

A75 Whitecrook, Dumfries & Galloway: Archaeological Monitoring

Data Structure Report

by Douglas Gordon

issued 11th May 2009



Rathmell
Archaeology Ltd

Quality Assurance

This report covers works which have been undertaken in keeping with the issued brief as modified by the agreed programme of works. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance of Rathmell Archaeology Limited on the preparation of reports. All works reported on within this document have been undertaken in keeping with the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed

Date

In keeping with the procedure of Rathmell Archaeology Limited this document and its findings have been reviewed and agreed by an appropriate colleague:

Checked

Date

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Overview

1. This Data Structure Report is for a programme of archaeological work required by Scottish Power in respect to the construction of an underground power line between Glenluce and Stranraer. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains along the line of the cable.
2. The study area is pastoral ground, with the centre portion being a sand extraction site, for Barr Quarries. The route of the power line was intended to run parallel to the A75 Dumfries to Stranraer road. The study area had been designated as archaeologically sensitive and required archaeological monitoring of the digging of the power line trench
3. This archaeological monitoring was intended to minimise the impact of the development upon any archaeology present. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd has been appointed to act with regard to the archaeological issue by Scottish Power. The project works described below have been designed to comply with the identified requirements of Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Archaeological and Historical Background

4. The study area is located above (north of) the dune complex in the area known as Luce Sands, or Torrs Warren. This area is noted as a rich archaeological landscape, having produced much evidence for prehistoric occupation in the form of finds of lithics, pottery, cairns and cultivation marks (Cowie 1996 p12-1; p91-95).
5. However, the National Monuments Record of Scotland identified no known archaeological sites on the line of the power line; though the power line runs parallel and within 2-5m of the A75 (T) which runs on the line of the Old Military Road (NMRS NX15NE78) while there are the recorded sites of an ring groove house and palisaded enclosure (NMRS NX15NE 147), an enclosure (NMRS NX15NE75) and cultivation remains (NMRS NX15NE76) to the immediate south.
6. The Dumfries and Galloway Council Sites and Monuments Record contains records of archaeological finds from the area at the head of Luce Bay, in the vicinity of the Piltanton Burn. These include: flint tools (DG 12725); the largest collection of Roman coins known from Scotland (DG 12724); and a Norse or Anglian ingot (DG 21045). The finds have been made within the last 10 years and reported to Stranraer Museum. It has been suggested that the Roman coins and ingot may indicate the site of a beach market where imported goods were brought ashore and traded in the early centuries AD.
7. The locations of all of these, except the flint tools, fall to the south of the application area; however the flint objects were found in plough soil within the study area. Given this identified archaeological interest within and adjacent to the proposal area, it was considered possible prior to works that significant remains may have existed within the proposal site.
8. The available pre-Ordnance Survey mapping (1745 to 1826) evidence suggests that the ground has remained as open fields with Roy (1747-55) indicating unenclosed rig and furrow fields both above and below the marked break of slope.
9. The first edition Ordnance Survey of 1850 (Figure 1e) shows a sand pit cutting into this break of slope, the extent of this sand pit appears to be still identifiable today.
10. None of the mapping consulted appears to illustrate the enclosure (NMRS NX15NE75) to the south of the study area. The cultivation remains noted (NMRS NX15NE76) may relate to the unenclosed arable fields depicted on the Roy map (Figure 1b).



Figure 1a: Moll 1732



Figure 1b: Roy 1747-55



Figure 1c: Ainslie 1782



Figure 1d: Thomson 1826

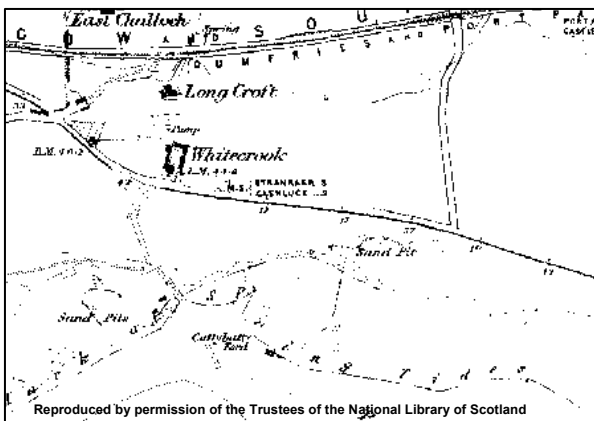


Figure 1e: 1st ed. Ordnance Survey 1850

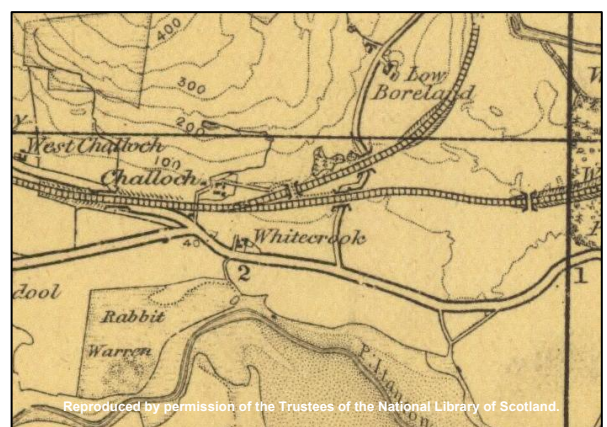


Figure 1f: 2nd ed. Ordnance Survey 1895



Figure 2a: Trench at Eastern End



Figure 2b: Trench at Western End

Project Works

11. The works comprised the archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the trench for the underground power line through a potentially archaeologically sensitive area. The excavation of the line was undertaken using a 6t 360° tracked excavator with one archaeologist monitoring the machine.
12. All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

13. The excavation of the power line trench ran parallel to the A75 from NX 1725 5671 to NX 1679 5679. The trench was approximately 300mm wide and from 1m to 1.2m deep. Three strata were noted in the trench [001] was mid brown sandy loam topsoil with frequent rootlets and occasional inclusions of modern detritus. Which was over [002] a fine pale yellow to orange sand subsoil, occasionally a dark brown sand [003] was evident within in the section of the trench.
14. Only one feature was observed within the trench [004] which had a square section measuring approximately 600mm wide and 800mm deep, which contained a flat stone and plastic bag.
15. No significant archaeology was uncovered within the trench.

Recommendations

16. The archaeological monitoring failed to identify any significant archaeological features or artefacts within the development area. Consequently, we recommend that no further archaeological works are appropriate.
17. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with Dumfries and Galloway Council and their advisors.

Conclusion

18. A programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken on behalf of Scottish Power in respect to the construction of an underground power line from Glen Luce to Stranraer, Dumfries and Galloway. This monitoring included an archaeological presence on site during the excavation of approximately 460m of trench for the pipeline. The archaeological works are designed to inform the nature of any significant archaeological remains in the area and to develop the mitigation of any adverse impact on such remains.
19. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed during the monitoring of the underground power line. As such we have assessed the site as not containing significant archaeology and have therefore recommended that no further works are appropriate.

References

Documentary

Cowie, T	1996	'Torr Warren, Luce Sands, Galloway' in <i>Transactions of the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society LXXI</i> , 11-105
Scot Gov	1994	SPP23 Planning and the Historic Environment.
SOEnv	1994	Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology, Scottish Office Environmental Department.

Cartographic

Moll, H	1732	The West Part of Galloway
Roy, W	1747-55	Military Survey of Scotland
Ainslie, J	1782	Ainslie's Map of the Southern Part of Scotland
Thomson, J	1826	Dumfriesshire
Ordnance Survey	1850	1 st edition map 1:10560
Ordnance Survey	1895	2nd edition map 1:10560

Appendix 1: Registers

20. Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site regardless of the process by which that information was gathered (e.g. evaluation or strip, map & sample).

Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001			Mid Brown Sandy Loam with frequent rootlets and modern detritus	Topsoil
002			Fine pale yellow to orange sand	Subsoil
003			Fine dark brown sand	Subsoil
004			Square section, 600mm wide and 800mm deep, with mixed topsoil and subsoil fill with inclusions of a flat stone and a yellow plastic feed bag	Modern Pit

Photographic Register

Image No.	Print		Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.			
001	1	1	Power line Trench at Eastern End	W	07/05/09
002	1	2	Power line Trench at Middle Section	W	07/05/09
003	1	3	Power line Trench at Western End	W	07/05/09

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries and Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	A75 Whitecrook Scottish Power
PROJECT CODE:	09033
PARISH:	Glenluce
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Douglas Gordon
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Monitoring
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NX 1725 5671 to NX 1679 5679.
START DATE (this season)	7 th May 2009
END DATE (this season)	7 th May 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>Due to proximity to areas of archaeological interest identified through consultation with Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service , a programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken on behalf of Scottish Power in respect to the construction of an underground power line from Glen Luce to Stranraer, Dumfries and Galloway. This monitoring included an archaeological presence on site during the excavation of approximately 460m of trench for the pipeline. The archaeological works are designed to inform the nature of any significant archaeological remains in the area and to develop the mitigation of any adverse impact on such remains.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed during the monitoring of the underground power line. As such we have assessed the site as not containing significant archaeology and have therefore recommended that no further works are appropriate.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scottish Power
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
E MAIL:	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service and archive to National Monuments Record of Scotland.

Contact Details

21. Rathmell Archaeology can be contacted at our Registered Office or through the web:

Rathmell Archaeology Ltd	www.rathmell-arch.co.uk
Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops	
Kilwinning	t.: 01294 542848
Ayrshire	f.: 01294 542849
KA13 6PU	e.: contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk

22. Dumfries and Galloway Archaeology Service can be contacted through the details noted below:

Dumfries and Galloway Archaeology Service	
Dumfries and Galloway Council	
Newall Terrace	t.: 01387 260154
Dumfries	f.: 01387 260149
DG1 1LW	e.: jane.brann@dumgal.gov.uk

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