CFA Archaeology Ltd

archaeological consultants

Advice on Archaeology & Planning

Environmental Impact Assessment

Interpretation, Design & Display

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Field Evaluation & Excavation

Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

Etteridge to Boat of Garten Electricity Rationalisation: New Overhead Line Southern Section (Etteridge to Ruthven)

Archaeological Recording Report No. 3062

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Etteridge to Boat of Garten
Electricity Rationalisation:
New Overhead Line
Southern Section (Etteridge to Ruthven)

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Appendices

Illustrations (bound at rear)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

A programme of archaeological works was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd in July 2013 for the Etteridge to Boat of Garten Electricity Rationalisation – New Overhead Line Southern Section (Etteridge to Ruthven) (Fig. 1-2). The work was commissioned by Environ UK Ltd on behalf of SSE.

A section of the Boat of Garten to Etteridge overhead power line is to be replaced with a new overhead line along the southern section of the route (Etteridge to Ruthven), forming part of the wider Etteridge to Boat of Garten Rationalisation.

A WSI dated 31 May 2013 was prepared by CFA Archaeology Ltd and agreed by the Highland Council Historic Environment Team (HCHET).

1.2 Background

The construction works entailed the erection of new poles for the overhead line (OHL). Access was taken from public roads along existing tracks, and thence along the route of the new OHL. The poles were delivered to site via helicopter and landed as close as possible to their intended location.

This report contains reference numbers, which refer to gazetteer entries in the 'Cultural Heritage' chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) and report on the results of Phase 1 Mitigation Survey (CFA Report No. 2196) and further Mitigation Survey (CFA Report No. 3022). This report should be read in conjunction with the ES and Mitigation Survey Reports.

A field visit was undertaken in June 2013 to demarcate sites and this visit also allowed the further refinement of the required mitigation in advance of construction through discussion with the site engineers.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the project were:

1. Avoidance/Fencing off of sites lying in close proximity to the construction access routes and new overhead line.
2. Micrositing of poles for the new 33kV line to avoid the upstanding remains of known sites.
3. Targeted watching briefs to be conducted during ground-breaking works for construction of the new overhead line and access routes.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 General

All work complied with the requirements of the HCHET. CFA follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidelines as appropriate. Recording of all elements was done following established CFA methods.

2.2 Avoidance/Fencing Off

Sites to be avoided included Sites 14, 31, 33, 38, b, c, f, g, parts of i/p (those parts closest to the construction access route and new overhead 33kV line), j, m, o, q, r and s. These were either avoided under the direction of an archaeologist acting as a banksman, or fenced off, to ensure any damage was avoided.

The sites were located by GPS and a photographic record was made of the surviving remains.

Wherever possible, the demarcated area included a minimum 10m buffer zone around the site; where this was not reasonably practicable then agreement was sought from HCHET.

Fenced areas remained in place for the duration of construction activities.

2.3 Micrositing

Wherever possible, poles were microsited to leave a 10m stand-off between the pole location and archaeological sites, and where this was not reasonably practicable then agreement was sought from HCHET.

2.4 Watching Brief

Targeted watching briefs were undertaken as appropriate during ground breaking works at Sites c, g, s, 38, 31, 14.

Excavation was undertaken with a tracked mechanical excavator with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.

All discoveries, including soil profiles and subsoil characteristics, were recorded using standard CFA recording forms and digital photography.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Site 14

Poles 124-126 required mitigation as they were in the vicinity of Druim An Ruighe farmstead (Site 14). Poles 124 and 126 specifically required micrositing as far as was practicable in order to avoid upstanding features.

Pole 124 (Fig. 14) could not be microsited more than 3m away from upstanding archaeological features and was monitored under a watching brief. A pit was excavated measuring 1m by 2m by 1.8m deep to accommodate the pole (Figs 15, 16, 18). Plant movement was controlled to avoid any upstanding archaeology. No buried archaeological features or deposits were identified and the upstanding archaeological features remained unaffected.

Pole 125 was monitored under a watching brief. A pit measuring 1m by 1.5m by 1.8m deep was excavated to accommodate the pole (Fig. 20). Plant movement along the access route to the pole was controlled to avoid any upstanding archaeology. No buried archaeological features or deposits were identified and the upstanding archaeological features remained unaffected.

Pole 126 required mitigation due to its proximity to an enclosure (Fig. 17). This was microsited 1.5m away from the feature to move it outside an already demarcated buffer of 10m. A pit measuring 1m by 1.5m by 1.8m deep was excavated to accommodate the pole (Fig. 19). Pole 126 also required Stays to be put in for stability. These were excavated under watching brief conditions and did not affect any upstanding archaeological remains as they were positioned parallel to the enclosure bank. No buried archaeological features or deposits were identified and the upstanding archaeological features remained unaffected.

3.2 Site 31a

Site 31 was demarcated prior to construction works for Poles 33, 39, and 40 and did not require any further mitigation as the site was of a sufficient distance from construction activities and the site remained unaffected.

3.3 Site 33

Site 31 was demarcated due to its proximity to an access track and did not require any further mitigation as the site was of a sufficient distance from construction activities and the site remained unaffected.

3.4 Site 38

Site 38 was demarcated prior to the installation of Pole 4. A pit measuring 1m by 1.5m by 1.8m deep was excavated to accommodate the pole (Fig. 13). No buried archaeological features or deposits were identified and the upstanding archaeological features remained unaffected.

3.5 Site c

Pole 128 was on a steep slope that appeared to form part of a cutting for the modern A9. The site was demarcated. A pit measuring 1m by 1.5m by 1.8m deep was dug to accommodate the pole under archaeological supervision. No buried archaeological features or deposits were identified and the upstanding archaeological features remained unaffected.

3.6 Site f

The installation of Pole 2 in the vicinity of Site f did not require any mitigation as the site was of a sufficient distance from construction activities and the site remained unaffected.

3.7 Site g

Pole 3 (Figs. 3-6) was placed inside of a 3-sided enclosure with access open on the northern side. Agreed mitigation was that the pole could be placed in the centre of the enclosure as micrositing outside of the enclosure was unfeasible. Access and egress for construction machinery was agreed to be through the open northern side of the enclosure and subsequently following a modern fence line to and from the access track. Plant movements and excavations were conducted under the supervision of the archaeologist.

A pit measuring 1m by 1.5m by 1.8m deep was dug to accommodate the pole under archaeological supervision. No buried archaeological features or deposits were identified and the upstanding archaeological features remained unaffected.

3.8 Site i/p

The installation of Pole 105 in the vicinity of a modern grouse butt did not require any mitigation as the site was of a sufficient distance from construction activities and the site remained unaffected.

3.9 Site j

The installation of Poles 101 and 102 in the vicinity of Site j did not require any mitigation as the site was of a sufficient distance from construction activities and the site remained unaffected.

3.10 Site m

Poles 79-81 (Fig. 10-12) did not directly affect any archaeology although they were sited close to some field boundaries (Site m) but beyond the 10m buffer. Plant movement was controlled to avoid any upstanding archaeology and mitigation was put in place to use existing farm tracks where possible.

3.11 Site s

Pole 5 (Figs 7-9) was originally sited just 0.5m from an upstanding archaeological feature. It was agreed that the pole would be microsited to take the new position 3m to the north away from the affected archaeological feature and associated field boundary.

A pit measuring 1m by 1.5m by 1.8m deep was dug to accommodate the new pole under archaeological supervision (Fig. 8). No buried archaeological features or deposits were identified and the upstanding archaeological feature remained unaffected.

Access to Pole 6 was agreed to be through a gap in an archaeological field boundary using previous farmer's track .This was the only mitigation required as Pole 6 was not to be sited near any archaeological features.

3.12 Sites b, o, q, r

The installation of poles in the vicinity of Sites b, o, q and r did not require any mitigation as the sites were all of a sufficient distance from construction activities and the sites remained unaffected.

4. CONCLUSION

A programme of demarcation, micrositing and watching brief was conducted during the installation of poles for the Etteridge to Boat of Garten Electricity Rationalisation – New Overhead Line Southern Section (Etteridge to Ruthven).

Sites were demarcated or avoided by construction traffic and ground breaking works and micrositing took place within the confines of engineering constraints to avoid directly impacting upon any upstanding archaeological remains. Targeted watching briefs were undertaken at a number of sites where ground breaking works were in close proximity to upstanding archaeological features.

All work was completed under archaeological supervision: no buried archaeological features or deposits were identified during the watching briefs, and the upstanding archaeological features remained unaffected.

This report will be supplied to HCHET. The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, plans and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland.

A summary statement of the results of this watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* and an online OASIS form will be completed once all work has been completed.

5. REFERENCES

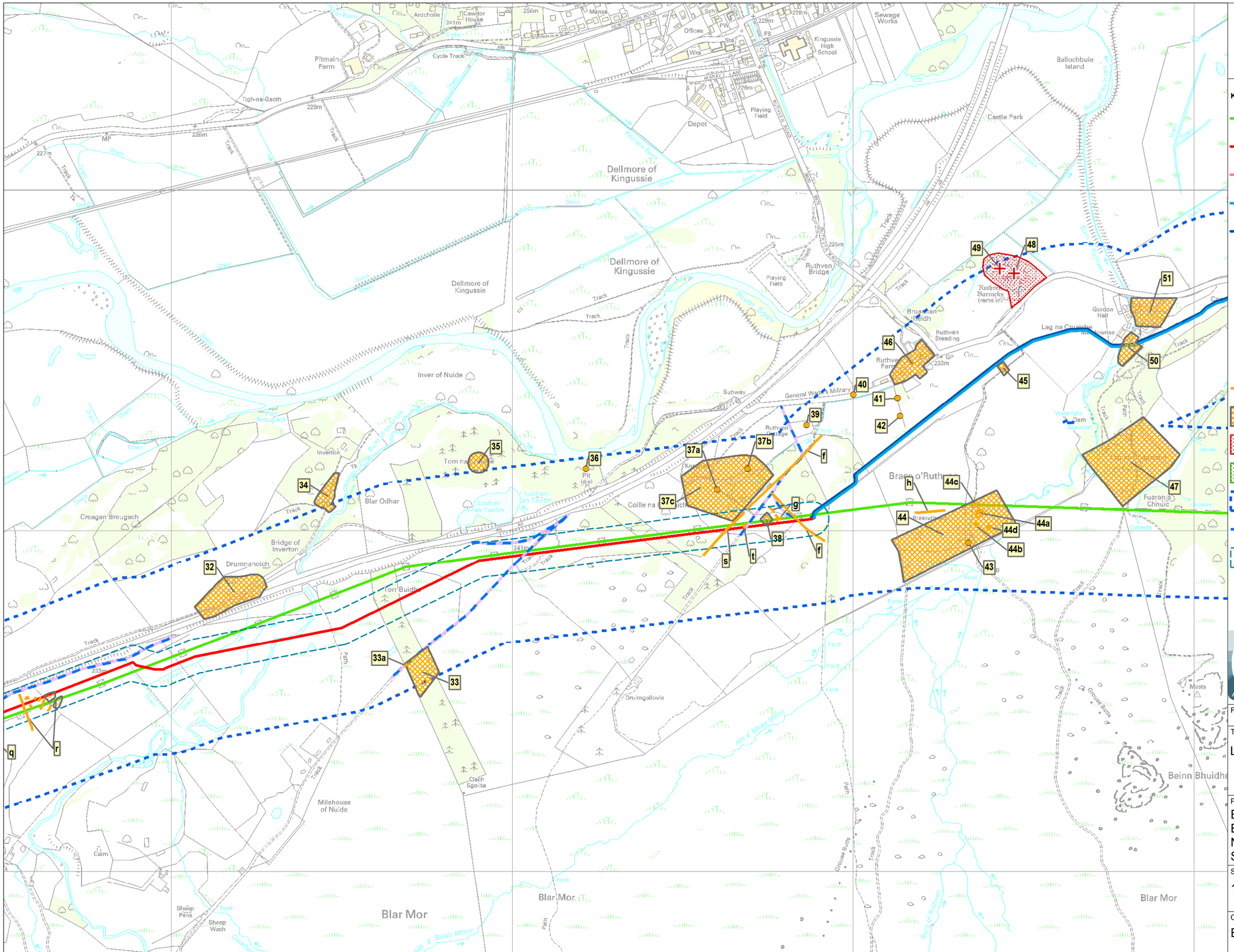
Gray, H 2013 *Etteridge to Boat of Garten Electricity Rationaliation, Highland. Phase 1 Mitigation Work: Targeted Site visits.* CFA Archaeology Ltd Report No. 2196.

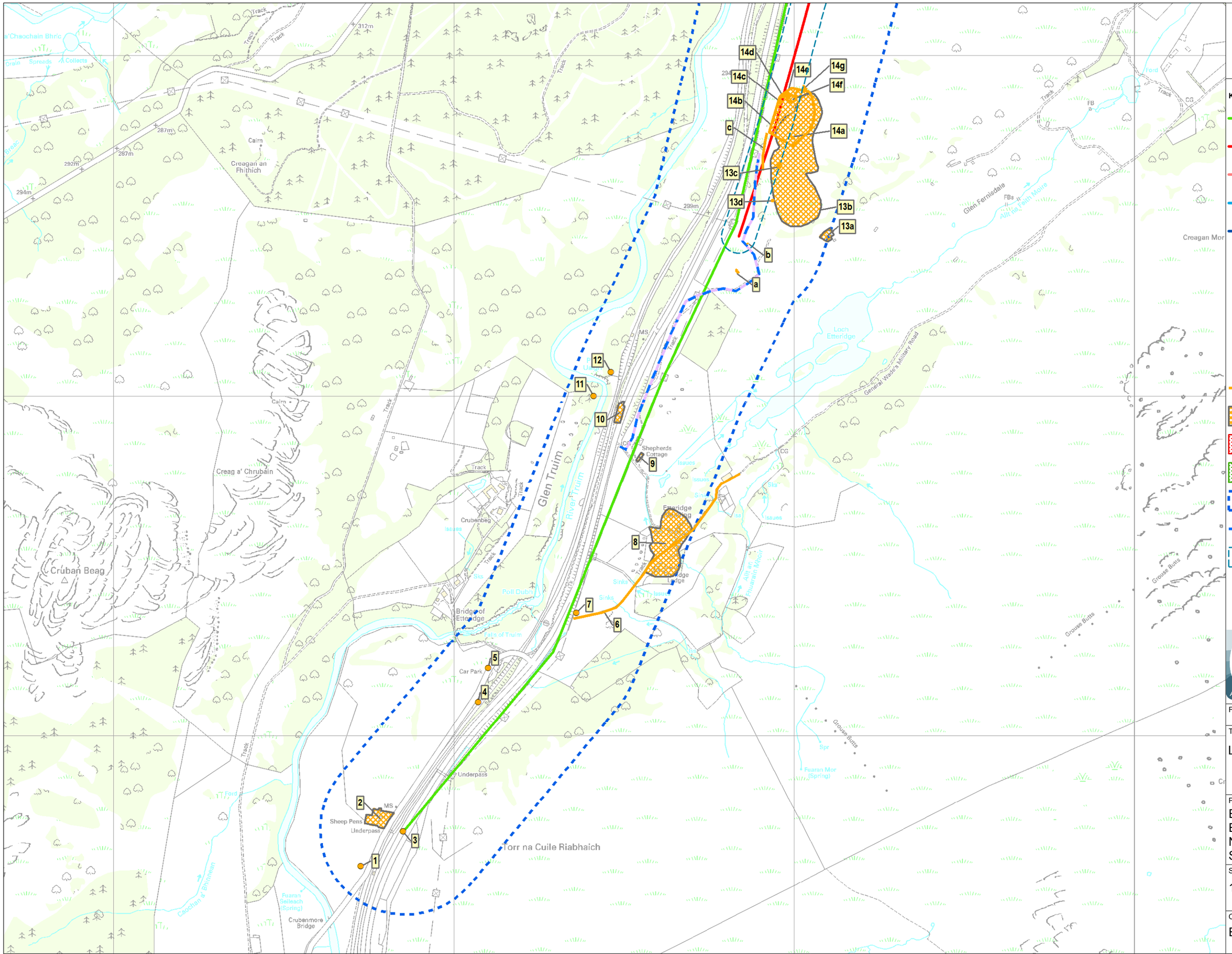
Gray, H 2013 *Etteridge to Ruthven Electricity Rationalisation, Highland. Mitigation Work: Walkover Survey of new Overhead Power Line (Etteridge to Ruthven).* CFA Archaeology Ltd Report No. 3022

APPENDIX 1: Digital Photographic register

Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Taken from	Conditions
1	Site r	N	Bright
2	Site r	NW	Bright
3	Site r	NW	Bright
4	Site r	W	Bright
5	Site q cairns	NW	Bright
6	Site q bank	N	Bright
7	Site 31A	NW	Bright
8	Site 31A	NE	Bright
9	Site m	SW	Bright
10	Site m	SE	Bright
11	Site i	S	Bright
12	Site o	NE	Bright
13	Site j	W	Bright
14	Site j	SW	Bright
15	Site b	SW	Bright
16	Site c	N	Bright
17	Site c	N	Bright
18	Site 14B	NW	Bright
19	Site 14C	SE	Bright
20	Site 14C	NE	Bright
21	Site 14C	S	Bright
22	Site 14	E	Bright
23	Site 14F and pole 124 location	W	Bright
24	Site 14F and pole 124 location	N	Bright
25	Site 14H	E	Bright
26	Site 33	NW	Bright
27	Site 33	NE	Bright
28	Site 33	N	Bright
29	Site f	N	Bright
30	Site f	W	Bright
31	Site 38	S	Bright
32	Site 38	SE	Bright
33	Site 38 and g	E	Bright
34	Site f NW-SE spur	SE	Bright
35	Site f intersection	SE	Bright
36	Site f intersection	NE	Bright
37	Site f intersection	SW	Bright
38	Site f intersection	SW	Bright
39	Pole #1 looking SW	NE	Sunny
40	Pole #2looking NE	SW	Sunny
41	Poles #3+4 Looking W	E	Sunny
42	Enclosure nr Pole #3 looking N	S	Sunny
43	Pole #5 looking SSW	NNE	Sunny
44	Pole #6 looking W	E	Sunny
45	Pole #124 looking NE	SW	Sunny
46	Pole #124 looking SW	NE	Sunny
47	Pole #125 + Enclosure Bank	N	Sunny
48	Shaft for Pole #124	S	Sunny
49	Shaft for Pole #124	N	Sunny
50	Position of Pole #124 + standing archaeology	N	Sunny
51	Shaft for Pole #125	SE	Sunny
52	Shaft for Pole #126	N	Sunny
53	Shaft for Pole #128	E	Sunny
54	Shaft for Pole #128 showing terrain	E	Sunny

55	Shaft for Pole #03	E	Sunny
56	Shaft for Pole #04	E	Sunny
57	Area showing Pole #03 looking W	E	Sunny
58	Shaft for Pole #05	E	Sunny
59	Area showing Pole #05 looking W	E	Sunny
60	Shaft for Pole #06	E	Sunny
61	Area showing Pole #06 looking SW	NE	Sunny
62	General shot looking E	W	Sunny
63	Pole #79 looking N	S	Overcast
64	Pole #80 looking N	S	Overcast
65	Pole #81 looking N	S	Overcast
66	General shot poles 79, 80, 81	NE	Overcast
67	General shot poles 79, 80, 81	NE	Overcast
68	General shot poles 79, 80, 81	NW	Overcast
69	General shot poles 79, 80, 81	NE	Overcast
70	Wall E-W oriented Poles 79,80,81	W	Overcast


Pitmain Farm
Tigh-na-Gaoth
Ardchoile
Cawdor House
Manse
Offices
Kingussie High School
Sewage Works
Ballochbuie Island
Castle Park
Depot
Playing Field
Dellmore of Kingussie
Ruthven Bridge
Ruthven Barracks (rems of)
Ruthven Steading
Ruthven Farm
Gordon Hall
Lag na Cruaiche
Braes o'Ruthven
Fuaran a' Chnuic
Inver of Nuide
Subway
General Wade's Military Road
Ruthven Village
Waterfalls Dam
Waterfall
Inverton
Tom na Cuthaige
Pit (dis)
Blar Odhar
Lochan an Tairbh
Coille na Cuiche
Creagan Breugach
Bridge of Inverton
Drumnanoich
Torr Buidh
Drumgallovie
Milehouse of Nuide
Cairn
Sheep Pens
Sheep Wash
Clach Sgoilte
Allt a' Bhlair Mhoir
Blar Mor
Beinn Bhuidhe
Grouse Butts
Burn of Ruthven
Masts
River Spey
Burn of Pitmain
Burn of Inverton
Kingussie High School
Playing Field
Sewage Works
Ballochbuie Island
Castle Park
Ruthven Barracks (rems of)
Gordon Hall
Ruthven Steading
Ruthven Farm
Braes o'Ruthven
Fuaran a' Chnuic



Key

- Existing 132kV
- New 33kV
- New 33kV b
- New 33kV underground
- New 33kV underground b
- Listed Building Category A
- Listed Building Category B
- Listed Building Category C
- Cultural Heritage Site (point)
- Cultural Heritage Site (line)
- Cultural Heritage Site (area)
- Scheduled Monument
- Garden and Designed Landscape
- 250m Buffer
- Access Tracks
- 50m Buffer

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Fig. No	Revision
2	

Title

Location of poles 124-128

Project

Etteridge to Boat of Garten Electricity Rationalisation - New Overhead Line Southern Section

Scale at A3

1:10,000

Client

Environ for SSE

Drawn by:	Checked by:	Report No:
SW	ML	3062

Fig. 3 - Location of pole 3 pre-excavation

Fig. 4 - Site g

Fig. 5 - Excavation for pole 3

Fig. 6 - Location of pole 3 erected within Site g

Fig. 7 - Location of pole 5 pre-excavation, Site s

Fig. 8 - Excavation for pole 5

Fig. No: 3-8		Revision: A	Project: Etteridge to Boat of Garten Electricity Rationalisation - New Overhead Line Southern Section	
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Fig. 9 - Location of pole 5 adjacent to Site s

Fig. 10 - Location of pole 79 at Site m

Fig. 11 - Location of pole 80 at Site m

Fig. 12 - Location of pole 81 at Site m

Fig. 13 - Excavation for pole 4

Fig. 14 - Location of pole 124 at Site 14, pre-excavation

Fig. No: 9-14		Revision: A	Project: Etteridge to Boat of Garten Electricity Rationalisation - New Overhead Line Southern Section	
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Fig. 15 - Mitigation at pole 124 at Site 14

Fig. 16 - Location of erected pole 124 at Site 14

Fig. 17 - Location of pole 126 at Site 14 pre-excavation

Fig. 18 - Excavation for pole 124

Fig. 19 - Excavation for pole 126

Fig. 20 - Excavation for pole 125

Fig. No: 15-17		Revision: A	Project: Etteridge to Boat of Garten Electricity Rationalisation - New Overhead Line Southern Section	
Drawn by: SW	Checked: MJ	Report No: 3062	Client: Environ for SSE	

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