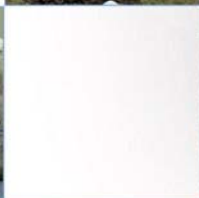
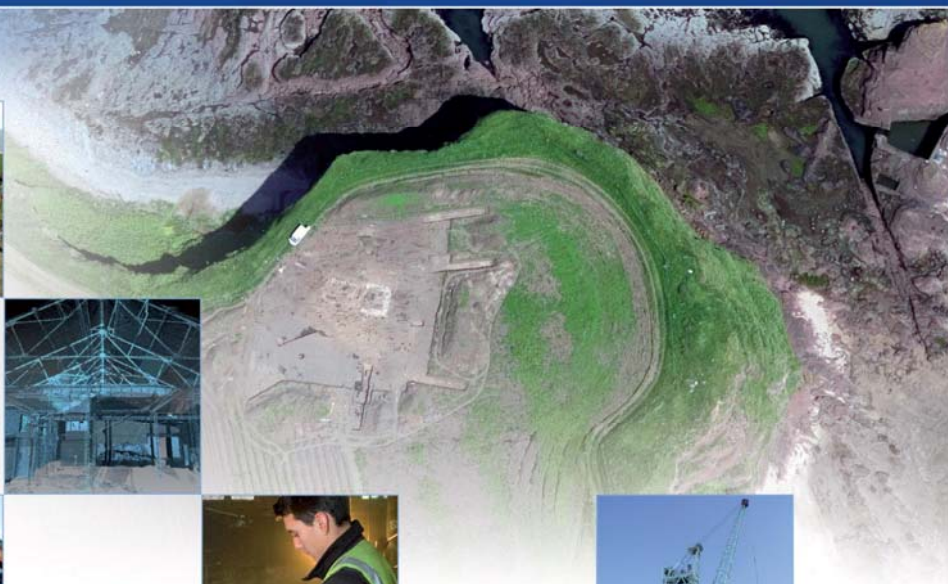


Construction of a 2m wide trail path between Glendoe and Loch Tarff

Archaeological Walkover Survey Report

AOC 70238

30th October 2017



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Archaeological Walkover Survey Report

On Behalf of:	Visit Inverness Loch Ness
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AOC Project No:	70238
Planning Ref:	17/02254/FUL
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Contents

	Page
List of illustrations	2
List of plates	2
List of appendices	2
Abstract.....	3
1.0 Introduction	4
2.0 Project Background	4
3.0 Desk-based Assessment	6
3.1 Methodology	6
3.2 Cartographic Sources	6
3.3 Aerial Imagery	8
3.4 Historic Environment Sources	8
4.0 Survey Methodology	9
5.0 Survey Results	9
6.0 Conclusion and Recommendations	12
7.0 References	10

List of illustrations

Figure 1: Site location map

Figure 2: Extract from the OS 1st edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map

Figure 3: Extract from the OS 2nd edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map

Figure 4: Archaeological sites recorded during the survey

List of plates

Plate 1: An example of the terrain crossed by the proposed path route, looking NE towards Loch Tarff

Plate 2: Moss- and heather-covered dyke (Site 1), facing SW

Plate 3: One of the clearance cairns at Site 2, facing W

Plate 4: Relict track with revetted wall on its N side, facing ESE

Plate 5: Damage to the old bridge crossing the Allt Doe

Plate 6: Relict track (Site 6), facing E

Plate 7: Structure 4a, facing SE

Plate 8: Structure 4d, turf and stone enclosure, facing SE

Plate 9: Structure 4e, a stone wall and bank by a stream, facing NE

Plate 10: Structure 5a, facing NW

Plate 11: Structure 5c, enclosure with modern track cut through, facing NE

List of appendices

Appendix 1 Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites

Appendix 2 List of Site Photographs

Abstract

This report details the results of an archaeological walkover survey undertaken over the route of a new 2m wide trail path between Glendoe and Loch Tarff. The survey was required due to the location of the development site within an area considered to have the potential for unrecorded historic environment features to be present.

The walkover survey was undertaken on 25th October 2017. Six archaeological sites were recorded, including a group of cairns, structures, tracks and a dyke. Three sites would be affected by the proposed new footpath route and recommendations have been made to avoid the archaeological sites.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 An archaeological walkover survey was required on behalf of Visit Inverness Loch Ness with regard to the construction of a 2m wide trail path between Glendoe and Loch Tarff (Planning ref: 17/02254/FUL). The aim of the survey was to identify and assess the nature and extent of any upstanding archaeology likely to be directly affected by the proposed development and to inform decisions on any further fieldwork or mitigation.
- 1.2 The site lies within the administrative area of the Highland Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the Highland Council Historic Environment Team. The walkover survey was specified in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.
- 1.3 The survey was carried out on 25th October 2017 and identified a group of cairns, a dyke, relict tracks and a small number of structures, all of which relate to the post-medieval period.

2.0 Project Background

- 2.1 The proposed footpath is located to the north and south of the B862, which runs from Dores to Fort Augustus, from Loch Tarff before leaving the road and striking off generally in a south-westerly direction (**Figure 1**; NGR NH 41647 09111 (centred)). This route runs through a variety of terrain including the roadside and undeveloped open rough grassland and moorland with some open woodland (**Plate 1**).
- 2.2 The proposed pathway is located in a wider area rich in archaeological remains from prehistory through to more recent times. To the northeast of the development are two cairnfields (MHG2750 and MHG240) at Glen Brein and Ardochy respectively. To the southwest is a hut circle (MHG2570) at Torr A' Choiltreich. Post-medieval settlement is particularly prevalent in the area with townships and farmsteads located at, for example, Tomnahoid (MHG22948), Glendoemore (MHG23344) and Glendoebeg (MHG23331). The current B862 road follows the route of Wade's Military Road.



Plate 1: An example of the terrain crossed by the proposed path route, looking NE towards Loch Tarff

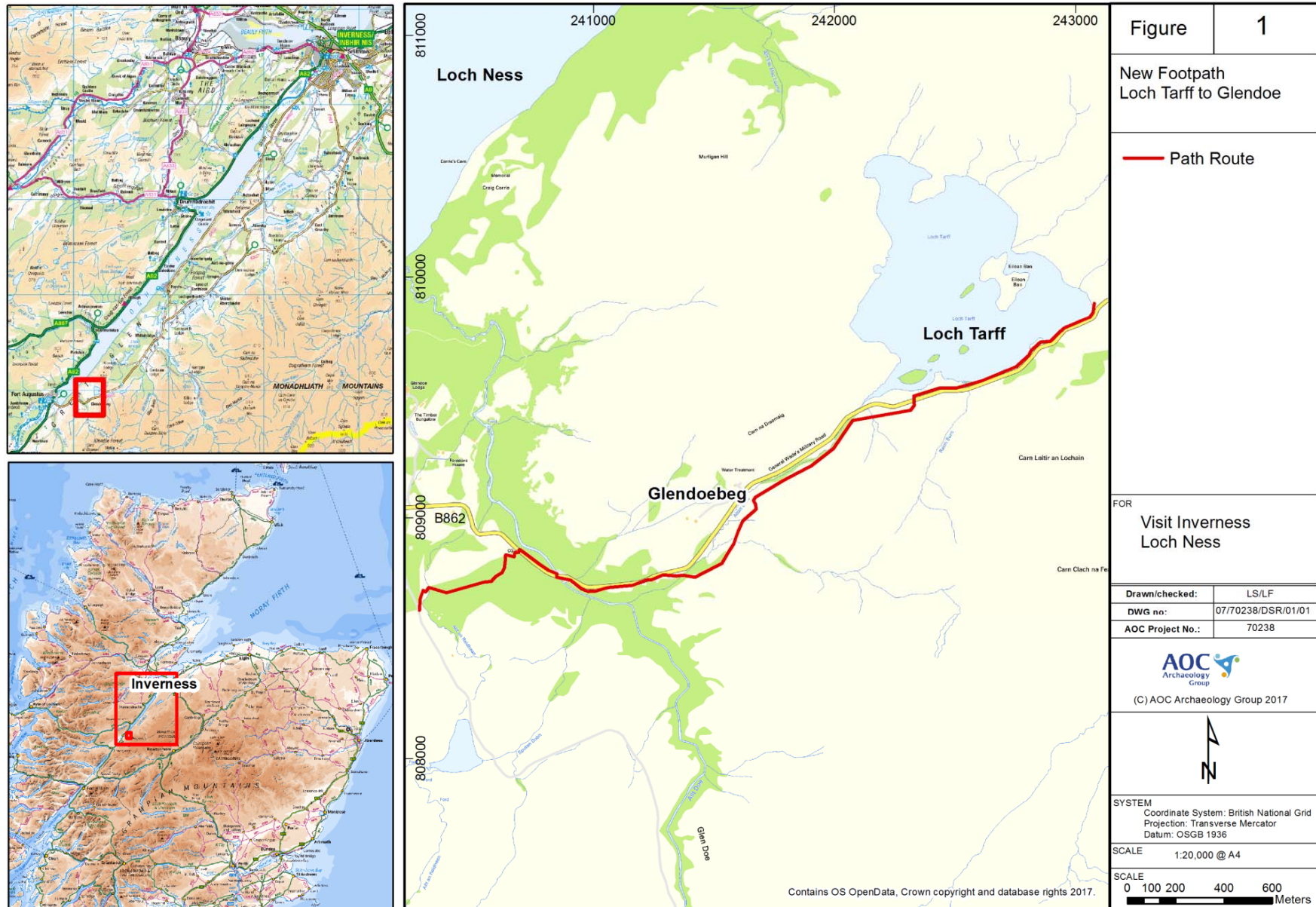


Figure 1: Site location map

3.0 Desk-based Assessment

3.1 Methodology

3.1.1 A desk-based assessment was conducted prior to commencement of the survey in order to assess the archaeological potential of the area based on previously recorded sites and any historical documentation. A full check of all available historical and archaeological records, aerial photographs and historical maps was conducted using the Highland Historic Environment Record (HHER), the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE), Ordnance Survey Name Books, Historic Environment Scotland's databases, the National Library of Scotland, statistical accounts and other available records, literary sources or online resources about the site.

3.2 Cartographic Sources

3.2.1 Historical maps were consulted at the National Library of Scotland (NLS 2017) online.

a) William Roy Military Survey of Scotland Highlands, 1747-52

Wade's Military Road is depicted on the map. A small area of settlement is shown to the west of the Allt an Reidhean.

**b) Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map Inverness-shire (Mainland), Sheet LXVIII (includes: Boleskine And Abertarff; Urquhart And Glenmoriston)
Survey Date: 1871 Publication Date: 1874**

General Wade's Military Road is depicted on the map. In the *Glendoebeg* area, a sheepfold is shown on the east side of the road, to the north of an unnamed stream. On the west side of the road are two large enclosures with a total of five roofed structures and one unroofed structure. The route of the pathway development generally traverses through moorland and woodland on the map (**Figure 2**).

**c) Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map Inverness-shire – Mainland Sheet LXVIII (includes: Boleskine and Abertarff; Urquhart and Glenmoriston)
Publication Date: 1904 Date revised: 1899**

The Military Road is still depicted. A track is shown at the northeast end of *Loch Tarff*. The sheepfold has reduced in size slightly. The two enclosures at *Glendoebeg* have merged into one large area within a larger enclosure. There are four roofed and one unroofed structure together with one roofed and one partially roofed structure marked as 'Kennels' (**Figure 3**).

3.3 Ordnance Survey Name Books

3.3.1 *Glendoebeg* is described as a small thatched dwelling house, one story high, with outbuildings attached and in a fair condition. Lord Lovat, Beaufort Castle, by Beaully was the proprietor.

3.3.2 *Allt an Reidhean* is a small mountain stream collecting on the moor south of, and flowing in a northerly direction until it joins the Allt Doe. The name signifies 'The burn of the grave or hollow'.

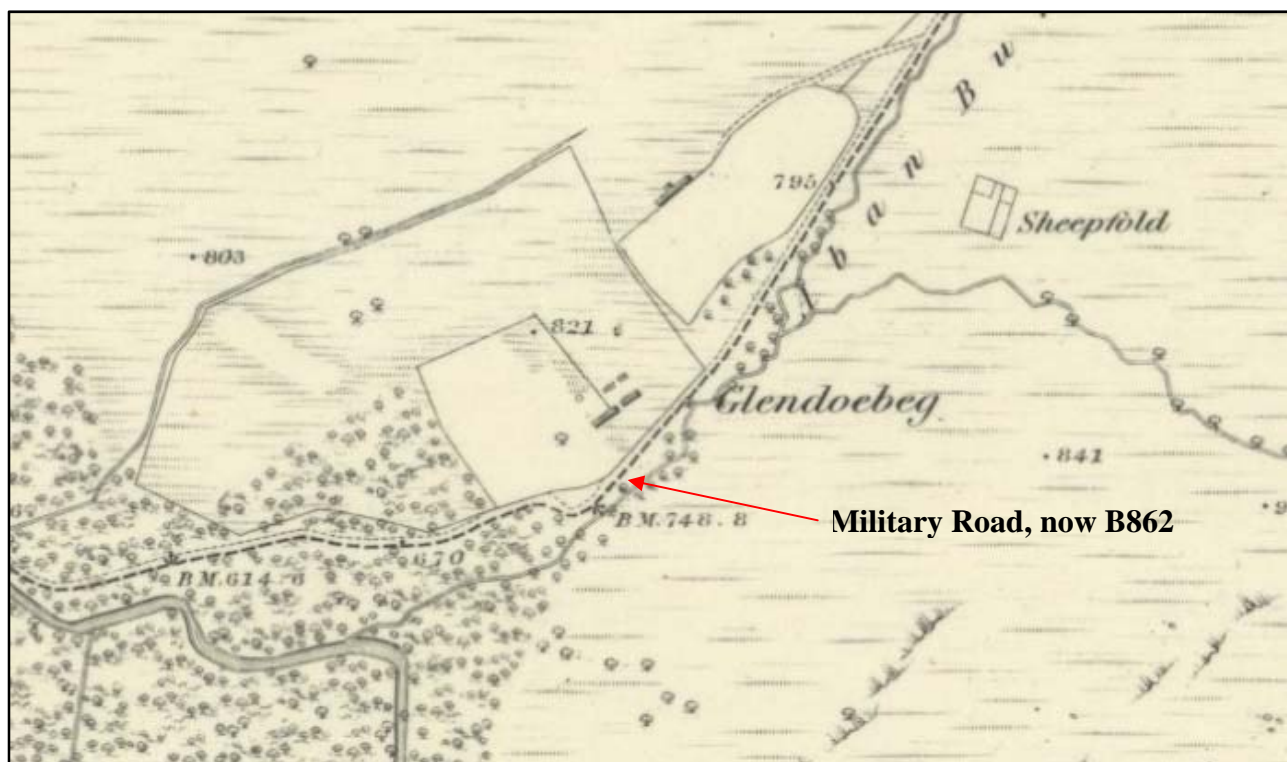


Figure 2: Extract from the OS 1st edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map



Figure 3: Extract from the OS 2nd edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map

3.4 Aerial Imagery

- 3.4.1 Satellite imagery was consulted on Google Maps online (2017). There are possible dykes along the route together with the sheepfold marked on the historical mapping. Close to the west end of the route, on both sides of the Allt an Reidhean, are the footings of an enclosure and several structures. This settlement is not recorded on the Historic Environment Record, but is depicted on the current OS map.

3.5 Historic Environment Sources

- 3.5.1 A full search of the Highland Council Historic Environment Record and the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE), via Canmore, was carried out and the following sites were found in close proximity to the development area.

MHG18477 NH 4390 1000 General Wade's Military Road

NH 4390 1000 - 4499 1056: the B862 public road follows the line of Wade's road.

MHG55403 NH 4221 0948 Fundamental Bench Mark, Loch Tarff

This is an underground concrete chamber containing two permanent height markers, and marked at ground level by a granite pillar about a foot high.

MHG250 NH 4175 0942 Fort, Carn Na Dreamaig

Occupying the rocky, uneven summit of a ridge named Carn na Dreamaig, about 330m O D, are the turf-covered remains of a fort.

MHG46197 NH 416 092 Glendoebeg, Carn Na Dreamaig

As part of an archaeological assessment August 2002, one site of limited cultural heritage interest, an 18th- to 19th-century dyke, was identified.

MHG23331 NH 4135 0882 Glendoebeg

A farmstead, comprising four roofed buildings and one unroofed structure is depicted on the 1st edition of the 6-inch map (Inverness-shire 1874, sheet lxviii). One partially roofed building is shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1971).

MHG35374 NH 4084 0877 Old Bridge over Allt Doe, Glendoe

Listed Building (B). This single span stone bridge, now superseded by the nearby B862, is flanked on either side by a grass-covered stretch of military road.

MHG36964 NH 4086 0875 Bridge carrying re-aligned A862 over Allt Doe, Glendoe

Listed Building (C). Probably Mears and Carus-Wilson, 1930-35. Single span rubble faced concrete bridge built on slight skew.

MHG15754 NH 4047 0894 Bridge over Allt an Reidhean, Glendoe

Listed Building (B). This single span stone bridge, now superseded by the nearby B862, is flanked on either side by a grass-covered stretch of military road.

MHG23344 NH 4004 0887 Glendoemore

A farmstead, comprising one roofed and one unroofed building is depicted on the 1st edition of the 6-inch map (Inverness-shire 1874, sheet lxviii), but it is not shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1971).

4.0 Survey Methodology

- 4.1 The archaeological survey was conducted by two archaeologists. The route of the new trail path was systematically walked and sites were recorded using written descriptions and high resolution digital photography, as well as their locations being recorded using an Archer Field PC unit capable of sub-metre accuracy.
- 4.2 Survey and recording methods recommended by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (2004) were employed and all work was conducted in strict adherence to the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct* (2014).

5.0 Survey Results

- 5.1 The walkover survey was carried out on 25th October 2017 and revealed that the path route lies within a landscape of post-medieval activity. A total of six sites were recorded along the route (**Figure 4**); of these, Sites 1, 3 and 6 will be directly affected by the proposed route.
- 5.2 **Site 1** comprised a moss- and heather-covered turf dyke standing up to 0.6m high and spread to 1.5m wide (**Plate 2**). **Site 2** consisted of a group of large, grass-covered stone cairns situated close to the base of the slope on the south side of the B862 (**Plate 3**). They range from about 7m in diameter to approximately 12m in length. They are located within a close cluster in a small, flat field. The function of the cairns is unclear, and their large size may suggest that they represent activity other than field clearance – and one possibility is that they represent the remains of prehistoric burial cairns.
- 5.3 Two relict tracks (Sites **3** and **6**) were also recorded. **Site 3** (**Plate 4**) is the most substantial of the two, measuring approximately 1.5m wide with a stone wall revetted into the hillside on its north side and was located close to the bridges crossing the Allt Doe, suggesting that it was part of or associated with Wade's Road. The old bridge was over the Allt Doe was visited and it was noted that there is quite considerable damage to its structure at the northeast end (**Plate 5**). **Site 6** (**Plate 6**) is likely an old farm track, approximately 2m wide and leading from the B862 towards the settlement complex (Sites 4 and 5).
- 5.4 At the southwest end of the route, **Sites 4** (**Plates 7-9**) and **5** (**Plates 10-11**) formed two discrete settlements and enclosure complexes within close proximity to one another. Unfortunately, a modern farm track had been cut through enclosure 5c. Neither of these sites is depicted on the historical mapping, which suggests that they were in a much degraded state by the time of the first survey in 1871 and, as such, likely date to the early 1800s. The detailed site gazetteer and photograph register are set out in **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2** respectively.

- 5.5 Although close to the east side of the proposed path route, the sheepfold depicted on the historical OS mapping (**Figures 2-3**) is still in use and was therefore not recorded as an archaeological site.

6.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 6.1 The present survey covered a 10-20m corridor around the route and the results represent the sites found in close proximity to the proposed footpath route. Based on the maps provided ahead of survey, Sites 1, 2, 3 and 6 are shown in line with the proposed path route. It is recommended that the footpath location be routed to avoid any direct impacts on these sites. A buffer of 5m is recommended for Sites 1 and 3. A buffer of 10m is recommended for Site 2, due to its potential prehistoric significance. The condition and minimal significance of Site 6 does not warrant any mitigation measures.
- 6.2 If it is not possible to re-route the pathway to avoid the sites, it is recommended that any groundworks in these areas be carried out under archaeological supervision.

7.0 References

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. *By-laws of the Institute for Archaeologists: Code of Conduct*. Reading: ClfA.

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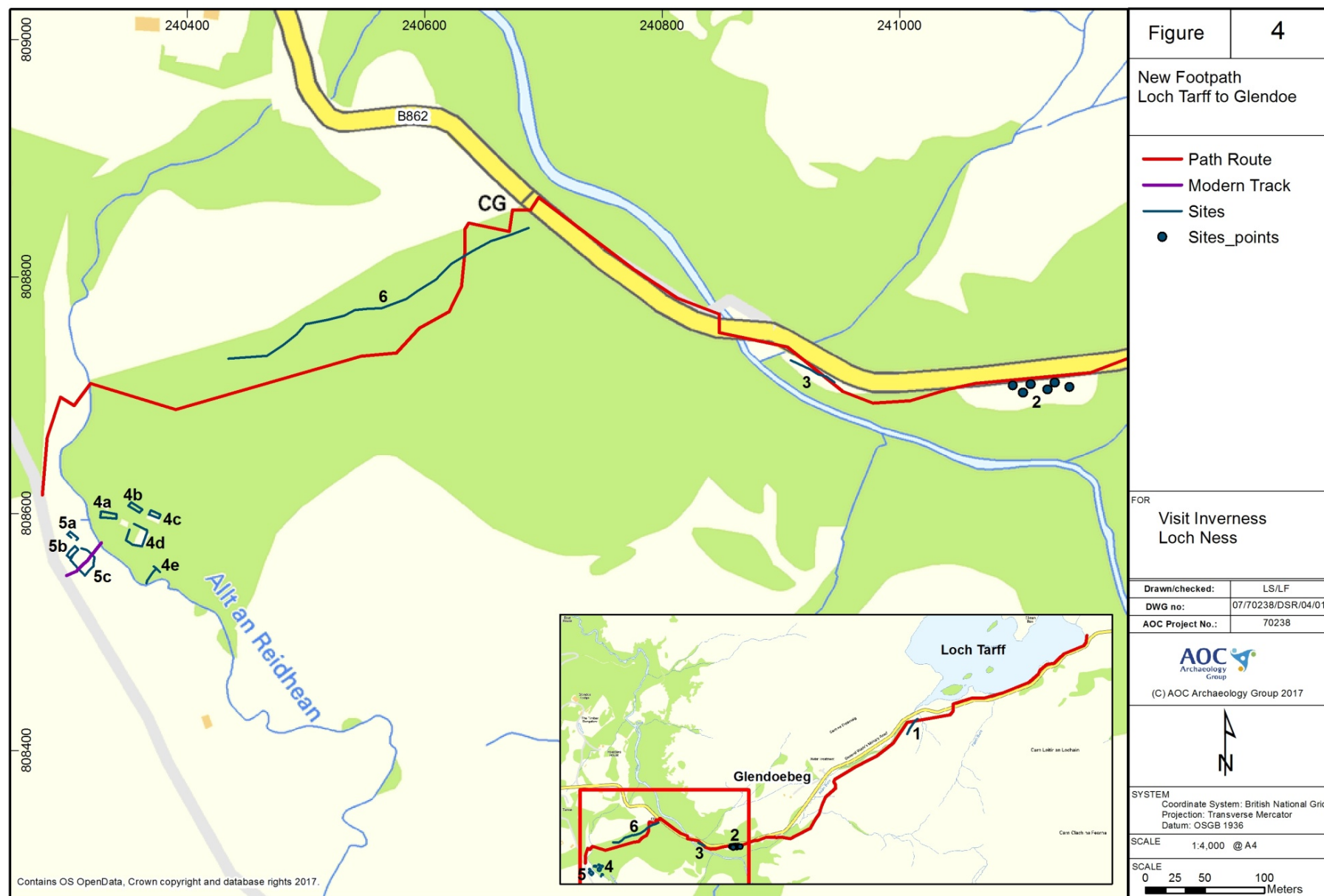


Figure 4: Archaeological sites recorded during the survey (Site 1 shown in inset)



Plate 2: Moss- and heather-covered dyke (Site 1), facing SW



Plate 3: One of the clearance cairns at Site 2, facing W



Plate 4: Relict track, Site 3, with revetted wall on its N side, facing ESE



Plate 5: Damage to the old bridge crossing the Allt Doe



Plate 6: Relict track (Site 6), facing E



Plate 7: Structure 4a, facing SE



Plate 8: Structure 4d, turf and stone enclosure, facing SE



Plate 9: Structure 4e, a stone wall and bank by a stream, facing NE



Plate 10: Structure 5a, facing NW



Plate 11: Structure 5c, enclosure with modern track cut through, facing NE

Appendix 1 Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites

Site No.	Type	Description	Alignment	Condition	Period	Easting	Northing
1	Bank	Turf/peat bank or dyke under moss and heather, spread to 1.5m wide and up to 0.6m high. Aligned NE-SW and ends near the modern road at its NE end.	NE-SW	Degraded	Post-medieval	242099	809383
2	Clearance Cairns	Possible clearance cairns under grass at the base of the steep slope adjacent to the modern road. Cluster of six cairns circular and oval in shape, measuring between 7m and 12m long and up to 0.6m high. Some rounded stones visible on the surface. These may be the remains of material from construction of the modern road.	-	Degraded	Modern?	241131	808711
3	Track	Relict track, approximately 1.5m wide, running NW-SE between the river and the modern road. The north side was revetted into the steep hillside with a section of coursed stone wall visible up to 1.5m high. This may be part of the old road, associated with the nearby old bridge.	NW-SE	Degraded	Post-medieval	240927	808720
4a	Structure	Turf and stone structure under grass and bracken, measuring 12m E-W by 3m internally. Walls spread to 1m wide and up to 0.5m high. Constructed with some large boulders and slabs, with smaller stones between. Tumbled stone on all sides.	E-W	Very degraded	Post-medieval	240339	808596
4b	Structure	Turf and stone structure under grass and bracken, measuring 11m NW-SE by 3m internally. Walls spread to 0.8m wide and up to 0.4m high. Constructed with large boulders and some smaller stones. More degraded at the SE end.	NW-SE	Very degraded	Post-medieval	240350	808607
4c	Structure	Very degraded turf and stone structure under grass, measuring 8m WNW-ESE by 2.5m internally. Walls spread to 0.7m wide and up to 0.3m high. Some large boulders visible in the construction.	WNW-ESE	Very degraded	Post-medieval	240377	808599
4d	Enclosure	Turf and stone enclosure, approximately 16m N-S by 14m, under grass and bracken. Walls spread to 1.5m wide and up to 0.5m high. Walls on the N and E sides are better preserved.	N-S	Very degraded	Post-medieval	240362	808573

Site No.	Type	Description	Alignment	Condition	Period	Easting	Northing
4e	Wall/Bank	Stone wall and bank of loose stone beside the stream; possibly used to divert its course. Stone bank measures c.3m wide and is partly under grass. At its SE end is a 4m long section of coursed stone wall, aligned NW-SE, perpendicular to the stone bank. It may continue further under the grass and bracken.	NW-SE	Very degraded	Post-medieval	240375	808553
5a	Structure	Very degraded stone structure under grass measuring 9m NW-SE by 2.5m internally. Walls spread to 0.7m wide and up to 0.3m high. Possibly double faced construction using large stones.	NW-SE	Very degraded	Post-medieval	240302	808584
5b	Structure	Turf and stone structure under grass measuring 12m NE-SW by 3m internally. Walls spread to 1.5-2m wide and up to 0.5m high with only very few stones visible on the surface. Enclosure (5c) attached on the SE side.	NE-SW	Very degraded	Post-medieval	240307	808571
5c	Enclosure	Turf and stone enclosure, approximately 19m NW-SE by 16m, under grass and rushes to SE side of structure 5b. Banks spread to 1.5m wide and up to 0.5m high. Has been severely truncated through the centre by an estate dirt track.	NW-SE	Very degraded	Post-medieval	240317	808551
6	Track	Relict track, approximately 3m wide with low turf banks along each edge up to 0.3m high.	ENE-WSW	Very degraded	Post-medieval	240564	808774

Appendix 2 List of Site Photographs

Photo No.	Site No.	Description	Direction Facing	Date
1		Landscape image of the route from the western end of Loch Tarff	SW	25/10/2017
2		Landscape image of Loch Tarff	NE	25/10/2017
3	1	Moss and heather covered dyke, site 1	SW	25/10/2017
4		Image of the path route	NE	25/10/2017
5		Image of the path route and sheep pens	SW	25/10/2017
6		Sheep pens	NE	25/10/2017
7		Image of the path route	ENE	25/10/2017
8	2	Possible clearance cairn, site 2	S	25/10/2017
9	2	Possible clearance cairn, site 2	E	25/10/2017
10	2	Possible cairns at site 2	W	25/10/2017
11	2	Possible cairns at site 2	NE	25/10/2017
12	3	Relict track	SE	25/10/2017
13	3	Stone wall revetted into the bank above the relict track	N	25/10/2017
14	3	Relict track with revetted wall	ESE	25/10/2017
15	3	Top of the wall/bank above the relict track	ESE	25/10/2017
16		Old bridge	NE	25/10/2017
17		New bridge from the old bridge	SSE	25/10/2017
18		New bridge from the old bridge	SSE	25/10/2017
19		Old bridge	ENE	25/10/2017
20		Damage to the old bridge	-	25/10/2017
21		Damage to the old bridge	-	25/10/2017
22		Damage to the old bridge	-	25/10/2017
23		Path route following the remnants of a relict track	ENE	25/10/2017
24	4a	Footings of a rectangular stone structure	W	25/10/2017
25	4a	Footings of a rectangular stone structure	SE	25/10/2017
26	4b	Footings of a rectangular stone structure	NW	25/10/2017
27	4b	Footings of a rectangular stone structure	SE	25/10/2017
28	4c	Footings of a rectangular stone structure	ESE	25/10/2017
29	4c	Footings of a rectangular stone structure	SE	25/10/2017
30	4d	Turf and stone enclosure dyke	SE	25/10/2017
31	4e	Stone wall and bank of loose stone by the stream	SW	25/10/2017
32	4e	Stone wall and bank of loose stone by the stream	NE	25/10/2017
33	4e	Stone wall and bank of loose stone by the stream	NE	25/10/2017
34	5a	Footings of a rectangular stone structure	N	25/10/2017
35	5a	Footings of a rectangular stone structure	NW	25/10/2017
36	5b	Footings of a rectangular stone structure	S	25/10/2017
37	5b	Footings of a rectangular stone structure	SW	25/10/2017
38	5c	Turf and stone enclosure	E	25/10/2017
39	5c	Turf and stone enclosure	N	25/10/2017
40	5c	Turf and stone enclosure showing a modern track through the centre of the enclosure	NE	25/10/2017

Photo No.	Site No.	Description	Direction Facing	Date
41	6	Relict track	E	25/10/2017
42		Looking over Loch Tarff	SW	25/10/2017



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