

# GUARD ARCHAEOLOGY



**Stronachlachar, Loch Arklet  
Data Structure Report  
Project 3379**

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## **Stronachlachar, Loch Arklet**

### **Data Structure Report**

**On behalf of:** Scottish Water Solutions

**NGR:** NN 3934 0981



**Project Number:** 3379

**Report by:** Kevin Mooney

**Illustrations:** Fiona Jackson

**Project Manager:** John Atkinson

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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

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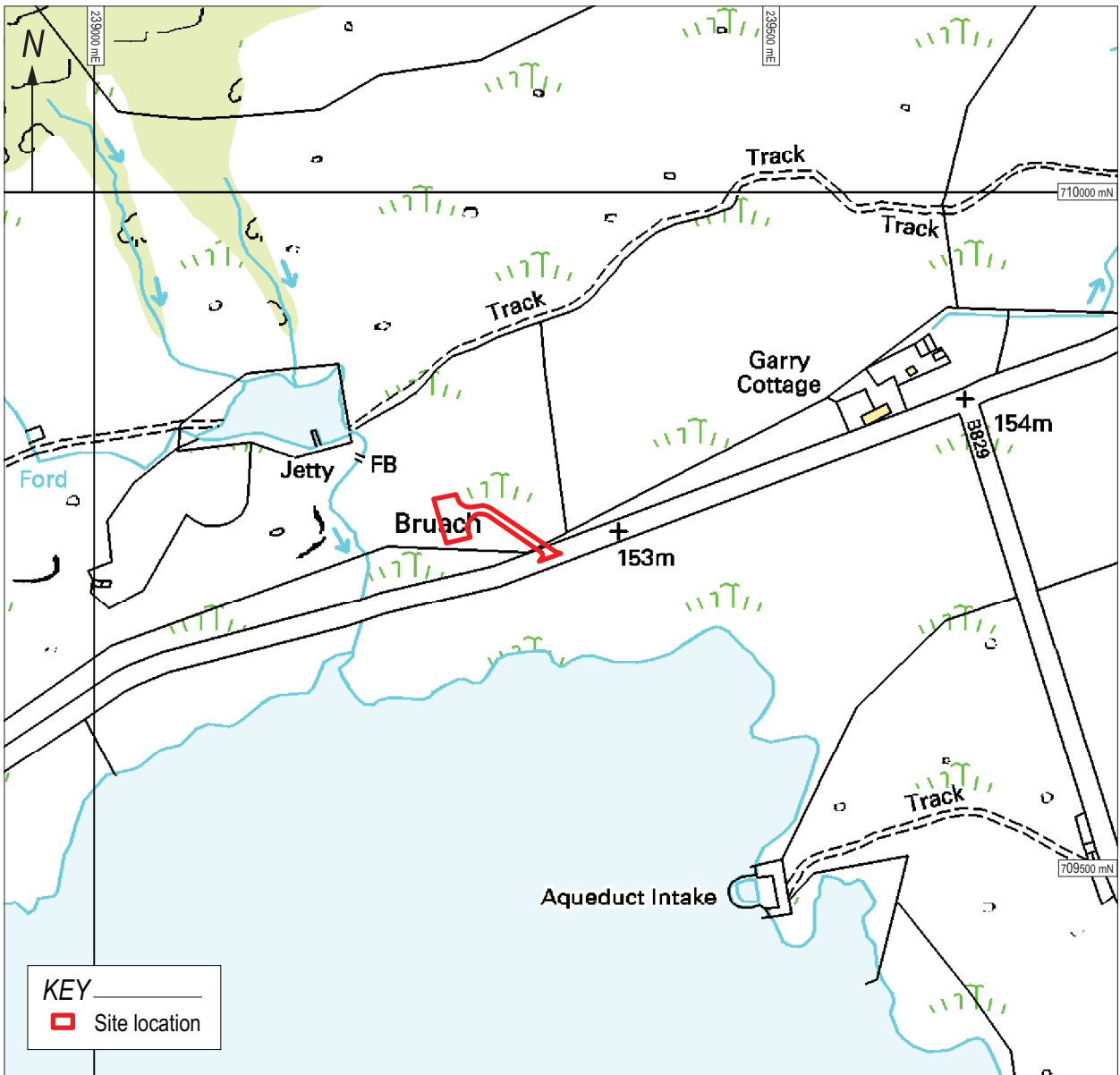
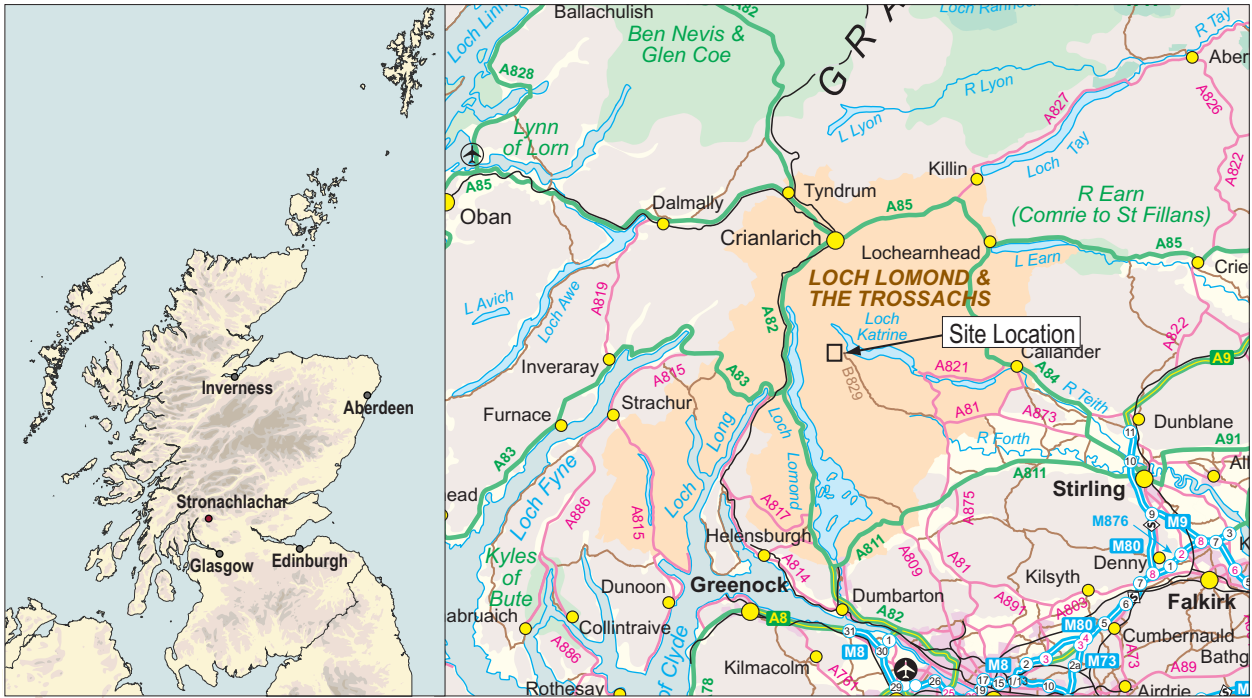
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**KEY**

Site location

Figure 1:  
Site location.

## Executive Summary

- 1.1 GUARD Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Scottish Water Solutions to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of a membrane plant and associated access at Stronachlachar near to Loch Arklet. This work was undertaken between 14 May 2012 and 30 May 2012 and revealed no obvious sign of any archaeology directly impacted by the works.

## Introduction

- 2.1 This report sets out the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by GUARD Archaeology, on behalf of Scottish Water Solutions, on a site proposed for the construction of a membrane plant and associated access tracks at Stronachlachar, Loch Arklet, Argyll. During the course of the watching brief no archaeology was observed relating to the possible original location of a previous existing farmstead. GUARD Archaeology undertook this programme of work between 14 May 2012 and the 30 May 2012.

## Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 3.1 The proposed development location lies to the west of Stronachlachar near to the B829. (NN 3934 0981). The development area covers approximately 100 metres by 50 metres and sits between 152m and 153 metres above sea level.
- 3.2 The site is bounded by Loch Arklet to the immediate south and hills (Garradh) to the north and currently consists of undulating rough heather and gorse moorland (Figure 1).
- 3.3 The underlying drift geology consists of shallow peat deposits while the solid geology consists of Southern Highland Group, lava, tuft and volcanoclastic rock and sedimentary rock (British Geological Survey 1:63,600, Drift and Solid).

## Archaeological Background

- 4.1 A review of desk-based sources undertaken in advance of the watching brief revealed the possibility of the presence of a site of archaeological significance within the development area itself. This was identified as the possible location of the Bruach farmstead – identified on 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance survey maps (SMR 3970). Other possible sites of archaeological importance in the immediate vicinity were noted including Loch Arklet Aqueduct intake (id no 278992) and the presence of a military road, running north of the modern road (SMR 3211). The latter sites, were deemed out of the immediate area of construction and not under any threat.

## Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The general aim of the watching brief was to identify any archaeological features encountered and record them fully. The specific objectives were:
- Establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the development area,
  - Determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits encountered,
  - Fully excavate and salvage any information possible from any significant features encountered.

## Methodology

- 6.1 Topsoil was stripped using a mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The topsoil was removed in spits to the surface of the subsoil or the first significant archaeological horizon. All on-site recording, written, drawn and photographic, was to the standards normally pertaining in archaeological fieldwork.

## Results

- 7.1 A total area of 100 m was stripped of peat to reveal undulating bedrock. Over the majority of the area peat deposits were 1.5 m to 2.0 m thick at the deepest points, although in some areas further upslope, this shallowed to 0.4 m. During the course of the watching brief no obvious features of archaeological significance were encountered. No evidence of the farmstead or associated yard features were noted in and around the vicinity of the development area.
- 7.2 During the watching brief the presence of an Ordnance Survey benchmark was noted immediately south-west of the excavation area (Plate 1). This appeared to be mounted on a small section of brick wall – thought to have been the location of the gable end of the now lost farmstead building. This area was not directly impacted by any excavations or construction traffic.



Plate 1.

## Discussion

- 8.1 The watching brief identified no obvious traces of the archaeology relating to the possible location of the Bruach farmstead during the excavation of access tracks and the treatment tank area. The only possible significant archaeology or evidence of the farmstead was the Ordnance Survey benchmark located on a small section of possible gable end wall. This was situated out of range of the construction/excavation area to the south-west of the site. The immediate area to the east contained no evidence of occupation or yard deposits that could have suggested the presence of the farmstead. It is unknown whether these survive out with the construction area – or if no evidence of the farmstead exists.

## Recommendations

- 9.1 The watching brief work has proved that no archaeologically sensitive deposits or features exist directly within the development area. In consequence, it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required.
- 9.2 GUARD Archaeology would stress that these recommendations are intended for guidance only. Final decisions on the nature and extent of any future archaeological work rest with the planning authority.

## Acknowledgements

- 10.1 GUARD Archaeology would like to thank Scottish Water Solutions and Luddon construction for their assistance. Plant and drivers were supplied by Luddon. Administrative and technical support was provided by Jen Cochrane, Aileen Maule and John Kylie. The illustrations were produced by Fiona Jackson. The report was desk top published by Gillian McSwan. The project was managed for GUARD Archaeology Limited by John Atkinson.

## **Stronachlachar, Loch Arklet**

### **Data Structure Report**

#### **Section 2: Appendices**



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## Appendices

### Appendix A: List of Photographs

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken From
1	-	-	Photograph of large shovel	-
2	-	-	ID shot	-
3	-	-	Trial Pit 1 (south side of road)	W
4	-	-	NW facing section of trial pit 1	NW
5	-	-	Trial Pit 2	E
6	-	-	Trial Pit 3	S
7	-	-	Trial Pit 3 - E facing section	E
8	-	-	General shot of site	E
9	-	-	General shot of site	E
10	-	-	General shot of site	E
11	-	-	General shot of site	SW
12	-	-	General shot of site	NW
13	-	-	General shot of site	NW
14	-	-	Loch Arklet from site	W
15	-	-	Stone with benchmark - old farmstead	SE
16	-	-	Stone with benchmark - old farmstead	SW
17	-	-	Access road	E
18	-	-	Depth of excavation	SW
19	-	-	Access road	E
20	-	-	Peat deposits at access road	N
21	-	-	Stripping of compound area on lochside	N
22	-	-	Stripping of compound area on lochside	N
23	-	-	Stripping of compound area on lochside	N
24	-	-	Stripping of compound area on lochside	N
25	-	-	Stripping of compound area on lochside	W
26	-	-	Stripping of compound area on lochside	E
27	-	-	Stripping of compound area on lochside	W
28	-	-	Stripping of access road	W
29	-	-	Stripping of access road	E
30	-	-	Detail of vegetation removed	W
31	-	-	Test pit to locate waterpipe	N
32	-	-	Test pit to locate waterpipe	N
33	-	-	Stripping access road	E
34	-	-	Stripping access road	S
35	-	-	Stripping access road	E
36	-	-	Stripping access road	E
37	-	-	Test pit adjacent to road (locating pipe)	W
38	-	-	Test pit adjacent to road (locating pipe)	W
39	-	-	Machine sunk in peat	E
40	-	-	Machine sunk in peat	E
41	-	-	Ground churned up by machine	E
42	-	-	Ground churned up by machine	E
43	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
44	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
45	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
46	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
47	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
48	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
49	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
50	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
51	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken From
52	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
53	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
54	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
55	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
56	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
57	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
58	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
59	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
60	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
61	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
62	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various
63	-	-	General shots of completed area stripped	Various

## Appendix B: DES

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Stronachlachar, Water treatment plant
PROJECT CODE:	3379
PARISH:	Buchanan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Kevin Mooney
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	GUARD Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NA
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Possible farmstead location
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NN 3934 0981
START DATE (this season)	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2012
END DATE (this season)	30 <sup>th</sup> May 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	NA
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A watching brief implemented during the excavation of the site of a new water membrane plant and associated access tracks for Scottish Water Solutions. The location itself was thought to be on or around the site of a pre-existing 19th C farmstead, noted on early ordinance survey maps – but not visible on the ground today.</p> <p>During the course of works, no presence of any archaeology was noted, a small section of brick wall with an Ordinance Survey Bench Mark was noted to the west of the immediate area. It is thought that this is where the farmstead lie – if still present.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Unknown
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scottish Water
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	GUARD Archaeology Ltd, 52 Elderpark Workspace, 100 Elderpark Street, Glasgow, G51 3TR
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Kevin.mooney@guard-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION intended/deposited	NMRS

## Appendix C: Method Statement

# GUARD 3379: Stronachlachar, Loch Lomond - Watching Brief Method Statement

### 1.0 *Introduction*

This document sets out GUARD Archaeology's watching brief methodology. The watching brief strategy includes monitoring of all overburden removal and machine dug trenches undertaken during ground breaking works associated with work at Stronachlachar, Loch Lomond and hand excavation and recording of any archaeological features encountered.

On completion of all excavation works a report to data structures level and an accompanying post-excavation research design (PERD) and costing (if required) will be submitted for agreement with Scottish Water Solutions and West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The PERD will also outline arrangements for final publication of the project should this prove necessary.

### 2.0 *Aims and Objectives*

The aims and objectives of the archaeological watching brief are as follows:

- establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains during ground breaking works;
- determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits encountered;
- excavate and salvage any information possible from any significant features/sites encountered.

### 3.0 *Methodology*

The strategy to be employed during the watching brief will consist of the following:

- All ground disturbances will be monitored by an archaeologist assisted, where necessary, by further archaeologists under the overall guidance of an archaeological project manager.
- The number of archaeologists required during the works will be dependent on the number of areas being trenched simultaneously and the number of mechanical excavators being deployed.
- All plant will be fitted with a toothless ditching bucket for removal of any previously undisturbed overburden layers to ensure the subsoil interface is not disturbed and any archaeological features can be clearly identified. A toothed bucket may be used for previously disturbed layers.
- Overburden will be removed in spits to the first archaeological horizon or, where none is found, to the natural subsoil. Any archaeological features encountered will be cleaned by hand to determine the date of the deposits, their character and extent. Such features will be recorded by written description on *pro forma* recording sheets, by photograph and by measured drawing.
- Any significant archaeological features encountered will be dealt with by the on-site archaeologist(s). Should negative-cut features be encountered they will be 50% excavated in order to determine their significance, date and function. In the event that they are deemed to be important discoveries, they will be fully excavated. Recording will include *pro forma* sheets, drawings and photographs.
- Suitable down time, up to a maximum of two hours per significant small feature, will be provided to the on-site archaeologists in order to fully recover any archaeological evidence encountered.
- Should more substantial remains be encountered, downtime may be required in excess of two hours per feature. This will be agreed in writing with Scottish Water Solutions and WoSAS prior to proceeding.
- In the event that particularly significant features, special finds or complex groups of features are encountered Scottish Water Solutions and WoSAS will be alerted, so that a mitigation strategy can be agreed to deal with them.
- All archaeological finds will be dealt with by the on-site archaeological team. The general practice will be to bulk recover all artefacts by context which are recovered from the overburden or from 19<sup>th</sup> century or

later layers or deposits. Should finds be encountered that are securely stratified from earlier occupation phases they will be three-dimensionally recorded prior to up-lifting.

- All excavated feature fills and horizons will be sampled for palaeo-environmental evidence. This may also include micromorphological sampling in order to address key issues on soil development.
- A representative section will be recorded for each section of trench denoting depth of overburden, any stratigraphy present and the nature of the soil. This information will be logged in the day book together with a sketch drawn to scale and a photographic record of deposits.

On completion of the watching brief phase of work, a report suitable for submission to the Planning Authority and the National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS) will be produced. This report will be accompanied by the post-excavation research design and costing in order to bring the results forward for analysis and publication should this be required.

#### 4.0 *Products*

The products of a programme of work can be:

- a preliminary data structure report, after completion of all fieldwork suitable for submission to the client, Planning Authority, the NMRS and the local Sites and Monuments Record;
- a brief summary of results of the fieldwork will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*;
- a brief summary of results of the fieldwork will also be added to the OASIS online database;
- Post-excavation and publication of the results of the watching brief within an academic journal, should this be necessary;
- Preparation and disposal of the site archive and finds.

#### 5.0 *Archive Arrangements*

Once all fieldwork is completed, all materials from the programme of work will be prepared to the appropriate archive standard. GUARD Archaeology will undertake to deposit the resultant archive to the NMRS on completion of the report for publication.

All finds will be reported to the Treasure Trove Advisory Panel, and GUARD Archaeology will undertake to ensure their safe deposition within the designated museum at the appropriate time.

#### 6.0 *Timetable*

The phase of work is proposed to commence in October 2011. A precise start date will be provided as soon as it is available.

#### 7.0 *Staffing*

The watching brief will be conducted by one of GUARD Archaeology's experienced Project Officers. A CV for the individual can be provided on request.

#### 8.0 *Health and Safety and Insurance*

##### 8.1

All archaeological working practices will be subject to a risk assessment prior to commencement of the work where likely health and safety issues associated with the site can be highlighted.

##### 8.2

GUARD adheres to all standard Health and Safety regulations governing fieldwork projects. GUARD also possess appropriate third party/public liability insurance cover, proof of which may be supplied upon request.

#### 9.0 *Monitoring Procedures*

All work on site will be internally monitored by John Atkinson, GUARD Archaeology's Managing Director.

Appendix D: Additional Excavation Works



Stronachlachar and Loch Arklet Membrane Plant  
Data Structure Report  
Project 3379

## Stronachlachar and Loch Arklet Membrane Plant Data Structure Report

**On behalf of:** Scottish Water Solutions

**NGR:** NN 3900 0971

**Project Number:** 3379

**Report by:** Christine Rennie

**Illustrations:** Fiona Jackson

**Project Manager:** John Atkinson

**Approved by:**



**Date:**

14/08/2012

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

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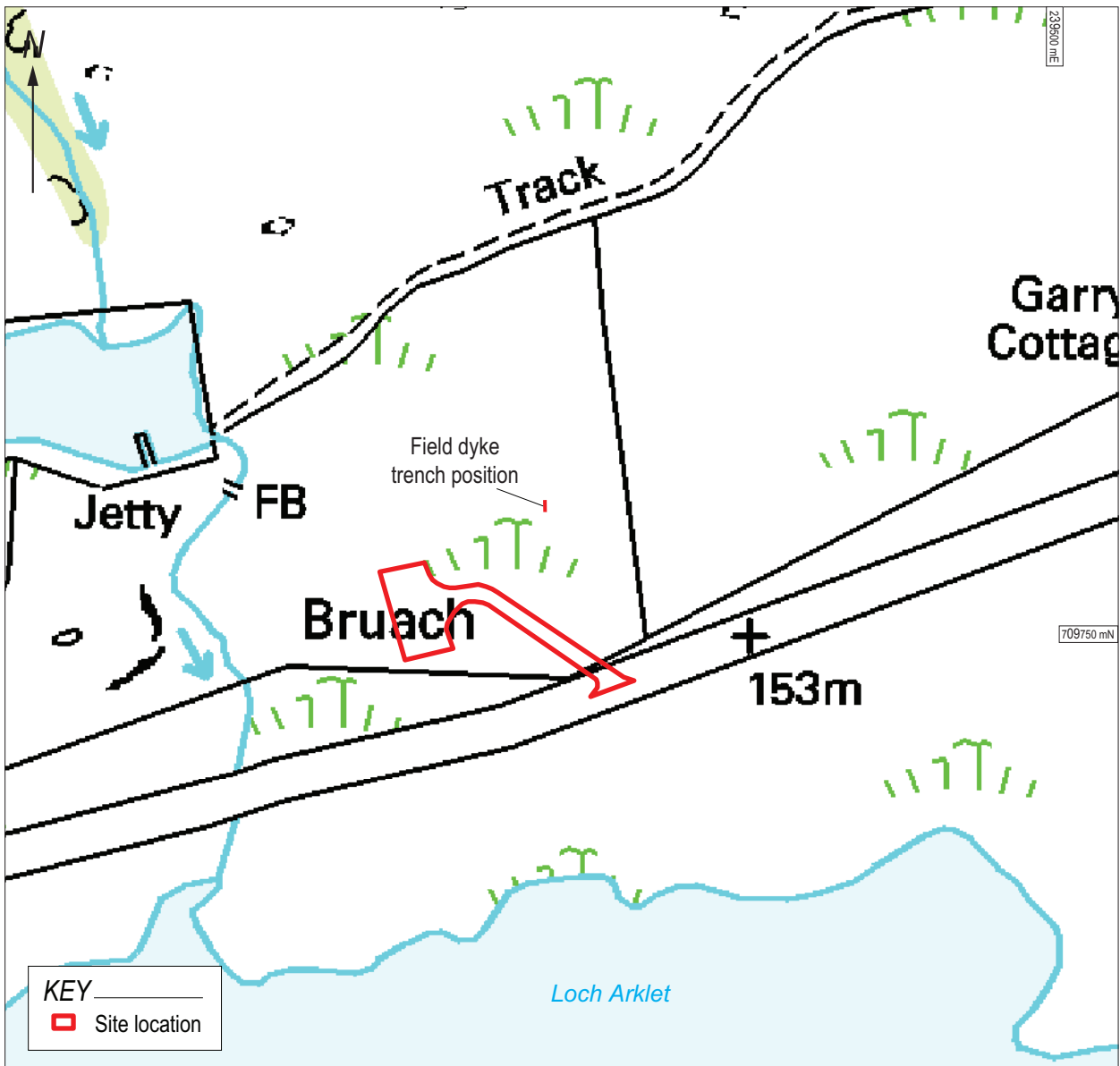
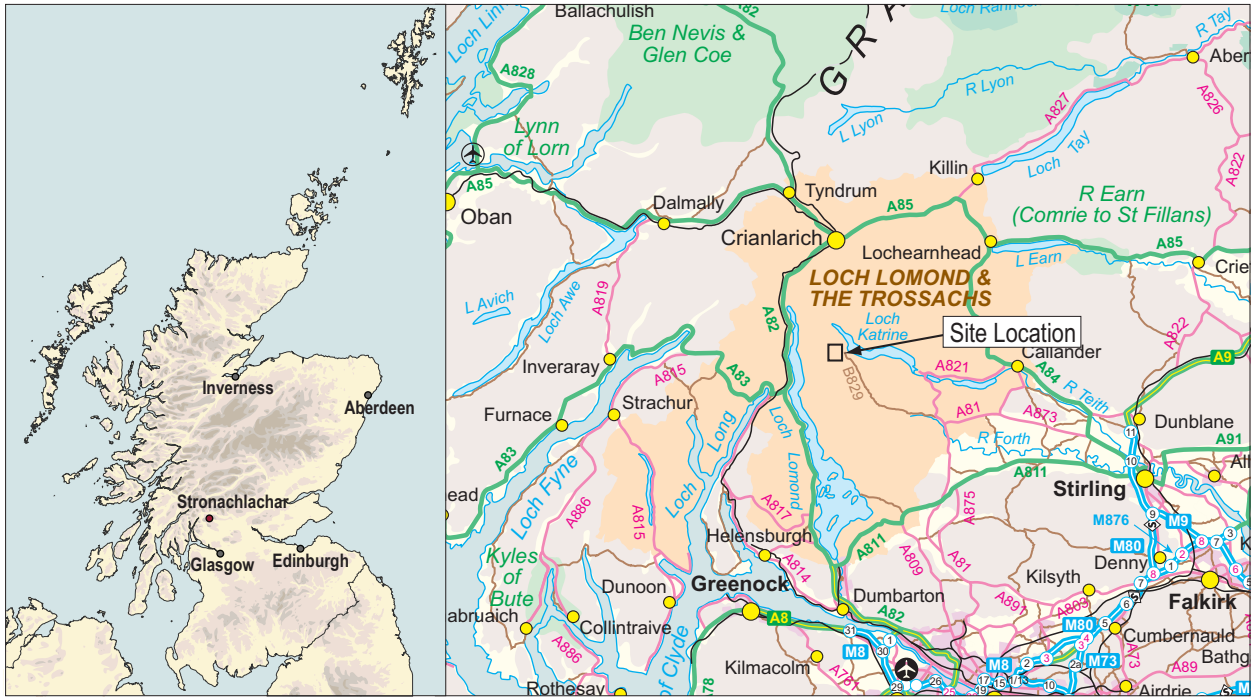
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GUARD ARCHAEOLOGY *Figure 1: Site location.* 0 125 m Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. All rights reserved. Licence number 100050699.



## Executive Summary

- 1.1 GUARD Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Scottish Water Solutions to undertake a small-scale excavation at the location of a possible field dyke identified by the Forestry Commission in the vicinity of a Membrane Plant development at Stronachlachar, Stirlingshire. This work was undertaken on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 and revealed a linear cut with an unbonded stone structure. No artefacts were recovered during the excavation of this feature.

## Introduction

- 2.1 This report sets out the results of a small-scale excavation undertaken by GUARD Archaeology, on behalf of Scottish Water Solutions on a site proposed for the construction of a Membrane Plant and associated access tracks at Stronachlachar, Stirlingshire. During the course of the excavation, a linear stone field dyke was uncovered in the vicinity of Bruach farmstead (NMRS NN30NE 8). No datable artefacts were recovered during the excavation, which took place on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012.

## Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 3.1 The development location lies to the west of Stronachlachar on the foothills of Garradh, and is centred at NGR NN 3934 0981. The development area covers approximately 100 metres by 50 metres and sits between 152m and 153 metres above sea level.
- 3.2 The site is bounded by the B829 to the immediate south and Garradh hill to the north, while undulating rough grazing lies to the east and west (Figure 1).
- 3.3 The underlying bedrock is Ben Ledi Grit Formation comprising Psammite and Semipelite formed in the Cambrian and Neoproterozoic Ilii Periods. British Geological Survey has not recorded the superficial deposits at this location (British Geological Survey 1:10,000. Superficial and bedrock).

## Archaeological Background

- 4.1 A review of desk-based sources undertaken in advance of the watching brief revealed that Bruach farmstead (NMRS NN30NE 8), which may date from the post-Medieval period, lay in the general vicinity of the water treatment plant. Other remains include a military road (SMR 3211) to the north of the development.

## Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The general aim of the archaeological work was to monitor the machine excavation of a trench through a feature suspected to be a field boundary, and to record any archaeological remains encountered. The specific objectives were:
- to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the machine-cut trench;
  - to determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits encountered;
  - to fully excavate and record any archaeological deposits encountered, and
  - to report on the findings.

## Methodology

- 6.1 Topsoil was stripped using a mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The topsoil was removed in spits until a linear cut containing boulders was encountered, and the exposed surfaces of the trench were trowel

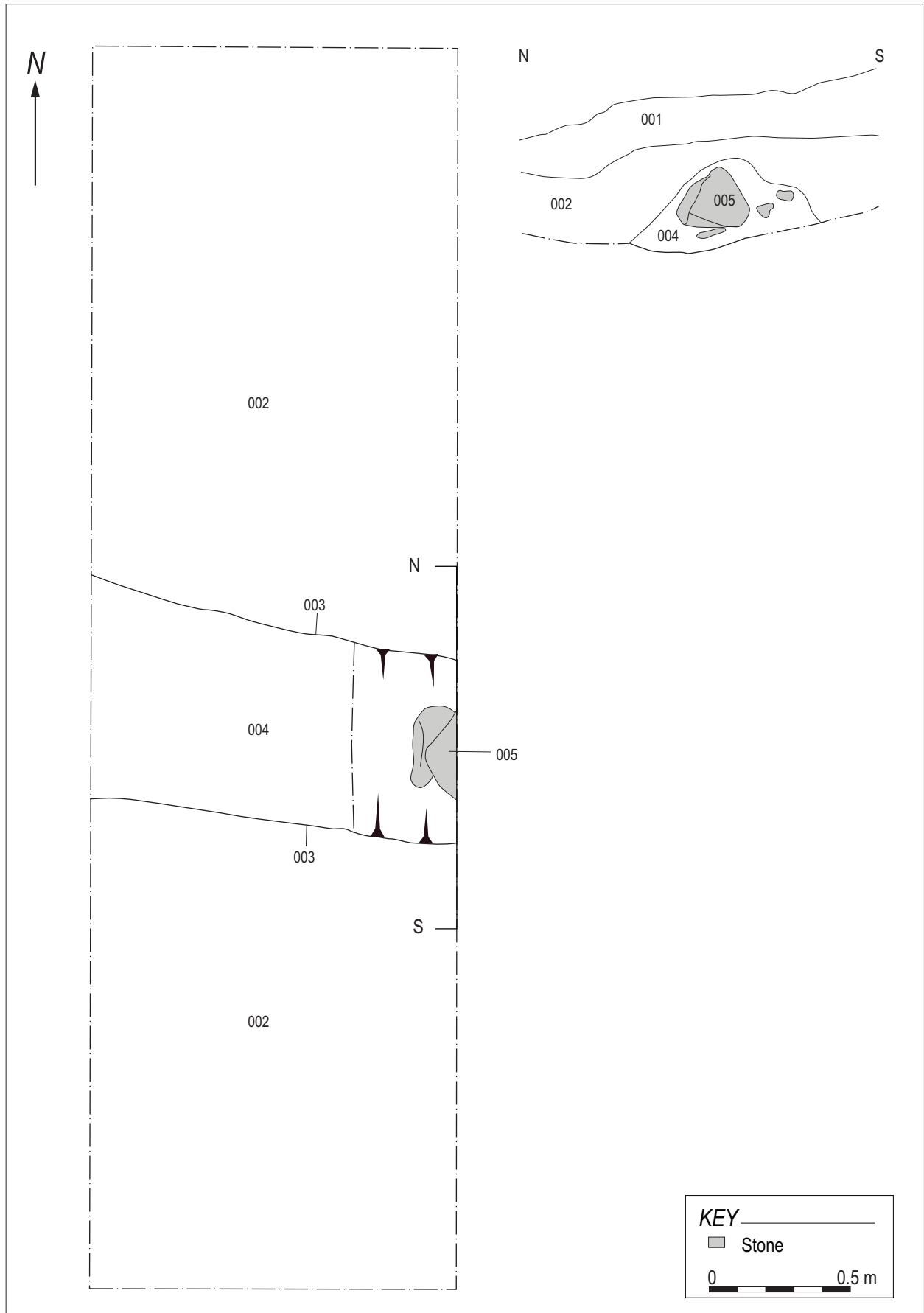


Figure 2:  
Plan & section of field dyke trench.

cleaned. All of the deposits and archaeological features were recorded by measured drawing at an appropriate scale, by digital photography and by written description. The field dyke was located on the Ordnance Survey National Grid using a hand-held GPS with an accuracy of 5 metres. All on-site recording, written, drawn and photographic, was to the standards normally pertaining in archaeological fieldwork.

## Results

- 7.1 Below the topsoil, and within the subsoil, was a linear cut 0.70 metres wide and 80 mm deep that contained unbonded boulders within a matrix of wet, chocolate-brown silt. The feature was orientated north-south and was truncated by the limit of the trench. The largest of the boulders were removed by mechanical excavator, and the surface of the trench was cleaned by trowel. A section of the feature adjacent to the trench edge was removed, and the exposed section was recorded by measured section drawing at a scale of 1:10. No datable artefacts were recovered from the deposits.

## Discussion

- 8.1 This isolated archaeological feature is most likely to be a field boundary dating from the Medieval or post-Medieval period although, as stated above, no datable artefacts were recovered during the excavation. None of the maps consulted for this report show any field boundaries in this location, although a track or road passes through this area as depicted on Grassom's 1817 map, and a tree-lined burn or stream is shown at about this locale on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865. The field boundary is likely to be associated with Bruach farmstead, the remains of which were not located during a watching brief carried out by GUARD Archaeology Limited in July 2012.

## Recommendations

- 9.1 The field boundary or field dyke appears, so far, to be an isolated feature of lesser archaeological significance. As it was fully recorded during its excavation, it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required. Scottish Water Solutions has agreed that any further archaeological remains uncovered during the construction of the Membrane Plant and associated ancillary works will be notified to GUARD Archaeology Limited.

## Acknowledgements

- 10.1 GUARD Archaeology would like to thank Scottish Water Solutions and Luddon Construction for their assistance. Plant and drivers were supplied by Luddon Construction. Technical support was from Aileen Maule and John Kiely. The illustrations were produced by Fiona Jackson. The report was desk top published by Gillian McSwan. The project was managed for GUARD Archaeology Limited by John Atkinson.

**Stronachlachar and Loch Arklet  
Membrane Plant  
Data Structure Report**

**Section 2: Appendices**



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## Appendices

### Appendix A: Bibliography

#### Cartographic Sources

Roy, W. 1747-55. Military Survey of Scotland

Grassom, J. 1817. To the Noblemen and Gentlemen of the County of Stirling. NW section.

Ordnance Survey. 1865. Stirlingshire Sheet II. 6" to the mile.

Ordnance Survey. 1896. Stirlingshire Sheet II SW. 6" to the mile.

Ordnance Survey. 1924. Stirlingshire Sheet n III. 6" to the mile.

### Appendix B: List of Contexts

Context No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Loose black peaty silt with frequent pebbles	Topsoil
002	Loose mottled grey/brown gritty silt with frequent angular pebbles and cobbles	Subsoil
003	Linear cut 0.70 m wide and 80 mm deep	Cut of field dyke
004	Loose, wet chocolate brown silt surrounding stones	Matrix of stone field dyke
005	Unbonded boulders within cut 003	Field dyke

### Appendix C: List of Drawings

Drawing No.	Area	Sheet No.	Subject	Scale
1	-	1	Plan of field dyke	1:20
2	-	1	South facing section of field dyke	1:10

### Appendix D: List of Photographs

Frame	Area	Context No	Subject	Taken From
1	-	-	Pre-excavation view of location of field dyke	NW
2	-	002-005	Cut of field dyke after cleaning	W
3	-	002-005	Cut of field dyke after cleaning	W
4	-	001-005	South facing section of field	S
5	-	001-005	North facing section of field dyke	N

## Appendix E: DES

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Stronachlachar Membrane Plant
PROJECT CODE:	3379
PARISH:	Buchanan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Christine Rennie
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	GUARD Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	NS30NE 8
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Farmstead
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Field dyke
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 390 097
START DATE (this season)	31 July 2012
END DATE (this season)	31 July 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	Watching brief and Test Pits
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	GUARD Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Scottish Water Solutions to undertake the excavation of a stone field dyke noted during the installation of a membrane plant and associated access at Stronachlachar, Stirlingshire. This work was undertaken on 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2012 and revealed a linear cut with an unbonded stone structure. No artefacts were recovered during the excavation of this feature.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None known
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scottish Water Solutions
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	GUARD Archaeology Limited, 52 Elderpark Workspace, 100 Elderpark Street, Glasgow G51 3TR
EMAIL ADDRESS:	christine.rennie@guard-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive will be deposited with NMRS

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