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Watching Brief at site off Markethill Road, East Kilbride, South Lanarkshire

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PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

<i>Client</i>	SCOTTISH POWER ENERGY NETWORKS
<i>National Grid Reference</i>	NS 6311 5620
<i>Address</i>	N/A
<i>Parish</i>	EAST KILBRIDE
<i>Council</i>	SOUTH LANARKSHIRE
<i>Planning Application No</i>	N/A
<i>NMRS No</i>	N/A
<i>Oasis No</i>	HEADLAND1-54711
<i>SMR No</i>	N/A
<i>HB/SAM No</i>	N/A
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<i>Report</i>	JANUARY 2009

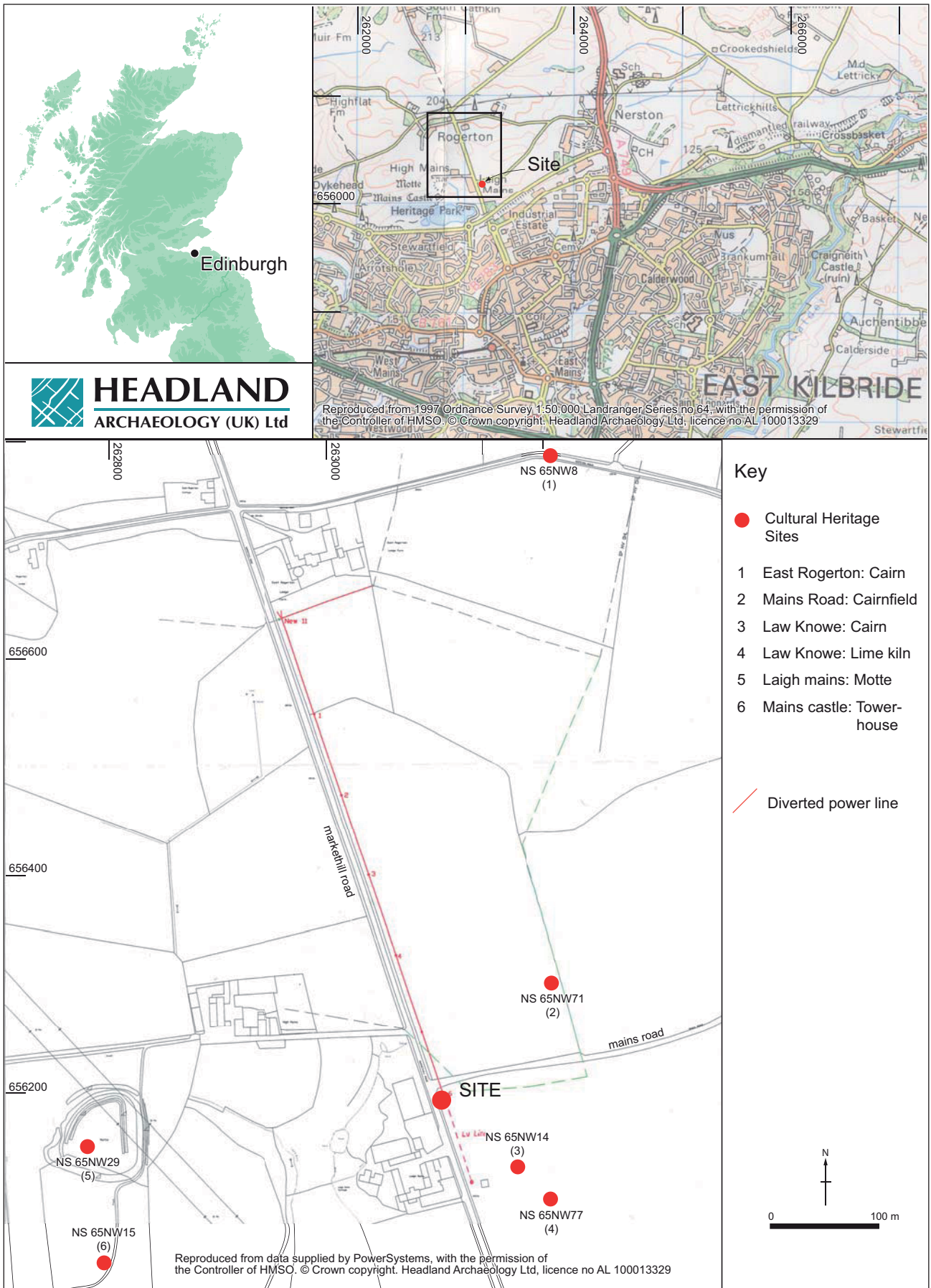
Signed off by:.....

Mark Roberts BA MIFA, Project Manager

Date:.....

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Illus 1
Location plan

Watching Brief at site off Markethill Road, East Kilbride, South Lanarkshire

by Magnar Dalland

A watching brief carried out during the erection of a wooden electricity pole on the east side of Markethill Road opposite Leigh Mains on the northern outskirts of East Kilbride, South Lanarkshire. The work was carried out in an area containing several known archaeological sites.

No archaeological remains were disturbed during the work.

INTRODUCTION

This document reports on a watching brief carried out during the erection of an electricity pole on the east side of Markethill Road opposite Leigh Mains on the northern outskirts of East Kilbride, South Lanarkshire (NS 6311 5620). The pole was part of an overhead line diversion, moving a segment of the line westwards away from a recently constructed golf course up to the E side of Markethill Road. The work included the erection of seven new poles along the side of the road over a distance of some 450 m (Illus 1). In a reply to a request of information on potential archaeological issues raised by this work, West of Scotland Archaeology Service advised Scottish Power that an archaeological watching brief should be carried out during excavations.

Headland Archaeology was therefore commissioned by Scottish Power to carry out a watching brief of the excavations related to the erection of Pole 6 at the south end of the diversion. The work was carried out on the 14th January 2009.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this work was to ensure that important archaeological remains were not destroyed during the excavations without first being adequately recorded.

METHOD

Pole 6 at the south end comprised two wooden poles linked by metal bars to form a platform for a transformer. The linked poles were inserted into a deep slot 1.2 m wide by 3.5 m long aligned at right angles to and 2.5 m east of the road verge. A second slot 0.7 m wide by 3.4 m long was excavated 8.5 m to the south to anchor two stays, one for each pole (Illus 2). A further two shallow trenches were excavated south and east from the pole trench to hold earth wires from the transformer.

The trenches were excavated part by hand and part by a mechanical digger equipped with a 0.6 m wide toothed bucket. The hand digging was mainly carried out at the east end of the two slot trenches to locate and exposed two cables that ran parallel with the road.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

(Illus 1)

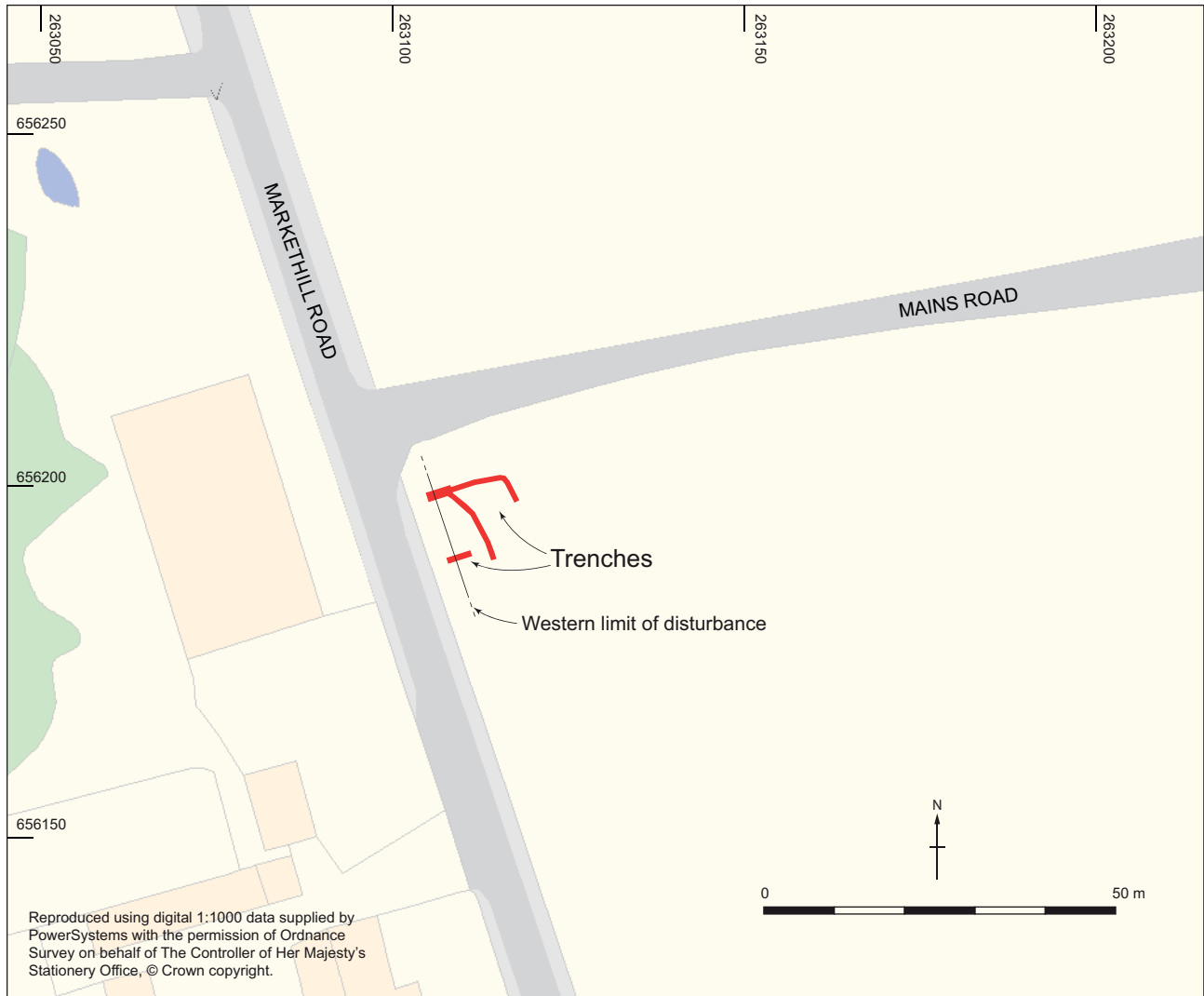
A number of sites have been identified in the area surrounding the line diversion, the most significant being the motte (NMRS NS 65NW 29) at Laigh Mains some 300 m to the west and Mains Castle (NMRS NS 65NW 15) 350 m to the south-west of Pole 6. The nearest site is the cairn on Law Knowe (NMRS NS 65NW 14) less than 100 m to the south-east. A lime kiln (NMRS NS 65NW 77) have been recorded some 40 m further to the southeast. There are reports of a group of possible damaged cairns (NMRS NS 65NW 71) and a cairn destroyed in 1789 (NMRS NS 65NW 8) located in the fields to the north-east of Pole 6.

The construction of the golf course affected the sites immediately to the south-east and north-east of Pole 6. During the archaeological monitoring of the golf course construction, the cairn on Law Knowe was partially excavated (Illus 3). The excavation confirmed that the monument was a funerary cairn containing several ceramic vessels, cremation deposits, and burial cists. During the monitoring other cairns were identified. These were not subjected to excavation and may also be funerary cairns similar to that on Law Knowe.

Pole 6 was located in an area which due to its proximity to the funerary cairn at Law Knowe was considered to be most likely to contain archaeological remains.

RESULTS

Both slot trenches were excavated down to and into very brittle bedrock. The amount of overburden on top of bedrock increased east to west from 0.7 m to 0.9 m deep. With the exception of a 1 m wide strip along the road the soil comprised mixed up topsoil with numerous angular fragments of shattered bedrock. It was not possible to see any clear cut for the cables exposed by hand running across the east end of the slot trenches. This suggests that the bulk of this deposit had been disturbed during the construction of the golf course. The narrow band of undisturbed soil comprised light brown sandy soil with few stones and extended up to a line 3.5 m east of the road verge (Illus 2).



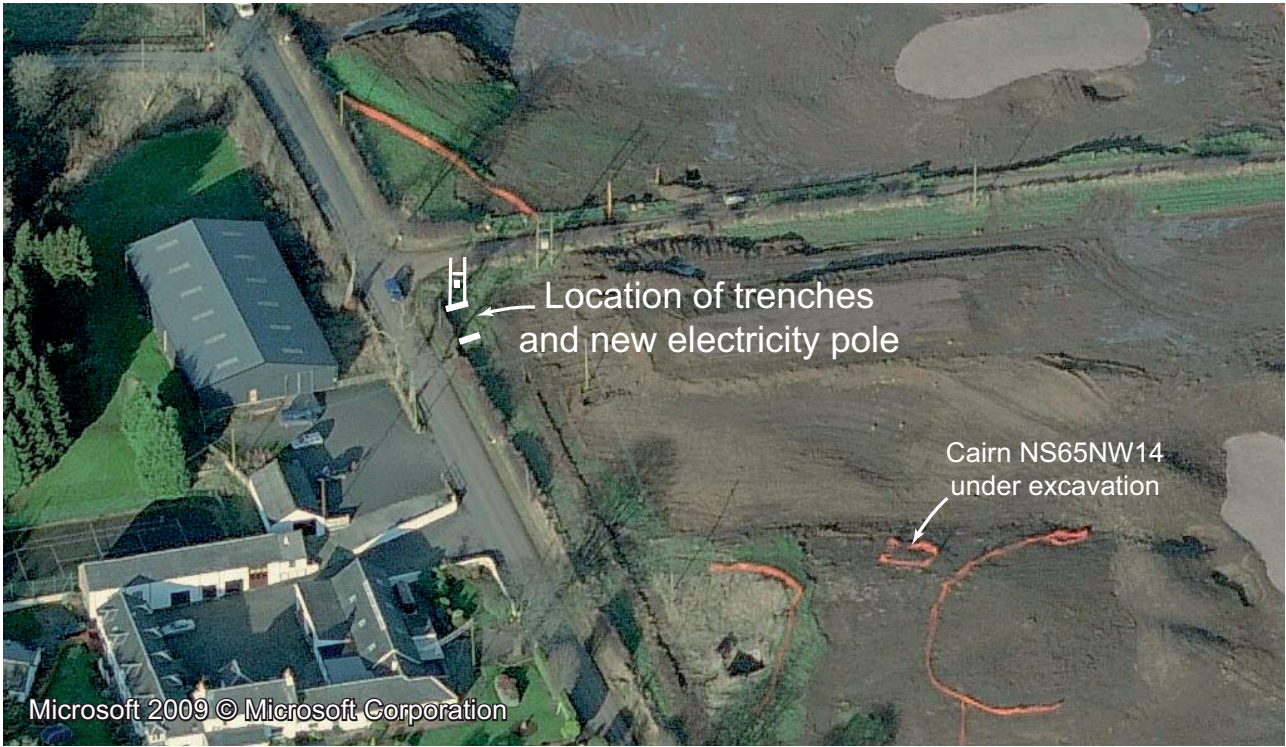
Illus 2
Trench plan

The two trenches dug for the earth wires were 0.6 m wide and up to 0.5 m deep cutting into the same disturbed re-deposited deposits exposed in the two slot trenches.

No archaeological remains were exposed in the excavated areas.

DISCUSSION

Based on the evidence from the excavated trenches, the disturbance associated with the construction of the golf course extends up to a line 3.5 m in from the eastern road verge in the area of Pole 6. Assuming that the construction of the road would have caused disturbance beyond the edge of the road surface, implies that there is only a very narrow band of undisturbed ground along the side of the road at this point.



Illus 3
Golf course under construction