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Wind Turbine at Alderston Mains Haddington, East Lothian

Archaeological Archive Assessment and Monitored Soil Strip

Report No. 1894

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological archive assessment and monitored soil strip undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in April 2011 at Alderston Mains, Haddington (NGR: NT 49724 75336) (Fig 1). The work was commissioned by The Green Company (Europe) Ltd (The Green Company).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 30 September 2010 was produced by CFA on behalf of The Green Company. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS).

1.2 Background

Planning Permission (10/00585/P) has been granted for the construction of a wind turbine on land at Alderston Mains, Haddington. The planning permission was subject to an archaeological condition requiring an archive assessment and monitored soil strip.

The location of the wind turbine is c.200m to the north-west of Alderston Mains on the eastern flank of Alderston Hill at an altitude of c.135m OD. It lies within an improved agricultural field, which is currently used for the grazing of horses. A small disused quarry lies c.100m to the south-west of the turbine location.

Due to the location of a water main identified during the programme of works, the final position of the wind turbine was situated 7m to the east of the original intended location.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (monitored strip) to monitor all groundbreaking works for the construction of the turbine, to ensure works are cleared of topsoil and other modern overburden to identify either undisturbed natural subsoil or archaeological features (whichever comes first).
- 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 Field Evaluations.

2.2 Archaeological Archive Assessment

The historic map collection held by the National Libraries of Scotland (NLS) was examined for information on pre-recent land use within the proposed development area. The maps examined included the Ordnance Survey 6" and 25" map editions, together with other readily available cartographic information. A range of the aerial photographic coverage for the area was consulted.

The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and the 'Pastmap' (<http://jura.rcahms.gov.uk/PASTMAP/Map>) website were consulted to obtain information on known archaeological sites within the proposed development area.

2.3 Monitored Strip

Two areas (**TB1** and **TB2**) (Fig. 1), each measuring 6m by 6m, were stripped of topsoil to form the turbine base. **TB1** (Fig. 3) represents the original intended location of the turbine, but this proved to be unfeasible due to the location of a large water main (Fig. 4), resulting in it being relocated to **TB2** (Fig. 5).

Soil stripping was also undertaken for a temporary access track to bring in plant and materials due to recent wet weather conditions in the field (Fig. 2). This measured 201m in length by 3m in width, and ran in a north-westerly direction from Alderston Mains to the turbine location. The initial 100m of the track from Alderston Mains was excavated to a depth of 0.3m and the remainder to a depth of 0.15m. Natural subsoil was uncovered in patches within the 0.3m deep section, but was not reached in the 0.15m deep section.

A cable trench with a width of 0.3m and depth of 0.75m was excavated parallel to the temporary track.

Topsoil and modern overburden was removed by a 3CX type mechanical excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed bucket. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. All further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the WSI was carried out by hand.

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

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Archive Assessment

NMRS Sites

The NMRS does not list any sites within the field in which the wind turbine is located. The closest recorded sites are an enclosure at West Garleton Cottages (NT47NE 54), a linear feature(s) at West Garleton (NT47NE 57), Bangley Quarry (NT47NE 186), and three possible WWII military installations (NT47NE 190) at the summit of Alderston Hill. Within c.1km of the turbine location lie Alderston House and associated features (NT47SE 34.0-34.4) and Huntington House and associated features (NT47SE 29.0-29.7). Huntington House (HB No. 10832) and Alderston House Coach House (HB No. 10835) are both Category A-Listed.

Cartographic Sources

The earliest map consulted was Adair's map of 1682, which depicts Alderston House (annotated *aderston*). Immediately to the north west of Alderston House is a place annotated *heakston* (possibly Ugston), and Huntington House is annotated *nunland*. Alderston Hill is also depicted but not labelled. There is insufficient detail to allow the development area to be accurately pinpointed.

The earliest map to allow the approximate position of the wind turbine to be identified is Roy's military map of c.1750, which shows it lying within an area of east to west aligned rig and furrow cultivation. Alderston House is annotated *Atherston* and Alderston Mains appears to be depicted but not labelled. Huntington House is annotated using the current spelling.

Subsequent maps by Forrest (1799), Ainslie (1821) and Thomson (1822) show the current spelling of Alderston in relation to Alderston House, but on Forrest's map, Alderston is spelt *Alderstone* in relation to Alderston Mains. Both Forrest and Thomson show Alderston Hill labelled *Silver Hill*, and on Forrest's map the quarry to the south-west of the turbine is shown but not labelled.

The earliest map to show the proposed development area in detail is the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854 (surveyed 1852-53). This map depicts the turbine location within undeveloped farmland. Alderston Hill now carries its current name and the quarry on Forrest's map is labelled *Old Quarry*.

Aerial Photographs

Available vertical aerial photography, from 1952 to 1984, was consulted and indicated that the development area was undeveloped farmland during that period. No new sites or information were recorded.

3.2 Monitored Strip

Topsoil consisted of 0.3m to 0.4m of mid-brown silt overlying orange-brown sandy gravel and sandy clay natural. This in turn overlay small angular lumps of degraded bedrock. Within **TB1**, a c.3m wide cut for a large water main was identified. The water main was located c.1m below the current ground surface.

There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified within the areas stripped for the turbine base or cable trench.

4. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological archive assessment and monitored soil strip were carried out at Alderston Mains for the construction of a wind turbine. Information obtained from the 'Pastmap' website suggested that there were no known cultural heritage sites within the immediate vicinity. Cartographic evidence suggested that there had been no pre-recent development within the turbine location.

The monitored soil strip identified a modern water main, but there were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2).

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.

Based on the results CFA Archaeology make no recommendations for further work; however, the decision regarding any further mitigation measures lies solely with the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS).

5. REFERENCES

5.1 Cartographic

Adair, J 1682 *Map of Midlothian*.

Adair, J 1735 *A map of Midlothian*.

Ainslie, J 1821 *Ainslie's Map of the Southern Part of Scotland*.

Forrest, W 1799 *Map of Haddingtonshire*.

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6" 1854 *Haddingtonshire*.

Roy, W 1747-55 *Military Survey of Scotland*.

Thomson, J 1822 *Haddington*.

5.2 Vertical Aerial Photographs

Sortie	Date	Scale	Copyright
106G/UK/1319	1952	1:4800	-
OS62-031_51	1962	1:7500	-
106G/UK/0014	1968	1:25700	RCAHMS
106G/UK/0014	1968	1:10000	RCAHMS
OS62-031	1962	1:7500	OS
CPE/UK/0205	1972	1:5000	-
OS75-102	1975	1:7800	OS
OS77-109	1977	1:24000	OS
58/3262	1984	1:10000	-

APPENDIX 1: Digital Photographic Register

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1-2	General working shots showing excavation of access track	SE	Overcast
3	General working shot showing excavation of cable route trench	SE	Overcast
4-5	Turbine base TB1 stripped to the level of the natural subsoil	N	Overcast
6	Turbine base TB1 stripped to the level of the natural subsoil (close	N	Overcast
7	Turbine base TB1 stripped to the level of the natural subsoil	S	Overcast
8	Turbine base TB1 stripped to the level of the natural subsoil	E	Overcast
9	Turbine base TB1 showing modern water main	N	Overcast
10	General working shot showing excavation of turbine base TB2	S	Overcast
11	Turbine base TB2 stripped to the level of the natural subsoil	S	Overcast
12-13	Turbine base TB2 stripped to the level of the natural subsoil	N	Overcast
14	General shot of cable route trench	NW	Overcast

APPENDIX 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Wind Turbine at Alderston Mains, Haddington
PROJECT CODE:	ALDE
PARISH:	Haddington
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Magnus Kirby
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archive Assessment and Monitored Soil Strip
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NT 49724 75336
START DATE (this season)	14 April 2011
END DATE (this season)	15 April 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological archive assessment and monitored soil strip were carried out at Alderston Mains for the construction of a wind turbine. Information obtained from the 'Pastmap' website suggested that there were no known cultural heritage sites within the immediate vicinity of the wind turbine. Cartographic evidence suggested that there had been no pre-recent development within the turbine location.</p> <p>The monitored soil strip identified a modern water main, but there were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	The Green Company (Europe) 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 East Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record

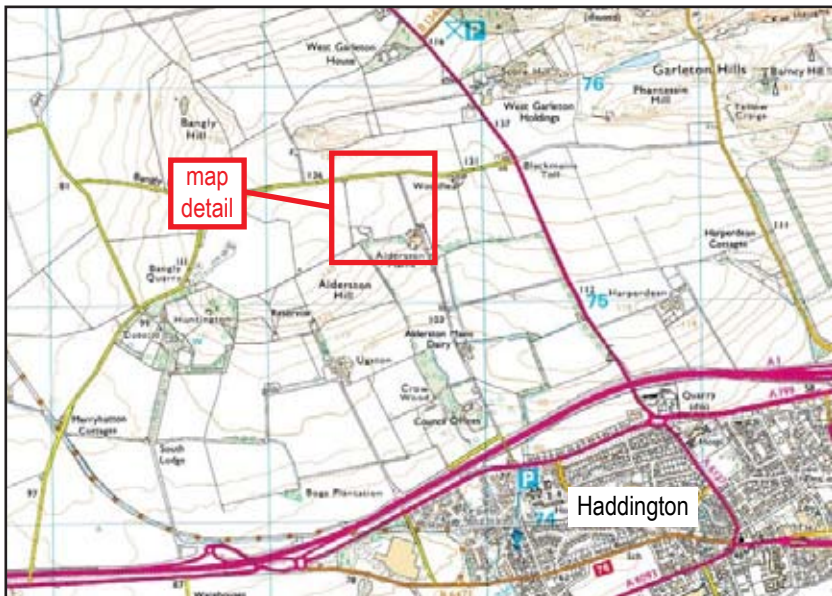


Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: The Green Company

Title: Location map and areas monitored

Project: Wind Turbine at Alderston Mains, Haddington

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Scale: 1:2500@ A4

Drawn by: GC Checked: LW Report No: 1894



Fig. 2 Access track under excavation



Fig. 3 Turbine Base 1 stripped to natural subsoil



Key:	Fig. No:	2, 3	Revision:	A	Client:	The Green Company	 CFA 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
	Title:						
Scale:	Project: Wind Turbine at Alderston Mains, Haddington						
	Drawn by:	GC	Checked:	LW	Report No:	1894	



Fig. 4 Turbine Base 1 showing modern water main



Fig. 5 Turbine Base 2 stripped to natural subsoil

Key:	Fig. No:	4, 5	Revision:	A	Client:	The Green Company
	Title:					
Scale:	Project:					
	Wind Turbine at Alderston Mains, Haddington					
						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
Drawn by:						GC
Checked:						LW
Report No:						1894