

Erection of two wind turbines Cromwellside, Old Rayne, AB52 6SP



Cameron Archaeology Ltd
20 September 2011

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SUMMARY

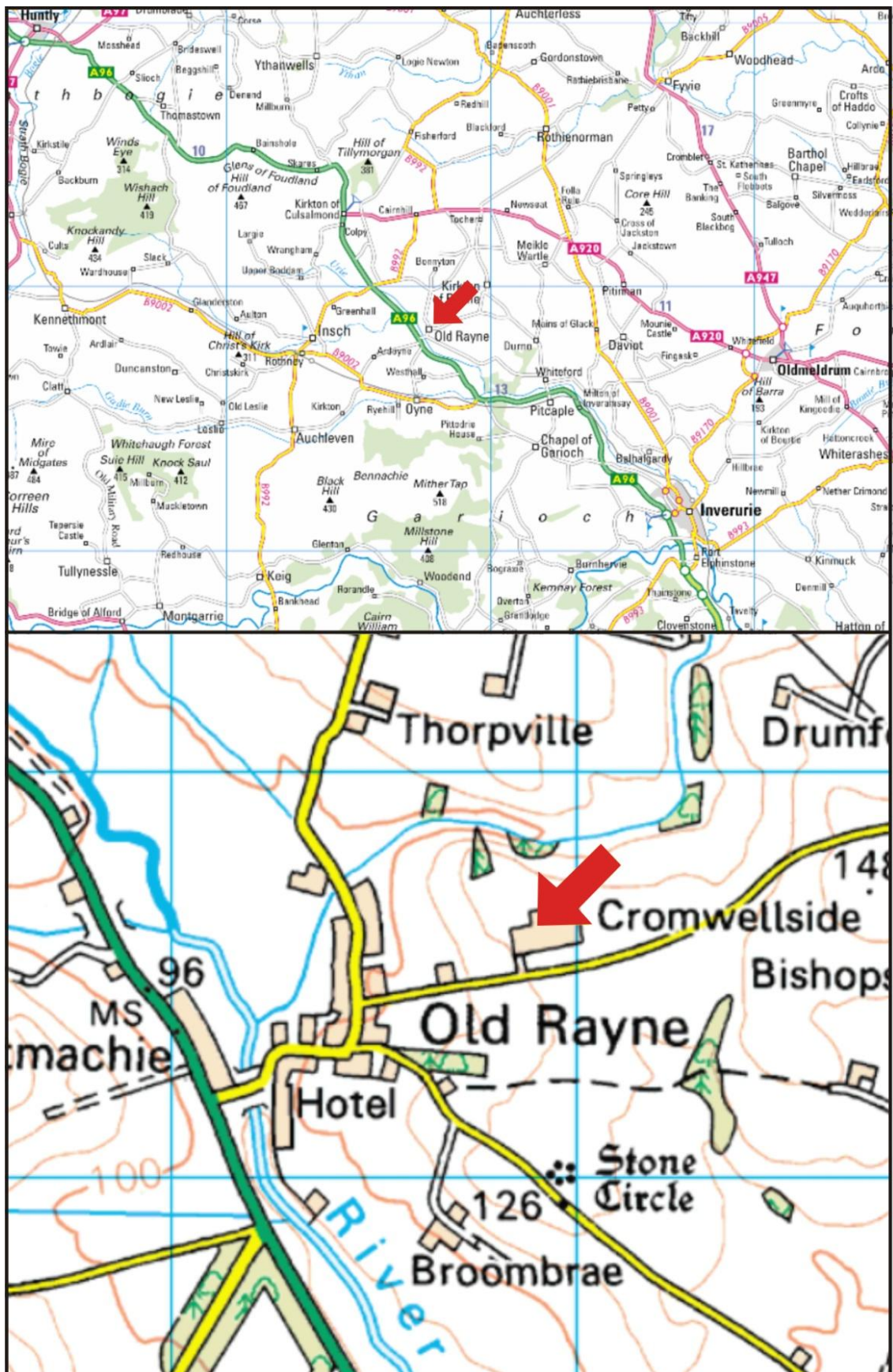
A watching brief was carried out on 19th September 2011 to observe the topsoil removal for the bases of the two wind turbines. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

This is a report on a watching brief carried out on 19 September 2011 at Cromwellside, Old Rayne, AB52 6SP, Aberdeenshire prior to the installation of two C&F Green Energy 20kw (40kw total) wind turbines on 20m masts. The Aberdeenshire planning reference is G/APP/2011/0684; condition 9 requires an archaeological watching brief on the soil strip of the trenches for the wind turbines only which includes a report and entry in Discovery and Excavation in Scotland.

The site is in Rayne parish and the NGR for the two masts is NJ 67878, 28719 and NJ 67902, 28658; they lie at 110-120m OD. The work was commissioned by Mr Hamish McIntosh, Cromwellside, Old Rayne, AB52 6SP.

The watching brief was carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) and Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed.



III 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2010).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 70-100m north of the current site is Gallows Hill (Aberdeenshire SMR no NJ62NE 0131) the documentary site of the location of the Old Rayne gallows. It was planted by the father of the current owner c 30 years ago (H McIntosh pers comm).
- 2.2 The Bishop's Palace at Old Rayne (Aberdeenshire SMR no NJ62NE2) is the site of the former summer residence of the Bishop of Aberdeen of which nothing remained in 1845. It is believed to have been built for Bishop Alexander Kyninmund who was made Bishop in 1329-40. The lands of Rayne were granted to the bishopric in 1137. It was built on a slight rise and surrounded by a moat. The north and east areas of the moat remain as a well ploughed-down depression, about 1.5m maximum depth and it apparently enclosed an area about 60.0m diameter. Following the granting of planning permission in 1990 for a house on part of this moated homestead, a small excavation revealed the remains of a substantial medieval earthwork, steep-sided on its inner face and with a more gradual slope to the outside with an ankle-breaker at the base. The ditch was 2m deep by 6m at widest. Sherds of 14th century pottery were recovered from low in the ditch-fill. Only a small area, 6.50m by 3.50m, of the top surface of the mound was excavated but this revealed several post holes and a drainage ditch. A series of complicated layers were found towards the south-east corner of the trench, while a number of large stone roofing slabs and some mortar-bound stones were found on the south edge of the excavated area, towards the inner part of the mound. A few medieval pottery sherds were also found here. This site was most likely a homestead moat rather than a motte. School sits on top of site. Proposed housing development at this site in 2008 led to an evaluation (Murray 2008).
- 2.3 500m south of the current site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, Candle Hill stone circle (Tap O' Mast) (NJ62NE 1) (NJ 6798 2798). Before Dalrymple's excavation moved them in 1856-7, there were twelve stones forming a circle nearly 60ft (18.3m) in diameter, with the recumbent, its two pillars, and a fourth slab arranged to form two sides of a parallelogram, whose other two sides had traditionally been dry stone walls. This arrangement may have been caused by the district Head Courts held here in medieval times. All that remained in 1902 were the prostrate recumbent stone, the two broken and displaced flankers, and six other blocks, only one of which was *in situ*. The excavation revealed a central, oblong layer of stones in which was a pit containing burnt bones, charcoal, fragments of an urn and part of a polished stone wrist guard. A stone cup, minus handle, was found about 1895, and in 1902 an urn was discovered containing what was possibly burnt bones. Callander (1935) mentions cup marks on the recumbent stone (Welfare 2011 432-6).
- 2.4 Cromwellside is a post-medieval farmstead (NJ62NE 174; NJ 6794 2857).

3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

A watching brief was carried out on Monday 19th September 2011. The topsoil was stripped from two trenches 5.5 x 5.5m in size (Ill 2).



Ill 2 Plan showing location of wind turbine trenches with Gallows Hill and Cromwellside (copyright H McIntosh)

Trench 1

The 5.5 x 5.5m trench was located 70m SE of Gallows Hill. The topsoil was 20cm deep and the subsoil was well-drained light brown clayey sand with some boulders. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Trench 2

The topsoil was 25cm deep and the subsoil was well-drained light brown clayey sand with numerous large earthfast boulders. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required at this site; this is subject to advice from Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service.

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Mr and Mrs H McIntosh, Cromwellside and Bruce Mann, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Services.

6 REFERENCES

Murray and Murray, HK and JC 2008 'Bishop's Manor, Old Rayne, Aberdeenshire (Rayne parish), evaluation and excavation', *Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol.9* Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England, 27.

Welfare, A 2011 Great Crowns of Stone: The Recumbent Stones Circles of Scotland: Gazetteer and Appendices, in S Halliday Edinburgh, 432-6

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APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS



DSC_0406



DSC_0407



DSC_0408



DSC_0409



DSC_0410



DSC_0411



DSC_0412



DSC_0413



DSC_0414



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DSC_0455



DSC_0456



DSC_0457



DSC_0458



DSC_0459



DSC_0460



DSC_0461



DSC_0462



DSC_0463



DSC_0464



DSC_0465



DSC_0466

Photo no	Description	Facing
406	Trench 1	W
407	Trench 1	W
408	Trench 1	W
409	Trench 1	W
410	Trench 1	W
411	Trench 1	S
412	Trench 1	S
413	Trench 1	S
414	Trench 1	S
415	Trench 1	S
416	Trench 1	S
417	Trench 1	N
418	Trench 1	N
419	Trench 1	N
420	Trench 1	N
421	Trench 1	N
422	Trench 1	N
423	Trench 1	N
424	Trench 1	N
425	Trench 1	N
426	Trench 1	N
427	Trench 1	NW
428	Trench 1	NW
429	Trench 1	NW
430	Trench 1	NW
431	Trench 1	NW
432	Trench 1 facing Gallows Hill	NW
433	Trench 1 facing Gallows Hill	NW
434	Trench 1 facing Gallows Hill	NW
435	Trench 1 facing Gallows Hill	NW
436	Trench 1 facing Gallows Hill	NW
437	Trench 2	W
438	Trench 2	W
439	Trench 2	W
440	Trench 2	W
441	Trench 2	W
442	Trench 2 facing Gallows Hill	NW
443	Trench 2 facing Gallows Hill	NW
444	Trench 2 facing Gallows Hill	NW
445	Trench 2 facing Gallows Hill	NW
446	Trench 2 facing Gallows Hill	NW
447	Trench 2	N
448	Trench 2	N
449	Trench 2	N

450	Trench 2	N
451	Trench 2	N
452	Trench 2	E
453	Trench 2	E
454	Trench 2	E
455	Trench 2	E
456	Trench 2	E
457	Trench 2	S
458	Trench 2	S
459	Trench 2	S
460	Trench 2	S
461	Trench 2	S
462	Trench 2	W
463	Trench 2	W
464	Trench 2	W
465	Trench 2	W
466	Trench 2	W

