

**AUCHORRIE WINDFARM
MIDMAR
ABERDEENSHIRE**



Archaeological desk top and walkover survey

Carried out October 2015

by

Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2015-31

by

H K Murray & J C Murray

H K Murray BA, PhD, MCIfA, FSA Scot

J C Murray BA, MCIfA, FSA Scot, FMA

Hill of Belnagoak, Methlick, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB41 7JN

Telephone: (01651) 806394 e-mail: cmurray@btinternet.com

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1. Background

- 1.1 In the light of a new cable trench requiring to be inserted between the SSE power line at Bandodle and a new substation on Bandodle Hill for the Auchorrie Windfarm (APP/2011/3257), it was decided that a desk top survey and walkover survey should be carried out to assess the survival and nature of any archaeological remains on the proposed site and in the surrounding area and to advise on the position of the cable line in relation to the known or visible archaeological remains.

This work was undertaken in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (PAN 2/2011, SPP, SHEP).

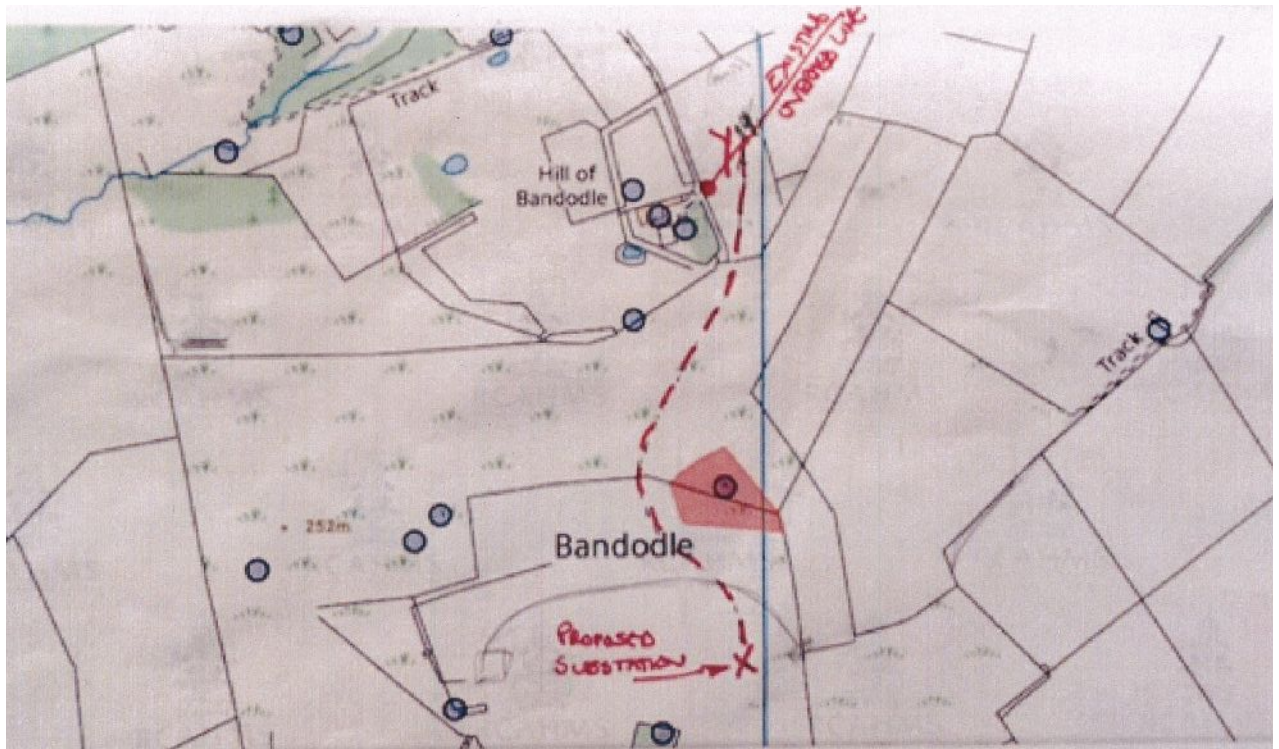
In a development context desk-based assessment will establish the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment (or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so), and will enable reasoned proposals and decisions to be made whether to mitigate, offset or accept without further intervention that impact. (IFA Standard 2011).

- 1.2 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Aegis Wind Turbines Ltd to undertake the work.

2. The Site

- 2.1 The site (illus 1) lies on the N side of Bandodle Hill, N of the B9119 road.

Parish: Midmar. NGR: From NJ 66001, 06451 to NJ 65970, 06858.



Illus 1 Site location. Courtesy of Aegis Wind Turbines Ltd



Illus 2 Aerial view of the site. <https://www.google.co.uk/maps/>

3 Methodology

3.1 A search was carried out in the Sites and Monuments Record, Archaeology Service, Moray Council and in the Sites and Monuments Records of the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Scotland (RCAHMS) through Canmore and Pastmap. All easily available maps have been consulted through www.nls.ac.uk. The results are summarised in the text.

3.2 A walkover survey was undertaken on 2nd October 2015. In the course of the survey a meeting was arranged with the landowner, Mr Norman Brown, who indicated the proposed cable route and site of the sub-station. After consultation the line was slightly amended, and marked by Mr Brown with a number of electric fence posts (coordinates below).

4. The Map Evidence

The maps are summarised here.

4.1 Roy Roy's Military map 1747-55

On Roy's map the area between Hill of Fare and Corrennie Hill does not appear to have been of high military importance and as a result little detail and no settlement is shown or named S of Kebbaly which lies c 1.5km NE of the present site.

4.2 1st Ordnance Survey Map.25"/mile.

Aberdeen sheet lxxii.11 (midmar). 1865 (published 1869)

Hill of Bandodle farm (site 7) is shown as a rectangular building with garden and field system.

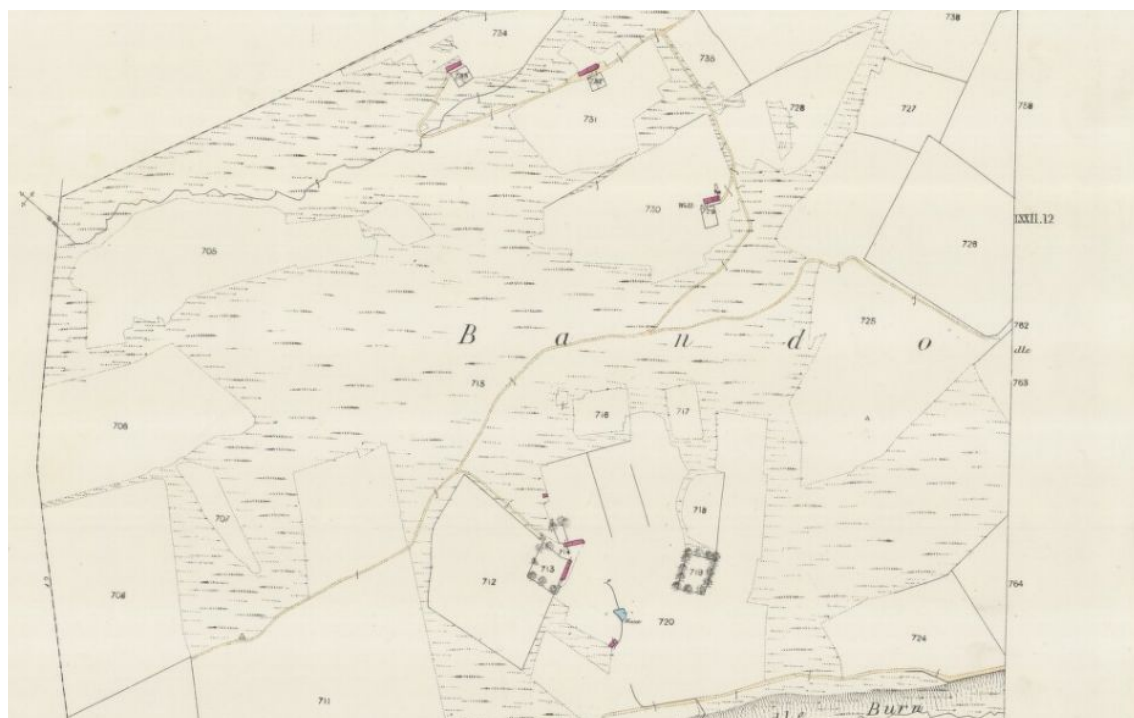
Site 10 is shown with two buildings and the mill, with garden and field system

Site 9 is shown as garden enclosed by trees but no buildings.

4.3 2nd Edition Ordnance survey 25"/mile.

Aberdeenshire 072.11 1899 (published 1900)

By 1899, Hill of Bandodle farm has been enlarged to an L-plan (site 7) and a sand pit (site 6) excavated nearby.



Illus 3 Detail of 1865 1st OS map. www.nls.ac.uk

5 Gazetteer

5.1 Recorded archaeological features on the cable route

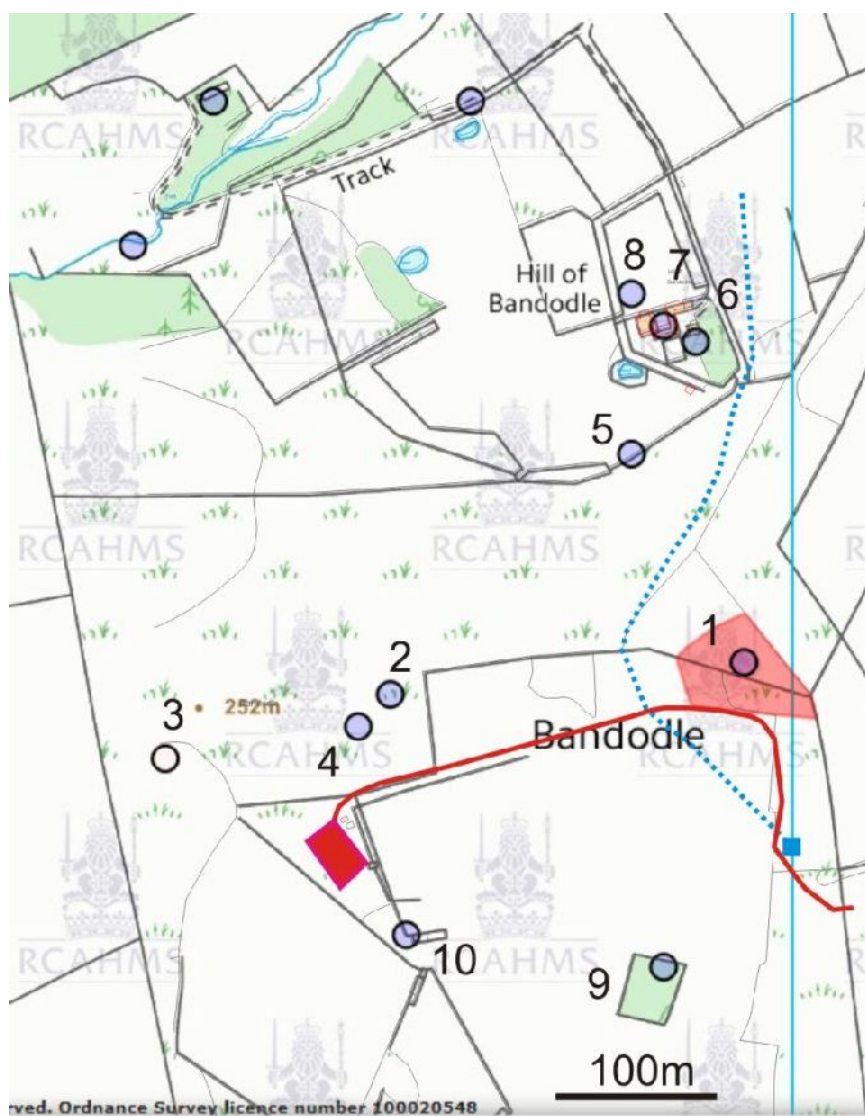
The Sites and Monuments record of RCAHMS and the Sites and Monuments record of Aberdeenshire Council show no archaeological sites on the proposed cable line.

5.2 Recorded archaeological features in area around the site

Table 1. Gazetteer of sites

	NMRS no	Aberdeenshire SMR	Site name	Grid ref	Site type
1	NJ60NE 143 Scheduled site. HS Index 12124	NJ60NE 0016	Bandodle	NJ 6597 0657	Two round-ended buildings and associated features.
2	NJ60NE 136		Bandodle	NJ 6575 0655	Sheepfold
3	NJ60NE 137		Bandodle	NJ 6561 0651	Cairns and possible hut circles
4	NJ60NE 138		Bandodle	NJ 6573 0653	Rig and furrow
5	NJ60NE 14		Bandodle	NJ 659 067	Enclosure and bank on air photographs

6	NJ60NE 84		Hill of Bandodle	NJ 6594 0677	Sand pit. 19 th C
7	NJ60NE 15	NJ60NE0022	Hill of Bandodle	NJ 6593 0677	Farmstead
8	NJ60NE 42	NJ60NE 0012	Bandodle	NJ 659 068	Whin-mill stone. Not located 2002 (RCAHMS)
9	NJ60NE 144		Bandodle	NJ 6592 0638	Enclosed garden and traces of steading. Abandoned before 1 st OS map of 1869. Beech trees now cut (tree rings not countable).
10	NJ60NE35	NJ60NE 0026	Bandodle	NJ 6576 0640	Croft, steading, enclosures and watermill



Illus 4 Sites recorded in table 1. Existing new track and turbine base in red. Proposed substation and cable line dotted blue line.



Illus 5 Looking N across new track to site 1. Pole indicates W end of W building. Most of features in gorse.

6 Analysis

The map evidence suggests this area had been fairly extensively settled, probably from at least the late medieval period, and site 3 may indicate late prehistoric settlement. The land-use to date of low stocked grazing and lack of modern cultivation has preserved an unusually rich record of this former settlement.



Illus 6 Looking W to site 10, showing croft and garden, both part of 19th-century settlement. Turbine base on RHS

7 Impacts and Mitigations

Impacts None of the recorded sites are directly affected by the proposed line of the cable trench. As it was considered that there were some possible features up to 10m W of the W edge of the SM area of site 1, it was agreed that the cable trench line would be moved further W (to line shown on illus 4) to clear these possible features.

Mitigations

The line of cable track was viewed on site with the landowner Mr Norman Brown and electric fence posts were placed to indicate the line. W of Site 1, the line was moved some 5m to the W to avoid possible features noted to the immediate W of the W edge of the scheduled area.

Marked cable line:

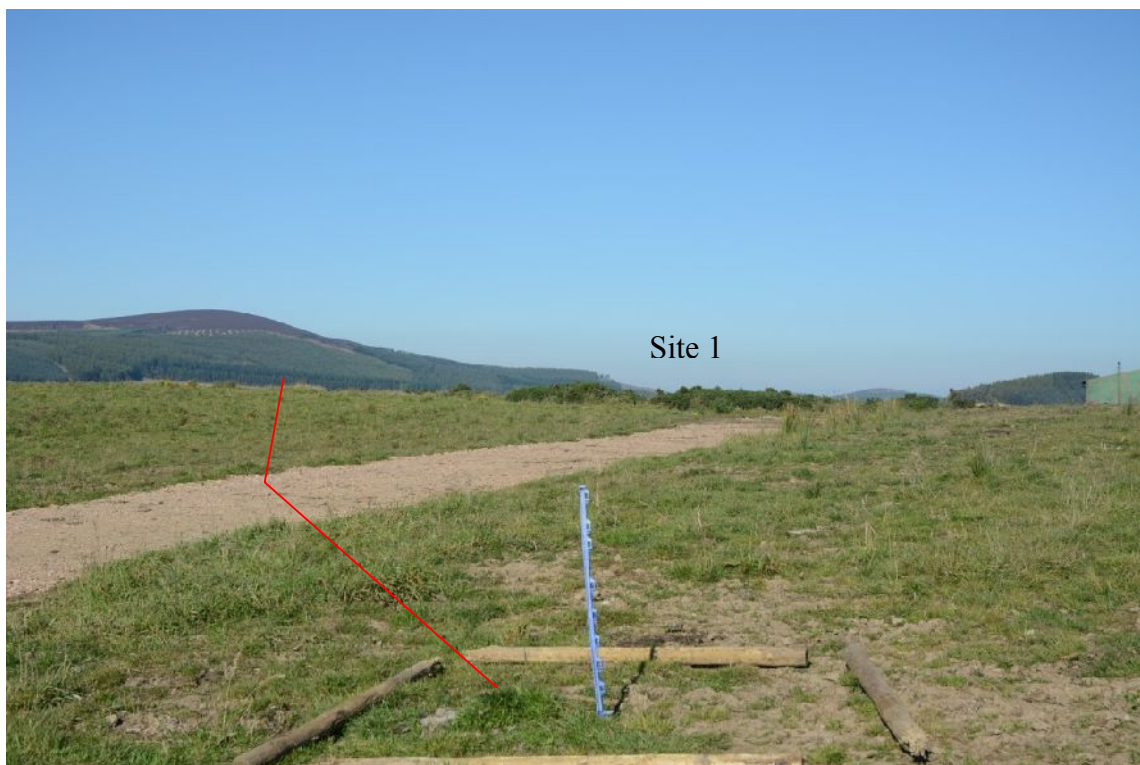
Substation: 366001,806451

Across grass to SE of track, crosses track at : 365935,806519 to 365911,806538

Through gate: 365893,806575

Along old farm track through field to N to gate at N: 365975,806745

Through field to 2nd overhead cable: 365970,806858.



Illus 4 Substation site marked out. Cable line to track across grass (approx red line)

8 References

IFA 2011 *Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment.*

Institute for Archaeologists

Photographs will be supplied to Aberdeenshire SMR.

Photographic catalogue	
Digital frame no	Content
01-04	Site 1 (Scheduled site) looking N with new track in foreground. Pole marks W end of W building
05-07	Site 1 looking E/SE across scheduled area
08	Site 1 looking E along new track with scheduled area to LHS of path
09	Site 10 to LHS of trees and new turbine site (RHS). Looking W
10	Site 10 looking W
11	Site 10 mill by small tree on fence line in mid shot
12	Foreground site 9, site 10 mill in background. Looking SW
13-14	Substation site looking towards turbine site
15	Substation site looking up new track towards site 1
16	Looking NW from turbine site towards sites 2-4
17	Looking SW to turbine site