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Combined Substation Area, Burnside/Upper Mains of Asleid, New Deer, Aberdeenshire

Archaeological Evaluation
Report No. 3650

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Burnside/Upper Mains of Asleid,
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in February and March 2018 in advance of the construction of two substations located between the farms of Burnside and Upper Mains of Asleid, SW of New Deer, Aberdeenshire (NGR: NJ 8320 4442) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Moray Offshore Windfarm (East) Limited.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 14th September 2017 covering this programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of Moray Offshore Windfarm (East) Limited. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of the Section 42 Planning Permission in Principle Application Reference BB/APP/2015/0478 (the Section 42 Consent) and of the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS).

1.2 Background

Planning Permission in Principle (Reference No. APP/2015/0478) has been granted for the construction of a network of onshore installations associated with Moray East Offshore Windfarm. These consist of an onshore transition jointing pit, c.33km of underground electrical cables, and the construction of two substations (including temporary construction compounds, access tracks, laydown areas, and other associated works). The planning permission was subject to a programme of archaeological works including a trial trenching evaluation prior to the construction of the substations.

This report covers the trial trenching undertaken on the combined substation area. Archaeological works associated with the cabling, which are also included in the same Section 42 Planning Permission in Principle, will be addressed through a separate WSI in accordance with condition 1(w).

Information contained within the Aberdeenshire Council Historic Environment Record (HER) suggests that the closest recorded archaeological sites consisted of two cairns (Site No. NJ84SW 4 and NJ84SW 5) located on Burnside Farm on the western side of the Burn of Asleid (to the west of the proposed development area). Both cairns are recorded as having measurements of 36.5m diameter and 4.5m in height. They were removed in the mid-19th century and the materials used in the construction of a local road. There is no record of any artefacts being recovered from either of these cairns.

1.3 Objectives

The project's aims and objectives were:

- To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development areas through trial trenching evaluation
- To establish the vulnerability of any archaeological features to the proposed development
- 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

In addition to the WSI, a Method Statement (MS) was produced for this programme of works and was followed throughout. CFA Archaeology Ltd also follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.

2.2 Evaluation

One hundred and twenty five trenches (Tr.1-125) (Fig. 1) were excavated totalling 11250m², covering 7% of the total area for the substations and associated permanent and temporary works (16.13 hectares, excluding the access road but including the footprint of the substations and associated groundworks, the SUDS pond and the compound areas), with a further 3% held as a contingency should archaeological remains be discovered which require further evaluation; this contingency was not activated. A buffer zone was maintained along the northern edge of the evaluation area where an overhead line was present.

Topsoil and modern overburden were removed by a tracked 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.8m wide smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

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

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

Trench positions were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment and all trenches were backfilled.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Numbers in bold refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 2. A summary of the trenches excavated is contained in Appendix 3.

3.2 Trial Trenching

The evaluation was spread over three adjacent fields divided by roughly ENE-WSW aligned post-and-wire fence boundaries. General views of the area are shown in Figs. 2-3.

The topography of the area consisted of arable farmland with a low ridge running in a general north to south direction through the area. When the evaluation was undertaken in February and March 2018, the ground cover consisted of straw stubble from a previously harvested crop.

The deposits across the area predominantly consisted of 0.25m-0.3m of mid-brown sandy-silt topsoil overlying orange-brown silty-sand and clayey-sand natural with a variable stone content (example in Fig. 4). Some areas of shattered rock, which may represent near-surface bedrock, were identified. Evidence of modern ploughing was clearly visible with numerous plough scars identified in the natural substrate. No field drains were recorded.

Ditch features were present within Trenches 9, 46, 50, 53, 57 and 114 and a modern sheep burial was identified within Trench 38. No other features were identified.

The ditches in Trenches 9 (**901**) and 114 (**11401**) varied between 0.3m and 0.6m in width and were no more than 0.1m in depth. Ditch **4601** in Trench 46 was irregular in plan (Fig. 5-6), measuring up to 1m wide by 0.15m deep. They were filled with deposits similar in nature to the topsoil (**902**, **4602**, **11402**), overlying in two cases more mixed primary deposits (**903**, **4603**). No finds were recovered from these features and there was no visible environmental content in the fills. None of these features continued into adjacent trenches.

The other ditches (**5001**, **5301**, **5701**, **5703**) were all 0.4m in width and varied between 0.1m and 0.25m in depth. The ditches in Trenches 50 (Fig. 7) and 53 (Figs. 8-9) are the same feature continuing between the trenches. Ditches **5701** and **5703** in Trench 57 (Figs. 10-11) were parallel to each other, c.2m apart. These features were all filled with a much darker deposit consisting of a grey-black peaty silt with frequent stones (**5002**, **5302**, **5702**, **5704**), overlying in three cases a more mixed primary deposit (**5003**, **5705**, **5706**). No finds were recovered.

A small lithics scatter (**005**) was identified on the field surface, on level ground just east of a low knoll centred on NGR NJ 83034 44530 (Fig. 12) and a total of 22 lithics were recovered. Trench 74 was relocated to cross the location of this lithics scatter, but there were no associated features or deposits identified (Fig. 13) and no additional lithics were recovered from the spoil. Details of these lithics are contained in Section 3.3 (below).

3.3 Lithics by Ann Clarke

	Flakes	Blades	Cores	Retouched pieces	Chunks
Flint	6	2	2	2	1
Quartz	5		1		1
Quartzite	1				
?Rhyolite			1		

Table 1. Lithic typology and geology

All of the lithics collected were worked. They demonstrate a wide range of knapping techniques, use of different materials and are from at least two different periods of activity.

A flint blade core is likely to date to the Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic and there were two flint blade fragments also from this period.

The other flaked lithics include bipolar cores of flint and quartz and a flake core of ?rhyolite. These are likely to date to a later Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

The two retouched flakes are not diagnostic of any particular period though likely to be later prehistoric.

The flint would have been available locally, either from the nearby Buchan gravel deposits, or around the coast. The quartz varies from pebble quartz to crystal quartz again likely to be found in the immediate area.

The identification of rhyolite for the flake core is only tentative and would need to be confirmed by a geologist. Sources of rhyolite occur in the Grampians and at this site the rolled pebble indicates that it was likely to have been picked up in the river gravels which flow from the Cairngorms.

4. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological trial trenching evaluation was carried out between the farms of Burnside and Upper Mains of Asleid near New Deer in advance of the construction of two substations. The trial trenching uncovered a number of ditch features and a modern sheep burial. A lithic scatter was noticed on the field surface during the project and was recorded.

The ditches in Trenches 9, 46 and 114 all had similar fills of topsoil-like material overlying deposits of material reflecting the natural subsoil of the area. None of these ditches appeared in the adjacent trenches. These are undated but are most likely to be post-medieval in date and relate to agricultural activity.

The ditches in Trenches 50 and 53 may be connected, as suggested by the alignments, dimensions and fill characteristics. The fact that the ditch in Trenches 50 and 53 was not present in Trench 101 may suggest that it turns WSW to appear as a double ditch in Trench 57, or the two ditches in Trench 57 may be unconnected and relate to an entirely separate feature due to their absence from Trench 51. The fills of these features were much darker and overlay intermittent primary fills reflecting the natural subsoil of the area. These are undated but are likely to relate to agricultural activity.

All of the ditch features were very shallow, and the presence of plough scars in many of the trenches indicates that there is likely to have been truncation of the natural substrate.

A small surface lithic scatter consisting of twenty-two lithics was recovered. These finds indicate at least two periods of human activity but the excavation of Trench 74 produced no evidence of settlement in the form of negative features to which they could be related.

There were no archaeological features or deposits identified throughout the remainder of the site.

No further mitigation measures are recommended in relation to the area covered by this evaluation. However, it is recognised that the final decision on any mitigation required lies with the planning authority as advised by ACAS.

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

A summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (See Appendix 6) and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Facing
1-3	Condition photos of access into northern field	Various
4	Trench 1 general view, excavated	SW
5-7	Welfare unit location and gate to south	Various
8	Trench 4 general view, excavated	NE
9	Trench 3 general view, excavated	SE
10	Trench 3 general view, excavated	NW
11	General site view looking NE from SUDS pond area	NE
12	Trench 5 general view, excavated	SE
13	General site views SW and NE from Trench 5	SW + NE
14	General site views SW and NE from Trench 5	SW + NE
15	Trench 6 general view, excavated	SW
16	Trench 7 general view, excavated	SW
17	Trench 8 general view, excavated	SE
18	Trench 9 general view, excavated	W
19	Trench 9 general view, excavated w/ plough scars	E
20-23	General site views from the welfare unit	Various
24	Trench 9, ditch 901	E
25	Trench 9, ditch 901	NW
26	Trench 9, ditch 901 section	NW
27	Trench 9, ditch 901 section	NW
28	Trench 10 general view, excavated	SE
29	General view of Trench 8-12 area	SW
30-31	Trench 11 general view, excavated	SW
32	Trench 12 general view, excavated	SW
33	Trench 13 general view, excavated	NW
34	Trench 13, close-up of natural subsoil	NW
35	Trench 13, soil profile	NE
36	Trench 14 general view, excavated	NNE
37	Trench 15 general view, excavated	SSW
38	Trench 16 general view, excavated	NW
39	Trench 17, possible feature pre-excavation	SW
40	Trench 17, possible feature section; not archaeology	SW
41	Trench 17 general view, excavated	SW
42	Trench 17 general view, excavated	SW
43	Trench 18 general view, excavated	W
44	Trench 19 general view, excavated	NE
45	Trench 20 general view, excavated	SW
46	Trench 20 plough scars, WSW-ENE; aligned with current field boundaries	WSW
47	Trench 21 general view, excavated	S
48	Trench 22 general view, excavated	N
49	Trench 22, soil profile	W
50	Trench 23 general view, excavated	ENE
51	Trench 24 general view, excavated	NW
52	Trench 24 possible feature, pre-excavation	SW
53	Trench 24 negative feature section; stone-hole	SW
54	Trench 25 general view, excavated	NW
55	Trench 26 general view, excavated	NE
56	Trench 27 general view, excavated	SSE
57	Trench 28 general view, excavated	NW
58	Trench 28, natural burning in natural subsoil	N
59	Trench 29 general view, excavated	WSW
60	Trench 30 general view, excavated	WSW
61	Trench 31 general view, excavated	N

Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Facing
62	Trench 32 general view, excavated	NNW
63	Trench 33 general view, excavated	NNW
64	Trench 34 general view, excavated	NNW
65-66	General site views	NE
67	Trench 35 general view, excavated	NE
68	Trench 36, soil profile	NNW
69	Trench 36, plough scars	WSW
70	Trench 36 general view, excavated	WSW
71	Trench 37 general view, excavated	NE
72	Trench 37, potential features; none were archaeology	NE
73	Trench 38, animal burial 3801-3	NE
74	Trench 38 general view, excavated	NNE
75-77	Northern field, general views	Various
78-79	Gate into southern field, pre-access (broken)	SSE
80-83	Southern field, general views	Various
84	Trench 39 general view, excavated	SSW
85	Trench 40 general view, excavated	E
86	Trench 41 general view, excavated	WSW
87	Trench 41, soil profile	NNW
88-89	Trench 42, stone-hole example	S
90	Trench 42 general view, excavated	W
91	Trench 44 general view, excavated	SW
92	Trench 43 general view, excavated	NW
93	Trench 45 general view, excavated	NW
94-95	Trench 45, stony patch mid-trench	WNW + NW
96	Trench 46, ditch 4601 pre-excitation	NNE
97	Trench 46, ditch 4601 and 2 sections, general view	N
98	Trench 46 general view, excavated	S
99	Trench 46, extended	NE
100	Trench 47 general view, excavated	W
101	Trench 47 general view, excavated, NW end	NW
102	Trench 48 general view, excavated	SE
103	Trench 46, ditch 4601 slot 1	W
104	Trench 46, ditch 4601 slot 1, S facing section	N
105	Trench 46, ditch 4601 slot 2	E
106	Trench 46, ditch 4601 slot 2, N facing section	S
107	Trench 46, ditch 4601 slot 3, S facing section	N
108-112	Trench 46, ditch 4601, general views	N
113-114	Trench 46, ditch 4601, general views	S
115	Trench 46, soil profile at NNE end	WNW
116-117	Trench 46, soil profile by ditch slot 2	WNW
118-119	Trench 46, general views of ditch 4601, post-excitation	SW
120-121	Trench 46 general location views	SSW + WSW
122	Trench 49 general view, excavated	S
123-125	Trench 50 general view, excavated, including ditch 5001	NE
126	Trench 51 general view, excavated	NW
127	Trench 52 general view, excavated	SW
128	Trench 53 general view, excavated	SW
129-130	Trench 53, ditch 5301 = 5001	SW
131	Trench 54 general view, excavated	N
132-133	Trench 55 general views of possible ditches	Various
134	Trench 55 general view, excavated	N
135	Trench 56 general view, excavated	SE
136-139	Trench 53, ditch 5301 plan excavation and sections	NW + SE
140	Trench 50, ditch 5001 plan excavation	NE
141	Trench 50, ditch 5001 section	NW
142	Trench 50, ditch 5001 section	SE

Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Facing
143-144	Trench 57 general view, excavated including ditches 5701+5703	SW
145	Trench 57, ditch 5701 plan	NNW
146	Trench 57, ditch 5701 WSW facing section	ENE
147	Trench 57, ditch 5701 SW facing section	NE
148	Trench 57, ditch 5703 plan	SSE
149	Trench 57, ditch 5703 ENE facing section	WSW
150-151	Trench 57, ditch 5703 NW facing section	SE
152	Trench 58 general view, excavated	SE
153	Trench 59 general view, excavated	ENE
154	Trench 60 general view, excavated	SW
155	Trench 61 general view, excavated	SW
156	Trench 61, soil profile mid-trench	SE
157	Trench 61 general view, excavated	NE
158	Trench 62 general view, excavated	NE
159-160	Trench 63 general view, excavated	WSW
161	Trench 64 general view, excavated	SW
162	Trench 65 general view, excavated	NW
163	Trench 66 general view, excavated	S
164	Trench 66, iron pan in gully	S
165	Trench 66, soil profile at S end	W
166-168	General views of Trench 62-69 + area	E - NE - N
169	Trench 67 general view, excavated	N
170	Trench 68 general view, excavated	NW
171	Trench 69 general view, excavated	NW
172-173	Trench 70 general view, excavated	NE
174	Trench 70, soil profile SW end	NW
175	Trench 71 general view, excavated	N
176	Trench 71, manganese and iron deposits mid-trench	N
177	Trench 72 general view, excavated	NE
178	Trench 73 general view, excavated	WSW
179-181	Trench 74, pre-excavation including area of lithic scatter 005	Various
182	Trench 74 general view, excavated	WSW
183	Trench 74 general view, excavated	ENE
184	Trench 74, stony bump/knoll	ENE
185	Trench 75 general view, excavated	NW
186	Trench 76 general view, excavated	ESE
187	Trench 76, plough scars	ESE
188	Working shot, Trenches 75-78	NE
189	Trench 77 general view, excavated	NE
190	Trench 78 general view, excavated	NNE
191	Trench 78, soil profile SSW end	WNW
192	Trench 79 general view, excavated	SW
193	Trench 79, soil profile in gully	NW
194	Trench 80 general view, excavated	NNW
195	Trench 81 general view, excavated	SSE
196	Trench 82 general view, excavated	N
197	Trench 83 general view, excavated	NE
198	Trench 84 general view, excavated	W
199	Trench 85 general view, excavated	W
200	Trench 86 general view, excavated	NE
201	Trench 87-86 + area, general view	SW
202	Trench 87 general view, excavated	SW
203	Trench 88 general view, excavated	SE
204	Trench 89 general view, excavated	NW
205	Trench 90 general view, excavated	WSW
206	Trench 90, soil profile mid-trench	NNW
207	Trench 91 general view, excavated	SE

Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Facing
208	Trench 92 general view, excavated	WSW
209	Trench 92, WSW end excavated	WSW
210	Trench 93 general view, excavated	NW
211	Trench 94 general view, excavated	S
212	Trench 94 general view, excavated	N
213-214	Trench 94, soil profile at S end	E
215	Trench 95 general view, excavated	N
216	Trench 96 general view, excavated	NW
217	Trench 97 general view, excavated	WSW
218	Trench 97 general view, excavated	ENE
219	Trench 100-102 general view	WSW
220	Trench 98 general view, excavated	WNW
221	Trench 99 general view, excavated	SW
222	Trench 100 general view, excavated	NW
223	Trench 101 general view, excavated	WSW
224	Trench 101 general view, excavated	ENE
225	Trench 101, soil profile with subsoil at base	SSE
226	Trench 102 general view, excavated	N
227	Trench 103 general view, excavated	NE
228	Trench 103, plough scars	NE
229	Trench 104 general view, excavated	S
230	Trench 105 general view, excavated	NE
231	Trench 106 general view, excavated	N
232	Trench 106 and area	S
233	Trench 107 general view, excavated	S
234	Trench 108 general view, excavated	WNW
235	Trench 108, plough scars	WNW
236	Trench 108, modern test-pit	WNW
237	Trench 109 general view, excavated	NW
238	Trench 110 general view, excavated	S
239	Trench 111 general view, excavated	NW
240	Trench 112 general view, excavated	N
241	Trench 113 general view, excavated	NE
242	Trench 114, ditch 11401	E
243	Trench 114, ditch 11401 NW facing section	SE
244	Trench 114, ditch 11401 SE facing section	NW
245	Trench 114 general view, excavated	S
246	Trench 115 general view, excavated	SE
247	Trench 116 general view, excavated	N
248	Trench 117 general view, excavated	SW
249	Trench 118 general view, excavated	WNW
250	Trench 119 general view, excavated	WNW
251	Trench 119, stone-hole half-sectioned	ESE
252	Trench 120 general view, excavated	NW
253	Trench 121 general view, excavated	SW
254	Trench 122 general view, excavated	ESE
255	Trench 123 general view, excavated	SE
256	Trench 124 general view, excavated	SW
257	Trench 125 general view, excavated	NW

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context no.	Fill of	Trench	Type	Description
001		All	Deposit	Topsoil; mid-brown sandy silt
002			Deposit	Subsoil; dark black peaty silt
003		All	Deposit	Natural subsoil; orange-brown silty sand
005		74	Deposit	Feature number for lithics in topsoil before ex
901		9	Cut	Cut for ditch, 0.6m wide, 0.08m deep.
902	901	9	Fill	Dark grey-brown fine sand, silt + gravel
903	901	9	Fill	Yellow-brown sandy silt + gravel
3801		38	Cut	Cut for modern burial
3802	3801	38	Fill	Mixed backfill
3803	3801	38	Fill	Lamb/sheep burial
4601		46	Cut	Cut for irregular ditch, 1m wide, 0.15m deep
4602	4601	46	Fill	Upper fill; mid/dark brown fine sand + silty soil with angular cobbles. No visible charcoal.
4603	4601	46	Fill	Basal fill; greenish brown mixed, re-deposited subsoil and dark grey-black soil with small stones. Primary erosion or bank erosion; not constant along ditch
5001		50	Cut	Cut for linear ditch; same as 5301, 0.4m wide
5002	5001	50	Fill	Black/grey-black silt; gritty with various sizes of stones
5003	5001	50	Fill	Basal fill; laminated deposits of 5002 and grey-orange re-deposited natural
5301		53	Cut	Cut for linear ditch; same as 5001.0.4m wide, 0.25m deep
5302	5301	53	Fill	As 5002
5701		57	Cut	Cut for linear ditch. 0.4m wide, 0.1m deep
5702	5701	57	Fill	Dark grey-black peaty silt
5703		57	Cut	Cut for linear ditch, 0.4m wide, 0.1m deep
5704	5703	57	Fill	As 5702
5705	5701	57	Fill	As 4603; mix of re-deposited orange natural and dark grey-black silt with small stones
5706	5703	57	Fill	As 5705
11401		114	Cut	Cut of ditch, 0.3m wide, 0.1m deep
11402	11401	114	Fill	Mid-brown silty sand

APPENDIX 3: Summary of Excavation Results

Trench no.	Size (m)	Total Depth (m)	Topsoil Depth (m)	Subsoil Depth (m)	Description
1	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
2	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
3	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
4	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
5	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
6	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
7	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
8	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
9	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Ditch (901) 0.6m wide + 0.08m deep
10	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
11	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
12	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
13	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
14	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
15	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
16	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
17	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
18	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
19	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
20	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
21	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
22	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
23	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
24	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
25	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
26	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
27	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
28	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
29	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
30	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
31	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
32	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
33	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
34	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
35	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
36	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
37	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
38	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Modern sheep burial (3801)
39	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
40	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
41	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		Plough scars
42	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
43	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
44	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
45	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
46	50 x 1.8	0.45	0.25	0.20	Ditch (4601) 12m long c.1.0m wide, 0.15m deep
47	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
48	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
49	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
50	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		Ditch (5001) c.0.4m wide, NW-SE
51	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		

Trench no.	Size (m)	Total Depth (m)	Topsoil Depth (m)	Subsoil Depth (m)	Description
52	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		
53	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		Ditch (5301) c.0.4m wide and 0.25m deep
54	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
55	50 x 1.8	0.55	0.30	0.25	
56	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		
57	50 x 1.8	0.28	0.28		Two ditches (5701) + (5703) WSW-ENE 0.4m wide, c.0.1m deep, 2m apart.
58	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		
59	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		
60	50 x 1.8	0.45	0.30	0.15	
61	55 x 1.8	0.50	0.30	0.20	
62	50 x 1.8	0.40	0.30	0.10	
63	50 x 1.8	0.40	0.30	0.10	Plough scars
64	50 x 1.8	0.40	0.30	0.10	
65	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		
66	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		
67	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		
68	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		
69	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Modern test-pit
70	50 x 1.8	0.35	0.35		
71	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
72	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
73	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
74	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		
75	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
76	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
77	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
78	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		
79	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		
80	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		
81	50 x 1.8	0.35	0.35		
82	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		
83	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		Plough scars
84	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		Plough scars
85	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		Plough scars
86	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		
87	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		
88	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		Plough scars
89	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
90	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
91	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
92	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
93	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
94	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
95	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		Plough scars
96	50 x 1.8	0.35	0.35		Plough scars
97	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
98	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
99	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
100	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
101	50 x 1.8	0.35	0.35		
102	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		
103	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
104	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars

Trench no.	Size (m)	Total Depth (m)	Topsoil Depth (m)	Subsoil Depth (m)	Description
105	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars
106	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.30		
107	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
108	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		Plough scars. Modern test-pit
109	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
110	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.25		
111	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.25		
112	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.25		
113	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.25		
114	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.25		Shallow drainage ditch (11401); 0.3m wide, 0.1m deep
115	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.25		
116	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.25		
117	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.25		
118	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.25		
119	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.25		
120	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.25		
121	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.25		
122	50 x 1.8	0.25	0.20		
123	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.25		
124	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.25		
125	50 x 1.8	0.30	0.25		

APPENDIX 4: Drawings Register

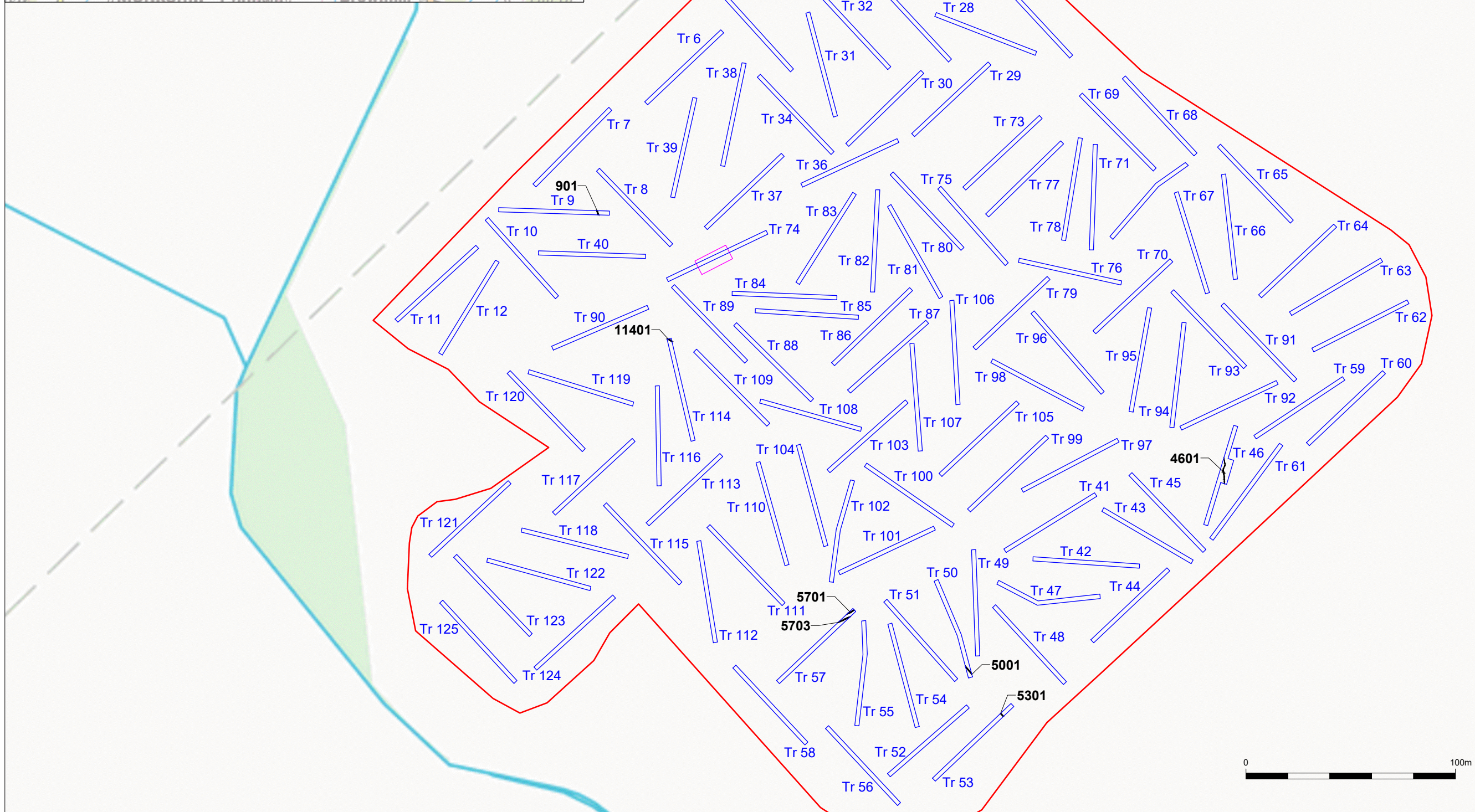
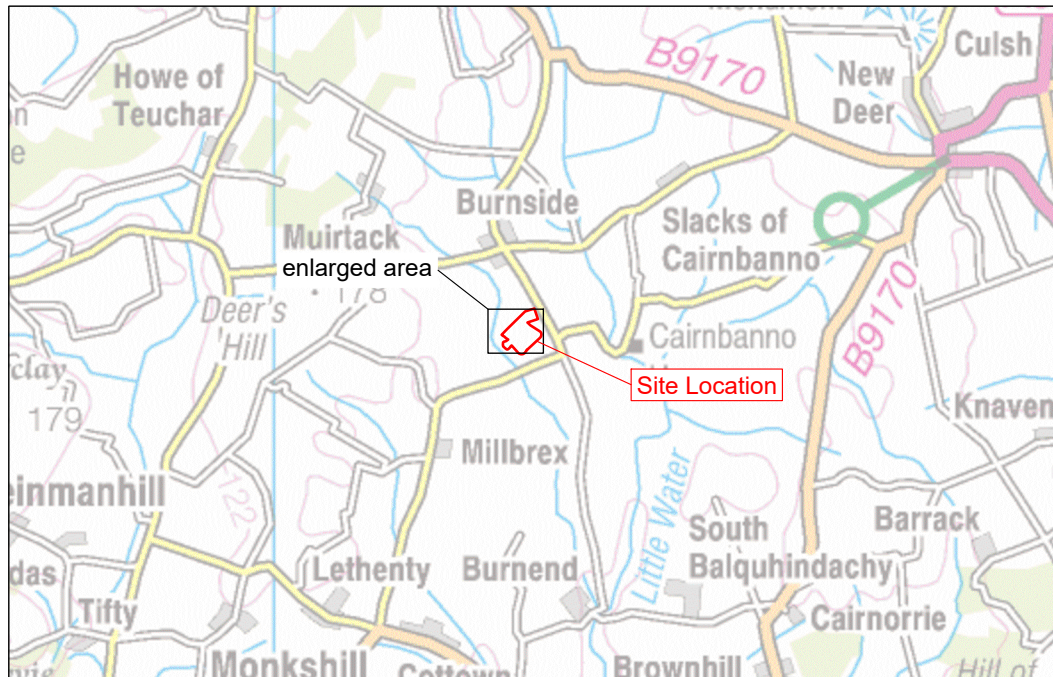
Dwg No.	Sheet No.	Scale	Plan / Section	Description/contexts
1	Tr 9 record	1:10	S	Trench 9 post-ex section (901)
2	1	1:20	S	Trench 46 post-ex, ditch (4601) slot 1
3	1	1:20	P	Trench 46 post-ex, ditch (4601) slot 1
4	1	1:20	S	Trench 46 post-ex, ditch (4601) slot 2
5	1	1:20	P	Trench 46 post-ex, ditch (4601) slot 2
6	1	1:20	S	Trench 46 post-ex, ditch (4601) slot 3
7	1	1:20	P	Trench 46 post-ex, ditch (4601) slot 3
8	Tr 50 record	1:10	P	Trench 50 post-ex plan of (5001)
9	Tr 50 record	1:10	S	Trench 50 post-ex section of (5001)
10	Tr 50 record	1:10	S	Trench 50 post-ex section of (5001)
11	Tr 53 record	1:20	P	Trench 53 ditch (5301) plan of excavated slot
12	Tr 53 record	1:10	S	Trench 53 ditch (5301) SE facing section
13	Tr 53 record	1:10	S	Trench 53 ditch (5301) NW facing section
14	1	1:20	P	Trench 57 ditches (5701), (5703) post-ex
15	1	1:10	S	Trench 57 ditches (5701) post-ex
16	1	1:10	S	Trench 57 ditches (5703) post-ex

APPENDIX 5: Finds Register

Context	Find type	No.	Wt (g)	Notes	Spotdate
001	Lithics	22	174	Lithic scatter 005	Prehistoric

APPENDIX 6: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeenshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Combined Substation Area, Burnside/Upper Mains of Asleid, New Deer, Aberdeenshire: Archaeological Evaluation
PROJECT CODE:	MORF
PARISH:	Fyvie
NAMES OF CONTRIBUTORS:	Magnus Kirby & Ian Suddaby
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Trial trenching evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NJ 8320 4442
START DATE (this season)	February 2018
END DATE (this season)	March 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN DESCRIPTION (NARRATIVE):	<p>An archaeological trial trenching evaluation was carried out between the farms of Burnside and Upper Mains of Asleid near New Deer in advance of the construction of two substations. The trial trenching uncovered a number of linear ditch features on a range of alignments. All of these are undated but the fills suggested they may pre-date and post-date the agricultural improvements in the area. A modern sheep burial was also identified.</p> <p>A small lithic scatter in topsoil consisting of twenty-two pieces was recovered from an area centred on NGR 383034 844530. These finds indicate prehistoric activity but do not necessarily imply evidence of settlement. The location was trenched and there were no features or deposits associated with these lithics.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Moray Offshore Windfarm (East) Limited
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)	National Record of the Historic Environment and Aberdeenshire Council SMR



Key:

- Site Boundary
- Trench Outline
- Archaeological Feature
- Lithic scatter 005



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Title:
Location map and trench plan

Project:
**Combined Substation Area,
Burnside/Upper Mains of Asleid,
New Deer, Aberdeenshire**

Client:
**Moray Offshore Windfarm (East)
Limited**

Scale at A3:
1:2000

Drawn by: MP	Checked: SW	Date: 11/04/2018
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Report No: 3650	Fig. No: 1
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Fig. 2 - General view of the topography in the northern field



Fig. 3 - General view of the topography in the central field, including the location of Trench 74

Project:
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Fig. 4 - General view of Trench 44



Fig. 5 - Trench 46 showing Ditch 4601

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Fig. 6 - Ditch 4601, Slot 2, North-Facing Section



Fig. 7 - General view of the ditch (5001) in Trench 50

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Fig. 8 - Close-up view of the ditch (5301) in Trench 53



Fig. 9 - Trench 53, ditch (5301), SE facing section

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Fig. 10 - Trench 57 general view showing Ditches 5701 and 5703



Fig. 11 - Trench 57, ditch 5703 ENE facing section

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Fig. 12 - Trench 74 pre-excitation showing area of lithics scatter



Fig. 13 - Trench 74, general view post-excitation

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