



**Run-of-River hydro scheme at land 2080m West of
Ranachan Cottage, Lochailort
Proposed Hydro Scheme**





**Walkover Survey and Desk Based Assessment
Data Structure report**



August 2019

Document control sheet

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Executive Summary

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned by Highland eco design (contact Duncan Legate) on behalf of Hugh MacLaren to undertake a walkover survey and desk Based Assessment in advance of the proposed construction of small run of river hydro scheme in Highland Region. The scheme proposes to construct an intake and pipeline that heads south east from NGR: NM 84164 82085 approximately straight until NGR: NM 84245 81783 where it turns south west to a car parking/turning area and turbine house next to the A830 at NGR: NM 84198 81677 (approx).

*The work will involve pipeline excavation, groundworks and excavation for construction of associated buildings and the car park and turning area. The route of the proposed hydro scheme pipe passed close to a known archaeological site, a possible charcoal burning platform, (**Muidhe**, Local HER ID: MHG30162), rare in this area.*

The walkover survey identified no new sites along the route of the proposed pipeline or within those areas where groundworks and excavation associated with the development are proposed.

A record of the work has been deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS ID archascu1-286883) and with Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland.

1 Introduction

1.1 General

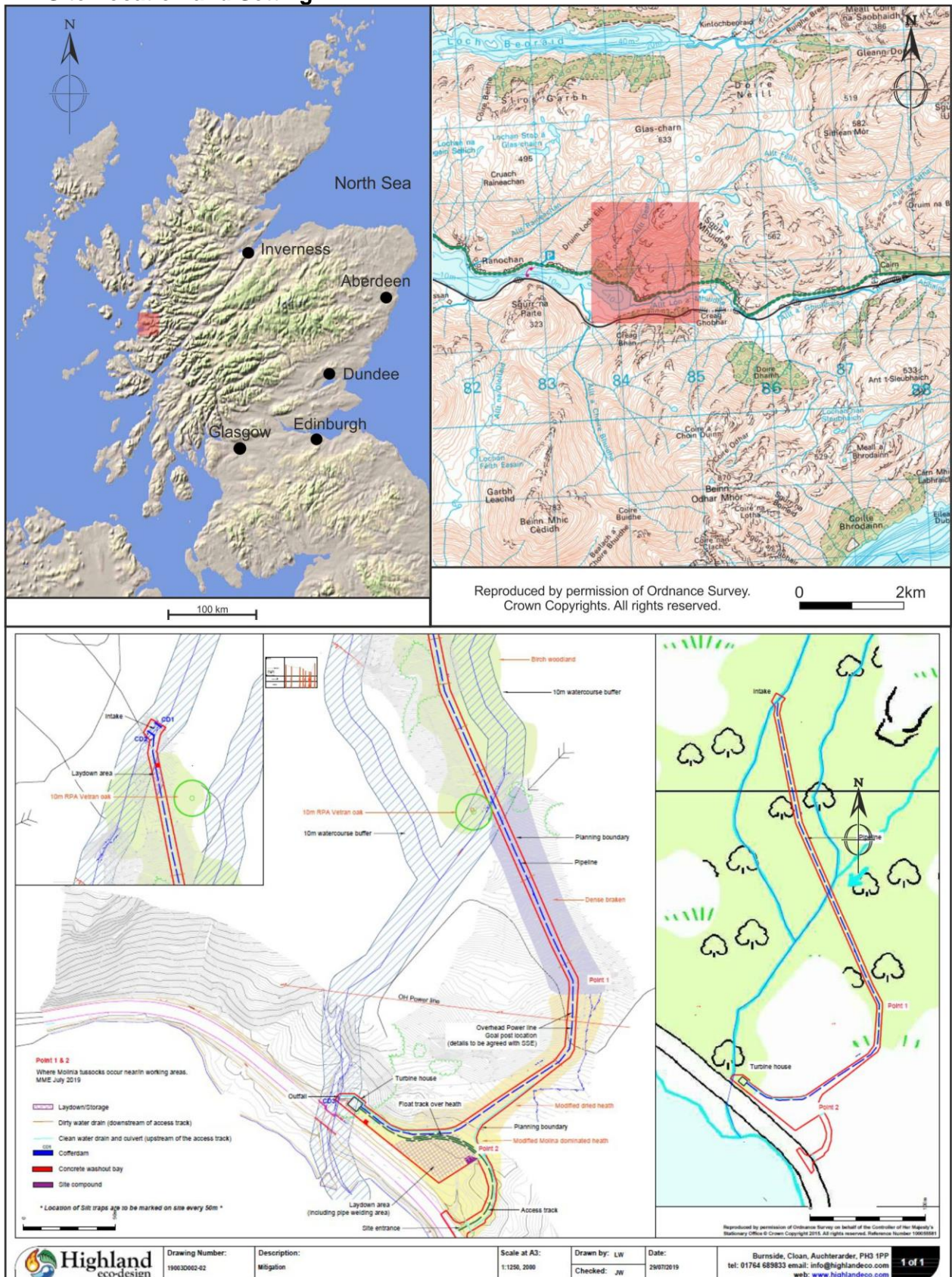
- 1.1.1 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned by Highland eco design (contact Duncan Legate) on behalf of Hugh MacLaren to undertake a walkover survey and desk Based Assessment in advance of the proposed construction of small run of river hydro scheme in Highland Region. The scheme proposes to construct an intake and pipeline that heads south east from NGR: NM 84164 82085 approximately straight until NGR: NM 84245 81783 where it turns south west to a car parking/turning area and turbine house next to the A830 at NGR: NM 84198 81677 (approx).
- 1.1.2 The work will involve pipeline excavation, groundworks and excavation for construction of associated buildings and the car park and turning area.
- 1.1.3 The presence of a Charcoal Burning Platform (**Muidhe**, Local HER ID: MHG30162), rare in this area suggests that there may be further remains in the area. Areas of the proposed development route were identified as archaeologically sensitive by the Highland Council Historic Environment Team (hereafter HCHET). HCHET provide archaeological advice to Highland Council in all matters pertaining to planning and through planning application 15/02388/FUL an archaeological condition was placed upon the development. The Specification was for a walkover survey: (in part as follows)

This specification is for a walkover survey. If significant features are identified, recommendations for further measures necessary to mitigate the impact of the development must be made. This specification has been produced for the applicant who will be responsible the work and costs, including any tendering and contractual arrangements ¹

- 1.1.4 HCHET requested that the first phase of any archaeological mitigation be the implementation of an archaeological walkover survey along the route of the pipeline and all affected areas. The results of this phase of works will allow appropriate archaeological mitigation to be proposed for the works.
- 1.1.5 In keeping with the requirements of the planning condition, ARCHAS completed a Written Scheme of Investigation (hereafter WSI) and submitted this to HCHET prior to site works commencing. This document outlined the standards adhered to and the methodology employed by ARCHAS during the walkover survey.
- 1.1.6 The walkover survey was completed by Alastair Rees on Tuesday the 6th July. Due to the time of year, levels of grass and bracken were very high and not ideal for the accurate location of potentially ephemeral archaeological features.
- 1.1.7 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of conduct, and relevant Standards and Guidance documents produced by the CIfA.

¹The Highland Council Decision Notice Planning Permission 15/02388/FUL – 10/08/19

1.2 Site Location and Setting



Base map courtesy of Highland eco-design

Figure 1: location of proposed pipeline

Car park, turning area, turbine house, intake and pipeline

- 1.2.1 The location of the car park, turning area and turbine house is located immediately to the north of the A830. The area is bounded on the west by the Allt Dearg burn (NGR: NM 84120 81754) and modern bridge. To the east of the burn, the ground is initially undulating and then low lying and boggy with the boundary located at NGR: NM 84197 81692) (**Plate 1**). From here, the pipeline route heads in a north easterly direction as far as NGR: NM 84248 81776, from here, the route heads north to NGR: NM 84253 81824 where the ground rises steeply and is covered at this time of year, in dense bracken. From here, the route heads fairly straight north by north east to the intake at NGR: NM 84166 82088. The entire route is very steep, littered with large boulders and birch and bracken (**Plate 2**).



Plate 1: Looking SE to proposed laydown area and site entrance, taken from NGR : NM 84146 81748



Plate 2: Looking south along proposed pipeline route, taken from NGR: NM 84157 82015

Geology

- 1.2.2 The bedrock geology comprises Lochailort Pelite Formation - Psammite. Metamorphic Bedrock formed approximately 541 to 1000 million years ago in the Period. Originally sedimentary rocks. Later altered by low-grade metamorphism.

Setting: Originally sedimentary rocks. These rocks were sedimentary in origin, but have subsequently undergone metamorphism².

2 Historical Analysis

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 The National Monuments Record of Scotland (hereafter NMRS) as held by Historic Environment Scotland were consulted and this information helps to paint a picture of the history of the development area and the likelihood of archaeological features surviving.

2.2 Prehistoric-Post Medieval

- 2.2.1 Few known or possible prehistoric sites and features have been recorded Close to the proposed development area.

2.3 Charcoal Burning Platform

- 2.3.1 A possible Charcoal Burning Platform (**Muidhe**, Local HER ID: MHG30162) is sited approximately 30m to the east of the proposed pipeline at NGR: NM 84300 81790. Field inspection failed to positively identify a charcoal burning platform although the area was covered in dense, head height bracken and the ground was very uneven due to clumping grass and bracken at this location (**Plate 3**).



Plate 3: Possible Charcoal Burning Platform (ranging rod at NGR location)

2.4 Cartographic Analysis

- 2.3.1 All early mapping was studied in particular Ordnance Survey 6" to the mile 1st and 2nd editions (see appendix for maps) and no sites including field banks or agricultural sites were identified along or close to the route.

² www.bgs.ac.uk – 01/08/19

3 Methodology and Reporting

3.1 Proposed Development

- 3.1.1 The proposed development will see the creation of a turbine house, outfall, laydown area, car park and site entrance as well as a pipeline and an intake.
- 3.1.2 It is anticipated that the proposed pipeline will follow the route of least resistance up the steep slopes. Associated drainage and other infrastructure works will also be required.

3.2 Aims and Objectives

- 3.2.1 The objective of this study was to identify the presence or otherwise of archaeological features along proposed pipeline and within the area of the laydown area and site entrance.
- 3.2.2 The aim of the assessment is to provide recommendations of mitigation should any of the proposed development infrastructure impact upon any identified archaeological features.

3.3 Walkover Survey

- 3.3.1 The planning condition as required by HCHET was to undertake a phased programme of archaeological mitigation. The first phase of this programme required an archaeological walkover survey to be completed by an archaeological contractor.
- 3.3.2 The walkover survey was designed to identify the presence or otherwise of any previously unrecorded archaeological features along the route of the proposed development.
- 3.3.3 Due to the nature of the development the site was not walked in transects. Instead a linear route was walked.
- 3.3.4 This methodology ensured no visible archaeological remains were unrecorded.
- 3.3.5 The results of this phase of works are used to determine the need for any further archaeological mitigation in relation to the proposed development. ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd will provide recommendations as to any further work required, but the responsibility deciding appropriate mitigation measures rests with HCHET on behalf of the Highland Council.

3.4 Site plans

- 3.4.1 In completing the assessment, ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd are working to site plans provided by the client and displayed in this WSI. Should the limits of the proposed development route change, it may be necessary to undertake further assessment.

3.5 Standards

- 3.5.1 All sites encountered were recorded on ARCHAS Ltd. *pro forma* record sheets to accepted standards established by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). Each record includes sketches of the monument, detailed notes, measurements and the location of the site.
- 3.5.2 A full photographic record was maintained during the survey.

3.5.3 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd adhere to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of conduct, and relevant Standards and Guidance documents produced by the CIfA.

4 Results

4.1. General

- 4.1.1 Those sites which were considered in the assessment as in such proximity to the line of the proposed development as to be potentially affected have been proven to be unaffected by its construction. No new sites were identified.
- 4.1.2 The levels of vegetation present within the development boundaries in the summer months were not conducive to an archaeological walkover survey. Such high bracken and vegetation can mask ephemeral archaeological features, however, it is not considered that any sites were missed due to the high vegetation.
- 4.1.3 No new sites were identified during the walkover and none of the known sites will be impacted by the proposed works. Each known site is recorded below along with their grid co-ordinates. Site numbers are written in **bold**. All the sites noted along the route can be viewed in the Gazetteer ([Table 1](#)).

Table 1: Gazetteer of sites

<i>Site Number</i>	<i>Site Name / type</i>	<i>Recorded</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Impacted by development?</i>
001	Muidhe	Local HER	NM 84300 81790	The local HER records: "recessed Platform. About 30-40m above bridge at Allt Dearg. Circular recess, but very little build up. Information supplied by Gordon Barr, 27/02/01. Moidart Archive No. S 0223."	No

5 Summary and Discussion

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 No new sites were identified during the walkover survey or the Desk Based Assessment of the proposed Small Scale Hydro Scheme (Fig 1).
- 5.1.2 It is considered that the areas earmarked for the development and particularly the route of the proposed pipeline largely comprise areas of steep and difficult ground where archaeological remains or deposits are unlikely to be sited or easily identified.

6 Conclusions and Recommendations

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 The walkover survey of the proposed hydro scheme failed to reveal or identify any new sites or deposits or remains associated with the known sites close to the route.
- 6.1.2 For the single identified archaeological site noted, the platform/possible charcoal burning platform, the guidance is to avoid this area during the proposed development.
- 6.1.3 ARCHAS Ltd recommend that other than the identification and fencing off of the possible charcoal burning platform no further mitigation work is required in advance of the path construction.

Acknowledgements

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd would like to thank Leeanne Whitelaw and Duncan Legate of Highland eco design for commissioning us to undertake the project to on their behalf and for on site help and guidance .

Thanks must also go to Kirsty Cameron of HCHET for her help and advice in planning and overseeing the project.

Bibliography

Electronic Resources

www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk
www.bgs.ac.uk
www.historicenvironment.scot
www.pastmap.org.uk
www.rcahms.gov.uk

Cartographic Sources

William Roy (1726-1790)
'Military Survey of Scotland'. Published 1747-1755

Ordnance Survey (1864-present)

6 inch to 1 mile Inverness-shire, Mainland Sheet CXXXVI (includes: Arisaig and Moidart)
Publication date: 1902 Date revised: 1899

6 inches to the mile Inverness-shire (Mainland), Sheet CXXXVI (includes: Arisaig And Moidart)
Survey date: 1873 Publication date: 1876

Appendix A: Photographic Register

<i>Image No.</i>	<i>Direction Facing</i>	<i>Site Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initials</i>
001	SE	-	Area of turning area	4/8/19	AR
002	S	-	General landscape	4/8/19	AR
003	SE	-	Turning area	4/8/19	AR
004	NW	-	Turbine house location	4/8/19	AR
005	S	-	Waypoint 2 looking along the route	4/08/19	AR
006	SEE	-	Charcoal platform location	4/8/19	AR
007	SEE	-	Charcoal platform location	4/8/19	AR
008	S	-	Veteran Oak	4/8/19	AR
009	S	-	Looking along route	4/8/19	AR

Appendix B: Provisional Discovery & Excavation Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Highland Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	2080m west of Ranachan Cottage, Lochailoty
PROJECT CODE:	313
PARISH:	Arisaig and Moidart
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alastair Rees
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd.
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Walkover Survey
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Platform
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NGR: NM 84300 81790
START DATE (this season)	18/05/19
END DATE (this season)	8/08/19
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned by Highland eco Design to undertake an archaeological walkover survey associated with the construction of a mini Hydro Scheme</p> <p>The walkover survey identified no new sites along the proposed upgraded sections.</p> <p>ARCHAS have no recommendations for further mitigation.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Highland eco Design
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage LTD
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Alastair.rees@archas.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION	NMRS and Highland Council SMR (intended)