

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Advice on Archaeology & Planning*

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## **New Cumnock – Margree 132kV Cable Route**

### **Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. 3575**

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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 watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in June 2017 during construction of the New Cumnock – Margree Cable Route (NGR: NX 59113 89393 – NX 59765 89245) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by RJ McLeod (Contractors) Ltd.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), dated July 2016, was produced by RSK Environment Ltd on behalf of Ibedrola Engineering and Construction.

## **1.2 Background**

This section of underground cable forms part of a much larger project (the South West Scotland Project) developing a connection between substations at Blackcraig and Margree, from the east of Dalshangan House (NX 59113 89393) to Corriedoo forest (NX 68906 83561), with an overall length of 12.6km, comprising a buried cable running for a length of about 700m at Dalshangan and a new woodpole mounted overhead line for the remainder of the route. The works are necessary as there is currently no grid infrastructure with sufficient capacity to allow nearby wind farms to connect to the National Grid.

An archaeological assessment was undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which identified sites and features of cultural heritage interest along the route of the proposed grid connection. One of the specific mitigation measures for this project was the requirement for a watching brief during all ground breaking operations.

The EIA identified a field system (Site 162) and plantation boundary (Site 163) located close to the proposed cable route and which therefore had the potential to be impacted by the development. The field system is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition map (1853) but field survey found no visible trace of any features associated with this site. The plantation boundary survived as a ruinous wall.

The objective of this mitigation was to allow for the identification and appropriate recording of currently unidentified and buried features of archaeological importance.

## **1.3 Objectives**

The objectives of this programme of works were:

- To carry out targeted watching briefs during ground breaking works in areas identified as being of cultural heritage sensitivity.
- To produce a report on the results of the fieldwork.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

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

A watching brief was carried out during all ground-breaking works associated with the excavation of the cable trench along this section of the grid connection. Topsoil was removed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a flat bladed ditching bucket. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

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**

The area of the field system (Site 162) and the plantation boundary (Site 163) were avoided by the works.

The cable route corridor topsoil strip covered a haul road and an adjacent area for the cable trench, the total width being up to 10m (Fig. 2). Part of the haul road route to either side of the A713 road (c.80m each side) was floated due to there being in excess of 1m of peat (Fig. 3). Here, the ducting trench was excavated directly through the peat with no wider soil strip taking place; this was monitored. An area for a temporary compound was also monitored.

Across the cable trench wayleave the topsoil comprised a very shallow (0.1-0.3m) mid brown silt which overlay a light brown clayey silt natural containing large angular and frost shattered stones.

No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

A watching brief was carried out during excavation of a cable trench and wayleave associated with the New Cumnock – Margree Cable Route. No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified.

A summary statement of the results of this watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* on completion of the whole project.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) and copies of reports will be lodged with the Dumfries & Galloway Council Sites and Monuments Record.

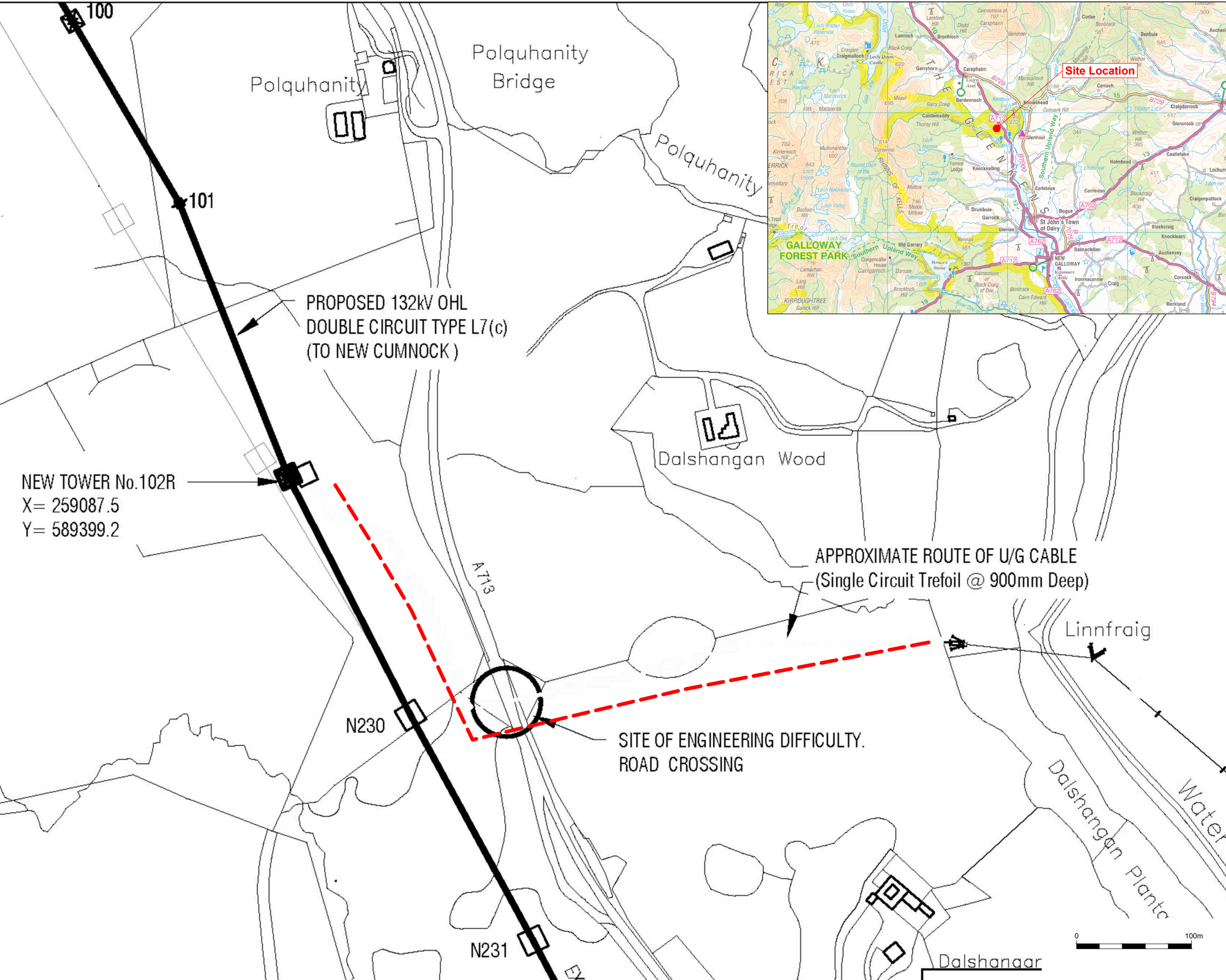
## APPENDIX 1: Digital Photographic Register

Shot	Description	From
1	Stripped area of wayleave	W
2	Stripped area of wayleave	W
3	Stripped area of wayleave	W
4	Stripped area of wayleave	W
5	Stripped area of wayleave	E
6	Stripped area of temporary compound	NE
7	Access from road, all floated	SW
8	Storage area next to N end of WB area.	NE
9	Northern half of access road, floated.	NW

## APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Dumfries & Galloway
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	New Cumnock – Margree Cable Route
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	CUMA
<b>PARISH:</b>	Carsphairn
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Samantha Hickman
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NX 591 894 – NX 598 892
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	June 2017
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	June 2017
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out during excavation of a cable trench and wayleave associated with the New Cumnock – Margree Cable Route. No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	RJ McLeod (Contractors) Ltd
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS. Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Service HER.





**Key:**

--- Approximate route of U/G cable

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Title:  
Site location showing the cable route

Project:  
New Cumnock - Margree Cable Route - Archaeological Watching Brief

Client:  
RJ McLeod (Contractors) Ltd

Scale at A3:  
1:3000

Drawn by: MP	Checked: SW	Date: 13/07/2017
Report No: 3575	Fig. No: 1	





Fig. 2 - Initial topsoil strip exposing natural deposits



Fig. 3 - Floated access track

Project:  
New Cumnock – Margree Cable Route - Archaeological Watching Brief



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Report No: <b>3575</b>		Fig. No: <b>2-3</b>