

Scotia Archaeology

REPORT

**ON BEHALF OF
ALLT ENERGY LTD
AND
DRUMMOND ESTATES**

**KELTIE WATER, CALLANDER
HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME**

**Archaeological
walk-over survey
October 2014**

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INTRODUCTION

In 2013 the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park (LLTNP) granted Drummond Estates planning consent to construct a new hydro-electric scheme on the Keltie Water, a short distance north of Callander, Stirling District (Planning Application number 2013/0225/DET). In June of that year Alder Archaeology Ltd undertook a desk-based assessment and walk-over survey within the proposed area of development in order to identify any sites of archaeological or historical significance which might be affected by the construction of the hydro scheme. The findings of the two surveys were produced as a report thereafter.

Since that time, the route of the penstock has been altered and Allt Energy Ltd, acting on behalf of Drummond Estates, has submitted a revised planning application, taking in those changes, to LLTNP. Scotia Archaeology was commissioned by Allt Energy to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), setting out proposals for a survey of the new route and outlining any mitigation strategies that might need to be implemented thereafter.

The WSI was approved by LLTNP's archaeological advisors, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), following which a walk-over survey was carried out along the revised route. The opportunity was also taken to reassess the sites identified by Alder Archaeology which may still be threatened by the development.

THE SITE

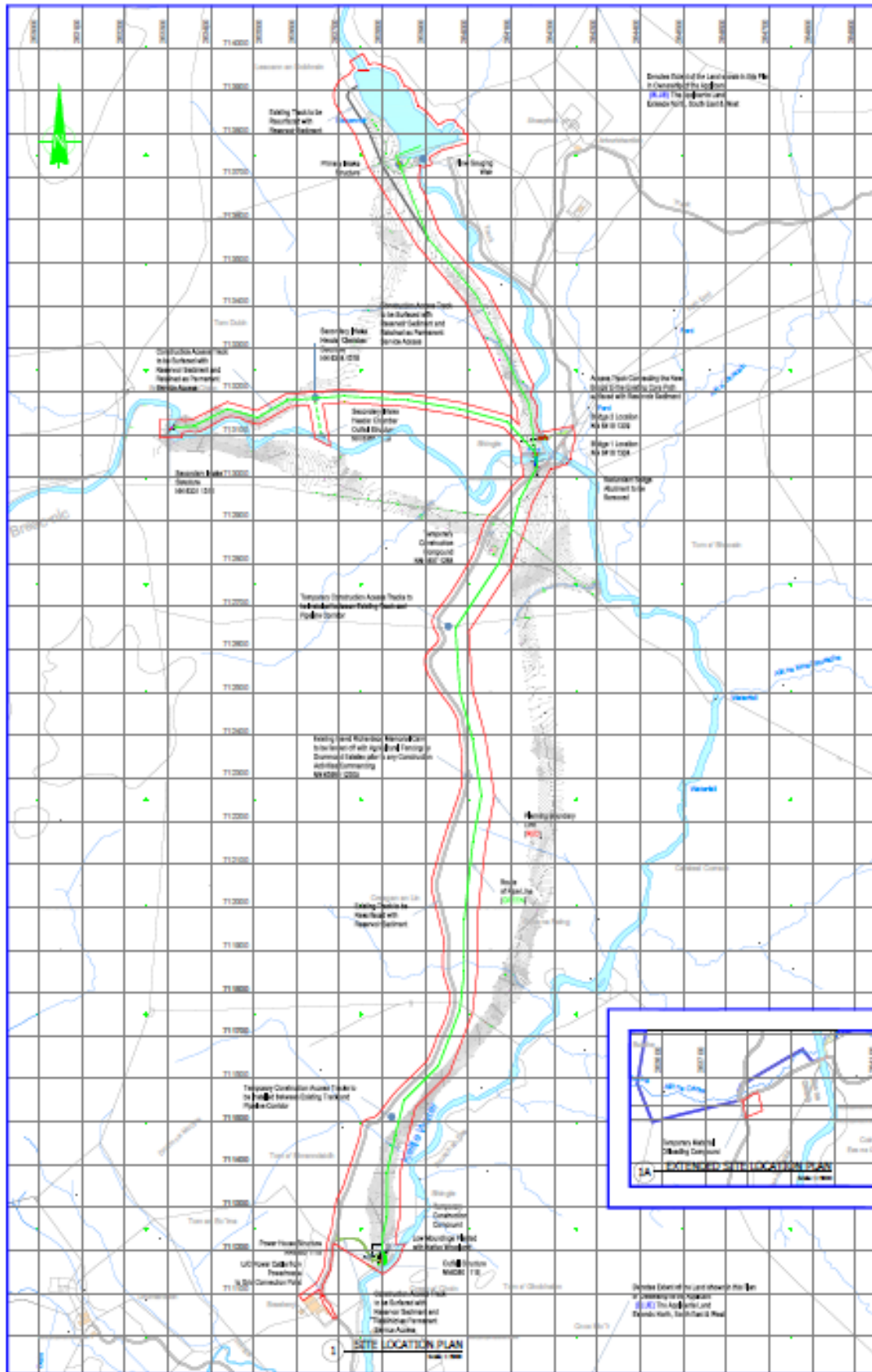
There are to be two intake points for this hydro scheme. The primary source is on the south-west corner of a reservoir on the Keltie Water, at approximately NN 6385 1374, from where the penstock will run southwards along the west side of the burn. The secondary intake will be on the Allt Breac-nic at NN 6331 1311 from where the penstock will skirt the north side of the burn, meeting the primary one at approximately NN 6415 1305.

The power house will be sited on the west side of the Keltie Water at NN 6380 1118, a short distance from the farm of Braeleny which is located some 3.5km north of Callander. A map, supplied by Allt Energy Ltd showing the development area, is shown overleaf.

In the original scheme the secondary arm of the penstock ran along the south side of the Allt Breac-nic while the combined penstock was located roughly midway between the Keltie Water and the former Callander to Comrie road but which now functions only as a farm road. There are two principal changes in the present scheme: the secondary route will now be on the north side of the Allt Breac-nic while the combined penstock will run further to the west, nearer the farm road. The road is also to be widened and, where necessary, resurfaced.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS WORK

The only features of archaeological interest identified during Alder Archaeology's survey were the remains of early boundary walls and banks, some potentially at risk from the proposed development. A few lie within the revised development corridor and were re-examined during the second walk-over survey. Others recorded in the 2013 survey are of more recent origin and are not discussed here.



Location map of the revised Keltie Water hydro scheme

THE WALK-OVER SURVEY

The walk-over survey was undertaken on 4 October 2014 during dry, occasionally sunny, conditions. It encompassed a corridor approximately 70-100m wide over most of its length but wider in places, for example, where the two penstocks meet and near Braeleny where the constructor's compound will be sited (see map above).

Most of the penstock route, including its west arm, ran across gently sloping ground covered with rough vegetation, mainly coarse grass and reeds. From the junction of the primary and secondary arms the development corridor runs southwards, to the immediate east of the old Callander to Comrie road.

Some 150m to the north-west of the secondary intake are the remains of a building shown with an attached enclosure on the first edition Ordnance Survey 6-inch map (sheet 39, published 1887) at NN 63214 13203. No evidence of features that might be associated with this structure were encountered in the vicinity of the secondary intake or the penstock route.

No previously unrecorded structures or features of archaeological significance were identified along any part of the revised development area although those listed in Alder Archaeology's report were also identified during the recent survey. These features are described below, using Alder's original site numbering system.

Site 2

This turf-covered boundary bank runs from the Keltie Water, at NN 64120 13422, westwards to NN 64051 13406 where it peters out within the development corridor. It now measures some 1.5m wide and 0.5m high although it would have been somewhat higher originally.



West end of Site 2 viewed from the east

Site 3

Site 3 consists of a stretch of drystone wall running from NN 64145 13112 eastwards to NN 64155 13110. It is 0.7m wide and now survives to a height of 0.6m and is only 11m long, its original extent being unknown.



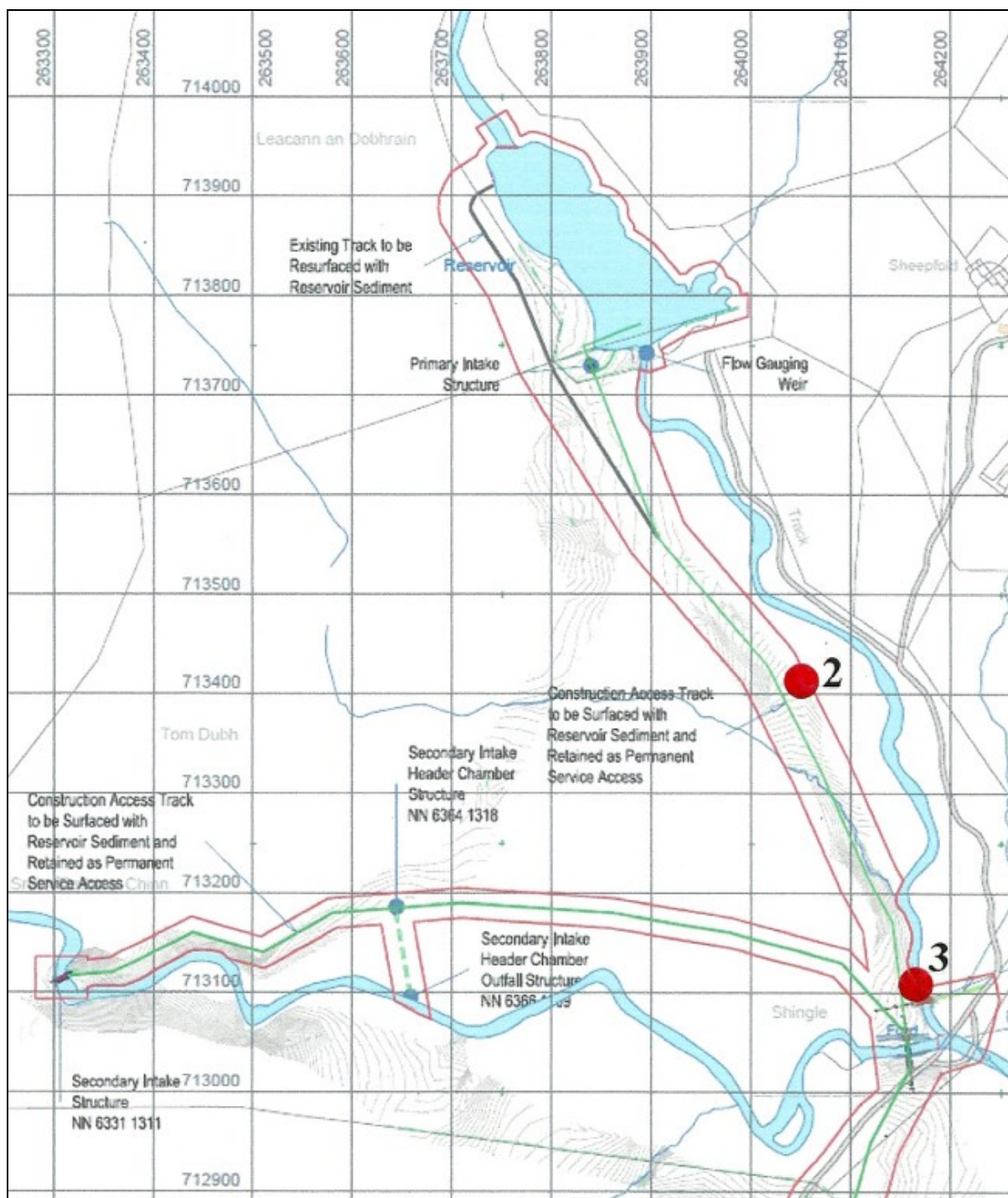
Site 3 viewed from the west

Site 23

Site 23 is described by Alder as a 95m-long and 4-5m wide boundary ditch or old watercourse running southwards from NN 63983 13467 to NN 64051 13406. However, the author considers this to be a natural feature, possibly post-glacial in origin although it could be of more recent date. Furthermore, it lies beyond the development corridor.

Site 17

Described by Alder as a drystone wall running east/west between NN 64181 11742 and NN 63839 11765, this structure was not encountered during the recent walk-over survey. The only field boundary located in this area is a post and wire fence which will be crossed by the penstock at approximately NN 63990 11755.



Sites of archaeological significance

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Every effort should be made to preserve those archaeological features encountered during the two surveys. The most effective preservation strategy is to ensure that intrusive activities completely avoid such features, those lying close to the pipe route and other areas of development being protected by secure fences extending well beyond them. This work should

be carried out by the developer who would maintain the fencing throughout the construction of the hydro scheme.

The most obvious danger to archaeological structures and features would be the excavation of the pipe trench. However, other activities could also affect the survival of the archaeological record, including the deposition and retrieval of spoil, the temporary storage of pipes and other materials and the movement of plant and other machinery.

No previously unrecorded features of archaeological or historical significance were discovered during the recent walk-over survey. Two of those identified during the 2013 survey (Sites 2 and 3) lie within or very close to the revised area of development. It should prove straightforward to avoid Site 3 (a short stretch of drystone wall) by simply routing the pipe trench beyond its west surviving terminus.

However, the turf-covered bank of Site 2 may prove more difficult to circumvent although it may be possible to excavate the pipe trench through a breach in it. It may also be possible to skirt around this feature by a slight alteration to the penstock route.