

Archaeological Watching Brief
Ledcharrie
Glen Dochart
LOCH LOMOND & TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK
KJ19



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
LEDCHARRIE
GLEN DOCHART

KJ19

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Illustration 1: Site location plan

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ABSTRACT

Glen Hydro Ltd commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the site of a new hydro-electric pipeline and access track at Ledcharrie, near Crianlarich. The proposed development area is a linear corridor, extending between NGR NN 50639 28108 and NN 50894 26106. The work (site code KJ19) was undertaken during the period 11th August 2015 and 04 February 2016 in varying weather conditions.

The requirement was to mark out and protect previously identified sites along the route and then monitor all groundworks. Special attention was to be paid to the possible presence of lithic scatters, indicative of prehistoric activity. No archaeological finds or significant features were exposed.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Glen Hydro Ltd commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the site of a new hydro-electric pipeline and access track at Ledcharrie, near Crianlarich. The proposed development area is a linear corridor, extending between NGR NN 50639 28108 and NN 50894 26106. The work (site code KJ19) was undertaken during the period 11th August 2015 and 04 February 2016 in varying weather conditions. It had been anticipated that further work would be undertaken after February; however, in the event, work was suspended for several months and then completed without archaeological supervision, but by this stage, the full length of the route had already been monitored and the work not observed amounted to a short deviation of the pipeline from the track, not in the vicinity of known sites. The requirement was to mark out and protect previously identified sites along the route and then monitor all groundworks. Special attention was to be paid to the possible presence of lithic scatters, indicative of prehistoric activity.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 2013/0047.

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 within the development area.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this watching brief. Copies will be sent to the client, Historic Environment Scotland, and West of Scotland Archaeology Service Historic Environment Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This watching brief is designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Andy Ward of Glen Hydro for his assistance and guidance throughout this project. Glen Hydro Ltd funded this watching brief.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

The access track route extended for approximately 2.5km from a main compound at Ledcharrie Farm, NN 50639 28108, just S of the A85 Crieff – Crianlarich road, southwards and uphill over steeply rising rough pasture alongside the Ledcharrie Burn, to a main intake at NN 50894 26106 and a secondary intake at NN 51341 26783. The powerhouse location was at NN 50664 27736, with the pipeline running to this from the

two intake sites; the majority of this route was identical with the access track. The total area of the development was 8.14 hectares.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

Desk-based assessments and walkover surveys by Alder in 2007 and 2013 (KJ07, KJ16) identified 25 sites of archaeological interest within 500m of the pipeline route, with the majority of these being either on the route or within 100m of it. An additional site (26) was noted during marking out in advance of the watching brief. Sites included former or current field boundaries, an old road and/or track, banks and ditches, peat cuttings and shieling hut remains.

2.3 Archaeological Method

Sites directly impacted by the groundworks were marked out with high visibility barrier tape. These were sites 4, 8, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26. Where possible, the route was altered to avoid disturbing sites; this was done at sites 14, 15, 25 and 26. Sites 18, 19 and 20 (shelter, shieling huts) were found to be physically separated from the route by a steep gradient and watercourse and not directly compromised by the works. Where avoidance was not possible, all stripping of turf and topsoil was monitored in the vicinity of known sites, down to undisturbed subsoil. Where subterranean remains were encountered, these were excavated by hand and recorded.

2.4 Results of Investigations

No lithic scatters were noted at any stage of the watching brief. No other finds resulted.

At site 24 (banks and ditch), the route could not be altered due to the proximity of the watercourse at the intended location of the turbine/outflow. The fence to the W could not be moved, so stripping was limited to the width of the existing track to minimise damage to the feature. Stripping nevertheless clipped the subterranean W terminus of the bank, exposing flat grey sandstone slabs (2404) up to 0.18m in diameter, in grey sandy silt deposit (2403) extending 0.20m into the track from the upstanding dyke, together with sub-rounded boulders (2405) up to 0.40m in diameter.

Stripping was also monitored in the vicinity of sites 2 (former railway), 3, 4, 6 (boundaries), 8, 23 (tracks) and 26 (bank), but no archaeological features were exposed.

At site 11 (dyke), the track cut the E end of the feature, exposing a cross-section of bank material (1103) comprising sand and sub-rounded cobbles and boulders up to 0.15m in diameter. 5.00m to the N of the dyke, a sub-circular spread of charcoal 0.70m in diameter and 0.11m thick and lying immediately below topsoil represented the remains of a small campfire. In the absence of finds, no dating of this feature was possible, but the topsoil over the feature was no more than 0.1m thick, suggesting a recent origin. The track route deviated from the pipeline, which bisected site 11 in low-lying ground to the W of the track. A similar profile of the dyke was noted, with the same material being used in construction.

At site 1 (track), the pipeline and access track exposed a W-facing section across the presumed route of the feature. Topsoil (1001) was 0.30-0.40m thick, a loose, mid-brown stony silt, over a moderately compact, light-brown sandy silt (1002) with c.20% stone fragments, up to 0.50m thick, a hillwash deposit at the base of a W-facing slope.

Below this lay a deposit of dark-grey/black peat (1003), moderately compact with few stones, 0.10-0.15m to the base of the stripped section. No construction material or other evidence of a track was noted.

3 Conclusions and Recommendations

Alder Archaeology consider the terms of the watching brief to have been met and do not recommend further work in connection with the present development. However, the final decision ultimately rests with WoSAS, the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park archaeological curators.

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>
	Site 1/8
1001	Topsoil, 0.30-0.40m thick, loose, mid-brown stony silt, c.20% pebbles, frost-shattered stone fragments
1002	Moderately compact, light-brown sandy silt (1002), c.20% stone fragments, up to 0.50m thick, hillwash deposit at the base of a W-facing slope
1003	Dark-grey/black peat (1003), moderately compact with few stones, 0.10-0.15m to base of the stripped section
	Site 11
1101	Turf, ferns, topsoil, 0.05-0.15m thick moderately loose dark grey humic silt
1102	Sandy, light-brown silt immediately beneath topsoil to N of dyke 11, 0.1m thick
1103	Dyke material, sand and sub-rounded cobbles, boulders, up to 0.15m diameter
1104	Podzolised grey silt with c.30% stones, to S of dyke 11, extending uphill for at least 20.00m (visible in track), up to 0.15m thick
1105	Yellow-orange gravel-sand, subsoil at 0.25m below present ground surface
1106	Charcoal spread, sub-circular, 0.70m diameter, 0.11m thick, 5.00m N of site 11, immediately below topsoil in slightly discoloured subsoil, remains of camp-fire
1107	Red-discoloured subsoil beneath and around 1106, heat-discolouration
	Site 24
2401	Turf, T/S, moderately loose dark grey humic silt, 0.1m thick (average)
2402	Re-deposited river gravel in bog crossing to S of Site 24 beneath 0201, reinforcement of track across waterlogged section, full thickness not exposed but exceeding 0.15m
2403	Grey sandy silt extending W from base of Site 24 dyke up to 0.2m into track, moderately loose, full thickness of deposit not exposed
2404	Flat stones in grey silt 0203, grey sandstone, up to 0.18m diameter, thickness not exposed
2405	Large (up to 0.4m) sub-rounded boulders beneath 0202, reinforcing deposit
2406	Dark grey peat deposit beneath 0201 to N and S of waterlogged area, moderately loose, up to 0.15m thick
2407	Orange/brown natural subsoil, sand/gravel mix, in base of track post-scape
2408	Podzolised deposit in base of bog to S of Site 24

	Site 26
2601	Turf, T/S, moderately loose dark grey humic silt, 0.05m-0.15m thick (thicker to N/downslope)
2602	Orange/brown natural subsoil, sand/gravel mix, in base of track post-scraper

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
	11 August, marking out	
001	Marking out Site 24	SE
002	Site 24	N
003-005	Site24	S
006	Cane on pipeline route	NW
007	Footbridge on path	NW
008-009	Railway bridge, Site 2	S
010	Railway line, Site 2, with cane for pipeline route on edge of bracken	N
011	Site 11 covered in bracken	SE
012-015	Marking out Site 11 in bracken and blue cane for pipeline and red cane for track	NW
016	General view of pipeline route	NW
017-018	Site 14 marked out	NW, W
019	Site 15 marked out	S
020	Marking junction point of pipeline routes	NE
021	General view of pipeline route (Sites 3 and 6 in middle distance to right)	NW
022	Site 18 marked out	W
023-024	Cane of pipeline route with Site 18 marked out in middle background	E
025	General view of pipeline route (Site 3 in middle distance)	NW
026	Recording Site 25 (part of Site 14)	S
027-029	Site 26 marked out	S
17AugWB		
030-034	Working shots, digger at Site 24	NW, NNW

035-037	Site 24, drainage excavation	N, SW
038-039	Site 24, scraped surface on track at bog crossing	W
040-041	Working shot, scraping track at bog crossing	W
042	E-facing profile, deposit 2402	W
043-045	Deposit 2402, post-scrape	NW
046-048	Stones and silt 2404 at edge of dyke (site 24) in track	NE, NNE
049	Site 24, post-stripping of track	NW
050-052	E-facing profile, deposit 2402	W
053	Natural subsoil 2407	NW
054-055	Line of re-directed route to N of site 26, up escarpment	SE
056-059	Working shots, excavation of exploratory ditch to SW of site 24	NW, W
060	Podzol/bog deposit 2408 in exploratory ditch	W
061	Site 26, with digger on re-routed track	SE
062-064	Edge of Site 26, background ranging rod marks N end of re-routed track section	NW
065-066	Working shots, commencing strip of re-routed track	NE
067-071	Working shots, stripping re-routed track	E, SE
072-073	Re-routed track, post strip	SE, NW
074-078	Location shots, Site 11 (bank/dyke)	NE, N
079-086	Working shots, stripping at Site 11	NE, N
087	W-facing section through dyke, bank material 0103	E
088-089	Subsoil 1102	NE
090	Soil 1104	E
091	Location shot, track from Site 11	SW
092-093	Working shots, stripping at Site 11	N
094-099	Bank material 1103	E, W
100-101	Subsoil 1102, post-removal of bank 1103	E, W
102-103	Subsoil 1105	E
104-109	Charred patch (campfire) 1106	NW, N, NE

110-116	Working shots, completing strip at Site 11	SE, SSE
117-120	W-facing section through Site 01/8 (track)	E, SE, S
121	Location shot, Site 01/8	N

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Site notes, sketch plan (not to scale)	-
2	Site notes, W-facing profile of dyke 11	1:10

Appendix 4 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

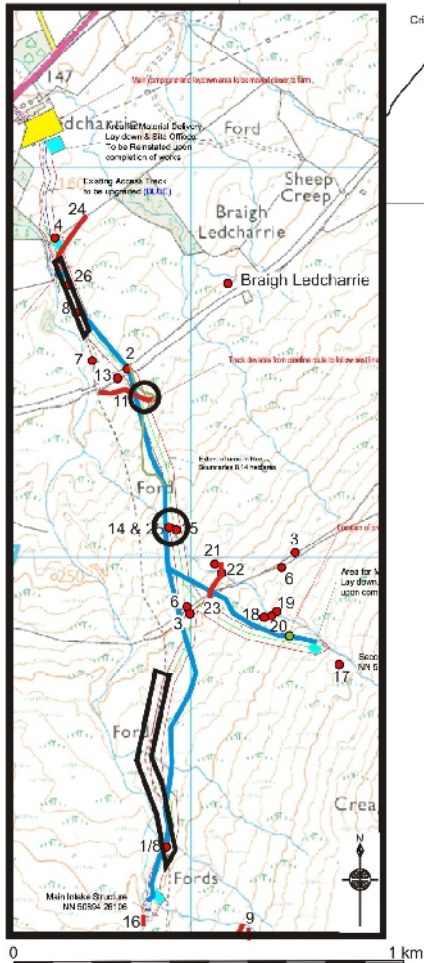
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Ledcharrie, Glen Dochart
PROJECT CODE:	KJ19
PARISH:	Killin
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	C Fyles
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	WB
RCAHMS NO(S):	NN53SW 8
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Shieling huts
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NN 50639 28108 to NN 50894 26106 (linear corridor)
START DATE	11/08/15
END DATE	04/02/16
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	Walkover survey
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Alder Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief on the site of a new hydro-electric pipeline and access track at Ledcharrie, near Crianlarich. The proposed development area is a linear corridor, extending between a compound at Ledcharrie Farm and two intake sites on the Ledcharrie Burn. The work was undertaken in varying weather conditions. The requirement was to mark out and protect previously identified sites along the route and then monitor all groundworks. Special attention was to be paid to the possible presence of lithic scatters, indicative of prehistoric activity. No archaeological finds or significant features were exposed.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Glen Hydro 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

Illus1

Ledcharrie Pipeline
Site location



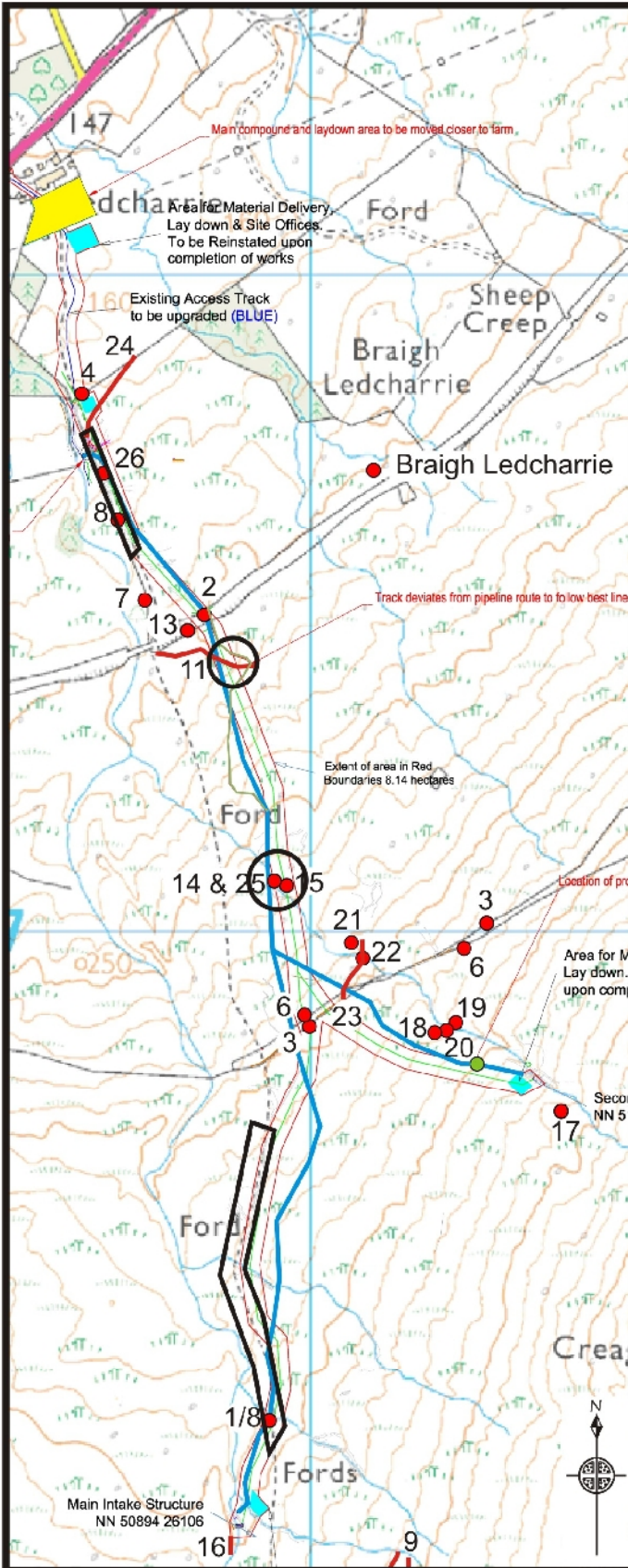
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Illus2 Archaeological sites along pipeline route



- 1 Old road
- 2 Former railway
- 3 Boundary
- 4 Boundary
- 5 Boundary (Not shown)
- 6 Boundary
- 7 Boundary
- 8 Path
- 9 Peat cutting?
- 10 cancelled
- 11 cancelled
- 12 cancelled
- 13 Boundary
- 14 Shieling hut?
- 15 Shieling hut
- 16 Boundary
- 17 Shelter
- 18 Shelter
- 19 Shieling hut
- 20 Shieling hut?
- 21 Shieling hut
- 22 Ford
- 23 Track
- 24 Banks & ditch
- 25 Stone spread (part of Site 14)
- 26 Bank

- Pipeline
- Track deviation
- New powerhouse
- Header tank
- New site compound & lay down area
- Areas for archaeological watching brief

Based on Ordnance Survey,
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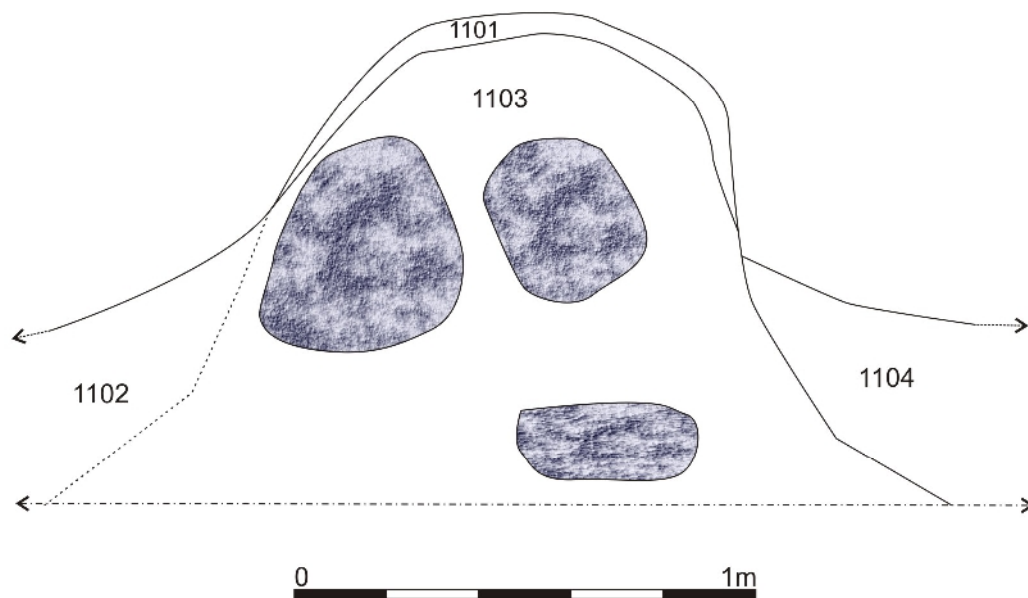
0 1 km

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Illus 3

W-facing profile of bank, Site 11



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