

**Cruach Tairbeirt Forest, Argyll & Bute:  
Archaeological Walkover Survey**



**Data Structure Report  
by Rebecca Shaw**

**30<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

**Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services**

## Contents

1 Introduction	2
2 Background	2
3 Project Works	2
4 Findings:	2
5 Discussion	3
6 Conclusion	3
References	8
Contact Details	10

### *Figures*

Fig. 1	Roy Military map (1747-55)	4
Fig. 2a	Thompson & Co. (1820)	5
Fig. 2b	Ross (1777)	5
Fig. 3	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey (1864)	6
Figs. 4a-c	Images of Features <b>(1)</b> <b>(2)</b> & <b>(3)</b>	7
Fig. 5	Map showing archaeology	9

## 1 Introduction

This Data Structure Report presents the findings of an archaeological walkover survey undertaken on the proposed route for a new forest road. The road which will measure roughly 9km in length will run through Cruach Tairbeirt Forest, and will start just to the east of Arrochar and finish just south of the Inveruglas Water. There is an additional section which branches off to the east on the section above Tarbet and finishes to the west of Succoth.

Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services was appointed to undertake the works by John Hair from Cowal & Trossachs Forest District on behalf of Forestry Commission Scotland.

## 2 Background

Early cartographic sources (Figures 1 – 3) indicate that there has been no known settlement within the proposed route of the road line. The 1864 1<sup>st</sup> edition ordnance survey however, denotes a structure named as *Creag t-Searraich* which is recorded as being *ruins* (Figure 3). The structure, which is situated just to the west northwest of Ballyhennan Toll, is located towards the very southern end of the proposed road route. The structure appears square in shape and set within a rectangular yard or enclosure - surrounding the yard are four various sized much larger enclosures. By the time of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition ordnance survey in 1899 the yard and enclosures are all still depicted but the structure is no longer recorded. On the 1923 ordnance survey the yard and enclosures are still depicted – they are however, no longer marked on the current ordnance survey. Ballyhennan Toll is still marked as a roofed structure on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition although it is no longer name. A house known as Ballyhennan Old Toll House is still depicted in this location today and operates as a B & B.

The road that runs between Arrochar and Tarbet is on the line of the original military road that can be seen on Roys Military Map of the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century (Figure 1). However, a new road was constructed running closer to Loch Lomand and in the section from Tarbet to Inveruglus the military road is preserved in one area as it is sited further up the hill alongside railway line. The West Highland Railway was built circa 1894 going from just outside Glasgow to Fort William (later extended to Mallaig).

## 3 Project Works

The works consisted of the walking of the route of the proposed new road in order to establish the existence of any visible archaeology. The walkover was undertaken towards the end of 2008 and March 2009. Although the route marked on the map in figure 5 may vary from the map provided by Cowal & Trossachs Forest District. The route that was walked however,, exactly followed the marker tape that had been set out by the surveyor.

All works complied with the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct, and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

## 4 Findings

At the start of the proposed road-line just to the west of Arrochar there are the remains of a number of enclosures - Feature **(1)** - two of the enclosures **(A)** and **(B)** are located fairly close to the proposed road-line. The enclosures, which survive as stone built mossy mounds (Figure 4c) (though are more wall-like in some sections) and upstanding to an average height of 600mm, are denoted on the early editions of the ordnance survey. as the remains of a fairly large rectangular yard with a smaller rectangular structure inside it (both of which are depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition ordnance survey (Figure 3).

Further to the northeast on the proposed road-line there are the remains of two possible head dykes (2) and (3). Feature **(2)** which is aligned roughly north / south, comprises a stone & turf construction and measures 1.5m in width (due to spread) and 600mm in height (Figure 4a). Feature **(3)** is aligned east / west also comprises a stone & turf construction and

measures 2m in width (again due to spread) and 900mm in height (at most) - it also has an easily discernable ditch to the northern side (Figure 4b). No other visible archaeological remains were observed within the remainder of the proposed road-line.

## 5 Discussion

The large enclosures that were noted **(1)** appear to have originally been linked to a dwelling that was called *Creag t-Searraich*, which was noted as being *ruins* on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition ordnance survey (Figure 3). The dwelling, which although square on the map, is in fact rectangular, is still visible in outline today within the larger rectangular yard area (also still discernable). As the structure was ruinous in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and survives today as little more than stone footings, it is probable that it dates to the 18th century and comprised turf and stone.

The two sections of turf & stone built walls that were recorded **(2)** and **(3)** are more than likely part of the same feature and appear to be following a contour along the hillside - though this is a feature common to most head-dykes it could also be a boundary line. Although the ditch was only apparent at **(3)** it would more than likely have existed at **(2)** but has survived less in this area. These ditches were normally excavated to provide a further deterrent to animals (sheep / cattle) that were trying to get from the hill-gazing land onto the good land where crops etc may have been cultivated (Brien, 1989). The 1<sup>st</sup> edition ordnance survey depicts a line of what could be either a head-dyke or just a boundary line running from the east of the easternmost enclosure down into the village of Tarbet (Figure 3) which could in fact be features **(2)** and **(3)**. However, without following the line of features **(2)** and **(3)** in their entirety it is not possible to say if they are part of the same feature or if they are part of the line indicated on the 1st edition.

No other archaeological sites were revealed within the proposed road-line area. However, given that the majority of the route comprised fairly high rough ground, post-medieval settlement, unless in the form of sheilings, would be unlikely. Although there was the possibility of earlier features dating the prehistoric period, none were located.

## 6 Conclusion

An archaeological walk over survey was undertaken in late 2008 and March 2009 in Cruach Tairbeirt Forest on the route of a proposed new forest road. The proposed road route, which is roughly 9km in length, starts just to the east of Arrochar and finishes just south of the Inverglas Water near Wallaces Isle on Loch Lomand (Figure 5).

With the exception of the area close to the start of the route just to the east of Arrochar there are no visible archaeological sites on the proposed road-line. However, to ensure that the remains of the settlement of *Creag t-Searraich* **(1)** are not compromised by the construction of the road it is recommended that the road-line be moved further to the north. The sections of features **(2)** and **(3)** that are going to be removed have been recorded, however, should it be required their entire lengths could be mapped in an attempt to ascertain if they are part of the same feature and their function.



Figure 1 – Roy Military Survey 1747-55



Figure 2a – Ross (1777)

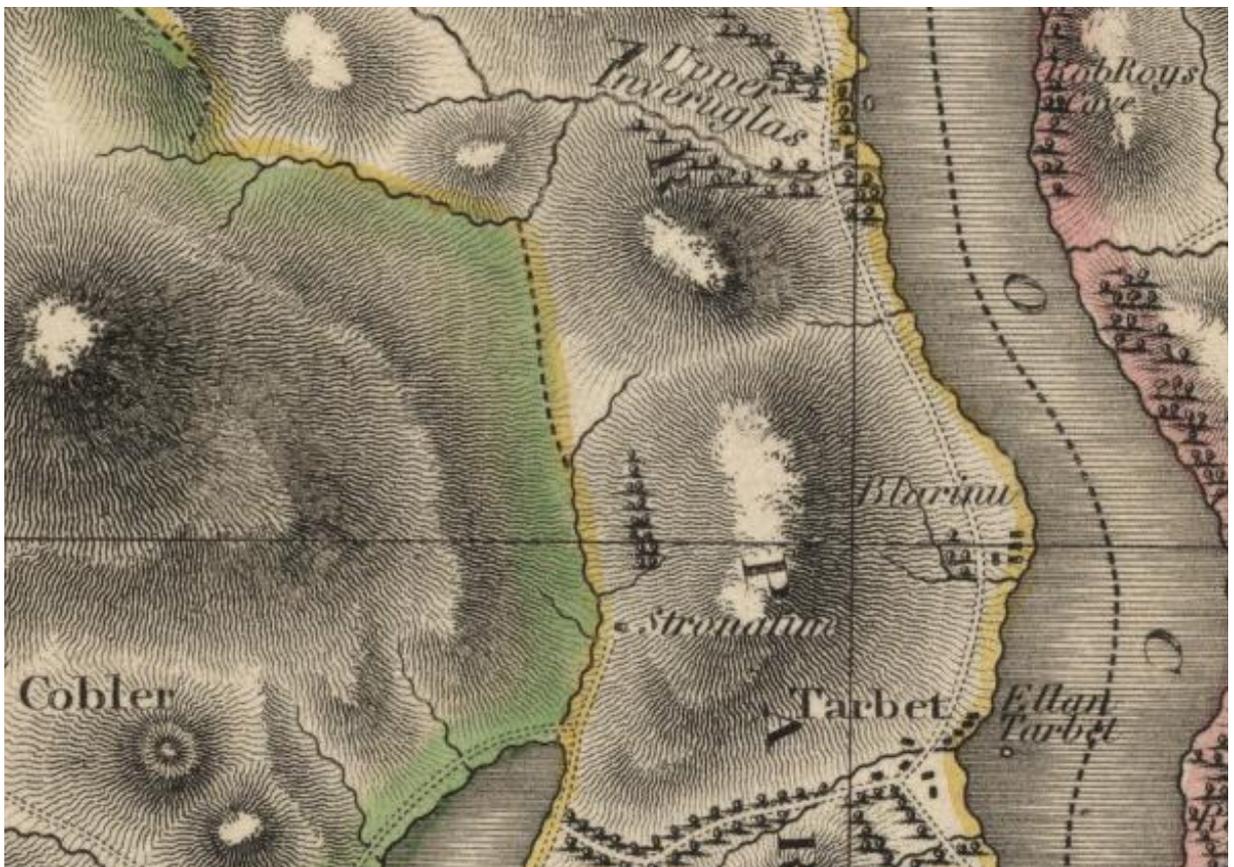


Figure 2b Thompson & Co. (1820)

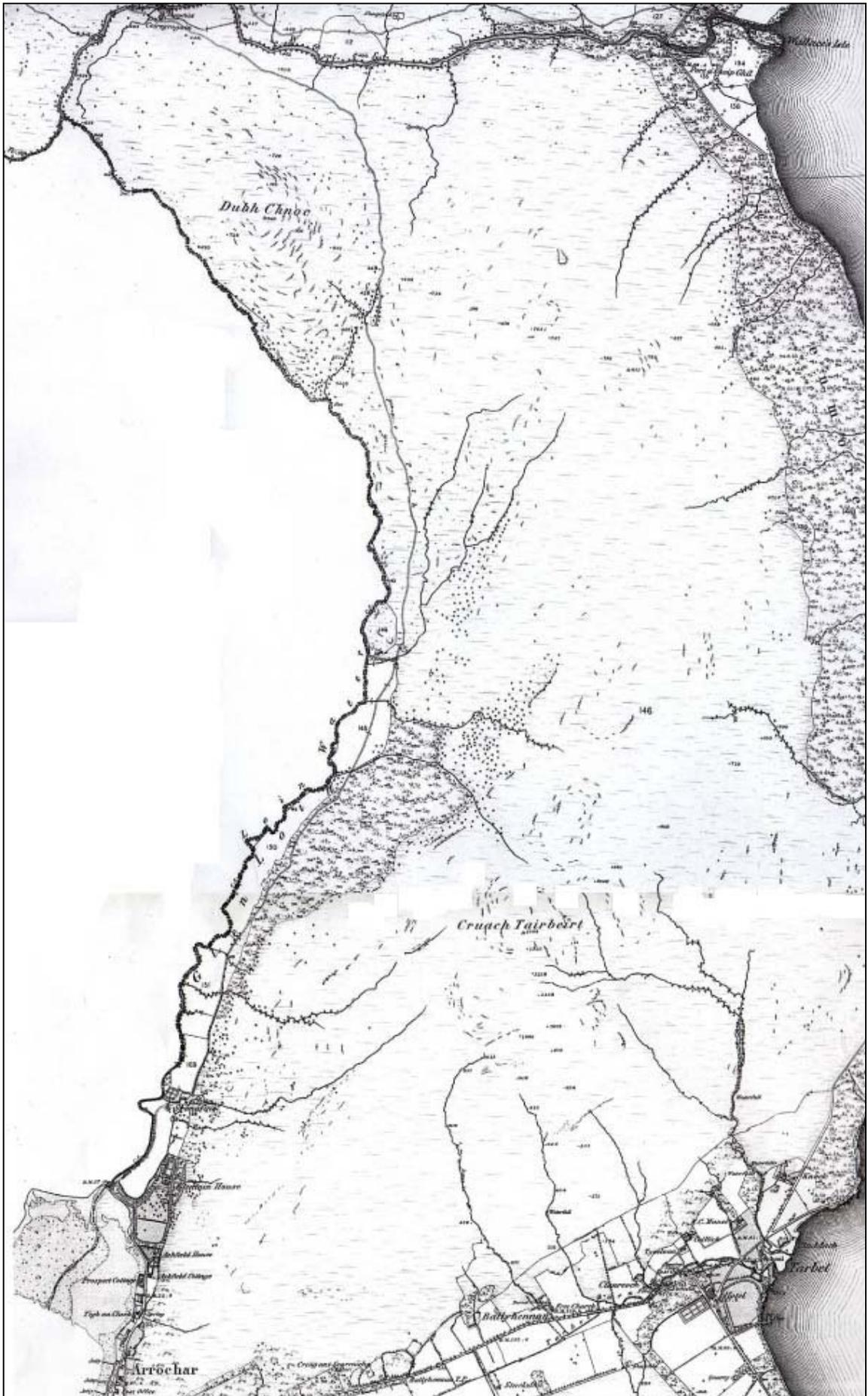


Figure 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey (1864)



Figure 4a – Feature (2)



Figure 4b – Feature (3)



Figure 4c – Feature (1) (Enclosure)

## References

### *Documentary*

Brien R J                      1989                      The Shaping of Scotland. Eighteenth Century  
Patterns of Land use and Settlement

### *Cartographic*

Ordnance Survey            1864                      1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, Dumbartonshire

Ordnance Survey            1899                      2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, Dumbartonshire

Ordnance Survey            1923                      Ordnance Survey, Dumbartonshire

Ross Charles                1777                      A map of the Shire of Dumbarton

Roy                             1747-55                 Military Survey of Scotland

Thompson J & Co.         1820                      Dumbartonshire

# Data Structure Report - Cruach Tairbeirt Forest

30 March 2009

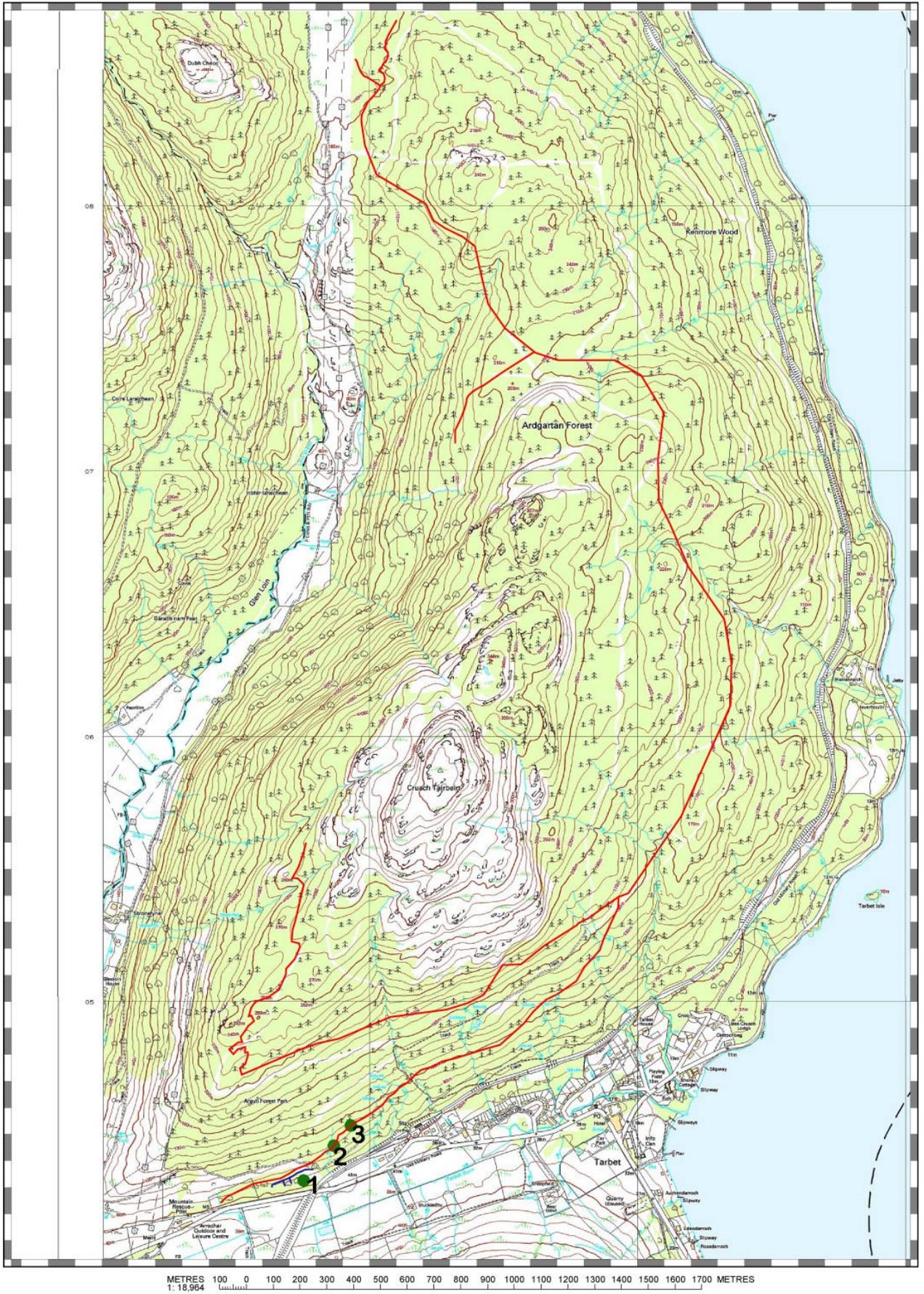


Figure 5 – Site map showing location of proposed road route in red, the part of the enclosure that would be affected is marked in blue - denoted feature (1) – Features (2) and (3) are also marked

## Contact Details

### **Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services**

1780 Great Western Road  
Anniesland  
Glasgow  
G13 2TL

tel: 0141 959 3168  
mob: 07786 135432  
email: [rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com](mailto:rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com)  
[www.rebeccashawarchaeologicalservices.co.uk](http://www.rebeccashawarchaeologicalservices.co.uk)

### **Cowal & Trossachs Forest District**

John Hair  
District Forester (Planning)  
Forestry Commission Scotland  
Aberfoyle  
Stirling  
FK8 3UX

tel: 01877 3822383  
email: [john.hair@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:john.hair@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)