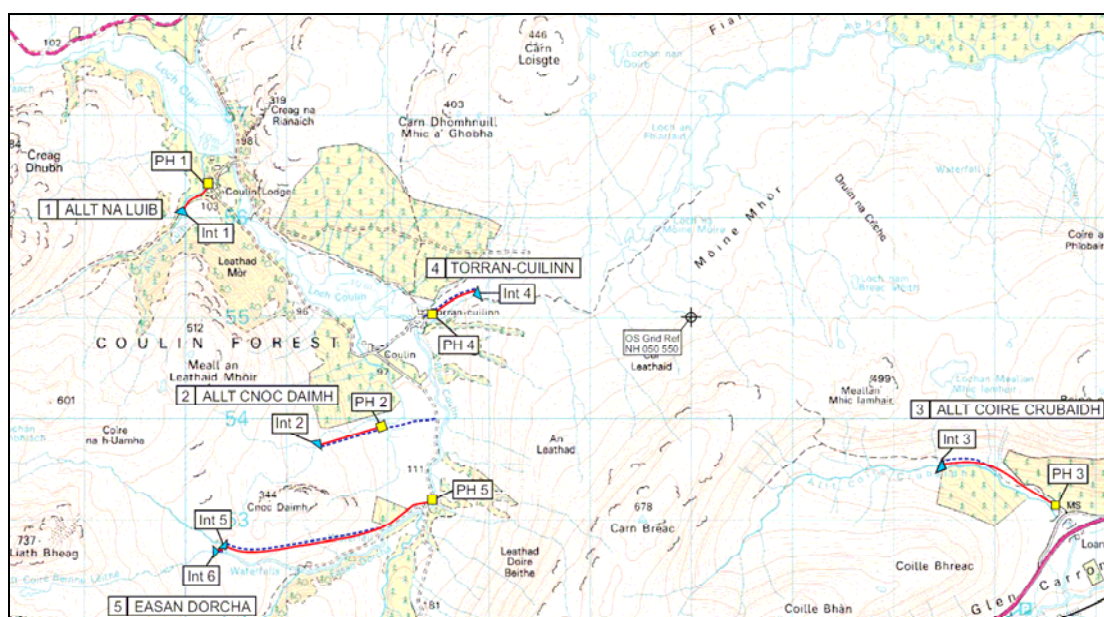


P570-1 Allt na Luib Hydro Scheme

Preface to Appendix B – Archaeology

The Allt na Luib Scheme is one of five schemes proposed for the Coulin Estate, as shown in Figure 1. The archaeological survey comprised a site walkover and a desk-based survey over areas on the Coulin Estate that will potentially be affected by all five schemes. The subsequent report therefore combines all impacts on archaeology from all of the proposed schemes.

Figure 1 – Site map showing scheme layouts for all five schemes at Coulin.



The scheme layout for the Allt na Luib has been revised since the time of the survey, although the survey corridor was inclusive of the area that would be affected by the current scheme layout.

The impacts specifically associated with the Allt na Luib scheme have been summarised and the appropriate mitigation measures listed in Section 4 of this Environmental Statement, titled 'Environmental Risk Assessment and Mitigation'.

An Archaeological Survey for the
Coulin Hydro Scheme, Coulin Estate,
Lochcarron, Wester Ross, Highland.

For Hydroplan UK.

August 2011.



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1. Summary.

Fifteen archaeological sites were recorded in a desk-based and walkover survey over areas potentially affected by proposed hydro schemes on the Coulin Estate, Lochcarron, Wester Ross, Highland. All archaeological features in the vicinity of the hydro schemes were identified as minor features of land use, associated with post-mediaeval settlement, sheep farming or 19th century sport.

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Designed Landscapes or Gardens in the vicinity.

Impact assessment and mitigation is summarised in the table below.

Site No.	Impact Assessment	Mitigation
Site 1 Shooting Stance	May be affected by access road to PH.	Identify and mark out on ground to avoid accidental damage.
Site 2 Torran Cuilinn township features	Residual minor features may be removed during construction of PH & access.	Watching brief may be required to identify and record any residual features of the township.
Site 3 Water diversion	May be removed during construction of PH & tailrace.	No action is required.
Site 4 Buildings (site of)	Any residual sub-surface features may be removed in construction of PH & tailrace.	Watching brief may be required to identify and record any residual sub-surface features.
Site 5 Track, path	No impact on archaeological record.	No action is required.
Site 6 Cairn, shelter	It should be possible to avoid this feature.	Identify and mark out on ground to avoid accidental damage.
Site 7 Walling	This site is not at risk.	No action is required.
Site 8 Bothy (Tea Hut)	No direct impact.	No action is required.
Site 9 Stalkers' paths, track	May be minor impact on associated features such as borrow pits.	No action is required.
Site 10 Enclosure	This site is not at risk.	No action is required. Do not use as a lay-down area.
Site 11 Structure	Any works to the South of present track will damage this feature.	No action is required.
Site 12 Pits	Any works to the North of present track will damage this feature.	No action is required.
Site 13 Walling	At risk of damage during construction of intake and upgrade of access.	Identify and mark out on ground to avoid accidental damage.
Site 14 Shieling Hut	This site should be far enough away from Intake 13a to avoid being affected by construction.	No action is required.

<p>Site 15 Old road alignment, bridges</p>	<p>These features should be far enough away from PH 8 to avoid being affected by construction.</p>	<p>No action is required.</p>
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2. Introduction.

2.1 The Proposed Development and Survey Area.

An archaeological survey was undertaken on behalf of Hydroplan UK on the Coulin Estate, Lochcarron, Wester Ross, Highland (OS 1:10.000 Sheets NG95NE, NG95SE, NH05NW, NH05SW and NH05SE), prior to the proposed construction of five hydro schemes:

- Scheme 1: Allt na Luib (Powerhouse 1, Intake 1)
 - Scheme 2: Allt Cnoc Daimh (Powerhouse 2, Intake 2)
 - Scheme 3: Allt Coire Crubaidh (Powerhouse 3, Intake 3)
 - Scheme 4: Torran – Cuilinn (Powerhouse 4, Intake 4)
 - Scheme 5: Easan Dorcha. (Powerhouse 5, Intakes 5 and 6)
- (See Fig 1: Location Map)

The Coulin estate is located between Torridon and Kinlochewe, bounded to the north by the A896 Torridon-Kinlochewe road, and to the south by the A890 Achnasheen-Lochcarron road. Four of the five schemes are on small streams, which drain into Lochs Coulin and Clair: the Easan Dorcha , Allt na Luib and Allt Cnoc Damh draining from the west, and the Allt na Feithe Ruaidhe draining from the east. The fifth scheme is on the Allt Coire Crubaidh, which flows SE into Strathcarron.

Each scheme consists of an intake upstream, a buried pipeline and a powerhouse downstream on the same watercourse. Grid connection for the four northern schemes will be via an existing connection running as far as Torran Cuilinn cottage, and for the southern scheme the adjacent power line running alongside the A890.

The survey areas consist of a narrow strip of ground, 50m either side of the proposed pipelines, an area 50m in diameter around the intakes and 100m in diameter around the powerhouse. Underlying geology is complex, as the Loch Clair – River Coulin line forms part of the Moine Thrust fault line. On the west side of the fault, the streams have cut deeply into the rock and descend through a series of small gorges and waterfalls, while the steams to the east of the fault cross a more resilient metamorphic rock. On average, the streams drop from a height of 220m OD to 110m OD. While there are coniferous plantings on the estate, none of the schemes are within forestry, with the exception of the power house site for the Allt Cnoc Daimh scheme, and the Allt na Luib scheme is within an enclosed area of regenerating native scots pine.

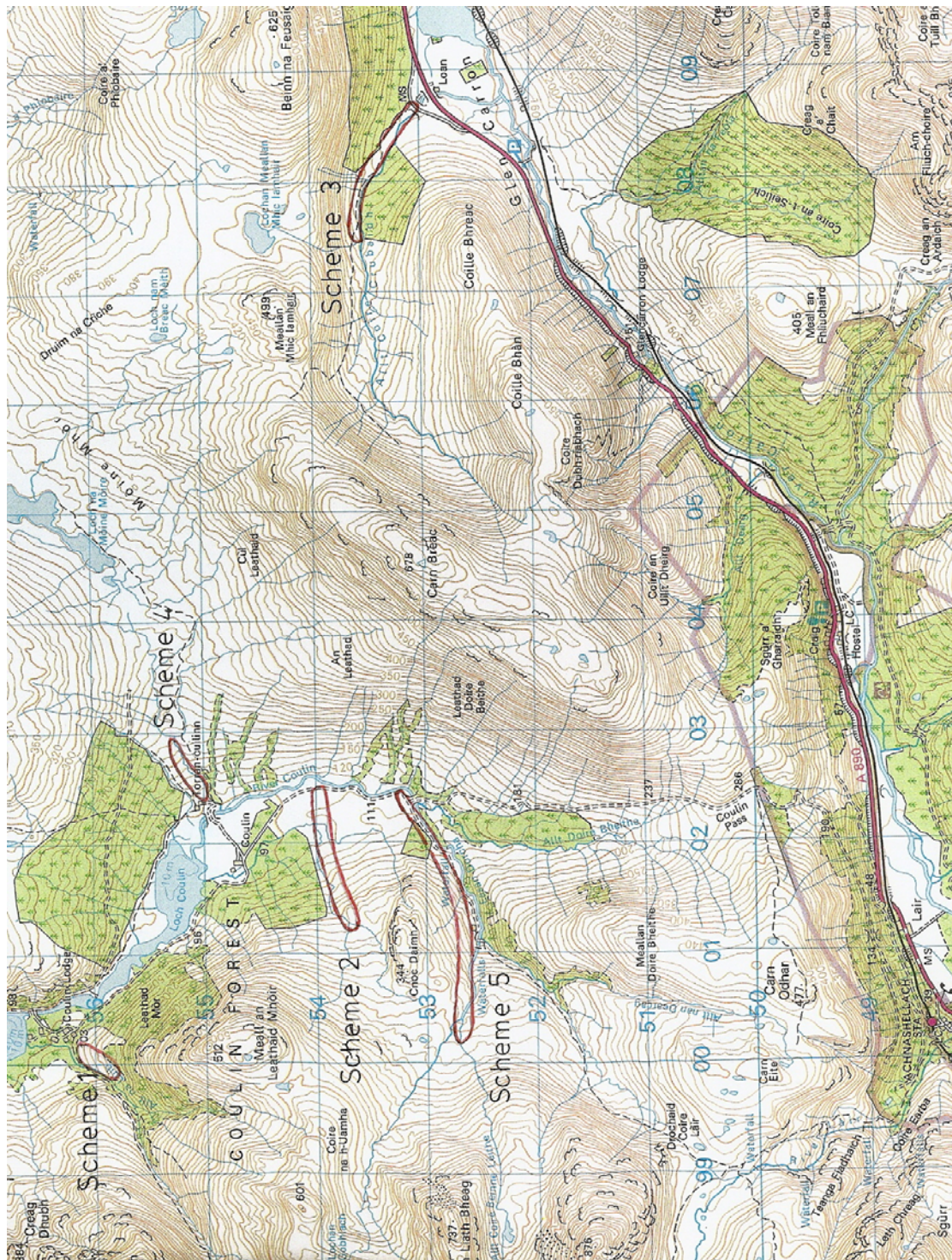


Fig. 1: Location Map, showing the five proposed hydro schemes. Extract from OS 1:50,000 Landranger 25 (© Crown copyright 2008. all rights reserved. Licence number 100044103)

2.2 General Principles

This evaluation addresses the potential impacts of the proposed hydro scheme on the archaeological and cultural heritage of the immediate area, which is taken to include:

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments, listed buildings, gardens and designed landscapes, all features considered to be of sufficient archaeological or cultural significance to be protected by law from either direct or indirect impacts
- Recorded and previously unrecorded archaeological sites and areas of archaeological, historical or cultural significance. Archaeological sites are a non-renewable, highly fragile and ever diminishing resource and although many sites are neither visible nor well preserved, they all represent a valuable resource for present and future research, education, community identity and tourism. Increasingly, many of these remains are under threat from development and changing forms of land use. The Planning and Policy Guideline PPG16 states the need for the protection of this resource and makes recommendations:

o The key to reasonable and informed planning conditions, as emphasised in paragraphs 19 and 20 of PPG 16, is for consideration to be given early, before formal planning applications are made, to the question of whether archaeological remains exist on a site where development is planned, and the implications of this for the development proposal. Where remains are known to exist, or where archaeologists have good reason to believe that remains exist, advance knowledge will allow developers to alter their design or set in place other mitigations.

o The case for the preservation of archaeological remains must be assessed on the individual merits of each case, taking into account all relevant local policies and material considerations, including the intrinsic importance of the remains and weighing these against the need for the proposed development.

o In a situation where an initial evaluation indicates a high potential for archaeological remains, planning consent may be given with the following condition: 'no development shall take place within the area indicated until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the local Planning Authority'.

3. Working Methods.

The survey consisted of a combination of a desk-based assessment and a rapid walkover survey, undertaken by Jennifer Robertson and Catherine Dagg. Catherine Dagg carried out the desk-based research and the walkover survey and produced a draft report. Jennifer Robertson undertook the project design and some additional desk-based research and compiled the final report, the majority of which comprises the draft report.

3.1. Desk-based Assessment.

The desk-based assessment consisted of the consultation of a variety of sources:

3.1.1. Sites and Monuments Registers.

a) The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS), held by RCAHMS, John Sinclair House, 16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 9NX, available on

www.rcahms.gov.uk

b) The Historic Environment Record (HER), held by the Highland Council Archaeology Unit, Planning and Development Service, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX, available on www.ambaile.org

Five recorded sites are relevant to the survey area:

- Torran Cuilinn: enclosure at NH 0100 5570
NMRS ref. NH05NW.4
HER ref. MHG24248
This site is within the approximate area of the possible township, Garran Chonlin, as recorded by Roy in the 1750s, on the east side of Loch Coulin
- Torran Cuilinn: enclosure and shieling hut at NH 0145 5557
NMRS ref. NH05NW.2 and NH05NW.3
HER ref. MHG24246 and MHG24247
This site is within the approximate area of the possible township, Garran Chonlin, as recorded by Roy in the 1750s, on the east side of Loch Coulin
- Airigh na Caillich: possible shieling hut at NH 0330 5548
NMRS ref. NH05NW.1
HER ref. MHG24245
The location of this site suggests shielings associated with the township of Garran Chonlin, both being within Gairloch lands
- River Coulin: building at NH 0240 5360
NMRS ref. NH05SW.1
HER ref. MHG24249
This roofless rectangular building is located adjacent to the estate road and is likely to be contemporary, ie mid-late 19th century and associated with sporting activities
- Drochaid Coire Lair: shieling at NG 9940 5060
No NMRS ref.
HER ref. MHG14942
This remote site is likely to be shielings associated with the pre-improvement townships at Achnashellach in Strathcarron

All the sites are known only from information on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881. None of these is in the immediate vicinity of the present schemes, but they give an indication of the distribution, chronology and type of known archaeological features on the Coulin estate. All five sites date to the post mediaeval or modern period.

3.1.2. Maps.

- a) William Roy's Map of Scotland, 1747-55.
- b) John Thomson: the Atlas of Scotland, Edinburgh, 1832.
- c) OS 1st Ed. 6" Map Sheet: Ross-shire & Cromarty-shire lxxxii, lxxxiii, xciii, and xciv, surveyed 1875, publ. 1880 and 1881.
- d) OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map, publ. 1900.
- e) OS 1:10,000 Sheets NG95NE, NG95SE, NH05NW, NH05SW and NH05SE.
- f) OS Explorer 1:25,000, 429 Glen Carron and West Morar, 2002.

3.1.3. Previous surveys.

One previous archaeological survey has been carried out in the vicinity of the present proposed scheme. While this survey does not include all the areas of the present

development, it is useful in indicating the presence or absence of archaeological sites in the vicinity:

- **Coulin Estate Woodland Creation:** an evaluation consisting of a desk-based study and rapid walk-over survey in advance of enclosing and planting five areas within the estate. This work was carried out by Catherine Dagg on behalf of Highland Archaeological Services in January 2011. The evaluation concluded:

Of the eleven sites noted within or adjacent to the proposed planting areas, the majority are features of a 19th-20th century sporting estate. One is modern and one may date to the short period of sheep farming during the mid-19th century. The rest are features of land use which pre-dates the sheep and deer forest. These features are generally referred to as Early Modern or Post-Mediaeval. They are not possible to date more accurately without more intrusive archaeological methods and may have been in use for many centuries. They occupy small areas of slightly favoured ground which would have been equally attractive to prehistoric settlers as to 18th century tenants. As all of these early features are on the west side of the Gairloch-Applecross boundary, the shielings near Loch Bharranch would most likely have been associated with settlements to the west, by Loch Torridon, while the features along the Easan Dorcha may have been linked to settlement at Coulin Farm

3.1.4. Aerial Photographs.

Aerial photographs from satellite coverage were consulted but any archaeological remains were too small or concealed by vegetation and tree cover to identify.

3.1.5. Published Sources.

Coulin Estate website: www.coulin.co.uk

Dixon JH 1886: *Gairloch and Guide to Loch Maree*

Grimble A, 1893: *The Deer Forests of Scotland*

Hogg, J 1888: *A Tour of the Highlands in 1803*

Watson WJ 1904 *Place names of Ross and Cromarty*

3.2. Fieldwork.

The desk-based research was followed by a rapid walkover survey. This was undertaken by Catherine Dagg on 17th May 2011 in dry and sunny weather conditions. Locations were recorded using GPS to an accuracy of +/- 4m

4.1. Historical Background.

Prehistory

Although the historical notes for Coulin estate suggest that there is archaeological evidence for human occupation in the Neolithic period, evidence for this appears to be based on pollen cores, which demonstrate a marked reduction in forest cover in the Neolithic period. This may well be due to deliberate clearance by farming settlers, but there are no actual archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric period. All the archaeological sites recorded on the Highland Historic Environment Record (HER) would appear to date to post-mediaeval settlement and land use.

Early History and Legend

Two minor local legends offer the only insight into this remote area prior to the Early Modern period:

Watson (1904) suggests that the place name Coulin means either 'high enclosure' or 'collection of enclosures'. However, Dixon (1886) suggests that Coulin, or Conlinn, is from Connlach, a Fingalian hero, who was buried on a promontory in the loch and 'the site of his grave is still pointed out'. Dixon also mentions a rock 'near Loch Clair' called Maelrubha's Seat, where, it is said, the saint rested when travelling between the monastery of Applecross and his cell on Loch Maree. This is one of several such named resting places, but its precise location, like that of the buried Connlach, is now unknown.

Post-Mediaeval

The Coulin River forms the traditional march between the lands of MacKenzie of Gairloch, (the Gairloch lands were in the possession of Mackenzie of Coull until sold to Gairloch in 1743) in the parish of Gairloch, to the east, and Mackenzie of Applecross, in the parish of Lochcarron to the west and south. As such it would have formed a boundary between the grazings, shielings and hunting grounds associated with townships of the two estates.

Roy's Military Survey of the 1750s appears to record a settlement, together with corn lands, on a headland or alluvial fan on the east side of Loch Coulin. This may correspond to the buildings and enclosures recorded on the HER. Roy names the township as Garran Chonlin, which probably derives from the Gaelic *Garbhan Chonlin*, meaning "the rough place of Conlin". Watson (1904) states that the Kinlochewe tenants of old had their shielings where Coulin Lodge now stands. This evidence is dubious, as this spot, West of the lochs, would have been part of the lands of Applecross in Lochcarron parish, while Kinlochewe is within Gairloch. However, the following couplet is supposed to refer to these shielings:

*Cumain is snathain is im'ideil
Ceithir thimchioll Lub Theamradail*

Milk pails and threads and coverings
All around the bend of Temradal

Temradal, supposedly the old name of this spot, is not recorded on any mapping. Interestingly, however, it appears to be from the Norse (Timbr-dalr = timber dale) and refer to post-Prehistoric woodlands.

Thomson's map of 1823 records the place name Coulin, at the SW end of Loch Coulin, and places Garranchonlin some distance NW of the loch side. Neither place is definitely recorded as an inhabited settlement by Thomson, possibly because this map post-dates the introduction of sheep farming. Four tenants are recorded as having been evicted from Coulin in 1818 to make way for sheep farming. This must have taken place on the Applecross rather than the Gairloch side of the parish boundary. It is in this year that all the tenants of Glen Carron east of Loch Dughail were removed. Coulin may have been established as a sheep farm

The route through the hills, over the Coulin Pass, has been described as a drove road, and this may have been one of its functions. It is recorded on Roy's survey, rising from Lair in Glencarron and dividing at the head of Loch Coulin, with one

branch continuing north to Kinlochewe and a shorter branch running along the loch side to Garron Chonlin. This is the route taken by James Hogg in 1803:

'... my path divided into twain, equally well frequented. I hesitated long which to take... but following the left hand one it led me at length into the Vale of Colan, a curious, sequestered place, in the midst of the mountains to the east of Sir Hector Mackenzie's forest. The haughs are of considerable extent, of a deep sandy soil, with a clear stream winding through them; and some of the haughs were very good for such a country. The hills around it were very black, and mostly covered with strong heather. I spoke to no person here, nor all this way, but again took to the muir..'

In Strathcarron, the township of Loan, or Lone, appears as a settlement for the first time on Roy's Military Survey of the 1750s, as a small cluster of buildings next to the road running along the north side of Loch Scamman (Sgamhain). Fean Loan Inn is named on Dorret's map of 1750, along with the Inn of Luiborgan, which is shown a long way further east. On Ainslie's map of 1789, both inns are named, but the road is shown as running along the south shore of Loch Scavan. The inn is not shown on any of the succeeding maps. In 1818 all the townships east of Loch Dughaill, including presumably Loan, were cleared to make way for sheep walks. The tenants were resettled in Achintee or the newly established fishing village of Jeantown (Lochcarron) and the houses of the townships, according to a later witness, removed 'for banking up the river and suchlike'. Two large sheep farms were established, at Tulloch and Attadale. Features recorded on the 1st edition OS map indicate that Loan was a focus of sheep farming, with the roofed building probably a shepherds cottage.

Modern

In Strathcarron, the lease on Tulloch sheep farm expired in 1863 and the sheep stock were cleared off the lands of Achnashellach to make way for deer forest and shooting tenants. By 1868 the land had been sold to the industrialist Robert Tennant of Leeds. Further clearances are remembered as having taken place in 1863, although this is most likely to have been shepherds made redundant by the removal of sheep

The western, Applecross, side of the present Coulin estate was sold to the Duke of Leeds in the 1840s and converted to a deer forest, centred on Achnashellach but with Coulin Farm serving as a lodge until the present lodge was built in 1869 between Lochs Clair and Coulin. Under the ownership of J. Ogilvie Dalgliesh, from 1893, the estate roads and stalkers paths were improved, and the first 800 acres of forestry were planted to improve the over-wintering of the deer. At this date the Gairloch side of the present estate, amounting to 5,000 acres, was still only rented from MacKenzie.

Further forestry planting was carried out after the acquisition of the estate by Wills in 1943

4.2 Summary of Historical Background

Examination of archive material and old maps indicate that post-medieval settlement patterns consisted of one township at the head of Loch Coulin, of which there is now little archaeological trace after the probable removal of its tenants around 1813. A period of sheep farming, centred around Coulin farmhouse, has left little documentary evidence and few physical traces. The only other evidence for human activity within the evaluation area is the construction of roads and tracks to open up the estate for stalking around 1893.

5. Gazetteer of Sites:

Scheme 1: Allt na Luib, Intake 1, Power house 1

No archaeological features were located in the vicinity of this scheme

Scheme 2: Allt Cnoc Daimh, Intake 2, Power House 2

Site 1. Shooting stance.

NGR NH 02322 53906



A shooting stance consists of grass-covered circular banking, with an entrance to the east. A wooden target is set against the knoll to the west.

Photo No. 2, from ENE.

Impact assessment: This feature may be affected by the construction of the access road to the powerhouse site.

Mitigation: Identify and mark out exclusion zone to prevent accidental damage.

Scheme 4, Torran Cuilinn, Intake 4, Power House 4

Site 2. Torran Cuilinn township features.

NGR (centre) NH 0243 5506

The alluvial fan at the base of the Allt an Tigh Dhirich is the most likely location for the post-mediaeval settlement of Coulin or Garranconlin, now overlaid by the 19th century cottage and outbuilding of Torran Cuilinn. Low rectangular footings on the north side of the stream may be the remains of a building, and a low turf dyke runs from NH 02393 55019 to NH 02417 54976, which may be a remnant of a head dyke

Impact assessment: Residual minor features of the township may be removed during construction of the power house and access.

Mitigation: A watching brief may be required during groundworks for the power house to identify and record any residual features of the township.

Site 3. Water diversion.

NGR cut at NH 02417 54976



A deep cut through the bank carries water from a ditch above the cottage into the Allt na Feithe Ruaidhe. Spread subsoil in the general area is presumed to be from this cut and suggests a relatively recent date.

Photo No. 5, from NW.

Impact assessment: This feature is likely to be removed during construction of the power house and tailrace.

Mitigation: None recommended.

Site 4. Buildings (site of).

NGR NH 0239 5497

At this location, two small roofed buildings are depicted on the 1st edition OS map, with a third similar building to the SW. There is now no trace of any buildings in these locations, which is within the area of spread subsoil excavated from the cut, feature 2.

Impact assessment: Any residual sub-surface features of these structures are likely to be removed during construction of the power house and access.

Mitigation: A watching brief may be required during groundworks for the power house to identify and record any residual sub-surface features of these buildings.

Site 5. Track, path.

NGR NH 0250 5500

A track or path is depicted running along the north side of the Allt na Feithe Ruaidhe as far as the shieling site at Airigh na Caillich. There is no trace of a constructed path and this is presumed to have been a path through usage rather than built.

Impact assessment: As this appears not to exist as a built feature, there will be no impact on the archaeological record

Mitigation: No action is required.

Scheme 5: Easan Dorcha, Intakes 5 and 6, Power House 5

Site 6. Cairn, shelter.

NGR NH 00573 52652



On a prominent ridge end, a naturally placed boulder has been utilised to create a noticeable cairn or shelter. Rubble walling runs over the boulder and curves round to enclose an area 1m wide. The function of this is uncertain, given its exposed location it is more likely to be a marker cairn but may have been utilising the wind to dry some commodity stored within the rubble walling.

Photo No. 7, from S.

Impact assessment: As this structure occupies the summit of a ridge, it should be possible to avoid damage during construction of access and underground pipeline.

Mitigation: Identify and mark exclusion zone to avoid accidental damage

Site 7. Walling.

NGR NH 01004 52540



A short section of rough rubble walling, approximately 8m in length and to a maximum of 1m in height, runs along the bank of the Easan Geal. This is matched by a similar length of walling on the south bank of the stream. Neither wall continues, nor are they constructed at the only point where livestock might cross. It may be that the walls defined a rough dipping pool or sheep wash, dating to the period of sheep farming in the early 19th century.

Photo No. 8, from SSW.

Impact assessment: This site is not at risk.

Mitigation: No action is required.

Site 8. Bothy (Tea Hut).

NGR NH 011 525

MBA bothy: a small wooden hut of fairly recent construction, possibly on the site of an earlier hut but of no great age. Nothing is recorded at this location on early Ordnance Survey maps

Impact assessment: There will be no direct impact on this structure. The intake will have a visual impact for visitors, but this is not an issue of Cultural heritage

Mitigation: None recommended.

Site 9. Stalkers paths, track.

NGR centred on NH 011 525

A broad, driveable track runs along the north side of the Easan Dorcha. This probably overlies an earlier stalkers path diverging from the Coulin-Achnashellach road at NH 02356 53107 and dividing at the wooden bridge over the Easan Dorcha, one branch leading up the north side of the Allt Coire Beinne Leithe, the other heading SW towards Achnashellach. The latter has been recently upgraded for walkers. The 1st edition map shows only a path leading as far as a short distance past the waterfalls. Associated with the original track are a number of borrow pits, including a large quarry just inside the SW corner of the plantation, excavated into the east end of a glacial ridge or esker.



Photo No. 10: Track, from NE.



Photo No. 11: Culvert, from S.

Impact assessment: There may be a minor impact on associated features such as borrow pits during insertion of the buried pipeline

Mitigation: None recommended

Site 10. Enclosure.

NGR NH 01895 52786



Occupying a low, level platform adjacent to the stream at the top of the waterfalls, is an enclosed area defined by low rubble walling running from NH 01895 52786 to meet the stream at NH 01894 52745. Within this enclosure, at NH 01915 52788 is a sub-oval stone setting, similar to a shieling dairy stance. This enclosure is probably similar to several similar recorded enclosures in the area.
Photo No. 12, from W.

Impact assessment: This site is not at risk.

Mitigation: No action is required. Do not use this as a lay-down area.

Site 11. Structure.

NGR NH 02103 52996



Rough rubble walling encloses three sides of a sunken area measuring 0.50m across. Extending to the south, low grassy banks may be the remains of further walling forming a rectangular structure. This is of no immediately obvious function but may be associated with the track building.

Photo No. 14, from NE.

Impact assessment: Any works to the south of the present track will damage this feature.

Mitigation: None recommended.

Site 12. Pits.

NGR NH 02130 52990

Two excavated pits, now filled with water. Both are elongated ovals and are located immediately north of the track. Excavated material forms low banks around the pits. These are of no immediately obvious function, but are most likely to be borrow pits associated with track construction

Impact assessment: Any works north of the track will damage this feature.

Mitigation: None recommended.

Scheme 3: Allt Coire Crubaidh, Intake 3, Power House 3

Site 13. Walling.

NGR NH 07443 53551

A short section of rubble walling runs down the west bank of the Allt Fhearchair. It extends for approximately 15m and appears to not have continued in either direction. This is located where the stream appears to have divided, as depicted on the 1st edition OS map, and may have been associated with the containment of livestock.



Photo No. 14, from NE.



Photo No. 15, from N.

Impact assessment: This feature is vulnerable to damage during construction of the intake and upgrade of access

Mitigation: identify and mark to avoid accidental damage

Site 14. Shieling hut (possible).

NGR NH 07463 53605

Low and indistinct footings of what may be an oval shieling hut. A row of six stones are set into the bank on the north, uphill side, aligned E-W. Other stones form the other sides of a rough oval or rectangle measuring 2m by 1m internally.



Photo No. 19, from E.



Photo No. 20, from W.

Impact assessment: This feature should be far enough up the hill slope to avoid being affected during construction of the intake.

Mitigation: None recommended.

Site 15. Old road alignments, bridges.

NGR NH 0867 5307

Two redundant road alignments and associated bridges. The more northern alignment and bridge are the original 19th century route, while the southern would appear to date to the mid-20th century made redundant with construction of the present road realignment in 1994.

Impact assessment: The bridges should be far enough from the powerhouse site to avoid being accidentally damaged.

Mitigation: None recommended.

Summary of Findings

The field survey confirmed the absence of prehistoric sites in the area, despite pollen core evidence for Neolithic land use. It also confirmed the presence of only two areas of permanent settlement in the post-Mediaeval period: at the head of Loch Coulin and at Loan in Strathcarron. Associated shielings for the Coulin township were confirmed as being at Airigh na Cillich (HER ref. MHG24245). All archaeological features in the vicinity of the hydro schemes were identified as minor features of land use associated with post-mediaeval settlement, sheep farming or 19th century sport.

The chronology of the sites is as follows:

Post-mediaeval: sites 2, 6, 10, 13, 14

Sheep farming: sites 4, 7

Sporting estate: sites 1, 9, 11, 12

Other, modern: sites 3, 5, 8, 15

Appendix 1. Photographic Record (digital)

(Photos by Catherine Dagg)

Photo no.	Site No.	Description	Viewpoint
1	1	Shooting stance: grassy banks of circular feature with entrance to east	Facing NNE
2	1	Shooting stance: rubble core of banks visible under turf	Facing WSW
3	1	Shooting stance. Wooden target board is visible against knoll on left	Facing W
4	3	Ditch, artificial cut through bank allowing ditch to drain south into stream	Facing SE
5	3	Ditch, cut. Spoil is spread over ground to right	Facing SE
6	6	Cairn, shelter, utilising glacially deposited boulder. Shelter walling is to left of boulder	Facing NW
7	6	Cairn, shelter. Walled shelter area in foreground.	Facing N
8	7	Rubble walling along north bank of stream, possible sheep wash pool in stream. This side facing stream	Facing NNE
9	7	Rubble walling along south bank of stream. In foreground is possible sheep wash pool	Facing SSW
10	9	Track. Upgraded estate track west of bridge	Facing SW
11	9	Track, culvert. Constructed cobble bed to stream and rubble piers supporting cast iron lintel to culvert	Facing N
12	10	Enclosure. Small circular setting of stones at east end of enclosure walling, possible shieling structure	Facing E
13	11	Structure of unknown function below road: low grassy banks in foreground define possible rectangular structure	Facing NW
14	11	Structure of unknown function: rubble NW end enclosing small sunken area	Facing SW
15	13	Rubble walling on west bank of stream where the stream has formerly divided in two	Facing S
16	13	Rubble walling	Facing E
17	13	Rubble walling	Facing N
18	13	Rubble walling	Facing NW
19	14	Possible shieling hut: set row of stones concealed by rushes	Facing W
20	14	Possible shieling hut: set row of stones concealed by rushes	Facing E

Appendix 2: Text of Historical Notes on Coulin Estate website

Archaeological evidence at Coulin indicates human colonisation firmly in the Neolithic period, some 5,000 years ago; as such it is one of the earliest dated sites for human colonisation in Wester Ross. The pollen core at Loch Coulin suggests that a 'slash and burn' type agriculture was carried out on the level ground amongst the ancient Pine woods in the glen. Cleared areas of woodland are thought likely to have remained open due to grazing by wild and possibly domestic animals.

Medieval

It is probable that more fertile areas of the glen, especially around the head of Loch Coulin, have long been settled. However, little is known until the land appeared in the ownership of the MacKenzies of Gairloch in the early sixteenth century. Reference to a cattle droving route over the Coulin Pass in the letters of James Hogg, the Ettrick shepherd, indicates that by 1805 Coulin had long been accessible from Strathcarron to the South, and Loch Maree to the North. In 1818, four tenants were evicted from Coulin, presumably to make way for sheep farming

Victorian: the Creation of a Highland Sporting Estate

In the 1840's, the majority of the land was sold with the Applecross peninsula to the 7th Duke of Leeds. The eastern march followed the parish boundary between Gairloch and Lochcarron along the Coulin river. At that time the present day farmhouse on the south side of Loch Coulin was the principal dwelling there, and passed with the land to Applecross.

With a view to its sporting potential and romanticised wilderness, the 15th Lord Elphinstone bought Achnashellach in 1866. From the eastern end of Applecross, Achnashellach included the land at Coulin to the west of the river. Elphinstone's vision of a sporting estate must have rapidly taken hold centred not at Achnashellach but over the Coulin Pass, for by 1869 he had completed the construction of a lodge at Coulin, and sold Achnashellach to Sir Ivor Guest. The remaining 16,000 acres to the south and west of the glen, having been cleared of sheep, formed a new estate geared towards stalking and fishing.

The lodge was beautifully sited at the narrowest point of the glen between lochs Clair and Coulin, with the schists of Beinn Eighe framing the lodge to the north, and the narrows of Loch Coulin gently winding down the glen from the south. The story of its construction along with extensive access roads and bridges is one of a pioneering age. Following the evictions at Coulin earlier in the century, the deliberate creation of an integral sporting estate from a larger area with a lodge at its heart served greatly to boost the local economy. Hart-Davis notes a total of £8,000 invested by Elphinstone in the eight years that he was there, all of which was spent locally.

In 1874, Elphinstone sold Coulin to Guest, thereby reuniting it with Achnashellach. The estates remained together for a number of decades, passing from the Guests to the Ogilvy-Dalgleish family in 1893, but had separated once more by 1942 when Coulin was acquired by Michael Wills. This period witnessed the first forestry planting at Coulin of which the strings of 'Victorian Pines' ascending the burns of Carn Breac are the attractive remnants. Sheep were also reintroduced during the First World War.

To the Present: Convergence of Sport and Conservation

Between 1964 and 1985 the Wills family planted extensive woodlands of Lodgepole and Sitka Spruce, in keeping with current forestry trends. Yet the creation in 1979 of the first 'exclosure' fence beside Loch Clair heralded a growing interest in the conservation of Coulin's exceptional landscape and biodiversity. In order to protect native Scots Pine and broadleaved woodland from the Red Deer a total of some 420 hectares have since been fenced. Sheep were also finally removed and a number of habitat surveys sponsored.

The convergence of sporting and conservation goals has continued apace since Philip Smith bought the estate in 1995. The regeneration of indigenous Scots Pine has been assisted through the planting of shoots propagated from locally collected seed. There has also been extensive Rhododendron clearance as well as removal of exotic species to encourage natural regeneration of the indigenous. In the river system, a hatchery programme has been introduced in an attempt to arrest the decline of wild stocks of Sea Trout and Salmon. Riparian planting of broadleaved woodland around the spawning grounds of these fish is intended to improve their habitat.

Extensive work to the accommodation at Coulin has also played a central role over the past decade. The lodge (used by the Smith family) was harled in the traditional manner in order to combat a grave damp problem, while the interiors were sensitively restored retaining all the timber detailing. The Farmhouse and cottage at Torran have been carefully altered, and now function as comfortable holiday cottages, while there are two further cottages inhabited by full time employees of the estate.

Appendix 3. Extract from A.Grimble 1893: *The Deer Forests of Scotland*

FOREST OF COULIN BY ACHNASHEEN.

This ground formed the eastern extremity of the great Applecross property, purchased some fifty years ago by the late Duke of Leeds from the Mackenzie family ; at various times, later on, portions of this large estate were sold by the Duke, Coulin, which has changed hands several times, being amongst the number. Lord Elphinstone built the present house, lying between Loch Clair and Loch Coulin, when he held this estate some thirty years ago; after keeping it for ten years, he parted with it to Lord Wimborne, who in his turn sold it some five years back to the present owner, Mr. J. Ogilvie Dalgleish, of Errol Park, Perthshire. This gentleman, in addition to greatly improving the home grounds, roads, and stalking paths, has also planted about 800 acres to improve the wintering. The extent is about 15,000 acres, the high ground being rocky and steep, for Ben Liath Mhor rises to 3,051 feet, while all portions which are under 1,000 feet give fine feeding. In addition to Coulin proper, Mr. Dalgleish has a further 5,000 acres of the Kinlochewe estate, rented from Sir Kenneth Mackenzie. The sanctuary is large and contains a 3,000 feet hill, quite green to the top, with the base surrounded by birch and old Scotch fir, offering warmth and shelter in all winds.

Coulin marches with Achnashellach on the south, Ben Damph on the west, Torridon on the north, and Kinlochewe on the east, and yields from thirty to forty stags, according to the season, while as the grazing is extra good, some unusually heavy ones are got each year ; they are weighed clean after being left on the hill all night, and in 1893 there was one of 23 stone, another of 22 stone 8 lbs., while the average

weight of the thirty-four stags put into the larder in that year was 15 stone 8 lbs. Owing to the nearly incessant rains of 1894, the condition of the deer of that season was inferior, the heaviest stag scaling 18 stone 10 lbs., with the average a good bit below that of 1893. The ground will carry two rifles every day, all deer being killed by stalking. On the "off days" salmon and sea trout are a strong point at Coulin, as they come up out of Lochmaree into Lochs Clair and Coulin in great numbers.

Appendix 4: Loan Settlement.

HER no: MHG24250

NGR: NH 0882 5288

Meaning of place name: ?lòn, marsh, wet meadow, or low damp ground or ?lann, enclosure (cf. Watson 1904, 42, 66, 72, 81, 118, 196-7, 227)

Lone appears as a settlement for the first time on Roy's Military Survey of 1747-1755 as a small cluster of buildings next to the road running along the north side of *Loch Scamman*. *Fean loan Inn* is named on Dorret's map of 1750, along with the *Inn of Luiborgan*, which is shown as a long way further east. On Ainslie's map of 1789, both inns are named, but the road is shown as running along the south shore of *Loch Scavan*. The inn is not shown on any of the succeeding maps.

Loan lies at the north west corner of Loch Sgamhain, supposedly the home of a kelpie or water horse. According to Watson, *Sgamban* means lungs or lights or the corn or hay built up in a barn; 'Local authority connects the name of the loch with the former: when the water-horse devoured a man, the victim's lungs or liver usually floated to the shore. But the more peaceful alternative is preferable' (1904, 196).

The most distinctive features in Loch Sgamhain are the two tree covered islands. In the late sixteenth century, in the text accompanying his maps, Timothy Pont describes 'Loch Scamen a myl long, with an yle and a hous in the midst of it' (<http://maps.nls.uk/pont/texts/transcripts/ponttext123v-124r.html>). Both islands are said to have been artificially constructed so that their vegetation would attract insects for the salmon of the loch to feed on (Pearson 2003, 20).

The most visible feature at Loan today is the large sheep fank, which is shown on the OS 1st edition map of 1875, and the modern tin shed on the site of a building, which was probably the shepherd's house.

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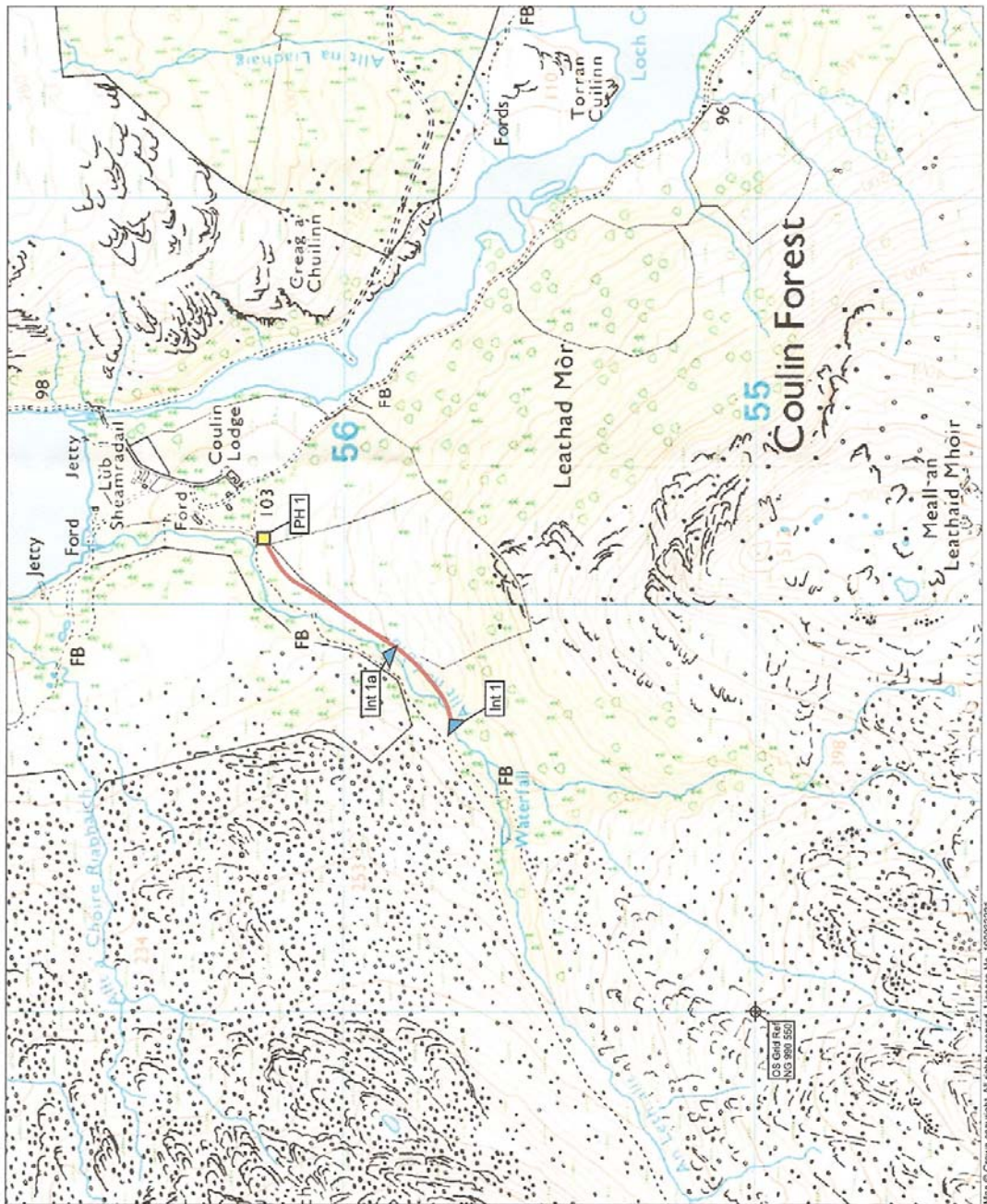


Fig. 2: Hydro Scheme 1 at Allt Na Luib – no archaeological sites (Map from Hydroplan UK)

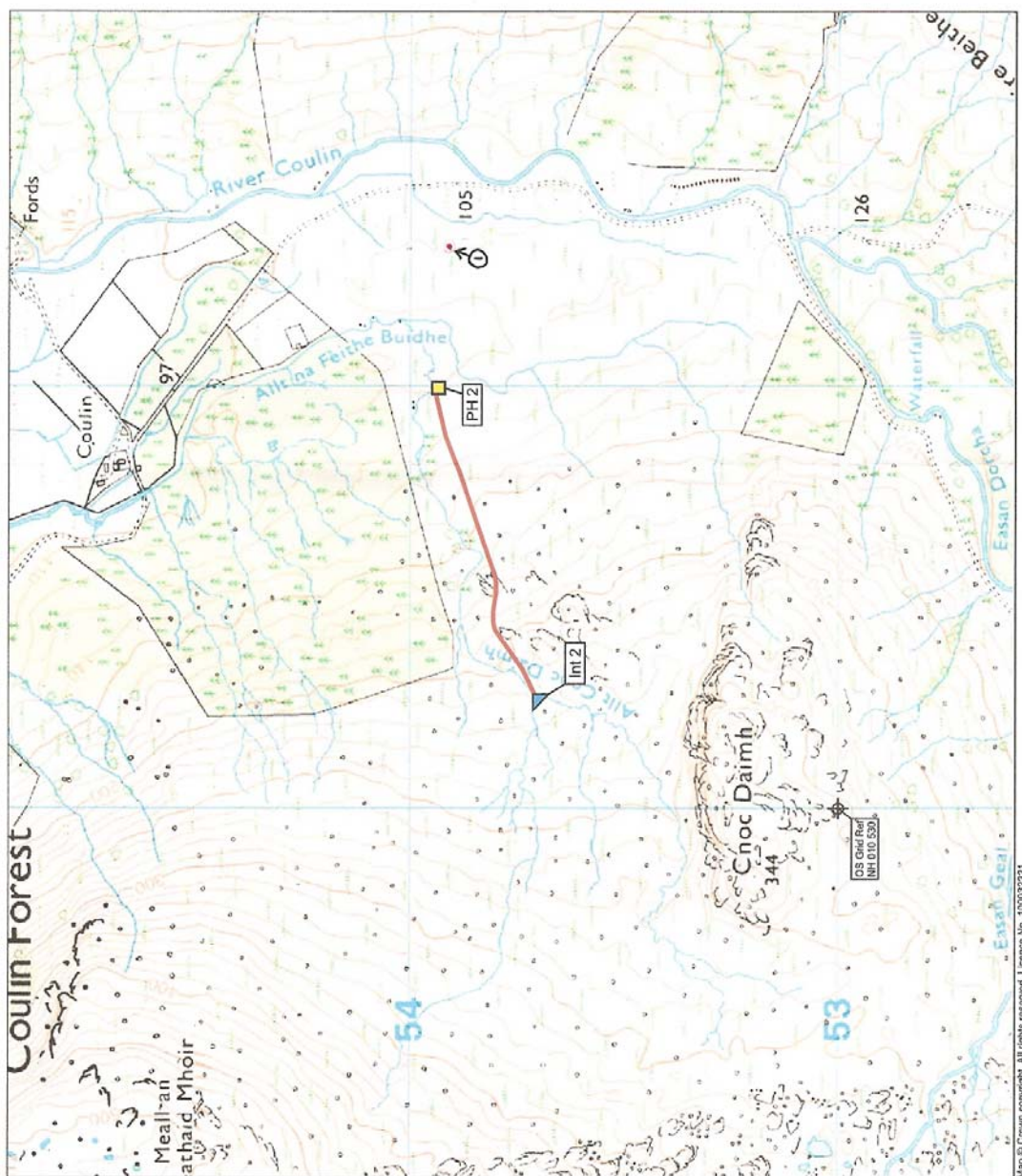


Fig. 3: Hydro Scheme 2: Plan of Archaeological Sites at Allt Cnoc Daimh, Site 1. By Catherine Dagg, based on Hydroplan Map.

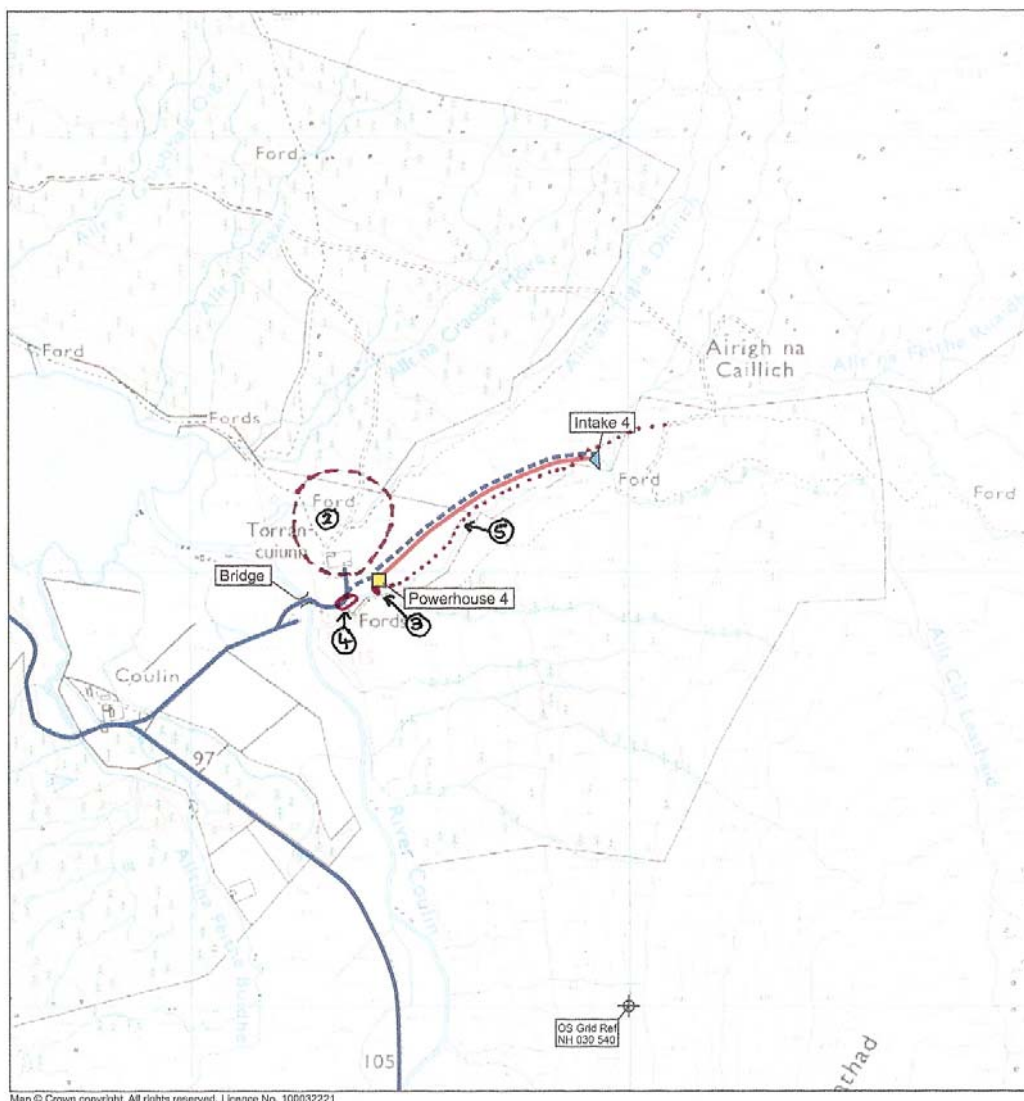


Fig. 4: Hydro Scheme 4: Plan of Archaeological Sites at Torran-Cuilinn, Sites 2 -5.
By Catherine Dagg, based on Hydroplan Map.

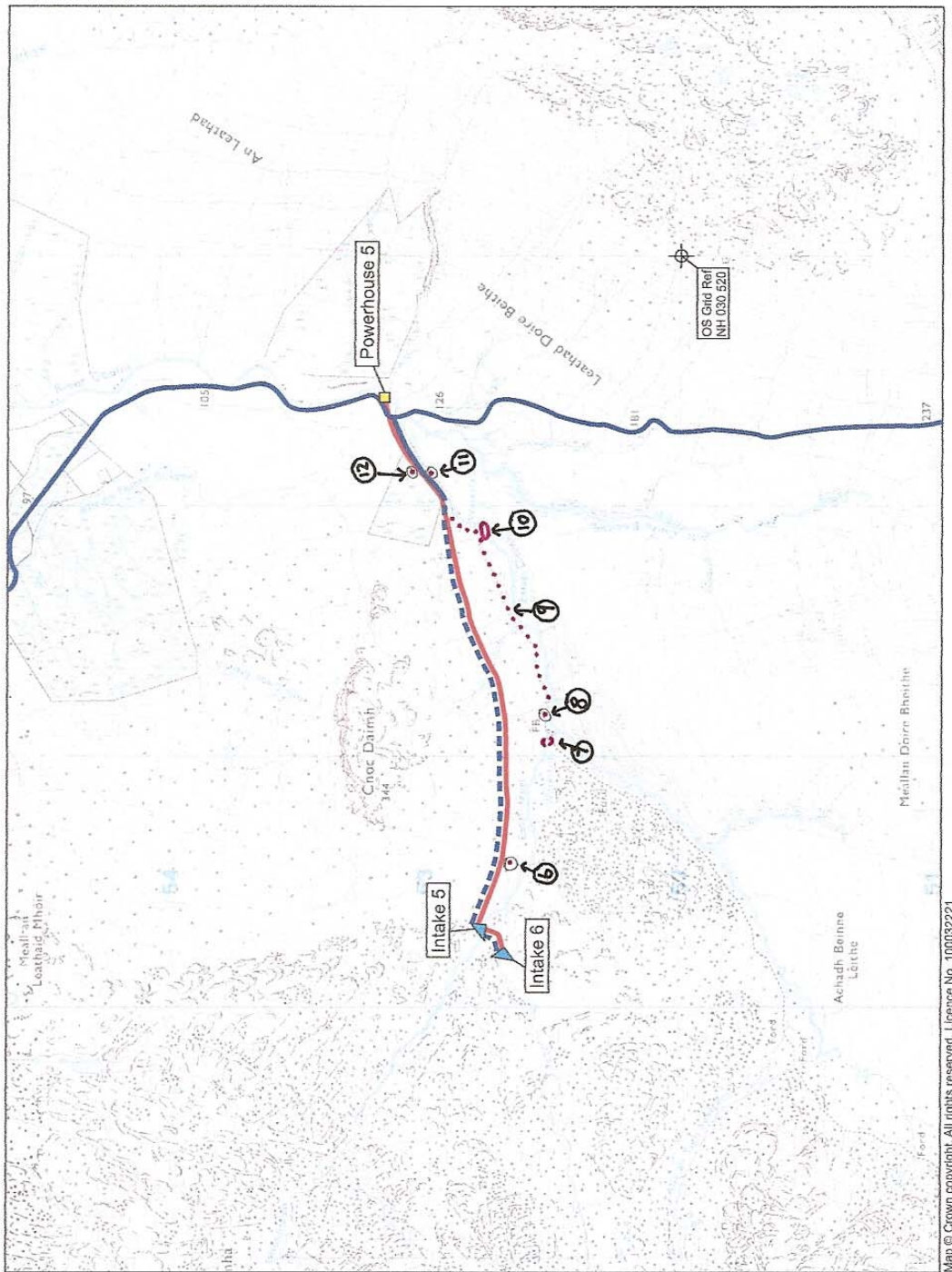


Fig. 5: Hydro Scheme 5: Plan of Archaeological Sites at Easan Dorcha, Sites 6 - 12.
By Catherine Dagg, based on Hydroplan Map.

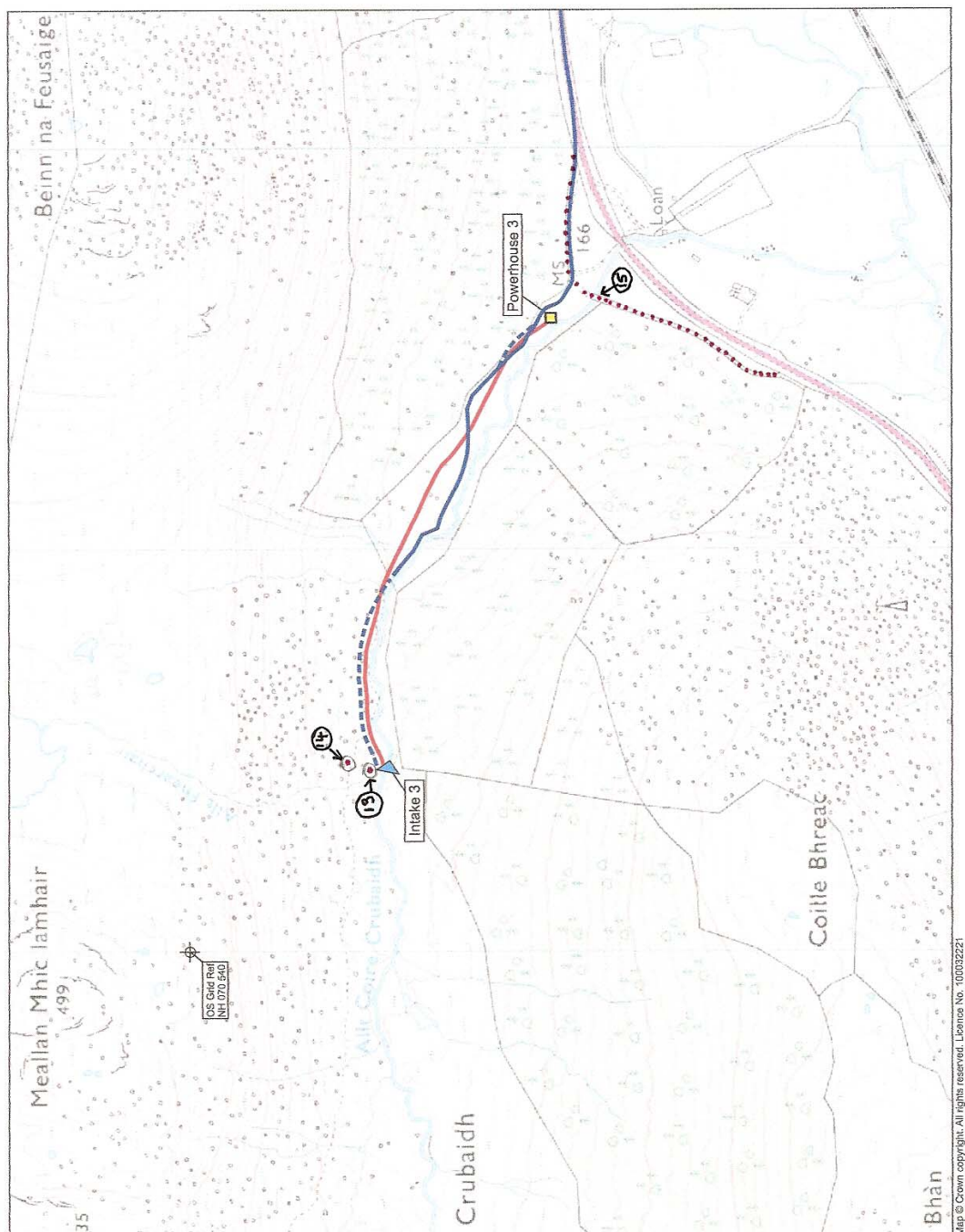


Fig. 6: Hydro Scheme 3: Plan of Archaeological Sites at Allt Coire Crubaidh, Sites 13 and 14.
By Catherine Dagg, based on Hydroplan Map.