

# Scotia Archaeology

REPORT  
TO  
SCOTTISH & SOUTHERN ENERGY

GLENSCORRODALE  
THE ROSS  
ISLE OF ARRAN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WALK-OVER SURVEY  
APRIL 2015

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## INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological walk-over survey undertaken in April 2015 for Scottish & Southern Energy plc (SSE) along the line of a proposed new overhead power line to Glenscorrodale, Isle of Arran, North Ayrshire.

The new line will run close to the remains of a pre-Improvement settlement, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. As a consequence, Argyll & Bute Council, on the advice of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), imposed a condition whereby an archaeological walk-over survey be carried out along the proposed route. This was to ensure that any sites of archaeological or historical significance located on or close to it are avoided during the development work.

## THE SITE

The road known as 'The Ross' runs from Lamlash on the east coast of Arran to Sliddery on its south-west corner. Its east section runs through the Monamore Glen whereas, for most of its length, it follows closely the course of the Sliddery Water. To the east of the burn are the substantial remains of the pre-Improvement settlement of Gargadale, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM4620) which is protected under the Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 (see below).

The new power line will run northwards from an existing line at approximately NR 9459 2506 near Glenree Farm to approximately NR 9633 2799, Glenscorrodale, now the Samye Dechen Shing Buddhist retreat, a distance of some 4km.

## DESK STUDY

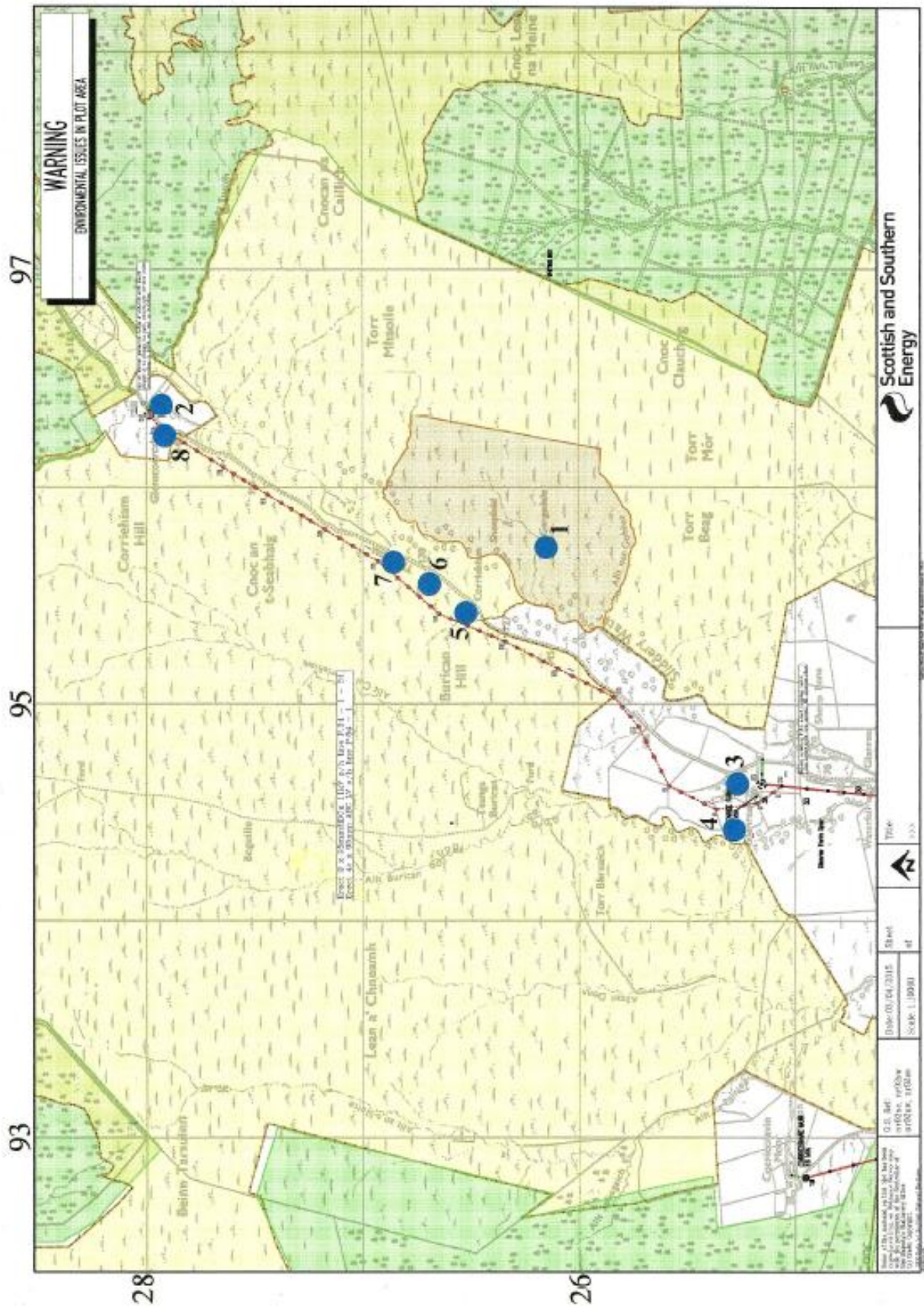
Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, a desk study was undertaken of sites and monuments in the vicinity of the new power line. With the exception of Gargadale, the survey included only those sites to the west of 'The Ross'.

Overleaf is a map, based on one supplied by SSE, showing the route of the proposed power line and the sites and monuments identified in the desk study and walk-over survey.

### 1 NR92NE 5 Gargadale

The settlement of Gargadale is depicted on several maps published between 1777 and 1810 but appears to have been deserted by 1868 when the first edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map (Buteshire, Island of Arran, sheet ccliv) shows only roofless buildings at the site, centred on NR 9573 2615, some 250m east of Sliddery Water. It now comprises the remains of five, or perhaps six, buildings arranged around a courtyard as well as a corn-drying kiln, tracks, field walls and extensive rig and furrow.

The scheduled area measures some 1.19km north/south by a maximum 0.7km wide and includes the settlement itself together with its field systems and part of its outfield on the east side. The map overleaf shows the scheduled area in red to the east of 'The Ross' road.



## **2 NR92NE 9 Glenscorrodale**

Glenscorrodale was an early 19th-century farm steading lying between Slidderly Water and the road, at NR 9636 2796, and at the time of the first edition OS map appears to have been a substantial group of buildings.

## **3 Burican**

The first edition OS 6-inch map of 1868 (Buteshire, Island of Arran, sheet ccliv) depicts the farm of Burican at NR 94574 25227, comprising ranges of roofed buildings surrounding a courtyard, two further buildings a short distance to the south and several enclosures. Since that time, Burican has been renamed Glenree.

Approximately 600m to the south of Burican, at the junction of the Allt Burican and Slidderly Water, was Glenrie Mill (old spelling) which has since been redeveloped.

## **4 NR92NE 34 Lazy beds**

Lazy beds have been identified at NR 9439 2518, on the east side of the Allt Burican. In all likelihood, they were associated with the farmstead of Burican.

## **5 NR92NE 7 Corriehiam**

The first edition OS 6-inch map of 1868 (Buteshire, Island of Arran, sheet ccliv) shows Corriehiam at NR 9542 2650 comprising two enclosures but no buildings.

## **THE WALK-OVER SURVEY**

The walk-over survey was undertaken by John Lewis of Scotia Archaeology on 16 April 2015, a dry, warm and sunny day. The power line will run northwards from Glenree, a short distance to the west of 'The Ross' road. At its south end, the line will cross level fields of improved pasture to the west and north of Glenree Farm. For most of its route, however, it will traverse rough pasture comprising coarse grass, reeds, bracken and small bushes until it crosses the road into the improved land that surrounds Glenscorrodale itself. Over that area the land slopes down towards the Slidderly Water to the east, the incline increasing somewhat towards the north end of the route.

The survey concentrated on ground to the west of 'The Ross', the only area that might be affected by the construction of the power line and by the movement of machinery and materials. Sites and monuments identified during the survey are listed below.

## **5 Corriehiam**

The only structures visible at Corriehiam were at NR 95421 26494, where one small enclosure measuring some 7m square and remnants of a few drystone walls survive.

## **6 Boundary**

A grass-covered stone bank was noted at NR 95534 26479 from where it extends to the east and west.



*Remains of Corriehiam (Site 5), viewed from the north*



*Site 6 wall, viewed from the west*

## 7 Boundary

At NR 95677 26829 and extending to the east and west are the remains of another stone boundary wall covered in vegetation.



*Site 7 wall, viewed from the west*

## 8 Boundary

To the west of Glenscorrodale, around NR 96254 27879, is a turf-covered bank that meanders approximately north/south but whose course was difficult to follow through dead bracken.



*Site 8 wall, viewed from the north*

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## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Most of the sites listed above are unlikely to be affected by the construction of the new power line. The only features that might be affected are the remains of Corrieham and three stretches of partially demolished boundary walls or banks. These structures are all presumed to relate to agricultural practices dating to the early 19th century or earlier.

The enclosure and other walls of Corrieham are clearly visible and should present no problem of identification and the boundaries of Sites 6, 7 and 8 should also be relatively easy to recognize. It is recommended that when working in those areas crews should take particular care not to damage any of those structures, either by inserting poles or storing materials near them or by driving through them.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

The photographs listed below form part of the project archive and not all are included in this report.

- 1 Small enclosure and other walls, remnants of Corrieham, viewed from the north
- 2 Boundary wall/bank at NR 95534 26479 (Site 6), viewed from the west
- 3 Boundary wall/bank at NR 95534 26479 (Site 6), viewed from the east
- 4 Boundary wall/bank at NR 95677 26829 (Site 7), viewed from the west
- 5 Boundary wall/bank at NR 96254 27879 (Site 8), viewed from the north
- 6 Boundary wall/bank at NR 96254 27879 (Site 8), viewed from the south