

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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## **Wind Turbines, Cousland Park Farm, Cousland, Midlothian**

### **Archaeological Monitored Strip**

**Report No. 2154**

## **CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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Grid Ref	NT 39025 68969

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

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Cousland, Midlothian**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of a monitored strip undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on 05 February 2013 at Cousland Park Farm, Cousland, Midlothian (NGR: NT 39025 68969, centred) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Gordon Hood of The Hood Partnership.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 28 January 2013 was produced by CFA and agreed by East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS), archaeological advisors to Midlothian Council.

### **1.2 Background**

Planning consent (Ref No.12/00123/DPP) was granted for the construction of two wind turbines at Cousland Park Farm, Cousland. Due to its location within an archaeologically sensitive area, a condition was attached to the consent and this required that an archaeological programme of works was undertaken for the excavation of the turbine bases.

### **1.3 Objectives**

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (monitored strip) to monitor all groundbreaking works at the turbine bases to ensure works are cleared of topsoil and other modern overburden to identify either undisturbed natural subsoil or archaeological features (whichever comes first).
- 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 Watching Briefs.

### **2.2 Monitored Strip**

Two turbine bases (Turbine 1 and Turbine 2, Fig. 1) were stripped of topsoil and checked for archaeological features.

Topsoil and modern overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed bucket. All groundbreaking work was carried out under

constant archaeological supervision. All further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the WSI was carried out by hand.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded, whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

#### **3.1 Desk-based assessment**

No sites are recorded within the development area by RCAHMS or by the East Lothian Council Historic Environment Record (HER).

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1854) depicts a track running through the locations for the two turbines. The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1895) shows that the track had been removed.

#### **3.2 Turbine 1 (Figs. 2 & 5)**

Turbine 1 was the easternmost of the two, and the area excavated measured 10m by 10m. The topsoil (**000**) was 0.3m thick and overlay 0.2m of subsoil (**004**); the natural geology comprised of sticky orange clay with fine gravels.

A linear ditch (**001**; Figs. 4 & 5), 2m wide and 0.6m deep, was aligned east-west. The ditch contained a fill (**002**) of sticky brown-grey clayey silt with frequent charcoal and small stone inclusions.

#### **3.3 Turbine 2 (Figs. 3 & 5)**

Turbine 2 was situated to the west of Turbine 1. The excavated area measured 10m by 9m. The topsoil (**000**) was 0.3m thick and overlay 0.2m of subsoil (**005**), below which was the natural geology.

A linear ditch (**003**; Fig. 5), 2m wide, was aligned east-west and contained a fill (**004**) of sticky brown-grey clayey silt with frequent charcoal and small stone inclusions. A ceramic field drain pipe was discovered within the ditch. Whilst the pipe is at the centre of the ditch, it is somewhat above the base of the ditch and thus may be a later insertion into the backfill, of the ditch. Given that the linear ditch (**003**) is probably the same as the linear ditch (**001**) at Turbine 1 and that no pipe was found within the ditch fill at Turbine 1, it seems most probable that the pipe within the ditch at Turbine 2 is not contemporary with the original ditch cut, but rather represents a fortuitous or deliberate insertion at a location that may have been visible as a linear hollow on the ground surface or as less firmly packed ground.

A further field drain, aligned north-south, was present at a shallower depth at the western end of the trench.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The excavations for the two turbine bases exposed two portions of a single ditch which run along the same alignment as a track depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1854). It is, therefore, considered most likely that the ditch ran alongside the track to act as a drainage feature. The track had fallen out of use by the time that the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1895) was surveyed. No trace of the track was discovered.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 4).

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with RCAHMS and copies of reports will be lodged with the Midlothian Council Sites and Monuments Record.

#### APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Description
000	Topsoil
001	Cut of ditch, 2m wide and c.0.6m deep
002	Fill of 001, sticky brown-grey clayey silt with charcoal and small stone inclusions
003	Cut of ditch, 2m wide and c.0.6m deep
004	Fill of 003, sticky brown-grey clayey silt with charcoal and small stone inclusions
005	Subsoil

#### APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

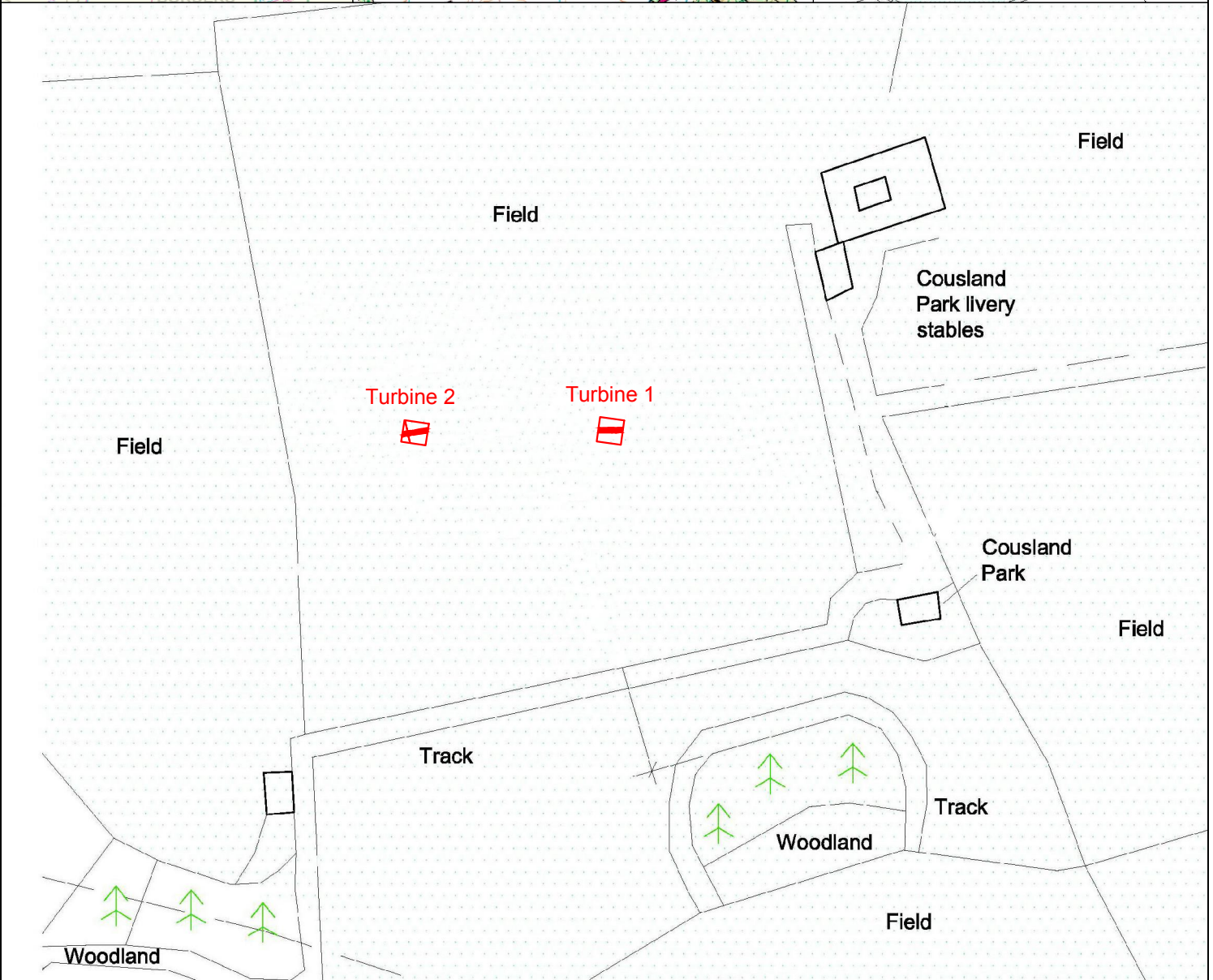
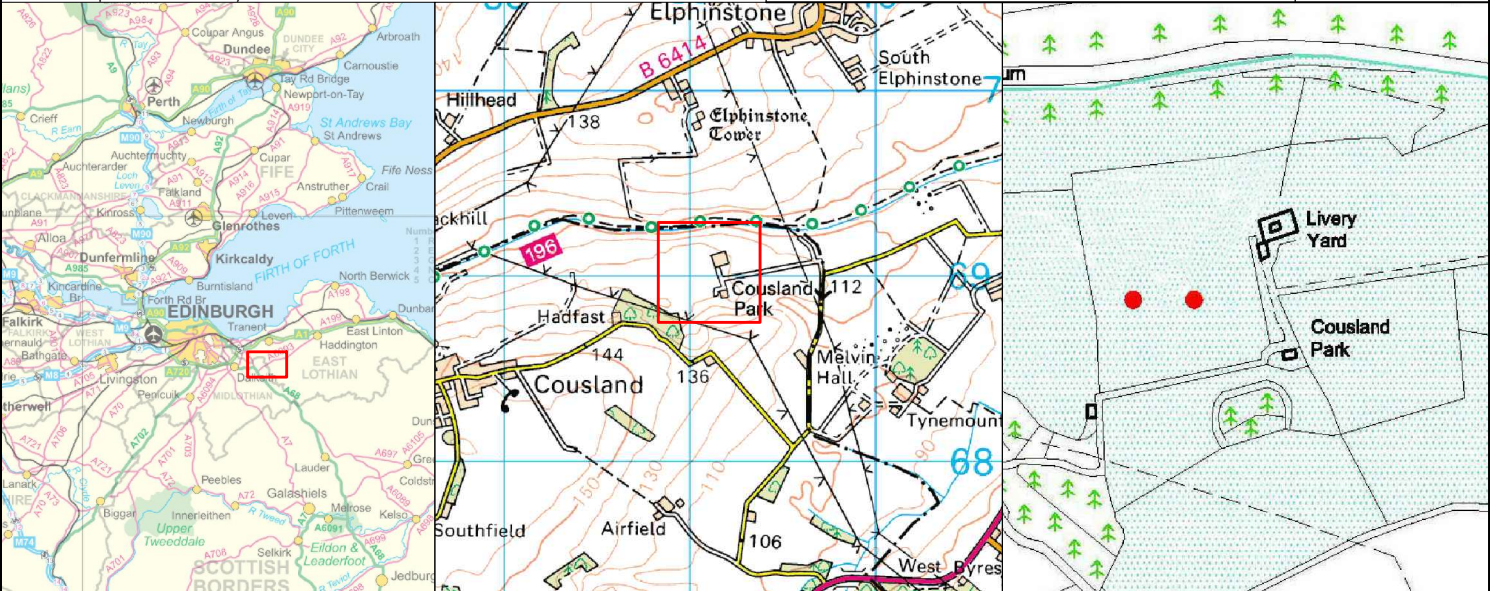
No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	Cut 001 West-Facing Section	W	OC
2-3	Turbine Base 1	W	OC
4	Turbine Base 2	W	OC
5	Cut 003 section showing modern water pipe truncation	W	OC

#### APPENDIX 3: Drawing Register


Drawing No.	Description	Scale
1	001 West-Facing Section	1:10
2	Turbine Base 1 plan	1:50
3	Turbine Base 2 plan	1:50

## APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry


<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Midlothian
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Cousland Park Farm, Cousland, Midlothian
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	COUS
<b>PARISH:</b>	Cranston
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	James Lewis
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Monitored Strip
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Late Post-Medieval Ditch
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)</b>	NT 39025 68969
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> February 2013
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> February 2013
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	N/A
<b>MAIN DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<b>(NARRATIVE)</b> An archaeological monitored strip was undertaken at the site of two turbines which were located along the line of a track depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1854) but no on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1895). A ditch was found, which appears most likely to have functioned as a drain that ran alongside the track, but no trace of the track itself was found.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	N/A
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	The Hood Partnership
<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</b> (intended/deposited)	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland Midlothian Council Sites and Monuments Record



Key:



Scale at A4: 1:2500

Fig No: 1	Revision: A	Client: The Hood Partnership
Title: Site Location Plan		
		
Project: Wind Turbines, Cousland Park Farm		



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Drawn by: TB	Checked: KH	Report No: 2154
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Fig. 2 - Turbine Base 1, looking E



Fig. 3 - Turbine Base 2, looking E



Fig. 4 - Cut 001 section, facing W

Fig. No: <b>2-4</b>		Revision: <b>A</b>	Project: <b>Wind Turbines, Cousland Park Farm</b>
Drawn by: <b>TB</b>	Checked: <b>KH</b>	Report No: <b>2154</b>	Client: <b>The Hood Partnership</b>

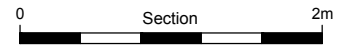
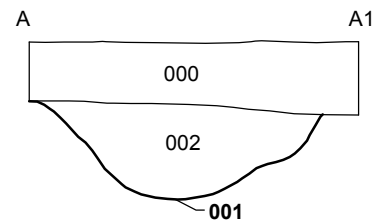
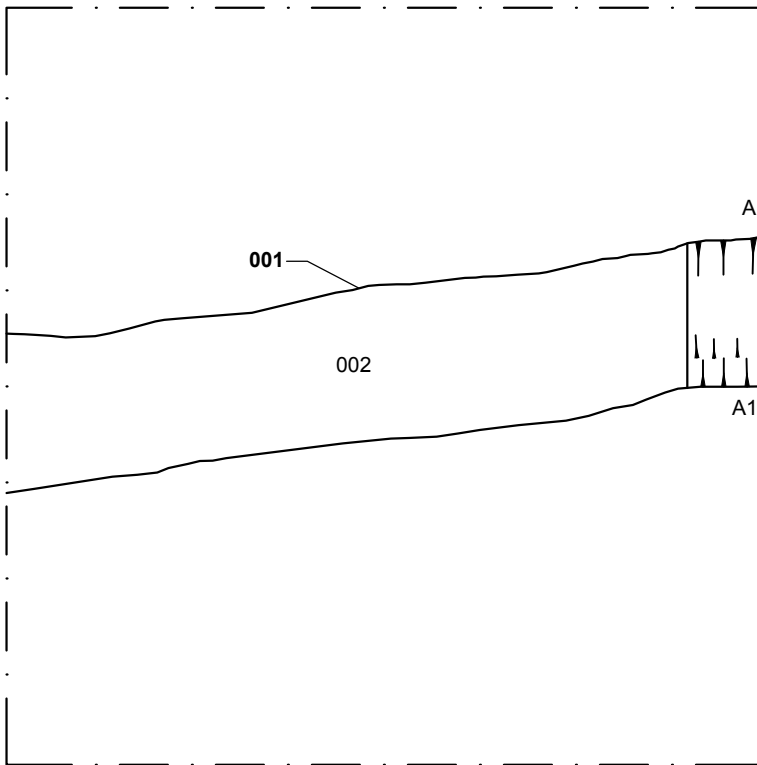
REGISTERED ORGANISATION

**CFA**  
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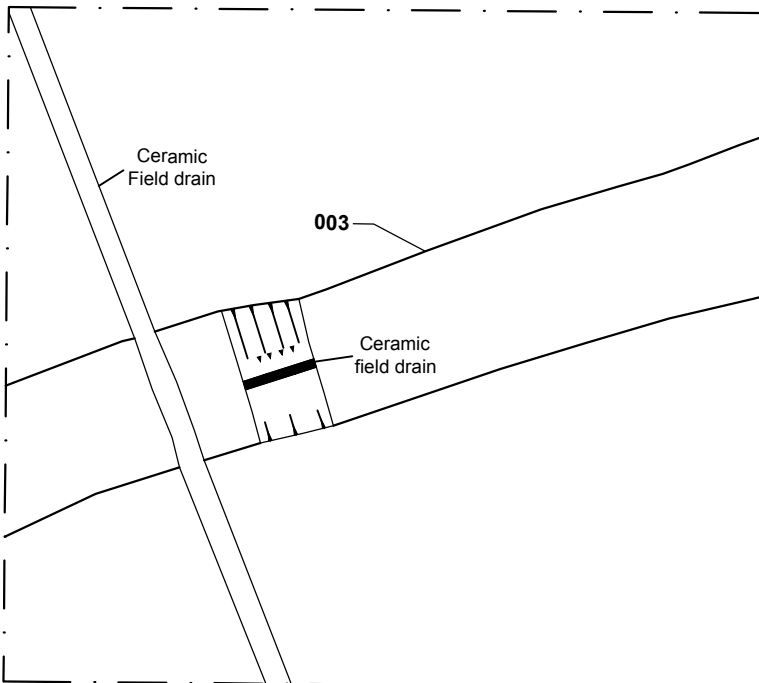
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Plan of Turbine Base 1



Plan of Turbine Base 2

Key:



Fig No: 5 Revision: A Client: The Hood Partnership

Title: Plans and section of Wind Turbine Bases

Project: Wind Turbines, Cousland Park Farm

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Scale at A4:  
Plans, 1:100, Section, 1:50

Drawn by: TB Checked: KH Report No: 2154