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Longpark Windfarm, Stow, Scottish Borders Archaeological Watching Brief

Report no. 1617

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**Longpark Windfarm, Stow,
Scottish Borders
Archaeological Watching Brief**

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Fig. 2 Site 29 from the east

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between October and February 2009 during the construction of Longpark Windfarm, Scottish Borders (NGR: NT 476 423 (centred); Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Wind Prospect Ltd.

1.1.2 The watching brief was requested by Scottish Borders Council, as advised by the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service (SBCAS). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the work was produced by CFA, based upon recommendations proposed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (ES) and those of Rory McDonald, former Archaeologist for the Scottish Borders Council.

1.1.3 Numbers in bold refer to individual sites as previously identified in the EIS (ibid). Numbers in bold prefixed by **T** refer to individual turbine locations.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

1.2.1 The primary objectives of the scheme of works were:

- The fencing off of building **29** to prevent accidental damage;
- To produce a photographic record of sites **13, 14, 15** and **22**;
- To conduct a watching brief during topsoil removal and groundbreaking in the areas of Borrow Pits A and B, and in the vicinity of proposed turbine locations **T2, T6, T8** and **T10** (Fig 2)

2. METHODS STATEMENT

2.1 General

2.1.1 CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.

2.1.2 All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms. Stratification was recorded even if no deposits of archaeological significance were discovered.

2.2 Photographic Survey

2.2.1 A digital and colour slide photographic record of Sites **13, 14, 15** and **22** was made using industry standard equipment and appropriate scales.

2.3 Marking off sites

2.3.1 The remains of a building (**29**) were fenced off to prevent any accidental damage. The features, and a suitable buffer around them, were marked out on the ground by CFA archaeologists. The fencing was erected around the marked area by the construction contractor. The fence was erected prior to construction in the vicinity of the site.

2.4 Watching brief

2.4.1 A watching brief was required on topsoiling / removal of overburden at Borrow Pits A and B and in the vicinity of Turbines **2, 6, 8** and **10**. During a monitoring visit, **T8** was found to have already been stripped of topsoil; instead, **T5** was monitored due to its proximity to Site **15**.

2.4.2 Groundbreaking work in the aforementioned areas was carried out by mechanical excavator under constant archaeological supervision.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Watching Brief

Borrow Pits A and B

3.1.1 Both Borrow Pits were monitored under watching brief conditions. The topsoil deposits at Borrow Pit B consisted of 0.2 to 0.3m of mid-brown silt. A number of east-west orientated rubble field drains were also noted. Topsoil deposits in the area of Borrow Pit A comprised 0.2m to 0.35m of loose mid-brown sandy silts. Both deposits overlay an orangey-brown, sandy gravel, with occasional small to large stone cobbles of mixed angularity also noted. This deposit comprised the underlying natural geology in these areas. No features of archaeological interest were recorded.

Turbine Locations

3.1.2 The removal of topsoil at turbine locations **T2, T5, T6,** and **T10** was monitored down to the underlying natural deposits. The depth of topsoil in these locations was on average c. 0.3m deep, with the exception of **T2** where the topsoil depth was recorded at 0.4-0.5m. The underlying natural comprised mainly of glacial deposits of boulder clay which varied in colour from a reddish-brown to light yellow and grey. A number of rubble filled field drains were uncovered; otherwise no features of archaeological interest were recorded.

3.2 Marking Off Sites

Site 29

- 3.2.1 The environmental impact assessment (ES) identified the remains of a possible building (Site **29**; NGR NT 4761 4203) which was likely to be disturbed by the construction of the access road between **T13** and **T9**.
- 3.2.2 Field reconnaissance had identified Site **29** as the remains of a possible two-compartment rectangular building approximately 17m by 6m ENE-WSW. The possible walls survived to a height of 0.2m and were defined as low turf and stone banks, amidst a concentration of stone clearance (Fig. 2).
- 3.2.3 To mitigate against the possible effects of the construction process within the vicinity of Site **29**, a buffer zone demarcated by temporary fencing was erected around the site. The potential for accidental damage to this site was further lessened by the re-routing of the access track between **T13** and **T9**.

3.3 Photographic Survey

- 3.3.1 A detailed photographic record of Sites **13**, **14**, **15** and **22** was required. The location of Site **13** was visited (NGR: NT 4880 4183); however no remains were visible within a 100m radius. A large clearance cairn or possible sheepfold was located at the edge of the field at NT 4170 4180 measuring 9m by 4m by 0.8m in height. The feature, seen as a mass of drystone material, appeared to be linked to the drystone wall. It is possible this feature is the sheepfold (Site **13**) as seen on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition.
- 3.3.2 Site **14**, the remains of a sheepwash, was located at NT 4668 4209. The site was photographed and appeared generally as described in the ES.
- 3.3.3 Site **15**, at NT 4676 4226 (centred), appeared as described and still in use and was photographed (Fig. 3).
- 3.3.4 The remains of a large spread of stone, generally as described in the ES, was interpreted as Site **22**, a sheepfold, at NT 4726 4237. The site was photographed.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 A watching brief was carried out during construction works at Longpark Windfarm. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded at any of the watching brief locations.
- 4.2 Site **29** was fenced off and the access track between **T13** and **T9** was re-routed to negate potential impact from windfarm construction.
- 4.3 The locations of Sites **13**, **14**, **15** and **22** were photographed (Appendix 1).
- 4.4 The archive from this element of the project, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the NMRS.
- 4.5 An entry in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2) and an online *OASIS Scotland* record will be sufficient to disseminate the results of this work.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital Photos

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1	Working shot of topsoil removal at Borrow Pit B	N	Sunny
2	General shot of Borrow Pit B after topsoil removal	N	Sunny
3	Working shot of topsoil removal at Borrow Pit B	E	Rain
4	General shot of Borrow Pit B after topsoil removal	E	Rain
5	General shot of Borrow Pit A location prior to topsoil removal	NE	Sunny
6	General shot of Borrow Pit A location prior to topsoil removal	NE	Sunny
7	General shot of Borrow Pit A during topsoil removal	NE	Sunny
8	Working shot of Borrow Pit A during topsoil removal	N	Sunny
9	Working shot of Borrow Pit A during topsoil removal	N	Sunny
10	Working shot of Borrow Pit A from a distance	SE	Sunny
11	General shot of Borrow Pit A location prior to topsoil removal	SE	Clear
12	General shot of Borrow Pit A location prior to topsoil removal	E	Clear
13	General shot of Borrow Pit A during topsoil removal	NE	Bright
14	General shot of Borrow Pit A during topsoil removal	NE	Bright
15	General shot of Borrow Pit A during topsoil removal	SE	Bright
16	Shot of possible building Site 29 near access track	E	Bright
17	Shot of possible building Site 29 near access track	W	Bright
18	The location of Site 13	N	Bright
19	A possible clearance cairn in the vicinity of Site 13	E	Bright
20	Working shot of partially excavated base for T2	S	Bright
21	Shot of Site 15	E	Sunny
22	Shot of Site 15	S	Sunny
23	Shot of Site 14	NW	Sunny
24	General shot of location of T6 after topsoil removal	S	Sunny
25	General shot of towards T6 after topsoil removal from Site 22	S	Sunny
26	Shot of Site 22	N	Sunny
27	Shot of Site 22	S	Sunny
28	Working shot of topsoil removal at T6	SE	Sunny
29	General shot of subsoil / natural deposits at T6	E	Clear
30	Working shot of topsoil removal at T5	N	Sunny
31	Working shot of topsoil removal at T5	N	Sunny
32	Working shot of topsoil removal at T5	N	Sunny
33	Working shot of topsoil removal at T10	SE	Failing Light
34	Working shot of topsoil removal at T10	SE	Failing Light

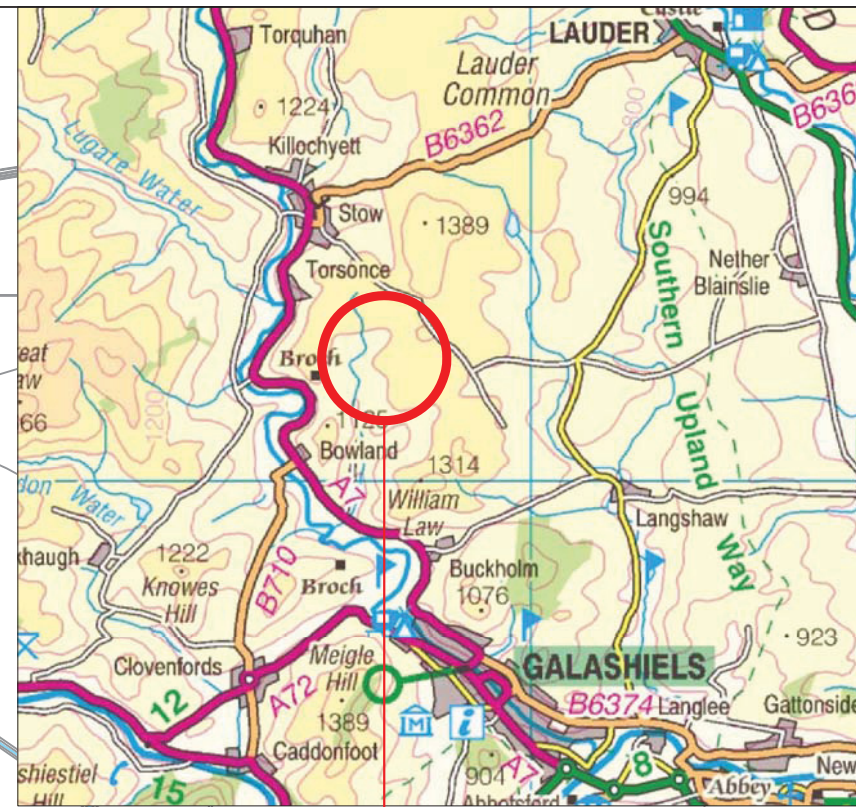
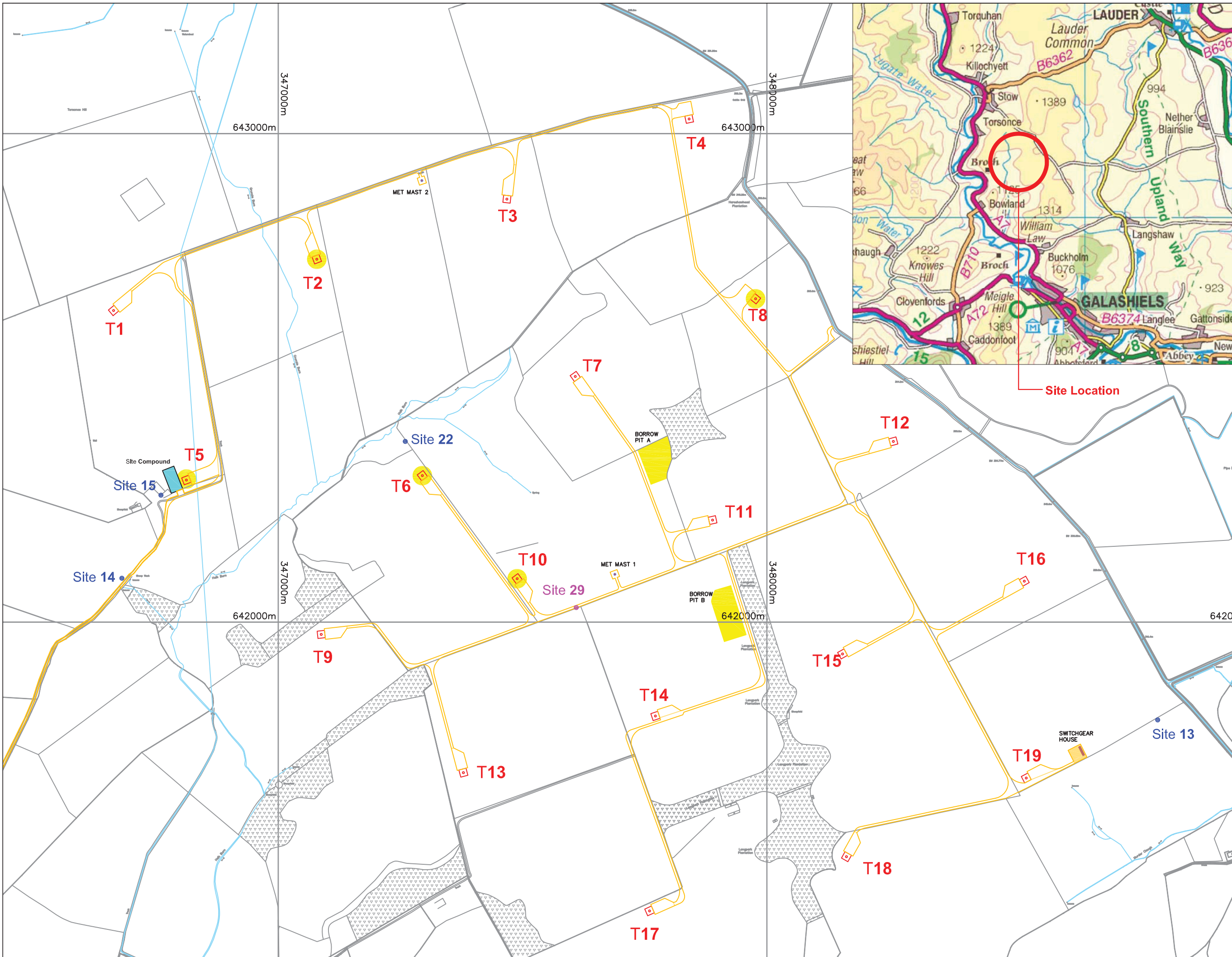
Colour Slide

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-2	Registration Shot	-	-
3-4	Shot of Site 29	E	Sunny
5-6	Shot of Site 29	W	Sunny
7-8	Shot of location of Site 13	N	Sunny
9-10	Possible clearance cairn in the vicinity of Site 13	E	Sunny
11-12	Post excavation shot of base for T2	S	Sunny
13-14	Shot of Site 15	E	Sunny
15-16	Shot of Site 15	S	Sunny
17-18	Shot of probable Site 14	NW	Sunny
19-20	Shot of Site 22	S	Sunny
21-22	Shot of Site 22	N	Sunny
23-24	Working shot of groundworks at T6	SE	Sunny
25-26	Working shot of groundworks at T6	E	Sunny
27-28	Working shot of groundworks at T6	E	Sunny

29-30	Working shot of groundworks at T6	NE	Sunny
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APPENDIX 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Longpark Wind farm Archaeological Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	LOPA
PARISH:	Stow
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Phil Moore
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Sheepfolds, building remains
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 figures)	NT 476 423
START DATE (this season)	November 2008
END DATE (this season)	February 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A targeted watching brief was undertaken by CFA Archaeology during groundbreaking operation at the site of Longpark Windfarm.</p> <p>Topsoil removal was monitored at two borrow pits and at four turbine locations. No archaeological features were discovered.</p> <p>In addition to the watching brief, the remains of a possible building, was demarcated and the access track re-routed to avoid accidental damage. A further 4 sites were photographed.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Wind Prospect Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, East Lothian. EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NMRS & SBCAS SMR



Site Location



- Key:
- Archaeological Mitigation
 - Photographic Record
 - Fenced off
 - Watching Brief
 - T1
 - Turbine Location
 - Access Track

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Fig. No:	1	Revision:	A
Title: Site Location showing areas of archaeological mitigation			
Project: Longpark Windfarm, Stow, Scottish Borders Archaeological Watching Brief			
Scale: 1:7000 @ A3			
Client: Wind Prospect Ltd			



Fig. 2 - Site 29 from the east



Fig. 3 - Site 15 from the south

Key:	Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	Wind Prospect Ltd
	Title:	Plates				
	Project:	Longpark Windfarm, Stow, Scottish Borders				
Scale:						 <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 w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p>
						Drawn by: LW