

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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## **FIT Scheme Turbines – Land at Newton Farm, Cromarty**

### **Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. 2005**

## **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 11 November 2011 and 11 January 2012 at land to the west of Navity Cottages, Newton Farm, Cromarty (NGR: NH 77449 65020) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mint Energy Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 09 November 2011 was produced by CFA on behalf of Mint Energy Ltd. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of the Highland Council Heritage Environment Team (HCHET).

### **1.2 Background**

Planning permission (Ref. 11/01224/FUL) has been granted for the erection of two wind turbines and a control room on land to the west of Navity Cottages, Newton Farm, Cromarty (Fig. 2). The planning permission was subject to a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief during all ground breaking operations.

### **1.3 Objectives**

The objectives of the watching brief were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological features or deposits during groundbreaking 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 ground breaking works. Excavation was undertaken using a mechanical digger with a straight-edged bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.

The ground breaking works consisted of the excavation of the footprints of two wind turbines and the building footprint for the control room.

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 turbine bases and control room measured 5.5m by 5.5. The cable trench was 1.8m wide.

The areas were stripped of topsoil, with a depth of 0.3-0.35m, to reveal the natural subsoil. The topsoil was mid brown soil containing <5% small stones and gravel, **(001)**. The subsoil was a hard, pale pink-brown clay with 5% gravel and <1% large stones **(002)**.

The watching brief areas were located alongside the present fence line. The line of the fence, already dismantled, was excavated through, showing that although there was a slight mounded appearance along the boundary, there had not previously been a drystone boundary wall prior to construction of the fence. The rise in the ground was the result of ploughing the fields in the same direction over time, casting some stone to the side along the fence line.

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 two wind turbines and a control room on land to the west of Navity Cottages, Newton Farm, Cromarty.

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 HCHET.

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 soil containing <5% small stones and gravel
002	Subsoil – hard, pale pink-brown clay with 5% gravel and <1% large stones

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

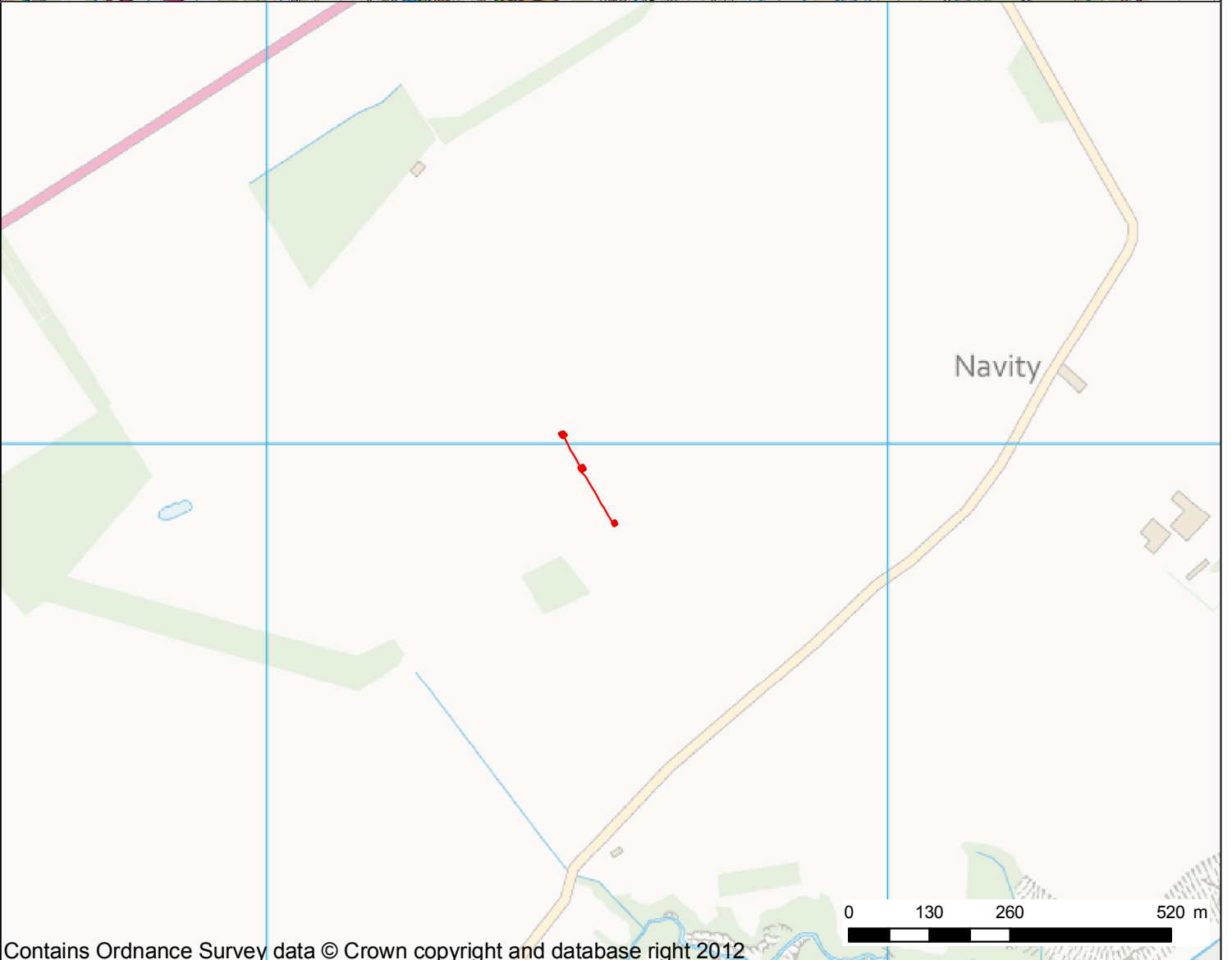
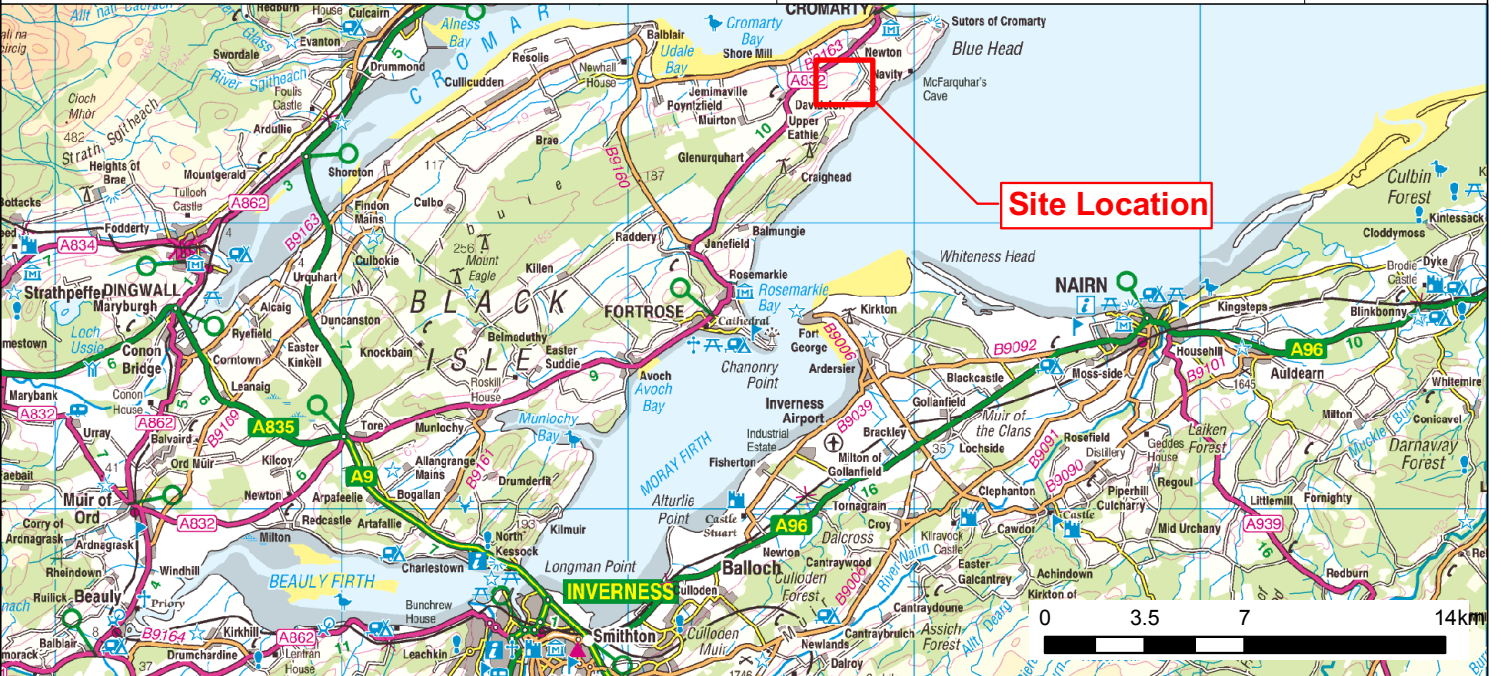
### *Digital Images*

Number	Description	Direction facing
1	Pre-watching brief: looking across the fenceline over the turbine location	N
2	Area 3: turbine control room site after clearance	NW
3	Area 2: turbine site after clearance	W
4	Area 1: turbine site after clearance	SW
5	Donald Campbell and Charlie MacIvor	NE
6	View of cable trench	SW

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

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Highland
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	FIT Scheme Turbines – Land To West Of Navity Cottages Newton Farm, Cromarty
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	MINT3
<b>PARISH:</b>	Cromarty
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Alison McCaig
<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>	-
<b>NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)</b>	NH 77449 65020
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	November 2011
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	November 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 two wind turbines and a control room on land to the west of Navity Cottages, Newton Farm, Cromarty. 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) Highland Council Historic Environment Record (report)





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<b>Key:</b>  Watching brief	Fig. No: <b>1</b>	Revision:	Client: <b>Mint Energy Ltd</b>
	Title: <b>Location Map</b>		
Scale at A3: <b>1:10,000</b>	Project: <b>FIT Scheme Turbines - Land at Newton Farm, Cromarty</b>		
		CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk	
Drawn by: <b>SW</b>	Checked: <b>LW</b>	Report No: <b>2005</b>	





Fig. 2 Turbine control room site after clearance, from the south-east



Fig. 3 The south-east turbine after clearance, from the east


Key:	Fig. No: 2-3	Revision: A	Client: Mint Energy Ltd	 <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p>		
	Title:					
Scale at A4:	Project: FIT Scheme Turbines- Land at Newton Farm, Cromarty			Drawn by: LW	Checked: LW	Report No: 2005






Fig. 4 The north-west turbine after clearance, from north-east



Fig. 5 Cable trench from south-east

Key:	Fig. No: <b>4,5</b>	Revision: <b>A</b>	Client: <b>Mint Energy Ltd</b>	 <b>CFA</b> ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk
	Title:			
Scale at A4:	Project: <b>FIT Scheme Turbines- Land at Newton Farm, Cromarty</b>			Drawn by: <b>LW</b>   Checked: <b>LW</b>   Report No: <b>2005</b>