

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Site & Landscape Survey*

*Geophysical Survey*

**Carcant Windfarm  
Moorfoot Hills  
Scottish Borders**

**Archaeological Works**

**Report No. 1671**

## **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](mailto:info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk)  
web: [www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk](http://www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk)

Author	Magnus Kirby MA FSA Scot AIfA
Illustrator	Leeanne Whitelaw BSc MAAIS
Editor	Melanie Johnson MA PhD FSA Scot MIfA
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standard operating procedures.

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## **Illustrations (bound at rear)**

Fig. 1	Site location map
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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological works undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in June 2009 on the site of Carcant Wind Farm, Moorfoot Hills, Scottish Borders (NGR: NT 360 530 centred). The work was commissioned by Airtricity Holdings Ltd (Airtricity).
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 12 March 2009 for this programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of Airtricity. The WSI was based on the results of a reconnaissance survey carried out by CFA in September 2006 (Kirby 2006) and was designed to meet the requirements of the Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist.
- 1.1.3 Numbers in bold in the following text refer to sites identified during the reconnaissance survey (Kirby 2006). This report should be read in conjunction with that document.

### **1.2 Background**

- 1.2.1 The wind farm occupies the application area shown on Figure 1, which comprises gently undulating and steeply sloping partially improved farmland and conifer plantations. Altitude across the application area varies between 272m OD at the southern end of the site and 433m OD at the northern end of the site. The land-use over the application area is for the most part pasture grassland used for sheep and cattle grazing. Parts of the application area have been enclosed using fences and drystone walls.
- 1.2.2 The development comprises 3 wind turbines together with associated infrastructure features. The access to the wind farm is from a junction with the B7007, utilising and upgrading an existing farm track running alongside the Heckle Burn.
- 1.2.3 The reconnaissance survey carried out by CFA in 2006 (Kirby 2006) identified 10 sites within the proposed wind farm area. Those relevant to this programme of works consisted of a large irregular shaped enclosure (**2**), two cairns (**4** and **5**) and a slightly raised circular platform (**6**) of possible prehistoric date. A large gate-pillar (**1**) located within the site compound had no archaeological conditions attached, but was retained *in situ*.
- 1.2.4 A watching brief was carried out in November 2006 (White 2006) during the excavation of twelve test pits, carried out as part of ground investigation works in advance of the construction of the wind farm. Three test pits were excavated at each of the three turbine locations and also at the substation location. No archaeological finds or features were encountered.



## **1.2 Objectives**

1.3.1 The objective of the programme of works was to mark off Sites **2, 4, 5** and **6** prior to construction and to carry out watching briefs during ground works within the following locations:

- During ground breaking works for each of the three turbine locations (Turbine 1 – Turbine 3).
- During ground breaking works for the two borrow pits (BP1 and BP2) within the wind farm area.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

2.1 Sites **2, 4, 5** and **6** were marked off using wooden pegs, incorporating a buffer zone of not less than 20m.

2.2 The removal of topsoil was carried out using a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a smooth bladed ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Any further work required to fulfil the terms of the brief was carried out by hand.

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

2.4 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**

3.1 The fencing off of sites **2, 4, 5** and **6** meant that these features were unaffected by the programme of works.

3.2 Borrow Pit 2 measured c.100m by c.100m. The watching brief carried out during groundworks did not lead to the identification of any archaeological features. The deposits within this location consisted of c.0.2m topsoil overlying orange-grey gravelly sand subsoil. Field drains of the ceramic cylinder type were noted within the subsoil, indicating that this ground had been improved during the late 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century.

3.3 Borrow Pit 1 was not utilised and no groundbreaking works were undertaken.

3.4 CFA were not notified of groundbreaking works for each of the three turbine locations (Turbine 1 – Turbine 3) and consequently, these locations were not monitored.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 A programme of archaeological works was carried out at Carcant Wind Farm. The programme of works involved marking off archaeological sites that had been previously identified during a reconnaissance survey carried out by CFA, and a watching brief undertaken during groundworks for Borrow Pit 2. It was also required that watching briefs should be undertaken at the location of Borrow Pit 1 and at the three turbine locations. However, Borrow Pit 1 was not utilised and CFA were not informed when groundbreaking work was being undertaken at the turbine locations and they were not monitored. The watching brief on Borrow Pit 2 did not lead to the identification of any new features.
- 4.2 CFA does not recommend any further archaeological work in relation to the Carcant Wind Farm. However the final decision on any further mitigation measures lies with the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service.
- 4.3 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 Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.4 A summary statement to be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2) will be sufficient to disseminate the results of this programme of works.

#### 5. REFERENCES

Kirby, M 2006 *Carcant Wind Farm, Scottish Borders: Archaeological Survey*: CFA Data Structure Report No. 1246.

White, R 2006 *Carcant Wind Farm, Moorfoot Hills, Scottish Borders. Archaeological Watching Brief*. CFA Data Structure Report No. 1273.

#### APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

##### *Digital*

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-5	Borrow Pit 2, pre-excavation	SW	Overcast
6-7	General working shots of Borrow Pit 2	Various	Overcast
8-10	Field drains within Borrow Pit 2	Various	Overcast

## APPENDIX 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Scottish Borders Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Carcant Wind Farm
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	CARC
<b>PARISH:</b>	Heriot
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Magnus Kirby
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Works
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR</b>	NT 360 530 centred
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	June 2009
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	June 2009
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A programme of archaeological works was carried out at Carcant Wind Farm. The initial phase of works was carried out in 2006 and consisted of a reconnaissance survey. The reconnaissance survey identified ten sites consisting of a wall and gate pillar, an enclosure, two quarry scoops, two cairns, a raised circular platform of possible prehistoric date, two drystone field walls and an area of probable peat workings. Subsequent phases of work during construction involved the fencing off of the enclosure, two cairns and platform. A watching brief was also undertaken during the excavation of a borrow pit. The watching brief on the borrow pit did not lead to the identification of any archaeological features.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Airtricity Holdings Ltd
<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)	National Monuments Record of Scotland Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record



Key:

- Site boundary
- Turbine Locations
- Substation
- Built Road
- Met Mast
- Borrow Pit 2 (watching brief area)
- Borrow Pit 1 (not used)
- Borrow Pit Search Areas
- Location of Cultural Heritage Features
- Site Compound

