Archaeological Desktop and Walkover for a Development of two Wind Turbines at Eastertown of Duntelchaig, Farr, Highland.

**Client:** Mrs Fiona Berry  
**Date:** February 2012

**Director:** Stuart Farrell FSA (Scot)  
**Written by:** Stuart Farrell  
**Planning Ref:** 11/04094/FUL  
**Grid Ref:** NH 64025/32867 to NH 63650/33005
Non-Technical Summary

The author was commissioned by Mrs Fiona Berry in January 2012 to undertake an archaeological desktop and walkover survey for development of two wind turbines and associated services at Eastertown of Duntelchaig, Farr, Inverness-shire (NH 64025/32867 to NH 63650/33005). Highland Council Historic Environment Team produced a specification for this work.

The walkover survey was conducted on 30 January 2012 and revealed no archaeological features to the area of the proposed turbines and associated services.

No recommendations for further work have been proposed.
Figure 1 – General Site Location 1:50000.
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Figure 2 – Site Plan 1:2500 (A3)  
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Figure 4 – Survey Plan 1:2500 (A3)
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1. INTRODUCTION

An archaeological desktop and walkover survey was carried out by the author on behalf of Mrs Fiona Berry as required as part of a planning application for two wind turbines and associated services. The development site is a ‘greenfield’ site located to the east of Eastertown of Duntelchaig Farm, Farr, Highland. The work was conducted as condition no. 3 of planning ref. 11/04094/FUL of Highland Council Planning Department which stated the following:

*No development shall commence on site prior to, a programme of work for the evaluation, preservation and recording of any archaeological and historic features affected by the proposed development, including a timetable for investigation, all in accordance with the attached specification, shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Planning Authority. The agreed proposals shall be implemented in accordance with the agreed timetable for investigation.*

*Reason: In order to preserve the archaeological and historical interest of the site.*

A specification for the work was supplied to the client by the Highland Council Historic Environment Team (see Appendix 1).

2. BACKGROUND

The site is located north of the existing public road from Dores to Dunlichity. Access to the development site is gained from an existing private road to the South of Eastertown of Duntelchaig farmhouse. The development site is a ‘greenfield’ site within an area of ground comprised mostly of heather moorland, with some rough grazing and scrub woodland to the centre of the scheme.

Past archaeological work has been conducted to the existing access road and farmhouse to the South of the current development in the form of a desktop and walkover survey undertaken by the author in 2005 (Farrell 2005) which revealed a number of archaeological features. Survey work by the RCAHMS in 1992 as part of a wider pre-afforestation survey around Loch Duntelchaig, included the development area and the township around the farmhouse/steading.

A survey of maps held in the National Library of Scotland, indicates that the development site is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1873-5 as an area of open moorland with the farmstead of Eastertown as an L-shaped building with 3 other buildings roofed and 3 buildings unroofed. Almost the same is shown on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1905 though the farmstead is now U-shaped and another house and enclosure is marked to the N. Later OS map of 1975 shows Farmhouse at U-shaped and 2nd roofed building but all buildings to the North are shown as unroofed. To the North of the development area is shown a hut-circle. Early historical maps do not provide enough detail for the development area, Roy’s Military Map of 1747-52 shows only woodland to the North of Loch ‘Duntaliack’.
3. METHODOLOGY

The archaeological survey was conducted on areas where any new sub-surface ground works were to be carried out ie wind-turbine bases, cable route and inverter building.

A wayleave of c12m wide was made to the route of the cable track and areas of bases of wind-turbines. Walkover was conducted on 30\textsuperscript{th} of January 2012 in fair weather. Grid references onsite were obtained using a Garmin II GPS using OS data.

4. RESULTS

The following archaeological sites are located to the vicinity of the development site:

1 – Eastertown
HER: MHG 3639 & 40373
NMRS: NH63SW 46
NGR: NH 64060/32910
Site type: Hut Circle, Field System

Recorded in HER and NMRS of: ‘Situated 350m E of Eastertown is a denuded stone-walled hut circle measuring approximately 10.0m in diameter between the centres of a wall of indefinite thickness. There is a ‘simple’ entrance, some 1.4m wide, in the E. There are a few stone clearance heaps in the vicinity. Surveyed at 1:10,000. Visited by OS 27 February 1970.

To S and W of this hut circle is a 2ha area of clearance cairns and short lengths of banking and lynches. Visited by D W Ross, November 1983.

This hut-circle occupies a terrace on a heather-covered hillslope some 350m E of Eastertown; it measures 7.5m in diameter within a stony bank spread to 1.5m in thickness and 0.3m in height with an entrance on the SE. Amongst the rank heather, there are occasional traces of banks and small cairns, which may belong to a field system. Visited by RCAHMS 8 Oct 1992.’

Walkover reveals hut-circle at NH 64068/32917 at 895ft (EPE 4m) to be situated on small plateau with bank denuded to NW side, but with no evidence of any associated field-system. Hut is well away from proposed turbine locations.

No recommendations to be made. Site was marked off whilst onsite.

2 – Eastertown
HER: MHG 3640
NMRS: NH63SW 73
NGR: NH 6370/3301 (centred)
Site type: Township

Recorded in HER and NMRS of: ‘This township comprises six buildings to the N of Eastertown farmsteading. The buildings are rectangular on plan and range in size from 7.5m to 15.8m in length by between 3.5m and 5m in breadth over rubble-faced walls 0.5m to 0.8m thick which stand between 0.8m and 1.6m in height; one, however, to the NE of the farm, is reduced to grass-covered footings 0.4m in height (USN93 224). All of the buildings except one, which is set into the slope of the ground on the ESE and entered from the other end (USN93 225), have entrances in one side (one has a porch, USN93 134). Two of the buildings are mortar-bonded, indeed, one has traces of harling, and incorporates fireplaces and windows (USN93 134, 136).

Eastertown may have formed part of a larger township formerly called Duntelchaig, which is mapped by Pont (Blau 1654) on the N side of Loch Duntelchaig.

Three of the buildings (USN93 136, 224-5) were depicted as roofed on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire, 1875, sheet xix) in addition to the farmsteading itself, but
only one (USN93 136) was still occupied at the date of the 2nd edition OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire, 1905, sheet xix) when there were three new roofed buildings to the NE and two related enclosures or garden plots (USN93 134-6). (USN93 134-6, 224-5) Visited by RCAHMS 17 November 1992.

Four roofed buildings, one of which is an L-shaped long building, two partially roofed buildings, one unroofed building and three enclosures are depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire 1875, sheet xix). Two roofed, three unroofed buildings and two enclosures are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1992). Information from RCAHMS 17 June 1996.

Walkover reveals remains of building with attached enclosure sited to N of route (see plate 7) with a 2nd building at MH 63675/32992 aligned NE-SW if 2 compartments 5m x 15m with walls spread to 1m with upright stones in wall divide and fireplace visible to SW gable which stands over 2m in height. (See plate 8)

No recommendations to be made as overhead line only in area of township.

Walkover

The turbine locations (2 – NH 64025/32867 at 863ft (EPE 4m) and 1 – NH 63972/32860 at 854ft (EPE 4m)) lie in an area of SW-facing open moorland with no indication of any cairns or banks associated with the hut-circle, though part of the ground to the North has been disturbed by an existing 4x4 vehicle track. The cable route runs to NH 63953/32898 then to NH 63943/32928 then to fence-line at NH 63939/32941 is to turn W to NH 63829/32930 where the invertor building will be placed then turns NW to NH 63797/32968 where it follows an existing path to NH 63770/32975 where client hopes to put cable overhead to the existing electricity pole at NH 63650/33005 so as to avoid disturbance to garden area around farmhouse.

5. DISCUSSION

The archaeological survey conducted on this site revealed no archaeological features to be affected by the proposed development; those features noted around the farmstead are well visible and are not to be impacted by the proposed works. The farmstead of Eastertown by the map evidence has seen improvements particularly in the late 19th century but little has been done to the surrounding landscape. The hut-circle seems to be situated on its own though further prehistoric settlement is to be found around Loch Duntelchaig.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

No recommendations for any further work are to be proposed.

This recommendation is subject to the approval of the Highland Council Archaeologist.
7. REFERENCES


Highland Council HER entries MHG 3639 & 3640.

National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE entries NH63SW 46 & 70.

Maps Consulted

2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map 1:10,560 Inverness-shire sheets 19, 30 and 31 published 1905 revised 1900-3.
Ordnance Survey sheet NH63SW 1:10,000 of 1975 (revised 1972).
Roys Military Map of Scotland 1747-1752.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank the following for their help during the work:

- Mrs Fiona Berry;
- Staff of Highland Council Historic Environment Team;
- Staff of Highland Council Archives.

9. ARCHIVE

The following is to be deposited in the National Monuments Record in Edinburgh:
- Notebook of results
- Copy of this report
A set of digital images showing the progress of the work has been deposited with Highland Council Historic Environment Record. Digital images used in this report have been deposited with Highland Council HER on disc as well as a copy of this report as a PDF file.

10. DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND

A short summary of the results of this project will be submitted to the Council for Scottish Archaeology’s publication Discovery & Excavation in Scotland. OASIS report no. 118750.

________________________________________________________________________
Plate 1 – View of hut-circle facing NE. (photo 1)

Plate 2 – View of hut-circle from turbine 2 facing NE. (photo 3)
Plate 3 – View of turbine 1 location from turbine 2 location facing SW (photo 4).

Plate 4 – View of cable route from NH 63861/32391 facing E. (photo 6)
Plate 5 – View of site of invertor building facing E. (photo 8)

Plate 6 – View of cable route to electricity pole (to centre) facing NW. (photo 10)
Plate 7 – View of building facing N. (photo 11)

Plate 8 – View of building facing SW. (photo 12)
Appendix 1 – HCHET Specification

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT TEAM, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICE
SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SURVEY

Erection of 2 turbines at Land East of Braewood, Farr, Inverness
(11/04094/FUL)

1) Summary
This specification details the work required to fulfil the archaeological condition of this planning consent. It represents the minimum standard of work necessary to meet the needs of this condition and should be supplied to tendering archaeological contractors. A list of archaeological contractors is available on our webpage at www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/conservation/archaeology.

This project may impact on valuable features of historic and archaeological importance. In view of the archaeological potential/sensitivity of the site, HET advised that archaeological mitigation is required. The implementation of this specification will meet the concerns raised.

This specification is for a walkover survey. If significant features are identified, recommendations for further measures necessary to mitigate the impact of the development must be made.

This specification has been produced for the applicant who will be responsible for the work and costs, including any tendering and contractual arrangements. This brief must be read with reference to the Highland Council Standards for Archaeological Work document that sets out in detail who is responsible for what, as well as the terms of reference, objectives, method, monitoring and reporting arrangements.


2) Archaeological/Historical Background
The application lies within a wider area where prehistoric remains have been identified. In addition it cuts through an area identified as a prehistoric field system with associated settlement. Further well-preserved prehistoric burial and settlement features survive on all sides of the application area. As such, there is a requirement to survey this area (including access arrangements) for the presence or absence of archaeological and historic remains. A strategy to mitigate any impact will be made. The survey will also assess the potential for buried remains to be impacted by the development and will propose mitigation as appropriate.

3) Objectives
The approach to the archaeological study should aim to:

- Identify the cultural heritage baseline within the proposal area.
- Assess the proposed development site in terms of its archaeological and historic environment potential.
- Consider the potential impacts of construction and operation of the proposed development on the cultural heritage resource.
- Propose measures (where appropriate) to mitigate any predicted adverse impacts.

4) **Methodology**

Baseline information should be gathered through desk assessment of existing cultural heritage records and sources of information in advance of the start of works.

**Walkover Survey**

The information gathered through desk assessment should be further assessed and augmented by non-invasive field reconnaissance survey of the total application area. This will be conducted in a systematic manner in order to assess the presence or absence, character, extent and condition of sites, monuments and landscape features identified by the desk-based assessment. The survey will also identify any further features of archaeological and historical interest not detected from the desk assessment and assess the area's potential for the discovery of further, as yet unrecorded archaeological sites.

All individual features will be recorded, photographed and sketched. All features will be marked on a plan, at a relevant scale and tied into the Ordnance Survey grid. Digital shapefiles (or equivalent) will be produced showing the full extent of all individual features identified during the course of this work.

Any additional features identified during the field survey may be subject to further mitigation measures such as marking and fencing off, or preservation by archaeological record, should it be not possible to micro-site development features away from upstanding archaeology.

All recovered artefacts and ecofacts must be subject to a programme of post-excavation analysis and the results will be incorporated into a final report.

The Historic Environment Practitioner must refer to the minimum standard requirements as laid out in the HC Standards for Archaeological Work. This specification itself is not comprehensive or definitive - tendering Historic Environment Practitioners will need to determine for themselves the methodology that will deliver the required product. This should be laid down in a Project Design and agreed with HET in advance of the start of site works. The start of archaeological work will be subject to the submission and approval of this document.

5) **Schedule & Monitoring**

The Historic Environment Practitioner is responsible for agreeing arrangements for monitoring with HET staff. We will monitor projects as necessary to ensure that minimum standards are met. Prior notice of fieldwork starting dates, with contact names, telephone numbers and arrangements for access must be given to HET in advance of the start of works.

The Historic Environment Practitioner must make a short progress report (by telephone) to HET for every week of fieldwork undertaken. Any unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries, or other unexpected occurrences which might significantly affect the archaeological work and/or the development must be notified by the Historic Environment Practitioner immediately to the applicant and
6) Products
Following completion of the fieldwork, an archive and report will be produced and disseminated according to the standards set out in the HC Standards for Archaeological Work. The report should describe the nature of the field work undertaken; the conditions and limitations within which the work was carried-out; the results that were obtained and recommendations for mitigation and/or further work, as appropriate. Further work may include additional fieldwork, post-excavation analysis, specialist studies and publication.

All work will be undertaken according to the Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists.

The brief has been produced specifically for this scheme based on documents supplied at the time it was issued. It is valid for one year from the date of issue. Where work is not carried out in full within that time, a revised specification may be issued.

This brief has been produced by the Historic Environment Team, to whom any enquiries should be addressed. No one else has authority to vary its terms.

Highland Council Historic Environment Team
Thursday, 8 December 2011
www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/conservation/archaeology

Appendix 2 – Photograph Register

1 – View of hut-circle facing NE.
2 – View of hut-circle facing E.
3 – View of hut-circle from turbine 2 facing NE.
4 – View of turbine 1 location from turbine 2 location facing SW.
5 – View of hut-circle from turbine 2 facing NE.
6 – View of cable route from NH 63861/32931 facing E.
7 – View of cable route from NH 63861/32931 facing W.
8 – View of site of invertor building facing E.
9 – View of cable route to invertor building facing SE.
10 - View of cable route to electricity pole facing NW.
11 – View of building facing N.
12 – View of building facing SW.

HET. The finds or features must be left in situ until arrangements have been agreed for safeguarding or recording them. In the meantime work may continue on other areas of the site.
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<td>Dores</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</td>
<td>Mrs. F. Berry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</td>
<td>39a Park Street, Nairn, Highland IV12 4PP</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMAIL ADDRESS:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stuart714@btinternet.com">stuart714@btinternet.com</a></td>
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