

**Land at Ley Farm, Fordyce, AB45 2XS**

**Report on Archaeological Watching Brief**



**Alison Cameron**  
**Cameron Archaeology Ltd**  
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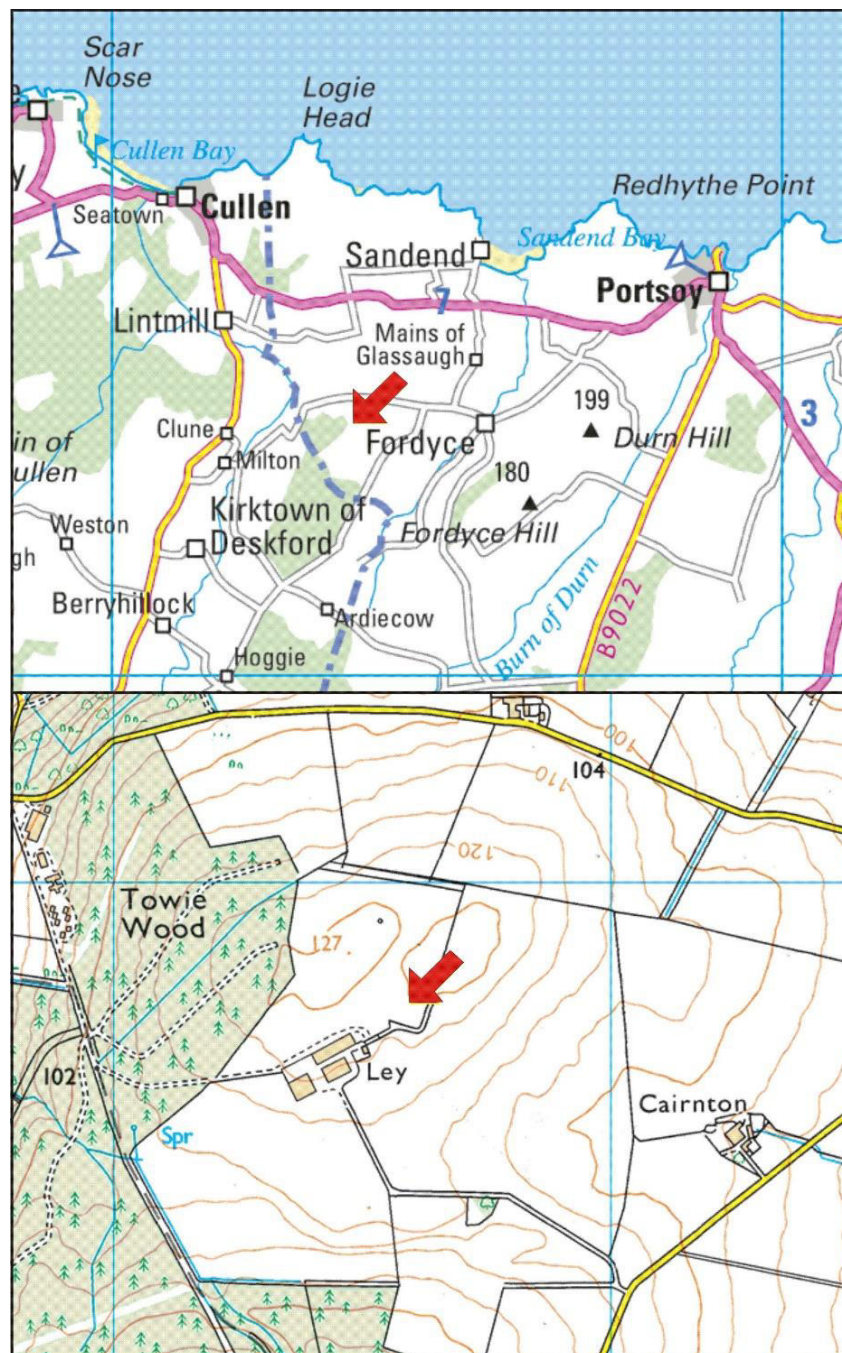
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## SUMMARY

A watching brief was carried out 12 August 2015. No significant archaeological features were recorded and one fragment of flint was recovered from topsoil. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during this development.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located NE of Ley Farm. It is centred on NGR NJ 5359 6375, at 120-125m OD (Illus 1) and in the parish of Fordyce.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Graeme Crawford, Locogen for Charles B Gray Greenacres Portsoy Banff AB45 2UL. Aberdeenshire Council Planning Application (APP/2012/3851) for erection of 1 No. Wind Turbine (49 metres Hub Height) Total Height 75 metres) was passed on 19 August 2014. There is a requirement for a watching brief during ground disturbance (condition 26).
- 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 2015)



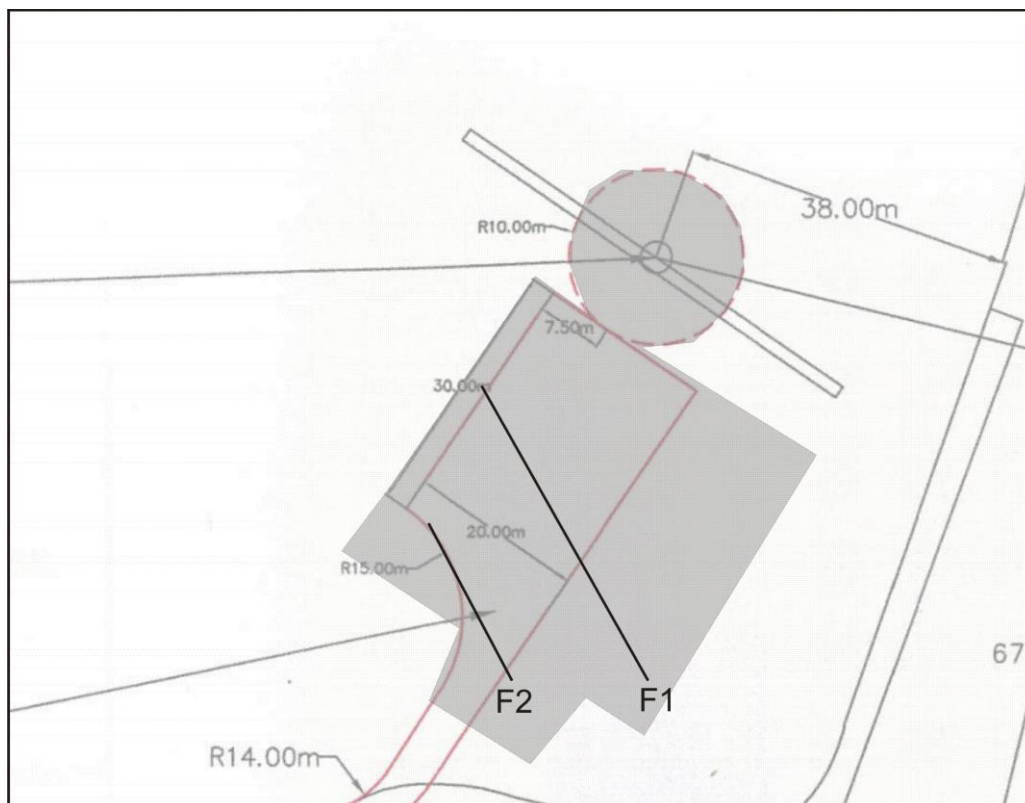
## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within 1km of the proposed development. There are three archaeological sites within 200m of the proposed development. Two stone circles formerly stood in the field at the crest of the hill a little over 200m NNE of Ley Farm (Gaulcross North NJ56SW 11 and Gaulcross South NJ56SW 10; Illus 2), each apparently comprising six orthostats erected along the line of a stony ring-bank. Except for a single stone left as a rubbing stone (Cramond 1884, 92-3) most of the orthostats were blown up to provide materials to build the farmhouse and steading (Stuart 1867, 74-5; Name Book Aberdeenshire No 12, 56) and even this stone has now been removed. The date the circles were demolished is not certain, but about 1838 or shortly after both were trenched to improve the ground and remove the smaller stones. This led to the discovery of the Gaulcross hoard of Pictish silver close to the single orthostat that had been left standing from the northern circle. The circles were first noted by Thomas Pennant who refers to them as 'the two circles of long stones called Gael-Cross' (1774, 140) (Welfare, 2011, 517-8).
- 2.2 'Several hundred yards' from Ley Farm an urn was found by Mr Lawtie in 1841 (NJ56SW 17; NSA 1845).

## 3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on 12 August 2015 during the soil strip for the turbine, track and crane pad (Illus 2).

The topsoil was light sandy loam 0.4-0.6m deep. The subsoil is rocky outcrops with blue grey sandy silt. Two NW-SE furrows (F1 and F2) were recorded (Illus 2, 3); they were c 1m wide and 0.1m deep and were 12m apart. There were also several stone and ceramic drains and scars in the natural subsoil from ploughing and potato planting. One fragment of unworked flint (Illus 5) was recovered from topsoil.



Illus 2 Plan showing area of watching brief and furrows F1 and F2





Illus 3 Furrow F1; facing NW



Illus 4 The turbine base trench showing double parallel scars from potato planter; facing NW





Illus 5 Fragment of flint recovered from topsoil

#### 4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A watching brief was carried out 12 August 2015. No significant archaeological features were recorded and one fragment of flint was recovered from topsoil. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during this development.

#### 5 REFERENCES

Stuart, J. (1867) *Sculptured Stones of Scotland v2, vol. 2*. Edinburgh. Page(s): 74-5.

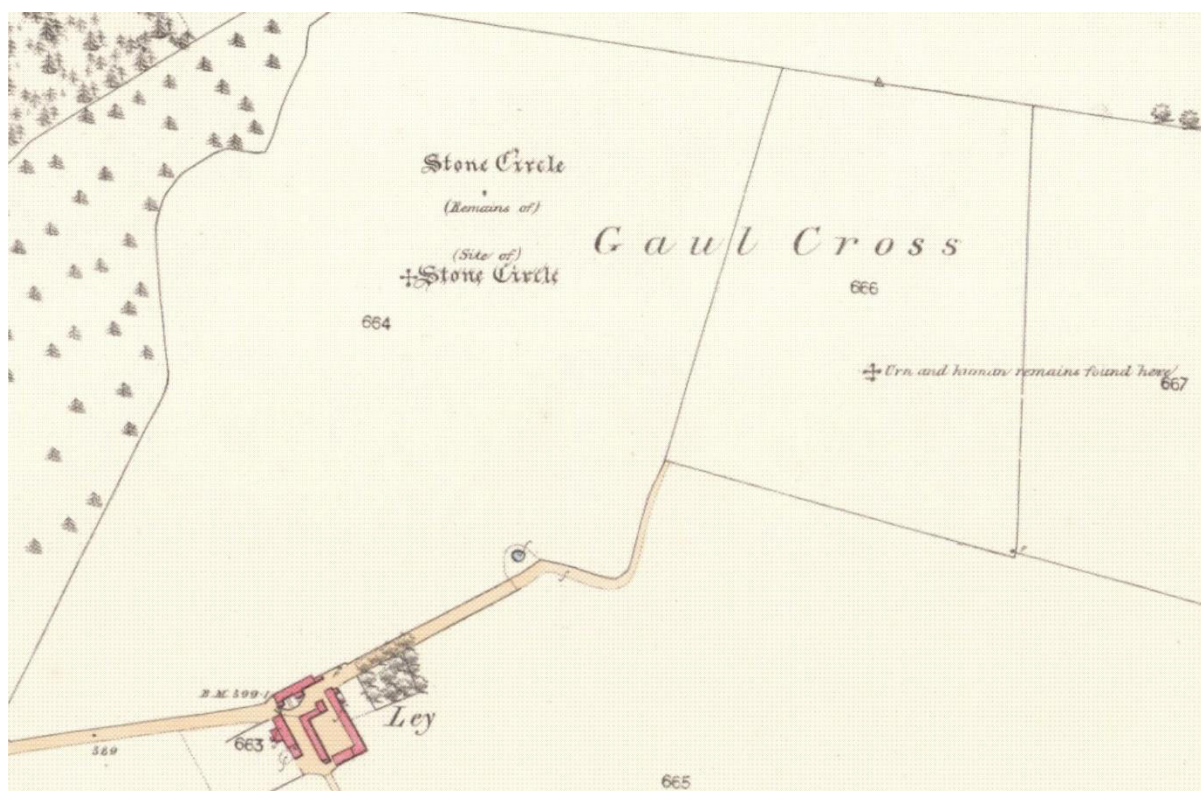
Welfare, A. (2011) *Great Crowns of Stone: The Recumbent Stones Circles of Scotland: Gazetteer and Appendices*, in S Halliday. Edinburgh. Page(s): 517-8.

#### 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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 MAPS



Illus 3 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance map showing Ley Farm and the location of the former stone circles. Banff Sheet III.14 (Fordyce) Survey date: 1866 Publication date: 1871 (copyright National Library of Scotland)

## APPENDIX 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN 1KM OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Name	OS NGR	Classification
GAULCROSS SOUTH	NJ 53500 63870	STONE CIRCLE. ALTNAME = LEY
GAULCROSS NORTH	NJ 53540 63920	STONE CIRCLE, HOARD (SILVER)(PICTISH). ALTNAME = LEY
LEY	NJ 53750 63820	HUMAN REMAINS, CINERARY URN(S)
TOWIE	NJ 53000 63000	CINERARY URN (BRONZE AGE)
UPPER BREACH	NJ 53980 63140	FARMSTEAD
UPPER TOWIE	NJ 53480 64360	BUILDING
CULLEN RESERVOIR	NJ 53120 64650	CROFT

## APPENDIX 3 FEATURES

Feature no	Description
F1	Furrow 1m wide, 0.1m deep NW-SE
F2	Furrow 0.8m wide, 0.1m deep NW-SE; very disturbed

## APPENDIX 4 PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo no	Description	Facing
DSC0001-13	Watching brief with trench for ceramic drain	W/NW
DSC0014-17	Furrow F1	NW
DSC0018-20	Stone drain (cuts through rig F1)	S
DSC0021-25	Watching brief for crane base	NW/S
DSC0027-29	Furrow F1 and stone drain	NW/S
DSC0030-43	Watching brief for crane base	
DSC0044-50	Watching brief for turbine including double scores in natural for potato planting machine	
DSC0050-52	Flint from topsoil	









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DSC\_0037.JPG



DSC\_0038.JPG



DSC\_0039.JPG



DSC\_0040.JPG



DSC\_0041.JPG



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