

CFA Archaeology Ltd

archaeological consultants

Advice on Archaeology & Planning

Environmental Impact Assessment

Interpretation, Design & Display

Finds/ Environmental Analysis

Field Evaluation & Excavation

Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

Windy Standard Wind Farm Extension, Carsphairn Forest, Dumfries & Galloway

Archaeological Watching Brief: Stage 3 Works

Report No. 3343

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Grid Ref	NS 597 029 centred

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

**Windy Standard Wind Farm Extension,
Carsphairn Forest,
Dumfries & Galloway**

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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 August 2015 during groundbreaking works associated with the extension of Windy Standard Wind Farm, near Carsphairn, Dumfries and Galloway (NGR: NS 597 029 centred) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Natural Power Consultants Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 28 May 2013 was produced by CFA and was designed to meet the requirements of the Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Service (DGCAS).

1.2 Background

The Windy Standard Wind Farm Extension is proposed as an extension to the existing Windy Standard Wind Farm. The extension has received the consent of Scottish Ministers under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (Planning document reference no. IEC 3/37).

An Environmental Statement (ES) was produced, and this report refers to site reference numbers contained in the gazetteer of the Archaeological Assessment chapter of the ES, and should be read in conjunction with that ES chapter.

DGCAS required several elements of archaeological work to be undertaken, which are described in the WSI as Phases 1a and 1b, and are outlined for reference below:

Phase 1a: Archaeological work to be conducted prior to construction:

1. Walkover Survey
2. Fencing-off Sites
3. Tool box talk

Phase 1b Archaeological monitoring during construction:

4. Archaeological Watching Brief

The walkover survey was undertaken in two stages, relating to the phases of the enabling works and construction programme:

- Stage 1: Walkover survey of the main existing access route, which required upgrading, two new sections (1 and 2) of link road, a car park, three borrow pit areas (F, H and K), and the substation and control building footprint. Reported in Gray 2014.
- Stage 2: Walkover survey of the new turbine access tracks, turbine bases/crane hardstandings, the anemometry mast, construction compounds, and remaining borrow pits. Reported in Mitchell 2015.

Six additional sites (**a-b**, drystone walls, and **c-f**, cairns), were identified during the surveys. No further work was recommended in relation to them, with the survey data

forming a sufficient record. Sites **c-f** were protected during construction activities along with previously known Sites 4, 7, 8 and 10. Sites were demarcated temporarily with canes and marking tape during the Stage 2 work prior to construction works starting, with a buffer of at least 5m.

A watching brief was required where the ground works may encounter Site 9, the recorded location of a putative Roman Road (Fig. 2) and any remains identified during any ground works which cross this location. The watching brief was not required where access tracks were built as floating roads or within areas currently or previously afforested.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the project were:

- To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area through an archaeological watching brief during ground breaking works within the vicinity of Site 9.
- To establish the vulnerability of any archaeological features to the proposed extension.
- To propose mitigation measures where appropriate to avoid, reduce or offset any predicted negative impacts on the archaeological resource.

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 Watching Brief

A watching brief was carried out during all ground-breaking works on the section of extended access track within the vicinity of Site 9 (Fig. 2). Topsoil was removed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a flat bladed ditching bucket. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Ground cover for the watching brief area consisted of rough grasses and heather, over undulating upland topography (Fig. 3).

In all areas excavated, dark brown/black silty peat topsoil **001** overlaid natural **000** (Fig. 4 & 5). Topsoil **001** was for the most part between 0.2m and 0.5m in depth, although when the excavations passed over hollows and mounds the deposit reached up to 1.2m in depth. Natural comprised mainly yellow/mid brown gravel and shattered bedrock, with occasional patches of gravelly sand and sandy clay.

No archaeological remains associated with the postulated Roman Road or otherwise were discovered throughout the course of the watching brief.

4. CONCLUSIONS

A targeted watching brief was carried by CFA Archaeology Ltd on during ground breaking works on a segment of access track at Windy Standard Wind Farm, which passed in close proximity to the putative location of a Roman Road. No archaeological remains were discovered.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the Dumfries and Galloway Council Sites and Monuments Record.

A summary statement of the results from this project will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3). An online OASIS entry will also be completed.

5. REFERENCES

Gray, H 2014 *Windy Standard Wind Farm Extension, Carsphairn Forest, Dumfries & Galloway. Archaeological Survey: Stage 1 Works*. CFA Archaeology Ltd Report No. 3161.

Mitchell, S 2015 *Windy Standard Wind Farm Extension, Carsphairn Forest, Dumfries & Galloway. Archaeological Survey: Stage 2 Works*. CFA Archaeology Ltd Report No. 3297.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

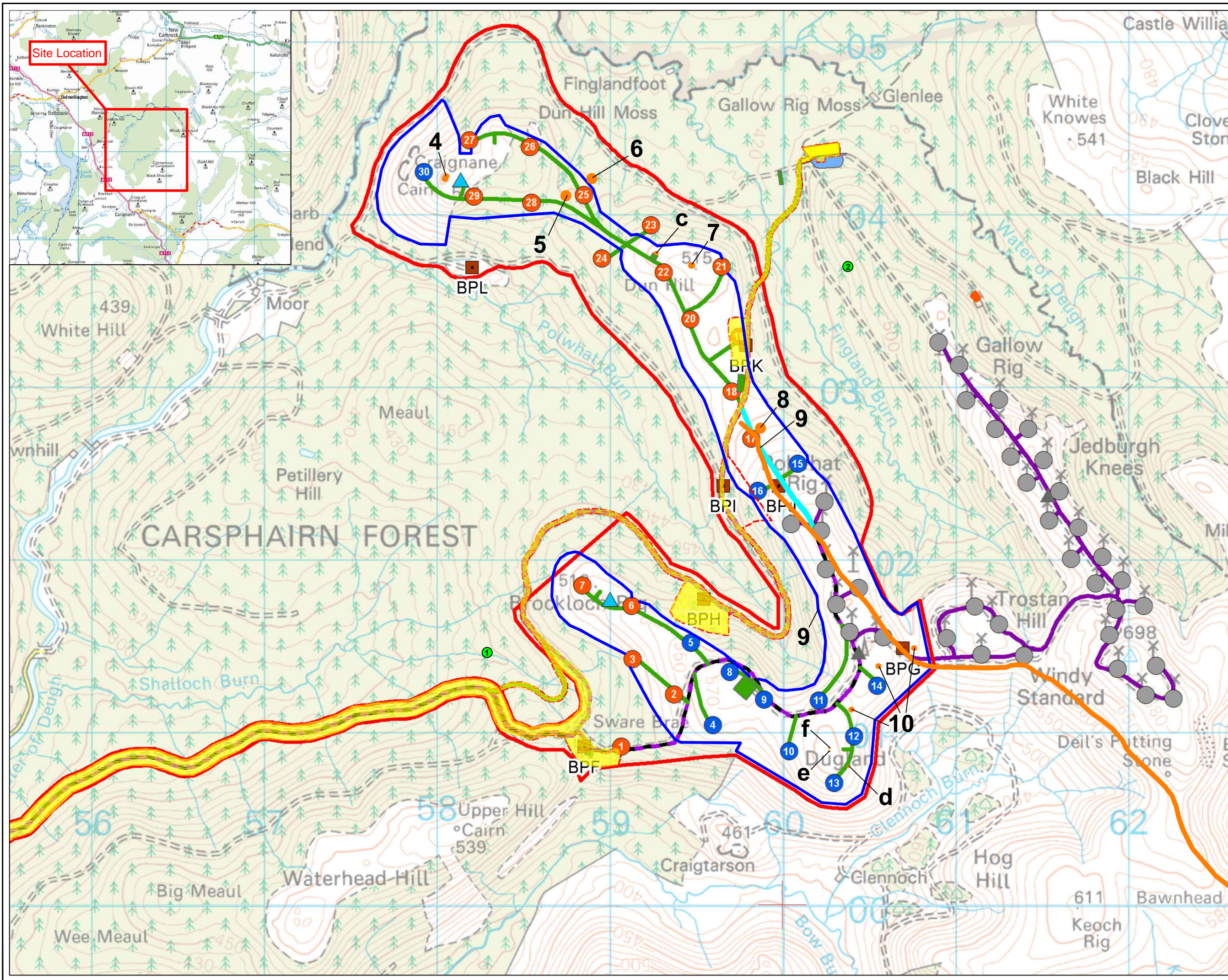
Context no.	Description
000	Topsoil - Dark brown/black silty peat
001	Natural - Mid brown/yellow gravels, bedrock and sandy clay

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Taken from	Conditions
1	Watching brief area pre-excavation, NW end	NW	Overcast
2	Watching brief area pre-excavation, NW end	NW	Overcast
3	Working shot, NW end	NW	Overcast
4	Working shot, NW end	NW	Overcast
5	Working shot, detail of natural	NW	Overcast
6	Working shot, detail of natural	NW	Overcast
7	Working shot, detail of natural	NW	Overcast
8	Working shot, detail of natural	NW	Overcast
9	Working shot, detail of natural	NW	Overcast
10	Working shot, detail of natural	NW	Overcast
11	Working shot, detail of natural	NW	Overcast
12	Working shot, detail of natural	S	Overcast
13	Postulated track (modern)	S	Overcast
14	Postulated track (modern)	SE	Overcast
15	Working shot, SE end	NW	Overcast

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries and Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Windy Standard Wind Farm Extension, Carsphairn Forest
PROJECT CODE:	WISA
PARISH:	Carsphairn
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Ewan MacNeilage
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief, walkover survey
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	-
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 597 029
START DATE (this season)	May 2014
END DATE (this season)	August 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Walkover Survey - (CFA report no. 3297)
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A programme of work consisting of walkover survey, demarcation of sites and a targeted watching brief was carried by CFA Archaeology Ltd prior to and during construction works at Windy Standard Wind Farm Extension. The watching brief monitored a section which passed in close proximity to the putative location of a Roman Road. No archaeological remains were discovered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	-
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Natural Power Consultants Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and Dumfries and Galloway Sites and Monuments Record



- Key:**
- Consented planning application boundary
 - Planning application boundary for control building compound & access track
 - Proposed turbine location (max. 100m tip height)
 - Proposed turbine location (max. 120m tip height)
 - Existing turbine location
 - ▲ Proposed anemometry mast
 - ▲ Existing anemometry mast
 - Indicative borrow pit location
 - Proposed construction compound/laydown area
 - Proposed BRW control building
 - Proposed SPEN Dunhill substation
 - Existing substation
 - Proposed area for operation centre and maintenance shed
 - Proposed new site track
 - Existing site track
 - Existing site track to be upgraded
 - Existing site track to be upgraded (transformer route)
-
- Phase 1a, Part 1 Survey Areas
 - ES Site Reference (Number relates to the gazetteer of sites in Section 8.4)
 - Stage 2 Survey Area
 - Watching Brief Area
 - Stage 2 survey sites
 - Archaeological Site

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Fig. No: 1 Report No: 3343

Title:
 Location map

Project:
 Windy Standard Wind Farm

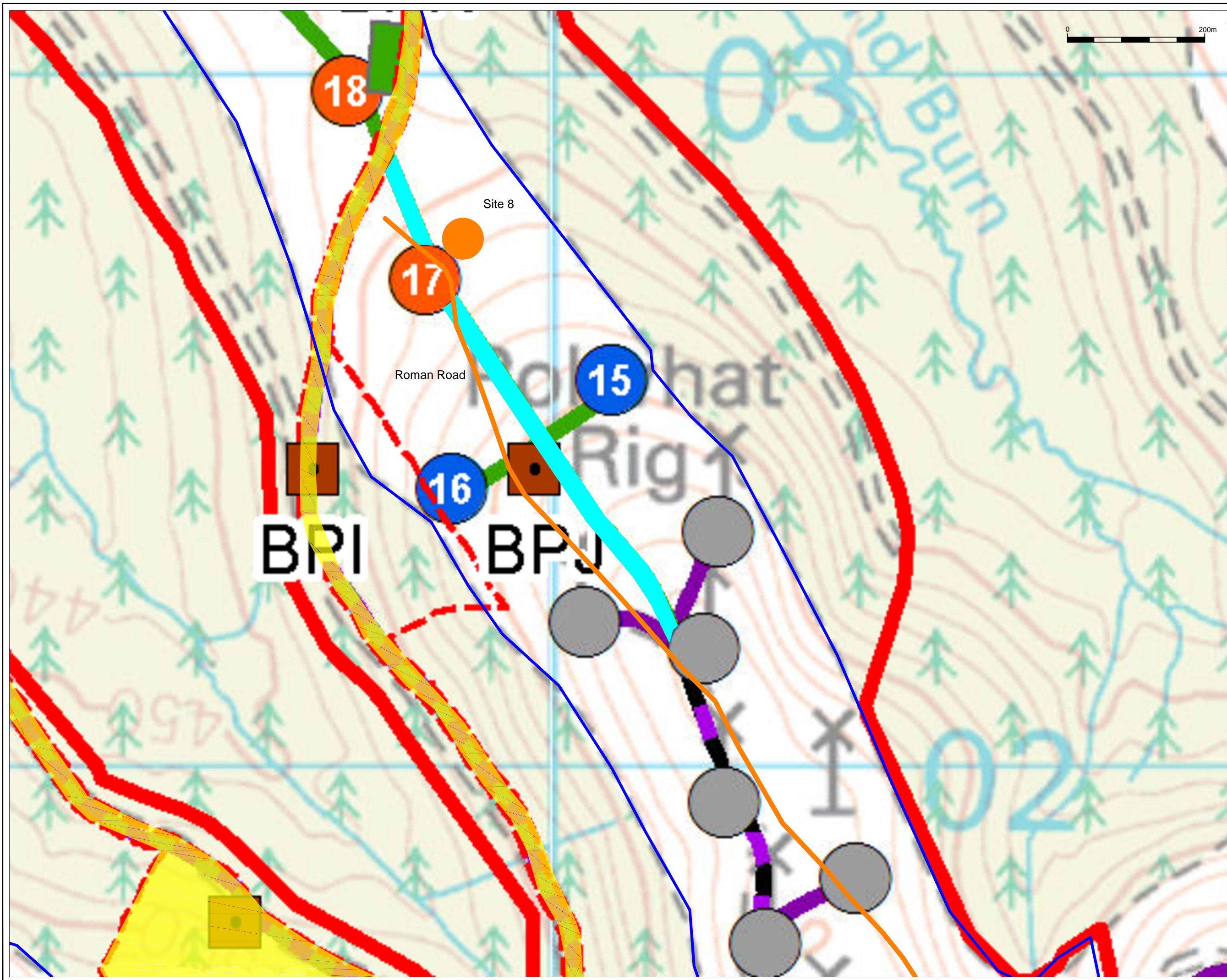
Client:
 Natural Power Consultants Ltd

Scale at A3:
 1:20,000

Drawn by: GC Checked: SW Date: 14/05/15

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Key:

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 - Planning application boundary for control building compound & access track
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 - Proposed area for operation centre and maintenance shed
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Fig. No: 2	Report No: 3343
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Title:
Detail of watching brief area

Project:
Windy Standard Wind Farm

Client:
Natural Power Consultants Ltd

Scale at A3:
1:5,000

Drawn by: SW	Checked by: SW	Date: 14/05/15
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Fig. 3 - General view of watching brief area pre-construction, showing modern track, looking SE to existing wind farm



Fig. 4 - General view of topsoil stripping between existing wind farm and turbine 17



Fig. 5 - General view of topsoil stripping between turbines 17 and 18



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Title:	Fig. 3 - 5	Report: 3343	Drawn: SW	CKD: MJ	Date: 14/10/15
Client:	Natural Power Consultants Ltd				
Project:	Windy Standard Wind Farm				