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ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT AT GLEN LORA, RENFREWSHIRE

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MA (Hons)

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

<i>Client</i>	GREEN CAT RENEWABLES LTD
<i>National Grid Reference</i>	NS 32625 59117
<i>Address</i>	GLEN LORA, LOCHWINNOCH, RENFREWSHIRE
<i>Parish</i>	LOCHWINNOCH
<i>Council</i>	RENFREWSHIRE
<i>Planning Application Ref No</i>	N/A
<i>NMRS No</i>	NS35NW:1, 4, 5, 21, 41, 43, 45, 48
<i>Oasis No</i>	N/A
<i>SMR No</i>	6724, 6746, 6747, 6737, 41447, 41812, 41815, 41817
<i>HB/SAM No</i>	SAM 5644, HB 12643, 12642
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<i>Report</i>	NOVEMBER, 2009

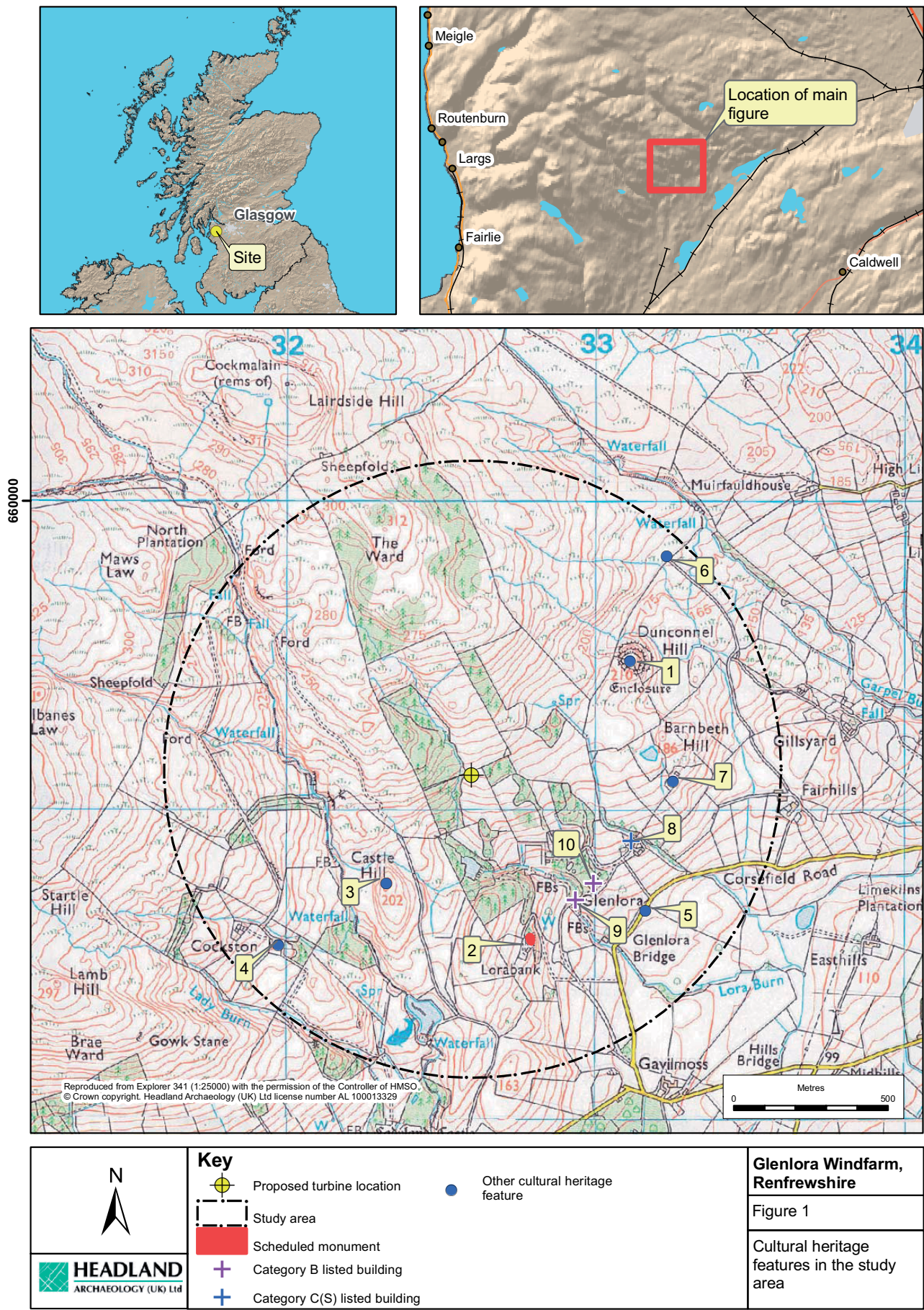
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CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	SITE DESCRIPTION	1
3	METHODOLOGY	1
4	RESULTS	1
4.1	Desk based assessment	1
4.2	Sites with Statutory designation	1
4.3	Undesignated sites	1
4.4	Cartographic evidence	2
4.5	Walkover survey	2
5	DISCUSSION	2
	SOURCES CONSULTED	3
	Cartographic	3
	Monument Records	3
	Published sources	3
	Aerial Photographs	3
	APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER	4
	APPENDIX 2: WALKOVER PHOTO REGISTER	5



Illus 1
Cultural heritage sites

Archaeological desk based assessment at Glen Lora, Renfrewshire

by Jamie Humble

A desk based assessment and walkover was carried out by Headland Archaeology Ltd at the site of a proposed wind turbine at Glen Lora, Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire. The turbine is situated within rough upland grazing within the Glen Lora estate. The desk assessment identified a number of known archaeological features within a 1km study area around the site, most of which are post-medieval in date and agricultural or domestic in function. No known sites will be directly affected by the development. The walkover survey did not identify any previously unknown archaeological features.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological desk based assessment of the proposed location of a wind turbine location at Glen Lora, near Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire on behalf of Green Cat Renewables Ltd.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

The proposed development is within the Glen Lora estate (centred on NS 32635 59117), approximately 2.5km west of Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire. The turbine location is currently upland grazing with forestry established prior to the 1890s lying to the east and west.

3 METHODOLOGY

The study was intended to provide an assessment of all readily available and relevant archaeological and historical records within the proposed development area and a study area based on a radius of roughly 1km from the site boundary. Records from further afield were also studied to allow for significant sites located just outside the 1km boundary. The objective was to determine the likely presence of known or unknown archaeological sites within the development area. It was designed to provide a summary assessment of the implications for the development site, not as an exhaustive historical discussion.

For the purposes of this assessment within the immediate study area around the development, all features pre-dating Ordnance Survey 1st edition mapping were considered to be potentially of cultural heritage significance.

The following sources were consulted:

- National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS)
- West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) SMR
- Historic Scotland Schedule of Ancient Monuments and List of Listed Buildings

- Vertical air photos held by RCAHMS
- Maps held by the National Library of Scotland and
- Other readily accessible published sources

The information was collated in a gazetteer, cross-referenced to a map showing the location and extent of all features of cultural heritage interest. (Fig 1)

A walkover survey was also carried out in order to assess the character of the site, its current land use and condition. Further to this, any sites not previously noted would be identified and recorded.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Desk based assessment

No archaeological sites were identified at the location of the wind turbine. A number of sites were however identified within the study area. The following is a summary of the archaeological evidence identified during the desk study, a gazetteer of all identified sites is appended.

4.2 Sites with Statutory designation

Two listed buildings exist within the study area. Glenlora House and bridge (HA9) and stables (HA8) both constructed circa 1840 and are category B and C listed respectively.

The ruin of Larabank Castle (HA2) is the only scheduled ancient monument within the study area. This monument consists of a natural hill, scarped to form a motte-like mound.

4.3 Undesignated sites

Prehistoric

There is a single prehistoric monument within the study area, that of Dunconnel Hill (HA1) a small circular structure, probably a fortified homestead. Material



Illus 2

Proposed location of wind turbine

recovered after a hill fire in 1955 suggests a Late Iron Age date.

Medieval and Post-medieval

A single site of medieval origin exists within the study area. The scheduled ancient monument of Larabank Castle (HA2) may have subsidiary settlement around the mound.

Sites of post-medieval date are of domestic and agricultural in nature with farmsteads at Cockston and Barnbeth Hill (HA4 & HA7. There is also a sheepfold at Corsefield Road (HA5) and an unroofed structure at Garpel Burn (HA6).

4.4 Cartographic evidence

The earliest available mapping of the area is Pont's 1583-96 map of Renfrewshire. This shows the castle at Larabank however there are as yet no buildings at Glen Lora. The castle at Larabank appears to remain as the principal residence in the area until Ainslie's 1800 Map of the county of Renfrew. At this time the castle at Larabank no longer appears and Glen Lora house has yet to be built.

The forestry surrounding the turbine location appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey mapping of the area

of 1863, which is also the first time that Glen Lora House is depicted.

4.5 Walkover survey

No further sites were identified during the walkover survey, in which the turbine location and a possible access track were investigated. The site is in upland rough grazing in a landscape with frequent small rocky outcrops.

5 DISCUSSION

The desk assessment has shown that there is a low level of archaeological features within the study area. These are all located on the lower ground in the south eastern half of the study area.

There are solitary examples of prehistoric and medieval features within the study area. The majority of the sites identified in the assessment are post-medieval domestic and agricultural structures.

The potential for unidentified archaeology to be present at the turbine site is low. This area of upland grazing has seen little activity that would destroy upstanding archaeological remains, therefore it is to be expected that

any archaeological sites with a surface expression would have been identified. Certain types of archaeological sites, such as timber structures, however would not be expected to present surface remains but to survive purely as below ground archaeology and these would not have been identified.

SOURCES CONSULTED

Cartographic

Pont (1583-1596) *Renfrewshire*
Gordon (1636-1652) *Barony of Renfrew*
Blaeu (1654) *Renfroana*
Moll (1745) *The shire of Renfrew, with Cunningham. The North part of the shire of Ayr.*
Roy (1747-55) *Military survey of Scotland*
Ainslie (1796) *Map of the County of Renfrew*
Ainslie (1821) *Ainslie's map of the Southern part of Scotland*
Thompson (1826) *Renfrew shire*
Ordnance Survey (1863) 6" to the mile 1st edition *Renfrewshire* Sheet XIV
Ordnance Survey (1863) 6" to the mile 1st edition *Renfrewshire* Sheet X
Ordnance Survey (1863) 25" to the mile 1st edition *Renfrewshire* Sheet X.16
Ordnance Survey (1863) 25" to the mile 1st edition *Renfrewshire* Sheet XIV.4
Ordnance Survey (1890) 1" to the mile 1st edition *Glasgow* Sheet 30
Ordnance Survey (1898) 1" to the mile 2nd edition *Glasgow* Sheet 30
Ordnance Survey (1898) 6" to the mile 2nd edition *Renfrewshire* Sheet X.SE
Ordnance Survey (1899) 6" to the mile 2nd edition *Renfrewshire* Sheet XIV.NE
Ordnance survey (1905) 1" to the mile 3rd Edition *Glasgow* Sheet 30
Ordnance Survey (1915) 6" to the mile 3rd edition *Renfrewshire* Sheet XIV.NE
Ordnance Survey (1916) 6" to the mile 3rd edition *Renfrewshire* Sheet X.SE
Bartholomew (1912) *Survey atlas of Scotland*
Ordnance survey (1923) ¼" to the mile *The Southern Islands* Sheet 4
Ordnance survey (1925) 1" to the mile "Popular" Edition *Glasgow* Sheet 72
Bartholomew (1933) ½" to the mile Sheet 7
Ordnance Survey (1958) 1:10,000 Sheet NS35NW
Ordnance Survey (1980) 1:10,000 Sheet NS35NW

Monument Records

WoSAS SMR data is derived from extract HL590.
NMRS data is derived from examination of NMRS base map; NS35NW.

Listed building information derived from Historic Scotland data dated 13/11/2009, © Crown Copyright.

Scheduled monument area information derived from Historic Scotland data dated 13/11/2009, © Crown Copyright (Historic Scotland).

Published sources

Statistical Account of Scotland (1791-99) *Lochwinnoch* vol 15 p65.
New Statistical Account of Scotland (1834-45) *Lochwinnoch* vol 4 p74

Aerial Photographs

Sortie	Frames	Date	Scale
106G/ UK/1027	4127-4130	26/11/1945	1:10500
106G/ UK/0084	3309-3311, 4289-4290	10/5/1946	1:10000
540/0680	4129-4132, 3153-3156, 3127-3133	26/2/1952	1:10000
540/0802	3447-3448, 3010-3013	4/7/1952	1:10000
542/0145	F21_415, F22_413-415, F22_418-420	11/3/1955	1:10000
58/3544	F42_3-5	16/5/60	1:10666
543/0840	F66_358-359	24/3/1960	1:10000
58/5323	F22_41	18/7/1962	1:20000
CPE/ UK/0193	6046, 6030	11/10/1946	1:26000
ASS/513/88	26	10/6/1988	1:24000
OS63-091	109-111	3/6/63	1:75000

APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER

HA No.	WOSAS No.	NMRS No	Site Name	Site Type	NGRE	NGRN	SMR Report	Scheduled	Listed
1	6724	NS35NW1	Dunconnel Hill	Enclosure; Miscellaneous Finds	3310	5948	A small circular structure, probably a fortified homestead stands on Dunconnel Hill, a steep-sided eminence approachable from one side. It measures 44ft in diameter within a low spread mound of earth and stones 8ft-12ft across. This is surrounded by a similar mound enclosing an area 130ft in diameter. During 1955 a hill fire burned out the SE quadrant, and subsequent erosion has caused considerable landslip in this area. Material found here in 1956 and later suggests a Late Iron Age date. Items found include sherds of pottery, pieces of shale rings, bracelets, beads, worked shale, a sandstone bone, a stone disc, a fragment of worked staddle, one small piece of vitrified slag and two pieces of burnt bone.	N	N
2	6746	NS35NW4	Larabank Castle	Castle	3278	5857	At this point is a natural hill, the summit of which appears to have been scarped to form a motte-like mound. The top is uneven, but no masonry or other evidence of a building was seen.	5644	N
3	6747	NS35NW5	Castle Hill	'Homestead'	3235	5875	The situation of the site as given above is on a prominent grassy hill, with occasional natural outcrop rock, steep on the N but gently sloping to the S. Neither the rampart nor the building noted by Newall could be identified. He may be confusing a sub-circular formation of widely spaced outcrop rock with an enclosure. There is no other evidence of a 'building'. In several places on the S and E slopes there is a suspicion of scarping but nothing surveyable, and any course traced could only be conjectural.	N	N
4	41477	NS35NW41	Cockston	Farmstead	3197	5856	A farmstead comprising one unroofed building, one roofed L-shaped building and three enclosures, one of which is incomplete, is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Ayrshire 1857-63, sheet iv). One roofed L-shaped building and three enclosures are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1980).	N	N
5	41812	NS35NW48	Corsefield Road	Sheepfold	3316	5867	One unroofed structure annotated Sheepfold is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Renfrewshire 1864, sheet xiv), but it is not shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1980).	N	N
6	41815	NS35NW45	Garpel Burn	Structure	3323	5982	One unroofed structure attached to a field wall is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Renfrewshire 1863, sheet x) and on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1980).	N	N
7	41817	NS35NW43	Barnbeth Hill	Farmstead	3325	5909	A farmstead comprising two unroofed buildings and one enclosure is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Renfrewshire 1863, sheet x) and on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1980).	N	N
8	6737	NS35NW21.1	Glenlora House	Stables	3311	5889	Rebuilt circa 1840, possibly incorporating part of earlier steading. Square-plan, single storey and loft stable block round courtyard. Rubble built with ashlar dressings. Variety of square-headed door and window openings, 2 segmental cart openings. Courtyard entrance on south wall; 2 ball-finished square gatepiers. East block; partly used as dwelling house; door and window	N	12643
9		NS35NW21.0	Glenlora House	House	3292	58761	Circa 1840. Asymmetrical 2-storey, 4-bay house with slightly advanced, pedimented, 3-storey entrance bay, low 2-storey 2-bay wing to north. Ashlar. Low wing to north in coursed squared whinstone with ashlar dressings. Interior: some decorative plasterwork and late 19th century wooden panelling. Square, panelled gatepiers with mutule cornices; cast-iron gates. Bridge is probably circa 1840. Single span round-arched bridge over deep gully.	N	12642
10		NS35NW21.02	Glenlora Houses, Bridge	Road Bridge	32934	58735		N	N

APPENDIX 2: WALKOVER PHOTO REGISTER

Photo no.	Direction	Description
1	N	View from turbine base
2	W	View of turbine base
3	N	View of turbine base
4	S	View from turbine base
5	S	View from turbine base
6	NE	View of turbine base
