



*Highland Archaeology Services Ltd*

Bringing the Past and Future Together

## Achlachan Windfarm Electric Line, Mybster, Caithness



### Archaeological Watching Brief

### Data Structure Report and Recommendations

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## Achlachan Windfarm Electric Line, Mybster, Caithness Watching Brief

<b>HAS Report No.</b>	MYB18-007
<b>Site Code</b>	MYB18
<b>Client</b>	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN)
<b>Planning Reference</b>	N/A
<b>OS Grid Reference</b>	ND 15100 52335 to ND 16915 51870
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<b>Author(s)</b>	Donna Young MA

### Summary

A programme of archaeological watching brief was undertaken in order to monitor the excavation of the cable trench for a high voltage 33kV cable extending between an electricity substation (under construction) on the Achlachan Windfarm site in Caithness and the existing Mybster Substation sited some 2.5km to the east alongside the A9 carriageway. This cable would enable new turbines constructed at the windfarm to be connected with the National Grid.

The cable trench extended for c 2.1km over moorland, improved and managed grassland, and roadside verge, following an asymmetric z-shaped route between the windfarm site and the A9. A preliminary desk-based assessment of the route and its environs identified several prehistoric monuments in the vicinity including the nearby Ballone Broch located just north of Mybster Farm. The recorded heritage assets indicated that the development corridor lies within an extensively occupied prehistoric landscape, buried remains of which could be present along the cable trench route. Furthermore, the area around the adjacent settlement of Spittal was historically an important regional focus for several centuries, in which the former inns at Mybster and at Achkeepster to the south played their part.

Monitoring of excavations for the cable trench failed to identify any important buried archaeological deposits or structures. Minor features recorded were restricted to a palaeochannel containing peat deposits and an associated humified buried soil, which were located towards the southwest end of the cable trench. Whilst these naturally occurring features could provide information concerning the history of the natural environment, climate and landuse, no related archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified. Archaeological activity was restricted to the modern period and evidenced by the cutting of two large rubble-filled pits and by the laying of two field drains.

In view of these largely negative results, no further analysis and reporting work is recommended.

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## Legislation and Policy

The common principles underlying international conventions, national legislation and local authority planning policies are that cultural heritage assets should be identified in advance of development and safeguarded where practicable; if disturbance is unavoidable appropriate recording of features and recovery of portable artefacts should take place. These have been set out in international and European Union agreements, and UK and Scottish legislation, as well as national and local planning policies<sup>1</sup>.

Professional standards maintained throughout the present project adhered to the Codes of Conduct and Approved Practice and Standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists<sup>2</sup>.

## Acknowledgements

This document was written by Donna Young and edited by Andrew Young MCIfA. The project was commissioned and funded by SSEN. Fieldwork was directed by Andrew Young with the assistance of Donna Young and Karen Kennedy. Background mapping has been reproduced with the permission of the Ordnance Survey under Licence 100043217. Historic mapping is courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.

## Glossary

CIfA – Chartered Institute for Archaeologists  
HAS – Highland Archaeology Services Ltd  
HHER – Highland Historic Environment Record  
NGR – National Grid Reference  
OS – Ordnance Survey  
SSEN – Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks  
MGS – modern ground surface

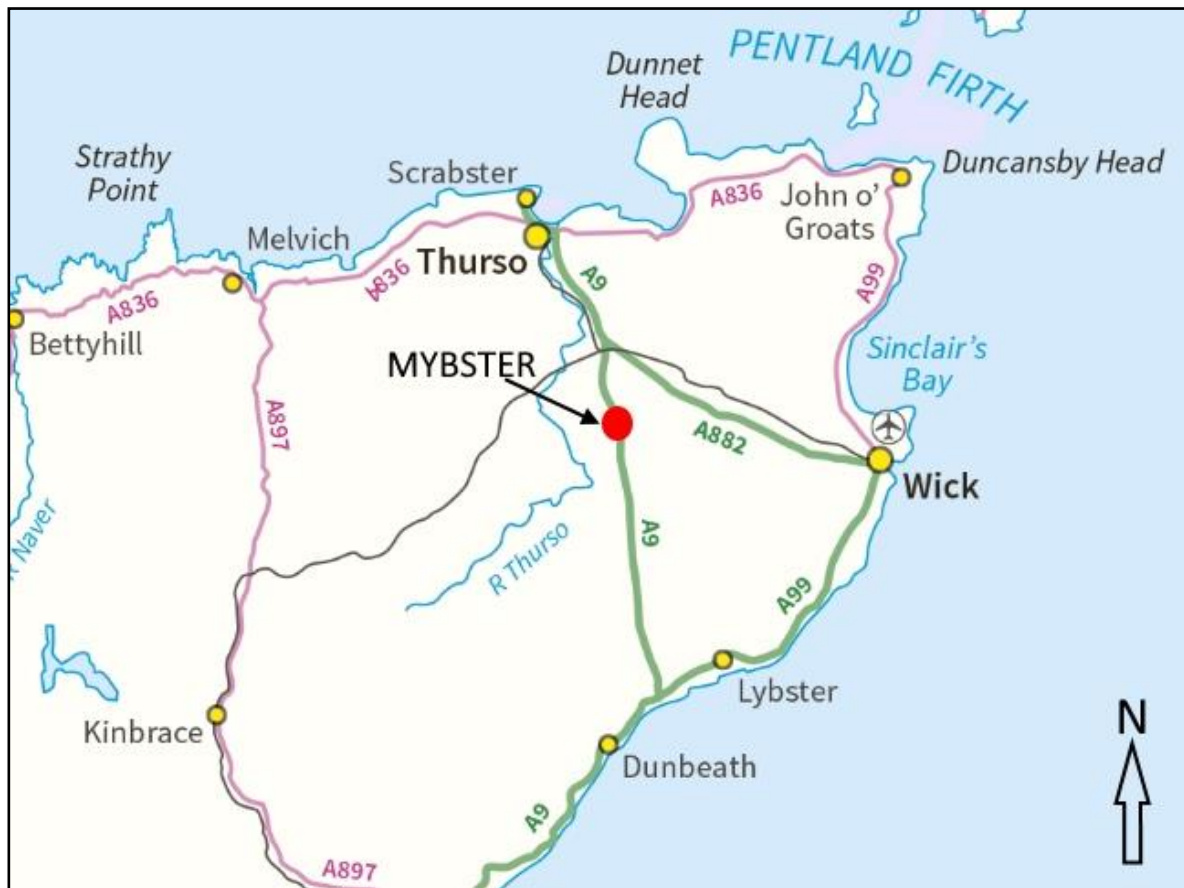
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<sup>1</sup> A summary of relevant international, EU, UK and Scottish legislation and policies is available from the HAS office on request.

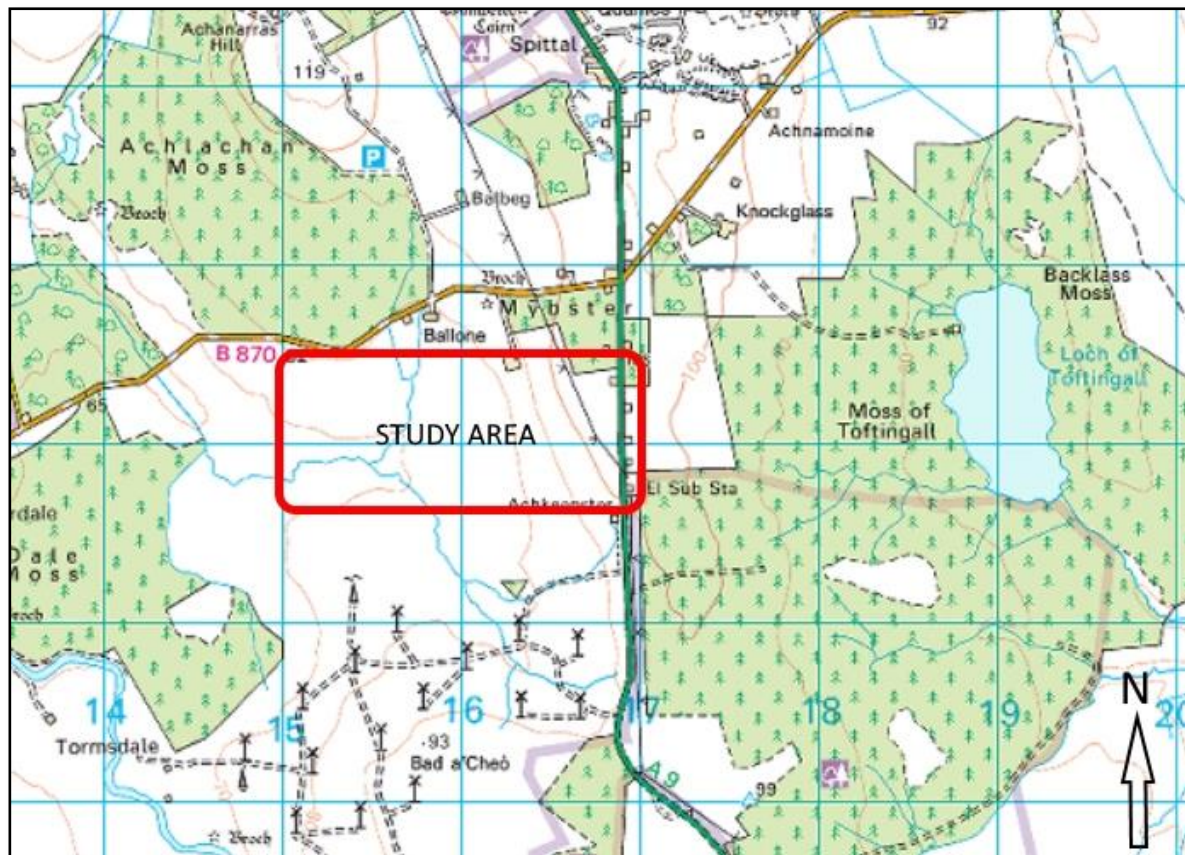
<sup>2</sup> Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Excavation.

## Location

The study area lies in Caithness in northeast Scotland close to the dispersed hamlet of Mybster (Figures 1 and 2) and consists of the corridor of an extensive stretch of powerline undergrounding works extending between a site-specific electricity substation under construction to serve the new Achlachan Windfarm (at ND 15100 52335) and an established large electricity substation sited immediately south of Mybster alongside the main A9 carriageway (at ND 16915 51870). At the time of the fieldwork, the route of the service trench was excavated through a combination of open moorland, managed grassland pasture and roadside verges.



**Figure 1** – General site location. Not to scale



**Figure 2** - Location of the study area, defining the wider landscape traversed by the cable trench.  
Grid scale 1km

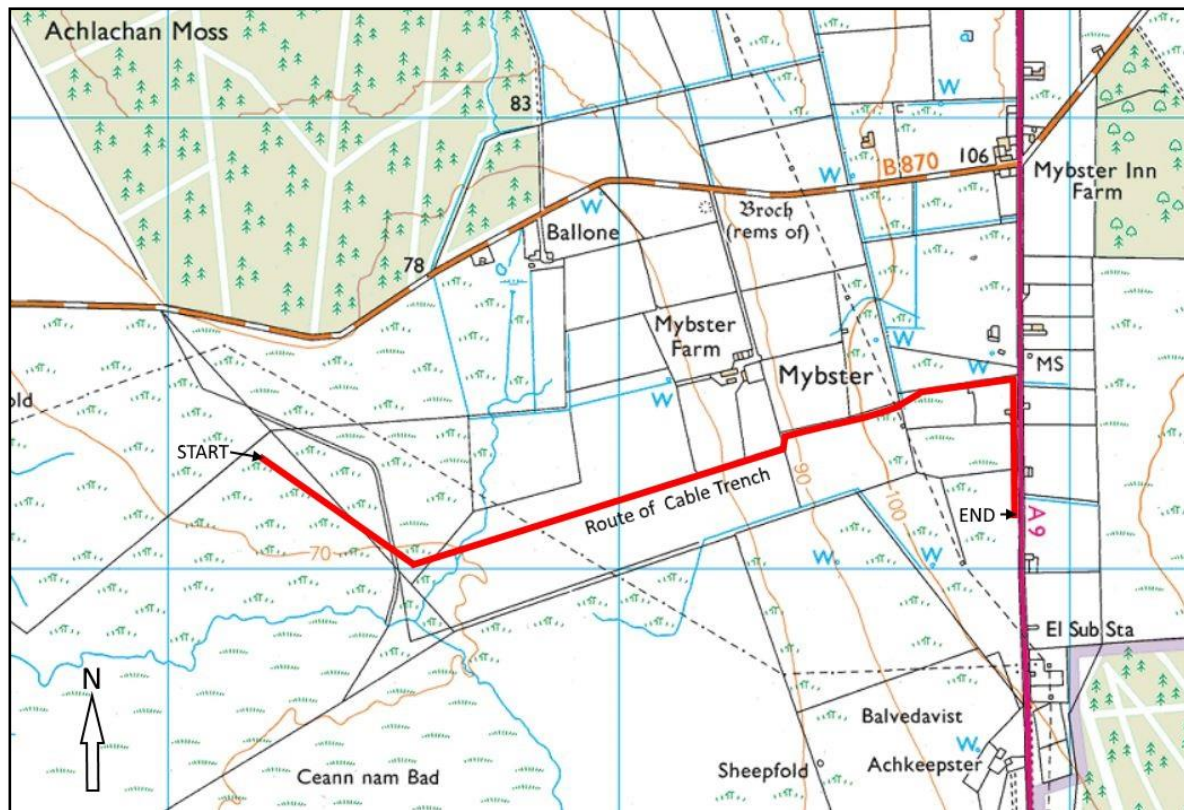


Figure 3 – Route of the cable trench. Grid scale 1km

## Introduction

Highland Archaeology Services Ltd was commissioned by Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) to undertake a watching brief during groundworks associated with the routing of a high voltage 33kV cable extending between a site-specific substation (under construction) and the existing Mybster Substation sited to the east, alongside the main A9 carriageway. This cable would link the new turbines erected at Achlachan Windfarm with the National Grid.

The cable trench extended for a distance of some 2.16 km in total, traversing moorland, managed and improved agricultural land and roadside verge alongside the A9 (Figure 3).

The Historic Environment Team at Highland Council required that all groundworks be monitored archaeologically in order to identify and record potential buried archaeological remains revealed along the route of the cable trench.

## Archaeological and Historical Background

Readily available documentary and cartographic sources for the site were reviewed in advance of fieldwork, during the compilation of a preliminary Project Design, Methods Statement and Risk Assessment (MYB 18-006), in order to identify significant recorded monuments, areas, sites and find locations in the vicinity of the development area – in accordance with the guidelines set out in

the Highland Council's published *Standards for Archaeological Work* 2012<sup>3</sup>. The results of a comprehensive desk-based assessment for the study area and environs are detailed below.

### *Scheduled Monuments*

No scheduled monuments are located along the route of the cable trench, however six monuments are sited in its environs, one of which, Ballone Broch (SM521) lies in close proximity, to the north of Mybster Farm on the edge of the B870 minor road providing access to the windfarm. Four of the five remaining scheduled monuments are also brochs, two of which lie to the southeast of Dale Farm on the northern side of the B870. A distance of only some 200m separates a smaller unnamed broch (SM545) from the larger Cnoc Donn Broch (SM541), the latter an important and well-preserved example with extant defensive ditch on its eastern side. The third broch (SM561) is situated at Knockglass beyond the A9 carriageway and a fourth lies to the north of the latter, at Spittal Farm (SM582). A short distance to the west of this, at Spittal Mains, sits the final monument, Fairy Hillock, a chambered cairn (SM528).

### *Historic Environment Record*

The scheduled monuments discussed above are also identified in the Highland Historic Environment Record under the following listings: MHG192 Ballone Broch; MHG1490 Cnoc Donn Broch and adjacent unnamed broch MHG1491; Knockglass Broch MHG190; Spittal Farm Broch MHG187; Fairy Hillock chambered cairn MHG188.

The study area lies to the west of the dispersed hamlet of Mybster and to the south of the historically important Spittal Hill.

MHG32360 the placename Mybster derives from the Norse element *bolstadr* meaning Moor Farm and dates the origin of the settlement to the period 800-1300AD. It also indicates that peat formation had occurred in the area prior to the establishment of the settlement.

MHG18878 rick stances and farmstead at Ballone (ND 1581 5267). The rick stances comprise a row of six stacks of flagstones set edge-on and leaning inwards, each c 1.5m in diameter and 0.5m high. The associated farmstead was recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1877, sheet xxiii) as four roofed buildings including one L-shaped long building, one unroofed building and an enclosure. Three unroofed buildings are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map published in 1976.

MHG19786 a farmstead with watermill is located between Mybster and Ballone on the northern side of the B870 access road (ND 1655 5292). It consists of a rectangular longhouse some 27m x 5m and orientated NE-SW. The interior is subdivided and has a fireplace in the northeast room. A small annexe is attached at the northeast end and a lean-to shed built against the southeast face. The mill was also constructed in longhouse form (measuring c 21m x 6m) immediately adjacent and perpendicular to the farmhouse. The mill lade leading from the building still contains some water. An associated squared enclosure extending to some 17m was defined with edge-on set slabs, a common boundary marker in the locality. The two roofed buildings, lade and a sluice are depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1877, sheet xxiii), however only one roofed building is shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10,000 map (1976).

MHG19785 a longhouse is recorded to the south of the B870 at ND 1570 5267. The E-W orientated rectangular building survives to a length of 9.6m and is 5m wide. It has a small annexe 2.45m x 3m attached to the east wall.

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<sup>3</sup> Downloadable from

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1033/planning\\_environment\\_and\\_development/attachment/19663](http://www.highland.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1033/planning_environment_and_development/attachment/19663)

MHG19788 an area of rig and furrow (ND 1580 5225) is recorded to the west of Mybster Farm. The east-west aligned furrows are 1.2m wide, 0.15m deep and 4m apart.

MHG19803 Mybster Farm and watermill sited at ND 1625 5243. Long rectangular structure 36.2m in length and 5.4m wide, subdivided internally – the east room contained the wheel pit for the mill, now infilled, whilst a fireplace was evident in the west room, the latter subsequently converted into a byre by the insertion of stalls. Four roofed buildings are depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1877, sheet xxiii), whilst five roofed buildings are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10,000 map (1976).

MHG19790 an east-west orientated longhouse located at ND 1650 5252 and extending for some 11.1m in length and 5.6m in width survives as a rectangular structure with no internal divisions. A 5.6m x 4m annexe attached on the east side is defined by grass-covered wall 0.1m high and a semi-circular feature 2-5m in diameter, possibly a kiln, is attached to the west end. A roofed building is depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1877, sheet xxiii) and is unroofed on the current edition of the OS 1:10,000 map (1976).

MHG19780 post-medieval farmstead comprising two longhouses adjacent to the A9 at ND 1683 5250. Both are similarly-sized, at 17.6m x 5.6m and 18m x 4.9m and subdivided into three rooms internally. Fireplaces are noted in two of the three rooms in the east-west orientated longhouse, whilst the closely adjacent perpendicular longhouse is attached to the former by a wall some 2m in length has a small annexe at its northern end. Three roofed buildings are depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1877, sheet xxiii) and on the 1976 edition of the OS 1:10,000 map.

MHG19792 a single east-west orientated longhouse c 22.2m long and 6m wide lies alongside the A9 a short distance to the south at ND 1685 5234. It is divided in two internally, the western portion further subdivided with animal stalls. A small annexe is attached to each of the north and south long walls and at the western end of the building. The building is shown as in use in 1877 on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6-inch OS plan (Caithness sheet xxiii) and is still roofed on the 1976 OS 1:10,000 map.

MHG194 a Bronze Age hut circle was recorded in 1910 lying to the west of the study area on the north side of the B870 (ND 14583 52632). The circle was 12ft in diameter and enclosed by a bank or wall some 4-6ft thick. Both the inner and outer edges of the wall/bank appeared to have been defined with large stones laid edge to edge, thickly overgrown with grass. The entrance was probably on the southwest side, although the bank at that location was heavily eroded/disturbed.

The hut circle was recorded in 1981 as having been destroyed during recent land improvements.

MHG19793 Bronze Age hut circle some 15m in external diameter defined by a circular grass covered bank 200mm high, which surrounds a flat and hollowed out interior c 7m in diameter with an entrance to the southwest. Located at ND 14716 52223.

St Magnus Chapel (MHG42410) and Hospital (MHG1350) with attendant cemetery (MHG42411) is recorded some 2km to the north-northwest of the study area at ND 15905 54808. Whilst some distance from the present study area, this represents an important site in the history of the wider area from the medieval period onwards.

Little is known of the hospital of St Magnus beyond that it was mentioned in 1476 and was still in existence in 1633. The dedication is to Norse St Magnus, who was executed in 1116.

The chapel of the hospital was also church of Spittal parish, which was combined with Halkirk and Skinnet parishes in 16th century.

The site of the south wall of the hospital was pointed out to the OS surveyor in 1872, by which time it had been demolished for many years. It had been 102ft long. By 1910 the chapel was in ruinous condition. The east gable stood 12ft high, with side walls averaging 6 to 8ft. It measured about 65ft by 19ft within walls 3ft 4ins thick. No decorative features were visible and the interior was overgrown with nettles. The neglected adjoining graveyard, long used by the Clan Gunn, was still

in occasional use in 1872. The area of both the graveyard and the church was covered with uninscribed gravestones and is enclosed by an old sunken wall.

A survey of the site in 1965 recorded that the north and south walls survived to a height of 1.5m, the east wall to gable height, and the west wall was 1m high. The graveyard, contained within a grassy bank, has numerous gravestones, the most recent dated 1911.

The site of St Magnus's Hospital appeared as a rectangular sunken area measuring 30.5m east-west by 6m transversely, with what appeared to be a division near its west end. Between the hospital and chapel lay footings of several buildings with internal divisions, which appeared to be contemporary, and associated with the hospital. The south wall of these secondary buildings also acts as the north wall of the hospital, and survived to height of 0.4m.

Resurveyed in 1982, some contradictions to the preceding records were noted. St Magnus's Chapel, within a disused graveyard, was as described by previous authorities, however the hospital appeared to have been incorrectly located to a 'sunken rectangular area' by previous OS field surveyor, it being suggested here that this area, open at the west end, was somewhat damp, and may be result of later disturbance. The stretch of walling, 6m long, exposed along the north side of the sunken area is not the north wall of the hospital as stated, but part of the south wall of a range of buildings, presumably representing the hospital, which occurs between sunken area and chapel, and which is reduced to amorphous, turf-covered footings.

The latest survey, undertaken in 1995 records the site as comprising:

*Chapel and hospital, St Magnus', Spittal*

*A: Chapel. Dimensions: 21 x 7m. Rectangular structure filled with rubble. Orientation E-W. An unenclosed graveyard lies to the S containing unmarked stones and three stones with inscriptions.*

*B: Hospital. Dimensions: 31 x 4m. A sunken rectangular area to the S of A. Orientation E-W.*

## Preceding Archaeological Investigations

A desk-based assessment and extensive walkover survey was carried out prior to the establishment of the Achkeepster Windfarm (Hooper 2001), during which a comprehensive history of the wider area was compiled and some 37 archaeological sites were surveyed during the fieldwork. Those sites at Achkeepster and Balvedavist to the immediate south of the present study area are detailed below by their HHER listing.

MHG18906 at Achkeepster, a drove stance consisting of two conjoined enclosures located to the immediate east of the A9 carriageway (ND 16955 51637). The drove stance was surveyed in 2012 by David Glass for the HER and the resulting entry describes it thus:

*a stock enclosure adjacent to the A9 road and lying to the east of it. The Mybster electricity sub-station lies immediately north of the site. The enclosure is in the form of a parallelogram of dimensions 154 metres by 67 metres. Earthen dykes contain the enclosure and divide it into two compartments of approximately equal size. The dykes are continuous and intact except on the northern side where there has been disturbance, probably from construction of the sub-station. The dykes have spread to a width of two to three metres and are reduced to a height of one metre or less. There are openings in the west and east walls of the northern compartment. The eastern opening might have been a gateway but shows machinery tracks and could have been recently created. The western opening is probably a gateway. There is a grass-covered pile of stones immediately outside this opening on its north side. This might be the remains of a small building or shelter. The two compartments are connected by a narrow opening in the dyke which separates them. The size and shape of the enclosure is typical of a drove stance and the location is strategically placed for this purpose. The former*

*Achkeepster Inn was situated immediately west of the site. The location is close to the Mybster crossroads and the former market sites of Spittal, Sordale and Backlass lie within a short distance to the north and east. Drovers from this location could have continued either south by the Causeymire road or west to join the Ca na Catanach drove road at Rumsdale or Altnabreac. The site was identified as having been used by drovers in an archaeological assessment prior to construction of a wind farm (1). The enclosure is shown on the current 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey map and on the 1877 Ordnance Survey six-inch map.*

MHG18917 a post-medieval farmstead at Achkeepster (ND 16862 51607) depicted on the 1877 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS six-inch map (Caithness sheet xxiii) as one roofed, long building and two unroofed buildings, and four enclosures. A roofed building and two enclosures are shown on the 1976 OS 1:10000 map. The HER listing notes that:

*the settlement of Achkeepster consists of the shepherd's cottage built in 1901, an extremely long, multi-compartmental building, aligned NE-SW, a well and a series of small enclosures. Allowing for the later construction of the cottage and its adjacent outhouse and the insertion of wire fences, the layout of the enclosures around the buildings seems to reflect that visible on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition. An inn is recorded at this location in documentary references.*

And:

*a series of watching briefs, within and outside Achkeepster Cottage, were carried out in 2004. A survey of the group of buildings at this site was carried out. A building survey was also conducted of the shepherd's cottage prior to conversion into a substation associated with the windfarm at Causeymire.*

These last were undertaken by CFA Archaeology Limited (Mudie and Badger 2004), the long, multi-compartmental building identified as the probable former Achkeepster Inn used by the drovers as they headed south to market.

The next few listings appear to describe the same feature, located at Balvedavist and recorded on several occasions with varying interpretations, hence the duplicate entries. These all refer to an extant earthwork or mound at ND 1680 5158. The first entry, MHG45518, describes it as a burial site – the feature is notated as a cairn on the 1960 OS plan in reference to an entry in the 1871 OS Name Book that describes it as:

*a mound - "a large Pictish house" - which was removed many years before 1871, the stones from the inside being used to build outhouses on the neighbouring farm. Human remains and animal bones were found during the removal.*

The feature is surveyed in 1972 when it is described as a broch (MHG162):

*a slight grassy rise about 30m in diameter and 0.5m high marks the site. A few stones protruding in S arc show no intelligible pattern and the footings of a wall, probably later, curve round W side. The situation is suggestive of a broch rather than a cairn, although there is no certain evidence for this.*

A second survey, in 1982, further records a former corn-drying kiln at the site (MHG 25192):

*the site is a turf-covered rise about 30m in diameter and 0.4m high. Footings of a wall abandoned in the 18th-19th century curve round the W side; in the S edge is a convex arc of coursed stone, 1.2m in length and 0.3m high, probably the remains of an old corn-drying kiln. The rise itself does not exhibit any characteristics other than tenuous indications of a central depression which could suggest the court of a broch, but overall the site is unclassifiable.*

MHG54155 a well-preserved sheep fold shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map (Caithness 1877, sheet xxiii) at ND 16449 51575 and listed (using Hooper's description) as:

*this stell, lying to the west of the fields of Achkeepster and Balvedavist, is marked on the OS First edition map. On the ground, it - like site 026 - appears to be a well-maintained*

*structure, still standing to 1.6m high, over walls 1.5m wide, but tapering towards the top. All the coping stones are still in place, as is the lintel over the doorway in the south-east quadrant. The stell is 12m in diameter and lies just inside the boundary of the fields belonging to Achkeepster.*

MHG 54156 is depicted as a sheep shelter situated at ND 16123 51542 on the 1877 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map (Caithness sheet xxiii). The listing again quotes Hooper:

*the scanty remains of this sheep shelter, which is marked on the OS First edition map, consists of two opposed arcs of walling, joined in the middle. Little stone is apparent in its structure and it appears simply to be a very regularly shaped patch of sedge within a relatively marshy area. Each limb of the sheep shelter measures 6m long, with the central section measuring 3m in length.*

The subsequent *Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Assessment* undertaken in 2012 by Headland Archaeology and included as part of the more extensive Environmental Statement for the Achlachan Windfarm Project also involved desk-based assessment and walkover survey. No new archaeological sites or monuments were identified during the assessment and it was deemed that only one existing monument, Ballone Broch, would be adversely affected by the construction of the windfarm. As this negative impact would be entirely visual rather than physical, the impact was considered to be less damaging than it otherwise might have been, as the broch already sits in a managed farmland landscape; its setting thus already diminished.

## Canmore

Reference to the Historic Environment Scotland Canmore database identified 24 listings within or close to the study area, although, again none lay on the route of the cable trench and so were not directly impacted by the excavations. The majority of the listings (20) refer to sites recorded on the HER database detailed above, so will not be discussed further here. The remaining four entries are described below.

Canmore 8330 possible prehistoric standing stones at ND 16802 51903 sited in a field to the west of and abutting the A9 carriageway, opposite the electricity substation. There are four stones in the group, lying flat or nearly so. Once postulated to relate to grave markers in the 1871 OS Name Book, but subsequently dismissed as unrelated. Most recent entry states that it cannot be established if they are naturally or artificially placed.

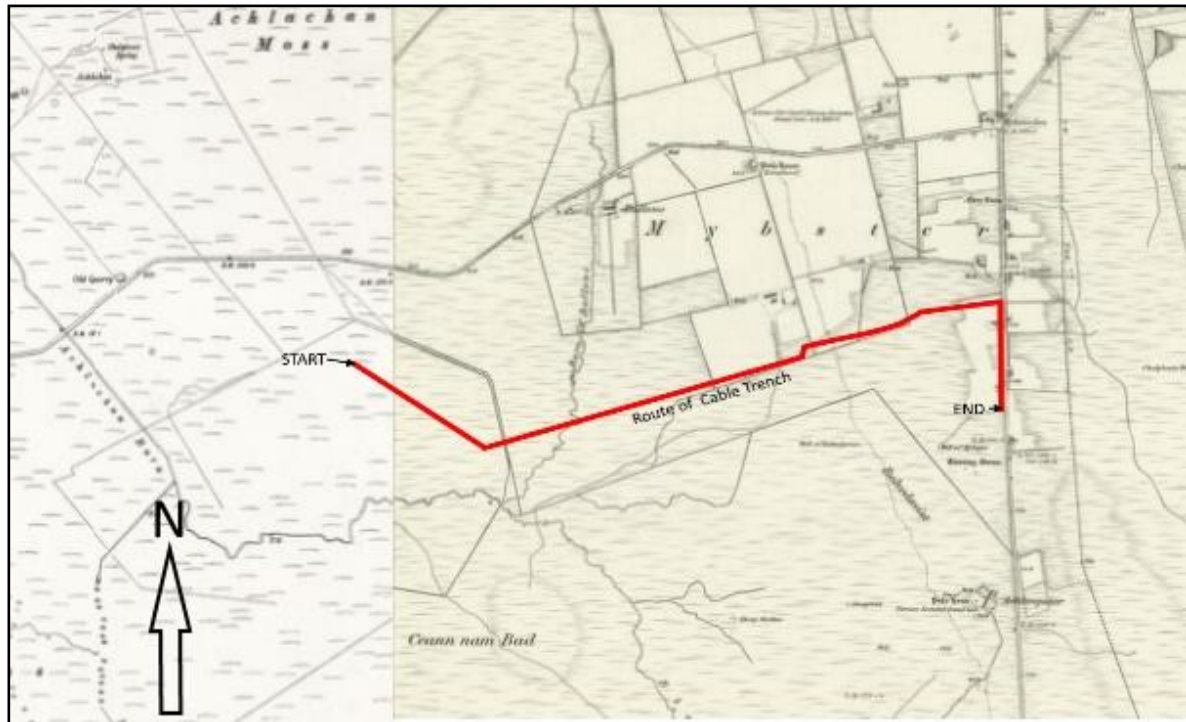
Canmore 300375 19<sup>th</sup> century croft adjacent and to the west of the A9 carriageway at ND 1687 5215. Building survey and watching brief undertaken in 2008 suggest the croft house was built post 1850 and occupied into the first half of the 20th century. It appears to have been one of several adjacent small holdings associated with 19th-century agricultural improvements. Stripping of the site revealed soil profiles indicating that some soil improvement had been successful at the southern but not at the northern end of the site, where peat deposits had formed in a natural basin in the underlying boulder clay.

Canmore 8343 possible prehistoric standing stone at ND 16770 52692. Listed as Grey Stone, formerly 'Clach Ghlaise' which appears to be natural but is said to be one of the standing stones marking the site of a grave. It was split by blasting a few years before 1872.

Canmore 8341 cist recorded at ND 16439 52922 to the north of the B870. Initially recorded in the OS Name Book 1872 as being about 5ft long and 'of the usual description'. It contained human remains and was found during ploughing in 1867 by Mr Sutherland of Mybster Inn. The entry was updated in 1995, describing it as being an east-west orientated fragmented stone structure 2m x 1m with a central stone kerbed area surrounded by an outer ring of stones 0.8m wide.

## Historic Maps

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps were inspected for evidence of historic features. As described above in the individual records, several of the Historic Environment Record and Canmore listings were evident on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 6-inch map (Caithness 1876/1877, sheets xxii and xxiii) and some were still extant on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the same map published in 1907/1908. An extract from both is reproduced below (Figures 4 and 5).



**Figure 4** - Extract from the 1st edition OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1876/1877, composite of sheets xxii and xxiii). Not to scale. (Showing approximate route of cable trench)



**Figure 5** - Extract from the 2nd edition OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1907/1908, composite of sheets xxii and xxiii). Not to scale. (Showing approximate route of cable trench)

### *Statistical Accounts*

The Old and New Statistical Accounts for the Parish of Halkirk in the County of Caithness were read, searching for relevant historical detail which might inform the findings of the investigation.

The Old Statistical Account, written by the Reverend John Cameron in 1797, gives details of the land use in the general area of the development. The author describes the extent and fertility of the cornfields, the richness and variety of the pasture, both improved and on the unenclosed moorland, and the prehistoric antiquities therein, all of which point to the area holding a ‘distinguished rank in the country’ from an early date. Spittal Hill is mentioned as being the only hill in the area of any note, centrally positioned within the county and with extensive prospects of the Orkney Isles and Pentland Firth, as well as overland views of the interior of the county. The hill is believed named Spittal from a contraction of hospital, in reference to the adjacent medieval St Magnus Chapel and Hospital. It is suggested these were named after their founder, St Magnus of Orkney and furthermore that he was a Knights Templar and that Spittal Hill and surrounding lands were amongst their holdings for a time. It is also claimed that the hospital, rather than originating as a strictly medical establishment, was so called because it gave hospitality to pilgrims travelling to and from the religious houses on Orkney and to the poor. The chapel cemetery was used for a time as the resting place for the members of clan Gunn, the dead being carried from holdings to the west in Sutherland, to be buried there.

Oral tradition recorded by the Reverend Cameron relates that all of the peoples of Caithness would gather periodically at Spittal Hill, chosen for its central location and elevation, although no mention is made of the reason for this – possibly a market? The New Statistical Account, compiled by the Reverend John Munro in 1845, confirms that an annual market formerly was held on the summit of Spittal Hill and recently had been relocated to a more accessible location, at Ruggy Hill. This location, partly in Halkirk parish, but also in Thurs and Bower parishes is served by five roads, including one from Latheron, alongside which the inns at Mybster and Achkeepster sit. These inns

have provided hospitality for travellers (and at Achkeepster their herds as well) in more recent times, much as medieval St Mungo's at Spittal did prior to its suggested enforced closure early in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

In summation, both accounts recognise the number and variety of prehistoric monuments in the area around Mybster supporting the idea that the study area was one small part of an extensive and densely occupied/utilised prehistoric landscape. The accounts also highlight that Caithness historically was more densely populated and exploited agriculturally than it is now and that the area around Spittal, Mybster and Achkeepster played an important role in medieval and post-medieval Caithness.

## The Watching Brief

All groundworks undertaken for the laying of the new cables were subject to an archaeological watching brief. This commenced on 17 August 2018 and terminated on 19 September 2018.

### *Methodology*

An experienced professional archaeologist monitored the machine excavation of the cable trench over the route. Topsoil and other overburden were removed in order to expose underlying deposits, which were examined for evidence of archaeological activity – features, deposits and/or artefacts – and removed in sequence thereafter until the natural substrate was reached. As far as possible a single-bladed bucket was used to excavate the cable trench, however there were instances when the ground conditions, namely the occurrence of dense rubble deposits or bedded sandstone, meant that a multi-toothed bucket, ripper, or indeed, breaker, were employed.

A written record was made for all contexts and scaled photographs were taken. Archaeological features and deposits were cleaned by hand and written records and scaled photographs and drawings made as appropriate. All artefacts were bagged and labelled with a unique context identifier. The route of the cable trench and all features and deposits therein were located using a hand-held survey grade GPS unit accurate to 250mm. Camera points were also logged.

### *Site Observations*

#### **General**

The cable trench extended for an overall distance of approximately 2.1km following an approximate z-shaped route over the study area. The first section of trench extended southeastwards from the site-specific windfarm substation (under construction) for c 415m before turning to run northeastwards for 1385m until it reached the A9 carriageway. At this point the cable trench turned, heading south towards the extant Mybster electricity substation. The watching brief was terminated with the agreement of the Highland Council Archaeology Officer after a distance of 255m along this section of the cable trench had been monitored and before it reached the substation.

The cable trench was excavated to the required depth of 1.3m over the entire length, except at some locations detailed below where ground conditions and/or design requirements dictated a variation to this. Similarly, the cable trench varied in width at the surface over the route as a whole, but was usually 500-600mm wide at the base where the cables were laid.

## The Cable Trench

The excavation of the cable trench commenced at Point A (Figure 6) towards the southwest end of the long central southwest-northeast aligned section of the route. Initially, in anticipation of exposing peat deposits, the trench was opened using a v-shaped bucket, however no peat deposits were located. A buried soil that extended for a distance of 94m was exposed in section some 550mm at maximum below the modern ground surface partway along the trench (Figure 6 and Plate 1).

### *Stratigraphic sequence recorded at Point A*

**Context 101** – modern ground surface (MGS) comprising some 300mm of turf and humic friable light brown sandy silt topsoil, largely stone-free save for rare flat boulders

**Context 102** – 300mm at maximum of yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil flecked with manganese

**Context 103** – a thick horizon (500-600mm) of brownish grey clay with abundant highly weathered sandstone brash

**Context 104** – bedded sandstone substrate revealed in the base of the trench at c 1.2m below MGS

Sandy clay subsoil 102 was revealed as an intermittent deposit and the humic topsoil (101) varied in depth accordingly, increasing up to 450mm in thickness where the subsoil (102) was absent. As the trench continued northeastwards, a discrete buried soil (106) was preserved in the sequence. This was sealed by and overlay similar clay bands (105 and 107).

### *The buried soil and associated deposits*

**Context 105** – 100-150 mm thick band of manganese-stained yellowish brown clay intermittently sealed by the subsoil (102) and overlying buried soil 106



**Plate 1** – Buried soil 106 viewed from CP6, looking NE. Scale 2m

**Context 106** – discrete buried soil sealed by the subsoil (103) and consisting of a narrow band of pale brownish yellow clay c 150mm deep at maximum, its upper and lower edges each defined by a 20mm thick lens of dark humic material

**Context 107** – 200-250mm thick band of yellowish brown clay revealed below buried soil 106 and overlying the clay brash (103)

Buried soil 106 and associated clay deposits (105 and 107) extended northeastwards for some 90m before thinning and/or fading out, possibly due in part to the occurrence of widespread outcrops of bedded sandstone substrate (104) rising from the base of the trench to a maximum height of 700mm below MGS and interrupting the overlying deposits. As the trench continued to the northeast and the bedded sandstone outcrops (104) gradually diminished in height until once again the stone was revealed as little more than lining the trench in the base, an increasingly thick horizon of ‘banded’ brownish yellow and blue grey stony clays (108) was exposed sealed by the subsoil (102) and overlying clay brash 103.

**Context 108** – deep horizon of laminated (in appearance) brownish yellow and blue grey clays with frequent small and medium stone inclusions, more particularly so the blue grey clays, maximum thickness 550mm. Sealed by 102 and overlying 103

### *The quarry pit*

This stratigraphic sequence subsequently was interrupted by a large modern cutting (109/110, Figure 7, Plate 2), possibly a backfilled quarry pit. The cut (109) was c 13.5m in length overall with a steeply sloping southwest side dropping to an undulating base, in excess of 1.3m deep in places.

The northeast side of the cutting was stepped in form, incorporating a shallow scoop some 2.5m in length at the surface before dropping abruptly to the base thereafter. The feature fill (110) was very mixed, comprising redeposited clays and topsoil derived from the sequence of deposits through which it had been cut, as well as abundant brashy stone and sandstone rubble including some large slab-like stones up to 750mm in length.



**Plate 2** – Detail of the stepped northeast side of modern rubble-filled cutting 109, CP12, looking north. No scale

**Context 109** – cut of a large modern feature 13.5m in length and >1.3m deep. Cut has steep southwest side and stepped northeast side with upper shallow scoop 2.5m long and lower steep decline to the uneven base. Filled with 110 and cutting 101, 102, 108, 103 and 104. ?quarry pit – no sign of animal carcass, rubbish or the suchlike

**Context 110** – single very mixed fill of modern cutting 109 comprising topsoil, clay chods, brashy stone and abundant large rubble, some 600-750mm in length – ?redeposited bedrock

The stratigraphic sequence continued uninterrupted thereafter to the northeast (Plate 3), with only two variations of note: the topsoil horizon 101 became increasingly wetter and more humic, somewhat peat-like as it extended over the moorland, and the laminated appearance of banded clay deposit 108 gradually diminished as the clays became more mixed, giving the layer an overall greenish grey hue (renumbered as deposit 111). The subsoil (102) remained an intermittent deposit; topsoil 101 increasing in thickness up to 700mm at maximum where the subsoil was absent. A 2m wide pit some 13m in length and in excess of 1.4m deep was excavated and left open for a time to accommodate the joining of cable reels by suitably qualified persons (Figure 7).



**Plate 3** – General view from CP13, looking SW. Scale 2m

**Context 111** – deep horizon (c 600mm) of greenish grey clay with moderate brash and sandstone rubble inclusions occurring throughout but particularly so in its lower reaches. Sealed intermittently by subsoil 102

and overlying clay brash 103 interrupted by bedded sandstone outcrops 104. Indistinct boundary with laminated clay deposit 108 with which it merges to the southwest

The excavation of the southwest-northeast orientated stretch of the cable trench was halted temporarily at the boundary of the moorland and fields of improved grazing attached to Mybster Farm (Point B, Figure 7). No features or deposits of archaeological interest were revealed during excavation of the intervening extent of the cable trench save for two ceramic field drains (115 and 116) sited in near proximity.

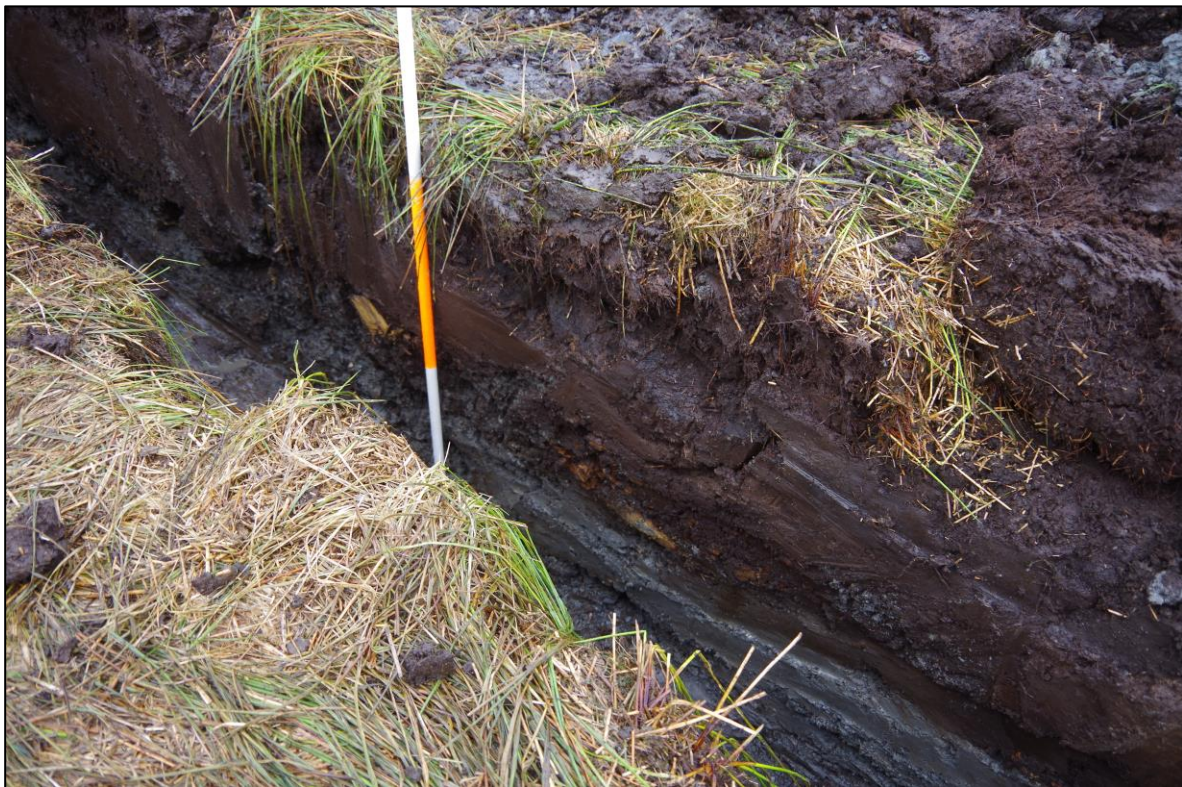
**Context 115** – land drain comprising modern cut with ceramic pipe in the base some 750mm below MGS

**Context 116** – land drain comprising 6-inch ceramic pipe laid in the base of a modern shallow cut, 300mm below MGS

It was at this point that the short section of trench extending northwestwards and up to the windfarm substation (under construction) was excavated.

#### *The northwest-southeast orientated cable trench*

This section of the cable trench was excavated from Point A (Figure 6) and headed southwest for some 45m, before turning to the northwest to extend up the substation. An east-west orientated palaeochannel (112) was revealed adjacent to buried soil 106 in the southwest section. The palaeochannel was c 7.8m wide and reached a depth of 900mm. It was filled with humic and clay deposits (113/114, Plate 4) and contained waterlogged vegetative and wood remains, particularly in the base.



**Plate 4** – Detail of humic rich deposits with waterlogged wood in palaeochannel 112 from CP16, looking NW. Scale 2m

**Context 112** – Cut of a palaeochannel – naturally eroded feature some 7.8m wide and up to 900mm deep. Orientated east-west roughly

**Context 113** – 300mm thick naturally accumulated primary deposit revealed in the base of the palaeochannel and consisting of saturated grey clay with inclusions of well-preserved birch and hazel branches/twigs up to three inches in the round as well as abundant smaller woody fragments

**Context 114** – some 600mm depth of largely homogeneous grey to reddish brown clay, not waterlogged, and within which only sparse inclusions of preserved plant material are evident

Beyond this, the stratigraphy in the northwest return of the trench consisted of turf and topsoil 101 (MGS), revealed at varying thickness – from 350mm to 750mm – over the extent of the trench. The MGS sealed a mottled subsoil horizon (102) c 350mm thick, which in turn overlay mixed clay and brash 103. The clay brash mix varied in depth from some 700mm at maximum to >100mm where an outcrop of bedded sandstone 104 extended for a distance of c 66m in the base of the trench, rising to a height of 650mm below MGS. The overall extent and thickness of this outcrop necessitated the use of both a breaker and ripper to remove it from the trench (Plate 5). Upon completion of this section of trench up to the substation under construction, the excavation of the northeastern end of the southwest-northeast orientated stretch of the trench was restarted from Point B (Figure 7).

### *Mybster Farm*

A differing excavation methodology was employed where the route of the trench crossed the improved pasture attached to Mybster Farm (Figure 8). Here, at the request of the farmer, a



**Plate 5** – Excavation using the ripper of bedded sandstone outcrop 104 in the northwest return, from CP22, looking N. Scale 2m

defined corridor of some 20m at its widest was designated as the area within which the excavation of the cable trench and all associated activities were to take place in order to limit disturbance to the pasture. Inside this area, the turf and topsoil 101 (MGS, depth 360mm) was stripped from a corridor some 5-6m wide, revealing the underlying thin sandy clay subsoil (102). The narrow cable trench proper was then excavated from this level until the required overall depth of 1.3m was reached and the resulting spoil was deposited on the adjacent exposed surface of the subsoil. As observed elsewhere over the cable trench, the subsoil sealed variable thicknesses of clay brash (103) and

bedded sandstone substrate (104) in the base. A modern rubble-filled cut (117/118, Figure 8 and Plate 6) was exposed on the boundary between the moorland and improved grazing.

**Context 117** – subcircular cut with irregular edge in plan cutting the topsoil at the southwest end of the stripped area. In excess of 360mm deep, but not fully excavated/exposed within the cable trench proper. Modern cut of indeterminate function filled by 118

**Context 118** – mixed rubble and brownish yellow clay fill of cut 117, not fully excavated



**Plate 6** – Surface of rubble fill of modern cutting 117 exposed after topsoil stripping, from CP26, looking west. Scale 2m

The trench continued northeast towards the A9 with little significant variation. Some modern debris such as crushed brick and timber from broken fenceposts had been incorporated into the topsoil at various locations and the subsoil (102) gradually petered out, replaced by a mottled clay substrate deposit (119) overlying exposures of the clay brash (103) or bedded sandstone (104). A few fragmented thin slab-like stones were also incorporated into the topsoil close to a fenced field boundary. These probably derived from upright large thin slabs, now broken, formerly used to define the boundary, such as those observed bounding several adjacent fields. The only artefact recovered during the course of the whole project, a single shard of vessel glass with rim, was recovered during the topsoil stripping (Figure 8). Once the opposing boundary between the improved farmland and rough ground alongside the A9 had been reached (Point C, Figure 8) topsoil stripping ceased and the excavation of the trench reverted back to the original methodology - employing a narrow slot trench.

**Context 119** – archaeologically sterile mottled brownish yellow and reddish brown clay with a few brashy sandstone inclusions. Below MGS 101 and variously overlies clay brash 103 and/or sandstone 104. Variable thickness, up to 600mm

*The north-south orientated A9 cable trench*

The final stretch of cable trench ran north-south in the verge immediately alongside the A9 trunk road, terminating at the existing electricity substation sited to the east of the carriageway. Three testpits (Testpits 1, 2 and 3, Figure 9) were opened in the verge prior to the excavation of the cable trench in order to locate pre-existing cables laid at an earlier date.

**Testpit 1** – the MGS of thin weedy turf and brown silty topsoil was removed exposing a deposit of fragmentary sandstone rubble that overlay a thick concrete slab capping the pre-existing cables in the base

**Testpit 2** – here the turf and topsoil sealed some 600mm+ depth of fragmentary sandstone rubble

**Testpit 3** – a similar sequence of deposits to that recorded in Testpit 2 was also exposed in this testpit

Excavation of the cable trench proper continued from the north thereafter, the deposits exposed mirroring those revealed in the testpits. These consisted of redeposited material derived from works associated with the construction of the road and preceding trenching works alongside the carriageway. The thin turf and topsoil (101) sealed a deep horizon (c 980mm at maximum) of fragmentary, slab-like sandstone rubble (120), occasionally mixed with lenses/chods of redeposited mottled clay substrate (119). Removal of this rubble variously revealed exposures of bedded sandstone outcrops (104) or undisturbed mottled clay substrate 119 in the base, intermittently interrupted by areas of concrete capping and previously laid pipes and cables (Plate 7).

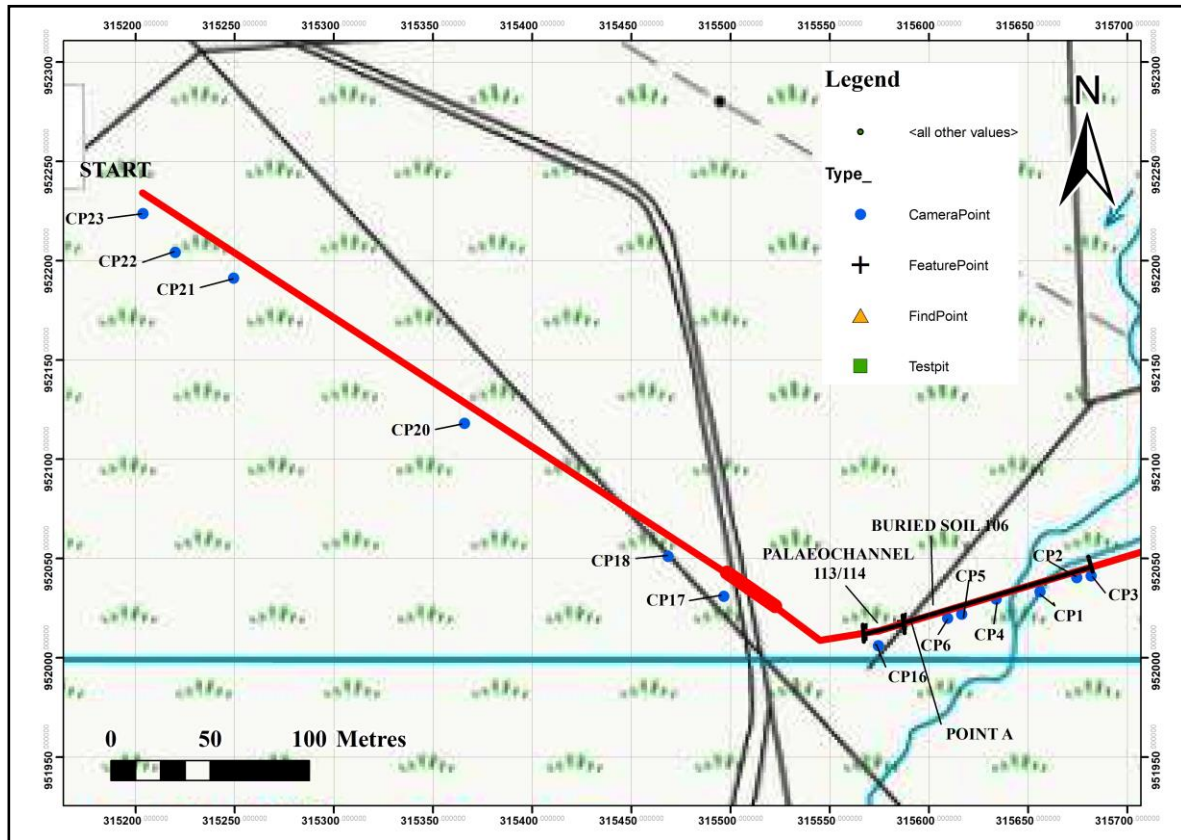
**Context 120** – deep horizon comprising abundant sandstone rubble consisting of fragments varying in size from 120mm up to 760mm in length, the majority occurring as irregularly shaped ‘slabs’ of stone. Occasional, random patches/areas/lumps of redeposited mottled clay (as 119). Both stone and clay probably derive from previously excavated substrate deposits backfilling this area alongside the route of the A9 carriageway.



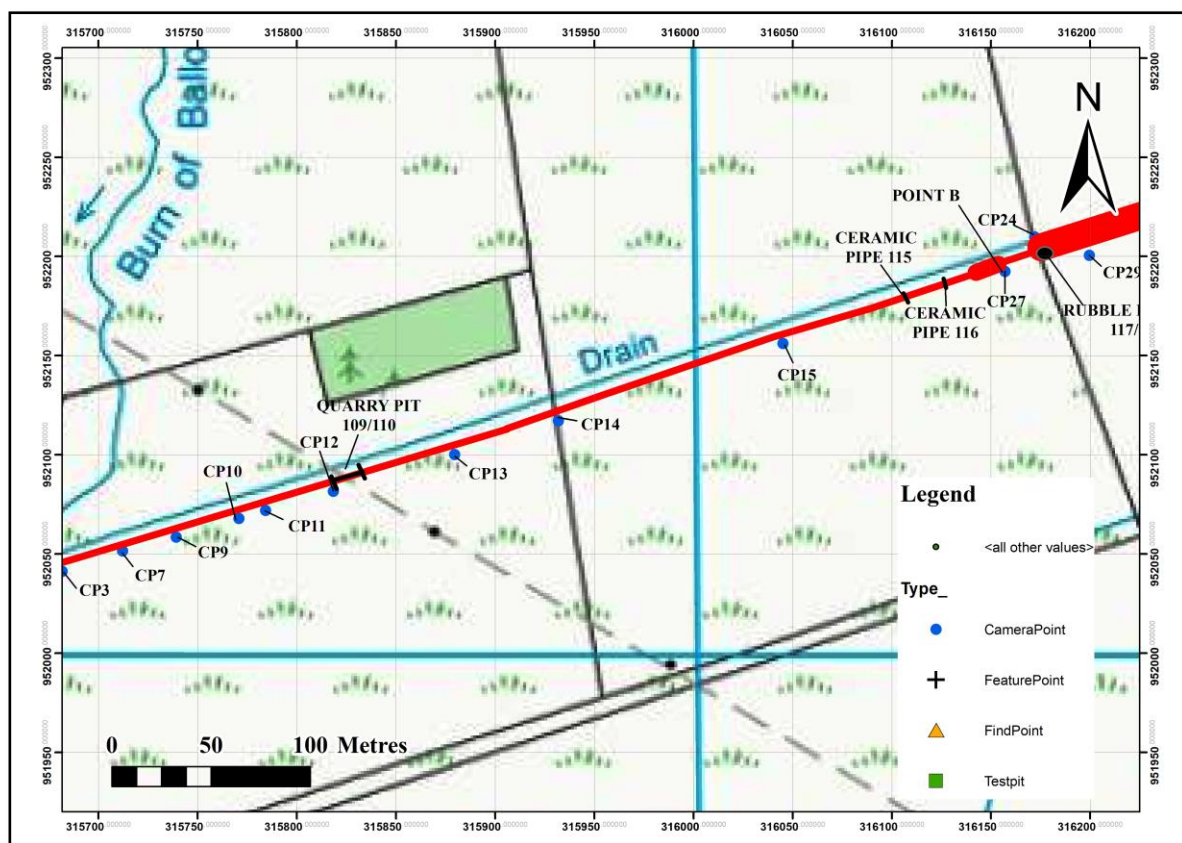
Plate 7 – General view of final stretch of cable trench excavated alongside the A9 carriageway, from CP46, looking N. No scale

Due to the occurrence of extensive and deep deposits of previously excavated material along this final north-south stretch of the cable trench excavations, it was decided, in consultation with the

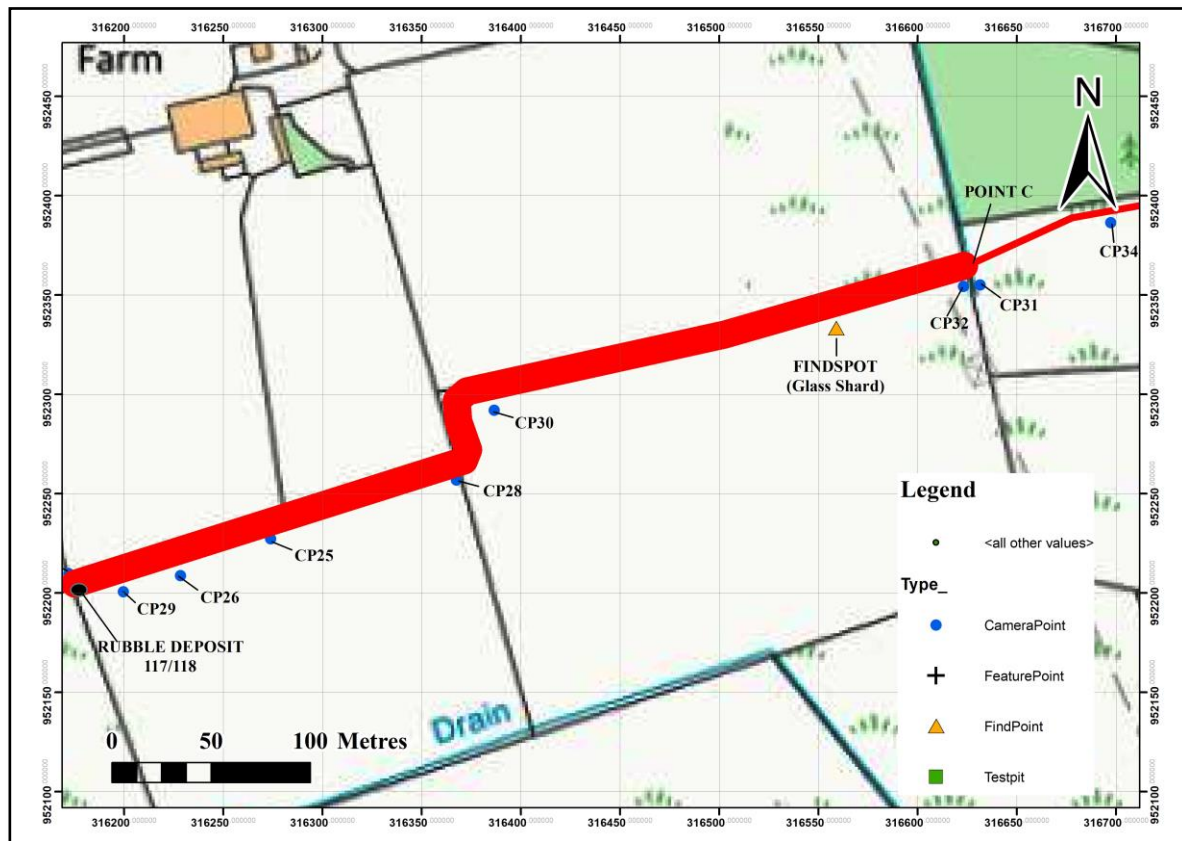
Highland Council Archaeology Officer, that the monitoring works would be terminated some 375m short of the electricity substation (Figures 3 and 9).



**Figure 6** –The western end of the cable trench extending from the START point at the windfarm substation (under construction). Scale as shown



**Figure 7** – The southwest extent of the cable trench (adjoins Figure 6). Scale as shown



**Figure 8** – The northeast extent of the cable trench where it crosses the improved pasture of Mybster Farm (adjoins Figure 7). Scale as shown



**Figure 9** – The END of the cable trench as monitored, extending up to and alongside the A9 carriageway (adjoins Figure 8). Scale as shown

## Discussion and Conclusions

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken in order to monitor powerline undergrounding works at Achlachan Windfarm, Mybster in Caithness. The groundworks were required to connect new turbines erected at the windfarm to the National Grid by means of a high voltage 33kV cable extending between a site-specific substation (under construction) and the existing Mybster Substation sited to the east, alongside the main A9 carriageway. The monitoring exercise was required as the archaeological setting of the cable trench route indicated it traversed an area rich in evidence of prehistoric activity and that, historically, Mybster and the adjacent settlement of Spittal were important regional foci.

The watching brief exercise failed to identify any features of archaeological significance. A palaeochannel and adjacent buried soil revealed in the southwest of the cable trench could be a potentially rich source of waterlogged plant macrofossils reflecting the early natural environment and possible human management of the local landscape, however no evidence of contemporary human activity was recorded. Archaeological features were restricted to a few large modern pit cuttings of indeterminate function backfilled with sandstone rubble and deposits derived from the sequence of layers through which the pits had been cut. No finds were recovered from either of these features and indeed only a single artefact, a glass rim shard retrieved from the topsoil, was recovered during the entire project.

## Recommendations

On the basis of the largely negative results of the watching brief exercise, it is recommended that no further archaeological analysis or reporting is required.

## Bibliography and References

Halkirk, County of Caithness, Old Statistical Accounts of Scotland, XIX 1797

Halkirk, County of Caithness, New Statistical Accounts of Scotland, XV 1845

Hooper, J, 2001 *Achkeepster, Caithness, location of proposed wind farm: Archaeological Assessment and Walkover Survey*

Mudie, G and Badger, S, 07/2004, *Causeymire Windfarm, Achkeepster, Spittal, Caithness: Building Survey and Archaeological Watching Brief* (Text/Report SHG22219). CFA Archaeology Limited client report

Ordnance Survey 1871 *Original Name Books of the Ordnance Survey: County of Caithness*

Whirlwind Renewables 2013 *Achlachan Wind Farm: Environmental Statement*

## Appendix 1: Context Register

Context Number	Length	Width	Depth	Context Above	Context Below	Description/Interpretation
101	>2.1km	>5.75m	300mm-550mm	109, 117	102, 114, 115, 116, 119, 120	Turf line and topsoil forming modern ground surface throughout comprising humic friable light brown sandy silt topsoil, largely stone-free save for rare flat boulders – becomes wetter and pore peaty over an area to the northeast
102	<2.1km	>1.7m	<350mm	101	103, 105, 108, 111	Discontinuous subsoil horizon of yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil flecked with manganese
103			500mm-600mm	102, 107, 108, 111, 119	104	Archaeologically sterile brownish grey clay with abundant highly weathered sandstone brash – natural substrate
104	>2.1km	>1.7m	Not determined	103, 120	-	Bedded sandstone substrate
105	<95m	>1.7m	100mm-150mm	102	106	Band of manganese-stained yellowish brown clay intermittently sealed by the subsoil (102) and overlying buried soil 106
106	<95m	>1.7m	150mm	105	107	Discrete buried soil associated with clay deposit 105 and consisting of a narrow band of pale brownish yellow clay, its upper and lower edges each defined by a 20mm thick lens of dark humic material
107	<95m	>1.7m	200mm-250mm	106	103	Yellowish brown clay band revealed below buried soil 106 similar to 105, but with less manganese staining
108	<2.1km	>1.7m	<550mm	102	103	Laminated (in appearance) brownish yellow and blue grey clays with frequent small and medium stone inclusions, more particularly so the blue grey clays
109	13.5m	>1.7m	>1.3m	110	101	Cut of a large modern feature c 13.5m in length and >1.3m deep. Cut has steep southwest side and stepped northeast side with upper shallow scoop 2.5m long and lower steep decline to the uneven base. Filled with 110. ?quarry pit – no sign of animal carcass, rubbish or the suchlike
110	13.5m	>1.7m	>1.3m	-	109	Single very mixed fill of modern cutting 109 comprising topsoil, clay chods, brashy stone and abundant large rubble, some 600-750mm in length – ?redeposited bedrock
111	<2.1km	>1.7m	600mm	102	103	Thick deposit of greenish grey clay with moderate brash and sandstone rubble inclusions occurring throughout but particularly so in its lower reaches. Sealed intermittently by subsoil 102 and overlying clay brash 103 interrupted by bedded sandstone outcrops 104. Indistinct boundary with laminated clay deposit 108 with which it merges to the southwest
112	7.8m	>1.7m	900mm	113		Cut of a palaeochannel – naturally eroded feature some 7.5m wide and up to 900mm deep at most
113	7.8m	>1.7m	300mm	114	112	Naturally accumulated primary deposit revealed in the base of palaeochannel 112 consisting of saturated grey clay with inclusions of well-preserved birch and hazel branches/twigs up to three inches in the round as well as abundant smaller woody fragments

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114	7.8m	>1.7m	600mm	101	113	Homogeneous grey to reddish brown clay, not waterlogged, and within which only sparse inclusions of preserved plant material are evident
115	>1.7m	460mm	750mm	101	102	Land drain comprising modern rectangular cut with ceramic pipe in the base some 750mm below MGS
116	>1.7m	550mm	300mm	101	102	Land drain comprising 6-inch ceramic pipe laid in the base of a modern shallow scooped cut, 300mm below MGS
117	3.1m	2.7m	>360mm	118	101	Subcircular cut with irregular edge in plan cutting the topsoil (101) at the southwest end of the stripped area. In excess of 360mm deep, but not fully excavated/exposed within the cable trench proper. Modern cut of indeterminate function filled by 118
118	3.1m	2.7m	>360mm	-	117	Mixed rubble and brownish yellow clay fill of cut 117
119	<2.1km	>1.7m	<600mm	101	103	Archaeologically sterile mottled brownish yellow and reddish brown clay with a few brashy sandstone inclusions. Below MGS 101 and variously overlies clay brash 103 and/or sandstone 104
120	>280m	>2m	980mm	101	104	Deep horizon comprising abundant sandstone rubble consisting of fragments varying in size from 120mm up to 760mm in length, the majority occurring as irregularly shaped 'slabs' of stone. Occasional, random patches/areas/lumps of redeposited mottled clay (as 119). Both stone and clay probably derive from previously excavated substrate deposits backfilling this north-south stretch of the cable trench alongside the route of the A9 carriageway. Below 101 and sealing 104

## Appendix 2: Photographic Register

Frame number	Camera Point	Facing	Description
4271/2	CP1	NE	Overview of the cable trench route before commencement of excavation – no scale
4273/4	CP2	SW	Cable trench as excavated showing deposits in NW section, scale 2m
4275/6	CP2	NW	Cable trench as excavated showing deposits in NW section, scale 2m
4277/8	CP2	SW	General shots of machining using v-shaped ditching bucket (peat-cutter)
4279/80	CP3	SW	General views of ongoing trenching
4281	CP4	NE	General views of ongoing trenching
4282/3	CP5	NW	Views of the stratigraphy showing buried soil and associated deposits, scale 2m
4284/5	CP5	SW	Views of the stratigraphy showing buried soil and associated deposits – no scale
4286	CP6	SW	Buried soil thinning to the southwest – no scale
4287/8	CP6	NE	Buried soil thickening to the northeast, scale 2m
4289/90	CP7	NE	General views of cable trench during machining
4291/2	CP7	NE	Trench stratigraphy, scale 2m
4293/4	CP7	SW	Trench stratigraphy, scale 2m
4295/6	CP7	NW	Detail of trench stratigraphy, scale 2m
4297/8	CP8	NE	General views of ongoing trenching showing raised bedded sandstone, scale 2m
4299/300	CP8	NE	Trench stratigraphy, scale 2m
4301/2	CP8	NW	Trench stratigraphy, scale 2m
4303/4	CP8	SW	General views of ongoing trenching showing raised bedded sandstone, scale 2m
4305/6	CP9	NE	Stratigraphy showing deep clay horizon, scale 2m
4307/8	CP9	SW	Stratigraphy showing deep clay horizon, scale 2m
4309/10	CP9	NW	Detail of stratigraphy showing deep clay horizon, scale 2m
4311/12	CP10	NW	Detail of stratigraphy showing clay deposit, scale 2m
4313	CP10	NE	General view of stratigraphy showing clay deposit, scale 2m
4314/15	CP11	NE	General view of stratigraphy showing raised bedded sandstone, scale 2m
4316/17/18	CP12	NE	Views of rubble filled ?quarry pit
4319	CP12	N	Detail of NE side of modern rubble filled pit, no scale
4320/1	CP13	SW	Trench Stratigraphy, scale 2m
4322/3	CP13	NW	Trench Stratigraphy, scale 2m
4324/5	CP13	NE	Trench Stratigraphy, scale 2m
4326/7	CP14	SW	General views of cables being laid, no scale
4328/30	CP14	NW	Trench stratigraphy, scale 2m
4331/2	CP15	SW	General views of cables being joined, no scale
4333/4	CP16	NE	Trench stratigraphy at SW end of cable trench, scale 2m
4336/6	CP16	SW	Trench stratigraphy at SW end of cable trench, scale 2m
4337/8	CP17	SW	Palaeochannel deposits, scale 2m4339
4339/40/1/2	---	W-N	General views over improved grassland at Mybster Farm before trenching, no scale
4343	CP18	SE	General view of ongoing trenching at SW end of cable trench, no scale
4344/5	CP19	SW	Stratigraphy at SW end of cable trench, scale 2m
4346	CP20	NE	Stratigraphy at SW end of cable trench, scale 2m
4347/8	CP21	NE	Stratigraphy in NE stretch of trench showing rising bedrock, scale 2m
4349/50	CP22	NE	Stratigraphy in NE stretch of trench showing rising bedrock, scale 2m
4351	CP22	N	Stratigraphy in NE stretch of trench showing rising bedrock, scale 2m
4352/3/4	CP23	NE	Stratigraphy at NE end of trench terminating beside substation, scale 2m
4355/6/7/8/9	CP24	N-SW	Various views over managed grassland of Mybster Farm before excavation, no scale
4360/1	CP25	W	General views of area topsoil stripping, scale 2m
4362	CP25	SW	General view of area topsoil stripping, scale 2m
4363	CP25	W	Detail of area topsoil stripping, scale 2m
4364/5	CP26	W	General views of area topsoil stripping in progress, scale 2m
4366/7	CP26	W	Detail of surface exposure of rubble-filled pit after topsoil stripping, scale 2m
4368/9	---	N	General views of area topsoil stripping in progress, scale 2m
4370	CP27	N	Detail of peaty topsoil to south of improved grassland, scale 2m
4371/2/3	CP28	SW	General views of cable trench excavations within previously stripped area, scale 2m
4374/5	CP29	N	General views of bedrock excavated within previously stripped area, scale 2m
4376/7/8	CP29	SW	General views of area topsoil stripping in progress, scale 2m
4379	CP30	NE	Area after stripping completed for the day, scale 2m
4380/1	CP31	W	Disturbed stone rubble in section, scale 2m
4382/3	CP32	SW	General view of topsoil strip, scale 2m
4384/5	CP33	SW	General view of topsoil strip, scale 2m
4386/7	CP34	NE	General view of topsoil strip, scale 2m

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Frame number	Camera Point	Facing	Description
4388/9	CP35	SW	General view of topsoil strip, scale 2m
4390	CP36	NE	General view of topsoil strip, scale 2m
4391/2	CP37	S	Topsoil strip up to abandoned farm building, scale 2m
4393/4	CP38	N	Topsoil strip beyond abandoned farm building, scale 2m
4395	CP39	N	Remnant of ?disturbed field drain, scale 2m
4396	CP40	N	Remnant of ?disturbed field drain, scale 2m
4397 – 4401	---	---	NOT USED – OTHER SITES
4402	CP41	N	Testpit 1, no scale
4403	CP42	N	Testpit 2, no scale
4404/5	CP43	N	Start of N-S stretch of cable trench alongside A9, no scale
4406/7	CP44	S	A9 cable trench in progress, no scale
4408	CP45	W	Redeposited sandstone rubble in trench section, no scale
4409/10	CP46	N	General views of trench excavation showing pre-existing services, no scale
4411	CP47	S	Detail At S end of trench showing redeposited sandstone rubble, no scale
4412/3	---	---	WASTED SHOT
4414/5	CP47	S	General views of continuing works alongside A9 at end of watching brief, no scale

