

A82 Crianlarich Bypass: Archaeological Watching Brief Data Structure Report

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A82 Crianlarich Bypass: Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: RJ McLeod (Contractors) Ltd.
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National Grid Reference (NGR): NN 3811 2532

AOC Project No: 22529

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

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Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of RJ McLeod during the construction of a bypass road around Crianlarich, Stirling. The scope of the works was determined by Stirling Council in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.

Three 19th and 20th century dumping grounds were located within the peat deposits on site containing artefacts including ceramic plates and bottles, glass bottles, leather boots and a broken horse drawn cart. Two post medieval finds were also found at the northern end of the development area within the peat deposits.

However, no archaeologically significant features or artefacts were revealed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by RJ McLeod to undertake an archaeological watching brief during all ground breaking works associated with the A82 bypass around Crianlarich, Stirling. The watching brief was undertaken in order to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority at the commencement of the projects planning process, Stirling Council. The project now falls under the authority of Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park who are advised on archaeological matters by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The works were conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2013) approved by Stirling Council and WoSAS, and in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The development site covers an area of approximately 1 ha and lies to the west edge of Crianlarich (centred NGR: NN 3811 2532; Figure 1). The site is bounded by forestry to the west and the back of houses at Willow Brae, and the current A82 to the east.

1.3 Historical Background

- 1.3.1 Consultation of the archives at the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland reveal that whilst no known sites lie within the development area, there are a few notable known sites within the environs of the development.
- 1.3.2 Firstly there are two sites listed as military roads, NMRS No.'s NN32NE 27 and NN32NE the 'Stirling to Fort William' and 'Tarbert to Crianlarich' roads respectively. Also to the west of the development area there lies a road bridge, NMRS No. NN32NE 30. In the general vicinity of the site there is a findspot of a prehistoric stone axe head, NMRS No. NN32NE 21.
- 1.3.3 There are a few sites lying to the east of the new bypass route that are associated with the former West Highland railways. These include the Crianlarich Upper Station, NMRS No. NN32NE 24 and the impressive C-Listed Building classical brick 13-bay late 19th century engine shed.
- 1.3.4 The development area itself at present does not contain any known sites but as a greenfield site there always exists the possibility that hitherto unknown archaeological remains maybe present.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are:
- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource that may be disturbed by the proposed development works;
 - ii) to identify, excavate and record all significant archaeological material within the development area.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All excavations were undertaken by a 13 to 30 tonne tracked excavator using a toothless bucket under the constant supervision of an experienced field archaeologist. In the event of archaeology being encountered the features were recorded by digital photography, surveyed and a written record produced.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 All archaeological works were conducted between the 18th September 2013 and the 24th June 2014. Weather conditions were variable and generally very wet throughout the course of the work conducted.
- 4.2 The watching brief covered all aspects of the road construction works where the turf and peat deposits on site were stripped (Plates 1 & 2). This covered the majority of the land take area and a small area to the south end of the road where a peat tip was set up. The topsoil and peat deposits ranged in depth from 0.3 m to 3 m deep and overlay a clayey sand subsoil with some areas of bedrock.
- 4.3 No archaeological features were revealed throughout the development area, but two post medieval artefacts (a ceramic fragment (SF 7) and a possible iron cauldron fragment (SF 6)) were found within the topsoil at the northern end of the road (see Figure 2). Three other 19th and 20th century dumping grounds were also noted along the development area, one of which is related to the West Highland Way access track (Dump 2; Figure 2), containing glass and ceramic bottles and some discarded leather shoes (SF 3, 4, 9 & 10).
- 4.4 The largest of the dumping grounds (Dump 1; Plate 3; Figure 2) probably relates to local residents using areas close to their homes to dispose of hearth ash and other refuse. More ceramic and glass bottles as well as ceramic plates and bowls were found in this area (SF 1 & 2), as well as the remnants of a horse drawn cart (Plate 4; SF 5 & 12), and some hiking and camping equipment (hiking boot - SF 8 - and metal tipped tent peg – SF 13). The final dumping area (Dump 3; Figure 3) only contained modern screw top glass bottles (SF 11) and may indicate a 20th century picnic area.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The watching brief achieved its objective of safeguarding the archaeological resource that may have been affected by the bypass construction work. However, despite a few noteworthy modern deposits no significant archaeological features or artefacts were revealed throughout the development area.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

6 REFERENCES

AOC 2013 *A82 Crianlarich Bypass, Crianlarich, Stirling: Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished AOC client report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2010 *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology*.



Plate 1 - General view of machine chain stripping peat



Plate 2 - General view of subsoil after stripping



Plate 3 - Sample of bottles found at Dump 1



Plate 4 - Wheel hub and iron rim at Dump 1

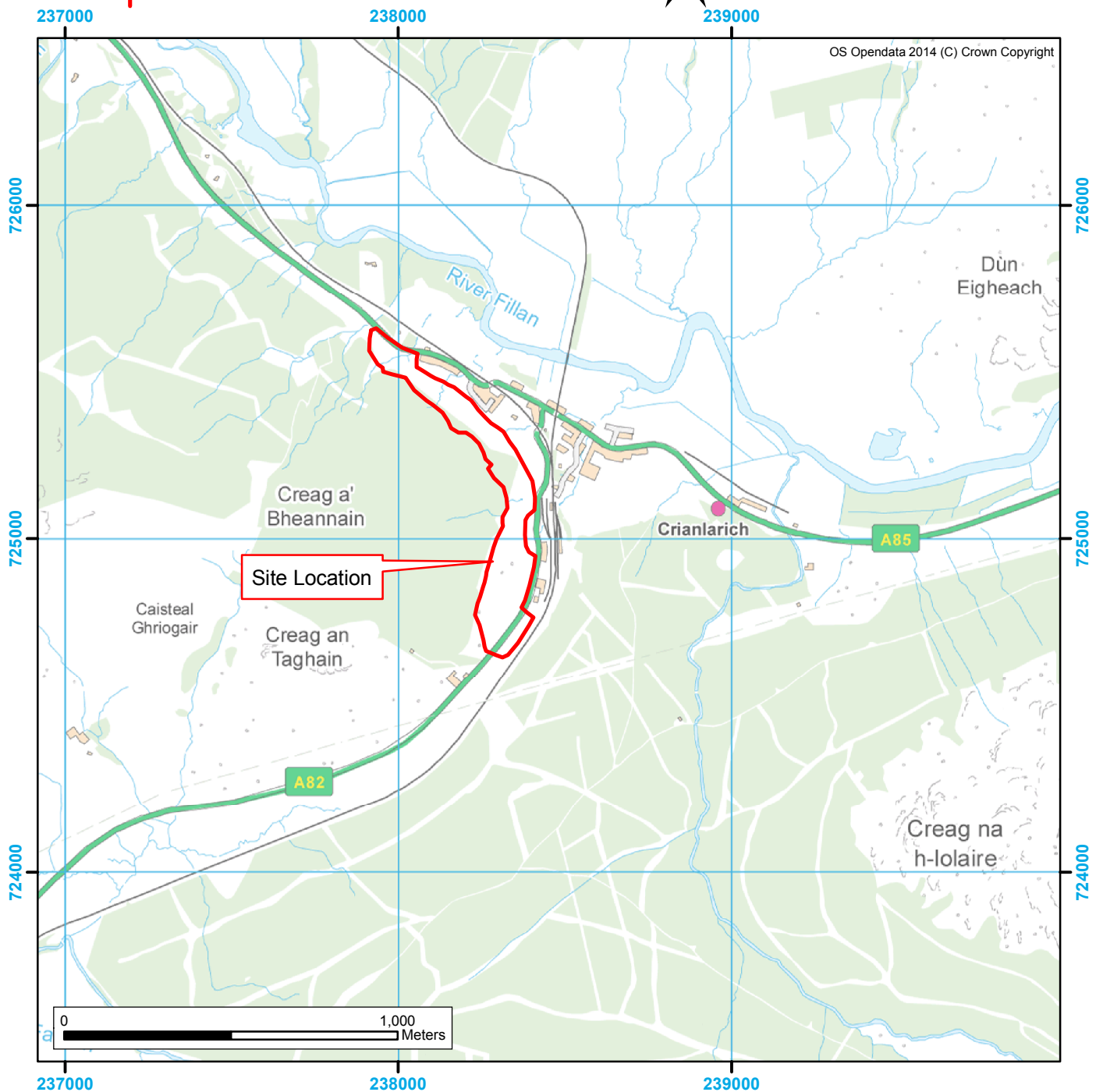
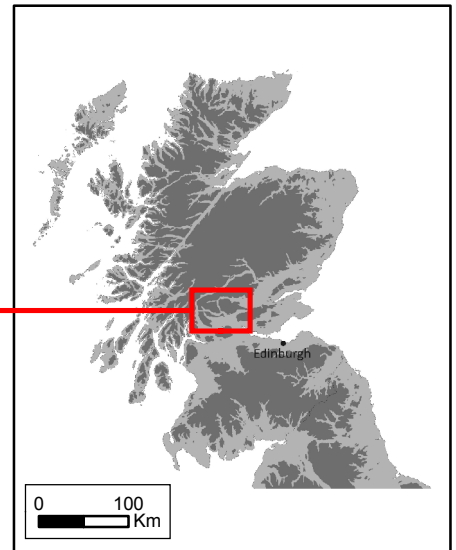
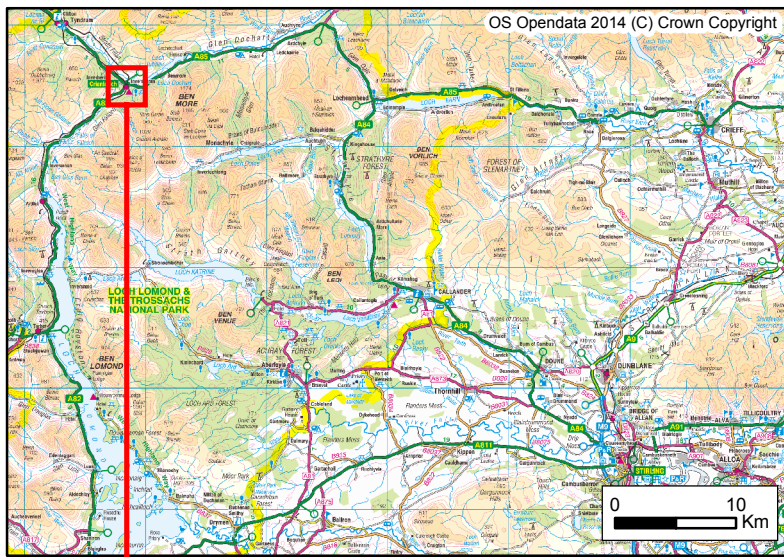


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

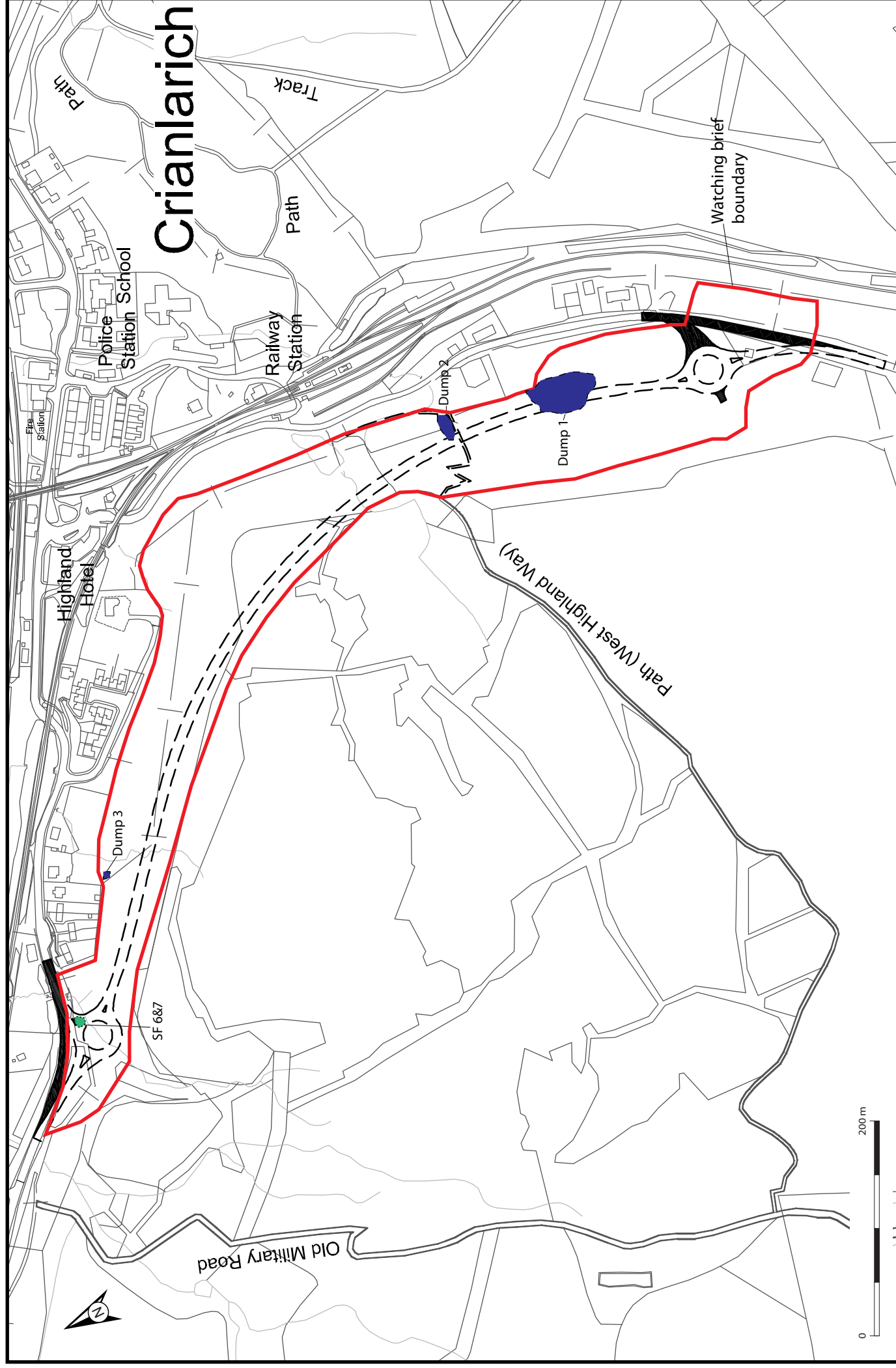


Figure 2 - Location of watching brief area showing dumping areas and find spots

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Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From	Date
1	Registration shot	-	14/10/13
2-3	Peat digging to south of west highland way underpass	N	14/10/13
4-5	Peat digging in area	W	14/10/13
6-7	Peat stripping adjacent to S side of west highland way	W	15/10/13
8-10	Haul road at S end of bypass	W	15/10/13
11	Find	-	15/10/13
12-13	Tree root removal to N of west highland way	N	17/10/13
14-15	Tree root removal to N of west highland way	W	21/10/13
16-17	Electricity cable trench (S end)	S	21/10/13
18-19	Tree stump removal opposite Willow Brae	N	21/10/13
20-21	Tree stump removal toward N end of bypass	N	21/10/13
22-23	Electricity cable trench – mid point	N	22/10/13
24-25	Electricity cable trench – mid point	S	22/10/13
26-27	Electricity cable behind properties at S end	S	23/10/13
28-29	Electricity cable behind properties at S end	N	23/10/13
30-32	General shots of lines of rocks in haul road	N	23/10/13
33	Working shot starting at culvert 2	S	8/1/14
34	Deep section of peat	SE	9/1/14
35	Culvert 2 stripped	S	9/1/14
36	Working shot of strip	SW	14/1/14
37	Shot of peat tip area	N	17/1/14
38-39	Working shots 20/1/14	W	20/1/14
40-41	Area stripped - west highland way underpass	W	21/1/14
42-43	Area next to west highland way – peat strip	Var	22/1/14
44	Area next to west highland way – showing peat depth	E	23/1/14
45	Stripping peat off rocky knoll	W	24/1/14
46	Area next to west highland way complete	E	24/1/14
47	Working shot	-	27/1/14
48	Working shot – strip of area N of WHW	E	29/1/14
49	Topsoil strip culvert 4	W	30/1/14
50	Area stripped 5/2/14 to SE of culvert 4	S	5/2/14
51	Hill S of culvert 4 partly stripped	N	17/2/14
52	Hill S of culvert 4 partly stripped	N	18/2/14
53	Modern dump at road tie in	N	18/2/14
54	N of culvert 4 turf stripping	NW	24/2/14
55-56	Soft spot peat removal	S	24/2/14
57	S of culvert 5 turf stripping	N	24/2/14
58	Shot showing peat depth at soft spot	S	24/2/14
59	More turf stripped between 4 and 5	S	24/2/14
60	N edge of soft spot removed	S	26/2/14
61	View of turf stripping extent	N	26/2/14
62	Work area 27/2/14 pre-ex	S	27/2/14
63	Work area 27/2/14 post-ex	N	27/2/14
64	Peat stripped next to compound	S	3/3/14
65	Area to N of culvert 6	S	6/3/14
66	Slope still to be stripped	S	6/3/14
67	Lead pipe in peat under water course at culvert 4	E	11/3/14
68	Working shot stripping at culvert 4	W	11/3/14
69	Working shot stripping at culvert 4	N	12/3/14
70	Bottle and shoes in situ	N	13/3/14
71-72	Detail shot of shoe and bottle neck	Var	13/3/14
73	Area of turf stripped	S	18/3/14
74-75	Bottles and ceramics revealed	Var	18/3/14
76	Shot of area stripped N of water course	S	19/3/14
77-79	Bottles from dump S of culvert 2	Var	19/3/14

80	Stripping of peat at culvert 4	SE	21/3/14
81	Culvert 4 strip complete	E	24/3/14
82	Stripped area N of compound	S	25/3/14
83	Haul road between culvert 4 and 5	N	25/3/14
84	Working shot	S	25/3/14
85	Haul road complete	N	25/3/14
86	Ce jars S of culvert 2	-	26/3/14
87	Ce jars showing labels – “Govancroft”	-	26/3/14
88	Working shot SW of compound – forestry track	SW	26/3/14
89	Forestry road stripped	SW	27/3/14
90	End of culvert 3 stripped	S	31/3/14
91	Turf stripped S of culvert 6	S	3/4/14
92	Beginning to strip culvert 5 area	S	8/4/14
93	Strip at culvert 5	NW	11/4/14
94	Bottom end of culvert 5 stripped	NW	14/4/14
95-96	Bottles at culvert 5	Var	14/4/14
97	Far N of road stripped	S	23/4/14
98	Forestry ploughing at site 53	E	28/4/14
99	Glacial erratic removed from site 53	E	28/4/14
100-101	Cartwheel N of culvert 2	E	28/4/14
102	Location of cartwheel excavation	S	28/4/14
103	Working shot of WHW underpass	S	29/4/14
104-105	View of double celled building	Var	29/4/14
106	Progress shot of work at WHW underpass	S	29/4/14
107	Progress shot of work at WHW underpass	N	30/4/14
108	Machines in a row in front of compound	S	14/5/14
109	Shot showing peat depth	N	14/5/14
110	Shot of culvert 6 post ex	Sw	24/6/14

APPENDIX 2: FINDS REGISTER

Finds No.	Context No.	Description
1	U/S	Ceramics
2	U/S	Glass
3	U/S	Leather
4	U/S	Leather
5	U/S	Wooden wheel hub and spokes
6	U/S	Cauldron fragment
7	U/S	Post medieval reduced ware fragment
8	U/S	Leather shoe
9	U/S	Glass bottle with partial cork and bottle missing neck
10	U/S	Two ceramic plate fragments
11	U/S	2 Glass bottles with labels: “George Younger & Son Alloa”; “WG&S Ltd 12 ^s MS 4”
12	U/S	Iron horse strap fitting
13	U/S	Wooden peg with metal cap

APPENDIX 3: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	A82 Crianlarich Bypass
PROJECT CODE:	22529
PARISH:	Crianlarich
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NN 3811 2532
START DATE (this season)	18 th September 2013
END DATE (this season)	24 th June 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of RJ McLeod during the construction of a bypass road around Crianlarich, Stirling. The scope of the works was determined by Stirling Council in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.</p> <p>Three 19th and 20th century dumping grounds were located within the peat deposits on site containing artefacts including ceramic plates and bottles, glass bottles, leather boots and a broken horse drawn cart. Two post medieval finds were also found at the northern end of the development area within the peat deposits.</p> <p>However, no archaeologically significant features or artefacts were revealed.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	RJ McLeod (Contractors) Ltd.
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group Edgefield Road Industrial Estate Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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