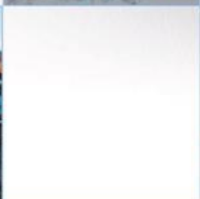
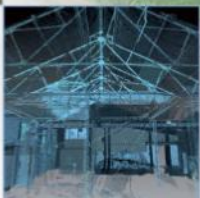
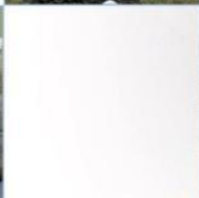
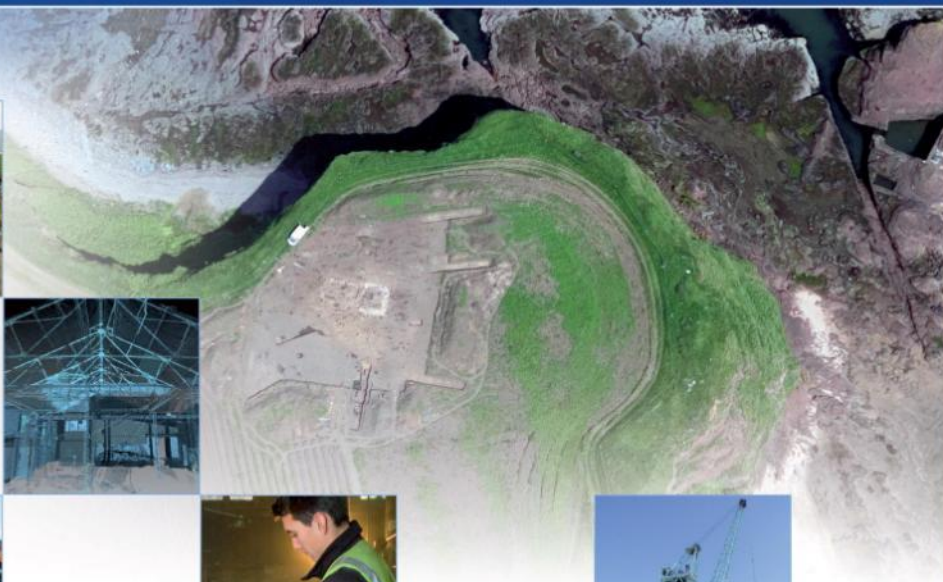


Corrimony Wind Farm Extension

Archaeological Walkover Survey Report

AOC 70517
October 2020



Corrimony Wind Farm Extension

Archaeological Walkover Survey Report

On Behalf of:	Muirden Energy LLP
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NH 36000 23000 (centre point)
AOC Project No:	70517
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Abstract

This report details the results of an archaeological walkover survey undertaken at Corrimony Wind Farm in advance of a wind farm extension. The survey was required in order to assess and record the nature and extent of any upstanding archaeology affected by the proposed development.

The walkover survey was undertaken on 14th October 2020, where three archaeological sites were recorded, comprising the remains of post-medieval structures, a hunting lodge and a post-medieval dam or causeway.

Buffer zones around the sites have been recommended to avoid any impact or damage to the sites.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 An archaeological walkover survey was required on behalf of Muirden Energy regarding the redline boundary for the Corrimony Wind Farm extension. The aim of the survey was to record the location, extent, and condition of any archaeological sites to provide baseline data in advance of the proposed development and to inform decisions on any further fieldwork or mitigation.
- 1.2 The site lies within the administrative area of the Highland Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the Highland Council Historic Environment Team. The walkover survey was specified in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.
- 1.3 The walkover survey was undertaken on 14th October 2020. Three archaeological sites were recorded, comprising the remains of post-medieval structures, a hunting lodge and a post-medieval dam or causeway.

2.0 Project Background

- 2.1 Corrimony Wind Farm is located approximately 6km southwest of Corrimony and 17km southwest of Drumnadrochit in Glen Urquhart. It is accessed from the A831 and then via a private track from Corrimony Farm and RSPB nature reserve. The survey area is located to the south and east of the existing wind farm, covering the area between Sliabh an Ruighe Dhuibh, Carn na Ruighe Duibhe, and Loch ma Stac. The area comprises rough open ground with numerous stream courses, small lochs, and boggy ground.
- 2.2 The landscape is located in an upland area with few known archaeological sites. The surrounding glens, Glen Urquhart, Loch Ness, and Strathglass, all contain a rich archaeological record spanning the prehistoric to post-medieval periods. The wind farm extension area has not been subject to any previous archaeological survey. Several walkover surveys have been carried out in the surrounding area for the Corrimony and Bhlairaidh wind farms (Lynn 2009; SSE Renewables 2012), neither of which identified significant sites near the proposed wind farm extension. Other nearby surveys for a hydro scheme (Peteranna and Williamson 2018), cabling (McKeggie 2016) and forestry (Dagg 2000) identified post-medieval and prehistoric sites along Glen Urquhart between Corrimony and the wind farm.

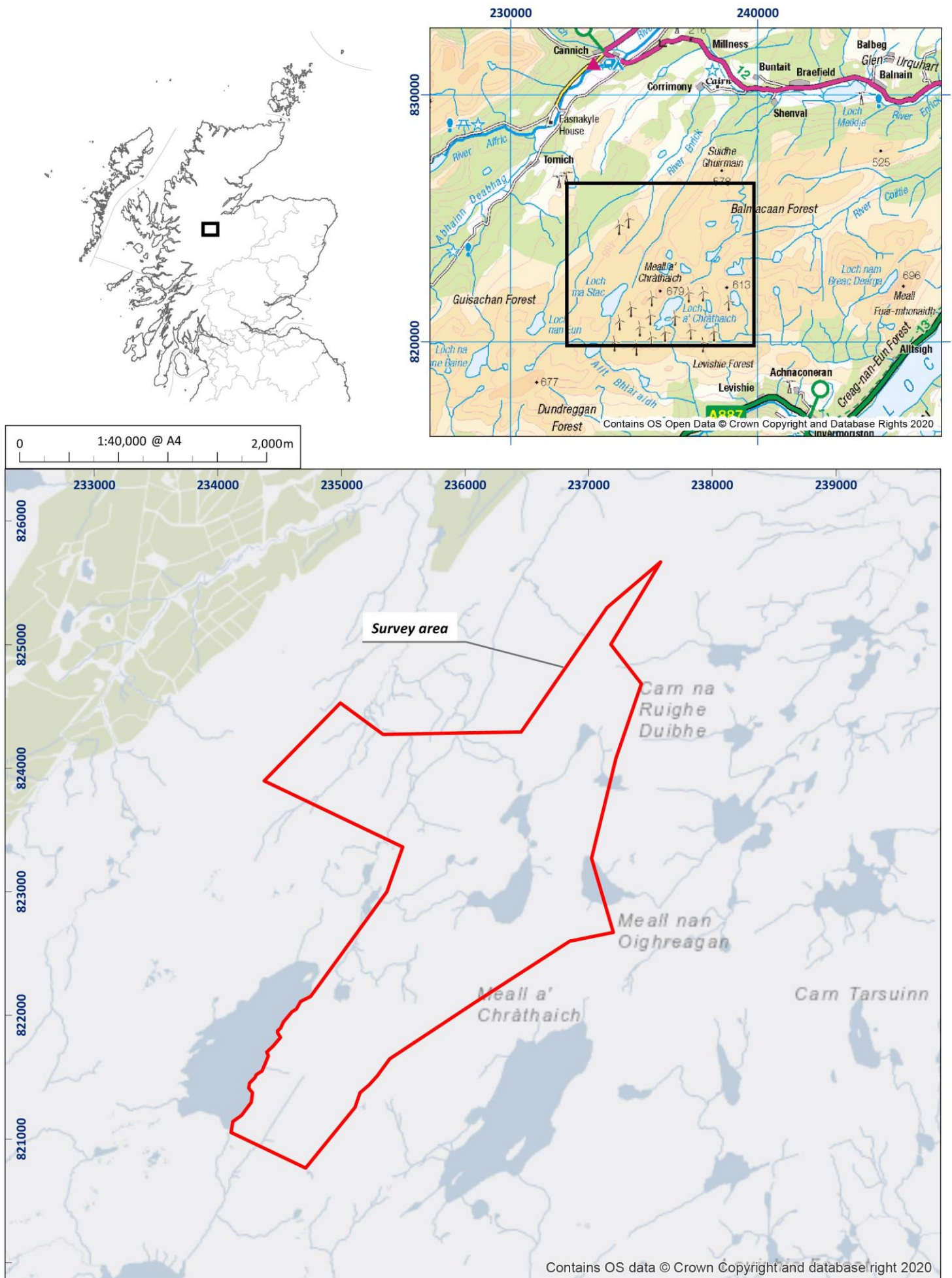


Figure 1: Site location plan

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3.0 Desk-based Assessment

3.1 Methodology

3.1.1 A desk-based assessment was conducted prior to commencement of the survey in order to assess the archaeological potential of the area based on previously recorded sites and any historical documentation. A full check of all available historical and archaeological records, aerial photographs and historical maps was conducted using the Highland Historic Environment Record (HHER), the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE), Ordnance Survey Name Books, Historic Environment Scotland's databases, the National Library of Scotland, statistical accounts and other available records, literary sources or online resources about the site.

3.2 Cartographic Sources

3.2.1 Historical maps were consulted at the National Library of Scotland (NLS 2020) online. Corrimony first appears as a named place on William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-52), however the survey area is not depicted in any detail until the Ordnance Survey 1st edition maps.

a) Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map

Inverness-shire (Mainland) Sheet XL (includes: Urquhart And Glenmoriston)

Survey Date: 1871 Publication Date: 1875

This map shows the survey area as rough open moorland with numerous small lochs and stream courses (**Figure 2**). There is one roofed structure depicted on the island in *Loch ma Stac* (MHG55927). Another possible structure, which could be a shieling hut (MHG22969), is depicted to the north of *Loch nan Deirisdean* within a rocky area.

b) Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map

Inverness-shire - Mainland Sheet XL (includes: Urquhart and Glenmoriston)

Date Revised: 1901 Publication Date: 1903

There is little change to the overall landscape of the survey area on this map (**Figure 3**). A boat house is now depicted on the shore of *Loch ma Stac* opposite the building on the island. A second boat house is also depicted on the west shore of *Loch a'Mhuilinn*. A small rectangular structure is marked near the fords at the upper (southern) end of River Enrick.

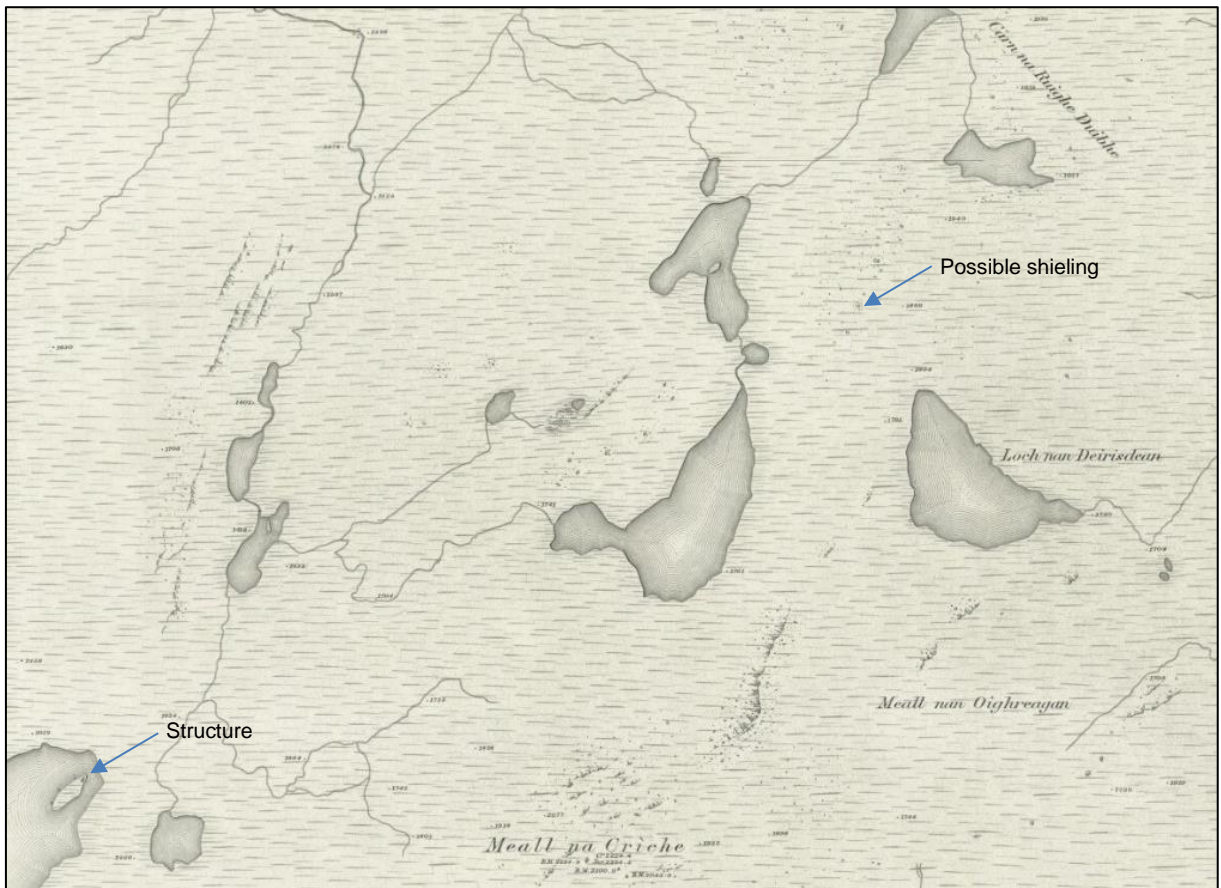


Figure 2: Extract from the OS 1st edition map 1871, showing the central part of the survey area

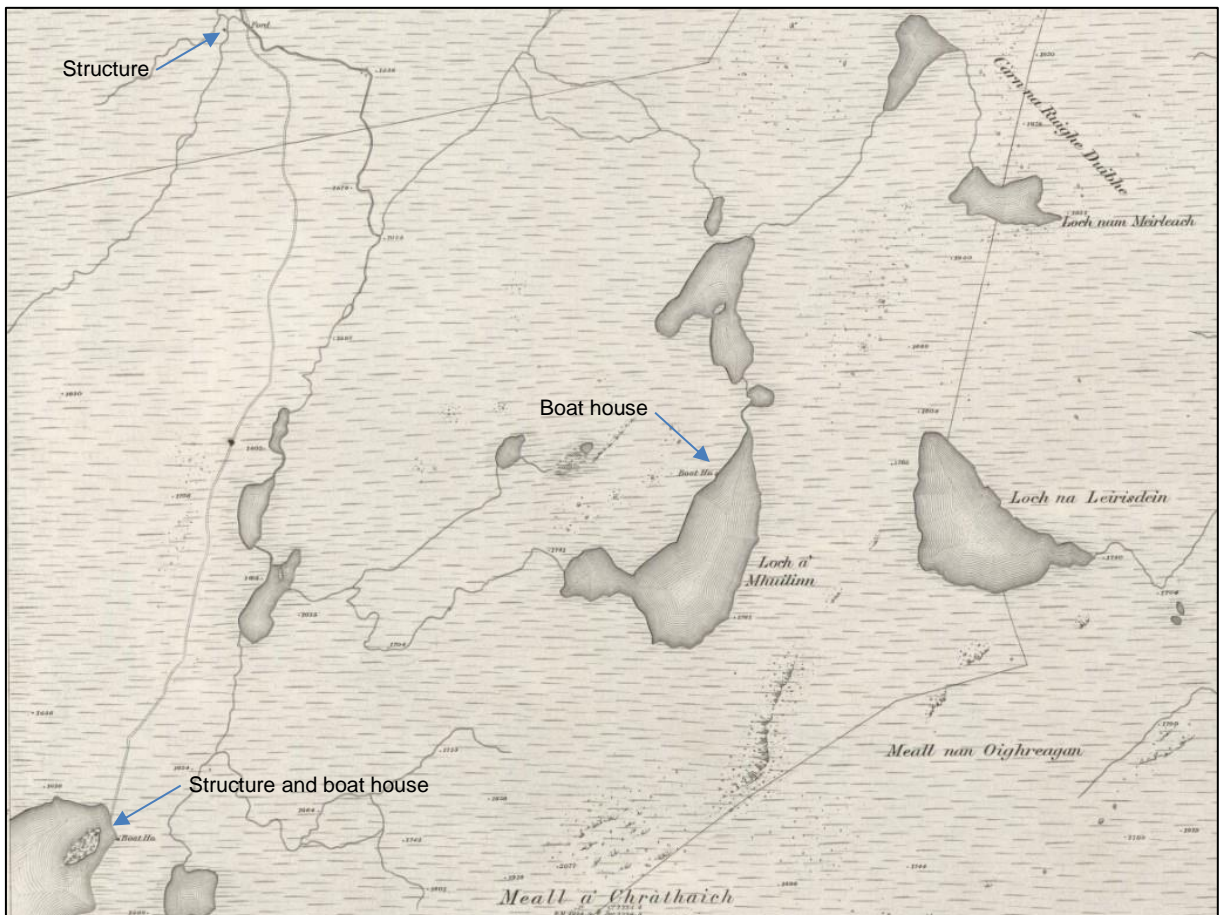


Figure 3: Extract from the OS 2nd edition map 1901, showing the central part of the survey area

3.3 Aerial Imagery

- 3.3.1 Aerial imagery was consulted online using Getmapping aerial imagery provided by Pastmap. Much of the survey area was shown to be open moorland with stream courses and lochs. Two possible stone structures were visible near the fords to the east of the existing wind farm. The structure and boat house at Loch ma Stac were also visible. There was no evidence of the possible shieling hut, however, a large erratic rock could be seen.

3.4 Historic Environment Sources

- 3.4.1 A full search of the Highland Council Historic Environment Record and the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE), via Canmore, was carried out and only one site was found within the survey area:

MHG22969 NH 3679 2345 Possible Shieling Hut, Loch Na Leirisdein

What may be an unroofed shieling-hut is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire 1876, sheet XL), but it is not shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1992).

- 3.4.2 Another site was located just outside the redline boundary:

MHG55927 NH 34762 22334 Shooting lodge, Loch Ma Stac

A 19th century shooting lodge on an island in Loch Ma Stac on the Corrimony Estate, Urquhart and Glenmoriston. It is shown on the OS 1st Edition 6" map. A brief history of the Corrimony Estate mentions the hunting lodge but it was not visited by the author. The island is linked to the 'mainland' by a causeway to the south of the building and the footings of a second, probably related, building are visible on the 'mainland' to the east of the lodge.

3.5 Other Sources

- 3.5.1 The survey area lies within the historic parish of Urquhart, which is written about in the Old and New Statistical Accounts of Scotland (1791-1845). These records provide information about the wider parish and the Corrimony estate, however, there is no specific mention of the survey area. Ordnance Survey Name Books corresponding to the 1st edition maps were also consulted. The following entry was noted (Inverness-shire Mainland Volume 51):

Sliabh an Ruighe Dhuibh: This name Signifies Black Shieling, Hill, and applies to a large heathy Clad hill about one mile to the north of Loch na Staca, on the property of T. Ogilvie Esqr. Corriemony, Glenurquhart.

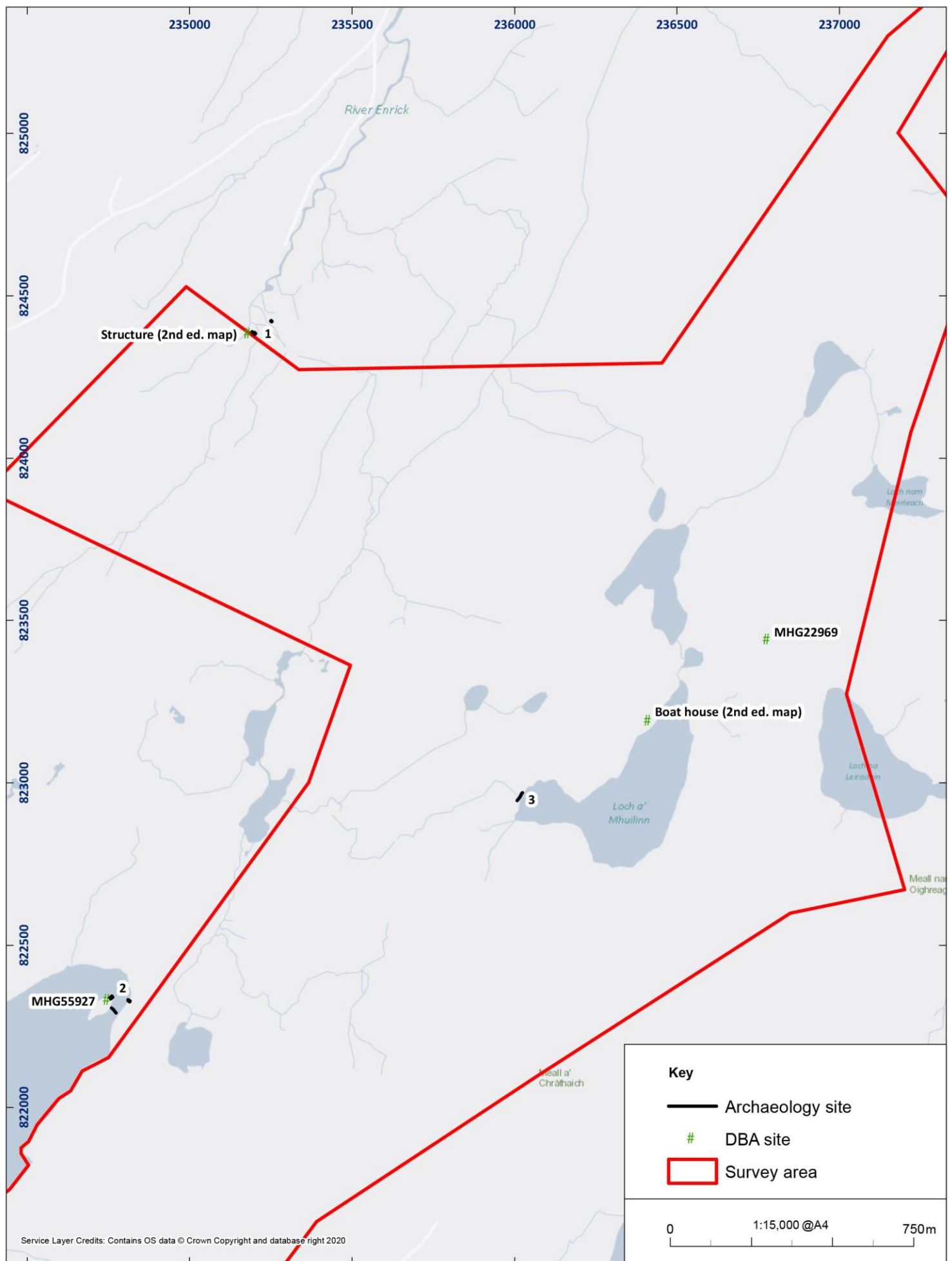


Figure 4: Survey results

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4.0 Survey Methodology

- 4.1 The archaeological survey was conducted by one archaeologist. The survey area was systematically walked, with focus on areas of archaeological potential, such as along watercourses and areas of known sites. Ground conditions across the survey area were very wet, with several areas of waterlogging and boggy ground preventing access. These areas were viewed from higher ground.
- 4.2 Sites were recorded using written descriptions and high resolution digital photography, as well as their locations being recorded using a Trimble Rover unit capable of sub-metre accuracy. Survey and recording methods recommended by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (2004) were employed and all work was conducted in strict adherence to the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct* (2014).

5.0 Survey Results

- 5.1 The walkover survey was conducted on 14th October 2020 in overcast conditions, with good visibility. The survey area consisted of open moorland with several small hills, lochs, and numerous stream courses (**Plate 1**). Ground conditions were very wet, with boggy areas preventing full access to some parts.
- 5.2 Three archaeological sites were recorded during the survey (**Figure 4**). Site 1 was located on the northern side of Sliabh an Ruighe Dhuibh, near the fords at the upper end of River Enrick and comprised two post-medieval structures and a small fragment of turf and stone dyke. Both structures survived as the degraded footings of rectangular, stone buildings measuring c.4-5m by 2-3m (**Plate 2-3**). Site 1a, the larger of the two, also had a very degraded section of turf and stone dyke attached to one corner. Both structures were located close to a stream course. Site 1a probably corresponds to the structure marked on the 2nd edition OS map. The two structures may have been used as shieling huts, as suggested by the placename *Ruighe*, which translates to 'shieling area' in Gaelic.
- 5.3 Site 2 was located around 100m outside of the redline boundary and comprised a 3-storey hunting lodge on an island within Loch ma Stac (**Plate 4**; MHG55927). The building survives in a ruinous condition, with an intact slate roof, chimney, and partly intact interior wooden floors. A stone causeway allows access to the island, with the stone footings of another building located on the loch shore opposite. This site corresponds to the hunting lodge shown on 1st and 2nd edition OS maps and the later boat house shown on the 2nd edition OS map.
- 5.4 Site 3 comprised a stone-built dam or causeway bridging the river at the west end of Loch a'Mhuilinn (**Plate 5**). It was constructed using angular stones of varying sizes to form a drystone wall measuring 1m wide and up to 1.2m high. No previous record of this site could be found, however, based on the drystone construction, it is likely to be post-medieval in date.
- 5.5 The location of the possible shieling hut (MHG22969) found in the Highland HER records was visited during the survey, however, no evidence could be found of any structure. There was a large erratic rock present at the grid reference (**Plate 6**) and it is possible that the feature depicted on the map was this rock, rather than a built structure and/or that the boulder was used as a shelter stone. The location of the boat house at Loch a'Mhuilinn shown on the 2nd

edition map was also visited, but no evidence of the structure was observed. It is possible that the structure was temporary or built of degradable materials and has since been deconstructed.

6.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 6.1 The walkover survey at Corrimony Wind Farm extension recorded three sites, all of which were probably post-medieval in date. The sites form part of the post-medieval Corrimony Estate practices, with the ruinous lodge (site 2) and dam (site 3) relating to hunting and fishing activities, while the shieling huts (site 1) would have been used earlier alongside the summer grazing of livestock.
- 6.2 The exact layout of the wind farm extension had not been provided and on that basis it is recommended that mitigation measures are put in place to avoid any damage or impacts to the sites. Only site 3 lies fully within the redline boundary, however, site 1 lies on the very edge of the redline boundary, next to the main access track and should also be safeguarded. For both sites 1 and 3, a buffer zone of 10m is recommended. Site 2 lies further outside of the redline area, however it is also located close to an access track. If development works or access will be carried out in this area, a buffer zone of 10m should also be maintain around this site.

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Plate 1: Landscape view looking over the central survey area, facing E



Plate 2: Degraded stone structure (site 1a), facing W



Plate 3: Degraded stone structure (site 1c), facing S



Plate 4: Ruinous hunting lodge (site 2), facing W



Plate 5: Stone-built dam or causeway (site 3), facing NNE



Plate 6: Landscape view overlooking Loch a'Mhuilinn, showing large erratic, facing SW

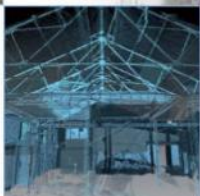
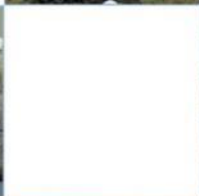
Appendix 1 Site Gazetteer

Site No.	Site Type	Site Name	Description	Alignment	Condition	Period	Easting	Northing
1a	Structure	Sliabh an Ruighe Dhuibh	Under grass and moss, on the W side of the stream, are the degraded remains of a rectangular stone structure measuring c.4m NE-SW by 3m internally. Walls are a mix of double faced construction with some larger stones spanning the full width. The stones are angular stones of varying sizes with some partly squared or shaped. Walls survive to 0.4m wide and 0.2m high, with significant rubble spread around the interior and exterior. Building shown on 2nd edition OS map.	NE-SW	Degraded	Post-medieval	235197	824383
1b	Dyke	Sliabh an Ruighe Dhuibh	Attached to the NW corner of structure 1a is a short tag of very degraded turf and stone dyke. The bank is mostly heather and moss covered, spread to 0.6m wide and up to 0.3m high with occasional stones visible.	NW-SE	Very degraded	Post-medieval	235194	824386
1c	Structure	Sliabh an Ruighe Dhuibh	Under grass and moss, on the E side of the stream, are the degraded remains of a rectangular stone structure measuring c.5m NW-SE by 2m over walls. Walls are difficult to discern under rubble but appear to be similar to structure 1a with mixed angular stone construction.	NW-SE	Degraded	Post-medieval	235252	824420

Site No.	Site Type	Site Name	Description	Alignment	Condition	Period	Easting	Northing
2	Structure	Loch ma Stac	Ruinous hunting lodge on an island in Loch ma Stac. The building is three storeys high, stone built, with one chimney, an intact slate roof, and partly intact internal wooden floors. A stone causeway leads across to the island. There are also the stone footings of a building (boathouse) on the loch shore opposite the house. This site lies out with the survey area.	NE-SW	Ruinous	Post-medieval	234757	822334
3	Dam	Loch a'Mhuilinn	At the west end of Loch a'Mhuilinn is a stone-built dam or causeway bridging the river. It is constructed with angular stones of varying sizes to form a drystone wall measuring 1m wide and up to 1.2m high where the river flows underneath. It measures c. 30m long NE-SW with each end built into natural peat banks.	NE-SW	Degraded	Post-medieval	236017	822957

Appendix 2 List of Survey Photographs

Photo No.	Site No.	Description	Direction Facing	Date
1	1a	Degraded stone structure (site 1a)	W	14/10/2020
2	1c	Degraded stone structure (site 1c) across stream	NNE	14/10/2020
3	-	Landscape view over central survey area	E	14/10/2020
4	-	Landscape view looking towards Meall a' Chrathaich	SE	14/10/2020
5	-	Landscape view looking over Loch ma Stac	S	14/10/2020
6	2	Ruinous hunting lodge (site 2)	W	14/10/2020
7	2	Interior view of hunting lodge (site 2)	SW	14/10/2020
8	-	Landscape view from Loch ma Stac	NE	14/10/2020
9	3	Stone-built dam/causeway (site 3)	NNE	14/10/2020
10	3	Stone-built dam/causeway (site 3)	E	14/10/2020
11	-	Landscape view looking over Loch a'Mhuilinn, showing large erratic	SW	14/10/2020
12	-	Landscape view looking over N end of survey area	N	14/10/2020
13	-	Landscape view looking over N end of survey area	SW	14/10/2020
14	-	Landscape view over central survey area	SW	14/10/2020
15	1c	Degraded stone structure (site 1c)	S	14/10/2020



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