

**An Archaeological Watching Brief for a Wind Turbine,
Land to West of Purlicknowe, Kinneff, Inverbervie,
Aberdeenshire, DD10 0TQ (CA245)**



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May 30th, 2015**

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover: Nearing completion of hardstanding for wind turbine

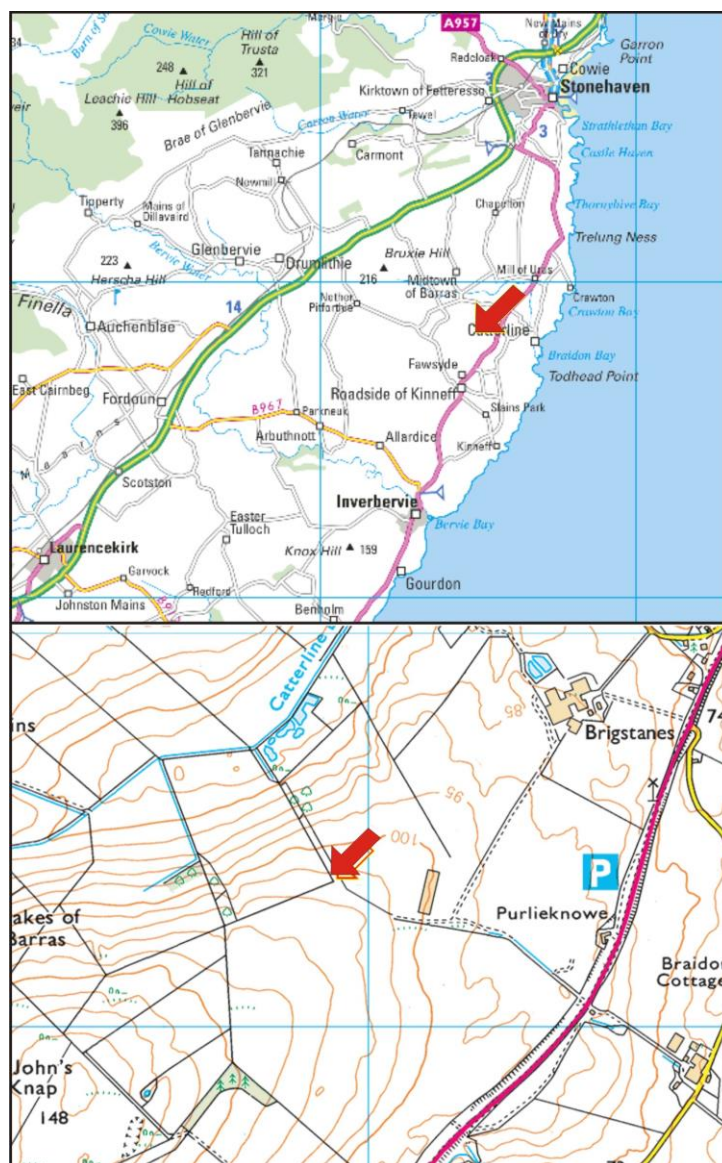
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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on May 27th by Robert Lenfert on behalf of Cameron Archaeology. Site activity involved the construction of a 150m access road and clearing and levelling of a circular hardstanding approximately 50m in diameter in advance of a single 800KW wind turbine installation some 67m in height. Visual inspection of the subsoil and surrounding spoil heap did not reveal any evidence of archaeological activity but most of the areas had been stripped and infilled prior to the arrival of the archaeologist. It is understood that the access road was formed from an existing farm track.

1 GENERAL BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is the location for a single wind turbine development located approximately 700m WNW of Purlieknowe Farm at OSGR 84914 78360, or approximately 1.9km due west of the village of Catterline, and approximately 7.7km SSW of Stonehaven (Illus 1). It is in the parish of Kinneff and Catterline and at 105-110m OD.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Ecodyn Limited, Fliskmillan Steadings, Newburgh, Cupar, KY14 6HN on behalf of Mr David Argo, Harvieston Farm, Catterline, Stonehaven, AB39 2TY. A planning application to Aberdeenshire Council APP/2014/1558 was passed with a standard archaeology condition for archaeological monitoring of all soil stripping at this development.
- 1.3 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 states 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 2015)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within 1km of the site. The nearest Scheduled Ancient Monuments are a series of cairns and hut circles at Montgoldrum (NO820773) some 3km SW of the turbine location.
- 2.2 Aerial photography (Illus 2) at Purlieknowe (NO87NE 25) revealed the presence of cropmarks indicating the presence of linear features, a pit alignment and a pit-defined cursus. This is the closest known archaeological feature to the development.
- 2.3 A cairn with cist burial was recorded at St. John's Hill or 'Knap' (NO 8425 7779) 800m ESE of Chapel of Barras farmhouse in the late 18th century with a section being dug through. The cairn was recorded as being 'A turf-covered cairn of earth and stones, 24.0m in diameter and 2.0m high, with traces of quarrying in the N side.' by OS (NKB), 18 December 1967. According to RCAHMS, the cist no longer remains: 'There is now no trace of this cairn, which stood 800m ESE of Chapel of Barras farmhouse. It was trenched about 1773, revealing a cist and what was probably a cremation.' RCAHMS 1983. There is also a disused quarry adjacent to St John's Knap (NO 8443 7780).



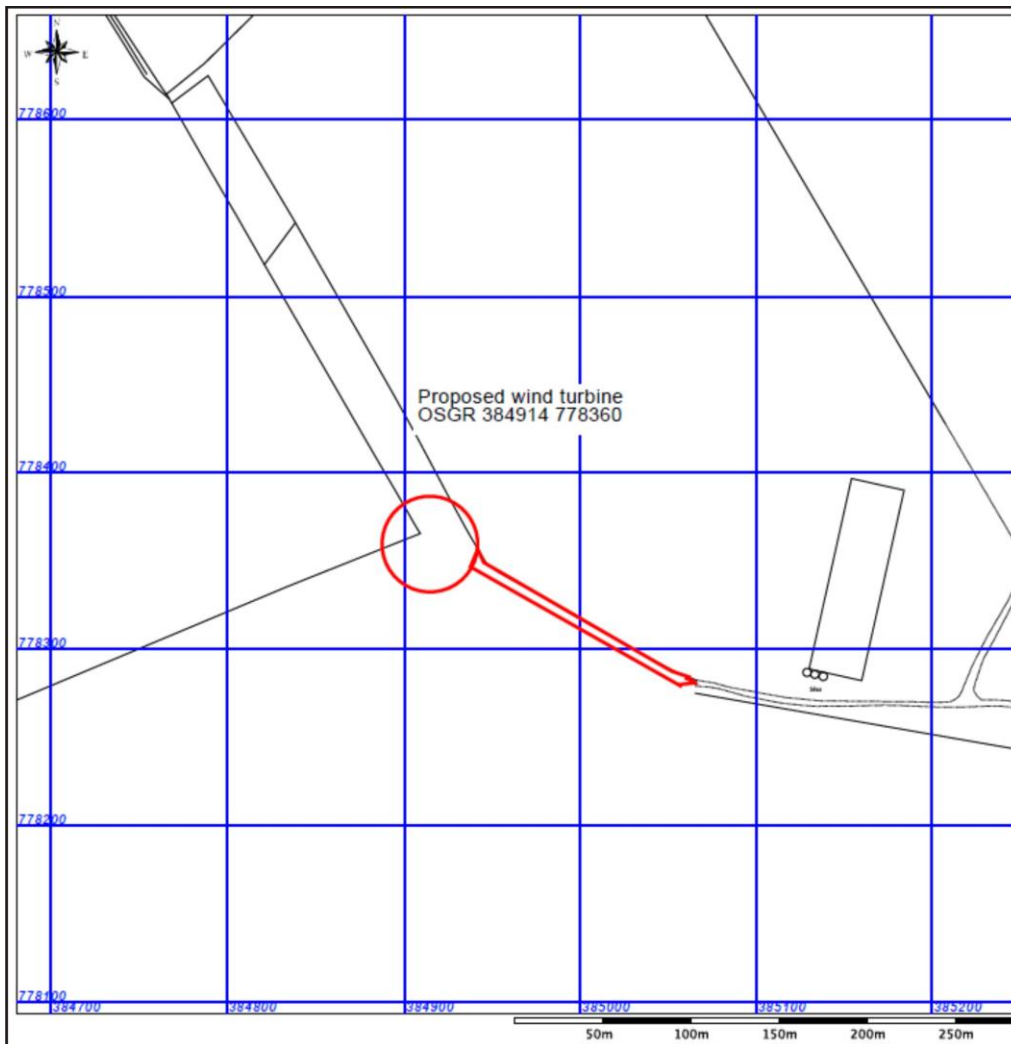
Illus 2 Oblique aerial photo looking ENE showing cropmarks near Purlieknowe in field adjacent to the A92 (*copyright RCAHMS*).

- 2.4 South East of St. John's Knap lies a hut-circle or ring ditch of prehistoric origin (NO 8453 7763). From RCHAMS: 'Vertical air photography (BKS NO87N 2701176, flown 18 May 1977) has recorded a circular cropmark (visible as slight differential crop growth) on the SE-facing slope of St John's Knap, about 300m ESE of the cairn The cited location is at an altitude of 127m OD. NMRS, MS/1739.'

- 2.5 North-west of St. John's Knap another cist burial (roughly centred upon NO 84 78) was discovered in 1875. From RCAHMS: 'A Beaker (Clarke's N1/D type) was discovered in the parish of Kinneff and Catterline (name: NO 8478); it may have been found in a cist with a schist pendant. This beaker is now in Aberdeen University Anthropological Museum, Marischal College, Aberdeen (Accession no: 19719). RCAHMS 1982.'
- 2.6 At Upper Fernyflatt (NO 8509 7753: NO 8510 7754) records indicate a prehistoric barrow which contained two cist burials which were disturbed in the mid-19th Century. From RCAHMS: 'Two cists, found in a dry hillock of hard gravel about 1854. One cist contained the well-preserved skeletons of an adult male and female and two urns. One of the urns was in the possession of James Smith, Upper Fernyflatt, in 1863, and from the surveyor's description and sketch appeared to be a beaker. The other cist contained a skeleton but no urn. The skeletons were removed to the churchyard at Kinneff.'
- 2.7 At Brigstanes (NO 85600 78650) aerial photography identified the remains of several cropmarks indicating the presence of pits, rig and furrow and a track.

3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

The site was inspected on 27/05/2015. The access road to the wind turbine location follows the existing track at the previous land surface level, with the primary modification being a layer of gravel, creating little additional impact over the 150m extension past the nearest farm outbuildings. Beyond the access road, the hardstanding and construction works for the wind turbine comprise two main elements (Illus 3): one, a square area approximately 35x35m adjacent to the actual turbine location which sits at the current ground level, and two, a circular area some 20m in diameter upon which the turbine mount/base will rest. This circular area has been excavated to a depth ranging from just over 1m to approximately 1.4m, and is currently surrounded by spoil heaps. Close visual inspection of all visible sections and adjacent spoil did not reveal the presence of archaeological artefacts or deposits. After communication with the ground workers, it was indicated that no further excavation was necessary for the project, and that it had reached its full extent at the time of the site visit.



Illus 3 Plan of wind turbine (copyright Ecodyne)

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No archaeological remains were identified at this site where the site has been excavated and mainly infilled prior to the arrival of the archaeologist. However, given the substantial evidence for archaeological activity in the adjacent fields on both sides, particularly of a prehistoric nature which is recorded in numerous historical records and aerial photographs, if additional excavation is required, an archaeologist must be informed prior to the event and allowed time to attend the site.

5 REFERENCES

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6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks goes to Alison Cameron of Cameron Archaeology, Bruce Mann of Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service, Henrik Micski, Ecodyn on behalf of Mr. David Argo and associated stakeholders for their co-operation.

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APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo No.	Description	Facing
DSC_7974	View of service/access road	SE
DSC_7975	View of site from end of access road	NW
DSC_7976	View of upper parking area	W
DSC_7977	Lower area for turbine pedestal	NE
DSC_7978	Lower area for turbine pedestal II	NE
DSC_7979	Detail of lower area	NW
DSC_7980	General view of pedestal area	E
DSC_7981	General view of pedestal area II	E
DSC_7983	Midpoint of site access road looking towards parking area and pedestal location	NW



DSC_7974.jpg



DSC_7975.jpg



DSC_7976.jpg



DSC_7977.jpg



DSC_7978.jpg



DSC_7979.jpg



DSC_7980.jpg



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DSC_7983.jpg