

**Walkover survey and watching brief for two wind turbines, cabling and access road  
500m North West of Meikle Tullo Farm,  
Edzell, Brechin, DD9 7UU**



**Alison Cameron  
Cameron Archaeology  
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Cover (top) field clearance F1 from NE (bottom) possible hut circle F3 from north showing proximity to pins for Base 1

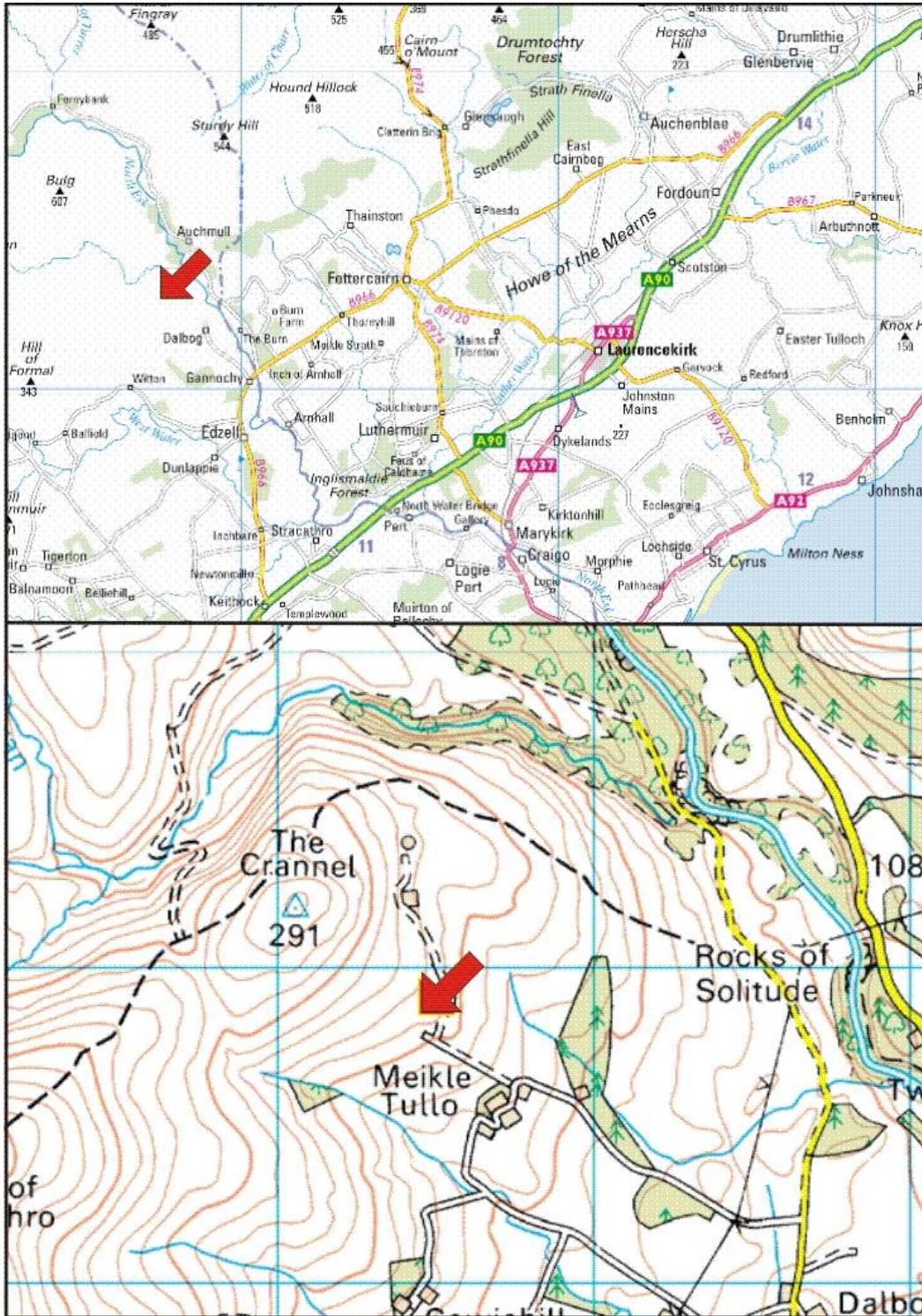
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## SUMMARY

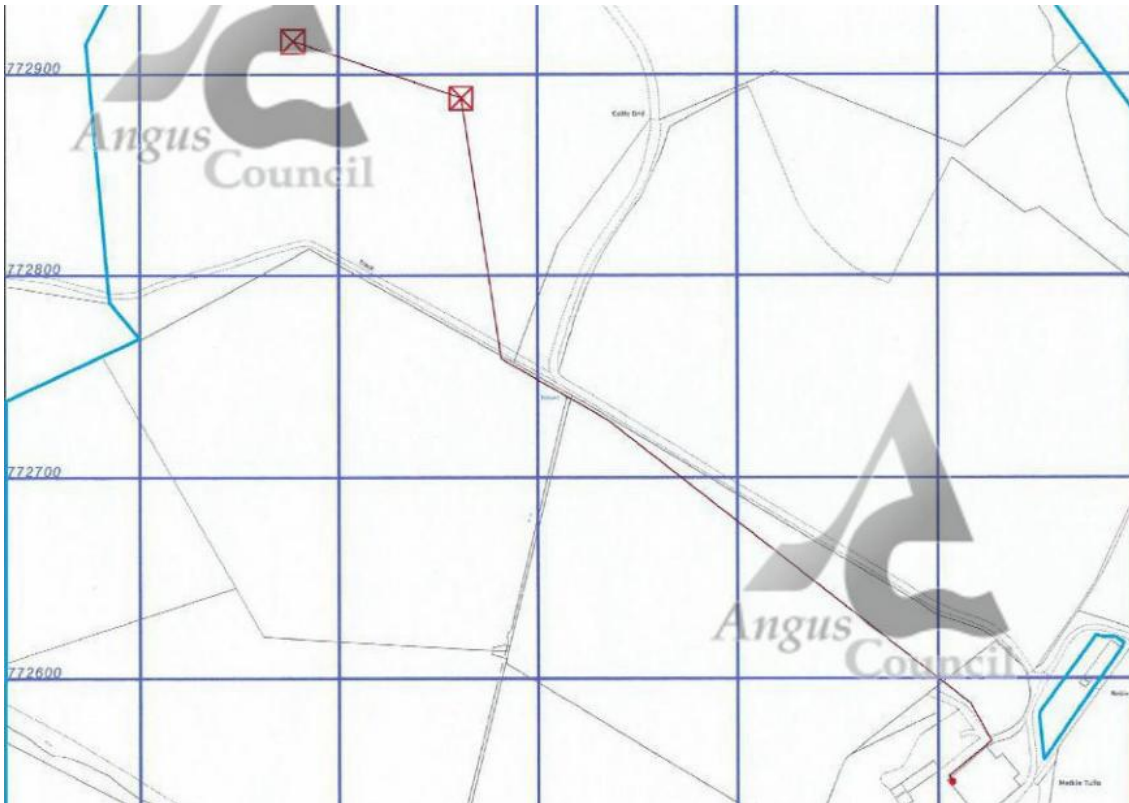
A walkover was carried out on 2 April 2013 prior to the finalisation of cable and turbine base locations. A number of features had been reported by RCAHMS survey teams including a substantial area of cairns and two sheepfolds. The walkover revealed that there are several discrete features within the area reported as 'cairns' and that the sheepfolds survive one as a stone pile and one as a grassy platform. A watching brief was carried out on 5 June 2013 on the soil strip for Base 1, the cable trench and the vehicle access but no further archaeological features were recorded and it is therefore recommended that no further work is required during the erection of these turbine bases. The archaeological features adjacent to the bases and the cable track have been fenced as recommended by Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

The site is in Edzell parish, the NGR for the turbine bases is NO 5738 7282 (Base 2) and NO 5746 7289 (Base 1) and it lies at 210-220m OD. The work was commissioned by Michael Hay, Meikle Tullo and is in response to Angus Council planning application 12/01076/FUL for installation of two C&F Green Energy 20kw wind turbines on 20m masts in order to generate electricity. The work includes cabling from the corner of the field to Base 1 and then between Bases 1 and 2.



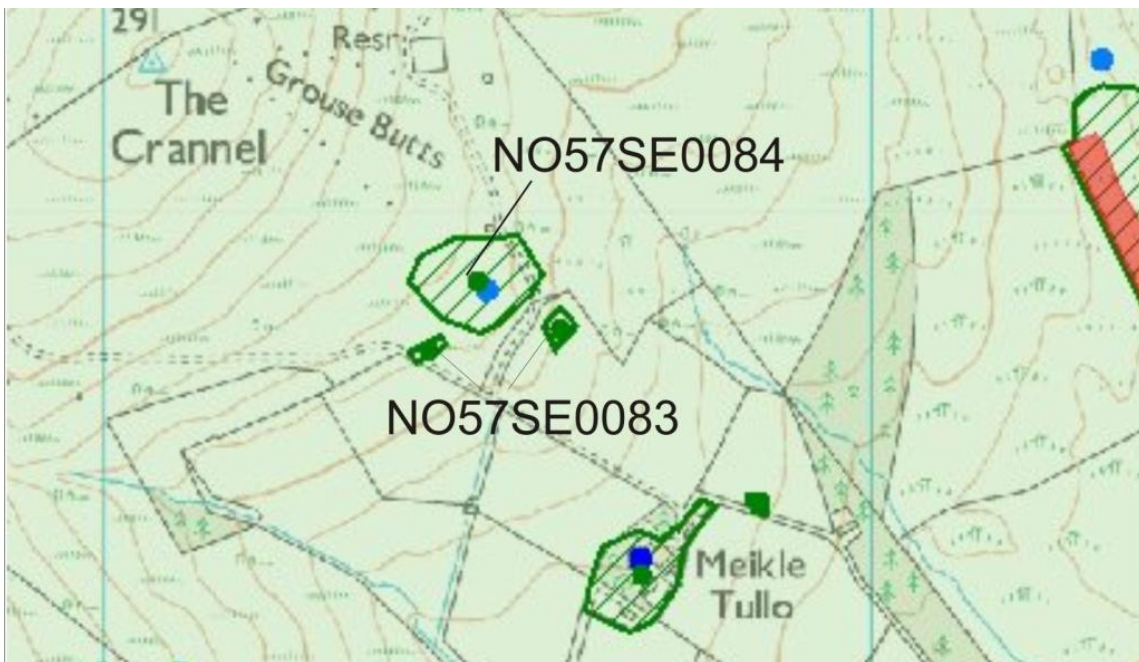
Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013).



Illus 2 Location map showing the proposed locations of the turbine bases and cabling

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The hillside on which the turbines are planned is the site of field clearance heaps (Angus SMR NO57SE0084; Sherriff 1982, 31) and two sheepfolds (Angus SMR NO57SE0083). The sheepfolds were described as now removed but one survives as a stone heap and one as a grassy platform. The locations of the bases and cable trench prior to this survey are recorded on Illus 2.



Illus 3 Location of Angus SMR sites (copyright Pastmap)

### 3 THE WALKOVER SURVEY

A walkover was carried out on 2 April 2013; the weather was bright with light snow flurries and there were patches of snow remaining on the hill. Twelve archaeological sites were recorded in the area of the proposed wind turbine bases and cabling as well as in the area intended for vehicular access (Illus 4). The area is a NE facing slope with a tarred road round around the east and north-east of the area formed to allow access by Scottish Water to the reservoir to the north of the site. The ground is very stony with outcrops of granite and quartz.

#### Field clearance F1

NO 57496 72795

Seven discrete stone heaps forming one sub-oval heap 17m NE-SW and 10m NW-SE. There are also small piles between the field and the tarred road

#### Rig and furrow F2

NO 57470 72813

Rig and furrow 3-4m between rigs and surviving to max 0.2m high. Very truncated and poorly delineated.

#### Possible hut-circle F3

NO 57471 72880

Circular bank 12m internal diameter, banks max 3m wide and surviving to maximum of 0.7m high. Central depression 1m wide and one depression off-centre to east. Possible hut circle. On platform F8.

#### Possible hut-circle F4

NO57403 72948

Circular bank 6m internal diameter, banks 2m wide and 1m high. On platform F8.

#### Bank or platform F5

NO 57534 72885

Oval banks or platform 7 x 5m and maximum of 0.3m high. Possible sheiling or enclosure.

#### Bank F6

NO 57511 72914

Semi-circular bank, possible field clearance 12m long and maximum of 1m high.

#### Field clearance F7

NO 57514 72907

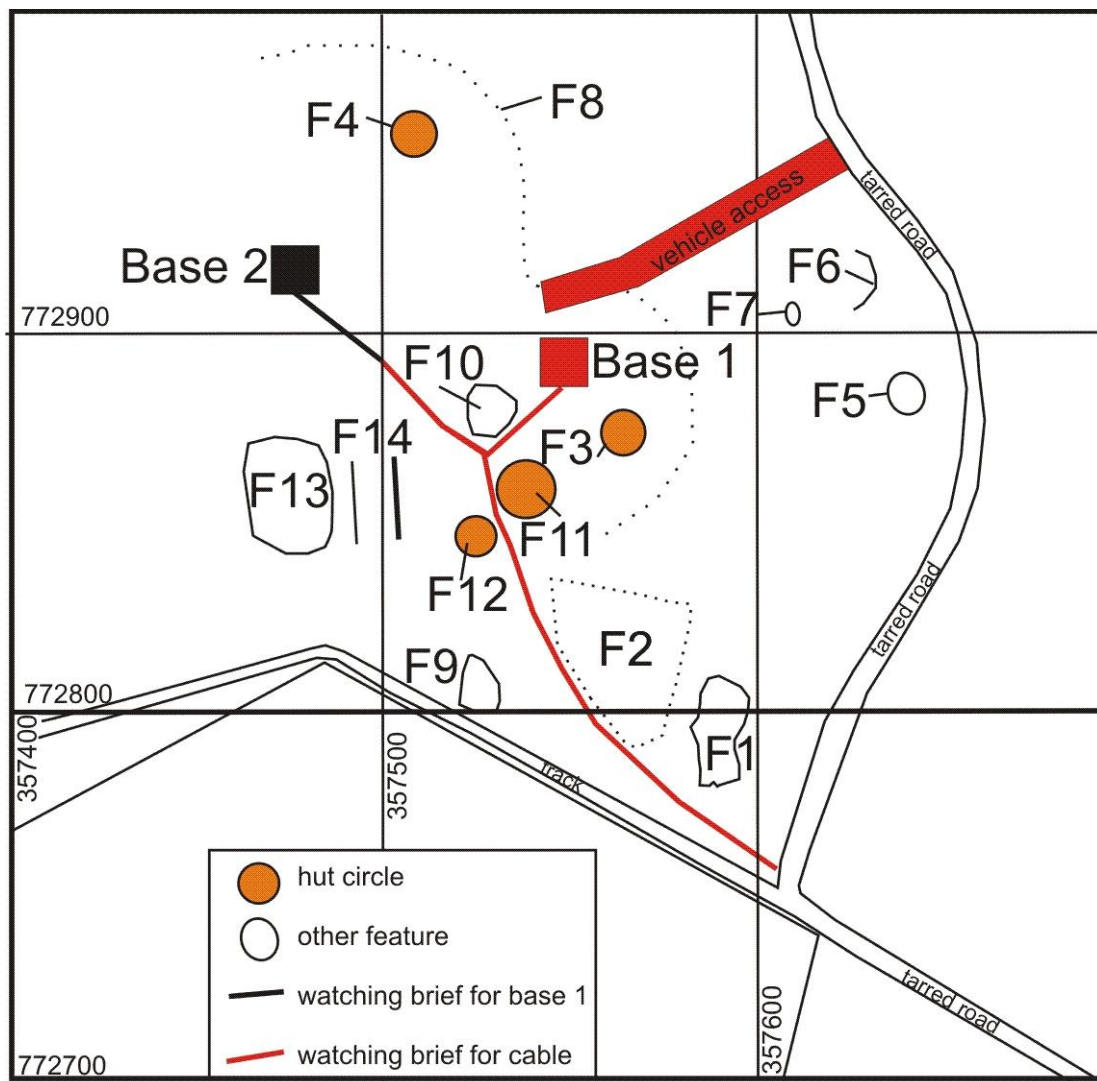
Oval field clearance consisting of two joined stone heaps. 8m long, 4m wide.

#### Man-made or enhanced platforms F8

Two platforms each 70-100m long on which possible hut circles sit. These may be natural platforms or enhanced to provide a setting for F3 and F4.

#### Stones F9

Overgrown remains of sheepfold or field clearance?



Illus 4 Turbine bases and cabling (in red) with archaeological features recorded in walkover (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013).

#### Rig and furrow F10

NO 57430 72876

Rig and furrow cultivation ridges; 4m between the ridges which are poorly preserved.

#### Hut circle F11

NO 57436 72857

Hut circle; banks 2m wide and 14m diameter internally. Entrance 2m wide at SW side

#### Hut circle F12

NO 57425 72850

Hut circle; banks 2m wide and 8m diameter internally. Entrance 2m wide at SW side. Banks 30cm high. Mound 2 x 3m off centre. Extensive rabbit burrowing

#### Rig and furrow F13

NO 57390 72860

Very poorly preserved rig and furrow

#### Banks F14, ?hollow way

NO 57410 72860

One bank 70cm high and 1.5m wide and another to the west less well preserved with flat 'hollow way' in between



Illus 5 Field clearance F1



Illus 6 Rig and furrow F2



Illus 7 Possible hut circle F3 showing edge of platform F8 (above)



Illus 8 Possible hut circle F4





Illus 9 Oval enclosure F5



Illus 10 Semi-circular bank or field clearance F6



Illus 11 Field clearance F7



Illus 12 Field clearance F7



Illus 13 F12 entrance at SW with mound off-centre

#### **4 THE WATCHING BRIEF**

A watching brief was maintained on 5 June 2013 on the access track, turbine Base 1 and the cable track (Illus 4). The topsoil in Base 1 and the access track was a maximum of 0.2m deep and was a well-drained sandy loam with sand and gravel natural subsoil. The cable track was up to 0.3m deep at the SE end near the field boundary but the remainder of the cable track revealed that there was virtually no topsoil in the area of F10, F11 and F12. No archaeological features were recorded in the cable trench which had been located on an old track in the hope that no archaeological features would be disturbed during this work.



Illus 14 Trench for Base 1; facing SW



Illus 15 Cable trench junction to Base 1 (left) and Base 2 (right); facing SW

## **5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Several unrecorded archaeological features were identified during the walkover including hut circles, rig and furrow, linear features, field clearance and building bases. The watching brief revealed that the soil is very shallow on most of the hill and the archaeological features are protected by fencing and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the construction of these turbine bases.

## **5 REFERENCES**

Sherriff, J R 1982 'Survey', *Discovery Excav Scot*, 31.

## **6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks to Bruce Mann and Claire Herbert at Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service; Kirsten Gardner, Mint Energy; Michael Hay, Meikle Tullo.

Cameron Archaeology  
45 View Terrace  
Aberdeen  
AB25 2RS  
01224 643020  
07581 181057  
[cameronarch@btinternet.com](mailto:cameronarch@btinternet.com)  
[www.cameronarchaeology.com](http://www.cameronarchaeology.com)  
Company registration no 372223 (Scotland)  
VAT registration no 990 4373 00

## APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS



DSC\_4955



DSC\_4964



DSC\_4965



DSC\_4975



DSC\_4976



DSC\_4985



DSC\_4986



DSC\_4995



DSC\_5003



DSC\_5004



DSC\_5013



DSC\_5014



DSC\_5023



DSC\_5024



DSC\_5033



DSC\_5034



DSC\_5043



DSC\_5044



DSC\_5058



DSC\_5059



DSC\_5068



DSC\_5069



DSC\_5078



DSC\_5079



DSC\_5080



DSC\_5081



DSC\_5082



DSCF1981



DSCF1982



DSCF1983



DSCF1984



DSCF1985



DSCF1986



DSCF1987



DSCF1988



DSCF1989



DSCF1990

<b>Photo no</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Facing</b>
DSC_4955-4959	F1 field clearance	NE
DSC_4960-4964	F1 field clearance	SW
DSC_4965-4970	F1 field clearance	SSW
DSC_4971-4975	F1 field clearance	SW
DSC_4976-4980	F1 field clearance detail	NE
DSC_4982-4985	F1 field clearance detail	SW
DSC_4986-4990	F1 field clearance	SE
DSC_4991-4995	Rig and furrow F2	WSW
DSC_4997-5003	Rig and furrow F2	SW
DSC_5004-5008	Circular feature ?hut circle F3 with pins for Base 1 (background top)	N
DSC_5009-5013	Circular feature ?hut circle F3 with pins for Base 1 (background top)	N
DSC_5014-5023	Circular feature ?hut circle F3 (background) with pins for Base 1 (foreground)	S
DSC_5024-5028	Circular feature ?hut circle F3 (right) with pins for Base 1 (left)	E
DSC_5029-5033	View from Base 2 back to Base 1; no archaeological features recorded	ESE
DSC_5034-5038	Base 2 location	NW
DSC_5039-5043	Circular feature ?hut circle F4	NE
DSC_5044-5048	View from F4 to field corner	SE
DSC_5049-5053	F4	SE
DSC_5054-5058	View from Base 2 showing platform edge F8 (top left) and Base 1 (centre)	SE
DSC_5059-5063	F2	SW
DSC_5064-5068	F5 close to bend in tarred road	SE
DSC_5069-5073	F6 semi-circular ?field clearance or bank	NE
DSC_5074-5078	F7 field clearance	W
DSC_5079-5080	Quartz outcrop between F5 and F6	SSE
DSC_5081-5085	F1 from north	SSW
DSC1981-4	F4 panoramic from NE	
DSC1985-6	F2 panoramic from NE	
DSC1987-9	F2 panoramic from NE with pins for Base 1 (right)	
DSC1990	F7 field clearance from east	



DSCF2455	F10	SE
DSCF2456	F10	SW
DSCF2458	Setting out new location for Base 1 Stephen, Mint Energy	
DSCF2460	Setting out new location for Base 1 Michael Hay	
DSCF2461	F10	W
DSCF2462	F11	SE
DSCF2463	F11	ESE
DSCF2464	F11 panorama	SE/E/ESE
DSCF2465	F11 panorama	NE





DSCF2466	F11 bank on west side of hut circle with white peg marking junction point between cable to Base 1 and cable to Base 2	W
DSCF2467	F11 bank on west side of hut circle (top) with white peg marking junction point between cable to Base 1 and cable to Base 2	W
DSCF2468	Panorama F11 bank on west side of hut circle (top) with white peg marking junction point between cable to Base 1 and cable to Base 2	W
DSCF2469	Panorama F11 bank on west side of hut circle (top) with white peg marking junction point between cable to Base 1 and cable to Base 2	W
DSCF2470	F12 panorama facing west showing mound off centre	W
DSCF2471	F12 entrance at SW with mound in centre	NE
DSCF2472	F12	SW
DSCF2473	F12 bank	SW
DSCF2474	F12 bank	SW
DSCF2475	F12	SE
DSCF2476	F12 panorama looking down valley to SE	SE
DSCF2477	F13 bank (right) and hollow way (centre)	NE
DSCF2478	F13 bank (right) and hollow way (centre) showing rabbit burrowing	NNE
DSCF2479	F13 bank (right) and hollow way (centre)	NE
DSCF2480	F12 (foreground) F11 (background)	E
DSCF2481	F13 bank (right) and hollow way (centre)	NE

DSCF2482	F13 looking up hollow way	N
DSCF2483	F13 looking up hollow way	N
DSCF2484	F13 panorama looking up hollow way	N
DSCF2485	F13 bank 70cm high	E
DSCF2486	F13 bank 70cm high	E
DSCF2487	Looking SE down F13	SE
DSCF2488	Looking SE down F13	SE
DSCF2489	Looking SE down F13	SE
DSCF2490	F13 bank	NE
DSCF2491	F13 bank	NE
DSCF2492	F9	SE
DSCF2493	F9	SE
DSCF2494	F9	NE
DSCF2495	F9	NE
DSCF2496	Modern stone pile formed from clearing watercourse	NE
DSCF2497	Watercourse next to track to corner of field	SE
DSCF2498	Watercourse next to track to corner of field	SW
DSCF2499	Watercourse next to track to corner of field	SW
DSCF2500	Modern pit associated with watercourse?	NE
DSCF2501	Modern stone pile formed from digging DCSF2499	NE
DSCF2502	Track showing line of cable trench with F2 (right)	NW
DSCF2503	Modern track (left) with modern stone mounds, track showing line of cable trench (centre) with F2 (right)	NW
DSCF2504	Modern track (left) with modern stone mounds, track showing line of cable trench (centre) with F2 (right)	NW
DSCF2505	Modern track with modern stone mounds	NW
DSCF2506	Modern track with modern stone mounds	NW
DSCF2507	Modern track with modern stone mounds	NW

### Watching brief

<b>Watching brief</b>		
DSC6226-6230	Base 1	W
DSC6231-6235	Base 1	SW
DSC6236-6240	Base 1	S
DSC6241-6245	Base 1	SE
DSC6246-6250	Base 1	E
DSC6251-6255	Base 1	NE
DSC6256-6260	Base 1	E
DSC6261	Cable trench SE end with Michael Hay	E
DSC6262-6266	Cable trench	NNE
DSC6267-6293	Cable trench SE end	NW
DSC6294-6298	Cable trench SE end	NE
DSC6299-6323	Cable trench SE end	SE
DSC6324-6330	Cable trench SE end	NW

DSC6331-6345	Cable trench at junction	SSE
DSC6346-6350	Cable trench from Base 1	SW
DSC6351	Derek, banksman and dumper driver (left) Michael Hay (right) at junction of trenches	S
DSC6352-6370	Cable trench to Base 2	NW
DSC6371-6381	Vehicle access soil stripped	SW
DSC6382-6389	Cable trench SE end with field boundary (right)	N



DSC\_6226



DSC\_6235



DSC\_6236



DSC\_6245



DSC\_6246



DSC\_6255



DSC\_6256



DSC\_6261



DSC\_6262



DSC\_6271



DSC\_6272



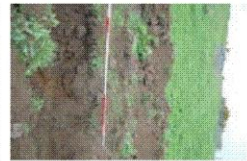
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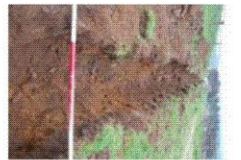
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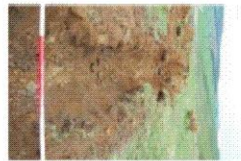
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DSC\_6352



DSC\_6355



DSC\_6370



DSC\_6371



DSC\_6381



DSC\_6382

## APPENDIX 2 FEATURES

Feature no	Description	
F1	Seven discrete stone heaps forming one sub-oval heap 17m NE-SW and 10m NW-SE. There are also small piles between the field and the tarred road	NO 57496 72795
F2	Rig and furrow 3-4m between rigs and surviving to max 0.2m high	NO 57470 72813
F3	Circular bank 12m internal diameter, banks max 3m wide and surviving to max 0.7m high. Central depression 1m wide and one depression off-centre to east. Possible hut circle. On platform F8	NO 57471 72880
F4	Circular bank 6m internal diameter, banks 2m wide and 1m high. On platform F8	NO57403 72948
F5	Oval banks or platform 7 x 5m and max 0.3m high. Possible sheiling or enclosure	NO 57534 72885
F6	Semi-circular bank, possible field clearance 12m long and max 1m high	NO 57511 72914
F7	Oval field clearance consisting of two joined stone heaps. 8m long, 4m wide	NO 57514 72907
F8	Two platforms each 70-100m long on which possible hut circles sit.	
F9	Grass covered platform 3 x 3m in size	
F10	Rig and furrow cultivation ridges; 4m between the ridges which and poorly preserved.	NO57430 72876
F11	Hut circle; banks 2m wide and 14m diameter internally. Entrance 2m wide at SW side	NO57436 72857
F12	Hut circle; banks 2m wide and 8m diameter internally. Entrance 2m wide at SW side. Banks 30cm high. Mound 2 x 3m off centre. Extensive rabbit burrowing	NO57425 72850
F13	Very poorly preserved rig and furrow	NO57390 72860
F14	One bank 70cm high and 1.5m wide and another to the west less well preserved with flat 'hollow way' in between	NO57410 72860