

Report of Rapid Pre-afforestation Survey
February 2002
Loch Ashie, Highland
NH 636 / 364 (centred)



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Introduction

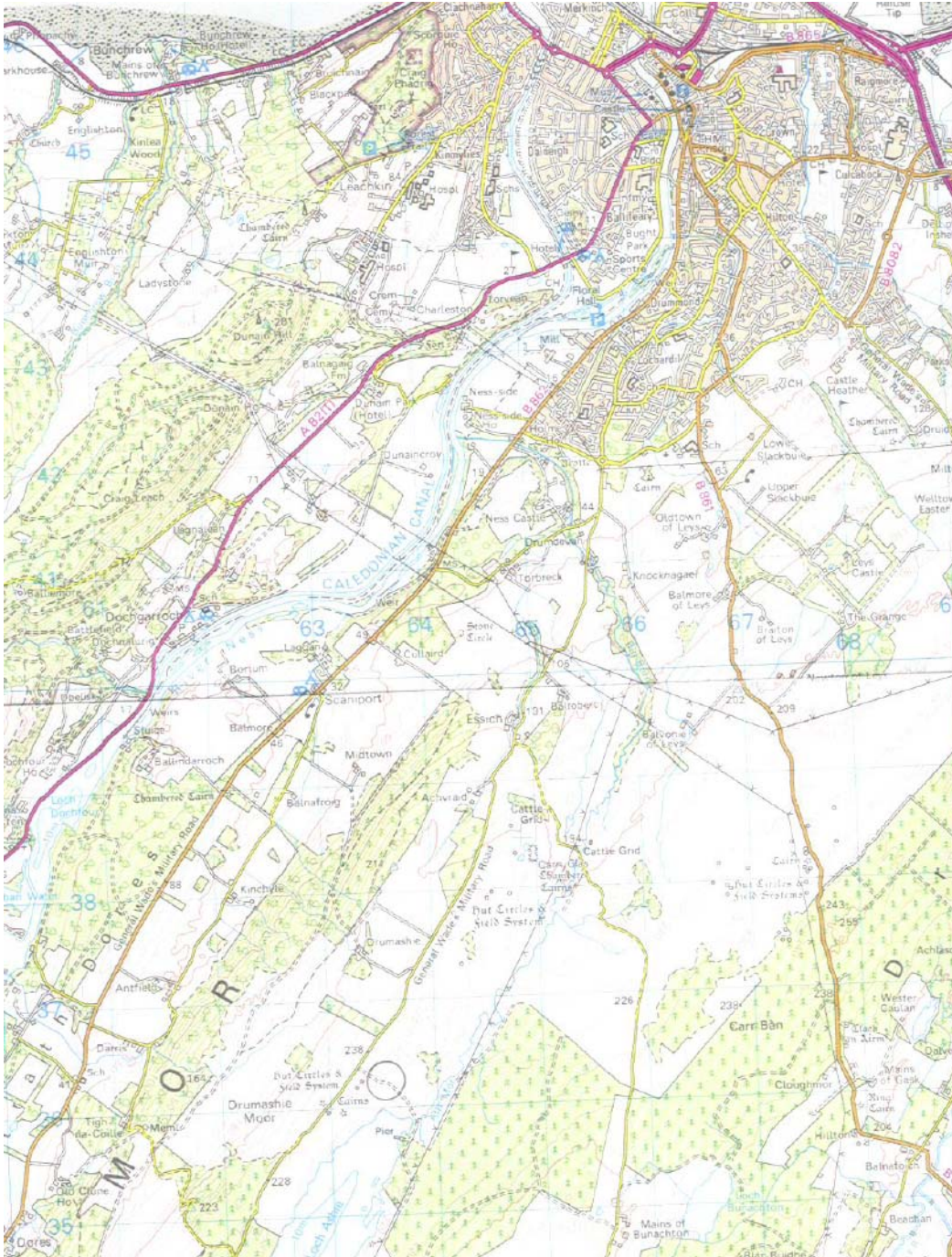
This report is for a rapid archaeological pre-afforestation survey for a Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) conducted by the author for Cawdor Forestry by Loch Ashie Water Treatment Works, Highland.

Acknowledgements

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

- Mr. S Connolly of Cawdor Forestry;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

Site Location



Cover : View of croft house with treatment works in background.

Map of Area of WGS

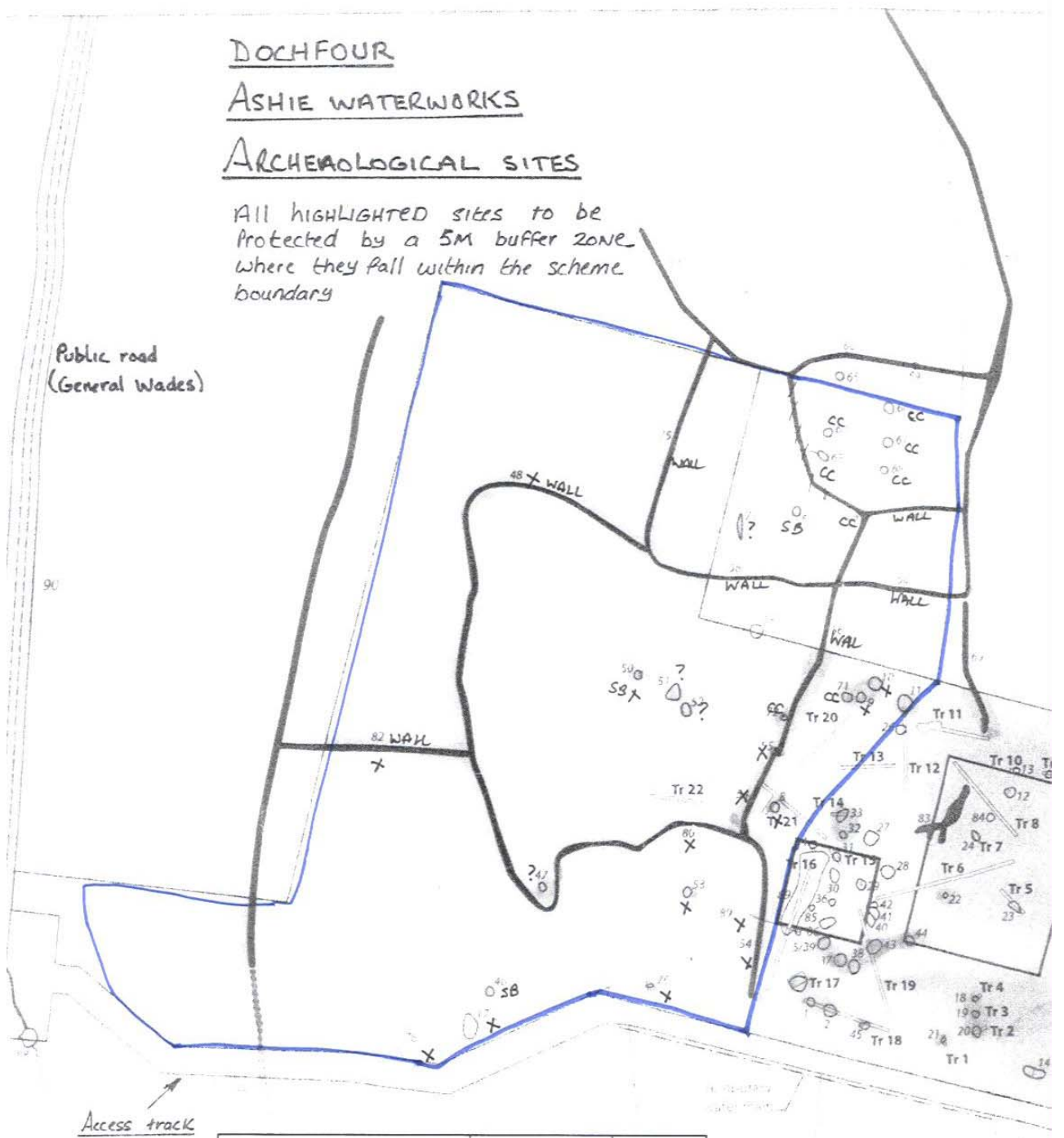


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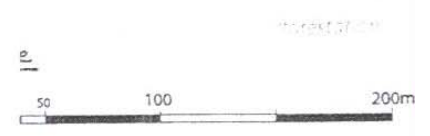
ASHIE WATERWORKS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

All HIGHLIGHTED sites to be Protected by a 5M buffer zone where they fall within the scheme boundary



<p>← Commission</p>	<p>Module</p>	<p>03/002730</p>
	<p>Map</p>	<p>3 of 3</p>
	<p>Lessee</p>	<p></p>
	<p>Project (Commissioners)</p>	<p>Wades</p>



Objectives

A rapid walkover survey was conducted to identify those archaeological sites that lie in the area of the proposed Woodland Grant Scheme. (See previous)

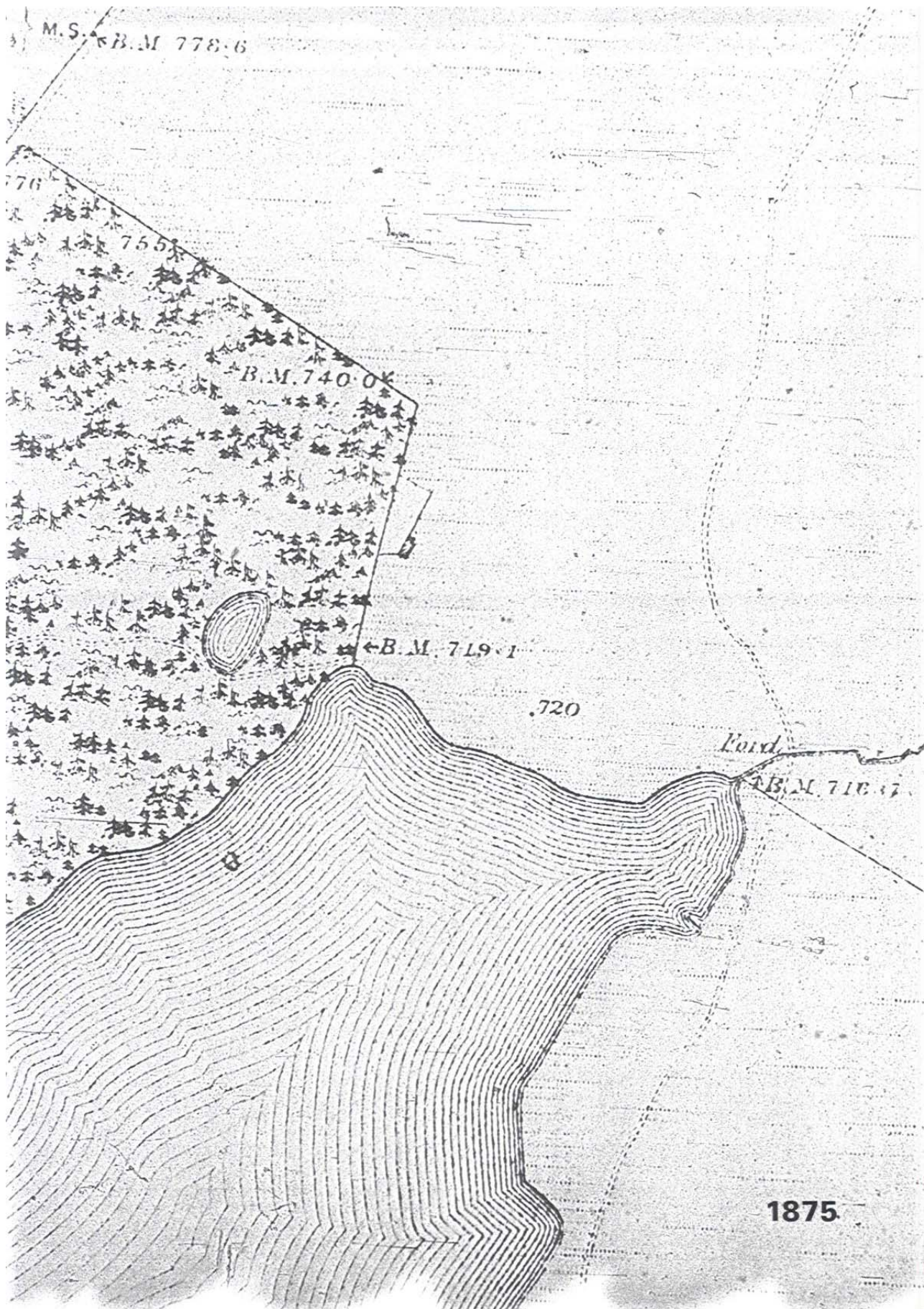
This followed on a desktop survey of records held in the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record and Highland Council Archives and to follow the specification of Highland Council Archaeology Unit (See enclosed).

Background

Part of the WGS area had already been surveyed by the CFA in 2000 (Suddaby, 2001) (see map 3) as part of the archaeological evaluation carried out in advance of construction of the adjacent water treatment works. As part of that programme of works a number of archaeological sites identified in the WGS area were excavated as part of the construction work (see sites marked with an x on map 3 – blue line is WGS boundary). Also as part of the water treatment works a desktop and walkover survey was conducted for a pipeline by Headland Archaeology Ltd (Conolly & Masser, 2001) that identified the croft site at NH 6157/3692 but did not record any features, though the way-leave for the pipeline was only 12m wide.

No additional sites are recorded in the Highland Sites and Monuments Record or the National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE database to the area of the WGS.

No sites are shown to the majority of the WGS area on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1875 (sheet 19) except the a single house and enclosure centred at NH 6157/3692 which is marked as roofed. (See over)



Field Survey Results

Weather on the day of work (February 19th 2002) was partly cloudy with sunny periods. A rapid walkover was made of all areas of the proposed WGS area. All sites were marked with canes and biodegradable tape.

The following archaeological sites were found to the area of the proposed WGS (all grid references were obtained using a Garmin II Plus GPS) :

1 – Rectangular enclosure at NH 6356/3613 at 847ft above sea level. Measuring 14m by 8m with wall spread to 0.5m.



2 – Rectangular building at NH 6354/3610 5m by 10m – may be two separate structures, no visible entrance. This is likely to be the building marked on map of 1875.



3 – House at NH 6352/3605 of 5m by 16.3m with walls 0.63m thick and standing to a maximum height of 1.6m. Closer inspection revealed it to be of 2 buildings both with harling internally and externally. 1st building is 5m by 5.4m with 2nd building 4.7m by 4.6m. No windows or doors visible in primary building.



4 – Rectangular structure at NH 6355/3603 (lying outside edge of WGS area) of 5.8m by 2.6m, with some clearance dumped within.



5 – Possible Clearance cairn to NW of enclosure at NH 6354/3616 3m by 2m under turf.

6 – Possible structure at NH 6355/3617, partly exposed in ban. Under turf and heather of 3m by 3m.

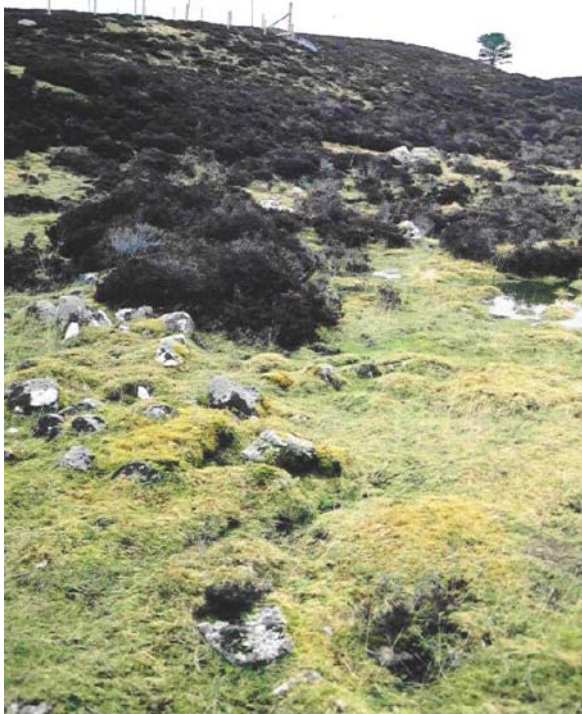


The following sites relate to those noted by the CFA:

7 – Possible wall (site 48) at NH 6366/3649 – 2m diameter.

8 – (site 75) at NH 6376/3647 – 4m spread, looks more like a clearance cairn or in filled hollow rather than wall.

9 – Curved section of wall (not numbered) at NH 6379/3641 0.5m wide by 40m in length. (close to sites 63 & 64)



10 – Clearance Cairns sites 63 – at NH 6380/3641 - 2m diameter
64 – at NH 6381/3642 - ibid
67 – at NH 6384/3640 - ibid
68 – at NH 6383/3638 - ibid
(sites 65 & 66 lie outside WGS area)



Cairns 63,67 & 66 facing North

11 – (site 62) at NH 6377/3640 – recorded as shooting butt.



View of site 62 - scale 1m

12 – (site 73) – recorded as unknown not an archaeological site but natural stone outcrop on ridge.

13 – (site 51 & 52) at NH 6357/3635 recorded as unknown – may be another shooting butt as close to water.

14 – (site 56) at NH 6372/3636 – only a small stretch visible.

The following sites were not located:

Site 79 Clearance cairn – on fence line – not located, though area has evidence of machine tracks in the immediate area

Site 71 Clearance cairn – lies in area of landscaping

Site 72 ibid

Site 47 – unknown – not located

Site 46 – shooting butt – lies in area of landscaping

Recommendations

The following recommendation's are to be proposed for the area of the WGS, that a 20m exclusion area be put round each site in the area of the croft (being the additional area) and 10m be put round sites in the main area. (All sites were marked with cane and tape).

References

Conolly, R & Masser, P (2001) NOSWA Lower Loch Ness : SO73 Results of a Desk based Assessment, Walk Over Survey and Watching Brief North of Dores, Highland. Headland Archaeology Ltd. Edinburgh. Unpublished report copy held in HSMR.

Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record entries for NH63

Ordnance Survey Maps Inverness-shire sheet 19 of 1875.

Suddaby, I (2001) Archaeological Excavations : Loch Ashie Water Treatment Works, Inverness, Highland. CFA report 607. Unpublished report copy held in HSMR.

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