

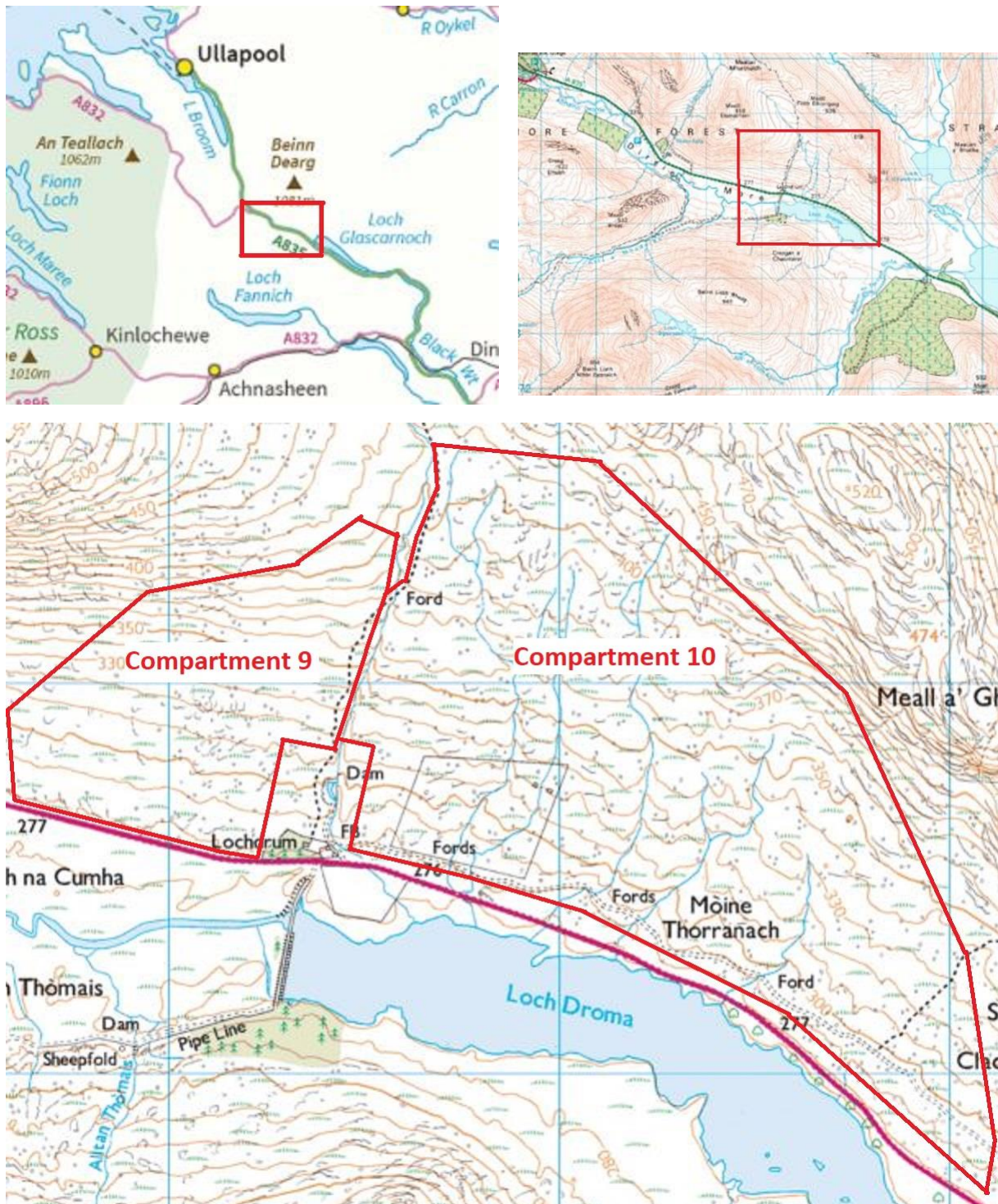
Moine Thorrnach, Braemore Estate, Lochbroom
Proposed Enclosures and New Planting
Archaeological Evaluation



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Moine Thorrnach, Braemore Estate, Lochbroom

Proposed Enclosures and New Planting: Archaeological Evaluation



Location Plan of proposed woodland compartments survey area

Moine Thorrnach, Braemore Estate, Lochbroom

Proposed Enclosures and New Planting: Archaeological Evaluation

1.0 Background

1.1. General Background

This evaluation covers an area of proposed woodland creation north of Loch Droma and the A835, part of Braemore estate in the parish of Lochbroom, Ross-shire. This evaluation revisits archaeological features noted during these previous evaluations, places them in a more detailed context and offers recommendations for their protection within the planting scheme according to present guidelines on forests and archaeology.

1.2 UKFS Guidelines: Forests and Historic Environment

The UKFS Forests and Historic Environment guidelines replace the Forests & Archaeology guidance note published in 1995. The guidelines describe the various legal requirements and the key good forestry practice requirements. These requirements aim to ensure that the protection and management of the historic environment is considered within forest management plans and operational plans. A wider suite of guidelines provide clarity and definition: [1–3] emphasise historic landscape character and historic designed landscapes (which also cross reference the UKFS Forest and Landscape guidelines 8–10); [4–9] highlight the importance of archaeological surveys and advice from the Local Authority Archaeology Service; [10–14] describe general forest planning guidelines in relation to protecting the historic environment; [15–19] suggest general historic environment conservation management (and also cross reference both the UKFS General Forestry Practice and Biodiversity guidelines); [20–27] describe general forestry operational guidelines; and [28–30] provide suggestions for heritage access and presentation.

Best practice for forest managers and operators include:

- Establishment of exclusion zones with defined boundaries around the site.
- Allowing access routes to the site from the nearest road or track.
- Procedures to follow if an unrecorded site or remains are found.

1.3 Highland Council Standards for Archaeological Work (March 2012)

Section 3: Forestry, pre-afforestation survey states that specific consideration must be given to the following issues:

- The formation of appropriately sized exclusion areas (or buffers) around archaeological sites in which no planting will take place. This is in order to protect the feature/s from forestry operations, wind blow and to minimise re-seeding and to ensure any associated buried remains are not impacted. The exclusion area should be justifiable and proportionate to the significance of the feature.

- Grouping associated features, or historic landscapes formed by features from multiple periods, within areas of open land or open ground.
- Recommendations regarding the monitoring and management of areas of open land within which important and/or extensive archaeological sites have been preserved.
- The likelihood of forestry operations impacting buried archaeological remains and deposits. Mitigation strategies should be recommended where appropriate.
- Justification for the preservation of features of minor importance within open land (such as, for example, large post-medieval field systems). It is possible that detailed recording in advance of planting may be more appropriate in such instances. The appropriateness of this approach will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- The setting of historic environment features both within and outwith the area of proposed planting.
- Enhanced recreational access to the historic environment, where warranted and justifiable.

2.0 Archaeological Background

2.1 Previous Archaeological Work

The following archaeological surveys have previously covered part of the present survey area:

- Headland Archaeology Ltd 2008: DBA and Walkover Survey - Proposed Power Transmission Cable from Grabhair, Isle of Lewis, to Dundonnell, Little Loch Broom, to Beaully

This survey identified four archaeological features within a broad corridor running along the A835; sites M34, M35, M36 and M37, the first three corresponding to recorded sites MHG7346, MHG7551 and MHG8355. The fourth feature, site M37 is described as a possible enclosure but no grid reference is given in the report and, placed at approximately NH 2605 7537, this may refer to the large modern fenced enclosure.

The Headland survey concluded, for this section of the then proposed development:

Potential for unrecorded cultural heritage features in the inner study area: 12.5.6.6 It is considered that the potential for unrecorded sites is low. The area takes in upland moorland (250m-270m AOD) that has occasionally been suitable for cultivation adjacent to one of the two communication corridors between Ullapool and the east coast. However, the potential for further sites to be present is limited as conditions are favourable for the survival of features as upstanding monuments; the section has not seen intensive agriculture, and peat coverage is generally insufficient to mask archaeological features. Additional sites are therefore unlikely to be present.

- Marshall, M: Allt Airigh nan Coimh'each, Loch Droma – surveyed and recorded 28.07.2012

This survey, not triggered by any proposed development, recorded in detail individual features within the recorded sites MHG7346, MHG7551 and MHG8355.

2.2 Recorded Archaeological Sites

The following sites have been recorded on the Highland Historic Environment Record (HER):

MHG7346 Lochdrum, shieling hut at NH 2519 7579: The remains of some five shieling-huts lie some 250m NW of Lochdrum, at an altitude of 300m OD. The most prominent is sub-oval, measuring c.7m by 3m. Information from A Kilpatrick, 4 March 1990.

MHG7551 Allt Airigh nan Coimh'each , shieling hut, cultivation remains at NH 2547 7591. Situated to the E of Allt Airigh nan Coimh'each some 350m NNE of Lochdrum house are the stone footings of a shieling aligned E to W measuring 6m by 3m with a small compartment on the E side measuring 2m by 2m. Some 30m S is a small area of unenclosed cultivated ground. Information from C Jack and A K Kilpatrick 1992.

MHG8374 Alt Airigh nan Coimh'each, shieling huts at NH 2560 7619. Situated to E of Allt Airigh nan Coimh'each on a natural platform some 680m NNE of Lochdrum house are the remains of up to 11 shielings, five of which are clearly visible, with their stone footings aligned E to W. The footings vary in size from 5m to 8m in length to 2.5m to 3m in width. Where defined each displays round angled W walls. The remaining shielings are poorly preserved with no features visible. C Jack and A K Kilpatrick 1992.

MHG8355 Moine Thorranach, farmstead at NH 2597 7573. Situated on S-facing slopes above Loch Droma some 600m ENE of Lochdrum house and visible from road are remains of two stone buildings aligned E to W. The larger building measures 12m by 4m with no visible partitions. A small addition measuring 2m by 2m has been built onto W end. The second building, some 18m to the W, measures 8m by 2.5m. Surrounding an area N and adjoining buildings are the stone footings of an enclosure wall. C Jack and A K Kilpatrick 1992.

3.0 Historic and Cartographic Evidence

There is no clear evidence on early mapping or in accessible archive material for any year round settlement in this area prior to the establishment of Lochdrum keeper's cottage. The earliest detailed map is Brown's survey for the proposed road between Ullapool and Contin, completed in 1790 for the British Fisheries Society. This plan shows both Brown's preferred route and, as a dotted line, the route eventually built and which is probably representing the line proposed by David Aitken in 1787. Only one stream flowing south to Loch Droma is named by Brown, as Allt Glack More. This appears to be an error on Brown's part, as the Allt na Glais Moire is to the south west, and this stream is more correctly named on more recent mapping as the Allt Airigh nan Coimh'each.

Brown records one small group of buildings, un-named, to the west of this stream. It is worth noting that Brown does not annotate this group as shielings as he does in other locations. This may suggest a slightly more substantial site.



Detail from Brown's 1790 survey showing proposed route of road between Ullapool and Dingwall and unnamed group of buildings above road to west.

The construction of the first Ullapool to Contin road was contracted to Mackenzie of Torridon. It was 16 feet wide, its surface covered with gravel. Although initially considered adequate for carriages the road apparently fell quickly into disrepair and twelve years after completion there were calls for its renewal, with the inadequacy of Mackenzie's price and the poor quality of the work becoming evident. By 1835 the road was reported as being not only useless but dangerous. However, it continued to be the only road connecting Ullapool with the east until completion of the present road around 1850.

The ground which is the present Braemore estate was sold by Mackenzie of Ballone to Davidson of Tulloch in 1773. Davidson set about converting the whole estate to commercial sheep farming and by 1802 had cleared all the former townships from the head of Loch Broom to Gruinard. This was presumably a gradual process but the shielings named on Brown's 1790 plan would suggest that these sites were still in use at that date. However, they would have been abandoned soon after this date, to be replaced by sheep stells and shepherds cottages. Two such stells are located within or adjacent to the present survey area and one site (no, below) is likely to have been a shepherds cottage, long abandoned by the time of the first Ordnance Survey.

Anderson's Guide to the Highlands and Islands of Scotland (1850) gives the following description of the Dirrie Mor:

The most oppressive gloominess prevails throughout its solitudes; no sounds to break upon the ear, save the bleatings of sheep or the lowing of cattle; no trees, no houses, or marks of man, save a few shepherds' huts at great distances from each other, or the grass-covered walls of hamlets long deserted and the rude cairn piled here and there to mark the graves of persons who perished in the storm.

Braemore Estate was sold by Davidson of Tulloch to Sir John Fowler in 1865. Fowler set about major improvements, including the embankment and sluice on Loch Droma, the planting of trees north and west of the loch and probably the present Lochdrum cottage as a keeper's house with byre and enclosures and the two stalkers paths heading into the hills from Lochdrum and from the east end of loch Droma.

The Braemore Estate plan of 1870, five years before the Ordnance Survey, shows the state of affairs at that date, without any plantings. The house at Lochdrum has been built, described as 'foresters lodge' and the stalkers path leading from it, but not the stalkers path at the east end of the loch. Both stells are indicated, but no shielings, nor the probable shepherds cottage, which would have been made redundant by the transition from sheep to sporting activities.

The Ordnance Survey Name Book gives:

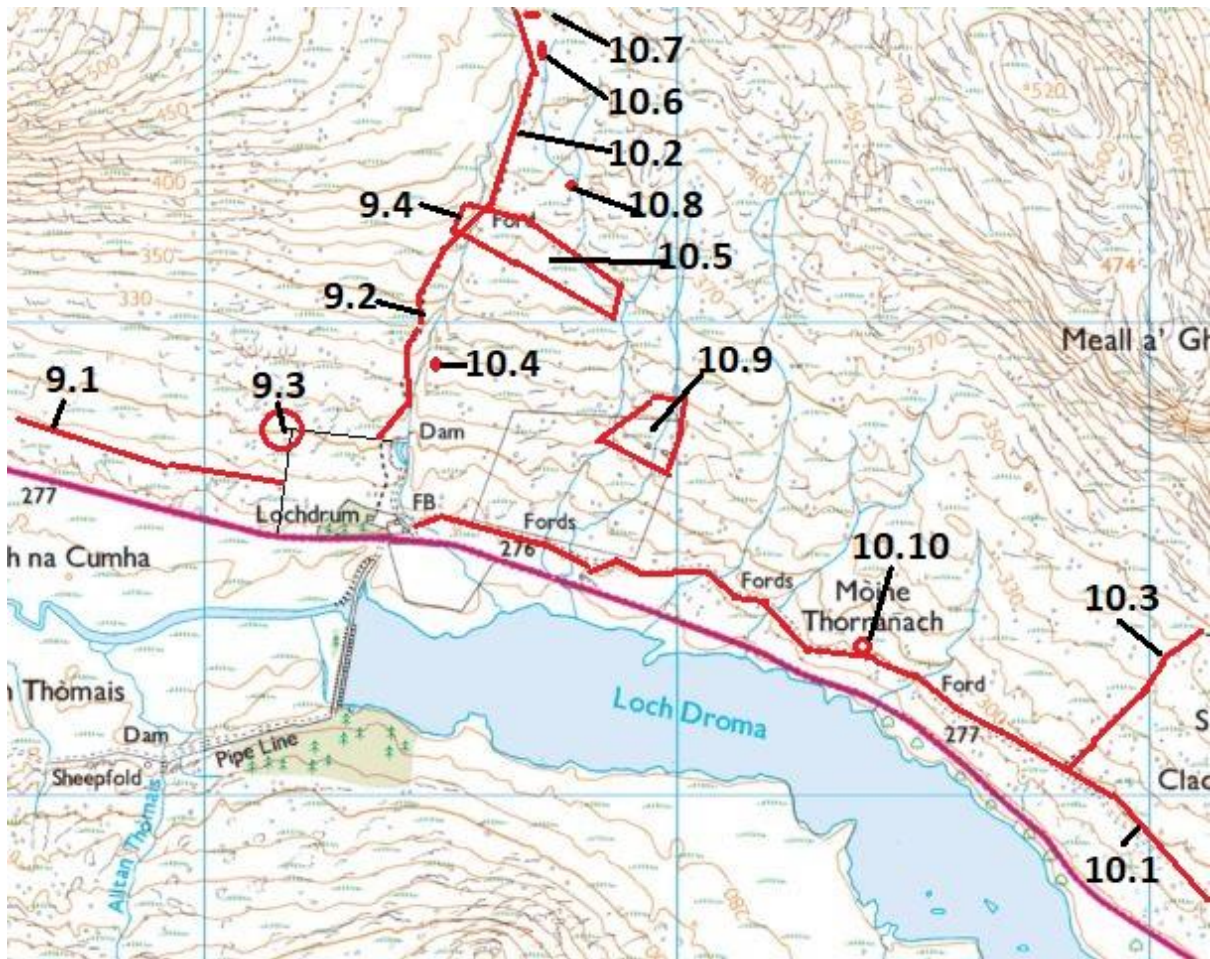
- **Moine Thorranach:** applies to a humpy piece of moorland on the N. side of Loch Droma, sig. 'knolly moss'. This name and translation is also given on the estate plan of 1870
- **Lochdrum:** this name applies to a keeper's house situated on the County Road about 7 miles W of Altguish Inn. . marked on the 1870 estate plan as 'Forester's lodge'
- **Allt Airidh nan Coimh'each:** a mountain stream flowing in a southerly direction past Lochdrum to enter Loch Droma about ¼ mile from Lochdrum. Sig. Not known. Translated on the 1870 estate map as 'Burn of the Shieling of Sorrow'

The first edition Ordnance Survey map, Ross-shire and Cromartyshire (Mainland) sheet LXIX, surveyed in 1875 and published in 1881, shows Fowler's improvements in the Loch Droma area, but also the still visible ruins of former shielings, farmstead, stells, the Mackenzie road and the two stalkers' paths. By the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey of 1902, the shielings and farmstead are no longer recorded although they are on modern mapping

The large fenced enclosure east of Lochdrum pre-dates the 1964 Ordnance Survey, as does the large quarry north of Lochdrum, exploited to win material for the loch Droma dam, part of the Conon Valley Hydro Electric scheme, constructed between 1946 and 1961.

4.0 Gazetteer of Sites

The following sites were noted or re-visited during a rapid walkover survey carried out on 9.10.21 in overcast, damp weather. GPS confirmed the accuracy of Marshall's grid references in her 2012 report. The site location plan is indicative rather than precise



Plan showing location of sites

4.1. Compartment 9

9.1. Mackenzie Road between NH 24703 75755 and NH 25230 75648

Constructed 1790 and in use until 1850. This section of road appears to be still in occasional use. There are no visible construction features along this relatively level section, such as edging or culverts, nor is the hardcore surface visible.



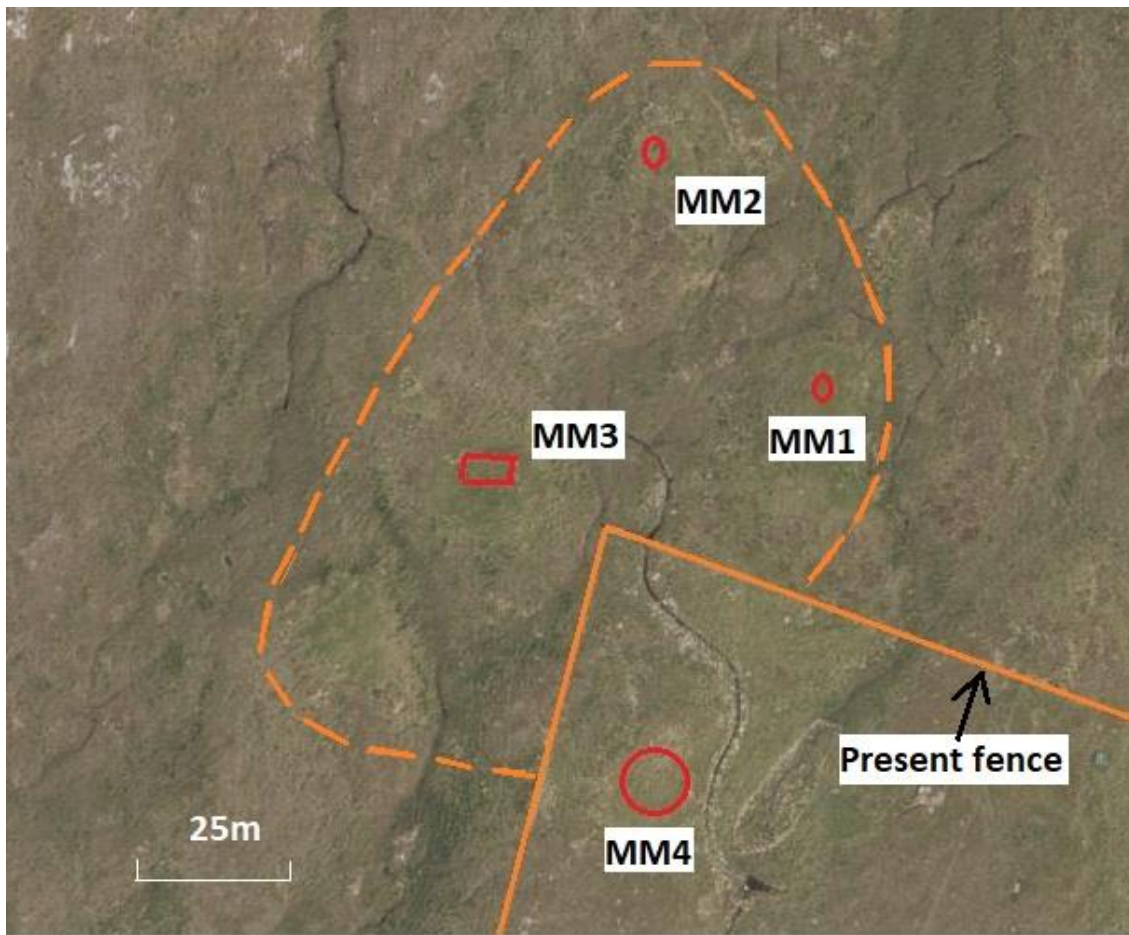
Mackenzie road within compartment 9, view from W

9.2 Stalkers path between NH 25416 75810 and NH 25587 76227

Constructed before 1870, Stalkers or pony path, narrow but ditched and still used by walkers and 4x4 vehicles.

9.3 Shielings, centred on NH 25278 75857, HER ref. MHG7346

This group of shielings is located just west and north of the corner of the present fenced area west of the Allt Airigh na Coimh'each. Described by Kilpatrick in 1990 as the remains of five shieling huts but only three individual features are recorded by Marshall in 2012, described as two shielings and a rectangular building. (see Appendix 1, below, for detailed descriptions of each feature. It is probable that this is a multi-period site, particularly given the stell to the south east, construction of which may have involved the robbing of visible stone from earlier features. Each of the grassy knolls in this area should therefore be considered to be an individual feature



Extent of site 9:3, five grassy knolls, three with visible features



9.3, feature MM3, grassy footings of rectangular building, view from SW

9.4 Shieling hut at NH 25588 76258 (part of site 10.5)

This indistinct feature is located on the west bank of the stream and is tentatively identified as an illicit still site by Marshall (MM12, see appendix 1 for detailed description). Although this is unlikely, it is definitely part of the larger multi-period group site 10:5. It is located immediately opposite site MM11



Site 9:4, low mossy banks of a sub-oval structure with rush filled interior. Cane marks S edge, view from E

4.2 Compartment 10

10:1 Mackenzie Road between NH 25440 75575 and NH 27128 74786

This feature, still in use by 4x4 vehicles, is located south of the proposed enclosure and planting area, but is included as its historical value should be taken into account. There are well-constructed sections with clear cuttings into the uphill bank, boulders edging the lower edge and well preserved surfaces on the higher ground.



Site 10.2, Mackenzie road, view from SE

10:2 Stalkers path between NH 25587 76227 and NH 25671 76630

This is a continuation of site 9.2, constructed before 1870, after it has crossed to the east side of the stream.

10:3 Stalkers path between NH 26816 75057 and NH 27106 76341

Constructed between 1870 and 1875, this path is used by 4x4 vehicles but is in reasonable condition, with a drainage ditch running alongside and culverts over watercourses.

10:4 Shieling Hut at NH 25479 75909, HER Ref. MHG7551

This individual shieling hut is located on a knoll overlooking the stream. It is as described by Jack and Kilpatrick in 1992 and Marshall in 2012 (see Appendix 1 for detailed description.) however, the small area of cultivated ground to the south was not located. Opposite this feature on the west bank of the stream is a grassy knoll which may also have held an individual shieling hut although there is now no trace of any structure.



Site 10:4, shieling hut. View from E with second grassy knoll on the far side of the stream visible behind

10.5 Shieling group from NH 25602 76255 to NH 25812 76079, HER ref. MHG8374

This group of twelve structures are as described by Marshall (see Appendix 1 for detailed descriptions) The smaller, oval structures of turf construction, MM1-8, 11 and 12, occupy a series of grassy knolls to the west of the group while the larger, rectangular, stone built structures, MM13-17, form a spread row aligned NW-SE along the base of a shallow valley.



Satellite image of the area of site 10:5



Site 10:5, Westernmost features MM 11 on left and MM12 on right (indistinct), view from North



Site 10:5, best preserved of the rectangular structures, feature MM 14-15, view from NW

10:6 Possible shieling hut at NH 25691 76592

Immediately adjacent to the stalkers path, to its east are the indistinct remains of a possible shieling hut, noted and recorded by Marshall (see Appendix 1 for detailed description)

10: 7 Shieling hut at NH 25669 76629

To the east of the stalkers path but indistinct, one structure as noted and recorded by Marshall (see Appendix 1 for detailed description)

10.8 Cairn at NH 25780 76281 Previously unrecorded

A small pile of ten angular medium sized stones placed on a large boulder. This is of unknown function and is unlikely to be a waymarker but such small cairns are a known feature of sporting estates and could have been placed to mark a fox sett or a shooting stance

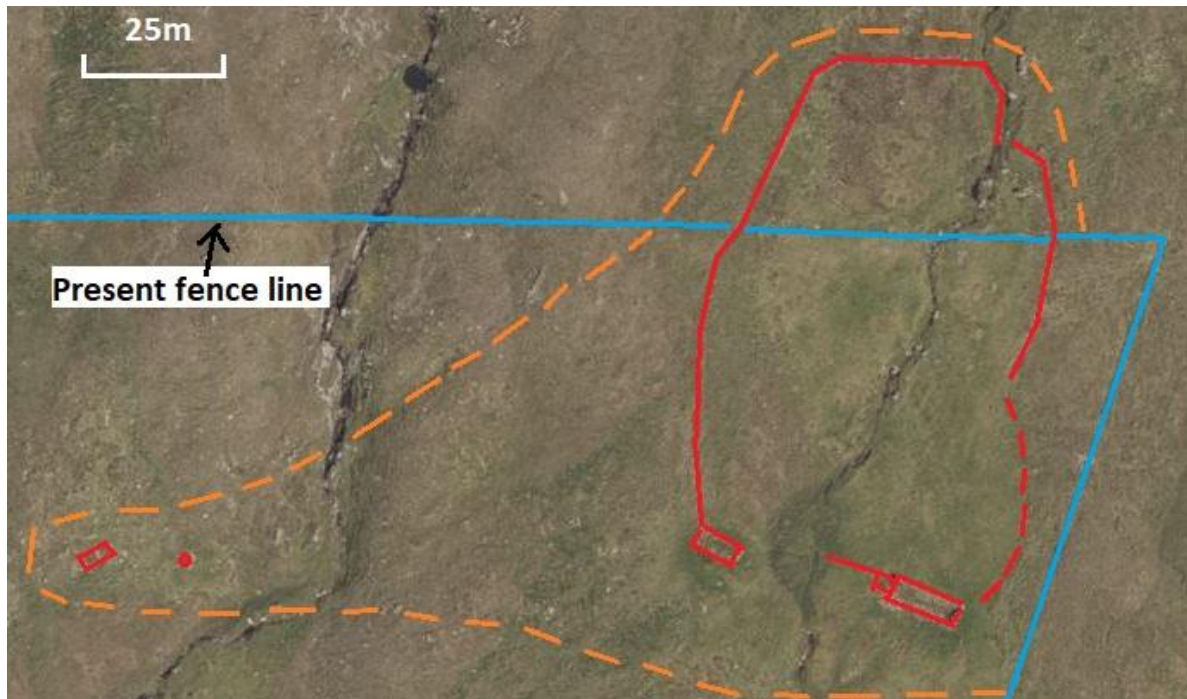


Site 10:8, Cairn, stone pile, view from S

10:9 Shepherd's cottage, outbuildings, enclosure centred on NH 25944 75725, HER Ref MHG8355

Recorded by Jack and Kilpatrick in 1992 and in more detail by Marshall in 2012 (see Appendix 1 for detailed descriptions) this group of structures appears to have been abandoned before 1870. There are no structures recorded on the 1870 Braemore Estate map and the 1st edition OS map only records one unroofed building. Although described as a 'farmstead' on the HER, this is most likely a

shepherd's cottage with outbuildings and enclosure, built during the period of commercial sheep farming between 1800 and 1860. Four individual buildings form this group although the two structures to the west may not be contemporary. Structure MM4 is unusual and may be a do kennels. The indistinct turf and rubble banks defining an enclosure to the north of the main buildings are cut by the modern post and wire fence.



Site 10:9, satellite image showing four buildings and enclosure



Site 10:9, main cottage, view from SE



Site 10:9, small circular structure, feature MM5, view from E



Site 10:9, rectangular structure, possible kennels, feature MM4, view from E

10:10 Stell at NH 26378 75307 Previously unrecorded

Recorded on the 1870 estate map and on the 1st edition ordnance Survey map of 1875 but not on modern mapping, this is an indistinct feature located north of the Mackenzie road and immediately

west of a small watercourse. It would appear to have been robbed of stone. Adjacent to its SW quadrant are stone piles which may be the remains of an attached or previous structure.



Satellite image showing location of site 10:01

5.0 Summary of Findings

No evidence was found for prehistoric settlement or land use, probably reflecting the lack of suitably drained soils for cultivation. However, there are traces of continuing but changing land use from, probably, the mediaeval period and the development of the seasonal shieling system, through population expansion in the 18th century bringing more marginal lands into use, then the complete disruption of the introduction of commercial sheep farming, its eventual economic failure and the reserving of the hills for sporting activities.

A rough chronology of sites is given as follows:

Mediaeval – early Modern, up to c.1800 : multi-period shieling groups 9:3, 10:5
Individual shieling huts 9.4, 10.4, 10.6, 10.7

Modern, transport and communication, 1790: 9:1, 10:1

Modern, sheep farming, c. 1800-1865 : 10.9, 10:10

Modern, sporting estate, from 1865: 9:2, 10:2, 10:3
Unknown date: 10:8

6.0 Recommendations

The Mackenzie Road, sites 9.1 and 10.1

This is an undervalued historical feature in the landscape. The western section within compartment 9 should be protected from planting within a corridor extending 5m beyond the road on either side, and it is recommended that heavy vehicular use be kept to a minimum. Public access should be made possible by the inclusion of a gate through the deer fence at the NW end and an open route back to the public road at the east end.

The eastern section of the Mackenzie road is outwith the proposed enclosure of compartment 10 but is likely to be used to provide access. Heavy vehicular use should be kept to a minimum to avoid damage to the original surface and any runaways cut to improve drainage should be done in such a way as not to disturb placed stones.

Shielings, sites 9.3 and 10.5

These two multi-period sites contain 5 and fifteen individual features respectively. Both should be treated as one site, with no mounding or planting and minimum crossing by plant within the areas defined by dashed orange lines, above.

Shepherds cottage and outbuildings site 10.9

This group of four buildings and an enclosure should be protected from mounding or planting within the dashed orange line on the plan, above. This open ground will retain the relationship between the contemporary structures

Stalkers paths, sites 9.2, 10.2, 10.3

These features are likely to still be in use by walkers and for stalking and exclusion from planting will already have been planned. It is further recommended that mounding and planting be kept back by 5m on either side of the paths

Individual features, sites 9.4, 10.4, 10.6, 10.7, 10.10

These features should be protected from mounding and planting within open ground extending a minimum of 5m from the visible edge of each feature.

7.0 Archive Sources.

The following resources were consulted during the desk-based evaluation:

George Brown 1790 Plan of the proposed Road between Ullapool and Dingwall © National Records of Scotland. Licensor www.scran.ac.uk

Braemore Estates plan 1870, by permission of Peter Newling

Ordnance Survey Ross-shire and Cromartyshire (Mainland) sheet LXIX

Ordnance Survey Name Books

Appendix 1 Annotated Text of Survey Report by Meryl Marshall 2012 with detailed descriptions of each feature

Site 10.4

Allt Airigh nan Coimh'each, Loch Droma – surveyed and recorded MM 28.07.2012

RCAHMS No - NH27NE 003, HER ID - MHG7551

Shieling

At NH25482 75899 this structure is an elongated grassy mound with the remains of stone foundations around it. It is on an E-W orientation and measures 9m x 7m overall. The dished central area is 0.3m deep and 3m x 1.5m and there is a possible outshot at east end where there is also stone tumble.

Sites 9.4, 10.8

RCAHMS No - NH27NE 005, HER ID – MHG8374

This site has previously been described as a shieling site of at least 11 structures. 17 structures were identified – 10 shielings and two buildings (these are possible illicit stills) and a further 5 buildings/?byres at a lower level to the SE. A plan was drawn of the area and photographs taken

Shielings

The remains of 10 shielings are seen on the east side of the burn 400m to the NNE of Lochdrum farmstead. The majority are close together on a natural platform, but at least one and possibly two shielings (previously unrecorded) are 400m to north

1. At NH 25605 76189 A grassy knoll 6m in diameter and dished at its centre
2. At NH 25608 76224 An oval grassy mound on a N-S alignment measuring 8m x 6m overall. Slightly dished and 4m x 2m internally
3. At NH 25602 76215 Grassy platform adjacent to shieling 2. On a N-S alignment and measuring 7m x 6m overall. Slightly dished central area 3.5m x 2m internally

4. At NH 25626 76214 An oval grassy mound on a N-S alignment measuring 9m x 5m overall, with a dished central area, 4.5m x 2m
5. At NH 25627 76205 Abutting and to the south of shieling 3 there is a further structure on an E-W alignment, it is slightly dished and 3m x 2m internally
6. At NH 25624 76198 A grassy platform on an E-W alignment, with a dished central area measuring 6m x 3m
7. At NH 25646 76195 Well defined oval grassy platform on an east facing slope. Aligned N-S and the slightly dished the central area measures 6m x 3m
8. At NH 25643 76254 on a low knoll, just to the north of the main group of shielings, this structure is on a SE-NW alignment. It has a dished central area 4m x 2m and some stones in the heather covered surrounding banks.

The following two are 400m to the north:

Site 10.7

9. At NH 25669 76629 The turf covered stone footings of a structure on a SE-NW alignment measuring 8m x 4m overall. There is an entrance in the SW wall and possible outshot at east end.

Site 10.6

10. At NH 25691 76592 Degraded remains of a possible structure close to the path (the structure may have been robbed for the construction of the path). It is on a N-S alignment and measures 8m x 4m overall, it is moss covered and has several stones possibly defining its footings

Site 10.8 continued

Buildings/Possible illicit stills

At the same site, NH27NE 005, two rectangular stone structures are close to the burn, one on either side:

11. At NH 25602 76255 this substantial stone building is on the east side of burn and just 2.5m from it. It is a small rectangular structure with substantial stone footings and squared corners measuring 4.5m x 2m internally. The walls are generally 0.5m in height but externally the west wall is 1m high. An entrance 0.5m width is seen in the SW corner and there is tumble, possibly indicating an internal structure, in the N end.
12. At NH 25588 76258 on the west side of burn there are the very wasted stone remains of a further small rectangular structure overgrown with moss and reeds. It is on a N-S alignment and measures 4m x 3m overall (2m x 1m internally). The walls have a spread of 1m and are 0.4m height externally but 0.2m internally. There is an opening/?entrance in the E wall

Buildings/Possible shielings or byres

The stone footing of several buildings are seen to the east of NH27NE 005 at a lower level and on the south side of a small burn:

13. At NH 25691 76186 The stone footings of a rectangular structure with squared corners on a grassy knoll. It is on a SE-NW alignment and measures 6m x 2m internally

14. At NH 25766 76128 are the remains of a rectangular building with squared corners on a low grassy knoll. It is on a SE-NW alignment and measures 8m x 2.5m. The low grass covered stone footings are extant at E and W ends but otherwise are robbed out particularly to the SW where there is a depressed grassy area – this structure, together with its neighbour building 15 adjacent to the east, may be a byre
15. At NH 25774 76121 are the remains rectangular building with squared corners on a low grassy knoll. It is aligned SE-NW and measures 8m x 2.5m overall. The low stone footings are grass covered and there is a possible entrance in the NE wall. Building 14 lies adjacent to the west on the same knoll
16. At NH 25793 76106 the footings of a rectangular stone built structure on a SE-NW alignment which measures 12m x 4m overall. The corners are rounded at the W end but squared at the E end. The walls of the main building, which measures 7.5m x 2.5m internally, are generally 0.5m high and 0.7m thick. The structure has 2 compartments divided by a linear stone setting and an entrance is seen in the NE wall. A small outshot at the E end measures 3m x 3m overall and has much less substantial stone footings.
17. At NH 25821 76079 A rectangular structure aligned SE-NW measures 9m x 4m overall (7m x 2m internally). The stone walls are generally 0.4m high with a spread of 1m and the corners are rounded. There is a small well defined compartment 1m x 2m at the west end and a possible entrance 1m width in the NE wall

Site 10.9

Moine Thorranach, Loch Droma

RCAHMS No – NH27NE 004, HER ID - MHG 8355

Farmstead, buildings and enclosure wall

On a south facing slope, 600m to the ENE of Lochdrum farmstead, the main part of this site comprises 2 buildings with improved ground surrounding; to the north there are the remains of an enclosing wall. 100m to the W there are the remains of two further buildings/?byres in a sheltered grassy position.

1. Main building - At NH 25983 75713 a rectangular building on an E-W alignment measuring 14m x 5m overall. The remains of the dry stone walls are generally 0.6m thick and 0.5m in height although at the east end they are 1.2m and at the west end up to 1m. The corners are squared and there is an entrance at the west end of the south wall and possibly at the east end of the north wall, no internal divisions were seen
2. Building – At NH 25944 75725 to the west of the main building and on the west side of a very small burn the wasted stone footings of a rectangular building on an E-W alignment are seen. It measures 9m x 3.5m overall and the low stone footings are to 0.5m height. The enclosure wall, 3, stretches away to the N from the NW corner.
3. Wall in two sections – West part 130m in length, SW end NH 25941 75732, N end/stream NH 25992 75814, East part 40m in length, N end/stream NH 25999 75791, SE end NH 26000 75758. This wall encloses the upper part of the improved ground which surrounds the farmstead. It is constructed of stone and turf, is generally 0.3m high and has a spread of 0.8m. No similar wall was seen around the lower part of the improved ground.

The following two buildings are 100m to the west of the main farmstead at a lower level and in a sheltered position on the west side of a small burn:

4. Building – At NH 25827 75730 a building of 3 compartments aligned WSW-ENE and measuring 9m x 3m overall. The building is recessed into a steep slope and the rear wall is stone faced to a height of 0.6m. The central compartment is 2.5m x 2m and has stone walls up to 0.8m height and 0.7m thick, the east compartment, 2.5m x 2.5m, has less substantial walls up to 0.8m height and the west compartment is much smaller and more crudely constructed. All the compartments have an entrance c0.5m width in the south wall. This building is probably a byre for animals, a further more crudely constructed building lies a few metres to the NE

5. Building/?shieling – at NH 25848 75728 a few metres to the SW of building 4 this roughly constructed stone building overlies what appears to be an earlier building/?shieling. The original building is a rectangular grassy platform surrounded by turf covered stone footings with rounded corners aligned E-W and 5m x 2.5m; a possible further extension to the platform is indicated to the ENE by a platform which measures 3m x 2m. The more recent stone structure occupies the west end of the earlier building, it is roughly 3m x 2.5m overall with walls to 0.6m height x 0.5m thick and an entrance 0.5m wide in the SW corner

Site 9.2

Lochdrum, Loch Droma – surveyed and recorded MM 28.07.2012

RCAHMS No - NH27NE 002, HER ID – MHG7346

(Previously described as a) Shieling site

The remains of two shielings, a building and a sheep stell were recorded in an area where several fertile grassy knolls are seen amongst a stretch of generally impoverished, wet moorland on the sloping hillside to the NNW of Lochdrum farmstead.

Shielings:

1. At NH 25341 75872 the indistinct remains of a structure on a grassy knoll are aligned N-S. The structure has a dished central area measuring roughly c5m x 2m

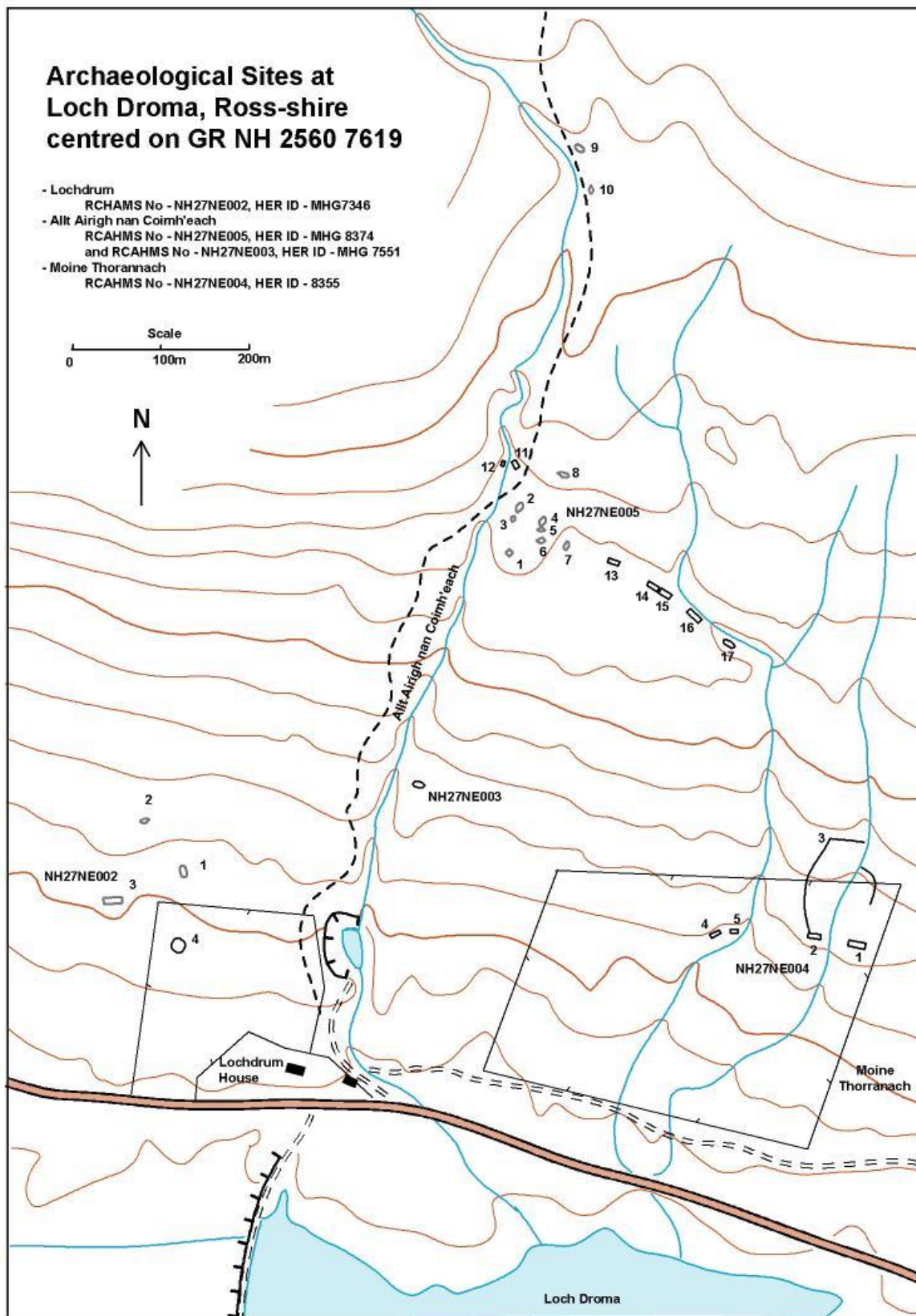
2. At NH 25314 75918 the remains of a small rectangular structure on a grassy knoll are aligned E-W. The surrounding banks have some stones and the central dished area, which appears to have been burrowed by rabbits, measures 3m x 1.5m

Building:

3. At NH 25278 75857 the “footprint” of a rectangular structure on an E-W alignment is seen on a grassy knoll just west of the upper NW corner of a fenced enclosure. The building measures 10m x 3m and appears as a rectangular depression with turf and stone footings surrounding, it may have 2 compartments and an entrance in the S wall. The remains of a small outshot/?byre, 2.5m x 2.5m, is attached at the west end.

Sheep stell:

4. At NH 25305 75805 within the top NW corner of the fenced enclosure to the north of Lochdrum farmstead the low stone footings of a circular sheepfold 9m in diameter internally are seen enclosing a level grassy platform. Double faced stone walls, 0.4m high and 0.7m thick are evident in the northern part but have probably been robbed in the south part



Plan accompanying Marshall's survey report

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