

OHLT/01



TWECHAR ROMAN TEMPORARY CAMP, DUNBARTONSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief

commissioned by Freedom Network Services

June 2015

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project info

HA JOB NO. OHLT/01
NGR NS 69812 75440
PARISH Kirkintilloch
LOCAL AUTHORITY East Dunbartonshire
OASIS REF. headland1-197689

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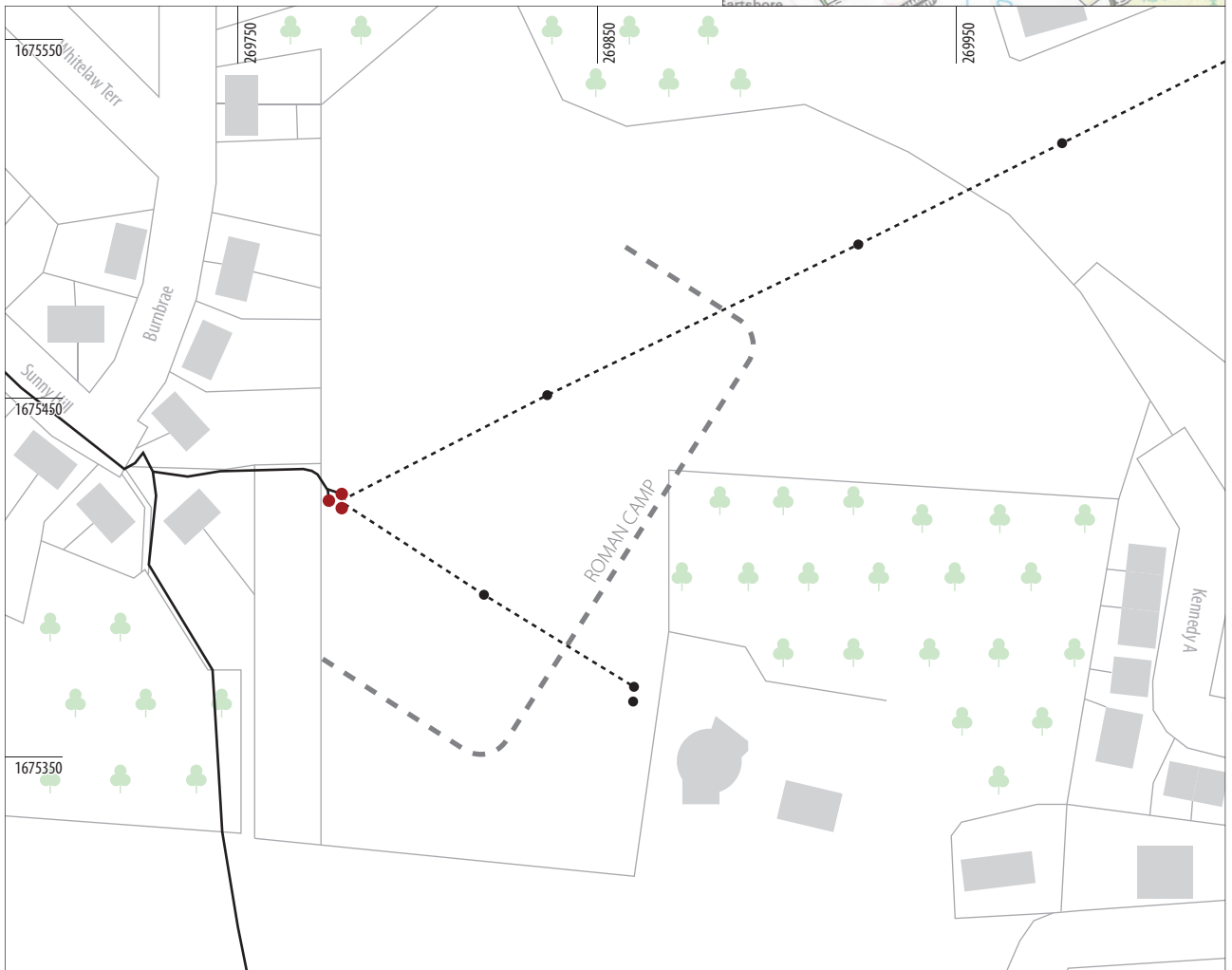
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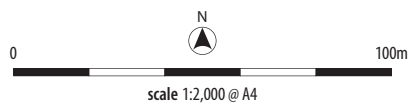
**OVERHEAD LINE
REPLACEMENT TWECHAR (OHLT)**

Twechar
Glasgow
East Dunbartonshire

0 200km



- KEY**
- monitored post replacement
 - underground cable route
 - - - overhead cable route



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ILLUS 1
Site location

TWECHAR ROMAN TEMPORARY CAMP, DUNBARTONSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological watching brief during the upgrading of overhead powerlines within the scheduled monument; SM 7075 'Twechar, Roman temporary camp NW of St John of the Cross RC Church'. The work was carried out by Freedom Network Services and designed to meet conditions of Scheduled Monument Consent (SM 7075). This report presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief.

The programme took place from 3rd-4th November and incorporated monitoring groundworks for the replacement of powerline poles and cable joints within the scheduled area. No remains of archaeological significance were identified.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Freedom Network Services to carry out an archaeological Watching Brief on intrusive ground works related to powerline upgrading in Twechar, Dunbartonshire.

The work was carried out in order to satisfy the conditions of Scheduled Monument Consent as the site falls within the scheduled area of the scheduled monument; SM 7075 'Twechar, Roman temporary camp NW of St John of the Cross RC Church (SM 70750)'. The programme of work was agreed by Historic Scotland and included within a Written Scheme of Investigation (Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2014).

2 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The watching brief sought to preserve by record any archaeological remains affected by the replacement of the powerline poles and cable joints and to report on the results of the works.

3 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located at National Grid Reference NS 69812 75440, on pasture land north-west of the St John of the Cross RC Church (Illus 1).

The site is underlain by superficial deposits of clay, silt and sand which formed during the Quaternary Period. These in turn overlie sedimentary bedrock deposits of the Clackmannan group formed approximately 31 to 330 million years ago in the Carboniferous period.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within the boundary of a scheduled monument (SM 70750) identified as a Roman temporary camp. Ploughing has left no earthwork remains and the camp is only visible in the form of a rectilinear cropmark, the western quarter of which is built over by housing.

The camp construction would have taken the form of a rectangular rampart of earth and a ditch. It would likely have been associated with the nearby Antonine Wall, located 200m north, built in the AD140s on the instruction of Emperor Anonius Pius. The Wall is also a Scheduled Monument, and inscribed by UNESCO with World Heritage Site status in 2008 as the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) WHS. A scheduled section of the wall lies to the north-east of the Twechar temporary camp, running from the Forth and Clyde canal in Twechar to Barr Hill, located around 1km to the west.



ILLUS 2
Section of cable trench

ILLUS 3
Section of anchor trench

ILLUS 4
Section of pole removal trench

5 METHODOLOGY

Detailed Method Statements for the pole replacement works have been supplied by the client. Excavations were undertaken by a mechanical excavator, under constant archaeological supervision. A flat edged ditching bucket was used to remove all deposits other than compact geological sediments which were removed using a toothed bucket. Excavation was undertaken in controlled spits under continuous archaeological supervision.

All three powerline poles were dragged from the ground by means of a 360° excavator with toothed bucket. Two of the poles were attached by a cross bar which required trenching between the poles to allow removal. The third pole could be lifted out vertically without the need for any additional invasive work. Following excavation the

new poles were lifted into position and held upright using a 360° excavator while they were stabilised then backfilled.

All archaeological deposits were recorded using standard archaeological methods and pro-forma record sheets. Digital photographs were taken with a graduated metric scale clearly visible where appropriate. A site plan including areas of excavation was produced and linked to the National Grid.

6 RESULTS

The groundwork excavations principally comprised three trenches excavated in two phases. The first of which took the form of shallow

trenching, to a maximum depth of 0.7m, to reveal the underground cables (Illus 2). Deep trenching, c 4.4m in length and to a maximum depth of 1.5m, was carried out around two of the powerline poles (Illus 4) and an anchor trench c 2.6m to the west (Illus 3).

	Cable Trench	Anchor trench	Powerline pole trench
Topsoil (001)	0.2–0.7m	0.2–0.7m	0.2–0.7m
Subsoil (002)	–	0.3–0.7m	0.3–0.4m
Natural Geology (003)	–	0.3–0.8m revealed	0.4–0.8m revealed

TABLE 1

Thickness of deposits

Stratigraphy within all of the trench sections consisted of Topsoil (001), subsoil (002) and natural geology (003), see Appendix 1 for full context descriptions. The table above shows the thickness of each deposit within each trench. The material infilling all trenches consisted of a rubble backfill.

No features of archaeological significance were encountered in any of the trenches.

7 DISCUSSION

The watching brief identified no features or deposits of archaeological significance. This appears to be due to the excavations being located directly over areas previously disturbed by the original powerline pole construction, which had been backfilled with modern rubble.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2014 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Works at Roman Temporary camp NW of St John of the Cross RC Church* Unpublished Client Report.



9 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Appendix 1.1 Context register

Context	Description
001	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt
002	Subsoil. Light yellow brown clay silt
003	Natural geology. Boulder clay
004	Modern rubble. Dark brown silty sand containing frequent stones and other modern material.

Appendix 1.2 Photographic register

Photo	Direction	Description
1	N	Section of cable trench
2	E	Section of anchor trench
3	W	Section of pole removal trench

APPENDIX 2 DES ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Dunbartonshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Overhead Line Replacement Twechar
PROJECT CODE:	OHLT14
PARISH:	Kirkintilloch
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	J M Lochrie
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NS67NE 11
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Roman
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	none
NGR	
START DATE (this season)	3rd November 2012
END DATE (this season)	4th November 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Headland Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during the upgrading of overhead powerlines within the scheduled monument; SM 7075, "Twechar, Roman temporary camp NW of St John of the Cross RC Church. The work was carried out by Freedom Network Services and designed to meet conditions of Scheduled Monument Consent".</p> <p>The programme incorporated monitoring groundworks for the replacement of powerline poles and cable joints within the scheduled area. No remains of archaeological significance were identified.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	RCHAMS
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Freedom Network Services
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
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