

Archaeological Watching Brief

Three new wind turbines,

Ethiebeaton Farm, Angus



Site of three new wind turbines looking south



4th March 2013

Introduction (Illus 1)

This archaeological watching brief on the ground stripping for the three wind turbine plinths was carried out for Mr David Reid 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 12/00936/FULL dated 17th December 2012. It was undertaken by the author on Thursday 28th February 2013 (Site Code ETB01); weather conditions were bright, cold and sunny.

Archaeological Background (Illus 2 to 5)

Ethiebeaton is marked on maps from at least the late 17th century and the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865 marks a site called 'Chapel Dockie'. The Old Statistical Account describes this site as being where 'a pre-Reformation church was once situated' (OSA 1794, 486); and the New Statistical Account says that 'According to tradition, it was surrounded by a moat. Stone coffins were found a short way from the site, and between 1830-5 a number of coffins containing human remains were found upon a nearby hillock (NSA 1845, 542). Warden qualifies this by saying that 'A castle, traditionally connected with Cardinal Beaton, used to stand at Ethiebeaton (NO 479 342). A private chapel called 'Chapel Dockie' (NO43SE 2) is said to have been attached to it' (Warden 1880-85, 370). The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland record that 'An extensive area of rig has been recorded as cropmarks on oblique aerial photographs (RCAHMSAP 1983, 1998) to the N and W of the Ethiebeaton farmsteading. To the WNW of the farmsteading there is what may be the eastern half of a rectilinear enclosure. A linear cropmark running NW to SE from the farmstead may have been the mill lade at Ethiebeaton.' (Information from RCAHMS (KMM), 19 January 2004.)

Watching Brief (Illus 6 and 7)

Turbine 1 (Illus 6, 8 and 9)

The site of this wind turbine lies 180m west of Ethiebeaton Farm, the area of the turbine plinth, which measured 5m by 5m, was stripped of a soil which was 0.46m deep. This grey brown silty clay (ploughsoil) overlay a brown gravel and loose stone deposit which was of natural origin. There was no sign of any archaeological deposits or features.

Turbine 2 (Illus 6, 10 and 11)

The site of this wind turbine lies 265m south south west of Ethiebeaton Farm. The area of the turbine plinth, which measured 5m by 5m, was stripped of a soil which was 0.35m deep. At the north western corner of the plinth trench this grey brown silty clay (ploughsoil) overlay a narrow cut feature that was 0.26m deep and filled with black silty clay, it contained no finds. The grey brown silty clay overlay blue grey clay with frequent stones of natural origin.

Turbine 3 (Illus 6 and 12)

The site of this turbine lies 320m south west of Ethiebeaton Farm. The area of the turbine plinth which measured 5m by 5m was stripped of soil which was 0.40m deep. This grey brown silty clay (ploughsoil) overlay a brown gravel and frequent stone of natural origin.

Conclusions

Monitoring of the three wind turbine sites at Ethiebeaton Farm located nothing of archaeological interest relating to either the cropmarks recorded in the area or the site of Chapel Dockie.

References

NSA (1834-1845) The new statistical account of Scotland by the ministers of the respective parishes under the superintendence of a committee of the society for the benefit of the sons and daughters of the clergy, 15v Edinburgh. Vol. 11, Forfar, 542

OSA (1791-9) The statistical account of Scotland, drawn up from the communications of the ministers of the different parishes, in Sinclair, J (Sir) Edinburgh. Vol. 13, 496

Warden, A J (1880-5) Angus or Forfarshire: the land and people, descriptive and historical, 5v Dundee Vol. 4, 370

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

Edward, Robert 1678 Angusia Provincia Scotiae sive The Shire of Angus.

Moll, Hermann 1745 The Shire of Angus or Forfar

Thomson, John 1832 Northern Part of Angus Shire

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

Acknowledgements

The author would like to acknowledge the help of Michael Bryant and David Reid for the excavation of these three turbine plinths.

Illustration List

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

Illustration 2 Ethiebeaton as shown on Robert Edward's map of 1678 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

Illustration 3 Ethiebeaton marked as 'Eth' on Hermann Moll's map of 1745 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

Illustration 4 'Ethiebeaten' as shown on John Thomson's map of 1832 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

Illustration 5 Ethiebeaton on First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865, mill dam and site of Chapel Dockie are marked (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

Illustration 6 Location of stripped areas for Turbines 1, 2 and 3

Illustration 7 Site of turbine locations looking north (figure standing on site of Turbine 3)

Illustration 8 Turbine 1 plinth looking north east showing natural gravel and stone starting to become visible

Illustration 9 north facing section of plinth trench for Turbine 1 showing ploughsoil above natural

Illustration 10 Plinth for Turbine 2 being stripped looking north

Illustration 11 East facing section of plinth trench for Turbine 2 showing shallow cut feature dug into top of natural

Illustration 12 Plinth for Turbine 3 stripped to top of natural, spoil heaps for Turbine trenches 1 and 2 visible in background

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Angus
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Three new wind turbines at Ethiebeaton Farm, Angus
PROJECT CODE:	ETB01
PARISH:	Monifieth
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Derek Hall
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NO43SE 2 Site of Chapel Dockie
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 479 342
START DATE	28th February 2013
END DATE	28th February 2013
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 three new wind turbines. No archaeological deposits or features were located.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr David Reid
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

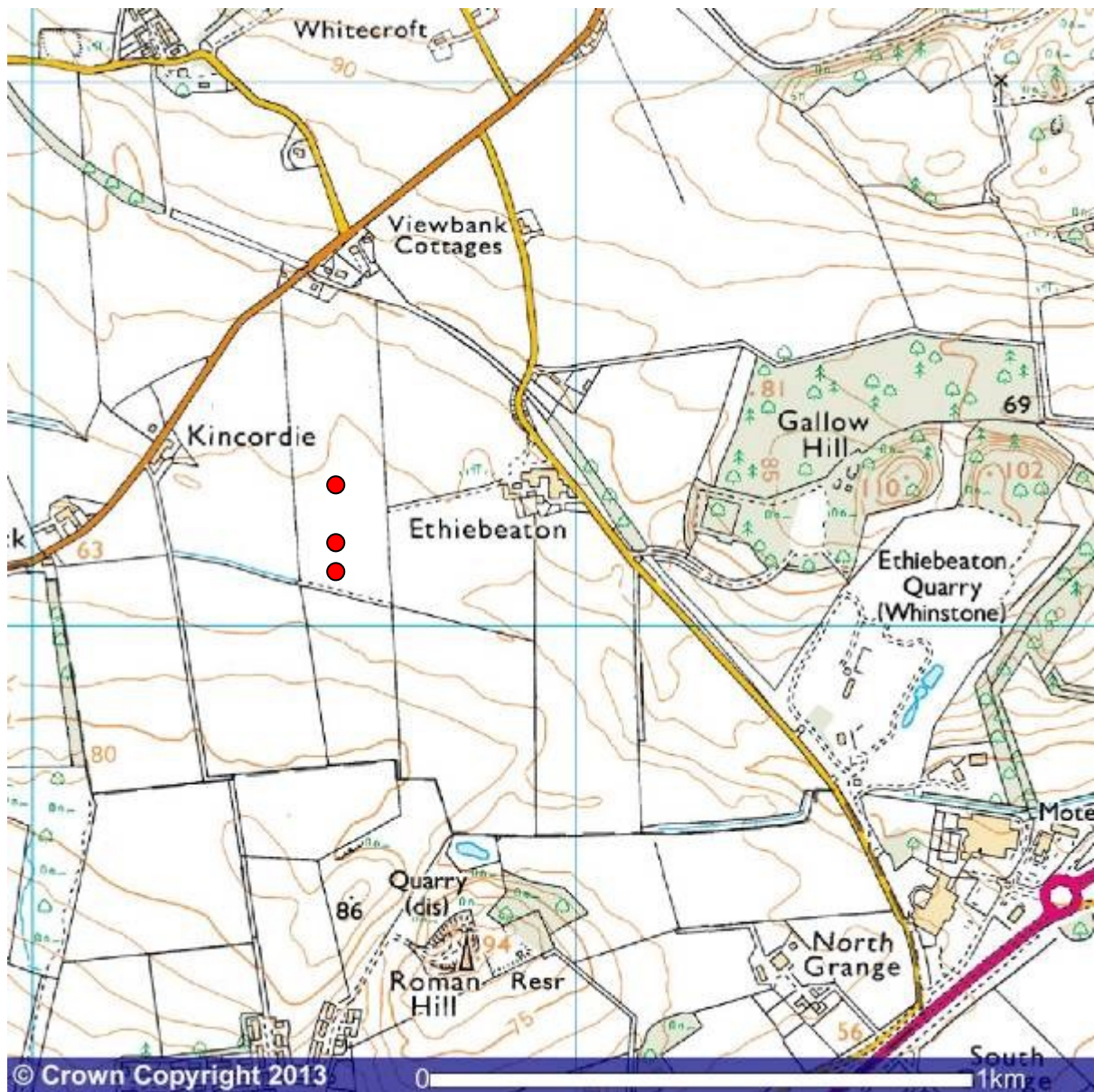


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Illustration 2 Ethiebeaton as shown on Robert Edward's map of 1678 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)



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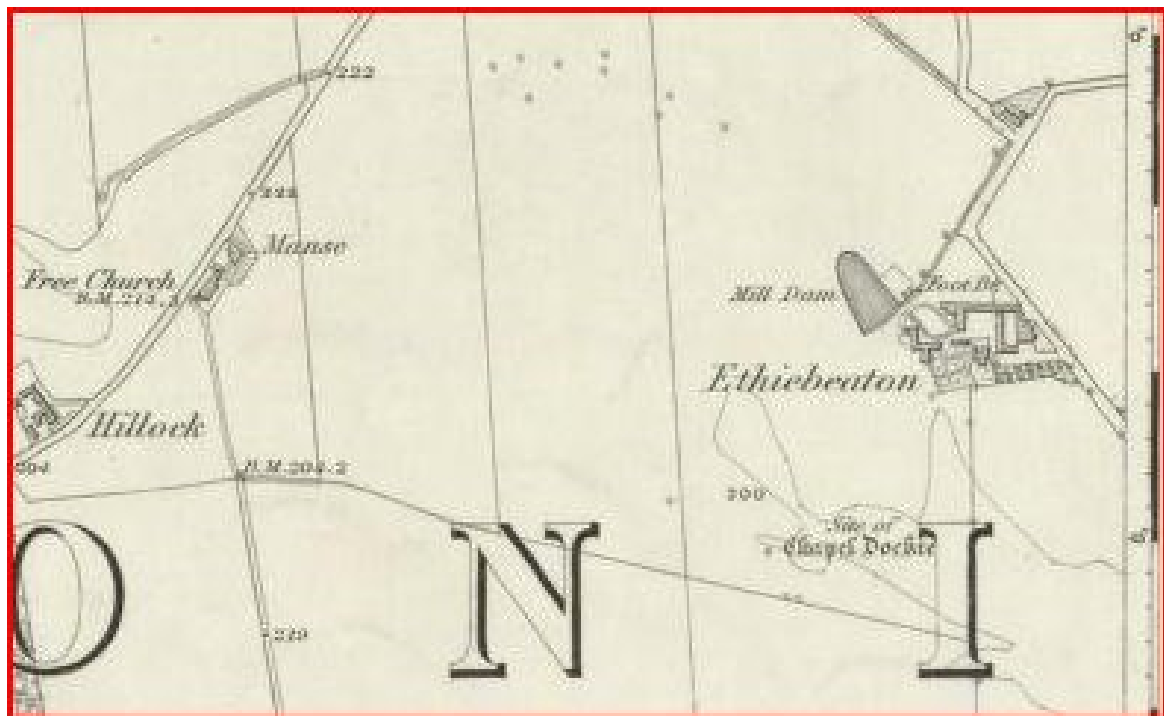


Illustration 5 Ethiebeaton on First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865, mill dam and site of Chapel Dockie are marked (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

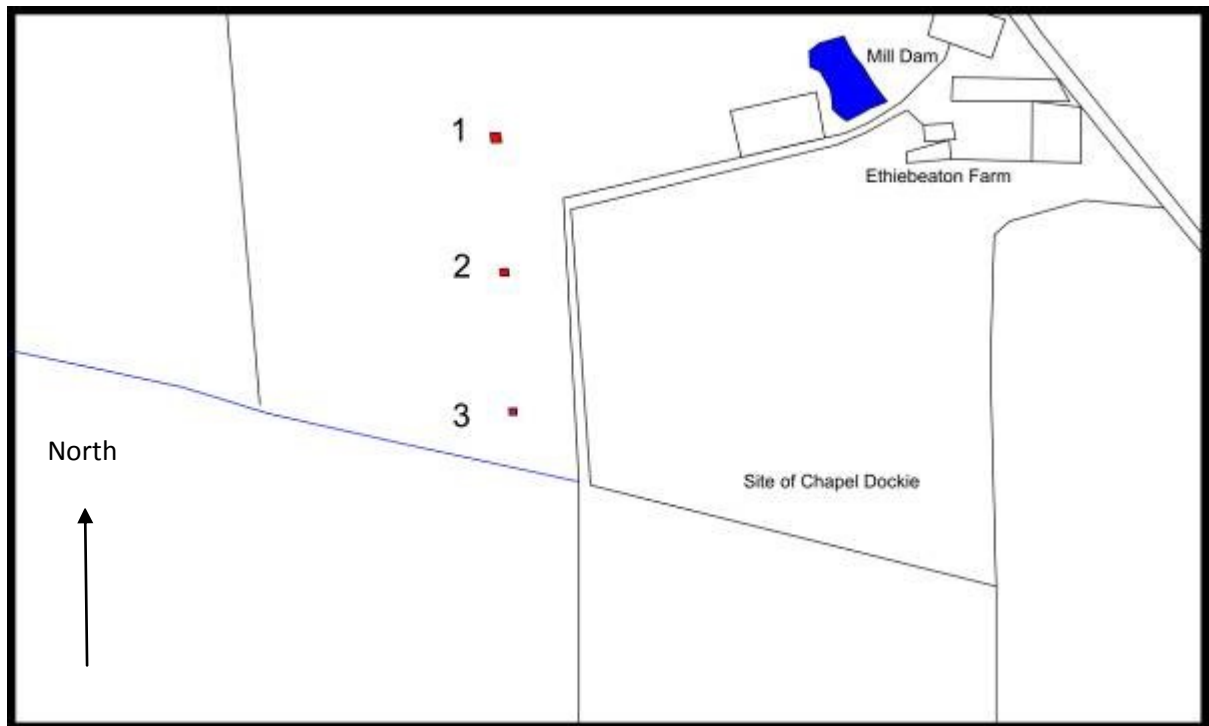


Illustration 6 Location of stripped areas for Turbines 1, 2 and 3 Scale 1:5000



Illustration 7 Site of turbine locations looking north (figure standing on site of Turbine 3)



Illustration 8 Turbine 1 plinth looking north east showing natural gravel and stone starting to become visible



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