

# Scotia Archaeology

REPORT  
TO  
SCOTTISH & SOUTHERN  
ELECTRICITY NETWORKS

OVERHEAD POWER LINE  
AT DUINE,  
ARDFERN, ARGYLL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF  
APRIL 2017

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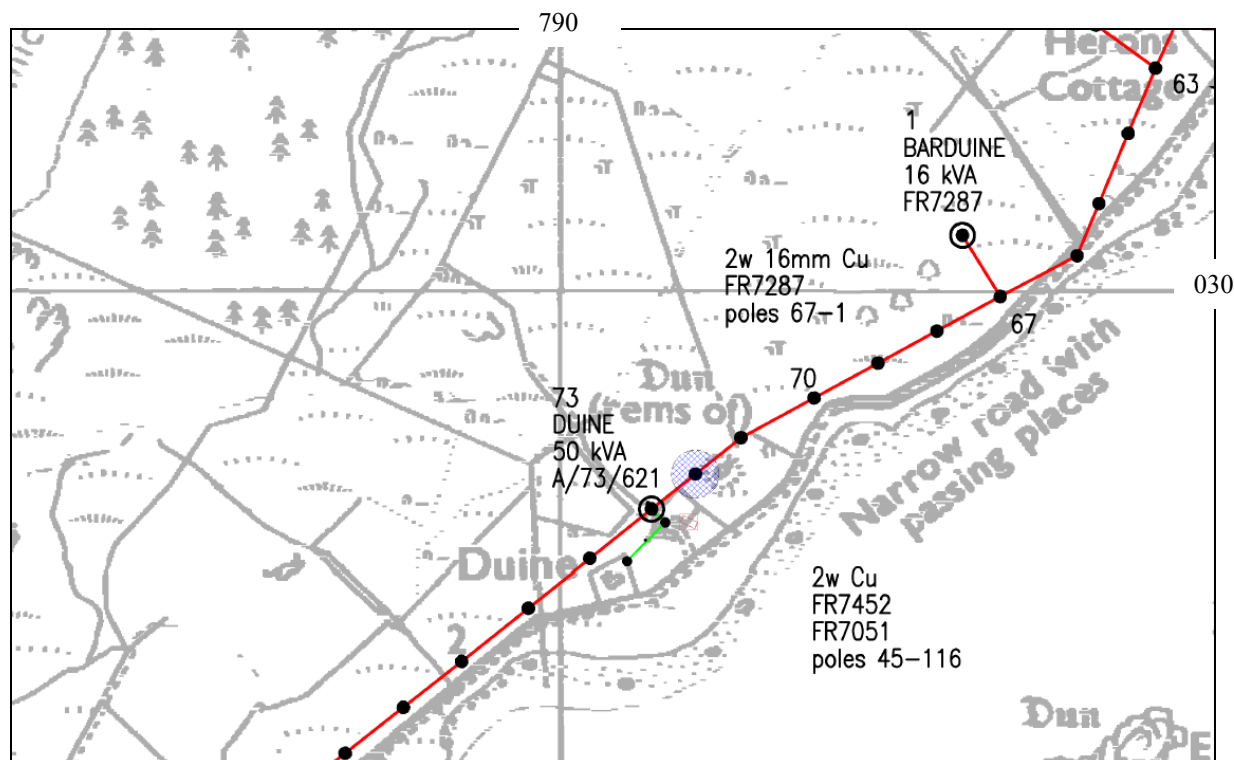
## INTRODUCTION

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 at Duine, near Ardfern, Argyll.

The work was commissioned by Gavin Carswell, wayleave office at SSEN, Oban and carried out by John Lewis of Scotia Archaeology.

## THE SITE

Pole 72 forms part of an overhead power line running along the Craignish peninsula, close to the north-west shore of Loch Craignish, a sea loch. It is located at NM 79149 02806, 2km south-west of the village of Ardfern, on elevated ground overlooking the loch. Its position is highlighted in pale blue on the map below, supplied by SSEN.



*Location of Pole 72*

The reason for the watching brief is the close proximity to the pole of a known archaeological monument comprising the remains of a late Iron Age fort or dun. It is catalogued by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) as NM70SE 7 and by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service as WoSASPin823. Its approximate grid reference is given as NM 7919 0280.

The fort is situated on a rocky hillock on ground that rises up from the shore of Loch Craignish and the public road adjacent to it. It is visible above ground as the remains of a grassed-over wall, 2m wide, surrounding an area measuring some 21m by 13.5m. In the

centre of the fort is a later enclosure defined by an earth bank which overlies the wall of the fort in places.

Pole 72 stands a short distance west of the fort in a small patch of relatively good grazing surrounded by land that is generally boggy and covered with coarse grass and reeds.

### **THE WATCHING BRIEF**

Pole 72 was replaced on 6 April 2017, a dry and partially sunny day. The objective of the watching brief was to determine whether any remains of archaeological significance survived within the area that was trenched for the pole's replacement.

The trench was located 2m south-west of the extant pole and measured 1.5m north-east/south-west by 0.7m wide and 1.6m deep. It cut through 0.1m of pale orange-brown, clayey topsoil and underlying shattered rock and clay, yellow to orange in colour. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were uncovered in the trench and no artefacts of any age retrieved from it.



*Trench for the new Pole 72, viewed from the north-west*



*New Pole 72 being inserted. The fort or dun is visible on higher ground beyond. Viewed from the north-west*

## CONCLUSIONS

Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during the replacement of Pole 72. However, given the close proximity of the fort or dun, it is recommended that any further ground-breaking activities in this area should also be monitored archaeologically.