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Ewe Hill 6 Wind Farm, Langholm, Dumfries & Galloway

Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation

Report No. 3395

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
web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	Gary Savory MA and Ian Suddaby MA MCIfA
Illustrator	Shelly Werner BA MPhil PhD MCIfA
Editor	Melanie Johnson MA PhD FSA Scot MCIfA
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**Ewe Hill 6 Wind Farm, Langholm,
Dumfries & Galloway**

Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation

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CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	4
3.	Archaeological Results	5
4.	Conclusion	7
5.	References	7

Appendices

1.	Photographic Register	8
2.	Context Register	9
3.	Drawing Register	9
4.	Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry	10

Figures (bound at rear)

1.	Site location and plan
2.	Plan of stone surface (004)
3.	Linear feature (008)
4.	Plan view of the cord rig in Trench 4
5.	West-south-west-facing section of cord rig in Trench 5
6.	Plan view of cord rig in Trench 5
7.	Section through (004), Trench 3
8.	Overall view of (004)
9.	Topsoil stripping within buffer zone at SAM12666
10.	Ordnance Survey map 1899

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief and excavation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between August 2015 and October 2015 at Ewe Hill Wind Farm, Dumfries & Galloway (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Scottish Power Renewables (UK) Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for this programme of works was produced by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA). The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeology Service (DGCAS), in order to fulfil the requirements of planning condition 20 relating to archaeological mitigation works.

The report contains reference numbers which refer to gazetteer entries in the Environmental Statement (ES) for the wind farm. This should be read in conjunction with that report.

1.2 Background

Planning permission (reference 09/P/4/0400) was granted for the construction of 6 turbines and associated infrastructure at Ewe Hill Wind Farm, located 0.9km to the west of Langholm, Dumfries and Galloway (NGR: NY 2680 8527). The planning permission was subject to an archaeological condition requiring demarcation of known sites within the development area and a targeted watching brief during the excavation of access tracks and associated infrastructure.

The development site is almost entirely used for rough pasture, with a few small areas of woodland. The site is bounded on the south by the B7068 and on the north by commercial forestry. On the lower slopes of the development area large fields of rough grazing give way to smaller, hedge-enclosed fields.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the Phase 1 programme of works were:

- **Demarcation of sites.** Seven sites (MDG11130, MDG11118, MDG21090, MDG11154, MDG7538, MDG11750 and MDG7556) were demarcated with a 50m buffer zone around their recorded extents, to protect them from accidental damage during construction activities.
- **Archaeological Watching Brief.** A targeted watching brief maintained during all ground breaking works in areas where any elements of the development intersect with the identified buffer zones around cultural heritage sites
- **Toolbox talk.** A toolbox talk, prepared by a senior archaeologist, was issued to all site personnel who were working within the vicinity of all demarcated sites

Following on from discoveries made during the watching brief, additional excavation work was conducted as Phase 2 following agreement with DGCAS, to excavate and record the features revealed within the stripped area to a sufficient level to elucidate their likely function, date and character.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance as appropriate. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods.

2.2 Demarcation

The following sites (Fig. 1) were demarcated prior to the commencement of works:

- Crawthat Cottage (MDG 7556/formerly SAM 652)
- Black Brae (MDG 11130)
- Kirtle Nick (MDG 11118)
- Mid Hill (MDG 21090)
- Mid Hill (MDG 11154)
- Mid Hill (MDG 7538/SAM 12666)
- Mid Hill (MDG 11750)

The 50m buffer round these sites was marked out by the Developer using durable, highly visible barrier fencing and wooden stakes under archaeological supervision. The fencing remained in place for the duration of all construction works.

2.3 Watching Brief and Excavation

A Watching Brief was carried out where the ground works intersected with the buffer zones delineated around the known cultural heritage sites (see Fig. 1). The watching brief was not required where the access tracks were floated roads.

The removal of topsoil was carried out using a tracked excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Any further work required to fulfil the terms of the brief were carried out by hand.

Due to the presence of archaeological remains identified during the watching brief, an excavation was carried out on the uncovered features.

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 recording forms.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

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

3.1 Watching brief

A watching brief was carried out at the following locations, where wind farm infrastructure intersected with the 50m buffer around known archaeological sites.

- Crawthat Cottage (MDG7556/formerly SAM 652), a ploughed-out enclosed settlement
- Black Brae (MDG11130), an area of narrow rig cultivation
- Kirtle Nick (MDG11118), a group of five sub-rectangular enclosures
- Mid Hill (MDG7538/SAM12666), an upstanding enclosed settlement

The wind farm road was built as a floating construction at the following locations and therefore a watching brief was not undertaken:

- Mid Hill (MDG21090), an area of military mortar-shell craters
- Mid Hill (MDG11750), an area of narrow rig cultivation

The watching brief at MDG11154 (Mid Hill an area of narrow rig cultivation) did not take place.

None of the known extents of the archaeological sites were directly impacted upon by construction works.

Across the watching brief area the natural subsoil varied throughout but generally consisted of a mid-brown silty topsoil (**001**) overlying light brown to light grey sandy or silty clays (**003**).

A stone surface was located during topsoil stripping for the access road cutting across the buffer zone around site MDG7556; the results of the subsequent excavation are reported in section 3.2 below.

No other archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were recorded during the watching brief.

3.2 Excavated features at MDG7556

The location of the excavation area is shown on Fig. 1 and a full plan of the excavated features is shown on Fig. 2. A number of sondages (Trenches 1-6 on Fig. 2) were excavated through the stone surface and associated cord rig to establish the construction and stratigraphy of the features.

This programme of works led to the identification of an irregular and uneven stone paved surface (**004**) within a matrix of topsoil mixed with flecks and lumps of orangey subsoil (**002**). The surface was covered by topsoil (**002**) and lay directly on natural subsoil (**003**) (Fig. 7).

The sub-rectangular feature measured approximately 22m east to west and 12m transversely and was comprised of sub-angular and rounded stones (Fig. 2, 8). The surface was far more complete on the western half and petered out towards the eastern end.

A linear feature (**008**), aligned north-north-east by south-south-west before turning north-east by south-west, had been cut through the stone surface (**004**) and was backfilled with stones (Fig. 3). This probably functioned as a drainage channel or a stone-filled drain.

The only finds were a shard of modern glass and ceramics from **002**. These were not retained.

The vestigial remains of possible cord rig (**012** and **016**) were identified after removal of the stone surface (**004**). In Trench 4, a suite of four furrows (**012**) had an approximate wavelength of 0.6m and they remained to a depth of 0.1m (Fig. 4). The fills (**013**) were dark brown silty clay. A second suite of three furrows (**016**) was identified in Trench 5 (Fig. 5 & 6). These had an approximate wavelength of 0.8m and survived to a depth of c.0.15m.

The removal of the remaining parts of the stone surface was monitored through a watching brief. No further features or deposits were recorded beneath the surface.

3.3 Discussion

The remains consist of an irregular and uneven stone paved surface, which was later than underlying cord rig; only modern pottery was recovered from deposits associated with the surface, and it seems likely that the feature is post-medieval in date.

The possible cord rig identified within Trenches 4 and 5 occurs in a number of other locations within the wind farm. For example, cord rig has been identified at sites SMR No. MDG11154, MDG11130 and MDG11750, which are all within a 3.5km radius (see Fig 1 for site locations).

The Ordnance Survey map (1899) depicts some type of built structure and associated walls located in close proximity to the stone spread (Fig. 10). Therefore, it is possible that the stone surface represents the relict remains of some kind of agricultural feature or perhaps relates to operations within the adjacent forestry.

The excavated features lie to the north of the enclosed settlement known as Crawthat Cottage (NMRS no. NY28SW 7), which was de-scheduled in 1997. The monument was an oval settlement defined by two concentric banks and a medial ditch, situated on a small plateau. It was levelled and ploughed out in the 1970s and there is now no surface evidence for the monument. It is unlikely that the stone surface is directly related to the former enclosed settlement.

4. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief followed by an excavation was carried out during groundbreaking works associated with the construction of Ewe Hill Wind Farm. A stone surface and cord rig were identified and subject to archaeological excavation.

CFA Archaeology recommends that no further work is required, however it is understood that the final decision rests solely with the planning authority as advised by DGCAS.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with Historic Environment Scotland and copies of reports will be lodged with the Dumfries and Galloway Council Historic Environment Record.

A summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 4). The online *OASIS* forms will be completed. This is considered sufficient to disseminate the results of this work.

5. REFERENCES

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey 1899 Dumfriesshire 044.14, 25-inch to the mile.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Taken from	Conditions
1-8	Area around site MDG 7556	Various	Overcast
9-16	Start of topsoil strip around site MDG 7556	Various	Sunny
17-22	Paved area and cord rig in plan	Various	Overcast
23	Working shot, cut off ditch	E	Overcast
24-26	Silt trap, general view and section	W	Overcast
27	End of Watching Brief (WB) area east of MDG 7556	E	Overcast
28-29	Silt trap completed	SE	Overcast
30	General view of area	E	Overcast
31	Knoll, possible area of extra WB		Overcast
32	Paving cleaned at end of 13/8/15	E	Sunny
33	Paving cleaned at end of 13/8/15	W	Sunny
34-35	Paving, first strip exposed	W	Sunny
36-42	Paving, first strip exposed W->E	S	Sunny
43-44	Paving, first strip exposed W->E	E	Sunny
45	Paving-stone alignment near E end	NW	Sunny
46-47	Paving at W end, two curving kerbs. The western one seems to cut by the stone alignment	SW	Sunny
48-49	Paving, second strip. West end cleaned	W	Bright
50-51	Paving, second strip. West end cleaned	NNE	Bright
52-53	Paving, second strip. West end cleaned	S	Bright
54	Paving, second strip. Stone alignment cutting main area of stones	S	Bright
55-56	Trench 1, stone alignment 005 and 006, south-facing section	S	Overcast
57	Trench 3, NW-facing section with stones 004 and soil 002	NW	Overcast
58	Trench 3, SE-facing section with stones 004 and soil 002	SE	Overcast
59	Trench 3, general view	NE	Overcast
60	Trench 2, general view	W	Overcast
61-62	Trench 2, stones 008-009, plan view	S	Overcast
63-64	Trench 2, stones 008-009	S & SE	Overcast
65-67	Paving, second strip, 8-16m	S	Bright
68-70	Paving, second strip, 8-16m	SW	Bight
71-72	Trench 4, NW end showing linear scores 012-013	SSW & SW	Overcast
73-76	Third strip, good paving 004 at SW corner of site and continuation of drain 008-009	SW	Overcast
77	Trench 4, NW end with linear scores 012-013	W	Overcast
78-79	Trench 4 SE and NW ends plan views	SW	Overcast
80-81	Trench 4, NW and SE end section views	SW	Overcast
82-83	Third strip, good paving 004 at SW corner of site and continuation of drain 008-009	S	Overcast
84-86	WB during paving 004, 007, soil 002 removed from strip 1-2	Various	Overcast
87-88	Third strip, good paving 004 at SW corner of site and continuation of drain 008-009	SSW	Overcast
89-90	Third strip, good paving 004 at SW corner of site and continuation of drain 008-009	NW	Overcast
91	Working shot		Overcast
92-93	Linear negative features in Trench 5, pre-ex	SW	Overcast
94	Detail of stones		Overcast
95	Detail of stones		Overcast
96-97	Trench 5, linear scores/furrows 016-017, sections	SW	Overcast
98-100	Trench 5, linear scores/furrows 016-017, detail of sections	SW	Overcast
101-103	Trench 5, general shots of scores/furrows	S	Overcast
104-105	Trench 6, general view post-ex	NW	Overcast
106-107	Trench 6, area shot	NW	Overcast
108-109	Views of the access road	E & W	Wet

Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Taken from	Conditions
110-111	Trench 6, SE end showing possible stone alignment (006)	NE	Bright
112-113	General site views of the quarry	S	Wet
114-115	Trench 6, SW-facing section	SW	Wet
116-117	Trench 6, general view	SW	Wet
118	Site, post-ex 3rd strip	SE	Wet
119-122	WB during paving 004, 007, soil 002 removed from strip 3	E & W	Wet
123	Marked off area at MDG11130	NW	Overcast
124-127	Stripped area showing natural at MDG11130	NW	Overcast
128-130	Possible tree bole	Various	Overcast
131	Stripped area at MDG11130	S	Overcast
132-134	Working shots	N	Overcast
135	Stripped area at MDG11130	S	Overcast
136	Stripped area at MDG11130	SW	Overcast
137	Area of floating road at MDG11750	E	Sun
138	Stripped area towards turbine B5	NE	Sun
139	Working shot	NE	Sun
140-146	Views of SAM12666	Various	Overcast
147	Stripped area at turbine B5 adjacent to SAM12666	SW	Overcast

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context no.	Fill of	Trench	Description
001			Topsoil
002			Topsoil with flecks and lumps of orange subsoil
003			Natural subsoil
004			Irregular and uneven paving
005		1	Probable cut containing 006
006		1	Alignment of four stones on edge
007			Scattered stones especially to east of site
008		2	Cut through paving 004 filled with 009
009	008	2	Stone drain? Fill
010		2	Cut for clay pipe field drain
011		2	Circular clay pipe and mixed fill
012		4	4 x linear cuts aligned NE-SW
013	012	4	Brown/grey silty clay fill of linear features
014		4	Cut of modern field drain
015		4	Mixed fill of field drain
016		5	3 x cut of linear furrows
017	016	5	Mottled orangey/grey silty clay fill of linear features
018			Cut

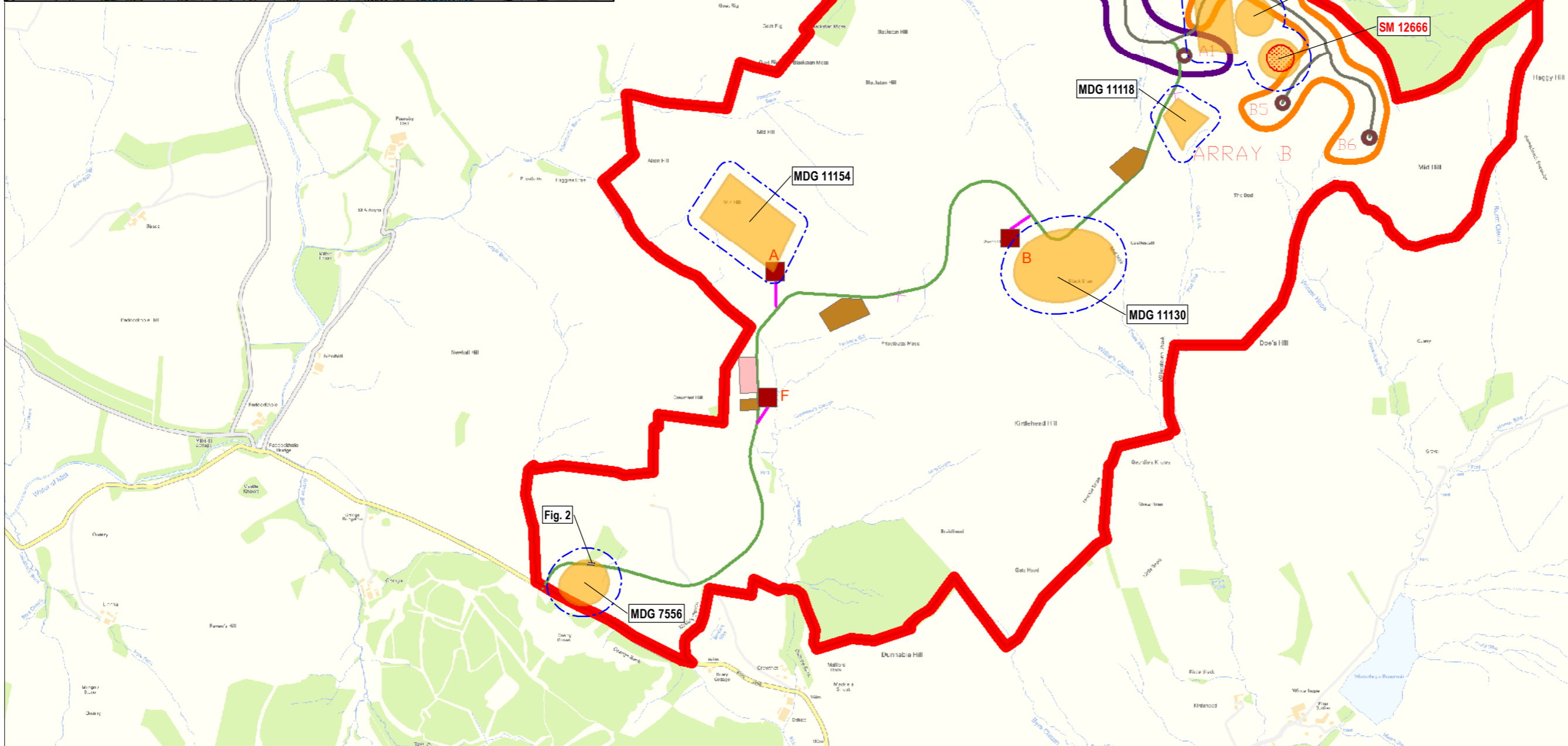
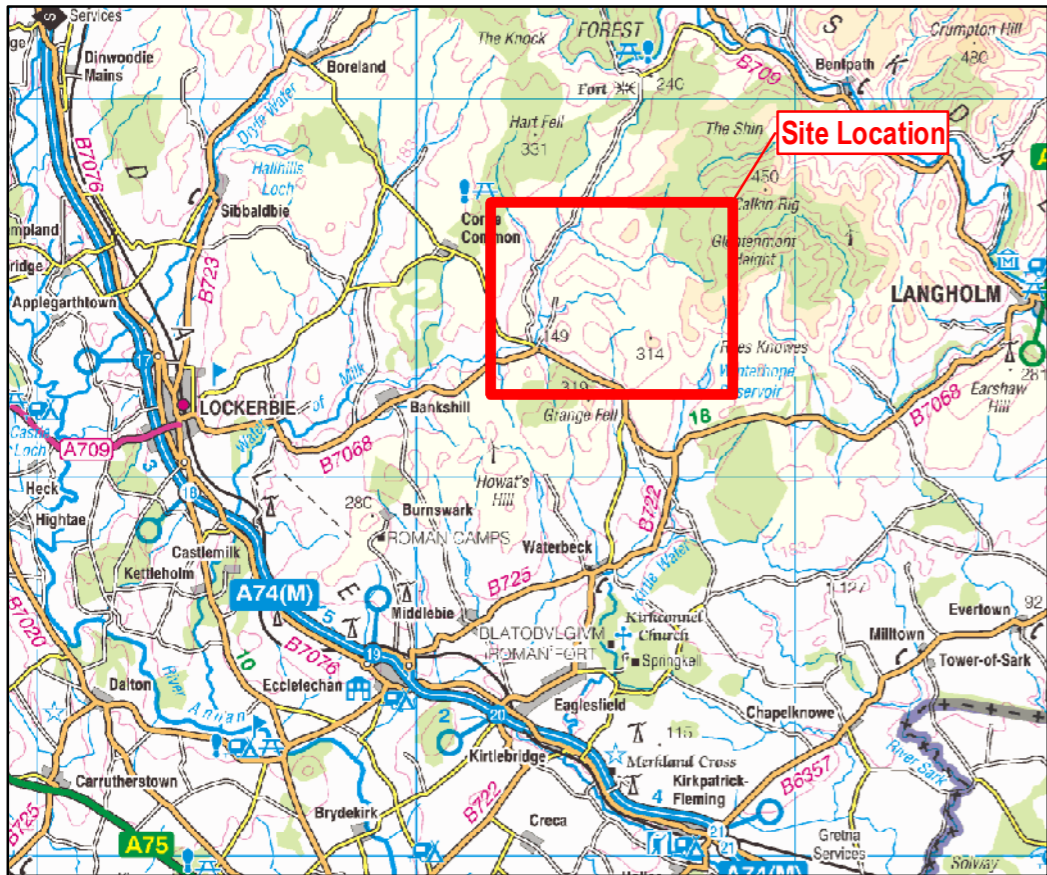
APPENDIX 3: Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Scale	Plan / Section	Description/contexts
1	1 & 2	1:40	Plan	Site plan
2	3	1:10	Section	Trench 1, south-west-facing section
3	3	1:20	Plan	Trench 2, plan of stone-filled cut 009 and fill 010
4	3	1:20	Section	Trench 3, north-west-facing section
5	3	1:20	Section	Trench 2, south-facing section
6	4	1:20	Plan	Plan of Trench 4
7	4	1:20	Section	Trench 4, south-south-west-facing section

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Scale	Plan / Section	Description/contexts
8	4	1:20	Plan	Trench 5 plan
9	4	1:20	Section	Trench 5, west-south-west-facing section
10	5	1:10	Section	Trench 6, south-west-facing section
11	5	1:20	Plan	Trench 6, post-ex plan

APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries and Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Ewe Hill 6 Wind Farm, Dumfries and Galloway: Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation.
PROJECT CODE:	EWIF
PARISH:	Tundergarth
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Gary Savory
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NY 2680 8527 (centred)
START DATE (this season)	August 2015
END DATE (this season)	October 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief followed by an excavation was carried out at Ewe Hill Wind Farm, Dumfries and Galloway. A stone surface, measuring 22m by 12m was identified. The stone spread was overlying the vestigial remains of cord rig. Only modern finds were recovered and there was no other indication of the function of the stone surface. However, the cartographic evidence (Ordnance Survey 1899) indicates that there was a possible structure within the immediate vicinity and it may have formed part of this.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scottish Power Renewable (UK) 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)	HES and Dumfries and Galloway Council Historic Environment Record.



Key:

- Site Boundary
- Turbine Locations
- BP Access
- Array Access Tracks
- General Access Road
- Substation Compound
- Temporary Construction Compound / Laydown Area
- Borrow Pits
- Met Mast
- CCTV Location
- × NGT Gas Pipeline Crossing
- 50m Buffer
- Areas of Archaeological Interest
- Scheduled Monument

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CFA
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
The Old Engine House
Eskmills Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
T: 0131 273 4380
F: 0131 273 4381
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Title:
Site location and plan

Project:
**Ewe Hill 6 Wind Farm,
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Archaeological Watching Brief and
Excavation**





Client:
**Scottish Power
Renewables (UK) Ltd.**

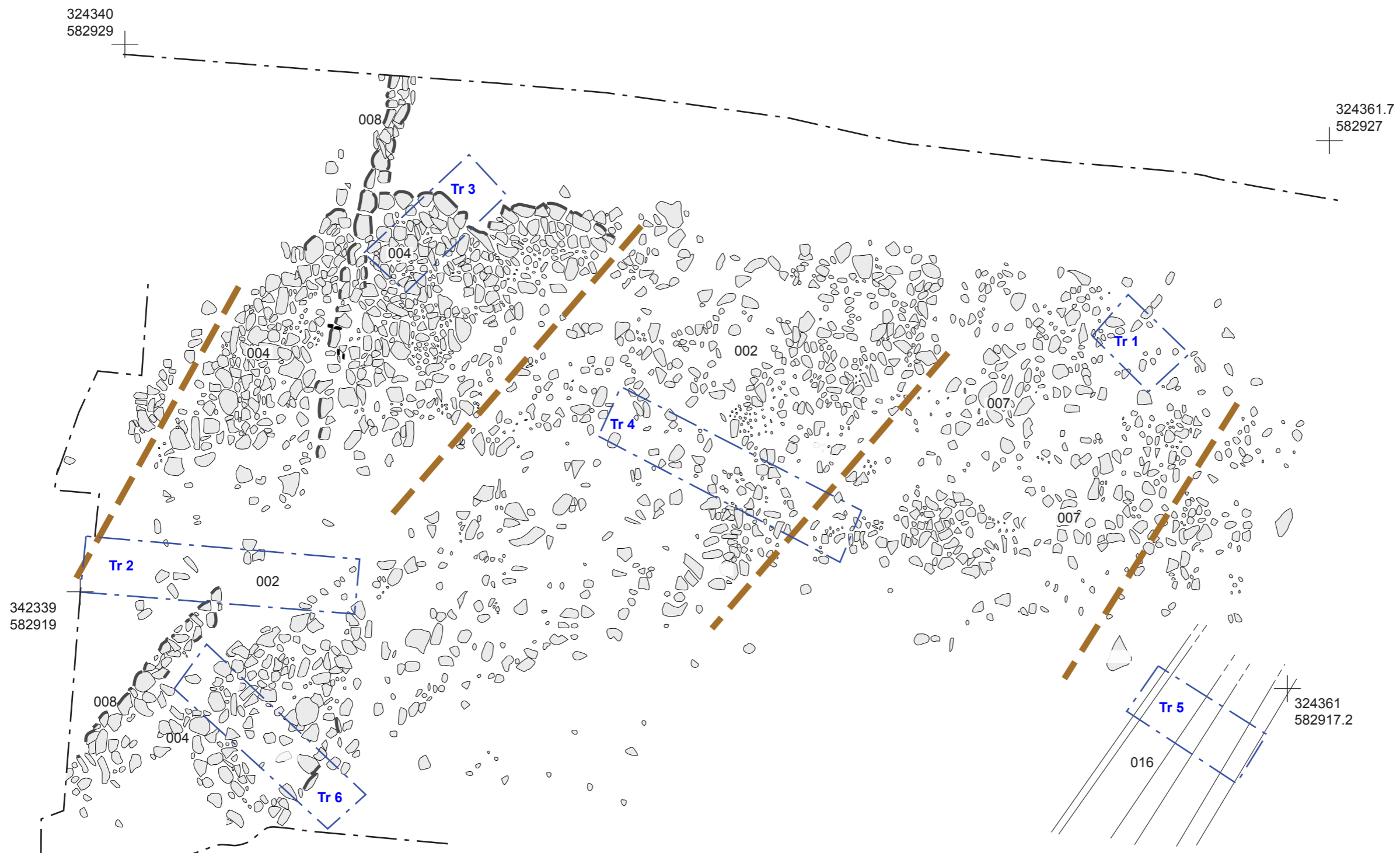
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Report No: 3395	Fig. No: 1
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Key:

-  Limit of excavation
-  Trench location
-  Stone
-  Field drain




CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
 The Old Engine House
 Eskmills Park
 Musselburgh
 East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
 T: 0131 273 4380
 F: 0131 273 4381
 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Title:
Plan of stone surface (004)

Project:
**Ewe Hill 6 Wind Farm,
 Dumfries & Galloway:
 Archaeological Watching Brief and
 Excavation.**

Client:
**Scottish Power Renewables (UK)
 Ltd.**

Scale at A3:
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Report No: 3395	Fig. No: 2
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Fig. 3: Linear feature (008).



Fig. 4: Plan view of the cord rig in Trench 4.



Fig. 5: West-south-west-facing section of cord rig in Trench 5

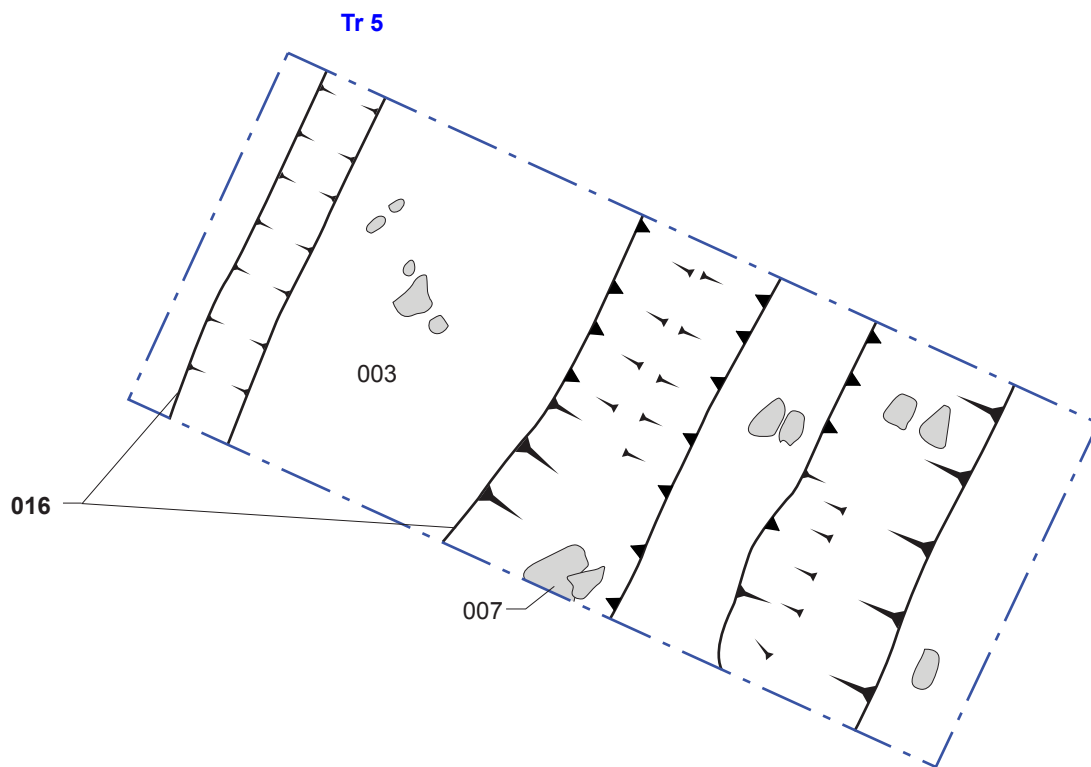
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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
The Old Engine House
Eskmills Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
T: 0131 273 4380
F: 0131 273 4381
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

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Report No: 3395		Fig. No: 3 - 5



 Trench location
 Stone



Title:
Plan view of cord rig

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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
 The Old Engine House
 Eskmills Park
 Musselburgh
 East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
 T: 0131 273 4380
 F: 0131 273 4381
 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

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16/02/16

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Fig. No:
6



Fig. 7: Section through (004), Trench 3.



Fig. 8: Overall view of (004).



Fig. 9: Topsoil stripping within buffer zone at SAM12666

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The Old Engine House
Eskmills Park
Musselburgh
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T: 0131 273 4380
F: 0131 273 4381
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

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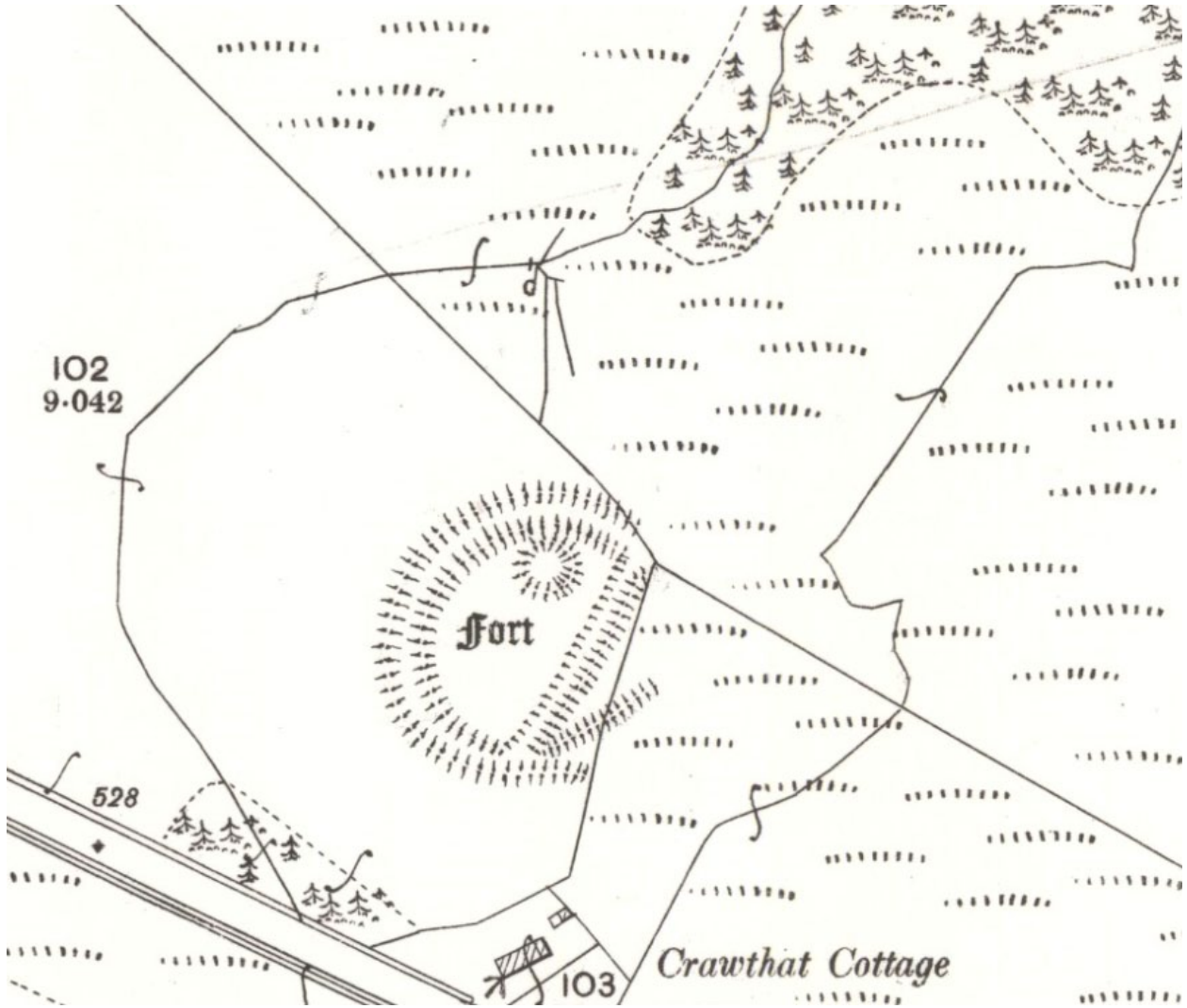
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Report No:
3395

Fig. No:
7-9



Title:
Ordnance Survey 1899 map

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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
The Old Engine House
Eskmills Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
T: 0131 273 4380
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Fig. No:
10