

**AUCHORRIE WINDFARM
MIDMAR
ABERDEENSHIRE**



Archaeological Watching Brief
Carried out 1st March 2016
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



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by
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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).

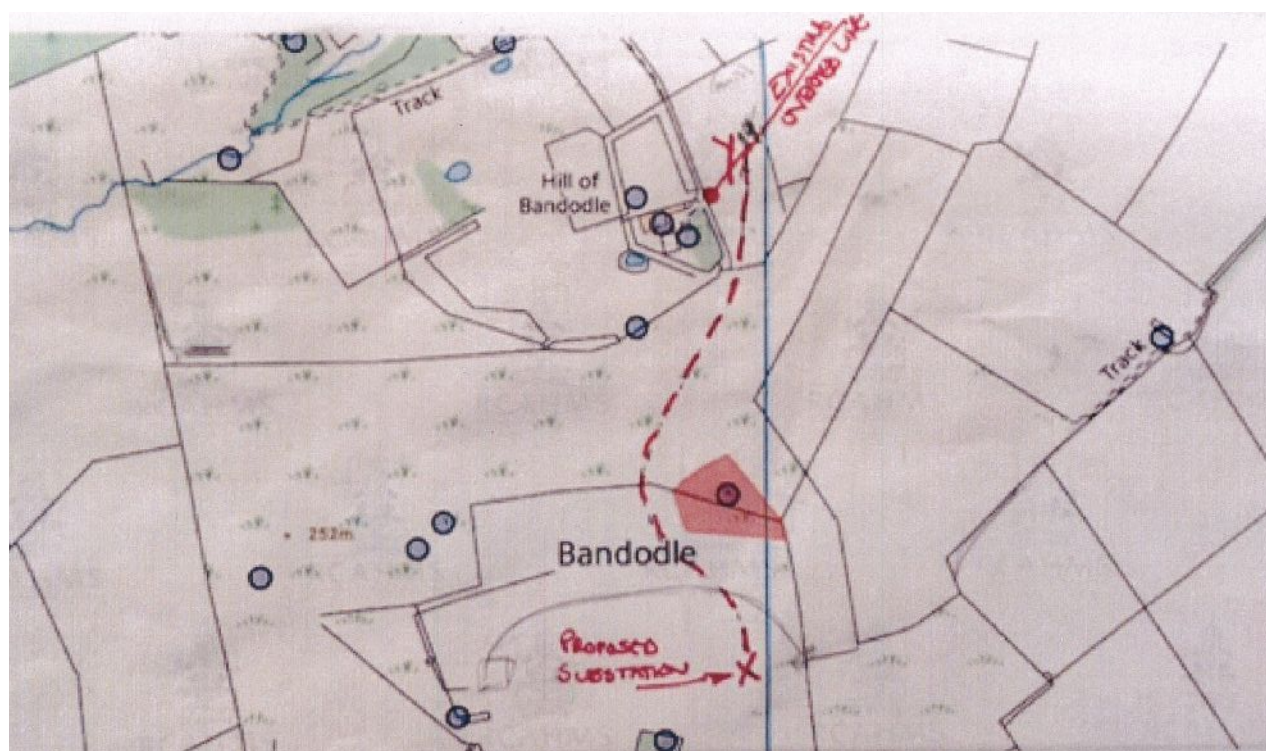
In a development context desk-based assessment will establish the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment (or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so), and will enable reasoned proposals and decisions to be made whether to mitigate, offset or 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 and the desk top and walkover surveys were carried out in October 2015 (Murray and Murray, 2015).

1.3 In March 2016 it was decided that an archaeological watching brief should be maintained on the excavation of the section of the cable connection trench that passed in close proximity to the W of the Scheduled Ancient Monument site of two round-ended buildings and associated features, indentified in the desk top survey (Murray & Murray 2015).

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.



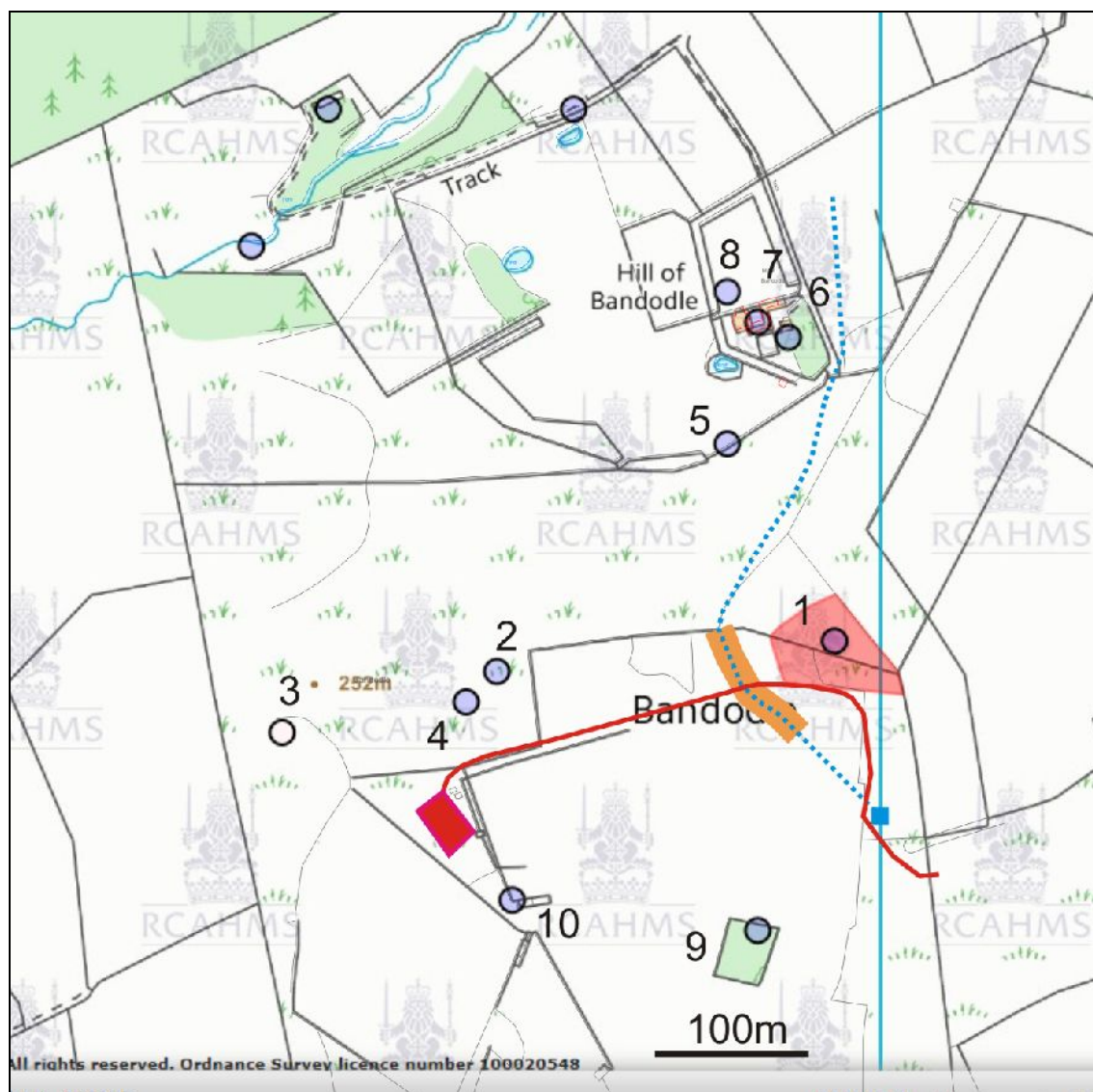
Illus 1 Site location. Courtesy of Aegis Wind Turbines Ltd

3. Watching Brief

3.1 A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of the section of the cable trench that passed in close proximity to Site No.1, the Scheduled Ancient Monument (see Illus.2, below). Approximately 53m of the track was observed, 25m on the S side of the turbine access track (Illus.2, in red) and 27m on the N side.

3.2 Although the cable will lie at a depth of c.900mm the trench was excavated to a depth of c.150mm only as hard rock and natural were encountered at this level. On the N side of the access track the rock outcrop lay below a very thin layer of vegetation. The natural was hard yellow/beige sand with much stone.

No archaeological features or finds were evident.



Illus 2 Sites recorded in table 1. Existing new track and turbine base in red. Proposed substation and cable line dotted blue with the section of cable trench observed in orange.

8 Reference

Murray H K and Murray J C, 2015 *Auchorrie Windfarm, Midmar, Aberdeenshire, Archaeological desk top and walkover survey 2015*. MAS 2015-31. unpublished archive report.



Illus 3: Cable trench on S side of access track



Illus 4: Detail of cable trench on S side of access track



Illus 5: Cable trench on N side of access track, showing rock outcrop below vegetation