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Field Evaluation & Excavation

Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**Crossaig Substation Service Road,
Cour, Kintyre**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3249

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

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Cour, Kintyre**

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in January 2015 during construction of a permanent service road to the Crossaig substation. The watching brief was located at NR 81858 48724 (Fig. 1), to the west of the B842 at Cour. The work was commissioned by ASH Design + Assessment (ASH) on behalf of Scottish and Southern Energy plc (SSE).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), dated 23 December 2014, covering this programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of Scottish and Southern Energy plc. The WSI was approved in advance by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), archaeological advisors to Argyll and Bute Council.

1.2 Background

This report contains reference numbers, which refer to gazetteer entries in the Cultural Heritage assessment, presented as Appendix 2 to the Environmental Statement (ES) for the Service Road. The service road layout had been designed in order to avoid cultural heritage features where possible, and as such the layout contains mitigation by design. Despite this, one cultural heritage site (Site 30) along the line of the service road was predicted to receive a direct physical affect as a result of the construction of the service road and required archaeological mitigation.

As agreed with WoSAS, the work required was fencing in the vicinity of Site 30, to ensure that a 20m buffer was maintained during construction of the service road; and a watching brief where it crossed the remains of the enclosure (30c).

The site is located on a relatively flat area of moorland at c.65m AOD, approximately 2.8km south-south-west of Crossaig and 340m west of the B842 public road. The enclosure was bounded on the northern edge by an east-west running valley and on the eastern side by a drainage ditch.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives were: to fence off Site 30 to ensure it is avoided by construction activities and preserved in situ; and to conduct a watching brief where the service road crosses the remains of an enclosure (30c).

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods, as detailed in the approved WSI.

2.2 Fencing-off Sites

Cultural heritage Site 30 was demarcated with a 20m buffer zone, under archaeological supervision, to protect it from accidental damage during construction activities prior to any ground work commencing. A working corridor of minimum possible width was set out where the service road crossed through Site 30c.

2.3 Watching Brief

Soil stripping for the permanent service road was carried out using a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. This operation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Numbers in bold refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 2.

The deposits along the length of the service track consisted of between 0.15m and 0.25m of a loose, dark brown/black silty peaty topsoil (**001**) overlying c.0.2m of light brown/grey sandy clay subsoil (**002**). The natural (**000**) consisted of mottled greyish-pink sandy clay.

3.2 Enclosure (30c)

Sites 30a-c together form a farmstead. This was annotated as ‘Gortan’, on Langland’s map (1801) and Thomson’s map (1832). The Ordnance Survey First Edition map (1870) shows a building (30a), named as ‘Gortan cloiche’, with an attached enclosure to the north (Fig. 6). A field boundary is depicted running off the south-east corner of the enclosure (30b), on a west-north-west by east-south-east alignment, and an area of improved land is shown to the west of (30a), which had been enclosed at some point by the excavated bank (30c). This enclosure is not shown on the 2nd (1900) or 1924 Ordnance Survey maps and its date is unknown.

The excavated area for the service road, which ran through the north-west corner of the enclosure (30c), was aligned north-east by south-west and measured 16m by 40m. The service road itself measured 8m wide but an additional 8m wide strip was required for spoil storage to the south-east (Fig. 4). The monitored area terminated at the river crossing point.

The enclosure (Fig. 2) measured 30m east-west by c.31m north-south. A 12m long portion of the western bank of the enclosure was demolished for the service road corridor. This revealed that the bank was 0.65m high, 2m wide at the base, and composed of a mixed grey/pink sandy clay deposit positioned above the subsoil and covered with topsoil (**003**) (Fig. 3). The bank appears have been constructed by mounding up natural deposits on de-turfed ground and placing the turfs on top of it. No archaeological deposits were exposed within the interior of the enclosure during topsoil stripping (Fig. 4).

No dating evidence was revealed during the work though map evidence suggests that the enclosure dates to the first half of the 19th century or earlier. The bank functioned as an enclosure boundary to an improved area of ground that was either arable or pastoral in nature.

3.3 Fencing-off Sites

The upstanding elements of Site 30 in close proximity to construction activities were fenced off with blue rope and blue plastic posts. A working corridor of minimum possible width was set out where the service road crossed through Site 30c (Fig. 5).

4. CONCLUSIONS

The make-up of the western bank of the western enclosure (Site 30c) associated with Gortanclioiche farmstead was revealed during the watching brief. No other archaeological features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified during this work.

CFA recommend that no further work is required in mitigation but understand that the final decision rests with WoSAS on behalf of Argyll & Bute Council.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS).

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) and an online OASIS entry will be submitted.

5. REFERENCES

Hastie, M (2014), *Proposed Crossaig Substation Service Road, Kintyre, Appendix 2: Cultural Heritage*, Appendix 2 of Environmental Statement, Scottish and Southern Energy plc.

Ordnance Survey 1870 Argyllshire, Sheet CCXXXVI. 6 inch to the mile.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

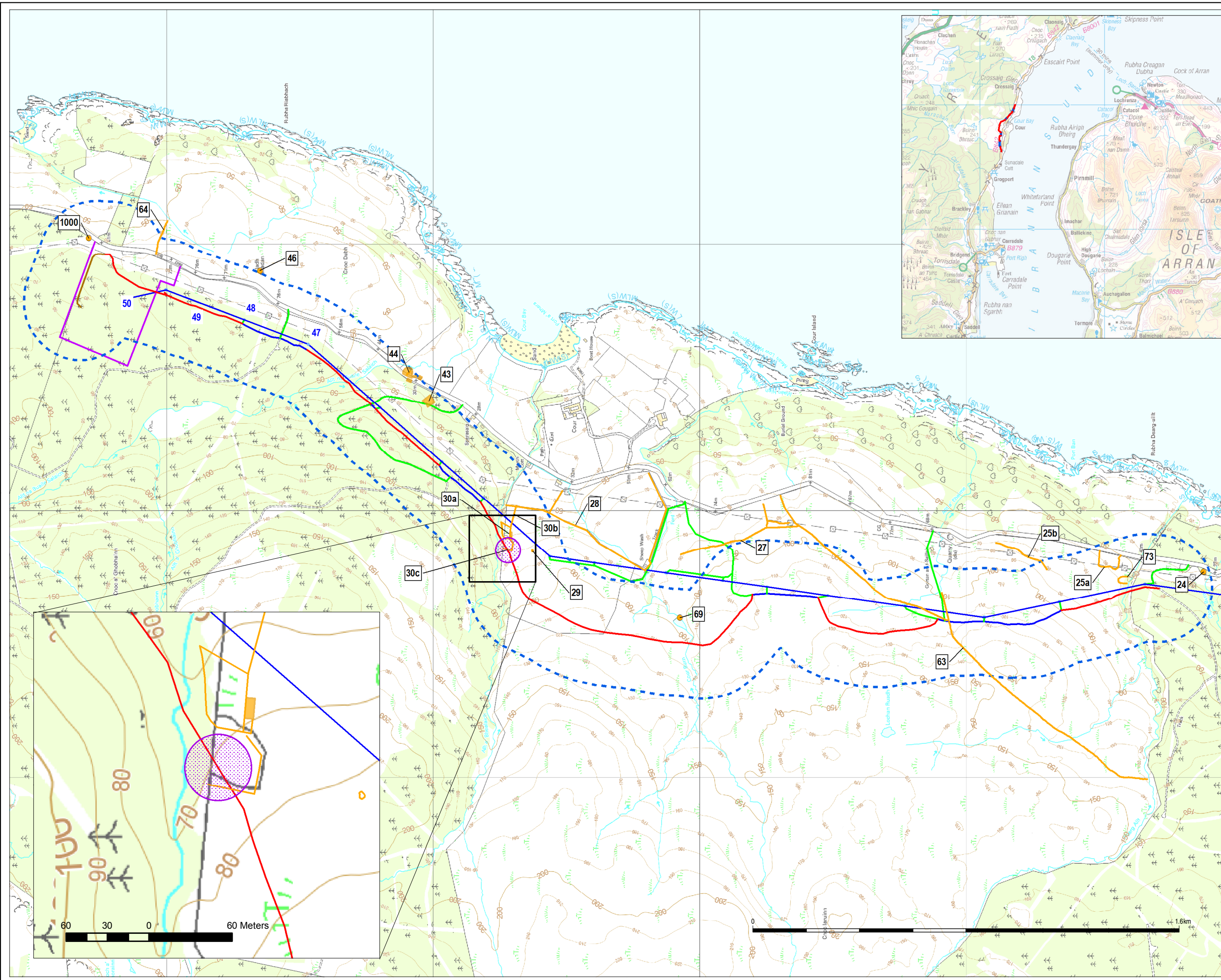
Number	Description	Taken From
1	Western bank of enclosure 30c where service track will cut through	W
2-3	Oblique of western bank of enclosure 30c where service track will cut through	SW
4-5	Enclosure 30c	SW
6	Southern bank of enclosure 30c	WSW
7	Southern bank of enclosure 30c	ENE
8	Eastern bank of enclosure 30c	SE
9	Detail of southern bank of enclosure 30c	S
10	Oblique of southern bank of enclosure 30c	SW
11	Southern and eastern banks of enclosure 30c	W
12	Western bank of enclosure 30c	S
13-15	Service track and spoil storage area stripped of topsoil (001)	NE
16-19	North-facing section through western bank of enclosure 30c	N
20	Service road stripped to natural (000)	SW
21	Service road stripped to natural (000)	NE
22	Enclosure with area fenced off	SW
23	Service road with fencing	SW

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context	Description
000	Mottled grey/pinkish sandy clay natural
001	Dark brown/black peaty topsoil
002	Pinkish grey sandy clay subsoil
003	Mixed grey/pink sandy clay turf bank material

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation In Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Argyll & Bute
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Crossaig Substation Service Road, Cour, Kintyre
PROJECT CODE:	TACC
PARISH:	Saddell and Skipness
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	G Savory, T Barton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Farmstead, enclosure
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NR 81858 48724
START DATE (this season)	January 2015
END DATE (this season)	January 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in January 2015 during construction of a permanent service road to the Crossaig substation, Kintyre. Stripping for the road was monitored as it passed through an enclosure associated with Gortanclouche farmstead which is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1870. No archaeological features were identified within the enclosure though the make-up of the western bank of the enclosure was revealed.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	ASH Design + Assessment per Scottish and Southern Energy plc
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	gsavory@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS, Reports lodged with SMR and NMRS.



- Key:**
- Study Corridor 200m
 - New Service Road
 - Existing Track to be Upgraded
 - OHL Line
 - New Tower Locations
 - Existing Access Track
 - Substation Boundary Fence
 - Permanent Substation Access
 - Cultural Heritage Site (point)
 - Cultural Heritage Site (line)
 - Cultural Heritage Site (area)
 - Watching Brief Area

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Fig. No: **1** Report No: **-**

Title:
Location of Watching Brief

Project:
Crossaig Substation Service Road, Kintyre, Archaeological Watching Brief

Client:
-

Scale at A3:
1:13,000

Drawn by: **TB** Checked: **MH** Date: **16/01/2015**

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Fig. 2 - Enclosure 30c prior to road stripping



Fig. 3 - North-facing section through western bank of enclosure 30c



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Title:
Site Photos

Fig. 2 - 3	Report: 3249	Drawn: TB	CKD: MJ	Date: 20/01/15
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Fig. 4 - Service road stripped to natural (000) and spoil storage area to the south-east



Fig. 5 - Working corridor at Site 30c fenced off



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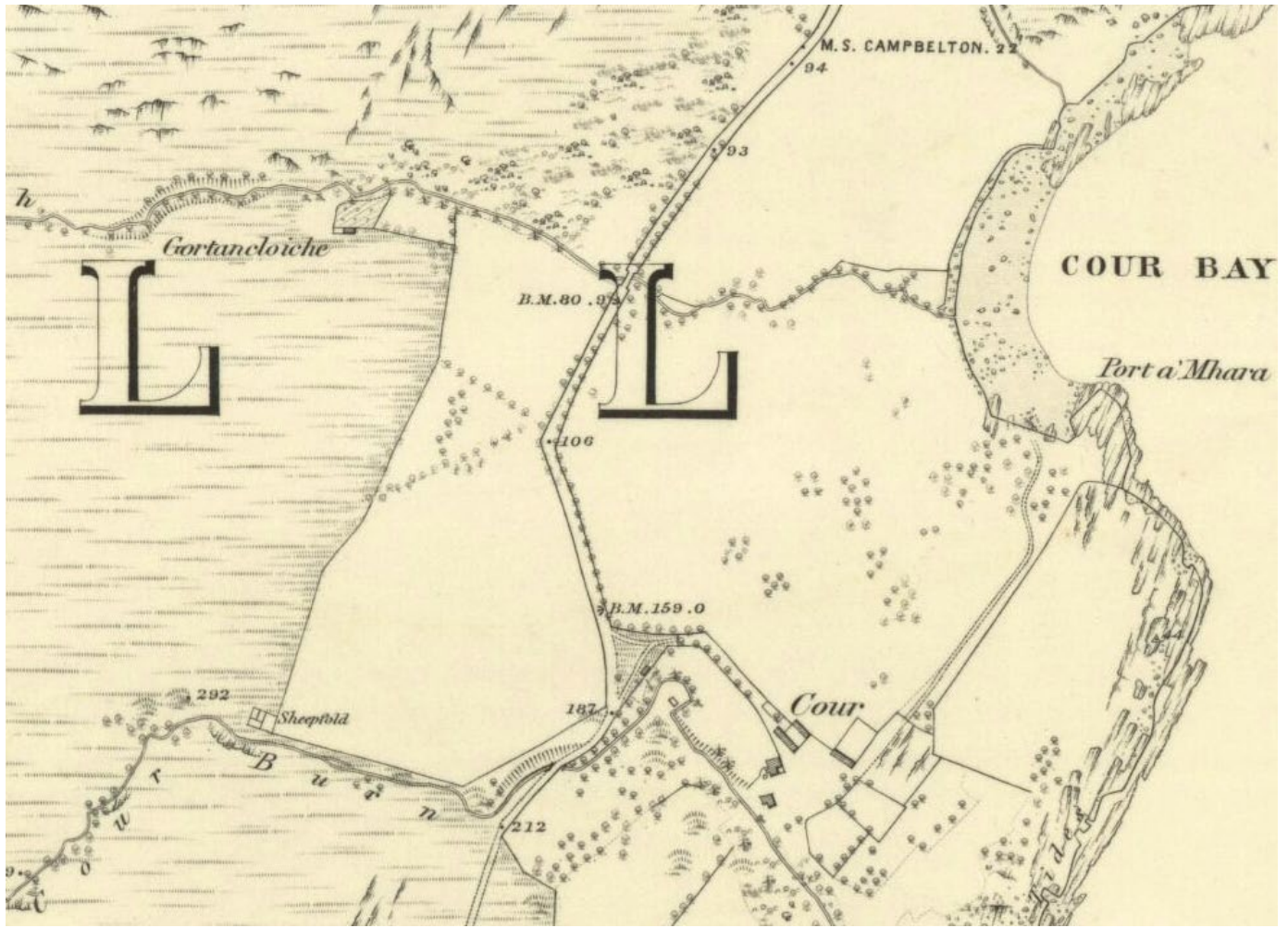


Fig. 6 - Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1870)



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Fig. 5	Report: 3249	Drawn: TB	CKD: MJ	Date: 20/01/15
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