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Brockholes Wind Cluster Grantshouse, Scottish Borders

Archaeological Works

Report No. 2006

10131 273 4380 🕖 0131 273 4381 🥥 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk 🝿 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

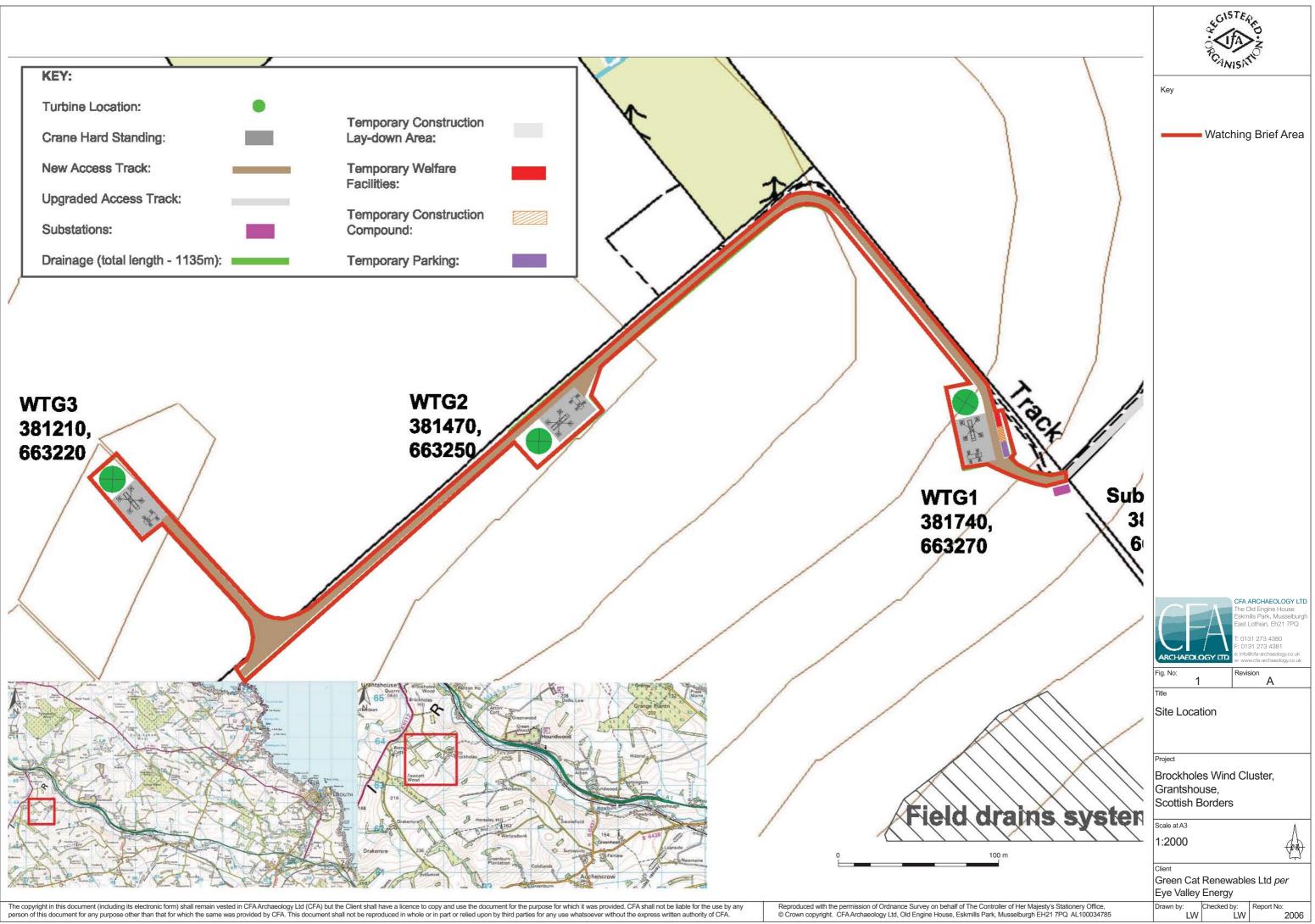




Fig. 2 - Access road facing southwest



Fig. 3 - Stripped area around Wind Turbine 1, north west facing



Fig. 4 - Stripped area around Wind Turbine 2, south west facing

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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

The Old Engine House Eskmills Business Park Musselburgh East Lothian EH21 7PQ

Tel: 0131 273 4380 Fax: 0131 273 4381 email: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	Alison McCaig MA & Jamie Lewis BSc, MA
Illustrator	Leeanne Whitelaw BSc MIfA
Editor	Bruce Glendinning BSc Pg Dip MIfA
Commissioned by	Green Cat Renewables Ltd per Eye Valley Energy
Date issued	October 2012
Version	0
OASIS Reference	cfaarcha1-117943
Planning Ref No.	09/00516/FUL
Grid Ref	NT 81458 63282

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

Brockholes Wind Cluster Grantshouse, Scottish Borders

Archaeological Works

Report No. 2006

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Fig.1	Site location
Fig.2	Access road facing southwest
Fig.3	Stripped area around Wind Turbine 1 northwest facing
Fig.4	Stripped area of Wind Turbine 2 southwest facing

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of archaeological work undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) from between January and September 2012 at Brockholes Wind Cluster (Fig.1, NGR: NT 81458 63282). The work was commissioned by Green Cat Renewables Ltd on behalf of Eye Valley Energy.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 08 July 2011 was produced by CFA. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of the Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist.

1.2 Background

Planning permission has been granted for the construction of wind turbines at Brockholes, Grantshouse, Scottish Borders (NGR: NT 81458 63282). The planning permission was subject to a condition requiring the erection of fencing around a cropmark settlement at Brockholes (NMRS no. NT86SW 64: NGR NT 81809 63529). An archaeological watching brief was also required during all ground breaking works for the construction of the turbines including, but not limited to, the turbine bases, access road, cabling, and other associated infrastructure.

A separate evaluation was undertaken on the grid connection for the site which was covered by a Form B application and the report on this was provided under a separate cover (Suddaby 2012).

1.3 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 including, but not limited to, borrow pits, access tracks, construction compounds and turbine bases.
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording, and produce a report on them.
- To identify and mark off a cropmark settlement at Brockholes (NMRS no. NT86SW 64: NGR NT 81809 63529) with high visibility fencing.

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 Site Demarcation

The terms of the WSI required that the cropmark settlement at Brockholes was demarcated (NMRS no. NT86SW 64: NGR NT 81809 63529). Its precise location was determined by obtaining copies of the available aerial photographs from RCAHMS and rectifying them to define a site boundary. The site lay wholly within a field that was outside of the development area and was surrounded by agricultural fencing. It was agreed with the Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist that this provided sufficient protection and that no further action was required.

2.3 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 using a mechanical digger with a straight-edged bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

The ground breaking works consisted of the excavation of a 4-5m wide access track, and the topsoil removal for three wind turbine bases and crane pads.

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.

Access Track, Substation and Compound Area

The 4-5m wide access track (Fig.2) was stripped of topsoil to depth of 0.3m-0.4m to reveal the natural subsoil. The topsoil consisted of mid grey-brown sandy silt (001). The natural subsoil consisted of mid orange sandy silt with small sub-angular inclusions (002). The substation and compound areas exhibited the same stratigraphy

Wind Turbine Bases and Crane Pads

The base for the Wind Turbine 1 and its crane pad (Fig.3) was stripped of topsoil to a depth of 0.3m to reveal the natural subsoil and the base covered an area of approximately $1800m^2$. The topsoil (**001**) was dark sandy silt with frequent small-

medium stones. The natural subsoil (002) consisted of orange brown sandy gravel with angular and sub-angular stones.

The base for the Wind Turbine 2 and its crane pad (Fig.4) was stripped of topsoil to a depth of 0.3m to reveal the natural subsoil. The topsoil (**001**) was brown sandy silt with frequent small-medium stones. The natural subsoil (**002**) consisted of orange brown sandy gravel with angular and sub-angular stones.

The base for the Wind Turbine 3 and its crane pad was stripped of topsoil to a depth of 0.35m to reveal the natural subsoil and the area of the base covered approximately $1550m^2$. The topsoil (**001**) was dark sandy silt with frequent small-medium stones. The natural subsoil (**002**) consisted of orange brown sandy gravel with angular and sub-angular stones.

4. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was carried out during ground works for the Brockholes Wind Cluster (NGR: NT 81458 63282), Grantshouse, Scottish Borders.

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).

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.

5. **REFERENCES**

Suddaby, I 2012 Brockholes Wind Cluster Grid Connection, Grantshouse, Scottish Borders Archaeological Evaluation CFA Technical Report No. 2025

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Description	
001	Topsoil – 0.3-0.4m mid grey-brown sandy silt, firm with 5% small sub-angular to	
	angular inclusions	
002	Natural Subsoil – mid orange sandy silt with 50-80% small-medium angular	
	inclusions, grades to coarse angular gravel and reddish orange clay silt in places	

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Number	Description	From	Conditions
1	Working shot, near T3	-	Sun
2	Post-excavation general shot, crane hard standing (T3) and access track	SE	Sun
3	Working shot at turning point? Near T3	NW	Sun
4	Working shot, access track between T2 and T3	NE	Overcast
5-6	Working shot, access track after T2	SW	Low sun
7	Working shot, access track north of T1	SW	Dull
8-9	Working shot, crane hard standing (T1)	Ν	Sun
10	Post-excavation shot, crane hard standing (T1)	SW	Sun
11-12	WTG3 area stripped to subsoil	SW	Sun
13-14	WTG3 stripped area	WSW	Sun
15-16	WTG3 stripped area	NE	Sun
17-19	WTG2 stripped	SE	Dull
20	Detail of exposed natural at WTG1	SE	Sun
21	Post-ex of WTG1	SE	Sun
22	Post-ex of WTG1	NE	Sun

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and	l Excavation in Scotland Entry
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LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Brockholes Wind Cluster, Grantshouse, Scottish Borders
PROJECT CODE:	BROW
PARISH:	Coldingham
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jamie Lewis
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	-
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NT 81458 63282
START DATE (this season)	January 2012
END DATE (this season)	4 th September 2012
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 construction of the Brockholes Wind Cluster. 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:	Eye Valley Energy
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) Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service (report)