

# Achany Glen, Achinduich, Lairg, Sutherland



The north end of the site from the A836

## **A Report on an Archaeological Walk-Over Survey Prepared for Mark Seed of Edwin Thompson**

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## **1.0 Executive Summary**

An archaeological desk-based study and subsequent walk-over survey of an area of Achany Glen, near Achinduich, Lairg, in Sutherland, was undertaken in July 2011. The survey was required by Mark Seed to establish the extent of archaeological remains, which would, in turn, determine the viability of felling and planting trees.

The survey area comprises an area of land approximately 145 hectares (359 acres) of gently to steeply sloping hill ground, on the east side of the River Shin, up to the A836 public road, to the west of Achinduich. It is situated approximately 5km to the south of the Central Sutherland village of Lairg, and is accessed directly from the A836 (see Appendix I).

The survey resulted in the recording of 48 archaeological features, only three of which had previously been recorded on the Highland Council Archaeology Unit's Historic Environment Record (HER).

## **2.0 Introduction**

### **2.1 Background**

Achinduich Estate proposes to thin, fell and plant trees on the eastern slopes of the River Shin. Prior to this, their consultant, Mark Seed of Edwin Thompson, commissioned a desk-based assessment and subsequent walk-over survey to record and survey any archaeological remains present in the area and assess the impact which the proposal may have on the archaeology.

### **2.2 Objectives**

The objectives of this survey were to:

- Identify the cultural heritage baseline within the proposal area.
- Consider the potential impacts of the proposed development on the cultural heritage resource.
- Propose measures (where appropriate) to mitigate any predicted adverse impacts.

### **2.3 Methodology**

A desk-based study was made of the Highland Council's HER, in conjunction with many specific and relevant references held locally in Sutherland, in order to identify any known and/or visible archaeology. Google Earth was also consulted prior to the walkover survey to get an overview of any likely archaeology to be encountered.

The subsequent walkover survey used the most recent Ordnance Survey maps and a hand-held Garmin GPS unit was used for GPS co-ordinates, and a pocket compass clinometer was used for 360<sup>0</sup> whole circle bearings and slope gradients.

### **2.4 Limitations**

The majority of the site was found to have varying densities of tree cover. Much of this area, comprising the steeper slopes of the valley side was also covered in bracken, very densely and up to 2m tall in places. Some of these areas were completely impenetrable and the likelihood of discovering archaeology was slim.

The higher, gentle slopes of the site in the north were open and vegetated only by low heather and grass, so limitations to finding archaeology on the ground were few. It has to be borne in mind, however, that archaeology may still lie concealed beneath the surface.

GPS co-ordinates are found to differ from Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates generally by around 10m (can be up to 18m) to the SSW. This may pose local problems when relating recorded features to large-scale OS maps. GPS accuracy is wholly determined by the ability to access available satellites by line of sight. This ability can be reduced by proximity to hillsides and valley-sides and also by tree cover.

## **2.5 Setting**

The area identified for this proposal covers approximately 145 hectares of the east valley side of the River Shin in Achany Glen, to the east of Achinduich, south of Lairg. The site stretches 3.6km north-south and 0.8km west-east at its broadest point. The majority of the site is covered with ancient woodland and bracken, although there is open moorland and grassland on the north of the site. The valley slopes gently from its eastern boundary of the A836 public road, gradually steepening down to the River Shin, with a height difference of some 70m from the road to the river. The North Highland railway line (Inverness to Wick/Thurso) runs north-south through the site.

The site is not now habited, but map evidence suggests that there has been a long-lived human habitation history in the wider area, from the Bronze/Iron Age to the Post-Clearance era, after which the area would have been used for sheep-farming, since when cattle have shared the ground.

## 3.0 Results

### 3.1 Desk-Based Assessment

#### *3.1.1 Historic Environment Record*

Initial consultation of the Highland Council Archaeology Unit's Historic Environment Record (HER) showed that there are five recorded sites within the survey area, although there are many recorded hut circles associated with the Bronze/Iron Age and Medieval township dwellings and associated structures in the wider area.

Four of these five sites are also recorded on the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland's (RCAHMS) National Monument Record of Scotland (NMRS). One of the recorded sites is a Scheduled Ancient Monument is Auchinduich Hut Circle (MHG 9296).

The presence of these hut circles, together with the other recorded ancient monuments dating back as far as the Neolithic in the surrounding district, show that the area has a long lived and rich history. Early colonisers would have grown subsistence crops on the flatter valley sides. They would have hunted on the hillsides and fished in the rivers and lochs and it clearly shows that several communities would have been able to sustain an existence here.

#### *3.1.2 Maps*

The current Ordnance Survey map depicts a few dykes and fences, three hut circles and a ruined building within the survey area itself.

Investigation into maps of earlier origins shows *Achindowich* depicted on Robert Gordon's 1652 map 'Sutherland, Strath Okel & Strath Charron' and as *Achindowick* on Blaeu's map of 1654. William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland, of 1747-55 reveals a little more, with the small settlement of *Achindowick* being depicted in an area of cultivated ground on the gentler slopes of the valley, with the steeper slopes of the Shin valley being completely covered in natural trees.

The post-clearance 'Sketch of the county of Sutherland showing the boundaries & divisions of the earldom of Sutherland' (1815) shows *Achinduich* as part of the Lairg Sheep Farm, under the tenancy of Marshall and Atkinson since 1809.

Forbes (1820) and Thomson (1823) also depict a settlement at *Achinduich* on their maps (*Achainduich* on Thomson) and another named settlement of *Aultfearn* in the north of the survey area. These are both shown to the west of the Invershin to Lairg road (now the A836). Burnett & Scott's map of 1853 also shows *Achinduich* (on the east side of the road) and a settlement (but un-named) at *Aultfearn*. This map also depicts some of the post-clearance improvement field boundaries within the site area, which still survive today.

The Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 scale 1st Edition map of 1874 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of 1905, both show a single unroofed and un-named building at *Aultfearn* and a small settlement clustered either side of what is now the A836 at *Achinduich*.

The current OS maps show the two hut circles in the south of the survey area.

### 3.1.3 Documentary Evidence

The place name Achinduich is Gaelic for 'Dubhtach's Field', Dubhtach being a Saint of the early Irish church.

In the archaeological report of 1998, undertaken for the A836 improvement, Bangor-Jones describes the historical context of the area. The area's settlement pattern is of post-medieval origin and the survey area was part of the lands of Invershin, which formed an isolated part of the Skelbo Estate. Population began to expand around 1740, and it is probable that original summer shieling sites became more permanently inhabited.

Bangor Jones has identified that there were 10 or 11 households at Achiduich in the late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, with some of the tacksmen (sub-landlords) involved in the cattle trade. Some of the grazings used for the cattle were enclosed by turf dykes by around 1680. By 1760, half of Achinduich was held by a single tacksmen who rented to small tenants and the other half was held by small tenants paying their rents directly to the estate.

Roy's map depicts areas of woodland in the lower slopes of Achany Glen and these would have been managed for the benefit of the estate. There is documentary evidence that a woodkeeper were employed to prevent unauthorised exploitation of this major resource. Bangor-Jones has revealed a reference, dating to 1737, to the carrying of three or four oak trees with '*two horses at every tree from the wood of Achinduich*'. In 1809, the lands, since 1787 in the ownership of the Sutherland Estate, established a new wood enclosure and appointed a new woodkeeper at Achinduich.

In 1801, the area was incorporated as a separate block into the Lairg Sheep farm and in 1807 it became part of the massive Great Sheep tenement managed by Marshall and Atkinson. This was when the tenants were removed, although one tenant remained at least until 1812.

There are various references to people in the area drawn from other sources, some of which are detailed below.

In the Sutherland Estate Papers, there are details of some of the tenants: 1716 Achinduich tenants: Gilbert Mackenzie, William MacKay, John Barclay, Donald McCurchie, Hugh Murray, John Murray, John McDonald, William Mckenzie, Murdoch Beg, Neil McKay, George MacWilliam.

June 1746 - heads of families: Alexander Murray, Donald Ros, John Matthewson, Niel Mathhewson, Alexander Gun, William Mckenzie and Murdoch McKay.

1797 - Mrs Margaret Douglas or Munro, tackswoman and tenants: John MacKay, John Munro, Angus MacKay, John Campbell, Robert Murray '*all joint Tackholders and tenants of the Town & lands of Achinduich & its pertinents*'. '*George MacKay Subtenant or possessor of the lands, grasing or shealing of Meikle Ramiscaig, a part of the said Pursuer's Tack lands of Achinduich*'.

In Adam (1972), there are several references which give an interesting insight into the area. Duncan Munro of Culcairn and John Ross, in a letter to Earl Gower, dated 10<sup>th</sup> September, 1802 (Vol 1, p15) state '*Tho Achinduich is not in the parish of Lairg it would be an acquisition to the Farm (Lairg Sheep Farm) and we therefore propose to add it*'.

Adam also records (Vol 2, p220) that in 1808, there were 7 tenants at Achinduich and (Vol 2, p33) he transcribes Cosmo Falconer's (Factor, Rhives), report '*Observations on the present state of the county*' of 15<sup>th</sup> January, 1808: '*Reached Achinduich, a farm of Marshalls on which he is raising turnip (the only ones ever saw since leaving Helmsdale except a few at Shinness). A neat*

*farm steading finished and cottage building. Were told by the grievie that his master intended to root out all the stones and make the arable but detached spots into close fields if the new plantation had not encroached so much. From Achinduich to Invershin the grazing and hill grounds get much worse and seem to be in the hands of small tenants but whither belonging to this family or subsets of Marshalls we could not learn.'*

In Vol 2 (p179), Adam has detailed Patrick Sellar's (Factor, Culmaily) 'Note concerning Sutherland' of 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1816. In it Sellar shows his pleasure at a state of improvement: '*Creech, so far as Lord and Lady Stafford's property (Achinduich and Invershin) is concerned, was a complete nest of smugglers. It is now put under sheep*'.

The Sutherland Estate Papers also detail that a Private John MacDonald, 22, 5' 9", Achindiach, enrolled in Captain William Taylor's Company in 1810.

The Dornoch Jail records for April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1819, have an entry for '*George Oliver, Shepherd in Achinduich. Incarcerated about 4pm by warrant of the Sheriff Substitute on Petition of Isobel Ross in Tomich, who has an action in dependance against him for aliment of his Bastard Child & she deponed that he was in Meditatione fugo until he find Caution de judicio Siste for 6 months under the penalty of £30 Sterling.*' Two days later his release is documented '*George Oliver, in Achinduich, was (at 8pm) Liberated from jail on his finding Caution de judicio Siste in terms of the Sheriff Substitute's warrant.*'

The Sutherland Railway, an extension north from Ardgay to Golspie, which was driven along the east side of Achany Glen, opened in April 1868.



### *3.1.4 Archaeological Timescales (from Am Baile)*

#### **Stone Age – 10,000 to 4,400 Years Ago**

About 10,000 years ago, Scotland lay under a great sheet of ice. As the climate slowly warmed and the ice retreated, people were already living in the area, hunting, fishing and where possible gathering wild plants and fruits. The retreating glaciers left behind boulders and mud, which would soon be colonised by grasses and shrubs. Trees followed - hazel and birch at first, followed by oak and pine. A rich variety of animals were attracted and the seas and lochs had fish in plenty.

The retreat of the Ice marks the end of the Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age), whose primitive stone tools have been found in southern England. Evidence of Palaeolithic people and the Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) is thought to have been lost through ice action in Scotland. This is characterised by shell middens - heaps of debris containing many seashells as well as stone and bone tools. Middens have been found in Skye, Argyll, and Wester Ross dating to around 8,000 years ago. A working site, where stone tools were being made, has now been found at Oliclett in Caithness.

From about 6,000 years ago people began to settle and farm the land. This change brings in the Neolithic (New Stone Age), and the creation of the first monuments. Great burial cairns were built overlooking the cultivated land in which the bones of tribal ancestors were collected together. Good examples of chambered cairns can be seen at Camster, Cnoc Freicadain, Yarrows (Caithness), Achcoillenaborgie (Strathnaver), Clava (Inverness), Vatten, Kensaleyre, Rudh' an Dunain and Kilmorie (Skye) and other places. Some of these are round and others are long, but they all have chambers inside to hold the ancestors. At the end of the Neolithic, about 4,400 years ago, great enclosures and stone circles were being built. The magnificent examples at Callanish in Lewis or the Ring of Brodgar in Orkney are well known. In Highland we have the sophisticated Clava Cairns near Inverness where burial cairns are surrounded by stone circles and attached to them by stone rays.

#### **Bronze Age – 4,400 to 2,600 Years Ago**

From about 4,400 years ago travelling metalworkers introduced ornaments and tools made of copper and then bronze (copper and tin mixture), bringing in the Bronze Age. A bronze-worker's open air workshop has been found on the Island of Eigg and a hoard of buried axe-heads has been found in Lochaber. It is an interesting fact that the nearest sources of copper and tin are many hundreds of miles away from the Highlands. The great monuments of the late Neolithic continue into the middle Bronze Age, around 3,500 years ago, after which there was a change to individual burials of important people only. These are often set in stone boxes or 'cists' and have pottery or other finds buried with them. Sometimes they are found inserted into earlier burial cairns.

Some buried evidence of large communal houses dating to the Neolithic has been found, but from the middle Bronze Age we start to get visible evidence in the landscape of round houses (the overgrown stone footings are known as 'hut circles'). These are often surrounded by groups of stone clearance heaps where land has been used for growing crops. Woodland that had grown up since the end of the Ice Age was now being felled in earnest. The climate had improved to a point that it was warmer than it is today. Many hut circles are in areas that are now too high and cold for cultivation.

#### **Iron Age – 2,600 to 1,500 Years Ago**

The weather seems to have worsened towards the end of the Bronze Age (about 2,700 years ago), and upland houses and fields became abandoned to the encroaching peat. At the same time we find the first clear evidence of conflict - hillforts with great ramparts to protect people and their animals from attack. Some hillfort ramparts in Highland, especially around the Moray Firth, have been set on fire and burned so fiercely that the stones have fused together. This is

known as vitrification and it can be seen at Craig Phadraig, Inverness, or Knockfarrel, Dingwall. It is not known why or how this was done. Recent experiments have failed to establish the answer.

At the same time, iron working was being introduced. This requires much higher temperatures to work than bronze but the result is much harder and more durable. Hut circles continue through the Iron Age, and increasingly we find evidence of field boundary walls as well as groups of clearance heaps.

The Roman Empire never conquered the Highlands but nevertheless there was a sophisticated local culture here which traded with the Romans. Caithness is the heartland of the broch, a uniquely Scottish type of round stone tower with hollow walls dating from about 200 BC to 200 AD. Some of these have been excavated and have produced traded Roman finds. The finest brochs to visit in Highland are in Glenelg. At Rubh an Dunain on Skye, there is a broch-like stone wall defending a rocky headland, and a variety of other types of Iron Age fort, many of them called duns, are found. Often these make use of natural defensive features such as sea-cliffs.

Duns and brochs were not just for defence. They also indicated the status of the chief who lived there. Crannogs for example would have had limited defensive potential in an age of boat transport as they were houses built on artificial islands, in lochs. Many of these local centres of power seem to have continued in use well into the medieval period - there are references to crannogs still being occupied in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

Another curious type of site associated with the Iron Age is the souterrain. This is a curved underground tunnel built of stone slabs. There are good examples in Skye, Sutherland, and at Easter Raitts in Badenoch. We do not know what they were built for originally but later they seem to have been used for storage and for hiding from enemies. The entrances to souterrains often seem to lead from the inside of houses.

From the 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD the people of northern Scotland were being referred to by Roman writers as 'Picti' - painted people. These people produced characteristic symbols which are found carved on stone and also on finds of jewellery from the period. Pictish stones are found all over the Highlands, but there is a concentration in the east. Some of the great Pictish carved cross-slabs such as those in Easter Ross are magnificent works of art dating to the 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD, with influences from Northumbria, Ireland, and Scandinavia. These combine Pictish and Christian symbolism.

### **The Medieval Highlands - 1,500 to 500 Years Ago**

Christianity was introduced into the area from Ireland in the latter half of the 6<sup>th</sup> Century AD. There are many sites associated with early Christian activity, many of them including the place name elements Cille or Kil and Annat. St Maelrubha founded a monastery at Applecross in 673 AD. His grave is supposed to be marked by the Red Priest's stone in Strathnaver, although this is disputed. The early Tarbat monastery at Portmahomack in Easter Ross has been excavated over the last few years by York University, who have found evidence of a range of craft activities including making parchment for manuscripts.

Viking raids began at the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> Century, and it seems likely that Tarbat was burned down. The Vikings arrived from Norway by way of Shetland and Orkney, and they soon began to settle many coastal areas. Caithness, the coastal areas of Sutherland and Wester Ross, and the Hebrides all came under Norse control as can be seen from many surviving place names. The Hebrides transferred from the Kingdom of Norway to the Kingdom of Scotland after the battle of Largs in 1266, but Orkney and Shetland did not become part of Scotland for another 200 years. Even today the Caithness dialect shows Scandinavian influences. Dingwall was the Thing-vollr, the local Norse parliament, as survives today in the Isle of Man's Tynwald.

The Highlands lay on the great trading seaway from Scandinavia to Ireland, France and Spain, and at Smoo Cave (Sutherland) boat fittings have been found where ships have put in to refit before or after rounding Cape Wrath. Today however there are few Norse archaeological sites that can be visited in Highland. In Caithness there are the remains of extensive settlements hidden beneath sand dunes, and Old St Peter's Church in Thurso has a runic stone built into its wall. Near Thurso can be seen the remains of the Castle of the Norse Bishops at Scrabster and near Wick is the square stone tower of the Castle of Auld Wick. Many local chiefs seem to have continued to occupy Iron Age forts.

The later middle ages, from about 1200 to about 1550 AD, were dominated by the attempts of the kings of Scotland to establish their power over the highlands, including the Earldom of Orkney in Caithness and Sutherland, and the Lordship of the Isles in the west. The Lords of the Isles were the successors to the largely independent kingdom of Man and the Isles. In an attempt to divide and rule, chief was set against chief. The insecurity of the times encouraged the growth of the clan system. There are still many castles surviving from this period built by clan chiefs: on Skye alone there are Duntulm, Dunvegan, Brochel, Knock, Dun Sgathaich and Castle Maol. Anglo-Norman lords such as the De Morays in Sutherland and the St Clairs (Sinclairs) in Caithness were granted estates in the area, and they too established castles. Alexander Stewart, the 'Wolf of Badenoch' had his at Ruthven, where fragments of wall can still be seen beneath the 18<sup>th</sup> Century barracks. Towns such as Inverness were also established as centres of trade and royal power. These burghs were however confined to the east, around the Moray Firth - there do not seem to have been any foundations in the west.

King James IV repeatedly visited the shrine of St Duthac at Tain in the early 16th century, combining pilgrimage with political expediency. Medieval kings could make use of church organisation to help them establish control in their territories. The bishopric of Ross was established by the 12<sup>th</sup> Century with its centre initially in Rosemarkie, then later at Fortrose Cathedral.

However in much of the Highlands it was also a time of flourishing Gaelic culture and learning, with extensive links to Ireland, the Isle of Man, and continental Europe. Medical science, music, poetry and art all received patronage from clan chiefs. St Columba's Isle, near Skeabost on Skye was the cathedral of the Bishops of Sodor (i.e. Sudreyar, the Norse Southern Isles) and Man until they moved to Iona in 1499.

Apart from castles and the remains of a few churches, there is little later medieval archaeology that can be seen today. Most houses seem to have been built using wood, peat, and thatch and most household items were also made of organic materials. Everything was recycled. However it seems very likely that many remains of deserted villages dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries are sitting on top of earlier houses and fields: once you have cleared the stones from the land in the Highlands, why move unless you have to?

### **The 'Post-Medieval' Period - 500 Years Ago to Modern Times**

In the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, the Covenanter Wars left battle sites at Auldearn and Carbisdale, and Montrose was imprisoned after his defeat at Ardvreck Castle in Sutherland. Oliver Cromwell established forts to control the Great Glen, including one at Inverness, now almost disappeared except for one corner of the rampart still visible in Lotland Street near the harbour. Cattle droving began to develop as a way of life - Highlanders could raise cattle and sell them on to drovers who took them to markets in central and southern Scotland and on to England. In the early - mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century many drovers and cattlemen emigrated to become the cowboys of the American West.

In 1688, King James VII (II of England) was ejected by his daughter Mary and son in law (and cousin) William Prince of Orange. There followed a series of uprisings to restore James and his heirs, whose supporters were known as Jacobites (Latin Jacobus - James). Following the rising

of 1715, the British Government began a national mapping programme, the Ordnance Survey, and also a programme of military road building to control the Highlands. These roads generally followed droving routes and were to form the basis of the modern road network. Barracks were built at Ruthven in Badenoch and Bernera in Glenelg, and major new Forts were built at Fort William, Fort Augustus, and near Inverness at Fort George at Ardersier. This last is still in active military use, although also open to the public. In 1745 the Jacobite army under James's son Bonnie Prince Charlie used the military road over the Corrieyairack Pass on its way south, and finally assembled at Ruthven Barracks to disband after the defeat at Culloden. Not all Highlanders supported the Jacobites, but all suffered the consequences after the '45, as the British Government made serious attempts to destroy the local culture. The lands of Jacobite clan chiefs were confiscated and given to government supporters or sold.

However, for over two hundred years successive kings and governments had already been encouraging Highland chiefs to see themselves as landlords rather than leaders of men. Many of them were now living beyond their means and looking for increased income to support their lifestyles. As the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions took off in England and southern Scotland, tenants found themselves evicted to make way for large-scale commercial sheep farming to supply the woollen industry and the new urban markets. Estate owners meanwhile built new houses and monuments. Around the Cromarty Firth, a grain trade developed and girnals (storehouses) were built by the shore like that at Foulis. Attempts to introduce new employment meant the establishment of fishing stations like Ullapool and Pultenytown (Wick), as well as engineering and mining enterprises at Brora. The slate quarries at Ballachulish in Lochaber supplied much of Scotland with roofing, while Caithness flagstones came to pave the streets of towns and cities around the Empire. However for many people there was terrible hardship, especially after a series of famines in the 1840s, and many emigrated, leaving their villages deserted.

At the same time, the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century saw the growth of a romantic Highland image promoted by Sir Walter Scott and others, and so admired by Queen Victoria. It also saw a rapid decline in the sheep prices after the end of the Napoleonic War. These both encouraged the development of shooting and fishing estates in the highlands where the wealthy could 'get away from it all' among the hills and moors. Some of these survive, but in other cases they have given way to other forms of land management. They have left shooting butts and lodges and other features in the landscape. Railways encouraged the growth of tourism, and Strathpeffer developed as a spa village where people arrived to take the waters.

## **3.2 Field Survey**

### *3.2.1 Field Report Style*

This report contains information on any existing recorded archaeology from a comprehensive desk-based assessment. It also details any archaeological remains discovered during the field survey, which may be affected by the proposed operations, with *significant* new discoveries highlighted in *italics*.

Included at the start of each feature is:

#### **First Line**

- Feature Number, unique to this report
- Feature Type
- Site Name
- Possible Age or Period

#### **Second Line**

- Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference
- GPS Reading Accuracy in metres
- Highland Council HER Reference Number

#### **Third Line**

- Whether Feature Appears on Ordnance Survey Map
- Plate No (see Appendix V)

### *3.2.2 Field Results*

The site was visited on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The weather was sunny and breezy.

In total, there were 48 archaeological features recorded within the site boundary, only three of which had been previously recorded. They are all plotted on the Feature Location Maps of Appendix III.

#### **Feature 1. Clearance Cairn. Achany Glen. ?Pre-clearance.**

**Grid Reference: 258179 901250 (8m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**Not on OS Map. Plate 1.**

3m diameter, 0.5m high heather-covered clearance cairn, with one stone visible.

#### **Feature 2. Enclosure. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**

**Grid Reference: 257900 901334 (5m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**Not on OS Map. Plate 2.**

3m internal diameter pen-like enclosure, set on the W slope of a hill, with grass covered walls with occasional boulders, stands 0.4m high. It has a possible 1m wide entrance on its S side.

**Feature 3. Clearance Cairn. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**  
**Grid Reference: 257894 901332 (5m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**Not on OS Map. Plate 3.**

2m x 1m stone clearance cairn, set level to the ground, 5m to the W of Feature 2 (above).

**Feature 4. Turf & Stone Bank. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**  
**Grid Reference: 257897 901326 (6m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**Not on OS Map. Plate 3.**

Heather-covered, turf and stone bank, 1m wide and 0.5m high, curves across the slope from just below Feature 2 (above). Its lower part continues as a 3m wide boulder scatter and is crossed by a 19th Century improvement drystone field dyke.

**Feature 5. Building. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**  
**Grid Reference: 257917 901299 (6m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**Not on map. Plate 4.**

Remains of an old building, much of the lower part of which is missing, having been robbed probably for the construction of the 19th Century improvement drystone field dyke immediately to its W. The remains of the building extend for 9m and it is 3.5m wide. It has a 3.5m x 2m outshot on its N side and the sidewalls trend 076°. The grass-covered mound walls are spread to 1m wide and stand 0.5m high.

**Feature 6. Building. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**  
**Grid Reference: 257934 901313 (5m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**Not on map. Plate 5.**

Small rectangular building set on the S side of the top of a broad knoll. Its grass covered stone walls of single boulders are 1m wide and stand 0.5m high. Its interior is sunken, relative to the outside ground level. It measures 8m x 4m, has a 1m wide entrance on its N side and its sidewalls trend 106°.

**Feature 7. Building. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**  
**Grid Reference: 257956 901318 (4m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**Not on map. Plate 6.**

Substantial grass-covered stone walls of single boulders are 1m wide at its gables (slightly thinner in its side walls) and stand 0.8m high. Its interior is also sunken, relative to the outside ground level. It measures 5.5m x 3m, has a 0.4m wide centrally placed entrance on its S side and its sidewalls trend 082°. It is set on the SE side of the broad knoll.

**Feature 8. Building. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**  
**Grid Reference: 257924 901262 (5m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**Not on map. Plate 7.**

Remains of a building with a very prominent E gable end. Its W end has been partially truncated by the 19<sup>th</sup> Century improvement drystone field dyke. The E gable end is 1m wide and its side walls are 0.7m wide, standing 0.4m high. It is set on the E end of a knoll, reeds grow in its interior, and measures 12m x 4m, although its W gable is 5m wide, and its sidewalls trend 109°.

The its double-skinned walls may indicate that it is of a later construction than the previously described, adjacent buildings, the smaller buildings of which may have originally been shielings and the site may have developed into the permanently settled township of Aultnafearn.

**Feature 9. Pit. Achany Glen. Unknown.**

**Grid Reference: 257823 901347 (5m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**On current OS map. Plate 8.**

1m deep pit, with a 1m wide lip standing 0.3m high. Its internal diameter is 2m and it has a 1m sized boulder lying on its W side.

**Feature 10. Survey Pillar. Achany Glen. 20th Century.**

**Grid Reference: 257844 901561 (5m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**Not on map. Plate 9.**

Triangular, concrete survey pillar, stands 0.95m high and its three faces are 0.45m wide. It has a rusty, 2cm diameter and 15cm high, threaded rod set into each corner of its flat upper surface. Its base is a concrete plinth. It was probably associated with the Loch Shin Hydro Scheme of the 1950s.

**Feature 11. Pit. Achany Glen. Unknown.**

**Grid Reference: 257719 901622 (5m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**Not on map. Plate 10.**

1.4m deep pit, with an internal diameter of 3m. It is set on top of a small knoll. There is no sign of a spoil lip and interior is grass-covered and its edges are heather-covered.

**Feature 12. Pit. Achany Glen. Unknown.**

**Grid Reference: 257678 901676 (5m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**Not on map. Plate 11.**

0.75m deep pit, with an internal diameter of 3m. It is set on top of a different small knoll to that of Feature 11 (above) and has 3 fox holes set in its interior. It has a shallow, 1m wide spoil lip.

**Feature 13. Stalker's Hide. Achany Glen. 21st Century.**

**Grid Reference: 257804 901316 (8m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**Not on map. Plate 12.**

Recently constructed stalker's hide, using a natural 1.5m sized boulder, enhanced with a turf top and brash to its sides. It faces to the W, overlooking an open, rush-covered area, largely free of trees.

**Feature 14. Drystone Dyke. Achany Glen. 19th Century.**

**Grid Reference: 257793 901298 (6m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**On all OS map editions. Plate 13.**

Well constructed drystone field dyke, standing 1.4m high. It is 0.9m wide at its base and tapers to 0.5m wide at its top. Trends from here downhill to 261°.

**Feature 15. Stone Boulder Dyke. Achany Glen. ?Pre-clearance.**

**Grid Reference: 257672 901137 to 257706 901046 (9m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**On all OS map editions. Plate 14.**

N end of an old moss-covered boulder dyke is 1m wide and stands 0.7m high. Trends from here to 153°. Where it is cut by the railway fence (at 257706 901046) in open ground, it has partially collapsed and here has a more sophisticated, double-skinned construction.

**Feature 16. Stone Boulder Dyke. Achany Glen. ?Pre-clearance.**

**Grid Reference: 257567 901125 (8m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**On OS maps. Plate 15.**

NE end of an old moss-covered boulder dyke is 1m wide and stands 0.6m high. It comprises large boulders placed close to each other and trends parallel to the contours from here to 210°.

**Feature 17. Cairn. Achany Glen. ?Pre-clearance.**

**Grid Reference: 257574 900950 (6m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**Not on map. Plate 16.**

An apparently random spread of 1m sized angular boulders forms a cairn standing 1.5m high and spread to 4m x 3m.

**Feature 18. Pit. Achany Glen. Unknown.**

**Grid Reference: 257530 900927 (6m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**Not on map. Plate 17.**

0.6m deep pit, with an internal diameter of 3m and a low spoil lip. It is set on top of a small bracken-covered knoll and has a birch tree growing from its SW side.

**Feature 19. Stone Boulder Dyke. Achany Glen. ?Pre-clearance.**

**Grid Reference: 257566 900885 to 257700 899341 (12m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**On OS maps. Plate 18.**

NW end of discontinuous old boulder dyke. The end boulder is 1.5m x 1.5m x 1m high and the dyke trends across the slope from here to 142°. It displays better construction at 257566 900885 where it is cut by a small burn. It is 1m wide and stands 0.8m high.

**Feature 20. Drystone Dyke. Achany Glen. 19th Century.**

**Grid Reference: 257783 900494 (8m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**On OS maps. Plate 19.**

Dilapidated drystone dyke trends uphill to 028° and runs parallel to the railway fence to the S. It is 1m wide and stands 0.8m high.



**Feature 21. Turf & Stone Bank. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**  
**Grid Reference: 257858 900653 (6m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**On OS maps. Plate 20.**

Intersection of old turf and stone bank with drystone field dyke. The old bank is spread to 1.5m wide and stands 0.5m high and trends to 172°.

**Feature 22. Clearance Cairn. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**  
**Grid Reference: 257928 900803 (6m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**Not on map. Plate 21.**

20m x 10m area of old clearance comprising a layer of melon-sized stones. The older heap is topped with larger, 0.5m sized boulders of modern field clearance, making a heap 1.5m high.

**Feature 23. Enclosure. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**  
**Grid Reference: 258155 900596 (6m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**Not on map. Plate 22.**

Remains of a breeched enclosure – only its N and E sides still are apparent. Its stone walls are spread to 0.7m wide and stand 0.3m high.

**Feature 24. Enclosure. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**  
**Grid Reference: 258111 900584 (5m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**Not on map. Plate 23.**

Well preserved, small sub-rectangular enclosure of grass-covered stone and turf walls. Its double-skinned walls are 0.8m wide and stand to 0.7m high. There is a possible entrance in the SE corner.

**Feature 25. Turf & Stone Bank. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**  
**Grid Reference: 258153 900552 to 257916 900588 (5m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**On OS maps. Plate 24.**

1m wide stone and turf dyke, with double-skin construction stands 0.6m high. It fades downhill through boggy ground to the W to stand only 0.3m high.

**Feature 26. Turf & Stone Bank. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**  
**Grid Reference: 258142 900613 to 258118 900622 (5m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**On OS maps. Plate 25.**

Small section of curving 1m wide turf bank with some boulders stands 0.8m high.

**Feature 27. Shieling (possible). Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**  
**Grid Reference: 258101 900631 (5m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**Not on map. Plate 26.**

Possible shieling or small pen, using a 2m x 1m x 1m boulder as a backwall, with a rowan tree growing from behind it. Its walls of jumbled stone are 0.6m wide and 0.2m high arc out from the large boulder, and its internal area measures only 1.5m x 1.5m.

**Feature 28. Enclosure. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**

**Grid Reference: 257980 900480 (5m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**Not on map. Plate 27**

Horse-shoe shaped turf and stone mound walled structure set on the SW side of a small knoll. Its external diameter is 4m and has 1m thick walls standing 0.5m high and is open to the SW.

**Feature 29. Clearance Cairn. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**

**Grid Reference: 257966 900495 (5m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**Not on map. Plate 28.**

3m diameter low scatter of boulders up to football-sized, forming a clearance cairn on top of a knoll.

**Feature 30. Cairn. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**

**Grid Reference: 258081 900383 (5m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**On OS maps. Plate 29.**

15m x 8m x 1.5m high cairn of boulders mainly less than football-sized, but some are up to 0.5m. It could be clearance from the enclosed field area immediately to the S.

**Feature 31. Turf & Stone Bank. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**

**Grid Reference: 258082 900397 (6m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**On OS maps. Plate 29.**

Bracken-covered stone and turf bank running in an irregular fashion along the N side of a small burn. It is 1m wide and stands 0.7m high.

**Feature 32. Turf & Stone Bank. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**

**Grid Reference: 258082 900427 to 257797 900505 (5m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**Not on map. Plate 30.**

Well built double-skinned turf and stone dyke. It crosses a small burn at 258082 900427 and has been churned up by agricultural vehicle activity uphill. It trends across boggy ground downhill and becomes more prominent and upstanding where it crosses the N side of a knoll, where it stands 1m high and 1m wide and joins the tumbled drystone dyke of Feature 20 (above).

**Feature 33. Cairn. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**

**Grid Reference: 258009 900408 (7m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**Not on map. Plate 31.**

Another large cairn, measuring 15m x 8m x 2m of mainly less than football-sized boulders, but there are some which are larger. There appears to be no form to the structure, so could just be clearance from the adjacent cultivated field to the S.

**Feature 34. Stone Boulder Dyke. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**  
**Grid Reference: 257831 898856 (7m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**Not on map. Plate 32.**

Old, 1m wide boulder dyke stands 0.5m high, although there are some individual boulders which are larger. It trends 009° parallel to the contours.

**Feature 35. Trackway. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**  
**Grid Reference: 257783 898827 (7m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**Not on map. Plate 33.**

1m wide trackway which is cut into the 20-30° valley side slope and revetted on its down side. It trends parallel to the contours to 010/190°.

**Feature 36. Pit. Achany Glen. Unknown.**  
**Grid Reference: 257778 898834 (7m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**Not on map. Plate 34.**

1m deep pit, with an internal diameter of 2m and a 1m lip of large boulders. It is set 10m below the track of Feature 35 (above), but its purpose remains unclear.

**Feature 37. Drystone Dyke. Achany Glen. 19th Century.**  
**Grid Reference: 257797 898806 (6m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**Not on map. Plate 35.**

Drystone dyke running parallel to a small burn in a deep ravine on its N side and parallel to the trackway of Feature 35 (above), some 10m to the N. The dyke is 0.9m wide at its base, tapering to 0.5m at its top and stands 1m high.

**Feature 38. Stalker's Hide. Achany Glen. 20th Century.**  
**Grid Reference: 257706 900043 (6m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**Not on map. Plate 36.**

2m long old ladder propped up against and tied to a mature birch tree on top of a wide grassy knoll, forming a possible old stalking perch.

**Feature 39. Building. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**  
**Grid Reference: 258161 900940 (6m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**Not on map. Plate 37.**

Remains of the footings of an old building, set 15m to the W of the site access track. The gable ends are 1m thick and the side walls are 0.7m thick, all standing <0.4m high. There is no obvious entrance. It is set in open grassland and it trends down the slope to 274°. The building measures 13m x 4m and it is divided into two internal compartments by a dividing wall.

**Feature 40. Building. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**

**Grid Reference: 257984 901090 (6m). HER Reference: MHG19554.**

**On OS maps. Plate 38.**

Substantial remains of stone-walled building, set on a knoll surrounded by boggy, reed-covered ground, 10m to the E of the site access track and also to the E of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century improvement drystone field dyke. It measures 15m x 5m and is divided into 3 equally sized, non-interconnecting internal compartments, which are all boulder filled. The gables and the divisions are 1m thick and the double-skinned side walls are 0.7m thick, all standing up to 1m high. There are entrances in the S side wall. The side walls trend 110°.

**Feature 41. Building. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**

**Grid Reference: 258000 901139 (6m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**Not on map. Plate 39.**

Remains of a fairly well preserved building set 25m to the E of the site access track, on a flat-topped grassy knoll. Its main part measures 14m x 4m, with an entrance on its W side, but there is a less substantial, possibly long abandoned, 12m long continuation attached to its S gable end. Its side walls trend 008°. A 1m sized angular boulder forms the SW corner of the more recently used part. The rest of the walls of this part are formed with single boulders spreading to 1m thick, generally standing only 0.3m high.

**Feature 42. Building. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**

**Grid Reference: 257975 901167 (6m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**Not on map. Plate 40.**

Remains of a longhouse running down the gentle NW slope from the knoll on which Feature 41 (above) is situated. It is set 20m to the NE of the site access track. The side walls are barely grassy mounds, 1m wide and 0.3m high, whereas the gables (the SE of which is the most substantial) of a few stone boulders are spread to 1m wide and 0.4m high. It measures 23m x 4m and its side walls trend 127°.

**Feature 43. Corn Drying Kiln. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**

**Grid Reference: 257951 901182 (6m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**Not on map. Plates 41 & 42.**

The remains of a corn-drying kiln are set into the NW side of a knoll, some 20m to the N of the site access track's entrance through the drystone dyke into an improved field. Its grass-covered mound walls are much degraded, spread to 1m and rise 0.5m above ground surface level. It incorporates a 1.5m sized boulder in its SE corner. Its bowl is 1.2m deep, but no stone is visible in its construction. It measures 9m x 5m and its side walls trend 100°.

**Feature 44. Clearance Cairn. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**

**Grid Reference: 258145 900983 (6m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**

**Not on map. Plate 43.**

3m diameter clearance cairn of stones up to melon-sized, stands 0.5m high, has been breached and exposed by the site access track.

**Feature 45. Clearance Cairn. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**  
**Grid Reference: 258145 900974 (6m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**Not on map. Plate 43.**

3m diameter clearance cairn of stones up to melon-sized, stands 0.5m high, has been breached and exposed by the site access track.

**Feature 46. Clearance Cairn. Achany Glen. Pre-clearance.**  
**Grid Reference: 258134 900994 (6m). HER Reference: Not on HER.**  
**Not on map. Plate 43.**

3m diameter clearance cairn of stones up to melon-sized, stands 0.5m high, set 5m to the N of the site access track.

**Feature 47. Hut Circle. Achany Glen. Bronze/Iron Age.**  
**Grid Reference: 258013 899110 (6m). HER Reference: MHG9296 (SAM).**  
**On current OS map. Plate 44.**

*Not visited due to inaccessibility through dense and deep bracken (see Appendix III for HER description).*

**Feature 48. Hut Circle. Achany Glen. Bronze/Iron Age.**  
**Grid Reference: 258034 899046 (6m). HER Reference: MHG32588.**  
**On current OS map. No photo.**

*Not visited due to inaccessibility through dense and deep bracken (see Appendix III for HER description).*

## **4.0 Conclusions**

The aim of this walk-over survey was to determine whether there was any archaeology within the survey area and to record and survey anything discovered in detail.

This aim was achieved, with 48 sites being recorded during the current survey, only three of which had been previously recorded.

Whilst nothing newly discovered during the survey could be regarded as being of National or Regional significance as per National Policy Planning Guideline 5, much of the recorded archaeology is regarded as being of significant local importance.

The previously recorded Scheduled Ancient Monument (Feature 47) has already officially been afforded the highest legal protection.

## 5.0 Recommendations

Given the local importance of the archaeology discovered during this survey, there should be a 10m no planting buffer zone around all of the features, except the dykes and banks, although care should be taken to avoid any damage to these.

There should be a 10m buffer zone and no planting between the hut circles of Features 47 and 48 to link them together as managed, open ground and a similar, separate link should also be applied around Features 5-8.

Care should be taken to make drivers of forestry and haulage vehicles aware of Features 39-46 adjacent to the access road to the site.

Should any archaeological features be discovered during the any planting operations, the Highland Council's Archaeology Unit should be contacted immediately.

### **In summary:**

- **10m no-planting buffer zone around all of the archaeology except dykes and banks**
- **10m buffer zone and no planting between the hut circles of Features 47 and 48**
- **10m buffer zone and no planting between the buildings of Features 5 to 12**
- **Mark or fence off Features 39 to 46 adjacent to the access road to the site.**
- **Be mindful of known archaeology outwith survey area during any planting operations**
- **In the event of any discovery of archaeological remains, *immediate* contact must be made with Highland Council's Archaeology Unit for advice**

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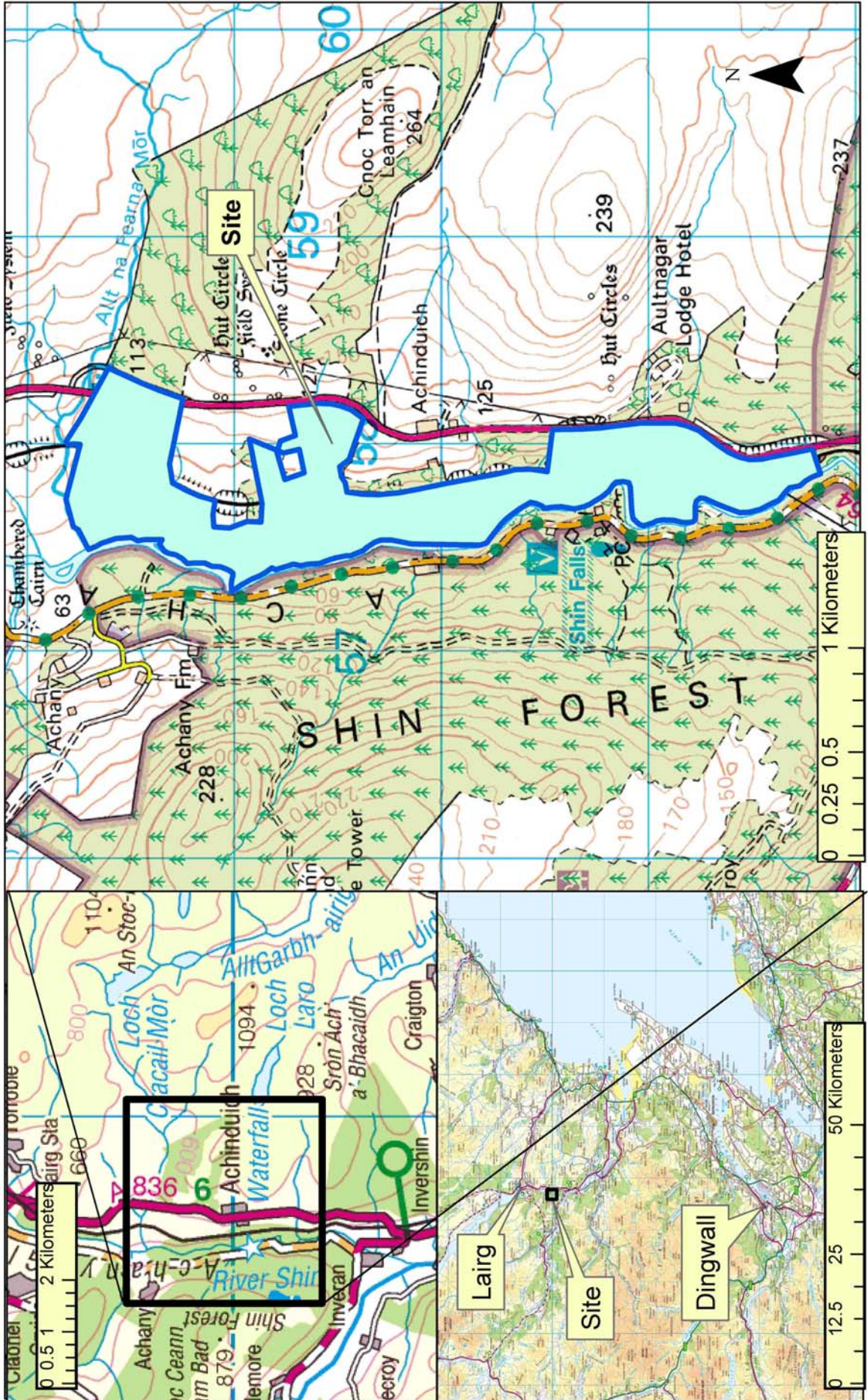
[www.railbrit.co.uk](http://www.railbrit.co.uk)



## **Appendices**

<b>Appendix I</b>	<b>Site Location Map</b>
<b>Appendix II</b>	<b>Summary Table of Features</b>
<b>Appendix III</b>	<b>Feature Location Maps</b>
<b>Appendix IV</b>	<b>Existing Historic Environment Record Sites</b>
<b>Appendix V</b>	<b>Plates</b>

## **Appendix I – Site Location Map**



Site Location Map

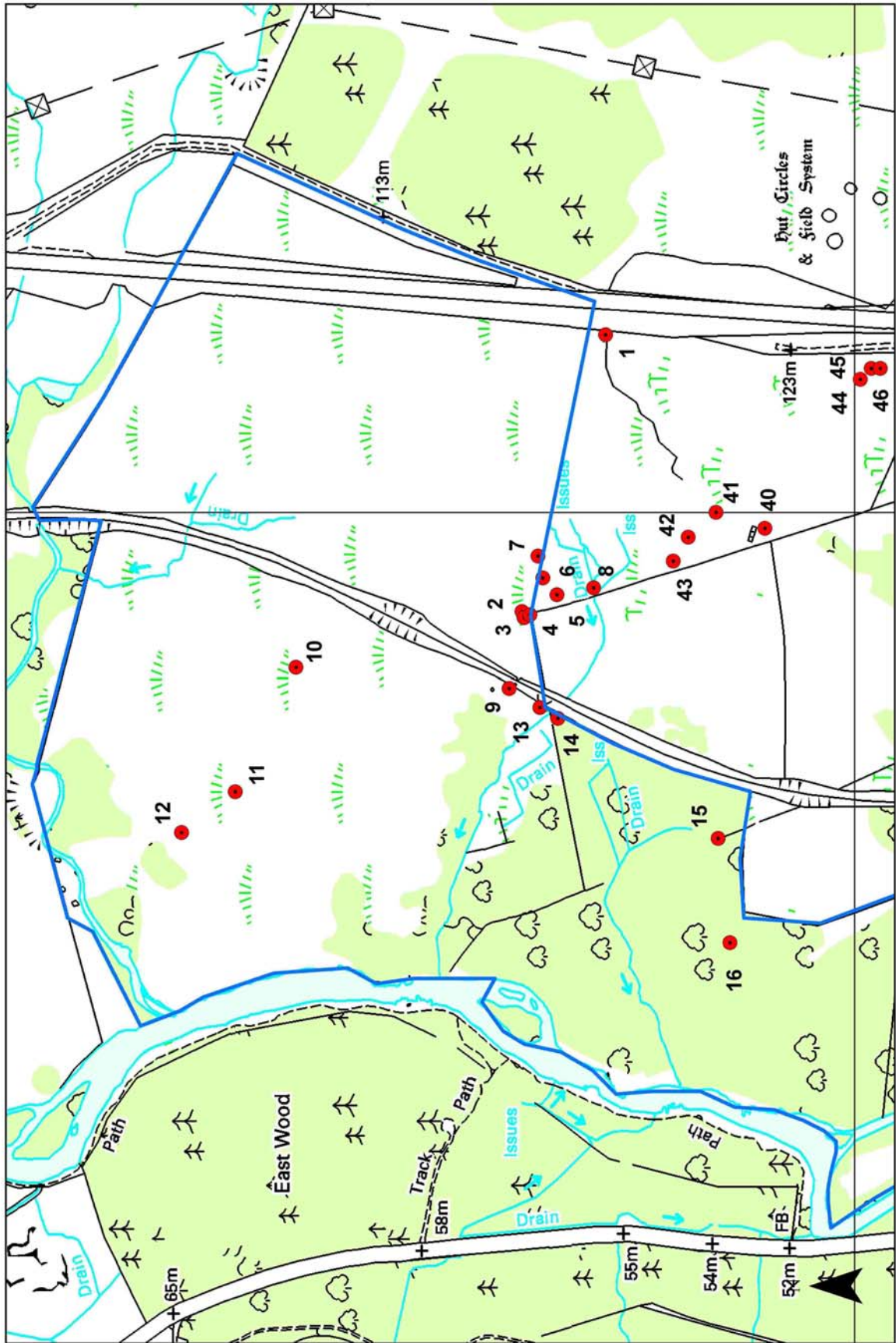
## **Appendix II – Summary Table of Features**

Feature No	Type	Easting	Northing	Age	HER No
1	Clearance Cairn	258179	901250	?Pre-clearance	-
2	Enclosure	257900	901334	Pre-clearance	-
3	Clearance Cairn	257894	901332	Pre-clearance	-
4	Turf & Stone Bank	257897	901326	Pre-clearance	-
5	Building	257917	901299	Pre-clearance	-
6	Building	257934	901313	Pre-clearance	-
7	Building	257956	901318	Pre-clearance	-
8	Building	257924	901262	Pre-clearance	-
9	Pit	257823	901347	?	-
10	Survey Pillar	257844	901561	20th Century	-
11	Pit	257719	901622	?	-
12	Pit	257678	901676	?	-
13	Stalker's Hide	257804	901316	21st Century	-
14	Drystone Dyke	257793	901298	19th Century	-
15	Stone Boulder Dyke	257672	901137	?Pre-clearance	-
16	Stone Boulder Dyke	257567	901125	?Pre-clearance	-
17	Cairn	257574	900950	?Pre-clearance	-
18	Pit	257530	900927	?	-
19	Stone Boulder Dyke	257566	900885	?Pre-clearance	-
20	Drystone Dyke	257783	900494	19th Century	-
21	Turf & Stone Bank	257858	900663	Pre-clearance	-
22	Clearance Cairn	257928	900803	Pre-clearance	-
23	Enclosure	258155	900596	Pre-clearance	-
24	Enclosure	258111	900584	Pre-clearance	-
25	Turf & Stone Bank	258153	900552	Pre-clearance	-
26	Turf & Stone Bank	258142	900613	Pre-clearance	-
27	Shieling (possible)	258101	900631	Pre-clearance	-
28	Enclosure	257980	900480	Pre-clearance	-
29	Clearance Cairn	257966	900495	Pre-clearance	-
30	Cairn	258081	900406	Pre-clearance	-
31	Turf & Stone Bank	258109	900427	Pre-clearance	-
32	Turf & Stone Bank	258082	900462	Pre-clearance	-
33	Cairn	258009	900429	Pre-clearance	-
34	Stone Boulder Dyke	257831	898856	Pre-clearance	-
35	Trackway	257783	898827	Pre-clearance	-
36	Pit	257778	898834	?	-
37	Drystone Dyke	257797	898806	19th Century	-
38	Stalker's Hide	257706	900043	20th Century	-
39	Building	258161	900940	Pre-clearance	-
40	Building	257984	901090	Pre-clearance	MHG19554
41	Building	258000	901139	Pre-clearance	-

<b>Feature No</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>HER No</b>
42	Building	257975	901167	Pre-clearance	-
43	Corn Drying Kiln	257951	901182	Pre-clearance	-
44	Clearance Cairn	258145	900983	Pre-clearance	-
45	Clearance Cairn	258145	900974	Pre-clearance	-
46	Clearance Cairn	258134	900994	Pre-clearance	-
47	Hut Circle	258013	899110	Bronze/Iron Age	MHG9296 (SAM)
48	Hut Circle	258034	899046	Bronze/Iron Age	MHG32588

(see details in section 3.2 - Field Survey)

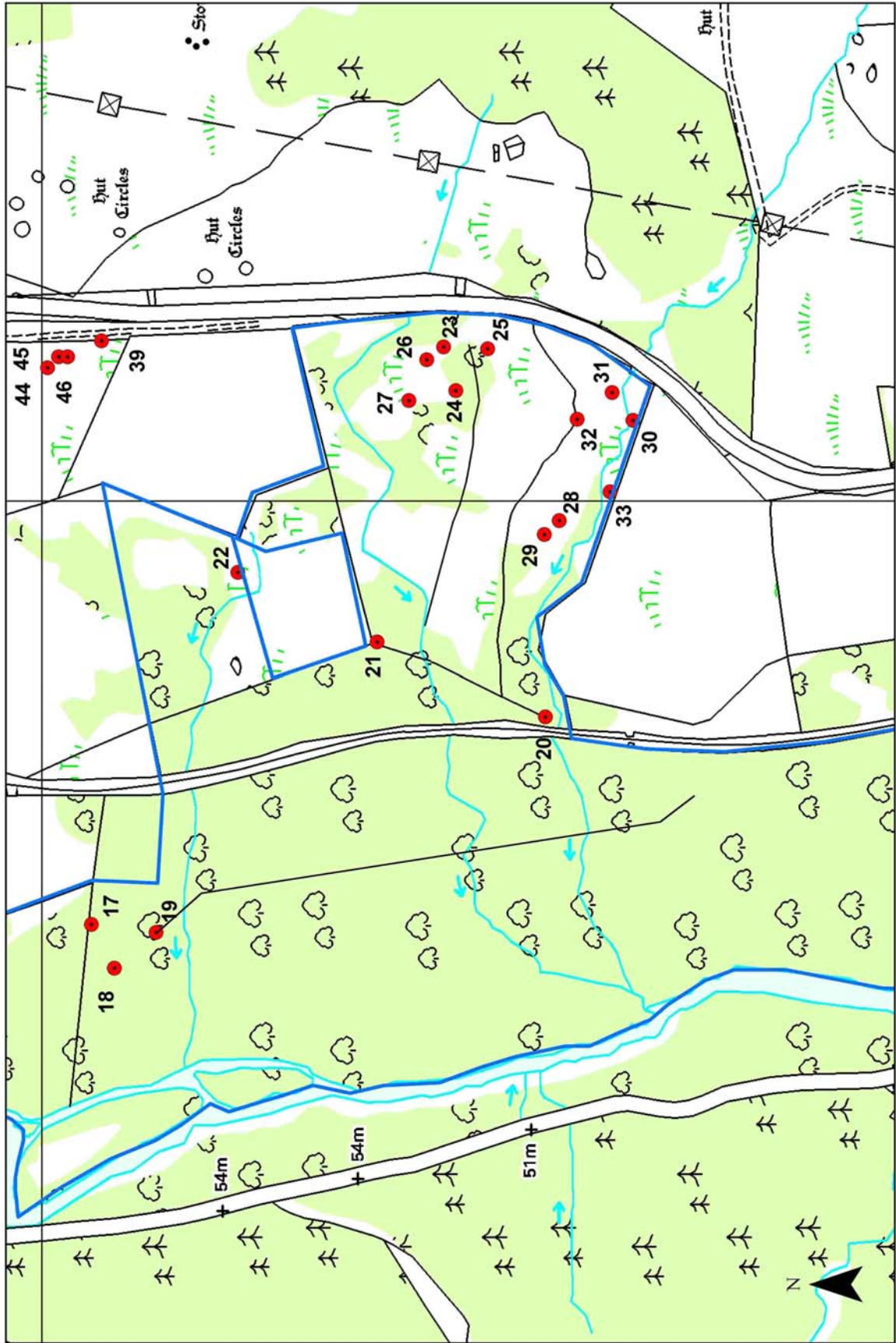
## **Appendix III – Feature Location Maps**



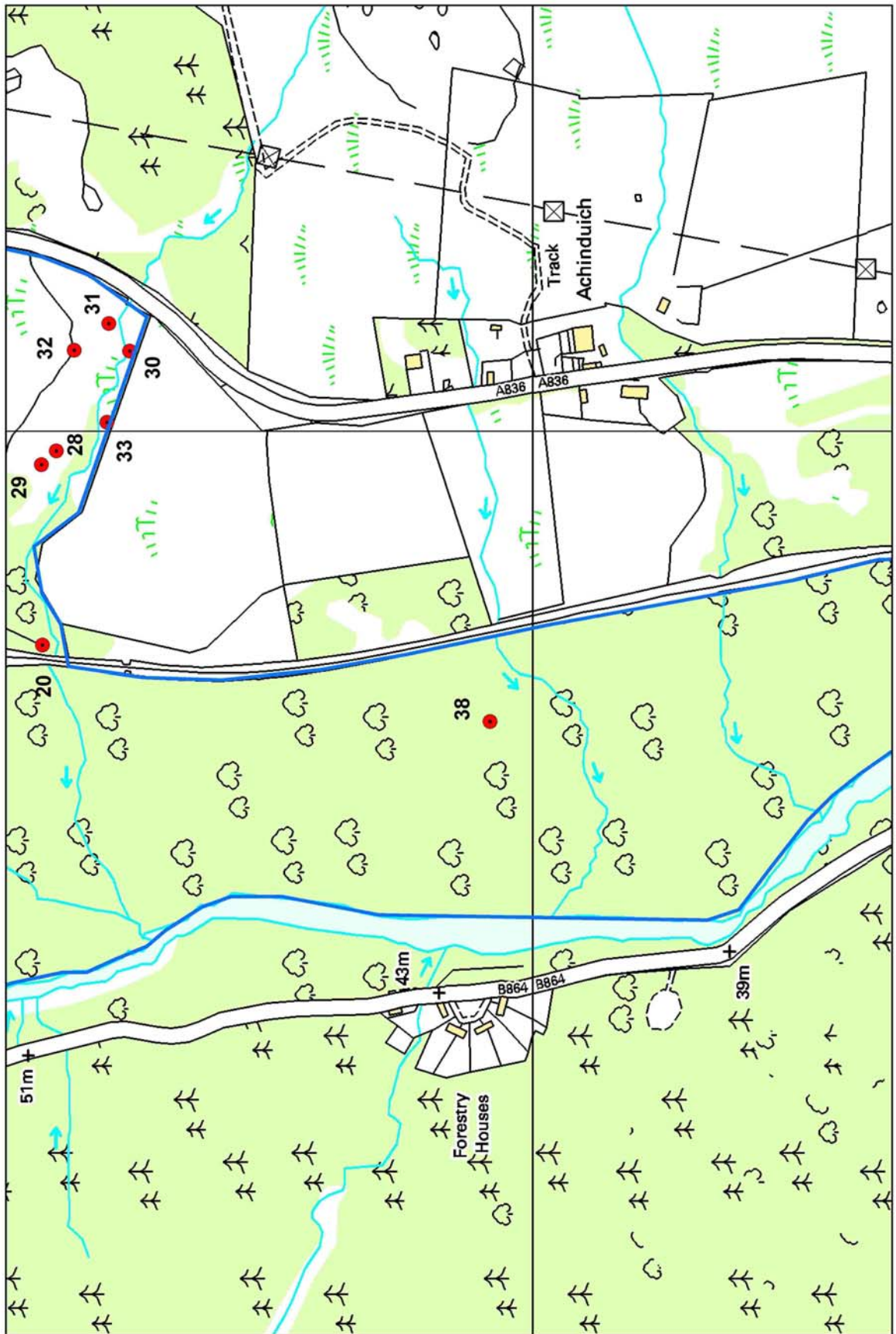
Feature Location Map 1





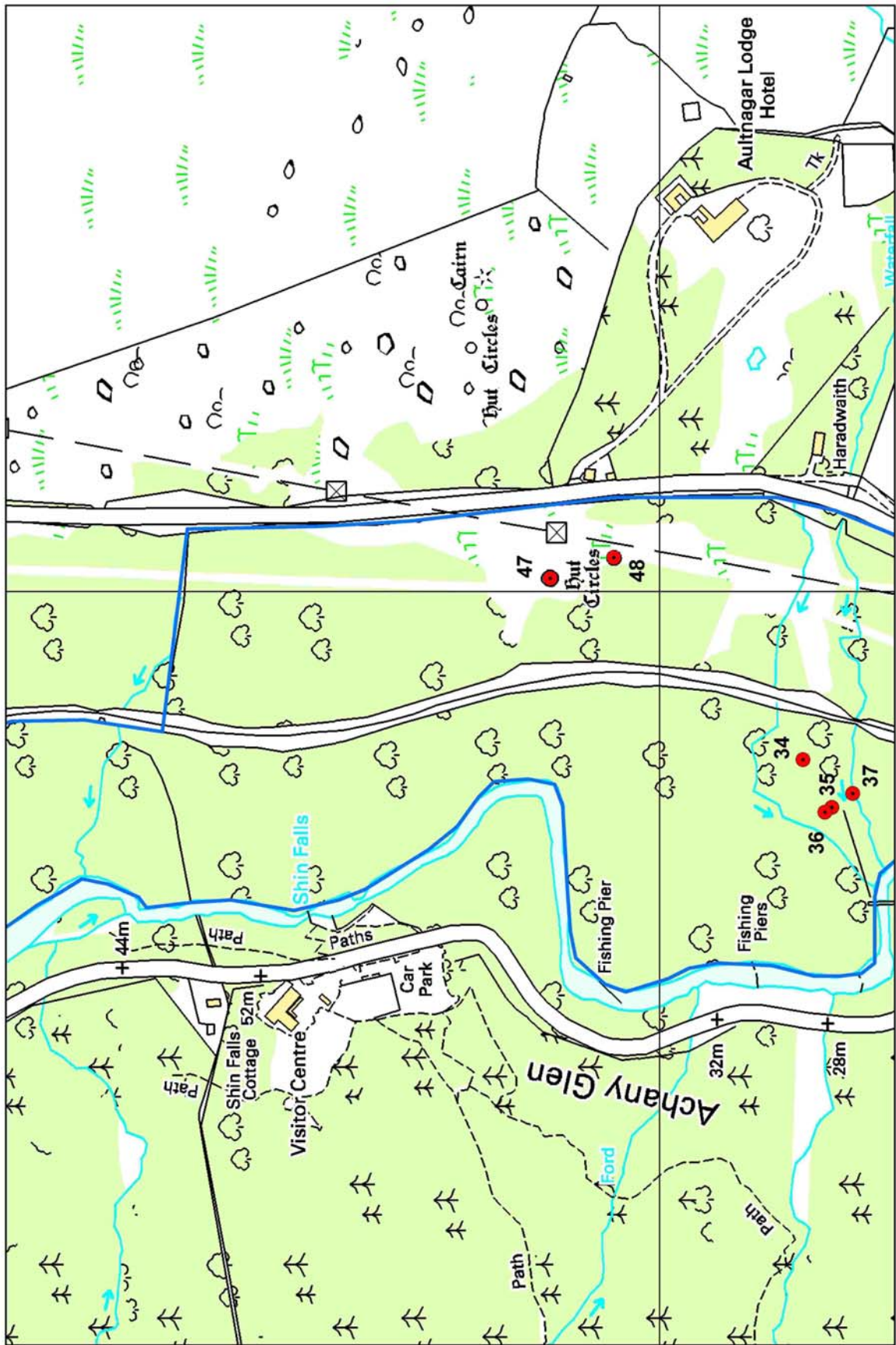


Feature Location Map 2



Feature Location Map 3





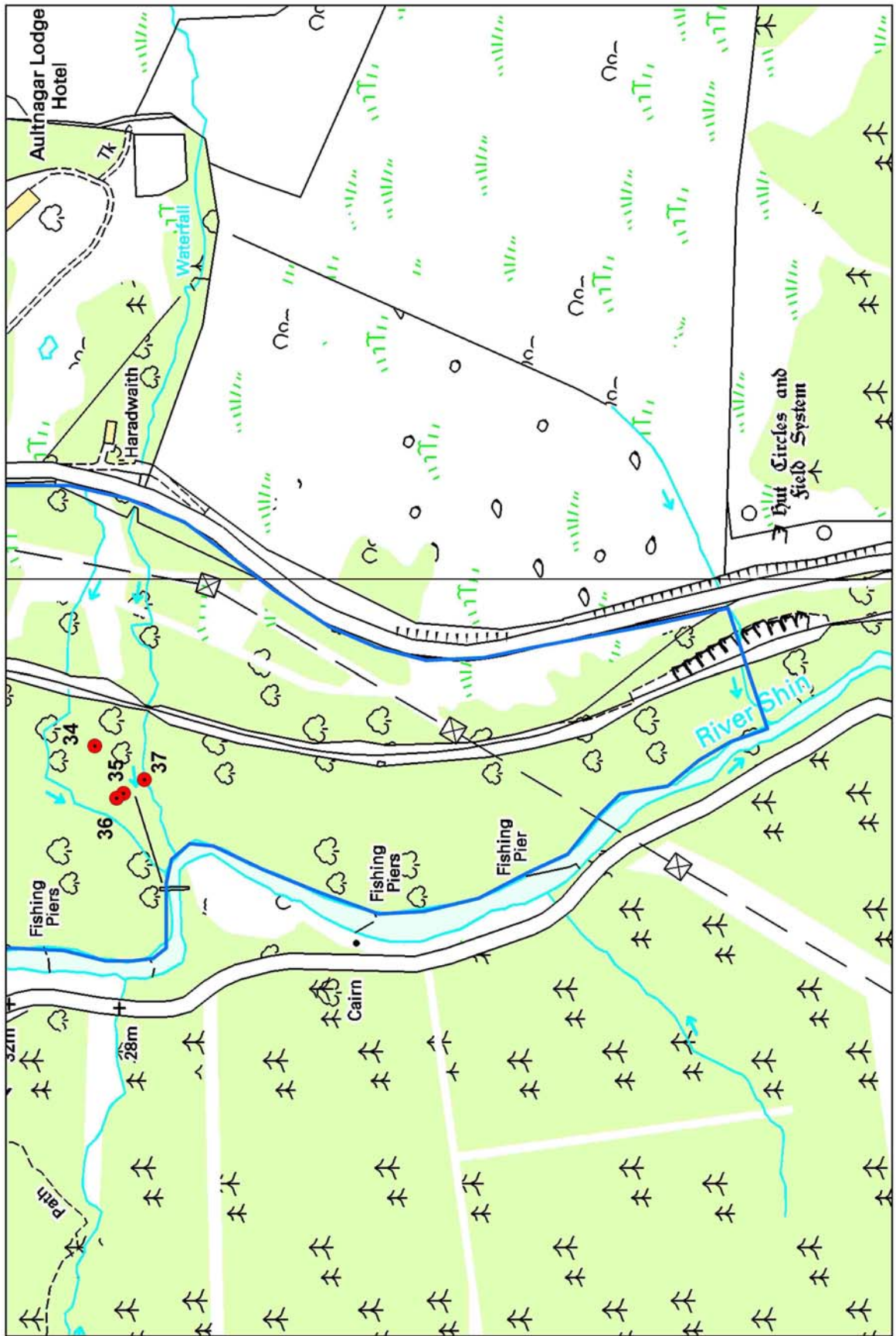
Feature Location Map 4

400 Meters

200

100

0



Feature Location Map 5



## **Appendix IV – Existing Historic Environment Record Sites**

**ID: MHG19554**

Type of record: Monument – Building (Undated)

Name: River Shin

Grid Reference: NC 5790 0110

Civil Parish: CREICH

NMRS Record Details: NMRS Record Details: NC50SE82 RIVER SHIN

Full description

An unroofed building in an area of cultivation is shown on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1877-81, sheet cii) and is similarly depicted on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1992).

Information from RCAHMS (SAH) 3 October 1995

**ID: MHG12197**

Type of record: Monument - Hut Circle (Bronze Age - 2400 BC to 551 BC)

Name: Achany Glen

Grid Reference: NC 5781 0143

Civil Parish: CREICH

NMRS Record Details: NC50SE58 ACHANY GLEN

Full description

At NC 5781 0143, on a low knoll in an undulating west-facing slope, is a stone walled hut circle, visible as a platform 12.0m in diameter, the wall having been reduced to a stony scarp. The indistinct entrance is in the SE arc. Associated cultivation is limited to evidence of relatively stone-free ground on the several knolls near the hut.

Surveyed at 1:10,000.

Visited by OS (N K B) 9 November 1976.

**ID: MHG12899**

Type of record: Find Spot – Slag (Undated)

Name: Ironworking 0.75mile S of Achinduich Lodge

Grid Reference: NC 5800 9900

Civil Parish: CREICH

NMRS Record Details: NH59NE6 AUCHINDUICH

Full description

On the right bank of the Allt an Raidhe Dhorcha, a short distance E of the railway, about 3/4 mile S of Auchinduich Lodge, is a heap of iron slag, measuring 30' across and 4' in height.

RCAHMS 1911, visited 1909.

The site was not located. No further information. Auchinduich Lodge is at NC 580000.

Visited by OS (R D L) 1 July 1963.

**ID: MHG9296**

Type of record: Monument - Hut Circle (Bronze Age - 2400 BC to 551 BC)

Name: Auchinduich

Grid Reference: NH 5803 9910

Civil Parish: CREICH

Protected Status: Scheduled Monument 1825: Achinduich, hut circle 900m S of, Lairg

NMRS Record Details: NH59NE1 AUCHINDUICH

Full description

A circular enclosure measuring 51' N-S by 48' transversely, within a stone wall 10' thick widening to 14' at the entrance, 3 ft wide, in the W. The interior appears to be sub-divided into numerous chambers, but the details are obscured by vegetation.

RCAHMS 1911, visited 1909.

This is a circular stone-walled hut on a shelf on a W slope at NH 5800 9910. It measures 15.5m in diameter internally, within a wall, defined by inner and outer facing stones, 2.0m thick at the rear increasing to about 3.0m at the entrance in the W on the downhill side. This increase in thickness is apparently due to the build up on the slope, and not to a "clubbed" entrance. A line of three stones marks the S side of the entrance, but the N side is not evident. The interior is now featureless. There is no trace of cultivation plots in the vicinity. Surveyed at 1:2500 (Visited by OS {E G C} 9 June 1963).

Visited by OS (A A) 1 October 1963.

This site was photographed in April 2009 as part of a walkover survey.

**ID: MHG32588**

Type of record: Monument - Hut Circle (Bronze Age - 2400 BC to 551 BC)

Name: Hut circle, W of Aultnagar

Grid Reference: NH 5803 9904

Civil Parish: CREICH

NMRS Record Details: None

Full description

Hut circle marked S of SAM on modern OS - HAW 11/2003

## **Appendix V – Plates**

*Note: the walking pole used as a scale  
in the following plates is 1.2m long.*





**Plate 1: Feature 1 – Clearance cairn (from S).**



**Plate 2: Feature 2 – Small enclosure/pen (from W).**



**Plate 3: Features 3 & 4 – Clearance cairn with turf & stone bank (from N).**



**Plate 4: Feature 5 – Building with outshot (pole resting on its wall) to N (from E).**



**Plate 5: Feature 6 – Building (from E).**



**Plate 6: Feature 7 – Building (from NE).**



**Plate 7: Feature 8 – Building (from E).**



**Plate 8: Feature 9 – Pit (from E).**



**Plate 9: Feature 10 – Survey pillar associated with Loch Shin Hydro (from NE).**



**Plate 10: Feature 11 – Pit (from NE).**



**Plate 11: Feature 12 – Pit (from SW).**



**Plate 12: Feature 13 – Stalker's hide (from E).**



**Plate 13: Feature 14 – Drystone Dyke (from N).**



**Plate 14: Feature 15 – Stone boulder dyke (from NW).**



**Plate 15: Feature 16 – Stone boulder dyke (from SE).**



**Plate 16: Feature 17 – Cairn of huge boulders (from N).**



**Plate 17: Feature 18 – Pit (from SE).**



**Plate 18: Feature 19 – Stone boulder dyke (from SW).**



**Plate 19: Feature 20 – Drystone dyke (from S).**



**Plate 20: Feature 21 – Turf & stone bank next to 19<sup>th</sup>C dyke (from E).**



**Plate 21: Feature 22 – Clearance cairn with 2 phases of clearance (from SW).**



**Plate 22: Feature 23 – Breached enclosure (from SW).**



**Plate 23: Feature 24 – Enclosure (from N).**



**Plate 24: Feature 25 – Turf & stone bank (from SE).**



**Plate 25: Feature 26 – Possible hut circle (from W).**



**Plate 26: Feature 27 – Possible shieling, using boulder as rear side (from SW).**



**Plate 27: Feature 28 – Small enclosure/pen (from NW).**



**Plate 28: Feature 29 – Clearance cairn (from S).**



**Plate 29: Features 30 & 31 – Cairn (rear) & turf & stone bank (from N).**



**Plate 30: Feature 32 – Turf & stone bank (from NE).**



**Plate 31: Feature 33 – Cairn (from E).**



**Plate 32: Feature 34 – Stone boulder dyke (from SE).**





**Plate 33: Feature 35 – Trackway (from N).**



**Plate 34: Feature 36 – Pit (from SE).**



**Plate 35: Feature 37 – Drystone dyke (from N).**



**Plate 36: Feature 38 – Stalker's hide (from E).**



**Plate 37: Feature 39 – Building (from E).**



**Plate 38: Feature 40 – Building (from SE).**



**Plate 39: Feature 41 – Building (from N).**



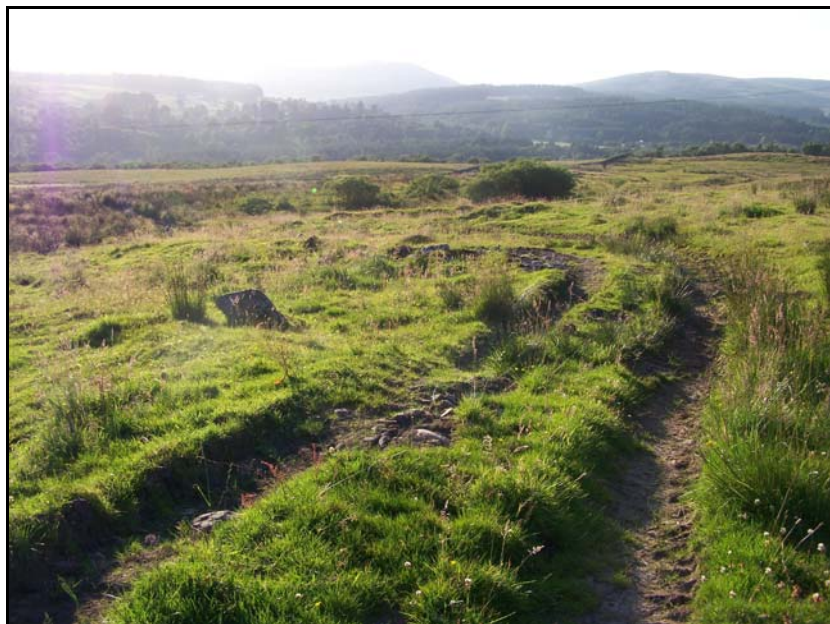
**Plate 40: Feature 42 – Building (from NW).**



**Plate 41: Feature 43 – Corn drying kiln (from S).**



**Plate 42: Feature 43 – Corn drying kiln (from SW).**



**Plate 43: Features 44, 45 & 46 – Clearance cairns, two breached by track (from SE).**



**Plate 44: Feature 47 – Inaccessible hut circle of MHG 9296 (SAM) (from E).**