

## SCHANNOCHILL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Client: Forestry Commission Scotland  
Prepared by: Clare Ellis, Argyll Archaeology  
August 2015



## 0. NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 An archaeological survey, comprising a rapid desk-based assessment and predictive prospective walkover was conducted over a parcel of land at Schannochill, Stirlingshire. The programme of archaeological work was commissioned by Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS). Thirteen individual structures or features of archaeological or historical significance were recorded within the Design Plan boundary and included a structure and associated enclosure, two wells, a possible later medieval bank and field clearance cairns. The recommendations of this report follow the Forestry Commission Scotland Archaeological Survey Guidelines (Ritchie 2012).
- 0.2 It is the recommendation of this report that seven of the sites within the area to be afforested should be preserved *in situ* and protected from damage by a 5m buffer zone of no physical disturbance. The field clearance cairns and the concrete pad require no mitigation.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

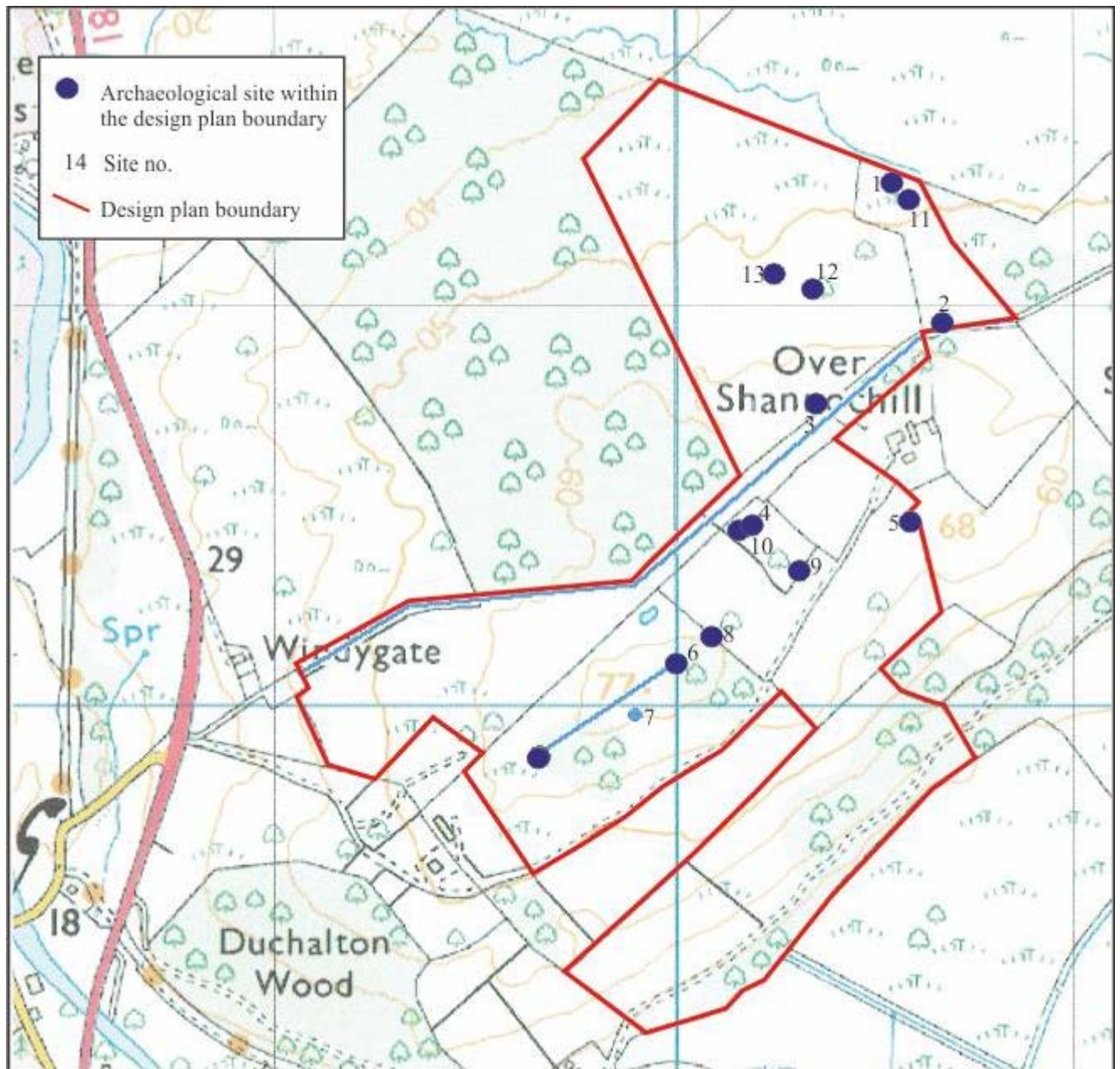
- 1.1 The site (Fig. 1) lies within the Loch Lomond and Trossach National Park. The proposed scheme is roughly centred on NGR: NS 54039 99088 and lies within the parish of Port of Menteith. The archaeological walkover survey was undertaken in the week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> July 2015.
- 1.2 The well, Site 1, had previously been recorded on the SMR (WoSAS pin: 64534).

## 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.

## 3. METHOD

- 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, Canmore, The OS Name Book, Old and New Statistical Accounts and the Site and Monuments Record (SMR).
- 3.2 The brief issued by FCS required a predictive prospective walkover based upon the results of the desk-based assessment. Consequently only those sites identified during the desk-based assessment were visited and recorded, although any other archaeological features encountered during this process were recorded. In addition the existing native woodland on the north side of the track leading to Over Shannochill was walked. All site locations were recorded using a handheld gps and photographed and where appropriate a sketch plan made.



*Fig. 1. Map of Shannochill with archaeological sites and associated site number as identified during the desk-based assessment and walkover, Stirlingshire.*

- 3.2 The geology comprises glacial till (low lying areas) while the higher ground comprises Ruchill flagstone formation, Shannochill sandstone and Cromlix mudstone formation. The weather was fine.

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Site No.	Place name	Roy 1747-52	James Stobie 1783	1st Edition OS	2nd Edition OS	Name book 1859-1862	NMRS No.	National archives	Aerial photo
1	Shannochill			Well marked at the end of a track	Well not marked				Not visible
2	Shannochill			Rectangular roofed building adjacent to an enclosure with unroofed square structure in centre.	Enclosure no longer depicted and structure unroofed.				Just discernible
3	Shannochill		Shown as a main road running from E and W Bridgend up to Loch Meneith	Track running past Over Shannochill	No significant change				Visible as wall line
4	Shannochill			Pond	No longer depicted				Not visible
5	Shannochill			Well, located on eastern boundary below Over Shannochill	No longer depicted				Not visible
6	Shannochill								Bank visible on northern side of woodland.
Outwith design boundary	Over Shannochill	Shennachal, north facing C shaped building with formal parallel row of trees leading from the house northwards and enclosed ground on the south side. Also on the south side strip of woodland which runs from the River Forth /ford at Gartortin - roughly location of current bridge over the Forth. Woodland in field NE of Ahanochill probably remnants of this wood.	Shanachoil, C shaped house orientation inverted with two rectangular structures on the north side and with main road running just to the north (3)	Main house on the south side, with roofed L shaped farm building on north side adjacent to a roofed rectangular building. A further roofed rectangular building to the NW.		A large steading, property of his Grace the Duke of Montrose		21 records, referring to Shannochill. Earliest record 1512-1622Bundle of unconnected writs of irredeemable rights granted to several persons by the Earl of Menteith of the lands of Shannochill and the boat at the head of Forth. GD 220/1/D/3/1	

Table 1.Summary of the Desk-Based Assessment information; the Site No. corresponds to the Site No. shown in the gazetteer (Appendix 2)



## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

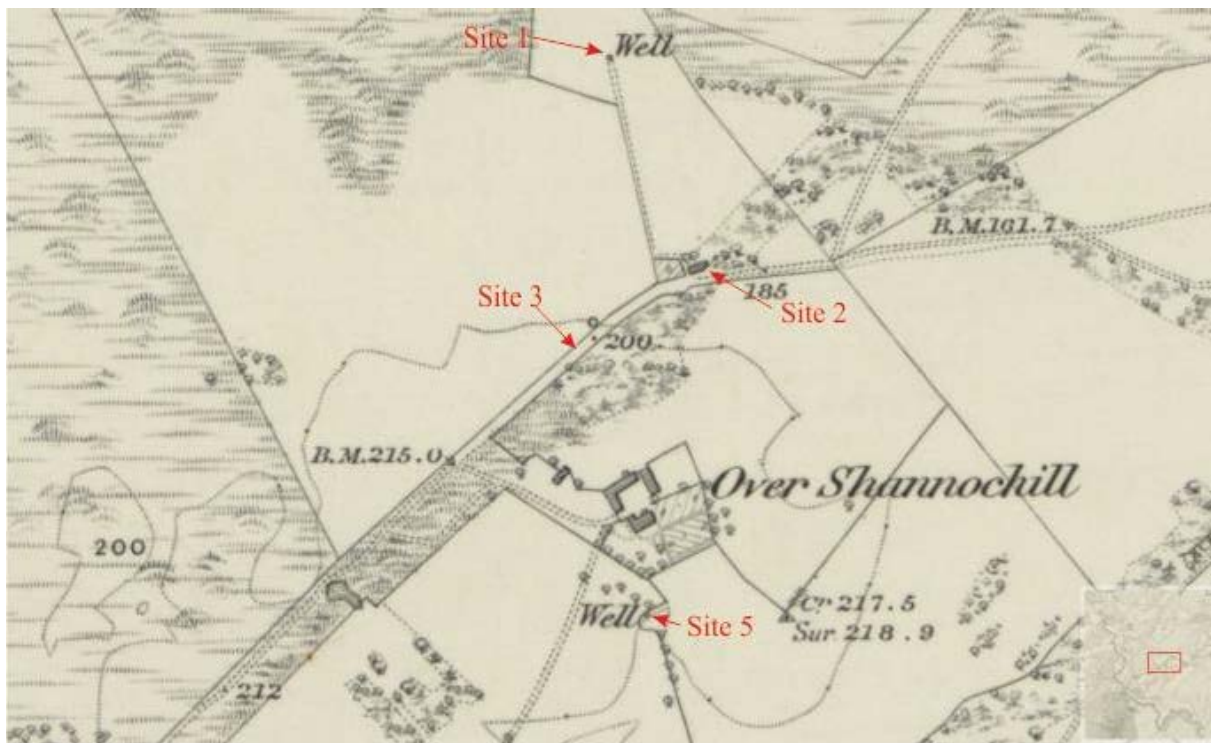
### 4.1 POST-MEDIEVAL

- 4.3.1 The results of the desk-based assessment are summarised in Table 1 while the field observations of the sites are given in the Gazetteer, Appendix 2. The majority of the structures and features as recorded probably date from the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> or the 20<sup>th</sup> century and reflect the nature of the mixed farming during these periods.
- 4.3.2 Schannochill is identified on Roy's Military Map 1747-55 as Shennachal and is shown as a C shaped structure with an avenue of trees leading from the house north-westward and a faint trace of an enclosure on the southern side (Plate 1). There is now no surface trace of this enclosure. Roy's map also shows a curvilinear stretch of woodland on the south side of the house, the remains of which is still visible today and is bounded on the north side by an earthen and stone bank (Site 6); this bank may have its origins in the later medieval period. The land to the north and west of the house does not appear to have been under cultivation at this time and the presence of a couple of ponds (1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Perthshire Sheet CXXX 1866) indicates that it was probably grazed by cattle. However, there is a reference to an 'obligation by John Monteith of Arnbeg to [blank] regarding payment of tack duty on half rounge of Over Shenochyle and sowing of seed corn on said land 28/4/1674', (National Archives GD 22/3/53). This may refer to the clearly cultivated land located on the southern side of the linear strip of woodland.

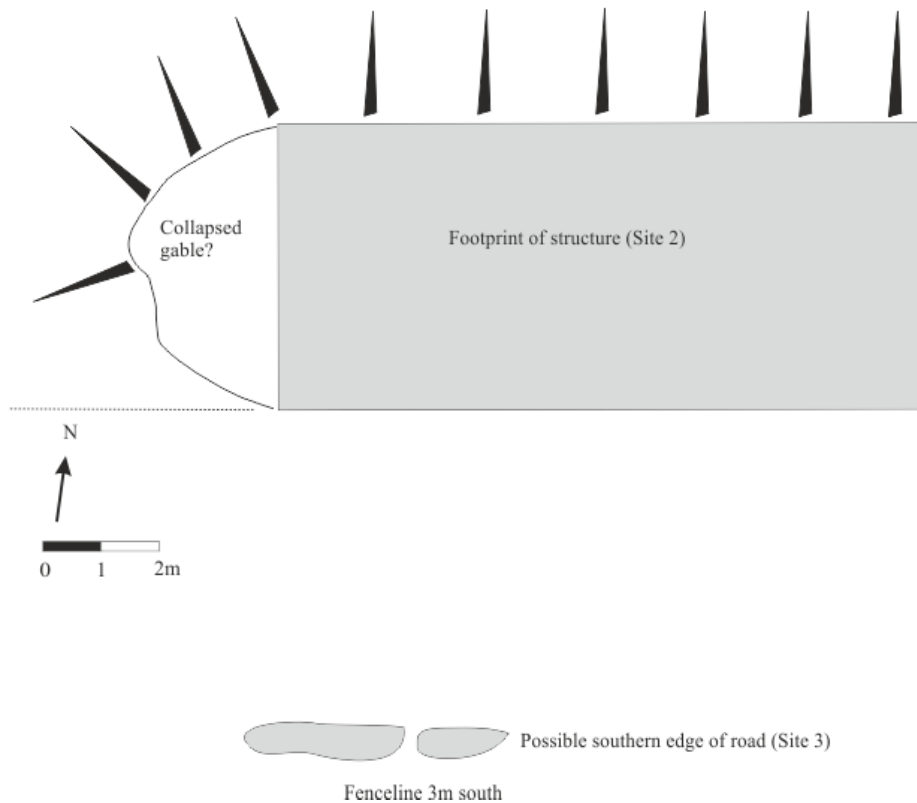


*Plate 1. Roy's Military Map 1747-55, showing Shennachal and the strip of native woodland. Stirlingshire.*

- 4.3.2 A roofed rectangular structure and associated enclosure (Site 2) are shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map (Perthshire Sheet CXXX 1866) on the north side of the old coach road (Site 3) (Plate 2 & Fig. 2). There is no surface trace of the enclosure but the footprint of the structure is just visible; the structure appears to have been deliberately demolished and the majority of the stone removed. It is possible that the well (Site 1) was utilised by the inhabitants of this structure. The structure is located on the old road which ran from the crossing of the Forth at Bridgend north-eastwards to Port of Mentieth. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century there was no bridge across the Forth but there was a ford and this would have been one of the very few crossing points of the Forth River in this period. The only other structural remains are a concrete pad (Site 9) which is likely to be early 20<sup>th</sup> century in date.



*Plate 2. Annotated extract from 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map Perthshire Sheet CXXX 1866. Stirlingshire.*



*Fig. 2. Sketch plan of Structure 2, Over Shannochill, Stirlingshire.*

- 4.3.3 The clearance cairns appear to be fairly recent in origin, probably reflecting increased and perhaps more intensive land use in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, certainly clearance cairns/banks 11, 12 and 13 are the product of stones being brought up by the plough and cleared to the side of the cultivated fields. Site 7 is a sub-rectangular cairn located within native woodland and it is thought likely that this is some form of late Victorian or early modern pet burial.

## 5.0 MITIGATION

- 5.1 In line with the guidance of the Forestry Commission Scotland Archaeological Survey Guidelines (Ritchie 2012) a 5m buffer zone of no physical disturbance should be left around those features identified and which occur in areas of proposed afforestation.

*Appendix 1: Photographic register*

No.	Site	Description	Taken from
1	6	Bank	SW
2	7	Pet burial ?	S
3	8	Clearance cairn	SE
4	8	Clearance cairn	SW
5	10	Clearance cairn	SE
6	4	Location of pond	W
7	5	Well/enclosure	S
8	3	Road	S
9	11	Clearance cairn	E
10	12	Clearance	E
11	13	Clearance	E





*Appendix 2: 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. 1.

**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.

## Appendix 2: Gazetteer

Site No.	Place name	x	y	Type	Character	Date	State of preservation	Significance	Mitigation
1	Over Shannochill	254273	699657	Well	Well marked at the end of a track. No discernible on the ground, low area within a field.	18th or 19th century?	Unknown	Less than local	None
2	Over Shannochill	254334	699482	Structure and enclosure	Rectangular roofed building adjacent to an enclosure with unroofed square structure in centre. The enclosure is no longer visible. The structure is 11.5m long and 5m wide and survives as a low wall 0.20m high and 0.70m wide. Possible collapsed gable at W end.	18th or 19th century with earlier origins?	Poor	Local	5m buffer zone of no physical disturbance
3	Shannochill	254181	699378	Road	Shown as a main road running from SW to NE on 1st Edition OS map, known locally as the old coach road. Each side of the road is now bounded by drystone walls, 6m apart.	18th or 19th century?	Moderate	Local	5m buffer zone of no physical disturbance
4	Shannochill	254100	699231	Pond	Damp area of ground, pond silted up.	18th or 19th century?	Poor	Less than local	None
5	Shannochill	254289	699249	Well and enclosure	Well, located on eastern boundary below Over Shannochill, well not visible on the ground but damp area surrounded by sub-rectangular drystone wall, 0.60m high and 0.70m wide.	18th or 19th century?	Poor	Less than local	5m buffer zone of no physical disturbance
6	Shannochill	253831	698935	Bank	Stone and earthen bank, 1.5m wide and up to 0.40m high. Runs along ridge of bedrock, and would appear to be boundary between the old wood and the grazed land to the west.	18th century or earlier?	Moderate	Less than local	5m buffer zone of no physical disturbance
7	Shannochill	253949	698988	Cairn	Sub-rectangular cairn, 2m x 1.9m and up to 0.60m high. Located on south facing slope within old woodland. Pet burial?	20th century?	Good	Less than local	5m buffer zone of no physical disturbance

Walkover survey, Shannochill, Stirlingshire- 339

Site No.	Place name	x	y	Type	Character	Date	State of preservation	Significance	Mitigation
8	Shannochill	254039	699088	Clearance cairns	Two clearance cairns 1x2m and 1x4m and 0.20m high, the larger comprises very large bounders. Located at base of slope.	19th or 20th century?	Moderate	Less than local	None
9	Shannochill	254157	699173	Concrete base	Concrete base for former building? Located on edge of old woodland enclosure.	19th or 20th century?	Moderate	Less than local	None
10	Shannochill	254089	699217	Clearance cairn	1.5m x 1.5m cobbles placed against the base of a tree.	19th or 20th century?	Moderate	Less than local	None
11	Over Shannochill	254295	699635	Clearance cairn	4m x 4m and 0.40m high field clearance comprising rounded cobbles set on low knoll. Although unlikely the clearance cairn may conceal an earlier burial feature.	19th or 20th century?	Moderate	Less than local	None
12	Over Shannochill	254172	699523	Clearance	Line of clearance along base of slope	19th or 20th century?	Moderate	Less than local	5m buffer zone of no physical disturbance
13	Over Shannochill	254122	699541	Clearance	Line of clearance along top of slope overlooking damp ground.	19th or 20th century?	Moderate	Less than local	None



## Appendix 3: DES Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park																													
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Shannochill																													
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	339																													
<b>PARISH:</b>	Port of Mentieth																													
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Clare Ellis																													
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Argyll Archaeology																													
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological survey																													
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>																														
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Bank, structure, clearance cairns, road																													
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None																													
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NS 54039 99088																													
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	August 2015																													
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	August 2015																													
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None																													
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological survey, comprising a rapid desk-based assessment and predictive prospective walkover was conducted over a parcel of land at Schannochill, Stirlingshire. Thirteen individual structures or features of archaeological or historical significance were recorded within the Design Plan boundary and included a structure and associated enclosure, two wells, a possible later medieval bank and field clearance cairns.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Site No.</th> <th>x</th> <th>y</th> <th>Type</th> <th>Character</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>254273</td> <td>699657</td> <td>Well</td> <td>Well marked at the end of a track. No discernible on the ground, low area within a field. Rectangular roofed building adjacent to an enclosure with unroofed square structure in centre. The enclosure is no longer visible. The structure is 11.5m long and 5m wide and survives as a low wall 0.20m high and 0.70m wide. Possible collapsed gable at W end.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>254334</td> <td>699482</td> <td>Structure and enclosure</td> <td>Shown as a main road running from SW to NE on 1st Edition OS map, known locally as the old coach road. Each side of the road is bounded by drystone walls, 6m apart.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>254181</td> <td>699378</td> <td>Road</td> <td>Damp area of ground, pond silted up.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>254100</td> <td>699231</td> <td>Pond</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Site No.	x	y	Type	Character	1	254273	699657	Well	Well marked at the end of a track. No discernible on the ground, low area within a field. Rectangular roofed building adjacent to an enclosure with unroofed square structure in centre. The enclosure is no longer visible. The structure is 11.5m long and 5m wide and survives as a low wall 0.20m high and 0.70m wide. Possible collapsed gable at W end.	2	254334	699482	Structure and enclosure	Shown as a main road running from SW to NE on 1st Edition OS map, known locally as the old coach road. Each side of the road is bounded by drystone walls, 6m apart.	3	254181	699378	Road	Damp area of ground, pond silted up.	4	254100	699231	Pond	
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<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None				
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>					
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Forestry Commission Scotland				
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Davaar Cottage, Campbeltown, Argyll. PA28 6RE				
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	ellisclare@argyll-archaeology.co.uk				
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	NA				

*Appendix 4: References*

OS Name Book Vol 69. Perthshire.

Ritchie, M 2012 *Archaeological Survey Guidelines for work to advance the Heritage module*  
Statistical Accounts of Scotland, Account of 1791-90, Vol 7, pg 139 Moneith, County of Perth  
Statistical Accounts of Scotland, Account of 1834-54, Vol 10, pg 1097 Account of Menteith, county of Perth

Canmore.org.uk

*Cartographic sources*

Pastmap.org.uk

WoSAS.net/

Ordnance Survey Six-inches to the mile, First Edition Perthshire, Sheet CXXX 1866

Ordnance Survey Six-inches to the mile, Second Edition Perthshire, Sheet CXXXNW 1901

Roy Military Map survey of Scotland 1747-55

Stobie J 1783 The counties of Perth and Clackmannan

*Aerial photographs*

Ncap.org.uk 1988 Gaartrenich; Port of Menteith; Perthshire; Scotland- Sortie ASS/51288/frame 0130