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Historic Building Recording


Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**Meikle Carewe Windfarm,
Near Stonehaven,
Aberdeenshire.**

**Archaeological Watching Brief
Report No. 1933**

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Commissioned by	Renewable Energy Systems UK and Ireland Ltd
Date issued	August 2011
Version	0
Grid Ref	NO 8390 9176

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) in July 2011 on Site Investigation works at the site of the proposed Meikle Carewe Windfarm, near Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire (NGR: NO 8390 9176 (centred)). The work was commissioned by Renewable Energy Systems UK and Ireland Ltd (RES).

The watching brief was requested by RES to monitor Site Investigation works which involved the excavation of a number of trial pits. RES requested this work to ensure that the works did not conflict with any known archaeological sites and to ensure that previously unknown remains were not disturbed without being recorded. The council archaeologist was supportive of this programme of work.

1.2 Background

RES has consent to erect a windfarm in a hilly area of upland grazing and extensive areas of heather moorland with its lower flanks surrounded by remnant field systems and settlement of the recent past.

A WSI is required by the council for mitigation works during the construction of the windfarm. This document will be submitted and approved by the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service in advance of construction starting.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the watching brief were:

- To ensure upstanding archaeological remains were avoided by site investigation works
- To record any archaeological remains uncovered during the excavation of trial-pits
- To prepare a report on the works.

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.

2.2 Excavation Strategy

As part of a Site Investigation works, twenty-four trial pits and four soakaway trial pits were monitored through an archaeological watching brief (Fig. 1). The trial pits were positioned to minimise the effect on any known and unknown buried archaeological remains located within the development area, based on previous archaeological work conducted there.

Trial pit locations were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothed ditching bucket removing overlying deposits until the natural bedrock was reached or to a maximum depth of 4m where the natural bedrock had not been encountered. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

A summary of trial pit locations is contained in Appendix 3. Trial pits are abbreviated to T and TP, and soakaway trial pits recorded with the adjacent trial pit codes e.g. soakaway trial pit TP SS is the soakaway trial pit associated with trial pit TP SS. The locations of the test-pits are indicated on Fig 1. The trial pits are listed in order of investigation.

The excavated topsoil generally consisted of dark brown peat deposits. The topsoil depth varied but was on average 0.3m in depth. The natural subsoil generally consisted of yellow granular sand or yellow sandy clay. A number of trial pits were stopped at the maximum depth of 4m, whilst others were halted because they were filling with water.

No features of archaeological significance were identified. No finds were recovered.

4. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of trial pits prior to the erection of a number of wind turbines at Meikle Carewe Wind Farm. There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified during the watching brief. No upstanding remains were affected.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital Images

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-3	Curlethney Hill and area to the south	E	Overcast
4-8	Panorama W->S->E from Curlethney Hill	Various	Overcast
9	Peat cuttings in area T10	E	Overcast
10	Location of DCP 24, deep heather	E	Overcast
11	Location of T3/TP6 from DCP 24	NNW	Overcast
12	Massive boulder at NO 92989 92073	E	Overcast
13-20	Panorama E->S->W->N from E side of Meikle Carewe Hill	Various	Overcast
21	T5 location, deep heather	NW	Overcast
22	TP4 location (not marked out yet)	S	Overcast
23	T9 location on edge of bracken	N	Overcast
24	General view SE from near TPP2	NW	Overcast
25-26	General view W up to Round Hill from just E of TPP1	E	Overcast
27	General view SE from the above point	NW	Overcast
28	Setting up site, general shots	SW	Overcast
29-30	Setting up site, general shots	NE	Overcast
31	Excavation of TP PM	N	Overcast
32-33	TP PM post-ex	S	Overcast
34	TP PM board	W	Overcast
35	Location post T9	N	Overcast
36-37	T9 Post-ex	N	Overcast
38	T9 sampling	NW	Overcast
39	T7 Location post	SE	Overcast
40-41	T7 Post-ex	NW	Overcast
42	T11 location post	SW	Overcast
43-44	T11 post-ex	SW	Overcast
45	T12 location post	SW	Overcast
46-48	T12 post-ex	SW	Overcast
49	T4 location post	W	Overcast
50	T4 soil beneath peat	W	Overcast
51-52	T4 post-ex	S	Overcast
53	T10 location post	NW	Overcast
54-55	T10 post-ex	NE	Overcast
56	TPSS location post	S	Overcast
57	TPSS under excavation	N	Overcast
58-59	TPSS post-ex	W	Overcast
60	T6 location post	S	Overcast
61-62	T6 Post-ex	SW	Overcast
63	TP5 location post	SW	Overcast
64-65	TP5 post-ex	E	Overcast
66	T4 location post	NE	Overcast
67-68	T4 post-ex	S	Overcast
69	T3 location post	N	Overcast
70-71	T3 post-ex	S	Overcast
72	TP 6 location post	NE	Overcast
73-74	TP 6 post-ex	SW	Overcast
75	T2 location post	SW	Overcast
76-77	T2 post-ex	NE	Overcast
78	T1 location post	SE	Overcast
79	T1 under excavation	NE	Overcast
80-81	T1 post-ex	NE	Overcast
82	T8 location post	S	Overcast

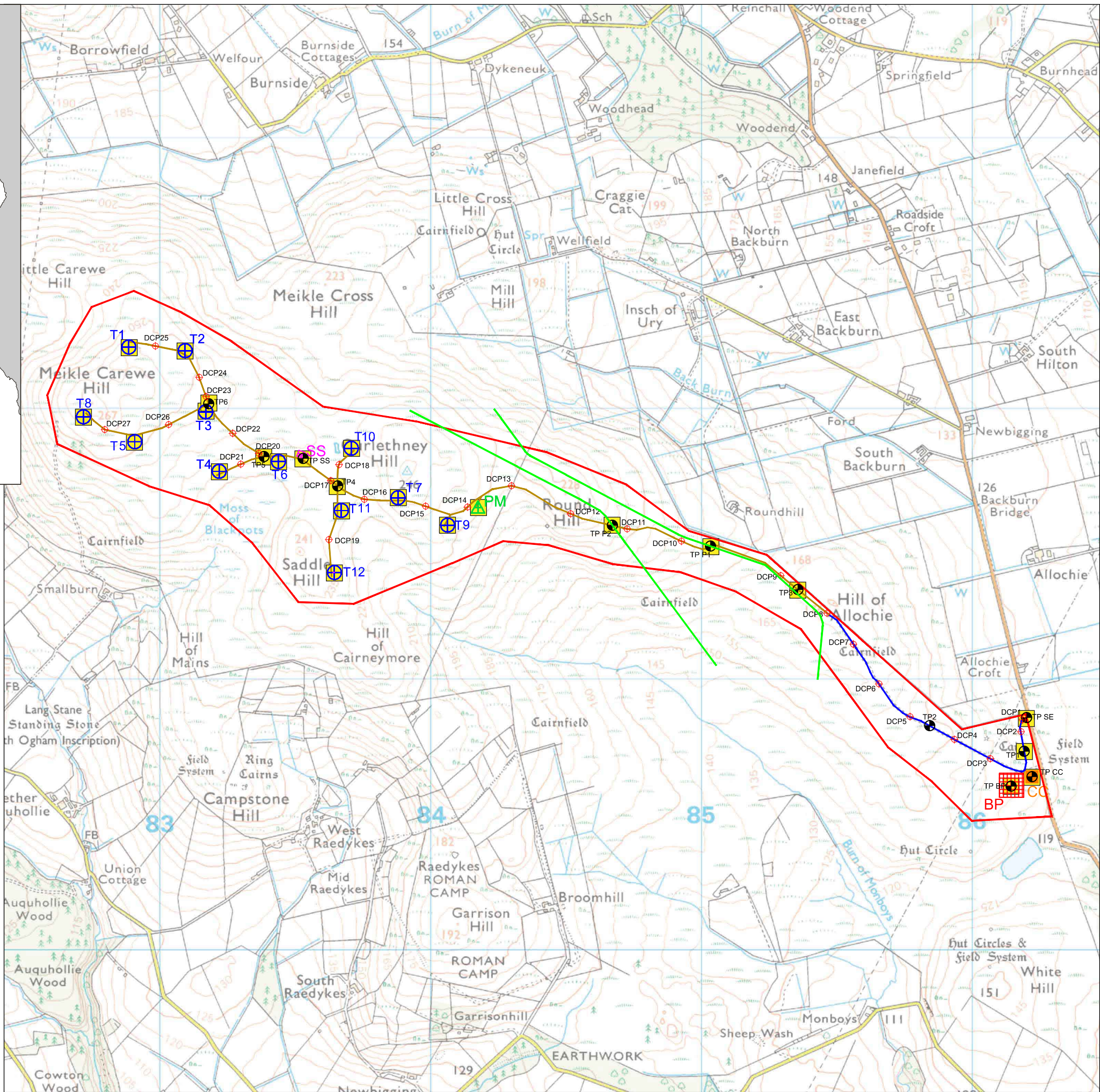
83-84	T8 post-ex	W	Overcast
85-86	T5 location post	S	Overcast
87-88	T5 post-ex	N	Overcast
89	TP P1 location post	NE	Overcast
90-91	TP P1 post-ex	SW	Overcast
92-93	TP P1 road test pit post-ex	S	Overcast
94	TP3 location post	NW	Overcast
95-96	TP3 post-ex	NW	Overcast
97-98	TP3 road test pit post-ex	NW	Overcast
99	T2 location post	NE	Overcast
100-101	T2 post-ex	SW	Overcast
102-103	T2 road pit post-ex	SW	Overcast
104	TPCC location post	W	Overcast
105-106	TPCC post-ex	E	Overcast
107	TPBP location post	E	Overcast
108-109	TPBP post-ex	E	Overcast
110	TP1 location post	W	Overcast
111-112	TP1 post-ex	S	Overcast
113-114	TP1 road pit post-ex	S	Overcast
115	TPP2 location post	S	Overcast
116-117	TPP2 post-ex	N	Overcast
118	General shot from TPP2	NW	Overcast
119	TPSS location post	SE	Overcast
120-121	TPSS soakaway pit post-ex	NW	Overcast
122	T4 soakaway pit location post	E	Overcast
123-124	T4 soakaway pit post-ex	SW	Overcast
125	T9 soakaway pit location post	E	Overcast
126-127	T9 soakaway pit post-ex	W	Overcast
128	TPCC soakaway pit location post	N	Overcast
129-130	TPCC soakaway pit post-ex	W	Overcast
131	TPSE location post	E	Overcast
132-133	TPSE post-ex	W	Overcast

APPENDIX 2: Summary of Excavation Results

Trial Pit descriptions

Trial Pit No.	Topsoil Depth (m)	Depth of subsoil above bedrock (m)	Description
PM	0.5	1.05	No archaeological features
T9	0.35	1.75	No archaeological features
T7	0.45	1.35	No archaeological features
T12	0.35	1.8	No archaeological features
T11	0.3	1.5	No archaeological features
TP 4	0.15	2.45	No archaeological features
T10	0.1	3.9	No archaeological features
TPSS	0.35	2.75	No archaeological features
T6	0.1	2.5	No archaeological features
TP 5	0.26	1.24	No archaeological features
T4	0.2	2.7	No archaeological features
T3	0.65	2.85	No archaeological features
TP 6	0.3	1.7	No archaeological features
T2	0.3	1.4	No archaeological features
T1	0.2	0.9	No archaeological features
T8	0.4	1.2	No archaeological features
T5	0.4	2.2	No archaeological features

TP P1	0.4	2.4	No archaeological features
TP 3	0.2	1.0	No archaeological features
TPCC	0.3	3.7 (bedrock not reached)	No archaeological features
TPBP	0.25	3.75 (bedrock not reached)	No archaeological features
TP 1	0.2	3.8 (bedrock not reached)	No archaeological features
TP P2	0.4	2.1	No archaeological features
TPSE	0.1	3.9 (bedrock not reached)	No archaeological features
<i>Soakaway Trial Pits</i>			
TPSS	0.3	1.0 (stopped because of flooding)	No archaeological features
T4	0.4	0.95 (stopped because of flooding)	No archaeological features
T9	0.35	0.95 (stopped because of flooding)	No archaeological features
TPCC	0.2	1.5 (stopped because of flooding)	No archaeological features



Key:

- WORK MONITORED WITH WATCHING BRIEF
- WIND TURBINE
- PERMANENT MET MAST LOCATION
- DYNAMIC CONE PENETRATION TEST
- TRIAL PITS
- SITE TRACKS (UPGRADED)
- SITE TRACKS (NEW EXCAVATED)
- INDICATIVE ROUTE OF GAS PIPELINE. CO-ORDINATED ROUTE WILL BE PROVIDED FOLLOWING LIAISON WITH NATIONAL GRID.

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Fig. No:	1	Revision:	A
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Title:
Site location and location of test pitting monitored during watching brief

Project:
**Meikle Carewe Wind Farm:
 Archaeological Watching Brief**

Scale at A3:
1:15000

Client:
**Renewable Energy Systems UK
 and Ireland Ltd**

Drawn by:	Checked by:	Report No.:
GC	LW	1933