

Letrault and Stuckenduff Forestry Plantation

Impact of afforestation and proposed roads on archaeological sites.

22 February 2022

An archaeological survey of the afforestation parcels at Letrault and Stuckenduff was carried out by GUARD Archaeology in May 2019 as part of the site assessment (**Figure 1**).

GUARD identified a total of 9 archaeological sites across the whole land parcel. Subsequent informal archaeological work in a small portion of the planting area by the North Clyde Archaeological Society (NCAS) has identified a further four (seven) archaeological sites that were not recorded by GUARD in the eastern part of the scheme. This is the only part of the planting area that NCAS has surveyed. (see **Figure 2**)

The bomb crater (Site 9 on Figure 2) was reported to Scottish Woodlands by Rhu and Shandon Community Council (R&S CC) at the 'consultation' stage of the forestry scheme as it should, according to the methodology given, have been noted by the GUARD survey. R&S CC, who have in-house professional archaeological advice, expressed concerns at that time that the archaeological survey had not provided adequate assessment of the plantation site. A more than 100% increase in the number of archaeological sites in such a small portion of the area indicates that the reservations expressed by R&S CC are justified.

The bomb crater has now been recorded by NCAS, along with the reservoirs. Dykes and sheepfold / enclosure are still unrecorded.

Scottish Woodlands currently have a live planning notification for new roads 21/02614/PNWAY (**Figure 3**). R&S CC have commented on this proposal (submitted to Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish Woodlands on 5 January 2022 but still not uploaded on the planning portal at 22/2/22) and expressed concern that archaeological sites recorded by GUARD will be affected / damaged / destroyed by the proposed road route. No mitigation measures to ensure preservation of the archaeological sites by record has been provided.

Given that NCAS recorded archaeological sites that were missed by the GUARD survey, including a limekiln, R&S CC request that the area is subjected to a further archaeological survey to identify and flag all archaeological sites in the forestry area prior to any development being permitted to proceed.

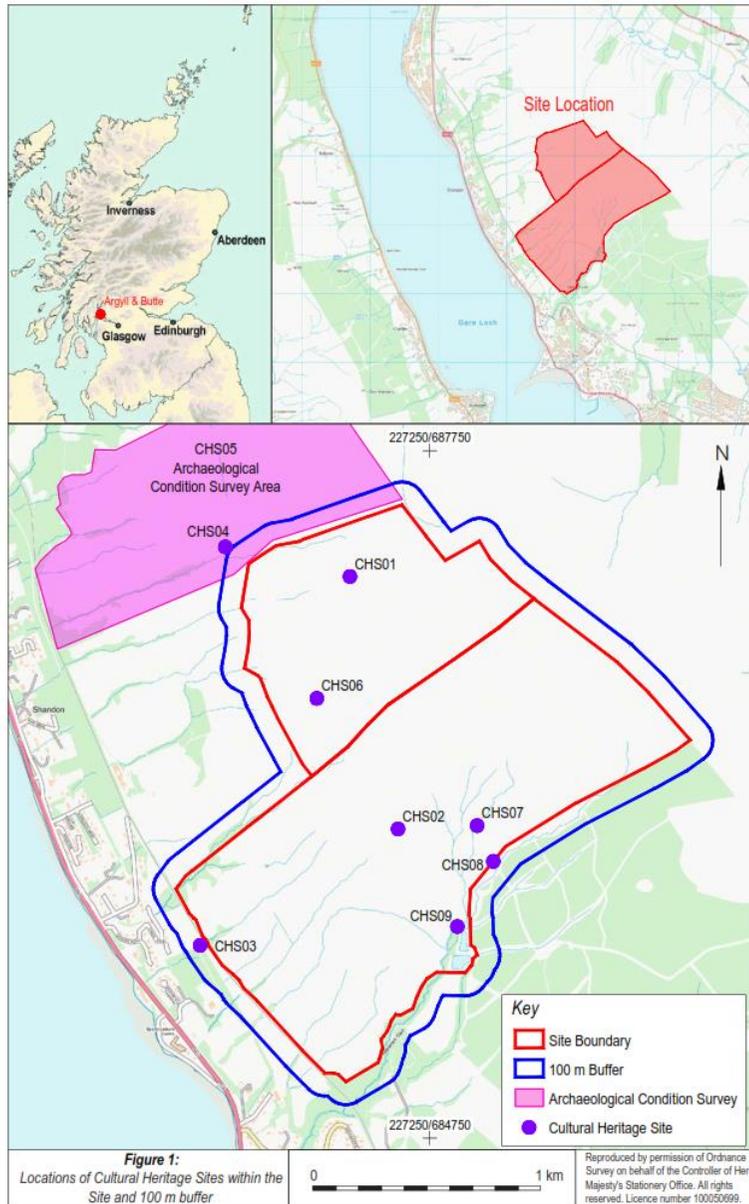


Figure 1 GUARD survey showing archaeological sites.

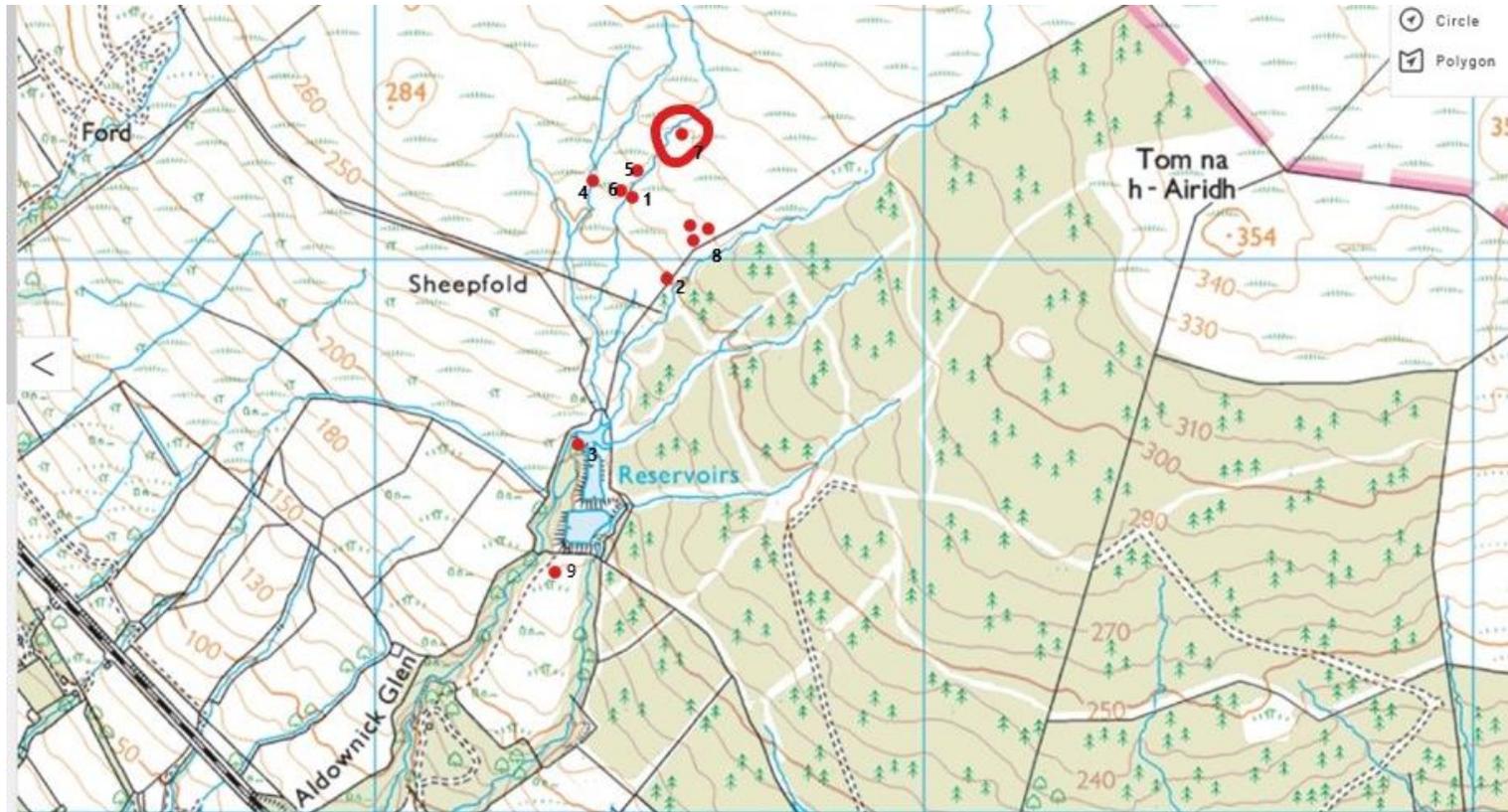


Figure 2 OS extract showing archaeological sites recorded by GUARD and by North Clyde Archaeological Society.

Figure 2 Site List

- 1 NS 2745 8611 GUARD Site 7 three small possible cairns
- 2 NS 2753 8595 GUARD Site 8 circular earth bank
- 3 NS 2737 8567 GUARD Site 9 dam
- 4 NS 27391 86138 NCAS limekiln
- 5 NS 27448 86144 NCAS hut
- 6 NS 27449 86117 NCAS hut and stone piles (=GUARD Site 7)
- 7 NS 27582 86222 NCAS hut and old quarry workings
- 8 NS 27624 86062 and NS 27586 86036 and NS 27583 86037 NCAS shooting butts
- 9 NS 27318 85435 NCAS bomb crater

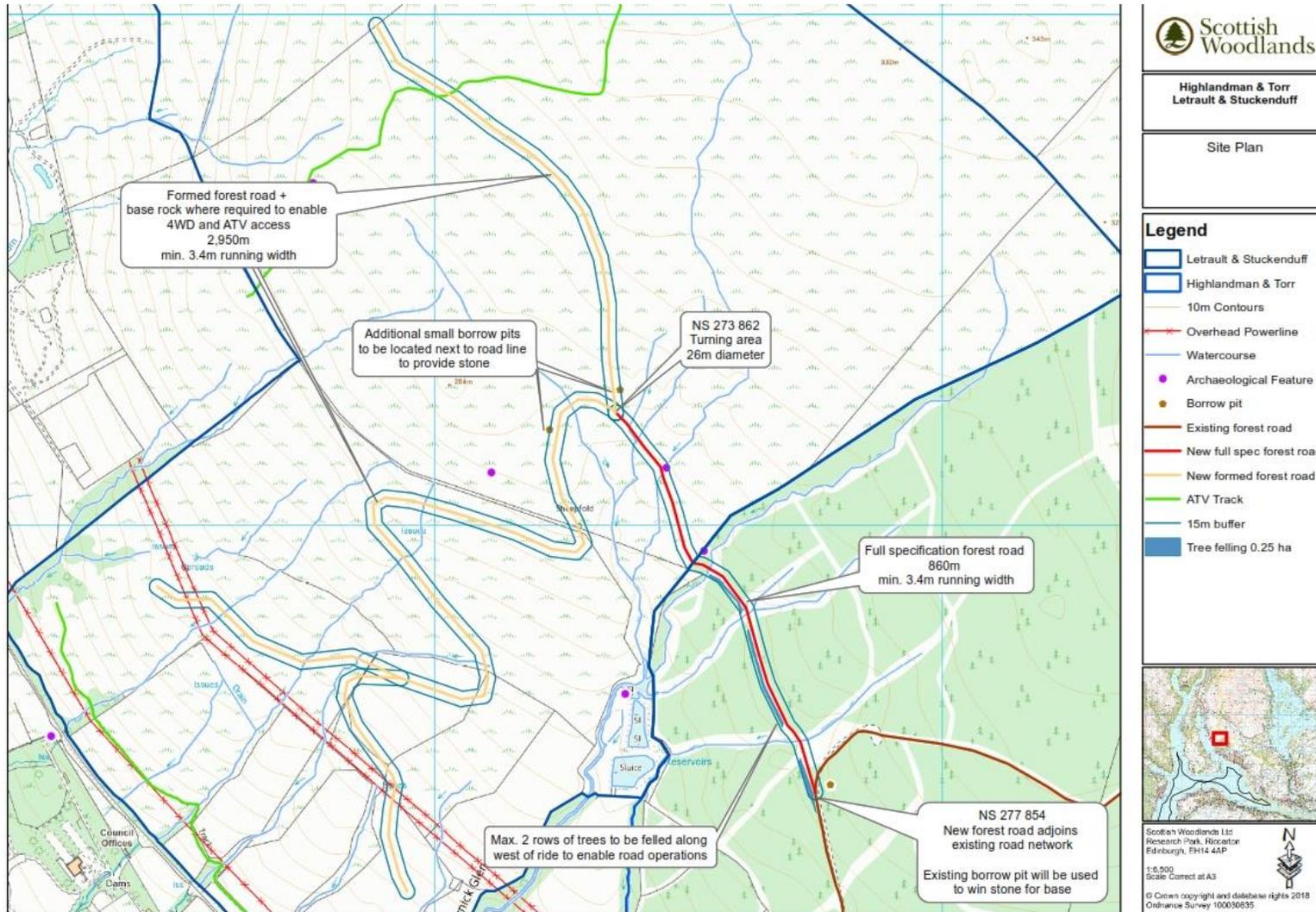


Figure 3 Site plan included in 21/02164/PNWAY showing proposed road route and impact on archaeological sites identified by GUARD.

The proposed route will have an adverse impact sites 1 / 6 (if they are the same site), 2, 4 and 6 identified on Figure 2. It is highly likely the hut(s) at Site 1 / 6 and the limekiln site 4 will be destroyed.