

Scotia Archaeology

**REPORT
TO
GREEN HIGHLAND RENEWABLES LTD**

**HENZIE BURN
HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME**

**Desk study
and
walk-over survey
September 2011**

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INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a desk study of archaeological sites and monuments and a walk-over survey along the route of a proposed new hydro-electric scheme at the Henzie Burn in Glen Almond, Perthshire. The work was carried out by Scotia Archaeology at the request of Jayson Drummond of Green Highland Renewables Ltd.

THE SITE

The Henzie Burn runs southwards into the River Almond 1km east of the small settlement of Conichan and 4km west of Newton Bridge on the A822 Aberfeldy to Crieff road. The intake point for the proposed scheme will be at NN 84934 33254 from where the pipeline will run southwards to approximately NN 85090 32260. Thereafter its course will coincide with an existing estate road as far as approximately NN 85180 31980 from where it will deviate eastwards to the turbine house at NN 85179 31984, a short distance from the burn's confluence with the River Almond.

This final section of the route will cut through an area of dense vegetation, including birch trees, bracken, reeds and coarse grass over undulating ground through which protrude large boulders and outcrops of bedrock. Again, nothing of archaeological significance was noted in this area. The overall length of the pipeline will be approximately 1.5km.

THE DESK STUDY

A desk study of readily available source material undertaken prior to the commencement of field work revealed no known sites of archaeological or historical significance along or close to the route the proposed pipeline.

The only sites of interest known to be in the general vicinity of the proposed hydro scheme consist of a group of four cairns centred on NN 844 320, some 900m west of the intended site of the turbine house. These cairns measure typically 3m by 2.5m by 0.4m high and are thought to be contemporary with a nearby stone-walled enclosure probably dating to the 18th or 19th century (DES 1973, 43-4).

THE WALK-OVER SURVEY

The walk-over survey was undertaken by John Lewis on 22 September 2011. From the intake point most of the pipe route will run along the steep west side of the valley of the Henzie Burn, through rough vegetation, mostly coarse grass and heather. No sites of archaeological or historical interest were encountered along this sloping ground; similarly, none was observed close to the stretch of estate road below or alongside which the pipe will run towards its south end.

Although not on the direct route of the proposed pipeline, one feature of archaeological significance was found on the walk-over survey. It comprised the remains of a sheiling hut close to the estate road, approximately 150m south-west of the intake point, at NN 84839 33161. The building measures some 5m in diameter within walls, 0.6m high and surviving to a maximum of two courses of drystone rubble masonry.

CONCLUSIONS

No structures or features of archaeological significance were encountered directly on the route of the pipeline. However, note should be taken of the shieling hut located a short distance from the intake point: the area around this structure should be avoided not only during excavations for the pipeline but also for the storage of materials associated with it.

REFERENCE

DES *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*. Archaeology Scotland. Edinburgh.

PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1-2 Shieling hut, viewed from the north
- 3-4 Sheiling hut, viewed from the west