

**Ardrishaig Quad Bike Track:
Archaeological Survey & Characterisation**

Data Structure Report

by Douglas Gordon

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Rathmell

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Signed

Date ...30th January 2012....

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Checked

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Introduction

1. A programme of archaeological assessment and survey work was required by Scottish Water Shared Services Delivery in respect to a proposed quad bike access track at Ardrishaig which is anticipated to run for roughly 2km (Figure 1). The archaeological assessment and survey was designed to characterise the archaeological resource which may be impacted upon should a scheme be brought forwards. These archaeological works were designed to inform on the nature, form and extent of any archaeological sites which may be affected by the proposed access track in order to assess their significance and facilitate the design of an appropriate mitigation strategy.
2. The study area concerned comprised a 50m corridor along the line of the proposed access track which starts at a forestry road to the north of the Kilduskland Reservoir then runs southwest, parallel with the western shore of the reservoir, before zigzagging north then west up to The Still Loch.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited were appointed by Scottish Water Shared Services Delivery to undertake the archaeological survey and characterisation of the Ardrishaig Quad Bike access track.

Project Works

4. The programme of works agreed with Scottish Water commenced with a desk based assessment. This consulted resources within:
 - ❖ the National Monuments Record of Scotland (known archaeological sites; archived commercial reports);
 - ❖ Sites & Monuments Record (known archaeological sites);
 - ❖ Historic Scotland records (Scheduled Monuments and other designations);
 - ❖ National Library of Scotland (bibliographic records, historic Ordnance Survey and pre-Ordnance Survey mapping); and
5. A walkover survey of the proposed access track was undertaken on the 18th January 2012, to assist in the characterisation of those monuments previously identified by the desk-based assessment and to identify any additional upstanding archaeological sites. The proposed track runs from north of the Kilduskland Reservoir parallel with its western shore on a northeast to southwest alignment before zigzagging north then west to The Still Loch.

Findings

6. The desk-based assessment did not identify the presence of any sites protected for their archaeological or historical merit under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 or buildings protected under the Town and Country Planning Act 1997 within the landholding.

Historic Landuse

7. The earliest viable mapping to show the study area is provided by William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55) (Figure 2a), which show it as open hillside with several lochs to the west The Still Loch is depicted though named Loch nahaien and the nearest buildings near to the shore of Loch Fyne in the east.
8. On the 6 inch First Edition Ordnance Survey in 1873 the study area continues to be depicted as open hillside, with The Still Loch now named Lochan na h-Inghinn and is marked as having a sluice on its eastern side, the Kilduskland Burn is shown running to the northwest at one point widen slightly with two small lochans to either side. By the time of the Second Edition Ordnance Survey in 1898 (Figure 2b) Lochan na h-Inghinn has become The Still Loch, the rest of the study area has not changed.

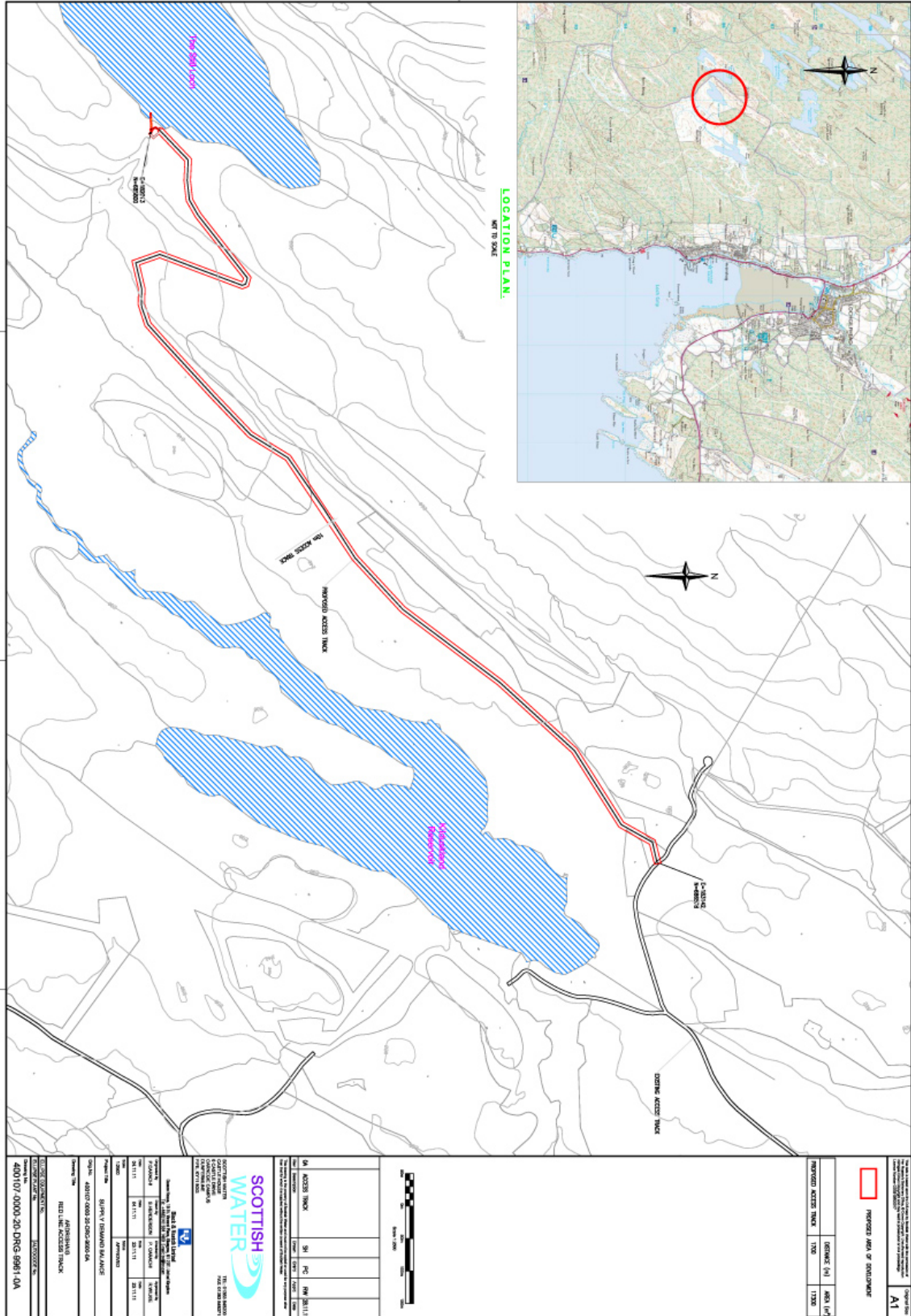


Figure 1: Study Area

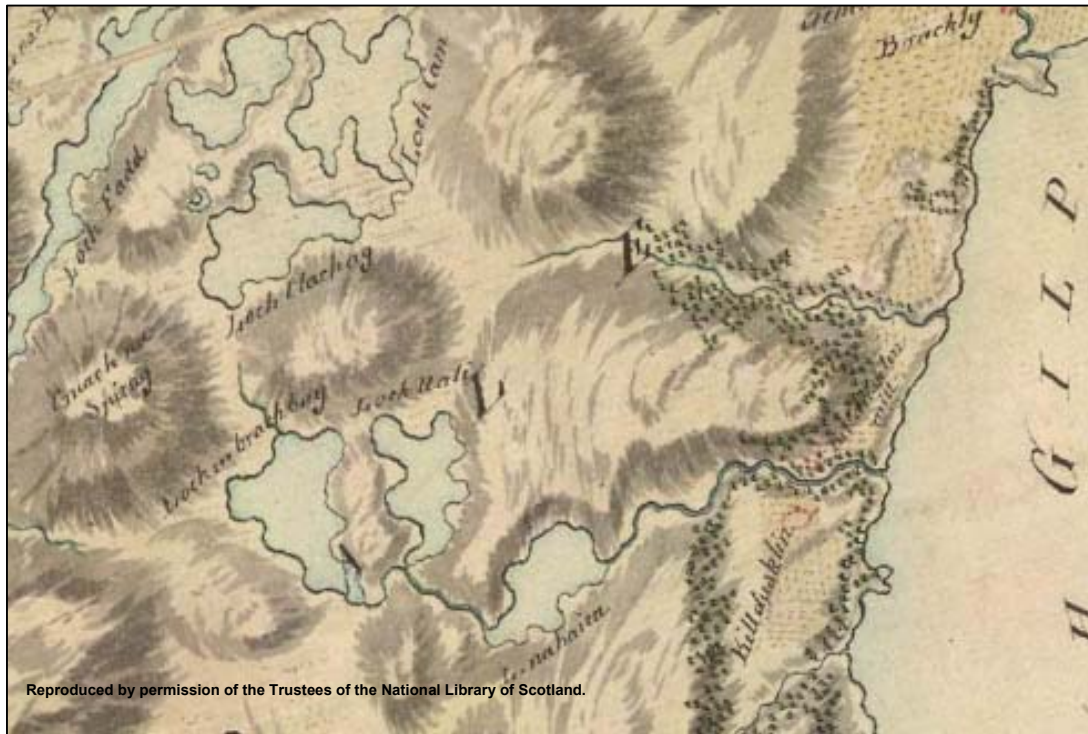


Figure 2a: William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55)

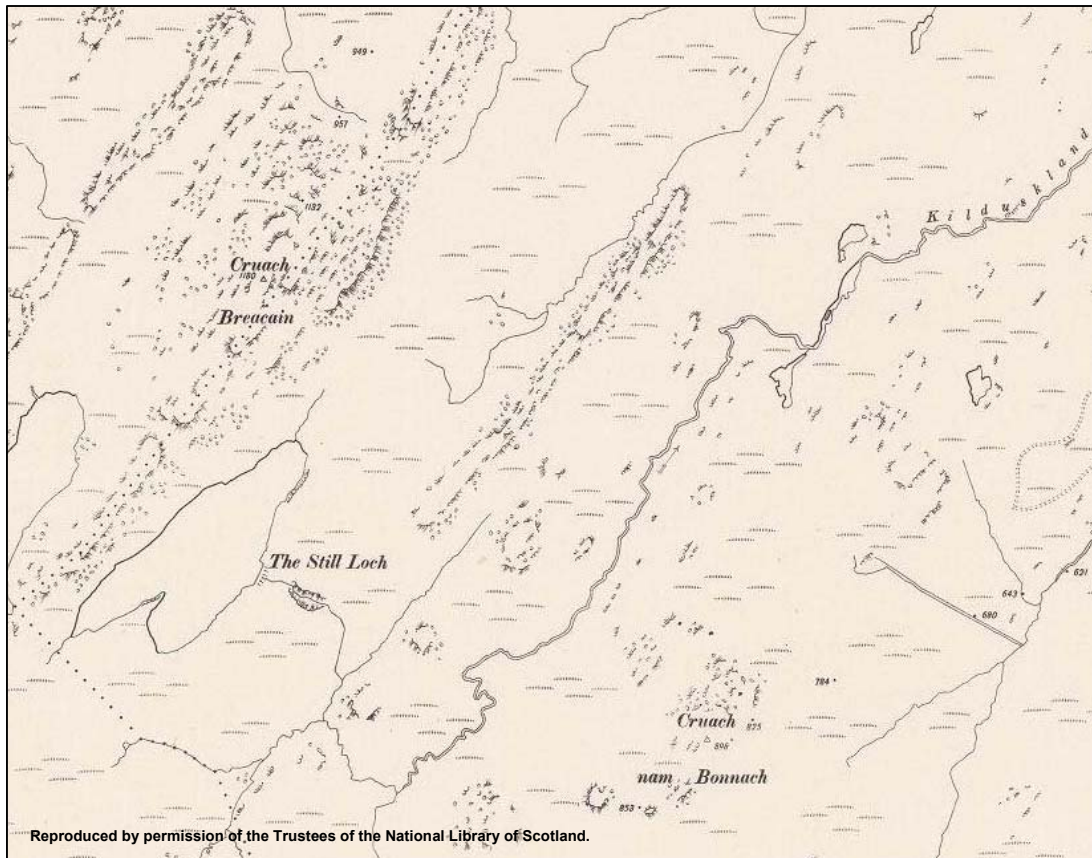


Figure 2b: Second Edition Six Inch Ordnance Survey 1898

9. Kilduskland reservoir doesn't appear until the one Inch Popular Ordnance Survey maps of the 1920s.

Archaeological and Historical Background

10. Examination of the record of historical or archaeological sites for the study area reveal very little. No sites of archaeological or historical interest are present within the study area. The nearest is a stone building (Canmore ID 39415) on the north shore of The Still Loch. After that you have to go beyond 1km to find the next known archaeological sites such as Laganruere Dun (Canmore ID 290104) and the multiphase site of North Knapdale Forest (Canmore ID 281538) which includes a cairn, cup marked rock, dyke, field system, jetty, mill and structures. Both of which are situated approximately 2km to the northwest of the study area.

Site Walkover

11. The survey took place on the 18th January 2012 and inspected the access track in its entirety. The weather was cloudy with occasional showers. The ground consisted of open hillside heather and scrub, though it should be noted the ground was rather wet with impromptu streams occurring in certain areas (Figures 3a-4b). The track starts from the forest road to the North of the Kilduskland Reservoir and runs southwest parallel with the western shore of the reservoir for a distance of approximately 1.25 km before zigzagging north then west to The Still Loch.
12. No remains of archaeological significance were observed during the survey, the study area was quite devoid of any obvious anthropic activity.

Discussion

13. The desk-based assessment revealed that the study area has only been open hillside and has had little to no visible human impact there with the exception of the creation of the Kilduskland Reservoir in the early twentieth century. The walkover survey confirmed that the study area consisted of very damp open hillside with no upstanding archaeology being present.
14. While there is a possibility of buried archaeology being present, the high and damp nature of the ground would seem to make this less than likely. Far more acceptable ground exists lower down near the shore of Loch Fyne. If the hillside was used for pasture there is no evidence of it within the study area of any shielings being present. There was also no evidence of land division in the form of drystone dykes, though there was a modern mesh fence present.

Recommendations

15. Given that no significant archaeological sites were located within the study area from either the Desk Based Assessment or the Walkover Survey, as well as the up hill water logged nature of the ground which suggest that the probability of buried archaeology being present is slim. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommends that no further archaeological work be carried out within this study area.
16. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with Argyll & Bute Council and their advisors, West of Scotland Archaeology Service

Conclusion

17. A programme of archaeological survey work was required by Scottish Water in respect of a proposed access track on land between the Kilduskland Reservoir and The Still Loch. These archaeological works were designed to inform on the nature, form and extent of any archaeology which may be present.
18. No sites of historical or archaeological significance were identified within the study area either by the Desk Based Assessment or the Walkover Survey.



Figure 3a: East Section of Track looking from the East



Figure 3b: Mid section of Track



Figure 4a: Mid section looking uphill



Figure 4b: West section of the track looking toward The Still Loch

References & Sources

Documentary

Scottish Government, 2011, PAN 02/2011: Planning and Archaeology, Edinburgh

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey, 1873, Six Inch *1st Edition Map of Argyllshire, Sheet CLXX*

Ordnance Survey, 1900, Six Inch *2nd Edition Map of Argyllshire, Sheet CLXX.NE*

Ordnance Survey, 1920s, *Popular Edition Map of Argyllshire*

Roys' Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-55, Area around Loch Gilp

Appendix 1: Register

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
1	1	East End of Track	NE	18/01/12
2	2	General shot of East end	E	18/01/12
3	3	East Mid Section	NE	18/01/12
4	4	Mid Section	NE	18/01/12
5	5	West Mid Section	NNE	18/01/12
6	6	West Section Before turn	SW	18/01/12
7	7	Turn up slope	S	18/01/12
8	8	Second Corner looking down slope	N	18/01/12
9	9	Second Corner looking up slope	E	18/01/12
10	10	West End of Track	E	18/01/12
11	11	West End of Track	W	18/01/12
12	12	The Still Loch	SE	18/01/12
13	13	Mid Section	SW	18/01/12
14	14	East Section	SW	18/01/12

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Argyll & Bute
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Ardrishaig Quad Bike Track
PROJECT CODE:	RA11062
PARISH:	South Knapdale
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Douglas Gordon
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Desk Based Assessment and Walkover Survey
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NR 8224 8579 (centred on)
START DATE (this season)	18 th January 2012
END DATE (this season)	18 th January 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological survey work was required by Scottish Water in respect of a proposed access track on land between the Kilduskland Reservoir and The Still Loch. These archaeological works were designed to inform on the nature, form and extent of any archaeology which may be present.</p> <p>No sites of historical or archaeological significance were identified within the study area either by the Desk Based Assessment or the Walkover Survey.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scottish Water
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to RCAHMS Collections.

Contact Details

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