

# Scotia Archaeology

**REPORT  
TO  
CAMPBELL OF DOUNE  
AND  
MR DAVID THOW**

**BALLIMORE  
HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME  
STIRLING DISTRICT**

**Walk-over survey  
March 2015**

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## INTRODUCTION

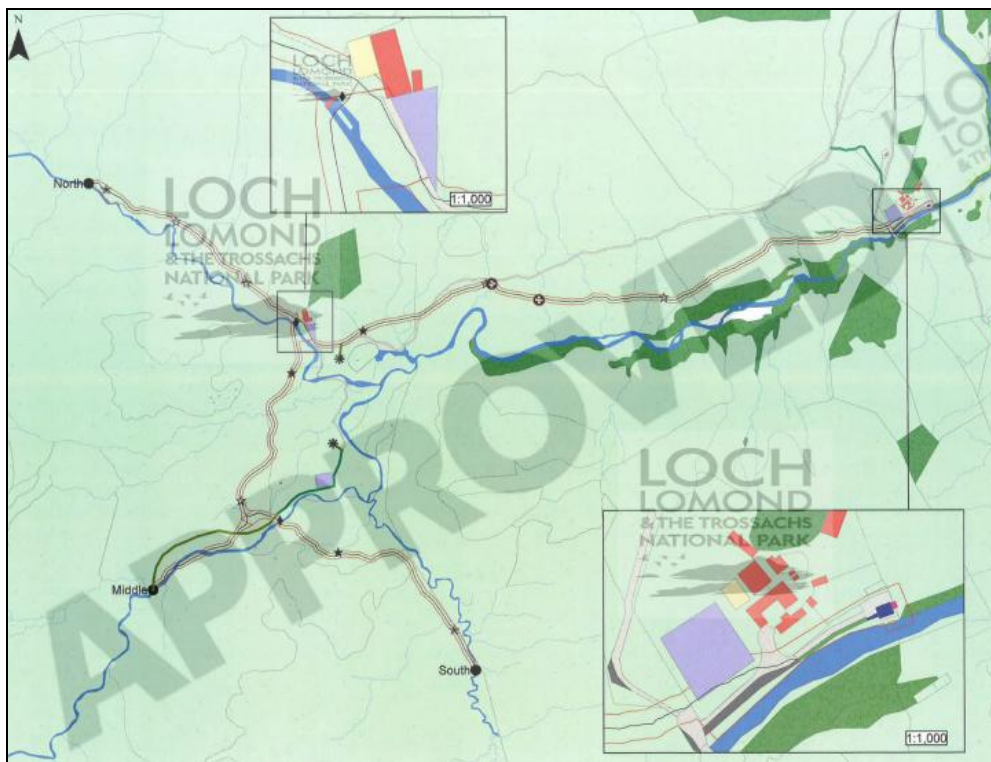
This report describes the results of a walk-over survey along the route of a proposed new hydro-electric scheme at Ballimore, near Balquidder, Stirling District.

In 2009 a field survey was undertaken, in advance of a planning application to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park (LLTNP) for a hydro scheme at Ballimore. However, the project stalled but was revised recently with some amendments to the original route of the penstock. These alterations prompted the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), archaeological advisors to the planning authority, to request another walk-over survey to cover those changes.

Campbell of Doune, civil and structural engineers, acting on behalf of Mr David Thow, commissioned Scotia Archaeology to undertake this survey.

## THE SITE

The proposed area of development is shown on the map below, supplied by Campbell of Doune, the penstock represented by a double red line.



**Ballimore Hydro showing the penstock routes**

Originally, the revised scheme had three intake points (south, middle and north intakes) although the south intake has since been abandoned.

The middle intake is on the Allt A'Glinne Dhuibh, at approximately NN 5045 1630, while the north intake is on the Allt Fathan Glinne, at NN 5030 1753, the two meeting at approximately NN 5083 1715. From there the penstock will run eastwards on the north side

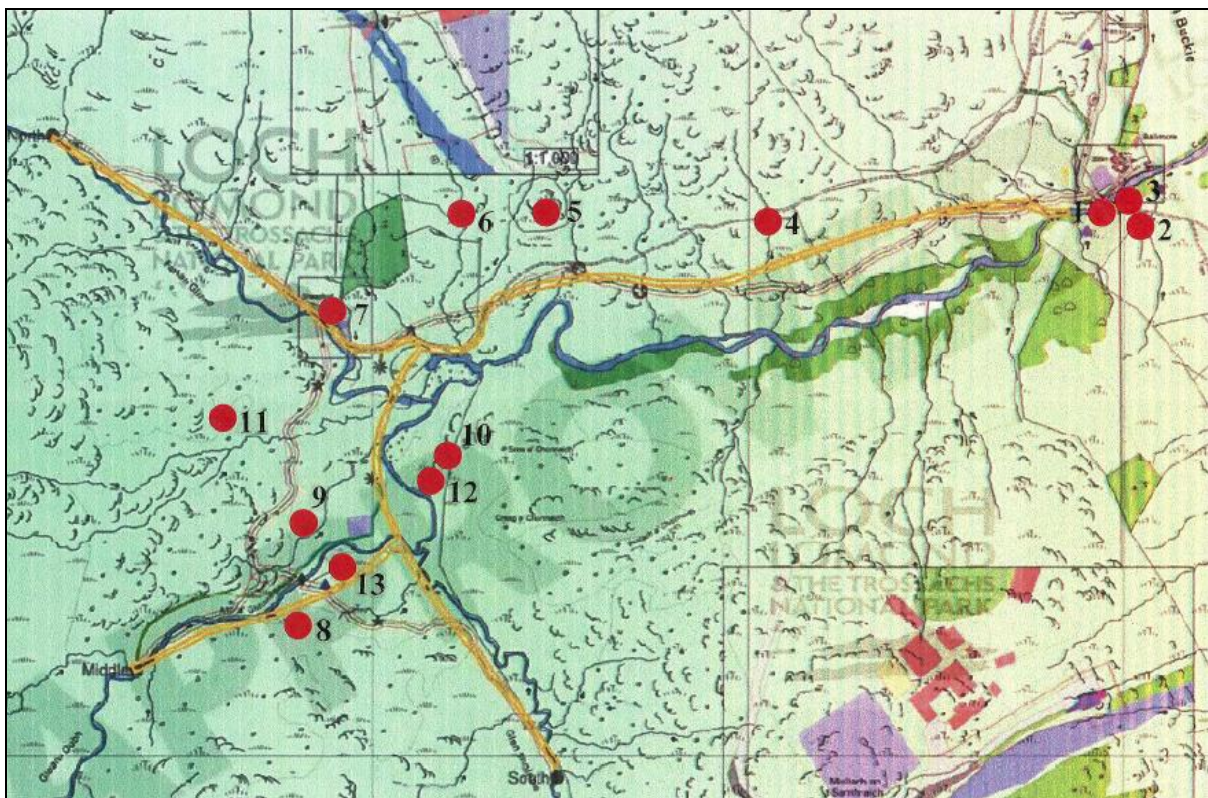
of the Calair Burn as far as a power house at NN 5308 1760, to the immediate east of Ballimore Farm and some 3km from the north intake.

## DESK STUDY

Desk studies of readily available source material was undertaken prior to the commencement of fieldwork both in 2009 and 2015, the results of which are summarised below. The sites and monuments are listed according to the monument numbers allocated by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS), eg NN51NW 3 or, if not catalogued by RCAHMS by WoSAS, eg HER64174.

The numbers in this catalogue are the same as those used in the report of the 2009 survey.

Below is a map showing the route of the penstock as proposed in 2009 (in orange), superimposed onto the 2015 scheme. Sites and monuments identified by the desk studies and the walk-over surveys are shown as red dots.



### 1 HER65896 Bridge

Just outside the gate to Ballimore Farm at NN 52946 17457 and leading to the track to Immeroin, is a single-arched bridge, built of roughly squared, random rubble which spans the Calair Burn. It was probably built in the 19th century when the nearby townships of Ballimore, Immeroin and Lianach were relatively large. This C-listed structure was renovated in 1991.

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**2 HER64174 Lime kiln**

A lime kiln is recorded at NN 5304 1743. No further information is given.

**3 NN51NW 3 Bloomery**

A large scatter of bloomery slag was reputedly found in the 1960s around NN 530 175 (Aitken 1970, 194) although its precise location is not known.

**4 NN51NW 1 Millstone**

A sculpted stone, measuring 1.93m by 1.68m, was found about 1km west of Ballimore Farm, at NN 5204 1742. In 1925 it was said to have parts of two circles, each about 50mm in diameter, cut into its surface as well as one definite and several probable cup-marks. In 1968 the stone, which might have been a rejected millstone, was part-buried in peat and had no visible cup-marks.

This stone was not encountered during either survey.

**5 NN51NW 8 Enclosure**

A large enclosure is shown at NN 5145 1745 on the first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map of 1867 (Perthshire, sheet 103) and also on the OS 1:10,000 map of 1978.

**6 NN51NW 4 Field boundary, sheepfold, shieling hut**

One unroofed structure, possibly a shieling hut, together with a sheepfold and a field boundary are depicted around NN 5123 1745 on the first edition OS 6-inch map of 1867 (Perthshire, sheet 103) but they do not appear on the OS 1:10,000 of 1978.

No features that might be associated with these structures were identified during the surveys.

**7 HER64167 Sheepfold**

A sheepfold is shown on the first edition OS 6-inch map of 1867 (Perthshire, sheet 103) at NN 5088 1718. It now consists of a series of interconnected sheep fanks and enclosures.

**8 NN51NW 6 Shieling hut**

The first edition OS 6-inch map of 1867 (Perthshire, sheet 103) depicts a roofed structure, possibly a shieling hut, at NN 5073 1637. The OS 1:10,000 map of 1978 shows an unroofed building at the same location.

This rectangular building sits high above the Allt A'Glinne Dhuibh, at NN 50738 16365. Its original roof was replaced with one of corrugated iron by the current farmer although, with the exception of a single sheet, this too has now disappeared.

## **9 NN51NW 5 Building**

A building is shown at NN 5081 1660 on the first edition OS 6-inch map of 1867 (Perthshire, sheet 103). The OS 1:10,000 map of 1978 shows a single, roofed structure at the same location.

It still stands to its full height and has been reroofed with corrugated iron. There is a small yard to its immediate east.

## **10 HER64166 Shieling hut (possible)**

A possible shieling hut was noted in 2009 on a knoll at NN 5120 1680 although it is not shown on early OS maps.

## **11 HER64163 Buildings**

The remains of five small buildings are shown on current OS map at NN 5060 1690 although they do not appear on earlier editions of the map.

## **12 HER65897 Shieling huts (possible)**

In 2009 two small structures, centred on NN 51137 16718, were encountered on a rocky knoll, approximately 100m south-west of the putative shieling at Site 10. The two structures were much smaller than the one at Site 10. Structure 1 measured approximately 4m in diameter over walls of drystone construction, only one course of which survived. Structure 2 was only 3m in diameter overall, its demolished walls being covered with vegetation. They do not appear on early OS maps.

## **13 HER65898 Enclosure**

The scant remains of a large enclosure were encountered on the 2009 survey a short distance to the east of Site 8, near the south bank of the Allt A'Glinne Dhuibh. It survived as one long wall or bank of stone and earth, surviving to a height of only 0.3m, running eastwards from NN 50830 16444 to NN 50938 16490. From that point it returned southwards, petering out after about 15m. There appeared to be an entrance midway along the east/west wall. No other remnants of this enclosure were visible.

## **THE WALK-OVER SURVEY**

The walk-over survey was carried out on 17 March 2015 during cloudy, slightly misty weather. The principal changes to the route suggested in 2009 are: the abandonment of the south intake; the shift westwards of the penstock from the middle intake; and a slight southward shift of the combined penstock to the west of Ballimore (see enclosed map).

The two branches of penstock cross mainly rough sheep pasture comprising coarse grass and reeds. Between the middle intake and the meeting point of the two pipe-trenches the ground is particularly boggy.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Other than those noted in 2009, no features of archaeological or historical significance were encountered during the 2015 survey. Most of the sites and monuments listed above are located sufficiently far from the routes of the pipe-trenches as to be under no threat from the proposed development. The only site that might, at least in theory, be affected during construction work is the putative bloomery (Site 3). However, no evidence of such a structure or any iron-working slag was noted in 2009 or 2015 and it is quite possible that the bloomery (if there was one at Ballimore) was located to the south of the Calair Burn, an area not covered by the surveys.

## REFERENCE

Aitken, WG 'Excavation of Bloomeries in Rannoch, Perthshire and elsewhere', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* 102 (1969-70), 188-204.