

Archaeological Watching Brief
Two Proposed Wind Turbines,
Mains of Ethie, Inverkeilor, Angus



Lunan Bay from the site of the turbines looking North



3rd February 2012

Introduction (Illus 1 and 4)

This archaeological watching brief on the ground stripping for the two wind turbine plinths was carried out for Mr Duncan Gray to satisfy the archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development, as noted by Aberdeenshire Archaeological Service in the condition attached to Planning Application 11/00374/FULL dated 11th November 2011. It was undertaken by the author on Thursday 2nd February 2012 (Site Code ETH01), weather conditions were bright, cold and sunny.

Archaeological Background (Illus 2, 3)

Mains of Ethie Farm lies on a headland overlooking Lunan Bay in an area which is very rich in the cropmarks of Prehistoric and later settlement (RCAHMS 1978). St Murdoch's Chapel (formerly Ethie Parish Church) lies to the South East of the site for the two wind turbines (Ibid, 29).

Watching Brief

Turbine 1 (Illus 5, 6 and 7)

The site of this wind turbine lies 250m NW of Mains of Ethie Farm at 61.17 metres above Ordnance Datum. The area of the turbine plinth, which measured 5m by 5m, was stripped of a soil which varied in depth between 0.30m and 0.35m. This dark brown silty clay (ploughsoil) overlay a blue grey rock and yellow clay surface which was of natural origin. There was no sign of any archaeological deposits or features.

Turbine 2 (Illus 8, 9 and 10)

The site of this wind turbine lies 190m North of Mains of Ethie Farm at 63.81 metres above Ordnance Datum. The area of the turbine plinth, which measured 5m by 5m, was stripped of a soil which varied in depth between 0.80m at its eastern end to 0.45m at its Western end. At the eastern side of the plinth trench this dark brown silty clay (ploughsoil) overlay a blue green sandy clay which represented the natural subsoil, the soil at the Western end of the stripped area overlay a deposit of natural brown sand and stones. There was no sign of any archaeological deposits or features.

Conclusions

Monitoring of the two wind turbine sites at Mains of Ethie Farm located no archaeological deposits or features.

Reference

RCAHMS 1978 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The archaeological sites and monuments of Lunan Valley, Montrose Basin, Angus District, Tayside Region, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series no 4 Edinburgh

Cartographic Sources (<http://www.nls.uk/maps>)

Roy, William General 1747-55 Military Survey of Scotland

Ordnance Survey Maps - Six-inch 1st edition, Scotland, 1843-1882

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Ryal Stevens the machine driver and Kevin for their help and interest during the watching brief.

Illustration List

Illus 1 Site with location of turbines (red dot) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2010. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

Illus 2 Land around Mains of Ethie as shown on William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland 1747-55 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

Illus 3 site at Mains of Ethie as shown on 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1862 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

Illus 4 Stripped area for turbine plinths (in red) Scale 1:1000

Illus 5 location of stripped area for Turbine 1 looking North

Illus 6 Stripped area for turbine 1 looking North East following removal of plough soil onto natural rock surface

Illus 7 Stripped area for Turbine 1 detailed view of natural clay

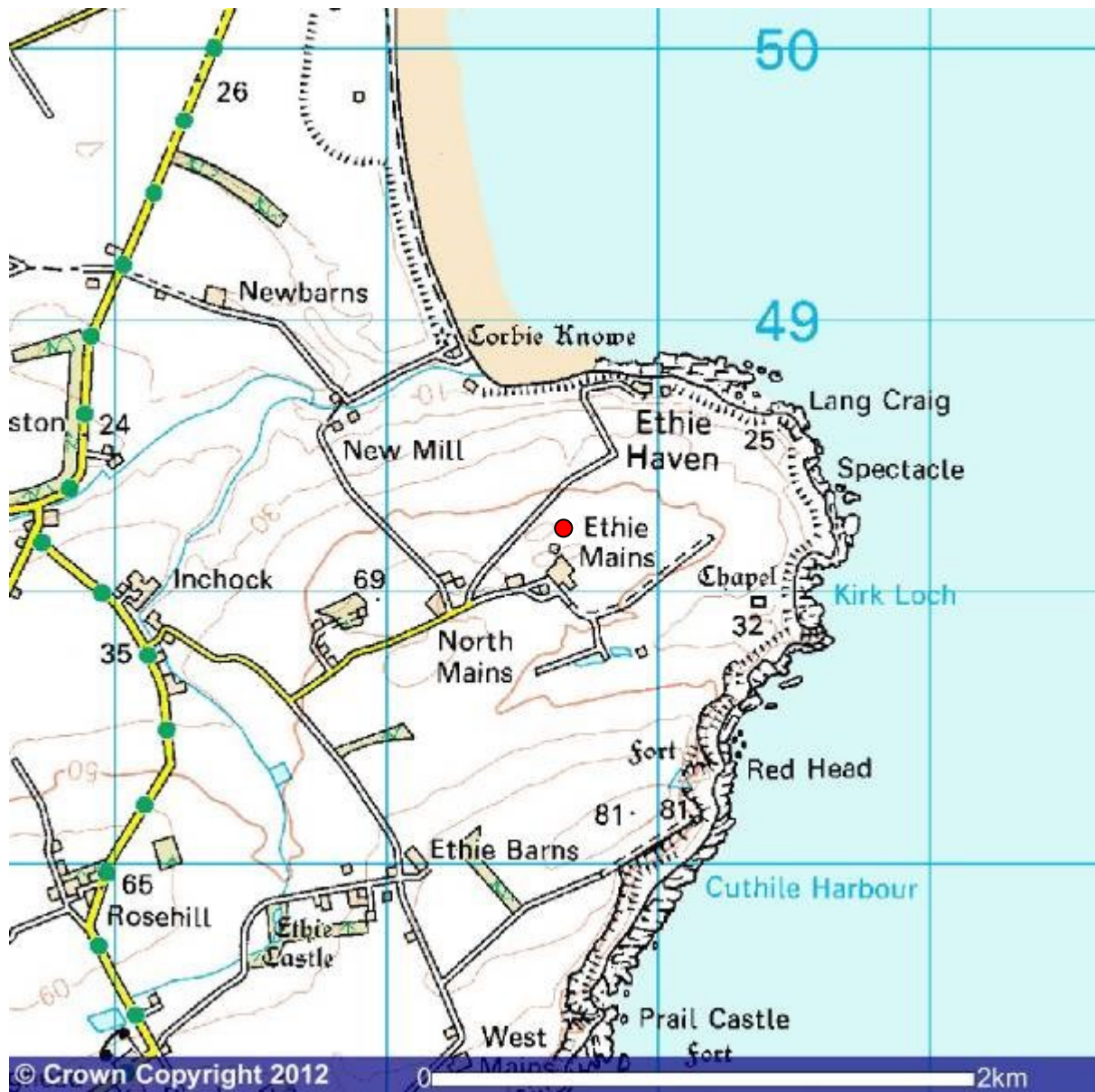
Illus 8 Location of stripped area for Turbine 2 looking South East

Illus 9 Stripped area for Turbine 2 looking North West showing surface of natural clay

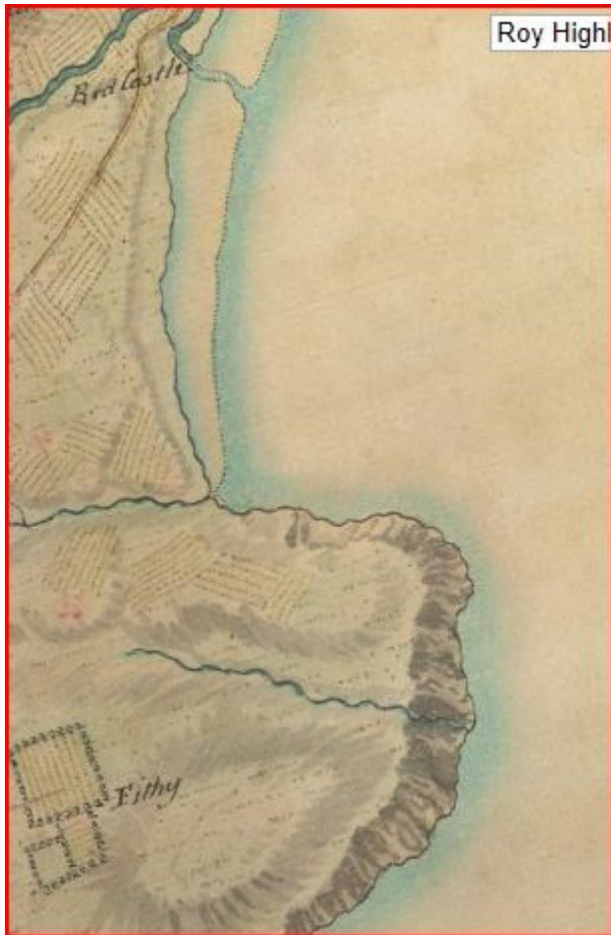
Illus 10 Eastern end of stripped area for Turbine 2 showing deeper plough soil above natural clay

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Angus
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Two new wind turbines at Mains of Ethie Farm, Inverkeilor
PROJECT CODE:	ETH01
PARISH:	Inverkeilor
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Derek Hall
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	N0 696 492
START DATE	2 nd February 2012
END DATE	2 nd February 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out on the stripping of ploughsoil down to natural subsoil on the site of two new wind turbines. Natural was encountered at a depth of between 0.30m and 0.35m on the site of Turbine 1 and 0.45m and 0.80m on the site of Turbine 2. No archaeological deposits or features were located.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Duncan Gray
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	N/A
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	34 Glenfarg Terrace, Perth, PH2 0AP
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Derek.hall1@blueyonder.co.uk



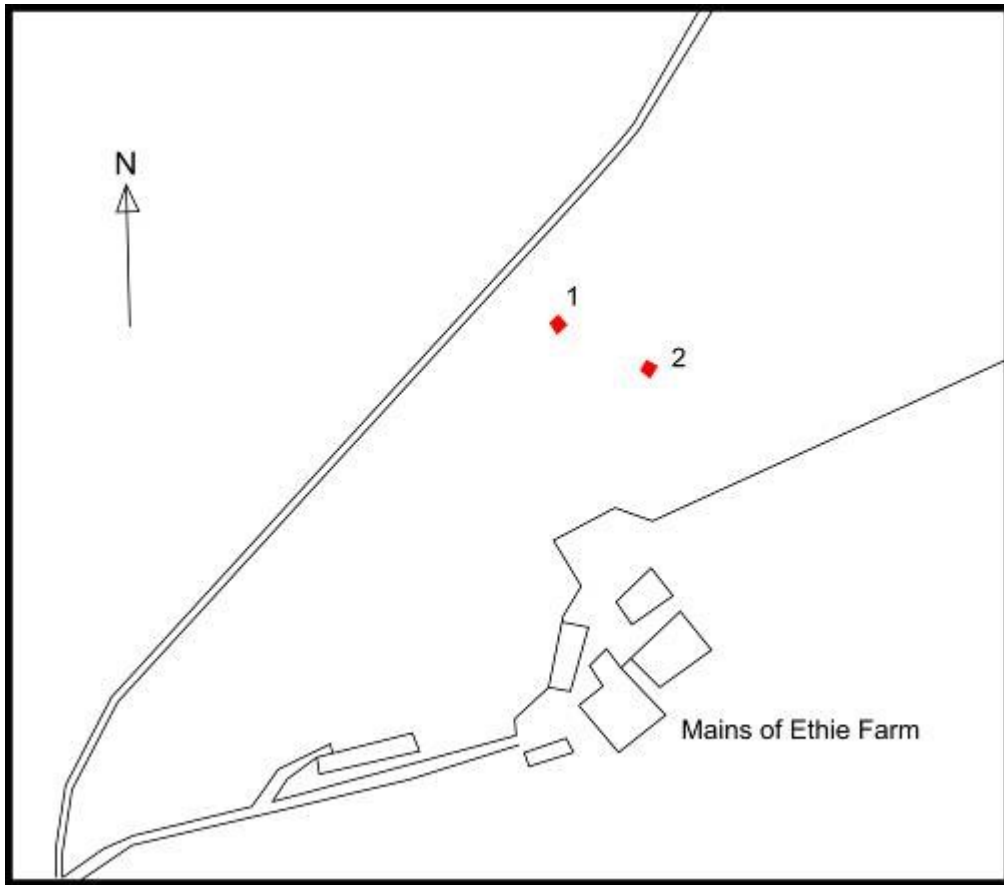
Illus 1 Site with location of turbines (red dot) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2010. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)



Illus 2 Land around Mains of Ethie as shown on William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland 1747-55 ((© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)



Illus 3 site at Mains of Etive as shown on 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1862 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)



Illus 4 Stripped area for turbine plinths (in red) Scale 1:2500



Illus 5 location of stripped area for Turbine 1 looking North



Illus 6 Stripped area for turbine 1 looking North East following removal of plough soil onto natural rock surface



Illus 7 Stripped area for Turbine 1 detailed view of natural clay



Illus 8 Location of stripped area for Turbine 2 looking South East



Illus 9 Stripped area for Turbine 2 looking North West showing surface of natural clay



Illus 10 Eastern end of stripped area for Turbine 2 showing deeper plough soil above natural clay