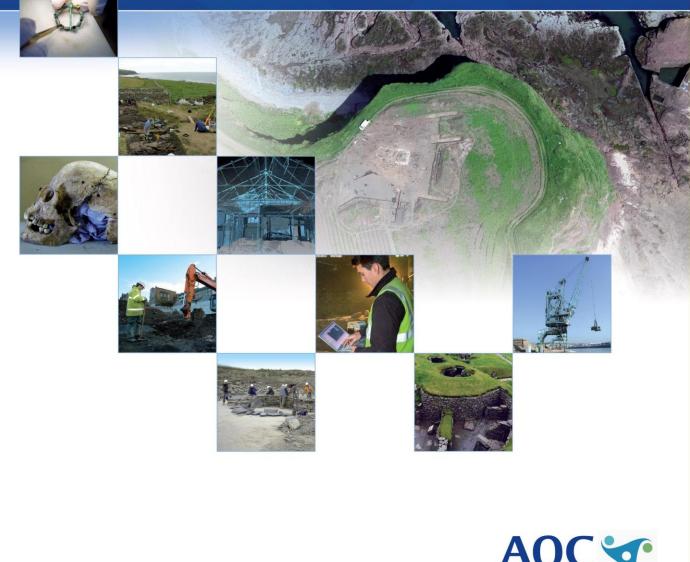
Willow Windfarm, Kintyre Archaeological Walkover Survey

> AOC 23217 OASIS ID: aocarcha1-231313 November 2015





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# Willow Wind Farm, Tayinloan, Kintyre, Argyll

# Archaeological walkover survey

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National Grid Reference (NGR):	NR 13129 49548
AOC Project No:	23217
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### Abstract

This report details the results of an archaeological walkover survey of the proposed Willow Wind Farm, Tayinloan, Kintyre on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the development area and assess the level of archaeological survival, in order to inform avoidance and mitigation strategies in advance of final design of access tracks and other infrastructure layout.

A total of 48 archaeological sites were recorded during the walkover, of which 17 were new additions to the archaeological record. The majority of archaeological features recorded during the walkover survey related to the probable medieval to post-medieval settlement and agricultural use of the area, with the majority of sites relating to the known historical settlements at Lergnahuisan, Sron Albannach and Lagloskine. Prehistoric remains were restricted to possible standing stones in the SW of the survey area. Part One Archaeological Survey of Willow Wind Farm

#### Introduction

1 An archaeological walkover survey was carried out at the proposed Willow Wind Farm site, Tayinloan, Kintyre on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the development area and assess the level of archaeological survival, in order to inform avoidance and mitigation strategies in advance of final design of access tracks and other infrastructure layout.

#### Character of the study area

- 2 The proposed development boundary comprises an area of 545 hectares, mostly located above the 120m OD contour and largely above the 150m contour (Figure 1). The ground is rough grazing, and encompasses areas of deep peat accumulation and poorly drained podzolized soils. The bedrock geology is metamorphic in character, principally a semipelite of the Ben Lui Schist formation, with intrusions of amphibolite and hornblende schist. This manifests in a craggy topography, with numerous rocky outcrops and occasional substantial erratics across the surveyed area. The survey area is dominated by the two peaks of Sron Albannach (234m OD) and Cnoc Airigh Luachraich (249m OD). Current land use is exclusively rough grazing, with extensive areas of commercial conifer plantation to the east. However, several areas within the study area have been cultivated in the historic period, particularly in the west and southern areas around the Sron Albannach and Lagoskine farmsteads, and are depicted as areas of medieval/post-medieval agriculture and peat cutting by the Historic Land Use Assessment (HLA).
- 3 In archaeological terms the region surrounding the study area can be considered fairly typical of southern Argyll: upstanding archaeological features are common and of very varied date on Kintyre, though for the most part visible evidence of past human activity in the areas above 150m OD are restricted to medieval and post-medieval farmsteads and related agricultural remains. It is likely that formation of deep blanket peat accounts for the general invisibility of prehistoric activity, although restriction of settlement to lower-altitude and coastal zones from the mid-first millennium BC onward is a noted pattern in the area.

#### **Survey Methodology and Conditions**

- 4 The survey was carried out by Graeme Cavers and Jamie Humble. The surveyors walked a systematic route across the development area in order to cover those areas likely to be disturbed by construction of the windfarm, with particular attention paid to the proposed turbine locations (based on information supplied to AOC Archaeology by Arcus Consulting). Several target features identified on aerial photography and on historic mapping were provided to the surveyors by Arcus in advance of the fieldwork: these were each inspected on the ground. The survey focussed on the northern half of the development area, i.e. the area to the north and east of the Leth Uillt burn, where construction is proposed.
- 5 Locations of archaeological features found during the survey were plotted using handheld GPS and attributes recorded using field GIS running on ruggedized tablet PCs. Descriptive notes and a photographic record was made of each site.
- 6 Weather conditions during the survey were generally poor, with very wet weather occasionally restricting visibility. Archaeological visibility was similarly limited in parts of the study area, particularly on the western slopes of Sron Albannach and Cnoc Airigh Luachraich where bracken

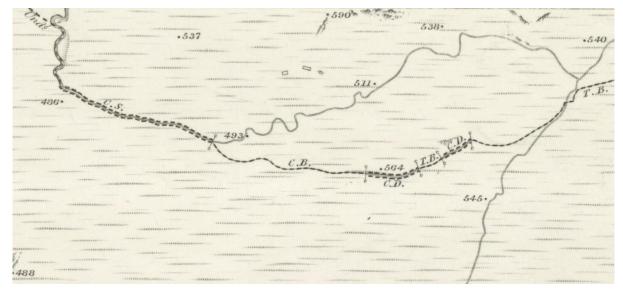
and willow stances were relatively dense. Nonetheless, good coverage of the principal areas marked for construction was possible, and a comprehensive prospective survey was made.

#### Walkover Survey Results

7 In total, 48 sites were recorded during the walkover survey, of which 17 are new additions to the archaeological record for the study area. Other sites recorded were sections or courses of field boundaries and banks noted on Ordnance Survey mapping or by previous assessments, a group of cup and ring-marked rocks at Lagloskine and several possible sites noted on early-edition OS maps during initial desk-based assessment of the area by Arcus. The sites recorded are shown on Figures 2, 3 and 4.

#### Historic settlement and agriculture

- 8 The majority of sites recorded relate to historic settlement and agriculture similar in character to other known sites in the area. In the NW of the study area, several earth and stone banks (namely AOC 7/34, 42, 43, 8 and 9 are likely to be extensions of the outfield area associated with the abandoned farmstead/sheepfold at Lergnahuisan (Clackadoonan on OS 1<sup>st</sup> edn maps). It is probable that a mound of rubble, perhaps a clearance cairn or more likely a ruinous field boundary at AOC 19 is also associated with agriculture in this area.
- 9 Field boundaries forming extensive enclosures on the W and S sides of Sron Albannach are much as depicted on the modern Ordnance Survey map, though small extensions were noted to the W of the farmstead of Sron Abannach. These enclosures show clear evidence of rig and furrow agriculture within the interiors; this is clearly visible on modern aerial imagery. Although depicted on modern OS mapping, the enclosures are absent from the first edition 6-inch to the mile OS map; the Sron Albannach farmstead itself is shown as two abandoned (unroofed) structures (Figure 5).



*Figure 5:* Depiction of the Sron Albanach farmstead on the OS first-edition map, two unroofed structures on the N bank of the Leth Uillt.

10 The Sron Albannach farmstead is relatively well preserved (NMRS: NR74NW 26; AOC sites 21 to 26), comprising two unroofed buildings, a shed or store, a corn drying kiln and several small yard enclosures. The largest building (AOC 21) comprises a single well-preserved gable adjoining much more ruinous wall footings, the upper sections of which have been converted into a sheep enclosure of relatively poor build quality. The kiln (AOC 24) is in good condition, and is located close to a rock

outcrop to the north of the settlement. Modern aerial imagery shows evidence for cultivation in the enclosures to the N and E of the farm buildings.

- 11 It is probable that earth and stone field banks of similar character to those close to the farmstead itself on the S side of the Leth Uillt burn (AOC 3 and 12) are related to this cultivation, but a stone structure on the banks of the burn (AOC 11) may relate to a crossing point or similar structure. No other evidence for crossing points was found during the current survey.
- 12 An unrecorded structure was identified on the E bank of the Leth Uillt burn (AOC 4). The building is very poorly preserved but is roughly rectangular in form, oriented N/S and may be of similar character to other farmstead structures in the area. Although located close to the burn, its elevated position on a high bank overlooking the stream would discount its interpretation as a mill.
- 13 The only other structures identified during the current survey was a group of possible shielings or twinning pens located on the E-facing slopes south of Cnoc Airigh Luachraich (AOC 35 to 37). These structures are small and built in turf and stone, measuring 3 m by 4m externally.

#### Other Sites

- 14 The only other sites considered to have possible archaeological significance were two large stones located SW of Cnoc Airigh Luachraich, the first of which (AOC 16) is an edge-set triangular slab, which may have been erected as a standing stone. The second (AOC 17) is a more irregular boulder, perhaps a glacial erratic, but which commands a similar view over the Sound of Gigha as AOC 16. It is possible that these features are markers or standing stones; it is impossible to assign a date, but they may be prehistoric in origin.
- 15 One other site may be worthy of closer investigation if it is likely to be disturbed by construction. A grass-covered stony mound (AOC 10) is prominent on the slopes overlooking the Leth Uillt burn east of Sron Albannach; its archaeological character could not be confirmed by surface survey alone.
- 16 An arrangement of large irregular boulders at AOC 20 is apparently associated with steel anchor points, presumably for a mast or pylon now removed.

#### Discounted sites

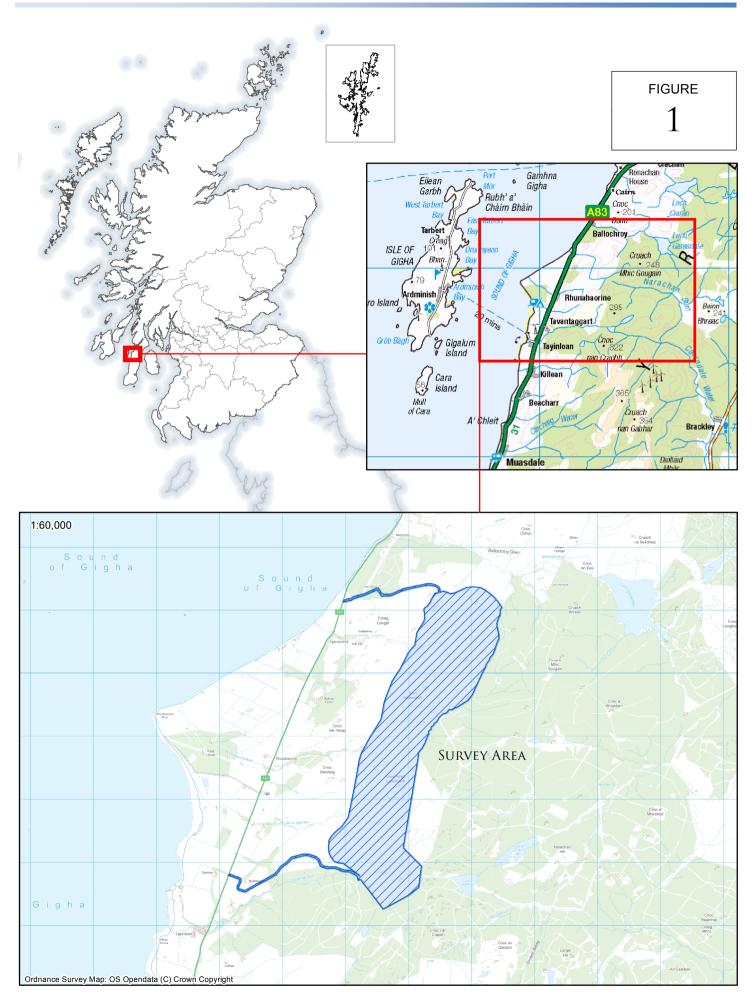
17 Several sites were shortlisted as targets for inspection by the desk-based assessment work carried out by Arcus. Of these, nothing was visible on the ground at AOC 1, AOC 27, AOC 32 and AOC 33, all of which were identified as putative structural remains. At AOC 0, a quarry listed by the WoSAS HER were not visible at the cited grid reference, but may refer to the rocky outcrops c. 50m to the north west.

#### Lagloskine

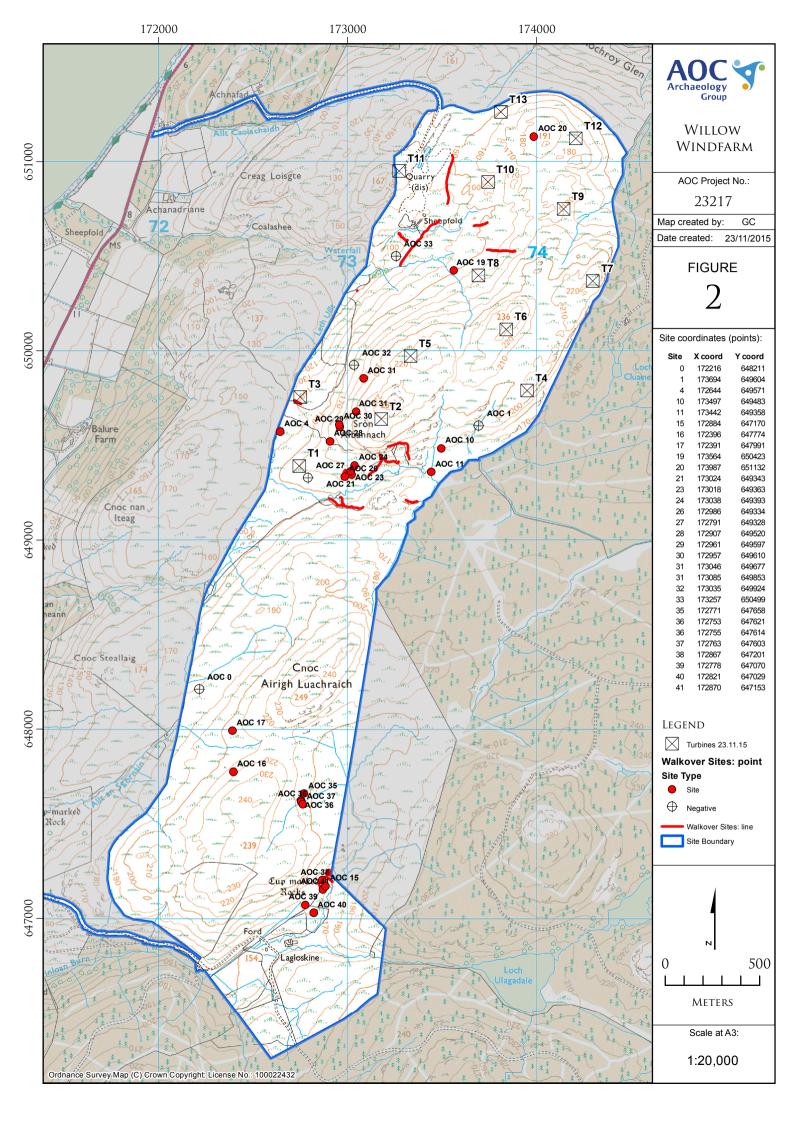
18 The cup and ring marked rocks at Lagloskine were recorded during the present survey. Of the five reported cup-marked stones, four were located; the fifth may be buried by vegetation growth. The cup marks are generally very shallow, with the exception of those on AOC 40 (NMRS NR74NW 15), which are somewhat deeper; it was the opinion of the current surveyors that these features should be considered 'possible' cup-marks.

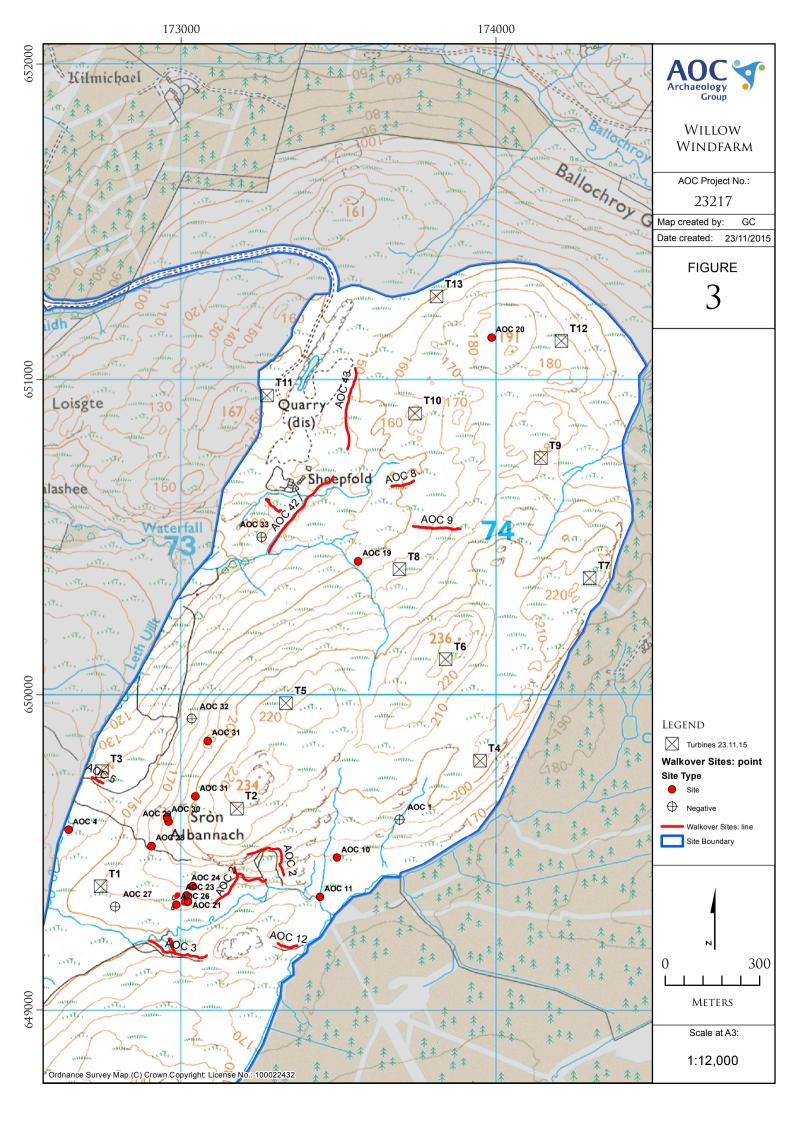
#### Conclusions

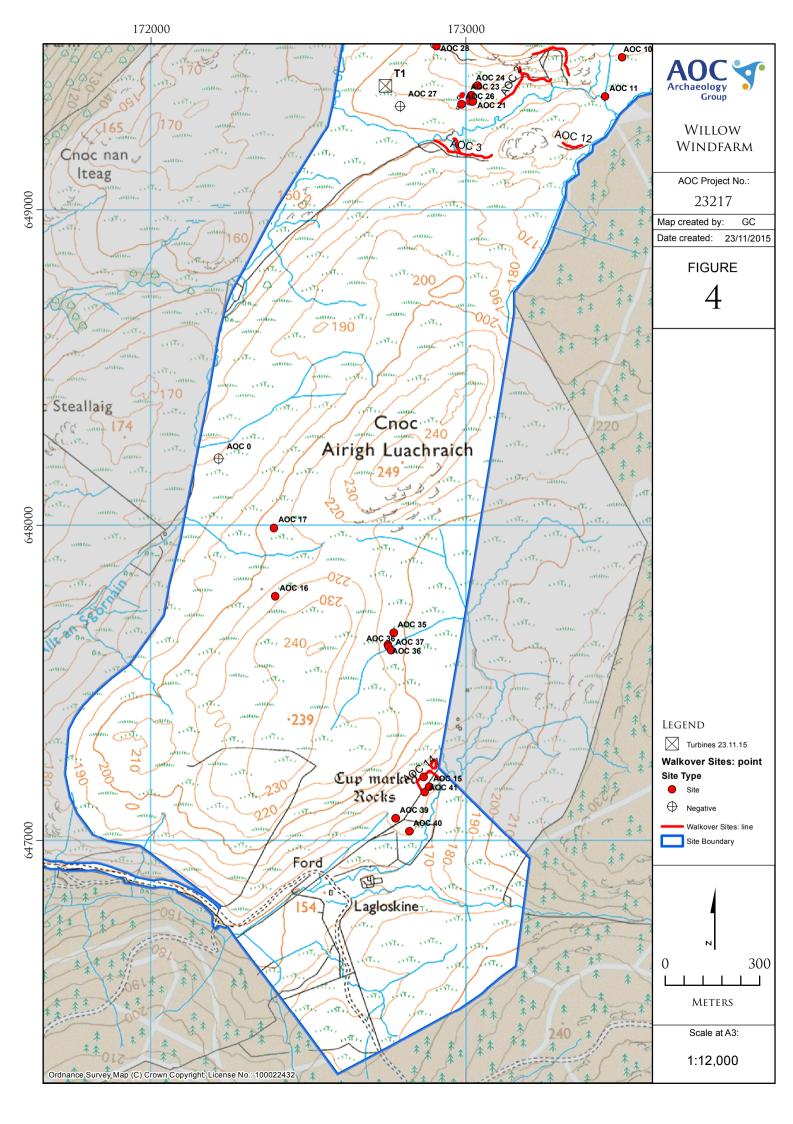
- 19 The results of the present survey have added to the documented extent of historic activity in the Willow wind farm development area. With the exception of the possible standing stone(s) in the SW of the survey area, everything recorded during the survey relates to probable medieval or post-medieval settlement and agriculture, with the majority of field boundaries recorded relating to known historic settlements, particularly those at Lergnahuisan, Sron Albannach and Lagloskine.
- 20 The latest turbine layout provided by Arcus indicates that construction on the development will take place in the northern half of the survey area. Based on the present survey it is likely that impact on heritage assets is likely to be constrained to field boundaries and enclosures; the significant features at AOC 4, AOC 16 and AOC 35 to 37 are unlikely to be at risk. However, a further evaluation should be carried out following the drafting of designs for access tracks and other infrastructure.











# Part Two Appendices

### Appendix 1: Site Gazetteer

Site no	X	Y	Site Type	Site description
0	172216	648211	Negative	Nothing visible at the location. The 'quarry' marked may refer to rock outcrops 50m to NW.
1	173694	649604	Negative	Nothing visible at Arcus AP site 100
2			Dyke/bank	Stone and earth bank, following ridge overlooking burn to the S; probably related to farmstead to W.
2			Dyke/bank	Stone and earth bank, following ridge overlooking burn to the S; probably related to farmstead to W.
2			Dyke/bank	Drystone bank forming field enclosure. Largely obscured by bracken and willow. Abuts rocky outcrop to N.
3			Dyke/bank	
				Drystone and turf bank enclosure
3			Dyke/bank	Drystone and turf bank enclosure
4	172644	649571	Building	Rectangular building located on bend in Leth Uillt stream. Stone walling visible on W side but survives only as turf bank to E and N. 8m in length, 4m wide.
5			Dyke/bank	
6			Enclosure	Edge set stone in field bank
7			Dyke/bank	Stone and turf dyke crossing ridge of land to SW of farmstead to N, to which it is probably related. Oriented NW/SE, measuring 1.5m at base and 0.7m high.
8			Dyke/bank	
				Stone and turf dyke
9			Dyke/bank	
				Earth and stone enclosure bank, 3m wide at base and up to 0.8m high. Better preserved to N, upslope.
10	173497	649483	Mound	Grassy mound, probably natural, though may warrant further investigation if likely to be disturbed.
11	173442	649358	Wall	Short length of wall on S side of stream. Not obviously part of a building but peat and bog is deep to S. Possible stream crossing structure.
12			Dyke/bank	Stone and earth enclosure bank
12			Enclosure	Earth and stone bank forming an irregular enclosure c 20 m across. Bank is 2m wide and stands to 0.5m in height.
14			Enclosure	
				Stone and earth enclosure bank
15	172884	647170	Rig and furrow	Rig and furrow within enclosure14. Aligned NW/SE and c.2m wide.
16	172396	647774	Standing stone	A triangular edge-set stone,1.2m at its base and 1.1m high may be a standing stone. Nearby rock outcrop is the probable source.

Site no	X	Y	Site Type	Site description
17	172391	647991	Boulder	Large edge set boulder immediately opposite possible standing stone AOC16. Possible standing stone. Dimensions 1.2m by 1.2m by 1m.
19	173564	650423	Cairn (possible)	Small mound of stones approx 4m in diameter. Possible clearance or remains of field bank.
20	173987	651132	Mast base?	Square cutting with large stone at south end; probably marks the position of a mast or pylon, now removed.
21	173024	649343	Farmstead	Gable end of farmstead with later double-celled sheepfold rebuilt from the ruins.
22			Enclosure	Enclosure attached to farmstead site 2, running from farmhouse to S to enclose small yard to W.
23	173018	649363	Sructure	Rectangular drystone structure 3x4m associated with farmstead its 2
24	173038	649393	Corn drying kiln	Circular structure built onto rocky outcrop with hollow in centre. Measures 3 x 3 m externally, and 1.2 high.
25			Enclosure	Dish aped nclosure formed of earth and stone banks 1.5 m wide an 0.5 m high
26	172986	649334	Farmstead	Small two-room gable ended farmstead with drystone walls. 3 by 10 m and up to 2 m high.
27	172791	649328	Negative	No evidence for the enclosure suggested on aerial photographs was seen at this location.
28	172907	649520	Field boundary	Earth and stone bank running E/W; as depicted on modern OS mapping. 2 m wide and surviving up to 0.7 m high.
29	172961	649597	Shieling	Sub rectangular drystone structure on W-facing slope. 3 by 4 m and up to 0.5 m high. No clear entrance. Walls composed of stone now overgrown with turf, c 1 m thick.
30	172957	649610	Shieling	Sub rectangular drystone structure 4 by 3 m and up to 0.5 m high on w facing slope. Walls of stone c 1.5 m wide now turf covered with no sign of entrance.
31	173046	649677	Possible stone circle	No trace of a stone circle was found. A roughly circular arrangement of natural stone was identified that might be the feature previously identified.
31	173085	649853	Shieling	Sub circular hollow, terraced into W-facing slope. 3 by 3 m and 0.7 m high. Possible shieling or twinning pen.
32	173035	649924	Negative	No remains found at this location. Natural erosion by the nearby stream may have resulted in a feature identified as an enclosure on aerial photos.
33	173257	650499	Negative	No sign of the possible enclosure recorded during aerial photo inspection was seen in this area.
34			Dyke/bank	Stone and turf dyke crossing ridge of land to SW of farmstead to N, to which it is probably related. Oriented NW/SE, measuring 1.5m at base and 0.7m high.
35	172771	647658	Shieling	Possible shieling or twinning pen. 3 m by 4 m sub- rectangular terraced into N facing slope.

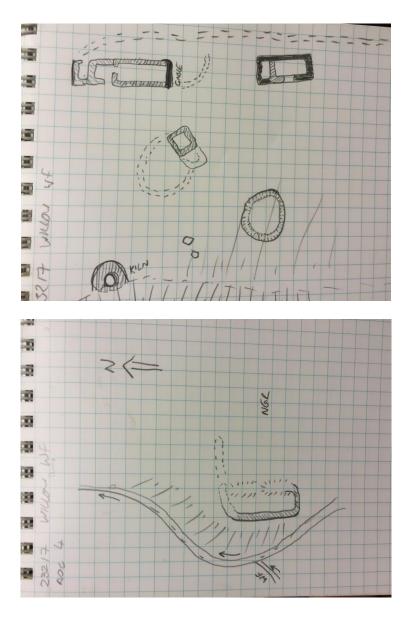
Site no	X	Y	Site Type	Site description
36	172753	647621	Shieling	Possible shieling or twinning pen. Sub-rectangular 3 m by 4
				m.
36	172755	647614	Dyke/bank	Stone and earth boundary dyke, running NE/SW.
37	172763	647603	Shieling	Possible shieling or twinning pen on natural mound. Sub
				rectangular 3 by 4 m
38	172867	647201	Cup marked	Stone 0.7 m by 0.5 m and barely protruding from ground,
			stone	bearing very shallow cup marks, of which one is oval.
39	172778	647070	Cup marked	Boulder 1 m by 0.5 m with very shallow cup marks on upper
			stone	surface.
40	172821	647029	Cup marked	At least two possible cup marks on a bedrock outcrop,
			stone	somewhat deeper than those on other stones nearby.
41	172870	647153	Cup marked	A low boulder, 1.5 m by 1.5 m just protruding from ground.
			stone	Possible, very shallow cup marks on upper surface.
42			Dyke/bank	Stone and earth enclosure dyke, probably related to
				farmstead to NW.
43			Dyke/bank	Boundary bank running NW-SE. Constructed of earth and
				stone, 2 m wide and 0.7 m high and turf covered. Lost in bog
				at SE end; NW end abuts rocky outcrop.

## Appendix 2: Photographic register

Photo no.	Feature	Description	From
180	20	Possible test pit or anemometer base	E
181	20	Possible test pit or anemometer base	S
182	2	Earth and stone boundary bank of enclosure	N
183	2	Earth and stone boundary bank of enclosure	E
184	2	Setting of enclosure	NE
185	2	Setting of enclosure	NE
186	2	Setting of enclosure	NE
187	23	Earth and stone boundary bank of enclosure	E
188	23	Earth and stone boundary bank of enclosure	E
189	21	General view of farmstead	N
190	21	General view of farmstead	N
191	23	Small dry-stone structure attached to enclosure	E
192	23	Small dry-stone structure attached to enclosure	E
193	22	Earth and stone boundary bank of enclosure to S of farmstead	E
194	22	Earth and stone boundary bank of enclosure to S of farmstead	E
195	24	Corn drying kiln showing central bowl and walls	N
196	24	Corn drying kiln showing central bowl and walls	N
197	25	Enclosure to E of farmstead (site 2)	S
198	25	Enclosure to E of farmstead (site 2)	S
199	29-30	Area of improved grassland associated with shielings (sites 29 & 30)	SW
200	29-30	Area of improved grassland associated with shielings (sites 29 & 30)	SW
201	28	Earth and stone boundary bank	W
202	28	Earth and stone boundary bank	W
203	29	Possible shieling hut	SE
204	29	Possible shieling hut	SE
205	29	Possible shieling hut	S
206	29	Possible shieling hut	S
207		General view of landscape	NE
208		General view of landscape	E
209		General view of landscape	SE
210	30	Possible shieling hut	N

211	30	Possible shieling hut	Ν
212	31	Possible stone circle	SE
213	31	Possible stone circle	SE
214	31	Possible stone circle	NE
215	31	Possible stone circle	NE
216	31	Possible shieling or twinning pen	SE
217	31	Possible shieling or twinning pen	SE
218	34	Earth and stone boundary bank to S of Clackadoonam farmstead	NW
219	34	Earth and stone boundary bank to S of Clackadoonam farmstead	NW
220		Clackadoonam farmstead	W
221		Clackadoonam farmstead	W
222		Clackadoonam farmstead	NW
223		Clackadoonam farmstead	NW
224		Clackadoonam farmstead	N
225		Clackadoonam farmstead	W
226		Clackadoonam farmstead	W
227		Clackadoonam farmstead	N
228		Enclosure associated with Clackadoonam farmstead	SW
229	43	Earth and stone boundary bank associated with Clackadoonam	S
		farmstead	-
230	43	Earth and stone boundary bank associated with Clackadoonam	S
		farmstead	
231	35	Possible shieling or twinning pen	NE
232	35	Possible shieling or twinning pen	NE
233	36	Possible shieling or twinning pen	SW
234	36	Possible shieling or twinning pen	SW
235	36	Earth and stone boundary bank running NE-SW	NE
236	36	Earth and stone boundary bank running NE-SW	NE
237	37	Possible shieling or twinning pen	NW
238	37	Possible shieling or twinning pen	NW
239	38	Possible cup marked stone	SW
240	38	Possible cup marked stone	SW
241	40	Deep possible cup marks on bedrock outcrop	SW
242	40	Deep possible cup marks on bedrock outcrop	SW
243	40	Setting of possible cup marks	SW
244	40	Setting of possible cup marks	SW
245	41	Possible cup marked boulder	SW
246	41	Possible cup marked boulder	SW
247	41	Setting of possibly cup marked boulder	NW
248	41	Setting of possibly cup marked boulder	NW
249	19	Stone pile	SE
295-6	13	View from Turbine 12 to NW	SE
293-0		View from Turbine 9 to Turbine 10	5L
297-8		View to Anemometer from T7	
301-2		View from Turbine 4 to N	S
301-2		View from Turbine 4 to N View from Turbine 4 to S	N N
303-4	3	Enclosure wall AOC 3	S
305-6	3	Views to S, W, NW and N from Turbine 1	3
311-12	4	Building AOC 4, general view	N
311-12	4	Enclosure bank AOC 5	W
313-4	5	Natural erratic and view to Gigha	E
		-	
317		View to NW of development area	
318		View to SW of development area	
319-20	6	Edge set stone in field bank AOC 6	
321-38		General views of Lergnahuisan famstead	
339-40	8	Enclosure bank AOC 8	

341-2		General view to S of development area	
343-44	9	View of bank AOC 9	N
345-9		Panorama of general view of W half of development area	
350-51	10	View of mound AOC 10	S
352-3	11	Short wall AOC 11, general view	NW
354-5	12	Enclosure bank AOC 12	S
356-7	13	Enclosure AOC 13	
358-9	14	View of enclosure AOC 14	
360-1		General view towards Lagloskine farmstead	NW
362-67		General shots of Lagloskine	
370-5	16	Views of possible standing stone AOC 16	
376-7	17	Views of possible standing stone AOC 17	



Field sketches of Sron Albannach farmstead (above) and newly identified building at AOC 4 (below). Not to scale.

### Appendix 3: Plates



Site 2, Boundary bank, from NE



Site 3, Enclosure wall, from S



Site 4, General view of building, from N



Site 5, Enclosure bank, from W



Site 6, Edge set stone in enclosure bank



Sites 8, Enclosure bank



Site 9, Enclosure bank, from N



Site 10, View of mound, from S



Site 11, Short wall, from NW



Site 12, Enclosure bank, from S



Site 13, Enclosure bank



Site 14, Enclosure



Site 16, Possible standing stone



Site 17, Possible standing stone



Site 20, Possible test pit or anemometer base, from S



Site 21, General view of farmstead, from N



Site 28, Enclosure bank, from W



Site 29, Possible shieling hut, from S



Site 30, Possible shieling hut, from N



Site 31, Possible stone circle, from NE



Site 31, Possible shieling or twinning pen, from SE



Site 34, Enclosure bank, from NW



Site 35, Possible shieling or twinning pen, from NE



Site 36, Possible shieling or twinning pen, from SW



Site 37, Possible shieling or twinning pen, from NW



Site 38, Possible cup-marked stone, from SW



Site 40, Possible cup-marks on bedrock outcrop, from SW



Site 41, Possible cup-marked boulder, from NW



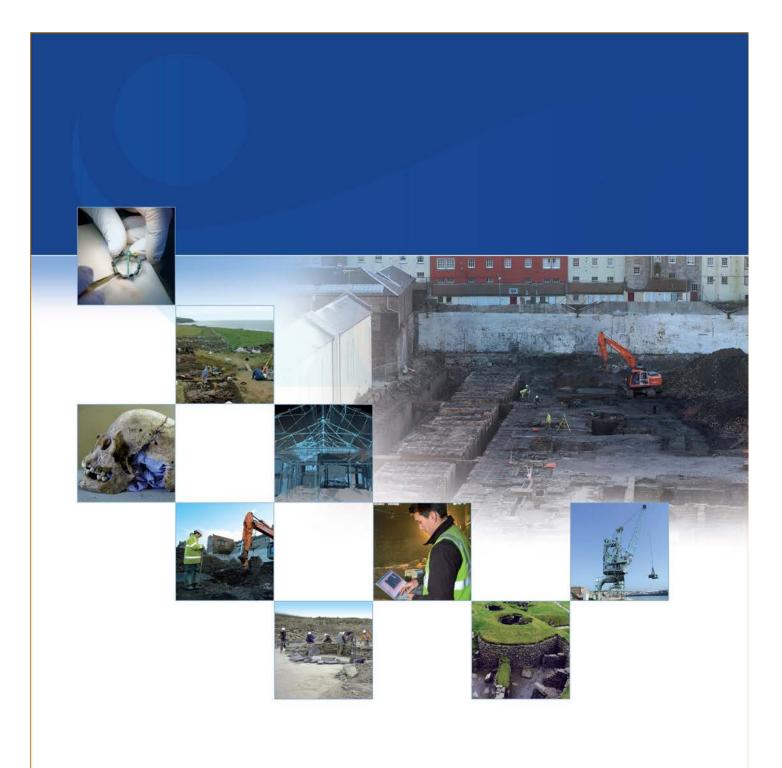
Site 43, Enclosure bank, from S



Clackadoonam Farmstead, from N



Lagloskine farmstead, from NE





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