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THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT FOR THE

ARISAIG ESTATE PART 2

4. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of an Environmental Statement is to assist the Woodland Grant Scheme consultation process by providing information on the environmental effects of the development for the Forestry Authority, consultees and the general public, to enable them to make an informed assessment of the proposals. It is compiled under the terms of the European Community Directive No. 83/337 and conforms with the Environmental Assessment (Afforestation) Regulation 1988 (SI 1988/1207).

The Forestry Authority called for an Environmental Assessment because the 359.9 hectares of the proposed scheme at Arisaig lies within the Morar, Moidart and Ardnamurchan National Scenic Area, includes two Sites of Special Scientific Interest and lies within the area designated as the Sensitive zone of the Highland Regional Council's Indicative Forestry Strategy. The proposal could have a significant impact on the environment.

The key issues to be addressed within the Assessment are:-

the landscape, particularly the impact of fencing along the public roads

deer management

impact on habitat and species

impact on archaeological remains

Unless otherwise noted, value judgements are those of the author.

Estate records show that over the past 5 years, a resident red deer herd exists on the Estate in numbers that support a regular annual cull of 13 stags and 17 hinds. In addition there are a number of marauding stags, giving a further annual cull of 12 stags. There is also a population of the non-native Sika deer in the Arisaig area which may move through the Estate.

Data from SNH indicates that a rare noctuid moth is present in the Glen Bleasdale SSSI and that this SSSI also supports typical woodland animal and invertebrate communities.

6.7 LANDSCAPE

The area possesses spectacular coastal and island scenery made by an interlocking matrix of rugged hillsides of bare rock and heather, scattered native woodlands, irregular shaped water bodies and wildly indented coastlines.

6.8 ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological sites within the WGS application area span the period from Neolithic (cup-marked stone), through Bronze Age (burial cist), late medieval (rig and furrow), 18th century (sheep farming), to recent (Rhumach farm steading and construction of the railway). A full report by the Centre for Field Archaeology is given in Appendix 3, with a map showing designated areas in relation to the scheme.

7.5 WATER

Part of the proposals enclose the catchment of the mesotrophic Loch Dubh, while a further area covers part of the catchment for a property around the head of Loch nan Uamh, including a water pipeline. The Steamboat Porter's House has a private water supply located within the Rhumach block. Other properties on or bordering the Estate have private water supplies within the WGS application area.

7.6 LANDSCAPE

Part of the proposals lie within the Morar, Moidart and Ardnamurchan National Scenic Area.

The Indicative Forest Strategy identifies the areas proposed within the Sensitive policy zone where landscape consideration is a major constraint to afforestation.

7.7 ARCHAEOLOGY

There are no monuments scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 within the area. Only two sites are listed in the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) within the survey area: a large cup-marked boulder at NM66868446 and a crannog at NM 68SE outside the area of regeneration. There are a number of high archaeological interest sites within areas 1 and 2: the main focus of area 1 lies in the north-east corner with features that form a dispersed settlement group and a promontory fort, while the south central part of area 2 consists of a dispersed settlement, a cup-marked stone, enclosure and associated cultivation remains.

8.8 LANDSCAPE

There is considered to be a positive benefit to the scenic value of the area by expansion and conservation of the native woodland resource.

The deer fencing necessary for successful regeneration should not detract from the open nature of the scenery next to public roads. The fencing bounding the Rhumach and Druim an Dubh-leathaid will follow the topography of the land and will be held back from the road by varying distances. Photomontage 1(Appendix 4) shows the proposed route of the fence line around the sharp bend at Rhumach.

Elsewhere the fence will not be visible from the public road.

8.9 MATERIAL ASSETS

There will be no effect on the material assets of the area.

8.10 CULTURAL HERITAGE

All key archaeological sites identified by the Centre for Field Archaeology, outlined in Appendix 3, will be kept free of regeneration. After consultation with Highland Region Council's Archaeologist, the following were agreed:-

- (1) Re-alignment of the deer fencing to fence out key archaeological features which are easier to preserve with a grazing policy.
- (2) Linear features will be kept free of regeneration to a distance of 3 metres on either side.
- (3) Rectangular features will be kept free of regeneration to 10 metres on all sides.
- (4) A protection programme for all key structures will be agreed through liaison with Highland Region Council.

9. CONCLUSIONS

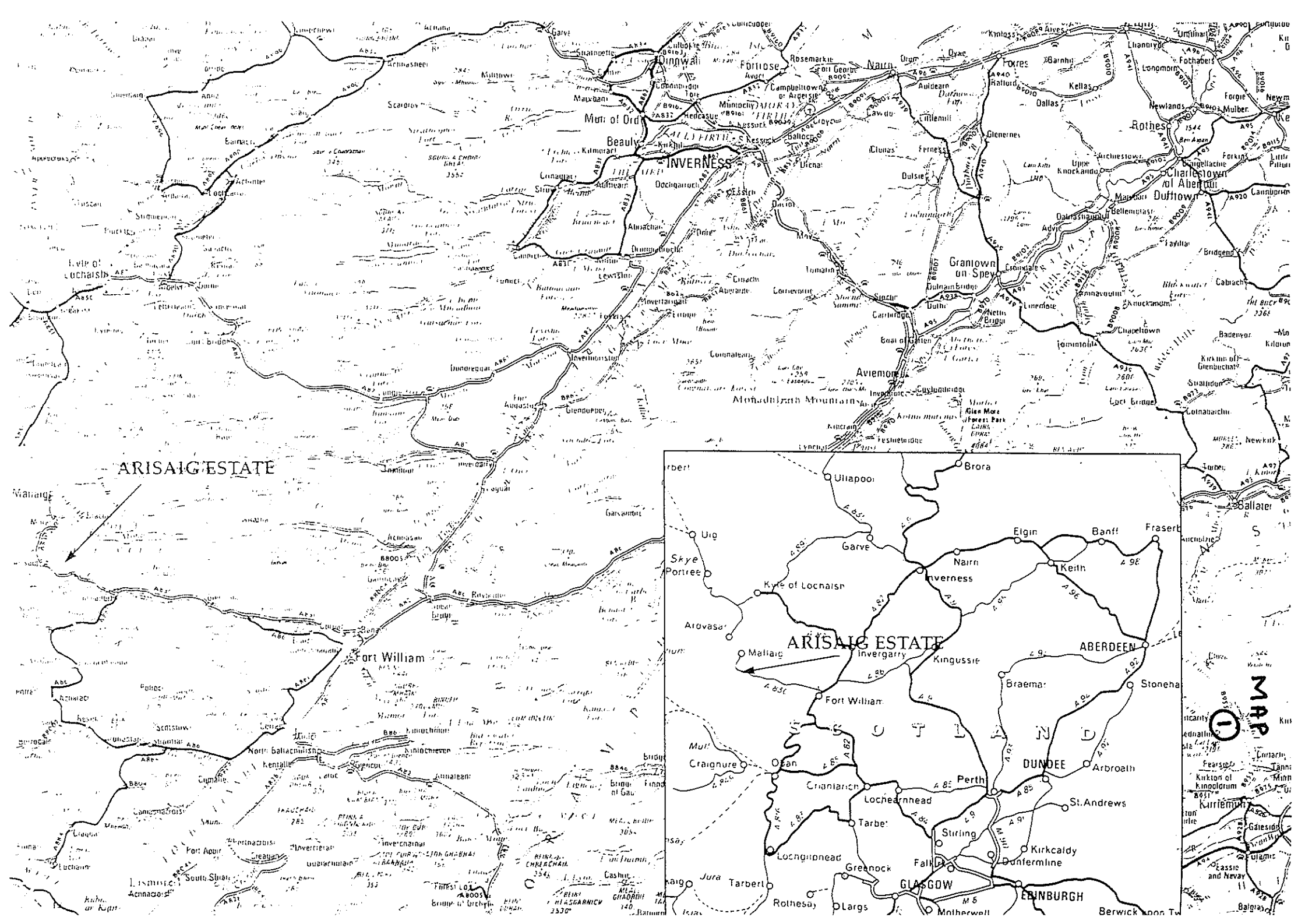
There are three significant areas in the proposals where consultation should focus:

landscape, nature conservation and archaeology.

The scheme has been designed to enhance the landscape and views which are a major attraction of the area. The fencing has been aligned to fit as far as possible into the topography of the area, and to be held back from the road to varying distances, to have minimal impact on the landscape.

The area of native woodland will be significantly increased by regeneration from existing ancient semi-natural woodland, increasing the value of the woods for conservation and safeguarding a scarce resource. This will increase the nature conservation value of the area, in terms of birds (including the Schedule 1 species nesting within the Estate), invertebrate woodland species and woodland flora. This will be achieved in part by deer-fencing and in part by controlling the red deer numbers in the area. The SSSI within the proposals will be safeguarded, the owner to discuss a Management Agreement with SNH.





Archaeological sites within the proposals will be protected by removal of regeneration and fence realignment where practical. Liaison and agreement with the Highland Region Council's Archaeologist will ensure the protection of the key sites.



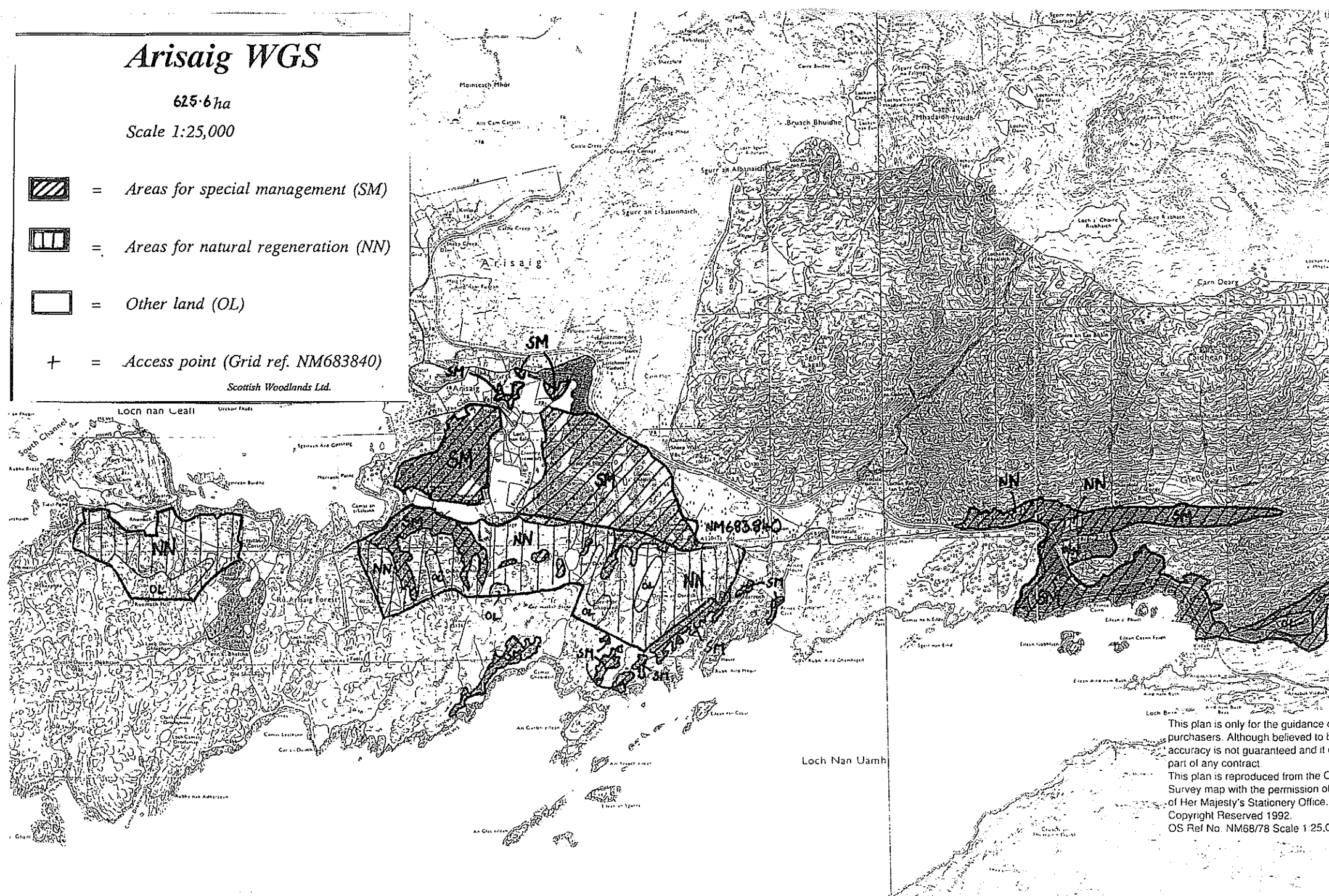
Arisaig WGS

625.6 ha

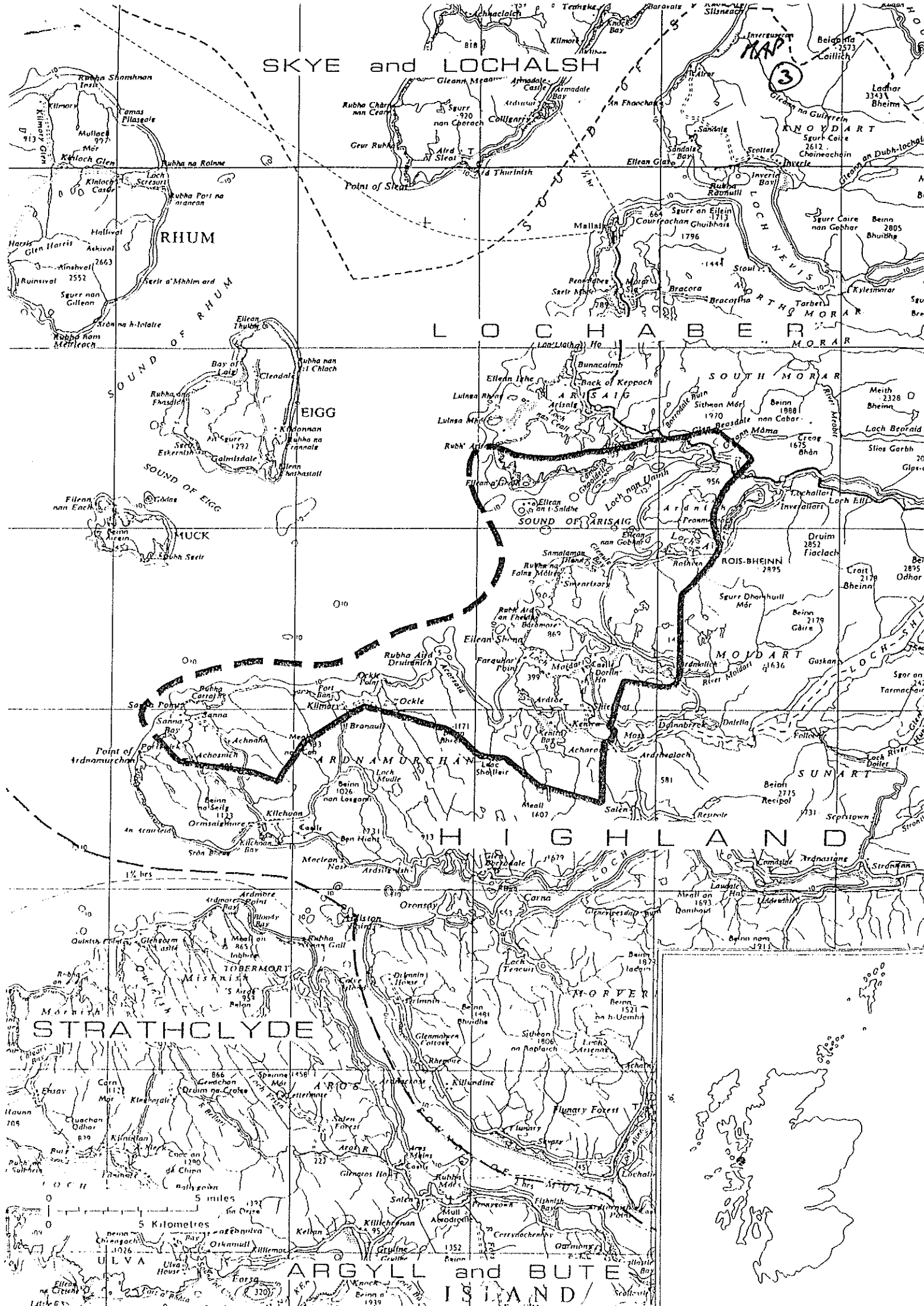
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-  = Areas for special management (SM)
-  = Areas for natural regeneration (NN)
-  = Other land (OL)
-  = Access point (Grid ref. NM683840)

Scottish Woodlands Ltd.



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APPENDIX 3

Archaeological Report

CENTRE *for* FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY

University of Edinburgh

June, 1994

Commissioned by Scottish Woodlands Limited



**Arisaig, Lochaber District, Highland Region
Archaeological Survey**

Report No. 161

This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA standard operating procedures.

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0. SUMMARY

- 0.1 This report describes an archaeological survey undertaken by the Centre for Field Archaeology (CFA) in four areas close to Arisaig, Lochaber District, Highland Region in May 1994. The assessment, commissioned by Scottish Woodlands Limited, was carried out in advance of fencing to encourage the natural regeneration of woodland.
- 0.2 The assessment was designed to identify and evaluate any archaeological monuments present in the areas, through the examination of documentary sources and fieldwalking of the area.
- 0.3 The results of this work suggest that the archaeological potential of certain parts of Areas 1 and 2 is high, but appears to be relatively low in Areas 3 and 4.
- 0.4 Potential impacts of the regeneration of woodland on the archaeological resource are assessed, and suitable mitigation measures are proposed in relation to the sites and monuments identified by the study, taking into account their individual variable archaeological significance. -

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment and field inspection was carried out as part of an Environmental Assessment prior to fencing to encourage natural regeneration of areas of woodland around Arisaig, in the Lochaber District, Highland Region, on behalf of Scottish Woodlands Limited. Fieldwork was conducted on 24th - 27th May 1994.
- 1.2 The proposed forest regeneration is divided into 4 separate areas around Arisaig (Fig. 1) which are as marked on the map extracts supplied to CFA by Scottish Woodlands Limited. The entire area is covered in a mixture of heather and rough grass on the hillslopes with peat and reeds in the wetter areas, and is currently used as unimproved pasture.
- 1.3 There are no monuments scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 within the survey areas.
- 1.4 Only two sites are listed in the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) within the survey areas. No previous systematic fieldwork has been carried out within the areas.
- 1.5 The objective of this study has been to assess the survey areas in terms of their archaeological potential and significance, and to propose suitable mitigation measures for consideration.

2. METHODS STATEMENT

- 2.1 A standard for this type of project has been established in previous research projects undertaken by CFA for Environmental Assessment studies. Recording and assessment were conducted according to established CFA methods. Throughout the report numbers in bold and in parentheses refer to the relevant descriptions in the gazetteer (Appendix 1) and to the sites illustrated on Figs 2 - 4.
- 2.2 The list of Ancient Monuments in Scotland (Historic Scotland 1993) was checked and no scheduled sites are located within the survey areas.
- 2.3 The available vertical stereo aerial photographic record held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) was examined to ascertain whether any sites of archaeological or potential archaeological interest are present as soil or vegetation marks, or as sites with low relief not readily visible on the ground. Imagery from 1946 and 1967 was available for consultation. The examined sorties are listed in 7.1.
- 2.4 An assessment of the records held by NMRS was undertaken. These records consist of a card index and a computer data base of all the known archaeological sites in Scotland and associated oblique aerial photographs where appropriate. This assessment provided information on the range of monuments present both within and in the vicinity of the areas proposed for natural regeneration of woodland.
- 2.5 An examination of the relevant first edition Ordnance Survey map coverage was made (Inverness-shire Sheets CXX, CXXI, CXXXIV and CXXXV 1876, 6 inches to 1 mile). In addition, other readily available cartographic sources held at the National Library of Scotland Map Library were examined. The sources consulted are listed in 7.2.
- 2.6 Rapid field survey of the survey areas was undertaken. This assessed the information obtained from the desk-based elements of the study against surviving field evidence. In addition, the areas were inspected to locate previously unidentified, visible archaeological monuments, and to assess the topography and geomorphology of the proposed survey areas. The areas were fieldwalked and all apparent archaeological features were recorded on standard forms and their locations noted on the appropriate 1:10,000 map sheet.
- 2.7 The results of this research have been assessed in terms of the archaeological potential of the areas. Archaeological monuments located are detailed in the gazetteer (Appendix 1). Map extracts showing the distribution of archaeological monuments, including possible sites, within the survey areas is included (Figs. 2 - 4).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

The majority of the archaeological sites were located within either Area 1 or Area 2, on the lower ground, close to the coast or up small valleys.

3.2 Area 1 (Fig 2)

Eleven sites were located within Area 1. Of these, seven had been identified during the desk-based assessment (1.1, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.9 and 1.10). Field survey confirmed the presence of these sites and located a further four.

3.2.1 Fort

A stone walled, fortified settlement is located on a rocky promontory immediately south of the coast road (1.8). The site appears to be a typical small promontory fort of later prehistoric or early historic age, most likely dating to the last half of the first millennium B.C. or the first half of the first millennium A.D.

3.2.2 Settlements

Four distinct groups of rectilinear structures (1.4, 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7) were all found in the north-eastern end of Area 1. It is possible that these formed part of a wider, dispersed settlement which continued eastwards, outside the area, at least as far as Millburn Cottage. These structures represent the remains of a dispersedcrofting community with each group of structures representing at least one dwelling house with its associated structures and enclosures. Although some of the structures are marked on the current Ordnance Survey maps, plotted from aerial photographs, they are not marked on the first edition Ordnance Survey map, and therefore, pre-date 1876. They probably date to the 17th to 18th centuries, although an earlier date cannot be ruled out.

3.2.3 Cultivation remains

Two extensive areas of former cultivation remains were recorded in Area 1 (1.3 and 1.9). Smaller isolated patches are spread across the entire area but many are poorly preserved, covered in bracken or set within marsh. These areas of cultivation consist of rig and furrow between 2 and 4m wide. They vary in form from being long sinuous strips curving around rock outcrops to being shorter, straighter lengths on steeper slopes. The former were probably created by ploughing, whereas it is possible that some of the latter may have been spade or foot plough dug. It is possible that they are associated with the settlement evidence (1.4, 1.5, 1.6) mentioned above. A degree of time depth is evident within the cultivation remains at (1.3) where one set of rigs truncates another set which in turn underlies a stone dyke.

3.2.4 Recent buildings

Two structures are marked on the current Ordnance Survey map. The first, situated to the north-east of The Steamboat Porter's Lodge (1.1), has been demolished and only the foundations and corrugated iron from the roof remain. The second was the farm steading at Rhumach (1.10), which is probably of 19th century date.

3.2.5 Miscellaneous

Two other archaeological sites were recorded within Area 1. A large number of spent bullets, some marked with the date 1942, were located on Ruemach Hill (1.2). A small scooped, oval feature of unknown date and function was also located (1.11).

3.3 Area 2 (Fig 3)

Fifteen sites were identified within Area 2. Eight of these were first identified by the desk-based assessment (2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 2.10, 2.11, 2.12, and 2.14). These were confirmed by field survey and a further seven sites located.

3.3.1 Cup and ring marks

A large cup-marked boulder (2.4) is listed in the NMRS as being within Area 2. Cup-marks are designs engraved into rocks, which are frequently found on stones incorporated in monuments of Neolithic date. This therefore forms the earliest evidence for human activity within the four survey areas.

3.3.2 Settlements

Three groups of rectilinear structures were located within Area 2 to the west of Torr Mor Ghaoideil (2.5, 2.6, and 2.7). They form part of a dispersedcrofting settlement spreading up from the bay, Camas Ghaoideil, which lies to the south-west. They are probably similar in function and date to the settlement located around Millburn Cottage in Area 1 (see above). A single isolated rectilinear structure (2.2), close to the western edge of Area 2 may represent a shieling hut. A number of mounds adjacent cultivation remains may represent more degraded settlement remains (2.1).

3.3.3 Cultivation remains

As in Area 1, large parts of Area 2 are covered in cultivation remains. Two well preserved concentrations (2.3 and 2.8) were located. The rig and furrow at (2.3) may be associated with the occupation of the settlement around Camas Ghaoideil (2.5, 2.6, 2.7). One area of rig and furrow at (2.3) is enclosed, probably to protect crops from animals. It is possible that the area of cultivation remains on either side of the Lon Liath burn (2.8) relate to settlement outwith the limits of the survey area.

3.3.4 Fieldbanks

A series of fieldbanks (2.9 and 2.12) are present within the eastern part of Area 2. These are likely to have been for livestock management or possibly the demarcation of settlement boundaries.

3.3.4 Quarries

A number of quarries and associated spoil heaps are located in two groups in the eastern part of Area 2 (2.10 and 2.11). These may be of relatively recent date.

3.3.5 Miscellaneous

Three other archaeological features were recorded within Area 2: a boat noost (2.15), the foundations of a rectilinear structure marked on the first edition

Ordnance Survey map (OS 1876) (2.14), and a spread of cleared stones (2.13). All three features are probably of 19th or 20th century date.

3.4 Area 3 (Fig. 3)

There is a low density of archaeological features within Area 3. This may be the result of attrition from the establishment of woods already present there, which may also have reduced the visibility of archaeological sites. Only four sites were identified within Area 3, all of which were identified during the desk-based assessment and with the exception of structure (3.1) were confirmed by field survey. A crannog is marked on the map (NMRS No: NM 68 SE 2) outside the area marked for regeneration. This monument was not visited because of the very boggy nature of the surrounding ground.

3.4.1 Settlement

The rectilinear structures at (3.3 and 3.4) represent isolated crofts rather than being part of a dispersed settlement similar to those in Areas 1 and 2, although they may date to the same period. A single structure marked on the first edition Ordnance Survey map as situated north of Pheasantry Cottage (3.1) was not located by field survey.

3.4.2 Fieldbanks

A single length of curvilinear fieldbank (3.2) was found running along the southern slope of Torr an t-Sagairt. This perhaps relates to the control of livestock or the marking of land boundaries.

3.5 Area 4 (Fig. 4)

As was the case in Area 3, Area 4 has a very low density of archaeological sites, in direct contrast to the extensive settlement remains on the north side of Glen Beasdale outwith the limits of the survey. This is a result of both the dense woodland and steep slopes which are not favourable for occupation or cultivation. Of the four sites found within the Area only one (4.4) was identified by the desk-based assessment; the other three were all located by field survey.

3.5.1 Short Cist

The NMRS states that a stone short cist was found during road construction at (4.4) in 1938. Such cists are usually of Bronze Age date. No remains were visible during the field survey, which is unsurprising.

3.5.2 Tracks

A number of tracks (4.2 and 4.3), revetted by stone in places, were located close to the railway track and may be associated with the construction and maintenance of the tunnels.

3.5.3 Modern structure

A modern structure (4.1) constructed of cemented stone with a concrete roof (now collapsed) is located on the southern side of Glen Beasdale. It may have been used by shooting parties.

4. EVALUATION AND MITIGATION

4.1 Archaeological potential

The archaeological sites within the survey areas indicate a broad chronological time span for human activity and settlement around Arisaig. Evidence for prehistoric activity, although dispersed, is nevertheless noticeable: a Neolithic presence is indicated by the cup-marked stone in Area 2 (2.4), the short-cist in Area 4 (4.4) could be of Bronze Age date, while the small promontory fort in Area 1 (1.8) is of later prehistoric or early historic date. The rig and furrow cultivation remains and the crofting settlements in Area 1 (1.4, 1.5, 1.6, and 1.7) and Area 2 (2.5, 2.6 and 2.7) form integral parts of a wider archaeological landscape which may date from as early as the late medieval period through to the eighteenth century, when the arable farming was replaced by sheep farming. More recent activity is evident in all four areas, for example the tracks associated with the construction of the railway (4.2) in Area 4 or Rhumach farm steading (2.10) in Area 2.

There are a number of sites of high archaeological potential within Areas 1 and 2. Little of archaeological significance has been located within Areas 3 and 4.

In Area 1 the main focus of archaeological potential lies within its north-eastern corner in the features that form the dispersed settlement group (1.4, 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7) and the promontory fort (1.8). There is also a concentration of archaeological sites in the central southern part of Area 2: the dispersed settlement (2.5, 2.6 and 2.7), the cup-marked stone (2.4) and the enclosure and associated cultivation remains (2.3). Although extensive, the rest of the cultivation remains in both Areas 1 and 2 are limited in their archaeological potential.

In Area 3 the only remains with any archaeological potential are the structures (3.3 and 3.4), while in Area 4 there is only the tracks (4.2 and 4.3) are of any significance.

4.2 Policy context

The Planning Advice Note (PAN 42) on archaeology (SOEnD 1994) indicates that the principle that should underlie all planning decision-making is preservation of cultural resources, *in situ* where possible, and by record if destruction cannot be avoided. It is recognised in PAN 42 that preservation may not always be possible, and where damage is unavoidable various mitigation measures may be proposed.

Regeneration of natural woodland on the sites of high archaeological potential could have a damaging effect. It is therefore recommended that where possible these areas be avoided by fencing. The perimeter fencing could be erected to leave both the north-west corner of Area 1 and the central southern part of Area 2 outside the fenced area. This would require only a small alteration of the proposed fence line. In addition, cutting back of young trees on the archaeological sites both inside and outside the fenced area would prevent damage by natural regeneration.

5. REFERENCES

5.1 Vertical Aerial Photographs

Sortie No: CPE/UK/SCOT.178, 7 October 1946, frames 1267 - 1302, 1284 - 1302

Sortie No: Ordnance Survey, Mallaig II, 1:10,560, frames 67 - 168

5.2 Cartographic

Ainslie, J. 1789 Scotland

Blaeu, J. 1654 Ae Budae Insulae sive Hebrides

Blaeu, J. 1654 Braid - Allaban, Atholia

Dorret, J. 1750 *A general map of Scotland and Islands*

Ordnance Survey 1876 6" to 1 mile, County Series, *Inverness-shire*, Sheets CXX, CXXI, CXXXIV, CXXXV.

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5.3 Bibliographic

Historic Scotland 1993 *A List of Ancient Monuments in Scotland 1993*. Edinburgh.

Jolly, W. 1881-2 "Cup-marked stones in the neighbourhood of Inverness, with an appendix on cup-marked stones in the Western Isles", *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, 16, 300-401.

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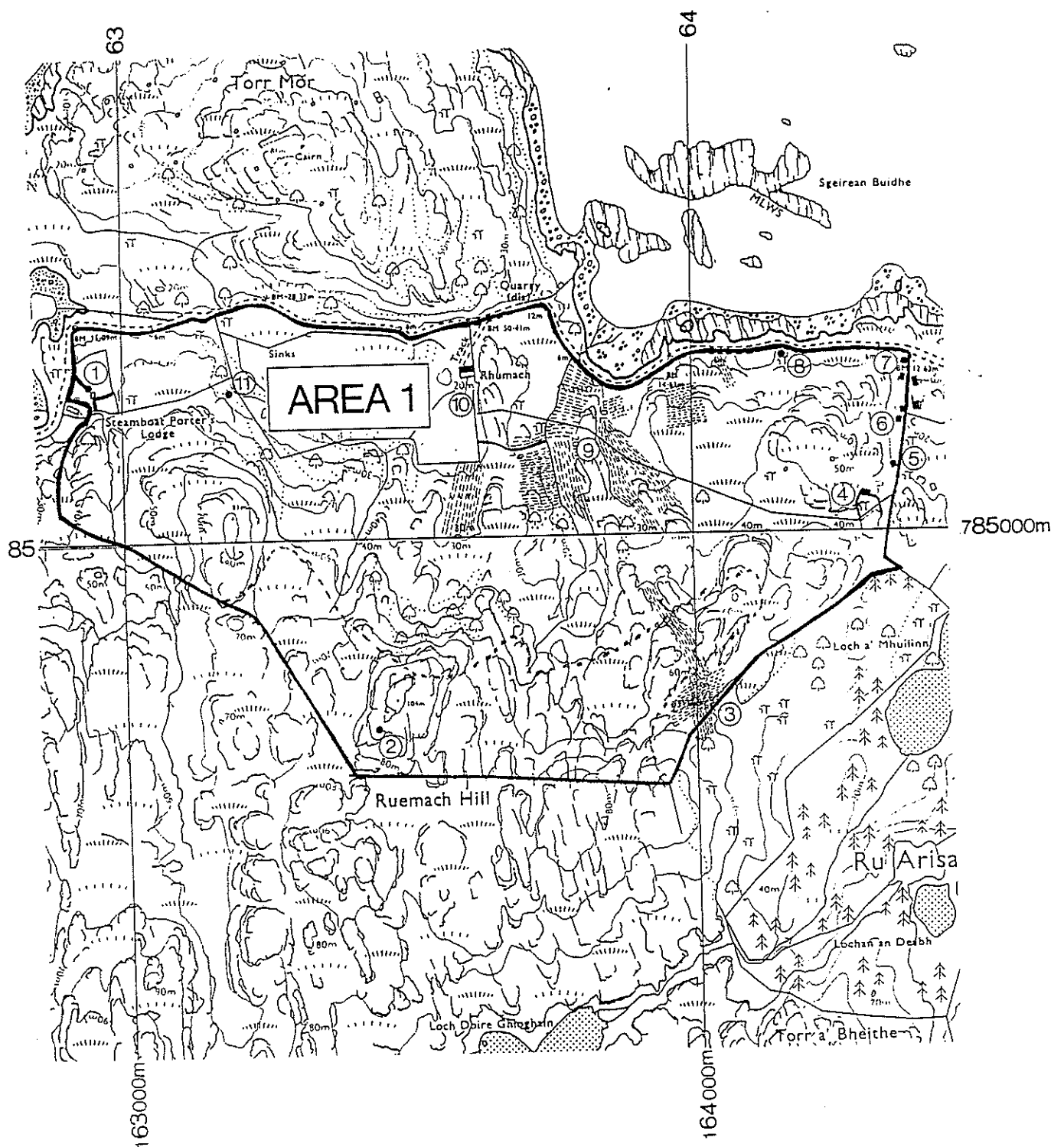


Fig 2 - Area 1 (1:10,000).

APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF SITES

AREA 1

No: 1.1

NGR: NM 6294 8528

Source: Map, field inspection

Class: Modern structure foundation

Description: This foundation represents the remains of a structure marked on the current 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map (NM 68 NW) situated north-east of the Steamboat Porter's Lodge. The foundation measures 6m by 6m and is surrounded by dumps of earth and corrugated iron, which represent the demolished remains. It is located in an area of improved grassland which used to be fenced off. A track 2 - 3m wide runs north-west from the foundation down to the existing road.

No: 1.2

NGR: NM 6344 8467

Source: Field inspection

Class: Location of bullet cases

Description: High on the north-west shoulder of Ruemach Hill a large number of spent rifle bullet cases were found. Many of the cases are stamped with the date 1942, although it is impossible to determine if that was when they were used.

No: 1.3

NGR: NM 640 847

Source: Field inspection

Class: Cultivation remains

Description: A large area of cultivation remains is located at the south-eastern corner of Area 1. One sinuous set of rigs, with a distance of 2m between the crests of each rig, runs from north to south for c. 300m. The southern end of these rigs truncates another set of wider rigs, with 4m between the rig crests, which in turn underlie the drystone dyke forming the south-eastern boundary of Area 1. It is clear that there is some complexity and stratification within these cultivation remains. The width and sinuous pattern of the rigs suggest that they were created by ploughing rather than having been spade or foot-plough dug.

No: 1.4

NGR: NM 6430 8507

Source: Maps, field inspection

Class: Rectilinear structure and banks

Description: This is a rectilinear structure which is marked on the current 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map (NM 68 NW) c. 30m north of a modern fence. It comprises three conjoined structures situated on a rocky outcrop linked by two lengths of fieldbank at the eastern and western ends to the adjacent outcrop, c.30m to the south. The middle structure is an oval, drystone building 5 - 6m long, 3m wide and 1 - 1.5m high. There is a terraced, trapezoidal enclosure, 10m long and 5 - 9m wide, abutted against the south-eastern side of this oval structure. The interior of this enclosure is level with the tops of the walls of the oval structure. Another smaller enclosure 5m long and 3 - 4m wide is abutted against the north-western side of the oval structure.

No: 1.5

NGR: NM 6435 8512

Source: Maps, field inspection

Class: Rectilinear structure

Description: This is a rectilinear structure which is marked on the current 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map (NM 68 NW) lying c. 60m north-east of structure (1.4) and c. 90m south of structures (1.6). It is a single rectilinear drystone structure with curved corners, located at the base of a steep, east-facing slope, c. 10m west of the fence which forms the eastern boundary of Area 1. The structure measures 7m long, by 5m wide and is formed by drystone walls 0.7m wide and up to 0.8m high. The eastern side of the structure is less well-preserved and no facing stones are visible. To the north of the structure there is a loose line of boulders which follows the foot of the steep slope. The boulders appear to have been cleared from the area to the east.

No: 1.6

NGR: NM 6437 8519

Source: Maps, field inspection

Class: Three rectilinear structures

Description: This is a set of four structures, two of which are marked on the current 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map (NM 68 NW). They are located on a number of rock outcrops c. 90m north of structure (1.5) close to a corner of the modern fence. The largest, southernmost structure is a drystone foundation for a building 9m long, north-south, and 7m wide, bounded by walls 0.7m wide and 0.5m high. To the north-west of this structure a wall has been built along the line of a natural outcrop and a cliff to form a rectangular enclosure 10m long and 2 - 3m wide. The other structure marked on the Ordnance Survey map is located c. 12m north-east of the first structure and is built at the base of a small cliff. This structure appears to have been a small square, drystone enclosure, possibly an animal pen, 5m long. Facing stones are only visible on the northern side of this enclosure. A fourth, more dilapidated, structure lies c. 20m east of this small enclosure on the next outcrop. This measures 7m by 4m and is only one course high. This last enclosure may be outside the proposed eastern limit of Area 1.

No: 1.7

NGR: NM 6438 8528

Source: Maps, field inspection

Class: Four rectilinear structures

Description: This is a group of four structures located in the north-eastern corner of Area 1 c. 60m north of structures (1.6). The largest and most northerly of these is marked on the current 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map (NM 68 NW). It occupies a small ridge between two rock outcrops and is of well-built, drystone construction. It measures 10m long, north to south and 6m wide. There is a small lean-to structure abutted against its northern end. To the north-east there is a spread of stones 5m long and 5m wide, backed against a rock face. A track c. 2 - 3m wide leads south-eastwards from this spread along the base of the outcrop to another rectilinear structure c. 30m away. This rectilinear structure is 7m long, south-east to north-west, 5m wide and 0.3m high. Its south-western side is backed against a rock outcrop. Two metres east of this building there is a less well-built structure, possibly an enclosure or animal pen 7m long by 5m wide, and also backed against a rock outcrop, with a small tree growing in the south-east corner. To the north of this enclosure there is a small structure measuring 3m by 4m and 0.4m high. It may represent the remains of a corn-drying kiln.

No: 1.8

NGR: NM 6416 8531

Source: Field inspection, maps

Class: Promontory fort

Description: The remains of a fort are located on a small promontory, the northern end of which has been partially truncated by the construction of the shore road. It is protected by steep crags on all but the southern side. The southern side is formed by a gentle, grass-covered slope at the eastern end of which there is a large spread of rubble, 8m long, 4 - 5m wide and 2 - 3m high. There are possible facing stones visible within the eastern end of this spread. The large amount of stone present suggests that this was once a substantial wall. The south-western side is protected by a rubble wall which runs for 9m along the top of the crag before turning eastwards for 3m to block access from the north up a steep gully. This wall is 2 - 3m wide and 0.75 - 1m high. No facing stones were visible. No evidence was visible for further walling around the remaining sides of the promontory. The sub-circular area thus enclosed is c. 15m in diameter. The nature of the location and the scale of the walling suggest that this small promontory fort is probably a later prehistoric or early historic defended settlement.

No: 1.9

NGR: NM 638 851

Source: Aerial photographs, field inspection

Class: Cultivation remains

Description:

This is an extensive area lying to the south-east of Rhumach farm steading, measuring c. 500m east to west by 400m north to south which is covered in cultivation remains. These are a combination of long sinuous rigs and shorter straighter rigs which run between the knolls of outcropping rock. It is possible that they represent a prolonged period of cultivation, perhaps dating from as early as the medieval period through to the 18th or 19th centuries.

No: 1.10

NGR: NM 6361 8529

Source: Maps, aerial photographs, field inspection

Class: Farm steading

Description: This is an L-shaped farm steading with a walled enclosure to the south. It is still roofed and appears to have been used for livestock. It may have been used when arable farming was replaced by pastoralism in the area. It probably dates to the 19th century.

No: 1.11

NGR: NM 6319 8526

Source: Field inspection

Class: Oval scoop

Description: This is a shallow, oval scoop located on an east-facing slope, 270m east of the Steamboat Porter's Lodge. The upcast from the centre of the scoop has been thrown on the downslope side to form a slight mound. It measures 6m long, 4m wide and 0.3m high. An animal track runs through the centre from north-west to south-east. Its function and date remain unclear.

AREA 2

No: 2.1

NGR: NM 6542 8505

Source: Field inspection

Class: Possible structure and cultivation remains

Description: A number of irregular mounds covers an area c. 10m in diameter, with a natural rock outcrop on their northern side. These are either the poorly preserved remains of a structure or possibly mounds of stones cleared from the cultivated area to the south.

No: 2.2

NGR: NM 6555 8466

Source: Field inspection

Class: Rectilinear structure and dam

Description: This is a rectilinear structure 10m long, 4m wide and 0.5m high. It is located in the saddle between two rocky outcrops which lie to the east of the modern concrete dam, which is marked on the current 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map. There is a possible lean-to structure abutted against the north end of this structure.

No: 2.3

NGR: NM 6668 8468 (centre)

Source: Maps, field inspection

Class: Enclosure and cultivation remains

Description: A large sub-circular enclosure, measuring c. 200m by 150m, is located c. 20m north of the fieldbank which lies to the north of the cup-marked stone (2.4): both of these features are marked on the current 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map (NM 68 SE). The enclosure is located in an area of relatively flat land amongst rocky knolls. The enclosing bank is 3m wide and up to 1.5m high. The interior is covered with rig and furrow (4m wide) running downhill from south-east to north-west. There is a gap 3m wide in the southern side of the enclosure matched by another gap in the adjacent fieldbank, which provides access through to further areas of rig and furrow to the south.

No: 2.4

NGR: NM 6686 8446

Source: NMRS, maps, field inspection

NMR No: NM 68 SE 1

Class: Cup-marked stone

Description: This large flat boulder, c. 1.5m long, 1.2m wide and 0.5m thick, has 82 cup-marks on its upper surface. Its position is as marked on the current 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map (NM 68 SE). The NMRS describes it as one of the finest examples of cup-marked stones in the west of Scotland and relates that it was found and sketched by W. Jolly in 1881 (Jolly 1881-2, fig 91).

No: 2.5

NGR: NM 6709 8444

Source: Field inspection

Class: Four rectilinear structures

Description: There are four rectilinear structures located on the southern side of a rocky knoll c. 200m east of the cup-marked stone (2.4) and on the same hill as structures (2.6) and (2.7). The westernmost of the four is located on the top of a ridge. It is a turf and earth banked rectilinear structure 7m long, east to west, 4m wide bounded by banks 1m wide and 0.3m high. No stones are visible in the banks. The three other structures are located c. 50m downhill to the south-east, at the southern end of slight valley. Two of these are rectilinear structures measuring 7m by 4m and 5m by 4m, with loose stone walls 1m thick. A less well defined turf and stone structure, 10m long and 4m wide, lies to the south of these two stone built structures.

No: 2.6

NGR: NM 6720 8456

Source: Maps, aerial photographs, field inspection

Class: Three rectilinear structures

Description: Three rectilinear structures are located on the north-east flank of the same hill as structures (2.5) and (2.7). The largest of these is a stone-built rectilinear structure 7m long, north to south, and 4m wide. Its walls survive to at least 4 courses high and are 1m thick. This structure is marked on the current Ordnance Survey map (NM 68 SE) and is visible on the aerial photographic coverage (CPE/SCOT/UK 177 frame 1368). Five metres north-east of this structure there is an earthen banked rectilinear structure 4m long by 2m wide, whilst 7m to the south-west there is another earthen banked rectilinear structure 5m long by 3m wide.

No: 2.7

NGR: NM 6719 8443

Source: Maps, field inspection

Class: Two rectilinear structures

Description: At the south-eastern foot of the same hill on which structures (2.5) and (2.6) are located there are two rectilinear, stone structures marked on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Inverness-Shire, Sheet CXXXV, 1876). Field survey located the well preserved remains of both structures and discovered traces of turf-covered structures immediately to the south of both. The northern structure is a drystone house 7m long and 4m wide with an entrance in the eastern side. A turf-covered structure of similar width and 10m long lies immediately to the south. The other drystone house lies c. 30m south of the first. This structure measures 6m long by 5m wide, and has a possible 2m long lean-to structure abutted against its southern end. Five metres to the south of this lean-to there is another turf-covered rectilinear structure 7m long and 5m wide. These structures were not visible on the aerial photographs because of the deep shadow cast by the hill to the west.

No: 2.8

NGR: NM 678 842

Source: Field inspection

Class: Cultivation remains

Description: This is an area of extensive cultivation remains located on the eastern slopes of Tor Mor Ghaoideil and on either side of the burn, Lon Liath. It consists of patches of rig and furrow which follow the drainage pattern of the slopes between rocky outcrops and cover an area of approximately 400m, east to west, by 300m.

No: 2.9

NGR: NM 6825 8436

Source: Field inspection

Class: Fieldbanks

Description: A large curvilinear turf-covered bank runs uphill on the southern slopes of Druim an Daraich, c. 200m north-west of the Boat House, which lies outside the area. The remains of two drystone dykes are located c. 30m and 60m south-west of the bank and are 25m and 15m long respectively. The dykes run parallel to the bank and are constructed of large angular boulders. They run from the edge of the break in slope northwards to the base of a cliff face, thus forming an enclosure on the natural shelf.

No: 2.10

NGR: NM 6837 8457

Source: Aerial photographs, field inspection

Class: Quarry and fieldbanks

Description: Two quarries lie c. 200m north-east of the fieldbanks (2.9) on the opposite side of the burn. These are irregular and angular in plan following the fractures in the rock. The largest measures c. 18m long, 15m wide and is at least 2m deep. There is a spoil heap of quarried stone on the south-east side. These quarries appear to be of relatively recent date. A number of short lengths of fieldbank lie to the north-west and south-east of the quarry, but have not been given a separate reference number.

No: 2.11

NGR: NM 6839 8485

Source: Aerial photographs, field inspection

Class: Quarries and fieldbanks

Description: Three small quarries with associated spoil heaps lie c. 330m north of quarries (2.10). Each is c. 10m across and 1 - 1.5m deep. A fieldbank runs up to these quarries from the south and is perhaps part of the system of fieldbanks that survive close to the quarries to the south (2.10).

No: 2.12

NGR: NM 6800 8490 (centre)

Source: Field inspection

Class: Fieldbanks

Description: A large complex of criss-crossing turf fieldbanks lies to the north-west of Druim an Daraich. These are marked on the current Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map (NM 68 SE) and were confirmed by field survey. On average the fieldbanks are 2m wide and 0.5 - 1m high.

No: 2.13

NGR: NM 6728 8489

Source: Field inspection

Class: Stone spread

Description: A spread of stones 13m long, 5m wide and 0.5m high lies at the base of the hillslope on the east side of Loch Dubh. It may represent a combination of

tumbled stone from the hillside and stone cleared from the loch edge and drainage ditch.

No: 2.14

NGR: NM 6648 8514

Source: Maps, field inspection

Class: Foundation for structure

Description: A building was marked on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Inverness-Shire, Sheet CXXI, 1876) to the south-west of Glen Cottage. Very little now remains of this structure. An L-shaped low mound located to the south-east of a small rock outcrop may have formed the south-east side of the foundation of this structure. It measures 10m long, north-south, 6m long east to west, and consists of a grass covered mound 0.2m high and c. 1m wide.

No: 2.15

NGR: NM 6716 8501

Source: Field inspection

Class: Boat noost

Description: This is a small drystone boat noost, revetted into the foot of the slope on the western side of Loch Dubh. It is 6m long, 3m wide and 1m high. It is separated from the edge of the loch by an area of marsh. This may be the result of a lowering of the water level of the loch due to improved drainage.

AREA 3

No: 3.1

NGR: NM 664 855

Source: Map

Class: Structure

Description: A structure was marked on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Inverness-Shire, Sheet CXXI, 1876) c. 100m north of Pheasantry Cottage. No remains were located by the field survey.

No: 3.2

NGR: NM 6691 8531 - NM 6635 8528

Source: Field inspection

Class: Fieldbank

Description: Two short stretches of fieldbank marked on the current 1:10,000 map (NM 68 NE) on the southern flank of Torr an t-Sagairt were located by field survey and found to be part of a single length of fieldbank c. 450m long. The turf-covered stone-faced fieldbank is 2 - 2.5m wide, and up to 1m high.

No: 3.3

NGR: NM 6697 8540

Source: Field inspection

Class: Rectilinear structure

Description: This is a large rectilinear structure which is marked on the current Ordnance survey map (NM 68 NE) at the eastern foot of the hill which lies to the east

of Lochan a' Chleirich. It is a drystone rectilinear structure 15m long, east to west, 7m wide. The walls are 1.5m wide and there is an entrance in the northern side. There are later additions of curving walls built from collapsed wall stones in both the south-east and south-west corners. Areas of rig and furrow are located on the north and south sides of the structure. The rigs measure 4m from crest to crest.

No: 3.4

NGR: NM 6670 8578

Source: Field inspection

Class: Two rectilinear structures

Description: Two rectilinear structures are marked on the current Ordnance Survey map (NM 68 NE) c. 200m north of Lochan Torr na Nighinn. The largest structure lies parallel to the stream and measures 11m north to south and 6m wide. The walls are 1 - 1.5m high, 0.8m thick and are rounded at the corners. There is an entrance c. 1m wide in the eastern wall. The second structure is perpendicular to the first and lies 4m to the north-east. It is 8m long, 4m wide and has an entrance 0.8m wide in the southern wall. The walls are 0.5 - 0.8m thick and up to 1m high with rounded corners.

AREA 4

No: 4.1

NGR: NM 7307 8412

Source: Field inspection

Class: Modern structure

Description: This is a small square building located at the foot of the cliff on the south side of Glen Beasdale. It is constructed of cemented stonework and has a collapsed concrete roof. It is c. 6m across and has an entrance in its western side. Its function remains unclear although it is clearly of recent date, and was perhaps used by shooting parties.

No: 4.2

NGR: NM 7250 8480 (centre)

Source: Field inspection

Class: Trackways

Description: A series of wide trackways is located south of Beasdale Bridge and a south-west of the railway tunnel. In general the tracks are 3 - 4m wide and are terraced into the hillslopes with stone retaining walls. One of these retaining walls is c. 3m high at a point where the track is 6m wide. One of the tracks runs down to the southern mouth of the tunnel, and it is possible that they were built during the construction of the railway for the removal of excavated stone.

No: 4.3

NGR: NM 7307 8362

Source: Field inspection

Class: Track

Description: A very short length of revetted track 20m long and 3m wide was located c. 20m north of the railway, c.180m north of The Prince's Cairn.

No: 4.4

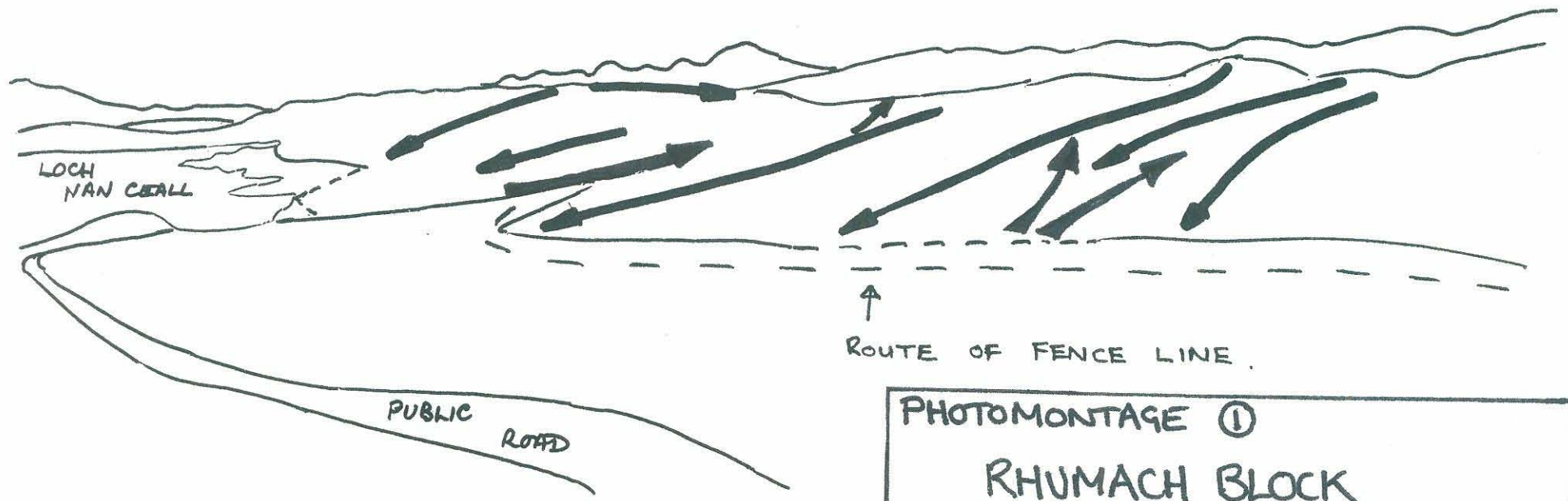
NGR: NM 7264 8435

Source: NMRS, maps

NMRS No: NM 78 SW 1

Class: Short cist

Description: The NMRS records that a short cist was found at this point, one foot below the surface, when the Mallaig road was remade in 1938. The remains consisted of a crude short cist comprising four side slabs and a number of smaller stones, possibly the broken cap stone which is now in Fort William Museum. The field survey located no archaeological remains in the area to the east of the present road cutting or protruding from the section of topsoil.



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Roinn na
Gaidhealtachd



Highland

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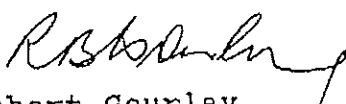
ARISAIG WGS

I have now had a look at the aerial photographs supplied by SNH via Margaret MacLennan. The scale is a little small, and I have had to check over them with a hand lens, but there appears to be a fair bit of interest within the area, notably around Rhemore, Millburn and Loch Dubh. I also think that the higher areas cannot be excluded from a survey, although I would leave the final decision on what to cover to the good sense of whoever is doing the work. Some of the 'old shielings' in the area were clearly more premanent settlement, with cultivation areas, but there appear to be shielings further into the hill, probably associated with each of them. The area was turned into a deer forest in 1853, and the peninsula cut off by a wall - which, I am not sure. A 'woodkeeper' lived at Ardnafuaran, where there was also a 'change-house' or coaching inn. You might find more information in the Deer Forest Commission and the 1811 census. Also Fraser-Mackintoshes 'Antiquarian Notes' of 1897 contains material of interest (information from a colleague).

Next, there is clearly an area of cultivation in Glen Beasdale, about 1km in from the road. This also needs to be looked at, I'm afraid, while finally, it might be worth the team having a look in area 3, just in case.

I can't be specific about the sites, but the survey should include a look at the APs, as they are excellent quality, although not everything shows at that scale. I hope this will do. Please let me know if you need further information.

Yours sincerely


Robert Gourlay
Archaeologist