

# *Scotia Archaeology*

**REPORT  
TO  
ALLT ENTERGY LIMITED**

**KENKNOCK  
HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME  
GLEN LYON**

**Desk study  
and  
walk-over survey  
May 2015**

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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 near Kenknock, Glen Lyon, Perthshire. The survey was carried out for Meggernie Estate by Scotia Archaeology at the request of Allt Energy Limited who supplied maps showing an indicative route for the penstock, new access road and contractor's compound.

## THE SITE

Kenknock Hydro will be located towards the upper end of Glen Lyon, some 20km west of Fortingall and 30km west of Aberfeldy, Perthshire. It is to be a run-of-river scheme with a maximum output of 275kw and will connect with an existing 11kv, three-phase overhead power line.

The intake will be on the Allt Lairig Luaidhe at NN 5278 4248 from where the penstock will run 630m to a turbine house at NN 5247 4288, near the junction of the burn and the River Lyon. The contractor's compound will be within an enclosure located 1km south of Kenknock, on the road that runs the length of the glen (see below, Site 7). Access to the hydro scheme will be along a gravel road that leads to Moar Farm. From NN 5350 4460 a new road will be laid around the east side of the farm, continuing southwards as far as the former Wester Moar, from where an existing farm track will be upgraded as far as the turbine house. The overall length of the new access road is some 2km.

## 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. Several such 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 NN54SW 6) and by the Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT) (eg MPK84).

### 1 NN54SW 6/MPK84 Farmstead

Roy's map of 1747 and the first edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1867 (Perthshire, sheet 57) both show five buildings at NN 53370 44419, the location of present day Moar Farm. All the buildings were roofed at the time of the first OS while the second edition shows only two of them roofed.

### 2 NN54SW 13/MPK83 Farmstead

Oblique aerial photographs show what appears to be the remains of several buildings at NN 5322 4415. This settlement is not shown on either the first or second edition OS maps although it is probably the same group of structures depicted in a similar location by Roy.

### 3 NN54SW 12/MPK9349 Township

The first edition OS 6-inch map of 1867 (Perthshire, sheet 57) shows two roofed and one unroofed buildings at NN 5308 4374, as does the second edition map, published in 1900.

Current maps show one roofed building and four enclosures at the same location. This settlement, formerly known as Mor Shuas and now Wester Mor, was connected to Ceann Cnoic (Kenknock) by a ford crossing the River Lyon.

#### **4 NN54SW 11/MPK9350 Township (possible)**

The 1989 OS 1:10,000 map depicts four unroofed buildings and three enclosures at NN 5290 4328. Neither the first nor the second edition 6-inch maps shows any structures at this location although they do show a single unroofed building a short distance to the east, at NN 53057 43253.

#### **5 Sheepfold**

At NN 52520 42890 are the remains of a sheepfold which is shown on the first and second edition OS maps as well as on current ones.

#### **6 MPK81 Cairnfield**

A cairnfield has been identified within a large area centred on approximately NN 5263 4310.

#### **7 NN54SW 10/MPK9348 Enclosure**

A large enclosure, measuring approximately 170m north-east/south-west, is shown on first and second edition OS maps at NN 5235 4300.

### **THE WALK-OVER SURVEY**

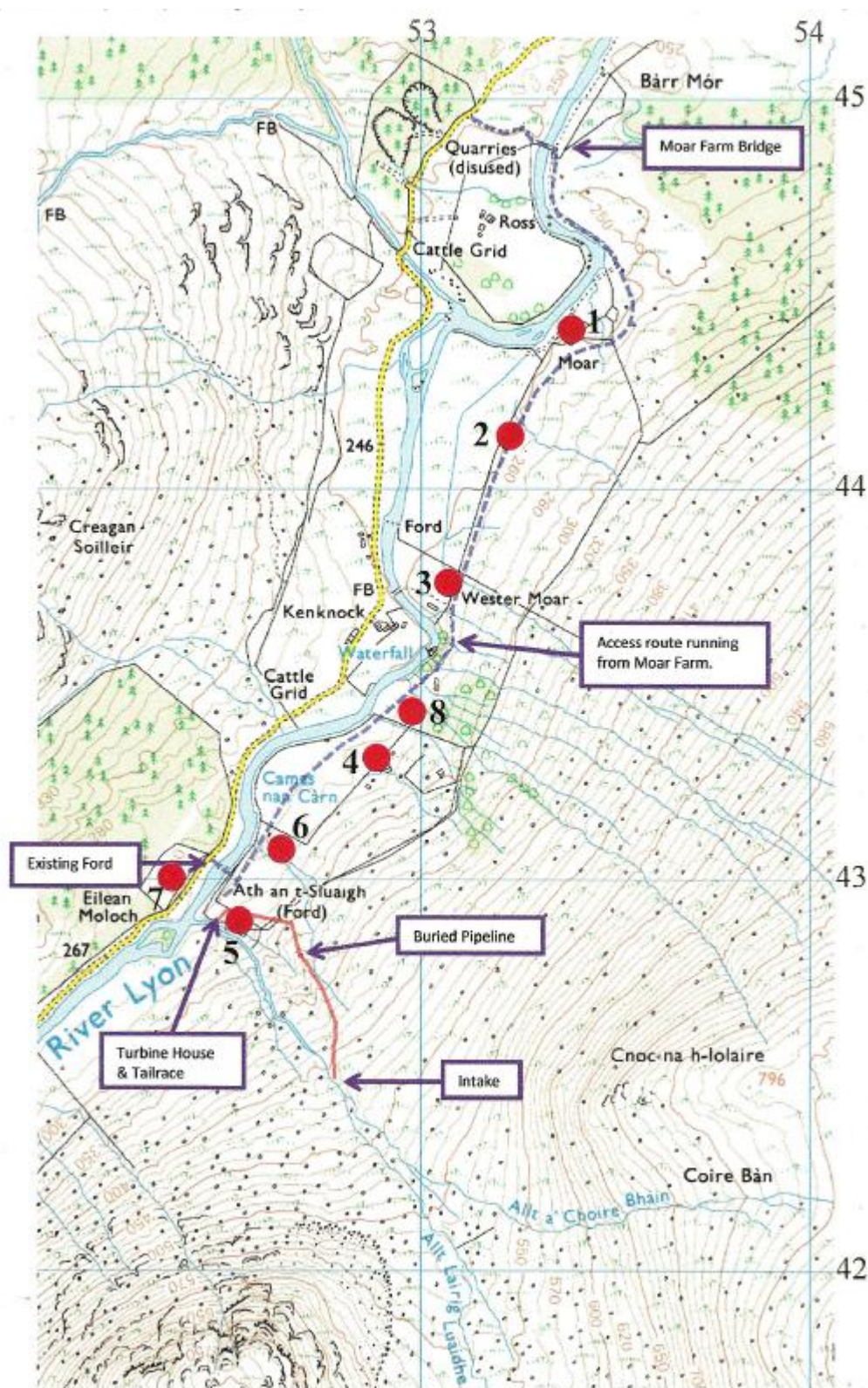
The walk-over survey was undertaken by John Lewis on 30 May 2015, a dry, sunny day with good visibility. It was conducted along the proposed routes of the new access road and the penstock and at the enclosure that will serve as the contractor's compound. The access road crosses level ground now given over to pasture of varying quality, mostly for sheep but some for cattle. The penstock route drops down steeply sloping ground strewn with boulders.

The sites listed in the desk study were visited during the survey and one previously unrecorded site was also identified. They are shown on the map of the site overleaf.

No sites were identified along the proposed route of the penstock.

#### **Site 1**

Moar Farm comprises several standing buildings which are still in use and would not be affected by this proposed development. No associated structures were identified along the route of the new access road at Site 1.



*Map showing location of archaeological sites*



## Site 2

The remains of an enclosure and three buildings, one of them a kiln, were identified during the field survey.

### *Enclosure (Photos 1, 2)*

An enclosure measuring approximately 15m square and defined by low, grass-covered stone walls was identified at NN 53257 44152.

### *Structure 1 (Photos 3, 4)*

Structure 1 is located at NN 53236 44114 and comprises the remains of a building measuring some 21m north/south by 5m wide over drystone rubble walls, a maximum two courses of which survive. There is a cross wall 8m from the building's south end. No further features are discernible.



*Site 2, Structure 1, viewed from the north*

### *Structure 2 (Photo 5)*

The scant remains of Structure 2 lie 2m south of Structure 1. It is 5m wide (north/south) and at least 9m long although its east wall could not be traced. Elsewhere in this structure barely a single course is visible.

### *Structure 3 (Photos 6-8)*

At NN 53214 44037, some 80m from Structures 1 and 2 but presumably associated with them, are the remains of a kiln, surviving to a height of 1.5m. Its bowl measures 1.7m in diameter while the flue extends to the north, widening from 0.6m at the bowl to 1.7m at its mouth.



*Site 2 kiln, viewed from the north*

### **Site 3**

The remains of three buildings, one of them a kiln, were identified in the vicinity of the new access road at Site 3.

#### *Structure 1 (Photos 9, 10)*

Structure 1, located at NN 53095 43738, measures 9m north/south by 4m wide over drystone rubble walls of which a maximum of one course survives. There appears to have been an entrance midway along the east wall.

#### *Structure 2 (Photos 11, 12)*

The sparse remains of Structure 2 are located at NN 53038 43695, in a separate field from the one through which the new access road will run. This long building measures some 26m east/west by 5m wide overall, its walls almost completely covered by grass.





*Site 3, Structure 1, viewed from the north*



*Site 3, Structure 2, viewed from the west*



### *Structure 3 (Photos 13, 14)*

Located in the same field as Structure 2 and to its immediate south-east is Structure 3 which appears to have been a kiln. It measures approximately 2m in diameter although it was not possible to determine any other measurements. Field clearance boulders have been deposited within the structure.

### **Site 4**

Remnants of three buildings, one of them a kiln, were identified in the vicinity of the proposed access road at Site 4.

### *Structure 1 (Photos 15, 16)*

Structure 1 is located at NN 53015 43498 and set on a platform supported on its west side by a low retaining wall. The building measures some 23m north/south by 4.5m wide, its walls standing to a maximum of two courses high and including some very large boulders.



*Site 4, Structure 1, viewed from the north*

### *Structure 2 (Photos 17-19)*

The remains of this small, bicameral building are located at NN 52996 43496, to the immediate west of the existing farm track. It measures 6m east/west by 4m wide, its turf-covered walls standing to a maximum height of 1m on the building's south side.





*Site 4, Structure 2, viewed from the south*

*Structure 3 (Photos 20, 21)*

Although Structure 3 is almost covered with vegetation, it was almost certainly a kiln. It is located 6m south-west of Structure 2, on ground sloping down towards the River Lyon and measures some 1.5m in diameter.

**Site 5** (Photos 25, 26)

This large intact sheep fank is located on level ground near the river's edge and comprises several compartments.

**Site 6**

Mounds of stones, presumably derived from field clearances, are spread over a wide area, particularly in the vicinities of the former settlements of Sites 3 and 4. One such mound is located to the immediate west of Site 4, Structure 2.

**Site 7** (Photos 25, 27)

The large enclosure at Site 7 was visited during the walk-over survey although no features other than its surrounding wall were visible: a locked gate prevented access to its north-west half.

**Site 8 (Photos 29, 30)**

At NN 52979 43440, approximately 200m north of Site 4, is an oval mound measuring 4m east/west by 1.6m wide and 0.7m high. It is grass-covered but appears to comprise mostly boulders. It does not resemble any of the field clearance cairns in the area and it is tentatively interpreted as a prehistoric burial mound.



*Site 8: possible burial mound, viewed from the north*

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Sites 1, 2, 3 and 4 appear to have been pre-Improvement farmsteads although Site 1 (Moar Farm) has continued into the 21st century, the remaining three surviving only as the sparse foundations of buildings. The presence of what were almost certainly corn-drying kilns at Sites 1, 2 and 3 is a clear indication of arable farming at these sites, this being supported by the presence of several field clearance cairns in the vicinity of these settlements. It is then perhaps surprising that no evidence of rig and furrow agriculture was noted anywhere within the survey area.

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

Every effort should be made to preserve any archaeological features encountered during the surveys. The most effective preservation strategy is to ensure that intrusive activities



completely avoid such features, those lying close to the pipe route and access road being protected by secure fences extending well beyond them. This work should be carried out by the developer who would maintain the fencing throughout the construction of the hydro scheme.

At Kenknock Hydro the construction of the access road poses the greatest threat to the archaeological record. The new road will pass through or close to the remains of three pre-modern settlements (Sites 2, 3 and 4) as well as a putative burial mound (Site 8), all of which could be threatened by the proposed development. Other sites are less likely to be disturbed. The potential threats to sites identified in the surveys are assessed below.

### **Site 1**

Moar Farm will be beyond the development area and no buildings associated with it should be affected.

### **Sites 2, 3 and 4**

The various structures identified at these sites all lie relatively close to the proposed route of the new access road. It is recommended that each of them is protected by a fence prior to the commencement of trenching for the access road.

It should be noted that Structure 2 at Site 4 is located immediately adjacent to the existing farm track. As a consequence, the new road should deviate considerably from this structure which should still be fenced off for its protection.

### **Site 5**

This sheep fank is located relatively close to the end of the new access track and the penstock although it is a substantial structure and very visible and is unlikely to be directly affected by the development.

### **Site 6**

Several mounds of field clearance boulders are scattered around a wide area in the vicinity of Sites 2, 3 and 4. Any that lie within or close to the new access road might need to be protected.

### **Site 7**

It is thought unlikely that any features await discovery within Site 7 which may have functioned formerly as an animal enclosure.

### **Site 8**

Although its interpretation as a burial mound has yet to be confirmed, it is recommended that Site 8 is surrounded by a protective fence prior to the commencement of the development.

## Other areas

Both the new access track and the penstock will cross field walls. The new track is most likely to utilise existing gateways through walls that still define individual fields. The penstock, however, will cross the sparse remains of walls that no longer function as field boundaries, including what may have been the head-dyke for settlements arranged along the west bank of the river (see photo below).



*View to the south-east along the penstock route*

It is recommended that the penstock is taken through existing breaches in these walls and, if any walls are damaged during the development, they should be reinstated following the completion of the hydro scheme.



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## PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

Only a small number of the photographs listed below are included in this report; the full record can be found in the digital photographic archive.

- 1 Site 2: enclosure, viewed from the south-east
- 2 Site 2: enclosure, viewed from the south
- 3 Site 2: Structure 1, viewed from the east
- 4 Site 2: Structure 1, viewed from the north
- 5 Site 2: Structure 2, viewed from the east
- 6 Site 2: Structure 3 (kiln), viewed from the north
- 7 Site 2: Structure 3 (kiln), viewed from the east
- 8 Site 2: Structure 3 (kiln), viewed from the south
- 9 Site 3: Structure 1, viewed from the east
- 10 Site 3: Structure 1, viewed from the north
- 11 Site 3: Structure 2, viewed from east
- 12 Site 3: Structure 2, viewed from the west
- 13 Site 3: Structure 3, viewed from the north
- 14 Site 3: Structure 3, viewed from the south
- 15 Site 4: Structure 1, viewed from the north
- 16 Site 4: Structure 1, viewed from the south
- 17 Site 4: Structure 2, viewed from the east
- 18 Site 4: Structure 2, viewed from the north
- 19 Site 4: Structure 2, viewed from the south
- 20 Site 4: Structure 3, viewed from the north
- 21 Site 4: Structure 3, viewed from the east
- 22 View to the south-west from NN 52724 42560
- 23-24 View to the west from NN 52724 42560
- 25 Sites 5 and 7, viewed from the east
- 26 Site 5 (sheep fank), viewed from the east
- 27 Site 7 (enclosure), viewed from the east
- 28 View to the east along the proposed route of the penstock, showing drystone field walls
- 29 Site 8 (mound), viewed from the north
- 30 Site 8 (mound), viewed from the east