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FIT Scheme Turbines – Land at Bridgefoot, Insch, Aberdeenshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 2004

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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

**FIT Scheme Turbines –
Land at Bridgefoot,
Insch, Aberdeenshire**

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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 16 January 2012 on land at Bridgefoot, Inch (NGR: NJ 58659 28647) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mint Energy Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 09 January 2012 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/2011/2583) has been granted for the construction of two wind turbine bases, situated on land at Bridgefoot, Inch. The planning permission was subject to a condition requiring the monitoring of groundbreaking during the construction of the two turbine bases by an archaeological watching brief.

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 with a tracked mechanical excavator with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.

The ground breaking works consisted of the excavation of two square areas, each measuring 5.5m by 5.5m.

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 SW turbine base (NGR: NJ 58609 28614), situated in a stubble field almost on the crest of the hill facing east, was stripped of topsoil (**001**) to a depth of 0.25m to reveal stony orange-brown silt natural subsoil (**002**) (Fig. 2).

The NE turbine base (NGR: NJ 58690 28701), situated in a pasture field with short grass almost on the crest of the hill facing east, was stripped of topsoil (**001**) to a depth of 0.3m. The underlying natural subsoil (**003**) was orange silt with shattered bedrock (Fig. 3).

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

4. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was carried out during ground works for the construction of two turbine bases on land at Bridgefoot.

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
002	Subsoil – stony orange brown silt
003	Subsoil – orange silt with shattered stone

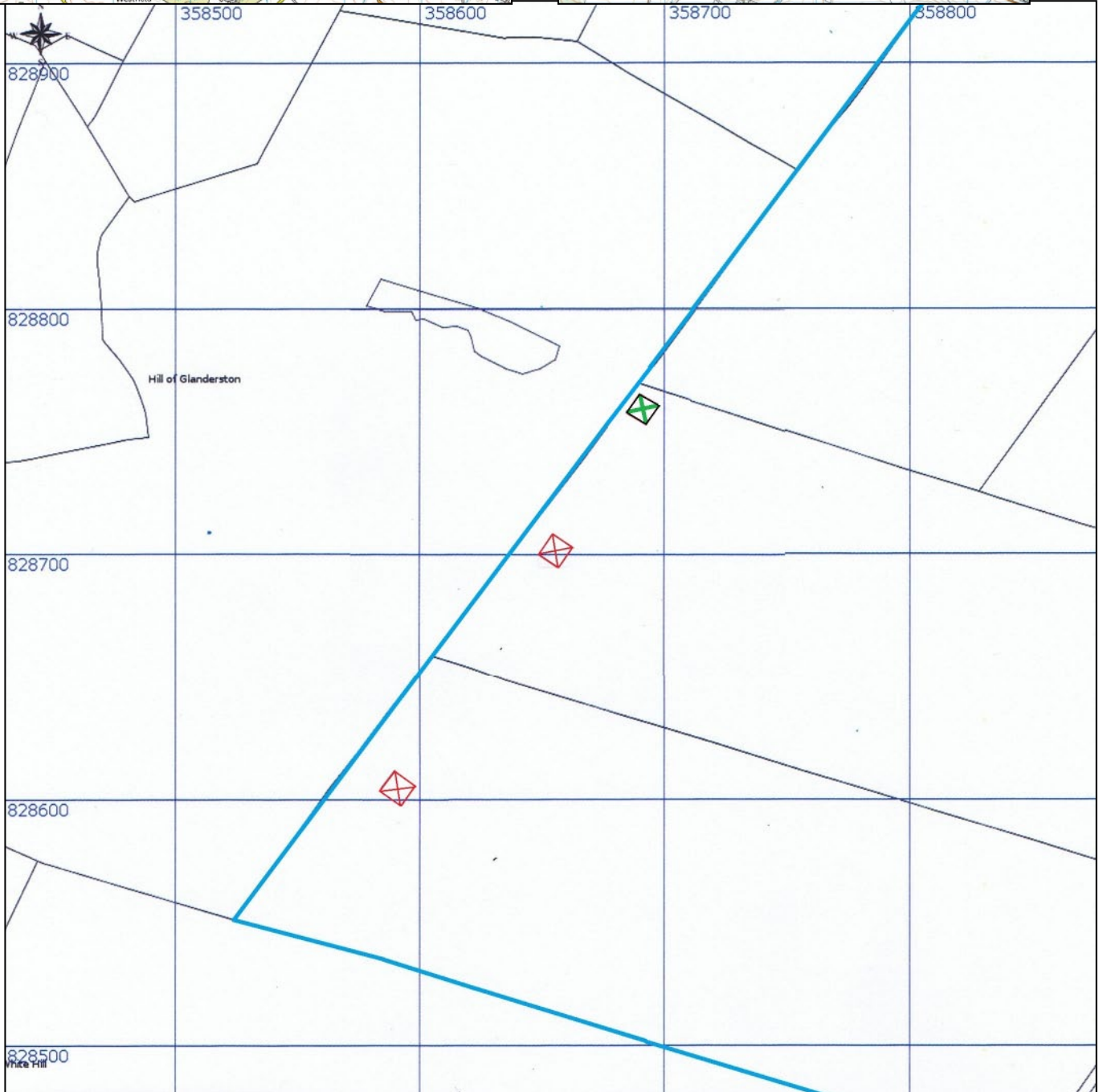
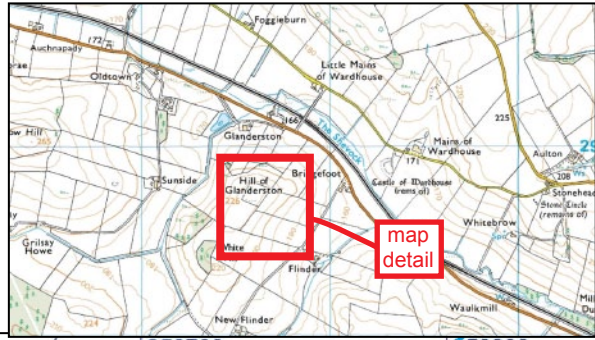
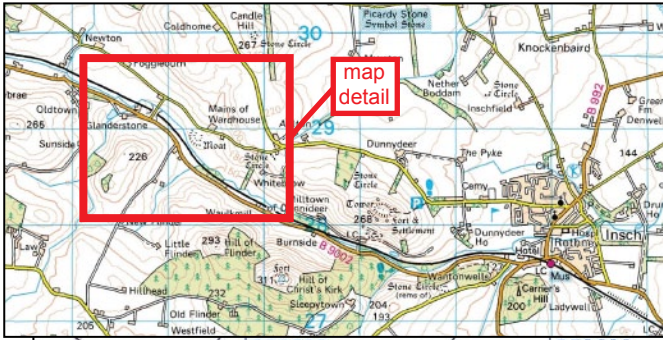
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digital Images

Number	Description	From	Conditions
1	SW turbine	SE	Sunny
2	SW turbine	SW	Sunny
3	NE turbine	SW	Sunny
4	NE turbine	NW	Sunny

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeenshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	FIT Scheme Turbines – Land at Bridgefoot, Inch
PROJECT CODE:	MINT5
PARISH:	Kennethmont
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alison McCaig
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	-
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NJ 58659 28647
START DATE (this season)	January 2012
END DATE (this season)	January 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out during ground works for the construction of two wind turbine bases on land at Bridgefoot, Inch. There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified during the watching brief.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mint Energy Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record of Scotland (archive) Aberdeenshire Sites and Monuments Record (report)



Key:

- turbine location
- point for new grid connection
- boundary of land ownership



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

Title: Location map

Project: FIT Scheme Turbines, Land at Bridgefoot, Insch



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Scale at A4: 1:2500


Drawn by: GC Checked: LW Report No: 2004



Fig. 2 The south-western turbine base from the south-west



Fig. 3 The north-eastern turbine base from the south-west

Key:	Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	Mint Energy Ltd
	Title:					
Scale at A4:	Project:					
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