



Archaeological Watching Brief
Shian Burn Hydro Scheme
Wester Shian
AMULREE
AJ02

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
SHIAN BURN HYDRO SCHEME
WESTER SHIAN, AMULREE**

AJ02

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Cover Plate: Working at site of Wester Shian Farmstead

Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: Pipeline Plan

Illustration 3: Section of Pipeline Trench

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Abstract

Highland Eco-Design Ltd commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake archaeological monitoring in the form of a watching brief on the groundworks for Shian Burn Hydro Scheme, at Wester Shian, near Amulree. The development was considered to have archaeological potential as the lower part of the pipeline route runs through Wester Shian Township (centred on NGR NN 8430 3995) and by Wester Shian Farmstead (NGR NN8433 4019). A second archaeological condition was to cordon off Wester Shian Township and the site of Wester Shian Farmstead with temporary fencing during the construction to preserve sites in situ by making the sites highly visible. The work (site code AJ02) was undertaken during the period 24th April 2013 and 28-29th May 2013 in good weather conditions. The requirement was to monitor the groundworks for the pipeline through the township and past the site of the farmstead. Special attention was to be paid to the recording of any remains relating to the township and the farmstead.

Nothing of archaeological significance was found either within the site of the township or at the site of the farmstead, and no further archaeological work was required.

The archaeological work was fully paid for by Highland Eco-Design Ltd.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Highland Eco-Design Ltd commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake archaeological monitoring in the form of a watching brief on the groundworks for Shian Burn Hydro Scheme, a micro hydro-electric generating scheme at Wester Shian, near Amulree. The development was considered to have archaeological potential as the lower part of the pipeline route runs through Wester Shian Township (centred on NGR NN 8430 3995) and by Wester Shian Farmstead (NGR NN8433 4019). A second archaeological condition was to cordon off Wester Shian Township and the site of Wester Shian Farmstead with temporary fencing during the construction to preserve sites in situ by making the sites highly visible and thereby avoiding accidental damage to the sites during the construction phase. The work (site code AJ02) was undertaken during the period 24th April 2013 and 28-29th May 2013 in good weather conditions. The requirement of the watching brief was to monitor the groundworks for the pipeline through the township and past the site of the farmstead. Special attention was to be paid to the recording of any remains relating to the township and the farmstead.

The work was designed to satisfy/ inform the archaeological condition on development application reference 12/00269/FLL.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this investigation was to establish the presence/absence, date, character and quality of any archaeological remains surviving along the pipeline route for the Hydro Scheme where it ran through Wester Shian Township and by Wester Shian Steading.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this watching brief. Copies will be sent to the client, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and Perth and Kinross Historic Environment Record Historic Environment Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This Watching Brief is the final part of a programme of archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development reference 12/00269/FLL.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Mr James Wallace of Highland Eco Design and Sarah Malone of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. The archaeological watching brief was fully funded by Highland Eco Design.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

The site comprises the pipeline route through Wester Shian Township and to the E of the site of Wester Shian Farmstead.

The township site still retains many unroofed crumbling former dwellings and byres which were isolated from damage by high visibility temporary fencing. The site of the farmstead contains little in the way of upstanding remains, but walling marking the SW end of a structure can be seen at NN 8435 4016. The site of the Farmstead structure is marked by a lone mature tree on the NE edge of the structure. The farmstead site was cordoned off on its E side.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

Wester Shian Township and Wester Shian Farmstead are both depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map. The pipeline route crosses the township on the E side of the N-S track through the township. It continues northwards and passes close by, to the E of the Farmstead.

A township, comprising nineteen roofed buildings, one of which is a school, and one unroofed building is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Perthshire 1867, sheet lx). Three roofed and seven unroofed buildings are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:1000 map (1978). (Information from RCAHMS (AKK) 29 October 1997).

What may be a farmstead, comprising two unroofed buildings is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Perthshire 1867, sheet lx), but it is not shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1976). (Information from RCAHMS (AKK) 29 October 1997.)



OS 1st edition 6 inch map

2.3 Archaeological Method

A watching brief on the pipe trench excavation through the township of Wester Shian and past the site of Wester Shian farmstead was maintained. Where necessary the sides of the excavated pipeline trench were hand cleaned and the trench profile was recorded. A Nikon D50 digital camera was used for the photographic record and a hand held Garmin GPS 60 was used to take grid references. The cutting of the pipe trench was monitored from the S edge of the archaeologically sensitive township zone at NN 8436 3991 and through the township on the E side of the track to a gate at NN 8437 3999. At the farmstead site the pipeline route passed to the E and was monitored from NN 8438 4015 on the SE side of the farmstead to NN 8437 4021 on the NE side.

Archaeological advice was also given regarding the placement of protective high visibility fencing to prevent accidental damage to the sites by machine during the construction phase.

2.4 Results of Investigations

Wester Shian Township

The cut for the pipeline trench was monitored from its lower part in a field on the S boundary of the sensitive area of Wester Shian Township to where it exited on the N side of the township. In the field, topsoil was 0.30m thick below which was a natural till deposit comprising clayey silt with abundant stone ranging in size from small to very large.

Starting from the S side of the Township the trench crossed a field boundary which was marked by large fieldstones dumped along the field edge, a post and wire fence and a

large sycamore stump with abundant tree roots. The field boundary formed a ridge, and the maximum depth of the trench at this where it crossed the field boundary was 1.80m. The trench continued in a NE direction and crossed the track where it forms a junction that leads to Wester Shian Schoolhouse to the W, and Northwards towards the Farmstead site.

The road metalling (02) comprised natural compacted rounded and fragmented stone and gravel about 0.30m thick. Crossing the track, the trench was 1.10m wide and 1m deep and below the road metalling the natural deposits comprised light orange brown gravely sand.

The trench then continued northwards, being excavated into an existing drainage ditch on the E side of the track to a depth of between 0.80 and 1m. The drainage ditch was 1.40m wide and 0.30m in depth. On the E side of the ditch the ground rose steeply to a height of 1.30m above the base of the ditch. The pipe trench exited the N edge of the township boundary on the E side of a gate across the road at NN 8437 3999.



Pipe trench crossing field boundary



Pipe trench crossing road



Pipe trench cut into drainage ditch



Pipe trench on W side of township ruins

Nothing of archaeological significance was found that could be related to the development of Wester Shian Township in the excavation for the pipe trench through the township.

Wester Shian Farmstead

The watching brief by the site of the farmstead monitored from NN 8438 4015 on the SE side of the farmstead to NN 8437 4021 on the NE side. At this location turf and topsoil were 0.24-0.30m thick over the glacial till. A strip 2.20m wide was deturfed after which a special V-shaped bucket was used to dig the actual pipe trench. The pipe trench was 1.60m wide at the top with sloping sides and a flat bottom width of 0.40m and having a depth of 1.30-1.40m. At NN 8437 4016 a 13m long side trench for drainage to the SW from the main trench was excavated down slope. Towards the N end of the pipe trench two grassed over drainage ditches were observed aligned E-W. The ditches were 1.10m wide and 0.25m deep and helped to drain a naturally boggy area. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in the pipeline trench at the site of Wester Shian Farmstead.



Pipe trench on E side of farmstead site

3 Interpretation

3.1

Wester Shian Township

The trench crossed a field boundary which was marked by large fieldstone dumped along the field edge, a post and wire fence and a large sycamore stump with abundant tree roots. It was considered that the dump of field stones here were may well have been field clearance perhaps mixed with demolition material from the site of a ruined building to the W of this point. The sycamore had been cut down to allow the pipe trench to cross the boundary without disturbing the building remains

The road metalling (02) comprised natural compacted rounded and fragmented stone and gravel about 0.30m thick. The road metalling had been crudely laid and compacted by passing traffic. No earlier surfaces were noted below the metalling and nothing of archaeological significance was found in the metalling deposit.

The trench then continued northwards, being excavated into an existing drainage ditch on the E side of the track to a depth of between 0.80 and 1m. The drainage ditch was historic and channelled water coming off the hill to the N. The E side of the drainage ditch was formed by higher ground which marked the W edge of a flattish platform containing township ruins between the Shian Burn and the track. There was another drainage channel at the N edge of the township, aligned NW-SE on the E side of the gate across the road at NN 8437 3999.

Nothing of archaeological significance was found that could be related to the development of Wester Shian Township in the excavation for the pipe trench through the township.

Wester Shian Farmstead

The watching brief at this location noted only two fairly recent grassed ditches draining a naturally boggy area towards the N end of watching brief area. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in the pipeline trench at the site of Wester Shian Farmstead

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusions

Alder Archaeology concludes that nothing of archaeological significance was found during the monitoring of the pipeline trench that related to the township of Wester Shian or the Wester Shian Farmstead.

4.2 Recommendations for Further Work

No further archaeological work is required.

5 References

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust Memorandum *12/00269/ FLL Installation of a micro hydro electric generator at Shian Burn Hydro Scheme, Amulree* 27 March 2013

Ordnance Survey 6-inch map (Perthshire 1867, sheet lx)

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>
01	Deposit, large field stone dumped along field boundary, loose not structural may be from field clearance or ruins to the W of this location, post and wire fence along the edge of the stone, marks S edge of township where pipe trench crosses into township
02	Deposit, road metalling comprising natural compacted rounded and fragmented stone and gravel averaging 0.30m thick.
03	Deposit, turf and topsoil, 0.30m thick silty loam, general past farmstead site
04	Drainage ditch, 1.10m wide and 0.25m deep and helping to drain a naturally boggy area

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
01-03	General views over Wester Shian, site of Farmstead is lone tree in mid ground	SE-S
04	Site of Farmstead	SE
05	General view over Wester Shian, boulders mark old road to high ground	S
06	Former trackway to W of modern track	SW
07-09	General views	S-SW
10-11	General view of Wester Shian Township on rising ground	N-NE
12	Detail of remains of structure on S edge of township, note high visibility temporary fencing	N
13	General of remains of structure on S edge of township	N
14-15	Detail of remains of structure on S edge of township, erecting high visibility fencing	E
16-24	Remains of Wester Shian Township on E side of road through township	Various
25-26	High visibility fencing	S
27	Gate at N end of archaeologically sensitive area of Wester Shian township	S
28	No image	
29-31	General of excavated pipe trench with pipe at S side of township site	N
32-33	Excavation at S edge of township	N

34	Detail of excavation at S edge of township	N
35	S edge of township	S
36-37	Detail of 01 large field stone close to road edge, rough revetting of rising ground	W
38-41	Excavation at road edge into rising ground	W
42	General of excavation approaching road	SW
43-44	Detail of pipe trench	NW
45	Excavating pipe trench, abundant large stone in natural till	NW
46	Pipe trench about to cross track	N
47-49	Pipe trench crossing track	N
50-52	General of ditch on E side of track, to be excavate for the pipe	S
53-54	General, working in ditch on E side of road	N
55-56	General, working in ditch on E side of road	N
57-59	Overflow ditch and gateway at N edge of township archaeologically sensitive area	SW
60-62	Detail of excavation for pipe trench	N
63	Pipe trench general	SW
64	Pipe trench detail	N
65	Pipe trench general	SW
66-67	Pipe trench crossing gateway at N edge of township	NW
68	Pipe trench through township	S
69	Shian burn and some ruins in township	SE
70	Site of Wester Shian Farmstead, fenced off	NW
71	Site of Wester Shian Farmstead, fenced off	SE
72	Pipe trench just to S of Shian Farmstead site	SE
73	Pipe trench approaching Shian Farmstead site	N
74	Excavating pipe trench by Farmstead site	N
75	Excavating pipe trench by Farmstead site	SE
76-78	Excavating pipe trench by Farmstead site	N
79	Drainage ditch (04) by Farmstead site	SE

80	Digging drainage spur to SE off of main pipe trench	SE
81	Drainage ditch (04) by Farmstead site	SE
82	Digging drainage spur to SE off of main pipe trench	SE
83	Pipe trench	NW
84-85	General excavation of pipe trench with site of Farmstead in background	W
86-87	General excavation of pipe trench with site of Farmstead in background	W
88	Detail of bucket used to dig V shaped trench	NE
89-91	Detail of upstanding or revetting wall of Farmstead (SW corner)	E
92	Detail of excavating pipeline trench	NE
93-95	General excavation passing site of Farmstead and crossing former drainage ditch	W
96	Drainage ditch, to NW of Farmstead	NE

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
01	Permatrace, general notes; Section of bank and ditch at 1:20 through township	1:20
02	Permatrace, some grid coordinates, overlaid on plan supplied by PKHT	

Appendix 4 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Archaeological Watching Brief, Shian Burn Hydro Scheme, Wester Shian
PROJECT CODE:	AJ02
PARISH:	Dull
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Ray Cachart
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
RCAHMS NO(S):	NN83NW 9 NN84SW 18
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Township and Farmstead
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Wester Shian Township (centred on NGR NN 8430 3995) Wester Shian Farmstead (centred on NGR NN8433 4019)
START DATE	24 April 2013
END DATE	29 May 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Highland Eco-Design Ltd commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake archaeological monitoring in the form of a watching brief on the groudworks for Shian Burn Hydro Scheme, at Wester Shian, near Amulree. The development was considered to have archaeological potential as the lower part of the pipeline route runs through Wester Shian Township (centred on NGR NN 8430 3995) and by Wester Shian Farmstead (NGR NN8433 4019). A second archaeological requirement was to cordon off Wester Shian Township and the site Wester Shian Farmstead with temporary fencing during the construction to preserve sites in situ by making the sites highly visible. The work (site code AJ02) was undertaken during the period 24th April 2013 and 28-29th May 2013 in good weather conditions. The groundwords for the pipeline through the township and past the site of the farmstead were archaeologically monitored. Special attention was to be paid to the recording of any remains relating to the township and the farmstead.</p> <p>Nothing of archaeological significance was found either within the site of the township or at the site of the farmstead and no further archaeological work was required.</p> <p>The archaeological work was fully funded by Highland Eco-Design Ltd.</p>

PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Highland Eco-Design Ltd.
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	RCAHMS (intended)
EMAIL ADDRESS:	director@alderarchaeology.co.uk

Appendix 5 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

5.1 Recording Methodology

Alder Archaeology employs a Single Context Recording System that allows full cross-referencing of stratigraphy, finds and environmental samples, as well as site-wide phasing. All features will be planned at scale 1:20, and sections drawn at scale 1:10. Sections and profiles will be drawn and all features will be photographed with metric scale included. Environmental samples will be taken from archaeologically significant contexts, if the analysis of these samples would aid significantly in the interpretation of any features identified.

5.2 Human Remains

If human remains are encountered they will be left in situ and the local police will be informed. If removal is required this will take place in compliance with Historic Scotland's Policy Paper *The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology*.

5.3 Products and Reporting

A Data Structure Report will normally be prepared within a period agreed within the Written Scheme of Investigation/ Project Design, after the completion of the fieldwork. This forms the basic level of reporting. Further reporting may be required on the basis of discoveries made during excavations.

A copy of the report and the project archive will be deposited in the NMRS. Further copies will be sent to the client, LAAO and others, as appropriate.

5.4 Artefacts

Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia*. We will report such finds, if recovered, with supporting documentation to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel for disposal to the appropriate museum.

5.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

5.6 General Conditions and Health and Safety

We adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists.

Alder Archaeology Ltd has public liability insurance of £2,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

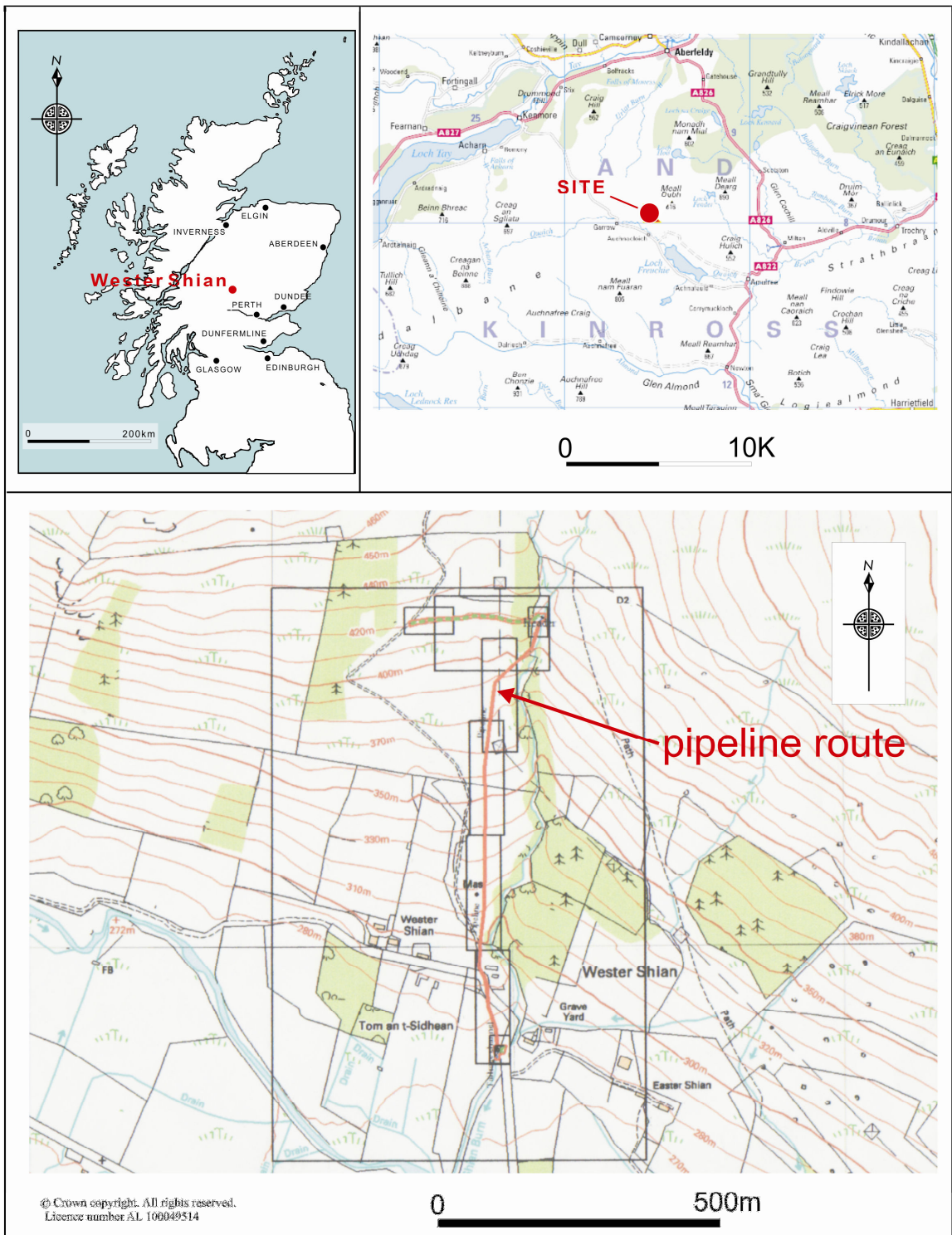
We operate a strict health and safety policy and conforms to the Health and Safety at Work Act. We undertakes Risk Assessments on all fieldwork carried out.

Alder Archaeology representatives will at all times wear protective footwear, high visibility clothing and other appropriate clothing. Hard hats will be worn if there is active plant on site or at all times if the site is deemed a hard hat area.

If lightly contaminated deposits are uncovered disposable boiler suits and gloves will be worn. A source of clean water will be made available for staff to clean hands with. If the health risk posed by site contamination is felt to be too high all further archaeological work will stop in that area.

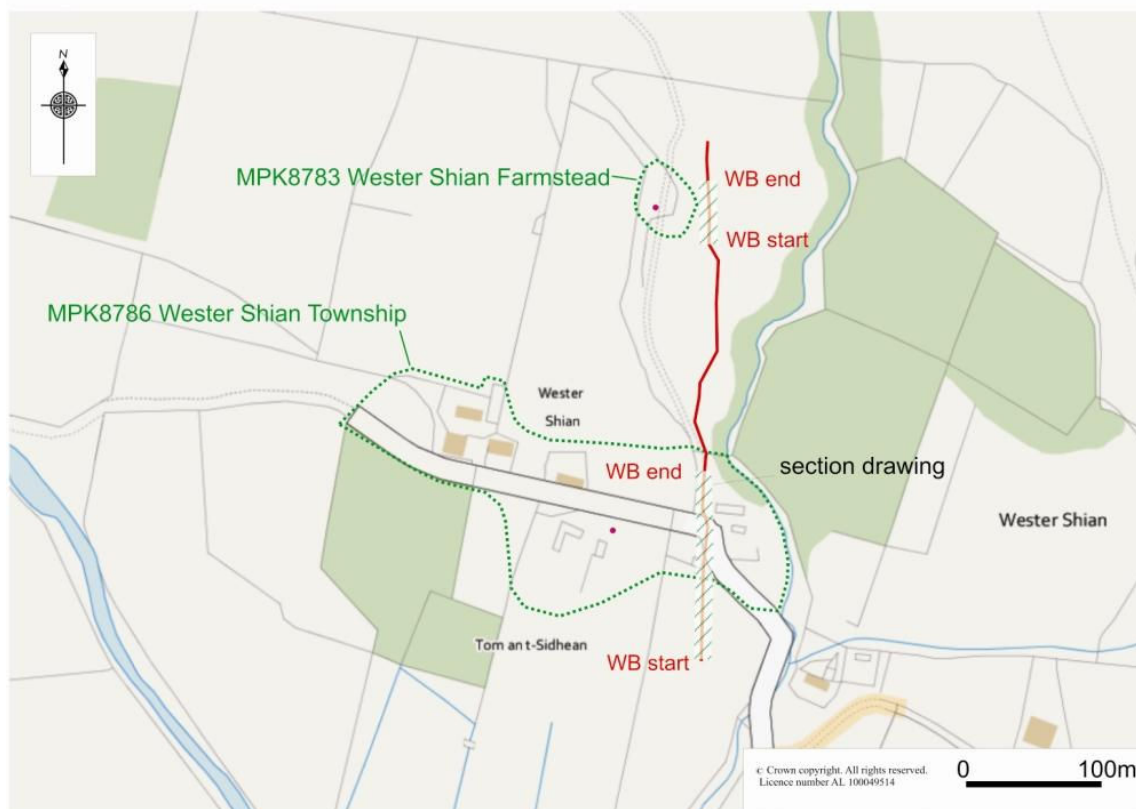
Illus 1

Site Location Plan



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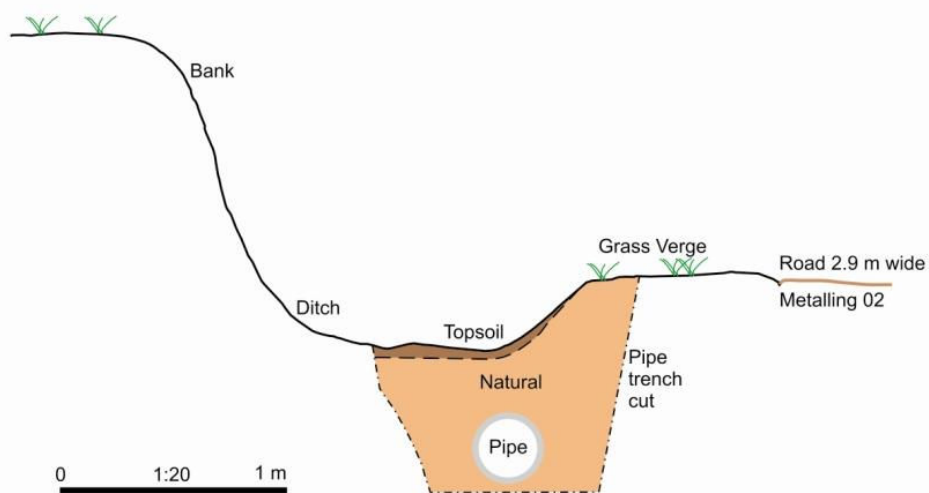
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Illus 3

Wester Shian
N-facing section through ditch in township, cut by pipe trench



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