

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 11.3: HERITAGE WALKOVER SURVEY REPORTS

Balmeanach Wind Farm
Prepared for: **Balmeanach Wind Farm Limited**

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SLR 

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1.0 Introduction

Two walkover surveys were undertaken of the Proposed Development site to account for changing turbine layouts. The first walkover survey was undertaken on 04 August 2021 and the associated report is presented in **Section 2**. The second walkover survey was undertaken on the 04 and 05 October 2022 and the associated report is presented in **Section 3**.

2.0 Walkover Report – 04 August 2021

2.1 Introduction

A targeted walkover survey of the inner study area was undertaken on 04 August 2021. Weather conditions were mostly fair with rain and mist at the end of the day. All proposed turbine locations as they were the day of the report were assessed. Photographs of any previously unrecorded assets were taken and are included in this report. The location of all identified assets are shown on **Figure 11.1**.

Ground conditions were predominately that of rough grazing and grasses and heather, with areas of peat bog and some deep ravines. There were few areas of dense vegetative cover that might have obscured above ground archaeological features.

As part of the preparation for the targeted walkover two possible archaeological features were identified on the 1965 National Grid map (NG34NW – A). These consisted of a cairn atop Ben Sca and some possible shielings in the south-west corner of the site boundary by the Aketil Burn. On the walkover a cairn was discovered in the same location on the summit of Ben Sca (**SLR19**), but there was no sign of any shielings in the south-west area of the site. A review of Ordnance Survey mapping from 1965 suggests that these huts might be located further to the west, outside of the site boundary.

2.2 Cultural Heritage Assets



Plate 1: Modern OS concrete marker, facing north west.

The asset (**Plate 1**) consists of a concrete marker, 1.1m in height, 0.6m in length and 0.6m in width. It is marked with a metal OS benchmark. The feature marks the summit of Ben Aketil and is likely the triangulation station listed on the 1965 National Grid Map (NG34NW – A).



Plate 2: SLR49, unknown feature, facing south west.

SLR49 is an unknown feature, consisting of a raised mound, sub-rectangular in shape, 5m in length, 3m in width, and 0.5m in height. It has three defined sides to the north, east, and west, while the south side slopes more gently. There is evidence of a possible gully or ditch running round the feature. Vegetation covers the feature and has likely contributed to the overall poor condition of the feature, obscuring its original shape in such a way that provenance and purpose cannot be determined. It is located next to a boundary fence that runs along western edge of the inner site boundary.



Plate 3: SLR50, headland/field boundary, facing south.

SLR50 consists of a large, raised mound, 11m in length, 5m in width, and 0.75m in height, sub-ovoid in shape. The shape of the feature and its place in a flat area of ground suggest this is likely a headland marking the boundary of agricultural land. Overall, the feature is well defined though it is covered in vegetation which obscures any opportunity to identify individual rocks or other materials making up the headland. The condition is therefore moderate.



Plate 4: SLR51, headland/field boundary, facing north.

SLR51 consists of a large, raised mound, sub-ovoid in shape, 15m in length, 8m in width, and 0.75m in height. The shape of the feature and its position in a flat area of the landscape suggest this is a headland marking the boundary of agricultural land. It is similar to **SLR13**, which is located 200m to the west. Like **SLR13** the feature is well defined though it is covered in vegetation which obscures any opportunity to identify individual rocks or other materials making up the headland. The condition is therefore moderate.



Plate 5: SLR52 clearance cairn, facing east

SLR52 is an overgrown clearance cairn, with a sub-ovoid shape, far steeper on west side, smoothing out on the east side. 6.5m in length, 4m in width, and 0.5m in height. The cairn is completely overgrown with vegetation and no individual stones can be identified, so the condition is assessed as poor.



Plate 6: SLR53, possible burnt mound, facing west.

SLR53 is a small possible burnt mound, circular in shape, 3m in length, 3m in width, and 0.6m in height. Situated on the edge of a peat bog, the soil and peat that make up the mound appear darker than the surrounding ground, suggesting the possibility of burning or charcoal. It is heavily overgrown with large grass tufts and heather obscuring much of the original shape of the feature, and the condition is therefore assessed as poor.



Plate 7: SLR54, possible cairn, facing north east.

SLR54 is a possible cairn. It could not be approached due to a barbed wire fence and uncertainty over access permissions. Though only visible from a distance, appears well defined and distinct in the landscape, though overgrown with vegetation, and its condition is likely good.



Plate 8: SLR55, overgrown clearance cairn, facing south east

SLR55 is a small possible heavily overgrown cairn to the south of the summit of Ben Sca. It is 3m in length, 3m in width, and 0.5m in height. Some individual stones are identifiable on the cairn but it is heavily overgrown. The area around the cairn is eroded away due to animal activity, and it appears the cairn has been partially robbed out by this activity, making the overall condition of this feature poor.



Plate 9: SLR56, Cairn at summit of Ben Sca, facing north

SLR56 is a small pile of rocks just to the south of the summit on Ben Sca. A cairn is listed at this location on the OS map, though no asset has previously been recorded on the HER or Canmore databases. 4m in length, 4m in width, and 0.75m in height. It is heavily overgrown with vegetation but 10 distinct stones are visible at the top of the cairn where the grass is thinner, and the overall condition of the feature is assessed as moderate.

3.0 Walkover Report – 04 and 05 October 2022

3.1 Scoping Layout D (Figure 2.2) – Area Covering Proposed Turbines 1 and 2

Access to the locations of proposed Turbine locations 1 and 2 was first attempted on 04 October 2022, via the turbine access track for Ben Aketil Wind Farm. The location was inaccessible on this attempt due to a c.4 ft barbed wire fence obstructing access. This fence, running east to west from the forestry at Ben Aketil Wind Farm to the access track of Edinbane Wind Farm, appeared to be a recent improvement to the fencing.

The location of proposed Turbines 1 and 2 was accessed on 05 October 2022. The site was accessed through the forestry portion of Ben Aketil Wind Farm. No archaeological features were identified during this walkover, either during the approach to the locations or at the locations themselves.



Plate 11: East facing view toward the location of Turbine 1, with views of Edinbane Wind Farm. No archaeological features were present.



Plate 10: Easting facing view toward the location of Turbine 2, with views of Edinbane Wind Farm. No archaeological features were present.

3.2 Southern Part of Scoping Site Boundary

At Scoping, the site boundary extended south to the settlement of Balmeanach as shown on Plate 12. Subsequently, during design evolution (see **Chapter 2**), the site boundary was refined. The application site boundary no longer includes this southern area and no infrastructure is proposed in this area. The results of the walkover undertaken within the Scoping site boundary are presented here for completeness.

3.2.1 Viewpoints

Due to health and safety concerns, only the western side of this area was walked. However, the western rises within the valley provided sufficient views to conclude there were no apparent archaeological features on the eastern slopes, as confirmed with photographs taken from viewpoints 1, 2 and 3. The lower elevation of the valley was also walked, to the west of the major water course running north to south. This confirmed a lack of archaeological features of significant interest.

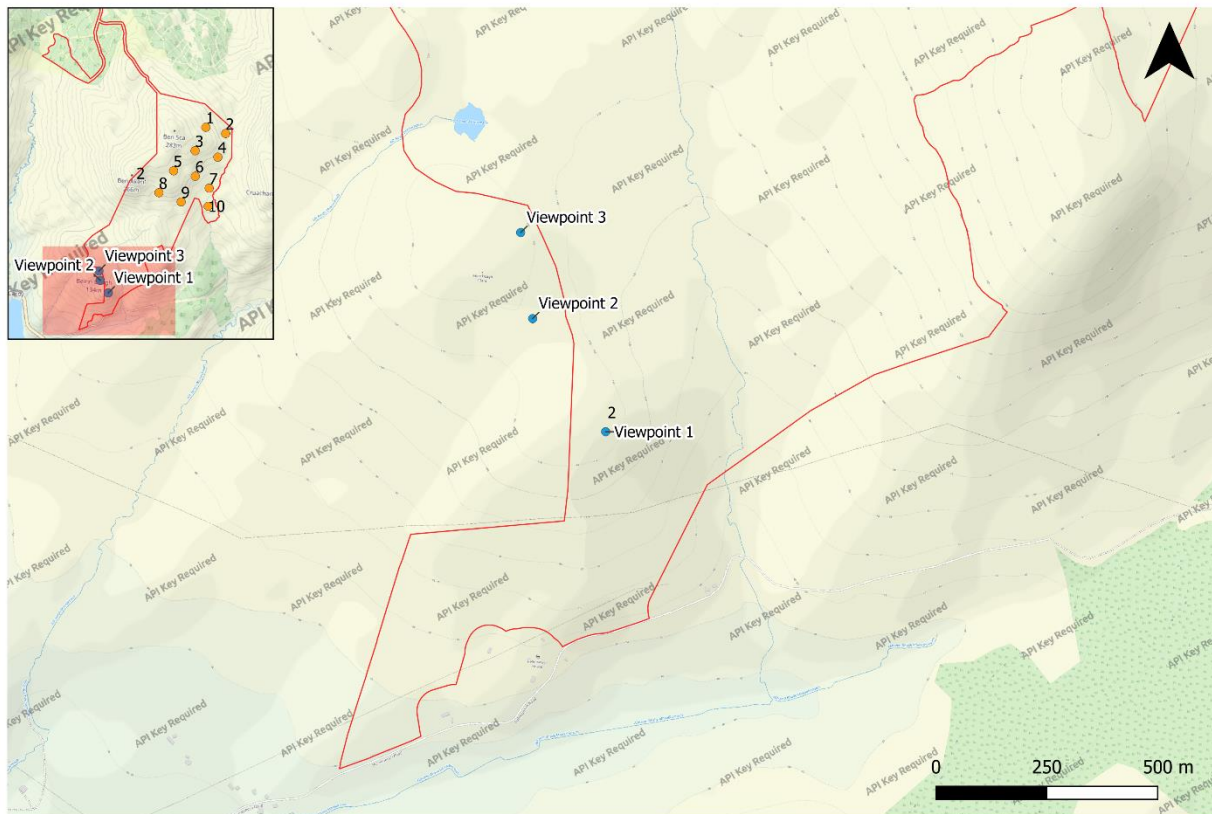


Plate 12: Viewpoints 1, 2 and 3 within the southern part of the site.



Plate 13: View from Viewpoint 1, looking across the site to the east.



Plate 14: View from Viewpoint 2, looking across the site to the east.

3.2.2 Features

A number of features were identified within the southern part of the scoping site boundary, their location is shown in Plate 15.

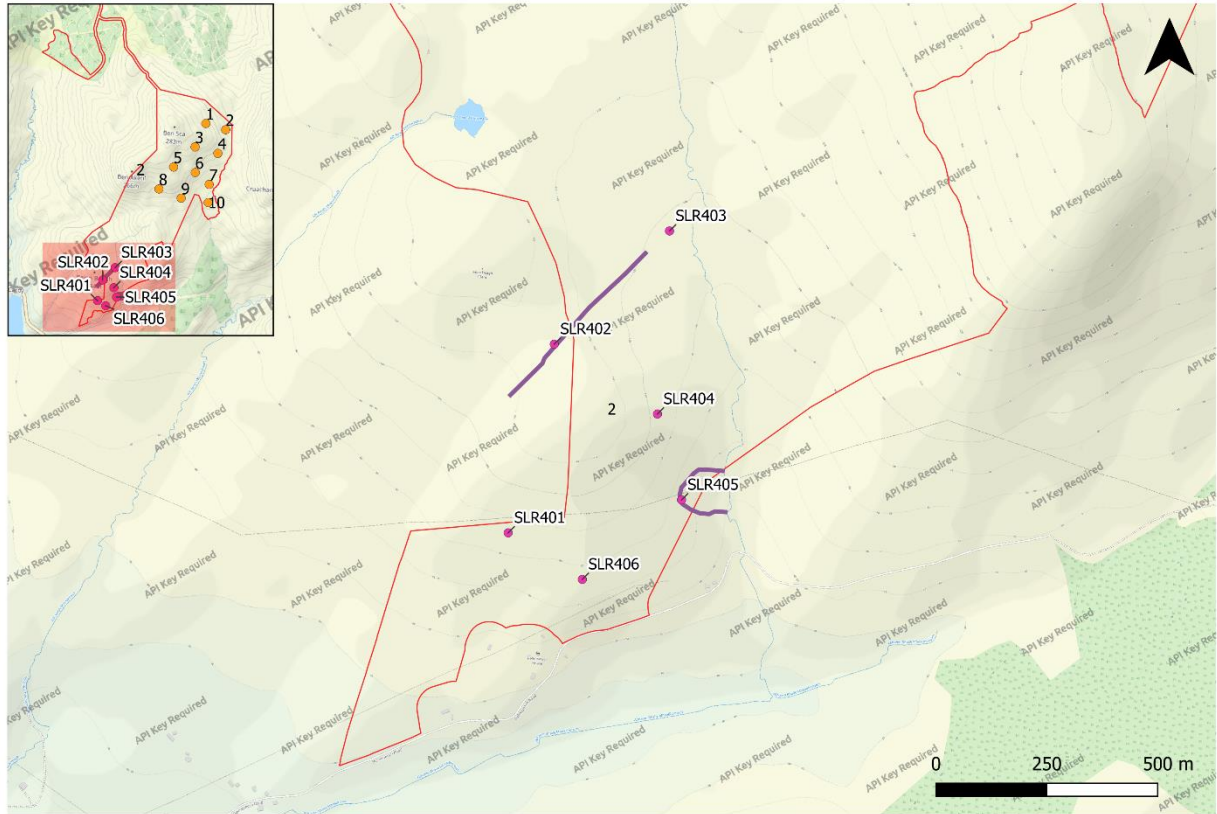


Plate 15: Location of Features identified during walkover survey

SLR401

A potential quarry pit was identified within the south of the scoping site boundary. It is approximately 3m wide by 4m in length and covered by turf.



Plate 16: SLR401

SLR402

A linear feature, likely a field or land boundary, was identified within the west of the site. The feature was orientated north east to south west, approximately 1m in width and 50cm in height where visible, with noticeable breaks. The feature, visually, comprised turf. The feature is recorded on the OS 1:50k mapping, but not historic mapping, where it appears to c.400m in length.



Plate 17: SLR402, looking to south west.

SLR403

A ditch was identified in the central lower area of the valley. It was approximately 0.5m in depth, and 0.4m wide.

The visible portion of the ditch was approximately 10m in length, turning to the west at the northern end and terminating abruptly. This feature was positioned perpendicular to SLR402 and located within its path, although the features weren't physically connected. The ditch was in an area which was fairly waterlogged with numerous streams, with a shallow watercourse c.3m to the east, but the ditch itself didn't seem waterlogged.



Plate 18: SLR403, looking to the north.

SLR404

A linear feature, running north to south, was identified, comprising of turf with some loose stone inclusions in sections. The feature measured approximately 0.4m in height, 1m wide on average, and visible for approximately 15m. The feature is potentially a field boundary.



Plate 19: SLR404, looking to the north.



Plate 20: SLR404, looking to the south.

SLR405

A C shaped enclosure was identified on satellite imagery and confirmed during the walkover survey. The asset is located along the western bank of Abhainn Bhaile Mheadhonach, which forms the eastern boundary. The asset is approximately 130m in length and is located on a steep slope, comprising a distinctive bank.

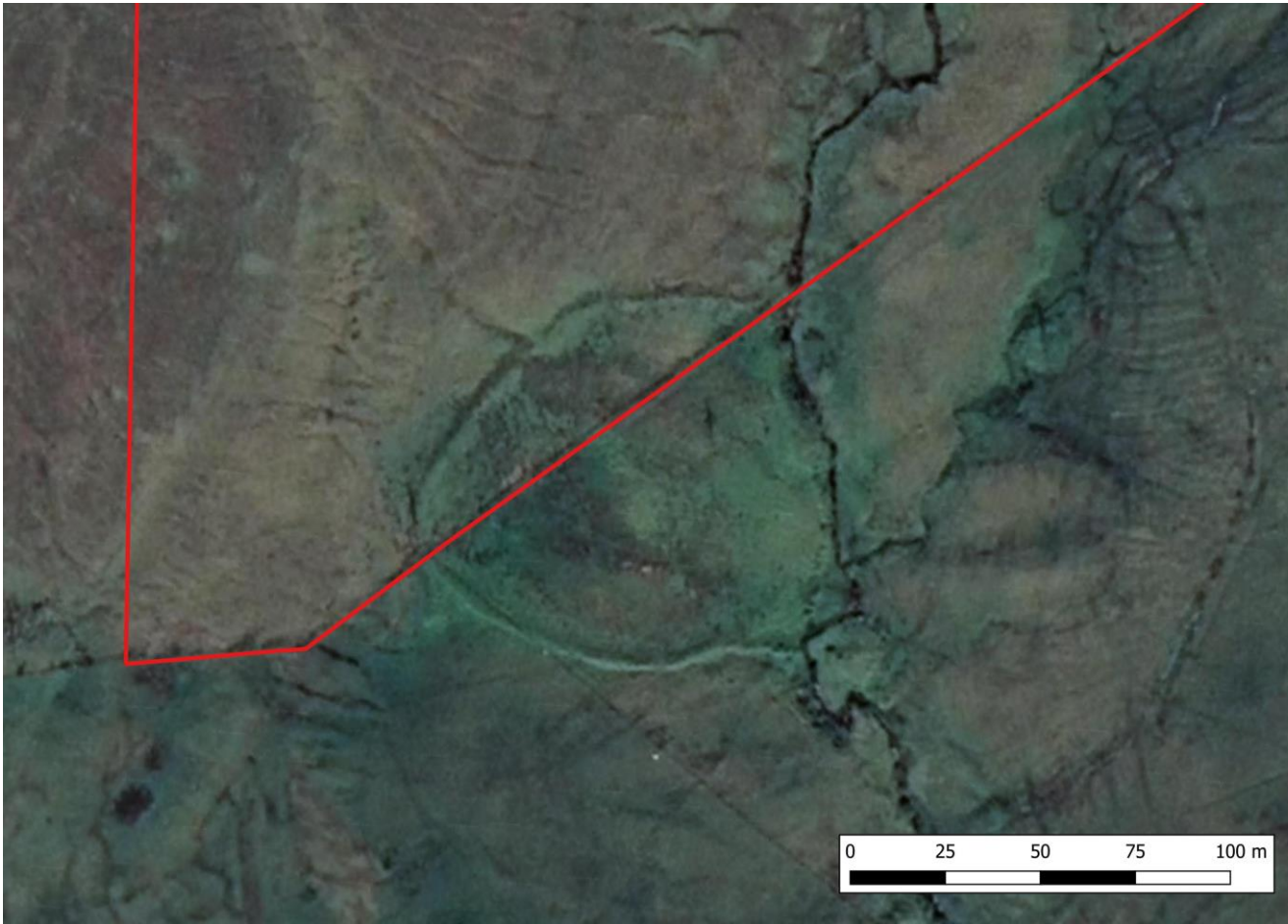


Plate 21: Google Earth (2022), showing SLR405 and the southern part of the scoping site boundary.



Plate 22: A portion of SLR405, looking to the north.

SLR406

A circular cut in the topography was identified during the walkover. The feature was approximately 10m in diameter, and 0.25m in depth. Due to the soil composition of the site, it is possible that this is an area of peat cutting.



Plate 23: SLR406, looking to the south



Plate 24: Cut of SLR406

EUROPEAN OFFICES

AYLESBURY

T: +44 (0)1844 337380

BELFAST

belfast@slrconsulting.com

BIRMINGHAM

T: +44 (0)121 2895610

BONN

T: +49 (0)176 60374618

BRADFORD-ON-AVON

T: +44 (0)1225 309400

BRISTOL

T: +44 (0)117 9064280

CARDIFF

T: +44 (0)2920 491010

CHELMSFORD

T: +44 (0)1245 801630

CORK

T: +(021) 240 9000

DUBLIN

T: +353 (0)1 296 4667

EDINBURGH

T: +44 (0)131 335 6830

EXETER

T: +44 (0)1392 490152

FRANKFURT

frankfurt@slrconsulting.com

GLASGOW

glasgow@slrconsulting.com

GRENOBLE

T: +33 (0)6 23 37 14 14

KILKENNY

kilkenny@slrconsulting.com

LEEDS

T: +44 (0)113 5120293

LONDON

T: +44 (0)203 8056418

MAIDSTONE

T: +44 (0)1622 609242

MANCHESTER

T: +44 (0)161 8727564

NETHERLANDS\

T: +31 6 28 02 18 80

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

T: +44 (0)1844 337380

NOTTINGHAM

T: +44 (0)115 9647280

SHEFFIELD

T: +44 (0)114 2455153

SHREWSBURY

T: +44 (0)1743 239250

SPAIN

T: +34 6 82 04 83 01

STIRLING

T: +44 (0)1786 239900

WORCESTER

T: +44 (0)1905 751310