

# Scotia Archaeology

**REPORT  
TO  
SCOTTISH & SOUTHERN ENERGY**

**POLE REPLACEMENT  
GARVOCK NURSERIES  
DUNNING, PERTHSHIRE**

**WATCHING BRIEF  
NOVEMBER 2014**

*Lismore  
Dollerie Terrace  
Crieff  
Perthshire  
Tel: 01764-652638  
email: [scotarc@btinternet.com](mailto:scotarc@btinternet.com)*

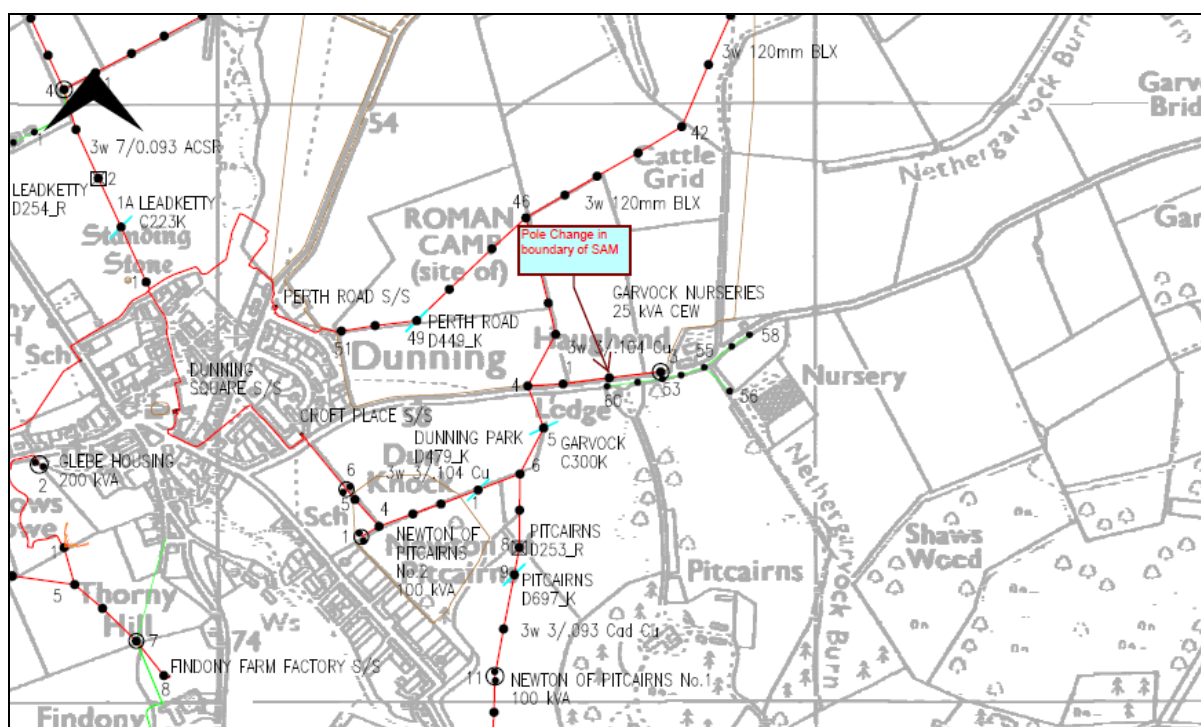
## INTRODUCTION

This document describes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during the replacement of a defective pole (Pole 2) on an overhead power line near Garvock Nurseries, Dunning, Perthshire. The work was carried out by Scottish & Southern Energy (SSE) whose representative, Denise Oudney, commissioned the watching brief which was undertaken by John Lewis of Scotia Archaeology on 17 November 2014.

Pole 2 stands on the edge of an area designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), one protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979. As a consequence, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) describing a programme intended to mitigate any action that might damage the surviving archaeological record, was submitted to Historic Scotland for approval before on-site work commenced. Historic Scotland accepted the content of the WSI which stipulated that all ground-breaking activities associated with this development should be monitored archaeologically. SSE agreed to the work outlined in that document and to funding it.

## THE SITE

Pole 2 is located at NO 02673 14534 on an, east/west spur of an overhead power line a short distance to the east of Dunning. It stands at the south end of a field, some 700m from Dunning and adjacent to an unclassified road leading eastwards from the village. SSE's map of the area (see below) shows the location of the pole.



*Location of Pole 2*

The road marks the southern limit of the scheduled area which contains the remains of a Roman temporary camp (scheduled monument number SAM3675) within gently undulating

ground encompassing cultivated land and deciduous woodland. The camp, probably dating to the first or second century AD, measures approximately 700m east/west by 675m north/south and covers an area of some 46.5 hectares. Parts of its defensive earthworks are visible above ground although most of its outline has been identified only as cropmarks by aerial photography.

Entrances have been identified on the fort's north, south and west sides, the latter being uncovered during excavations by the Centre for Field Archaeology in advance of a housing development in 1993 (DES 1993, 101). Investigations by the Scottish Urban Archaeology Trust in the south-west corner of the fort in 1998 did not uncover any Roman features (DES 1998, 74) nor did watching briefs by Scotia Archaeology during pole replacements along the north side of the fort in 2009 (DES 2009, 149).

To the south of the Roman fort are the remains of a large, multivallate fort, known as Dun Knock. It too is a scheduled monument (SAM9434) and has been identified by aerial photography.

The field in which Pole 2 stands was covered in stubble at the time of the watching brief. From the power line, hard against the hedge and fence which border the public road, the ground rises gently northwards within the limits of the Roman fort.



*Location of Pole 2 at the south edge of the Roman fort*

## THE WATCHING BRIEF

SSE had hoped to remove the defective pole and place a new one into the old socket without disturbing the surrounding area. However, it proved very difficult to carry out this procedure and, as a consequence, a trench had to be dug adjacent to the existing pole in order to insert its replacement.

It had also been the intention to attach the power line to the new pole immediately following the installation of the new pole. However, because of the rainy conditions under which this phase of the work was undertaken, that element of the operation had to be postponed until a later date.

The excavation was undertaken using a wheeled, JCB mechanical excavator. The trench was situated hard against the west side of the extant pole and measured 1.3m east/west by 0.6m wide and 1.7m deep. These dimensions were less than is usual for pole trenches and, in this case, the trench did not extend beyond the limits of the ground disturbed during the insertion of the old pole. Excavation removed only redeposited glacial till of gravel and pebbles intermixed with topsoil, no previously undisturbed deposits being encountered and no artefacts of any age being retrieved from the trench.



*Trench for replacement Pole 2*

## CONCLUSIONS

The watching brief provided no new information about the Roman temporary camp, the only material uncovered having been disturbed on an earlier occasion when the now defective pole was inserted.

## REFERENCE

DES *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*, annual journal of Archaeology Scotland.

## REPORTING

Copies of this report have been forwarded to SSE, Historic Scotland and RCAHMS. In addition, a summary report has been produced for publication in *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*, the annual journal of Archaeology Scotland. Site data has been uploaded onto the online digital resource site OASIS from where Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust, archaeological advisors to Perth & Kinross Council, will access the report.