

An Archaeological Survey of  
River Rannoch and Loch Tearnait, Ardtornish Estate,  
Morvern, Lochaber, Highland.

For Hydroplan UK

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Jennifer G. Robertson MA PhD FSA Scot. MIFA

Garden Cottage, Ardtornish Estate, Morvern,  
By Oban, Argyll, PA34 5UZ.  
Tel. 01967 421234. E-Mail [jennie@ardtornish.fsworld.co.uk](mailto:jennie@ardtornish.fsworld.co.uk)

## 1. Abstract.

An archaeological survey of the River Rannoch and Loch Tearnait, Morvern, Argyll (OS 1:10,000 Sheets NM74NW and NM74NE) was commissioned by Hydroplan UK, in advance of two proposed hydro schemes. (See Fig. 1 – Location Map) The aim was to evaluate the potential impact of the proposals on the archaeological record.

31 archaeological sites were recorded in the survey area, **Sites 1 - 15** in the Rannoch scheme and **Sites 16 - 31** in the Tearnait scheme. Of national importance is the crannog in Loch Tearnait, **Site 24**, a scheduled ancient monument, which is considered in Appendix A. **Sites 9, 11, 16** and **17** should be marked on the ground to avoid damage during any road renovation. An existing gap in the wall, **Site 18**, should be chosen for the route of the pipeline from intake 2a. The access road to the intake structure at Tearnait should be routed around the enclosed field, **Site 21**. The pipeline from intakes 6 and 7 should skirt around the arable grounds **Sites 26** and **30** to avoid damage to **Sites 26 – 31**.

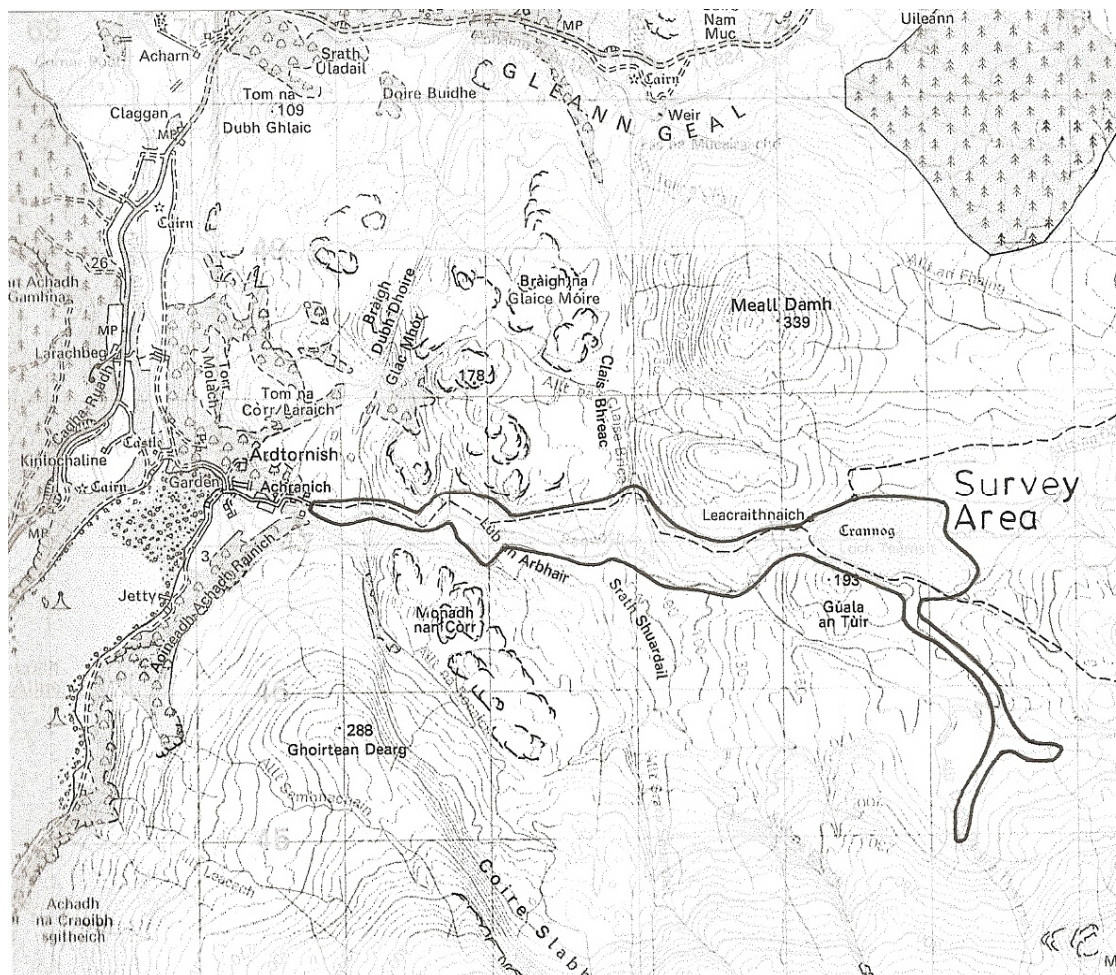


Fig. 1 – Location Map from OS Landranger 49 1:50,000. (© Crown copyright 1985. All rights reserved. Licence number 10044103)

## 2. The Proposals.

**The Rannoch Scheme:** Under the Rannoch scheme, it is proposed to build a dam across the River Rannoch at NM 7160 4718, about 400m to the West of Lub an Arbhair. This will result in the inundation of an area along the River Rannoch and up

some of its tributaries, Allt Srath Shuardail and another unnamed stream on the South side and Allt na Claise Brice to the North. The perimeter of the storage pond will be between the 83.0m OD and 84.0m OD contours. Part of the existing Estate access road, which runs from Achranich to Loch Tearnait on the North side of the Rannoch, will be submerged, to be replaced by a new stretch of road further North. Some construction work may also be required on the remaining access road, to facilitate the movement of equipment and materials and maintain the public Right of Way.

#### **The Tearnait Scheme:**

Under the Tearnait scheme, it is proposed to build an intake structure across the River Rannoch, approximately 100m downstream from the existing outflow of the loch. One proposed pipeline captures water from Intakes 6 and 7, on the Allt Dubh Dhoire Thearnait and an unnamed tributary to the NE at NM 7520 4510 and NM 4576 4560 respectively. This pipeline skirts the SE and E edge of a level basin, before issuing into Loch Tearnait at NM 7490 4674. A second pipeline takes the water from the intake along the North side of the R. Rannoch to a power house, situated at NM 7320 4676, just above and to the East of the level plain of Strath Shuardail.

### **3. The Survey area.**

#### **The Rannoch Scheme:**

The Rannoch survey covers the area of the proposed dam and reservoir in the valleys of the River Rannoch, Clais Bhreac and Srath Shuardail and a *cordon sanitaire* of about 50m beyond the proposed perimeter of the reservoir. The survey area also includes a corridor along the proposed new access road and another along the existing access road from the proposed dam to the end of the road at Hillside at NM 7080 4727. The latter consists of a strip, 20m to the North of the road and down to the river on the South side.

#### **The Tearnait Scheme:**

The Tearnait survey area covers:

- 1) The pipeline from the dam to the power house, covering an area from the R. Rannoch to a line, 20m North of the existing access road.
- 2) An area, 100m in radius, around the proposed site of the power house.
- 3) A strip, 50m either side of the proposed new access road to the power house.
- 4) Loch Tearnait and its shoreline.
- 5) A strip, 50m either side of the proposed pipeline from Intakes 6 and 7 to Loch Tearnait.

The survey area, West of Loch Tearnait lies on the band of Moine gneiss, which occupies the central part of Morvern. Loch Tearnait and the Allt Dubh Dhoire Thearnait lie on the pink granite of the Strontian complex. The ground within the Srath Shuardail and Clais Bhreac valleys is level, lying between 80m and 90m OD, while the corridor along the access road drops from a maximum height of 100m to 40m OD. The ground rises to a maximum height of 170m OD on the Allt Dubh Dhoire Thearnait. The ground is currently under rough pasture, often rather marshy.

### **4. Working Methods.**

The survey consisted of desk-based research, followed by a walkover survey.

**4.1** A preliminary stage of desk-based research assessed the potential for archaeology in the area. The following sources were consulted:

#### **4.1.1 Sites and Monuments Registers.**

The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS), held by the RCAHMS, John Sinclair House, 16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 9NX.  
The Sites and Monuments Register (SMR), held by the Highland Council Archaeology Unit, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX.

Five sites had been recorded within the survey area:

- NMRS NM74NW.1 Loch Tearnait crannog - Scheduled Ancient Monument
- NMRS NM74NW.2 Loch Tearnait township
- NMRS NM74NW 3 Srath Shuardail farmstead
- NMRS NM74NW 8 Clais Bhreac houses
- NMRS NM74NW.10 Leacraithnaich farmstead

#### 4.1.2. Maps.

- a) William Roy: Map of Scotland, 1747-55.
- b) Alexander Langlands: Plan of the Lands of Achranich in the district of Morven, Argyllshire belonging to John MacDonald Esq. Borrodale, 1815. (and copy)
- c) OS 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 6" Map Sheets Argyllshire LXXI and LV, 1875, surveyed 1872.
- d) OS 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 6" Map Sheet Argyllshire LV SW, 1900, revised in 1897.
- e) OS 1:10,000 Sheets NM74NW and NM74NE, 1975, surveyed 1973.
- f) British Geological Survey: Lismore Scotland Sheet 44 (E) 1:50.000, 1985.

#### 4.1.3. Archives.

Ardtornish Estate Archives: Ardtornish Estate Ledger, 1853-7  
Plan of Achranich (see above)  
Samuel Barham: "Plan of Bridges Scotland".  
Fort William Library: 1841, 1861 Census.

#### 4.1.4. Aerial Photographs.

Aerial photographs were supplied by the Air Photo Unit, RCAHMS:  
106G/SCOT/UK/35 Frames 5157, 5159, 5186, 5188. Scale 1:10,000. Date 27.4.46.  
A further series is held by Ardtornish Estate Archives:  
67-322 Frame 266. Scale 1:27,000. Date 27.8.67.

#### 4.1.5. Published Sources.

Several published sources contain information relevant to the area:  
Adey-Davies, S. 1998: An Initial Survey of a Crannog Situated in Loch Tearnait, Morvern Peninsula, unpublished report.  
Blundell, OM. 1912-13: "Further notes on the artificial islands in the Highland area" in Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot., 47, 289-90.  
Cregeen, E. 1963: Inhabitants of the Argyll Estate, 1779, (Scottish Record Society), Edinburgh.  
Donaldson, M.E.M. 1926: Further Wanderings – Mainly in Argyll, Paisley.  
Gaskell, Philip 1968: Morvern Transformed, Cambridge.  
Gillies, H. Cameron 1906: The Place-names of Argyll, London.  
Innes, C. ed. 1851-5: Origines Parochiales Scotiae, Edinburgh.  
McLeod, Rev. John 1845: "Parish of Morvern" in The New Statistical Account of Scotland, 163-195.  
McPhail, JRN. 1914: "Papers relating to the Macleans of Duart, 1670 – 1689" in Highland Papers I.  
RCAHMS 1980: Argyll Vol. 3 Mull, Coll, Tiree and Northern Argyll

#### 4.2 Fieldwork

A walkover survey was undertaken by the writer between January and April 2008 in mixed, but mostly dry, weather conditions.

The entire survey area was walked and investigated. All the archaeological sites were recorded, measured and photographed. Their locations were recorded with a GPS receiver and marked on a map.

## 5. Historical Background.

The earliest occupation of the survey area is unknown. Prehistoric remains in the vicinity are concentrated in the valley of the River Aline, c. 4kms to the West, where several cists and kerb-cairns are situated at Kinlochaline, Claggan and Acharn, as well as Mesolithic flint scatters at Kinlochaline and Acharn. (RCAHMS, 1980, 57& 63; 54-5; 48-50)<sup>1</sup> Within the survey area, the crannog in Loch Tearnait may have prehistoric origins, though there is no evidence from surface indications. (See Appendix A; RCAHMS, 1980, 123; NMRS NM 74 NW 1; Adey –Davies, 1998) The crannog was almost certainly occupied by Medieval times, when it was known as a sanctuary, under the protection of the Lords of the Isles, for fugitives from justice. (Donaldson, 1926, 319-323) The place-name, “Tearnait”, may derive from this use as a sanctuary or from the sheltered location of the loch. (Donaldson, 1926, 322; Gillies, 1906, 107)<sup>2</sup> A single reference to a “lay abbot of Tearnait” suggests the presence of an early monastic community in the area, though there is no evidence on the ground. (quoted in RCAHMS, 1980, 123)

The place-name Shuardail, or Suardail, is said to be “pure Norse”, derived from the Norse word for valley (*dalr*) and possibly a personal name. (Gillies, 1906, 107; Nicolaisen, 1976, 94-6) However, this does not necessarily imply the existence of a contemporary settlement. Most Norse place-names refer to natural features and it should be remembered that the occurrence of *dalr* names does not indicate “permanent Norse settlement but rather .. the sphere of Norse influence”. (Nicolaisen, 1976, 96) This valley is further inland than most Norse topographical names, but familiarity with the area may have arisen from its proximity to a hill track. There is likely to have been a route along the River Rannoch at least from medieval times, linking the castles of Kinlochaline and Glensanda and the crannog on Loch Tearnait. (RCAHMS, 1980, 123) It may have existed at least from the days of Somerled, who is said to have been living in a cave on the shore of Loch Linnhe (Garbh Shlios), when he reached his decision to lead the rebellion against the Norsemen by landing a salmon at Claggan. (Donaldson, 1926, 324)

**The Rannoch scheme** lies mostly within the lands of Srath Shuardail and Clais Bhreac, which, by the Medieval period, were both part of the property of Achranich. By the late 14<sup>th</sup> century at least, these lands were the property of the Macleans of Duart. Thus in 1390, five pennylands of “Achagranach” were granted by the Lord of the Isles to Lachlan Makgilleone, the grant later confirmed by King James I in 1431 and James IV in 1495. (Innes, 1851-5, 190)

In 1496, Clais Bhreac, under the name of le Claschebreke, is specifically named in a charter, which granted lands in Morvern to Lachlan Makgilleone the natural son to Hector Makgilleone of Dowarde. (ibid.) It is also possible that the latter part of “Achranich with le Straith”, granted in the same charter, corresponds to Srath Shuardail. (ibid.)

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<sup>1</sup> NMRS Nos. NM 64 NE 5, 9 & 10 (Kinlochaline cairns and cists); NM 64 NE 7 (Claggan cairns); NM 65 SE 4 & 5 (Acharn cists and cairns); NM 64 NE11 & NM 65 SE 6 (flint scatters).

<sup>2</sup> Tearnait or “Tearnail” refers to the “sheltered or protected loch” (Gillies, 1906, 107) or derives from *Tearnadh Ionaid* meaning “place of escaping”. (Donaldson, 1926, 322)

By the time Srath Shuardail can be positively identified in the documentary record, the Macleans had lost most of their Morvern lands. Thus in 1730, Srath Shuardail as well as Achranich and Clais Bhreac are among a number of properties specified in the sale of the “lands of Kinlochallan” by Angus Maclean of Kinlochaline to Sir Alexander Murray of Stanhope. (Gaskell, 1968, 134)

These lands changed hands again several times over the next century, and were acquired by Cameron of Glendessary by 1751, Maclean of Drimnin from 1768 and MacDonald of Borrodale from 1800 until 1838. (Gaskell, 1968, 134-5; 141)

There is, however, no evidence of any settlement within the survey area until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Thus no houses are marked on Roy’s Map of 1747-55 or Langlands map of Argyllshire in 1801. By 1815, on the “Plan of the lands of Achranich ...”, there were two buildings at the settlement of Srath Shuardail and three at Clais Bhreac.



Fig 2. Extract from Alexander Langlands' "Plan of the lands of Achranich ... 1815"

Gaskell suggests that the latter depiction showed signs of “recent abandonment” and certainly, in the 1841 census there was no record of any occupation of Clais Bhreac. Srath Shuardail, on the other hand, in 1841, had a population of three in one household, though by 1861 and probably around 1857, this site had also been abandoned. (Census; Gaskell, 1968, 140) ([See below p. 6](#))

It is possible that these houses were built to accommodate a population within an estate, which was becoming increasingly devoted to sheep. Thus, Gaskell suggests that the 1815 Plan of Achranich illustrates well “a centralised proprietor’s farm, with the interior cleared for sheep but with a considerable population still working arable strips at a number of peripheral settlements”. (1968, 18)

By 1845, when Achranich Estate was purchased by Octavius Smith, these lands had already been incorporated into a large-scale sheep farming enterprise and, by the 1850's, Srath Shuardail was occupied by a shepherd, an employee of the estate. (See below p. 7) However, shortly after Octavius Smith acquired the neighbouring Ardtornish Estate in 1860, the sheep were themselves cleared from a large part of Achranich, including Srath Shuardail, to improve grouse shooting and ultimately deer-stalking. (Gaskell, 1968, 77)

**The Tearnait scheme** lies mostly within the lands of Tearnait. These were Maclean lands at least by the 17<sup>th</sup> century; thus, in 1674, "Ternaid" was in the hands of Lauchlan Moir M'Lean. (McPhail, 1914, 287) However, by the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Tearnait had been seized by the Campbells along with Ardtornish and much of Morvern. (Gaskell, 1968, 133) The settlement of "Ternill" is shown, at around NM 745 474, on Roy's Map of 1747-55 with arable ground to the North of the loch and, in 1779, the Argyll census of inhabitants listed a population of twelve. (Cregeen, 1963, 69)



Fig. 3: Extract from Roy's Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-55. (© The British Library. Licensor [www.scran.ac.uk](http://www.scran.ac.uk))

In 1841, the population remained at twelve, occupying two houses but, by 1851, this had dropped to only three in one house. (Gaskell, 1968, 133) The fall in population may be a direct consequence of the sale of Tearnait to Patrick Sellar in 1844 and mirrors a similar decline at Ardtornish and Acharn, when Sellar acquired them. (Gaskell, 1968, 40, 132-2)

In 1860, Octavius Smith, already proprietor of Achranich, as noted above, acquired Tearnait, Eignaig and Ardtornish, applying the latter name to the whole combined estate. One house, to the SW of the main settlement was constructed probably during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and was still in use in 1872 as a sporting bothy. It remains in use, under the care of the Mountain Bothy Association.

## 6. Results of the survey.

31 archaeological sites were identified in the archaeological survey. Of most significance is the crannog in Loch Tearnait, **Site 24**, a scheduled ancient monument, which is described fully in Appendix A. The others are associated principally with the former settlements of Srath Shuardail, Clais Bhreac and Tearnait.

### a) Srath Shuardail.

As noted above, the Srath Shuardail settlement is first depicted in 1815, when two buildings are shown on Alexander Langlands "Plan of the lands of Achranich ...". (See Fig. 2) (See **Site 15**) A series of five fields curve northwards from the buildings, around the West bank of the Allt Srath Shuardail and a sixth occupies the triangular area on the East bank at its confluence with the River Rannoch. (See **Sites 14a - f**) The four southernmost fields, labelled Nos. 38 – 41 on the 1815 plan, are marked as arable ground.

The two northernmost fields, **Sites 14a and b** and labelled Nos. 36 and 37 in 1815, were marked as "green pasture" and seem to have been unenclosed.

In the 1841 Census, Srath Shuardail was occupied by John Rankin, an agricultural labourer. By 1853, "Strathurdal" was occupied by an employee of Achranich Estate, Donald McDonald, who was described as a "march hird". (Ardtornish Estate Ledger 1853-7) Presumably a shepherd patrolling the march with the neighbouring estate, which surrounds three sides of Srath Shuardail, McDonald's wages in 1856 consisted of "2 cows, grass house & croft" as well as 3 ¼ bolls of oat meal every six months. (ibid.) In 1855, Donald McDonald was paid £3 16s 3d for "cutting 953 roods of sheep drains", which may correspond to the drains, **Sites 12 & 13**, visible on aerial photographs and on the ground. (ibid.)

By 1872, the buildings were roofless. (See Fig. 3.) The absence of Donald McDonald or any occupant of Srath Shuardail from the Ardtornish Estate Ledger after 1857 suggests that the site was abandoned around then. (ibid.; Gaskell, 1968, 140) It seems likely that a shepherd was no longer required in this area, when it was made into a deer forest.

### b) Clais Bhreac.

These structures are also first recorded on Alexander Langlands "Plan of the lands of Achranich ...", dated 1815. Three buildings are situated within an enclosed field on the West bank of Allt na Claise Brice. (See Fig. 2) The depiction of the field as "outfield", in contrast to the arable shown at Srath Shuardail, prompted Gaskell to suggest that the settlement had been recently abandoned. (1968, 18, 141) Neither field nor buildings were recorded by the OS in 1872, 1897 or 1973 but the turf dyke, **Site 9**, which enclosed the field, is still extant on either side of the present track. The very dilapidated remains of two buildings are still extant, **Site 11**.

### c) Tearnait.

The settlement of Tearnait was, as noted above (p. 6) occupied from at least 1755. (See Fig. 3) The main focus of the settlement at NM 745 474, **Site 23**, is outside the survey area. However, the dilapidated remains of a house at the march burn, **Site 16**, may have been an offshoot of this settlement, associated with an enclosure, a field and two dykes, **Sites 17 - 21**. The house was abandoned and roofless by 1872 and named Leacraithnaich on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 6" Map (though the latter name was applied to the bothy, **Site 22**, on the current OS 1:10,000 map). (See Fig. 4)

The extensive arable, **Sites 26-31**, around Allt Dubh Dhoire Thearnait, may also be associated with Tearnait, though some distance from the main focus of settlement.





Fig. 4. Extract from OS 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 6" Map Sheets Argyllshire LV, 1875.

## 7. Gazetteer.

### 1. Road.

**NGR W end NM 7080 4727**

**E end NM 7309 4720**

An estate road, leading from Achranich to Loch Tearnait and beyond, runs through the northern end of the survey area. It is recognized by the Scottish Rights of Way Society as part of the public right of way, which runs from Kingairloch to Achranich via Glensanda and Loch Tearnait. As noted above, a route along the Rannoch River has probably existed since, at least, the Medieval period when it connected the castles of Kinlochaline and Glensanda. (See above p. 4) Any early track did not necessarily follow the present route and may well have followed several courses through the centuries. The route marked by dotted lines on the 1815 plan shows the right of way through the estate for a neighbouring landowner and was not necessarily a built road. (See Fig. 2)

The present road was constructed in 1872-3. (Gaskell, 1968, 91) One of two bridges "over a burn on Tarnate new road", which were designed by Samuel Barham, was probably that across Allt na Claise Brice at NM 7301 4732. Consisting of "girders and plates" of "old cast metal", this bridge has since been washed away and the stream is currently channelled through a galvanised steel pipe, topped with hard core and some recently placed wooden planks.

**Refs:** OS 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 6" Map Sheet Argyllshire LV, 1875.

OS 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 6" Map Sheet Argyllshire LV SW, 1900.

OS 1:10,000 Map Sheet NM 74 NW.

**Impact Assessment:** Part of this road will be submerged by the proposed storage pond. Some or most of the remainder will be renovated for use as an access road for the hydro scheme.

**Mitigation:** The fabric of the present road is not of great antiquity and the most important task is to maintain the route from Achranich to Glensanda, a public right of way. This will be achieved by re-routing the road around the storage pond, as intended by Hydroplan. No further action is required.

## 2. Walls.

**NGR NM 7088 4722**

Two walls of dry-stone masonry are situated within a bend in the River Rannoch at the western end of the survey area. Presumably part of a large enclosure between the River Rannoch and Allt Dubh Doire, these walls have been constructed in different stages. The western element, **Site 2a**, was part of an enclosure, constructed by 1872 on the East side of Allt Dubh Doire. By 1897, this had been extended eastwards to enclose a much larger area. The eastern element, **Site 2b**, continues the route of **Site 2a** to the river, which then forms part of the boundary until it reaches the fence, **Site 4**. At some stage after 1897, the extension, **Site 2b** was breached and a fence, **Site 3**, constructed across the apex of the bend in the river. Part of the western element, **Site 2a**, was demolished in the construction of the Turbine House in 1995.

**Refs:** OS 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 6" Map Sheet Argyllshire LV, 1875.  
OS 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 6" Map Sheet Argyllshire LV SW, 1900.  
OS 1:10,000 Map Sheet NM 74 NW.

**Impact Assessment:** The walls are probably sufficiently far from the road to be affected by any renovation. No action is required.

## 3. Fence.

**NGR NM 7100 4715**

A dilapidated post and wire fence was constructed at some stage after 1897 across the apex of the bend in the River Rannoch. This may have occurred after the wall, **Site 2b**, was partly dismantled.

**Refs:** OS 1:10,000 Map Sheet NM 74 NW.

**Impact Assessment:** The fence is some distance from the road and unlikely to be affected by any renovation. No action is required.

## 4. Fence.

**NGR NM 7168 4728**

A dilapidated post and wire fence forms the eastern perimeter of the enlarged enclosure, otherwise bounded by the walls, **Sites 2a and b**. An iron gate is still *in situ* where the fence crosses the road, **Site 1**.

**Refs:** OS 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 6" Map Sheet Argyllshire LV SW, 1900.  
OS 1:10,000 Map Sheet NM 74 NW.

**Impact Assessment:** The gate and adjacent part of the fence will be inundated by the proposed storage pond.

**Mitigation:** The iron gate could be removed prior to inundation.

## 5. Stone Heap.

**NGR NM 7244 4697**

A pile of stones, 5m by 3m and 0.70m high, is situated on top of the South bank of the River Rannoch. It is possible that these stones were removed from the bed of the river to deepen it and increase flow.

**Impact Assessment:** This site will be submerged by the proposed storage pond.

**Mitigation:** It is unlikely that this site is of great significance. No action is required.

## 6. Fence.

**NGR N end NM 7300 4724**

**S end NM 7321 4586**

Iron stanchions and occasional strands of rusted wire are all that remains of a post and wire fence around the valleys of Clais Bhreac and Srath Shuardail. This was erected at some time between 1872 and 1897.

**Refs:** OS 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 6" Map Sheet Argyllshire LV SW, 1900.  
OS 1:10,000 Map Sheet NM 74 NW.

**Impact Assessment:** A small part of the West side of this fence will be inundated by the proposed storage pond.

**Mitigation:** Only a small part of this feature will be affected and the fence line is recorded on OS maps. No further action is required.

## 7. Structure.

**NGR NM 7286 4716**

A small round-angled rectangular structure, 7.10m ESE – WNW by 3.90m, is situated on the East side of the post and wire fence, **Site 6**, immediately South of the road, **Site 1**. The single – compartment structure is defined by dilapidated walls of roughly coursed stone, 0.60m in width and up to 1m in height. An entrance opens on the South side.

Refs: OS 1:10,000 Map Sheet NM 74 NW.

**Impact Assessment:** This site is unlikely to be affected by the present scheme. No action is required.

## 8. Structure.

**NGR NM 7280 4718**

A small semi-circular quarry scoop, 4m in diameter, is situated immediately above the road, **Site 1**, at its intersection with the head dyke, **Site 9**. This was presumably excavated during road construction.

**Impact Assessment:** This site is unlikely to be affected by the present scheme. No action is required.

## 9. Head Dyke.

**NGR N end NM 7299 4747**  
**S end NM 7288 4713**

A substantial earth and stone dyke, 0.80m in width and 0.70m in height, encloses a sub-rectangular area, 300m NNE-SSW by 180m, on the West bank of Allt na Claise Brice. This enclosure was associated with the small settlement of Clais Bhreac, **Site 11**, and labelled as “outfield” on Langlands Map of 1815, by which time Clais Bhreac may have been abandoned. (See above p 5, 7 and Fig. 2) The interior is mostly steeply sloping, apart from a level terrace at the North end, **Site 10**, and the level ground at the southern end in the Srath Shuardail plain. The road, **Site 1**, was constructed through the enclosure in 1872-3 and cuts through the head dyke at NM 7281 4717. (Gaskell, 1968, 91) The South side of the head dyke peters out in hummocky marshy ground and cannot be traced beyond NM 7288 4713.

Refs: Alexander Langlands: “Plan of the lands of Achranich...”, 1815.  
Gaskell, 1968, 18.

**Impact Assessment:** The head dyke lies just to the North of the proposed storage pond and should not be affected. The southern side of the enclosure has already mostly disappeared in marshy ground. The dyke may be at risk from reconstruction of the road.

**Mitigation:** Care should be taken to minimise damage of the dyke during any road reconstruction. The dyke should be marked on the ground to avoid unnecessary damage.

## 10. Possible arable cultivation.

**NGR NM 7294 4746**

A natural level terrace, 50m N-S by 25m, is situated on the North side of the enclosure within the head dyke, **Site 9**. It is defined on the North side by the head dyke and by steep slopes on the other three sides. The interior is distinguished by a cover of herb-rich grass and bracken, in contrast to the surrounding molinia. It is possible that this was once used for cultivation; it is one of the few level areas within the head dyke associated with the Clais Bhreac settlement.

**Impact Assessment:** This site will not be affected by the proposed scheme. No action is required.

## 11. Clais Bhreac Settlement.

**NGR NM 7299 4730**

Two very dilapidated structures and a connecting wall, are situated at the North end of the Srath Shuardail plain, on the West bank of Allt na Claise Brice and just to the South of the bridge.

These are presumably two of the three buildings, recorded at Clais Bhreac in 1815, though possibly recently abandoned. (See above p. 5, 7 and Fig. 2; Gaskell, 1968, 141) Subsequently, the structures have deteriorated, probably under occasional flooding of the stream. A third building, recorded by Gaskell, cut by the road, **Site 1**, "immediately West of [the] bridge" is no longer visible. (Gaskell, 1968, 141)

**a) Structure**

**NGR NM 7299 4730**

The SE corner of a round-angled rectangular building, probably oriented E-W, is situated on the West bank of the Allt na Claise Brice. The remains of the south wall comprises a single course of stones, 2.10m long, 0.60m wide and 0.30m high, which turns eastwards for 1.80m before disappearing in hummocky ground.

**b) Structure**

**NGR NM 7300 4731**

A rectangular outline of an earth and stone structure, c. 6.20m E-W by 4.70m, is situated to the North of structure a). The western end is the best preserved, where the bank is 0.90m wide and 0.30m high.

**c) Wall**

**NGR NM 7300 4731**

A low wall, 16m in length, connects the eastern end of the structures, a) and b), 4m West of the Allt na Claise Brice. It consists of a single course of stones and earth.

Refs. NMRS NM 74 NW 3

Alexander Langlands: "Plan of the lands of Achranich...", 1815.

Gaskell, 1968, 141.

**Impact Assessment:** These structures are unlikely to be affected by the storage pond, though are very close to the road and possibly at risk from damage during road reconstruction.

**Mitigation:** They should be marked on the ground to avoid damage during road improvements.

**12. Drains.**

**NGR NM 7296 4702**

A series of drains is visible on aerial photographs on either side of Allt na Claise Brice, on the level ground immediately North of the River Rannoch. These, with other drains, **Site 13**, may correspond to some of the 953 roods (approx. 100 ha.) of sheep drains, dug in 1855 by Donald McDonald, when employed by Achranich Estate as "march hird" at Srath Shuardail. (Ardtornish Estate Ledger) (See above p. 7) They are very difficult to trace on the ground in the very hummocky terrain.

Refs: AP 016G/SCOT/UK/35 Frames 5159 & 5186, 1:10,000, 27/4/46.

Ardtornish Estate Ledger, 1853-57, Ardtornish Archives.

**Impact Assessment:** Some of this drainage will be submerged under a storage pond at the 83.0m OD contour and more at 84.0m OD. It is likely that, under inundation, the drains will silt up and disappear.

**Mitigation:** This feature is not of any great antiquity and is recorded on aerial photographs and in this report. The other drains, **Site 13**, will be largely unaffected. This may, therefore be assumed to be sufficient record and no further action is required.

**13. Drains.**

**NGR NM 7310 4663**

A series of drains is visible on aerial photographs on the East side of Allt Srath Shuardail, to the East and South of the former field, **Site 12a**. These, with other drains, **Site 12**, may correspond to some of the 953 roods (approx. 100 ha.) of sheep drains, dug in 1855 by Donald McDonald, when employed by Achranich Estate as "march hird" at Srath Shuardail. (Ardtornish Estate Ledger) (See above p. 7) They are very difficult to trace on the ground in the very hummocky terrain.

Refs: AP 016G/SCOT/UK/35 Frame 5159, 1:10,000, 27/4/46.

Ardtornish Estate Ledger, 1853-57, Ardtornish Archives.

**Impact Assessment:** The northernmost end of this drainage may be slightly affected by a storage pond at 84.0m OD contour but not at 83.0m OD. No action is required.

#### 14. Enclosed fields.

**NGR N end NM 7295 4690**

**S end NM 7319 4588**

A series of six fields was recorded in 1815, alongside Allt Srath Shuardail, and associated with the settlement, Srath Shuardail, **Site 15**, at the southern end.

a) The northernmost field, No. 36 on the 1815 plan, is situated between the East bank of Allt Srath Shuardail and the River Rannoch. It is unenclosed and marked as green pasture.

b) The field immediately South of a), No. 37 on the 1815 plan, is situated on the West bank of Allt Srath Shuardail. It is unenclosed and marked as green pasture.

c) The field immediately South of b), No. 38 on the 1815 plan, is situated on the West bank of Allt Srath Shuardail. It was enclosed and marked as arable ground, with furrows orientated NE-SW. The boundaries are visible from the air.

d) The field immediately South of c), No. 39 on the 1815 plan, is situated on the West bank of Allt Srath Shuardail. It was enclosed and marked as arable ground, with furrows orientated NW-SE. These furrows and the field boundaries are clearly visible on aerial photographs.

e) The field immediately South of d), No. 40 on the 1815 plan, is situated on the West bank of Allt Srath Shuardail. It was enclosed and marked as arable ground, with furrows orientated N-S. These furrows are barely identifiable on aerial photographs but the boundaries are clearly visible. The northern boundary is marked on the 1975 OS 1:10,000 Map.

f) The field immediately South of e), No. 41 on the 1815 plan, is situated on the West bank of Allt Srath Shuardail. It was enclosed and marked as arable ground, with furrows orientated E-W. The field boundaries are clearly visible on aerial photographs and were recorded by the OS in 1872 and 1973. The settlement of Srath Shuardail, **Site 13**, is situated at the south end of this field.

These fields are very difficult to distinguish on the ground in the very hummocky marshy terrain. Only a) and b) are within the survey area.

Refs: Alexander Langlands: Plan of the Lands of Achranich ...", 1815.

OS 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 6" Map Sheet Argyllshire LV, 1875.

OS 1:10,000 Map Sheet NM 74 NW.

AP: 106G/SCOT/UK/35 Frames 5157 and 5159, 1:10,000, 27/4/46.

**Impact Assessment:** The unenclosed field a), used as green pasture in 1815, is the only one to be substantially affected by the proposed scheme. Most of the field will be submerged under a storage pond at 84.0m OD but only a small portion at 83.0m OD. A very small portion of field b) may be submerged under the 84.0m OD pond.

**Mitigation:** The field a) is today barely recognisable as "green pasture", as it has developed into a hummocky fen landscape. Some analysis of organic remains could be undertaken, though this may have less significance in a pasture field.

#### 15. Srath Shuardail settlement.

**NGR NM 7315 4591**

This settlement is situated outside the survey area but is included for reference as it is associated with some of the sites within the survey area. (See above pp. 5-7)

A cluster of at least four buildings is situated at the South end of the series of fields, **Site 12**. Two buildings, one attached to a rectangular arable enclosure, were recorded on Langlands Map of 1815. (See Fig. 2) Another arable enclosure is located to the South of a bend in the stream. A third building was added by 1872, and a fourth was recorded by the OS in 1973.

Refs: NMRS NM 74 NW 3.

Alexander Langlands: Plan of the Lands of Achranich ...", 1815.

OS 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 6" Map Sheet Argyllshire LV, 1875.  
OS 1:10,000 Map Sheet NM 74 NW.  
Gaskell, 1968, 18, 40.

**Impact Assessment:** This site will not be affected by the storage pond of the Rannoch scheme, though there may be a visual impact from the power house and new access road of the Tearnait scheme.

**Mitigation:** Efforts could be made to construct a power house in keeping, as far as is possible, with the local vernacular architecture.

#### **16. House.**

**NGR NM 7394 4706**

A dilapidated round-angled rectangular building, 13m E-W by 5m, is situated just below the present access road to Tearnait, **Site 1**, immediately to the East of the march burn. The East end and South side are the best preserved, consisting of low roughly coursed stone walls, 0.75m wide and 0.40m high. The North side has collapsed but the East end is missing. The structure may have been damaged by road construction.

The house and its associated enclosure, **Site 17**, were abandoned by 1872 and named Leacraithnaich on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 6" Map.

Refs: OS 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 6" Map Sheet Argyllshire LV, 1875.  
Gaskell, 1968, 132

**Impact Assessment:** The house is at risk from road renovations.

**Mitigation:** Care should be taken to avoid these remains in road renovations. The house should be marked on the ground before work commences.

#### **17. Enclosure.**

**NGR NM 7395 4705**

A sub-rectangular enclosure, 17m E-W by 15m, is situated 3m ESE of the house, **Site 16**. It is defined by a wall of earth and stone, 0.75m in width and 0.90m in height. The enclosure and its associated house, **Site 16**, were abandoned by 1872 and named Leacraithnaich on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 6" Map.

**Impact Assessment:** The enclosure is at risk from road renovations.

**Mitigation:** Care should be taken to avoid these remains in road renovations. The enclosure should be marked on the ground before work commences.

#### **18. Boundary Dyke.**

**NGR N end NM 7393 4706**

**S end NM 7495 4692**

A stone wall, c. 150m long and probably marking the Tearnait march, runs alongside an unnamed burn. Consisting of roughly coursed stone, the northern end of the wall follows the West side of the burn, until it crosses to the East side at NM 7394 4698.

**Impact Assessment:** The North end is at risk from road renovations and the South end may be cut by the pipeline.

**Mitigation:** Care should be taken to avoid the North end in road renovations. The wall should be marked on the ground before work commences. At the southern end, it may be possible to route the pipeline through existing gaps.

#### **19. Wall.**

**NGR NM 7395 4690**

A short fragment of wall runs along the South side of the River Rannoch, opposite the march burn and boundary dyke, **Site 18**. It may have been part of a boundary of to prevent stock crossing the river; it is noticeable that this point is one of the few places, at which the River Rannoch can be crossed.

**Impact Assessment:** This site is unlikely to be affected by the scheme and no action is required.

## 20. Wall.

**NGR NM 7399 4697**

A wall, running for 20m southwestwards from a rocky knoll, may have been part of an enclosure, associated with the house and enclosure, **Sites 16** and **17**. It consists of an earth and stone bank, 0.80m in width and 0.30m in height.

**Impact Assessment:** This site is close to the proposed route of the pipeline.

**Mitigation:** It should be marked on the ground before work commences.

## 21. Enclosed Field.

**NGR NM 7413 4697**

A sub-rectangular gently sloping area, 25m N-S by 16m, situated to the West of a rocky knoll, is enclosed by short fragments of stone wall, which incorporate rocky outcrops. It may have been associated with the house and enclosure, **Sites 16 & 17**. The south wall measures 0.90m in width and 0.50m in height.

**Impact Assessment:** This site may be affected by the construction of the Tearnait power house and access road to it.

**Mitigation:** It may be possible to reroute the access road around the field.

## 22. House

**NGR NM 7420 4715**

A house is situated overlooking Loch Tearnait, to the SW of the main focus of the Tearnait township, **Site 23**. It may have been built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and was still in use in 1872. It remains in use today, under the care of the Mountain Bothy Association. It is labelled Leacraithnaich on the current OS 1:10.000 map, though the latter name was originally applied to the small farmstead, Site Nos. 16 and 17.

Refs: Part of NMRS NM74NW.2

OS 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 6" map Sheet Argyllshire LV, 1875.

OS 1:10.000 NM74NW, 1975.

Gaskell, 1968, 132.

**Impact Assessment:** The site will not be physically affected by the proposed scheme, though there may be some visual impact from the construction of the intake.

**Mitigation:** A photomontage would establish the likely visual impact of the intake structure.

## 23. Tearnait township.

**NGR NM 745 474**

Remains of a township are situated to the North of Loch Tearnait. At least three houses (a) with enclosures and arable ground are situated at NM 747 474, where they are recorded on Roy's Map. Other, possibly earlier, buildings (b) are located at NM 747 475 and another house (c), partially roofed in 1872 and associated with a large square enclosure, is situated at NM 7450 4728. Most of this site is outside the survey area, apart from the southern end of the enclosure associated with house (c), which lies above the northern shore of Loch Tearnait.

Refs: Roy's Map, 1747-55

OS 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 6" Map Sheet Argyllshire LV, 1875.

OS 1:10,000 NM74NW, 1975

Gaskell, 1968, 132-3.

**Impact Assessment:** This site is unlikely to be affected by the proposed scheme.

The southern end of the enclosure of house (c) is above any possible rise in the level of the loch. It is unlikely that there will be any visual impact from the construction of the intake at this distance.

**Mitigation:** No action required.

## 24. Loch Tearnait Crannog

**NGR NM 7480 4702**

**NMRS NM74NW.1**

**Scheduled Ancient Monument # 4347**

This site is discussed fully along with a detailed impact assessment in Appendix A.

### **25. Sellar's Path and bridge.**

**NGR bridge NM 7421 4697**

A path leads southeastwards from the main Achranich – Tearnait – Glensanda track, **Site 1**, at NM 7411 4605. It crosses the River Rannoch, just below the outflow of Loch Tearnait, via a footbridge at NM 7421 4697, and continues around the southern shore of Loch Tearnait, ultimately to Eignaig on the shore of Loch Linnhe. The present bridge rests on stone abutments and may be a relatively recent version of an older bridge. A footbridge, but not the path, is marked on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 6" map. The path may have been constructed at some time in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is known as Sellar's Path, after either Patrick Sellar, who bought Tearnait along with Eignaig and Ardtornish in 1844, or his heirs.

Refs: OS 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 6" Map Sheet Argyllshire LV, 1875 (footbridge only)  
OS 1:10,000 Map NM74NW, 1975.

**Impact Assessment:** The bridge may be removed in the construction of the intake on the River Rannoch.

**Mitigation:** The preservation of a path seems to be more important than the present bridge structure, which is not likely to be of any great antiquity. The provision of a new bridge across the intake structure is therefore recommended.

### **26. Arable Field.**

**NGR N end NM 7536 4608**  
**S end NM 7538 4601**

A large area of arable ground is situated on the sloping ground to the East of a miry basin, surrounding a small unnamed lochan. The arable is almost square in plan, 84m NNW-SSE by 80m, and is enclosed on the East side by an earth and stone dyke, **Site 27**, and on the South side by a drain, **Site 29**. The interior is covered in broad lazy beds, 4m in width and 0.20m high, oriented E-W. A possible stance for a building, **Site 28**, is situated in the NW untilled corner.

**Impact Assessment:** The proposed pipeline from Intakes 6 and 7 passes directly through this arable field.

**Mitigation:** It is recommended that the pipeline skirts around the arable rather than straight through the middle.

### **27. Earth and Stone Dyke.**

**NGR N end NM7540 4607**  
**S end NM 7542 4595**

A substantial earth and stone dyke defines the East side of the arable field, **Site 26**. It spreads to a width of 2.30m and reaches 0.70m in height. It continues southwards beyond the SE corner of the arable field until it reaches a total length of c. 150m, petering out in marshy ground.

**Impact Assessment:** The proposed pipeline from Intakes 6 and 7 is close to this dyke.

**Mitigation:** It is recommended that the pipeline skirts around the arable, **Site 26**, rather than straight through the middle.

### **28. Possible house stance.**

**NGR NM 7535 4606**

A small level uncultivated platform in the NW corner of the arable field, **Site 26**, may have been the stance for a structure. Considering the distance from the main Tearnait settlement, some sort of structure may have been necessary. It consists of a rectangular level platform, 11m NE-SW by 3m and no stone foundation layer is discernible.

**Impact Assessment:** The proposed pipeline from Intakes 6 and 7 is close to this feature.

**Mitigation:** It is recommended that the pipeline skirts around the arable, **Site 26**, rather than straight through the middle.



### 29. Drain.

NGR W end NM 7534 4600  
E end NM 7542 4603

A pronounced steep-sided drain, c. 100m long, defines the South side of the arable ground, **Site 26**. It runs from the dyke, **Site 27**, taking runoff away from the arable ground, and continues to the West, eventually disappearing in marshy ground. It measures 0.40m in width and 0.30m in depth.

**Impact Assessment:** The proposed pipeline from Intakes 6 and 7 is close to this feature.

**Mitigation:** It is recommended that the pipeline skirts around the arable, **Site 26**, rather than straight through the middle.

### 30. Arable Field.

NGR SW end NM 7533 4577  
NE end NM 7552 4582

A large area of arable ground is situated on the sloping ground to the SE of a miry basin, surrounding a small unnamed lochan. The area, c. 200m SW – NE by 140m, is divided into three parcels of lazy beds, divided by rocky knolls. The lazy beds are on average 3.80m in width and 0.20m in height and oriented NW-SE at the northern end and E-W or WSW-ENE at the southern end. A short wall fragment, **Site 31**, marks the eastern extent.

**Impact Assessment:** The proposed pipeline from Intake 6 passes directly through this arable field while the Intake 7 is situated close to the North end.

**Mitigation:** It is recommended that the pipeline skirts around the arable rather than straight through the middle.

### 31. Wall.

NGR N end NM 7559 4579  
S end NM 7558 4577

A short wall fragment marks the eastern extent of the large area of arable ground, Site No. 30. It consists of earth and stone and measures 0.80m in width and 0.40m in height.

**Impact Assessment:** The proposed pipeline from Intake 6 is close to this feature.

**Mitigation:** It is recommended that the pipeline skirts around the arable, **Site 30**, rather than straight through the middle.

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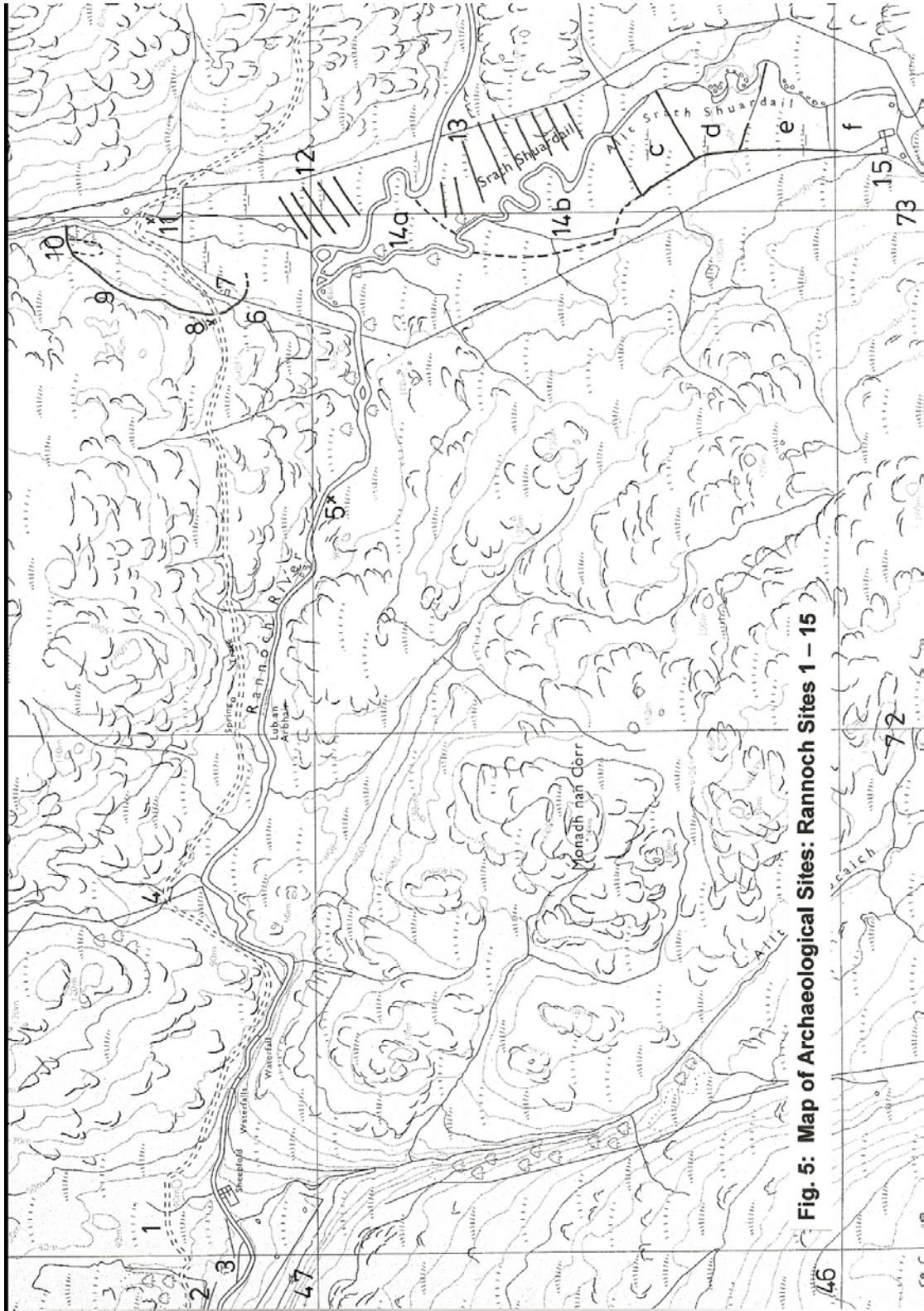
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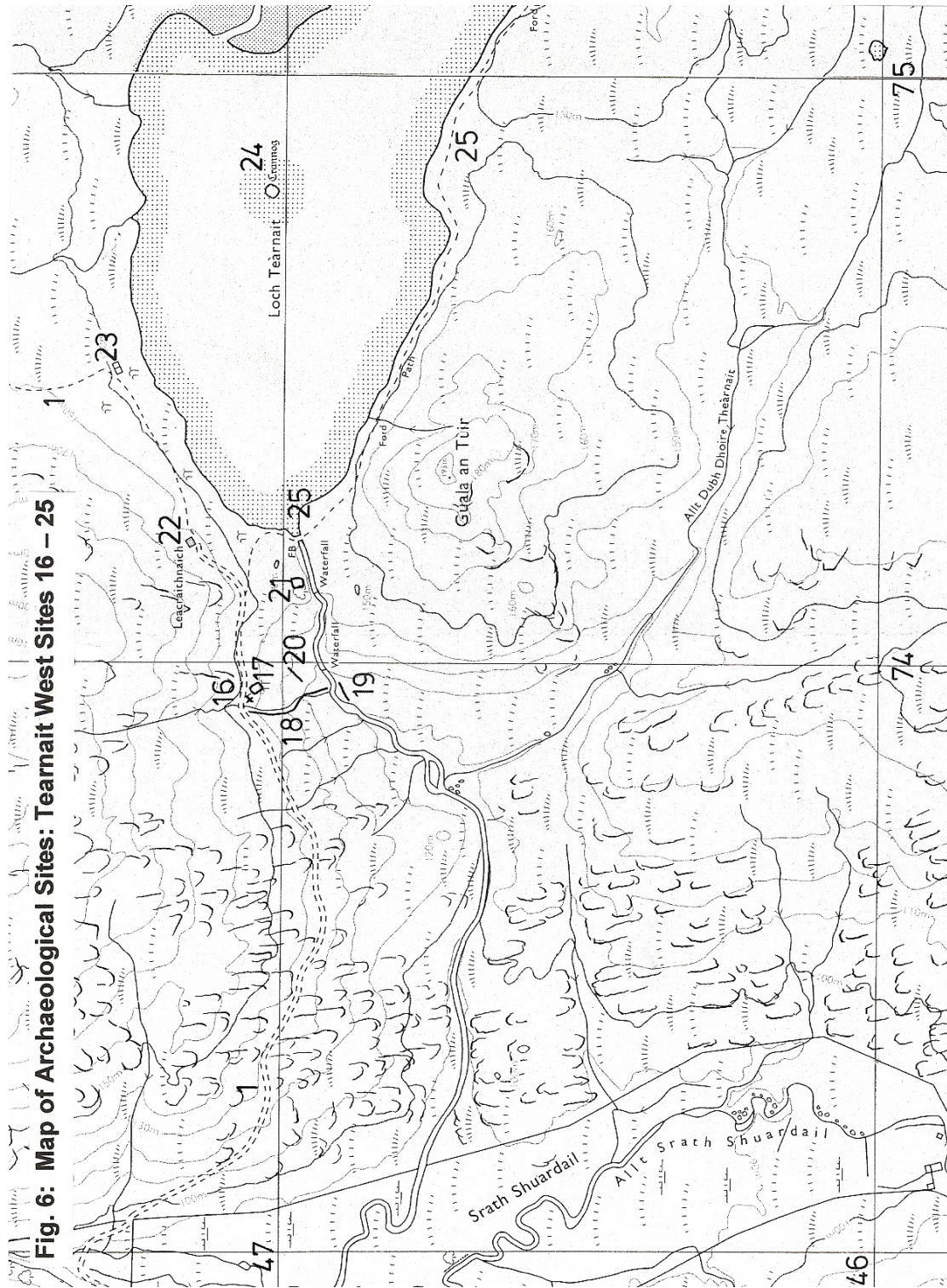
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**Fig. 6: Map of Archaeological Sites: Teanairn West Sites 16 – 25**

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