

Scotia Archaeology

**REPORT
TO
SCOTTISH & SOUTHERN
ELECTRICITY NETWORKS**

**OVERHEAD 11KV POWER LINE
NEAR KILBERRY,
TARBERT, ARGYLL**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF
FEBRUARY 2017**

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INTRODUCTION

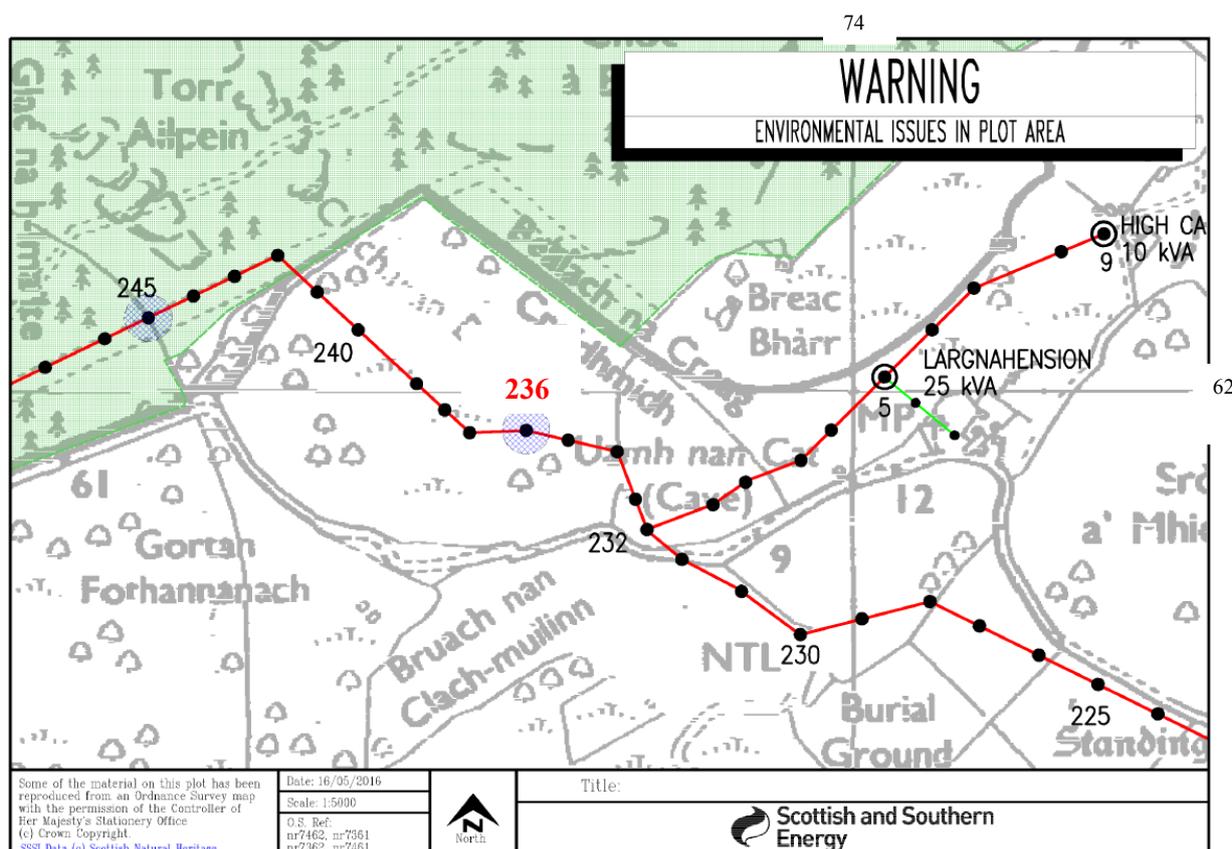
This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken for Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) during the replacement of a wooden pole on an 11kv overhead power line near Kilberry, Tarbert, Argyll.

The work was commissioned by Denise Oudney of SSEN and carried out by John Lewis of Scotia Archaeology.

THE SITE

Pole 236 forms part of the overhead power line that runs along the south side of the Knapdale peninsula and is located 15km south-west of Tarbert and 3km south-east of the village of Kilberry.

It is situated some 140m north of the B8024 road which hugs the coast along this part of its route, on ground that rises gently towards the west. It stands just beyond an area of deciduous woodland, among bracken interspersed with clumps of gorse.



Location of Pole 236

THE WATCHING BRIEF

The refurbishment was undertaken on behalf of SSEN by Power Lines, Pipes & Cables Ltd (PLPC). Pole 236 was replaced on 13 February 2017, a cold and windy but dry and sunny day. The objective of the watching brief was to determine whether any remains of

archaeological significance survived within the area that was to be trenched for Pole 236's replacement.

In 1993 an archaeological site was identified nearby and is listed by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) as NR76SW 31 and by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) as WoSASPin14562. It is recorded as the remains of a roughly circular enclosure, 15m in diameter and located at NR 73620 61960, some 50m west of the Clacharan Burn within an area of deciduous woodland. A thorough search in this area at the time of the watching brief failed to identify any such feature either within the woodland or the open ground to its west.

Numerous boulders, presumably resulting from glacial activity, are strewn over the area although they do not appear to have been utilized for any constructional purpose. One such group, some 40m south of Pole 236, may have been interpreted as the remains of putative enclosure NR76SW 31 (see photograph below).



Spread of boulders to the south of Pole 236

Pole 236 is located at NR 73622 61965, the old pole being removed during a local shut-down of the power supply. The old pole was removed and the new one slotted directly into the resulting socket, there being no need to excavate a new trench for it (see photograph below). As a consequence, nothing of potential archaeological interest was exposed during this operation.



New Pole 236 being inserted

CONCLUSIONS

Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during the replacement of Pole 236. Furthermore, it is considered unlikely that anything of significance is situated in the vicinity of this pole, the putative enclosure (NR76SW 31) being simply a spread of boulders deposited by glacial activity.