

Scotia Archaeology

**REPORT
TO
ALLT ENTERGY LIMITED
AND DERERACH HYDRO SCHEME**

**DERERACH
HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME
PENNYGHAEL, MULL**

**Desk study
and
walk-over survey
April 2018**

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INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a desk study of archaeological sites and monuments and a walk-over survey along the route of a proposed hydro-electric scheme at Dererach, near Pennyghael, Isle of Mull. The survey was carried out by Scotia Archaeology at the request of Allt Energy Limited who supplied maps showing indicative routes for the penstock and new access roads.

THE SITE

The proposed scheme is located at Dererach, at the east end of Loch Scridain on the Isle of Mull. It runs from a point adjacent to the B8035 road and northwards along the side of the Allt na Coille Moire. The primary intake will be at NM 5062 3079 although there will be seven secondary intakes on small streams flowing into the Allt na Coille Moire (see map overleaf). The powerhouse will be sited near the road at NM 5115 2957, the outfall feeding back into the Allt na Coille Moire a short distance away.

From the road, the land rises quite steeply within an area covered mainly with coniferous forestry. Between the forest and the west bank of the burn is a narrow corridor through which the penstock will run, this swathe of ground being covered with coarse grass which extends beyond the northern limit of the forestry into open moorland. The primary intake will be in the moorland although several of the secondary intakes will be within the forestry.

THE DESK STUDY

Prior to the commencement of the walk-over survey, a desk study was undertaken of readily available sources describing sites of archaeological and historical significance located within the vicinity of the proposed hydro scheme. A small number of sites were identified. They are listed according to the numbers allocated by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) (eg NM53SW 9) and by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, archaeological advisors to Argyll & Bute Council (eg WoSAS Pin67873).

Site 1 WoSAS Pin67873

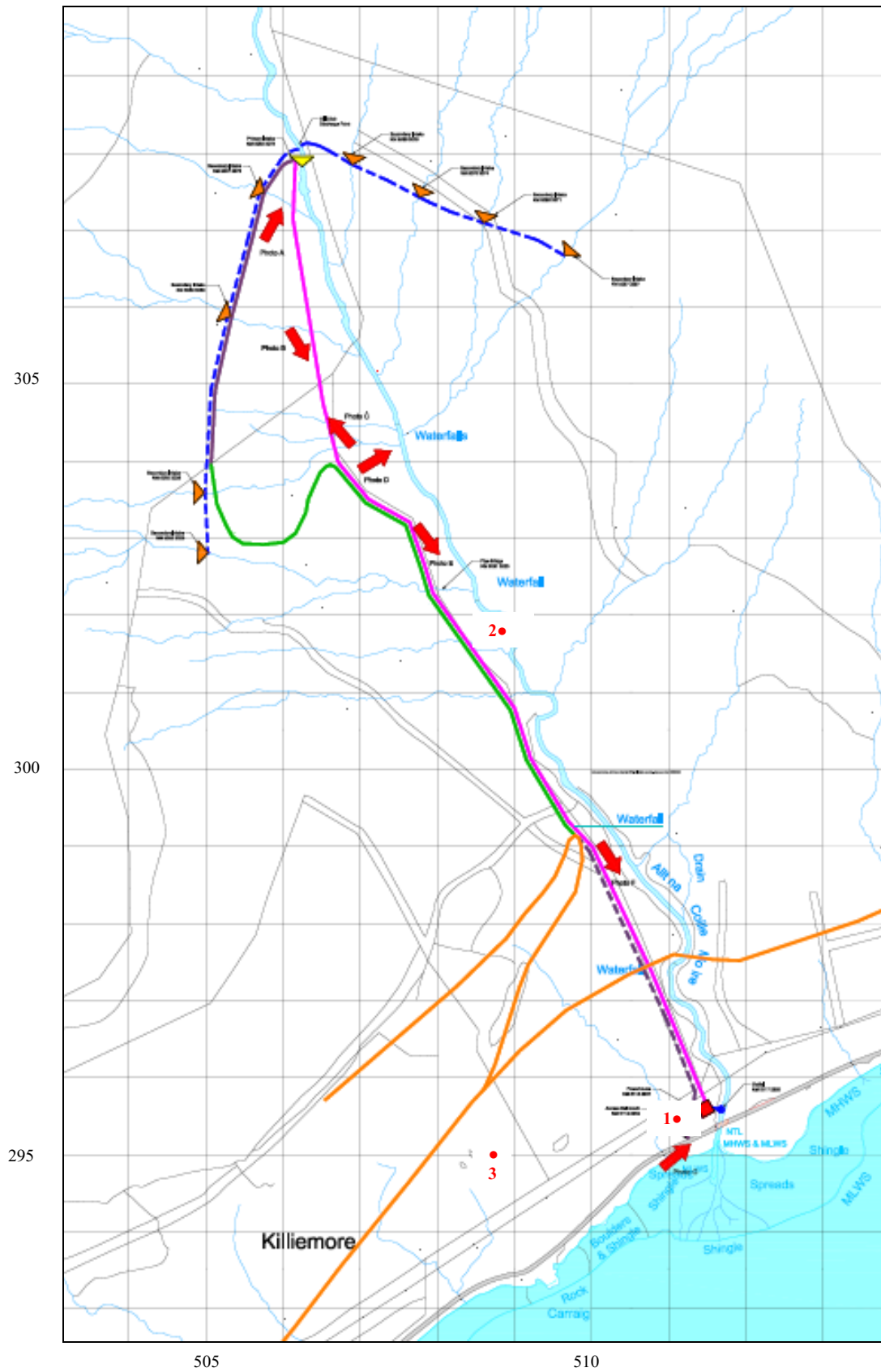
There is a reference to 'buildings' at NM 51122 29555. No further information is given.

Site 2 NM53SW 9

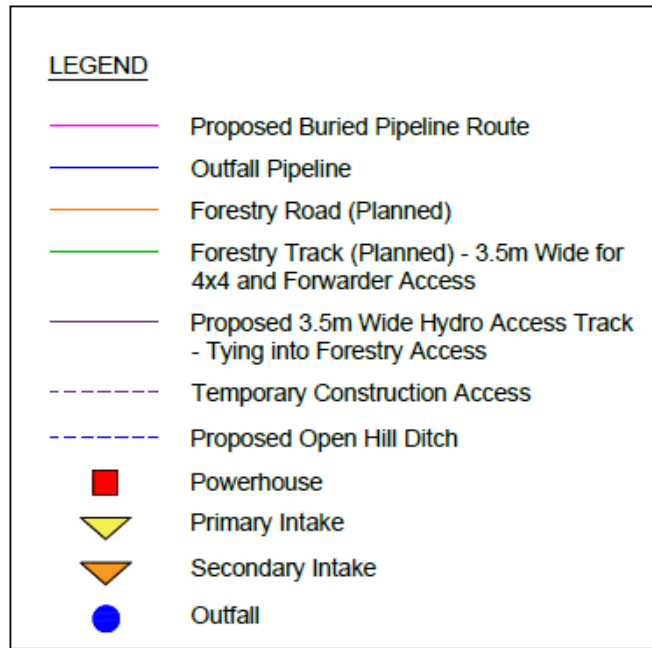
The remains of three drystone structures are located on a small platform surrounded by steep slopes on the west bank of the Allt na Coille Moire, at NM 50899 30166. It has been suggested that these structures formed an illicit still.

Site 3 NM52NW 11

The first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (Argyllshire, Island of Mull 1881, sheet 95) depicts the ruins of the township of Killiemore centred on NM 5086 2950. It comprised six unroofed buildings, three enclosures and a head-dyke with three attached and two separate fields. The 1976 OS 1:10000 map shows three unroofed buildings, two enclosures and the fragmentary remains of the fields and the head-dyke at the same location.



Dererach Hydro showing locations of sites described in the desk study



Key to symbols used in the above map

Sites identified in the desk study are shown as red dots on the map above; those identified during the walk-over survey are shown as green dots on the map overleaf.

THE WALK-OVER SURVEY



View to the south from the vicinity of the primary intake

The walk-over survey was undertaken by John Lewis of Scotia Archaeology on 27 April 2018, on a mainly sunny, relatively warm day. Field assessments of the sites described in the desk study are given below.

Site 1 WoSAS Pin67873

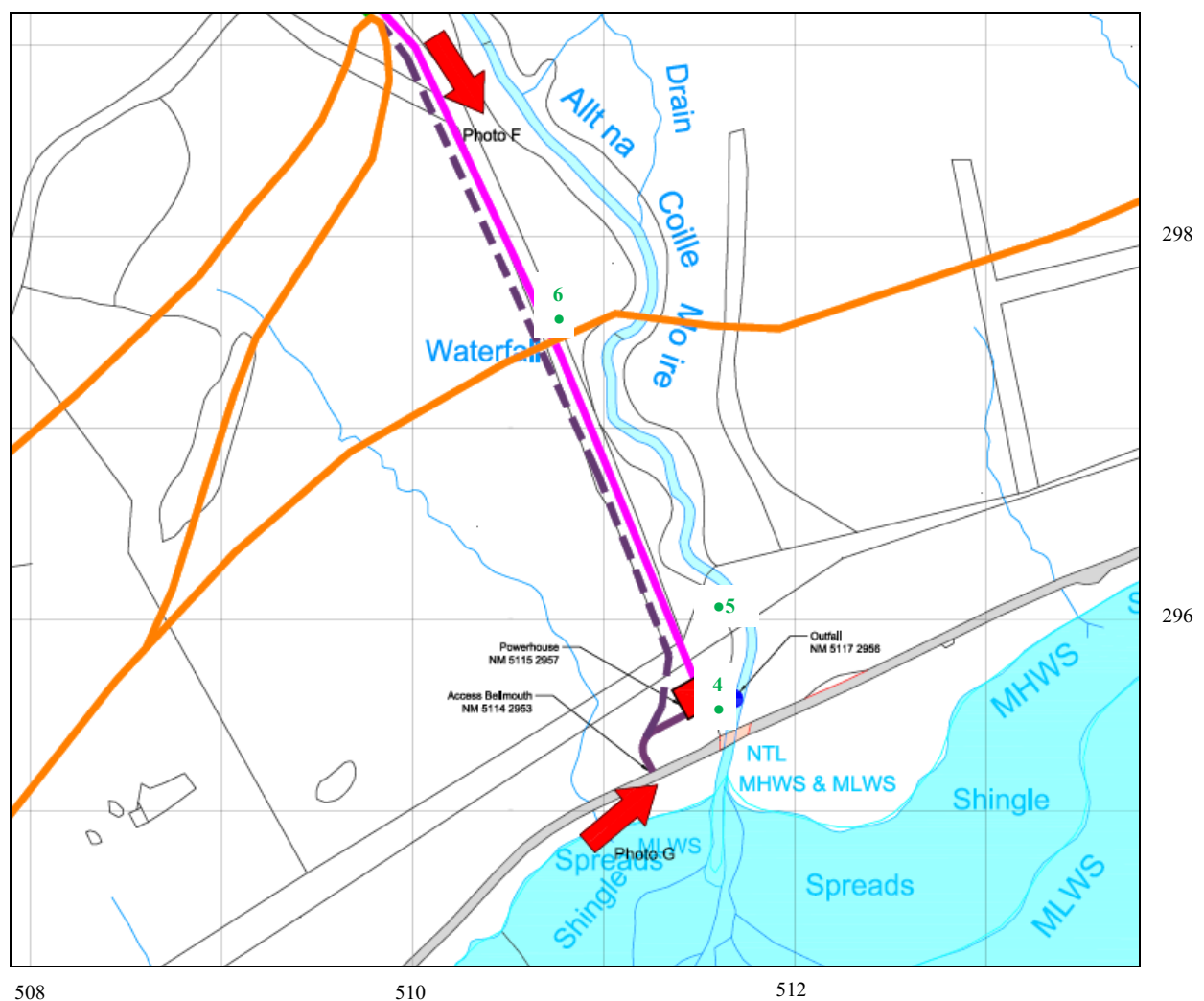
The 'buildings' referred to by WoSAS proved to be the remains of two structures, described below as Sites 4 and 5.

Site 2 NM53SW 9

This putative still is located in a steep gully at the edge of the burn and well beyond the proposed course of the penstock and machinery to be used during its construction.

Site 3 NM52NW 11

It was not possible to visit the site of the former settlement of Killiemore because it is now contained within dense, mature coniferous forestry.



Map detail showing sites identified during the walk-over survey

As already stated, Sites identified during the walk-over survey are listed below and shown on the map detail as green dots.

Site 4

Presumably an element of WoSASPin67873 (Site 1), Site 4 is located at NM 51134 29538, very close to the proposed location of the power house and outfall. It consists of the remains of a sub-rectangular structure built of drystone rubble and measuring approximately 10m north/south by 4m wide internally. It survives to a maximum height of two courses and is divided into roughly equal compartments by a cross-wall. Its walls are now covered with vegetation, mainly moss and bracken.



Site 4 viewed from the north

Site 5

A short distance north of Site 4, at NM 51136 29603, are the remains of another structure, comprising a single surviving course of drystone rubble enclosing an area of approximately 5m east/west by 3m wide. There is no evidence of an internal partition within it.

Sites 5 and 6 are not shown on early OS maps, suggesting that these structures were demolished to near ground level by the mid- to late 19th century.



Site 5 viewed from the south



Site 6 viewed from the north

Site 6

At NM 51079 29763, within the narrow corridor between forestry and the Allt na Coille Moire, is a circular platform set into the sloping ground. It measures roughly 5m in diameter and is ringed by an arc of boulders, some of them very large. It appears that the north side of this feature has been cut into the slope and its south side built up somewhat.

These putative structural remains, although somewhat sparse, are almost certainly man-made, perhaps representing a house platform of prehistoric age.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is only a narrow corridor between the forest and the Allt na Coille Moire to run the penstock. Circumventing Sites 4, 5 and 6 which lie within that strip may prove problematic. It is recommended that they should be fenced off and as wide an arc as possible taken around them.

Site 2, the putative still, is located beyond the probable area of activity and is unlikely to be affected by construction work.

It was not possible to assess Site 3, the remains of the township of Killiemore, because of the mature forestry in which it is set. However, it is noted that a new access road will pass close to this former settlement and it is recommended that the road should follow a route well away from it. Furthermore, it may prove necessary to fence off Site 3 before this work is undertaken.