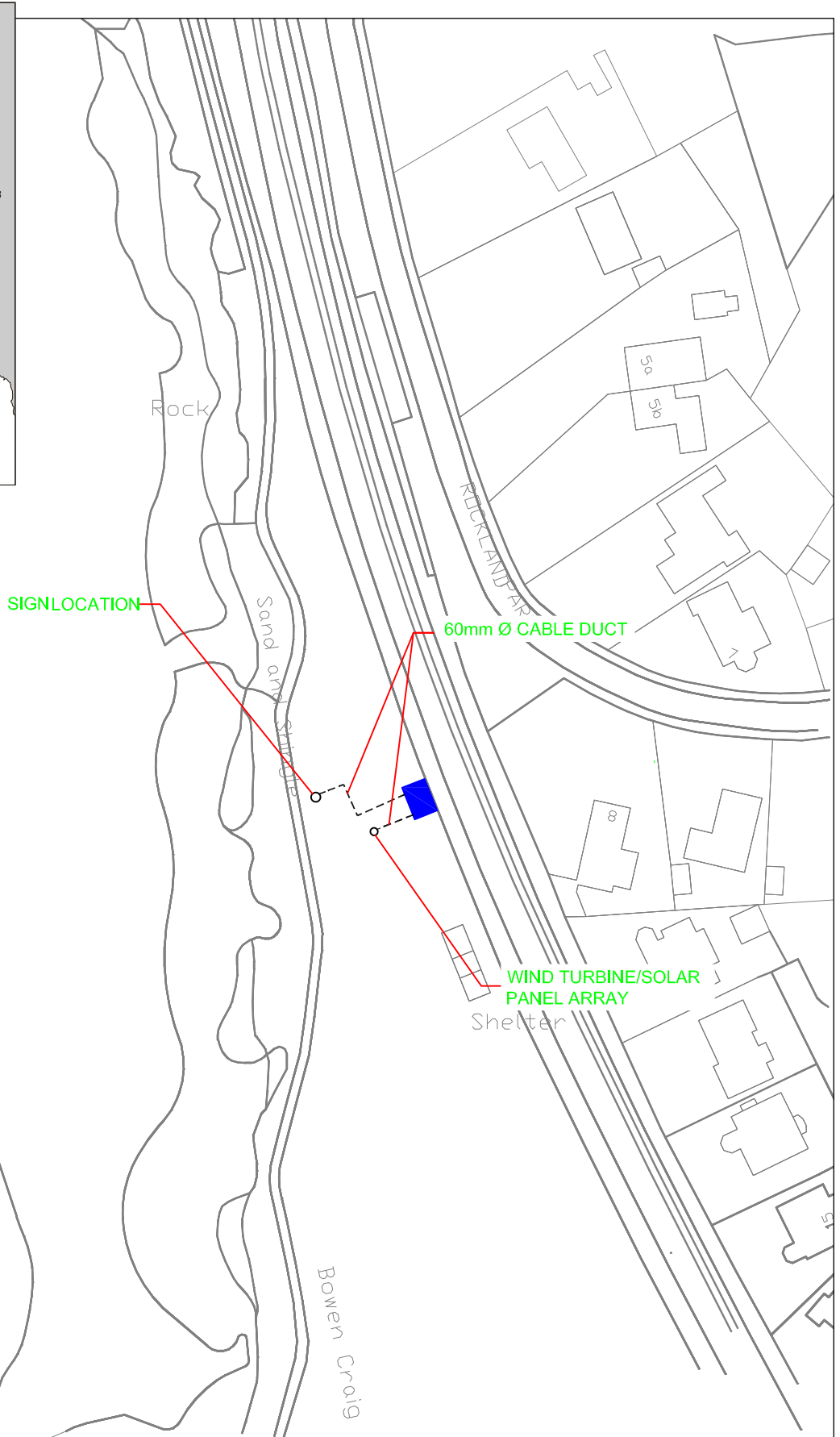
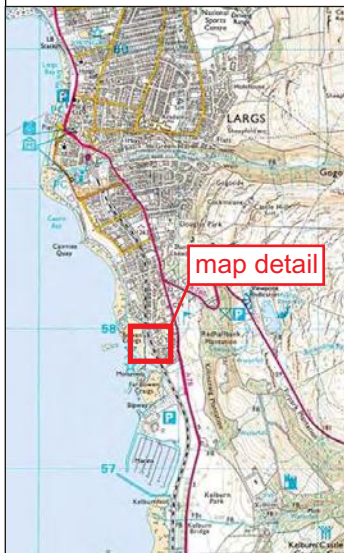
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digital Images

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-2	General pre-excavation shots of the area of proposed duct trench and turbine base	W	Rain
3	General pre-excavation shot of the area of proposed duct trench and turbine base	E	Rain
4	S. facing section of the pit for turbine base	S	Rain
5	Post-excavation shot of the duct trench	E	Rain
6	Post-excavation shot of duct trench	W	Rain
7	Detail of duct trench showing red sandstone substrate	E	Rain
8	Oblique of duct trench showing topsoil overlying red sandstone substrate	SW	Rain

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Bathing Water Quality Sign Installation and Associated Equipment, West of 8 Rockland Park, Largs, North Ayrshire.
PROJECT CODE:	BAWA
PARISH:	Largs
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Gary Savory
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NS 20801 57826
START DATE (this season)	August 2011
END DATE (this season)	August 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out during ground works for the erection of a bathing water quality sign and associated equipment, west of 8 Rockland Park, Largs, North Ayrshire. There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified during the watching brief.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	AECOM
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record of Scotland (archive) North Ayrshire Council Sites and Monuments Record (report)



Key:



Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: AECOM

Title: Site location and plan showing areas monitored

Scale at A4: 1:1250

Project: Bathing Water Quality Sign Installation and Associated Equipment, West of 8 Rockland Park, Largs, North Ayrshire



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Drawn by: GC Checked: LW Report No: 1935



Fig. 2 - South-facing section showing pit for the turbine base



Fig. 3 - Oblique of duct trench showing topsoil overlying red sandstone

Key:	Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	AECOM					
	Title:										
Scale at A4:	Project:										
	Bathing Water Quality Sign Installation and Associated Equipment, West of 8 Rockland Park, Largs, North Ayrshire										
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