

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Blaentillery Farm, Cwmtillery Blaenau Gwent**

Archaeological Watching Brief



By  
Rowena Hart BSc MA MCIfA


Report No. 1477


# Archaeology Wales

## Blaentillery Farm, Cwmtillery Blaenau Gwent

Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared For: MBA Renewables

Edited by: Rowena Hart  
Signed:   
Position: Project Manager  
Date: 27/06/2016

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Signed:   
Position: Project Manager  
Date: 27/06/2016

By  
Rowena Hart BSc MA MCifA

Report No. 1477

**June 2016**

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## ***Non Technical Summary***

*MBA Renewables commissioned Archaeology Wales to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief during groundwork associated with the installation of two wind turbines at Blaentillery Farm, Cwmtillery, Abertillery, NP13 1LR. The development is centered at NGR SO 22383 07453.*

*A condition (No.23) for an archaeological watching brief was placed on the planning consent (planning permission ref. C/2012/0372 as amended by CA/C/2014/0058).*

*The ground work was undertaken without the required watching brief.*

*All work for the production of this report was carried out to the professional standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.*

## **1. Introduction**

MBA Renewables commissioned Archaeology Wales to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief during groundwork associated with the installation of two wind turbines at Blaentillery Farm, Cwmtillery, Abertillery, NP13 1LR. The development is centered at NGR SO 22383 07453.

A condition (No.23) for an archaeological watching brief was placed on the planning consent (planning permission ref. C/2012/0372 as amended by CA/C/2014/0058).

'The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief shall be undertaken to the standards of the Institute for Archaeologists. The developer shall inform the Local Planning Authority in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development of the name of the appointed archaeologist and development shall not commence until the Local Planning Authority has confirmed in writing that the proposed archaeologist is suitable. A copy of the watching brief report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within two months of the fieldwork being completed by the archaeologist.'

MBA Renewables commissioned Archaeology Wales (henceforth AW) to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (henceforth – WSI) to the Local Planning Authority, which provided the framework for the archaeological watching brief. The WSI was prepared by Rowena Hart (MCIfA), Project Manager, AW. The WSI was subsequently given approval by Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust – Curatorial Division (henceforth GGAT-CD).

## **2. Site Description: Location, Topography, Geology and Historical Background**

Blaentillery Farm is located some 2.75km to the north-east of Abertillery. The farm itself is recorded as a post-medieval farm with yard and outbuildings on the Historic Environment Record (06475g). This upland area is scattered with the remains of post-medieval structures relating to upland farming and associated dwellings. Hafods and farmhouses (06479g, 06473g, 06474g, 06482g) are commonplace. Some 1km to the north-west of the development area is the Post-medieval deserted rural settlement of Blaen y Cwm (06480g).

Industrial development during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries brought rapid growth to the area. Nearby towns such as Abertillery grew at an unprecedented rate. Communication links were improved into the area such as the small bridge over the Afon Tyleri (0880g) that runs some 1km to the west of the development area. Nearby quarries (03439g, 06982g and 07001g), mines (06563g), collieries (03430g and 03434g) and levels (03437g) are typical of the post-medieval period in these south Wales valley locations.

Earlier evidence of land use is evidenced by two Medieval boundary mounds along Cefn Coch (06469g, 06470g and 06471g).

There is little known prehistoric evidence in the immediate location of the development. A possible Bronze Age Round Barrow (06926g) is located some 2.5km to the north-west of the development area.

The local geology is comprised of sedimentary sandstone of the Rhondda member and the superficial geology are deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravels of the Quaternary period (BGS 2016).

## **3. Methodology**

Excavation was undertaken by tracked excavator with both toothed and grading buckets. No archaeological methodology has been applied as the ground works were not monitored.

## **4. Stratigraphic Results**

No results can be produced as the ground works were not monitored. The plates (Appendix II) were provided by the client following the completion of the ground works.

## **5. Finds**

No finds were recovered as the ground works were not monitored.

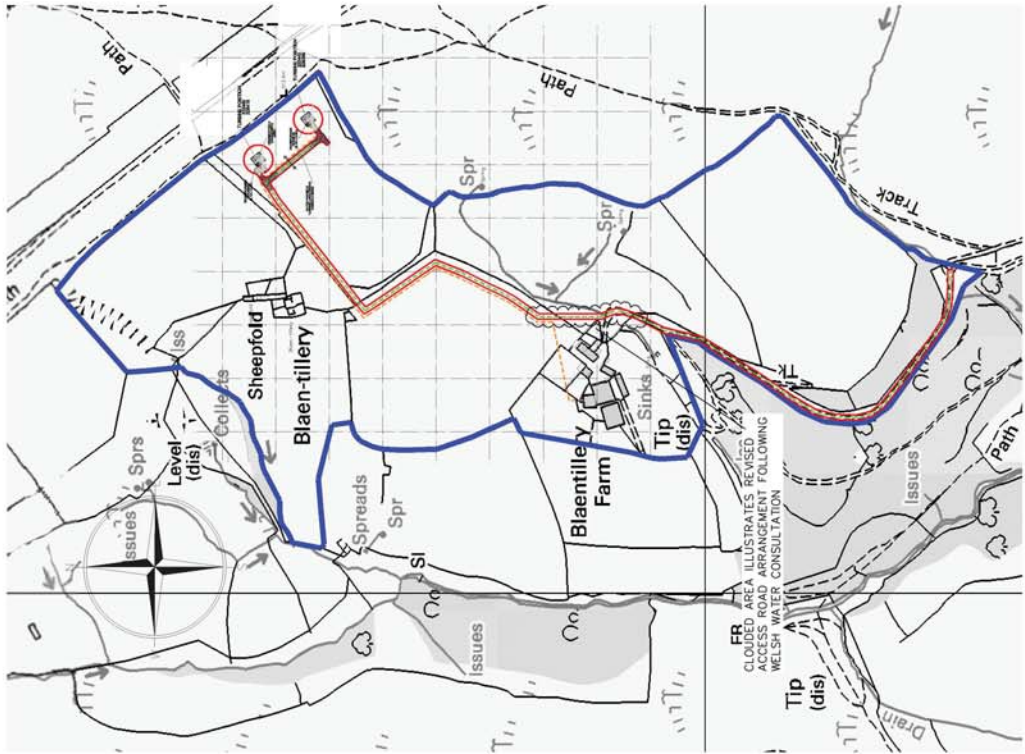
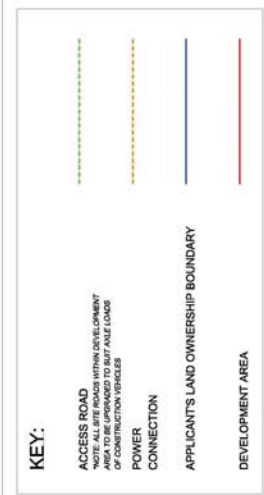
## **6. Conclusion**

No conclusions can be drawn from this work as the required watching brief was not undertaken. It can however be suggested that the likelihood of having encountered archaeological finds, features or deposits would have been low.

## 7. Bibliography

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (viewed June 2016)





No.	Description	Prep	Auth	Date
1	Site ownership boundary finalized	GH	MDA	30/06/12
2	Shed zone updated	GH	MDA	02/10/12
3	Updated to show legal drawing	GH	MDA	11/10/12
4	Updated to show legal drawing	GH	MDA	11/10/12
5	Days boundary revised to reflect site requirements	GH	MDA	18/10/12
6	Planner's comments incorporated	GH	MDA	20/10/12
7	Crane loading and access road section added	GH	MDA	01/11/12
8	Ownership boundary updated	GH	MDA	22/01/13
9	Access and amended to line with Welsh Water Consultation	GH	MDA	18/04/13
10	Revised boundary/footpath line added	GH	MDA	03/04/14

**PLANNING APPLICATION**

Client: MDA RENEWABLES

Project: TWO PROPOSED WIND TURBINES, BLAENTILLERY FARM, BLAENTILLERY

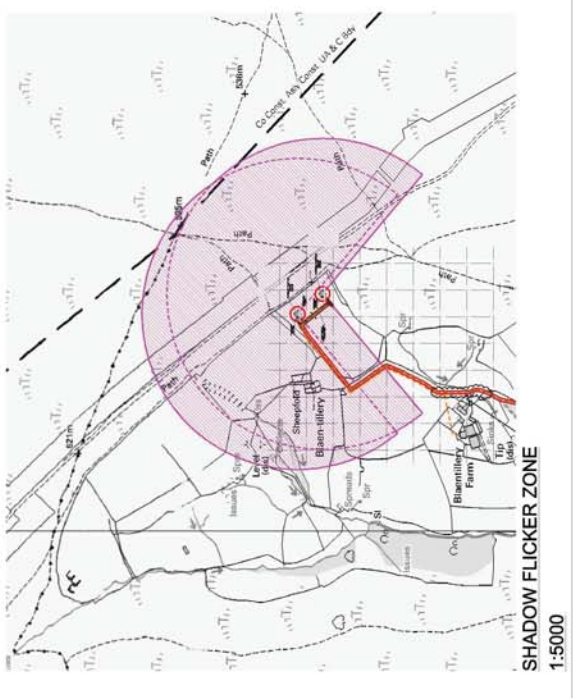
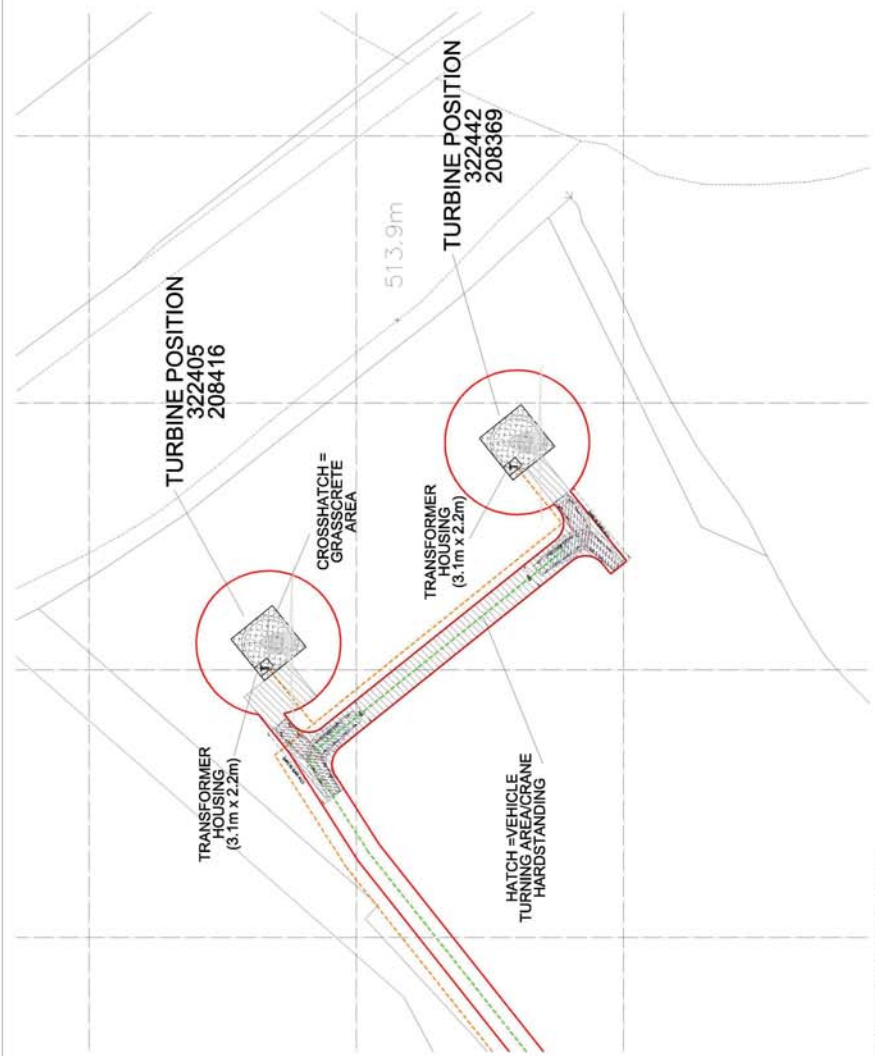
Drawn by: SITE LOCATION PLAN / PROPOSED SITE PLAN

Originator: GH, Checked: MDA, Approved: MDA

Scale: VARIES AS INDICATED Date: 06/06/13

JOB NO: 12288 Drawing No: PL001

Rev: 10



## Appendix II: Plates



Plate 1: Access road between turbine bases.



Plate 2: Transformer bases





Plate 3: Turbine base 1



Plate 4: Turbine base 2

**SPECIFICATION FOR AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT  
Blaentillery Farm, Cwtillery, Abertillery**

**Prepared for:**

MDA Renewables Ltd

**26 March 2014**

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## Summary

*This Specification details the methodology for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during groundwork associated with the installation of two wind turbines at Blaentillery Farm, Cwmtillery, Abertillery, NP13 1LR. The development is centred at NGR SO 22383 07453.*

*A condition (No.23) placed on the planning consent (planning permission ref. C/2012/0372 as amended by CA/C/2014/0058) stated that:*

*'The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief shall be undertaken to the standards of the Institute for Archaeologists. The developer shall inform the Local Planning Authority in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development of the name of the appointed archaeologist and development shall not commence until the Local Planning Authority has confirmed in writing that the proposed archaeologist is suitable. A copy of the watching brief report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within two months of the fieldwork being completed by the archaeologist.*

*This Specification document has been prepared by Rowena Hart (Project Manager) of Archaeology Wales Limited for MDA renewables.*

## Specifications

### 1. Brief historical background

Blaentillery Farm is located some 2.75km to the north-east of Abertillery. The farm itself is recorded as a post-medieval farm with yard and outbuildings on the Historic Environment Record (06475g). This upland area is scattered with the remains of post-medieval structures relating to upland farming and associated dwellings. Hafods and farmhouses (06479g, 06473g, 06474g, 06482g) are commonplace. Some 1km to the north-west of the development area is the Post-medieval deserted rural settlement of Blaen y Cwm (06480g).

Industrial development during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries brought rapid growth to the area. Nearby towns such as Abertillery grew at an unprecedented rate. Communication links were improved into the area such as the small bridge over the Afon Tyleri (0880g) that runs some 1km to the west of the development area. Nearby quarries (03439g, 06982g and 07001g), mines (06563g), collieries (03430g and 03434g) and levels (03437g) are typical of the post-medieval period in these south Wales valley locations due to their near perfect geological locations.

Earlier evidence of land use is evidenced by two Medieval boundary mounds along Cefn Coch (06469g, 06470g and 06471g).

There is little known prehistoric evidence in the immediate location of the development. A possible Bronze Age Round Barrow (06926g) is located some 2.5km to the north-west of the development area.

## **2. Specification objectives**

This specification document sets out a program of works to ensure that the archaeological watching brief will meet the standard required by *The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance For Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

The objective of the watching brief is to safeguard the potential archaeological resource through observation and recording during the course of the intrusive ground works associated with the sea defence improvements.

A written report will be compiled following the fieldwork and an archive of all collected data will be produced and deposited with an appropriate receiving institution. In this instance it will be Abertillery and District Museum who will be contacted once timescales are finalised.

## **3. Timetable of works**

### **3.1. Fieldwork**

The fieldwork will be undertaken at the convenience of the client and to coincide with the main site contractor's programme. A proposed date has not been confirmed. Once confirmed GGAT Curatorial will be advised in advance.

### **3.2. Report delivery**

The watching brief report will be submitted to MDA Renewables and to Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Curatorial Division (advisors to the Local Planning Authority, henceforth GGAT Curatorial) within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

## **4. Fieldwork**

### **4.1. Scope of development**

The scope of the work subject to the archaeological watching brief to be undertaken at land at Blaentillery Farm includes, but is not limited to:

- Foundation excavation at each turbine location
- Access route construction
- Drainage works
- Excavation of crane pads
- Other intrusive ground works



## 4.2. Methodology and contingency

All intrusive groundwork will be subject to an archaeological watching brief conducted to meet the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (4<sup>th</sup> ed. 2008).

The site archaeologist undertaking the watching brief must be afforded the required access by the main contractor in order to observe and where necessary to record any archaeological remains revealed. Groundwork shall not be undertaken without the presence of the site archaeologist. The site archaeologist will record finds and less significant archaeological deposits and features without significant delay to the work program.

Where significant or complex archaeological deposits or features are encountered there will be a requirement for those areas to be fenced off and highlighted to all contractors employed on the site. Machines or contractors shall not enter this area until archaeological recording has been completed.

To comply with professional guidelines, a contingency for a maximum of three days' uninterrupted access to each such area and for a team of up to two further archaeologists to be employed should be provided. Contingency costs will be agreed in advance before any extension to the programme commences and will follow a site meeting between Archaeology Wales (henceforth – AW), the client (MDA Renewables) and GGAT Curatorial Division.

## 4.3. Recording

Archaeological recording will be undertaken to best current professional practice. Archaeological deposits, features and structures will be recorded by means of a continuous context numbering system. Where necessary site drawings will be made at a suitable scale usually 1:20 in plan, and 1:10 in section. All significant contexts will be photographed in digital at a minimum of 12mp.

## 4.4. Finds

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2001) will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

All manner of finds regardless of category and date will be retained.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

## 4.5. Environmental sampling strategy

Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material will be sampled, by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column

etc). Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist. All environmental sampling and recording and will follow English Heritage's *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (2002).

#### 4.6. Human remains

In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left *in situ* and protected during backfilling. Where preservation *in situ* is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13* (1993).

A meeting with GGAT Curatorial, the client (MDA Renewables) and AW will be called if the human remains uncovered are of such complexity or significance that the contingency arrangement (3.1 above) would not be of sufficient scope.

#### 4.7. Specialist advisers

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

Artefact type	Specialist
Flint	Dr Amelia Pannett (Archaeology Wales)
Animal bone	Jen Kitch (Oxford Archaeology)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall (APS)
Clay pipe	Hilary Major (Freelance)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York)
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy (University of Leicester)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)

Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Post Roman pottery	Stephen Clarke (Monmouthshire Archaeology)
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance)

#### 4.7.1. Specialist reports

Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

## 5. Monitoring

AW will make its fieldwork available for monitoring by the client (and their appointed agents) and the Local Planning Authority. In both instances advance notice should be given. All site attendants should follow Health and Safety requirements. If site visit reports are made AW would be grateful to receive copies.

## 6. Post-fieldwork programme

### 6.1. Archive assessment

#### 6.1.1. Site archive

An archive of archaeological site records will be prepared in accordance with *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991) Appendix 3.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with the ICON and IFA Guidelines (*Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (2007)). The legal landowners consent will be gained for deposition of finds. Copies of the report and archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth and the *Regional HER*.

In addition, an archive of records made during the post-fieldwork phase will be prepared to the specifications in *Management of Archaeological Projects*, (English Heritage, 1991) Appendix 6.

### **6.1.2. Analysis**

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- A statement of the local, regional and national context of the remains
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

## **6.2. Reports and archive deposition**

### **6.2.1. Report to client**

A report, comprising a synthesis of data gathered, will be submitted upon completion of the watching brief, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, together with photographs and illustrations.

### **6.2.2. Additional reports**

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of the report will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw, English Heritage or Historic Scotland.

### **6.2.3. Summary reports for publication**

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

### **6.2.4. Notification of important remains**

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to the relevant national archaeological agency (Cadw, English Heritage or Historic Scotland).

### **6.2.5. Archive deposition**

The research archive will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. The site archive will be deposited with an appropriate institution.

### **6.2.6. Finds deposition**

The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

A copy of the archive index will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

## **7. Staff**

The project will be managed by Rowena Hart (AW Project Manager), whilst the fieldwork will be undertaken by an experienced member of AW site staff. Any alteration to staffing will be brought to the attention of GGAT Curatorial.

## **Additional Considerations**

### **8. Health and Safety**

#### **8.1. Risk assessment**

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations* 1992. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (MDA Renewables) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

#### **8.2. Other guidelines**

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2002)*.

### **9. Insurance**

AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds Insurance through its affiliated membership of the Council for British Archaeology. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

### **10. Quality Control**

#### **10.1. Professional standards**

AW is an approved Registered Organisation with the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of*



*Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

#### **10.2. Project tracking**

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

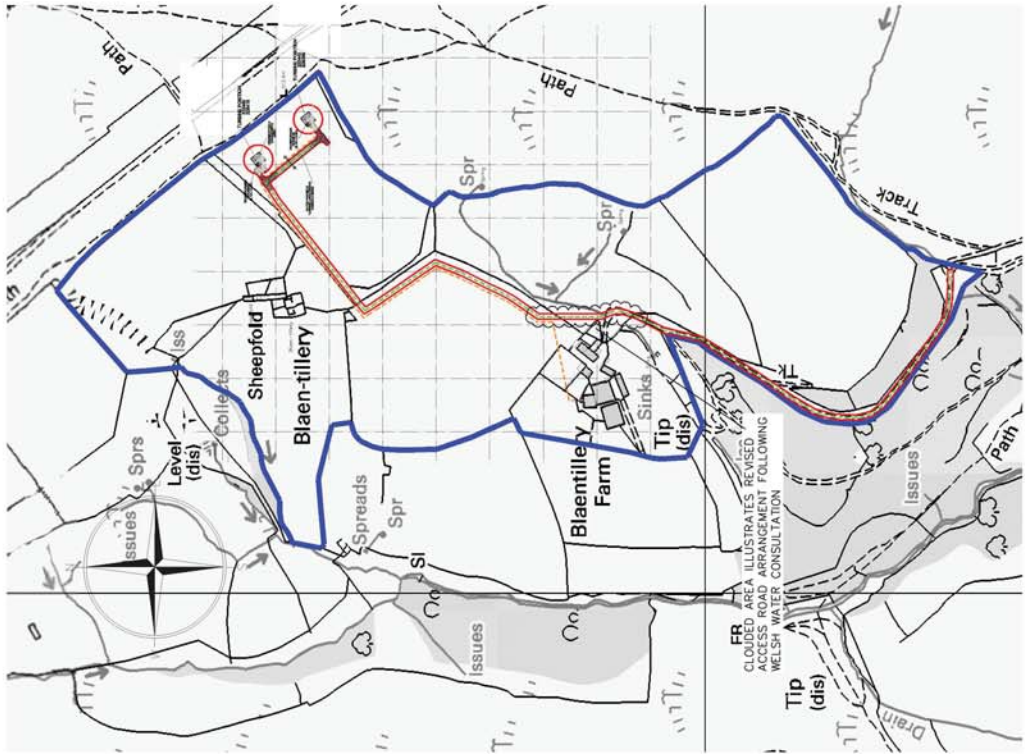
#### **11. Arbitration**

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' *Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists* applying at the date of the agreement.

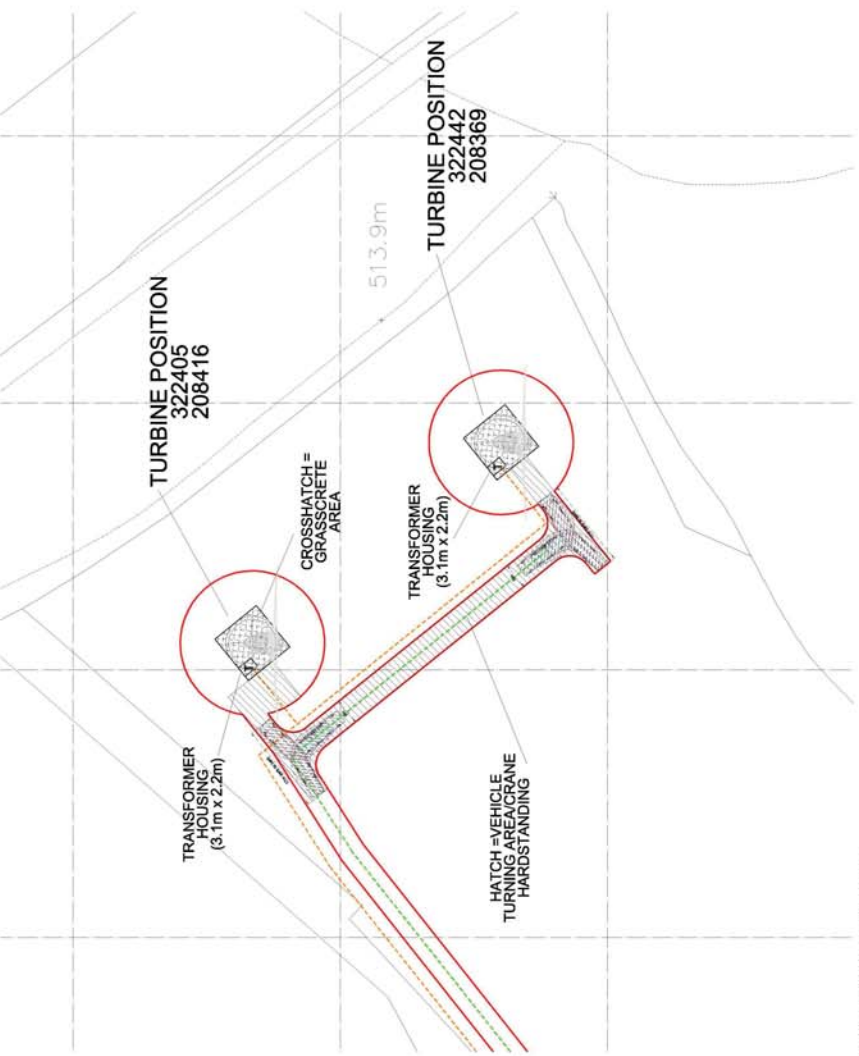
For more information, please contact:  
 Architects to be notified of  
 discrepancies in figured dimensions  
 (see drawing 01).

**KEY:**

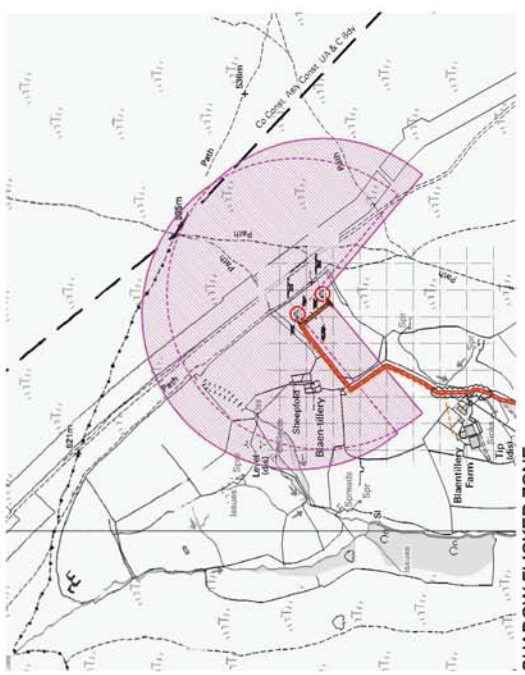
- ACCESS ROAD  
NOTE: ALL SITE ROADS WITHIN DEVELOPMENT  
ARE TO BE CONSTRUCTED TO A MINIMUM  
OF 3.0m WIDE AND TO BE CAPABLE OF  
CARRYING HEAVY LOADS OF CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES
- POWER CONNECTION
- APPLICANT'S LAND OWNERSHIP BOUNDARY
- DEVELOPMENT AREA



**SITE OWNERSHIP PLAN**  
 1:2500



**PROPOSED SITE PLAN**  
 1:500



**SHADOW FLICKER ZONE**  
 1:5000

No.	Description	Prep	Auth	Date
1	Site ownership boundary finalized	GH	MDA	30/06/12
2	Shadow zone updated	GH	MDA	02/10/12
3	Updated to show legal drawing	GH	MDA	11/10/12
4	Updated to show legal drawing	GH	MDA	11/10/12
5	Day boundary revised to reflect site requirements	GH	MDA	18/10/12
6	Planner's comments incorporated	GH	MDA	20/10/12
7	Crane loading and access road section added	GH	MDA	01/11/12
8	Ownership boundary updated	GH	MDA	22/01/13
9	Access and amended to line with Welsh Water Consultation	GH	MDA	18/04/13
10	Final version 'boundary' met data added	GH	MDA	03/04/14

**PLANNING APPLICATION**

Client: MDA RENEWABLES  
 Project: TWO PROPOSED WIND TURBINES, BLAENTILLERY FARM, BLAENTILLERY

Drawn By:	
Site Location Plan/	MDA
Proposed Site Plan	MDA

Originator:	GH	Checked:	MDA	Approved:	MDA
Scale:	VARIES AS INDICATED				
Job No:	12288	Drawing No:	PL001	Date:	03/04/12
Rev:	10	Rev:	10		