

Scotia Archaeology

**REPORT
TO
SCOTTISH & SOUTHERN ENERGY**

**BALLIMORE HYDRO
BALQUHIDDER
11KV CONNECTION**

**Desk study
and
walk-over survey
April 2012**

*5 Bank Street
ABERFELDY
Perthshire
PH15 2BB
Tel & Fax No: 01887-820880
email: scotarc@o2.co.uk*

INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a desk study of archaeological sites and monuments and a walk-over survey along the proposed route of a new 11kv underground power line to connect with Ballimore Hydro scheme, Balquhiddier, Stirling District. To ensure that no sites or monuments of archaeological or historical significance are damaged during the installation of the new line, Scottish & Southern Energy plc (SSE) commissioned a desk study of the route and a walk-over survey along it.

The line will run overhead from Pole 18 of an existing line at NN 5384 1938, crossing the Calair Burn at approximately NN 5354 1924 from where it will continue underground to a point between the burn and the road that connects Ballimore Farm to Balquhiddier. That point has yet to be determined but it lies within the area shaded green on the accompanying map.

The archaeological work was undertaken by John Lewis of Scotia Archaeology at the request of Max Bigham, wayleave officer for SSE. The walk-over survey was carried out on 4th April 2012.

The enclosed map shows those parts of the proposed new power line where there are potential archaeological issues, the sites being marked in red.

THE SURVEY AREA

The area through which the proposed underground cable will run is located between the Calair Burn and the Ballimore to Balquhiddier road. This stretch of land measures roughly 2km north/south by 100-200m wide along most of its length, widening out towards the south to a maximum of 400m. Most of it comprises unimproved pasture littered with numerous mounds of glacial debris and covered with coarse grass. One section, to the immediate north of Ballimore and bounded by the burn on its east, has been levelled and drained and now consists of relatively high quality pasture land.

RESULTS OF THE DESK STUDY AND FIELD SURVEY

The results of the desk study and walk-over survey are combined here into a single section of this report. Some of the sites encountered during the field survey do not appear on known databases of sites and monuments.

The sources consulted for the desk study include:

the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS);

the National Library of Scotland and its Map Room; and

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland, the annual journal of Archaeology Scotland.

Where appropriate, sites and monuments are listed according to the numbers allocated by RCAHMS (eg NN51NW 3) or, if not listed by RCAHMS, by the local authority archaeology service (eg SC158).

1 NN51NW 3 (SC158) Ballimore: bloomery

A large scatter of bloomery slag was reputedly found in the 1960s around NN 530 175 (Aitken 1970, 194) although this grid reference is somewhat vague. No evidence of a bloomery or associated slag was observed during the walk-over survey and it is possible that the furnace (if indeed there was one) was located to the south of the small burn that runs into the Calair Burn at Ballimore.

2 NN51NW 11 Bailemeanoch: farmstead

The first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (Perthshire 1866, sheet civ) shows a farmstead 'in ruins' and comprising two unroofed buildings and an enclosure at NN 5296 1800. This settlement is not shown on current maps.

The remains of one building, centred on NN 52988 17989 on a level platform to the immediate east of the road, were encountered during the walk-over survey (Photos 1-4). This rectangular structure measures some 6m north/south by 4.3m wide internally within walls reduced to single courses covered in vegetation. Its south wall was not visible and it is possible that the structure had been open-ended although the stonework may simply have been robbed.

To the immediate east of the ruined building are the remains of an enclosure measuring approximately 25m north/south by 14m wide and defined by a low stone bank, now covered with vegetation (Photos 5-7).

A short distance north of the building at Bailemeanoch is another level platform upon which stand the remains of a second enclosure, sub-circular in shape and centred on NN 52983 18026 (Photos 8-9). The enclosure measures approximately 20m north/south by 15m wide and is defined by a low, grass-covered wall which is visible only on its south and west sides.

Although the first edition OS map depicts two buildings at Bailemeanoch, one was located to the west of the road, beyond the survey area. The building shown on the map at the location described above appears to be orientated east/west while the one encountered during the walk-over survey was definitely orientated north/south. Furthermore, the enclosure on the early map is shown as being to the south of the building while those noted during the survey lie to its east and north.

3 NN51NW 9 Clachglas: township

The first edition OS 6-inch map (Perthshire 1866, sheet civ) shows Clachglas as comprising one roofed building, two unroofed buildings and two enclosures centred on NN 5300 1841. The remnants of these structures were encountered during the walk-over survey (Photo 10) to the west of the public road, just beyond the area of investigation.

4 Building

The scant remains of a building were found on a low knoll at NN 53463 19103 (Photos 12-14). This structure measures approximately 8m north/south by 4m wide within turf-covered walls standing to no more than one course high. Nothing appears to remain of the north wall of the building. There are no other known records of this site.

5 Building

The remains of a building, measuring 17m north/south by 6m wide over turf-covered walls surviving to a maximum of two courses high, were noted on a low knoll at NN 53434 19213 (Photos 15-17). There are no other known records of this site.

6 Building

The remains of another building were recorded towards the north end of the survey area on slightly elevated ground, at NN 53454 19252 (Photos 15, 18-21). This rectangular structure measures 14m east/west by 5m wide within turf-covered walls of which only one course appears to survive. There are no other known records of this site.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The precise route of the new underground cable is yet to be determined and consequently it is not known how close it might run to the sites listed above. However, it is unlikely to affect either the putative bloomery at Site 1, which was probably located south of Ballimore, or the township of Clachglas (Site 3), whose remains are located entirely to the west of the public road and therefore beyond the limits of development.

The remnants of the buildings which comprise Sites 4, 5 and 6 are all on slightly elevated situations, probably above the cable route. Nevertheless, the positions of these structures should be noted by the construction team to ensure that they are avoided by machinery and during the storage of materials. It may be advisable to fence off these sites prior to the commencement of trenching.

Perhaps the site most likely to be at risk is the former farmstead of Bailemeanoch (Site 2) where the remains of a building and two enclosures survive between the road and the Calair Burn. It might be necessary to fence off these structures prior to work starting on site.

REFERENCE

Aitken, WG 'Excavation of Bloomeries in Rannoch, Perthshire and elsewhere', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* 102 (1969-70), 188-204.

PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

- 1-2 Remains of building at Bailemeanoch (Site 2), viewed from the south
- 3 Remains of building at Bailemeanoch (Site 2), viewed from the north-west
- 4 Remains of building at Bailemeanoch (Site 2), viewed from the south-west
- 5 Part of enclosure wall to the east of the building at Bailemeanoch (Site 2), viewed from the north-west
- 6 Part of enclosure wall to the east of the building at Bailemeanoch (Site 2), viewed from the south-west
- 7 Enclosure to the east of the building at Bailemeanoch (Site 2), viewed from the west
- 8-9 Enclosure to the north of Bailemeanoch (Site 2), viewed from the west
- 10 Former settlement of Clachglas (Site 3), viewed from the south-west
- 11 View to the north from NN 53185 18720, showing drystone dyke in foreground
- 12-13 Remains of building (Site 4), viewed from the south
- 14 Remains of building (Site 4), viewed from the north
- 15 View of Sites 5 and 6 from the north
- 16 Site 5, viewed from the north-west
- 17 Site 5, viewed from the west
- 18-19 Site 6, viewed from the south-west
- 20 Site 6, viewed from the west
- 21 Site 6, viewed from the north-east