

# **MARTIN HILL EAST, CROSS HANDS, MARTLETWY, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**(NGR SN 07634 11431)**



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
For: AG Renewables Ltd



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## DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2012/23  
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# MARTIN HILL EAST, CROSS HANDS, MARTLETWY, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Gan / By

Charles Enright and James Meek

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	<b>CONTENTS</b>	
	<b>SUMMARY</b>	1
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	2
	<b>1.1 Project Commission</b>	2
	<b>1.2 Scope of Project</b>	2
	<b>1.3 Report Outline</b>	3
	<b>1.4 Abbreviations</b>	3
	<b>1.5 Illustrations</b>	3
	<b>1.6 Timeline</b>	3
<b>2</b>	<b>THE SITE</b>	5
	<b>2.1 Site Location</b>	5
	<b>2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background</b>	5
<b>3</b>	<b>WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY</b>	11
	<b>3.1 Fieldwork Methodology</b>	11
	<b>3.2 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving</b>	11
<b>4</b>	<b>RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>	12
	<b>4.1 Area 1</b>	12
	<b>4.2 Area 2</b>	12
<b>5</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	13
<b>6</b>	<b>PHOTOGRAPHS</b>	14
<b>7</b>	<b>SOURCES</b>	18

**FIGURES**

<b>Figure 1:</b> Site location map based on the Ordnance Survey.	4
<b>Figure 2:</b> Martin Hill Farm East, with proposed access tracks, crane pad and turbine base. The red areas are those where new development/tracks are proposed. Area 1 is the new stretch of track and Area 2 is the turbine base, crane pad and new access track.	7
<b>Figure 3:</b> Extract of the first edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1880 with outline of proposed turbine and access road. Note that the waterlogged depression in the field is shown on this map to the southeast of the turbine.	10

## TABLES

<b>Table 1:</b> Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.	3
<b>Table 2:</b> Known archaeological and historical sites recorded on the regional HER within a 1500m radius centred on the site.	8

## PHOTOGRAPHS

<b>Photo 1:</b> Backfilled pipe trench in Area 1, viewing south.	14
<b>Photo 2:</b> Large pit visible as dark area, lying close to the northern end of Area 1, viewing north. The crushed stone trackway lies to the north of the pit.	15
<b>Photo 3:</b> View north of fully stripped Area 1. Probable window sample trench visible to left of image as rectangular feature, west of the 1m scale.	15
<b>Photo 4:</b> Machine excavating the new track way in Area 2, viewing northwest.	16
<b>Photo 5:</b> Excavated Track way with topsoil removed showing patches of exposed clay subsoil in Area 2, viewing southwest.	16
<b>Photo 6:</b> Excavated track way in Area 2, viewiwnng northeast.	17

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**SUMMARY**

*A planning application (Planning Application No. 11/0814/PA) was submitted to Pembrokeshire County Council for the erection of a wind turbine at Martin Hill East Farm, Crosshands, Pembrokeshire (NGR SN 07634 11431).*

*The site lies in close proximity to a number of post-medieval sites, including various buildings and structures predominantly associated with RAF Templeton . Other sites recorded on the HER suggest prehistoric activity in the vicinity and this is where the greatest archaeological potential for the site lies. The proposed turbine site and associated access road lie along a prominent topographic ridge in the landscape which may have been a focus for prehistoric activity.*

*Due to the archaeological potential of the site a condition was placed upon planning permission requiring the attendance of an archaeologist during the ground works to undertake an archaeological watching brief.*

*AG Renewables Ltd commissioned DAT Archaeological Services to undertake the watching brief during ground works. This took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> May, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.*

*No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were observed during the watching brief. Much of the proposed route of the access track had been previously disturbed with modern farm activity or the construction of the existing access road. These areas were not observed.*

*Area 1 lay to the north of Martin Hill East Farm and comprised a new stretch of access track across a field. The watching brief observed a number of features of low archaeological significance relating to activity associated with the farm.*

*The lack of archaeological remains observed during groundworks in and around the vicinity of the turbine site within Area 2 does not preclude the possibility that significant archaeological activity exists in the wider area.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Commission**

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by AG Renewables Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the erection of a wind turbine at Martin Hill East Farm, Cross Hands, Martletwy, Pembrokeshire (located at SN 07634 11431; Figure 1). The proposed works included the installation of access roads, the turbine base, crane pad and associated cabling.
- 1.1.2 The requirement for the archaeological works was placed as a condition on planning permission for this development (Planning application No. 11/0814/PA) recommended by the archaeological advisors<sup>1</sup> to Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC).
- 1.1.3 The archaeological condition stated: *The developer shall appoint an archaeological contractor not less than three weeks prior to the commencement of any ground disturbance on site and shall afford him or any other archaeologist nominated by the Local Planning Authority access at all reasonable times in order to observe the excavations and record archaeological remains uncovered during the work. An archaeological brief shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Work must be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme. Reason: To ensure the recording of times of archaeological interest to accord with Policy 84 of the Joint Unitary Development Plan for Pembrokeshire (adopted 13 July 2006)*
- 1.1.3 The archaeological condition was placed on the development as the proposed works could potentially expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains.

### **1.2 Scope of Project**

- 1.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a watching brief was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of works. The WSI was commissioned by Parsons Brinckerhoff who put together the original planning application for the turbine, with AG Renewables Ltd taking the site on after planning permission had been granted. The WSI outlined methodologies for:
- Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which the watching brief should be undertaken.
  - To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
  - To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
  - To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
  - To produce an archive and report of any results.
- 1.2.2 The proposed scheme of work was summarised in the WSI as: Archaeological attendance and recording during initial groundworks at the site of the wind turbine proposals at Martin Hill East Farm, which may expose, damage or destroy any underlying archaeological remains, if present within the development area. These include the areas of the wind turbine, crane pad and new access tracks. A report shall be prepared on

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<sup>1</sup> **Dyfed Archaeological Trust Planning Services – Heritage Management.**

the results of the watching brief, and an archive created of all finds, records, photographs and plans created by this mitigation strategy.

### 1.3 Report Outline

- 1.3.1 This report provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological watching brief and its results.

### 1.4 Abbreviations

- 1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record<sup>2</sup> (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services – DAT-FS; Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management – DAT-HM; Scheduled Ancient Monument – SAM; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI.

### 1.5 Illustrations

- 1.5.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily produced to their original scale.

### 1.6 Timeline

- 1.6.1 The following timeline (**Table 1**) is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text.

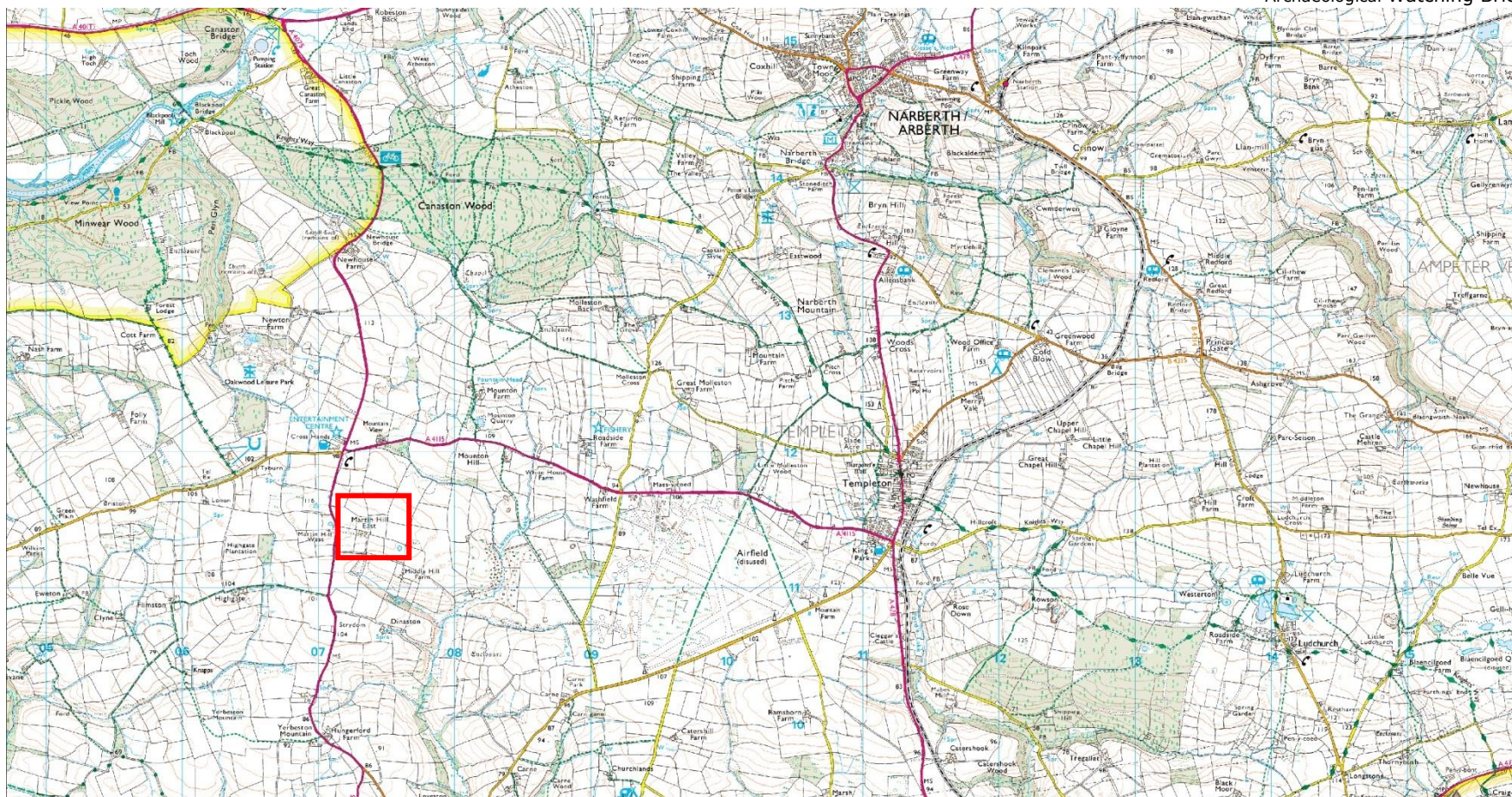
Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval Period –	1086 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period <sup>3</sup> –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20 <sup>th</sup> century onwards	

**Table 1:** Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.

<sup>2</sup> Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AF.

<sup>3</sup> The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust





**Figure 1:** Site location map based on the Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Explorer 1:25,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd., The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No 1000209.



## **2 THE SITE**

### **2.1 Location**

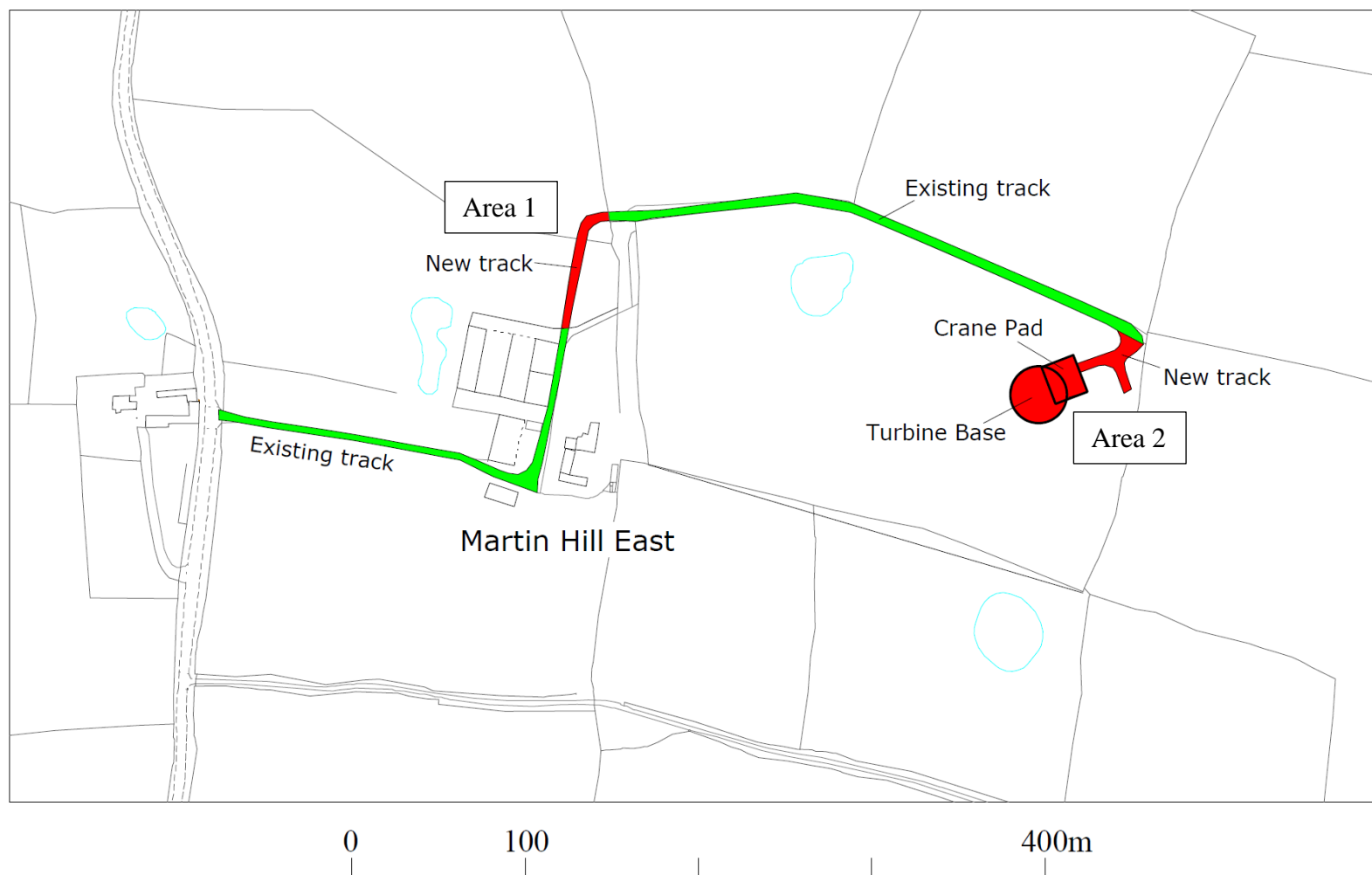
- 2.1.1 The site of the proposed turbine lies on land to the east of Martin Hill East Farm within a pasture field (**Figure 2**). The proposed turbine lies on a relatively flat level plateau between the 100m and 110m contours.
- 2.1.2 A slight depression is present on the eastern side of the field directly to the southeast of the turbine location. This is associated with a waterlogged depression or 'sink hole' within 20m of the site of the turbine. It is understood that a number of these waterlogged depressions are present on the higher ground of Martin Hill and that they are naturally formed.
- 2.1.3 The access track will follow an existing track-way on the northern side of the northern boundary of the field leading west to the north of Martin Hill East Farm. The access road will divert slightly from the existing track-way and pass south through a small pasture field before linking back with the existing concrete road way though the farmyard. The access track then follows the existing track westwards to the main road.

### **2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 2.2.1 A search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust indicates that there are 23 known sites within a 1500m radius centered on the proposed turbine site, predominantly dating from the post-medieval period (**Table 1** summarises the known archaeological sites). Most of these sites are associated with RAF Templeton and include various buildings and structures erected as part of the air field. Further structures and buildings associated with RAF Templeton exist in the wider landscape beyond the 1500m radius used in this investigation. Post-medieval quarry pits, gravel pits and two limekilns are also recorded within the search area, all related to mineral extraction of the carboniferous limestone present in the vicinity.
- 2.2.2 Settlements established in the post-medieval period are recorded within the search area including Moun-ton and Molleston, both of which survive as hamlets. A small enclosure of post-medieval date is also recorded to the southeast of the turbine site. A single medieval settlement is recorded in the search area, which is that of Dinaston or Donington to the south of the turbine location. None of these sites lie in close proximity to the proposed turbine location and it is considered unlikely that any associated remains would be present in the area.
- 2.2.3 Martin Hill East Farm is very likely to have post-medieval or even medieval origins. Many farms in this area have early origins, the sites being established in the medieval period and continuing to the present day. The existing farm house has no indications of it being a very early building, although it is shown in the first edition Ordnance Survey map (**Figure 3**), presumably any earlier elements having been rebuilt in the later post-medieval period. The present owner of Martin Hill East Farm understood that the farm was of relatively recent date and did not have earlier origins, although its inclusion on the first edition ordnance survey map would contradict this.
- 2.2.4 The remaining sites recorded on the HER suggest prehistoric activity in the vicinity and this is perhaps where the greatest archaeological potential for the site comes from. Some 500m to the east-northeast of the turbine

location is the site of the former Longstone Bronze Age standing stone, now removed. Around 500m to the south are two burnt mounds also of Bronze Age date, one of which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Burnt mounds are characterized by piles of heat affected stones and charcoal usually located close to stream courses. When excavated, they are usually associated with sunken pits or troughs which would have held water. Stones would have been heated in bonfires and then placed in these pits or troughs to rapidly heat the water. Once finished with, the stones were removed from the water and thrown into piles around the perimeter (often resulting in the classic horse shoe shaped arrangements in mounds). The functions of these sites is not clear, and they could be the remains of sweat lodges, industrial sites (where the stream is used to bend wood or process animal skins etc.) or alternatively cooking or feasting sites.

- 2.2.5 Also recorded on the HER is a nearby cropmark site which could represent a former settlement area and also the Castle Croft earthwork, a site of unknown date, but which could again be the remains of a prehistoric settlement. The location of Martin Hill East Farm and the proposed turbine site is on a high point in the land. Such sites were often favoured for prehistoric settlement or funerary sites (round barrows) and as known Bronze Age archaeology exists in the vicinity of the site area, there was considered to be some potential for remains of this date within the proposed development area.
- 2.2.6 The field in which the turbine is proposed has been relatively unaltered in recent years, surviving as improved pasture land, with no indications of the area being in filled or levelled. It is known that geotechnical test pits have been excavated within the location of the proposed crane pad, with the spoil from one of these visible on the surface of the field. A wind monitoring station has also been built on the site, but this required minimal ground disturbance.
- 2.2.7 The existing tracks and roadways have previously been levelled and surfaced. It was considered very unlikely that any archaeological remains would survive beneath their routes and so the improvements to these tracks and roads were not covered as part of the watching brief.
- 2.2.8 The two areas of archaeological potential within the development site where a watching brief was undertaken were the stretch of proposed track-way through the field to the north of the farmyard (Area 1) and the groundworks within the turbine field (Area 2).



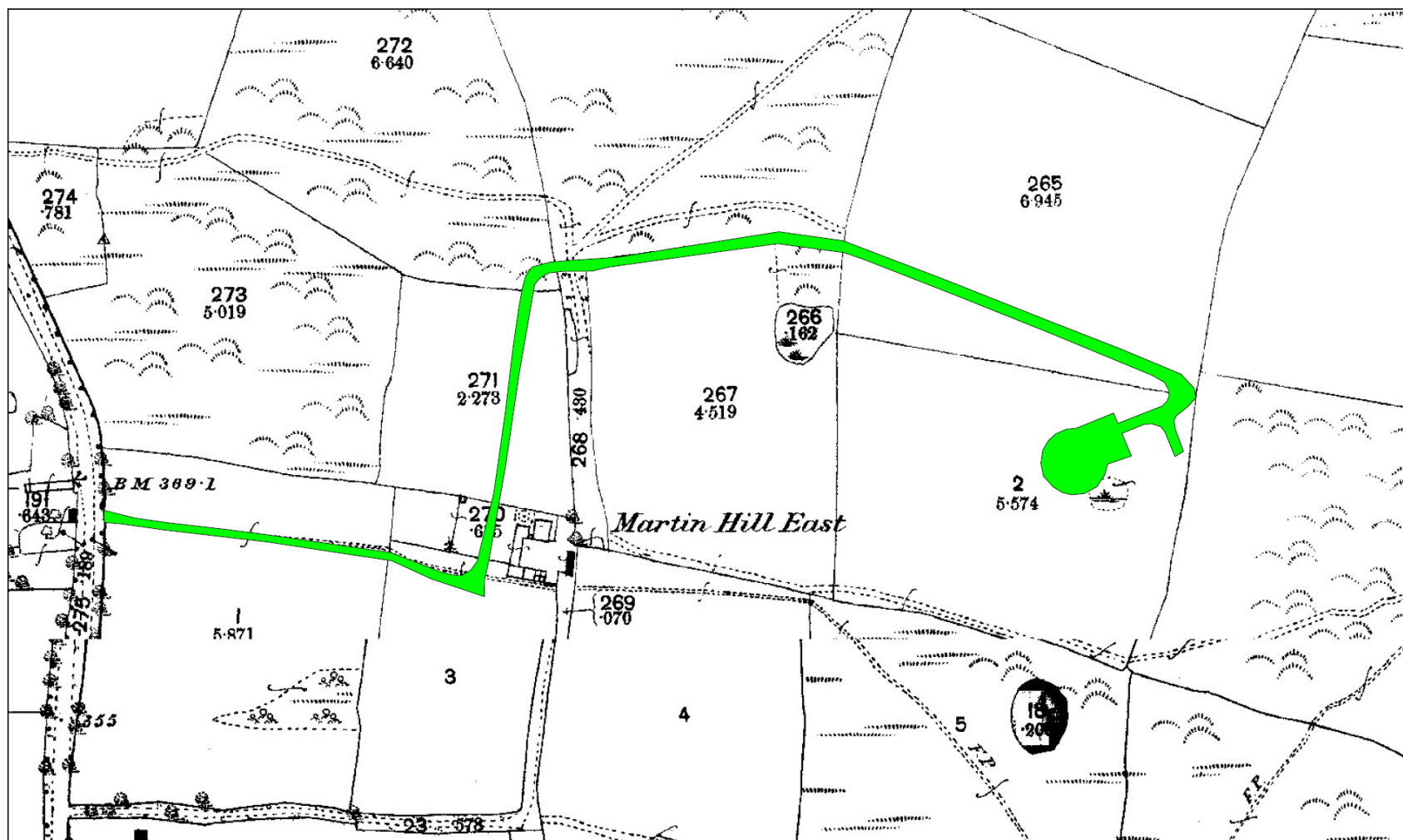
**Figure 2:** Martin Hill Farm East, with proposed access tracks, crane pad and turbine base  
The red areas are those where new development/tracks are proposed  
Area 1 is the new stretch of track and Area 2 is the turbine base, crane pad and new access track

PRN	Site Name	Description	Grid Reference
3620	Longstone Standing Stone	A Bronze Age standing stone that reportedly stood here had been broken up by 1925. It is not known if the area still has archaeological potential.	SN 081 116
3629	Dinaston Burnt Mound	Prehistoric Earthwork scheduled ancient monument PE488 (500m due south)	SN 0764 1089
3630	Dinaston Burnt Mound	Prehistoric burnt mound	SN 0768 1085
3632	Tumped Park Moated Homestead	Probable medieval earthwork, much ploughed down sub-rectangular, measuring c. 30m east to west by c. 25m north to south, just discernible as a low bank lying on a west facing gentle hillslope at 82m above sea level.	SN 0822 1056
3634	Castle Croft Earthwork	Earthwork and "castle" field name of unknown significance and date	SN 0770 1066
4307	Carn Fach Cropmark	Cropmark of unknown significance and date	SN 0819 1047
11470	Dinaston; Donington Settlement	Medieval settlement	SN 074 107
15222	Highgate Gravel Pit	Post-medieval gravel pit	SN 06489 10895
17070	Lime Kiln	Post-medieval Lime Kiln	SN 07475 12512
17071	Mounton Quarry	Post-medieval quarry	SN 0822 1223
28066	Mounton Settlement	Post-medieval settlement	SN 08 12
28067	Molleston Settlement	Post-medieval settlement	SN 09 12
44747	Enclosure	Post-medieval enclosure	SN 08279 11209
59613	Mounton Quarry Limekiln	Post-medieval grade II listed limekiln	SN 08176 12164
101650	RAF Templeton Picket Post	1940s Single storey, square plan, cement rendered 'temporary brick', corrugated asbestos sheet gable roof. Small toilet annex against south elevation. Doorway in east elevation. Built per AMWD drawing 4072/41.	SN 0892 1070
101652	RAF Templeton Air Raid Shelter	1940s Single storey, rectangular plan, parabolic pre-cast bolted concrete panels. Door in gable protected by an earth embanked brick blast wall. Emergency exit in roof at far end of shelter. The whole structure is reveted with earth. Built per AMWD drawing TD 931.	SN 0885 1069
101653	RAF Templeton Air Raid Shelter	1940s Single storey, rectangular plan, parabolic pre-cast bolted concrete panels. Door in gable protected by an earth embanked brick blast wall. Emergency exit in roof at far end of shelter. The whole structure is reveted with earth. Built per AMWD drawing TD 931.	SN 0890 1069
101654	RAF Templeton Sergeant's Latrine	1940s Single storey, rectangular plan, cement rendered 'temporary brick', mono-pitched corrugated asbestos sheet roof carried on timber purlins. 'Standard Steel' four light windows. Built per AMWD drawing 4072/41.	SN 0888 1071
101655	RAF Templeton Sergeant's Latrine	1940s Single storey, rectangular plan, cement rendered 'temporary brick', mono-pitched corrugated asbestos sheet roof carried on timber purlins. 'Standard Steel' four light windows. Built	SN 0883 1071



		per AMWD drawing 4072/41.	
101657	RAF Templeton Components Store	1940s Single storey, rectangular plan, cement rendered brick, flat asphalted re-inforced concrete roof. Two rooms accessed by doors in S wall. Grilles nr. floor & ceiling. Located within a 10 ft. high earth revetment enclosure. Built per AMWD drawing 18185/40.	SN 0833 1076
101658	RAF Templeton Pyrotechnic And Incendiary Store	1940s Parallel pair of single storey, rectangular plan, cement rendered brick, flat asphalted re-inforced concrete roofed stores. Ventilation grilles nr. floor & ceiling. Located within a 10 ft. high earth revetment enclosure. Built per AMWD drawing 18185/40.	SN 0861 1070
101659	RAF Templeton Incendiary Store	1940s Sunken, rectangular, slag floored, earthen enclosure, formerly containing two parallel Nissen store huts. Both of which have been dismantled leaving rectangular concrete floors. Enclosure reached by a flight of concrete steps. Built per AMWD drawing 4734/42.	SN 0861 1070
101660	RAF Templeton Dining Room	1940s Three, parallel, single storey, rectangular, cement rendered 'temporary brick', corrugated asbestos gable roofed ranges, linked by a central corridor. The central range functioned as the kitchens, outer ranges as dining rooms. Built per AMWD drawing 4069/41.	SN 0902 1126

**Table 2:** Known archaeological and historical sites recorded on the regional HER within a 1500m radius centred on the site.



**Figure 3:** Extract of the first edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1880 with outline of proposed turbine and access road  
Note that the waterlogged depression in the field is shown on this map to the southeast of the turbine.

### **3 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 Visits to the site during the groundworks programme were undertaken on 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at the request of the client / site contractors. The requested visits on the 28<sup>th</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> June did not observe any ground works within the areas where the archaeological watching brief was necessary due to various factors.
- 3.1.2 Excavation work was conducted by a 13 ton machine with a 2m wide toothless bucket. All archaeological deposits revealed during the ground works were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.
- 3.1.3 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual<sup>4</sup> used by DAT Archaeological Services.
- 3.1.4 As noted above (Figure 2), there were two areas of archaeological observation: Area 1 covered the stretch of new track way leading north from Martin Hill East farm; and Area 2, covering the site of the turbine base, crane pad and turning area/access road in the furthest east field (the turbine field).

#### **3.2 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving**

- 3.2.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 3.2.2 The results of the fieldwork have been assessed in local, regional and wider contexts.
- 3.2.3 The report includes a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context.

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<sup>4</sup> Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available on-site for inspection if required.

## **4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **4.1 Area 1**

- 4.1.1 Area 1 consisted of the construction of a new track to the north of Martin Hill East Farm to connect two existing tracks. The topsoil covering the area was approximately 0.30m in depth overlying a yellow / brown clay subsoil with iron oxide content.
- 4.1.2 At the southern end of the area, adjacent to the existing concrete roadway and yard area of the farm the ground was very disturbed. Water pipe conduits, modern rubbish and fragments of wooden posts had been dumped in this area.
- 4.1.3 Also at the southern end of the trench a backfilled pipe or service trench was observed (Photo 1). This was seen for a length of around 4m and comprised a narrow and shallow feature backfilled with very loose material. The owner of the farm thought that it might have been a former BT cable that he knew ran through the field.
- 4.1.4 Midway along the area a probable window sample pit was observed on the western side. This was very rectangular in shape and looked to contain a mixed backfill material. Window samples are known to have been excavated along the access road route as part of the initial development of the wind turbine scheme.
- 4.1.5 At the northern end of Area 1 there was the remains of a crushed stone former track way aligned east to west, situated between existing gates in adjacent fields. The track was evidently still occasionally used, although vegetation has grown back over its surface. An in situ copper pipe was also located in this area.
- 4.1.4 Directly to the south of the crushed stone track way a large pit of probable modern date was recorded. This contained a mixed backfill containing a number of Cwmgors brick. The feature appears to be a rubbish pit, presumably associated with refuse disposal of the farm probably during the early or mid-twentieth century.

### **4.2 Area 2**

- 4.2.1 Area 2 was located to the east of Martin Hill East Farm and construction work consisted of the extension of the existing track, and the excavation of a crane pad and the turbine base itself.
- 4.2.2 The topsoil covered the whole of the excavated area to a depth of approximately 0.30m. In the areas of the new track and crane pad only the topsoil was removed, although the natural subsoil was exposed which would have been sufficient to identify any archaeological remains, if present.
- 4.2.3 The topsoil consisted of fine brown/orange silty clay with small stone inclusions, 0.30m thick. This overlay a compact orange-brown clay natural subsoil.
- 4.2.4 At the southern end of the site excavations for the turbine station went to a depth of approximately 1.5m, well below the depth where archaeological features may have been present.
- 4.2.5 No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were observed during the watching brief.



## **5 CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 Within Area 1, the observed area of the new access track to the north of Martin Hill East farm, features were identified. These included modern service trenches and a window sample test pit.
- 5.2 Other features included a crushed stone track way forming a path between two existing gates to the east and west. The date of construction of this track way is uncertain, although the two connecting gates were modern lying within post and wire fences. A large pit was also noted within Area 1 which contained a number of Cwmgors bricks.
- 5.3 The evidence would suggest that Area 1 had been subject to a significant amount of previous disturbance associated with farm yard activities. The identified remains would be considered to be of low archaeological significance.
- 5.4 The watching brief recorded nothing of archaeological significance within Area 2, the area of the track way, crane pad and turbine base. There was no evidence of previous disturbance in this area. The field was laid to pasture and seemed fairly even which could suggest it had been improved through levelling in the past. Pasture improvement could have damaged any archaeological remains that may have been present, but it is unlikely that it would have removed all traces.
- 5.4 Although the area was only topsoil stripped, enough of the underlying natural subsoil was exposed to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features.
- 5.5 The site area still lies on a fairly prominent ridge and the potential for prehistoric remains to be present in the wider area still remains, due to the known Bronze Age activity within 500m of the site.

## 6 PHOTOGRAPHS



**Photo 1:** Backfilled pipe trench in Area 1, viewing south.





**Photo 2:** Large pit visible as dark area, lying close to the northern end of Area 1, viewing north. The crushed stone trackway lies to the north of the pit.



**Photo 3:** View north of fully stripped Area 1. Probable window sample trench visible to left of image as rectangular feature, west of the 1m scale.





**Photo 4:** Machine excavating the new track way in Area 2, viewing northwest.



**Photo 5:** Excavated Track way with topsoil removed showing patches of exposed clay subsoil in Area 2, viewing southwest.





**Photo 6:** Excavated track way in Area 2, viewwng northeast.

## **7 SOURCES**

### **7.1 Database**

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record.

### **7.2 Map**

Ordnance Survey Map. 1880. 1:25000 Pembrokeshire  
Ordnance Survey Map. 2003. 1:50 000

# **MARTIN HILL EAST FARM, CROSS HANDS, MARTLETWY, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2012/23**

**Mehefin 2014  
June 2014**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by

**Charles Enright**

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature .....  Dyddiad / Date 24/06/14

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith  
This report has been checked and approved by **James Meek**

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.  
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Head of DAT Archaeological Services

Llofnod / Signature .....  Dyddiad / Date 24/06/14

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd  
gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may  
have on the content or presentation of this report

