

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Historic Building Recording*

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*Geophysical Survey*

## **FIT Scheme Turbine, Hungryhills, Longmanhill, Banff**

### **Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. 1971**

## **CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2011 at Hungryhills Farm, Longmanhill, Banff (NGR: NJ 74433 61519) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mint Energy Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 12 October 2011 was produced by CFA on behalf of Mint Energy Ltd. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS).

### **1.2 Background**

Planning permission (Ref. APP/2011/0573) has been granted for the erection of a new wind turbine situated approximately 70m west of a group of farm buildings and a dwelling at Hungryhills on open arable land at 128m AOD (Fig. 1). The planning permission was subject to a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief during all ground breaking operations.

At present, the Historic Environment Record does not record any known sites of archaeological interest within the development area. However, there were reasons to believe the land in question had the potential to contain archaeological remains, due to the presence of sites in the vicinity including Longman Cairn (Early Neolithic long, earthen burial mound; NMRS No: NJ76SW 1) which is located approximately 750m north-west of the site. In addition, remains of cropmarks and a possible ring-ditch, of an unknown date, were identified from aerial photographs located approximately 225m north-west of the site (Aberdeenshire SMR: NJ76SW0080). A number of farmsteads are depicted on the first edition OS maps, with small-scale quarrying also taking place in the vicinity (Aberdeenshire SMR: NJ76SW0081). Therefore, the land-use within the vicinity of the site has been one of primarily an agricultural nature in the past, whilst ritual activity is attested by Longman Cairn.

### **1.3 Objectives**

The objectives of the watching brief were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological features or deposits during ground breaking and to mitigate any impact on those features or deposits as identified.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods, as detailed in the approved WSI.

### **2.2 Archaeological Watching Brief**

The terms of the WSI required an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) to monitor all ground breaking works. Excavation was undertaken with a 12 tonne tracked excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. The ground breaking works consisted of the excavation of a square area measuring 5.1m by 5.1m to a maximum depth of 0.9m.

All discoveries, including soil profiles and subsoil characteristics, were recorded using standard CFA recording forms and digital photography.

## **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

Numbers in bold in the following text refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 1.

The area was stripped of topsoil (**001**) to a depth of 0.2m to reveal the natural substrate (**002**) (Fig. 3). The topsoil consisted of mid-brown silty-clay with approximately 2% sub-angular stones. The substrate consisted of light-brown/orange silty-clay containing 5% thinly laminated, angular stones (Fig. 4) and was excavated to a depth of 0.7m.

There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

A watching brief was carried out during ground works for the erection of a new wind turbine at Hungryhills, Banff. There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified during the watching brief.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the Aberdeenshire Council Sites and Monuments Record.

A summary statement of the results of this watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) and an online OASIS form will be completed.

## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Description
001	Topsoil – mid-brown, clay-silt, 2% sub-angular stones, <10cm
002	Subsoil – light brown/orange silty-clay, 5% angular, flat stones, <10cm

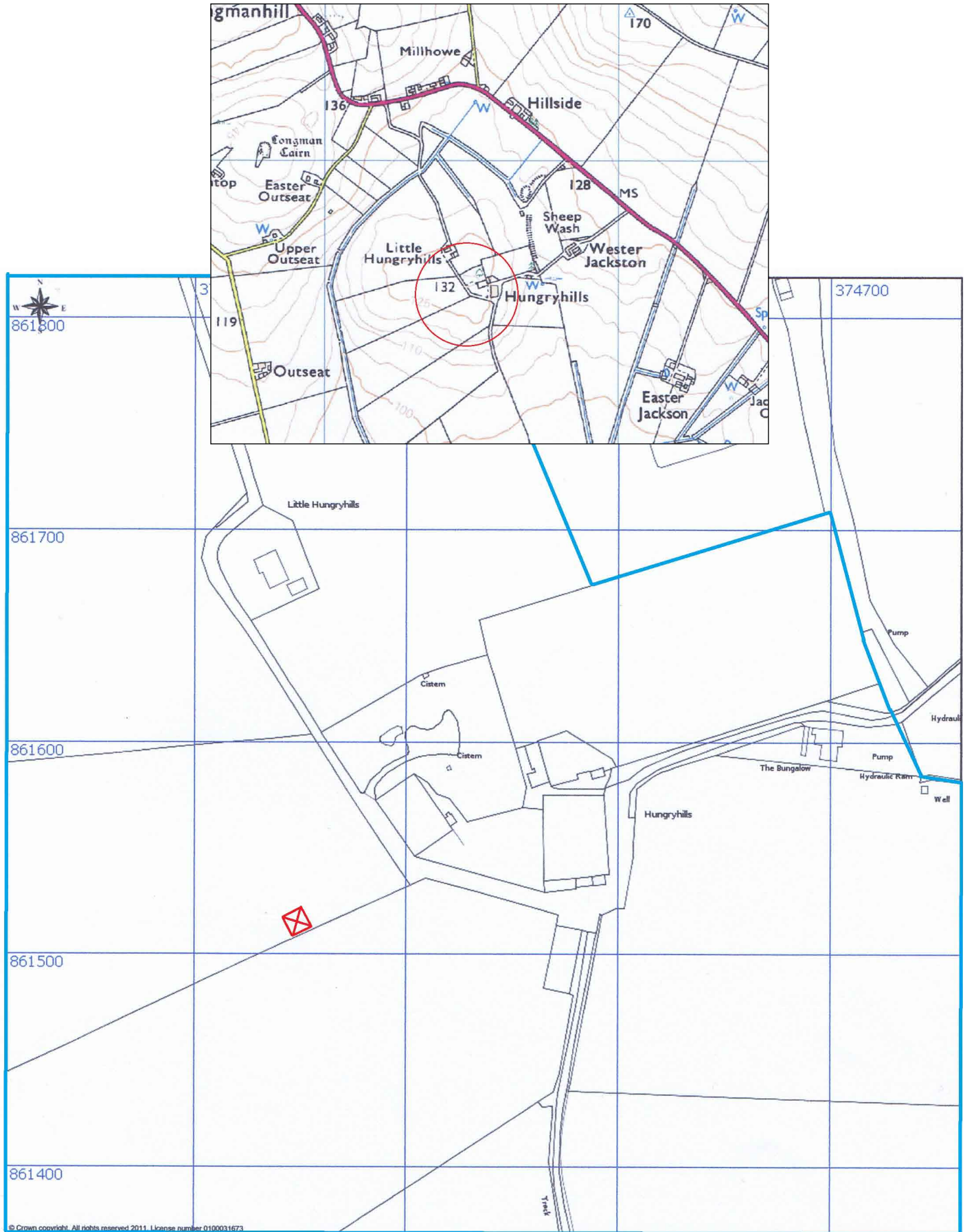
## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

### *Digital Images*

Photo No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	Pre-ex shot of area designated for turbine base	E	Overcast
2-3	Post-ex shot of area with natural subsoil	N	Overcast
4	Post-ex shot of area with natural subsoil	W	Overcast
5-6	Section showing 0.2m topsoil (001) and 0.7m subsoil (002)	W	Overcast

### APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Aberdeenshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	FIT Scheme Turbine, Hungryhills, Longmanhill, Banff
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	MINT1
<b>PARISH:</b>	Gamrie
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Gary Savory
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	-
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	-
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)</b>	NJ 74433 61519
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	October 2011
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	October 2011
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out during ground works for the erection of a new wind turbine at Hungryhills, Banff. There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified during the watching brief.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Mint Energy Ltd
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	National Monuments Record of Scotland (archive) Aberdeenshire Sites and Monuments Record (report)



Key:

- Boundary of Land in Applicant's Ownership
- Proposed Turbine Location

Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: Mint Energy Ltd

Title: Site Location Map

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Scale at A4:  
1:25,000 Inset map  
1:2500 Location map

Project: FIT Scheme Turbine, Hungryhills, Longmanhill, Banff. Archaeological Watching Brief

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Fig. 2 - Pre-ex shot of development area



Fig. 3 - Post-ex shot of development area with substrate



Fig. 4 - Representative section showing topsoil (001) and substrate (002)

Key: Fig. No: 2-4 Revision: A Client: Mint Energy Ltd

Title:

Project: FIT Scheme Turbine, Hungryhills, Longmanhill, Banff. Archaeological Watching Brief



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