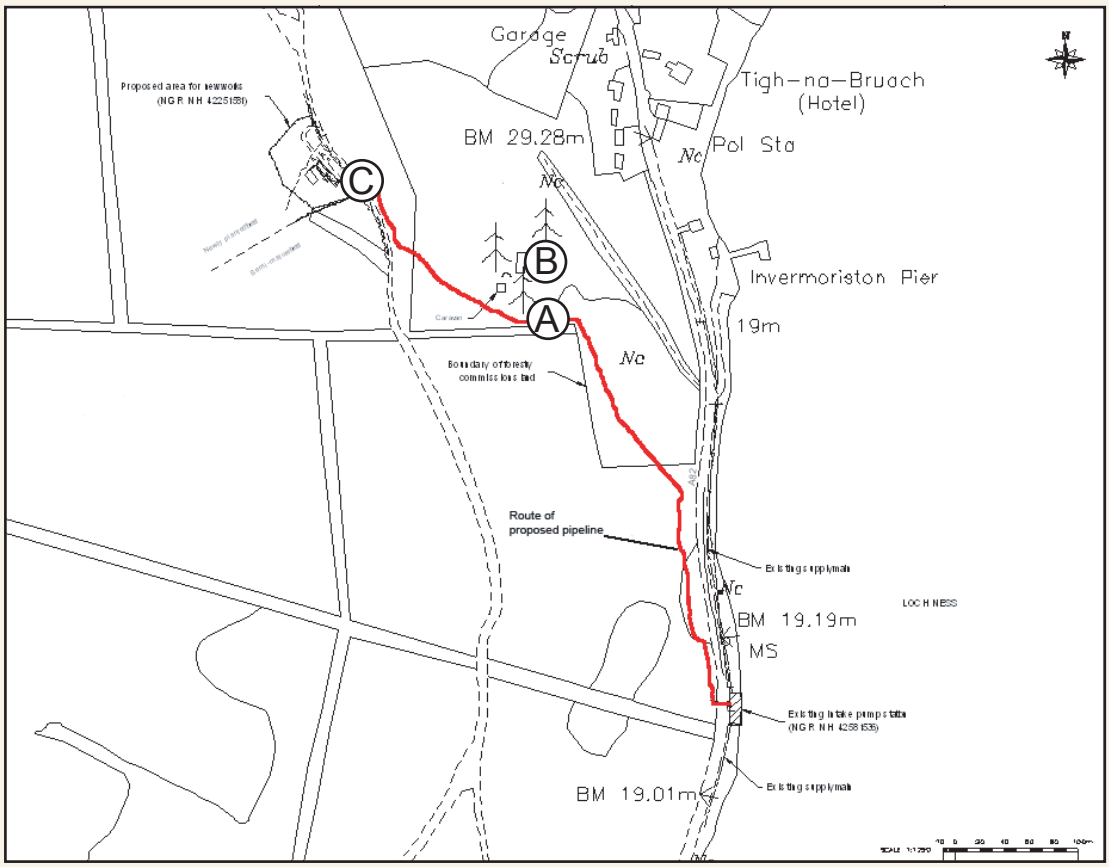
ALBA ARCHAEOLOGY

Site Code: IVM05
Client: Scottish Water Solutions

Report on an Archaeological Survey undertaken near Invermoriston, Loch Ness.

Stewart Buchanan
15th September 2005

ALBA
ARCHAEOLOGY



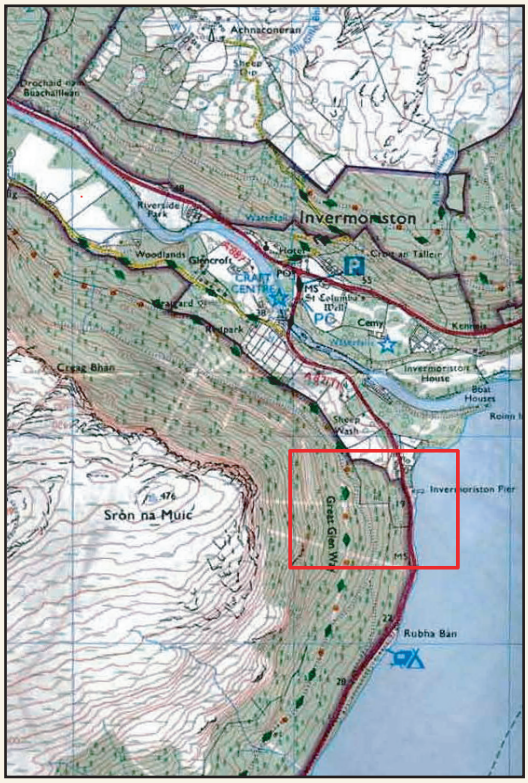


Figure 1: Site location

Contents

Illustrations

Plates

Summary

Alba Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Rachel Henderson of Scottish Water Solutions in September 2005, to undertake an Archaeological Walkover Survey along the route of a proposed water pipeline south of Invermoriston, Loch Ness. One archaeological feature was encountered near the route of the proposed pipeline; the presence of this feature appears to have been recognized by the route planners and the proposed route passes to the south of it. This report details a recommendation that will help ensure that the proposed route is adhered to.

1. Introduction and Background

In September 2005, Rachel Henderson (N/W environmental adviser for Scottish Water Solutions) commissioned Alba Archaeology Ltd. to undertake an archaeological walkover survey along the proposed route of a water supply pipeline, linking the existing supply to a new water treatment works.

Scottish Water Solutions have been in consultation with the Highland Council Archaeology Unit as well as The Forestry Commission (landowners along part of the proposed pipeline route), regarding the impact of the proposed pipeline upon any existing, or potential archaeological features. While it was recognized that there were no previously identified archaeological sites in the immediate vicinity of the proposed pipeline route, there was an appreciation that the development was located within an area of considerable archaeological potential. As a result, the commissioning of an archaeological survey along the proposed pipeline route was considered appropriate.

2. Objectives and Methodology

The aim of the walkover survey is to investigate the existence of any previously unrecorded archaeology; and to identify and record any new archaeological features encountered on the ground. This is achieved (in this example) by identifying archaeological features on the ground then cross-referencing O/S map co-ordinates with GPS co-ordinates, both taken in the field . A comprehensive written and photographic record is made of all archaeological features identified during the walkover survey.

Operational Factors

The archaeological contractor will at all times follow and confirm to the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and other various regulations and the Codes of Conduct and Approved Practice and Standards of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999, By-laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Reading).

The Fieldwork was carried out on the afternoon and early evening of Thursday 8th of September 2005, in clear, warm and windy conditions.

Fieldwork by Stewart Buchanan of Alba Archaeology Ltd.

Illustrations by Barry Grove of Alba Archaeology Ltd.

3. Survey Results and Recommendations

- The Map co-ordinates of any new archaeological sites will be given, and their position annotated on the appropriate Figure.

- Recommendations will be made, where appropriate, when the route of the proposed pipeline threatens to impact on archaeological features.

The route of the proposed pipeline runs for approximately 700m N/W, from the existing Water treatment Works (WTW) on the shore of Loch Ness, to the site of the proposed WTW, which are situated directly to the W of the Great Glen Way, on the lower and E-facing slopes of *Sron na Muic*.

The first 200m of the proposed route runs N through dense scrub and woodland W-of, and adjacent to, the A 82. The thick foliage made observation difficult during this part of the survey, and there is a probability that any surviving archaeological features would have been adversely affected by later groundworks associated with forestry planting. No archaeological features were observed.

After 200m the proposed route runs N/W up a fairly steep gradient, through less dense cover for 250m, there are occasional clearings on the slope and there is less evidence for intensive forestry works. No archaeological features were encountered.

The proposed pipeline turns W at this point, adjacent to a forestry fence and runs for approximately 20m before turning slightly to the N, where it soon runs close to Feature A (see figure 1. & plate 1.). This is a considerable dry-stone wall, (NH 42414 15690) which is designated on the original site location plan as a black line; this is the same black line that can be seen running N/E from Feature A on Figure 1.

Plate 1. Feature A.

Feature A. appears to be associated with a track that runs up from the loch towards a building (Feature B). The dry-stone wall acts as revetment for the upslope side of the track. Feature A. is truncated at the co-ordinates given above; this appears to be the proposed route of the pipeline, as well as being the obvious route as the ground is more level at this point.

Feature B (see figure 1. & plate 2.) (NH 42396 15659), is the well preserved remains of a substantial dwelling associated with Feature A. The proposed route of the pipeline should not impact upon it.

Plate 2. Feature B.

Plate 3. Feature C.

The route of the proposed pipeline runs N/W from Feature A for about 200m, through fairly open woodland, up a gentle incline, until it runs up against a large man-made bank associated with a forestry track; this is Feature C. Feature C (NH 42254 15825), is the point on the route of the proposed pipeline where it cuts across the Great Glen Way, through the bank associated with the track, and into the site of the proposed WTW (see figure 1. & plate 3.). No archaeological features will be affected by the proposed development at this location.

Recommendation

Feature A, a dry-stone wall, is the only archaeological feature to be located near the route of the proposed pipeline. There is little likelihood of the wall being disturbed during groundworks as there is an extremely obvious route past it to the South which appears to have been recognized by the route engineer. In the light of this, no recommendations are necessary.

4. Sources .

Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record, Inverness.
RCAHMS; PASTMAP: http://jura.rcahms.gov.uk/PASTMAP/start.jsp
& CANMORE http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/
Oldmaps: http://www.oldmaps.co.uk
National Library of Scotland. Maps from our Collections: http://www.nls.uk/digitallibrary/map/

5. Archive

The project archive, including written, drawn and photographic elements (together with a summary of the contents of the archive) will be deposited with the National Monuments Record Scotland (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland). The archive will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the RCAHMS.

A summary of the results of this project will be submitted to the Council for Scottish Archaeology's publication *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland.*

6. Acknowledgements

Kirsty Cameron, Highland Council Archaeology Unit.
Rachel Henderson of Scottish Water Solutions.