

Glenforsa, Mull Underground Cable & Overhead Line Mast Connection

Written Scheme of Investigation

Archaeological Works

v1

June 2026

Prepared on behalf of Cnoclee Environmental Services & Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

Version	Document Name	Description	Date	Author(s)
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1. Introduction

This Written Scheme of Investigation has been prepared by Clyde Archaeology on behalf of Cnoclee Environmental Services and Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN). It sets out the aims and methodologies that will be employed during archaeological work being carried out as part of an overhead line (OHL) being installed to connect a mast to the electricity grid.

This WSI has been informed by previous historic environment assessment (Sneddon 2026) and ongoing consultation between SSEN and West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). It establishes actions and products required to achieve Stage 1 of a potentially three-stage process:

- **Stage 1:** the on-site mitigation detailed in this WSI.
- **Stage 2:** any further work, including fieldwork arising from Stage 1, such as the development and implementation of mitigation strategies to deal with any significant archaeology identified or recovered during Stage 1
- **Stage 3:** the further analysis of any materials recovered during the fieldwork in either or both Stages 1 and 2 and/or the preparation of a final report on all works constituting preservation by record for publication.

2. Project Area

The mast connection runs from an existing OHL in the north at Killbeg (NM 6020, 4163) for some 3km south along the western side of Glenforsa to the proposed mast position at NM 6054, 3881 (Figure 1). The route generally crosses areas of boggy rough grazing interspersed with higher grass covered outcrops. The southern end of the route climbs up the steep side of Glenforsa.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

An assessment of the historic environment was undertaken on behalf of SSEN during the design process (Sneddon 2026). Six historic environment assets were recorded on or very close to the overhead line. These included a possible medieval graveyard and building overlain by a modern building and sheepfold (Asset 1), a small 18th or early 19th century farmstead (Asset 2), two field banks (Assets 3 & 6), a 19th century track (Asset 4) and a disused quarry (Asset 5).

The potential for buried archaeology to be present was generally considered to be low, although this potential was slightly higher where the route passes close to the possible medieval graveyard.

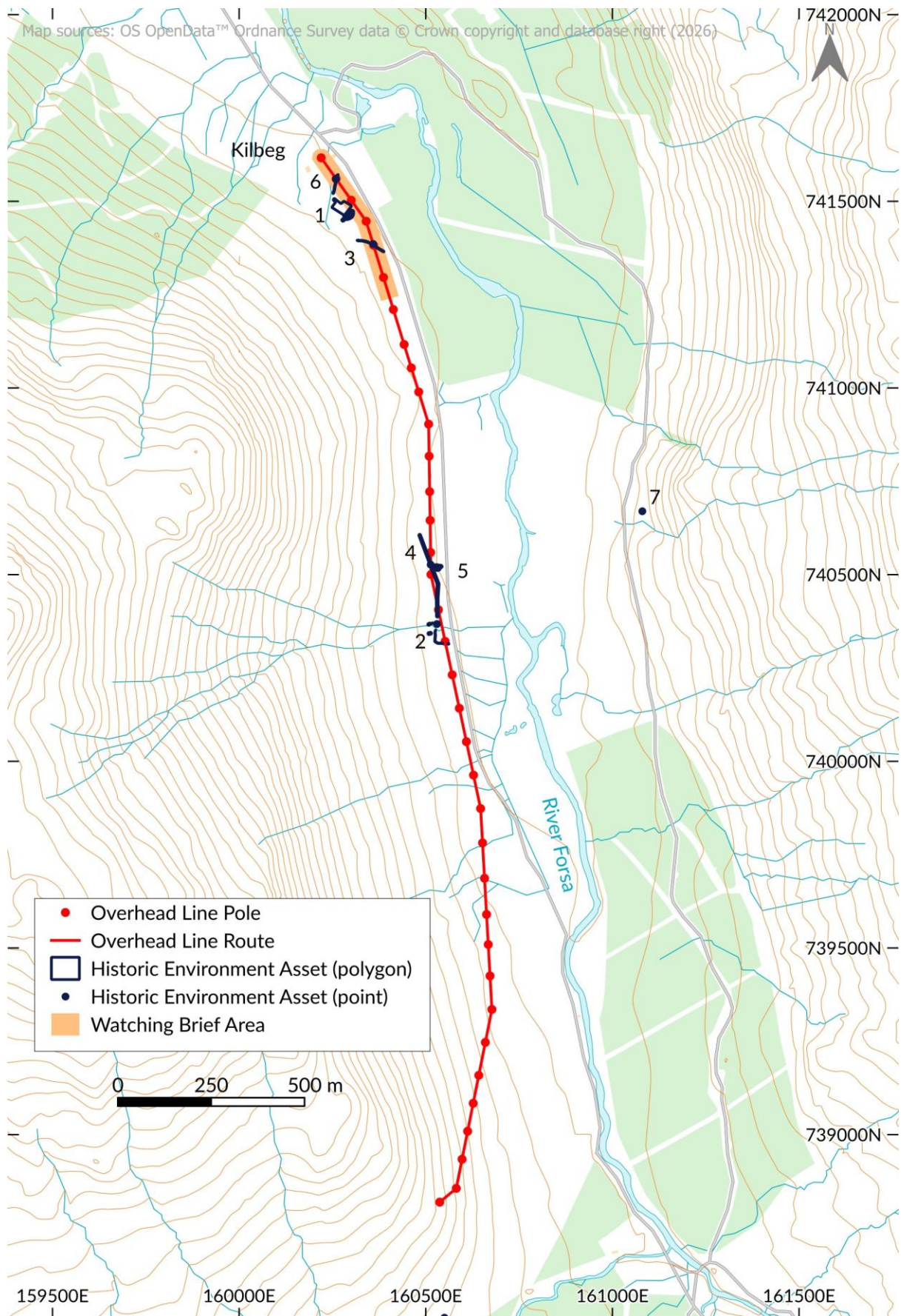


Figure 1: The mast connection and watching brief area.

4. Project Aims

The aims of the archaeological works are:

- to establish the presence or absence of any sub-surface archaeological remains which may be present within the parts of the connection route that have highest potential for buried archaeology;
- to determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeology that may be present; and
- where preservation in situ is not feasible, to develop a strategy to offset any negative impacts that may occur as a result of the connection works.

5. Policy & Guidance

All work will be carried out within the context of relevant legislation, policy, standards and guidance related to the historic environment, for example:

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979;
- The Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011;
- Historic Environment Scotland Policy for Scotland (HEPS) (2019);
- National Planning Framework 4/2023: particularly Policy 7 Historic assets & places;
- Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology (July 2011);
- Standards & Guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA);
- Guidance on the Transfer of Archaeological Assemblages to Museums in Scotland from Commercial/Developer-funded Projects (ALGAO, NMS & HES 2025); and
- Minimum Standards for the Preparation of Archaeological Assemblages in Scotland (ALGAO, NMS & HES 2025).

6. Methodology

Archaeological Clerk of Works (ACoW)

An ACoW will be appointed for the duration of the project to ensure any mitigation is fully implemented to current professional standards. The ACoW will also provide regular update reports. The frequency and format of these reports will be agreed by all parties involved.

Toolbox talks will be provided during construction to ensure site operatives are aware of the process for

reporting unexpected discoveries. The appointment of an archaeological contractor will also ensure any impacts on unexpected discoveries are, through discussion with the project team and local authority archaeology service, suitably assessed and mitigated.

Any work areas or access routes that fall outwith the areas previously surveyed (Sneddon 2026) will be subject to rapid assessment by the ACoW (desk-based and field survey) prior to construction to ensure any impacts on the historic environment are identified and appropriately mitigated.

Demarcation

The visible historic environment assets located within or adjacent to the work area (Figure 1) that can be avoided by the mast connection work will be clearly demarcated with an appropriate buffer during mobilisation, construction and demobilising phases of the project to ensure they are preserved in situ.

The demarcation of the assets shall be achieved using robust canes with durable but biodegradable yellow marking tape tied to the top but may require more permanent fencing if the asset is located immediately next to a work area. All sites requiring demarcation will be visited just ahead of mobilisation to ensure demarcation is in place prior to work commencing in the area. Demarcation markers will be removed upon completion of the project.

The assets that are likely to require demarcation to ensure avoidance are:

- Asset 1: Enclosure, Burial Ground (possible), Building (10m buffer)
- Asset 1: Sheepfold (5m buffer)
- Asset 2: Farmstead (5m buffer)
- Asset 3: Field Bank (1m buffer)

The crossing of the field bank (**Asset 3**) will be limited to areas where the bank is least well preserved and the crossing points will also be clearly demarcated.

Monitoring during construction

Due to the potential for buried archaeology to be present at the northern end of the route near the possible burial ground (**Asset 1**) an archaeological watching brief will be maintained during all significant ground disturbance carried out as part of connection works within 250m of the possible burial ground (Figure 1). This will likely involve monitoring excavation for overhead line poles and related stay wires but could also include excavation in relation to temporary access tracks or any other form of ground disturbance. This monitoring will ensure any buried archaeology that might be present is identified and, if the archaeology cannot be preserved in situ, any negative impacts are offset through a programme of excavation and recording.

Should the field bank (**Asset 3**) be disturbed during construction an archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to ensure a section through the bank is appropriately recorded.

During the watching brief deposits will be removed by a mechanical excavator fitted, where practical, with a flat bladed ditching bucket and monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Topsoil and overburden deposits will be removed to the natural subsoil, level required for construction or the first archaeological horizon, whichever is encountered first.

Sufficient time will be allowed for the archaeologist conducting the monitoring to obtain an appropriate record of any identified archaeology prior work proceeding in that area. Any archaeological features encountered will be cleaned by hand to help determine the date of the deposits, their character and extent. Should discrete negative cut features be encountered they will be 50% excavated to determine their significance, date and function. If they are deemed to be important discoveries, they will be fully excavated. An appropriate proportion of substantial linear features will be excavated to determine their character, date and function.

The written record of all archaeological features, deposits and finds will be by means of conventional pro-forma sheets. Scaled hand-drawn plans will be made at 1:20 and sections at 1:10. High resolution digital images will be taken. By the close of the excavation the trench extents and any archaeological features encountered will be recorded in such a way as to tie them to the OS grid and OS Datum.

All archaeological finds will be dealt with by the on-site archaeologists. The general practice will be to bulk recover artefacts by context which date from the 19th or 20th century. Should any find be of particular significance or if the location of a find within a context provides important information it will be three-dimensionally recorded prior to up-lifting. Artefacts recovered during the excavation will be appropriately cleaned, packaged and stored in line with guidance contained in First Aid for Finds (Watkinson & Neal 1998). Finds which are of particular sensitivity or importance may require specialist conservation assessment.

All archaeologically significant excavated feature fills and deposits will be sampled for artefactual and palaeoenvironmental evidence. Where appropriate this will also include micromorphological sampling in order to address key issues relating to soil development at the site. Typical bulk samples of significant deposits will be 20 litres or the complete fill of a feature if smaller than this.

Where particularly extensive, numerous or complex archaeological deposits or features are proven to be present Cnoclee Environmental Services, the contractor, SSEN and WoSAS will be informed and discussions, including a site meeting if deemed necessary and appropriate, will be held between all relevant parties to agree the most appropriate strategy. Where preservation in situ is not feasible this

will generally comprise a need to fully excavate and record any significant archaeological features or sites to ensure preservation through record. Any additional methodologies would form an addendum to this WSI.

WoSAS will be the final judge of significance in any case and may require full excavation of archaeological features to be destroyed by the proposals.

Human Remains

Should human remains be encountered the local police, the contractor, SSEN and WoSAS will be notified immediately and, thereafter, prescribed procedure for their treatment will be followed, in accordance with legal requirements. Any human remains uncovered will not be disturbed until the police have had the opportunity to inspect the remains, although excavation in other areas can continue.

Project Monitoring

Cnoclee Environmental Services, the contractor, SSEN and WoSAS will be notified immediately of any unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries, or other unexpected occurrences which might significantly affect the archaeological work and/or the development. In that event, all finds and features will be left in situ until arrangements have been agreed for safeguarding or recording them.

It will be important to ensure that all formal communications, instructions and/or requests (including any proposed amendments to on-site strategies) are ultimately made in writing.

Public Benefit

In line with NPF4, where avoidance and retention of archaeological remains is not possible, mitigation to offset any negative impacts on archaeology from the development will include activities that provide public benefit. These would be proportionate to the significance of the archaeological discoveries and would be agreed through discussion with the Cnoclee Environmental Services, the contractor, SSEN and WoSAS as appropriate.

The means of delivering public benefit would follow current guidelines (Mann 2023) but may, for example, include site open days and ensuring the results are accessible to a wide range of audiences.

7. Reporting, Archive & Finds Arrangements

Reporting

Following completion of each phase of on-site work, a report will be prepared by the archaeological contractor who carried out the fieldwork, outlining the main results and incorporating lists of all features, finds, samples, photographs and drawings. This report will be produced as an electronic report (and a

desk-top published document where required). If appropriate the report will also include recommendations for further post-excavation work. This report will be prepared and submitted for comment within 1 month of the onsite works finishing.

The report will be prepared, in structural and textual content terms, to the standard of a Data Structure Report (DSR). The DSR will be illustrated with drawings and photographs including levels and grid references where appropriate. As a minimum the DSR will include:

- A location map
- Abstract/non-technical summary
- Introduction
- A description of the site and its location
- Archaeological and Historical background
- Aims
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Recommendations
- Appendices (tables of contexts, finds, samples, photographs and drawings as appropriate)

Copies of the DSR will be provided to the Cnoclee Environmental Services, the contractor, SSEN, WoSAS and to the National Record of the Historic Environment. Further copies can be distributed to other recipients if requested and specified.

Finds

The laws relating to Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia* in Scotland apply to all finds where the original owner cannot be identified. This includes all material recovered during archaeological fieldwork. Accordingly, all assemblages recovered from archaeological fieldwork are claimed automatically by the Crown and must be reported to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel through its secretariat, the Treasure Trove Unit. In the event of the discovery of small finds during the evaluation or any subsequent stages of work, a filled-out copy of the form "Declaration of an Archaeological Assemblage from Fieldwork" and two copies of the pertinent Data Structure Report will be submitted to the Panel at the conclusion of the fieldwork. The Panel will then be responsible for recommending to the King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer (KLTR) which museum should be allocated the finds.

All artefacts will be stored temporarily by Clyde Archaeology until a decision has been made by the Panel regarding the museum which will be allocated the finds for permanent curation. All finds will be transferred to the appropriate museum within six months of completion of the fieldwork, if no post-

excavation work is required, or at the end of the latest finishing post-excavation programme.

In the event that unallocated finds recovered from the excavation or any later stages of work require to be removed from Scotland, for the purposes of post-excavation analysis, there is a legal requirement to obtain the consent of the KLTR, in the form of a loan agreement. Initially, an indication of intent would be registered with the Treasure Trove Secretariat at the National Museums of Scotland, after which formal consent would be applied for using the form "Application for authority to borrow unallocated Treasure Trove for research purposes". A consent form, signed by the KLTR and specifying conditions (such as the period during which finds may be held outside Scotland) would then be issued. Receipt of this signed consent form will be required before items may be removed from the country.

Preparation of archaeological assemblages prior to museum deposition will follow industry standard guidelines (ALGAO et al 2025a & 2025b). A fee will be charged for deposition of assemblages with the allocated museum. This fee will be relative to the size of the assemblage and could vary between a minimum of £75 and a maximum of £1,325 (ALGAO et al 2025b) to be paid at the point of deposition.

Paper & Digital Archive

A project archive adhering to ClfA's standards & guidance (2014, updated 2020) will be prepared and made ready for submission within six months of the completion of all fieldwork or post-excavation work (as appropriate). The resultant site archive will be deposited with the National Record of the Historic Environment.

A short report detailing the results will also be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* and to OASIS.

8. Post-excavation Analysis & Publication

The results of all on site work will inform the need for further analysis of archaeological materials and/or generation of a report for publication. Where appropriate, and on request, any DSR produced as part of the onsite work will be followed by the production of a costed Post-excavation Research Design (PERD) specifying any work deemed necessary to complete the project. Publication, where required, would normally be sought in a suitable academic journal. The post-excavation process is essential to bring a piece of archaeological work to completion and is the responsibility of the developer to fund.

9. Timetable

The estimated start date for the connection will be Summer 2026. WoSAS will be notified in advance once the start date is confirmed.

Any Stage 1 or 2 DSR will be submitted within 4 weeks of completion of field work. If required any PERD will be submitted within 3 months of WoSAS agreement to any DSR. Any final publication will be submitted within a year of agreement to the PERD.

10. Health, Safety & Environment

Prior to fieldwork commencing the archaeological contractor will produce a risk assessment method statement (RAMS) for the archaeological work.

11. Sources

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Regulations, Standards and Guidance.

<https://www.archaeologists.net/codes/cifa>

Mann, B 2023 *Delivery of Public Benefit and Social Value Guidance for Archaeology in the Planning Process*.

ALGAO, Feb 2023

[https://www.algao.org.uk/sites/algao.org.uk/files/2023-](https://www.algao.org.uk/sites/algao.org.uk/files/2023-02/ALGAO_Delivery_of_Public_Benefit_Social_Value_Guidance.pdf)

[02/ALGAO_Delivery_of_Public_Benefit_Social_Value_Guidance.pdf](https://www.algao.org.uk/sites/algao.org.uk/files/2023-02/ALGAO_Delivery_of_Public_Benefit_Social_Value_Guidance.pdf)

ALGAO, NMS & HES, 2025a, *Minimum Standards for the Preparation of Archaeological Assemblages in Scotland*, April 2025.

ALGAO, NMS & HES, 2025b, *Guidance on the Transfer of Archaeological Assemblages to Museums in Scotland from Commercial/Developer-funded Projects*, April 2025.

National Planning Framework 4, February 2023.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/documents/>

Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning & Archaeology, July 2011.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/pan-2-2011-planning-archaeology/>

Sneddon, D 2026, *Glenforsa, Mull Overhead Line Mast Connection: Historic Environment Assessment (Summary Report)*, unpublished Clyde Archaeology Report, Project 304.

Watkinson & Neal, D & V 1998 *First Aid for Finds* (London: Rescue/UKICAS 2001)

Table 1: Gazetteer

Asset No.	HER/NR HE/HES ref.	Asset Name	Asset Type	Previous Description	2026 Description	Period	Value	Future Management Recommendation	Easting	Northing
1	22463, WoSAS Pin 771	Killbeg	Enclosure; Burial Ground (possible), Sheepfold; Building	WoSASPIN 771 NM64SW 2 6027 4145. (NM 6027 4145) Burial Ground (NR) (remains of) OS 1:10,000 map, (1976) This burial ground is situated a short distance S of the shepherd's house at Killbeg. Most of it is said to be occupied by the sheepfold. No information can be obtained concerning it. There is no doubt of its antiquity as the oldest inhabitant in the district has no recollection of seeing it in any condition other than it now stands. Name Book 1878. The remains of a roughly oval burial ground, measuring approximately 27.5m NE-SW by 20.0m within a mutilated earth-and-stone bank averaging 1.5m wide and up to 0.4m high. It is overlain in the SW by a small modern rectangular building, and on the N and W by a	Generally as previously described. The oval bank is visible as a turf covered irregular stoney bank up to 2m wide and 0.3 high on the exterior of the sheepfold. It has likely been removed from the interior of the sheepfold. It includes the occasional large boulder. The bank takes a relatively sharp turn at the north-eastern end. A 2m diameter and 0.4m high turf covered cairn lies in the interior but it is unclear if it is contemporary with the enclosure. A rectangular building measuring 9m by 4m defined by low turf covered stoney banks lies on the south-western edge of the enclosure. The relationship between the two is not clear. Some large boulders form the south-western edge of the building which is located on a slight slope. Both the building and enclosure are shown on the first edition OS 6 inch to the mile map surveyed in 1875 (Argyllshire, Sheet LXIX & LXX).	Medieval (possible); Early Modern (possible); Modern	Unknown - potentially regional if the medieval graveyard exists.	Demarcate & avoid the enclosure and building with a 10m buffer. Avoid the sheepfold with a 5m buffer. An archaeological watching brief should be maintained on all ground disturbance within 250m of the possible graveyard enclosure	160293	741465

Asset No.	HER/NR HE/HES ref.	Asset Name	Asset Type	Previous Description	2026 Description	Period	Value	Future Management Recommendation	Easting	Northing
				sheepfold. Surveyed at 1:10,000. Visited by OS (DWR) 3 May 1972. Burial-ground, Killbeg: This site may be represented by traces of a stony bank forming an irregular enclosure about 23m in width (noted by OS {DWR}). There are no visible grave-markers. The name 'Kelbeg' is on record in 1494. No further information. RCAHMS 1980, visited 1973.	The sheepfold is defined by upstanding dry stone walls over 1m high in places. A three compartment building lies on the north-western edge. It has a pitched roofline on the gable ends but there is no sign of internal hearths. Slit windows exist on both sides of the north-western end indicating it was used as a barn. Doorways with stone lintels and the occasional small window also exist. The building is shown as roofed on the first edition OS 6 inch to the mile map surveyed in 1875 (Argyllshire, Sheet LXIX) and subsequent revision in 1897.					
2	152134, WoSAS Pin 44443	Allt na Criche	Farmstead	WoSASPIN 44443 NM64SW 9 6055 4039 What may be a farmstead comprising three unroofed buildings, one of which has an attached length of wall, is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Argyllshire, Island of Mull 1881, sheet lxxxiv). One unroofed building with an attached enclosure is	Asset 2a is an L shaped stoney bank 1m wide and 0.5m high broadly at the location of a building shown on the OS first edition 6 inch to the mile map surveyed in 1875 (Argyllshire, Sheet LXXXIV) but it appears closer to the burn and on a different orientation. A flat terrace lies immediately to the south next to burn. Some stone is spread out amongst the turf to the north. There is no	Early Modern (possible); Modern	Local	Demarcate and avoid the visible features with a 5m buffer	160530	740368

Asset No.	HER/NR HE/HES ref.	Asset Name	Asset Type	Previous Description	2026 Description	Period	Value	Future Management Recommendation	Easting	Northing
				shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1976). Information from RCAHMS (SAH) 14 July 1998 Null date in NMRS report, this date WoSAS. NMRS Report date for above text 21/11/02	evidence of the boundary shown on the 1875 OS map extending to the north-east from the building. Asset 2b is a small rectangular building 6m by 4m defined by low wall footings and collapse spread to 1m wide and 0.3m high. Lots of rubble exists within and around the building. A possible boundary wall extends off the south-eastern corner. Asset 2c: a better defined building on the south side of the burn defined by low wall footings to 1m wide and 0.5m high. The building is approximately 7m by 5m and has been dug into the slope on the western side. Lots of rubble lies in the interior while a possible entrance is on the north side. Asset 2d: A stoney bank approximately 2m wide and 0.4m high encloses a level grassy area on the south side of the burn east of 2c. A small 2 m diameter cairn covered in turf lies a short distance east of where the bank peters out.					

Asset No.	HER/NR HE/HES ref.	Asset Name	Asset Type	Previous Description	2026 Description	Period	Value	Future Management Recommendation	Easting	Northing
3	n/a	Killbeg	Field Bank	n/a	A boundary dyke formed at the southern end by large boulders and at the northern end by a turf bank next to a boggy area. Up to 1.5m wide and 0.5m high. Relatively poorly preserved where the OHL crosses it.	Early Modern (possible); Modern	Lesser - the boundary is unlikely to contain any significant archaeological information	Demarcate & avoid the boundary with a 1m buffer. An archaeological watching brief should be maintained if the bank is disturbed during construction. Crossing points will be clearly marked and correspond to areas where the bank is least well preserved.	160359	741386
4	n/a	Allt na Criche	Track	n/a	Remains of a track shown on the first edition OS 6 inch to the mile map surveyed in 1872-78 (Argyllshire, Sheet LXX) is visible as a 2-3m wide terrace in the hillside. It extends outwith the survey area.	Modern	Lesser - the track is relatively modern and is unlikely to contain important archaeological information.	None	160513	740527

Asset No.	HER/NR HE/HES ref.	Asset Name	Asset Type	Previous Description	2026 Description	Period	Value	Future Management Recommendation	Easting	Northing
5	n/a	Allt na Criche	Quarry	n/a	Large grass covered quarry next to the track. It appears to have clearance dumped on back face which is some 4-5m high. Likely used for stone to maintain the estate tracks.	Modern	Lesser - the quarry is relatively modern and is unlikely to contain important archaeological information.	None	160532	740518
6	n/a	Killbeg	Field Bank (possible)	n/a	An irregular stoney bank runs down the western side of the track. It is 1m to 2m wide and up to 0.5m high. It is either in poor condition and disturbed or possibly just represents dumped material from scraping the adjacent track, although it is slightly better defined at southern end where it merges with a drain/burn.	Modern	Lesser - the bank is in very poor condition	None	160259	741560
7	152136, WoSAS Pin 44441	River Forsa	Shieling Hut (possible)	WoSASPIN 44441 NM64SW 7 6108 4067 What may be one unroofed shieling-hut is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Argyllshire, Island of Mull 1880, sheet lxx), but it is not shown on the current edition of the OS	n/a - the asset was located outwith the field survey area.	Early Modern (possible); Modern	n/a – the value was not assessed as it is located outwith the survey area	n/a - located outwith the work area	161080	740670

Asset No.	HER/NR HE/HES ref.	Asset Name	Asset Type	Previous Description	2026 Description	Period	Value	Future Management Recommendation	Easting	Northing
				1:10000 map (1976). Information from RCAHMS (SAH) 25 June 1998 NMRS Report date for above text 09/05/00						
8	22407, WoSAS Pin 743	Gaodhail	Settlement, Corn-drying Kiln	WoSASPIN 743 NM63NW 2 60 38 At NM 6055 3851 is a simple bowl and tunnel kiln, lying outside the forest fence. Associated ruins (groups of 6 and 9 centred NM 606 383 and NM 603 383 respectively on OS 1:10,000 map, 1975) are within the forest, as is a school. R Douglass 1988; Information from NMRS (see Archive MS/534/1).	n/a - the asset was located outwith the field survey area.	Early Modern (possible); Modern	n/a – the value was not assessed as it is located outwith the survey area	n/a - located outwith the work area	160550	738510