

**MACDUFF 11KV LINE
BLOODYMIRE, MACDUFF
ABERDEENSHIRE**



**Archaeological Watching Brief -
Carried out 12th October 2016
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



Report No: MAS 2016-28
by

J C Murray

H K Murray BA, PhD, MCIFA, FSA Scot
J C Murray BA, MCIFA, FSA Scot, FMA
Hill of Belnagoak, Methlick, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB41 7JN
Telephone: (01651) 806394 e-mail: cmurray@btinternet.com

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1. Background

- 1.1 Proposals by Scottish & Southern Energy for the 11kV Wind Turbine Connection Line between Easter Melrose and Macduff, Aberdeenshire, required that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during pole and ground stay replacements at locations with archaeological potential.
- 1.2 The Condition was 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, in appropriate circumstances.
- 1.3 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Scottish & Southern Energy to undertake the work, which was carried out on 12th October 2016.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 Several sites of archaeological interest lie along the line of the overhead cable running between the wind turbine site at Easter Melrose and Macduff. Although the bulk of the work involved the replacement of poles and stays on the existing line, where new stays and poles were within areas of archaeological interest, a watching brief was to be maintained. Such was the

case to the SW of Bloodymire Farm where a crop mark site of ring ditches lay a short distance E of a pole where new ground stays were required (Illus.1, below).



Illus 1: Map showing site location circled in red. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved License No.100049810.

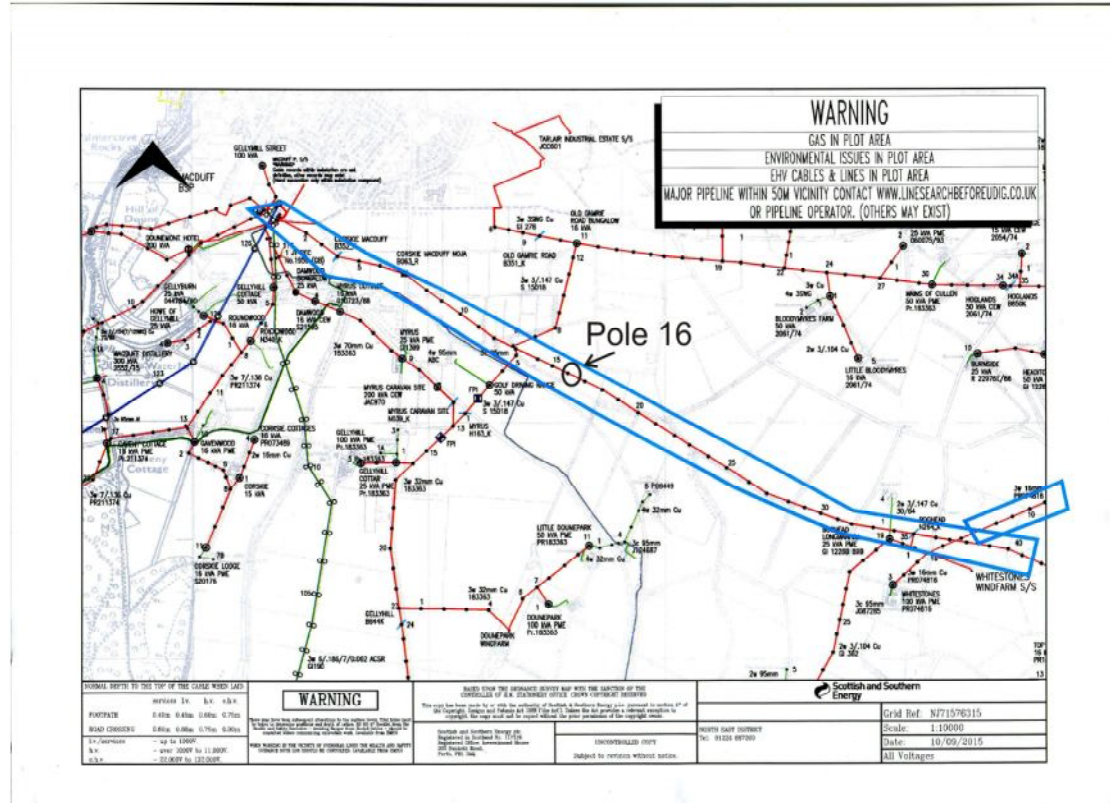
3. The Watching Brief

3.1 The ground stays were required for Pole 16, which lies W of the ring ditch crop mark site of two thin rings, with one having a possible internal feature. (Aberdeenshire SMR Ref: NJ76SW0018 – Bloodymire; NGR Ref: NJ 7197 6315; Canmore ID: 278227; Site No. NJ76SE54).

Parish: Gamrie

3.2 The ground stays were inserted on the W side of Pole 16 [NJ 7156 6319]. A trench, 5m wide x 650mm wide x 1.8m deep was excavated by a full-slew mechanical digger using a toothed bucket. The field was a stubble field recently harvested.

Some c.300mm of dark topsoil overlay grey sandy subsoil with much fractured stone. At a depth of c.1.7m grey wet clay was evident
 No archaeological features or finds were evident.



Illus 2: Plan showing the 11kV line with Pole 16 marked.



Illus 3: View of line, looking NW.



Illus 4: Trench, looking SE.



Illus 5: Detail of N section of trench.



Illus 6: View of line, looking SE.

4. Results

4.1 A new stay was inserted to support Pole 16.

4.2 No archaeological features or finds were evident in the stay trench.

4.3 No further watching briefs were undertaken.