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**Wind Turbines,
Wheatrig Farm,
Kilmaurs, North Ayrshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3044

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 01 July and 04 July 2013 on land at Wheatrig Farm, Kilmaurs, North Ayrshire (NS 39765 42605) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Arcus Renewable Energy Consulting Ltd (Arcus).

A Method Statement dated August 2012 was produced by Arcus. The Method Statement was designed to fulfil the requirements of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).

1.2 Background

Planning permission (Ref: N/11/00572/PP) has been granted for the construction of two wind turbine, with associated access track and crane pads, situated on land at Wheatrig Farm, Kilmaurs. The planning permission was subject to a condition requiring the monitoring of groundbreaking during construction by way of an archaeological watching brief.

The site at Wheatrig Farm comprises mixed (arable and pastoral) farmland. The WoSAS and Canmore online resources show no known historical or archaeological sites or findspots within the development footprint. The closest known non-designated heritage feature is a Lime Kiln, which is depicted on the first edition OS map at the adjacent Wheatrig Farmstead.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the watching brief were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological features or deposits during groundbreaking 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 approved Method Statement.

2.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

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

The ground breaking works consisted of the excavation of two square areas, each measuring 25m by 25m, and an access track measuring 350m by 4.5m.

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 access track measured 350m in total length by 4.5m wide. Topsoil was up to 0.4m deep, over stony orange-brown silt natural **(002)** (Fig. 2). Evidence of rig-and-furrow was observed along the length of the access trackway, orientated roughly N-S. Furrows were 1.4m wide with a wavelength of approximately 5m. Example sections excavated (Fig. 3) indicated that the cuts **(003)** were shallow, up to 0.18m deep, and filled with a loose, mid greyish-brown sandy silt **(004)**. No artefacts were recovered from the fills.

The W turbine base was situated in a pasture field almost on the crest of the hill facing east, and was stripped of topsoil **(001)** to a depth of 0.25m to reveal stony orange-brown silt natural **(002)** (Fig. 4).

The E turbine base was situated in a pasture field almost on the crest of the hill facing east, and was stripped of topsoil **(001)** to a depth of 0.3m. The underlying natural **(002)** was the same as at the W turbine.

All monitored areas were stripped to expose natural substrate. No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified.

4. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was carried out during ground works for the construction of two turbines on land at Wheatrig Farm, Kilmaurs.

All monitored areas were stripped to expose natural substrate. There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified during the watching brief. Evidence for cultivation furrows was recorded along the access track.

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 West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

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

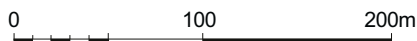
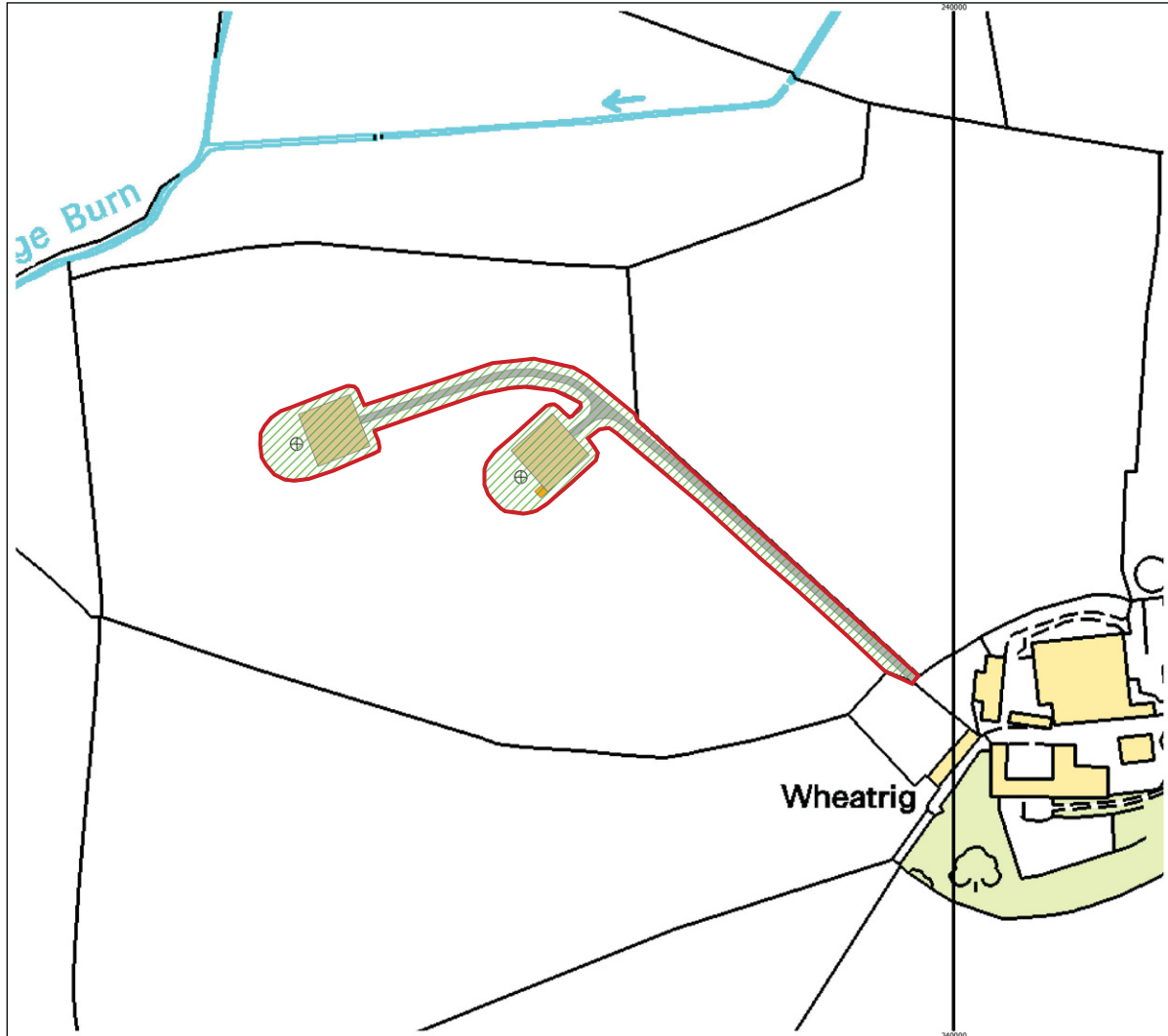
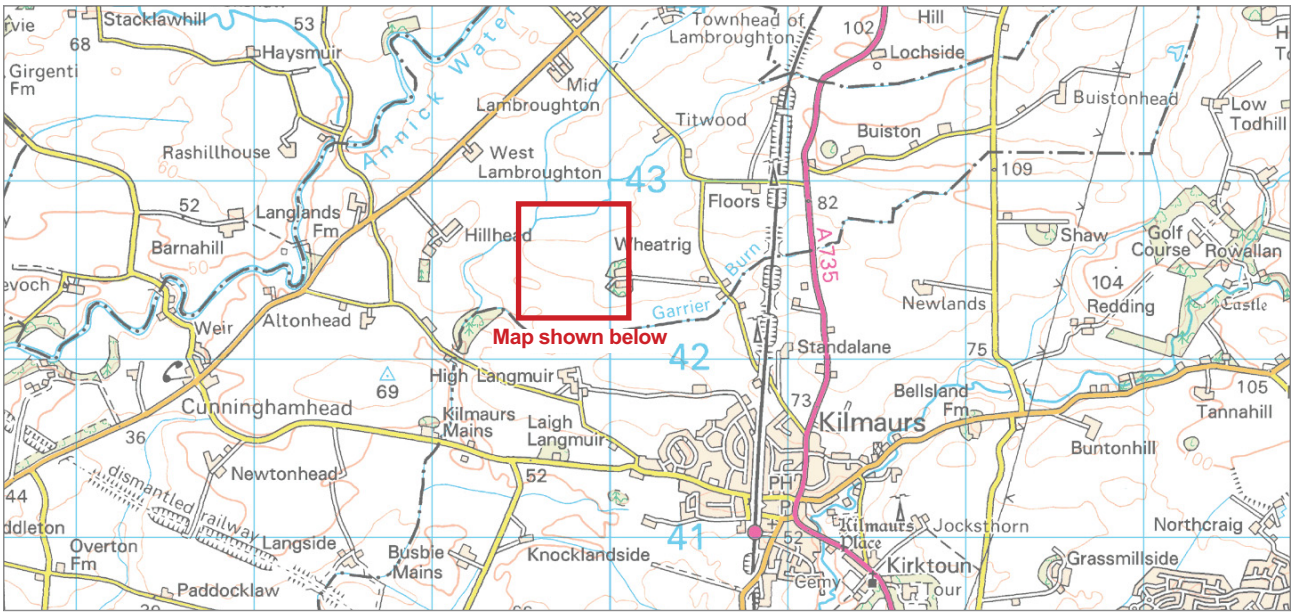
Context No.	Description
001	Topsoil
002	Subsoil- Orange brown silty clay
003	Cut of Furrow
004	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt

APPENDIX 2: Digital Photographic Register

Photo No.	Description	Taken From	Conditions
1	General shot over access track	E	Sunshine and Showers
2	SE Facing Sect Ridge and Furrow	SE	Overcast
3	General shot of W turbine pad	NW	Overcast
4	General shot of access track	E	Raining
5	General shot of access track	W	Raining
6	General shot of W turbine pad	N	Raining
7	General shot of access track	W	Raining
8	General shot of E turbine pad	S	Overcast

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Wind Turbines, Wheatrig Farm, Kilmaurs, North Ayrshire
PROJECT CODE:	WHEA
PARISH:	Dreghorn
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Andrew Brown
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)	NS 39765 42605
START DATE (this season)	July 2013
END DATE (this season)	July 2013
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 two wind turbines on land at Wheatrig Farm, Kilmaurs. 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:	Arcus Renewable Energy Consulting Ltd
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 Sites and Monuments Record (report)



- ⊕ Turbines
- Area of Watching Brief

Key:



Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: ARCUS Renewable Energy Consulting Ltd

Title: Site Location Map

Project: Wind Turbine Development, Wheatrig Farm, Kilmaurs

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Scale at A4: Main map, 1:4000

Drawn by: TB Checked: AB Report No: 3044



Fig. 2 - General shot looking west of topsoil strip of access track



Fig. 3 - SE-facing section of cultivation furrow



Fig. 4 - General shot of W turbine pad

Fig. No: 2-4		Revision: A	Project: Wind Turbine Development, Wheatrig Farm, Kilmaurs
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