

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

Neart Na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm Onshore piling test site selection, Newbigging Farm, Midlothian

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3198

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 | Ewan MacNeilage MA |
| Illustrator | Leeanne Whitelaw BSc MifA |
| Editor | Bruce Glendinning BSc PgDip MifA |
| Commissioned by | Mainstream Renewable Power Ltd |
| Date issued | August 2014 |
| Version | 0 |
| Grid Ref | NJ 2790 6051 |

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

**Neart Na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm
Onshore piling test site selection,
Newbigging Farm, Midlothian
Archaeological Watching Brief
Report No. 3198**

CONTENTS

| | | |
|----|------------------------|---|
| 1. | Introduction | 3 |
| 2. | Working Methods | 4 |
| 3. | Archaeological Results | 4 |
| 4. | Conclusion | 5 |
| 5. | References | 5 |

Appendices

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Photograph Register | 6 |
| 2. | Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry | 7 |

Figures (bound at rear)

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | Location of piling test sites |
| 2. | Temporary demarcation around cemetery |
| 3. | Starter pit for borehole 3.1a |
| 4. | Starter pit for borehole 3.1b |

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological work undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on 28 July 2014 during the site investigation works for a potential onshore piling site at Newbigging Farm in Midlothian (Fig.1), which will inform the piling strategy for the works required on the Neart na Gaoithe offshore wind farm. The work was commissioned by Mainstream Renewable Power Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CFA on behalf of Mainstream Renewable Power Ltd. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS) who provide archaeological services to Midlothian Council.

1.2 Background

A new offshore wind farm is being developed 30km off the coast of Torness in the outer Forth Estuary. During the construction planning process, a number of sites in Midlothian have been selected as potential onshore geological analogues for the proposed offshore development. Once the final site has been selected the developers will be able to test and refine the piling solutions to be used offshore. Site investigations were required to inform the final site selection.

Consultation with ELCAS identified that the location of the site investigations at Newbigging Farm were in an archaeologically sensitive area. Previous evaluation works by CFA (Kirby 2006) for a prior development uncovered a prehistoric cremation cemetery which lay c.50m from the area in which the site investigations were to take place. The cemetery site contained four inverted cremation urns and a number of small contemporaneous pits containing sherds of prehistoric pottery as well as fragments of cremated bone. As mitigation during the previous development the cremation cemetery was preserved in situ. To prevent any damage occurring to the cemetery during the site investigation works the area of the cemetery was cordoned off and the operatives involved in the site investigations were informed of the significance of the area. A watching brief was also requested on any ground breaking that was required apart from the actual borehole drilling.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works are

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) to monitor the site investigation operations.
- To ensure that heavy plant does not cross the site of the previously identified prehistoric cremation cemetery to prevent any damage to the buried remains in this location.

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 Demarcation of Cemetery

The cremation cemetery site was temporarily cordoned off with barrier tape, and a 5m buffer zone was established (Fig. 2). Using this method it was ensured that no ground breaking works would take place within this archaeologically sensitive zone or that no drilling machinery would operate or move within this area.

2.3 Archaeological Watching Brief

A watching brief was carried out on all ground breaking that was required apart from the actual borehole drilling. This amounted to the hand excavation of two starter pits that were dug to the level of the undisturbed natural subsoil. After that the boreholes were drilled with a drilling rig.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Starter Pit 3.1a (Fig. 3) measured 0.40m by 0.40m by 0.30m deep. It was excavated through one layer of firm topsoil onto stony boulder clay natural. No archaeological deposits or features were uncovered.

Starter Pit 3.1b (Fig. 4) measured 0.40m by 0.40m by 0.35m deep. It was excavated through one layer of firm topsoil onto stony boulder clay natural. No archaeological deposits or features were uncovered.

4. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of the starter pits for two boreholes. No archaeological features or deposits were identified.

This area of the cremation cemetery was temporarily cordoned off and a buffer was set up to protect the in-situ remains from being damaged by plant movement or excavation.

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 East Lothian 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 2).

5. REFERENCES

Kirby, M & Mitchell, S 2006. *Newbigging OCCS Extension, Midlothian*. CFA Archaeology

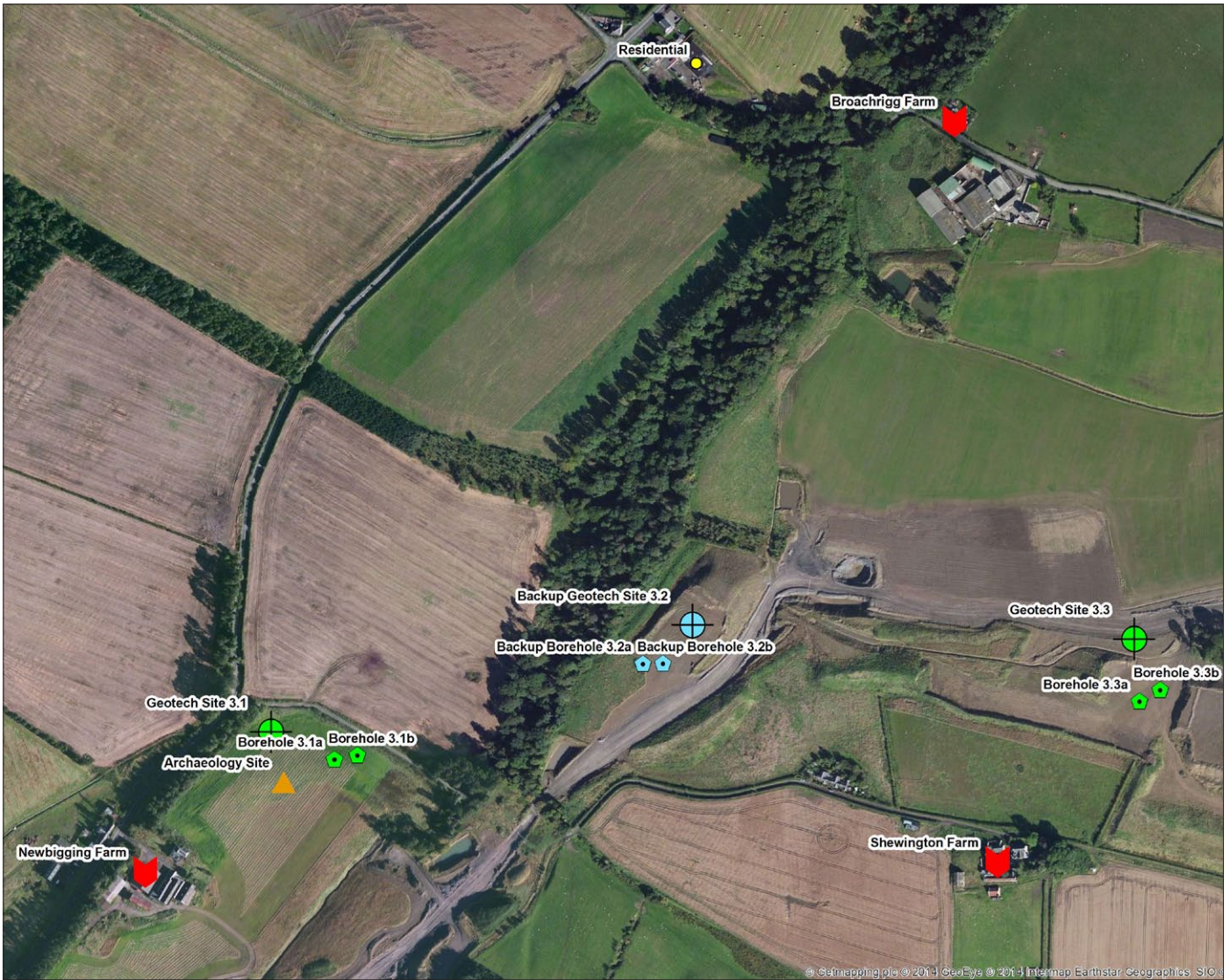
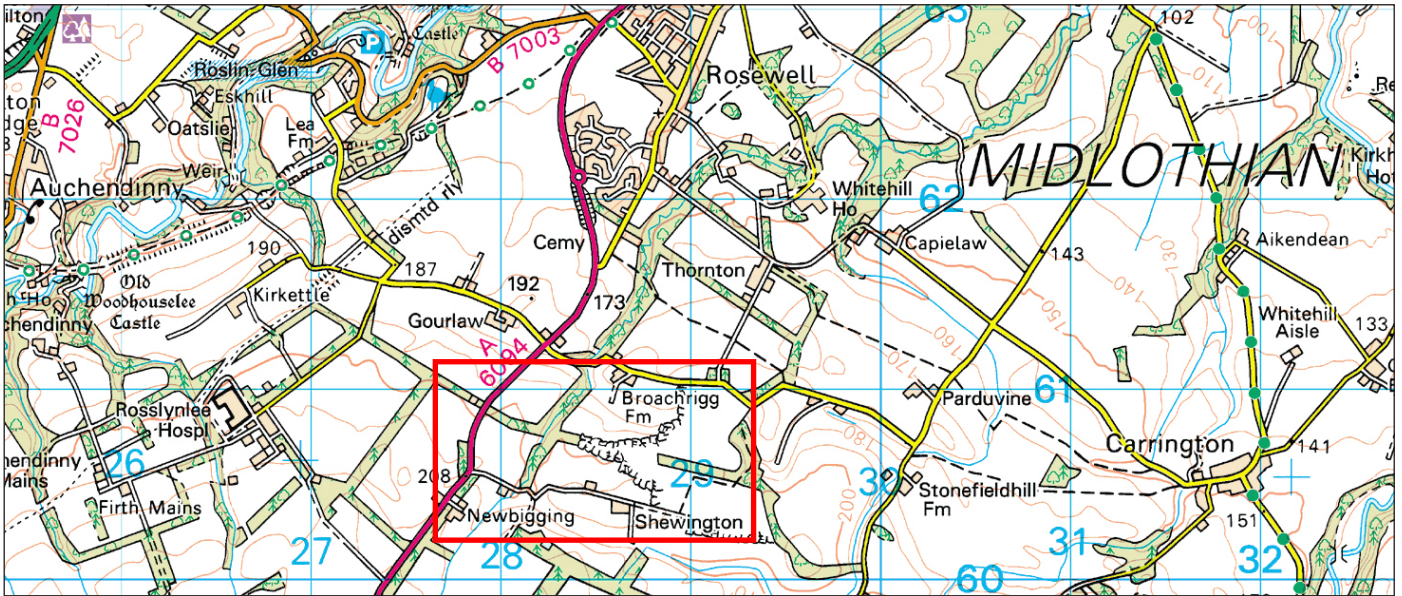
APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

| Photo No. | Description | Taken From: |
|------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | General view of site investigation area | SE |
| 2 | General view of site investigation area | SE |
| 3 | Starter Pit 3.1a | W |
| 4 | Starter Pit 3.1a | W |
| 5 | Starter Pit 3.1b | W |
| 6 | Starter Pit 3.1b | W |
| 7 | General view of cemetery area | SE |
| 8 | General view of cemetery area | SE |
| 9 | General view of cemetery area | SE |
| 10 | Working shot | W |

APPENDIX 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

| | |
|---|--|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | East Lothian Council Archaeology Service |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | Neart Na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm - Onshore piling test site Newbigging Farm site investigation |
| PROJECT CODE: | NEAG |
| PARISH: | Carrington |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Ewan MacNeilage |
| 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) | NJ 8836 0724 – NJ 8797 1075 |
| START DATE (this season) | July 2014 |
| END DATE (this season) | July 2014 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.) | N/A |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | <p>A new offshore wind farm is being developed 30km off the coast of Torness in the outer Forth Estuary. During the construction planning process, a number of sites in Midlothian were selected as potential onshore geological analogues for the proposed offshore development. Once the final site has been selected the developers will be able to test and refine the piling solutions to be used offshore. Site investigations were required to inform the final site selection.</p> <p>Consultation with ELCAS identified that the location of the site investigations at Newbigging Farm were in an archaeologically sensitive area. Previous evaluation works by CFA for a prior development uncovered a prehistoric cremation cemetery which lay c.50m from the area in which the site investigations were to take place. The cemetery contained four inverted cremation urns and a number of small contemporaneous pits containing sherds of prehistoric pottery as well as fragments of cremated bone. As mitigation during the previous development the cremation cemetery was preserved in situ. To prevent any damage occurring to the cemetery during the site investigation works the area of the cemetery was cordoned off and the operatives involved in the site investigations were informed of the significance of the area. A watching brief was also requested on any ground breaking that was required apart from the actual borehole drilling. No archaeologically significant features or deposits were discovered during the required excavations.</p> |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | N/A |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Mainstream Renewable Power 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) East Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record |
|---|--|



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: Location of Piling test sites | Fig. 1 | Report: 3198 | Drawn: LW | CKD: LW | Date: 21/08/14 |
| | Client: Mainstream Renewable Power Ltd | | | | |
| Project: Near Na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm Onshore piling test site selection, Newbigging Farm, Midlothian. Archaeological Watching Brief | | | | | |





Fig. 2 - Temporary demarcation around cemetery



Fig. 3 - Starter pit for borehole 3.1a



Fig. 4 - Starter pit for borehole 3.1b



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

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Title: Site Photographs | Fig. 2-4 | Report: 3198 | Drawn: LW | CKD: LW | Date: 21/08/14 |
| | Client: Mainstream Renewable Power Ltd | | | | |
| Project: Near Na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm Onshore piling test site selection, Newbigging Farm, Midlothian. Archaeological Watching Brief | | | | | |

