

# *Scotia Archaeology*

**REPORT  
TO  
WESTWOOD SCOTLAND LIMITED**

**GLEN CLOVA  
HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME**

**Archaeological monitoring  
and  
protection of archaeological sites  
September 2010**

*5 Bank Street  
ABERFELDY  
Perthshire  
PH15 2BB  
Tel & Fax No: 01887-820880  
email: scotarc@o2.co.uk*

**INTRODUCTION**

This report describes the result of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during excavations associated with a new hydro-electric scheme to the north of the Glen Clova Hotel, Clova, Angus. Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) granted approval of the scheme to Glen Clova Estate, on behalf of its client Westwood Scotland Limited and subject to certain conditions (Planning Reference Number 09/117/CPP), the original planning application to Angus Council (Planning Application Number 09/00400/FUL) having been called in.

CNPA, on the advice of its archaeological advisors, the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS), imposed a condition (Condition 6) that an archaeological watching brief be carried out to the immediate rear of the hotel during preparatory work in that area. ACAS provided Terms of Reference for undertaking the archaeological work.

## **THE SITE**

There will be two intake points for the hydro scheme: one on the Brandy Burn (at approximately NO 3363 7429), 1.5km north-east of the hotel; and another on the Corrie Burn (at approximately NO 3284 7443), 1.2km north of the hotel. A header tank will be located around NO 3294 7435. From that point, the pipeline will run southwards through mainly open moorland until reaching scrubby woodland to the rear of the Clova Hotel where a powerhouse will be built with a tailrace leading from it back into the Corrie Burn.

There are no known sites of archaeological or historical significance along most of the pipe route, the exception being near its southern terminus where two burnt mounds have been recorded close to the hotel. These mounds have both been ascribed the number NO37SW 60 by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and are centred at NO 32784 73165. Each measures approximately 3.7m in diameter and 0.7m high and has a slight hollow on its SSE side. At the time of the watching brief they were both covered with a dense growth of bracken although their position was obvious.

To the east of the area of investigation was a metalled track, to its south the burnt mounds, to the west the Corrie Burn and to the north, where the ground rises alongside the Corrie Burn, woodland of mainly birch and rowan. The location of the powerhouse had been moved slightly northwards from its intended position to provide a buffer zone between it and the burnt mounds.

## **THE WATCHING BRIEF**

The watching brief was undertaken on 6th September 2010 when John Lewis of Scotia Archaeology monitored ground works carried out by A & C Construction to the rear of the Clova Hotel. Excavation comprised the removal of vegetation, topsoil and other modern materials from an area designated as the site of the powerhouse, using a 360° tracked excavator.

The powerhouse trench measured approximately 8m square and was centred on NO 32785 73180. It was cleared of vegetation (mainly bracken and coarse grass) and topsoil of dark brown silty loam which was only some 0.1m deep although excavation continued beyond this depth to ensure that no archaeological features were missed. It soon became clear that a large part of the area had been disturbed on at least one previous occasion, probably during

building work associated with the hotel. The only other features visible within the trench were root holes from trees and shrubs.

Below the topsoil was glacial till of boulders and gravel which varied in colour from orange to yellow/grey. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were uncovered.

To ensure that no damage would befall the burnt mounds during subsequent development work, they were cordoned off with a fence following the completion of soil stripping.

## CONCLUSIONS

Much of the development area had been disturbed before this project commenced and it is not known whether any archaeological features might have existed in that part of the site. However, there was no trace of any such features in the undisturbed area and no indication that the burnt mounds had extended this far north.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

The photographs described below form part of the project archive and are not reproduced in this report.

- 1 The location of the powerhouse prior to the start of excavation, viewed from the east. The burnt mounds are on the left of the frame
- 2 The location of the powerhouse prior to the start of excavation, viewed from the north-east
- 3 The powerhouse site after the removal of topsoil, viewed from the east. Note the disturbed area in the foreground
- 4 The powerhouse site after the removal of topsoil, viewed from the north-east
- 5 View northwards from the powerhouse site, looking along the Corrie Burn and the course of the pipeline