

Report of Rapid Pre-afforestation Survey
January 2002
Meall Damh, Ardverikie Estate, Highland
NN 500/890 (centred)



By
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Introduction

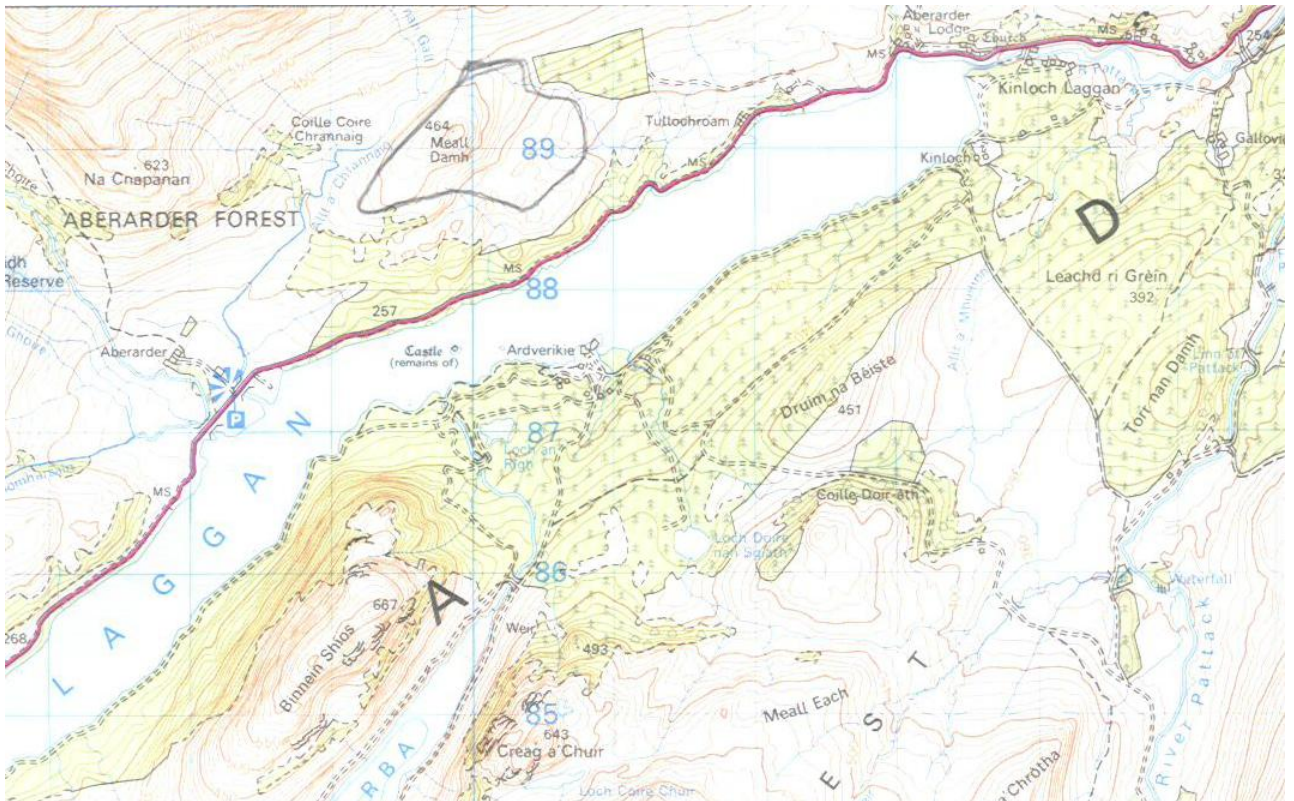
This report is for a rapid archaeological pre-afforestation survey for a Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) conducted by the author for CKD Finlayson Hughes Consultants on behalf of the Ardveikie Estate for Meall Damh, Ardverikie Estate, Highland.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following for their help during the work :

- Mr. A Price, of CKD Finlayson Hughes Consultants;
- Staff of Highland Council Archives;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

Site Location



Cover : Cairn on top of summit of Meall Damh.

Objectives

A rapid walkover survey was conducted to identify those archaeological sites that lie in the area of the proposed Woodland Grant Scheme. (See over – scale 1:5200)
This followed on a desktop survey of records held in the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record and Highland Council Archives and to follow the specification of Highland Council Archaeology Unit (See enclosed).

Background

Currently no sites are recorded in the Highland Sites and Monuments Record or the National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE database to the area of the WGS. The nearest site is:

- NN 492/892 – Group of shielings, 12 in number in an area 200m² also other structures and enclosures. (NN48NE 5)

No sites are shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1872 (sheet 109). The only site which appears on the 2nd edition OS of 1903, which does not appear on the 1st edition is the fence-line running to the east of Meall Damh (see over).

Meall Damh is recorded in the Ordnance Survey Name Book as 'A small hill lying about one mile to the west of the old farm of Tullochroam. Proprietor Cluny McPherson. Meall Damh – The Stags Hill'.



1903

Scale - Six Inches to One Statute Mile or 6250 Irish to One Inch

1899

By Major General Sir Henry James R.E. F.R.S. &c. Superintendent, 27 August 1872.
 & on Buildings, Walls, &c.

1000
 900
 800
 700
 600
 500
 400
 300
 200
 100
 0

Field Survey Results

Weather on the day of work (January 13th 2002) was partly cloudy with rain and sunny periods. A walkover was made of all areas of the proposed WGS accessible. (It must be noted that some areas were inaccessible due to areas of bog)

No archaeological sites were found to the area of the proposed WGS. The following two sites were found as part of the fieldwork, lying just between the WGS boundary and the existing conifer plantation:

1 – NN 4962/8852 – Group of 5 shielings of 3 grouped together (see photograph 1 & 2) and 2 lying 10m to the north. Lying at an altitude of 1290 feet above sea level.



2 - NN 4964/8854 – circular enclosure of 6m diameter. (See photograph below)



(Both grid references and height above sea level were obtained using a Garmin II Plus GPS)

It should be noted that the cairn on the summit of Meall Damh is a marker only. Also occasionally visible was the remains of the fence-line marked on the OS map of 1903 in the form of cast-iron fence posts.



Line of fence posts facing north

Recommendations

No recommendations are to be proposed for the area of the WGS, though if the WGS is extended near the archaeological sites found a 20m-exclusion area to be put in place with any new planting.

References

Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record entries for NN48NE 5.

National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE database entries for NN48NE 5.

Ordnance Survey Maps Inverness-shire sheet 109 for 1872 & 1903.

Ordnance Survey Name Book (1867-71) – Inverness Volume.

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