

**Report of Archaeological Desktop &  
Walkover Survey  
Killiechonate Forest  
Spean Bridge, Highland.  
NN 230/810 (centred)**



Client: Tilhill Forestry Ltd.

**By  
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April 2005**

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Cover: Former Railway Bridge (see site 9).

## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Stuart Farrell was commissioned by Tilhill Forestry Ltd in March 2005 to undertake an archaeological desktop and walkover survey for the Killiechonate Forest (centred at NN230/810).*

*Work revealed a number of recorded and unrecorded sites to include farmsteads and sheepfolds, and a section of former railway line.*

*No recommendations for further archaeological work have been made.*

## **1. Introduction**

This report is for an archaeological desktop and walkover survey conducted for Tilhill Forestry Ltd by the author for the Killiechonate Forest Project, Spean Bridge, Highland.

The fieldwork was conducted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2005.

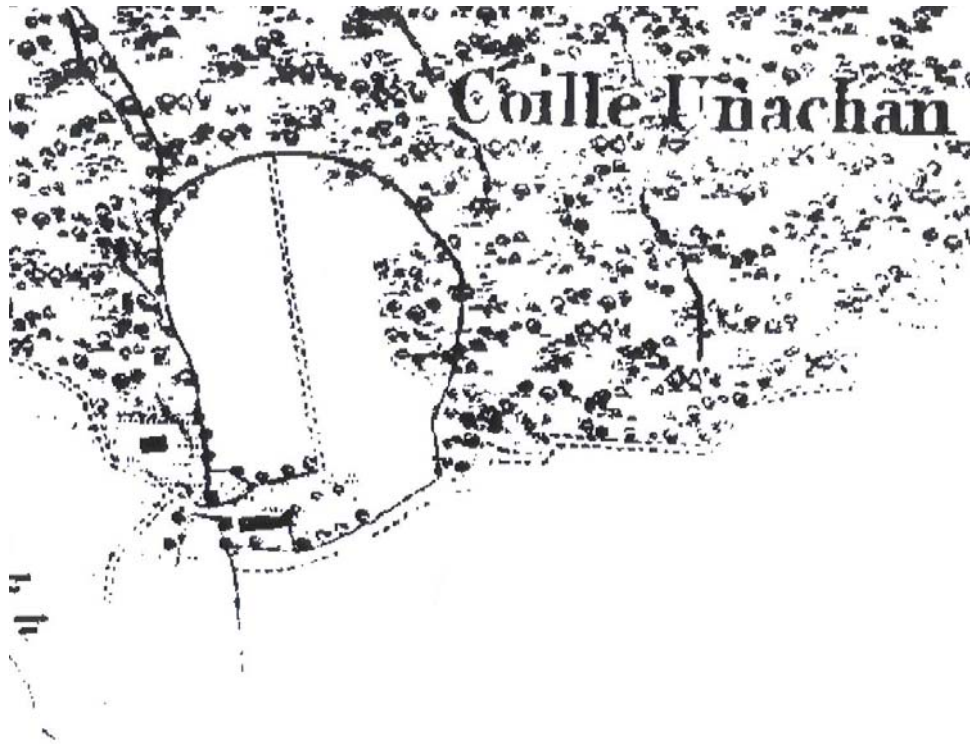
## **2. Acknowledgements**

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

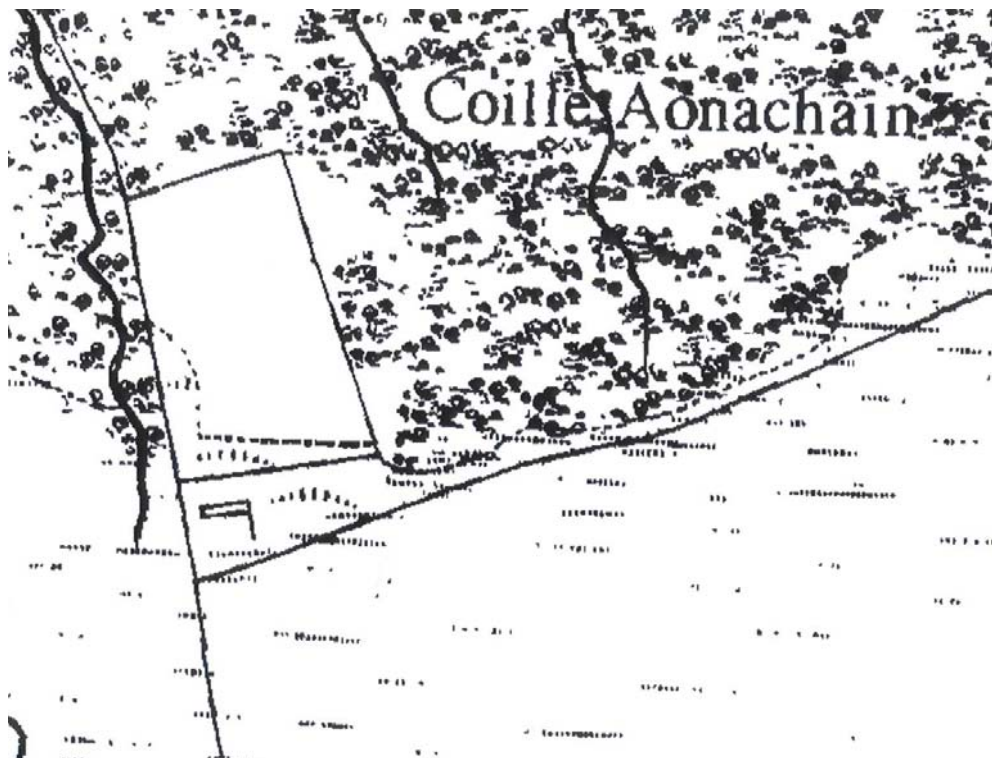
- Mr. P Di-Duca, of Tilhill Forestry Ltd;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit;
- Staff of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland;
- Staff of the National Monuments Record of Scotland;
- Staff of Highland Council Archives;
- Staff of the National Library of Scotland, Map room.

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**Figure 5: 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey of 1874 – Sheet 140.**  
Copyright Ordnance Survey. Licence 100041016.



**Figure 6: 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey of 1904 – Sheet 140.**  
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**Figure 7: 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey of 1872 – Sheet 141.**  
Copyright Ordnance Survey. Licence 100041016.

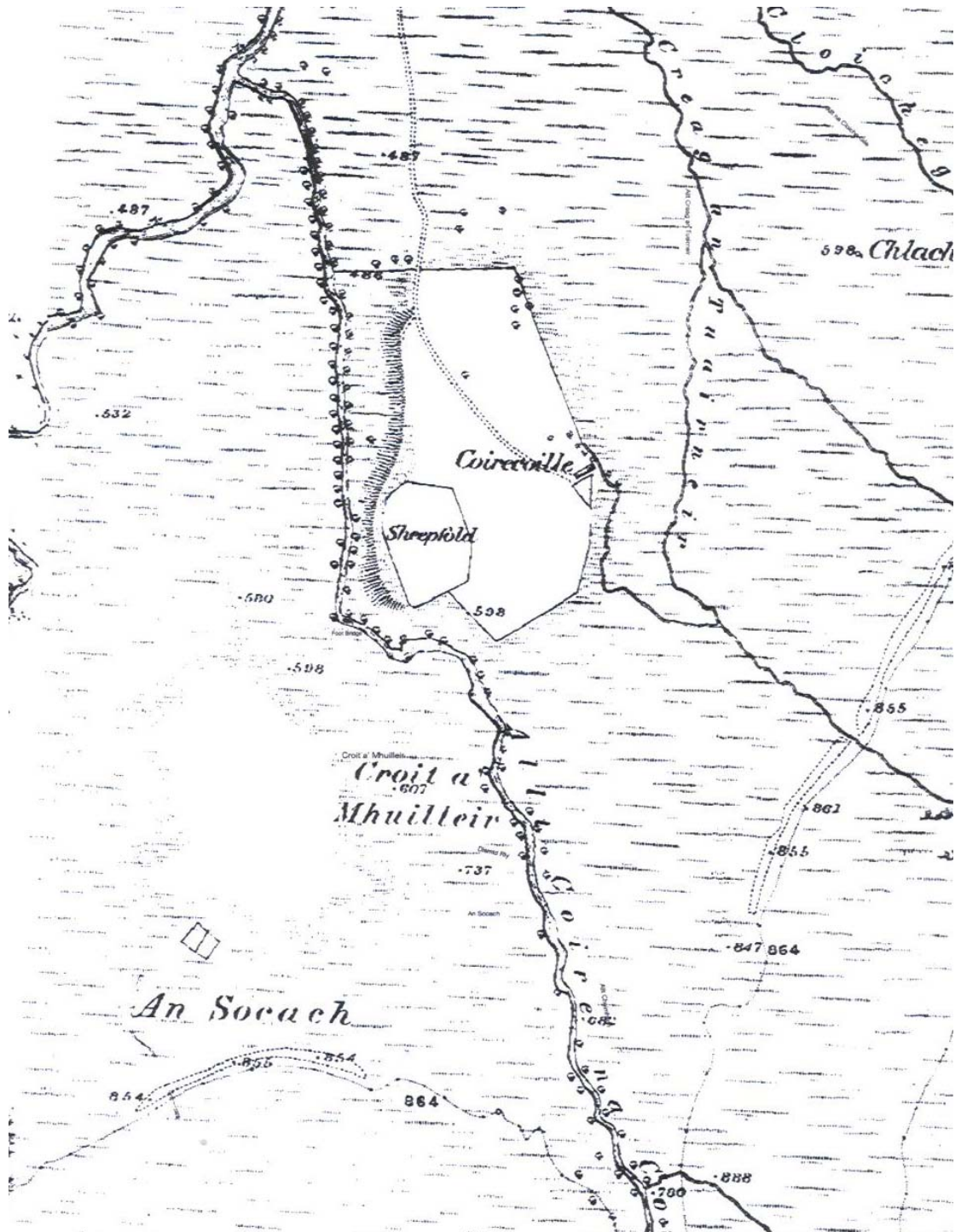
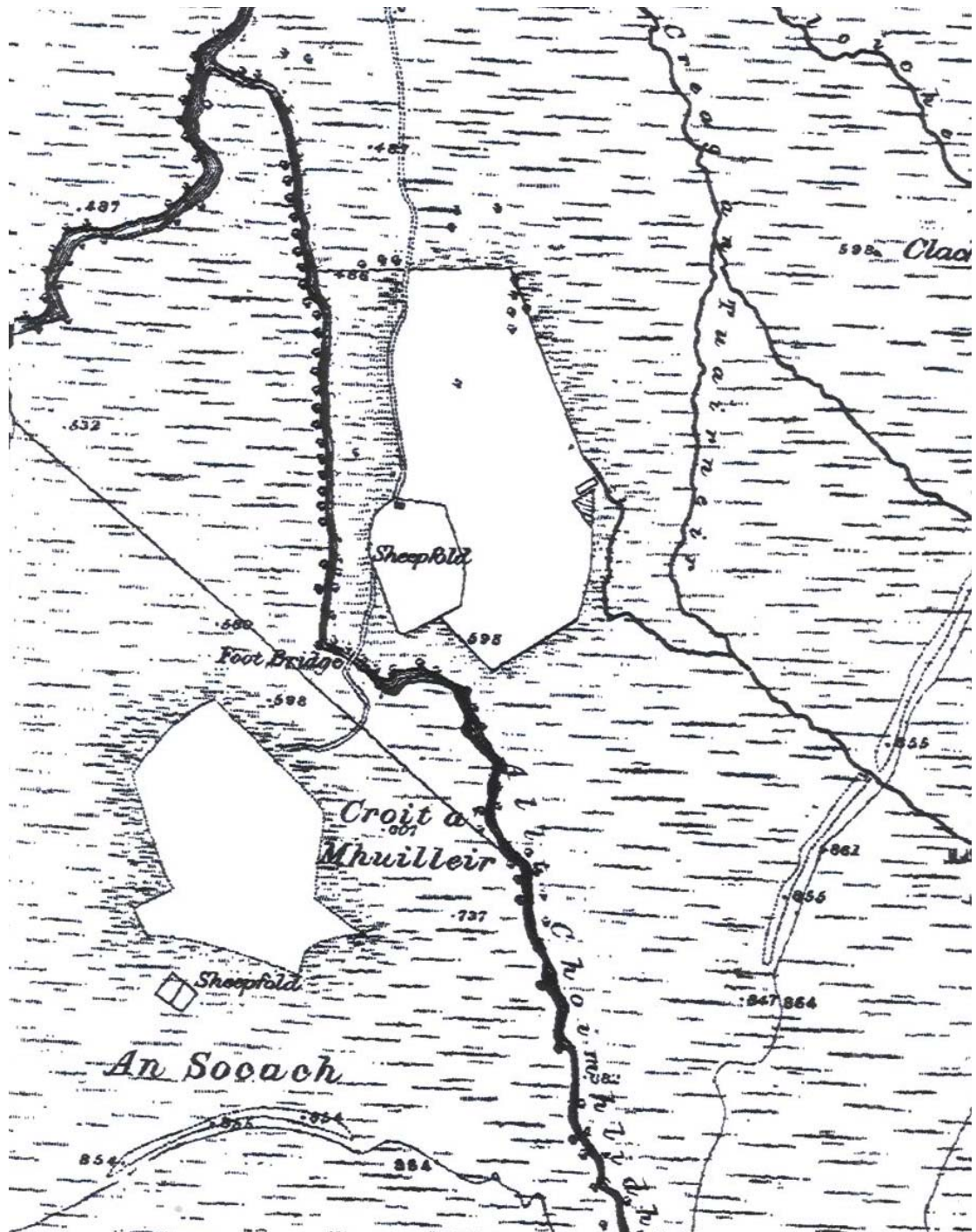
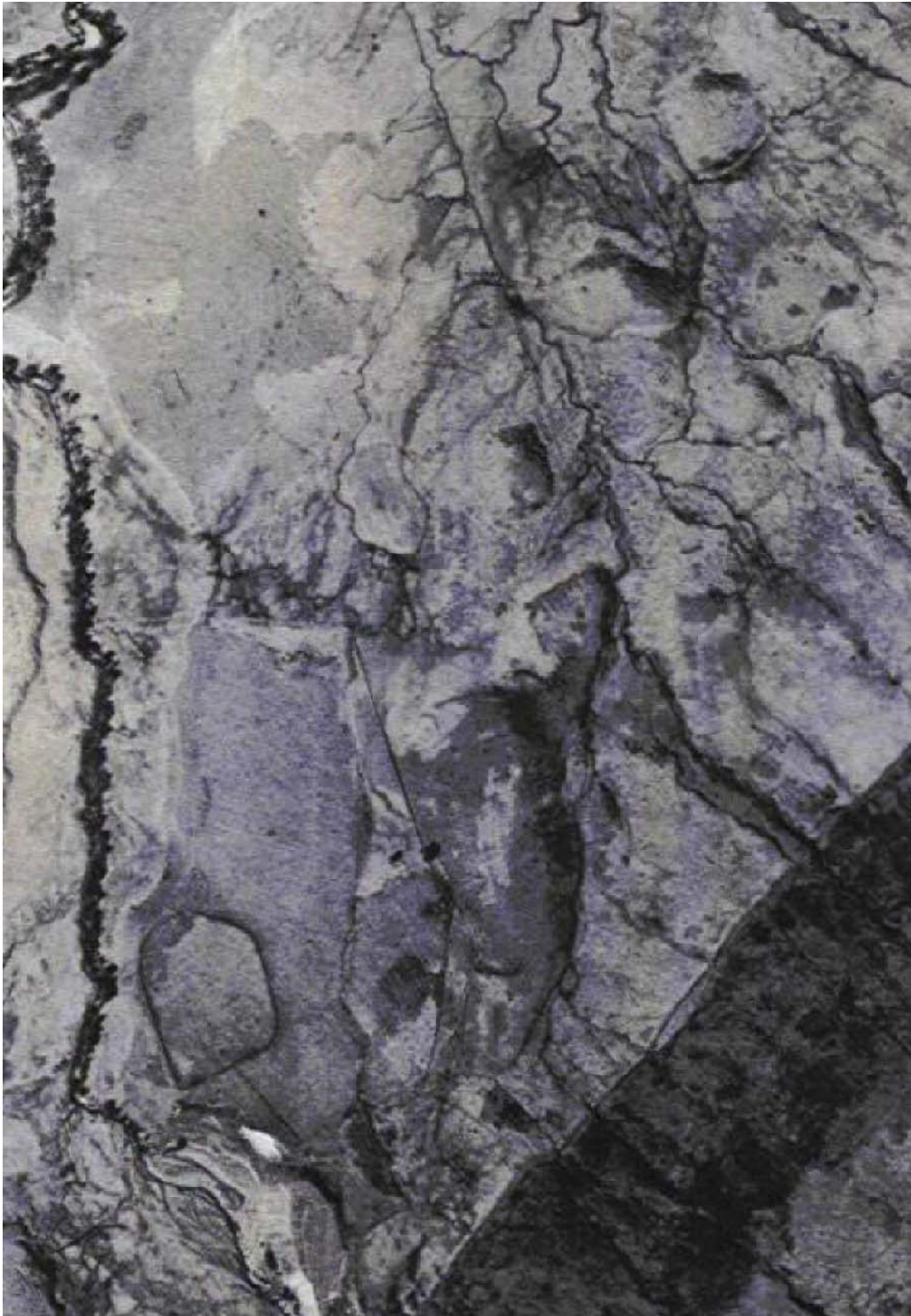


Figure 8: 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey of 1903 – Sheet 141.  
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**Figure 9: Royal Air Force Aerial Photograph of 1946.**  
Copyright RCAHMS – enlarged from original.



### 3. Objectives

To conduct a desktop and walkover survey to record those features that would be affected by the new proposed Forest scheme. This survey to follow those guidelines as proposed by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999) and to follow the enclosed specification as provided by Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

### 4. Archaeological Survey

#### Desktop & Walkover Results

A desktop survey was conducted using the following sources:

- Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record;
- National Monuments Record of Scotland, Edinburgh;
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland – aerial photograph collection;
- National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh (Maps);
- Highland Council Archives;
- Inverness Library.

Both the aerial photography and the map coverage were very limited to the area of interest. Aerial photographs, in particular were very limited due to there being only one flight of 1946. Map coverage was also limited as the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of 1870's was almost the same as the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 1903/4 and little survey work has been carried out in detail in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the next edition being late 1960's. Early historical maps of the area do not provide enough detail for the area of study.

No archaeological survey work has previously been conducted to the area of the woodlands. No site revealed is noted in any of the main local sources.

The following **12** archaeological sites were to be found in the existing forestry. Grid references on-site were obtained using a Garmin II GPS using OS data. Sites are as follows:

HSMR – Highland Sites and Monuments Record  
NMRS - National Monuments Record of Scotland  
N/a – not available

Recommendations are given after each site.

**1** – Coille Aonachain  
HSMR – NN28SW 22  
NMRS – NN28SW 9  
Grid Ref: NN 2275/8120  
Type – Farmstead

Noted in HSMR and NMRS of 'A farmstead comprising 4 roofed buildings, 1 unroofed building, 2 enclosures and a field is depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS (Inverness-shire 1874 sheet 140). An enclosure annotated as a nursery is shown on the current edition OS (1973)'.

Site is named Coille Unachan on 1<sup>st</sup> edition (see figure 5). Only a single unroofed rectangular building with a section of wall and a field is depicted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS of 1904 (see figure 6).

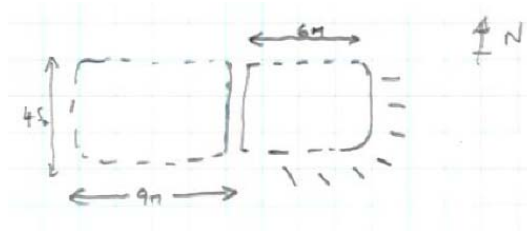
The site is not named in the Ordnance Survey Name Book, only the woods. Site forms part of Unachan Township in Census and Valuation Rolls (see appendix 1 and 2) only in the 1871 census is the site named as Unachan Wood comprising of 6 households.



Walkover reveals only a single rectangular building at NN 2276/8120, with stretch of turf bank to N. New roads and paths have heavily disturbed surrounding area. Building is of 2 compartments 4.5m x 15m, with walls 0.7m wide and up to 0.5m high. Heavily covered in bracken. Bank is partly traceable from NN 22742/81205 to NN 22753/81205 1m wide and 0.5m high.

Top: sketch plan – not to scale.

Below: View of building facing W scale 2m.



*No recommendations to be made as at time of site visit site marked out with canes and tape to provide exclusion area.*

## **2 – Killiechonate**

HSMR – NN28SW 2

NMRS – NN28SW 2

Grid Ref: NN 240/810

Type – Silver coin

Noted in HSMR and NMRS of 'A goat of Robert III found with about 30 others of the same kind, in a cavity under a stone in the farm of Killiechonate, parish of Kilmonivaig, Lochaber'.

This dates finds between 1390 and 1406 (Bateson, 1997) though details of coins are lacking (ibid, 61). Site should be located at NN 2419/8109.

*No recommendations to be made.*

## **3 – Courdale**

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NN 2502/7973

Type – Sheepfold

Site marked on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS (sheet 141) not marked on latest OS map. Located outside boundary.

Walkover reveals site to lie well away from woods, site not visited.

*No recommendations to be made.*

#### 4 – The Cour

HSMR – NN27NW 4

NMRS – NN27NW 2

Grid Ref: NN 2389/7860

Type – Farmstead

Noted in HSMR and NMRS of 'A farmstead comprising 1 partially roofed building, 1 unroofed building and an enclosure is depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS (Inverness 1872 sheet 141) but not shown on the current OS (1991)'.

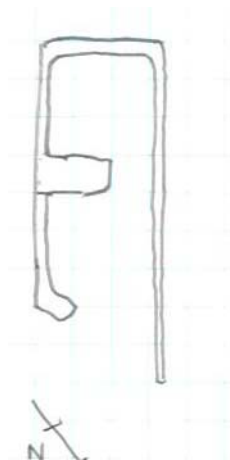
Both buildings marked as unroofed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS of 1903. Site is not listed in Census returns for 1841 to 1901 or in the County Valuation Rolls from 1869 to 1925.

Site visible on aerial photograph of 1946 (4338) as unroofed.

Walkover reveals 2 compartment building aligned NE-SW 4m x 11.5m with walls 0.7m wide and 0.3m high. No sign of entrance, trees planted at SW end. Site is on a small flat plateau overlooking river. No trace of any other structures in vicinity.

Below left: sketch plan – not to scale.

Below right: View of building facing SW – scale 2m.



*No recommendations to be made as at time of site visit site marked out with canes and tape to provide exclusion area.*

#### 5 – The Cour

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NN 2456/7849

Type – Sheepfold

Site marked on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS (sheet 141) and on latest OS map. Site visible on aerial photograph of 1946 (4338).

Walkover reveals square sheepfold with walls up to 1.4m high, with walls tapering from 1m at base to 0.5m. Overall size is 53m NS x 51m EW on a E-W slope. Trees planted within. Small pen to SE corner 1.3m x 1.2m.

Below left: View of Sheepfold – scale 2m.  
Below right: Detail of pen – scales 1m.



*No recommendations to be made as at time of site visit site marked out with canes and tape to provide exclusion area.*

## 6 – Leanachan or Corrychoille

HSMR – NN27NW 6

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NN 2388/7740

Type – House, wall

Noted in HSMR of 'A Lochaber Drover's house – it is possible that this house belonged to John Cameron of Corriechoille. He was born in the parish in 1780. The stone footings of the house survive and there is also evidence of a stone dyke'.

Marked as partly roofed with a triangle-shaped enclosure and field on 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS (see figure 7) marked as unroofed on 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS of 1903 (see figure 8) marked as two unroofed buildings on latest OS map.

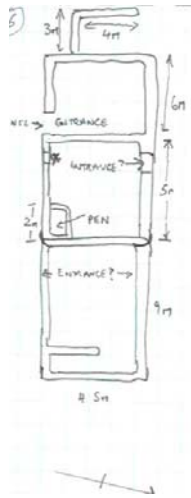
Site is recorded in the Ordnance Survey Name Book (Book 44, page 190) as 'A shepherd's dwelling house one storey thatched and in good repair with garden attached situated about 1 mile and a ¼ north east of the northern extremity of Coire Eoin it is the property of Lord Abinger'.

A John Cameron and family are recorded at Corrychoille in the 1851 census, which confirms SMR information (see historical information in Appendix 3 and 4) also a second family is also recorded under name of Corrychoille (see Appendix 1) which indicates that there are possibly two houses on the site. The 1861 census notes both a Lower and Upper Corrychoilly that indicates again that there are possibly two houses on the site. Not listed in 1871 and 1881 census but the farm is listed in the County Valuation Rolls until 1885 (see appendix 2). (The current farm of Corriechoille located at NN 2506/8063 being built circa 1881 – is not marked on 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS but is depicted on 2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Not listed in census for 1901.

Site visible on aerial photograph of 1946 (4338) as unroofed. Marked on 1:10,000 map sheet as two unroofed buildings, with stretch of walling.

Walkover reveals 2 houses aligned NE-SW. Main house is 11m x 4.5m with walls 1.5m high and 0.8m wide. Remains of door lintel by entrance. Older house/byre to NE end is 9m x 4.5m with walls 0.4m wide and 0.3m high. Later pen 2m<sup>2</sup> built into main house. No trace of garden as depicted on OS maps or stretches of walling or 2<sup>nd</sup> building as depicted on 1:10,000 or latest OS maps due to trees.

Below left: sketch plan – not to scale.  
Below right: view of SW gable – scale 2m.  
Middle: View of house facing N – scale 2m.  
Bottom: View of house facing E – scale 2m.  
Over: View of door lintel – scale 2m.





*No recommendations to be made as at time of site visit site marked out with canes and tape to provide exclusion area.*

**7 – Coirecoille**

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NN 2368/7730

Type – Sheepfold

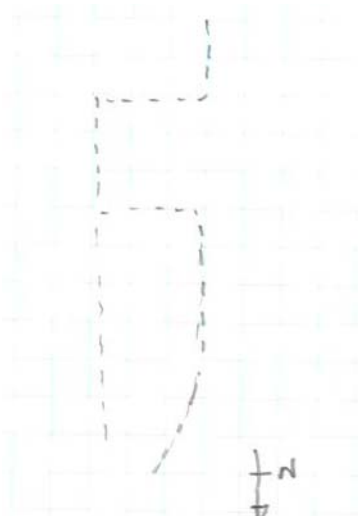
Marked on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps (sheet 141 – see figures 7 & 8), forms part of site 6 with enclosing dyke (?). Small roofed building depicted within on 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS of 1903. Site visible on aerial photograph of 1946 (3132) though nothing within.

Walkover reveals only part of the walling of the sheepfold to survive, N and E walls under forestry track. Possible sub-division enclosure at NE corner centred at 2368/7736 4m x 20m tapering to 2m at N, also stepped in 6m x 4m function unknown. Walls 0.8m wide and up to 0.5m high, though parts of sheepfold stand to 1.2m high. No trace of building as depicted on 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS of 1903, area within enclosure planted with trees.

Below left: sketch plan – not to scale.

Below right: view of enclosure facing S – scales 1m.

Over: View of enclosure facing N – scale 2m.





*No recommendations to be made as at time of site visit site marked out with canes and tape to provide exclusion area.*

**8 – An Socach**

HSMR – NN27NW 5

NMRS – NN27NW 3

Grid Ref: NN 2345/7688

Type – Enclosure

Noted in HSMR and NMRS of 'A 2 compartment enclosure is depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS (Inverness 1872 sheet 141). A 3 compartment enclosure is depicted on the current OS (1991)'.

Site is named as a sheepfold on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS of 1903 below an irregular shaped field with a footpath and bridge connecting to site 7.

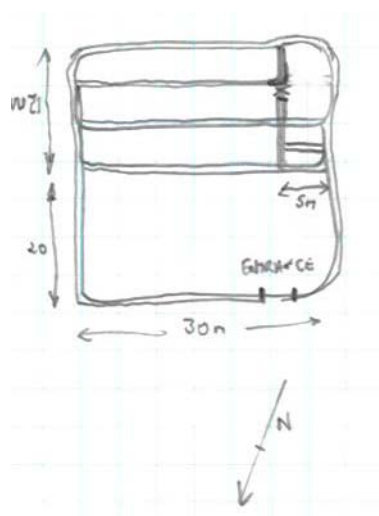
An Socach is recorded in the Ordnance Survey Name Book (Book 44, page 189) as 'Applied to a piece of ground lying in pasture situated about ¼ of a mile south west of Coirecoille it is the property of Lord Abinger. Meaning in English The Point'.

Walkover reveals square enclosure 32m x 30m with 3 long compartments 4m wide with pen 5m x 12m to S corner. Walls up to 1.5m high and 0.7m wide. Birch trees growing within. Site lies on a NW facing slope.

Below: sketch plan – not to scale.

Over top: View of site facing W – scale 2m.

Over below: View of pen facing NW.





*No recommendations to be made as at time of site visit site marked out with canes and tape to provide exclusion area.*

**9 – Lairig**

HSMR – NN27NE 3

NMRS – NN27NE 3

Grid Ref: NN 2500/7838 to NN 2920/7999

Type – Railway

Site of former railway for Aluminum works, now forestry access road.

Walkover reveals line mostly to lie outside forestry area including bridge abutments (site 9a on map) at NN 23883/77067 and iron-bridge (site 9b on map) at NN 23846/76999.

Below: View of site 9a.



Over top: View from site 9b to 9a.  
Over below: View of iron bridge facing W.



*No recommendations to be made. Currently proposals are being discussed to reopen line of railway as a footpath.*

The Following 3 sites were plotted from aerial photographs against 1:10,000 maps.

**10** – Coille Aonachain

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NN 2277/8071

Type – Enclosure

Site visible on aerial photograph of 1946 (3345) as square enclosure. Not marked on 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> edition or later OS maps.

Walkover reveals no trace of site at this location or surrounding area, woodland here dense with ploughing 1m wide and 0.6m deep.

*No recommendations to be made as site effectively destroyed.*



**11** – Coirecoille  
HSMR – N/a  
NMRS – N/a  
Grid Ref: NN 2382/7773  
Type – Buildings

Site visible on aerial photograph of 1946 (4338) as two possibly 3 unroofed buildings with section of wall to SE. Not marked on 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> edition or later OS maps.

Walkover reveals no trace of site at this location or surrounding area, woodland here dense with ploughing 1m wide and 0.6m deep.

*No recommendations to be made as site effectively destroyed.*

**12** – Coirecoille  
HSMR – N/a  
NMRS – N/a  
Grid Ref: NN 2366/7781  
Type – Enclosure

Site visible on aerial photograph of 1946 (4338) as square enclosure, in area of possible rig & furrow (3132). Not marked on 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> edition or later OS maps.

Walkover reveals only part of the S corner to survive, woodland here dense with ploughing 1m wide and 0.6m deep. Another small section to NE, giving width of 15m but length cannot be ascertained due to ploughing. Surviving section is 1.1m wide and 0.35m high.

Below: View of S corner – scales 1m.



*No recommendations to be made as site effectively destroyed.*

## **5. Conclusions**

Overall most of the sites revealed relate to a former crofting landscape but with no prehistoric sites. Most of the sites have been heavily damaged by forestry ploughing. Most of the sites are probably early 19<sup>th</sup> century in date and were all abandoned by the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The woodland itself is a mixture of both planted and natural woodland with the majority facing a N or NW direction.

## 6. Archive

A copy of this report is to be deposited in the National Monuments Record in Edinburgh and the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record.

## 7. Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

A short summary of the results of this project will be submitted to the Council for Scottish Archaeology's publication *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*.

## 8. References

Bateson, J D (1997) *Coinage in Scotland*. Spink. London.

Census Returns for parish of Kilmonivaig 1841 to 1901.

County Valuation Rolls for parish of Kilmonivaig 1869 to 1925.

Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record database entries for NN27NW & NN28SW.

IFA (1999) *By-laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute of Field Archaeologists*. Reading.

*Inverness Courier* newspaper dated 21<sup>st</sup> February 1856.

National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE entries for NN27NW & NN28SW.

Ordnance Survey Name Book (1870) of the Parish of Kilmonivaig in the County of Inverness-shire.

### Maps Consulted

Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6inch-mile sheet 140 Inverness-shire of 1874 surveyed 1872.

Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6inch-mile sheet 141 Inverness-shire of 1872 surveyed 1870.

Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 6inch-mile sheet 140 Inverness-shire of 1904 revised 1899.

Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 6inch-mile sheet 141 Inverness-shire of 1903 revised 1899.

Ordnance Survey map NN28SW for 1973 1:10,000.

Ordnance Survey map NN27NW for 1991 1:10,000.

Ordnance Survey map NN27NE for 1991 1:10,000.

### Aerial Photographs Consulted

RAF 106G/Scot/UK 61 3348-3341, 4334-4341	8-5-1946	1:10,000
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RAF 106G/Scot/UK 64 3132-3134, 4138-4140	8-5-1946	1:10,000
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## **Appendix 1 – Census Returns 1841-1901.**

1841

Unachan listed with 15 households.  
Coirecoille not listed.

1851

Unachan listed with 15 households.  
Coirecoille 2 households -  
1 – John Cameron, his wife and 6 children. Recorded as farmer & cattle dealer, also nurse and house servant, 2 house servants, 3 farm servants and a shepherd.  
2 – Kate MacDonald, 2 children, her mother and visitor.

1861

Unachan listed with 19 households.  
Coirychoilly (Lower) – Anna Cameron, 21, Farmers Daughter, 3 brothers and sisters, 2 domestic servants, ploughman and an agricultural labourer.  
Coirychoilly (Upper) – John & Catherine Bell, Shepherd.

1871

Coirecoille not listed.  
Unachan listed with 9 households.  
Unachan Wood listed with 6 households –  
1 – Alex Kennedy, 59, Dancing Master  
2 – Christian McPhee, 39, Crofters wife  
3 – Alexr Stewart, 75, Pauper  
4 – Janet McKilroy, 70, Pauper  
5 – Catherine Kennedy, 56, General Domestic Servant  
6 – Flora McDonald, 62, Crofter of 16 acres

1881

Unachan listed with 4 households.  
Coirecoille not listed.

1891

Unachan listed with 7 households.  
Coirecoille 2 households –  
1 – Arthur Aitken 60, Fisherman, with wife, 5 children and 1 grandchild.  
2 – Wm McIntosh 39, Game Warden and Mary Gillis 47, Housekeeper.

1901

Unachan listed with 15 households.  
Coirecoille 2 households -  
1 – Arthur Aitken 70, Salmon Fisher with 2 children and 2 grandchildren, a kennel-man and a boarder.  
2 – Unihabitated  
3 – Unihabitated

## **Appendix 2 – County Valuation Rolls 1869-1925.**

Valuation rolls for 1855-1868 for Kilmonivaig are not available in HC Archives.

Corriechoille – Listed as House and Garden

### 1869-70

Owner: Lord Abinger	Tenant: Richard Ansdell	Rent: £25
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### 1870-72

Owner: Lord Abinger	Tenant: Arthur Pryor	Rent: £25
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### 1872-73

Owner: Lord Abinger	Tenant: J E Barker	Rent: £25
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### 1873-80

Owner: Lord Abinger	Tenant: Arthur Aitken	Rent: £25
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### 1880-81

Volume missing in HC Archives.

### 1881-82

Now two properties named Corriechoille – both listed as House and Garden

1 - Owner: Lord Abinger	Tenant: William Mackintosh	Rent: £14
2 – Owner: Lord Abinger	Tenant: Arthur Aitken	Rent: £25

### 1882-84

Now two properties named Corriechoille – both listed as House and Garden

1 - Owner: Lord Abinger	Tenant: William Mackintosh	Rent: £14
2 – Owner: Lord Abinger	Tenant: Arthur Aitken	Rent: £25

### 1884-86

Now two properties named Corriechoille – both listed as House and Garden

1 - Owner: Lord Abinger	Tenant: William Mackintosh	Rent: £14
2 – Owner: Lord Abinger	Tenant: Thomas A Jeffock	Rent: £25

### 1886-93

Now only one property named Corriechoille – Listed as House and Garden

Owner: Lord Abinger	Tenant: N B Macjenzie	Rent: £25
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### 1894-1920

Owner: Lord Abinger	Tenant: D P MacDonald & Sons	Rent: £25
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(rent rising to £35 in 1909 and £40 in 1919)

### 1925-26

Owner: Lord Abinger	Tenant: Hugh MacLachlan	Rent: £40
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## Appendix 3 – Inverness Courier 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 1856.

### DEATH OF MR. CAMERON, CORRYCHOILLE

We regret to announce the death of this well known and extensive Highland sheep farmer, which took place on the evening of Saturday last, the 16<sup>th</sup> instant. He had got up early in the morning and walked to one of his sheep fanks and back again before breakfast. A distance of six miles. He then breakfasted and rode to Unachan, to attend a meeting of the Parochial Board, which he left at three o'clock, in great spirits and apparent good health. In dismounting at the door of his house, he then said to Mrs. Cameron that he felt very weak and needed support. He was then assisted to his room, and to bed, when he was attacked with spasms which occurred at intervals for about two hours, after which he expired. A despatch was sent to Fort William for Dr. Crichton, but before the message arrived Mr. Cameron was no more. The deceased was in his 75<sup>th</sup> year, and very lately he boasted that he had stood the three years Falkirk Trysts, and the two Doune Fairs for the last fifty five years without missing a single market. It appears that he died of a spasmodic affection of the heart. Few men will be more missed in the Highlands than Corrychoille. His numerous peculiarities, his indefatigable energy, and strong individuality of character made him a conspicuous man in the Highlands, and his name will long live in the characteristic anecdotes which are told of him in all parts of the country. At one time he was the largest holder of livestock in the North—probably in Scotland. In giving evidence upon one occasion in court, he was asked how many sheep he possessed. He said he did not know. "Have you five thousand?" asked Mr. Patrick Robertson, one of the counsel on the occasion, Corrychoille gave a patronising nod of acquiescence. "Have you ten thousand?" "Why, I have that of black cattle and horses" he replied. "Have you twenty, thirty, forty thousand sheep?" "Oh yes I have forty thousand" "Have you fifty thousand?" "I do not know exactly to a few thousands but I have from forty to fifty thousand beasts". Corrychoille used to boast that he was the largest holder of livestock in the world except Prince Esterhazy, and no thanks to him for he pays no rent. Latterly Mr. Cameron gave up many of his farms, retaining little more than the one from which he derived his cognomen of Corrychoille and the farm adjacent to it; but he purchased a small estate in Stirlingshire and more recently in Skye. He was the second son of a respectable farmer in Lochaber who rented part of Corrychoille in common with several other persons. He began life with little or no fortune; but by many successful barterings and small purchases, he obtained a footing in the cattle trade, and at the age of twenty was driving business for himself on no inconsiderable scale for that period. He could endure fatigue to an extent almost inconceivable; he was often three nights without sleep, and as many days without food or other nourishment than a dram and a bit of oatcake and a drink of water from a roadside well. Indeed he was heard to say that on more than one occasion, he had travelled from Torridon, on the west coast of Ross-shire, to Falkirk Tryst at a cost of only eighteen pence, exclusive of tolls. Riding was his only mode of travel, and he was particular about the breed of ponies that he kept. They were small surefooted wiry highland breed (with latterly a dash of arab blood in them) admirably adapted for knocking about the country, and capable of enduring almost as much fatigue as the owner. We have been assured that on one occasion he performed the following feat. He had come to Inverness, a distance of 55 miles on his way to Muir of Ord, and expected a letter from Fort William containing money to make a purchase of cattle. The letter did not arrive; and in spite of the remonstrances of his friends here, he set off, on a wet stormy night, and rode to Fort William, a distance of nearly 65 miles. Here he learned that the letter had been despatched to his house at Corrychoille. Thither he rode accordingly, took some breakfast, and mounted a fresh pony caught from the hill, and was at the Muir of Ord market the same afternoon, having travelled a distance of 200 miles in the course of two days. His slight but athletic frame was well adapted for exercise and hardship, as we have mentioned, even on the day of his death, he was actively engaged in his usual avocations, and this at the age of seventy five. Corrychoille had the reputation of having been a considerate friend of the smaller dealers and crofters with whom he came in contact. Though habitually frugal, if not parsimonious, he occasionally gave liberal entertainments to his friends.

## Appendix 4 – The Lochaber Drover

John Cameron, or Corrychoillie as he is better remembered from his place of residence near Spean Bridge, is a noted name in the annals of Scottish droving, and that must be accepted as no small achievement in itself for, in his day, droving was quite an important industry in the country as there was no cattle or sheep sales by auction, but fairs or trysts where buying or selling was done by private bargaining and often hard bargaining at that.

He was born in the parish of Kilmonivaig about 1780, a period when a great change in the social life of the Highland peasantry was beginning to take place, and a not too happy one for many.

His father kept a toll-house in which there was also an inn, and it was much frequented by drovers when driving cattle and sheep south to the Falkirk trysts.

The first money Corrychoillie earned was from the drovers for minding their stock when they were having a dram in his father's little inn. He saved all he got up till he sufficient to buy a few goats and sheep which he afterwards sold at a good profit. When he grew bigger he hired himself to drive sheep and cattle to the Falkirk trysts, and did the first journeys barefoot. Of course going barefoot was not a novelty among drovers at that time.

The money Corry got for driving cattle he invested in purchasing stirks which he drove to Falkirk along with his master's for sale. He had a keen eye for buying and possessed remarkable shrewdness in business dealing so by the time he had attained manhood he was well established as a drover.

On one of his early visits to Falkirk tryst with £200 in his pocket with which he intended to buy some stock, he heard many stories of highwaymen and pickpockets. This filled him with concern for the safety of his money, so he went and deposited half of it with the British Linen Bank Office there.

The other £100 he left in the care of Swan, the Irish landlord of the Red Lion Hotel, with whom he stayed, till such time as he would require it. When he wanted the money, he went along to the Red Lion Hotel with the drover from the border who had the cattle to sell which suited him. Summoning the innkeeper he asked for his money to be repaid, but instead of producing the money the hotelkeeper addressed him thus "Arrah! Be me sowl, me bhoy, it is trying to make a fool of me ye are, or are ye mad wid drink, or have yez git bad stuff in the market that puts your brains bad, for bedad an' it's the trowth, ye never gied me a pound besides a £100 in your lifetime, ye big Hieland rogue, bejabers no" Corry" expostulated with him saying that he gave him the money earlier in this very same room only to receive the answer "Oh bad luck to me if ever ye gave me a penny or a note in all your life, and faix I'm ready to take me solemn oath before all the Sheriffs and Magistrates both in Scotland and Ireland, to that effect. Poor" Corry" felt quite dumfounded at the Irishman's attitude. His companion, however, advised him to go and see Archie Cunningham, a local lawyer who was regarded, as he said it "to be a very clever chield for getting folk oot o' scrapes". Corry" would not listen to this at first, replying "There is enough of the rogue in the man to cheat anybody".

"Never mind that" retorted the friend "you try Archie, try him, for there is aye balm in Gilead, and ye don't know what Archie can do for ye".

After a good deal of further coaxing Corry agreed to go and tell his story to the lawyer. Cunningham advised him to draw his other £100 from the bank, treat the refusal of the Irishman to repay, as a joke, and before one witness at least, offer him the safekeeping of the money, and after doing this, to come back and tell him how he got on on.

The hotelkeeper accepted the money, promised to keep it safely for him and let him have it back immediately he required it. Corry reported the result to Cunningham who now advised him to go back shortly, alone, to the hotelkeeper and ask for his money back. This he did, asking for his money which was handed over to him without demur

"Corry again went to the lawer and told him of his success" "Go back now" the lawyer said with your witness and ask for the return of £100. This he did and Mr Swans face, as he realised it was a case of diamond cut diamond, turned colour while he remarked "Oh bad luck to yez, ye hieland rogue, did I not give you your £100 less than two hours ago, and are you going to rob me in daylight.

Here is my witness replied "Corry, ask him if you paid me £100. If you don't hand it back to me instantly I will take other means to get it.

The hotelkeeper saw that "Corry" was 'nt so simple as he thought and probably realised he had been to see Archie Cunningham, and forthwith handed over the money. Corry" was elated and went straight to the lawyer to whom he handed £5 for his excellent services.

As is well known at the beginning of the last century sheep had become of greater value and importance to the Highland landlords than the peasantry which had for generations inhabited the glens. Cameron of Lochiel did not escape this craze for sheep and the introduction of the large tenant farmer, although evidence shows that he largely favoured native Lochaberians rather than Border

Scots. Among them was John Cameron "Corrychoillie". His first place on the Lochiel estate was the farm at Caonich and Kenmore, of which he took, in 1824 a ten year lease at a rent of £70. During the currency of the lease he obtained Murlaggan and Cailleach, also part of Glenkinge and Glenspean. When the lease expired in 1834 he took another nineteen years duration with a break in 1845.

This time there was a great addition in the number of farms let to him and included in all: 1Monaquoich; 2North side of Glendessary; 3Crieff; 4Salachan; 5Muick; 6Half of Kenmore; all as possessed by the heirs of Lt-Col. John Cameron; 7Murlaggan; 8Cailleach; 9Grazings of Glenkinge; 10Coanich; 11West Kenmore; 12Glen Pean More; 13Glen Pean Beag; 14Coull; 15Glaickfearn, all possessed by "Corrychoille himself.

The rent was £1,430 his first offer was £1,400 which he increased to the other figure and as he would not make any further advance Lochiel accepted.

According to Mitchell in his Reminiscences of my Life in the Highlands he did not die a wealthy man. His cautionary obligations are therein stated to have amounted to £20,00.

His remains were laid to rest in the Roman Catholic burying ground of CILLE-CHOIREAL. The grave is protected by a railing, as probably at the time that he was buried this burial ground was not enclosed by a fence of any description

It has been said that he liked to be praised, but when we consider that in the autumn time his drove of cattle for the Falkirk tryst extended from Spean Bridge to the Lairig-leacach, he was due a little.

"Corry" had been twice married. His second wife was, I believe a Protestant, and the following story probably refers to her.

One day when crossing the Ballachulish Ferry with a companion there was a young woman at the ferry and "Corry's" companion made a complimentary remark about her, to which "Corry" replied "She will be my wife yet".

To this his companion made a bet of sixpence-which the other readily accepted-that she would not, and before a year had lapsed, she was

Very little information appears to be available concerning this family. The sons by the first marriage, four I think all emigrated to Australia where they engaged in farming. Of the three by the second marriage who attained manhood, one went to New Zealand and one to South Africa. Peter who remained in Scotland, became head of his uncle's business, Messrs. and Turnbull, wine merchants, Leith. The four daughters by the second marriage all married



*Brief for archaeological work*

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY**

*Produced for use by Forest Enterprise and others  
For Scottish Forestry Grant Schemes and similar forestry projects*

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

**Archaeology Unit**



## 1) Background

Forestry projects of all types can impact on valuable features of historic and archaeological importance. New commercial planting, regeneration of native woodland, felling and restocking, timber extraction and other proposals therefore need to avoid such features wherever possible. Where this is not practicable, they should be recorded before they are damaged or destroyed. This will need to be done by a qualified and experienced archaeologist. This approach aims to establish at the earliest possible stage the nature and extent of any features of archaeological interest likely to be affected.

In the highlands, there has been relatively little systematic archaeological survey carried out but conditions have tended to mean that there can be a high survival of features and finds of all periods. These may be buried with only limited visibility above ground. There is therefore a need to establish the potential impact of projects on both recorded and unrecorded archaeology at the earliest possible stage so that an appropriate approach can be taken to preserving them wherever possible, or recording them where preservation is impractical.

To meet the needs of such an approach, the first requirement is for a desk based assessment to check available records. A field reconnaissance survey must then be undertaken to assess the presence of, and potential for, archaeological sites in the development area; to assess the significance of the sites that will be affected; and the impact of the proposed development upon them. This should assess the likelihood of buried as well as surface remains, and indicate any areas of particular sensitivity.

A report will be produced that outlines the conclusions of this work and proposes appropriate mitigation and recording arrangements to be followed in the scheme. If sites cannot be avoided then they should be recorded in advance of damage or destruction. The archaeological contractor should also mark the actual boundaries of sensitive archaeological areas on the ground with flags or tapes so that contractors and others can clearly see and avoid them – this can be done at a later stage.

## 2) Terms of Reference

The organisation developing the project as a whole will be responsible for the archaeological work, including any tendering and contractual arrangements.

This brief specifies the **minimum** acceptable standard of work. Proposals that present a higher standard may be offered and accepted. It may be used to obtain quotations from archaeological contractors. It is assumed that this will form the basis of an agreed approach unless changes are agreed in writing before the start of any site works.

The brief sets out in detail who is responsible for what, as well as the terms of reference, objectives, method, monitoring and reporting arrangements.

**The Archaeology Unit can comment on tenders submitted in confidence if required.** Any tenders should be accompanied by a project design, statement and evidence of competence, including the CV of the Project Director.

The work should be carried out by, or under the immediate direction of, a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists to ensure that work is carried out to professional

standards. The Archaeology Unit may refuse to accept work from, or otherwise take action against, archaeologists who fail to carry out work to these standards.

The area to be covered by this assessment should be the entire development area: including any proposed services, access roads, works compounds, borrow pits or other ancillary works.

Before site works start, the proposed arrangements, including a timetable for the work should be agreed with the Highland Council Archaeology Unit in writing.

### 3) Objectives

The approach to the archaeological study should aim to:

- Identify the cultural heritage baseline within the proposal area.
- Assess the proposed development site in terms of its archaeological and historic environment potential.
- Consider the potential impacts of the scheme on the cultural heritage resource.
- Propose measures (where appropriate) to mitigate any predicted adverse impacts.

### 4) Method

#### a) *Desk-based assessment*

A check of all relevant archaeological / historical records, maps and aerial photographs should be undertaken and presented as an Appendice within the report. The following sources should be checked:

- *The Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)*. Please note - the online SMR 'Am Baile' is not designed for use in development control, for assembling information for forestry or agri-environment schemes, or for constructing management policy of sites. In order to source the full SMR information required for such studies all consultants should approach the Highland Council Archaeology Unit directly.
- *The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS)*
- *Historic Scotland's databases of listed buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and monuments proposed for scheduling.*
- *The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland (1988).*
- *Relevant Local and Structure Plans.*
- *Vertical stereo aerial photographic coverage held by RCAHMS and the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.*
- *Ordnance Survey map coverage from 1850 onwards, and any other readily available early cartographic sources held at the National Library of Scotland Map Library.*
- *Bibliographic references and early parish accounts.*
- *The Highland Council Archives*
- *any locally held private archives*

#### b) *Walk-over survey*

It is important that a field reconnaissance survey be conducted in order to assess the presence / absence, character, extent and condition of sites, monuments and landscape features identified by the desk-based assessment. The survey will also identify any further features of cultural heritage interest not detected from the desk study.

'Archaeological Sites' in this context means individual sites above and below ground; historic buildings or other built structures; designed gardens, cemeteries or landscapes; battlefield or skirmish sites; and sites with historical or cultural associations.

All individual features will be recorded, photographed and sketched. All features will be marked on a plan, at a relevant scale, keyed by means of Grid References to the Ordnance Survey mapping.

Before any work starts on site, the archaeologist should mark the limits of all features likely to be affected on the ground by temporary boundary flags or tape set at a relevant buffer zone from the nearest visible feature edge. For commercial planting or replanting 20m is normally the minimum; smaller distances may be appropriate for certain site types in schemes for woodland regeneration and planting of native broadleaf varieties. This should help to avoid accidental damage by contractors or machinery on site.

### ***c) Report***

A report must be produced which sets out the results of the work and meets the stated objectives of this specification. The report should include proposals to mitigate the effects of the development on the archaeological resource. Any proposals should be discussed with the Highland Council Archaeology Unit before submission of the report. Normally this report will be attached as an appendix to the Woodland Grant Scheme documentation and any conclusions addressed in the main text of the proposal. However separate copies of the archaeological report will also be needed (see below).

## **5) Reporting**

### **a) Project Report**

The Archaeological Contractor is responsible for producing a report on the work and for making sure copies have been received by the recipients listed below. We require archaeologists to submit satisfactory reports within the agreed deadline. Reports must be submitted to all of the following **within 3 weeks** of the completion of the field work.

- At least one paper copy for the Forestry Commission (attached if possible to the WGS application).
- One paper copy to be deposited with the Council's Senior Librarian Information Co-ordinator, Libraries Support Unit, 31a Harbour Road, Inverness IV1 1UA.
- Two copies for the Archaeology Unit, Planning and Development Service, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX : one paper copy and one copy of the complete report in a *pdf* file. This can be supplied by email or on a computer disc. Please ensure that all drawings and photographs are included.

The report must include as a minimum:

- A location plan (bound into the report) showing the development area and all archaeological features identified. Grid references must be included.
- The circumstances, objectives and dates of work, including a copy of this specification.
- Details of all archaeological sites with statutory heritage protection.
- A detailed gazetteer of all archaeological sites identified.
- A statement of the potential for the survival of further, buried sites of archaeological interest within the proposal area.

- Measured sketch plans and photographs of all significant archaeological features identified.
- Recommendations for the protection of the archaeological resource and/or mitigation measures should the development proceed.
- An analysis of the project results drawing in comparative data as appropriate, and a statement of the significance of the results as per the Burra Charter.
- A full index to any records or other material generated by the project including the archive location.
- A list of finds (if applicable), set out in the required format for Treasure Trove reporting.
- A list of all references and information sources.
- Weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork.
- Proposals for the presentation of the results to the local community as appropriate.

**b) DES**

A brief summary of the results must be sent to the Council for Scottish Archaeology for inclusion in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*. This is the responsibility of the Archaeological Contractor, who should allow for any costs when estimating for the work.

**c) Presentation**

Where significant archaeology has been found a presentation to the local community should be made within a year of the completion of the fieldwork. This is the responsibility of the Archaeological Contractor, and will not be funded by the Highland Council.

**d) Copyright**

The Council will assume author's copyright unless advised otherwise. However, the Archaeology Unit reserves the right to make the report available for reference and research purposes, either on paper, or electronically. The completed report will be made available for immediate public consultation for research purposes at the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record, and through the public library service. The Archaeology Unit will acknowledge copyright in all cases.

**6) Monitoring**

The archaeologist appointed is responsible for agreeing arrangements for monitoring with Archaeology Unit staff. We aim to monitor archaeological projects as necessary to ensure that, as far as possible, minimum standards are met. Prior notice of fieldwork starting dates, with contact names, telephone numbers and arrangements for access must be given to the Highland Council Archaeology Unit by the archaeologist contracted to carry out the work.

**Any unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries, or other unexpected occurrences which might significantly affect the archaeological work and /or the development must be notified by the archaeologist immediately to the applicant and the Highland Council Archaeology Unit. Such finds or features must not be disturbed until arrangements have been agreed for safeguarding or recording them.**

**7) Insurance**

The archaeologist appointed must take all necessary measures to conform to the Health and Safety at Work Acts and be covered by all necessary insurance. Section 24 of the Highland Council's revised Contracts Standing Orders states:

"All specifications issued by and contracts entered into with the Council in connection with the carrying out of work or the provision of services shall provide that the contractor holds a valid insurance policy, approved by the Council, for:-

- (1) Employers liability - minimum limit - £10m (statutory limit)
- (2) Public liability - minimum limit £5m."

**8) General**

The archaeologist agrees by undertaking this work to the terms of this brief. He or she must:

- carry out the work according to the Code of Conduct, standards and guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- agree a timetable for the work with the client and the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.
- not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the client and the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.
- fully allow for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland.

Any Health and Safety incidents on site involving the archaeologist must be immediately notified to the Health and Safety Executive.

This brief has been produced for the Highland Council Archaeology Unit, to whom any enquiries should be addressed. No one else has authority to vary its terms.