SADDLE YOKE TOWNSHIP, MOFFAT, DUMFRIES& GALLOWAY (SM 12706)

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 of on an overhead powerline on the east side of the Spoon Burn, Moffatdale, Dumfries and Galloway.

1.2 The works will take place within a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Index No. SM12706).

1.3 The investigation will involve monitoring the removal and replacement of two electricity poles 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 Moffatdale area it will be necessary to remove and replace two electricity poles (pole numbers 10700710 and 10700711) and one pole stay (for pole no. 10700711) within the area of the Saddle Yoke Scheduled Ancient Monument. The grid references of the two poles are: Pole 10700710 – NT 15425 10594; Pole 10700711 – NT 15469 10665.

2.2 As minor ground disturbance is involved, Connicks, on behalf of 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 John Pickin will undertake the required archaeological work. He is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The scheduled monument is a pre-Improvement township and includes the remains of over 20 structures plus associated enclosures. Most of the buildings lie south of the A708 in the south-east part of the monument. To the north-west of the road – the area of the proposed works – there are at least six buildings and the remains of a turf-banked field system. .

3.2 The township is not shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey or Roy's Military Survey of the mid-18th century. This suggests that the settlement had been abandoned by the mid-18th century or earlier. It is an example of the sort of township which existed in this part of Dumfriesshire before the onset of large scale agricultural improvement.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 The proposed works will be on the hillside north of the A708. Neither pole is within or close to a known archaeological structure or feature but buried archaeological features may still be encountered. 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 the project.

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 to advise on associated plant movements. It is anticipated that access from the A708 will be by an existing track which leads to the more northerly of the two poles (Pole 10700710) and will then follow the wayleave line of the existing overhead cables. 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 poles will be lifted vertically by mechanical excavator, the post sockets cleaned, examined and recorded archaeologically and the new poles 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 2.1m x 2.1m and up to 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 (for Pole 10700711) will require the machine excavation of an area 2.1m x 2.1m and up to 1.8m deep. All groundworks will be monitored and recorded. The replacement stay excavation 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 The contractor 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 A date has not yet been set for the proposed works but Historic Environment Scotland will be notified once a date has been agreed and will also 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 the contractor.

10 INSURANCE

10.1 John Pickin has Public Liability cover with Towergate Insurance. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

John Pickin 29 March 2016