

**North Rhinns Overhead, Dumfries and Galloway:  
Archaeological Monitoring**

Data Structure Report

by Alan Matthews and Douglas Gordon

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**Rathmell**

Archaeology Ltd

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Date .....

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Checked .....

Date .....

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## Overview

1. This Data Structure Report is for a programme of archaeological works required by SP Energy Networks in respect of the construction of a grid connection from the North Rhinns Wind Farm as a 33kV overhead line between Portpatrick and Stranraer. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains along the line of the cable.
2. Dumfries and Galloway Council in response to a public utility consultation requested archaeological works. The scope of work requested was a walkover of that portion of the line which was unimproved grassland, to identify any upstanding remains, and the monitoring of groundbreaking works associated with the build at a specific area to the north of Little Lochans (Poles 82-84 and 2 stays). The character of these works was discussed with the Dumfries and Galloway Archaeology Service, advisors to Dumfries and Galloway Council.
3. The archaeological works were 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 SP Energy Networks. 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, in this case referring to the proposed route of the overhead line, does not contain any known significant archaeological remains. However, significant archaeological remains in the vicinity of the lines proposed route mean that there is considered to be potential for previously unknown significant archaeology within the study area.
5. The most obvious feature of the local historical landscape is the Scheduled Ancient Monument, Cairn Pat (AMH1958) (NX 0442 5632). This consists of a fort or walled settlement crowning the hill of Cairn Pat. The fort is made up of an enclosure approximately 137m at the widest diameter of two very ruinous walls, ramparts and external ditches (Feachem 1963). Several potential entrances have been noted and the fort encloses an area of approximately 1.2ha. Alternative descriptions of the fort describe it as having three ramparts, severely robbed (Feachem 1965); however all agree that other potential low defences exist on the south side of the fort. An archaeological watching brief carried out in 2001 for the establishment of buildings related to the radio site at the summit of Cairn Pat uncovered no significant archaeological features (Fulford 2001).
6. Several other archaeological or historical features and find-spots are known in the surrounding landscape. Potential for prehistoric remains in the landscape surrounding the study area is indicated by several find-spots which include; and axehead, a socketed-axehead, a quern and a flanged bronze axehead. In addition to this the sites of several farm buildings are noted in the landscape demonstrating the changing agricultural use of the surrounding area.
7. Historic mapping adds very little to in the way of information to the picture already provided by archaeological sources. Roy's Military Survey (1847-1855) (Figure 1b) shows the area to the north of Cairn Pat as being rough scrubland surrounded by patches of cultivation much as it appears today. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1843-1882) shows little change in the use of the area, however, the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1885-1900) (Figure 1a) shows a small farm structure to the north of Cairn Pat marked as Overtown. This structure is roughly within the study area.



Figure 1a: 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey 1885-1900



Figure 1b: Roy's Military Survey 1747-1755





Figure 2a: View of Cairn Pat from the north-west



Figure 2b: Field boundary to south of Poles 28 and 29



Figure 3a: Field boundary to north of Cairn Pat



Figure 3b: Drystone structure to south of Poles 41 and 42

## Project Works

8. The programme of works commenced with the walkover survey of the portions of the overhead line which run through semi or unimproved ground. Much of this unimproved ground was immediately to the north of the Scheduled Ancient Monument, Cairn Pat. This was followed by the continuous archaeological monitoring on defined stripping and ground breaking works within the identified archaeologically sensitive area north of Little Lochans.
9. 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: Walkover Survey

10. The walkover survey took place on 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2009. After consultation with Dumfries and Galloway Archaeology Service the walkover survey focused on the unimproved land to the immediate north of Cairn Pat (Figure 2a). It was felt that the archaeological potential of this area warranted archaeological examination due to its proximity to the Scheduled Ancient Monument. In practice the walkover survey covered the line of the overhead from the location of Pole 24 to Pole 50.
11. The area was unimproved land given over to rough pasture for sheep. The line of the overhead in the western third of the walkover area (approximately from Pole 24 to Pole 33) went through marshy ground running alongside deep drainage ditches aligned with the fenced field boundaries. Most of the ground in this area was covered with reeds. The central third of the walkover area (approximately from Pole 34 to Pole 43) was immediately to the north of the Scheduled Ancient Monument, Cairn Pat (Figure 2b). This area was also used as rough pasture but was formed of reasonably dry undulating ground with frequently exposed bedrock. From Pole 44 to Pole 50 the ground rose in a series of irregular mounds. There were frequent areas of gorse bushes.
12. In proximity to the location of Poles 41 and 42 (to the south of the overhead line) was a rectilinear drystone structure. The structure appeared to be formed of several cells surrounded by larger drystone walls (Figure 3b). The surrounding walls may have been integrated into the still standing walls which surround the base of Cairn Pat. The structure survived to a height of approximately 400mm above current ground level.
13. The remainder of the walkover area was free of significant archaeological remains. The only signs of human effect on the landscape are the existing field boundaries and the passage of occasional farm vehicles. Some of the current field boundaries are on top of or next to older boundaries of drystone construction (Figure 3a). This was true at the base of Cairn Pat and to the south of Poles 27 to 32.
14. On the advice of Dumfries and Galloway Archaeology Service the structure in proximity to Poles 41 and 42 was avoided during the placement of the overhead line. No machine tracked over the structure and nearby poles was placed at a safe distance from the upstanding structural remains.

## Findings: Monitoring

15. Monitoring works took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2009. Three poles were monitored initially; Poles 82-84 (Figures 4a and 5a) were located north of Little Lochans centred on NGR NX 0726 5799. Pole 84 was located to the North Northeast of Little Lochans, the trench measured approximately 2m by 1.4m and 2m deep. Two strata were evident within the pole trench (101) was a light to mid brown sandy silt ploughsoil that was 850mm deep which overlies a subsoil of white clay and light brown sand (102).





Figure 4a: Pole 82



Figure 4b: Pole 83





Figure 5a: Pole 84



Figure 5b: Stay 2

16. The trench for Pole 83 (Figure 4b) measured approximately 2m by 1.2 and 2m deep. There were also two strata present within the trench (103) was a topsoil of mid brown sandy silt with occasional small stone inclusions and very occasional white glaze pottery. The topsoil overlay (104) red and orange sand gravel. Two trenches were also excavated for the stays to be attached to Pole 83; these measured 2m by 0.6m and 2m deep for Stay 1 and Stay 2 (Figure 5b). Both Stays exhibited the same stratigraphy as the trench for Pole 83 though the (103) was 260mm deep for Stay 1 and 200mm in Stay 2.
17. Pole 82 trench measured approximately 2m by 1.4m and 2m deep with the same stratigraphy as Pole 83. No archaeology was evident in any of the five excavations.

## Discussion

18. The only potentially significant archaeology located in the course of these works was the drystone structure to the south of Poles 41 and 42. There was no visual indication of the use or origin of this structure and without further investigation it may be provisionally interpreted as 19<sup>th</sup> century farm buildings. The fact that the surrounding wall appears to tie in with the standing wall surrounding the base of Cairn Pat suggests that the structure is of no great antiquity. From cartographic evidence the structure referred to as Overtown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey may be the drystone structure to the south of Poles 41 and 42. Given that Overtown does not appear on either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> edition maps it may only have been in use for a few decades at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. No additional significant archaeological remains were observed during the course of the walkover survey.
19. No archaeological remains were observed in the course of the monitoring works. Only modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) anthropic material was removed from the topsoil and in every excavation archaeologically sterile subsoil was reached exposing no features.

## Recommendations

20. 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.
21. The walkover survey revealed no significant archaeological features other than the drystone structure to the south of Poles 41 and 42. This structure was successfully avoided during the course of development works and so no further work is recommended.
22. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with Dumfries and Galloway Council and their advisors.

## Conclusion

23. A programme of archaeological works was undertaken on behalf of by SP Energy Networks in respect of the construction of a grid connection from the North Rhins Wind Farm as a 33kV overhead line between Portpatrick and Stranraer. These works included an archaeological walkover survey of the unimproved land to the immediate north of a Scheduled Ancient Monument, Cairn Pat. During the placement of Poles 82-84 for the overhead line archaeological monitoring of all ground breaking works was undertaken
24. A drystone structure, most likely 19<sup>th</sup> century farm buildings, was observed to the south of Poles 41 and 42 during the walkover survey. This was successfully avoided in the course of the development works. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed during the monitoring of Poles 82-84. As such we have assessed the site as not containing significant archaeology and have therefore recommended that no further works are appropriate.

## References

### Documentary

Feachem	1965	The North Britons: the prehistori of a Border people, London Held at RCAHMS E.2.FEA
Feachem	1963	A guide to prehistoric Scotland, London Heald at RCAHMS E.2.FEA
Fulford	2001	Cairnpat, Stranrar, Dumfries and Galloway (Portpatrick Parish), watching brief, <i>Discovery and Excavation I Scotland, vol.2 28</i>
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 <sup>st</sup> edition map 1:10560
Ordnance Survey	1895	2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map 1:10560
Ordnance Survey	1903	3 <sup>rd</sup> edition map 1:10560

## Appendix 1: Registers

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 and sample).

### Context Register

Context No.	Area/Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
101			Mid Brown Sandy Silt	Ploughsoil
102			White clay and light brown sand	Subsoil
103			Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small stone inclusions	Topsoil
104			Red and Orange Sand Gravel	Subsoil

### Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Print		Description	From	Date
		Film No.	Neg. No.			
1	-	1	1	Pole 84	W	05/05/09
2	-	1	2	Pole 83	SW	05/05/09
3	-	1	3	Stay 1	W	05/05/09
4	-	1	4	Stay 2	W	05/05/09
5	-	1	5	Pole 82	WSW	05/05/09

Image No.	Digital	Print		Description	From	Date
		Film No.	Neg. No.			
6	1	-	-	Cairn Pat approach	S	16/3/09
7	2	-	-	Cairn Pat approach	S	16/3/09
8	3	-	-	Cairn Pat south slope	SE	16/3/09
9	4	-	-	Cairn Pat south slope	SE	16/3/09
10	5	-	-	Cairn Pat south slope	S	16/3/09
11	6	-	-	View north from Cairn Pat	SE	16/3/09
12	7	-	-	View north from Cairn Pat	S	16/3/09
13	8	-	-	View north from Cairn Pat	S	16/3/09
14	9	-	-	View north from Cairn Pat	SW	16/3/09
15	10	-	-	View north from Cairn Pat	SW	16/3/09
16	11	-	-	View north from Cairn Pat	W	16/3/09
17	12	-	-	Cairn Pat north slope	E	16/3/09
18	13	-	-	Cairn Pat north slope	E	16/3/09
19	14	-	-	Cairn Pat north slope	NW	16/3/09
20	15	-	-	Cairn Pat north slope	NW	16/3/09
21	16	-	-	Area Pole 33	E	16/3/09
22	17	-	-	Area Pole 33	E	16/3/09
23	18	-	-	Area Pole 31	W	16/3/09
24	19	-	-	Area Pole 31	W	16/3/09
25	20	-	-	Area Pole 31	W	16/3/09
26	21	-	-	Area Pole 31	W	16/3/09
27	22	-	-	Area Pole 31	E	16/3/09
28	23	-	-	Area Pole 31	E	16/3/09
29	24	-	-	Area Pole 27	SE	16/3/09
30	25	-	-	Area Pole 27	SE	16/3/09
31	26	-	-	Area Pole 29	S	16/3/09
32	27	-	-	Area Pole 29	S	16/3/09
33	28	-	-	Area Pole 37	SW	16/3/09
34	29	-	-	Area Pole 37	SW	16/3/09
35	30	-	-	Area Pole 37	N	16/3/09
36	31	-	-	Area Pole 37	N	16/3/09
37	32	-	-	Area Pole 39	W	16/3/09
38	33	-	-	Area Pole 39	W	16/3/09
39	34	-	-	Area Pole 39	N	16/3/09



Image No.	Digital	Print		Description	From	Date
		Film No.	Neg. No.			
40	35	-	-	Area Pole 39	N	16/3/09
41	36	-	-	South of Pole 40	SW	16/3/09
42	37	-	-	South of Pole 40	SW	16/3/09
43	38	-	-	Drystone Structure south of 41-42	E	16/3/09
44	39	-	-	Drystone Structure south of 41-42	NE	16/3/09
45	40	-	-	Drystone Structure south of 41-42	SE	16/3/09
46	41	-	-	Drystone Structure south of 41-42	SE	16/3/09
47	42	-	-	Area Pole 45	W	16/3/09
48	43	-	-	Area Pole 45	W	16/3/09
49	44	-	-	Area Pole 45	S	16/3/09
50	45	-	-	Area Pole 45	S	16/3/09
51	46	-	-	Area Pole 45	NE	16/3/09
52	47	-	-	Area Pole 45	NE	16/3/09
53	48	-	-	Beyond Pole 50	W	16/3/09
54	49	-	-	Beyond Pole 50	W	16/3/09
55	50	-	-	Beyond Pole 50	W	16/3/09

## Appendix 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Dumfries and Galloway
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	North Rhinns Overhead
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	09018
<b>PARISH:</b>	Portpatrick
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Alan Matthews
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Walkover Survey, Monitoring
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NX 002545 to NX 052603
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2009
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2009
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (may include information from other fields)	A programme of archaeological works was undertaken in respect of the construction of a grid connection from the North Rhins Wind Farm as a 33kV overhead line between Portpatrick and Stranraer. These works included an archaeological walkover survey. During the placement of Poles 82-84 for the overhead line archaeological monitoring of all ground breaking works was undertaken. A drystone structure, most likely 19 <sup>th</sup> century farm buildings, was observed to the south of Poles 41 and 42 during the walkover survey. This was successfully avoided in the course of the development works. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were observed during the monitoring of Poles 82-84.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	SP Energy Networks
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
<b>E MAIL:</b>	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Report to Dumfries and Galloway Archaeology Service and archive to National Monuments Record of Scotland.

## Contact Details

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

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

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