

Site & Landscape Survey

**Ewe Hill 16 Wind Farm Extension Near Langholm Dumfries and Galloway** 

**Walkover Survey** 

Report No: 3453







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# **CONTENTS**

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	4
3.	Archaeological Results	5
4.	Conclusions	6
5.	References	7
Apper	ndices	
1.	Photograph Register	8
2.	Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry	9
3.	Gazetteer of Cultural Heritage Sites	10
Illustr	rations (bound at rear)	
Fig. 1	Location map showing cultural heritage features	
Fig. 2	Marker Stone (element 37, Site 115)	
Fig. 3	Marker Stone (element 35, Site 115)	
Fig. 4	General shot of Cheese Burn (Site 117) from NE	
Fig. 5	Stack Stand above Cheese Burn (element 28, Site 117)	
Fig. 6	Sheepfold beside Cheese Burn (element 32, Site 117)	
Fig. 7	Building/structure beside Cheese Burn (element 31, Site 117)	
Fig. 8	Sheepfold in clearing to north of Cheese Burn (element 24, Site 117)	

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 General

This report presents the results of two targeted archaeological walkover surveys carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in July 2015 and June 2016 prior to a programme of tree felling for a 16 wind turbine extension at Ewe Hill Wind Farm, near Langholm, Dumfries and Galloway (Fig.1) (NGR: NY 27515 86262 centred). The work was commissioned by ScottishPower Renewables.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 16 July 2015 was produced by CFA on behalf of Scottish Power Renewables (UK) Ltd. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the imposed planning condition for archaeological mitigation works, and to meet the requirements of the Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Service (DGCAS).

## 1.2 Background

Planning permission (Ref. 04/C/4/0005) has been granted for the construction of a sixteen turbine extension and associated infrastructure at Ewe Hill Wind Farm, Dumfries and Galloway. The planning permission was subject to an archaeological condition requiring a programme of mitigation works including the targeted prefelling survey of sites originally identified during a pre-afforestation survey undertaken in February 1992 (Neighbour 1992).

This report contains site reference numbers (Sites 115-117), which refer to gazetteer entries in the Cultural Heritage chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) for the wind farm (Fig.1). It also contains reference numbers (elements 21-39) which refer to the 1992 pre-afforestation survey.

The sites targeted by this programme of works consisted of a series of seven marker stones close to the summit of Ewe Hill (ES Site 115, elements 33-39), a possible sheepfold identified on aerial photographs (ES Site 116, not identified in the 1992 survey), and a group of features along the Cheese Burn consisting of stack stands, sheepfolds, a building/structure and an enclosure (ES Site 117, elements 21-32). A gazetteer of these sites is contained within Appendix 3. Provision was also made in the WSI for mitigation measures in relation to Site 119 (elements 69-83), but these were not required because the cultural heritage features were not considered to be under any threat from the wind farm development.

An initial survey targeting elements 33 and 39 (Site 115) was undertaken in July 2015 in advance of ground investigation works, with a more extensive survey of Sites 115-117 being undertaken in June 2016.

The area in which this survey was undertaken lies between Ward Hill, Ewe Hill, and Hen Hill at an altitude of c.300-430m. It was largely afforested, but a significant strip of land on either side of the Cheese Burn containing the majority of the elements making up Site 117 had been left unplanted. Another element of Site 117 (element 24) was situated within a forest clearing. A degree of felling had already taken place close

to the summit of Ewe Hill at the northern end of Site 115 and within the location of Site 116 when the main survey was undertaken in June 2016.

### 1.3 Objectives

The objectives of this programme of works were:

- 1. **Pre-Felling Survey and demarcation**. A targeted pre-felling survey will be undertaken to locate any surviving remains of the elements identified in the 1992 survey. Any features identified as surviving during the pre-felling survey will be recorded and demarcated with a minimum 10m buffer zone and identified with high visibility fencing, to ensure their protection during felling.
- Targeted Watching Briefs. If element 33 of Site 115 cannot be retained in situ then it will be removed under controlled conditions during a watching brief.
- **Further mitigation**. To implement any further mitigation in relation to these sites should it be required

#### 2. WORKING METHODS

### 2.1 General

CFA follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidelines as appropriate. Recording of all elements was carried out following established methods.

### 2.2 Walkover Survey

The walkover survey specifically targeted the elements 21-39, 69-83 of Sites 115, 117 and 119, along with the recorded location of Site 116 as identified in the 1992 pre-afforestation survey, and was carried out prior to felling works. Wide scale general survey of the afforested area was not undertaken.

Elements of these sites considered to be in danger from the tree-felling works associated with the proposed development were demarcated with a 10m buffer zone using bamboo canes and hazard tape, and information regarding their location was supplied to the felling contractors.

Cultural heritage features at the base of the deep river valley containing the Cheese Burn were not demarcated as it was considered that there was no threat posed by the proposed development.

#### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Element 33 (Site 115) was identified during the targeted survey undertaken by CFA in July 2015. This stone is depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1887) where it is annotated 'Standing Stone'.

The walkover survey undertaken in June 2016 led to the identification of elements 35 and 37 from Site 115 and elements 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 31 and 32 from Site 117. Examples of these are shown in Figs.2-8.

Elements 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 35 and 37 were demarcated with an appropriate buffer zone, but no demarcation was considered necessary in relation to elements 31 and 32 as these were situated at the base of the deep river valley containing the Cheese Burn.

Subsequently, it became apparent that element 24 lay within the crane hardstanding area for Turbine C13 and could not be preserved in situ as intended (Fig. 8). The site was fully recorded by CFA and additional record photographs were taken by the contractors on site. Following consultation between CFA and DGCAS regarding this feature, DGCAS agreed that the feature could be removed by the contractor without the need for an archaeologist to be present, and were satisfied that the preconstruction record made of the site was sufficient. The site was therefore removed with no further mitigation, allowing turbine C13 construction works to progress.

The remaining features (elements 23, 25, 29, 30, 34, 36, 38, 39, and Site 116) were not located.

Elements 23 (Site 117), 34, 36, 38 and 39 (Site 115) all lay in heavily afforested areas and are considered most likely to have been destroyed by forestry ploughing.

The existence of Site 116 was somewhat ambiguous at the outset, as the only possible evidence of its presence came from aerial photography. As it was not identified during the 1992 survey or during this recent programme of works, it is considered that either the aerial photograph had been misinterpreted and it never actually existed, or that it had been destroyed through natural processes.

The location of elements 25, 29 and 30 lay outwith the forest on a strip of unplanted land alongside the Cheese Burn. However, no clear evidence of these sites could be identified. The most likely reason for this is the build-up of peat/vegetation caused by the changes to the eco-system brought about by afforestation.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Targeted walkover surveys were carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd in advance of tree-felling for a 16 turbine extension to Ewe Hill wind farm. The surveys identified elements 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 31 and 32 of Site 117 and elements 33, 35 and 37 of Site 115.

Elements 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 35 and 37 were demarcated with an appropriate buffer, but elements 31 and 32 were not demarcated as they lay at the base of a deep river valley and were not considered to be in any danger. Element 33 was identified and demarcated in July 2015. The demarcated sites will not be affected by any of the construction works.

Element 24 was removed following a pre-construction record being made of it, in agreement with DGCAS.

The majority of the features lie within unplanted areas within the plantation and are easily avoided during forestry operations. Particular care should be taken in relation to element 37, which is situated within standing timber, and in the removal of the felled timber at element 33.

CFA recommends that no further work is required in relation to this development. However, it is understood that the final decision lies with DGCAS.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and copies of reports will be lodged with the Dumfries and Galloway Council Sites and Monuments Record.

On completion of the programme of archaeological works a summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2) and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

### 5. REFERENCES

**Bibliographic** 

Ewe Hill Wind Farm Environmental Statement Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage Assessment

Neighbour, T 1992 Short notice forestry survey at Capelfoot, Annandale and Eskdale District, Dumfries and Galloway Region. Centre for Field Archaeology, University of Edinburgh.

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey First Edition 6" (1857) Dumfriesshire, Sheet 62

# **APPENDIX 1: Digital Photograph Registers**

## Walkover Survey June 2016

Photo	Description	Taken From
No.		
1	Element 37, Site 115	East
2	Element 37, Site 115	NW
3	General shot along Cheese Burn showing location of Site 117	NE
4	Element 35 following demarcation	NW
5	General shot along Cheese Burn showing location of Site 117	NE
6-8	Location of element 33 covered over by stacked felled trees	Various
9	Element 37 following demarcation	SE
10	General shot along Cheese Burn showing location of Site 117	NE
11	Element 37 following demarcation	SE
12	Element 32, Site 117	East
13	Element 28, Site 117	NE
14	Element 27, Site 117	SE
15	Element 26, Site 117	SE
16	Element 21, Site 117	SE
17	Element 32, Site 117	North
18	Element 31, Site 117	East
19	Element 22, Site 117	SW
20	Element 24, Site 117	NE
21	General shot along Cheese Burn showing location of Site 117	SW

## Walkover Survey July 2015

Photo	Description	Taken From
No.		
1-2	Element 33, Site 115	Various
3-6	Element 33 following demarcation	NE
7-10	Location of element 39 (Site 115)	Various

## **APPENDIX 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry**

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries and Galloway Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Ewe Hill 16 Turbine Wind Farm Extension, Near Langholm, Dumfries and Galloway
PROJECT CODE:	EWIF3
PARISH:	Tundergarth
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Magnus Kirby
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Walkover Survey
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Marker Stones (NY28NE 3), Sheepfold (NY28NE 21), Building, Ring Enclosure, Sheepfolds, Stack Stands (NY28NE 6)
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	
START DATE (this season)	July 2015
END DATE (this season)	June 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Targeted walkover surveys were carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd in July 2015 and June 2016 in advance of tree-felling for a 16 turbine extension to Ewe Hill Wind Farm, Dumfries and Galloway. The surveys were focused on features previously identified during a pre-afforestation survey carried out in 1992. The features identified during the surveys consisted of marker stones, a building, stack stands, and sheepfolds.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scottish Power renewables
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited with Historic Environment Scotland and copies of the report with Dumfries and Galloway Council SMR

**APPENDIX 3: Gazetteer of Cultural Heritage Features** 

Site No	Element No.	Site name / type	HER no / RCAHMS no	Easting	Northing	Source(s)	Site Description
115	33	Ewe Hill, marker stone	NY28NE 3	32815	58735	1857 Ordnance Survey map 1992 pre-afforestation survey/ Field survey (July 2015)	This feature was originally identified during a pre afforestation survey undertaken in 1992. Field survey undertaken in July 2015 identified a recumbent rectangular stone measuring 1.1m long by 0.2-0.45m wide by 0.2m thick. This stone had been covered over by felled trees when it was revisited in June 2016. It is depicted on the 1857 Ordnance Survey map where it is annotated 'Standing Stone'.
115	34	Ewe Hill, marker stones	NY28NE 3	32809	58723	1992 pre-afforestation survey	This feature was identified during a pre afforestation survey undertaken in 1992, but was not identified in the field survey undertaken in June 2016. It is likely to have been removed /covered over by deep ploughing carried out in advance of tree planting
115	35	Ewe Hill, marker stone	NY28NE 3	32811	58718	1992 pre-afforestation survey/ Field survey (June 2016)	This feature was originally identified during a pre afforestation survey undertaken in 1992. Field survey undertaken in June 2016 identified a triangular marker stone measuring 0.8m by 0.6m. It was situated in a recumbent position on the edge of a plough furrow and is likely to have been dragged from its original position during ploughing operations. The trees within this location had already been felled prior to the survey being undertaken.
115	37	Ewe Hill, marker stone	NY28NE 3	32804	58716	1992 pre-afforestation survey/ Field survey (June 2016)	This feature was originally identified during a pre afforestation survey undertaken in 1992. Field survey undertaken in June 2016 identified a triangular marker stone measuring 1m by 1m by 0.25-0.3m thick. It was situated in a recumbent position on the edge of a plough furrow and is likely to have been dragged from its original position during ploughing operations. This area was still heavily afforested when the survey was undertaken.
115	38	Ewe Hill, marker stone	NY28NE 3	32803	58714	1992 pre-afforestation survey	This feature was identified during a pre afforestation survey undertaken in 1992, but was not identified in

Site No	Element No.	Site name / type	HER no / RCAHMS no	Easting	Northing	Source(s)	Site Description
							the field survey undertaken in June 2016. It is likely to have been removed /covered over by deep ploughing carried out in advance of tree planting
115	39	Ewe Hill, marker stone	NY28NE 3	32799	58698	1992 pre-afforestation survey	This feature was identified during a pre afforestation survey undertaken in 1992, but was not identified in field surveys undertaken in July 2015 and June 2016. It is likely to have been removed /covered over by deep ploughing carried out in advance of tree planting
116	N/A	Rough Sike, Sheepfold	NY28NE 21	32754	85714	Aerial photography	Vertical aerial photography dating to 1961 has recorded a circular earth enclosure, which was interpreted as a sheepfold. The 1992 pre-afforestation survey and the survey undertaken in June 2016 failed to located this site. This would suggest that it had either been removed by erosion, or that the aerial photograph was misinterpreted and it never existed in the first place.
117	21	Cheese Burn, sheepfold	NY28NE 6	32720	58679	1857 Ordnance Survey map 1992 pre-afforestation survey/ Field survey (June 2016)	This feature was originally identified during a pre afforestation survey undertaken in 1992. Field survey undertaken in June 2016 identified an L-shaped drystone wall at the base of the steep escarpment dropping down to the Cheese Burn. The wall measures c.12m north-south, has a thickness of 0.5-0.75m and is upstanding to a height of c.0.2m. It lies outwith the area of afforestation adjacent to the Cheese Burn and is extremely overgrown with vegetation.
117	22	Cheese Burn, stack stand	NY28NE 6	32722	58683	1992 pre-afforestation survey/ Field survey (June 2016)	This feature was originally identified during a pre afforestation survey undertaken in 1992. Field survey undertaken in June 2016 identified a small circular platform with a diameter of c.6m. It was formed by a low bank with a width of 0.8m and a height of c.0.2m. This stack stand was situated at the top of the steep escarpment above the Cheese Burn and was located in open ground immediately adjacent to the edge of the forest.
117	23	Cheese Burn,	NY28NE 6	32725	58690	1992 pre-afforestation	This feature was identified during a pre afforestation

Site No	Element No.	Site name / type	HER no / RCAHMS no	Easting	Northing	Source(s)	Site Description
		enclosure				survey	survey undertaken in 1992, but was not identified in the field survey undertaken in June 2016. It is likely to have been destroyed by deep ploughing carried out in advance of tree planting
117	24	Cheese Burn, sheep sheepfold	NY28NE 6	32723	58691	1857 Ordnance Survey map 1992 pre-afforestation survey/ Field survey (June 2016)	This feature was originally identified during a pre afforestation survey undertaken in 1992. Field survey undertaken in June 2016 identified a curving length of drystone walling measuring 0.5m by up to 1m high. It was situated within a clearing in the forest at a distance of c.2m from the standing trees.
117	25	Cheese Burn, stack stand	NY28NE 6	32732	58682	1992 pre-afforestation survey	This feature was identified during a pre afforestation survey undertaken in 1992, but was not identified in the field survey undertaken in June 2016. The most likely reason for this is the build-up of peat/vegetation caused by the changes to the eco-system brought about by afforestation.
117	26	Cheese Burn, stack stand	NY28NE 6	32742	58687	1992 pre-afforestation survey/ Field survey (June 2016)	This feature was originally identified during a pre afforestation survey undertaken in 1992. Field survey undertaken in June 2016 identified a small circular platform with a diameter of c.6m. It was situated at the top of the steep escarpment above the Cheese Burn and was located in open ground adjacent to the edge of the forest.
117	27	Cheese Burn, stack stand	NY28NE 6	32743	58688	1992 pre-afforestation survey/ Field survey (June 2016)	This feature was originally identified during a pre afforestation survey undertaken in 1992. Field survey undertaken in June 2016 identified a small circular platform with a diameter of c.6m. It was situated at the top of the steep escarpment above the Cheese Burn and was located in open ground adjacent to the edge of the forest.
117	28	Cheese Burn, stack stand	NY28NE 6	32746	58680	1992 pre-afforestation survey/ Field survey (June 2016)	This feature was originally identified during a pre afforestation survey undertaken in 1992. Field survey undertaken in June 2016 identified a small circular platform with a diameter of c.6m. It was situated at the

Site No	Element No.	Site name / type	HER no / RCAHMS no	Easting	Northing	Source(s)	Site Description
							top of the steep escarpment above the Cheese Burn and was located in open ground adjacent to the edge of the forest.
117	29	Cheese Burn, stack stand	NY28NE 6	32746	58691	1992 pre-afforestation survey	This feature was identified during a pre afforestation survey undertaken in 1992, but was not identified in the field survey undertaken in June 2016. The most likely reason for this is the build-up of peat/vegetation caused by the changes to the eco-system brought about by afforestation.
117	30	Cheese Burn, stack stand	NY28NE 6	32747	58692	1992 pre-afforestation survey	This feature was identified during a pre afforestation survey undertaken in 1992, but was not identified in the field survey undertaken in June 2016. The most likely reason for this is the build-up of peat/vegetation caused by the changes to the eco-system brought about by afforestation.
117	31	Cheese Burn, building	NY28NE 6	32742	58692	1992 pre-afforestation survey/ Field survey (June 2016)	This feature was originally identified during a pre afforestation survey undertaken in 1992. Field survey undertaken in June 2016 identified a small sub-square drystone structure measuring 2.4m by 2.4m. It had walls 0.5m wide and was upstanding to a height of 0.5m. This structure was located in open ground at the base of the steep escarpment dropping down to the Cheese Burn.
117	32	Cheese Burn, sheepfold	NY28NE 6	32747	58695	1857 Ordnance Survey map 1992 pre-afforestation survey/ Field survey (June 2016)	This feature was originally identified during a pre afforestation survey undertaken in 1992. Field survey undertaken in June 2016 identified an L-shaped drystone wall, which had been combined with the natural escarpment to form an enclosure. The wall measured 12m NW to SE by 9m NE to SW, measured up to 0.6m in width, and was upstanding to a height of 1m. It was situated at the base of the steep escarpment dropping down to the Cheese Burn, and was located in open ground well clear of any likely tree-felling operations.

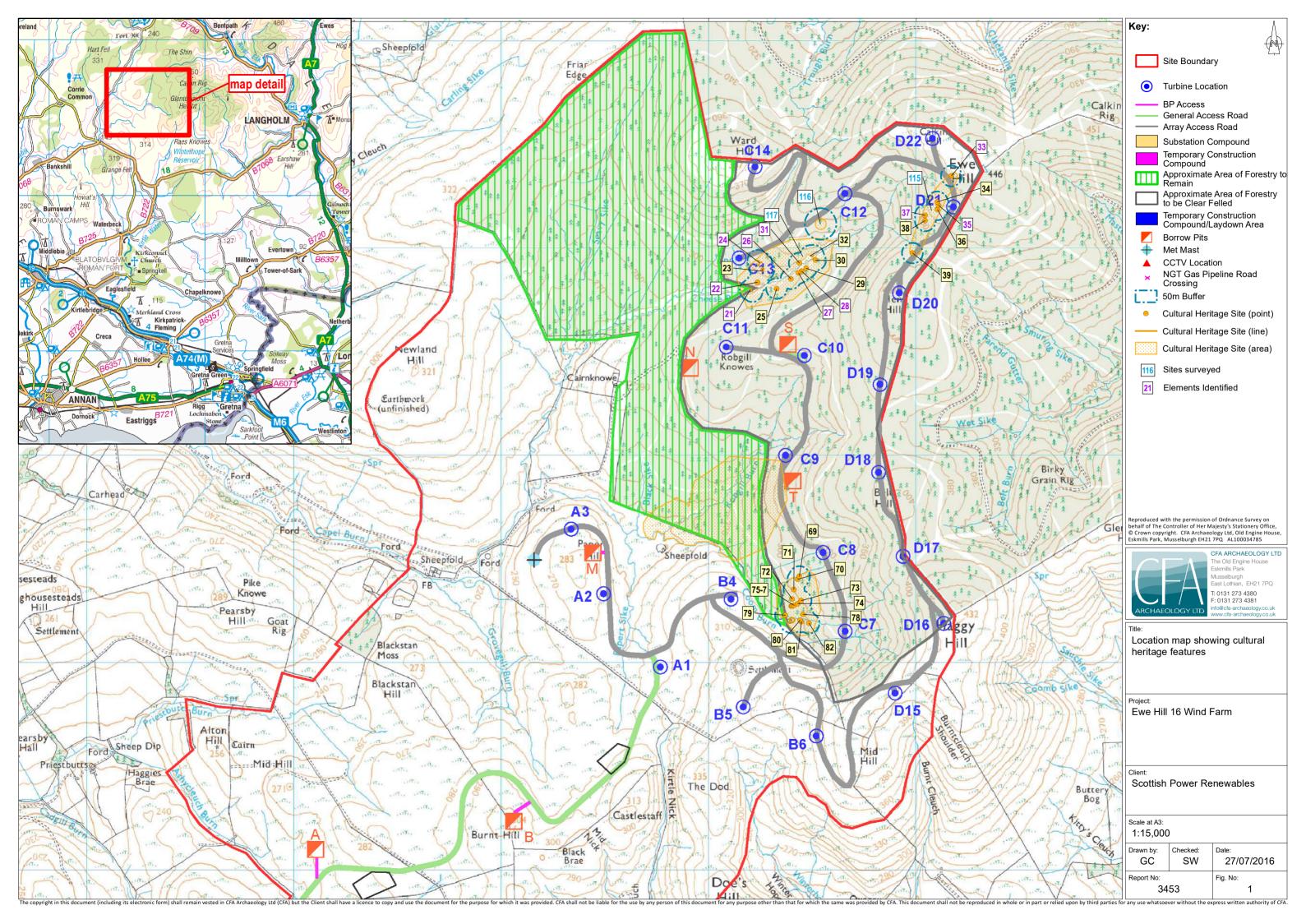




Fig. 2 Marker Stone (element 37, Site 115)



Fig. 3 Marker Stone (element 35, Site 115)



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GC	SW	26/07/16
Report No:		Fig. No:
34	53	2 - 3



Fig. 4 General shot of Cheese Burn (Site 117) from NE



Fig. 5 Stack Stand above Cheese Burn (element 28, Site 117)



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	Drawn by:	Checked:	Date:
	GC	SW	26/07/16
	Report No:		Fig. No:
	34	53	4 - 5
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Fig. 6 Sheepfold beside Cheese Burn (element 32, Site 117)



Fig. 7 Building/structure beside Cheese Burn (element 31, Site 117)



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GC	SW	26/07/16
Report No:		Fig. No:
34	53	6 - 7



Fig. 8 Sheepfold in clearing to north of Cheese Burn (element 24, Site 117)



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 Report No:
 Fig. No:

 3453
 8