

**BROOMBANK - GLENBERVIE  
33KV CABLE TRENCH  
GLENBERVIE  
ABERDEENSHIRE**



**- Archaeological Watching Brief -  
Carried out 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
by  
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



**Report No: MAS 2014-26  
by**

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1. Background

- 1.1 The excavation of a new 33kV cable trench from Broombank Farm to Glenbervie, required that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the initial phase of the work in farmland SW of Broombank farmhouse.
- 1.2 The Conditions were applied in the context of PAN (Planning Advise Note) 2/2011, SPP and SHEP, which states that it is necessary for developers to arrange for archaeological work to take place prior to development, on appropriate circumstances.
- 1.3 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Scottish & Southern Energy plc to undertake the work, which was carried 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 Broombank is located a short distance S of Drumlithie on the W side of the A90 (Illus.1, below). The cable trench runs from the SW end of a field, SW of Broombank farmhouse (NGR: NO 7805 7993) and winds its way NW to Glenbervie. Only the initial c.500m of the track was observed.  
Parish: Glenbervie



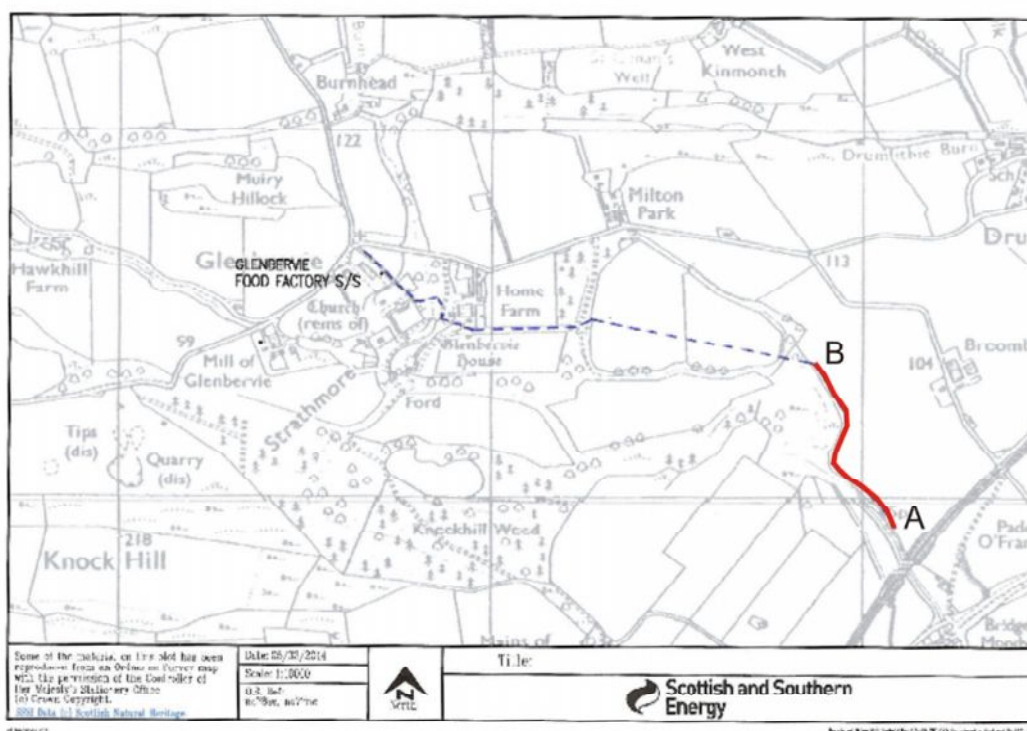
**Illus 1: Map with area of watching brief circled in red. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved License No.100049810.**

2.2 A number of archaeological sites are recorded in the area. To the SE, and on the E side of the North Eastern Railway are two sites, a cropmark site at Pade O'France [NGR: NO783 798; NMRS No. NO77NE 42] and the site of a battle between Mary of Guise, Queen Regent and the Scottish nobles in 1559-60 [NGR: NO 7838 7986; NMRS No. NO77NE 64].

2.3 On the W side of the railway, and immediately S of where the cable trench began, is Grave Leys [NGR: NO 781 799; NMRS No. NO77NE 6], where it is said that when the Scottish North Eastern Railway was being constructed, a stratum of earth resembling a trench and embankment and a great quantity of human bones were found. To the NE of where the trench began, and in close proximity to it, the discovery of a cist containing the skeleton of a young person found during ploughing was recorded in 1864 [NGR: 7801 8002; NMRS No. NO78SE 10]

### 3. The Watching Brief

3.1 The excavation of the cable trench was carried out using a full-slew mechanical digger initially using a 2m toothless ditching bucket but after c.65m this was changed to a 1m wide toothless bucket.



Illus 2: Plan showing the line of the cable trench in blue with the area observed in red (A to B).

3.3 Although the cable trench extended between Broombank farm and Glenbervie Food Factory, it was only the initial 500m that was subject to the watching brief (Illus.2, A to B). The trench started at the SE end of Broombank, N of the railway and on the E side of the Bervie Water. It followed the contours of the W boundary of the field up a steeply rising slope to the N, which formed a steep embankment on the E side of the Bervie Water.

At the bottom of the slope, c.300mm of topsoil overlay dark stoney and clayey natural. After c.35m the depth of topsoil increased to between 550-600mm over fine yellow sandy natural. At c.60m from A, the depth of topsoil reduced again to c.300mm over fine sandy natural with occasional seams of gravel.

3.4 After c.65m the width of the trench was reduced from 2m to 1m for reasons of stability. At a point c.45m further N, the trench passed close to the supposed location of the cist recorded in 1864.

No archaeological features or finds were evident.



**Illus 3: Cable trench going N from 'A'.**



**Illus 4: Cable trench, looking SE to 'A' and the Bervie Water.**

- 3.5 The trench followed the field boundary for a further c.350m, at which point (B on plan, Illus.2) the watching brief was terminated.  
No archaeological features or finds were evident.



**Illus 5: Cable trench, looking NW. Ranging pole is the suggested location of the 1864 cist.**



**Illus 6: View, looking NE, to 'B'.**

#### 4. Results

- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief was carried out over a c.500m stretch of the 33kV cable trench stretching from Broombank farm to Glenbervie.
- 4.2 Although it is located in an area of a number of recorded archaeological sites, no archaeological features or finds were observed.

**Catalogue of Digital Photographs (Supplied to Archives)**

1. S end of cable trench, site board, looking N
- 2-3 S end of cable trench, looking N
- 4-7 S end of cable trench, looking SE
- 8-9 Cable trench running NW past ranging pole which marks the suggested of the 1860 cist, looking N.
- 10 cable trench, looking N
- 11-12 View of machine at location of end of watching brief, looking N