

Land to North West of Mains of  
Cairncoullie, Glenkindie, Alford  
Aberdeenshire

AB33 8SB

Report on the archaeological watching brief



Cameron Archaeology  
1 February 2012

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Alford, Aberdeenshire, AB33 8SB  
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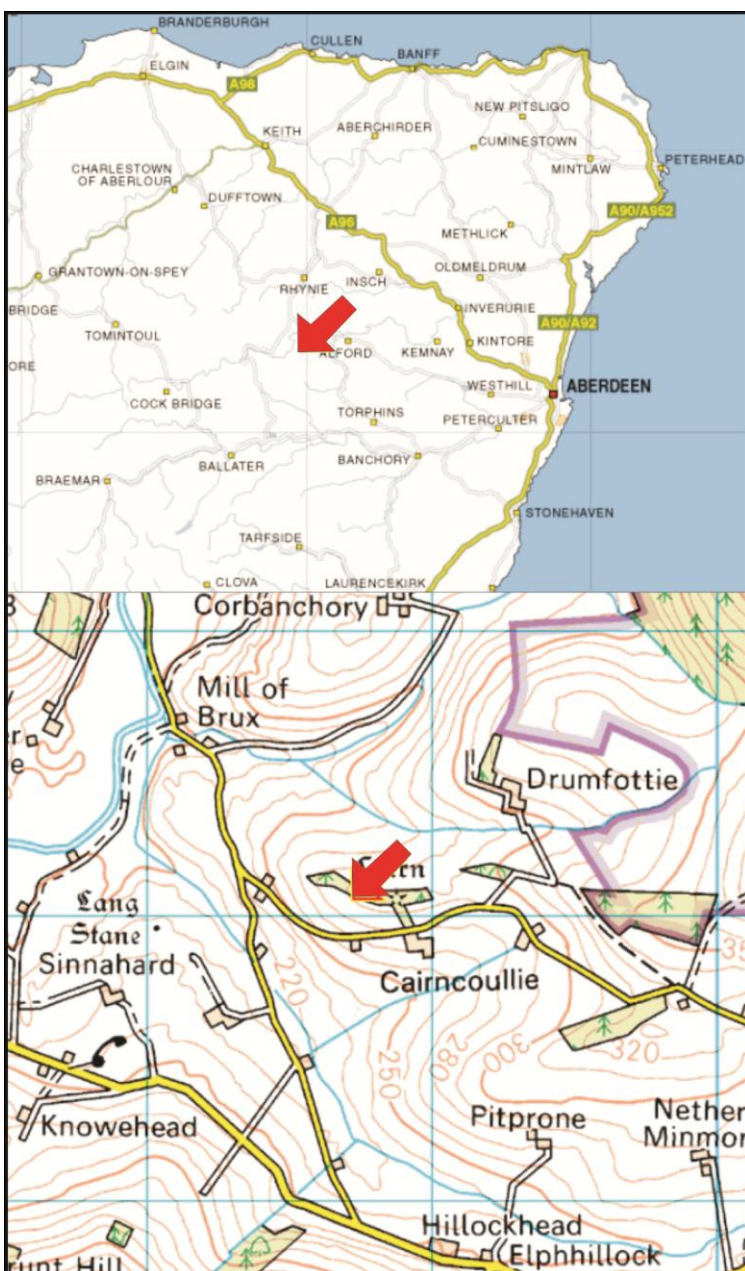
**SUMMARY**

A watching brief was maintained at Mains of Cairncoullie, Glenkindie on 31 January 2012 for installation of a wind turbine (Aberdeenshire Planning Application 2011/3489). No archaeological remains were uncovered and it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required at this site during the current development although the final decision remains with Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

A watching brief was carried out at Mains of Cairncoullie, Glenkindie, Aberdeenshire on 31 January 2012. The site is in Leochel-Cushnie parish, the NGR for the site is NJ 48715, 14050 and it lies at 275-285m OD. The work was commissioned by Mint Energy (Scotland) Ltd on behalf of Mr Callum Keir, Mains of Cairncoullie and refers to Aberdeenshire Planning Application 2011/3489 for the erection of a wind turbine; condition 11 states that the applicant must secure an archaeological watching brief during the soil removal for the turbine base.

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.



Illus 1 Location plan (© Crown copyright and database right 2012).



## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

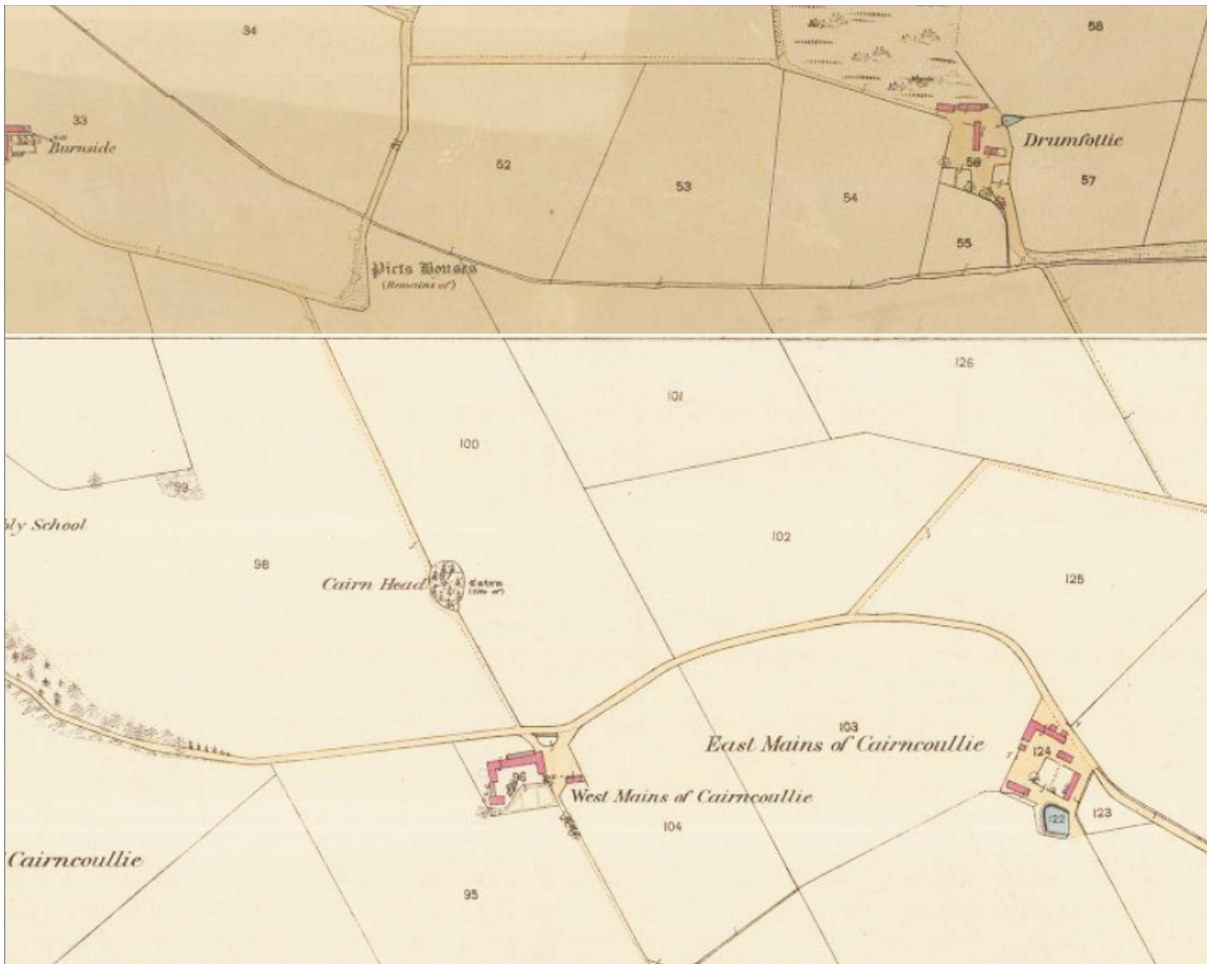
2.1 120m east from the wind turbine site is a grass-covered cairn on the summit of a low rise (Illus 2; Cairnhead; NMRS NJ41SE13). It is 10m in diameter and 0.5m high which has been built on top of a circular mound measuring 25m diameter and 1m high. A circular platform enclosure, comprising a bank with a shallow internal ditch overlies the larger mound.



Illus 2 Cairn 120m east of current site (NJ41SE13)

2.2 200m north of the current site is the site of a souterrain (Cairncoullie; NMRS NJ41SE1). The Ordnance Survey Name Book describes it as being roofed with large flat stones (ONB, 53, 4). On the 1867 First Edition Ordnance map the site is called 'Picts Houses' and the entrance was all that was visible as a small depression in the ground. It now lies in cultivated ground and no evidence survives of this site.

2.3 Several sand and gravel quarries and farmsteads are located in the vicinity of the current site.



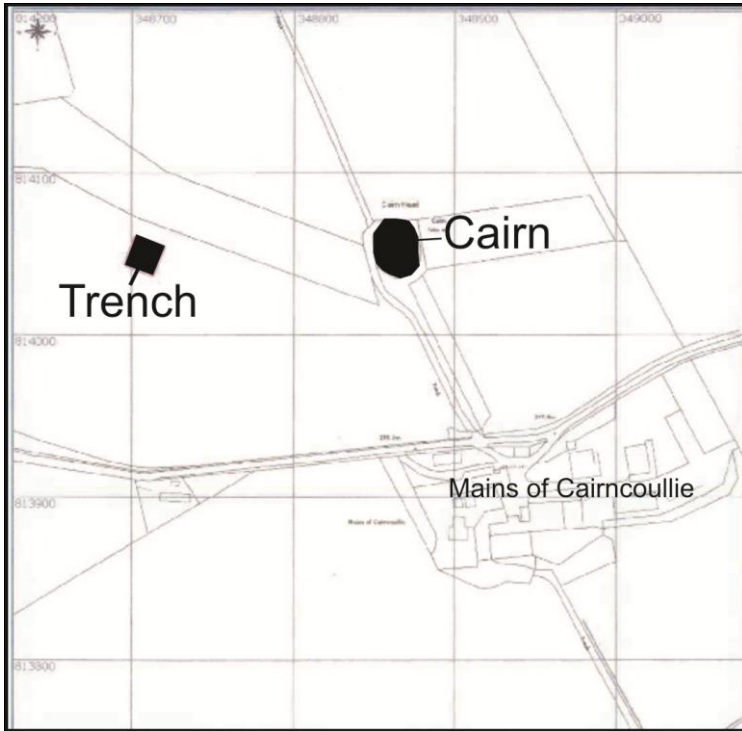
Illus 3 First Edition Ordnance Survey date 1867 showing Cairn Head and 'Picts Houses' (copyright National Library of Scotland)

### 3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

A watching brief was maintained on 31 January 2012 on a 5 x 5m trench for the foundation for a wind turbine (Illus 4). The topsoil was 10cm deep at the NE corner and 20cm deep at the SW; it was heavy clay loam. The subsoil was large boulders in rusty brown clayey sand. The land was intensively ploughed by the current owner and his father until c 10 years ago (Callum Keir pers com).

No archaeological features or finds were identified during this work.





Illus 4 Plan showing area of soil strip (copyright Mint Energy (Scotland) Ltd)



Illus 5 Trench for wind turbine, facing south-west

## 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 Amy Erskine, Mint Energy (Scotland) Ltd, Mr Callum Keir, Mains of Cairncoullie and Bruce Mann, Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service.

## 6 REFERENCES

**Ordnance Survey (Name Book)** Object Name Books of the Ordnance Survey  
Page(s): Book No. 53, 4 Held at RCAHMS Ref

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## APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo number	Description	Facing
DSC_0612	Turbine trench	SW
DSC_0617	Turbine trench	SE
DSC_0623	Turbine trench	NE
DSC_0629	Turbine trench	NW
DSC_0635	Turbine trench	S
DSC_0640	Trench location	S
DSC_0641	Trench location	S
DSC_0642	Trench location	SW
DSC_0643	Trench location	W
DSC_0644	Trench location	E
DSC_0645	Trench location	W
DSC_0646	Trench location	W
DSC_0647	Trench location	W
DSC_0648	Cairn NMRS NJ41SE13	N



## APPENDIX 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SITES

SITE NUMBER	NMRS NAME	CLASS
NJ41SE.1.-	CAIRNCOULLIE. Alternative: SOUTERRAIN(S)	SOUTERRAIN(S)
NJ41SE.13.-	CAIRN HEAD. Alternative: CAIRN	CAIRN
NJ41SE.78.-	WOOD OF BOGS. Alternative: RIG AND FURROW	RIG AND FURROW
NJ41SE.80.-	CAIRNCOULLIE CROFT, PIT. Alternative: SAND AND GRAVEL WORKINGS	SAND AND GRAVEL WORKINGS
NJ41SE.81.-	CAIRNCOULLIE CROFT, PIT. Alternative: SAND AND GRAVEL WORKINGS	SAND AND GRAVEL WORKINGS
NJ41SE.93.-	EASTER SINNAHARD. Alternative: FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD	FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD
NJ41SE.95.-	CAIRNCOULLIE SCHOOL HOUSE. Alternative: SCHOOL	SCHOOL
NJ41SE.97.-	WEST MAINS OF CAIRNCOULLIE. Alternative: FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD	FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD
NJ41SE.98.-	EAST MAINS OF CAIRNCOULLIE. Alternative: FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD	FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD
NJ41SE.99.-	DRUMFOTTIE. Alternative: FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD	FARMHOUSE, FARMSTEAD
NJ41SE.50.-	COTTER HILL. Alternative: CAIRNFIELD, HUT CIRCLE(S), RIG AND FURROW	CAIRNFIELD, HUT CIRCLE(S), RIG AND FURROW
NJ41SE.59.-	BURNSIDE. Alternative: COTTAGE, CROFT	COTTAGE, CROFT
NJ41SE.61.-	NETHER MINMORE. Alternative: COTTAGE	COTTAGE
NJ41SE.33.-	BURNEND. Alternative: FARMSTEAD	FARMSTEAD
NJ41SE.114.-	SMITHY CROFT. Alternative: CROFT	CROFT
NJ41SE.118.0	DRUMFOTTIE. Alternative: CAIRNFIELD, HUT CIRCLE	CAIRNFIELD, HUT CIRCLE
NJ41SE.118.1	DRUMFOTTIE. Alternative: HUT CIRCLE	HUT CIRCLE