

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

**Cour Windfarm,
North Kintyre, Argyll & Bute**

Updated Survey

Report No. 3202

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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 a programme of archaeological survey carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) at Cour Windfarm, North Kintyre, Argyll & Bute (Fig. 1). The work was carried out in November 2014 and was commissioned by SSE Renewable Developments (UK) Ltd.

1.2 Background

Planning permission has been granted for the construction of ten wind turbines and associated infrastructure at Cour Windfarm located approximately 19km south-west of Tarbert in north Kintyre, Argyll and Bute (Fig 1). The windfarm site is surrounded by commercial forestry and centred on Beinn Bhreac at 244m AOD.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared for SSE Renewables Ltd by CFA Archaeology Ltd, dated 28 August 2014, and agreed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), archaeological advisors to Argyll & Bute Council. The WSI was designed to satisfy Planning Consent Condition 24 and commitments made within the Cour Wind Farm ES and ES Addendum.

The WSI contains reference numbers, which refer to gazetteer entries in the Cultural Heritage chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) for the windfarm (see also Fig. 1).

A pre-construction survey was required to identify and survey the extent of two archaeological sites.

- A group of shieling huts (Site 4) was partially identified during the initial field survey; the site was covered in dense bracken and high grass at the time of the survey. The potential for other elements of Site 4 to survive could not be ruled prior to a pre-construction survey. Field survey was to take place when vegetation cover has died back.
- Two shieling huts (Site 31) are recorded where the proposed access track enters the windfarm. As these shieling huts could not be located at the time of the ES survey due to the presence of forestry, pre-construction survey was required to identify these after felling.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of this phase of works were:

- To conduct pre-construction surveys to locate the presence and extent of known features currently masked by forest and vegetation (Sites 4 and 31).
- To inform the avoidance demarcation/avoidance strategy to be employed at these locations once their full extent has been established.

2. WORKING METHODS

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

2.1 Survey

The sites were to be located by GPS and a photographic record was made of the surviving remains. All photographs contained a metric scale. A digital plan was produced of their full extent.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

A group of shieling huts located near Turbine 5 (Site 4) was partially identified during the initial field survey for the ES; the site was covered in dense bracken and high grass at the time of the survey. The potential for other elements of Site 4 to survive could not be ruled out until a pre-construction survey had been completed. Field survey took place once vegetation cover had died back.

Site 31 was surveyed once the site had been clear-felled, as these shieling huts, recorded on Ordnance Survey maps, could not be located at the time of the ES survey due to the presence of forestry.

3.1 Site 4: Existing survey

On the southern slopes of Beinn Bhreac lie the remains of at least ten shielings, each defined by a turf and stone bank.

Site no.	Grid Reference	Description
4.1	179129 646992	A rectangular shieling 5m by 2.5m externally with turf-covered stone banks 0.4m high and 0.5m wide.
4.2	179119 646946	A sub-circular shieling 3m in diameter (externally) with turf-covered stone banks 0.2m high and 0.4m wide.
4.3	179150 646922	Two conjoined shielings, built into the hillside, defined by turf-covered banks. One measures 5m by 3m externally with walls 0.4m high spread to 0.7m wide, and the other is 5m by 4m externally with walls 0.7m high spread to 0.8m wide.
4.4	179128 646882	A sub-square shieling 4m by 3m externally with turf-covered stone banks 0.3m high and 0.7m wide.
4.5	179115 646885	A turf-covered rectangular shieling 6m by 4m externally with stone and turf banks 0.4m high and 0.6m wide. There was a possible entrance on the east side.
4.6	179114 646870	A denuded rectangular shieling 5m by 3m externally with turf-covered stone banks 0.2m high and 0.6m wide.
4.7	179092 646862	A sub-rectangular shieling, 5m by 3m externally with

		turf-covered stone banks 0.6m high and 0.7m wide.
4.8	179139 646855	A denuded turf-covered square shieling 3m by 3m externally with turf covered stone banks 0.6m high and 0.7m wide.
4.9	179122 646846	A square shieling 5m by 5m externally with turf-covered stone banks 0.5m high and 0.6m wide.

3.2 Site 4: additional survey

Additional survey of site 4 identified a further eight shielings, each defined by a turf and stone bank.

Site no.	Grid Reference	Description
4a	179110 646846	A sub-rectangular shieling, 6m by 4m externally with turf covered stone banks 0.8m high and 0.7m wide.
4b	179101 646877	A sub-rectangular shieling, 5m by 4m externally with turf covered stone banks 0.4-0.7m high.
4c	179076 646837	A sub-rectangular shieling, 5m by 3m externally with turf covered stone banks 0.5m high.
4d	179063 646837	A sub-circular shieling hut, 4.5m by 4m externally with turf covered stone banks 0.4m high.
4e	179079 646819	A possible sub-circular shieling hut, 3.5m by 7.5m externally with a turf covered stone bank 0.5m wide, located on top of a small mound.
4f	179052 646782	A sub-circular shieling hut 5m by 4m externally, with a turf covered bank 0.6m high.
4g	179048 646798	A sub-circular shieling hut 8.5m by 4.5m externally with a turf covered stone banks 0.2m wide, located on a small mound.
4h	179053 646760	A sub-circular shieling hut 2m by 2.5m externally with a turf covered stone bank 0.3m high.

3.3 Site 31

The location of Site 31 was visited once the access corridor had been clear-felled. No trace of the shieling huts was identified at the location shown on the early Ordnance Survey mapping. However, it is possible that the shieling huts may still survive within the forestry adjacent to the access corridor.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Additional survey work has been carried out at two locations previously identified during the initial field survey. The additional work identified further shieling huts at site 4 and noted that there are no visible traces of site 31 within the access corridor.

The results of the additional survey require no further mitigation than that already provided within the Environmental statement.

The project archive, comprising all CFA digital data, record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with RCAHMS and copies of reports will be lodged with the Argyll & Bute Council Historic Environment Record.

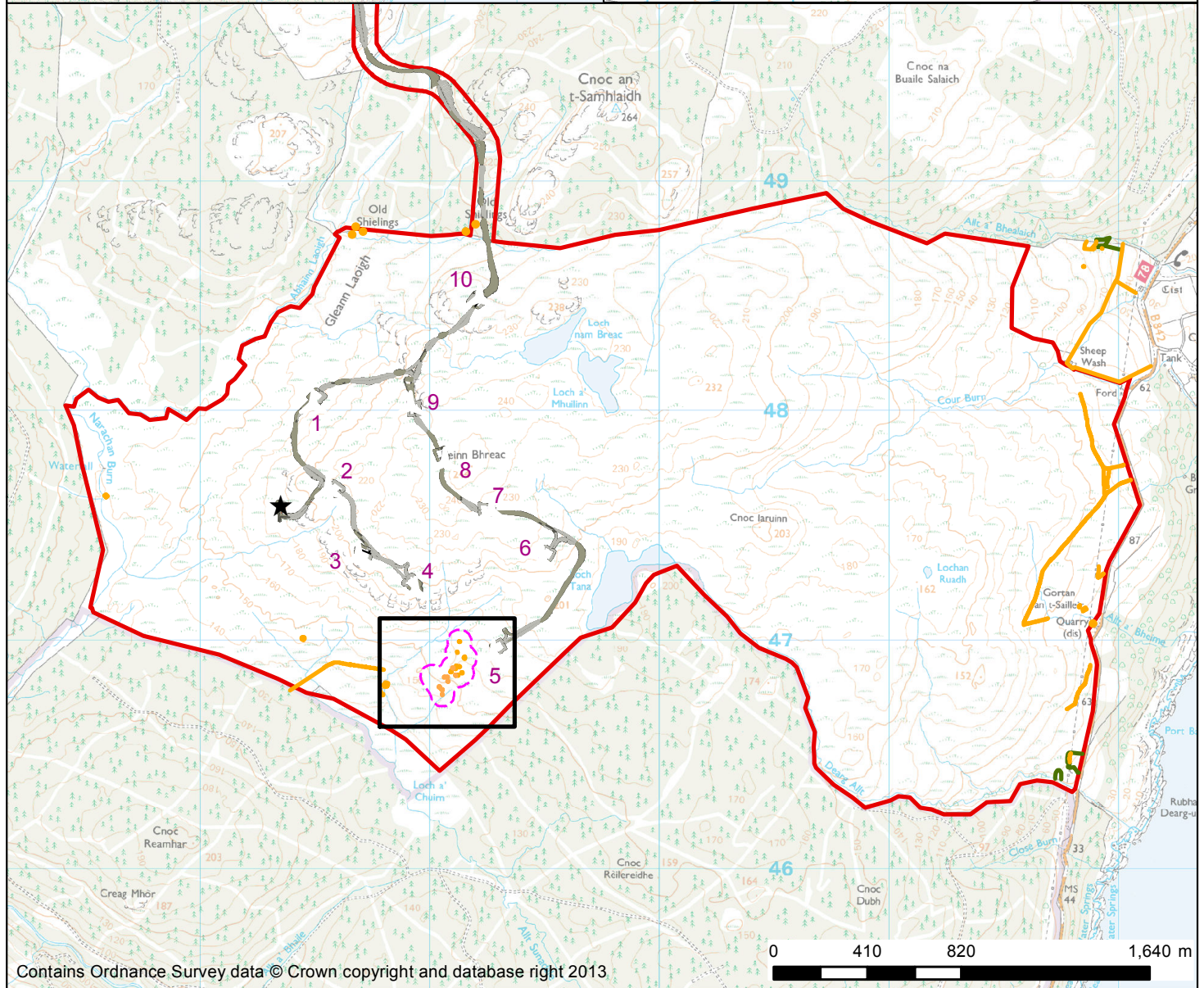
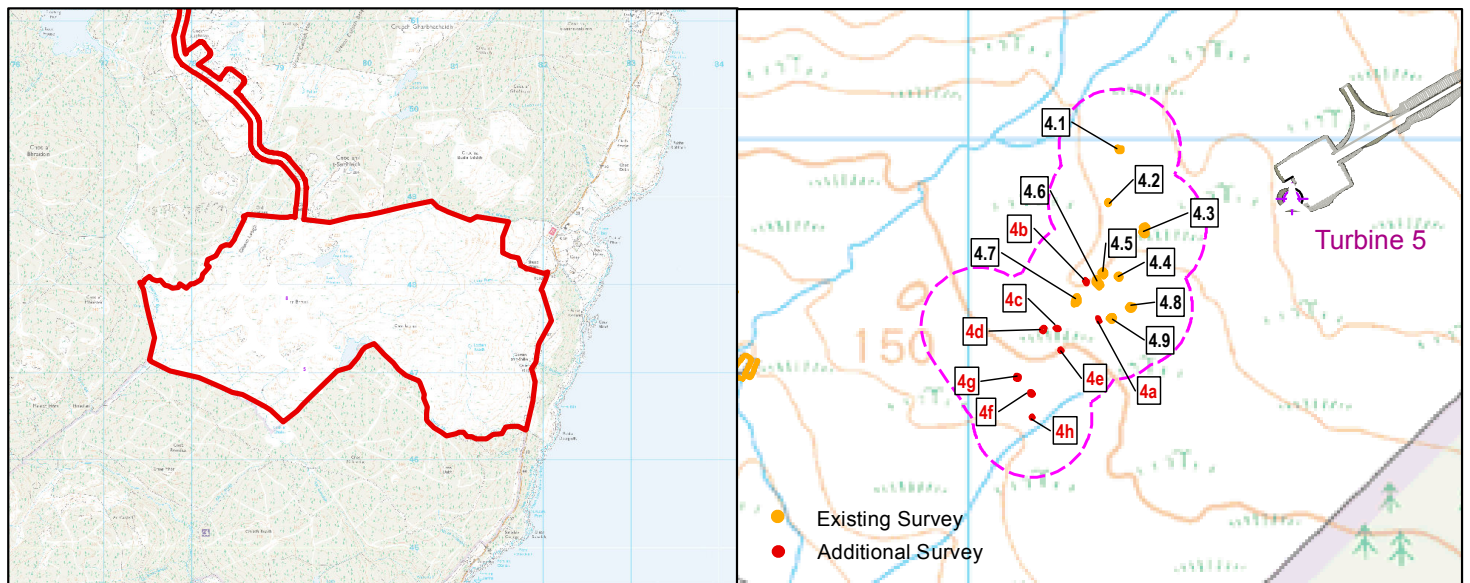
The project will be reported through the online OASIS portal and a summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* following the completion of all on site works.

5. REFERENCES

Chapter 9 'Cultural Heritage'. *Cour Windfarm Environmental Statement*.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Shot No.	Summary description	Taken from	Conditions
1	Conjoined shieling. Site 4.3	NW	Bright
2	Conjoined shieling. Site 4.3	NW	Bright
3	Shieling. Site 4.2	NE	Bright
4	Shieling. Site 4.1	NE	Bright
5	Shieling. Site 4.7	WNW	Bright
6	Shieling. Site 4.9	W	Bright
7	Shieling. Site 4.4	NE	Bright
8	Shieling. Site 4.6	NW	Bright
9	Shieling. Site 4.5	NW	Bright
10	Shieling. Site 4.8	NW	Bright
11	Shieling. Site 4a	W	Bright
12	Shieling. Site 4b	NW	Bright
13	Shieling. Site 4c	NW	Bright
14	Shieling. Site 4d	NE	Bright
15	Shieling. Site 4e	NW	Bright
16	Shieling. Site 4f	NE	Bright
17	Shieling. Site 4g	N	Bright
18	Shieling. Site 4h	S	Bright
19	General view of shieling group location	N	Bright
20	Location of Site 31	NE	Bright
21	Deforestation near Site 31	SE	Bright
22	Deforestation near Site 31	E	Bright



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- Key:**
- Site Boundary
 - - - 50m Buffer
 - Turbine Location
 - Access Tracks
 - Cultural Heritage



Fig. 1 Report: 3202 Drawn: LW CKD: MJ Date: 09/01/2015 Scale at A4: 1:27,000

Client: **SSE Renewables Ltd**
 Title: **Location Map showing inset of Site 4**

Project: **Cour Windfarm, North Kintyre**

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Fig. 2 - Example of shieling from original survey, Site 4.4



Fig. 3 - Example of shieling from current survey, Site 4h



Fig. 4 - Forestry cover at the location of Site 31



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Title: Images	Fig. 2-4	Report: 3202	Drawn: LW	CKD: MJ	Date: 23/12/14
	Client: SSE Renewables Ltd				
Project: Cour Windfarm, North Kintyre					