

CFA Archaeology Ltd

archaeological consultants

Advice on Archaeology & Planning

Environmental Impact Assessment

Interpretation, Design & Display

Finds/ Environmental Analysis

Field Evaluation & Excavation

Historic Building Recording


Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**Wind Turbine
Clayfords Farm
Strichen, Aberdeenshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3244

 0131 273 4380

 0131 273 4381

 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

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	Gary Savory MA
Illustrator	Leeanne Whitelaw BSc MCifA
Editor	Melanie Johnson MA PhD MCifA
Commissioned by	Triodos Renewables (Clayfords) Limited
Date issued	January 2015
Version	0
OASIS Reference	cfaarcha1-198915
Planning Application No	APP/2010/0175
Grid Ref	NJ 96246 55827

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

**Wind Turbine
Clayfords Farm
Strichen, Aberdeenshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3244

CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	4
3.	Archaeological Results	5
4.	Conclusion and Recommendations	5

Appendices

1.	Photographic Register	6
2.	Context Register	6
3.	Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry	7

Illustrations (bound at rear)

Fig. 1 Location map showing area monitored

Fig. 2 Access track to turbine

Fig. 3 Turbine base and hardstanding area

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken between July and November 2014 during ground-works for a single wind turbine at Clayfords Farm, near Strichen, Aberdeenshire (NGR: NJ 96246 55827, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Triodos Renewables (Clayfords) Limited.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 8 October 2013 for this programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of Triodos Renewables (Clayfords) Limited. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service.

1.2 Background

Planning Permission (APP/2010/0175) has been granted for the construction of an 80m to blade tip wind turbine along with associated crane pad, substation and control kiosk at Clayfords Farm. The planning permission was subject to an archaeological condition requiring a watching brief on the ground-works.

The turbine location is approximately 270m north of Clayfords Farm on agricultural land which slopes gently to the south.

There are no known archaeological sites within the immediate vicinity of the development site. However, within the wider area there is evidence of prehistoric activity. A possible ring-ditch has been identified from aerial photographs located to the north-west of the development area (NMRS No. NJ95NE 0077). A possible Bronze Age burial (NMRS No. NJ95NE 4) is located 1km north-east of the turbine site.

The majority of sites within close proximity to the development site relate to the 18th/19th century agricultural improvements and consist of farmsteads. The only other close site of note is the Mormon Hill White Horse (NMRS No. NJ95NE 6) which is the figure of a horse formed of quartz stones and completed in the late 18th century.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (monitored strip) to monitor groundbreaking works to ensure works were cleared of tosoil and other modern overburden to identify either undisturbed natural subsoil or archaeological features.
- 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.

2.2 Watching Brief

Soil stripping for the wind turbine was carried out using a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. This operation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

The area monitored consisted of a 20m diameter circle centred on the turbine location and a c.30m by 20m area for hardstanding and a crane pad (Fig. 3). Also monitored was approximately 300m of access track which consisted of widening of the previous track (Fig. 2).

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

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

The deposits across the area consisted of up to 0.6m of brown clayey-silt topsoil (001) overlying light-brown sandy-clay natural (002).

No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An archaeological watching-brief was carried out during ground-works for a single wind turbine and associated infrastructure at Clayfords Farm. No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified during the watching brief.

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

A summary statement to be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) will be sufficient to disseminate the results of this programme of works. An OASIS Scotland entry will also be completed.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

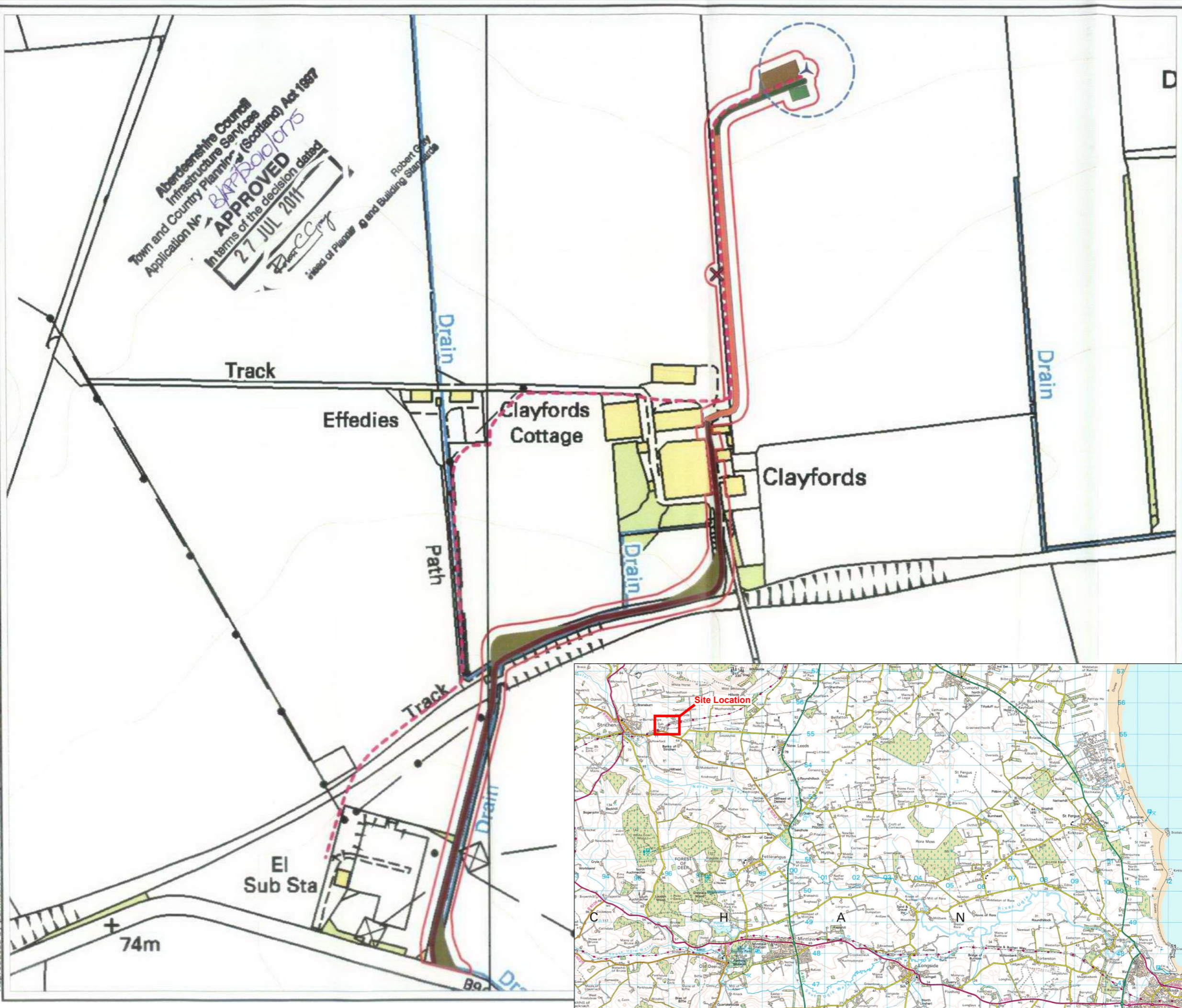
Number	Description	From
1	General view at permanent turbine area, stripped	S
2	General view at permanent turbine area, stripped	N
3-4	Turbine base and hard stand	NE
5-6	Access track to base	E
7-8	Turbine base and hard stand	NE

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context	Description
001	Brown, clayey silt
002	Light brown sandy clay natural

APPENDIX 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeenshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Wind Turbine, Clayfords Farm, Strichen, Aberdeenshire: Archaeological Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	GREP
PARISH:	Strichen
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Gary Savory
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	NJ 96246 55827
START DATE (this season)	July 2014
END DATE (this season)	November 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching-brief was carried out during ground-works for a single wind turbine and associated infrastructure at Clayfords Farm. No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified during the watching brief.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Triodos Renewables (Clayfords) Limited
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	RCAHMS Aberdeenshire Council Sites and Monuments Record (Report)



Aberdeenshire Council
Infrastructure Services (Scotland) Act 1997
Application No. **B177/2010/075**
APPROVED
In terms of the decision dated
27 JUL 2011
Head of Planning and Building Standards

Key

- Site boundary
- Turbine location
- New access track
- Upgraded access track
- Existing access track
- Hardstanding
- Control building
- Track widening
- Grid connection route
- Permanent met mast

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
Old Engine House
Eskmills Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
T: 0131 273 4380
F: 0131 273 4381
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Fig. No:	1	Report:	3244
----------	---	---------	------

Title
Location map showing area monitored

Project
**Wind Turbine
Clayfords Farm, Strichen
Aberdeenshire**

Client
**Triodos Renewables
(Clayfords) Limited**

Scale at A3
1:3,000

Drawn by:	Checked by:	Date:
LW	MJ	05/01/15

Reproduced with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh EH21 7PQ. AL100034785

The copyright in this document (including its electronic form) shall remain vested in CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) but the Client shall have a licence to copy and use the document for the purpose for which it was provided. CFA shall not be liable for the use by any person of this document for any purpose other than that for which the same was provided by CFA. This document shall not be reproduced in whole or in part or relied upon by third parties for any use whatsoever without the express written authority of CFA.





Fig. 2 - Access track to turbine



Fig. 3 - Turbine base and hard standing area



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
 Old Engine House
 Ekmills Park
 Musselburgh
 East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
 T: 0131 273 4380
 F: 0131 273 4381
 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Title:	Fig. 2 - 3	Report: 3244	Drawn: LW	CKD: MJ	Date: 05/01/15
	Client: Triodos Renewables (Clayfords) Limited				
Project: Wind Turbine Clayfords Farm, Strichen, Aberdeenshire					

