

Land at Cowie Hill, Alvah, Banff, AB45 3DS
Report on archaeological watching brief for wind turbine
base and access road



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26 July 2014

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover: soil strip of access road showing bedrock under 0.25m topsoil on east facing slope; facing W

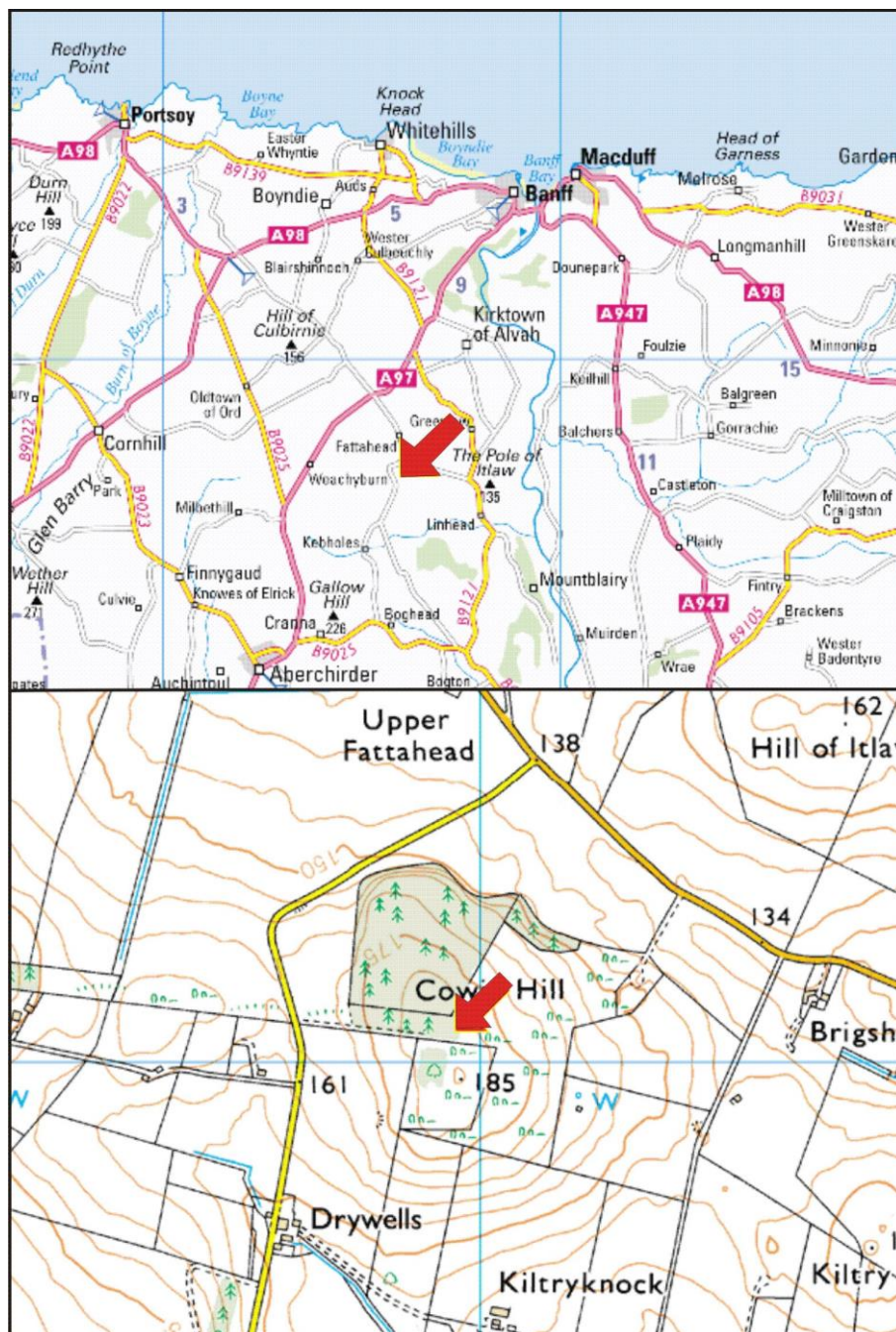
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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on 22 July 2014 for the new access track, turning area and wind turbine base. The topsoil was 0.1-0.3 m deep within an agricultural field. The turbine base was situated on a rock outcrop with 0.1m topsoil and the track on an east facing rocky slope. No archaeological features or finds were recorded and it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site is at Cowie Hill, Alvah at NJ 66061 57057 and at 180-185m OD.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Andy Beattie, Beacon Project Management. A planning application APP/2012/0411 for the Erection of 1 No. 800 kw Wind Turbine Hub Height 55.6 metres (Total Height 79.6 metres) and Associated Infrastructure was approved on 4.2.13 with no archaeological work required. A change of alignment for the access road was required and a resubmission of this route planned.
- 1.3 All the archaeological work 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 (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2014)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cowie Hill is a low hill SW of Hill of Itlaw and SW of Kirktown of Alvah. There are no Scheduled Ancient monuments within 1km of the current development.
- 2.2 Discovered during ploughing, an enlarged food vessel urn inverted over a cremation burial containing a perforated whetstone, two planoconvex flint knives, flint flakes and a decorated pottery ball (NJ65NE 18) were found at Kiltry Knock 750m SE of the current development. The pot, whose base had been destroyed, stood on a pavement of flat stones. Finds are in Banff Museum (Shepherd and Cowie 1979, 9; Shepherd 1977, 9).
- 2.3 There are several farmsteads and historic farmsteads including Cowie Hill croft, Meikle Blackton, Hill of Blackton, Cockmoss, Drywell and Kiltryknock.

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on 22 July 2014 for the new access track, turning area and wind turbine base. The topsoil was 0.1-0.3 m deep within an agricultural field. The turbine base was situated on a rock outcrop with 0.1m topsoil and the track on an east facing rocky slope. No archaeological features or finds were recorded and it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.



Illus 2 Location of watching brief (copyright Green Cat Renewables)

4 REFERENCES

Shepherd and Cowie, I A G and T G 1979 'An enlarged food vessel urn and associated artefacts from Kiltry Knock, Alvah, Banff and Buchan', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, vol. 108, 9.

Shepherd, I A G 1977 'Alvah, Kiltryknock: cremation burial', *Discovery Excav Scot*, 9.

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Andy Beattie, Beacon Project Management for initiating this project, staff at RJ Mcleod for their assistance on site and to Claire Herbert and Bruce Mann, Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service for their advice during the work.

APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS



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Photo no	Description	Facing
P1010661-691	Soil strip prior to arrival of archaeologist	
P1010692	Soil strip with flat ditching bucket	E
P1010693	Soil strip with flat ditching bucket	N
P1010694-7	Soil strip with flat ditching bucket	ENE
P1010698	Soil strip with flat ditching bucket	N
P1010703	Soil strip with flat ditching bucket	E
P1010704-7	Soil strip with flat ditching bucket	W
P1010708	Soil strip with flat ditching bucket	E
P1010709-10	Site from road to east showing Cowie Hill (top)	W