

**LUSS SOUTH PRE-AFFORESTATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WALKOVER SURVEY, HELENSBURGH, ARGYLL**

Client: RDS Forestry Ltd
Prepared by: Clare Ellis of Argyll Archaeology
March 2022



0. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 A pre-afforestation walkover survey was conducted over c. 200 hectares of land located either side of the Haul Road - A817 on the Luss Estate (Fig. 1). The programme of archaeological work was commissioned by RDS Forestry. During the walkover twenty-nine sites of archaeological or historical interest were recorded within the boundaries of the six areas surveyed. The sites were dominated by earthen and stone banks and stone walls. The recommendations of this report (see Appendix 1) follow the Forestry Commission Scotland Archaeological Survey Guidelines (Ritchie 2012).
- 0.2 It is the recommendation of this report that an appropriate buffer zone of no physical disturbance is maintained around all the significant features (see Appendix 1 for details).

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The area to be forested (Fig. 1) lies within Argyll Council Administrative Area. The archaeological walkover survey was undertaken between 28th February and 3rd March 2022.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The archaeological objectives were to:
- a. determine the presence or absence of surface archaeological features within the confines of the proposed scheme;
 - b. propose further stages of archaeological work as required;
 - c. propose suitable mitigation.

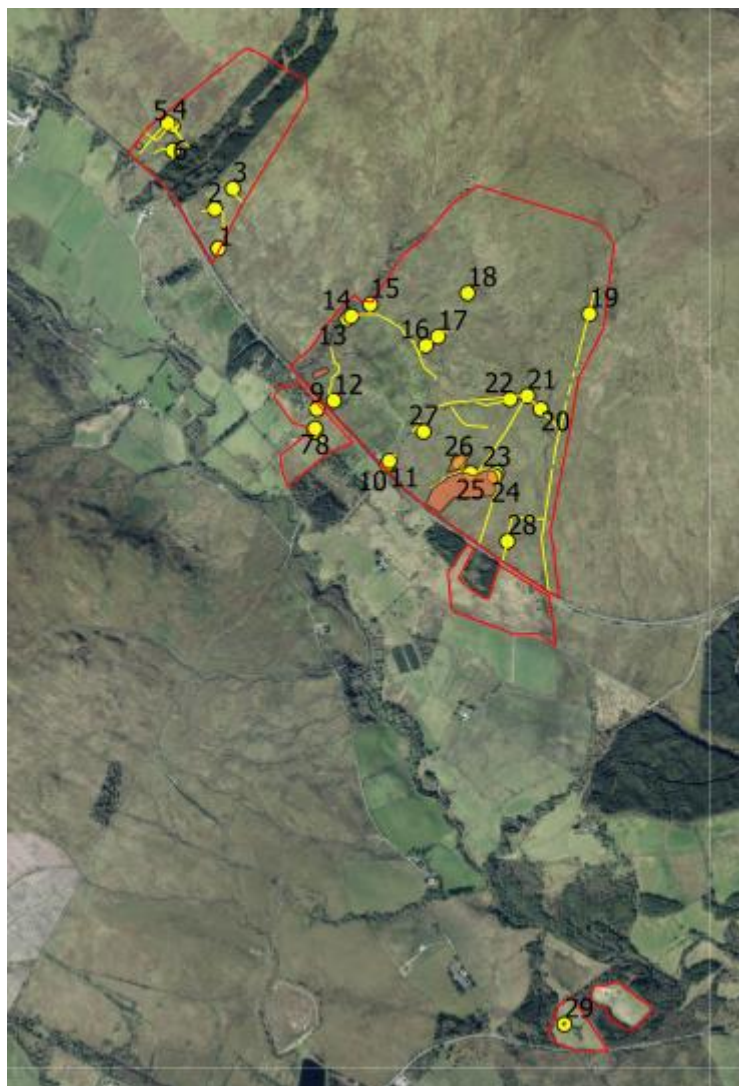


Fig 1. The surveyed areas outlined in red and the sites of archaeological and historical interest shown in yellow.

3. METHOD, GEOLOGY AND GROUND COVER

- 3.1 A rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken prior to the walkover survey. This comprised the online consultation of historical maps, aerial photographs, Pastmap, statistical accounts and any other relevant documents.
- 3.2 The walkover survey was conducted over c. 200 ha. All sites were recorded using a handheld gps, notebook and photography. The weather was mixed.
- 3.3 The area is underlain by psammite and pelite and slate of the Southern Highland group. In general the vegetation cover comprised rough grazing with pockets of bracken. A large section of the northernmost area had been previously under commercial forestry and this had been recently felled. Consequently the previously afforested ground either side of the steep burn was not walked.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 *Post-medieval sites*

4.2 Roy's military map of 1747-55 shows the main areas walked were covered in the 18th century by upland heath and pasture and cultivated ground on the lower slopes of the glen (Fig. 2). The two fields surveyed to the south of Inverlauren Wood are also depicted as under arable cultivation on Roy's map. There is currently a single cottage at West Kilbride which is 19th century in date. However, a larger farm with at least one enclosure is shown on Roy's map and there is the potential that the remains of former structures survive beneath the topsoil around the perimeter of Kilbride Cottage. The wall (Site 7) is depicted on the 1st ed Ordnance Survey map (Sheet XIII 1864) and was part of a field enclosure associated with West Kilbride Cottage. The large bank (Site 8) only appears on the 2nd ed Ordnance Survey map of 1899 and the other more ephemeral bank (Site 9) is not depicted on either map and may be 18th century or earlier in origin.



Fig. 2. Extract from the Roy's Military Map 1747-55.



Fig. 3. West Kilbride area and Sites 7 to 9.

- 4.3 The northernmost area surveyed centred on a gorge and burn and about which a commercial plantation had been recently harvested. The wall (Site 5) is shown on the 1st ed Ordnance Survey map (Sheet XIII 1864) and probably dates from the early 19th century and defines the inbye from the outbye. The southern extension of this wall is Site 3 and Site 13. This wall probably replaced the earlier head-dyke (Site 4) and which may continue southwards as Site 14 and possibly 22. Probable earlier field enclosures are the earth and stone banks (Site 1, 2 and 6) and these may date from the 18th century or earlier.

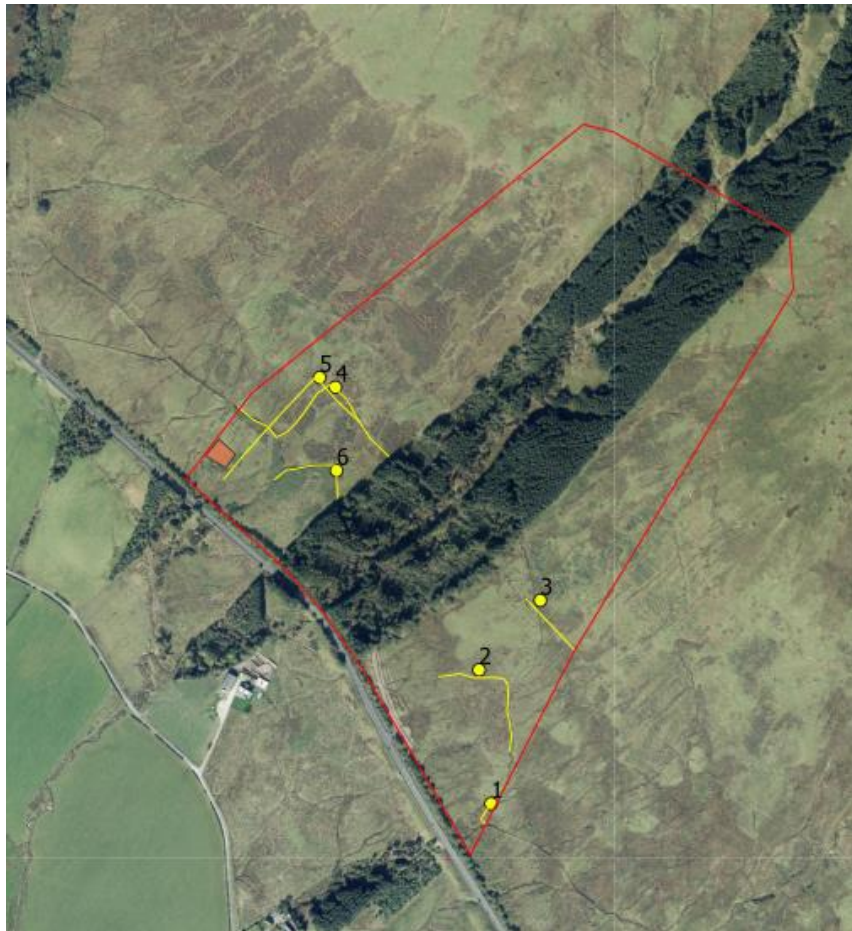


Fig. 4. Northern most surveyed area, with boundary shown in red and archaeological sites in yellow



Fig. 5. The wall (5) and bank (4) running south-eastwards.

- 4.4 The largest area also contains relatively early, probably 18th century field enclosures (Sites 12, 23, 25) (Fig. 6). The remains of rig cultivation was also observed associated with the larger enclosure and on the lower drier slopes. The stone walls mapped in this area are likely to be late 18th or early 19th century in date. The twinning pen (Site 21) (Fig. 7) is clearly later as it utilised the rubble from the stone wall (Site 20). Another twinning pen (Site 18) also used the stone from an abandoned wall (Fig. 8); interesting the latter had become ruinous by the time of the survey for the 1st ed Ordnance Survey map and so was not included on the map.

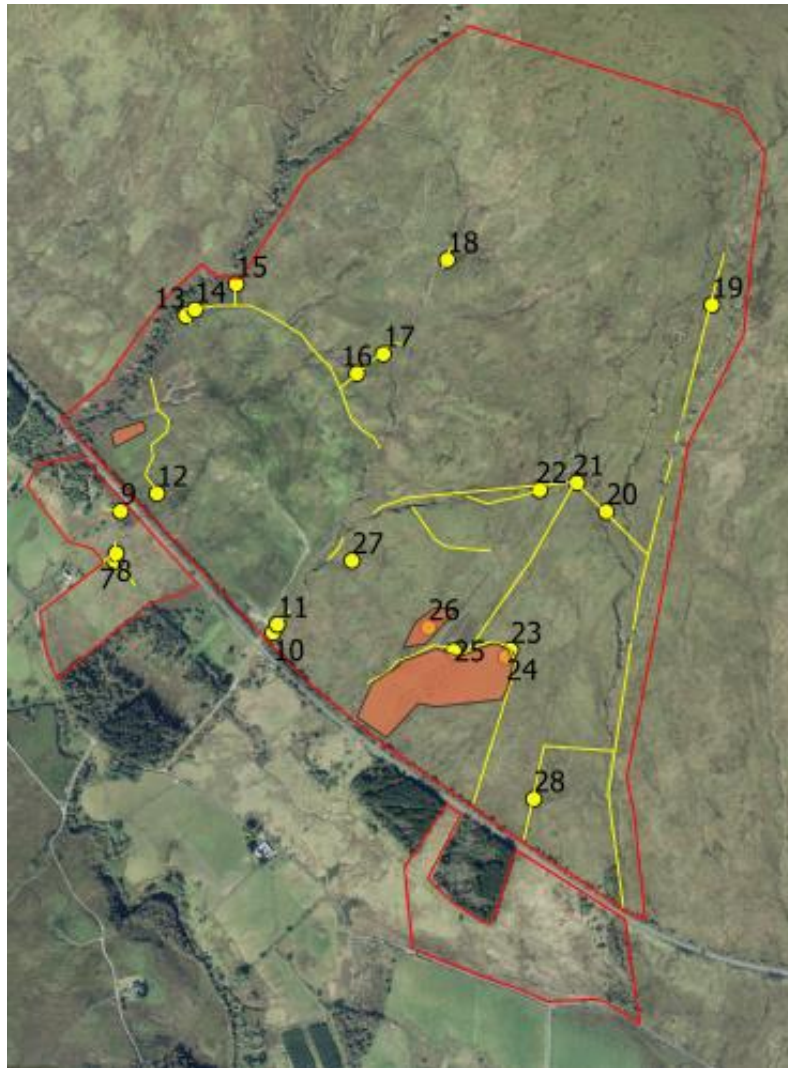


Fig. 6. Largest surveyed area with the boundary shown in red and the archaeological sites in yellow and areas where evidence for rig cultivation exists.



Fig. 7. A twinning pen (Site 21) built where the three stone walls (20) joined.



Fig. 8. Twinning pen and wall (Site 18).

4.4 Two fields, one still under cultivation and the other under pasture were also surveyed to the south of Inverlauren Wood (Fig. 1). The remains of a brick built structure (Site 29) associated with concrete pillars/pads was recorded (Fig. 9). The function of this structure is not known but would appear to date from the 1940s.



Fig. 9. Site 29, brick built structure

5.0 MITIGATION

- 5.1 All the recorded sites, with the exception of the areas of past rig cultivation, should be protected from physical damage by an appropriate buffer zone in which no ground breaking activity or the tracking of plant is allowed during all preparatory and forestry works (detailed in Appendix 1, Gazetteer). The proposed buffer zones are in line with the guidance of the Forestry Commission Scotland Archaeological Survey Guidelines (Ritchie 2012).

6.0 REFERENCES

Ritchie, M 2012 *Archaeological Survey Guidelines for work to advance the Heritage module*

Archaeological walkover survey, Luss south- 677

Appendix 1: Gazetteer of archaeological and historical sites

The gazetteer has been compiled from a walkover survey. Each site No. is unique and corresponds to the numbered sites shown in Fig. 2.

FORMAT

The format of each site entry in the gazetteer is in the order given:

- Name
- Location - National grid reference (NGR)
- Site type
- Character
- Date
- State of preservation
- Significance
- Mitigation

Criteria used to quantify archaeological and historic sites

The description of *Character* and *Extent* of the sites is taken from documentary and cartographic records, where they exist, and/or from direct observation.

Determination of the *State of Preservation* of an archaeological site is often hard to ascertain without the aid of intrusive archaeological works. A site that has been previously attributed some regional or national significance is regarded as in a good state of preservation, unless there is documentary or visual evidence to the contrary. For a site of Local Importance/Significance the *State of Preservation* refers to the physical condition of the visual remains and the degree to which the original site appears to be intact and unaltered, Table 1. Where no assessment can be made as to the current condition then the *State of Preservation* is referred to as Unknown.

Table 1. The definition of the State of Preservation

<i>State of Preservation</i>	<i>Criteria</i>
Good	World Heritage Site; Scheduled Ancient Monument or Regionally Important site. Local site with good physical preservation.
Moderate	Local site with limited denudation/erosion etc
Poor	Local site with significant denudation/erosion etc
Unknown	No assessment can be made (cropmark etc)

Sites are assigned a level of *Significance* on a scale of 'less than local' to 'international' (Table 2). The level assigned is based upon statutory designation and/or assessed cultural heritage importance. Many sites of cultural heritage significance are not currently afforded any statutory protection through designation. For the purposes of this assessment, these undesignated sites were assigned a level of importance using professional judgment.

Table 2: Definition of the Significance of an archaeological site

<i>Significance</i>	<i>Criteria</i>
International	World Heritage Site
National	Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)
Regional	Some undesignated sites assessed as being of Regional Importance
Local	Some designated sites assessed as being of Local Importance
Less than local	Sites either already badly damaged destroyed or whose historic value is too slight for inclusion in a higher class.

Archaeological walkover survey, Luss south- 677

Gazetteer

Site No.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Character	Date	State of preservation	Significance	Mitigation
1	230303	687889	Bank	0.4m high and up to 1m wide stone and turf bank. Orientated roughly N/S next to burn, follows burn right round to west and up to and beyond the wall in site 3.	18th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
2	230294	688071	Bank	Low turf and stone bank, maximum 0.4m high and 0.7m wide. Orientated E/W. Possibly associated with former drainage channel.	18th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
3	230381	688162	Wall	Stone wall, orientated NNW/SSE. 0.7m wide and 0.3m tall. Seen on 1st ed OS map 6". Sheet XIII 1864.	19th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
4	230114	688462	Bank	Large field bank, up to 1m high and 2m wide. Orientated N/S then heads W to NS30093 88476	18th/19th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
5	230093	688476	Wall	Wall of field boundary. Orientated N/S then turns W. Seen on 1st ed OS map 6". Sheet XIII 1864.	19th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
6	230111	688349	Bank	Turf and stone bank, possible field boundary next to burn. Orientated N/S then curves round to W/E. Corner at NS30111 88349	18th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
7	230714	687025	Wall, field enclosure	Drystone wall, 0.6m wide and 0.7m tall. Orientated NNW/SSE. Seen on 1st ed OS map 6". Sheet XIII 1864.	18th/19th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
8	230717	687041	Bank	Large field bank, 2m wide and 0.75m tall. Orientated N/S to burn. Seen on 2nd ed OS map 6". Sheet XIII 1899.	19th century	Moderate	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
9	230730	687130	Bank	Field bank orientated E/W, 0.5m high and 2m wide, runs down to drain and then turns north.	18th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
10	231044	686860	Stones	Pile of stones. Clearance cairn on bedrock. 3m x 4m.	18th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
11	231054	686877	Wall	Drystone wall, 0.3m high and 0.6m wide. Runs beside burn orientated NNE/SSW.	18th/19th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
12	230809	687165	Bank	Curvilinear bank runs uphill from road and round to NW. 2m wide by 0.6m high, earth and stone construction. Continues to NS 30829 87332 and then over to the burn.	18th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
13	230885	687540	Wall	Drystone wall, 0.75m high and 0.6m wide. Orientated NNW/SSE. Circa 25m long. Seen on 1st ed OS map 6". Sheet XIII 1864.	18th/19th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
14	230905	687552	Bank	Large stone and earthen bank associated with canalised burn. 1m high and 2.5m wide. Orientated NE/SW. Ends at NS 31276 87243.	18th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
15	230995	687603	Bank	Low earth and stone bank 1m wide and 0.3m high. Orientated N/S.	18th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance

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Site No.	Easting	Northing	Site type	Character	Date	State of preservation	Significance	Mitigation
16	231244	687403	Wall	Stone wall, 0.5m high and 0.6m wide. Orientated NE/SW. Cut by drainage bank.	18th/19th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
17	231302	687442	Wall	Stone wall, 0.2m high and 0.7m wide. Orientated E/W. Circles round to burn at NS 31343 87460.	18th/19th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
18	231446	687637	Wall	Drystone wall 0.7m wide and 0.2m high. Orientated N/S, runs along E side of burn and twinning pen (circa 2m x 2m and 0.7m high). Twinning pen made from robbed out wall stone.	18th/19th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
19	232005	687519	Wall	Drystone wall 0.7m wide and 0.7m high. Battered in. Orientated N/S.	18th/19th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
20	231763	687089	Wall	Drystone wall 0.6m wide and 0.85m high. Orientated NW/SE.	18th/19th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
21	231703	687153	Structure	Twinning pen on corner of site 20. which from this point runs NE/SW and E/W. Twinning pen 2.2m x 2.2m x 0.75m high.	19th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
22	231623	687140	Bank	Bank, 3m wide and 0.8m high, orientated E/W.	18th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
23	231548	686803	Bank	Enclosure bank, 1 - 1.5m wide and 0.3m high. Stone and earth construction. Curvilinear and visible on satellite images. Encloses area of old cultivation rig.	18th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
24	231538	686789	Rig cultivation	Just over 2m wide curvilinear rig cultivation. Orientated N/S. Located within site 23.	18th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
25	231427	686806	Bank	Large earth and stone bank possibly associated with drainage. Orientated NNW/SSE. 3m wide and 1m high.	18th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
26	231375	686858	Rig cultivation	Traces of rig cultivation, 1m wide, orientated N/S.	18th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
27	231218	687006	Wall	Curvilinear wall, runs up burn. Side shoot of wall to west forms small enclosure next to burn. Wall orientated NE/SW, 0.3m high and 0.6m wide.	18th/19th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
28	231585	686485	Wall	Small section of wall 3m long. Rest probably obscured by peat. 0.2m high x 0.6m wide.	18th/19th century	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance
29	231761	684246	Structures	2 brick built walls/pillars circa 2m high and 4m long, set 6m apart with 2 concrete pads and concrete pier - function unknown.	20th century	Moderate	Local	5m buffer zone of no disturbance

Archaeological walkover survey, Luss south- 677

Appendix 2: Photographic record

No.	Site no.	Description	Taken from
1	1	Bank	S
2	2	Bank	W
3	3	Wall	SSE
4	4	Field bank	NW
5	5	Wall of field boundary	NNW
6	5	Wall of field boundary	NE
7	6	Bank	N
8	7	Drystone wall	SSE
9	8	Large field bank	S
10	9	Field bank	E
11	10	Clearance cairn on bedrock	SW
12	11	Drystone wall	SW
13	12	Curvilinear enclosure bank	S
14	13	Drystone wall	NE
15	14	Bank	W
16	15	Bank	NW
17	16	Stone wall	N
18	17	Stone wall	S
19	18	Twining pen built out of drystone wall rubble	S
20	19	Drystone wall	NE
21	20	Drystone wall	SE
22	21	Twining pen	NE
23	22	Bank	E
24	23	Enclosure bank	S
25	24	Rig cultivation	N
26	25	Bank	SE
27	26	Rig cultivation	N
28	27	Curvilinear wall	SW
29	28	Wall	S
30	29	Brick built walls/pillars	S

Appendix 3: DES Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Argyll and Bute Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Southern Luss
PROJECT CODE:	677
PARISH:	Rhu
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Clare Ellis
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Argyll Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Walkover survey

Archaeological walkover survey, Luss south- 677

NMRS NO(S):																																																																																																	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Bank, wall, enclosure, twinning pen																																																																																																
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None																																																																																																
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NM 97668 63511																																																																																																
START DATE (this season)	November 2021																																																																																																
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	26	231375	686858	Rig cultivation
	27	231218	687006	Wall
	28	231585	686485	Wall
	29	231761	684246	Structures
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Protect sites with an appropriate buffer zone of no physical disturbance.			
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:				
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	RDS Forestry Ltd			
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Davaar Cottage, Campbeltown, Argyll. PA28 6RE			
EMAIL ADDRESS:	ellisclare@argyll-archaeology.co.uk			
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NRHE (intended)			