STANSHIELRIG – HOMESTEAD, ENCLOSURES, FIELD SYSTEMS & CLEARNACE CAIRNS, KIRKPATRICK-JUXTA, DUMFRIES& GALLOWAY

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

1.1 An archaeological watching brief is required during ground breaking works connected with essential upgrading work on an overhead powerline at Stanshielrig, Kirkpatrick-Juxta, Dumfries and Galloway.

1.2 The works will take place within a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Index No. SM4057).

1.3 The investigation will involve monitoring the removal and replacement of one electricity pole and one pole stay.

1.4 On completion of the fieldwork an archaeological report (Data Structure Report) will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 As part of the upgrading of the power supply lines in the Beattock area by SPIE Ltd it will be necessary to remove and replace one electricity pole and one pole stay within the area of the Stanshiel Rig Scheduled Ancient Monument. As the pole and stay concerned are on an existing line it will not be possible to relocate them outwith the scheduled area

2.2 As minor ground disturbance is involved, SPIE Ltd will engage an archaeological contractor to record any features or deposits encountered during the works and to produce a report detailing what has been found.

2.3 Dr David Devereux will undertake the required archaeological work. He is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The scheduled area is a multi-period landscape containing a prehistoric homestead, enclosures, field systems and clearance cairns and a number of later agricultural features.

3.2 The area of the Stanshielrig SAM was included in RCAHMS's Eastern Dumfriesshire survey and a detailed field survey drawing of the main features has been produced - reproduced as Fig 58 in 'Eastern Dumfriesshire: an archaeological survey' (RCAHMS 1997).

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 The proposed works are north of the main settlement and field system but may lie close to or be within an area of undated but possibly prehistoric small cairns. These cairns are most likely the result of field clearance but there is a possibility some may relate to burial. The immediate area may also contain buried features relating to past agricultural activities (such as cord rig cultivation marks). The aim of the work will be to record and interpret any archaeological features and deposits exposed during groundwork operations.

4.2 The objectives of the investigation will be to:

- Determine the form and function of archaeological features encountered;
- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features;
- Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

5 SITE OPERATIONS

5.1 General considerations

5.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.

5.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

5.1.3 Finds of objects are subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and Bona Vacantia and will be reported by the archaeological contractor to the Treasure Trove Unit for assessment .

5.2 Methodology

5.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the groundworks phase of development .

5.2.2 The archaeologist will be on site at the start of operations to advise on the presence/absence of any upstanding features in the vicinity of the works and associated plant movements. The archaeologist will provide guidance on routes of access and working areas that ensures there is no damage to upstanding remains (including if plant is moving between the two poles). Where necessary (e.g. within 20m of working areas/access routes) the archaeologist will mark out upstanding remains with canes and hazard tape so that they remain protected when the archaeologist is not on site. The archaeologist will also provide advice to the relevant main contract staff on avoiding inadvertent damage to sub-surface remains through rutting.

5.2.3 The existing pole (no. 10826398 on location plan) will be lifted vertically by mechanical excavator, the post socket cleaned, examined and recorded archaeologically and the new pole erected in the same hole. The positioning of the new pole in ground previously disturbed by the existing pole should minimise damage to any archaeological deposits. The excavation for the pole will be approximately 1.2m x 0.5m x 2.1m deep. Adequate time will be afforded for the archaeological excavation and recording of any archaeological remains identified during the works.

5.2.4 Replacement of the existing stay (pole no. 10826401 on location plan) will require the machine excavation of an area approximately 1.5m x 0.5m and up to 1.8m deep. All groundworks will be monitored and recorded. The replacement stay excavations will be in previously disturbed ground and so damage to any archaeological deposits will be minimal. Adequate time will be afforded for the archaeological excavation and recording of any archaeological remains identified during the works

5.2.4 At the completion of work the ground will be reinstated to its current form and any canes and tape used to mark out archaeological features will be removed.

5.2.5 During the watching brief all sections will be observed to identify and record any archaeological features and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on pro-forma record sheets.

5.2.6 Finds recovered will be bagged and labelled.

5.2.7 Throughout the investigation a photographic record will be compiled.

The photographic record will consist of:

- the site during the investigation to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within the area.
- individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
- groups of features where their relationship is important.

6 ACCESS and SAFETY

6.1 All relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of conduct will be respected.

6.2 SPIE Ltd will be responsible for providing any information about contamination and live services before the work commences.

6.3 Appropriate personal protection equipment will be worn. A health and safety risk assessment will be made in relation to the archaeological work and made available to other contractors.

6.4 The works will take place on 19 January 2016 and will be completed on that date. Historic Environment Scotland will be notified in advance of any change to the time–table. An appointed representative of Historic Environment Scotland will be allowed access at all reasonable times.

7 POST-EXCAVATION

7.1 A Data Structure Report (DSR) will be prepared for Historic Environment Scotland within four weeks of the end of fieldwork.

7.2 In the event of significant archaeological remains being revealed provision will be made for appropriate further post-excavation work and reporting to a standard agreed with Historic Environment Scotland through the production and agreement of a Post Excavation Research Design; this will be prepared and submitted at the same time as the DSR.

7.3 All finds will be recorded, stored appropriately and reported to the Treasure Trove Unit.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 A final paper and digital copy of the DSR will be sent to Historic Environment Scotland and Dumfries and Galloway HER. Another copy of the DSR and the paper archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland.

8.2 A brief survey of results will be submitted to 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland', along with the appropriate fee.

8.3 An OASIS report will be completed for this site within six weeks of the end of fieldwork.

9 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGINCIES

9.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from Historic Environment Scotland.

9.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform Historic Environment Scotland immediately.

9.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation, additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis. The level of commitment of such resources would be decided by Historic Environment Scotland in conjunction with the archaeological contractor, and costs would be met by SPIE Ltd.

10 INSURANCE

10.1 Dr David Devereux has Public Liability cover with Towergate Insurance. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.