

AUCHINEDEN HILL, WALKOVER SURVEY

DATA STRUCTURE REPORT



PROJECT 2865

carried out
on behalf of
RTS Limited

Contents

1.0	Executive Summary	5
2.0	Introduction	5
3.0	Site Location, Topography and Geology	5
4.0	Archaeological Background	5
5.0	Aims and Objectives	5
6.0	Methodology	6
7.0	Results	6
8.0	Discussion	7
9.0	Recommendations	9
10.0	Acknowledgements	9
11.0	Bibliography	9
12.0	Appendices	10

List of Figures

Figure 1:	Site location plan	4
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List of Plates

Plate 1:	Cairn? (site 003)	8
Plate 2:	Rectangular structure (site 004)	8
Plate 3:	Stone arrangement? (site 008)	9



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by

Iraia Arabaolaza

This document has been prepared in accordance with GUARD standard operating procedures.

Approved by: Date: 18 August 2009
Dr Iain Banks



Project 2865
Auchineden Hill, Mugdock
 Archaeological Assessment

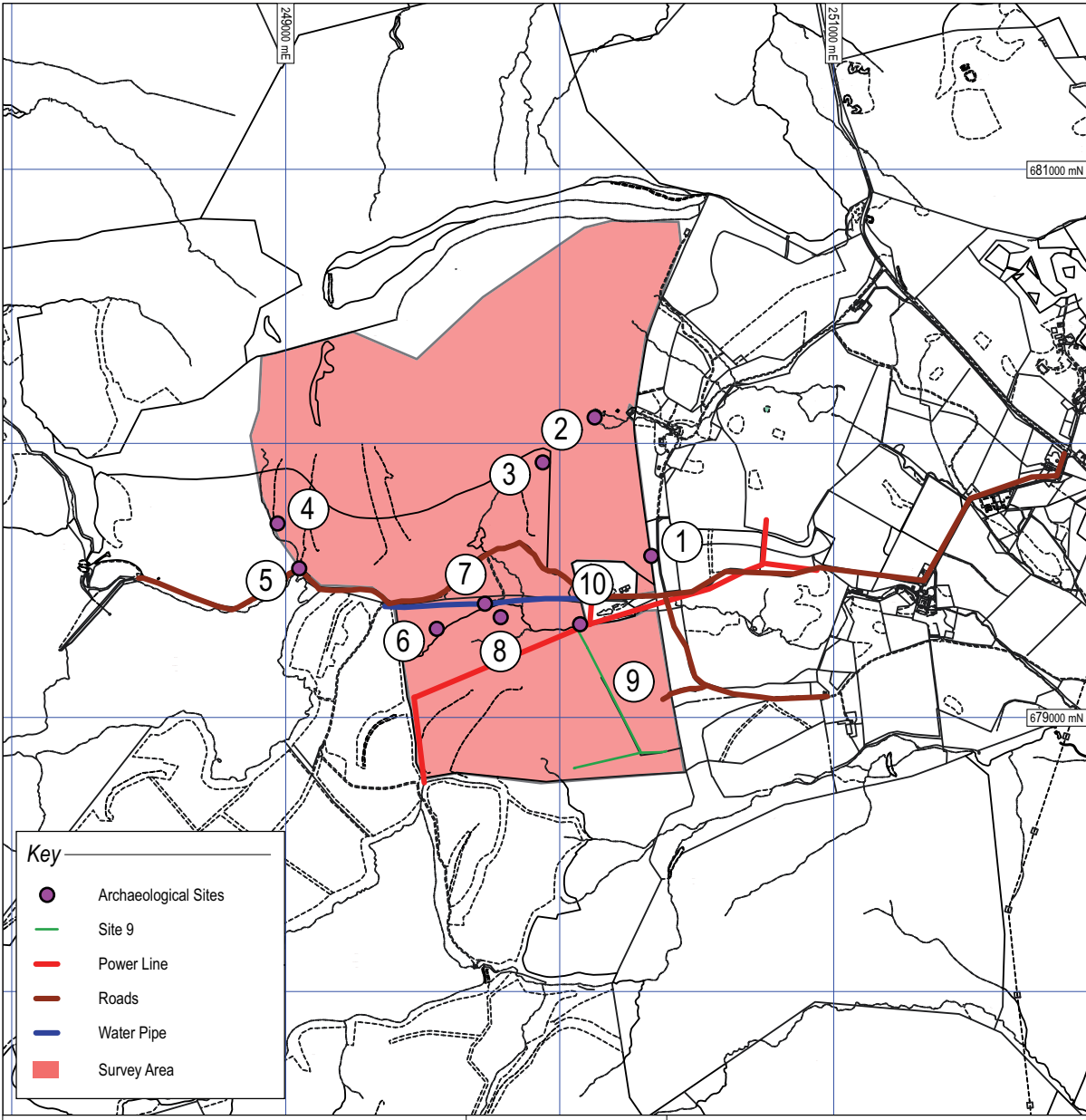
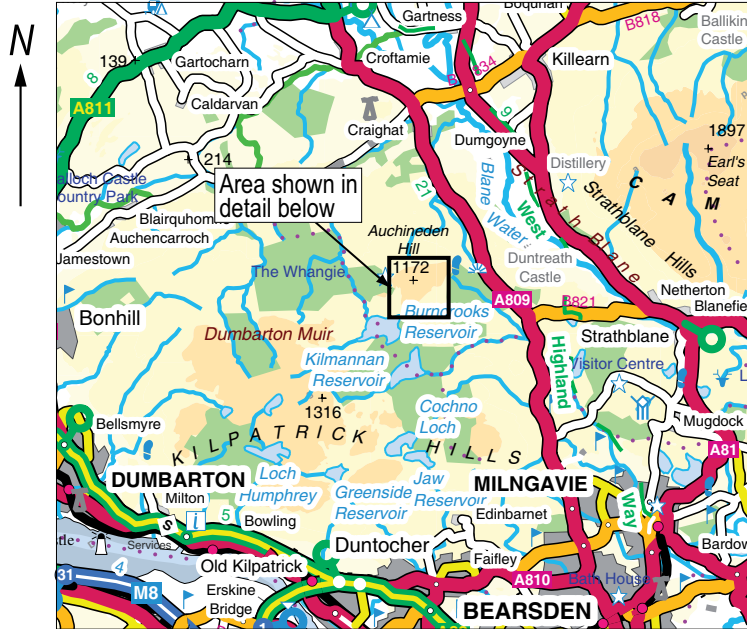
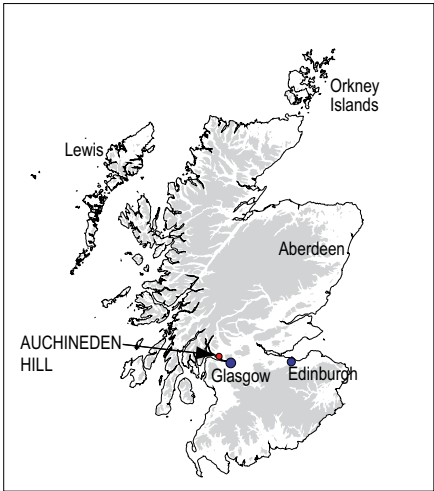


Figure 1:
 Site Location

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1.0 Executive Summary

A walkover survey was conducted between 18 and 20 May by Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD) on behalf of RTS Limited ahead of proposed tree planting. The survey sought to identify and record the remains of any upstanding archaeological sites surviving within the boundaries of the proposed development site. Eleven previously unrecorded sites were identified during the walkover survey, though none of these are demonstrably of high or even moderate archaeological significance. The majority of the sites identified are of local or lesser significance. The remaining sites, of indeterminate character and/or age, are correctly described as of unknown significance, though they are more rather than less likely to be of relatively modern date and of lesser significance.

2.0 Introduction

This document reports on the results of a walkover survey carried out by GUARD at Auchineden Hill, Stirling, ahead of proposed tree planting. The work was undertaken on behalf of GUARD by Iraia Arabaolaza and Sarah Lynchehaun between 18 and 20 May, 2009.

3.0 Site Location, Topography and Geology

The proposed development site is located south of Auchineden Hill (NGR NS 495805) and east of Burncrooks Reservoir (NGR NS 487791) (Figure 1), its boundaries marching on south, east and south-west sides with forestry plantations. The site, currently moorland, consists of steep undulating hills, some cliffs, and wide U-shaped valleys. At the time of writing, the land was in use as pasture for grazing cattle and sheep.

The underlying drift geology consists of peat and till, while the solid geology consists of Clyde Plateau volcanic formation (CPV) (<http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/bgsmapper/map.action?scale=bgs25k>).

4.0 Archaeological Background

No previously recorded archaeological sites are noted within the proposed development area on Canmore, the National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS) search engine. There are, however, several recorded archaeological sites in the immediately surrounding area which give some sense of the past human use of the landscape. Auchineden House (NMRS NS58SW 22) lies immediately outside the proposed development area on its eastern side. Two structures, described in the NMRS entry as “huts” (NMRS NS58 SW9), lie a little way beyond the proposed development site boundary to the north east. No firm identification of these structures is offered, though it is noted that they are “not thought to be prehistoric”. Further to the north east, at Queen’s View, is a scheduled burnt mound (NMRS NS58SW13), and other protected sites in the wider surrounding area include, to the north west Stockie Muir chambered long cairn (SAM 2281, NMRS NS48SE 6) and, beyond the burnt mound on the other side of the main road to north east, Quinlochmuir vitrified fort (SAM 7000, NMRS NS58SW5). The unscheduled site of Earl’s Seat cairn (NMRS NS47 NE13; WoSAS PIN 14195) is located to the west of the proposed development area, as are Burncrooks 1, a house (NMRS NS47NE 11; WoSAS PIN 14193) and Burncrooks 2, an L-shaped structure (NMRS NS47NE 12; WoSAS PIN 14194), neither of which are dated. From this evidence it is clear that the general area around Auchineden Hill has seen human habitation since early prehistory, indicating that potential exists for further associated but as yet undiscovered remains to survive in the vicinity.

5.0 Aims and Objectives

The general aims of the walkover survey were to record any visible surviving archaeological sites in the area and to establish the significance of each of them and the processes that have altered the site over time where possible.

The specific objectives were to identify and record, by means of photographs, sketches and handwritten record sheets, any sites or structures in the area and to record any such sites identified, using a sub-metre GPS.

6.0 Methodology

A systematic walkover survey was carried out across the area by a team of two archaeologists. Where visibility allowed, the team walked in tandem along notional grid lines covering 80 m in total per “transect”. In locations where the terrain, or the level of visibility, precluded this approach, narrowed transects were walked and/or more random walking patterns were adopted. The full area contained by the boundaries of the proposed development area was inspected during the walkover. All archaeological sites identified were recorded in plan by GPS, and by digital photography and handwritten records. A provisional view on the likely archaeological significance of these sites was made while in the field. Weather conditions during the walk over survey were showery with a few sunny spells and a cold wind.

7.0 Results

Eleven sites were identified during the walkover survey, details of which are provided in the table below. The Site Identification Numbers correspond to the numbers shown on Figure 1.

<i>Site No</i>	<i>Site Type</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Site Significance</i>
001	Drystone wall	NS 50330 79593 to NS 50333 79567	Dry stone wall oriented N-S, in very good condition, +10 courses high. Some stones are dressed & the coping stones are present. Dimensions: c. 2 km long x 1.5 m high x 0.6 m wide	Lesser
002	Cairn	NS 50129 80091	Modern Memorial Cairn. Cemented cairn of stones constructed in a conical shape with a brass plaque on the east face which reads ‘Katherine Falconer Cameron 25 June 1904 – 1 st Nov 1981’ Dimensions: 1 m diameter (max) x 0.9 m high	Local
003	Cairn (marker?)	NS49941 79930	Very small concentration of stones at the top of an undulating peak. The stones do not appear to be dressed. There is moss and grass cover on the lowest stones. Dimensions: 1.5 m diameter x 0.6 m high	Unknown
004	Structure	NS 48970 79706	Rectangular drystone structure oriented E-W. The four walls are in very poor state of preservation with barely two courses of stones remaining. Blanket moss extends over the majority of the structure, and reeds are present within the interior. Dimensions: 9 m (E-W) x 5 m (N-S)	Unknown
005	Bridge remains?	NS 49044 79542	Semi-circular border/ledge of stones visible at ground level (some grass/moss coverage) which extends down to the water’s edge on both sides of a river bank. The main flow passes through a (modern) concrete passage. Dimensions: 3 m (NE-SW) x 1.5 m high	Unknown

<i>Site No</i>	<i>Site Type</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Site Significance</i>
006	Drystone wall	NS 49542 79317 to NS 49555 79324	Drystone wall oriented E-W, in very poor state of preservation. The stones did not appear to be dressed - some larger boulders are present which may have been the wall footings. Dimensions: c 10 m (E-W).	Lesser
007	Structure	NS 49728 79411	Modern brick structure with a flat roof and cement foundation. Function likely to be related to the Water Filter Station. A doorway faces to the SW and windows on the SE and N walls have been boarded up.	Lesser
007a &b	Bridges	NS 49745 79412 NS 49748 79405	To the SE of 007 are two bridges. 007a is a modern pipe with drystone wall extensions to the east and the west continuing for 2.5 m. 007b consists of the remains of what would have been a bridge crossing the stream. On the southern side, a drystone wall constructed of dressed regular stones 2 m in length. On the northern side of the stream, a small rough drystone wall extends from either side of a central concrete covering. 007a and 007b are separated by 1.5 m	Lesser
008	Stone arrangement?	NS 49785 79366	Three boulders set not more than 2 m apart. They are all low-lying, not exceeding 0.3 m in height	Unknown
009	Earthen dyke	NS 50060 79325 via NS 50296 78871 to NS 50389 78876 (E) NS 50053 78814 (W)	Very extensive T-shaped earthwork feature extending E-W and N-S Dimensions: 1.5 m wide x 0.9 m high (max) extends for miles.	Unknown
010	Drystone wall	NS 50067 79338 to NS 50079 79345	Oriented roughly E-W and slightly curvilinear in plan as the wall was constructed parallel to the stream. In very poor condition (generally surviving as just tumble); preservation has been impacted by trampling cattle and erosion. Dimensions: 15 m (E-W) x 0.6 m high (max)	Lesser

8.0 Discussion

A total of eleven sites were encountered during the walkover survey. Some of them were already recorded, albeit not by the NMRS, such as sites 007 and 009 (the modern structure and the earthen dyke), which have already been mapped. Most of the sites identified on the survey do not appear to have any great significance in archaeological terms and constitute the types of relatively modern site to be anticipated in this type of landscape in this part of Scotland: dry stone walls, dykes, remains of bridges and other structures. Nonetheless, four sites seem worthy of some further mention.



*Plate 1:
Cairn site 003.*

Site 003 has been described as a cairn and is located on top of an undulating peak (Fig. 1). The feature is a concentration of different types and sizes of stone, overall 1.5 m in diameter and 0.6 m in height (Plate 1). None of the stones were dressed and the lower ones were covered by moss and grass. There was no evidence to suggest that this might represent a collapsed structure, no sign of construction and the stones seemed to have been carelessly piled one on top of the other. Further, the lack of any field boundary or vestiges of past field enclosure/arable cultivation in the immediate surrounding area also calls into question identification of the site as a clearance cairn. These considerations, and the topographical location, may therefore suggest the most likely explanation is some form of “marker” cairn.

Site 004 represents the remains of a rectangular structure of indeterminate function and date (Plate 2).



*Plate 2:
Rectangular structure (site 004).*



Plate 3:

Stone arrangement, site 008.

Site 008, was situated on wet mossy ground forming the flat base of slope (Plate 3). Three boulder stones were arranged in a triangular shape, *c* 2 m apart and approximately 0.3 m above ground level. Although none of the stones exhibited any markings or engravings, the scarcity of other such loose boulders in the area was apparent and the seemingly ordered location of the boulders could indicate human action. The character, date and archaeological significance of the site, if any, remains opaque.

Finally, site 002, a modern memorial marker site, was found on the slope of a hill next to a waterfall. The conical cairn was made by cemented stones and had a brass plaque which read “Katherine Falconer Cameron 25 June 1904 – 1st Nov 1981’ on its east side. Though of demonstrably modern origin, there is equally clearly some local significance to this site, albeit no great inherent “archaeological” value.

9.0 Recommendations

Although some potential archaeological sites were recorded during the walkover survey, none of them appear to be of obviously high or moderate archaeological significance and consequently no specific further archaeological work is recommended. However, decisions regarding archaeological requirements in the context of the proposed development rest solely with the Planning Authority, acting on the advice of the Stirling Local Authority Archaeology Service.

10.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks go to RTS Limited and to Alan Leslie who managed the project for GUARD. Many thanks to Sarah Lynchehaun for her hard work; John Kiely and Aileen Maule gave technical assistance and the report was desk-top published by Jen Cochrane.

11.0 Bibliography

National Monuments Record for Scotland, www.rcahms.gov.uk

Geological digimap, <http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/bgsmapper/map.action?scale=bgs25k>

12.0 Appendices

12.1 *List of Photographs*

Digital Film 1

<i>Frame</i>	<i>Site No</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Taken From</i>
-	-	ID Shot	-
-	001	Detail of dry stone wall	W
-	001	General shot of the dry stone wall	SW
-	001	General shot of the dry stone wall	NW
-	-	Iraia with GPS	-
-	-	General shot of the landscape- Eastern limit	SW
-	-	General shot of the landscape – Eastern limit	SE
-	-	General shot of the landscape- Northern limit	W
-	-	General shot of the landscape- Central limit	SW
-	-	General shots of the landscape- South eastern limit	NW
-	002	Memorial cairn	E
-	002	Detail of plaque	E
-	002	Memorial cairn	W
-	003	Clearance cairn/cairn	N
-	003	Clearance cairn/cairn	SE
-	-	General shot of the landscape – showing stepped topography	SW
-	004	Eastern wall of structure	S
-	004	NE corner of structure	E
-	004	NW corner of structure	N
-	004	N end of structure	N
-	004	Interior of structure	E
-	004	S end of structure	S
-	004	S wall – detail of the width of the wall	W
24-25	-	Not used	-
26	-	General shot of the landscape view of the west	S
27	005	Bridge	E
28	005	N edge of the river bank with stone work	S
29	005	S edge of the river bank with stone work	N
30	006	Dry stone wall	W
31	006	Dry stone wall	W
32	007	Modern building	SW
33	007a	Small bridges with dry stone wall edging	W
34	007a	North facing façade of foundations of bridge- no longer fully extant	NE
35	008	Stone collection	E
36	008	Stone collection	W
37	-	Quarry	N
38	-	Quarry- western end	N
39	-	Quarry	W
40	009	Dyke	W
41	009	Dyke	E
42	009	Dyke- the turn/corner	S
43	009	Dyke- area of extensive erosion	N
44	010	Dry stone wall	W
45	010	Dry stone wall	SW
46	-	General shot of the landscape- SE area	NW
47	-	General shot of the landscape- SW area	NE
48	-	General shot of the landscape- S area	N