


Edintore Wind Farm, Keith, Moray: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22301

10th March 2016



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Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	vento ludens Ltd. 12 South Charlotte Street Edinburgh EH2 4AX
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NJ 42270 46485
AOC Project No:	22301
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Date of Fieldwork:	17 th August 2015 – 20 th December 2015
Date of Report:	10 th March 2016

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Abstract

This report presents the results of the initial phase of an archaeological watching brief undertaken in relation to the development of a wind farm in Edintore, Keith, Moray.

The watching brief involved the monitoring of all groundbreaking works throughout the wind farm development area, including foundations, service trenches, access roads and landscaping.

No significant archaeological finds or features were uncovered throughout the monitored works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by vento ludens Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief on all ground breaking works involved during the development of a wind farm at Edintore, Keith, Moray. The watching brief was conducted in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, Moray Council who are advised on archaeological matters by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS). The works were carried out according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2015) approved on behalf of Moray Council by ACAS and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The site, centred on NGR NJ 42270 46485, lies to the north of Edintore, a small farmstead 4km south of Keith. The development area is bounded by the B9115 to the south and Cairds Hill to the north (Figure 1).

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 A Desk-Based Assessment and associated walkover survey have previously been completed over the site (Wood 2010). Neither significant archaeological features nor find spots were identified within the actual location of the turbines or access track.
- 1.3.2 In the surrounding area the assessment indicated that there is a possibility of Neolithic and/or Bronze Age activity in the vicinity, with four possible cairns marked to the north east of the development area (NJ44NW 5; NJ44NW 6; NJ44NW 2, NJ44NW 12). Furthermore, there were two boundary stones noted relating to the 19th century farmstead (Moray SMR: NJ44NW0029 and NJ44NW0030), and a previously unrecorded feature CH9.
- 1.3.3 In November 2012, AOC Archaeology carried out a watching brief of the SI investigation works for the wind farm development. During the three days of excavations no significant archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered (AOC 2012).

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- i) to monitor ground-breaking works associated with the development and prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
- ii) to undertake the immediate recording of isolated finds of moderately significant archaeological material that will be disturbed by ground breaking works;
- iii) given the discovery of significant archaeological material in quantity that that will suffer an adverse impact from the groundworks associated with the redevelopment (ie where preservation *in situ* is impractical), the recording of all archaeological features by means of a mitigation strategy to be formulated with ACAS.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of all ground breaking works associated with the development, comprising of site compound, access tracks turbine bases and crane pads. Excavations utilised a 360 tracked excavator with bladed ditching bucket. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and conducted according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and as per the methodology within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2015).
- 3.2 Prior to the start of the watching brief, the boundary stones noted in the desk based assessment were located and fenced off to ensure they are not damaged by the works. Feature CH9 could not be located prior to the works commencing.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken over several months from the 17th August 2015 to January 2016. Weather conditions varied greatly but archaeological visibility was generally good throughout the watching brief.
- 4.2 The watching brief uncovered a topsoil throughout consisting of a mid brown sandy silt varying in depth from 0.1m to 0.6m, covering light brown clay, sands and gravels (Plate 1).



Plate 1 – Topsoil strip of T1 crane pad and turbine base

- 4.3 No significant archaeological finds or features were uncovered during ground breaking works associated with either the crane pads or roads. Evidence of modern agricultural features were uncovered, such as rubble drains (Plate 2) however this was the extent of it.



Plate 2 Rubble drain in road strip

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The archaeological works associated with the wind farm development successfully fenced off the boundary stones prior to work commencing however the feature CH9 could not be located. Given that it was out with the track and turbine base areas it is safe to assume that it will not have been impacted upon by the site investigation works.
- 5.2 The watching brief successfully demonstrated that there were no significant finds or features across the site other than modern agricultural works. No further archaeological mitigation is deemed necessary. This recommendation shall need confirmed by ACAS.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Edintore Wind Farm, Keith, Moray: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

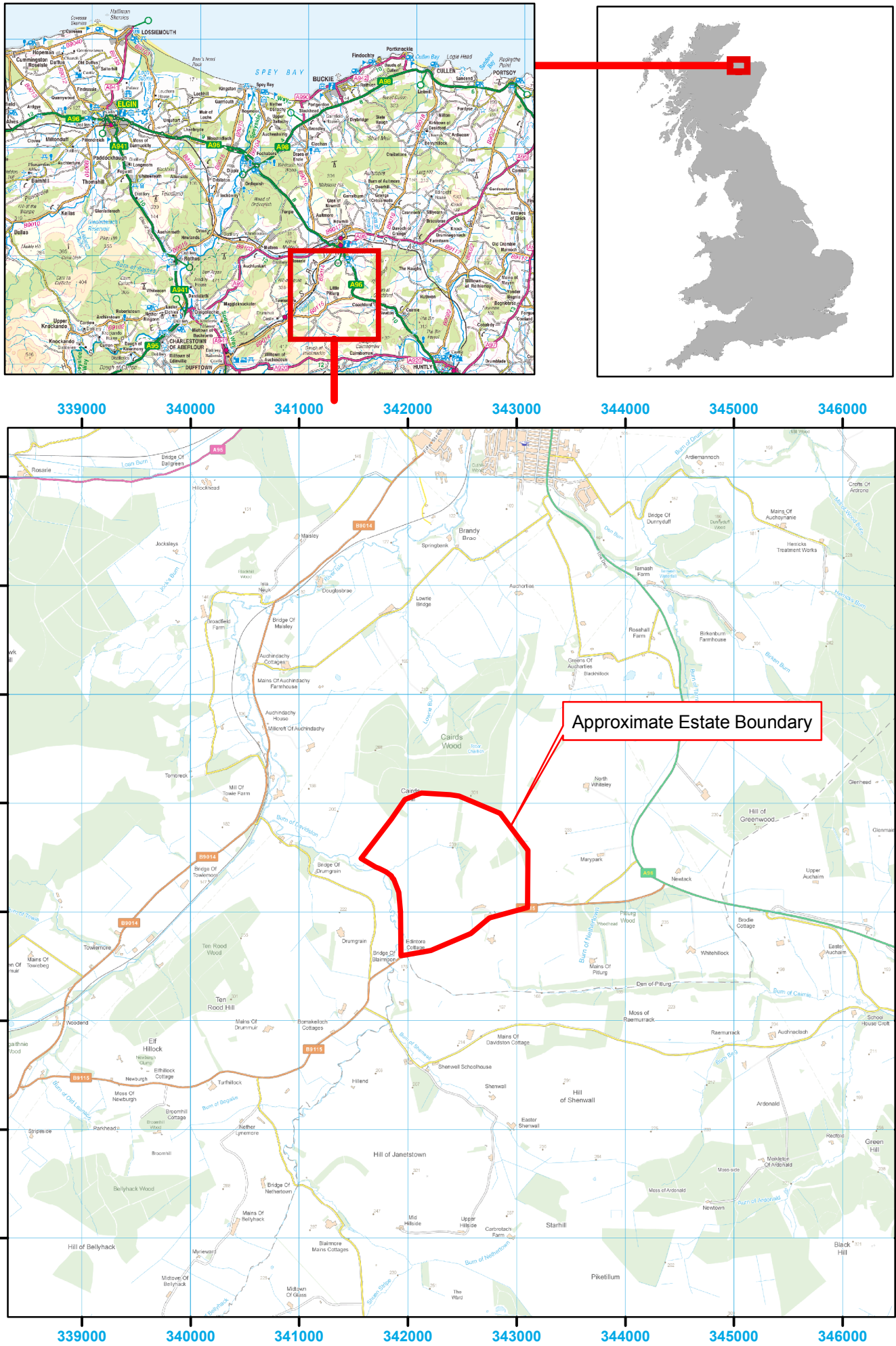
Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Pre excavation photos of compound area	W
3	Pre excavation photos of compound area	S
4	Working shot of track	S
5	Compound mid excavation	W
6	Compound mid excavation	N
7	Compound mid excavation	NW
8	Compound mid excavation	SW
9	Compound mid excavation	S
10	Fence line pre excavation	E
11	Drain next to road	E
12	Drain next to road	W
13	Fence line post excavation	W
14-15	Area stripped 21/09/2015	S
16-17	Rubble drain in area stripped 21/09/2015	W
18-19	Area stripped 21/09/2015	N
20-21	Stripping in area of trees to the south of Turbine 5	S
22-23	Stripping in area of trees to the south of Turbine 5	N
24-25	Working shot	SE
26-27	West end of above post excavation	W
28-29	Stripping crane pad area of Turbine 5	SE
30-32	Crane pad area of Turbine 5 post excavation	NE
33-34	Stripping access track north of Turbine 5	S
35-36	Stripping access track T5	S
37-38	Access track between T4 and T5 post excavation	NW
39-40	Stripping access track between T4 and T3	E
41-42	Stripping crane base T4	E
43-45	Turbine base for T4 post excavation	E
46-47	Main access track adjacent to T3 post excavation	W
48-49	Stripping crane base for T3	W
50-52	Turbine base for T5 post excavation	W
53-54	Area to the south of crane pad stripped	S
55-57	Crane pad at T3 post excavation	E
58-60	Turbine base for T3 post excavation	SE
61-62	Stripping access track to T3	SW
63-64	Access track to T3 post excavation	NE
65-66	Progress shots of topsoil stripping at T3	Various

67-70	Access track between T1 and T2 post excavation	Various
71-72	Crane pad for T2 post excavation	NE
73-74	Access track to T2 post excavation	SW
75-76	Progress shots of stripping turbine base and crane pad for T2	N
77-82	Progress shots of T2 and access track	Various
83-85	Extension of turbine base for T3	Various
86-87	Continuation of access track to T6	E
88-89	Continuation of access track to T6	NW
90-91	Close up of modern sheep burial	Various
92-93	Continuation of access track to T6	NW
94-95	Current track to T6 to be upgraded	S
96-97	Continuation of access track to T6	SE
98-99	Progress shot of T6	SE
100-101	Progress shot of T6	N
102-103	Progress shot of crane pad at T6	NE
104-105	Progress shot of crane pad at T6	S
106-107	Progress shot of crane pad at T6	W
108-109	Access track to T6	E
110-111	Crane pad for T6 post excavation	E
112-113	Lay down area for T6 post excavation	SE
114-115	Lay down area for T6 post excavation	N
116-117	Lay down area for T6 post excavation	E
118	Access track to T1	NE
119	Large boulder within track to T1	-
120-121	Extension to T6 lay down area	E
122-125	Progress shots of T1 crane pad and turbine base	Various

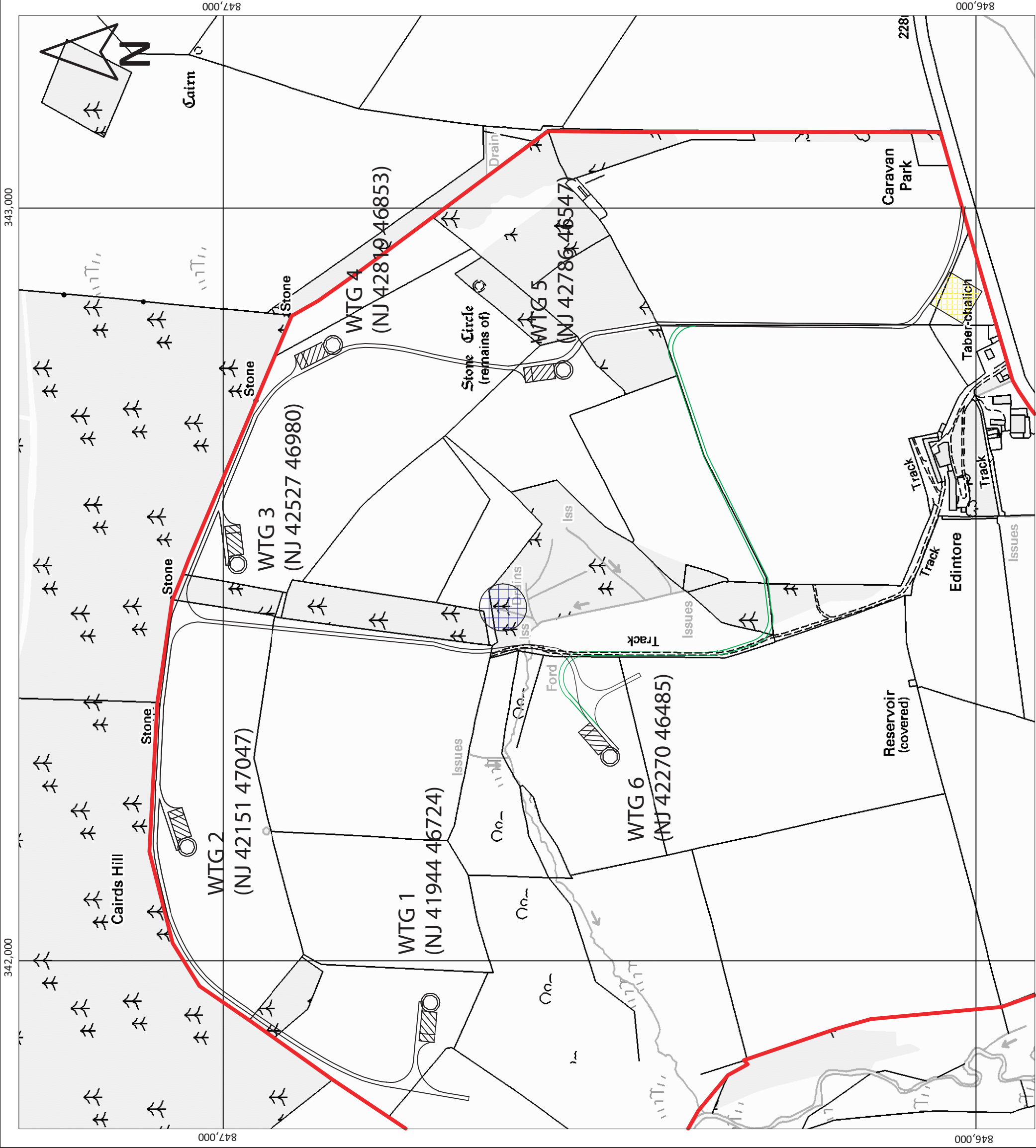
APPENDIX 2: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Moray Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Edintore, Keith, Moray
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22301
PARISH:	Keith
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Yvonne Robertson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	NJ44NW 30
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NJ 42270 46485
START DATE (this season)	17 th August 2015
END DATE (this season)	January 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Desk Based Assessment (Wood, J 2010) Highland Archaeology Service Archaeological Watching Brief SI Works, AOC Archaeology, 2012
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>The initial phase of an archaeological watching brief was undertaken in relation to a proposed wind farm in Edintore, Keith, Moray.</p> <p>The watching brief involved the monitoring of all groundbreaking works throughout the wind farm development area.</p> <p>Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	vento ludens Ltd.
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EMAIL ADDRESS:	Edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Meters

Figure 1: Site Location Plan



Legend

- WTG Vestas V90 Foundation (coordinates in British National Grid)
- Preferred Internal Road and Turning Points
- Alternative Road to WTG 6
- Estate Boundary
- Crane hardstanding
- Proposed Borrow Pit
- Proposed Compound

350,000 / 850,000
Coordinates in BNG (AIRY)

Date: 16-07-2010

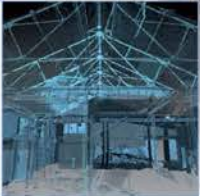
Scale: 1: 5,000 @ A3



On-site track layout



Illustration derived from client's original drawing



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