

BUITTLE CASTLE, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

DRAFT WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

1.1 *An archaeological watching brief is required during ground breaking works at Buittle Castle, Buittle, Dumfries and Galloway.*

1.2 *The site is Scheduled Ancient Monument (Index No. 1115).*

1.3 *The investigation will involve monitoring the removal of two steel lattice pylon towers and the partial removal of the associated concrete pads. All deposits exposed will be fully recorded. A tracked vehicle will be needed to access the pylons and its movement across the site will be closely monitored and ground protection provided to prevent surface damage.*

1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a 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 rerouting of a power supply line it will be necessary to decommission and remove two small pre-war pylons within the area of the Scheduled Monument at Buittle Castle.

2.2 As minor ground disturbance is involved, the applicant 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 or Dr David Devereux (one or the other depending on availability) will undertake the required archaeological work. Both are Members of the Institute for Archaeologists.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Buittle Castle is a courtyard castle dating to about 1230. It is built on a large 12th century motte and was destroyed early in the 14th century. The castle belonged to Devorgilla and her husband John Balliol.

3.2 The castle was excavated to some small extent during the 19th century. Parts of the bailey and moat were excavated in the 1990s and evidence was found for a range of plough-damaged stone and timber buildings (reported in DES 1993-20021).

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 The aim of the work will be to record and interpret the deposits and any archaeological features exposed during the development groundwork and to prevent any ground damage from the movement of tracked vehicles.

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 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 A 4x4 low ground pressure vehicle with a cherry picker (MEWP) will be used to access and remove the porcelain insulators on the towers (if the towers are lowered prior to removing these they could potentially fall off and shatter). The two pylon towers will then be lowered in a slow and controlled onto straw bales to avoid penetration and damage to the ground surface. Once lowered the pylons will be cut and then removed from site (see 5.2.6 below). The pylon pads are 0.60m x 1m in plan and stand 0.20m above ground level. Once the pylons have been removed the pads will be reduced in height, using a mechanical pecker, to a level 600 mm below existing ground level. The ground surrounding the northern pylon has a slight slope and the top concrete pad there will be reduced at an angle to replicate the ground slope; this will minimise disturbance of any archaeological deposits. At the completion of the works the ground above the pads will be reinstated and seeded.

5.2.3 During the watching brief all sections will be observed to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed 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.

5.2.4 Finds recovered will be bagged and labelled.

5.2.5 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.

5.2.6 Tracked vehicles will be needed to dismantle and remove the two pylons. A 7-ton tracked excavator will be used to remove the southern pylon and will access the site from the south using existing gates. A smaller, 2.5-ton, excavator will be used to remove the northern pylon. Bog mats or ply boarding will be employed to prevent any ground damage within the Scheduled area. The movement of the vehicles will be monitored by the archaeologist.

6 ACCESS and SAFETY

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

6.2 The client is 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 Historic Environment Scotland will be given advance notice of the time-table for the work and an appointed representative 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 CONTINGENCIES

- 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 and David Devereux have Public Liability cover [REDACTED] with Towergate Insurance. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.