

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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Carcant Wind Farm

Moorfoot Hills

Scottish Borders

Archaeological Survey

Report No. 1246

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning consent has been granted for the construction and operation of a wind farm at Carcant, Moorfoot Hills, Scottish Borders. The planning consent has a planning condition attached, stating that:

“No development shall take place within the area indicated on the approved plan until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigations which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the planning authority”.

- 1.2 A site plan showing the turbine layout, access roads, site compound, substation, monitoring mast and cable routes was supplied by AMEC.
- 1.3 A desk-based study, carried out by Halcrow Group Ltd as part of the Environmental Statement, had not identified any sites of cultural heritage significance within the proposed development area.
- 1.4 A walk-over survey of the proposed development area was undertaken in September 2006. The survey covered the locations of the turbines, site compound and substation and the routes of the access roads and cable routes in order to identify any features of archaeological significance that may be present and affected by the proposed works.

2. SURVEY METHODS

- 2.1 The methods adopted for this study follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and relevant Standard and Guidance documents. Survey and recording followed standard CFA methods.
- 2.2 A reconnaissance field survey of the proposed development area was undertaken. The survey was conducted in order to identify the extent, character and condition of any visible archaeological or historic environment sites or features, and to assess the topography and geomorphology of the proposed development area for its archaeological potential. The survey covered the turbine area, including access roads between turbines and other development features, and a corridor c.100m wide centred on the main access road. The main site access road mostly follows the route of an existing estate track before forking out onto either side of a river valley and ascending onto the higher flanks of the hill where the wind turbines will be located.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Field survey results

- 3.1.1 Three field boundary walls (**1**, **7** and **8**), an enclosure wall (**2**) two quarry scoops (**3** and **9**), two cairns (**4** and **5**), a circular platform (**6**) and two parallel banks (**10**) were identified by the survey. Details of these sites appear in Appendix 1. With the possible exception of site **6** all the sites are probably associated with post-improvement agriculture and are likely to date to the 19th century.
- 3.1.2 Field boundary walls **1**, **7** and **8** appear on the current Ordnance Survey map. These features will be crossed by the access track. They are in variable condition along their length, standing to their original height in some locations but are very ruinous in others. In the locations where they will be crossed by the access track they are in poor condition, the stone probably having been robbed out and used elsewhere.
- 3.1.3 Site **2** is a large irregularly shaped enclosure that was used to contain livestock. It is now partially ruinous and has fallen out of use.
- 3.1.4 Sites **3** and **9** are shallow quarry scoops containing a small quantity of stone. They were probably used to provide material for enclosure **2** and boundary walls **7** and **8**.
- 3.1.5 Cairns **4** and **5** are located on the edge of an area of partly improved ground on the flanks of Peat Hill. They probably relate to 19th century field clearance.
- 3.1.3 Site **6** is a low grass-covered circular platform measuring c.8m in diameter and defined by intermittent stones around the outside. Its slightly raised position above a small watercourse (Heckle Burn) with good views both up and down the valley raises the possibility that it may have been the platform for a prehistoric structure, possibly dating from the Bronze Age. However, it is also possible that it was a platform for a hay rick relating to post-improvement agriculture.
- 3.1.4 Site **10** consists of two E to W orientated banks, which are located c. 10m apart. The banks run parallel with each other for a distance of 20m before the northern bank peters out, with the southern banks continuing for a further 15m in an easterly direction. A slight depression between the banks suggests that they may have been early peat workings. They are very ephemeral in nature, measuring c. 0.9m in width, but only surviving to a height of 0.1m.

3.2 Archaeological potential of the development

- 3.2.1 The development area lies at an altitude of between 350m and 400m OD in an area of moorland, rough grazing and conifer plantations. An area of improved land is present to the SE of field boundary **7** and the land around Peat Hill has also been partly improved. To the NW of the conifer plantations, the ground

becomes increasingly wet and boggy and is crossed by a large number of drainage ditches.

- 3.2.2 The topography of the development area comprises of a shallow river valley (Heckle Burn), the sides of which get progressively steeper from the NW to the SE. The proposed turbines will be located on gently sloping ground on the flanks of the valley, on either side of the Heckle Burn.
- 3.2.3 Although the majority of the features clearly relate to post-improvement agricultural activity and are considered to be of little cultural heritage significance, the gently sloping flanks of the hills and the presence of the Heckle Burn would have made this a good area for settlement during periods when climatic conditions were warmer. The presence of a possible prehistoric platform close to the Heckle Burn suggests that there is some potential for the presence of buried features.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 *Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology* (PAN 42) indicates that the principle that should underlie all planning decision-making is the preservation of cultural heritage resources, *in situ* where possible, and by record if destruction cannot be avoided. It is recognised in that document that preservation may not always be possible, and that where damage is unavoidable various mitigation measures may be proposed.
- 4.2 The following site-specific mitigation recommendations are recommended in relation to the archaeological and historic environment sites and features identified by the study:

Sites **1**, **7** and **8**: These field boundaries will be crossed by the access road. They are generally in poor condition and are considered to be of little cultural heritage significance. Consequently no further mitigation measures are recommended.

Site **2**: This enclosure lies outwith the line of the proposed access track and will not be affected by the programme of works. Consequently no further mitigation measures are recommended.

Sites **4**, **5** and **6**: Site **6** is a circular platform of uncertain date or function and has the potential to pre-date post-improvement agriculture. Consequently it warrants preserving *in situ* in line with PAN 42. Due to its close proximity with sites **4** and **5**, it is recommended that they be marked out as a group to prevent any damage during construction works.

Sites **3**, **9** and **10**: These sites are considered to be of little cultural heritage significance and no further mitigation measures are recommended.

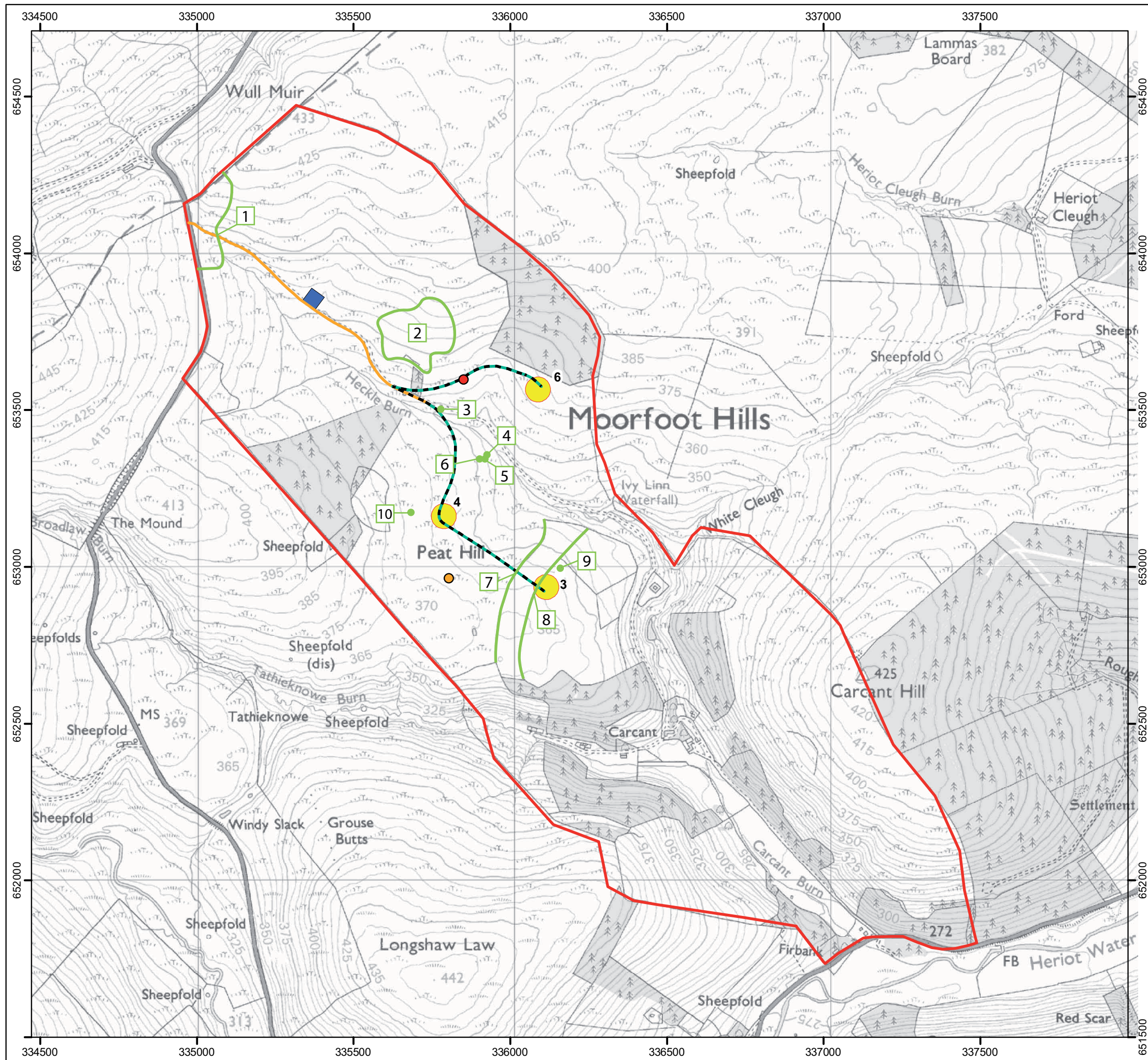
- 4.3 A full programme of mitigation measures will be agreed with the Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist and presented in a Written Scheme of



Investigations (WSI) for the approval of Scottish Borders Council prior to the commencement of construction works.

APPENDIX 1 – GAZETTEER OF SITES WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT AREA

No.	NGR	Source	Class	Description
1	NT 3502 5392 – NT 3508 5426	Field survey	Gate pillar and wall	<p>Field boundary wall with substantial gate pillar.</p> <p>The gate pillar is rectangular in shape and has been constructed from dressed stone. It measures 1m in length by 0.9m in width and stands to a height of 1.5m. On the top of the gate pillar, there is a pyramid shaped concrete plinth, which is probably a later addition. The hangers for the gate hinges were still <i>in situ</i>.</p> <p>On either side of the existing estate track, the wall has been largely robbed out with only a scatter of stones remaining. However, c.40m to the south it still stands to its full height of 1.1m and has a width of c.0.4m. It is of dry-stone construction and is shown on the current Ordnance Survey 1: 25000 map.</p>
2	NT 3570 5375 (centred)	Field survey	Enclosure	Large irregular shaped enclosure shown on current Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map. The walls are of dry-stone construction with a width of c.0.55m and stand to a maximum height of c.1.4m.
3	NT 35764 53506	Field survey	Quarry Scoop	Shallow quarry scoop beside existing track measuring 20m E to W by 12m N to S. A small pile of angular stones is present in the centre of the scoop.
4	NT 35912 53361	Field survey	Cairn	A low cairn consisting of a collection of angular and rounded stones. It measures 4m N to S by 2.2m E to W and stands to a height of c.0.3m. It stands on the edge of an area of partly improved pastureland and is probably a clearance cairn.
5	NT 35906 53346	Field survey	Cairn	A low cairn situated immediately to the south of cairn 4. It measures c.3m in diameter and stands to a height of c. 0.4m.
6	NT 35890 53346	Field Survey	Possible Prehistoric Platform	A slightly raised circular area of grass with a number of stones placed intermittently around the edge. It has a diameter of 8m and is c. 0.1m – 0.2m high. It is potentially of prehistoric date, but may be a base for a hay rick relating to post-improvement agriculture.
7	NT 3596 5265 – NT 3610 5315	Field Survey	Wall	Dry-stone field boundary wall in variable condition. In some areas it still stands to its full height of c. 1.3m but in others it has been robbed out and only stands to c.0.2m. It has a width at the base of c. 0.7m
8	NT 3602 5264 – NT 3623 5312	Field Survey	Wall	Dry-stone field boundary wall in variable condition. In some areas it still stands to its full height of c. 1.3m but in others it has been robbed out and only stands to c.0.45m. It has a

				width at the base of c. 0.6m
9	NT 36146 52993	Field Survey	Quarry Scoop	Roughly circular quarry scoop with a diameter of c.20m and a depth of c.1m. A small collection of angular quarried stone is present towards the centre of the feature.
10	NT 35670 53173 (centred)	Field survey	Parallel banks	Parallel E - W orientated banks c.10m apart and c. 20m long. The banks are each c. 0.9m wide and c. 0.1m high. They are possibly former peat workings. Potential peat workings might explain the origins of the name Peat Hill.



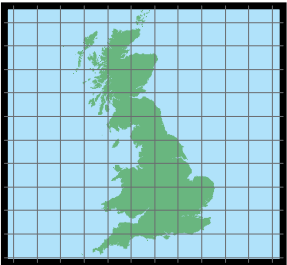


Carcant Wind Farm

Figure 1 Site Layout Showing Archaeological Features

Legend

- Wind Turbine (including foundation and hardstanding)
- Monitoring mast location
- Substation location
- Site boundary
- Temporary Compound
- Indicative cable route running alongside road
- Existing Road (requires upgrading)
- New Roads
- Location of cultural heritage features



Layout:
Monitoring_mast_v2_ab0537,
Carcant_substn_v6_ab0637_PT,
Carcant_cable_v4_ab0637,
CARCANT_SRd_v05_ab0637,
Carcant_substn_v6_ab0637_Area,
LCAR021_80ROTOR,
Carcant_site_bdry_v1_ab0407_1to25k,
CARCANT_TempCompound_v2_ab0519

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00.250.50.75 km

Scale
1:12,500

Date	By	Paper	Layout	Drg No	Rev
12/09/06	AB	A3	LCAR 021	6125 - 700 - CA - 003	A