

SFFM12



SOUTHFIELD FARM, COUSLAND LANE, DALKEITH

Archaeological Watching Brief

for Southfield Enterprises

12/00051/DPP

October 2012

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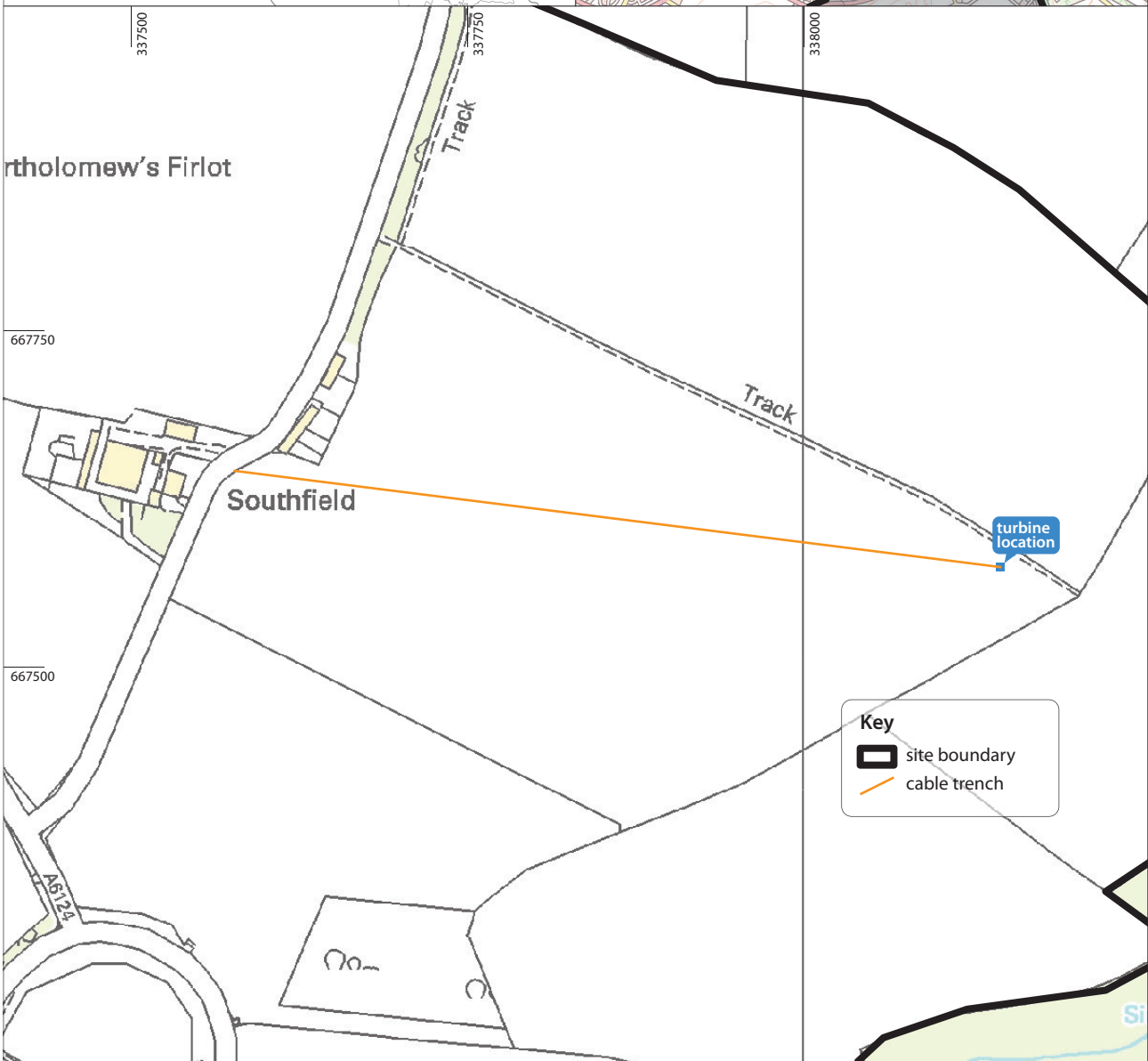
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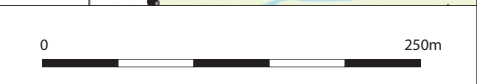


Southfield Farm Wind
Dalkeith
Midlothian



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Scale 1:5,000 @ A4



Illus 1
Site location

SOUTHFIELD FARM, COUSLAND LANE, DALKEITH

Archaeological Watching Brief

Headland Archaeology Ltd undertook archaeological monitoring of the excavation of a wind turbine base and cable trench at Southfield Farm, Midlothian, for Southfield Enterprises (the client). The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the East Lothian Council Archaeological Service on behalf of the Midlothian Council, in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent.

The development site was located in the vicinity of a number of known sites of early-to-post medieval origin.

A single wind turbine was to be erected requiring the excavation of an area of approximately 6m by 6m for the footing of the turbine. This footing was excavated to the required depth, corresponding with the depth of the limestone bedrock. In addition to this a 265m long cable trench linking the turbine with Southfield Farm was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were revealed during these works.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological monitored topsoil strip carried out at Southfield Farm, Cousland Lane, Dalkeith, intermittently between 10th July – 1st August 2012. The work was undertaken in response to a planning condition (Planning ref. 12/00051/DPP) attached to the consent of the proposed development by East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS on behalf of Midlothian Council). The aim of the work was to record any surviving sub-surface archaeological remains exposed during the excavation of a turbine base and cable trench associated with the erection of a single wind turbine at land 250m east of Southfield Farm by Scaled Energy. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd (2012) and approved by ELCAS.

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential. A long cist cemetery (RCAHMS: NT36NE 12) is recorded approximately 450 m to the north-west of the development and further cists have been recorded to the north-east (NT36NE 17). Two enclosures recorded as cropmarks have been identified within a kilometre of the site (NT36NE 7 & NT36NE 84). Further known sites include an earthwork that is thought to represent the remains of an Iron Age fort (NT36NE 6) and Cousland Castle (NT36NE 9) dating to the 9th century, both located to the north of the development. Later remains in the area include a post-medieval windmill (NT36NE 22) dating to the 17th/18th century. These known sites indicated the potential for archaeological remains from the early to post medieval periods within or near the development area.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

The site is located approximately 0.5 miles to the south-east of Cousland, Midlothian (NGR: NT 33814 66757) (illus 1). It is sited within a cropped field, on a gentle south-east facing slope. The bedrock geology comprises limestone, the overlying superficial deposits a Devensian till (sands, clays and gravels) (British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

3. OBJECTIVES

In general, the purpose of the works was to record any archaeological remains threatened by the development works and to report on the results of these works.

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



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Illus 2

View of the turbine base with the topsoil stripped

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

All topsoil stripping associated with the turbine base and cable trench was carried out under the direct supervision of a monitoring archaeologist. A flat-edged bucket fitted to a back-actor was used to remove soft deposits (topsoil and colluvium). Machine excavation then continued until either significant archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits were exposed. If required the exposed surface of geological deposits was hand cleaned sufficiently to inspect for potential archaeological features. The sections of the cable trench were also inspected for possible features and the spoil heaps were monitored for possible finds.

4.2 Recording

All recording was in accordance with the codes of practice and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (2008). All recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards that conform to accepted archaeological norms. A full list of the contexts can be found in Appendix 1.

35mm colour transparencies and digital photographs were taken to record archaeological contexts and to illustrate the general nature of the work. All photographs have been recorded by individual print number and include information on the context and direction taken. A full list of the photographs taken can be found in Appendix 2.

A plan of the development area in relation to the National Grid was supplied by the client.

5. RESULTS

The initial works comprised the excavation of a 6m x 6m area for covering the footprint of the wind turbine. This was excavated in shallow spits down to natural bedrock (005) which was recorded at between 1.6–1.8m below the ground surface. Above this was 0.7–0.8m of light grey silty clay with coal/shale, stones, boulders and clay lens inclusions (004). Within this layer, at 0.9m from the ground surface, a number of potential features were visible. Comprising a series of shallow depressions (<0.2m deep) filled with a sterile yellow/orange clay matrix these features were sectioned and recorded, with nothing recovered from the fill.

Illus 3 ▶

General view of the cable trench from the W

Above this was a 0.3–0.5m thick layer of mottled light brown/grey silty clay (003) with coal/shale, stone and clay lens inclusions. This underlay a 0.25–0.3m thick layer of light brown silty clay (002) with similar inclusions to (003). This deposit contained an active terracotta field drain and was overlain by 0.3m dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (001).

In order to connect this turbine to the nearby farm a 560m long cable trench was excavated across the gently sloping field. The trench was aligned east to west, running between the turbine and Cousland Lane to the west and was 0.8m wide and approximately 0.9m deep. Occasionally along the length of the trench outcrops of bedrock were encountered between 0.3 and 0.5m below the surface although this was very limited. The main stratigraphic make up of the trench comprised a subsoil of mid-orange brown clayey silt with moderate small stone inclusions. Within the subsoil occasional bands of black silt and yellow clayey sand were recorded. This was overlain by a dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (001) from which a small number of abraded 19th/20th century pottery sherds were recovered.

No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were recorded during the excavation of the turbine base or the cable trench.

6. DISCUSSION

The development area contained the potential for significant archaeological features, due to the nearby presence of known sites of early-to-post medieval origin. Despite this, no archaeological features of significance were encountered during the excavation. The potential features located within (004) were highly likely to be stone holes, there being a number of large-sized (<0.5m) boulders within the matrix. This was supported by the absence of artefacts or ecofacts from the fill deposits and the single fill within the features.



Illus 4 ▶

View of the cable trench close to the E end



7. REFERENCES

Brown, DM 2011 *Archaeological Archives; A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, 2nd edn, AAF: 2007 [http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/aaf_archaeological_archives_2011.pdf].

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Institute for Archaeologists 2008 *Standard and Guidance; for an archaeological watching brief*, 2nd revn, IfA, Reading: 1994 [http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/ifa_standards_watching.pdf].

The Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)*, [<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/03132605/12>].

8. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Site registers

Appendix 1.1 Context register

Context	Area	Description
001	–	Dark grayish brown silty clay topsoil, 0.3m thick
002	Turbine base	Light brown silty clay with coal/shale and sedimentary stone inclusions, 0.25-0.3m thick
003	Turbine base	Light brown grey silty clay with stone, coal/chale, clay lens inclusions, 0.3-0.5m thick
004	Turbine base	Light grey/grey silty clay with coal/shale, clay lenses, stones and boulders, 0.7-0.8m thick
005	Turbine base	Limestone bedrock
006	Cable trench	Mid-orange brown clayey silt with moderate small stone inclusions

Appendix 1.2 Photographic register

Shot	Digital	Direction	Description
001	SFFM12-001-001	NW	Spoil along track
002	SFFM12-001-002	SE	Spoil along track
003	SFFM12-001-003	SW	Spoil along track, detail
004	SFFM12-001-004	S	Site of turbine
005	SFFM12-001-005	W	Site of turbine
006	SFFM12-001-006	E	Crop removal
007	SFFM12-001-007	NW	Crop removal
008	SFFM12-001-008	E	Excavation to intermediary orange clay
009	SFFM12-001-009	E	Excavation, intermediary, grey silt exposed
010	SFFM12-001-010	NW	'Pit' 1, plan
011	SFFM12-001-011	E	'Pit' 1, west-facing section
012	SFFM12-001-012	W	'Pit' 2, east-facing section
013	SFFM12-001-013	W	'Pit' 2, plan
014	SFFM12-001-014	W	Overall, showing 'pits'
015	SFFM12-001-015	W	Overall, showing 'pits'
016	SFFM12-001-016	NW	'Pits' 2,3
017	SFFM12-001-017	SW	Pits, overall
018	SFFM12-001-018	SW	Pits' 1,6,8,9
019	SFFM12-001-019	SW	Overall, showing 'pits'
020	SFFM12-001-020	S	Overall, showing 'pits'
021	SFFM12-001-021	NW	'Pits' 3-5

Shot	Digital	Direction	Description
022	SFFM12-001-022	W	Indicative section (east-facing)
023	SFFM12-001-023	E	Trench (for terracotta field drain)
024	SFFM12-001-024	NW	Final
025	SFFM12-001-025	W	Final
026	SFFM12-001-026	W	View of finished turbine base
027	SFFM12-001-027	W	East end of the cable trench
028	SFFM12-001-028	N	Section of the cable trench at the E end
029	SFFM12-001-029	N	Section of the cable trench at the E end showing the tile drain
030	SFFM12-001-030	W	Working shot of the cable trench excavations
031	SFFM12-001-031	N	Section of the cable trench at 150m
032	SFFM12-001-032	W	Working shot of the cable trench excavations
033	SFFM12-001-033	E	Initial 250 of the cable trench
034	SFFM12-001-034	N	Section of the Initial 250 of the cable trench at 250m
035	SFFM12-001-035	W	Final 250 of the cable trench facing W
036	SFFM12-001-036	W	Working shot of the cable trench excavations
037	SFFM12-001-037	W	Working shot of the cable trench excavations
038	SFFM12-001-038	E	Final 100m of the cable trench facing E
039	SFFM12-001-039	W	Final 100m of the cable trench facing W



Appendix 2 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Midlothian Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	A watching brief at Southfield Farm, Dalkieth
PROJECT CODE:	SFFM12
PARISH:	Dalkieth
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Donald Wilson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	none
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	none
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NGR: NT 33814 66757
START DATE (this season)	July 2012
END DATE (this season)	August 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	none
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Headland Archaeology Ltd undertook monitoring of the excavation of a wind turbine base and cable trench at Southfield Farm, Midlothian, for Scaled Energy. The development site was located in the vicinity of a number of known sites of early-to-post medieval origin.</p> <p>A single wind turbine was to be erected requiring the excavation of an area of approximately 6m by 6m for the footing of the turbine. This footing was excavated to the limestone bedrock. In addition to this a 265m long cable trench linking the turbine with Southfield Farm was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were revealed during these works.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Southfield Enterprises
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RCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NMRS



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