

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Historic Building Recording*

*Site & Landscape Survey*

*Geophysical Survey*

## **Roths Windfarm Extension Roths, Moray**

### **Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. 2101**

## **CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

The Old Engine House  
Eskmills Business Park  
Musselburgh  
East Lothian  
EH21 7PQ

Tel: 0131 273 4380  
Fax: 0131 273 4381  
email: [info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk)  
web: [www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk](http://www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk)

Author	Ian Suddaby MA FSA Scot MifA & Gary Savory MA
Illustrator	Shelly Werner BA MPhil PhD FSA Scot
Editor	Melanie Johnson MA PhD FSA Scot MifA
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This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd  
standard operating procedures.

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Roths, Moray**

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## **CONTENTS**

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	4
3.	Archaeological Results	5
4.	Conclusion	6
5.	References	6

## **Appendices**

1.	Context Register	7
2.	Digital Photographic Register	7
3.	Drawings Register	7
4	Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry	8

## **Figures (bound at rear)**

1.	Site location, location of watching brief areas and demarcated sites
2.	Chalybeate well (site 2) following demarcation, facing west
3.	Corr Hatnich (site 6) following felling, facing north
4.	Corr Hatnich (site 6) following felling, facing south
5.	Corr Hatnich (site 6) following felling, facing north-west
6.	Plan of Corr Hatnich
7.	Removing topsoil on access track for Turbine Base 6
8.	Removing topsoil from Borrow Pit

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of a programme of demarcation, survey and archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between May 2012 and January 2013 during the construction phase of the Rothes Windfarm Extension in Moray (NJ 18334 49863 centred) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Natural Power Consultants Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 25 August 2011 was produced by CFA on behalf of Natural Power Consultants Ltd. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS).

### **1.2 Background**

Planning permission has been granted under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for an extension to the existing wind farm at Rothes. The proposed development comprises an additional 18 turbines with provision for new access tracks, upgrading existing tracks and cable laying operations.

The report contains reference numbers, which refer to gazetteer entries in the 'Cultural Heritage' chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES). This report should be read in conjunction with the ES.

A walkover and instrument survey was carried out by CFA in September 2011 of known or possible cultural heritage sites prior to the commencement of works on the extension. The subsequent report outlined mitigation measures based on the results (Moore 2011). The measures, reported on here and which were agreed upon by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service, included demarcation of Sites 2 and 6 with a 5m buffer zone, and monitored removal of trees in order to minimize the damage to both sites (See Fig. 1). In addition, all ground breaking activities associated with the development which lay outwith the forestry plantation were subject to archaeological monitoring (watching brief).

### **1.3 Objectives**

The objectives of the work were:

- To demarcate those sites identified as surviving within the areas to be felled (Sites 2 and 6); to monitor felling activities within and close to the demarcated zones; and to record the visible remains of those sites following felling.
- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Watching Brief) to monitor all ground breaking work outside of the commercial forestry plantation.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological features or deposits and to propose mitigation measures.

## **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 Demarcation/Felling Monitoring**

A buffer zone of 5m in all directions from the visible parts of each site was erected, to prevent plant from entering the sites. The erection of the fencing was carried out by the contractors using a suitable robust and visible barrier, and will follow the temporary lines marked out on the ground by CFA staff using canes and bunting.

Felling then proceeded with care around the edges of the sites to prevent trees toppling across the buffer zone, and where possible hand felling of any trees inside the buffer zone was undertaken to prevent any damage. This was monitored by the archaeologist.

Following felling, the visible remains of the site were photographed and described. All on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally, by photography, a site plan and by completing standard CFA record forms.

The demarcated zones remained in place for the duration of works in the vicinity.

### **2.3 Archaeological Watching Brief**

A watching brief was required during all ground breaking works outwith the existing forestry plantation, including but not limited to access tracks, borrow pits, turbine bases, compounds, and cabling. The watching brief was not required where access tracks were built as floating roads.

All overburden was removed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

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

#### 3.1 Demarcation/Felling Monitoring

##### *Site 1: Chalybeate Well*

The Chalybeate well was identified on the ground and a 5m buffer zone demarcated around the site (Fig. 2). There was no change to its baseline condition following felling.

##### *Site 6: Corr Hatnich*

Corr Hatnich (NJ 18215 49004, centred) was depicted on an aerial photo from 1946 as a long rectangular building with three attached enclosures and is shown on the 1976 Ordnance Survey map (1:10 000) as a rectangular unroofed structure with two compartments. The building is located on a gentle north-facing slope at approximately 300m AOD. From the 1960s, the land surrounding the structure was used for commercial forestry. The field survey (Moore 2011) confirmed the building was still present within the plantation: however, a detailed investigation was not undertaken as it was largely inaccessible. The subsequent construction of the windfarm and the removal of the forestry plantation presented an opportunity to undertake a detailed field survey of the structure (Fig. 6).

The building was aligned almost north-south and was in a very ruinous state (Fig. 3-5). It was rectangular in plan: the south end was intact whereas the northern end had been completely destroyed by forestry ploughing. The surviving remains measured 20m long by 6m wide. The 'walls' were much denuded and formed banks surviving to a maximum height of *c.*0.6m. The width of the banks at their base was *c.*2m, which included a high proportion of stone tumble. In the south-east corner of the structure the top of the bank was devoid of vegetation and presented a view of the stones used to build the structure. The stones were irregular and uncut, with no evidence of mortar present and they measured *c.*0.3m long, by 0.2m wide and 0.15m thick.

The location of the stone tumble within the structure indicated the possible existence of two 'rooms': the presence of two 'rooms' is consistent with the 1976 OS map which depicts the building with internal divisions. None of the enclosures depicted on the 1946 aerial photographs were found and these were presumably destroyed during the forming of the plantation in the 1960s.

#### 3.2 Watching Brief

##### *Turbine bases*

Four turbine bases (T1, T5, T6 and T9) were excavated and all were observed during the watching brief. The stratigraphy comprised of 0.3-1.2m of peat (**001**) which overlay the natural geology of yellow-orange sand (**000**).

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were found during the excavation. The observation at Turbine bases 5 and 6 noted the presence of several re-cut test pits and evidence for previous ploughing on the site.

#### *Access Road*

The access roads' stratigraphy was 0.3-0.7m of peat (**001**) overlying natural yellow-orange sand (**000**). Evidence for ploughing was also noted: however, here it was thought to relate to previous afforestation work.

There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified during the watching brief.

#### *Borrow pits*

The borrow pit around Turbine 5 was excavated down to the natural underlying geology. No archaeological features or artefacts were found during the excavation.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

A watching brief was carried out during ground works for the construction of four wind turbine bases, the construction of access roads and a borrow pit, as part of the Rothes Windfarm Extension. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were found during the excavations.

A further field survey was undertaken at Corr Hatnich, which provided a detailed record of a building, possibly a farmstead. It was in a ruinous state with the northern end of the structure and the ancillary enclosures completely destroyed. No evidence was obtained to be able to date the structure but it is presumed to be post-medieval.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the RCAHMS 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 4) and an online OASIS form will be completed.

## **5. REFERENCES**

Moore, P. 2011 *Rothes Windfarm Extension Moray: Archaeological Walkover and Instrument Survey*. CFA Data Structure Report No.1955.

## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Description
000	Natural Geology
001	Topsoil-Peat

## APPENDIX 2: Digital Photographic Register

Number	Description	From	Conditions
1	Site 2 - chalybeate spring/well demarcated	NW	Sunny
2	Site 2 - chalybeate spring/well demarcated	E	Sunny
3	Site 2 - chalybeate spring/well demarcated	SE	Sunny
4	Site 2 - chalybeate spring/well demarcated	S	Sunny
5	Site 2 - chalybeate spring/well demarcated	W	Sunny
6	Stream leading from site 2 (in background)	W	Sunny
7	Location shot of site 2	E	Sunny
8	Access road to T5 & T6, general views	SE	Sunny
9-10	General shot - compound topsoil removal	NE/SE	Sunny
11-12	General shots of access road leading to T5 following soil stripping	SE/NW	Sunny
13	View of track to T6	E	Sunny
14	View of borrow pit	E	Sunny
15	Detail of natural bedrock	S	Sunny
16	View of T6 road showing clay	S	Sunny
17	View of borrow pit showing sand geology	E	Sunny
18	View of borrow pit showing sand and rocks	S	Overcast
19	Clearing vegetation for T6	S	Clear
20	Stripping peat in heavy rain, T6	SE	Rain
21-22	Cleaning of T6 base	S	Rain
23	Cleaning of T9 base, orange sandy-clay	N	Clear
24	Cleaning of T9 base up to end of road	S	Clear
25	Corr-Hatnich (site 6) facing N	S	Dull
26	Corr-Hatnich (site 6) after clearing vegetation	S	Dull
27	South 'room' facing west	E	Dull
28	Site facing NW	SE	Dull
29	North 'room' facing	E	Dull
30	Site facing south	N	Dull
31	Detail of exposed stones facing E	W	Dull
32	Bank height south end	S	Dull

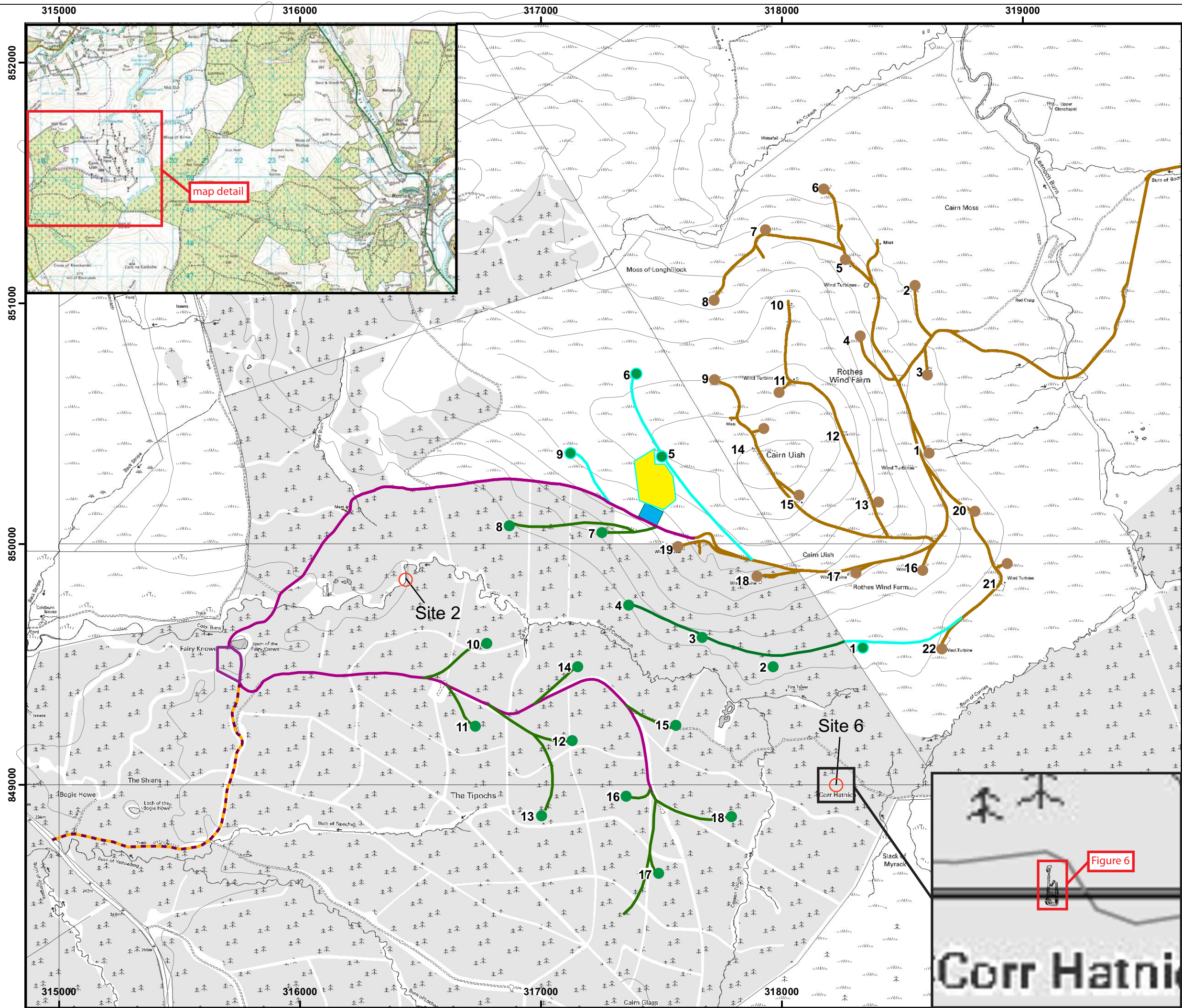
## APPENDIX 3: Drawings Register

Number	Sheet	Description	Sec/Plan	Scale
1	1	Plan of Corr Hatnich (site 6)	P	1:100



## APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Moray
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Rothes Windfarm Extension
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	RWFE2
<b>PARISH:</b>	Dallas
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Ian Suddaby and Gary Savory
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief, demarcation, survey
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)</b>	NJ18215 49004
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	September 2011
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	January 2013
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of survey, demarcation, and archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd between September 2011 and January 2013 for the construction of the Rothes Windfarm Extension in Moray.</p> <p>Pre-construction work included a pre-felling walkover survey and instrument survey of Whiterashes farmstead. The instrument survey resulted in a plan of the remains of Whiterashes farmstead (at NJ 16100 49800, SMR no. NJ14NE0016). This survey was augmented by a comprehensive written and photographic record of the site and its individual components.</p> <p>The walkover survey targeted known or possible sites previously identified in the ES. Of the six sites previously identified as being within the curtilage of the extension, field survey was not able to find any evidence of two of those sites, while four were located. Two of these sites were situated within afforested areas earmarked for felling and were demarcated prior to felling. Monitoring of the felling and a post-felling survey provided a detailed record of Corr Hatnich farmstead (at NJ 18210 49020), which consisted of a rectangular building.</p> <p>The watching brief was conducted during ground works outside of the existing forestry plantation and included turbine bases, access roads and a borrow pit. No archaeological features or artefacts were found during the excavation.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	National Power Consultants 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>	<p>RCAHMS (archive)</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council Sites and Monuments Record (report)</p>



- Key:
- Existing turbine
  - Existing access road
  - New turbine
  - New access road
  - Upgrade of existing road
  - Site compound
  - Borrow pit
  - Watching brief areas



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

Fig. No:	1	Revision:	A
Title:	Site location, location of watching brief areas and demarcated sites		
Project:	Rothes Wind Farm Extension, Rothes, Moray		
Scale at A3:	1:15000		
Client:	Natural Power Consultants Ltd		





Fig. 2 Chalybeate well (site 2) following demarcation, facing west



Fig. 3 Corr Hatnich (site 6) following felling, facing north

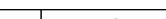

Fig. No: <b>2-3</b>	Revision: <b>A</b>	Project: <b>Roths Wind Farm Extension, Roths, Moray</b>		 <div><b>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD</b> The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ T: 0131 273 4380 F: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</div>
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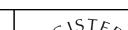



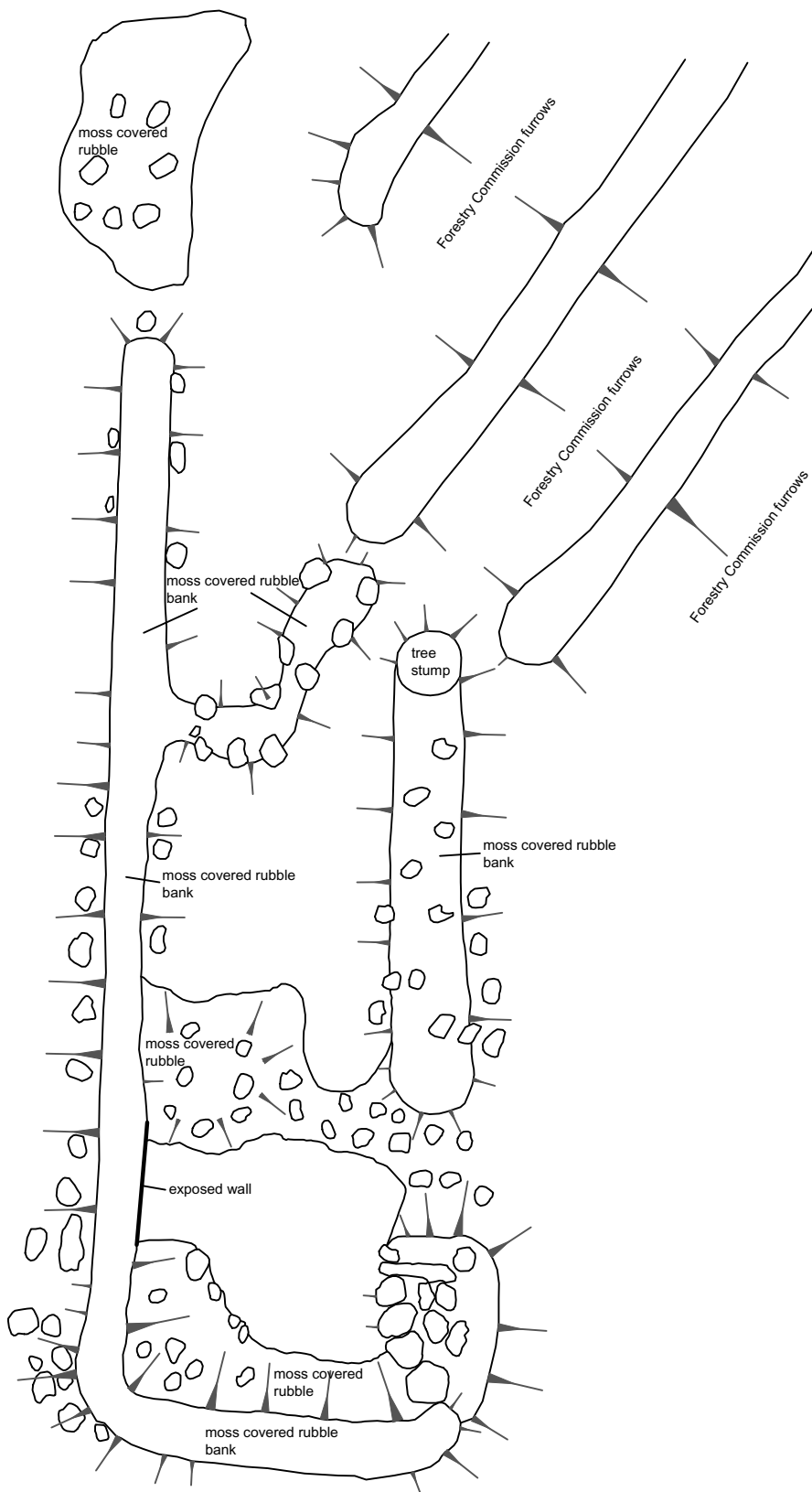


Fig. 4 Corr Hatnich (site 6) following felling, facing south



Fig. 5 Corr Hatnich (site 6) following felling, facing north-west

Fig. No: 4-5		Revision: A		Project: Rothas Wind Farm Extension, Rothas, Moray				<b>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD</b> The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ  T: 0131 273 4380 F: 0131 273 4381 e: <a href="mailto:info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk">info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk</a> w: <a href="http://www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk">www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</a>		
Drawn by: GC		Checked: KH		Report No: 2101					Client: Natural Power Consultants Ltd	
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Key:



Fig No:

6

Revision:

0

Client:

Natural power Consultants Ltd

Title:

Plan of Corr Hathich

Project:

Roths Wind Farm extension, Roths, Moray

Scale at A4:

1:100



Drawn by:  
GC

Checked:  
KH

Report No:  
2101







Fig. 7 Removing topsoil on access track to Turbine Base 6



Fig. 8 Removing topsoil from Borrow Pit

Fig. No:	7-8	Revision:	A	Project:	Roths Wind Farm Extension, Roths, Moray		 <div><b>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD</b> 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</div>	
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