

CFA Archaeology Ltd

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Advice on Archaeology & Planning

Environmental Impact Assessment

Intpretation, Design & Display

Finds/ Environmental Analysis

Field Evaluation & Excavation

Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

Whitelee Windfarm Extension Phases 1 & 2 Survey of Sites 1 and 6

Report No. 1792

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CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	3
3.	Archaeological Results	4
4.	Conclusion	4

Appendices

1.	Photographic Register	5
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Illustrations (bound at rear)

Fig. 1 Site location map

Fig. 2 Detail of site location map showing surviving portions of Sites 1 and 6

Fig. 3 Site 1 from the south

Fig. 4 Site 1 from the north

Fig. 5 Site 6 from the west

Fig. 6 Site 6 from the west

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of a field survey undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) during June 2010, within the site boundary of Whitelee Windfarm Extension Phases 1 and 2 (NGR: NS 554 434 (centred), Fig. 1) near Kilmarnock. The work was commissioned by ScottishPower Renewables and forms part of a wider programme of archaeological mitigation works for the windfarm extension as outlined in Chapter 17 Schedule of Mitigation of the Environmental Statements (ES).¹

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 Phase 1 and 2 of Whitelee Windfarm Extension will be built out as one. Construction is anticipated to commence in Autumn 2010 (Fig. 1). Supporting information for the application ES chapters for both Phase 1 and 2 extensions were prepared by Jacobs. From desk-based work these studies identified a number of cultural heritage sites within the windfarm site boundary. Mitigation commitments were provided for three cultural heritage sites as outlined in Chapter 17 of the ES, these are not subject to planning conditions. A mitigation plan was prepared by CFA to fulfil these commitments.
- 1.2.2 Site numbers in the following text refer to site numbers in Chapter 12 Cultural Heritage of the ES.

1.3 Objectives

- 1.3.1 The objectives of this piece of work were to assess Sites 1 and 6 prior to the commencement of on-site work to establish their current condition and record upstanding remains before construction work is undertaken, reducing the need to temporarily suspend construction work.
- 1.3.2 This report presents the results of the assessment and recording of Sites 1 and 6.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 All work was conducted with regard to the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards. Recording of all elements was carried out following established CFA methods.

¹ Whitelee Windfarm Extension Environmental Statement (April 2008); Whitelee Windfarm Extension Phase 2 Environmental Statement (May 2009).

2.2 Assessment of Sites 1 and 6

- 2.2.1 Each site was visited and where possible the route of them was followed and written and photographic records were taken. This includes a description of the state of survival of the site where it was identified. Dense tree coverage affected what could be accessed.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 Both sites lie partially within dense, and in places impenetrable, commercial forestry plantation. Access and GPS coverage was limited due to the tree cover.

3.2 Site 1

- 3.2.1 Site 1 was described in the ES as a U-shaped field boundary sitting to the north of Croilburn Farm (Table 12.7). Field survey identified the remains of a grassed-over turf field bank (Figs 3 & 4) which was 4m wide by 0.5m high and ran north-east for c.150m from NGR NS 53547 44146 which is the south-west corner of the location of the site as identified on the OS map. The bank was quite denuded and irregular in places and only visible within the forest ride. A discontinuous and rotting timber fence was also identified running along the line of the bank on its eastern side. The fence continued further to the north-east as the modern boundary of the forestry plantation. No remains of the boundary were identified where it crossed open ground near the summit of Crins Hill. Where it ran through the forested area the trees were too dense to facilitate survey but where forest rides crossed the route of the boundary no sign of it was present. The surviving extent of the bank is shown on Fig 3 although the fence line which was on the same alignment ran further north.

3.3 Site 6

- 3.3.1 Site 6 was described in the ES as a linear field boundary running E-W (Table 12.7). Field survey identified a series of rotting timber fence posts (Fig 5 & 6) running from NGR NS 55024 43806 to NGR NS 54217 43819. The posts included 1.7m high rectangular section posts with paired rectangular sockets. Occasional sections of barbed wire were also visible forming part of the fence. The very denuded remains of a grassed over turf bank were also visible intermittently running along the southern side of the fence line. The fence line continued 200m further west than the last NGR provided but lack of GPS cover meant that a coordinate for this could not be collected. The surviving extent of the boundary is shown on Fig 3.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Site 1 only appeared to survive on its western side where it consisted of a short length of vestigial turf bank and a more recent rotten fence. It did not appear

to survive elsewhere in the plantation or in the clearing around Crins Hill. The bank was the only indication of a boundary earlier than the fence.

- 4.2 Site 6 survived along most of its length as previously mapped. However, it did not appear to extend as far to the east as previously thought. In the main this boundary appeared to be a post and wire fence line and only vague traces of an intermittent bank suggested anything earlier.
- 4.3 Both the sites were identified from the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey mapping of the area and so presumably were in existence in the latter half of the 19th Century. This suggests that they would have been dry stone dykes, however, only a short length of bank at Site 1 and vague traces of an intermittent bank alongside the fence at Site 6 are suggestive of an early boundary such as a dry stone dyke. Given the vestigial nature and low sensitivity of the remains demarcation is not considered necessary but a watching brief should still be conducted where development features cross it to record any traces of the early boundary.
- 4.4 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the WoSAS Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.5 A *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* entry will be submitted and the project will be recorded via the OASIS protocol following the completion of all work required under the mitigation programme.

APPENDIX 1: Digital Photographic Register

Shot	Contexts/Description	Taken from
1-5	Site 1, bank and fence posts	S
6	Site 1, bank and fence posts	N
7-10	Recently felled area/ new ride, vicinity of site 1	-
11-12	Location of site 1 in rides showing absence of site in this area	-
13-14	General view to site 6 location	NW
15	View down ride to site 6	E
16-28	General views of site 6	-
29	Detail of sockets in large posts of site 6	-



Key:

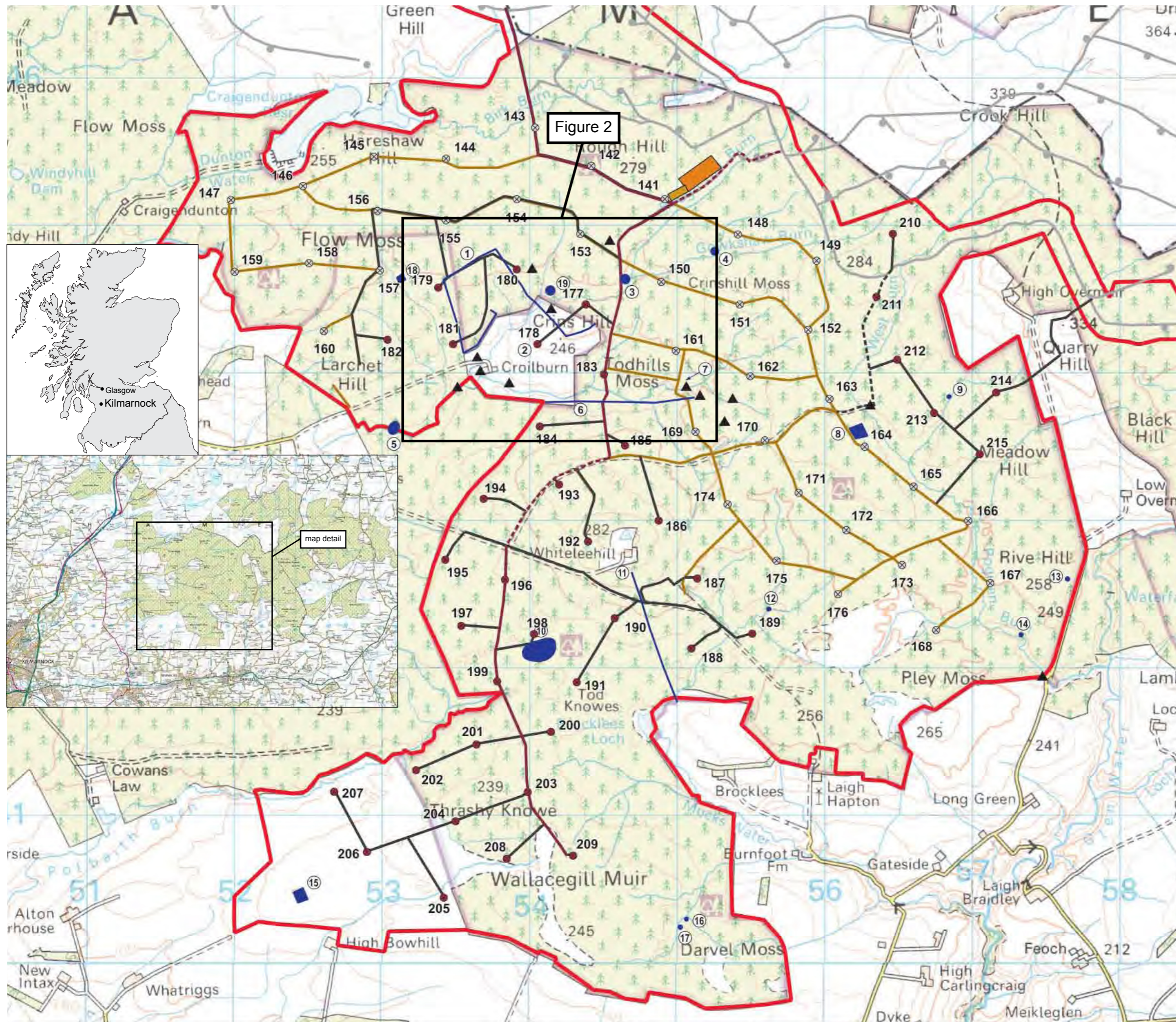


Fig. No: 1 Revision: A

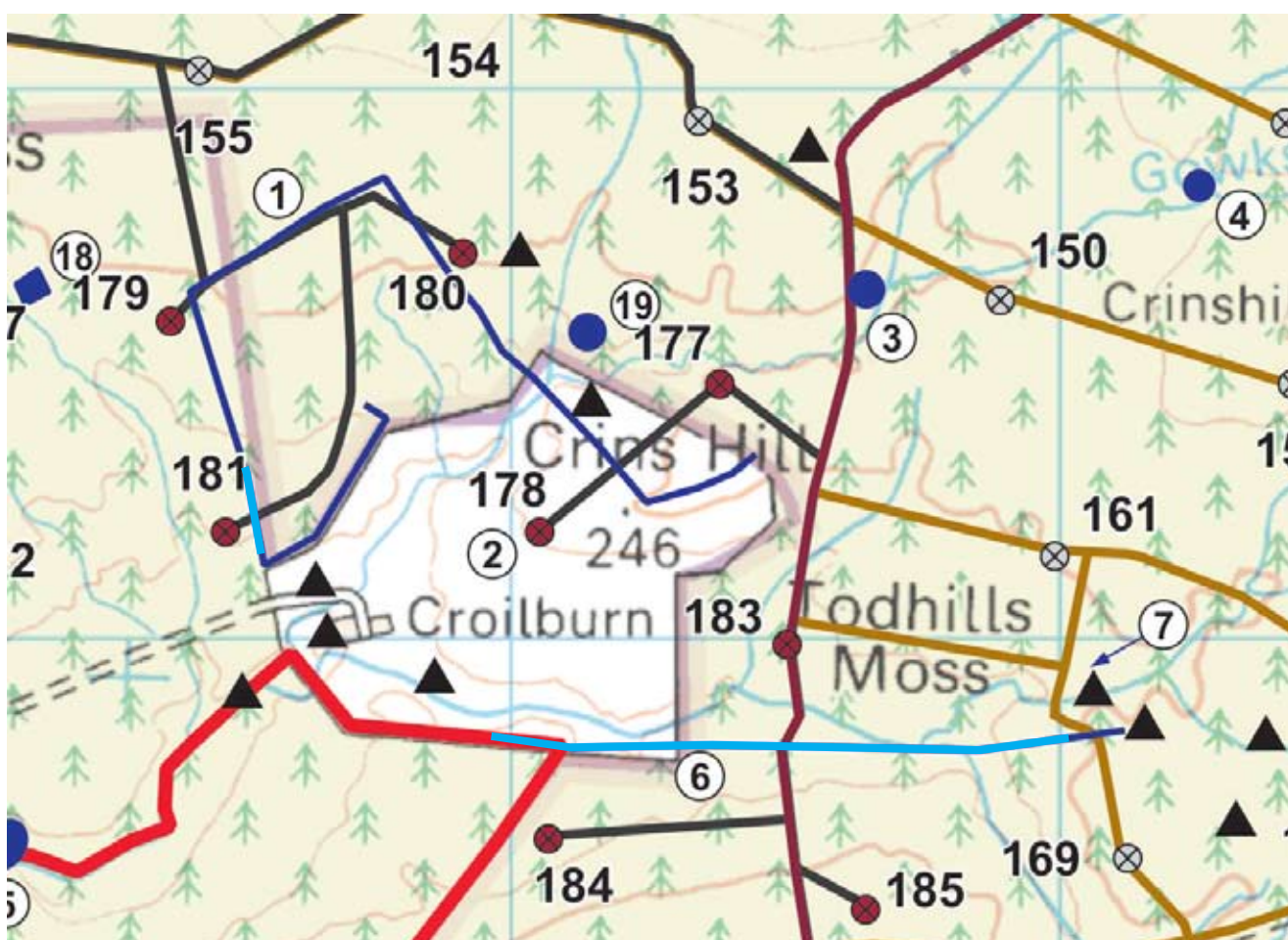
Title: Location map

Project: Whitelee Windfarm Extension

Scale: 1:25,000 @ A3

Client: Scottish Power Renewables

Drawn by: GC Report No: 1792



Key:



surviving portions
of Sites 1 and 6



Fig. No:

2

Revision:

Client:

Scottish Power Renewables

Title:

Surviving portions of Sites 1 and 6

Project:

Whitelee Windfarm extension



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Fig 3. Site 1 from the south



Fig 4. Site 1 from the north



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Fig 5. Site 6 from the east



Fig 6. Site 6 from the east

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