

Scotia Archaeology

**REPORT
TO
CAMPBELL OF DOUNE
AND
MR NEIL CAMPBELL**

**ARDEONAIG
HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME
STIRLING DISTRICT**

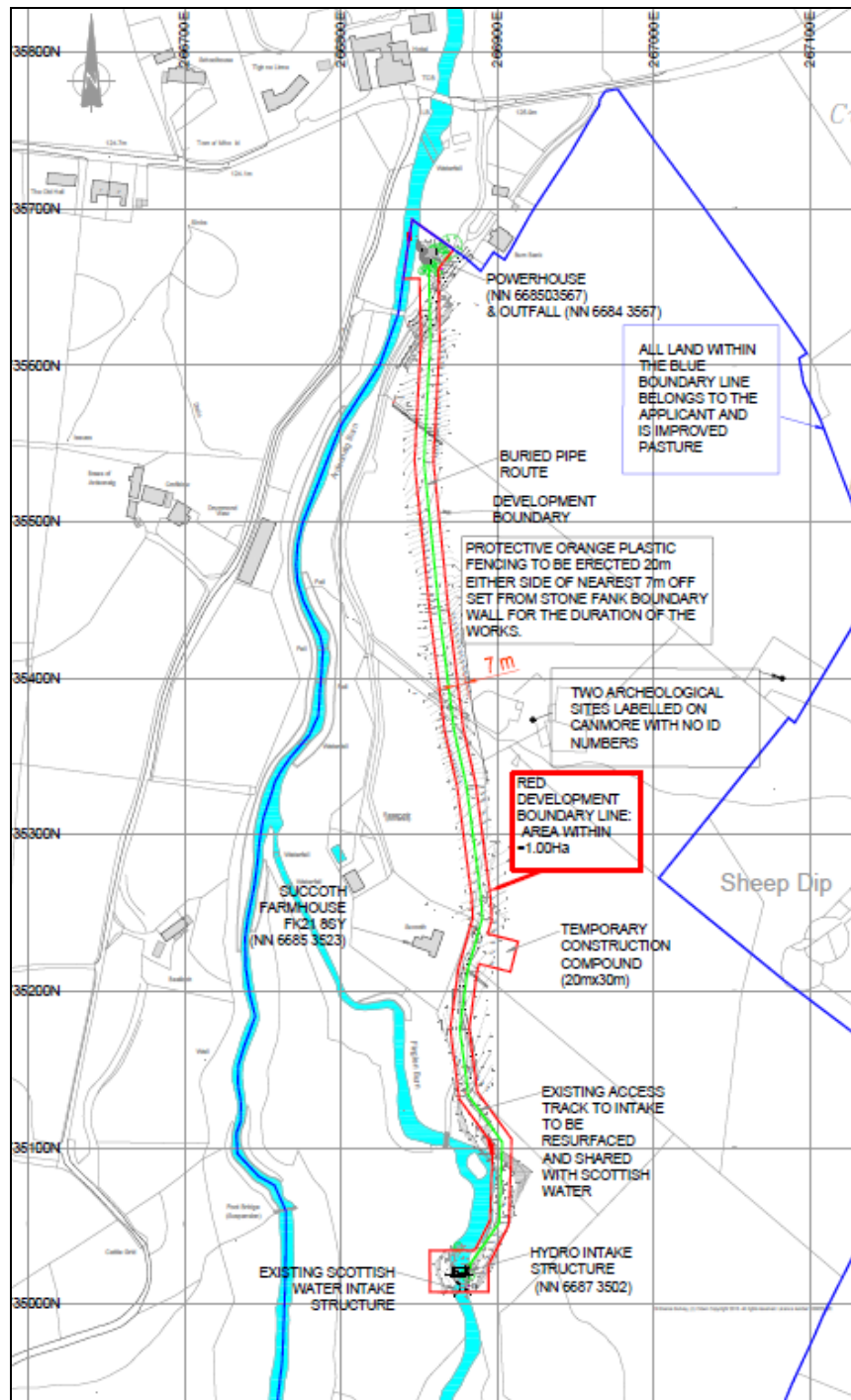
**Walk-over survey
February 2015**

*Lismore
Dollerie Terrace
Crieff
Perthshire
Tel: 01764-652638
email: scotarc@btinternet.com*

INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a walk-over survey along the route of a proposed new hydro-electric scheme at Ardeonaig on the south side of Loch Tay, Stirling District. The survey was carried out by John Lewis of Scotia Archaeology at the request of Campbell of Doune, Civil and Structural Engineers, of Crieff.

THE SITE



Location map of Ardeonaig Hydro scheme

The proposed area of development is shown on the above map, supplied by Campbell of Doune.

Ardeonaig is a small village on the south shore of Loch Tay, some 15km south-west of Kenmore and 10km east of Killin. The hydro scheme runs southwards from the village. The intake point will be at approximately NN 6687 3502 on the Finglen Burn, a tributary of the Ardeonaig Burn. From there the penstock will run northwards as far as a power house at approximately NN 6685 3567, the outfall returning into nearby Ardeonaig Burn, 100m south of the loch-side public road.

Access for contractors will be along an existing road which leads to Succoth Farm, home of Mr Neil Campbell who is sponsoring the development. A temporary construction compound will be sited a short distance to the east of the farmhouse.

From the intake point, the penstock will run for a short distance along the east side of the Finglen Burn before crossing several fields of pasture which slope downwards towards the north. The power house will be sited adjacent to the Ardeonaig Burn, in an area currently covered with small deciduous trees.

DESK STUDY

A desk study of readily available source material undertaken prior to the commencement of fieldwork revealed few known sites of archaeological or historical significance along or close to the route of the proposed pipeline. Those described below are listed according to the numbers allocated by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS).

Records describe two sites within reasonable vicinity of the development area.

NN63NE 62 Farmstead

The first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (Perthshire 1867, sheet 69) shows four roofed and two unroofed buildings and two enclosures at NN 6692 3537. Current 1:10,000 maps depict two unroofed buildings and two enclosures at this location.

Aerial photographs show traces of rig and furrow cultivation in the two fields to the immediate north-west and south-east of this farmstead.

NN63NE 61 Farmstead

The first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (Perthshire 1867, sheet 69) shows two unroofed buildings at NN 6708 3540 although current maps depict nothing at this location.

THE WALK-OVER SURVEY

The walk-over survey was undertaken on 6 February 2015 during very cold, dry weather with persistent mist emanating from nearby Loch Tay. Slight traces of snow lay in places, particularly near the intake point although this did not detract from the survey. On the contrary, it helped define one feature of some archaeological significance which is described below.

In a well-drained field of pasture just north of Succoth and to the immediate west of Farmstead NN63NE 62 are traces of eroded rig and furrow. The rigs measure approximately 2.5m wide, crown to crown, and run south to north presumably to assist drainage although this can also increase soil erosion.



View to the south showing remains of rig and furrow with Succoth Farm beyond



Farmstead NN63NE 62, viewed from the west, with rig and furrow in the foreground

No further sites of archaeological or historical significance were identified during the walk-over survey.

CONCLUSIONS

The two farmsteads identified by the desk study are far enough from the development area to be unaffected by the construction of the Ardeonaig Hydro scheme. The nearest (NN63NE 62) is located some 50m from the proposed route of the penstock and separated from it by field walls. The remains of the other settlement (NN63NE 61) are even further away.

The only features that might be affected are those associated with pre-Improvement field systems, in essence the rig and furrow identified to the west of Farmstead NN63NE 62. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to avoid these features during excavations for the pipeline. Furthermore, because the alignment of the pipeline would coincide almost exactly with that of the rig and furrow, no meaningful profile of these features would be forthcoming and little of worth gleaned from recording this process.

PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

The photographs listed below form part of the site archive and only Frames 3 and 4 are reproduced in this report.

- 1 View to the north from the intake point
- 2 Farmstead NN63NE 62, viewed from the south
- 3 Farmstead NN63NE 62, viewed from the west
- 4 Rig and furrow to the west of the farmstead, viewed from the north
- 5 Rig and furrow to the west of the farmstead, viewed from the south