

# *Scotia Archaeology*

## **REPORT**

**ON BEHALF OF  
CAMPBELL OF DOUNE LTD  
AND  
DRUMMOND ESTATES**

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

**Archaeological  
Watching Brief and Site Protection  
March 2015**

*Lismore  
Dollerie Terrace  
Crieff  
Perthshire  
Tel: 01764-652638  
email: [scotarc@btinternet.com](mailto:scotarc@btinternet.com)*

## 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 surveys were produced as a report thereafter.

Since then, the route of the penstock has been altered and Campbell of Doune Ltd, acting on behalf of Drummond Estates, submitted a revised planning application taking in those changes to LLTNP. In October 2014 Scotia Archaeology undertook a survey of the new route and produced a report of the survey results outlining any mitigation measures that might need to be implemented thereafter, the report being forwarded to the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), LLTNP's archaeological advisors.

This document describes the results of the mitigation measures carried out during the construction of the hydro scheme.

## THE SITE

There are 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 runs southwards along the west side of the burn. The secondary intake is on the Allt Breac-nic at NN 6331 1311 from where the penstock skirts the north side of the burn, meeting the primary one at approximately NN 6415 1305. 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 which now functions as a farm road.

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, indicating the development area, is shown overleaf.

## SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS WORK

A small number of features of archaeological interest were identified during the two surveys. The only ones at risk from the development were located in the north arm of the area and appeared to be the remains of early boundary walls and banks and a linear, shallow, ditch-like feature. These features are described below, using Alder's original site numbering system.



## Site 2

What was believed to be turf-covered boundary bank runs from NN 64120 13422 westwards to NN 64051 13406 where it peters out. It measures 1.5m wide and 0.5m high.



*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, a distance of some 11m. It is 0.7m wide and survives to a height of 0.6m.

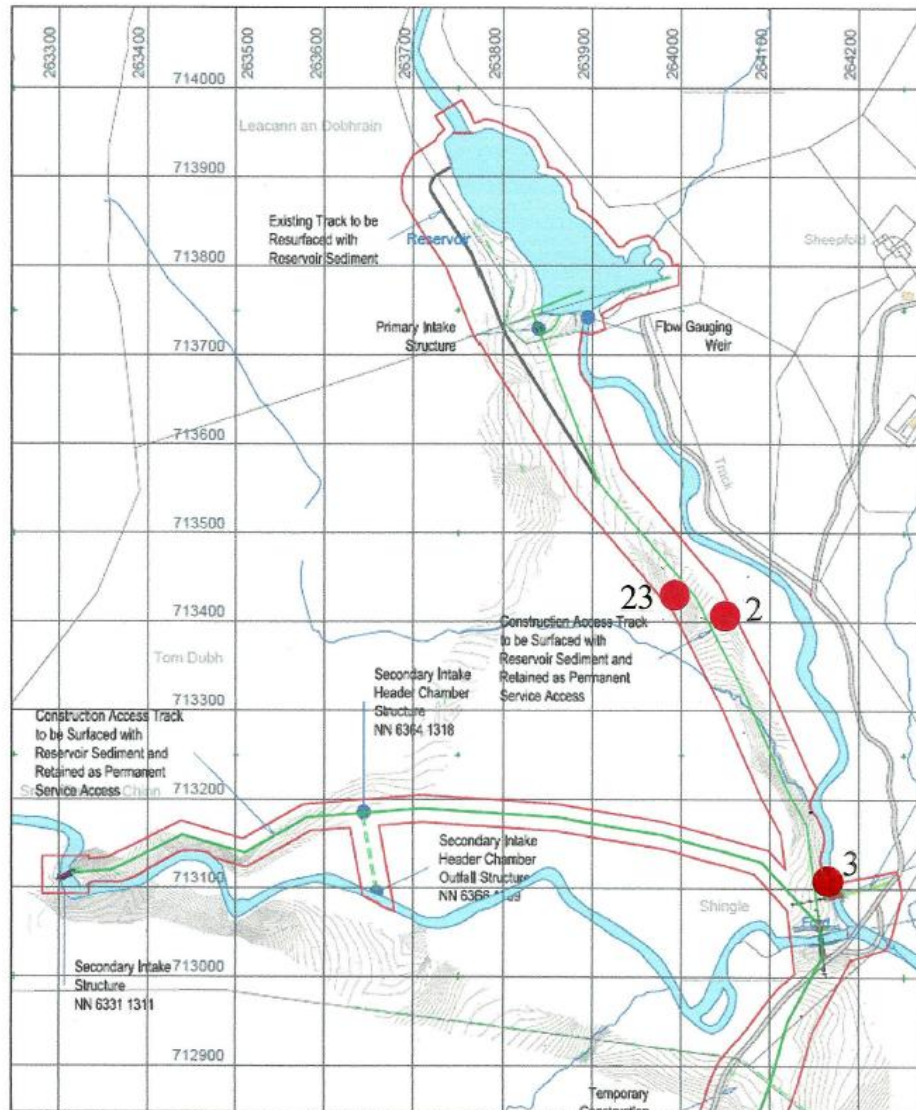


*Site 3 viewed from the west*



## 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.



*Sites of potential archaeological significance*

## WATCHING BRIEF AND SITE PROTECTION

The most obvious danger to archaeological structures and features at such a development is the excavation of the pipe trench and the construction of access roads. However, other activities, including the deposition and retrieval of spoil, the temporary storage of pipes and other materials and the movement of plant and other machinery, can also pose problems to the survival of the archaeological record.

John Lewis of Scotia Archaeology visited the development on Friday, 13 March 2015 when the excavation of the pipe trench and the construction of an access road were approaching Sites 2, 3 and 23.

## Site 2

Almost the entire length of this feature was threatened by the construction of the penstock and its access road. Rather than merely watching its removal, the decision was taken to cut two trenches across this feature in order to assess its nature and construction.



**Section across Site 2, viewed from the east**



**View of Site 2 with remains of adjacent ditch**



Trenching demonstrated that this feature was made up of 0.2-0.3m of peaty soil lying directly over glacial till of orange clay and pebbles. From the evidence of excavation, its interpretation as a boundary bank now seems unlikely. A more likely explanation is that this feature comprises a small amount of upcast resulting from the excavation of an adjacent drainage ditch, now mostly blocked, to its immediate south.

### Site 3

Site 3, a short stretch of partly demolished drystone field wall, was located well to the east of both the penstock and the new access road and will not be affected directly by the development. However, to ensure the structure's preservation, TSL Ltd erected a protective fence around it (see photograph below).



**Site 3, viewed from the north-west, with protective fence around it**

### Site 23

Conversation with the local farmer confirmed that Site 23, initially interpreted as a possible boundary or ditch, was the original access track to the reservoir and hence of modern date. As a consequence, no mitigation measures were taken to protect this feature.



**Site 23 viewed from the north**

## **CONCLUSIONS**

No features of archaeological significance were damaged during the construction of Keltie Hydro. Sites 2 (ditch upcast) and 23 (access track to the reservoir) were both of recent date while Site 3 (the remnant of a drystone wall), the only feature of some antiquity, has been protected by a fence erected by the contractors.