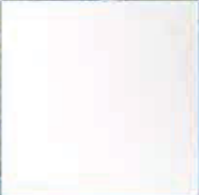


# Blackhillock – Kintore 275 kV OHTL Refurbishment Project: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

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AOC Project: 22727



## Blackhillock to Kintore 275kV OHTL Refurbishment Project: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Parsons Brinckerhoff
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NJ 6340 3333
AOC Project No:	22727
OASIS No:	aocarcha1-176177
Prepared by:	Jamie Humble
Illustration by:	Jamie Humble
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

Author: Jamie Humble	Date: April 2014
Approved by: Lindsay Dunbar	Date: April 2014
Draft/Final Report Stage:	Date: April 2014

**Enquiries to:** AOC Archaeology Group  
Edgefield Industrial Estate  
Edgefield Road  
Loanhead  
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593  
Fax. 0131 440 3422  
e-mail. [admin@aocarchaeology.com](mailto:admin@aocarchaeology.com)



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## Summary

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*AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Parsons Brinckerhoff to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the topsoil strip for the creation of an access track to two electricity towers to the north-west of the village of Colpy near Huntly, Aberdeenshire. The development was part of an electricity tower refurbishment project comprising the refurbishment of electricity towers and the creation of access trackways leading to them (Blackhillock – Kintore 275kV OHTL Refurbishment Project)*

*The monitored excavations comprised of a 270m length of access track 3m wide running through open fields on a gentle south facing slope. A simple soil profile of topsoil directly overlying glacial deposits was recorded along the length of the access track excavations. No features of archaeological interest were present and there were no unstratified artefacts.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Parsons Brinckerhoff to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the topsoil strip for the creation of an access track to two electricity towers to the north-west of the village of Colpy near Huntly, Aberdeenshire. The development was part of an electricity tower refurbishment project comprising the refurbishment of electricity towers and the creation of access trackways leading to them (Blackhillock – Kintore 275kV OHTL Refurbishment Project). Following consultation on the access trackway routes, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS) recommended that the new section of access track leading north to tower 70 from the existing track, then running north-west to tower 71 required archaeological monitoring. This report presents the results of the watching brief.

1.1.2 The works were undertaken in order to satisfy a condition set by the Aberdeenshire Council as advised on archaeological matters by ACAS. The works were conducted according to the terms of an *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Parsons Brinckerhoff 2014) approved by ACAS and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

### 1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The area subject to watching brief was located to the north-east of Jericho Farm to the north-west of the village of Colpy across open fields on a gentle south facing slope and was centered on NJ 6340 3333 (Figure 1).

### 1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 While no archaeological sites have been recorded within the proposed development boundary, numerous archaeological sites have been recorded in the surrounding landscape. These sites date mostly to the prehistoric period (NJ63SW0025 - hut circles & field system; NJ63SW0009 - cropmark of possible settlement; NJ63SW0009 - stone axe; NJ63SW0016 - carved stone ball; plus many other finds of prehistoric artefacts), but there are also some later, post-medieval sites (NJ63SW0084, NJ63SW0026 - rig & furrow).

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:

- To establish the presence or otherwise of archaeological deposits/features;
- To establish the nature of the deposits;
- To preserve by record any archaeological deposits encountered; and
- To allow the presence of significant remains to be brought to the attention of all interested parties (statutory and otherwise).

## 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Topsoil stripping was conducted by a 360° excavator with a bladed ditching bucket. All excavation was monitored by an experienced field archaeologist and all recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practices.

## 4 RESULTS

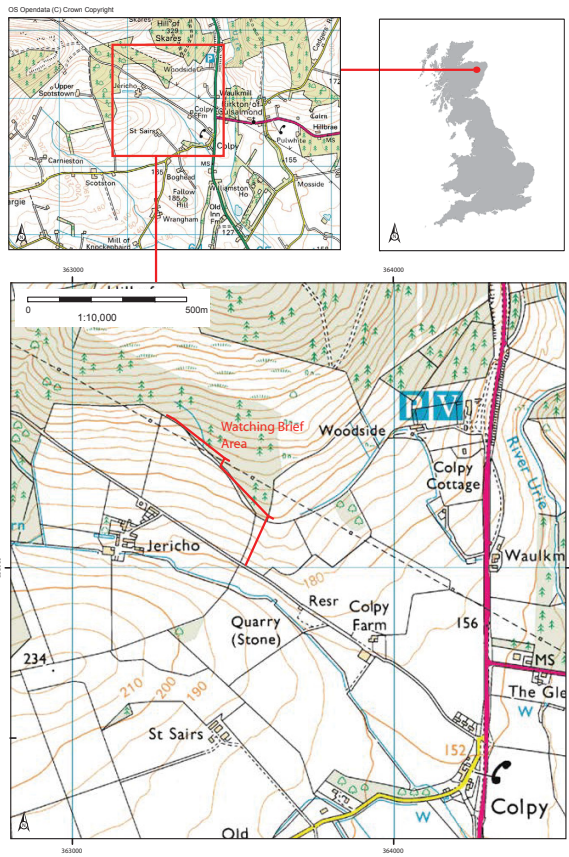


Figure 1: Watching Bief Area

- 4.1 The monitoring of the ground-breaking works took places between 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 in varied weather conditions, with both sunny spells and rain showers. However, archaeological visibility was generally good. The data gathered is presented as a series of appendices:
- i) Appendix 1 contains the Photographic Register;
  - ii) Appendix 2 reproduces the 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' entry
- 4.2 The area watched as part of this programme of works can be found in Figure 1. The monitored topsoil strip comprised of c. 270m of haul road c. 3m in width and two turning bays c. 9m by 3m. The trackway ran through open fields situated on a gentle south facing slope. A simple soil profile was recorded across all the excavations comprising a thin topsoil (up to 0.4m) of dark brown humic silty sands and gravels, directly overlying an orange sandy gravel glacial till.
- 4.3 No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.



Plate 1: Access track under construction

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological features were revealed and no unstratified artefacts were recovered during the watching brief. No further works are considered necessary, but this recommendation will need to be approved by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service.

## 6 REFERENCES

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology*.

Parsons Brinckerhoff, 2014, *Blackhillock- Kintore 275kV OHTL Refurbishment Project. Archaeological Watching Brief: Written Scheme of Investigation*.



## APPENDIX 1: COLOUR DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Ref No	Description	From	Date
1	View of Turning Bay 1	W	24/3/2014
2	View of Turning Bay 1	N	24/3/2014
3	View of Access Track	E	24/3/2014
4	View of Turning Bay 1	W	24/3/2014
5	View of Access Track	E	24/3/2014
6	View of Access Track	E	25/3/2014
7	View of Access Track	E	25/3/2014
8	View of Access Track	E	25/3/2014
9	View of Access Track	W	25/3/2014
10	View of Access Track	E	26/3/2014
11	View of Access Track	E	25/3/2014
12	View of Access Track	W	25/3/2014
13	View of Access Track	W	25/3/2014
14	View of Access Track	E	25/3/2014
15	View of Access Track	N	25/3/2014
16	View along overhead power line	E	25/3/2014
17	View of Access Track	N	25/3/2014
18	View of Access Track	NW	25/3/2014
19	View of Access Track	N	25/3/2014
20	View of Turning Bay 2	W	25/3/2014
21	View of Turning Bay 2	E	25/3/2014
22	View of Access Track	NW	25/3/2014
23	View of Access Track	W	25/3/2014
24	View of Access Track	S	25/3/2014
25	View of Access Track	E	27/3/2014
26	View of Access Track	NE	31/3/2014
27	View of Access Track	SE	31/3/2014
28	View of Access Track	NE	31/3/2014
29	Section of Access Track trench	SW	31/3/2014