

**HIGH DRUMMORE MOTE, MOTTE AND BAILEY, KIRKMAIDEN, DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY
(SM 2019); NX 129 359**

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND
WATCHING BRIEF**

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *An archaeological evaluation and watching brief is required during ground breaking works connected with essential upgrading of an overhead powerline at the Kildonan Glen, Drummore, Dumfries and Galloway.*
- 1.2 *The works will take place within a Scheduled Ancient Monument (High Drummore mote, Index No. SM2019).*
- 1.3 *The initial investigation will involve hand excavation to establish the extent of previous disturbance; this will allow the contractors to target their works to disturbed ground and prevent damage to any archaeological deposits.*
- 1.4 *A summary report on the initial investigation will be prepared and submitted to Historic Environment Scotland (HES). No further work on site will be undertaken until the report has been reviewed and approved by HES. Once approval has been obtained the replacement of the pole and stays will take place under archaeological supervision.*
- 1.5 *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 Drummore area it will be necessary to remove and replace one electricity pole and two associated stays within the High Drummore scheduled ancient monument.
- 2.2 As minor ground disturbance is involved, Connicks, on behalf of SPIE Ltd, will engage an archaeological contractor to:
- provide advice on how to ensure the replacement works will not disturb archaeology;
 - establish the extent of previous disturbance;
 - produce a summary report on the extent of previous disturbance;
 - record any features or deposits encountered during pole and stay replacement works;
 - produce a report detailing what has been found.
- 2.3 John Pickin and David Devereux will undertake the required archaeological work. Both are Members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The scheduled monument is a motte and bailey castle site overlooking Kildonan Glen. The earthwork remains, which have been damaged by recent agricultural activity and are currently obscured by undergrowth, comprise a motte mound (2m high and 13m in diameter) with an enclosure (some 20m across) down slope to the east; there is an entrance at the southern end of the enclosure.

3.2 High Drummore is one of a number of mottes in the Rhins of Galloway; the other sites are Ardwell, Sandhead, Innermessan and possibly Castle Ban, Kirkcolm. These sites are assumed to date from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries but none have been excavated to modern standards.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 The existing pole is located on the crest of the southern rampart of the enclosure and the two stags are close to the outer base of the rampart. The aims of the work will be to:

- define the extent of previous disturbance and thereby allow the contractors to target their works to disturbed ground and prevent damage to any archaeological deposits;
- record and interpret any archaeological features and deposits exposed during groundwork operations.

4.2 The objectives of the investigation will be to:

- ensure the replacement works avoid damage to archaeological remains;
- 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 A phased approach is proposed consisting of an initial investigation or evaluation, the production of a report detailing the findings of the evaluation and a full archaeological watching brief during pole and stays replacement.

5.2.2 Evaluation

The extent of ground disturbance and backfilling associated with the erection of the existing pole and stays is unknown. To establish this it is proposed to hand-excavate shallow, linear slots out from the pole and stays with the aim of locating the edges of disturbed ground. Additional excavation may also be required between the linear slots to further define edges but this will not extend beyond the disturbed ground. The extent of the disturbed ground will be fully recorded and marked on the ground with pegs.

5.2.3 Evaluation report

A summary report of the evaluation's findings will be produced. It will include a proposal of how the replacement work will use the evaluation information to avoid damaging any archaeology. The report will be sent to HES for review and approval and no further work will take place until HES's written approval has been obtained.

5.2.4 Archaeological watching brief

5.2.4.1 The archaeologists 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 and the cutting of gorse on the access track. It is anticipated that access from the field to the pole will be along the existing track (probably made when the current pole was installed). The archaeologist will provide guidance on routes of access and working areas that ensures there is no damage to upstanding remains. 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.

All ground work excavation will be confined to the areas of disturbed ground defined during the evaluation; this will prevent any archaeological damage to archaeological deposits. The depth of the previously disturbed ground is unknown but is probably around 2.1m (the standard below ground depth of modern poles and stays).

5.2.4.2 The existing pole will be lifted vertically by mechanical excavator, the post socket cleaned, examined and recorded archaeologically and the new pole erected in the same hole. All ground works will be confined to the known area of disturbed and backfilled ground. The final size of the pole excavation will depend on the evaluation results but will not exceed 2.1m x 2.1m x up to 2.1m deep. Adequate time will be afforded for the archaeological excavation and recording of any archaeological remains identified during the works.

5.2.4.3 The existing stays will be exposed by machine excavation and the replacement stays positioned in the same holes. All ground works will be confined to the known area of disturbed and backfilled ground. The final size of the pole excavation will depend on the evaluation results but will not exceed 2.1m x 2.1m x up to 1.8m deep. Adequate time will be afforded for the archaeological excavation and recording of any archaeological remains identified during the works.

5.2.4.4 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.

5.2.4.5 Finds recovered will be bagged and labelled.

5.2.4.6 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.

5.2.4.7 At the completion of work the ground at each machine trench will be reinstated to its current condition and all existing slopes and heights re-established. In addition, all canes and tapes used to mark out archaeological features will be removed from site.

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 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. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

John Pickin 6 November 2016