



Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services

**Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN)
Carronbridge, Thornhill, Dumfries & Galloway:
Archaeological Monitoring Works**



**Data Structure Report
by Rebecca Shaw
22nd August 2019**

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1 Introduction

This report presents the findings of a programme of archaeological works undertaken in respect of proposed works at Carronbridge near Thornhill in Dumfries & Galloway (Figure 1). The proposed works comprise a project to upgrade the Penpont 11kV Overhead Line (Figure 3). The works will involve the removal of old poles and insertion of new poles and stay wires.

A section of the works (poles 18; 19 & 20) (Figures 4 & 7a-b) required to be undertaken within an area recognised as being of national importance and designated as a Scheduled Monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) relating to Carronbridge Roman Fortlet and enclosures at Carronbridge (SM4093 - centred on NGR: NX 86933 97755) (Figures 2 & 3) (see section 2). The monument comprises the remains of a fortlet and enclosures which are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs (Figure 10c).

The proposed works had potential to affect surviving sub-surface archaeological features or deposits of national significance and / or enable recovery of unstratified finds in previously disturbed ground. Archaeological works were therefore required to ensure that any impacts upon the scheduled monument were minimised and that any archaeological information was recovered and recorded to a satisfactory standard.

As the works involved disturbance within the scheduled area, Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) was required and granted from Historic Environment Scotland (HES).

Historic Environment Scotland granted scheduled monument consent for the works detailed below:

- removal of 3 existing poles
- machine spit excavation of three pole pits 2m x 0.6m x 1.2m deep
- insertion of three new poles in the same location
- removal of 3 existing stay anchors by machine spit excavation
- installation of new stay anchors in the previously disturbed ground

Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services was appointed to act with regard to conditions of the scheduled monument consent by Ann Bell on behalf of Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN).

2 Background

In detail the archaeological remains / finds within the scheduled area comprise:

- a Roman temporary camp (NX89NE 4; NX 8687 9779) - cropmarks revealed three sides of the temporary camp measuring 76m by 61m with three visible gates each guarded by a tutulum. The fourth side is obscured by trees.. Excavations in (1953-54) showed the ditch to be 3m wide by 2m deep.
- a sub-rectangular enclosure (NX89NE 60; NX 868 978) - excavations in 1953-4 revealed a sub-rectangular enclosure of about 0.45 acres surrounded on three sides by a single ditch 2.75m in width and 1.4m deep, with an internal bank 4.9m wide and an entrance 4.5m wide in the south side. No remains of the bank or ditch were discovered on the N side of the enclosure. Soil disturbance and the presence of post-holes suggested occupation within the enclosure and a sherd of 'Votadinian' pottery was recovered from a burnt post-hole sealed by cobbling. Although the excavators believed the site to be of Roman date, there is no convincing evidence to support this, and the W ditch of the enclosure is apparently overlain by the Roman temporary camp (NX89NE 4)

excavations in 1989-90 (Figure 5) (of half the enclosure) revealed the ditch was V-shaped, with a square-sectioned 'ankle breaker' running along the bottom. The sides of

the enclosure were straight, and the SE angle curved. The entrance faced S, and was formed by a simple break in the ditch. Only three internal features were recognised (i) a post-trench was located inside and parallel to the enclosure ditch; (ii) an oven was built on the inner lip of the ditch and (iii) a shallow circular pit.

The intersection of the Roman temporary camp (NX89NE 4) and enclosure (NX89NE 60) was excavated in 1990 and showed that the two were not associated.

- a square double ditched Iron Age / Romano-British enclosure (NX89NE 59; NX 899 9770) (the E side has been lost under the modern road) - excavations in 1853-4; 1989 & 1990 (Figure 5) revealed that the square enclosure had three main enclosure phases. It contained six intersecting circular buildings, one of which was surrounded by a large ditch and three sunken features with complex, charcoal rich fills. A cobbled surface (probably a Roman road - NX89NE 80.01) crossed its south east corner. Radiocarbon dates from the enclosure ranged from 145BC to AD 415; earlier activity was dated to between 1285 and 230BC. A brooch, sword and sickle, deposited probably in the ninth or tenth century AD, were found within the enclosure.
- an unaccompanied cremation (NX89NE 89; NX8699 9775) (sited 2m N of NX89NE 59) - excavated in 1989
- two cremation burials (NX89NE 82; NX869 977) (sited on top of a small rise) contained within collared urns located in small cists - excavated in 1989.
- possible Roman road (NX89NE 80.00; NX 881 950 to NX 874 999) - course of this road has not been established with certainty between Dalswinton fort (NX98SW 10, at NX 933 848) and Durisdeer (NS 89 03) - No trace of this road seen either on the ground or an available aerial photographs.
- Roman road (NX89NE 80.01; NX 8703 970) - excavations in 1989 revealed a linear cobbled surface aligned N-S at the extreme SE corner of the field containing enclosure NX89NE 59 - this feature is assumed to be part of the (possible) Roman road which lies in the field to the S (NX89NE 80).
- quarry pits (NX89NE 80.02; NX 869 977) - cropmarks on air photographs between enclosures NX89NE 59 and NX89NE 60 were thought to represent quarry pits marking the line of the Roman road. However, excavation in 1989 showed that these pits were of recent origin.

3 Project Works

The archaeological monitoring works in Carronbridge were undertaken on the 29th July 2019. The works were undertaken as agreed with Historic Environment Scotland through a Written Scheme of Investigation (Shaw, March & April 2019).

A Written Scheme of Investigation was also agreed with Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Service (Shaw, March 2019) who requested that excavation works relating to poles & stays 9 - 20 were monitored. However, unfortunately excavation works from poles 9-17 were subsequently undertaken without an archaeologist being present.

All works complied with the Chartered Institute for Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct, and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.

4 Findings

Pole Pit 18

Rectangular shaped pit, aligned NW / SW, measured 2m x 0.6m and excavated to a depth of 1.9m (Figure 11). Topsoil comprised a mid brown very fine silt containing frequent small rounded stones & fine roots [101] and measured 320mm in depth (approx). The subsoil comprised a dark reddish brown gritty silt containing a moderate to frequent amount of stones of

varying sizes [102], and averaged 270mm in depth (Figure 8c). Below [102] was a bright red gravelly silt with frequent stones (Figure 8d). No finds recovered.

Stay Pit 18

Rectangular shaped pit, aligned SW / NE, measured 2.2m x 0.6m and excavated to a depth of 700mm (Figure 11). Topsoil comprised a mid brown very fine silt [103] and measured 270mm in depth (approx). The subsoil comprised a reddish brown fine silt containing an occasional to moderate amount of stones [104] and averaged 320mm in depth. (Figure 8b). Below [104] was bright red coarse sands & gravels - very stony. No finds recovered.

Pole Pit 19

Rectangular shaped pit, aligned NW / SE, measured 2.5m x 0.8m and excavated to a depth of 2.1m (Figure 11). Topsoil comprised a mid brown very fine silt containing a moderate amount of small stones [107] and measured 300mm in depth (approx). The subsoil comprised an orangey brown silt containing a moderate amount of small to medium sized stones [108] and averaged 400mm in depth. Below [108] was a bright red silt containing frequent stones & gravels (Figure 9c). No finds recovered.

Stay Pit 19 (one larger pit for both stays)

Rectangular shaped pit, aligned N / S, measured 2.3m x 0.6m and excavated to a depth of 2m (Figure 11). Topsoil comprised brown fine silt containing a moderate amount of rounded & sub-rounded stones [105] and measured 300mm in depth (approx). The subsoil comprised a reddish brown gritty silt containing frequent rounded & sub-rounded stones [106] and averaged 340mm in depth (Figure 9a). Below [106] were bright red coarse sands & gravels - very stony (various sized rounded & sub-rounded stones) (Figure 9b). No finds recovered.

Pole Pit 20

Rectangular shaped pit, aligned NW / SE, measured 2.1m x 1.5m (approx) and excavated to a depth of 1.9m (Figure 11). Topsoil comprised a mid brown very fine silt [109] and measured 320mm in depth (approx). The subsoil comprised a very very fine reddish orange silt containing occasional stones [110] and averaged 350mm in depth. Below [110] were stones and gravels (Figure 9d). No finds recovered.

Stay Pits 20 (I) & (II)

Both stay pits were located on sloped ground (Figure 11). Stay Pit (I) comprised a rectangular shaped pit, aligned NW / SE, measured 2.1 m x 0.6m and excavated to a depth of 1m (Figure 10a). Topsoil comprised a mid brown very fine silt with frequent tree roots [111] and measured 200mm in depth. Subsoil comprised a very very fine reddish orange silt containing occasional stones [110] and averaged 370mm in depth. Below [110] were stones and gravels. Stay Pit (II) comprised a rectangular shaped pit, aligned E / W, measured 2.2 m x 0.6m and excavated to a depth of 700m (Figure 10b). Topsoil comprised a mid brown very fine silt with frequent tree roots [111] and measured 200mm in depth. Subsoil comprised a very very fine reddish orange silt containing occasional stones [110] and averaged 300mm in depth. Below [110] were stones and gravels. No finds recovered.

5 Discussion

Although there was potential to uncover in-situ features related to the known archaeological features within this location (see section 2 & Figure 10c) or possibly recover unstratified finds from within the backfill of previously excavated material, no remains were observed.

The material excavated from all seven pits was in fact very sterile with the subsoil mainly comprising either a gritty silt [102] [106] or a fine / very fine silt [104] [111] with stones existing in varying quantities. The fills were all fairly loose in compaction possibly indicative of previous backfill.

Although the excavated pits were relatively small, remains such as ditches; a Roman road or cremation burials (such as those found previously) would have been easily observed either

during excavation or within their respective sections and therefore it can be concluded that features are not within these areas. However, due to the nature of the works (using a small excavator with a ditching bucket) miscellaneous finds, such as small sherds of pottery or eyes / nails from Roman boots etc would have been harder to observe.

In general the excavations for the post and stay wire pits uncovered no remains of archaeological significance (Figures 8b-10b).

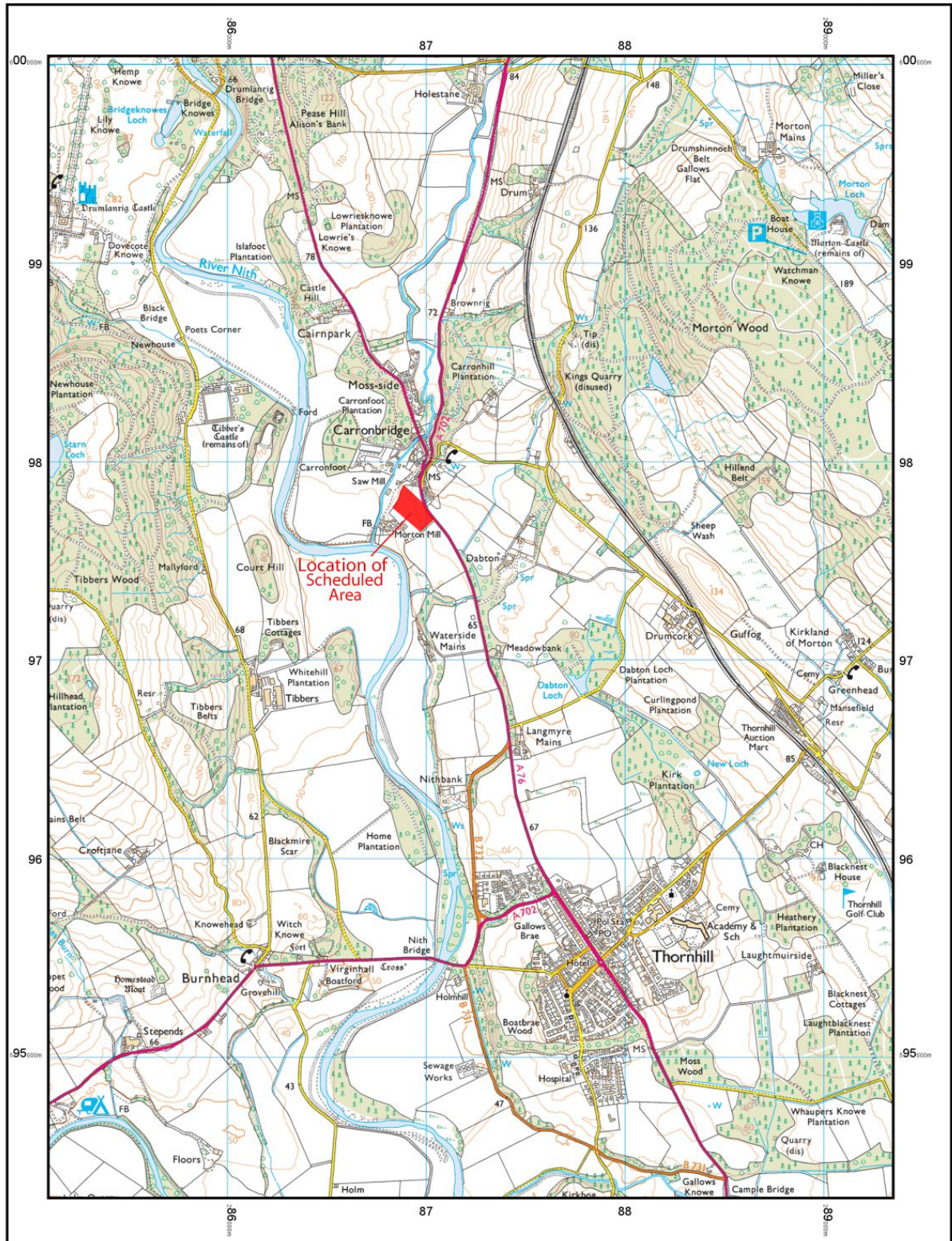
6 Conclusion

A programme of archaeological monitoring works was undertaken on the 29th July 2019 in respect of works at Carronbridge near Thornhill in Dumfries & Galloway. The works comprised a project to upgrade the Penpont 11kV Overhead Line.

A section of the works (poles 18; 19 & 20) required to be undertaken within an area recognised as being of national importance and designated as a Scheduled Monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) relating to Carronbridge Roman Fortlet and enclosures at Carronbridge (SM4093). The monument comprises the remains of a fortlet and enclosures which are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs.

Archaeological works were required as there was potential to affect surviving sub-surface archaeological features or deposits of national significance and / or enable recovery of unstratified finds in previously disturbed ground. The archaeological works involved the monitoring of the excavation of three pole pits (18; 19 & 20) and four stay wire pits (one for pole 18; one large pit for pole 19 and two pits for pole 20).

The excavations revealed very sterile pits which all contained fairly loose fills and no significant archaeological remains of finds were identified during the course of the monitoring works.



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1000m

Scale 1:25000

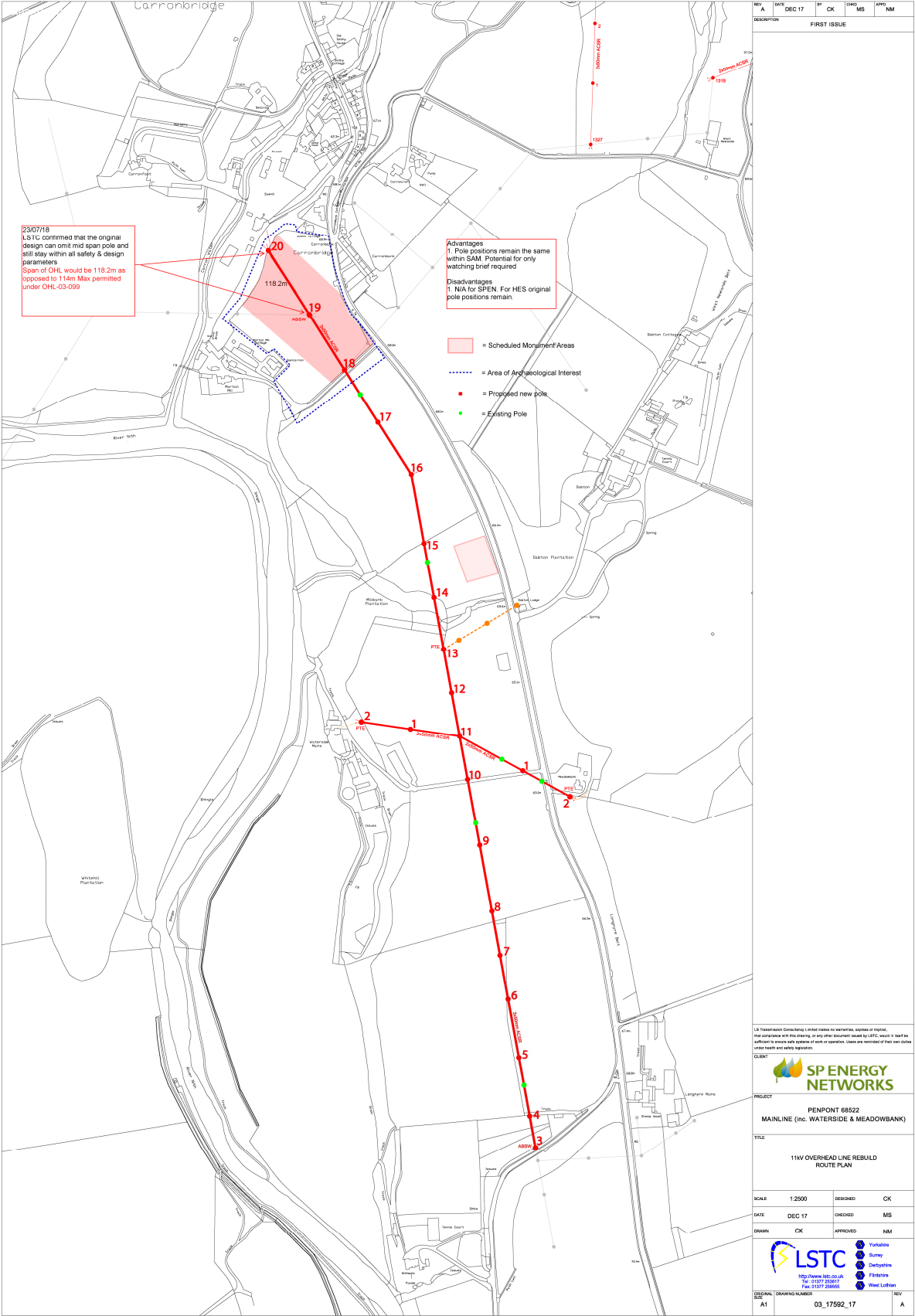


North

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Figure 1 – location map





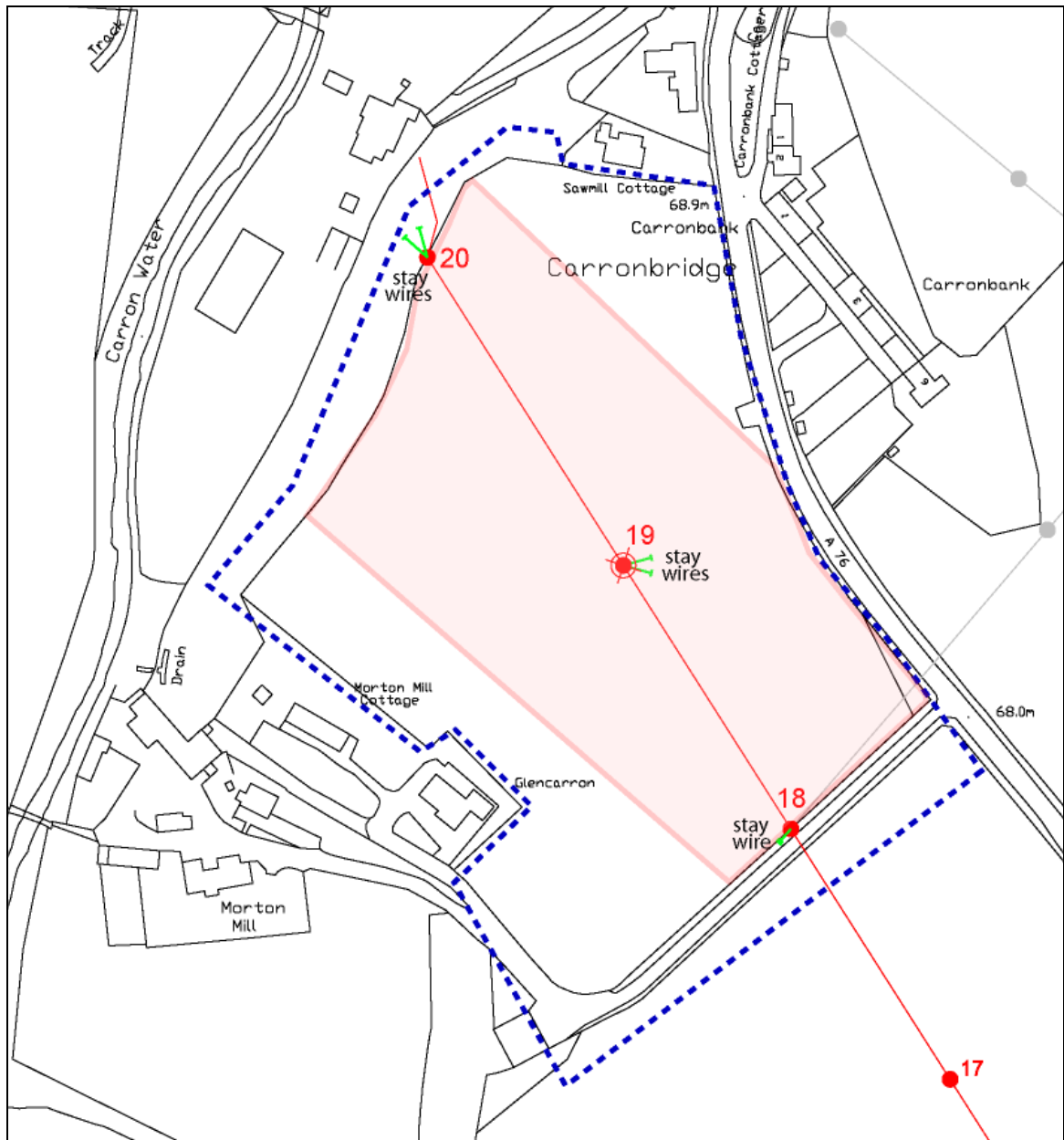


Figure 4 – detailed map showing locations of excavations for poles 18; 19 & 20 and stay wires associated with each pole



Figure 5 - map showing location(s) of 1989/90 excavations in relation to poles 18-20 and their respective stay wires (base mapping kindly provided by Andy Nicholson)



Figure 6a – Roys Military Survey Map of Scotland (1747-55) © National Map Library of Scotland

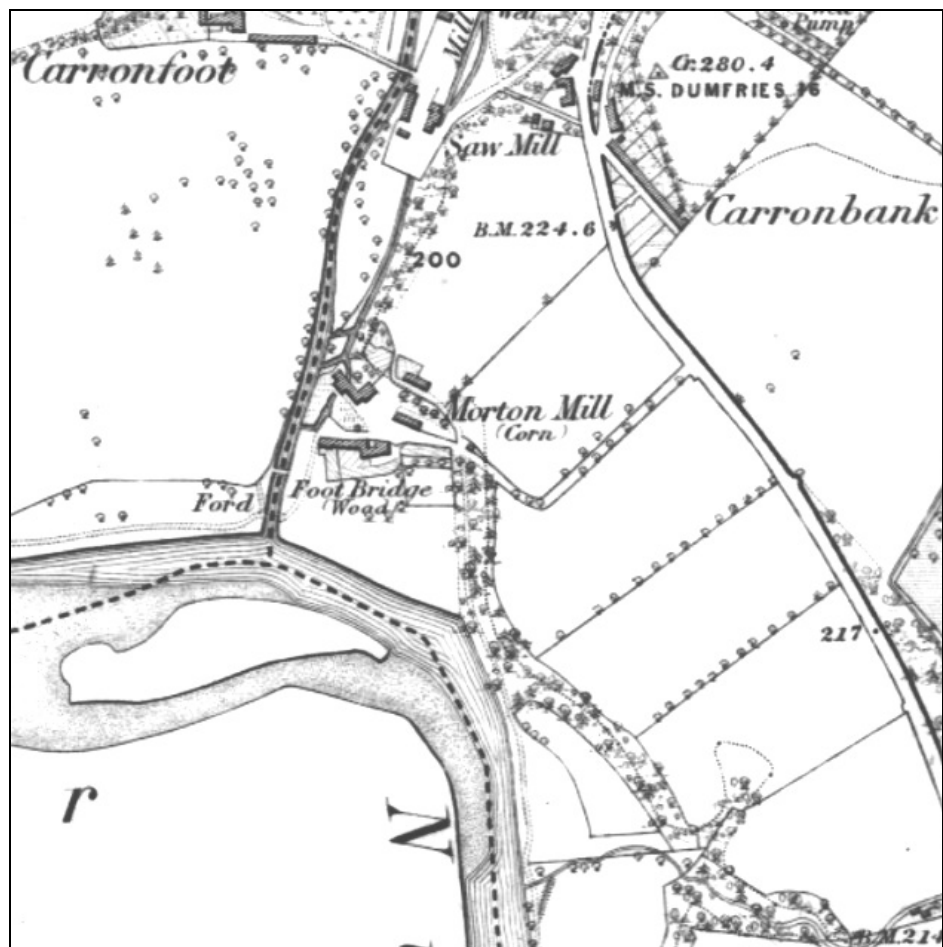


Figure 6b – 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1:10,560 (1861) © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group – not to be reproduced without permission (797869806)

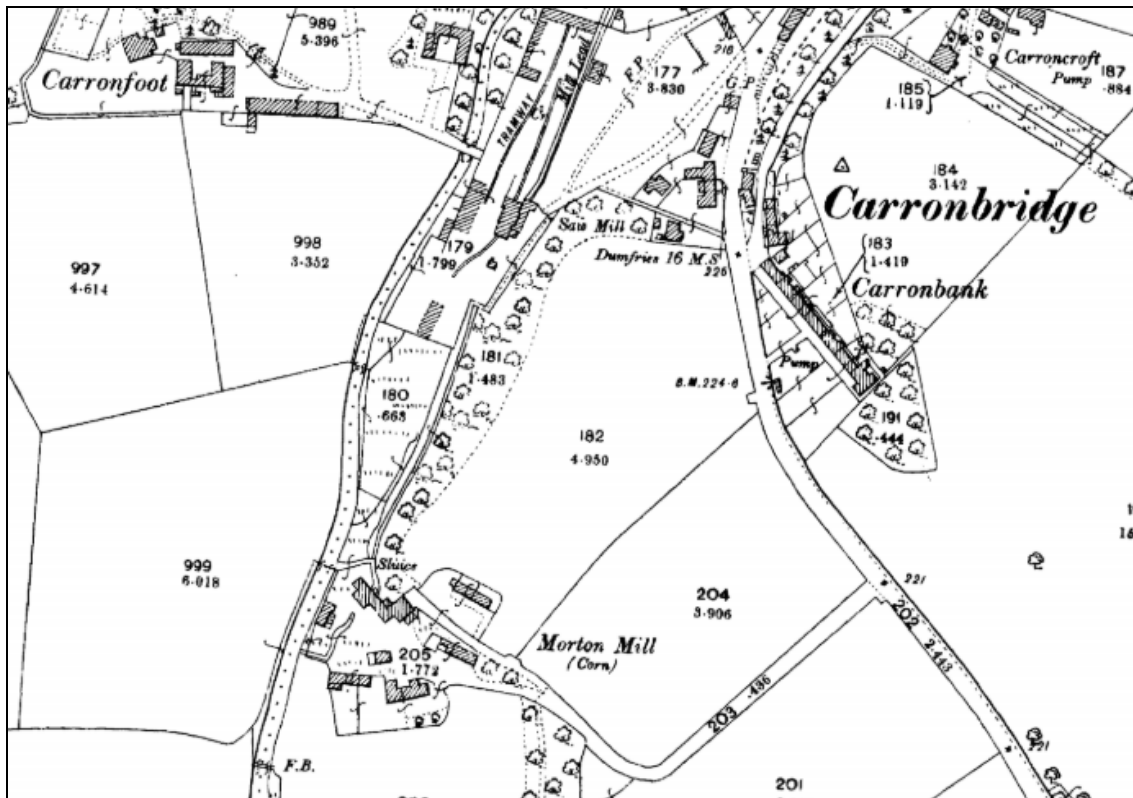


Figure 6c – Ordnance Survey Map 1:2500 (1899) © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group – not to be reproduced without permission (797869806)

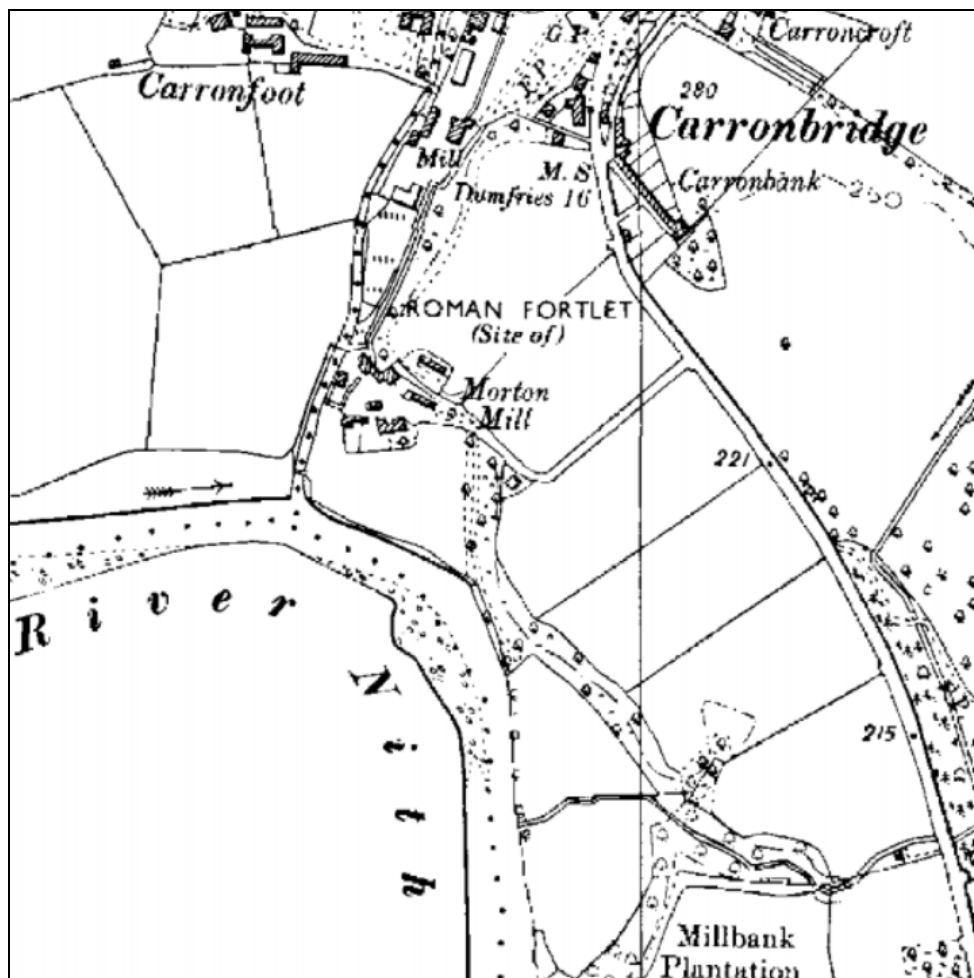


Figure 6d – Ordnance Survey Map 1:10,560 (1957) © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group – not to be reproduced without permission (797869806)



Figure 7a – general pre-ex from pole 20
(from NNW)



Figure 7b – general pre-ex from pole 18
(from SSE)



Figure 7c – pre-ex of pole pit (18)
(from E)



Figure 7d – pre-ex of pole pit (19)
(from E)



Figure 8a – pre-ex of pole pit (20)
(from WNW)



Figure 8b – post-ex of stay pit (18)
(from SW)



Figure 8c – pole pit (18) showing subsoil
[1??] (from NW)



Figure 8d – pole pit (18) after removal of
pole (from NW)



Figure 9a – stay pit (19) showing subsoil [106] (from N)



Figure 9b – stay pit (19) fully excavated (from N)



Figure 9c – post-ex of pole pit (19) (from SE)



Figure 9d – post-ex of pole pit (20) (from NW)



Figure 10a – post-ex of stay pit (20) (I)
(from NW)



Figure 10b – stay wire pit (20) (II)
(from W)



Figure 10c - aerial photograph showing cropmarks visible within the scheduled area
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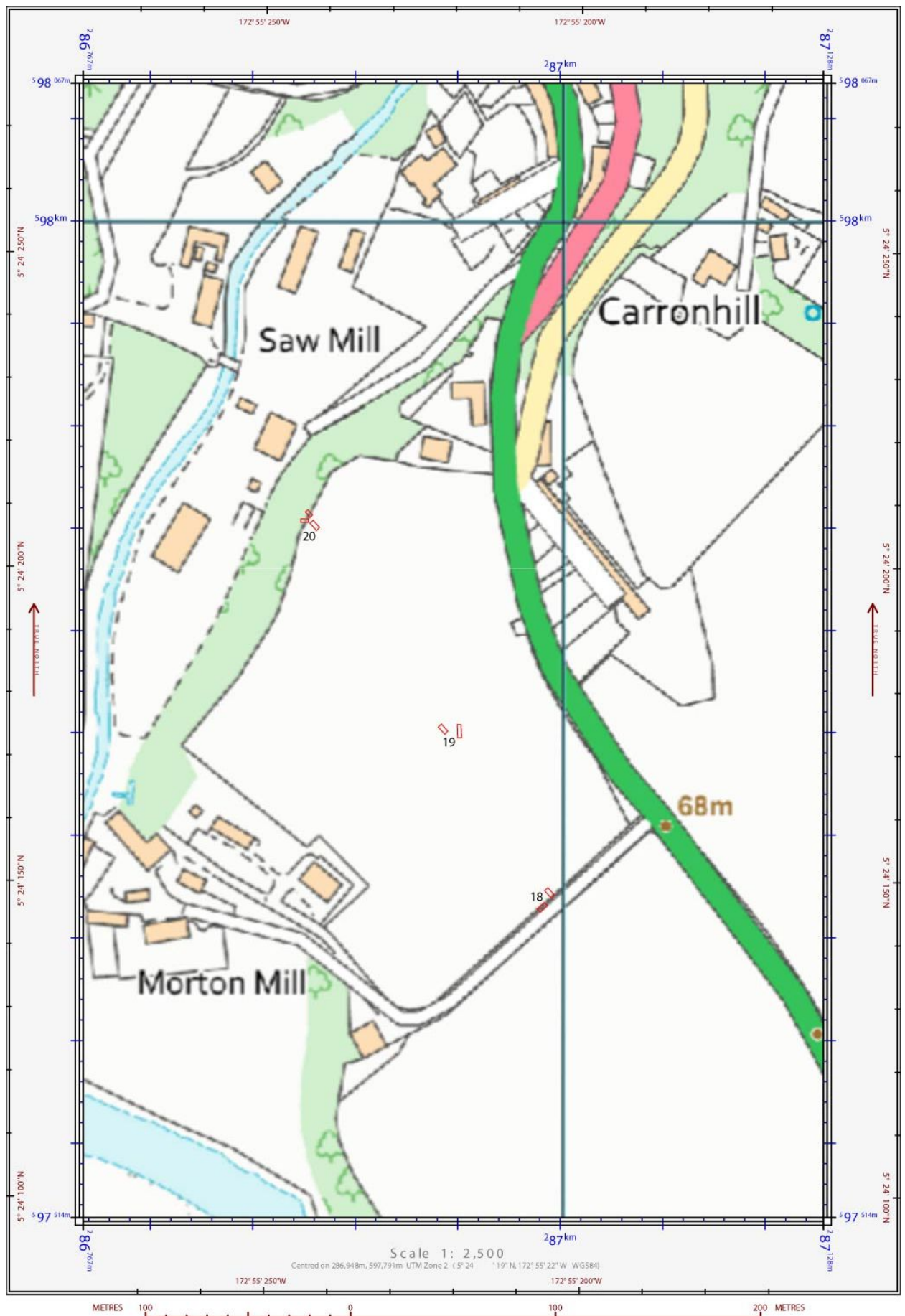


Figure 11 – plan showing locations of Pole & Stay pits

References

Documentary

SOEn	2010	Scottish Planning Policy (SPP). <i>Archaeology</i> , Scottish Office Environmental Department.
SOEn	2011	<i>PAN 2/2011</i> , Planning & Archaeology Scottish Office Environmental Department.
HES	2019	Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement May 2019

Cartographic

Roy	1747-55	Military Survey Map of Scotland
Ordnance Survey	1861	1 st Edition Ordnance Survey Map , Dumfriesshire (1:10,560)
Ordnance Survey	1899	2 nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map , Dumfriesshire (1:2500)
Ordnance Survey	1957	Ordnance Survey, Dumfriesshire (1:10,560)
Ordnance Survey	2019	Ordnance Survey

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Keltbray for their very efficient and diligent on-site works. Many thanks also to Andy Nicholson for provision of mapping showing location of previous excavations.

Appendix 1: Record Summaries

Context Summaries

No.	Interpretation	Description
101	Topsoil	Mid brown very fine silt containing frequent small rounded stones & fine roots - measured 320mm in depth
102	Subsoil	Dark reddish brown gritty silt containing a moderate to frequent amount of stones of varying sizes - averaged 270mm in depth
103	Topsoil	Mid brown very fine silt - measured 270mm in depth
104	Subsoil	Reddish brown fine silt containing an occasional to moderate amount of stones - averaged 320mm in depth
105	Topsoil	Brown fine silt containing a moderate amount of rounded & sub-rounded stones - measured 300mm in depth
106	Subsoil	Reddish brown gritty silt containing frequent rounded & sub-rounded stones - averaged 340mm in depth
107	Topsoil	Mid brown very fine silt containing a moderate amount of small stones - measured 300mm in depth
108	Subsoil	Orangey brown silt containing a moderate amount of small to medium sized stones - averaged 400mm in depth
109	Topsoil	Mid brown very fine silt - measured 320mm in depth
110	Subsoil	Very very fine reddish orange silt containing occasional stones - averaged 350mm in depth
111	Topsoil	Mid brown very fine silt with frequent tree roots - measured 200mm in depth

Photographic Record

No.	Disc No.	Print No.	Description	From	Date
1	1	1	General pre-ex from pole 20	NNW	27/07/19
2	1	2	General pre-ex from pole 18	SSE	27/07/19
3	1	3	Pre-ex at Pole 19	E	27/07/19
4	1	4	Stay pit (pole 19) showing subsoil [106]	N	27/07/19
5	1	5	Stay pit (pole 19) post-ex	N	27/07/19
6	1	6	Pre-ex at Pole 18	E	27/07/19

7	1	7	Stay pit (pole 18) post-ex	SW	27/07/19
8	1	8	Pre-ex at Pole 20	WNW	27/07/19
9	1	9	Stay pit (I) (pole 20) (I) post-ex	NW	27/07/19
10		10	Stay pit (II) (pole 20) (II) post-ex	W	27/07/19
11	1	11	Pole pit 20 post-ex	NW	27/07/19
12	1	12	Pole pit 19 post-ex	SE	27/07/19
13	1	13	Pre-ex of Pole 18	NW	27/07/19
14	1	14	Pole pit 18 showing subsoil [102]	NW	27/07/19
15	1	15	Pole pit 18 - after removal of pole	NW	27/07/19
16	1	16	Pole pit 19 backfilled	SE	27/07/19
17	1	17	Stay pit (pole 19) backfilled	SW	27/07/19
18	1	18	Pole pit 18 backfilled	ESE	27/07/19
19	1	19	Pole pit 20 backfilled	ESE	27/07/19

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries and Galloway Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Scottish Power Energy Networks, Carronbridge, Thornhill
PARISH:	Morton
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rebecca Shaw
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological monitoring works
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NX 86933 97755
START DATE (this season)	29 th July 2019
END DATE (this season)	29 th July 2019
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
DESCRIPTION:	<p>A programme of archaeological monitoring works was undertaken on the 29th July 2019 in respect of works at Carronbridge near Thornhill in Dumfries & Galloway. The works comprised a project to upgrade the Penpont 11kV Overhead Line.</p> <p>A section of the works (poles 18; 19 & 20) required to be undertaken within an area recognised as being of national importance and designated as a Scheduled Monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) relating to Carronbridge Roman Fortlet and</p>

	<p>enclosures at Carronbridge (SM4093). The monument comprises the remains of a fortlet and enclosures which are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs.</p> <p>Archaeological works were required as there was potential to affect surviving sub-surface archaeological features or deposits of national significance and / or enable recovery of unstratified finds in previously disturbed ground. The archaeological works involved the monitoring of the excavation of three pole pits (18; 19 & 20) and four stay wire pits (one for pole 18; one large pit for pole 19 and two pits for pole 20).</p> <p>The excavations revealed very sterile pits which all contained fairly loose fills and no significant archaeological remains of finds were identified during the course of the monitoring works.</p>
PROJECT CODE:	019004
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN)
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	9 Earl Place, Ranfurly, Bridge of Weir, PA11 3HA
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	Report to Historic Environment Scotland and Dumfries & Galloway Sites and Monuments Record and archive to Historic Environment Scotland Archives.

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