

**Report of Archaeological Desktop  
& Walkover Survey  
Inverbain Hydroelectric Project  
NG 78590/53885 to NG 78630/54818**

**By  
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## Introduction

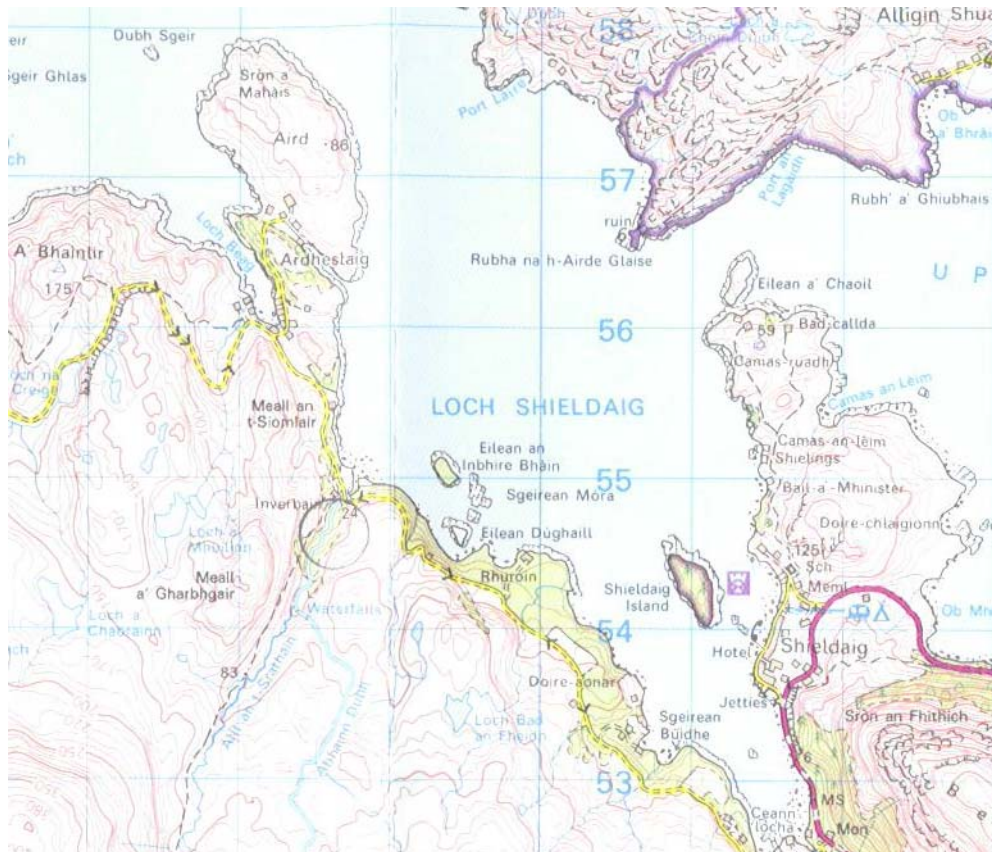
This report is for an archaeological desktop & walkover survey conducted on behalf of Innogy Plc by the author as part of the environmental impact assessment for the Inverbain Hydroelectric Project, by Sheildaig, Highland.

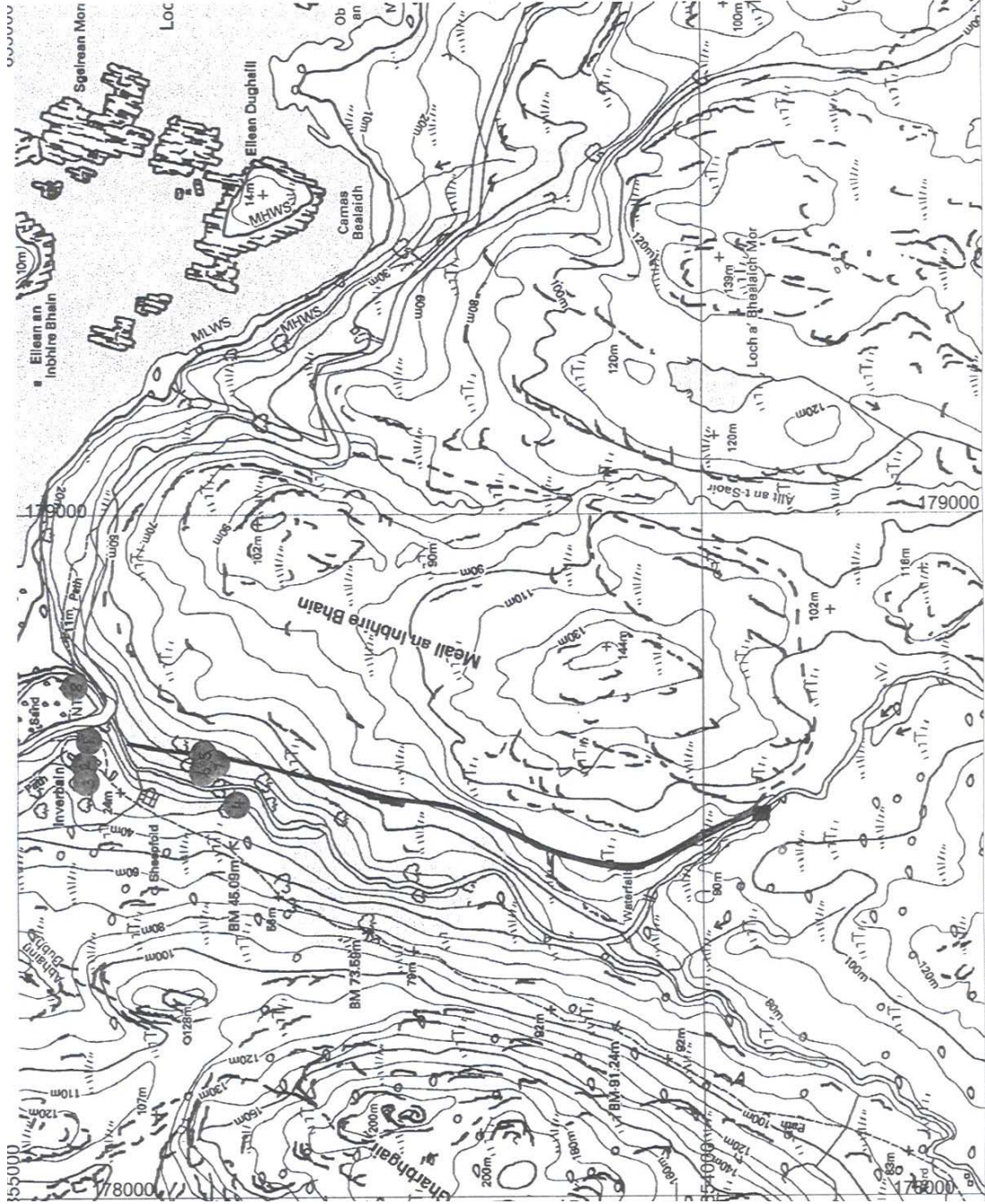
## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following for their help during the work :

- Mr. N Richardson, of Innogy Plc;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit;
- Staff of Highland Council Archives;
- Staff of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland, Edinburgh;
- Staff of the National Monuments Record of Scotland, Edinburgh;
- Staff of the National Library of Scotland Map Room.

## Site Location





0 100 200  
SCALE IN METRES

Loc

AUL 03/09/02  
Drawn by DATA

Revision



Windsong Hill Business Park,  
Dunfermline, Fife,  
Scotland, UK.  
Tel: 01753 883351  
Fax: 01753 883351

Scale of original map 1:5000  
A3

INVERBAIN  
HYDRO-ELECTRIC  
SCHEME

AREA MAP

REN/INV/0003/A

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## **Objectives**

The author was commissioned by Innogy Plc to conduct an archaeological desktop and walkover survey of the route of the Inverbain Hydroelectric pipeline with a 40m wide wayleave and associated access road with a 25 metre wide way-leave. This desktop to follow those guidelines as proposed by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999) and to follow the enclosed specification as provided by Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

## **Desktop Results**

A desktop survey was conducted using the following sources:

- Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record;
- National Monuments Record of Scotland, Edinburgh;
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland – aerial photograph collection;
- National Map Library of Scotland, Edinburgh;
- Highland Council Archives.

Both the aerial photography and the map coverage were very limited to the area of interest.

Aerial photographs, in particular the latest coverage was limited due to scale. Overall coverage was lacking with only the RAF coverage of 1947 being of use.

Map coverage was also limited as the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of 1880 (surveyed 1875) was almost the same as the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of 1905 (revised 1902) and little survey work has been carried out in detail in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the next edition being late 1960's.

The following 8 archaeological sites were to be found on the route or in the vicinity of the pipeline (proposed new pipeline are highlighted in red on the accompanying maps with sites numbered, access road is marked as dotted red line).

Recommendations are given after each archaeological site.

HSMR – Highland Sites and Monuments Record  
NMRS - National Monuments Record of Scotland  
n/a – not available

Sites are as follows:

**1** – Inverbain

HSMR – NG75SE 10

NMRS – n/a

Grid Ref: - NG 787/549

Type – Enclosure

Noted in HSMR of 'a circular enclosure lies to the E end of the road. J Aitken 25/4/01'.

Site is not marked on 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS of 1880 or 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS of 1905.

Site lies well out-with pipeline route – site visit not made.

*No recommendations to be made.*

**2 – Inverbain**

HSMR – NG75SE 6

NMRS – NG75SE 5

Grid Ref: - NG 7864/5491

Type – Township, sheepfold

Noted in HSMR and NMRS of 'a township comprising 5 roofed buildings, 5 unroofed buildings and sheepfold are depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS 6-inch (Ross 1881, sheet 91). Two roofed buildings, 1 partially roofed building and a sheepfold are depicted on the current OS 1:10560 map (1969)'.

3 roofed buildings are depicted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map of 1905, all marked on latest edition OS map. 2 of these buildings are not marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS. These 3 buildings are visible on aerial photograph of 1947 and other coverage. No other structures are visible on aerial photographs.

Site lies well out-with pipeline route – site visit not made.

*No recommendations to be made.*

**3 – Inverbain**

HSMR – NG75SE 2

NMRS – n/a

Grid Ref: - NG 786/549

Type – Settlement

Noted in HSMR of 'modern settlement on site of earlier settlement. NG 787/549 a circular enclosure lies to the E of the road. NG 786/553 rigs and an enclosure survive in the wood E of the road. J Aitken 4/5/01'.

Likely that this is a repeat of site 2 above and partially site 1. See site 2 for information.

Site lies well out-with pipeline route – site visit not made.

*No recommendations to be made.*

**4 – Inverbain**

HSMR – NG75SE 7

NMRS – NG75SE 6

Grid Ref: - NG 7857/5468

Type – Enclosure

Noted in HSMR and NMRS of 'an enclosure is depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS 6-inch map (Ross 1881, sheet 91) but not shown on Os map of 1969 (1:10560)'.

Site is marked on 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map of 1905. Site is not visible on aerial photographs from 1947 to 1971 due to vegetation coverage.

Site lies well out-with pipeline route – site visit not made. Likely that this is a repeat of site 1 above.

*No recommendations to be made.*



**5 – Inverbain**

HSMR – n/a

NMRS – n/a

Grid Ref: - NG 78649/54747

Type – Circular structure

Walkover reveals a small structure of 2 small circular structures 2m in diameter with walls 0.4m thick and up to 0.4m high, one structure is open to the other. Aligned NNW-SSE.

Lies in area of dense bracken and may be associated with sites 6 and 7.

*Site lies in direct line of proposed route, the following recommendations are to be made:*

- *Route of pipeline to be moved to the west (up the slope) at least 10m away from site or new route corridor to be plotted between sites 6 and 7;*
- *Additional walkover survey to be conducted in early spring before bracken cover returns;*
- *Site to be marked off by barrier fencing during construction period. Archaeologist to inspect site before construction work is undertaken.*



View of circular structure facing N - scales 1m

**6 – Inverbain**

HSMR – n/a

NMRS – n/a

Grid Ref: - NG 78652/54743

Type – Rectangular structure

Walkover reveals a small rectangular structure aligned N-S 6m x 3m with rounded end walls with small circular structure at north end 1.5m in diameter both with walls 0.3m thick and up to 0.2m high. Lies in area of dense bracken and may be associated with sites 5 and 7.

*Site lies in corridor of proposed route, the following recommendations are to be made:*

- *Route of pipeline to be moved at least 10m away from site or new route corridor to be plotted between sites 6 and 7;*
- *Additional walkover survey to be conducted in early spring before bracken cover returns;*
- *Site to be marked off by barrier fencing during construction period. Archaeologist to inspect site before construction work is undertaken.*



View of circular structure at N end of building - scales 1m

7 – Inverbain

HSMR – n/a

NMRS – n/a

Grid Ref: - NG 78639/54731

Type – Clearance cairn

Walkover reveals clearance cairn 4m x 2m x 1m in height. Lies in area of dense bracken and may be associated with sites 5 and 6.

*Site lies in corridor of proposed route, the following recommendations are to be made:*

- *Route of pipeline to be moved to the west (up the slope) at least 10m away from site for new route corridor to be made between sites 6 and 7;*
- *Additional walkover survey to be conducted in early spring before bracken cover returns;*
- *Site to be marked off by barrier fencing during construction period. Archaeologist to inspect site before construction work is undertaken.*

View of cairn facing W - scales 1m





8 – Inverbain

HSMR – n/a

NMRS – n/a

Grid Ref: - NG 78756/54896

Type – Bridge abutment

Walkover reveals abutment of bridge by river edge, though no sign of abutment on opposite side of river? (Possibly landing jetty, though river is very shallow). 3m wide and up to 3m in height, track goes towards shore.

*No recommendations to be made as should be unaffected by proposed scheme.*



View of bridge abutments - scales 1m

Sites 5-8 are additional sites that were found as part of the walkover survey and are not recorded in the Highland Sites and Monuments Record or the National Monuments Record of Scotland, Edinburgh.



## References

Highland Sites and Monuments Record database entries for NG75SE.

IFA (1999) By-laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Reading.

National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE entries for NG75SE.

### OS Maps Consulted

Ross-shire Edition of 1880 (surveyed 1875) 6"-mile sheet 91.

Ross-shire Edition of 1905 (revised 1902) 6"-mile sheet 91.

OS map of 1969 for NG75SE 1:10,560.

### Aerial Photographs Consulted

RAF CPE/Scot/UK 246 3041-3043, 4041-4043, 3051-3049	30-7-1947	1:10,000
RAF 58/RAF/2903 0010-0013	25-5-1959	1:14,000
OS OS/65/092 225-226 (end of run)	29-5-1965	1:10,000
OS OS/71/389 008-009	23-7-1971	1:27,000

### Photographic Register

1 – View of circular structure – site 5 facing NE – scales 1m x 1m

2 – View of circular structure – site 5 facing N – scales 1m x 1m

3 – Detail of circular structure at north end of possible building – site 6 facing N – scales 1m x 1m

4 – View of clearance cairn – site 7 facing W – scales 1m x 1m

5 – View of bridge abutment – site 8 facing W – scales 1m x 1m

6 – View of bridge abutment – site 8 facing NW – scales 1m x 1m

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