

# West Coast Archaeological Services

## *WOODLAND PLANTING SCHEME*

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT AND WALKOVER SURVEY

Glenshero Estate ó Laggan, Highland



National Grid Reference

**NN 56009 95007**

**(Centred)**

Site Code

**GSH12**

Author

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Report Number

**27/GSH/12**

Client

**Bidwells/Glenshero Estate**

Date

**25-04-2012**

OASIS No.

**Westcoas1-124288**

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## **Acknowledgements**

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**GLENSHERO WOODLAND PLANTING SCHEME**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT AND WALKOVER SURVEY**  
Glenshero Estate, Laggan, Highland

**Summary**

*An archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey was carried out between 13 and 16 April 2012 on behalf of Bidwells and Glenshero Estate, Laggan in advance of a woodland establishment scheme. The work was undertaken to assess the nature and extent of any archaeological sites and features likely to be affected within the areas outlined for planting and regeneration and to inform recommendations for the protection and management of any sites located. The survey identified nineteen new and unrecorded archaeological sites including enclosures, farmsteads, turf and stone dykes and tracks. Mitigation measures are proposed to safeguard the sites during the establishment of the woodland scheme.*

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey of the visible archaeological monuments surviving within the boundaries of a proposed woodland establishment scheme (centred at grid reference NN 56009 95007) was carried out by *West Coast Archaeological Services* on 16 April 2012 (Figure 1). The survey was requested by Bidwells on behalf of Glenshero Estate because the areas proposed for the woodland development are located in a landscape with a potential for sites of archaeological significance.
- 1.2 The purpose of the desk-based assessment and archaeological walkover survey was to identify and record the location and nature of any archaeological features of interest prior to development, whilst assessing any potential adverse impacts and proposing an appropriate strategy of mitigation. The *Scottish Planning Policy 2010*<sup>1</sup> describes how archaeology should be managed when considering planning decisions and determining conditions for developments that have an impact on the historic environment.

**2. Site Location**

- 2.1 The proposed woodland planting is divided into three discrete areas (Figure 1). **Area 1** lies to the north of Sherramore and has been planted and felled twice in the past. It is a generally steep, boulder- and grass-covered area with some good soil and bracken. It is cut through by forest tracks. **Area 2** lies to the east and contiguous with Am Maol. Here the ground slopes to the south-east with pockets of boggy ground and small knolls. **Area 3** lies to the west and contiguous with Am Maol. The ground is generally steep, peaty and boggy with the best ground located in its western half where it forms a small plateau.
- 2.2 The general location of the survey areas comprises rough, undulating moorland with glacial moraine and drumlins and rough pasture with grass, heather and bracken. There are several small streams in the vicinity, which form wet boggy areas in places; well drained ground appears to be reasonably fertile. The archaeological sites recorded during the survey are located on these drier areas of ground.

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<sup>1</sup> The Scottish Government 2010

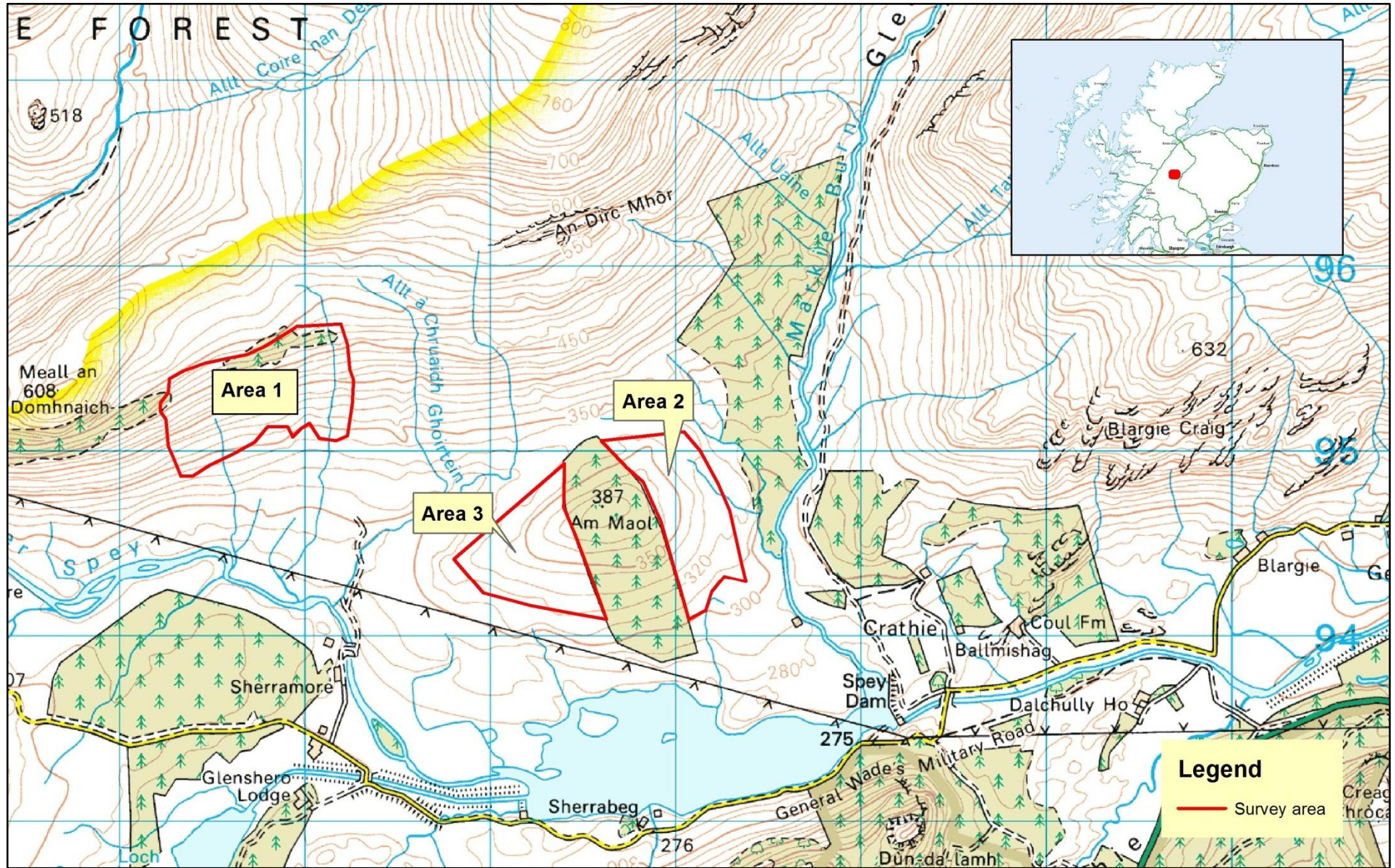


Figure 1: Location of the survey areas

### **3. Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 3.1 There appears to have been no previous archaeological survey of the areas proposed for the planting scheme in Glenshero, although several sites of archaeological significance are located in the surrounding landscape. Prehistoric activity in the adjacent landscape is represented by Dun da Lamh, located on Black Craig<sup>2</sup>. General Wade's Military Road passes along the southern shore of the loch behind the Spey Dam to the south of Areas 2 and 3; several bridges survive on the route of the road. There is evidence of post-medieval settlement and farming in the general area with the remains of houses, byres, enclosures and field dykes visible.

### **4. Methodology**

The overall aim of this assessment was to identify and record any archaeological sites or features that might be affected by the proposed tree planting, regeneration and fence erection within the three survey areas on Glenshero Estate and to propose mitigation as appropriate to ensure that archaeological evidence is not unnecessarily damaged or destroyed.

#### **4.1 Desk-based assessment**

- 4.1.1 A desk-based assessment was conducted prior to commencement of the survey in order to assess the archaeological potential of the area based on previously recorded sites and any historical documentation. This was done in strict adherence to the *Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) Standards and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment*<sup>3</sup>.
- 4.1.2 The drawings of the area, as supplied by the client, were checked in detail against the Ordnance Survey 1:25000 Map, Highland Council's Historic Environment Record (HHER), the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and Historic Scotland's records of scheduled monuments and listed buildings. Online satellite imagery and aerial photographs were checked and the map collections of the National Library of Scotland (NLS) were studied. Other literary sources were also consulted.

#### **4.2 Walkover survey**

- 4.2.1 The areas of proposed woodland planting were walked over and surveyed on 16 April 2012. The day was dry with sunshine and a little cloud; winds were light and cool. Visibility was good and the ground under foot was, in the main, dry.
- 4.2.2 Archaeological sites were recorded individually including using high-resolution digital photography where possible, while sketch survey drawings were produced where necessary. The individual site locations were plotted using DGPS technology and ArcPad software on a handheld Windows Mobile-based computer. Details relating to the individual sites and monuments located during the survey can be found in the Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites in Appendix 1.

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<sup>2</sup> HHER MHG4666

<sup>3</sup> IfA 2008

4.2.3 Survey and recording methods from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS)<sup>4</sup> were employed and all work was conducted in strict adherence to the *Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) Code of Conduct*<sup>5</sup>.

## 5. Results

### 5.1 Desk-based assessment

#### 5.1.1 Historical mapping

Historical maps, unless otherwise stated, were consulted using the National Library of Scotland's online collection<sup>6</sup>.

5.1.1.1 The earliest map to show the area is Herman Moll's map of 1745, which shows *Sherow moir* and *Sherow beg* although in no detail. Roy's Military Survey of Scotland 1747-54, on the other hand, is more detailed and shows a well settled and cultivated strath, some of which is in the general vicinity of the south-eastern corner of Area 2 (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Roy's Military Map showing the settlement and cultivation in the general area.

<sup>4</sup> RCAHMS 2004

<sup>5</sup> IfA 2009

<sup>6</sup> NLS 2012

**5.1.1.2 First Edition Ordnance Survey Six-inch to the mile map** (Inverness-shire (Mainland), Sheet CXV, surveyed 1872 and Sheet C, surveyed 1870)

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6 inch-to-the-mile map (Sheet CXV)<sup>7</sup> covers the majority of Areas 2 and 3. Within Area 2 two roofed and one unroofed houses are depicted within the south-eastern corner of the survey area. Also depicted are a long boundary dyke and other roofed and unroofed structures beyond, but close to, the southern extent of the survey area. Within Area 3 only a large enclosure is depicted. Sheet C shows Area 1 to be wooded.

**5.1.1.3 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Six-inch to the mile map** (Inverness-shire - Mainland Sheet CXV and Sheet C, both revised 1899)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS 6 inch -to-the-mile map<sup>8</sup> again shows Area 1 to be wooded. All the buildings in Area 2 are now unroofed and there are no buildings depicted within Area 3; the enclosure is still shown.

**5.1.2 Highland Historic Environment Record (HHER)**

The Highland Historic Environment Record was consulted online<sup>9</sup> and the following sites were recorded near to Areas 2 and 3:

**1. MHG 27150      Tom Bhuidhe                      NN 55800 94300**

An enclosure is depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of the 6-inch OS map (Sheet CXV), but is not shown on current mapping.

**2. MHG 27141      Am Maol                                      NN 56650 93720**

A farmstead, comprising one L-shaped unroofed building of two compartments, two enclosures and a field wall is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sheet CXV). One enclosure and the field wall are shown on the current mapping.

**5.2 Walkover Survey Results**

The walkover survey revealed nineteen unrecorded archaeological sites (Figure 3), which relate to Post Medieval occupation of the area. The Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites (Appendix 1) provides details of the sites identified during the survey.

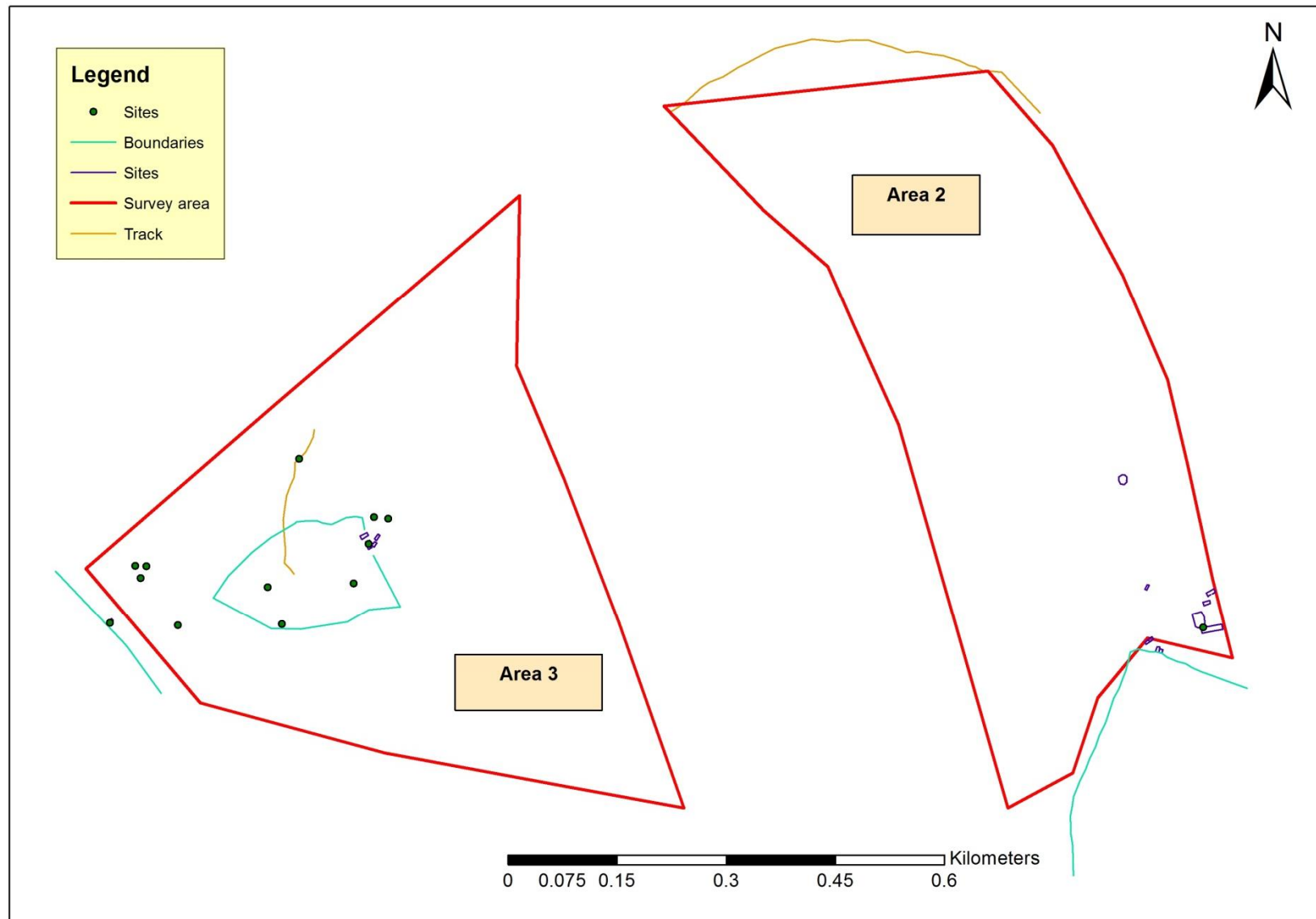
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<sup>7</sup> NLS 2012

<sup>8</sup> NLS, 2012

<sup>9</sup> Highland HER 2012





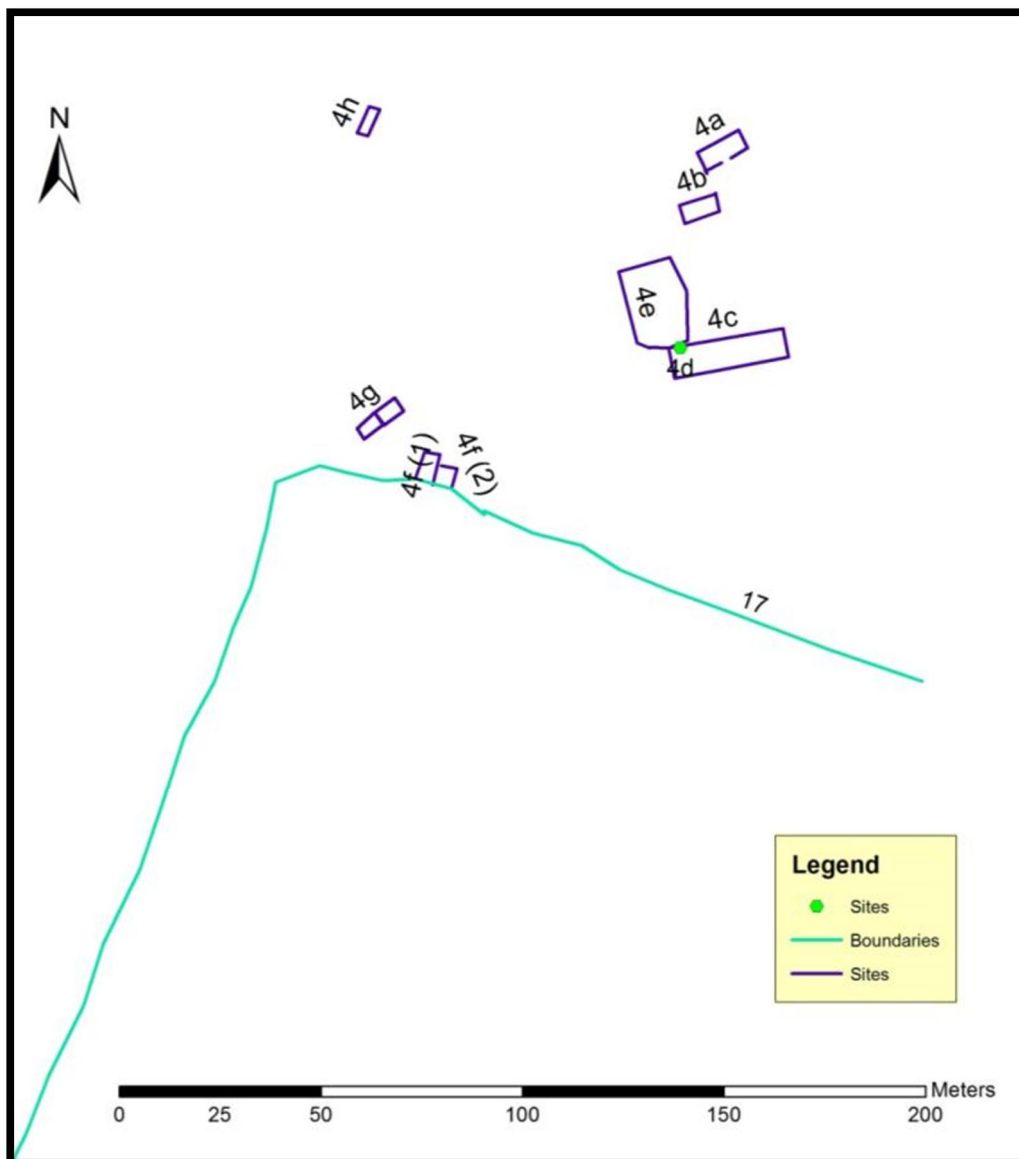
**Figure 3:** Location of archaeological sites within Areas 2 and 3. There were no archaeological sites recorded within Area 1.

### 5.2.1 Area 1

5.2.1.1 There were no archaeological sites identified within Area 1.

### 5.2.2 Area 2

5.2.2.1 A concentration of post-medieval structures, enclosure (sites 4a-4h) and associated boundary wall (site 17) were recorded in the south-eastern corner of Area 2 (Figure 4). Sites 4a-4c (Plates 1 and 2) and Site 17 are depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map and were therefore constructed prior to 1869 when the area was mapped by Ordnance Survey. The remaining sites are not depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition maps and, given their much degraded state, can be assumed to have been constructed much earlier. The boundary dyke (site 17) continues in a south-easterly direction beyond the survey area to another concentration of stone-built structures.



**Figure 4:** Plan of site 4, post-medieval settlement structures, and site 17, a turf and stone boundary dyke.



**Plate 1:** Site 4a, post-medieval house.



**Plate 2:** Site 4c, post-medieval house and barn.

5.2.2.2 To the north-northwest of site **4** lies a degraded stone and turf enclosure (site **3**). It is situated in a grassy bowl within an area of drumlins. It is not possible to ascertain whether it is prehistoric or later, but could well be associated with site **4**.

5.2.2.3 At the north end of Area **2**, just beyond its boundary, runs a grassy track (site **18**). It varies in width from 1m ó 2m and is cut into the peaty slope; there is some stone revetting on the northern edge, which is downslope. This track appears on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map and was therefore in use prior to 1869.

### 5.2.3 Area 3

5.2.3.1 As in Area **2**, there is a concentration of post-medieval settlement and cultivation remains, which is situated on a grassy plateau in the western half of Area **3** (Figure **5**). An almost continuous stone and turf dyke (site **15**) encloses an area that would have been cultivated (Plate **3**); both within and outwith this area are clearance cairns attesting to this (sites **8-11, 13, 14**). The settlement buildings (sites **5a-5d**) are clustered at the eastern end of the boundary dyke. Site **5d** is in a particularly degraded condition, which suggests it is the oldest structure of the group. Site **5b** has a circular stone heap within it (site **5b(2)**), which may have been a stack stand (Plate **4**). The structures are not depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd Edition OS maps, which suggests they may have been in a degraded state at the time of the survey and not recorded, although the boundary dyke was recorded.

5.2.3.2 A grassy track (site **19**) was picked up towards the northern edge of the survey area, which runs in a southerly direction into the enclosure area where it became indistinct. A potential entrance in the boundary wall was noted (site **12**), which is possibly where the track exited. The track crosses a small ford, which has been constructed from large flat stones (site **15**). It is typically approximately 1m wide and has stone revetting on the northern side. Its similarity to site **18** strongly suggests that the two tracks were linked at some time in the past.

5.2.3.3 A short distance beyond the south-western boundary of the survey area, a stone and turf boundary dyke (site **16**) and a small pen-like structure (site **6**) were noted.

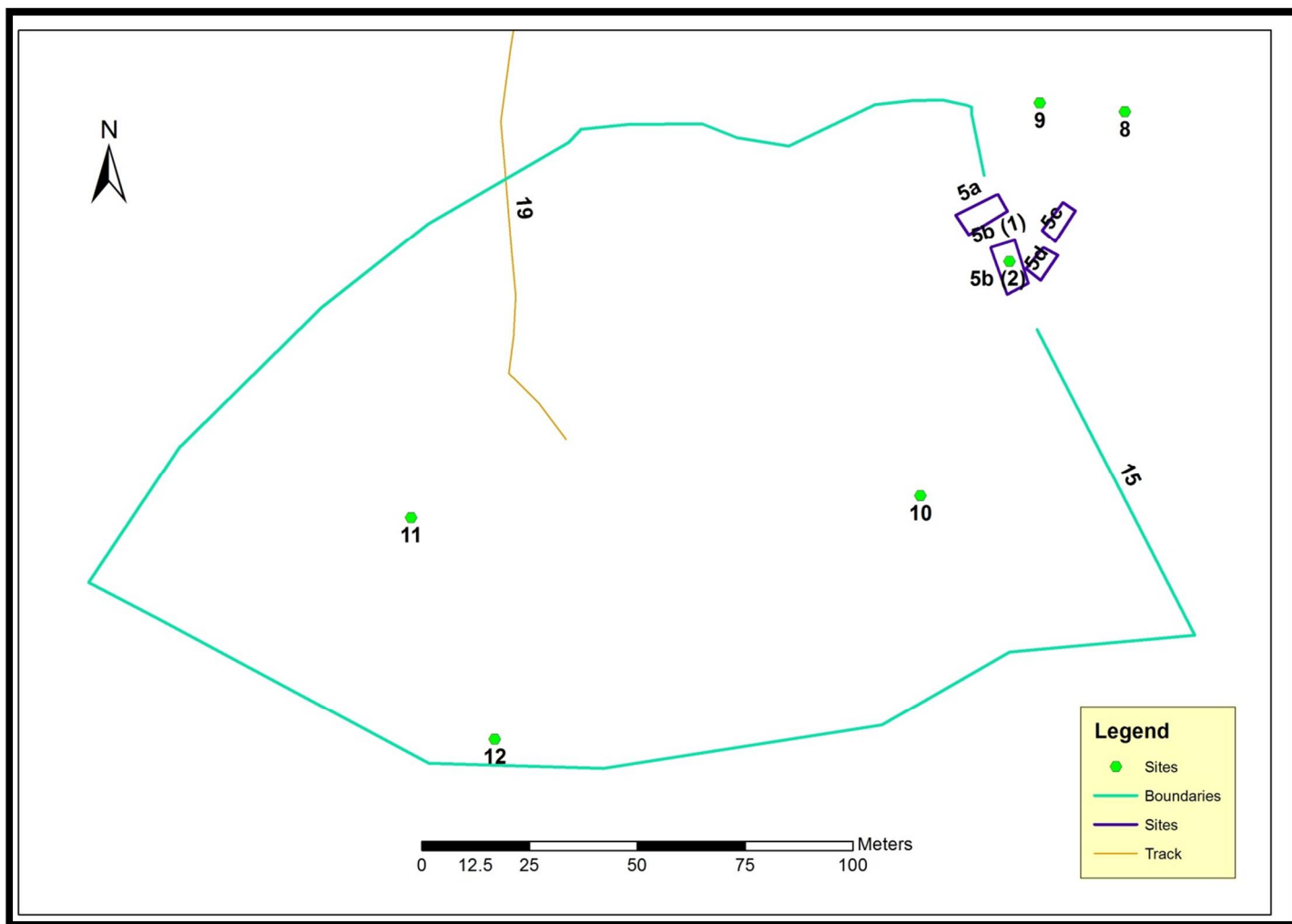


Figure 5: Site 5, post-medieval settlement buildings with associated boundary dyke, clearance cairns and track



Plate 3: Site 15, stone and turf dyke



Plate 4: Site 5b, structure with possible stack stand

## **5.2.4 Other**

5.2.4.1 Two twinning pens were noted outwith the survey areas (sites **1** and **2**) and are detailed in Appendix 1.

## **6. Discussion**

6.1 The walkover survey recorded nineteen previously unrecorded archaeological sites within the three survey areas. Overall, the landscape contains two groups of Post Medieval structures as well as associated boundary dykes, enclosures, tracks and clearance cairns. This is consistent with the evidence from Royø's Military Map showing the ground above the north bank of the Spey to be well settled and cultivated.

## **7. Recommendations**

7.1 At least a 10 metre buffer zone should be maintained around any individual buildings and structures, and a 5 metre buffer zone should be retained to each side of boundary dykes, while any new tree growth within these buffer zones should be managed.

7.2 At least a 10 metre buffer zone should be placed around the cluster of clearance cairns, site **14a-14c**, while any new tree growth within this buffer zone should be managed.

7.3 Access tracks for vehicles and the erection of any new fence should also respect the buffer zone recommendations above.

7.4 Regard should be had for the sites noted outwith the specified survey areas when planning access tracks for vehicles or the erection of new fencing. A 10 metre buffer zone should be maintained around these sites to maintain their integrity.

## 8. References

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Ordnance Survey 1872 *1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6-inch to the mile: Inverness-shire (Mainland), Sheet C, surveyed 1870.*

Ordnance Survey 1903 *2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 6-inch to the mile: Inverness-shire Mainland, Sheets CXV and C, revised 1899.*

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**APPENDIX 1      Glenshero Woodland Planting Scheme Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites**

No.	Site Name	Site Type	Description	Align-ment	Condition	Period	Height OD (m)	Easting (centre)	Northing (centre)	Photo No.	HER No.
1	-	Twinning pen	Small, stone-built twinning pen.	-	Good	Post-medieval	-	256209	795369	-	-
2	-	Twinning pen	Small, stone-built twinning pen.	-	Good	Post-medieval	-	256281	795360	-	-
3	Area 2	Enclosure	Stone and turf sub-circular enclosure 16m x 13m over banks spread to 2.5m wide, standing to 0.7m high. Possible 1m wide entrance at S end. Most defines at N and S ends.	N-S	Degraded	Unknown	372m	257226	794541	2-4	-
4a(1)	Area 2	House	Stone-built house running under the fence, 10m x 5m over walls 0.8m wide, standing up to 0.5m. Entrance 0.8m wide in centre of S wall. Short wall tag on SW corner of the building. A twinning pen 1m N-S x 0.7m up to 0.5m high in NE corner the house.	E-W	Degraded	Post-medieval	376m	257351	794386	5-6	-

GSH12 ó Glenshero Woodland Planting Scheme, Laggan: Archaeological Walkover Survey

No.	Site Name	Site Type	Description	Align-ment	Condition	Period	Height OD (m)	Easting (centre)	Northing (centre)	Photo No.	HHER No.
4a(2)	Area 2	Wall	Short wall tag at SW corner of house	NW-SE	Degraded	Post-medieval	376m	257348	794378	5-6	-
4b	Area 2	House/byre	Stone-built house or byre 10m x 5m over walls with up to 1m spread and up to 0.3m high. E gable wall robbed away. No visible entrance. Possible clearance material within structure. Possible vehicle tracks run through N and S walls.	E-W	Degraded	Post-medieval	376m	257343	794366	7	-
4c	Area 2	House/barn	Long stone-built house with E gable end under boundary fence. Two sections: eastern end measures 19m x 6m; western end 10m x 5m, both over walls up to 0.8m wide. No visible entrances or wall partitions.	E-W	Degraded	Post-medieval	-	257367	794339	8-9	-
4d	Area 2	Twinning pen	Stone-built twinning pen 2m in diameter over walls 0.6m thick. Within site 4c.	-	Degraded	Post-medieval	-	257342	794335	8	-



GSH12 ó Glenshero Woodland Planting Scheme, Laggan: Archaeological Walkover Survey

No.	Site Name	Site Type	Description	Align-ment	Condition	Period	Height OD (m)	Easting (centre)	Northing (centre)	Photo No.	HHER No.
4e	Area 2	Enclosure	Stone-built enclosure running off the NW end of site 4c and measuring 24m x 15m, over walls spread to 1m. Uses natural hollow in the ground. No visible entrance.	N-S	Degraded	Post-medieval	-	257337	794357	-	-
4f (1)	Area 2	Byre	Attached to the NE side of a turf and stone boundary dyke is a stone-built bothy/byre 8.5m x 3.8m over walls 0.7m wide and up to 0.3m high. No visible entrance.	N-S	Degraded	Post-medieval	-	257281	794308	-	-
4f (2)	Area 2	Pen	Attached to the E side of the bothy/byre is a stone-built pen 5m x 6m over walls spread to 0.8m wide and up to 0.3m high. No visible entrance.	N-S	Degraded	Post-medieval	-	257286	794304	-	-
4g	Area 2	House	Very degraded stone- and turf-built house 12m x 4m over walls spread to 1m wide and up to 0.3m high. No visible entrance but partition wall 4m in from SW end measuring 0.7m wide.	NE-SW	Very degraded	Post-medieval	-	257270	794317	-	-

GSH12 ó Glenshero Woodland Planting Scheme, Laggan: Archaeological Walkover Survey

No.	Site Name	Site Type	Description	Align-ment	Condition	Period	Height OD (m)	Easting (centre)	Northing (centre)	Photo No.	HHER No.
4h	Area 2	Bothy	Stone-built byre or bothy 7.5m x 3m over walls 0.7m wide and up to 0.3m high. No visible entrance. Located on a grassy knoll.	NE-SW	Degraded	Post-medieval	366m	257267	794394	10	-
5a	Area 3	House	Sub-rectangular building measuring 11m x 5m over walls pread to 1.5m wide and up to 0.4m high with rounded ends. No visible entrance.	NE-SW	Degraded	Post-medieval	407m	256185	794457	11	-
5b (1)	Area 3	House	Stone-built structure 10.5m x 5m over walls up to 1m wide and up to 0.3m high. No visible entrance.	N-S	Degraded	Post-medieval	407m	256199	794445	12	-
5b (2)	Area 3	Stone heap	Circular mound of stone in the centre of structure 5b. It measures 3m in diameter and is up to 0.25m high. Possible stack stand.	-	Degraded	Post-medieval	407m	256195	794451	12	-

## GSH12 ó Glenshero Woodland Planting Scheme, Laggan: Archaeological Walkover Survey

No.	Site Name	Site Type	Description	Align-ment	Condition	Period	Height OD (m)	Easting (centre)	Northing (centre)	Photo No.	HER No.
5c	Area 3	House	Rectangular stone-built structure 10m x 4m over walls up to 1m in spread and up to 0.4m high. No visible entrance.	NE-SW	Degraded	Post-medieval	407m	256207	794464	14	-
5d	Area 3	House	Turf and stone building 8m x 5m over walls spread to 1m wide and up to 0.25m high. No visible entrance.	NE-SW	Very degraded	Post-medieval	407m	256202	794446	13	-
6a	Near Area 3	Pen	Attached to a stone and turf dyke beyond the SW end of Area 3 is an amorphous shaped heap of stone overlying a possible pen or shieling cell. It measures 5m x 4m. No wall visible. Stone pile rises up to 0.6m high.	E-W	Very degraded	Post-medieval	-	255842	794346	-	-
6b	-	Twinning pen	Possible twinning pen within structure 6a	-	Degraded	Post-medieval	-	255839	794341	-	-
7	Area 3	Ford	Small ford constructed of flat stones across a narrow stream. About 1m wide.	-	Good	Unknown	-	256099	794568	-	-

GSH12 ó Glenshero Woodland Planting Scheme, Laggan: Archaeological Walkover Survey

No.	Site Name	Site Type	Description	Align-ment	Condition	Period	Height OD (m)	Easting (centre)	Northing (centre)	Photo No.	HHER No.
8	Area 3	Clearance cairn	Low grass covered mound of stone measuring approx. 3m x 2m and rising to a height of approx. 0.3m.	-	Degraded	Post-medieval	-	256222	794485	-	-
9	Area 3	Clearance cairn	Low grass covered mound of stone measuring approx. 4m x 3m and rising to a height of approx. 0.4m.	--	Degraded	Post-medieval	-	256202	794487	-	-
10	Area 3	Clearance cairn	Low moss covered mound of stone approx. 2m in diameter and rising to a height of approx. 0.25m.	-	Degraded	Post-medieval	-	256174	794396	-	-
11	Area 3	Clearance cairn	Low grass covered mound of stone approx. 3m x 2m rising to a height of approx. 0.3m.	-	Degraded	Post-medieval	-	256056	794391	-	-
12	Area 3	Entrance	Possible entrance in stone and turf boundary approx. 0.8m wide.	-	Very degraded	Post-medieval	-	256075	794340	-	-
13	Area 3	Clearance cairn	Grass covered clearance heap measuring 5m x 6m and rising to a height of approx. 0.5m.	-	Degraded	Post-medieval	-	255932	794338	-	-

GSH12 ó Glenshero Woodland Planting Scheme, Laggan: Archaeological Walkover Survey

No.	Site Name	Site Type	Description	Align-ment	Condition	Period	Height OD (m)	Easting (centre)	Northing (centre)	Photo No.	HHER No.
14a	Area 3	Clearance cairn	Grass covered mound of stone approx. 4m x 3m and rising to a height of approx. 0.3m	-	Degraded	Post-medieval	-	255881	794403	-	
14b	Area 3	Clearance cairn	Grass covered mound of stone approx. 4m x 3m and rising to a height of approx. 0.3m	-	Degraded	Post-medieval	-	255889	794420	-	-
14c	Area 3	Clearance cairn	Grass covered mound of stone approx. 4m x 3m and rising to a height of approx. 0.3m	-	Degraded	Post-medieval	-	255874	794421	-	-
15	Area 3	Boundary	Stone and turf boundary approx. 0.5m wide and standing to a maximum of 0.5m.	-	Degraded	Post-medieval	-	256019	794356	15	-
16	-	Boundary	Stone and turf approx. 0.5m wide and standing to approx. 0.3m high.	-	Degraded	Post-medieval	-	255841	794332	-	-
17		Boundary	Stone and turf boundary approx. 0.5m wide and standing to a height of approx. 0.25m.		Degraded	Post-medieval		257217	794231	-	-

GSH12 ó Glenshero Woodland Planting Scheme, Laggan: Archaeological Walkover Survey

No.	Site Name	Site Type	Description	Align-ment	Condition	Period	Height OD (m)	Easting (centre)	Northing (centre)	Photo No.	HHER No.
18	-	Track	Grassy track 1 - 2m wide running along the N boundary of Area 2. Cut into the peaty slope; some stone revetting on the N side (downslope).	-	Degraded	Post-medieval	-	256865	795144	-	-
19	Area 3	Track	Grassy track 1 - 2m wide running along the N boundary of Area 2. Cut into the peaty slope; some stone revetting on the N side (downslope).	-	Degraded	Post-medieval	-	256081	794511	-	-

**APPENDIX 2            Glenshero Woodland Planting Scheme: Index of Photographs**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Direction Facing</b>	<b>Site No.</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Taken By</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	NW	-	General view towards Area 1	LF	16/04/2012
2	W	3	Enclosure showing more defined banks at N and S ends.	LF	16/04/2012
3	N	3	Enclosure showing possible entrance	LF	16/04/2012
4	NW	3	General shot of the enclosure	LF	16/04/2012
5	NE	4a	Stone-built, degraded house running under the deer fence	LF	16/04/2012
6	E	4a	Stone-built, degraded house running under the deer fence	LF	16/04/2012
7	W	4b	Stone-built, degraded house	LF	16/04/2012
8	E	4c	Long, stone-built house and byre. Pile of stone to the foreground is a twinning pen filled with stone.	LF	16/04/2012
9	NW	4c	Shows the eastern end of the house.	LF	16/04/2012
10	NE	4h	Degraded stone-built house situated on a grassy knoll.	LF	16/04/2012
11	NE	5a	Very degraded grass-covered footings of a sub-rectangular structure.	LF	16/04/2012
12	N	5b	Degraded stone building. The ranging pole is marking the position of a circular mound of stone within the building, possibly a stack stand.	LF	16/04/2012
13	NE	5c and 5d	The much degraded remains of site 5d are in the foreground with site 5c in the background.	LF	16/04/2012
14	NE	5c	A stone-built house situated on a wide grassy ridge.	LF	16/04/2012
15	WNW	15	Stone and turf boundary dyke surrounding site 5.	LF	16/04/2012