

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

*archaeological consultants*

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*Historic Building Recording*


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*Geophysical Survey*

**Wind Turbine  
Fordoun Sawmill  
Fordoun  
Aberdeenshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

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Grid Ref	NO 74926 77688

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

**Wind Turbine  
Fordoun Sawmill  
Fordoun  
Aberdeenshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. 3230**

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Fig. 5 Test-pit fully excavated

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken in October 2014 during ground-works for a single wind turbine at Fordoun Sawmill, Fordoun, Aberdeenshire (NGR: NO 74926 77688, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by GreenPower (Fordoun) Limited.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 8 October 2013 for this programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf GreenPower. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service.

### **1.2 Background**

Planning Permission (APP/2011/2158) has been granted for the construction of a 900Kw 77m to blade tip wind turbine along with associated crane pad, substation and control kiosk at Fordoun Sawmill. The planning permission was subject to an archaeological condition requiring a watching brief on the ground-works.

Fordoun Sawmill is situated within the disused Fordoun Airfield (NMRS No. NO77NE 63), which was constructed during WWII as a two runway satellite to RAF Peterhead. The airfield was used by 2 FIS Montrose from November 1942 until September 1944, who mainly kept a flight of Oxford aircraft here. Selected as part of Operation Tyndall the airfield also housed a number of dummy Boston aircraft, which were designed to deceive the Germans into thinking that the RAF still posed a threat to their Norwegian based units. Also operating from Fordoun were 1632 Flight, who became part of the newly formed 598 Squadron at Peterhead in December 1943. By 1944 flying was halted as the concrete runways were cracking badly. Temporary repairs were made, but the airfield was finally abandoned by the RAF in September 1950. Reopened in 1965, it was used as a private airfield and later as a stock-car racing track prior to being redeveloped as an industrial estate housing a number of premises including the sawmill.

Within the wider area, there is evidence of prehistoric activity, with possible pits and souterrains (NMRS No. NO77NE 81) being identified at Balfeith c.1km to the ESE of the turbine location, and a long cist (NMRS No. NO77NE 12) being identified on the farm of Cushnie to the north of the turbine location. The long cist was discovered in 1895 and its exact location was not recorded.

The turbine location lies within a former agricultural field at the northern end of the airfield immediately to the west of the sawmill buildings and adjacent to an area utilised for the storage of unprocessed logs. Prior to this watching brief being undertaken the area had been stripped of vegetation in order to carry out a survey for unexploded ordnance. A degree of vegetation had regrown by the time this programme of works was undertaken (Fig. 2).

### **1.3 Objectives**

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (monitored strip) to monitor groundbreaking works to ensure works were cleared of topsoil and other modern overburden to identify either undisturbed natural subsoil or archaeological features.
- to mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording and produce a report on them.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork.

### **2.2 Watching Brief**

Soil stripping for the wind turbine was carried out using a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. This operation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

The area monitored consisted of a 20m diameter circle centred on the turbine location and a c.30m by 20m area for hardstanding and a crane pad. Also monitored was a 5m by 2m test-pit undertaken as part of and related to UXO works. The access track was floated across the surface of the field and no groundbreaking works were required.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

The deposits across the area consisted of up to 0.8m of reddish-brown silty-clay topsoil (001) overlying grey clay overlying a vivid red sandy-clay natural (002).

Natural subsoil was exposed within a 12m diameter circle excavated around the centre of the turbine location (Fig. 3) and within the test-pit (Fig. 5).

The remaining areas (outer 4m of 20m diameter circle and crane pad/hardstanding) (Fig. 3 and 4) were excavated to formation level but natural was not reached.

One rubble field drain and one ceramic cylinder field drain were uncovered, but there were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified.

### **4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

An archaeological watching-brief was carried out during ground-works for a single wind turbine and associated infrastructure at Fordoun Sawmill. The sawmill is situated within the disused Fordoun Airfield, which was constructed during WWII as a two runway satellite to RAF Peterhead. No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified during the watching brief.

CFA does not recommend any further archaeological work in relation to this programme of works. However the final decision on any further mitigation measures lies with Aberdeenshire Council as advised by the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service.

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 to be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) will be sufficient to disseminate the results of this programme of works. An OASIS Scotland entry will also be completed.

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

No.	Description	From
1	Test-pit with vegetation removed	N
2	Test-pit showing exposed natural	NW
3	Test-pit, fully excavated with pipe in position	N
4	Pre-excavation shots of turbine area	S
6	Crane-pad and hardstanding stripped to formation level	N
7	Turbine base following soil stripping	N
8	Turbine base following soil stripping	W
9	Turbine base following soil stripping	E
10	Ceramic field drain in turbine location	Above
11	Turbine base following soil stripping	NW

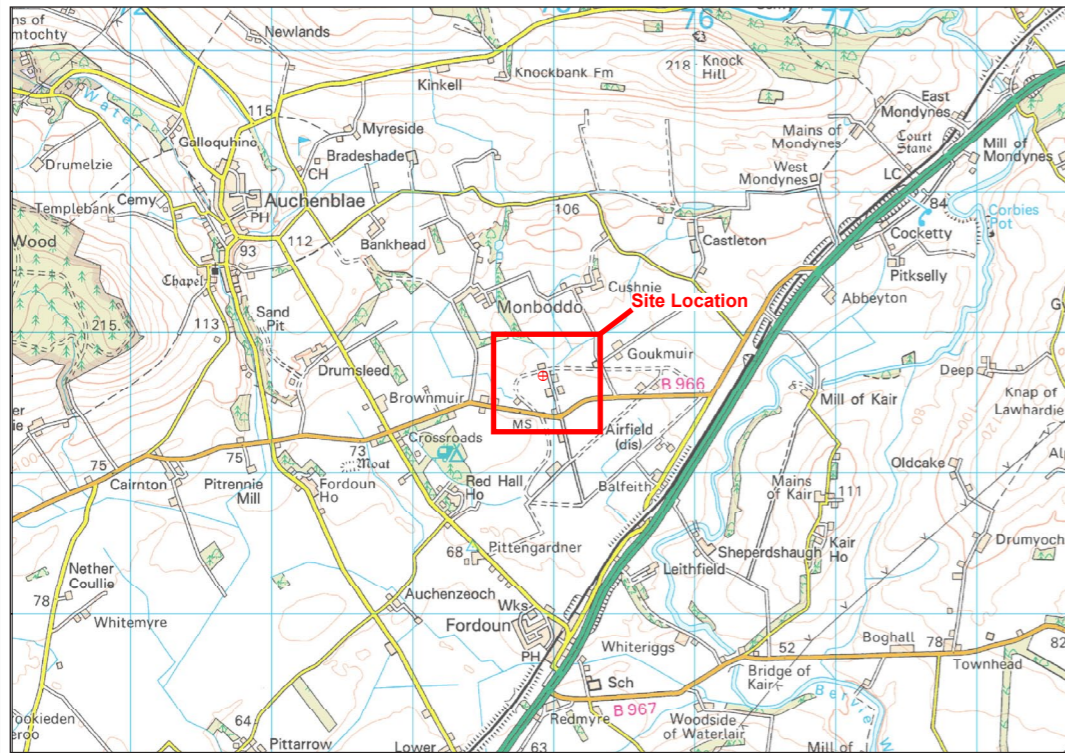
## APPENDIX 2: Context Register

No	Description
001	Reddish-brown silty-clay topsoil
002	Grey clay/sandy-clay natural and vivid red sandy-clay natural

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

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Aberdeenshire Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Fordoun Sawmill, Fordoun, Aberdeenshire
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	GREP
<b>PARISH:</b>	Fordoun
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Magnus Kirby
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NO77NE 63
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	WWII Airfield
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR</b>	NO 74926 77688
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	August 2014
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	October 2014
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching-brief was carried out during ground-works for a single wind turbine and associated infrastructure at Fordoun Sawmill. The sawmill is situated within the disused Fordoun Airfield, which was constructed during WWII as a two runway satellite to RAF Peterhead. No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were 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>	GreenPower (Fordoun) 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>	RCAHMS Aberdeenshire Council Sites and Monuments Record (Report)





- Key
- Turbine Location
  - Access
  - Temporary Compound
  - GRP Unit
  - Hardstand

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Fig. No:	1	Report:	3230
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Title  
 Location map showing area monitored

Project  
 Wind Turbine  
 Fordoun Sawmill  
 Fordoun  
 Aberdeenshire

Client  
 Green Power (Fordoun) Ltd

Scale at A3  
 1:2,500

Drawn by:	Checked by:	Date:
SW	MC	17/11/14

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Fig. 2 - Watching brief area pre-excavation.



Fig. 3 - 12m diameter turbine base excavated to natural and 20m diameter working area excavated to formation depth.



Fig. 4 - Crane pad/hardstanding excavated to formation level.



Fig 5 - Test-pit fully excavated.



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Title:	Fig. 2-4	Report: 3230	Drawn: SW	CKD: MC	Date: 17/11/14
Client:	Green Power (Fordoun) Ltd				
Project:	Wind Turbine, Fordoun Sawmill, Fordoun, Aberdeenshire				

