

KWFA11



## KILDRUMMY WIND FARM, ABERDEENSHIRE

*Archaeological Works*

*for RENERCO*

*P/PPA/110/712*

*September 2012*



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HA Job no.: KWFA11  
NGR: NJ 4205 2055  
Parish: Kildrummy  
Local authority: Aberdeenshire  
OASIS ref.: headland1-125153  
SMR no.: NJ41NE.55.0 / NJ41NE0078  
Archive will be deposited with NMRS

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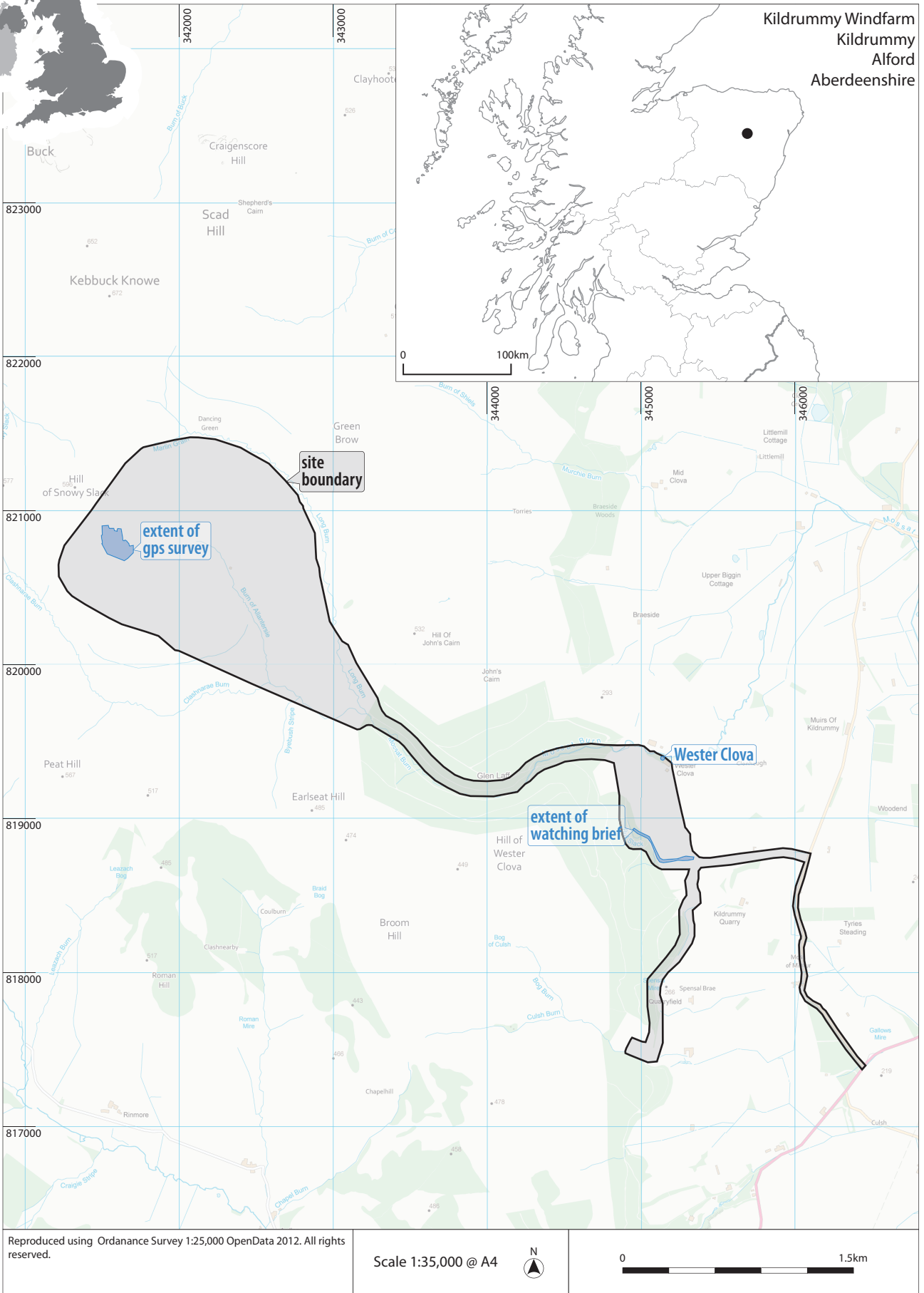


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**Illus 1**  
Site location



# KILDRUMMY WIND FARM, ABERDEENSHIRE

## Archaeological Works

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological works for RENERCO at Kildrummy Windfarm, Aberdeenshire in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent. The archaeological work was carried out between March 2012 and May 2012; it was curated by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service.

The archaeological works comprised a walkover survey to identify previously recorded and upstanding sites, a detailed survey of peat cuttings and associated cairns and building recording of a farm out building at Wester Clova. Construction work was archaeologically monitored in the lower lying areas of the site.

The monitored area comprised a single stretch of access track totaling c1.1km in length and the construction compound area. On the length of access track which climbed the valley side to the upland areas of the wind farm a simple soil profile of thin topsoil derived from glacial deposits was noted across the monitored area. One feature of archaeological interest was noted in this excavation comprising a linear ditch representing a post-medieval land boundary.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to carry out a programme of archaeological works associated with the construction of Kildrummy Wind Farm by RENERCO. The work was undertaken to satisfy a planning condition set by the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals. This condition (20) stated that:

*'Prior to the commencement of the development the developer shall consult the planning authority's archaeologist regarding arrangements to safeguard areas of archaeological interest. Such arrangements shall be submitted to the planning authority and approved in writing and fully implemented during the construction of the tracks and other works and operations related to the construction and operation of the wind farm. The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to any archaeologist nominated by the planning authority and shall allow time to observe work in progress and record items of interest and finds.'*

A Written Scheme of Investigation, produced by CGMS consulting (2010), detailing a programme of archaeological works was submitted to and approved by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service and proposed that the impact of the development on potential deposits be mitigated by: a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the construction of the wind farm and associated infrastructure; a GPS survey of former peat workings in the area of the proposed wind turbines; and photographic recording of a farm outbuilding

at Wester Clova ahead of its conversion to the control building (see *Illus 1* for locations). An addendum to this WSI (Headland Archaeology Ltd 2011) proposed that alongside survey of the peat workings two of a number of 'cairns' located in the same area as the peat workings be subject to test excavation with the aim of retrieving dating evidence. The results of these trial excavations also informed the monitoring strategy with archaeological monitoring being restricted to the valley floor.

## 2. SUMMARY OF AGREED PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

An Environmental Statement (ES) produced by Environmental Resources Management Ltd for RENERCO prior to planning permission dealt with the impact of the proposed windfarm development on cultural heritage. It contains an archaeological assessment of the surrounding area that will not be repeated here. Two categories of possible direct impact were identified: direct impact on recorded features and direct impact on unrecorded features. The WSI set out a scheme for the protection of known archaeological features and the identification of previously unknown features.

The WSI set out three elements of archaeological mitigation; a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the construction of the wind farm and associated infrastructure; a GPS survey of former peat workings in the area of the proposed wind turbines; and photographic recording of a farm outbuilding



◀ **Illus 2**

*Cleaned section through exposed peat face*



◀ **Illus 3**

*S facing view of former peat cuttings showing 'cairns' adjacent to access tracks*



◀ **Illus 4**

*N facing view of excavated quadrant of one of the 'cairns'*

at Wester Clova ahead of its conversion to the control building. The addendum to the WSI set out a programme of trial excavation of 'cairns' noted in the area of the former peat workings in order to clarify their date and function. This trial excavation was intended to also inform the methodology of the archaeological monitoring with the watching brief being confined to the valley floor if the 'cairns' proved to be of recent origin and associated with the former peat cutting.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 GPS survey of former peat cuttings

The GPS survey of the peat cuttings was undertaken using a Trimble R6 Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) with VRS-Now technology. This system produces measurements to within centimetre accuracy which will allow recording down to a scale of 1:20 (if necessary) depending upon the density of points taken. The aim of this survey was to record the extent of the peat workings and any significant features within them such as tracks and cairns within the area of the proposed wind turbines and within the boundary of the site.

#### 3.2 Building recording at Wester Clova

The aim of the historic building recording was to analyse and record the structure, fabric and evidence of use and adaptation of the building at Wester Clova that is proposed to be converted for use as control buildings.

The building survey utilised the general standards set out by the RCHME (1996) and English Heritage (2006) and the techniques and practice promoted by the AAIS (Andrews et al. 1995), Historic Scotland (Dallas 2003), English Heritage (2003) and the RCAHMS (2004). Specialised terminology is referenced to Curl's Dictionary of Architecture (1999) and Pride's Dictionary of Scottish Building (1996). The scope of the survey was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by Aberdeenshire council archaeology service and the client. Photographs were taken using a digital camera and a 35mm camera loaded with colour film. The photographs have been provided in digital format and as printed thumbnails. The detailed descriptions of each building are included in Appendix 1. The body of the report summarises the principal developmental stages of the complex.

#### 3.3 Archaeological monitoring

The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to identify and record the presence / absence, location, extent, date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the groundworks of the site.

Topsoil stripping on the access road in the valley floor (to the west of Wester Clova), and compound area was archaeologically monitored. Topsoil stripping was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket under direct archaeological control. Excavation continued until either clean geological sediments or significant archaeological deposits were

encountered. The resulting surfaces were hand cleaned where necessary and investigated for archaeological features. Features identified were subject to salvage excavation and recording. Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service were kept informed of any features identified during the watching brief and the level of excavation and recording was agreed.

All recording was according to IFA standards and guidance. All contexts were given unique numbers and all recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards.

Colour transparency and print photographs were taken and recorded in a photographic register. Record shots of archaeological contexts contained a graduated metric scale visible.

An overall site plan was recorded and related to the National Grid. Sections were drawn where appropriate. No deposits were sampled and no finds were retrieved.

### 4. RESULTS

#### 4.1 Survey and excavation of former peat cuttings and associated features

The peat cuttings in the area of turbine 2 covered an area of 130m by 110m, a cleaned section of the exposed face of the peat cutting at the northern edge of the area (*Illus 2*) showed that 1.62m of mid to dark brown humic peat with some gnarled branches and many thin laminations overlay a dark brown silty clay which in turn sat upon the glacial deposits of gray gritty / sandy silt with frequent large stones.

A total of 85 'cairns' were surveyed in the area of the former peat cuttings (*Illus 3*). These 'cairns' were sub-rounded to sub-oval in shape measuring between 2m and 3.5m in diameter and surviving up to 0.6m high. The cairns formed north south lines, some either side of the visible tracks. They were confined to the area of the hillside that had been cleared of peat, leaving the glacial deposits exposed. Some modern surface finds were observed in the area of the peat cutting, these comprised primarily metal blades, possibly tools relating to peat cutting and bottle glass.

A quadrant of two of the 'cairns' was excavated with the aim of identifying their date and function. The excavated quadrants of the cairns showed that they were constructed of medium to large angular stones (up to 0.8 by 0.4 by 0.2m) in a dark brown humic gritty silt matrix laid directly upon the glacial material (*Illus 4*).

#### 4.2 Historic building recording

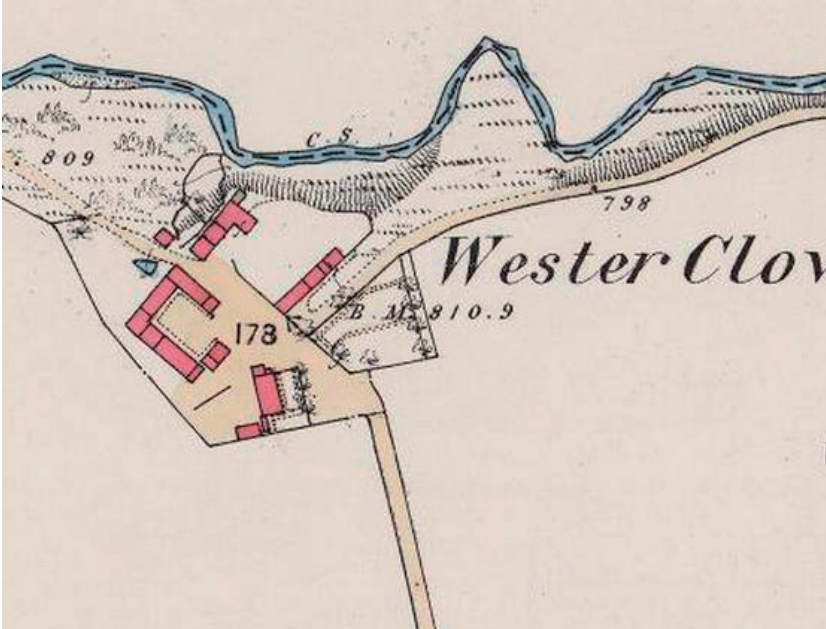
The historic map evidence suggests that the farm building at Wester Clova was built between surveys of 1755 and 1822. The original Wester Clova as depicted on Roy's map in c.1750 (*Illus 5*) is located on the northern side of the Mossat Burn and is depicted as a cluster of houses surrounded by rig. By the time of James



◀ **Illus 5**

Roy's map of 1747–52 showing Wester Clova on the north side of the Mossat burn

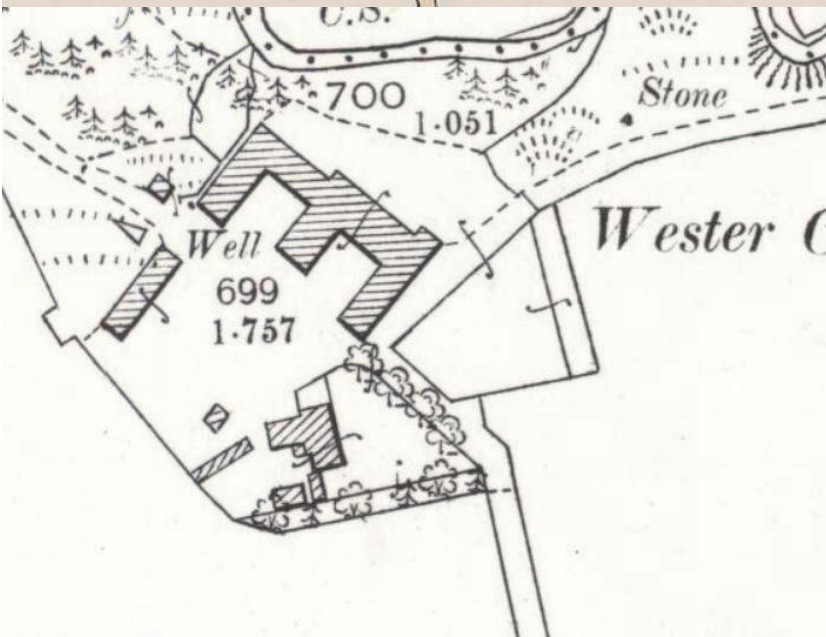
Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland.



◀ **Illus 6**

Extract from 1870 Ordnance Survey map, 25 Inch Aberdeen Sheet LI.11 showing original arrangement of outbuildings

Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland.



◀ **Illus 7**

Extract from 1902 Ordnance Survey, 25 Inch Aberdeenshire Sheet 051.11 showing modified arrangement of outbuildings

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**Illus 8** ▶

*N-W elevation of N-W block of outbuilding at  
Wester Clova*



**Illus 9** ▶

*Detail of date stone in central gable end*



**Illus 10** ▶

*General view facing N*





Robertsons 'Topographic and military map of the counties of Aberdeen, Banff and Kincardine' of 1822 a cluster of buildings is depicted to the south of the Mossat Burn labelled Wester Clova, with the settlement to the north of the Mossat Burn now labelled Auchmillan. It is not till the Ordnance Survey 1st edition of 1870 the buildings at Wester Clova are shown in any detail. At the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (*Illus 6*) the outbuildings at Wester Clova area shown as two separate buildings, an elongated T shaped building to the north west and a long thin rectangular building to the south east. This rectangular building appears to be on a different alignment to the current structure at Wester Clova, while the elongated T shaped building appears to be in the same place and on the same alignment as the north western block of the outbuildings. By the time of the Ordnance Survey second edition of 1902 (*Illus 7*) the outbuilding has taken on its current arrangement.

In terms of building fabric, the earliest part of the building is the north western (*Illus 8*) and north eastern wall of the north westerly block, which corresponds to part of the elongated T shaped building depicted on the 1st edition OS mapping. Later render and plaster covered much of the walls of this building hindering its interpretation, however this part of the structure contained several blocked windows showing that it was part of an older structure later modified. Modernisation and renovation of the building can be dated to 1900 by a date stone in the middle gable end (*Illus 9*). This phase of construction appears to have utilized part of the elongated T shape building, widening it and incorporating it into the current layout (*Illus 10*). The other building depicted on the OS 1st edition appears to have been removed completely. Later editions of the Ordnance Survey mapping show that the 1900 phase of construction is the latest major alterations to take place.

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### 4.3 Archaeological monitoring

Archaeological monitoring was carried out on construction of the main access route to the west of Wester Clova, where a new road was constructed to bypass the farmhouses and on the area of the site compound (*Illus 11*). The access track was between 10m and 20m wide and extended for 1.1km, the compound covered an area of 70m by 60m. The track ran through rough pasture fields and dense conifer plantation on a normally gentle, but with occasionally steep, east-facing slope between 245m and 270m OD. The soil profile across the excavated area was uniform with up to 0.5m of clayey topsoil was excavated to reveal a glacial till into which the noted archaeological features were cut.

Two features were identified, a small ditch [001] oriented north to south, and a larger ditch [004] also oriented north to south. Both of these features were located at the lowest area of archaeological monitoring, close to where the new access track met the existing road.

Ditch [001] was a narrow (0.69m wide) and shallow (0.4m deep) ditch with steep sides and a flat base (*Illus 12*). The primary fill (002) of this ditch was a silting deposit of pale brown silty sand, overlying this deposit was a dark brown sandy silt (003) that was very similar in composition to the overlying topsoil, suggesting that this deposit is of recent origin.

Ditch [004] was a larger ditch, 4.85m wide by 0.70m deep that ran across the full width of the trench (*Illus 13*). Ditch [004] had gently sloping sides and a flat base. The basal fill of [004] was a brownish black humic sandy silt (009) that was a buried topsoil, overlying this was a loose yellowish brown silty sand (008) this deposit was derived from the natural glacial deposits excavated to form the ditch and probably formed a bank on the uphill side of the ditch that was deliberately backfilled into ditch [004] after it fell out of use. Overlying deposit (008) was the dark brown sandy silt topsoil (007).

## 5. DISCUSSION

The archaeological features identified and recorded at Kildrummy wind farm relate to the post-medieval agricultural use of the landscape. The most interesting aspect of this are the rows of 'cairns' associated with the areas of former peat workings. These rows of 'cairns' appear to have two possible interpretations, firstly that they are stances for drying peat before it is transported down the hill; or that they are simply piles of stone cleared to form the tracks leading into the peat cutting. Structures for drying of peat have been identified at Ben Lawers, in Perthshire and are known from the Western Isles (Boyle 2002). These long narrow structures, whilst still small, are more substantial than the small cairns seen at Kildrummy. It is possible that these small cairns are a local development and used for drying peat, however it is more likely that these structures are the result of stone clearance in order to form the tracks running to the face of the peat cuttings.

The small farm outbuilding at Wester Clova appears to have its origins in the late 18th to early 19th centuries and has undergone at least one phase of redevelopment to form the structure seen on site at the moment.

The ditches revealed during the archaeological monitoring appear to be of post-medieval date, the smaller of these features, ditch [001] was probably a small open drainage ditch located in a low lying area of a field. The larger more substantial ditch [004] is a former field boundary. This boundary relates to a previous arrangement of the landscape and predates the OS first edition mapping of 1870.

## 6. REFERENCES

### 6.1 Bibliographic sources

- Boyle, S 2002 'Ben Lawers: An Improvement-Period Landscape on Lochtayside, Perthshire' in *Medieval or Later Settlement in Scotland: 10 Years On*, Historic Scotland: Edinburgh.
- Curl, JS 1999 *Dictionary of Architecture*, Oxford University Press: Oxford.
- Dallas, R 2003 *Measured Survey and Building Recording*, Guide for Practitioners 4, Historic Scotland: Edinburgh.

**Illus 11** ▶

*General view of topsoil removal, facing W*



**Illus 12** ▶

*Ditch [001], facing S*



**Illus 13** ▶

*Ditch [004], facing N*





English Heritage 2003 *Measured and Drawn; Techniques and practice for the metric survey of historic buildings*, English Heritage: Swindon.

English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings; A guide to good recording practice*, English Heritage: Swindon.

RCHME 1996 *Recording Historic Buildings; A Descriptive Specification*, 3rd edn, RCHME: Swindon.

RCAHMS 1997 *Survey and Recording Policy*, RCAHMS: Edinburgh.

## **6.2 Cartographic sources**

1747–55 Roy *Military Survey of Scotland*.

1822 Robertson, J *Topographical and military map of the counties of Aberdeen, Banff and Kincardine*.

1870 Ordnance Survey *6 inches to the mile*, 1st edn, Aberdeenshire; Sheet LI.

1902 Ordnance Survey *6 inches to the mile*, 2nd edn, Aberdeenshire; Sheet LI.SE.



## 7. APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Site registers

#### Appendix 1.1 Context register

Context	Description
001	Linear cut oriented north south measuring 0.69m wide by 0.40m deep running across the full width of the trench with steeply sloping sides and flat base. Drainage ditch.
002	Plae brown silty sand with frequent small stones. Primary silting fill of ditch 001.
003	Dark brown sandy silt with frequent peaty patches. Upper fill of ditch 001 representing deliberate backfilling of this feature.
004	Linear cut oriented north south measuring 4.85m wide by 0.7m deep running across the full width of the trench with gently sloping sides and flat base. Boundary ditch.
005	Linear cut running roughly east west with a curve at its eastern end with gently sloping sides and rounded base. Cut of modern origin possibly created by deep wheel ruts.
006	Drystone wall running across trench.
007	Dark brown humic sandy silt with frequent rooting. Topsoil fill of ditch 004.
008	Mid yellow brown silty sand. Deliberate backfill of ditch 004 with redeposited natural possibly from an uphill bank.
009	Brownish black humic sandy silt. Buried topsoil primary fill of ditch 004.
010	Dark brown humic sandy silt with frequent rooting. Topsoil fill of 005.

#### Appendix 1.2 Photographic register

Photo	Direction	Description
001	–	ID Shot
002	N	Section of peat cutting showing glacial deposits and overlying peat at turbine 2.
003	N	Section of peat cutting showing glacial deposits and overlying peat at turbine 2.
004	SE	Cairn adjacent to turbine 2 showing excavated quadrant.
005	N	Slot excavated through cairn 2.
006	N	Slot excavated through cairn 3.
007	S	Line of cairns to east of turbine 2.
008	S	Line of cairns along either side of track.
009	S	Line of cairns along either side of track.
010	S	Line of cairns along either side of track.
011	E	General view.
012	SW	View of double 'cairn' alignment.
013	SW	View of double 'cairn' alignment.

Photo	Direction	Description
014	SE	View of shallow peat near stony/soily edge of peat cutting.
015	N	Cairn 2.
016	N	Typical cairn with peat cutting behind.
017	N	Typical cairn with peat cutting behind.
018	–	General view of peat cuttings.
019	–	General view of peat cuttings.
020	–	General view of peat cuttings.
021	–	General view of site.
022	–	General view of site.
023	–	General view of site.
024	–	General view of site.
025	–	General view of site.
026	–	General view of site.
027	–	General view of site.
028	–	General view of site.
029	–	General view of site.
030	–	General view of site.
031	–	General view of site.
032	–	General view of site.
033	–	General view of site.
034	–	General view of site.
101	NE	Site on arrival- stripped compound.
102	S	Site on arrival.
103	NNW	Site on arrival.
104	S	General view.
105	N	Area stripped on 19/4/12.
106	N	General view.
107	SE	General view.
108	E	General view.
109	W	General view.
110	S	Ditch 001.
111	S	N facing section of ditch 001.
112	W	General view.
113	S	Ditch 001.
114	N	Drainage ditch.
115	N	Drainage ditch.
116	S	Drainage ditch.
117	NW	General view.
118	E	General view.



Photo	Direction	Description
119	SE	General view.
120	NE	General view.
121	W	Drystone wall.
122	W	Drystone wall.
123	W	Drystone wall.
124	W	Drystone wall.
125	W	Drystone wall.
126	W	Drystone wall.
127	E	General view.
128	W	General view.
129	N	General view.
130	E	General view.
131	N	Ditch 006.
132	N	Ditch 004.
133	S	Compound area restripped.
134	S	Compound area restripped.
135	S	Compound area restripped.
136	N	South facing section through ditch 004.
137	N	South facing section through ditch 004.
201	NW	SE elevation of proposed control building.
202	NE	Southern most gable end.
203	N	General view of building.
204	SE	Opening in NW elevation of southern block.
205	N	General view of southern yard.
206	NE	General view of southern yard.
207	N	Northern corner of southern yard.
208	NW	SE elevation of central block.
209	NE	Gable end of Central block.
210	E	General view of southern yard.
211	N	General view of northern yard.
212	NE	Detail of date stone in central gable end.
213	E	General view of northern yard.
214	NE	General view of northern yard.
215	NW	SE elevation of northern block.
216	NW	SE elevation of northern block.
217	NW	SE elevation of northern block.
218	NE	Gable end of northern block.
219	E	NW elevation of northern block.
220	SE	Detail of opening in NW elevation.
221	SE	Detail of opening in NW elevation.

Photo	Direction	Description
222	SE	Detail of opening in NW elevation.
223	SE	Detail of opening in NW elevation.
224	S	Northern corner of building.
225	SW	Northern corner of building.
226	SW	Detail of door in NE elevation.
227	S	Joint in wall at protrusion in NE elevation.
228	SE	NE elevation of building.
229	SW	Detail of doorway in NE elevation.
230	S	NE elevation of building.
231	S	NE elevation of building.
232	NW	Surroundings of building.
233	S	Surroundings of building.
234	W	SE elevation of building.
235	SW	Internal view of southern block.
236	NW	Internal view of main block.
237	N	Internal view of main block.
238	NW	Internal view of main block.
239	SE	Internal view of main block.
240	–	Roof detail.
241	–	Roof detail.
242	NW	Internal view of central block.
243	NW	Internal view of central block.
244	N	Detail of northern corner of N yard.
245	NW	Threshing machine in northern block.
246	SW	Detail of stairs to hayloft in northern block.
247	SE	Interior view.
248	N	SE elevation of northern yard.
249	NE	SE elevation of northern yard.
250	NE	SW elevation of northern block.
251	E	NE elevation of building.
252	SE	Detail of window in NE elevation.
253	S	Joint in NE elevation of building and door to cellar.
254	SW	Joint in NE elevation of building.
255	SE	Detail of roof.
256	SE	Cellar.
257	SE	Cellar.
258	NE	SE elevation of cellar.
259	N	SE elevation of cellar.
260	SW	Brick columns within cellar.
261	NE	Concrete block within cellar.

Photo	Direction	Description
262	NE	Bolts floor in northern corner of cellar.
263	NE	General view of cellar.
264	SW	General view of cellar.
265	SW	General view of hayloft in northern block.
266	N	General view of cellar.
267	N	General view of cellar.
268	NE	General view of interior of northern block.
269	E	Interior NE elevation of northern block.
270	–	Detail of rotten floor of hayloft of northern block.
271	–	Detail of rotten floor of hayloft of northern block.
272	–	Detail of roof of northern block.
273	SW	View of hayloft through hole in floor.
274	SW	View of hayloft through hole in floor.
275	SW	View of hayloft through hole in floor.
276	NE	View of hayloft through hole in floor.
277	NE	View of hayloft through hole in floor.
278	NE	General view of cellar.
279	N	General view of cellar.
280	N	Detail of opening in SE elevation of cellar.
281	W	Detail of opening in SE elevation of cellar.
282	NE	Detail of door in cellar.
283	SW	Detail of stairs into cellar.
284	SW	View of hayloft.
285	SW	SE elevation of northern block.
286	N	Joint between walls of NE wall of northern block and interior wall.
287	N	Quions in NE corner of 'switch room'.

### Appendix 1.3 Drawing register

Drawing	Plan	Section	Description
001	–	1:10	North facing section of ditch 001.
002	1:50	–	Plan of ditch 001.
003	1:1000	–	Plan of monitored area of access track.
004	–	1:10	South facing section of ditch 004.
005	1:100	–	Plan of ditch 004.



## Appendix 2 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Aberdeenshire
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Kildrummy Windfarm, Aberdeenshire
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	KWFA11
<b>PARISH:</b>	Kildrummy
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):</b>	Jamie Humble
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Headland Archaeology
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Survey, Historic Building Appraisal, Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	BOUNDARY DITCH Post Medieval
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	-
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NJ 4205 2055
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	12 March 2012
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	1 May 2012
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	-
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> <b>(May include information from other fields)</b>	<p>Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological works for RENERCO at Kildrummy Windfarm, Aberdeenshire in order to satisfy conditions of planning consent. The archaeological work was carried out between March 2012 and May 2012; it was curated by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service. The archaeological works comprised a walkover survey to identify previously recorded and upstanding sites, a detailed survey of peat cuttings and associated cairns. Construction work was archaeologically monitored in the lower lying areas of the site. The monitored area comprised a single stretch of access track totaling c1.1 km in length and the construction compound area. On the length of access track which climbed the valley side to the upland areas of the windfarm a simple soil profile of thin topsoil derived from glacial deposits was noted across the monitored area. One feature of archaeological interest was noted in this excavation comprising a linear ditch representing a post-medieval land boundary.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	-
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	RCAHMS
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	RENERCO
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	
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