

Scotia Archaeology

REPORT

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

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

**Second Archaeological
Watching Brief
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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. Its findings 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 and 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.

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, located some 3.5km north of Callander. A map indicating the development area is shown in Illus 1.

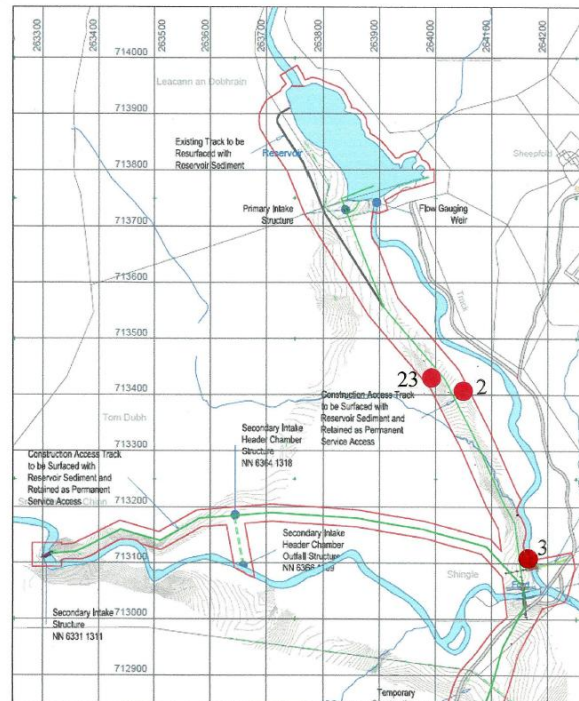
SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS WORK

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. Their locations are shown in Illus 2, the site numbers being those used in Alder's original site numbering system.

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. In March 2015 a section was cut through Site 2, a putative boundary bank, revealing this feature to be simply the upcast from a short drainage ditch (Lewis 2015).

At that time it was thought that construction work would not disturb Site 3, a short stretch of drystone wall close to the junction of the two arms of the penstock. This structure was fenced off by the contractors, TSL Contractors Ltd.





Illus 2: sites of potential archaeological significance

SECOND WATCHING BRIEF

Adverse ground conditions meant that excavations in the vicinity of Site 3 had to be much deeper and hence much wider than planned and, as a consequence, the trench had to be cut through the west part of the wall. John Lewis of Scotia Archaeology undertook a watching brief during this work on 30 June 2015, a mild but damp day.

Site 3 comprised a stretch of drystone wall, 11m long, running eastwards from NN 64145 13112 to NN 64155 13110. It was 0.7m wide and survived to a height of approximately 0.6m.



Site 3 before excavation, viewed from the west



Section cut through Site 3 wall, viewed from the west



Penstock trench showing depth of peat

CONCLUSIONS

It seems curious that the drystone wall of Site 3 could not be traced beyond the limits of the 11m-long stretch that had been noted during two walk-over surveys. It is possible that this short stretch was the only part of the wall ever built. Its construction was poor in quality with

narrow foundations of small stones set onto peat, making the structure potentially unstable. The absence of tumble along the wall's projected line may also point to such a conclusion.

The original purpose of this wall is unknown. It has been assumed that it was a boundary wall although it is also possible that it represents one side of a building, perhaps abandoned at an early stage of construction. However, as there was no trace of the wall in the excavation trench beyond its recorded length, the conundrum remains.

REFERENCE

Lewis, J 2015 *Keltie Water, Callander, Hydro-Electric Scheme: archaeological watching brief and site monitoring, March 2015*. Unpublished archive report to Campbell of Doune and Drummond Estates.