

Letrault & Stuckenduff, Rhu, Argyll & Bute

Summary of Rapid Archaeological Survey

20th March 2024

This document provides a summary of a rapid survey undertaken on 20th March 2024 on behalf of [REDACTED] in relation to an ongoing woodland creation scheme at Letrault & Stuckenduff, Rhu, Argyll & Bute.

Mounding had previously been carried out over two historic environment assets (a probable lime kiln and quarry) in the eastern part of the woodland creation area which were not recorded by a previous archaeological survey undertaken as part of the woodland creation scheme in 2019 by [REDACTED]. These assets and others were subsequently discovered and recorded in this area by [REDACTED]. The assets recorded in this area by [REDACTED] comprise the probable lime kiln, a quarry, a channel and possible causeway/dam, stone piles and possible small structures/huts, all of which could form part of a complex of broadly contemporary assets spread out along a north-east/south-west running burn. Several grouse butts and a possible earthen bank were recorded east of this complex.

The purpose of the rapid survey summarised here was to examine parts of the woodland creation area where further unrecorded historic environment assets may still be visible on the surface. These areas primarily corresponded to the current water courses and the areas of the woodland creation area not already mounded. In addition, the areas around the assets already recorded were also rapidly inspected. The rapid survey was not to be exhaustive but was thorough enough to assess whether any significant unrecorded archaeology was likely to be present in these areas.

The results noted below do not include the historic environment assets previously recorded by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

A total of eight new historic environment assets were recorded during the rapid survey. The location of these are shown on Figure 1 while full descriptions are provided in Table 1. The assets comprised additional grouse butts (Asset 1) that extended up slope from those previously recorded, a turf boundary bank (Asset 2), disused dry stone dykes (Asset 3), small quarry scoops (Assets 4, 5 & 6), the remains of a dry stone walled enclosure which consisted of a 'House & Yard' when recorded by the OS in 1860 (Asset 7) and a large turf bank possibly representing a head dyke (Asset 8).

All these features appeared to be relatively modern in date (post AD1800), although the possible head dyke (Asset 8) and the boundary bank (Asset 2) have the potential to be slightly earlier. Most of the

assets were considered to be of lesser value as they are either not well preserved, are relatively modern and/or are frequently found in this type of landscape. The exceptions were the dry stone enclosure (Asset 7) and the possible head dyke (Asset 8) which were considered to have a value at a local level as they help tell the story of changing settlement patterns and farming methods in the local area.

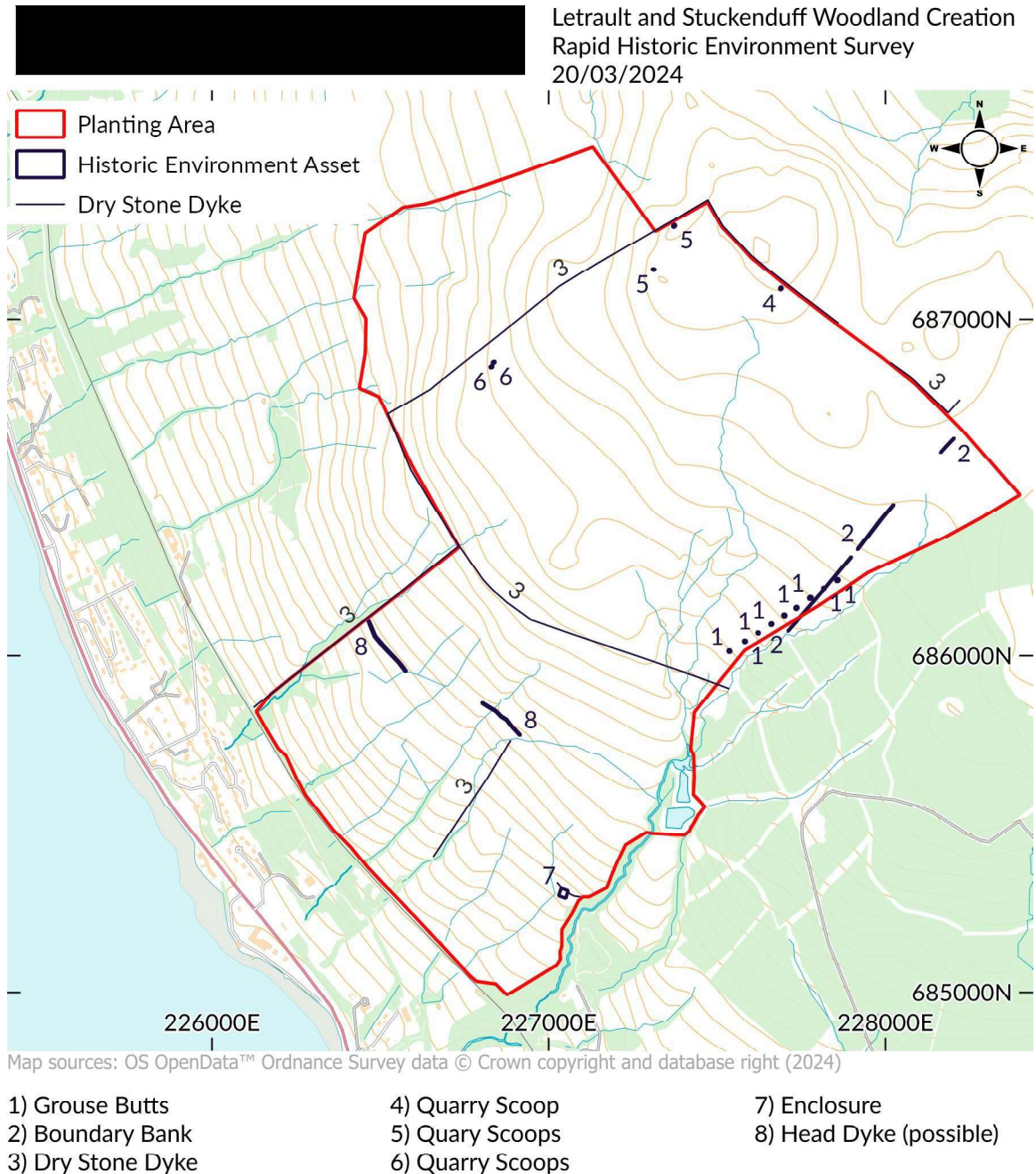


Figure 1: Historic environment assets recorded during a rapid survey undertaken on 20/03/2024. Note: the assets previously recorded by [redacted] and [redacted] are not shown on this map.

Conclusions

Overall, the density and character of the new historic environment assets recorded in the south-east of the woodland creation area by [REDACTED] which included a probable lime kiln, quarry and likely related features, was not replicated across the remainder of the planting area where inspected as part of this rapid survey. It is, therefore, unlikely that significant unrecorded archaeological remains are present in the parts of the woodland creation area that have not yet been mounded.

Some mounding has occurred over the grouse butts (Asset 1) and turf boundary bank (Asset 2) but large parts of the bank remain untouched and these assets have a lesser value meaning the overall level of the impact is relatively minor and not considered significant. Some tracking has occurred over the possible head dyke although this is confined to a few places and has not resulted in significant disturbance. Some mounding has occurred within the dry stone walled enclosure formerly containing a house (Asset 7) but this mounding is not extensive.

Table 1: Site Gazetteer

Asset No.	HER ref.	Site Type	Description	Period	Value	Recommendations	Easting	Northing
1	n/a	Grouse Butts	Up to nine grouse butts extend up the slope in a north-east/south-west direction. They are generally 5m to 6m in diameter with banks on average 0.6m in height, although some are up to 1m. One butt is dug into the linear boundary (Asset 2).	Modern (AD1800+)	Lesser	None – the features are not considered significant	227699 (middle butt)	686119 (middle butt)
2	n/a	Boundary Bank	A linear bank up to 2m in width and 0.75m in height runs north-east/south-west up the slope. A slight ditch exists in parts along both sides. A small section of heather covered bank much further north-east may be a continuation.	Early Modern (AD1500 – AD1800); Modern (AD1800+)	Lesser	The boundary bank should continue to be avoided and crossing points minimised.	227877 (centre)	686268 (centre)
3	n/a	Dry Stone Dykes	Collapsed dry stone dykes in various states of preservation run across and form the edges of the woodland creation area. The majority are partially collapsed and are either disused or have been superseded by a fence.	Modern (AD1800+)	Lesser	The dry stone dykes should be avoided with a 5m buffer	various	various
4	n/a	Quarry Scoop	A small grass covered quarry scoop 5m diameter and 0.8m deep. Possibly for stone to build the nearby dry stone dyke.	Modern (AD1800+)	Lesser	None – the features are not considered significant	227688	687091
5	n/a	Quarry Scoops	A small grass covered quarry scoop 7m by 5m and 1m deep. Possibly for stone to build the nearby dry stone dyke. A similar but smaller scoop lies to the south-west.	Modern (AD1800+)	Lesser	None – the features are not considered significant	227372 (Northern quarry)	687277 (Northern quarry)

Asset No.	HER ref.	Site Type	Description	Period	Value	Recommendations	Easting	Northing
6	n/a	Quarry Scoops	A possible small grass covered quarry scoop 5m by 3m and 0.5m deep. A rock face is visible on the eastern side. A 2m wide bank lies on the western side. A small oval scoop lies a short distance to the south.	Modern (AD1800+)	Lesser	None – the features are not considered significant	226835 (Northern quarry)	686871 (Northern quarry)
7	n/a	Enclosure	A dry stone wall enclosure. Some sections of wall remain upstanding to 1.5m but most is much lower and collapsed. A possible low wall in the west may represent a small internal enclosure. The enclosure and a building at the southern end are depicted on the OS 25 inch to the mile map, sheet XII.16 (Row), surveyed in 1860 and published in 1862, where it is recorded as a 'House and Yards' in the associated Book of Reference (area 743). No map regression was undertaken as part of this rapid survey meaning the presence of a house on the 1860 OS map was not known until after the field survey had taken place. The southern side of the enclosure was not inspected as part of the field survey meaning it is unknown if remains of the building are still present.	Modern (AD1800+)	Local	The dry stone walled enclosure should be avoided with a 5m buffer. Planting in the interior should be restricted to the northern 75% which will avoid the location of the house shown on the 1860 OS map which ran along the southern wall	227043	685295
8	n/a	Head Dyke (possible)	A distinctive turf and earth bank up to 3m wide and 0.8m high snakes north-west/south-east across the hill side. Some breaks are present and a ditch has been added to the northern side in places to create a drain. It peters out to the east and was not fully traced on the ground to the west meaning it may only consist of a short isolated section. The north-western part marked on Fig 1 was taken from modern aerial photography and not field surveyed. The possible head dyke is within an area already mounded but it has generally been avoided.	Early Modern (AD1500 – AD1800); Modern (AD1800+)	Local	The possible head dyke should continue to be avoided and crossing points minimised.	226864	685818

Selected Photos (Scale = 0.5m divisions)



Figure 2: Well preserved part of the boundary bank (Asset 2)



Figure 3: Example of a dry stone dyke (Asset 3) in the north-western part of the woodland creation area.



Figure 4: Example of a small quarry scoop (Asset 4).



Figure 5: Upstanding wall on the western side of the enclosure (Asset 7).



Figure 6: Possible Head Dyke (Asset 8).