



Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services

**Glenlochar Barrage
Dumfries & Galloway:
Archaeological Monitoring Works**



**by Rebecca Shaw
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9 Earl Place
Ranfurlly
Bridge of Weir
PA11 3HA

Tel: 01505 612762
Mob: 077861 35432
Email: rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com
Website: www.rebeccashawarchaeologicalservices.co.uk

Contents

1 Introduction	2
2 Background	2
3 Project Works	2
4 Findings	3
5 Discussion	3
6 Conclusion	3
References	14
Appendix 1 - Record Summaries	15
Appendix 2 - Discovery & Excavation in Scotland	15
Contact Details	17

Figures

Fig. 1a	Location map	4
Fig. 1b	Detailed location map	4
Fig. 2b	Plan showing proposed development	5
Fig. 2b	Gate position - adjacent to existing main road	5
Fig. 3	Detailed plan for Drax works	6
Fig. 4a	Roys Military Survey Map of Scotland (1747-55)	7
Fig. 4b	1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1852-53)	7
Fig. 5	Map showing location of monitored works	8
Fig. 6a-10b	Images from site works	9

1 Introduction

This report presents the findings of a programme of archaeological undertaken in respect of proposed development works at Glenlochar Barrage, Glenlochar, Castle Douglas, Dumfries & Galloway (centred on NGR: NX 7330 6455) (Figure 1a). The proposed works comprise: widening of existing access onto B795 and construction of access track (planning ref. no. 17/0172/FUL) (Figure 2a) (amended site area to that previously approved under 16/P/2/1059). The works undertaken in this phase comprised the new road opening / bellmouth and 10-15m (approx) of the new access route (Figures 1b & 3).

Archaeological works were required as the proposed development area lies within close proximity to the nearby Glenlochar Roman fort, road and marching camps (NX 73500 64528; MDG4266; NX76SW 2) (Figure 1b). The site also contained a bomb shelter relating to the Second World War defence of the barrage (MDG27001).

Given the potential to uncover sub surface remains that would be potentially destroyed by the proposals, Dumfries & Galloway Council required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken as a condition of the issued planning consent. Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service, who advises Dumfries & Galloway Council on archaeological matters have provided guidance on the nature of archaeological works required.

The archaeological works required were: monitoring of all ground disturbance works associated with the proposed new road opening / bellmouth and 10-15m (approx) of the new access route (Figure 3).

Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services was appointed to act with regard to the archaeological condition by Drax.

2 Background

Glenlochar Barrage (front cover) was constructed in circa 1932 as an element of the Galloway Hydro Scheme. The barrage, which spans the Water of Ken at the southern end of Loch Ken, comprises six fully-balanced free-roller type lifting gates which regulate the outflow from Loch Ken. The contractor was John Howard and Co. Ltd; the consulting engineers were Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners and the control gate were made by Glenfield & Kennedy Ltd, Kilmarnock.

Although early sound mapping sources suggest the site of Glenlochar Roman fort was originally the site of an Abbey, this was due to a misinterpretation of the Roman remains (Figure 4b). Viewed from the air this fort is visible as a detailed cropmark of characteristic gridded 'playing card' shape, complete with annexes and at least six temporary camps in the vicinity. A trial section dug in 1952 revealed that there had been three superimposed forts, which coincided over the greater part if not the whole of the circuit. The first had been Flavian and had been destroyed by fire; the second was Antonine and the third was a later Antonine modification of the second (Exploring Scotland's Heritage: Dumfries and Galloway (1986).

A fairly worn denarius of Trajan (98-117 AD) is recorded as having being dug up by a gardener at Glenlochar House (located to the north) "with other coins" (submitted by A E Truckell, Dumfries Burgh Museum, on 25 May 1956).

3 Project Works

The archaeological monitoring works were undertaken at Glenlochar Barrage from the 16th to 18th March 2020. The works were mainly undertaken as agreed with Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Service through a written scheme of investigation (Shaw, February 2020).

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

4 Findings

The excavated area (Figures 6a-b & 7a-b) was aligned roughly east northeast / west southwest and measured 20m in length by 12m at west southwest end and 10m at east northeast end (approx) (Figures 5 & 10a-b). The topsoil mainly comprised a mid greyish brown silt with occasional small stones & frequent tree roots [101] which measured between 200mm to 300mm in depth. The subsoil varied between a bright orangey red gritty silt with frequent small stones & occasional medium sized stones [102] and an orangey brown gritty silt with frequent small stones and very occasional larger stones [103] both had numerous tree roots (Figures 10a-b). Three tree stumps were removed from within the confines of the site (Figures 8a-b).

On either side of the wall that was removed (Figures 9a-b) the topsoil comprised a rich dark brown slightly gritty loamy silt [104] (Figure 9b). Topsoil [104] was also around tree stump (III) which was adjacent to the wall (Figure 8b) - below tree stump (III) was subsoil [102].

In the eastern half of the new access (along the verge) a gravel linear was noted below which was a pipe which led to a small circular cast iron manhole (Figures 5 & 10b). Two sherds of 19th / 20th century china were recovered from within topsoil [101].

5 Discussion

The monitored excavations however, indicated a very sterile topsoil and subsoil with the only visible disturbance from trees (trunks and root systems). The topsoil within the main area of the site was a fairly shallow silt [101] while the topsoil along the verge (and immediately adjacent to both sides of the removed wall) was much richer and more loamy in composition [104]. The subsoil was typical of subsoil in the area being variants of red & orange in colour and fairly stony (Figures 10a-b).

Given the close proximity of Glenlochar Roman fort (Figures 1b & 4b), there was potential to uncover Roman remains. However, no features or finds than pre-dated the nineteenth century were uncovered during the monitoring works.

6 Conclusion

A programme of archaeological works was undertaken from the 16th and 18th March 2020 in respect of proposed development works at Glenlochar Barrage, Glenlochar, near Castle Douglas. The proposed works comprised monitoring of during excavations relating to the widening of the existing access onto B795 and construction of a short section of access track.

The small area of ground that was subject to archaeological monitoring was very sterile with a silty topsoil above a gritty fairly stony subsoil. The main disturbance was from tree roots. Although there was potential to uncover remains pertaining to the Roman period, no features or finds that pre-dated the nineteenth century were uncovered.

Data Structure Report - Glenlochar Barrage

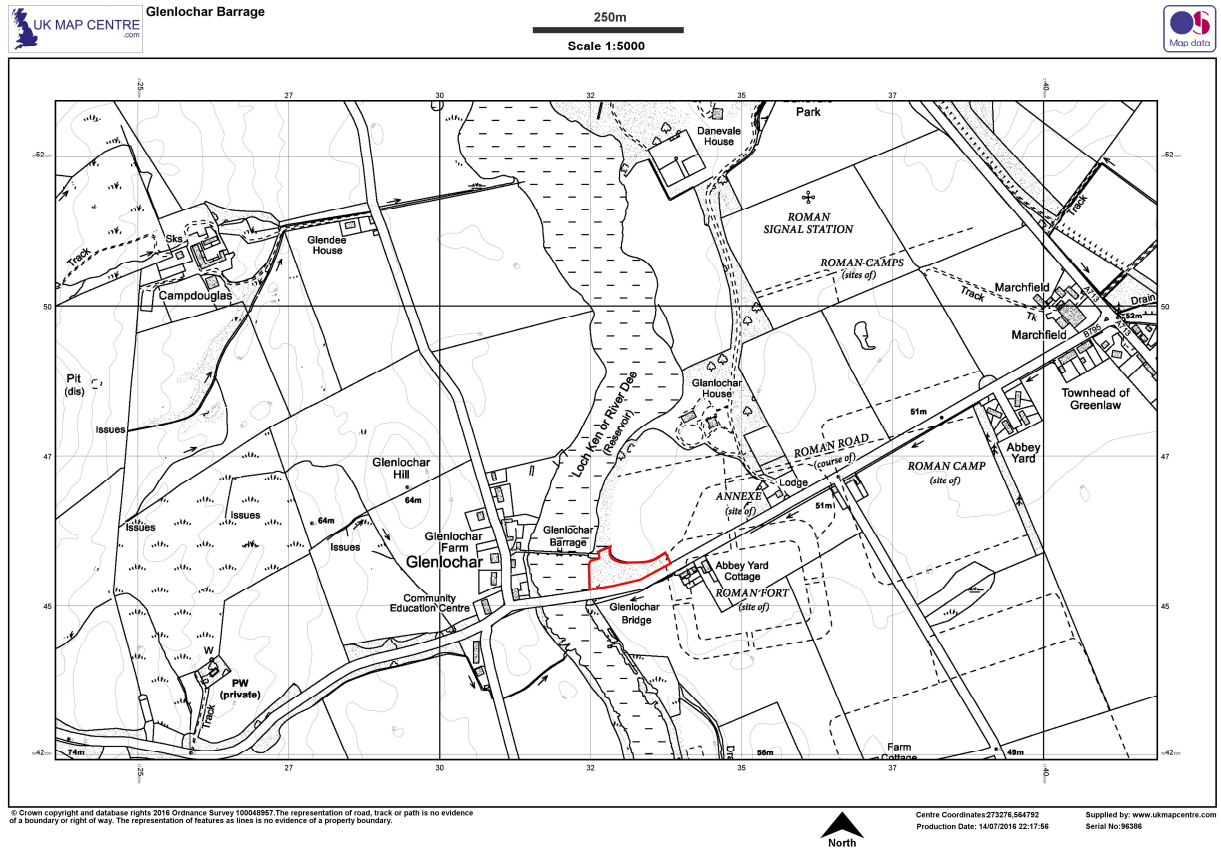


Figure 1a – general location map

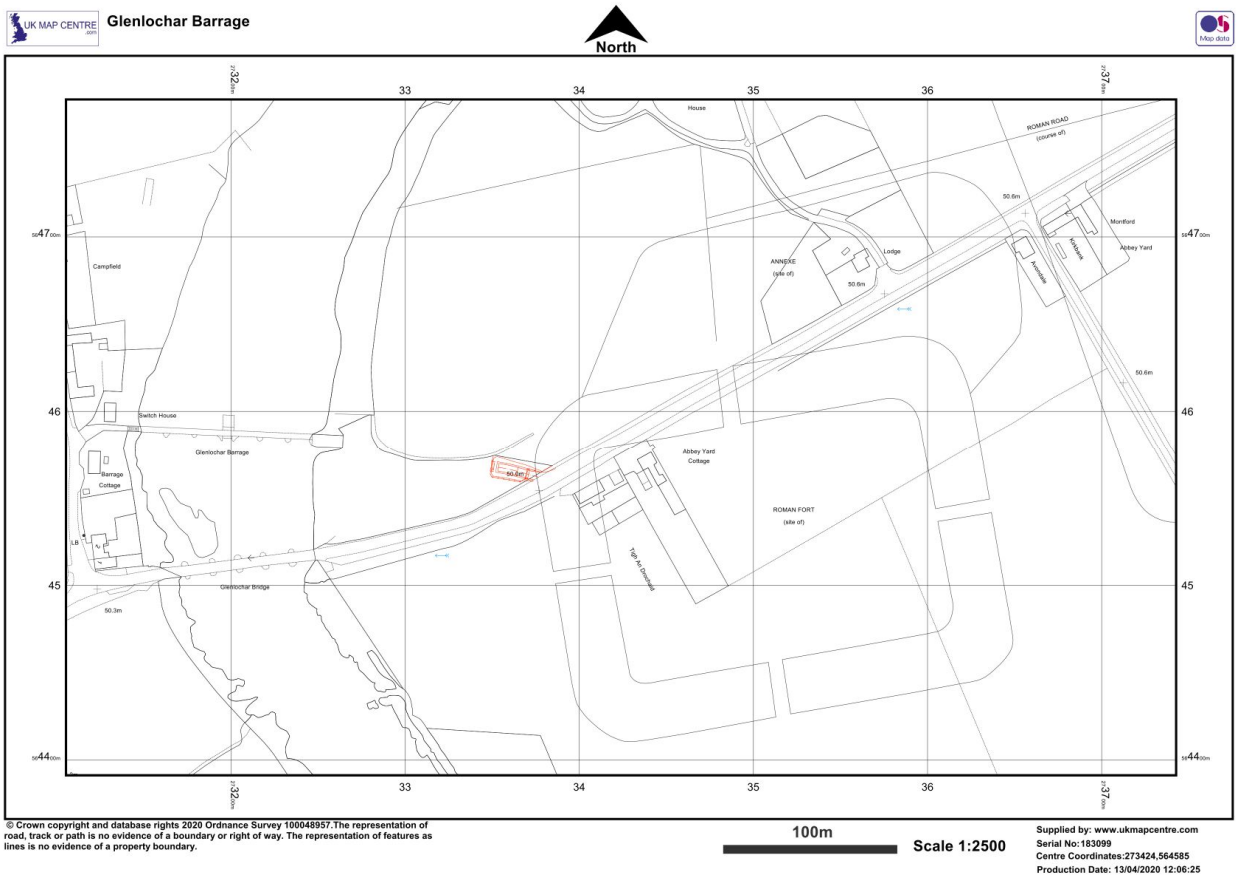


Figure 1b – detailed location map showing location of opening bellmouth and first 10 - 15m of new access road as well as location of Roman fort

Data Structure Report - Glenlocharr Barrage



Figure 2a - access track and working / turning area (c) Asher Associates kindly provided by Drax

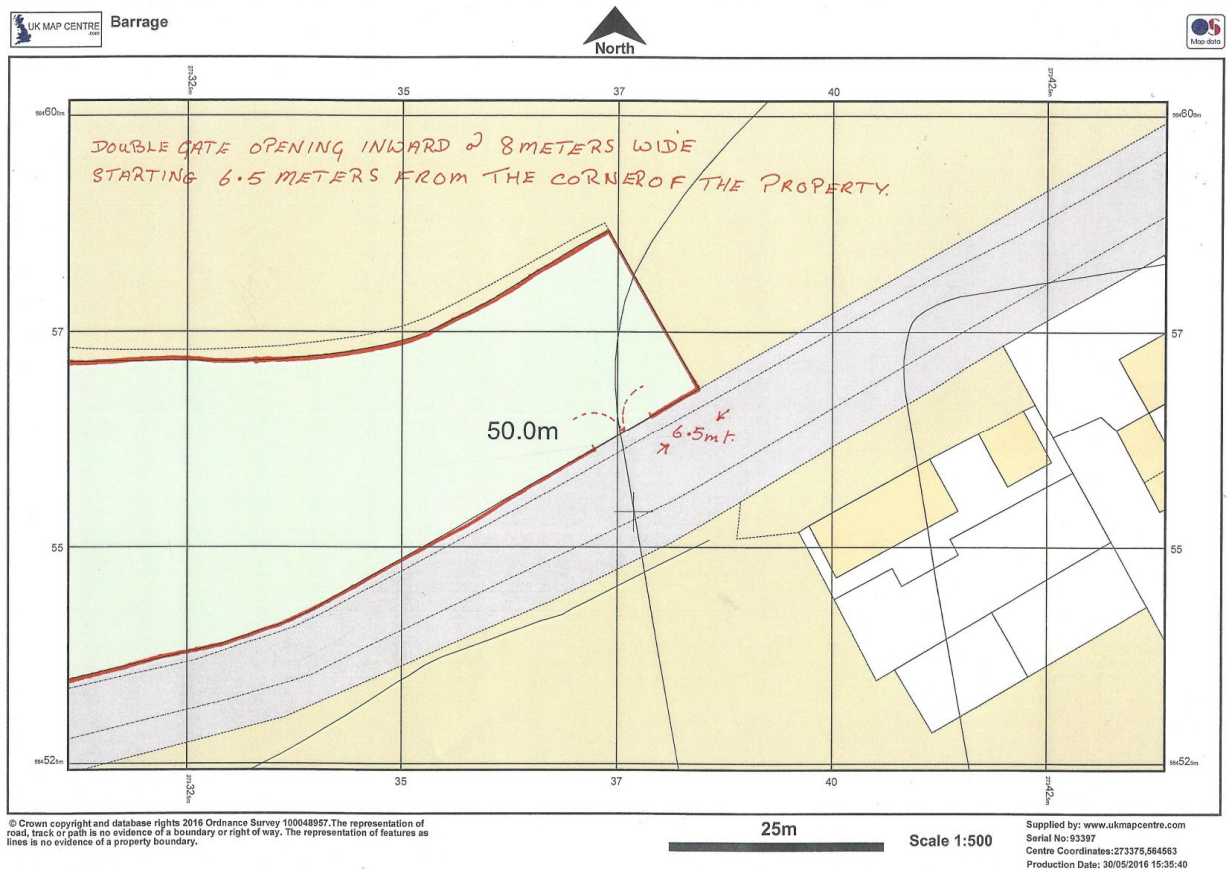


Figure 2b - gate position (kindly provided by Drax)

Data Structure Report - Glenlochar Barrage

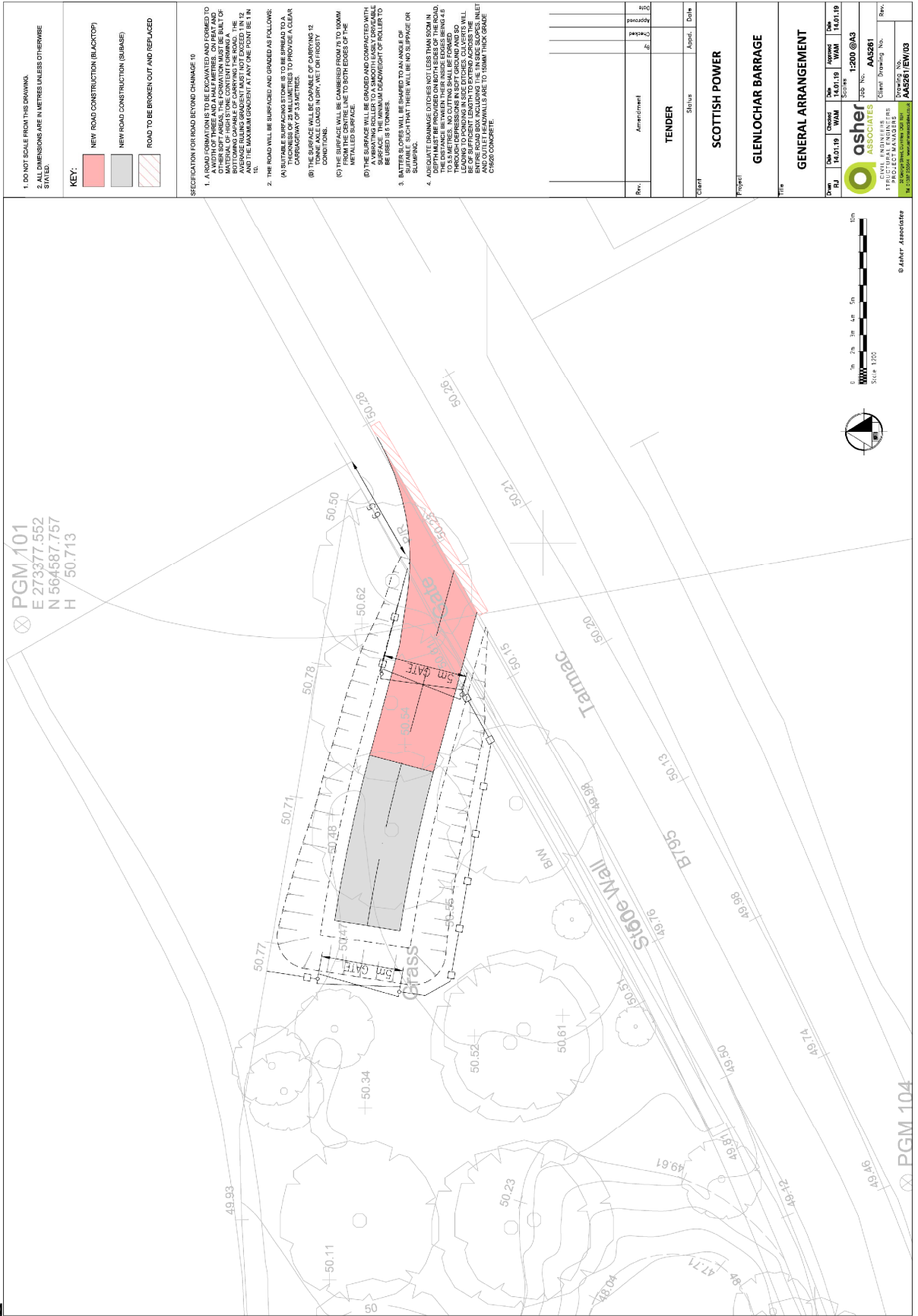


Figure 3 – detailed plan showing area(s) subject to ground disturbance works by Drax (c) Asher Associates (kindly provided by Drax)



Figure 4a - Roys Military Survey Map of Scotland (1747-55) (c) National Library of Scotland

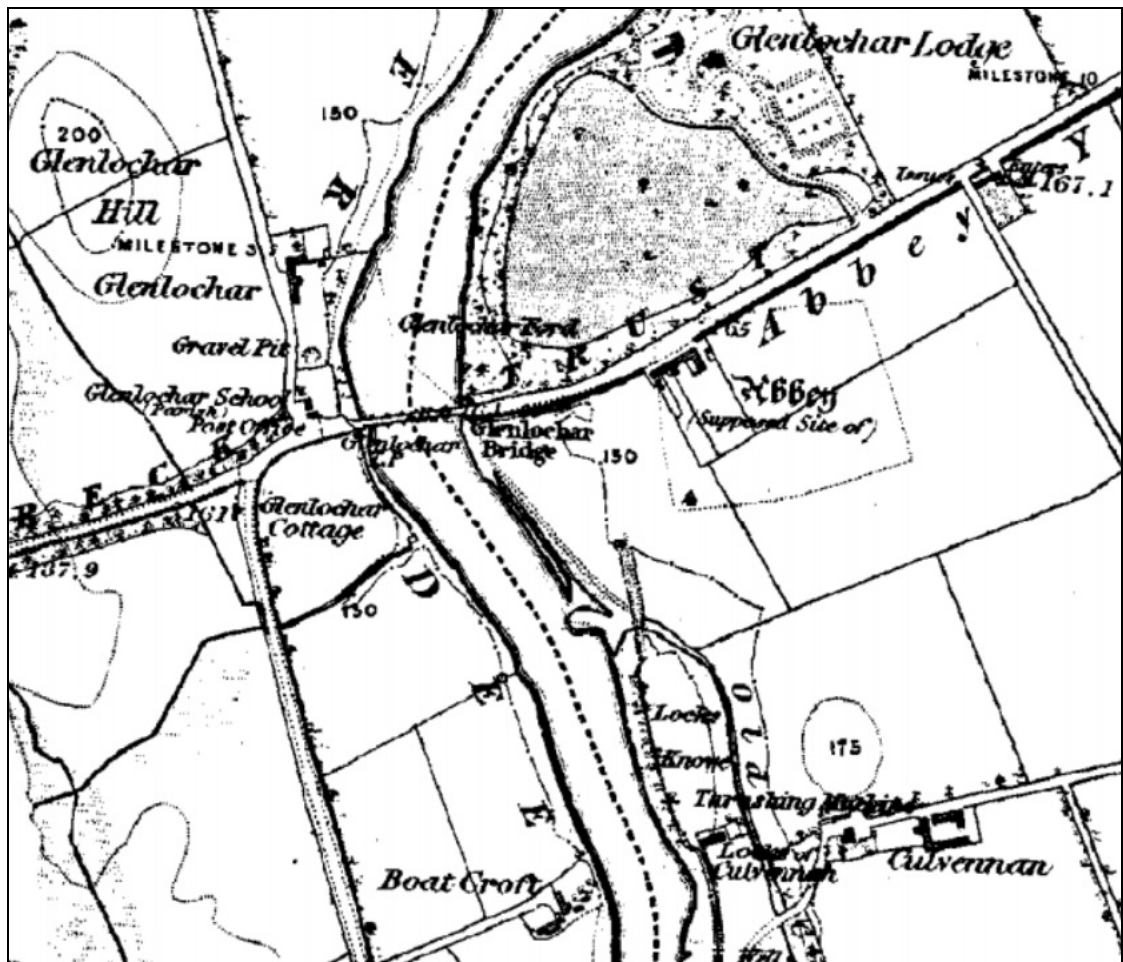


Figure 4b – 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1:10,560 (1852-53) © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group – not to be reproduced without permission (257702459)

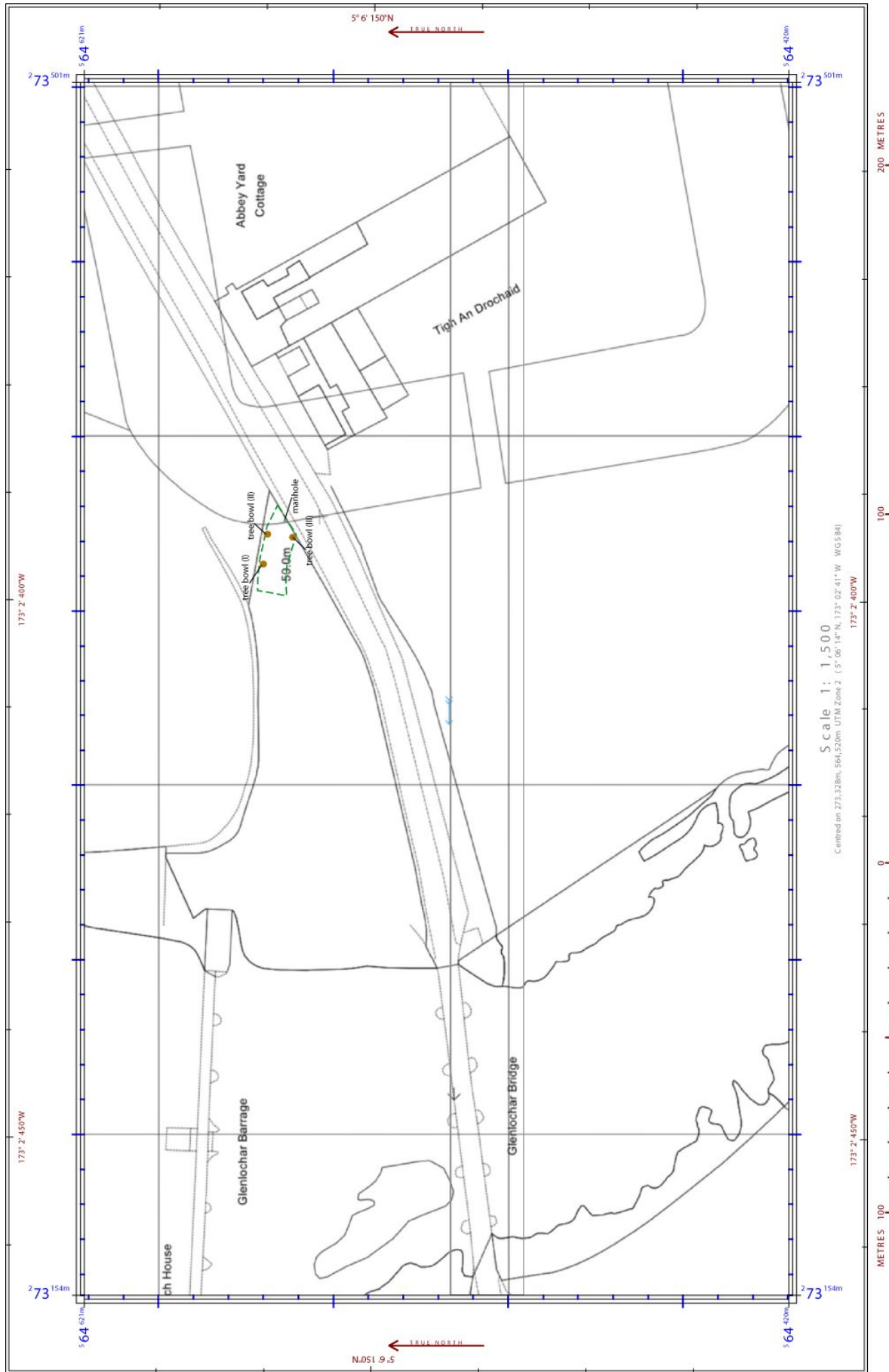


Figure 5 - map showing monitored area



Figure 6a - general pre-ex looking towards barrage (from E)



Figure 6b - general pre-ex looking towards barrage (from E)



Figure 7a – general of access to be widened (from W)



Figure 7b - general pre-ex of access area (from E)



Figure 8a - during removal of tree bowl (II) (from E)



Figure 8b - during removal of stump (III) (from SSW)



Figure 9a - section of walling to be removed for access (from NNE)



Figure 9b - walling during removal (from E)



Figure 10a - general post-ex (from W)



Figure 10b - general post-ex (from E)

References

Documentary

SOEn	2010	Scottish Planning Policy (SPP). <i>Archaeology</i> , Scottish Office Environmental Department.
SOEn	2011	<i>PAN 2/2011</i> , Planning & Archaeology Scottish Office Environmental Department.
HES	2019	Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement May 2019
RCAHMS	1986	Exploring Scotland's Places; Dumfries & Galloway 1986

Cartographic

Roy	1747-55	Military Survey Map of Scotland
Ordnance Survey	1852-53	1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1:10,560 Kirkcudbrightshire
Ordnance Survey	2020	Ordnance Survey (1:2500)

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Keith and Gary from Cubby Construction Ltd for their diligent excavating and assistance during on-site works. Thanks also to Gibb Wallace from Drax for all his help and also to Drax for provision of facilities.

Appendix 1: Record Summaries

Context Summaries

No.	Interpretation	Description
101	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silt containing occasional small stones & frequent tree roots - between 200mm to 300mm in depth.
102	Subsoil	bright orangey red gritty silt with frequent small stones & occasional medium sized stones.
103	Subsoil	Orangey brown gritty silt with frequent small stones and very occasional larger stones.
104	Topsoil	Rich dark brown slightly gritty loamy silt

Photographic Record

No	Disc No.	Print No	Description	From	Date
1	1	1	General pre-ex image - looking towards barrage	E	16.03.20
2	1	2	General pre-ex image - looking towards barrage	E	16.03.20
3	1	3	Glenlochar Barrage	-	16.03.20
4	1	4	Access area to be widened	W	16.03.20
5	1	5	Tree bowl (II) during removal	E	16.03.20
6	1	6	General pre-ex of access area	E	17.03.20
7	1	7	Section of walling to be removed	NNE	17.03.20
8	1	8	Section of walling to be removed	SSW	17.03.20
9	1	9	Wall during removal	E	17.03.20
10	1	10	Tree bowl (III) during removal	SSW	17.03.20
11	1	11	General post-ex image	E	18.03.20
12	1	12	General post-ex image	W	18.03.20
13	1	13	General post-ex image	E	18.03.20

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries & Galloway Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Glenlochar Barrage, Castle Douglas
PARISH:	Crossmichael
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rebecca Shaw
NAME OF	Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services

Data Structure Report - Glenlochar Barrage

ORGANISATION:	
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological monitoring works
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NX 7330 6455
START DATE (this season)	16 th March 2020
END DATE (this season)	18 th March 2020
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
DESCRIPTION:	<p>A programme of archaeological works was undertaken in respect of proposed development works at Glenlochar Barrage, Glenlochar, near Castle Douglas. The proposed works comprised monitoring of during excavations relating to the widening of the existing access onto B795 and construction of a short section of access track.</p> <p>The small area of ground that was subject to archaeological monitoring was very sterile with a silty topsoil above a gritty fairly stony subsoil. The main disturbance was from tree roots. Although there was potential to uncover remains pertaining to the Roman period, no features or finds that pre-dated the nineteenth century were uncovered.</p>
PROJECT CODE:	019049
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Drax
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	9 Earl Place, Ranfurly, Bridge of Weir, PA11 3HA
E MAIL:	rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	Report to Dumfries & Galloway Council Sites and Monuments Record and archive to Historic Environment Scotland Archives.

Contact Details

Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services

9 Earl Place
Ranfurlly
Bridge of Weir
PA11 3HA

tel: 01505 612762
mob: 07786 135432
email: rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com
website: www.rebeccashawarchaeologicalservices.co.uk
facebook: Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services

Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services (sub office)

Kirrieroch
Bargrennan
Newton Stewart
Wigtownshire
DG8 6TB

Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Service

Andrew Nicholson
Strategic Planning (Archaeology)
Kirkbank House
English Street
Dumfries
DG1 2HS

tel: 01387 260154