

CBWF11/002



# CATHKIN BRAES WIND FARM, CARMUNNOCK, GLASGOW

*Archaeological Evaluation*

*for Scottish and Southern Energy Renewables*

08/02003/DC

*April 2012*



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Project Manager	Simon Stronach
Author	Ross Murray
Fieldwork	Calum Henderson & Ross Murray
Graphics	Julia Bastek
Approved by	Simon Stronach – Project Manager



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**North East**

Headland Archaeology  
13 Jane Street  
Edinburgh EH6 5HE  
0131 467 7705  
[office@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:office@headlandarchaeology.com)

[www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)





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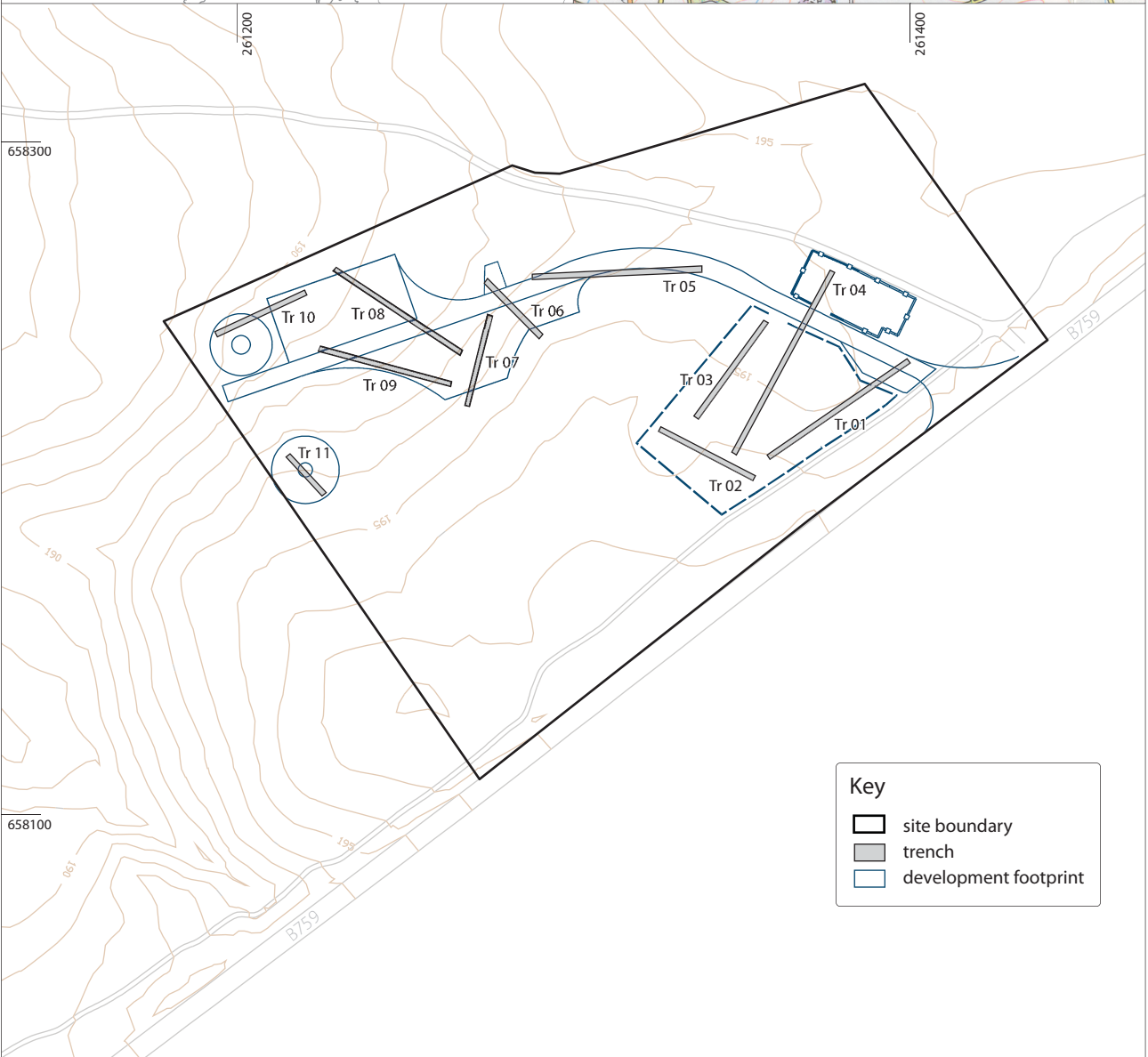
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Cathkin Braes/Cathkin Road  
Carmunnock  
Glasgow



0 100km



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Scale 1:2,000 @ A4



0 100m

**Illus 1**

Site location



# CATHKIN BRAES WIND FARM, CARMUNNOCK, GLASGOW

## Archaeological Evaluation

*Headland Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed single wind turbine and permanent meteorological mast at Cathkin Braes, Carmunnock, Glasgow. The work was undertaken on behalf of Scottish and Southern Energy Renewables in order to meet a condition of planning. The evaluation revealed 0.2–0.5m of topsoil overlying bedrock or, in places, orange brown stiff clay. No archaeological features were encountered.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on the site of a proposed single wind turbine and permanent meteorological mast at Cathkin Braes, Carmunnock, Glasgow (NS 6131 5823; Illus 1). A series of trial trenches were excavated on behalf of Scottish and Southern Energy Renewables (SSER) and followed a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Headland Archaeology Ltd, submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA: Glasgow City Council) with archaeological advice provided by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The work was designed to meet a Planning Condition (No. 16; planning application no. 08/02003/DC). The archaeological monitoring of a series of geotechnical test pits, undertaken in October 2011 recorded no archaeological features (Jones 2011).

The site is located on rough, sloping grassland immediately west of Cathkin Braes country park and covers an area of approximately 3ha. The site is located on a hill overlooking Glasgow to the north and there are a number of cairns and a circular earthwork located in the vicinity of the development site; therefore there was potential for the discovery of prehistoric remains.

The archaeological evaluation took place on 28th and 29th March 2012.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A desk-based assessment was undertaken in advance of the previous phase of works (Jones 2011). This included historic maps held at the National Library of Scotland, National and Local Sites and Monuments Records and readily available published sources. The results are presented below.

The name Carmunnock is deemed to derive from the Gaelic Coire Manaich, the glen or corrie of the monk. Early church records show the name as Cormannoc in 1177 and as Carmanok in 1359. There are references in the records to an early Christian settlement in Carmunnock in the 8th century. In the 12th century the land was owned by Henry of Carmannock and by the mid-15th century by James Lord Hamilton. His successors held the land until the mid-17th century, when it passed to Stuart of Castlemilk. Cathkin Braes Country Park includes a plantation of trees, which was formerly part of the Castlemilk estate.

The earliest map showing the area in detail is Roy's Military survey (1747–55), which shows the 'Kirk of Kilmunock' (Carmunnock) and 'Caskinhill' to the east. Ross's map of 1773 does not show Carmunnock but there is a building shown at Cathkin, possibly the mill. Richardson's map of 1795 shows a half circle of trees in the area of the site, possibly representing the location of



**Illus 2**  
View of Trench 3

2

Queen Mary's cairn; Carmunnock town is shown on Forrest's map (1816), with Muirside farm to the south of the site. Ainslie's map (1821) has Cathkin Mill marked to the east. The first edition Ordnance Survey map shows a circular earthwork marked 'Camp' on what is now the golf course. The first edition OS map also shows the north-east boundary of the site (the edge of the country park), which remains unchanged.

Two Roman coins were recovered towards the eastern end of the site in 1982 (WoSAS PIN 9302) and Queen Mary's Cairn (NMRS 44909), which was completely removed in 1972 was also located in this area. The site of three more possible cairns lie to the northeast of the development site (NMRS 44914, 44919, and 449120). To the south of the site lies a circular earthwork (NMRS 44949), which is now used as a green on the Cathkin Braes golf course.

### 3. OBJECTIVES

In general, the purpose of the evaluation was to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the archaeological significance and potential of the proposed development site.

More specific aims of the evaluation included:

- Establishing the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits that may be present.
- Establishing the integrity and state of preservation of archaeological features or deposits that may be present.

The results of the evaluation would be used to inform a strategy for further archaeological mitigation if appropriate.

The resulting archive (finds and records) will be organised and deposited in the National Monuments Record of Scotland to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

### 4. METHOD

The trial trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development (*ie* access road, turbine base, turning heads, compounds *etc.*; Illus 1) and were positioned to achieve coverage across the site. The area sampled amounted to *c* 8% of the footprint area (8000 m<sup>2</sup>) or 404 linear metres with trenches being 1.6m wide (646m<sup>2</sup>). Trenches were positioned using a dGPS in order to ensure they lay within the development footprint and as guided by on-site topography (*ie* targeted toward areas of flat ground rather than slopes).

A total of 11 trenches were excavated with a mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision. Machine excavation terminated at the top of the natural geology or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first.

### 5. RESULTS

A full description of the trial trenches can be found in Appendix 1, the results are summarised below.

The topsoil in the trial trenches comprised dark brown clayey silt 0.2–0.5m in depth. Not unexpectedly, the topsoil tended to be shallowest on areas of higher ground. The natural geology varied across the site from outcrops of bedrock, predominately in the higher areas, to areas of compact clay. Trenches 1, 3, 4 & 5 contained rubble field drains (Illus 1 & 2) which were oriented either E-W (Trenches 1 & 3), NW-SE (Trench 4) or N-S (Trench 5). These were cut into geological deposits and sealed beneath topsoil.

No features of archaeological significance were recorded in any of the trial trenches.

## 6. DISCUSSION

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The archaeological evaluation did not record any features of archaeological significance despite the presence of a number of cairns and a circular earthwork located in the vicinity of the development site. The rubble drains are likely to have been constructed in order to improve drainage and make the land more viable for grazing. The lack of features, such as the remains of furrows or plough scars, suggested that the development area has not been subjected to truncation through agricultural practices. It is concluded that the absence of archaeological features reflects that no activity has occurred here that would leave an archaeological trace, rather than reflecting poor survival. Taken in tandem with the results of the monitoring (Jones 2011) it is concluded with confidence that the archaeological potential of the development area is low.

## 7. REFERENCES

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Jones, E 2011 *Cathkin Braes, Carmunnock, Glasgow - Archaeological Watching Brief*, Unpublished Client Report.



## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 – Site registers

#### Trench register

Trench no.	Length (m)	Orientation	Description
001	50	NE-SW	Dark grey brown loam topsoil between 0.2m and 0.4m deep. Natural varies between light orange brown silty clay and silty gravel with fractured bedrock. Three stone filled field drains were present at 17m, 25 m and 30m from the NE end of the trench. All were oriented E-W.
002	30	SE-NW	Dark grey brown loam topsoil between 0.3m and 0.5m deep. Natural varies between light orange brown silty clay, dark grey compact clay and silty gravel with fractured bedrock.
003	33	NE-SW	Dark grey brown loam topsoil between 0.2m and 0.3m deep. Natural varies between light orange brown silty clay and silty gravel with fractured bedrock. A stone filled field drain was present 1.5m from the NE end of the trench. It was oriented E-W.
004	60	NE-SW	Dark grey brown loam topsoil between 0.2m and 0.3m deep. Natural varies between light orange brown silty clay and outcrops of bedrock at each end of the trench. Three stone filled field drains were present 27m, 32m and 36m from the NE end of the trench. They were oriented NW-SE.
005	50	NE-SW	Dark grey brown loam topsoil between 0.3m and 0.4m deep. Natural varies between dark orange brown silty clay and gravel with bedrock outcrops towards the SW end of the trench. A stone filled field drain was present 1m from the NE end of the trench. It was oriented N-S.
006	23	NW-SE	Dark grey brown loam topsoil between 0.2m and 0.3m deep. Natural varies between dark orange brown silty clay and fractured bedrock. A thin (0.15m) band of mid grey brown silty sand subsoil was present at the NW end of the trench.
007	27	N-S	Dark grey brown loam topsoil between 0.2m and 0.3m deep. Natural was dark orange silty clay with abundant outcrops of bedrock.
4 008	45	E-W	Dark grey brown loam topsoil between 0.2m and 0.5m deep. Natural varies between light orange brown silty clay, dark grey compact clay and silty gravel with fractured bedrock.
009	30	NE-SW	Dark grey brown loam topsoil between 0.15m and 0.2m deep. Natural varies between dark orange brown silty clay in the NE half of the trench and bedrock outcrops in the SW.
010	40	E-W	Dark grey brown loam topsoil between 0.2m and 0.3m deep. Natural was dark orange silty clay with abundant outcrops of bedrock.
011	16	–	Dark grey brown loam topsoil between 0.2m and 0.3m deep. Natural was dark orange silty clay with abundant outcrops of bedrock.

#### Photographic register

Photo no.	C/S no.	Direction	Description
001	001	N/A	ID shot
002	002	SE	View of Trench 1
003	003	NW	View of Trench 2
004	004	NE	View of Trench 3
005	005	SW	View of Trench 4
006	006	NE	View of Trench 5
007	007	SE	View of Trench 6
008	008	N	View of Trench 7
009	009	W	View of Trench 8
010	010	SW	View of Trench 9

Photo no.	C/S no.	Direction	Description
011	011	W	View of Trench 10
012	012	E	View of Trench 11

## Appendix 2 – Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Glasgow City Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Cathkin Braes Wind Farm, Carmunnock, Glasgow, Carmunnock, Glasgow
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	CBWF11
<b>PARISH:</b>	Carmunnock
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):</b>	Ross Murray
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Headland Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NS 6131 5823
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	28/03/2012
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	29/03/2012
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	Jones, E 2011 <i>Cathkin Braes, Carmunnock, Glasgow - Archaeological Watching Brief</i> , Unpublished Client Report.
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)</b>	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site of a proposed single wind turbine and permanent meteorological mast at Cathkin Braes, Carmunnock, Glasgow on behalf of Scottish and Southern Energy Renewables in order to meet a condition of planning. The evaluation revealed 0.2 – 0.5m of topsoil overlying bedrock or, in places, orange brown stiff clay. No archaeological features were encountered
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS. Reports to be deposited with NMRS and WOSAS
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Scottish and Southern Energy Renewables
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	–
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Headland Archaeology Ltd, 13 Jane St, Edinburgh EH6 5HE
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	ross.murray@headlandarchaeology.com







**Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd**  
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**North East**

Headland Archaeology  
13 Jane Street  
Edinburgh EH6 5HE  
0131 467 7705  
[office@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:office@headlandarchaeology.com)

**North West**

Headland Archaeology  
10 Payne Street  
Glasgow G4 0LF  
0141 354 8100  
[glasgowoffice@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:glasgowoffice@headlandarchaeology.com)

**South & East**

Headland Archaeology  
Technology Centre, Stanbridge Road  
Leighton Buzzard LU7 4QH  
01525 850878  
[leighton.buzzard@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:leighton.buzzard@headlandarchaeology.com)

**Midlands & West**

Headland Archaeology  
Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road  
Hereford HR4 9NZ  
01432 364 901  
[hereford@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:hereford@headlandarchaeology.com)

[www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)