

**Rashcreek, Birnie, Moray  
Data Structure Report (DSR)  
Watching brief on SSE cable trench**



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## ILLUSTRATIONS

**Cover** View of excavation in progress facing SW.

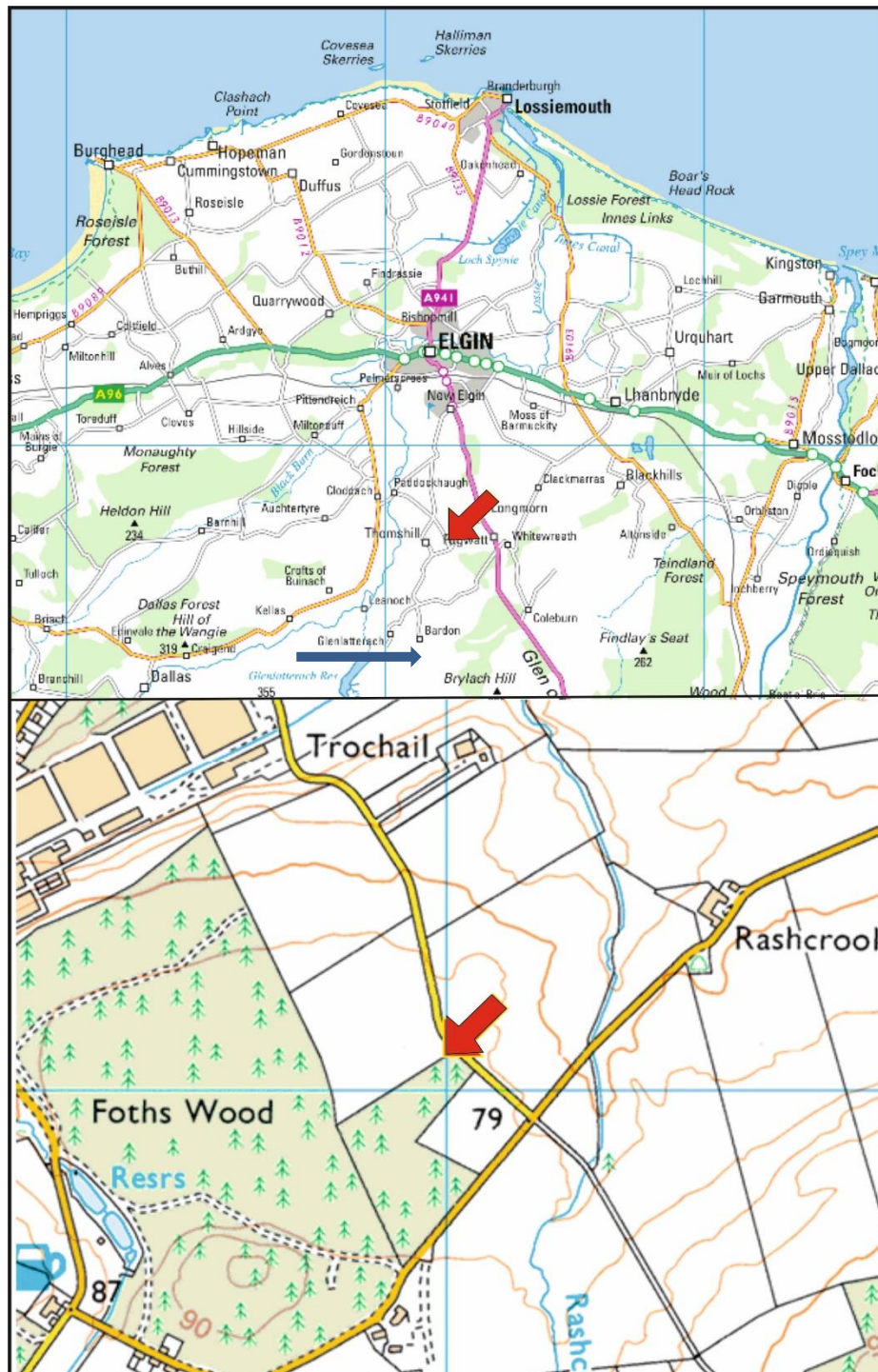
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## SUMMARY

A watching brief was carried out by Stuart Farrell for Cameron Archaeology on 6 May 2019.during the excavation of a trench for an electricity cable (NJ 21993/57050 to NJ 21872/56973; Illus 2). The trench was excavated by 5.5 ton back-acting machine with a 0.45m wide straight edged bucket with line of trench lying between 4 and 5.6m off existing fence-line due to gorse (retained). On average the topsoil was a depth of 0.32m to E rising to 0.2m to W. The W end was heavily ploughed with no trace of subsoil. The underlying natural was orange-red-brown sandy gravel with rounded fine gravel. Monitoring of the cable trench revealed no archaeological features, deposits or finds and the trench is now backfilled.

# 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on NGR NJ 21874/56974 to NJ 2197/57054. It is at 80-85m OD, in the parish of Birnie.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by SSE.
- 1.3 All the archaeological work will be carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) and Historic Environment Scotland's Policy Statement (HESPS) which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed.



Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019)



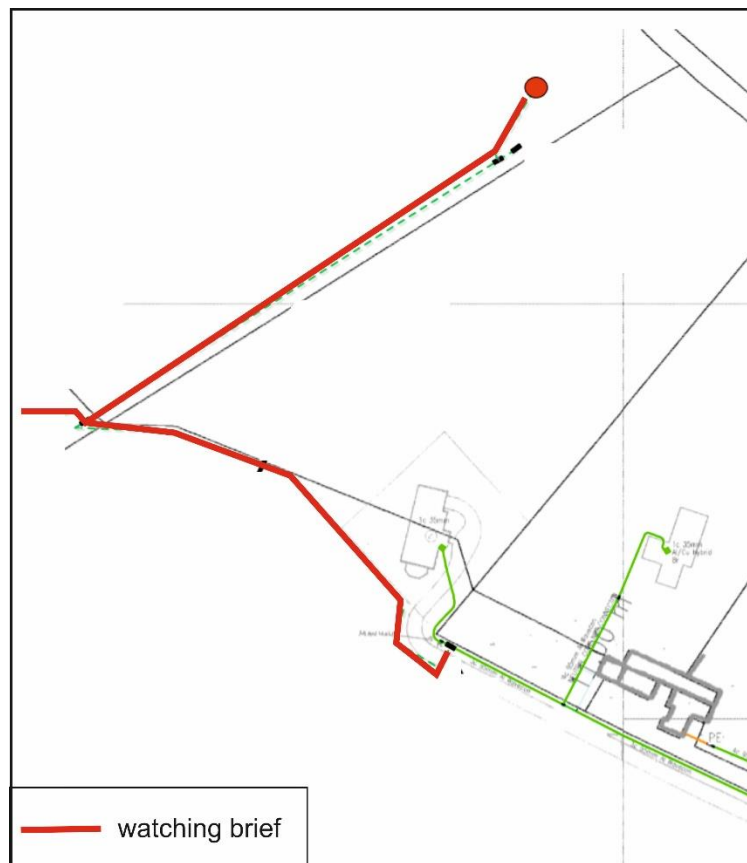
## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Historic Environment Record (HER) and Canmore (HES) were consulted online within 1km of the proposed development.

- 2.1 The location of the proposed trenches lie immediately to the South of Foths Wood (Moray SMR NJ25NW0026) of a cropmark of possible pits from aerial photographs made in 1984.
- 2.2 Watching briefs were conducted in February 2015 for two new houses (NJ 21973 57063 and NJ 21880 56997), garages and associated services. Work revealed no archaeological features or deposits to the area of the house plots and associated works (Farrell 2015, 123).

## 3 WATCHING BRIEF

A watching brief was carried out by Stuart Farrell for Cameron Archaeology on 6 May 2019 during the excavation of a trench for an electricity cable (NJ 21993/57050 to NJ 21872/56973; Illus 2). The house plots and access roads were excavated in 2015 with no features or deposits being revealed (Farrell 2015, 123). The area is under semi rough grass, with existing plots and road filled in with stone. The trench was excavated by 5.5 ton back-acting machine with a 0.45m wide straight edged bucket with line of trench lying between 4 and 5.6m off existing fence-line due to gorse (retained). On average the topsoil was a depth of 0.32m to E rising to 0.2m to W. The W end was heavily ploughed with no trace of subsoil. The underlying natural was orange-red-brown sandy gravel with rounded fine gravel. Monitoring of the cable trench revealed no archaeological features, deposits or finds.



Illus 2 Site plan showing watching brief on cable trench (*copyright SSE*)

## **4 RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS**

No archaeological features or finds were recorded and the trench is now backfilled.

## **5 REFERENCES**

Farrell, S 2015 'Rashcrookside, Rashcrook, Birnie' Discovery and Excavation in Scotland, New Series, Volume 16.

Moray SMR Entry NJ25NW0026.

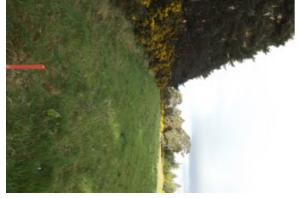
## **6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## **APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS**

- 1 – View of route of trench facing SW.
- 2 – View of excavation in progress facing SW.
- 3 – View of excavated trench facing NE.
- 4 – View of excavated trench facing NE.
- 5 – View of excavated trench facing NE.
- 6 – View of excavated trench facing SW.
- 8 – View of excavated trench facing NE.
- 9 – View of excavated trench facing NE.
- 10 – View of excavated trench facing SW.
- 11 – View of excavated trench, spur facing S.



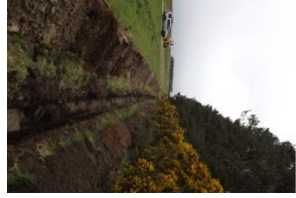
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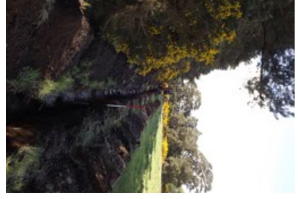
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