

CMW 01

**Archaeological recording of a dyke on
Cruach Mhor, Glendaruel, Argyll**

Client: Scottish Power

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July 2002

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Summary

Headland Archaeology was commissioned to record a stone dyke in Glendaruel, Argyll. The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of an access road, as part of a windfarm development. The dyke was found to be a single phase construction and no datable material was recovered. The dyke appeared to have been built in a shallow trench and therefore no old ground surfaces had been preserved.

1 INTRODUCTION

In 2001, Headland Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an assessment of the impact of a proposed windfarm development, by Scottish Power Ltd, on the cultural heritage of Cruach Mhor, Argyll. The assessment identified twelve sites of cultural heritage interest within the development area. Of these, only one site, Site A5 (a stone dyke), was to be affected directly by the proposed development. This would suffer only localised damage, limited to where it would be cut through by an access road. (Lowe 2001).

The development has since received planning consent, with a condition requiring that an appropriate programme of archaeological mitigation be undertaken in advance of construction work. Scottish Power therefore commissioned Headland Archaeology to record the dyke in advance of the development as part of this mitigation programme.

The work was undertaken in variable weather on 9th and 10th July 2002.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION (Figure 1)

Cruach Mhor is located on the south-eastern side of Glendaruel, Argyll (NGR NS 030 870). The development area lies above 240 m and is mostly given over to commercial forestry with areas of rough upland grazing.

The dyke itself runs from near the valley's bottom to its top (NS 0304 8916 - 0465 8835) and currently divides forestry from grazing land. It is depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of the area (surveyed 1866) and is likely to have been the march dyke between the townships of Duilletter and Conchra.

3 OBJECTIVES

The main objective was to record the dyke in section and, if possible, date its construction.

4 METHODS

Two slot trenches were hand excavated across the dyke at a point (NS 0418 8870) marked out in advance by Scottish Power, some distance to the north-west of where the site plan indicates that the road will cross. However, the two excavated sections are representative of the dyke as a whole and were in an area free of dense forest, which would otherwise have hindered work. A full written and photographic record was made of the excavated slots.

5 RESULTS

The wall was found to be a single phase, dry-stone construction; built using large roughly hewn stones presenting a fair face on both sides with a rubble core. Preservation varied along its length, with Trench 1 being placed across a tumbled section while Trench 2 was placed across a better preserved section, where the dyke stood to a maximum height of 0.55 m above the ground surface. The footings rested directly upon fibrous peat, presumably in a shallow trench. Consequently, there was no sign of a sealed ground surface and no environmental samples were taken.

A small shooting butt had been built against the dyke's south-western side, adjacent to the trenches. A photographic record was made of this structure.

6 CONCLUSION

The dyke at this point was poorly preserved but was clearly of a single phase. No dating evidence was recovered to clarify the age of the dyke.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The fieldwork was carried out by Richard Conolly and Ross Murray and was managed by Chris Lowe. A curatorial role was provided by Carol Swanson of West of Scotland Archaeology Service. The illustrations were prepared by Jonathan Millar.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Lowe, C. 2001 *Cruach Mhor Windfarm Development: Environmental Impact Statement (Cultural Heritage)*. Unpublished Headland Archaeology client report.



Plate 1. General view of the dyke facing North West



Plate 2. Trench 1, North West facing section



Plate 3. Trench 2, North West facing section.



Plate 4. Shooting butt, facing East.

APPENDIX 1: PHOTO REGISTER

Film Type: Colour Slide and Colour Print		Film no. 10
Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
1	-	I.D. shot
2	NW	General view of dyke.
3	NW	General view of dyke.
4	NW	General view of dyke.
5	SE	Trench 1: North-west facing section
6	SE	Trench 1: North-west facing section
7	SE	Trench 1: North-west facing section
8	SE	Trench 2: North-west facing section
9	SE	Trench 2: North-west facing section
10	SE	Trench 2: North-west facing section
11	E	Shooting butt.
12	E	Shooting butt.
13	E	Shooting butt.
14	E	Working shot.

APPENDIX 2: DRAWING REGISTER

Drawing Number	Scale	Description
1A	1:10	Trench 1: North-west facing section.
1B	1:10	Trench 2: North-west facing section.