

THE WELTON KINGOLDRUM ANGUS



- Archaeological Walkover Survey -

Carried out 15th & 19th October 2010
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2010- 21
by
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**THE WELTON
KINGOLDRUM
ANGUS
-Walkover Survey-**

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1. Background

- 1.1 In the light of proposals for the development of a windfarm at The Welton, Angus it was decided by the developers that an archaeological walkover survey should be carried out to assess the survival and nature of any archaeological remains on the proposed site.
- 1.2 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Green Cat Renewables to undertake the work; the field element of which was carried out on 15th and 19th October 2010.

2. The Site

- 2.1 The windfarm site is located to the W of Kirriemuir to the N of the B951, on the high ground above The Welton and Kinclune farms, Kingoldrum, Angus. NGR: NO30923 56611 (centre of site). Parish: Kingoldrum
- 2.2 The site lies on Welton Hill and Kinclune Hill.

3. Methodology

- 3.1 A search was carried out in the Sites and Monuments Record, Archaeology Service, Aberdeenshire Council and in the Sites and Monuments Records of the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Scotland (RCAHMS) through Canmore, Canmap and Pastmap.
- The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map sheet Forfar xxxi (surveyed 1862 published 1865) was consulted (www.nls.uk).

4. Desk-top assessment

4.1 Map evidence

1st edition Ordnance Survey map (surveyed 1862, published 1865)

Archaeological Desk-based assessment and walkover survey Murray Archaeological Services Ltd

On the 1st OS survey of 1862 (1865) the upper ground on Welton Hill is all shown as rough hill with much of Kinclune Hill shown as wooded.

One of the cairns on Welton Hill (18) is shown on the 1862 (1865) map and marked as a cairn.

The boundary stone (1) at the NW extent of the Welton ground is also marked.

4.2 Sites shown on the NMRS and Angus SMR

Welton Hill cairn. NRMS No:NO35NW1 SMR No:NO35NW0001

A number of cairns were reported by J Sherriff in 1982 but as they were plotted with a greater margin of error these could not be positively identified with those in the present survey.

NMRS No: NO35NW27 SMR No: NO35NW0027 (possibly this survey:20)

NMRS No: NO35NW28 SMR No: NO35NW0028 (possibly this survey:16-18)

NMRS No: NO35NW25 SMR No: NO35NW0025 (possibly this survey :11)

NMRS No: NO35NW26 SMR No: NO35NW0026 (possibly this survey: 9)

Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) Kinclune hut circle was outwith the area of the present survey (NMRS NO35NW19=NMRS NO35NW35: SMR No: NO35NW0019=NO35NW0035).

5. **The Walkover Survey (Illus 17 and database table)**

5.1 Sites noted in the walkover were plotted using a Magellan MobileMapper CX. Basic details were logged into the database and the sites were photographed.

5.2 The majority of the features are cairns or clearance cairns and it must be emphasised that in the recent past cairns have been both depleted and added to, thus making it superficially hard to distinguish between prehistoric cairns – either burial, landscape markers or *prehistoric* stone clearance cairns- and 19th-21st century clearance. Often recent stone clearings are added to pre-existing piles.

To aid in distinguishing between probable prehistoric features and other features that may be of fairly recent origin some emphasis has been placed on

both the morphology of the features (structured / unstructured) and their position within the landscape.

5.3 *The Features*

Five categories of feature have been identified: cairns, possible cairns, clearance cairns, boundary stone and other features.

Cairns Nine cairns were identified (3, 8, 9, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26). Five of these are cairns already marked on the OS map. One (28 = NMRS No:NO35NW1) is marked and named as a cairn on the 1st edition OS map of 1862 (1865). Notes in the Ordnance Survey (Name Book) state that c 1842 the tenant of Welton removed about 20 or 30 cart loads of stone from this cairn. These cairns are all either on a hill top or on the top of a ridge or local prominence. With one exception, they range between c4.70 x 5.40m and 8.20 x 8.00m, with heights from 0.75m to 2m. The typical profile is quite pointed over a roughly rounded base. Many are in part built on bare bedrock. Two (19, 25) have possible low kerb stones around part of the base. From any one cairn several others are visible and they are prominent within the wider landscape although often not visible from the lower slopes of the hill which they are built on top of. Site 3 appears to have been denuded. One cairn (9) is atypical- it is small (2.50 x 1.90m and only 300mm high) but appears structured and is on a hill top position. It also has the appearance of being slightly dug in.



Illus 1 Site 3



Illus 2 Site 19



Illus 3 Site 21



Illus 4 Site 23



Illus 5 Site 24



Illus 6 Site 25



Illus 7 Site 28



Illus 8 Site 3



Illus 9 Site 9

Possible cairns

Site 13 is a possible cairn but is denuded, it should be treated as a potential prehistoric feature.

Clearance cairns

The clearance cairns lack structure and tend to be of irregular sprawling shape. Most are low in the landscape, generally at or near the base of slopes. Some (7, 16, 17, 18, 26) are near modern tracks and it is suggested that these are modern clearance during the improvement of grassland when the hill was taken in from the rough and tracks were cleared for access. Several others also appear to be of recent origin- 15 which is beside a newly cleaned out pond and gateway and 22 which is at the edge of a small enclosed area of cultivation. 4 and 5 are part of a linear spread of boulders (6) along one side of a boggy area beside an old stream line and 20 is similarly beside an area of bog.



Illus 10 Site 16 typical clearance cairn by track



Illus 11 Site 18 with 17 and 16 behind at the edge of track and base of slope



Illus 12 Site 15 clearance beside recently dug out pond

Clearance cairn 11 however does not appear to have any obvious modern explanation and should be regarded as potentially prehistoric- especially as it lies beside and may be associated with a stone line (site 10). It is also on a ridge and composed of smaller stones than is the norm with the probable modern clearance.



Illus 13 Site 11

Boundary stone

A boundary stone, marked on the 1st OS of 1862 (1865) is located at the NW extent of the Welton land. It is a flat natural boulder with a small incised cross (c 100 x 150mm) cut on the upper surface.



Illus 14 Site 1 Arrow marks cross

Other features

Two other features are difficult to interpret. Site 10 on Kinclune Hill was a single line of stones set on the bedrock running for 4m NW/SE on the top of a ridge near possible clearance cairn 11.



Illus 15 Site 10. Stone line. Note the stones are of different types and are not a natural formation

Site 14 is a rectilinear enclosure c6.70 x 8.30m with the S and W sides delimited by lines of boulders. The interior is filled with small stones.



Illus 16 Site 14

5.3 Summary

5.3.1 Prehistoric features

The hilltop cairns, possible cairns, clearance cairn 11, stone line 10 and possibly the enclosure 14 should all be regarded as of potential Bronze Age date (*irrespective of any more recent denuding of them or dumping on them*). They fit into a landscape of burial cairns, prehistoric field clearance, boundaries and settlement in the area during the Bronze Age. They relate to the hut circle on the lower ground (outwith the survey) at Kinclune (NMRS NO35NW19=NMRS NO35NW35: SMR No: NO35NW0019=NO35NW0035) and to the hut circles on neighbouring Brankam Hill and Strone Hill.

5.3.2 Historic features

The boundary marker (1) is of at least 19th century date but in the light of the Abbott's stone on neighbouring Strone Hill it is possible that this could in fact be an earlier boundary marker- potentially even medieval in date.

5.3.3 Probable recent clearance

Some of the clearance cairns appear to be of recent date (7, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22 and 26). Clearance cairns 44, 5, 6 (linear) and 20 beside boggy ground are also probably recent.

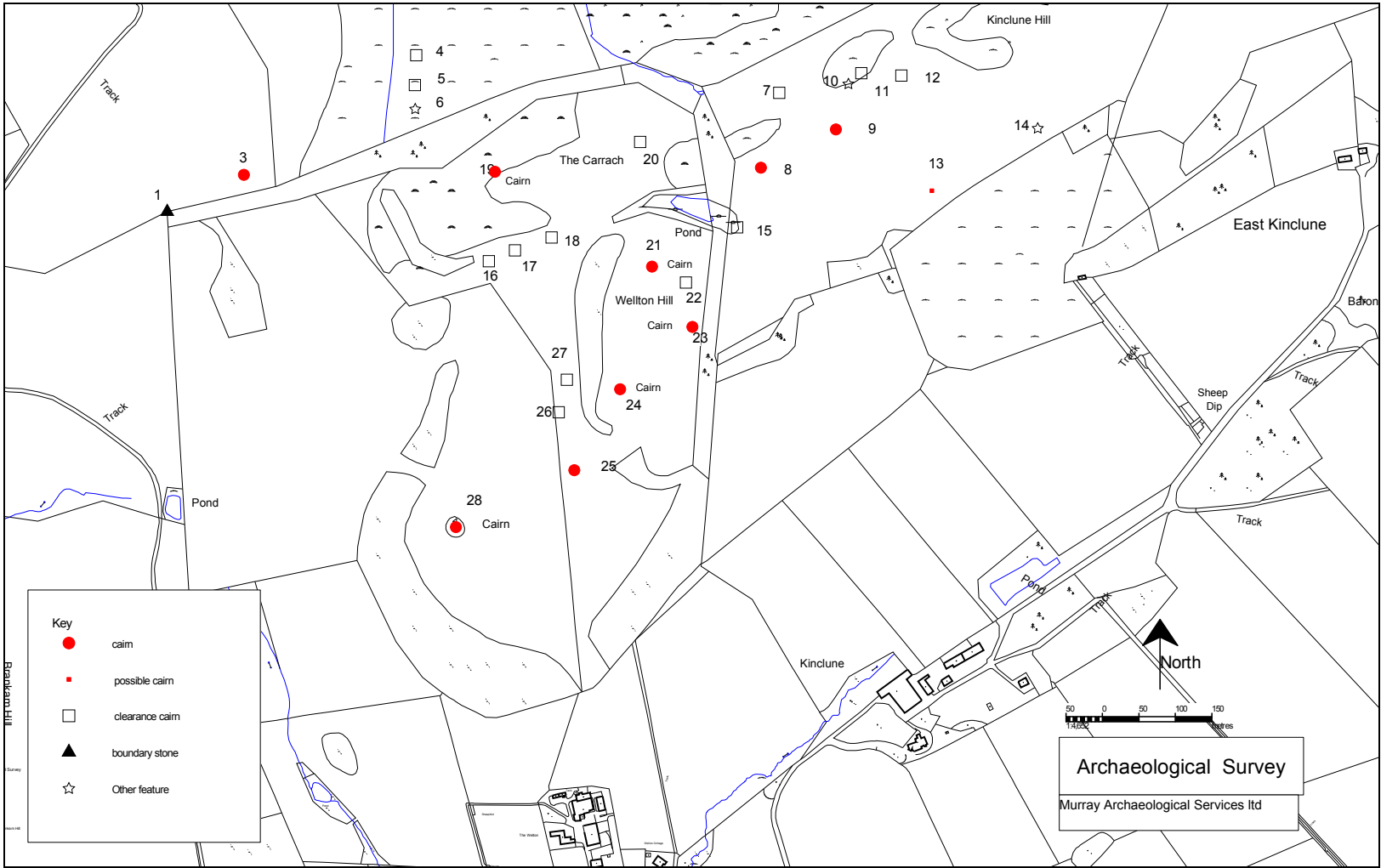
6 Recommendation

- 6.1 The probable prehistoric features noted in 5.3.1 above should be avoided and an exclusion zone should be agreed.
- 6.2 The historic boundary stone noted in 5.3.2 above is on the edge of the proposed area but should be marked and protected during any works.
- 6.3 The probable recent clearance cairns noted in 5.3.3 above do not appear to be of archaeological importance but any removal should be the subject of an archaeological watching brief.
- 6.4 In the light of the apparent density of later prehistoric activity in the area it is suggested that ground clearance should be the subject of an archaeological watching brief.
- 6.5 Should such chance finds of objects or unrecorded features occur during the construction operations, then the Archaeology Service, Aberdeenshire

Council, must be informed immediately so that an appropriate archaeological response can be formulated and agreed by all parties concerned.

Photographs supplied to Angus SMR on CD

Photographic catalogue	
Digital frame no	Content (Survey feature numbers)
1-3	16
4-8	17
9-11	18
12-17	19
18-21	20
22-24	28
25-27	25
28-30	26
31-32	27
33-35	24
36-39	23
40-44	22
45-48	21
49-50	general view S over W flank of the Welton Hill
51-55	1
56-59	3
60-63	4
64-66	5
67-69	6
70-72	general views near 4-6
73-74	7
75-76	8
77-78	9
79-80	10
81-82	11
83-84	12
85-86	13
87-88	14
89-90	15



Illus 17 Sites surveyed (numbers refer to sites in database)

Easting	Northing	no	site type	n/s	e/w	height	notes	photo	
330258.85	756686.89	1	other		75	75	0	boundary stone flat with incised cross 15x105	51-55
330363.81	756737.75	3	cairn		690	620	125	hill top structured cairn with small line of stones extending 320cm to S	56-59
330600.43	756902.13	4	clearance cairn		550	500	100	mid slope 2 heaps with linear scatter up hill to feature 5,E heap 350 small stones structured	60-63
330598.28	756860.86	5	clearance cairn		680	580	125	base local slope by wet ground to W, small stones-boulder,unstructured	64-66
330598.81	756828.04	6	other clearance	n/a		n/a		N-S linear scatter stones from feature 6 at N end to 4 through 5	67-69
331098.05	756850.27	7	cairn		660	370	30	modern big stones by track	73-74
331072.76	756747.67	8	cairn		480	550	75	med-boulder not structured hill top poss denuded	75-76
331175.74	756800.1	9	cairn		250	190	30	hilltop small-med stones possibly dug in	77-78
331192.81	756862.19	10	other clearance		400		30	line single stones NW/SE on bedrock on ridge by 11	79-80
331210.47	756877.3	11	cairn		370	290	50	unstructured spread medium stones on ridge	81-82
331265.72	756874.22	12	clearance cairn		280	330	75	irregular unstructured big stones base slope	83-84
331307.32	756715.72	13	possible cairn		500	700	100	ridge small to boulder,E end smaller stones structured, possibly denuded cairn below ridge,S and E sides of rectilinear enclosure edged by single boulders, small stones	85-86
331452.47	756801.6	14	other clearance		830	670	50	within	87-88
331040.3	756665.85	15	cairn clearance		950	680	100	modern by pond	89-90
330699.84	756618.91	16	cairn clearance		500	1100	50	base slope by track,unstructured	01-Mar
330735.6	756634.04	17	cairn clearance		320	500	100	base slope by track,unstructured, includes boulders	04-Aug
330783.97	756649.55	18	cairn		800	700	50	base slope by track,unstructured	09-Nov
330708.07	756741.69	19	cairn		530	490	150	hill top prominent,small to large stones,possible kerb	Dec-17
330907.6	756782.69	20	clearance		700	520	75	base slope by bog,unstructured	18-21

			cairn					
330923.52	756611.57	21	cairn	470	540	150	hill top,medium stones,structured	45-48
			clearance					
330970.04	756589.65	22	cairn	290	300	30	small stones,beside cultivated area	40-44
330979	756528.62	23	cairn	340	400	100	not hill top but local prominence,medium stones around boulder	36-39
330879.87	756443.04	24	cairn	550	680	150	hill top,prominent,medium to large stones,structured	33-35
330817.32	756332.27	25	cairn	720	600	200	local prominence,medium to large stones,structured,possible kerb	25-27
			clearance					
330795.75	756411.49	26	cairn	350	430	50	base slope,by track,small to medium stones	28-30
			clearance					
330806.93	756456.25	27	cairn	820	800	100	base slope,unstructured,large stones	31-32
330654.66	756253.78	28	cairn	820	800	200	hill top,prominent,medium to large stones,structured	22-24

