

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Geophysical Survey*

**Wind Turbine, Muirhouse Farm,  
Muirhouse Road, Auchenheath  
South Lanarkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. 2003**

## **CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011 and 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012 on land at Muirhouse Farm (NGR: NS 820 428) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Dulas Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 27 October 2011 was produced by CFA on behalf of Dulas Ltd. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).

### **1.2 Background**

Planning permission has been granted for the construction of two wind turbines on land at Muirhouse Farm (Fig. 1). The planning permission was subject to a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief during all ground breaking works required for the construction of the turbines including, but not limited to, the turbine bases, access road, cabling, and other associated infrastructure.

## **2. Objectives**

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) to monitor all groundbreaking works for the construction of the turbines, access roads, cabling and associated infrastructure.
- to mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording, and produce a report on them.

## **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 Archaeological Watching Brief**

The terms of the WSI required an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) to monitor ground breaking works. Excavation was undertaken with a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.

All discoveries, including soil profiles and subsoil characteristics, were recorded using standard CFA recording forms and digital photography.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

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

The ground breaking works consisted of the excavation of a 4m wide access track, a crane pad and the foundations for Turbine 1 (NGR: NS 82018 42709), the southerly turbine. The northerly turbine will form a separate phase of work.

The turbine base, measuring 15m N-S by 10m E-W, was stripped of mid brown clayey silt topsoil (**001**) to reveal the underlying orange-brown sandy clay and sandy gravel natural substrate (**002**) at a depth of c.0.25m (Fig. 2). An area adjacent to the east side of the turbine base, measuring 20m by 20m, was also stripped of topsoil for a crane pad, revealing a similar sequence of deposits.

The 4m wide access track was stripped of topsoil to an average depth of 0.3m to reveal the natural subsoil (Fig. 3). The topsoil consisted of mid-brown slightly clayey silt (**001**) up to 0.25m deep. The subsoil consisted of orange-brown sandy clay (**002**).

There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified.

### 4. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was carried out during ground works for the erection of a wind turbine on land at Muirhouse Farm, Muirhouse Road, Auchenheth.

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

Additional watching brief is required for the construction of Turbine 2 and associated infrastructure.

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

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 No.	Description
001	Topsoil – mid-brown slightly clayey silt
002	Subsoil – orange-brown sandy clay

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

### *Digital Images*

Number	Description	From	Conditions
1-4	General working shots	E	Mist
5-6	Test pit at location of Turbine 1	W	Mist
7-8	General shots showing the line of the access road	W	Mist
9	Base for Turbine 1, pre-excavation	E	Overcast
10-11	Base for Turbine 1 stripped to natural subsoil	N	Sun

## APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	South Lanarkshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Wind Turbines, Muirhouse Farm, Muirhouse Road, Auchenheath
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	CHEN
<b>PARISH:</b>	Lesmahagow
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Alison McCaig
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	-
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	-
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	-
<b>NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)</b>	NS 820 428
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	December 2011
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	January 2012
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out during ground works for the construction of a wind turbine on land at Muirhouse Farm. There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified during the watching brief.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Dulas Ltd
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	National Monuments Record of Scotland (archive) West of Scotland Archaeology Service (report)



Key:

Watching Brief Areas:

- Turbine Position
- Access Route



Fig. No:	1	Revision:	A	Client:	Dulas Ltd
Title:	Location map showing watching brief area				
Project:	Muirhouse Farm, Auchenheath				

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Scale at A4:  
1:25,000


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Fig. 2 - Turbine base stripped of topsoil



Fig. 3 - Topsoil stripping along access track

Key:	Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	Dulas Ltd					
	Title:										
	Project:	Muirhouse Farm, Auchenheath									
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