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Wind Turbine Installation – Newbigging Farm, Montrose, Angus

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 2043

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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

Wind Turbine Installation – Newbigging Farm, Montrose, Angus

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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) on 10 April 2012 at land 280m south of Newbigging Farm, Montrose (NGR: NO 69660 59452, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mark Abbott.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 30 March 2012 was produced by CFA on behalf of Mr Mark Abbott. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS).

1.2 Background

Planning permission (Ref. 11/01175/FUL) has been granted for the erection of a single turbine situated 280m south of Newbigging Farm, Montrose. The planning permission was subject to a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief during all ground breaking operations.

Three Scheduled Monuments are situated in the vicinity of the turbine site, all of which are crop mark sites indicating prehistoric settlement.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the watching brief were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological features or deposits during ground breaking and to mitigate any impact on those features or deposits as identified.

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 WSI.

2.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

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

The ground breaking works consisted of the excavation of a square area, for the turbine base, measuring 6m by 6m to a maximum depth of 1.1m and a cable trench, measuring 0.4m in width by 220m in length by 0.8m deep. Prior to the start of groundbreaking works, the Scheduled Monuments in the vicinity of the turbine site were located and demarcated with canes and bunting.

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 turbine base area was excavated to a depth of 1.1m (Fig. 2). Topsoil (**001**) had a depth of 0.4m and it overlay an orange-brown sandy subsoil (**002**) with a depth of 0.2m-0.9m, increasing in depth to the south (Fig. 2). The natural subsoil (**003**) consisted of a creamy-orange and creamy-yellow sand.

The cable trench, 0.4m wide by 220m in length, was excavated to a depth of 0.8m (Fig. 3). Topsoil (**001**) with a depth of 0.4m overlay an orange-brown subsoil (**002**) of similar depth. Natural sand (**003**) was exposed in the base of the trench.

There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified. The deep soils exposed in the south of the turbine base did not appear to lie within an archaeological feature.

4. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was carried out during ground works for the erection of a new wind turbine at Newbigging Farm, Montrose, Angus. 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 Aberdeenshire 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 No.	Description
001	Topsoil
002	Natural subsoil

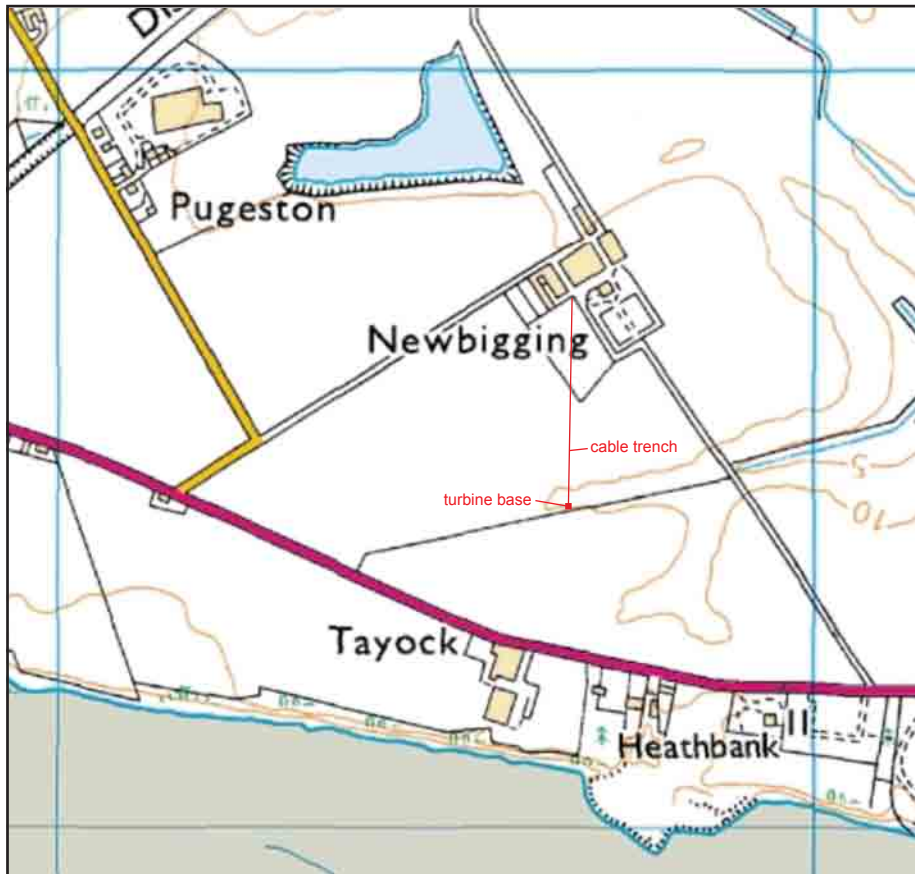
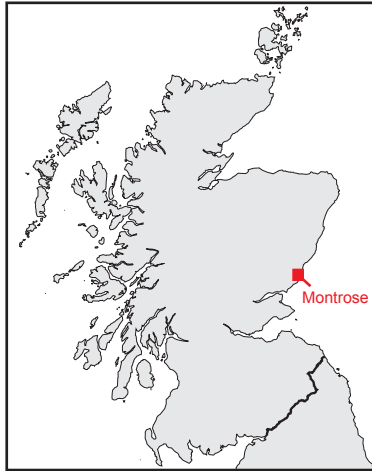
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digital Images

Photo No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	Turbine base, post-excavation	N	Overcast
2	Turbine base, post-excavation, showing angle of the topsoil	W	Overcast
3	Turbine base, north facing section showing topsoil depth	N	Overcast
4	Turbine base, south facing section showing topsoil depth and subsoil	S	Overcast
5	East facing section of cable trench	E	Overcast
6	Cable trench, post-excavation, from the turbine base looking north towards farmhouse	S	Overcast
7	Cable trench, post-excavation, from the turbine base looking north towards the end of the trackway	S	Overcast

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Angus
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Wind Turbine Installations – Newbigging Farm, Montrose, Angus
PROJECT CODE:	NEWF
PARISH:	Montrose
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alison McCaig
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NO 69660 59452
START DATE (this season)	April 2012
END DATE (this season)	April 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 erection of a wind turbine at land 280m south of Newbigging Farm, Montrose. 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:	Mark Abbott
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) Aberdeenshire Sites and Monuments Record (report)



Key:



Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: Mark Abbott

Title: Site location map

Project: Wind Turbine Installation, Newbigging Farm, Montrose, Angus

Scale: 1:10000@ A4

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Drawn by: GC Checked: LW Report No: 2043



Fig. 2 Post-ex shot of turbine base from the west showing natural subsoil



Fig. 3 Post-ex shot of cable trench from the south

Key:	Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	Mark Abbott	 <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t:0131 273 4380 f:0131 273 4381 e:info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p>
	Title:						
Scale:	Project:	Wind Turbine Installation, Newbigging Farm, Montrose, Angus				Drawn by: GC Checked: LW Report No: 2043	