



NORTHLIGHT HERITAGE | St Fort Home Farm, Wormit, Fife
REPORT: 134
PROJECT ID: 4462161 | **Desk-based Assessment**

 northlightheritage

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St Fort, Wormit
Fife
NGR: NO 4075 2525

Planning ref. N/A

Data Structure Report
on behalf of
AEE Renewables UK 59 Ltd.

Cover Plate: The site viewed from the east

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Approved by:



Date: 07/04/2015

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Contents

1. Non-technical summary	4
2. Introduction	4
3. Aims and objectives	5
4. Methodology (<i>also see appendix 2</i>)	5
5. Results	6
<i>HER, NMRS & Historic Scotland Data</i>	6
<i>Historic Mapping</i>	7
<i>Documentary Sources</i>	8
<i>Aerial Photography</i>	8
<i>Walkover Survey</i>	8
6. Conclusions	10
7. Appendices	11
<i>APPENDIX 1 Tables</i>	11
Table 1: Site Gazetteer	11
Table 2: Walkover Survey Photographs	12
Table 3: Map Sources Consulted	12
Table 4: Other Sources Consulted	13
Table 5: Aerial Photographs Consulted	13
APPENDIX 2 Methodology	14
APPENDIX 4 DES	17

Figures

Figure 1: Location plan	4
Figure 2: Location of previously recorded archaeological sites	6
Figure 3: Aerial photograph transcription supplied by the local authority	8
Figure 4: Northern boundary and field clearance	9
Figure 5: Dry-stone field boundary on eastern side of the site	9

1. Non-technical summary

1.1

This document presents the results of a desk-based assessment and walkover survey conducted in relation to a proposed solar farm development near St Fort Home Farm, Wormit, Fife. Northlight Heritage were commissioned to undertake the assessment by AEE Renewables UK 59 Ltd. and the work was undertaken in March 2015. The desk-based assessment and walkover survey found that there are several possible cropmark sites within the proposed development area, and as there are also several prehistoric archaeological sites in the vicinity, there is potential for sub-surface remains to survive on the site.

2. Introduction

2.1

The site is located to the southeast of Wormit at approximately NO 4075 2525, just to the southwest of St Fort Home Farm (Figure 1). The site comprises two sloping fields at approximately 30 m AOD. Recent satellite photographs viewable on Google Maps (accessed 11/3/15) show the fields under crop. The proposed development area measures approximately 16 hectares in size while a 1 km buffer area around the site was also included in this assessment.

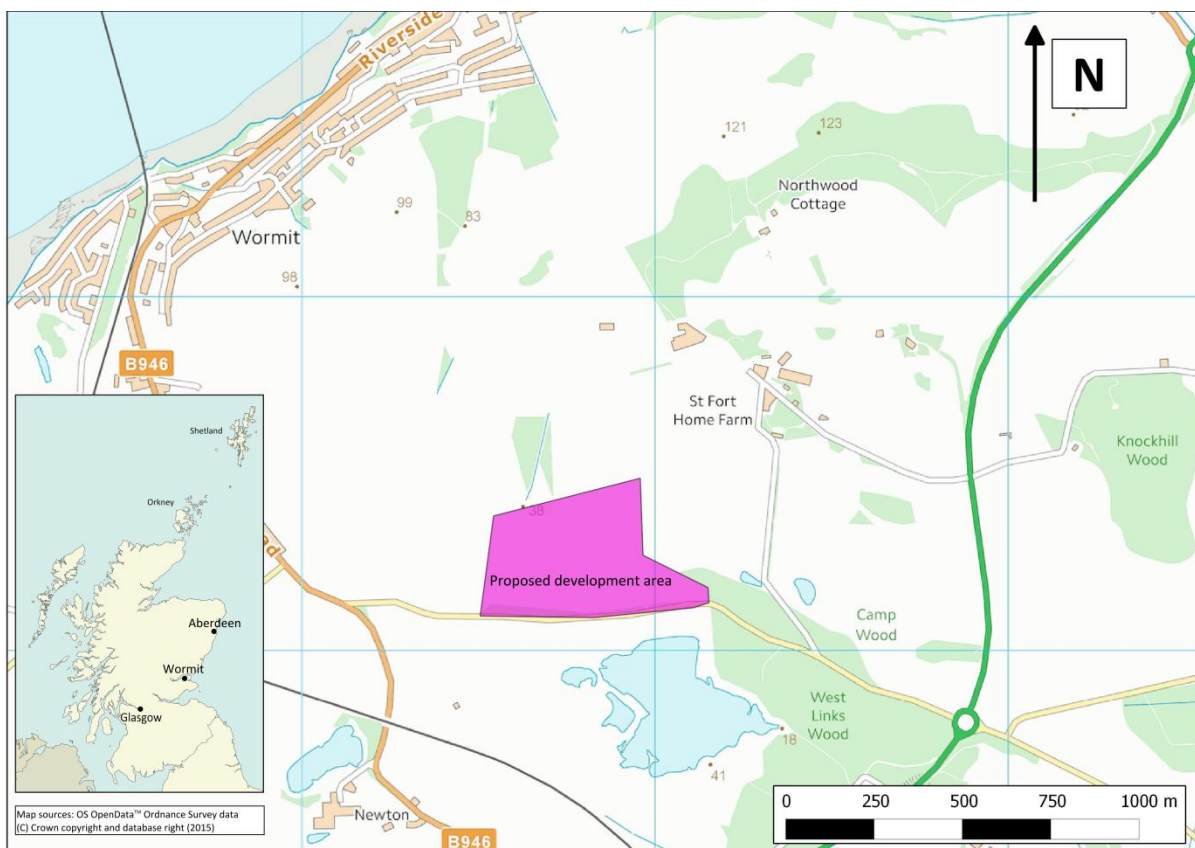


Figure 1: Location plan

3. Aims and objectives

The aims of the study were to:

- Identify any previously recorded or currently unknown archaeological remains present within the proposed solar farm boundary which may be impacted upon by the development.
- Identify any previously recorded archaeological remains within 1 km of the proposed development boundary in order to provide an overall archaeological context to the site.
- Disseminate the results of the study.

These aims were achieved via a series of objectives:

- Examine resources held by national and local bodies, historic mapping and, where appropriate, primary and secondary historic sources.
- Examine the aerial photographic collections held by the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments (RCAHMS) in Edinburgh.
- Conduct a site visit/walkover survey.
- Produce a report outlining the results of the assessment.
- Submit the project archive to National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS).

4. Methodology (*also see Appendix 2*)

HER/NMRS & Historic Scotland Data, Historic Maps & Documentary Sources

4.1

Resources held by national and local bodies, historic mapping and the first and second Statistical Accounts of Scotland were examined. As part of this process Historic Environment Record (HER) data, held by the local authority, was obtained and the NMRS was consulted through their online Pastmap facility (<http://pastmap.org.uk>). Historic Scotland's dataset on Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Properties in Care, Historic Marine Protected Areas, Conservation Areas, Historic Battlefields and Gardens and Designed Landscapes was also examined.

4.2

Shapefile data relating to the study area and the 1 km buffer (Figure 2) was provided on the 13 March 2015 by the local authority HER officer. Shapefile data relating to Historic Scotland's data set (see 4.1) was also downloaded on 11th March 2015. Both these datasets were viewed through a Geographical Information System (GIS) and, where relevant to the study area and 1 km buffer, comprised: HER points, lines and polygons relating to 'Great War' features, as well as polygons derived from the Historic Scotland dataset of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and point data relating to Listed Buildings. This data was then compared to that held in the NMRS. Individual illustrations for each of these datasets are provided in Appendix 3.

Aerial Photographs

4.3

Aerial photographic collections held by the RCAHMS were examined for the study area. These vertical and oblique photographs, ranging in date from 1945 to 1969, had potential to show any possible features which had not previously been recorded.

4.4

In addition to the RCAHMS data, a transcribed aerial photograph was supplied by the local authority archaeologist (Figure 3).

Site Walkover

4.5

It was anticipated that years of agricultural activity on the site would have had a significant impact on any archaeological remains existing above ground. As a result any remains were likely to be fragmentary and survive only within pockets of undisturbed ground. A rapid walkover survey of the study area was conducted to identify any extant features that may survive.

4.6

All sites visited or identified during the walkover were recorded by digital photography and written description on *pro-forma* record sheets. Features were located using GPS and their full extent surveyed. A systematic approach to walkover survey was conducted by choosing walking routes across the site which maximised the chances of spotting any surviving archaeological features. A team of two archaeologists conducted the work.

5. Results

HER, NMRS & Historic Scotland Data

5.1

Examination of the HER, NMRS and Historic Scotland data showed that no previously recorded archaeologically remains are present within the proposed development boundary, however, 29 sites have been identified within the 1 km buffer zone. The locations of these sites are shown in Figure 2 and a listed in the gazetteer (Table 1, Appendix 1). They are also summarised below. References to sites contained with the gazetteer are provided in the text as '(Site XX)'.

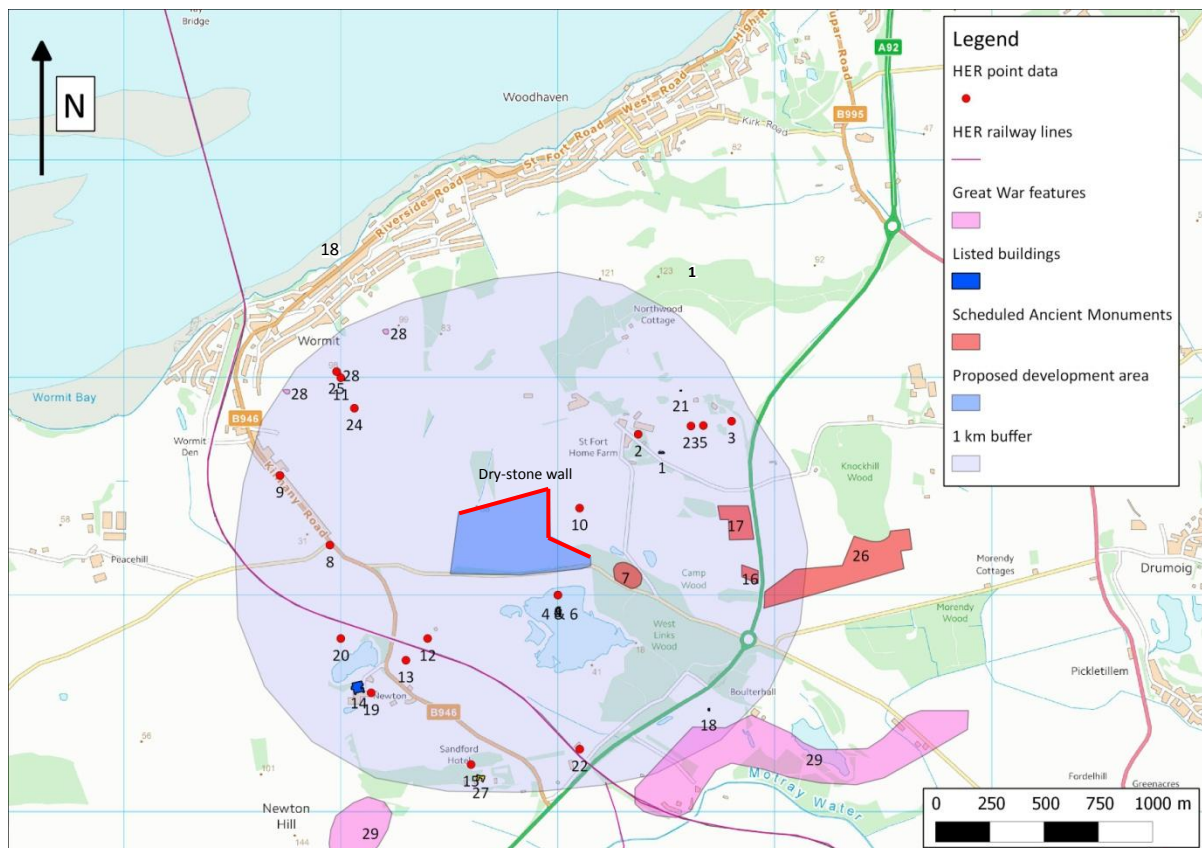


Figure 2: Location of previously recorded archaeological sites

5.2

There are no known archaeological sites located within the study area, however, the known sites within the 1 km buffer zone demonstrate that this part of Fife is rich in archaeological remains. These include four Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) as well as a range of other sites dating back to early prehistory. The area has also been identified as a source of flint (Site 11), an important prehistoric resource.

5.3

Three SAMs in the area have been identified by cropmarks and these comprise: ring-ditches, a concentric enclosure and pits at Knockhill (Site 26, NMRS: NO42NW 46), a ring-ditch and square barrow at Esky Loch (Site 16, NMRS: NO42NW 55), and an unenclosed settlement known as Poacher's Camp (Site 17, NMRS: NO42NW 56). The fourth SAM is a fort of likely Iron Age date known as Dane's Camp (Site 7, NMRS: NO42NW 11). This fort is located just over 100 m to the east of the development area and comprises a series of earthwork banks enclosing an area approximately 90 m by 35 m.

5.4

There are also a number of prehistoric sites amongst the remains of the known archaeological locations within the 1 km buffer zone. These include funerary remains such as the suggested locations of cist cemeteries (Sites 3, 8 & 13), all of which were disturbed in the past few centuries. Stone-lined cists most likely relate to Bronze Age or Iron Age burials. There are also potential settlement sites at Camp Wood (Site 10) and Castle Hill (Site 20), both of which have been identified as cropmarks. Three significant prehistoric artefacts (a polished stone axe, a stone bead with a bronze ring and a carved stone ball; Sites 4, 6 & 12 respectively) have been found in the general St. Fort area, but their exact location of discovery is unknown.

5.5

There are no sites of clear medieval date within the known archaeology, although there are a number of Post-medieval features, including the 1647 tomb of Alexander Nairne (Site 18), St. Fort House and its associated structures (Sites 1, 2, 5, 21 & 23), and several other buildings. There are also several features within the 1 km buffer zone (Sites 24, 25, 28 & 29) which relate to defences which were put in place during the First World War for the protection of the Tay Rail Bridge.

Historic Mapping (Table 3, Appendix 1)

5.6

No significant features were identified on historic maps of the proposed development area, although some insight was gained with regard the development of the wider area over the past four centuries. Early mapping, such as Pont in the 16th century, does not show any significant detail although the Gordon map from 1642 shows several 'Sanfort-' place names which likely relate to St Fort which is named as such on the Taylor and Skinner road map of 1776. William Roy's 18th century maps show no significant detail for the site.

5.7

In the 19th century the detail of the maps has improved and the location of the site can be accurately pinpointed, although no detail is shown on the 1828 'Map of the counties of Fife and Kinross'. The Ordnance Survey mapping from the first edition shows the site as two fields as it existed until recently when these were combined into one large field.

Documentary Sources

5.8

The first and second Statistical Accounts of Scotland were consulted for any information that might be pertinent to the site. The entries for the parish of Forgan were written in the 1790's and 1830-40's by the Rev. Mr. James Burn and the Rev. Charles Nairn, respectively. Rev. Burn discusses the possibility that an alternate name for the parish at that time (St. Phillans) was related to St. Fort. He also goes on to describe the current laird of St. Fort, Robert Stewart, and his efforts in improving the farmland of his estate (Burn 1791-99, 91). It seems likely that the fields within the proposed development area may have been affected by such improvements.

5.9

The second Statistical Account adds no information of note to the site, although the author does include a section on antiquities (Nairn, 1834-45. 509).

Aerial Photography

5.10

The Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments aerial photography collection was consulted on 11 March 2015 for photographs of the site. Photographs from nine sorties were examined (see Table 5, Appendix 1). Two images, Library ref A_0021 (1946) and B_0672 (1945), showed a rectangular shaped area near to the centre of the site, within the eastern field. This can also be seen on the recent satellite imagery (Google Maps, accessed 11/3/15) and was investigated during the walkover survey (see below).

5.11

A transcribed aerial photograph was provided by the local authority archaeologist (Figure 3) which depicts several possible cropmark features. These include seven features in the southeast of the site (defined in yellow in Figure 3) and around 10 possible pit features near the centre of the proposed development area. These features may represent archaeological features, and may be of significance.

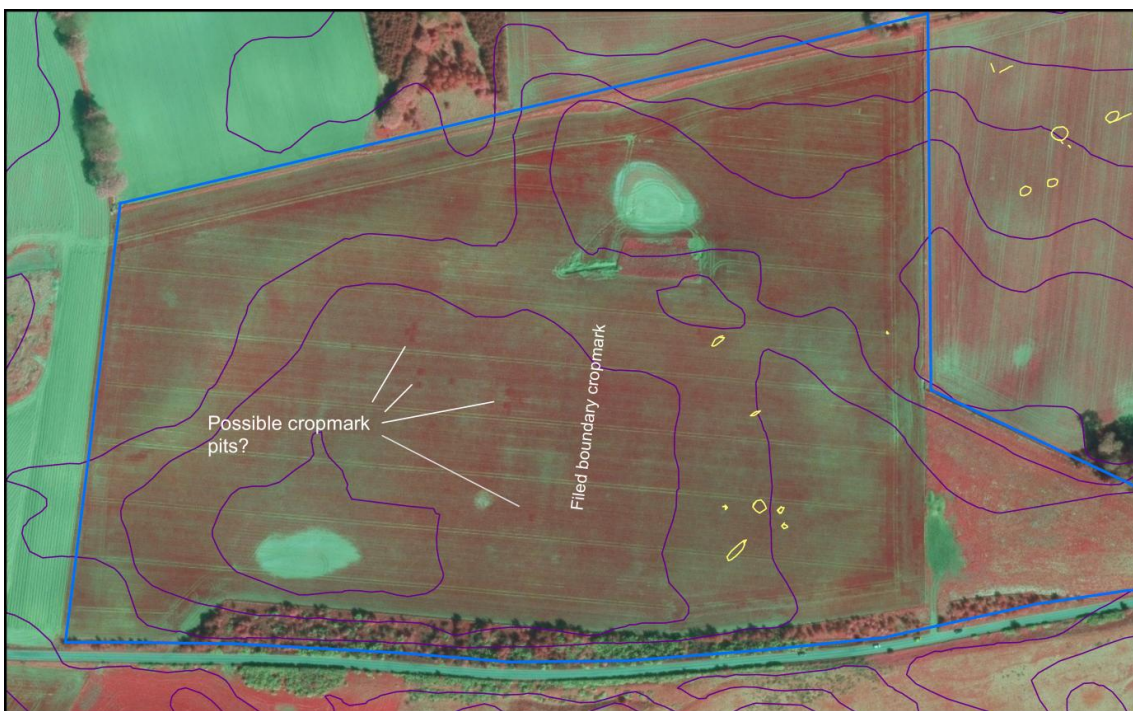


Figure 3: Aerial photograph transcription supplied by the local authority

Walkover Survey

5.11

The walkover survey was conducted on 12 March 2015 by Dawn Ferry and Nicola Reid of Northlight Heritage. The field had recently been ploughed and the soil was dark brown and rather clay-rich. The team walked around the boundary edges of the site and then traversed across the fields.

5.12

A rectangular area (45 m long and 30 m wide) in the middle of the site (see cover image), which had been noted as an area of potential interest from the aerial photographs, was found to be a very steep slope which the farmer had been avoiding with the plough. It was solid underfoot and contained lots of stones and gravel. Some modern field clearance was found on the northern edge of the field where the drystone boundary wall is quite substantial (Figure 3) and the drystone boundary wall on the eastern edge of the site was in a poor state of repair (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Northern boundary and field clearance



Figure 5: Dry-stone field boundary on eastern side of the site

6. Conclusions

6.1

The desk-based assessment has demonstrated that there are potential cropmark features of archaeological significance within the proposed development area. The presence of a number of sites relating to the Prehistoric period within the 1 km buffer zone is also significant, and there is a potential for other archaeologically significant features or deposits to survive on the site which have not been identified within aerial photographs or other means. The dry-stone walls that bound the eastern and northern edges of the site are also potentially of some interest and may relate to the improvement works discussed in the first statistical accounts.

7. Appendices

APPENDIX 1 Tables

Table 1: Site Gazetteer

SITE NO.	NAME	TYPE	ID
1	HOME FARM OF ST FORT, THE GREENS COTTAGES	HOUSE	MFF6843
2	HOME FARM OF ST FORT, COTTAGE	HOUSE	MFF6842
3	ST. FORT	CAIRNFIELD, GRAVE	MFF6829
4	ST FORT – Polished stone axe	FINDSPOT	MFF6828
5	ST FORT HOUSE	HOUSE	MFF6827
6	ST FORT – stone bead with bronze ring	FINDSPOT?	MFF6826
7	DANES' CAMP, LINKS WOOD / CAMP WOOD	FORT	MFF6824
8	KILMANY	CIST GRAVE CEMETERY	MFF6803
9	WORMIT, KILMANY ROAD, BEEHIVE TIMBER WORKS, WORKSHOPS	WORKSHOP	MFF6801
10	CAMP WOOD	UNENCLOSED SETTLEMENT?	MFF6860
11	WORMIT - ST FORT	FLINT DEPOSITS (geology)	MFF6862
12	ST. FORT QUARRY – Carved stone ball	FINDSPOT	MFF6876
13	CASTLE HILL	CIST GRAVE CEMETERY	MFF6877
14	NEWTON FARM	FARMSTEAD	MFF6878
15	SANDFORD HOUSE / SANDFORD HILL HOUSE	HOTEL	MFF6899
16	ESKY LOCH	RING DITCH, SQUARE BARROW	MFF6924
17	POACHERS' CLUMP / ESKY LOCH	UNENCLOSED SETTLEMENT	MFF6925
18	BOULTERHALL, TOMB	TOMB	MFF6927
19	NEWTON FARM, HOUSE	HOUSE	MFF6928
20	CASTLE HILL	ENCLOSURE	MFF9018
21	ST FORT	DOVECOTE	MFF6830
22	ST FORT STATION / ST. FORT; ST FORT JUNCTION STATION	RAILWAY STATION, RAILWAY JUNCTION	MFF6929
23	St FORT ICE HOUSE	ICEHOUSE	MFF10307
24	WORMIT HILL ENCLOSURES	DITCH	MFF9951
25	WORMIT HILL SEARCHLIGHT BATTERY	SEARCHLIGHT BATTERY	MFF9952
26	KNOCKHILL	PIT(S), UNENCLOSED SETTLEMENT	NO42NW 46
27	SANDFORD HILL HOTEL	Listed Building	\
28	First World War defended posts (nos. 1-3)	BUILDING (FIRST WORLD WAR), BUILDING, TRENCH(S) (FIRST WORLD WAR)	\
29	First World War trench system, 8 trenches in 3 groups	TRENCH(S) (FIRST WORLD WAR)	\

Table 2: Walkover Survey Photographs

Number	Description	Taken From
1	Overall view of Site	W
2	Overall view of Site	S
3	Overall view of Site	SE
4	Overall view of Site	E
5	East Boundary wall	S
6	Site from East boundary wall	E
7	Boundary wall	S
8	View of site	SE
9	Boundary	S
10	View of site	E
11	View of site	E
12	View of site	E
13	View of site	N
14	Rectangle area in field	W
15	Site from North boundary wall	N
16	Field clearance cairn and bench	E
17	Boundary	N
18	View of site	W
19	Boundary	W/SW
20	View of site	W
21	Site from South boundary wall	S
22	View of next field	SE
23	Trees on South edge	W
24	Trees on South edge	W
25	View of site	E
26	Trees on South edge	E

Table 3: Map Sources Consulted

Cartographer(s)	Name	Date
Gordon, Robert Pont, Timothy	Fyffe imperfect, M.T.P. : [and], Pt. of the Par. of Abyrnathy. Pt. of the Par. of Abyrnathy.	16th century
Gordon, James	Fyfe Shire, MDCXLII = Fife provincia noviter delineata / Auctore Jacobo Gordonio fo R.G. a Strathloch. Fifa provincia noviter delineata.	1642
Taylor, George Skinner, Andrew	The Road from Edinburgh to Dundee, Aberbrothick, Montrose, Inverbervie & Stonehaven.	1776.
Thomson, John Johnson, William	Fife with Kinross Shire.	1827
Greenwood, Christopher Fowler, William Sharp, T.	Map of the counties of Fife and Kinross.	1828
Ordnance Survey	1st edition 6 inch	1855
Ordnance Survey	2nd edition 25 inch	1893

Ordnance Survey	3rd edition 25 inch	1914
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Table 4: Other Sources Consulted

Author	Date	Title
Burn, J	1791-99	Statistical Account of 1791-99 vol.16 p.88 : Forgan, County of Fife
Nairn, C	1834-45	Statistical Account of 1834-45 vol.9 p.505 : Forgan, County of Fife

Table 5: Aerial Photographs Consulted

Library Reference	Sortie	Date	Frame No.	Barcode Ref.
A_0021	1069_UK_0067	08/05/1946	5083	SB_000056*
A_0028	CPE_UK_0211	16/06/1947	5379	SB_000076
B_0015	106G_UK_0033	25/04/1946	3098	SB_000380
B_0385	540_1395	30/08/1954	0410	SB_001940
B_0566	58_T_2865	14/05/1959	0018 (F21)	SB_002394
B_0619	59_1366	02/03/1954	0078	SB_002491
B_0672	1069_UK_0980	08/11/1945	2089	SB_002591
OS_69_350	OS_69_350	15/09/1969	275	SB_004028
OS_64_202	OS_64_202	21/09/1964	008	SB_004647

APPENDIX 2 Methodology

Desk Based Assessment Specification

Alastair Becket - Northlight Heritage

1. Non-technical summary

This document provides a specification for the desk-based assessment of a site proposed for a solar farm development near Wormit, Fife. Northlight Heritage have been commissioned to undertake the assessment by AEE Renewables and the work will be undertaken in March 2015.

2. Site location (including map) and description

The site is located to the south of Wormit at approximately NO 4075 2525. The site comprises two fields accessed via a road to the south.

3. Context of the project

The project has been commissioned in advance of a submission of a planning application for the site.

4. Geological and topographical background

The site is primarily gently sloping farmland, used most recently for pasture. The geology consists of the following (obtained from the British Geological Survey online viewer, 10/3/15):

1:50 000 scale bedrock geology description: Ochil Volcanic Formation - Andesite And Basalt. Igneous Bedrock formed approximately 398 to 416 million years ago in the Devonian Period. Local environment previously dominated by eruptions of silica-poor magma.

1:50 000 scale superficial deposits description: Glaciofluvial Ice Contact Deposits - Gravel, Sand And Silt. Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions.

5. Archaeological and historical background

The general area is rich in archaeological remains, particularly those dating to later prehistory (an Iron Age Fort at Dane's Camp, and several cropmark sites) and to the defence of the Tay during WW1. No known sites are recorded within the proposed development area.

6. Aims and Objectives

The aims of the study are to:

- Investigate the site and the surrounding area for information regarding archaeological remains which may have an impact on any development.
- Disseminate the results of the study

These aims will be achieved via a series of objectives:

- examine the resources held by national and local bodies, historic mapping and, where appropriate, primary and secondary historic sources
- examine the aerial photographic collections held by the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Edinburgh
- Conduct a site visit/walkover
- Produce a DBA report
- Submit the project archive to NMRS

7. Methodology

HER and NMRS Data

The initial stages of the DBA will examine resources held by national and local bodies, historic mapping and, where appropriate, primary and secondary historic sources, and a report will be produced which details the results of the work. As part of this process we will retrieve Historic Environment Record data held by the local authority.

Aerial Photographs

In addition, examination of the aerial photographic collections held by the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Edinburgh allows us to examine the historic aerial photographs of the site for any possible features which have not previously been recorded. Archaeological sites are often discovered through the analysis of such photographs.

8. Site Walkover

It is anticipated that years of agricultural activity on the site will have had significant impact on any archaeological remains above ground. As a result any remains are likely to be fragmentary and survive only within pockets of undisturbed ground. A rapid general walkover survey of the development area is also proposed to identify any extant features that may survive on the site.

All sites that are visited or identified during the walkover will be recorded by digital photography and written description on *pro-forma* record sheets. Features will be located using GPS and their full extent will be surveyed. A systematic approach to walkover survey will be conducted by choosing walking routes across the site which maximise the chances of spotting any surviving archaeological features. A team of two archaeologists will conduct the work and a short interim report will be included within the broader DBA to allow for consideration of the need for further phases of work.

9. Report preparation

A desk-based assessment report will be produced which summarises the results of the research. A brief report will also be submitted to Discovery and Excavation Scotland. The DBA will be written in accordance with the standards and guidelines set out by the CIFA and will include the following elements: a. non-technical summary b. introductory statements c. aims and purpose of assessment d. methodology e. an objective summary statement of results f. conclusion, including a confidence rating g. supporting illustrations at appropriate scales h. supporting data, tabulated or in appendices i. index to and location of archive j. references.

10. Publication and dissemination proposals

Copies of the report will be provided to the developer, to the planning authority and to the National Monuments Record for Scotland. Further copies can be distributed to other recipients if requested and specified.

Northlight Heritage will also implement the standards and requirements of the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) and Discovery and Excavation in Scotland.

11. Legislation

Final decisions on the need for further work, and on the detailed specification of the character of that work, rest with Planning Authority.

12. Copyright

Unless otherwise agreed copyright for any report resulting from the archaeological work undertaken as part of the project will be deemed the intellectual property of York Archaeological Trust.

13. Archive deposition

Northlight Heritage will ensure that the project archive is prepared and ready for submission within six months of the completion of all fieldwork or post-excavation work (as appropriate). The resultant site archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Records for Scotland.

14. Timetable

The work will be conducted in March 2015

15. Staffing

Project Director: Alastair Becket

Assistant: Dawn Ferry

Walkover Survey Assistant: Nicola Reid

16. Health and Safety considerations

A risk assessment will be conducted prior to the walkover survey taking place.

Northlight Heritage also possesses appropriate third party/public liability insurance cover, proof of which may be supplied upon request.

17. Monitoring procedures

Northlight Heritage adheres to standards set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance Notes and Historic Scotland's various Operational Policy Papers.

The local authority archaeologist will have a formal monitoring role on behalf of the Council.

Alastair Becket will be the dedicated archaeological project manager for all the works outlined above and will be the first point of contact for any project-related liaison with the Council and the developer or the developer's agent for all formal logistical, administrative and financial aspects of the archaeological project.

APPENDIX 4 DES

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	St John Home Farm
PROJECT CODE:	4462161
PARISH:	Forgan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alastair Becket & Dawn Ferry
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Northlight Heritage
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Desk Based Assessment
NMRS NO(S):	none
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	none
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	none
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 4075 2525
START DATE (this season)	11 March 2015
END DATE (this season)	18 March 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	none
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A desk-based assessment and walkover survey was conducted in relation to a proposed solar farm development near St Fort Home Farm, Wormit, Fife. Northlight Heritage were commissioned to undertake the assessment by AEE Renewables UK 59 Ltd. and the work was undertaken in March 2015. The desk-based assessment and walkover survey found that there are several possible cropmark sites within the proposed development area, and as there are also several prehistoric archaeological sites in the vicinity, there is potential for sub-surface remains to survive on the site.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	none currently
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	none
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	AEE Renewables UK 59 Ltd.
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Northlight Heritage, Studio 406, South Block, 64 Osborne Street, Glasgow, G1 5QH
EMAIL ADDRESS:	northlight@yorkat.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record for Scotland (intended)